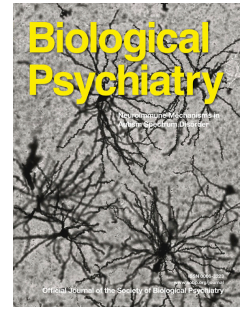


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Understanding neurodevelopmental disorders: the promise of regulatory variation in the 3'UTRome

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28 **ABSTRACT**

29 Neurodevelopmental disorders have a strong genetic component, but despite widespread
30 efforts, the specific genetic factors underlying these disorders remain undefined for a large
31 proportion of affected individuals. Given the accessibility of exome-sequencing, this problem
32 has thus far been addressed from a protein-centric standpoint; however, protein-coding
33 regions only make up ~1-2% of the human genome. With the advent of whole-genome
34 sequencing we are in the midst of a paradigm shift as it is now possible to interrogate the
35 entire sequence of the human genome (coding and non-coding) to fill in the missing
36 heritability of complex disorders. These new technologies bring new challenges, as the
37 number of non-coding variants identified per individual can be overwhelming, making it
38 prudent to focus on non-coding regions of known function, for which the effects of variation
39 can be predicted and directly tested to assess pathogenicity. The 3'UTRome is a region of the
40 non-coding genome that perfectly fulfils these criteria and is of high interest when searching
41 for pathogenic variation related to complex neurodevelopmental disorders. Herein, we
42 review the regulatory roles of the 3'UTRome as binding sites for microRNAs, RNA binding
43 proteins or during alternative polyadenylation. We detail existing evidence that these
44 regions contribute to neurodevelopmental disorders and outline strategies for identification
45 and validation of novel putatively pathogenic variation in these regions. This evidence
46 suggests that studying the 3'UTRome will lead to the identification of new risk factors, new
47 candidate disease genes and a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms
48 contributing to NDDs.

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51

52 **INTRODUCTION**

53 Neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) are estimated to affect more than 15% of the
54 population (1) and can have a severe and persistent impact on quality of life, making them a
55 major burden for society (2). The genetics of NDDs can involve rare, highly penetrant
56 mutations in a single gene, in multiple genes, or common variation with small individual
57 effect sizes (3). Heritability of this class of disorders is high and has been estimated from
58 twin studies as 80-90% for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) (4, 5), 76% for Attention Deficit
59 Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (5) and 81-85% for schizophrenia (SZ) (6), however the
60 currently identified variation can only account for a proportion of the heritability of these
61 disorders (reviewed in (7) for Mendelian and (8) for complex disorders). Comprehensive
62 identification of the genetic factors underlying NDDs will reveal the molecular causes of
63 these disorders and thus be central for diagnostics and the design of effective therapeutics.
64 Until recently, the field has focused predominantly on the contribution of coding variation,
65 however this protein-centric view has been challenged by a number of high profile studies
66 pointing to key roles for non-coding variation in the aetiology of disorder (9-13) (reviewed in
67 (5, 14)). Much of the non-coding portion of the genome is responsible for gene regulation
68 (15) and thus can have significant effects on gene expression. Evidence supporting causative
69 links between regulatory variants, perturbed gene expression, and NDDs is growing (13, 14,
70 16-18), suggesting that interrogating non-coding regulatory regions will make it possible to
71 fill in some of the missing heritability of NDDs. In this review, we focus specifically on
72 variation in one part of the non-coding regulatory genome - 3' untranslated regions (3'UTRs)
73 – collectively known as the 3'UTRome.

74 3'UTRs play a crucial role in regulating protein expression and cellular localisation (19, 20),
75 and studies are now emerging that have identified putatively pathogenic variation in 3'UTR
76 regions in NDD cohorts (11, 21, 22) (and Table 1). Thus, the 3'UTRome represents a
77 promising region to search for new genetic variation contributing to the pathogenesis of
78 NDDs. Herein we detail molecular functions of 3'UTRs and perform a systematic review of
79 the literature to summarise current evidence linking variation in these regions to the
80 aetiology of NDDs. We focus the review on the best-described features of 3'UTRs: regulation
81 by microRNAs, binding to RNA-Binding Proteins (RBPs) and modification by Alternative
82 PolyAdenylation (APA). We outline approaches for identification and functional testing of

83 disease-associated variants, both in existing datasets and new patient cohorts. The collected
84 data argue that identification and experimental testing of 3'UTR variation may identify new
85 molecular mechanisms involved in NDDs and explain a proportion of the genetic
86 architecture underlying these pathologies.

87

88 **THE 3'UTROME IS A KEY FACTOR IN PROTEIN REGULATION**

89 3'UTRs are transcribed as part of the mRNA expressed from all protein-coding genes but are
90 not translated into protein because they are located after the stop codon (Figure 1). The
91 length of 3'UTRs has increased during evolution and correlates positively with the overall
92 complexity of the genome and organism (24). The length of human 3'UTR sequences can
93 vary significantly, with a median length of ~1,200 nucleotides (23) and ranging from <80 (e.g.
94 NM_001868.3) to more than 20,000 nucleotides (e.g. NM_001348800.1). Although 3'UTRs
95 are less conserved than protein coding regions, they are more conserved than other non-
96 coding regions such as promoters, 5'UTRs or introns (25).

97

98 3'UTRs play a key role in protein production and localization by modulating the amount of
99 mRNA available for translation into protein and the transport of mRNA within the cell (Figure
100 1). There is evidence for additional functions of 3'UTRs including forming scaffolds for
101 membrane proteins (26, 27), during termination of translation to support recycling of
102 ribosomes (28), and acting independently of coding sequences following cleavage from their
103 transcript (29-31). Below, we will explore the three best-described and most common
104 mechanisms by which 3'UTRs contribute to protein regulation (Figure 1).

105 **3'UTRs are bound by microRNAs to regulate translation of mRNAs into protein**

106 3'UTRs influence the available pool of mRNAs that can be translated into protein by
107 facilitating interactions with microRNA (miRNA) molecules. miRNAs are small non-coding
108 RNAs that regulate protein production by binding to short motifs (6-8 nucleotides) known as
109 miRNA binding sites (MBSs), found predominantly in the 3'UTR (Figure 1)(32, 33). This
110 process reduces protein production by physically blocking translation or by inducing
111 degradation of the transcript (32, 34, 35). Most protein coding genes are targeted by

112 miRNAs and on average each 3'UTR is estimated to have between 17-80 MBSs based on
113 experimental data and *in silico* predictions (36, 37). Genetic variation in MBS sequences has
114 the potential to interfere with miRNA-3'UTR interactions (either by destroying or creating
115 MBSs) and thus alter the regulation of protein expression.

116 **3'UTRs are bound by RNA-Binding Proteins (RBPs) to regulate translation or subcellular** 117 **localisation of mRNAs**

118 3'UTRs mediate interactions with RBPs to influence mRNA stability, translation and
119 transport, ultimately regulating protein expression and subcellular localisation (Figure 1)
120 (20). RBPs can regulate protein expression levels by binding to 3'UTR motifs (RBP sites) and
121 either protecting mRNA molecules from degradation or speeding it up (38, 39). RBPs can
122 facilitate transport of mRNAs within the cell by binding to 3'UTR regions, ensuring their
123 localization to the correct subcellular compartment (19). RBPs can also act at the synapse to
124 regulate the local translation of proteins, allowing synapses to dynamically respond to
125 stimuli within an extremely short and physiologically relevant time frame (40).

126 **3'UTRs length can vary to influence protein expression and localisation**

127 Poly-adenylation sites are sequences that facilitate the addition of a polyA-tail at the end of
128 an mRNA molecule (41). Each 3'UTR may have multiple possible poly-adenylation sites
129 (Figure 1), which can be utilised in different cell types to produce Alternative Poly-
130 Adenylation (APA) patterns from the same gene. APA produces mRNAs carrying 3'UTRs of
131 different length and sequence, resulting in altered regulation of the mRNA (42).

