

1 **Genome-wide association meta-analysis of 30,000 samples identifies seven**  
2 **novel loci for quantitative ECG traits.**

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4 Running title: Meta-analysis identifies seven novel ECG loci

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144 because of the large number of cohorts.

145

146 **Conflicts of interest**

147 Dr. de Bakker is currently an employee of and owns equity in Vertex  
148 Pharmaceuticals.

149 M.J. Caulfield is Chief Scientist for Genomics England a UK Government company.

150

151 **Abstract**

152 Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of quantitative electrocardiographic  
153 (ECG) traits in large consortia have identified more than 130 loci associated with QT  
154 interval, QRS duration, PR interval, and heart rate (RR interval). In the current study,  
155 we meta-analyzed genome-wide association results from 30,000 mostly Dutch  
156 samples on four ECG traits: PR interval, QRS duration, QT interval, and RR interval.  
157 SNP genotype data was imputed using the Genome of the Netherlands reference  
158 panel encompassing 19 million SNPs, including millions of rare SNPs (minor allele  
159 frequency <5%). In addition to many known loci, we identified seven novel locus-trait  
160 associations: *KCND3*, *NR3C1*, and *PLN* for PR interval, *KCNE1*, *SGIP1*, and *NFKB1*  
161 for QT interval, and *ATP2A2* for QRS duration, of which six were successfully  
162 replicated. At these seven loci, we performed conditional analyses and annotated  
163 significant SNPs (in exons and regulatory regions), demonstrating involvement of  
164 cardiac-related pathways and regulation of nearby genes.

165

166 **Key words:** Electrocardiology (ECG), Genetic association studies, Imputation, Meta-  
167 analysis

168



169 **Introduction**

170

171 Quantitative electrocardiographic (ECG) traits have been well studied in large  
172 consortia, identifying over 130 significant loci. Some loci were associated with  
173 multiple traits. Nevertheless, these loci collectively explain only a small portion of the  
174 genetic variation of these traits.<sup>1</sup> Large GWAS meta-analyses on PR interval<sup>2,3</sup>, RR  
175 interval/heart rate,<sup>4,5</sup> QRS duration,<sup>6,7</sup> and QT interval<sup>8-10</sup> were based on HapMap  
176 imputations.<sup>11</sup> Testing ~2.5 million SNPs, these studies provided good coverage of  
177 common variation in the genome. SNPs with lower allele frequencies (e.g. minor  
178 allele frequencies between 1% and 5%), however, are poorly covered.<sup>12,13</sup> While  
179 HapMap included only 270 samples (30 trios and 90 unrelated samples) from 3  
180 continental populations,<sup>11</sup> the 1000 Genomes Project Phase 3 contains 2504  
181 samples from 26 populations.<sup>14</sup> Larger reference panels cover a broader variety of  
182 haplotypes and, therefore, increase the quality of imputation in a GWAS sample.  
183 Moreover, the number of observed SNPs also increases, expanding the number  
184 available for imputation. This has led to novel findings in non-ECG related studies.<sup>15</sup>

185

186 In the current study, we meta-analyzed genome-wide data on four ECG traits in  
187 30,000 predominantly Dutch samples. We tested over 19 million SNPs for  
188 association, which were imputed using the Genome of the Netherlands (GoNL)  
189 reference panel.<sup>16</sup> This dataset contains whole-genome sequencing data at 12x  
190 coverage collected in 250 families (trios and parents with two offspring). Nearly all  
191 polymorphic sites with a population frequency of more than 0.5% are captured. This  
192 makes it one of the largest single population sequencing efforts worldwide and the  
193 trio design ensures very accurate haplotype phasing. These features and the good  
194 match with the predominantly Dutch cohorts, make this dataset well suited as a  
195 reference panel for imputation. Using this approach, we had two aims: 1) the  
196 discovery of novel loci associated with ECG traits, and 2) the fine-mapping and

197 functional annotation of known regions associated with ECG traits. We increased our  
198 SNP density almost seven-fold compared to previous studies based on HapMap,  
199 enabling us to study key signals in much finer detail.

200

201

202

203 **Methods**

204

205 **Individual cohort data**

206 Eight cohorts were included in the discovery phase of this study, totaling  
207 approximately 30,000 samples (**Supplementary Tables 1 and 2, Supplementary**  
208 **Notes**). Most study participants were Dutch with the exception of most participants of  
209 PROSPER; this study included approximately 19% samples of Dutch origin, while the  
210 remaining samples were of other European descent. All cohorts performed stringent  
211 quality control to exclude low-quality samples and SNPs prior to imputation and also  
212 post-imputation. Imputation was performed using 998 phased haplotypes from the  
213 Genome of the Netherlands Project release 4 as the reference panel, encompassing  
214 19,763,454 SNPs.<sup>16</sup> All genomic data in this manuscript is listed with respect to the  
215 hg19 (build37) reference genome.

216

217 We evaluated four phenotypes on the electrocardiogram: RR interval, PR interval,  
218 QRS duration, and QT interval. Seven out of eight cohorts contributed data to all four  
219 phenotypes; NTR only had data on RR interval available. Samples of non-European  
220 descent and samples with missing data were excluded, as well as individuals that  
221 fulfilled any of the exclusion criteria listed in **Supplementary Table 3**. SNPs were  
222 individually tested for association with each trait using linear models. For all four  
223 phenotypes we included age, sex, height, BMI, and study specific covariates (for  
224 instance to correct for study site, relatedness, or population stratification) as  
225 covariates. In addition, RR interval and hypertension (in those cohorts that had data  
226 available on this measure) were included as covariates for QT interval to reduce  
227 noise introduced by these factors. We chose these covariates to correspond with  
228 previously published GWAS on these four ECG traits.

229

230

231 **Quality control and meta-analysis**

232 Association results from all cohorts were collected at a single site and underwent  
233 quality control. SNPs with extreme values of beta ( $> 1000$  or  $< -1000$ ), standard error  
234 (SE) ( $> 1000$ ), or imputation quality ( $< 0.1$  or  $> 1.1$ ) were removed and distributions of  
235 beta, SE, and  $P$ -values were manually checked. We made QQ-plots to test  $P$ -value  
236 distributions, which were stratified by minor allele frequency and by imputation  
237 quality. Aberrant subsets of SNPs (usually with very low frequency) were removed  
238 from downstream analyses.

239 Inverse-variance fixed-effect model meta-analyses were conducted for all four traits  
240 using MANTEL.<sup>17</sup> For each individual GWAS, genomic inflation factors ( $\lambda$ ) were  
241 calculated and, during meta-analysis, standard errors were adjusted accordingly to  
242 correct for population structure and technical errors. We did not correct for genomic  
243 inflation after meta-analysis. SNP associations were considered significant if  $P \leq 5 \times$   
244  $10^{-8}$ .

245

246 **Follow-up on known and novel loci**

247 For each locus, we tested the number of independent signals using the LD structure  
248 from GoNL in GCTA-COJO, which was designed to allow conditional analyses based  
249 on summary level data.<sup>18</sup> Secondary hits had to fulfill two criteria: 1) genome-wide  
250 significant in the GWAS, and 2)  $P < 1 \times 10^{-5}$  after conditioning to correct for multiple  
251 testing of 4,757 significant SNPs across all four traits. A novel locus for a trait was  
252 defined if the significant SNPs, or SNPs within a distance of 1 Mb upstream and  
253 downstream of the significant SNPs, had not been observed before in GWAS of the  
254 same trait. We performed a look-up of all novel loci in previous HapMap-based  
255 GWAS.

