## **Supporting Information**

## Scherzer et al. 10.1073/pnas.0802437105

## SI Methods

**Bioinformatics and Data Deposition.** The PD Biomarker Study (PDBS) dataset is described in ref. 1 and was previously made available in the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database (accession no. GSE6613). The MGH HG-U133A (2), MGH CodeLink (2), and Stanford (3) blood datasets were downloaded from GEO (accession nos. GSE1751, GSE1767, and GSE3649, respectively).

We used all samples from the Stanford data and only control samples without neurologic disease ("healthy controls") from PDBS (1), MGH HG-U133A (2), and MGH CodeLink (2) datasets. In the discovery set (PDBS), Spearman's rank correlation coefficients between *SNCA* probes and 22,283 probes on the array were calculated. In the three validation sets (MGH HG-U133A, MGH CodeLink, and Stanford), the Spearman's rank correlation coefficients between *SNCA* probes and *ALAS2*, *FECH*, and *BLVRB* were determined. Heatmaps were generated in R to visualize Spearman's rho and *P*-values. See Table S2.

**Identification of Genes Correlated with Expression of SNCA in the Discovery Set.** We hypothesized that transcripts whose levels are tightly correlated represent a transcriptionally controlled expression block. To test this hypothesis we deconvoluted the coexpression patterns of 22,283 transcripts across blood specimens from 22 control individuals (1). Pairwise correlations between *SNCA* expression and the expression of 14,500 genes targeted by 22,283 probe sets determined that the expression of three genes was tightly linked to *SNCA* expression.

SNCA expression signals was measured by four probes on the HG-U133A oligonucleotide microarray. These probes query distinct sequences of the SNCA mRNA. As expected, the SNCA expression signals measured by the four probes highly correlated. SNCA probe set 204466\_s\_at exhibited the best correlation with the three other SNCA target gene probe sets with Spearman's rank correlation coefficients ranging from 0.81 to 0.94 compared with the other SNCA probe sets (204467\_s\_at, 207827\_x\_at, and 211546\_x\_at). Correlations in-between the SNCA probes are independent of technical noise introduced by sample collection and processing. Thus, we used a correlation coefficient of  $\geq 0.81$ as a rigorous limit for detecting genes with correlated expression (correlation of the expression of a non-SNCA gene with SNCA expression is equal to or higher than the correlations observed between SNCA probe (204466\_s\_at) and the three other SNCA probes on the array (204467\_s\_at, 207827\_x\_at, and 211546\_x\_at). Thirty-five unique genes met this criterion (Table S1). Consistent with a specific role of SNCA in erythroid cell biology, six of the coexpressed genes were known erythroid cell-specific genes, i.e., hemoglobin delta (HBD), and erythroid associated factor (ERAF), Glycophorin A and B (GYPA and GYPB), as well as erythrocyte membrane protein band 4.2 (EPB42) and erythroid membrane protein band 3 (SLC4A1). Importantly, three of the coexpressed genes, 5-aminolevulinate synthase 2 (ALAS2), ferrochelatase (FECH), and biliverdin reductase B (BLVRB), encode critical steps in heme metabolism.

**Biospecimens.** Snap frozen human brain tissue and blood biospecimens of donors without neurologic disease were collected and analyzed. Superior frontal gyrus (sample size = 2; mean age  $\pm$  standard deviation = 90  $\pm$  4), substantia nigra (n = 7; 69  $\pm$  17), venous whole blood (n = 6; 67  $\pm$  9), PBMC (n = 2; 72  $\pm$  14), packed red blood cells (n = 3; 34  $\pm$  8), serum, and plasma (n = 14; 66  $\pm$  11) were used for gene or protein

