SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental Methods:

Human liver tissues and human primary hepatocytes:

Human liver tissues were obtained from the Cooperative Human Tissue Network. Human primary hepatocytes (Hep4, Hep8, and Hep10) were obtained from the Liver Tissue Cell Distribution System (LTCDS, Pittsburgh, PA). The demographic information of liver tissues and hepatocytes is shown in Supplemental Table 6.

Preparation of 4C template: The 4C template for human primary hepatocytes was prepared as described ¹. Briefly, 10 million primary cultured human hepatocytes were detached with trypsin to obtain a single cell suspension. Then cells were cross-linked with 2% formaldehyde for 10 min before lysis to release cell nuclei. Cell nuclei were digested with DpnII at 37℃ overnight followed by proximity ligation with T4 ligase after a >20-fold dilution. After reverse crosslinking, the purified DNA was subjected to secondary digestion with NlaIII, followed again by proximity ligation in a diluted condition. The resulting DNA was purified by phenol/chloroform extraction.

PCR amplification of 4C template and Ion Torrent sequencing: We used our modified protocol² for 4C template amplification followed by Ion Torrent sequencing. Inverse primers were designed as described ³. PCR was performed over 25 cycles with inverse primers (Supplemental Table 3) specific to the *CYP7A1* promoter using 25 ng 4C templates. A total of 8 PCR reactions were performed and the PCR products combined. We used 100 ng DNA for Ion Torrent library preparation using the NEB Next Fast DNA library Preparation kit (New England BioLabs, Ipswich, MA, USA). After adaptor ligation, the DNA was purified with four columns of High

Pure PCR Product Purification columns (Roche, Madison, WI, USA) to avoid adaptor dimer contamination. The adaptor ligated library was PCR amplified for 8 cycles followed by DNA purification with 2 columns of High Pure PCR Product Purification columns. The amplified library was diluted and subjected to emulsion PCR using an Ion OneTouch 2 instrument (Life Technology, Grant Island, NY, USA). The resulting library was sequenced on Ion Torrent PGM using the Ion PGM 200 Sequencing kit (Life Technology). The sequencing data were analyzed with CLC Genomics Workbench 4.8 (CLC bio, Denmark) as described 2 . Since our goal is to identify *cis*-acting regulatory regions for *CYP7A1*, we focused our analysis on chromosome 8. To identify robust interacting fragments, we selected only replicated signals from two independent experiments, and focused on signals with >100 reads (two-fold genome-wide noise background).

Chromatin immuno-precipitation (ChIP) assays:

ChIP was performed in primary human hepatocytes using ChIP-IT Express Enzymatic kit (Active Motif, Carlsbad, CA, USA) with anti-p300 antibody (Active Motif #61401)². P300enriched DNA fragments were measured with real-time PCR using SYBR Green, and fold enrichment was calculated relative to a negative control without the p300 antibody. Multiple primer pairs (Supplemental Table 3) were designed for each test region (surrounding the highest 4C signal), and results with the highest enrichment are shown. Data are from three donors, each performed in triplicates.

Deletion of enhancer regions using CRISPR-mediated genome editing in HepG2 cells ² :

A lentiviral based single vector (LentiCRISPR V2) that simultaneously delivers Cas9, single guide RNA (sgRNA), and a puromycin selection marker engineered by the Zhang Laboratory⁴, was purchased from Addgene [\(http://www.addgene.org/\)](http://www.addgene.org/). Oligonucleotides (20 bp in length) corresponding to guide RNA sequence were designed using an online tool (tools.genomeengineering.org) (Supplemental Table 3). Experimental details and analysis are published 2 .

Quantitative analysis of allelic ratios in genomic DNA and mRNA using SNaPshot²: A fragment of DNA or RNA (after conversion to cDNA) surrounding a marker SNP was PCR amplified. The unincorporated dNTPs and excess primers were inactivated and degraded with exonuclease I and antarctic alkaline phosphatase. The PCR products were then subjected to a primer extension assay (SNaPshot, Life Technology) using a primer designed to anneal to the amplified DNA adjacent to the SNP site. After addition of a single fluorophore-labeled dideoxyribonucleoside triphosphate (ddNTP) complementary to the nucleoside at the polymorphic site, the resulting primer extension products were run on an ABI 3730 capillary electrophoresis DNA analyzer, and the data were analyzed using Gene Mapper software (Life Technology). To measure the expression ratios of the two alleles, we used heterozygous samples, which yield two differently labeled peaks with similar retention times. The peak area is proportional to the number of amplified alleles. To account for different fluorescence yields and migration rates, the cDNA ratios of heterozygous samples were normalized by setting the corresponding genomic DNA ratio = 1. SNaPshot assays were performed twice, each in duplicates. The association between allelic RNA expression imbalance (AEI) and heterozygosity of candidate SNPs was examined using K-analysis, which tests the agreement between AEI status (RNA ratio deviating from 1) and heterozygosity of each SNP.

Total CYP7A1 mRNA level: Total CYP7A1 mRNA was measured using real time PCR with specific primers (Supplemental Table 3) and SYBR Green PCR master mix (Life Technologies) using β-actin as the internal control 2 .

