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1 **DNA methylation meta-analysis reveals cellular alterations in psychosis and markers of**  
 2 **treatment-resistant schizophrenia**

3

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77

78 **Abstract**

79 We performed a systematic analysis of blood DNA methylation profiles from 4,483 participants from  
80 seven independent cohorts identifying differentially methylated positions (DMPs) associated with  
81 psychosis, schizophrenia and treatment-resistant schizophrenia. Psychosis cases were characterized by  
82 significant differences in measures of blood cell proportions and elevated smoking exposure derived  
83 from the DNA methylation data, with the largest differences seen in treatment-resistant schizophrenia  
84 patients. We implemented a stringent pipeline to meta-analyze epigenome-wide association study  
85 (EWAS) results across datasets, identifying 95 DMPs associated with psychosis and 1,048 DMPs  
86 associated with schizophrenia, with evidence of colocalization to regions nominated by genetic  
87 association studies of disease. Many schizophrenia-associated DNA methylation differences were  
88 only present in patients with treatment-resistant schizophrenia, potentially reflecting exposure to the  
89 atypical antipsychotic clozapine. Our results highlight how DNA methylation data can be leveraged to  
90 identify physiological (e.g., differential cell counts) and environmental (e.g., smoking) factors  
91 associated with psychosis and molecular biomarkers of treatment-resistant schizophrenia.

92

## 93 **Introduction**

94 Psychosis is a complex and heterogeneous neuropsychiatric condition characterized by a loss of  
95 contact with reality, whose symptoms can include delusions and hallucinations. Episodic psychosis  
96 and altered cognitive function are major features of schizophrenia, a severe neurodevelopmental  
97 disorder that contributes significantly to the global burden of disease (Whiteford et al., 2013).  
98 Schizophrenia is highly heritable (Hilker et al., 2018; Sullivan, Kendler, & Neale, 2003) and recent  
99 genetic studies have indicated a complex polygenic architecture involving hundreds of genetic  
100 variants that individually confer a minimal increase on the overall risk of developing the  
101 disorder (Purcell et al., 2009). Large-scale genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have identified  
102 approximately 160 regions of the genome harboring common variants robustly associated with the  
103 diagnosis of schizophrenia, with evidence for a substantial polygenic component in signals that  
104 individually fall below genome-wide levels of significance (Pardiñas et al., 2018; Schizophrenia  
105 Working Group of the PGC et al., 2014). As the majority of schizophrenia-associated variants do not  
106 directly index coding changes affecting protein structure, there remains uncertainty about the causal  
107 genes involved in disease pathogenesis, and how their function is dysregulated (Maurano et al., 2012).

108  
109 A major hypothesis is that GWAS variants predominantly act to influence the regulation of gene  
110 expression. This hypothesis is supported by an enrichment of schizophrenia associated variants in  
111 core regulatory domains (e.g. active promoters and enhancers) (Hannon, Marzi, Schalkwyk, & Mill,  
112 2019). As a consequence, there has been growing interest in the role of epigenetic variation in the  
113 molecular etiology of schizophrenia. DNA methylation is the best-characterized epigenetic  
114 modification, acting to influence gene expression via disruption of transcription factor binding and  
115 recruitment of methyl-binding proteins that initiate chromatin compaction and gene silencing. Despite  
116 being traditionally regarded as a mechanism of transcriptional repression, DNA methylation is  
117 actually associated with both increased and decreased gene expression (Wagner et al., 2014), and other  
118 genomic functions including alternative splicing and promoter usage (Maunakea et al., 2010). We  
119 previously demonstrated how DNA methylation is under local genetic control (Hannon, Gorrie-Stone,  
120 et al., 2018; Hannon, Spiers, et al., 2015), identifying an enrichment of DNA methylation quantitative

121 trait loci (mQTL) among genomic regions associated with schizophrenia(Hannon, Spiers, et al.,  
122 2015). Furthermore, we have used mQTL associations to identify discrete sites of regulatory variation  
123 associated with schizophrenia risk variants implicating specific genes within these regions (Hannon et  
124 al., 2016; Hannon, Gorrie-Stone, et al., 2018; Hannon, Spiers, et al., 2015; Hannon, Weedon, Bray,  
125 O'Donovan, & Mill, 2017). Of note, epigenetic variation induced by environmental exposures has  
126 been hypothesized as another mechanism by which non-genetic factors can affect risk for  
127 neuropsychiatric disorders including schizophrenia(E. Dempster, Viana, Pidsley, & Mill, 2013).

128

129 The development of standardized assays for quantifying DNA methylation at specific sites across the  
130 genome has enabled the systematic analysis of associations between methylomic variation and  
131 environmental exposures or disease(Murphy & Mill, 2014). Because DNA methylation is a dynamic  
132 process, these epigenome-wide association studies (EWAS) are more complex to design and interpret  
133 than GWAS(Mill & Heijmans, 2013; Rakyan, Down, Balding, & Beck, 2011; Relton & Davey Smith,  
134 2010). As for observational epidemiological studies of exposures and outcomes, a number of  
135 potentially important confounding factors (e.g. tissue- or cell-type, age, sex, lifestyle exposures,  
136 medication, and disorder-associated exposures) that can directly influence DNA methylation need to  
137 be considered along with the possibility of reverse causation. Despite these difficulties, recent studies  
138 have identified schizophrenia-associated DNA methylation differences in analyses of post-mortem  
139 brain tissue(Jaffe et al., 2015; Pidsley et al., 2014; Viana et al., 2016; Wockner et al., 2014), and also  
140 detected disease-associated variation in peripheral blood samples from both schizophrenia-discordant  
141 monozygotic twin pairs (E. L. Dempster et al., 2011) and clinically-ascertained case-control cohorts  
142 (Aberg et al., 2014; Hannon et al., 2016; Kinoshita et al., 2014). We previously reported an EWAS of  
143 variable DNA methylation associated with schizophrenia in >1,700 individuals, meta-analyzing data  
144 from three independent cohorts and identifying methylomic biomarkers of disease(Hannon et al.,  
145 2016). Together these data support a role for differential DNA methylation in the molecular etiology  
146 of schizophrenia, although it is not clear whether disease-associated methylation differences are  
147 themselves secondary to the disorder itself, or a result of other schizophrenia-associated factors.

148

149 In this study we extend our previous analysis, quantifying DNA methylation across the genome in a  
150 total of 4,483 participants from seven independent case-control cohorts including patients with  
151 schizophrenia or first-episode psychosis (FEP) (**Figure 1**). This represents the largest EWAS of  
152 schizophrenia and psychosis, and one of the largest case-control studies of DNA methylation for any  
153 disease phenotype. In each cohort, genomic DNA was isolated from whole blood and DNA  
154 methylation was quantified across the genome using either the Illumina Infinium  
155 HumanMethylation450 microarray (“450K array”) or the HumanMethylationEPIC microarray (“EPIC  
156 array”) (see **Methods**). We implemented a stringent pipeline to meta-analyze EWAS results across  
157 datasets to identify associations between psychosis cases and variation in DNA methylation. We show  
158 how DNA methylation data can be leveraged to identify biological (e.g. differential cell counts) and  
159 environmental (e.g. smoking) factors associated with psychosis, and present evidence for molecular  
160 variation associated with clozapine exposure in patients with treatment-resistant schizophrenia.

161

## 162 **Results**

### 163 *Study overview and cohort characteristics*

164 We quantified DNA methylation in samples derived from peripheral venous whole blood in seven  
165 independent psychosis case-control cohorts (total n = 4,483; 2,379 cases and 2,104 controls). These  
166 cohorts represent a range of study designs and recruitment strategies and were initially designed to  
167 explore different clinical and etiological aspects of schizophrenia (see **Methods** and **Table 1**); they  
168 include studies of first episode psychosis (EU-GEI and IoPPN), established schizophrenia and/or  
169 clozapine usage (UCL, Aberdeen, Dublin, IoPPN), mortality in schizophrenia (Sweden), and a study  
170 of twins from monozygotic pairs discordant for schizophrenia (Twins). All cohorts were characterised  
171 by a higher proportion of male participants (range = 52.1–71.1% male, pooled mean = 62.6% male,  
172 **Table 1**) than females. Although there was an overall significantly higher proportion of males  
173 amongst cases compared to controls ( $\chi^2 = 37.5$ ,  $P = 9.35 \times 10^{-10}$ ), consistent with reported incidence  
174 rates (Aleman, Kahn, & Selten, 2003; van der Werf et al., 2014), there was significant heterogeneity  
175 in the sex by diagnosis proportions across different cohorts ( $\chi^2 = 348$ ,  $P = 4.86 \times 10^{-63}$ ) with the overall  
176 excess of male patients driven by two cohorts (UCL ( $\chi^2 = 52.7$ ,  $P = 3.81 \times 10^{-13}$ ) and EU-GEI ( $\chi^2 =$



177 25.9,  $P = 3.68 \times 10^{-7}$ ). Most cohorts were enriched for young and middle-aged adults although there  
178 was considerable heterogeneity across the studies reflecting the differing sampling strategies (**Table**  
179 **1**). For example, the IoPPN cohort has the lowest average age, reflecting the inclusion of a large  
180 number of first episode psychosis (FEP) patients (mean = 34.9 years; SD = 12.42 years)(Di Forti et  
181 al., 2009). In contrast, individuals in the Sweden cohort were older (mean = 60.0 years; SD = 8.9  
182 years)(Kowalec et al., 2019). There was no overall difference in mean age between cases and controls  
183 (mean difference = 0.076 years,  $P = 0.975$ ) (**Figure 1 – supplement 1**), although differences were  
184 apparent in individual cohorts; in UCL (mean difference = 6.8 years;  $P = 6.55 \times 10^{-9}$ ) and IoPPN (mean  
185 difference = 6.2 years;  $P = 1.46 \times 10^{-11}$ ) patients were significantly older than controls, while in the EU-  
186 GEI (mean difference = -7.9 years;  $P = 1.24 \times 10^{-22}$ ) and the Sweden cohort (mean difference = -7.3  
187 years;  $P = 1.05 \times 10^{-16}$ ) the cases were significantly younger. With the exception of individuals in the  
188 IoPPN and EU-GEI cohorts, which are more ethnically diverse, individuals included in this study  
189 were predominantly Caucasian. SNP array data from each donor was merged with HapMap Phase 3  
190 data, and genetic principal components (PCs) were calculated with GCTA (Yang, Lee, Goddard, &  
191 Visscher, 2011) to further confirm the ethnicity of each sample (**Figure 1 – supplement 2**).

192

193 *Psychosis patients are characterized by differential blood cell proportions and smoking levels using*  
194 *measures derived from DNA methylation data*

195 A number of robust statistical classifiers have been developed to derive estimates of both biological  
196 phenotypes (e.g. age (Hannum et al., 2013; Horvath, 2013; Zhang et al., 2019) and the proportion of  
197 different blood cell types in a whole blood sample (Houseman et al., 2012; Koestler et al., 2013)) and  
198 environmental exposures (e.g. tobacco smoking (Elliott et al., 2014; Sugden et al., 2019)) from DNA  
199 methylation data. These estimates can be used to identify differences between groups and are often  
200 included as covariates in EWAS analyses where empirically-measured data is not available. For each  
201 individual included in this study we calculated two measures of “epigenetic age” from the DNA  
202 methylation data; DNAmAge using the Horvath multi-tissue clock, which was developed to predict  
203 chronological age (Horvath, 2013), and PhenoAge, which was developed as biomarker of advanced  
204 biological aging (Levine et al., 2018). We found a strong correlation between reported age and both

205 derived age estimates across the cohorts (Pearson correlation coefficient range 0.821-0.928 for  
206 DNAmAge and 0.795-0.910 for PhenoAge) and no evidence for age acceleration - i.e. the difference  
207 between epigenetic age and chronological age - between patients with psychosis and controls  
208 (Kowalec et al., 2019) (**Figure 1 - supplement 3 and 4**).

209

210 Because of the importance of considering variation in the composition of the constituent cell types in  
211 analyses of complex cellular mixtures (Mill & Heijmans, 2013; Relton & Davey Smith, 2010), we  
212 used established methods to estimate the proportion (Houseman et al., 2012; Koestler et al., 2013) and  
213 abundance (Horvath, 2013) of specific cell-types in whole blood. Using a random effects meta-  
214 analysis to combine the results across the seven cohorts, which were adjusted for age, sex and DNAm  
215 smoking score, we found that psychosis cases had elevated estimated proportions of granulocytes  
216 (mean difference = 0.0431;  $P = 5.09 \times 10^{-4}$ ) and monocytes (mean difference = 0.00320;  $P = 1.15 \times 10^{-4}$ ),  
217 and significantly lower proportions of  $CD4^+$  T-cells (mean difference = -0.0177;  $P = 0.00144$ ),  
218  $CD8^+$  T-cells (mean difference = -0.0144;  $P = 0.00159$ ) and natural killer cells (mean difference = -  
219 0.0113;  $P = 0.00322$ ) (**Table 2** and **Figure 2**). Interestingly, the differences in granulocytes, natural  
220 killer cells,  $CD4^+$  T-cells and  $CD8^+$  T-cells were most apparent in cohorts comprising patients with a  
221 diagnosis of schizophrenia (**Figure 2**), with cohorts including FEP patients characterized by weaker  
222 or null effects. Limiting the analysis of derived blood cell estimates to a comparison of schizophrenia  
223 cases and controls did not perceptibly change the estimated differences of our random effects model  
224 but did reduce the magnitude of heterogeneity compared to including the FEP cases (**Supplementary**  
225 **Table 1**). This indicates that changes in blood cell proportions may reflect a consequence of  
226 diagnosis, reflecting the fact that people with schizophrenia are likely to have been exposed to a  
227 variety of medications, social adversities and somatic ill-health - and for longer periods - than FEP  
228 patients. Finally, we used an established algorithm to derive a quantitative DNA methylation  
229 “smoking score” for each individual (Elliott et al., 2014), building on our previous work  
230 demonstrating the utility of this variable for characterizing differences in smoking exposure between  
231 schizophrenia patients and controls, and using it as a covariate in an EWAS (Hannon et al., 2016). We  
232 observed a significantly increased DNA methylation smoking score (**Figure 3**) in psychosis patients

233 compared to controls across all cohorts (mean difference = 3.89;  $P = 2.88 \times 10^{-11}$ ). Although of smaller  
234 effect, this difference was also present when comparing FEP and controls in the EU-GEI cohort  
235 (mean difference = 2.38;  $P = 2.68 \times 10^{-8}$ ). As expected, for individuals where self-reported smoking  
236 data was available, the DNA methylation smoking score was significantly elevated in current and  
237 former smokers compared to never smokers (**Figure 3 – supplement 1**).

238

239 *An epigenome-wide association study meta-analysis identifies DNA methylation differences*  
240 *associated with psychosis*

241 To identify differentially methylated positions (DMPs) in blood associated with psychosis, we  
242 performed an association analysis within each of the seven schizophrenia and FEP cohorts controlling  
243 for age, sex, derived cellular composition variables (from DNA methylation data), derived smoking  
244 score (from DNA methylation data), and experimental batch (see **Methods**). We used a Bayesian  
245 method to control P-value inflation using the R package *bacon* (van Iterson, van Zwet, Heijmans, &  
246 Consortium, 2017) before combining the estimated effect sizes and standard errors across cohorts  
247 with a random effects meta-analysis, including all autosomal and X-chromosome DNA methylation  
248 sites analyzed in at least two cohorts ( $n = 839,131$  DNA methylation sites) (see **Methods**). Using an  
249 experiment-wide significance threshold derived for the Illumina EPIC array (Mansell et al., 2019) ( $P$   
250  $< 9 \times 10^{-8}$ ), we identified 95 psychosis-associated DMPs mapping to 93 independent loci and annotated  
251 to 68 genes (**Figure 4A** and **Supplementary Table 2**). Across these DMPs, the mean difference in  
252 DNA methylation between cases and controls was relatively small (0.789%,  $SD = 0.226\%$ ) and there  
253 was a striking enrichment of hypermethylated DMPs in psychosis cases ( $n = 91$  DMPs (95.8%)  
254 hypermethylated,  $P = 1.68 \times 10^{-22}$ ). A number of the top-ranked DMPs are annotated to genes that have  
255 direct relevance to the etiology of psychosis including the GABA transporter *SLC6A12* (Park et al.,  
256 2011) (cg00517261, mean difference = 0.663%,  $P = 1.53 \times 10^{-8}$ ), the GABA receptor *GABBR1* (Le-  
257 Niculescu et al., 2007) (cg00667298, mean difference = 0.619%,  $P = 5.07 \times 10^{-9}$ ), and the calcium  
258 voltage-gated channel subunit gene *CACNA1C* (cg01833890, mean difference = 0.458%,  $P = 8.42 \times 10^{-$   
259  $9$ ) that is strongly associated with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder (Consortium, 2013; Psychiatric

260 GWAS Consortium Bipolar Disorder Working Group, 2011; Schizophrenia Working Group of the  
261 PGC et al., 2011) (**Figure 5**).

262

263 *A specific focus on clinically-diagnosed schizophrenia cases identifies more widespread DNA*  
264 *methylation differences*

265 We next repeated the EWAS focussing specifically on the subset of psychosis cases with diagnosed  
266 schizophrenia (schizophrenia cases = 1,681, controls = 1,583). Compared to our EWAS of psychosis  
267 we identified more widespread differences in DNA methylation (**Figure 4B**), with 1,048  
268 schizophrenia associated DMPs ( $P < 9 \times 10^{-8}$ ) representing 1,013 loci and annotated to 692 genes  
269 (**Supplementary Table 3**). Although the list of schizophrenia-associated DMPs included 61 (64.21%)  
270 of the psychosis associated DMPs, the total number of significant differences was much larger,  
271 potentially reflecting the less heterogeneous clinical characteristics of the cases. Schizophrenia-  
272 associated DMPs had a mean difference of 0.789% (SD = 0.204%), and like the psychosis-associated  
273 differences, were significantly enriched for sites that were hypermethylated in cases compared to  
274 controls ( $n = 897$  (87.4%),  $P = 1.27 \times 10^{-129}$ ). A number of the top-ranked DMPs are annotated to  
275 genes that have direct relevance to the etiology of schizophrenia and gene ontology (GO) analysis  
276 highlighted multiple pathways previously implicated in schizophrenia including several related to the  
277 extracellular matrix (Berretta, 2012) and cell-cell adhesion (O'Dushlaine et al., 2011) (**Supplementary**  
278 **Table 4**). Given the large range of ages across the samples included in this study, we tested whether  
279 there was evidence for a relationship between age and differential DNA methylation at the 1,048  
280 schizophrenia DMPs by refitting our analysis model using an additional interaction term between age  
281 and schizophrenia status individually for each cohort prior to the interaction effects being meta-  
282 analysed (see **Methods**). Overall, we found limited evidence for a relationship between age and DNA  
283 methylation at schizophrenia-associated DMPs; controlling for multiple testing ( $P < 0.00004771$ ),  
284 only two (0.002%) DMPs were identified as showing a significant interaction with age  
285 (**Supplementary Table 5**). We used the same approach to explore for an interaction between sex and  
286 DNA methylation, finding no evidence for sex differences at these sites or evidence for a significant  
287 interaction between sex and DNA methylation ( $P < 0.00004771$ ) (**Supplementary Table 6**). Finally,

288 although most of the cohorts included in this study were predominantly Caucasian, there was some  
289 ethnic heterogeneity in the IoPPN and EU-GEI cohorts. To explore the extent to which this diversity  
290 might be influencing our results we merged SNP array data from each donor with HapMap Phase 3  
291 data and calculated genetic PCs using GCTA (Yang et al., 2011) (**Figure 1 – supplement 2**). We  
292 reanalyzed data from individual cohorts including increasing numbers of genetic PCs to the model,  
293 finding that even in the most ethnically diverse cohort (IoPPN) the inclusion of up to five genetic PCs  
294 had negligible effects, with a very strong correlation in test statistics between models (**Figure 4 –  
295 supplement 1**).

296

297

298 *Schizophrenia-associated DNA methylation differences show overlap with previous analyses of*  
299 *schizophrenia and other traits*

300 Two of our experiment-wide significant SZ-associated DMPs (cg00390724 and cg09868768)  
301 overlapped with those reported in a previous smaller whole blood schizophrenia EWAS performed by  
302 Montano and colleagues (Montano et al., 2016) with the same direction of effect; of note, 119  
303 (71.3%) of the 167 replicated DMPs reported by this study were characterized by a consistent  
304 direction of effect in our meta-analysis, representing a significantly higher rate than expected by  
305 chance ( $P = 3.83 \times 10^{-8}$ ). Unfortunately, we could not check the extent to which our schizophrenia-  
306 associated DMPs were replicated in the Montano et al dataset because the full results from their  
307 analysis are not publicly available. We next compared our results with those from a prefrontal cortex  
308 (PFC) EWAS meta-analysis of schizophrenia also performed by our group (Viana et al., 2017),  
309 finding that 627 (60.2%) of the 1,042 DMPs tested in both analyses had the same direction of effect, a  
310 significantly higher rate than expected by chance ( $P = 5.43 \times 10^{-11}$ ). Finally, we also explored the  
311 extent to which DMPs associated with schizophrenia overlapped with other traits using the database  
312 of results in the online EWAS catalog (<http://ewascatalog.org/>); across EWAS studies undertaken  
313 using blood DNA (isolated from whole blood or cord blood) this resource includes 101,091  
314 significant DMPs (at  $P < 1 \times 10^{-7}$ ) associated with 87 traits. Of the 1,048 schizophrenia-associated  
315 DMPs identified in our meta-analysis, 219 (20.9%) were present in the database and significantly

316 associated with 18 different traits (**Supplementary Table 7**). Where effect sizes for individual DMPs  
317 were available in the EWAS catalog, we tested for an enrichment of consistent (or discordant)  
318 associations to those identified with schizophrenia. Schizophrenia DMPs also associated with C-  
319 reactive protein (CRP) and gestational age, for example, were significantly enriched for a consistent  
320 direction of effect (CRP: 10 overlapping DMPs, 10 consistent direction of effect,  $P = 0.001953$ ;  
321 gestational age: 105 overlapping DMPs, 72 consistent direction of effect,  $P = 0.000178$ ). In contrast,  
322 schizophrenia DMPs also associated with age and high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol were  
323 enriched for discordant effect directions (age: 30 overlapping DMPs, 28 same direction of effect,  $P =$   
324  $8.68 \times 10^{-7}$ ; HDL: 12 overlapping DMPs, 12 same direction of effect,  $P = 0.00049$ ) (**Figure 6**).

325

326 *Schizophrenia-associated DMPs colocalize to regions nominated by genetic association studies*

327 As the etiology of schizophrenia has a large genetic component, we next sought to explore the extent  
328 to which DNA methylation at schizophrenia-associated DMPs is influenced by genetic variation.  
329 Using results from a quantitative genetic analysis of DNA methylation in monozygotic and dizygotic  
330 twins (Hannon, Knox, et al., 2018), we found that DNA methylation at schizophrenia-associated  
331 DMPs is more strongly influenced by additive genetic factors compared to non-associated sites  
332 matched for comparable means and standard deviations (**Figure 7**) (mean additive genetic component  
333 across DMPs = 23.0%; SD = 16.8%;  $P = 1.61 \times 10^{-87}$ ). Using a database of blood DNA methylation  
334 quantitative trait loci (mQTL) previously generated by our group (Hannon, Gorrie-Stone, et al., 2018)  
335 we identified common genetic variants associated with 256 (24.4%) of the schizophrenia-associated  
336 DMPs. Across these 256 schizophrenia-associated DMPs there were a total of 455 independent  
337 genetic associations with 448 genetic variants, indicating that some of these DMPs are under  
338 polygenic control with multiple genetic variants associated. Of note, 31 of these genetic variants are  
339 located within 12 schizophrenia-associated GWAS regions (**Supplementary Table 8**) with 19 genetic  
340 variants associated with schizophrenia DMPs located in the MHC region on chromosome 6. To  
341 further support an overlap between GWAS and EWAS signals for schizophrenia, we compared the list  
342 of genes identified in this study with those from the largest GWAS meta-analysis of schizophrenia  
343 (Pardiñas et al., 2018) identifying 21 schizophrenia-associated DMPs located in 11 different GWAS

344 regions. To more formally test for an enrichment of differential DNA methylation across  
345 schizophrenia-associated GWAS regions, we calculated a combined EWAS P-value for each of the  
346 GWAS associated regions using all DNA methylation sites within each region identifying 21  
347 significant regions ( $P < 3.16 \times 10^{-4}$ , corrected for testing 158 regions; **Supplementary Table 9**). Three  
348 of these regions also contained a significant schizophrenia-associated DMP and a genetic variant  
349 associated with that schizophrenia-associated DMP. These include a region located within the MHC,  
350 another located on chromosome 17 containing *DLG2*, *TOMIL2* and overlapping the Smith-Magenis  
351 syndrome deletion, and another on chromosome 16 containing *CENPT*, and *PRMT7*.

