

1 **Identification of ten variants associated with risk of estrogen receptor negative**
2 **breast cancer**

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675 **Most common breast cancer susceptibility variants have been identified**
676 **through genome-wide association studies (GWASs) of predominantly estrogen**
677 **receptor (ER)-positive disease¹. We conducted a GWAS using 21,468 ER-**
678 **negative cases and 100,594 controls combined with 18,908 *BRCA1* mutation**
679 **carriers (9,414 with breast cancer), all of European origin. We identified**
680 **independent associations at $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ with 10 variants at nine novel loci. At**
681 **$P < 0.05$, we replicated associations with 10 of 11 variants previously reported in**
682 **ER-negative or *BRCA1* mutation carrier GWASs, and observed consistent**
683 **associations with ER-negative disease for 105 susceptibility variants identified**
684 **by other breast cancer GWASs. These 125 variants explain approximately 16%**
685 **of the familial risk of this breast cancer subtype. There was high genetic**
686 **correlation (0.72) between risk of ER-negative breast cancer and breast cancer**
687 **risk for *BRCA1* carriers. These findings will likely lead to improved risk**
688 **prediction and inform further fine-mapping and functional work to better**
689 **understand the biological basis of ER-negative breast cancer.**

690 GWASs have identified 107 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that are
691 independently associated with breast cancer risk²⁻³². Association studies focused on
692 ER-negative disease, or *BRCA1* mutation carriers, who are more likely to develop
693 ER-negative disease (70-80% of cases)³³, have identified 11 of these
694 SNPs^{3,9,12,19,29,30}. We aimed to discover additional ER-negative breast cancer
695 susceptibility variants by performing a GWAS in women of European origin.

696 New genotyping data were generated for 9,655 ER-negative cases and 45,494
697 controls from 68 Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC) studies and 15,566
698 *BRCA1* mutation carriers (7,784 with breast cancer) from 58 Consortium of
699 Investigators of Modifiers of *BRCA1/2* (CIMBA) studies (Supplementary Tables 1
700 and 2) using the Illumina OncoArray beadchip, a 570K SNP custom array with
701 genome-wide coverage³⁴. Imputation was used to derive estimated genotypes for
702 ~21M SNPs, using the 1000 Genomes Project (Phase 3) as reference; ~11.5M of
703 those with imputation $r^2 > 0.3$ and minor allele frequency (MAF) > 0.005 were included
704 in further analyses. For BCAC data, we estimated per-allele odds ratios (ORs) using
705 logistic regression, adjusting for country and principal components. For CIMBA data,
706 we estimated per-allele hazard ratios (HR) using a retrospective cohort analysis
707 framework, modelling time to breast cancer and stratifying on country, Ashkenazi
708 Jewish origin and birth cohort^{35,36} (see Online Methods). These analyses were also
709 applied to an independent set of previously generated data from other genome-wide
710 genotyping of additional European participants in 44 BCAC studies (11,813 ER-
711 negative cases and 55,100 controls)^{9,12,16,20,37,38} and 54 CIMBA studies (3,342
712 *BRCA1* mutation carriers, 1,630 with breast cancer) (Supplementary Tables 1 and
713 2). Fixed-effects meta-analysis was used to combine results across genotyping
714 initiatives within consortia and, assuming that the OR and HR estimates approximate
715 the same underlying relative risk, across consortia³⁹.

716 Results from the combined meta-analysis are summarised in Supplementary Figure
717 1. There was minimal inflation of test statistics ($\lambda_{1000} = 1.004$; Supplementary
718 Figure 2). We identified 10 variants at nine novel loci that were independently
719 associated with risk of ER-negative breast cancer at $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ (Table 1;
720 Supplementary Table 3; Supplementary Figures 3-10). Two independent signals
721 were observed within 12kb at 11q22.3, for rs74911261 (MAF=0.02) and rs11374964
722 (MAF=0.42); OR estimates and statistical significance were largely unchanged when

723 each variant was adjusted for the other (Supplementary Table 4). The association
724 with 8p23.3-rs66823261 was not observed for *BRCA1* mutation carriers (P=0.32, P-
725 heterogeneity=0.030).

726 For each of these 10 novel signals, we identified candidate causal SNPs
727 analytically^{40,41} (see Online Methods) and combined multiple sources of *in silico*
728 functional annotation from public databases⁴²⁻⁵² to identify likely functional variants
729 and target genes. Results are summarised in Supplementary Table 5 (including
730 UCSC Genome Browser links; see also Supplementary Note), Figure 1 and
731 Supplementary Figures 3-10 (data sources in Supplementary Table 6). Many
732 candidate causal SNPs lie in predicted regulatory regions and are associated with
733 expression of nearby genes in blood or other tissues. At 2p23, the predicted target
734 genes include *ADCY3* and *NCOA1* (Supplementary Figure 3). At 6q23.1
735 (Supplementary Figure 4), the most plausible target gene is *L3MBTL3*⁵³. A predicted
736 target at 8q24.13 is *FBXO32*, which is expressed in ER-negative HMECs but not ER-
737 positive MCF7 breast cancer cells (Supplementary Figure 6) and has a known role in
738 cancer cachexia⁵⁴. At 11q22.3 (Figure 1), a predicted target gene of common risk-
739 associated variants is *NPAT*⁵⁵. The rarer SNPs underlying the other 11q22.3 signal
740 are predicted to target *ATM*, a known breast cancer susceptibility gene⁵⁶. Three rare
741 coding variants (MAF≤0.03) in *ATM*, *NPAT* and *KDELC2*, are also among the
742 candidate causal SNPs at this locus. At 16p13, predicted target genes include
743 *ADCY9* and *CREBBP* (Supplementary Figure 7). At 19q12 (Supplementary Figure
744 10), a potential target gene encodes cyclin E1 which is involved in cell cycle control
745 and phosphorylation of *NPAT*⁵⁷.

746 Expression QTL associations were assessed between each candidate causal variant
747 and genes within 1Mb using 79 ER-negative breast tumours from TCGA and 135
748 normal breast tissue samples from METABRIC⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰. The strongest associations
749 identified were 6q23.1-rs6569648-*L3MBTL3* (P=4.3x10⁻⁶) and 18q12.1-rs12965632-
750 *CDH2* (P=1.0x10⁻⁴), both in METABRIC (Supplementary Table 5). SNP rs6569648
751 was the top *cis*-eQTL (of all imputed variants within 1 Mb) for *L3MBTL3* while the p-
752 value for the rs12965632-*CDH2* eQTL was within two orders of magnitude of the top
753 *cis*-eQTLs for this gene (Supplementary Figures 11-12).

754 For 10 of the 11 variants previously identified through GWASs of ER-negative
755 disease or overall disease in *BRCA1* mutation carriers^{3,9,12,18,19,30,31}, or reported as
756 more strongly associated with ER-negative breast cancer²⁹, associations with ER-
757 negative disease were replicated (P<0.05) using OncoArray data from BCAC, which
758 does not overlap with any of the discovery studies (Table 2). Effect sizes were
759 generally similar to those originally reported. Using all available CIMBA data, six of
760 these 11 variants were associated with breast cancer risk (P<0.05) for *BRCA1*
761 mutation carriers (Table 2). No evidence of association was observed for 20q11-
762 rs2284378¹² in either BCAC or CIMBA (P≥0.46).

