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Authors

Lawrenson, Kate Kar, Siddhartha McCue, Karen et al.

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Functional mechanisms underlying pleiotropic risk alleles at the 19p13.1 breast-ovarian cancer susceptibility locus

Kate Lawrenson et al.#

A locus at 19p13 is associated with breast cancer (BC) and ovarian cancer (OC) risk. Here we analyse 438 SNPs in this region in 46,451 BC and 15,438 OC cases, 15,252 *BRCA1* mutation carriers and 73,444 controls and identify 13 candidate causal SNPs associated with serous OC ($P=9.2\times10^{-20}$), ER-negative BC ($P=1.1\times10^{-13}$), *BRCA1*-associated BC ($P=7.7\times10^{-16}$) and triple negative BC ($P=1.1\times10^{-5}$). Genotype-gene expression associations are identified for candidate target genes *ANKLE1* ($P=2\times10^{-3}$) and *ABHD8* ($P<2\times10^{-3}$). Chromosome conformation capture identifies interactions between four candidate SNPs and *ABHD8*, and luciferase assays indicate six risk alleles increased transactivation of the *ADHD8* promoter. Targeted deletion of a region containing risk SNP rs56069439 in a putative enhancer induces *ANKLE1* downregulation; and mRNA stability assays indicate functional effects for an *ANKLE1* 3'-UTR SNP. Altogether, these data suggest that multiple SNPs at 19p13 regulate *ABHD8* and perhaps *ANKLE1* expression, and indicate common mechanisms underlying breast and ovarian cancer risk.

enome-wide association studies (GWAS) have identified more than 100 different genetic susceptibility regions for breast cancer (BC)¹⁻⁶ and 20 regions for epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC)⁷⁻¹³. A few of these regions, and in some cases the same genetic variants, are associated with risks of both cancers (pleiotropy), suggesting there may be underlying functional mechanisms and biological pathways common to different cancers. The *TERT-CLPTM1L* locus (5p15) is one such example in which the same variants are associated with risks of oestrogen receptor (ER)-negative BC, BC in BRCA1 mutation carriers and serous invasive OC¹⁰.

Few studies have comprehensively described the functional mechanisms underlying common variant susceptibility loci^{10,14–18}. More than 90% of risk alleles lie in non-protein-coding DNA and there is now unequivocal evidence that susceptibility regions are enriched for risk-associated single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) intersecting regulatory elements, such as transcriptional enhancers, predicted to control the expression of target genes in cis^{19–21}. Establishing causality for risk SNPs is very challenging; of the thousands of risk associations identified by GWAS, functional validation of causal variants using genome editing has only been experimentally performed for two SNPs, one for prostate cancer²² using the CAUSEL pipeline and the other for obesity²³. Thus, there is a critical need to identify the causal risk SNP(s) and the overlapping regulatory element(s) and the target gene(s) regulated in an allele-specific manner.

Breast and high-grade serous OC share common genetic and non-genetic risk factors, with mutations in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* the most significant risk factors for both cancers, suggesting similar biological mechanisms drive breast and OC development. A region on chromosome 19p13.1 has previously been associated with susceptibility to BC and OC in the general population, and to modify the risks of *BRCA1*-related BC and *BRCA2*-related OC^{9,24-27}. Initial studies indicated that the association signal was centred around the SNP rs8170 located in the *BRCA1*-interacting gene *BABAM1* (ref. 9), and subsequent studies have refined the subtype specific BC risks associated with these SNPs^{24-26,28}.

In the current study, we hypothesized that the same functional mechanism underlies the 19p13.1 risk association in both BC and OC. To evaluate this hypothesis we performed genetic fine mapping in BC and OC patients and in *BRCA1* mutation carriers,

and performed a wide range of functional assays in breast and ovarian tissues and *in vitro* models to identify the likely causal alleles, and target regulatory elements and susceptibility gene(s). Our data indicate that multiple SNPs are involved in the regulation of *ABHD8* and perhaps *ANKLE1* at this locus.

Results

Genetic association analyses with breast and OC risks. A total of 438 SNPs spanning 420 kb at the chromosome 19p13 locus (nucleotides 17,130,000-17,550,000 (NCBI build 37)) were genotyped successfully in the following populations: 46,451 BC cases (of which 7,435 cases had ER-negative tumours) and 42,599 controls from the Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC); 15,438 cases of EOC (of which 9,630 were of serous histology) and 30,845 controls from the Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium (OCAC); and 15,252 BRCA1 mutation carriers from the Consortium of Investigators of Modifiers of BRCA1/2 (CIMBA; 7,797 with BC and 7,455 unaffected; Supplementary Table 1). Genotypes for variants identified through the 1,000 genomes project (minor allele frequency (MAF)>0.1%) were imputed for all participants of European ancestry. A total of 2,269 genotyped and imputed SNPs were analysed for their associations with ERnegative BC risk in the general population, 2,311 SNPs with BC/ OC risk for BRCA1 mutation carriers, and 2,565 SNPs with risk of serous OC. Results for all SNPs associated with these phenotypes at $P < 10^{-4}$ are illustrated in Fig. 1 and Supplementary Fig. 1. Two perfectly correlated SNPs rs61494113 and rs67397200 located between the ANKLE1 and ABHD8 genes demonstrated the strongest association with BC risk among BRCA1 mutation carriers (χ^2 -test $P = 7.8 \times 10^{-16}$) and ER-negative BC in BCAC (χ^2 -test $P = 1.3 \times 10^{-13}$, P-meta-analysis = 7.3×10^{-28}). There was no association for ER-positive BC (χ^2 -test P = 0.21 for rs61494113). The strongest association with invasive and serous OC was for rs4808075 (correlated with rs61494113 with $r^2 = 0.99$) located in the BABAM1 gene (χ^2 -test $P = 9.2 \times 10^{-20}$). We observed no associations with risk of other histological subtypes of invasive OC (Supplementary Table 2). The correlations between the SNP exhibiting the strongest risk association (rs67397200) in the meta-analysis of BC risk for BRCA1 mutation carriers and ER-negative BC, with the previously reported risk-associated SNPs

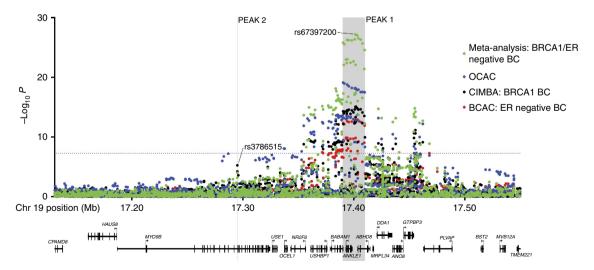


Figure 1 | Regional association plot disease-specific risk associations. Results for ER negative breast cancer from BCAC, for ovarian cancer from OCAC and for *BRCA1* mutation carriers with breast cancer from CIMBA are shown. Also shown are the results of a meta-analysis for BRCA1 and general population ER negative breast cancer cases. The grey bars indicate the boundaries of the two association peaks, and the dotted horizontal line indicates the cutoff for genome-wide significance (χ^2 -test $P = 5 \times 10^{-8}$). Previously identified GWAS SNPs are indicated with italic font. Genes in the region are displayed beneath the association results.

for breast, OC and *BRCA1*-associated BCs can be found in Supplementary Table 3.

All SNPs with an association P value < 0.001 with each phenotype were included in forward stepwise Cox regression models for risks of BRCA1 BC, and logistic regression models for ER-negative BC and serous OC. The most parsimonious models for ER-negative BC and serous OC each included one SNP, rs67397200 for ER-negative BC and rs4808075 for serous OC (referred to as Peak 1). The most parsimonious model in the analysis of BC risk for BRCA1 mutation carriers included two virtually uncorrelated SNPs (pairwise correlation $r^2 = 0.018$) rs61494113 (P value = 4.4×10^{-16} in conditional regression analysis), and rs3786515 (Peak 2, conditional regression P value = 9.6×10^{-5} , pairwise correlation P value threshold of 0.0001.

Candidate causal variants. Peak 1 includes SNPs that encompass the *BABAM1*, *ABHD8* and *ANKLE1* gene and are associated with serous OC, ER-negative BC and BC risk for *BRCA1* mutation carriers (Fig. 1 and Supplementary Fig. 1); Peak 2 includes SNPs located in the *MYO9B* gene associated only with BC risk in *BRCA1* mutation carriers. SNPs in Peaks 1 and 2 are virtually uncorrelated.

To identify the strongest candidate causal SNPs, we computed likelihood ratios of each SNP relative to the SNP with the strongest association in each peak for risks of each phenotype.

Due to the similarities in associations between ER-negative BC and BRCA1-associated BC in Peak 1, we computed the likelihood ratios on the basis of the meta-analysis results. Table 1 includes the SNPs that cannot be excluded at a likelihood ratio of > 1:100 fold. In Peak 1, all but 12 SNPs can be excluded from being causal for ER-negative BC and BRCA1-associated BC. An additional SNP (rs10424198) cannot be excluded from being causal for serous OC. All 13 SNPs were highly correlated ($r^2 > 0.95$) and spanned a region of 19.4 kb. In Peak 2, the likelihood ratios of each SNP were calculated on the basis of the BRCA1 association analysis conditional on the top SNP rs61494113. All but seven SNPs correlated with rs3786515 ($r^2 > 0.10$) cannot be excluded from being the causal SNP for BRCA1-associated BC risk. With the exception of rs3786514 (pairwise r^2 with rs3786515 = 0.87) all other SNPs had r^2 with rs3786515 between 0.13 and 0.20.

Associations for *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* mutation carriers. SNPs in Peak 1 were only associated with risk of ER-negative BC for *BRCA1* mutation carriers and provided no evidence of association with ER-positive BC for *BRCA1*. SNPs in Peak 1 were also associated with OC risk for *BRCA1* mutation carriers. SNPs in Peak 2 were also primarily associated with *BRCA1*-related ER-negative BC but there was no evidence of association with OC risk (Supplementary Table 4). SNPs in peak 1 were not associated with overall risk of BC in *BRCA2* carriers (for example, rs67397200 HR for BC = 1.00 (95% confidence interval (CI): 0.93–0.89)); however, SNP rs67397200 showed evidence of

Table 1 | SNPs associated with risk ovarian cancer, ER-negative breast cancer or breast cancer in BRCA1 carriers at the 19p13 locus.

SNP*	Nucleotide position (build 37)	Allele freq.	BRCA1 breast cancer		ER-negative breast cancer		BRCA1/ER-negative breast cancer meta- analysis (P value)	Serous ovarian cancer	
			HR (95% confidence intervals)	P value	OR (95% confidence intervals)	P value		OR (95% confidence intervals)	P value
Peak 1 rs4808075 (I) rs1041937 (I) rs56069439 (I) rs56069439 (I) rs4808076 (I) rs111961716 (I) rs113299211 (I) rs67397200 (G) rs61494113 (G) rs4808616 (G) rs55924783 (I) rs28473003 (I) rs13343778 (I) rs10424198 (I)	17390291 17391328 17393925 17395401 17398085 17400765 17401404 17401859 17403033 17404072 17406167 17407695 17409671	0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30	1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24) 1.19 (1.14-1.24)	4.77 × 10 - 15 5.55 × 10 - 15 3.33 × 10 - 15 2.55 × 10 - 15 3.22 × 10 - 15 2.33 × 10 - 15 8.88 × 10 - 16 7.77 × 10 - 16 1.44 × 10 - 15 2.11 × 10 - 15 2.11 × 10 - 15 3.13 × 10 - 14	1.16 (1.11-1.21) 1.16 (1.11-1.21) 1.16 (1.11-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21) 1.16 (1.12-1.21)	4.42 × 10 ⁻¹³ 6.57 × 10 ⁻¹³ 2.22 × 10 ⁻¹³ 2.9 × 10 ⁻¹³ 2.63 × 10 ⁻¹³ 2.4 × 10 ⁻¹³ 1.10 × 10 ⁻¹³ 1.10 × 10 ⁻¹³ 1.61 × 10 ⁻¹³ 2.8 × 10 ⁻¹³ 3.92 × 10 ⁻¹³ 1.18 × 10 ⁻¹²	1.55 × 10 ⁻²⁶ 2.7 × 10 ⁻²⁶ 5.26 × 10 ⁻²⁷ 5.59 × 10 ⁻²⁷ 6.07 × 10 ⁻²⁷ 4.22 × 10 ⁻²⁷ 6.18 × 10 ⁻²⁸ 7.31 × 10 ⁻²⁸ 9.37 × 10 ⁻²⁸ 2.81 × 10 ⁻²⁷ 4.55 × 10 ⁻²⁷ 2.06 × 10 ⁻²⁶ 2.56 × 10 ⁻²⁵	1.19 (1.14-1.23) 1.19 (1.14-1.23) 1.19 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.23) 1.18 (1.14-1.22) 1.18 (1.14-1.22) 1.18 (1.14-1.22)	9.17 × 10 - 20 1.29 × 10 - 19 1.94 × 10 - 19 3.72 × 10 - 19 6.97 × 10 - 19 8.13 × 10 - 19 7.75 × 10 - 18 1.51 × 10 - 18 1.51 × 10 - 18 3.43 × 10 - 18 3.43 × 10 - 18 3.43 × 10 - 18 3.85 × 10 - 18 3.85 × 10 - 18
Peak 2 rs3786514 (G) rs3786515 (G) rs891205 (G) rs7247493 (G) rs7246243 (I) rs4464206 (G) C19pos17261271 (G)	17294954 17295023 17354586 17362941 17363068 17367585 17400271	0.48 0.45 0.61 0.60 0.60 0.62 0.50	1.08 (1.04-1.13) 1.10 (1.05-1.14) 1.09 (1.05-1.13) 1.09 (1.04-1.13) 1.09 (1.04-1.13) 1.10 (1.05-1.14) 0.92 (0.88-0.96)	5.85 × 10 - 05 5.42 × 10 - 06 4.16 × 10 - 05 5.85 × 10 - 05 5.28 × 10 - 05 7.28 × 10 - 05 2.41 × 10 - 05	1.02 (0.98-1.06) 1.02 (0.98-1.06) 1.05 (1.01-1.09) 1.05 (1.01-1.09) 1.05 (1,01-1.09) 1.06 (1.02-1.10) 0.96 (0.92-0.99)	0.364 0.281 0.0164 0.014 0.0149 0.0172 0.020	6.52 × 10 ⁻ 04 9.94 × 10 ⁻ 05 5.39 × 10 ⁻ 06 5.73 × 10 ⁻ 06 5.74 × 10 ⁻ 06 8.87 × 10 ⁻ 06 4.76 × 10 ⁻ 06	1.05 (1.01-1.08) 1.05 (1.01-1.09) 1.07 (1.04-1.11) 1.07 (1.04-1.11) 1.08 (1.04-1.12) 0.92 (0.89-0.96)	8.01 × 10 ⁻ 03 5.62 × 10 ⁻ 03 1.26 × 10 ⁻ 04 9.68 × 10 ⁻ 05 2.54 × 10 ⁻ 05 9.26 × 10 ⁻ 06
Peak 2 (conditional P rs3786514 rs3786515 rs891205 rs7247493 rs7246243 rs4464206 c19_pos17261271	values on top . 17294954 17295023 17354586 17362941 17363068 17367585 17400271	SNP from	Peak 1)	1.40 × 10 ^{- 03} 9.13 × 10 ^{- 05} 0.0107 0.0131 0.0122 115 6.31 × 10 ^{- 03}					

