

Supplemental Data

Semantic Similarity Analysis Reveals

Robust Gene-Disease Relationships

in Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies

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Supplemental Figures

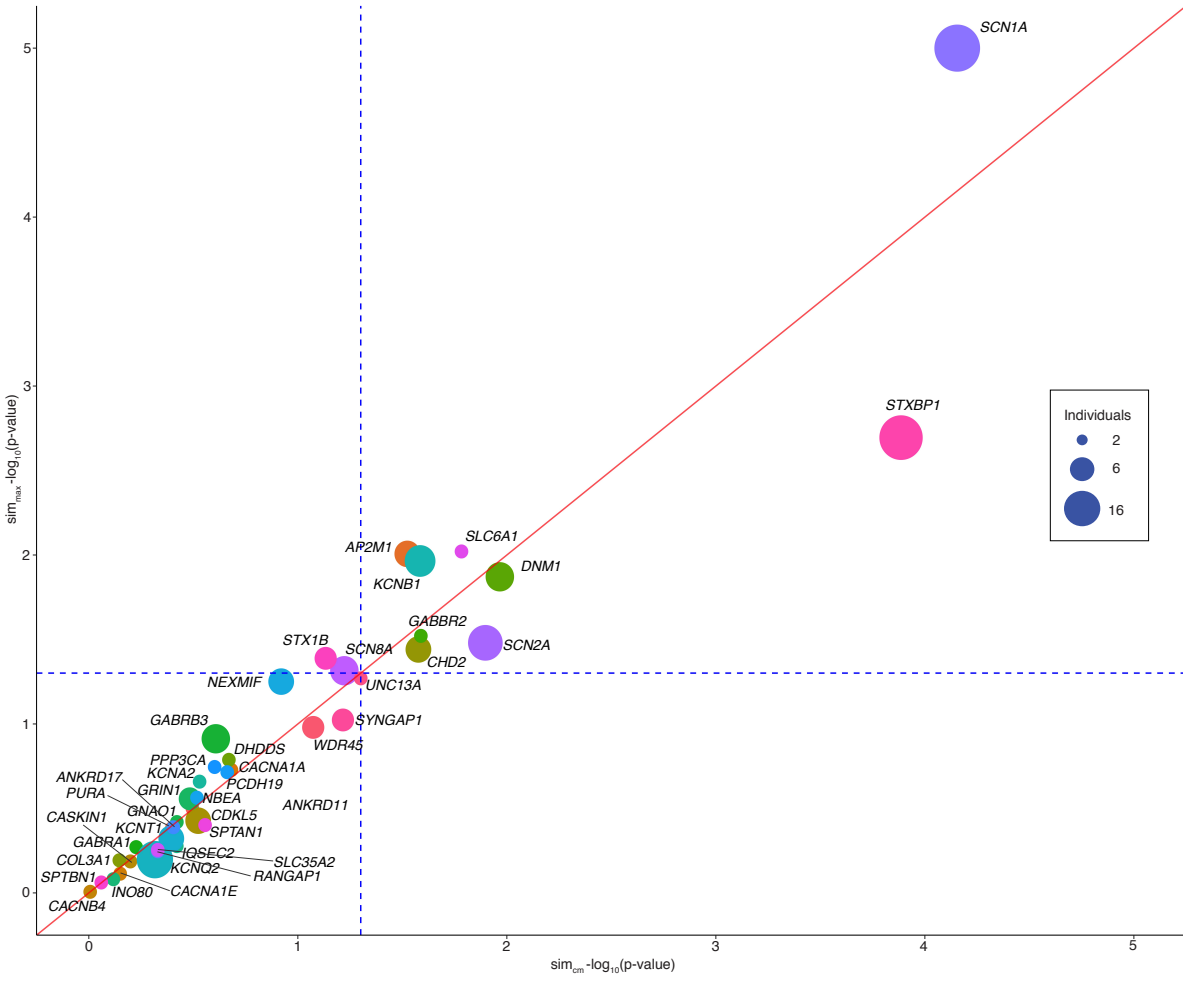


Figure S1. Comparison between sim_{cm} and sim_{max} algorithms

Gene-specific phenotypic similarity between both algorithms is correlated. Point size signifies the number of individuals with a de novo mutation in a specific gene, blue lines denote the $-\log_{10}(0.05)$ threshold.

