Genome-wide Association Study Identifies Five Susceptibility Loci for Follicular Lymphoma outside the HLA Region

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Genome-wide association studies (GWASs) of follicular lymphoma (FL) have previously identified human leukocyte antigen (HLA) gene variants. To identify additional FL susceptibility loci, we conducted a large-scale two-stage GWAS in 4,523 case subjects and 13,344 control subjects of European ancestry. Five non-HLA loci were associated with FL risk: 11q23.3 (rs4938573, p = 5.79 \times 10⁻²⁰) near CXCR5; 11q24.3 (rs4937362, p = 6.76 \times 10⁻¹¹) near ETS1; 3q28 (rs6444305, p = 1.10 \times 10⁻¹⁰) in LPP; 18q21.33 (rs17749561, p = 8.28 \times 10⁻¹⁰) near BCL2; and 8q24.21 (rs13254990, $p = 1.06 \times 10^{-8}$) near PVT1. In an analysis of the HLA region, we identified four linked HLA-DRβ1 multiallelic amino acids at positions 11, 13, 28, and 30 that were associated with FL risk ($p_{\text{omnibus}} = 4.20 \times 10^{-67}$ to 2.67 $\times 10^{-70}$). Additional independent signals included rs17203612 in HLA class II (odds ratio [OR $_{\rm per\text{-}altele}$] = 1.44; p = 4.59 \times 10⁻¹⁶) and rs3130437 in HLA class I (OR $_{per\text{-allele}}$ = 1.23; p = 8.23 \times 10⁻⁹). Our findings further expand the number of loci associated with FL and provide evidence that multiple common variants outside the HLA region make a significant contribution to FL risk.

Follicular lymphoma (FL [MIM 613024]) is a common B cell malignancy characterized by a variable indolent clinical course that can take decades to manifest and, in some cases, can be followed by transformation to aggressive diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL). $1,2$ The previous genome-wide association studies (GWASs) of relatively small sample sizes have revealed FL susceptibility loci in the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) class I and class II regions on 6p21.32-33. $3-7$ To identify new FL susceptibility loci, we genotyped 2,301 FL case subjects and 2,854 control subjects of European descent from 22 studies (NCI FL GWAS) as part of a larger initiative using the Illumina OmniExpress Beadchip [\(Table S1](#page-6-0); [Figure S1](#page-6-0) available online). All studies obtained informed consent from participants and approval from the respective Institutional Review Boards for this study. Cases were ascertained from cancer registries, clinics, or hospitals or through self-report verified by medical and pathology reports ([Table S1](#page-6-0)). The phenotype information for all cases was reviewed centrally at the International Lymphoma Epidemiology Consortium (InterLymph) Data Coordinating Center, and cases were classified according to the proposed scheme by the InterLymph Pathology Working Group based on the World Health Organization (WHO) classification (2008) [\(Table S1](#page-6-0)). Genotypes were called using Illumina GenomeStudio software, and quality-control duplicates showed >99% concordance. All initial data analyses and management were conducted using the Genotyping Library and Utilities (GLU), and extensive quality-control metrics were applied to the data. Specifically, monomorphic SNPs and SNPs with call rates <93% were removed, and samples with call rates \leq 93%, mean heterozygosity $<$ 0.25 or $>$ 0.33 based on the autosomal SNPs, or gender discordance (>5% heterozygosity on the X chromosome for males and <20% heterozygosity on the X chromosome for females) were excluded. Unexpected duplicates (>99.9% concordance) and first-degree relatives on the basis of identity-by-descent sharing with Pi-hat >0.40 were removed. Ancestry was assessed using the GLU struct.admix module, and participants with $<80\%$ European ancestry were also excluded [\(Figure S2](#page-6-0)). After these quality-control steps, 94% of the participants and 611,844 SNPs remained for analysis [\(Tables S2](#page-6-0) and [S3](#page-6-0)). Genotype data previously generated on the Illumina Omni2.5 BeadChip 8 from an additional 3,536 control subjects from 3 of the 22 studies (ATBC, CPSII, and PLCO) were

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^a Position according to human reference NCBI37/hg19.
^bAllele associated with an increased risk of FL.
^cRisk allele frequency in controls.
^dCochran's Q test heterogeneity p value.
^eI² heterogeneity index.

also included, resulting in a total of 2,142 FL case subjects and 6,221 control subjects for analysis (NCI FL GWAS; [Table S4](#page-6-0)).