EOC, epithelial ovarian cancer; ER, oestrogen receptor; freq., frequency; HR, hazards ratio; OR, odds ratio; SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism.

SNPs in Peak 1 and Peak 2 that cannot be excluded at a likelihood ratio of >1:100 fold relative to the most significant SNP for the meta-analysis and serous EOC (Peak 1) and BRCA1 association breast cancer for Peak 2.

*Imputed (I) or genotyped (G) SNPs

association with OC for *BRCA2* mutation carriers (hazards ratio (HR) = 1.18, 95% CI: 1.06–1.36, χ^2 -test P = 0.0056). SNPs in peak 2 did not show any evidence of association with breast or OC risk for *BRCA2* mutation carriers.

Associations with risk among BC subtypes. None of the Peak 1 SNPs were associated with risk of ER-positive BC. When analyses were restricted to triple negative BC, the odds ratio (OR) estimates for SNPs in Peak 1 were larger than the corresponding OR estimates for ER-negative disease (Supplementary Table 4). There was no evidence of association with ER-negative and HER2-positive BC risk, with the association restricted only to triple-negative BC (test of difference between triple-negative versus ER-negative/HER2+, P-diff= 2.2×10^{-5} for SNP rs61494113).

Analysis in Asian and African ancestry studies. None of the SNPs in the fine-mapping region were associated with ER-negative BC in samples of Asian ancestry after adjusting for multiple testing (P values ≥ 0.0018). However, the risk alleles of the 13 candidate causal SNPs in Peak 1 are uncommon in the Asian population (MAF = 0.0079–0.011); hence, the power to detect an association was limited and, due to the wide CIs for the estimated ORs for these SNPs, we cannot rule out that the minor allele of these SNPs in Asian subjects is associated with similar level of risk as in Europeans. In samples of African ancestry only rs4808616 (MAF = 0.22) showed evidence of association with risk for overall BC or ER-negative disease (OR for BC = 1.19, 95% CI:1.02–1.39, χ^2 -test P = 0.03; OR for ER-negative BC = 1.59, 95% CI: 1.02–2.49, χ^2 -test P = 0.04).

Functional characterization of the 19p13.1 region. Functional characterization focused on the 13 candidate causal SNPs for ER-negative and *BRCA1*-associated BC and serous OC in Peak 1, based on the hypothesis that the functional mechanisms mediated by one or more of these SNPs were the same for these phenotypes.

Genotype-gene expression associations. We used expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) analyses to evaluate associations between risk SNPs and the expression of genes in a 1 Mb region spanning rs4808075 in: 135 normal breast tissues²⁹, 60 normal ovarian and fallopian tube epithelial cell cultures, 391 ER positive BCs^{30} , 59 ER-negative BCs^{29} and 340 high-grade serous OCs^{30} . We identified significant eQTL associations for *ABHD8* expression (linear regression *P* value range 2×10^{-3} – 7×10^{-3}) in normal breast tissues and between rs480816 and *ABHD8*

expression in OCs (linear regression $P = 3 \times 10^{-5}$). In both instances the risk allele was associated with higher ABHD8 expression (Fig. 2a, Supplementary Data 1 and 2 and Supplementary Table 5). We examined whether risk SNPs were the top eOTL SNPs in this region, rs4808616 was the strongest predictor of ABHD8 expression in OCs. However, in normal breast tissues the top eQTL SNP for ABHD8 was rs11666308 (linear regression $P = 3.3 \times 10^{-4}$), a marginally better predictor than rs4808616 (linear regression $P = 2.8 \times 10^{-3}$). The two SNPs were correlated ($r^2 = 0.79$) and regressing out effects of either SNP from the expression levels of ABHD8 and repeating eQTL analysis abolished the eQTL signal for the other SNP, confirming their statistical inseparability. In addition we found significant associations between rs4808616 and NXNL1 expression in OCs (linear regression $P = 4 \times 10^{-3}$) and with ANKLE1 expression (P = 0.002) in normal ovarian surface epithelial cells (OSECs). There were no eQTL associations for any other genes in the region.

We also performed allele-specific expression analysis in BC using RNA sequencing data³¹ for coding SNPs in *ABHD8* (rs56069439) and *BABAM1* (rs10424198). Both SNPs were correlated with rs4808616 ($r^2 = 0.91$). There was a significant association between rs56069439 and the allelic ratio of *ABHD8* transcripts (F-test P = 0.016) with greater expression associated the risk allele (Supplementary Fig. 2; Supplementary Data 3).

Chromosome conformation capture. Chromosome conformation capture (3C) analysis was used to investigate DNA–DNA interactions between ABHD8 and 5 of 13 candidate causal SNPs in Peak 1. Eight SNPs close to the ABHD8 promoter were too near to be resolved, and the close proximity of candidate causal SNPs to ANKLE1 precluded 3C analysis for this gene. The ABHD8 promoter showed an interaction with a 6.3 kb region ~ 20 kb telomeric to the gene in both normal breast (Bre80) and ovarian (IOSE11) epithelial cells, and in breast (MCF7) and ovarian (A2780) cancer cell lines (Fig. 3). This region spans the ANKLE1 promoter and includes four candidate causal SNPs: rs4808075, rs10419397, rs56069439 and rs4808076. There was no evidence of interaction for any candidate causal SNP with BABAM1 (Supplementary Fig. 3).

Annotation of candidate causal SNPs. All 13 candidate causal SNPs were located in non-protein coding DNA. We annotated putative functional regulatory elements that coincided with the candidate causal SNPs in normal human mammary epithelial cells (HMECs), and normal fallopian tube and ovarian epithelial cells ¹⁹, and in OC cell lines. Five of the 13 SNPs coincide with

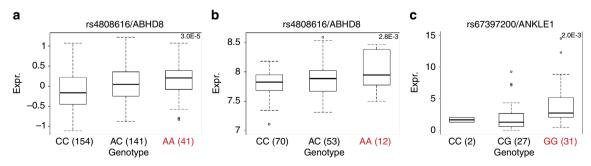


Figure 2 | Expression quantitative trait locus analyses. Significant eQTL associations identified between rs4808616 and *ABHD8* expression in (a) ovarian cancer tissues and (b) in normal breast tissues. (c) A significant association was also identified between rs4808616 and *ANKLE1* expression in primary normal ovarian/fallopian tube epithelial cell cultures. The horizontal line indicates the median expression, the limits of the boxes denote the first and third quartiles, and the whiskers represent 1.5 times the interquartile range of the data. Outliers are indicated with circles.

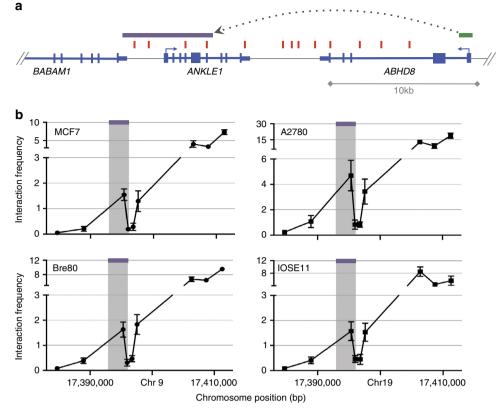


Figure 3 | Chromosome conformation capture analysis of long-range interactions at the 19p13 region. 3C interaction profiles in breast and ovarian cell lines. 3C libraries were generated with *Nco*l, with the anchor point set at the *ABHD8* promoter region. (**a**) A physical map of the region interrogated by 3C is shown, with annotated genes shown in blue, the 13 risk-associated SNPs shown in red, the *ABHD8* promoter fragment shown in green and the position of the interacting *Nco*l fragment represented by the purple bar (not to scale). (**b**) Relative interaction frequencies between the *ABHD8* promoter and regions spanning risk associated SNPs in normal breast (Bre80) and ovarian (IOSE11) epithelial cells lines, and in breast (MCF7) and ovarian (A2780) cancer cell lines. A peak of interaction with the *ABHD8* was observed for one region (purple bar) in all four cell lines. There were no interactions detected between the purple region and the *BABAM or USHBP1* promoters. The interacting region contains four candidate causal SNPs (from left to right) rs4808075, rs10419397. rs56069439 and rs4808076. Error bars represent s.d. (*N* = 3).

regulatory elements that were reproducible in two biological replicate samples (Fig. 4). Three SNPs were located in epigenetic marks in breast and/or ovarian cells: rs55924783 coincided with insulator marks in HMECs and enhancer marks in ovarian cells; rs113299211 coincided with enhancer marks in ovarian cells and is predicted to alter transcription factor binding sites for ELF1, ELK4 and GABP; and rs56069439 coincided with experimentally derived ChIP-seq footprints (for CTCF, ATF2 and ZNF263), enhancer marks in ovarian cells and both enhancer (H3K4me1) and insulator (CTCF) marks in breast cells. Two SNPs were located in 3'-untranslated regions (UTRs) of protein coding genes: rs111961716 in ANKLE1 and rs4808616 in ABHD8. rs4808616 also coincided with enhancer marks in ovarian and breast cells. Finally, rs10419397 lay within the putative promoter of ANKLE1, \sim 1,200 bp from the transcription start site.

Functional analysis of candidate causal SNPs in UTRs. We evaluated the effects on mRNA stability of the SNPs located in 3' UTRs of *ANKLE1* (rs111961716) and *ABHD8* (rs4808616, Figs 4 and 5a) in normal primary ovarian epithelial cell lines carrying different SNP genotypes. RNA transcript abundance was measured after blocking mRNA transcription by treating cells with actinomycin D. For rs111961716, *ANKLE1* transcript expression was significantly more stable in cell lines homozygous for the A (risk) allele of rs111961716 compared with

heterozygous cells or cells homozygous for the C allele (P = 0.006, analysis of variance; Fig. 5b). There was no association between *ABHD8* mRNA stability and genotypes of rs4808616 (Fig. 5b).