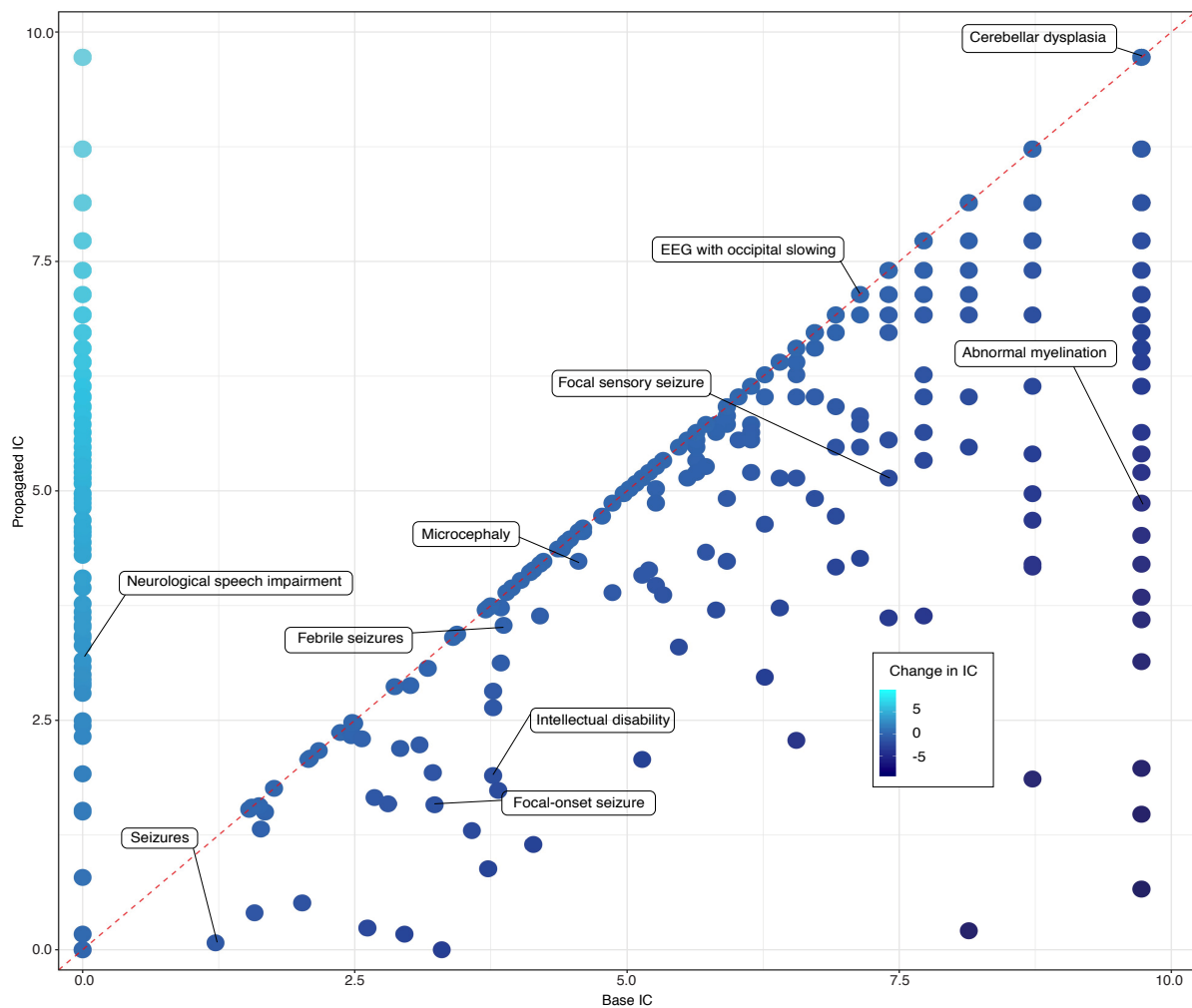


Figure S2. Information Content (IC) of HPO terms before and after propagation

Propagation of assigned HPO terms refers to the addition of all higher-level HPO terms within the ontology. The plot compares Information Content (IC) of all HPO terms in the cohort before and after propagation. Since IC is defined as the $-\log_2$ of the term frequency within the cohort, IC of specific terms after propagation either remains constant or decreases. A decrease in IC is observed if a specific HPO terms becomes more frequent due to the propagation of child terms. In addition, after propagation a significant number of HPO terms are generated that were previously not assigned (see HPO terms with $x=0$). Overall, propagation significantly adjusts the frequency of HPO terms in the cohort, specifically for higher-level terms that are only assigned infrequently and therefore appear artificially rare.

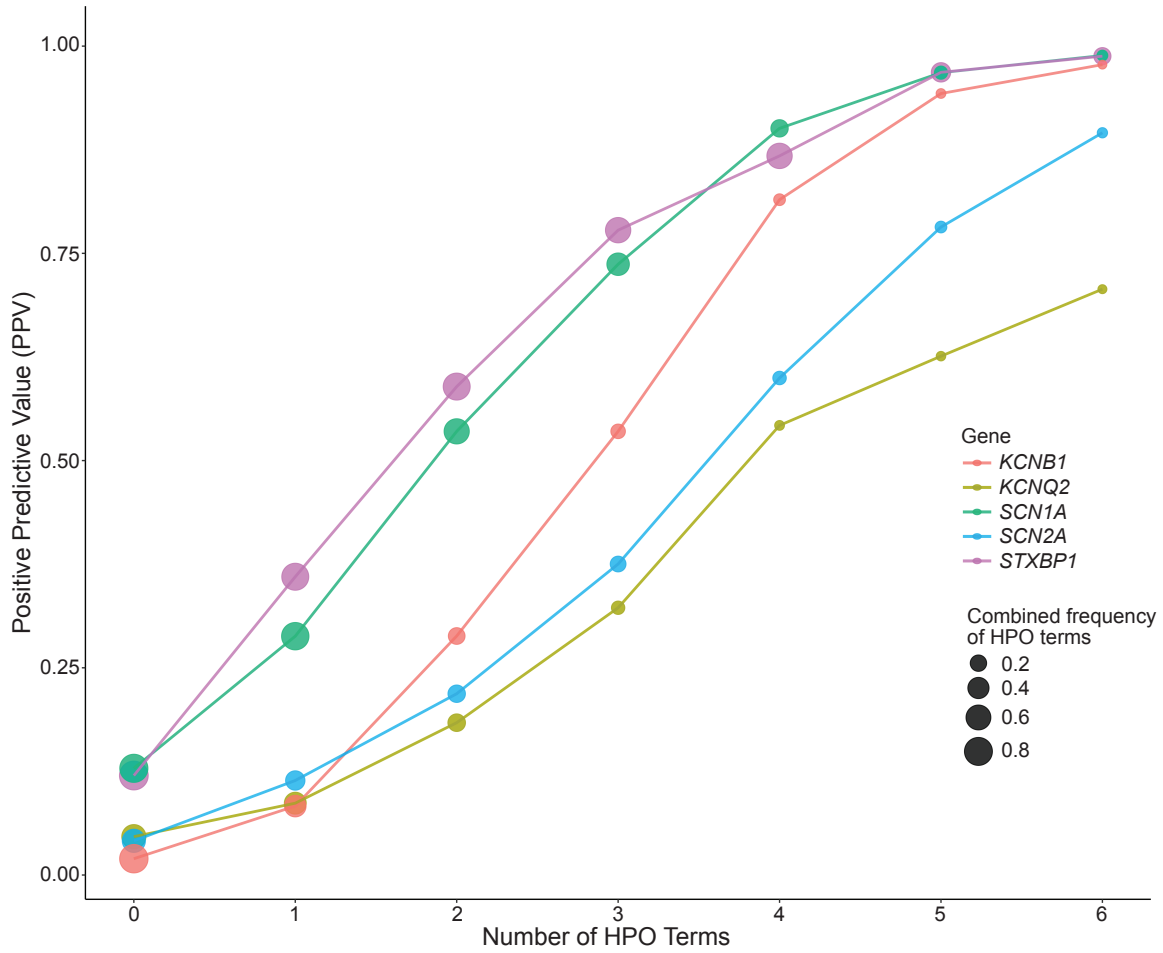
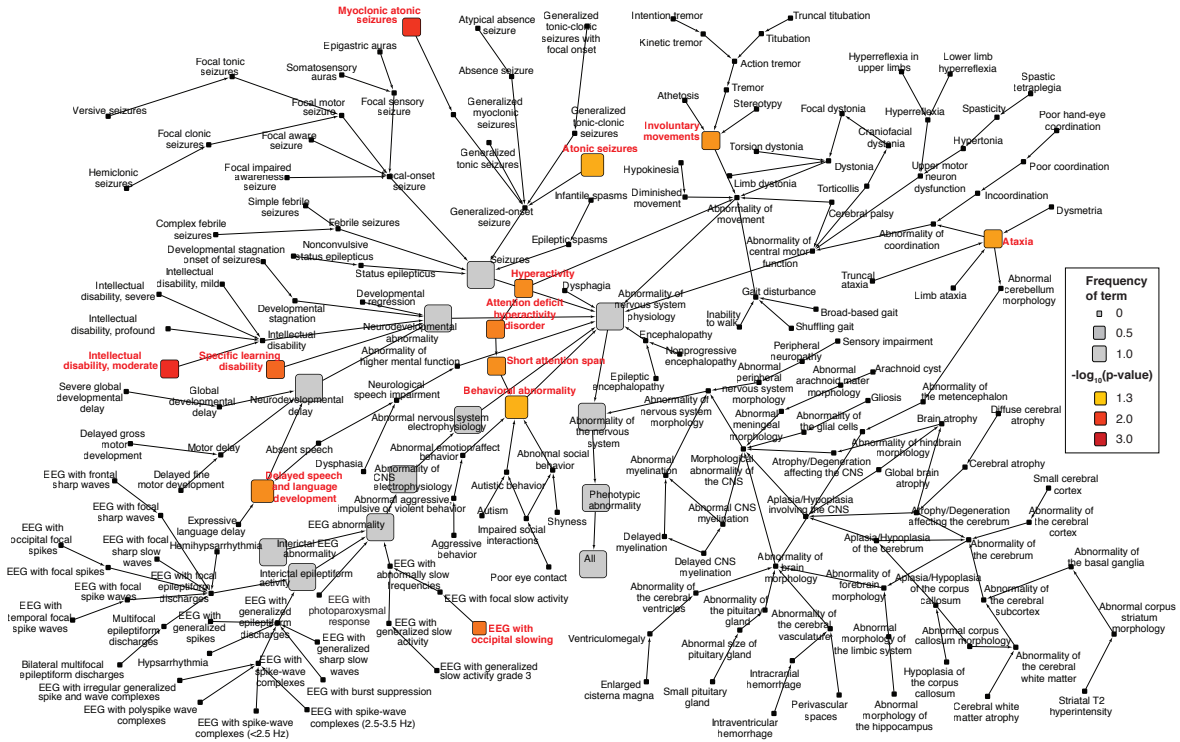


