

1 **Investigating the genetic regulation of the expression of 63 lipid metabolism**

2 **genes in the pig skeletal muscle**

3

4 Rayner González-Prendes^a, Raquel Quintanilla^b, Marcel Amills^{a,c*}

5

6 ^aDepartment of Animal Genetics, Center for Research in Agricultural Genomics (CSIC-IRTA-
7 UAB-UB), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, 08193, Spain. ^bAnimal Breeding
8 and Genetics Program, Institute for Research and Technology in Food and Agriculture (IRTA),
9 Torre Marimon, Caldes de Montbui 08140, Spain. ^cDepartament de Ciència Animal i dels
10 Aliments, Facultat de Veterinària, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra 08193,
11 Spain.

12

13 *Corresponding author: Marcel Amills, Department of Animal Genetics, Center for Research
14 in Agricultural Genomics (CSIC-IRTA-UAB-UB), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,
15 Bellaterra, 08193, Spain. E-mail: marcel.amills@uab.cat. Tel +34 93 5636600

16

17

18 E-mail addresses: Rayner González-Prendes, rayner.gonzalez@cragenomica.es; Raquel
19 Quintanilla, raquel.quintanilla@irta.cat; Marcel Amills, marcel.amills@uab.cat.

20

21

22

23

24 **Abstract**

25

26 Despite their potential involvement in the determination of fatness phenotypes, a
27 comprehensive and systematic view about the genetic regulation of lipid metabolism genes
28 is still lacking in pigs. Herewith, we have used a dataset of 104 pigs, with available
29 genotypes for 62,163 single nucleotide polymorphisms and microarray gene expression
30 measurements in the *gluteus medius* muscle, to investigate the genetic regulation of 63
31 genes with crucial roles in the uptake, transport, synthesis and catabolism of lipids. By
32 performing an eQTL scan with the GEMMA software, we have detected 12 cis- and 18
33 trans-eQTL modulating the expression of 19 loci. Genes regulated by eQTL had a variety of
34 functions such as the β -oxidation of fatty acids, lipid biosynthesis and lipolysis, fatty acid
35 activation and desaturation, lipoprotein uptake, apolipoprotein assembly and cholesterol
36 trafficking. These data provide a first picture about the genetic regulation of loci involved in
37 porcine lipid metabolism.

38

39 **Keywords:** pigs, *gluteus medius*, gene expression, quantitative trait loci, lipid metabolism

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47 **Main text**

48

49 The search of regulatory variants with causal effects on the expression of genes with
50 important metabolic roles is fundamental to elucidate the genetic basis of multiple
51 physiological and pathological phenotypes [1]. In humans, thousands of expression QTL
52 (eQTL) have been detected so far and the majority of them appear to act locally (cis-eQTL)
53 rather than influencing the expression of genes located at distant genomic regions or
54 chromosomes (trans-eQTL) [1,2]. Moreover, around 50% of human cis-eQTL are shared
55 across distinct tissues, though the consistency in the magnitude and the direction of these
56 regulatory effects may be variable [2].

57 The genetic regulation of lipid metabolism genes has been poorly studied in pigs in
58 spite of the fact that it may have a potential impact on the phenotypic variation of fatness
59 traits. Indeed, the majority of eQTL studies performed in pigs have targeted either genes
60 whose expression correlates with lipid phenotypes or loci comprised within the confidence
61 intervals of fatness quantitative trait loci [3–7]. At present, we do not know if porcine lipid
62 genes are predominantly regulated in cis- or trans- and if such regulation is featured by
63 single or multiple polymorphisms. The goal of the current work was to shed light into these
64 issues by identifying eQTL with effects on the muscle expression of 63 genes with an
65 established role in the uptake, transport, synthesis and catabolism of lipids.

66 As animal material, we have used 104 barrows from a commercial Duroc porcine
67 line (Lipgen population) distributed in five half-sib families. After weaning, this pig
68 population was transferred to the experimental test station at the Centre de Control Porcí of
69 the Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA). A detailed description of the

70 experimental population and management conditions has been reported [8,9]. Barrows were
71 slaughtered at an approximate age of 190 days. *Gluteus medius* (GM) muscle biopsies were
72 obtained in the abattoir and they were immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen, being
73 subsequently stored at -80 °C. All animal care and management procedures followed the
74 ARRIVE guidelines [10] and they were approved by the Ethical Committee of the Institut
75 de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA).

