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Title:

Assessment of differentially methylated loci in individuals with end-stage kidney disease attributed to diabetic kidney disease

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Abstract

A subset of individuals with type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) are predisposed to developing diabetic kidney disease (DKD), which is the most common cause globally of end-stage kidney disease (ESKD). Emerging evidence suggests epigenetic changes in DNA methylation may have a causal role in both T1DM and DKD. The aim of this investigation was to assess differences in blood-derived DNA methylation patterns between individuals with T1DM-ESKD and individuals with long-duration T1DM but no evidence of kidney disease upon repeated testing. Blood-derived DNA from individuals (107 cases, 253 controls and 14 experimental controls) were bisulphite treated before DNA methylation patterns from both groups were generated and analysed using Illumina's Infinium MethylationEPIC BeadChip arrays (n=862,927 sites). Differentially methylated CpG sites (dmCpGs) were identified (false discovery rate adjusted $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and fold change ≥ 2) by comparing methylation levels between ESKD cases and T1DM controls at single site resolution. Gene annotation and functionality was investigated to enrich and rank methylated regions associated with ESKD in T1DM.

Top-ranked genes within which several dmCpGs were located and supported by *in silico* functional data, and replication where possible, include; *AFF3*, *ARID5B*, *CUX1*, *ELMO1*, *FKBP5*, *HDAC4*, *ITGAL*, *LY9*, *PIM1*, *RUNX3*, *SEPTIN9*, and *UPF3A*. Top-ranked enrichment pathways included pathways in cancer, TGF- β signalling and Th17 cell differentiation.

Epigenetic alterations provide a dynamic link between an individual's genetic background and their environmental exposures. This robust evaluation of DNA methylation in carefully phenotyped individuals, has identified biomarkers associated with ESKD, revealing several genes and implicated key pathways associated with ESKD in individuals with T1DM.

Key words

Association, diabetes, EPIC, end-stage, kidney, methylation, nephropathy

List of abbreviations

BACR – Bead Array Controls Reporter

CKD – chronic kidney disease

DKD - diabetic kidney disease

dmCpGs – differentially methylated

eGFR - estimated glomerular filtration rate

eQTL – expression quantitative trait loci

ESKD - end-stage kidney disease

EWAS - epigenome-wide association study

FC - fold change

FDR - false discovery rate

GBM - glomerular basement membrane width

GENIE - GENetics of Nephropathy an International Effort

GO - gene ontology

GoKinD - Genetics of Kidneys in Diabetes

GWAS – genome wide association studies

HbA1c - haemoglobin A1c

HDACs - histone deacetylases

KEGG - Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes

NICOLA - Northern Ireland Cohort for the Longitudinal Study of Ageing

P_FEN - percent of endothelial fenestration falling on the peripheral glomerular basement membrane

PGS - Partek Genomics Suite

QC - quality control

SF - supplementary figure

ST - supplementary table

SV - surface volume of peripheral glomerular basement membrane per glomerulus

T1DM - type 1 diabetes mellitus

T2DM - type 2 diabetes mellitus

VVINT - cortical interstitial fractional volume

VVMES - mesangial fractional volume

VVPC - volume fraction of podocyte cell per glomerulus

WCCs - white cell counts

Main Text Introduction

Type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) is a polygenic disease characterised by autoimmune destruction of the insulin producing beta cells in the pancreas which subsequently leads to hyperglycaemia (1). Up to 40% of individuals with T1DM are predisposed to diabetic kidney disease (DKD), a microvascular diabetic complication (2,3). Diabetes remains the primary disease causing end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) (4,5). Individuals with DKD are also at increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease and premature mortality (6).

Emerging evidence indicates that autoimmune diseases such as T1DM are influenced by the interaction of genetic and epigenetic factors (7). Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have identified >50 loci associated with T1DM risk (8,9), including rs3802604 in *GATA3*, rs1770 in *MHC* (10), rs2292239 in *ERBB3* (11) and rs2476601 in *PTPN22* (12).

GWAS have been completed in populations with T1DM assessing the genetic predisposition to DKD and ESKD. One recent GWAS encompassing almost 20,000 individuals with T1DM (13) identified 16 risk loci including the missense mutation rs55703767 in *COL4A3*. Additional GWAS have identified nucleotide variants in rs7583877 in *AFF3* (14), rs1888747 and rs10868025 in *FRMD3*, (15) and rs4972593 in *CDCA7-SP3* (16).

Epigenetic changes in DNA methylation have been associated with T1DM (17) and DKD (18) using peripheral whole blood samples. Bell et al. (19) used Illumina's Infinium 27K array in 2010 to assess epigenetic profiles associated with DKD in T1DM within 192 individuals. Nineteen differently methylated CpG sites (dmCpGs) were reported and correlated with time to the development of DKD. Six genes of interest with at least two dmCpGs including *CUX1*, *ELMO1*, *FKBP5*, *PRKAG2* and *PTPRN2* were identified from an epigenome-wide association study (EWAS) published in 2014 (20). This investigation included individuals with DKD, caused by either T1DM or type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM).

In 2014, Gu et al. (21) employed bisulphite pyrosequencing of 778 individuals with T1DM, with and without DKD, and reported a decrease in the DNA methylation levels within *IGFBP1*. In 2015, Swan et al. (22) assessed DNA methylation variation in genes which encode mitochondrial proteins using Illumina's 450K and 27K methylation arrays in 442 individuals with T1DM and DKD. In all, 46 dmCpGs were identified in both individuals with DKD and ESKD. The largest change in methylation was evident for cg03169527 within *TAMM41*. Previous EWAS have identified differential methylation features with associations to chronic kidney disease (CKD) (23–26). Improvements in sequencing and profiling technologies have prompted a rise in the number of studies assessing diseases using these techniques for biomarker discovery (23,27).

The aim of the present study was to assess differences in blood-derived DNA methylation patterns (using a high-density array) between individuals with T1DM-ESKD (including individuals requiring dialysis, or those having received a kidney transplant) and individuals with at least 15 years of T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease. Careful and precise phenotyping has provided the ability to minimise differences caused by dialysis treatment; we also evaluated differences in methylation between individuals with T1DM-ESKD who had received a kidney transplant, and thus were receiving immunosuppressive medication, versus those with long duration of T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease.

Materials and Methods

Samples

Each participant was recruited as part of the All Ireland-Warren 3-Genetics of Kidneys in Diabetes (GoKinD) United Kingdom Collection. All participants were previously recruited, had White ancestry and provided written informed consent for research. DNA was frozen in multiple aliquots following extraction from whole blood using the salting out method (28) and normalised using PicoGreen quantitation (29) using the CytoFluor® Series 4000 (Applied Biosystems, Thermo Fisher Scientific, CA, USA).

Individuals with both T1DM and ESKD were defined as cases (n=107). These individuals had ≥ 10 years duration of T1DM alongside a diagnosis of DKD defined as persistent macroalbuminuria (≥ 500 mg/24hr), estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) < 60 mL/min/m² calculated using the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) creatinine equation, hypertension

(systolic/diastolic blood pressure $\geq 135/85$ mmHg) and ESKD. They were not taking any anti-hypertensive medication. The control individuals had ≥ 15 years duration of T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease on repeat testing i.e. they all had normal urinary albumin excretion and eGFR >60 mL/min/m² (n=253).

MethylationEPIC Array

Blood-derived DNA from each participant was accurately quantitated using PicoGreen® prior to normalisation. In total, 800 ng of DNA from each participant was bisulphite treated using the EZ Zymo Methylation Kit (D5002, Zymo Research, CA, USA) following the alternative over-night incubation conditions for use prior to the Illumina® Infinium MethylationEPIC Kit provided in the published protocol. All samples were prepared and analysed using the Infinium MethylationEPIC Kit and BeadChips (Illumina, CA, USA) with no protocol deviations. All samples were processed in a consistent laboratory workstream by the same members of trained staff and methylation arrays were scanned using a dedicated iScan machine with regular monitoring of laser intensity levels. Case and control samples were randomly distributed across the BeadChip arrays. This array is a high-throughput platform which provides quantitative evaluation of methylation levels (β values) with single nucleotide resolution. In total 862,927 sites were examined by the Infinium MethylationEPIC array. The Infinium HD Methylation SNP List was also searched for any SNPs that may have impacted upon the methylation array results (30).

