17q21.31 sub-haplotypes underlying H1-associated risk for Parkinson's disease are associated with *LRRC37A/2* expression in astrocytes

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ABSTRACT

Parkinson's disease (PD) is genetically associated with the H1 haplotype of the *MAPT* 17q.21.31 locus, although the causal gene and variants underlying this association have not been identified. To better understand the genetic contribution of this region to PD, we fine-mapped the 17q21.31 locus in order to identify novel mechanisms conferring risk for the disease. We identified three novel H1 sub-haplotype blocks across the 17q21.31 locus associated with PD risk. Protective sub-haplotypes were associated with increased *LRRC37A/2* copy number and expression in human brain tissue. We found that LRRC37A/2 is a membrane-associated protein that plays a role in cellular migration, chemotaxis and astroglial inflammation. In human substantia nigra, LRRC37A/2 was primarily expressed in astrocytes, interacted directly with soluble α-synuclein, and co-localized with Lewy bodies in PD brain tissue. These data indicate that a novel candidate gene, *LRRC37A/2*, contributes to the association between the 17q21.31 locus and PD via its interaction with α-synuclein and its effects on astrocytic function and inflammatory response. These data are the first to associate the genetic association at the 17q21.31 locus with PD pathology, and highlight the importance of variation at the 17q21.31 locus in the regulation of multiple genes other than *MAPT* and *KANSL1*, as well as its relevance to non-neuronal cell types.

INTRODUCTION

The *MAPT* 17q21.31 locus lies within a 1.5Mb inversion region of high linkage

disequilibrium (LD), conferring two distinct haplotypes; H1, which has a frequency of ~0.8 in

European ancestry populations, and the less common, inverted H2 haplotype (frequency ~0.2),

which is absent or lower frequency in East and South Asian populations (frequency 0 - 0.09) (Fig

1A). The major haplotype, H1, has been genetically associated with increased risk for multiple

neurodegenerative disorders, including *APOE* □4-negative Alzheimer's disease (AD)[1],

corticobasal degeneration (CBD)[2], progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP)[3–5] and Parkinson's

disease (PD)[6–10].

PD is a movement disorder that commonly involves executive dysfunction and

dementia[11,12], but is classically characterized by bradykinesia, tremor, rigidity, postural

instability, and numerous non-motor symptoms[13]. Neuropathologically, PD is an α-

synucleinopathy defined by the presence of intraneuronal accumulation of α-synuclein in Lewy

bodies throughout the substantia nigra, brainstem and forebrain[14,15]. Despite the genetic

association with the 17q21.31 *MAPT/*tau locus, aggregated tau is not a typical neuropathological

feature of PD[15], although it is not rare for tauopathy to occur alongside α-synuclein inclusions in

the substantia nigra[16,17]. There is also no apparent association between PD and the H1c sub-

haplotype[18,19], which is strongly associated with risk for the primary tauopathies PSP and

CBD[2,3], indicating that different 17q21.31 locus variants and mechanisms may underlie the

relative risk for each disease. Indeed, the 17q21.31 locus spans 1.5Mb including multiple genes

in addition to *MAPT*, and comprises several sub-haplotypes, defined by complex rearrangements

and copy number variation in their distal regions[20,21], the functional impact of which has not yet

been explored.

Given the specific loss of midbrain dopaminergic neurons in PD, this cell type has been

the main focus of efforts to understand the mechanism of neuronal loss. Similarly, investigation

of 17q21.31 variants is also often restricted to neurons, due to the high neuronal expression of

MAPT. However, a causal role for astrocytes in PD pathogenesis has been recently proposed[22–25].

Indeed, many PD-associated genes are expressed in astrocytes and have known functional roles

in astrocyte biology[24]. Furthermore, α-synuclein-positive aggregates have been identified in the

cytoplasm of astrocytes in PD[26–28], indicating aberrant protein accumulation occurring as a result

of either neuronal-glial transmission[22,28,29], or increased expression of endogenous α-synuclein in

astrocytes themselves[25].

Although PD, like PSP and CBD is associated with the H1 haplotype, the odds ratio for

risk is substantially lower (1.5 vs 4.5) in PD[2-10]. In contrast to PSP and CBD, PD is not generally

associated with the accumulation of tau. Together these observations suggest that the PD genetic

association with the 17q21.31 locus may be driven by genes other than *MAPT*. Here, we report

three sub-haplotype blocks associated with PD risk within the 17q21.31 H1 haplotype clade,

with both protective and risk-associated sub-haplotypes within each block. We show that

protective sub-haplotypes are associated with increased expression and copy number of

LRRC37A/2, which we demonstrate is an astrocyte-enriched membrane-associated protein with a

role in chemotaxis and the inflammatory response, and co-localizes with both soluble α-

synuclein and Lewy bodies in human substantia nigra. These findings link the genetic association

at the 17q21.31 locus with PD pathology, and support the hypothesis of astroglial dysfunction as

a key contributing factor to PD disease pathogenesis.

RESULTS

PD risk is associated with the 17q21.31 H1 haplotype

To confirm the genetic association of the 17q21.31 H1 haplotype with PD risk, we

carried out a case-control association analysis across the region of interest (Figure S1A-E, Table

S1) in two independent datasets (Stage 1 2,780 PD cases, 6,384 controls; Stage 2 2,699 cases,

2,230 controls; Table S2). The SNP with the strongest association in Stage 1 (rs17763050, $p =$

2.74 x10^{-9}) was in high LD with the known H1/H2 haplotype tag SNP rs8070723 (D' = 0.98,

Figure S1B-C, F). Both SNPs were associated with odds ratios (ORs) ~0.8 (95% CI ± 0.1; Figure

S1B-C, Table S1), consistent with previously reported effect sizes[6,8]. Due to a smaller cohort size

and consequent lack of power, the association with 17q21.31 was less prominent in Stage 2 data

(Figure S1D-E, Table S1), and the top SNP did not tag the H2 haplotype. However, meta-

analysis of both cohorts confirmed a significant association between PD risk and the 17q21.31

locus (Figure S1B-C, Table S1), with the H2 haplotype conferring protection (OR 0.82 (95% CI

0.76-0.89)) and the H1 haplotype therefore associated with increased risk.

As the major H1 haplotype was associated with increased risk for PD, we repeated the

association analysis in H1 homozygotes alone in order to identify variants of H1 that may confer

additional risk for PD (Figure S1G-J, Table S1). While association across the 17q21.31 locus

was weaker in H1 homozygotes compared to the full data set, we observed a distinct signal

spanning *MAPT* and *KANSL1* in Stage 1 and Stage 2 analyses (Figure S1G-H). The Stage 1 top

SNP, rs41543512, was associated with an OR of 1.21 (95% CI 1.10-1.32, p<0.001; Figure S1I,

Table S1), but did not reach statistical significance in Stage 2 data or meta-analysis (Table S1).

The most significant SNP in the Stage 2 analysis (rs139217062) was not present in Stage 1 data,

although the second most significant variant from Stage 2, rs16940711, was not significant in

Stage 1 data or by meta-analysis (Table S1, Figure S1J). These data suggest that the H1

association with PD may be more complex than variation in individual SNPs.

17q21.31 H1 sub-haplotype blocks spanning *MAPT* & *KANSL1* are associated with PD risk

As SNP-based association analyses were unsuccessful in identifying significant H1 sub-

haplotypic variants contributing to PD risk, we decided to leverage the presence of high linkage

disequilibrium (LD) within this region to investigate sub-haplotype blocks. We calculated

discrete sub-haplotype blocks spanning the 17q21.31 locus using the D' measure of LD, and

performed a logistic regression association analysis on each block (Figure 1B-C, Table 1). This

approach greatly improved the power to detect disease-associated H1 variants in both Stage 1

and Stage 2 data. In Stage 1, we observed a peak spanning *MAPT* and the first 5 exons of

KANSL1 (Figure 1B) that reached the genome-wide suggestive significance threshold of $p=1\mathrm{x}10^{-}$

^{5}. Within this peak, three sub-haplotype blocks showed substantial overlap of SNPs in

independently calculated blocks in Stage 2 data (Stage 1 blocks H1.1 ($p = 1.73\mathrm{x}10^{-6}$), H1.2 ($p =$

$2.4\mathrm{x}10^{-4}$) and H1.3 ($p = 1.05\mathrm{x}10^{-5}$); Figure 1C, Table 1). We then applied the Stage 1-constructed

blocks to Stage 2 data and observed replication of their association with PD risk (Figure 1C,

Table 1). Block H1.2 was highly significant in Stage 2 data ($p = 1.12\mathrm{x}10^{-9}$), while both blocks

H1.1 and H1.3 were nominally significant (p <0.002 and p <0.0003, respectively).

