

# Comprehensive survey of CNVs influencing gene expression in the human brain and its implications for pathophysiology



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## ABSTRACT

Copy number variations (CNVs) contribute to neuropsychiatric diseases, which may be partly mediated by their effects on gene expression. However, few studies have assessed the influence of CNVs on gene expression in the brain. The objective was to perform an unbiased comprehensive survey of influence of CNVs on gene expression in human brain tissues. CNV regions (CNVRs) were identified in 72 individuals (23 schizophrenia, 23 bipolar disorder and 26 controls). Significant associations between the CNVRs and gene expression levels were observed for 583 CNVR-expression probe pairs (293 unique eCNVRs and 429 unique transcripts), after corrections for multiple testing and controlling the effect of the number of subjects with CNVRs by label swapping permutations. These CNVRs affecting gene expression (eCNVRs) were significantly enriched for rare/low frequency ( $p = 1.087 \times 10^{-10}$ ) and gene-harboring CNVRs ( $p = 1.4 \times 10^{-6}$ ). Transcripts overlapping CNVRs were significantly enriched for glutathione metabolism and oxidative stress only for cases but not for controls. Moreover, 72 (24.6%) of eCNVRs were located within the chromosomal aberration regions implicated in psychiatric-disorders: 16p11.2, 1q21.1, 22q11.2, 3q29, 15q11.2, 17q12 and 16p13.1. These results shed light on the mechanism of how CNVs confer a risk for psychiatric disorders.

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## 1. Introduction

A key objective in genetic research is to link genomic variation to phenotype differences to uncover normal as well as pathological variation. The influence of single nucleotide polymorphisms

**Abbreviations:** CNVs, copy number variations; LCLs, lymphoblastoid cell lines; CNVRs, copy number variable regions; eCNVRs, expression influencing copy number variable regions; kb, kilo base pairs; Mb, mega base pairs; fdr, false discovery rate.

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on phenotypic variation has been extensively studied; however, it is only recently that other DNA alterations such as copy number variations are being investigated. Copy number variations (CNVs) are DNA segments present at variable copy numbers and owing to their large size, contribute to a substantial proportion of the variation in the human genome (Ionita-Laza et al., 2009; Redon et al., 2006). Among the CNVs, rare CNVs are of more interest because they are presumably enriched in de novo events. Under the rare-variant common disease hypothesis, multiple rare variants with high effect sizes in aggregation, contribute substantially to the illness, hence these rare variants are of great interest since they have not been subject to selection as yet (Zhang et al., 2009). Rare copy number variations have been reported in individuals with neurological and psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia (International Schizophrenia Consortium, 2008; Levinson et al., 2011; McCarthy et al., 2009), autism (Hedger et al., 2012), bipolar disorder (Zhang et al., 2009) and mental retardation (Guilmatre et al., 2009).

Although a large number of CNVs have been identified in a variety of different species and range of diseases, the functional impact of CNVs at the molecular level remains largely unexplored. One way to assess the functional impact of copy number variations is via its

effect on different cellular processes such as gene expression levels. The initial study exploring the transcriptome-wide impact of CNVs on gene expression profiles in lymphoblastoid cell lines (LCLs) identified that approximately 20% of variation in gene expression could be attributed to copy number variations in the genome (Stranger et al., 2007). While there is a plethora of studies assessing the influence of single nucleotide polymorphisms on gene expression profiles, to the best of our knowledge, there are only four studies interrogating the influence of CNVs on gene expression in humans. Moreover, due to the limited availability of human tissues such as brain samples, three of the four studies assessing the influence of CNVs on gene expression in normal tissues till date have been performed on LCLs (Luo et al., 2012; Schlattl et al., 2011; Stranger et al., 2007) while only one recent study (Ye et al., 2012) has assessed gene expression in the human brain.

Integration of gene expression and CNV data will allow the prioritization of CNV-harboring candidate regions where the CNVs significantly alter gene expression levels of transcripts thereby providing evidence of a downstream functional consequence. The aim of this study was to perform a comprehensive and unbiased genome-wide search for functional CNVs in the human brain and to interrogate the nature of these CNVs.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Samples

Gene expression and copy number variations (CNVs) were obtained from prefrontal cortices of postmortem brains of 105 individuals (35 controls, 35 bipolar disorder [one of which was later excluded due to the alteration of diagnosis] and 35 schizophrenia patients) from the Stanley Medical Research Institute. As described in our previous report (Iwamoto et al., 2011), to reduce confounding factors due to previously identified effects of sample pH, we interrogated 72 individuals (26 controls, 23 bipolar disorder and 23 schizophrenia patients) which were preselected for high pH levels ( $\text{pH} \geq 6.4$ ).

### 2.2. Gene expression

Gene expression levels were assessed using the Affymetrix HU133A microarray which comprised of 22,283 expression probes, details of which are described elsewhere (Iwamoto et al., 2011). Briefly, the raw gene expression data was preprocessed using MAS5 (Affymetrix) and filtered for probes which were called present in more than 50% of the samples, allowing a total of 11,920 probes for subsequent analysis. Microarray data had been deposited to the GEO database and is available on the GEO server (GES12649) and on the Stanley Medical Research Institute database (<https://www.stanleygenomics.org/>).

### 2.3. Copy number variation

Copy number variation was measured on the Agilent 450k early access CGH array (Agilent Technologies, Inc., Santa Clara, CA, USA), which is designed based on the database of known CNVs. Sample and reference DNA (3.0  $\mu\text{g}$  each) was labeled with Cy5 or Cy3 using the DNA labeling kit from Agilent. Hybridization and washes were performed following the manufacturer's recommendation. The arrays were scanned with a MicroArray Scanner G2505A (Agilent). The obtained TIFF image data were processed with Agilent Feature Extraction software (version 9.5.3.1) using the CGH-v4.95.Feb07 protocol (Agilent).

DNA from one female (NA15510, Coriell Cell Repository, Camden, NJ, USA) was used as a reference to allow detection of copy number changes. This was in accordance with previous reports

which have shown that usage of a single reference increases the sensitivity to detect more CNVs and produces more consistent and reproducible data as compared to using a pooled reference (Haraksingh et al., 2011). The raw data were imported into Agilent DNA Analytics 70 software and analyzed using the Aberration Detection Method 2 (ADM-2) algorithm (Lipson et al., 2006) which uses log<sub>2</sub> ratios weighted by log<sub>2</sub> ratios error as calculated by Feature Extraction software to identify genomic intervals with copy number differences between the samples and the reference. The Agilent Feature Extraction software was used to compute Quality Control metrics. The Agilent protocol recommended thresholds including average signal intensity at each probe, background signal (noise) ( $<5$ ) using non-hybridizing control probes and signal-to-noise ratios ( $>30$ ) were used to assess the quality of DNA and the experimental workflow. The derivative log ratio spread (dLRsd) was used to calculate the robust standard deviation (spread) of the log ratio differences between consecutive probes across all chromosomes. Three samples that did not satisfy the QC metrics thresholds and had dLRsd of  $>0.30$  were excluded from further analysis.

The following parameters were used in this analysis: threshold of ADM-2: 6.0 with a bin size of 10; fuzzy zero: on; GC correction: on, aberration filters: on (maxAberrations = 100,000 AND percentPenetrance = 0); feature level filters: on (glsSaturated = true OR rlsSaturated = true OR glsFeatNonUnifOL = true OR rlsFeatNonUnifOL = true). A minimum three contiguous suprathreshold probes were mandatory to define a copy number change. Data were centralized and calls with average log<sub>2</sub> ratios of  $\leq 0.25$  were excluded from the analysis. Data were normalized using the GC correction algorithm that corrects for wavy artifacts associated with the GC content of genomic regions and fuzzy zero correction that allows correction of extended aberrant segments with low absolute mean ratios that might represent noise. In the current study we assessed only autosomal CNVs since analysis of X and Y chromosomal CNVs are difficult to interpret. After filtering, a total of 34,453 CNV probes corresponding to 6836 copy number variable regions (CNVRs) were used for the analysis.

