NyuWa Genome Resource: Deep Whole Genome Sequencing Based Chinese Population Variation Profile and Reference Panel

Running title: NyuWa Chinese Population WGS and Reference Panel

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Abstract

The lack of Chinese population specific haplotype reference panel and whole genome sequencing resources has greatly hindered the genetics studies in the world's largest population. Here we presented the NyuWa genome resource based on deep (26.2X) sequencing of 2,999 Chinese individuals, and constructed NyuWa reference panel of 5,804 haplotypes and 19.3M variants, which is the first publicly available Chinese population specific reference panel with thousands of samples. Compared with other panels, NyuWa reference panel reduces the Han Chinese imputation error rate by the range of 30% to 51%. Population structure and imputation simulation tests supported the applicability of one integrated reference panel for both northern and southern Chinese. In addition, a total of 22,504 loss-of-function variants in coding and noncoding genes were identified, including 11,493 novel variants. These results highlight the value of NyuWa genome resource to facilitate genetics research in Chinese and Asian populations.

Introduction

Comprehensive catalogues of genetic variation are fundamental building blocks in studying population and demographic history, medical genetics and genotype-phenotype association. Since the first assembly of human genome released in 2003 (International Human Genome Sequencing 2004), many large-scale whole genome sequencing (WGS) projects have been launched in Western countries and recently in Asia, and have created large and diverse population genetic variation resources. Constructing haplotype reference panel from these large cohort WGS variation resources is meaningful and cost-effective to facilitate genome-wide association study (GWAS) by imputation of unobserved genotypes into samples that have been assayed using relatively sparse genome-wide microarray chips or low coverage sequencing (Asimit and Zeggini 2012; McCarthy et al. 2016). However, as the largest ethnic group in the world, the Chinese specific reference panel is absent.

A remarkable milestone of population genome project is the 1000 Genomes Project, which released an important resource of ~7.4X WGS data of 2,504 individuals from 26 populations, and constructed a reference panel (1KGP3) of 5,008 haplotypes at over 88 million variants (Auton et al. 2015). This resource provides a benchmark for surveys of human genetic variation, and has facilitated numerous GWASs through imputation of variants that are not directly genotyped, thus enabling a deeper understanding of the genetic architecture of complex diseases (Timpson et al. 2018). Nevertheless, rare and low-frequency variants tend to be population- or sample-specific (Auton et al. 2015), and many disease related variants are very rare and population specific (Maher et al. 2012; Saint Pierre and Genin 2014; Bomba et al. 2017). The GWASs missed a proportion of potential trait-associated variants that were poorly imputed with current reference

panels (Asimit and Zeggini 2012; Hoffmann and Witte 2015; Bomba et al. 2017). So, a number of

projects have focused on specific populations, attempting to capture the population specific

genetic variability and build specific reference panels. For example, the Genome of the

Netherlands (GoNL) Project sequenced the whole genomes of 250 Dutch parent-offspring families,

found large number of novel rare variants, and constructed a reference panel with 998 haplotypes

(Francioli et al. 2014). In addition, based on the GoNL panel, researchers found a rare variant

rs77542162 to be associated with blood lipid levels in Dutch population (van Leeuwen et al. 2015).

Afterwards there were more such projects including UK10K in United Kingdom population

(Walter et al. 2015), SISu in Finnish (Chheda et al. 2017) and GenomeDenmark (Maretty et al.

2017). However, these resources are biased toward European populations. Recently some genomic

resources and panels have also been created for Asian populations, including Japanese (Nagasaki

et al. 2015), 219 population groups across Asia by GenomeAsia 100K project (GAsP) (Wall et al.

2019), and three Singapore populations by SG10K project (Wu et al. 2019). Some studies have

also focused on Chinese population, but the sample sizes (Lan et al. 2017; Du et al. 2019) or

geographical coverage (Lin et al. 2017) were limited, or genotyping methods were mainly low

coverage WGS (1.7X or 0.1X) (Liu et al. 2018a; Cai et al. 2020; Gao et al. 2020). In a most recent

study, the China Metabolic Analytics Project (ChinaMAP) has presented deep WGS (40.8X)

dataset of 10,588 Chinese individuals mainly involved in metabolic disease (Cao et al. 2020).

However, the reference panel is not yet constructed in the study. The Han Chinese population

comprises about 1.23 billion people, which is the largest ethnic group in East Asia and in the

world, accounting for ~20% of the global human population and ~92% of Mainland Chinese (Xu

et al. 2009b). Constructing an integrated, large cohort and high quality Han Chinese population

genetic variation database and reference panel is imperative, which will help to understand the

population structure, population history, and facilitate genetics studies in the world's largest

population.

Here we released the genome resource named NyuWa based on high depth (median 26.2X)

WGS of 2,999 Chinese individuals from 23 out of 34 administrative divisions in China. NyuWa,

or Nüwa, is the mother goddess who was the creator of the human population in Chinese

mythology. The NyuWa genome resource includes a total of 71.1M single nucleotide

polymorphisms (SNPs) and 8.2M small insertions or deletions (indels), of which 25.0M are novel.

More importantly, we constructed the NyuWa reference panel of 5,804 haplotypes and 19.3M

variants, which is the first publicly available Chinese population specific reference panel with

thousands of samples, and has currently the best performance for imputation of Han Chinese. We

also found 1,140 pathogenic variants, 18,711 loss-of-function protein truncating variants (PTVs)

and 3,793 long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) splicing variants, of which 11,493 were novel

compared with existing genome resources. In a word, NyuWa genome resource can provide useful

and reliable support for genetic and disease studies. The NyuWa variant database and imputation

server are available at http://bigdata.ibp.ac.cn/NyuWa/.

Results

Large Chinese Population Cohort of Deep WGS Data

The NyuWa genome resource included high-coverage (median depth 26.2X) whole-genome

sequences (WGS) of 2,999 different Chinese samples including diabetes and control samples

collected from hospitals or physical examination centers. The samples were from 23

administrative divisions in China including 17 provinces, 2 autonomous regions and 4

municipalities directly under the Central Government (provinces for short, Figure 1A), which can

be summarized into several geographical divisions of China (Supplementary information, Table

S1). The origins of the samples were referenced to the native places or the provinces where

samples were collected. The majority of samples were collected from Shanghai, Guangdong and

Beijing (Figure 1A), which all have large incoming population from external provinces and rich

sample diversity. The ethnicities for the samples were currently not available. Since national

minorities are usually geographically clustered in China and not in our sampling areas, we

estimated that the Han Chinese is the overwhelming majority in our samples.