Quality control

Each resulting .idat file generated from the iScan was assessed using BeadArray Controls Reporter (BACR) Software (Illumina) for quality control (QC). This software assessed the data in connection with a pre-set standard set of controls and evaluated the hybridisation, extension, dye specificity and bisulphite conversion process. An additional QC measure to determine the concordance of average beta values generated for seven duplicate samples was completed using GenomeStudio (Illumina) v1.8, methylation module including a sex check of all included individuals.

Proportional white cell counts (WCCs) were estimated following the Houseman method (31) using the raw .idat files output from the iScan machine. The *minfi* Bioconductor (v3.10) package was utilised to estimate six WCCs, CD8+ T, CD4+ T and CD19+ B lymphocytes, CD56+ natural killer cells, CD14+ monocytes and CD15+ granulocytes using the *estimateCellCounts* function for both the case and control groups, and a Northern Irish general population control group (32).

Differentially methylated loci analysis

Case and control groups were investigated for dmCpGs using Partek Genomics Suite (PGS) v7.19.1125 (Partek, MO, USA) following functional normalisation. All software was used following the developer's instructions. Beta values were generated before M values were calculated. DmCpGs were determined using the M values for individuals with T1DM and ESKD compared to controls with long duration of T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease on repeat testing. Parameters were set at false discovery rate (FDR) adjusted p value threshold of $\leq 10^{-8}$ alongside a fold change (FC) $\geq \pm 2$. Related genes were annotated based on Homo sapiens hg19 genome build using PGS. Four analyses were performed (Table 1), each assessing differential methylation patterns in individuals with T1DM-ESKD to those with T1DM and no evidence of renal disease (Figure 1). Briefly,

1. 107 matched pairs, where both the case and control individuals were matched for age at sample collection (differing by <5 years), sex and duration of diabetes (differing by ≤ 10 years).

Case individuals had a functioning kidney transplant or were receiving dialysis. Controls individuals had T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease.

2. The same 107 individual cases from *Analysis 1* were compared to a larger sample size of (unmatched) control individuals with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease (n=253).
3. 73 matched pairs for age at sample collection (differing by <5 years), sex and duration of diabetes (differing by ≤10 years). The case subjects were restricted to individuals with a functioning kidney transplant to minimise potential confounding due to differences in medication and renal replacement therapy modalities. These individuals were compared to matched controls with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease.
4. The same 73 individuals from *Analysis 3* were compared to a larger sample size of (unmatched) control individuals with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease (n=253).

Resulting dmCpGs which overlapped each of the four analyses were also extracted and displayed in a heatmap which highlighted their degree of hyper- and hypo-methylation.

Functional gene ontology and network analyses

Gene functionality was examined by gene ontology (GO) and Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) pathway enrichment analysis using PGS. An additional functional analysis was undertaken using STRING v11: protein-protein association networks (33). For each of the four analyses, genes with top-ranked dmCpGs were categorised according to increased or decreased FC.

Kidney gene expression data

Participants for this study were American Indians with type-2 diabetes (34). Protocol kidney biopsy samples were obtained from this cohort (n = 97). The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and each participant signed an informed consent document. Expression profiling of the kidney biopsies was previously carried out using Affymetrix GeneChips (HumanGenome U133 Array and U133Plus2 Array and Affymetrix Human Gene ST GeneChip 2.1) as reported (35,36), and RNA-seq (Illumina)(13). Expression quantitative trait (eQTL) mapping was performed using an EPACTS (<https://genome.sph.umich.edu/wiki/EPACTS>) software tool using linear mixed model accounting for hidden familial relatedness, after inverse Gaussian transformation of expression levels, adjusting for age and sex. Significance threshold was set at $p \leq 10^{-5}$ for eQTL and $p \leq 0.05$ for association studies

For morphometry measures, kidney biopsy tissue was prepared for light and electron microscopy studies according to standard procedures (37–39). The following glomerular structural parameters were measured by unbiased morphometry on electron microscopy images as described elsewhere (37,38,40): glomerular basement membrane (GBM) width (41,42), mesangial fractional volume (VVMES) (41,42), glomerular filtration surface area per glomerular volume (SV) (41,42), percentage of endothelial fenestrations (P_FEN) (43) and the fractional podocyte volume per glomerulus (VVPC) (44). Cortical interstitial fractional volume (VVINT) (39) were estimated using light microscopy with all specimens embedded in paraffin.

Replication cohorts for the methylation data

Replication cohort was comprised of 327 peripheral blood samples obtained from Pima Indians (24). Blood samples for DNA isolation and cytosine methylation analysis were collected at the baseline examination from subjects. EGFR measures were available from clinical records before and after the nephrectomy. Among these subjects, 318 had longitudinal eGFR measurements with mean follow-up

time of 9.8 years with a standard deviation (SD) of 3.9 years. The best linear unbiased predictor (BLUP) model was used to calculate eGFR slope for each subject.

Human kidney samples ($n=91$) were obtained from surgical full/partial nephrectomies. Kidney samples were ~0.5 cm in diameter and were surrounded by at least 2 cm of normal tissue margins. Clinical data was obtained at the time of the sample collection and for a subset of samples eGFR measures were available from clinical records before and after the nephrectomy ($n = 69$). Only subjects with longitudinal eGFR measurements for at least three months post nephrectomy were included for the analysis. The mean timespan of follow-up was 2.4 years (SD = 1.5 years).

DNA methylation was detected using Illumina 450K arrays and values were extracted using the minfi package. Several quality control measures were carried out and after the removal of CpG probes that (1) were in the proximity of regions with genetic variations, (2) were located on the sex chromosomes, (3) were known to cross-hybridize to other locations, (4) had poor detection p values ($p > 0.01$) or (5) were control probes, 321,473 CpG probes remained in the blood replication cohort. The same pre-processing was performed for the kidney replication cohort which resulted in 355,141 CpG probes remaining.

In blood replication cohort, linear regression models were used to determine the association between DNA methylation, eGFR and eGFR slope, with covariates including sex, age, duration, mean arterial blood pressure, HbA1c, batch, converse and estimated cell fraction. Association between cytosine methylation level, eGFR and interstitial fibrosis was determined by linear regression models adjusted by age, sex, race, diabetes, hypertension, batch effect, bisulphite conversion efficiency and degree of lymphocytic infiltrate on histology. A p value of <0.05 was used to determine significance in this replication cohort.

Results

The Illumina Infinium MethylationEPIC BeadChip array examines 862,927 CpG sites. Each resulting .idat file generated from the iScan was assessed using Illumina's BACR software. This software assessed the data in connection with a pre-set standard set of thresholds (45) which are indicated alongside the BACR data for each analysis. QC was completed with no significant difference in intensity levels detected. On average, fewer than 30 probes failed per sample. Houseman estimates (31) were calculated for the proportional WCCs of each sample and the results were included as a Supplementary Table (ST) for each of the four analyses; ST2, ST8, ST15 and ST21. Proportional WCCs for each group were compared with a general population control group, NICOLA (Northern Ireland Cohort for the Longitudinal Study of Ageing).

Blood-derived DNA from 360 individuals was included in this analysis. Of these participants, 253 were control individuals with a long duration of T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease upon repeated testing. The mean age of these participants was 41 years and with an average duration of diabetes of 26 years and without anti-hypertensive medication usage. The remaining 107 individuals were diagnosed with T1DM-ESKD, 73 of whom had received a kidney transplant. The average age of these participants was 41 years. The participant characteristics are provided in Table 1.

This study was conducted using four complementary analyses; matching of the participants was required for *Analyses 1* and *3*. Individuals were matched for age at sample collection (differing by <5 years), sex and duration of diabetes (differing by ≤ 10 years). Concordance plots were drawn for seven duplicate samples; average $r^2 = 0.99$; Supplementary Figure (SF) 1.

Analysis 1: Individuals with T1DM and ESKD compared to matched control individuals with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease

This first analysis included 107 matched pairs, where both the case and control individuals were matched on sex and age at diagnosis (Table 1). The BACR QC report is included within ST1. Proportional WCCs were estimated for all included participant blood samples. ST2 shows the average WCCs for *Analysis 1* and the results of a t-test comparing these between the two sample groups. Two cells, granulocytes and monocytes showed significant differences at the 0.05 level, the most significant of which was 0.04; but after correction for multiple testing of the WCC analyses, these results are not significant ($p > 0.002$).

