UCLA

UCLA Previously Published Works

Title

Rare loss-of-function variants in SETD1A are associated with schizophrenia and developmental disorders.

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3mn1331g>

Journal

Nature neuroscience, 19(4)

ISSN

1097-6256

Authors

Singh, Tarjinder
Kurki, Mitja I
Curtis, David
et al.

Publication Date

2016-04-01

DOI

10.1038/nn.4267

Peer reviewed

Rare loss-of-function variants in *SETD1A* are associated with schizophrenia and developmental disorders

Tarjinder Singh¹, Mitja I Kurki^{2,3}, David Curtis⁴, Shaun M Purcell⁵, Lucy Crooks^{1,6}, Jeremy McRae¹, Jaana Suvisaari⁷, Himanshu Chheda², Douglas Blackwood⁸, Jerome Breen^{9,10}, Olli Pietiläinen^{1,2,7}, Sebastian S Gerety¹, Muhammad Ayub¹¹, Moira Blyth¹², Trevor Cole¹³, David Collier^{14,15}, Eve L Coomber¹, Nick Craddock¹⁶, Mark J Daly^{3,17}, John Danesh^{1,18,19}, Marta DiForti⁹, Alison Foster²⁰, Nelson B Freimer²¹, Daniel Geschwind²², Mandy Johnstone⁸, Shelagh Joss²³, Georg Kirov¹⁶, Jarmo Kõrkkö²⁴, Outi Kuismin²⁵, Peter Holmans¹⁶, Christina M Hultman²⁶, Conrad Iyegbe⁹, Jouko Lönnqvist⁷, Minna Männikkö²⁷, Steve A McCarroll^{17,28}, Peter McGuffin⁹, Andrew M McIntosh⁸, Andrew McQuillin²⁹, Jukka S Moilanen²⁵, Carmel Moore^{18,19}, Robin M Murray^{9,10}, Ruth Newbury-Ecob³⁰, Willem Ouwehand^{1,18,31,32}, Tiina Paunio^{33,34}, Elena Prigmore¹, Elliott Rees¹⁶, David Roberts^{18,35,36}, Jennifer Sambrook^{19,31}, Pamela Sklar⁵, David St Clair³⁷, Juha Veijola³⁸, James T R Walters¹⁶, Hywel Williams¹⁶, Swedish Schizophrenia Study³⁹, INTERVAL Study³⁹, DDD Study³⁹, UK10K Consortium³⁹, Patrick F Sullivan^{26,40,41}, Matthew E Hurles¹, Michael C O'Donovan¹⁶, Aarno Palotie¹⁻³, Michael J Owen¹ & Jeffrey C Barrett¹

By analyzing the whole-exome sequences of 4,264 schizophrenia cases, 9,343 controls and 1,077 trios, we identified a genome-wide significant association between rare loss-of-function (LoF) variants in *SETD1A* and risk for schizophrenia ($P = 3.3 \times 10^{-9}$). We found only two heterozygous LoF variants in 45,376 exomes from individuals without a neuropsychiatric diagnosis, indicating that *SETD1A* is substantially depleted of LoF variants in the general population. Seven of the ten individuals with schizophrenia carrying *SETD1A* LoF variants also had learning difficulties. We further identified four *SETD1A* LoF carriers among 4,281 children with severe developmental disorders and two more carriers in an independent sample of 5,720 Finnish exomes, both with notable neuropsychiatric phenotypes. Together, our observations indicate that LoF variants in *SETD1A* cause a range of neurodevelopmental disorders, including schizophrenia. Combining these data with previous common variant evidence, we suggest that epigenetic dysregulation, specifically in the histone H3K4 methylation pathway, is an important mechanism in the pathogenesis of schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia is a common, debilitating psychiatric disorder that is characterized by positive symptoms (hallucinations, delusions and disorganization) and negative symptoms (impaired motivation, reduced spontaneous speech and social withdrawal). It is associated with cognitive impairment, decreased social and occupational functioning, and increased mortality, with a 12–15-year reduction in lifespan^{1–3}. Schizophrenia has a lifetime risk of ~0.7% and a substantial genetic component, with a sibling recurrence risk ratio of 9.0 and an estimated heritability of up to 81% (refs. 4,5).

The genetic architecture of schizophrenia involves a combination of common, rare and *de novo* risk variants. At one end of this spectrum, a genome-wide association study of 36,989 cases identified 108 loci containing alleles of individually small effect (median odds ratio = 1.08)⁶, whereas, at the other, at least 11 rare, recurrent copy number variants (CNVs) (for example, at chromosomes 1q21.1, 15q13.3 and 22q11.2) individually confer substantial risk for schizophrenia (ORs 2–60)^{7–10}. A recent case-control exome sequencing study demonstrated a burden of rare disruptive variants across a set of

2,546 genes selected on the basis of a variety of biological hypotheses about schizophrenia risk and previous genome-wide screens, including GWAS, CNV and *de novo* mutation studies¹¹. This study did not, however, identify any individual schizophrenia risk genes at a Bonferroni P value of 1.25×10^{-6} (Online Methods). Parent-proband trio studies have sought to increase power by focusing on *de novo* mutations: the rarity of damaging events makes it possible to observe statistically significant recurrence of mutations in individual genes with smaller sample sizes than would be required in a case-control design. Three such studies in schizophrenia have found suggestive evidence for candidate genes, including *EHMT1*, *DLG2*, *TAF13* and *SETD1A*^{9,12,13}. The statistical significance of *de novo* recurrence is highly dependent on the specification of gene-specific mutation rates, which are difficult to calibrate for indels and CNVs (Online Methods). Because these genes are supported by two *de novo* events each, of which all but one (in *TAF13*) are either an indel or CNV, further evidence is needed to firmly establish these as susceptibility genes.

A full list of affiliations appears at the end of the paper.

Received 13 January; accepted 11 February; published online 14 March 2016; doi:10.1038/nn.4267

Two insights have emerged from these early results in schizophrenia. First, genetic risk loci have implicated general biological processes involved in pathogenesis, including histone methylation (common variants)¹⁴, transmission at glutamatergic synapses and translational regulation by the fragile X mental retardation protein (rare and *de novo* variants)^{11,12}. Second, studies of common and rare variation support a highly polygenic architecture involving hundreds of genes, suggesting that very large sample sizes will be required to convincingly identify individual risk genes. This polygenicity is reminiscent of other neuropsychiatric disorders, such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which required many thousands of exome sequences and the integration of *de novo* mutations with case-control burden of rare variants to identify genes at genome-wide significance^{15,16}.

RESULTS

Case-control analysis of schizophrenia exomes

We sequenced the exomes of 1,887 (1,488 UK and 399 Finnish) individuals with schizophrenia and 7,585 (5,469 UK and 2,116 Finnish) individuals without a known neuropsychiatric diagnosis. We jointly called each case set with its nationality-matched controls, but still observed substantial batch effects from the use of different exome capture reagents used at different time points in the experiment (Supplementary Fig. 1). We therefore performed careful quality control (QC) in each set to narrow our analysis to regions with high-quality data in all samples and to remove outlier samples and variants (Online Methods and Supplementary Fig. 2), leaving a total of 1,745 cases and 6,789 controls (Fig. 1). To increase power for gene discovery, we combined our data set with exome sequences of 2,519 Swedish schizophrenia cases and 2,554 controls from a previous study¹¹. The average number of coding SNPs and indels varied among these three sample sets as a result of differences in exome capture technology, QC procedures and sample ancestry, but were closely matched between cases and controls in each set (Supplementary Figs. 3–5). We restricted our analyses to rare variants, stratified by allele frequency (singletons, <0.1%, and <0.5%) and function (LoF and damaging missense variants; Online Methods). In total, this joint discovery set consisted of 357,088 damaging missense and 55,955 LoF variants called in 4,264 cases and 9,343 controls (Fig. 1).

We replicated the enrichment of rare LoF variants in the previously implicated set of 2,456 genes¹¹ in our UK and Finnish schizophrenia data sets ($P = 7 \times 10^{-4}$; Online Methods). Having confirmed that rare disruptive variants spread among many genes are associated with schizophrenia risk, we tested for an excess of disruptive variants in each of 18,271 genes in cases compared with controls (Online Methods). Despite our sample size, the per-gene statistics followed a null distribution in all tests, and we were unable to implicate any gene via case-control burden of disruptive variants (Supplementary Figs. 6 and 7).