132

133 **NEUROBIOLOGICAL ROLES OF 3'UTR REGULATION**

134 3'UTR regulation has important functions in the brain. miRNA regulation of 3'UTRs is
135 involved in fundamental processes that shape the brain during early neurodevelopment
136 including neuronal differentiation, neuronal migration and neurite outgrowth (43, 44). In the
137 mature brain miRNA-3'UTR regulatory mechanisms contribute to synaptic plasticity (see (45-
138 48) for reviews). RBP interactions with 3'UTRs are crucial for neuronal development and
139 function (49, 50). RBPs such as the Human Antigen R (HuR) regulate the expression of

140 proteins that directly contribute to neocortical development and cortical layering (51). RBP-
141 3'UTR interactions are also vital for normal synaptic function as they ensure that mRNAs are
142 delivered to synapses and maintained there without degradation to facilitate local
143 translation (52). Local translation allows individual synapses to produce independent
144 responses to specific inputs, contributing to synaptic plasticity, neural network formation,
145 and circuit maintenance (53), processes frequently disrupted in NDDs (49, 50, 54-56).
146 Although the specific neuronal consequences of APA are not well characterised, genes
147 expressed in the human and mouse brain have longer 3'UTRs on average than most other
148 tissues (57, 58), and in the mouse 3'UTR length has been shown to differ across brain
149 regions and developmental stages (59). Together these data may point to a requirement for
150 increased mRNA regulation in neurons.

151

152 **3'UTR VARIATION LINKED TO NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS**

153 Given the important regulatory mechanisms facilitated by 3'UTRs and the neurological
154 processes in which they play a role, we propose that variation in the 3'UTRome is likely to
155 contribute to the complex aetiology of NDDs. Indeed, it has already been shown that
156 disruption of these regulatory pathways occurs in SZ and ASD where mutation or
157 dysregulation of miRNAs has been observed (60-62). Variation within 3'UTRs can have subtle
158 but important functional consequences for protein expression or localisation, suggesting
159 that these variants are more likely to contribute to NDDs in a polygenic fashion, rather than
160 as monogenic causes of disorder.

161 To explore links between 3'UTR variants and NDDs, we conducted a systematic review of the
162 literature reporting 3'UTR variants in a selection of complex NDDs (ADHD, SZ, ASD and
163 Intellectual Disability (ID); see Supplemental Information for detailed description of the
164 search). In addition, we included four variants identified in a Specific Language Impairment
165 (SLI) cohort from our own data published after the search was performed (22). Together, this
166 identified 106 variants in 41 genes (see Supplementary Table 1); 18 of these variants have
167 shown effects in functional testing (see Table 1). Given that most studies to date have
168 targeted coding regions or filtered out non-coding variants, this represents a considerable

169 number of 3'UTR variants in NDDs. Below we highlight four examples from Table 1 that
170 represent promising candidates that may contribute to disorder.

171 **Fragile X Syndrome (FXS)**

172 FXS is a form of ID almost exclusively caused by non-coding mutations in the 5'UTR of the
173 *FMR1* gene that result in hypermethylation of its promoter and reduced gene expression
174 (63, 64). In a small proportion of cases the disorder is caused by larger deletions of *FMR1* or
175 by point mutations that alter the resulting FMRP protein (16, 64, 65). In rare cases, FXS
176 patients do not have mutations affecting the 5'UTR or coding region of the *FMR1* gene. In
177 these unexplained cases, regulatory variants affecting the 3'UTR make good candidates for
178 pathogenicity. An *FMR1* candidate screen of 963 FXS patients identified 12 novel variants (5
179 unique; 7 recurrent) and 3 polymorphisms in the 3'UTR region (16). One 3'UTR variant
180 (c.*746T>C; Table 1) was found in six patients but was not detected in the control population
181 (N=1260). Two patients with the variant showed varying degrees of FXS symptoms,
182 suggesting the variant may not be fully penetrant. Functional testing showed that this
183 variant prevented the binding of HuR to the *FMR1* mRNA. This destabilized the transcript
184 and led to reduced expression of the FMRP protein in a lymphoid patient cell line (66). This
185 reduction in expression is reminiscent of the effect of the 5'UTR mutations described above,
186 supporting the putative pathogenicity of this 3'UTR variant. However further studies are
187 required to establish causality.

188 **Rett syndrome (RTT)**

189 RTT is a disorder on the autism spectrum that can also involve ID, speech loss, microcephaly
190 and seizures. The majority of affected individuals are explained by causative mutations in
191 the *MECP2* gene (67). However, approx. 35% of cases with classical RTT phenotype do not
192 carry coding mutations in *MECP2* and are of unknown aetiology (68). *MECP2* has a very long
193 and highly conserved 3'UTR region, suggesting an important function (68). The 3'UTR of
194 *MECP2* has been screened in RTT patients that do not have coding changes in *MECP2* (69),
195 identifying a number of variants (Table 1). A sub-set of these variants resulted in reduced
196 expression of *MECP2* in patient cell lines (69). Given that the effect was a reduction in
197 *MECP2* expression rather than complete loss, it is possible that these variants are not

198 causative on their own, and may co-occur with other variants in different genes associated
199 with RTT phenotypes (e.g. *CDKL5* or *FOXG1*) (70). Further studies are needed to assess the
200 impact of these variants on RTT pathogenesis.

201 **Tourette's syndrome (TS)**

202 TS is characterized by persistent, involuntary vocal and motor tics and may also include
203 learning disabilities, features of ASD, ADHD or Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (71). Multiple
204 variants of small effect size are thought to underlie the pathology of TS (71), making it a
205 good candidate for contributions from regulatory non-coding variation. A number of
206 association studies and candidate sequencing studies have provided evidence that the
207 *SLITRK1* gene contributes to the aetiology of TS (11). A single nucleotide change in the 3'UTR
208 of *SLITRK1* (called 'Var321'; Table 1) was found in two independent cohorts of TS patients
209 (11, 72), but not in >2,000 control individuals (11, 72) suggesting Var321 as a putative TS risk
210 factor (73). Var321 is located within a MBS for a brain-expressed miRNA (miR-189). The
211 presence of this variant resulted in stronger repression of the *SLITRK1* 3'UTR by miR-189 and
212 was thus predicted to result in reduced functional protein in individuals carrying the change
213 (11). Increased repression of *SLITRK1* resulting from Var321 could thus have similar effects to
214 a disruptive protein coding mutation and contribute to TS pathogenicity.

215 **Specific Language Impairment (SLI)**

216 SLI is the failure to acquire normal language skills in the absence of other explanatory factors
217 (74) and is thought to be caused by many genetic risk factors of small effect size (75). We
218 recently identified four 3'UTR variants in a cohort of 43 severely affected SLI children (22).
219 One of these variants was a common SNP (rs72727021; Table 1) significantly associated with
220 a core feature of SLI - non-word repetition (NWR; a task where individuals repeat non-sense
221 words that involves short-term phonological memory, vocal-motor planning and
222 production). This SNP was within a MBS for mir-215 and had functional consequences,
223 disrupting expression of the *ARHGEF39* gene in human cells and in post-mortem human
224 cortex. This suggested the SNP as a novel SLI risk factor and provided the first example of a
225 functional non-coding SNP that may contribute to SLI.

226 Taken together this evidence suggests that screening genetically complex disorders for

227 variation in 3'UTR regions is likely to reveal further regulatory variants involved in NDDs.

228

229 **APPROACHES FOR IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING POTENTIALLY PATHOGENIC 3'UTROME** 230 **VARIATION**

231 3'UTR variation can be identified by specifically screening known candidate genes, or via
232 genome-wide approaches such as Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS), Whole Exome
233 Sequencing (WES) and Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS). Genome-wide studies have
234 generated extensive data on genomic variation found in individuals with NDDs (76) and
235 while most studies have focused on protein-coding variation, these datasets can be mined to
236 identify non-coding 3'UTR variation (e.g. (22, 77)). Given the increasing evidence that
237 3'UTRome variation may contribute to NDD pathogenesis, mining existing and future
238 datasets for these regulatory variants will be imperative for a comprehensive understanding
239 of the genetic foundations of NDDs. In the remaining sections of this review, we outline
240 simple yet effective strategies for identifying 3'UTRome variation from genomic datasets and
241 methods for functional validation of these potentially pathogenic changes (summarised in
242 Figure 2).

243 **Genome-wide approaches capture variation in 3'UTRs**

244 GWAS have been highly successful in the identification of common variants associated with
245 NDDs. A sub-set of SNPs surveyed using standard GWAS-chips are located within 3'UTR
246 regions (e.g. ~5% of SNPs on the Affimetrix Gene-Chip Human 100k (78)), making it possible
247 to identify common variation within 3'UTR regions from sufficiently large GWAS datasets.
248 WES studies have become a leading method for identifying pathogenic variation, with
249 hundreds of thousands of exomes sequenced to date. By design, WES specifically captures
250 protein-coding regions (79), however some 3'UTR sequence flanking the exons is also
251 captured. Only a fraction of the 3'UTR sequence can be covered using this method, however
252 we and others have shown that 3'UTR variation can be confidently called from WES data (22,
253 80). Together with the massive number of existing WES datasets, this makes WES a valuable,
254 untapped resource for identifying pathogenic 3'UTR variation (22). New studies aiming to
255 use WES to identify non-coding variants should choose the platform carefully as some

256 technologies have better coverage than others (81) and some newer WES platforms also
257 specifically target parts of the non-coding genome (82).

