LETTER

Host–microbe interactions have shaped the genetic architecture of inflammatory bowel disease

A list of authors and their affiliations appears at the end of the paper.

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, the two common forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), affect over 2.5 million people of European ancestry, with rising prevalence in other populations[1]. Genome-wide association studies and subsequent meta-analyses of these two diseases[2,3] as separate phenotypes have implicated previously unsuspected mechanisms, such as autophagy[4], in their pathogenesis and showed that some IBD loci are shared with other inflammatory diseases[5]. Here we expand on the knowledge of relevant pathways by undertaking a meta-analysis of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis genome-wide association scans, followed by extensive validation of significant findings, with a combined total of more than 75,000 cases and controls. We identify 71 new associations, for a total of 163 IBD loci, that meet genome-wide significance thresholds. Most loci contribute to both phenotypes, and both directional (consistently favouring one allele over the course of human history) and balancing (favouring the retention of both alleles within populations) selection effects are evident. Many IBD loci are also implicated in other immune-mediated disorders, most notably with ankylosing spondylitis and psoriasis. We also observe considerable overlap between susceptibility loci for IBD and mycobacterial infection. Gene co-expression network analysis emphasizes this relationship, with pathways shared between host responses to mycobacteria and those predisposing to IBD.

We conducted an imputation-based association analysis using autosomal genotype-level data from 15 genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of Crohn's disease and/or ulcerative colitis (Supplementary Fig. 1 and Supplementary Table 1). We imputed 1.23 million single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) from the HapMap3 reference set (Supplementary Methods 1a), resulting in a high-quality data set with reduced genome-wide inflation (Supplementary Figs 2 and 3) compared with previous meta-analyses of subsets of these data[2,3]. The imputed GWAS data identified 25,075 SNPs that were associated ($P < 0.01$) with at least one of the Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or combined IBD analyses. A meta-analysis of GWAS data with Immunochip[6] validation genotypes from an independent, newly genotyped set of 14,763 Crohn's disease cases, 10,920 ulcerative colitis cases and 15,977 controls was performed (Supplementary Fig. 1 and Supplementary Table 1). Principal-components analysis resolved geographic stratification, as well as Jewish and non-Jewish ancestry (Supplementary Fig. 4), and reduced inflation to a level consistent with residual polygenic risk, rather than other confounding effects (from a median test statistic inflation (λ_{GC}) = 2.00 to λ_{GC} = 1.23 when analysing all IBD samples; Supplementary Fig. 5 and Supplementary Methods 1b).

Our meta-analysis of the GWAS and Immunochip data identified 193 statistically independent signals of association at genome-wide significance ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in at least one of the three analyses (Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, IBD). Because some of these signals (Supplementary Fig. 6) probably represent associations to the same underlying functional unit, we merged these signals (Supplementary Methods 1b) into 163 regions, 71 of which are reported here for the first time (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 2). Fig. 1a shows the relative contributions of each locus to the total variance explained in

ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. We have increased the total disease variance explained (variance being subject to fewer assumptions than heritability[7]) from 8.2% to 13.6% in Crohn's disease and from 4.1% to 7.5% in ulcerative colitis (Supplementary Methods 1c). Consistent with previous studies, our IBD risk loci seem to act independently, with no significant evidence of deviation from an additive combination of log odds ratios.

Our combined genome-wide analysis of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis enables a more comprehensive analysis of disease specificity than was previously possible. A model-selection analysis (Supplementary Methods 1c) showed that 110 out of 163 loci are associated with both disease phenotypes; 50 of these have an indistinguishable effect size in ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, whereas 60 show evidence of heterogeneous effects (Table 1). Of the remaining loci, 30 are classified as Crohn's-disease-specific and 23 as ulcerative-colitis-specific. However, 43 of these 53 loci show the same direction of effect in the non-associated disease (Fig. 1b; overall $P = 2.8 \times 10^{-6}$). Risk alleles at two Crohn's disease loci, *PTPN22* and *NOD2*, show significant ($P < 0.005$) protective effects in ulcerative colitis, exceptions that may reflect biological differences between the two diseases. This degree of sharing of genetic risk suggests that nearly all of the biological mechanisms involved in one disease have some role in the other.

The large number of IBD associations, far more than reported for any other complex disease, increases the power of network-based analyses to prioritize genes within loci. We investigated the IBD loci using functional annotation and empirical gene network tools (Supplementary Table 2). Compared with previous analyses that identified candidate genes in 35% of loci[2,3] our updated GRAIL[8]-connectivity network identifies candidates in 53% of loci, including increased statistical significance for 58 of the 73 candidates from previous analyses. The new candidates come not only from genes within newly identified loci, but also integrate additional genes from previously established loci (Fig. 1c). Only 29 IBD-associated SNPs are in strong linkage disequilibrium ($r^2 > 0.8$) with a missense variant in the 1000 Genomes Project data, which reinforces previous evidence that a large fraction of risk for complex disease is driven by non-coding variation. By contrast, 64 IBD-associated SNPs are in linkage disequilibrium with variants known to regulate gene expression (Supplementary Table 2). Overall, we highlighted a total of 300 candidate genes in 125 loci, of which 39 contained a single gene supported by two or more methods.

