## **Description of Additional Supplementary Files**

**Supplementary Data 1.** A technical summary of the acquisition methods for WMH and metabolomic data in each study population.

**Supplementary Data 2**. Meta-GWAS of PC1 (WMH and insular CT) and regulated genes in the cerebral cortex

**Supplementary Data 3.** Two-sample Mendelian Randomization (MR) testing causal effects of WMH on insular or mean cortical thickness

**Supplementary Data 4.** GWAS-significant loci of PC1 (WMH and insular CT) and their associations with WMH or insular CT

**Supplementary Data 5.** Genome-wide significant loci of PC1 with insular CT and their association with loci of PC1 with mean CT in the present set of cohorts