

1 **A systematic analysis of genetically regulated differences in gene expression and**  
2 **the role of co-expression networks across 16 psychiatric disorders and**  
3 **substance use phenotypes**  
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36 **ABSTRACT**

37 Genome-wide association studies (GWASs) have identified thousands of risk loci for many psychiatric  
38 and substance use phenotypes, however the biological consequences of these loci remain largely  
39 unknown. We performed a transcriptome-wide association study of 10 psychiatric disorders and 6  
40 substance use phenotypes (collectively termed “mental health phenotypes”) using expression  
41 quantitative trait loci data from 532 prefrontal cortex samples. We estimated the correlation due to  
42 predicted genetically regulated expression between pairs of mental health phenotypes, and compared  
43 the results with the genetic correlations. We identified 1,645 genes with at least one significant trait  
44 association, comprising 2,176 significant associations across the 16 mental health phenotypes of which  
45 572 (26%) are novel. Overall, the transcriptomic correlations for phenotype pairs were significantly  
46 higher than the respective genetic correlations. For example, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and  
47 autism spectrum disorder, both childhood developmental disorders, showed a much higher  
48 transcriptomic correlation ( $r=0.84$ ) than genetic correlation ( $r=0.35$ ). Finally, we tested the enrichment  
49 of phenotype-associated genes in gene co-expression networks built from prefrontal cortex. Phenotype-  
50 associated genes were enriched in multiple gene co-expression modules and the implicated modules  
51 contained genes involved in mRNA splicing and glutamatergic receptors, among others. Together, our  
52 results highlight the utility of gene expression data in the understanding of functional gene mechanisms  
53 underlying psychiatric disorders and substance use phenotypes.

54 **INTRODUCTION**

55

56 Psychiatric and substance use disorders are a leading cause of disease burden and account for 28.5% of  
57 global years lived with disability (1). Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS) have identified hundreds  
58 of genomic regions that are linked to the risk to develop a psychiatric disorder (2–4) and provide novel  
59 insights into the genetic architecture of psychiatric disorders and into the sharing of genetic risk factors  
60 across mental health phenotypes (5). The Brainstorm Consortium used GWAS data to estimate genetic  
61 correlations ( $r_g$ ) across ten psychiatric disorders, revealing considerable sharing of common genetic risk  
62 (5). However, relatively few studies have explored sharing of pathological or molecular mechanisms  
63 which contribute to these disorders. The majority (~93%) of disease-associated genetic variants are  
64 located in non-protein coding regions of the genome (6) suggesting that genetic mutations act through  
65 the regulation of gene expression rather than by directly altering the protein product. In the present  
66 study, we will integrate genetic and transcriptomic information from the brain to explore sharing of  
67 transcriptomic mechanisms across 16 mental health phenotypes.

68

69 Previous studies have integrated genetic and gene expression data to gain pathophysiological insights  
70 into a more limited subset of psychiatric disorders (7,8). Gandal *et al.* compared levels of differential  
71 gene expression in postmortem brain samples from patients with autism (ASD), schizophrenia (SCZ),  
72 bipolar disorder (BD), depression (DEP), and matched healthy controls and revealed significant overlap  
73 of disease-related signatures between ASD, SCZ, BD, and DEP (9). Transcriptomic changes were most  
74 severe in ASD and least severe in DEP, with SCZ and BD showing intermediate levels of severity.  
75 Although this study provided important new insights into the sharing of molecular mechanisms across  
76 mental health disorders, comparison of observed levels of gene expression is susceptible to reverse  
77 causation, where traits may affect gene expression levels (10,11). Imputation of gene expression levels

78 based on whole-genome and RNA sequence reference data from healthy participants provides a unique  
79 way to investigate how the genetically regulated component of gene expression is shared across  
80 disorders (10,11).

81

82 We and others have shown that biologically relevant functional networks are critical for understanding  
83 pathway convergence of manifold genetic risk variants in neuropsychiatric diseases (12). Genetic co-  
84 expression networks model correlated levels of gene expression and provide a way to explore how the  
85 activity of multiple biologically related genes within the same co-expression network influence disease  
86 risk. We have previously generated co-expression networks in 13 brain tissues from healthy GTEx donors  
87 and report an association between four co-expression networks and Major Depressive Disorder,  
88 suggesting a role for synaptic signalling and neuronal development pathways (12). In their study of post-  
89 mortem gene expression in patients vs. healthy controls, Gandal et al. (13) explored module-level  
90 differential expression and showed that a module strongly enriched for microglial markers was  
91 upregulated specifically in ASD while several other modules were downregulated across ASD, SCZ, and  
92 BD.

93

94 In the present study, we conduct a comprehensive exploration of differences in genetically regulated  
95 levels of gene expression across 16 mental health phenotypes, including 11 psychiatric disorders and 6  
96 substance use phenotypes. First, we integrate GWAS summary statistics with gene expression data from  
97 the prefrontal cortex of 533 healthy PsychENCODE donors. Second, we perform a systematic exploration  
98 of differences in genetically regulated levels of gene expression for the 16 individual phenotypes and  
99 delineate genetic and transcriptomic overlap across phenotypes. Third, we generate co-expression  
100 networks and explore enrichment of GWAS signal within network modules. Finally, we will use LD score

101 regression (14) to partition GWAS heritability and determine the contribution from SNPs included in  
102 phenotype-associated networks before and after accounting for baseline functional annotations.

103

## 104 **METHODS**

### 105 *Description of the GWAS Summary statistics*

106 We included 10 psychiatric disorders and 6 substance use phenotypes (which we collectively refer to as  
107 “mental health” phenotypes) in our analyses. We selected only mental health phenotypes with  
108 significant SNP-based heritability ( $Z$ -score $>2$ ). Details on the individual GWAS samples, including sample  
109 sizes and SNP-based heritability estimates, are provided in Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1.