Comparison of the methylation patterns between cases and controls identified 4,391 top-ranked dmCpGs (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$, ST3). Two genes, *ARID5B* and *SEPTIN9*, contained ≥ 10 top-ranked dmCpGs. When the stringency was increased to include a larger change in methylation between cases and controls (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC ± 2), 490 CpG sites remained significant (ST4) of which 332 were gene centric. Of these, 22 genes contained at least two dmCpGs including *HDAC4*, *ITGAL*, *LY9*, *PBX1*, *RPTOR*, *RUNX3* and *SEPTIN9* (ST4).

To further assess the functional significance of these changes in DNA methylation between case and control groups, a GO enrichment analysis was undertaken. This analysis assessed the biological processes, cellular components and molecular functions of the genes within which the 490 top-ranked CpG sites were located (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC $\geq \pm 2$). A total of 325 GO functions had an enrichment score ≥ 4 ($p < 0.01$, ST5 and SF2). The processes with the top enrichment scores include cell surface receptor signalling pathway, immune system process and positive regulation of immune system processes, lymphocyte activation and T cell activation. The KEGG pathway database was searched to identify key pathways linked to the genes where the top-ranked dmCpGs were located. Eleven pathways were identified with an enrichment score of ≥ 2 and $p \leq 0.01$ (ST6). This analysis of differentially methylated genes returned pathways including Th17 cell differentiation, human T-cell leukaemia virus 1 infection, and natural killer cell mediated cytotoxicity.

Analysis 2: Individuals with T1DM and ESKD compared to a larger cohort of unmatched control individuals with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease

This second analysis included the same 107 individual cases from *Analysis 1* with a larger sample size of (unmatched) control individuals with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease (Table 1). The BACR QC report and proportional WCCs for this analysis are included within ST7 and ST8 respectively.

Following the same analysis path as previously described, comparison of methylation between case individuals and control individuals identified 13,983 top-ranked dmCpGs (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$; ST9). Two genes *ETS1* and *UBAC2* contained over 20 dmCpGs. When the stringency levels were increased (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC ± 2), 1,112 CpG sites remained, of which 768 were gene centric (ST10). *SEPTIN9* contained the largest number of dmCpGs ($n=5$) with the criteria set to include FC ± 2 . Comparison of results from *Analyses 1* and *2* (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC ± 2) identified 325 dmCpGs (223 within genes) which overlapped. Each dmCpG demonstrated the same direction of effect (ST11).

GO enrichment analysis was similarly undertaken to assess the functional significance of the 1,112 significant DNA methylation alterations between the case and control groups. A total of 505 GO functions had an enrichment score ≥ 4 , alongside $p < 0.01$ (ST12 and SF3). The processes with the top enrichment scores include several linked to immune responses including regulation of immune system processes and lymphocyte activation. The KEGG pathway analysis revealed 16 pathways (enrichment

score of ≥ 2 , and $p \leq 0.01$; ST13), including cancer, acute myeloid leukaemia and natural killer cell mediated cytotoxicity.

Analysis 3: Individuals with T1DM and ESKD who have received a kidney transplant compared to matched control individuals with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease

The inclusion criterion for the case subjects was restricted to individuals with a functioning kidney transplant for the third analysis. Only blood-derived DNA samples from individuals who had received a kidney transplant were included to minimise potential confounding due to differences in medication and renal replacement therapy modalities ($n=73$). The methylation status of the CpG sites for these individuals was compared to matched controls with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease ($n=73$). The BACR QC report and proportional WCCs for this analysis are included within ST14 and ST15 respectively.

In total, 1,518 top-ranked dmCpGs were different between cases and controls ($FDR p \leq 10^{-8}$; ST16). Of those, 132 of the top-ranked dmCpGs remained when the stringency levels were increased ($FDR p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$), 81 of which were gene centric including two within *MTURN* and *UPF3A* (ST17). Additional GO enrichment and pathway analyses were undertaken for the 132 top-ranked genes in which the dmCpGs were located ($FDR p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$) to assess their functional significance. In total, 75 GO functions were enriched with a score ≥ 4 , alongside $p < 0.01$ (ST18, SF4). The KEGG pathway analysis showed one result - the TGF- β signalling pathway with an enrichment score of ≥ 2 and $p \leq 0.01$, ST19).

Analysis 4: Individuals with T1DM who had received a kidney transplant compared to unmatched control individuals with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease

The methylation status of the CpG sites for individuals who had received a kidney transplant was compared to unmatched controls with T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease ($n=253$). The BACR and proportional WCCs QC report are included within ST20 and ST21 respectively. In total, 13,739 top-ranked dmCpGs were identified between both groups ($FDR p \leq 10^{-8}$, ST22). Of these, 723 dmCpGs were gene centric. When the stringency levels were increased ($FDR p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$), 1,082 CpG sites remained of which 723 were located within genes (ST23). Seven genes including *ACAD8*, *LIME1*, *RPTOR* and *SEPTIN9* each contained three dmCpGs. In total, 78 dmCpGs (48 were within genes) overlapped between Analyses 3 and 4 ($FDR p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$, ST24).

GO enrichment and pathway analyses were completed for the genes in which the 1,082 top-ranked dmCpGs were located ($FDR p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$). A total of 679 GO functions had an enrichment score ≥ 4 and $p < 0.01$ (ST25 and SF5). The processes with the top enrichment scores include regulation of cell activation, enzyme binding and immune system processes. Fourteen KEGG pathways were identified (enrichment score of ≥ 2 , and $p \leq 0.01$; ST26) including cancer and platelet activation.

Significantly associated dmCpGs from Analyses 1-4

Thirty-six dmCpGs were identified as significantly different between cases and controls in each of the four analyses ($FDR p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$; ST27 and SF6). The direction of fold change was consistent for each Analysis.

Search for overlapping SNPs

Previous studies have reported that SNPs could potentially impact on methylation status (46). To assess this, we searched the Infinium HD Methylation SNP List (30) for any SNPs that could potentially impact the methylation array results if present in the test population. Of the top-ranked dmCpGs from

this analysis (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$, FC ± 2), five single CpG sites have the potential to be affected by SNPs (ST28). All but two of these SNPs, rs4788986 (*SEPTIN9*) and rs742232 (*RUNX3*) are very rare in European populations and would therefore be unlikely to impact in this study. Of note, multiple dmCpGs were identified in both *SEPTIN9* and *RUNX3* genes with functional support provided for both these genes, making it improbable that these genes are falsely identified.

STRING Functional analyses

Functional network analyses were undertaken using STRING v11 (33) for the list of genes in which the top-ranked dmCpGs were located. Those which showed an increase in FC in the individuals with T1DM-ESKD compared to individuals with T1DM were analysed separately to those genes which showed a decrease in FC. All pathway interactions are shown in SFs7-14.

Functional data results

The genes in which top-ranked dmCpGs were located, which also had the most biological plausibility for ESKD, were assessed for eQTLs in an American Indian population with T2DM(47). EQTLs demonstrated support for eight of the top-ranked dmCpG genes; *CUX1*, *ELMO1*, *HDAC4*, *PIM1*, *PRKAG2*, *PTPRN2*, *RUNX3*, *SEPTIN9* ($p \leq 10^{-5}$, ST29). Functional support was also sought from existing glomerular and tubular expression data alongside eGFR and fibrosis in both blood and kidney biopsy tissue using data ascertained from the 450K array (all $p < 0.05$)(24,48). Seven differentially methylated genes were replicated in the glomerular database and six in the tubular (ST29; Table 2).

Replication analysis

We have examined the association between the methylation of top ranked CpGs and kidney function from this study and previous studies which had been performed on subjects with T2DM, including cohorts with blood sample methylome analysis and others where methylation was studied in micro-dissected human kidney tubule samples. We confirmed nominally significant association with kidney function at the *CUX1*, *PTPRN2* and *SEPTIN9* locus and with kidney function decline at *AFF3*, *HDAC4* and *SEPTIN9* regions. Furthermore, the methylation level at the *AFF3*, *CUX1* and *PIM1* regions correlated with the degree of fibrosis in micro-dissected human kidney tissue samples.

