Genome-wide Association Study of Caffeine Consumption Using Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative Data

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ABSTRACT

More than 90% of Americans consume caffeine daily, but the amount consumed varies widely. Previous studies have shown that genes related to caffeine metabolism and receptor binding may influence caffeine consumption. A better understanding of the relationship between genotype and caffeine consumption has the potential to inform mechanisms of this common dietary behavior.

We performed a genome-wide association study (GWAS) of self-reported consumption data combining a wide range of caffeinated beverages including coffee, tea, soda, and energy drinks in the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative (N=2,830) using a generalized linear model. Our analysis identified several candidate loci implicated in caffeine consumption. One previously identified SNP associated with caffeine consumption and replicated in the current study, rs2472297 (P-value=3.8x10^-6), is located in an intergenic region between CYP1A1 and CYP1A2 (the gene that encodes the enzyme primarily responsible for caffeine metabolism), and has been associated with caffeine consumption in prior studies. Our results further support follow-up functional studies focused on the role of CYP1A1 and CYP1A2 on caffeine consumption habits, metabolism, and health status and outcomes.
Keywords
Caffeine, Coffee, CPMC, GWAS, CYP1A1, CYP1A2, rs2472297.

Introduction
Caffeine is a widely consumed compound with metabolic and psychoactive effects upon the body [1-3]. There is significant interindividual variability in the consumption of and pharmacodynamic effects of caffeine [4-7]. Published findings have reported a range of both beneficial and deleterious health effects that often depend on the amount of caffeine consumed, accounting for related factors such as age, gender, and smoking status [8-18]. Many of the health studies evaluating the impact of caffeine have focused on coffee consumption. Some of the health conditions that appear to be modulated by coffee intake include hypertension, cardiovascular disease (CVD), type 2 diabetes (T2D), hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), endometrial cancer, melanoma, and nonmelanoma skin cancer [15].

In a recent systematic review by Kanbay and colleagues (2021), coffee consumption was associated with a decrease in risk for chronic kidney disease as well as a lower risk of end stage kidney disease [19]. Studies that have evaluated the impact of coffee consumption on hypertension have identified an inverse association whereby the risk of hypertension decreases in response to increased daily coffee [20]. An inverse linear relationship between risk and coffee consumption has been found across multiple diseases including type 2 diabetes and malignant melanoma [21,22].

Unlike other conditions where a consistent linear relationship has been seen, a recent study of the association between coffee consumption and atrial fibrillation (afib) found that afib risk was decreased in individuals with intermediate consumption of coffee (1-7 cups per week) but not for higher levels of coffee consumption [23].

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have implicated several single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in caffeine consumption [24-27]. However, a more complete understanding of the genetic contributions to caffeine consumption is needed. To address this need, we performed a GWAS using self-reported consumption data combining a wide range of caffeinated beverages including coffee, tea, soda, and energy drinks collected from 2,830 participants in the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative.

Materials and Methods
Subjects
The CPMC was a longitudinal prospective study investigating the impact of personalized genetic risk reports for common complex diseases and drug metabolism on health behavior and outcomes [28,29]. As part of the CPMC, participants completed a variety of initial and follow-up questionnaires, which allowed researchers to evaluate not only the impact of personalized genomic reports but to identify novel genetic associations with phenotypes collected through participant surveys. The CPMC study [28-35] comprises several cohorts that were included in this caffeine consumption analysis. The 2,830 participants included in this study consisted of a cohort recruited through the United States Air Force (n = 2,537) and a CPMC community cohort from the general population (n = 293), both recruited during the active study period from 2008 through 2017. All participants were adults (at least 18 years old) that have given written informed consent to participate in the study. No participants were excluded based on comorbidities including any health conditions related to chronic and/or preexisting conditions.

The Coriell Institute Institutional Review Board reviewed and approved protocols for each of the above-mentioned cohorts. In addition, the Institutional Review Boards of Coriell Institute and the Air Force approved their respective cohort-specific protocols (Coriell Community Cohort protocol R144, and Air Force protocol numbers R153 and F-WR-2011-0046, respectively). This work was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2013.

Consented participants provided a saliva sample (Oragene method (DNA Genotek, Inc. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada)), set up an account in a secure CPMC online portal, and completed required questionnaires that captured baseline information on demographics, lifestyle, medical history, medication history, family medical history, and baseline disease risk perception. Upon completion of the questionnaires, Coriell’s Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certified genotyping lab processed DNA for genetic analysis used for personalized risk reporting. No identifying information about the participants was accessible to the study’s authors during or after data collection.