Seventy per cent (113 out of 163) of the IBD loci are shared with other complex diseases or traits, including 66 among the 154 loci previously associated with other immune-mediated diseases[9], which is 8.6-times the number that would be expected by chance ($P < 10^{-16}$; Fig. 2a and Supplementary Fig. 7). Such enrichment cannot be attributed to the immune-mediated focus of the Immunochip (Supplementary Methods 4 and Supplementary Fig. 8), as the analysis is based on our combined GWAS–Immunochip data. Comparing overlaps with specific diseases is confounded by the variable power in studies of different diseases. For instance, although type 1 diabetes shares the largest number of loci (20 out of 39; tenfold enrichment) with IBD, this is partially driven by the large number of known type 1 diabetes associations. Indeed, seven other immune-mediated diseases

Table 1 | Crohn's disease-specific, ulcerative colitis-specific and IBD general loci

Crohn's disease

Chr.	Position (Mb)	SNP	Key genes (+ no. of additional genes in locus)
1	78.62	rs17391694	(5)
1	114.3	**rs6679677‖**	***PTPN22*** ¶ (8)
1	120.45	rs3897478	*ADAM30* (5)
1	172.85	**rs9286879**	***FASLG, TNFSF18*** (0)
2	27.63	**rs1728918**	*UCN* (23)
2	62.55	rs10865331	(3)
2	231.09	**rs6716753**	*SP140* (5)
2	234.15	**rs12994997**	***ATG16L1*** ¶ (8)
4	48.36	rs6837335	(6)
4	102.86	rs13126505	(1)
5	55.43	rs10065637	***IL6ST, IL31RA*** (1)
5	72.54	rs7702331	(4)
5	173.34	rs17695092	*CPEB4* (2)
6	21.42	rs12663356	(3)
6	31.27	**rs9264942**	(22)
6	127.45	rs9491697	(3)
6	128.24	**rs13204742**	(11)
6	159.49	rs212388	*TAGAP* (5)
7	26.88‡	rs10486483	(2)
7	28.17	rs864745	*CREB5, JAZF1* (1)
8	90.87	rs7015630	*RIPK2* (4)
8	129.56	**rs6651252**	0
13	44.45	**rs3764147**	*LACC1* (3)
15	38.89	rs16967103	***RASGRP1, SPRED1*** (2)
16	50.66†	**rs2066847‖**	***NOD2*** ¶ (6)
17	25.84	**rs2945412**	***LGALS9, NOS2*** (3)
19	1.12	**rs2024092**	*GPX4, HMHA1* (20)
19	46.85‡	rs4802307	(9)
19	49.2	**rs516246**	*FUT2,* (25)
21	34.77	**rs2284553**	***IFNGR2, IFNAR1*** (10)

Ulcerative colitis

Chr.	Position (Mb)	SNP	Key genes (+ no. of additional genes in locus)
1	2.5	rs10797432	***TNFRSF14*** (10)
1	20.15†	**rs6426833**	(9)
1	200.09	**rs2816958**	(3)
2	198.65	rs1016883	*RFTN2, PLCL1* (7)
2	199.70*	**rs17229285**	0
3	53.05	rs9847710	*PRKCD, ITIH4* (8)
4	103.51	**rs3774959**	***NFKB1, MANBA*** (2)
5	0.59	rs11739663	*SLC9A3* (8)
5	134.44	rs254560	(6)
6	32.595	**rs6927022**	(15)
7	2.78	**rs798502**	***CARD11, GNA12*** (5)
7	27.22‡	rs4722672	(14)
7	107.45*	**rs4380874**	*DLD* (9)
7	128.57	**rs4728142**	***IRF5*** ¶ (13)
11	96.02	rs483905	*JRKL, MAML2* (2)
11	114.38	**rs561722**	*NXPE1, NXPE4* (5)
15	41.55	rs28374715	(11)
16	30.47	rs11150589	***ITGAL*** (20)
16	68.58	rs1728785	*ZFP90* (6)
17	70.64	rs7210086	(3)
19	47.12‡	rs1126510	*CALM3* (14)
20	33.8	rs6088765	(11)
20	43.06	**rs6017342**	*ADA, HNF4A* (9)