LoF variants in *SETD1A* are associated with schizophrenia

To determine whether the integration of *de novo* mutations with case-control burden might succeed in discovering risk genes in schizophrenia, we aggregated, processed and re-annotated *de novo* mutations in 1,077 schizophrenia probands from seven published studies, and found 118 LoF and 662 missense variants^{12,13,17–21} (Supplementary Table 1). 38 genes had two or more *de novo* nonsynonymous mutations, two of which (*SETD1A* and *TAF13*) had been previously suggested as candidate schizophrenia genes^{12,13}. We found that the 754 genes with *de novo* mutations were significantly enriched in rare LoF variants in cases compared with controls from our main data set. The most significant enrichment across allele frequency thresholds and functional class was for the test of LoF

Figure 1 Study design for the schizophrenia (SCZ) exome meta-analysis. The source of sequencing data, sample sizes, variant classes and analytical methods are described. Details on case-control samples are shown on the right and parent-proband trios are described on the left.

variants with $MAF < 0.1\%$ ($P = 2.1 \times 10^{-4}$; OR 1.08, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.02–1.14), which we focused on for subsequent analysis.

Motivated by this overlap of genes with *de novo* mutations and excess case-control burden, we meta-analyzed *de novo* variants in the 1,077 published schizophrenia trios with rare LoF variants ($MAF < 0.1\%$) in 4,264 cases and 9,343 controls. We used two analytical approaches, one based on Fisher's method to combine *de novo* and case-control P values, and the other using the transmission and *de novo* association (TADA) model to integrate *de novo*, transmitted and case-control variation using a hierarchical Bayesian framework^{15,22} (Fig. 1). We focused on results that were significant in both analyses and that did not depend on the choice of parameters in TADA (Online Methods and Supplementary Fig. 8). In both methods, loss-of-function mutations in a single gene, *SETD1A*, were significantly associated with schizophrenia risk (Fisher's combined $P = 3.3 \times 10^{-9}$; Table 1). We observed three *de novo* mutations and seven case LoF variants in our discovery cohort and none in our controls (Fig. 2). In one of the seven case carriers, direct genotyping in parents confirmed that the LoF variant (c.518-2A>G) was a *de novo* event, but genotypes were not available for the other parents. We looked for additional *SETD1A* LoF variants in unpublished whole exomes from 2,435 unrelated schizophrenia cases and 3,685 controls²³, but found none (Table 1). Thus, in more than 20,000 exomes, we observed ten case and zero control LoF variants (corrected OR 35.2, 95% CI 4.5–4,528). Although the confidence intervals were wide, rare LoF variants in *SETD1A* conferred substantial risk for schizophrenia. No other gene approached genome-wide significance (Supplementary Table 2 and Supplementary Figs. 9 and 10).

Robustness of the *SETD1A* association

To validate our observation of the rarity of disruptive variants in *SETD1A* in unaffected individuals, we examined the exomes of 45,376 individuals without schizophrenia in the Exome Aggregation

Table 1 Results from statistical tests associating disruptive variants in *SETD1A* to schizophrenia and developmental disorders

Phenotype	Data set	<i>De novo</i>	Case	Control	Test	<i>P</i> value
Schizophrenia	UK10K-INTERVAL		2 of 1,353	0 of 4,769		
	UK10K Finnish		2 of 392	0 of 2,020		
	Swedish (published)		3 of 2,519	0 of 2,554		
	All case-control		7 of 4,264	0 of 9,343	Fisher's exact ^a	0.0003
	Schizophrenia parent-proband trios	3 of 1,077			Poisson exact ^b	4.6×10^{-7}
	Case-control + <i>de novo</i> (discovery)	3 of 1,077	7 of 4,264	0 of 9,343	Fisher's combined ^c	3.3×10^{-9}
	Swedish (replication)		0 of 2,435	0 of 3,685		
Other neurodevelopmental phenotypes	All schizophrenia samples	3 of 1,077	7 of 6,699	0 of 13,028	Fisher's combined ^c	5.6×10^{-9}
	DDD study	2 of 4,281	2 of 4,281	See note ^d	Fisher's combined ^c	0.003
	ASD trios	0 of 2,297				
	ID trios	0 of 151				
Combined	All samples	5 of 7,806	9 of 10,980	0 of 13,028	Fisher's combined ^c	3.2×10^{-8}

None of these tests incorporated exomes from the ExAC database. The number of *SETD1A* LoF variants and the sample size of each data set are indicated in each cell.

The statistical tests were performed as follows:

^aA one-sided burden test of case-control LoF variants using Fisher's exact test. ^bThe Poisson probability of observing *N de novo* variants in *SETD1A* given a calibrated baseline gene-specific mutation rate. ^cMeta-analysis of *de novo* and case-control burden *P* values using Fisher's combined probability test. ^dThe INTERVAL data set (*n* = 4,769) was used as matched controls.

Consortium (ExAC) database and found only 2 LoF variants²⁴, which represented a substantial depletion compared with chance expectation (Online Methods, expected value 32.5 LoF SNPs, $P = 4.4 \times 10^{-8}$). *SETD1A* is among the 3% most constrained genes in the human genome²⁴; LoF variants in *SETD1A* are almost totally absent in the general population. Four of the ten *SETD1A* carriers with schizophrenia had the same two-base deletion at the exon 16 splice acceptor (c.4582-2delAG>-), at least two of which occurred as *de novo* mutations (Fig. 2). Given that this variant underpinned the statistical significance of our observation, we investigated it further in several ways. First, to rule out sequencing artifacts, we confirmed a clean call where we had access to the raw sequencing reads (*n* = 2) and noted that both published *de novo* mutations at this position had been validated with Sanger sequencing^{13,20}. Second, our model, and therefore the test statistic that we report, is dependent on a gene-specific mutation rate (Online Methods). To address the possibility that the recurrent mutation occurs at a hypermutable site (and thus our model is not well calibrated), we determined that our observations would be exome-wide significant ($P < 1.25 \times 10^{-6}$) even if the mutation rate at this position were up to eightfold higher (5.4×10^{-5}) than the cumulative LoF rate for all other positions in *SETD1A* (6.6×10^{-6}). If the two-base deletion mutation rate were truly this high (that is, greater than 99.99% of all per-gene LoF mutation rates), we would expect to find 4.9 observations in 45,376 non-schizophrenia exomes in ExAC, but instead we observed only 1 (Fisher's exact test, $P = 0.044$). Using a minigene construct, we further found that this two-base deletion resulted in the retention of the upstream intron. This was predicted to lead to the translation of exon 15, the subsequent intron and an out-of-frame translation of exon 16 resulting in a premature stop codon (Supplementary Fig. 11 and Online Methods). Finally, if we ignored the *de novo* status of variants in our discovery and

replication data sets and used ExAC exomes as additional controls (Online Methods and Table 2), LoF variants in *SETD1A* were significantly associated with schizophrenia using a basic test of case-control burden ($P = 2.6 \times 10^{-8}$, OR 37.6, 95% CI 8.0–353). Taken together, these analyses exclude many possible artifacts and provide confidence in our conclusion that LoF variants in *SETD1A* confer substantial risk for schizophrenia.

SETD1A is associated with severe developmental disorders

All heterozygous carriers of *SETD1A* LoF variants satisfied the full diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia, including classic positive symptoms such as hallucinations, prominent disorganization and paranoid delusions (Table 3). Eight patients had evidence of chronic illness, requiring long-term psychiatric services. Notably, of the seven *SETD1A* LoF carriers for whom any information on intellectual functioning was available, one was noted to have severe learning difficulties and the other six appeared to have mild to moderate learning difficulties. Four patients were noted to have achieved developmental milestones with clinically salient delays (Table 3). We were unable to confirm whether the three Swedish carriers had any form of cognitive impairment. This is consistent with previous reports that individuals with autism or schizophrenia who have *de novo* LoF mutations have a higher rate of cognitive impairment^{12,25}.

To investigate whether *SETD1A* might be involved in other neurodevelopmental disorders, we looked for *de novo* LoF mutations in *SETD1A* in 3,581 published trios with autism, severe developmental disorders (DD) and/or intellectual disability^{15,26–28}, but found none. We next turned to an additional 3,148 children with diverse, severe, developmental disorders recruited as part of the Deciphering Developmental Disorders (DDD) study, and discovered four probands with LoF variants in *SETD1A* (Table 4). Three of these were the recurrent exon 16 splice junction indel described above (two *de novo*, one

Figure 2 The genomic position and coding consequences of 16 *SETD1A* LoF variants observed in the schizophrenia exome meta-analysis, the DDD study and the SiSu project. Variants discovered in patients with schizophrenia are plotted above the gene and those discovered in individuals with other neurodevelopmental disorders (from DDD and SiSu) are plotted below. Each variant is colored according to its mode of inheritance. All LoF variants appeared before the conserved SET domain, which is responsible for catalyzing methylation. Seven LoF variants occurred at the same two-base deletion at the exon 16 splice acceptor (c.4582-2delAG>-).