Most of the samples were sequenced more than 30X (median 38.9, Supplementary

information, Figure S1A). After genome alignment and removal of duplicates, the median of

actual genomic coverage is 26.2X (Figure 1B; Supplementary information, Figure S1B). Samples

with contamination levels alpha >= 0.05 were removed (Supplementary information, Figure S1C).

Based on the genomic coverage of sex chromosomes, sample sex could be clearly identified

except one potential XO type (Figure 1C). The ploidy of chrX for the sample also supported the

XO type, which was classified as female. There were in total 1,335 females and 1,664 males in

The NyuWa dataset. After identification of close relatives within 3rd degree (Supplementary

information, Figure S1D), a maximum of 2,902 independent samples can be obtained in NyuWa

dataset.

25.0M Novel Variants were Discovered in NyuWa Resource

SNPs and indels were called and genotyped using GATK cohort pipeline (Ryan Poplin 2017) with

human reference genome version GRCh38/hg38 as reference. After site quality filtering, a total of

76.4M variant sites were identified, including 2.5M multi-allele sites (Supplementary information,

Figure S2A). After splitting of multi-allele sites, the final dataset contained 71.1M SNPs and 8.2M

indels (Supplementary information, Figure S2B), including 2.5M SNPs and 0.3M indels from sex

chromosomes (Supplementary information, Table S2). The transition-to-transversion ration (Ts/Tv)

is 2.107 for all bi-allelic SNPs, which is consistent with previous whole genome studies such as

1KGP3 (2.09) (Auton et al. 2015) and UK10K (2.15) (Walter et al. 2015).

Compared to other public variant repositories including ExAC (Lek et al. 2016), gnomAD

(v2 & v3) (Lek et al. 2016), 1KGP3 (Auton et al. 2015), ESP (NHLBI GO Exome Sequencing

Project), dbSNP (v150) (Sherry et al. 2001), GAsP (Wall et al. 2019), 90 Han (Lan et al. 2017) and

TOPMed (Taliun et al. 2019), the NyuWa dataset discovered 25.0M novel variants, including

23.1M SNPs (32.5%) and 1.9M indels (23.3%) (Figure 2A). The ChinaMAP resource (Cao et al.

2020) only provided website for variant search, but did not make full variant list available. To

estimate the ratio of novel variants compared with ChinaMAP, we used two variant sets for

manual comparison. The first set was 230 novel singletons randomly selected from NyuWa dataset

(10 per chromosome), and there were only 21.3% variants that also exist in ChinaMAP dataset.

Another set was novel variants in 906 cancer related genes collected from ClinGen database and

literature (Rehm et al. 2015; Huang et al. 2018; Mirabello et al. 2020). There were a total of 959k

novel variants in these genes, and only 27.3% of these variants overlapping with ChinaMAP. We

estimated that there were about 73% novel variants remain (~18M) compared with ChinaMAP. As

expected, most novel variants were extremely rare, with singletons, doubletons and tripletons

accounting for 86.8%, 10.1%, 1.9% of novel variants, respectively (Figure 2A). This is not

surprising since rare variants are usually sample- and population-specific (Francioli et al. 2014).

The absolute number of novel variants with minor allele frequency (MAF) > 0.1% is still large

(77.2k). These variants are frequent enough to be subject to large scale genetic association studies,

and may bring new biological discoveries (Piton et al. 2013; Walter et al. 2015). The overall large

number of novel variants indicates severe underrepresentation of variants in Chinese population in

current genetic studies.

On average, a NyuWa sample carries a median number of 3.51M SNPs and 523k indels in

autosomes. These numbers are close to East Asia samples in 1KGP3 (3.55M SNPs, 546k indels)

(Auton et al. 2015). The detected SNPs and indels with MAF > 0.1% per sample had slightly

positive correlation with genomic coverage (R^2 = 0.075 and 0.11, respectively) (Supplementary

information, Figure S2C and S2D), indicating that the WGS quality can still be improved by

increasing sequencing depth to higher than 30X, especially for indels. This could be explained by

that although there is sufficient coverage for the whole genome, there are still regions lack

coverage randomly or are difficult to amplify, which will be improved by increasing the

sequencing depth. The median of MAF < 0.1% SNPs and indels in a genome were 26.4k (0.75%)

and 2.57k (0.49%), respectively. The very rare SNPs and indels showed no positive correlation

with sequencing depth (Supplementary information, Figure S2E and S2F), probably because the

number of rare variants in different samples vary more largely (~±10 %) compared with MAF >

0.1% variants (~±1%), and the positive correlation is submerged by the large fluctuation.

To evaluate variant discovery by increasing sample size, we randomly down-sampled NyuWa

dataset to different sizes with 100 samples intervals, and estimated the total variants and variant

increase at different sample sizes (Supplementary information, Figure S2G-J). We found that the

number of both SNPs and indels continued to increase with the increasing sample size

(Supplementary information, Figure S2G and S2H), but the growth rate decreased, from the initial

average increase of 39.4k and 5.7k per sample to the final 13.0k and 1.0k for SNPs and indels,

respectively (Supplementary information, Figure S2I and S2J).

There were a total of 31.9M variants in protein coding genes, including 857k CDS, 1.10M

UTR, 8.60k splicing and 30.0M intron variants (Figure 2B; Supplementary information, Figure

S2K and Table S3). For lncRNAs, variants were also annotated with NONCODE v5 (Fang et al.

2017), which has the largest collection of lncRNAs. There were in total 4.78M variants in lncRNA

exon regions (Figure 2C; Supplementary information, Table S4). Focusing on variants in protein

coding exons, among 501k non-synonymous SNPs, 315k were annotated as deleterious by at least

two of ten selected prediction algorithms provided by dbNSFP (Liu et al. 2016) (Figure 2D). The

number of novel non-synonymous and deleterious SNPs were 149k and 101k, respectively (Table

1). Other functional protein coding variants included 311k synonymous SNPs, 15.3k frameshift

indels, 12.7k non-frameshift indels, 11.9k stop gains and 613 stop losses (Supplementary

information, Table S5). Compared to adjacent frameshift indels, there are more in-frame indels in

coding region (Supplementary information, Figure S2L), consistent with previous report (Lek et al.

2016).

We have designed a companion database (http://bigdata.ibp.ac.cn/NyuWa_variants/) to

archive SNPs and indels in NyuWa resource, and to comprehensively catalogue the variants on

allele frequencies in our Chinese dataset and external datasets including 1KGP3 and gnomAD v3.