763 Based on estimated ORs using BCAC data for all cases with known ER status
764 (16,988 ER-negative; 65,275 ER-positive), all 10 new and 10 previously reported
765 and replicated ER-negative disease susceptibility SNPs were more strongly
766 associated with risk of ER-negative than ER-positive subtype (P-heterogeneity<0.05,
767 except for novel hit 19p13.2-rs322144; Supplementary Table 7). Two variants
768 (1q32.1-rs4245739 and 19p13.11-rs67397200) were not associated with ER-positive
769 disease. For four variants (11q22.3- rs11374964, 11q22.3-rs74911261, 1q32.1-

770 rs6678914 and 2p23.2-rs4577244), the risk-associated allele for ER-negative
771 disease was associated with reduced risk of ER-positive disease ($P<0.05$).

772 For these 20 ER-negative breast cancer susceptibility SNPs, we also assessed
773 associations by triple-negative (TN) status (negative for ER, progesterone receptor
774 and HER2; Table 3), tumour grade (Table 4) and age at diagnosis (Supplementary
775 Table 8) using BCAC data only. Five, including the novel susceptibility variants
776 11q22.3-rs11374964 and 11q22.3-rs74911261, were more strongly associated with
777 risk of both TN and higher-grade disease ($P<0.05$), although after adjustment for TN
778 status, heterogeneity by grade was observed only for 11q22.3-rs74911261 and
779 1q32.1-rs4245739 ($P<0.05$). For 2p23.3-rs4577244, heterogeneity was observed for
780 grade only, while 6q25.2-rs2747652 was more strongly associated with risk of other
781 (non-TN) ER-negative breast cancer subtypes ($P<0.05$). At younger ages,
782 associations appeared to be stronger for two variants (5p15.33-rs10069690 and
783 19p13.11-rs67397200), and weaker for one (6q25.2-rs2747652) ($P<0.05$).

784 Elsewhere we report 65 novel susceptibility loci for overall breast cancer¹. Three of
785 these overlap within 500kb with the novel ER-negative disease-associated loci
786 reported here (variants 2p23.3-rs200648189, 6q23.1-rs6569648 and 8q24.13-
787 rs17350191). We assessed associations with risk of ER-negative disease, and with
788 risk of overall breast cancer for *BRCA1* mutation carriers, for SNPs at the remaining
789 62 loci, as well as for the 96 previously reported breast cancer susceptibility variants
790 that were not ER-negative specific. Of these 158 SNPs, 105 were associated
791 ($P<0.05$) with risk of ER-negative breast cancer, and 24 with risk for *BRCA1*
792 mutation carriers (Supplementary Tables 9-10). Results for *BRCA2* mutation carriers
793 are presented in Supplementary Table 11.

794 Pathway analysis based on mapping each SNP to the nearest gene was performed
795 using summary association statistics from the meta-analysis of BCAC and CIMBA
796 data combined⁶¹⁻⁶⁴ (see Online Methods). This identified several pathways
797 implicated in ER-negative disease (enrichment score [ES] ≥ 0.41 ; Supplementary
798 Figure 13; Supplementary Tables 12-13), including a subset that was not enriched in
799 susceptibility to ER-positive disease (ES <0 ; Supplementary Table 14). One of the
800 latter subsets was the adenylate cyclase (AC) activating pathway (ES=0.62;
801 Supplementary Figure 14). Two of the predicted target genes for the 10 novel ER-
802 negative breast cancer susceptibility variants, based on the eQTL analysis
803 (Supplementary Table 5), *ADCY3* ($P[\text{TCGA}]=6.7\times 10^{-3}$] and *ADCY9*
804 ($P[\text{METABRIC}]=1.3\times 10^{-4}$), are part of this pathway, and their association signals
805 were critical to the elevated ES observed (Supplementary Figure 13). *ADCY9* is
806 stimulated by $\beta 2$ adrenergic receptor ($\beta 2\text{AR}$) signalling⁶⁵ in ER-negative breast
807 cancer⁶⁶, which in turn drives AC-cAMP signalling, including for example mitogenic
808 signalling through β -arrestin-Src-ERK⁶⁷.

809
810 To further explore the functional properties of the genome that contribute to ER-
811 negative breast cancer heritability, we conducted a partitioned heritability analysis
812 using linkage disequilibrium (LD) score regression⁶⁸. Considering 52 “baseline”
813 genomic features, we observed the greatest enrichment for super-enhancers (2.5-
814 fold, $p=2\times 10^{-7}$) and the H3K4me3 histone mark (2.4-fold, $p=0.0005$), with 33%
815 depletion ($p=0.0002$) observed for repressed regions (Supplementary Table 15). No
816 differences in enrichment for these features were observed between susceptibility to
817 ER-negative and ER-positive breast cancer, but baseline genomic features are not

818 specific to cell type⁶⁸. The estimated correlation between ER-negative and ER-
819 positive breast cancer based on ~1M common genetic variants^{69,70} was 0.60
820 (standard error [SE], 0.03) indicating that, although these two breast cancer
821 subtypes have a shared genetic component, a substantial proportion is distinct. The
822 estimated correlation between ER-negative disease in the general population and
823 overall breast cancer for *BRCA1* mutation carriers was 0.72 (SE, 0.11).

824

825 In summary, in this study of women of European origin, we have identified 10 novel
826 susceptibility variants for ER-negative breast cancer and replicated associations with
827 ER-negative disease for 10 SNPs identified by previous GWASs. Most of these were
828 not associated, or more weakly associated, with ER-positive disease, consistent with
829 the findings from pathway and partitioned heritability analyses showing that ER-
830 negative breast cancer has a partly distinct genetic aetiology. We also observed
831 consistent associations with ER-negative disease for a further 105 overall breast
832 cancer susceptibility SNPs. Together, these 125 variants explain ~14% of an
833 assumed 2-fold increased risk of developing ER-negative disease for the first degree
834 female relatives of women affected with this subtype (the newly identified SNPs
835 explain ~1.5%); Supplementary Table 16) and ~40% of the estimated familial risk
836 that is attributable to all variants imputable from the Oncoarray (see Online
837 Methods). We have also identified nine novel breast cancer susceptibility variants for
838 *BRCA1* mutation carriers and confirmed associations for a further 30 previously
839 reported SNPs; these 39 variants explain ~8% of the variance in polygenic risk for
840 carriers of these mutations (Supplementary Table 17). However, the lower number of
841 *BRCA1* risk-associated variants may merely be a consequence of the smaller
842 sample size, since the genetic correlation with ER-negative breast cancer is high.
843 These findings will likely inform improved risk prediction, both for the general
844 population and for *BRCA1* mutation carriers^{30,71,72}. Further investigation is required
845 for other populations of non-European origin. Fine-mapping and functional studies
846 should lead to a better understanding of the biological basis of ER-negative breast
847 cancer, and perhaps inform the design of more effective preventive interventions,
848 early detection and treatments for this disease.