expression analyses. Blood biospecimens were obtained from the Harvard PD Biomarker Study (1,4). Postmortem brain biospecimens were provided by the Human Brain and Spinal Fluid Resource Center at the University of California, Los Angeles, and by Jennifer Chan of the Department of Pathology, Brigham and Women's Hospital. Erythroid CD71<sup>+</sup> cells from human bone marrow (n=1;23) isolated by immunomagnetic cell sorting were purchased from AllCells. Blood specimens were also collected from age-matched, wild-type and Snca-null mice (5). For protein analyses, sample aliquots were frozen at  $-80^{\circ}$ C until use. Upon thawing at  $4^{\circ}$ C, a protease inhibitor mixture and Nonidet P-40 (0.5%) were added before serial dilution and loading onto 384-well-based ELISA plates (6). Protocols for these studies were approved by the Institutional Review Board of Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Quantitative Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP). G1E-ER-GATA-1 cells, which stably express GATA-1 as a fusion to the human estrogen receptor ligand-binding domain, were maintained as described in ref. 7. Real-time PCR quantitative ChIP analysis was conducted as described in refs. 8 and 9. Chromatin fragments averaged ≈400 bp. Cells were grown in medium containing 15% FBS with or without 1  $\mu$ M  $\beta$ -estradiol (Sigma) for 24 h. Immunoprecipitated DNA was analyzed by real-time PCR (ABI Prism 7000; PE Applied Biosystems). Primers were designed by using PRIMER EXPRESS 1.0 (PE Applied Biosystems) to amplify 50- to 150-bp amplicons and were based on sequences in Ensembl (www.ensembl.org/Mus\_musculus/ geneview?gene=ENSMUSG00000025889). Samples from three or more independent immunoprecipitations were analyzed. Product was measured by SYBR green fluorescence in 15-μl reactions. The amount of product was determined relative to a standard curve of input chromatin. Dissociation curves showed that PCRs yielded single products. Primer sequences are available upon request. Rabbit anti-GATA-1 and GATA-2 antibodies were generated against the respective N-terminal fragments of bacterially expressed and purified murine GATA-1 and GATA-2 (7). Preimmune serum was used as a control.

RNA Isolation and Quality Control. RNA was extracted from snapfrozen human postmortem brain biospecimens, CD71+ immunopurified erythroid cells, and packed red blood cells by TRIzol (GIBCO/BRL) extraction similar to what we describe in ref. 10. RNA from mononuclear white blood cells was extracted by Ficoll technique. To separate packed red blood cells from plasma and buffy coat, fresh whole blood samples were immediately centrifuged after phlebotomy at  $2,000 \times g$  for 10 min. Venous whole blood was collected in PAXgene (Qiagen) tubes and immediately incubated at room temperature for 24 h, and RNA was extracted according to the PAXgene procedure including DNase treatment (1). RNA from untreated G1E-ER-GATA-1 cells and cells treated with 1 mM β-estradiol for up to 40 h was extracted with TRIzol. RNA quality was determined by spectrophotometry and by visual inspection of electropherograms using the RNA 6000 NanoChip kit on an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies). RNA passing quality control criteria was used for further analysis.

**Quantitative Real-Time PCR.** For quantitative gene expression analysis in human biospecimens, TaqMan Assay-on-Demand primers and probes (Applied Biosystems) were designed using the manufacturer's "rules," including crossing of exon junctions

(primer/probe information is available upon request). Amplification products were analyzed for specificity by agarose gel electrophoresis. The comparative threshold cycle method was used for analysis (11). Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) and RPL13 ribosomal RNA controlled for RNA loading. Equal amplification efficiencies were confirmed for target and reference genes. Total RNA (3  $\mu$ g) was reverse-transcribed into cDNA using TaqMan Reverse Transcription reagents and random hexamers. Real-time PCR using ABI Prism 7000 and 7300 and TaqMan kits was performed according to the manufacturers' protocols. Samples were loaded in duplicate or triplicate. Control reactions lacking template or reverse transcription showed no amplification. Quantitative gene expression in cultured G1E cells was performed as reported in ref. 7. Primer sequences are available upon request.