Figure S3. Growth of positive predictive value (PPV) with the addition of HPO terms

This figure displays the subsequent growth of the PPV after the addition of HPO terms to the five genetic etiologies with the fastest growth rate. Each color represents a different gene, and the size of the dots indicates the combined frequency of the HPO terms up to that point in that particular gene. *KCNB1*, *SCN1A*, and *STXBP1* require just 5 terms or less to reach a PPV of at least 80%.

Figure S4 A

Phenotree of AP2M1



Phenogram of AP2M1

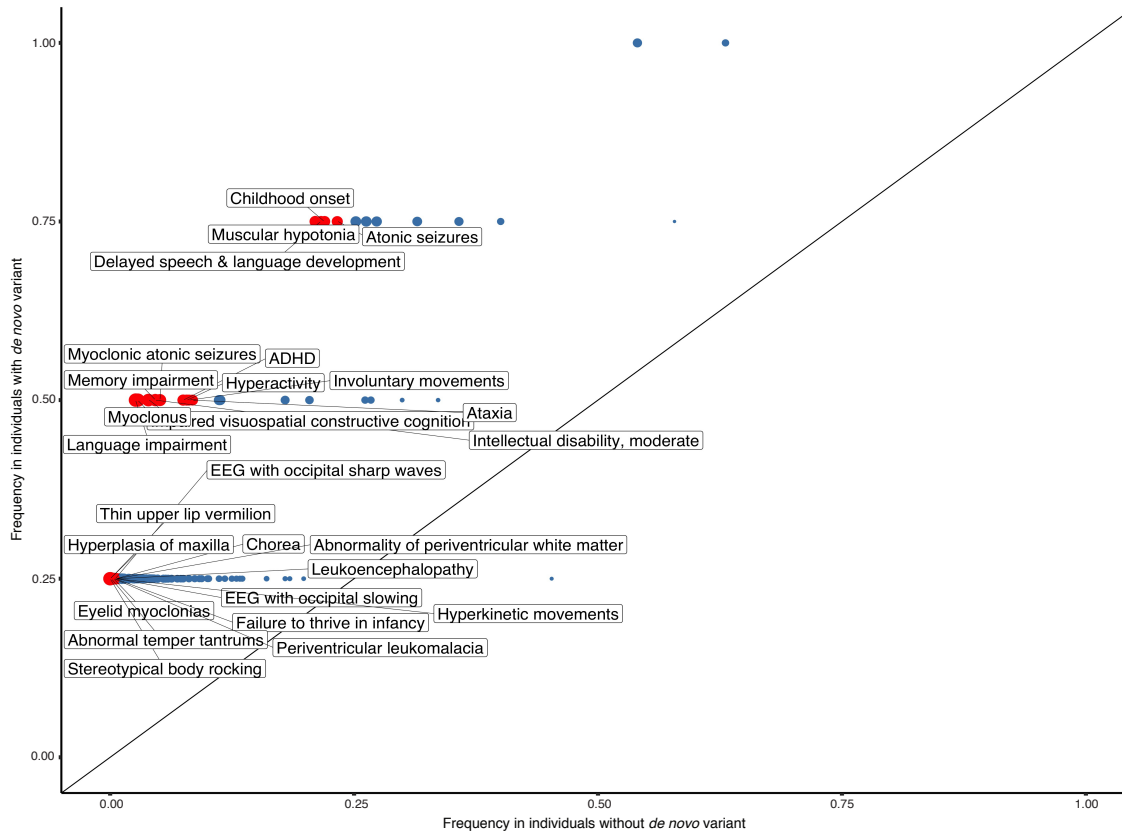
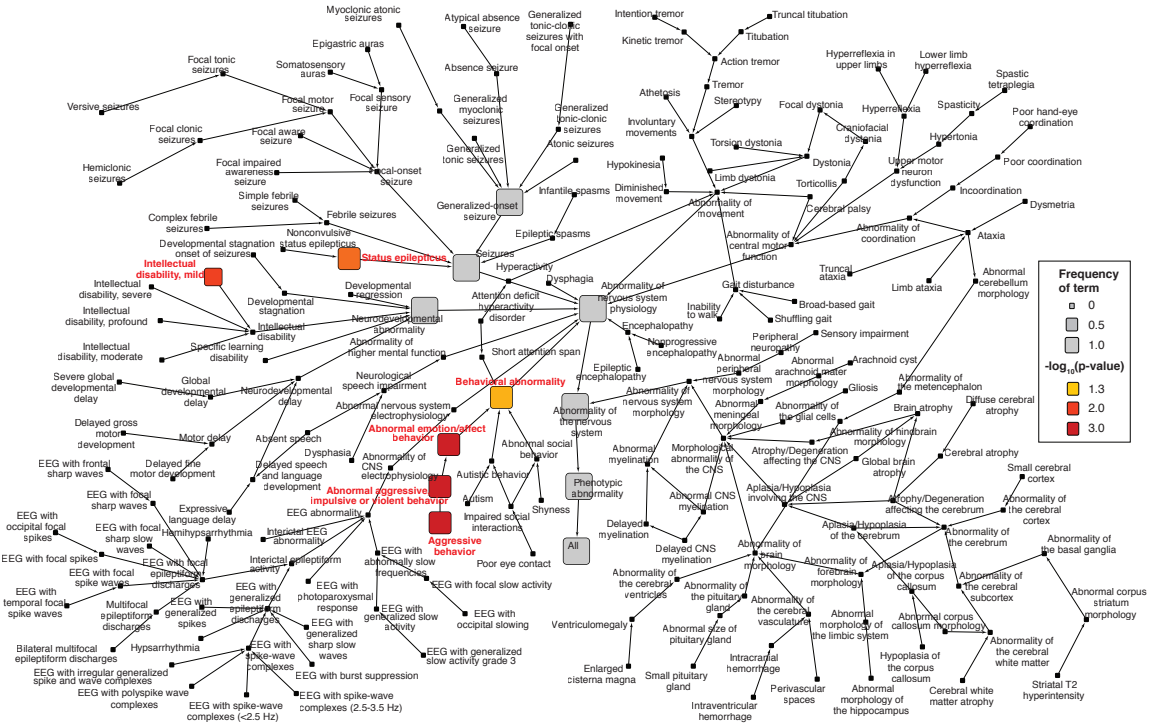