Functional analysis of promoter and enhancer SNPs. Seven of the 13 candidate causal SNPs in Peak 1 resided either in the ANKLE1 promoter or in putative regulatory elements (PREs-A-C) in breast and ovarian normal and cancer cell lines (Figs 4 and 5a). SNP rs10419397 fell within the ANKLE promoter region, but had no effect on promoter activity (Fig. 5c). PRE-A contained rs56069439, PRE-B contained SNPs rs113299211, rs67397200, rs61494113 and PRE-C contained SNPs rs4808616 and rs55924783. We examined the effect of these PREs, and of the risk alleles of each SNP cloned into luciferase constructs containing the ABHD8 or ANKLE1 promoters. Inclusion of the reference allele of PREs A, B and C significantly increased ABHD8 promoter activity in both OC (A2780) and normal breast (Bre80) cell lines (Fig. 5). Constructs containing the risk alleles further enhanced ABHD8 promoter activity compared with the reference allele for PREs A, B and C in Bre80 cells (P values = 0.0027, 0.0308 and 0.0342, respectively, two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA)) and for PREs A, B and C in A2780 cells (P values = 0.0193, 0.0115 and < 0.0001, respectively, two-way ANOVA; Fig. 5d,e). Constructs containing the reference allele of PRE-A showed a silencing effect on the *ANKLE* promoter in both cell types with the risk allele further silencing the activity of the

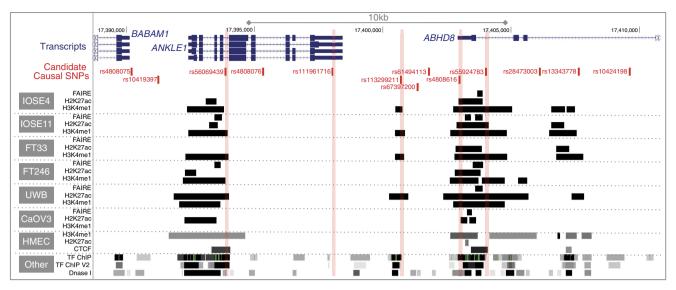


Figure 4 | Epigenetic marks intersecting candidate causal SNPs in the 19p13 susceptibility region and analyses of UTR SNPs. The thirteen candidate SNPs were aligned with open chromatin and enhancer marks (H3K27ac and H3K4me1) in high-grade serous ovarian cancer cells (UWB1.289 and CaOV3) and ovarian cancer precursor cells (ovarian epithelial cells, IOSE and fallopian epithelial cells, FT). Enhancer and insulator (CTCF) data for human mammary epithelial cells (HMECs) were obtained from ENCODE. Five SNPs coincide with biofeatures in breast and/or ovarian cells (indicated in red).

reference allele in A2780 cells ($P\!=\!0.0049$, two-way ANOVA). The reference allele of PRE-B had no effect on *ANKLE* promoter activity, while the risk allele significantly increased activity compared with the reference allele in A2780 cells ($P\!=\!0.0034$, two-way ANOVA). Constructs containing the reference allele of PRE-C significantly increased *ANKLE* promoter activity in both ovarian ($P\!=\!0.0004$, two-way ANOVA) and breast cell lines ($P\!=\!0.0067$, two-way ANOVA). However the risk allele showed a silencing effect on the reference allele in only Bre80 cells ($P\!=\!0.0289$, two-way ANOVA; Fig. 5d,e).

Functional effects of rs56069439 deletion. Collectively, the data above suggested that rs56069439 may regulate the expression of ANKLE1 and/or ABHD8. We used Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)/Cas9-mediated genome editing to delete a 57 bp region containing the regulatory region that includes rs56069439 in breast (MCF10A) and ovarian (IOSE19) epithelial cells (Fig. 6a). Analysis of multiple clones containing confirmed homozygous deletions (Fig. 6b,c) indicated a significant reduction in ANKLE1 expression compared with parental cells (P=0.025, two-tailed paired T-test) and a trend towards reduced ANKLE1 expression in IOSE19 cells (P=0.29, two-tailed paired T-test; Fig. 6d). Expression of ABHD8 and BABAM1 was unchanged following deletion of the region containing rs56069439.

In vitro functional analysis of candidate genes. We analysed the effects of perturbing ABHD8, ANKLE1 and BABAM1 expression in *in vitro* models of 'normal' breast (MCF10A) and ovarian (IOSE19 (ref. 32)) epithelial cells. For each gene, we overexpressed full length, green fluorescent protein-tagged constructs, because genes at 19p13 were frequently overexpressed in ovarian and BCs⁹ and because eQTL analyses indicated that risk alleles were associated with increased expression of ABHD8 and ANKLE1. After confirming gene overexpression (Supplementary Fig. 3a) we evaluated cell growth, migration and invasion, and anchorage-independent growth (Fig. 7 and Supplementary Fig. 3b). Overexpression of ABHD8 caused a significant reduction in cell migration (P=0.007 in

MCF10A; P = 0.047 in IOSE19, two-tailed paired T-test) and a decrease in invasion (P = 0.018 in MCF10A; P = 0.063 in IOSE19, two-tailed paired T-test; Fig. 7). BABAM1 and ANKLE1 overexpression had no effect on these cellular phenotypes for either cell type.

RNA sequencing was used to profile transcriptomic changes caused by overexpression of *ABHD8*, *ANKLE1* and *BABAM1* and pathway analyses performed using Ingenuity Pathway Analysis. We found no indication of significant changes in relevant pathways after overexpressing *BABAM1* in breast or ovarian epithelial cells. Cells overexpressing *ANKLE1* showed a significant enrichment for cancer-associated and cell growth/proliferation pathways in both breast ($P = 3.36 \times 10^{-6}$) and ovarian ($P = 2.43 \times 10^{-27}$) epithelial cells. Cells overexpressing *ABHD8* were enriched for expression changes in cancer related pathways ($P < 5.52 \times 10^{-8}$) and fibrosis pathways ($P < 1.23 \times 10^{-2}$, all right-tailed Fisher's exact tests; Supplementary Tables 6-8).

Discussion

Through fine-scale mapping of the 19p13.1 region we have found evidence of two independent regions of genetic association with BC and/or OC risk among women of European ancestry. The minor alleles of all candidate causal variants in Peak 1 conferred increased risks of ER-negative BC and serous OC and increased risks of both cancers for BRCA1 mutation carriers. We were able to rule out associations with ER-positive BC and risks for other OC histotypes. There was weaker evidence that SNPs in Peak 2 were independently associated with BC risk among BRCA1 mutation carriers only. When analyses in BCAC were restricted to triple-negative BC, the strength of association was greater and there was no evidence of association with ER-negative/HER2positive BC. Thus, our results suggested that these variants are primarily associated with triple-negative BC, the predominant tumour subtype in *BRCA1* mutation carriers³³. These results are in line with previous findings for the initial SNPs identified through GWAS²⁶.

The increased sample size resulting from combining data from BCAC, OCAC and CIMBA for variants in Peak 1 have enabled us to restrict the likely functional variants at 19p13.1 to 13 SNPs.

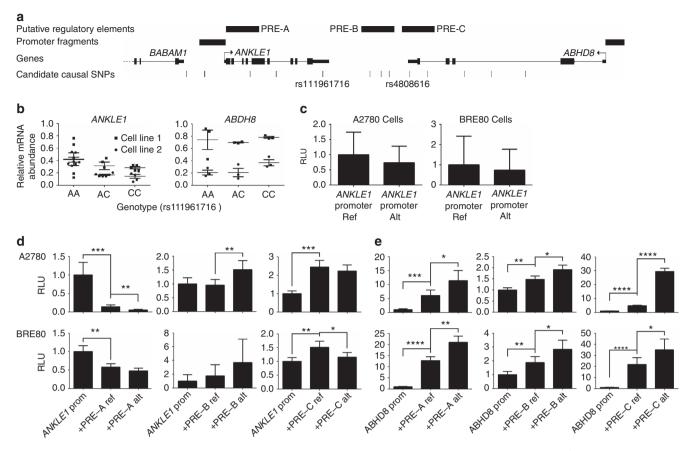


Figure 5 | Allele specific analysis of susceptibility SNPs. (a) Location of SNPs in putative regulatory elements (PREs) and 5' untranslated regions. (b) RNA stability assays in primary ovarian epithelial cell lines for risk-associated UTR SNPs in *ABHD8* and *ANKLE1*. Normal ovarian epithelial cell lines carrying different genotypes of the risk SNP rs4808616, located in the 3' UTR of *ABHD8*. Rs4808616 is tightly correlated with rs111961716 ($R^2 = 0.98$) located in the 3' UTR of *ANKLE1*. The risk allele of rs111961716 was associated with decreased mRNA stability of *ANKLE1* compared with the protective allele (P = 0.006, ANOVA). Different genotypes of rs4808616 are not associated with the stability the *ABHD8* transcript. (**c-e**) Luciferase assays to evaluate SNP-dependent promoter and enhancer activity. (**c**) The *ANKLE1* promoter SNP did not affect *ANKLE1* expression in ovarian cancer cells (A2780) and normal breast cells (Bre80). (**d**) Allele-specific activity of PRE-A, PRE-B and PRE-C on the *ANKLE1* promoter. (**e**) Allele-specific activity of PRE-A, PRE-B and PRE-C on *ABHD8* promoter activity. *P > 0.05, *P > 0.05, *P > 0.01, **P > 0.001, **P > 0.001, **P > 0.001, **P > 0.0001, two-way ANOVA. RLU, relative light units.

The 13 candidate causal risk SNPs in this region were the same for both BC and OC leading us to hypothesize that the underlying functional mechanisms are the same in both cancers and the overlap between these SNPs and functional elements provided multiple testable hypotheses, necessitating a range of different functional assays to evaluate their possible causality. Multiple assays were performed in breast and ovarian tissues and cell lines to establish if there is true evidence of pleiotropy. The candidate causal SNPs in Peak 1 clustered around two candidate genes, ANKLE1 and ABHD8, neither of which have been previously implicated in BC or OC. Proximal to these SNPs is BABAM1, a gene involved in recruiting BRCA1 to sites of DNA damage^{34,35} and therefore a compelling candidate gene at this locus. While gene regulation can be mediated across long genomic distances, the majority of interactions occur over a distance of 1 Mb) or less^{36,37}. We, therefore, evaluated all candidate genes within a 1 Mb region centred on the Peak 1 risk SNPs for eQTL associations. We found significant eQTL associations for ABHD8 in OCs and normal breast tissues, plus allele-specific expression of ABHD8 in BCs, but no compelling evidence for any other gene at this locus. Nonetheless, the identification of ABHD8 as the most likely target susceptibility gene must be treated with some caution as it is plausible that more distant *cis*-eQTL or even trans-eQTL associations exist for these risk SNPs. Unfortunately, the limited power of eQTL analysis based on the current sample

size precluded us from performing genome-wide eQTL analysis to address these hypotheses.

The weight of our functional data, in particular the eQTL associations, indicates that ABHD8 is a target of functional SNPs at this locus, and therefore a novel breast and OC susceptibility gene. 3C identified an interaction between a region containing four candidate causal SNPs and the ABHD8 promoter in both breast and OC and normal epithelial cell lines. The luciferase assays of three PREs (including one encompassing rs56069439 in the interacting region) consistently showed that they acted as enhancers, and furthermore the risk-associated alleles of rs56069439, rs113299211, rs67397200, rs61494113, rs4808616 and rs55924783 (within PREs A-C) further increase ABHD8 promoter activity in both breast and ovarian cells. These results were consistent with our eQTL studies and support the hypothesis that increased ABHD8 expression is associated with an increased cancer risk. ABHD8 is a poorly studied lipase³⁸. The Achilles heel project identified ABHD8 as a lineage-specific cancer cell vulnerability in OC cell lines³⁹ and a recent study identified ABHD8 as a potential OC susceptibility gene though its participation in a homeobox transcription factor-centred gene network associated with serous OC risk⁴⁰. Overexpression of ABHD8 led to significant reductions in the invasive and migratory potential of breast and ovarian cells and enriched for genes involved in cellular movement (IOSE19) and mTOR

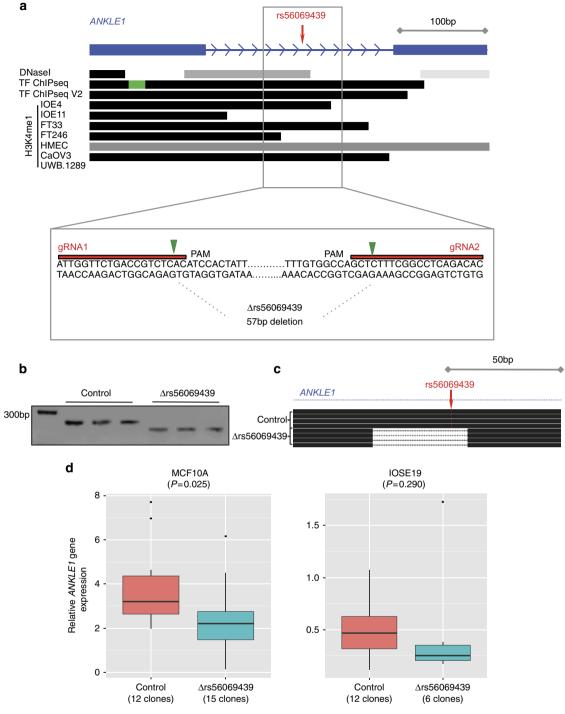


Figure 6 | Effects of deletion of the putative enhancer containing the rs56069439 risk SNP in breast and ovarian epithelial cells. (a) Illustration of the 57 bp region in an intron of *ANKLE1* containing rs56069439; H3K4me1 marks overlapped rs56069439 in ovarian, fallopian and breast cells. Location of the two guide RNAs (gRNAs) used to create the stable Δ rs56069439 deletion by CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing, cutting sites are indicated with the green arrow. PAM, protospacer adjacent motif. (b) PCR analysis of targeted region in representative MCF10A (breast) epithelial cell clones. Control clones were transfected with the vector backbone only. (c) Verification of deletions by Sanger sequencing, and alignment to the genome using BLAT. (d) Gene expression analysis using TaqMan probes showing downregulation of *ANKLE1* was associated with deletion of a region containing rs56069439.

signalling (MCF10A), consistent with the observed changes in invasion and migration. The direction of the effect was opposite to what we might expect from the eQTL data, which might reflect different functions of ABHD8 in different contexts, similar to the observations for another BC susceptibility gene, *TOX3* (ref. 41). For example, under specific microenvironmental cues or in a tumour cell (rather than the normal cells used in these

experiments) increased *ABHD8* may promote rather than inhibit migration and invasion.

