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Authors

Milne, Roger L

Kuchenbaecker, Karoline B

Michailidou, Kyriaki

et al.

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A full list of authors and affiliations appears at the end of the article.

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Correspondence should be addressed to R.L.M. (roger.milne@cancervic.org.au).

³³⁴These authors contributed equally to this work.

³³⁵These authors jointly directed this work.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Writing group: R.L.M., K.B.K., K. Michailidou, J. Beesley, S. Kar, S. Lindström, S. Hui, G.D.B., P.D.P.P., F.J.C., D.F.E., P.K., G.C.-T., M.G.-C., M.K.S., A.C.A., J. Simard. Conception and coordination of OncoArray synthesis: D.F.E., A.C.A., J. Simard, C.I.A., J. Byun, S.J.C., E.D., D.J.H., A. Lee, P.D.P.P., J.T., Z.W. OncoArray genotyping: M.A., A.C.A., S.E.B., M.K.B., F.B., G.C.-T., J.M.C., K.F.D., D.F.E., N. Hammell, B. Hicks, K.J., C. Luccarini, L.M., J.M., E.P., J. Romm, M.K.S., X.S., J. Simard, P. Soucy, D.C.T., D.V., J. Vollenweider, L.X., B.Z. OncoArray genotype calling and quality control: X.C., J.D., E.D., D.F.E., K.B.K., J. Lecarpentier, A. Lee, M. Lush. Database management: D. Barrowdale, M.K.B., M.L., L.M., Q.W., R. Keeman, M.K.S. Statistical analysis: K.B.K., K. Michailidou, S. Hui, S. Kar, X.J., A. Rostamianfar, H. Finucane, S. Lindström, D. Barnes, P.K., P.D.P.P., G.D.B., R.L.M., A.C.A., D.F.E. Bioinformatic analysis: J. Beesley, P. Soucy, A. Lemaçon, D. Barnes, F.A.-E., A.D., J. Simard, G.C.-T. Provision of DNA samples and/or phenotypic data: ABCTB Investigators, C.M.A., J. Adlard, S. Agata, S. Ahmed, H.A., J. Allen, K.A., C.B.A., I.L.A., H.A.-C., N.N.A., A.C.A., V.A., N.A., K.J.A., B.A., P.L.A., M.G.E.M.A., J. Azzollini, J. Balmaña, M. Barile, L. Barjhoux, R.B.B., M. Barrdahl, D. Barnes, D. Barrowdale, C. Baynes, M.W.B., J. Beesley, J. Benitez, M. Bermisheva, L. Bernstein, Y.-J.B., K.R.B., M.J.B., C. Blomqvist, W.B., K.B., B. Boeckx, N.V.B., A. Bojesen, S.E.B., M.K.B., B. Bonanni, A. Bozsik, A.R.B., J.S.B., H. Brauch, H. Brenner, B.B.-d.P., C. Brewer, L. Brinton, P.B., A.B.-W., J. Brunet, T.B., B. Burwinkel, S.S.B., A.-L.B.-D., Q.C., T. Caldés, M.A.C., I. Campbell, F.C., O.C., A. Carracedo, B.D.C., J.E.C., L.C., V.C.-M., S.B.C., J.C.-C., S.J.C., X.C., G.C.-T., T.-Y.D.C., J. Chiquette, H.C., K.B.M.C., C.L.C., NBSS Collaborators, T. Conner, D.M.C., J. Cook, E.C.-D., S.C., F.J.C., I. Coupier, D.G.C., A. Cox, S.S.C., K. Cuk, K. Czene, M.B.D., F.D., H.D., R.D., J.D., P.D., O.D., Y.C.D., N.D., S.M.D., C.M.D., S.D., P.-A.D., M. Dumont, A.M.D., L.D., M. Dwek, B.D., T.D., EMBRACE, D.F.E., D.E., R.E., H. Ehrencrona, U.E., B.E., A.B.E., A.H.E., C.E., M.E., L. Fachal, L. Faivre, P.A.F., U.F., J.F., D.F.-J., O.F., H. Flyger, W.D.F., E.F., L. Fritschi, D.F., GEMO Study Collaborators, M. Gabrielson, P. Gaddam, M.D.G., M.G.-D., P.A.G., S.M.G., J. Garber, V.G.-B., M.G.-C., J.A.G.-S., M.M.G., M.G.-V., A. Gehrig, V.G., A.-M.G., G.G.G., G.G., A.K.G., M.S.G., D.E.G., A.G.-N., P. Goodfellow, M.H.G., G.I.G.A., M. Grip, J. Gronwald, A. Grundy, D.G.-K., Q.G., P. Guénel, HEBON, L.H., E. Hahnen, C.A.H., P. Hall, E. Hallberg, U.H., S. Hankinson, T.V.O.H., P. Harrington, S.N.H., J.M.H., C.S.H., A. Hein, S. Helbig, A. Henderson, J.H., P. Hillemanns, S. Hodgson, F.B.H., A. Hollestelle, M.J.H., B. Hoover, J.L.H., C.H., G.H., P.J.H., K.H., D.J.H., N. Håkansson, E.N.I., C.I., M.I., L.I., A.J., P.J., R.J., W.J., U.B.J., E.M.J., N.J., M.J., A.J.-V., R. Kaaks, M. Kabisch, K. Kaczmarek, D.K., K. Kast, R. Keeman, M.J.K., C.M.K., M. Keupers, S. Khan, E.K., J.I.K., J.A.K., I.K., V.-M.K., S.-W.K., P.K., V.N.K., T.A.K., K.B.K., A.K., Y.L., F. Lalloo, K.L., D.L., C. Lasset, C. Lazaro, L.I.M., J. Lecarpentier, M. Lee, A. Lee, E.L., J. Lee, F. Lejbkovicz, F. Lesueur, J. Li, J. Lilyquist, A. Lincoln, A. Lindblom, S. Lindström, J. Lissowska, W.-Y.L., S. Loibl, J. Long, J.T.L., J. Lubinski, C. Luccarini, M. Lush, A.-V.L., R.J.M., T.M., E.M., K.E.M., I.M.K., A. Mannermaa, S. Manoukian, J.E.M., S. Margolin, J.W.M.M., M.E.M., K. Matsuo, D.M., S. Mazoyer, L.M., C. McLean, H.M.-H., A. Meindl, P.M., H.M., K. Michailidou, A. Miller, N.M., R.L.M., G.M., M.M., K. Muir, A.M.M., C. Mulot, S.N., K.L.N., S.L.N., H.N., I.N., D.N., S.F.N., B.G.N., A.N., R.L.N., K. Offit, E.O., O.I.O., J.E.O., H.O., C.O., K. Ong, J.C.O., N.O., A.O., L.O., V.S.P., L.P., S.K.P., T.-W.P.-S., Y.P.-K., R.L., I.S.P., B. Peissel, A.P., J.I.A.P., P.P., J.P., G.P., P.D.P.P., C.M.P., M.P., D.P.-K., B. Poppe, M.E.P., R.P., N.P., D.P., M.A.P., K.P., B.R., P.R., N.R., J. Rantala, C.R.-F., H.S.R., G.R., V.R., K.R., A. Richardson, G.C.R., A. Romero, M.A.R., A. Rudolph, T.R., E.S., J. Sanders, D.P.S., S. Sangrajrang, E.J.S., D.F.S., M.K.S., R.K.S., M.J. Schoemaker, F.S., L. Schwentner, P. Schürmann, C. Scott, R.J.S., S. Seal, L. Senter, C. Seynaeve, M.S., P. Sharma, C.-Y.S., H. Shimelis, M.J. Shrubsole, X.-O.S., L.E.S., J. Simard, C.F.S., C. Sohn, P. Soucy, M.C.S., J.J.S., A.B.S., C. Stegmaier, J. Stone, D.S.-L., G.S., H. Surowy, C. Sutter, A.S., C.I.S., R.M.T., Y.Y.T., J.A.T., M.R.T., M.-I.T., L. Tong, M. Tengström, S.H.T., M.B.T., A.T., M. Thomassen, D.L.T., K. Thöne, M.G.T., L. Tihomirova, M. Tischkowitz, A.E.T., R.A.E.M.T., I.T., D.T., M. Tranchant, T.T., K. Tucker, N.T., H.-U.U., C.V., D.v.d.B., L.V., R.V.-M., A. Vega, A. Viel, J. Vijai, L.W., Q.W., S.W.-G., B.W., C.R.W., J.N.W., C.W., J.W., A.S.W., J.T.W., W.W., R.W., A.W., A.H.W., X.R.Y., D.Y., D.Z., W.Z., A.Z., E.Z., K.K.Z., I.d.-S.-S., kConFab AOCs Investigators, C.J.v.A., E.v.R., A.M.W.v.d.O. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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The authors declare no competing financial interests.

Abstract

Most common breast cancer susceptibility variants have been identified through genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of predominantly estrogen receptor (ER)-positive disease¹. We conducted a GWAS using 21,468 ER-negative cases and 100,594 controls combined with 18,908 *BRCA1* mutation carriers (9,414 with breast cancer), all of European origin. We identified independent associations at $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ with ten variants at nine new loci. At $P < 0.05$, we replicated associations with 10 of 11 variants previously reported in ER-negative disease or *BRCA1* mutation carrier GWAS and observed consistent associations with ER-negative disease for 105 susceptibility variants identified by other studies. These 125 variants explain approximately 14% of the familial risk of this breast cancer subtype. There was high genetic correlation (0.72) between risk of ER-negative breast cancer and breast cancer risk for *BRCA1* mutation carriers. These findings may lead to improved risk prediction and inform further fine-mapping and functional work to better understand the biological basis of ER-negative breast cancer.

GWAS have identified 107 SNPs that are independently associated with breast cancer risk^{2–32}. Association studies focused on ER-negative disease, or *BRCA1* mutation carriers, who are more likely to develop ER-negative disease (70–80% of cases)³³, have identified 11 of these SNPs^{3,9,12,19,29,30}. We aimed to discover additional susceptibility variants for ER-negative breast cancer by performing a GWAS in women of European origin.

New genotyping data were generated for 9,655 ER-negative cases and 45,494 controls from 68 Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC) studies and 15,566 *BRCA1* mutation carriers (7,784 with breast cancer) from 58 Consortium of Investigators of Modifiers of *BRCA1/2* (CIMBA) studies (Supplementary Tables 1 and 2) using the Illumina OncoArray BeadChip, a 570,000-SNP custom array with genome-wide coverage³⁴. Imputation was used to derive estimated genotypes for ~21 million SNPs, using the 1000 Genomes Project (Phase 3) as the reference; ~11.5 million of these SNPs with imputation $r^2 > 0.3$ and minor allele frequency (MAF) > 0.005 were included in further analyses. For BCAC data, we estimated per-allele odds ratios (ORs) using logistic regression, adjusting for country and principal components. For CIMBA data, we estimated per-allele hazard ratios (HRs) using a retrospective cohort analysis framework, modeling time to breast cancer and stratifying by country, Ashkenazi Jewish origin and birth cohort^{35,36} (Online Methods). These analyses were also applied to an independent set of previously generated data from other genome-wide genotyping of additional European participants in 44 BCAC studies (11,813 ER-negative cases and 55,100 controls)^{9,12,16,20,37,38} and 54 CIMBA studies (3,342 *BRCA1* mutation carriers, 1,630 with breast cancer) (Supplementary Tables 1 and 2). Fixed-effects meta-analysis was used to combine results across genotyping initiatives within consortia and, assuming that the odds ratio and hazard ratio estimates approximate the same underlying relative risk, across consortia³⁹.

Results from the combined meta-analysis are summarized in Supplementary Figures 1 and 2. There was minimal inflation of test statistics ($\lambda_{1,000} = 1.004$; Supplementary Fig. 3). We identified ten variants at nine new loci that were independently associated with risk of ER-negative breast cancer at $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ (Table 1, Supplementary Figs. 4–11 and

Supplementary Table 3). Two independent signals were observed within 12 kb of each other at 11q22.3, for rs74911261 (MAF = 0.02) and rs11374964 (MAF = 0.42); odds ratio estimates and statistical significance were largely unchanged when each variant was adjusted for the other (Supplementary Table 4). The association with rs66823261 at 8p23.3 was not observed for *BRCA1* mutation carriers ($P = 0.32$, P value for heterogeneity (P_{het}) = 0.030).

For each of these ten new signals, we identified candidate causal SNPs analytically^{40,41} (Online Methods) and combined multiple sources of *in silico* functional annotation from public databases^{42–52} to identify likely functional variants and target genes. Results are summarized in Figure 1, Supplementary Table 5 (including UCSC Genome Browser links; also see the Supplementary Note) and Supplementary Figures 4–11 (data sources in Supplementary Table 6). Many candidate causal SNPs lie in predicted regulatory regions and are associated with expression of nearby genes in blood or other tissues. At 2p23, the predicted target genes include *ADCY3* and *NCOA1* (Supplementary Fig. 4). At 6q23.1 (Supplementary Fig. 5), the most plausible target gene is *L3MBTL3* (ref.⁵³). A predicted target at 8q24.13 is *FBXO32*, which is expressed in ER-negative human mammary epithelial cells (HMECs) but not ER-positive MCF7 breast cancer cells (Supplementary Fig. 7) and has a known role in cancer cachexia⁵⁴. At 11q22.3 (Fig. 1), a predicted target gene of common risk-associated variants is *NPAT*⁵⁵. The rarer SNPs underlying the other 11q22.3 signal are predicted to target *ATM*, a known breast cancer susceptibility gene⁵⁶. Three rare coding variants (MAF = 0.03) in *ATM*, *NPAT* and *KDELC2* are also among the candidate causal SNPs at this locus. At 16p13, predicted target genes include *ADCY9* and *CREBBP* (Supplementary Fig. 8). At 19q12 (Supplementary Fig. 11), a potential target gene (*CCNE1*) encodes cyclin E1, which is involved in cell cycle control and phosphorylation of NPAT⁵⁷.

Expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) associations were assessed for each candidate causal variant and genes within 1 Mb using 79 ER-negative breast tumors from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) and 135 normal breast tissue samples from the Molecular Taxonomy of Breast Cancer International Consortium (METABRIC)^{58–60}. The strongest associations identified were for rs6569648 at 6q23.1 with *L3MBTL3* ($P = 4.3 \times 10^{-6}$) and for rs12965632 at 18q12.1 with *CDH2* ($P = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}$), both in METABRIC (Supplementary Table 5). SNP rs6569648 was the top *cis*-eQTL (of all imputed variants within 1 Mb) for *L3MBTL3*, while the P value for the eQTL effect of rs12965632 on *CDH2* was within two orders of magnitude of those for the top *cis*-eQTLs for this gene (Supplementary Figs. 12 and 13).

For 10 of the 11 variants previously identified through GWAS of ER-negative disease or overall disease for *BRCA1* mutation carriers^{3,9,12,18,19,30,31} or reported as more strongly associated with ER-negative breast cancer²⁹, associations with ER-negative disease were replicated ($P < 0.05$) using OncoArray data from BCAC, which do not overlap with any of the discovery studies (Table 2). Effect sizes were generally similar to those originally reported. Using all available CIMBA data, 6 of these 11 variants were associated with breast cancer risk ($P < 0.05$) for *BRCA1* mutation carriers (Table 2). No evidence of association was observed for rs2284378 at 20q11 (ref.¹²) in either BCAC or CIMBA ($P = 0.46$).

On the basis of odds ratios estimated using BCAC data for all cases with known ER status (16,988 ER negative and 65,275 ER positive), all ten new and ten previously reported and replicated susceptibility SNPs for ER-negative disease were more strongly associated with risk of the ER-negative subtype than the ER-positive subtype ($P_{\text{het}} < 0.05$, except for the new signal for rs322144 at 19p13.2; Supplementary Table 7). Two variants (rs4245739 at 1q32.1 and rs67397200 at 19p13.11) were not associated with ER-positive disease. For four variants (rs11374964 (11q22.3), rs74911261 (11q22.3), rs6678914 (1q32.1) and rs4577244 (2p23.2)), the risk-associated allele for ER-negative disease was associated with reduced risk of ER-positive disease ($P < 0.05$).

For these 20 susceptibility SNPs for ER-negative breast cancer, we also assessed association by triple-negative status (negative for ER, progesterone receptor and HER2; Table 3), tumor grade (Table 4) and age at diagnosis (Supplementary Table 8) using BCAC data only. Five SNPs, including the new susceptibility variants at 11q22.3 (rs11374964 and rs74911261), were more strongly associated with both risk of triple-negative disease and risk of higher-grade disease ($P < 0.05$); however, after adjustment for triple-negative status, heterogeneity in effect by tumor grade was observed only for the variants at 11q22.3 (rs74911261) and 1q32.1 (rs4245739) ($P < 0.05$). For rs4577244 at 2p23.3, heterogeneity was observed for tumor grade only, while rs2747652 at 6q25.2 was more strongly associated with risk of other (non-triple-negative) ER-negative breast cancer subtypes ($P < 0.05$). At younger ages at diagnosis, associations appeared to be stronger for two variants (rs10069690 (5p15.33) and rs67397200 (19p13.11)) and weaker for one (rs2747652 (6q25.2)) ($P < 0.05$).

Elsewhere, we report 65 new susceptibility loci for overall breast cancer¹. Three of these are located within 500 kb of the new susceptibility loci for ER-negative disease reported here (variants rs200648189 (2p23.3), rs6569648 (6q23.1) and rs17350191 (8q24.13)). We assessed associations with risk of ER-negative disease, and with risk of overall breast cancer for *BRCA1* mutation carriers, for SNPs at the remaining 62 loci, as well as for the 96 previously reported breast cancer susceptibility variants that were not specific to ER-negative disease. Of these 158 SNPs, 105 were associated ($P < 0.05$) with risk of ER-negative breast cancer and 24 were associated with overall risk for *BRCA1* mutation carriers (Supplementary Tables 9 and 10). Results for *BRCA2* mutation carriers are presented in Supplementary Table 11.

Pathway analysis based on mapping each SNP to the nearest gene was performed using summary association statistics from the meta-analysis of BCAC and CIMBA data combined^{61–64} (Online Methods). This identified several pathways implicated in ER-negative disease (enrichment score (ES) = 0.41; Supplementary Fig. 14 and Supplementary Tables 12 and 13), including a subset of pathways that were not enriched in susceptibility to ER-positive disease (ES < 0; Supplementary Table 14). One of the latter subsets was the adenylate cyclase (AC)-activating pathway (ES = 0.62; Supplementary Fig. 15). Two of the predicted target genes for the ten new susceptibility variants for ER-negative breast cancer, based on the eQTL analysis (Supplementary Table 5), *ADCY3* ($P_{\text{TCGA}} = 6.7 \times 10^{-3}$) and *ADCY9* (PMETABRIC = 1.3×10^{-4}), are part of this pathway, and their association signals were critical to the elevated enrichment scores observed (Supplementary Fig. 14). *ADCY9* is stimulated by β_2 adrenergic receptor ($\beta_2\text{AR}$) signaling⁶⁵ in ER-negative breast cancer⁶⁶ and

in turn drives AC-cAMP signaling, including, for example, mitogenic signaling through the β -arrestin-Src-ERK pathway⁶⁷.

To further explore the functional properties of the genome that contribute to heritability of ER-negative breast cancer, we conducted a partitioned heritability analysis using linkage disequilibrium (LD) score regression⁶⁸. Considering 52 ‘baseline’ genomic features, we observed the greatest enrichment for super-enhancers (2.5-fold, $P = 2 \times 10^{-7}$) and the H3K4me3 histone mark (2.4-fold, $P = 0.0005$), with 33% depletion ($P = 0.0002$) observed for repressed regions (Supplementary Table 15). No differences in enrichment for these features were observed between susceptibility to ER-negative and ER-positive breast cancer, but baseline genomic features are not specific to cell type⁶⁸. The estimated correlation between ER-negative and ER-positive breast cancer based on ~1 million common genetic variants^{69,70} was 0.60 (standard error (SE) = 0.03), indicating that, although these two breast cancer subtypes have a shared genetic component, a substantial proportion of their genetic bases is distinct. The estimated correlation between ER-negative disease in the general population and overall breast cancer for *BRCA1* mutation carriers was 0.72 (SE = 0.11).

In summary, in this study of women of European origin, we have identified ten new susceptibility variants for ER-negative breast cancer and replicated associations with ER-negative disease for ten SNPs identified by previous GWAS. Most of these variants were not associated or were more weakly associated with ER-positive disease, consistent with the findings from pathway and partitioned heritability analyses showing that ER-negative breast cancer has a partly distinct genetic etiology. We also observed consistent associations with ER-negative disease for a further 105 susceptibility SNPs for breast cancer overall. Together, these 125 variants explain ~14% of an assumed twofold increased risk of developing ER-negative disease for the first-degree female relatives of women affected with this subtype (the newly identified SNPs explain ~1.5%; Supplementary Table 16) and ~40% of the estimated familial risk that is attributable to all variants imputable from the OncoArray (Online Methods). We have also identified 9 new breast cancer susceptibility variants for *BRCA1* mutation carriers and confirmed associations for a further 30 previously reported SNPs; these 39 variants explain ~8% of the variance in polygenic risk for carriers of these mutations (Supplementary Table 17). However, the lower number of risk-associated variants in disease with *BRCA1* mutation may merely be a consequence of the smaller sample size, as the genetic correlation with ER-negative breast cancer is high. These findings may inform improved risk prediction, both for the general population and *BRCA1* mutation carriers^{30,71,72}. Further investigation is required for other populations of non-European origin. Fine-mapping and functional studies should lead to a better understanding of the biological basis of ER-negative breast cancer and may perhaps inform the design of more effective preventive interventions, early detection and treatments for this disease.

URLs

Database of Genotypes and Phenotypes (dbGaP), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gap>; Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC), <http://bcac.ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/>; Consortium of Investigators of Modifiers of *BRCA1/2* (CIMBA), <http://cimba.ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/>; PCcalc software, <http://ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/software/pccalc/>; SNPTEST, <https://>

mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/genetics_software/snptest/snptest.html; GeneSets, <http://baderlab.org/GeneSets>; GenGen package, <http://gengen.openbioinformatics.org/en/latest/>.

METHODS

Methods, including statements of data availability and any associated accession codes and references, are available in the online version of the paper.

ONLINE METHODS

Study subjects

Supplementary Table 1 summarizes the studies from BCAC that contributed data. The majority were case–control studies. Sixty-eight BCAC studies participated in the ER-negative breast cancer component of the OncoArray, contributing 9,655 cases and 45,494 controls. All studies provided core data on disease status and age at diagnosis/observation, and the majority provided information on clinicopathological and lifestyle factors, which has been curated and incorporated into the BCAC database (version 6). ER status for most (~70%) cases was obtained from clinical records. After removal of overlapping participants, genotype data were also available from eight GWAS^{9,12,16,37,38} (4,480 ER-negative cases and 12,632 controls) and 40 studies previously genotyped using the Illumina iCOGS custom array²⁰ (7,333 ER-negative cases and 42,468 controls).

A total of 21,468 ER-negative cases were included in the combined analyses. Of these, 5,793 had tumors that were also negative for progesterone receptor (PR) and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) and were defined as triple negative. PR and HER2 status were also obtained predominantly from clinical records. A further 4,217 cases were positive for PR or HER2 and were considered non–triple negative. The remainder had unknown PR or HER2 status. All participating studies were approved by their appropriate ethics review boards, and all subjects provided informed consent.

Subjects included from CIMBA were women of European ancestry aged 18 years or older with a pathogenic variant for *BRCA1*. The majority of the participants were sampled through cancer genetics clinics. Multiple members of the same family were included in some instances. Fifty-eight studies from 24 countries contributed OncoArray genotype data. After quality control and removal of participants overlapping with the BCAC OncoArray study, data were available on 15,566 *BRCA1* mutation carriers, of whom 7,784 were affected with breast cancer (Supplementary Table 2). We also obtained iCOGS genotype data on 3,342 *BRCA1* mutation carriers (1,630 with breast cancer) from 54 studies through CIMBA. All mutation carriers provided written informed consent and participated under ethically approved protocols.

OncoArray SNP selection

Approximately 50% of the SNPs for the OncoArray were selected as a ‘GWAS backbone’ (Illumina HumanCore), which aimed to provide high coverage for the majority of common variants through imputation. The remaining allocation was selected from lists supplied by each of six disease-based consortia, together with a seventh list of SNPs of interest to

multiple disease study groups. Approximately 72,000 SNPs were selected specifically for their relevance to breast cancer, on the basis of prior evidence of association with overall or subtype-specific disease, with breast density or with breast- tissue-specific gene expression. Lists were merged as described previously³⁴.

Genotype calling and quality control

Details of the genotype calling and quality control for the iCOGS and GWAS are described elsewhere^{19,20,23,30}, and those for OncoArray are described in the Supplementary Note.

Imputation

Genotypes for ~21 million SNPs were imputed for all samples using the October 2014 (Phase 3) release of the 1000 Genomes Project data as the reference panel and based on 800 haplotypes. The iCOGS, OncoArray and six of the GWAS data sets were imputed using a two-stage imputation approach, with SHAPEIT⁷³ for phasing and IMPUTEv2 (ref. ⁷⁴) for imputation. Imputation was performed in 5-Mb non-overlapping intervals. All subjects were split into subsets of ~10,000 samples, with subjects from the same study grouped in the subset. The Breast and Prostate Cancer Cohort Consortium (BPC3) and Breast Cancer Family Registry (BCFR) GWAS performed imputation separately using MACH and Minimac^{75,76}. We imputed genotypes for all SNPs that were polymorphic (MAF > 0.1%) in either European or Asian samples. For the BCAC GWAS, data were included in the analysis for all SNPs with MAF > 0.01 and imputation $r^2 > 0.3$. For iCOGS and OncoArray, we included data for all SNPs with imputation $r^2 > 0.3$ and MAF > 0.005.

Statistical analyses of BCAC data

Per-allele odds ratios and standard errors were generated for the OncoArray and iCOGS data sets and for each GWAS, adjusting for principal components, using logistic regression. The OncoArray and iCOGS analyses were additionally adjusted for country and study, respectively. For the OncoArray data set, principal-components analysis was performed using data for 33,661 SNPs (which included the 2,318 markers of continental ancestry) with MAF > 0.05 and maximum correlation of 0.1, using purpose-written software (PCcalc; see URLs) to allow standard calculations to be performed sufficiently rapidly on a very large data set. We used the first ten principal components, as the inclusion of additional components did not further reduce inflation of the test statistics. We used nine principal components for the iCOGS data set and up to ten principal components for the other GWAS, where this was found to reduce inflation.