849

850 **Data availability**

851 A subset of the data that support the findings of this study will be made publically
852 available via dbGAP (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gap, contact the corresponding author
853 for details). The complete dataset will not be made publically available due to
854 restraints imposed by the ethics committees of individual studies; requests for further
855 data can be made to the corresponding author or the BCAC
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858

859

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961

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963 The authors confirm that they have no competing financial interests

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1150 **Figure legends**

1151 **Figure 1. Genomic region around independent ER negative risk associated**
1152 **variants, 11_108345515_G_A (rs11374964) and 11_108357137_G_A**
1153 **(rs74911261).** One Mb region showing statistical significance of all genotyped and
1154 imputed SNPs and positions of candidate causal variants for two independent
1155 signals (shown below as red or blue ticks) in relation to RefSeq genes. Missense
1156 variants are labelled with asterisks. Breast cell enhancers overlapping candidate
1157 SNPs predicted to target nearby genes by IM-PET⁴⁶ are depicted as black bars.
1158 Chromatin interactions from ENCODE ChIA-PET in MCF7 cells overlapping
1159 candidate variants are shaded to reflect interaction confidence scores. Epigenomic
1160 features (derived from publicly available ChIP-seq and DNase-seq) that overlap
1161 candidate variants are shown as red or blue segments, depending on the intersected
1162 signal. Density tracks show the summed occurrence of ChIP-seq and DNase-seq
1163 peak signals at each position. Roadmap Epigenomics Project chromatin state
1164 models for HMEC and myoepithelial cells grouped into enhancer, promoter or
1165 transcribed annotations are shown as yellow, red or green segments, respectively.
1166 Transcript levels in MCF7 and HMEC cells are represented by histograms depicting
1167 mean normalised RNA-seq expression. All MCF7 ChIA-PET (ENCODE) and HMEC
1168 Hi-C⁴⁷ chromatin interactions are represented by black and blue arcs, respectively.
1169 NHGRI catalog GWAS SNPs are shown as green ticks. All Oncoarray SNPs
1170 (genotyped or imputed) are shown as black ticks and uninterrogated, common SNPs
1171 (dbSNP138, EUR MAF > 1%) as red ticks. Features may be examined in detail via
1172 exploration of a custom UCSC Genome Browser session accessible via hyperlinks
1173 within Supplementary Table 5.

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1176 **Table 1: Ten novel loci associated with risk of estrogen receptor (ER)-negative breast cancer using meta-analysis of BCAC and**
 1177 **CIMBA data**

Location	SNP	Chr	Position	Nearest gene	Alleles [#]	BCAC ER-negative [†]			CIMBA <i>BRCA1</i> mutation carriers [‡]			Meta-analysis	Heterogeneity
						MAF	OR (95%CI)	P-value	MAF	HR (95%CI)	P-value	P-value	P-value [§]
2p23.3	rs200648189	2	24739694	<i>NCOA1</i>	CT/C	0.19	0.94 (0.91-0.97)	4.7x10 ⁻⁴	0.20	0.88 (0.84-0.92)	3.3x10 ⁻⁷	9.7x10 ⁻⁹	2.0x10 ⁻²
6q23.1	rs6569648	6	130349119	<i>L3MBTL3</i>	T/C	0.23	0.93 (0.90-0.95)	4.3x10 ⁻⁸	0.22	0.94 (0.90-0.98)	5.4x10 ⁻³	8.3x10 ⁻¹⁰	0.64
8p23.3	rs66823261	8	170692	<i>RPL23AP53</i>	T/C	0.23	1.09 (1.06-1.12)	5.6x10 ⁻⁹	0.22	1.02 (0.98-1.07)	0.32	3.3x10 ⁻⁸	3.0x10 ⁻²
8q24.13	rs17350191	8	124757661	<i>ANXA13</i>	C/T	0.34	1.07 (1.04-1.09)	2.0x10 ⁻⁸	0.34	1.08 (1.04-1.12)	1.9x10 ⁻⁴	1.7x10 ⁻¹¹	0.81
11q22.3	rs11374964	11	108345515	<i>KDELC2</i>	G/GA	0.42	0.94 (0.92-0.96)	3.6x10 ⁻⁸	0.43	0.91 (0.88-0.95)	1.3x10 ⁻⁶	4.1x10 ⁻¹³	0.26
11q22.3	rs74911261	11	108357137	<i>KDELC2</i>	G/A	0.02	0.82 (0.75-0.89)	2.3x10 ⁻⁶	0.02	0.74 (0.65-0.84)	2.0x10 ⁻⁶	5.4x10 ⁻¹¹	0.17
16p13.3	rs11076805	16	4106788	<i>ADCY9</i>	C/A	0.25	0.92 (0.90-0.95)	2.2x10 ⁻⁸	0.25	0.96 (0.92-1.00)	0.073	1.4x10 ⁻⁸	0.14
18q12.1	rs36194942	18	25401204	<i>CDH2</i>	A/AT	0.30	0.94 (0.91-0.96)	2.5x10 ⁻⁷	0.31	0.95 (0.91-0.99)	1.4x10 ⁻²	1.4x10 ⁻⁸	0.50
19p13.2	rs322144	19	11423703	<i>TSPAN16</i>	C/G	0.47	0.95 (0.93-0.97)	2.4x10 ⁻⁵	0.46	0.92 (0.89-0.96)	3.7x10 ⁻⁵	7.4x10 ⁻⁹	0.23
19q12	rs113701136	19	30277729	<i>CCNE1</i>	C/T	0.32	1.07 (1.04-1.09)	1.7x10 ⁻⁷	0.32	1.05 (1.01-1.09)	1.2x10 ⁻²	6.8x10 ⁻⁹	0.57

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[#]More common allele listed first, minor allele second; [†]Combined data from 21,468 ER-negative cases and 100,594 controls of European ancestry from the Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC); [‡]Combined data from 18,908 *BRCA1* mutation carriers from the Consortium of Investigators of Modifiers of BRCA1/2 (CIMBA), 9,414 of whom had developed breast cancer; [§]Test for heterogeneity in effect size for ER-negative disease and overall disease for *BRCA1* mutation carriers
 Chr, chromosome; MAF, minor allele frequency; OR, odds ratio per copy of the minor allele; CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio per copy of the minor allele

1186 **Table 2: Previously reported estrogen receptor (ER)-negative hits: replication using independent data from BCAC and combined**
 1187 **results using all BCAC and CIMBA data**