Genetic Data Collection
Upon completion of the questionnaires, Coriell’s Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certified genotyping lab extracted DNA from saliva submissions. Genotyping was completed using the Affymetrix SNP 6.0 GeneChip array to obtain calls for 909,622 SNPs per sample [36]. In total, 681,624 SNPs passed internal quality control standards and analysis filters for inclusion in this caffeinated drink and coffee consumption analysis. Analysis filters included not more than 5% missing data for any given marker, no marker with a minor allele frequency < 5%, and a minimum of 90% of genotyping data available for each participant DNA sample. The allele more commonly found in the 1000 Genomes Project Phase 3 whole genome sequencing dataset corresponds to the allele we refer to as “major allele” below, and the allele less common we refer to as the “minor allele” in Table 1 [37].

Table 1: Participant self-reported demographic and caffeinated drink consumption data collected from CPMC participants in this study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>1,441 (51%)</td>
<td>1,389 (49%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>1,283 (89%)</td>
<td>1,273 (92%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>9 (1%)</td>
<td>13 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>60 (4%)</td>
<td>41 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African-American</td>
<td>125 (9%)</td>
<td>70 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American or Alaska Native</td>
<td>4 (&lt; 1%)</td>
<td>4 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>4 (&lt; 1%)</td>
<td>6 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White(Caucasian)</td>
<td>1,117 (78%)</td>
<td>1,171 (84%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nongenetic Data Collection

Participants completed online questionnaires including the collection of demographic information (including race, and ethnicity), medical history, family history, lifestyle, and personal health information (including: height, weight (which were used to calculate BMI), gender, cohort, age-at-survey, smoking status, and caffeinated beverage consumption habits). For each question, participants were given the option to select ‘do not want to answer’. Participants were asked to select one or more of the following: White (Caucasian), Black or African-American, Native American or Alaska Native, or Asian, Native Hawaiian and/or other Pacific Islander. Participants were additionally asked to select from among Hispanic or Latino, Not Hispanic or Latino, or Unknown.

Participants were also asked about their current smoking status with choices of Yes, No, and Don’t Know as possible answers. The survey asked for self-reported height in feet and inches and weight in pounds, which after conversion to SI units were used to calculate body-mass index (BMI) according to the formula, BMI = kg/m². Cohort was coded as a binary value indicating whether participants enrolled in the Air Force cohort or the CPMC Community cohort, the two cohorts included in this study.

The survey asked for the number of days per week and the number of drinks per day each participant consumed for each of the following beverages: regular (caffeinated) coffee, regular tea, regular (sugared) soda, diet soda, and energy drinks. The soda drinks both regular and diet were assumed to contain caffeine for the purposes of this study, as participants were asked separately about decaffeinated regular and diet soda consumption, as well as about decaffeinated coffee consumption. For this study, the reported number of days each type of caffeinated drink was consumed per week was multiplied by the number of drinks per day and summed over all types to compute the total number of caffeinated drinks per week. Our study employed association-testing models for the total number of caffeinated drinks per week, as well as the subset of coffee drinks only.

### Statistical Methods

We applied a generalized linear regression model, consistent with the approach employed in previous genetic association studies of continuous measures of coffee intake [24,25,38,39], with total caffeinated drinks per week as the dependent variable and number of minor alleles at a particular SNP as the independent variable. Covariates of age-at-reporting, cohort, smoking status, BMI, and gender were included in the generalized linear model, selected for inclusion by the step Akaike Information Criteria (AIC) function from the MASS statistical package in R [40,41]. The generalized linear model also included the first ten principal components from a principal component analysis (PCA) of the genome-wide SNP data described above to correct for population stratification [42-43]. The \( glm() \) function from the stats package version 3.6.0 in the R computing platform [45] was used for the following model: \( \text{caffeinated Drinks Per Week} \sim \text{genotype} + \text{age} + \text{cohort} + \text{gender} + \text{BMI} + \text{smoking} + \text{PC1:PC10} \). To comparatively assess the results within the same data set using a sub-phenotype, we also evaluated the association of caffeinated coffee-only drinks per week, using the \( glm() \) function in R for the following model: \( \text{coffee Drinks Per Week} \sim \text{genotype} + \text{age} + \text{cohort} + \text{gender} + \text{BMI} + \text{smoking} + \text{PC1:10} \).