Blocks H1.1, H1.2 and H1.3 each consist of multiple SNPs in high LD (Figure S1K) that

generate multiple sub-haplotypes (Figure S2A-F). Each sub-haplotype was differentially

associated with PD susceptibility (Figure S2A,C,E, Table 2), with each block containing both

risk- and protective sub-haplotypes with ORs ranging from 0.37 (95% CI 0.32-0.42, p=1.3x10^{-49},

H1.1c) to 2.51 (95% CI 2.2-2.86, p=2.4x10^{-45}, H1.1e). Despite the presence of significant

heterogeneity between Stages 1 and 2, the most frequently occurring sub-haplotypes were

replicated in both analysis stages and by fixed effects meta-analysis (Table 2). Specifically, we

identified two sub-haplotypes in block H1.1; H1.1b and H1.1e, which increased risk in both

datasets when compared against the most common haplotype, with ORs ranging from 1.26-1.6

(fixed effects p<0.001) and 1.45-2.51 (fixed effects p<0.001), respectively (Figure S2A-B, Table

2). In the same block we also observed a protective sub-haplotype (H1.1c), associated with an

OR ranging 0.37-0.96 (fixed effects p<0.001; Figure S2A-B, Table 2). Blocks H1.2 and H1.3

encompassed multiple sub-haplotypes with frequencies < 0.1, and exhibited greater variability

and heterogeneity across stages. However, we identified one risk-associated sub-haplotype in

block H1.2 (H1.2c, OR = 1.12-1.31, fixed effects p<0.01) and two protective sub-haplotypes in

block H1.3 (H1.3b; OR = 0.95-0.43, fixed effects p<0.001, H1.3g; OR = 0.55-0.83, fixed effects

p<0.002; Table 2, Figure S2C-F). These data reflect the variability and complexity present across

the 17q21.31 locus, and indicate that numerous H1 variants exist that are associated with

differential levels of risk for PD.

PD-associated sub-haplotypes are associated with *LRRC37A/2* gene expression in human

brain

In order to elucidate the functional consequences of PD-associated H1 block sub-

haplotypes we queried publicly available post-mortem human brain RNA-seq data from

dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (PFC) and temporal cortex (TCX) from the AMP-AD and

CommonMind consortia (Table S3). Despite the position of the H1 association peaks across

MAPT and *KANSL1*, we did not observe any differences in the expression of either of these

genes between any sub-haplotypes in any block (Figure 2C, Figure S3A-C). The only genes

within the 17q21.31 locus that had a significant association with H1 PD-associated sub-

haplotypes were *LRRC37A* and its paralog *LRRC37A2* (a.k.a *LRRC37A/2*; Figure 2A-B, Figure

S3D). We observed significantly increased *LRRC37A/2* expression in protective sub-haplotypes,

specifically in H1.1c and H1.3b (H1.1c ~ 4.7 fold, $p<0.001$, H1.3b ~ 5 fold, $p<0.001$), as well as

in sub-haplotypes whose effects were not replicated across PD data-sets; H1.2b and H1.3e

(H1.2b ~5, $p<0.001$, H1.3e ~2.9x, $p<0.01$), but were protective in the Stage 2 PD analysis

(Figure 2A-B). qRT-PCR on postmortem prefrontal cortex from a small number of individuals

supported the observation of increased *LRRC37A/2* expression in these sub-haplotypes (Figure

S3D).

We observed a significant reduction in *LRRC37A/2* expression in the PD risk-associated

H1.1b sub-haplotype by qRT-PCR in human brain tissue ($p<0.01$; Figure S3D), but not in the

RNA-seq data. We also did not observe any difference in *MAPT* exons 2, 3 or 10 percent spliced

in (PSI) values between sub-haplotypes (Figure S4A). Interestingly, *LRRC37A/2* expression was

significantly higher in the protective 17q21.31 H2 haplotype (Figure S4B), which is consistent

with our observation of increased *LRRC37A/2* expression in protective H1 sub-haplotypes. These

data suggest that both the 17q21.31 H1/H2 and H1 sub-haplotype genetic associations with PD

risk may be due to variable *LRRC37A/2* expression.

Protective sub-haplotypes are associated with increased *LRRC37A/2* copy number

The 17q21.31 locus is structurally complex and encompasses regions of copy number

variation (CNV) at its distal ends[20,21]. As sub-haplotype blocks within *MAPT* and *KANSL1* were

associated with altered *LRRC37A/2* expression, we tested whether they also tagged structural

variants[20] in individuals homozygous for sub-haplotypes of interest (Figure 2D-H, Figure S5A-

D). Using DNA derived from either blood or brain tissue (Table S3) we performed digital PCR

(dPCR) for *MAPT*, alpha, beta and gamma regions (Figure 2D)[20], as well as for *LRRC37A/2*

specifically (Figure 2E-G, Figure S5A-D).

The majority of the structural variation in alpha and beta regions was found in the most

common sub-haplotype for each block (H1.1a, H1.2a and H1.3a), with each subsequent sub-

haplotype carrying fewer copies of these regions (Figure S5A-C). However, gamma and

LRRC37A/2 CNVs varied by sub-haplotype within each block; those sub-haplotypes exhibiting

increased *LRRC37A/2* expression were also associated with significantly increased gamma

(H1.1c R^2=0.23, H1.2b R^2=0.25, H1.3b R^2=0.34, ~3-5 copies compared to 2-3 copies in controls,

$p<0.05$) and/or *LRRC37A/2* copy number (H1.1c R^2=0.06, H1.2b R^2=0.08, H1.3b R^2=0.09, ~ 8-

11 copies compared to 5-10 copies in controls, $p<0.05$; Figure 2E-G). Interestingly, risk-

associated sub-haplotype H1.1b was associated with increased gamma and *LRRC37A/2* copy

number ($p<0.01$; Figure 2E) but not *LRRC37A/2* expression (Figure 2A-B), indicating that

additional factors likely contribute to *LRRC37A/2* expression and PD risk in this locus, such as

chromatin looping or variants within *LRRC37A/2* itself. Consistent with the expression data, we

also observed increased beta, gamma and *LRRC37A/2* copy number in H2 homozygotes

compared to H1 (Figure S5D). These data suggest that structural variation at the distal end of the

17q21.31 locus may underlie increased expression of *LRRC37A/2* in protective H2 and H1 sub-

haplotypes.

***LRRC37A* is a membrane-associated protein implicated in cellular migration, chemotaxis**

and inflammation

As PD sub-haplotypes converge on the expression and/or copy number of *LRRC37A/2*,

we explored the likely function of this gene. We carried out RNA-seq analysis in HEK293T cells

overexpressing *LRRC37A/2* in order to mimic increased copy number and to elucidate a potential

function for this gene. The number of significantly differentially expressed protein-coding genes

(fold change ± 1.5, adjusted *p<0.05*) in the context of *LRRC37A/2* overexpression was minimal

(28 upregulated, 21 downregulated), suggesting that *LRRC37A/2* is unlikely to play a major

regulatory role. In order to confirm that we were not observing spurious changes in gene

expression due to gross overexpression in a cell culture model, we carried out a titration of

LRRC37A/2 overexpression in HEK293T cells. We observed dose-dependent changes in the

expression of genes that were significantly up or downregulated in our RNA-seq data (Figure

S6B-F), confirming that the expression of these genes is likely to be altered by *LRRC37A/2*

expression.

Functional enrichment of gene ontology (GO) terms for significantly differentially

expressed genes indicated a role for LRRC37A/2 at the cell membrane (Figure 3A-B), which we

confirmed by western blot in HEK293T cells (Figure S6A). In addition, *LRRC37A/2*

overexpression also resulted in significant enrichment for *cell communication* (GO:0007154,

p<0.05) and *neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction* (KEGG:04080, *p<0.05*) pathways, as well

as nominal enrichment for membrane-component-related pathways (Figure 3B).

Ingenuity pathway analysis (IPA) also suggested a role for LRRC37A/2 at the plasma

membrane and in the extracellular space; specifically, these analyses indicated that increased

LRRC37A/2 expression resulted in upregulated cellular movement pathways, such as increased

migration of cells (*p<0.01*, z score = 1.85; Figure 3C) and upregulation of *chemotaxis* (*p<0.05*, z

score = 0.918; Figure 3D). Several upregulated genes within these pathways are also essential in

regulation of the inflammatory response; both *IL17F* and *IL32* are pro-inflammatory cytokines

that mediate the inflammatory response of astrocytes[30,31], whereas *IL16* acts as a chemoattractant

for cells expressing CD4. These data therefore suggest that increased *LRRC37A/2* expression

may mediate astroglial inflammation and modify cellular migration in response to a stimulant,

such as α-synuclein.