To evaluate population substructure, a principal components analysis was conducted using the GLU struct.pca module. Plots of the top principal components are shown in [Figure S3.](#page-6-0) Association testing was conducted assuming a log-additive genetic model adjusted for age, sex, and significant principal components. A quantile-quantile plot of the association results revealed an enrichment of SNPs with small p values even after removal of all SNPs in the HLA region, which has been previously reported to be associated with FL (lambda $= 1.018$, [Figure S4](#page-6-0)). In addition to the HLA region, one locus on 11q23.3 reached genome-wide statistical significance (p $<$ 5 \times 10⁻⁸) ([Figure S5](#page-6-0)).

To increase power to detect associations in stage 1, we added data on 586 FL case subjects and 1,537 control subjects from two independent previously published GWASs $(UCSF2⁴$ $(UCSF2⁴$ $(UCSF2⁴$ and SCALE^{[3](#page-7-0)}) to the newly genotyped NCI FL GWAS [\(Tables S1](#page-6-0) and [S4](#page-6-0); [Figure S1](#page-6-0)). Because different genotyping platforms were used ([Table S2](#page-6-0)), we imputed all three GWASs (NCI, UCSF2, SCALE) using the 1000 Genomes Project (1kGP) v.3 (March 2012 release) refer-ence panel^{[9](#page-8-0)} and IMPUTE2.^{[10](#page-8-0)} The genotype data underwent rigorous quality control filters before imputation

ated Locus rs4938573 in 11q23.3 Figure shows the association results from the NCI FL GWAS and stages 1 and 2 combined (red diamond), recombination hotspots, and LD plots.

([Table S2](#page-6-0)), and association testing was conducted separately for each study using SNPTEST v.2 adjusted for age, sex, and significant principal components.

Association results from the NCI FL GWAS and the two previously genotyped GWASs (totaling 2,728 case subjects, 7,758 control subjects in stage 1) were analyzed in a meta-analysis using a fixed-effects inverse-variance method based on the β estimates and standard errors from each study. Only SNPs with information scores >0.3 were included in the metaanalysis. In the stage 1 meta-analysis, we identified three non-HLA loci (11q23.3, 11q24.3, and 3q13.33) that reached genome-wide significance ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$). To confirm these loci and discover additional loci, 11 non-HLA SNPs with $p < 5 \times$ 10^{-6} from the stage 1 meta-analysis

were chosen for replication in stage 2. Only SNPs with a $MAF > 1\%$ were considered for replication, and no SNPs were taken forward for replication in regions where they appeared to be singletons or obvious artifacts. Stage 2 replication was undertaken in a new set of 1,795 FL case subjects and 5,586 control subjects, which included 119 case subjects and 349 control subjects from another GWAS (UCSF1/NHS) genotyped on the OmniExpress microarray and imputed using $IMPUTE2^{10}$ $IMPUTE2^{10}$ $IMPUTE2^{10}$ and the 1kGP data,^{[9](#page-8-0)} and 1,676 cases and 5,237 controls with de novo genotyping ([Tables S1](#page-6-0), [S2](#page-6-0), and [S4](#page-6-0)). All 11 SNPs were either directly genotyped or had a high imputation information score (average information score $= 0.92$). Genotyping of these 11 SNPs by TaqMan (Applied Biosystems) in 470 subjects from the NCI GWAS yielded >88.9% concordance with the imputed dosages (median concordance $= 99.6\%$), indicating that imputation accuracy was high. Association testing was conducted for each study using either GLU (de novo genotyping) or SNPTEST (UCSF1/NHS), adjusting for relevant factors.