256

257

258 **Replication of novel loci in CHARGE**

259 We sought to replicate our findings in 13 independent cohorts taking part in the  
260 CHARGE consortium<sup>19</sup> (**Supplementary Tables 1 and 2, Supplementary notes**).  
261 Twelve studies (TwinsUK, CHS, ARIC, KORA F3, KORA S4, JHS, AGES, BRIGHT,  
262 YFS, INGI-FVG, and INGI-CARL) used 1000 Genomes Phase 1 as their imputation  
263 reference panel and a single study (Inter99) provided only genotyped data. All  
264 studies contained samples of European ancestry, except for JHS, which consisted  
265 only of African-American samples. The summary-level results for all novel SNPs  
266 determined in the discovery analysis were combined in inverse-variance fixed-effects  
267 meta-analyses. A two-sided  $P$ -value  $\leq 0.05$ , in conjunction with a concordant effect  
268 direction, was considered significant.

269

270 ***In silico* tests of possibly functional SNPs**

271 We looked up the functional annotations for all SNPs that reached genome-wide  
272 significance in any of the four traits. First, we checked whether SNPs were potentially  
273 damaging to protein function, testing all non-synonymous SNPs in SIFT<sup>20</sup> and  
274 PolyPhen-2.<sup>21</sup> Second, we used GREAT<sup>22</sup> to identify biological pathways in which  
275 regulatory SNPs are involved, testing the index SNPs for all locus-trait associations.  
276 Lastly, we tested all significant SNPs one by one for their possible effect on  
277 regulatory regions using RegulomeDB.<sup>23</sup>

278

279

## 280 **Results**

281

### 282 **Meta-analysis detects novel loci**

283 We conducted a GWAS meta-analysis comprising eight cohorts that together  
284 encompassed approximately 30,000 samples. Over 19 million SNPs, imputed using  
285 the GoNL reference panel, were assessed for association with four quantitative ECG  
286 traits: RR, PR, QRS, and QT. Considering all traits, we observed 52 locus-phenotype  
287 associations (17 for PR, 13 for QRS, 15 for QT, and 7 for RR; **Supplementary**  
288 **Figures 1 and 2, Supplementary Table 4**). A locus was defined as an associated  
289 region (containing one or more SNPs with  $P \leq 5 \times 10^{-8}$ ) that is located at least 1Mb  
290 away from the next (i.e. if two associated SNPs are within 1Mb, they belong to the  
291 same locus). Of these 52 loci, 45 have been observed before in large GWAS meta-  
292 analyses<sup>2-4,7-9</sup> and seven are novel findings (Table 1). **Box 1** shows regional  
293 association plots and provides additional information on the seven novel loci.  
294 Imputation qualities of the index SNPs were 0.60 and 0.84 for the relatively rare  
295 *KCNE1* and *KCDN1* variants, respectively, and >0.96 for the remaining common  
296 index SNPs. The variance explained by each of these variants ranges between  
297 0.09% and 0.23%.

298

### 299 **Fine mapping of known loci**

300 For each locus, we tested if more than one independent signal was present  
301 (**Supplementary Table 4**). Thirteen loci had suggestive evidence of having more  
302 than one independent signal; four locus-phenotype associations had five or more  
303 independent signals. The *SCN5A/SCN10A* locus was the most outstanding locus  
304 with eleven independent signals for PR, and six for QRS. *NOS1AP* for QT contained  
305 seven independent signals.

306

### 307 **Replication in CHARGE**

308 For six out of seven novel loci, we were able to conduct look-ups of the index SNP or  
309 a proxy SNP in strong LD ( $r^2 \geq 0.89$ ) in previous large-scale HapMap-based GWAS.  
310 These GWAS contained over 70,000 samples each, and included many of the Dutch  
311 cohorts from our current study. All six loci were associated with their respective traits  
312 ( $P \leq 0.004$ ). Next, we tested the seven novel loci for replication in 13 studies from the  
313 CHARGE consortium. In contrast to the HapMap look-ups, this replication was  
314 independent from the Dutch discovery sample. Results are shown in **Table 1**. Allele  
315 frequencies were very similar to the discovery dataset, except for JHS, which  
316 consists of individuals of African American descent. Effect directions for all seven  
317 SNPs were concordant between our primary findings and replication, with effect sizes  
318 between 0.2 and 1.5 times those of the betas in the discovery study. Six of seven loci  
319 were replicated with  $P < 0.05$ , three of which pass Bonferroni correction, accounting  
320 for seven tests.

321

### 322 **Functional SNPs in genes and regulatory regions**

323 All genome-wide significant SNPs were tested *in silico* for their potential effect on  
324 gene expression and protein structure. Ten loci contained, in total, 15  
325 nonsynonymous SNPs, which were tested using the prediction programs PolyPhen-2  
326 and SIFT. According to PolyPhen-2, three SNPs were possibly damaging (rs1805128  
327 in *KCNE1* for QT, rs12666989 in *UFSP1* for RR, and rs2070492 in *SLC22A14* for  
328 PR). SIFT predicted only one SNP to be damaging to a protein (rs3746471 in  
329 *KIAA1755* for RR).

330

331 We used GREAT to test all 100 index SNPs from the four ECG traits combined for  
332 their biological function in *cis*-regulatory regions. Significant GO-terms (molecular  
333 function, biological process, and cellular component), human phenotypes, and

334 disease ontologies are shown in **Supplementary Tables 5a-d**. In total, these index  
335 SNPs mapped to 103 genes.

336

337 Of 52 locus-phenotype associations, 34 contained significant SNPs that have a  
338 RegulomeDB score of 3 or better, meaning that they may affect protein binding  
339 (**Supplementary Table 6**). We observed 15 loci containing SNPs with scores of 1  
340 (likely to affect binding and linked to the expression of a gene target), 15 loci  
341 containing SNPs with a maximum score of 2 (likely to affect binding), and four loci  
342 that have SNPs with a maximum score of 3 (less likely to affect binding). Eighteen  
343 loci contained only SNPs with scores from 4 to 6 (minimal binding evidence) and 7  
344 (no data available).

345

346



347 **Discussion**

348

349 We imputed over 19 million SNPs using GoNL as the reference panel, and tested  
350 these SNPs for association with four traits in eight Dutch cohorts comprising roughly  
351 30,000 samples. We observed 52 locus-phenotype associations, seven of which  
352 were novel (**Table 1, Box 1, Supplementary Table 4**).