Candidate SNP selection for association with allelic expression imbalance:

We used genotype data from the 1000 genome project to search for SNPs located in or nearby the R2 and R3 regions. We then searched current literature, GWAS hits (GRASP, GWAS catalogue), gene expression (GTEx), and functional genomics (ENCODE, etc.) information to prioritize candidate SNPs.

Genotyping: All SNPs were genotyped using multiplexed primer extension assays². Genotyping primers are listed in Supplemental Table 3.

Cell culture and transfection: Primary hepatocytes were incubated for 24 hrs in serum-free William's E media supplemented with penicillin/streptomycin/fungizone (100 U/100 µg/0.25 µg per ml), 100 nM dexamethasone, 2 mM L-glutamine, 15 mM HEPES, and ITS (0.55 mg/ml human transferrin, 1 mg/ml bovine insulin and 0.5 µg/ml sodium selenite, from Sigma). Then cells were used for 4C (Hep10 and Hep8) and ChIP (Hep4, Hep8 and Hep10) assays. HepG2 cells were cultured at 37° C in a humidified incubator at 5% CO₂ in DMEM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin. Transfection was performed using lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and luciferase activity was measured with the Dual-Glo luciferase assay kit (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) on a Fusion Universal Microplate Analyzer (PerkinElmer Life and Analytical Science, Waltham, MA, USA) with *Renilla* luciferase constructs (Promega #E2231) driven by a TK promoter as the internal control. Data shown are from three independent experiments, each with duplicates.

Reporter gene assays: Regulatory regions (R2a, R2b, R2aR2b and R3) were PCR amplified and cloned into the pGL4.23 vector, using the In-Fusion HD cloning kit (Takara Bio USA,

California, USA) (see Supplemental Table 3 for PCR primers and cloning sites). Enhancers with different genotype combinations were generated by PCR amplification from gDNA with corresponding genotypes/haplotypes. *CYP7A1* promoter regions (~700 bp) carrying rs3808607 *T* or *G* alleles were also PCR amplified from gDNA and cloned into pGL3 vector. To test combined effects of enhancer and promoter, we joined enhancer fragments to the 5' end of the *CYP7A1* promoter fragment in the pGL3 vector. All constructs were sequenced to ensure the absence of random mutations during PCR amplification. To avoid variability from colonized bacterial clones, the plasmids were re-transformed into $DH5\alpha$ competent cells, and for each construct, three clones were selected for plasmid DNA preparation. Cells were transfected with 1 µg plasmid DNA and luciferase activity measured 48 h later with Dual-Glo luciferase assay kits (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) on a Fusion Universal Microplate Analyzer (PerkinElmer Life and Analytical Science, Waltham, MA, USA). As internal control, *Renilla* luciferase constructs (Promega #E2231) driven by a TK promoter were co-transfected with promoter constructs at a 1:5 ratio.

Data analysis:

Data are shown as mean \pm SD. Statistical analyses were performed using Prism (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA, USA).

Association between CYP7A1 genotype and liver gene expression: A multiple linear regression model was used to test the associations between *CYP7A1* genotypes and liver gene expressions. Log transformed CYP7A1 mRNA expression data followed a normal distribution ($P=0.61$, onesample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test). Since the sample size is small in at least one of the genotype groups (n=2), it is impossible to test for normality within each group shown in Figure 3b-3d.

Therefore, we also performed a non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test. The p values for Figures 3b, 3c, and 3d are 0.03, 0.07, and 5.1E-06, respectively, consistent with multiple linear regression analysis.

Association between the CYP7A1 genotype-defined CYP7A1 activity status and clinical phenotypes: A multiple linear regression model was used to test the associations between the genotype-defined CYP7A1 activity status, and lipid levels using Minitab software. We used forward and backward stepwise regression to select the best set of predictors in the multiple linear regression models with a cutoff p-value ≤ 0.05 . The association between inferred CYP7A1 activity status and statin goal reaching, risk of CAD, hypertension, diabetes, and hypertension was analyzed using a logistics regression model, adjusting for covariates.

Statistical analysis in CATHGEN, diseased vessels: The association between the number of diseased vessels and reduced activity alleles was assessed using a logistic model (with the indicator of the event that the number of vessels exceeded 1 as the dependent variable) and age, smoking status, and sex as additional predictors. This analysis was done in participants of Caucasian ancestry only.

Statistical analysis in the Framingham cohort: Owing to an extensive family structure, the association analysis between myocardial infarctions and the sum of reduced activity alleles was performed following a Generalized Linear Mixed Model framework as proposed by Chen et *al*. 5 and implemented in the 'GENESIS' package in R. Thus, the Genetic Relatedness Matrix was estimated from the genome-wide profiles of polymorphisms, and a logistic mixed model was fitted, with myocardial infarction status as the dependent variable and age (at recruitment), sex, BMI at the first visit, number of times that the given person was recorded to take lipid lowering

drugs, and sum of reduced activity alleles as independent variables. We assessed statistical the significance of predictions be means using the Wald's test.