### 2.4. Statistical analysis

Physical positions and annotations of the gene expression and CNV array probes were updated to the Genome build GRCh37 (hg19) using the UCSC genome browser Liftover tool (<http://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgLiftOver>). Separate analysis was performed for the continuous log<sub>2</sub> CNV ratio and the simplified CNV state (1 = loss, 2 = normal state and 3 = gain) for each CNVR. A log<sub>2</sub> ratio of 0 was considered the normal state, a log<sub>2</sub> ratio of  $<-0.25$  was considered a loss and log<sub>2</sub> ratio of  $>0.25$  was considered a gain. To identify the influence of CNVRs on gene expression, for each CNVR we probed a cis-window of  $\pm 1$  Mb from the CNVR coordinates. For all gene expression probes located fully or partially (at least 1 bp overlap) within this window, we calculated the association between the CNVR state/CNVR log-ratio and the gene expression levels using general linear models (glm) in R, whilst covarying for age, gender, ethnicity and post-mortem interval (PMI) hours and the results were corrected for multiple testing using 5% false discovery rate (fdr). Results of the association between the CNVR state/CNVR log-ratio and the gene expression levels were very similar, therefore only the results for the CNVR state are presented.

To correct for the different numbers of gene expression probes tested for each CNVR and to account for possible inflation in association *p*-values which might result due to outliers especially for the singletons, we repeated the association analysis using label-swapping adaptive permutations with a maximum of 100,000 permutations in PLINK (Purcell et al., 2007). This method is widely accepted as the most appropriate method for multiple testing

correction and allows for outlier detection (Gibbs et al., 2010; Luo et al., 2012) since it does not assume the normal distribution of the trait and calculates the empirical  $p$ -value by label-swapping of the quantitative trait by randomly assigning each individuals quantitative trait (gene expression level) to another individuals CNVR state. Results from all permutations are used to calculate an empirical  $p$ -value of significance for each CNVR-gene expression pair (Lanktree et al., 2009).

Associations with  $p$ -values of  $\leq 0.05$  after 5% fdr correction and permutation empirical  $p$ -values of  $\leq 0.05$  were considered significant. Genomic inflation was assessed by calculation of the lambda (genomic inflation factor) for each CNVR in R. The proportion of variance in gene expression explained by the CNVR was calculated using the adjusted  $R^2$  obtained by the glm function in R. Differences in gene expression variances across groups of transcripts were calculated using the 2-sided Kolmogorov–Smirnov test (KS-test). Enrichment of eCNVRs for low frequency and over-representation of genic eCNVRs was performed by conducting simulations. Simulations were performed by generating 1000 randomized CNVRs sets, matched for the CNVR frequency and of the same set at the eCNVR set. The randomized sets of CNVRs were sampled (without replacement) from all the tested CNVRs and based on the simulations we obtained empirical  $p$ -values for enrichment. All reported  $p$ -values were 2-sided and within 95% confidence interval.

Gene expression probes containing SNPs within their sequences were identified using the PLANdbAffy database (<http://affymetrix2.bioinf.fbb.msu.ru>) and are highlighted in the results table.

The functional analysis was performed using the Wikipathways and KEGG tools via the WebGestalt Gene Set Enrichment database (<http://bioinfo.vanderbilt.edu/webgestalt/>). The enrichment was calculated using a hypogeometric test using the human genome as the background and all results were corrected for multiple testing using the Bonferroni correction.

For comparisons of the results with previously reported eCNVRs (Luo et al., 2012; Schlattl et al., 2011; Stranger et al., 2007), we used the eCNVRs which were significant at linear regression fdr of 5%

and permutation empirical  $p$ -value of  $\leq 0.05$  and compared these to previously reported eCNVRs to check for overlaps between the data sets.

To compare our results with previously identified brain phenotype-associated CNVRs, we performed manual data mining using NCBI PubMed to search for articles reporting significant CNVs identified in schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder and/or autism. We limited our search to 7 large association studies which comprised of at least 3000 patients each (Ingason et al., 2011; International Schizophrenia Consortium, 2008; Levinson et al., 2011; McCarthy et al., 2009; Moreno-De-Luca et al., 2010; Stefansson et al., 2008; Weiss et al., 2008).

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Identification of CNVRs

A flowchart of the study design and results is provided in Fig. 1. Sample characteristics of the 72 individuals included in the study are provided in Supplementary Table 1. While results on the expression profiles of these samples have been reported previously (Iwamoto et al., 2005, 2011), in the current study we assessed the influence of CNVs on gene expression at the genome-wide scale. Using the Agilent early access 450k array, after filtering and pre-processing, a total of 34,453 autosomal CNVs were identified in the current samples, which were further grouped into 6836 unique copy number variable regions (CNVRs) using criteria of at least 3 overlapping CNV probes. Among the 6836 CNVRs, 3549 were losses, 3136 were gains and 151 were complex (gains in some and losses in others).

Of the CNVRs, 3656 (53.4%) were singletons while the remaining 3180 CNVRs were identified in at least two individuals (identical CNVR start and end coordinates). For statistical analysis purposes, the common criteria of 5% frequency was used to group the CNVRs into 5058 (74%) rare/low frequency CNVRs and 1778 common CNVRs (26%). Further, CNVRs were divided into two categories;

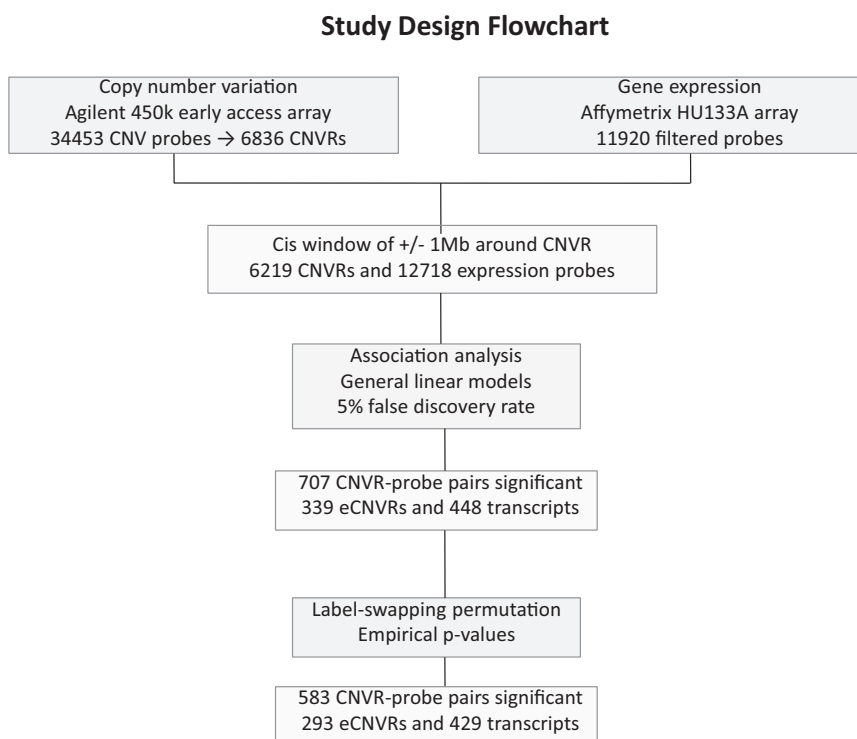
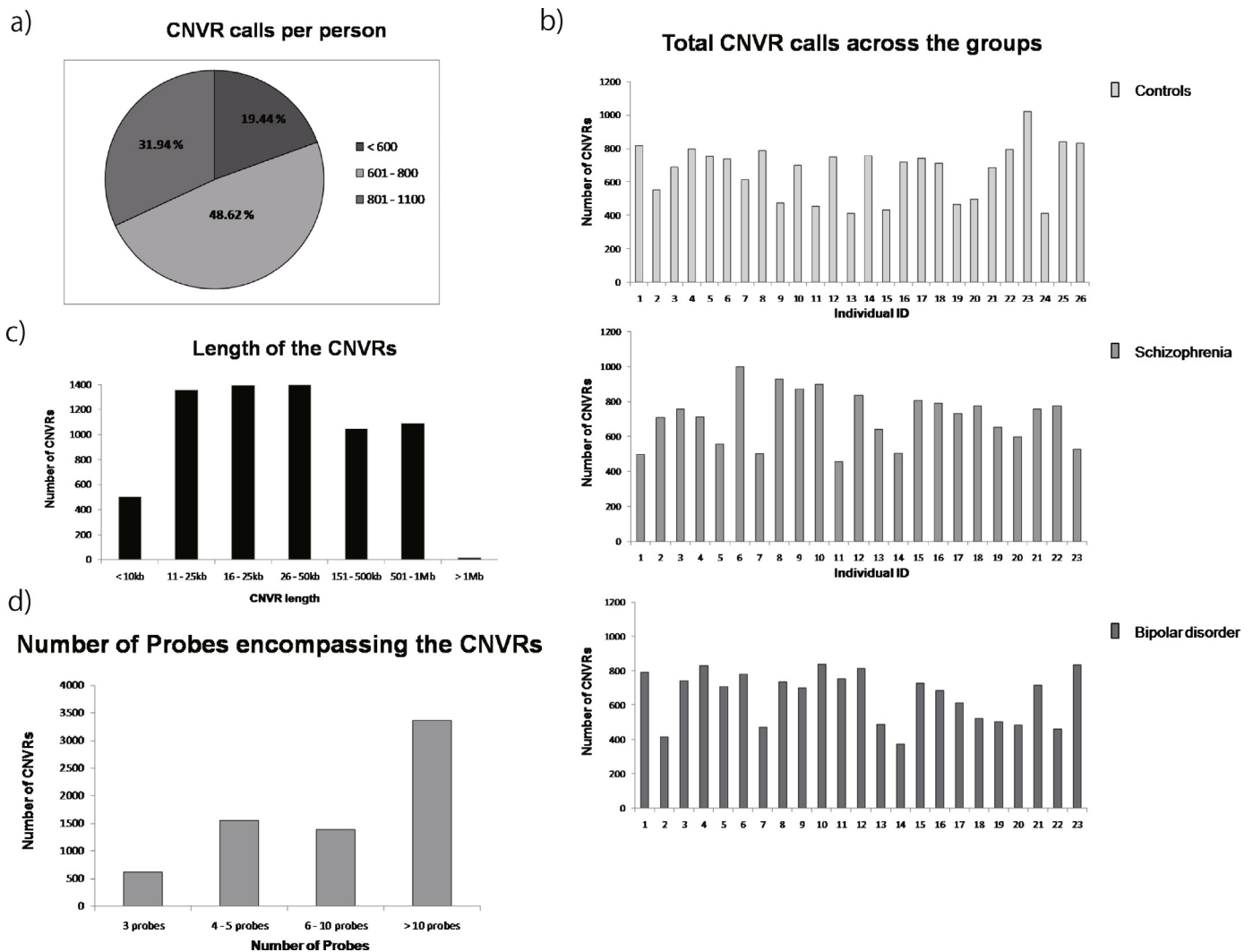