Nonetheless, we cannot unequivocally exclude other genes as the targets of candidate causal variants at this locus, in particular *ANKLE1*. The close proximity of the candidate causal SNPs to the *ANKLE1* gene precluded 3C analysis; but in the luciferase assays, these same PREs and SNPs had variable, context-dependent

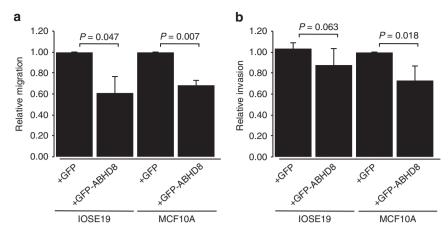


Figure 7 | Phenotypic effects of overexpressing full length ABHD8GFP fusion transcript in normal breast and ovarian epithelial cells. (a) ABHD8 overexpression induced a significant decrease in migration in both breast (MCF10A) and ovarian (IOSE19) cells; (b) ABHD8 overexpression induced a significant decrease in invasion in breast epithelial cells and a similar trend of decreased invasion in ovarian epithelial cells.

effects on ANKLE1 promoter activity. This raises the possibility that the SNPs were cooperatively acting to alter ANKLE1 expression although it was difficult to predict the overall direction of their effects from this assay. We were able to rule out the SNP rs10419397 in the promoter of ANKLE1 as a likely causal variant. The SNP rs111961716 in the 3'-UTR of ANKLE1 was associated with allele-specific ANKLE1 mRNA stability; but stable overexpression of ANKLE1 had no influence on the phenotype of normal breast and ovarian epithelial cells even though pathway after overexpression of ANKLE1 found a significant enrichment for cancer and cell death/proliferation associated pathways in both breast and ovarian epithelial cells. More recently, ANKLE1 has been implicated in DNA damage responses, while other, better-characterized endonucleases (for example, ERCC1) are involved in nucleotide excision repair, which are important for the repair of bulky adducts⁴².

This study has highlighted the challenges in establishing causality for both candidate causal SNPs at common variant susceptibility loci and the susceptibility genes targets. The multitude of functional assays that can be used to test allele specific functional activity rarely provide unequivocal evidence of one SNP over another. Genome editing, which allows the creation of isogenic experimental models carrying the different alleles of candidate causal SNP, is emerging as a single assay approach that can evaluate the function of common variants. However, until now the technical challenges of genome editing have restricted its application to two non-coding risk SNPs identified by GWAS at susceptibility loci for prostate cancer and obesity, respectively^{22,23}. It was beyond the scope of the current study to utilize genome editing to test all 13 candidate causal SNPs in Peak 1 at 19p13 in BC and OC and normal cell line models. Instead, we used CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing to evaluate the effects of a putative enhancer containing most plausible functional SNP (rs56069439) identified from 3C analysis and mapping of putative regulatory elements. This revealed strong functional evidence for a breast/ovarian epithelial cell enhancer, within an intron of ANKLE1. When this enhancer containing rs56069439 was deleted ANKLE1 expression was significantly reduced, without any reduction in BABAM1 or ABHD8 expression. Further experiments using homology-directed repair will be required to determine if there is allele-specific activity of the rs56069439 SNP in regulating ANKLE1 expression, and to determine whether shadow enhancers are employed to maintain ABHD8 expression⁴³.

In conclusion, we have performed detailed functional analysis of SNPs and candidate target genes at the 19p13 locus in breast

and ovarian normal and cancer cells. *ABHD8* is the most likely target gene although we cannot rule out a role for *ANKLE1* in the development of breast and OC or the possibility that both genes, acting independently or in synergy may be functional targets of candidate causal SNPs. Using a combination of genetic fine mapping, and a spectrum of *in silico* and functional assays, seven of thirteen showed evidence of functionality.

These data suggest that the underlying functional mechanism(s) at the 19p13 locus may be mediated by many SNPs rather than by a single causal allele. This hypothesis is supported by studies showing tissue-specific enrichment of correlated risk-associated SNPs at susceptibility loci within regulatory biofeatures, including enhancers and transcription factor binding sites ^{19,20}. Such enrichments would not be detected if a single causal SNP at a locus was driving disease development. Taken together these data suggest that common molecular mechanisms are likely to underlie this pleiotropic risk locus.

Methods

Study populations. All specimens used in this study were collected with informed consent and under the approval of local Institutional Review Boards. We used epidemiological and genotype data from studies participating in the BCAC⁴⁴, the $OCAC^{12}$ and the CIMBA⁴⁵ that have been genotyped using the iCOGS array that included $\sim 200,000$ SNPs.

BC association consortium. Data were available from 52 BC case-control studies, 41 studies of European ancestry, 9 studies of Asian ancestry and 2 studies of African-American ancestry. Details of all studies, the genotyping process and the quality control process have been described elsewhere^{6,44}, standard sample and genotyping QC criteria were applied. After the quality control process, data on 46,451 cases and 42,599 controls of European ancestry, 6,269 cases and 6,624 controls of Asian ancestry and 1,117 cases and 932 controls of African-American ancestry were available for analysis. Data on the BC ER status were available for 34,509 cases of European ancestry, 7,435 (22%) of whom had ER-negative tumours.

OC association consortium. Data were available from 41 case-control studies of EOC from OCAC that were genotyped using the iCOGS array¹². In addition to the OCAC iCOGS data, genotype data were available for stage 1 of three population based OC genome-wide association studies. The final data set comprised genotype data for 11,069 cases and 21,722 controls from COGS ('OCAC-iCOGS'), 2,165 cases and 2,564 controls from a GWAS from North America ('US GWAS')⁴⁶, 1,762 cases and 6,118 controls from a UK-based GWAS ('UK GWAS')⁷, and 441 cases and 441 controls from the Mayo Clinic. All subjects included in this analysis provided written informed consent as well as data and blood samples under ethically approved protocols. Overall, 43 studies from 11 countries provided data on 15,437 women diagnosed with invasive EOC, 9,627 of whom were diagnosed with serous EOC and 30,845 controls from the general population.

Consortium of investigators of modifiers of BRCA1/2. Data on *BRCA1* mutation carriers were obtained through CIMBA. Eligibility in CIMBA is restricted to females 18 years or older with pathogenic mutations in *BRCA1* or *BRCA2*. The majority of the participants were sampled through cancer genetics clinics⁴⁷, including some related participants. Fifty-one studies from 25 countries contributed data on *BRCA1* mutation carriers who were genotyped using the iCOGS array⁴⁵. After quality control of the phenotypes and genotypes, data were available on 15,252 *BRCA1* mutation carriers of whom 7,455 had been diagnosed with BC, 2,639 with ER-negative BC and 1,724 with OC, all of European ancestry. Analyses in *BRCA1* mutation carriers focused on assessing associations with BC risk, following the evidence from the original GWAS in *BRCA1* mutation carriers⁴⁸.

URLs: 1000 Genomes Project, http://www.1000genomes.org/; BCAC, http://ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/consortia/bcac/index.html; CIMBA, http://ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/consortia/cimba/index.html; COGS, http://www.cogseu.org/; iCOGS, http://ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/research/consortia/ icogs/; SNAP

https://www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/snap/; TCGA, https://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov; CGHub, https://cghub.ucsc.edu/

iCOGS SNP selection for fine mapping and imputation. The fine mapping region was defined as Chromosome 19 positions: 17,130,000–17,550,000 (NCBI build 37). To identify the set of variants potentially responsible for the original GWAS reports, we considered all variants with minor allele frequencies of >0.02 from the 1,000 Genomes Project (March 2010 version) and selected all SNPs correlated (r^2 >0.1) with either of the two SNPs that had been identified through the *BRCA1* and EOC GWAS studies (rs8170 and rs2363956)^{12,45}, plus an additional set of SNPs that tagged all remaining SNPs in the region with r^2 >0.9. A total of 438 SNPs that were included on iCOGS in the 19p13 region passed QC and were available for the analyses. Data on these SNPs were used to impute the genotypes of all known variants from the 1,000 genomes project (V3, April 2012 release49) using the IMPUTE (version 2) software. After excluding SNPs with MAF <0.001 and SNPs with imputation r^2 accuracy score of ≤0.3, there were 2,269 imputed SNPs in BCAC, 2,565 in OCAC and 2,311 in *BRCA1* mutation.

BCAC and **OCAC** association analysis and logistic regression. To evaluate the association of each SNP with breast and EOC risk in BCAC and OCAC we used a Wald test statistic based on logistic regression, by estimating the per-allele OR and its.e. Analyses restricted to specific tumour subtypes (ER-negative BC or high-grade serous EOC) were assessed separately using all available controls. All analyses were adjusted for principal components, described in more detail elsewhere 12,44 . Conditional logistic regression was used to assess the evidence that there are multiple independent association signals in the region, by evaluating the associations of genetic variants in the region while adjusting for the SNP with the smallest *P* value. We considered only SNPs with *P* values of association of $<10^{-3}$ and MAF>0.1% and the most parsimonious model was identified using step-wise forward logistic regression and a threshold of $P < 10^{-4}$ for retaining SNPs in the model.

CIMBA retrospective cohort analysis. All associations between genotypes and BC risk in *BRCA1* mutation carriers were evaluated using a 1 *df* per allele trend-test (*P*-trend), based on modelling the retrospective likelihood of the observed genotypes conditional on BC phenotypes⁴⁹. To allow for the non-independence among related individuals, an adjusted test statistic was used which took into account the correlation in genotypes⁴⁸. Per allele HR estimates were obtained by maximizing the retrospective likelihood. All analyses were stratified by country of residence. To identify the most parsimonious model that includes multiple SNPs, forward-selection Cox-regression analysis was performed, using the same *P* value thresholds as in the BCAC and OCAC analysis. This approach provides valid tests of association, although the parameter estimates can be biased^{49,50}. Parameter estimates for the most parsimonious model were obtained using the retrospective likelihood approach.

Meta-analysis. It is well established that the majority of BCs in BRCA1 mutation carriers are ER-negative 51,52 . To increase the statistical power for identifying the most likely causal variants, we also performed a meta-analysis of the associations of BC risk for BRCA1 mutation carriers and ER-negative BC in the general population (in BCAC) for both genotyped and imputed SNPs. We used an inverse variance approach assuming mixed effects, by combining the logarithm of the per-allele HR for the association with BC risk for BRCA1 mutation carriers and the logarithm of the OR estimate for the association with ER-negative BC in BCAC.

eQTL and allele-specific expression analyses. Germline genotype data were obtained from the Affymetrix SNP 6.0 (METABRIC) and Illumina 1M-Duo (TCGA HGSOC). No SNPs from Peak 1 and 2 were present on the Affymetrix platform so these genotypes were imputed into the 1000 Genomes European reference panel (March 2012, version 3) using IMPUTE version 2 (ref. 53). All analyses were restricted to patients of >90% European ancestry as per LAMP estimates⁵⁴ and SNPs with info score > 0.3. For METABRIC, gene expression data consisted of probe-level measurements from the Illumina HT-12 v3 microarray

platform for a total of 135 samples obtained from normal breast tissue adjacent to tumour and 59 samples obtained from ER-negative breast tumours were analysed. For TCGA HGSOC, gene expression data consisted of measurements from the Agilent 244 K microarray for 340 HGSOC tumours downloaded from the cBioportal. Only genes and probes <1 Mb from the top Peak 1 SNP were analysed. Tumour gene expression data was first adjusted for copy number (TCGA and METBRIC, Affymetrix SNP 6.0 calls) and methylation (TCGA only, Illumina 27 K beta values) using the method of Li $et\,al^{31}$. Expression QTL analysis was conducted by linear regression with genotypes as predictors, as implemented in the R package Matrix eQTL⁵⁵.

Sixty early passage primary normal OSECs and fallopian tube epithelial cells were collected and cultured as previously described^{27,56}. Briefly, OSECs were harvested from ovaries using a sterile cytobrush and cultured in Medium 199 and MCDB105, mixed in a 1:1 ratio and supplemented with 15% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Hyclone), 10 ng ml^{-1} epidermal growth factor, 0.5 mg ml^{-1} hydrocortisone, 5 mg ml^{-1} insulin (all Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA) and 34 mg protein per ml bovine pituitary extract (Life Technologies). Fresh fallopian specimens were subjected to 48-72 h Pronase (Roche) and DNase I digests to release the epithelial cells. Epithelial cells were pelleted and cultured on collagen in DMEM/F12 supplemented with 10% FBS (Seradigm). RNA was isolated from cell cultures harvested at ~80% confluency using the QIAgen miRNAeasy kit with on-column DNase 1 digestion. 500 ng of RNA was reverse transcribed using SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis System (Invitrogen). The cDNA was diluted to 10 ng μl and 12.5 ng was used in target specific amplification before real-time PCR using TaqMan PreAmp Master Mix Kit (Applied Biosystems) following Fluidigm's Specific Target Amplification Protocol. 1.25 µl of the 25 µl pre-amplified cDNA was added to each chip. Each sample was run in triplicate and each experiment included no template controls and no template controls from the cDNA reactions. 96.96 Dynamic Array Integrated Fluidic Circuits (Fluidigm) were loaded with 96 pre-amplified cDNA samples and 96 TaqMan gene expression probes (Applied Biosystems) using the BioMark HD System (Fluidigm). Expression levels for each gene were normalized to the average expression of control genes (GAPDH and ACTB). Relative expression levels were calculated using the $\Delta\Delta$ Ct method. Correlations between genotype and gene expression were calculated in R 2.14.1. Genotype specific gene expression was compared using the Jonckheere-Terpstra test. Genes with significant eQTL results were validated by individual Taqman (Applied Biosystems, Warrington UK) reactions run on ABI 7900HT Sequence Detection System equipment and analysed with SDS software according to the manufacturer's instructions. Normal cell line DNAs were analysed on iCOGS arrays to obtain genotype information. We analysed all protein-coding genes within a 1 Mb region of the risk association. The method for allele specific expression analysis has been described previously31.