76 GeneChip Porcine Genomic arrays (Affymetrix, Inc., Santa Clara, CA) were used to
77 measure gene expression in GM samples from the 104 Duroc pigs mentioned above (data
78 are available in the Gene Expression Omnibus public repository of the National Center for
79 Biotechnology Information, accession number: GSE19275). Data pre-processing and
80 normalization were carried out with the BRB-ArrayTools software version 3.7.1.[11]. Genes
81 displaying more than 20% of expression values over ± 1.5 times the median expression of all
82 arrays were retained for further analysis. A detailed description of the techniques and
83 methods used to perform RNA purification and microarray hybridization can be found in
84 [12]. Finally, sixty three loci annotated in the Ensembl (S.scrofa 10.2) database and having a
85 well established role in lipid metabolism (Supplementary Table 1) were selected for further
86 analysis.

87 The Porcine SNP60K BeadChip (Illumina, San Diego, CA) was employed to
88 genotype 62,163 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the 104 Duroc pigs by
89 following a previously reported protocol [5]. The GenomeStudio software (Illumina) was
90 employed to evaluate the quality of the typing data. By using PLINK [13], we discarded
91 SNPs with rates of missing genotypes above 10%, minor allele frequencies (MAF) below
92 5%, as well as those did not conform Hardy-Weinberg expectations (threshold set at a *P*-

93 value of 0.001). Markers that did not map to the porcine reference genome (Sscrofa10.2
94 assembly) and those located in sex chromosomes were also eliminated from the data set.
95 Moreover, were eliminated SNPs that were in complete linkage disequilibrium ($r^2 > 0.98$).
96 After these filtering steps, a total of 28,571 SNPs were used to carry out a GWAS analysis
97 for gene expression phenotypes.

98 Statistical analyses were performed with the GEMMA software [14] that uses a
99 standard linear mixed model and an exact test of significance to identify associations
100 between genotypes and phenotypes. The existence of population structure is taken into
101 account by considering a relatedness matrix [14]. The model assumed in the statistical
102 analysis was:

103

$$104 \quad \mathbf{y}_{ijklm} = \boldsymbol{\mu} + \mathbf{batch}_j + \mathbf{lab}_k + \delta \mathbf{g}_l + \mathbf{e}_{ijklm}$$

105

106 where \mathbf{y}_{ijklm} is the vector that describes the mRNA levels of each gene in the GM muscle
107 of the i^{th} individual; $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ is the mean mRNA expression of each gene in the population; \mathbf{batch}_j
108 and \mathbf{lab}_k are the systematic effects i.e. "batch of fattening" (with 4 categories) and
109 "laboratory" (microarray data were produced in two distinct laboratories); δ is the SNP
110 allelic effect estimated as a regression coefficient on the corresponding \mathbf{g}_l genotype (values -
111 1, 0, 1) of the l^{th} SNP; and \mathbf{e}_{ijklm} is the residual effect. Correction for multiple testing was
112 implemented with a false discovery rate approach [15] and SNPs with a q-value ≤ 0.05 were
113 considered as significantly associated with gene expression. In the analysis of cis-eQTL,
114 multiple testing was corrected by taking into consideration the number of SNPs contained
115 within 2 Mb windows around each gene, while in the trans-eQTL analysis we took into
116 account the whole set of 28,571 SNPs.

117 The eQTL scan for lipid-related genes made possible to identify 12 cis-eQTL and 18
118 trans-eQTL influencing the mRNA levels of 19 loci (Tables 1 and 2, Figure 1). As shown in
119 Table 1, the two cis-eQTL detected for the *ACOX3* (SSC8: 2.7-3.7 Mb and 4.4 Mb) and
120 *NPC2* (SSC7: 102.5-103.1 Mb and 104.1-104.4 Mb) genes were located in adjacent
121 positions and they might correspond to two genetic determinants (instead of 4). In a
122 previous study, Chen et al. [16] identified 120 cis-eQTLs and 523 trans-eQTLs with effects
123 on porcine hepatic gene expression. However, they focused their study on a dataset of 300-
124 400 genes that showed significant correlations with traits under study and their sample size
125 was larger than ours. In the current work, the numbers of cis- and trans-eQTL for lipid genes
126 were quite similar (Tables 1 and 2). In contrast, Cánovas et al.[12] performed a genome scan
127 for porcine muscle expression phenotypes and observed a predominance of trans- vs cis-
128 eQTL. The most likely reason for this discrepancy is that we have used different thresholds
129 of significance to correct for multiple testing in the cis- and trans-eQTL analyses. Indeed, in
130 humans the majority of eQTL identified so far act in cis-. For instance, a recent eQTL scan
131 in 869 lymphoblastoid cell lines revealed that 3,534 and 48 genes were affected by eQTL in
132 cis- and trans-, respectively [17]. Similarly, a global analysis of 53 datasets demonstrated the
133 existence of 116,563 high confidence eQTL [18]. Around 91% and 9% of these eQTL acted
134 in cis- and trans-, respectively [18], and there was an average of 1.8 eQTL per gene.