LRRC37A/2 is expressed in astrocytes and interacts with soluble and aggregated α-

synuclein

270   Our pathway analysis data indicated that *LRRC37A/2* was associated with cellular

signaling and pro-inflammatory pathways relevant to astroglial function. We therefore sought to

confirm whether *LRRC37A/2* was expressed in these cells. As *LRRC37A/2* expression and copy

number was higher in 17q21.31 H2 haplotype carriers compared to H1, and due to difficulty in

identifying multiple human iPSC lines with specific H1 sub-haplotypes, we compared the

expression of *LRRC37A/2* and genes altered by *LRRC37A/2* expression in iPSC-derived neurons

and astrocytes homozygous for either H1 or H2 haplotypes in order to identify the most relevant

neural cell type (Figure 4A, Figure S6G). While *LRRC37A/2* was expressed in both cell types,

we observed increased expression of *LRRC37A/2* and associated genes in H2 astrocytes, but not

in H2 neuronal cultures (Figure 4A, Figure S6G), suggesting that H1/H2-associated *LRRC37A/2*

expression changes may be specifically impacting astroglial gene expression and function. We

also confirmed that LRRC37A/2 was present in the plasma membrane in both iPSC-derived

neurons and astrocytes by isolating cytosolic and membrane-associated proteins from each cell

type and analyzing the resulting fractions by western blot (Figure 4B-C).

In order to assess whether LRRC37A/2 was expressed in mature astrocytes in human

brain tissue, we carried out multiplex immunofluorescence staining in human substantia nigra

from PD, PSP and aged controls (Figure 4D). We found that in all cases, LRRC37A/2 co-

localized with the astrocyte marker GFAP, but not the microglia marker IBA1 (Figure 4D,

Figure S6H). In contrast, α-synuclein positivity was observed only in PD substantia nigra, and

hyperphosphorylated tau (labeled with AT8) was present only in PSP brain (Figure 4D).

Interestingly, in regions with Lewy body pathology there was reduced staining intensity of

LRRC37A/2 in astrocytes, and colocalization of LRRC37A/2 with Lewy bodies (Figure 4D).

However, there was no association between tau AT8 positivity and LRRC37A/2 expression in

PSP substantia nigra (Figure 4D), indicating that LRR37A/2 accumulation is specific to PD

pathology. To validate the association of LRRC37A/2 with α-synuclein, we performed co-

immunoprecipitation from control, PSP and PD substantia nigra tissue (Figure 4E). We found

that soluble α-synuclein bound LRRC37A/2 in all cases, whereas IgG alone did not (Figure 4E),

indicating that LRRC37A/2 and α-synuclein likely form a normal complex in human brain that

becomes disordered in the context of PD pathogenesis. These data are not only the first to

identify a role for LRRC37A/2 in astrocytes, but are the first to link the genetic association at the

17q21.31 locus with PD pathology.

DISCUSSION

By constructing discrete sub-haplotype blocks across the 17q21.31 H1 locus, we have

identified multiple novel H1 sub-haplotypes associated with variable levels of PD risk. The

MAPT gene, encoding the microtubule associated protein tau, is central to this locus and is likely

the causal gene for other neurodegenerative disorders genetically associated with the H1

haplotype, such as PSP and CBD[2,3], given that they are characterized neuropathologically by tau

hyperphosphorylation and accumulation. However, while tau pathology can occur alongside α-

synuclein inclusions in the substantia nigra[16,17], it is not a typical neuropathological feature of

PD[15]. The causal gene underlying the genetic association across the 17q21.31 locus with PD risk

has therefore been unclear, although a recent study proposed variants in *KANSL1* as underlying

this association by altering mitophagy[32]. In contrast, we did not find any effect of our PD-

associated H1 sub-haplotypes on either *KANSL1* expression or copy number, but did observe a

consistent association with the expression of another gene in the locus, *LRRC37A/2*. However,

these data do not rule out that *KANSL1* variants may alter disease risk independently of

LRRC37A/2 expression between the major haplotype clades and H1 sub-haplotypes.

We found that protective H1 sub-haplotypes were associated with increased expression of

LRRC37A/2. This is consistent with increased expression of these genes in the protective H2

haplotype, suggesting that there is likely a shared mechanism of protection from PD between H2

and specific sub-haplotypes of H1. Furthermore, analysis of CNVs in the 3' distal end of the

17q21.31 locus suggested that protective sub-haplotypes were tagging structural variants defined

by increased gamma region[20] and *LRRC37A/2* copy number, which likely underlies the

increased expression of these genes. *LRRC37A* is a core duplicon on chromosome 17[33] and is

present at the inversion breakpoint of the 17q21.31 locus; it has been hypothesized that its

propensity for CNVs is responsible for the evolutionary toggling of this region that resulted in

the distinct H1 and H2 haplotypes[34]. Due to the complex structural variation surrounding

LRRC37A and the presence of its paralog *LRRC37A2*, it is challenging to genotype or sequence

this region of the genome. As such, our analyses have not been able to separate the contribution

of each gene and have considered them together. As a consequence of the CNVs in this region,

genotyping data across *LRRC37A* and *LRRC37A2* is of low confidence and quality, and as such

is excluded from GWAS analyses, as is visible in any association plot. Therefore, the association

between *LRRC37A/2* variants and any disease or phenotype has never been tested, and it is likely

that additional variation within *LRRC37A/2* itself is contributing to its altered expression and

function that may also impact PD risk. Alternatively, differential epigenetic modifications or

chromatin accessibility and looping may also be contributing to variable *LRRC37A/2* expression

between sub-haplotypes. Unfortunately due to the relatively low frequency of different H1 sub-

haplotypes, we do not yet have the brain tissues or iPSC lines available to test this possibility.

Little is known about the function of *LRRC37A/2*, although increased copy number has

been associated with an increased antibody response to an Anthrax vaccine[35], and overexpression

in HeLa cells appeared to promote the formation of filopodia[33], indicating that *LRRC37A/2* may

be involved in the immune and inflammatory response, as well as with cellular migration and

synapse formation. Furthermore, assessment of the GWAS atlas (https://atlas.ctglab.nl/) reveals

that several immune phenotypes are significantly associated with H1/H2 haplotypes across the

17q21.31 locus, thus indicating this region is important for the regulation of immunological

function. Despite conducting our RNA-seq analysis of *LRRC37A/2* overexpression in HEK293T

cells, we observe enrichment of pathways consistent with these data; we found that increased

LRRC37A/2 expression upregulated cellular migration and chemotaxis pathways, which are both

essential mechanisms involved in wound healing and inflammation. Within these pathways we

observe increased expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines *IL17* and *IL32*, as well as the

chemoattractant *IL16*, each of which are involved in the astrocytic inflammatory response[30,31].

Neuroinflammation of the substantia nigra is considered a characteristic feature of PD in addition

to neuronal loss[36,37], and many genes associated with PD, such as *GBA*, *LRRK2* and *PINK1* are

thought to have a role in the inflammatory response in astrocytes[24,38]. Furthermore, the most

significantly enriched pathway in our analysis, *Neuroactive-ligand receptor interaction*, is also

involved in the inflammatory response and has previously been associated with PD; this pathway

was significantly enriched in a functional assessment of PD GWAS signals[39], and is targeted by

microRNAs that are upregulated in a *Drosophila* model of PD[40]. We also observe upregulation

of *TGFA*, the infusion of which into the forebrain of a rat model of PD increased the proliferation

of neuronal and glial progenitors and the production of dopaminergic neurons to the substantia

nigra[41], indicating that this may be a protective growth factor against neuronal loss in PD.

LRRC37A/2 overexpression in HEK293T cells was therefore able to recapitulate pathways

associated with PD, despite being a cell type with limited relevance to PD pathogenesis.

363   As these expression data were indicative of pathways relevant to astrocyte biology, and

we found that *LRRC37A/2*-associated gene expression changes were apparent in iPSC-astrocytes

but not iPSC-neurons, we hypothesized that this was likely the most relevant cell type for

LRRC37A/2 expression. Indeed, in human substantia nigra tissue we observe localization of

LRRC37A/2 specifically in astrocytes. The contribution of astrocytic dysfunction to PD

pathogenesis has gained attention in recent years, and is hypothesized to be a causal mechanism

for the initiation and progression of PD[22–25]. Many genes associated with PD risk are expressed

in astrocytes, the functions of which converge on the inflammatory response, lipid handling,

mitochondrial health and lysosomal function[24]. Our finding that *LRRC37A/2* is expressed in

astrocytes and plays a role in the inflammatory response is therefore consistent with known

pathogenic mechanisms of PD.