Breast and ovarian normal and cancer cell lines. Breast and OC cell lines MCF7 (ER + , breast; ATCC #HTB-22) and A2780 (ER + , ovarian; kindly provided by Thomas Hamilton, NCI, Maryland) were grown in RPMI medium with 10% FBS and antibiotics. The normal breast epithelial cell lines Bre-80 (kindly provided by Roger Reddel, CMRI, Sydney) and MCF10A (ATCC #CRL-10317) were grown in DMEM/F12 medium with 5% horse serum, $10\,\mathrm{mg\,ml^{-1}}$ insulin, 0.5 mg ml $^{-1}$ hydrocortisone, $20\,\mathrm{ng\,ml^{-1}}$ epidermal growth factor, $100\,\mathrm{ng\,ml^{-1}}$ cholera toxin and antibiotics. The phenotypically normal TERT immortalized ovarian epithelial cell lines IOSE11 and IOSE19 (ref. 32) were grown in NOSE-CM. All cell lines were maintained under standard conditions, were routinely tested for *Mycoplasma* and were profiled with short tandem repeats to confirm their identity.

Functional annotation of risk SNPs. FAIRE-seq and ChIP-seq for H3K27ac and H3K4me1 marks in normal ovarian (IOSE4, IOSE11) and fallopian epithelial cell lines (FT33, FT246) and OC cell lines (CaOV3, UWB1.289) were generated in-house using standard protocols and have been previously described 19.27. Epigenetic marks in HMECs were downloaded from ENCODE (genome.ucsc.edu).

Chromosome conformation capture. 3C libraries were generated using *NcoI* as described previously¹⁴. To quantify interactions by real-time quantitative PCR (qPCR) was performed using primers listed in Supplementary Table 9. All qPCRs were performed on a RotorGene 6,000 using MyTaq HS DNA polymerase with the addition of 5 mM of Syto9, annealing temperature of 66 °C and extension of 30 s. Each experiments was performed three times in duplicate. The BAC clone (CTD-2278I10) covering the 19p13 region was used to normalize for PCR efficiency and a by reference region within *GAPDH* used to calculate relative interaction frequencies. All qPCR products were resolved on 2% agarose gels, gel purified and sequenced to verify the 3C product.

RNA stability assays. For each genotype (two homozygotes and the heterozygote) two early passage primary normal ovarian epithelial cell lines were incubated with actinomycin D for 20 h. RNA was extracted using the QIAgen RNeasy extraction kit and reverse transcribed using MMLV RT enzyme and random hexamers (Promega). Quantitative PCR was performed using TaqMan gene expression probes for ABHD8 (Hs00225984_m1) and ANKLE1 (Hs01094673_g1). Signal for each gene of interest was normalized to signal for ACTB (Hs01060665_g1) and

GAPDH (Hs02758991_g1) and relative gene expression calculated using the $\Delta\Delta$ Ct method, relative to untreated cells. 18s rRNA (Hs99999901_s1) and MYC (Hs00153408_m1) mRNA levels were included as internal controls.

Promoter and allele specific enhancer assays. A 1119 bp fragment containing the ABHD8 promoter was cloned into the pGL3 basic luciferase reporter. Reference and risk associated ANKLE1 promoter fragments were synthesized by GenScript and cloned into pGL3 basic. We generated PCR fragments corresponding to PRE A and PRE B and had PRE C haplotype fragments synthesized by GenScript and these were also sub-cloned into ABHD8 and ANKLE1 promoter constructs. PCR primers are listed in Supplementary Table 10. Bre80 and A2780 cells were transiently transfected with equimolar amounts of luciferase reporter constructs using Renilla luciferase as an internal control reporter. Luciferase was measured 24 h after transfection using Dual-Glo Luciferase (Promega). To correct for any differences in transfection efficiency or cell lysate preparation, Firefly luciferase activity was normalized to Renilla luciferase, and the activity of each construct was measured relative to the promoter alone construct, which had a defined activity of 1. Association was assessed by log transforming the data and performing two-way ANOVA, followed by Dunnett's multiple comparisons test; for ease of interpretation, values were back transformed to the original scale for the graphs.

Genome editing. Guide RNAs targeting the region flanking rs56069439 (5'-GT GAGACGGTCAGAACCAAT-3' and 5'-GTGTCTGAGGCCGAAAGAGC-3') were designed using the CRISPR design tool from the Zhang lab (www.crispr.mit.edu)⁵⁷. The gRNAs were cloned into the lentiCRISPR (Addgene Plasmid 49535) vector by using the BsmBI restriction enzyme site and lentiviral supernatants made by cotransfection of HEK293T cells. IOSE19 and MCF10A cells were transduced with viral supernatants and infected cells selected using 400 ng ml⁻¹ and 500 ng ml⁻ puromycin (Sigma Aldrich) respectively. Selected cells were sorted into single cells using flow cytometry and expanded in vitro. Screening for clones containing the deletion was performed using the following primers: Forwards: 5'-CCCTGACATC CAGGGTCTTC-3' and Reverse: 5'-AGTCCAGCGTCTCATCGGTA-3'. For sequence verification of the deletion the following primers were used: Forwards: 5'-TTCTGGACCAGTCCCTGACA-3' and Reverse: 5'-CAGCGTCTCATCGGT AGGTC-3'. RNA was isolated from positive clones using the Zymo Quick-RNA kit and reverse transcribed using Superscript III (Life Technologies). Real time gene expression analysis was performed using TaqMan probes, as described above.

In vitro analysis of candidate genes. The three candidate genes were overexpressed as green fluorescent protein fusion proteins. The BABAM1 overexpression construct was a kind gift from Dr S Elledge⁵⁸. ANKLE1 and ABHD8 contructs were purchased from Genecopoeia. Virus was made in-house by cotransfection of HEK293Ts and used to transduce MCF10A and IOSE19 cells. Positive cells were selected using 400 ng ml $^{-1}$ (for IOSE19 cells) or 500 ng ml $^{-1}$ (for MCF10A cells) puromycin. Anchorage dependent and independent growth assays were performed as previously described ^{32,59}. For invasion and migration assays Millipore luminescent transwell assays (24 well plate format) were used, following the manufacturer's protocol.

Data availability. The relevant SNP genotype data underpinning these analyses can be accessed by applying to the OCAC, BCAC and CIMBA consortia (see URLs). EQTL data are available in supplementary information. All other data are available on request.

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Author contributions

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Additional information

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Kate Lawrenson^{1,*,†}, Siddhartha Kar^{2,*}, Karen McCue³, Karoline Kuchenbaeker⁴, Kyriaki Michailidou⁴, Jonathan Tyrer², Jonathan Beesley³, Susan J. Ramus¹, Oiyuan Li^{5,6}, Melissa K. Delgado¹, Janet M. Lee¹, Kristiina Aittomäki⁷, Irene L. Andrulis^{8,9}, Hoda Anton-Culver¹⁰, Volker Arndt¹¹, Banu K. Arun¹², Brita Arver¹³, Elisa V. Bandera¹⁴, Monica Barile¹⁵, Rosa B. Barkardottir¹⁶, Daniel Barrowdale⁴, Matthias W. Beckmann¹⁷, Javier Benitez^{18,19}, Andrew Berchuck²⁰, Maria Bisogna²¹, Line Bjorge^{22,23}, Carl Blomqvist²⁴, William Blot^{25,26}, Natalia Bogdanova²⁷, Anders Bojesen²⁸, Stig E. Bojesen^{29,30,31}, Manjeet K. Bolla⁴, Bernardo Bonanni¹⁵, Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale^{32,33}, Hiltrud Brauch^{34,35,36}, Paul Brennan³⁷, Hermann Brenner^{11,36,38}, Fiona Bruinsma³⁹, Joan Brunet⁴⁰, Shaik Ahmad Buhari⁴¹, Barbara Burwinkel^{42,43}, Ralf Butzow^{44,45}, Saundra S. Buys⁴⁶, Qiuyin Cai²⁵, Trinidad Caldes⁴⁷, Ian Campbell⁴⁸, Rikki Canniotto⁴⁹, Jenny Chang-Claude^{50,51}, Jocelyne Chiquette⁵², Ji-Yeob Choi^{53,54}, Kathleen B.M. Claes⁵⁵, GEMO Study Collaborators[‡], Linda S. Cook⁵⁶, Angela Cox⁵⁷, Daniel W. Cramer^{58,59}, Simon S. Cross⁶⁰, Cezary Cybulski⁶¹, Kamila Czene⁶², Mary B. Daly⁶³, Francesca Damiola⁶⁴, Agnieszka Dansonka-Mieszkowska⁶⁵, Hatef Darabi⁶², Joe Dennis⁴, Peter Devilee^{66,67}, Orland Diez⁶⁸, Jennifer A. Doherty⁶⁹, Susan M. Domchek⁷⁰, Cecilia M. Dorfling⁷¹, Thilo Dörk²⁷, Martine Dumont⁷², Hans Ehrencrona^{73,74}, Bent Ejlertsen⁷⁵, Steve Ellis⁴, EMBRACE[‡], Christoph Engel⁷⁶, Eunjung Lee¹, D. Gareth Evans⁷⁷, Peter A. Fasching^{17,78}, Lidia Feliubadalo⁷⁹, Jonine Figueroa⁸⁰, Dieter Flesch-Janys^{81,82}, Olivia Fletcher^{83,84}, Henrik Flyger⁸⁵, Lenka Foretova⁸⁶, Florentia Fostira⁸⁷, William D. Foulkes⁸⁸,