135 The majority of trans-eQTL detected by us resided in chromosomes different than
136 the one containing the targeted gene, suggesting that they may exert their effects through
137 SNPs that alter the synthesis or structure of a diffusible factor. We also observed the
138 existence of several genes (*e.g.* *ACADS* and *SLC25A17*) simultaneously regulated by eQTL
139 in cis- and in trans- (Tables 1 and 2). Particularly relevant is the case of the *ACADS* gene,

140 whose expression was modulated by one and four cis- and trans-eQTL, respectively. This
141 finding illustrates that even simple phenotypes, such as gene expression, can be regulated in
142 a highly complex manner.

143 From a functional point of view, this set of 12 cis- and 18 trans-eQTL regulated the
144 expression of genes integrated in distinct metabolic pathways. In this way, the acyl-
145 coenzyme A dehydrogenases for short-chain (*ACADS*), medium-chain (*ACADM*) and long-
146 chain (*ACADL*) FA catalyse the first step in the FA β -oxidation pathway, and the enoyl-CoA
147 delta isomerase 2 (*ECI2*) gene plays an essential role in the β -oxidation of unsaturated FA.
148 Moreover, the solute carrier family 25 member 17 (*SLC25A17*) gene encodes a peroxisomal
149 transporter of coenzyme-A, FAD and NAD^+ cofactors [19] and it could have a role in the α -
150 oxidation of FA [20]. We have also detected eQTL for genes comprised in lipid biosynthetic
151 pathways (Tables 1 and 2). For instance, the glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase 3 (*GPAT3*)
152 is involved in the synthesis of triacylglycerols [21], and the 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-
153 CoA synthase 1 (*HMGCS1*) enzyme is a component of the cholesterol biosynthetic pathway
154 [22]. Other relevant loci are the acyl-CoA synthetase family member 2 (*ACSF2*) gene,
155 which may participate in FA activation [23], the *LACTB* gene that affects adiposity in mice
156 females [23], the CCAAT/enhancer binding protein δ (*CEBPD*) gene that has a key role in
157 the regulation of adipogenesis [24] and the Cbp/P300 interacting transactivator with
158 Glu/Asp rich carboxy-terminal domain 2 (*CITED2*) locus that is involved in the regulation
159 of hepatic gluconeogenesis[25].

160

161 **Conclusions**

162

163 Our results demonstrate that around 30% of the lipid-related genes analysed in the
164 current work are regulated by cis- and/or trans-eQTL with significant effects on their mRNA
165 levels. In our data set, we have not detected a clear predominance of either cis- or trans-
166 regulatory factors in the determination of gene expression, a result that contrasts with what
167 has been obtained in humans where gene regulation is mostly exerted by cis-factors. In the
168 next future, it would be worth to investigate if the set of eQTL detected herewith displays
169 significant associations with the phenotypic variation of porcine traits of economic interest.

170

171 **Funding**

172

173 Part of the research presented in this publication was funded by grants AGL2013-48742-C2-
174 1-R and AGL2013-48742-C2-2-R awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and
175 Competitiveness. We also acknowledge the support of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and
176 Competitiveness for the *Center of Excellence Severo Ochoa 2016-2019* (SEV-2015-0533)
177 grant awarded to the Center for Research in Agricultural Genomics. Gonzalez-Prendes R.
178 was funded by a FPU Ph.D. grant from the Spanish Ministerio de Educación
179 (FPU12/00860). Thanks also to the CERCA Programme of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

180 The authors are indebted to *Selección Batallé S.A.* for providing the animal material. Thanks
181 also to Angela Cánovas for her advice in the bioinformatic analyses of gene expression.