110

### 111 *PsychENCODE RNAseq data*

112 We obtained a gene expression matrix derived from the prefrontal cortex in 532 healthy control  
113 subjects from the PsychENCODE project (<http://resource.psychencode.org/>) (15). The gene expression  
114 data were normalised from the full (healthy subjects and diseased cases) Fragments Per Kilobase of  
115 transcript per Million (FPKM) count matrix expression matrix as described by Gandal et al. (16), and  
116 filtered so that only genes with FPKM  $\geq 0.1$  in at least 10 samples are retained.

117

### 118 *TWAS FUSION*

119 We used TWAS FUSION (11) to integrate eQTL information from the PsychENCODE project with GWAS  
120 summary statistics for 16 mental health phenotypes (Table 1) to identify genes whose genetically  
121 predicted expression levels are associated with each phenotype. We used expression weights generated  
122 by the PsychENCODE consortium (16), and Linkage Disequilibrium information from the 1000 Genomes  
123 Project Phase 3 (17). These data were processed with the beta coefficients or odds ratios from each  
124 GWAS to estimate the expression-GWAS association statistic. For each phenotype, we corrected for

125 multiple testing using the false discovery rate (18) ( $FDR < 0.05$ ). We performed empirical Brown's test  
126 (19) to combine TWAS FUSION  $P$  values to rank order genes based on their strength of association across  
127 the 16 phenotypes. We restricted this analysis to genes for which TWAS FUSION association statistics  
128 results were available for all 16 phenotypes.

129

### 130 *MAGMA*

131 We performed gene-based analyses using MAGMA v1.07 (20), which assigns SNPs to their nearest gene  
132 using a pre-defined genomic window. We defined the genomic window as 35 kb upstream or 10 kb  
133 downstream of a gene body. The gene-based test statistic based was calculated using the default *snp-*  
134 *wise=mean* model, which uses the weighted sum of the SNP  $-\log(10)$   $P$  values while accounting for the  
135 correlation (i.e. linkage disequilibrium) between nearby SNPs. Linkage disequilibrium information was  
136 obtained from the 1000 Genomes Project Phase 3 (17). Multiple testing correction was performed  
137 across all phenotypes using  $FDR < 0.05$ . We identified novel significant TWAS FUSION genes for each  
138 mental health phenotype by intersecting significant TWAS FUSION results with those identified using  
139 conventional proximity-based methods in MAGMA, as well as the FUMA SNP2GENE function (see Web  
140 resources). For the latter, we used positional gene mapping for all genes (i.e., we included non-protein  
141 coding genes as these were also included in the Fusion analysis), and lead SNPs were identified using  
142 default settings ( $R^2$  threshold to define independent significant SNPs=0.6).

143

### 144 *Transcriptome-wide correlation analysis*

145 We estimated the genome-wide genetic correlation between each pair of mental health phenotypes as  
146 a function of the predicted gene expression effect from TWAS FUSION using RhoGE (21), after excluding  
147 the MHD region. Briefly, RhoGE estimates the mediating effect of genetically regulated gene expression  
148 (estimated from TWAS FUSION) before calculating the correlation of effect sizes between pairs of traits.

149

150 *Genetic correlations and estimates of  $h^2_{SNP}$*

151 LD Score Regression was used to estimate SNP-based heritability ( $h^2_{SNP}$ ) and genetic correlations  
152 between each pair of the 16 traits, after exclusion of the MHC region. SNP-based heritability for case-  
153 control phenotypes was estimated on the liability scale (see Supplementary Table 1 for the sample and  
154 population prevalence of each trait). Multiple testing was corrected for by adjusting  $P$  values based on  
155 false discovery rate (FDR) across all tests.

156

157 *Hierarchical cluster analysis*

158 We performed hierarchical clustering analysis for both transcriptomic and genetic correlations in order  
159 to examine the underlying genetic and transcriptomic structure between the 16 traits. Complete-linkage  
160 clustering was implemented using the hclust function in R (22), where dissimilarity between trait pairs  
161 was defined as one minus the (genetic or transcriptomic) correlation.

162

163 *Gene co-expression network analysis*

164 Gene co-expression networks were individually constructed from 532 prefrontal cortex control samples,  
165 generated by the PsychENCODE project, using the weighted gene co-expression network analysis  
166 (WGCNA) package in R (23). A signed pairwise correlation matrix using Pearson's product moment  
167 correlation coefficient was calculated. A "soft-thresholding" value of 14 was selected by plotting the  
168 strength of correlation against a series (range 2 to 20) of soft threshold powers. The correlation matrix  
169 was subsequently transformed into an adjacency matrix, where nodes correspond to genes and edges to  
170 the connection strength between genes. The adjacency matrix was normalised using a topological  
171 overlap function. Hierarchical clustering was performed using average linkage, with one minus the  
172 topological overlap matrix as the distance measure. The hierarchical cluster tree was cut into gene

173 modules using the dynamic tree cut algorithm (24), with a minimum module size of 30 genes. We  
174 amalgamated modules if the correlation between their eigengenes – defined as the first principal  
175 component of their genes' expression values – was greater or equal to 0.8.

#### 176 *Gene-set analysis to explore enrichment of heritability in gene co-expression networks*

177 To identify gene co-expression networks enriched with candidate risk genes for each mental health trait,  
178 we performed gene-set analysis of TWAS FUSION gene-level results in tissue-specific gene co-expression  
179 networks using the gene-set analysis function in MAGMA v1.07 (20). For each mental health trait, we  
180 generated MAGMA-format annotation (.annot) files using the default --annot function. For the gene-  
181 based analysis, we used the --snp-wise=mean function, which calculates an association statistic for each  
182 gene using the weighted sum of *P* values for a predefined genomic window (5 kilobases upstream and  
183 1.5 kilobases downstream). The 1000 Genomes European reference panel (Phase 3) (17) was used to  
184 account for Linkage Disequilibrium between SNPs. Finally, we tested for the enrichment of gene-based  
185 association signals within gene co-expression networks from the prefrontal cortex. First, we modified  
186 the intermediary .raw files generated in the gene-based test by substituting each MAGMA gene z-score  
187 with the corresponding TWAS FUSION gene z-score. The module enrichment analyses were re-  
188 performed after excluding genes in the MHC region.