Location	SNP	Chr	Position	Ref	Nearest gene	Alleles [#]	INDEPENDENT REPLICATION			ALL AVAILABLE DATA COMBINED			
							BCAC ER-negative (OncoArray)*			BCAC ER-negative [†]		CIMBA <i>BRCA1</i> [‡]	
							MAF	OR (95%CI)	P-value	OR (95%CI)	P-value	HR (95%CI)	P-value
1q32.1	rs6678914	1	202187176	¹⁹	<i>LGR6</i>	G/A	0.41	0.94 (0.91-0.97)	1.1x10 ⁻⁴	0.92 (0.90-0.94)	2.6x10 ⁻¹²	0.98 (0.95-1.02)	0.31
1q32.1	rs4245739	1	204518842	¹⁹	<i>MDM4</i>	A/C	0.26	1.12 (1.09-1.17)	9.2x10 ⁻¹¹	1.14 (1.11-1.16)	3.1x10 ⁻²³	1.09 (1.04-1.13)	7.3x10 ⁻⁵
2p24.1	rs12710696	2	19320803	¹⁹	<i>MIR4757</i>	C/T	0.37	1.04 (1.00-1.07)	2.5x10 ⁻²	1.06 (1.04-1.09)	6.5x10 ⁻⁸	1.01 (0.98-1.05)	0.49
2p23.2	rs4577244 [‡]	2	29120733	³⁰	<i>WDR43</i>	C/T	0.34	0.93 (0.89-0.96)	9.6x10 ⁻⁵	0.92 (0.90-0.95)	1.5x10 ⁻⁹	0.92 (0.88-0.96)	1.3x10 ⁻⁴
5p15.33	rs10069690	5	1279790	^{9,18}	<i>TERT</i>	C/T	0.26	1.19 (1.14-1.23)	3.8x10 ⁻²¹	1.18 (1.15-1.21)	1.5x10 ⁻³⁵	1.18 (1.14-1.23)	3.7x10 ⁻¹⁶
6q25.1	rs3757322 [‡]	6	151942194	²⁹	<i>ESR1</i>	T/G	0.32	1.14 (1.10-1.18)	5.5x10 ⁻¹⁴	1.15 (1.12-1.18)	2.8x10 ⁻³¹	1.14 (1.10-1.19)	2.9x10 ⁻¹²
6q25.2	rs2747652 [‡]	6	152437016	²⁹	<i>ESR1</i>	C/T	0.48	0.92 (0.89-0.95)	1.1x10 ⁻⁷	0.91 (0.89-0.93)	1.9x10 ⁻¹⁸	1.00 (0.97-1.04)	0.96
13q22.1	rs6562760 [‡]	13	73957681	³⁰	<i>KLF5</i>	G/A	0.24	0.92 (0.88-0.95)	5.0x10 ⁻⁶	0.92 (0.90-0.95)	8.7x10 ⁻¹⁰	0.89 (0.86-0.93)	3.5x10 ⁻⁷
16q12.2	rs11075995	16	53855291	¹⁹	<i>FTO</i>	T/A	0.30	1.07 (1.03-1.11)	3.3x10 ⁻⁴	1.09 (1.06-1.12)	1.0x10 ⁻¹⁰	1.01 (0.97-1.06)	0.49
19p13.11	rs67397200	19	17401404	^{3,31}	<i>ANKLE1</i>	C/G	0.32	1.17 (1.13-1.21)	7.0x10 ⁻²⁰	1.17 (1.14-1.19)	2.7x10 ⁻³⁷	1.18 (1.14-1.23)	2.7x10 ⁻¹⁷
20q11.21	rs2284378	20	32588095	¹²	<i>RALY</i>	C/T	0.32	0.99 (0.95-1.02)	0.46	1.03 (1.01-1.06)	1.7x10 ⁻²	1.00 (0.97-1.04)	0.81

1188 #More common allele listed first, minor allele second; *Includes Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC) OncoArray data from 9,655 ER-negative cases and 45,494 controls cases and
 1189 controls not included in previously published studies; †Combined data from 21,468 ER-negative cases and 100,594 controls of European ancestry from BCAC, which includes overlapping samples
 1190 with previous publications for all SNPs; ‡Combined data from 18,908 *BRCA1* mutation carriers from the Consortium of Investigators of Modifiers of *BRCA1/2* (CIMBA), 9,414 of whom had developed
 1191 breast cancer - includes overlapping samples with previous publications for SNPs rs4577244, rs3757322, rs2747652 and rs6562760
 1192 Chr, chromosome; Ref, publication(s) in reference list in which the association was identified; MAF, minor allele frequency; OR, odds ratio per copy of the minor allele; CI, confidence interval; HR,
 1193 hazard ratio per copy of the minor allele
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1197 **Table 3: Associations for 10 novel and 10 previously reported (and replicated) ER-**
 1198 **negative breast cancer susceptibility loci, by triple-negative status**
 1199 **(BCAC data only: ER-negative cases[‡], all controls))**

Location	SNP	Triple-negative		Other ER-negative		Heterogeneity P-value*
		OR (95%CI)	P-value	OR (95%CI)	P-value	
Loci identified by the present study						
2p23.3	rs200648189	0.95 (0.90-1.00)	4.8x10 ⁻²	0.96 (0.91-1.03)	0.24	0.36
6q23.1	rs6569648	0.93 (0.89-0.97)	1.4x10 ⁻³	0.93 (0.88-0.98)	5.6x10 ⁻³	0.91
8p23.3	rs66823261	1.11 (1.05-1.16)	3.3x10 ⁻⁵	1.12 (1.07-1.19)	2.4x10 ⁻⁵	0.91
8q24.13	rs17350191	1.07 (1.03-1.11)	7.9x10 ⁻⁴	1.07 (1.02-1.12)	4.0x10 ⁻³	0.67
11q22.3	rs11374964	0.88 (0.85-0.91)	1.9x10 ⁻¹¹	0.99 (0.95-1.04)	0.75	1.5x10 ⁻⁵
11q22.3	rs74911261	0.76 (0.66-0.87)	1.1x10 ⁻⁴	0.98 (0.84-1.13)	0.76	3.0x10 ⁻²
16p13.3	rs11076805	0.91 (0.87-0.96)	1.5x10 ⁻⁴	0.95 (0.90-1.00)	4.5x10 ⁻²	0.20
18q12.1	rs36194942	0.93 (0.89-0.96)	2.4x10 ⁻⁴	0.92 (0.88-0.97)	9.9x10 ⁻⁴	0.94
19p13.2	rs322144	0.94 (0.91-0.98)	5.9x10 ⁻³	0.94 (0.90-0.98)	9.7x10 ⁻³	0.68
19q12	rs113701136	1.10 (1.06-1.15)	9.1x10 ⁻⁷	1.07 (1.02-1.12)	4.4x10 ⁻³	0.12
Previously reported loci (associations replicated by the present study)						
1q32.1	rs6678914	0.94 (0.91-0.98)	2.1x10 ⁻³	0.91 (0.87-0.95)	2.0x10 ⁻⁵	0.45
1q32.1	rs4245739	1.18 (1.13-1.23)	4.3x10 ⁻¹⁵	1.04 (1.00-1.10)	7.5x10 ⁻²	6.5x10 ⁻⁴
2p24.1	rs12710696	1.07 (1.03-1.11)	1.1x10 ⁻³	1.04 (1.00-1.09)	6.1x10 ⁻²	0.52
2p23.2	rs4577244	0.90 (0.86-0.94)	5.3x10 ⁻⁵	0.94 (0.89-0.99)	1.9x10 ⁻²	0.15
5p15.33	rs10069690	1.28 (1.23-1.33)	2.4x10 ⁻³³	1.07 (1.02-1.12)	5.4x10 ⁻³	5.6x10 ⁻⁸
6q25.1	rs3757322	1.15(1.10-1.19)	4.3x10 ⁻¹²	1.14(1.10-1.20)	4.8x10 ⁻⁹	0.35
6q25.2	rs2747652	0.93(0.89-0.96)	5.7x10 ⁻⁵	0.87(0.83-0.91)	2.9x10 ⁻¹⁰	9.6x10 ⁻³
13q22.1	rs6562760	0.94 (0.90-0.98)	2.8x10 ⁻³	0.92 (0.87-0.96)	8.8x10 ⁻⁴	0.46
16q12.2	rs11075995	1.06 (1.02-1.11)	6.5x10 ⁻³	1.08 (1.03-1.13)	3.1x10 ⁻³	0.81
19p13.11	rs67397200	1.27 (1.22-1.32)	2.0x10 ⁻³²	1.05 (1.01-1.10)	2.7x10 ⁻²	4.7x10 ⁻¹⁰