182

183 **References**

184

185 1. Nica AC, Dermitzakis ET. Expression quantitative trait loci: present and future. *Philos.*

- 186 Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B. Biol. Sci. 2013;368:20120362.
- 187 2. GTEx Consortium. Human genomics. The Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) pilot
188 analysis: multitissue gene regulation in humans. *Science*. 2015;348:648–60.
- 189 3. Cánovas A, Pena RN, Gallardo D, Ramírez O, Amills M, Quintanilla R. Segregation of
190 regulatory polymorphisms with effects on the gluteus medius transcriptome in a purebred
191 pig population. *PLoS One*. 2012;7:e35583.
- 192 4. Heidt H, Cinar MU, Uddin MJ, Looft C, Jüngst H, Tesfaye D, et al. A genetical genomics
193 approach reveals new candidates and confirms known candidate genes for drip loss in a
194 porcine resource population. *Mamm. Genome*. 2013;24:416–26.
- 195 5. Manunza A, Casellas J, Quintanilla R, González-Prendes R, Pena RN, Tibau J, et al. A
196 genome-wide association analysis for porcine serum lipid traits reveals the existence of age-
197 specific genetic determinants. *BMC Genomics*. 2014;15:758.
- 198 6. Steibel JP, Bates RO, Rosa GJM, Tempelman RJ, Rilington VD, Ragavendran A, et al.
199 Genome-wide linkage analysis of global gene expression in loin muscle tissue identifies
200 candidate genes in pigs. *PloS One*. 2011;6:e16766.
- 201 7. Wimmers K, Murani E, Ponsuksili S. Functional genomics and genetical genomics
202 approaches towards elucidating networks of genes affecting meat performance in pigs. *Brief.*
203 *Funct. Genomics*. 2010;9:251–8.
- 204 8. Gallardo D, Pena RN, Amills M, Varona L, Ramírez O, Reixach J, et al. Mapping of
205 quantitative trait loci for cholesterol, LDL, HDL, and triglyceride serum concentrations in

- 206 pigs. *Physiol. Genomics*. 2008;35:199–209.
- 207 9. Gallardo D, Quintanilla R, Varona L, Díaz I, Ramírez O, Pena RN, et al. Polymorphism
208 of the pig acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase α gene is associated with fatty acid composition
209 in a Duroc commercial line. *Anim. Genet.* 2009;40:410–17.
- 210 10. Kilkenny C, Browne WJ, Cuthill IC, Emerson M, Altman DG. Improving bioscience
211 research reporting: The ARRIVE guidelines for reporting animal research. *PLoS Biol.*
212 2010;8:e1000412.
- 213 11. Xu X, Zhao Y, Simon R. Gene Set Expression Comparison kit for BRB-ArrayTools.
214 *Bioinformatics*. 2008;24:137–9.
- 215 12. Cánovas A, Quintanilla R, Amills M, Pena RN. Muscle transcriptomic profiles in pigs
216 with divergent phenotypes for fatness traits. *BMC Genomics*. 2010;11:372.
- 217 13. Purcell S, Neale B, Todd-Brown K, Thomas L, Ferreira MAR, Bender D, et al. PLINK:
218 a tool set for whole-genome association and population-based linkage analyses. *Am. J. Hum.*
219 *Genet.* 2007;81:559–75.
- 220 14. Zhou X, Stephens M. Genome-wide efficient mixed-model analysis for association
221 studies. *Nat. Genet.* 2012;44:821–4.
- 222 15. Benjamini Y, Hochberg Y. Controlling the false discovery rate: a practical and powerful
223 approach to multiple testing. *J. R. Stat. Soc. Ser. B Methodol.* 1995;57:289–300.
- 224 16. Chen C, Yang B, Zeng Z, Yang H, Liu C, Ren J, et al. Genetic dissection of blood lipid
225 traits by integrating genome-wide association study and gene expression profiling in a