IBD

Chr.	Position (Mb)	SNP	Key genes (+ no. of additional genes in locus)
1	1.24	**rs12103**	*TNFRSF18, TNFRSF4* (30)
1	8.02	**rs35675666**	*TNFRSF9* (6)
1	22.7	**rs12568930§**	(3)
1	67.68†	**rs11209026§**	***IL23R*** ¶ (5)
1	70.99	rs2651244§	(3)
1	151.79	**rs4845604§**	*RORC* (14)
1	155.67	rs670523§	(31)
1	160.85	rs46656958§	***CD48*** (15)
1	161.47	**rs1801274§**	***FCGR2A, FCGR2B & FCGR3A*** (13)
1	197.6	**rs2488389**	C1orf53 (2)
1	200.87	**rs7554511**	*KIF21B* (6)
1	206.93	**rs3024505§**	*IL10* (10)
2	25.12	**rs6545800§**	*ADCY3* (6)
2	28.61	**rs925255§**	*FOSL2, BRE* (1)
2	43.81	rs10495903§	(5)
2	61.2	**rs7608910**	***REL*** (9)
2	65.67	rs6740462	*SPRED2* (1)
2	102.86*	**rs917997§**	*IL18RAP, IL1R1* (7)
2	163.1	rs2111485	*IFIH1* (5)
2	191.92	rs1517352	***STAT1, STAT4*** (2)
2	219.14	rs2382817	(15)
2	241.57*	**rs3749171§**	***GPR35*** (12)
3	18.76	**rs4256159§**	0
3	48.96†	**rs3197999**	***MST1, PFKB4*** (63)
4	74.85	rs2472649§	(11)
4	123.22	**rs7657746**	***IL2, IL21*** (2)
5	10.69	rs2930047	*DAP* (2)
5	40.38†	**rs11742570§**	*PTGER4* (1)
5	96.24	**rs1363907**	*ERAP2, ERAP1* (3)
5	130.01	rs4836519§	(1)
5	131.19*	**rs2188962§**	*IBD5 locus* (18)
5	141.51	**rs6863411§**	*SPRY4, NDFIP1* (5)
5	150.27	**rs11741861§**	***IRGM*** ¶ (10)
5	158.8†	**rs6871626§**	***IL12B*** (3)
5	176.79	rs12654812	***DOK3*** (17)
6	14.71	rs17119	0
6	20.77*	**rs9358372§**	(2)
6	90.96	rs1847472	(1)
6	106.43	**rs6568421§**	(2)
6	111.82	**rs3851228**	***TRAF3IP2*** (4)
6	138	**rs6920220§**	*TNFAIP3* (1)
10	35.3	**rs11010067§**	***CREM*** (3)
10	59.99	rs2790216	*CISD1, IPMK* (2)
10	64.51†	**rs10761659§**	(3)
10	75.67	rs2227564§	(13)
10	81.03	**rs1250546§**	(5)
10	82.25	**rs6586030§**	*TSPAN14, C10orf58* (4)
10	94.43	rs7911264	(4)
10	101.28	**rs4409764**	*NKX2-3* (6)
11	1.87	rs907611	***TNNI2, LSP1*** (17)
11	58.33	rs10896794	*CNTF, LPXN* (8)
11	60.77	**rs11230563**	***CD6*** (14)
11	61.56	**rs4246215§**	(15)
11	64.12	rs559928	***CCDC88B*** (23)
11	65.65	rs2231884§	*RELA* (25)
11	76.29	**rs2155219§**	(5)
11	87.12	rs6592362	(1)
11	118.74	rs630923§	*CXCR5* (17)
12	12.65	rs11612508§	*LOH12CR1* (8)
12	40.77*	**rs11564258§**	*MUC19* (1)
12	48.2	rs11168249§	*VDR* (8)
12	68.49	**rs7134599§**	***IFNG*** (3)
13	27.52	**rs17085007§**	(2)
13	40.86†	**rs941823§**	(3)
13	99.95	**rs9557195**	*GPR183, GPR18* (6)
14	69.27	rs194749§	*ZFP36L1* (4)
14	75.7	rs4899554§	***FOS, MLH3*** (6)
14	88.47	**rs8005161**	***GPR65, GALC*** (1)
15	67.43	**rs17293632§**	*SMAD3* (3)
15	91.17	rs7495132	*CRTC3* (3)
16	11.54*	**rs529866§**	***SOCS1, LITAF*** (11)
16	23.86	rs7404095	***PRKCB*** (5)
16	28.6	**rs26528§**	*IL27* (14)
16	86	rs10521318§	*IRF8* (4)
17	32.59	**rs3091316§**	***CCL13, CCL2*** (5)
17	37.91	**rs12946510**	*ORMDL3* (16)
17	40.53	**rs12942547§**	***STAT3*** (15)
17	57.96	**rs1292053§**	*TUBD1, RPS6KB1* (9)
18	12.8	**rs1893217§**	(6)
18	46.39	**rs7240004§**	*SMAD7* (2)
18	67.53	rs727088	***CD226*** (2)
19	10.49*	**rs11879191**	***TYK2*** (27)

Table 1 | Continued

	IBD				IBD		
Chr.	Position (Mb)	SNP	Key genes (+ no. of additional genes in locus)	Chr.	Position (Mb)	SNP	Key genes (+ no. of additional genes in locus)
6	143.9	rs12199775	*PHACTR2* (5)	19	33.73	**rs17694108**	*CEBPG* (8)
6	167.37	**rs1819333**§	***CCR6, RPS6KA2*** (4)	19	55.38	rs11672983	(19)
7	50.245*	**rs1456896**	*ZPBP, IKZF1* (4)	20	30.75	rs6142618§	*HCK* (10)
7	98.75	rs9297145	*SMURF1* (6)	20	31.37	rs4911259	*DNMT3B* (8)
7	100.34	**rs1734907**§	***EPO*** (21)	20	44.74	**rs1569723**§	***CD40*** (13)
7	116.89	rs38904§	(6)	20	48.95	rs913678	*CEBPB* (5)
8	126.53	**rs921720**§	*TRIB1* (1)	20	57.82	rs259964	*ZNF831, CTSZ* (5)
8	130.62	rs1991866	(2)	20	62.34	**rs6062504**	*TNFRSF6B* (26)
9	4.98	**rs10758669**	***JAK2*** (4)	21	16.81	**rs2823286**§	0
9	93.92	rs4743820§	*NFIL3* (2)	21	40.46	**rs2836878**§	(3)
9	117.60†	**rs4246905**	*TNFSF15* (4)	21	45.62	**rs7282490**	*ICOSLG* (9)
9	139.32*	**rs10781499**§	***CARD9*** (22)	22	21.92	**rs2266959**	(13)
10	6.08	rs12722515§	***IL2RA, IL15RA*** (6)	22	30.43	**rs2412970**	***LIF, OSM*** (9)
10	30.72	rs1042058§	***MAP3K8*** (3)	22	39.69*	**rs2413583**§	*TAB1* (18)

The position given is the middle of the locus window, with all positions relative to human reference genome GRCh37. Bolded rs numbers indicate SNPs with *P* values less than 1×10^{-13}. Grey shading indicates newly discovered loci. Listed are genes implicated by one or more candidate gene approaches. Bolded genes have been implicated by two or more candidate gene approaches. For each locus, the top two candidate genes are listed. A complete listing of gene prioritization is provided in Supplementary Table 2. *Additional genome-wide significant associated SNP in the region. †Two or more additional genome-wide significant SNPs in the region. ‡These regions have overlapping but distinct ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease signals. §Heterogeneity of odds ratios. || Crohn's disease risk allele is significantly protective in ulcerative colitis. ¶Gene for which functional studies of associated alleles have been reported. Chr., chromosome; Mb, megabase.

show stronger enrichment of overlap, with the largest being ankylosing spondylitis (8 out of 11; 13-fold) and psoriasis (14 out of 17; 14-fold).