*Combined Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC) data from 6,877 triple-negative and 4,467 other ER-negative cases and 83,700 controls; [‡]ER-negative case-only analysis, by triple-negative status; OR, odds ratio per copy of the minor allele; CI, confidence interval

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Table 4: Associations for 10 novel and 10 previously reported (and replicated) ER-negative breast cancer susceptibility loci, by grade (BCAC data only: ER-negative cases*, all controls)

Location	SNP	Grade 1		Grade 2		Grade 3		Heterogeneity
		OR (95%CI)	P-value	OR (95%CI)	P-value	OR (95%CI)	P-value	P-value*
Loci identified by the present study								
2p23.3	rs200648189	1.11 (0.92-1.33)	0.28	0.95 (0.88-1.03)	0.23	0.96 (0.91-1.00)	6.8x10 ⁻²	0.70
6q23.1	rs6569648	0.93 (0.79-1.09)	0.37	0.93 (0.87-0.99)	1.6x10 ⁻²	0.94 (0.91-0.98)	3.8x10 ⁻³	0.34
8p23.3	rs66823261	1.13 (0.96-1.34)	0.14	1.12 (1.04-1.19)	1.2x10 ⁻³	1.10 (1.05-1.15)	1.3x10 ⁻⁵	0.11
8q24.13	rs17350191	1.16 (1.01-1.34)	3.0x10 ⁻²	1.05 (0.99-1.11)	0.10	1.09 (1.05-1.12)	4.1x10 ⁻⁶	0.94
11q22.3	rs11374964	0.91 (0.79-1.04)	0.16	0.99 (0.94-1.05)	0.85	0.93 (0.90-0.96)	1.3x10 ⁻⁵	3.0x10 ⁻²
11q22.3	rs74911261	1.22 (0.81-1.84)	0.35	0.89 (0.73-1.07)	0.21	0.74 (0.65-0.85)	7.4x10 ⁻⁶	6.7x10 ⁻⁴
16p13.3	rs11076805	0.90 (0.76-1.06)	0.21	0.93 (0.87-0.99)	3.2x10 ⁻²	0.92 (0.88-0.95)	4.5x10 ⁻⁵	0.71
18q12.1	rs36194942	0.97 (0.84-1.13)	0.73	0.93 (0.88-0.99)	2.2x10 ⁻²	0.96 (0.92-0.99)	2.3x10 ⁻²	0.98
19p13.2	rs322144	0.94 (0.81-1.08)	0.38	0.95 (0.90-1.01)	0.11	0.96 (0.93-1.00)	6.4x10 ⁻²	0.48
19q12	rs113701136	1.02 (0.89-1.18)	0.77	1.06 (1.01-1.13)	3.0x10 ⁻²	1.10 (1.06-1.14)	2.5x10 ⁻⁷	0.12
Previously reported loci (associations replicated by the present study)								
1q32.1	rs6678914	0.95 (0.83-1.09)	0.46	0.90 (0.85-0.95)	9.3x10 ⁻⁵	0.92 (0.89-0.95)	1.2x10 ⁻⁶	0.75
1q32.1	rs4245739	1.02 (0.88-1.19)	0.75	1.05 (0.99-1.12)	8.7x10 ⁻²	1.18 (1.14-1.22)	2.5x10 ⁻¹⁸	4.3x10 ⁻⁵
2p24.1	rs12710696	1.08 (0.94-1.23)	0.28	1.10 (1.04-1.16)	9.6x10 ⁻⁴	1.04 (1.01-1.08)	1.6x10 ⁻²	0.28
2p23.2	rs4577244	1.02 (0.88-1.20)	0.77	0.95 (0.89-1.01)	9.4x10 ⁻²	0.90 (0.86-0.93)	1.2x10 ⁻⁷	4.0x10 ⁻²
5p15.33	rs10069690	0.96 (0.83-1.12)	0.64	1.07 (1.01-1.14)	2.2x10 ⁻²	1.21 (1.17-1.26)	1.5x10 ⁻²⁴	7.3x10 ⁻⁴
6q25.1	rs3757322	1.16 (1.01-1.34)	0.04	1.13 (1.07-1.20)	7.5x10 ⁻⁶	1.18 (1.14-1.22)	4.5x10 ⁻²⁰	0.16
6q25.2	rs2747652	0.86 (0.75-0.98)	0.02	0.92 (0.87-0.97)	1.9x10 ⁻³	0.90 (0.87-0.93)	1.6x10 ⁻⁹	0.61
13q22.1	rs6562760	0.98 (0.84-1.15)	0.82	0.92 (0.87-0.98)	1.4x10 ⁻²	0.91 (0.88-0.95)	1.2x10 ⁻⁵	0.52
16q12.2	rs11075995	1.16 (1.00-1.35)	4.7x10 ⁻²	1.09 (1.02-1.15)	7.5x10 ⁻³	1.08 (1.04-1.13)	5.2x10 ⁻²⁸	0.42
19p13.11	rs67397200	1.01 (0.87-1.16)	0.91	1.08 (1.02-1.14)	9.8x10 ⁻³	1.22 (1.18-1.26)	5.3x10 ⁻³⁷	1.3x10 ⁻³

*Combined Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC) data from 492 grade 1, 3,243 grade 2 and 8,568 grade 3 cases and 82,347 controls; * ER-negative case-only analysis of BCAC data, by grade (trend test, 1df); OR, odds ratio per copy of the minor allele; CI, confidence interval

1209
1210
1211

1212 **Online Methods**

1213

1214 Study subjects

1215 Supplementary Table 1 summarises the studies from the Breast Cancer Association
1216 Consortium (BCAC) that contributed data. The majority were case-control studies.
1217 Sixty-eight BCAC studies participated in the ER-negative breast cancer component
1218 of the OncoArray, contributing 9,655 cases and 45,494 controls. All studies provided
1219 core data on disease status and age at diagnosis/observation, and the majority
1220 provided information on clinico-pathological and lifestyle factors, which have been
1221 curated and incorporated into the BCAC database (version 6). Estrogen receptor
1222 status for most (~70%) cases was obtained from clinical records. After removal of
1223 overlapping participants, genotype data were also available from eight
1224 GWASs^{9,12,16,37,38} (4,480 ER-negative cases and 12,632 controls) and 40 studies
1225 previously genotyped using the Illumina iCOGS custom array²⁰ (7,333 ER-negative
1226 cases and 42,468 controls).