Fig. 1. Flowchart of study design and results.



**Fig. 2.** Description of the copy number variable regions (CNVRs). (a) Total CNVR calls across all samples. (b) Total CNVR calls across controls, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder patients. (c) Distribution of the length of the CNVRs. (d) Number of probes encompassing CNVRs.

genic and intergenic. A total of 3051 of 6836 CNVRs (44.6%) were 'genic' CNVRs, i.e. CNVRs spanning a part of whole of the transcript gene expression probe (with at least one base pair overlap between the regions) while the remaining CNVRs did not harbor any known transcripts. The mean and median CNVR size was 66.5 kb and 11.9 kb respectively with average CNV segment numbers of 688 across all samples. The total combined CNVR burden across the individuals ranged between 11.6 and 72.4 Mb. The total number of CNVR calls and distribution of CNVR length and probes encompassing CNVRs are depicted in Fig. 2.

### 3.2. Influence of CNVRs on gene expression

Next, we sought to assess the influence of CNVRs on gene expression profiles in the human prefrontal cortex to identify functional CNVRs. To test the influence of CNVRs on the neighboring transcripts we defined a cis window of  $\pm 1$  Mb from the CNVR to identify proximal transcripts (Fig. 3). For 6219 of the 6836 unique CNVRs, at least one transcript was located within the  $\pm 1$  Mb CNVR cis coordinates. Transcripts located within the cis coordinates amounted to a total of 12,718 unique transcripts. For each CNVR, we tested the association between the CNVR and the transcripts within the cis coordinates using general linear models and adjusting for age, gender and PMI hours for the CNVR state. All results were corrected

for multiple testing using 5% *fd*r. To avoid inflation due to outliers, we repeated the association analysis by label-swapping adaptive permutations for each CNVR-expression probe pair. Results of the permutations were compared with the linear regression results and only CNVR-expression probe pairs significant in both tests were deemed as significant. Average genomic inflation factor across all tested transcripts was 1.06, indicating no apparent inflation.

A total of 4201 CNVR-probe pairs were significant at  $p \leq 0.05$  and a total of 707 CNVR-probe pairs were significant at 5% *fd*r threshold in the linear regression analysis. These 707 pairs corresponded to a total of 339 unique expression CNVRs (expression-influencing CNVRs or eCNVRs) and 448 unique expression probes. Of these, 583 CNVR-probe pairs (293 unique eCNVRs and 429 unique expression probes) were also significant after permutation testing (Supplementary Table 2). Representative examples of box plots of associations between CNVRs and gene expression profiles of significant eCNVRs are depicted in Fig. 4 and a list of the top 15 associations is given in Table 1. Therefore, expression levels of 429 (3.4%) of 12,718 tested transcripts were significantly influenced by CNVRs after stringent corrections for multiple testing and permutation. For 15 CNVRs overlapping a transcript (inside pairs), a positive correlation between CNV state and gene expression was obtained, as expected. On the other hand,

## Identification of *cis* expression copy number variable regions (eCNVRs)

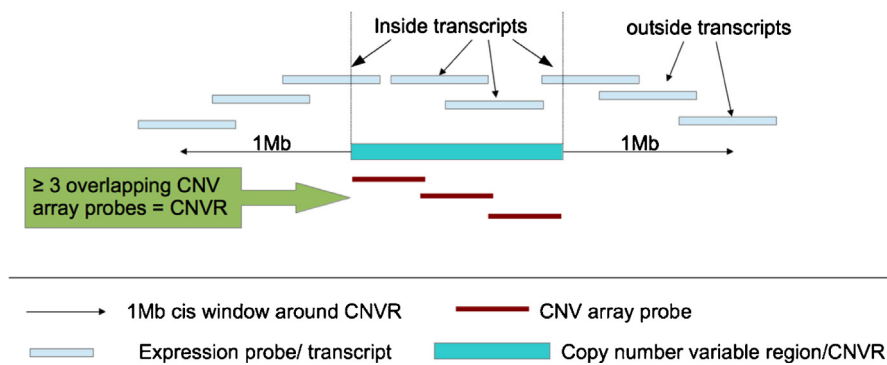


Fig. 3. Schematic figure of the *cis* window chosen for association testing of expression copy number variable regions (eCNVRs).

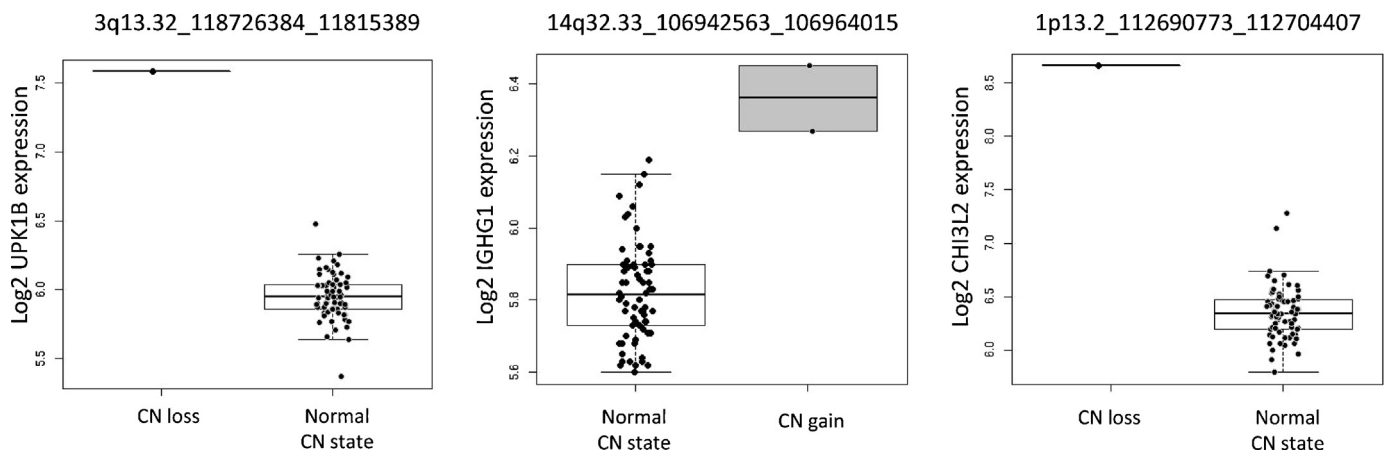


Fig. 4. Box plots of associations between CNVRs and gene expression profiles of significant eCNVR.

a certain part of CNVR-gene expression correlations were negative. Such non-conventional types of eCNVRs seen in 242 (41%) of the 293 CNVRs in this study have also been reported in previous studies (Luo et al., 2012; Schlattl et al., 2011; Stranger et al., 2007).