Besides, variant quality metrics, genome region annotations, non-synonymous impact prediction,

loss-of-function prediction, clinical annotation and pharmacogenomics annotation are also

collected and presented.

NyuWa Reference Panel Outperformed Other Publicly Available Panels for Chinese Populations

Genome-wide genotype imputation is a statistical technique to infer missing genotypes from

known haplotype information, which is cost-effective for GWAS with SNP arrays when compared

with whole exome sequencing (WES) or WGS. NyuWa haplotype reference panel

(http://bigdata.ibp.ac.cn/refpanel/) was constructed using 19.3M SNPs and indels with minor allele

count >= 5 (MAC5, approximately MAF > 0.1%) in 2,902 independent samples, including 73.3k

non-synonymous and 33.5k deleterious SNPs (Table 1). Compared with 4 other publicly available

reference panels including 1KGP3 (Auton et al. 2015), Haplotype Reference Consortium release

1.1 (HRC.r1.1) (McCarthy et al. 2016), GAsP (Wall et al. 2019) and TOPMed r2 (Taliun et al.

2019), NyuWa reference panel had 3.25M specific variants not included in other panels, including

7.05k non-synonymous and 3.32k deleterious SNPs (Table 1). These NyuWa panel specific

variants may bring new discoveries in future association studies. To evaluate the imputation

performance, array genotyping data for 58 worldwide populations from the Human Genome

Diversity Project (HGDP) (Li et al. 2008) were used as a testing dataset. We focused on 16

Chinese populations and 11 other Asian populations in HGDP. NyuWa outperformed 1KGP3,

HRC.r1.1 and TOPMed r2 in all Chinese populations except Uygur (Figure 3A; Supplementary

information, Figure S3A and S3B). This can be explained by that the Uygur population belongs to

the Central Asia and was seldom included in our sampled areas. For Han Chinese, imputation with

NyuWa reduced the error rate by 38.1%, 50.8% and 30.4% compared with 1KGP3, HRC.r1.1 and

TOPMed r2, respectively. NyuWa also achieved better performance in most other East Asian and

Northeast Asian populations (Figure 3A; Supplementary information, Figure S3A-D). Not

surprisingly, NyuWa did not perform as well as 1KGP3 in Central/South Asian populations in

HGDP, which are mainly from Pakistan and historically received substantial gene flow from

Central Asia and western Eurasia (Qamar et al. 2002; Majumder 2010). Comparing to GAsP, a

newly released reference panel for Asian populations, NyuWa also has advantage in Chinese

populations including Han, She, Tujia, Miaozu, Yizu, Tu and Naxi (Figure 3B; Supplementary

information, Figure S3C). For Han Chinese, imputation with NyuWa reduced the error rate by

33.2% compared with GAsP. Nevertheless, NyuWa performed worse in some of Chinese

minorities and the Pakistan Central/South Asian populations, possibly due to the overwhelming

proportion of Han population in NyuWa. These results indicated that additional minority samples

were needed to improve the imputation performance of certain Chinese minorities. We further

compared the number of high-quality imputed variants in total imputed variants among these

panels. NyuWa showed the largest number and proportion of high-quality imputed variants (Rsq >

0.8) across all MAF bins in Chinese and Han Chinese population compared with GAsP and

HRC.r1.1 (Figure 3C and 3D). Compared to 1KGP3, NyuWa had larger number of high-quality

imputed variants in low MAF regions (Rsq > 0.8, MAF < 0.05), and similar number in high MAF

regions (MAF > 0.05) (Figure 3C and 3D). While TOPMed r2 had slightly less numbers in high

MAF regions and the largest numbers in low MAF regions, the percentage of high-quality

imputed variants were very low in all MAF regions, due to the largest number of total variants (an

order of magnitude higher than other 4 panels) (Figure 3C and 3D).

To optimize imputation performance, we also combined NyuWa reference panel with 1KGP3

panel using the reciprocal imputation strategy (Huang et al. 2015). The combined panel (NyuWa +

1KGP3) included 5,406 samples and 40.2M variants, which improved imputation in all tested

Asian populations (Figure 3A; Supplementary information, Figure S3). The imputation accuracy

was obviously improved by about 10% for Chinese minorities of Mongolian, Dai, Daur, Xibo, Tu,

Oroqen and Uygur, and outperformed GAsP in more Chinese minority populations (Figure 3B).

For Chinese and Chinese Han population, NyuWa+1KGP3 could impute more high-quality

variants (Rsq > 0.8) across all MAF bins, with significant increase in low MAF variants (MAF <

0.01) (Figure 3C and 3D). In brief, NyuWa+1KGP3 is an excellent alternative of NyuWa.

Applicability of One Integrated Reference Panel for Both 241 242 Northern and Southern Chinese

Due to the awareness of north-south genetic differences in Han Chinese people (Xu et al. 2009a;

Chiang et al. 2018), we asked if it is adequate to use one integrated reference panel for both north

and south Han populations. To answer this question, we analyzed NyuWa dataset from the

perspective of population structure and imputation simulation tests.

In order to verify the ethnic authenticity of NyuWa samples, principal component analysis

(PCA) of 200 randomly selected NyuWa samples together with 1KGP3 samples showed that

NyuWa samples were clustered together with 1KGP3 Han Chinese samples (Supplementary

information, Figure S4A and S4B), indicating that NyuWa samples are truly Chinese samples and

little batch effect is observed. Y chromosome analysis of male samples in NyuWa population

showed that majority (77.5%) of Y-chromosome haplogroups was O group, which is the dominant

group in Han Chinese population. The following groups were C (9.0%) and N (7.5%). The Y

haplogroup distribution was consistent with previous analysis of Chinese populations (Yan et al.

2014) (Supplementary information, Figure S5A). The distribution of Y haplogroups in different

provinces were shown in Supplementary information, Figure S5B.

We then analyzed ancestral components of NyuWa samples. Cross validation of

ADMIXTURE analysis for NyuWa with 1KGP3 East Asia samples showed that K = 3 best

matched the structure of East Asia populations (Figure 4A; Supplementary information, Figure

S6). Consistent with CHB (Han Chinese in Beijing, China) and CHS (Southern Han Chinese)

samples in 1KGP3, the most predominant component in NyuWa samples was the ancestral

component 1 (red). In the view of sample origins, a clear difference between people in north and

south provinces was that south people have more proportion of ancestral component 3 (blue,

Figure 4B), which was also the case between CHB and CHS samples in 1KGP3. The component 3

was also the major ancestral component for Dai (CDX) and Vietnamese (KHV) people (Figure 4A

and 4B). The component 2 (green) was the major ancestral component for Japanese (JPT) people,

and was minor in Chinese samples (Figure 4A and 4B).