Results from the stage 1 and 2 studies were then metaanalyzed using a fixed effects model. In the combined meta-analysis, we found five non-HLA loci that achieved genome-wide significance ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) at 11q23.3 (rs4938573, $p = 5.79 \times 10^{-20}$), 11q24.3 (rs4937362, $p =$ 6.76 \times 10⁻¹¹), 3q28 (rs6444305, p = 1.10 \times 10⁻¹⁰),

18q21.33 (rs17749561, $p = 8.28 \times 10^{-10}$), and 8q24.21 (rs13254990, $p = 1.06 \times 10^{-8}$); and three suggestive loci $(p < 5 \times 10^{-7})$ at 17q25.3 (rs3751913, $p = 2.24 \times 10^{-7}$), 3q13.33 (rs2681416, $p = 2.33 \times 10^{-7}$), and 18q12.3 (rs11082438, $p = 4.01 \times 10^{-7}$) ([Table 1](#page-2-0)). Two of the five loci that reached genome-wide significance in the stage 1 and 2 meta-analysis (11q23.3 and 11q24.3) were genome-wide significant in the stage 1 meta-analysis and were robustly replicated in stage 2 ($p = 3.17 \times 10^{-10}$ and $p = 0.0002$, respectively). The remaining three loci achieved genome-wide significance after inclusion of the stage 2 data and therefore would benefit from further validation in other independent samples.

rs4938573 at 11q23.3 maps 12.6 kb upstream of the chemokine (c-x-c motif) receptor 5 gene (CXCR5 [MIM 601613]) ([Figure 1](#page-3-0)). The 11q24.3 locus marked by rs4937362 ($p = 6.76 \times 10^{-11}$) is approximately 35 kb upstream of v-ets avian erythroblastosis virus E26 oncogene homolog 1 (ETS1 [MIM 164720]) (Figure 2). The 3q28 locus marked by rs6444305 maps to a region that overlaps the LIM domain containing preferred translocation partner in lipoma (LPP [MIM 600700]) and is 836.4 kb upstream of BCL6 (MIM 109565) [\(Figure 3\)](#page-5-0). rs17749561 in 18q21.33 is located 7.4 kb downstream of the antiapoptotic oncogene, B cell CLL/lymphoma 2 (BCL2 [MIM 151430]) [\(Figure 4\)](#page-6-0); and rs13254990 at

ated Locus rs4937362 in 11q24.3

Figure shows the association results from the NCI NHL GWAS and stages 1 and 2 combined (red diamond), recombination hotspots, and LD plots.

8q24.21 maps near the oncogene, plasmacytoma variant translocation 1 gene (PVT1 [MIM 165140]) ([Fig](#page-7-0)[ure 5\)](#page-7-0). Characteristics of these loci are presented in [Table S5.](#page-6-0) The suggestive SNP rs3751913 is in chromosome 17 opening reading frame 62 (C17orf62); rs2681416 is in CD86 molecule (CD86) (MIM 601020); and rs11082438 is in solute carrier 14A2 (SLC14A2 [MIM 601611]) ([Table 1](#page-2-0), [Figure S6\)](#page-6-0). Using the Cochran's Q test and by estimating the I^2 heterogeneity index, no substantial heterogeneity was observed among the studies for any SNP ($p_{heterogeneity} \geq 0.05$) except for the suggestive locus, rs2681416 at 3q13.33 ([Table 1\)](#page-2-0). Although the p value for heterogeneity for rs13254990 was borderline significant, all of the effect estimates for the individual studies were above 1.0.