1227

1228 A total of 21,468 ER-negative cases were included in the combined analyses. Of
1229 those 5,793 had tumours that were also negative for progesterone receptor (PR) and
1230 human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) and were defined as triple-
1231 negative (TN). PR and HER2 status was also obtained predominantly from clinical
1232 records. A further 4,217 were positive for PR or HER and were considered non-TN.
1233 The remainder had unknown PR or HER status. All participating studies were
1234 approved by their appropriate ethics review boards and all subjects provided
1235 informed consent.

1236

1237 Subjects included from the Consortium of Investigators of Modifiers of BRCA1/2
1238 (CIMBA) were women of European ancestry aged 18 years or older with a
1239 pathogenic variant in *BRCA1*. The majority of the participants were sampled through
1240 cancer genetics clinics. Multiple members of the same families were included in
1241 some instances. Fifty-eight studies from 24 countries contributed Oncoarray
1242 genotype data. After quality control (see below) and removal of overlapping
1243 participants with the BCAC OncoArray study, data were available on 15,566 *BRCA1*
1244 mutation carriers, of whom 7,784 were affected with breast cancer (Supplementary
1245 Table 2). We also obtained iCOGS genotype data on 3,342 *BRCA1* mutation carriers
1246 (1,630 with breast cancer) from 54 studies through CIMBA. All mutation carriers
1247 provided written informed consent and participated under ethically approved
1248 protocols.

1249

1250 OncoArray SNP selection

1251 Approximately 50% of the SNPs for the OncoArray were selected as a “GWAS
1252 backbone” (Illumina HumanCore), which aimed to provide high coverage for the
1253 majority of common variants through imputation. The remaining allocation was
1254 selected from lists supplied by each of six disease-based consortia, together with a
1255 seventh lists of SNPs of interest to multiple disease groups. Approximately 72k
1256 SNPs were selected specifically for their relevance to breast cancer, based on prior
1257 evidence of association with overall or subtype-specific disease, with breast density
1258 or with breast tissue specific gene expression. Lists were merged, as described
1259 previously³⁴.

1260

1261 Genotype calling and quality control

1262 Details of the genotype calling and quality control (QC) for the iCOGS and GWAS
1263 are described elsewhere^{19,20,23,30}, and those for OncoArray are described in the
1264 Supplementary Note.

1265

1266 Imputation

1267 Genotypes for ~21M SNPs were imputed for all samples using the October 2014
1268 (Phase 3) release of the 1000 Genomes Project data as the reference panel and
1269 Nhap=800. The iCOGS, OncoArray and six of the GWAS datasets were imputed
1270 using a two-stage imputation approach, using SHAPEIT⁷³ for phasing and
1271 IMPUTEv2⁷⁴ for imputation. The imputation was performed in 5Mb non-overlapping
1272 intervals. All subjects were split into subsets of ~10,000 samples, with subjects from
1273 the same grouped in the subset. The Breast and Prostate Cancer Cohort Consortium
1274 (BPC3) and Breast Cancer Family Registry (BCFR) GWAS performed the imputation
1275 separately using MACH and Minimac^{75,76}. We imputed genotypes for all SNPs that
1276 were polymorphic (MAF>0.1%) in either European or Asian samples. For the BCAC
1277 GWAS, data were included in the analysis for all SNPs with MAF>0.01 and
1278 imputation $r^2>0.3$. For iCOGS and OncoArray we included data for all SNPs with
1279 imputation $r^2>0.3$ and MAF>0.005.

1280

1281 Statistical analyses of BCAC data

1282 Per-allele odds ratios and standard errors were generated for the Oncoarray, iCOGS
1283 and each GWAS, adjusting for principal components using logistic regression. The
1284 Oncoarray and iCOGS analyses were additionally adjusted for country and study,
1285 respectively. For the OncoArray dataset, principal components analysis was
1286 performed using data for 33,661 SNPs (which included the 2,318 markers of
1287 continental ancestry) with a MAF \geq 0.05 and maximum correlation of 0.1, using
1288 purpose-written software to allow standard calculations to be performed sufficiently
1289 rapidly on a very large dataset (<http://ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/software/pccalc/>). We
1290 used the first 10 principal components, as additional components did not further
1291 reduce inflation in the test statistics. We used nine principal components for the
1292 iCOGS and up to 10 principal components for the other GWAS, where this was
1293 found to reduce inflation.

1294

1295 OR estimates were derived using MACH for the BCFR GWAS, ProbABEL⁷⁷ for the
1296 BPC3 GWAS, SNPTTEST
1297 (https://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/genetics_software/snptest/snptest.html) for the
1298 remaining GWAS and purpose written software for the iCOGS and Oncoarray
1299 datasets. OR estimates and standard errors were combined by a fixed effects
1300 inverse variance meta-analysis using METAL³⁹. This was first done across the eight
1301 GWAS, applying genomic control, as described previously²⁰. It was then applied
1302 (without genomic control) to combine findings from the three BCAC genotyping
1303 initiatives (GWAS, iCOGS, OncoArray).

1304

1305 The independence of signals from two variants at 11q22.3 was by fitting the logistic
1306 regression models described above with both variants as covariates. This was done
1307 separately for iCOGS and OncoArray data and results for each variant combined by
1308 meta-analysis.

1309

1310 For selected SNPs we estimated per-allele ORs by ER-status using all available
1311 BCAC data for 82,263 cases with known ER status and 87,962 controls from the

1312 iCOGS and OncoArray studies. We also estimated the per-allele ORs by TN status
1313 (TN versus other ER-negative subtypes) and tumour grade, using available BCAC
1314 data for ER-negative cases and corresponding controls. Tests for heterogeneity by
1315 subtype were derived by applying logistic regression to cases only. This was done
1316 separately for the iCOGS and Oncoarray datasets, adjusted as before, and then
1317 combined in a fixed-effects meta-analysis. Multinomial regression was applied to
1318 cases only to test a linear trend for grade, with the model constrained so that the
1319 difference between grade 1 and 3 was double that for the difference between grade
1320 2 and 3; this method was also used to test for a linear trend with age with ordinal
1321 values 1, 2, 3 and 4 representing ages <40, 40-49, 50-59 and ≥60, respectively.
1322

1323 Statistical analyses of CIMBA data

1324 Associations between genotypes and breast cancer risk for *BRCA1* mutation carriers
1325 were evaluated using a 1df per allele trend-test (*P*-trend), based on modeling the
1326 retrospective likelihood of the observed genotypes conditional on breast cancer
1327 phenotypes³⁶. This was done separately for iCOGS and OncoArray data. To allow
1328 for the non-independence among related individuals, an adjusted test statistic was
1329 used which took into account the correlation in genotypes³. All analyses were
1330 stratified by country of residence and, for countries where strata were sufficiently
1331 large (USA and Canada), by Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry. The results from the
1332 iCOGS and OncoArray datasets were then pooled using fixed effects meta-analysis.
1333 We repeated these analyses modelling ovarian cancer as a competing risk and
1334 observed no substantial difference in the results obtained.
1335