352

353 *Schizophrenia-associated patterns of DNA methylation are observed in individuals with first-episode*  
354 *psychosis*

355 To explore whether schizophrenia-associated differences in DNA methylation are present before a  
356 formal diagnosis of schizophrenia we next performed an EWAS of FEP in the IoPPN and EUGEI  
357 cohorts (total  $n = 698$  FEP cases and  $724$  controls), meta-analysing the results across  $384,217$   
358 common DNAm sites. Although we identified no significant DMPs at our stringent experiment-wide  
359 significance threshold, this is not surprising given the greatly attenuated sample size and the high  
360 phenotypic heterogeneity amongst individuals with FEP compared to diagnosed schizophrenia; both  
361 factors negatively influence power to detect effects. We next repeated our EWAS of diagnosed  
362 schizophrenia, excluding the IoPPN cohort to ensure that there were no overlapping samples between  
363 the schizophrenia vs control analysis and the FEP vs control analysis, identifying 125 significant  
364 DMPs of which 101 were also tested in the FEP EWAS. To see if there was any evidence for  
365 differential DNAm at these sites prior to a diagnosis of schizophrenia, we compared the estimated  
366 differences between schizophrenia cases and controls and FEP cases and controls (**Supplementary**  
367 **Table 10**). Strikingly, 96 (95.0%) of the tested DMPs had a consistent direction of effect in the FEP  
368 EWAS, a significantly higher rate than expected by chance ( $P = 6.58 \times 10^{-23}$ ). While this result is  
369 consistent with schizophrenia-associated differences being present prior to diagnosis, it is not  
370 sufficient to state that they are causal; they may still reflect some underlying environmental risk factor  
371 or be a consequence of FEP (e.g. medication exposure).

372

373 *Treatment-resistant schizophrenia cases differ from treatment-responsive schizophrenia patients for*  
374 *blood cell proportion estimates and smoking score derived from DNA methylation data*

375 Up to 25% of schizophrenia patients are resistant to the most commonly prescribed antipsychotic  
376 medications, and clozapine is a second-generation antipsychotic often prescribed to patients with such  
377 treatment-resistant schizophrenia (TRS) who may represent a more severe subgroup (Ajnakina et al.,  
378 2018). Using data from four cohorts for which medication records were available (UCL, Aberdeen,  
379 IoPPN, and Sweden), we performed a within-schizophrenia analysis comparing schizophrenia patients  
380 prescribed clozapine (described as TRS cases) and those prescribed standard antipsychotic  
381 medications (total n = 399 TRS and 636 non-TRS). Across each of the four cohorts the proportion of  
382 males prescribed clozapine was slightly higher than the proportion of males on other medications ( $\chi^2$   
383 = 7.04, P = 7.96x10<sup>-3</sup>; **Supplementary Table 11**) consistent with findings from epidemiological  
384 studies that report increased rates of clozapine prescription in males (Bachmann et al., 2017), although  
385 there was statistically significant heterogeneity in the sex distribution between groups across cohorts  
386 ( $\chi^2$  = 20.5, P = 0.0150). TRS cases were significantly younger than non-TRS cases (mean difference =  
387 -5.48 years, P = 0.00533), although there was significant heterogeneity between the cohorts (I<sup>2</sup> = 89%;  
388 P = 7.40x10<sup>-32</sup>). There was no evidence of accelerated epigenetic aging between TRS and non-TRS  
389 patients (**Figure 1 – supplement 5** and **Figure 1 – supplement 6**). Interestingly, cellular composition  
390 variables derived from the DNA methylation data suggests that TRS cases are characterized by a  
391 significantly higher proportion of granulocytes (meta-analysis mean difference = 0.00283; P =  
392 8.10x10<sup>-6</sup>) and lower proportions of CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells (mean difference = -0.0115; P = 4.37x10<sup>-5</sup>  
393 (**Supplementary Table 12** and **Figure 2 – supplement 1**) compared to non-TRS cases. Given the  
394 finding of higher derived granulocyte and lower CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell levels in the combined psychosis patient  
395 group compared to controls described above, a finding driven primarily by patients with  
396 schizophrenia, we performed a multiple regression analysis of granulocyte proportion to partition the  
397 effects associated with schizophrenia status from effects associated with TRS status. After including a  
398 covariate for TRS, schizophrenia status was not significantly associated with granulocyte proportion  
399 using a random effects model (P = 0.210) but there was significant heterogeneity of effects across the



400 four cohorts ( $I^2 = 91\%$ ,  $P = 4.93 \times 10^{-7}$ ). Within the group of patients with schizophrenia, however,  
401 there were notable differences between TRS and non-TRS groups (mean difference = 0.0275;  $P =$   
402  $3.22 \times 10^{-6}$ ; **Figure 2 – supplement 2**). In contrast a multiple regression analysis found that both  
403 schizophrenia status (mean difference = -0.0113;  $P = 0.00818$ ) and TRS status (mean difference = -  
404 0.0116;  $P = 2.82 \times 10^{-5}$ ) had independent additive effects on  $CD8^+$  T-cell proportion (**Figure 2 –**  
405 **supplement 3**). Finally, TRS was also associated with significantly higher DNA methylation-derived  
406 smoking scores than non-TRS in all four cohorts (mean difference = 2.16;  $P = 7.79 \times 10^{-5}$ ; **Figure 3 –**  
407 **supplement 2**). Testing both schizophrenia diagnosis status and TRS status simultaneously, we found  
408 that both remained significant; schizophrenia diagnosis was associated with a significant increase in  
409 smoking score (mean difference = 3.98,  $P = 2.19 \times 10^{-8}$ ) with TRS status associated with an additional  
410 increase within cases (mean difference = 2.15,  $P = 2.22 \times 10^{-7}$ ) (**Figure 3 – supplement 3**).

411

412 *There are widespread DMPs between treatment-resistant schizophrenia patients and treatment-*  
413 *responsive patients*

414 We next performed an EWAS within schizophrenia patients comparing TRS cases to non-TRS cases,  
415 including each autosomal and X-chromosome DNA methylation site analyzed in at least two cohorts  
416 ( $n = 431,659$  DNA methylation sites). We identified seven DMPs associated with clozapine exposure  
417 ( $P < 9 \times 10^{-8}$ ; **Supplementary Table 13**) with a mean difference of 1.47% ( $SD = 0.242\%$ ) and all sites  
418 being characterized by elevated DNA methylation in TRS cases ( $P = 0.0156$ ). We were interested in  
419 whether the DNA methylation differences associated with TRS overlapped with those identified  
420 between all schizophrenia cases and non-psychiatric controls. Although there was no direct overlap  
421 between the clozapine associated DMPs and the schizophrenia associated DMPs identified for each  
422 analysis, the direction of effects across the 1,048 schizophrenia-associated DMPs were enriched for  
423 consistent effects ( $n = 738$  (70.4%) DMPs with consistent direction;  $P = 7.57 \times 10^{-41}$ ). Given these  
424 observations, we formally tested whether the schizophrenia-associated differences are driven by the  
425 subset of TRS cases on clozapine by fitting a model that simultaneously estimates the effect of  
426 schizophrenia status and TRS status across all 1,048 sites (**Supplementary Table 14**). While the vast  
427 majority of schizophrenia associated DMPs remained at least nominally significant ( $n = 1,003$  95.7%,

428  $P < 0.05$ ) between schizophrenia patients and controls, amongst those that didn't 25 (2.39%) had a  
429 significant effect associated with TRS status. For example, differential DNA methylation at the  
430 schizophrenia-associated DMP cg16322565, located in the *NR1L2* gene on chromosome 3  
431 (schizophrenia EWAS meta-analysis: mean DNA methylation difference = 0.907%,  $P = 3.52 \times 10^{-9}$ ), is  
432 driven primarily by cases with TRS (**Figure 8**; multiple regression analysis mean DNA methylation  
433 difference between schizophrenia cases and controls = 0.323%,  $P = 0.123$ , mean DNA methylation  
434 difference between TRS cases and non-TRS controls = 1.01%,  $P = 8.71 \times 10^{-5}$ ). 152 (14.5%) of the  
435 schizophrenia associated DMPs were associated with a significant effect between schizophrenia cases  
436 and controls and a significant affect within schizophrenia patients between TRS and non-TRS  
437 patients, with the majority (128 (84.2%)) characterized by the same direction of effect in both groups  
438 and indicative of an additive effect of both schizophrenia diagnosis and TRS status (e.g. **Figure 8 –**  
439 **supplement 1**). Of particular interest are 24 DMPs which are significantly associated with both  
440 schizophrenia and TRS but with an opposite direction of effect, highlighting how that at some DNA  
441 methylation sites, TRS counteracts changes induced by schizophrenia (e.g. **Figure 8 – supplement 2**).  
442 Taken together, 177 (16.9%) of the schizophrenia-associated DMPs identified in our EWAS meta-  
443 analysis are influenced by TRS and reflect either differences induced by exposure to a specific  
444 antipsychotic therapy or other differences (e.g. treatment resistance) in individuals who are prescribed  
445 clozapine.  
446  
447

**448 Discussion**

449 We report the most comprehensive study of methylomic variation associated with psychosis and  
450 schizophrenia, profiling DNA methylation across the genome in peripheral blood samples from 2,379  
451 cases and 2,104 controls. We show how DNA methylation data can be leveraged to derive measures  
452 of blood cell counts and smoking that are associated with psychosis. Using a stringent pipeline to  
453 meta-analyze EWAS results across datasets, we identify novel DMPs associated with both psychosis  
454 and a more refined diagnosis of schizophrenia. Of note, we show evidence for the co-localization of  
455 genetic associations for schizophrenia and differential DNA methylation. Finally, we present evidence  
456 for differential methylation associated with treatment-resistant schizophrenia, potentially reflecting  
457 differences in DNA methylation associated with exposure to the atypical antipsychotic drug  
458 clozapine.

459

460 We identify robust psychosis-associated differences in cellular composition estimates derived from  
461 DNA methylation data, with cases having increased proportions of monocytes and granulocytes and  
462 decreased proportions of natural killer cells, CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cells and CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells compared to non-  
463 psychiatric controls. This analysis extends previous work based on a subset of these data, which  
464 reported a decrease in the proportion of natural killer cells and increase in the proportion of  
465 granulocytes in schizophrenia patients, with the large number of samples enabling us to identify  
466 additional associations with other cell types. We also confirm findings from an independent study of  
467 schizophrenia which reported significantly increased proportions of granulocytes and monocytes, and  
468 decreased proportions of CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells using estimates derived from DNA methylation data (Montano  
469 et al., 2016). Of note, because we can only derive proportion of cell types from whole blood DNA  
470 methylation data, and not actual counts, an increase in one or more cell types must be balanced by a  
471 decrease in one or more other cell types and an apparent change in the proportion of one specific cell  
472 type does not mean that the actual abundance of that cell type is altered. Despite this, the results from  
473 DNA methylation-derived cell proportions are consistent with previous studies based on empirical  
474 cell abundance measures which have reported increased monocyte counts(Beumer et al., 2012;  
475 Moody & Miller, 2018), increased neutrophil counts(Garcia-Rizo et al., 2019; Núñez et al., 2019),

476 increased monocyte to lymphocyte ratio(Mazza, Lucchi, Rossetti, & Clerici, 2019; Steiner et al.,  
477 2019) and increased neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (Karageorgiou, Milas, & Michopoulos, 2019;  
478 Mazza et al., 2019) in both schizophrenia and FEP patients compared to controls. Previous studies  
479 have also shown that higher neutrophil counts in schizophrenia patients correlate with a greater  
480 burden of positive symptoms(Núñez et al., 2019) suggesting that variations in the number of  
481 neutrophils is a potential marker of disease severity(Steiner et al., 2019). Our sub-analysis of  
482 treatment-resistant schizophrenia, which is associated with a higher number of positive symptoms  
483 (Bachmann et al., 2017), found that the increase in granulocytes was primarily driven by those with  
484 the more severe phenotype, supporting this hypothesis. Importantly, the differences we observe may  
485 actually reflect the effects of various antipsychotic medications that have been previously shown to  
486 influence cell proportions in blood(Steiner et al., 2019) or a recruitment bias whereby patients with  
487 low levels of granulocytes are not prescribed clozapine given the risk of agranulocytosis.

488

489 We also identified a highly-significant increase in a DNA methylation-derived smoking score in  
490 patients with schizophrenia, replicating our previous finding (Hannon et al., 2016). The smoking score  
491 captures multiple aspects of tobacco smoking behaviour including both current smoking status and the  
492 quantity of cigarettes smoked; our results therefore reflect existing epidemiological evidence  
493 demonstrating that schizophrenia patients not only smoke more, but also smoke more heavily (de  
494 Leon, Becoña, Gurpegui, Gonzalez-Pinto, & Diaz, 2002; de Leon & Diaz, 2005; McClave,  
495 McKnight-Eily, Davis, & Dube, 2010). We also report an increased smoking score in patients with  
496 FEP, although not to the same extent as seen in schizophrenia, consistent with a meta-analysis  
497 reporting high levels of smoking in FEP (Myles et al., 2012). In the subset of treatment-resistant  
498 patients, we found that there was an additional increase in smoking score relative to schizophrenia  
499 cases prescribed alternative medications, supporting evidence for higher rates of smoking in TRS  
500 groups relative to treatment-responsive schizophrenia patients(Kennedy, Altar, Taylor, Degtiar, &  
501 Hornberger, 2014). These results not only highlight physiological (i.e. cell proportions) and  
502 environmental (i.e. smoking) differences associated with psychosis and schizophrenia and the utility  
503 of DNA methylation data for deriving these variables in epidemiological studies, but also highlight

504 the importance of controlling for these differences as potential confounders in analyses of disease-  
505 associated DNA methylation differences.

506

507 Our epigenome-wide association study, building on our previous analysis on a subset of the sample  
508 cohorts profiled here (Hannon et al., 2016), identified 95 DMPs associated with psychosis that are  
509 robust to differences in measured smoking exposure and heterogeneity in blood cellular composition  
510 derived from DNA methylation data. Of note, we identified a dramatic increase in sites characterized  
511 by an increase in DNA methylation in patients. A key strength of our study is the inclusion of the full  
512 spectrum of schizophrenia diagnoses, from FEP through to treatment-resistant cases prescribed  
513 clozapine. While this may introduce heterogeneity into our primary analyses, we used a random  
514 effects meta-analysis to identify consistent effects across all cohorts and diagnostic subtypes. We also  
515 performed an additional analysis focused specifically on cases with a more refined diagnosis of  
516 schizophrenia excluding those with FEP, which identified over 1,000 DMPs. A number of the top-  
517 ranked DMPs are annotated to genes that have direct relevance to the etiology of schizophrenia and  
518 gene ontology (GO) analysis highlighted multiple pathways previously implicated in schizophrenia  
519 including several related to the extracellular matrix (Berretta, 2012) and cell-cell adhesion  
520 (O'Dushlaine et al., 2011). Given the known genetic component to the etiology of schizophrenia, it is  
521 interesting that schizophrenia-associated DMPs were found to colocalize to several regions nominated  
522 by genetic association studies. Our results suggest that this analysis of a more specific phenotype in a  
523 smaller number of samples is potentially more powerful and that schizophrenia cases have a more  
524 discrete molecular phenotype that might reflect both etiological factors but also factors associated  
525 with a diagnosis of schizophrenia (e.g. medications, stress, etc). The mean difference in DNA  
526 methylation between cases and controls for both psychosis and schizophrenia was small, consistent  
527 with other blood-based EWAS of schizophrenia (Montano et al., 2016) and complex traits (Hannon,  
528 Schendel, et al., 2018; Hannon, Schendel, et al., 2019; Marioni et al., 2018) in general. While  
529 individually they may be too small to have a strong predictive power as a biomarker, together they  
530 may have utility as a molecular classifier (Chen et al., 2020).

531

532 To explore whether schizophrenia-associated differences in DNA methylation are present before a  
533 formal diagnosis of schizophrenia we also performed an EWAS of individuals with first-episode  
534 psychosis. Strikingly, the majority of our schizophrenia-associated DMPs were found to have a  
535 consistent direction of effect in the EWAS of individuals with FEP. While this result is consistent  
536 with schizophrenia-associated differences being present prior to a formal diagnosis of schizophrenia,  
537 it is not sufficient to state that they are causal; they may still reflect some underlying environmental  
538 risk factors or be a consequence of having FEP (e.g. medication exposure or other psychiatric  
539 condition). Further work is needed to explore the extent to which the DMPs associated with psychosis  
540 and schizophrenia in this meta-analysis might have a causal role in disease.

541

542 Finally, we also report the first systematic analysis of individuals with TRS, identifying seven DMPs  
543 at which differential DNA methylation was significantly different in the subset of schizophrenia cases  
544 prescribed clozapine. These data are informative for the interpretation of our schizophrenia-associated  
545 differences, because a number of these DMPs are driven by the subset of patients on clozapine.  
546 Furthermore, a number of sites show opposite effects in our analyses of TRS vs our analysis of  
547 schizophrenia, suggesting they might represent important differences between diagnostic groups.  
548 Because the prescription of clozapine is generally only undertaken in patients with treatment-resistant  
549 schizophrenia, we are unable to separate the effects of clozapine exposure from differences associated  
550 with a more severe sub-type of schizophrenia such as the influence of polypharmaceutical treatment.

551

552 Our results should be considered in light of a number of important limitations. First, our analyses  
553 were constrained by the technical limitations of the Illumina 450K and EPIC arrays which only assays  
554 ~ 3% of CpG sites in the genome. Second, this is a cross-sectional study and was not possible to  
555 distinguish cause from effect. It is possible, and indeed likely, for example, that the differences  
556 associated with both schizophrenia and TRS reflect the effects of medication exposure or other  
557 consequences of having schizophrenia, e.g. living more stressful lives, poorer diet and health. The  
558 importance of such confounding variables is demonstrated by our findings of differential smoking  
559 score and blood cell proportions derived directly from the DNA methylation data, although these

560 examples also highlight the potential utility of such effects for molecular epidemiology. Third,  
561 although our aim was not to make inferences about mechanistic changes in the brain associated with  
562 psychosis, it is important to note that our study analyzed DNA methylation profiled in peripheral  
563 blood and therefore can provide only limited information about variation in the primary tissue  
564 associated with disease(Hannon, Lunnon, Schalkwyk, & Mill, 2015). Although this limits mechanistic  
565 conclusions about the role of DNA methylation in schizophrenia, biomarkers, by definition, need to  
566 be measured in an easily accessible tissue and don't need to reflect the underlying pathogenic process.  
567 Furthermore, because most classifiers used to quantify variables such as smoking exposure and age  
568 have been trained in blood, this represents the optimal tissue in which to derive these measures. Of  
569 course, blood may also be an appropriate choice for investigating medication effects, particularly  
570 given the known effects on white blood cell counts associated with taking clozapine(Alvir,  
571 Lieberman, Safferman, Schwimmer, & Schaaf, 1993). Fourth, while we have explored the potential  
572 effects of clozapine on DNA methylation by assessing a sub-group of individuals with TRS, this is  
573 just one of a range of antipsychotics schizophrenia and psychosis patients are prescribed. The fact that  
574 the TRS group show more extreme differences for many of the schizophrenia-associated DMPs  
575 suggests that the polypharmaceutical treatment regimens often prescribed to schizophrenia patients  
576 may produce specific DNA methylation signatures in patients, akin to the effect seen for smoking.  
577 Fifth, although we found no evidence for a significant interaction between sex and DNA methylation  
578 at DMPs associated with schizophrenia, it is possible that there are other DNA methylation  
579 differences associated with disease only in males or females. Finally, although we found some  
580 evidence that schizophrenia-associated DMPs colocalize to regions nominated by GWAS, the  
581 integration of our DNA methylation data with genetic data was beyond the scope of this analysis. Of  
582 note, we have previously used mQTL associations to identify discrete sites of regulatory variation  
583 associated with schizophrenia risk variants to prioritize specific genes within broad GWAS regions  
584 (Hannon et al., 2016; Hannon, Gorrie-Stone, et al., 2018; Hannon, Spiers, et al., 2015; Hannon et al.,  
585 2017) and future work will aim to further explore interactions between genetic and epigenetic  
586 risk factors.

587

588 In conclusion, our analysis of 4,483 participants represents the largest study of blood-based DNA-  
589 methylation in schizophrenia and psychosis yet performed, and one of the largest EWAS studies for  
590 *any* disease phenotype. Our study also includes the first within-case analysis of treatment-resistant  
591 schizophrenia yet performed, providing important molecular insights into genomic differences  
592 associated with poor outcome to standard therapeutic approaches. Our results highlight differences in  
593 measures of blood cellular composition and smoking behaviour derived from methylomic data  
594 between not just cases and controls, but also between treatment-resistant schizophrenia patients  
595 prescribed clozapine and those prescribed alternative medications. We report widespread differences  
596 in DNA methylation in psychosis and schizophrenia, a subset of which are driven by the more severe  
597 treatment-resistant subset of patients. On a practical level, our study demonstrates the utility of DNA  
598 methylation data for deriving measures of specific physiological phenotypes (e.g. blood cell-type  
599 proportions) and environmental exposures (e.g. exposure to tobacco smoke) that can be used to  
600 identify epidemiological associations with health and disease, but also highlights the importance of  
601 properly controlling for these potential confounders in EWAS analyses. Our results are important  
602 because they suggest there are also clear molecular signatures of schizophrenia and psychosis that can  
603 be identified in whole blood DNA. Although it is unlikely these differences are mechanistically  
604 related to neuropathological changes in the brain, they may have utility as diagnostic and prognostic  
605 biomarkers in individuals with FEP and may potentially be used to differentiate individuals with TRS  
606 at an early stage of disease. Future work should aim to prospectively profile DNA methylation in  
607 individuals at risk for FEP and schizophrenia to explore how methylomic variation at baseline can  
608 predict outcome and the extent to which longitudinal changes at psychosis-associated DMPs map on  
609 to clinical trajectories.

610

611



**612 Materials and Methods:***613 Cohort descriptions**614 University College London (UCL) samples*

615 447 schizophrenia cases and 456 controls from the University College London schizophrenia sample  
616 cohort were selected for DNA methylation profiling. A full description of this cohort can be found  
617 elsewhere(Datta et al., 2010) but briefly comprises of unrelated ancestrally matched cases and  
618 controls from the United Kingdom. Case participants were recruited from UK NHS mental health  
619 services with a clinical ICD-10 diagnosis of schizophrenia. All case participants were interviewed  
620 with the Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia-Lifetime Version (SADS-L)(Spitzer &  
621 Endicott, 1977) to confirm Research Diagnostic Criteria (RDC) diagnosis. A control sample screened  
622 for an absence of mental health problems was recruited. Each control subject was interviewed to  
623 confirm that they did not have a personal history of an RDC defined mental disorder or a family  
624 history of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or alcohol dependence. UK National Health Service  
625 multicentre and local research ethics approval was obtained and all subjects signed an approved  
626 consent form after reading an information sheet.