#### 189 *Characterisation of gene expression modules*

190 Gene expression modules enriched with neuropsychiatric GWAS association signals were assessed for  
191 biological pathways using g:Profiler (<https://biit.cs.ut.ee/gprofiler/>) (25). Ensembl gene identifiers within  
192 enriched gene modules were used as input; we tested for the over-representation of module genes in  
193 Gene Ontology (GO) biological process terms, as well as KEGG (26) and Reactome (27) gene pathways.  
194 The g:Profiler algorithm uses a Fisher's one-tailed test for gene pathway enrichment; the smaller the *P*  
195 value, the lower the probability a gene belongs to both a co-expression module and a biological term or



196 pathway purely by chance. Multiple testing correction was done using g:SCS; this approach accounts for  
197 the correlated structure of GO terms and biological pathways, and corresponds to an experiment-wide  
198 threshold of  $\alpha=0.05$ .

### 199 *Partitioned heritability analysis*

200 We used stratified LD score regression (S-LDSC) to estimate the enrichment and the standardized effect  
201 size of the six associated gene co-expression modules (28). S-LDSC assumes the association statistic for  
202 an associated SNP captures the effects of all nearby tagged SNPs. If a phenotype has a polygenic  
203 architecture, SNPs with a high LD score will have larger association statistics on average than SNPs with  
204 a low LD score. As such, LD within a functional category that is enriched for heritability will increase the  
205 association statistic relative to that of a category that does not contribute to heritability. Thus, S-LDSC  
206 will identify functional categories if SNPs with high LD to that category have higher association statistics  
207 than SNPs with low LD to that category. We generated customized annotation-specific LD scores based  
208 on the gene sets from the genetic co-expression modules using the python script provided by the  
209 developers of LDSC. LD scores were calculated using a default window size of 100kb and 1KG genotype  
210 data as reference data (see Web resources). We calculated the enrichment of heritability including LD  
211 scores of the co-expression modules before correcting for baseline functional annotations (28) (see Web  
212 resources). The baseline-LD model contains 52 functional annotations, including coding, conserved, and  
213 regulatory annotations (e.g., promoter, enhancer, histone marks, transcription factor [TF] binding sites).

## 214 **RESULTS**

### 215 *Gene-based results*

216 We calculated the association between imputed genetically regulated gene expression from prefrontal  
217 cortex and 16 neuropsychiatric phenotypes using TWAS FUSION (Supplementary Table 2). We identified  
218 1,645 genes with at least one significant phenotype association (after correction using the false

219 discovery rate [FDR] <0.05), comprising 2,176 significant associations across the 16 phenotypes. Of  
220 these, 1,236 were related to psychiatric disorders and 940 to substance use phenotypes. Within  
221 psychiatric phenotypes, the largest number of TWAS FUSION associations was observed for  
222 schizophrenia (N=597) followed by depression (N=185), while smoking initiation (N=312) and drinks per  
223 week (N=260) accounted for the largest number of substance use associations. When compared with  
224 two commonly-used gene mapping tools, conventional MAGMA and FUMA SNP2gene, a total of 572  
225 genes (26%) of the TWAS FUSION genes were novel (Supplementary Table 3). We conducted empirical  
226 Brown's tests to rank-order genes of which the imputed gene expression levels are most strongly  
227 associated across the 16 phenotypes. Figure 1A illustrates the strength of association for the top 20  
228 genes from the Brown's analysis across the 16 phenotypes. Interestingly, 8 of the top 20 most strongly  
229 associated genes across all phenotypes showed a significant association with concordant effects in  
230 depression and schizophrenia. It should be noted, however, that most of the associations were linked to  
231 the MHC region, highlighting its importance in mental health phenotypes. Full results are presented in  
232 Supplementary Table 4 (including MHC) and Supplementary Table 5 (excluding MHC). We also selected  
233 the top gene for each phenotype and visualize effect sizes across all 16 phenotypes (Figure 1B).

234

### 235 ***Genetic and transcriptomic correlations across 16 phenotypes***

236 All phenotypes exhibited significant SNP-based heritability (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 6). We  
237 estimated correlations across the 16 pairs of phenotypes based on genetic variation ( $\rho_g$ ) using LDSC  
238 (Figure 2A; below diagonal) and predicted expression ( $\rho_t$ ) using RhoGE (Figure 2A, above diagonal).  
239 Tabulated data for genetic and transcriptomic correlations are shown in Supplementary Table 7 and  
240 Supplementary Table 8, and Supplementary Figure 1 shows the pairwise correlation differences  
241 between phenotypes. The genetic correlations (mean absolute  $\rho_g = 0.23$ ; SD = 0.25) were significantly  
242 lower than the average transcriptomic correlations (mean absolute  $\rho_t = 0.30$ ; SD = 0.31) (paired sample

243 t-test; t-statistic=-3.48;  $P < 0.001$ ). The genetic correlations explained a large proportion of the variance  
244 in transcriptomic correlations (Figure 2B;  $R^2 = 0.7808$ ;  $P < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ ), with the most pronounced  
245 difference between ADHD and ASD, with  $\rho_g = 0.35$  (SE = 0.05) and  $\rho_t = 0.84$  (SE = 0.05). A hierarchical  
246 cluster analyses of genetic and transcriptomic correlations showed similar groupings between genetic  
247 and transcriptomic correlations (Supplementary Figure 2). Both analyses, for example, were suggestive  
248 of strong sharing of genetic risk factors between anxiety and depression, and between bipolar disorder  
249 and schizophrenia. However, despite these similarities, some interesting differences were also revealed;  
250 for example, ADHD and ASD were grouped together in the transcriptomic cluster analysis but not the  
251 genetic cluster analysis in line with the results from the genetic and transcriptomic correlation analysis.