### 3.3. Nature of the significant brain eCNVRs

Of the 583 CNVR-probe pairs, we next interrogated the nature of the 293 unique CNVRs in terms of frequency, size, genes harbored, proportion of variance explained and functional annotation (see Supplementary Table 2). Of the 293 eCNVRs, 239 (81.6%) were rare/low frequency (<5% MAF) and the remaining 54 (18.4%) were common eCNVRs. There was a significant

over-representation of rare/low frequency CNVRs among the significant eCNVRs ( $p = 1.087 \times 10^{-10}$ ). The size of the CNVRs ranged between 234 bp and 1.65 Mb, with an average length of 0.73 Mb. Summary of the CNVR lengths are as follows;  $\leq 100$  kb: 237, 101–500 kb: 48, 501 kb to 1 Mb: 7, and >1 Mb: 1. Of the significant eCNVRs, 179 (61.1%) were genic while the remaining 38.9% were non-genic, corresponding to a significant over-representation of genic CNVRs among the eCNVRs ( $p = 1.4 \times 10^{-6}$ ). Such significant enrichment of low frequency and genic CNVRs was also observed when the analysis was restricted to non-singleton CNVRs (CNVRs robustly detected in at least 2 individuals) and when the CNVRs were restricted to CNVR intervals containing at least 5 or more probes.

Table 1

List of top 15 significant CNVR and gene expression associations.

CNVR	ProbeSetID	Chr	Cytoband	<i>p</i> value Regression	Pair type	Gene expression Transcript	CNVR.Start	CNVR.Stop
q13.32.118726384.118815389	210065.s.at	3	q13.32	2.09E-014	Outside	UPK1B	118726384	118815389
q11.21.20370979.20489827	222141.at	22	q11.21	1.38E-013	Outside	KLHL22	20370979	20489827
q11.21.21709612.21905954	222141.at	22	q11.21	1.38E-013	Outside	KLHL22	21709612	21905954
p13.2.112690773.112704407	213060.s.at	1	p13.2	1.80E-011	Outside	CHI3L2	112690773	112704407
q21.3.152555939.152586960	216701.at	1	q21.3	7.03E-011	Outside	C1orf68	152555939	152586960
q32.1.201177775.201181213	215168.at	1	q32.1	4.67E-010	Outside	TIMM17A	201177775	201181213
q34.112931419.112973293	205620.at	13	q34	2.63E-009	Outside	F10	112931419	112973293
p13.3.109749308.109757804	221874.at	1	p13.3	3.24E-009	Inside	KIAA1324	109749308	109757804
q12.34422129.34811416	218079.s.at	17	q12	3.38E-009	Outside	GGNBP2	34422129	34811416
p13.3.110228105.110254473	207464.at	1	p13.3	1.72E-008	Outside	AHCYL1	110228105	110254473
q29.195409551.195448563	217110.s.at	3	q29	3.17E-008	Outside	MUC4	195409551	195448563

Consistent with previous reports, no significant correlations between CNVR-probe distance and frequency of significant eCNVRs or the  $p$ -value of the association was observed. Such correlation was not seen even when stratifying the samples into low/high frequency CNVRs and genic/non-genic CNVRs ( $p > 0.05$ ). The average proportion of variance in gene expression explained by the eCNVR was 26% across all significant CNVR-probe pairs.

### 3.4. Validation of the CNVRs and gene expression

We next compared the brain eCNVRs to previously reported eCNVRs in lymphoblast cell lines (Luo et al., 2012; Schlattl et al., 2011; Stranger et al., 2007) or in the prefrontal cortex (Ye et al., 2012). Of the 293 eCNVRs, 29 (10%) were previously reported to influence gene expression of nearby transcripts (see Supplementary Table 2).

Next, we compared the copy number data obtained by Agilent CNV array with those obtained by Affymetix GeneChip Human Mapping 500k SNP arrays for technical validation, which we have described previously (Iwamoto et al., 2011). Of the 731 autosomal CNVRs detected on the SNP array, we were able to detect 68 (9.3%) on the CNV array, these included 2 singleton eCNVRs which were significantly associated with gene expression (see Supplementary Table 2).

For validation of gene expression data, we used previously reported data from Altar et al. (2008), where gene expression profiling for the same prefrontal cortex samples was performed using the same arrays and the same normalization protocols. We assessed the correlations between the gene expression profiles from the current dataset and the published dataset. For the 429 probes significantly associated with CNVRs from Supplementary Table 2, an average correlation of 0.43 and median correlation of 0.40 was observed across all individuals. Using gene expression levels from Altar and colleagues, we were able to successfully replicate CNVR-gene expression associations for a handful of selected transcripts including PTPRN2, FHL2, SLC16A1, CH1DL and COMT genes, thereby demonstrating the technical reliability of the data (see Supplementary Table 2).

### 3.5. Overlap with loci associated with psychiatric disorders

While the eCNVR analysis was performed across all individuals due to limited power, the samples comprised of individuals with bipolar disorder ( $n=23$ ), schizophrenia ( $n=23$ ) and controls ( $n=26$ ). Of the 293 significant eCNVRs, 49 CNVRs were found only in bipolar disorder patients, 72 CNVRs were found only in schizophrenia patients, 70 CNVRs were found only in controls and the remaining 122 CNVRs were found in individuals belonging to two or more groups. The average CNVR burden and number of CNVRs were 32.23 kb and 621 regions in schizophrenia patients, 32.81 kb and 623 regions in bipolar patients and 30.12 kb and 588 regions in controls. No significant differences between the total CNVR burden, average CNVR burden and number of CNVRs were observed across the groups.

### 3.6. Functional annotation of CNVR-influenced genes

Next, we interrogated the functional relevance of the significant CNVR-gene expression pairs using the Web-based Gene Set Enrichment analysis (WebGestalt – Wikipathways and KEGG tools).

Among transcripts whose expression was significantly influenced by CNVRs, the corticotropin-releasing hormone pathway was significantly enriched and this enrichment was also observed when stratifying transcripts influenced by CNVRs in cases only or in controls only (Table 2).

Functional annotation of genes overlapping copy number variants identified a significant enrichment of transcripts implicated within glutathione metabolism ( $p=0.020$ ) and oxidative stress ( $p=0.030$ ) pathways in all genes ( $p=0.020$ ) and also only among genes overlapping CNVRs in cases only ( $p=0.0015$  for glutathione metabolism and  $p=0.0031$  for oxidative stress) but no such enrichment was observed when assessing only genes overlapping CNVRs in controls only.

Hence, the functional relevance of the CNVR-encompassed transcripts seems to be different in cases versus controls.