353

354 **Discovery of loci associated with quantitative ECG traits**

355 We detected seven novel loci, three for PR interval, three for QT interval, and one for  
356 QRS duration (**Box 1**). No novel loci were found for RR interval, accounting for loci  
357 previously associated with either RR interval<sup>4</sup> or heart rate.<sup>5</sup> We replicated six out of  
358 seven novel loci utilizing 13 independent studies from the CHARGE consortium.  
359 Interestingly, the only variant that does not replicate is rs74640693 for PR interval,  
360 located close to *PLN* (phospholamban). Variants in this gene have been consistently  
361 associated with various QRS measures<sup>6</sup> but not with PR interval. The gene  
362 transcribes the phospholamban protein, which is important in calcium signaling in  
363 cardiac muscle cells.<sup>24</sup> Although a Dutch-specific pathogenic mutation, p.Arg14del, in  
364 the *PLN* gene has been described,<sup>25</sup> it is unlikely that this mutation drives the  
365 association signal in our study because the allele frequency of SNP rs74640693 is  
366 similar in our samples (4.9%) compared to other samples of European ancestry  
367 (4.6% in the 12 European CHARGE replication cohorts). Furthermore, the allele  
368 frequency of this SNP is ~5 times higher than that of the mutation and the SNP is  
369 located approximately 200kb upstream of the *PLN* gene, so, therefore, not in LD with  
370 these mutations. In addition, a recent large study of PR interval used the Illumina  
371 exome chip to identify a common variant (rs74640693, allele frequency 47%) in this  
372 region,<sup>26</sup> however, this variant is not in LD with the variant that we identified ( $r^2 =$   
373 0.04). To confirm that the lack of association was not caused by strand issues  
374 (because rs74640693 is an A/T variant), we tested the nearby proxy SNP

375 rs12210733 (which is an A/G variant,  $r^2 = 0.89$ ) in the CHARGE replication cohorts,  
376 and found it was also non-significant.

377

378 We looked up our top SNPs in previous, much larger, HapMap-based GWAS meta-  
379 analyses to determine why our SNPs were not identified in those studies (**Table 1**).  
380 Two loci contained rare SNPs with MAF < 5%. Low-frequency SNPs at *KCND3* were  
381 not present in HapMap and could therefore not be tested. The functional SNP at  
382 *KCNE1* was observed in a single cohort in a meta-analysis in 2009, but this result  
383 could neither be replicated in other cohorts,<sup>9</sup> nor in later studies, because the  
384 imputation quality was too low.

385

386 For common SNPs (MAF > 5%), it is much more difficult to define why they were not  
387 previously observed at genome-wide significance. For many loci we may have better  
388 tags of the causal variants because our coverage is almost seven-fold greater.  
389 Indeed, the index SNPs at *PLN* (PR), *NFKB1* (QT), and *ATP2A2* (QRS) were not  
390 tested in previous studies. Nevertheless, for all SNPs, proxies with  $r^2 > 0.9$  were  
391 available in the respective studies (**Table 1**). Common SNPs at *KCND3* (PR), *NR3C1*  
392 (PR), and *SGIP1* (QT) were present in HapMap. Both proxies and directly imputed  
393 SNPs were at least nominally significant in previous studies (*P*-values ranging from  
394  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-6}$ ) with typically high imputation quality.

395

396 In addition to the "winner's curse" effect, we expect that higher quality imputation due  
397 to the considerably larger haplotype panel (compared to HapMap) and the ancestry  
398 matching between GoNL and our Dutch cohorts will improve the power to detect a  
399 true association signal, if present. Although combining multiple reference panels for  
400 imputation is becoming the new standard<sup>27</sup>, limitations to our study remain: (1) the  
401 GoNL reference panel may not contain sufficient information on rare SNPs; (2) the  
402 small sample size of individual cohorts may cause abnormal behavior of rare SNPs

403 as a group, requiring us to remove that subset of SNPs; or (3) the sample size or  
404 power of the overall study is still limited to detect rare variant associations.

405

#### 406 **Fine mapping of known loci**

407 Although we did not sequence the loci containing the known and novel signals, we  
408 have a much denser interrogation of these regions compared to previous (HapMap-  
409 based) studies. In an attempt to fine map the significant loci, we annotated all  
410 significant SNPs with their predicted functional consequences.

411

412 First, we used SIFT and PolyPhen-2 to predict the effect of 15 nonsynonymous SNPs  
413 that were associated with one of the ECG traits at genome-wide significance.  
414 PolyPhen-2 classified three SNPs as possibly damaging and SIFT predicted only one  
415 SNP to be damaging. These were non-overlapping, raising questions as to the actual  
416 effect of these SNPs on their respective genes. Functional studies should be pursued  
417 to test the direct effect of these SNPs on protein structure.

418

419 Combining all index SNPs, we tested the function of those SNPs located in *cis*-  
420 regulatory regions using GREAT.<sup>22</sup> We identified 100 independent SNP-trait  
421 associations, which mapped to 103 genes. Interestingly, we find hundreds of  
422 significant nodes, of which the vast majority is related to cardiac functioning and  
423 heart disease (**Supplementary Tables 5a-e**). This shows that, indeed, many SNPs  
424 are located in *cis*-regulatory regions of genes that are critical in the functioning of the  
425 human heart, which implicates a regulatory function of these loci rather than a  
426 structural function changing the protein directly. One example is shown in  
427 **Supplementary Figure 3**; this figure contains all significant GO molecular function  
428 nodes. Most of these nodes are in the group of transporter activity, which includes all  
429 transmembrane channels that are known to be important for cardiac function.

430

431 Because the GREAT pathways show that many SNPs probably have their effect on  
432 the trait due to gene regulation, we extracted all significant SNPs from RegulomeDB  
433 to check which variants would likely affect binding in regulatory regions. A majority of  
434 loci contained at least one SNP that was expected to affect transcription factor  
435 binding (**Supplementary Table 6**). The score that is provided by RegulomeDB  
436 indicates that a SNP is likely (or less likely) located in a binding site. Interestingly,  
437 there are strong differences between loci in terms of the number of SNPs that may  
438 have a regulatory effect, and percentage of loci per trait that have a high score. For  
439 instance, seven out of 15 QT interval loci contains SNPs with a score of 1, while only  
440 a single PR interval locus contains a SNP with this score. The *SCN5A/SCN10A* locus  
441 is strongly associated with PR interval (best SNP  $P = 4.9 \times 10^{-107}$ ) and contains over  
442 450 significant SNPs. Nevertheless, only six SNPs have a score of 2 or 3, and none  
443 of the significant SNPs have a score of 1. However, many binding sites are tissue  
444 specific, and, therefore, testing SNPs with high scores systematically for their role in  
445 cardiac tissue could lead to more knowledge about their biological function.

446

## 447 **Conclusions**

448 Using the Genome of the Netherlands as imputation reference panel, we identified  
449 seven novel loci for quantitative ECG traits. Higher SNP density and higher  
450 imputation quality enabled us to annotate known loci, facilitating future studies to  
451 understand the biological effects of causal variants at many loci. Ultimately,  
452 combining imputation reference panels and increasing sample size for GWAS meta-  
453 analyses will continue to increase power for genetic discovery and novel target  
454 identification. With many sequencing efforts ongoing and large population-based  
455 cohorts being genotyped (such as UK Biobank, of which the first release data  
456 showed 46 novel loci for RR interval<sup>28</sup>), we can expect hundreds of novel loci for  
457 ECG phenotypes in the near future.