To explore potential functional roles for associated SNPs and their surrogates ($r^2 > .80$) and to assess the B cell-specific chromatin dynamics of regions overlapping with the associated SNPs, we conducted HaploReg 11 11 11 and ChroMoS analyses. $12,13$ Here we found that three loci, 11q23.3, 3q13.33, and 8q24.21, were annotated as overlapping enhancers in the lymphoblastoid cell line $GM12878$, 14 14 14 suggesting that our GWAS signals map to variants that overlap within regions of active chromatin state in B cells ([Table S6;](#page-6-0) [Figure S7](#page-6-0)). However, an expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) analysis using publicly available RNA sequencing data on lymphoblastoid cell lines (available from the Gene Expression Omnibus [GEO] repository under accession number GSE16921) yielded no notable $(FDR < 0.05)$ associations of the selected SNPs with gene expression levels. Additional analysis using microarray data (GEO accession number GSE8052) did not reveal any significant eQTL associations for the genome-wide significant loci, although the suggestive SNP, rs3751913, was associated with C17orf62 expression (data not shown). Thus, further work is needed to identify and characterize the biological basis of these FL susceptibility alleles.

Consistent with previous smaller reports, the strongest effects on FL risk were observed in the HLA region at 6p21.32-33, where 8,104 SNPs achieved genome-wide

significance ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in the stage 1 meta-analysis ([Figure S8\)](#page-6-0). One top SNP, rs12195582, was carried forward for replication in stage 2 and reached a combined $p =$ 5.36 \times 10⁻¹⁰⁰ in stages 1+2 [\(Table 1\)](#page-2-0). To further refine the association of HLA variants with FL risk and determine whether specific coding variants within HLA genes contributed to the diverse association signals, we imputed classical HLA alleles and amino acids (AAs) at seven loci (HLA-A [MIM 142800], HLA-B [MIM 142830], HLA-C [MIM 142840], HLA-DQA1 [MIM 146880], HLA-DQB1 [MIM 604305], HLA-DRB1 [MIM 142857], and HLA-DPB1 [MIM 142858]) on the four GWAS data sets from stages $1+2$ (NCI, USCF2, SCALE, UCSF1/NHS) using SNP2HLA^{[15](#page-8-0)} and a reference panel from the Type 1 Diabetes Genetics Consortium (T1DGC) consisting of genotype data from 5,225 individuals of European descent that were typed for classical HLA alleles. The imputation accuracy of HLA types was high (>95.23%) when compared to HLA sequencing data on a subset of NCI and UCSF2 samples scanned as part of this study. $16,17$ Due to the limited number of SNPs (7,253) in the T1DGC reference set, imputation of HLA SNPs was conducted with IMPUTE2 and the 1kGP reference set. A total of 68,488 SNPs, 201 classical HLA alleles (two- and four-digit resolution), and 1,038 AA markers including 103 AA positions that were

ated Locus rs6444305 in 3q28

Figure shows the association results from the NCI FL GWAS and stages 1 and 2 combined (red diamond), recombination hotspots, and LD plots.

"multiallelic" with three to six different residues present at each position, were successfully imputed (information score > 0.3 for SNPs or $r^2 > 0.3$ for alleles and AAs) and available for downstream analysis. Association testing was conducted using PLINK, 18 where multiallelic markers were analyzed as binary markers (e.g., allele present or absent). A meta-analysis was conducted where we tested SNPs, HLA alleles, and AAs across the HLA region for association to FL. Among the imputed AAs and HLA alleles tested, the top associated signal mapped to a $DR\beta1$ AA at position 28 that carries three possible amino acids: Glu, Asp, and His. Asp was associated with low $(OR = 0.53; p = 6.1 \times 10^{-72})$ and Glu with high (OR = $1.86;$ p = 7.99 \times 10⁻⁶⁹) FL risk ([Table S7](#page-6-0)). Global omnibus tests of position 28 $(2.49 \times 10^{-67} \le p \le 3.84 \times 10^{-67})$