The role of astroglial inflammation in PD is unclear; it has been reported as being both

absent and severe in PD substantia nigra[22]. As a further complication, *in vitro* studies of human

astrocyte cultures indicate that α-synuclein induces the release of pro-inflammatory

cytokines[22,25], but these cells also release protective molecules such as GDNF in response to

dopaminergic neuronal damage, and such trophic support may benefit neuronal survival[22]. In

addition, the substantia nigra is considered to be particularly susceptible in PD as dopaminergic

neurons in this region are surrounded by the lowest proportion of astrocytes in the brain[42].

Whether an inflammatory response in this context would be protective or exacerbate neuronal

death is therefore unknown. As our data suggest increased *LRRC37A/2* expression is protective

and associated with increased expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines, astroglial inflammation

in response to α-synuclein may therefore be protective. However, our use of HEK293T cells

limits our interpretation of these data, and further investigation of *LRRC37A/2* function in

astrocytes is required.

Interestingly, we observe an interaction between LRRC37A/2 and soluble α-synuclein, as

well as co-localization of LRRC37A/2 with Lewy bodies in PD substantia nigra. The function

and mechanism of this interaction is untested, although it is likely that a complex is formed in

astrocytes and propagated to neurons. iPSC-astrocytes have been reported as expressing low

levels of endogenous α-synuclein, which is increased in cells derived from PD patients[25], and α-

synuclein released from neuronal axon terminals is taken up by astrocytes[28], which can be further

transferred to neurons[23,29]. This raises the possibility that LRRC37A/2 may influence α-synuclein

release, aggregation and/or propagation.

In conclusion, we have identified novel sub-haplotype variants of the 17q21.31 H1 clade

significantly associated with protection against PD. While the genetic association across this

locus is typically ascribed to *MAPT* or *KANSL1*, we find evidence for the involvement of a novel

gene, *LRRC37A/2,* in PD risk. We propose that in a similar mechanism to other PD-associated

genes, *LRRC37A/2* is expressed in astrocytes and plays a role in the regulation of astroglial

inflammation, specifically in the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines, chemotaxis and cellular

migration. Importantly, we demonstrate that LRRC37A/2 interacts and co-localizes with α-

synuclein and Lewy bodies, thus indicating a potential modifying role in the formation of PD

pathology. These findings link the genetic association at the 17q21.31 H1 locus with PD

pathology, and support the hypothesis of astroglial dysfunction as a key contributing factor to PD

disease pathogenesis.

Methods

Genotype data treatment

Case and control data from several cohorts from the International Parkinson's Disease

Genetics Consortium (IPDGC; NIA, GER, FIN, NL, SP, McGill)[6,9,10] was kindly shared by Drs.

Nalls, Singleton and Bandres-Ciga (NIH, Bethesda, MD; Tables S2, S4).

Pre-imputation QC

Each dataset was obtained with different QC filters already applied, and so were all

subsequently passed through the same, more stringent QC pipeline to ensure consistency. Plink

v1.9[43] was used to perform quality control for all datasets. First, SNPs were filtered by a 98%

call rate, and remaining SNPs with a MAF < 1% were excluded. Individuals with < 98%

genotyping rate were then removed. To determine and correct for population stratification,

principal components analysis was carried out in combination with Hapmap YRI, CEU and CHB

populations[44] using EIGENSOFT[45]. Samples that did not cluster with the CEU European

ancestry population were excluded. Identity by descent analysis was then conducted, and related

individuals or potential sample duplicates ($Z0 \leq 0.8$) were removed. We were unable to assess

discordant sex information on data acquired from other sources, as the required information for

this analysis was not provided to us. Variants that deviated from Hardy Weinberg equilibrium at

a significance threshold $< 1\text{x}10^{-4}$ were then removed. Chromosome 17 was then isolated and

screened for strand mismatches.

Imputation and post-imputation QC

Filtered chromosome 17 data from each cohort was submitted individually to the

Michigan imputation server[46] (https://imputationserver.sph.umich.edu) and imputed against the

HRC r1.1 2016 panel using Eagle v2.3 phasing. Following imputation, SNPs with an r2 < 0.3

were removed, and remaining SNPs were filtered for a 99% call rate. Genotyping call rates for

individuals were again filtered at 99%, and SNPs that deviated from Hardy-Weinberg

equilibrium at a significance threshold $< 1\text{x}10^{-6}$ were excluded. Individual cohorts were then

merged, and finally filtered once more with a SNP call rate of 99%. Prior to analysis, variants

were filtered to exclude SNPs with a MAF < 0.01.

Single SNP association analyses

Logistic regression association analyses using an additive model were carried out in SNP

and Variation Suite v8.8.1 (SVS8) software (Golden Helix, Inc., Bozeman, MT,

www.goldenhelix.com). As all potential covariate information was not available, the model was

corrected using the first 10 principal components as calculated by SVS8. Associations were

initially carried out on the entire cohort in order to confirm the 17q21.31 H1/H2 haplotype

association. The data was then filtered for H1 homozygotes only, using tag SNP rs8070723 and

the association analysis was repeated with the same parameters.

Meta-analysis of SNP effects across multiple datasets was carried out using the R

package rmeta[47] using both Random Effects (DerSimonian-Laird) and Fixed Effects (Mantel-

Haenszel) approaches. Calculation and visualization of linkage disequilibrium (LD) over large

genomic ranges was carried out in SVS8 using both r2 and D'. Inspection of LD between

individual SNPs of interest was carried out using Haploview[48].

Haplotype block construction and association

Haplotype blocks were constructed in SVS8 using the D' measure of LD. Blocks were

defined using guidelines as described by Gabriel et al (2002)[49]. Each block contained a

maximum of 15 markers within 160kb of each other, with a D' upper confidence bound $\geq$ 0.98

and a lower confidence bound $\geq$ 0.7. Haplotypes were estimated using an expectation-

maximization (EM) algorithm with 50 iterations, and a convergence tolerance of 0.0001. Sub-

haplotypes with a frequency $<$ 0.01 were excluded from further analysis. Case-control

association analyses were carried out per block using a logistic regression model. Odds ratios

and associated Fisher's exact p-values were calculated for each sub-haplotype within each block

using the R package epitools[50].

Human brain expression analysis

Publicly available RNA-seq expression data from human postmortem dorsolateral

prefrontal (PFC) and temporal (TCX) cortices (Table S3) and associated genotype data were

obtained from Synapse (synapse.org; The Religious Orders Study and Memory and Aging

Project (ROSMAP) syn3219045; MayoRNAseq syn5550404; CommonMind Consortium

syn2759792). Genotype data for chromosome 17 underwent the same QC and imputation

pipeline as described above. Data were stratified by 17q21.31 H1/H2 haplotype using the H2 tag

SNP rs8070723. For sub-haplotype analysis, blocks previously defined in the PD analysis were

applied to the genotype data and haplotypes were estimated in the same manner. Statistical

analysis was carried out in R version 3.4.0. For analysis of *MAPT* splicing, percent spliced in

(PSI) values were generated for exons 2, 3 and 10 using Mixture of Isoforms (MISO)[51]. Gene

expression and PSI residuals were generated by linear regression using sex, age of death, post-

mortem interval and RNA integrity score as covariates. The resulting residuals were then

transformed into z-scores and combined across datasets. Statistical differences in gene

expression between genotypes and sub-haplotypes were determined by linear regression applied

to the adjusted and combined z-scores.

dPCR

Human genomic DNA and accompanying genotype data was kindly provided by Drs.

Raj, Crary and Charney (Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY) and by the Alzheimer's Disease

Research Center (ADRC; Table S3). Sub-haplotypes were called from these genotype data in the

same manner as described above. To examine copy number variation in the 17q21.31 locus,

digital PCR was carried out using the ThermoFisher QuantStudio 3D digital PCR chip system.

Taqman dPCR probes for loci within the alpha, beta and gamma CNV regions[20], as well as

within *LRRC37A* and *MAPT* were selected for analysis (Table S5).

Cell lines

Human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) were obtained from the Knight

Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Washington University[52], the NIH Childhood-onset

Schizophrenia study[53], and the UCI ADRC (Table S6). The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount

Sinai IRB reviewed the relevant operating protocols as well as this specific study and determined

it was exempt from approval.