Figure S4 B

Phenotree of *CHD2*



Phenogram of *CHD2*

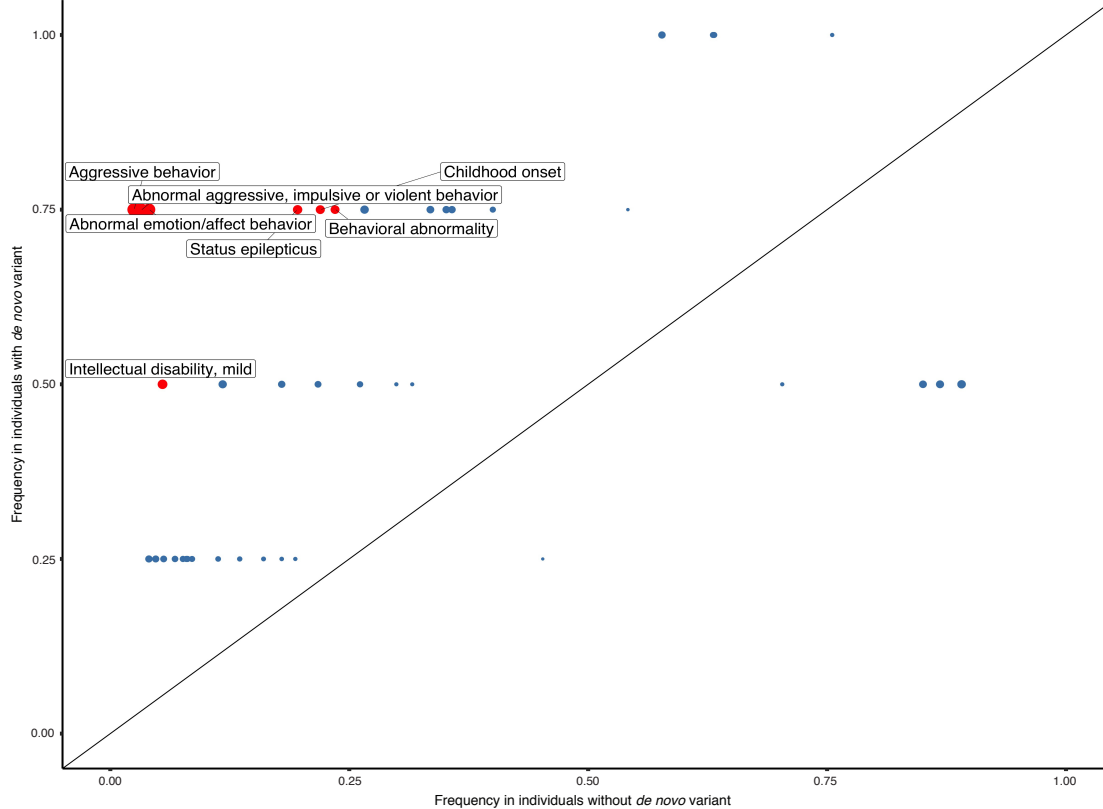
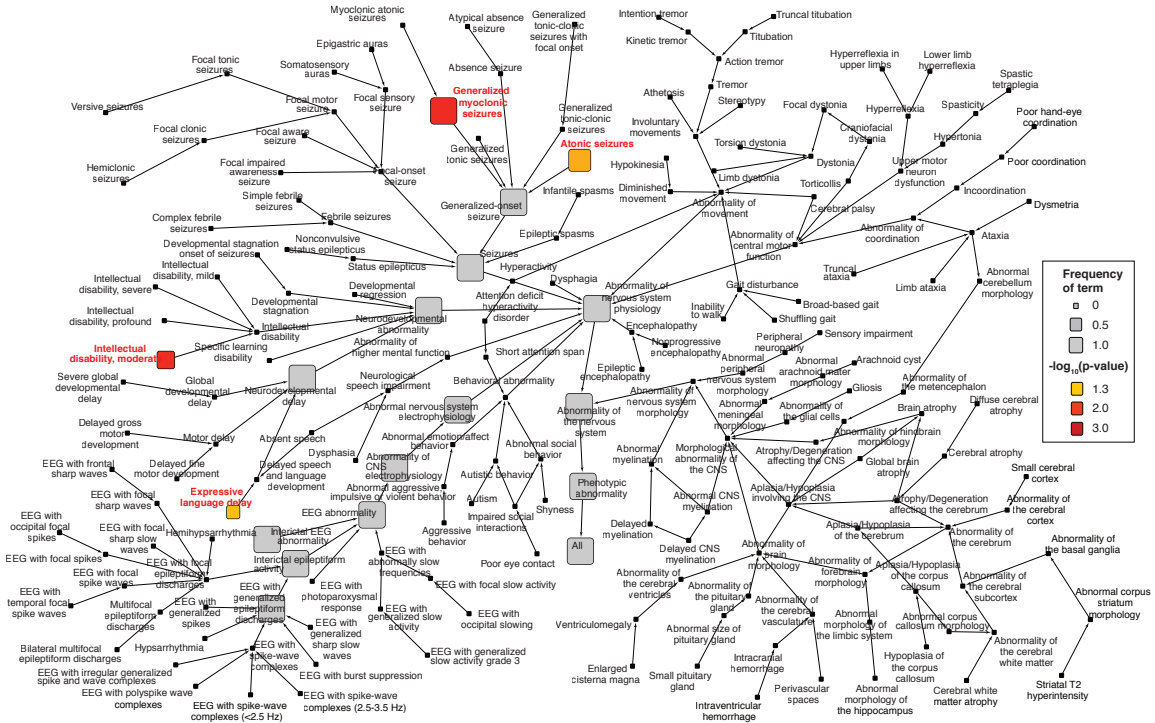


Figure S4 D

Phentree of NEXMIF



Phenogram of NEXMIF

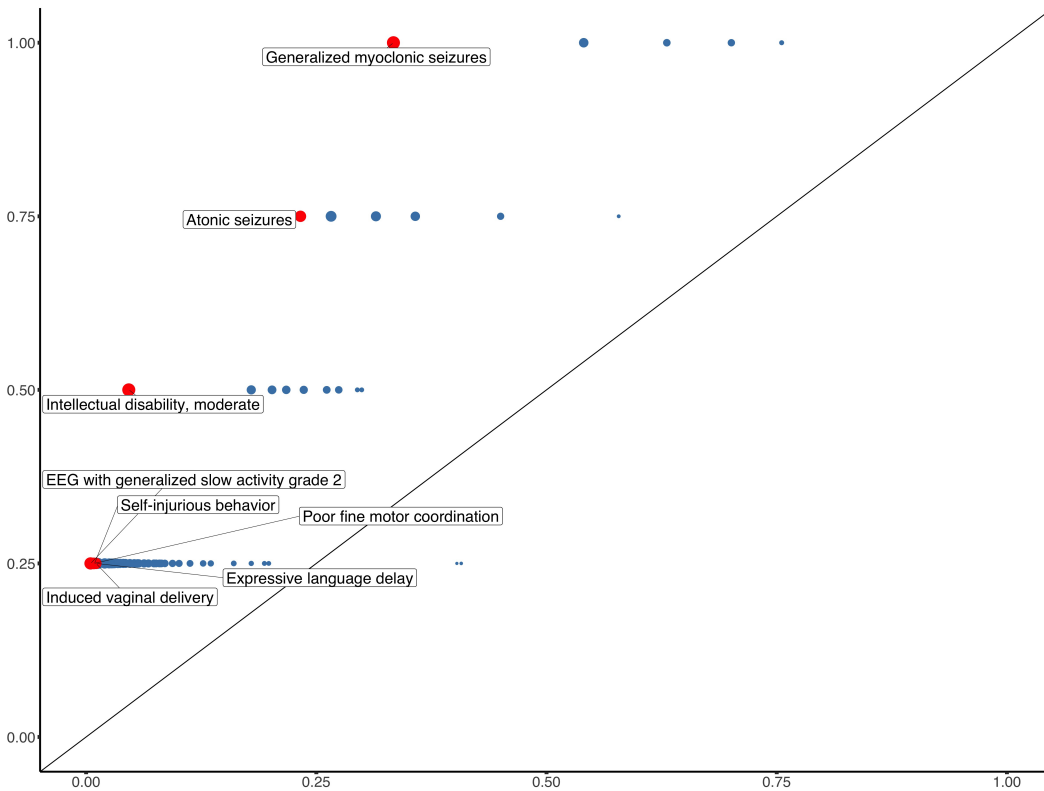


Figure S4. Phenograms and Phenotrees of six genetic etiologies with 20 de novo variants