627

*628 Aberdeen samples*

629 482 schizophrenia cases and 468 controls from the Aberdeen schizophrenia sample were selected for  
630 DNA methylation profiling. The Aberdeen case-control sample has been fully described elsewhere  
631 (International Schizophrenia Consortium, 2008) but briefly contains schizophrenia cases and controls  
632 who have self-identified as born in the British Isles (95% in Scotland). All cases met the Diagnostic  
633 and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders-IV edition (DSM-IV) and International Classification of  
634 Diseases 10th edition (ICD-10) criteria for schizophrenia. Diagnosis was made by Operational  
635 Criteria Checklist (OPCRIT). Controls were volunteers recruited through general practices in  
636 Scotland. Practice lists were screened for potentially suitable volunteers by age and sex and by  
637 exclusion of subjects with major mental illness or use of neuroleptic medication. Volunteers who  
638 replied to a written invitation were interviewed using a short questionnaire to exclude major mental

639 illness in individual themselves and first-degree relatives. All cases and controls gave informed  
640 consent. The study was approved by both local and multiregional academic ethical committees.

641

#### 642 *Monozygotic twins discordant for schizophrenia*

643 The monozygotic twin cohort is a multi-centre collaborative project aimed at identifying DNA  
644 methylation differences in monozygotic-twin pairs discordant for a diagnosis of schizophrenia. 96  
645 informative twin-pairs (n = 192 individuals) were identified from European twin studies based in  
646 Utrecht (The Netherlands), Helsinki (Finland), London (United Kingdom), Stockholm (Sweden), and  
647 Jena (Germany). Of the monozygotic twin pairs utilized in the analysis, 75 were discordant for  
648 diagnosed schizophrenia, 6 were concordant for schizophrenia and 15 twin pairs were free of any  
649 psychiatric disease. Each twin study has been approved; ethical permission was given by the relevant  
650 local ethics committee and the participating twins have provided written informed consent.

651

#### 652 *Dublin samples*

653 361 schizophrenia cases and 346 controls were selected from the Irish Schizophrenia Genomics  
654 consortium, a detailed description of this cohort can be found in the Morris et al manuscript (Morris et  
655 al., 2014). Briefly, participants, from the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland, were interviewed  
656 using a structured clinical interview and diagnosis of schizophrenia or a related disorder  
657 [schizoaffective disorder; schizophreniform disorder] was made by the consensus lifetime best  
658 estimate method using DSM-IV criteria. Control subjects were ascertained with written informed  
659 consent from the Irish GeneBank and represented blood donors from the Irish Blood Transfusion  
660 Service. Ethics Committee approval for the study was obtained from all participating hospitals and  
661 centres.

662

#### 663 *IoPPN samples*

664 The IoPPN cohort comprises of 290 schizophrenia cases, 308 first episode psychosis (FEP) patients  
665 and 203 non-psychiatric controls recruited from the same geographical area into three studies via the  
666 South London & Maudsley Mental Health National Health Service (NHS) Foundation Trust.

667 Established schizophrenia cases were recruited to the Improving Physical Health and Reducing  
668 Substance Use in Severe Mental Illness (IMPACT) study from three English mental health NHS  
669 services (Gaughran et al., 2019). First episode psychosis patients were recruited to the GAP study (Di  
670 Forti et al., 2015) via in-patient and early intervention in psychosis community mental health teams.  
671 All patients aged 18–65 years who presented with a first episode of psychosis to the Lambeth,  
672 Southwark and Croydon adult in-patient units of the South London & Maudsley Mental Health NHS  
673 Foundation Trust between May 1, 2005, and May 31, 2011 who met ICD–10 criteria for a diagnosis  
674 of psychosis (codes F20–F29 and F30–F33). Clinical diagnosis was validated by administering the  
675 Schedules for Clinical Assessment in Neuropsychiatry (SCAN). Cases with a diagnosis of organic  
676 psychosis were excluded. Healthy controls were recruited into the GAP study from the local  
677 population living in the area served by the South London & Maudsley Mental Health NHS  
678 Foundation Trust, by means of internet and newspaper advertisements, and distribution of leaflets at  
679 train stations, shops and job centres. Those who agreed to participate were administered the Psychosis  
680 Screening Questionnaire (Bebbington & Nayani, 1995) and excluded if they met criteria for a  
681 psychotic disorder or reported to have received a previous diagnosis of psychotic illness. All  
682 participants were included in the study only after giving written, confirmed consent. The study  
683 protocol and ethical permission was granted by the Joint South London and Maudsley and the  
684 Institute of Psychiatry NHS Research Ethics Committee (17/NI/0011).

685

686 *Sweden*

687 190 schizophrenia cases and 190 controls from the Sweden Schizophrenia Study (S3) [31] were  
688 selected for DNA methylation profiling details of which have been described previously [2]. Briefly,  
689 S3 is a population-based cohort of individuals born in Sweden including 4,936 SCZ cases and 6,321  
690 healthy controls recruited between 2004 and 2010. SCZ cases were identified from the Sweden  
691 Hospital Discharge Register [32, 33] with  $\geq 2$  hospitalizations with an ICD discharge diagnosis of SCZ  
692 or schizoaffective disorder (SAD) [34]. This operational definition of SCZ was validated in clinical,  
693 epidemiological, genetic epidemiological, and genetic studies [31]. More generally, the Hospital  
694 Discharge Register has high agreement with medical [32, 33] and psychiatric diagnoses [35]. Controls

695 were also selected through Swedish Registers and were group-matched by age, sex and county of  
696 residence and had no lifetime diagnoses of SCZ, SAD, or bipolar disorder or antipsychotic  
697 prescriptions. Blood samples were drawn at enrolment. All subjects were 18 years of age or older and  
698 provided written informed consent. Ethical permission was obtained from the Karolinska Institutet  
699 Ethical Review Committee in Stockholm, Sweden.

700

701 *The European Network of National Schizophrenia Networks Studying Gene-Environment Interactions*  
702 *(EU-GEI) cohort*

703 458 first-episode psychosis (FEP) cases and 558 controls from the incidence and case-control work  
704 package (WP2) of the European Network of National Schizophrenia Networks Studying Gene-  
705 Environment Interactions (EU-GEI) cohort were selected for DNA methylation profiling (Jongsma et  
706 al., 2018). Patients presenting with FEP were identified, between 1/5/2010 and 1/4/2015, by trained  
707 researchers who carried out regular checks across the 17 catchment area Mental Health Services  
708 across 6 European countries. FEP were included if a) age 18-64 years and b) resident within the study  
709 catchment areas at the time of their first presentation, and with a diagnosis of psychosis (ICD-10 F20-  
710 33). Using the Operational Criteria Checklist algorithm (McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991;  
711 Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin,  
712 Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et  
713 al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey,  
714 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin,  
715 Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et  
716 al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey,  
717 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin,  
718 Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et  
719 al., 2018)(McGuffin, Farmer, & Harvey, 1991; Quattrone et al., 2018)(McGuffin et al., 1991,  
720 Quattrone et al., 2018) all cases interviewed received a research-based diagnosis. FEPs were excluded  
721 if a) previously treated for psychosis, b) they met criteria for organic psychosis (ICD-10: F09), or for  
722 a diagnosis of transient psychotic symptoms resulting from acute intoxication (ICD-10: F1X.5). FEP

723 were approached via their clinical team and invited to participate in the assessment. Random and  
724 Quota sampling strategies were adopted to guide the recruitment of controls from each of the sites.  
725 The most accurate local demographic data available were used to set quotas for controls to ensure the  
726 samples' representativeness of each catchment area's population at risk. Controls were excluded if  
727 they had received a diagnosis of and/or treatment for, a psychotic disorder. All participants provided  
728 informed, written consent. Ethical approval was provided by relevant research ethics committees in  
729 each of the study sites.

730

### 731 *Genome-wide quantification of DNA methylation*

732 Approximately 500ng of blood-derived DNA from each sample was treated with sodium bisulfite in  
733 duplicate, using the EZ-96 DNA methylation kit (Zymo Research, CA, USA). DNA methylation was  
734 quantified using either the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (Illumina Inc, CA,  
735 USA) or Illumina Infinium HumanMethylationEPIC BeadChip (Illumina Inc, CA, USA) run on an  
736 Illumina iScan System (Illumina, CA, USA) using the manufacturers' standard protocol. Samples  
737 were batched by cohort and randomly assigned to chips and plates to ensure equal distribution of  
738 cases and controls across arrays and minimize batch effects. For the monozygotic Twin cohort, both  
739 members of the same twin pair were run on the same chip. A fully methylated control sample (CpG  
740 Methylated HeLa Genomic DNA; New England BioLabs, MA, USA) was included in a random  
741 position on each plate to facilitate plate tracking. Signal intensities were imported in R programming  
742 environment using the *methylumIDAT* function in the *methylumi* package (Davis, Du, Bilke, Triche, &  
743 Bootwalla, 2015). Our stringent quality control pipeline included the following steps: 1) checking  
744 methylated and unmethylated signal intensities, excluding samples where this was < 2500; 2) using  
745 the control probes to ensure the sodium bisulfite conversion was successful, excluding any samples  
746 with median < 90; 3) identifying the fully methylated control sample was in the correct location; 4) all  
747 tissues predicted as of blood origin using the tissue prediction from the Epigenetic Clock software  
748 (<https://DNAMAge.genetics.ucla.edu/>) (Horvath, 2013); 5) multidimensional scaling of sites on X and  
749 Y chromosomes separately to confirm reported gender; 6) comparison with genotype data across SNP  
750 probes; 7) *pfilter* function from *wateRmelon* package (Pidsley et al., 2013) to exclude samples with >

751 1% of probes with detection  $P$ -value  $> 0.05$  and probes with  $> 1\%$  of samples with detection  $P$ -value  
752  $> 0.05$ . PCs were used (calculated across all probes) to identify outliers, samples  $> 2$  standard  
753 deviations from the mean for both PC1 and PC2 were removed. An additional QC step was performed  
754 in the Twins cohort using the 65 SNP probes to confirm that twins were genetically identical.  
755 Normalization of the DNA methylation data was performed using the *dasen* function in the  
756 *wateRmelon* package (Pidsley et al., 2013). As cell count data were not available for these DNA  
757 samples these were estimated from the 450K DNA methylation data using both the Epigenetic Clock  
758 software (Horvath, 2013) and Houseman algorithm (Houseman et al., 2012; Koestler et al., 2013),  
759 including the seven variables recommended in the documentation for the Epigenetic Clock in the  
760 regression analysis. For cohorts with the EPIC array DNA methylation data, we were only able to  
761 generate the six cellular composition variables using the Houseman algorithm (Houseman et al., 2012;  
762 Koestler et al., 2013), which were included as covariates. Similarly as smoking data was incomplete  
763 for the majority of cohorts, we calculated a smoking score from the data using the method described  
764 by Elliot et al (Elliott et al., 2014) and successfully used in our previous (Phase 1) analyses (Hannon et  
765 al., 2016). Raw and processed data for the UCL, Aberdeen, Dublin, IoPPN and EU-GEI cohorts are  
766 available through GEO accession numbers GSE84727, GSE80417, GSE147221, GSE152027 and  
767 GSE152026 respectively.

768

#### 769 *Data analysis*

770 All analyses were performed with the statistical language R unless otherwise stated. Custom code for  
771 all steps of the analysis are available on GitHub:

772 (<https://github.com/ejh243/SCZEWAS/tree/master/Phase2>).

773

#### 774 *Comparison of estimates of cellular composition and tobacco smoking derived from DNA methylation* 775 *data*

776 A linear regression model was used to test for differences in ten cellular composition variables  
777 estimated from the DNA methylation data, reflecting either proportion or abundance of blood cell  
778 types. These estimated cellular composition variables were regressed against case/control status with

779 covariates for age, sex and smoking. Estimated effects and standard errors were combined across the  
780 cohorts using a random effect meta-analysis implemented with the meta package(Schwarzer, 2007).  
781 The same methodology was used to test for differences in the smoking score derived from DNA  
782 methylation data between cases and controls including covariates for age and sex. P values are from  
783 two-sided tests.

784

#### 785 *Within-cohort EWAS analysis*

786 A linear regression model was used to test for differentially methylated sites associated with  
787 schizophrenia or first episode psychosis. DNA methylation values for each probe were regressed  
788 against case/control status with covariates for age, sex, derived cellular composition scores (from the  
789 DNA methylation data), derived smoking score (from the DNA methylation data) and experimental  
790 batch. For the EU-GEI cohort there was an additional covariate for contributing study. For the Twins  
791 cohort, a linear model was used to generate regression coefficients, but *P*-values were calculated with  
792 clustered standards errors using the *plm* package (Croissant & Millo, 2008), recognising individuals  
793 from the same twin pair.

794

#### 795 *Within-patient EWAS of clozapine prescription*

796 Four individual cohorts (UCL, Aberdeen, IoPPN and Sweden) had information on medication and/or  
797 clozapine exposure and were included in the treatment-resistant schizophrenia (TRS) EWAS. TRS  
798 patients were defined as any case that had ever been prescribed clozapine, and non-TRS patients were  
799 defined as schizophrenia cases that had no record of being prescribed clozapine. Within each cohort  
800 DNA methylation values for each probe were regressed against TRS status with covariates for age,  
801 sex, cell composition, smoking status, and batch as described for the case control EWAS.

802

#### 803 *Multiple regression analysis of schizophrenia and clozapine prescription*

804 Using the four cohorts that were included in the TRS EWAS (UCL, Aberdeen, IoPPN and Sweden),  
805 we fitted a multiple regression model with two binary indicator variables: one that identified the  
806 schizophrenia patients and a second that identified the TRS schizophrenia patients. Within each

807 cohort DNA methylation values for each probe were regressed against these two binary variables,  
808 with covariates for age, sex, derived cellular composition scores (from the DNA methylation data),  
809 derived smoking score (from the DNA methylation data) and experimental batch as described above  
810 for the other EWAS analyses.

811

### 812 *Meta-analysis*

813 The EWAS results from each cohort were processed using the *bacon* R package(van Iterson et al.,  
814 2017), which uses a Bayesian method to adjust for inflation in EWAS P-values. All probes analysed  
815 in at least two studies were taken forward for meta-analysis. This was performed using the *metagen*  
816 function in the R package *meta*(Schwarzer, 2007), using the effect sizes and standard errors adjusted  
817 for inflation from each individual cohort to calculate weighted pooled estimates and test for  
818 significance. P-values are from two-sided tests and significant DMPs were identified from a random  
819 effects model at a significance threshold of  $9 \times 10^{-8}$ , which controls for the number of independent tests  
820 performed when analysis data generated with the EPIC array(Mansell et al., 2019). DNA methylation  
821 sites were annotated with location information for genome build hg19 using the Illumina manifest  
822 files (CHR and MAPINFO).

823

### 824 *Overlap with schizophrenia GWAS loci*

825 The GWAS regions were taken from the largest published schizophrenia GWAS to date by Pãrdinas  
826 and colleagues (Pardiñas et al., 2018) made available through the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium  
827 (PGC) website (<https://www.med.unc.edu/pgc/results-and-downloads>). Briefly, regions were defined  
828 by performing a “clumping” procedure on the GWAS P-values to collapse multiple correlated signals  
829 (due to linkage disequilibrium) surrounding the index SNP (i.e. with the smallest P-value) into a  
830 single associated region. To define physically distinct loci, those within 250kb of each other were  
831 subsequently merged to obtain the final set of GWAS regions. The outermost SNPs of each associated  
832 region defined the start and stop parameters of the region. Using the set of 158 schizophrenia-  
833 associated genomic loci we used Brown’s method (Brown, 1975) to calculate a combined P-value  
834 across all probes located within each region (based on hg19) using the probe-level P-values and



835 correlation coefficients between all pairs of probes calculated from the DNA methylation values.  
836 Briefly, correlation statistics were calculated and (along with the P values) were inputted into Brown's  
837 formula. As correlations between probes could only be calculated using probes profiled on the same  
838 array, this analysis was limited to probes included on the EPIC array. Correlations between probes  
839 were calculated within the EU-GEI cohort as this had the largest number of samples.

840

#### 841 *Enrichment analyses*

842 Enrichment of the heritability statistics of DMPs was performed against a background set of probes  
843 selected to match the distribution of the test set for both mean and standard deviation. This was  
844 achieved by splitting all probes into 10 equally sized bins based on their mean methylation level and  
845 ten equally sized bins based on their standard deviation, to create a matrix of 100 bins. After counting  
846 the number of DMPs within each bin, we selected the same number of probes from each bin for the  
847 background comparison set. This was repeated multiple times, without replacement, until all the  
848 probes from at least one bin were selected giving the maximum possible number of background  
849 probes ( $n = 42,968$ ) such that they matched the characteristics of the test set of DMPs.

850

#### 851 *Gene ontology (GO) analysis*

852 Illumina UCSC gene annotation, which is derived from the genomic overlap of probes with RefSeq  
853 genes or up to 1500bp of the transcription start site of a gene, was used to create a test gene list from  
854 the DMPs for pathway analysis. Where probes were not annotated to any gene (i.e. in the case of  
855 intergenic locations) they were omitted from this analysis, and where probes were annotated to  
856 multiple genes, all were included. A logistic regression approach was used to test if genes in this list  
857 predicted pathway membership, while controlling for the number of probes that passed quality control  
858 (i.e. were tested) annotated to each gene. Pathways were downloaded from the GO website  
859 (<http://geneontology.org/>) and mapped to genes including all parent ontology terms. All genes with at  
860 least one 450K probe annotated and mapped to at least one GO pathway were considered. Pathways  
861 were filtered to those containing between 10 and 2000 genes. After applying this method to all  
862 pathways, the list of significant pathways ( $P < 0.05$ ) was refined by grouping to control for the effect

863 of overlapping genes. This was achieved by taking the most significant pathway, and retesting all  
864 remaining significant pathways while controlling additionally for the best term. If the test genes no  
865 longer predicted the pathway, the term was said to be explained by the more significant pathway, and  
866 hence these pathways were grouped together. This algorithm was repeated, taking the next most  
867 significant term, until all pathways were considered as the most significant or found to be explained  
868 by a more significant term.

869 **Figure Legends**

870

871 **Figure 1: Overview of the sample cohorts and analytical approaches used in this study of altered**  
872 **DNA methylation in psychosis and schizophrenia.**

873

874 **Figure 1 – supplement 1: Forest plot showing the difference in mean age between psychosis**  
875 **cases and controls across each cohort.** TE – treatment effect (i.e. the mean difference between cases  
876 and controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.

877

878 **Figure 1 – supplement 2: Scatterplot of the relationship between the first two genetic principal**  
879 **components merged with HapMap Phase 3 data for individual cohorts.** With the exception of the  
880 IoPPN and EUGEI cohorts, there is little ethnic heterogeneity in each of the cohorts with samples  
881 being predominantly of Caucasian origin.

882

883 **Figure 1 – supplement 3: Scatterplots of DNAmAge derived from the DNA methylation data**  
884 **against actual chronological age for each of the cohorts.** DNAmAge was calculated using the  
885 algorithm described by Horvath (Horvath, 2013). Each point represents an individual and is coloured  
886 by psychosis status (blue = psychosis, red = control). The solid diagonal line depicts  $x=y$ , i.e. where  
887 the estimated and actual values are the same. The dashed diagonal line depicts the line of best fit.  
888 Presented at the top of the graph is the Pearson's correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between the estimated and  
889 actual age across all samples in that cohort. Also shown in the bottom right hand corner of each panel  
890 is an interaction P value from a test for different correlations between DNAmAge and actual age  
891 between psychosis cases and controls.

892

893 **Figure 1 – supplement 4: Scatterplots of PhenoAge derived from DNA methylation data against**  
894 **actual chronological age for each of the cohorts.** PhenoAge was calculated using the algorithm  
895 described by Levine et al. (Levine et al., 2018). Each point represents an individual and is coloured by  
896 psychosis status (blue = psychosis, red = control). The solid diagonal line depicts  $x=y$ , i.e. where the

897 estimated and actual values are the same. The dashed diagonal line depicts the line of best fit.  
898 Presented at the top of the graph is the Pearson's correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between the estimated and  
899 actual age across all samples in that cohort. Also shown in the bottom right hand corner of each panel  
900 is an interaction P value from a test for different correlations between PhenoAge and actual age  
901 between psychosis cases and controls.

902

903 **Figure 1 – supplement 5: Scatterplots of DNAmAge derived from the DNA methylation data**

904 **against actual chronological age for each of the cohorts.** DNAmAge was calculated using the  
905 algorithm described by Horvath (Horvath, 2013). Each point represents an individual and is coloured  
906 by medication status (yellow = schizophrenia cases not prescribed clozapine, green = treatment-  
907 resistant schizophrenia cases prescribed clozapine). The solid diagonal line depicts  $x=y$ , i.e. where the  
908 estimated and actual values are the same. The dashed diagonal line depicts the line of best fit.

909 Presented at the top of the graph is the Pearson's correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between the estimated and  
910 actual age across all samples in that cohort. Also shown in the bottom right hand corner of each panel  
911 is an interaction P value from a test for different correlations between DNAmAge and actual age for  
912 schizophrenia patients prescribed clozapine and schizophrenia patients prescribed alternative  
913 medications.

914

915 **Figure 1 – supplement 6: Scatterplots of PhenoAge derived from the DNA methylation data**

916 **against actual chronological age for each of the cohorts.** PhenoAge was calculated using the  
917 algorithm described by (Levine et al., 2018). Each point represents an individual and is coloured by  
918 schizophrenia status (yellow = schizophrenia cases not prescribed clozapine, green = treatment-  
919 resistant schizophrenia cases prescribed clozapine). The solid diagonal line depicts  $x=y$ , i.e. where the  
920 estimated and actual values are the same. The dashed diagonal line depicts the line of best fit.

921 Presented at the top of the graph is the Pearson's correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between the estimated and  
922 actual age across all samples in that cohort. Also shown in the bottom right hand corner of each panel  
923 is an interaction P value from a test for different correlations between PhenoAge and actual age for

924 schizophrenia patients prescribed clozapine and schizophrenia patients prescribed alternative  
925 medications.

926

927 **Figure 2 Blood cell-type proportions derived from DNA methylation data are altered in**

928 **psychosis.** Shown are forest plots from meta-analyses of differences in blood cell proportions derived

929 from DNA methylation data between psychosis patients and controls for **A) monocytes B)**

930 **granulocytes C) natural killer cells D) CD4+ T-cells and E) CD8+ T-cells.** TE – treatment effect (i.e.

931 the mean difference between cases and controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.

932

933 **Figure 2 – supplement 1: Treatment-resistant schizophrenia patients prescribed clozapine are**

934 **characterized by altered blood cell proportions.** Shown are forest plots from meta-analyses of

935 differences in estimated blood cell proportions derived from DNA methylation data between

936 treatment-resistant schizophrenia patients prescribed clozapine and schizophrenia patients prescribed

937 other medications for granulocytes, CD8+ T-cells. TE – treatment effect (i.e. the mean difference

938 between cases and controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.

939

940 **Figure 2 – supplement 2: Additive effect of schizophrenia and treatment-resistance on**

941 **granulocyte proportions.** Shown are forest plots from meta-analyses of differences in estimated

942 granulocyte proportions derived from DNA methylation data between **A) schizophrenia patients and**

943 **controls and B) treatment-resistant schizophrenia patients prescribed clozapine and schizophrenia**

944 **patients prescribed other medications.** TE – treatment effect (i.e. the mean difference between cases

945 and controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.

946

947 **Figure 2 – supplement 3: Additive effect of schizophrenia and treatment-resistance on CD8+ T-**

948 **cell proportions.** Shown are forest plots from meta-analyses of differences in estimated granulocyte

949 proportions derived from DNA methylation data between **A) schizophrenia patients and controls and**

950 **B) treatment-resistant schizophrenia patients prescribed clozapine and schizophrenia patients**

951 prescribed other medications. TE – treatment effect (i.e. the mean difference between cases and  
952 controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.

953

954 **Figure 3: Smoking scores derived from DNA methylation data highlight that psychosis patients**  
955 **are characterized by an elevated exposure to tobacco smoking.** Forest plot from a meta-analysis of  
956 differences in smoking score derived from DNA methylation data between psychosis patients and  
957 controls. The smoking score was calculated from DNA methylation data using the method described  
958 by Elliott and colleagues (Elliott et al., 2014). TE – treatment effect (i.e. the mean difference between  
959 cases and controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.