Cell culture

Unless otherwise specified, all cell culture materials were obtained from ThermoFisher

Scientific. Human embryonic kidney cells (HEK293T) were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified

Eagle Medium/F-12 with HEPES, supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1%

Penicillin-Streptomycin. Cells were passaged every 3-4 days using Trypsin-EDTA (0.25%). For

LRRC37A/2 overexpression experiments, HEK293T cells were seeded at a density of $1.4x10^5$

cells per well in 6-well plates and transfected with 0.5-2.5ug of *LRRC37A* plasmid (Origene) or

empty vector control (Origene) using Lipofectamine 3000. Cells were harvested 48 hours after

transfection.

For qRTPCR and protein biochemistry experiments, iPSC lines (Table S6) were

maintained in complete StemFlex media supplemented with 1% penicillin/streptomycin on

Matrigel (BD biosciences), and were differentiated to neural progenitor cells (NPCs) as

previously described[54]. Forebrain neuron-enriched cultures and astrocyte cultures were

differentiated from NPCs as previously described[54,55]. Neuronal and astrocytic identity was

confirmed by immunofluorescence for common neuronal and astrocytic markers (MAP2

(Abcam), Tuj1 (Cell Signaling Technologies), S100β (Sigma Aldrich) and EAAT1 (Abcam).

Genomic DNA was extracted using the DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit (Qiagen) and

underwent genotyping with Taqman assays for H2 tag SNPs rs8070723 and rs1052553 in order

to confirm 17q21.31 haplotype.

qRT-PCR

RNA was extracted from HEK293T cells, iPSC-derived neurons, astrocytes and human

brain tissue using the RNeasy Mini kit (Qiagen) and reverse transcribed using the High-Capacity

RNA-to-cDNA kit (ThermoFisher Scientific). Gene expression was measured by commercially

available Taqman qRTPCR assays.

RNA-seq

RNA was prepared as described above. Library preparation with poly-A selection and

sequencing with 150 base pair paired-end reads was carried out at Genewiz. Sequenced reads

were trimmed for Illumina TruSeq adapters, and quantified for gene expression values in TPM

(Transcripts Per Kilobase Million) using Salmon[56] guided by the GENCODE human

transcriptome model (GRCh38 version 28, Ensembl 92). TPM data was imported into the R

(version 3.5.1) programming environment for visualization and analysis, and differential

expression of *LRRC37A*/2 overexpression compared to the control was analyzed using the

moderated t-test implemented in limma[57]. Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were defined

by $\pm \geq 1.5$ expression fold change and adjusted $p < 0.05$. Gene set enrichment analysis was

performed with the Broad Institute's MSigDB annotations[58]. Analysis of GO enrichment terms

was carried out using g:Profiler (https://biit.cs.ut.ee/gprofiler/gost)[59,60] and visualized using

Cytoscape v3.7.1[61] with the EnrichmentMap[62] plugin. Additional pathway analyses were carried

out using Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (QIAGEN Inc.,

https://www.qiagenbioinformatics.com/products/ingenuitypathway-analysis) using genes with a

fold change $\pm \geq 1$.

Protein biochemistry

Membrane and cytosolic proteins were isolated from HEK293T cells, iPSC-derived

neurons and iPSC-derived astrocytes using the MEM-PER Plus Membrane Protein Extraction

Kit (ThermoFisher Scientific), and protein concentrations were determined by bicinchoninic acid

(BCA) assay (ThermoFisher Scientific). For western blotting, protein fractions were subject to

SDS-PAGE electrophoresis through BOLT Bis-Tris gels (ThermoFisher Scientific) and were

blotted onto nitrocellulose membranes. Membrane fractions were confirmed by labelling with an

anti-pan-Cadherin antibody (Cell Signaling Technology), and cytosolic fractions were confirmed

by labelling with anti-HSP90 (Cell Signaling Technology). Membranes were stripped using

Restore plus western blot stripping buffer and re-probed with an anti-LRRC37A antibody

(ThermoFisher Scientific).

OPAL multiplex labelling

Formalin fixed paraffin embedded substantia nigra sections from human controls (N=4),

PSP (N=5) and PD (N=5) cases were acquired from the Mount Sinai Neuropathology Brain

Bank, with neuropathological diagnosis being determined by Dr. John Crary. All post-mortem

tissues were collected in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations at the Icahn

School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Multiplexed immunofluorescent staining was carried out on

4-6μm sections using the Opal Polaris 7 color IHC detection kit (Akoya biosciences) according

to manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, slides were baked for 1 hour at 65°C, then deparaffinized

with xylene and rehydrated with a graded series of ethanol concentrations. For epitope retrieval,

slides were microwaved in AR buffer for 45s at 100% power, followed by an additional 15

minutes at 20% power. After cooling, slides were blocked for 10 minutes in blocking buffer then

incubated with the first primary antibody at room temperature for 30 minutes. Slides were rinsed

three times in TBS-T, then incubated with the secondary polymer HRP for 1 hour at room

temperature. After additional washes, the first Opal fluorophore was incubated with the slides for

10 minutes at room temperature, followed by further washes in TBS-T. This process was

repeated from the microwave treatment step for each additional primary antibody, followed by

one final repetition of the microwave treatment to strip the primary-secondary antibody complex

from the tissue. Once all primary antibodies had been introduced, slides were counterstained

with DAPI for 5 minutes at room temperature, washed with TBS-T and coverslips were mounted

using ProLong Diamond Antifade mounting reagent (ThermoFisher Scientific). Multispectral

imaging was carried out using the Vectra Quantitative Pathology Imaging system, applying

quantitative unmixing of fluorophores and removal of tissue autofluorescence. Images were

visualized using the HALO image analysis platform (Indica Labs).

Co-Immunoprecipitation

Frozen substantia nigra tissue was selected from the same Control (N=3), PSP (N=3) and

PD (N=3) cases used for OPAL multiplex immunofluorescence. Protein lysates were generated

using cell lysis buffer (NEB) and brief sonication on ice, followed by centrifugation to pellet

insoluble material. Co-immunoprecipitation was carried out using the Dynabeads Protein G

immunoprecipitation kit (ThermoFisher Scientific), with an anti-α-synuclein antibody (Abcam)

as bait. Proteins bound to beads were eluted and assayed by western blot (as described above)

and probed with an anti-LRRC37A antibody (ThermoFisher Scientific). Whole protein lysate

and IgG only controls were run on the same blots.

DATA SHARING

All aligned read counts and FASTQ files for *LRRC37A*-overexpressing HEK293T cells

will be deposited to the Gene Expression Omnibus once the manuscript is accepted for

publication.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization: KRB, JFC, AMG. *Methodology*: KRB, JDC. *Validation:* KRB, DAP. *Formal*

Analysis: KRB, DAP, YL, SB-C, ZG-O, PH, AS, SB. *Investigation*: KRB, DAP, YL. *Resources:*

AC, CMK, SJF, BHK, IP, YJP, AC, TR, JFC, AMG. *Data Curation*: KRB, YL, SB-C, ZG-O,

PH, AS, SB, IPDGC, *Writing – Original Draft:* KRB. *Writing – Review and Editing*: KRB, YL,

AER, SB-C, ZG-O, CMK, IP, TR, JFC, AMG. *Visualization:* KRB. *Supervision*: AMG. *Funding*

Acquisition: KRB, JFC, AMG

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. H1 sub-haplotypes within the *MAPT* 17q21.21 inversion region are associated

with Parkinson's disease risk.

A. Structure of the 17q21.31 locus, which confers two distinct sub-haplotypes defined by gross

structural inversion; H1 and H2. Direction of gene orientation in each haplotype is indicated by

arrows. Each gene or partial gene is labeled with a distinct color and connected with a crossed

rectangle between H1 and H2 to aid visualization of altered gene position between haplotypes.

B-C. H1 sub-haplotype block association (-$\log_{10}$ *p*-value) with PD plotted above H1 homozygote

D' LD structure and sub-haplotype blocks generated from ***B***. Stage 1 data and ***C.*** Stage 2 data,

spanning Hg19 Chr17:43384997-44913630. **C**. Association (-$\log_{10}$ *p*-value) of blocks calculated

in Stage 2 data (blue, top), and H1.1, H1.2 and H1.3 blocks as defined in Stage 1 applied to

Stage 2 data (orange, bottom). In LD plots, red indicates high D' and blue indicates low. Black

arrows indicate similar blocks generated across Stage 1 and Stage 2 data. Grey lines indicate

genome wide suggestive significance p-value of 1×10^{-5}.