Brooke L. Fridley⁸⁹, Eitan Friedman⁹⁰, Debra Frost⁴, Gaetana Gambino⁹¹, Patricia A Ganz⁹², Judy Garber⁹³, Montserrat García-Closas^{80,94}, Aleksandra Gentry-Maharaj⁹⁵, Maya Ghoussaini², Graham G. Giles^{39,96}, Rosalind Glasspool⁹⁷, Andrew K. Godwin⁹⁸, Mark S. Goldberg^{99,100}, David E. Goldgar¹⁰¹, Anna González-Neira¹⁸, Ellen L. Goode¹⁰², Marc T. Goodman^{103,104}, Mark H. Greene¹⁰⁵, Jacek Gronwald¹⁰⁶, Pascal Guénel 107,108, Christopher A. Haiman 1, Per Hall 62, Emily Hallberg 102, Ute Hamann 109, Thomas V.O. Hansen¹¹⁰, Patricia A. Harrington¹¹¹, Mikael Hartman^{41,112}, Norhashimah Hassan^{113,114}, Sue Healey³, The Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Research Group Netherlands (HEBON)[‡], Florian Heitz^{115,116}, Josef Herzog¹¹⁷, Estrid Høgdall^{118,119}, Claus K. Høgdall¹²⁰, Frans B.L. Hogervorst¹²¹, Antoinette Hollestelle¹²², John L. Hopper⁹⁶, Peter J. Hulick¹²³, Tomasz Huzarski⁶¹, Evgeny N. Imyanitov¹²⁴, KConFab Investigators[‡], Australian Ovarian Cancer Study Group[‡], Claudine Isaacs¹²⁵, Hidemi Ito¹²⁶, Anna Jakubowska⁶¹, Ramunas Janavicius¹²⁷, Allan Jensen¹²⁰, Esther M. John¹²⁸, Nichola Johnson^{83,84}, Maria Kabisch¹⁰⁹, Daehee Kang^{53,54,129}, Miroslav Kapuscinski¹³⁰, Beth Y. Karlan¹³¹, Sofia Khan⁴⁴, Lambertus A. Kiemeney¹³², Susanne Kruger Kjaer^{119,120}, Julia A. Knight^{133,134}, Irene Konstantopoulou⁸⁷, Veli-Matti Kosma^{135,136,137}, Vessela Kristensen^{32,33,138}, Jolanta Kupryjanczyk⁶⁵, Ava Kwong^{139,140}, Miguel de la Hoya⁴⁷, Yael Laitman⁹⁰, Diether Lambrechts^{141,142}, Nhu Le¹, Kim De Leeneer⁵⁵, Jenny Lester¹³¹, Douglas A. Levine²¹, Jingmei Li⁶², Annika Lindblom¹⁴³, Jirong Long²⁵, Artitaya Lophatananon¹⁴⁴, Jennifer T. Loud¹⁰⁵, Karen Lu¹⁴⁵, Jan Lubinski⁶¹, Arto Mannermaa^{135,136,137}, Siranoush Manoukian¹⁴⁶, Loic Le Marchand¹⁴⁷, Sara Margolin¹⁴⁸, Frederik Marme^{43,149}, Leon F.A.G. Massuger¹⁵⁰, Keitaro Matsuo¹⁵¹, Sylvie Mazoyer⁶⁴, Lesley McGuffog⁴, Catriona McLean¹⁵², Iain McNeish¹⁵³, Alfons Meindl¹⁵⁴, Usha Menon⁹⁵, Arjen R. Mensenkamp¹⁵⁵, Roger L. Milne^{39,96}, Marco Montagna¹⁵⁶, Kirsten B. Moysich¹⁵⁷, Kenneth Muir^{144,158}, Anna Marie Mulligan^{159,160}, Katherine L. Nathanson⁷⁰, Roberta B. Ness¹⁶¹, Susan L. Neuhausen¹⁶², Heli Nevanlinna⁴⁴, Silje Nord³³, Robert L. Nussbaum¹⁶³, Kunle Odunsi¹⁶⁴, Kenneth Offit¹⁶⁵, Edith Olah¹⁶⁶, Olufunmilayo I. Olopade¹⁶⁷, Janet E. Olson¹⁰², Curtis Olswold¹⁰², David O'Malley¹⁶⁸, Irene Orlow¹⁶⁹, Nick Orr⁸³, Ana Osorio^{170,171}, Sue Kyung Park^{54,129,172}, Celeste L. Pearce¹, Tanja Pejovic^{173,174}, Paolo Peterlongo¹⁷⁵, Georg Pfeiler¹⁷⁶, Catherine M. Phelan¹⁷⁷, Elizabeth M. Poole^{178,179}, Katri Pylkäs^{180,181}, Paolo Radice¹⁸², Johanna Rantala¹⁸³, Muhammad Usman Rashid^{109,184}, Gad Rennert¹⁸⁵, Valerie Rhenius², Kerstin Rhiem¹⁸⁶, Harvey A. Risch¹⁸⁷, Gus Rodriguez¹⁸⁸, Mary Anne Rossing^{189,190}, Anja Rudolph⁵⁰, Helga B. Salvesen^{22,23}, Suleeporn Sangrajrang¹⁹¹, Elinor J. Sawyer¹⁹², Joellen M. Schildkraut^{193,194}, Marjanka K. Schmidt¹⁹⁵, Rita K. Schmutzler^{196,197,198,199}, Thomas A. Sellers¹⁷⁷, Caroline Seynaeve¹²², Mitul Shah², Chen-Yang Shen^{200,201}, Xiao-Ou Shu²⁵, Weiva Sieh²⁰², Christian F. Singer¹⁷⁶, Olga M. Sinilnikova^{203,204}, Susan Slager¹⁰², Honglin Song², Penny Soucy⁷², Melissa C. Southey²⁰⁵, Marie Stenmark-Askmalm^{74,206}, Dominique Stoppa-Lyonnet^{207,208}, Christian Sutter²⁰⁹, Anthony Swerdlow^{84,94}, Sandrine Tchatchou⁸, Manuel R. Teixeira^{210,211}, Soo H. Teo^{113,114}, Kathryn L. Terry^{58,59}, Mary Beth Terry²¹², Mads Thomassen²¹³, Maria Grazia Tibiletti²¹⁴, Laima Tihomirova²¹⁵, Silvia Tognazzo²¹⁶, Amanda Ewart Toland²¹⁷, Ian Tomlinson²¹⁸, Diana Torres^{109,219}, Thérèse Truong^{107,108}, Chiu-chen Tseng¹, Nadine Tung²²⁰, Shelley S. Tworoger^{178,179}, Celine Vachon¹⁰², Ans M.W. van den Ouweland²²¹, Helena C. van Doorn²²², Elizabeth J. van Rensburg⁷¹, Laura J. Van't Veer¹⁹⁵, Adriaan Vanderstichele²²³, Ignace Vergote²²³, Joseph Vijai¹⁶⁵, Qin Wang⁴, Shan Wang-Gohrke²²⁴, Jeffrey N. Weitzel¹¹⁷, Nicolas Wentzensen²²⁵, Alice S. Whittemore²⁰², Hans Wildiers²²⁶, Robert Wingvist^{180,181}, Anna H. Wu¹, Drakoulis Yannoukakos²²⁷, Sook-Yee Yoon^{228,229}, Jyh-Cherng Yu²³⁰, Wei Zheng²⁵, Ying Zheng²³¹, Kum Kum Khanna³, Jacques Simard⁷², Alvaro N. Monteiro²³², Juliet D. French³, Fergus J. Couch^{102,233}, Matthew L. Freedman⁶, Douglas F. Easton^{2,4}, Alison M. Dunning², Paul D. Pharoah², Stacey L. Edwards³, Georgia Chenevix-Trench^{3,**}, Antonis C. Antoniou^{4,**} & & Simon A. Gayther^{1**,†}

Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, Los Angeles, California 90033, USA. ² Department of Oncology, Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB1 8RN, UK. ³ QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Queensland 4029, Australia. ⁴ Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB1 8RN, UK. 5 Medical College, Xiamen University, Xiamen 361102, China. 6 Department of Medical Oncology, The Center for Functional Cancer Epigenetics, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA. ⁷ Department of Clinical Genetics, Helsinki University Hospital, University of Helsinki, Helsinki 00029 HUS, Finland. ⁸ Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario Canada, M5G 1X5. 9 Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto, Toronto, OntarioCanada, M5S 1A8. 10 Department of Epidemiology, Genetic Epidemiology Research Institute, School of Medicine, University of California Irvine, Irvine, California 92697, USA. ¹¹ Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Aging Research, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, 69120, Germany. 12 University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas 77030, USA. ¹³ Department of Oncology, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm 171 77, Sweden. ¹⁴ Cancer Prevention and Control, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903, USA. 15 Division of Cancer Prevention and Genetics, Istituto Europeo di Oncologia, Milan 20141, Italy. 16 Department of Pathology, Landspitali University Hospital and BMC (Biomedical Centre), Faculty of Medicine, University of Iceland, Reykjavik 600169-2039, Iceland. ¹⁷ University Hospital Erlangen, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Comprehensive Cancer Center Erlangen-EMN, Erlangen 91054, Germany. ¹⁸ Human Cancer Genetics Program, Spanish National Cancer Research Centre, Madrid E-28029, Spain. ¹⁹ Centro de Investigación en Red de Enfermedades Raras, Valencia 28029, Spain. ²⁰ Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina 27710, USA. ²¹ Gynecology Service, Department of Surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York 10065, USA. 22 Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Haukeland University Hospital, 5021 Bergen, Norway. 23 Centre for Cancer Biomarkers, Department of Clinical Science, University of Bergen, N-5020 Bergen, Norway. ²⁴ Department of Oncology, Helsinki University Hospital, University of Helsinki, Helsinki FIN-00029, Finland. ²⁵ Division of Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee 37203, USA. ²⁶ International Epidemiology Institute, Rockville, Maryland 20850, USA. ²⁷ Gynaecology Research Unit, Hannover Medical School, Hannover D-30625, Germany. ²⁸ Department of Clinical Genetics, Vejle Hospital, Vejle 7100, Denmark. ²⁹ Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen 2200, Denmark. 30 Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Herlev Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev 2730, Denmark. 31 Copenhagen General Population Study, Herlev Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev 2730, Denmark, 32 Department of Genetics, Institute for Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital Radiumhospitalet, Oslo N-0310, Norway, 33 K.G. Jebsen Center for Breast Cancer Research, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo N-0310, Norway. 34 Dr Margarete Fischer-Bosch-Institute of Clinical Pharmacology, Stuttgart D-70376, Germany. 35 University of Tübingen, Tübingen 72074, Germany. 36 German Cancer Consortium (DKTK), German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg 69120, Germany. 37 International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon 69008, France. ³⁸ Division of Preventive Oncology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg 69121, Germany. ³⁹ Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia. 40 Genetic Counseling Unit, Hereditary Cancer Program, IDIBGI (Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Girona), Catalan Institute of Oncology, Girona 08908, Spain. 41 Department of Surgery, National University Health System, Singapore 119077, Singapore. 42 Molecular Epidemiology Group, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg 69120, Germany. ⁴³ Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg 69120, Germany. 44 Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Helsinki and Helsinki University Central Hospital, Helsinki 00029 HUS, Finland. ⁴⁵ Department of Pathology, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Helsinki 00029, Finland. ⁴⁶ Department of Medicine, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112, USA. 47 Molecular Oncology Laboratory, Hospital Clinico San Carlos, IdISSC (El Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria del Hospital Clínico San Carlos), Madrid 28040, Spain. ⁴⁸ Cancer Genetics Laboratory, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Victoria 3002, Australia. ⁴⁹ Cancer Pathology & Prevention, Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Elm and Carlton Streets, Buffalo 14263, New York, USA. 50 Division of Cancer Epidemiology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg 69121, Germany. ⁵¹University Cancer Center Hamburg (UCCH), University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg 20246, Germany. ⁵² Unité de recherche en santé des populations, Centre des maladies du sein Deschênes-Fabia, Centre de recherche FRSQ du Centre hospitalier affilié universitaire de Ouébec, Ouébec City, Ouébec Canada, GIJ 1Z4, ⁵³ Cancer Research Institute, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Korea, ⁵⁴ Department of Biomedical Sciences, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul 03080, Korea. ⁵⁵ Center for Medical Genetics, Ghent University, Ghent 9000, Belgium. ⁵⁶ Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Department of Internal Medicine, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131, USA. ⁵⁷ Sheffield Cancer Research, Department of Oncology, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, UK. ⁵⁸ Harvard HT Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA. ⁵⁹ Obstetrics and Gynecology Epidemiology Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA. 60 Academic Unit of Pathology, Department of Neuroscience, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, UK. ⁶¹ Department of Genetics and Pathology, Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin 70-115, Poland. ⁶² Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm SE-171 77, Sweden. ⁶³ Department of Clinical Genetics, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111, USA. 64 INSERM U1052, CNRS UMR5286, Université Lyon, Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon, Lyon 69373, France. 65 Department of Pathology and Laboratory Diagnostics the Maria Sklodowska Curie Memorial Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology, Warsaw 44-101, Poland. 66 Department of Pathology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden 2333, The Netherlands. ⁶⁷ Department of Human Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden 2333, The Netherlands, ⁶⁸ Oncogenetics Group, University Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona 08035, Spain. ⁶⁹ Department of Community and Family Medicine, Section of Biostatistics & Epidemiology, The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Lebanon, New Hampshire 03755, USA. 70 Department of Medicine, Abramson Cancer Center, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA. 71 Department of Genetics, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0083, South Africa. 72 Genomics Center, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Québec Research Center, Laval University, Québec City, Québec Canada, G1V 4G2. 73 Department of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology, Uppsala University, Uppsala 751 05, Sweden. ⁷⁴ Department of Clinical Genetics, Lund University Hospital, Lund 221 00, Sweden. ⁷⁵ Department of Oncology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark. ⁷⁶ Institute for Medical Informatics, Statistics and Epidemiology, University of Leipzig, 04107 Leipzig, Germany. 77 Genomic Medicine, Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre, Institute of Human Development, Manchester University, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester M13 9PL, UK. 78 University of California at Los Angeles, David Geffen School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology, Los Angeles California 90095, USA. ⁷⁹ Molecular Diagnostic Unit, Hereditary Cancer Program, IDIBELL (Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute),Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona 08908, Spain. 80 Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Rockville, Maryland 20892, USA. 81 Institute for Medical Biometrics and Epidemiology, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg 20246, Germany. ⁸² Department of Cancer Epidemiology, Clinical Cancer Registry, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg 20246, Germany. ⁸³ Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre, The Institute of Cancer Research, London SW3 6JB, UK. ⁸⁴ Division of Breast Cancer Research, The Institute of Cancer Research, London SW7 3RP, UK. ⁸⁵ Department of Breast Surgery, Herlev Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, 2730 Herlev, Denmark. 86 Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute and Medical Faculty MU, 625 00 Brno, Czech Republic. 87 Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, (INRASTES) Institute of Nuclear and Radiological Sciences and Technology, National Centre for Scientific Research 'Demokritos', Aghia Paraskevi Attikis, Athens 153 10, Greece. 88 Program in Cancer Genetics, Departments of Human Genetics and Oncology, McGill University, Montreal, Montreal, Quebec H2W 1S6, Canada. 89 Biostatistics and Informatics Shared Resource, University of Kansas Medical