Odds ratio estimates were derived using MACH for the BCFR GWAS, ProbABEL⁷⁷ was used for the BPC3 GWAS, SNPTEST (see URLs) was used for the remaining GWAS and purpose-written software was applied for the iCOGS and OncoArray data sets. Odds ratio estimates and standard errors were combined by a fixed-effects inverse-variance-weighted meta-analysis using METAL³⁹. This was first done across the eight GWAS, applying genomic control, as described previously²⁰. It was then applied (without genomic control) to combine findings from the three BCAC genotyping initiatives (GWAS, iCOGS and OncoArray).

The independence of the signals from two variants at 11q22.3 was assessed by fitting the logistic regression models described above with both variants as covariates. This was done separately for iCOGS and OncoArray data, and results for each variant were combined by meta-analysis.

For selected SNPs, we estimated per-allele odds ratios by ER status using all available BCAC data for 82,263 cases with known ER status and 87,962 controls from the iCOGS and OncoArray studies. We also estimated per-allele odds ratios by triple-negative status (triple-negative versus other ER-negative subtypes) and tumor grade, using available BCAC data for ER-negative cases and corresponding controls. Tests for heterogeneity by subtype were derived by applying logistic regression to cases only. This was done separately for the iCOGS and OncoArray data sets, adjusting as before, and results were then combined in a fixed-effects meta-analysis. Multinomial regression was applied to cases only to test for a linear trend for tumor grade, with the model constrained so that the difference between grade 1 and grade 3 was double that for the difference between grade 2 and grade 3; this method was also used to test for a linear trend with age at diagnosis, with ordinal values 1, 2, 3 and 4 representing ages <40, 40–49, 50–59 and 60 years, respectively.

Statistical analyses of CIMBA data

Associations between genotype and breast cancer risk for *BRCA1* mutation carriers were evaluated using a 1-degree-of-freedom per-allele trend test (P_{trend}), based on modeling the retrospective likelihood of the observed genotypes conditional on breast cancer phenotypes³⁶. This was done separately for iCOGS and OncoArray data. To allow for non-independence among related individuals, an adjusted test statistic was used that took into account correlation in genotypes³. All analyses were stratified by country of residence and, for countries where the strata were sufficiently large (United States and Canada), by Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry. The results from the iCOGS and OncoArray data sets were then pooled using fixed-effects meta-analysis. We repeated these analyses modeling ovarian cancer as a competing risk and observed no substantial difference in the results obtained.

The independence of the signals from two variants at 11q22.3 was assessed using OncoArray data only, fitting a Cox regression model with per-allele effects for both variants, adjusting for birth cohort, stratifying by country of residence, and using robust standard errors and clustered observations for relatives. This approach provides valid significance tests of association, although the resulting hazard ratio estimates can be biased³⁵.

Meta-analysis of BCAC and CIMBA

A fixed-effects meta-analysis of the results from BCAC and CIMBA was conducted using an inverse-variance-weighted approach assuming fixed effects, as implemented in METAL³⁹. The effect estimates used were the logarithm of the per-allele hazard ratio estimate for association with breast cancer risk for *BRCA1* mutation carriers from CIMBA and the logarithm of the per-allele odds ratio estimate for association with risk of ER-negative breast cancer based on BCAC data, both of which were assumed to approximate the same relative risk. We assessed genomic inflation using common (MAF > 1%) GWAS

backbone variants. As λ is influenced by sample size, we calculated $\lambda_{1,000}$ so that the values were comparable with those from other studies.

All statistical tests conducted were two-sided.

Definition of known association signals

We identified all associations previously reported from genome-wide or candidate analyses at a significance level of $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ in overall breast cancer, in ER-negative or ER-positive breast cancer, for *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* mutation carriers, or in meta-analyses of these categories. We included only one SNP in any 500-kb interval unless joint analysis provided genome-wide significant evidence (conditional $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) of more than one independent signal. Where multiple studies reported associations in the same region, we considered the first reported association unless a later study identified a different variant in the same region that was more strongly associated with breast cancer risk. One hundred and seven previously reported association signals were identified, 11 of which were found through GWAS of ER-negative disease or of breast cancer for *BRCA1* mutation carriers or were reported as being more strongly associated with ER-negative breast cancer. These are listed in Table 2. The other 96 previously reported association signals are listed in Supplementary Table 10.

Definition of new association signals

To search for new loci, we assessed all SNPs excluding those within 500 kb of a known association signal. This approach identified 206 SNPs in nine regions that were associated with disease risk at $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ in the meta-analysis of BCAC ER-negative breast cancer and breast cancer for CIMBA *BRCA1* mutation carriers. The SNP with the lowest P value from this analysis was considered to be the lead SNP. No additional loci were detected from analysis of BCAC data only. Imputation quality, as assessed by the IMPUTE2 imputation r^2 value in the OncoArray data set, was 0.89 for the ten lead SNPs reported (Supplementary Table 3).

Candidate causal SNPs

To define the set of potentially causal variants at each of the new susceptibility loci, we selected all variants with P values within two orders of magnitude of the P value for the most significant SNP at each of the ten new loci. This is approximately equivalent to selecting variants whose posterior probability of causality is within two orders of magnitude of that of the most significant SNP^{40,41}. This approach was applied to identify potentially causal variants for the signal given by the more common lead SNP at 11q22.3 (rs11374964). A similar approach was applied for the rarer lead SNP at this locus (rs74911261), but this was based on P values from analyses adjusted for rs11374964.

Proportion of familial risk explained

The relative risk of ER-negative breast cancer for the first-degree female relative of a woman with ER-negative disease has not been estimated. We therefore assumed that the twofold increase in risk observed for overall disease also applied to ER-negative disease. To estimate the proportion of this risk explained by the 125 variants associated with ER-negative disease,

we used MAF and odds ratio estimates from the OncoArray-based genotype data and applied the formula

$$\sum_i p_i(1 - p_i)(\beta_i^2 - \tau_i^2)/\ln(\lambda)$$

where p_i is the MAF for variant i , β_i is the log(OR) estimate for variant i , τ_i is the standard error of β_i and $\lambda = 2$ is the assumed overall familial relative risk.

The corresponding estimate for the familial relative risk due to all variants is the frailty-scale heritability, defined as

$$h_f^2 = \sum_i 2p_i(1 - p_i)\gamma_i^2$$

where γ_i is the true relative risk conferred by variant i , assuming a log-additive model. We first obtained the estimated heritability based on the full set of summary estimates using LD score regression⁶⁸, which derives a heritability estimate on the observed scale. We then converted this to an estimate on the frailty scale using the formula

$$h_f^2 = h_{\text{obs}}^2 / P(1 - P)$$

where P is the proportion of samples in the population that are cases.

Proportion of polygenic risk-modifying variance explained for *BRCA1* mutation carriers

The proportion of the variance in polygenic frailty modifying risk for *BRCA1* mutation carriers explained by the set of associated SNPs was estimated by

$$\sum_i \ln c_i / \sigma^2$$

where c_i is the squared estimated coefficient of variation in incidence associated with SNP i (ref. ⁷⁸) and σ^2 is the total polygenic variance, estimated from segregation data⁷⁹.

In silico annotation of candidate causal variants

We combined multiple sources of *in silico* functional annotation from public databases to help identify potential functional SNPs and target genes, on the basis of previous observations that breast cancer susceptibility alleles are enriched in *cis*-regulatory elements and alter transcriptional activity^{28,80–82}. The influence of candidate causal variants on transcription factor binding sites was determined using the ENCODE-Motifs resource⁴³. To investigate functional elements enriched across the region encompassing the strongest candidate causal SNPs, we analyzed chromatin biofeatures data from the Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) Project⁴² and the Roadmap Epigenomics Project⁴⁴ together with other data obtained through the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO), namely chromatin state segmentation by hidden Markov models (chrom-HMM), DHSs, and histone modifications for the epigenetic marks H3K4, H3K9 and H3K27 in HMECs, myoepithelial

cells, and T47D and MCF7 breast cancer cells and transcription factor CHIP-seq in a range of breast cell lines (Supplementary Table 6). To identify the SNPs most likely to be functional, we used RegulomeDB⁴⁵; to identify putative target genes, we examined potential functional chromatin interactions between distal and proximal regulatory transcription factor binding sites and promoters in the risk regions, using Hi-C data generated in HMECs⁴⁷ and ChIA-PET data generated in MCF7 cells. This approach detects genome-wide interactions brought about by or associated with CCCTC-binding factor (CTCF), RNA polymerase II (Pol II) and ER, all of which are involved in transcriptional regulation⁴⁷. Annotation of putative *cis*-regulatory regions and predicted target genes used the integrated method for predicting enhancer targets (IM-PET)⁴⁶, the predicting specific tissue interactions of genes and enhancers (PreSTIGE) algorithm⁴⁸, Hnisz⁵¹ and FANTOM⁴⁹. Intersections between candidate causal variants and regulatory elements were identified using Galaxy, BedTools v2.24 and HaploReg v4.1 and were visualized in the UCSC Genome Browser. Publically available eQTL databases, including Gene-Tissue Expression (GTEx⁵⁰; version 6, multiple tissues) and Westra⁵² (blood), were queried for candidate causal variants.

eQTL analyses

eQTL analyses were performed using data from the TCGA and METABRIC projects^{59,60}.

The TCGA eQTL analysis was based on 79 ER-negative breast tumors that had matched gene expression, copy number and methylation profiles together with corresponding germline genotypes available. All 79 individuals were of European ancestry, as ascertained using the genotype data and the local ancestry in admixed populations (LAMP) software package (LAMP estimate cutoff > 95% European)⁸³. Germline genotypes were imputed into the 1000 Genomes Project reference panel (October 2014 release) using IMPUTE2 (refs. 75,84). Gene expression had been measured on the Illumina HiSeq 2000 RNA-seq platform (gene-level RSEM normalized counts⁸⁵), copy number estimates were derived from the Affymetrix SNP 6.0 array (somatic copy number alteration minus germline copy number variation called using the GISTIC2 algorithm⁸⁶) and methylation β values were measured on the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 array, as previously described⁵⁹. Primary TCGA eQTL analysis focused on all potentially causal variants in the ten new regions associated with breast cancer risk in the meta-analysis of ER-negative cases and controls from BCAC and *BRCA1* mutation carriers from CIMBA. We considered all genes located up to 1 Mb away on either side of each of these variants. The effects of tumor copy number and methylation on gene expression were first removed using a method described previously⁵⁸, and eQTL analysis was performed by linear regression as implemented in the R package Matrix eQTL⁸⁷.

The METABRIC eQTL analysis was based on 135 normal breast tissue samples resected from patients with breast cancer of European ancestry. Germline genotyping for the METABRIC study was also performed on the Affymetrix SNP 6.0 array, and ancestry estimation and imputation for this data set were conducted as described for TCGA. Gene expression in the METABRIC study had been measured using the Illumina HT12 microarray platform, and we used probe-level estimates. As for TCGA, we considered all genes in ten regions using Matrix eQTL.

We also performed additional eQTL analyses using the METABRIC data set for all variants within 1 Mb of *L3MBTL3* and *CDH2* and expression of these specific genes.

Global genomic enrichment analyses

We performed stratified LD score regression analyses⁶⁸ for ER-negative breast cancer using the summary statistics based on meta-analyses of the OncoArray, GWAS, iCOGS and CIMBA data sets. We used all SNPs in the 1000 Genomes Project Phase 1 v3 release that had MAF >1% and imputation quality score $R^2 > 0.3$ in the OncoArray data. LD scores were calculated using the 1000 Genomes Project Phase 1 v3 EUR panel. Further details are provided in the Supplementary Note.

We tested the differences in functional enrichment between ER-positive and ER-negative subsets for individual features through a Wald test, using the regression coefficients and standard errors for the two subsets based on the models described above. Finally, we assessed the heritability due to genotyped and imputed SNPs⁷⁰ and estimated the genetic correlation between ER-positive and ER-negative breast cancer⁶⁹. The genetic correlation analysis was restricted to the ~1 million SNPs included in HapMap 3.

Pathway enrichment analyses

The pathway gene set database Human_GOBP_AllPathways_no_GO_ia_January_19_2016_symbol.gmt (GeneSets; see URLs)⁶¹ was used for all analyses. Pathway size was determined by the total number of genes in the pathway to which SNPs in the imputed GWAS data set could be mapped. To provide more biologically meaningful results and reduce false positives, only pathways that contained between 10 and 200 genes were considered.

SNPs were mapped to the nearest gene within 500 kb; SNPs that were further than 500 kb away from any gene were excluded. Gene significance was calculated by assigning the lowest *P* value observed across all SNPs mapped to a gene^{63,64}, on the basis of the meta-analysis of BCAC and CIMBA data described above.

The gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA)⁶¹ algorithm, as implemented in the GenGen package (see URLs)^{62,63}, was used to perform pathway analysis. Briefly, the algorithm calculates an enrichment score (ES) for each pathway based on a weighted Kolmogorov–Smirnov statistic⁶². Pathways that have most of their genes at the top of the ranked list of genes obtain higher ES values.

We defined an ES threshold (ES = 0.41) to yield a true positive rate (TPR) of 0.20 and a false positive rate (FPR) of 0.14, with true positive pathways defined as those observed with false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.05 in a prior analysis carried out using the analytic approach defined above applied to iCOGS data for ER-negative disease.