258 WGS is rapidly becoming the dominant sequencing method given its advantages in genome
259 coverage, sequence quality, and recent reductions in cost (83). Unlike other methods, WGS
260 surveys the entire 3'UTRome making it a powerful way to obtain a comprehensive view of its
261 contribution to disorders. Although only a small number of NDD WGS datasets currently
262 exist (13, 76, 84-86), numbers are rapidly increasing. Estimates from the 1000 genomes
263 project indicate that a typical genome has 4-5 million variants compared to the reference
264 human genome (including SNPs, indels and structural variants) and based on 3'UTRome size
265 this suggests that ~25,000 of these variants will fall in 3'UTR regions (87). Thus, appropriate
266 experimental design (e.g. case-control, trios etc), variant filtering and prioritisation are
267 crucial when exploiting any WGS dataset. We expect that most 3'UTR variants will have a
268 small effect size, meaning that large-scale studies can require thousands of participants to
269 identify risk variants (88), so data mining and integration will be powerful tools for the
270 discovery of new 3'UTR variants. It is noteworthy that to date most 3'UTR variants have been
271 identified in candidate approaches (Supplementary Table S1) where smaller cohort sizes (in
272 the hundreds) were sufficient.

273 In the following section, we will discuss the tools and strategies that can be used to prioritise
274 variants identified via any of the abovementioned methods, and predict and test the
275 biological impact of 3'UTR variants.

276 **Tools and databases to predict the pathogenicity of 3'UTRome variation**

277 The effects of non-coding variants can be predicted based on their sequence and position
278 within functional motifs. A summary of the wide range of bioinformatic tools available to
279 predict MBSs, RBP sites and APA sites can be found in Supplementary Table S2. Most
280 prediction tools are based on a combination of sequence homology to known motifs,
281 evolutionary conservation of the putative motif (33, 89) and/or the thermodynamic
282 properties of the possible interactions (90, 91). Some databases (e.g. PolyAsite for APA sites
283 (92), CLIPdb for RBP sites (93) or miRGate for MBSs (94)) also include experimental data.
284 Prediction algorithms are often revised based on newly obtained empirical information

285 about 3'UTR interactions but all *in silico* predictions come with false positive and negative
286 rates that must be taken into account (95). The small size of most motifs, the large number
287 of possible interactors and the effects of mRNA secondary structure make predictions
288 challenging (96, 97). Combining multiple algorithms when assessing motifs is recommended
289 (95, 98, 99) and is even possible within some programs such as miRWalk (100) and miRGen
290 (101) (Supplementary Table S2). Using tools that combine bioinformatics with empirical data
291 can also improve predictions (37, 102) (see Supplementary Table S2)

292

293 **Functional Validation of 3'UTR variants**

294 The functional validation of non-coding and coding variants alike is a powerful approach to
295 determine which variants are most likely to contribute to pathology (103). 3'UTR variants
296 can have different consequences depending on the type of change and the motif affected.
297 As a result, there are a large number of techniques and approaches available to test their
298 effects. One approach is to test functionality in human cell lines as they allow interrogation
299 of the molecular effects of variants in an *in vitro* system. Luciferase reporter assays detect
300 protein expression levels and thus are commonly used to measure regulation of a 3'UTR by
301 miRNAs (22, 104). Direct interactions between 3'UTRs and miRNAs can be tested using
302 methods such as biotin tagged-mRNA-miRNA pulldowns (105), variations of (PAR-)CLIP (106,
303 107) by CLASH (36) or RNA-EMSA (108). The localization of RNA can be visualized using
304 imaging techniques (109) and stability can be accessed via pulse-chase experiments (110).
305 Cell lines cannot recapitulate complex, tissue specific effects that may occur in the human
306 body making direct testing in patient material advisable, when possible. Patient samples
307 may be in the form of blood or tissue from which expression levels could be directly
308 measured (e.g. via RT-qPCR or Western Blot (111, 112)). Patient cell lines could also be
309 established to observe regulatory effects (e.g. as induced pluripotent stem cells (113)). Gene
310 expression can also be assessed in post-mortem brain tissue. Databases (such as GTEX and
311 seeQTL) assess associations between common variants and gene expression making it
312 possible to observe effects directly in the brain (114, 115). It should be noted that false
313 positive/negative results are also possible during functional testing. Variants may show no
314 effect in cell lines, despite having consequences in the brain, or conversely may be functional

315 in cell lines, but have no consequences in neural tissue. Given potential temporal and cell-
316 type specificity, testing in neural tissue or cell types is advisable wherever possible.

317 **CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

318 Investigating the coding genome to understand the genetic mechanisms underlying NDDs
319 has already led to improved diagnosis, and driven the design and implementation of
320 therapeutics (116, 117). However, we still only understand a fraction of the genetic factors
321 contributing to NDDs, necessitating the need for further study and new approaches. To date,
322 the contribution of non-coding variation to the pathogenesis of neurodevelopmental
323 disorders has been severely understudied (118), despite the importance of these regions for
324 regulation of gene expression. Given that non-coding DNA makes up ~98% of the 3 billion
325 nucleotides of the human genome, methods like WGS can be expected to reveal millions of
326 non-coding variants per person and interpreting the importance of variation in non-coding
327 regions can be difficult. For these reasons, it is prudent to focus on regions of the non-
328 coding genome for which the functions are well known and the effects of variation can be
329 both predicted and tested. As outlined herein, the 3'UTRome clearly fits these criteria and
330 thus represents a region of high interest for the identification of novel disease associated
331 variation. This is further supported by the collected evidence we present of 106 published
332 3'UTR variants in 41 genes across NDD classifications (Supplementary Table S1).

333 With the increase in unbiased genome-wide screens such as WGS being performed, it is
334 likely that many more 3'UTR variants will be linked to, and help explain the aetiology of
335 these disorders. For this to happen however, it is crucial that these variants are not
336 discarded in early filtering steps merely because they do not affect the structure of a
337 protein, as is often the case. These non-coding changes can then be prioritized based on a
338 number of factors including evolutionary conservation, frequency of occurrence in control
339 populations (e.g. via 1000 Genome project, dbSNP, ClinVar), presence of a predicted
340 functional motif at their position (Supplementary Table S2) or predicted pathogenicity (e.g.
341 via CADD scores) (119). As with protein-coding variants, simply identifying variation is not
342 enough (120). While *in silico* approaches make useful predictions about possible
343 consequences of variation, none are completely accurate. Thus, direct lab-based testing of
344 functional effects (such as outlined herein) is necessary to show that identified variants have

345 molecular consequences.

346 In this review, we have presented evidence that 3'UTRome variation can contribute to NDDs,
347 and outlined clear approaches for further study of these regions in new and existing cohorts.
348 This evidence suggests that studying the 3'UTRome will lead to the identification of new risk
349 factors, new candidate disease genes and a better understanding of the fundamental
350 biological mechanisms contributing to NDDs. However, we consider the 3'UTRome to be the
351 'tip of the iceberg' when considering the contribution of the non-coding genome to NDDs.
352 Other non-coding regions are also becoming amenable to such approaches as we learn more
353 about the regulatory genome. Promoter and enhancer regions are strong candidates for
354 pathogenic variation and recent evidence has emerged that disruption of these regions may
355 be prevalent in NDDs (13, 17, 121, 122). Linking variation in enhancers to effects on specific
356 genes is challenging because enhancers can be megabases away from the genes they
357 regulate. Despite this, rapid advances are being made by mapping chromatin architecture
358 and interrogating genome-wide epigenomic data to predict the consequences of promoter
359 and/or enhancer variation (123-126). A number of efforts are also underway to classify the
360 effects of non-coding variation in a region-independent manner; the effect of common
361 variation on gene expression can be assessed using tools that integrate transcriptome
362 datasets (127-131), or via machine learning approaches incorporating multiple data types to
363 predict consequences of non-coding variation (132). Similar Systems Biology approaches
364 have been successfully applied in the investigation of NDDs and helped to unravel gene
365 networks that are affected by regulatory changes (e.g. via miRNAs) (133-136). The
366 integration of large datasets yields great potential to investigate the consequences of non-
367 coding variants on all functional levels (RNA, protein, cell) and to increase our understanding
368 for the consequences of subtle regulatory changes (137, 138).