Table 2 Basic burden tests associating disruptive variants in *SETD1A* to schizophrenia and developmental disorders

Phenotype	Data set	Case	Control	Test	<i>P</i> value
Schizophrenia	All schizophrenia case-control samples (ignoring <i>de novo</i> status)	10 of 7,776	0 of 13,028		
	Non-schizophrenia ExAC exomes		2 of 45,376		
Neurodevelopmental disorders	All samples	10 of 7,776	2 of 58,404	Fisher's exact	2.6×10^{-8}
	DDD study	4 of 4,281	See note ^a	Fisher's exact	2.9×10^{-4}
	ASD trios	0 of 2,297			
	ID trios	0 of 151			
Combined	All samples	14 of 14,505	2 of 58,404	Fisher's exact	1.2×10^{-8}

De novo status of variants was ignored and non-schizophrenia exomes from the ExAC database were incorporated as controls. The number of *SETD1A* LoF variants and the sample size of each data set were indicated in each cell.

^aThe full control data set ($n = 58,404$) was used to calculate the *P* value.

maternally inherited) and the fourth was a maternally inherited frameshift insertion (Fig. 2). We validated all four LoF variants using Sanger sequencing. All four probands had developmental delay with additional phenotypes that clustered in the larger DDD study (empirical $P = 0.042$; Online Methods). A fifth proband was found to have a *de novo* 650-kb deletion that encompassed *SETD1A* as well as 29 other genes (Supplementary Fig. 12 and Online Methods). *SETD1A* did not reach exome-wide significance as a developmental disorder gene in

the DDD study alone ($P = 3.0 \times 10^{-3}$), but when we jointly analyzed all samples, the association was clear to both severe developmental disorders and schizophrenia ($P = 3.1 \times 10^{-8}$; Table 1). Because all of the DDD *SETD1A* carriers were under 12 years of age at recruitment and schizophrenia rarely manifests at this age²⁹, it remains unknown whether these individuals will develop schizophrenia.

In 5,720 unrelated Finnish individuals exome sequenced as part of the Sequencing Initiative Suomi project (Online Methods), we identified

Table 3 Phenotypes of individuals in the schizophrenia exome meta-analysis who carry LoF variants in *SETD1A*

Variant	Data set	Mode	Clinical features	Intellectual functioning
16:30970178_T/T GATG frameshift	UK10K-Finns	Case	Psychotic episodes with hallucinations and prominent disorganization, requiring psychiatric hospitalization. Chronic illness with deterioration.	Probable mild intellectual disability. Completed compulsory education, but repeated several grades.
16:30974752_A/G splice acceptor	UK10K-Finns	<i>De novo</i>	Disorganized schizophrenia with severe positive and negative symptoms with hallucinations, delusions and aggression. Chronic, severe symptoms requiring long psychiatric hospitalization. Early onset at age 10. Has mild facial dysmorphism.	Severe learning difficulties, diagnosed with minimal brain damage, abnormal EEG; mild mental retardation. Unable to complete compulsory education. Developmental delay.
16:30976334_AC/A frameshift	Takata <i>et al.</i> ¹³	<i>De novo</i>	Psychotic with persecutory delusions and thought disorder in addition to obsessional thoughts, compulsive behaviors and rituals. Persistent negative symptoms, disorganized behavior and delusional thinking. First psychotic break at age 21. As a child (age <10 years), displayed social isolation, excessive fears, inattentiveness, learning difficulties and obsessive-compulsive disorder-like rituals. Moderately deteriorating course.	Learning difficulties noted as a child. Delayed milestones. School performance declined from age 16. Worked as security officer.
16:30977140_C/G stop gained	UK10K	Case	Chronic hallucinations and delusions, partially controlled by depot medication.	Minor problems with memory or understanding. No secondary school diploma.
16:30977405_CAG/C frameshift	Swedish	Case	Two brief admissions, no record of antipsychotic treatment. No immediate family history of psychiatric disorders.	No information on intellectual functioning or educational attainment.
16:30980962_C/T stop gained	Swedish	Case	Multiple hospitalizations, with 8 years of antipsychotic medication. No immediate family history of psychiatric disorders.	No information on intellectual functioning or educational attainment.
16:30992057_CAG/C splice acceptor	UK10K	Case	Breech delivery. Epilepsy with seizures from ages 2 to 18. Socially isolated and dependent on parents till age 40, when presented with bizarre somatic delusions, paranoid delusions and auditory hallucinations including running commentary. Developed negative symptoms alongside ongoing psychotic symptoms and required long-term institutional care. Symptoms were persistent and unresponsive to antipsychotic medication.	Borderline intelligence. Attended mainstream school and left age 17 without a secondary school diploma. Worked as warehouseman.
16:30992057_CAG/C splice acceptor	Swedish	Case	Multiple hospitalizations, with 8 years of antipsychotic medication. No immediate family history of psychiatric disorders.	No information on intellectual functioning or educational attainment.
16:30992057_CAG/C splice acceptor	Takata <i>et al.</i> ¹³	<i>De novo</i>	Developed schizophrenia aged 18 with delusions, disorganized behavior, poor motivation, flattened affect and social isolation. Compulsive behaviors since 4th grade. Since first episode of psychosis, did not return to previous level of functioning.	Finished high school, but slow learner and inattentive. Delayed developmental milestones.
16:30992057_CAG/C splice acceptor	Guiponni <i>et al.</i> ²⁰	<i>De novo</i>	Undifferentiated schizophrenia.	Developmental delay.

For each individual, we provide the genomic coordinates of the variant, its mode of inheritance and the study from which each patient was first recruited. 'Clinical features' describes notable neuropsychiatric or neurodevelopmental symptoms in each individual and 'Intellectual functioning' provides information on reported cognitive phenotypes.

Table 4 Phenotypes of individuals in the DDD study and SISu project who carry LoF variants in *SETD1A*

Variant	Data set	Mode	Clinical features	Intellectual functioning
16:30977316_G/GC frameshift	DDD	Maternally inherited	Capillary hemangiomas, abnormality of the eyebrow, broad nasal tip, wide mouth, thick lower lip vermillion, short philtrum, overgrowth, renal duplication. 5.29 years old.	Delayed speech and language development.
16:30992057_CAG/C splice acceptor	DDD	Maternally inherited	Infantile axial hypotonia, delayed gross motor development, midfrontal capillary hemangioma. 0.55 years old.	Not detailed due to age
16:30992057_CAG/C splice acceptor	DDD	<i>De novo</i>	Mild global developmental delay, hypertelorism, wide nasal bridge, hydrocele testis. 3.14 years old.	Aggressive behavior, autoaggression. First words spoken between 2 to 2.5 years of age.
16:30992057_CAG/C splice acceptor	DDD	<i>De novo</i>	Global developmental delay, macrocephaly, nevus flammeus of the forehead, wide and flat nose, mandibular prognathia, hypopigmentation of the skin, wide intermammary distance, truncal obesity. Has breath-holding attacks and night terrors. 6.09 years old.	Delayed speech and language development.
16:30977411_C/T stop gained	NFID	Case	Short stature, mild facial morphology, EEG abnormalities, delusional disorder, has psychosis.	Mental retardation
16:30977473_G/GC frameshift	NFBC	Case	Epilepsy during childhood (grand mal status epilepticus), diagnosed with personality disorder.	Not detailed

For each individual, we provide the genomic coordinates of the variant, its mode of inheritance and the study from which each patient was first recruited. 'Clinical features' describes notable neuropsychiatric or neurodevelopmental symptoms in each individual and 'Intellectual functioning' provides information on reported cognitive phenotypes. NFID, Northern Finnish Intellectual Disability study; NFBC, Northern Finnish Birth Cohort.

two additional heterozygous LoF variants in *SETD1A*. One individual with a stop-gain variant was recruited as part of the Northern Finnish Intellectual Disability (NFID) cohort with a diagnosis of mental retardation, short stature, mild facial dysmorphology and EEG abnormalities (Table 4). Notably, this individual was also diagnosed with delusional disorder and unspecified psychosis at 15 years of age. The second *SETD1A* LoF carrier belonged to the Northern Finnish 1966 Birth Cohort (NFBC), a representative, geographically based population cohort. This individual had epileptic episodes at 7 years of age and was diagnosed with an unspecified personality disorder by a psychiatrist. Thus, in an additional search for *SETD1A* LoF carriers, only two were found, both in individuals affected by neuropsychiatric disorders.