252

### 253 ***Co-expression network analysis***

254 We identified 25 gene co-expression modules which ranged between 85 and 3,042 genes in size.  
255 Biological pathway enrichment analysis showed each module contained genes involved in the same or  
256 similar biological pathways (for example, the immune response [module M9] or trans-synaptic signaling  
257 [M25]; Supplementary Table 9). We tested for the enrichment of TWAS FUSION gene-based association  
258 signals within each module, while adjusting for gene size, gene density, and correlated expression. Six  
259 modules were associated with at least one psychiatric disorder (FDR<0.05) (Figure 3). The strongest  
260 association was found between module M19, enriched with genes involved in mRNA splicing, and  
261 anxiety (FDR = 0.0063). Full results are provided in Supplementary Table 10 (including the MHC region)  
262 and Supplementary Table 11 (excluding MHC). We partitioned the heritability explained by the six  
263 modules (Figure 4A) and showed 7 significant associations after Bonferroni correction for number of  
264 modules and traits ( $P < 0.000054$ ). After including baseline functional annotations, a single module  
265 (module M10), enriched with nucleic acid and RNA metabolism pathways, remained significant in  
266 bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

267

## 268 **DISCUSSION**

269 We performed a systematic, network-based, analysis of genetic and transcriptomic risk factors  
270 underlying neuropsychiatric and substance use phenotypes. By integrating GWAS summary statistics for  
271 10 neuropsychiatric and 6 substance use phenotypes with gene expression data from the prefrontal  
272 cortex, we identified 2,176 significant (FDR<0.05) gene-trait associations (representing unique 1,645  
273 genes). After the removal of known gene-based associations, schizophrenia had the largest number of  
274 novel gene-based associations, followed by the substance use traits smoking initiation and drinks per  
275 week. We found evidence of widespread pleiotropic effects underlying phenotype-associated genetically  
276 regulated gene expression. This was most noticeable with depression and schizophrenia, where 8 of the  
277 top 20 most strongly associated genes across all phenotypes, including genes (N=6) in the MHC region,  
278 showed a significant association with concordant effects. We estimated the correlation between  
279 genetically regulated gene expression levels underlying neuropsychiatric and substance use traits. The  
280 transcriptomic correlations were significantly larger than the genetic correlations, and several  
281 phenotype pairs—for example, ASD and ADHD—showed a large difference in the magnitude of  
282 correlation between each method. Gene co-expression modules built from control (i.e. healthy)  
283 prefrontal cortex tissue samples were enriched with neuropsychiatric and substance use association  
284 signals and implicated multiple biologically meaningful pathways in disease/trait susceptibility.  
285 Collectively, these data suggest genetic regulation of gene expression measured from healthy subjects  
286 contains highly relevant biological information for the interpretation of disease susceptibility.

287

288 To prioritise genes whose expression is most strongly associated with multiple traits, we combined and  
289 ranked association signals for the investigated traits using Brown's method. Increased expression of the  
290 most strongly associated gene, *PSMA4*, was significantly associated with schizophrenia, cigarettes per

291 day, and smoking cessation. The gene *PSMA4*, located within the 15q25.1 gene cluster, has previously  
292 been associated with nicotine dependence and lung cancer (29), and we recently linked its expression in  
293 multiple GTEx brain tissues to cigarettes per day and smoking cessation (30). *PSMA4* has also been  
294 identified as one of six “high confidence” genes in schizophrenia, based on probabilistic fine mapping  
295 approaches and observed expression profiles (31). Interestingly, using observed expression data, these  
296 authors found *decreased PSMA4* expression in prefrontal cortex and hippocampus was associated with  
297 schizophrenia, while we reported the opposite effect direction with imputed (genetically regulated)  
298 gene expression in prefrontal cortex. Our association is consistent with previously reported *PSMA4*  
299 associations for schizophrenia in brain using transcriptome imputation methods TWAS FUSION (21) and  
300 S-PrediXcan (32). It is possible the observed expression data (GSE21138) were confounded by a hidden  
301 or surrogate variable, such as current smoking status, which may explain the association with *PSMA4* in  
302 schizophrenia cases compared to controls, rather than a causal disease process. This highlights a major  
303 advantage of transcriptome imputation methods, which remove environmental noise by focussing on  
304 the genetically regulated component of gene expression.

305  
306 We estimated genome-wide genetic correlations at the level of predicted expression and show that 56  
307 of the 112 trait pairs are significantly correlated at  $FDR < 0.05$ . In line with the large genetic overlap  
308 between these disorders (5), predicted expression levels were strongly correlated between bipolar  
309 disorder and schizophrenia ( $\rho_t = 0.84$ ) and between anxiety and depression ( $\rho_t = 0.93$ ). A systematic  
310 comparison of the transcriptomic and genetic correlations revealed a strong relationship ( $R^2 = 0.78$ ,  $P <$   
311  $2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ ), although on average the predicted expression levels were found to be more strongly  
312 correlated than genetic variation. For example, ASD and ADHD, two common childhood onset  
313 neurodevelopmental disorders, are more strongly correlated at the transcriptomic level ( $\rho_t = 0.84$ ) than  
314 the genetic level ( $\rho_g = 0.35$ ). The strong transcriptomic correlation between ASD and ADHD is not only

315 supported by the genetic correlation between the disorders but also their phenotypic similarity, where a  
316 large proportion of children (37-85%) with ASD have comorbid symptoms of ADHD (33). Furthermore,  
317 exome sequencing of children with ASD and ADHD indicated that they have a similar burden of rare  
318 protein-truncating variants (34). While clinical guidelines dictate ASD cannot be diagnosed in the  
319 presence of ADHD, our data suggests the high co-occurrence of these disorders is due to a shared  
320 genetic regulation (35).

321  
322 We can only speculate as to why the genetic correlations are generally lower than their respective  
323 transcriptomic correlations. One possible explanation is the assumptions of LDSC, such as a highly  
324 polygenic genetic architecture underlying the investigated phenotypes, may be violated in our study. For  
325 example, it is possible LDSC yields an underestimate of shared genetic regulation by incorrectly  
326 modelling the contribution of genomic regions more strongly enriched for heritability for some mental  
327 health traits, while the transcriptomic correlation captures a truly high genetic overlap. However, it is  
328 also possible the transcriptomic correlations are inflated due to the local correlation structure of gene  
329 expression at a locus associated with two or more phenotypes. These scenarios may be investigated  
330 using recently developed computational tools for causal inference, such as FOCUS (36) or MR-JTI (37), to  
331 identify a reliable set of independent causal genes underlying each phenotype.