To visualize the pathway enrichment analysis results, an enrichment map was created using the Enrichment Map (EM) v 2.1.0 app⁶¹ in Cytoscape v3.30 (ref. ⁸⁸), applying an edge-weighted force-directed layout. To measure the contribution of each gene to enriched pathways and annotate the map, we reran the pathway enrichment analysis multiple times,

each time excluding one gene. A gene was considered to drive the enrichment if the ES dropped to zero or less (pathway enrichment driver) after it was excluded. Pathways were grouped in the map if they shared >70% of their genes or their enrichment was driven by a shared gene.

See the Supplementary Note for further details.

Data availability

A subset of the data that support the findings of this study is publically available via dbGaP (see URLs; accessions phs001265.v1.p1 for BCAC data and phs001321.v1.p1 for CIMBA data). Requests for data can be made to the corresponding author or the Data Access Coordination Committees (DACCs) of BCAC (see URLs) and CIMBA (see URLs). BCAC DACC approval is required to access data from the ABCFS, ABCS, ABCTB, BBCC, BBCS, BCEES, BCFR-NY, BCFR-PA, BCFR-UT, BCINIS, BSUCH, CBCS, CECILE, CGPS, CTS, DIETCOMPLYF, ESTHER, GC-HBOC, GENICA, GEPARSIXTO, GESBC, HABCS, HCSC, HEBCS, HMBCS, HUBCS, KARBAC, KBCP, LMBC, MABCS, MARIE, MBCSG, MCBCS, MISS, MMHS, MTLGEBCS, NC-BCFR, OFBCR, ORIGO, pKARMA, POSH, PREFACE, RBCS, SKKDKFZS, SUCCESSB, SUCCESSC, SZBCS, TNBCC, UCIBCS, UKBGS and UKOPS studies (Supplementary Table 1). CIMBA DACC approval is required to access data from the BCFR-ON, CONSIT TEAM, DKFZ, EMBRACE, FPGMX, GC-HBOC, GEMO, G-FAST, HEBCS, HEBON, IHCC, INHERIT, IOVHBOCS, IPOBCS, MCGILL, MODSQUAD, NAROD, OCGN, OUH and UKGRFOCR studies (Supplementary Table 2).

Supplementary Material

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Authors

Roger L Milne^{1,2,334}, Karoline B Kuchenbaecker^{3,4,334}, Kyriaki Michailidou^{3,5,334}, Jonathan Beesley⁶, Siddhartha Kar⁷, Sara Lindström^{8,9}, Shirley Hui¹⁰, Audrey Lemaçon¹¹, Penny Soucy¹¹, Joe Dennis³, Xia Jiang⁹, Asha Rostamianfar¹⁰, Hilary Finucane^{9,12}, Manjeet K Bolla³, Lesley McGuffog³, Qin Wang³, Cora M Aalfs¹³, ABCTB Investigators¹⁴, Marcia Adams¹⁵, Julian Adlard¹⁶, Simona Agata¹⁷, Shahana Ahmed⁷, Habibul Ahsan¹⁸, Kristiina Aittomäki¹⁹, Fares Al-Ejeh²⁰, Jamie Allen³, Christine B Ambrosone²¹, Christopher I Amos²², Irene L Andrulis^{23,24}, Hoda Anton-Culver²⁵, Natalia N Antonenkova²⁶, Volker Arndt²⁷, Norbert Arnold²⁸, Kristan J Aronson²⁹, Bernd Auber³⁰, Paul L Auer^{31,32}, Margreet G E M Ausems³³, Jacopo Azzollini³⁴, François Bacot³⁵, Judith Balmaña³⁶, Monica Barile³⁷, Laure Barjhoux³⁸, Rosa B Barkardottir^{39,40}, Myrto Barrdahl⁴¹, Daniel Barnes³, Daniel Barrowdale³, Caroline Baynes⁷, Matthias W Beckmann⁴², Javier Benitez^{43,44,45}, Marina Bermisheva⁴⁶, Leslie Bernstein⁴⁷, Yves-Jean Bignon⁴⁸, Kathleen R Blazer⁴⁹, Marinus J Blok⁵⁰, Carl Blomqvist⁵¹, William Blot^{52,53}, Kristie Bobolis⁵⁴, Bram Boeckx^{55,56}, Natalia V Bogdanova^{26,57,58}, Anders Bojesen⁵⁹, Stig E Bojesen^{60,61,62}, Bernardo Bonanni³⁷, Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale⁶³, Aniko Bozsik⁶⁴,

Angela R Bradbury⁶⁵, Judith S Brand⁶⁶, Hiltrud Brauch^{67,68,69}, Hermann Brenner^{27,69,70}, Brigitte Bressac-de Paillerets⁷¹, Carole Brewer⁷², Louise Brinton⁷³, Per Broberg⁷⁴, Angela Brooks-Wilson^{75,76}, Joan Brunet⁷⁷, Thomas Brüning⁷⁸, Barbara Burwinkel^{79,80}, Sandra S Buys⁸¹, Jinyoung Byun²², Qiuyin Cai⁵², Trinidad Caldés⁸², Maria A Caligo⁸³, Ian Campbell^{84,85}, Federico Canzian⁸⁶, Olivier Caron⁷¹, Angel Carracedo^{87,88}, Brian D Carter⁸⁹, J Esteban Castelao⁹⁰, Laurent Castera⁹¹, Virginie Caux-Moncoutier⁹², Salina B Chan⁹³, Jenny Chang-Claude^{41,94}, Stephen J Chanock⁷³, Xiaoqing Chen⁶, Ting-Yuan David Cheng⁹⁵, Jocelyne Chiquette⁹⁶, Hans Christiansen⁵⁷, Kathleen B M Claes⁹⁷, Christine L Clarke⁹⁸, Thomas Conner⁹⁹, Don M Conroy⁷, Jackie Cook¹⁰⁰, Emilie Cordina-Duverger¹⁰¹, Sten Cornelissen¹⁰², Isabelle Coupier¹⁰³, Angela Cox¹⁰⁴, David G Cox^{105,106}, Simon S Cross¹⁰⁷, Katarina Cuk²⁷, Julie M Cunningham¹⁰⁸, Kamila Czene⁶⁶, Mary B Daly¹⁰⁹, Francesca Damiola³⁸, Hatf Darabi⁶⁶, Rosemarie Davidson¹¹⁰, Kim De Leeneer⁹⁷, Peter Devilee^{111,112}, Ed Dicks⁷, Orland Diez¹¹³, Yuan Chun Ding⁴⁷, Nina Ditsch¹¹⁴, Kimberly F Doheny¹⁵, Susan M Domchek⁶⁵, Cecilia M Dorfling¹¹⁵, Thilo Dörk⁵⁸, Isabel dos-Santos-Silva¹¹⁶, Stéphane Dubois¹¹, Pierre-Antoine Dugué^{1,2}, Martine Dumont¹¹, Alison M Dunning⁷, Lorraine Durcan^{117,118}, Miriam Dwek¹¹⁹, Bernd Dworniczak¹²⁰, Diana Eccles¹¹⁸, Ros Eeles¹²¹, Hans Ehrencrona¹²², Ursula Eilber⁴¹, Bent Ejlersen¹²³, Arif B Ekici¹²⁴, A Heather Eliassen^{125,126}, EMBRACE¹⁴, Christoph Engel^{127,128}, Mikael Eriksson⁶⁶, Laura Fachal⁷, Laurence Faivre^{129,130}, Peter A Fasching^{42,131}, Ulrike Faust¹³², Jonine Figueroa^{73,133}, Dieter Flesch-Janys^{134,135}, Olivia Fletcher¹³⁶, Henrik Flyger¹³⁷, William D Foulkes¹³⁸, Eitan Friedman^{139,140}, Lin Fritschi¹⁴¹, Debra Frost³, Marike Gabrielson⁶⁶, Pragna Gaddam¹⁴², Marilie D Gammon¹⁴³, Patricia A Ganz¹⁴⁴, Susan M Gapstur⁸⁹, Judy Garber¹⁴⁵, Vanesa Garcia-Barberan⁸², José A García-Sáenz⁸², Mia M Gaudet⁸⁹, Marion Gauthier-Villars⁹², Andrea Gehrig¹⁴⁶, GEMO Study Collaborators¹⁴, Vassilios Georgoulis¹⁴⁷, Anne-Marie Gerdes¹⁴⁸, Graham G Giles^{1,2}, Gord Glendon²³, Andrew K Godwin¹⁴⁹, Mark S Goldberg^{150,151}, David E Goldgar¹⁵², Anna González-Neira⁴³, Paul Goodfellow¹⁵³, Mark H Greene¹⁵⁴, Grethe I Grenaker Alnæs⁶³, Mervi Grip¹⁵⁵, Jacek Gronwald¹⁵⁶, Anne Grundy¹⁵⁷, Daphne Gschwantler-Kaulich¹⁵⁸, Pascal Guénel¹⁰¹, Qi Guo¹⁵⁹, Lothar Haeberle⁴², Eric Hahnen^{160,161,162}, Christopher A Haiman¹⁶³, Niclas Håkansson¹⁶⁴, Emily Hallberg¹⁶⁵, Ute Hamann¹⁶⁶, Nathalie Hamel³⁵, Susan Hankinson¹⁶⁷, Thomas V O Hansen¹⁶⁸, Patricia Harrington⁷, Steven N Hart¹⁶⁵, Jaana M Hartikainen^{169,170,171}, Catherine S Healey⁷, HEBON¹⁴, Alexander Hein⁴², Sonja Helbig⁵⁸, Alex Henderson¹⁷², Jane Heyworth¹⁷³, Belynda Hicks¹⁷⁴, Peter Hillemanns⁵⁸, Shirley Hodgson¹⁷⁵, Frans B Hogervorst¹⁷⁶, Antoinette Hollestelle¹⁷⁷, Maartje J Hooning¹⁷⁷, Bob Hoover⁷³, John L Hopper², Chunling Hu¹⁰⁸, Guanmengqian Huang¹⁶⁶, Peter J Hulick^{178,179}, Keith Humphreys⁶⁶, David J Hunter^{9,126}, Evgeny N Imyanitov¹⁸⁰, Claudine Isaacs¹⁸¹, Motoki Iwasaki¹⁸², Louise Izatt¹⁸³, Anna Jakubowska¹⁵⁶, Paul James^{85,184}, Ramunas Janavicius¹⁸⁵, Wolfgang Janni¹⁸⁶, Uffe Birk Jensen¹⁸⁷, Esther M John^{188,189}, Nichola Johnson¹³⁶, Kristine Jones¹⁷⁴, Michael Jones¹⁹⁰, Arja Jukkola-Vuorinen¹⁹¹, Rudolf Kaaks⁴¹, Maria Kabisch¹⁶⁶, Katarzyna Kaczmarek¹⁵⁶, Daehee Kang^{192,193,194}, Karin Kast¹⁹⁵, kConFab/AOCS Investigators¹⁴, Renske Keeman¹⁰², Michael J Kerin¹⁹⁶, Carolien M Kets¹⁹⁷,