Summary

A summary of results is included within Table 2, SF15 and SF16, including specific details regarding the strongest biologically plausible candidates linked to T1DM-ESKD, the GO functions and pathways. Table 2 highlights the top-ranked genes and pathways of interest and states the number of significant results from each section of the analysis.

Discussion

Epigenetic alterations provide a dynamic link between genetic background and environmental exposures. These alterations have been proposed to play an important role in kidney disease (20,23) and T1DM (49). Previous research assessing T1DM-DKD (19–22,50) has identified dmCpGs using bisulphite pyrosequencing and either the Illumina Infinium 450K or 27K methylation arrays. This manuscript describes differences in DNA methylation patterns between individuals with T1DM and those with T1DM-ESKD, utilising the MethylationEPIC array technology.

Several top-ranked dmCpGs identified through this study showed an increase in FC related to the more severe phenotype of T1DM-ESKD compared to the T1DM control population.

The genes from each analysis with the most biological plausibility having assessed the literature, are included in Table 2 and SFs 14 and 15. Of the 16 genes in which dmCpGs were located with a significance level of $FDR \leq 10^{-8}$, (SF14), 11 retained this status when the stringency level was increased ($FDR \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$; SF15). DmCpGs were located within *FKBP5* and *RUNX3* in each of the analyses where $FDR \leq 10^{-8}$. When the stringency was increased ($FDR \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$), they remained top-ranked genes in all but *Analyses 1* and *3* respectively.

FKBP5, also known as FK506 binding protein 51, acts as a co-chaperone of hsp90 to aid the modulation of glucocorticoid receptor sensitivity in response to stress (51,52). Polymorphisms in this gene lead to an extended stress hormone response following exposure (51). Recently, genome-wide analyses of human blood found associations between *FKBP5* mRNA and a pro-inflammatory profile (53). Moreover, aberrant *FKBP5* methylation has previously been implicated in the pathology of numerous diseases, particularly in diseases common in older populations. This hypermethylation is exemplified in myocardial infarction (53) and conditions such as T2DM (54) and CKD (20). All top-ranked dmCpGs within this gene were located in either the gene body or 5' UTR and showed increased methylation for individuals with T1DM-ESKD. As a hallmark feature of CKD is persistent, low to moderate levels of circulating inflammatory markers (55), with distinguishing features such as nephron loss with subsequent acceleration of organ fibrosis, further study is required to determine if *FKBP5* plays a mechanistic role in CKD development.

The runt related transcription factor 3 (*RUNX3*) plays a downstream role in the TGF- β signalling pathway (56). Its suppression has been implicated in tumour growth, migration and invasion (57). In 2019, Cen et al., reported that higher methylation levels in *RUNX3* were associated with a shorter renal cell carcinoma survival time (58). Additionally, they suggested independent predictors of heightened methylation levels of this gene included the presence of intra-tumour vascularity. We identified increased FC in dmCpGs within the *RUNX3* gene body and the UTRs in association with T1DKD-ESKD.

As indicated in SF15, a further six genes, *HDAC4*, *ITGAL*, *LY9*, *PBX1*, *PIM1* and *SEPTIN9* had top-ranked dmCpGs from three of the four analyses. These genes did not reach statistical significance in *Analysis 3*, which had the smallest population which compared DNA methylation patterns in 73 individuals with T1DM-ESKD (transplant only) to 73 individuals, matched, with T1DM.

Histone deacetylases (HDACs) are a group of enzymes that are characterised into three defined classes, known as I, II and III (59,60). They each have roles in removal of acetyl groups from histone and non-histone proteins, chromatin condensation and transcriptional repression (59,60). They have the ability to impact cellular function via both epigenetic and non-epigenetic mechanisms (60). *HDAC4* (a member of class II) was reported to reduce kidney injury during *in vivo* animal studies (59–61). Additionally, *HDAC4* was found to be over-expressed in kidney epithelial cells of a murine kidney fibrosis model (62). Subsequent treatment with HDAC inhibitors demonstrated that the development and progression of kidney fibrosis can be inhibited by suppressing the activation and expression of numerous pro-fibrotic molecules, such as fibronectin and collagen 1 (62). In the present study, *HDAC4* showed an increased FC for all dmCpGs except cg25569341 in individuals with ESKD undergoing dialysis or who had undergone a transplant.

Integrins are integral membrane proteins which are heterodimeric in nature. They are comprised of alpha and beta chains which together form the integrin lymphocyte function-associated antigen-1, expressed in leukocytes. *ITGAL* encodes the alpha L chain and its expression has been previously linked to renal cell carcinoma (63). A second report has demonstrated that DNA methylation of the *ITGAL* gene is heavily methylated in fibroblasts and demethylated in T lymphocytes (64). The top ranked

dmCpGs present within the gene body or north shelf of *ITGAL* showed an increase in FC in individuals with T1DM-ESKD who were immunosuppressed following transplantation, compared to those with T1DM with no evidence of kidney disease.

Lymphocyte antigen 9 (*LY9*) is a member of the signalling lymphocyte activation molecule family receptor and is involved in immune responses. In 2019, Parikova et al. (65) reported expression of *LY9* to be significantly increased in individuals receiving long-term dialysis compared to those who had received dialysis over a shorter time period. Our findings support these observations showing an increased FC in *LY9* dmCpGs located within either the gene body or 5' UTR in individuals with T1DM-ESKD compared to those with no kidney disease.

PBX1 encodes a nuclear protein within the PBX homeobox family of transcription factors. Through this it can affect the expression of several genes including those which regulate insulin action and glucose metabolism (66). In the current study, dmCpGs within the *PBX1* gene body showed a consistent decrease in FC at the highest stringency level (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$, FC ± 2) in individuals with T1DM-ESKD across each of the four analyses. Previous analyses of this gene have linked differential methylation patterns to higher birth weight-for-gestational age (67) and a translocational rearrangement of this gene and *TCF3/E2A* has been associated with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (68). Additionally, *PBX1* haploinsufficiency has been linked to congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract (69), reported to be involved in the proliferation of cells in renal cell carcinoma (70) and has been recognised as a candidate gene for T2DM (66,71).

PIM1 belongs to the serine/threonine kinase family (72) and its overexpression has previously been implicated in diseases such as ovarian cancer (73) and breast cancer (74). Overexpression of *PIM1* appears to influence cancer development in three ways; preventing apoptosis, enhancing cellular proliferation and through promoting genomic instability (75). More specific to kidney research, *PIM1* is aberrantly overexpressed in renal cell carcinoma (76) and lupus nephritis (77). In this analysis we identified top-ranked dmCpGs present within the 3' UTR and north shore of *PIM1* which resulted in an increase in the FC in individuals with T1D-ESKD.

Septins are a group of GTPase proteins that play a role in cytoskeleton organisation through their links with microtubules and actin filaments (78). Although some septins are associated with the advancement of kidney fibrosis (78), *SEPTIN9* specifically has been implicated in a host of disease pathologies, such as prostate cancer (79), colorectal cancer (80), liver fibrosis (81) and T2DM (82). Moreover, *SEPTIN9* overexpression has been shown to promote kidney epithelial cell migration (83). Additionally Dayeh et al. reported *SEPTIN9*, alongside *PTPRN2*, as one of the top-ranked differentially methylated genes when comparing pancreatic islets from individuals with and without T2DM (84). In this analysis, 20 dmCpGs were located in *SEPTIN9*, 17 of which displayed an increase in FC in individuals with T1DM-ESKD.

An additional three top-ranked genes which contained dmCpGs were common in two analyses; *ARID5B* and *UPF3A*, which were identified from *Analyses 1* and *3*, and *CUX1* which resulted from *Analyses 2* and *4* (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC ± 2 ; SF15).

Each of the dmCpGs within *ARID5B* were located within the gene body and all were consistently increased in cases with ESKD (both chronic dialysis and transplant recipients) compared with controls with long duration of T1DM and no evidence of kidney disease. It has been previously demonstrated that *ARID5B* has a regulatory role in the phenotypic change of smooth muscle cells and SNPs within *ARID5B* have been linked to T2DM and coronary artery disease (85). Differential methylation of a six-probe region spanning 99 base pairs within *ARID5B* gene has also been reported in Alzheimer's disease

(86). *ARID5B* is also known to contribute to cell growth, the differentiation of B-lymphocyte progenitors and has additionally been linked to acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (87–89).