Figure 2. PD-associated sub-haplotypes are associated with *LRRC37A/2* expression and

copy number.

A-C. Expression of *A. LRRC37A, B. LRRC37A2* and *C. MAPT* in human brain tissue, measured

by RNA-seq across three different cohorts, split by sub-haplotype in blocks H1.1, H1.2 and

H1.3.

D. Schematic of the regions of copy number variation in the 3' distal end of the 17q21.31 locus,

as defined by Boettger et al 2012[20]. Black arrows indicate the location of dPCR probes for (left

to right) beta, alpha, *LRRC37A* and gamma.

E-G. Copy number of gamma and *LRRC37A/2* regions in blocks *E.* H1.1, *F.* H1.2 and *G.* H1.3.

H-I. Copy number of *H.* gamma and *I. LRRC37A/2* regions between H1 and H2 homozygotes.

All statistical comparisons are against the most common sub-haplotype. ns = not significant, *p

< 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001.

Figure 3. *LRRC37A/2* expression is associated with increased cellular migration,

chemotaxis and inflammation.

A. Enriched GO terms for significantly differentially expressed genes following *LRRC37A/2*

overexpression in HEK293T cells. Paler node colors indicate less significant enrichment *p*-

values, and edge thickness indicates the proportion of shared genes between GO terms.

B. -log$_{10}$ adjusted *p*-values for top 12 functionally enriched gene ontology terms for significantly

differentially expressed genes in *LRRC37A*/2-overexpressing cells.

C-D. Significantly enriched *C. Migration of cells* and *D. Chemotaxis* pathways associated with

LRRC37A/2 overexpression, derived from Ingenuity pathway analysis. Red genes indicate

upregulation, green indicates downregulation

.

Figure 4. LRRC37A/2 is a membrane-associated protein expressed in astrocytes and co-

localized with α-synuclein.

A. qRT-PCR for *LRRC37A* expression in H1 and H2 homozygote iPSC-derived neurons and

astrocytes. N=3 in duplicate. ns = not significant, *$p < 0.05$.

B-C. Western blots for LRRC37A/2 in cytosolic (C) and membrane (M) fractions from ***B.*** iPSC-

neurons and *C.* iPSC-astrocytes. Cytosolic fractions were confirmed by labelling with an anti-

HSP90 antibody, and membrane fractions were confirmed by labelling with an anti-Pan-

Cadherin antibody, N=6.

D. Representative images from multiplex immunofluorescent staining of human control, PSP and

PD substantia nigra sections with astrocyte marker GFAP, LRRC37A, α-synuclein and

pathologically phosphorylated Tau (AT8). Scale bar = 100μm, N = 4-5. **E.** Co-

immunoprecipitation (Co-IP) of LRRC37A (top panel) with soluble α-synuclein (bottom panel)

in substantia nigra from control (C), PSP and PD brain, N=3. Whole protein lysates and IgG only

controls were included for comparison.

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES LEGENDS

Figure S1. The 17q21.31 locus is genetically associated with PD. Related to Figure 1.

A. $-\log_{10}$ regression *p*-values of SNP associations with PD in Stage 1 data spanning the 17q21.31

locus. Grey line indicates genome-wide suggestive *p*-value of 1×10^{-5}, and black line indicates

genome-wide significant *p*-value of 5×10^{-8}.

B-C. Odds ratios (ORs) and random effects meta-analysis (Summary) with 95% confidence

intervals for **B.** the top association SNP from Stage 1 data and **C.** H2 tag SNP rs8070723 in

Stage 1 and Stage 2.

D. $-\log_{10}$ regression *p*-values of SNP associations with PD in Stage 2 data spanning the 17q21.31

locus. Grey line indicates genome-wide suggestive *p*-value of 1x10-5

E. ORs and random effects meta-analysis (Summary) with 95% confidence intervals for the top

association SNP from Stage 2 data

F. D' LD between the Stage 1 top association SNP and H1/H2 tag SNP rs8070723

G-H. $-\log_{10}$ regression *p*-values of SNP associations with PD in H1 homozygotes in **G.** Stage 1

and **H.** Stage 2 data spanning the 17q21.31 locus. Grey line indicates genome-wide suggestive *p*-

value of 1×10^{-5}.

I-J. ORs and random effects meta-analysis (Summary) with 95% confidence intervals for top

SNP associations in **I.** Stage 1 and **J.** Stage 2 PD data.

K. LD (D') between SNPs within each significant PD-associated sub-haplotype block; H1.1

(chr17:44040184-44041992), H1.2 (chr17:44090196-44097249) and H1.3 (chr17:44119987-

44131305) in Stage 1 (top) and Stage 2 (bottom) data. Red indicates high LD; diamonds with no

value denote D' = 1. D' values <1 are indicated for each relevant SNP pair.

Figure S2. Sub-haplotypes within H1 sub-haplotype blocks are associated with variable

risk for PD. Related to Figures 1 and 2.

A-B. Block H1.1 *A*. Sub-haplotype SNP genotypes (green squares denote minor allele variation

relative to the most common haplotype) and *B.* related ORs and 95% confidence intervals in

Stage 1 and Stage 2 data (black), random effects meta-analysis (blue) and fixed effects meta-

analysis (red).

C-D. Block H1.2 *C.* Sub-haplotype SNP genotypes (green squares denote minor allele variation

relative to the most common haplotype) and *D.* related ORs and 95% confidence intervals in

Stage 1 and Stage 2 data (black), random effects meta-analysis (blue) and fixed effects meta-

analysis (red).

E-F. Block H1.3 *E.* Sub-haplotype SNP genotypes (green squares denote minor allele variation

relative to the most common haplotype) and *F.* related ORs and 95% confidence intervals in

Stage 1 and Stage 2 data (black), random effects meta-analysis (blue) and fixed effects meta-

analysis (red). *$p < 0.05$, **$p < 0.01$, ***$p < 0.001$

Figure S3. PD-associated sub-haplotype blocks are not associated with the expression of

most genes within the 17q21.31 locus. Related to Figure 2.

A-C. Combined residual Z-scores for expression of genes across the 17q21.31 locus for

individuals homozygous for each sub-haplotype in blocks *A.* H1.1, *B.* H1.2 and *C.* H1.3 human

brain RNA-seq data.

D. qRTPCR for *LRRC37A* in human PFC brain tissue for sub-haplotypes across blocks H1.1,

H1.2 and H1.3. N = 1-10, * $p<0.05$.

Figure S4. PD-associated sub-haplotype blocks are not associated with *MAPT* splicing.

Related to Figure 2.

A. Combined residual Z-scores for *MAPT* exons 2, 3 and 10 percent spliced in (PSI) for

individuals homozygous for each sub-haplotype in blocks H1.1, H1.2 and H1.3 in human brain

RNA-seq data.

B. Combined residual Z-scores for *LRRC37A* and *LRRC37A2* expression in 17q21.31 H1 and H2

haplotype clades in human brain RNA-seq data. All statistical comparisons are against the most

common allele. $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$, $***p < 0.001$.

Figure S5. Alpha and beta regions have more variable copy numbers in the most common

block sub-haplotypes, but do not vary with PD risk. Related to Figure 2.

A-C. Copy number of alpha and beta regions across sub-haplotypes in blocks *A*. H1.1, *B*. H1.2

and *C.* H1.3.

D. Copy number of alpha and beta regions between H1 and H2 homozygotes. All statistical

comparisons are against the most common sub-haplotype. ns = not significant, $*p < 0.05$, $**p < $

0.01, $***p < 0.001$.

Figure S6. LRRC37A/2 is a membrane-associated protein with the greatest effect in

astrocytes, but is not expressed in microglia. Related to Figures 3 and 4.

A. Western blots for LRRC37A in cytosolic (C) and membrane (M) fractions from HEK293T

cells overexpressing *LRRC37A/2* or an empty vector control. Cytosolic fractions were confirmed

by labelling with an anti-HSP90 antibody, and membrane fractions were confirmed by labelling

with an anti-Pan-Cadherin antibody, N=3.

B-F. qRT-PCR fold change expression of differentially expressed genes *B. LRRC37A*, *C.*

CEP76, *D. PLK4*, *E. KCNN4* and *F*. *MFAP5* in *LRRC37A/2*-overexpressing cells from RNA-seq

data, following titration of *LRRC37A/2* overexpression in HEK293T cells. N=9, *$p<0.05$,

**$p<0.01$, ***$p<0.001$.

G. qRT-PCR fold change expression of differentially expressed genes following *LRRC37A/2*

overexpression in H1 and H2 homozygote iPSC-derived neurons and astrocytes, N=3 in

duplicate, *$p<0.05$, **$p<0.01$, ***$p<0.001$.