and other nearby $DR\beta1$ AA positions at 11, 13, and 30 yielded statistically similar associations with FL risk ([Table](#page-6-0) [S9](#page-6-0)). These results support the previously reported association between FL and DRß1 position 13 in a small study of Europeans.^{[19](#page-8-0)} However, due to the high LD between positions 11, 13, 28, and 30, we were unable to determine the significance of one position at the exclusion of the other through reciprocal conditional analyses. The most significant imputed two- or four-digit HLA allele in our analysis was DRB1*01 (OR = 1.85; $p = 2.57 \times 10^{-42}$) [\(Table S7\)](#page-6-0), encoded by Glu28, Cys30, Phe13, and Leu11 ([Table S9\)](#page-6-0). An association with FL risk was found for HLA-DRB1*07:01 that is also encoded by residues at 11, 13, 28, and 30 $(p = 1.59 \times 10^{-20})$ [\(Table S9\)](#page-6-0). Positions 11, 13, 28, and 30 reside in the middle of the HLA-DR heterodimer molecule in the peptide binding cleft ([Figure S9](#page-6-0)) that specifically impact binding pockets 4, 6, and 7. These are key peptide binding anchors in $DR\beta1^{20}$ $DR\beta1^{20}$ $DR\beta1^{20}$ that influence binding preferences of alleles, 21 21 21 suggesting an important role for DR_{B1} peptide presentation in follicular lymphomagenesis.

To identify independent HLA variants controlling for DR β 1 28 (used as a surrogate for the 11, 13, 28, and 30 group), we included all genotyped and imputed HLA SNPs, AAs, and alleles in a forward stepwise analysis. The most significant variant after controlling for $DR\beta1$ 28 was

rs17203612 ($p = 4.59 \times 10^{-16}$), an intergenic SNP 39.2 kb and 99.7 kb downstream of HLA-DRA (MIM 142860) and HLA-DRB1, respectively ([Figure 6;](#page-8-0) Table S10). A conditional analysis on DRß1 28 and rs17203612 revealed that the next most statistically significant variant was rs3130437 $(p = 8.23 \times 10^{-9})$ located 15.6 kb downstream of HLA-C in HLA class I [\(Figure 6;](#page-8-0) Table S10). After controlling for DRb1 28, rs17203612, and rs3130437, no additional signals with $p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ were observed ([Figure 6\)](#page-8-0). Of note, we did see a residual signal ($p = 8.18 \times 10^{-6}$) at the functionally relevant DP β 1 Glu84 position,^{[22](#page-9-0)} a reported risk locus for Hodgkin lymphoma.^{[23](#page-9-0)} A conditional analysis of DRb1 28, rs17203612, and rs3130437 eliminated the majority of residual effects for the previously reported HLA SNPs and alleles associated with FL (Table S11).

We conducted a series of preliminary bioinformatics analyses to explore the potential functional relevance of rs17203612 and rs3130437 using publicly available RNA sequencing expression and methylation data and found significant (FDR < 0.05) gene expression and methylation differences associated with rs17203612- and rs3130437 linked SNPs (Tables S12 and S13). Specifically, we found significant gene expression changes associated with rs12194148, a proxy for rs17203612, in class II (HLA-DRB5 [MIM 604776], HLA-DRB6, HLA-DRB1, HLA-DQB1, HLA-DQB2 [MIM 615161], HLA-DQA1, HLA-DQA2 [MIM

Figure 4. Regional Plots of the Associated Locus rs17749561 in 18q21.33 Figure shows the association results from the NCI FL GWAS and stages 1 and 2 combined (red diamond), recombination hotspots, and LD plots.

613503], BTNL2 [MIM 606000], C6orf25); and with rs3130439, a proxy for rs3130437, in HLA class I (PSORS1C2, PSORS1C3, DPCR1 [MIM 613928]) (Table S12). Of note, ten of the rs17203612-linked SNPs that showed correlation with higher HLA-DQB1 expression also showed correlation with lower HLA-DQB1 methylation levels (Table S12) that further supports the potential role of HLA class II FL-associated SNPs in $HLA-DQB1$ regulation.^{[24,25](#page-9-0)} Additional eQTL analyses using microarray data also suggested potential eQTL associations with HLA-C, TCF19 (MIM 600912), and HLA-B expression (Table S14). However, we did not observe significant enrichment of particular regulatory markers within these associated regions, although overlap with some regulatory signals was observed (Table S15).