UPF3A encodes a protein involved in mRNA nuclear export and mRNA surveillance, it has a crucial role in downregulating aberrant mRNAs (90). Gotoh et al. in 2014 reported that this gene alongside 14 others had significantly reduced mRNA expression levels in renal cell carcinoma compared to non-cancerous kidney cortex tissue (91). Top-ranked dmCpGs present within *UPF3A* consistently displayed an increase in FC within individuals with T1DM and ESKD.

CUX1 is a protein coding member of the homeodomain family of DNA binding proteins and is involved in cell cycle regulation and kidney development through the inhibition of p27 which promotes cell proliferation in the nephrogenic zone (20,92,93). Previously, significant DNA methylation alterations have been reported in CKD where more than one dmCpG site was located within *CUX1* compared to individuals with no evidence of kidney disease (20). Additionally, genetic abnormalities within *CUX1* have been linked to polycystic kidney disease (94) and myelodysplastic syndrome (95) in mouse models. Significant dmCpGs from Analyses 2 and 4 were located within the body of this gene which additionally showed an increase in FC in individuals with T1DM-ESKD, but this gene has not previously been explored in individuals post kidney transplant.

Lastly, an additional five genes with biological plausibility for ESKD had statistical significance for this phenotype but did not show a large change in methylation ($FC \pm 2$); *AFF3*, *ELMO1*, *PRKAG2*, *PTPRN2* and *TAMM41* (SF14, FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$). These genes contained dmCpGs from either one (*PRKAG2*, *PTPRN2* and *TAMM41*), two (*ELMO1*) or three analyses (*AFF3*).

In 2012, the GENIE consortium conducted a meta-analysis of GWAS in T1D-DKD, which revealed an intronic SNP (rs7583877) located in the AF4/FMR2 family member 3 (*AFF3*) gene as significantly associated with ESKD (14,96). Functional studies have indicated that *AFF3* influences kidney tubule fibrosis through the TGF- β 1 pathway (14). The findings from our study show increased methylation levels in the dmCpGs within the body of *AFF3* in the individuals with T1D-ESKD, which could result in decreased gene expression. A link between DNA methylation of this gene and T1DM has previously been considered as a mediator of the genetic risk (97). Each of the top-ranked dmCpGs identified from this analysis were present within the body of *AFF3* with increased methylation in individuals with T1DM-ESKD.

ELMO1 encodes a member of the engulfment and cell motility protein family and has been previously linked to T2DM (98–100), hepatocellular carcinoma (101) and inflammatory arthritis (102). Previous methylation analyses of this gene have shown associations with gastric cancer (103) and CKD (20). The eight top-ranked dmCpGs within *ELMO1* were present within various regions of the gene and each dmCpG site reported an increase in the FC in individuals with T1DM-ESKD. One hypermethylated dmCpG site, cg01119452, had been previously reported in 2014, where it also showed hypermethylation in its association with CKD (20).

PRKAG2 is an important regulator of cellular energy status and has previously been associated with eGFR (104). SNP rs7805747 located in *PRKAG2* has been reported in association with both CKD and serum creatinine at genome-wide significance level (105). Differential methylation within this gene has also previously been reported in association with CKD (20). The top-ranked dmCpGs were present within the 5' UTR or body of *PRKAG2* and each showed an increase in FC in individuals with T1DM-ESKD compared to those with no evidence of kidney disease.

Identified as an auto-antigen in diabetes, *PTPRN2* has previously been linked to CKD (20,106), fasting plasma glucose and obesity (107). *PTPRN2* encodes islet antigen (IA)-2 β and together with IA-2, these

are integral membrane proteins of dense core vesicles which are expressed throughout the body in neuroendocrine cells (108). *PTPRN2* was reported by Dayeh et al. as second of the top-ranked differentially methylated genes in a comparison of pancreatic islets from individuals with and without T2DM (84). Each of the dmCpGs present within *PTPRN2* showed a consistent increase in FC in association with T1DM-ESKD.

The function of *TAMM41* in higher vertebrates still remains largely undetermined, yet it is known to play a critical role in yeast cell mitochondrial membrane maintenance (109). Using zebrafish models of human CVD, it was determined that the developing heart overexpressed *tamm41* (109,110). Furthermore, CRISPR/Cas9 mediated knockout of the *tamm41* gene resulted in immature heart valve formation (109). Differential methylation in *TAMM41* has previously been reported in both DKD and ESKD (22).

Several of the top-ranked pathways and genes defined by dmCpGs have been previously linked to leukaemia. This is not unexpected as an elevated risk of leukaemia during dialysis and after transplant failure has previously been reported in an Australian and New Zealand population (111,112). Although rare, Alfano et al. suggested that leukaemia can occur during the post-transplant period (113).

In the absence of a complementary replication cohort with available data, further support for top-ranked genes was sought from eQTL analysis from an American Indian cohort where the individuals had T2DM and known renal status (47). eQTL analysis supports associations for eight of the top-ranked genes; *CUX1*, *ELMO1*, *HDAC4*, *PIM1*, *PRKAG2*, *PTPRN2*, *RUNX3*, *SEPTIN9* ($p \leq 10^{-5}$, ST29). Functional support was also generated for these top-ranked markers in kidney tissue (glomerular tissue and tubule tissue from two cohorts (47,48)) alongside replication in additional blood derived DNA from individuals with kidney function assessed using the 450K array (unpublished data)(48). Unfortunately, the 450K array for DNA methylation includes <25% of the top-ranked dmCpGs identified by our study which used the more comprehensive EPIC array. It is not unexpected that the dmCpGs did not correlate across all top-ranked results due to the differences in material and technologies employed.

Through this analysis we have demonstrated that similar association results are reported for individuals who have received a kidney transplant or persons who are receiving dialysis. This clearly shows that transplant recipients can be analysed alongside individuals receiving dialysis to increase the power of future EWAS for ESKD. The results; genes, p-values and FC directions are consistent across each of the four analyses. *RPTOR* is the only top-ranked gene linked to immunosuppressant medication for transplants (114).

We have reported associations with several biologically plausible genes. Employing a considered approach, including four analyses (two of which were matched and two were unmatched), we show broad overlap in results from the analyses. This indicates that for future large-scale studies, it is not essential to stratify this analysis by age and sex matching the participants, which will facilitate a larger, more powerful case-control design.

Strengths and Limitations

Overall, this study has several strengths. We have carefully defined phenotypes for each analysis, ensuring individuals were well matched for paired *Analyses 1* and *3*, with a larger cohort of individuals employed for unmatched *Analyses 2* and *4*. *Analyses 3* and *4* represented an extension of the initial analyses to evaluate the differences between individuals with T1DM and DKD compared to those with a more extreme phenotype who had progressed to T1DM-ESKD and had received a kidney transplant.

We have extended previous investigations through assessing T1DM-ESKD using the most cost-effective high-density methylation array available, the Infinium MethylationEPIC (115). Methylation signatures were assessed using peripheral blood samples, while considering estimates of proportional WCCs and cell heterogeneity. Furthermore, only top-ranked dmCpGs that met a significance level of $FDR \leq 10^{-8}$ were reported, a threshold previously reported to reduce the rate of false-positives in studies which use the Infinium MethylationEPIC array (116). This array solely focuses on the presence of methylation at CpG sites and does not take non-CpG site methylation into consideration.

This study is limited in not having a complementary replication cohort, however we took the approach that a larger discovery cohort using the most comprehensive array commercially available was the optimal study design given similar kidney transplant cohorts do not have EPIC array data available for replication. While we have provided details of all dmCpGs with $FDR \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$ in supplementary material, this manuscript focuses mainly on genes that have previously been linked to similar phenotypes in the literature. A larger-scale multi-omic analysis incorporating genetic variation, epigenetic alterations and gene expression would be required to further determine the markers of interest for this phenotype and improve understanding of the biological mechanisms involved. Additional investigations could be undertaken to assess this phenotype in different ethnicities, sex-specific effects, and analyses could be conducted to compare these results with those derived from kidney biopsy samples.

Conclusion

Epigenetic alterations, unlike genetic changes, are potentially reversible, offering opportunistic therapeutic interventions. We have reported associations between dmCpGs and genes with T1DM-ESKD, several of which suggest complementary genetic and epigenetic influences to alter gene expression. Eight top-ranked genes also showed eQTL support in a T2DM American Indian cohort and 13 were supported by gene expression and / or methylation data from kidney tubule or glomerular tissues. Additional prospective studies may help identify whether the underlying methylation influences are causal or consequential.

