

HARVARD
School of Public Health

Genetic determinants of caffeine intake: instrumental variables or effect modifiers?

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Background & Significance

- Caffeine is the most widely consumed stimulant in the world
- Widely available and socially acceptable
- In North American and European countries >75% of caffeine consumed by adults daily comes from coffee

heterocyclic amines

pyrolys

furans

caffeine



melanoidins

cafestol &
kahweol

chlorogenic acid

Background & Significance

Coffee, caffeine and health

➤ Very strong evidence

↓ risk of Parkinson's: caffeine

➤ Strong evidence

↓ risk of type 2 diabetes

↓ risk of Alzheimer's

➤ *Pending*

CHD

stroke

bone health

hypertension

cancers

suicide

depression

obesity

reproductive health

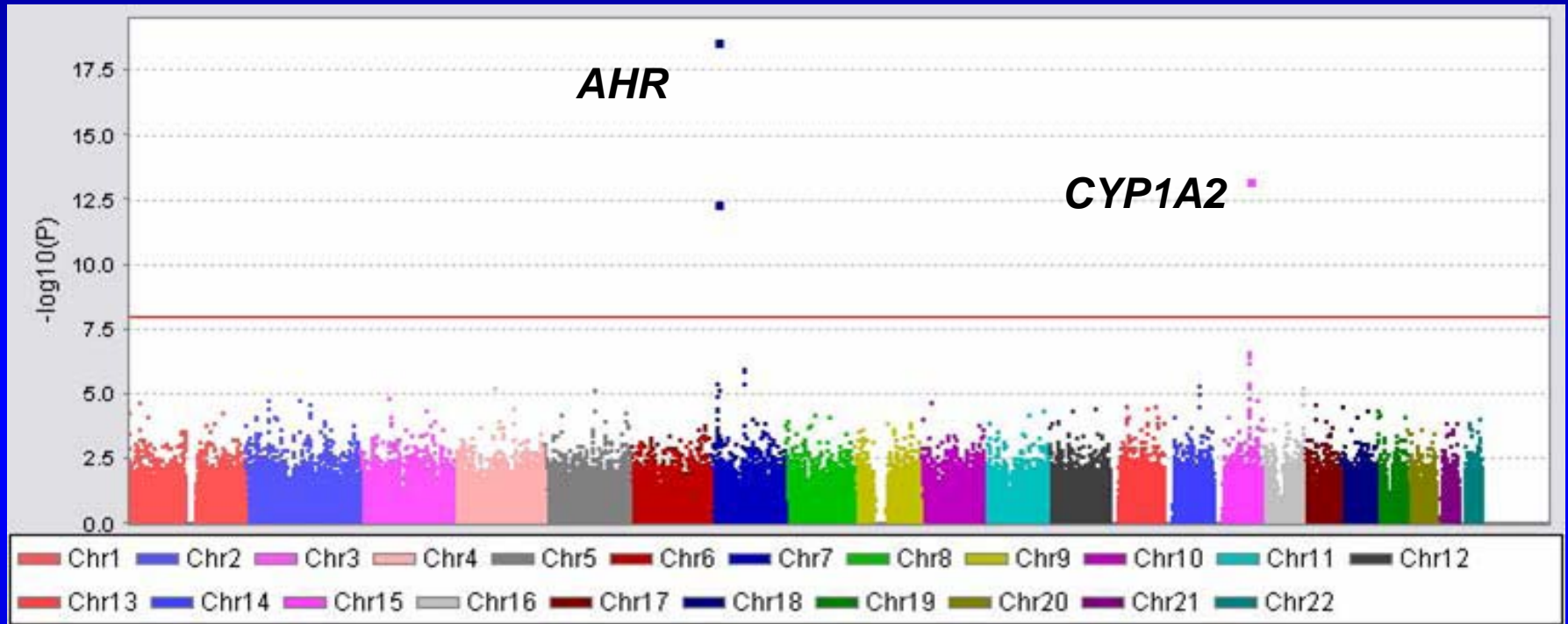
Factors associated with coffee / caffeine intake

- **psychological effects (+ / -)**
- smoking
- taste preferences
- personality
- demographics
- current health
- medication
- pregnancy
- other lifestyle factors