The above ADMIXTURE results indicated that north and south Chinese share two major

ancestral components, and are different at the proportions of these components, which is

consistent with the historical migration and partial mix within the past two to three millennia (Wen

et al. 2004; Chen et al. 2009). Using primary component analysis (PCA), we found that the

primary component 1 (PC1) of NyuWa samples represented the trend of north to south

differentiation (Figure 4C), which is consistent with previous studies for Han and Chinese

minorities (Chiang et al. 2018; Liu et al. 2018a; Cao et al. 2020). Other PCs does not show

differentiation between north and south (Supplementary information, Figure S7A). We observed

that variants with high absolute weights in PC1 also showed high AF differences between

ancestral components 1 and 3 (Supplementary information, Figure S7B). F_{st}, another analysis for

genetic differentiation between north and south NyuWa samples classified with the classic

geographical demarcation of Qinling Mountains-Huaihe River, also showed that north-to-south

differential sites are also different between ancestral components 1 and 3 (Supplementary

information, Figure S7C). These results showed that the genetic differences already existed

between the ancestries 1 and 3, which is consistent with the partial mix of ancestry components.

Collectively, since north and south Chinese share the same major ancestral components, we reason

that one integrated reference panel is applicable for both north and south Han Chinese.

To test the speculation, we divided samples from NyuWa reference panel into different north

or south subsets based on sample positions on PC1, which represents differentiation between north

and south (Figure 4C). North/south Han Chinese specific panels were then constructed using these

sample subsets, and imputation error rates were compared on independent public datasets

including north Han Chinese (Han North China in HGDP) and south Han Chinese (CHS, Chinese

Han South in 1KGP3). As expected, given the same sample sizes, the north or south matched

specific panels had lower imputation error rates than unmatched panels (Figure 4D). Panels with

randomly selected samples had intermediate error rates. Increasing panel sizes always reduced

error rates, no matter added samples are matched or unmatched (Figure 4D; Supplementary

information, Figure S8A). The error rates of the integrated panel were always the lowest. The

imputation results for Han Chinese Beijing (CHB) samples in 1KGP3 also showed lower error

rates for panels with larger sizes (Supplementary information, Figure S8B), while the differences

between north and south panels were not obvious, probably because there are also many south

samples in CHB (Supplementary information, Figure S4B). Another classification way using

geographical demarcation of Qinling Mountains-Huaihe River showed similar results

(Supplementary information, Figure S8C&D). These results confirmed the applicability of one

integrated panel for both northern and southern Chinese.

We also explored whether there is a difference in the introgression level of Denisovan and

Neanderthal ancestries between north and south NyuWa populations (Supplementary information,

Figure S9). No obvious north-south difference was found, suggesting that the introgression of

Denisovan and Neanderthal ancestries occurred before the split time of north and south ancestral

populations, which is far before the current population mix. Also we found no samples with high

Denisovan ancestry (>3%) like that in Melanesians and Aeta (Wall et al. 2019). The top 10 highest

Denisovan ancestry samples were from Shanghai (5), Beijing (2), Guangdong (1), Shaanxi (1) and

Xinjiang (1), ranging from 0.42-0.45%.

Clinical Annotations for Variants

To demonstrate the value of NyuWa resource in improving human health, we further evaluated the

utility of NyuWa in disease genetic studies and medical applications. We annotated all the variants

with ClinVar (Landrum et al. 2018), and found 1,140 pathogenic variants (Supplementary

information, Figure S10A and S10B). As expected, most of the pathogenic variants were

singletons or rare variants in NyuWa and public datasets (Figure 5A). Each sample had a median

of 4 homozygous pathogenic variants and 7 heterozygous pathogenic variants (Supplementary

information, Figure S10C). We noticed that there were 32 pathogenic variants with allele

frequency (AF) > 1% (Figure 5A and Supplementary information, Data S1). Pathogenic variants

are usually rare, especially for rare diseases, and pathogenic variants with high AFs may relate to

common diseases, or their pathogenicity are subject to further examinations. We also found some

variants annotated as conflicting interpretations of pathogenicity by ClinVar showing specific

higher AFs in NyuWa resource (Figure 5B and Supplementary information, Data S1). For example,

taking AF 1% as threshold, two variants rs182677317 and rs369849556 were annotated as

conflicting for a rare disease ciliary dyskinesia, while the high AFs (> 1%) in NyuWa dataset

suggested these variants may not be pathogenic (Figure 5C). These results showed that variant

AFs in NyuWa dataset can provide additional reference to assist study of disease related variants.

We also assessed the allele frequencies of known pharmacogenomic loci from ADME core

genes (http://pharmaadme.org/) that may affect the efficacy and safety of drugs in different China

provinces and worldwide regions (Supplementary information, Data S2). We found some variants

with obvious AF differences in different regions of China, as well as in different populations

worldwide (Figure 5D). For instance, isoniazid, a drug recommended by World Health

Organization (WHO) in the treatment of tuberculosis (TB), is metabolized primarily by the NAT2

(N-Acetyltransferase 2) enzyme. *NAT2*12* refers to rs1208, and the reference allele A dampens

the enzyme activity (Vatsis et al. 1991). The homozygous reference genotype will cause drug

accumulation and poisoning, while heterozygous and homozygous alternative genotypes have less

toxic side effects (Toure et al. 2016). We detected consistently high AFs (near 100%) of *NAT2*12*

in different China provinces and East Asians, while relatively lower frequencies in other

populations (Figure 5D). This suggested that testing the *NAT2*12* genotype before using isoniazid

for Chinese is not as necessary as for other populations. For other examples, the AFs were not

close to 0% or 100%, and vary in different China provinces (Figure 5D), hence it is recommended

to take genetic tests before using certain drugs for individualized treatment.

We also checked cancer risk loci (Sud et al. 2017) in different regions (Data S2). It is

generally known that there are racial differences in cancer susceptibility and survival, and the

genetic factors are very important (Ozdemir and Dotto 2017). We also detected obvious AF

differences between Chinese and other populations in many cancer susceptibility loci (Figure 5E).