### 3.7. Comparison with loci associated with psychiatric disorders

We next compared the brain eCNVRs to previously reported loci containing CNVRs which were shown to be associated with schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder and/or autism (Supplementary Table 2). We limited our search to loci from 7 large association studies (8 unique loci: 16p11.2, 1q21.1, 22q11.2, 3q29, 17q12, 16p13.1, 15q13.3 and 15q11.2) comprising of over 3000 cases per study. These 8 loci spanned approximately 44.6 Mb (~1.4% of whole genome). Of the 293 significant eCNVRs, 72 (24.6%) psychiatric-disorder associated CNVRs were found (Table 3). Of the 72 CNVRs, 19 were found only in schizophrenia patients, 21 were found only in bipolar disorder patients and 19 were found only in controls. Of the 19 CNVRs found only in controls, 7 were found in a single control individual (C.15), due to unknown or unexplained reasons, while the remaining CNVRs were found in independent individuals. The average number of CNVRs and total CNVR burden in this individual was well within the normal range (see Fig. 2b – control 15) and we technically validated two singleton CNVRs in this individual (see Supplementary Table 2), thereby reducing the possibility of sample issues such as DNA quality or hybridization problems.

The 72 eCNVRs spanned seven of the eight candidate regions including 16p11.2, 1q21.1, 22q11.2 (see Fig. 5), 3q29 (see Fig. 5), 15q11.2, 17q12 and 16p13.1 (Fig. 6 and Table 3). In a recent study, CNVRs in 1q21.1 and 22q11.2 were shown to be significantly associated with dorsolateral prefrontal cortex gene expression levels of nearby transcripts (Ye et al., 2012) while the other regions, to the best of our knowledge, has not been shown to have functional influence on gene expression regulation in the human brain.

## 4. Discussion

In the current study, we interrogated the influence of CNVs on gene expression in prefrontal cortex of post-mortem brain samples to identify functional CNVs. Gene expression levels of

**Table 2**  
Pathway analysis of transcripts influenced by CNVRs.

Over-represented pathways	All transcripts	Only cases transcripts	Only controls transcripts
Transcripts whose gene expression was regulated by CNVR			
Corticotropin releasing hormone pathway	0.0430	0.0385	0.0198
Transcripts located within CNVRs			
Glutathione metabolism	0.0200	0.0015	>0.050

**Table 3**  
List of eCNVRs within psychiatric trait-associated loci (International Schizophrenia Consortium, 2008; Levinson et al., 2011; McCarthy et al., 2009; Moreno-De-Luca et al., 2010; Stefansson et al., 2008).

CNVR	CNVR type	People	ProbeSetID	Psychiatric Trait locus	Permutations p value	CNVR_Start	CNVR_Stop	GeneSymbol
q21.1.144322804.144400673	Gain	bp	212392.s.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.014808	144322804	144400673	PDE4DIP
q21.1.144672865.144709635	Gain	bp	212392.s.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.014808	144672865	144709635	PDE4DIP
q21.1.144952007.145074984	Gain	bp	212392.s.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.014808	144952007	145074984	PDE4DIP
q21.1.145190273.145292282	Gain	bp	212392.s.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.014808	145190273	145292282	PDE4DIP
q21.1.145293607.145368437	Loss	bp	209207.s.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.006770	145293607	145368437	SEC22B
q21.1.145312073.145367945	Gain	bp, bp, con*, con	206766.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003476	145312073	145367945	ITGA10
q21.1.145312073.145367945	Gain	bp, bp, con*, con	214113.s.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.010387	145312073	145367945	RBM8A
q21.1.145312073.145367945	Gain	bp, bp, con*, con	209206.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.018087	145312073	145367945	SEC22B
q21.1.145626237.145746971	Loss	bp	209207.s.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.006718	145626237	145746971	SEC22B
q21.1.146034981.146039673	Loss	con	214113.s.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.002943	146034981	146039673	RBM8A
q21.1.146215885.146231981	Gain	bp, bp, con*	212539.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.009246	146215885	146231981	CHD1L
q21.1.146215885.146231981	Gain	bp, bp, con*	214474.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.046320	146215885	146231981	PRKAB2
q21.1.146215885.146231981	Gain	bp, bp, con*	205776.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.005915	146215885	146231981	FMO5
q21.1.146215885.146231981	Gain	bp, bp, con*	206766.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003218	146215885	146231981	ITGA10
q21.1.146215885.146231981	Gain	bp, bp, con*	212742.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.012921	146215885	146231981	RNF115
q21.1.146215885.146231981	Gain	bp, bp, con*	215300.s.at	1q21.1 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.046230	146215885	146231981	FMO5
q29.195215347.195232654	Gain	2bp, sz, 2con	221536.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.015525	195215347	195232654	LSG1
q29.195215347.195237188	Gain	sz, sz	217109.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.008881	195215347	195237188	MUC4
q29.195341670.195453587	Gain	sz	212477.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.003827	195341670	195453587	ACAP2
q29.195341670.195743252	Gain	sz	208878.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.014808	195341670	195743252	PAK2
q29.195341813.195725193	Gain	con	212476.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.004947	195341813	195725193	ACAP2
q29.195341813.195725193	Gain	con	208877.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	5.22E-005	195341813	195725193	PAK2
q29.195341813.195725193	Gain	con	204210.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.001016	195341813	195725193	PCYT1A
q29.195344712.195477486	Gain	sz	203838.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.003567	195344712	195477486	TNK2
q29.195344712.195477486	Gain	sz	204209.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.014120	195344712	195477486	PCYT1A
q29.195344712.195477486	Gain	sz	212476.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.004968	195344712	195477486	ACAP2
q29.195344712.195477486	Gain	sz	221536.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.001392	195344712	195477486	LSG1
q29.195393418.195452775	Gain	con	204210.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.001016	195393418	195452775	PCYT1A
q29.195393418.195452775	Gain	con	212476.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.004947	195393418	195452775	ACAP2
q29.195409551.195448563	Loss	bp	212476.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.004287	195409551	195448563	ACAP2
q29.195409551.195448563	Loss	bp	216439.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.005625	195409551	195448563	TNK2
q29.195409551.195448563	Loss	bp	217110.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	9.47E-007	195409551	195448563	MUC4
q29.195411543.195448616	Complex	con, con, sz	207332.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.011657	195411543	195448616	TFRC
q29.195411543.195448616	Complex	con, con, sz	208691.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.015725	195411543	195448616	TFRC
q29.195506071.195515379	Gain	4bp, 2sz, 3con	207332.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.054061	195506071	195515379	TFRC
q29.195506071.195516643	Gain	3sz, 1bp, 1con	212477.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.005181	195506071	195516643	ACAP2
q29.195648611.195747915	Gain	sz	212477.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.003827	195648611	195747915	ACAP2
q29.195663926.195725193	Loss	bp, bp, con	212477.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.014808	195663926	195725193	ACAP2
q29.19655515.196559209	Loss	8bp, 3sz, 8con	203839.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.012921	19655515	196559209	TNK2
q29.196759662.196762173	Loss	sz	207332.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.000185	196759662	196762173	TFRC
q29.196759662.196762173	Loss	sz	208691.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.004467	196759662	196762173	TFRC
q29.197347418.197394189	Loss	3sz, 2bp	208877.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.000305	197347418	197394189	PAK2
q29.197347418.197394189	Loss	3sz, 2bp	208877.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.000305	197347418	197394189	PAK2
q29.197603683.197605592	Gain	sz	211715.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.010798	197603683	197605592	BDH1
q29.197603683.197605592	Gain	sz	212733.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	4.15E-006	197603683	197605592	KIAA0226
q29.197603683.197605592	Gain	sz	220041.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.004968	197603683	197605592	PIGZ
q29.197825694.197833212	Loss	sz, bp	212733.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.006171	197825694	197833212	KIAA0226
q29.197825901.197832592	Gain	con, bp	214739.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.006171	197825901	197832592	LRCH3
q29.197825901.197832592	Gain	con, bp	213687.s.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.014935	197825901	197832592	RPL35A
q29.197895169.197896197	Gain	10sz, 6bp, 7con	212733.at	3q29 <sup>4</sup>	0.051563	197895169	197896197	KIAA0226
q11.2.22303902.22372338	Loss	con	214876.s.at	15q11.2 <sup>27</sup>	0.003155	22303902	22372338	TUBGCP5
q11.2.22318597.22348005	Loss	con	212133.at	15q11.2 <sup>27</sup>	0.003062	22318597	22348005	NIPA2
p11.2.28390355.28437534	Gain	bp	221822.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.012273	28390355	28437534	CCDC101
p11.2.28612132.28615866	Gain	sz	212808.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.008063	28612132	28615866	NFATC2IP
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	221864.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.003399	30200517	30220479	ORAI3
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	212275.s.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.004775	30200517	30220479	SRCAP
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	45653.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.014873	30200517	30220479	KCTD13
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	207684.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.003057	30200517	30220479	TBX6
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	200961.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.005915	30200517	30220479	SEPHS2
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	201253.s.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.001670	30200517	30220479	CDIPT
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	202256.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.005277	30200517	30220479	CD2BP2
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	204876.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.007028	30200517	30220479	ZNF646
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	204878.s.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.010941	30200517	30220479	TAOK2
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	205744.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.000305	30200517	30220479	DOC2A
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	209083.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.000158	30200517	30220479	CORO1A
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	214226.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.000264	30200517	30220479	PRSS53
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	217949.s.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.003144	30200517	30220479	VKORC1
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	218300.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.014342	30200517	30220479	C16orf53
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	219072.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.005495	30200517	30220479	BCL7C
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	219781.s.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.000235	30200517	30220479	ZNF771
p11.2.30200517.30220479	Gain	con*	221968.s.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.015791	30200517	30220479	ZNF771
p11.2.32164104.33816677	Gain	bp	219540.at	16p11.2 <sup>5.6</sup>	0.006770	32164104	33816677	ZNF267
p13.11.15011919.15029273	Gain	con	222204.s.at	16p13.1 <sup>25</sup>	0.014769	15011919	15029273	RRN3
p13.13.12020113.12036399	Gain	bp	205101.at	16p13.1 <sup>25</sup>	0.014502	12020113	12036399	CIITA