- 226 porcine model. *BMC Genomics*. 2013;14:848.
- 227 17. Bryois J, Buil A, Evans DM, Kemp JP, Montgomery SB, Conrad DF, et al. Cis and trans
228 effects of human genomic variants on gene expression. *PLoS Genet*. 2014;10:e1004461.
- 229 18. Zhang X, Gierman HJ, Levy D, Plump A, Dobrin R, Goring HH, et al. Synthesis of 53
230 tissue and cell line expression QTL datasets reveals master eQTLs. *BMC Genomics*.
231 2014;15:532.
- 232 19. Agrimi G, Russo A, Scarcia P, Palmieri F. The human gene *SLC25A17* encodes a
233 peroxisomal transporter of coenzyme A, FAD and NAD⁺. *Biochem. J*. 2012;443:241–7.
- 234 20. Van Veldhoven PP. Biochemistry and genetics of inherited disorders of peroxisomal fatty
235 acid metabolism. *J. Lipid Res*. 2010;51:2863–95.
- 236 21. Yamashita A, Hayashi Y, Matsumoto N, Nemoto-Sasaki Y, Oka S, Tanikawa T, et al.
237 Glycerophosphate/Acylglycerophosphate Acyltransferases. *Biology*. 2014;3:801–30.
- 238 22. Medina MW, Krauss RM. Alternative splicing in the regulation of cholesterol
239 homeostasis. *Curr. Opin. Lipidol*. 2013;24:147–52.
- 240 23. Yang X, Deignan JL, Qi H, Zhu J, Qian S, Zhong J, et al. Validation of candidate causal
241 genes for obesity that affect shared metabolic pathways and networks. *Nat. Genet*.
242 2009;41:415–23.
- 243 24. Hishida T, Nishizuka M, Osada S, Imagawa M. The role of C/EBPdelta in the early
244 stages of adipogenesis. *Biochimie*. 2009;91:654–7.
- 245 25. Sakai M, Matsumoto M, Tujimura T, Yongheng C, Noguchi T, Inagaki K, et al. *CITED2*

246 links hormonal signaling to PGC-1 α acetylation in the regulation of gluconeogenesis. Nat.
247 Med. 2012;18:612–7.

Figure 1. Plots of cis-eQTLs (left panel) regulating *ACADS*, *SLC25A17* and *NPC2* mRNA levels and of trans-eQTLs (right panel) influencing the expression of the *ACADS*, *ACDL* and *ACFS2* loci. The x-axis represents the chromosomal region containing the eQTL (measured in Mb), and the y-axis shows the $-\log_{10}$ (P-value) of the associations found. The horizontal line indicates the threshold of significance (q-value ≤ 0.05). Vertical lines in left panel plots depict the genomic location of the *ACADS*, *SLC25A17* and *NPC2* genes.

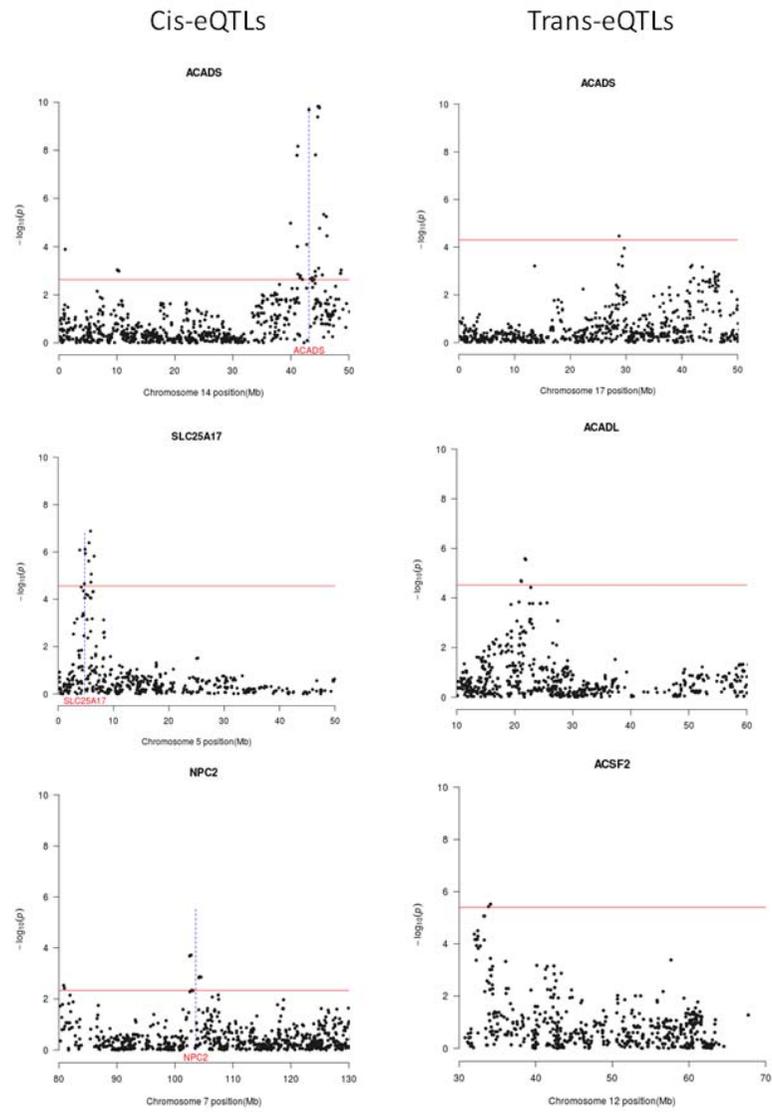


Table 1. Cis-eQTLs regulating the expression of 10 genes involved in porcine lipid metabolism¹.