Loss-of-Function Variants of Protein-coding Genes and LncRNA Genes

Human loss-of-function variants have profound effects on gene function, and are informative for

clinical genome interpretation. We first screened high confidence loss-of-function

protein-truncating variants (PTVs), especially novel variants. We found 18,711 PTVs in 7,696

genes, in which most PTVs were singletons (Figure 6A and 6B), in line with PTV data from

ExAC (67% singletons) (Lek et al. 2016). There were 9,994 novel PTVs found in NyuWa dataset,

and 1,381 PTVs can be imputed by NyuWa reference panel (Table 1). The number of homozygous

PTVs were 21 (Figure 6B, Supplementary information, Figure S10D). For each sample, there was

a median of 24 homozygous PTVs and 58 heterozygous PTVs (Supplementary information,

Figure S10E). We detected 1,138 PTVs in 385 of 906 cancer related genes, in which 636 are novel.

Focusing on 9 well studied cancer-associated genes (*BRCA1*, *BRCA2*, *TP53*, *MEN1*, *MLH1*,

MSH2, *MSH6*, *PMS1* and *PMS2A*) (Wall et al. 2019), there were 5 novel PTVs and 48 known ones

in *BRCA2*, *BRCA1*, *PMS1*, *TP53* and *MSH6* (Figure 6C). Both *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* are involved in

maintenance of genome stability, specifically the homologous recombination pathway for DNA

double-strand break repair. Inherited mutations in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* confer increased lifetime

risk of developing breast or ovarian cancer. There were 10 known PTVs in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*, in

which 9 have been annotated as pathogenic and related to breast-ovarian cancer in ClinVar

(Landrum et al. 2018), and 1 has not been collected in dbSNP yet. The uncollected and novel

PTVs in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* may also increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

Since lncRNAs do not contain consensus CDS regions, for possible lncRNA loss-of-function

variants, splicing variants become the most important class. Splicing variants may cause intron

retention or exon skipping, and greatly change the lncRNA sequence and structure (Ulitsky et al.

2011). 230 lncRNA genes were reported to affect cell growth after CRISPR editing at lncRNA

splicing sites (Liu et al. 2018b), suggesting the importance of lncRNA splicing variants for

lncRNA functions. A total of 3,793 splicing variants in 3,544 lncRNA genes were found in NyuWa

dataset (Figure 6D), including 1,454 splicing variants in 1,287 Ensembl lncRNA genes and

another 2,339 splicing variants in 2,257 NONCODE lncRNA genes (Supplementary information,

Figure S10F and S10G). Each sample had a median of 61 homozygous and 91 heterozygous

lncRNA splicing variants (Supplementary information, Figure S10H). Among 230 lncRNA genes

reported to be essential for cell growth (Liu et al. 2018b), we found 22 splicing variants in 20

lncRNA genes. The proportion of AF > 0.1% lncRNA splicing variants were relatively smaller in

the 20 essential lncRNA genes compared with all lncRNA splicing variants (Figure 6E and 6F),

suggesting that splicing variants can really affect functions of these lncRNAs. In general, the

loss-of-function variants for both protein-coding and non-coding genes identified in NyuWa

dataset may be associated with disease causing or trait tendency, which will provide novel insights

into disease and genetic studies.

Discussion

Chinese population accounts for about 20% of the global human population, with 56 ethnic groups and great diversity of disease types. Constructing a comprehensive genome resource platform of Chinese population empowers medical genetics discoveries in the world's largest population, and also contributes to the diversity of worldwide human genetic resource. Here we presented the NyuWa resource of large cohort deep WGS data for Chinese population, and constructed a companion database to comprehensively catalogue the variants. The 25.0M novel variants identified in NyuWa resource will greatly benefit studies of human diseases, especially for Chinese people. Although ChinaMAP has also published a resource of Chinese population, the variant data files were not available for downloading. By comparing of manually selected variants, we estimated ~18M variants would remain novel after subtracting variants in ChinaMAP.

Another important contribution of this work is that the NyuWa resource filled the blank of WGS based haplotype reference panel for Chinese population. Previously, the most commonly used imputation panels were constructed by the 1KGP3 (Auton et al. 2015) and HRC (McCarthy et al. 2016). The recently released TOPMed reference panel included the largest number of haplotypes (Taliun et al. 2019) so far. However, imputation performance of these panels for Chinese and East Asian populations are limited, as East Asian samples are underrepresented. In addition, large number of genome variants are population- or sample-specific, especially for rare variants, imputation of which can be challenging (Carmi et al. 2014). Our NyuWa reference panel contains 19.3M variants (approximately MAF > 0.1%) with 3.25M specific variants not included in other panels, which contains a large proportion of low frequency alleles. The imputation performance of NyuWa outperformed that of 1KGP3, HRC and TOPMed for Chinese population

(Figure 3A; Supplementary information, Figure S3A-B). Furthermore, the combined reference

panel of NyuWa and 1KGP3 outperformed 1KGP3, HRC and TOPMed for nearly all the Asians

(Figure 3A; Supplementary information, Figure S3). Compared to GAsP, a newly public Asian

reference panel (Wall et al. 2019), NyuWa also has advantage in Chinese populations including

Han, She, Tujia, Miaozu, Yizu, Tu and Naxi, and possesses larger number of high quality imputed

variants (Rsq > 0.8) across all MAF bins. However, due to the lack of samples from certain

Chinese minority populations, the performance of NyuWa reference panel can still be improved by

including more minority samples in the future.

We also found that the genetic differences between north and south Chinese are consistent

with differences between two major ADMIXTURE components, suggesting that the north-south

differences mainly result from partial population mix in recent history. In the ADMIXTURE

results, the difference was mainly the proportion of north Han like component (ancestry 1, red)

and south Dai or Vietnamese like component (ancestry 3, blue) (Figure 4A and 4B). The north

samples have very large proportion of component 1 and small component 3, while component 3

reaches to about a half in the south samples. This population structure implies a partial mix of two

ancestral components of north and south, which is also consistent with the history of China. The

earliest center of Chinese civilization located in the central to north of China, ranging from Henan

to Shaanxi. Starting from the Eastern Zhou Dynasty, the Chinese territory expanded greatly,

especially to the south. Then the foundation of unitary multiethnic country beginning at Qin and

Han Dynasty facilitated the mix of early Chinese population with south ancestral populations. The

mix has still not achieved equilibrium up to now. Despite the lack of native place identities for

many samples in NyuWa resource, we could still detect a clear difference between north and south

Chinese samples, indicating that the hospitals collecting these samples were good approximations.

An ideal reference panel for a population needs to cover all major ADMIXTURE

components in the population. Each major component is required to have sufficient and balanced

sample size to cover most haplotypes in the component. As described above, both north and south

Han Chinese consist of the same two major components, though the proportions of these

components are different. So the same reference panel that cover these major components can be

used to impute both north and south Han populations. Imputation tests using north or south subset

panels confirmed the speculation. These results are based on the current sample size. In future

when sample size is large enough, which panel works better still depends on the specific situation.