Machteld Keupers¹⁹⁸, Sofia Khan¹⁹⁹, Elza Khusnutdinova^{46,200}, Johanna I Kiiski¹⁹⁹, Sung-Won Kim¹⁵⁸, Julia A Knight^{201,202}, Irene Konstantopoulou²⁰³, Veli-Matti Kosma^{169,170,171}, Vessela N Kristensen^{63,204,205}, Torben A Kruse²⁰⁶, Ava Kwong^{207,208,209}, Anne-Vibeke Lænkholm²¹⁰, Yael Laitman¹³⁹, Fiona Lalloo²¹¹, Diether Lambrechts^{55,56}, Keren Landsman²¹², Christine Lasset²¹³, Conxi Lazaro²¹⁴, Loic Le Marchand²¹⁵, Julie Lecarpentier³, Andrew Lee³, Eunjung Lee¹⁶³, Jong Won Lee²¹⁶, Min Hyuk Lee²¹⁷, Flavio Lejbkowicz²¹², Fabienne Lesueur^{218,219,220,221}, Jingmei Li⁶⁶, Jenna Lilyquist²²², Anne Lincoln²²³, Annika Lindblom²²⁴, Jolanta Lissowska²²⁵, Wing-Yee Lo^{67,68}, Sibylle Loibl²²⁶, Jirong Long⁵², Jennifer T Loud¹⁵⁴, Jan Lubinski¹⁵⁶, Craig Luccarini⁷, Michael Lush³, Robert J MacInnis^{1,2}, Tom Maishman^{117,118}, Enes Makalic², Ivana Maleva Kostovska²²⁷, Kathleen E Malone²²⁸, Siranoush Manoukian³⁴, JoAnn E Manson²²⁹, Sara Margolin²³⁰, John W M Martens¹⁷⁷, Maria Elena Martinez^{231,232}, Keitaro Matsuo^{233,234}, Dimitrios Mavroudis¹⁴⁷, Sylvie Mazoyer²³⁵, Catriona McLean²³⁶, Hanne Meijers-Heijboer^{13,237}, Primitiva Menéndez²³⁸, Jeffery Meyer¹⁰⁸, Hui Miao²³⁹, Austin Miller²⁴⁰, Nicola Miller¹⁹⁶, Gillian Mitchell^{85,184}, Marco Montagna¹⁷, Kenneth Muir^{241,242}, Anna Marie Mulligan^{243,244}, Claire Mulot²⁴⁵, Sue Nadesan⁵⁴, Katherine L Nathanson⁶⁵, NBSC Collaborators¹⁴, Susan L Neuhausen⁴⁷, Heli Nevanlinna¹⁹⁹, Ines Nevelsteen¹⁹⁸, Dieter Niederacher²⁴⁶, Sune F Nielsen^{60,61}, Børge G Nordestgaard^{60,61,62}, Aaron Norman¹⁶⁵, Robert L Nussbaum²⁴⁷, Edith Olah⁶⁴, Olufunmilayo I Olopade²⁴⁸, Janet E Olson¹⁶⁵, Curtis Olsword¹⁶⁵, Kai-ren Ong²⁴⁹, Jan C Oosterwijk²⁵⁰, Nick Orr¹³⁶, Ana Osorio^{44,45}, V Shane Pankratz²⁵¹, Laura Papi²⁵², Tjong-Won Park-Simon⁵⁸, Ylva Paulsson-Karlsson²⁵³, Rachel Lloyd²⁵⁴, Inge Søkilde Pedersen²⁵⁵, Bernard Peissel³⁴, Ana Peixoto²⁵⁶, Jose I A Perez²⁵⁷, Paolo Peterlongo²⁵⁸, Julian Peto¹¹⁶, Georg Pfeiler¹⁵⁹, Catherine M Phelan²⁵⁹, Mila Pinchev²¹², Dijana Plaseska-Karanfilska²²⁷, Bruce Poppe⁹⁷, Mary E Porteous²⁶⁰, Ross Prentice³¹, Nadege Presneau¹¹⁹, Darya Prokofieva²⁰⁰, Elizabeth Pugh¹⁵, Miquel Angel Pujana²⁶¹, Katri Pylkäs^{262,263}, Brigitte Rack^{114,186}, Paolo Radice²⁶⁴, Nazneen Rahman²⁶⁵, Johanna Rantala²⁶⁶, Christine Rappaport-Fuerhauser¹⁵⁸, Gad Rennert^{212,267}, Hedy S Rennert^{212,267}, Valerie Rhenius⁷, Kerstin Rhiem^{160,161,162}, Andrea Richardson²⁶⁸, Gustavo C Rodriguez²⁶⁹, Atocha Romero^{82,270}, Jane Romm¹⁵, Matti A Rookus²⁷¹, Anja Rudolph⁴¹, Thomas Ruediger²⁷², Emmanouil Saloustros²⁷³, Joyce Sanders²⁷⁴, Dale P Sandler²⁷⁵, Suleeporn Sangrajrang²⁷⁶, Elinor J Sawyer²⁷⁷, Daniel F Schmidt², Minouk J Schoemaker¹⁹⁰, Fredrick Schumacher²⁷⁸, Peter Schürmann⁵⁸, Lukas Schwentner¹⁸⁶, Christopher Scott¹⁶⁵, Rodney J Scott^{279,280}, Sheila Seal²⁶⁵, Leigha Senter²⁸¹, Caroline Seynaeve¹⁷⁷, Mitul Shah⁷, Priyanka Sharma²⁸², Chen-Yang Shen^{283,284}, Xin Sheng¹⁶³, Hermela Shimelis¹⁰⁸, Martha J Shrubsole⁵², Xiao-Ou Shu⁵², Lucy E Side²⁸⁵, Christian F Singer¹⁵⁸, Christof Sohn²⁸⁶, Melissa C Southey²⁸⁷, John J Spinelli^{288,289}, Amanda B Spurdle⁶, Christa Stegmaier²⁹⁰, Dominique Stoppa-Lyonnet⁹², Grzegorz Sukiennicki¹⁵⁶, Harald Surowy^{79,80}, Christian Sutter²⁹¹, Anthony Swerdlow^{190,292}, Csilla I Szabo²⁹³, Rulla M Tamimi^{9,125,126}, Yen Y Tan¹⁵⁸, Jack A Taylor^{275,294}, Maria-Isabel Tejada²⁹⁵, Maria Tengström^{169,296,297}, Soo H Teo^{298,299}, Mary B Terry³⁰⁰, Daniel C Tessier³⁵, Alex Teulé³⁰¹, Kathrin Thöne¹³⁵, Darcy L Thull³⁰², Maria Grazia Tibiletti³⁰³, Laima

Tihomirova³⁰⁴, Marc Tischkowitz^{138,305}, Amanda E Toland³⁰⁶, Rob A E M Tollenaar³⁰⁷, Ian Tomlinson³⁰⁸, Ling Tong¹⁸, Diana Torres^{166,309}, Martine Tranchant¹¹, Thérèse Truong¹⁰¹, Kathy Tucker³¹⁰, Nadine Tung³¹¹, Jonathan Tyrer⁷, Hans-Ulrich Ulmer³¹², Celine Vachon¹⁶⁵, Christi J van Asperen³¹³, David Van Den Berg¹⁶³, Ans M W van den Ouweland³¹⁴, Elizabeth J van Rensburg¹¹⁵, Liliana Varesco³¹⁵, Raymonda Varon-Mateeva³¹⁶, Ana Vega^{317,318}, Alessandra Viel³¹⁹, Joseph Vijai²²³, Daniel Vincent³⁵, Jason Vollenweider¹⁰⁸, Lisa Walker³²⁰, Zhaoming Wang^{73,321}, Shan Wang-Gohrke¹⁸⁶, Barbara Wappenschmidt^{160,161,162}, Clarice R Weinberg³²², Jeffrey N Weitzel⁴⁹, Camilla Wendt²³⁰, Jelle Wesseling^{102,274}, Alice S Whittemore^{189,323}, Juul T Wijnen^{112,314}, Walter Willett^{126,324}, Robert Winqvist^{262,263}, Alicja Wolk¹⁶⁴, Anna H Wu¹⁶³, Lucy Xia¹⁶³, Xiaohong R Yang⁷³, Drakoulis Yannoukacos²⁰³, Daniela Zaffaroni³⁴, Wei Zheng⁵², Bin Zhu¹⁷⁴, Argrios Ziogas²⁵, Elad Ziv³²⁵, Kristin K Zorn³⁰³, Manuela Gago-Dominguez^{87,231}, Arto Mannermaa^{169,170,171}, Håkan Olsson⁷⁴, Manuel R Teixeira^{256,326}, Jennifer Stone^{254,327}, Kenneth Offit^{328,329}, Laura Ottini³³⁰, Sue K Park^{192,193,194}, Mads Thomassen²⁰⁶, Per Hall^{66,331}, Alfons Meindl³³², Rita K Schmutzler^{160,161,162}, Arnaud Droit¹¹, Gary D Bader^{10,335}, Paul D P Pharoah^{3,7,335}, Fergus J Couch^{108,335}, Douglas F Easton^{3,7,335}, Peter Kraft^{9,126,335}, Georgia Chenevix-Trench^{6,335}, Montserrat García-Closas^{73,335}, Marjanka K Schmidt^{102,333,335}, Antonis C Antoniou^{3,335}, and Jacques Simard^{11,335}

Affiliations

¹Cancer Epidemiology and Intelligence Division, Cancer Council Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ²Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ³Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK ⁴Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, UK ⁵Department of Electron Microscopy/Molecular Pathology, The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Nicosia, Cyprus ⁶Cancer Division, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia ⁷Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Oncology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK ⁸Department of Epidemiology, University of Washington School of Public Health, Seattle, Washington, USA ⁹Program in Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, USA ¹⁰Donnelly Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ¹¹Genomics Center, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Québec Research Center, Laval University, Québec City, Québec, Canada ¹²Department of Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA ¹³Department of Clinical Genetics, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands ¹⁴A list of members and affiliations appears in the Supplementary Note ¹⁵Center for Inherited Disease Research (CIDR), Institute of Genetic Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA ¹⁶Yorkshire Regional Genetics Service, Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds, UK ¹⁷Immunology and Molecular Oncology Unit, Istituto Oncologico Veneto (IOV), IRCCS, Padua, Italy

¹⁸Center for Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA ¹⁹Department of Clinical Genetics, Helsinki University Hospital, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland ²⁰Personalised Medicine Team, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia ²¹Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York, USA ²²Center for Genomic Medicine, Department of Biomedical Data Science, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College, Lebanon, New Hampshire, USA ²³Fred A. Litwin Center for Cancer Genetics, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ²⁴Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ²⁵Department of Epidemiology, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, California, USA ²⁶N.N. Alexandrov Research Institute of Oncology and Medical Radiology, Minsk, Belarus ²⁷Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Aging Research, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany ²⁸Institute of Clinical Molecular Biology / Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, University Hospital of Schleswig-Holstein, Campus Kiel, Christian-Albrechts University Kiel, Kiel, Germany ²⁹Department of Public Health Sciences and Cancer Research Institute, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada ³⁰Institute of Human Genetics, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany ³¹Cancer Prevention Program, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington, USA ³²Zilber School of Public Health, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA ³³Department of Medical Genetics, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands ³⁴Unit of Medical Genetics, Department of Preventive and Predictive Medicine, Fondazione IRCCS (Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico), Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT), Milan, Italy ³⁵McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre, Montréal, Québec, Canada ³⁶Department of Medical Oncology, University Hospital, Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona, Spain ³⁷Division of Cancer Prevention and Genetics, Istituto Europeo di Oncologia, Milan, Italy ³⁸Bâtiment Cheney D, Centre Léon Bérard, Lyon, France ³⁹Laboratory of Cell Biology, Department of Pathology, Landspítali, Reykjavik, Iceland ⁴⁰BMC (Biomedical Centre), Faculty of Medicine, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland ⁴¹Division of Cancer Epidemiology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany ⁴²Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, University Hospital Erlangen, Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Comprehensive Cancer Center Erlangen-EMN, Erlangen, Germany ⁴³Human Genotyping Unit -Centro Nacional de Genotipado (CEGEN), Human Cancer Genetics Programme, Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO), Madrid, Spain ⁴⁴Human Genetics Group, Human Cancer Genetics Programme, Spanish National Cancer Centre (CNIO), Madrid, Spain ⁴⁵Spanish Network on Rare Diseases (CIBERER), Madrid, Spain ⁴⁶Institute of Biochemistry and Genetics, Ufa Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Ufa, Russian Federation ⁴⁷Department of Population Sciences, Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope, Duarte, California, USA ⁴⁸Université Clermont Auvergne, INSERM, U1240, Imagerie Moléculaire et Stratégies Théranostiques, Centre Jean Perrin, Clermont-Ferrand, France ⁴⁹Clinical Cancer Genetics, City of

Hope, Duarte, California, USA ⁵⁰Department of Clinical Genetics, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, the Netherlands ⁵¹Department of Oncology, Helsinki University Hospital, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland ⁵²Division of Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee, USA ⁵³International Epidemiology Institute, Rockville, Maryland, USA ⁵⁴City of Hope Clinical Cancer Genomics Community Research Network, Duarte, California, USA ⁵⁵Vesalius Research Center, VIB, Leuven, Belgium ⁵⁶Laboratory for Translational Genetics, Department of Oncology, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium ⁵⁷Department of Radiation Oncology, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany ⁵⁸Gynaecology Research Unit, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany ⁵⁹Department of Clinical Genetics, Vejle Hospital, Vejle, Denmark ⁶⁰Copenhagen General Population Study, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev, Denmark ⁶¹Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev, Denmark ⁶²Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark ⁶³Department of Cancer Genetics, Institute for Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital Radiumhospitalet, Oslo, Norway ⁶⁴Department of Molecular Genetics, National Institute of Oncology, Budapest, Hungary ⁶⁵Department of Medicine, Abramson Cancer Center, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA ⁶⁶Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden ⁶⁷Dr. Margarete Fischer-Bosch-Institute of Clinical Pharmacology, Stuttgart, Germany ⁶⁸University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany ⁶⁹German Cancer Consortium (DKTK), German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany ⁷⁰Division of Preventive Oncology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT), Heidelberg, Germany ⁷¹Gustave Roussy, Biopathology Department, Villejuif, France ⁷²Department of Clinical Genetics, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, UK ⁷³Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Rockville, Maryland, USA ⁷⁴Department of Cancer Epidemiology, Clinical Sciences, Lund University, Lund, Sweden ⁷⁵Genome Sciences Centre, BC Cancer Agency, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada ⁷⁶Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada ⁷⁷Genetic Counseling Unit, Hereditary Cancer Program, IDIBGI (Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Girona), Catalan Institute of Oncology, Girona, Spain ⁷⁸Institute for Prevention and Occupational Medicine of the German Social Accident Insurance, Institute of the Ruhr University Bochum (IPA), Bochum, Germany ⁷⁹Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany ⁸⁰Molecular Epidemiology Group, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany ⁸¹Department of Medicine, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA ⁸²Medical Oncology Department, CIBERONC, Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, Spain ⁸³Section of Molecular Genetics, Department of Laboratory Medicine, University of Pisa and University Hospital of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