(A)-(F) The graphs display frequencies of HPO terms in AP2M1, DNM1, CHD2, SCN8A, STX1B, and NEXMIF compared to the overall cohort. Red dots indicate significant associations ($p < 0.05$) between HPO terms and specific genes, the size of the dot denotes the degree of significance displayed as $-\log_{10}(p\text{-value})$. Significant associations present in 15% of individuals or more with a specific gene are labeled. Parent terms that displayed redundant information were removed.

Supplemental Note

Comparison of sim_{max} and sim_{cm} algorithms

In our study, we used two similarity algorithms to assess the phenotypic relatedness between individuals, the sim_{max} and sim_{cm} . In a previous study, we have used the sim_{max} algorithm to provide evidence for the role of *AP2M1* in human disease. While conceptually related, both algorithms emphasize different features of the HPO and the following hypothetical example demonstrate the emphasis that both algorithms provide to different features in the dataset. For the calculation of Information Content (IC) and similarity, the observed values in our dataset of 846 individuals is used.

Assignment of HPO terms for two individuals

For our example, we assume that two individuals (P_1 , P_2) are assigned the following HPO terms ([Table S7](#)). The assigned HPO terms are “base” HPO terms, e.g. inclusion of higher-level, ancestral HPO terms through propagation has not yet been performed.

HPO terms assigned in individual P_1	HPO terms assigned in individual P_2
Focal aware seizure (HP:0002349)	Focal-onset seizure (HP:0007359)
Focal clonic seizure (HP:0002266)	Neurodevelopmental delay (HP:0012758)
Mild global developmental delay (HP:0011342)	
Delayed speech and language development (HP:0000750)	

Table S7. Assigned HPO terms for two hypothetical individuals to demonstrate the differences between the sim_{max} and sim_{cm} algorithms.

Relative position of HPO terms within the HPO tree

Figure S5 shows the relative position of the HPO terms within the overall ontological tree. From this illustration, it is apparent that some of the HPO terms assigned to both individuals refer to related concepts within the HPO. For example, “Focal aware seizure” (HP:0002349) and “Focal clonic seizure” (HP:0002266) assigned in individual P₁ are both child terms of “Focal-onset seizure” (HP:0007359) assigned in individual P₂. It can be seen from **Figure S5** and **Figure S6** that P₁ is assigned more specific terms and that P₂ is assigned higher-level terms.

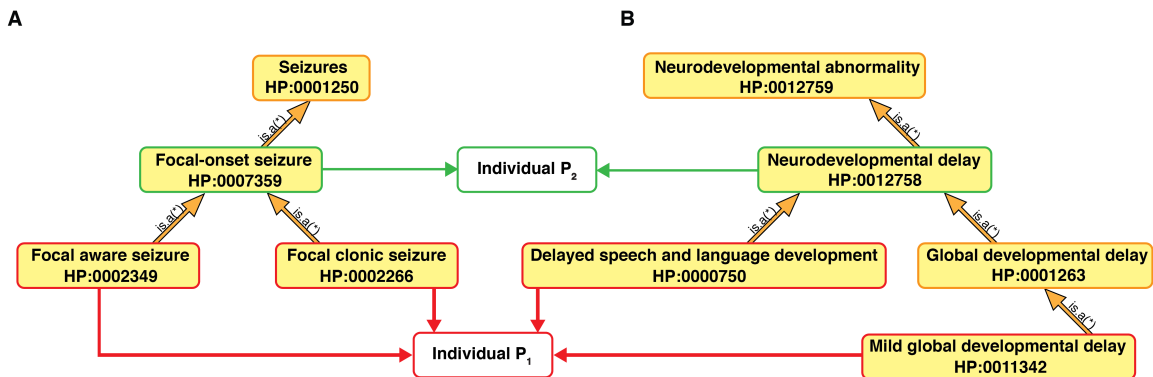


Figure S5. Structure of the HPO with two subbranches with superimposed terms that are assigned to both individuals P₁ (red) and P₂ (green).

Information content for assigned and propagated terms

Based on the structure of the HPO, inclusion of higher-level HPO terms generates a list of extended phenotypic terms for both individuals as shown in **Table S8**. Information Content (IC) is generated as the $-\log_2$ of the term frequency and the initially assigned (“base”) terms are labelled in red (pat1) and green (pat2). With decreasing specificity of the terms within the structure of the HPO, terms become more frequent and the IC decreases.

P₁ propagated HPO terms	P₂ propagated HPO terms
All (HP:0000001; IC=0)	All (HP:0000001; IC=0)
Phenotypic abnormality (HP:0000118; IC=0)	Phenotypic abnormality (HP:0000118; IC=0)
Abnormality of the nervous system (HP:0000707; IC=0)	Abnormality of the nervous system (HP:0000707; IC=0)
Delayed speech and language development (HP:0000750; IC=2.19)	Seizures (HP:0001250; IC=0.08)
Seizures (HP:0001250; IC=0.08)	Focal-onset seizure (HP:0007359; IC=1.58)
Global developmental delay (HP:0001263; IC=1.32)	Abnormality of nervous system physiology (HP:0012638; IC=0)
Focal clonic seizures (HP:0002266; IC=3.64)	Neurodevelopmental delay (HP:0012758; IC=0.88)
Focal aware seizure (HP:0002349; IC=5.55)	Neurodevelopmental abnormality (HP:0012759; IC=0.66)
Focal-onset seizure (HP:0007359; IC=1.58)	
Focal motor seizure (HP:0011153; IC=2.64)	
Mild global developmental delay (HP:0011342; IC=5.92)	
Abnormality of nervous system physiology (HP:0012638; IC=0)	
Neurodevelopmental delay (HP:0012758; IC=0.88)	
Neurodevelopmental abnormality (HP:0012759; IC=0.66)	

Table S8. Propagated HPO terms for both P₁ and P₂ with the initially assigned terms in bold and red (P₁) or green (P₂). The highest-level terms in the HPO (“All”; HP:0000001 and Phenotypic abnormality”; HP:0000118) have an Information Content of zero, indicating that these terms are present in all individuals.

Phenotypic similarity assessed by the sim_{max} algorithm

An intuitive way to conceptualize the sim_{max} algorithm is to place the assigned HPO terms for P_1 and P_2 on a 2 x 2 matrix with the rows representing the terms assigned to P_1 and the columns representing the terms assigned to P_2 (Figure S6).