IBD loci are also markedly enriched (4.9-fold; $P < 10^{-4}$) in genes involved in primary immunodeficiencies (PIDs; Fig. 2a), which are characterized by a dysfunctional immune system resulting in severe infections[10]. Genes implicated in this overlap correlate with reduced levels of circulating T cells (*ADA*, *CD40*, *TAP1*, *TAP2*, *NBN*, *BLM*, *DNMT3B*) or of specific subsets, such as T-helper cells producing IL-17 (T$_H$17 cells) (*STAT3*), memory (*SP110*) or regulatory T cells (*STAT5B*). The subset of PID genes leading to Mendelian susceptibility to mycobacterial disease (MSMD)[10–12] is enriched still further; six of the eight known autosomal genes linked to MSMD are located within IBD loci (*IL12B*, *IFNGR2*, *STAT1*, *IRF8*, *TYK2*, *STAT3*; 46-fold enrichment; $P = 1.3 \times 10^{-6}$), and a seventh, *IFNGR1*, narrowly missed genome-wide significance ($P = 6 \times 10^{-8}$). Overlap with IBD is also seen in complex mycobacterial disease; we find IBD associations in seven out of eight loci identified by leprosy GWAS[13], including six cases in which the same SNP is implicated. Furthermore, genetic defects in *STAT3* (refs 14, 15) and *CARD9* (ref. 16), also within IBD

loci, lead to PIDs involving skin infections with *Staphylococcus* and candidiasis, respectively. The comparative effects of IBD and infectious-disease-susceptibility-risk alleles on gene function and expression are summarized in Supplementary Table 3, and include both opposite (for example, *NOD2* and *STAT3*; Supplementary Fig. 9) and similar (for example, *IFNGR2*) directional effects.

To extend our understanding of the fundamental biology of IBD pathogenesis we conducted searches across the IBD locus list: (1) for enrichment of specific Gene Ontology terms and canonical pathways; (2) for evidence of selective pressure acting on specific variants and pathways; and (3) for enrichment of differentially expressed genes across immune-cell types. We tested the 300 prioritized genes (see above) for enrichment in Gene Ontology terms (Supplementary Methods 4a) and identified 286 Gene Ontology terms and 56 pathways demonstrating significant enrichment in genes contained within IBD loci (Supplementary Figs 10 and 11 and Supplementary Table 4). Excluding high-level Gene Ontology categories such as 'immune system processes' ($P = 3.5 \times 10^{-26}$), the most significantly enriched term is regulation of cytokine production ($P = 2.7 \times 10^{-24}$), specifically
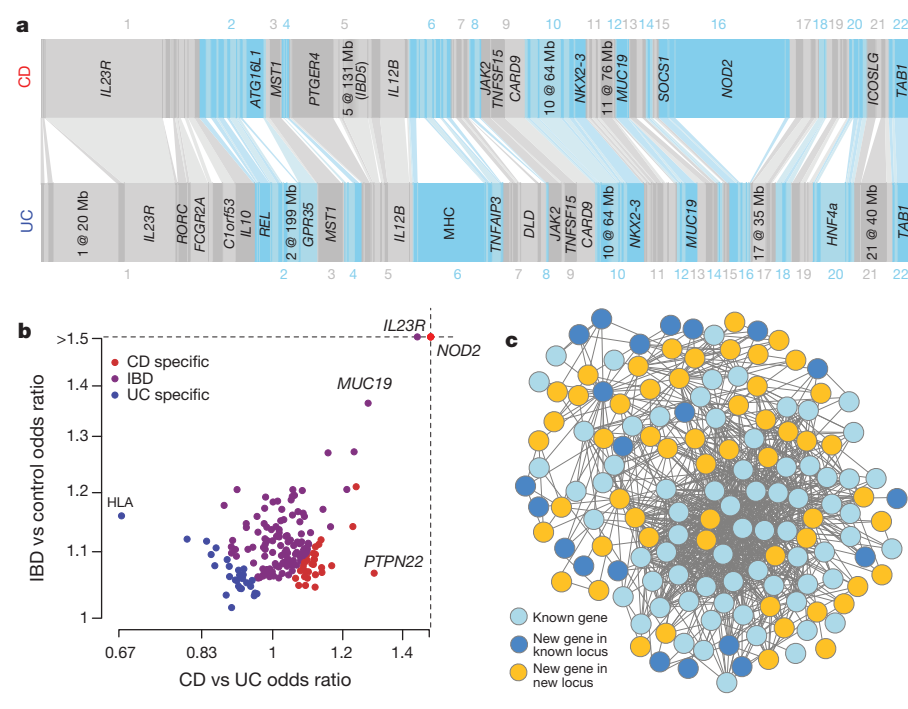