**ELISA.** Rabbit sera were raised and affinity-purified at Open Biosystems against recombinant, full-length human SNCA protein. Antibody (Ab) Syn-1 was purchased from BD Transduction Labs. Recombinant human SNCA protein was a gift from P. Lansbury. For ELISAs, 96- and 384-well MaxiSorp plates (Nunc) were coated with a capturing polyclonal Ab (hSA-2; mSA-1) diluted in coating buffer (NaHCO<sub>3</sub> with 0.2% NaN<sub>3</sub>, pH 9.6). After washes with PBS/0.05% Tween-20 (PBS-T), plates were blocked for 2 h at 37°C in blocking buffer (1.125% fish skin gelatin in PBS-T). After four washes, samples were loaded and incubated at 4°C for 12 h. Syn-1 mAb (assaying Ab) was biotinylated using 200 µg of Sulfo-NHS-LC Biotin (Pierce), diluted in blocking buffer, and incubated for 2 h at 37°C. After four washes, ExtrAvidin phosphatase (Sigma) was applied for 1 h at 37°C. Color development was carried out with Fast-p-Nitrophenyl Phosphate (Sigma) and monitored at 405 nm for up to 60 min, as described in ref. 12. For serial dilutions of cell lysates, whole blood, plasma, and serum, blocking buffer was used as diluent, which was also used to create the blank and the corresponding standard curve of recombinant human SNCA protein. Saturation kinetics were examined for identification of time point(s) where standards and sample dilutions were in the log phase. Concentrations were interpolated from the standard curve established by serial dilutions of HPLC- and mass spectrometry-characterized, human wild-type  $\alpha$ -synuclein (13).

Western blot analysis and immunohistochemistry were performed as described in ref. 14. Anti-DJ-1 antibody is characterized in ref. 15. Sections of routinely fixed human bone marrow (provided by G. Pinkus, Department of Pathology, Brigham and

Women's Hospital) were rehydrated, treated for 10 min with Gram's iodine solution (2 g of potassium iodide, 1 g of iodine, 100 ml of dH<sub>2</sub>O), washed twice in dH<sub>2</sub>O, treated with 5% thiosulfate (5 g of Na-thiosulfate, 100 ml of dH<sub>2</sub>O) for 5 min, washed three times in dH<sub>2</sub>O, and processed by routine immunohistochemistry.

Northern Blot Analysis. Erythroblasts infected with the anemia-inducing strain of Friend virus were cultured in the presence of erythropoietin, as described in ref. 16. Cells were harvested every 8 h, and RNA was extracted by the guanidinium isothio-cyanate method (Tel-Test). Seven micrograms of RNA was loaded per lane. The RNA was transferred to Hybond-N+membrane (General Electric Healthcare) by Northern blot analysis. A digital image of the 28S ribosomal RNA was obtained, before transfer, as a loading control through the use of a transilluminator (Bio-Rad). The analysis software was Quantity One 1-D. The filter was probed with  $\alpha$ -synuclein cDNA, labeled with the Random Primer DNA labeling kit (Roche) in Hybrisol I (Chemicon). The PCR primers used to generate the SNCA probe were 5'-ctttagccatggatgtgttca-3' and 5'-gtgcaatgacattcttaggct-3'.

siRNA transfection. The human dopaminergic cell line SH-SY5Y was maintained in DMEM/F12, supplemented with 10% FCS, penicillin (100 units/ml), and streptomycin (100  $\mu$ g/ml). Cells from passages 6-20 were used, and they were seeded at 40% confluency into 30-mm six-well dishes. The required amount of GATA2 siRNA (Invitrogen) and 5 μl of Lipofectamine RNAiMAX (Invitrogen) were diluted into a final volume of 250 μl in Opti-MEM I (GIBCO), respectively, then combined, gently mixed, and incubated at room temperature for 25 min. 500 µl of this transfection solution was overlaid onto cells at a final concentration of 5, 10, 20, 40, 80, or 160 nM siRNA. Transfection of SH-SY5Y cells with Stealth RNAi Negative Control (Med GC Content with no significant homology to any known gene sequences from mouse, rat, and human) served as a negative control. After a 48-h incubation at 37°C in the presence of 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, cells were lysed by TRIzol reagent, and total RNA was isolated by chloroform/isopropanol precipitation. To determine  $\alpha$ -synuclein levels, cells were lysed in Nonidet P-40- and protease inhibitor-containing lysis buffer at 4°C (6) and centrifuged at 10,000 or  $100,000 \times g$  for 30 min. The protein concentration of each supernatant was equalized, and three independently prepared specimens of each transfection arm were diluted (1:6) in ELISA blocking buffer (13).