⁸⁴Research Department, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ⁸⁵Sir Peter MacCallum Department of Oncology, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ⁸⁶Genomic Epidemiology Group, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany ⁸⁷Genomic Medicine Group, Galician Foundation of Genomic Medicine, Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de Santiago de Compostela (IDIS), Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Santiago, Servizo Galego de Saúde SERGAS, Santiago de Compostela, Spain ⁸⁸Centro de Investigación en Red de Enfermedades Raras (CIBERER) and Centro Nacional de Genotipado (CEGEN-PRB2), Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain ⁸⁹Epidemiology Research Program, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, Georgia, USA ⁹⁰Oncology and Genetics Unit, Instituto de Investigación Biomédica (IBI) de Orense-Pontevedra-Vigo, Xerencia de Xestión Integrada de Vigo, Servizo Galego de Saúde SERGAS, Vigo, Spain ⁹¹Centre François Baclesse, Caen, France ⁹²Service de Génétique Oncologique and INSERM U830, Institut Curie, Paris, France - Université Paris Descartes, Sorbonne Paris Cité ⁹³Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA ⁹⁴University Cancer Center Hamburg (UCCH), University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany ⁹⁵Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York, USA ⁹⁶Unité de Recherche en Santé des Populations, Centre des Maladies du Sein Deschênes-Fabia, Hôpital du Saint-Sacrement, Québec City, Québec, Canada ⁹⁷Center for Medical Genetics, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium ⁹⁸Westmead Institute for Medical Research, University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia ⁹⁹Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA ¹⁰⁰Sheffield Clinical Genetics Service, Sheffield Children's Hospital, Sheffield, UK ¹⁰¹Cancer and Environment Group, Center for Research in Epidemiology and Population Health (CESP), INSERM, University Paris-Sud, University Paris-Saclay, Villejuif, France ¹⁰²Division of Molecular Pathology, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital, Amsterdam, the Netherlands ¹⁰³Unité d'Oncogénétique, CHU Arnaud de Villeneuve, Montpellier, France ¹⁰⁴Academic Unit of Molecular Oncology, Department of Oncology and Metabolism, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK ¹⁰⁵Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, London, UK ¹⁰⁶INSERM U1052, Cancer Research Center of Lyon, Lyon, France ¹⁰⁷Academic Unit of Pathology, Department of Neuroscience, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK ¹⁰⁸Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA ¹⁰⁹Department of Clinical Genetics, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA ¹¹⁰Department of Clinical Genetics, South Glasgow University Hospitals, Glasgow, UK ¹¹¹Department of Pathology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, the Netherlands ¹¹²Department of Human Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, the Netherlands ¹¹³Oncogenetics Group, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO), Clinical and Molecular Genetics Area, Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain ¹¹⁴Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Ludwig Maximilians University of

Munich, Munich, Germany ¹¹⁵Cancer Genetics Laboratory, Department of Genetics, University of Pretoria, Arcadia, South Africa ¹¹⁶Department of Non-Communicable Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK ¹¹⁷Southampton Clinical Trials Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK ¹¹⁸Cancer Sciences Academic Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK ¹¹⁹Department of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Westminster, London, UK ¹²⁰Institute of Human Genetics, University of Münster, Münster, Germany ¹²¹Oncogenetics Team, The Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK ¹²²Department of Clinical Genetics, Lund University Hospital, Lund, Sweden ¹²³Department of Oncology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark ¹²⁴Institute of Human Genetics, University Hospital Erlangen, Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Comprehensive Cancer Center Erlangen-EMN, Erlangen, Germany ¹²⁵Channing Division of Network Medicine, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA ¹²⁶Department of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, USA ¹²⁷Institute for Medical Informatics, Statistics and Epidemiology, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany ¹²⁸LIFE—Leipzig Research Centre for Civilization Diseases, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany ¹²⁹Genetics Department, Dijon University Hospital, Dijon, France ¹³⁰Oncogenetics, Centre Georges-François Leclerc, Dijon, France ¹³¹Division of Hematology and Oncology, Department of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA ¹³²Institute of Medical Genetics and Applied Genomics, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany ¹³³Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics, CRUK Edinburgh Centre, University of Edinburgh Medical School, Edinburgh, UK ¹³⁴Institute for Medical Biometrics and Epidemiology, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany ¹³⁵Department of Cancer Epidemiology, Clinical Cancer Registry, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany ¹³⁶Breast Cancer Now Toby Robins Research Centre, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK ¹³⁷Department of Breast Surgery, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev, Denmark ¹³⁸Program in Cancer Genetics, Departments of Human Genetics and Oncology, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada ¹³⁹Susanne Levy Gertner Oncogenetics Unit, Institute of Human Genetics, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Ramat Gan, Israel ¹⁴⁰Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel ¹⁴¹School of Public Health, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, Australia ¹⁴²Clinical Cancer Genetics Laboratory, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, USA ¹⁴³Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA ¹⁴⁴Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Schools of Medicine and Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA ¹⁴⁵Cancer Risk and Prevention Clinic, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts, USA ¹⁴⁶Centre of Familial Breast

and Ovarian Cancer, Department of Medical Genetics, Institute of Human Genetics, University Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany ¹⁴⁷Department of Medical Oncology, University Hospital of Heraklion, Heraklion, Greece ¹⁴⁸Department of Clinical Genetics, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark ¹⁴⁹Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas, USA ¹⁵⁰Department of Medicine, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada ¹⁵¹Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Royal Victoria Hospital, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada ¹⁵²Department of Dermatology, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA ¹⁵³Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ohio State University James Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, Ohio, USA ¹⁵⁴Clinical Genetics Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, US National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA ¹⁵⁵Department of Surgery, Oulu University Hospital, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland ¹⁵⁶Department of Genetics and Pathology, Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin, Poland ¹⁵⁷Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de Université de Montréal (CHUM), Montréal, Québec, Canada ¹⁵⁸Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria ¹⁵⁹Cardiovascular Epidemiology Unit, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK ¹⁶⁰Center for Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer, University Hospital of Cologne, Cologne, Germany ¹⁶¹Center for Integrated Oncology (CIO), University Hospital of Cologne, Cologne, Germany ¹⁶²Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne (CMMC), University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany ¹⁶³Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA ¹⁶⁴Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden ¹⁶⁵Department of Health Sciences Research, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA ¹⁶⁶Molecular Genetics of Breast Cancer, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany ¹⁶⁷Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA ¹⁶⁸Center for Genomic Medicine, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark ¹⁶⁹Translational Cancer Research Area, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland ¹⁷⁰Institute of Clinical Medicine, Pathology and Forensic Medicine, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland ¹⁷¹Imaging Center, Department of Clinical Pathology, Kuopio University Hospital, Kuopio, Finland ¹⁷²Institute of Genetic Medicine, Centre for Life, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK ¹⁷³School of Population Health, University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia, Australia ¹⁷⁴Cancer Genomics Research Laboratory (CGR), Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland, USA ¹⁷⁵Medical Genetics Unit, St George's, University of London, London, UK ¹⁷⁶Family Cancer Clinic, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital, Amsterdam, the Netherlands ¹⁷⁷Department of Medical Oncology, Family Cancer Clinic, Erasmus MC Cancer Institute, Rotterdam, the Netherlands ¹⁷⁸Center for Medical Genetics, NorthShore University HealthSystem,

Evanston, Illinois, USA ¹⁷⁹Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago, Evanston, Illinois, USA ¹⁸⁰N.N. Petrov Institute of Oncology, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation ¹⁸¹Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA ¹⁸²Division of Epidemiology, Center for Public Health Sciences, National Cancer Center, Tokyo, Japan ¹⁸³Clinical Genetics, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK ¹⁸⁴Familial Cancer Centre, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ¹⁸⁵State Research Institute Centre for Innovative Medicine, Vilnius, Lithuania ¹⁸⁶Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, University of Ulm, Ulm, Germany ¹⁸⁷Department of Clinical Genetics, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark ¹⁸⁸Department of Epidemiology, Cancer Prevention Institute of California, Fremont, California, USA ¹⁸⁹Department of Health Research and Policy, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California, USA ¹⁹⁰Division of Genetics and Epidemiology, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK ¹⁹¹Department of Oncology, Oulu University Hospital, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland ¹⁹²Department of Preventive Medicine, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Republic of Korea ¹⁹³Department of Biomedical Sciences, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Republic of Korea ¹⁹⁴Cancer Research Institute, Seoul National University, Seoul, Republic of Korea ¹⁹⁵Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Medical Faculty and University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany ¹⁹⁶School of Medicine, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland ¹⁹⁷Department of Human Genetics, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Nijmegen, the Netherlands ¹⁹⁸Leuven Multidisciplinary Breast Center, Department of Oncology, Leuven Cancer Institute, University Hospitals Leuven, Leuven, Belgium ¹⁹⁹Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Helsinki University Hospital, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland ²⁰⁰Department of Genetics and Fundamental Medicine, Bashkir State University, Ufa, Russian Federation ²⁰¹Prosserman Centre for Health Research, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ²⁰²Division of Epidemiology, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ²⁰³Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, INRASTES, National Centre for Scientific Research 'Demokritos', Athens, Greece ²⁰⁴Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway ²⁰⁵Department of Clinical Molecular Biology, Oslo University Hospital, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway ²⁰⁶Department of Clinical Genetics, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark ²⁰⁷Hong Kong Hereditary Breast Cancer Family Registry, Hong Kong ²⁰⁸Department of Surgery, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong ²⁰⁹Department of Surgery, Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital, Hong Kong ²¹⁰Department of Pathology, University Hospital of Region Zealand, Division Slagelse, Slagelse, Denmark ²¹¹Genetic Medicine, Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, UK ²¹²Clalit National Cancer Control Center, Haifa, Israel ²¹³Unité de Prévention et d'Epidémiologie Génétique, Centre Léon Bérard, Lyon, France ²¹⁴Molecular Diagnostic Unit, Hereditary Cancer Program, IDIBELL (Bellvitge Biomedical

Research Institute), Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona, Spain ²¹⁵University of Hawaii Cancer Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA ²¹⁶Department of Surgery, University of Ulsan College of Medicine and Asan Medical Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea ²¹⁷Department of Surgery, Soonchunhyang University and Hospital, Seoul, Republic of Korea ²¹⁸Institut Curie, Paris, France ²¹⁹PSL Research University, Paris, France ²²⁰INSERM U900, Paris, France ²²¹Mines Paris Tech, Fontainebleau, France ²²²Department of Health Sciences Research, Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA ²²³Clinical Genetics Research Laboratory, Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, USA ²²⁴Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden ²²⁵Department of Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention, M. Sklodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland ²²⁶German Breast Group, Neu Isenburg, Germany ²²⁷Research Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology 'Georgi D. Efremov', Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Skopje, Macedonia ²²⁸Division of Public Health Sciences, Epidemiology Program, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington, USA ²²⁹Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA ²³⁰Department of Oncology, Pathology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden ²³¹Moore's Cancer Center, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA ²³²Department of Family Medicine and Public Health, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA ²³³Division of Molecular and Clinical Epidemiology, Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute, Nagoya, Japan ²³⁴Department of Epidemiology, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan ²³⁵Lyon Neuroscience Research Center—CRNL, INSERM U1028, CNRS UMR 5292, University of Lyon, Lyon, France ²³⁶Anatomical Pathology, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ²³⁷Department of Clinical Genetics, VU University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, the Netherlands ²³⁸Servicio de Anatomía Patológica, Hospital Monte Naranco, Oviedo, Spain ²³⁹Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, Singapore ²⁴⁰NRG Oncology, Statistics and Data Management Center, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York, USA ²⁴¹Institute of Population Health, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK ²⁴²Division of Health Sciences, Warwick Medical School, Warwick University, Coventry, UK ²⁴³Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ²⁴⁴Laboratory Medicine Program, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ²⁴⁵Université Paris Sorbonne Cité, INSERM UMRS 1147, Paris, France ²⁴⁶Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, University Hospital Düsseldorf, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany ²⁴⁷Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA ²⁴⁸Center for Clinical Cancer Genetics and Global Health, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA ²⁴⁹West Midlands Regional Genetics Service, Birmingham Women's Hospital Healthcare NHS Trust, Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK ²⁵⁰Department of Genetics, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands ²⁵¹University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New

Mexico, USA ²⁵²Unit of Medical Genetics, Department of Biomedical, Experimental and Clinical Sciences, University of Florence, Florence, Italy ²⁵³Department of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden ²⁵⁴Curtin UWA Centre for Genetic Origins of Health and Disease, Curtin University and University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia, Australia ²⁵⁵Section of Molecular Diagnostics, Clinical Biochemistry, Aalborg University Hospital, Aalborg, Denmark ²⁵⁶Department of Genetics, Portuguese Oncology Institute, Porto, Portugal ²⁵⁷Servicio de Cirugía General y Especialidades, Hospital Monte Naranco, Oviedo, Spain ²⁵⁸IFOM, FIRC (Italian Foundation for Cancer Research) Institute of Molecular Oncology, Milan, Italy ²⁵⁹Department of Cancer Epidemiology, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Florida, USA ²⁶⁰South East of Scotland Regional Genetics Service, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, UK ²⁶¹ProCURE, Catalan Institute of Oncology, IDIBELL (Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute), Barcelona, Spain ²⁶²Laboratory of Cancer Genetics and Tumor Biology, Cancer and Translational Medicine Research Unit, Biocenter Oulu, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland ²⁶³Laboratory of Cancer Genetics and Tumor Biology, Northern Finland Laboratory Centre Oulu, Oulu, Finland ²⁶⁴Unit of Molecular Bases of Genetic Risk and Genetic Testing, Department of Preventive and Predictive Medicine, Fondazione IRCCS (Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico), Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT), Milan, Italy ²⁶⁵Section of Cancer Genetics, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK ²⁶⁶Department of Clinical Genetics, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden ²⁶⁷Carmel Medical Center and B. Rappaport Faculty of Medicine-Technion, Haifa, Israel ²⁶⁸Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts, USA ²⁶⁹Division of Gynecologic Oncology, NorthShore University HealthSystem, University of Chicago, Evanston, Illinois, USA ²⁷⁰Medical Oncology Department, Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro, Madrid, Spain ²⁷¹Department of Epidemiology, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands ²⁷²Institute of Pathology, Staedtisches Klinikum Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany ²⁷³Hereditary Cancer Clinic, University Hospital of Heraklion, Heraklion, Greece ²⁷⁴Department of Pathology, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital, Amsterdam, the Netherlands ²⁷⁵Epidemiology Branch, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, US National Institutes of Health, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA ²⁷⁶National Cancer Institute, Bangkok, Thailand ²⁷⁷Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA ²⁷⁸Research Oncology, Guy's Hospital, King's College London, London, UK ²⁷⁹Division of Molecular Medicine, Pathology North, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia ²⁸⁰Discipline of Medical Genetics, School of Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy, Faculty of Health, University of Newcastle, Callaghan, New South Wales, Australia ²⁸¹Clinical Cancer Genetics Program, Division of Human Genetics, Department of Internal Medicine, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA ²⁸²Department of Internal Medicine, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas, USA ²⁸³School of Public Health, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan ²⁸⁴Taiwan Biobank, Institute of

Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan ²⁸⁵North East Thames Regional Genetics Service, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, London, UK ²⁸⁶National Center for Tumor Diseases, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany ²⁸⁷Department of Pathology, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ²⁸⁸Cancer Control Research, BC Cancer Agency, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada ²⁸⁹School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada ²⁹⁰Saarland Cancer Registry, Saarbrücken, Germany ²⁹¹Institute of Human Genetics, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany ²⁹²Division of Breast Cancer Research, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK ²⁹³National Human Genome Research Institute, US National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA ²⁹⁴Epigenetic and Stem Cell Biology Laboratory, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, US National Institutes of Health, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA ²⁹⁵Molecular Genetics Laboratory, Clinical Genetics Service, Cruces University Hospital and BioCruces Health Research Institute, Barakaldo, Spain ²⁹⁶Cancer Center, Kuopio University Hospital, Kuopio, Finland ²⁹⁷Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oncology, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland ²⁹⁸Cancer Research Malaysia, Subang Jaya, Malaysia ²⁹⁹Breast Cancer Research Unit, Cancer Research Institute, University Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ³⁰⁰Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, New York, USA ³⁰¹Genetic Counseling Unit, Hereditary Cancer Program, IDIBELL (Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute), Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona, Spain ³⁰²Magee-Womens Hospital, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA ³⁰³Ospedale di Circolo ASST Settelaghi, Varese, Italy ³⁰⁴Latvian Biomedical Research and Study Centre, Riga, Latvia ³⁰⁵Department of Medical Genetics, Addenbrooke's Treatment Centre, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK ³⁰⁶Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA ³⁰⁷Department of Surgery, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, the Netherlands ³⁰⁸Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics and Oxford NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK ³⁰⁹Institute of Human Genetics, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia ³¹⁰Hereditary Cancer Clinic, Department of Medical Oncology, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, New South Wales, Australia ³¹¹Department of Medical Oncology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, USA ³¹²Frauenklinik der Stadtklinik Baden Baden, Baden Baden, Germany ³¹³Department of Clinical Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, the Netherlands ³¹⁴Department of Clinical Genetics, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands ³¹⁵Unit of Hereditary Cancer, Department of Epidemiology, Prevention and Special Functions, IRCCS (Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico) AOU San Martino, IST Istituto Nazionale per la Ricerca sul Cancro, Genoa, Italy ³¹⁶Institute of Human Genetics, Campus Virchow Klinikum, Charite Berlin, Berlin, Germany ³¹⁷Fundación Pública Galega de Medicina Xenómica, Servizo Galego de Saúde SERGAS,

Instituto de Investigaciones Sanitarias (IDIS), Santiago de Compostela, Spain
³¹⁸Grupo de Medicina Xenómica, Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Enfermedades Raras (CIBERER), Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
³¹⁹Unit of Functional Onco-genomics and Genetics, CRO Aviano, National Cancer Institute, Aviano, Italy
³²⁰Oxford Regional Genetics Service, Churchill Hospital, Oxford, UK
³²¹Department of Computational Biology, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee, USA
³²²Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, US National Institutes of Health, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA
³²³Department of Biomedical Data Sciences, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California, USA
³²⁴Department of Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
³²⁵Department of Medicine, Institute for Human Genetics, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA
³²⁶Biomedical Sciences Institute (ICBAS), University of Porto, Porto, Portugal
³²⁷Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Melbourne and the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
³²⁸Clinical Genetics Research Laboratory, Cancer Biology and Genetics Program, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, USA
³²⁹Clinical Genetics Service, Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, USA
³³⁰Department of Molecular Medicine, University La Sapienza, Rome, Italy
³³¹Department of Oncology, South General Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden
³³²Division of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany
³³³Division of Psychosocial Research and Epidemiology, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

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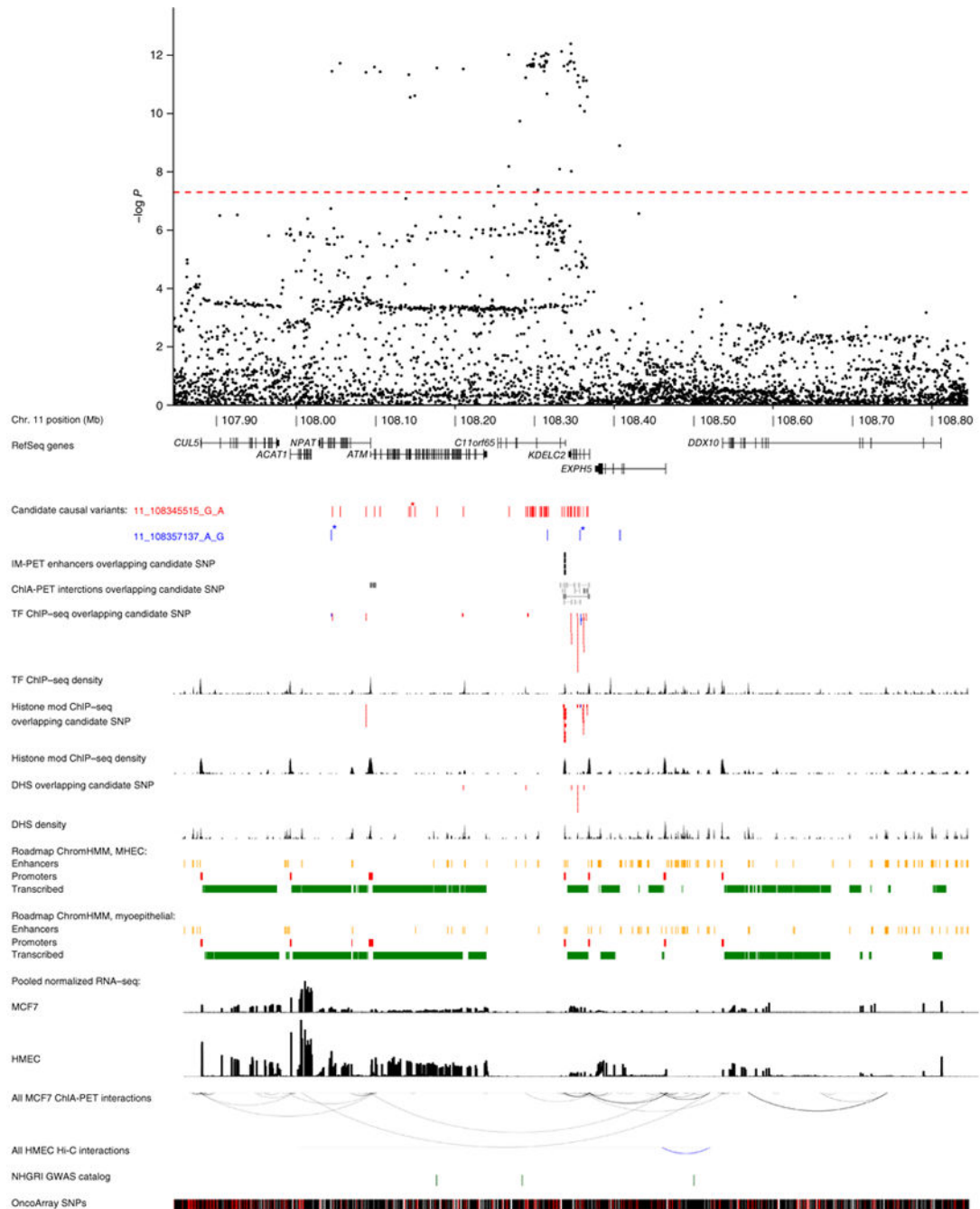


Figure 1.

Genomic region around the independent ER-negative risk-associated variants 11_108345515_G_A (rs11374964) and 11_108357137_G_A (rs74911261). A 1-Mb regional association plot shows the statistical significance of all genotyped and imputed SNPs with the genome-wide significance level ($P = 5 \times 10^{-8}$) represented by the dashed red line. The positions of candidate causal variants for two independent signals (depicted as red and blue ticks) are shown in relation to RefSeq genes. Missense variants are labeled with asterisks. Mammary cell enhancers overlapping candidate SNPs predicted to target nearby

genes by IM-PET46 are depicted as black bars. Chromatin interactions from ENCODE ChIA-PET data in MCF7 cells overlapping candidate variants are shaded to reflect interaction confidence scores with darker shading indicating greater confidence. Epigenomic features (derived from publicly available ChIP-seq and DNase-seq data sets) that overlap candidate variants are shown as red or blue segments, depending on the intersected signal. Density tracks show the summed occurrence of ChIP-seq and DNase-seq peak signals at each position. Roadmap Epigenomics Project chromatin state models for HMECs and myoepithelial cells grouped into enhancer, promoter or transcribed annotations are shown as yellow, red and green segments, respectively. Transcript levels in MCF7 cells and HMECs are represented by histograms depicting mean normalized RNA-seq expression. All MCF7 ChIA-PET (ENCODE) and HMEC Hi-C47 chromatin interactions are represented by black and blue arcs, respectively. NHGRI GWAS catalog SNPs are shown as green ticks. All OncoArray SNPs (genotyped or imputed) are shown as black ticks, and uninterrogated, common SNPs (dbSNP138, European (EUR) MAF > 1%) are shown as red ticks. Features may be examined in detail via exploration of a custom UCSC Genome Browser session accessible via hyperlinks within Supplementary Table 5. TF, transcription factor; DHS, DNase I-hypersensitive site.

Ten new loci associated with risk of estrogen-receptor-negative breast cancer using meta-analysis of BCAC and CIMBA data

Table 1

Location	SNP	Chr.	Position (bp)	Nearest gene	Alleles ^a	BCAC ER-negative disease ^b				CIMBA <i>BRCA1</i> mutation carriers ^c				Heterogeneity <i>P</i> value ^d	
						MAF	OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value	MAF	HR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value		Meta-analysis <i>P</i> value
2p23.3	rs200648189	2	24,739,694	<i>NCOA1</i>	CT/C	0.19	0.94	0.91–0.97	4.7 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.20	0.88	0.84–0.92	3.3 × 10 ⁻⁷	9.7 × 10 ⁻⁹	2.0 × 10 ⁻²
6q23.1	rs6569648	6	130,349,119	<i>L3MBTL3</i>	T/C	0.23	0.93	0.90–0.95	4.3 × 10 ⁻⁸	0.22	0.94	0.90–0.98	5.4 × 10 ⁻³	8.3 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	0.64
8p23.3	rs66823261	8	170,692	<i>RPL23AP53</i>	T/C	0.23	1.09	1.06–1.12	5.6 × 10 ⁻⁹	0.22	1.02	0.98–1.07	0.32	3.3 × 10 ⁻⁸	3.0 × 10 ⁻²
8q24.13	rs17350191	8	124,757,661	<i>ANXA13</i>	C/T	0.34	1.07	1.04–1.09	2.0 × 10 ⁻⁸	0.34	1.08	1.04–1.12	1.9 × 10 ⁻⁴	1.7 × 10 ⁻¹¹	0.81
11q22.3	rs11374964	11	108,345,515	<i>KDELC2</i>	G/GA	0.42	0.94	0.92–0.96	3.6 × 10 ⁻⁸	0.43	0.91	0.88–0.95	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁶	4.1 × 10 ⁻¹³	0.26
11q22.3	rs74911261	11	108,357,137	<i>KDELC2</i>	G/A	0.02	0.82	0.75–0.89	2.3 × 10 ⁻⁶	0.02	0.74	0.65–0.84	2.0 × 10 ⁻⁶	5.4 × 10 ⁻¹¹	0.17
16p13.3	rs11076805	16	4,106,788	<i>ADCY9</i>	C/A	0.25	0.92	0.90–0.95	2.2 × 10 ⁻⁸	0.25	0.96	0.92–1.00	0.073	1.4 × 10 ⁻⁸	0.14
18q12.1	rs36194942	18	25,401,204	<i>CDH2</i>	A/AT	0.30	0.94	0.91–0.96	2.5 × 10 ⁻⁷	0.31	0.95	0.91–0.99	1.4 × 10 ⁻²	1.4 × 10 ⁻⁸	0.50
19p13.2	rs322144	19	11,423,703	<i>TSPAN16</i>	C/G	0.47	0.95	0.93–0.97	2.4 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.46	0.92	0.89–0.96	3.7 × 10 ⁻⁵	7.4 × 10 ⁻⁹	0.23
19q12	rs113701136	19	30,277,729	<i>CCNE1</i>	C/T	0.32	1.07	1.04–1.09	1.7 × 10 ⁻⁷	0.32	1.05	1.01–1.09	1.2 × 10 ⁻²	6.8 × 10 ⁻⁹	0.57

Chr., chromosome; MAF, minor allele frequency; OR, odds ratio per copy of the minor allele; CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio per copy of the minor allele.