Figure 1 | The IBD genome. a, Variance explained by the 163 IBD loci. Each bar, ordered by genomic position, represents an independent locus. The width of the bar is proportional to the variance explained by that locus in Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC). Bars are connected together if they are identified as being associated with both phenotypes, and loci are labelled if they explain more than 1% of the total variance explained by all loci for that phenotype. Labels are either the best-supported candidate gene in Table 1, or the chromosome and position of the locus if either no, or multiple, well-supported candidates exist. **b**, The 193 independent signals, plotted by total IBD odds ratio and phenotype specificity (measured by the odds ratio of Crohn's disease relative to ulcerative colitis), and coloured by their IBD phenotype classification from Table 1. Note that many loci (for example, *IL23R*) show very different effects in Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis despite being strongly associated to both. **c**, GRAIL network for all genes with GRAIL $P < 0.05$. Genes included in our previous GRAIL networks in both phenotypes are shown in light blue, newly connected genes in previously identified loci in dark blue, and genes from newly associated loci in gold. The gold genes reinforce the previous network (light blue) and expand it to include dark blue genes.
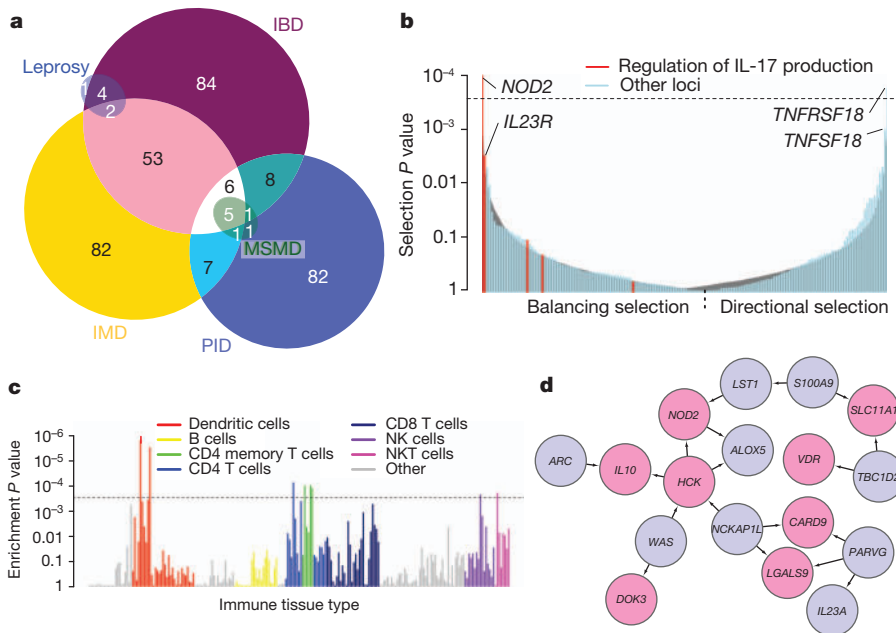
Figure 2 | Dissecting the biology of IBD.
a, Number of overlapping IBD loci with other immune-mediated diseases (IMD), leprosy and Mendelian PIDs. Within PID, we highlight MSMD. **b**, Signals of selection at IBD SNPs, from strongest balancing on the left to strongest directional on the right. The grey curve shows the 95% confidence interval for randomly chosen frequency-matched SNPs, illustrating our overall enrichment ($P = 5.5 \times 10^{-6}$), and the dashed line represents the Bonferroni significance threshold. SNPs highlighted in red are annotated as being involved in the regulation of IL-17 production, a key IBD functional term related to bacterial defence, and are enriched for balancing selection. **c**, Evidence of enrichment in IBD loci of differentially expressed genes from various immune tissues. Each bar represents the empirical P value in a single tissue, and the colours represent different cell type groupings. The dashed line is Bonferroni-corrected significance for the number of tissues tested. **d**, *NOD2*-focused cluster of the IBD causal sub-network. Pink genes are in IBD-associated loci, blue are not. Arrows indicate inferred causal direction of regulation of expression.

interferon-γ, interleukin (IL)-12, tumour-necrosis factor-α and IL-10 signalling. Lymphocyte activation was the next most significant ($P = 1.8 \times 10^{-23}$), with activation of T cells, B cells and natural killer (NK) cells being the strongest contributors to this signal. Strong enrichment was also seen for response to molecules of bacterial origin ($P = 2.4 \times 10^{-20}$), and for the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) JAK-STAT signalling pathway ($P = 4.8 \times 10^{-15}$). We note that no enriched terms or pathways showed specific evidence of Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis specificity.

As infectious organisms are known to be among the strongest agents of natural selection, we investigated whether the IBD-associated variants are subject to selective pressures (Supplementary Table 5 and Supplementary Methods 4c). Directional selection would imply that the balance between these forces shifted in one direction over the course of human history, whereas balancing selection would suggest an allele-frequency-dependent scenario typified by host–microbe co-evolution, as can be observed with parasites. Two SNPs show Bonferroni-significant selection: the most significant signal, in *NOD2*, is under balancing selection ($P = 5.2 \times 10^{-5}$), and the second most significant, in the receptor *TNFRSF18*, showed directional selection ($P = 8.9 \times 10^{-5}$). The next most significant variants were in the ligand of that receptor, *TNFSF18* (directional; $P = 5.2 \times 10^{-4}$), and *IL23R* (balancing; $P = 1.5 \times 10^{-3}$). As a group, the IBD variants show significant enrichment in selection (Fig. 2b) of both types ($P = 5.5 \times 10^{-6}$). We discovered an enrichment of balancing selection (Fig. 2b) in genes annotated with the Gene Ontology term 'regulation of interleukin-17 production' ($P = 1.4 \times 10^{-4}$). The important role of IL-17 in both bacterial defence and autoimmunity suggests a key role for balancing selection in maintaining the genetic relationship between inflammation and infection, and this is reinforced by a nominal enrichment of balancing selection in loci annotated with the broader Gene Ontology term 'defense response to bacterium' ($P = 0.007$).

We tested for enrichment of cell-type expression specificity of genes in IBD loci in 223 distinct sets of sorted, mouse-derived immune cells from the Immunological Genome Consortium[17]. Dendritic cells showed the strongest enrichment, followed by weaker signals that support the Gene Ontology analysis, including CD4^{+} T cells, NK cells and NKT cells (Fig. 2c). Notably, several of these cell types express genes near our IBD associations much more specifically when stimulated; our strongest signal, a lung-derived dendritic cell, had

$P_{\text{stimulated}} < 1 \times 10^{-6}$ compared with $P_{\text{unstimulated}} = 0.0015$, consistent with an important role for cell activation.

To further our goal of identifying likely causal genes within our susceptibility loci and to elucidate networks underlying IBD pathogenesis, we screened the associated genes against 211 co-expression modules identified from weighted gene co-expression network analyses[18], conducted with large gene-expression data sets from multiple tissues[19–21]. The most significantly enriched module comprised 523 genes from omental adipose tissue collected from morbidly obese patients[19], which was found to be 2.9-fold enriched for genes in the IBD-associated loci ($P = 1.1 \times 10^{-13}$; Supplementary Fig. 12 and Supplementary Table 6). We constructed a probabilistic causal gene network using an integrative Bayesian network-reconstruction algorithm[22–24], which combines expression and genotype data to infer the direction of causality between genes with correlated expression. The intersection of this network and the genes in the IBD-enriched module defined a sub-network of genes enriched in bone marrow-derived macrophages ($P < 10^{-16}$) and is suggestive of dynamic interactions relevant to IBD pathogenesis. In particular, this sub-network featured close proximity among genes connected to host interaction with bacteria, notably *NOD2*, *IL10* and *CARD9*.