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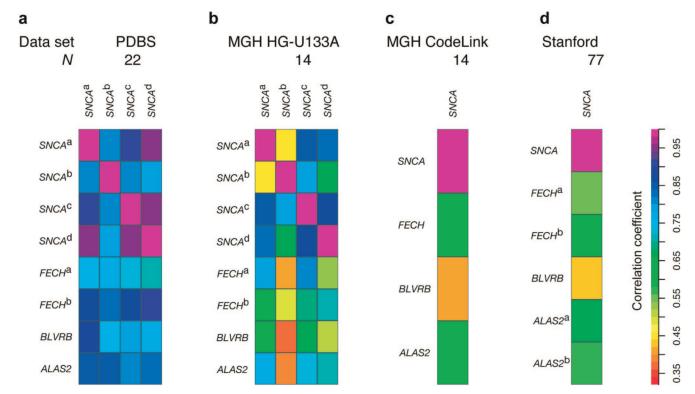


Fig. S1. Expression of SNCA and the three heme metabolism genes, FECH, ALAS2, and BLVRB, is tightly and significantly correlated across human blood samples in the discovery set and in three validation sets representing independent populations and assay platforms. Heatmaps visualize pairwise Spearman's rank correlation coefficients correlating expression of SNCA (x axis) and SNCA, ALAS2, FECH, and BLVRB expression (y axis). Strong correlations are color-coded purple or blue, and weak correlations are yellow and orange (see color bar and SI Methods). For genes that are detected by more than a single probe, correlations with each individual probe are shown. (a) Deconvolution of the coexpression patterns of 14,500 genes targeted by 22,283 probe sets across blood specimens from a discovery set of 22 normal individuals uncovered a tight and significant coexpression block of four genes, SNCA, FECH, ALAS2, and BLVRB (see text for details). Note that on the Affymetrix arrays SNCA is targeted by four probe sets and FECH is targeted by two probe sets. (b-d) If the coexpression of SNCA with ALAS2, FECH, and BLVRB is a robust and biologically relevant finding, it should be a universal signature in human blood. Rigorous validation of the coexpression block in three test datasets (MGH HG-U133A dataset, n = 14 healthy individuals; MGH CodeLink dataset, n = 14; and Stanford dataset, n = 77) confirmed that variation in FECH, ALAS2, BLVRB, and SNCA expression was tightly, reproducibly, and highly significantly linked. See the main text and SI Methods for detailed discussion.

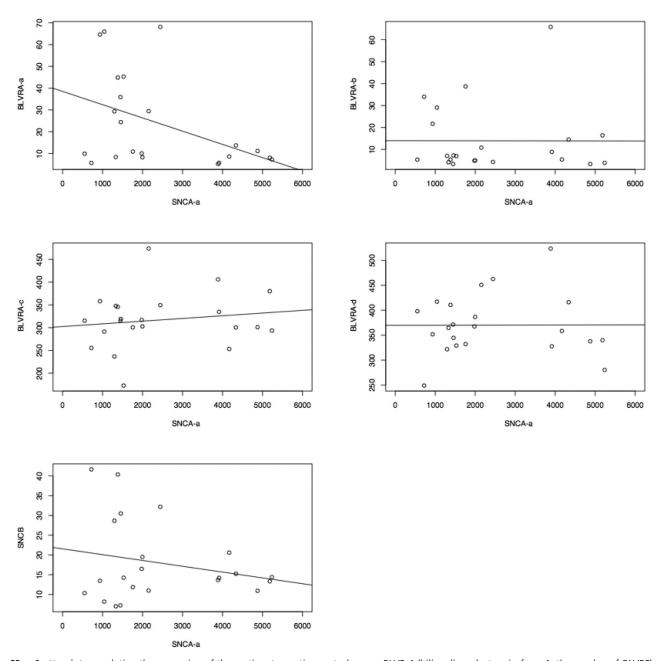


Fig. S2. Scatterplots correlating the expression of the pertinent negative control genes, BLVR-A (biliverdin reductase isoform A, the paralog of BLVRB) and SNCB (beta-synuclein, the paralog of SNCA) and SNCA. BLVR-A and SNCB expression is not correlated with SNCA expression.

