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Received 13 Aug 2013 | Accepted 9 Oct 2013 | Published 19 Nov 2013

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms3739

OPEN

Genome-wide association study implicates *NDST3* in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder

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Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder are major psychiatric disorders with high heritability and overlapping genetic variance. Here we perform a genome-wide association study in an ethnically homogeneous cohort of 904 schizophrenia cases and 1,640 controls drawn from the Ashkenazi Jewish population. We identify a novel genome-wide significant risk locus at chromosome 4q26, demonstrating the potential advantages of this founder population for gene discovery. The top single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP; rs11098403) demonstrates consistent effects across 11 replication and extension cohorts, totalling 23,191 samples across multiple ethnicities, regardless of diagnosis (schizophrenia or bipolar disorder), resulting in $P_{\text{meta}} = 9.49 \times 10^{-12}$ (odds ratio (OR) = 1.13, 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.08-1.17) across both disorders and $P_{\text{meta}} = 2.67 \times 10^{-8}$ (OR = 1.15, 95% CI: 1.08-1.21) for schizophrenia alone. In addition, this intergenic SNP significantly predicts postmortem cerebellar gene expression of *NDST3*, which encodes an enzyme critical to heparan sulphate metabolism. Heparan sulphate binding is critical to neurite outgrowth, axon formation and synaptic processes thought to be aberrant in these disorders.

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Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder are among the most severe psychiatric disorders. With a combined lifetime prevalence of 1–4% of the general population¹, these disorders account for 4–5% of all disability in the developed world² and are associated with high rates of mortality due to suicide, poor self-care and increased risk for cardiovascular disease and diabetes³. Family and twin studies have consistently reported high heritability (~ 0.80) for both disorders⁴, yet only a modest portion of the genetic variance of either disorder has been explained at the molecular level.

The historical distinction between schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, which was based on clinical observation studies of the late 19th century, has been challenged by recent genetic evidence. Notably, several alleles that have emerged from genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of one disorder have demonstrated significant association to the other disorder⁵. Moreover, a putative set of polygenic risk factors including thousands of common alleles of small effect can simultaneously predict risk for both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, but not non-psychiatric disease (or even certain other psychiatric disorders)^{6,7}. These molecular data are further supported by population-scale epidemiological studies, which have identified increased sibling recurrence of schizophrenia amongst first-degree relatives of bipolar probands, and vice versa⁸. These data suggest that combining cohorts of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in molecular genetic studies may have dual advantages in enhancing power by increasing eligible sample size, and identifying the most fundamental risk factors in the aetiology of severe psychiatric disorder.

Prior GWAS in both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder have indicated that many common alleles of small effect remain to be detected⁹, but may require very large discovery cohorts ($\sim 10,000$ subjects) in order to identify single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) attaining clear evidence of genome-wide significance^{10,11}. However, it has been suggested that founder populations may possess enhanced power to detect effects of certain common alleles influencing complex disease, as a result of reduced allelic and locus heterogeneity¹². Moreover, GWAS conducted in homogeneous

populations can minimize statistical artifacts due to population stratification¹³. At the same time, common risk alleles identified in GWAS studies have generally been demonstrated to influence disease susceptibility across multiple ethnicities¹⁴, supporting the use of cosmopolitan replication cohorts.

Here we perform a GWAS in an ethnically homogeneous cohort of cases with schizophrenia and controls drawn from the Ashkenazi Jewish population. We replicate our top, genome-wide significant risk SNP (rs11098403) in 11 independent case–control cohorts of severe psychiatric disorder (comprising 5,415 schizophrenia cases, 4,785 bipolar cases and 12,991 controls) drawn from multiple populations. We then examine the functionality of rs11098403 by testing the effect of this variant on gene expression in postmortem brain tissue, and by performing supplementary *in vitro* and *in silico* experiments, thereby implicating a neighbouring gene, *NDST3*. These results suggest that abnormalities in heparan sulphate (HS) metabolism in the brain may underlie both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Results

Genome-wide association analysis. Using Illumina Human-Omni1-Quad arrays, we genotyped an ethnically homogeneous cohort of Ashkenazi Jewish (AJ) patients with schizophrenia and matching controls (Methods). After quality control, the final data set comprised 904 cases and 1,640 controls genotyped on 762,372 high-quality SNPs with 99.8% overall call rate (Supplementary Figs S1,S2). Logistic regression (additive model) yielded a single genome-wide significant signal at chromosome 4q26. This peak included the sixteen most strongly associated SNPs in the genome, all with $P < 10^{-6}$ (Fig. 1, Supplementary Data S1). A total of five SNPs fell below the study genome-wide significance threshold of $P < 6.56 \times 10^{-8}$, with the most strongly associated SNP, rs11098403, obtaining $P_{\text{gwas}} = 6.55 \times 10^{-9}$ (odds ratio (OR) for minor (G) allele = 1.41, 95% confidence interval = 1.26–1.59, Hardy–Weinberg Equilibrium for control $P = 0.23$, case $P = 0.76$ and overall $P = 0.14$). For this analysis, $\lambda_{\text{GC}} = 1.038$, which is considered ‘benign’¹³ (see Q–Q plot in

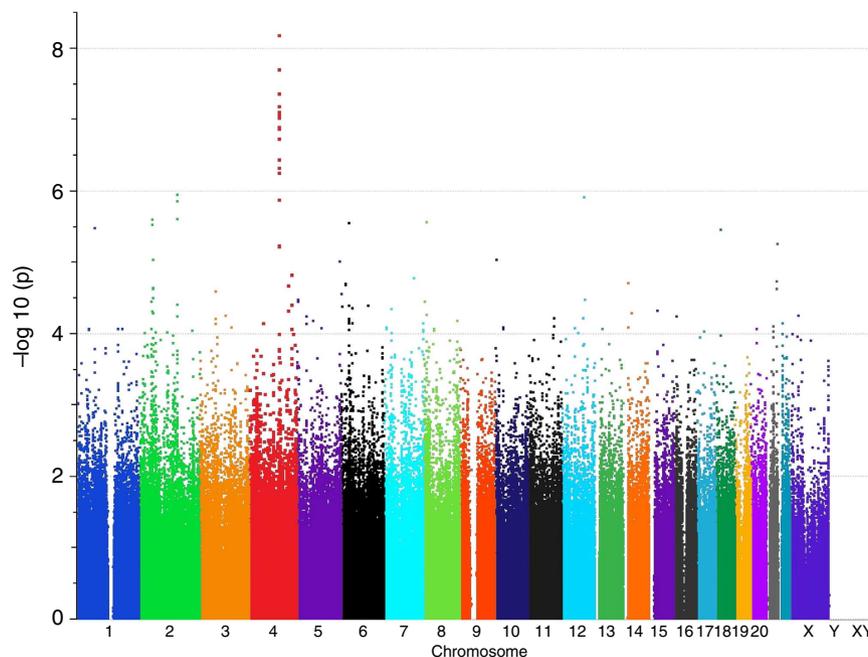


Figure 1 | Manhattan plot demonstrating genome-wide association results. Logistic regression (additive model) was used to test the association between genetic variants and schizophrenia in the Ashkenazi Jewish discovery cohort.