De novo burden in neurodevelopmental disorders

Even though our study had an overall sample size comparable to those of recent ASD and DD studies that identified 7 ASD genes and 32 DD genes^{15,26}, we were only able to implicate a single schizophrenia gene at genome-wide significance. To investigate this further, we aggregated *de novo* mutations identified in 2,297 ASD, 1,113 DD and 566 control trios with our 1,077 schizophrenia trios and compared the rates of *de novo* events in each group relative to baseline exome-wide mutation rates (Online Methods). The rates of *de novo* mutations across damaging missense and LoF variants were significantly higher in DD than in ASD, and higher in ASD than in schizophrenia (Fig. 3). Indeed, the rate of damaging missense variants in schizophrenia was not different from baseline rates ($P = 0.45$) and only nominally higher than in controls ($P = 0.029$), and the rates of LoF variants were only slightly elevated ($P = 5.7 \times 10^{-3}$). In ASD, by contrast, missense ($P = 9.4 \times 10^{-10}$) and LoF ($P = 3.7 \times 10^{-15}$) rates were significantly greater than expectation. In developmental disorders, the rates were even higher (missense: $P = 2.5 \times 10^{-17}$; LoF: $P = 1.3 \times 10^{-31}$) (Fig. 3).

Figure 3 A comparison of genome-wide *de novo* mutation rates in probands with ASD, DD, schizophrenia (SCZ) and controls. Rates are modeled using calibrated genome-wide mutation rates. Significant excess of *de novo* mutations when compared to the baseline model, $*P < 4 \times 10^{-3}$ (Bonferroni correction for 12 tests). Nominal significance can be inferred from the error bars (95% CI). Mis15, damaging missense; Syn, synonymous; see Online Methods.

Across all genes in the genome, the rate of disruptive *de novo* variants differed markedly across these disorders. Because the recurrence of *de novo* mutations is a particularly powerful way to identify risk genes, the weak excess of *de novo* variants in schizophrenia provides at least a partial explanation for the limited success of this strategy to date in identifying genes for this disorder.

DISCUSSION

We identified an association between rare LoF variants in *SETD1A* and risk of schizophrenia and other severe neurodevelopmental phenotypes. A previous report¹³ suggested *SETD1A* as a candidate schizophrenia gene on the basis of two of the *de novo* mutations included in our analysis. Our study establishes the *SETD1A* association at a significance exceeding a Bonferroni corrected P value of 1.25×10^{-6} independent of any specification of gene mutation rate. Indeed, in keeping with observations in other neurodevelopmental disorder sequencing studies, even larger meta-analyses of schizophrenia exomes will be required to define the phenotypic spectrum of *SETD1A* LoF variant carriers, to rule other candidates in or out, and to identify new risk genes.

SETD1A, also known as *KMT2F*, encodes one of the methyltransferases that catalyze the methylation of lysine residues in histone H3.

Loss-of-function variants in at least five other genes in this family result in dominant Mendelian disorders characterized by severe developmental phenotypes, including intellectual disability³⁰. These include Wiedemann-Steiner syndrome (*KMT2A*), Kleefstra syndrome (*EHMT1*) and Kabuki syndrome (*KMT2D*) (**Supplementary Fig. 13**). Moreover, rare *de novo* LoF mutations and copy number variants in *KMT2C*, *KMT2E*, *KDM5B* and *KDM6B* have been recently associated with autism risk¹⁶. The developmental and cognitive phenotypes of *SETD1A* carriers are consistent with these other Mendelian conditions of epigenetic machinery; however, among all genes associated with developmental disorders and intellectual disability, *SETD1A* is the first shown to definitively predispose to schizophrenia, offering insights into the biological differences underlying these conditions^{26,31}. As with other risk genes for severe neurodevelopmental phenotypes, it is possible that an allelic series of LoF variants exists in *SETD1A*, where different variants increase risk for different clinical features. However, seven of the 16 LoF variant carriers (**Fig. 2**) have the same two base deletion at the splice acceptor of exon-16 (c.4582-2delAG>-): four in individuals with schizophrenia and three in individuals diagnosed with other developmental disorders. Thus, the same variant is associated with both schizophrenia and developmental disorders.

Detailed phenotypes from the DDD and SiSu studies suggest that *SETD1A* carriers may have distinctive features, including delayed speech and language development, epilepsy, personality disorder and facial dysmorphism (**Table 4**). Although cognitive and developmental phenotypes in our schizophrenia patients were sparser, four individuals had delayed developmental milestones, one was noted as having mild facial dysmorphism and minimal brain damage and another had epileptic seizures during childhood (**Table 3**). However, impairment of cognitive function is now generally regarded, along with positive and negative symptoms, as an integral feature of schizophrenia rather than a co-morbidity, and our study, as designed, cannot address whether variants in *SETD1A* are specifically associated with the cognitive features of the disorder. Indeed, it would require a re-sequencing study with detailed cognitive measurements on tens of thousands of patients (Online Methods and **Supplementary Fig. 14**) to decisively answer this question.

The clinical heterogeneity observed in carriers of *SETD1A* LoF variants is reminiscent of at least 11 large copy number variant syndromes which cause schizophrenia in addition to many other developmental defects^{10,32}. A canonical example is the 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, which is characterized by schizophrenia in 22.6% of adult carriers³³, highly variable intellectual impairment³⁴ and numerous severe neurological and physical defects³⁵. A considerably larger cohort (such as the hundreds of cases of 22q11.2 deletion syndrome studied to date) will be needed to accurately estimate the relative penetrance of *SETD1A* LoF variants for schizophrenia, developmental disorders and other clinical features.

Although disruptions of *SETD1A* are very rare events and occur in only a small fraction of schizophrenia cases (0.13% in our meta-analysis, 95% CI 0.062–0.24%), several lines of evidence suggest that histone H3 methylation is more broadly relevant to schizophrenia. The H3K4 methylation gene ontology category (GO:51568) showed the strongest statistical enrichment among 4,939 biological pathways in GWAS data of psychiatric disorders¹⁴. This category contains 20 genes, including *SETD1A* and six others (*ASH2L*, *CXXC1*, *RBBP5*, *WDR5*, *DPY30* and *WDR82*)^{36–38} that together form the SET1-COMPASS complex, through which *SETD1A* regulates transcription by targeted methylation. Indeed, two of the genes in GO:51568 (*WDR82* and *KMT2E*) are near genome-wide significant associations to schizophrenia⁶. A previous study of *de novo* CNVs in schizophrenia trios identified

one deletion and one duplication overlapping *EHMT1*, another histone methyltransferase⁹ that has been implicated in developmental delay and a range of congenital abnormalities³⁹. Finally, conserved H3K4me3 peaks identified in prefrontal cortical neurons colocalize with genes related to biological mechanisms in schizophrenia, including glutamatergic and dopaminergic signaling⁴⁰. Our implication of *SETD1A* therefore contributes to the growing body of evidence that chromatin modification, specifically histone H3 methylation, is an important mechanism in the pathogenesis of schizophrenia.

METHODS

Methods and any associated references are available in the [online version of the paper](#).

Accession codes European Genome-phenome Archive: [EGAO0000000079](#), [EGAS00001000775](#). dbGaP: [phs000473.v1.p1](#).

Note: Any Supplementary Information and Source Data files are available in the online version of the paper.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the thousands of patients who participated in these studies. We thank H. Firth and D. FitzPatrick for discussions. The UK10K project was funded by Wellcome Trust grant WT091310. The DDD Study is funded by HICF-1009-003. The DDD and the INTERVAL sequencing studies are funded by Wellcome Trust grant WT098051. T.S. is supported by the Williams College Dr. Herchel Smith Fellowship. P.F.S. is supported by NIH R01 MH077139. A.P. is supported by Academy of Finland grants 251704 and 286500, NIMH U01MH105666 and the Sigrid Juselius Foundation. The work at Cardiff University was funded by Medical Research Council (MRC) Centre (G0801418) and Program Grants (G0800509). The key groups of the Sequencing Initiative Suomi (SiSu) project are from the Universities of Eastern Finland, Oulu and Helsinki and The Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland, Lund University, The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, University of Oxford, The Broad Institute, University of Michigan, Washington University in St. Louis and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The SiSu project is coordinated in the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland at the University of Helsinki. Participants in INTERVAL were recruited with the active collaboration of NHS Blood and Transplant England, which has supported fieldwork and other elements of the trial. DNA extraction and genotyping was funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR RP-PG-0310-1004), the NIHR BioResource and the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre. The academic coordinating center for INTERVAL was supported by core funding from NIHR Blood and Transplant Research Unit in Donor Health and Genomics, UK Medical Research Council (G0800270) and British Heart Foundation (SP/09/002). M.I.K. was supported by Instrumentarium Science Foundation, Finland; Finnish Foundation for Cardiovascular Research; Orion Research Foundation and the University of Eastern Finland, Saastamoinen Foundation.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