Heritability for caffeine use: 43-58%

Caffeine GWAS: Meta-analysis

semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaires



Total N: 47, 341

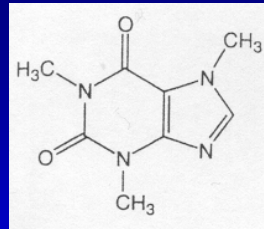
Men and Women

50-60 years

European Ancestry

Cornelis *et al*, PLoS Genet, 2011

Caffeine

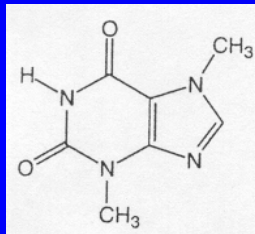


rs2470893 TT : ~38 mg more than CC

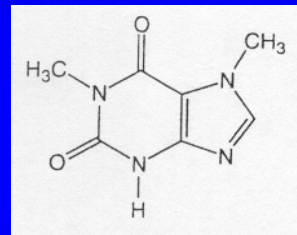
CYP1A2

CYP1A2

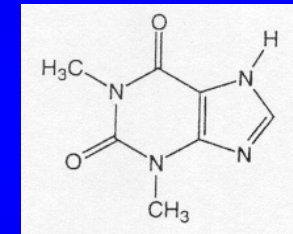
CYP1A2



Theobromine



Paraxanthine



Theophylline

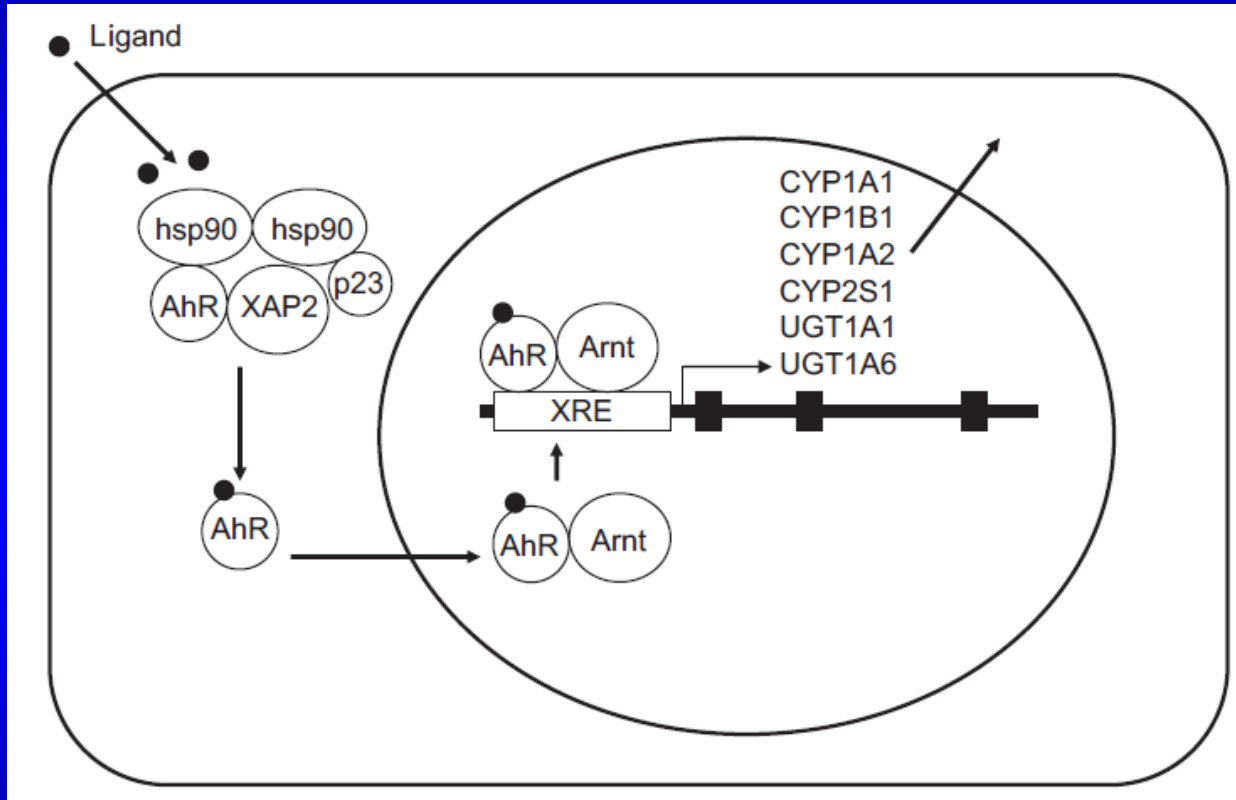
1,7-dimethyluric acid

1-methylxanthine

5-acetylamino-6-formylamino-3-methyluracil

1-methyluric acid

AHR



rs4410790 : CC consumes ~44 mg/d more than TT

NEW: GWAS of caffeinated coffee intake Stage 1

WGHS ♦

ARIC

PLCO ♦

NHS ♦

HPFS ♦

Health ABC

CHS

inCHIANTI

THISEAS

TwinGene

DNBC

MESA

FamHS

Framingham ♦

Rotterdam 1

Rotterdam 2

Fenland ♦

EPIC

B58C

HBCS

SHIP

KORA3

KORA4

EGCUT

Colaus

NTR

NFBC66

Good

Busselton

ERF

SORBS

Caffeinated coffee:

cups/d: $N \leq 91,000$

extreme: $N \leq 47,000$

Stage 1

Caffeinated Coffee (cups/d)

CHR	GENE	EA	EAF	cups/d 'drinkers'		High vs Low
				β	P	P
7	<i>AHR</i>	C	0.63	0.14	1.5e-57	1.8e-37
15	<i>CYP1A2</i>	T	0.24	0.15	6.5e-47	1.6e-29
7	<u><i>POR</i></u>	A	0.29	0.07	9.1e-14	4.4e-09
7	<u><i>MLXIPL</i></u>	C	0.28	0.05	7.8e-09	7.8e-06
11	<u><i>BDNF</i></u>	C	0.81	0.05	3.4e-07	4.9e-08

Human metabolic individuality in biomedical and pharmaceutical research

Table 1 | Thirty-seven loci that displayed genome-wide significance

Locus & SNP id	Metabolic trait	<i>P</i> value
AHR rs12670403	Caffeine/quininate	4.8×10^{-15}

NOTE: all fasting, no data on habitual caffeine intake

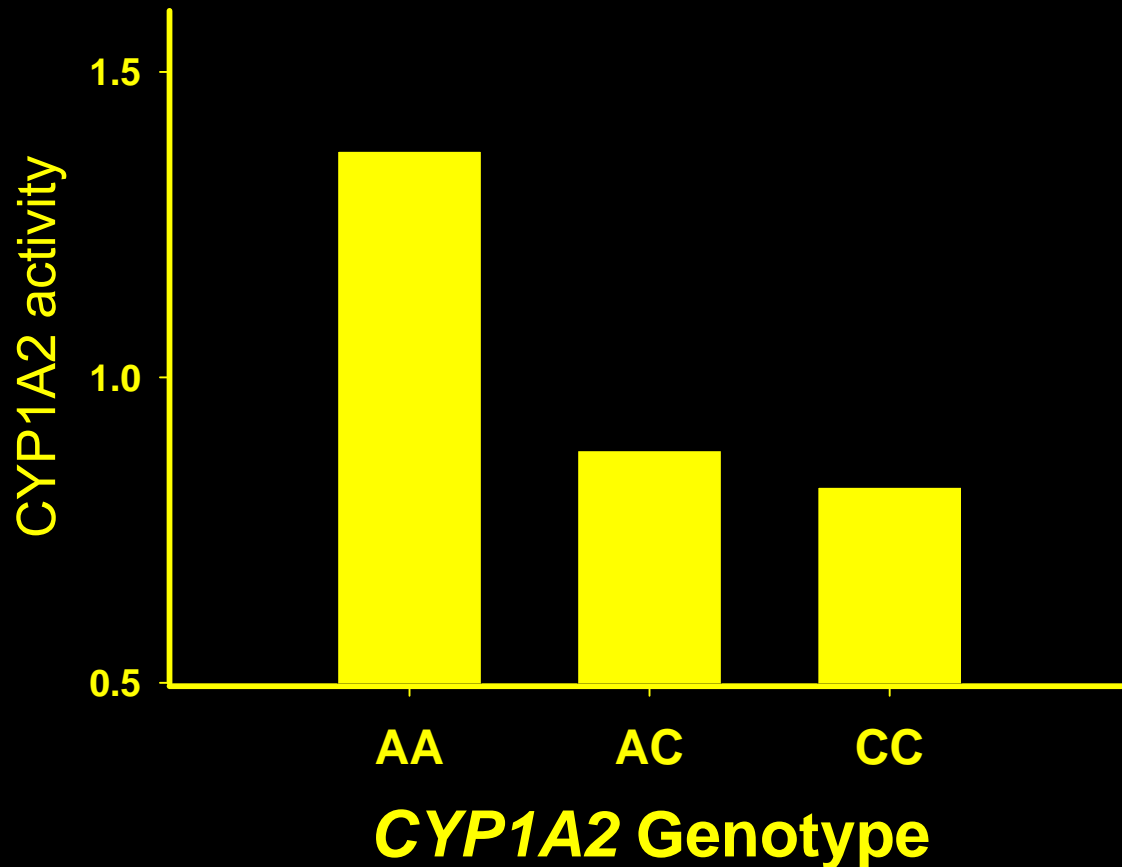
rs12670403 A: ↓ caffeine/quininate plasma levels

rs12670403 & rs4410790: $r^2=0.60$

GWAS: rs12670403 A ↑ caffeinated coffee intake ($P=3.3e-43$)