960

961 **Figure 3 – supplement 1: Current and former smokers are characterized by a significantly**  
962 **higher smoking score derived from DNA methylation data than non-smokers.** Shown is the DNA  
963 methylation smoking score (y-axis) from individuals in the IoPPN cohort for whom self-reported  
964 smoking data was available regarding current (left panel) and former (right panel) smoking behavior.  
965 0 = no, 1 = yes.

966

967 **Figure 3 – supplement 2: Treatment resistant schizophrenia is associated with significantly**  
968 **higher DNA methylation-derived smoking scores.** Forest plot from meta-analyses of differences in  
969 smoking derived from DNA methylation data between treatment-resistant schizophrenia patients  
970 prescribed clozapine and schizophrenia patients prescribed other medications. TE – treatment effect  
971 (i.e. the mean difference between cases and controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.

972

973 **Figure 3 – supplement 3: Treatment-resistant schizophrenia patients show an elevated exposure**  
974 **to tobacco smoking relative to non-treatment-resistant schizophrenia and controls in a model**  
975 **testing both schizophrenia diagnosis status and TRS status simultaneously. A)** schizophrenia  
976 diagnosis was associated with a significant increase in smoking score (mean difference = 3.98,  $P =$   
977  $2.19 \times 10^{-8}$ ) with **B)** TRS status associated with an additional increase within cases (mean difference =

978 2.15,  $P = 2.22 \times 10^{-7}$ ). TE – treatment effect (i.e. the mean difference between cases and controls),  
979 seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.

980

981 **Figure 4: Differential DNA methylation at multiple loci across the genome is associated with**  
982 **psychosis and schizophrenia.** Manhattan plots depicting the  $-\log_{10} P$  value from the EWAS meta-  
983 analysis (y-axis) against genomic location (x-axis). Panel **A**) presents results from the analysis  
984 comparing psychosis patients and controls, and panel **B**) presents results from the analysis comparing  
985 diagnosed schizophrenia cases and controls.

986

987 **Figure 4 – supplement 1: Including genetic principal components PCs into DNA methylation**  
988 **analysis models has little effect on the results in ethnically heterogeneous cohorts.** Shown is a  
989 scatterplot of statistics ( $-\log_{10}(P\text{-value})$ ) from an EWAS of psychosis in the IoPPN cohort without  
990 the inclusion of any genetic principal components in the analysis model (x-axis) compared to an  
991 EWAS of psychosis including five genetic principal components in the analysis model (y-axis).

992

993 **Figure 5: Psychosis-associated differential DNA methylation at sites annotated to genes**  
994 **previously implicated in disease etiology.** Shown are forest plots for DMPs annotated to the GABA  
995 transporter *SLC6A12* (cg00517261,  $P = 1.53 \times 10^{-8}$ ), the GABA receptor *GABBR1* (cg00667298,  $P =$   
996  $5.07 \times 10^{-9}$ ), and the calcium voltage-gated channel subunit gene *CACNA1C* (cg01833890,  $P =$   
997  $8.42 \times 10^{-9}$ ). TE – treatment effect (i.e. the mean difference between cases and controls), seTE –  
998 standard error of the treatment effect.

999

1000 **Figure 6: Comparison of effect sizes for schizophrenia-associated DMPs overlapping with**  
1001 **EWAS results for other traits.** Shown for each overlapping DMP is the association effect size for  
1002 the other trait (x-axis) taken from the online EWAS catalog (<http://ewascatalog.org/>) compared to the  
1003 effect size identified in our meta-analysis of schizophrenia (y-axis).

1004

1005 **Figure 7: DNA methylation at sites associated with schizophrenia is more strongly influenced by**  
1006 **genetic factors and common environmental influences than equivalent matched sites across the**  
1007 **genome.** A series of density plots for estimates of additive genetic effects (A, left), common  
1008 environmental effects (C, middle), and non-shared environmental effects (E, right) derived using data  
1009 from a dataset generated by Hannon and colleagues (Hannon, Knox, et al., 2018) schizophrenia DMPs  
1010 (red) and matched background sites (green).

1011

1012 **Figure 8: Differences in DNA methylation between schizophrenia cases and controls are**  
1013 **partially influenced by a subset of cases with treatment resistant schizophrenia.** Forest plots  
1014 from a meta-analysis of differences in DNA methylation at cg16322565 located in the *NR1L2* gene on  
1015 chromosome 3 between **A)** schizophrenia patients and controls and **B)** TRS patients prescribed  
1016 clozapine and non-TRS prescribed other medications. TE – treatment effect (i.e. the mean difference  
1017 between cases and controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.

1018

1019 **Figure 8 – supplement 1: Forest plot of a site where DNA methylation is significantly associated**  
1020 **with schizophrenia and within cases, with treatment-resistant schizophrenia.** TE – treatment  
1021 effect (i.e. the mean difference between cases and controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment  
1022 effect.

1023

1024 **Figure 8 – supplement 2: Forest plot of a site where DNA methylation is significantly associated**  
1025 **with schizophrenia and within cases, with treatment-resistant schizophrenia but with an**  
1026 **opposite directions of effect.** TE – treatment effect (i.e. the mean difference between cases and  
1027 controls), seTE – standard error of the treatment effect.



1028 **Tables**

<b>Cohort</b>		<b>UCL</b>	<b>Aberdeen</b>	<b>Twins</b>	<b>IoPPN</b>	<b>Dublin</b>	<b>EU-GEI</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total sample		675	847	192	800	679	912	378	4483
% Cases		52.3	48.9	45.3	74.6	51.3	42.9	50.0	53.1
% Schizophrenia		52.3	48.9	45.3	36.3	51.3	0.0	50.0	37.5
% First episode psychosis		0.0	0.0	0.0	38.4	0.0	42.9	0.0	15.6
% Males	All	58.7	71.1	52.1	63.0	71.0	54.4	59.5	62.6
	Cases	72.0	68.4	54.0	65.3	71.6	64.2	60.3	66.8
	Controls	44.1	73.7	50.5	56.2	70.4	47.0	58.7	57.8
	Chi-square test P value	3.81E-13	0.103	0.730	0.024	0.804	3.68E-07	0.834	9.35E-10
Age (years)	Mean	40.4	44.6	35.3	28.8	41.7	35.3	60.0	40.5
	SD	15.0	12.9	10.8	9.46	12.0	12.8	8.86	14.7
	Mean in controls	43.7	44.2	37.9	27.8	41.4	30.7	56.3	41.6
	Mean in cases	36.8	44.9	33.3	30.3	42.0	38.7	63.7	39.4
	T-test P value	6.55E-09	0.529	0.033	0.007	0.505	1.24E-22	1.05E-16	

1029

1030 **Table 1. Summary of cohort demographics included in the psychosis EWAS meta-analysis.**

1031

Cell type	Measure type	Number of cohorts	Random effects model			Fixed effects model			Heterogeneity P value
			Mean difference	SE	P value	Mean difference	SE	P value	
Monocytes	Proportion	7	0.00320	0.00083	0.000115	0.00320	0.00083	0.000115	0.6490
Granulocytes	Proportion	7	0.04312	0.01241	0.000509	0.03930	0.00315	1.21E-35	2.22E-16
Natural Killer cells	Proportion	7	-0.01135	0.00385	0.003221	-0.00827	0.00133	4.48E-10	2.43E-08
CD4+ T-cells	Proportion	7	-0.01767	0.00555	0.00144	-0.01569	0.00196	1.15E-15	1.23E-07
CD8+ T-cells	Proportion	7	-0.01444	0.00457	0.001586	-0.01443	0.00148	1.31E-22	8.13E-10
B-cells	Proportion	7	-0.00495	0.00280	0.077103	-0.00477	0.00102	2.75E-06	2.25E-07
PlasmaBlast	Abundance	5	0.05626	0.02987	0.059671	0.05332	0.00722	1.55E-13	8.45E-13
CD8pCD28nCD45RAn	Abundance	5	0.06280	0.22674	0.781792	0.10797	0.14981	0.4711	0.0826
CD8.naive T-cells	Abundance	5	7.21687	3.12594	0.02096	8.03957	1.89169	2.14E-05	0.0443
CD4.naive T-cells	Abundance	5	11.77240	4.72532	0.012726	11.77240	4.72532	0.0127	0.824

1032

1033 **Table 2. Results of a meta-analysis of differences in blood cell composition estimates derived from DNA methylation data between schizophrenia**  
1034 **cases and controls.**

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## 1081 **Supplementary Files**

1082 **Supplementary File 1** – Supplementary Tables 1-14

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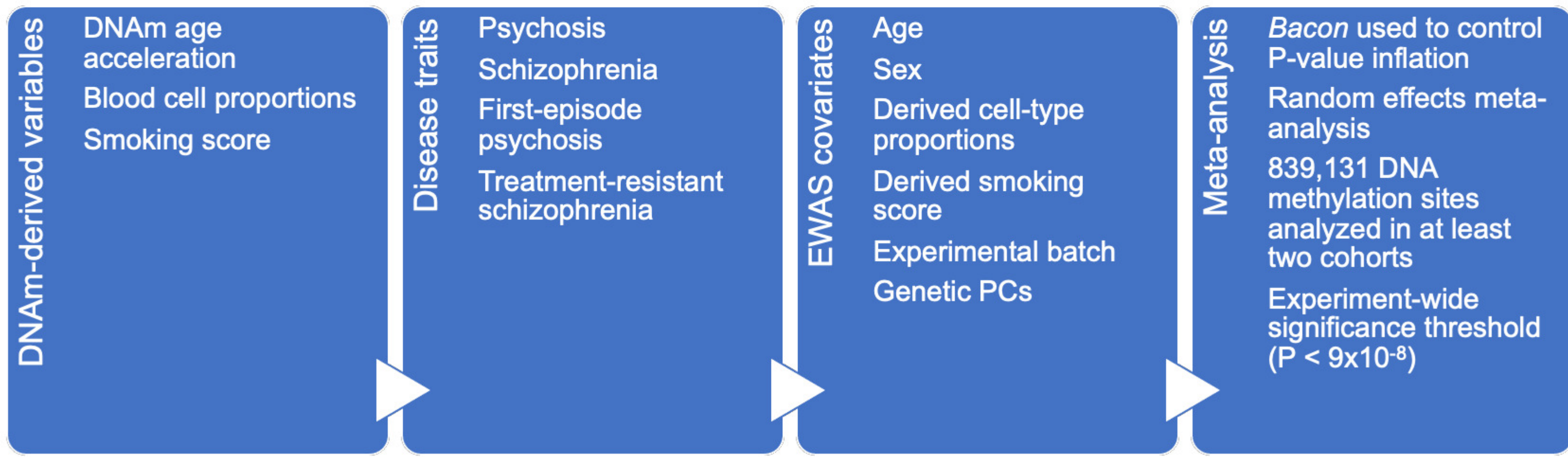
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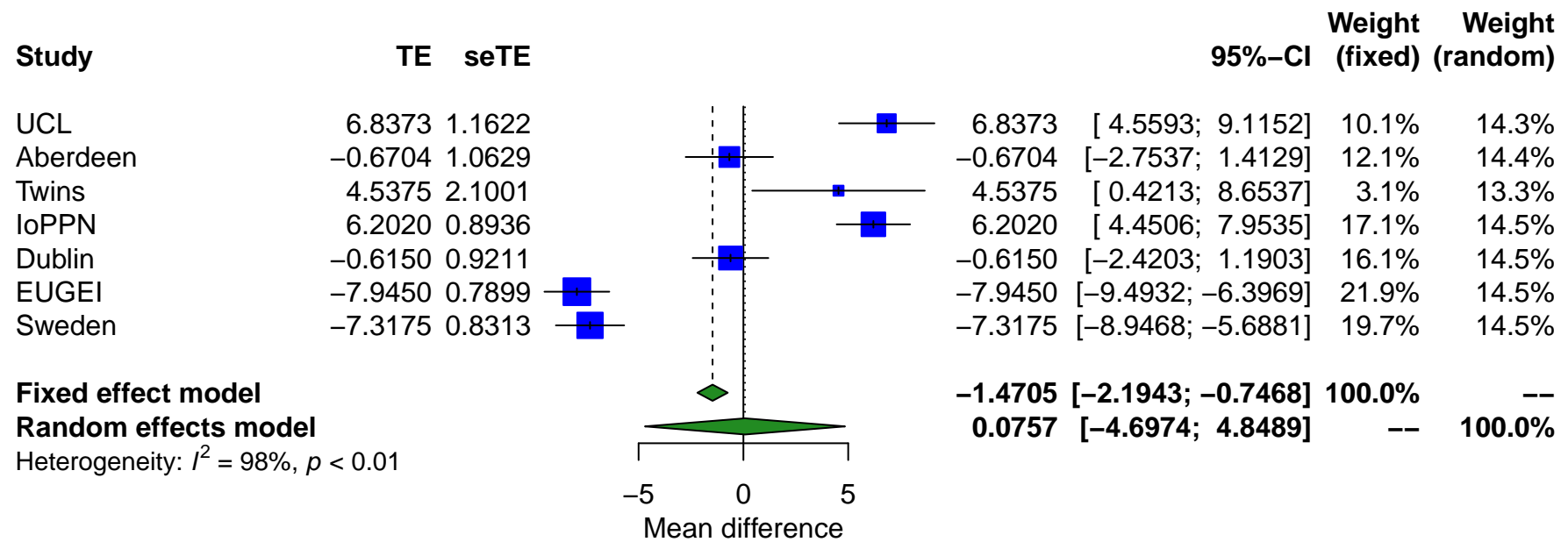
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## Cohorts

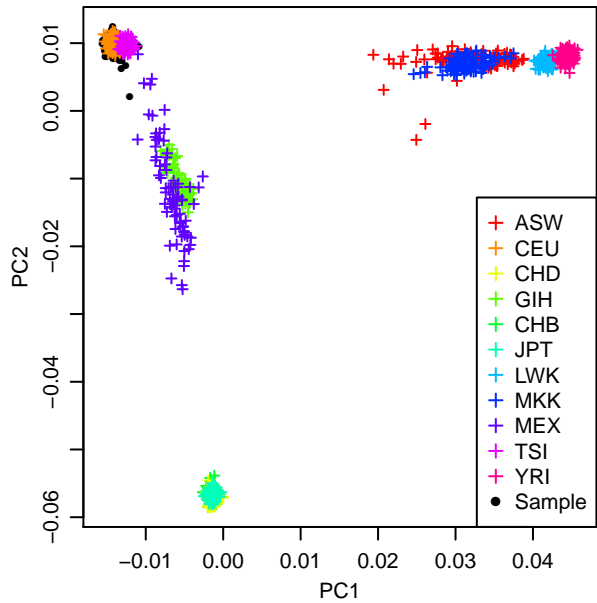
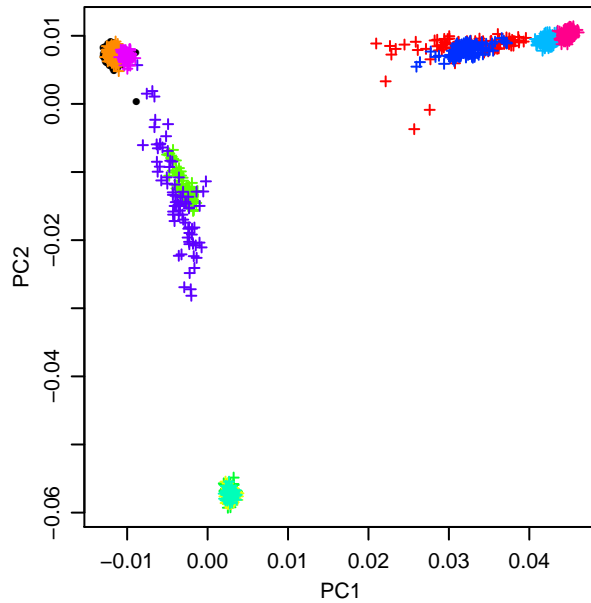
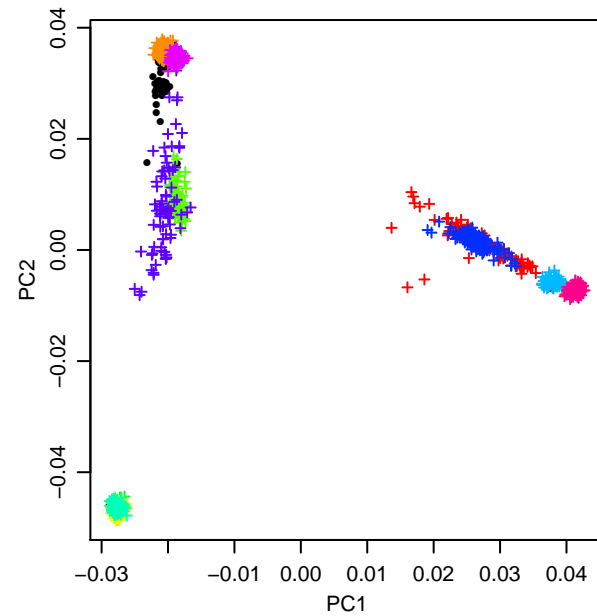
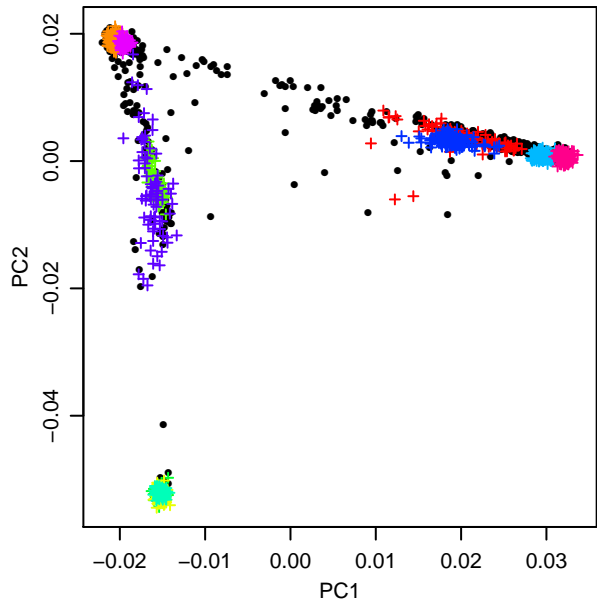
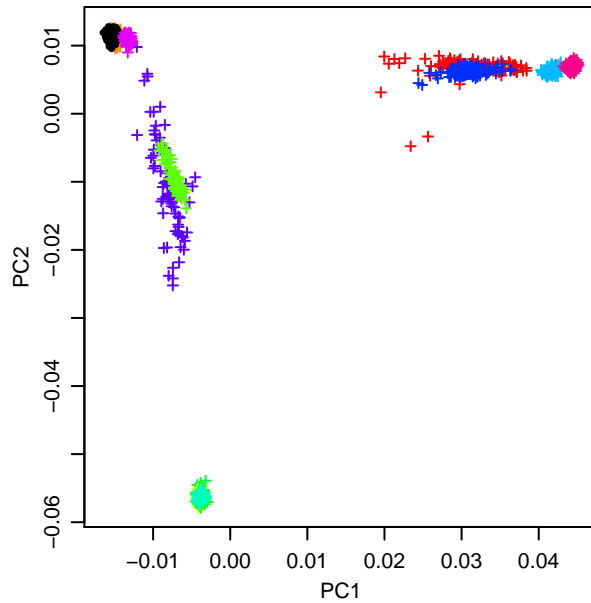
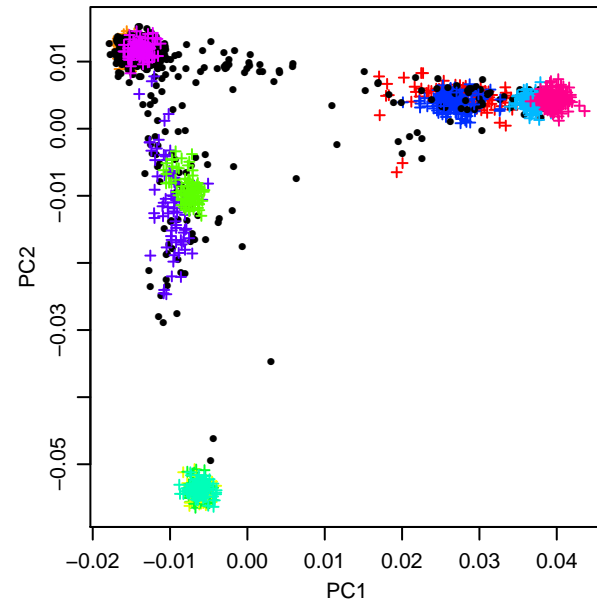
UCL	Aberdeen	Twins	IoPPN	Dublin	EU-GEI	Sweden
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N = 675</li><li>• Schizophrenia cases vs controls</li><li>• Illumina 450K</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N = 847</li><li>• Schizophrenia cases vs controls</li><li>• Illumina 450K</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N = 192</li><li>• Schizophrenia-discordant twin-pairs</li><li>• Illumina 450K</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N = 800</li><li>• Schizophrenia and FEP cases vs controls</li><li>• Illumina 450K</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N = 679</li><li>• Schizophrenia cases vs controls</li><li>• Illumina 450K</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N = 912</li><li>• FEP cases vs controls</li><li>• Illumina EPIC</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N = 378</li><li>• Schizophrenia cases vs controls</li><li>• Illumina EPIC</li></ul>