A *NOD2*-focused inspection of the sub-network prioritizes multiple additional candidate genes within IBD-associated regions. For example, a cluster near *NOD2* (Fig. 2d) contains multiple IBD genes implicated in the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* response, including *SLC11A1*, *VDR* and *LGALS9*. Furthermore, both *SLC11A1* (also known as *NRAMP1*) and *VDR* have been associated with *M. tuberculosis* infection by candidate gene studies[25,26], and *LGALS9* modulates mycobacteriosis[27]. Of interest, *HCK* (located in our new locus on chromosome 20 at 30.75 megabases) is predicted to upregulate expression of both *NOD2* and *IL10*, an anti-inflammatory cytokine associated with Mendelian[28] and non-Mendelian[29] IBD. *HCK* has been linked to alternative, anti-inflammatory activation of monocytes (M2-group macrophages)[30]; although not identified in our aforementioned analyses, these data implicate *HCK* as the causal gene in this new IBD locus.

We report one of the largest genetic experiments involving a complex disease undertaken to date. This has increased the number of confirmed IBD susceptibility loci to 163, most of which are associated with both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and is substantially

more than reported for any other complex disease. Even this large number of loci explains only a minority of the variance in disease risk, which suggests that other factors—such as rarer genetic variation not captured by GWAS or environmental exposures—make substantial contributions to pathogenesis. Most of the evidence relating to possible causal genes points to an essential role for host defence against infection in IBD. In this regard, the current results focus ever-closer attention on the interaction between the host mucosal immune system and microbes, both at the epithelial cell surface and within the gut lumen. In particular, they raise the question, in the context of this burden of IBD-susceptibility genes, of what triggers components of the commensal microbiota to switch from a symbiotic to a pathogenic relationship with the host. Collectively, our findings begin to shed light on these questions and provide a rich source of clues to the pathogenic mechanisms underlying this archetypal complex disease.

METHODS SUMMARY

We conducted a meta-analysis of GWAS data sets after imputation to the HapMap3 reference set, and aimed to replicate in the Immunochip data any SNPs with $P < 0.01$. We compared likelihoods of different disease models to assess whether each locus was associated with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or both. We used databases of expression quantitative trait loci SNPs and coding SNPs in linkage disequilibrium with our hit SNPs, as well as the network tools GRAIL and DAPPLE, and a co-expression network analysis to prioritize candidate genes in our loci. Gene Ontology, the Immunological Genome Project (ImmGen) mouse immune-cell-expression resource, the TreeMix selection software and a Bayesian causal network analysis were used to functionally annotate these genes.

Received 17 May; accepted 12 September 2012.

1. Molodecky, N. A. *et al.* Increasing incidence and prevalence of the inflammatory bowel diseases with time, based on systematic review. *Gastroenterology* **142,** 46–54 (2012).
2. Anderson, C. A. *et al.* Meta-analysis identifies 29 additional ulcerative colitis risk loci, increasing the number of confirmed associations to 47. *Nature Genet.* **43,** 246–252 (2011).
3. Franke, A. *et al.* Genome-wide meta-analysis increases to 71 the number of confirmed Crohn's disease susceptibility loci. *Nature Genet.* **42,** 1118–1125 (2010).
4. Khor, B., Gardet, A. & Xavier, R. J. Genetics and pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease. *Nature* **474,** 307–317 (2011).
5. Cho, J. H. & Gregersen, P. K. Genomics and the multifactorial nature of human autoimmune disease. *N. Engl. J. Med.* **365,** 1612–1623 (2011).
6. Cortes, A. & Brown, M. A. Promise and pitfalls of the Immunochip. *Arthritis Res. Ther.* **13,** 101 (2011).
7. Zuk, O., Hechter, E., Sunyaev, S. R. & Lander, E. S. The mystery of missing heritability: genetic interactions create phantom heritability. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA* **109,** 1193–1198 (2012).
8. Raychaudhuri, S. *et al.* Identifying relationships among genomic disease regions: predicting genes at pathogenic SNP associations and rare deletions. *PLoS Genet.* **5,** e1000534 (2009).
9. Hindorff, L. A. *et al.* Potential etiologic and functional implications of genome-wide association loci for human diseases and traits. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA* **106,** 9362–9367 (2009).
10. Notarangelo, L. D. *et al.* Primary immunodeficiencies: 2009 update. *J. Allergy Clin. Immunol.* **124,** 1161–1178 (2009).
11. Bustamante, J., Picard, C., Boisson-Dupuis, S., Abel, L. & Casanova, J. L. Genetic lessons learned from X-linked Mendelian susceptibility to mycobacterial diseases. *Ann. NY Acad. Sci.* **1246,** 92–101 (2011).
12. Patel, S. Y., Doffinger, R., Barcenas-Morales, G. & Kumararatne, D. S. Genetically determined susceptibility to mycobacterial infection. *J. Clin. Pathol.* **61,** 1006–1012 (2008).
13. Zhang, F. *et al.* Identification of two new loci at *IL23R* and *RAB32* that influence susceptibility to leprosy. *Nature Genet.* **43,** 1247–1251 (2011).
14. Holland, S. M. *et al.* STAT3 mutations in the hyper-IgE syndrome. *N. Engl. J. Med.* **357,** 1608–1619 (2007).
15. Minegishi, Y. *et al.* Dominant-negative mutations in the DNA-binding domain of STAT3 cause hyper-IgE syndrome. *Nature* **448,** 1058–1062 (2007).
16. Glocker, E. O. *et al.* A homozygous *CARD9* mutation in a family with susceptibility to fungal infections. *N. Engl. J. Med.* **361,** 1727–1735 (2009).
17. Hu, X. *et al.* Integrating autoimmune risk loci with gene-expression data identifies specific pathogenic immune cell subsets. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **89,** 496–506 (2011).
18. Zhang, B. & Horvath, S. A general framework for weighted gene co-expression network analysis. *Stat. Appl. Genet. Mol. Biol.* **4,** Article 17 (2005).
19. Greenawalt, D. M. *et al.* A survey of the genetics of stomach, liver, and adipose gene expression from a morbidly obese cohort. *Genome Res.* **21,** 1008–1016 (2011).
20. Emilsson, V. *et al.* Genetics of gene expression and its effect on disease. *Nature* **452,** 423–428 (2008).
21. Schadt, E. E. *et al.* Mapping the genetic architecture of gene expression in human liver. *PLoS Biol.* **6,** e107 (2008).
22. Chen, Y. *et al.* Variations in DNA elucidate molecular networks that cause disease. *Nature* **452,** 429–435 (2008).
23. Zhong, H. *et al.* Liver and adipose expression associated SNPs are enriched for association to type 2 diabetes. *PLoS Genet.* **6,** e1000932 (2010).
24. Zhu, J. *et al.* Increasing the power to detect causal associations by combining genotypic and expression data in segregating populations. *PLOS Comput. Biol.* **3,** e69 (2007).
25. Lewis, S. J., Baker, I. & Davey Smith, G. Meta-analysis of vitamin D receptor polymorphisms and pulmonary tuberculosis risk. *Int. J. Tuberc. Lung Dis.* **9,** 1174–1177 (2005).
26. Li, X. *et al.* SLC11A1 (NRAMP1) polymorphisms and tuberculosis susceptibility: updated systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS ONE* **6,** e15831 (2011).
27. Kumar, D. *et al.* Genome-wide analysis of the host intracellular network that regulates survival of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. *Cell* **140,** 731–743 (2010).
28. Glocker, E. O. *et al.* Infant colitis–it's in the genes. *Lancet* **376,** 1272 (2010).
29. Franke, A. *et al.* Sequence variants in *IL10, ARPC2* and multiple other loci contribute to ulcerative colitis susceptibility. *Nature Genet.* **40,** 1319–1323 (2008).
30. Bhattacharjee, A., Pal, S., Feldman, G. M. & Cathcart, M. K. Hck is a key regulator of gene expression in alternatively activated human monocytes. *J. Biol. Chem.* **286,** 36709–36723 (2011).