H. Representative images demonstrating no co-localization of microglia (IBA1) and

LRRC37A/2 in control, PSP and PD substantia nigra. N=4-5. Scale bar = 100µm.

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TABLES

Block	#Sub-haplotypes	#SNPs	Start	Stop	Gene	Location	Stage 1			Stage 2		
							p-value	$-\log_{10}$ p-value	FDR p-value	p-value	$-\log_{10}$ p-value	FDR p-value
H1.1	5	5	44040184	44041992	*MAPT*	Intronic	1.35E-08	7.87	1.73E-06	1.94E-03	2.71	4.50E-03
H1.2	8	8	44090196	44097249	*MAPT*	Intronic/Exonic	6.58E-06	5.18	2.40E-04	1.12E-09	5.95	7.84E-06
H1.3	7	9	44119987	44131305	*KANSL1*	Intronic	1.23E-07	6.91	1.05E-05	2.39E-04	3.47	1.12E-03

Table 1. 17q21.31 H1 sub-haplotype blocks associated with PD susceptibility

Table 2. H1 sub-haplotypes associated with PD susceptibility

Block	Sub-haplotype ID	Sub-haplotype	Stage 1			Stage 2			Meta					
			Frequency (Case/Control)	OR (95% CI)	OR Fisher's exact p^{sig}	Frequency (Case/Control)	OR (95% CI)	OR Fisher's exact p^{sig}	RE OR (95% CI)	RE Heterogeneity (p)	RE p^{sig}	FE OR (95% CI)	FE Heterogeneity (p)	FE p^{sig}
	H1.1a	ACTCT	0.25 (0.26/0.24)	1	-	0.21 (0.2/0.23)	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
	H1.1b	ACTTG	0.27 (0.38/0.22)	1.6 (1.45-1.78)	2.04E-19***	0.38 (0.39/0.36)	1.26 (1.09-1.46)	2.0E-03**	1.43 (1.13-1.81)	7.06 (0.0079)	3.0E-03**	1.48 (1.36-1.61)	7.06 (0.0079)	0***
H1.1	H1.1c	GCCTG	0.18 (0.09/0.23)	0.37 (0.32-0.42)	1.3E-49***	0.14 (0.13/0.16)	0.96 (0.79-1.15)	6.40E-01	0.59 (0.23-1.52)	67.79 (<0.0001)	2.70E-01	0.51 (0.46-0.57)	67.85 (<0.0001)	0***
	H1.1d	ATCTG	0.18 (0.06/0.24)	0.22 (0.19-0.26)	6.5E-92***	0.23 (0.24/0.21)	1.29 (1.1-1.52)	2.0E-03**	0.54 (0.1-3.01)	231.51 (<0.0001)	4.90E-01	0.49 (0.44-0.55)	232.74 (<0.0001)	0***
	H1.1e	ACCTG	0.12 (0.21/0.08)	2.51 (2.2-2.86)	2.4E-45***	0.02 (0.02/0.02)	1.45 (0.98-2.17)	5.70E-02	1.97 (1.15-3.36)	7.13 (0.0079)	1.3E-02*	2.37 (2.1-2.68)	7.13 (0.0076)	0***
	H1.2a	TTTCGATG	0.48 (0.44/0.5)	1	-	0.49 (0.49/0.48)	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
	H1.2b	TCTCGATG	0.17 (0.18/0.16)	1.27 (1.14-1.4)	2.02E-05***	0.17 (0.17/0.18)	0.93 (0.8-1.09)	3.56E-01	1.09 (0.81-1.47)	10.57 (0.001)	5.70E-01	1.14 (1.04-1.24)	10.58 (0.0011)	3.0E-03**
	H1.2c	TTAAAATA	0.15 (0.16/0.14)	1.31 (1.16-1.47)	4.52E-06***	0.19 (0.21/0.18)	1.12 (0.97-1.3)	1.21E-01	1.22 (1.05-1.42)	2.65 (0.103)	9.0E-03**	1.23 (1.13-1.35)	2.65 (0.1037)	4.41E-06***
H1.2	H1.2d	TTAAGATG	0.07 (0.08/0.06)	1.36 (1.16-1.59)	1.2E-04***	0.04 (0.03/0.05)	0.52 (0.38-0.69)	3.46E-06***	0.84 (0.33-2.19)	35.25 (<0.0001)	7.27E-01	1.07 (0.94-1.23)	35.28 (<0.0001)	2.90E-01
	H1.2e	CTTCGATG	0.06 (0.06/0.06)	1.17 (0.99-1.39)	5.64E-02	0.08 (0.08/0.08)	1.05 (0.85-1.3)	6.76E-01	1.12 (0.99-1.28)	0.72 (0.40)	7.00E-02	1.12 (0.99-1.28)	0.72 (0.397)	7.00E-02
	H1.2f	TTTCGGTG	0.05 (0.05/0.05)	1.16 (0.96-1.39)	1.18E-01	0.02 (0.02/0.03)	0.58 (0.41-0.83)	7.1E-03**	0.83 (0.42-1.64)	12.41 (0.0004)	6.00E-01	0.99 (0.84-1.16)	12.41 (0.0004)	9.10E-01
	H1.2g	TTAAAATG	0.01 (0.01/0.01)	1.1 (0.77-1.54)	6.07E-01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	H1.2h	TTTCGACG	0.01 (0.01/0.01)	1.28 (0.89-1.84)	1.64E-01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	H1.3a	GACTGAGAT	0.28 (0.32/0.27)	1	-	0.32 (0.32/0.32)	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
	H1.3b	CATTAGGGC	0.18 (0.11/0.22)	0.43 (0.38-0.49)	1.66E-41***	0.18 (0.18/0.19)	0.95 (0.81-1.11)	5.22E-01	0.64 (0.29-1.44)	58.53 (<0.0001)	2.80E-01	0.57 (0.52-0.63)	58.57 (<0.0001)	0***
	H1.3c	GATTGAGAT	0.17 (0.21/0.16)	1.11 (0.99-1.24)	7.37E-02	0.16 (0.16/0.17)	0.95 (0.80-1.12)	5.33E-01	1.04 (0.89-1.21)	2.24 (0.134)	6.10E-01	1.06 (0.96-1.16)	2.24 (0.1343)	0.23
H1.3	H1.3d	CTTTGGTGC	0.15 (0.12/0.16)	0.61 (0.54-0.7)	1.58E-14***	0.2 (0.21/0.18)	1.16 (0.99-1.36)	5.81E-02	0.84 (0.45-1.56)	35.27 (<0.0001)	5.80E-01	0.77 (0.7-0.85)	35.28 (<0.0001)	2.96E-07***
	H1.3e	CATTGGGGC	0.09 (0.14/0.07)	1.67 (1.45-1.92)	2.79E-13***	0.02 (0.02/0.02)	0.81 (0.54-1.21)	2.83E-01	1.19 (0.58-2.42)	12.01 (0.0004)	6.30E-01	1.54 (1.35-1.75)	12.01 (0.0005)	4.57E-11***
	H1.3f	CATTGGGGT	0.08 (0.07/0.09)	0.6 (0.51-0.70)	9.34E-11***	0.09 (0.1/0.08)	1.15 (0.93-1.42)	2.00E-01	0.81 (0.44-1.5)	21.37 (<0.0001)	5.10E-01	0.74 (0.66-0.84)	21.38 (<0.0001)	3.59E-06***
	H1.3g	GATCGAGAT	0.04 (0.04/0.04)	0.83 (0.67-1.03)	9.39E-02	0.03 (0.02/0.02)	0.55 (0.38-0.78)	5.58E-04***	0.7 (0.49-1.02)	3.48 (0.062)	6.60E-02	0.75 (0.63-0.9)	3.48 (0.062)	1.6E-03**

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OR = Odds ratio; **CI** = Confidence interval; **RE** = Random effects meta-analysis; **FE** = Fixed effects meta-analysis. *$p<0.05$, **$p<0.01$, ***$p<0.001$

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Table S1. Top SNPs in the 17q21.31 locus associated with PD in complete data and H1 homozygote analyses