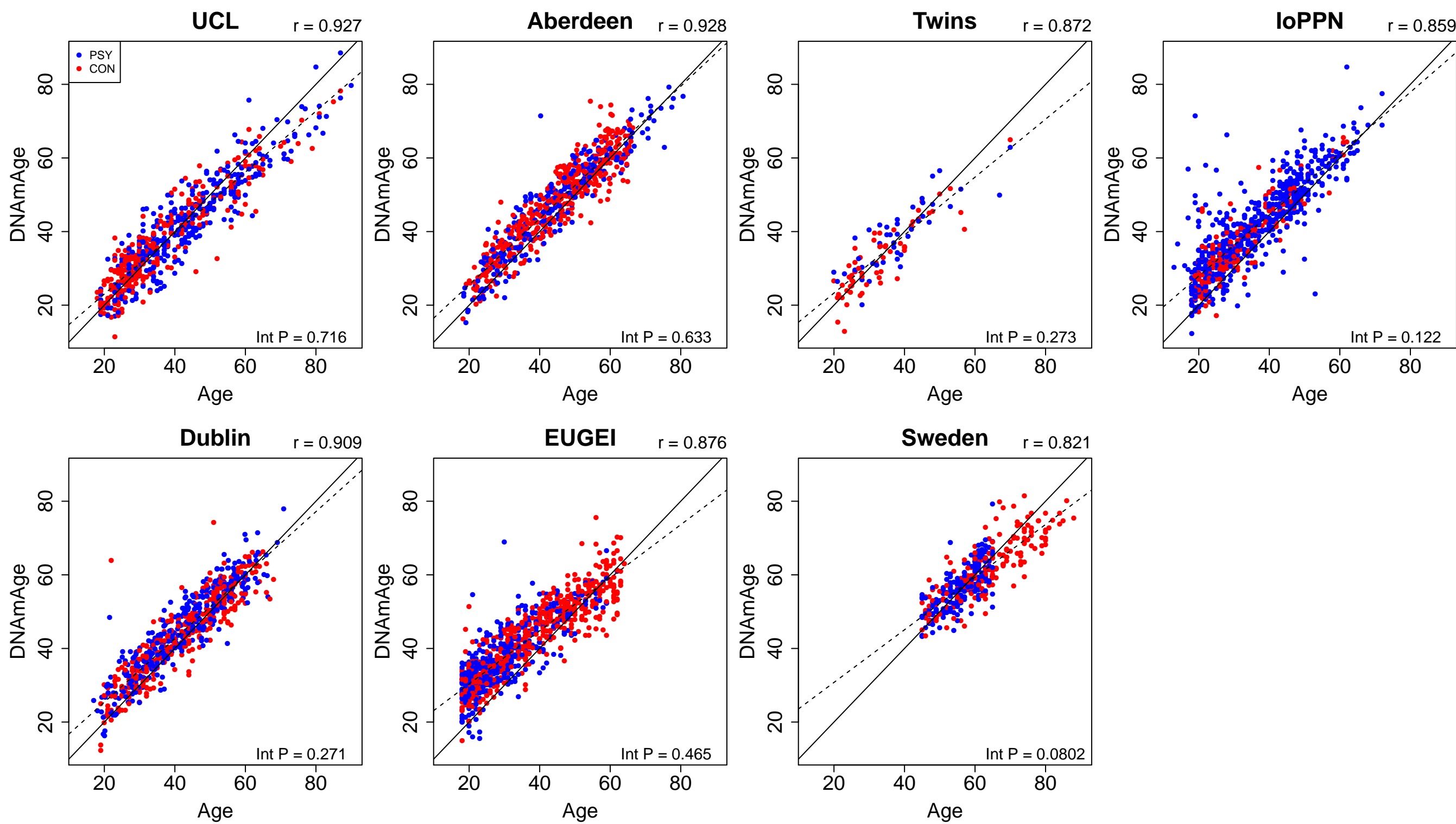
## Analyses



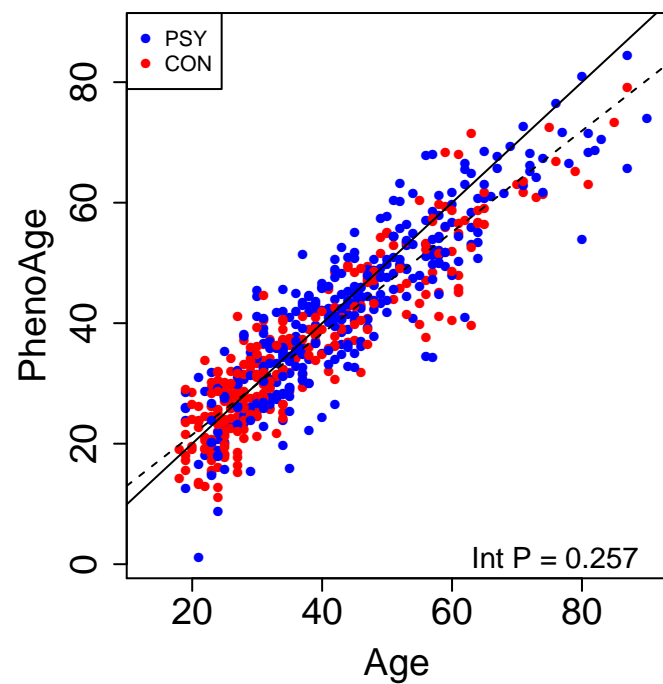




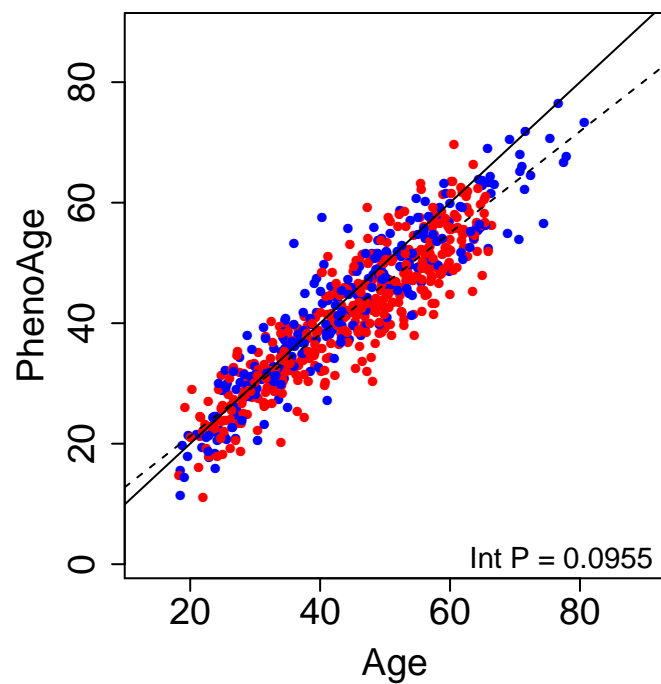
**UCL****Aberdeen****Twins****IoPPN****Dublin****EuGEI**



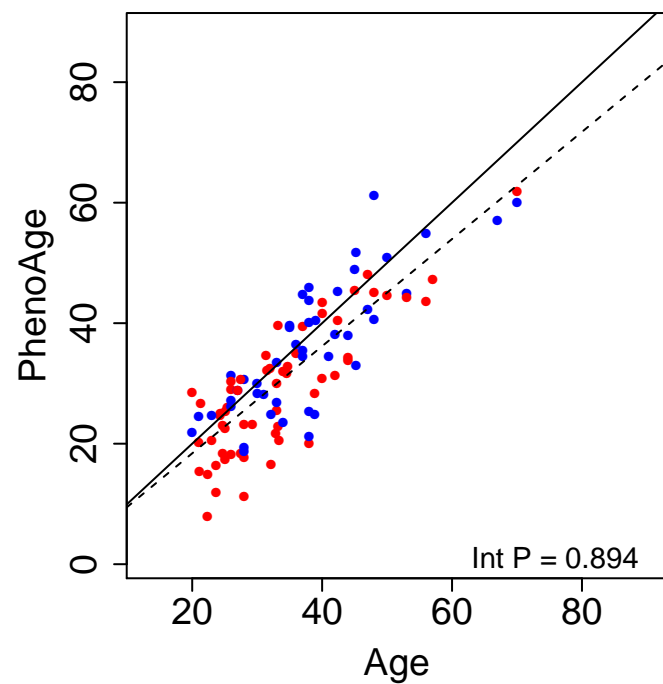
**UCL**  $r = 0.906$



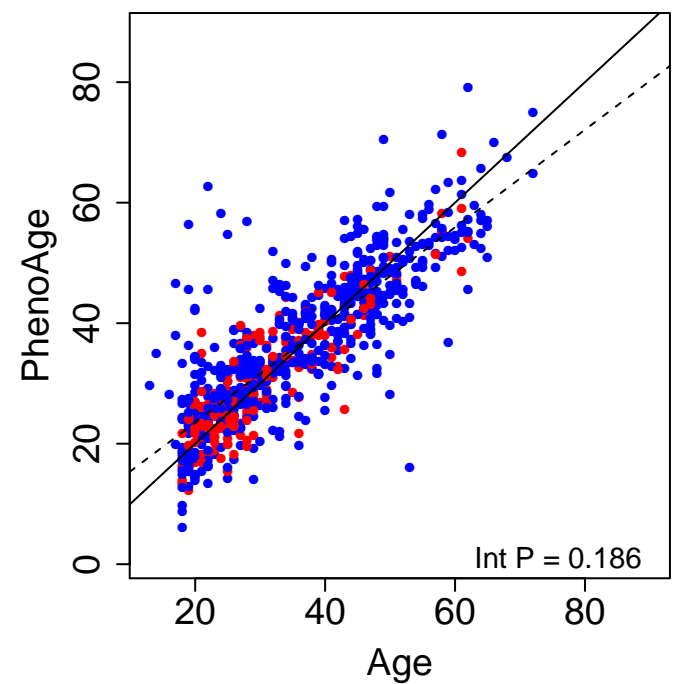
**Aberdeen**  $r = 0.91$



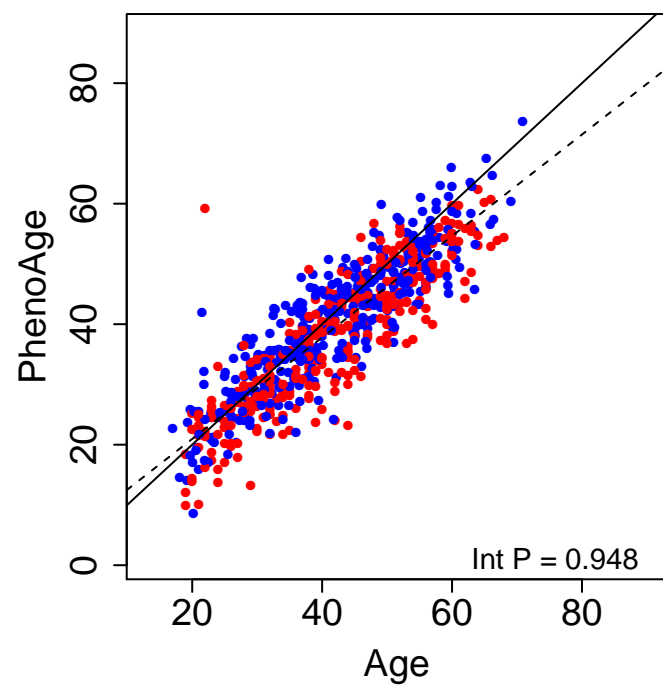
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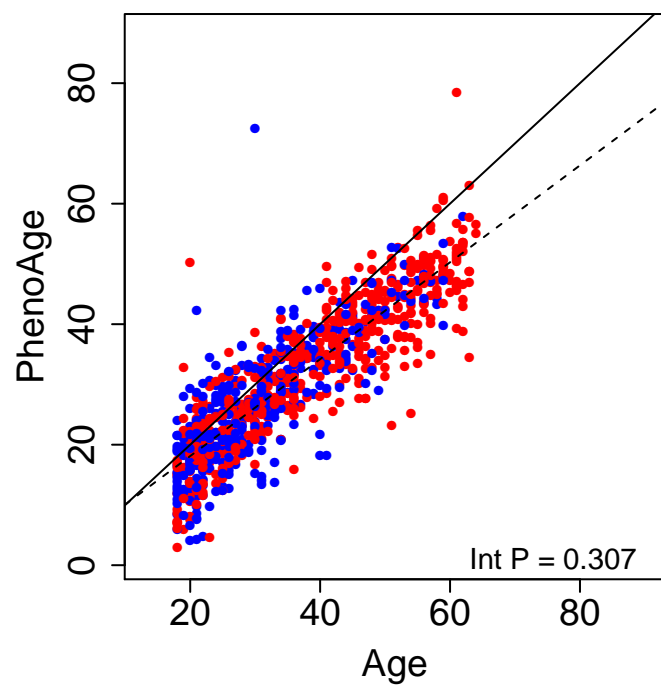
**IoPPN**  $r = 0.832$



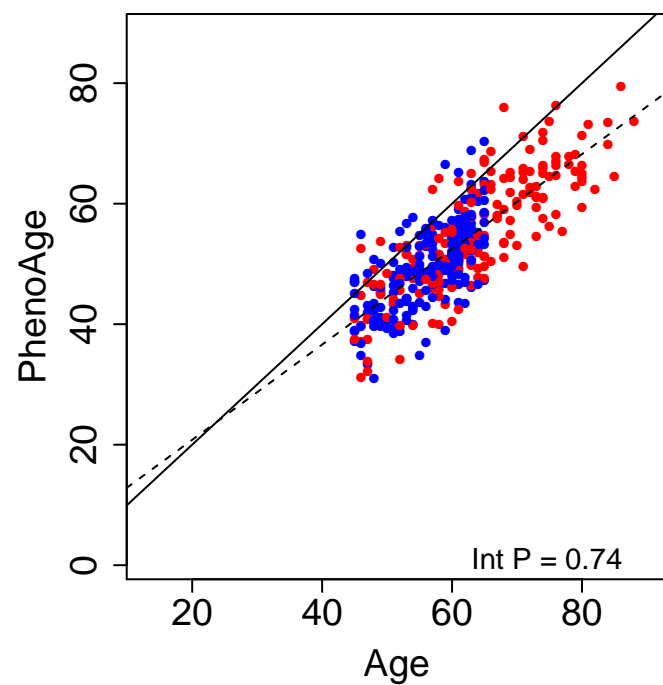
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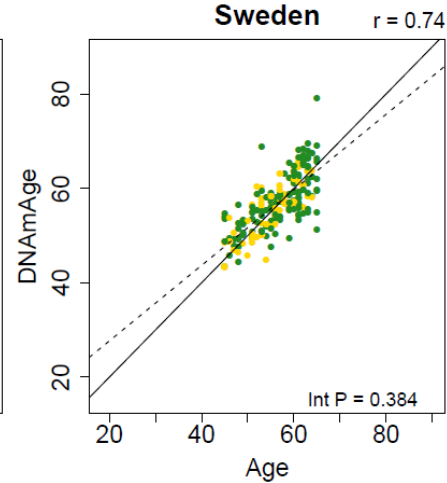
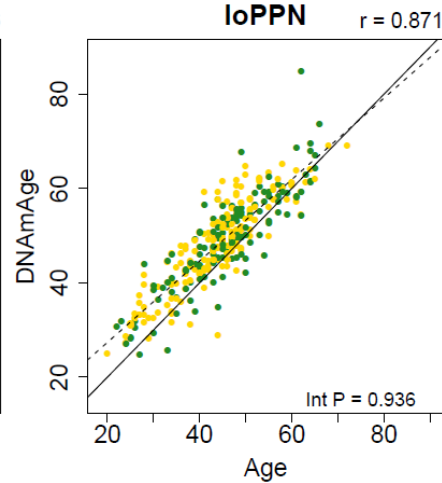
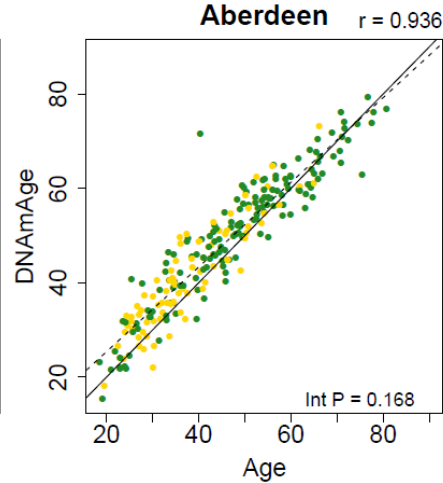
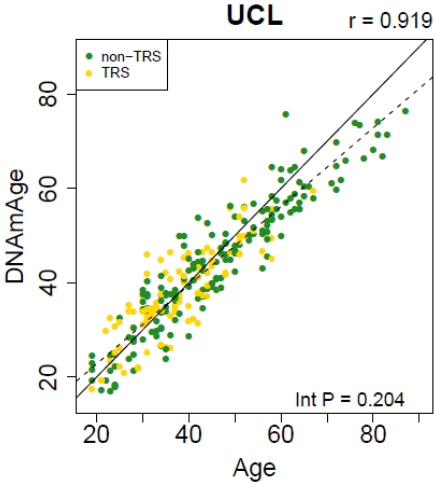


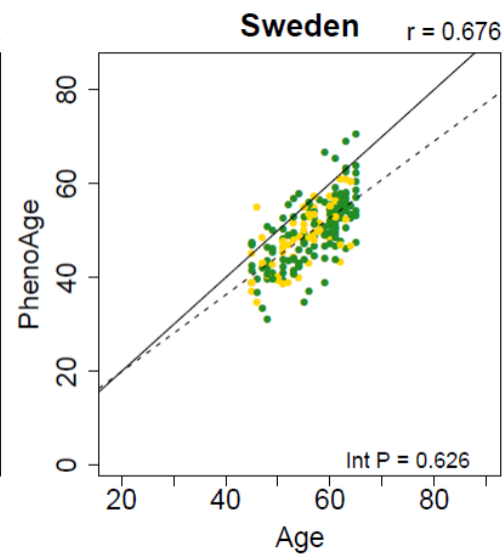
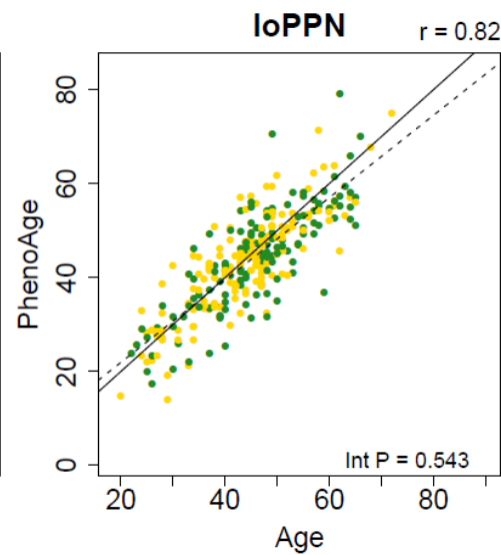
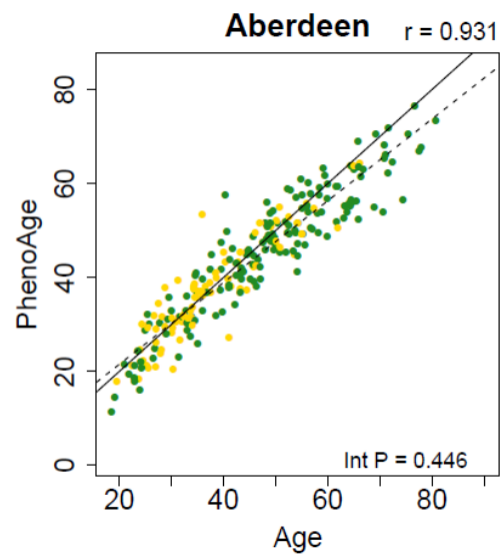
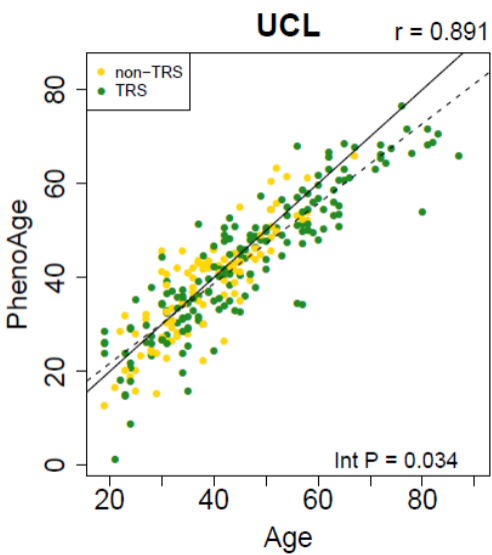
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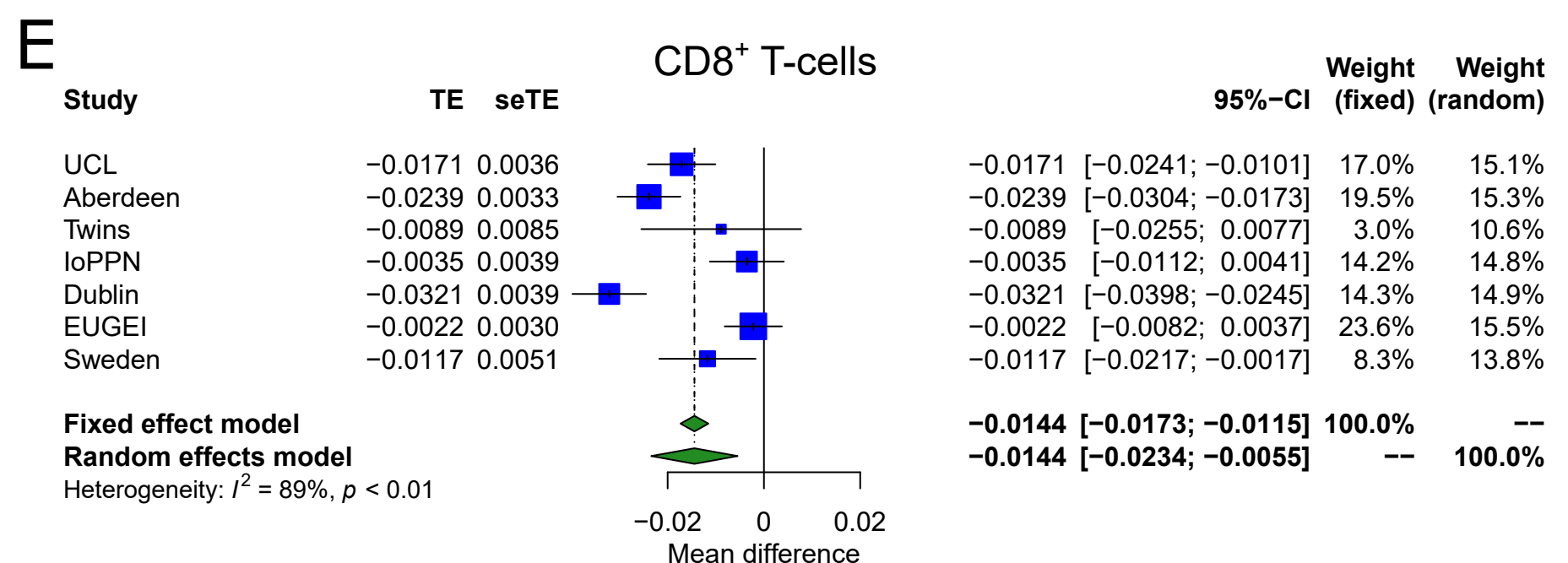
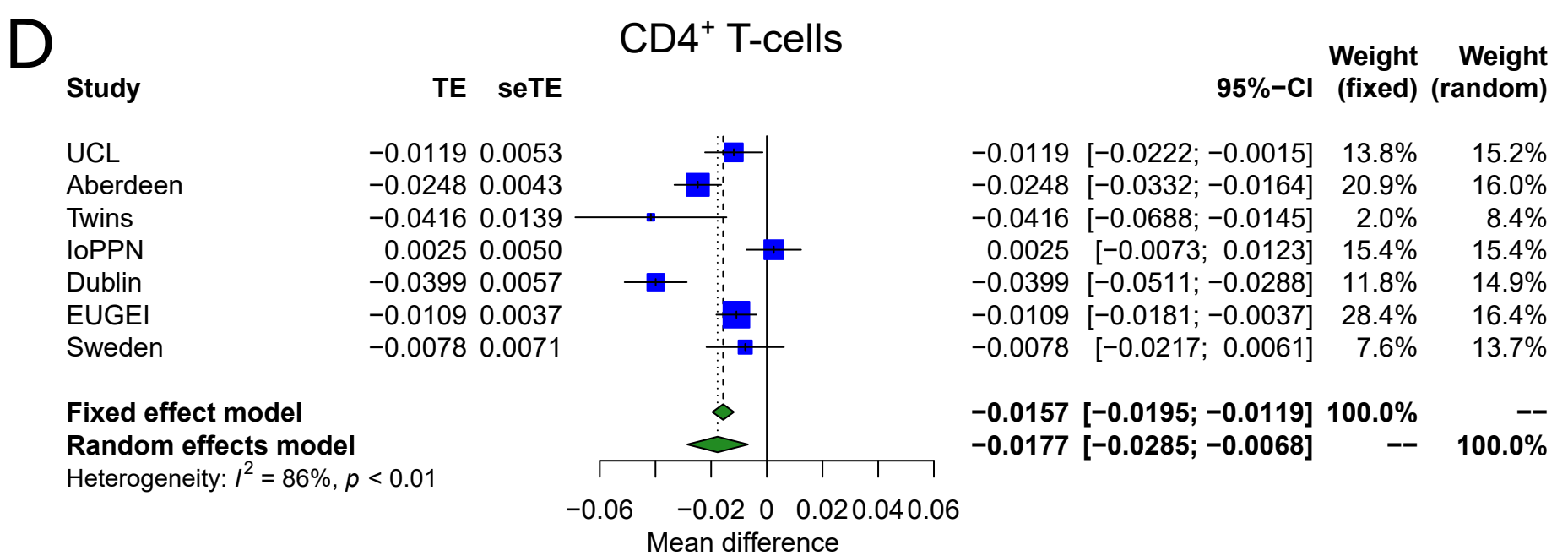
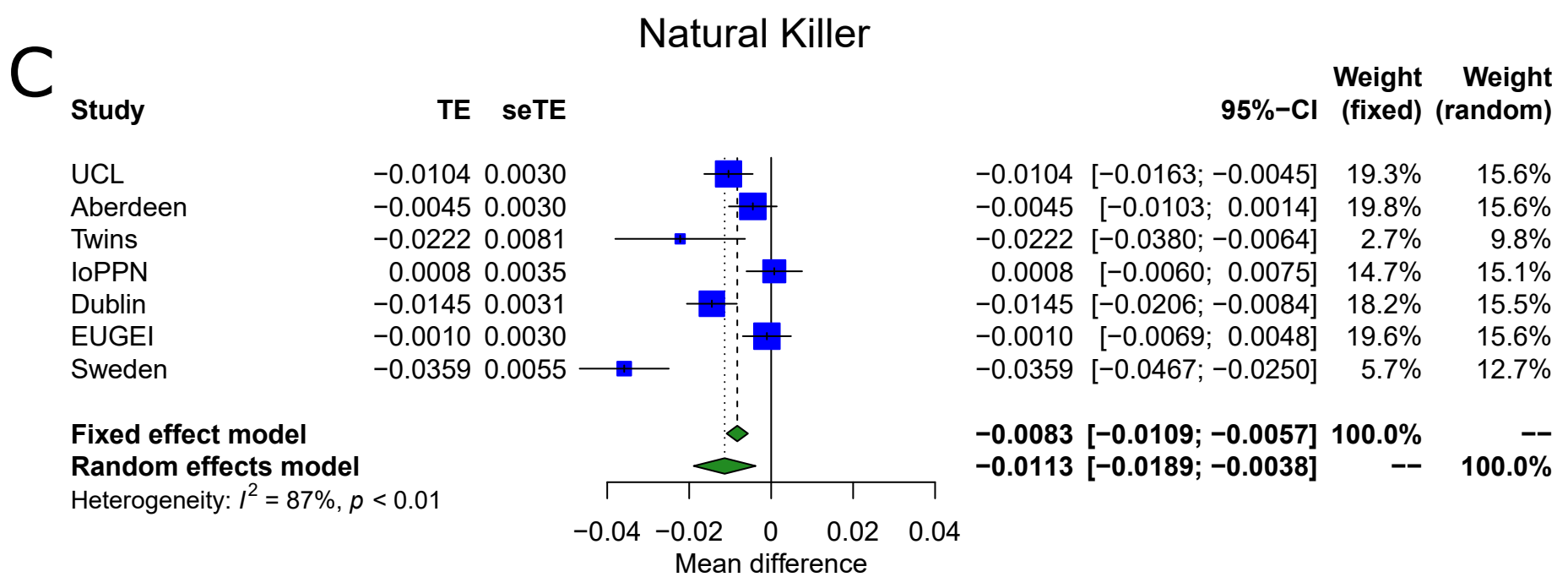
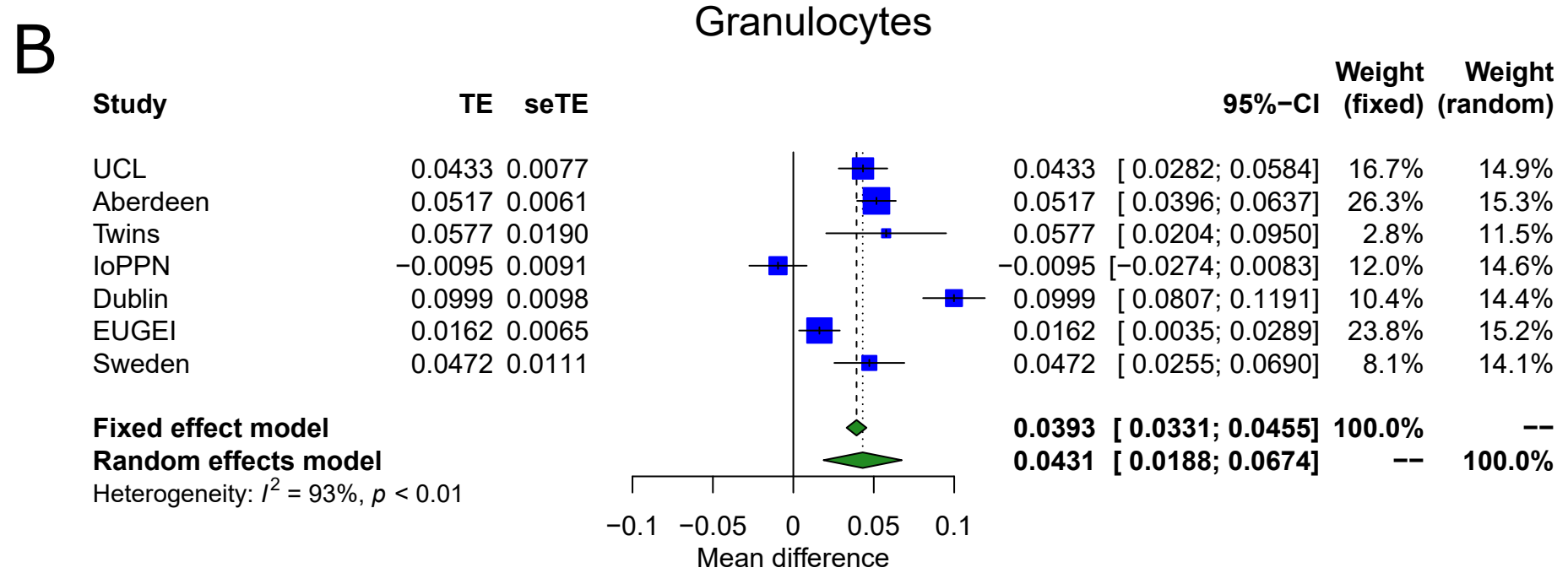
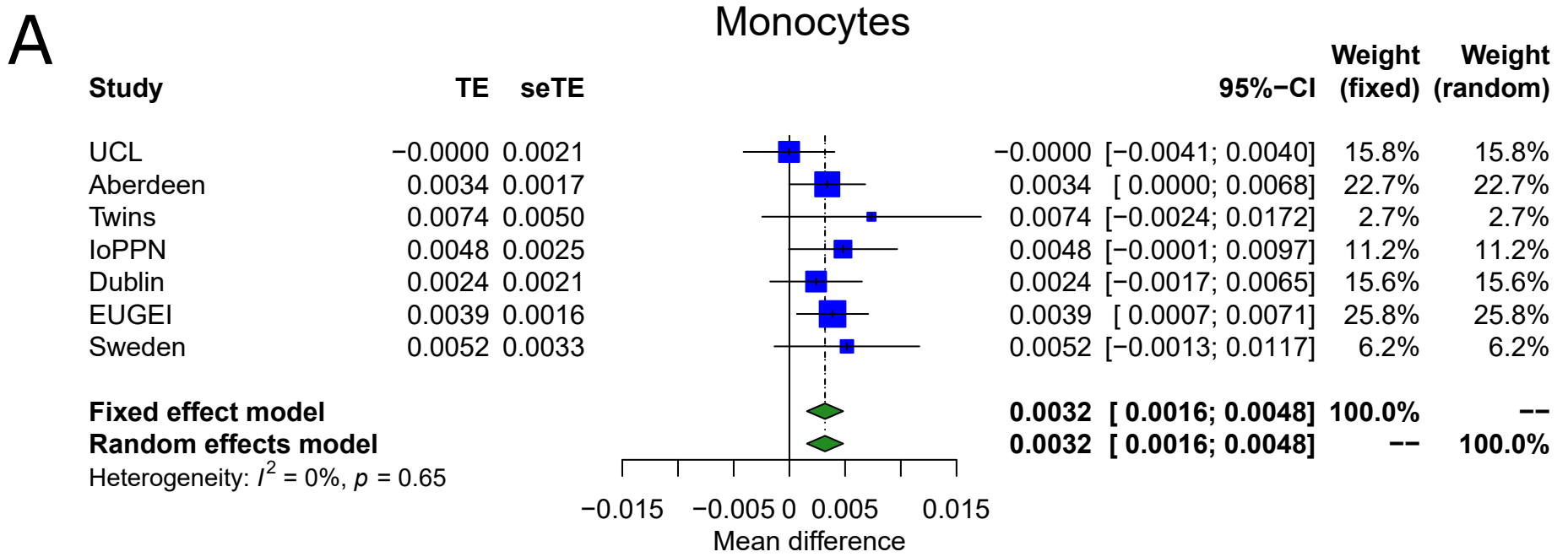