Luke Jostins[1]*, Stephan Ripke[2,3]*, Rinse K. Weersma[4], Richard H. Duerr[5,6], Dermot P. McGovern[7,8], Ken Y. Hui[9], James C. Lee[10], L. Philip Schumm[11], Yashoda Sharma[12], Carl A. Anderson[1], Jonah Essers[13], Mitja Mitrovic[14,15], Kaida Ning[9], Isabelle Cleynen[16], Emilie Theatre[17,18], Sarah L. Spain[20,21,22], Soumya Raychaudhuri[20,21,22], Philippe Goyette[23], Zhi Wei[24], Clara Abraham[12], Jean-Paul Achkar[25,26], Tariq Ahmad[27], Leila Amininejad[28], Ashwin N. Ananthakrishnan[29], Vibeke Andersen[30], Jane M. Andrews[31], Leonard Baidoo[5], Tobias Balschun[32], Peter A. Bampton[33], Alain Bitton[34], Gabrielle Boucher[23], Stephan Brand[35], Carsten Büning[36], Ariella Cohain[37], Sven Cichon[38], Mauro D'Amato[39], Dirk De Jong[4], Kathy L. Devaney[29], Marla Dubinsky[40], Cathryn Edwards[41], David Ellinghaus[32], Lynnette R. Ferguson[42], Denis Franchimont[28], Karin Fransen[5,43], Richard Gearry[44,45], Michel Georges[17], Christian Gieger[46], Jürgen Glas[34], Talin Haritunians[8], Ailsa Hart[47], Chris Hawkey[48], Matija Hedl[12], Xinli Hu[20], Tom H. Karlsen[49], Limas Kupcinskas[50], Subra Kugathasan[51], Anna Latiano[52], Debby Laukens[53], Ian C. Lawrance[54], Charlie W. Lees[55], Edouard Louis[18], Gillian Mahy[56], John Mansfield[57], Angharad R. Morgan[42], Craig Mowat[58], William Newman[59], Orazio Palmieri[52], Cyriel Y. Ponsioen[60], Uros Potocnik[14,61], Natalie J. Prescott[19], Miguel Regueiro[5], Jerome I. Rotter[8], Richard K. Russell[62], Jeremy D. Sanderson[63], Miquel Sans[64,65], Jack Satsangi[55], Stefan Schreiber[32,66], Lisa A. Simms[67], Jurgita Sventoraityte[50], Stephan R. Targan[7], Kent D. Taylor[7,8], Mark Tremelling[68], Hein W. Verspaget[69], Martine De Vos[53], Cisca Wijmenga[43], David C. Wilson[62,70], Juliane Winkelmann[71], Ramnik J. Xavier[29,72], Sebastian Zeissig[66], Bin Zhang[37], Clarence K. Zhang[73], Hongyu Zhao[73], The International IBD Genetics Consortium (IIBDGC)†, Mark S. Silverberg[74], Vito Annese[52,75], Hakon Hakonarson[76,77], Steven R. Brant[78], Graham Radford-Smith[67,79], Christopher G. Mathew[19], John D. Rioux[23], Eric E. Schadt[37], Mark J. Daly[2,3], Andre Franke[32], Miles Parkes[10], Severine Vermeire[16,80], Jeffrey C. Barrett[1]* & Judy H Cho[9,12]*