369 In the future, integrating approaches to interrogate and functionally test *all* regions of the
370 genome (protein-coding, promoter, enhancer, 3'UTR etc.) will exploit the full potential of
371 next generation sequencing approaches to understand how *all* variation contributes to
372 phenotypes, rather than cherry-picking protein-coding candidates. When this becomes
373 routine, we will truly be in a post-genomic era and be closer to fully understanding the
374 genetic factors contributing to complex phenotypes including, but not limited to,
375 neurodevelopmental disorders.

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382

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385

386

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762 TABLES

763 **Table 1: 3'UTR variants identified in NDDs that have shown functional effects.**

Disorder	Gene	Variant	Global MAF (1000 genomes)	ExAC (frequency) ¹	Effect <i>in vitro</i>	Refs
FXS	<i>FMR1</i>	c.*746T>C rs183130936	C=0.0021	C=0.0009688	Removes RBP (HuR) binding site & reduces transcript stability	(16, 66)
TS	<i>SLITRK1</i>	Var321 rs191284403	T=0.0006	N/A	Strengthens miR-189 binding and increases its repression in luciferase assays	(11)
SLI	<i>ARHGEF39</i>	rs72727021	C=0.0469	C= 0.07911	Disrupts miR-215 binding site to increase <i>ARHGEF39</i> expression in a luciferase assays and human brain tissue	(22)
RTT	<i>MECP2</i>	c.1832G>C	-	N/A	Reduces the amount of <i>MECP2</i> mRNA expressed in patient blood cells	(69)
		c.2015G>A	-	N/A		
		c.4017T>A	-	N/A		
		c.4417G>A	-	N/A		
ADHD	<i>CLOCK</i>	rs1801260	A= 0.2296	N/A	Alt allele (T) decreases expression of <i>CLOCK</i> mRNA in Mouse Embryonic Fibroblasts	(139-141)
	<i>DBH</i>	rs129882	T=0.2554	N/A	Alt allele (C) decreases expression in luciferase assays	(142)
	<i>MTHFR</i>	rs4846049	T=0.3716	N/A	Alt allele (T) increases repression by miR-149 in luciferase assays. Also reduced <i>MTHFR</i> protein in patient blood cells	(143, 144)
SZ	<i>RGS4</i>	rs10759	T=0.2831	N/A	The Alt allele (T) in miR-124 site, prevents repression	(145)

					in luciferase assays	
	<i>EFNB2</i>	rs550067317	G=0.0004	N/A	The Alt (C) allele reduces regulation by miR-137 in luciferase assays	(146)
	<i>CPLX2</i>	rs3822674	C=0.4948	C=0.4912	The Alt (C) allele increases regulation by miR-498 in luciferase assays	(147)
ASD	<i>HLA-G</i>	14 bp indel	-	N/A	Presence of the 14bp indel increases stability of the mRNA	(148, 149)
	<i>AFF2</i>	ChrX:148076068[C>T]	-	N/A	The variant reduces expression in luciferase assays in HEK cells and increases it in N2A cells	(150)
ID	<i>CDK5RI</i>	c.*397C>G	-	0	Reduces the expression in luciferase assays in HEK and SK-N-BE cells	(12)
		c.*1904_*1905del	-	N/A		
		c.*2099_*2101del	-	N/A		

764

765 ¹N/A indicates that variant is in a region not covered by reads in ExAc database

766

767

768 **FIGURES**

769

770 **Figure 1: Overview of the 3'UTR and its regulatory mechanisms.** 3'UTRs are untranslated
771 (non-coding) regions of an mRNA molecule, located after the stop codon of protein coding
772 genes. 3'UTRs contribute to regulation via multiple mechanisms, three of which are depicted
773 here; miRNA binding, RBP binding and APA. miRNAs interact with MBSs in the 3'UTR to
774 either block protein translation or degrade the mRNA molecule. RBPs interact with RBP
775 binding sites in the 3'UTR either regulate expression (via stabilising or degrading the
776 transcript), transport the mRNA to subcellular locations, or facilitating local translation of
777 proteins (e.g. at the synapse). APA is the mechanism by which one of multiple possible
778 polyadenylation sites may be used. APA determines the end point of the transcript and thus
779 the length of the 3'UTR. In turn, the length of the 3'UTR determines which and how many
780 regulatory elements (such as miRNA binding sites and RBP sites) are present to regulate the
781 transcript.

782

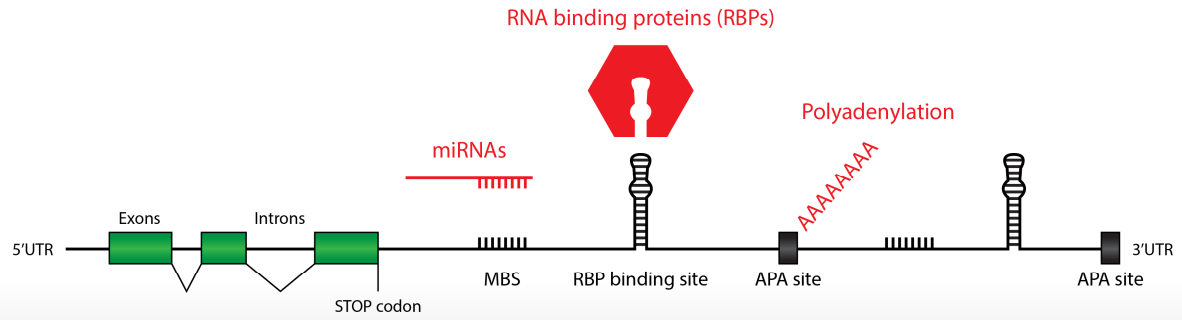
783

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785

786 **Figure 2: Schematic workflow for the identification, analysis and validation of disease**
787 **associated variants in the 3'UTR.** Candidate variants can be identified using targeted or
788 high-throughput approaches. (01) Standard bioinformatic pipelines can be used to identify
789 variation in patient cohorts. (02) Using the known coordinates of all 3'UTR regions in the
790 human genome, variants located within the 3'UTRome can be identified (03) Different
791 algorithms (summarized in Supplementary Table S2) can be applied in order to identify
792 putative functional motifs in the 3'UTR that overlap with the variants found in step 02 and to
793 predict their functional outcome. Combining different algorithms at this step is
794 recommended in order to increase the accuracy of the prediction. (04) The information
795 obtained in step 03 can be used to design the appropriate experiments to test the functional
796 consequences of the variants. Taken together, the information obtained using this pipeline
797 will allow a description of the possible consequences of disease identified variants in the
798 3'UTRome to enhance our understanding of the molecular underpinnings of NDDs.

799



miRNAs regulate protein expression

- Block protein translation
- Degrade mRNA transcript

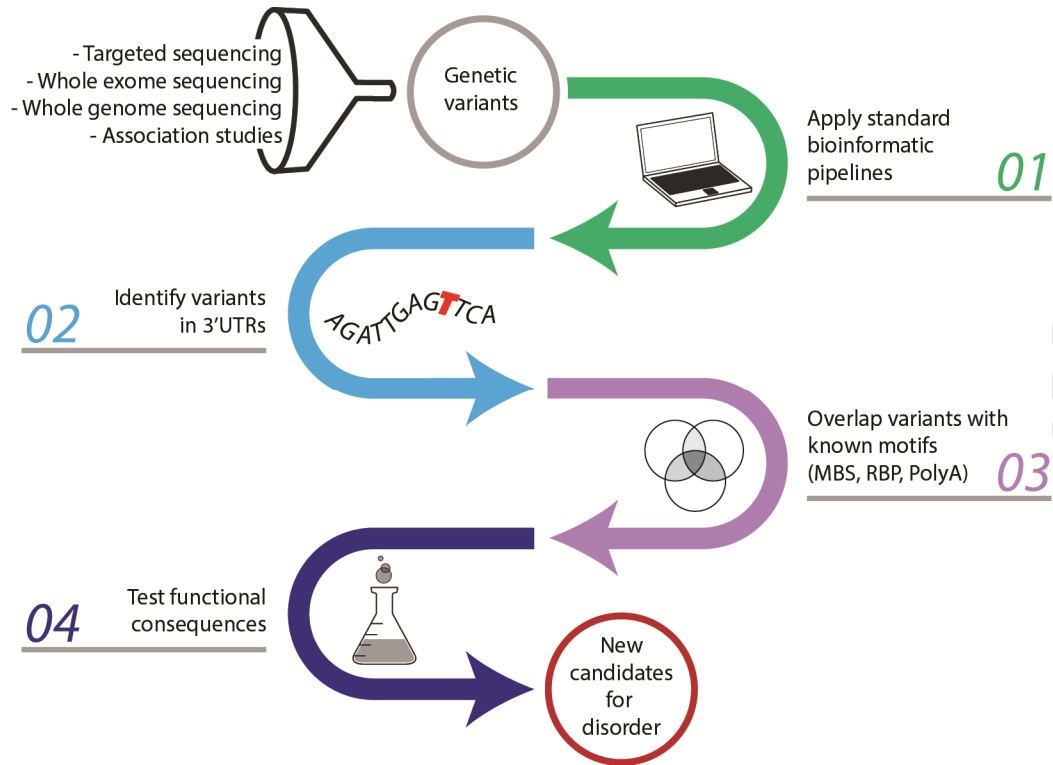
RBPs regulate stability and sub-cellular localization of the mRNA transcript