458

459 **Conflicts of interest**

460 Dr. de Bakker is currently an employee of and owns equity in Vertex  
461 Pharmaceuticals.

462 M.J. Caulfield is Chief Scientist for Genomics England a UK Government company.

463

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- 603

604



605 **Figures**

606 **Figure legends:**

607

608 **Figure 1 (Box 1): Novel loci associated with PR, QRS, and QT**

609 Seven novel loci were identified; three for PR, three for QT, and one for QRS.

610 Information and regional association plots are shown for every locus. Each SNP is

611 plotted with respect to its chromosomal location (hg19, x-axis) and its *P*-value (y-axis

612 on the left). The tall blue spikes indicate the recombination rate (y-axis on the right) at

613 that region of the chromosome.

614

615 *KCND3*, associated with PR interval (Fig 1a, 1b)

616 We observed two independent signals at the *KCND3* gene. The first signal consists

617 of low-frequency SNPs (MAF < 3.8%, index SNP MAF = 2.4%) upstream of *KCND3*

618 (**top**), while the second signal contains intronic SNPs with much higher allele

619 frequencies (index SNP MAF = 19.6%, **bottom**). *KCND3* encodes voltage-gated

620 potassium channel subunit K<sub>v</sub>4.3. SNPs near *KCND3* have been associated with P-

621 wave duration and ST-T wave amplitude,<sup>29</sup> and with Atrial Fibrillation in the Japanese

622 population.<sup>30</sup> It is thought that *KCND3* overexpression may be involved in Brugada

623 syndrome because of its direct interaction with *KCNE3*. This gene inhibits *KCND3*,

624 and specific mutations in the latter gene lead to Brugada syndrome.<sup>31,32</sup> Moreover, it

625 has been shown that mutations in *KCND3* cause spinocerebellar ataxia.<sup>33</sup>

626

627 *ARHGAP26* and *NR3C1*, associated with PR interval (Fig 1c)

628 The association signal in this locus spans the *NR3C1* gene, with the two genome-

629 wide significant SNPs located between *NR3C1* and *ARHGAP26*. Both SNPs are

630 common, with MAFs of approximately 45%. *NR3C1* encodes the glucocorticoid

631 receptor, which interacts with a wide variety of proteins, transcription factors, and

632 other cellular compounds.<sup>34</sup> In mice, this gene is involved in cardiac development,<sup>35</sup>

633 and overexpression causes ECG abnormalities,<sup>36</sup> which makes it likely that this is the  
634 gene underlying the association signal. *ARHGAP26* encodes GRAF protein (GTPase  
635 Regulator Associated with Focal Adhesion Kinase), which is required in specific exo-  
636 and endocytosis pathways,<sup>37</sup> but also for muscle development.<sup>38</sup> Mutations in this  
637 gene have been implicated in leukemia.<sup>39</sup>

638

639 *SLC35F1* and *PLN*, associated with PR interval (Fig 1d)

640 This locus has been associated previously with RR interval<sup>4</sup>, QT interval<sup>8,9</sup>, and QRS  
641 duration.<sup>7</sup> The index SNP has a MAF of 5.4% and the association signals spans  
642 *SLC35F1* and *PLN*. The latter gene encodes phospholamban, which is an important  
643 regulator of cardiac contractility.<sup>40</sup> *SLC35F1* encodes a transporter protein that is  
644 highly expressed in the human brain.<sup>41</sup>

645

646 *ATP2A2*, associated with QRS duration (Fig 1e)

647 Although only one (common, MAF = 32.2%) SNP reached genome-wide significance,  
648 SNPs in strong LD with the index SNP span an area of almost 500kb, covering many  
649 genes. This locus has been associated with QT interval previously.<sup>10</sup> Our most  
650 significant SNP is located just downstream of *ATP2A2*, a strong candidate gene in  
651 this region that encodes a SERCA Ca<sup>2+</sup> ATPase, which is involved in calcium  
652 transport in the human heart and under regulation of phospholamban.<sup>42</sup>

653

654 *SGIP1* and *TCTEX1D1*, associated with QT interval (Fig 1f)

655 This locus spans approximately 300kb in between two recombination hotspots.  
656 Significant SNPs are in almost complete LD with each other, with minor allele  
657 frequencies of approximately 15%. The locus spans two genes, *SGIP1* and  
658 *TCTEX1D1*. *SGIP1* encodes a proline-rich endocytic protein that interacts with  
659 endophilin and is involved in energy homeostasis.<sup>43,44</sup> This gene is mainly expressed

660 in the human brain<sup>43</sup> and has been associated with fat mass.<sup>45</sup> The *TCTEX1D1* gene  
661 belongs to the dynein light chain Tctex-type family and has an unknown function.

662

663 *NFKB1*, associated with QT interval (Fig 1g)

664 The most significant SNPs in this locus are located upstream of the *NFKB1* gene,  
665 encoding the NF-kappa-B p105 subunit. SNPs in this locus are common (MAF =  
666 43.5%). An indel in the promotor of this gene has been associated with coronary  
667 heart disease<sup>46</sup> and dilated cardiomyopathy<sup>47</sup>. This particular indel is in moderate LD  
668 with the index SNP in this locus ( $r^2$  in GoNL = 0.4). *NFKB1* is a transcription factor is  
669 involved in many immune- and tumor-related processes, and has been associated  
670 with ulcerative colitis<sup>48</sup> and bladder cancer.<sup>49</sup>

671

672 *KCNE1*, associated with QT interval (Fig 1h)