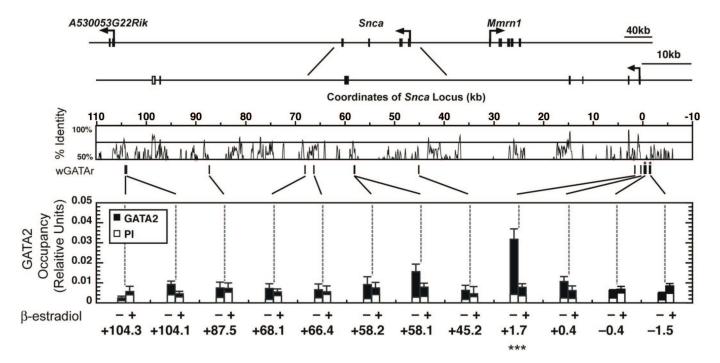


Fig. S3. Endogenous GATA-2 specifically occupies *Snca* intron-1 in the absence of GATA-1. The organization of the murine *Snca* locus with respect to neighboring genes on chromosome 6 and Vista plot are shown as in Fig. 4. Endogenous GATA-2 specifically occupies a WGATAR motif in intron-1 of the *SNCA* locus in the absence of GATA-1 (\*\*\*). Endogenous GATA-2 occupancy is shown, measured by quantitative ChIP analysis in G1E-ER-GATA-1 cells, in which ER-GATA-1 was uninduced. The bar graphs depict relative GATA-2 occupancy in uninduced G1E-ER-GATA-1 cells at each of the 12 sites described in Fig. 4 (mean ± standard error, at least three independent experiments) measured by ChIP. Preimmune serum (PI) was used as a control.

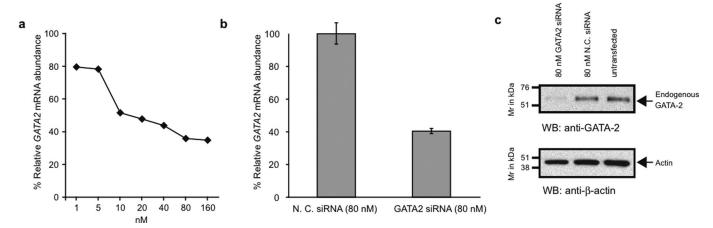


Fig. S4. (a) Quantitative PCR shows a dose-dependent reduction of *GATA2* mRNA abundance after transfection with 1–160 nM *GATA2* siRNA. (b) Transfection with 80 nM *GATA2* siRNA levels is sufficient to reliably knock down *GATA2* mRNA abundance to 40% of the abundance in cells transfected with negative control siRNA. (c) GATA-2 protein levels are substantially reduced after transfection with 80 nM *GATA2* siRNA by Western blot analysis compared with negative control transfected and untransfected cells.

Table S1. SNCA expression highly correlates with the expression of 35 unique genes in the discovery set