- Stabilize/degrade mRNA transcript
- Transport mRNA
- Control local translation

APA sites regulate the 3'UTR length

- Determine presence of regulatory elements

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT



Understanding Neurodevelopmental Disorders: The Promise of Regulatory Variation in the 3'UTRome

Supplemental Information

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Systematic review of literature

In order to identify NDD associated variants in 3'UTRs we performed a literature search with a combination of following Mesh Terms. In general, it was attempted to combine terms describing individual NDDs (ADHD, SZ, ASD, ID) with terms for next-generation sequencing (RNA-seq, WES, WGS) or GWAS and 3'UTRS. For a general search of variants in NDDs, the terms 'Non-coding RNA', 'Neurodevelopmental Disorder', '3'UTR' and 'Brain' were combined. The following paragraph shows all used combinations.

In total, 824 articles were obtained from the search. 41 of them were used to identify disease associated variants in 3'UTRs. The search was conducted on 08-08-2016 (specific disorders), 25-04-2016 (3'UTRs in general) and 01-11-2016 (disease + 3'UTR) using PubMed.

Variants that are located to 3'UTRs and that were correlated to a disorder were considered candidates for Table 1. The variation in study design, sample size and statistical method prevented a common statistical test for the variants. We therefore took every variant into account that was considered 'associated', 'linked' or 'correlated' by its corresponding study. The list was complemented with variants that were identified by studies in our own lab (ARHGEF39, BTN2A1, CENPJ, MTMR3) and variants that were found using the miRdSNP database. We extracted those SNPs from miRdSNP that were located in 20 bp distance of a MBS and also associated to ADHD, SZ or ASD. 11 variants in 10 genes were found this way.

For ADHD:

Search from **01-11-16:**

[ADHD] AND [3'UTRs]

Found 125 articles

Search from **08-08-16:**

[ADHD] AND [Next Generation Sequencing] AND [3'UTR]

[ADHD] AND [GWAS] AND [3'UTR].

Found 12 articles

For ASD:

Search from **01-11-16:**

[ASD] AND [3'UTRs]

Found 66 articles

Search from **08-08-16:**

[ASD] AND [Next Generation Sequencing] AND [3'UTR]

[ASD] AND [GWAS] AND [3'UTR].

Found 8 articles

Search from **01-11-16**:

[ID] AND [3'UTRs]

Found 180 articles

Search from **08-08-16**:

[ID] AND [Next Generation Sequencing] AND [3'UTR]

[ID] AND [GWAS] AND [3'UTR].

Found 18 articles

For SZ:

Search from **01-11-16**:

[Schizophrenia] AND [3'UTRs]

Found 152 articles

[Schizophrenia] AND [Next Generation Sequencing] AND [3'UTR]

[Schizophrenia] AND [GWAS] AND [3'UTR].

Found 14 articles

For 3'UTRs in general:

Search from 25-04-16:

[Non-coding RNA] AND [Neurodevelopmental Disorder]

[3UTR AND Brain AND Mutation]

Found 249 articles

Supplementary Table S1: All 3'UTR variants identified via systematic review

Disorder	Gene	Variant	Genomic Coordinates (hg38)	RBPMap		Predicted MBS (miRSNP)	Reference	Known Candidate gene?	Functionally Validated?
				Input Coordinates for RBPMap	Outcome RBPs				
ADHD	SLC6A3 (DAT1)	rs28363170	chr5:1393747	chr5:1393737-1393757:-	ENOX, MBNL1, SRSF1, SRSF5	No prediction ¹	(1, 2)	Yes	Yes (3)
	CLOCK	rs1801260	chr4:55435202	chr4:55435192-55435212:--	DAZAP1, TRA2B	NA ³	(4, 5)	Yes	Yes
	SNAP-25	rs3746544	chr20:10306436	chr20:10306426-10306446:-	FXR1, PABPC, RBM46, SNRNP70, SRSF1, SRSF5, SRSF7, TRA2B, YBX1	hsa-miR-3617, hsa-miR-3913-3p, hsa-miR-641	(6)	Yes	
		rs1051312	chr20:10306440	chr20:10306430-10306450:+	HuR, MATR3, PTBP1, SRSF1, SRSF3, SRSF5, TRA2B	hsa-miR-3646, hsa-miR-3664-3p, hsa-miR-510	(6-8)	Yes	
	MECP2	*c.1558insA	chrX:154028729	chrX:154028719-154028739:-	SRSF5	NA ²	(9)	Yes	
	SLC9A9	rs1046706	chr3:143266258	chr3:143266248-143266268:+	DAZAP1, MSI1, PCBP3	NA ³	(10)	Yes	
	DBH	rs129882	chr9:133658547	chr9:133658537-133658557:+	MBNL1, SRSF5, SRSF7	NA ³	(11)	Yes	Yes
		rs1611115	chr9:133635393	chr9:133635383-	FMR1, HNRNPH1,	NA ³	(11)	Yes	Yes

				133635403:+	HNRNPH2,LIN28A, SRSF1,SRSF10, SRSF2,SRSF5, TARDBP				
	<i>MTHFR</i>	rs4846049	chr1:11790308	chr1:11790298- 11790318:+	SRSF2, TRA2B	NA ³	(12)	Yes	Yes (13)
Schizophrenia	<i>PTPRA</i>	174620_174623 het_dupTGAT	No coordinates available	NA	NA	NA ²	(14)	Yes	
	<i>GZF1</i>	rs7988	chr20:23372048	chr20:23372038- 23372058:+	HNRNPL, HNRPLL, IGF2BP2, IGFBP3, KHDRBS2, KHDRBS3, PABPC1, PABPC4, PUM2, QKI, RBM46, RBMS3, SART3, SRSF3, SRSF5, ZCRB1	hsa-miR-3686	(7, 15)	No	
	<i>CPLX2</i>	rs3822674	chr5:175880253	chr5:175880243- 175880263:-	CPEB2, CPEB4, HNRNPC, HNRNPCL1, MBNL1, MSI1, PTBP1, SRSF1, SRSF3, SRSF5, TUT1	hsa-miR-4287, hsa-miR-4685-3p, a-miR-498	(7, 16)	Yes	Yes
		rs56934064	chr5:175880290	chr5:175880280- 175880300:+	HNRNPA1, HNRNPA1L2, HNRNPA2B1, HNRNPF, HNRNPH2	NA ³	(16)	Yes	
	<i>EFNB2</i>	rs9520087	chr13:106491972	chr13:106491962- 106491982:+	BRUNOL4, BRUNOL5, MBNL1, PTBP1, SRSF3, TARDBP	hsa-miR-155-3p, hsa-miR-4999-5p	(7, 17)	Yes	
		rs550067317	chr13:106491980	chr13:106491970- 106491990:+	BRUNOL5, PTBP1, SRSF2, SRSF3, TARDBP	NA ³	(18)	Yes	Yes
	<i>DISC1/ DISC2</i>	rs6675281	chr1:231818355	chr1:231818345- 231818365:+	NOVA1, PABPC3, SRF3, SRSF5	hsa-miR-1294, hsa-miR-4710	(7, 19)	Yes	
	<i>DISC1</i>	rs821616	chr1:232008852	chr1:232008842- 232008862:-	CUG-BP, MBNL1, SRSF1, SRSF5	hsa-miR-1243, hsa-miR-4423-3p	(7, 20)	Yes	
		rs3737597	Chr1:232037092	chr1:232037082- 232037102:-	FXR1, HNRNPH1, PABPC3, PABPC5, PCBP1, PCBP3, RBM45, SRSF3, SRSF7, TRA2B	NA ³	(21)	Yes	
	<i>OLIG2</i>	rs1059004	chr21:33028155	chr21:33028145- 33028165:+	HNRNPK, PCBP1, SRSF2, SRSF3, SRSF5	hsa-miR-323a-5p, hsa-miR-3689d	(7, 22)	Yes	
		rs13046814	chr21:33029069	chr21:33029059- 33029079:+	FUS, PCBP2, SRSF3, SRSF5	hsa-miR-2277-5p, hsa-miR-4639-3p, hsa-miR-744-5p	(7, 22)	Yes	
	<i>AMACR</i>	rs2278008	chr5:33989413	chr5:33989403- 33989423:+	HNRPLL, MATR3, MBNL1, PTBP1, SRSF3, SRSF5	hsa-miR-942	(7, 23)	Yes	
	<i>NFKBIA</i>	rs8904	chr14:35402011	chr14:35402001- 35402021:-	SRSF9, TARDBP, ZC3H10	hsa-miR-3121-5p	(7, 15)	Yes	
<i>LIF</i>	rs737812	chr22:30243121	chr22:30243111-	CNOT4, PABPN1, PCBP1,	hsa-miR-373-5p,	(7, 24)	Yes		