In summary, our study identified five non-HLA susceptibility alleles that were robustly associated with FL risk. Moreover, our work highlights the important role of HLA structural variants and regulatory SNPs in the etiology of FL, advances the catalog of HLA and non-HLA genetic variants associated with FL risk, and provides further evidence for a role of DRb1 peptide presentation in FL. Functional studies will be required to elucidate the biological basis of these loci and to determine their role in follicular lymphomagenesis.

Supplemental Data

Supplemental Data include 9 figures, 15 tables, and Supplemental Acknowledgments and can be found with this article online at [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2014.09.004.](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2014.09.004)

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ated Locus rs13254990 in 8q24.21 Figure shows the association results from

the NCI FL GWAS and stages 1 and 2 combined (red diamond), recombination hotspots, and LD plots.

Web Resources

The URLs for data presented herein are as follows:

1000 Genomes, <http://browser.1000genomes.org>

ChroMoS, <http://epicenter.immunbio.mpg.de/services/chromos>

Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO), [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/) [geo/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/)

glu-genetics, <https://code.google.com/p/glu-genetics/>

HaploReg, [http://www.broadinstitute.org/mammals/haploreg/](http://www.broadinstitute.org/mammals/haploreg/haploreg.php) [haploreg.php](http://www.broadinstitute.org/mammals/haploreg/haploreg.php)

IMPUTE2, http://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/impute/impute_v2.html

Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM), [http://www.](http://www.omim.org/) [omim.org/](http://www.omim.org/)

PLINK, [http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/~purcell/plink/](http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/%7Epurcell/plink/)

SNP2HLA, <https://www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/snp2hla/>

snptest, [https://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/genetics_software/snptest/](https://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/genetics_software/snptest/old/snptest.html) [old/snptest.html](https://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/genetics_software/snptest/old/snptest.html)

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Figure 6. Sequential Conditioned Association Analysis in the HLA Region at 6p22.1-21.32: 29,400–33,400 kb

Each gray diamond represents the p value from the meta-analysis of the four GWASs. Among all the AAs and HLA alleles tested, the top associated signal mapped to the AA $DR\beta1$ at position 28 (top). After conditioning on DRb1 28, rs17203612 in the HLA class II region was the marker with the highest association (second from top). Further analysis conditioning on both signals revealed rs3130437 in HLA class I as the most significant associated marker (second from bottom). No additional genome-wide significant signals were observed after controlling for the effects of DRb1 28, rs17203612, and rs3130437 (bottom). Plots derived using genome assembly hg19.

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The American Journal of Human Genetics, Volume *95* **Supplemental Data**

Genome-wide Association Study Identifies Five Susceptibility Loci for Follicular Lymphoma outside the HLA Region

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1. SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES

Figure S1. Schematic of the study design.

European

Figure S2. Plot of estimated admixture for individuals genotyped in the NCI FL GWAS. Individuals with <80% European ancestry were excluded.

Figure S3: Plot of top eigenvectors from the NCI FL GWAS based on principal components analysis.

Figure S4. Quantile-quantile (Q-Q) plot of the association results for the genotyped SNPs for follicular lymphoma from the NCI FL GWAS before (red) and after removing SNPs located in the HLA region (green).

Figure S5. Genome-wide *P***-values for the association results from the NCI FL GWAS plotted against their respective chromosomal positions. Shown are the two-sided P-values obtained using the Cochran–Armitage trend test from 611,844 autosomal SNPs in 2,142 cases and 6,221 controls. The red horizontal line represents the genome-wide significance threshold level (***P***<5.0x10-8).**

Figure S6A-C. Regional plots of the non-HLA regions approaching significance with risk of follicular lymphoma. The figure shows the association results from stage 1 (gray dots) and stages 1+2 combined (red diamond), recombination hotspots and LD plots for the associated loci: rs3751913 in 17q25.3 (A), rs2681416 in 3q13.33 (B), and rs11082438 in 18q12.3 (C).