^aMore common allele listed first, minor allele listed second.

^bCombined data from 21,468 ER-negative cases and 100,594 controls of European ancestry from the Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC).

^cCombined data from 18,908 *BRCA1* mutation carriers from the Consortium of Investigators of Modifiers of *BRCA1/2* (CIMBA), 9,414 of whom had developed breast cancer.

^dTest for heterogeneity in effect size for ER-negative disease and overall disease for *BRCA1* mutation carriers.

Table 2

Previously reported associations with estrogen-receptor-negative disease: replication using independent data from BCAC and combined results using all BCAC and CIMBA data

Location	SNP	Chr.	Position (bp)	Ref.	Nearest gene	Alleles ^d	Independent replication				All available data combined							
							BCAC ER-negative disease (OncoArray) ^b				BCAC ER-negative disease ^c				CIMBA <i>BRCA1</i> mutation carriers ^d			
							MAF	OR	95% CI	P value	MAF	OR	95% CI	P value	MAF	OR	95% CI	P value
1q32.1	rs6678914	1	202,187,176	19	<i>LGR6</i>	G/A	0.41	0.94	0.91–0.97	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.92	0.90–0.94	2.6 × 10 ⁻¹²	0.98	0.95–1.02	0.31		
1q32.1	rs4245739	1	204,518,842	19	<i>MDM4</i>	A/C	0.26	1.12	1.09–1.17	9.2 × 10 ⁻¹¹	1.14	1.11–1.16	3.1 × 10 ⁻²³	1.09	1.04–1.13	7.3 × 10 ⁻⁵		
2p24.1	rs12710696	2	19,320,803	19	<i>MIR4757</i>	C/T	0.37	1.04	1.00–1.07	2.5 × 10 ⁻²	1.06	1.04–1.09	6.5 × 10 ⁻⁸	1.01	0.98–1.05	0.49		
2p23.2	rs4577244	2	29,120,733	30	<i>WDR43</i>	C/T	0.34	0.93	0.89–0.96	9.6 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.92	0.90–0.95	1.5 × 10 ⁻⁹	0.92	0.88–0.96	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁴		
5p15.33	rs10069690	5	1,279,790	9,18	<i>TERT</i>	C/T	0.26	1.19	1.14–1.23	3.8 × 10 ⁻²¹	1.18	1.15–1.21	1.5 × 10 ⁻³⁵	1.18	1.14–1.23	3.7 × 10 ⁻¹⁶		
6q25.1	rs3757322	6	151,942,194	29	<i>ESR1</i>	T/G	0.32	1.14	1.10–1.18	5.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁴	1.15	1.12–1.18	2.8 × 10 ⁻³¹	1.14	1.10–1.19	2.9 × 10 ⁻¹²		
6q25.2	rs2747652	6	152,437,016	29	<i>ESR1</i>	C/T	0.48	0.92	0.89–0.95	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁷	0.91	0.89–0.93	1.9 × 10 ⁻¹⁸	1.00	0.97–1.04	0.96		
13q22.1	rs6562760	13	73,957,681	30	<i>KLF5</i>	G/A	0.24	0.92	0.88–0.95	5.0 × 10 ⁻⁶	0.92	0.90–0.95	8.7 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	0.89	0.86–0.93	3.5 × 10 ⁻⁷		
16q12.2	rs11075995	16	53,855,291	19	<i>FTO</i>	T/A	0.30	1.07	1.03–1.11	3.3 × 10 ⁻⁴	1.09	1.06–1.12	1.0 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.01	0.97–1.06	0.49		
19p13.11	rs67397200	19	17,401,404	3,31	<i>ANKLE1</i>	C/G	0.32	1.17	1.13–1.21	7.0 × 10 ⁻²⁰	1.17	1.14–1.19	2.7 × 10 ⁻³⁷	1.18	1.14–1.23	2.7 × 10 ⁻¹⁷		
20q11.21	rs2284378	20	32,588,095	12	<i>RALY</i>	C/T	0.32	0.99	0.95–1.02	0.46	1.03	1.01–1.06	1.7 × 10 ⁻²	1.00	0.97–1.04	0.81		

Chr., chromosome; ref., publication(s) in reference list in which the association was identified; MAF, minor allele frequency; OR, odds ratio per copy of the minor allele; CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio per copy of the minor allele.

^aMore common allele listed first, minor allele listed second.

^bIncludes Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC) OncoArray data from 9,655 ER-negative cases and 45,494 controls; cases and controls were not included in previously published studies.

^cCombined data from 21,468 ER-negative cases and 100,594 controls of European ancestry from BCAC, including samples overlapping with previous publications for all SNPs.

^dCombined data from 18,908 *BRCA1* mutation carriers from the Consortium of Investigators of Modifiers of *BRCA1/2* (CIMBA), 9,414 of whom had developed breast cancer; including samples overlapping with previous publications for SNPs rs4577244, rs3757322, rs2747652 and rs6562760.

Table 3

Associations for ten new and ten previously reported (and replicated) susceptibility loci for estrogen-receptor-negative breast cancer, by triple-negative status

Location	SNP	Triple-negative disease			Other ER-negative disease			Heterogeneity <i>P</i> value ^d
		OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value	OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value	
Loci identified by the present study								
2p23.3	rs200648189	0.95	0.90–1.00	4.8 × 10 ⁻²	0.96	0.91–1.03	0.24	0.36
6q23.1	rs6569648	0.93	0.89–0.97	1.4 × 10 ⁻³	0.93	0.88–0.98	5.6 × 10 ⁻³	0.91
8p23.3	rs66823261	1.11	1.05–1.16	3.3 × 10 ⁻⁵	1.12	1.07–1.19	2.4 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.91
8q24.13	rs17350191	1.07	1.03–1.11	7.9 × 10 ⁻⁴	1.07	1.02–1.12	4.0 × 10 ⁻³	0.67
11q22.3	rs11374964	0.88	0.85–0.91	1.9 × 10 ⁻¹¹	0.99	0.95–1.04	0.75	1.5 × 10 ⁻⁵
11q22.3	rs74911261	0.76	0.66–0.87	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.98	0.84–1.13	0.76	3.0 × 10 ⁻²
16p13.3	rs11076805	0.91	0.87–0.96	1.5 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.95	0.90–1.00	4.5 × 10 ⁻²	0.20
18q12.1	rs36194942	0.93	0.89–0.96	2.4 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.92	0.88–0.97	9.9 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.94
19p13.2	rs322144	0.94	0.91–0.98	5.9 × 10 ⁻³	0.94	0.90–0.98	9.7 × 10 ⁻³	0.68
19q12	rs113701136	1.10	1.06–1.15	9.1 × 10 ⁻⁷	1.07	1.02–1.12	4.4 × 10 ⁻³	0.12
Previously reported loci (associations replicated by the present study)								
1q32.1	rs6678914	0.94	0.91–0.98	2.1 × 10 ⁻³	0.91	0.87–0.95	2.0 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.45
1q32.1	rs4245739	1.18	1.13–1.23	4.3 × 10 ⁻¹⁵	1.04	1.00–1.10	7.5 × 10 ⁻²	6.5 × 10 ⁻⁴
2p24.1	rs12710696	1.07	1.03–1.11	1.1 × 10 ⁻³	1.04	1.00–1.09	6.1 × 10 ⁻²	0.52
2p23.2	rs4577244	0.90	0.86–0.94	5.3 × 10 ⁻⁶	0.94	0.89–0.99	1.9 × 10 ⁻²	0.15
5p15.33	rs10069690	1.28	1.23–1.33	2.4 × 10 ⁻³³	1.07	1.02–1.12	5.4 × 10 ⁻³	5.6 × 10 ⁻⁸
6q25.1	rs3757322	1.15	1.10–1.19	4.3 × 10 ⁻¹²	1.14	1.10–1.20	4.8 × 10 ⁻⁹	0.35
6q25.2	rs2747652	0.93	0.89–0.96	5.7 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.87	0.83–0.91	2.9 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	9.6 × 10 ⁻³
13q22.1	rs6562760	0.94	0.90–0.98	2.8 × 10 ⁻³	0.92	0.87–0.96	8.8 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.46
16q12.2	rs11075995	1.06	1.02–1.11	6.5 × 10 ⁻³	1.08	1.03–1.13	3.1 × 10 ⁻³	0.81
19p13.11	rs67397200	1.27	1.22–1.32	2.0 × 10 ⁻³²	1.05	1.01–1.10	2.7 × 10 ⁻²	4.7 × 10 ⁻¹⁰

Only Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC) data are shown. BCAC data were combined from 6,877 triple-negative and 4,467 other ER-negative cases and 83,700 controls. OR, odds ratio per copy of the minor allele; CI, confidence interval.

^d Analysis of ER-negative cases only, by triple-negative status.

Table 4

Associations for ten new and ten previously reported (and replicated) susceptibility loci for ER-negative breast cancer, by tumor grade

Location	SNP	Grade 1			Grade 2			Grade 3			Heterogeneity P value ^a
		OR	95% CI	P value	OR	95% CI	P value	OR	95% CI	P value	
Loci identified by the present study											
2p23.3	rs200648189	1.11	0.92–1.33	0.28	0.95	0.88–1.03	0.23	0.96	0.91–1.00	6.8 × 10 ⁻²	0.70
6q23.1	rs6569648	0.93	0.79–1.09	0.37	0.93	0.87–0.99	1.6 × 10 ⁻²	0.94	0.91–0.98	3.8 × 10 ⁻³	0.34
8p23.3	rs68823261	1.13	0.96–1.34	0.14	1.12	1.04–1.19	1.2 × 10 ⁻³	1.10	1.05–1.15	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.11
8q24.13	rs17350191	1.16	1.01–1.34	3.0 × 10 ⁻²	1.05	0.99–1.11	0.10	1.09	1.05–1.12	4.1 × 10 ⁻⁶	0.94
11q22.3	rs11374964	0.91	0.79–1.04	0.16	0.99	0.94–1.05	0.85	0.93	0.90–0.96	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁵	3.0 × 10 ⁻²
11q22.3	rs74911261	1.22	0.81–1.84	0.35	0.89	0.73–1.07	0.21	0.74	0.65–0.85	7.4 × 10 ⁻⁶	6.7 × 10 ⁻⁴
16p13.3	rs11076805	0.90	0.76–1.06	0.21	0.93	0.87–0.99	3.2 × 10 ⁻²	0.92	0.88–0.95	4.5 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.71
18q12.1	rs36194942	0.97	0.84–1.13	0.73	0.93	0.88–0.99	2.2 × 10 ⁻²	0.96	0.92–0.99	2.3 × 10 ⁻²	0.98
19p13.2	rs322144	0.94	0.81–1.08	0.38	0.95	0.90–1.01	0.11	0.96	0.93–1.00	6.4 × 10 ⁻²	0.48
19q12	rs113701136	1.02	0.89–1.18	0.77	1.06	1.01–1.13	3.0 × 10 ⁻²	1.10	1.06–1.14	2.5 × 10 ⁻⁷	0.12
Previously reported loci (associations replicated by the present study)											
1q32.1	rs6678914	0.95	0.83–1.09	0.46	0.90	0.85–0.95	9.3 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.92	0.89–0.95	1.2 × 10 ⁻⁶	0.75
1q32.1	rs4245739	1.02	0.88–1.19	0.75	1.05	0.99–1.12	8.7 × 10 ⁻²	1.1	1.14–1.22	2.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁸	4.3 × 10 ⁻⁵
2p24.1	rs12710696	1.08	0.94–1.23	0.28	1.10	1.04–1.16	9.6 × 10 ⁻⁴	1.04	1.01–1.08	1.6 × 10 ⁻²	0.28
2p23.2	rs4577244	1.02	0.88–1.20	0.77	0.95	0.89–1.01	9.4 × 10 ⁻²	0.90	0.86–0.93	1.2 × 10 ⁻⁷	4.0 × 10 ⁻²
5p15.33	rs10069690	0.96	0.83–1.12	0.64	1.07	1.01–1.14	2.2 × 10 ⁻²	1.21	1.17–1.26	1.5 × 10 ⁻²⁴	7.3 × 10 ⁻⁴
6q25.1	rs3757322	1.16	1.01–1.34	0.04	1.13	1.07–1.20	7.5 × 10 ⁻⁶	1.18	1.14–1.22	4.5 × 10 ⁻²⁰	0.16
6q25.2	rs2747652	0.86	0.75–0.98	0.02	0.92	0.87–0.97	1.9 × 10 ⁻³	0.90	0.87–0.93	1.6 × 10 ⁻⁹	0.61
13q22.1	rs6562760	0.98	0.84–1.15	0.82	0.92	0.87–0.98	1.4 × 10 ⁻²	0.91	0.88–0.95	1.2 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.52
16q12.2	rs11075995	1.16	1.00–1.35	4.7 × 10 ⁻²	1.09	1.02–1.15	7.5 × 10 ⁻³	1.08	1.04–1.13	5.2 × 10 ⁻²⁸	0.42
19p13.11	rs67397200	1.01	0.87–1.16	0.91	1.08	1.02–1.14	9.8 × 10 ⁻³	1.22	1.18–1.26	5.3 × 10 ⁻³⁷	1.3 × 10 ⁻³

Only Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC) data are shown. BCAC data were combined from 492 grade 1, 3,243 grade 2 and 8,568 grade 3 cases and 82,347 controls. OR, odds ratio per copy of the minor allele; CI, confidence interval.

^a Analysis of ER-negative cases only, by tumor grade (trend test, 1 degree of freedom).