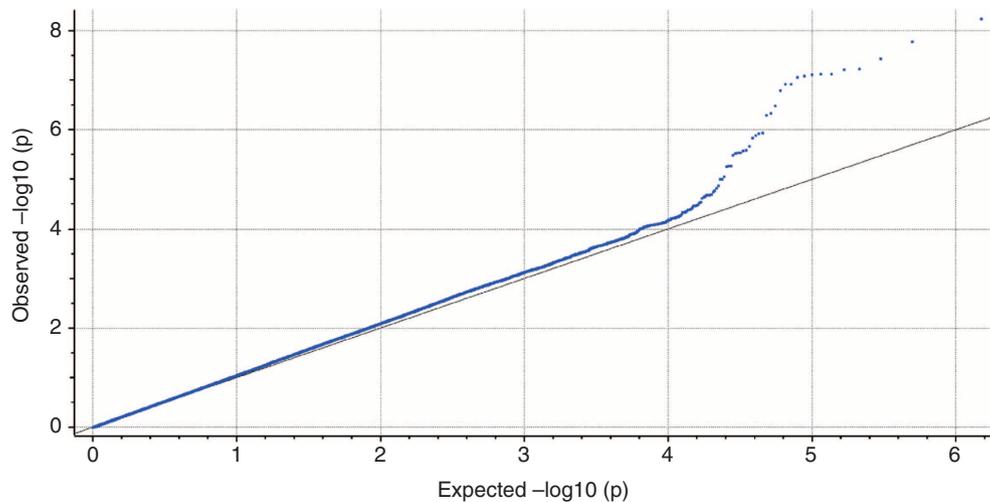


Figure 2 | Q-Q plot of the genome-wide association results. Logistic regression (additive model) was used to test the association between genetic variants and schizophrenia in the Ashkenazi Jewish discovery cohort.

Fig. 2); results also remained genome-wide significant ($P = 4.52 \times 10^{-8}$; $\lambda_{GC} = 1.002$) when examined with EMMAX, which controls for effects of residual population stratification and subtle cryptic relatedness.

A list of all SNPs achieving nominal P -values $< 10^{-4}$ is provided in Supplementary Data S1. Notably, seven SNPs on this list are located in the MHC, which has been consistently associated with schizophrenia susceptibility in large-scale GWAS^{6,10}. Supplementary Data S2 displays a systematic evaluation of effects in our discovery cohort for SNPs achieving genome-wide significance in prior large-scale ($N > 10,000$ in discovery + replication cohorts) GWAS studies for schizophrenia or bipolar disorder (obtained from the NHGRI GWAS catalogue (<http://www.genome.gov/gwastudies/>, downloaded 10 January 2013). For formal testing, we compared direction of effects at 23 loci (excluding the MHC) for which direct or proxy SNPs were available in our data set; each independent locus is represented only once in this analysis to avoid redundancy due to linkage disequilibrium (LD). We obtained the same direction of effects in our cohort at 21 loci (sign test $P = 3.3 \times 10^{-5}$, one-tailed), including all available SNPs reported by the Psychiatric GWAS Consortium mega-analysis of schizophrenia¹⁰. Moreover, four loci were nominally significant in our data set, including SNPs in the extended MHC as well as *NT5C2*, *PTGFR* and *CACNA1C*.

Due to the lack of a HapMap reference panel specific to the Ashkenazi population, primary analyses were conducted on genotyped SNPs only. However, genome-wide imputation using more densely genotyped HapMap3 data did not substantively alter results; no imputed SNPs attained stronger association P -values than that reported for our top genotyped SNP, rs11098403. In both genotyped and imputed data, nominally associated SNPs were observed across a ~ 300 -kb span on chromosome 4 (~ 118.7 – 119.0 MB in Build 36/hg18 coordinates; Fig. 3). This locus is within an intergenic region in the vicinity of *NDST3*; the 5'-end of this gene is ~ 308 kb from rs11098403. Conditional analysis revealed no significant associations (all $P > 0.01$) within a 1-MB region after controlling for effects of rs11098403 (Supplementary Fig. S3).

Replication and meta-analysis. The top SNP in our Ashkenazi discovery cohort, rs11098403, was evaluated in 11 independent schizophrenia or bipolar disorder case-control cohorts of

varying ethnicities, containing an additional 10,200 cases and 12,991 controls. Moreover, we sought replication in cosmopolitan samples, including those of African and Asian continental ancestry, in order to determine whether the signal observed in the discovery cohort was unique to the Ashkenazi population, or was merely stronger in Ashkenazi population but replicable in all populations.