		Spearman rank correlation coefficient				<i>P</i> -value			
	Gene symbol	SNCAa	<i>SNCA</i> <sup>b</sup>	SNCAc	<i>SNCA</i> <sup>d</sup>	SNCA <sup>a</sup>	SNCA <sup>b</sup>	SNCA <sup>c</sup>	SNCA <sup>d</sup>
1	ADIPOR1	0.86	0.71	0.76	0.78	7.6e-07	1.5e-04	3.0e-05	1.3e-05
2	ALAS2	0.84	0.85	0.80	0.82	4.4e-07	5.1e-07	4.5e-06	9.3e-07
3	BLVRB	0.89	0.74	0.79	0.78	1.6e-06	6.2e-05	9.2e-06	1.5e-05
4	BNIP3L	0.82	0.73	0.71	0.78	1.1e-06	9.5e-05	1.5e-04	1.6e-05
5	BPGM	0.89	0.86	0.86	0.91	1.6e-06	6.2e-07	5.9e-07	2.0e-06
6	CA1	0.89	0.82	0.84	0.87	1.7e-06	1.2e-06	4.4e-07	1.1e-06
7	EPB42	0.91	0.83	0.90	0.85	2.0e-06	7.4e-07	1.8e-06	4.8e-07
8	EPN1	0.86	0.69	0.78	0.85	7.0e-07	2.4e-04	1.2e-05	4.4e-07
9	ERAF	0.91	0.79	0.84	0.92	1.9e-06	9.2e-06	4.9e-07	2.0e-06
10	FBXO7	0.87	0.78	0.77	0.75	1.1e-06	1.3e-05	2.4e-05	4.5e-05
11	FECHb*	0.88	0.84	0.86	0.91	1.3e-06	4.7e-07	7.6e-07	1.9e-06
12	GLRX5	0.90	0.84	0.83	0.92	1.8e-06	4.9e-07	8.6e-07	2.0e-06
13	GMPR	0.88	0.88	0.83	0.80	1.2e-06	1.2e-06	7.4e-07	6.1e-06
14	GSPT1	0.91	0.83	0.81	0.84	1.9e-06	6.0e-07	2.7e-06	4.6e-07
	GSPT1	0.87	0.81	0.78	0.75	9.9e-07	2.7e-06	1.6e-05	4.3e-05
15	GYPA	0.85	0.65	0.73	0.76	4.9e-07	6.2e-04	7.7e-05	2.7e-05
16	GYPB	0.81	0.70	0.67	0.76	1.9e-06	1.8e-04	3.9e-04	2.7e-05
	GYPB	0.91	0.86	0.87	0.90	1.9e-06	6.5e-07	1.1e-06	1.8e-06
17	HBD	0.94	0.81	0.86	0.89	2.1e-06	2.4e-06	6.7e-07	1.5e-06
18	HBLD2	0.82	0.76	0.83	0.88	1.3e-06	2.7e-05	5.4e-07	1.4e-06
19	IL8	0.88	0.85	0.80	0.84	1.2e-06	5.5e-07	4.5e-06	5.1e-07
20	LGALS3	0.84	0.85	0.83	0.81	4.9e-07	4.8e-07	8.0e-07	2.7e-06
21	MKRN1	0.82	0.83	0.76	0.74	1.2e-06	6.9e-07	3.0e-05	6.2e-05
	MKRN1	0.84	0.79	0.71	0.73	4.4e-07	8.2e-06	1.7e-04	9.8e-05
22	MPP1	0.85	0.78	0.71	0.72	5.1e-07	1.1e-05	1.6e-04	1.3e-04
23	NUDT4	0.85	0.86	0.75	0.80	4.9e-07	6.7e-07	5.1e-05	3.6e-06
24	PIP5K2A	0.88	0.74	0.83	0.87	1.4e-06	6.9e-05	5.4e-07	1.1e-06
25	PPM1A	0.88	0.77	0.83	0.85	1.2e-06	2.1e-05	5.4e-07	5.5e-07
26	PRDX2	0.87	0.73	0.79	0.89	1.1e-06	8.5e-05	6.5e-06	1.6e-06
27	PSMF1	0.82	0.73	0.78	0.74	1.5e-06	9.8e-05	1.4e-05	6.9e-05
28	RIOK3	0.84	0.79	0.84	0.81	4.5e-07	9.2e-06	4.4e-07	3.0e-06
	RIOK3	0.82	0.66	0.70	0.79	1.1e-06	5.7e-04	1.9e-04	7.8e-06
29	RNF10	0.83	0.87	0.82	0.80	6.0e-07	9.9e-07	1.6e-06	4.8e-06
30	RNF14	0.83	0.77	0.76	0.82	8.0e-07	2.4e-05	3.0e-05	1.1e-06
31	RPIA	0.86	0.80	0.83	0.79	7.3e-07	5.7e-06	8.0e-07	8.7e-06
32	SELENBP1	0.91	0.84	0.86	0.83	1.9e-06	4.5e-07	7.6e-07	8.6e-07
-	SNCAª	1.00	0.81	0.92	0.94	1.2e-06	2.6e-06	2.0e-06	2.0e-06
	SNCAb	0.81	1.00	0.80	0.79	2.6e-06	1.2e-06	4.5e-06	7.7e-06
	SNCA	0.92	0.80	1.00	0.94	2.0e-06	4.5e-06	1.2e-06	2.0e-06
	SNCA <sup>d</sup>	0.94	0.79	0.94	1.00	2.0e-06	7.8e-06	2.0e-06	1.2e-06
33	SNX3	0.83	0.57	0.65	0.72	5.7e-07	3.0e-03	6.2e-04	1.0e-04
34	TMOD1	0.85	0.79	0.79	0.75	4.8e-07	7.3e-06	9.7e-06	4.2e-05
35	TRAK2	0.87	0.76	0.72	0.80	1.1e-06	3.2e-05	1.1e-04	4.2e-06
				v =	0.00		5.25 55		0 00