The current knowledge and guidelines about medical genomics are mainly from Eurocentric

genetic and genomic resources, and may miss information about non-European ancestry. Our

study provides a large and high-quality WGS resource for Chinese populations, which will help to

examine the effect of known genetic variants on disease susceptibility and drug responses, and

benefit clinical investigations in the future. The identification of loss-of-function variants for both

protein-coding and lncRNA genes in this study expands the catalogue of loss-of-function variants

in nature. When combined with phenotype information, this resource will provide important

biological insights into gene functions.

Methods

DNA extraction and library preparation

Genomic DNA was extracted and sequenced by WuXi Apptec Co., Ltd. according to the standard

protocols of Illumina on HiSeq X10 platform or NovaSeq 6000. The sequencing reads were

paired-end 150 nt and the target depth is 30X. Sequencing quality was checked with FastQC

v0.11.3 (http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc). Adaptor sequences and low

quality bases were removed with Trimmomatic v0.36 (Bolger et al. 2014).

Variant calling

The variant calling pipeline followed GATK (Ryan Poplin 2017) Best Practices Workflows

Germline short variant discovery (SNPs + Indels) joint genotyping cohort mode. In brief, the raw

sequencing reads were mapped to human reference genome assembly 38 with BWA-MEM v0.7.15

(Li and Durbin 2010). Picard (http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/) was used to sort bam and

mark duplicates. Mapping quality was check by qualimap v2.1.2 (Okonechnikov et al. 2016).

Indels were realigned and bases were recalibrated with GATK v3.7. Variants were called for each

sample using GATK HaplotypeCaller in 'GVCF' mode. GATK GenotypeGVCFs was then used to

identify variants for all samples in the cohort. Then GATK VQSR was applied for SNPs and indels

with truth sensitivity filter levels 99.7 and 99.0, respectively. Variants were then annotated with

annovar v2018-04-16 (Wang et al. 2010).

Sample and site filtering

Duplicate sequencing data for same persons were removed. verifyBamID2 (Zhang et al. 2020)

version 1.0.6 was used to check the contamination. Samples with contamination level alpha >=

0.05 were removed. Sex of each sample was inferred by two ways. Based on whole genome and

chromosome coverage results reported by qualimap, the coverage of X and Y chromosomes were

divided by the whole genome coverage. The relative coverage of (X, Y) of male is expected to be

(0,5, 0.5), and that of female is expected to be (1, 0). The ploidy of non-PAR region of X

chromosome were estimated by BCFtools v1.5 (https://samtools.github.io/bcftools/bcftools.html)

guess-ploidy module. Males are haploid while females are diploid.

To filter low quality sites, variants with VQSR not passed were removed. Additional filters

were applied to further exclude low quality variants. Sites with genotype quality (GQ) < 10 in >

50% samples were removed. For Y chromosome, sites were removed if GQ < 10 in > 50% male

samples, or GQ >= 10 in > 10% female samples. Sites with no ALT allele in GQ >= 10 samples

were also removed. Variants were further filtered with a Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) p

value < 10^{-6} in the direction of excessive heterozygosity or ExcessHet > 54.69 in the INFO

column calculated by GATK. Multi-allele sites were split using BCFtools norm module.

Some analyses required removal of close relatives. 3rd degree or closer relationships were

identified with the combination of kinship coefficient (Φ) and probability of zero

identity-by-descent (IBD) sharing (π_0) (Manichaikul et al. 2010) calculated by plink (Chang et al.

2015). The k-degree relationship was defined as $2^{-k-1.5} < \Phi < 2^{-k-0.5}$. For the 1st degree relationships,

parent-offspring was defined as $\pi_0 < 0.1$ and full sibling if $\pi_0 > 0.1$. $\Phi > 2^{-1.5}$ represents

monozygotic twin or sample replicates. Relationships more than 3rd degree were treated as

unrelated. To determine the list of excluded close relatives, samples with more relatives were

excluded with priority, and a maximum of 2,902 unrelated samples were kept.

Haplotype phasing

Sequencing reads based haplotype phasing for each sample was carried out with HAPCUT2 (Edge

et al. 2017). The local phased sets were then incorporated in population-based phasing of 2,999

samples using SHAPEIT4 (Delaneau et al. 2019) version 4.1.2 with parameter '--use-PS 0.0001'.

The information from family trios or duos were converted to phasing scaffold data and used by

SHAPEIT4 with '--scaffold' option. Sites with missing call rate greater than 10% were removed.

Sites with minor allele count < 2 (MAC2) were also removed. There were no samples with

missing call rate greater than 10%. No additional reference panel was used. Only chromosome

1-22 and X were phased and each chromosome was phased separately. For X chromosome, the

pseudo-autosomal regions (PARs) and non-PAR were divided and phased separately. For samples

with haploid X chromosome in non-PAR regions (male), the heterozygous genotypes were

converted to missing before phasing using SHAPEIT4.

Reference panel

The 2,902 independent samples were extracted from phased data above. Sites with minor allele

count < 5 (MAC5) in the independent sample set were also removed. The final list included 2,902

samples and 19,256,267 variants. Phased genotypes were then converted to m3vcf format as

imputation reference file using Minimac3 (Das et al. 2016) v2.0.1. The hg38 version of 1KGP3

reference panel was generated similarly with MAC5 sites.

To further improve imputation performance, a combined panel of NyuWa with 1KGP3 panel

was generated using the reciprocal imputation strategy (Huang et al. 2015). The missed variants in

each panel were imputed with the other with Minimac4 (Das et al. 2016), and the results were

combined to form a new panel with all samples and union of variants in NyuWa and 1KGP3 panel.

The combined panel had 40,196,029 variants in total.

Imputation performance

The chromosome 2 of HGDP data was used to test imputation performance for NyuWa, 1KGP3,

GAsP, HRC.r1.1, TOPMed and NyuWa+1KGP3 reference panels. Bi-allele SNPs that exist in all

panels were selected. Then every 1 out of 10 of the selected SNPs were masked to evaluate the

imputation accuracy. Phasing and imputation of GAsP HRC.r1.1 and TOPMed panel were run on

respective web servers. Phasing and imputation of NyuWa, 1KGP3 and NyuWa+1KGP3 panels

were run locally with Eagle2 (Loh et al. 2016) and Minimac4, respectively. Imputation error rate

was computed for each population as the genotype discordance rate of the masked SNPs. In

addition, for Chinese and Han Chinese samples in HGDP dataset, we compared the Rsq statistic

for total imputed variants in different MAF bins (MAF: <=0.01, 0.01-0.05, 0.05-0.2, and 0.2-0.5).