The identification of unique epigenetic profiles associated with developing ESKD could highlight additional biological mechanisms to study kidney disease. Epigenetic profiles may also help to identify patients at greater risk for progression to ESKD. Targeting healthcare resources to individuals at highest risk for ESKD remains an important clinical goal.

Acknowledgements

We thank all individuals who participated in this study and acknowledge all physicians and nurses who were involved in their recruitment.

The GENIE_UK data includes samples recruited as part of the Warren3/U.K. GoKinD Study Group, jointly funded by Diabetes UK and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and includes the following individuals: Professor A.P. Maxwell, Dr. A.J. McKnight, Dr. D.A. Savage (Belfast); Dr. J. Walker (Edinburgh); Dr. S. Thomas, Professor G.C. Viberti (London); Professor A.J.M. Boulton (Manchester); Professor S. Marshall (Newcastle); Professor A.G. Demaine and Dr. B.A. Millward (Plymouth); and Professor S.C. Bain (Swansea).

Funding Details

LJS is the recipient of a Northern Ireland Kidney Research Fund Fellowship (NIKRF).

The GENetics of Nephropathy an International Effort (GENIE) through the Medical Research Council (MC_PC_15025), Public Health Agency R&D Division (STL/4760/13), Science Foundation Ireland (SFI15/US/B3130), NIH R01_DK081923 and R01_DK105154. LJS, KA, APM and AJM, are also supported by Science Foundation Ireland and the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland US partnership award 15/IA/3152. The data referenced for the NICOLA cohort were funded by Economic and Social Research Council - Award Reference ES/L008459/1. CG, EB and DA are supported by SFI Award15/IA/3152, the US Ireland R&D partnership and a strategic grant from the JDRF. This study was supported, in part, by the George M. O'Brien Michigan Kidney Translational Core Center, funded by NIH/NIDDK grant 2P30-DK-081943 and by the Intramural Research Program of NIDDK. None of the funding bodies had a role in the study design or analysis.

Declaration of interest statement/Disclosure statement.

The authors declare that they have no completing interests.

Ethics

Research ethics approval was obtained from the South and West Multicentre Research Ethics Committee (MREC/98/6/71). All participants provided written informed consent for research. No individual level data is being reported in this manuscript.

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Figures with the corresponding legend below each one

All Supplementary Figures are provided in the separate MS Word document

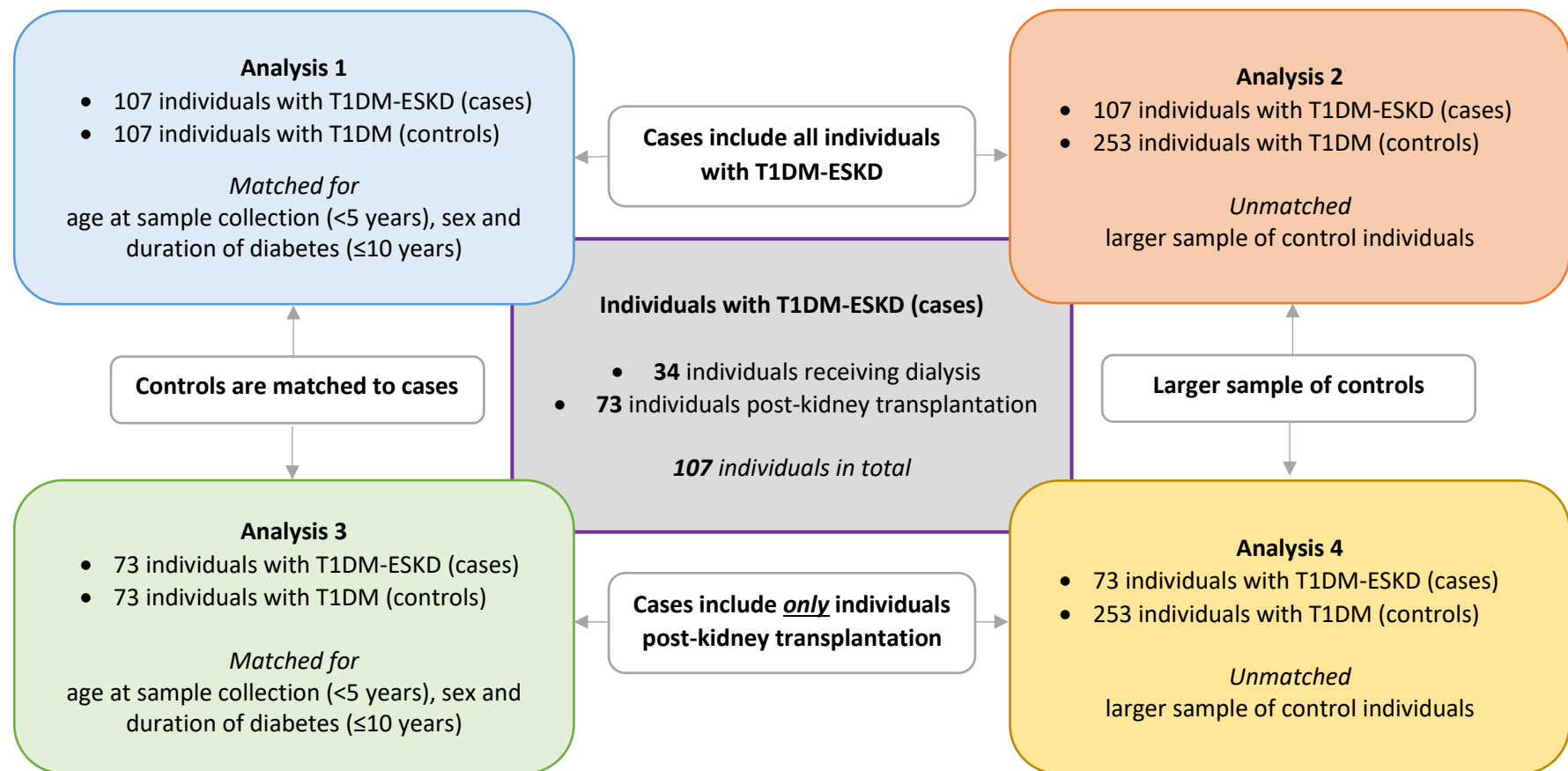


Figure 1: Illustration of groups samples were assigned to in order to complete the analysis.

Tables

Table 1. Participant group characteristics, per comparison.

		Analysis 1*	Analysis 2	Analysis 3*	Analysis 4
Cases	<i>Number of participants</i>	107	107	73	73
	<i>Diagnosis</i>	T1DM with ESKD (transplant recipients or dialysis)	T1DM with ESKD (transplant recipients or dialysis)	T1DM with ESKD (transplant recipients only)	T1DM with ESKD (transplant recipients only)
	<i>Number of F:M</i>	43:64	43:64	26:47	26:47
	<i>Average Age (St. Dev.)</i>	41.7 years (9.7)	41.7 years (9.7)	40.5 years (9.3)	40.5 years (9.3)
	<i>Average duration of T1DM (St. Dev.)</i>	29.1 years	29.1 years	30.1 years	30.1 years
Controls	<i>Number of participants</i>	107	253	73	253
	<i>Diagnosis</i>	Long-duration of T1DM with no evidence of kidney disease	Long-duration of T1DM with no evidence of kidney disease	Long-duration of T1DM with no evidence of kidney disease	Long-duration of T1DM with no evidence of kidney disease
	<i>Number of F:M</i>	43:64	121:132	26:47	121:132
	<i>Average Age (St. Dev.)</i>	41.2 years (10.2)	41.2 years (9.6)	40.1 years (9.1)	41.2 years (9.6)
	<i>Average duration of T1DM (St. Dev.)</i>	26.8 years (7.9)	26.3 years (7.4)	25.5 years (7.8)	26.3 years (7.4)

*Analyses 1 and 3: Matched cases and controls for sex, average age (≤ 5 years) and duration of diabetes (≤ 10 years).

Abbreviations: ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; F, females; M, males; St. Dev., standard deviation; T1DM, type 1 diabetes.

Table 2. Summary results, highlighting top-ranked dmCpGs, GO enrichment functions and pathways per analysis.