Figure S7. Chromatin states affected by follicular lymphoma associated SNPs.

Figure S8A-B. Regional plots of the FL associated loci in the HLA region. Figure shows the association results for the HLA region (30-33Mb) (A), where the main association peak can be observed in the HLA Class II (32-33Mb), as well a zoom-in on the HLA Class I region (B), where a secondary peak can be observed approximately at 31-31.4Mb. SNPs are colored based on LD with the most significantly associated SNP in the region.

Figure S9. **3D-structural configuration of HLA-DRβ1 residues around the peptide binding groove. Amino acid residues at DRβ1 positions 11, 13, 28, and 30 are labeled and all have direct contact with the peptide in the binding groove**.

2. SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES

^aNumber of cases and controls with DNA available; however, not all subjects had sufficient DNA for scanning and/or Taqman genotyping. Only a subset of controls with DNA was selected for scanning in stage 1.

 b Controls scanned previously on the Illumina Omni2.5.

^CNo controls were ascertained for this study. For the replication, the Iowa-Mayo SPORE and the Mayo Case-Control studies were considered to be a single study.

Table S1. Description and study design of studies included in stages 1 and 2.

This GWAS of FL was part of a larger initiative that included participants of European descent from 22 NHL studies including 9 prospective cohort studies, and 8 population-based and 5 clinic- or hospital-based case-control studies. All studies obtained informed consent from participants and approval from the respective Institutional Review Boards for this study. Cases were ascertained from cancer registries, clinics or hospitals or through self-report verified by medical and pathology reports. The phenotype information for all NHL cases was reviewed centrally at the International Lymphoma Epidemiology Consortium (InterLymph) Data Coordinating Center and harmonized according to the hierarchical classification proposed by the InterLymph Pathology Working Group based on the World Health Organization (WHO) classification (2008)^{33; 34}

^aA total of 3536 control subjects from ATBC, CPSII and PLCO cohorts that previously genotyped on Illumina Omni 2.5M chips were pooled into the NCI set.

^bUse both MAF>0.0001 and INFO>0.3 for post imputation SNP filtering. NCI set resulted in more SNPs being retained for analysis.

Table S2. Information on genotyping methods, quality control, imputation, and analysis for GWAS.

Table S3. Subjects genotyped, quality control exclusions, and final subjects included in the NCI FL GWAS

Table S4. Characteristics of the cases and controls included in the final analysis for stages 1-2.

Table S5. Characteristics of the non-HLA loci that showed genome-wide significance.

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Contract Contract Contract Contract

Table S6. Results from HaploReg analysis of newly discovered and promising follicular lymphoma risk loci outside HLA and their correlated (*r* **2 > 0.80) surrogates.**

^aP=presence of allele, A=absence of allele
^bEAF=effect allele frequency

^cInformation is the imputation quality score (r^2) from Beagle

Table S7. Top HLA amino acid and allele associations from the univariate analysis of HLA imputations.

Table S8. Global omnibus tests for associations between follicular lymphoma risk and DRβ1 AA positions at 11, 13, 28 and 30.

Table S9. Follicular lymphoma (FL)-associated amino acid positions in HLA-DRβ1. Residue combinations of the DRβ1 amino acid positions 11, 13, 28, and 30 were associated with an increased risk of FL. Each DRB1 allele is shown with the observed frequency in controls and the amino acids carried by that allele, found in the IMmunoGeneTics/HLA Database, Release 3.15.0 (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ipd/imgt/hla/).

Table S10. Results of HLA forward stepwise conditional analysis.

Table S11. HLA SNPs, HLA alleles and amino acids previously reported as associated with risk of follicular lymphoma and p-values after conditioning on DRB1 position 28, rs17203612 and rs3130437.

A1/A2 = minor/major allele in HapMap-CEU r28. Gene expression changes were estimated for the minor allele.

*The highlighted eQTLs also showed significant correlation with lower methylation levels in the same gene.