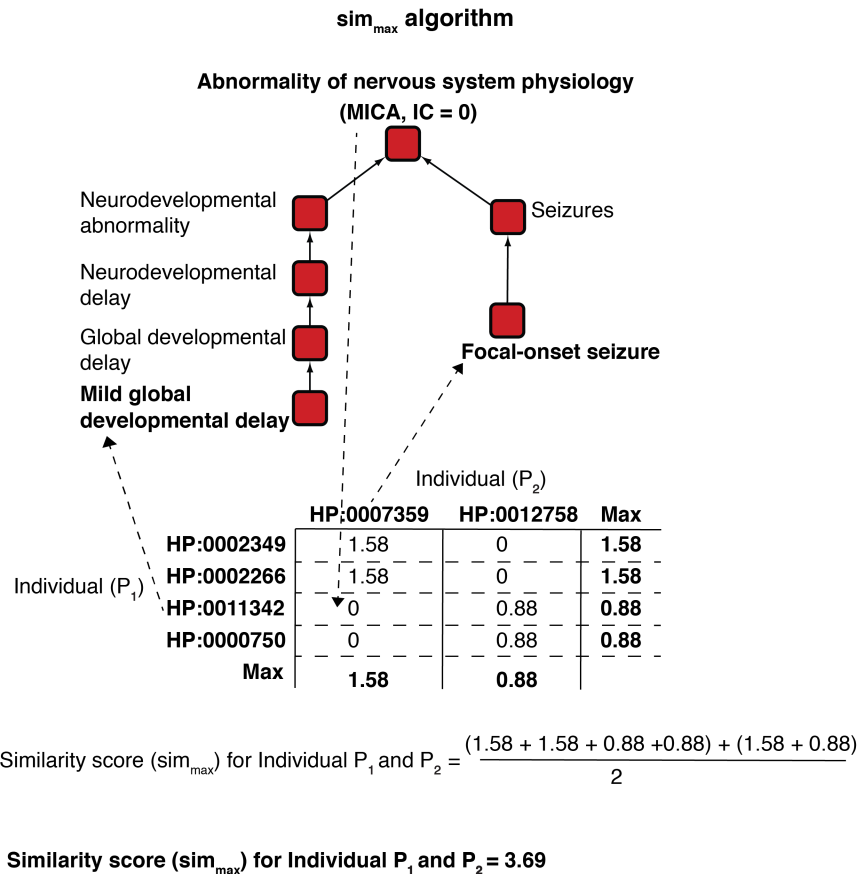


Figure S6. Calculating the sim_{max} score for individuals P_1 and P_2 using the assigned phenotypes from Table S7 including “Focal aware seizure” (HP:0002349), “Focal clonic seizure” (HP:0002266), “Mild global developmental delay” (HP:0011342) for P_1 , “Delayed speech and language development” (HP:0000750) and “Focal-onset seizure” (HP:0007359) and “Neurodevelopmental delay” (HP:0012758) for P_2 . The sim_{max} algorithm assesses the Most Informative Common Ancestor (MICA) for each term combination and sums up the row-wise (P_1) and column-wise (P_2) maxima, thereby determining the similarity of $P_1 \rightarrow P_2$ and $P_2 \rightarrow P_1$. For the final similarity score, both the row-wise and column-wise similarity are averaged.

Phenotypic similarity assessed by the sim_{cm} algorithm

In contrast to determining the MICA for each term combination, the sim_{cm} algorithm assesses the Information Content of all HPO terms shared by P_1 and P_2 using the propagated HPO dataset. This is shown in [Table S9](#), which is derived from [Table S8](#).

P₁ propagated HPO terms	P₂ propagated HPO terms	Overlap
All (HP:0000001; IC=0)	All (HP:0000001; IC=0)	All (HP:0000001; IC=0)
Phenotypic abnormality (HP:0000118; IC=0)	Phenotypic abnormality (HP:0000118; IC=0)	Phenotypic abnormality (HP:0000118; IC=0)
Abnormality of the nervous system (HP:0000707; IC=0)	Abnormality of the nervous system (HP:0000707; IC=0)	Abnormality of the nervous system (HP:0000707; IC=0)
Delayed speech and language development (HP:0000750; IC=2.19)		
Seizures (HP:0001250; IC=0.08)	Seizures (HP:0001250; IC=0.08)	Seizures (HP:0001250; IC=0.08)
Global developmental delay (HP:0001263; IC=1.32)		
Focal clonic seizures (HP:0002266; IC=3.64)		
Focal aware seizure (HP:0002349; IC=5.55)		
Focal-onset seizure (HP:0007359; IC=1.58)	Focal-onset seizure (HP:0007359; IC=1.58)	Focal-onset seizure (HP:0007359; IC=1.58)
Focal motor seizure (HP:0011153; IC=2.64)		
Mild global developmental delay (HP:0011342; IC=5.92)		
Abnormality of nervous system physiology (HP:0012638; IC=0)	Abnormality of nervous system physiology (HP:0012638; IC=0)	Abnormality of nervous system physiology (HP:0012638; IC=0)
Neurodevelopmental delay (HP:0012758; IC=0.88)	Neurodevelopmental delay (HP:0012758; IC=0.88)	Neurodevelopmental delay (HP:0012758; IC=0.88)
Neurodevelopmental abnormality (HP:0012759; IC=0.66)	Neurodevelopmental abnormality (HP:0012759; IC=0.66)	Neurodevelopmental abnormality (HP:0012759; IC=0.66)
Total Similarity (adding IC values for overlapping HPO terms)		0 + 0 + 0 + 0.08 + 1.58 + 0 + 0.88 + 0.66 = 3.2

Table S9. Calculating the sim_{cm} score from the overlap of propagated HPO terms between P_1 and P_2 . Given that both HPO terms initially assigned to P_2 were ancestral terms of the four HPO terms assigned to P_1 , both assigned terms for P_2 are part of the overlapping group of HPO terms. However, as the propagation also includes higher level terms, HPO terms including “Seizures” (HP:0001250; IC=0.08) and “Neurodevelopmental abnormality” (HP:0012759; IC=0.66) contribute to the final score, even though these terms had not been initially assigned. This makes this similarity measure vulnerable to changes in the overall granularity of the HPO within specific sub-branches.

Factors affecting similarities assessed by the sim_{max} and sim_{cm} algorithm

Effect of annotation density

In our example, P_1 was assigned two specific focal seizure terms, including “Focal aware seizure” (HP:0002349) and “Focal clonic seizure” (HP:0002266), whereas P_2 was only assigned a single higher-level HPO term for focal seizures, namely “Focal-onset seizure” (HP:0007359). Within the sim_{max} algorithm, both focal seizures types (HP:0002349, HP:0002266) contribute to the overall similarity, whereas the sim_{cm} algorithm would only capture the IC of the more general focal seizure term (HP:0007359). For example, if one specific focal seizure term were to be removed from P_1 , sim_{max} would decrease, whereas sim_{cm} would remain the same. Likewise, if another specific focal seizure term were to be added, sim_{max} would increase, while sim_{cm} would remain constant. **The sim_{max} algorithm increases similarity with the addition of assigned HPO terms and, as a distinct property from the sim_{cm} algorithm, increases similarity when multiple child terms are annotated.** Accordingly, sim_{max} is affected by the annotation density of the assigned HPO terms, whereas sim_{cm} removes this effect as HPO terms are de-duplicated after propagation and only overlapping ancestral terms are considered.