**Sweden**  $r = 0.795$

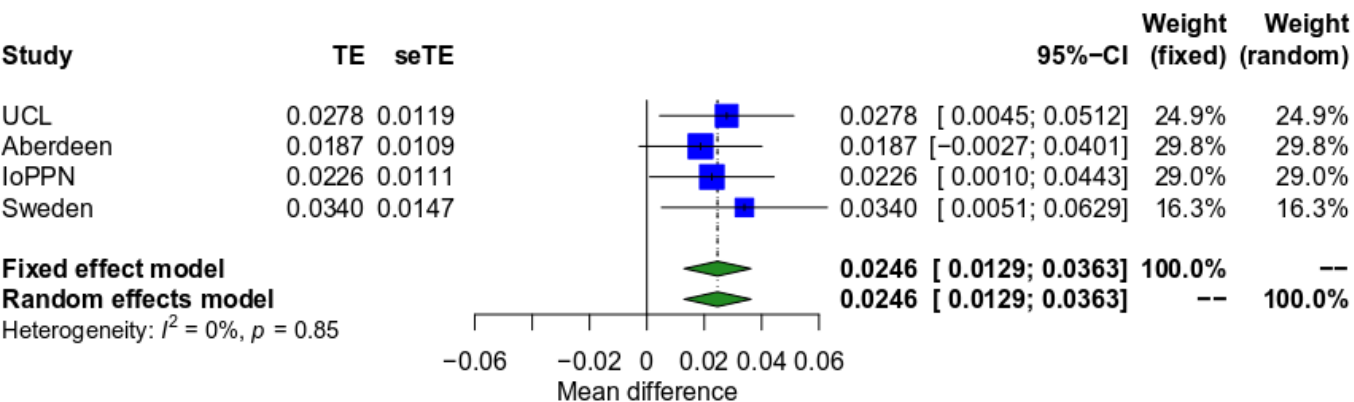




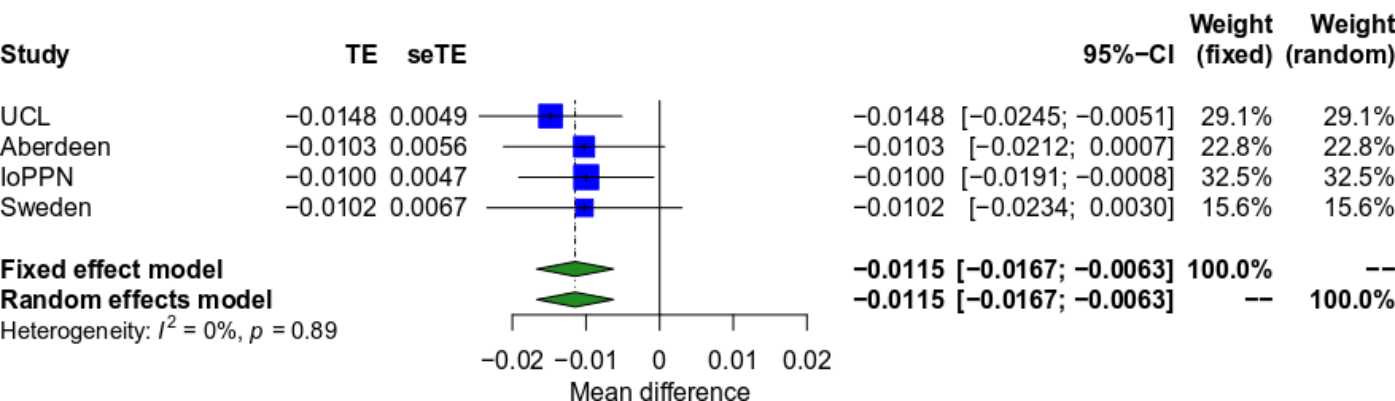


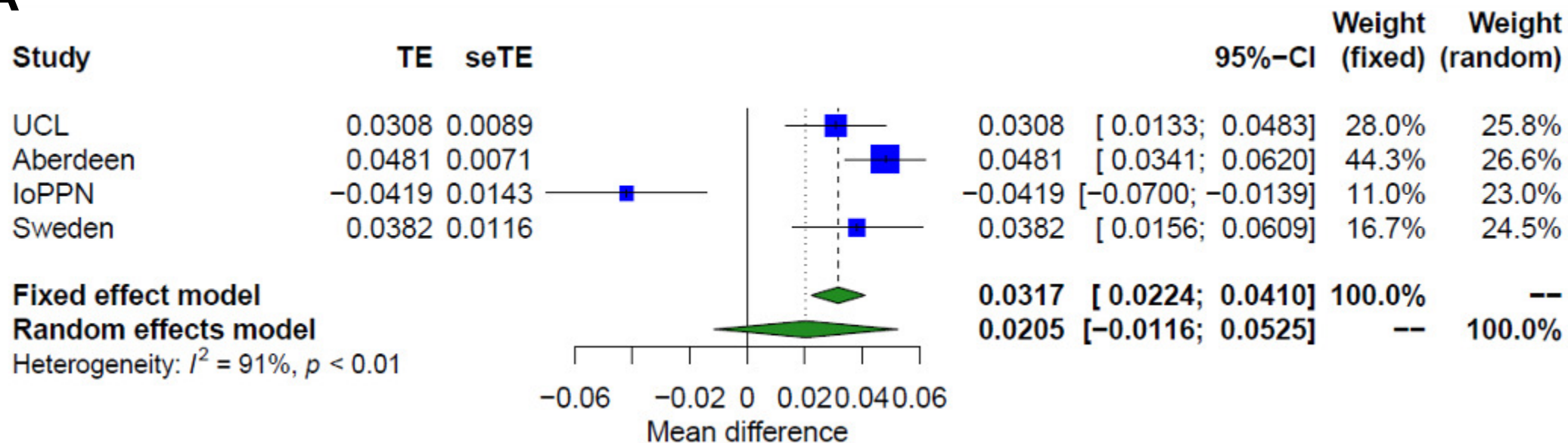
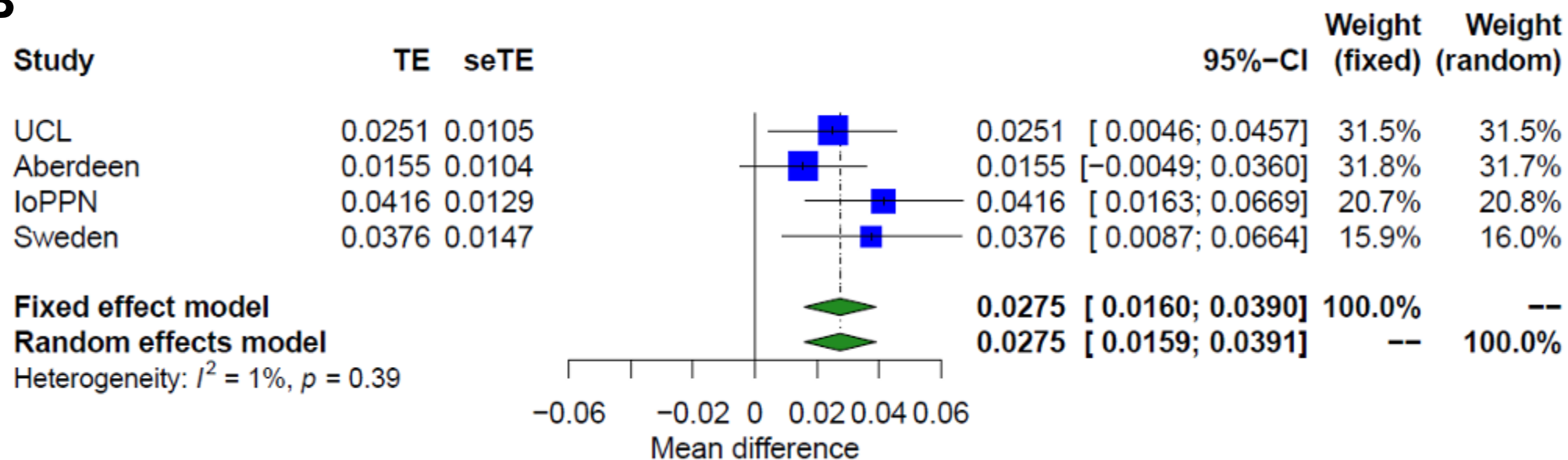


## Granulocytes

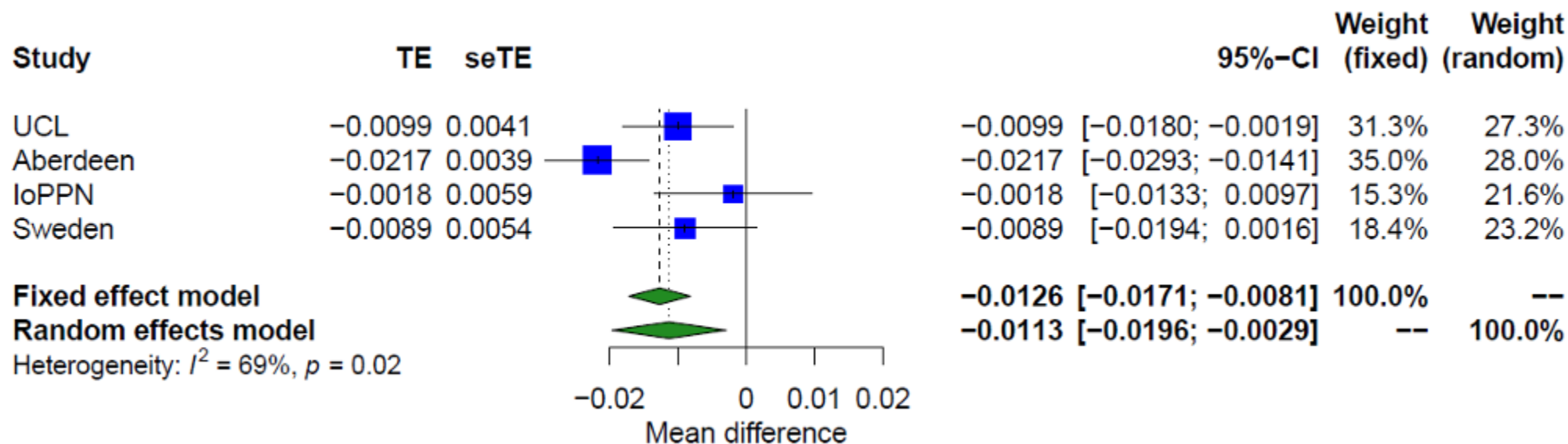
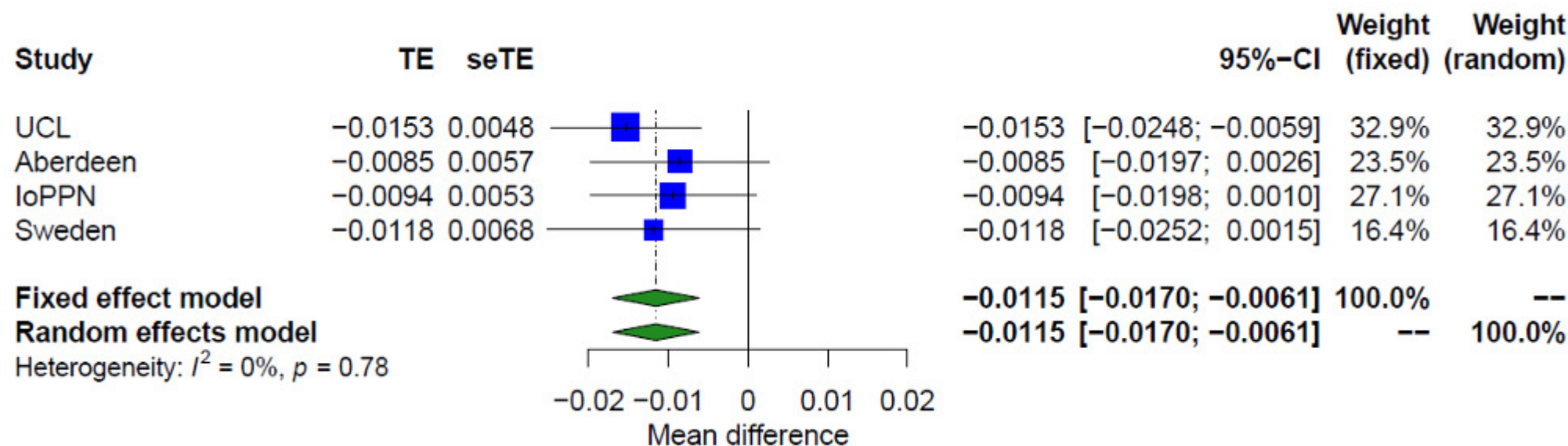