T.S., S.S.G., E.L.C., D.G., M.E.H., M.C.O'D. A.P., M.J.O. and J.C.B. conceived and designed the experiments. S.S.G., E.L.C. and E.P. performed the experiments. T.S., D. Curtis, S.M.P., L.C., J.M. and H.C. performed the statistical analysis. T.S., M.I.K., S.M.P., L.C., J.M., H.C., G.B. and E.R. analyzed the data. M.I.K., S.M.P., J. Suvisaari, D.B., G.B., O.P., D. Collier, M.J.D., J.D., N.B.F., M.J., G.K., J.K., O.K., P.H., C.M.H., M.M., S.A.M., P.M., A.M.M., A.M., J.S.M., C.M., W.O., T.P., D.R., J. Sambrook, P.S., D.S.C., J.V., J.T.R.W., H.W. and P.F.S. contributed reagents, materials and analysis tools. T.S., P.F.S., M.E.H., M.J.O. and J.C.B. wrote the paper. J. Suvisaari, D.B., M.A., M.B., T.C., D. Collier, N.C., M.D., A.F., S.J., C.I., J.L., R.M.M., R.N.-E., T.P. and D.S.C. recruited patients.

COMPETING FINANCIAL INTERESTS

The authors declare competing financial interests: details are available in the [online version of the paper](#).

Reprints and permissions information is available online at <http://www.nature.com/reprints/index.html>.

1. Perälä, J. *et al.* Lifetime prevalence of psychotic and bipolar I disorders in a general population. *Arch. Gen. Psychiatry* **64**, 19–28 (2007).
2. van Os, J. & Kapur, S. Schizophrenia. *Lancet* **374**, 635–645 (2009).
3. Saha, S., Chant, D. & McGrath, J. A systematic review of mortality in schizophrenia: is the differential mortality gap worsening over time? *Arch. Gen. Psychiatry* **64**, 1123–1131 (2007).

4. Lichtenstein, P. *et al.* Common genetic determinants of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in Swedish families: a population-based study. *Lancet* **373**, 234–239 (2009).
5. Sullivan, P.F., Kendler, K.S. & Neale, M.C. Schizophrenia as a complex trait: evidence from a meta-analysis of twin studies. *Arch. Gen. Psychiatry* **60**, 1187–1192 (2003).
6. Ripke, S. *et al.* Biological insights from 108 schizophrenia-associated genetic loci. *Nature* **511**, 421–427 (2014).
7. The International Schizophrenia Consortium. Rare chromosomal deletions and duplications increase risk of schizophrenia. *Nature* **455**, 237–241 (2008).
8. Malhotra, D. & Sebat, J. CNVs: harbingers of a rare variant revolution in psychiatric genetics. *Cell* **148**, 1223–1241 (2012).
9. Kirov, G. *et al.* *De novo* CNV analysis implicates specific abnormalities of postsynaptic signaling complexes in the pathogenesis of schizophrenia. *Mol. Psychiatry* **17**, 142–153 (2012).
10. Rees, E. *et al.* Analysis of copy number variations at 15 schizophrenia-associated loci. *Br. J. Psychiatry* **204**, 108–114 (2014).
11. Purcell, S.M. *et al.* A polygenic burden of rare disruptive mutations in schizophrenia. *Nature* **506**, 185–190 (2014).
12. Fromer, M. *et al.* *De novo* mutations in schizophrenia implicate synaptic networks. *Nature* **506**, 179–184 (2014).
13. Takata, A. *et al.* Loss-of-function variants in schizophrenia risk and SETD1A as a candidate susceptibility gene. *Neuron* **82**, 773–780 (2014).
14. The Network and Pathway Analysis Subgroup of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium. Psychiatric genome-wide association study analyses implicate neuronal, immune and histone pathways. *Nat. Neurosci.* **18**, 199–209 (2015).
15. De Rubeis, S. *et al.* Synaptic, transcriptional and chromatin genes disrupted in autism. *Nature* **515**, 209–215 (2014).
16. Sanders, S. *et al.* Insights into autism spectrum disorder genomic architecture and biology from 71 risk loci. *Neuron* **87**, 1215–1233 (2015).
17. Girard, S.L. *et al.* Increased exonic *de novo* mutation rate in individuals with schizophrenia. *Nat. Genet.* **43**, 860–863 (2011).
18. Xu, B. *et al.* *De novo* gene mutations highlight patterns of genetic and neural complexity in schizophrenia. *Nat. Genet.* **44**, 1365–1369 (2012).
19. Gulsuner, S. *et al.* Spatial and temporal mapping of *de novo* mutations in schizophrenia to a fetal prefrontal cortical network. *Cell* **154**, 518–529 (2013).
20. Guipponi, M. *et al.* Exome sequencing in 53 sporadic cases of schizophrenia identifies 18 putative candidate genes. *PLoS One* **9**, e112745 (2014).
21. McCarthy, S.E. *et al.* *De novo* mutations in schizophrenia implicate chromatin remodeling and support a genetic overlap with autism and intellectual disability. *Mol. Psychiatry* **19**, 652–658 (2014).
22. He, X. *et al.* Integrated model of *de novo* and inherited genetic variants yields greater power to identify risk genes. *PLoS Genet.* **9**, e1003671 (2013).
23. Genovese, G. *et al.* Clonal hematopoiesis and blood-cancer risk inferred from blood DNA sequence. *N. Engl. J. Med.* **371**, 2477–2487 (2014).
24. Exome Aggregation Consortium. Analysis of protein-coding genetic variation in 60,706 humans. Preprint at <http://www.biorxiv.org/content/early/2015/10/30/030338> (2015).
25. Iossifov, I. *et al.* The contribution of *de novo* coding mutations to autism spectrum disorder. *Nature* **515**, 216–221 (2014).
26. The Deciphering Developmental Disorders Study. Large-scale discovery of novel genetic causes of developmental disorders. *Nature* **519**, 223–228 (2015).
27. Rauch, A. *et al.* Range of genetic mutations associated with severe non-syndromic sporadic intellectual disability: an exome sequencing study. *Lancet* **380**, 1674–1682 (2012).
28. de Ligt, J. *et al.* Diagnostic exome sequencing in persons with severe intellectual disability. *N. Engl. J. Med.* **367**, 1921–1929 (2012).
29. Rajji, T.K., Ismail, Z. & Mulsant, B.H. Age at onset and cognition in schizophrenia: meta-analysis. *Br. J. Psychiatry* **195**, 286–293 (2009).
30. Fahrner, J.A. & Björnsson, H.T. Mendelian disorders of the epigenetic machinery: tipping the balance of chromatin states. *Annu. Rev. Genomics Hum. Genet.* **15**, 269–293 (2014).
31. Firth, H.V. *et al.* DECIPHER: database of chromosomal imbalance and phenotype in humans using ensembl resources. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **84**, 524–533 (2009).
32. Kirov, G. *et al.* The penetrance of copy number variations for schizophrenia and developmental delay. *Biol. Psychiatry* **75**, 378–385 (2014).
33. Bassett, A.S. *et al.* Clinical features of 78 adults with 22q11 deletion syndrome. meta-analysis. *Br. J. Med. Genet.* **138**, 307–313 (2005).
34. Butcher, N.J. *et al.* Functional outcomes of adults with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome. *Genet. Med.* **14**, 836–843 (2012).
35. Ryan, A.K. *et al.* Spectrum of clinical features associated with interstitial chromosome 22q11 deletions: a European collaborative study. *J. Med. Genet.* **34**, 798–804 (1997).
36. Lee, J., Tate, C.M., You, J. & Skalnik, D.G. Identification and characterization of the human Set1B histone H3-Lys4 methyltransferase complex. *J. Biol. Chem.* **282**, 13419–13428 (2007).
37. Lee, J. & Skalnik, D.G. Wdr82 is a C-terminal domain-binding protein that recruits the Setd1A Histone H3-Lys4 methyltransferase complex to transcription start sites of transcribed human genes. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **28**, 609–618 (2008).
38. The Uniprot Consortium. UniProt: a hub for protein information. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **43**, 204–212 (2014).
39. Kleefstra, T. *et al.* Further clinical and molecular delineation of the 9q subtelomeric deletion syndrome supports a major contribution of EHMT1 haploinsufficiency to the core phenotype. *J. Med. Genet.* **46**, 598–606 (2009).
40. Dincer, A. *et al.* Deciphering H3K4me3 broad domains associated with gene-regulatory networks and conserved epigenomic landscapes in the human brain. *Transl. Psychiatry* **5**, e679 (2015).