Genes			Cis-eQTL									
Symbol	SSC	Location (Mb)	SSC	N	SNP	Region (Mb)	P-value	q-value	B	$\delta \pm SE$	A1	MAF
<i>ACADS</i>	14	43.1	14	34	MARC0094155	42.6-45.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.62 ± 0.08	A	0.21
<i>ACOX3</i>	8	4.3-4.4	8	1	ALGA0118448	4.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.75 ± 0.18	A	0.08
				2	M1GA0025674	2.7-3.7	0.00	0.02	0.03	-0.34 ± 0.10	A	0.36
<i>CITED2</i>	1	28.2	1	4	MARC0028659	26.5-27.4	0.01	0.02	0.07	0.27 ± 0.10	A	0.38
<i>HMGCS1</i>	16	29.4	16	18	ALGA0089927	28.0-29.8	0.01	0.02	0.14	0.23 ± 0.07	G	0.35
<i>LRP6</i>	5	63.5-63.6	5	20	ASGA0025668	62.2-63.8	0.00	0.02	0.13	0.42 ± 0.13	A	0.40
<i>LIPA</i>	14	110.1	14	10	ASGA0065584	108.8-109.9	0.01	0.04	0.14	0.27 ± 0.11	G	0.19
<i>NCOA1</i>	3	121.2-121.3	3	3	MARC0003746	120.0-120.4	0.00	0.02	0.05	-0.28 ± 0.08	A	0.27
<i>NPC2</i>	7	103.5	7	3	INRA0027651	104.1-104.4	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.28 ± 0.09	A	0.28
				6	ALGA0043923	102.5-103.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33 ± 0.07	A	0.26
<i>SLC25A17</i>	5	4.8	5	27	H3GA0015347	2.7-5.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.79 ± 0.15	G	0.30
<i>VLDLR</i>	1	245.0	1	1	ASGA0005756	244.9	0.00	0.04	0.04	-0.33 ± 0.13	A	0.20

¹SSC: porcine chromosome, N: Number of SNPs significantly associated with traits under study, SNP: SNPs displaying the most significant associations with traits under study, Region (Mb): regions containing SNPs significantly associated with traits under study, P-value: nominal P-value, q-value: q-value calculated with a false discovery rate approach, B : Bonferroni-corrected P-value, δ : allelic effect and its standard error (SE), A1: minority allele, MAF: frequency of the minority allele.

Table 2. Trans-eQTLs regulating the expression of 12 genes involved in porcine lipid metabolism¹.