332  
333 Our gene co-expression network analysis of prefrontal cortex identified modules of genes enriched with  
334 gene-based associations for four neuropsychiatric disorders (anxiety, bipolar disorder, obsessive  
335 compulsive disorder, autism spectrum disorder), and three substance use phenotypes (cigarettes per  
336 day, cannabis initiation, and age of smoking initiation). The most strongly associated module was  
337 associated with anxiety and strongly enriched in biological pathways associated with mRNA splicing.  
338 Splicing is genetically regulated (38) and can influence gene expression in particular tissues, giving rise to

339 different functional effects such as altered neuronal connectivity and synaptic firing properties in the  
340 brain (39). Alternative mRNA splicing events are associated with diverse neuropsychiatric disorders,  
341 including schizophrenia (40), autism spectrum disorder (41), bipolar disorder (42), and major depression  
342 (43), highlighting the importance of alternative splicing in neuropsychiatric disease susceptibility.  
343 Current genomic resources, such as the latest release (version 8) of the Genotype-Tissue Expression  
344 study (GTEx) (38), will help researchers better understand how genetic variants affect gene expression  
345 through alternative splicing events. Other trait-associated modules were enriched with biologically  
346 meaningful pathways. For example, the module M1 was associated with bipolar disorder and enriched  
347 with genes involved in the regulation of metabotropic glutamate receptors. Glutamatergic receptors are  
348 the primary effectors of glutamate, a critical excitatory neurotransmitter, and their dysregulation is  
349 implicated in many neuropsychiatric disorders (44), including bipolar disorder (45). Collectively, these  
350 data suggest gene co-expression networks may be used as a molecular substrate for the biological  
351 characterisation of genetic risk factors underlying neuropsychiatric and substance use traits.

352  
353 Stratified heritability analyses revealed significant enrichment of network module co-expression with  
354 mental health traits. Annotations for a single module, enriched with genes involved in nucleic acid and  
355 RNA processing, was significantly associated with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia after adjusting for  
356 baseline annotations. The loss of most modular enrichments after baseline annotation adjustment is in  
357 line with the findings of Kim *et al.*, who explored the association between genes with network  
358 connectivity and 42 traits and showed that significant enrichments of genetic networks were fully  
359 explained by excess overlap between network annotations and regulatory annotations from the baseline  
360 LD-models (46). The loss of module enrichments following baseline annotation can be expected, and  
361 most likely show that observed modular enrichment is explained by current knowledge on functional  
362 and regulatory elements in the human genome, rather than some unexplained biological process.

363

364 The findings of this study should be interpreted in view of the following limitations. First, the TWAS  
365 FUSION expression imputation approach is only valid if disease risk is mediated through expression and  
366 the expression weights were generated in a disease-relevant or appropriate proxy tissue or cell type. For  
367 example, expression changes associated with depression are most strongly associated with microglial  
368 cells (47), while altered expression underlying schizophrenia is enriched in neurons (48,49). Expression  
369 weights from PsychENCODE were not available at single cell resolution. Therefore, the imputed  
370 expression effects may reflect a mosaic of expression effects from multiple cell types rather than a single  
371 causal cell type, or the sharing of genetic regulation of gene expression (37). The generation of large  
372 single-cell eQTL datasets from the human brain will provide a valuable resource to disentangle cell-  
373 specific effects (50,51). Second, the TWAS FUSION approach does not test whether gene expression and  
374 a phenotype are affected by the same causal SNP in a *cis*-eQTL region. As such, the approach does not  
375 provide direct evidence of causal relationship between expression and disease risk. Mendelian  
376 randomisation-based approaches, such as SMR (52) and MR-JTI (37), may refine our list of gene  
377 candidates by selecting genes most likely associated through pleiotropy, where gene expression and a  
378 phenotype are affected by the same causal variant. Finally, our gene co-expression analyses rely on the  
379 stability (i.e. robustness) of gene co-expression networks in prefrontal cortex. We built signed networks  
380 using similar parameters described by Gandal *et al.* (16). Using a permutation procedure, these authors  
381 compared each module's density (that is, the average strength of association, or connectivity, between  
382 genes in a module) to the density of modules of equivalent size. These authors concluded psychENCODE  
383 prefrontal cortex modules were robust to the influence of outlier samples on network architecture,  
384 providing confidence in the stability of our co-expression network.

385  
386 Our study highlights the benefits of integrating GWAS studies from mental health phenotypes with large  
387 scale transcriptomic information to identify the functional impact of disease-causing variants. By



388 integrating transcriptomic data from prefrontal cortex with GWAS data, we identified hundreds of  
389 candidate risk genes not previously identified using commonly-used proximity-based and eQTL gene  
390 mapping methods. We found a significant difference between transcriptomic and genetic correlations  
391 across all phenotype pairs, and the magnitude of the difference was particularly large for ADHD and  
392 ASD. These data suggest transcriptomic correlations, which take correlations across genes into account,  
393 may provide additional insight into the functional relationship between mental health phenotypes.  
394 Finally, we observed some enrichment and convergence of candidate risk genes for mental health traits  
395 within co-expression networks from prefrontal cortex, suggesting our approach will prove useful in  
396 characterising the functional impact of trait-associated genetic variation. Future analyses could extend  
397 our approach by incorporating additional sources of genomic (for example, epigenetic marks) and  
398 statistical (e.g. SNP priors) information within co-expression networks.