1336 The independence of signals from two variants at 11q22.3 was assessed using
1337 OncoArray data only, fitting a Cox regression model with per-allele effects for both
1338 variants, adjusting for birth cohort, stratified by country of residence and using robust
1339 standard errors and clustered observations for relatives. This approach provides
1340 valid significance tests of associations, although the HR estimates can be biased³⁵.
1341

1342 Meta-analysis of BCAC and CIMBA

1343 A fixed effects meta-analysis of results from BCAC and CIMBA was conducted using
1344 an inverse variance approach assuming fixed effects, as implemented in METAL³⁹.
1345 The effect estimates used were the logarithm of the per-allele hazard ratio (HR)
1346 estimate for the association with breast cancer risk in *BRCA1* mutation carriers from
1347 CIMBA and the logarithm of the per-allele OR estimate for the association with risk of
1348 ER-negative breast cancer based on BCAC data, both of which were assumed to
1349 approximate the same relative risk. We assessed genomic inflation using common
1350 (MAF>1%) GWAS backbone variants. As lambda is influenced by sample size, we
1351 calculated lambda1000 to be comparable with other studies.
1352

1353 All statistical tests conducted were two-sided.
1354

1355 Definition of known hits

1356 We identified all associations previously reported from genome-wide or candidate
1357 analysis at a significance level $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ for overall breast cancer, ER-negative or
1358 ER-positive breast cancer, in *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* carriers, or in meta-analyses of
1359 these categories. We included only one SNP in any 500kb interval, unless joint
1360 analysis provided genome-wide significant evidence (conditional $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) of more
1361 than one independent signal. Where multiple studies reported associations in the

1362 same region, we considered the first reported association unless a later study
1363 identified a different variant in the same region that was more strongly associated
1364 with breast cancer risk. One hundred and seven previously reported hits were
1365 identified, 11 of these through GWAS of ER-negative disease or of breast cancer in
1366 *BRCA1* mutation carriers, or reported as more strongly associated with ER-negative
1367 breast cancer. These are listed in Table 2. The other 96 previously reported hits are
1368 listed in Supplementary Table 10.

1369

1370 Definition of new hits

1371 To search for novel loci, we assessed all SNPs excluding those within 500kb of a
1372 known hit. This identified 206 SNPs in nine regions that were associated with
1373 disease risk at $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ in the meta-analysis of BCAC ER-negative breast cancer
1374 and CIMBA *BRCA1* mutation carriers. The SNP with lowest p-value from this
1375 analysis was considered the lead SNP. No additional loci were detected from the
1376 analysis of BCAC data only. Imputation quality, as assessed by the IMPUTE2
1377 imputation r^2 in the Oncoarray dataset, was ≥ 0.89 for the 10 lead SNPs reported
1378 (Supplementary Table 3).

1379

1380 Candidate causal SNPs

1381 To define the set of potentially causal variants at each of the novel susceptibility loci,
1382 we selected all variants with p-values within two orders of magnitude of the most
1383 significant SNP at each of the 10 novel loci. This is approximately equivalent to
1384 selecting variants whose posterior probability of causality is within two orders of
1385 magnitude of the most significant SNP^{40,41}. This approach was applied to identify
1386 potentially causal variants for the signal given by the more frequent lead SNP at
1387 11q22.3 (rs11374964). A similar approach was applied for the rarer lead SNP at this
1388 locus (rs74911261), but based on p-values from analyses adjusted for rs11374964.

1389

1390 Proportion of familial risk explained

1391 The relative risk of ER-negative breast cancer for the first degree female relative of a
1392 woman with ER-negative disease has not been estimated. We therefore assumed
1393 that the 2-fold risk observed for overall disease also applied to ER-negative disease.
1394 In order to estimate the proportion of this explained by the 125 variants associated
1395 with ER-negative disease, we used minor allele frequency and OR estimates from
1396 the OncoArray-based genotype data and applied the formula:

1397 $\sum_i p_i(1 - p_i)(\beta_i^2 - \tau_i^2) / \ln(\lambda)$, where p_i is the minor allele frequency for variant i , β_i is
1398 the log(OR) estimate for variant i , τ_i is the standard error of β_i and $\lambda=2$ is the
1399 assumed overall familial relative risk.

1400

1401 The corresponding estimate for the FRR due to all variants is the *frailty scale*
1402 heritability, defined as $h_f^2 = \sum_i 2p_i(1 - p_i)\gamma_i^2$, where the sum over all variants and γ_i
1403 is the true relative risk conferred by variant i , assuming a log-additive model. We first
1404 obtained the estimated heritability based on the full set of summary estimates using
1405 LD Score Regression⁶⁸, which derives a heritability estimate on the observed scale.
1406 We then converted this to an estimate on the frailty scale using the formula $h_f^2 =$

1407 $h_{obs}^2 / P(1 - P)$, where P is the proportion of samples in the population that are cases.

1408

1409 Proportion of polygenic risk-modifying variance explained for *BRCA1* carriers.

1410 The proportion of the variance in the polygenic frailty modifying risk in BRCA1
1411 carriers explained by the set of associated SNPs was estimated by $\sum_i \ln c_i / \sigma^2$, where
1412 c_i is the squared estimated coefficient of variation in incidences associated with
1413 SNP_{*i*}⁷⁸ and σ^2 is the total polygenic variance, estimated from segregation data⁷⁹.

1414

1415 *In Silico* Annotation of Candidate Causal variants

1416 We combined multiple sources of *in silico* functional annotation from public
1417 databases to help identify potential functional SNPs and target genes, based on
1418 previous observations that breast cancer susceptibility alleles are enriched in *cis*-
1419 regulatory elements and alter transcriptional activity^{28,80-82}. The influence of
1420 candidate causal variants on transcription factor binding sites was determined
1421 using the ENCODE-Motifs resource⁴³. To investigate functional elements enriched
1422 across the region encompassing the strongest candidate causal SNPs, we
1423 analysed chromatin biofeatures data from the Encyclopedia of DNA Elements
1424 (ENCODE) Project⁴², Roadmap Epigenomics Projects⁴⁴ and other data obtained
1425 through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Gene Expression
1426 Omnibus (GEO) namely: Chromatin State Segmentation by Hidden Markov Models
1427 (chromHMM), DNase I hypersensitive and histone modifications of epigenetic
1428 markers H3K4, H3K9, and H3K27 in Human Mammary Epithelial (HMEC) and
1429 myoepithelial (MYO) cells, T47D and MCF7 breast cancer cells and transcription
1430 factor ChIP-seq in a range of breast cell lines (Supplementary Table 6). To identify
1431 the SNPs most likely to be functional we used RegulomeDB⁴⁵, and to identify
1432 putative target genes, we examined potential functional chromatin interactions
1433 between distal and proximal regulatory transcription-factor binding sites and the
1434 promoters at the risk regions, using Hi-C data generated in HMECs⁴⁷ and
1435 Chromatin Interaction Analysis by Paired End Tag (ChiA-PET) in MCF7 cells. This
1436 detects genome-wide interactions brought about by, or associated with, CCCTC-
1437 binding factor (CTCF), DNA polymerase II (POL2), and Estrogen Receptor (ER), all
1438 involved in transcriptional regulation⁴⁷. Annotation of putative *cis*-regulatory regions
1439 and predicted target genes used the Integrated Method for Predicting Enhancer
1440 Targets (IM-PET)⁴⁶, the “Predicting Specific Tissue Interactions of Genes and
1441 Enhancers” (PreSTIGE) algorithm⁴⁸, Hnisz⁵¹ and FANTOM⁴⁹. Intersections
1442 between candidate causal variants and regulatory elements were identified using
1443 Galaxy, BedTools v2.24 and HaploReg v4.1, and visualised in the UCSC Genome
1444 Browser. Publically available eQTL databases including Gene-Tissue Expression
1445 (GTEx,⁵⁰ version 6, multiple tissues) and Westra⁵² (blood), were queried for
1446 candidate causal variants.