¹Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK. ²Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM), University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland. ³Program in Medical and Population Genetics and Genetic Analysis Platform, The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. ⁴University College London Genetics Institute, University College London, London, UK. ⁵Division of Psychiatric Genomics, Department of Psychiatry, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York, USA. ⁶Sheffield Diagnostic Genetics Service, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield, UK. ⁷National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Helsinki, Finland. ⁸Division of Psychiatry, The University of Edinburgh, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh, UK. ⁹Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London, London, UK. ¹⁰NIHR BRC for Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry and SLaM NHS Trust, King's College London, London, UK. ¹¹Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Psychiatry, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. ¹²Department of Clinical Genetics, Chapel Allerton Hospital, Chapeltown Road, Leeds, UK. ¹³Birmingham Women's Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK. ¹⁴Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, London, UK. ¹⁵Lilly Research Laboratories, Eli Lilly & Co. Ltd., Windlesham, Surrey, UK. ¹⁶MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics & Genomics, Institute of Psychological Medicine & Clinical Neurosciences, School of Medicine, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK. ¹⁷Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. ¹⁸NIHR Blood and Transplant Research Unit in Donor Health and Genomics, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. ¹⁹INTERVAL Coordinating Centre, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. ²⁰Clinical Genetics Unit, Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust, Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK. ²¹Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA. ²²UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California, USA. ²³West of Scotland Genetics Service, South Glasgow University Hospitals, Glasgow, UK. ²⁴Center for Intellectual Disability Care, Oulu University Hospital and University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland. ²⁵PEDEGO Research Unit, Medical Research Center Oulu, Oulu University Hospital and University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland. ²⁶Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. ²⁷Center for Life Course Epidemiology and Systems Medicine, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland. ²⁸Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. ²⁹University College London, Molecular Psychiatry Laboratory, Division of Psychiatry, London, UK. ³⁰Department of Clinical Genetics, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, St Michael's Hospital, Bristol, UK. ³¹Department of Haematology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. ³²NHS Blood and Transplant, Cambridge, UK. ³³National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Helsinki, Finland. ³⁴University of Helsinki, Department of Psychiatry, Helsinki, Finland. ³⁵NHS Blood and Transplant Oxford Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK. ³⁶Radcliffe Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK. ³⁷Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK. ³⁸Medical Research Center Oulu, Oulu University Hospital and University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland. ³⁹A full list of consortium members is available in the Online Methods. ⁴⁰Department of Genetics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA. ⁴¹Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA. Correspondence should be addressed to J.C.B. (barrett@sanger.ac.uk).

genes and the number of functional and frequency cut-offs tested. For example, $P < 1.25 \times 10^{-6}$ is 0.05 corrected for 20,000 genes tested for nonsynonymous and LoF variants, and a further correction for two frequency thresholds would require the even more stringent cutoff of $P < 6.25 \times 10^{-7}$.

For these thresholds to control false positives, however, the test being used must produce well-calibrated P values. This has been shown to be true for standard approaches in a case-control setting, such as the basic burden test, Fisher's exact test and the sequence kernel association test (SKAT)⁵³, as long as the cases and controls are well-matched and residual differences are corrected for^{11,52}. On the other hand, parent-proband trio studies use a Poisson or Binomial model parameterized by gene-specific mutation rates and the discovery sample size to test for an elevated rate of *de novo* mutations. While this approach is powerful, it is less robust than the approaches described above. First, *de novo* test statistics are highly sensitive to the specification of gene-specific mutation rates, which are well established for SNVs but not small indels. Furthermore, the low counts in *de novo* studies make results sensitive to the size of the discovery data set.

In previous studies of schizophrenia trios, thirty-eight genes had two or more *de novo* nonsynonymous mutations, two of which (*SETD1A*, $P = 2.4 \times 10^{-6}$ and *TAF13*, $P = 1 \times 10^{-6}$) were significant enough to be suggested as candidate schizophrenia genes^{12,13}. These two findings illustrate the challenges of interpreting *de novo* data in small numbers of samples. *TAF13* has a coding length of 375 base pairs, making just two observations significant, though no additional evidence has been found in subsequent, much larger studies, including our own. For *SETD1A*, both mutations are indels, making it hard to accurately calculate Poisson P values (indeed, we have observed one of these *de novo* three additional times, suggesting it has a high mutation rate). Furthermore, this result is no longer significant when meta-analyzed with the published schizophrenia *de novo* data sets discussed in the same study^{17,19}, which would be the statistically strongest analysis available at the time. Thus, in keeping with observations in other neurodevelopmental disorder sequencing studies, very large meta-analyses of both case-control and *de novo* variation from schizophrenia exomes are required to exclude many possible artifacts, rule out other candidates in or out, and identify new risk genes.

Case-control analysis. To identify genes with a significant burden of rare, damaging variants, we applied the basic burden test, Fisher's exact test and the sequence kernel association test (SKAT) as implemented in PLINK/SEQ^{53,54}. For each gene, we tested LoF variants and LoF combined with damaging missense variants. To evaluate significance, we performed 2 million case-control permutations within each population (UK, Finnish and Swedish) to control for ancestry and batch-specific differences. One-sided basic burden and Fisher's exact tests were applied at three different minor allele frequency (MAF) thresholds (singletons, $\text{MAF} \leq 0.1\%$ and $\text{MAF} \leq 0.5\%$). We used default parameters for SKAT ($\text{MAF} \leq 5\%$) and included the first ten principal components as covariates. Consistent with well-matched cases and controls, we observed no genome-wide inflation in either common or rare variant tests (Supplementary Fig. 7).

Gene set enrichment analyses broadly followed the methodology described in ref. 11 and implemented in PLINK/SEQ and the SMP utility. The gene set enrichment statistic was calculated as the sum of single gene burden test-statistics corrected for exome-wide differences between cases and controls. Statistical significance was determined through permutation testing as described above. We adopted the min- P procedure to empirically correct for multiple testing; the same order of phenotypic permutations was applied for all tests, and a joint null distribution of minimal P values was generated to determine the significance of each gene set. The reported odds ratios and confidence intervals from the gene set enrichment analyses were calculated from raw counts without taking into account ancestry and batch-specific differences in cases and controls.

Meta-analysis of *de novo* mutations and case-control burden. Validated *de novo* mutations identified in seven published studies of schizophrenia trios were aggregated for analysis with our case-control cohort (Supplementary Table 1). Recurrence of *de novo* mutations was modeled as the Poisson probability of observing N or more *de novo* variants in a gene given a baseline gene-specific mutation rate obtained from the method described in ref. 56 modified to produce LoF and damaging missense rates for each canonical Gencode v.19 gene⁵⁵. The gene-specific mutation rates in our models have been validated as highly reliable in a previous publication⁵⁶ and subsequently used in the main analyses of large-scale exome sequencing of neurodevelopmental disorders with highly replicable

results^{15,26}. A one-sided Fisher's exact test was used to model the difference in rare LoF ($\text{MAF} < 0.1\%$) burden between cases and controls. Subsequently, *de novo* and case-control burden P -values were meta-analyzed using Fisher's combined probability method with $df = 4$ (Supplementary Figs. 8 and 9 and Supplementary Table 2). The odds ratios reported were corrected using penalized maximum likelihood logistic regression model (Firth's method, implemented in the logistf R package).

We also applied the Transmission and Disequilibrium Association (TADA) method as described in ref. 22 and implemented in ref. 15. Information from the recurrence of *de novo* mutations was integrated with inherited and case-control burden in a single statistical test. The robustness of results from TADA depends heavily on the specification of its hyperparameters, which are dependent on the (unknown) genetic architecture of the trait. These include the relative risks for *de novo* and case-control variants (parameterized by $\bar{\gamma}_d$ and $\bar{\gamma}$) and the number of true risk genes in schizophrenia (k). Using estimates from the autism analysis would be incorrect; autism, for instance, has a greater excess of *de novo* LoF and missense mutations than schizophrenia (Fig. 3). To ensure any results from TADA are robust, we ran the model across a grid of reasonable parameters:

$$\bar{\gamma}_d \in \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 20\} \text{ for LoF variants}$$

$$\bar{\gamma} \in \{1, 2, 4\} \text{ for LoF inherited and case-control variants}$$

$$\bar{\gamma}_d \in \{1, 2, 4\} \text{ for missense variants}$$

$$\bar{\gamma} = 1 \text{ for missense inherited and case-control variants}$$

$$k \in \{100, 500, 1000, 2000\}$$

We used the default values for the remaining parameters and applied the following restrictions: $\bar{\gamma}_d > \bar{\gamma}$ and $\bar{\gamma}_{\text{LoF}} > \bar{\gamma}_{\text{mis}}$.