Table 3 (Continued)

CNVR	CNVR type	People	ProbeSetID	Psychiatric Trait locus	Permutations p value	CNVR_Start	CNVR_Stop	GeneSymbol
p13.13.12020113.12036399	Gain	bp	210001.s.at	16p13.1 <sup>25</sup>	1.29E-005	12020113	12036399	SOCS1
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	212186.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	1.93E-005	34407079	34662164	ACACA
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	219885.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	2.21E-005	34407079	34662164	SLFN12
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	1405.i.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.000985	34407079	34662164	CCL5
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	204655.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.005086	34407079	34662164	CCL5
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	207354.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.005086	34407079	34662164	CCL16
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	209924.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.006012	34407079	34662164	CCL18
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	209965.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.000290	34407079	34662164	RAD51L3
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	212544.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.000364	34407079	34662164	ZNHIT3
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	218079.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.001911	34407079	34662164	GGNBP2
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	219320.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.009997	34407079	34662164	MYO19
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	220499.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.001219	34407079	34662164	FNDC8
q12.34407079.34662164	Gain	con*	32128.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.006474	34407079	34662164	CCL18
q12.34408772.34646159	Gain	sz	206230.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.014502	34408772	34646159	LHX1
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	210548.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.003787	34422129	34811416	CCL23
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	1405.i.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.003569	34422129	34811416	CCL5
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	200615.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.018005	34422129	34811416	AP2B1
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	207343.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	2.38E-005	34422129	34811416	LYZL6
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	209924.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.000753	34422129	34811416	CCL18
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	209938.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.004331	34422129	34811416	TADA2A
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	212186.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	8.94E-005	34422129	34811416	ACACA
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	212544.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	7.39E-005	34422129	34811416	ZNHIT3
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	218079.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	1.36E-007	34422129	34811416	GGNBP2
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	218756.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.004968	34422129	34811416	DHRS11
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	220499.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.000417	34422129	34811416	FNDC8
q12.34422129.34811416	Gain	sz	32128.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.000252	34422129	34811416	CCL18
q12.34488357.34760365	Gain	con	210548.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.002623	34488357	34760365	CCL23
q12.34605880.34643115	Gain	con	200612.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.011851	34605880	34643115	AP2B1
q12.34605880.34643115	Gain	con	212186.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.014502	34605880	34643115	ACACA
q12.34611572.34615943	Gain	con	200612.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.011851	34611572	34615943	AP2B1
q12.34611572.34615943	Gain	con	212186.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.014502	34611572	34615943	ACACA
q12.34764374.34790180	Loss	sz	210549.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.007902	34764374	34790180	CCL23
q12.34791790.34806889	Gain	sz	210549.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.007902	34791790	34806889	CCL23
q12.35779149.35780902	Loss	bp	210320.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	6.21E-006	35779149	35780902	DDX52
q12.36351950.36385101	Loss	con*	218655.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.004733	36351950	36385101	CWC25
q12.36351950.36385101	Loss	con*	200618.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.012387	36351950	36385101	LASP1
q12.36351950.36385101	Loss	con*	201080.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.000339	36351950	36385101	PIP4K2B
q12.36351950.36385101	Loss	con*	201081.s.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.003507	36351950	36385101	PIP4K2B
q12.36351950.36385101	Loss	con*	201400.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.005039	36351950	36385101	PSMB3
q12.36351950.36385101	Loss	con*	210185.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.008384	36351950	36385101	CACNB1
q12.36351950.36385101	Loss	con*	212186.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	1.93E-005	36351950	36385101	ACACA
q12.36351950.36385101	Loss	con*	221937.at	17q12 <sup>26</sup>	0.016260	36351950	36385101	SYNRG
q11.21.18618723.18621135	Loss	sz	202099.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.007575	18618723	18621135	DGCR2
q11.21.18734360.18862822	Loss	bp	214371.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.009124	18734360	18862822	TSSK2
q11.21.18734360.18862822	Loss	bp	220762.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.004501	18734360	18862822	GNB1L
q11.21.19893805.19895800	Loss	bp	214371.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.009124	19893805	19895800	TSSK2
q11.21.19893805.19895800	Loss	bp	220762.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.004501	19893805	19895800	GNB1L
q11.21.20339345.20362501	Loss	bp	220762.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.004501	20339345	20362501	GNB1L
q11.21.20370979.20461985	Gain	bp	214406.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003467	20370979	20461985	SLC7A4
q11.21.20370979.20461985	Gain	bp	220762.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.004501	20370979	20461985	GNB1L
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	207081.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	3.15E-005	20370979	20489827	PI4KA
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	212180.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003267	20370979	20489827	CRKL
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	204482.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.012431	20370979	20489827	CLDN5
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	205576.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.007335	20370979	20489827	SERPIND1
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	205881.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.009217	20370979	20489827	ZNF74
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	206880.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.005912	20370979	20489827	P2RX6
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	207662.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.001885	20370979	20489827	TBX1
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	208818.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.011028	20370979	20489827	COMT
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	211147.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.015425	20370979	20489827	P2RX6
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	213981.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	2.02E-005	20370979	20489827	COMT
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	218492.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003155	20370979	20489827	THAP7
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	219811.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.010840	20370979	20489827	DGCR8
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Loss	con*	221838.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.016453	20370979	20489827	KLHL22
q11.21.20370979.20489827	Gain	con*	222141.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	1.02E-011	20370979	20489827	KLHL22
q11.21.20626904.20648019	Loss	con	205576.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000367	20626904	20648019	SERPIND1
q11.21.20648172.20715558	Gain	con	211177.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000771	20648172	20715558	TXNRD2
q11.21.20648172.20715558	Gain	con	218475.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.011596	20648172	20715558	TRMT2A
q11.21.20648172.20715558	Gain	con	91617.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000145	20648172	20715558	DGCR8
q11.21.21455772.21667502	Loss	bp	221349.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.002569	21455772	21667502	VPREB1
q11.21.21455772.21667502	Loss	bp	214406.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003467	21455772	21667502	SLC7A4
q11.21.21668908.21709656	Gain	sz	216301.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	1.18E-005	21668908	21709656	LOC100287927
q11.21.21670977.21905954	Gain	sz	216911.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000279	21670977	21905954	HIC2
q11.21.21708235.21905954	Gain	sz	217180.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.017219	21708235	21905954	
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	204086.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.004800	21709612	21905954	PRAME
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	206064.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.018360	21709612	21905954	PPII2
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	206880.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.005912	21709612	21905954	P2RX6



Table 3 (Continued)