Effect of HPO granularity

In our example, the sim_{cm} algorithm included higher-level terms in the assessment of similarity that are dependent on the structure of the HPO. The sim_{max} algorithm is in principle independent of the overall structure of the overall ontology, as it only assesses the Information Content of the Most Information Common Ancestors (MICA), independent of how deep these ancestral terms are located within the HPO tree. However, the sim_{cm}

algorithm includes the information content of all propagated HPO terms and is therefore dependent on the local of the assigned terms within the HPO structure. For example, if another redundant HPO term would be placed between “Neurodevelopmental delay” (HP:0012758) and “Neurodevelopmental abnormality” (HP:0012759) that is equivalent to “Neurodevelopmental delay” (HP:0012758), this new, redundant term would also have an IC of 0.88. Such a “spacer term” could be introduced based on theoretical considerations on how to structure phenotypes or novel disease classifications suggested by professional organizations that aim at providing a higher granularity for phenotype assignment within the HPO in future studies. However, such a new, interspersed term would increase the overall similarity assessed through the sim_{cm} algorithm. The results of the sim_{max} algorithm remain unchanged. Likewise, if a term within the HPO structure is considered redundant and is removed, the sim_{cm} algorithm would generate a lower similarity. In our example, this would be the hypothetical situation in which “Neurodevelopmental delay” (HP:0012758) and “Neurodevelopmental abnormality” (HP:0012759) are collapsed into a single HPO term. **Accordingly, the sim_{cm} algorithm is dependent on the overall granularity of the HPO with higher granularity in branches with commonly assigned terms generating higher similarities.** However, the sim_{max} algorithm is not affected by the granularity of the HPO structure itself.

Simulating the recognition of Rett Syndrome

In the introduction of our manuscript, we used the clinical recognition of Rett Syndrome in 1954 as an example of how distinct clinical features may significantly stand out sufficiently to be recognized. We attempted to simulate this historical example by adding six hypothetical individuals with Rett Syndrome to our cohort with various combinations of clinical features that include three different scenarios ([Table S10](#)).

Scenario 1 (n=1 term)	Scenario 2 (n=2 terms)	Scenario 4 (n=4 terms)
Stereotypical hand wringing (HP:0012171)	Stereotypical hand wringing (HP:0012171)	Stereotypical hand wringing (HP:0012171)
	Developmental regression (HP:0002376)	Developmental regression (HP:0002376)
		Absent speech (HP:0001344)
		Apraxia (HP:0002186)

Table S10. Combination of HPO terms in simulated individuals with Rett Syndrome. For the similarity analysis, the existing frequencies of these phenotypes in the cohort were used. The phenotype “Stereotypical hand wringing” (HP:0012171) had not been assigned in the cohort and assigned an Information Content of 8.7 for the analysis based on the estimated frequency of 2/846. The IC for “Stereotypical hand wringing” (HP:0012171) was kept constant for n=2, n=4, n=6 patients. For the three other HPO terms (“Developmental regression” HP:0002376, “Absent speech” HP:0001344, “Apraxia” HP:0002186), the existing frequencies in the cohort of 846 individuals was used.

For the simulation, we assessed the combination of one term (Scenario 1), two terms (Scenario 2), and four terms (Scenario 3) in n=2, n=4, and n=6 individuals, using the sim_{max} algorithm. [Table S11](#) shows the results obtained for the nine combinations of HPO term numbers and number of individuals.

Scenario	Number of individuals	Number of HPO terms	Median similarity using sim_{max}	p-value
Scenario 1	2	1	8.7	0.283
Scenario 1	2	2	11.6	0.180
Scenario 1	2	4	19.9	0.056
Scenario 2	4	1	8.7	0.192
Scenario 2	4	2	11.6	0.087
Scenario 2	4	4	19.9	0.010
Scenario 3	6	1	8.7	0.138
Scenario 3	6	2	11.6	0.045
Scenario 3	6	4	19.9	0.002

Table S11. Simulation of phenotypic similarity for Rett Syndrome using combinations of number of individuals (n=2, n=4, n=6) and number of HPO terms (n=1, n=2, n=4). With increasing number of individuals and HPO terms, the phenotypic similarity between individuals becomes significant.

Examining all combinations of number of individuals and number of terms, we observe that phenotypic significance is achieved once more terms or more individuals are included. For n=6 individuals, the phenotypic similarity is significant for n=2 terms (p=0.05) and n=4 HPO terms (p=0.002). The terms assigned to individuals are “Stereotypical hand wringing” (HP:0012171), “Developmental regression” (HP:0002376), “Absent speech” (HP:0001344), and “Apraxia” (HP:0002186). This hypothetical example highlights that the phenotypic similarity approach used in our study can recapitulate the clinical recognition of specific phenotypes such as Rett Syndrome. Mapping the overall phenotypic similarity onto the overall distribution of median phenotypic similarities in n=6 individuals demonstrates how an increasing number of Rett Syndrome-related HPO terms results in increasing phenotypic similarity that shifts to the right with the addition of more phenotypic terms ([Figures S7](#)).