399

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534 **DISCLOSURES**

535 The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

536

**Table 1:** Sample descriptions and SNP-based heritabilities of 16 mental health traits

Phenotype (abbreviation)	Sample size (N)			SNP-based heritability		TWAS FUSION (N)	
	Case	Control	Total	$h^2_{\text{snp}}$ (se)	Z	Genes	Novel
Anorexia Nervosa (AN)	16992	55525	72517	0.429 (0.0282)	15.21	74	20
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	19099	34194	53293	0.217 (0.0141)	15.41	53	12
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	18382	27969	46351	0.112 (0.0097)	11.54	54	13
Anxiety Disorders (ANX)	31977	82114	114019	0.125 (0.0090)	13.92	42	41
Bipolar Disorder (BIP)	20352	31358	51710	0.200 (0.0101)	19.83	171	58
Depression (DEP)	246363	561190	807553	0.073 (0.0025)	29.00	185	37
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)	2688	7037	9725	0.280 (0.0432)	6.48	15	15
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	23212	151447	174659	0.053 (0.0095)	5.53	18	13
Schizophrenia (SCZ)	40675	64643	105318	0.234 (0.0083)	28.17	597	112
Tourette's Syndrome (TS)	4819	9488	14307	0.213 (0.0248)	8.59	27	15
Drinks Per Week (DrnkWk)	-	-	537349	0.049 (0.0021)	23.19	260	62
Smoking Initiation (SmkInit)	311629	321173	632802	0.104 (0.0033)	31.64	312	72
Cigarettes Per Day (CigDay)	-	NA	263954	0.073 (0.0069)	10.52	163	36
Smoking Cessation (SmkCes)	92573	220248	312821	0.060 (0.0039)	15.36	61	19
Age of Smoking Initiation (AgeSmk)	-	-	262990	0.047 (0.0028)	16.93	70	23
Cannabis Use Initiation (CanInit)	43380	118702	162082	0.118 (0.0075)	15.69	74	24

ADHD: (Demontis *et al.*, 2019); AN: (Duncan *et al.*, 2017); ASD: (Grove *et al.*, 2019); ANX: (Otowa *et al.*, 2016); BIP, (Stahl *et al.*, 2019); DEP, (Howard *et al.*, 2019); OCD: (Arnold *et al.*, 2018); PTSD: (Nievergelt *et al.*, 2019); TS: (Yu *et al.*, 2019); CanInit: (Pasman *et al.*, 2018); SCZ: (Pardiñas *et al.*, 2018); DrnkWk, SmkInit, CigDay, SmkCes, AgeSmk: (Liu *et al.*, 2019).

## 538 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

539 Figure 1A: Brown's method Z scores for the top 20 genes across 16 mental health phenotypes.

540 Figure 1B: Brown's method Z scores for the top gene for each mental health phenotype.

541 Figure 2A: Correlations across the 16 pairs of mental health phenotypes (excluding MHC region) based  
542 on genetic variation (below diagonal) and genetically regulated gene expression (above diagonal).

543 Figure 2B: Scatter plot of genetic and transcriptomic correlations (excluding MHC region) across 16  
544 mental health phenotype pairs.

545 Figure 3: Circos plot of TWAS FUSION Z scores, modular enrichments, and significant transcriptomic  
546 correlations across 16 mental health phenotypes. Notes: The outermost circle highlights significant  
547 (FDR<0.05) TWAS FUSION associations; second middle layer shows the distribution of TWAS FUSION Z  
548 scores for each phenotype; the inner most layer shows the enrichment Z scores for each of the six  
549 significant co-expression modules in prefrontal cortex, with darker shading signifying greater  
550 enrichment; the inner ribbons represent significant transcriptomic correlations across phenotype pairs.

551 Figure 4A. Heritability Enrichment of six co-expression network annotations. The figure illustrates  
552 heritability enrichment of network annotations for Alzheimer's Disease GWAS. Coloured squares  
553 represent significant enrichment after Bonferroni correction for 16\*6 tests ( $P < 5.2 \times 10^{-4}$ ). Notes:  
554 Enrichment Z scores outside the bounds -20 to 20 have been truncated. See Supplementary Table 12 for  
555 full list of heritability enrichment Z scores.

556 Figure 4B. Heritability Enrichment of six co-expression network annotations when taking baseline  
557 functional annotations into account. The figure illustrates heritability enrichment of network and  
558 baseline annotations for Alzheimer's Disease GWAS. Coloured squares represent significant enrichment  
559 after Bonferroni correction for 16\*58 tests ( $P < 5.3 \times 10^{-5}$ ). Notes: Enrichment Z scores outside the  
560 bounds -20 to 20 have been truncated. See Supplementary Table 13 for full list of heritability  
561 enrichment with baseline annotation Z scores.

562 Supplementary Figure 1: Pairwise differences in genetic and transcriptomic correlations across 16  
563 mental health phenotypes.

564 Supplementary Figure 2: Hierarchical cluster analyses of genetic and transcriptomic correlations for 16  
565 mental health phenotypes.

566

## 567 **WEB RESOURCES**

568 TWAS FUSION <http://gusevlab.org/projects/fusion/>

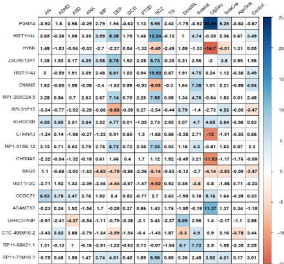
569 PsychENCODE constortium <http://resource.psychencode.org/>

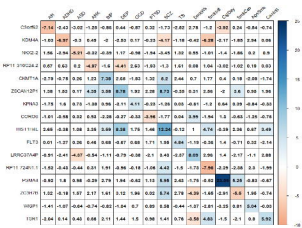
570 MAGMA <https://ctg.cncr.nl/software/magma>

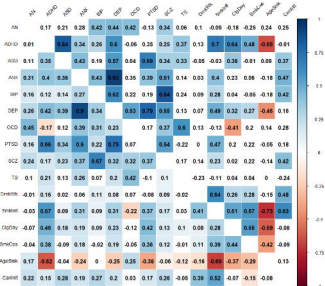
571 RhoGE <https://github.com/bogdanlab/RHOGE>

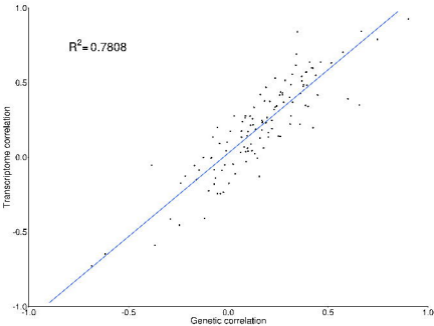
572 WGCNA <https://horvath.genetics.ucla.edu/html/CoexpressionNetwork/Rpackages/WGCNA/>