CNVR	CNVR type	People	ProbeSetID	Psychiatric Trait locus	Permutations p value	CNVR_Start	CNVR_Stop	GeneSymbol
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	212180.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003267	21709612	21905954	CRKL
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	218492.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003155	21709612	21905954	THAP7
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	205881.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.009217	21709612	21905954	ZNF74
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	207081.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	3.15E-005	21709612	21905954	PI4KA
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	211147.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.015425	21709612	21905954	P2RX6
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	221838.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.016453	21709612	21905954	KLHL22
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	222141.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	1.02E-011	21709612	21905954	KLHL22
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	200684.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.007571	21709612	21905954	UBE2L3
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	205576.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.007335	21709612	21905954	SERPIND1
q11.21.21709612.21905954	Loss	con*	212271.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000261	21709612	21905954	MAPK1
q11.21.21711906.21905954	Gain	bp	214406.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003467	21711906	21905954	SLC7A4
q11.21.21711906.21905954	Gain	bp	215048.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.018037	21711906	21905954	ZNF280B
q11.21.21711906.21905954	Gain	bp	221349.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.002569	21711906	21905954	VPREB1
q11.22.22605295.22630082	Gain	bp	211655.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.018087	22605295	22630082	LOC100287927
q11.22.23241489.23252126	Gain	sz	215036.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.016135	23241489	23252126	
q11.22.23242646.23248046	Gain	sz	217180.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.017219	23242646	23248046	
q11.23.23805014.23825653	Gain	sz	203815.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.007688	23805014	23825653	GSTT1
q11.23.24271987.24343125	Loss	sz	203815.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.007688	24271987	24343125	GSTT1
q11.23.24278085.24341961	Loss	sz	202624.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.006683	24278085	24341961	CABIN1
q11.23.24278085.24341961	Loss	sz	214623.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.008420	24278085	24341961	FBXW4P1
q11.23.24291835.24345621	Gain	con*	204993.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	5.26E-005	24291835	24345621	GNAZ
q11.23.24291835.24345621	Gain	con*	217668.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000836	24291835	24345621	C22orf36
q11.23.24291835.24345621	Gain	con*	215202.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.001560	24291835	24345621	LOC91316
q11.23.24291835.24345621	Gain	con*	203878.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.017484	24291835	24345621	MMP11
q11.23.24291835.24345621	Gain	con*	205582.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	4.46E-005	24291835	24345621	GGT5
q11.23.24291835.24345621	Gain	con*	202929.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003827	24291835	24345621	DDT
q11.23.24291835.24345621	Gain	con*	211471.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000417	24291835	24345621	RAB36
q11.23.24291835.24345621	Gain	con*	217871.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	3.15E-005	24291835	24345621	MIF
q11.23.24329367.24398674	Loss	bp	212167.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.018093	24329367	24398674	SMARCB1
q11.23.24341917.24400174	Loss	bp	207215.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.015425	24341917	24400174	GSTTP1
q11.23.24341917.24400174	Loss	bp	203877.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.002009	24341917	24400174	MMP11
q11.23.24341917.24400174	Loss	bp	221108.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000987	24341917	24400174	C22orf43
q11.23.24341917.24400174	Loss	bp	206532.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	2.32E-006	24341917	24400174	
q11.23.24341917.24400174	Loss	bp	215816.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	3.15E-005	24341917	24400174	LOC91316
q11.23.24341917.24400174	Loss	bp	220507.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.017079	24341917	24400174	UPB1
q11.23.24344364.24398674	Loss	con	211471.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.016695	24344364	24398674	RAB36
q11.23.24344364.24398674	Loss	con	204993.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003924	24344364	24398674	GNAZ
q11.23.24344364.24398674	Loss	con	217871.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.013295	24344364	24398674	MIF
q11.23.24344364.24398674	Loss	con	202315.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.001560	24344364	24398674	BCR
q11.23.24344364.24398674	Loss	con	217223.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000426	24344364	24398674	BCR
q11.23.24344364.24398674	Loss	con	37652.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.009212	24344364	24398674	CABIN1
q11.23.24356690.24369021	Gain	con*	215202.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.001560	24356690	24369021	LOC91316
q11.23.24356690.24369021	Gain	con*	217668.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000836	24356690	24369021	C22orf36
q11.23.24356690.24369021	Gain	con*	204993.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	5.26E-005	24356690	24369021	GNAZ
q11.23.24356690.24369021	Gain	con*	211471.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.000417	24356690	24369021	RAB36
q11.23.24356690.24369021	Gain	con*	205582.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	4.46E-005	24356690	24369021	GGT5
q11.23.24356690.24369021	Gain	con*	217871.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	3.15E-005	24356690	24369021	MIF
q11.23.24356690.24369021	Gain	con*	202929.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.003827	24356690	24369021	DDT
q11.23.24356690.24369021	Gain	con*	203878.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.017484	24356690	24369021	MMP11
q11.23.25756694.25775816	Gain	bp	220507.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.017079	25756694	25775816	UPB1
q11.23.25756694.25775816	Gain	bp	204183.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.001594	25756694	25775816	ADRBK2
q11.23.25756694.25775816	Gain	bp	204184.s.at	22q11.2 <sup>4.5</sup>	0.002150	25756694	25775816	ADRBK2

x = in LCLs and xxx = in brain tissue; sz = schizophrenia, bp = bipolar, con = control, con\* = control outlier C.15.

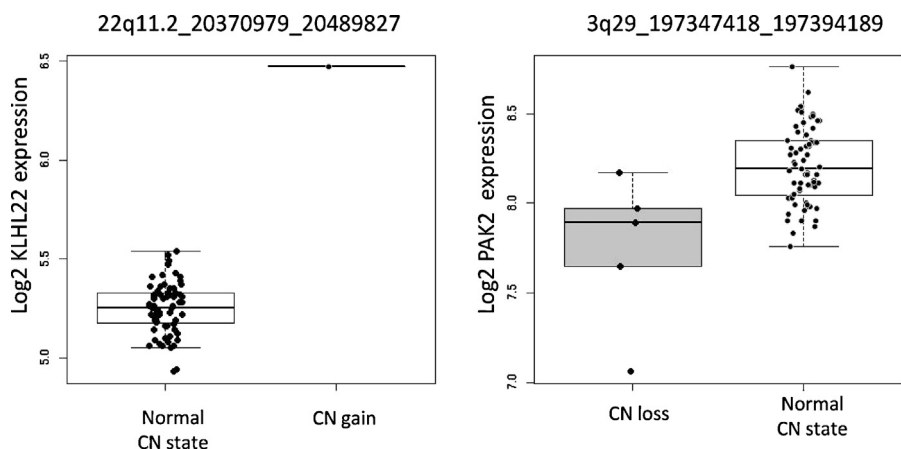
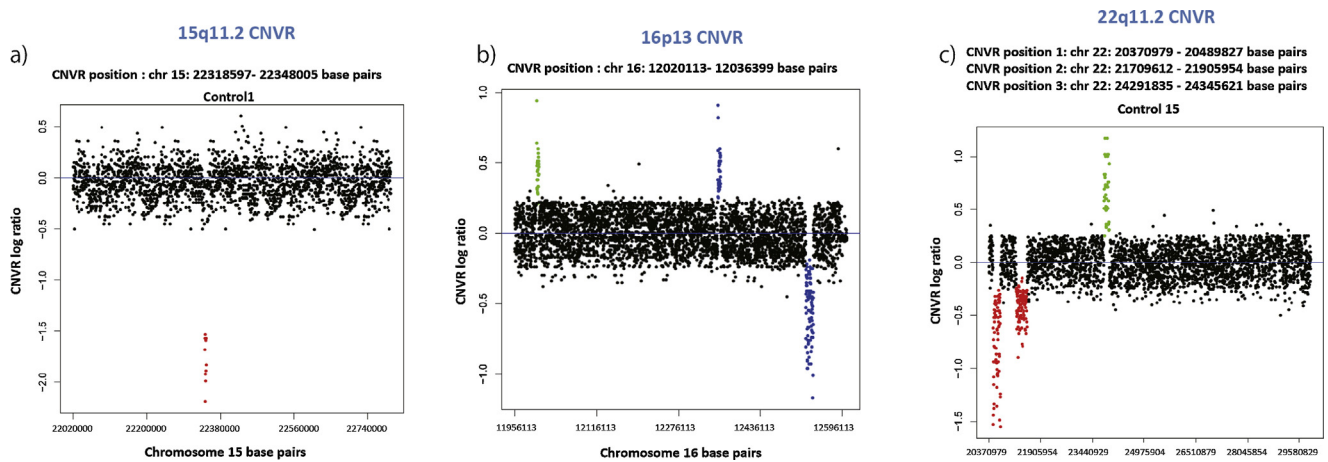


Fig. 5. Significant eCNVRs previously shown to be associated with schizophrenia or autism-spectrum disorders within candidate loci 3q29 and 22q11.2.