SNCA<sup>a</sup>, 204466\_s\_at; SNCA<sup>b</sup>, 204467\_s\_at; SNCA<sup>c</sup>, 207827\_x\_at; SNCA<sup>d</sup>, 211546\_x\_at; FECH<sup>b</sup>, 203116\_s\_at.

<sup>\*</sup>Only probes meeting the  $R \ge 0.81$  threshold are listed. The FECH<sup>a</sup> probe did not meet this threshold and is not listed here.

Table S2. Expression of  $\emph{SNCA}$  and three heme metabolism genes is tightly correlated

Blood dataset	Platform	No. of samples	No. of probes
PDBS	Affymetrix HG-U133A	22	22,283
MGH HG-U133A	Affymetrix HG-U133A	14	22,283
MGH CodeLink	CodeLink Uniset 20k	14	19,745
Stanford	Custom	77	37,402

Table S3. Validation of the correlation in SNCA and FECH, ALAS2, and BLVRB expression

				Gene level			
Study	Dataset	Platform	Correlated probes	Corr. coeff.	<i>P</i> -value	Probe-level replication	Replication
		Validation o	f the correlation in SNCA	A and FECH	expression		
1	MGH HG-U133A	Affymetrix	SNCAa and FECHa	0.78	0.00068	Yes	Yes
			SNCAb and FECHa	0.42	0.067	No	
			SNCA <sup>c</sup> and FECH <sup>a</sup>	0.8	0.00043	Yes	
			SNCAd and FECHa	0.52	0.027	Yes	
			SNCAa and FECHb	0.65	0.0056	Yes	
			SNCAb and FECHb	0.48	0.039	Yes	
			SNCA <sup>c</sup> and FECH <sup>b</sup>	0.69	0.0028	Yes	
			SNCAd and FECHb	0.71	0.0022	Yes	
2	MGH CodeLink	GE HealthCare	SNCA and FECHa	0.63	0.0093	Yes	Yes
3	Stanford	Custom cDNA array	SNCA and FECHa	0.54	0.00000015	Yes	Yes
			SNCA and FECHb	0.64	0.0000000018	Yes	
		Validation of	the correlation in SNCA	and ALAS2	expression		
1	MGH HG-U133A	Affymetrix	SNCAa and ALAS2	0.76	0.0011	Yes	Yes
			SNCAb and ALAS2	0.38	0.089	No	
			SNCA <sup>c</sup> and ALAS2	0.73	0.0019	Yes	
			SNCAd and ALAS2	0.71	0.003	Yes	
2	MGH CodeLink	GE HealthCare	SNCA and ALAS2	0.59	0.015	Yes	Yes
3	Stanford	Custom cDNA array	SNCA and ALAS2	0.67	0.000000000016	Yes	Yes
		Validation of	the correlation in SNCA	and BLVRB	expression		
1	MGH HG-U133A	Affymetrix	SNCAa and BLVRB	0.64	0.0079	Yes	Yes
			SNCAb and BLVRB	0.36	0.1	No	
			SNCA <sup>c</sup> and BLVRB	0.67	0.005	Yes	
			SNCAd and BLVRB	0.5	0.03	Yes	
2	MGH CodeLink	GE HealthCare	SNCA and BLVRB	0.41	0.07	No	No
3	Stanford	Custom cDNA array	SNCA and BLVRB	0.42	0.000066	Yes	Yes

SNCA<sup>a</sup>, 204466\_s\_at; SNCA<sup>b</sup>, 204467\_s\_at; SNCA<sup>c</sup>, 207827\_x\_at; SNCA<sup>d</sup>, 211546\_x\_at; FECH<sup>a</sup>, 203115\_at; FECH<sup>b</sup>, 203116\_s\_at. Corr. coeff., Spearman's rank correlation coefficient.