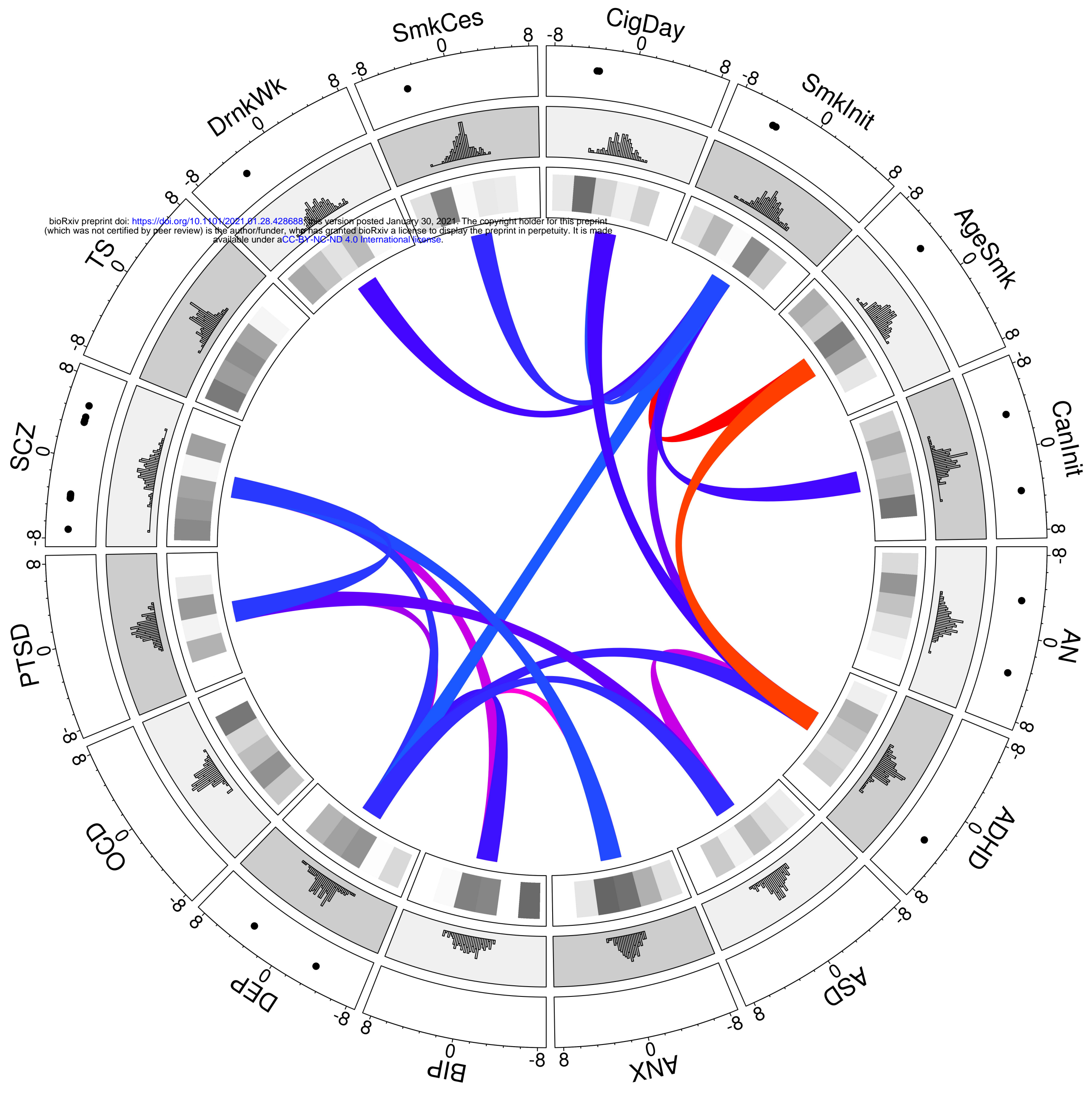


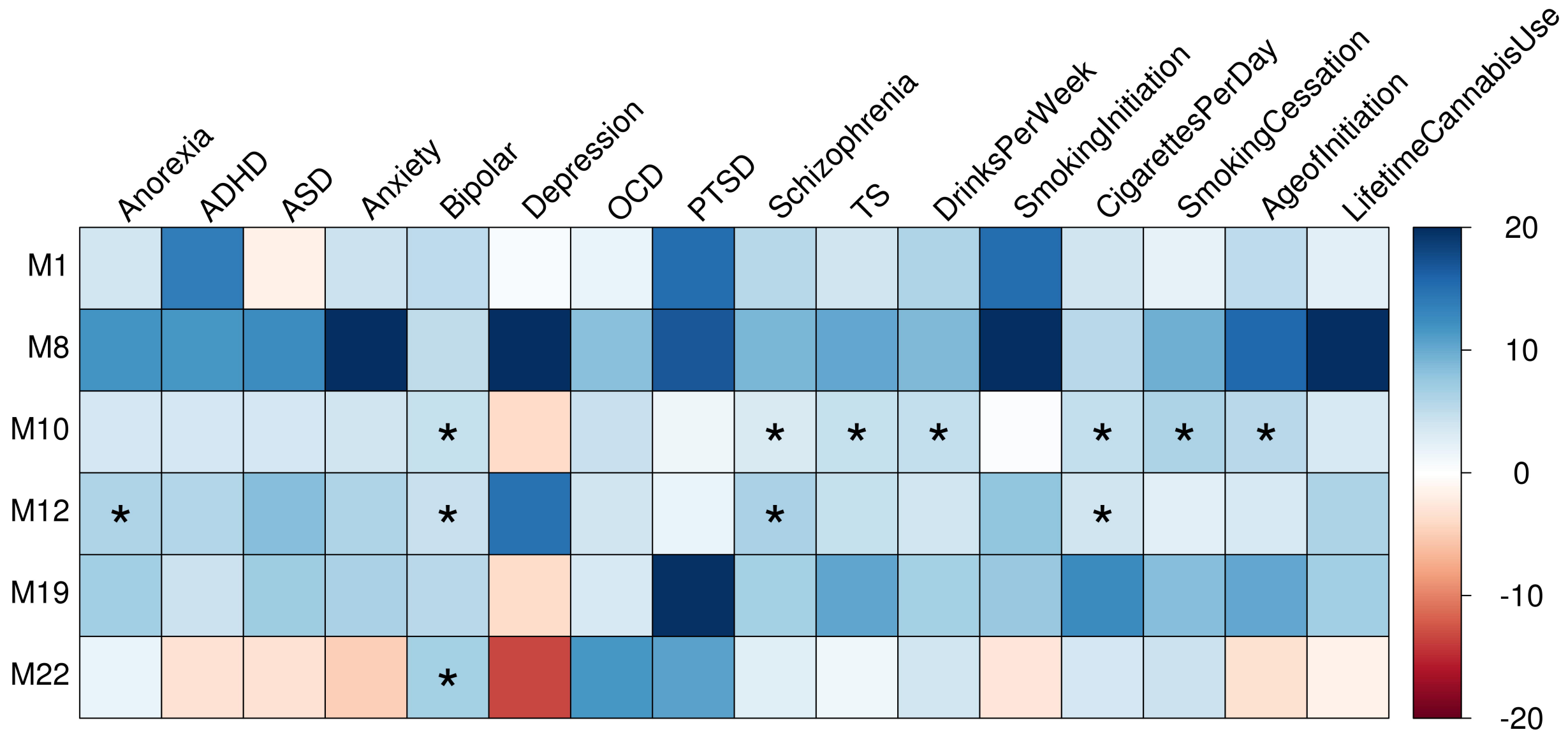




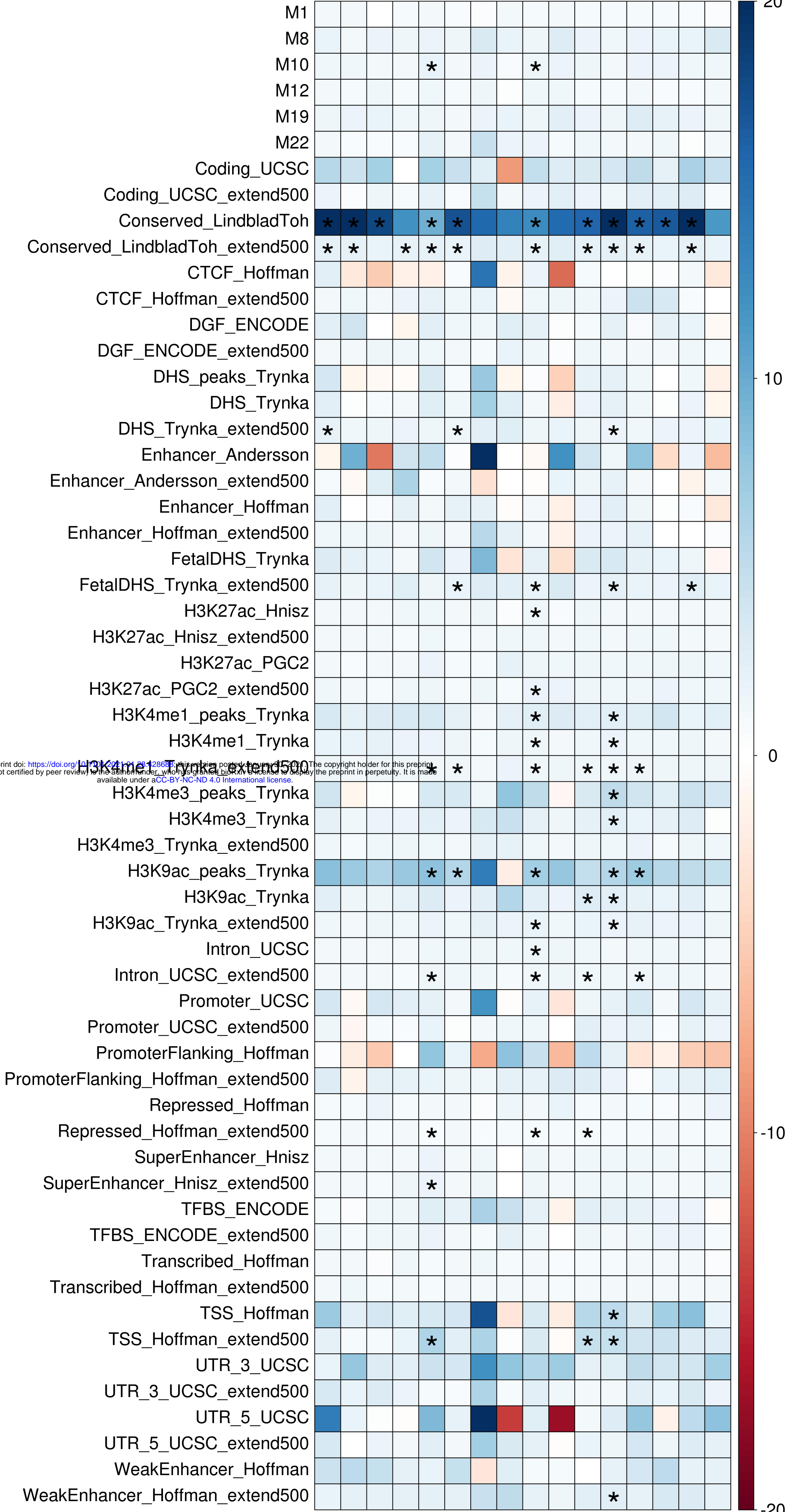


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Anorexia  
ADHD  
ASD  
Anxiety  
Bipolar  
Depression  
OCD  
PTSD  
Schizophrenia  
TS  
DrinksPerWeek  
SmokingInitiation  
CigarettesPerDay  
AgeofInitiation  
LifetimeCannabisUse



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