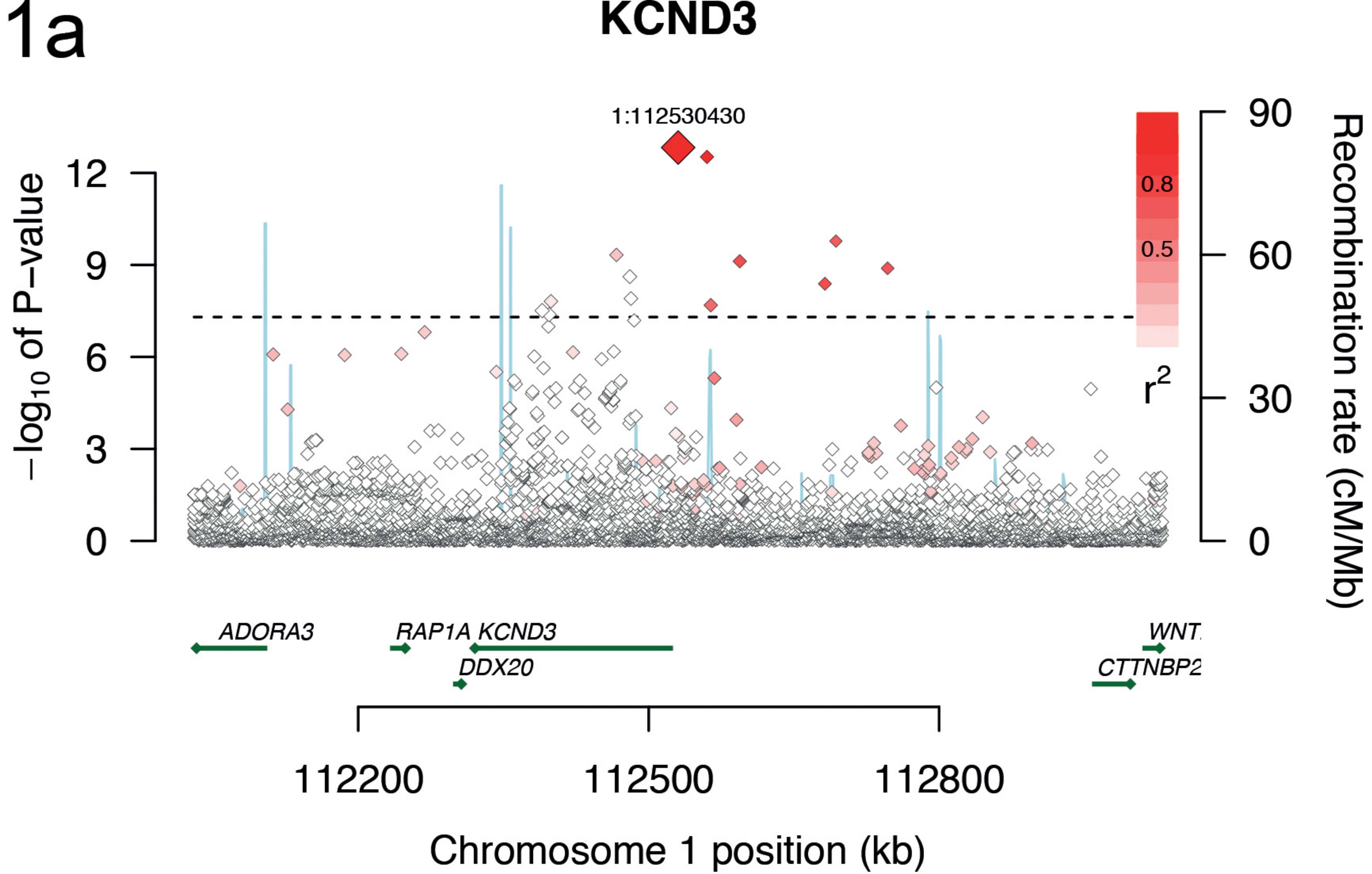
673 This locus contains a low frequency SNP (MAF = 1.7%) with a large effect on QT  
674 interval. This SNP has been observed in GWAS before, but could not be replicated  
675 (in this<sup>8</sup> and later studies<sup>10</sup>) because it was poorly imputed so only cohorts that  
676 genotyped the SNP directly could be included.<sup>8</sup> *KCNE1* encodes a voltage-gated  
677 potassium channel, and the index SNP encodes a pathogenic Asp to Asn amino acid  
678 substitution at position 85 of *KCNE1*, causing long QT syndrome 5.<sup>50</sup>

**Table 1: Meta-analyses in 30,000 samples identify seven novel loci for PR interval, QRS duration, and QT interval.** Using GoNL as reference panel in approximately 30,000 samples mostly of Dutch descent, we found seven loci not previously identified or (in the case of *KCNE1* for QT interval) not consistently replicated in previous genome-wide association studies. We conducted look-ups of these SNPs (or proxy SNPs in strong LD if the SNPs were not present in HapMap) in their respective HapMap-based meta-analyses and replicated six out of seven in a combined analysis of 13 CHARGE cohorts imputed with 1000 Genomes Phase 1. All effect estimates and allele frequencies are with respect to the coded allele.

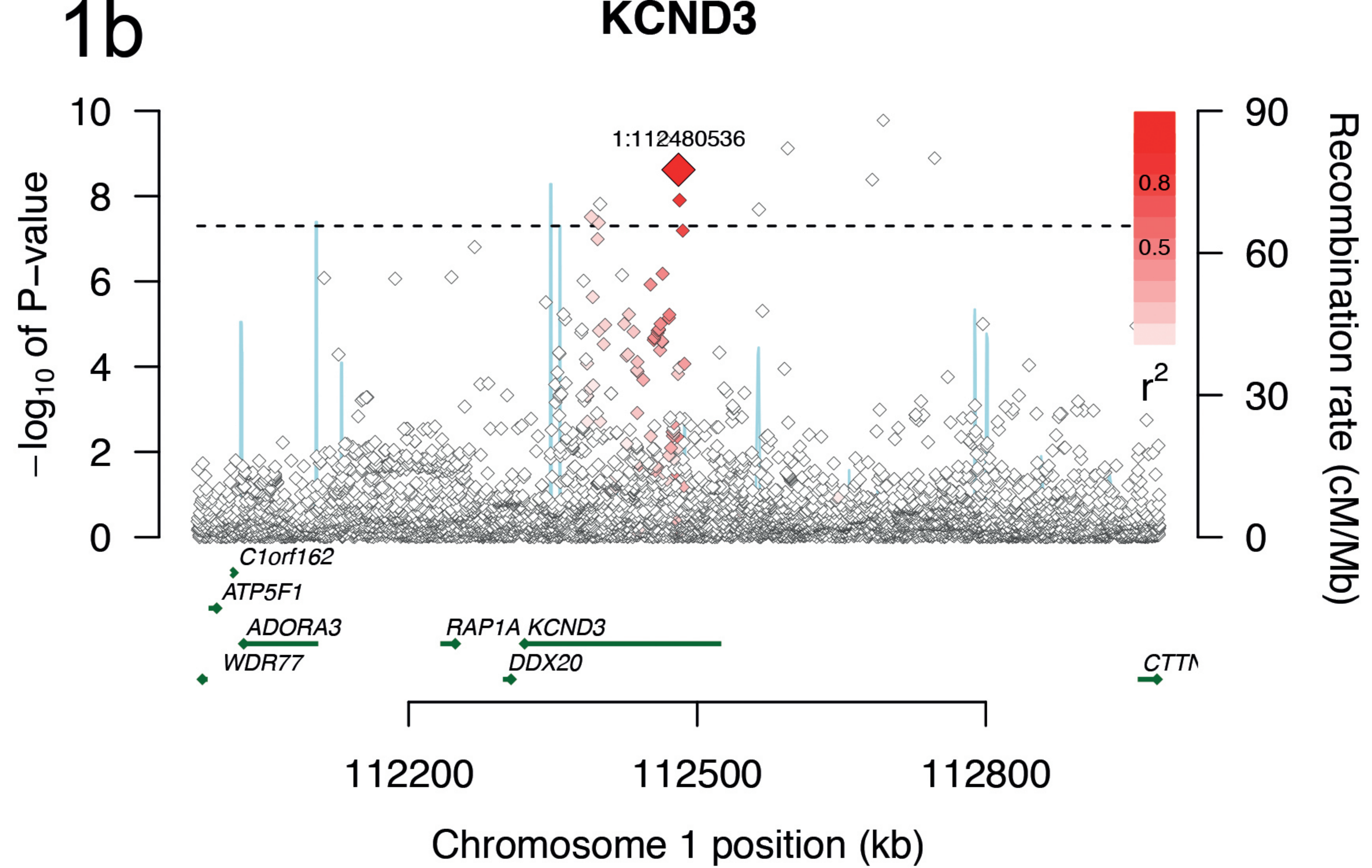
SNP info					GoNL-imputed data							Previous HapMap-based meta-analysis				Replication in 13 CHARGE cohorts (1000 Genomes Phase 1 imputed)			
Locus	Trait	Index SNP	Chr	Position (hg19)	Coded allele	Non-coded allele	Coded allele frequency	Beta	SE	P-value	Sample size	Proxy used	P-value	Sample size	Ref	Beta	SE	P-value	Sample size
KCND3	PR	rs75013985	1	112530430	G	A	0.033	-4.090	0.554	$1.5 \times 10^{-13}$	31695	No proxies available with $r^2 > 0.4$	N/A	92340	<sup>3</sup>	-5.967	0.985	$1.4 \times 10^{-9}$	19302
NR3C1 / ARHGAP26	PR	rs17287745	5	142655015	G	A	0.425	1.011	0.185	$4.2 \times 10^{-8}$	31695	No	$1.9 \times 10^{-6}$	92340	<sup>3</sup>	0.585	0.193	0.002	24438
PLN / SLC35F1	PR	rs74640693	6	118684824	T	A	0.049	2.376	0.428	$2.9 \times 10^{-8}$	31695	rs10457327 ( $r^2 = 0.89$ )	$2.9 \times 10^{-4}$	92340	<sup>3</sup>	0.457	0.419	0.276	27106
SGIP1	QT	rs6588213	1	67107894	T	C	0.126	1.596	0.282	$1.5 \times 10^{-8}$	26794	No	0.001	76061	<sup>10</sup>	0.757	0.199	$1.4 \times 10^{-4}$	22663
NFKB1	QT	rs11097788	4	103407428	G	A	0.561	1.048	0.186	$1.8 \times 10^{-8}$	26794	rs1598856 ( $r^2 = 0.97$ )	$1.3 \times 10^{-4}$	76061	<sup>10</sup>	0.336	0.131	0.010	30504
KCNE1	QT	rs1805128	21	35821680	T	C	0.018	7.409	0.939	$2.9 \times 10^{-15}$	26794	No	0.004	76061	<sup>10</sup>	4.874	0.671	$3.7 \times 10^{-13}$	15896
ATP2A2 / ANAPC7	QRS	rs28637922	12	110819139	T	G	0.259	0.565	0.102	$3.0 \times 10^{-8}$	25509	rs1502337 ( $r^2 = 0.89$ )	$4.1 \times 10^{-4}$	73518	<sup>6</sup>	0.177	0.074	0.027	29427