Table S12. Results from the eQTL analysis of rs12194148 and rs3130439, proxies, respectively, for the independent markers in the HLA forward stepwise analysis, rs17203612 and rs3130437. eQTL analysis was performed using a publicly available RNA Seq dataset (GEO accession number GSE16921) containing

whole-genome gene expression data in transformed lymphoblastoid cell lines from 41 HapMap-CEU samples. Whole-genome genotyping data for the same HapMap-CEU individuals (release #28) were directly downloaded from HapMap. As the two SNPs that remained statistically significant in the stepwise conditional analysis, rs17203612 and rs3130439, were not available in HapMap, rs12194148 (r^2 = 0.98 with rs17203612) and rs3130439 (r^2 = 0.93 with rs3130437) were selected as proxies, and the eQTL analysis was conducted on these two proxies and SNPs in LD (r^2 > 0.8) by correlating genotype and expression levels of probes within 1Mb of the SNPs. Correlation between expression and genotype for each SNP-probe pair was tested using the Spearman's rank test with t-distribution approximation and were estimated with respect to the minor allele in HapMap-CEU. *P*-values were adjusted for multiple comparisons using the

Benjamini-Hochberg false-discovery rate (FDR) and eQTL were considered statistically significant at an FDR *P*-value threshold < 0.05.

^aA1/A2 = minor/major allele in HapMap-CEU r28. Methylation changes were estimated for the minor allele.

*The highlighted meQTLs also showed significant correlation with higher expression levels in the same gene

Table S13. Results from the meQTL analysis of rs12194148 and rs3130439, proxies, respectively, for the independent markers in the conditional analysis, rs17203612 and rs3130437. meQTL analysis was performed using a publicly available dataset (GEO accession number GSE27146) that contained 27,578 DNA methylation measurements near the transcription start sites of 14,000 genes in 180 HapMap samples. Methylation probes were mapped to the human genome sequence (hg19) using BLAT and those that mapped to multiple locations with up to two mismatches were discarded, leaving 26,375 probes for analysis. Only the 90 samples of CEU origin were used in this study, and only SNPs and methylation probes that were located within 50kb were tested for association. Correlation between SNP genotypes and methylation levels was tested using the Spearman's rank correlation test and estimated with respect to the minor allele in HapMap-CEU. meQTL were considered significant at an FDR adjusted *P*-value < 0.05.

^a Beta and p-value for the association between the NHL SNP and gene transcript.

b^bp-value for the association between the NHL SNP and gene transcript after adjustment for the peak SNP

^c Peak SNP is the most significant SNP associated with the gene transcript

^dBeta and p-value for the association between the peak SNP and the gene transcript

^eP-value for the association between the peak SNP and the gene transcript after adjustment for the NHL SNP

Table S14. Expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) associations with FDR < 1% from the childhood asthma dataset in the HLA region. eQTL analysis was conducted using a publicly available childhood asthma microarray dataset(GEO accession number GSE8052). As described previously for this dataset, peripheral blood lymphocytes were transformed into lymphoblastoid cell lines for 830 parents and offspring from 206 families of European ancestry. Using extracted RNA, gene expression was assessed with the Affymetrix HG-U133 Plus 2.0 chip. Genotyping was conducted using the Illumina Human1M Beadchip and Illumina HumanHap300K Beadchip, and imputation performed using data from 1000 Genomes Project. All SNPs selected for replication were tested for *cis* associations (defined as gene transcripts within 1 Mb), assuming an additive genetic model, adjusting for non-genetic effects in the gene expression value. To gain insight into the relative importance of eQTL associations with our SNPs compared to other SNPs in the region with stronger eQTL associations, we also conducted conditional analyses, in which both the FL SNP and the most significant SNP for the particular gene transcript (i.e., the peak SNP) were included in the same model. Only *cis* associations that reached P<6.8x10⁻⁵, which corresponds to a FDR of 1% are reported.

Table S15. Results from HaploReg analysis of HLA follicular lymphoma risk loci and their correlated (*r 2* **> 0.80) surrogates.**

3. **SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES**

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