After exhaustively generating Bayes factor across a set of reasonable hyperparameters, the results largely agreed with the results obtained from the Fisher's combined probability method: only one gene, *SETD1A*, had reached genome-wide significance (Supplementary Fig. 8). We found that our signal in *SETD1A* had a q -value < 0.01 as long as $\gamma_d > 4$, $\gamma > 4$ and $k > 100$. If we assumed a greater mean relative risk for LoF variants in *SETD1A* ($\gamma_d > 8$ and $\gamma > 8$) as expected for risk alleles in a constrained gene, *SETD1A* was exome-wide significant for any reasonable specification of k . We found that our signal in *SETD1A* is robust across frequentist and Bayesian models, under reasonable assumptions about schizophrenia's genetic architecture (Supplementary Fig. 8). No other gene had a q -value < 0.01 under any tested parameterization, including the parameterization used in the previous autism meta-analysis (Supplementary Table 5).

SETD1A LoF variants in the ExAC database. We looked in the ExAC database (v0.3) for the LoF variants in *SETD1A*. All exomes were joint-called using the GATK v3.2 pipeline, and included other public exome data sets, such as the 1000 Genomes Project and NHLBI-GO Exome Sequencing Project, with additional quality control compared to their original releases. In 60,706 unrelated exomes, we observed seven LoF variants in *SETD1A*. Since the v0.3 release included the Swedish schizophrenia study, we excluded all samples from this data set, leaving only four LoF variants in 45,376 exomes without a known neuropsychiatric diagnosis. We next applied the same stringent QC metrics we used in our analysis to ExAC data. We found that the 16:30976302-GC/G indel observed in two individuals was located at the same position as a high-quality SNP and occurred at a homopolymer run of cytosines. At the genotype level, both calls had a genotype quality (GQ) phred probability of < 40 , far lower than used in our study in which we required indels to have a $\text{GQ} > 90$. In addition, the variant has poor allelic balance ($\text{AB} < 0.15$), and the BAM alignment reflected these low-quality metrics²⁴. Given this evidence, we excluded the putative indel. Two high-quality *SETD1A* LoF variants in 45,376 unaffected ExAC exomes remained.

Following the approach in ref. 56, we determined the significance of the depletion of *SETD1A* LoF variants in ExAC using a signed Z -score of the chi-squared deviation between observed and expected counts. We scaled the expected LoF counts provided by ExAC (43 in 60,706) to 45,376 exomes (expected value 32.5), and calculated the one-tailed P -value of the signed Z -score assuming two

observed LoF variants. The degree of constraint relative to other coding genes was based on the pLI score²⁴.

If we disregarded *de novo* status of our variants, our combined schizophrenia data set was composed of 7,776 cases and 13,028 controls. After including unaffected ExAC exomes as additional controls, we observed ten LoF variants in 7,776 cases and two LoF variants in 58,404 controls, which was significantly different by a Fisher's exact test. This result was driven by ten very rare variants in our schizophrenia cases: six observed in only one individual each and the seventh observed in four individuals. Two of these four were *de novo* and the other two were found in unrelated individuals of different ancestry (one from Sweden and one from the UK). Similarly, of the two LoF variants in ExAC, one was observed in only one individual and the other was the recurrent indel in an individual of African ancestry. Thus, our burden test of very rare variants in *SETD1A* would not be confounded by systematic differences between subpopulations in the ExAC exomes and our data set.

Validation of *SETD1A* variants. We designed primers using Primer3 to produce products between 400 and 600 bp in length centered on the site of interest. Using genomic DNA from all trio members as templates, PCR reactions were carried out using Thermo-Start Taq DNA Polymerase (Thermo Scientific), following the manufacturer's protocol, and successful PCR products were capillary sequenced. Traces from all trio members were aligned, viewed, and scored for the presence or absence of the variant.

Functional consequence of the exon 16 splice acceptor deletion. To assess the impact of the exon 16 splice acceptor site variant, we created a custom minigene construct. We cloned the entire 696-bp genomic region encompassing exons 15, 16, 17 and intervening introns of human *SETD1A*, fused in-frame to a C-terminal GFP. The entire cassette was flanked by a strong upstream promoter and a downstream polyadenylation sequence. Plasmids containing either reference or deletion-containing forms were transfected into HELA cells, which were then grown for 2 d under standard conditions. RNA was extracted (RNEasy, Qiagen) from the transfected cells and used to synthesize cDNA (SuperscriptIII, Invitrogen). We designed minigene-specific primers to avoid amplification of endogenous HELA derived transcripts. The first pair of primers spanned all three exons, thus allowing us to detect overall splicing changes (Pair 1, Forward 2: TCGAAG AGTCATAAAGACTGCCATG, Reverse 9: GTGAACAGCTCCTCGCCCTTG). We also designed pairs of exonic, intron-spanning primers to distinguish splicing events upstream (Pair 2, Forward 1: TTTGCAGGATCCCATCGAAGAG TC, exon 16 reverse: CACTGTCCATGATGGCGGAGGTA) and downstream (Pair 3, exon16 forward: CTGCTGAGCGCCATCGGTAC, exon17 reverse: CTGAACCTGTGGCCGTTTACGTC) of exon 16. PCRs were performed on cDNA from two transfection replicates of each sample. Agarose gels identified PCR product size differences (DNA ladder: 2-log ladder, New England BioLabs), which were further analyzed by capillary sequencing.

As expected, strong GFP expression was detected from the reference sequence construct. This suggested correct splicing between exons, leading to in-frame GFP translation. The mutant form displayed dramatically weaker GFP expression. mRNA was extracted from the transfected cells, and PCRs spanning all three exons revealed an increased transcript size in the mutant form compared to reference (Supplementary Fig. 11a). A PCR spanning just the first 2 exons (15/16) revealed a similar shift in size, suggesting that the splice site deletion/mutation was causing intron retention between exons 15 and 16 (Supplementary Fig. 11b). Sanger sequencing of the PCR products confirmed this aberrant splicing outcome (Supplementary Fig. 11c). The predicted translation product would therefore include translation of exon 15, the subsequent intron and out-of-frame translation of exon 16, resulting in a premature stop within this exon. The downstream splicing event to exon 17 was not affected. These data indicate that in human cells, the recurrent indel we observe in probands results in a premature stop codon and a truncated *SETD1A* protein.

***De novo* CNV deleting a single copy of *SETD1A* found in the DDD study.** We observed a *de novo* CNV deleting 650 kilobases around *SETD1A* (chr16:30,964,376-31,614,891, Supplementary Fig. 12) in a DDD proband. CNV calling and quality control in the DDD study was described in a previous publication²⁶, and the call was supported by signal from 156 probes. The proband had global developmental delay, absent speech, motor delay, sleep

disturbance, developmental regression, feeding difficulties in infancy and generalized myoclonic seizures.

Phenotype clustering in DDD probands. Clinical geneticists systematically recorded phenotypes of DDD probands using the Human Phenotype Ontology (HPO)⁵⁷. These terms were used to assess the probability that the probands shared more similar clinical phenotypes than expected by chance. Similarity testing used the Human Phenotype Ontology version 2013-11-30. For each pair of terms we determined the information content (defined as the negative logarithm of the probability of the terms' usage within the DDD cohort of 4,295 probands) for the most informative common ancestor. The similarity of HPO terms between two individuals was estimated as the maximum information content (maxIC) from pairwise comparisons of the HPO terms for the two individuals. The phenotype similarity for a set of *N* probands was estimated as the sum of all the pairwise maxIC scores. A null distribution of similarity scores was simulated from randomly sampled sets of *N* probands. The *P*-value was calculated as the proportion of scores greater than or equal to the observed score.

Comparison of *de novo* mutation rates. This analysis aggregated and analyzed *de novo* mutations from four different studies: 1,113 probands with developmental disorders²⁶, 2,297 ASD probands¹⁵ and 566 control probands^{25,58}. *De novo* mutations (x_d) in each neurodevelopmental condition was modeled as $x_d \sim \text{Pois}(2N_t\mu_G)$, where N_t is the number of trios, μ_G is the genome-wide mutation rate for a particular functional class and x_d is the observed number of *de novo* mutations in N_t trios. The genome-wide mutation rate of each variant class was calculated as the sum of all gene-specific mutation rates in Samocha *et al.*⁵⁶ ($\mu_{\text{syn}} = 0.137$, $\mu_{\text{damaging mis}} = 0.165$, $\mu_{\text{LoF}} = 0.043$). We modeled *de novo* mutations in control trios to ensure that the genome-wide mutation rates were well calibrated. We report the probability of observing x_d or more mutations in N_t trios given the genome-wide mutation rate. We used the Poisson exact test to determine if pairwise differences in *de novo* rates existed between control, SCZ, ASD and DD trios, and reported the two-sided *P*-values and rate ratios. Bonferroni correction was used to adjust for multiple testing.