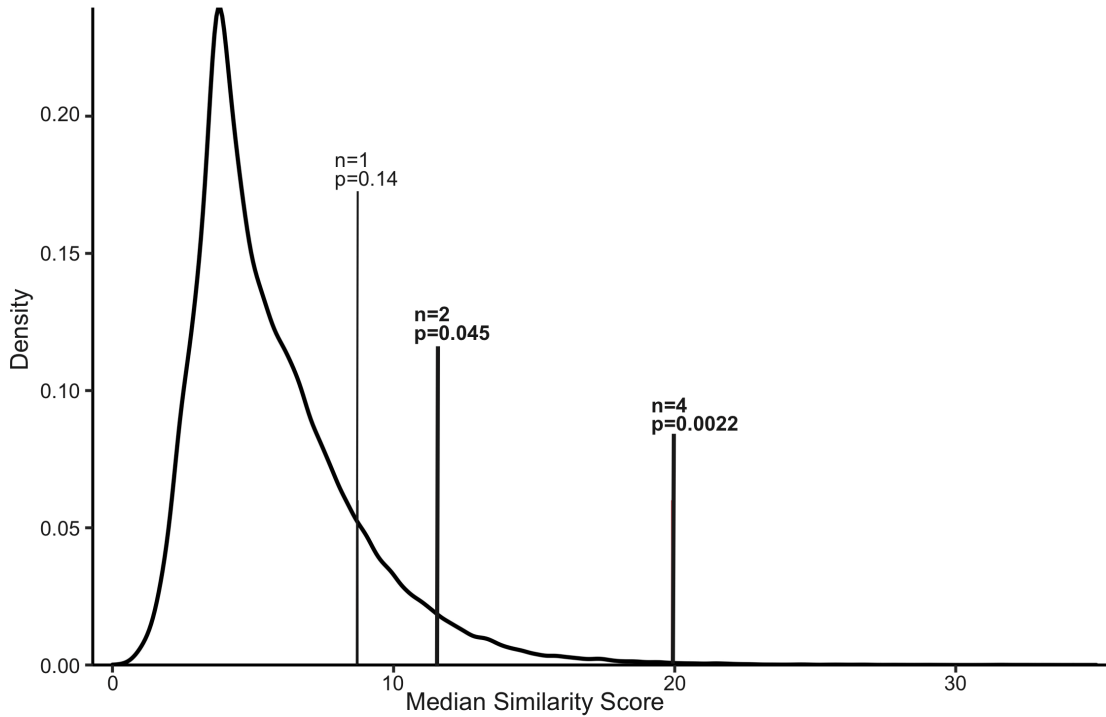


Figure S7. Simulation of phenotypic similarity for Rett Syndrome for $n=6$ individuals with $n=1$, $n=2$, and $n=4$ phenotypic terms. The curve indicates the distribution of median similarity scores for $n=6$ individuals within the cohort of 846 individuals included in the current study. With increasing number of Rett Syndrome-related HPO terms, the median phenotypic similarity between six simulated individuals with Rett Syndrome increases and moves further to the right of the curve. A p-value of 0.0022 indicates that a median similarity of 19.9 or higher is only observed in 220/100,000 randomly assessed combinations of six individuals in the cohort of 846 individuals, thereby generating an exact p-value of 0.0022. This example highlights the ability of phenotypic similarity approaches to recapitulate historical examples where constellations of phenotypic features were correctly mapped to a common genetic etiology.

Gene	PPV	Terms (n)	Cumulative frequency	Individuals with etiology	HPO ID	HPO term	Freq.
DNM1	0.80	4	0.41	5	HP:0012444	Brain atrophy	0.80
					HP:0007367	Atrophy/Degeneration affecting the CNS	0.80
					HP:0002977	Aplasia/Hypoplasia involving the CNS	0.80
					HP:0010847	EEG with spike-wave complexes (<2.5 Hz)	0.80
KCNB1	0.81	5	0.07	6	HP:0011442	Abnormality of central motor function	0.83
					HP:0011443	Abnormality of coordination	0.50
					HP:0000729	Autistic behavior	0.50
					HP:0000708	Behavioral abnormality	0.67
SCN1A	0.90	5	0.23	16	HP:0000234	Abnormality of the head	0.50
					HP:0002373	Febrile seizures	0.81
					HP:0002069	Generalized tonic-clonic seizures	0.94
					HP:0003593	Infantile onset	0.81
STXBP1	0.87	5	0.63	14	HP:0010850	EEG with spike-wave complexes	0.75
					HP:0011153	Focal motor seizure	0.50
					HP:0002167	Neurological speech impairment	0.86
					HP:0000750	Delayed speech and language development	0.86
AP2M1	0.86	6	0.18	4	HP:0001263	Global developmental delay	1.00
					HP:0011446	Abnormality of higher mental function	0.86
					HP:0012758	Neurodevelopmental delay	1.00
					HP:0001252	Muscular hypotonia	0.75
					HP:0000750	Delayed speech and language development	0.75
					HP:0011463	Childhood onset	0.75
CHD2	0.84	6	0.12	4	HP:0010819	Atonic seizures	0.75
					HP:0000708	Behavioral abnormality	0.75
					HP:0003808	Abnormal muscle tone	0.75
					HP:0002133	Status epilepticus	0.75
					HP:0011463	Childhood onset	0.75
GABRB3	0.85	7	0.03	5	HP:0000708	Behavioral abnormality	0.75
					HP:0001249	Intellectual disability	0.75
					HP:0002373	Febrile seizures	0.50
					HP:0002123	Generalized myoclonic seizures	0.75
					HP:0100022	Abnormality of movement	0.80
					HP:0003593	Infantile onset	0.80
					HP:0010847	EEG with spike-wave complexes (<2.5 Hz)	0.60
KCNT1	0.87	7	0.01	4	HP:0000708	Behavioral abnormality	0.60
					HP:0001298	Encephalopathy	0.40
					HP:0001263	Global developmental delay	0.80
					HP:0007270	Atypical absence seizure	0.40
					HP:0012444	Brain atrophy	0.50
					HP:0007367	Atrophy/Degeneration affecting the CNS	0.50
SCN2A	0.90	7	0.04	8	HP:0007359	Focal-onset seizure	0.75
					HP:0002977	Aplasia/Hypoplasia involving the CNS	0.50
					HP:0002060	Abnormality of the cerebrum	0.50
					HP:0010841	Multifocal epileptiform discharges	0.50
					HP:0100547	Abnormality of forebrain morphology	0.50
					HP:0000729	Autistic behavior	0.50
SCN2A	0.90	7	0.04	8	HP:0001252	Muscular hypotonia	0.62
					HP:0002011	Morphological abnormality of the CNS	0.75
					HP:0012639	Abnormality of nervous system morphology	0.75
					HP:0003808	Abnormal muscle tone	0.62
					HP:0011804	Abnormal muscle physiology	0.62
SCN2A	0.90	7	0.04	8	HP:0003011	Abnormality of the musculature	0.62
					HP:0003011	Abnormality of the musculature	0.62

SCN8A	0.84	7	0.14	5	HP:0002069	Generalized tonic-clonic seizures	1.00
					HP:0003593	Infantile onset	0.80
					HP:0007359	Focal-onset seizure	0.80
					HP:0002384	Focal impaired awareness seizure	0.60
					HP:0002133	Status epilepticus	0.60
					HP:0001252	Muscular hypotonia	0.60
CDKL5	0.86	8	0.04	4	HP:0410280	Pediatric onset	1.00
					HP:0011097	Epileptic spasms	1.00
					HP:0011196	EEG with focal sharp waves	0.75
					HP:0003593	Infantile onset	0.75
					HP:0002521	Hypsarrhythmia	0.75
					HP:0012469	Infantile spasms	0.75
					HP:0007270	Atypical absence seizure	0.50
					HP:0010819	Atonic seizures	0.50
KCNQ2	0.84	8	0.01	9	HP:0002121	Absence seizure	0.50
					HP:0001298	Encephalopathy	0.56
					HP:0001263	Global developmental delay	0.78
					HP:0010818	Generalized tonic seizures	0.56
					HP:0001252	Muscular hypotonia	0.44
					HP:0000152	Abnormality of head or neck	0.33
					HP:0012759	Neurodevelopmental abnormality	0.89
					HP:0012758	Neurodevelopmental delay	0.78
NEXMIF	0.89	8	0.08	4	HP:0001288	Gait disturbance	0.22
					HP:0002123	Generalized myoclonic seizures	1.00
					HP:0010819	Atonic seizures	0.75
					HP:0001249	Intellectual disability	0.75
					HP:0010850	EEG with spike-wave complexes	0.75
					HP:0012758	Neurodevelopmental delay	1.00
					HP:0011446	Abnormality of higher mental function	0.75
HP:0007270	Atypical absence seizure	0.50					
					HP:0011196	EEG with focal sharp waves	0.50

Table S12. HPO terms required to reach a positive predictive value (PPV) of at least 80% for genetic etiologies with more than three individuals in the cohort

Genetic etiologies with more than three patients in the cohort were found to require 4-8 terms to reach a PPV of at least 80%. HPO terms were selected by taking terms that were had the highest odds ratio (i.e. the most common term within those individuals with the genetic etiology as compared to the rest of the cohort). Frequency of each term within individuals with the genetic etiology is displayed.