Results of the initial GWAS were supported in these independent cohorts (Table 1 and Fig. 4; note that P -values (additive model) are two-sided for the discovery cohort and for the combined analyses, while 1-sided P -values are listed for the replication cohorts). Meta-analysis for rs11098403 across all cohorts (using the weighted Z-score method as implemented in METAL¹⁵) resulted in a genome-wide significant $P_{\text{meta}} = 2.67 \times 10^{-8}$ (OR = 1.15, 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.08–1.21) when considering the schizophrenia cohorts alone, and $P_{\text{meta}} = 9.49 \times 10^{-12}$ (OR = 1.13; 95% CI: 1.08–1.17) when all cohorts were included. Moreover, genome-wide significance was maintained when non-Caucasian cohorts were excluded ($P_{\text{meta}} = 8.62 \times 10^{-11}$). Considering the non-discovery cohorts alone, significant independent evidence was obtained for association of rs11098403 to both schizophrenia ($P_{\text{rep}} = 9.74 \times 10^{-4}$) and bipolar disorder ($P_{\text{rep}} = 5.40 \times 10^{-5}$). All additional cohorts demonstrated effects in the same direction as the original discovery sample (sign test $P = 4.88 \times 10^{-4}$), yielding a strongly significant overall replication ($P_{\text{rep}} = 1.46 \times 10^{-7}$; OR = 1.09; 95% CI: 1.04–1.14), with three cohorts independently demonstrating nominal significance. Statistical tests of heterogeneity between all non-discovery cohorts, irrespective of ethnicity or diagnosis, were essentially null ($Q = 3.16$, $P = 0.977$, $I^2 = 0.00\%$); to further test for cohort heterogeneity, we repeated the meta-analysis removing one of the independent cohorts each time. Across these 11 analyses, P_{meta} -values do not show much difference from the overall result, with a range of 8.10×10^{-12} (when the MGS schizophrenia cohort was excluded) to 1.71×10^{-10} (when excluding the Ashkenazi bipolar cohort).

Potential regulatory role of rs11098403 on *NDST3*. As rs11098403 does not fall within the same LD block as *NDST3* (or any other gene) in any population, we obtained several lines of evidence supporting a regulatory relationship between this SNP

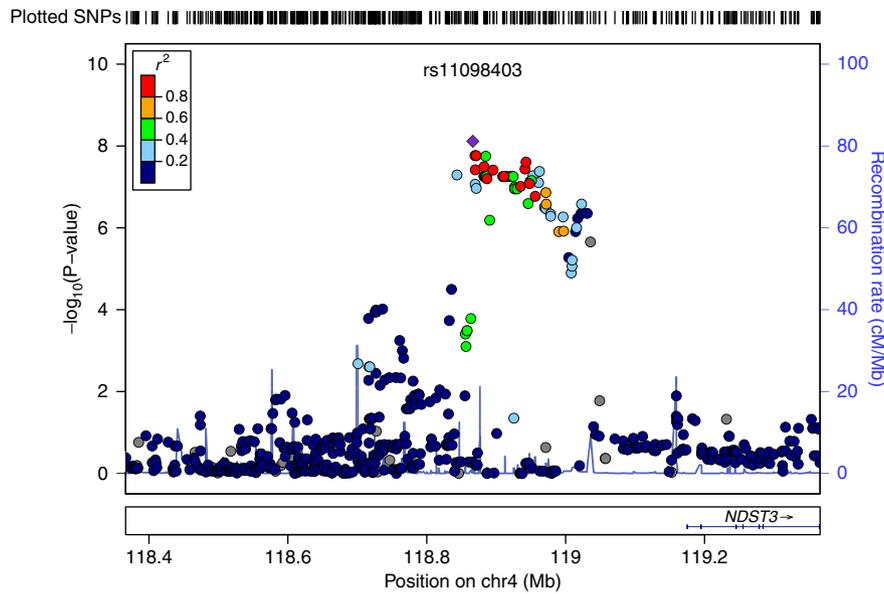


Figure 3 | Regional association plot of the 4q26 region in the discovery cohort after HapMap3 imputation. Note that no imputed SNP has a lower *P*-value (based on logistic regression under the additive model) than rs11098403.

Table 1 | Summary of logistic regression results for rs11098403 across cohorts.

Sample	Ethnicity	Case diagnosis	Total samples	Controls	Cases	MAF controls	MAF cases	Odds ratio	Additive <i>P</i> -value	Reference (see supplement)
<i>Discovery</i>										
Ashkenazi*	Caucasian	Schizophrenia	2,544	1,640	904	0.38	0.47	1.41	6.55E – 09	
<i>Replication/extension</i>										
MGS EA	Caucasian	Schizophrenia	4,942	2,056	2,886	0.27	0.28	1.05	0.127	49
ZHH	Caucasian	Schizophrenia	317	140	177	0.29	0.32	1.15	0.208	50
MGS AA*	African-American	Schizophrenia	1,875	954	921	0.25	0.27	1.09	0.12	49
Japan*	Asian	Schizophrenia	1,080	530	550	0.16	0.17	1.06	0.238	51
Munich	Caucasian	Schizophrenia	842	412	430	NA	NA	1.1	0.287	52
Aberdeen	Caucasian	Schizophrenia	892	441	451	NA	NA	1.21	0.03	52
GAIN	Caucasian	Bipolar	1,710	689	1,021	0.25	0.28	1.13	0.058	53
German	Caucasian	Bipolar	1,982	1,300	682	0.29	0.31	1.05	0.255	54
WTCCC	Caucasian	Bipolar	4,806	2,938	1,868	0.25	0.27	1.1	0.019	55
Taiwan*	Asian	Bipolar	2,000	1,000	1,000	0.15	0.16	1.06	0.25	56
Ashkenazi*	Caucasian	Bipolar	2,745	2,531	214	0.38	0.43	1.24	0.0177	
All cohorts excluding discovery			23,191	12,991	10,200			1.09	1.46E – 07	
All cohorts			25,735	14,631	11,104			1.13	9.49E – 12	

AA, African-American; EA, European-American; GAIN, The Genetic-Association Information Network; MAF, minor allele frequency; MGS, molecular genetics of schizophrenia; WTCCC, The Wellcome Trust Case-Control Consortium; ZHH, The Zucker Hillside Hospital. *P*-values are two-sided for the discovery cohort and combined analyses; one-sided *P*-values are listed for the replication cohorts. Cohort details are available in Supplementary Note 1. *Cohorts not part of Psychiatric Genomics Consortium Phase 1 publications^{7,10,11}.

and *NDST3*. Most notably, data derived from postmortem cerebellar tissue (total *n* = 119, comprised of 39 patients with schizophrenia, 36 with bipolar disorder and 44 healthy controls) demonstrated a significant relationship between risk allele carrier status at rs11098403 and SVA-corrected expression of *NDST3* using logistic regression under the additive model ($P = 8.4 \times 10^{-4}$, Fig. 5); carriers of the risk allele had significantly higher expression compared with homozygotes for the common allele. In addition, all SNPs within the LD block containing rs11098403 (hg18; Chr4: 118.7–119.0 MB) demonstrate

nominally significant association to *NDST3* expression levels (all $P < 0.01$ using logistic regression, additive model), and conditional analysis indicates no secondary sources of signal within the region (Fig. 5). Although the strongest statistical signal was observed at a neighbouring SNP (rs17862991, which is 2,801 bp from rs11098403), the precise functional element is not recoverable from this analysis due to the effects of LD.