**Fig. 6.** Log ratio plots of 3 examples of significant eCNVRs within candidate loci 15q11.2, 16p13 and 22q11.2 previously associated with psychiatric disorders. Red dots indicate losses and green dots indicate gains. Blue dots indicate other CNVRs within this individual which were detected but these were not significantly associated with gene expression levels. (a) 15q11.2, (b) 16p13, and (c) 22q11.2.

429 transcripts were significantly associated with CNVR state after corrections for multiple testing and permutation. This corresponded to 583 CNVR-probe pairs (293 unique eCNVRs). Among the eCNVRs, a significant over-representation of rare/low frequency CNVRs ( $p = 1.087 \times 10^{-10}$ ) and gene-harboring/genic CNVRs ( $p = 1.4 \times 10^{-6}$ ) was observed. Overrepresentation of rare/low frequency CNVs among eCNVRs is interesting from an evolutionary point of view. A significant proportion of variance in gene expression could be explained by the eCNVR, with an average of 26% variance across the transcripts. A large proportion of negative correlations observed, demonstrated the complex relationship between CNVs and gene expression. Regulatory mechanisms such as epistasis or auto-regulatory feedback mechanisms at the level of the gene might explain the negative correlations. For instance, deletions that affect silencers or insulator elements can result in increased gene expression of the transcript (Weischenfeldt et al., 2013). Comparisons of the brain eCNVRs identified in the current study to previously reported eCNVRs yielded a 10% overlap, thereby providing a replication for these eCNVRs despite the differences in samples and study design between the studies.

Functional annotation of transcripts associated with CNVRs revealed a significant enrichment of corticotrophin-releasing hormone pathway across all samples, and also upon stratification by cases and controls. However, genes overlapping CNVRs only in cases but not in controls were enriched for glutathione metabolism and oxidative stress. Glutathione is a major antioxidant in the brain and plays a crucial role in protecting against oxidative damage. It is reported that glutathione levels were decreased (Gawryluk et al., 2001) and oxidative stress is enhanced (Ng et al., 2008) in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and mood stabilizers increases glutathione S-transferase (Wang et al., 2004). Thus, altered glutathione and oxidative stress pathways due to CNV might be related to pathophysiology of bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

To test whether the eCNVRs were located within psychiatric phenotype-associated loci, we performed a literature search to identify CNVRs robustly associated with psychiatric diseases and systematically checked these loci ( $n=8$  unique loci). The 293 significant eCNVRs identified in this study included 72 (24.6%) psychiatric-disorder associated eCNVRs within these 8 loci, indicating that copy number variants in these loci might be directly involved in transcriptional regulation in the brain. These eCNVRs encompassed 7 (16p11.2, 1q21.1, 22q11.2, 3q29, 15q11.2, 17q12 and 16p13.1) of the 8 tested loci. Of the 72 eCNVRs, 19 CNVRs were identified only in schizophrenia patients and 21 CNVRs were observed only in bipolar disorder patients. A total of 19

CNVRs were found only in controls of which 7 were found in a single control individual (C\_15). For C\_15, the CNVR burden was within the range of that detected across all other samples and by technically validating two CNVRs harbored by this individual, we excluded the possibility of sample contamination or hybridization artifacts. This control individual however due to unknown or unexplained reasons harbored several of the known bipolar disorder and schizophrenia-associated CNVRs. For the 15q13.3 region, we did not identify any CNVRs associated with gene expression levels.

Recently, Ye and colleagues identified that CNVs in 1q21.1 and 22q11.2 were significantly associated with expression levels of nearby transcripts in dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (Ye et al., 2012). We found an association between a CNVR in 1q21.1 and CHD1L as reported by Ye and colleagues and in the current study the same CNVR was also associated with gene expression levels of FMO5, PRKAB2, RNF115 and ITGA10. These CNVRs were present in 2 bipolar disorder patients and control C.15. Additionally, we identified 8 further CNVRs in 1q21.1 (6 only in bipolar patients, one in 2 bipolar patients, one control and control C.15 and one only in control C.15) significantly associated with gene expression levels of PDE4DIP, SEC22B, RBM8A, PRKAB2 and ITGA10. In line with Ye et al. (2012), we observed a significant association of a 22q11.2 CNVR in control C.15 with COMT gene expression for two separate gene expression probes. In addition, our data pointed also toward the PI4KA gene within this locus whose expression was significantly associated with 2 CNVRs (both in control C.15) in the 22q11.2 locus. The initial study by Saito and colleagues (Saito et al., 2003) identified a link between PI4KA and 22q11.2-linked psychiatric disorders. The PI4KA gene encodes a phosphatidylinositol (PI) 4-kinase which catalyses the first committed step in the biosynthesis of phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate. Incorporating the results of all association of PI4KA with schizophrenia till date has yielded mixed results and the link between PI4KA and psychiatric disorders remains unclear (Kanahara et al., 2009; Saito et al., 2003; Vorstman et al., 2009). This is the first report highlighting a functional link between CNVRs within the 22q11.2 locus and PI4KA gene expression in the human brain, suggesting that PI4KA might indeed be related to 22q11.2-related psychiatric diseases. In summary, results of the current study replicate the findings by Ye and colleagues that 1q21.1 and 22q11.2 may be involved in pathophysiology of psychiatric disorders by affecting gene expression levels in the brain.

For an additional five candidate regions reported to be associated with schizophrenia and/or autism-spectrum disorders (3q29, 15q11.2, 16p11.2, 16p13.1 and 17q12), for the first time we

identified significant functional influence of CNVRs on prefrontal cortex gene expression, implicating that these loci confer a risk of psychiatric disorders by affecting gene expression in the brain. Of note was the finding of 6 CNVRs within the 16p11.2 locus that significantly influenced gene expression profiles of several transcripts including CORO1A, TAOK2, DOC2A, SEPHS2 and CDIPT transcripts in the human prefrontal cortex. Both deletions and duplications within the 16p11.2 region have been significantly associated with schizophrenia, autism and autism-spectrum disorders in several studies (Levinson et al., 2011; Luo et al., 2012; McCarthy et al., 2009; Weiss et al., 2008).

The current study has several strengths and limitations. On one hand, due to the small sample size, the power of this study is limited and replication of these findings in larger cohorts is warranted. Nonetheless, several of the results reported in this study overlap with previous reports, hence for these findings our study provides a replication of the previous results. Furthermore, 9.3% of autosomal CNVRs detected on the SNP array were successfully detected in the same individuals using the CNV arrays, thereby providing a technical validation of these data. Also, we acknowledge that possible confounding effects of medication or smoking or other illness-related factors are difficult to account for and might influence the gene expression profiles. To the best of our knowledge this is the most comprehensive genome-wide CNV-gene expression association analysis performed so far and the first genome-wide hypothesis-free study assessing the influence of rare/low frequency CNVs on gene expression in the human brain. Other strengths of this study include assessment of brain tissue which is more relevant for psychiatric diseases and utilization of brain samples with high pH levels to increase reliability of the data.

In conclusion, we used a hypothesis-free approach to identify brain CNVRs which significantly influence genome-wide gene expression levels of nearby transcripts. Such an integrative approach is important to prioritize functional CNVs which exhibit downstream consequences at the gene expression level over other CNVs. This study demonstrates that CNVRs influencing gene expression in the human prefrontal cortex are significantly enriched for rare/low frequency CNVs and gene harboring CNVs. Our results replicate previous findings of associations at 1q21.1 and 22q11.2 regions and suggest the possible role of candidates within the 3q29, 15q11.2, 16p11.2, 16p13.1 and 17q12 loci in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Future studies surveying different types of genetic variation in diverse tissues are required to fully comprehend human phenotypic diversity and disease.

### Conflict of interest

None declared.

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### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neures.2013.10.009>.

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