Power calculations to show co-morbid cognitive impairment in schizophrenia *SETD1A* carriers. We estimated the sample size required to show that LoF variants in *SETD1A* specifically give rise to decreased cognitive function beyond their effect on schizophrenia risk. We assumed that pre-morbid IQ in individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia followed a Gaussian distribution with mean μ_0 and s.d. σ . We further assumed that the distribution of pre-morbid IQ in carriers of *SETD1A* LoF variants was also Gaussian, shared the same s.d. σ , but has a shifted mean μ_1 . To calculate the sample size needed to show that μ_0 and μ_1 were statistically different, we performed power calculations using a one-sided *t*-test of means across a range of parameters for the effect size and frequency of *SETD1A* LoF variants. We define the following:

N = sample size (individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia)

$d = \frac{|\mu_0 - \mu_1|}{\sigma}$, or the effect size (in s.d. units)
of *SETD1A* LoF variants on premorbid IQ

$\alpha = 0.05$, type I error probability

p = frequency of LoF variants in *SETD1A* in schizophrenia cases

Supplementary Figure 14 shows power to detect this effect across the following parameter combinations:

$N \in \{5000, 10000, \dots, 100000\}$

$d \in \{0.5, 1\}$, or $\mu_1 = \mu_0 - \sigma \times d$

$p \in \{1 \times 10^{-4}, 5 \times 10^{-4}, 1 \times 10^{-3}\}$

Assuming a modest effect on cognition ($d = 0.5$) and that only one in 10,000 schizophrenia patients carries a *SETD1A* LoF variant, a sample size of over 100,000 individuals would be required for 50% power to detect the effect. If the effect on cognition was greater ($d = 1$) and the true frequency was similar to the 0.1% observed in our study, a sample size of over 10,000 individuals would have >50% power.

Consortia. *UK10K consortium.* Richard Anney, Mohammad Ayub, Anthony Bailey, Gillian Baird, Jeff Barrett, Douglas Blackwood, Patrick Bolton, Gerome Breen, David Collier, Paul Cormican, Nick Craddock, Lucy Crooks, Sarah Curran, Petr Danecek, Richard Durbin, Louise Gallagher, Jonathan Green, Hugh Gurling, Richard Holt, Chris Joyce, Ann LeCouteur, Irene Lee, Jouko Lonnqvist, Shane McCarthy, Peter McGuffin, Andrew McIntosh, Andrew McQuillin, Alison Merikangas, Anthony Monaco, Dawn Muddyman, Michael O'Donovan, Michael Owen, Aarno Palotie, Jeremy Parr, Tiina Paunio, Olli Pietilainen, Karola Rehnström, Tarjinder Singh, David Skuse, Jim Stalker, David St. Clair, Jaana Suvisaari and Hywel Williams.

DDD Study. Nadia Akawi, Saeed Al-Turki, Kirsty Ambridge, Jeffrey Barrett, Daniel Barrett, Tanya Bayzietnova, Nigel Carter, Stephen Clayton, Eve Coomber, Helen Firth, Tomas Fitzgerald, David FitzPatrick, Sebastian Gerety, Susan Gribble, Matthew Hurles, Philip Jones, Wendy Jones, Daniel King, Netravathi Krishnappa, Laura Mason, Jeremy McRae, Parker Michael, Anna Middleton, Ray Miller, Katherine Morley, Vijaya Parthiban, Elena Prigmore, Diana Rajan, Alejandro Sifrim, Tarjinder Singh, Adrian Tivory, Margriet van Kogelenberg and Caroline Wright.

Swedish Schizophrenia Study. Sarah Bergen, Kimberly Chambert, Menachem Fromer, Christina M. Hultman, Anna K. Kähler, Steve McCarroll, Jennifer L. Moran, Shaun Purcell, Stephan Ripke, Douglas Ruderfer, Edward Scolnick, Pamela Sklar and Patrick F. Sullivan.

INTERVAL study. Participants in the INTERVAL randomized controlled trial were recruited with the active collaboration of NHS Blood and Transplant England (www.nhsbt.nhs.uk), which has supported field work and other elements of the trial. DNA extraction and genotyping was funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), the NIHR BioResource (<http://bioresource.nihr.ac.uk/>) and the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre (www.cambridge-brc.org.uk). The academic coordinating center for INTERVAL was supported by core funding from: NIHR Blood and Transplant Research Unit in Donor Health and Genomics, UK Medical Research Council (G0800270), British Heart Foundation (SP/09/002) and NIHR Research Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre.

A complete list of the investigators and contributors to the INTERVAL trial is provided in ref. 59 and <http://www.intervalstudy.org.uk/about-the-study/whos-involved/interval-contributors/>.

Sequencing Initiative Suomi project. The Sequencing Initiative Suomi (SISu) project is an international collaboration between research groups aiming to build tools for genomic medicine. These groups are generating whole genome and

whole exome sequence data from Finnish samples and provide data resources for the research community. Key groups of the project are from Universities of Eastern Finland, Oulu and Helsinki and The Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland, Lund University, The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, University of Oxford, The Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, University of Michigan, Washington University in St. Louis and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The project is coordinated in the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland at the University of Helsinki.

A **Supplementary Methods Checklist** is available.

41. Li, H. & Durbin, R. Fast and accurate short read alignment with Burrows-Wheeler transform. *Bioinformatics* **25**, 1754–1760 (2009).
42. Picard. <http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/> (accessed 1 March 2011).
43. McKenna, A. *et al.* The Genome Analysis Toolkit: a MapReduce framework for analyzing next-generation DNA sequencing data. *Genome Res.* **20**, 1297–1303 (2010).
44. DePristo, M.A. *et al.* A framework for variation discovery and genotyping using next-generation DNA sequencing data. *Nat. Genet.* **43**, 491–498 (2011).
45. Van der Auwera, G.A. *et al.* From FastQ data to high confidence variant calls: the Genome Analysis Toolkit best practices pipeline. *Curr. Protoc. Bioinformatics* **11**, 11.10.1–11.10.33 (2013).
46. Jun, G. *et al.* Detecting and estimating contamination of human DNA samples in sequencing and array-based genotype data. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **91**, 839–848 (2012).
47. Purcell, S. *et al.* PLINK: a tool set for whole-genome association and population-based linkage analyses. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **81**, 559–575 (2007).
48. Thornton, T. *et al.* Estimating kinship in admixed populations. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **91**, 122–138 (2012).
49. Li, H. Toward better understanding of artifacts in variant calling from high-coverage samples. *Bioinformatics* **30**, 2843–2851 (2014).
50. McLaren, W. *et al.* Deriving the consequences of genomic variants with the Ensembl API and SNP Effect Predictor. *Bioinformatics* **26**, 2069–2070 (2010).
51. Kircher, M. *et al.* A general framework for estimating the relative pathogenicity of human genetic variants. *Nat. Genet.* **46**, 310–315 (2014).
52. Do, R. *et al.* Exome sequencing identifies rare LDLR and APOA5 alleles conferring risk for myocardial infarction. *Nature* **518**, 102–106 (2014).
53. Wu, M.C. *et al.* Rare-variant association testing for sequencing data with the sequence kernel association test. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **89**, 82–93 (2011).
54. PLINK/SEQ version 0.09. <http://atgu.mgh.harvard.edu/plinkseq/> (accessed 1 February 2014).
55. Harrow, J. *et al.* GENCODE: the reference human genome annotation for The ENCODE Project. *Genome Res.* **22**, 1760–1774 (2012).
56. Samocha, K.E. *et al.* A framework for the interpretation of *de novo* mutation in human disease. *Nat. Genet.* **46**, 944–950 (2014).
57. Köhler, S. *et al.* The Human Phenotype Ontology project: linking molecular biology and disease through phenotype data. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **42**, D966–D974 (2014).
58. Sanders, S.J. *et al.* *De novo* mutations revealed by whole-exome sequencing are strongly associated with autism. *Nature* **485**, 237–241 (2012).
59. Moore, C. *et al.* The INTERVAL trial to determine whether intervals between blood donations can be safely and acceptably decreased to optimise blood supply: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Trials* **15**, 363 (2014).