CYP1A2, rs762551

Sachse *et al*, Br J Clin Pharmacol, 1999



rs762551 & rs2472297 : $r^2=0.09$

GWAS: rs762551 A \uparrow caffeinated coffee intake ($P=5.4e-16$)

NHGRI GWAS Catalogue

➤ *AHR & POR*: no other associated phenotypes

➤ *CYP1A2*

$r^2=0.09$: ↓ blood pressure (4 GWAS)

Pleiotropy?

➤ *MLXIPL*

$r^2=0.42$ to 0.88 : ↓ TG (9 GWAS)

$r^2=0.42$: ↑ HDL (1 GWAS)

$r^2=0.49$ to 0.84 : ↓ GGT (2 GWAS)

$r^2=0.58$: ↓ Protein C (1 GWAS)

$r^2=0.40$: ↓ CRP (1 GWAS)

Confounded by
caffeine intake?

Support a causal
role of
coffee/caffeine in
these traits?

➤ *BDNF*

$r^2=1$: ↑ risk of smoking initiation (1 GWAS)

$r^2=1$: ↑ weight, ↑ BMI (1 GWAS)

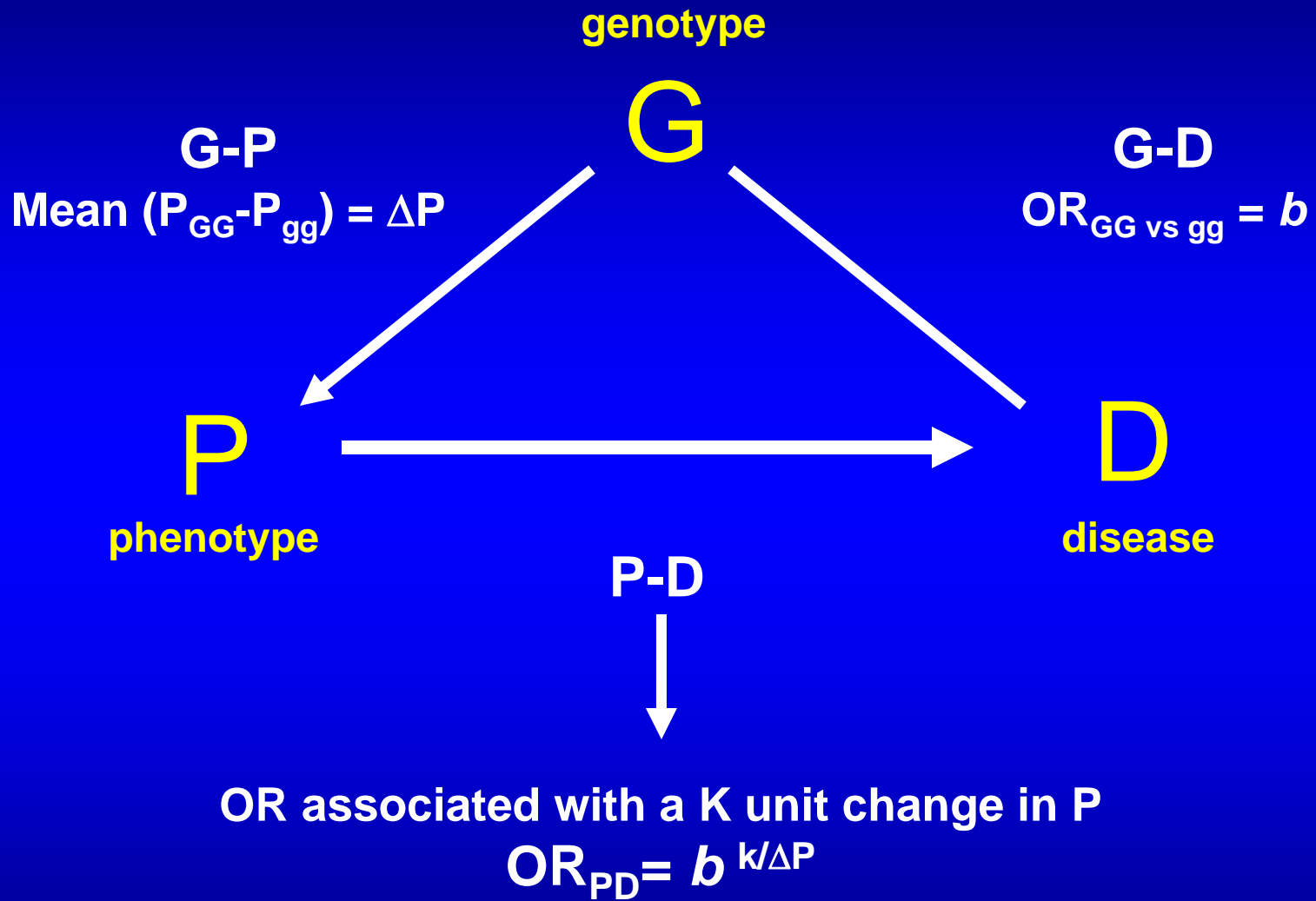
$r^2=0.08$ to 0.74 : ↑ weight, ↑ BMI , ↑ obesity (2 GWAS)