				30243131:+	PCBP2, PTBP1, RBM6, SRSF3	hsa-miR-499b-5p, hsa-miR-616-5p, hsa-miR-617			
		rs929271	chr22:30242237	chr22:30242227-30242247:-	BRUNOL6,CUG-BP,HNRNPF, HNRNPU,MBNL1, PTBP1,SRSF2, SRSF5,TARDBP	NA ³	(24)	Yes	
	<i>DCLK1</i>	rs9545297	chr13:35767531	chr13:35767521-35767541:+	BRUNOL6, CUG-BP, HNRNPU, HNRPLL, MBNL1, RBM41, SRSF3, TARDBP, TRA2B	NA ³	(7, 25)	Yes	
	<i>PLA2G12A</i>	rs3087494	chr4:109710465	chr4:109710455-109710475:+	CPEB2, CPEB4, HNRNPA1L2, HNRNPCL1, HuR, MATR3, PTBP1, RALY, SRSF3, TIA1, TRA2B, U2AF2, ZC3H14	NA ³	(26)	Yes	
	<i>RGS4</i>	rs10759	chr1:163076561	chr1:163076551-163076571:-	IGF2BP2, SRSF3	NA ³	(27)	Yes	Yes
	<i>COMT</i>	rs165599	chr22:19969008	chr22:19968998-19969018:+	A1CF, KHDRBS2, KHDRBS3, MSI1, PABPC5, PUM2, RBM42, RBM46, RBMS3, ZCRB1	NA ³	(28)	Yes	
	<i>CTLA4</i>	rs3087243	chr2:203874196	chr2:203874186-203874206:+	KHDRBS1, QKI, RBMS1, RBMS3, SRSF3	NA ³	(29)	Yes	
Specific Language Disorder (SLI)	<i>ARHGEF39</i>	rs72727021	chr9:35661946	chr9:35661936-35661956:+	SRSF3, SRSF5	NA ³	(30)	No	Yes
	<i>BTN2A1</i>	c.277 G>C	chr6:26468826	chr6:26468816-26468836:+	CUG-BP, PABPC5, PAPN1, RBM24, TARDBP, TRA2B	NA ²	(30)	No	
	<i>CENPJ</i>	c.16G>T	chr13:24883161	chr13:24883151-24883171:-	QKI, SRSF1, SRSF3, TRA2B	NA ²	(30)	No	
	<i>MTMR3</i>	c.70C>T	chr22:30025871	chr22:30025861-30025881:+	CNOT4, ENOX1	NA ²	(30)	No	
Language and reading impairments	<i>CCDC136</i>	rs59197085	chr7:128820702	chr7:128820692-128820712:+	PTBP1, SRSF3, SRSF5	No prediction ¹	(31)	No	
	<i>DYX1C1</i>	rs57809907	chr15:55430684	chr15:55430674-55430694:+	A1CF, HuR, MBNL1, PTBP1, SRSF3, ZC3H14, ZCRB1, ZNF638	No prediction ¹	(32)	Yes	
Tourette's Syndrome	<i>SLITRK1</i>	Var321 (mutation)	chr13:83878728	chr13:83878718-83878738:+	SRSF3	NA ²	(33)	Yes	Yes
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	<i>HLA-G</i>	14 bp indel	Chr6:1093208	chr6:1093198-1093218:+	SRSF5	NA ²	(34)	Yes	
	<i>AFF2</i>	ChrX:148.076.068[C>T]	chrX:148994538	chrX:148994528-148994548:+	HNRNPA1, HNRNPA1L2, HNRNPA2B1, MBNL1, SRSF3, SRSF5,	NA ²	(35)	Yes	Yes

		ChrX:148075200[T>C]	chrX:148993670	chrX:148993660-148993680:+	ZCRB1 HNRNPL, HNRPLL, RBM41, RBMS1, RBMS3, SRSF3, SRSF5, TUT1	NA ²	(35)	Yes	
	<i>STX1A</i>	rs867500	chr7:73700110	chr7:73700100-73700120:+	HNRNPH2, RBM5, SRSF1, SRSF9, TARDBP	hsa-miR-1204	(36)	Yes	Yes
	<i>APC</i>	rs1804197	chr5:112844212	chr5:112844202-112844222:+	A1CF, FXR1, KHDRBS1, KHDRBS2, KHDRBS3, PABPC1, PABPC3, PABPC4, PABPC5, PABPN1, SART3, ZCRB1	hsa-miR-335-3p, hsa-miR-4282	(7, 37)	No	
	<i>NLGN4X</i>	chrX:5818136	chrX:5890095	chrX:5890085-5890105:-	CNOT4, KHDRBS1, KHDRBS2, KHDRBS3, PUM2, RBMS1, RBMS3, SRSF3	NA ²	(38)	Yes	
		chrX:5820149-50	chrX:5892108	chrX:5892098-5892118:-	CPEB4, MBNL1, SRSF2, TIA1, TRA2B, U2AF2	NA ²	(38)	Yes	
	<i>SLC6A4</i>	HTT-3'UTR-SNP 1461*139 G->A	No coordinates available chrX:154030343	NA chrX:154030333-154030353:-	NA HNRNPK, HNRPLL, IGF2BP2, PABPC3, RBM46, SNRPA, YBX1	NA ²	(39)	Yes	
	<i>MECP2</i>	c.1832G>C	chrX:154030065	chrX:154030055-154030075:-	CUG-BP, FMR1, FXR2, HNRPLL, MBNL1, SRSF2, SRSF7	NA ²	(41)	Yes	Yes
		c.2015G>A	chrX:154029882	chrX:154029872-154029892:-	CNOT4, ENOX1, HNRNPA1, HNRNPH1, HNRNPH2, PABPN1, RBM24, SRSF10, SRSF2, TARDBP, TRA2A	NA ²	(41)	Yes	Yes
		c.4017T>A	chrX:154027880	chrX:154027870-154027890:-	HNRNPK, HNRPLL, RBM42, RBM46, SRSF2, SRSF3	NA ²	(41)	Yes	Yes
		c.4417G>A	chrX:154027480	chrX:154027470-154027490:-	NOVA1, SRSF5, SRSF7	NA ²	(41)	Yes	Yes
		c.1655G>A	chrX:154030242	chrX:154030232-154030252:-	CPEB2, CPEB4, HNRNPC, HNRNPCL1, HuR, KHDRBS2, KHDRBS3, MBNL1, PABPC3, PTBP1, RALY, RBM41, SRSF3, SRSF5, TIA1, U2AF2, ZC3H14	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
		c.2322T>G	chrX:154029575	chrX:154029565-154029749:-	DAZAP1, ENOX1, ESRP2, FMR1, FXR1, G3BP2, HNRNPA1, HNRNPA2B1,	NA ²	(41)	Yes	