We applied the Bonferroni procedure [46] to adjust the alpha threshold to evaluate each association at the 0.05 level of significance to control for multiple hypothesis testing. The Bonferroni-adjusted alpha threshold was calculated using the number of SNPs included in the GWAS (N=681,624) to a value of 7.3x10⁻⁴.

We additionally used PANTHER to perform pathway analysis of the top 1,000 associated SNP related genes in each GWAS (caffeine and coffee, respectively) [47-49]. In particular, we extracted the closest Ensembl gene id associated with each of the 2,000 SNPs from the annotation file associated with the Affymetrix SNP 6.0 GeneChip array, used the PANTHER Gene List tool, selected the Homo sapiens as our organism, and performed a statistical overrepresentation test of PANTHER pathways with the default settings of Fisher's Exact test type and False Discovery Rate (FDR) correction for multiple testing.

### Results

Table 1 includes CPMC participant self-reported demographic and caffeinated drink consumption data. The median age of participants at the time of survey was 37 years, with a minimum age of 18 years and a maximum age of 84 years. Participants included 1,441 (51%) women and 1,389 (49%) men. There were 2,288 (81%) participants who self-reported race as white only, and 542 (19%) reported another or multiple races. There were 252 (9%) participants who self-identified as Hispanic or Latino, and 2,578 (92%) responded as Not Hispanic or Latino or Unknown. A total of 160 participants (5.6%) reported currently smoking. The mean BMI among participants in the study was 26 kg/m² with a standard error of 4 kg/m².

In total, 95% of participants reported drinking some type of caffeinated beverage per week. The mean number of self-reported...
caffeinated drinks per week was 14 with a standard error of 13. The most prevalent caffeinated drink consumed was coffee, with 71% of participants reporting some consumption of regular coffee. The mean number of self-reported coffee drinks per week was 7.8 with a standard error of 9.6. After coffee, the reported caffeinated drinks consumed in order of prevalence was regular tea, sugared soda, diet soda, followed by energy drinks. Across all categories of caffeinated beverage, men reported consuming a greater number of drinks per week than women.

Figure 1 displays the Manhattan plot of the $-\log_{10}(P$-value) of all SNPs evaluated in the generalized linear model to test for association with caffeinated drinks per week [50]. Supporting Fig. S1 shows the quartile–quartile (QQ) plot of residuals of the $-\log_{10}(P$-values) evaluated with the generalized linear model against what would be expected in a normal distribution (Q-Q plot $\lambda$=1.01). Caffeine GWAS aggregate summary statistics for all tested SNPs can be found in Supporting Table 1. In addition, coffee GWAS aggregate summary statistics for all tested SNPs can be found in Supporting Table 2. We tested the top 1,000 most associated SNPs with caffeine and coffee, respectively, for pathway statistical overrepresentation using the PANTHER Gene List tool, and did not find any significant overrepresentation after FDR correction for either gene set [47-49].

Figure 1: Manhattan plot of P-values from a generalized linear model highlighting a top association of rs2472297 with caffeinated drink consumption per week. The red line depicts the genome-wide significant threshold commonly employed in GWAS, and the blue line is the genome-wide significant threshold for significance based on a Bonferroni correction using the number of tested SNPs.

We identified one locus that has been previously reported in other studies of caffeine consumption [27,51], rs2472297, as having a suggestive association with caffeinated beverages consumed per week (P-value = $3.8 \times 10^{-6}$) (Figure 1, Table 2). Rs2472297 is located between the CYP1A1 and CYP1A2 genes on chromosome 15. Figure 2 shows self-reported caffeine consumption in number of caffeinated drinks per week by genotype for the SNP rs2472297 (CYP1A1/CYP1A2) (intergenic). There is a trend toward consumption of more caffeinated drinks per week with each additional minor allele.

Figure 2: Caffeine drinks consumed per week by rs2472297 genotype.