Direction of caffeine- 'consuming' allele

Caffeine Exposure and the Risk of Parkinson's Disease: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies

João Costa^{a,b,*}, Nuno Lunet^{c,d}, Catarina Santos^{c,d}, João Santos^a and António Vaz-Carneiro^a

~20% ↓ risk for each 300 mg/d



Meta-Analysis of MR studies

ideal scenario

Estimate	Study 1	Study 2	Study 3	Study 4	'Pooled'
genotype-phenotype	×	×	×	×	
genotype-disease	×	×	×	×	
phenotype-disease	×	×	×	×	×

Meta-Analysis of MR studies

realistic scenario

Estimate	Study 1	Study 2	Study 3	Study 4	'Pooled'
genotype-phenotype	×	×			×
genotype-disease			×	×	×
phenotype-disease					×

G-P: includes cases of D?

Minelli *et al*, AJE, 2004

Imputation of sequence variants for identification of genetic risks for Parkinson's disease: a meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies



*International Parkinson Disease Genomics Consortium**

Summary

Background Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) for Parkinson's disease have linked two loci (*MAPT* and *SNCA*) to risk of Parkinson's disease. We aimed to identify novel risk loci for Parkinson's disease.

Lancet 2011; 377: 641-49

Published Online
February 2, 2011

Discovery: 5,333 cases and 12,019 controls

Replication: 7,053 cases and 9,007 controls

Discussion

- We have genetic markers for caffeine intake *behavior*
genotype A consumes, on average, more caffeine than genotype B
- Genetic markers *likely* play a role in caffeine *metabolism* (*AHR*, *CYP1A2*)
- Genetic markers *might* also reflect *biological exposure* to caffeine
genotype A has, on average, lower plasma levels of caffeine than genotype B
- Are these genetic markers of *caffeine metabolism*?
IV (for causal effect of caffeine) confounded by caffeine intake behavior.
G×E studies more appropriate?

CYP1A2 rs762551

A variant: ↑ metabolism, ↑ intake

- **Breast Cancer**
 - G × E: Coffee ↓ risk only among C carriers only (Kotsopoulos, 2007)
 - G × E: Coffee ↓ AOD ↑ ER- among AA only (Bageman, 2008)
- **Ovarian Cancer**
 - Caffeine/coffee ↓ risk overall, especially among AA (Goodman, 2003)
- **Parkinson's disease**
 - Caffeine/coffee ↓ risk, *especially* among CC (Popat, 2011)
 - C carriers ↑ risk among women only (Palacios, 2010)
- **Cardiovascular Disease**
 - G × E : Coffee ↑ risk of MI among C carriers only (Cornelis, 2006)
 - G × E : Coffee ↑ risk of HTN and ↑ BP among C carriers only (Palatini, 2009)
- **Recurrent Pregnancy Loss**
 - G × E : caffeine ↑ risk among AA only (Sata, 2005)

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- Are these genetic markers of *caffeine metabolism*?
IV (for causal effect of caffeine) confounded by caffeine intake behavior.
G×E studies more appropriate?
- Are these genetic markers of coffee intake/exposure, adjusted for caffeine?
IV for testing causal effect of non-caffeine components of coffee.
re: GWAS catalogue

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GENEVA

CHARGE

International Parkinson's Disease
Genomics Consortium