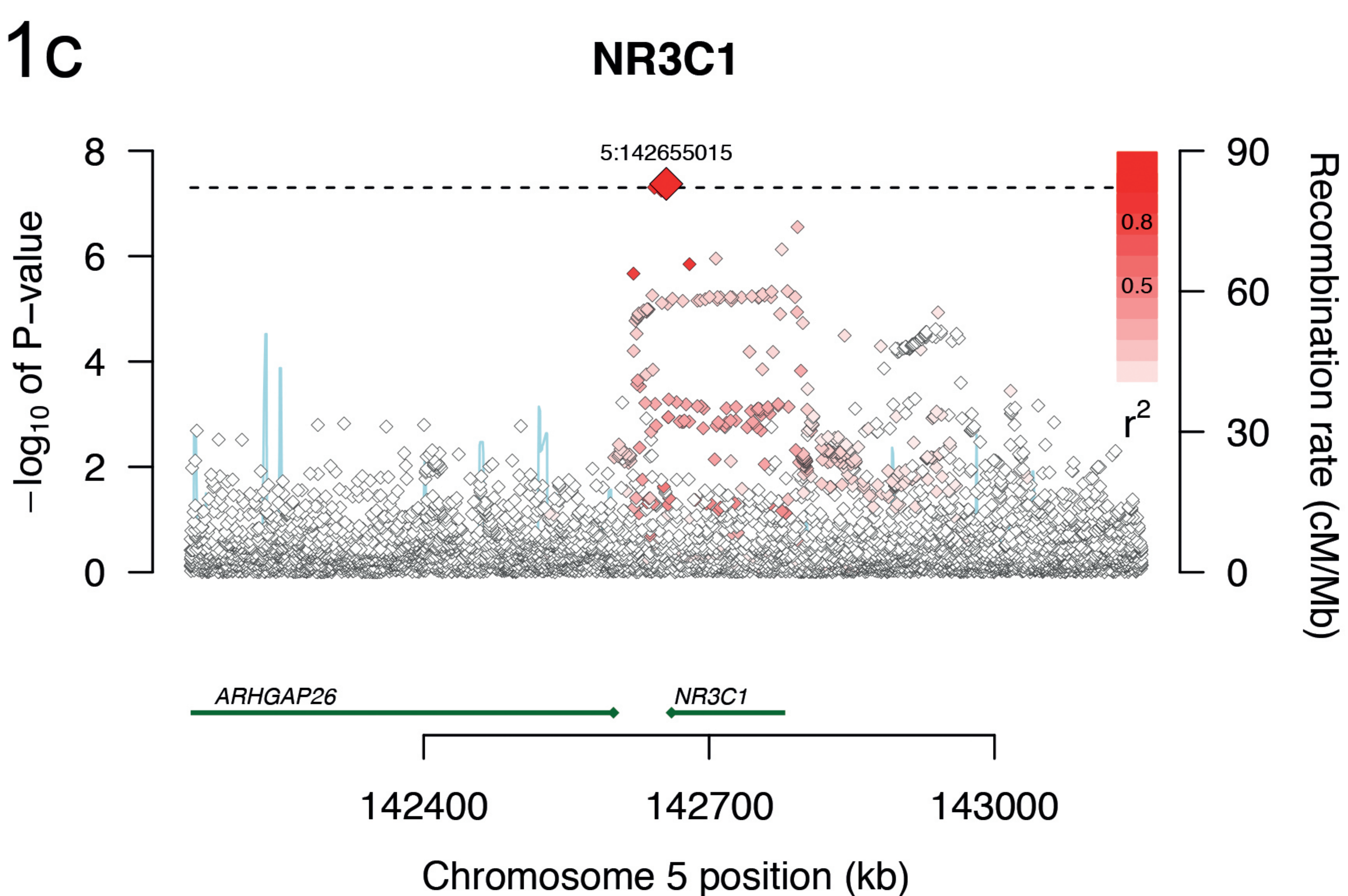
1a



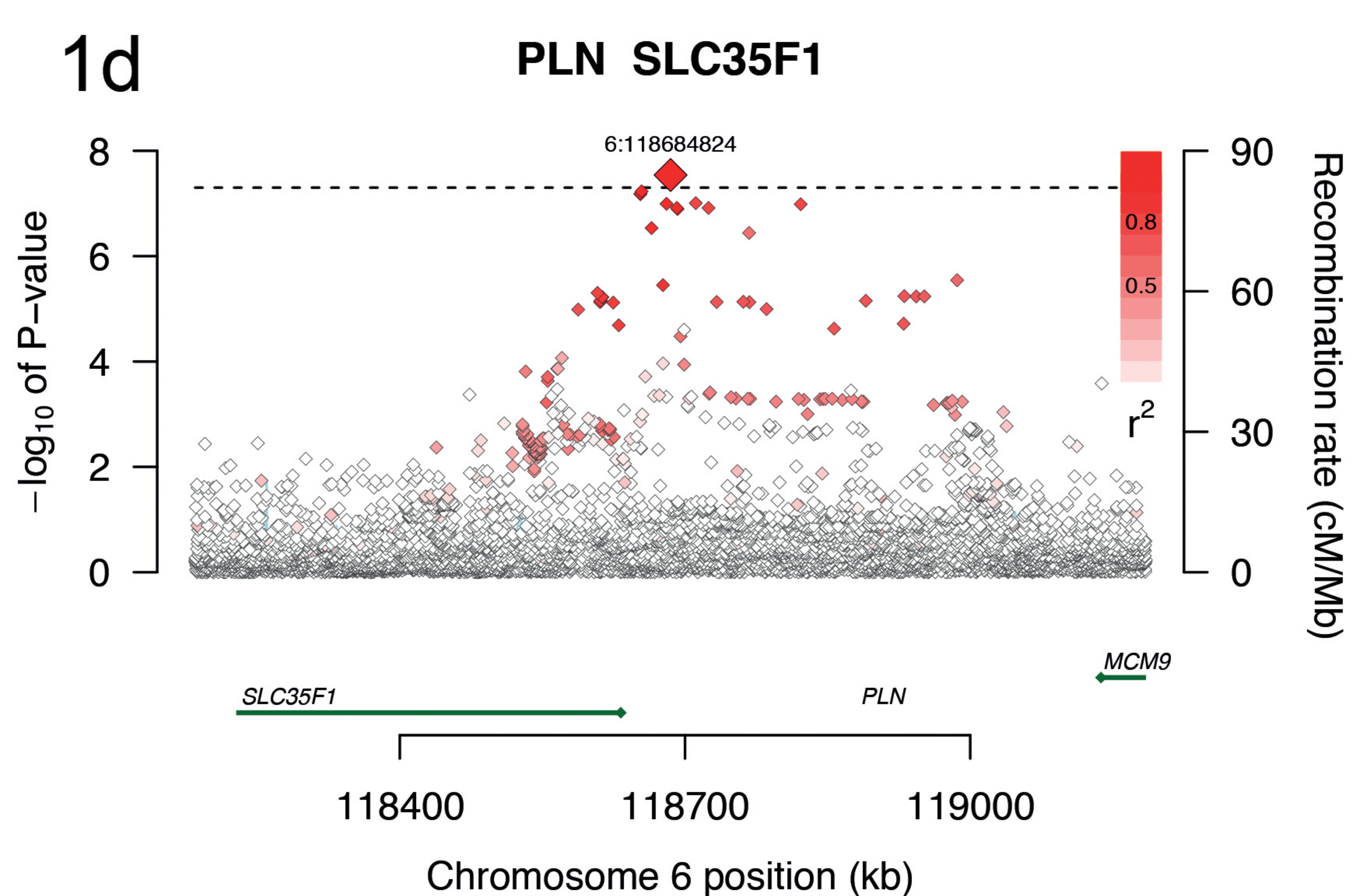
1b



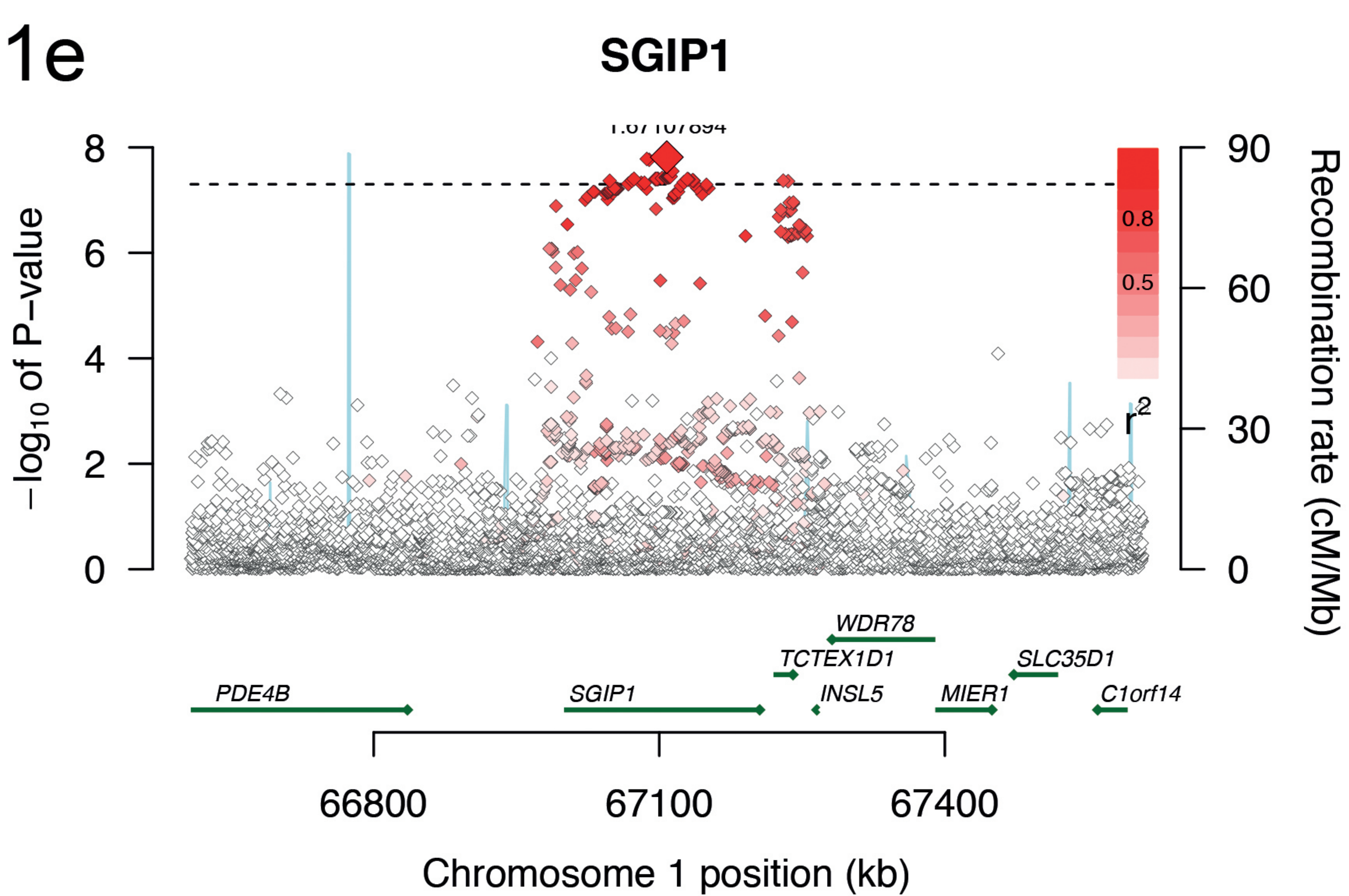