Other suggestive associations with caffeinated drink consumption in our study (P-value < $10^{-5}$) (Table 2), include a cluster of SNPs in linkage disequilibrium [37,52] on chromosome 2 (rs6546165, rs3815554, rs897875, rs12614613) that is 170K base pairs downstream of the SPRED2 gene (smallest P-value = $1.5 \times 10^{-7}$), and another cluster also on chromosome 2 (rs10173369, rs13018057) that is 104K base pairs downstream of the GULP1 gene (smallest P-value = $1.7 \times 10^{-6}$). Two SNPs on chromosome 18, not in linkage disequilibrium, rs6507907, 100K base pairs upstream of the LAMA3 gene, and rs572614, 77K base pairs downstream of the LAMA1 gene, associated with caffeine consumption with P-values of $1.3 \times 10^{-6}$ and $1.6 \times 10^{-6}$, respectively. Rs1814653, 64K base pairs upstream of the MIR5087 gene, associated with a P-value of $4.0 \times 10^{-6}$. Two SNPs in linkage disequilibrium on chromosome 5, approximately 200K base pairs upstream of the ENC1 gene, associated with a P-value of $4.4 \times 10^{-6}$. Lastly, rs17718841 on chromosome 6, 6K base pairs upstream of the MOXDI gene, rs2055559 on chromosome 3, 267K downstream of the ALCAM gene, two SNPs in linkage disequilibrium, rs13125107 and rs11947461, on chromosome 4 approximately 100K base pairs downstream of the RAPGEF2 gene, and rs2869682 32K base pairs downstream of the DMP1 gene on chromosome 4, associated with caffeine consumption with P-values on the order of $10^{-6}$. 
Table 2: Top SNP associations with all caffeinated drinks consumed per week (P-value < 10^-5) and with coffee drinks per week (with P-value < 10^-6).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dbsNP ID</th>
<th>Chr.</th>
<th>Position (HG19)</th>
<th>Nearest Gene/s (Distance, bp)</th>
<th>Alleles</th>
<th>MAF</th>
<th>P-value (all caffeine drinks per week)</th>
<th>P-value (coffee drinks per week)</th>
<th>β (all caffeine drinks per week)</th>
<th>β (coffee drinks per week)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rs6546165</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>65829712</td>
<td>SPRED2 (+170K)</td>
<td>G&gt;A</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>1.5x10^-7</td>
<td>1.0x10^-5</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs6507907</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21355335</td>
<td>LAMA3 (-100K)</td>
<td>C&gt;T</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>1.3x10^-4</td>
<td>6.6x10^-4</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs572614</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7006871</td>
<td>LAMA1 LIN00668 (+77K)</td>
<td>C&gt;T</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>1.6x10^-6</td>
<td>1.2x10^-2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs10137369</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>189564936</td>
<td>LOC105373790 GULP1 (+104K)</td>
<td>A&gt;G</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>1.7x10^-6</td>
<td>1.2x10^-3</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs3815554</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>65818332</td>
<td>SPRED2 (+159K)</td>
<td>T&gt;C</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>1.9x10^-6</td>
<td>1.3x10^-4</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs897878</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>65818446</td>
<td>SPRED2 (+159K)</td>
<td>G&gt;T</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>2.0x10^-6</td>
<td>1.4x10^-4</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs1264161</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>65824440</td>
<td>SPRED2 (+165K)</td>
<td>G&gt;C</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>3.2x10^-6</td>
<td>1.9x10^-4</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

The CPMC study queried participants on caffeinated drink consumption from a wide range of sources, including tea, coffee, soda, and energy drinks. Studies of associations between CYPIA2 variation, caffeine consumption, and links to diseases that have not examined all sources of caffeine besides coffee have been criticized for misclassifying the exposure of interest [53]. As we found in our study, and as is shown in Table 2, the strength of association between genetic variants and caffeine consumption varies from that with coffee consumption only, although the directionality of the association remains consistent between all caffeinated drinks and coffee only.

Past studies [28,39,51,54-58] have found associations with caffeine consumption in several genes, including ABCG2, AHR, POR, BDNF, CYPIA2, and SLC6A4, although our study only replicated a finding consistently reported near the CYPIA2 gene [51,55,56]. Rs2472297 is located at 15q24 between the CYP1A1 (OMIM 108330) and CYPIA2 (OMIM 124060) genes that share a significant linkage between the two genes strongly implicates the CYPIA1/CYPIA2 locus in response to coffee drinking [25].