Center, Kansas City, Kansas 66160, USA. 90 Susanne Levy Gertner Oncogenetics Unit, Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer 52621, Israel. 91 Section of Genetic Oncology, Department of Laboratory Medicine, University and University Hospital of Pisa, Pisa 56126, Italy. 92 UCLA Schools of Medicine and Public Health, Division of Cancer Prevention & Control Research, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Los Angeles, California 90024, USA. 93 Cancer Risk and Prevention Clinic, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA. 94 Division of Genetics and Epidemiology, The Institute of Cancer Research, London SW7 3RP, UK. 95 Women's Cancer, UCL EGA Institute for Women's Health, London WC1E 6AU, UK. 96 Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia. 97 Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit, The Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, Glasgow G12 OYN, UK. 98 Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas 66160, USA. 99 Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Royal Victoria Hospital, McGill University, Montreal, Québec H3A 1A1, Canada. 100 Department of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, Québec H3A 1A1, Canada. 101 Department of Dermatology, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah 84132, USA. 102 Department of Health Sciences Research, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota 55902, USA. 103 Cancer Prevention and Control, Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California 90048, USA. ¹⁰⁴ Community and Population Health Research Institute, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California 90048, USA. 105 Clinical Genetics Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, Maryland 20892, USA. ¹⁰⁶ Department of Genetics and Pathology, Pomeranian Medical University, 70-204 Szczecin, Poland. ¹⁰⁷ Environmental Epidemiology of Cancer, Center for Research in Epidemiology and Population Health, INSERM, 94805 Villejuif, France. ¹⁰⁸ University Paris-Sud, 91405 Villejuif, France. ¹⁰⁹ Molecular Genetics of Breast Cancer, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg 69120, Germany. ¹¹⁰ Center for Genomic Medicine, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark. 111 Department of Oncology, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Strangeways Research Laboratory, Cambridge CB1 8RN, UK. 112 Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore Singapore 119077, Singapore. ¹¹³ Breast Cancer Research Unit, Cancer Research Institute, University Malaya Medical Centre, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 114 Cancer Research Initiatives Foundation, Subang Jaya, 47500 Selangor, Malaysia. 115 Department of Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology, Kliniken Essen-Mitte, 45136 Essen, Germany. 116 Department of Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology, Dr Horst Schmidt Kliniken Wiesbaden, 65199 Wiesbaden, Germany. 117 Clinical Cancer Genetics, for the City of Hope Clinical Cancer Genetics Community Research Network, Duarte California 91010, USA. ¹¹⁸ Molecular Unit, Department of Pathology, Herlev Hospital, University of Copenhagen, 2730 Copenhagen, Denmark. ¹¹⁹ Department of Virus, Lifestyle and Genes, Danish Cancer Society Research Center, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark. 120 Department of Gynecology, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark. 121 Family Cancer Clinic, Netherlands Cancer Institute, 1006 Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 122 Department of Medical Oncology, Family Cancer Clinic, Erasmus MC Cancer Institute, 3015 Rotterdam, The Netherlands. 123 Center for Medical Genetics, NorthShore University Health System, Evanston, Illinois 60201, USA. ¹²⁴ N.N. Petrov Institute of Oncology, St Petersburg 197758, Russia. ¹²⁵ Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University, Washington District of Columbia 20057, USA. 126 Division of Epidemiology and Prevention, Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute, Aichi 464-8681, Japan. 127 State Research Institute Centre for Innovative Medicine, LT-01102 Vilnius, Lithuania. 128 Department of Epidemiology, Cancer Prevention Institute of California, Fremont, California 94538, USA. 129 Department of Preventive Medicine, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul 08826, Korea. 130 Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia. 131 Women's Cancer Program at the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California 90048, USA, 132 Radboud University Medical Centre, Radboud Institute for Health Sciences, 6500 Nijmegen, The Netherlands. 133 Prosserman Centre for Health Research, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X5, Canada. ¹³⁴ Division of Epidemiology, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5T 3M7, Canada. ¹³⁵ Imaging Center, Department of Clinical Pathology, Kuopio University Hospital, 70210 Kuopio, Finland. ¹³⁶ Cancer Center, Kuopio University Hospital, 70210 Kuopio, Finland. ¹³⁷ Institute of Clinical Medicine, Pathology and Forensic Medicine, University of Eastern Finland, 70210 Kuopio, Finland. ¹³⁸ Department of Clinical Molecular Biology, Oslo University Hospital, University of Oslo, 1478 Oslo, Norway. ¹³⁹ The Hong Kong Hereditary Breast Cancer Family Registry, Cancer Genetics Center, Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital, Hong Kong, China. ¹⁴⁰ Department of Surgery, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China. ¹⁴¹ Vesalius Research Center, VIB, 3000 Leuven, Belgium. ¹⁴² Laboratory for Translational Genetics, Department of Oncology, University of Leuven, 3000 Leuven, Belgium. 143 Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Karolinska Institutet, SE-171 77 Stockholm, Sweden. 144 Division of Health Sciences, Warwick Medical School, Warwick University, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK. 145 Department of Gynecologic Oncology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas 77030, USA. 146 Unit of Medical Genetics, Department of Preventive and Predictive Medicine, Fondazione IRCCS (Istituto Di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico) Istituto Nazionale Tumori (INT), 20133 Milan, Italy. ¹⁴⁷ University of Hawaii Cancer Center, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, USA. ¹⁴⁸ Department of Oncology - Pathology, Karolinska Institutet, SE-171 77 Stockholm, Sweden. 149 National Center for Tumour Diseases, University of Heidelberg, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany. 150 Department of Gynaecology, Radboud University Medical Centre, 6500 Nijmegen, The Netherlands. 151 Department of Preventive Medicine, Kyushu University Faculty of Medical Sciences, Fukuoka 812-8582, Japan. 152 Anatomical Pathology, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia. 153 Institute of Cancer Sciences, University of Glasgow, Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre, Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow G61 1BD, UK. 154 Division of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Technische Universität München, 81675 Munich, Germany. ¹⁵⁵ Department of Human Genetics, Radboud University Medical Centre, 6500 Nijmegen, The Netherlands. ¹⁵⁶ Immunology and Molecular Oncology Unit, Instituto Oncologico Veneto IOV, IRCCS, 35128 Padua, Italy. ¹⁵⁷ Department of Cancer Prevention and Control, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York 14263, USA. 158 Institute of Population Health, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK. 159 Laboratory Medicine Program, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1L7, Canada. 160 Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1L7, Canada. 161 The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas 77030, USA. 162 Department of Population Sciences, Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope, Duarte, California 91010, USA. 163 Department of Medicine and Genetics, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143, USA. ¹⁶⁴ Department of Gynecological Oncology, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York 14263, USA. ¹⁶⁵ Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York 10065, USA. ¹⁶⁶ Department of Molecular Genetics, National Institute of Oncology, 1122 Budapest, Hungary. 167 Center for Clinical Cancer Genetics and Global Health, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA. ¹⁶⁸ The Ohio State University and the James Cancer Center, Columbus, Ohio 43210, USA. ¹⁶⁹ Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York 10017, USA. ¹⁷⁰ Human Genetics Group, Human Cancer Genetics Program, Spanish National Cancer Centre (CNIO), 28019 Madrid, Spain. 171 Biomedical Network on Rare Diseases (CIBERER), 28029 Madrid, Spain. 172 Department of Surgery, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, 03080 Korea. 173 Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon 97239, USA. ¹⁷⁴ Knight Cancer Institute, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon 97239, USA. ¹⁷⁵ IFOM, The FIRC (Italian Foundation for Cancer Research) Institute of Molecular Oncology, 16 20139 Milan, Italy. 176 Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Medical University of Vienna, 1090 Vienna, Austria. 177 Department of Cancer Epidemiology, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Florida 33606, USA. ¹⁷⁸ Channing Division of Network Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA. ¹⁷⁹ Department of Epidemiology, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA. ¹⁸⁰ Laboratory of Cancer Genetics and Tumour Biology, Northern Finland Laboratory Centre NordLab, Fl-90014 Oulu, Finland. 181 Laboratory of Cancer Genetics and Tumour Biology, Department of Clinical Chemistry and Biocenter Oulu, University of Oulu, FI-90014 Oulu, Finland. 182 Unit of Molecular Bases of Genetic Risk and Genetic Testing, Department of Preventive and Predictive Medicine, Fondazione IRCCS (Istituto Di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico) Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT),

20133 Milan, Italy. 183 Department of Clinical Genetics, Karolinska University Hospital, 171 76 Stockholm, Sweden. 184 Department of Basic Sciences, Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH & RC), Lahore 54000, Pakistan. 185 Clalit National Israeli Cancer Control Center and Department of Community Medicine and Epidemiology, Carmel Medical Center and B. Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Haifa, 34362, Israel. 186 Centre of Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer, Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics and Centre for Integrated Oncology (CIO), Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne (CMMC), University Hospital of Cologne, 50931 Cologne, Germany. ¹⁸⁷ Department of Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health, New Haven, Connecticut 06510, USA. ¹⁸⁸ Division of Gynecologic Oncology, NorthShore University HealthSystem, Evanston, Illinois 60201, USA. ¹⁸⁹ Program in Epidemiology, Division of Public Health Sciences, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington 98109, USA. 190 Department of Epidemiology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98109, USA. 191 National Cancer Institute, Bangkok 10400, Thailand. 192 Research Oncology, Guy's Hospital, King's College London, London SE1 9RT, UK. 193 Department of Community and Family Medicine, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina 27710, USA, 194 Cancer Control and Population Sciences, Duke Cancer Institute, Durham, North Carolina 27710, USA, 195 Netherlands Cancer Institute, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital, 1066 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 196 Division of Molecular Gyneco-Oncology, Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, University Hospital of Cologne, 50676 Cologne, Germany. 197 Center for Integrated Oncology, University Hospital of Cologne, 50676 Cologne, Germany. 198 Center for Molecular Medicine, University Hospital of Cologne, 50676 Cologne, Germany. 199 Center of Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer, University Hospital of Cologne, 50676 Cologne, Germany. 200 Taiwan Biobank, Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei 115, Taiwan. 201 School of Public Health, China Medical University, Taichung 404, Taiwan. 202 Department of Health Research and Policy - Epidemiology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford California 94305, USA. 203 Unité Mixte de Génétique Constitutionnelle des Cancers Fréquents, Hospices Civils de Lyon – Centre Léon Bérard, Lyon 69008, France. 204 INSERM U1052, CNRS UMR5286, Université Lyon 1, Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon, Lyon 69003, France. 205 Department of Pathology, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3010, Australia. 206 Division of Clinical Genetics, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Linköping University, 581 83 Linköping, Sweden. 207 Institut Curie, Department of Tumour Biology, Paris, France; Institut Curie, INSERM U830, 75248 Paris, France. ²⁰⁸ Université Paris Descartes, Sorbonne Paris Cité, 75270 Paris, France. ²⁰⁹ Institute of Human Genetics, Department of Human Genetics, University Hospital Heidelberg, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany. 210 Department of Genetics, Portuguese Oncology Institute, Porto 4200-072, Portugal. 211 Biomedical Sciences Institute (ICBAS), Porto University, Porto 4099-002, Portugal. 212 Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York 10027, USA. ²¹³ Department of Clinical Genetics, Odense University Hospital, 5000 Odense C, Denmark. ²¹⁴UO Anatomia Patologica, Ospedale di Circolo-Università dell'Insubria, 21100 Varese, Italy. ²¹⁵ Latvian Biomedical Research and Study Centre, Riga LV-1067, Latvia. 216 Immunology and Molecular Oncology Unit, Istituto Oncologico Veneto IOV - IRCCS (Istituto Di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico), 64 - 35128 Padua, Italy. ²¹⁷ Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics, The Ohio State University, Columbus. Ohio 43210, USA, ²¹⁸ Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics and Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford OX3 7BN, UK, ²¹⁹ Institute of Human Genetics, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cra. 7 #40-62 Bogota, Colombia. 220 Department of Medical Oncology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA. 221 Department of Clinical Genetics, Erasmus University Medical Center, 3015 CE Rotterdam, The Netherlands. ²²² Department of Gynecology, Family Cancer Clinic, Erasmus MC Cancer Institute, 3015 CE Rotterdam, The Netherlands. ²²³ Division of Gynecological Oncology, Department of Oncology, University Hospitals Leuven, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium. 224 University Hospital Ulm, 89069 Ulm, Germany. 225 Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda Maryland 20892, USA. 226 Multidisciplinary Breast Center, Department of General Medical Oncology, University Hospitals Leuven, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium. 227 Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, IRRP, National Centre for Scientific Research 'Demokritos', Athens 153 10, Greece. ²²⁸ Cancer Research Initiatives Foundation, Sime Darby Medical Centre, 47500 Subang Jaya, Malaysia. ²²⁹ University Malaya Cancer Research Institute, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya Medical Centre, University Malaya, 59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. ²³⁰ Department of Surgery, Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, 114 Taiwan. ²³¹ Shanghai Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Shanghai, China. 232 Cancer Epidemiology Program, Division of Population Sciences, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Tampa, Florida 33612, USA, ²³³ Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota 55905, USA, *These authors contributed equally to this work. **These authors jointly supervised this work. † Present addresses: Women's Cancer Program at the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA (K.L.); The Center for Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA (S.A.G.). ‡A full list of consortia members are listed below.

Australian Ovarian Cancer Study Group

David Bowtell^{206,234,235,236,237}, Anna deFazio²³⁸ & Penny Webb³

²³⁴ Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002, Australia. ²³⁵ Sir Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Department of Oncology, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia. ²³⁶ Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre, Department of Surgery and Cancer, Imperial College London, London W12 OHS, UK. ²³⁷ Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia. ²³⁸ Department of Gynaecological Oncology, Westmead Institute for Cancer Research, Westmead Hospital Westmead, New South Wales 2145, Australia.