The imputation error rates of reference panels constructed with sample subsets of NyuWa

reference panel were evaluated the same way as NyuWa panel. The 1KGP3 CHS and CHB test

samples were already phased, and every 1 out of 10 of the selected SNPs were masked to evaluate

the imputation error rates. The samples in the North or South specific panels were divided based

on ranks of sample positions on PC1 from PCA or geographical demarcation of Qinling

Mountains-Huaihe River (Supplementary information, Table S1).

Population structure analysis

NyuWa 2,902 independent samples and 1KGP3 data were merged by extracting overlapped

bi-allelic autosomal SNPs. SNPs with missing rate of more than 10% or MAF less than 0.05 were

excluded. Linkage equilibrium (LD) was removed by thinning the SNPs to no closer than 2kb

using plink. Furthermore, 27 known long-range LD regions were removed according to previous

studies (Price et al. 2008; Tang et al. 2008; Wu et al. 2019). The resulted dataset included 901,455

SNPs. The merged data were then used in principal component analysis (PCA) and ADMIXTURE

by extracting samples of interest in each analysis. PCA was carried out using plink. ADMIXTURE

were carried out using ADMIXTURE Version 1.3.0 (Alexander et al. 2009). For each K, the

analysis was repeated 4 to 8 times with different seeds, and the one with the highest value of

likelihood was chosen. For ADMIXTURE result display when K > 2, dimensions were reduced to

1-dimension by tSNE and samples were ordered by tSNE values.

F_{st} between south and north of China

SNP-level fixation index (F_{st}) between north and south of China was calculated using the Weir and

Cockerham's estimator (Weir and Cockerham 1984) integrated in VCFtools (Danecek et al. 2011).

North and south of China were divided according to the classic demarcation of Qinling

Mountains-Huaihe River (Supplementary information, Table S1). Henan, Jiangsu, Anhui were

excluded because the Huaihe River flows through these provinces. Shanghai was also excluded for

the possibility that there may be too many individuals from other provinces.

Introgression of Denisovan and Neanderthal ancestry

Estimation of Denisovan and Neanderthal ancestry followed methods in GAsP (Wall et al. 2019).

In   brief,   Neanderthal   and   Denisovan   genomes   were   downloaded   from

http://cdna.eva.mpg.de/neandertal/altai/AltaiNeandertal/VCF/   and

http://cdna.eva.mpg.de/neandertal/altai/Denisovan/. Human ancestral sequences were downloaded

from   ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-99/fasta/ancestral_alleles/.   Potential

Neanderthal/Denisovan SNPs were filtered by the following criteria. 1. The REF allele matched

the ancestral allele; 2. Neanderthal/Denisovan genotype was homozygous ALT allele; 3.

Denisovan/Neanderthal genotype was homozygous REF allele; 4. ALT allele was not found in

YRI, GWD, MSL or ESN samples in 1KGP3. Then, for each NyuWa sample, the number of

Neanderthal/Denisovan SNP alleles were counted. To correct background, linear models were fit

for both Neanderthal and Denisovan SNPs based on allele counts and ancestry percentage in

GAsP results. Supposing SNPs called in NyuWa and GAsP were independent for

Neanderthal/Denisovan SNPs, allele counts were scaled to make the median of NyuWa samples

equal to the average of GAsP HAN samples. The ancestry proportion for each sample was then

determined by the linear model using scaled allele count.

Y chromosome analysis

Genotypes of male chrY SNPs in NyuWa dataset were lift over to hg19 using CrossMap (Zhao et

al. 2014). Y chromosomal haplogroups were inferred using yHaplo

(https://github.com/23andMe/yhaplo) (Poznik 2016). Besides, file of primary tree structure

(y.tree.primary.2016.01.04.nwk), file of preferred SNP names (preferred.snpNames.txt) and file of

phylogenetically informative SNPs (isogg.2016.01.04.txt) were used.

MEGA X (Kumar et al. 2018) were used to construct a phylogenetic tree based on neighbor

joining (NJ) method with 50 bootstrap. FigTree v1.4.4 (https://github.com/rambaut/figtree/releases)

was used to colour the tree and label main branches manually.

Protein-truncating variants (PTVs) and lncRNA loss-of-function splicing variants

PTV analysis followed methods in GAsP (Wall et al. 2019). In brief, stop gain, frameshift and

splicing sites were selected according to ensGene annotation by annovar (Wang et al. 2010).

Splicing variants are variants within 2-bp away from an exon/intron boundary that disrupt the

GT-AG boundary pattern. Then multiple filters were applied. Variants out of Genome In A Bottle

(GIAB) high confidence regions were excluded. Stop gain or frameshift variants in the last exon

or the last 50 nt in the second last exon were excluded. Variants in exons with non-classic splice

sites were also removed. Splicing variants that locate in introns length < 15 nt or UTRs were

excluded. Stop gain and splicing variants with phyloP100way vertebrate rankscore < 0.01 were

excluded. Additional filters were applied to filter high quality PTVs. Only variants with GQ >= 20,

DP > 7 and ALT DP > DP*0.2 were kept. Only variants affecting transcripts that within top 50%

of gene expression in GTEx (Ardlie et al. 2015) were kept. A total of 9,526 PTVs in 4666 genes

were obtained.

Loss-of-function variants were also predicted using LOFTEE v 1.0.3

(https://github.com/konradjk/loftee). A total of 16,910 High confidence loss-of-function variants in

canonical transcripts were identified. These variants covered most (7,725) of previously identified

PTVs. The results were then combined to get the union set of PTVs.

For lncRNA splicing variants, Ensembl annotation was used first. Splicing variants were

filtered similar to PTVs except that the phyloP100way conservation filter was not applied. The

remaining splicing variants in NONCODE annotation were also filtered similarly, with GTEx

expression replaced with expression data downloaded from NONCODE database.

Data access

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Author Contributions

T.X. and S.H. conceptualized and supervised the project. P.Z., H.L., Y.L., J.W., Y.N., Q.K., Y.S. and H.Z. conducted analysis. Y.W. and T.X. contributed to sample collection and data generation. P.Z., H.L., Y.Z., Q.K. and T.S. made the web server and database. P.Z., H.L., Y.N., and S.H. drafted the manuscript, and all the primary authors reviewed, edited, and approved manuscript.