By contrast, no significant relationship was observed between rs11098403 and any of the eight other transcripts available on our expression arrays within a 3-MB window centred on this SNP (all

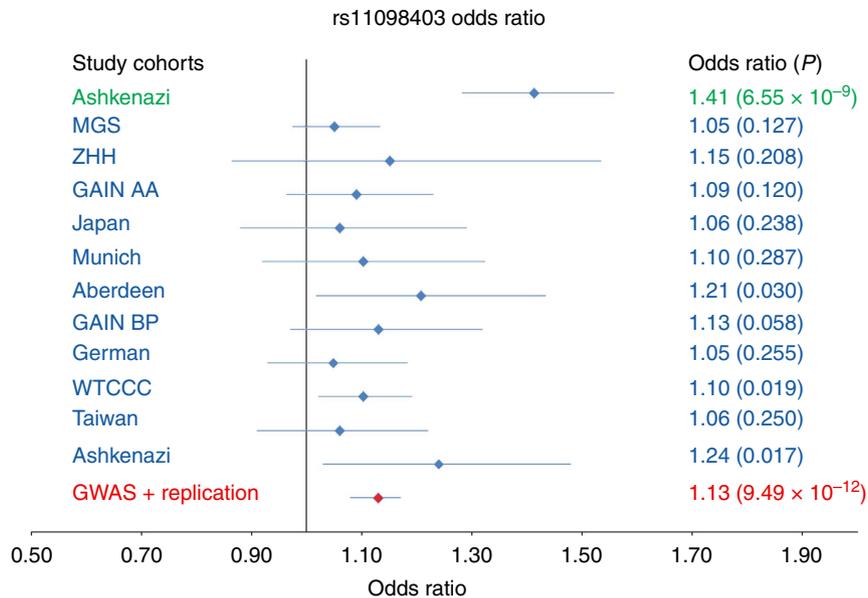


Figure 4 | Odds ratio plot showing allelic effects of the G allele of rs11098403 in the discovery and 10 independent cohorts of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder cases and controls. *P*-values were generated using logistic regression under the additive model and are presented in parentheses. Error bars represent the 95% confidence interval of the odds ratios.

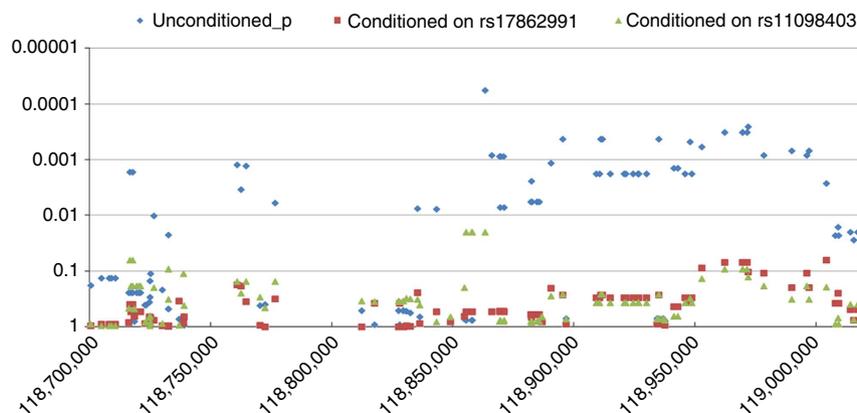


Figure 5 | Expression of *NDST3* in postmortem cerebellar tissue as a function of genotype. Associations within the LD block containing rs11098403 were tested using logistic regression under the additive model. Three plots are presented on the same scale for these eQTL analyses. The raw (unconditioned) *P*-values are shown in blue, the *P*-values conditioned on rs11098403 (hg18 coordinates) are shown in green and the *P*-values separately conditioned on rs17862991 are shown in red.

additive model logistic regression analyses $P > 0.3$). The eQTL effect at *NDST3* remained significant when the control group ($n = 44$) alone was examined ($P = 0.002$), indicating that the association of genotype to expression is not an artifact of psychiatric status or medication. Moreover, using analysis of covariance, there were no significant main effects of diagnostic group ($P = 0.801$) and no interaction of diagnostic group and genotype ($P = 0.902$; Supplementary Fig. S4).

Next, we performed an *in silico* analysis of the LD block surrounding rs11098403. As depicted in Fig. 6, rs11098403 occurs in a conserved region that overlaps ENCODE enhancer sites (H3K4Me1, grey and blue arrows in Fig. 6). Moreover, a close proxy SNP rs17862077 (2,953 bp telomeric to rs11098403; $r^2 = 0.96$ in 1,000 Genomes CEU), neighbours an unmethylated CpG island (red arrow), which is uncommon within the intergenic window (Supplementary Fig. S5). Finally, RNA-seq performed in postmortem hippocampal tissue ($n = 31$ human, 20 macaque and 16 rat samples) identified a novel, non-coding

transcript adjacent to rs11098403 consistently expressed in each individual human sample (Fig. 7 displays signal pooled across all samples; Fig. 8 compares our results to publicly available UCSC expression tracks). Although too weakly expressed in each individual to perform eQTL analysis, it is notable that this transcript shows considerable sequence homology (1,034 nucleotides spanning a 3-kb region) with a splice variant of *NDST3* that is annotated by Ensembl as a retained intron (ENST00000394488; Fig. 9); retained introns are known to affect relative expression of primary and alternative transcripts of genes¹⁶.