GEMO Study Collaborators

Marie-Agnès Collonge-Rame²³⁹, Alexandre Damette²³⁹, Emmanuelle Barouk-Simonet²⁴⁰, Françoise Bonnet²⁴⁰, Virginie Bubien²⁴⁰, Nicolas Sevenet²⁴⁰, Michel Longy²⁴⁰, Pascaline Berthet²⁴¹, Dominique Vaur²⁴¹, Laurent Castera²⁴¹, Sandra Fert Ferrer²⁴², Yves-Jean Bignon²⁴³, Nancy Uhrhammer²⁴³, Fanny Coron²⁴⁴, Laurence Faivre²⁴⁴, Amandine Baurand²⁴⁴, Caroline Jacquot²⁴⁴, Geoffrey Bertolone²⁴⁴, Sarab Lizard²⁴⁴, Dominique Leroux²⁴⁵, Hélène Dreyfus²⁴⁵, Christine Rebischung²⁴⁵, Magalie Peysselon²⁴⁵, Jean-Philippe Peyrat²⁴⁶, Joëlle Fournier²⁴⁶, Françoise Révillion²⁴⁶, Claude Adenis²⁴⁶, Laurence Vénat-Bouvet²⁴⁷, Mélanie Léone²⁴⁸, Nadia Boutry-Kryza²⁴⁸, Alain Calender²⁴⁸, Sophie Giraud²⁴⁸, Carole Verny-Pierre²⁴⁹, Christine Lasset²⁵⁰, Valérie Bonadona²⁵⁰, Laure Barjhoux²⁵¹, Hagay Sobol²⁵², Violaine Bourdon²⁵², Tetsuro Noguchi²⁵², Audrey Remenieras²⁵², Isabelle Coupier²⁵³, Pascal Pujol²⁵³, Johanna Sokolowska²⁵⁴, Myriam Bronner²⁵⁴, Capucine Delnatte²⁵⁵, Stéphane Bézieau²⁵⁵, Véronique Mari²⁵⁶, Marion Gauthier-Villars²⁵⁷, Bruno Buecher²⁵⁷, Etienne

Rouleau²⁵⁷, Lisa Golmard²⁵⁷, Virginie Moncoutier²⁵⁷, Muriel Belotti²⁵⁷, Antoine de Pauw²⁵⁷, Camille Elan²⁵⁷, Emmanuelle Fourme²⁵⁷, Anne-Marie Birot²⁵⁷, Claire Saule²⁵⁷, Maïté Laurent²⁵⁷, Claude Houdayer^{257,258}, Fabienne Lesueur²⁵⁹, Noura Mebirouk²⁵⁹, Florence Coulet²⁶⁰, Chrystelle Colas²⁶⁰, Florent Soubrier²⁶⁰, Mathilde Warcoin²⁶⁰, Fabienne Prieur²⁶¹, Marine Lebrun²⁶¹, Caroline Kientz²⁶¹, Danièle Muller²⁶², Jean-Pierre Fricker²⁶², Christine Toulas²⁶³, Rosine Guimbaud²⁶³, Laurence Gladieff²⁶³, Viviane Feillel²⁶³, Isabelle Mortemousque²⁶⁴, Brigitte Bressac-de-Paillerets²⁶⁵, Olivier Caron²⁶⁵ & Marine Guillaud-Bataille²⁶⁵

²³⁹ Service de Génétique, CHU de Besançon, 25030 Besançon, France. ²⁴⁰ Oncogénétique, Institut Bergonié, 229 cours de l'Argonne, 33076 Bordeaux, France. ²⁴¹ Centre François Baclesse, 3 avenue Général Harris, 14000 Caen, France. ²⁴² Laboratoire de Génétique Chromosomique, Hôtel Dieu Centre Hospitalier, BP 1125 Chambéry, France. ²⁴³ Centre Jean Perrin, BP 392 Clermont-Ferrand cedex, France. ²⁴⁴ Centre de Lutte Contre le Cancer Georges François Leclerc, 1 rue Professeur Marion, BP 77 980 Dijon Cedex, France. ²⁴⁵ Département de Génétique, CHU de Grenoble, BP 217 Grenoble Cedex 9, France. ²⁴⁶ Centre Oscar Lambret, 3 rue Frédéric Combemale, 59020 Lille cedex BP307, France. ²⁴⁷ Department of Medical Oncology, CHU Dupuytren, 87042 Limoges, France. ²⁴⁸ Service de Génétique Moléculaire et Clinique, Hôpital Edouard Herriot, 5 place d'Arsonval, 69437 Lyon cedex 03, France. ²⁴⁹ Centre Léon Bérard, 28 rue Laënnec, 69437 Lyon, France. ²⁵⁰ Unité de Prévention et d'Epidémiologie Génétique, Centre Léon Bérard, 28 rue Laënnec, 69437 Lyon, France, ²⁵¹ Biopathologie, Centre Léon Bérard, 28 rue Laënnec, 69437 Lyon, France, ²⁵² Département Oncologie Génétique, Prévention et Dépistage, Institut Paoli-Calmettes, 232 boulevard Sainte-Marguerite, 13009 Marseille, France. 253 Unité d'Oncogénétique, CHU Arnaud de Villeneuve, 34295 Montpellier Cedex 5, France. ²⁵⁴ Laboratoire de génétique médicale, Nancy Université, Centre Hospitalier Régional et Universitaire, Rue du Moryan, 54511 cedex 1, Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France. ²⁵⁵ Service d'Oncogénétique, Centre René Gauducheau, Boulevard Jacques Monod, 44805 Nantes Saint Herblain Cedex, France. ²⁵⁶ Centre Antoine Lacassagne, 33 Avenue de Valombrose, 06100 Nice, France. ²⁵⁷ Service de Génétique, Institut Curie, 26, rue d'Ulm, 75248 Paris Cedex 05, France. 258 Inserm U830, Université INSERM U830, centre de recherche de l'Institut Curie, 75013 Paris, France. 259 Inserm U900, Institut Curie, Mines ParisTech, PSL University, 26 rue d'Ulm, 75248 Paris Cedex 05, France. 260 Département de Génétique, Groupe Hospitalier Pitié-Salpétrière, 47-83 boulevard de l'Hôpital, 75013 Paris, France. ²⁶¹ Service de Génétique Clinique Chromosomique et Moléculaire, Hôpital Nord, CHU Saint Etienne, St Etienne 42055 Cedex 2, France. ²⁶² Unité d'Oncogénétique, Centre Paul Strauss, 3 rue de la Porte de l'Hôpital, BP30042, Strasbourg, France. ²⁶³ Oncogénétique, Institut Claudius Regaud, 1 avenue Irène Joliot-Curie, 31059 Toulouse cedex 9, France. ²⁶⁴ Hôpital Bretonneau - CHU de Tours, 2 boulevard Tonnelé, 37004 Tours cedex, France. 265 Service de Génétique, Institut Gustave Roussy, 39, rue Camille Desmoulins, 94805 Villejuif Cedex, France

EMBRACE

Helen Gregory²⁶⁶, Zosia Miedzybrodzka²⁶⁶, Patrick J. Morrison²⁶⁷, Alan Donaldson²⁶⁸, Mark T. Rogers²⁶⁹, M. John Kennedy^{270,271}, Mary E. Porteous²⁷², Angela Brady²⁷³, Julian Barwell²⁷⁴, Claire Foo²⁷⁵, Fiona Lalloo²⁷⁶, Lucy E. Side²⁷⁷, Jacqueline Eason²⁷⁸, Alex Henderson²⁷⁹, Lisa Walker²⁸⁰, Jackie Cook²⁸¹, Katie Snape²⁸², Alex Murray²⁸³ & Emma McCann²⁸⁴

²⁶⁶ North of Scotland Regional Genetics Service, NHS Grampian & University of Aberdeen, Foresterhill, Aberdeen AB24 3AA, UK. ²⁶⁷ Northern Ireland Regional Genetics Centre, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, and Department of Medical Genetics, Queens University Belfast, Belfast BT9 7BL, UK. ²⁶⁸ Clinical Genetics Department, St Michael's Hospital, Bristol BS2 8EG, UK. ²⁶⁹ All Wales Medical Genetics Services, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff CF14 4XW, UK. ²⁷⁰ Academic Unit of Clinical and Molecular Oncology, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland. ²⁷¹ St James's Hospital, Dublin 8, Ireland. ²⁷² South East of Scotland Regional Genetics Service, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh EH4 2XU, UK. ²⁷³ North West Thames Regional Genetics Service, Kennedy-Galton Centre, Harrow HA1 3UJ, UK. ²⁷⁴ Leicestershire Clinical Genetics Service, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester LE1 5WW, UK. ²⁷⁵ Department of Clinical Genetics, Alder Hey Hospital, Eaton Road, Liverpool L12 2AP, UK. ²⁷⁶ Genetic Medicine, Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester M13 9WL, UK. ²⁷⁷ North East Thames Regional Genetics Service, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, London WC1N 3JH, UK. ²⁷⁸ Nottingham Clinical Genetics Service, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottingham NG5 1PB, UK. ²⁷⁹ Institute of Genetic Medicine, Centre for Life, Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7DN, UK. ²⁸⁰ Oxford Regional Genetics Service, Churchill Hospital, Oxford OX3 7LE, UK. ²⁸¹ Sheffield Clinical Genetics Service, Sheffield Children's Hospital, Sheffield S10 2TH, UK. ²⁸² South West Thames Regional Genetics Service, St.Georges Hospital, Cranmer Terrace, Tooting, London SW17 ORE, UK. ²⁸³ All Wales Medical Genetics Service, Glan Clwyd Hospital, Rhyl LL18 5UJ, UK.

The Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Research Group Netherlands (HEBON)

M.A. Rookus²⁸⁵, F.E. van Leeuwen²⁸⁵, L.E. van der Kolk²⁸⁶, M.K. Schmidt²⁸⁷, N.S. Russell²⁸⁸, J.L. de Lange²⁸⁵, R. Wijnands²⁸⁵, J.M. Collée²⁸⁹, M.J. Hooning²⁹⁰, C. Seynaeve²⁹⁰, C H.M van Deurzen²⁹¹, I.M. Obdeijn²⁹², C.J. van Asperen²⁹³, R.A.E.M. Tollenaar²⁹⁴, T.C.T.E.F van Cronenburg²⁹³, C.M. Kets²⁹⁵, M.G.E.M. Ausems²⁹⁶, C.C. van der Pol²⁹⁷, T.A.M. van Os²⁹⁸, Q. Waisfisz²⁹⁹, H.E.J. Meijers-Heijboer²⁹⁹, E.B. Gómez-Garcia³⁰⁰, J.C. Oosterwijk³⁰¹, M.J. Mourits³⁰², G.H. de Bock³⁰³, H.F. Vasen³⁰⁴, S. Siesling³⁰⁵, J. Verloop³⁰⁵ & L.I.H. Overbeek³⁰⁶

²⁸⁵ Department of Epidemiology, Netherlands Cancer Institute, PO Box 90203, 1006 BE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ²⁸⁶ Family Cancer Clinic, Netherlands Cancer Institute, PO Box 90203, 1006 BE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 287 Division of Psychosocial Research and Epidemiology, Netherlands Cancer Institute, PO Box 90203, 1006 BE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ²⁸⁸ Department of Radiotherapy, Netherlands Cancer Institute, PO Box 90203, 1006 BE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ²⁸⁹ Department of Clinical Genetics, Family Cancer Clinic, Erasmus University Medical Center, PO Box 2040, 3000 CA Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ²⁹⁰ Department of Medical Oncology, Family Cancer Clinic, Erasmus MC Cancer Institute, PO Box 5201, 3008 AE Rotterdam, The Netherlands. ²⁹¹ Department of Pathology, Family Cancer Clinic, Erasmus University Medical Center, PO Box 2040, 3000 CA Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 292 Department of Radiology, Family Cancer Clinic, Frasmus University Medical Center, PO Box 2040, 3000 CA Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ²⁹³ Department of Clinical Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center, PO Box 9600, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands. ²⁹⁴ Department of Surgery, Leiden University Medical Center, PO Box 9600, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands. ²⁹⁵ Department of Human Genetics, Radboud University Medical Center, PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands. 296 Department of Medical Genetics, University Medical Center Utrecht, PO Box 85090, 3508 AB Utrecht, The Netherlands. ²⁹⁷ Department of Oncological and Endocrine Surgery, University Medical Center Utrecht, PO Box 85090, 3508 AB Utrecht, The Netherlands, ²⁹⁸ Department of Clinical Genetics, Academic Medical Center, PO Box 22700, 1100 DE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, ²⁹⁹ Department of Clinical Genetics, VU University Medical Center, PO Box 7057, 1007 MB Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 300 Department of Clinical Genetics and GROW, School for Oncology and Developmental Biology, Maastricht University Medical Center, PO Box 5800, 6202 AZ Maastricht, The Netherlands. 301 Department of Genetics, University Medical Center Groningen, PO Box 30.001, 9700 RB Groningen, The Netherlands. 302 Department of Gynaecology, University Medical Center Groningen, PO Box 30.001, 9700 RB Groningen, The Netherlands. 303 Department of Epidemiology, University Medical Center Groningen, PO Box 30.001, 9700 RB Groningen, The Netherlands. 304 The Netherlands Foundation for Detection of Hereditary Tumours, University Medical Center, Poortgebouw Zuid, 2333 AA Leiden, The Netherlands. 305 The Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organization (IKNL), Location Amsterdam, IJsbaanpad 9-11, 1076 CV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 306 The nationwide network and registry of histo- and cytopathology in the Netherlands (PALGA), Randhoeve 225A, 3995 GA Houten, The Netherlands.

KConFab

Stephen Fox³⁰⁷, Judy Kirk³⁰⁸, Geoff Lindeman³⁰⁹ & Melanie Price³¹⁰

³⁰⁷ Pathology Department, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Victoria 3002, Australia. ³⁰⁸ Familial Cancer Service, Department of Medicine, Westmead Hospital, Westmead, New South Wales 2145, Australia. ³⁰⁹ Breast Cancer Laboratory, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, PO Royal Melbourne Hospital, Parkville, Victoria 3050, Australia. ³¹⁰ Medical Psychology, University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales 2006 Australia.