				HNRNPF, HNRNPH1, HNRNPH2, MBNL1, PTBP1, RBM28, RBM42, RBM5, SAMD4A, SRSF1, SRSF2, SRSF3, SRSF5, SRSF7, SRSF9, TARDBP				
c.2829C>A	chrX:154029068	chrX:154029058-154029078:-		MBNL1, PCBP1, PCBP2, PTBP1, SRSF2, SRSF3, SRSF5	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
c.3198G>A	chrX:154028699	chrX:154028852-154028872:-		MBNL1, PCBP1, PCBP3, PTBP1, SRSF3, SRSF5	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
c.6037A>C	chrX:154025860	chrX:154025850-154025870:-		HNRNPA1L2, HNRNPA2B, MBNL1, PCBP2, SRSF5	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
c.6948ins(AT)	chrX:154024949	chrX:154024939:-154024959:-		A1CF, CPEB2, CPEB4, CUG-BP, DAZAP1, HNRNPC, HNRNPCL1, HuR, MBNL1, PCBP3, RALY, RBM41, SFPO, SRSF2, SRSF3, TIA1, TRA2B, U2AF2, ZC3H14	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
c.9209C>T	chrX:154022688	chrX:154022678-154022698:-		CUG-BP, HNRNPF, PTBP1, RBM38, SRSF1, SRSF5, TARDBP, TRA2B	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
c.9317A>C	chrX:154022580	chrX:154022570-154022590:-		HNRNPK, PCBP1, PCBP2, PCBP3, PTBP1, SRSF3	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
T>C c.6809	chrX:154025007	chrX:154024997-154025017:-		MBNL1, SRSF3, TARDBP	NA ²	(9)	Yes	
G>C c.1638	chrX:154028649	chrX:154028639-154028659:-		CUG-BP, HNRNPA1, HNRNPA1L2, MBNL1, RBM28, ZC3H10	NA ²	(9)	Yes	
c.1470G > A	chrX:154030427	chrX:154030417-154030437:-		HNRNPK, HNRNPL, SRSF7, YBX1	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
c.2005G > A	chrX:154029892	chrX:154029882-154029902:-		CNOT4, ENOX1, FMR1, FXR2, HNRNPA1, HNRNPA2B1, HNRNPH2, RBM24, SRSF2, TARDBP	NA ²	(41)	Yes	

		c.2228G > T	chrX:154029669	chrX:154029659-154029679:-	ENOX1, FMR1, FXR1, SRSF3, SRSF7	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
		c.4118G > A	chrX:154027779	chrX:154027769-154027789:-	ESRP2, HNRNPA1, HNRNPA2B1, HNRNPF, HNRNPH1, HNRNPH2, PABPN1, SRSF2, TRA2A	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
		c.4167G > A	chrX:154027730	chrX:154027720-154027740:-	CUG-BP, MBNL1, PTBP1, SRSF2, SRSF3	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
		c.5119C > T	chrX:154026778	chrX:154026768-154026788:-	CUG-BP, HNRNPA1, MBNL1, SRSF2, SRSF5	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
		c.5339G > C	chrX:154026558	chrX:154026548-154026568:-	SNRPA	NA ²	(41)	Yes	
		OXTR	rs7632287	chr3:8749760	chr3:8749750-8749770:+	RBM41, SNRPA, SRSF3, SRSF7	NA ³	(42)	Yes
	rs237884		chr3:8751899	chr3:8751889-8751909:+	KHDRBS3, MBNL1, PUM2, SRSF5	NA ³	(42)	Yes	
Intellectual Disability	CDK5RI	c.1005G>A	Chr17:32488404	chr17:32488394-32488414:+	MBNL1, PTBP1, SRSF2, SRSF5	NA ²	(43)	Yes	
		c.1043G>A	Chr17:32488442	chr17:32488432-32488452:+	CUG-BP, MBNL1, SRSF2, TUT1	NA ²	(43)	Yes	
		c.2160C>T	chr17:32489559	chr17:32489549-32489569:+	HuR, KHDRBS3, PTBP1, PUM2, RBMS1, SRSF3, TRA2B	NA ²	(43)	Yes	
		c.2254C>G	chr17:32489653	chr17:32489643-32489663:+	CUG-BP, MBNL1, SRSF1, SRSF2	NA ²	(43)	Yes	
		c.3452G>A	chr17:32490851	chr17: 32490841-32490861:+	CPEB2, CPEB4, HNRNPC, HNRNPCL1, HuR, MATR3, MBNL1, PTBP1, RALY, SRSF3, SRSF5, TIA1, U2AF2, ZC3H14, ZNF638	NA ²	(43)	Yes	
		c.*71 G>A	chr17:32488916	chr17:32488906-32488926:+	CUG-BP,HNRNPA1, HNRNPA1L2, HNRNPA2B1, HNRNPF, SRSF2, SRSF5, TARDBP, TIA1	NA ²	(44)	Yes	
		rs8192474	chr17:32488663	chr17:32488653-32488673:+	NOVA1, PCBP1, PCBP2, PCBP3, PTBP1, SRSF3, SRSF5	hsa-miR-1915-3p, hsa-miR-4441, hsa-miR-548ac	(44)	Yes	
		rs138054348	chr17:32490069	chr17:32490059-32490079:+	CUG-BP, HNRNPF, SRSF1, SRSF9	hsa-miR-4691-3p, hsa-miR-766-3p	(44)	Yes	
		rs735555	chr17:32490432	chr17:32490422-32490442:+	BRUNOL4, BRUNOL5, CPEB4, HuR, MBNL1, PTBP1, RBM38, RBM6, SRSF2, SRSF3, TARDBP,	NA ²	(44)	Yes	

		rs115744590	chr17:32490719	chr17:32490709-32490729:+	ZC3H14 CPEB4, CUG-BP, MATR3, MBNL1, PTBP1, RBM41, SRSF1, SRSF2, SRSF3, SRSF5, TIA1, TRA2B, U2AF2, ZC3H14	hsa-miR-338-5p, hsa-miR-3680-3p	(44)	Yes	
		c.*397C>G	Chr17:32489242	chr17:32489232-32489252:+	A1CF, CUG-BP, HNRNPM, HuR, MBNL1, PTBP1, SFPO	NA ³	(44)	Yes	Yes
		c.*649_*659del	Chr17:32489494	chr17:32489484-32489504:+	CUG-BP, MBNL1, SRSF2, SRSF3	NA ³	(44)	Yes	
		c.*1904_*1905del	Chr17:32490749	chr17:32490739-32490759:+	BRUNOL4, BRUNOL5, CPEB4, HNRNPC, HNRNPCL1, MATR3, PTBP1, RALY, RBM24, RBM38, SRSF1, SRSF9, TARDBP, TIA1	NA ³	(44)	Yes	Yes
		c.*2099_*2101del	Chr17:32490944	chr17:32490934-32490954:+	KHDRBS1, KHDRBS2, KHDRBS3, NOVA1, PABPC1, PABPC4, PABPC5, PABPN1, SART3, TRA2B	NA ³	(44)	Yes	Yes
	<i>CDK5</i>	rs9278	chr7:151053893	chr7:151053883-151053903:-	BRUNOL6, HNRNPF, HNRNPH2, MBNL1, SFPO	hsa-miR-3064-5p, hsa-miR-3620, hsa-miR-3944-3p, hsa-miR-4269	(44)	Yes	
	<i>FMR1</i>	c.*746T>C	chrX:147949590	chrX:147949580-147949600:+	BRUNOL4, BRUNOL5, BRUNOL6, CPEB2, CPEB4, HNRNPC, HNRNPCL1, HNRNPM, HNRNPU, HuR, MBNL1, RALY, SRSF2, TIA1, TRA2B, U2AF2, ZC3H14, ZNF638	NA ²	(45, 46)	Yes	Yes
		c.*1867G>A	chrX:147950711	chrX:147950701-147950721:+	DAZAP1, KHDRBS1, KHDRBS3, MSI1, PABPC1, PABPC5, RBMS1, RBMS3, SART3, SRSF2, TRA2B	NA ²	(45)	Yes	
		c.*23T>C	chrX:147948867	chrX:147948857-147948877:+	A1CF, PCBP3, PTBP1, RBM41, RBMS1, RBMS3, SRSF3, TUT1, U2AF2	NA ²	(47)	Yes	
		c.*2035C>T	chrX:147950879	chrX:147950869-147950889:+	CUG-BP, MBNL1, PTBP1, RBM42, SRSF3	NA ²	(47)	Yes	
		10 unnamed variants	No coordinates available	NA	NA	NA	(47)	Yes	
	<i>MECP2</i>	1461*93G > A	chrX:154030436	chrX:154030426-	HNRNPK, SRSF3, YBX1	NA ²	(48)	Yes	