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Framingham Heart study and CATHGEN:

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For CATHGEN, clinical data originated from the Duke Databank for Cardiovascular Disease (DDCD) and biological samples originated from the Duke Cardiac CATHeterization (CATHGEN) study. Funding support for the Genetic Mediators of Metabolic CVD Risk was provided by NHLBI grant RC2 HL101621 (William E. Kraus). The data used for the analyses described in this manuscript were obtained from the dbGaP accession number phs0000703.v1.p1 on 25 March 2015.

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Availability of data and materials:

The datasets supporting the conclusions of this article are available in the dbGaP repository, phs0000703 [ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/dbgap/studies/phs000703\(](ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/dbgap/studies/phs000703)CATHGEN), phs000007 <ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/dbgap/studies/phs000007> (FHS),

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Supplemental Table 1. Association between *CYP7A1* SNPs and clinical phenotypes in GWAS.

Note: EUR, European; AA, African American; Ref, references.

SNP#					chr posi,	
	rs ID	К	P	region	hg19	bp change
$\mathbf{1}$	rs9297994	0.765	< 0.0001	R ₂ b	59392324	G > A
$\overline{2}$	rs10107182	0.765	< 0.0001	R ₂ b	59392737	C > T
3	rs10504255	0.765	< 0.0001	R ₃	59398461	G > A
$\overline{4}$	rs2081687	0.726	< 0.0001	GWAS SNP	59388565	T>C
5	rs4738684	0.726	< 0.0001	R ₂ b	59393273	A>G
6	rs13263105	0.687	< 0.0001	down R1	59325595	C > G
$\overline{7}$	rs7005978	0.687	< 0.0001	down R1	59382715	A>G
8	rs983812	0.687	< 0.0001	R1	59384181	C > T
9	rs7007181	0.569	< 0.0001	down R1	59339279	T>C
10	rs6985620	0.569	< 0.0001	down R1	59370159	T>C
11	rs8192870	0.567	< 0.0001	promoter	59412066	T>G
12	rs4738679	0.531	< 0.0001	down R1	59370320	G > A
13	rs3808607	0.45	< 0.01	promoter	59412924	G > T
14	rs3824260	0.448	0.001	promoter	59413190	A>G
15	rs7018333	0.302	0.006	3'end	59402570	A>G
16	rs3808609	0.255	0.068	up prom	59465377	G > C
17	rs13251671	0.058	0.676	up R1	59387855	A>G
18	rs7845104	0.02	0.886	R1	59384671	A>G
19	rs34828061	0.018	0.895	down R1	59382169	A > G
20	rs17202790	0.018	0.895	up R1	59386544	T>A
21	rs34231701	-0.018	0.895	down R1	59382205	C > A
22	rs6471720	-0.02	0.886	R1	59384675	G > A
23	rs10105411	-0.02	0.886	up R1	59387357	G > A
24	rs10086874	-0.02	0.886	up R1	59387495	A > T
25	rs10087236	-0.02	0.886	up R1	59387670	T>C
26	rs113895159	-0.022	0.877	up prom	59466106	T>C
27	rs59985577	-0.493	0.001	down R1	59382092	G > T
28	rs28612536	-0.562	< 0.0001	R ₂ a	59391255	A>G
29	rs10435592	-0.645	< 0.0001	R ₂ b	59393469	T>C
30	rs28514538	-0.645	< 0.0001	R ₃	59398432	A > G
31	rs6471722	-0.683	< 0.0001	R ₂ a	59390540	A > G
32	rs10087499	-0.683	< 0.0001	R ₂ b	59394969	T>G
33	rs62512933	-0.686	< 0.0001	R ₂ b	59397262	G > C
marker	rs8192879			3'UTR	59403576	A > G

Supplemental Table 4. Association between AEI and candidate SNPs, using k analysis.

Supplemental Table 5a. Basic statistics of the OSU CAD cohort

* single value

Supplemental Table 5b. Basic statistics of CATHGEN cohort

Supplemental Table 5c. Basic statistics of Flamingham cohort

Table 6a. Liver tissues

Table 6b. Human hepatocytes

Supplemental Figure legends:

Supplemental Figure 1. Overlap of 4C signals with published ChIP-seq signals for H3K4me1, H3K27ac and P300 in human hepatocytes.

Supplemental Figure 2. ChIP-qPCR with p300 antibody in human hepatocytes performed with different sets of primers (see Supplemental Table 3 for primer sequence and location).

Supplemental Figure 3. Gel image of PCR products amplified from genomic DNA prepared from cells with combinations of two gRNAs targeting 5' and 3' of R1 (a), R2a/R2b (b) or R3 (c) regions. Successful deletion of a targeted region is shown as a band with lower molecular weight as compared to no-target control. See Supplemental Table 3 for sequence of gRNAs.

Supplemental Figure 4. CYP7A1 mRNA expression in HepG2 cells after CRISPR-deletion of regulatory regions, using different combinations of gRNAs.

Supplemental Figure 5. Haplotype structure of CYP7A1. See Supplemental Table 4 for SNP rs numbers.

Supplemental Figure 1.

Supplemental Figure 2.

Supplemental Figure 3.

Supplemental Figure 4.

Supplemental Figure 5.