Genes			Trans-eQTLs									
Symbol	SSC	Location (Mb)	SSC	N	SNP	Region (Mb)	P-value	q-value	B	$\delta \pm SE$	A1	MAF
<i>ACADL</i>	15	124.7-124.7	3	1	MARC0017993	144.3-144.3	0.00	0.03	0.08	-0.58 ± 0.13	A	0.18
				2	ALGA0123606	21.7-21.8	0.00	0.03	0.07	-0.58 ± 0.13	A	0.18
<i>ACADM</i>	6	127.5-127.5	13	7	DIAS0003141	141.6-144.1	0.00	0.04	0.21	-0.72 ± 0.15	A	0.12
				9	MARC0004327	29.5-29.5	0.00	0.04	0.34	-0.56 ± 0.12	A	0.22
<i>ACADS</i>	14	43.1-43.1	17	1	INRA0053259	28.7-28.7	0.00	0.05	0.97	-0.46 ± 0.09	A	0.45
				14	H3GA0040210	53.7-55.5	0.00	0.00	0.02	-0.48 ± 0.08	G	0.28
				12	M1GA0017106	58.9-59.4	0.00	0.02	0.24	-0.54 ± 0.12	G	0.12
				3	MARC0039787	134.6-134.6	0.00	0.01	0.19	-0.47 ± 0.11	G	0.18
<i>ACSF2</i>	12	26.8-26.8	12	4	MARC0030253	33.2-34.0	0.00	0.01	0.09	-0.49 ± 0.10	A	0.50
<i>APOA1</i>	9	49.2-49.2	1	3	MARC0004843	181.0-183.7	0.00	0.01	0.01	1.02 ± 0.19	G	0.07
<i>CEBPD</i>	4	87.3-87.3	7	1	ALGA0045624	128.5-128.5	0.00	0.04	0.04	1.30 ± 0.25	G	0.04
<i>CMIP</i>	6	7.1-7.2	5	2	ASGA0103424	12.4-12.7	0.00	0.04	0.36	0.59 ± 0.13	G	0.06
				13	DIAS0003141	141.6-144.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58 ± 0.09	A	0.12
<i>ECI2</i>	7	2.5-2.5	12	1	MARC0021670	37.0-37.0	0.00	0.03	0.03	-0.62 ± 0.13	G	0.16
<i>GPAT3</i>	8	144.2-144.2	17	1	H3GA0049617	61.6-61.6	0.00	0.05	0.18	0.65 ± 0.14	G	0.22
<i>LACTB</i>	1	120.1-120.1	15	2	MARC0020666	3.2-3.4	0.00	0.05	0.08	-0.62 ± 0.14	A	0.13
<i>LRP6</i>	5	63.5-63.6	4	1	MARC0056621	134.9-134.9	0.00	0.03	0.03	-0.42 ± 0.08	G	0.47
<i>SLC25A17</i>	5	4.8-4.8	1	7	SIRI0000355	129.2-138.3	0.00	0.03	0.26	-0.64 ± 0.13	A	0.18

¹SSC: porcine chromosome, N: Number of SNPs significantly associated with traits under study, SNP: SNPs displaying the most significant associations with traits under study, Region (Mb): regions containing SNPs significantly associated with traits under study, P-value: nominal P-value, q-value: q-value calculated with a false discovery rate approach, B : Bonferroni-corrected P-value, δ : allelic

effect and its standard error (SE), A1: minority allele, MAF: frequency of the minority allele.

Supplementary Table 1. List of 63 lipid-related genes analysed in the current work.

Ensembl ID	Name	Acronym
ENSSSCG00000026173	ATP-binding cassette, sub-family A (ABC1), member 1	<i>ABCA1</i>
ENSSSCG00000028620	ATP-binding cassette, sub-family D (ALD), member 3	<i>ABCD3</i>
ENSSSCG00000016156	acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, long chain	<i>ACADL</i>
ENSSSCG00000003776	acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, C-4 to C-12 straight chain	<i>ACADM</i>
ENSSSCG00000009916	acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, C-2 to C-3 short chain	<i>ACADS</i>
ENSSSCG00000008724	acyl-CoA oxidase 3, pristanoyl	<i>ACOX3</i>
ENSSSCG00000017566	acyl-CoA synthetase family member 2	<i>ACSF2</i>
ENSSSCG00000015784	acyl-CoA synthetase long-chain family member 1	<i>ACSL1</i>
ENSSSCG00000016223	acyl-CoA synthetase long-chain family member 3	<i>ACSL3</i>
ENSSSCG00000012583	acyl-CoA synthetase long-chain family member 4	<i>ACSL4</i>
ENSSSCG00000000757	adiponectin receptor 2	<i>ADIPOR2</i>
ENSSSCG00000005829	1-acylglycerol-3-phosphate O-acyltransferase 2	<i>AGPAT2</i>
ENSSSCG00000015755	1-acylglycerol-3-phosphate O-acyltransferase 5	<i>AGPAT5</i>
ENSSSCG00000013599	angiopoietin like 4	<i>ANGPTL4</i>
ENSSSCG00000030921	apolipoprotein A1	<i>APOA1</i>
ENSSSCG00000003088	apolipoprotein E	<i>APOE</i>
ENSSSCG00000016634	caveolin 1, caveolae protein, 22kDa	<i>CAV1</i>
ENSSSCG00000016635	caveolin 2	<i>CAV2</i>
ENSSSCG00000006276	CCAAT/enhancer binding protein (C/EBP), delta	<i>CEBPD</i>
ENSSSCG00000010449	cholesterol 25-hydroxylase	<i>CH25H</i>
ENSSSCG00000004142	Cbp/p300-interacting transactivator, with Glu/Asp rich carboxy-terminal domain, 2	<i>CITED2</i>
ENSSSCG00000002689	c-Maf inducing protein	<i>CMIP</i>
ENSSSCG00000015391	carnitine O-octanoyltransferase	<i>CROT</i>
ENSSSCG00000006126	2,4-dienoyl CoA reductase 1, mitochondrial	<i>DECR1</i>
ENSSSCG00000003854	enoyl CoA hydratase domain containing 2	<i>ECHDC2</i>
ENSSSCG00000001000	enoyl-CoA delta isomerase 2	<i>ECI2</i>
ENSSSCG00000026044	farnesyl-diphosphate farnesyltransferase 1	<i>FDFT1</i>
ENSSSCG00000010631	glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase, mitochondrial	<i>GPAM</i>