Disclosure Declaration

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. Overview of NyuWa dataset

(A) Distribution of samples in NyuWa resource. Samples were assigned to provinces based on the native places or hospitals where samples were collected. The map was downloaded from the standard map service website (http://bzdt.ch.mnr.gov.cn/).

(B) The distribution of WGS mean genomic coverage after genome alignment and removal of duplicates.

(C) Sex of each sample inferred by sex chromosome coverage and ploidy of chrX non-PAR region estimated by BCFtools guess-ploidy. Results were consistent for all samples except one with no chrY coverage and haploid chrX. The special sample was putative XO type and classified as female.

Figure 2. Variants statistics in NyuWa resource

(A) Number of variants detected in different bins of allele counts or frequencies. Variants were classified as known or novel based on public resources including ExAC, gnomAD v2 & v3, 1KGP3, ESP, dbSNP, TOPMed, 90 Han and GAsP. INS: small insertion, DEL: small deletion.

(B) Number (upper) and novel rate (lower) of variants in different RefSeq annotation regions.

(C) Number (upper) and novel rate (lower) of variants in different NONCODE annotation regions.

(D) Number of non-synonymous SNPs predicted as deleterious by different number of 10 selected prediction algorithms (SIFT, Polyphen2 HDIV & HVAR, LRT, MutationTaster, FATHMM, PROVEAN, MetaSVM, MetaLR and M-CAP) provided by dbNSFP. The novel variants are based on results in (A).

Figure 3. Performance of NyuWa haplotype reference panel

(A) Fold change (FC) of imputation error rate in different Asia populations in HGDP dataset

between 1KGP3 panel and NyuWa (left) or NyuWa+1KGP3 (right) panel. Lower fold change

values represent better performance in NyuWa or NyuWa+1KGP3 panels. EA: East Asian; NEA:

North East Asian; CA: Central Asian; CSA: Central South Asian. Significances of error rate

differences were calculated by chi-squared test. *: $p < 0.05$; **: $p < 0.01$; ***: $p < 0.001$.

(B) Fold change of imputation error rate between GAsP panel and NyuWa (left) or

NyuWa+1KGP3 (right) panel. Colors representing regions in (A) and (B) are consistent.

(C-D) Number (upper) and proportion (lower) of high-quality (Rsq > 0.8) variants imputed for All

Chinese populations (C) and Han Chinese population (D) in HGDP dataset. Variants were grouped

in different MAF intervals.

Figure 4. Chinese population structure based on NyuWa dataset

(A) ADMIXTURE analysis of NyuWa samples with East Asia samples in 1KGP3. Number of

ancestries $K = 3$ best fits the model. Different colors represent different ancestry components.

CHB: Han Chinese in Beijing, China; CHS: Southern Han Chinese; CDX: Chinese Dai in

Xishuangbanna, China; JPT: Japanese in Tokyo, Japan; KHV: Kinh in Ho Chi Minh City,

Vietnam.

(B) Proportion of ancestry components in different provinces. The ancestry components and colors

are consistent with (A). 1KGP3 East Asia populations (CHB, CHS, CDX, JPT and KHV) were

also shown.

(C) Top 2 primary components (PC1 & 2) of NyuWa samples. Each point represents a sample.

Samples were marked by provinces and areas of China. PC1 represents the difference of north and

south Chinese.

(D) Imputation error rates of two test datasets representing north (Han N. China in HGDP, upper)

and south (CHS in 1KGP3, lower) Han Chinese. Each point represents a reference panel

constructed with a certain sample subset of NyuWa reference panel. The color of red represents

North (N) specific panels from samples in the left part of PC1 shown in (C), while blue represent

South (S) specific panels in the right part of PC1. The gray triangles represent reference panels

with randomly (R) selected samples. The numbers 1k and 1.5k represent the proportions 1/3 and

1/2 of the 2902 total samples in NyuWa panel. Dotted lines represent addition of more samples.

Figure 5. Annotation of variants.

(A) Allele count and frequency distribution for ClinVar pathogenic variants.

(B) Allele count and frequency distribution for ClinVar variants annotated as conflicting

interpretations of pathogenicity.

(C) Allele frequencies of two variants in different repositories. The two variants were annotated by

ClinVar as conflicting interpretations of pathogenicity for ciliary dyskinesia. TotalFreq: the AF of

all samples in the corresponding dataset; EAS: East Asian; AMR: American; AFR: African; EUR:

European; SAS: South Asian; NFE: Non-Finnish European; FIN: Finnish; ASJ: Ashkenazi Jewish;

AMI: Amish; Oth: Other.

(D) Allele frequencies of known pharmacogenomic loci (row) that vary in different populations or

regions (column). For NyuWa dataset, only provinces with sample sizes >= 20 were shown. CHB:

Han Chinese in Beijing, China; CHS: Southern Han Chinese; CDX: Chinese Dai in

Xishuangbanna, China; JPT: Japanese in Tokyo, Japan; KHV: Kinh in Ho Chi Minh City,

Vietnam.

(E) Allele frequencies of known cancer risk loci (row) that vary in different populations or regions

(column). For NyuWa dataset, only provinces with sample sizes >= 20 were shown. The AF color

bar is consistent with (D).

Figure 6. Predicted loss-of-function variants in NyuWa dataset

(A) Allele count and frequency distribution for protein truncating variants (PTVs).

(B) Number of protein truncating variants (PTVs) grouped by novel, known, heterozygous and

homozygous.

(C) Known and novel PTVs in selected cancer associated genes identified in NyuWa dataset.

(D) Number of lncRNA splicing variants grouped by novel, known, heterozygous and

homozygous.

(E) Allele count and frequency distribution for lncRNA splicing variants.

(F) Allele count and frequency distribution for lncRNA splicing variants in 230 lncRNA genes

reported to be essential for cell growth.

Tables

Table 1. Number of total and new variants in NyuWa resource and reference panel.

Type	All variants [a]		Reference panel [b]	
	Total	Novel [c]	Total	Specific [d]
All	79,226,351	25,014,646	19,256,267	3,246,071
Non-synonymous	500,966	149,343	73,260	7,048
Non-synonymous deleterious	315,016	101,407	33,526	3,323

PTV	18,711	9,994	1,381	334
lncRNA splicing	3,793	1,499	743	80

a. All variants refers to variants in NyuWa resource.

b. Reference panel refers to variants in NyuWa reference panel.

c. Novelty of variants was compared with dbSNP, 1KGP3, gnomADV2.1, EXAC, ESP, gnomADV3, TOPMed, 90 Han and GAsP

d. Variants in the other 4 public available haplotype reference panels (1KGP3, HRC.r1.1, GAsP and TOPMed) were excluded.