1447

1448 eQTL analyses

1449 Expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) analyses were performed using data from
1450 The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) and Molecular Taxonomy of Breast Cancer
1451 International Consortium (METABRIC) projects^{59,60}.

1452

1453 The TCGA eQTL analysis was based on 79 ER-negative breast tumors that had
1454 matched gene expression, copy number, and methylation profiles together with the
1455 corresponding germline genotypes available. All 79 individuals were of European
1456 ancestry as ascertained using the genotype data and the Local Ancestry in admixed
1457 Populations (LAMP) software package (LAMP estimate cut-off >95% European)⁸³.
1458 Germline genotypes were imputed into the 1000 Genomes reference panel (October
1459 2014 release) using IMPUTE2^{75,84}. Gene expression had been measured on the

1460 Illumina HiSeq 2000 RNA-Seq platform (gene-level RSEM normalized counts⁸⁵),
1461 copy number estimates were derived from the Affymetrix SNP 6.0 (somatic copy
1462 number alteration minus germline copy number variation called using the GISTIC2
1463 algorithm⁸⁶), and methylation beta values measured on the Illumina Infinium
1464 HumanMethylation450, as previously described⁵⁹. Primary TCGA eQTL analysis
1465 focused on all potentially causal variants in the 10 new regions associated with
1466 breast cancer risk in the meta-analysis of ER-negative cases and controls from
1467 BCAC and *BRCA1* mutation carriers from CIMBA. We considered all genes located
1468 up to 1 Mb on either side of each of these variants. The effects of tumor copy
1469 number and methylation on gene expression were first removed using a method
1470 described previously⁵⁸, and eQTL analysis was performed by linear regression as
1471 implemented in the R package Matrix eQTL⁸⁷.

1472
1473 The METABRIC eQTL analysis was based on 135 normal breast tissue samples
1474 resected from breast cancer patients of European ancestry. Germline genotyping for
1475 the METABRIC study was also done on the Affymetrix SNP 6.0, and ancestry
1476 estimation and imputation for this data set was conducted as described for TCGA.
1477 Gene expression in the METABRIC study had been measured using the Illumina
1478 HT12 microarray platform and we used probe-level estimates. As for TCGA, we
1479 considered all genes in 10 regions using Matrix eQTL.

1480
1481 We also performed additional eQTL analyses using the METABRIC data set for all
1482 variants within 1 Mb of *L3MBTL3* and *CDH2* and the expression of these specific
1483 genes.

1484 Global Genomic Enrichment Analyses

1485 We performed stratified LD score regression analyses⁶⁸ for ER- breast cancer using
1486 the summary statistics based on the meta-analyses of OncoArray, GWAS, iCOGS
1487 and CIMBA. We used all SNPs in the 1000 Genomes Project phase 1 v3 release
1488 that had a minor allele frequency > 1% and an imputation quality score $R^2 > 0.3$ in the
1489 OncoArray data. LD scores were calculated using the 1000 Genomes Project Phase
1490 1 v3 EUR panel. Further details are provided in the Supplementary Note.

1491
1492
1493 We tested the differences in functional enrichment between ER-positive and ER-
1494 negative subsets for individual features through a Wald test, using the regression
1495 coefficients and standard errors for the two subsets based on the models described
1496 above. Finally, we assessed the heritability due to genotyped and imputed SNPs⁷⁰
1497 and estimated the genetic correlation between ER-positive and ER-negative breast
1498 cancer⁶⁹. The genetic correlation analysis was restricted to the ~1M SNPs included
1499 in HapMap 3.

1500

1501

1502 Pathway Enrichment Analyses (see also the Supplementary Note)

1503 The pathway gene set database

1504 Human_GOBP_AllPathways_no_GO_iea_January_19_2016_symbol.gmt

1505 (<http://baderlab.org/GeneSets>)⁶¹, was used for all analyses. Pathway size was

1506 determined by the total number of genes in the pathway to which SNPs in the

1507 imputed GWAS dataset could be mapped. To provide more biologically meaningful

1508 results, and reduce false positives, only pathways that contained between 10 and

1509 200 genes were considered.

1510
1511 SNPs were mapped to the nearest gene within 500kb; those that were further than
1512 500 kb away from any gene were excluded. Gene significance was calculated by
1513 assigning the lowest p-value observed across all SNPs assigned to a gene^{63,64},
1514 based on the meta-analysis of BCAC and CIMBA data described above.

1515
1516 The gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA)⁶¹ algorithm, as implemented in the
1517 GenGen package (<http://gengen.openbioinformatics.org/en/latest/>)^{62,63} was used to
1518 perform pathway analysis. Briefly, the algorithm calculates an enrichment score (ES)
1519 for each pathway based on a weighted Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic⁶². Pathways
1520 that have most of their genes at the top of the ranked list of genes obtain higher ES
1521 values.

1522
1523 We defined an ES threshold ($ES \geq 0.41$) to yield a true-positive rate (TPR) of 0.20 and
1524 a false-positive rate (FPR) of 0.14, with true-positive pathways defined as those
1525 observed with false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.05 in a prior analysis carried out using
1526 the analytic approach defined above applied to iCOGS data for ER-negative disease.

1527
1528 To visualize the pathway enrichment analysis results, an enrichment map was
1529 created using the Enrichment Map (EM) v 2.1.0 app⁶¹ in Cytoscape v3.30⁸⁸,
1530 applying an edge-weighted force directed layout. To measure the contribution of
1531 each gene to enriched pathways and annotate the map, we reran the pathway
1532 enrichment analysis multiple times, each time excluding one gene. A gene was
1533 considered to drive the enrichment if the ES dropped to zero or less (pathway
1534 enrichment driver) after it was excluded. Pathways were grouped in the map if they
1535 shared >70% of their genes or their enrichment was driven by a shared gene.

1536

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