All data

	Stage 1 Top SNP	Position	p-value	$-\log_{10}$ p-value	FDR p-value	Major Allele	Minor Allele	MAF (case/control)	OR (95% CI)	OR fisher p-value
Stage 1			2.74E-09	8.562	5.44E-04			0.21 (0.17/0.22)	0.75 (0.69-0.81)	8.50E-13
Stage 2	rs17763050	17:43903336	6.10E-01	0.22	9.70E-01	G	A	0.26 (0.25/0.28)	0.87 (0.8-0.96)	3.77E-03
Meta			-	-	-			-	0.82 (0.73-0.93)	1.42E-03[Ŧ]

	Stage 2 Top SNP	Position	p-value	$-\log_{10}$ p-value	FDR p-value	Major Allele	Minor Allele	MAF (case/control)	OR (95% CI)	OR fisher p-value
Stage 1			2.59E-03	2.59	1.57E-01			0.03 (0.04/0.03)	1.42 (1.12-1.7)	1.13E-04
Stage 2	rs151036546	17:44122049	8.7E10-04	3.06	2.70E-01	T	C	0.02 (0.01/0.03)	0.51 (0.37-0.68)	2.72E-06
Meta			-	-	-			-	0.85 (0.31-2.35)	7.6E-01[Ŧ]

	H2 Tag SNP	Position	p-value	$-\log_{10}$ p-value	FDR p-value	Major Allele	Minor Allele	MAF (case/control)	OR (95% CI)	OR fisher p-value
Stage 1			1.70E-07	6.77	1.96E-05			0.2 (0.16/0.21)	0.77 (0.71-0.83)	1.66E-10
Stage 2	rs8070723	17:44081064	4.70E-01	0.33	9.50E-01	A	G	0.25 (0.24/0.27)	0.86 (0.78-0.94)	1.07E-03
Meta			-	-	-			-	0.82 (0.76-0.89)	6.32E-07[Ŧ]

H1 homozygotes only

	Stage 1 Top SNP	Position	p-value	$-\log_{10}$ p-value	FDR p-value	Major Allele	Minor Allele	MAF (case/control)	OR (95% CI)	OR fisher p-value
Stage 1			8.4E10-4	3.08	0.55			0.23 (0.25/0.21)	1.21 (1.10-1.32)	4.44E-05
Stage 2	rs41543512	17:44090778	0.61	0.22	0.99	T	A	0.26 (0.24/0.24)	1.02 (0.89-1.16)	0.822
Meta			-	-	-			-	1.11 (0.94-1.32)	0.21[Ŧ]

	Stage 2 Top SNP	Position	p-value	$-\log_{10}$ p-value	FDR p-value	Major Allele	Minor Allele	MAF (case/control)	OR (95% CI)	OR fisher p-value
Stage 1			-	-	-			-	-	-
Stage 2	rs139217062	17:43849514	2.80E-03	2.55	0.66	T	C	0.02 (0.03/0.02)	1.82 (1.25-2.69)	1.01E-02
Meta			-	-	-			-	-	-

	Stage 2 2nd SNP	Position	p-value	$-\log_{10}$ p-value	FDR p-value	Major Allele	Minor Allele	MAF (case/control)	OR (95% CI)	OR fisher p-value
Stage 1	rs16940711	17:43930006	0.2	0.7	0.94	A	C	0.05 (0.05/0.04)	1.11 (0.92-1.34)	0.26
Stage 2			8.80E-03	2.06	0.79			0.03 (0.02/0.04)	0.54 (0.39-0.76)	2.51E-04

| Meta | - | - | - | - | 0.79 (0.39-1.59) | 0.5[Ŧ] |

Ŧ Random effects meta-analysis; **FDR** = False discovery rate; **MAF** = Minor allele frequency, **OR** = Odds ratio; **CI** = Confidence interval

Table S2. Data summary for Stage 1 and Stage 2 PD analyses

	Cohort	Array	Total N (Case/Control)	H1H1 (Case/Control)	H2H2 (Case/Control)	#SNPs used for imputation (Chr17)	#Imputed SNPs (Chr17) R2 >= 0.3
Stage 1	NIA (IPDGC)	Illumina 550K v1 & v3	3906 (905/3001)	2447 (606/1841)	161 (31/130)	11941	634666
	NL (IPDGC)	Illumina 550K & 610K	2725 (767/1958)	1654 (500/1154)	144 (39/105)	13457	530635
	FIN (IPDGC)	Illumina 370K	860 (368/492)	732 (316/416)	7 (4/3)	7970	357255
	GER (IPDGC)	Illumina 550K v1	1673 (740/933)	1121 (527/594)	51 (19/32)	11803	481302
	Merged	-	9164 (2780/6384)	5932 (1937/3995)	378 (94/284)	-	295782
Stage 2	McGill (IPDGC)	Illumina Omini Express & NeuroChip v.1.0	1485 (582/903)	859 (354/505)	70 (19/51)	17467	515155
	SP (IPDGC)	NeuroChip v.1.0 & v.1.1	3444 (2117/1327)	1861 (1184/677)	243 (130/113)	16590	493744
	Merged	-	4929 (2699/2230)	2925 (1538/1182)	313 (149/164)	-	368729

Table S3. Sample summary for RNA-seq expression analyses, dPCR copy number variation analyses and qRTPCR.

		Brain Region/Tissue	N	#H1H1	#Homozygote block1 H1 sub-haplotypes	#Homozygote block2 H1 sub-haplotypes	#Homozygote block3 H1 sub-haplotypes	#H2H2
RNA-seq Analysis	AMP-AD ROSMAP	PFC	450	289	64	61	56	19
	AMP-AD MAYO	TCX	276	185	49	45	38	7
	CommonMind	PFC	624	347	70	34	28	21
	Total	-	1350	821	183	140	122	47
dPCR	MSMD	Blood	66	49	37	30	32	17
	ADRC	Blood	33	21	16	9	13	12
	Charney LB	Blood	20	17	13	12	9	3
	Charney PD	PFC	41	34	18	18	15	4
	Total	-	160	121	84	69	69	36
qRT-PCR	Charney PD	PFC	41	34	18	18	15	4

PFC = prefrontal cortex; **TCX** = temporal cortex; **AMP-AD** = Accelerating Medicines Partnership Alzheimer's disease; **ROSMAP** = Religious Orders Dtudy and Memory and Aging Project; **MSMD** = Mount Sinai Movement Disorders; **ADRC** = Alzheimer's Disease Research Center; **LB** = Living brain; **PD** = Parkinson's disease

Table S4. Quality control summary for Stage 1 and Stage 2 PD data analysis

	Stage 1					Stage 2		
	NIA	NL	GER	FIN	Total	McGILL	SPAIN	Total
Initial sample size	4005	2796	1686	883	9370	1847	3444	5291
Missingness	37	3	10	21	71	5	0	5
Relatedness	6	68	3	2	79	0	0	0
Ancestry	56	0	0	0	56	0	0	0
Missing phenotype	0	0	0	0	0	357	0	357
Excluded (n)	99	71	13	23	206	362	0	362
Excluded (%)	2.47	2.54	0.77	2.60	2.20	19.60	0.00	19.60
Final sample size	**3906**	**2725**	**1673**	**860**	**9164**	**1485**	**3444**	**4929**
Cases	905	767	740	368	2780	582	2117	2699
Controls	3001	1958	933	492	6384	903	1327	2230

Table S5. dPCR probe design

Probe ID	Source	Reference/Catalog ID	Label	Forward	Reverse	Probe
Alpha	ThermoFisher	Hs03955205_cn	FAM	-	-	-
Beta	ThermoFisher	Hs03971091_cn	FAM	-	-	-
Gamma	Custom	Boettger et al 2012	FAM	GTTGTTGACCATGGCTTCCT	GTGAGAAGACGGCCTTTGAG	CACATGTGTTCTGGAATGCC
LRRC37A	Custom	-	FAM	TGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTTTGTG	CTGCTCTGCTTTCATTCAAACCTTT	TTTCCTTTTTGTGTCCATCTCTCTCC
MAPT	ThermoFisher	Hs07226271_cn	FAM	-	-	-
RNase P	ThermoFisher	4403326	VIC	-	-	-

Table S6. Summary of iPSC line sources and 17q21.31 haplotypes.

Line ID	Source	Sex	Haplotype
F11349	ADRC	Male	H2H2
F0510.2Δ2H1	ADRC	Male	H1H1
FA12455	ADRC	Female	H2H2
F13505	ADRC	Female	H1H1
3182-3	NIHCZ	Female	H2H2
F11421Δ2A07	ADRC	Female	H1H1

ADRC = Knight Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Washington University; **NIHCZ** = NIH Childhood-onset Schizophrenia study

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure S1

Figure S2

Figure S3

a

b

Figure S4

Figure S5

Figure S6