Discussion

NDST3 encodes *N*-deacetylase/*N*-sulfotransferase (heparan glucosaminyl) 3, an enzyme found in the Golgi apparatus, which helps define the binding properties of HS¹⁷. *NDST3* is expressed in both fetal and adult brain, with highest abundance in hippocampus and cerebellum¹⁸. Knockout of this gene in mice results in

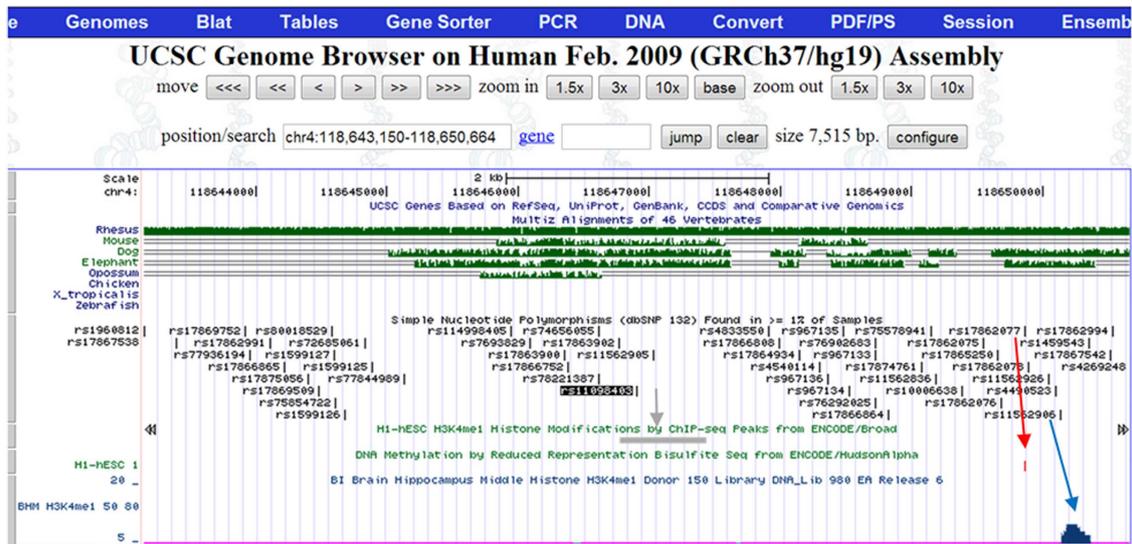


Figure 6 | *In silico* analysis of region immediately surrounding top GWAS SNP rs11098403. An H3K4me1 activation mark at this locus is observed in H1 human embryonic cell lines (grey arrow). A close proxy SNP (rs17862077, which is 2,953 bp telomeric to rs11098403; $r^2 = 0.96$ in 1,000 Genomes CEU), neighbours an unmethylated CpG island (red arrow), which is the only such site within an 850-kb intergenic window. Additional SNPs with the same LD relationship to rs11098403 (for example, rs11562906) localize to an H3K4me1 mark detected in hippocampus (blue arrow).

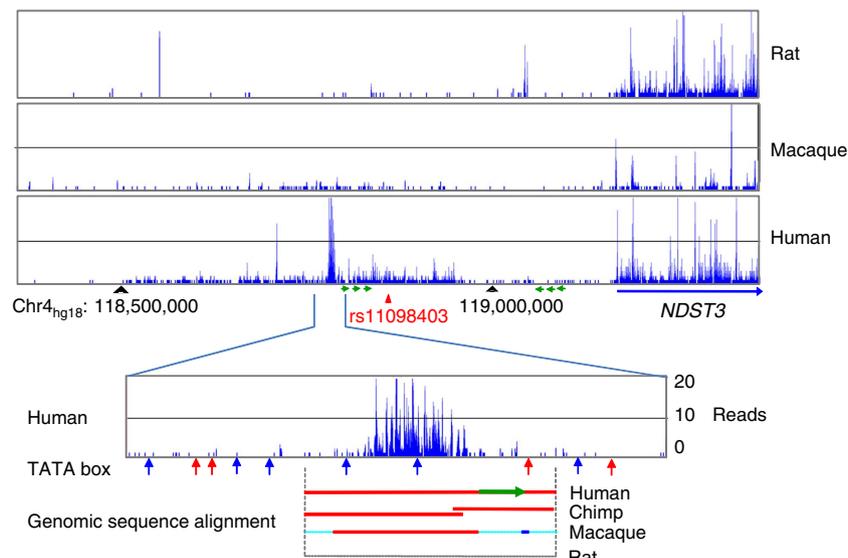


Figure 7 | RNA-seq expression profile in hippocampus of rat, macaque and human. Genomic features in the syntenic region of 1Mb around human rs11098403 are represented. TATA boxes were predicted by TSSG (Softberry Inc) and the predicted TATA box locations were depicted with vertical arrows (red on plus strand and blue on minus strand of chromosome 4). In cross-species genomic sequence alignment, high sequence similarity was depicted in red (same orientation) and blue (opposite orientation); low sequence similarity was depicted in cyan. Green arrowed lines represent the location and orientation of the repeat sequences around rs11098403; the green horizontal arrow in the bottom panel corresponds to the left-most green arrow in the panel above.

substantially reduced sulfation of HS in cortex, but paradoxically increased N-, 6-O-, and 2-O-sulfation in the cerebellum, possibly due to compensatory activity of other sulfotransferase enzymes¹⁹. HS subtypes have diverse cellular functions, acting as co-receptors for multiple growth factor molecules²⁰. Thus, aberrant sulfation of HS could have a role in several critical neurodevelopmental processes, including neurite outgrowth²¹, axon guidance²² and synapse formation²³. Differentially sulfated HS proteoglycans have varying patterns of binding to neuregulin-1 (NRG1), thereby altering NRG1 distribution and signalling of erbB4 in the nervous system²⁴; converging lines of evidence have implicated NRG1/

erbB4 signalling abnormalities in both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder²⁵.

Although most GWAS studies are conducted in outbred populations of European ancestry, examination of alternate populations has been a successful strategy for identification of novel risk alleles^{26,27}. Our use of a founder population may have resulted in a stronger result than typically observed in GWAS discovery cohorts in psychiatry. Although statistical significance was enhanced, in part, by the greater minor allele frequency observed for rs11098403 in the general AJ population compared with all other populations, our data also suggest an enhanced