Caffeine is primarily metabolized in the liver by cytochrome P450 enzymes encoded by the CYPIA1 and CYPIA2 genes. CYPIA1 metabolizes polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons found in coffee, and CYPIA2 metabolizes caffeine by 3-N-demethylation [54,69]. CYPIA1 has been found to have increased gene expression in epithelial cells exposed to caffeine [70]. The -163 C>A CYPIA2 variant, rs762551, has been shown to affect the inducibility of CYPIA2 in heavy consumers of coffee and smokers [65], and significant differences in individual CYPIA1 enzyme activity have been associated with variation in the 5' flanking region of CYPIA2 [71]. Rs2472297, located 14 kb upstream and implicated in our GWAS and in previous studies of caffeine consumption, lies within a 23-kb segment of the 5' flanking region between the two genes strongly implicates the CYPIA1/CYPIA2 locus in response to coffee drinking [25].
Another suggestive association implicates rs572614 on chromosome 18, which is located in an intron region 77K base pairs downstream of the LAMA1 gene (OMIM 150320) that encodes for the laminin A glycoprotein involved in structural scaffolding of many tissues including salivary Glands [78]. Although LAMA1 has not been previously associated with caffeine consumption in the literature, it has been associated with metabolism more generally, specifically the isorder of Type 2 diabetes [79,80].

The relationship between coffee and human health remains unclear in its presence and extent, and it is also unclear whether any potential relationship is attributable to the caffeine or non-caffeine components of coffee. CYP1A1 and CYP1A2 are responsible for metabolizing both the caffeine and non-caffeine components of coffee and may have a modifying effect on consumption habits and effects of the compounds; our results lend support for an association between caffeine consumption and a SNP in the CYP1A1/CYP1A2 locus [51] and support he need for a more translational understanding of the relationship between coffee and caffeine consumption dietary habits, genetic variation, and human health.

Conclusions
These new and replication findings add support to a growing body of literature characterizing the suggestive influence of genetics on caffeine consumption habits that, particularly when combined with a better functional metabolic and health outcome understanding, has the potential to inform lifestyle choices about consumption behavior. Further research with larger cohorts into the role of genetics in mediating the relationship between coffee and caffeine consumption and health status is of merit [81,82]. Such work has the potential to eventually inform personalized interventions aimed at improving cardiovascular, metabolic, and quality of life outcomes that may be linked to common consumption habits.

Acknowledgements
We would like to express our great appreciation to the CPMC participants as well as the CPMC team at Coriell. We would finally like to acknowledge all of the contributions that the late Dr. Michael F. Christman has made to the CPMC.

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Conflicts of Interest
The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, or in the decision to publish the results. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the United States Air Force.

Institutional Review Board Statement
The Coriell Institute Institutional Review Board reviewed and approved protocols for each of the abovementioned cohorts. In addition, the Institutional Review Boards of Coriell Institute and the Air Force approved their respective cohort-specific protocols (Coriell Community Cohort protocol R144, and Air Force protocol numbers R153 and F-WR-2011-0046, respectively). This work was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2013.

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caffeinated coffee consumption and risk of type 2 diabetes:
a systematic review and a dose‐response meta‐analysis.


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**Figure S1:** QQ-plot of the residuals of a generalized linear model for caffDrinksPerWk ~ geno+age+cohort+gender+bmi+smoke+PC1:10, Lambda = 1.01.

**Figure S2:** Manhattan plot of P-values from a generalized linear model highlighting a top association of rs2472297 with coffee only drink consumption per week.
Table S1: Caffeine GWAS aggregate summary statistics for all tested SNPs. The fields in order are: variant_id (rsid of the SNP), p_value (of the SNP association with caffeinated drinks per week), chromosome (location of variant), base_pair_location (of the variant within the chromosome), effect_allele (associated with beta), other_allele (associated with (0 – beta)), effect_allele_frequency (proportion of effect allele at SNP locus within sample), beta (cups of caffeinated drink per week per effect allele), standard_error (of beta).

Table S2: Coffee GWAS aggregate summary statistics for all tested SNPs. The fields in order are: variant_id (rsid of the SNP), p_value (of the SNP association with coffee drinks per week), chromosome (location of variant), base_pair_location (of the variant within the chromosome), effect_allele (associated with beta), other_allele (associated with (0 – beta)), effect_allele_frequency (proportion of effect allele at SNP locus within sample), beta (cups of coffee drink per week per effect allele), standard_error (of beta).