[1]Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1HH, UK. [2]Analytic and Translational Genetics Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, USA. [3]Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142, USA. [4]Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University of Groningen and University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen 9700 RB, The Netherlands. [5]Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15261, USA. [6]Department of Human Genetics, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15261, USA. [7]F. Widjaja Foundation Inflammatory Bowel and Immunobiology Research Institute, Los Angeles, California 90048, USA. [8]Medical Genetics Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California 90048, USA. [9]Department of Genetics, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA. [10]Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Group, Addenbrooke's Hospital, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 0QQ, UK. [11]Department of Health Studies, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA. [12]Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Digestive Diseases, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA. [13]Center for Human Genetic Research, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, USA. [14]University of Maribor, Faculty of Medicine, Center for Human Molecular Genetics and Pharmacogenomics, Maribor 2000, Slovenia. [15]University Medical Center Groningen, Department of Genetics, Groningen 9700 RB, The Netherlands. [16]Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Gastroenterology section, KU Leuven, Leuven 3000, Belgium. [17]Unit of Animal Genomics, Groupe Interdisciplinaire de Génoprotéomique Appliquée (GIGA-R) and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liège, Liège 4000, Belgium. [18]Division of Gastroenterology, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Université de Liège, Liège 4000, Belgium. [19]Department of Medical and

Molecular Genetics, Division of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, King's College London School of Medicine, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT, UK. [20]Division of Rheumatology Immunology and Allergy, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA. [21]Program in Medical and Population Genetics, Broad Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142, USA. [22]Division of Genetics, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA. [23]Université de Montréal and the Montreal Heart Institute, Research Center, Montréal, Québec H1T 1C8, Canada. [24]Department of Computer Science, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, New Jersey 07102, USA. [25]Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Digestive Disease Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio 44195, USA. [26]Department of Pathobiology, Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio 44195, USA. [27]Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, Exeter EX1 2LU, UK. [28]Erasmus Hospital, Free University of Brussels, Department of Gastroenterology, Brussels, 1070 Belgium. [29]Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Gastroenterology Unit, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, USA. [30]Viborg Regional Hospital, Medical Department, Viborg 8800, Denmark. [31]Inflammatory Bowel Disease Service, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Royal Adelaide Hospital, and School of Medicine, University of Adelaide, Adelaide 5000, Australia. [32]Institute of Clinical Chemistry, Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel 24105, Germany. [33]Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Flinders Medical Centre and School of Medicine, Flinders University, Adelaide 5000, Australia. [34]Division of Gastroenterology, McGill University Health Centre, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montréal, Québec H3A 1A1, Canada. [35]Department of Medicine II, University Hospital Munich-Grosshadern, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich 80336, Germany. [36]Department of Gastroenterology, Charité, Campus Mitte, Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin 10117, Germany. [37]Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York City, New York 10029, USA. [38]Department of Genomics, Life & Brain Center, University Hospital Bonn, Bonn 53012, Germany. [39]Department of Biosciences and Nutrition, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm 14 183, Sweden. [40]Department of Pediatrics, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California 90048, USA. [41]Torbay Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology, Torbay, Devon TQ2 7AA, UK. [42]School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, The University of Auckland, Auckland 1142, New Zealand. [43]University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, Department of Genetics, Groningen T9700 RB, The Netherlands. [44]Department of Medicine, University of Otago, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand. [45]Department of Gastroenterology, Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand. [46]Institute of Genetic Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, Neuherberg 85764, Germany. [47]St Mark's Hospital, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3UJ, UK. [48]Nottingham Digestive Diseases Centre, Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 1AW, UK. [49]Research Institute of Internal Medicine, Oslo University Hospital Rikshospitalet, Oslo 0424, Norway. [50]Kaunas University of Medicine, Department of Gastroenterology, Kaunas 44307, Lithuania. [51]Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia 30322, USA. [52]Unit of Gastroenterology, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico-Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza (IRCCS-CSS) Hospital, San Giovanni Rotondo 71013, Italy. [53]Ghent University Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Ghent 9000, Belgium. [54]School of Medicine and Pharmacology, The University of Western Australia, Fremantle, Western Australia 6009, Australia. [55]Gastrointestinal Unit, Molecular Medicine Centre, University of Edinburgh, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh EH4 2XU, UK. [56]Department of Gastroenterology, The Townsville Hospital, Townsville, Queensland 4810, Australia. [57]Institute of Human Genetics, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU, UK. [58]Department of Medicine, Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee DD1 9SY, UK. [59]Genetic Medicine, MAHSC, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK. [60]Academic Medical Center, Department of Gastroenterology, Amsterdam 1105 AZ, The Netherlands. [61]University of Maribor, Faculty for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Maribor 2000, Slovenia. [62]Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, Glasgow G3 8SJ, UK. [63]Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, St Thomas' Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology, London SE1 7EH, UK. [64]Department of Gastroenterology, Hospital Clinic/Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS), Barcelona, Spain. [65]Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Enfermedades Hepáticas y Digestivas (CIBER-EHD), Barcelona 08036, Spain. [66]Department for General Internal Medicine, Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel, Kiel 24118, Germany. [67]Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, Genetics and Computational Biology, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane 4029, Australia. [68]Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Norwich NR4 7UY, UK. [69]Department of Gastroenterology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden 2333 ZA, The Netherlands. [70]Child Life and Health, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland EH9 1UW, UK. [71]Institute of Human Genetics and Department of Neurology, Technische Universität München, Munich 80336, Germany. [72]Center for Computational and Integrative Biology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, USA. [73]Department of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA. [74]Mount Sinai Hospital Inflammatory Bowel Disease Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X5, Canada. [75]Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria (AOU) Careggi, Unit of Gastroenterology SOD2, Florence 50134, Italy. [76]Center for Applied Genomics, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA. [77]Department of Pediatrics, Center for Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA. [78]Meyerhoff Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, and Department of Epidemiology, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, USA. [79]Department of Gastroenterology, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, and School of Medicine, University of Queensland, Brisbane 4029, Australia. [80]Department of Gastroenterology, University Hospital Leuven, Leuven 3000, Belgium.

*These authors contributed equally to this work.
†Lists of participants and their affiliations appear in the Supplementary Information.