ENSSSCG00000008569	hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase/3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase/enoyl-CoA hydratase , beta subunit	<i>HADHB</i>
ENSSSCG00000016379	high density lipoprotein binding protein	<i>HDLBP</i>
ENSSSCG00000016872	3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA synthase 1 (soluble)	<i>HMGCS1</i>
ENSSSCG00000026025	3-hydroxymethyl-3-methylglutaryl-CoA lyase	<i>HMGCL</i>
ENSSSCG00000016420	insulin induced gene 1	<i>INSIG1</i>
ENSSSCG00000010226	jumonji domain containing 1C	<i>JMJD1C</i>
ENSSSCG00000004569	lactamase beta	<i>LACTB</i>
ENSSSCG00000010450	lipase A, lysosomal acid, cholesterol esterase	<i>LIPA</i>
ENSSSCG00000003018	lipase, hormone-sensitive	<i>LIPF</i>
ENSSSCG00000004509	lipase, endothelial	<i>LIPG</i>
ENSSSCG00000000625	low density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 6	<i>LRP6</i>
ENSSSCG00000028960	lanosterol synthase (2,3-oxidosqualene-lanosterol cyclase)	<i>LSS</i>
ENSSSCG00000016918	mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase 1, E3 ubiquitin protein ligase	<i>MAP3K1</i>
ENSSSCG00000004454	malic enzyme 1, NADP(+)-dependent, cytosolic	<i>ME1</i>
ENSSSCG00000024134	monoglyceride lipase	<i>MGLL</i>
ENSSSCG00000025447	MID1 interacting protein 1	<i>MIDIIP1</i>
ENSSSCG00000001063	myosin regulatory light chain interacting protein	<i>MYLIP</i>
ENSSSCG00000008581	nuclear receptor coactivator 1	<i>NCOA1</i>
ENSSSCG00000003707	Niemann-Pick disease, type C1	<i>NPC1</i>
ENSSSCG00000002366	Niemann-Pick disease, type C2	<i>NPC2</i>
ENSSSCG00000016863	3-oxoacid CoA transferase 1	<i>OXCT1</i>
ENSSSCG00000011215	3-oxoacyl-ACP synthase, mitochondrial	<i>OXSM</i>
ENSSSCG00000001539	peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor delta	<i>PPARD</i>
ENSSSCG00000011579	peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma	<i>PPARG</i>
ENSSSCG00000003837	protein kinase, AMP-activated, alpha 2 catalytic subunit	<i>PRKAA2</i>
ENSSSCG00000000185	protein kinase, AMP-activated, gamma 1 non-catalytic subunit	<i>PRKAG1</i>
ENSSSCG00000016432	protein kinase, AMP-activated, gamma 2 non-catalytic subunit	<i>PRKAG2</i>
ENSSSCG00000026281	SREBF chaperone	<i>SCAP</i>
ENSSSCG00000009759	scavenger receptor class B, member 1	<i>SCARB1</i>
ENSSSCG00000010554	stearoyl-CoA desaturase (delta-9-	<i>SCD</i>

	desaturase)	
ENSSSCG00000010116	solute carrier family 25 (mitochondrial carrier)	<i>SLC25A1</i>
ENSSSCG00000000072	solute carrier family 25 (mitochondrial carrier)	<i>SLC25A17</i>
ENSSSCG00000015232	ST3 beta-galactoside alpha-2,3-sialyltransferase 4	<i>ST3GAL4</i>
ENSSSCG00000017402	signal transducer and activator of transcription 5A	<i>STAT5A</i>
ENSSSCG00000005229	very low density lipoprotein receptor	<i>VLDLR</i>