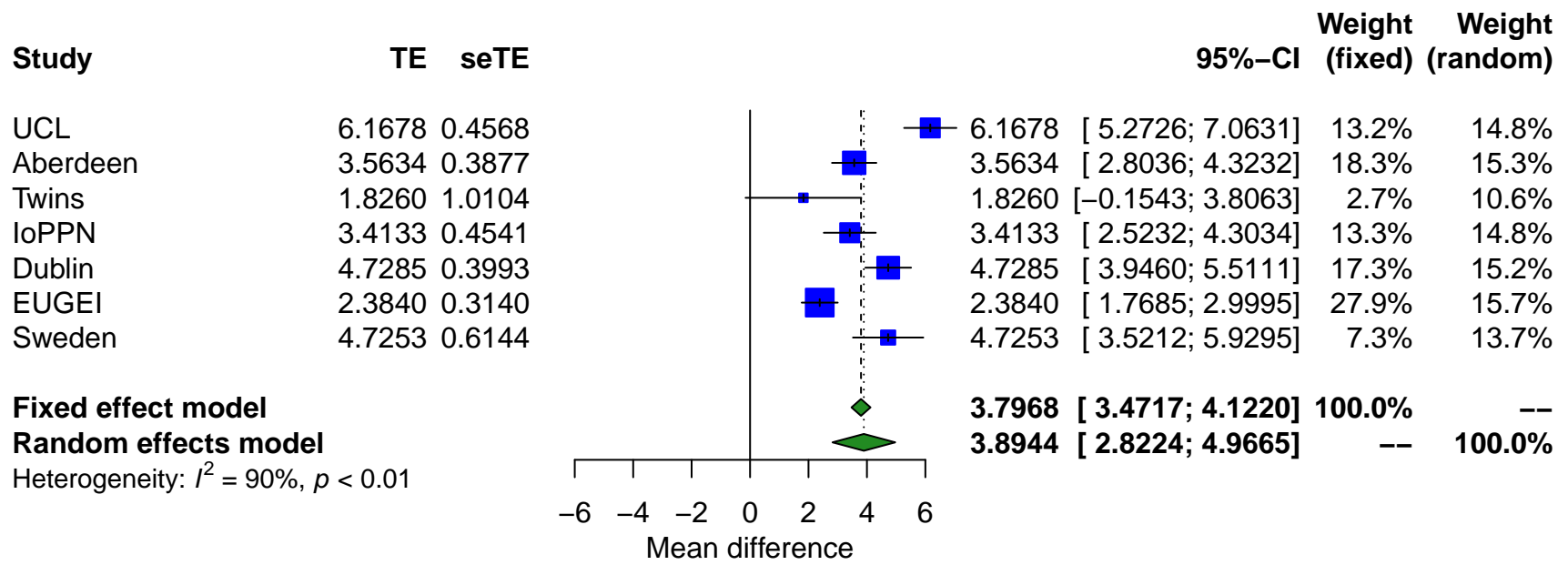
## CD8<sup>+</sup>T-cells

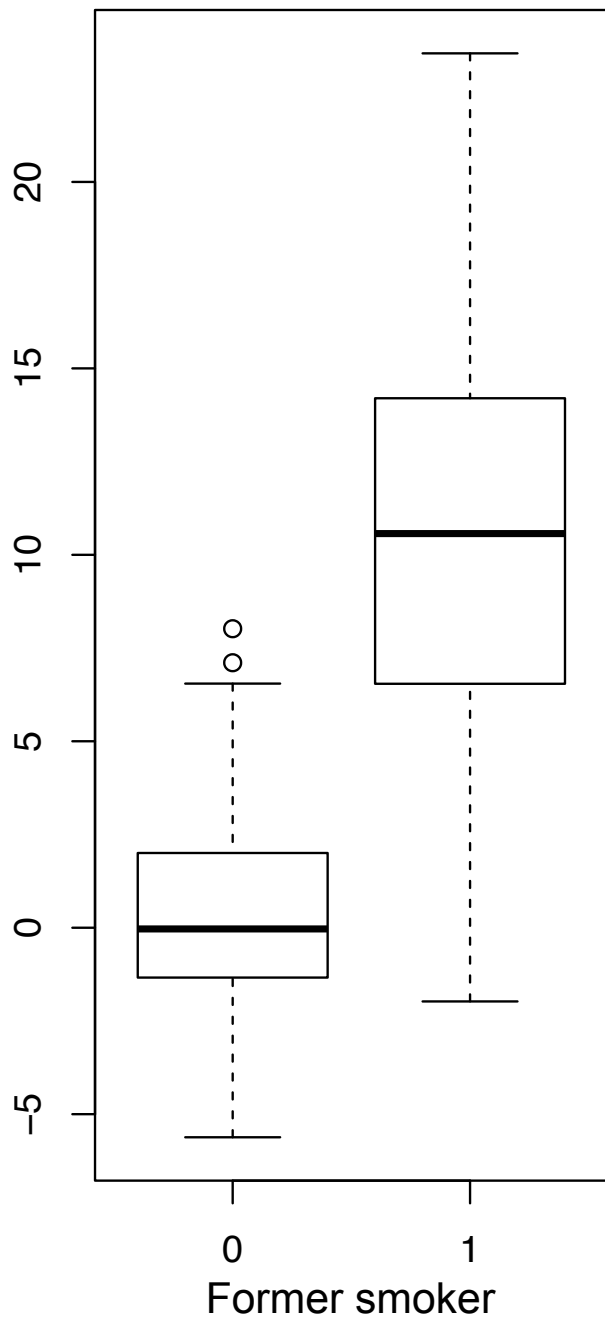
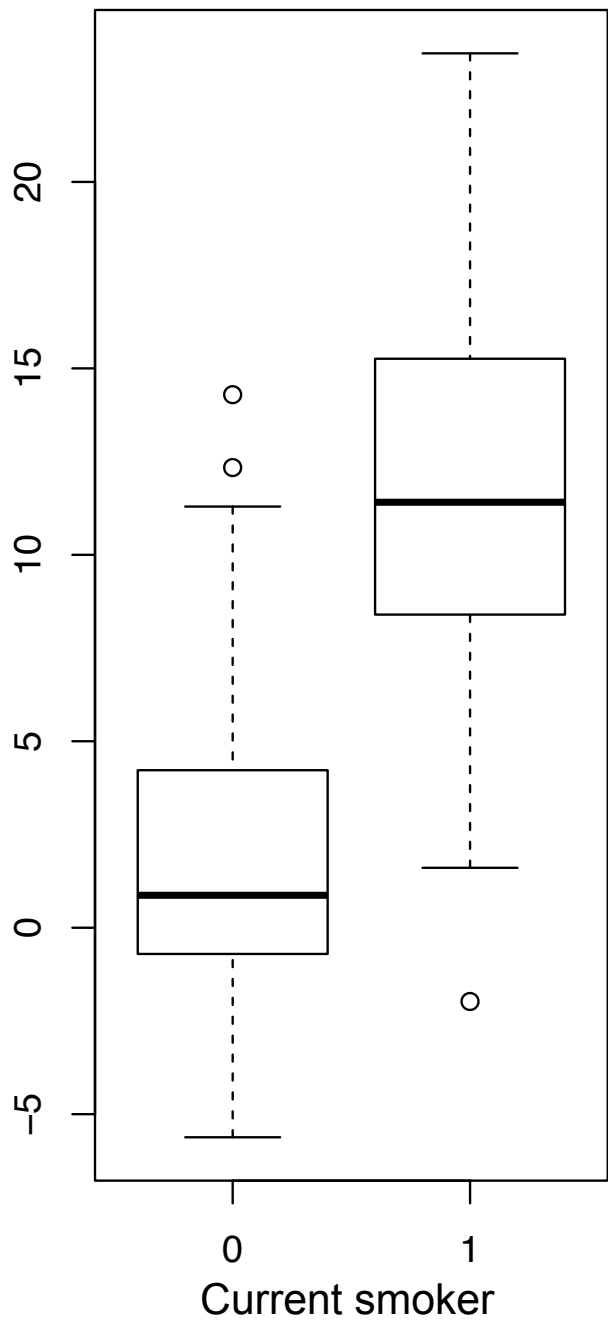


**A****B**

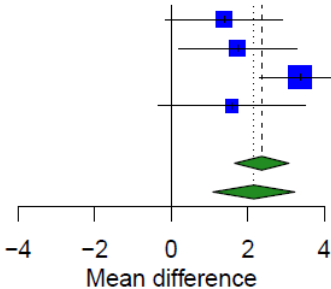


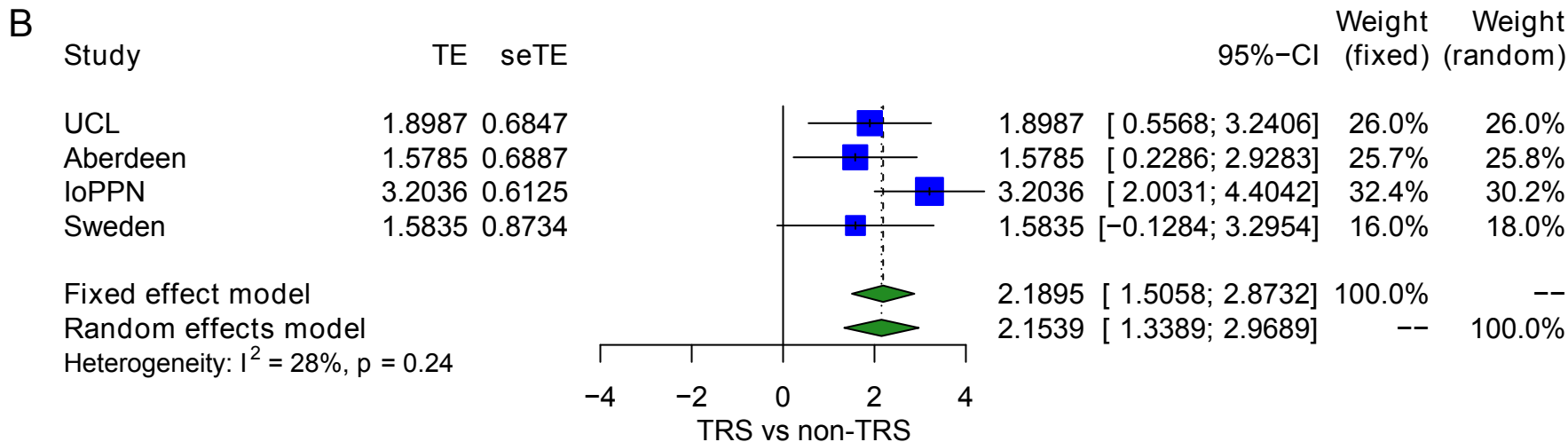
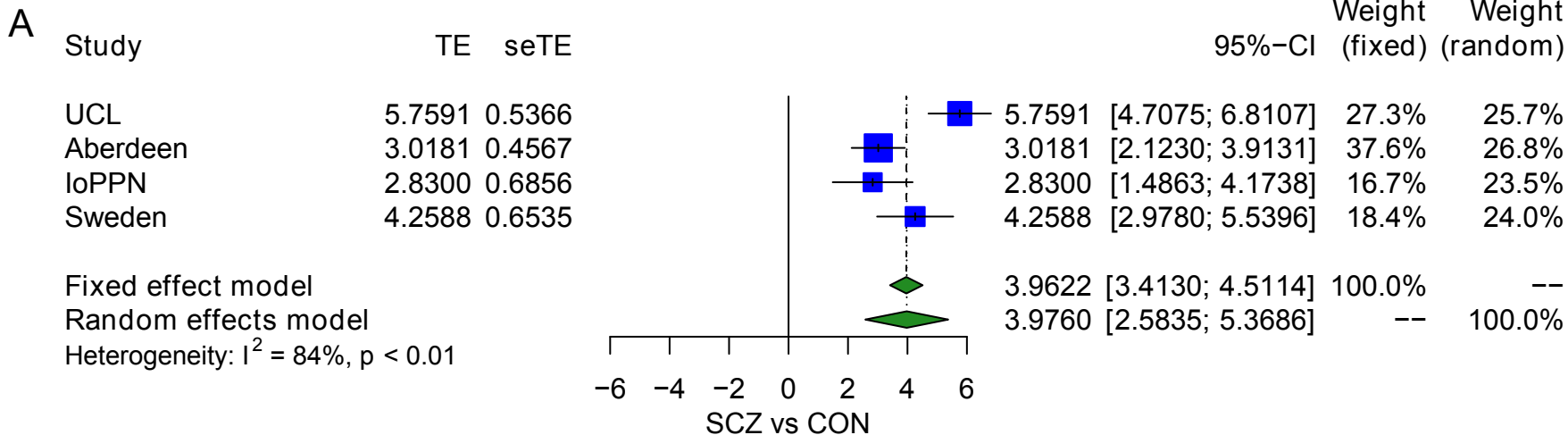
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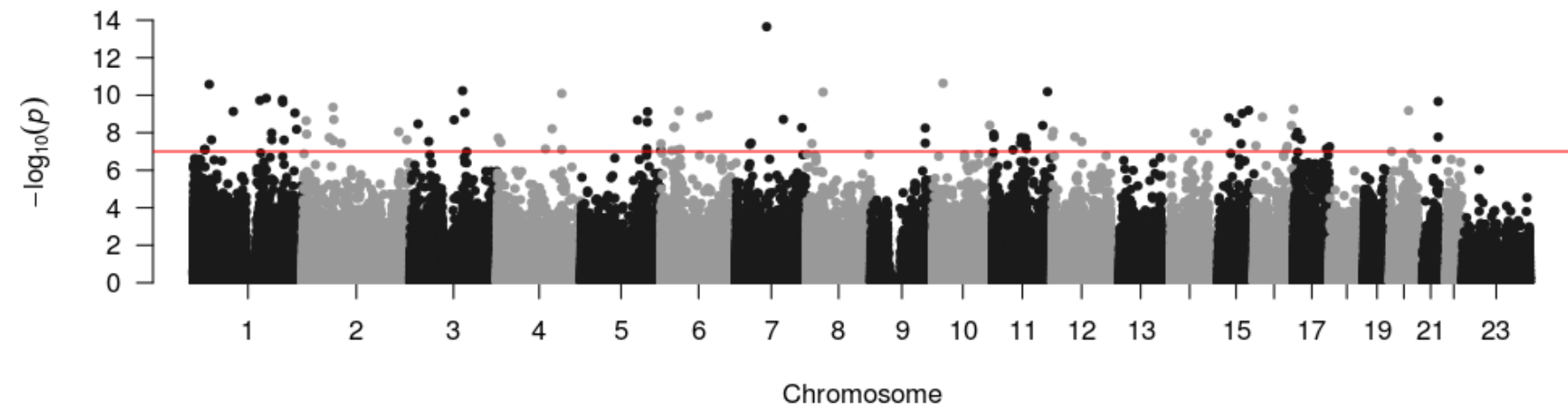
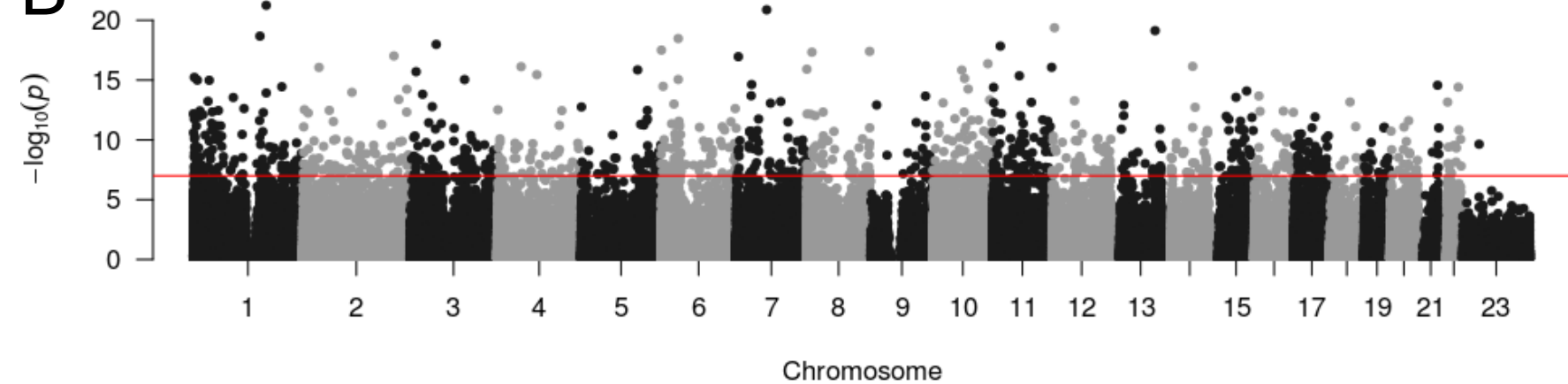


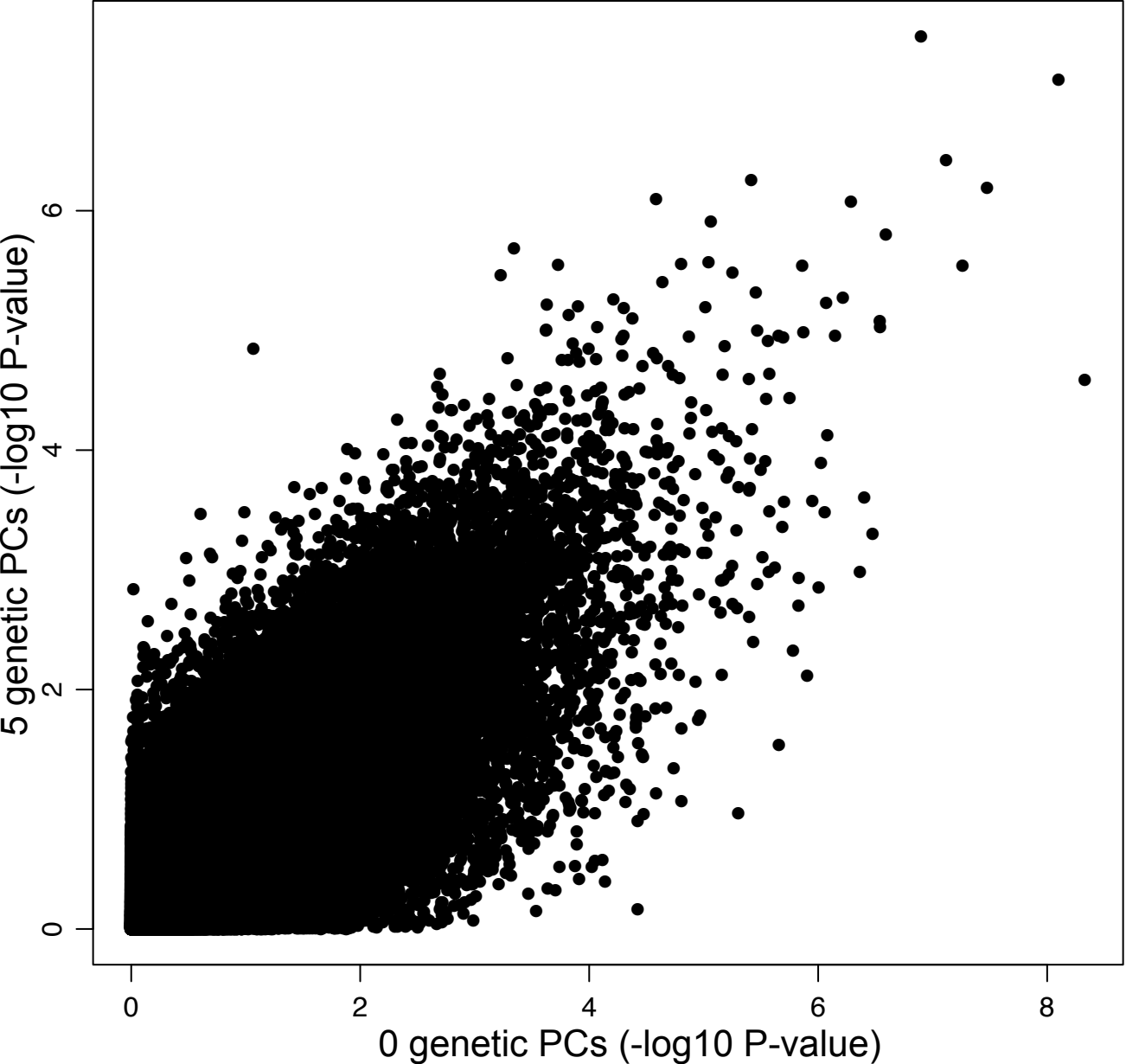


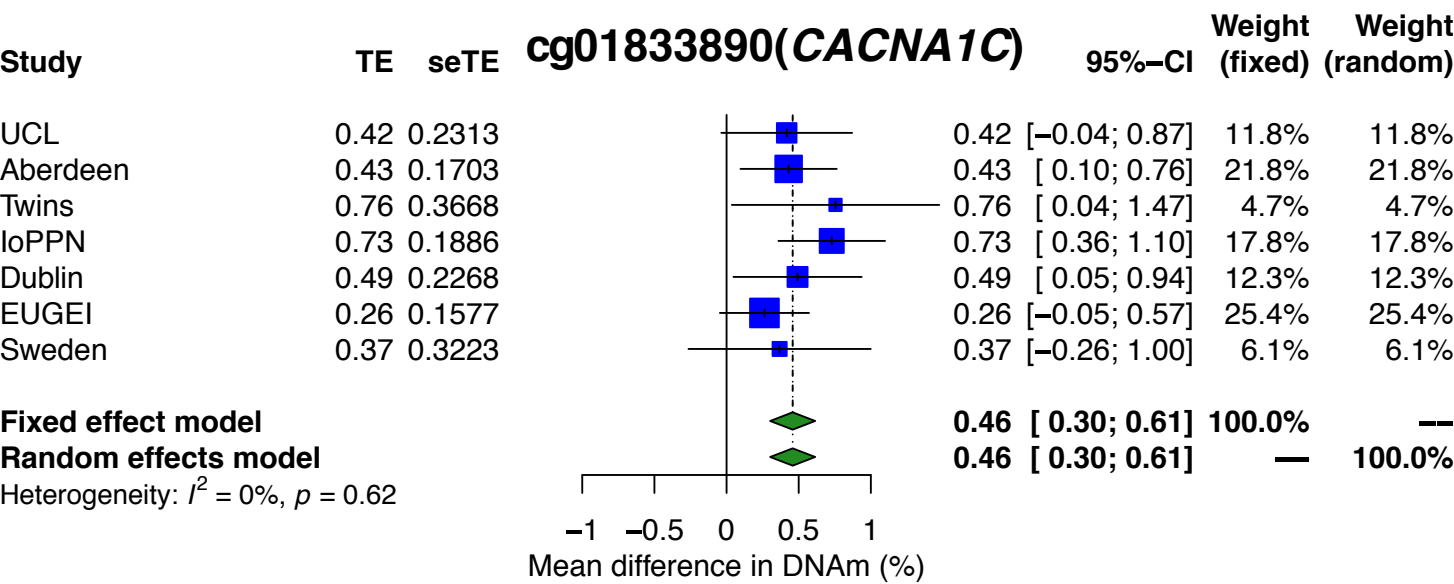
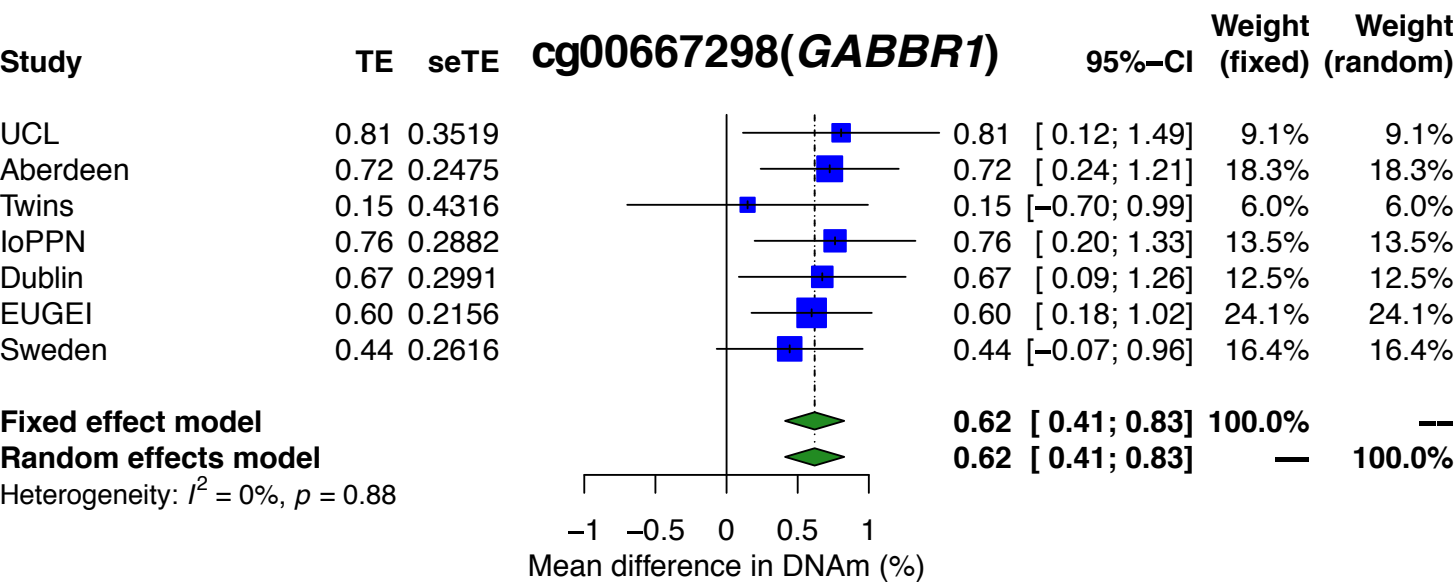
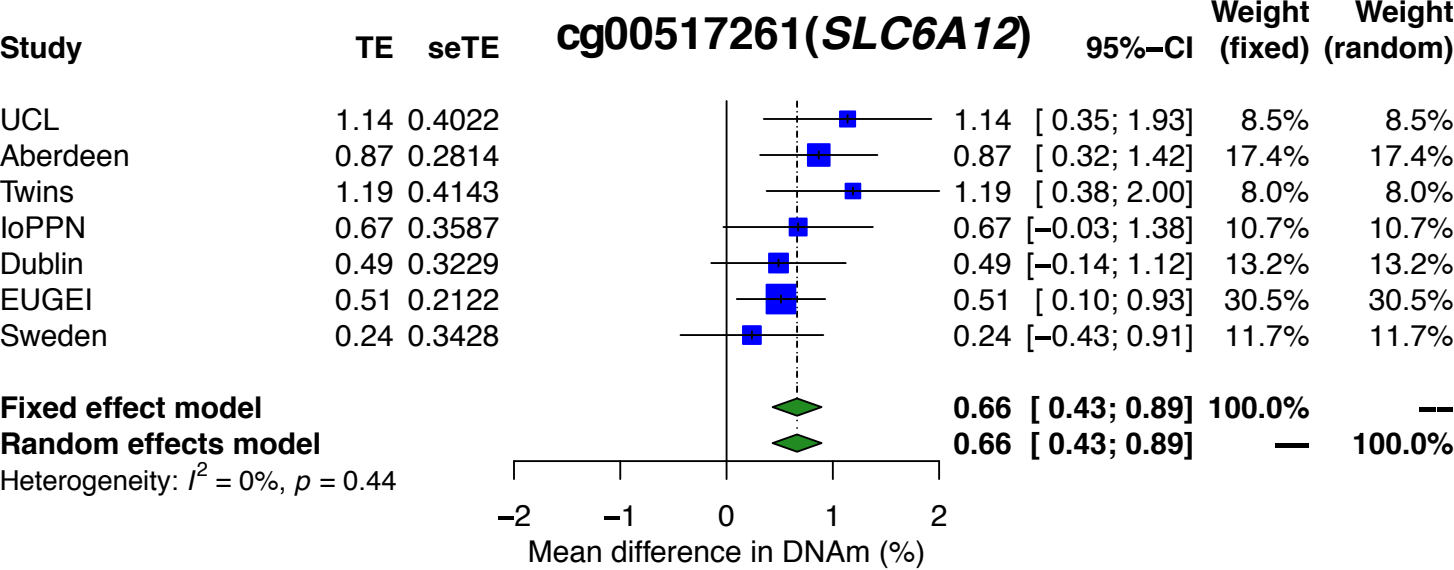
Study	TE	seTE	95%-CI	Weight (fixed)	Weight (random)
UCL	1.3864	0.7807	1.3864 [-0.1438; 2.9165]	21.4%	24.4%
Aberdeen	1.7389	0.7924	1.7389 [ 0.1858; 3.2920]	20.8%	24.0%
IoPPN	3.3740	0.5433	3.3740 [ 2.3092; 4.4388]	44.2%	32.8%
Sweden	1.5786	0.9822	1.5786 [-0.3464; 3.5036]	13.5%	18.9%
<b>Fixed effect model</b>			<b>2.3651 [ 1.6569; 3.0734]</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Random effects model</b>			<b>2.1585 [ 1.0877; 3.2292]</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