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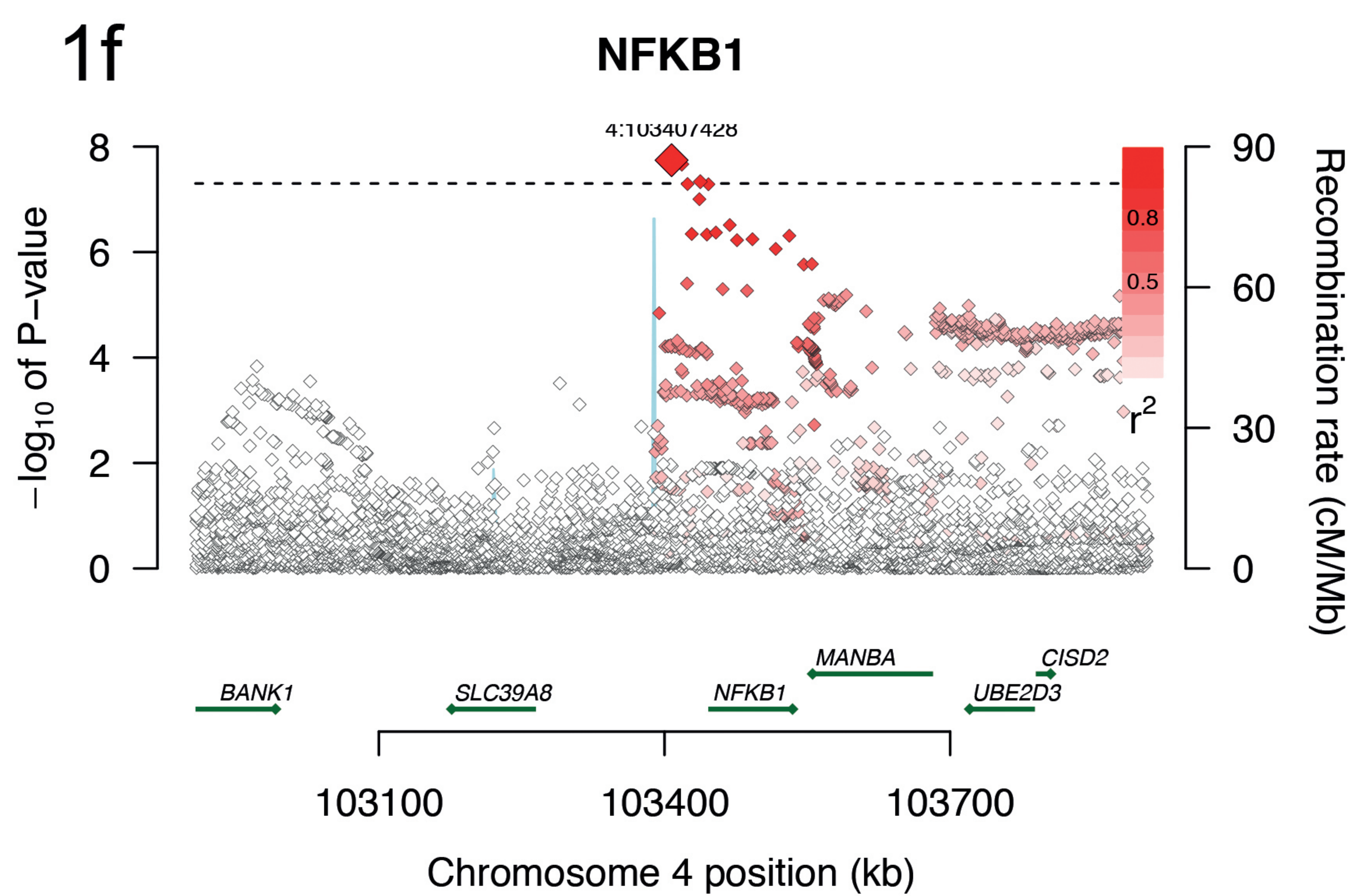