		Analysis 1* 107 T1DM-ESKD (transplant and dialysis) vs 107 T1DM	Analysis 2 107 T1DM-ESKD (transplant and dialysis) vs 253 T1DM	Analysis 3* 73 T1DM-ESKD (transplant only) vs 73 T1DM	Analysis 4 73 T1DM-ESKD (transplant only) vs 253 T1DM
	Number of dmCpGs	4,391	13,983	1,518	13,739
Genes with dmCpGs (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$)	Biological candidates linked to T1DM-ESKD (most significant dmCpG, p value, FC and direction in individuals with ESKD)	• AFF3 ○ cg27315109 ○ $p=3.61 \times 10^{-11}$ ○ FC +1.26 ○ No additional dmCpGs • ARID5B ○ cg22846816 ○ $p=8.14 \times 10^{-16}$ ○ FC +1.47 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • FKBP5^{b,g} ○ cg03546163 ○ $p=1.17 \times 10^{-24}$ ○ FC +1.83 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • HDAC4^a ○ cg25569341 ○ $p=1.38 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC -1.60 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • ITGAL^{b,c} ○ cg14889891	• AFF3 ○ cg16812723 ○ $p=4.37 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +1.20 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • ARID5B ○ cg06456847 ○ $p=1.54 \times 10^{-18}$ ○ FC +1.42 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • CUX1^{a,f} ○ cg25553730 ○ $p=1.04 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +1.40 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • ELMO1^{a,c} ○ cg18707120 ○ $p=9.41 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC +1.34 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • FKBP5^{b,g}	• ARID5B ○ cg06456847 ○ $p=3.29 \times 10^{-15}$ ○ FC +1.65 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • ELMO1^{a,c} ○ cg00260664 ○ $p=1.67 \times 10^{-11}$ ○ FC +1.26 ○ No additional dmCpGs • FKBP5^{b,g} ○ cg03546163 ○ $p=1.95 \times 10^{-15}$ ○ FC +2.20 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • RUNX3^{a,b,c,g} ○ cg08544331 ○ $p=9.98 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +1.23 ○ No additional dmCpGs • UPF3A^b ○ cg12615906	• AFF3 ○ cg16812723 ○ $p=8.80 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC +1.23 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • ARID5B ○ cg06456847 ○ $p=3.13 \times 10^{-20}$ ○ FC +1.50 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • CUX1^{a,f} ○ cg25553730 ○ $p=8.44 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +1.45 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • FKBP5^{b,g} ○ cg03546163 ○ $p=3.65 \times 10^{-35}$ ○ FC +1.68 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑

		○ $p=7.06 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC +2.42 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • LY9 ^{b,c} ○ cg18920397 ○ $p=3.57 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC +2.59 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↑ • PBX1 ○ cg20178893 ○ $p=2.40 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC -2.41 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↓ • PIM1 ^a ○ cg25325512 ○ $p=2.79 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.61 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↑ • RUNX3 ^{a,b,c,g} ○ cg25616056 ○ $p=3.69 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +2.27 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • SEPTIN9 ^{a,b,c,d,e,g} ○ cg11328665 ○ $p=8.07 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC +1.43	○ cg03546163 ○ $p=6.70 \times 10^{-43}$ ○ FC +1.66 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • HDAC4 ^a ○ cg25569341 ○ $p=1.33 \times 10^{-17}$ ○ FC -1.59 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • ITGAL ^{b,c} ○ cg16391678 ○ $p=3.77 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC +1.27 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • LY9 ^{b,c} ○ cg18920397 ○ $p=3.03 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +1.99 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • PBX1 ○ cg20178893 ○ $p=2.56 \times 10^{-16}$ ○ FC -2.31 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑+↓ • PIM1 ^a	○ $p=2.29 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.31 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑	• HDAC4 ^a ○ cg07315452 ○ $p=8.79 \times 10^{-16}$ ○ FC +1.64 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑+↓ • ITGAL ^{b,c} ○ cg16391678 ○ $p=6.96 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC +1.30 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • LY9 ^{b,c} ○ cg18920397 ○ $p=2.92 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.10 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • PBX1 ○ cg21895155 ○ $p=1.53 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC -2.60 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↓ • PIM1 ^a ○ cg19799178 ○ $p=6.77 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.88 ○ No additional dmCpGs • RUNX3 ^{a,b,c,g}
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		○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑+↓ ● UPF3A^b ○ cg12615906 ○ p=8.86x10⁻¹⁶ ○ FC +2.32 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑	○ cg19799178 ○ p=1.62x10⁻¹⁵ ○ FC +3.40 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ ● PRKAG2^a ○ cg07461953 ○ p=1.17x10⁻¹³ ○ FC +1.68 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ ● PTPRN2^{a,b,c,f} ○ cg23361114 ○ p=1.66x10⁻¹² ○ FC +1.18 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ ● RUNX3^{a,b,c,g} ○ cg05656688 ○ p=1.62x10⁻¹⁴ ○ FC +1.36 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ ● SEPTIN9^{a,b,c,d,e,g} ○ cg20772590 ○ p=2.82x10⁻¹⁵ ○ FC +1.50 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ ● UPF3A^b		○ cg05656688 ○ p=7.38x10⁻¹⁴ ○ FC +1.39 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ ● SEPTIN9^{a,b,c,d,e,g} ○ cg00871371 ○ p=4.73x10⁻¹⁴ ○ FC -3.05 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑+↓ ● TAMM41 ○ cg21194040 ○ p=4.75x10⁻¹¹ ○ FC= +1.23 ○ No additional dmCpGs ● UPF3A^b ○ cg12615906 ○ p=2.66x10⁻¹⁷ ○ FC +1.97 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑
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			○ cg12615906 ○ $p=1.74 \times 10^{-17}$ ○ FC +1.87 ○ Additional dmCpGs - FC↑		
Genes with dmCpGs (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC ± 2)	Number of dmCpGs	490	1,112	132	1,082
	Biological candidates linked to T1DM-ESKD (most significant p value, FC and direction in individuals with ESKD)	• ARID5B ○ cg02479789 ○ $p=3.89 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +2.15 ○ No additional dmCpGs • HDAC4^a ○ cg25487819 ○ $p=1.42 \times 10^{-11}$ ○ FC +2.54 ○ Additional dmCpG - FC↑ • ITGAL^{b,c} ○ cg14889891 ○ $p=7.06 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC +2.42 ○ Additional dmCpG - FC↑ • LY9^{b,c} ○ cg18920397 ○ $p=3.57 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC +2.59 ○ Additional dmCpG - FC↑ • PBX1	• CUX1^{a,f} ○ cg00243880 ○ $p=9.07 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.10 ○ Additional dmCpGs - FC↑ • FKBP5^{b,g} ○ cg03591753 ○ $p=5.72 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +14.75 ○ No additional dmCpGs • HDAC4^a ○ cg25487819 ○ $p=4.2 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +2.06 ○ Additional dmCpGs - FC↑ • ITGAL^{b,c} ○ cg23954865 ○ $p=4.39 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +8.04 ○ No additional dmCpGs • LY9^{b,c} ○ cg06056332 ○ $p=4.61 \times 10^{-11}$	• ARID5B ○ cg02479789 ○ $p=1.27 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.28 ○ No additional dmCpGs • FKBP5^{b,g} ○ cg03546163 ○ $p=1.95 \times 10^{-15}$ ○ FC +2.20 ○ No additional dmCpGs • UPF3A^b ○ cg12615906 ○ $p=2.29 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.31 ○ Additional dmCpG - FC↑	• CUX1^{a,f} ○ cg00243880 ○ $p=3.18 \times 10^{-11}$ ○ FC +2.23 ○ Additional dmCpGs - FC↑ • FKBP5^{b,g} ○ cg03591753 ○ $p=1.72 \times 10^{-11}$ ○ FC +16.14 ○ Additional dmCpGs - FC↑ • HDAC4^a ○ cg25487819 ○ $p=6.43 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +2.21 ○ No additional dmCpGs • ITGAL^{b,c} ○ cg23954865 ○ $p=9.15 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +9.03 ○ No additional dmCpGs • LY9^{b,c}