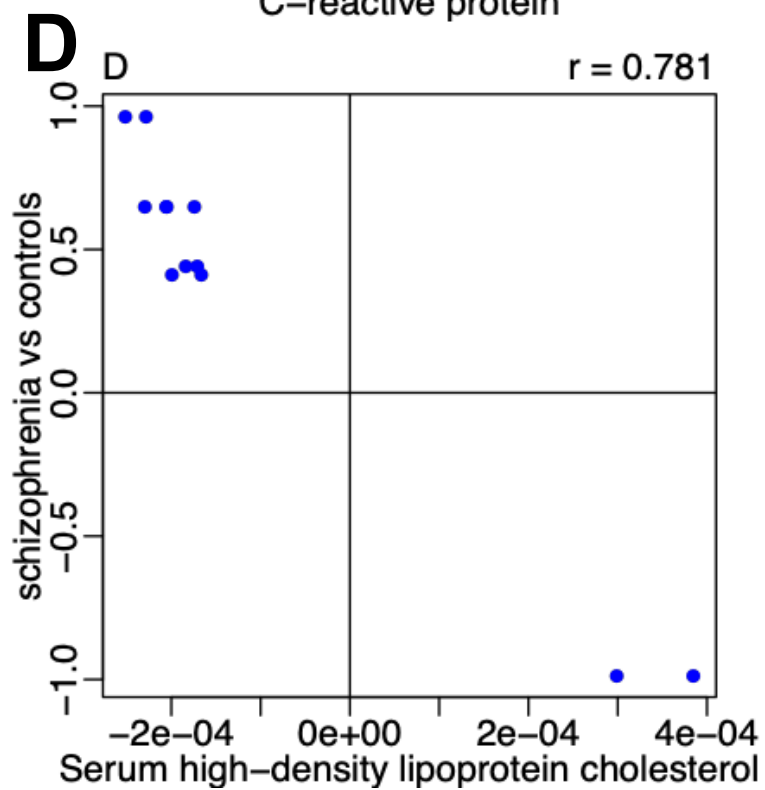
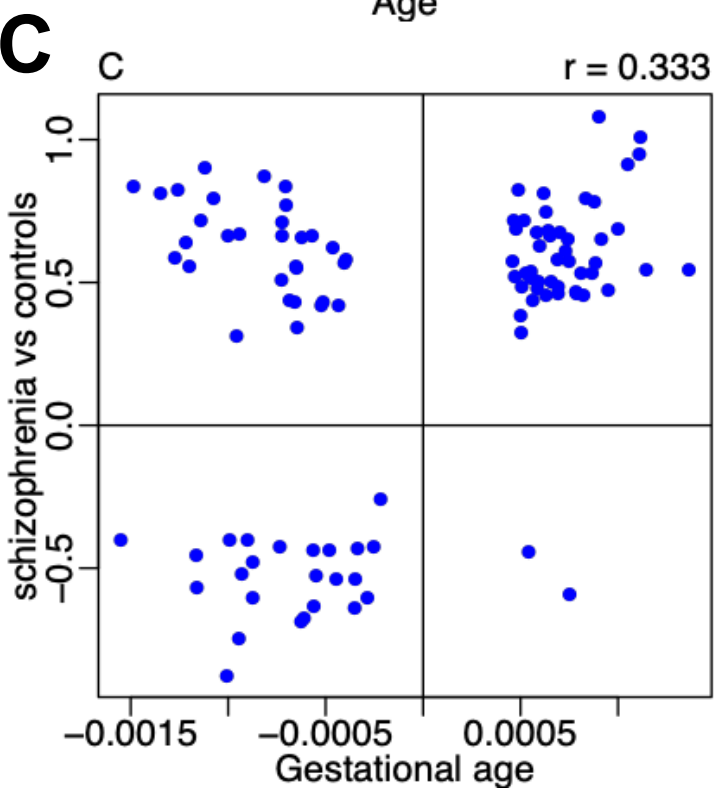
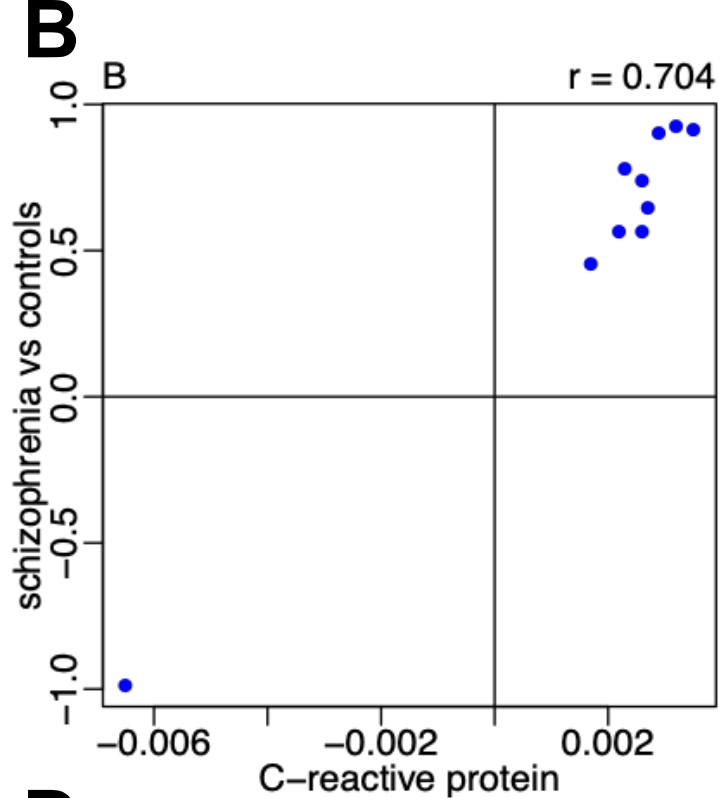
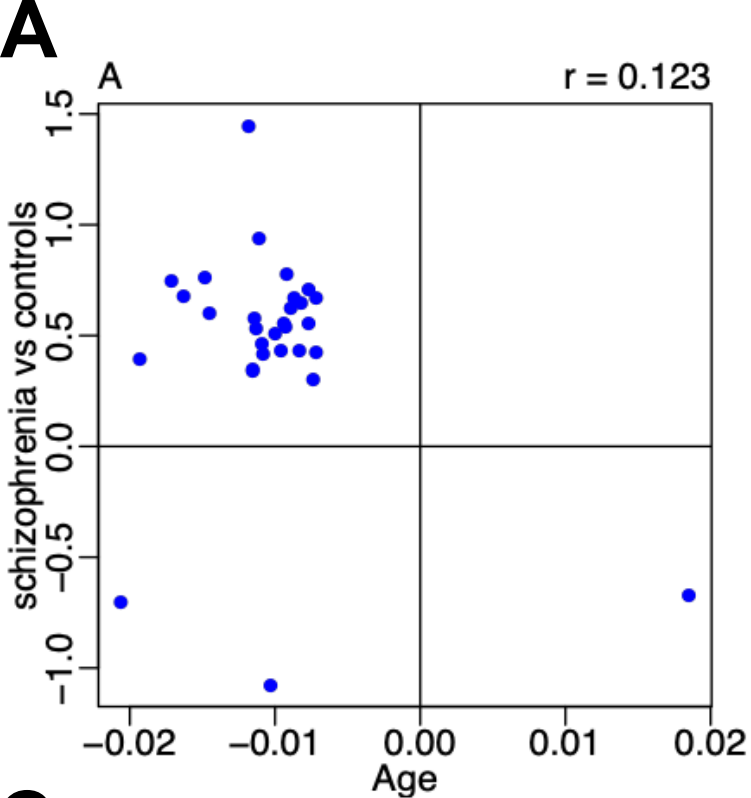


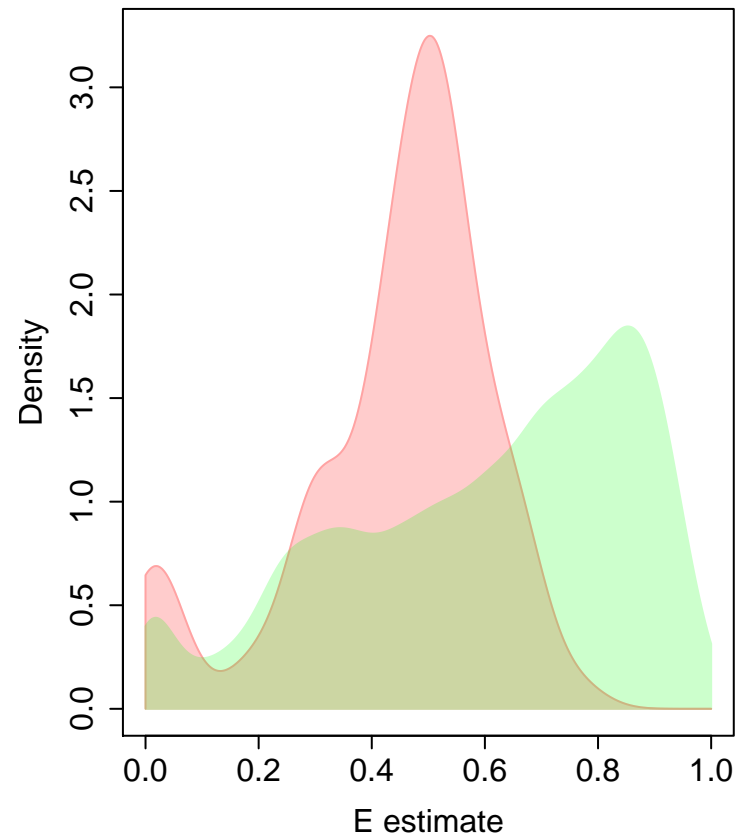
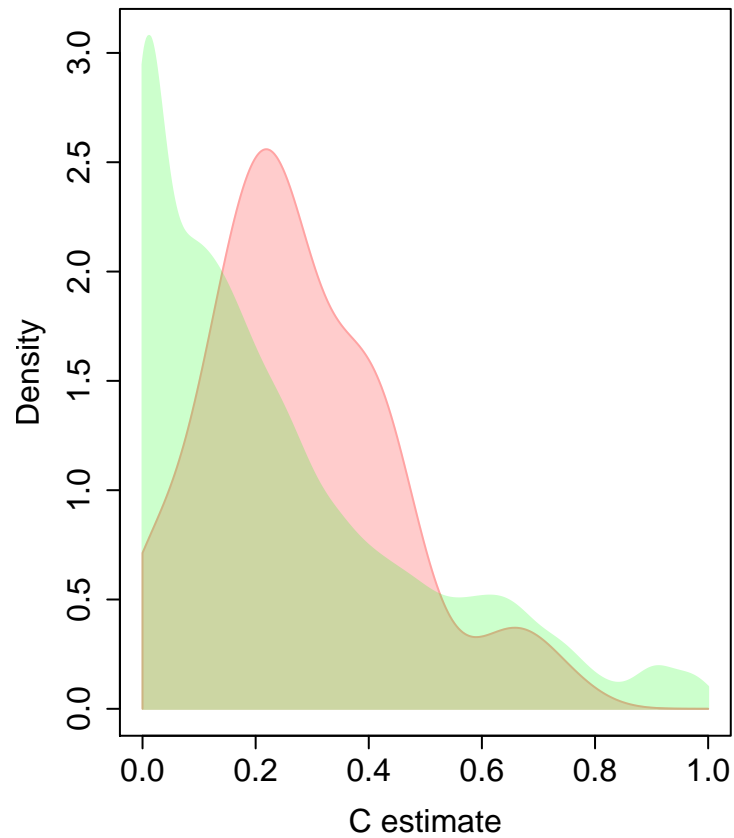
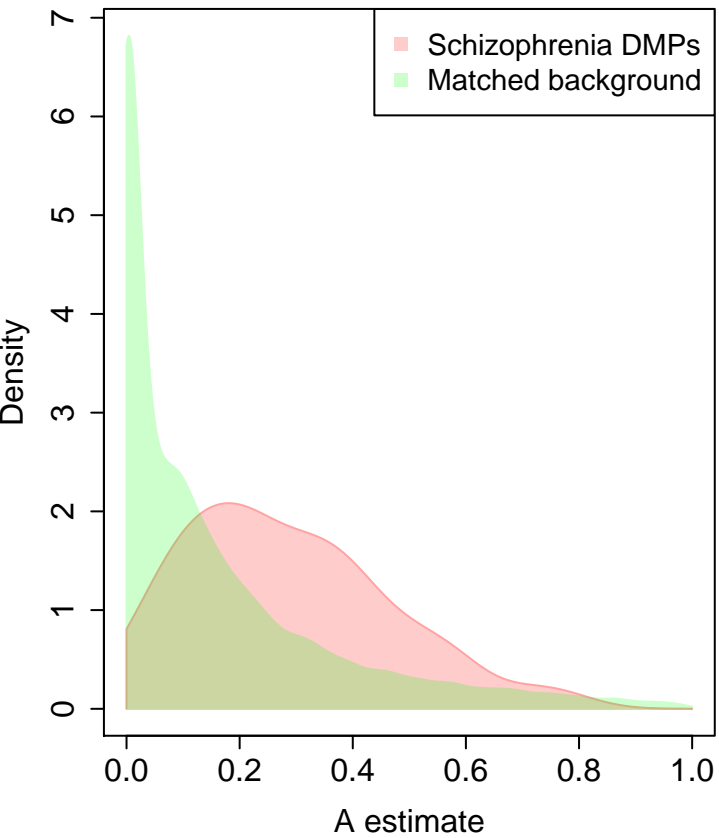
**A****B**



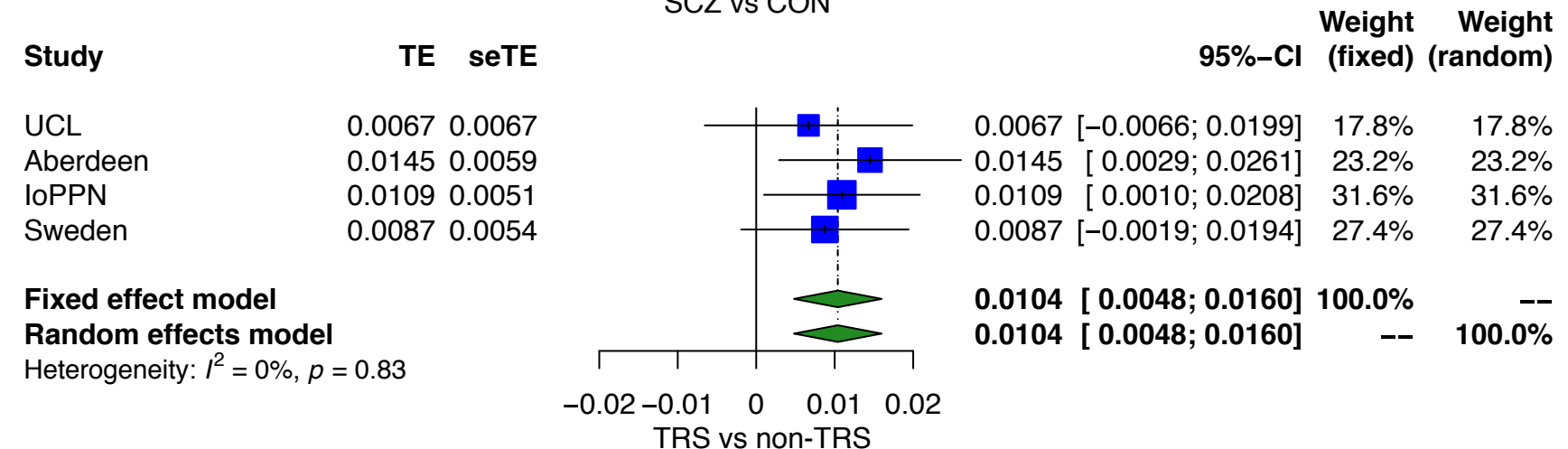
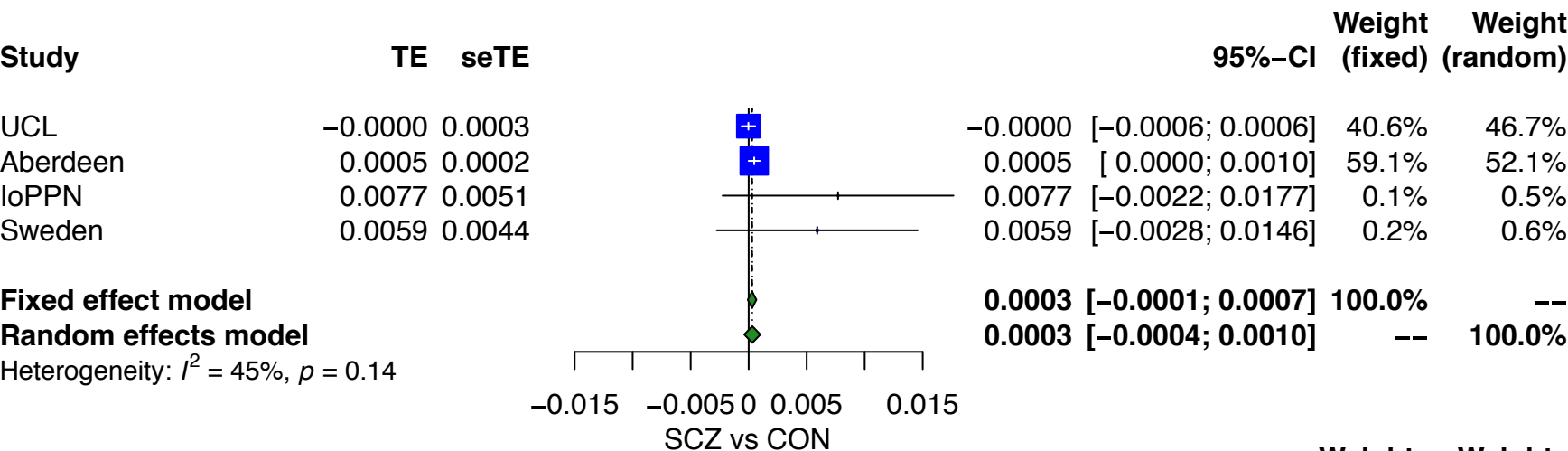




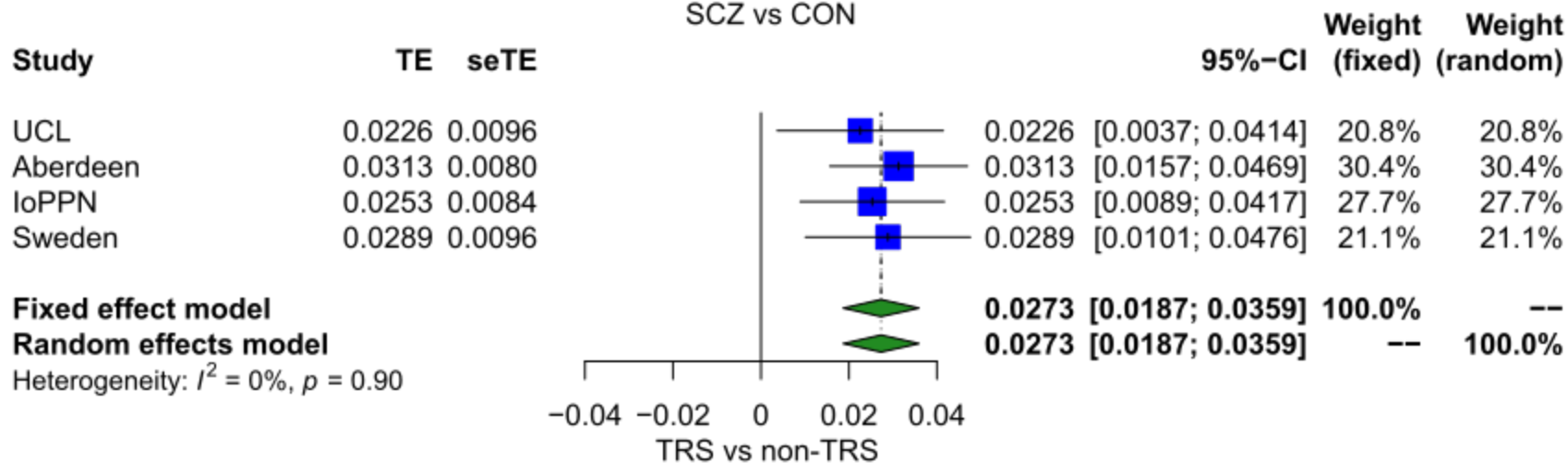
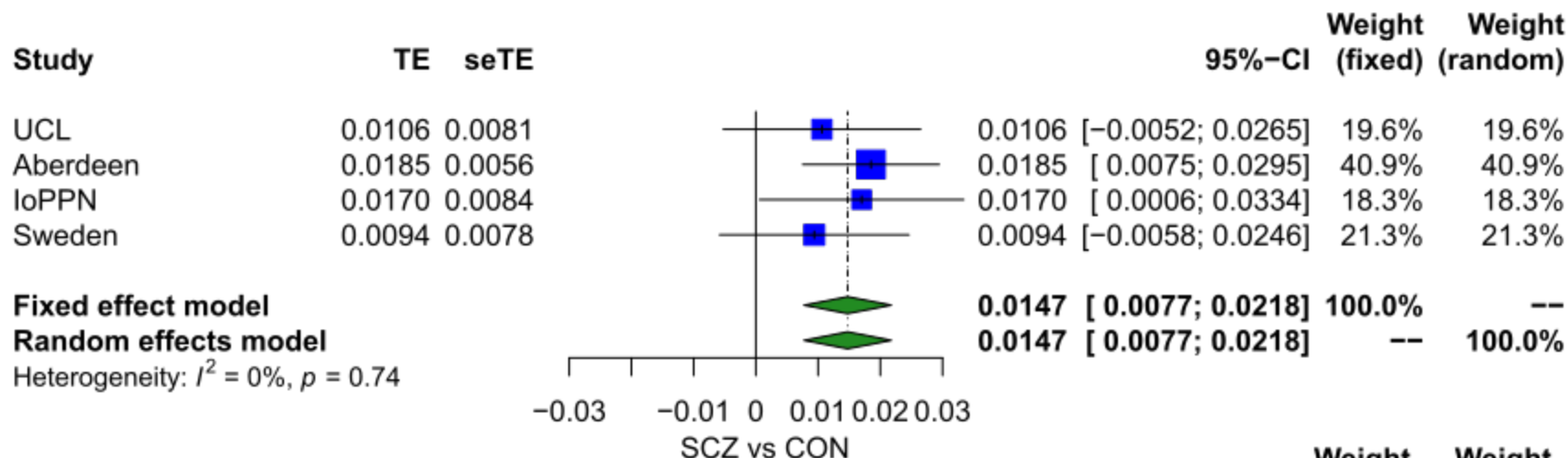




# cg16322565(NR1L2)



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