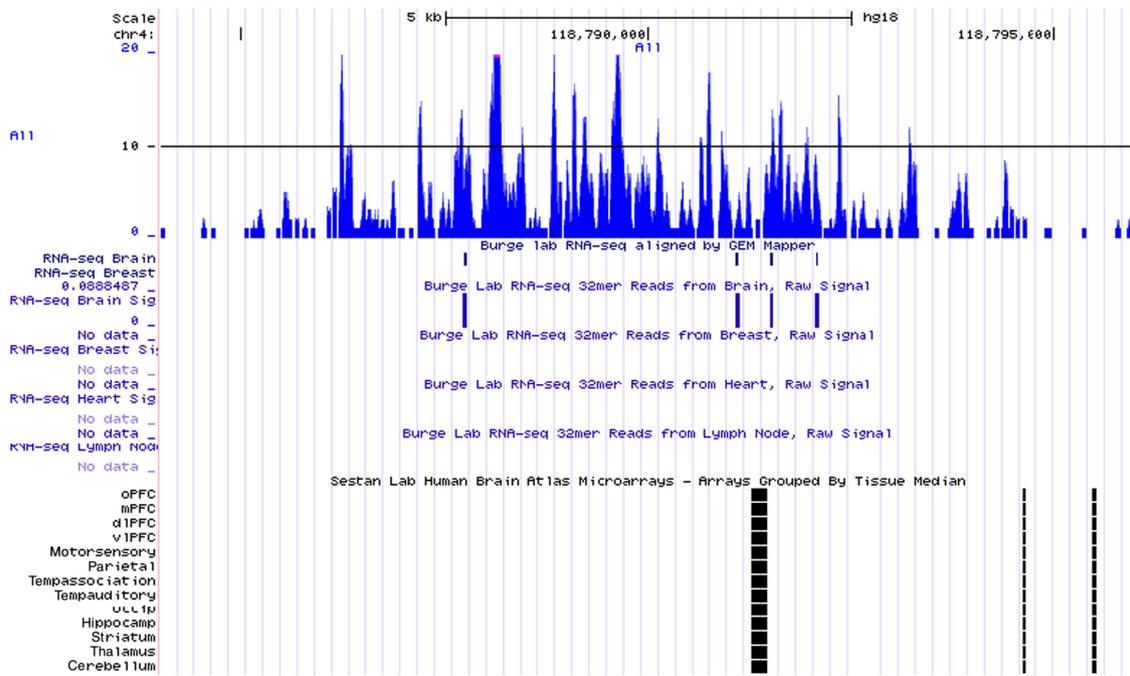


Figure 8 | Comparison of novel hippocampal transcript expression detected by RNA-seq. Expression data were observed in publicly available UCSC browser tracks. There is some overlap with small transcripts observed in prior studies of brain, but not other tissues.

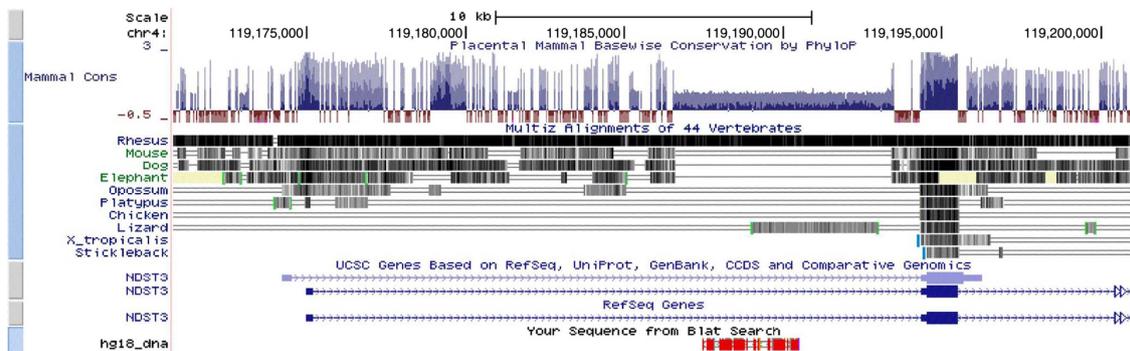


Figure 9 | BLAT alignment of DNA sequences underlying the novel transcript. The novel transcript (observed in Fig. 7) sequence demonstrates considerable homology (red) to an included intron variant (light blue) of *NDST3*.

penetrance of the risk allele in AJ populations, with a relatively large discovery OR. As GWAS effects are generally over-estimated in discovery cohorts (the so-called ‘winner’s curse’), we applied a bias correction method²⁸ to the discovery effect size estimate. The corrected OR estimate obtained using the two-stage method was 1.34 (95% CI: 1.20–1.45), and the weighted mean square error (MSE) estimator that takes into account over-correction was 1.37 (95% CI: 1.26–1.48). Notably, the Ashkenazi replication cohort also provided a larger effect size than all non-AJ replication cohorts.

Heightened effect sizes for specific GWAS loci have been reported in Ashkenazi cohorts in at least two other complex diseases: rs2180341 (*RNF146*) in breast cancer²⁹ and rs2076756 (*NOD2*) in Crohn’s³⁰. This phenomenon may be related to the unique demographic history of the Ashkenazim, which was marked by an extreme bottleneck followed by exceptionally rapid expansion^{31,32}. Such a history can result in blocks of enhanced LD relative to outbred populations, and enhanced LD can increase the effectiveness of GWAS for tagging a causal variant³³. In our data, there are ~50% more SNP pairs with moderate or stronger LD within 500 kb of rs11098403 in AJ (191 SNP pairs

with $r^2 \geq 0.5$) compared to CEU samples (only 123 such pairs). Moreover, the average LD of these SNP pairs is significantly greater in the AJ cohort (paired *t*-test = 4.991; $P = 1 \times 10^{-6}$; Supplementary Fig. S6). In addition, AJ are relatively more homogeneous than the general Caucasian population³⁴, with decreased background genetic variation³⁵. Enhanced GWAS effect sizes have been reported in other homogeneous and/or isolated populations^{36,37}.

Consistency of results across both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder support a growing body of evidence that current diagnostic boundaries in psychiatric nosology are not biologically valid^{5,8}. Although modifier genes influencing specific clinical features of the phenotype may be identified by future research, *NDST3* variation appears to predispose to severe psychiatric disease of varying presentations.

Methods

Discovery cohort description. Case ($n = 1,156$) and control ($n = 2,279$) samples were selected from an Ashkenazi Jewish repository (Hebrew University Genetic Resource, HUGR, <http://hugr.huji.ac.il>). Patients for discovery analysis were recruited from hospitalized inpatients at seven medical centres in Israel. All

diagnoses were assigned after direct interview using the structured clinical interview (SCID)³⁸, a questionnaire with inclusion and exclusion criteria, and cross-references to medical records. The inclusion criteria specified that subjects had to be diagnosed with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV), that all four grandparents of each subject were reported by the subject to be of Ashkenazi Jewish ethnic origin, and that each subject or the subject's legal representative has signed the informed-consent form. The exclusion criteria eliminated subjects diagnosed with at least one of the following disorders: psychotic disorder due to a general medical condition, substance-induced psychotic disorder, or any Cluster A (schizotypal, schizoid or paranoid) personality disorder. Samples from healthy Ashkenazi individuals were collected from volunteers at the Israeli Blood Bank; these subjects were not psychiatrically screened but reported no chronic disease and were taking no medication at the time of blood draw. Corresponding institutional review boards and the National Genetic Committee of the Israeli Ministry of Health approved the studies. All samples were fully anonymized immediately after collection and subsequently, genomic DNA was extracted from blood samples through use of the Nucleon kit (Pharmacia). Genotyping and analyses were performed under protocols approved by the Institutional Review Board of the North Shore-LIJ Health System.