				154030446:-					
Rett-Syndrome	<i>MECP2</i>	c.1461+98insA	chrX:154030436	chrX:154030426-154030446:-	HNRNPK,SRSF3, YBX1	NA ²	(49, 50)	Yes	
		c.9961C>G	chrX:154021936	chrX: 154021926-154021946:-	A1CF, HNRNPC, HNRNPCL1, KHDRBS3, PABPC5, QKI, RBMS3, ZC3H14, ZCRB1	NA ²	(49)	Yes	
		c.9964delC	chrX:154021933	chrX:154021923-154021943:-	A1CF, HNRNPC, HNRNPCL1, KHDRBS3, PABPC5, QKI, RBMS3, ZC3H14, ZCRB1	NA ²	(49)	Yes	
		c.1461+9G>A	chrX:154030436	chrX:154030426-154030446:-	HNRNPK,SRSF3, YBX1	NA ²	(49)	Yes	
		c.2595G>A	chrX:154029302	chrX: 154029292-154029312:-	SRSF1, SRSF5	NA ²	(49)	Yes	
		c.1461+92C>G	chrX:154030436	chrX:154030426-154030446:-	HNRNPK,SRSF3, YBX1	NA ²	(50)	Yes	
Anxiety and Depression	<i>MAP2K5</i>	rs41305272	chr15:67807105	chr15:67807095-67807115:+	CUG-BP, HNRNPA1, MBNL1, QKI, TARDBP, TRA2B, ZCRB1	NA ³	(51, 52)	Yes	
	<i>P2RX7</i>	rs1653625	chr12:121185082	chr12:121185072-121185092:+	IGF2BP2, IGF2BP3, KHDRBS1, KHDRBS2, KHDRBS3, PABPC1, PABPC3, PABPC4, PABPC5, PABPN1, SART3	NA ³	(53)	Yes	

¹The SNP was not predicted to affect an existing MBS

²The variant was not reported as SNP with rs-identifier. As such it was not usable in the miRSNP program

³Not possible as MiRSNP webpage unavailable

Supplementary Table S2. Online tools to examine functional motifs in 3'UTRs

MBS	<p>ALGORITHMS TO PREDICT MBSs IN ANNOTATED 3'UTRs</p> <p>Prone to false positive/negative predictions. Combination of different algorithms can increase the accuracy.</p> <p>Targetscan (http://www.targetscan.org/vert_71/)</p> <p>PITA (https://genie.weizmann.ac.il/pubs/mir07/mir07_data.html)</p> <p>DIANA-microT4 (http://diana.imis.athena-innovation.gr/DianaTools/index.php?r=microtv4/index)</p> <p>mirMap (http://mirmap.ezlab.org/)</p> <p>RNA22 (https://cm.jefferson.edu/rna22/Interactive/)</p> <p>miRANDA (http://www.microrna.org/microrna/home.do)</p> <p>microRNAmap (http://mirnamap.mbc.nctu.edu.tw/)</p> <p>RNAhybrid (https://bibiserv2.cebitec.unibielefeld.de/rnahybrid?id=rnahybrid_view_submission)</p> <p>MiRBridge (http://mirsystem.cgm.ntu.edu.tw/)</p> <p>PICTAR (http://pictar.mdc-berlin.de/)</p> <p>miRtarget (Access via miRWalk), microTar (http://tiger.dbs.nus.edu.sg/microtar/)</p>
	<p>ONLINE DATABASES OF PREDICTED MBSs IN ANNOTATED 3'UTRs</p> <p>Allows the combination of different algorithms in the prediction. Curated so may not always include the latest versions of the algorithms.</p> <p>miRDB (http://www.mirdb.org/miRDB/)</p> <p>miRWalk (http://zmf.umm.uni-heidelberg.de/apps/zmf/mirwalk2/)</p> <p>miRGate (http://mirgate.bioinfo.cnio.es/miRGate/)</p> <p>miRANDA (http://www.microrna.org/microrna/home.do)</p>
	<p>ALGORITHMS THAT COMBINE EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL MBS DATA</p> <p>The interaction between mRNA and miRNA can vary between tissue and cell types and might be affected by experimental setup.</p> <p>TarPmiR (http://hulab.ucf.edu/research/projects/miRNA/TarPmiR/)</p> <p>MEME-DREME (http://meme-suite.org/index.html)</p>
	<p>ONLINE DATABASES OF EXPERIMENTALLY VALIDATED mRNA-miRNA INTERACTIONS</p> <p>The interaction between mRNA and miRNA can vary between tissue and cell types and might be affected by experimental setup</p> <p>miRDB (http://www.mirdb.org/miRDB/)</p> <p>miRGate (http://mirgate.bioinfo.cnio.es/miRGate/)</p> <p>miRANDA (http://www.microrna.org/microrna/home.do)</p>

	<p><u>ONLINE DATABASES PREDICTING EFFECTS OF MBS VARIANTS</u> Requires established SNPs with rs-numbers as input. Therefore rare mutations or rare variants may not be applicable. miRSNP (http://bioinfo.bjmu.edu.cn/mirsnp/search/) miRVaS (http://mirvas.bioinf.be/index.html) STARmiR (http://sfold.wadsworth.org/cgi-bin/starmir.pl)</p> <p><u>ONLINE DATABASES OF DISEASE ASSOCIATED SNPs IN OR NEAR MBSs</u> Requires established SNPs with rs-numbers as input. Therefore rare mutations or rare variants may not be applicable. miRSNP (http://bioinfo.bjmu.edu.cn/mirsnp/search/) miRdSNP (http://mirdsnp.ccr.buffalo.edu/)</p> <p><u>ONLINE DATABASES OF miRNA EXPRESSION PATTERNS</u> Show the expression of miRNAs at a given time in different tissues. The miRNA expression pattern might differ during development. miRANDA (http://www.microrna.org/microrna/home.do) miRGator (http://mirgator.kobic.re.kr/) miRWalk (http://zmf.umm.uni-heidelberg.de/apps/zmf/mirwalk2/)</p>
RBP	<p><u>ALGORITHMS TO PREDICT RBP BINDING SITES</u> RBP binding sites are often very short motifs and depend on the secondary structure of the RNA. As such, they are difficult to predict based on sequence alone. Empirical data can be included to increase the accuracy but there may be biases based on cell type or experimental setup. RBPMAP (http://rbpmap.technion.ac.il/) RBPDB (http://rbpdb.ccr.utoronto.ca/) driMUST (http://drimust.technion.ac.il/index.html) MEMERIS (http://www.bioinf.uni-freiburg.de/~hiller/MEMERIS/) CIS-BP-RNA (http://cisbp-rna.ccr.utoronto.ca/index.php) RBPmotif (http://www.rnamotif.org/) catRAPID (http://s.tartagliolab.com/page/catrapid_omics_group) ATtRACT (https://attract.cnic.es/) rMAPS (http://rmaps.cecsresearch.org) POSTAR (http://lulab.life.tsinghua.edu.cn/postar/)</p>

	<p><u>ONLINE DATABASES OF EXPERIMENTALLY VALIDATED mRNA-RBP INTERACTIONS</u> The interaction between mRNA and RBP can vary between tissue and cell types and might be affected by experimental setup RBPDB (http://rbpdb.ccb.utoronto.ca/) doRiNA (http://dorina.mdc-berlin.de/) CIS-BP-RNA (http://cisbp-rna.ccb.utoronto.ca/index.php) RBP-Var (http://www.rbp-var.biols.ac.cn/) RAID (http://www.rna-society.org/raid/) CLIPdb (http://lulab.life.tsinghua.edu.cn/clipdb/) POSTAR (http://lulab.life.tsinghua.edu.cn/postar/)</p>
	<p><u>CURATED DATABASES OF RNA BINDING PROTEINS</u> As a curated database, it is very reliable but might not always be completely up to date. READDB (http://darwin.soic.iupui.edu/)</p>
PolyA	<p><u>ALGORITHMS TO PREDICT POLY-A SITES FROM USER PROVIDED SEQUENCES</u> Accurate for the prediction of different polyA sites, but should be complemented with experimental evidence to confirm the presence of different 3'UTRs. polyApred (http://www.imtech.res.in/raghava/polyapred/) poly(A) Signal (http://dnafsmineer.bic.nus.edu.sg/PolyA.html) Dragon PolyA Spotter (DPS) (http://www.cbrc.kaust.edu.sa/dps/)</p>
	<p><u>ONLINE DATABASES OF EXPERIMENTALLY DETERMINED POLY-A AND APA EVENTS</u> As curated databases, they are very reliable but might not always be completely up to date. APADB (http://tools.genxpro.net/apadb/) PACDB (http://harlequin.jax.org/pacdb/) PolyAsite (http://polyasite.unibas.ch/)</p>
3'UTRs	<p><u>CURATED DATABASE OF MULTIPLE MOTIF TYPES IN UTR SEQUENCES</u> As a curated database, it is very reliable but might not always be completely up to date. UTRdb (http://utrdb.ba.itb.cnr.it/) AURA (http://aura.science.unitn.it/)</p>

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