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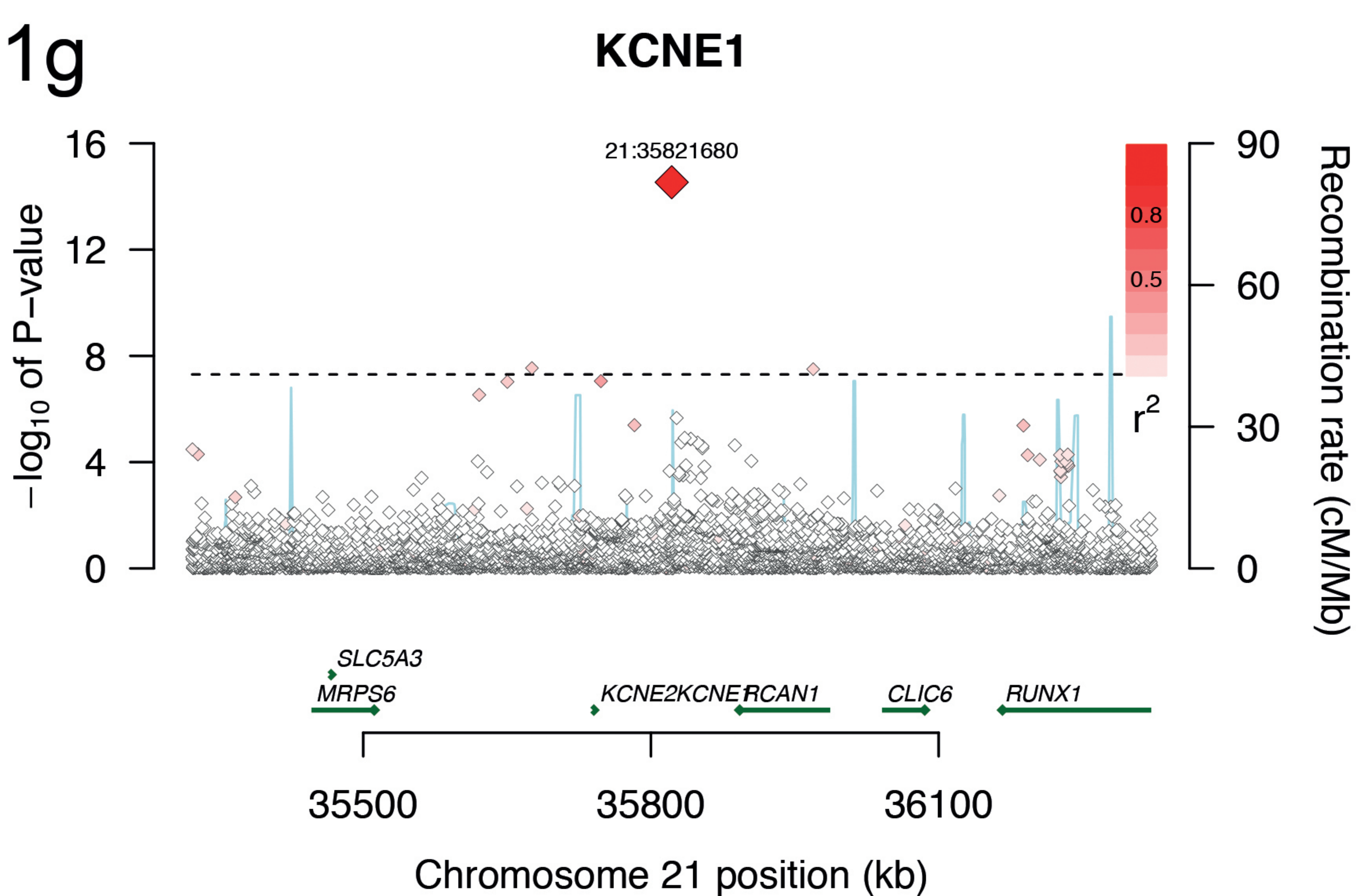
1e



1f



1g



1h