Genotyping and quality control. Genotyping was performed for ~1 million genome-wide SNPs using Illumina HumanOmni1-Quad arrays according to manufacturers' specifications. As depicted in Supplementary Fig. S1, SNPs were filtered on the following bases: call rate <98%, minor allele frequency <0.02 and Hardy-Weinberg exact test $P < 0.000001$ in controls. Samples were filtered based on genotype quality control filtration (sample call rate <97%, gender mismatch) and examined for cryptic identity and first- or second-degree relatedness using pairwise identity-by-descent estimation (PI_HAT) in PLINK³⁹ with 128,403 LD pruned ($r^2 > 0.2$) genome-wide SNPs. Samples were excluded based on PI_Hat > 0.125; the individual with lower call rate from each control/control or case/case pair was excluded, and controls were excluded from case/control pairs.

These remaining samples were further examined for underlying population stratification using principal component analysis (PCA) with ancestry informative markers specific for the Ashkenazi Jewish population³⁵. Samples with PCA results suggestive of one or more non-AJ grandparents were identified as outliers based on first principal component score >0.01 and were excluded from further analysis ($n = 607$).

Statistical analysis. The allelic association between each SNP and the risk of schizophrenia was assessed using logistic regression under the additive model, covarying for the first two components derived from genome-wide principal components analysis; only the first two PCs carried eigen values >1 (Supplementary Fig. S2). These analyses were implemented in SVS7 software (Golden Helix, Inc., Bozeman, MT). The threshold for genome-wide significance was established at $P < 6.56 \times 10^{-8}$ based upon a strict Bonferroni correction for 762,372 tests at $\alpha = 0.05$, which may be considered conservative given that tests of linked SNPs are not independent⁴⁰. EMMAX⁴¹ analysis was conducted using correction for identity-by-state, as well as the same 2 principal components as covariates. Conditional analysis controlling for the effects of the top SNP in the region were conducted in PLINK.

Imputation analysis. We performed imputation analysis to determine the full extent of the associated region, and to test for any untyped variants with stronger associations than those available on the original Illumina GWAS platform. After pre-phasing of the original data using SHAPEIT⁴², genome-wide imputation was performed using IMPUTE2⁴³ using the cosmopolitan HapMap3 reference panel ($n = 1,011$ individuals from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas). Association tests (additive model, using the same two PCA covariates described above) were performed on imputed genotype dosages using the SNPTEST program within the IMPUTE2 framework on a total of 1,622,655 SNPs; of these, 70,330 SNPs were monomorphic and were not examined further.

Replication cohorts and meta-analysis. We examined the association of the top SNP from our schizophrenia discovery cohort in six independent non-Ashkenazi schizophrenia case-control cohorts and four non-Ashkenazi bipolar case-control cohorts, as well as one Ashkenazi bipolar case-control cohort, encompassing 23,191 individuals, as described in Table 1 and in Supplementary Note 1. Each of the non-Ashkenazi replication cohorts were drawn from published, peer-reviewed studies and all subjects provided written, informed consent in studies conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and approved by local ethics committees. The top associated SNP from the discovery cohort was directly genotyped (not imputed) in nine replication cohorts using the following platforms: Affymetrix 6.0, Affymetrix 500k and Illumina Hap550. For two cohorts (Munich and Aberdeen), the top discovery SNP was not available, so the nearest SNP (rs1870482, $r^2 = 0.95$ in HapMap2 CEU population) was used as proxy. All analyses were performed under the additive model.

Meta-analysis across cohorts was performed based on the weighted Z-score method using METAL¹⁵. As described in previous GWAS meta-analysis^{10,44,45},

P -values for each replication cohort are reported as one-tailed tests, while P -values for all combined analysis are reported as two-tailed tests. Before meta-analysis in METAL, P -values for each replication cohort were converted to z -scores as described by Nyholt *et al.*⁴⁵ Between-group heterogeneity was accessed by Cochran's Q statistics and I^2 . It should be emphasized that no replication cohorts were examined and subsequently excluded for any reason. No further replication cohorts, beyond the eleven reported, were sought due to the relative stability of the parameter estimate: given that our combined total of 25,735 subjects yielded a P -value approximately three orders of magnitude beyond the conventional threshold of statistical significance, a further doubling of the total sample size would reduce the 95% confidence interval of the OR by a mere 0.01 units on each end.

Winners curse analysis. In order to adjust for potential selection bias, commonly referred to as the winner's curse, we utilized a conditional maximum likelihood approach²⁸, in which a corrected OR estimate is derived using the asymptotic approximation to the conditional probability density function of the log OR estimate after selection. This OR estimate is then subjected to a weighted MSE estimator, to account for potential overcorrection of the corrected estimate. To isolate effects of the winner's curse from population-specific effects that may differentiate AJ cohorts, we considered the AJ discovery cohort as the first stage and the AJ replication cohort as the second stage in a two-stage design. The weighted MSE estimator was obtained as a linear combination of OR estimates from the AJ discovery cohort and the corrected OR estimate. All calculations were done using R codes obtained from the authors of the method²⁸.

LD analysis. Randomly-selected Ashkenazi controls ($n = 60$) and 60 CEU HapMap founder samples were used to compare the LD structure in the 500 kb region surrounding rs11098403. For purposes of comparison, only SNPs directly genotyped in both samples were examined.

Genotype-expression correlation analysis. To determine the functional effect of our disease-associated SNP, we performed a gene expression study in a set of postmortem brain samples obtained from the Stanley Medical Research Institute (SMRI). Cerebellar tissue was obtained from 119 Caucasian subjects, including patients diagnosed with schizophrenia ($n = 39$), bipolar disorder ($n = 36$) and donors without psychiatric disease ($n = 44$). Diagnoses of the samples were made by two senior psychiatrists, using the DSM-IV criteria and based on medical records, and, when possible, telephone interviews with family members. Diagnoses of unaffected controls were based on structured interviews by a senior psychiatrist with family member(s) to rule out Axis-I diagnoses. All samples have age, gender, postmortem interval (PMI), brain pH, smoking and alcohol use, suicide status and antipsychotic medication data.

Genomic DNA was extracted from frozen cerebellar tissues provided by the SMRI. A phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol protocol was modified and followed. The DNA was resuspended in 0.1 mM EDTA TE buffer. Genomic DNA was evaluated by NanoDrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer (NanoDrop Technologies, Wilmington, DE) for concentration and by 1% agarose gel to validate the DNA integrity. Genotyping was performed using Affymetrix GeneChip Mapping 5.0 Array and Assay Kits (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA) according to the Affymetrix protocol⁴⁶. Genotypes were called with the BRLMM-p algorithm (Affymetrix) with all arrays simultaneously. SNP call rates ranged from 97.3–99.58% (average 98.9%).

Total RNA was extracted from frozen cerebellar tissues using miRNeasy mini kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA). Gene expression was assessed using the Affymetrix GeneChip Human Gene 1.0 ST array according to manufacturer's protocols. The experiments were performed at NIH Neuroscience Microarray Consortium at Yale University. The raw *CEL* gene expression files were processed by Affymetrix Expression Console software EC1.1.2 using customized SNP-free library files. Batch effects were removed by ComBat in R package⁴⁷. For the genotype-expression correlation analysis, SVA⁴⁸ was used to remove effects of all confounding covariates. For purposes of the present study, we considered the relationship of alleles from our top disease-associated SNP to expression of nine transcripts available on our expression arrays within a 3-MB window centred on rs11098403. Next, we performed eQTL analyses to examine the association between *NDST3* and all available SNPs ($n = 40$) within the region of our GWAS signal (hg18; Chr4:118.7–119.0 MB). For the analysis of differential expression across groups, analysis of covariance analysis including six factors (age, PMI, brain_pH, Affection status, sex and antipsychotics) was performed in SPSS16.0 software (<http://www.spss.com>). For these analyses, heterozygotes were combined with the risk allele homozygotes; cell sizes were too small to permit modelling of additive allelic effects in each diagnostic group.

Genome-wide expression profiling using RNA-seq technology. Postmortem brain tissue (hippocampus) of 31 humans was obtained from the University of Miami Brain Endowment Bank (Miami, FL, USA). Postmortem hippocampus of 10 rhesus macaques was obtained from the National Institutes of Health Animal Center in Poolesville, Maryland. Hippocampal tissue from 16 rats was obtained from Dr Howard Edenberg's lab at Indiana University. The human research protocol for procedures involved in collecting postmortem brain and associated data was approved by the University of Miami. Macaque study protocols were

approved by the NIAAA and NICHD Animal Care and Use Committees. Rat study protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Indiana University School of Medicine.

Total RNA was extracted from ~100 mg of hippocampus tissue and mRNA was isolated from 35 µg of total RNA with Dynabeads oligo (dT)25 (Invitrogen). The purified mRNA was fragmented to the 150–500 bases by mixing with 10x fragmentation buffer (Ambion, Austin, TX) and heating at 70 °C for 3 min. Approximately 200 ng of fragmented mRNA was used for synthesizing cDNA synthesis following Illumina's mRNA-seq protocol. RNA-seq was carried out for each sample individually on an Illumina Genome Analyser (Illumina, San Diego, CA) according to Illumina protocols with 36 cycles using the 'sequencing-by-synthesis' method. Sequences were called from image files with the Illumina Genome Analyser Pipeline (GAPipeline) and aligned to the corresponding reference genomes (UCSC hg18 for human, UCSC rhesusMac2 for macaque, and UCSC rn4 for rat) using Extended Eland in the GAPipeline. The uniquely mapped reads (total of 297.8 million for human, 44.6 million for macaque and 125.5 million for rat) were parsed with in-house Perl scripts to generate WIG files, which were used to view the expression profile with UCSC Genome Browser. All raw sequences generated in this study have been deposited in the Sequence Read Archive (NCBI) with the accession numbers SRA028822, SRA027316, SRA029279 and SRA029275.

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Acknowledgements

We thank Michael Ryan of the Feinstein Institute Biorepository for assistance with sample handling and preparation. This work was supported by the North Shore-LIJ Health System Foundation and the National Institutes of Health (RC2 MH089964, R01 MH095458 and R01 MH084098 to T.L.; P50 MH080173 to A.K.M.; P30 MH090590 to J.M.K.; and R01 MH080425 to C.L.). We thank David B. Goldstein for providing summary data from the Aberdeen and Munich cohorts. We are extremely grateful to investigators, including Pablo Gejman, John Kelseo and Nick Craddock, who have made their genotype data publicly available through dbGAP and the Wellcome Trust Case-Control Consortium (WTCCC). A full list of the investigators who contributed to the generation of these data sets is available from www.wtccc.org.uk as well as the following studies within dbGAP (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/gap/>):

/cgi-bin/study.cgi?study_id=phs000167.v1.p1;
/cgi-bin/study.cgi?study_id=phs000021.v2.p1;
/cgi-bin/study.cgi?study_id=phs000017.v3.p1.

Author contributions

T.L., S.G. and A.D. wrote the manuscript. A.D. coordinated sample recruitment and phenotype assessment. T.L., A.D., I.P., J.M.K., D.G. and A.K.M. conceptualized and designed the study. T.L. and S.G. performed the primary analyses and interpreted the genome-wide data. C.L., L.C., C.Z. and J.B. performed the expression experiments and analysis. J.R., M.J. and S.M. contributed statistical analyses. A.T.L. and P.K.G. oversaw the genotyping of the samples. M.I., N.L., S.C. M.R., M.M.N., A.T.A.C. and A.P. provided replication data. C.H., Q.Y. and P.D. contributed RNA-seq data. All the authors contributed to the current version of the paper.

Additional information

Supplementary Information accompanies this paper at <http://www.nature.com/naturecommunications>

Competing financial interests: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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How to cite this article: Lencz, T. *et al.* Genome-wide association study implicates *NDST3* in Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. *Nat. Commun.* 4:2739 doi:10.1038/ncomms3739 (2013).



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