		○ cg20178893 ○ $p=2.4 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC -2.41 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↓ • PIM1^a ○ cg25325512 ○ $p=2.79 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC 2.61 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↑ • RUNX3^{a,b,c,g} ○ cg25616056 ○ $p=4.7 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +2.27 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↑ • SEPTIN9^{a,b,c,d,e,g} ○ cg04661929 ○ $p=1.35 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC -6.10 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑+↓ • UPF3A^b ○ cg12615906 ○ $p=8.86 \times 10^{-16}$ ○ FC +2.32 ○ No additional dmCpGs	○ FC +2.17 ○ No additional dmCpGs • PBX1 ○ cg20178893 ○ $p=2.56 \times 10^{-16}$ ○ FC -2.31 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↓ • PIM1^a ○ cg19799178 ○ $p=1.62 \times 10^{-15}$ ○ FC +3.40 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • RUNX3^{a,b,c,g} ○ cg03961551 ○ $p=2.84 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC +2.04 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑ • SEPTIN9^{a,b,c,d,e,g} ○ cg04661929 ○ $p=1.09 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC -5.33 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑+↓		○ cg18920397 ○ $p=2.92 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.10 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↑ • PBX1 ○ cg21895155 ○ $p=1.53 \times 10^{-13}$ ○ FC -2.59 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↓ • PIM1^a ○ cg19799178 ○ $p=6.77 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.88 ○ No additional dmCpGs • RUNX3^{a,b,c,g} ○ cg03961551 ○ $p=4.36 \times 10^{-12}$ ○ FC +2.14 ○ Additional dmCpG FC↑ • SEPTIN9^{a,b,c,d,e,g} ○ cg00871371 ○ $p=4.73 \times 10^{-14}$ ○ FC -3.05 ○ Additional dmCpGs FC↑+↓
	Number of GO functions	325	505	75	679

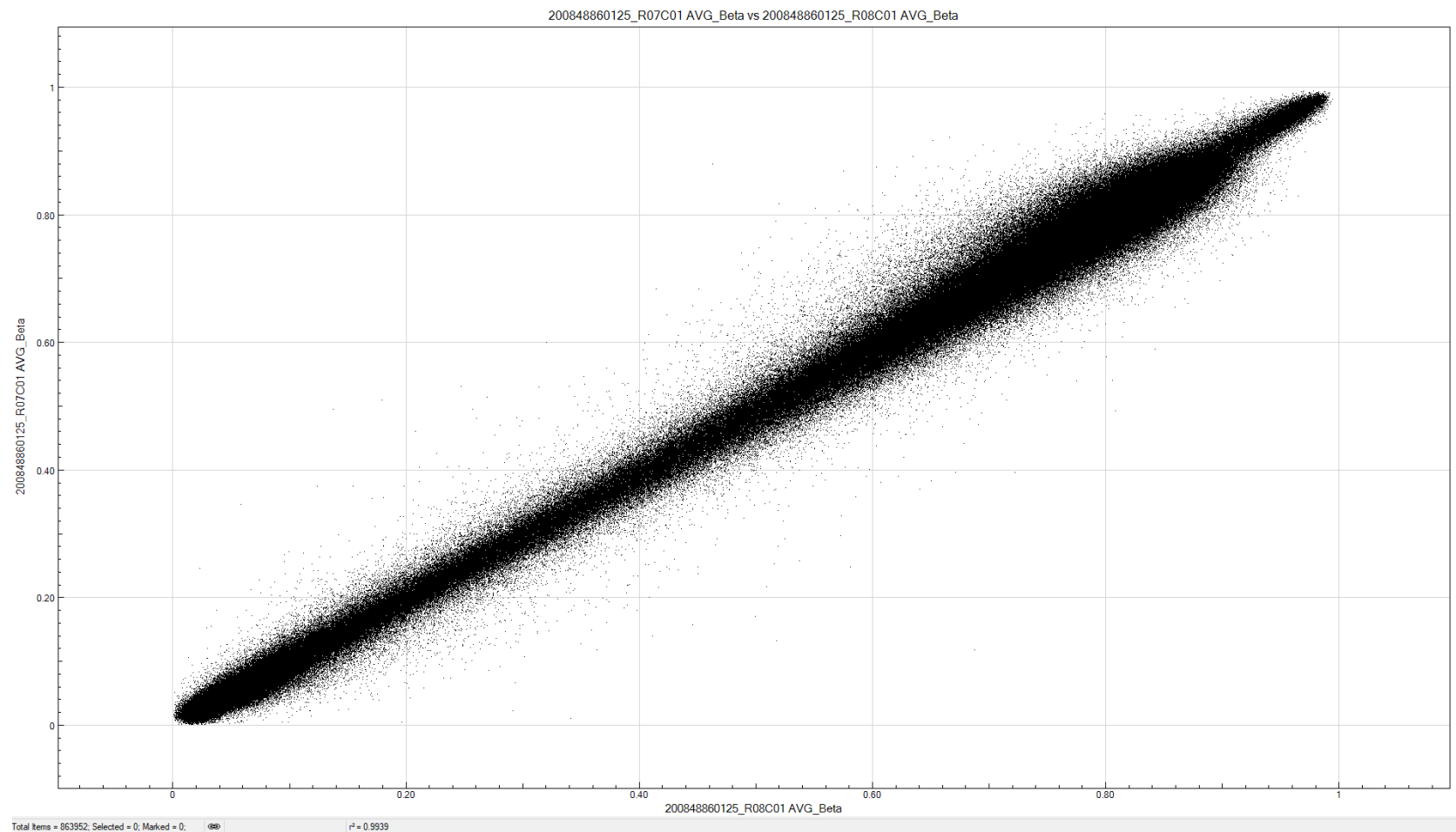
GO Enrichment functions (≥ 4 and $p < 0.01$)	Top ranked GO functions linked to T1DM-ESKD	• Positive regulation of: - Immune response - immune system process - leukocyte activation - lymphocyte activation - Ras protein signal transduction - T cell activation	• Positive regulation of: - immune response - immune system process - leukocyte activation - lymphocyte activation - Ras protein signal transduction - T cell activation	• Positive regulation of: - immune response - immune system process	• Positive regulation of: - immune response - immune system process - leukocyte activation - lymphocyte activation - melanocyte differentiation - T cell activation
KEGG Pathways (≥ 2, and $p \leq 0.01$)	Number of KEGG pathways	11	16	1	14
	Top ranked pathways linked to T1DM-ESKD	• Human T-cell leukaemia virus 1 infection • Th17 cell differentiation	• Human T-cell leukaemia virus 1 infection • Pathways in cancer • Th17 cell differentiation • Transcriptional misregulation in cancer	• TGF-beta signalling pathway	• Human T-cell leukaemia virus 1 infection • Th17 cell differentiation • Transcriptional misregulation in cancer

Footnote (functional support): ^a, eQTL support ($p < 10^{-5}$) in American Indians (T2DM); ^b, glomerular kidney tissue support ($p < 0.05$); ^c, tubular kidney tissue support ($p < 0.05$); ^d, kidney tubule support for eGFR slope ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data; ^e, kidney tubule support for fibrosis ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data; ^f, blood support for eGFR ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data; ^g, blood support for eGFR slope ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data.

Abbreviations: CpGs cytosine-phosphate-guanine sites; dmCpGs, differentially methylated CpG sites; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; eQTL, expression quantitative trait loci; ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; GO, gene ontology; KEGG, Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus; T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus.

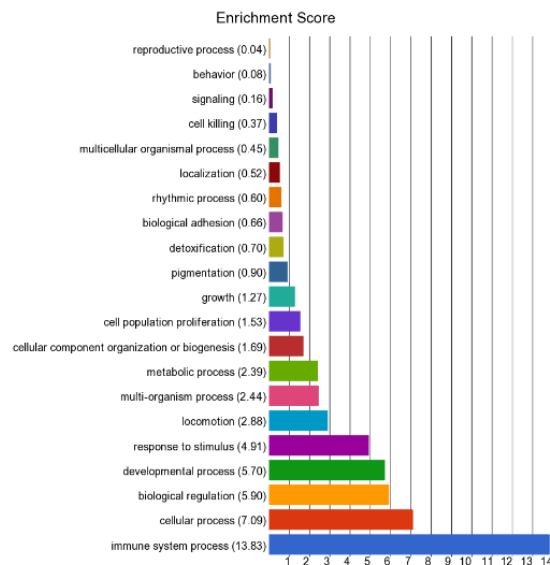
Note: All genes included in Table 2 are reported in at least two of the categories except *PRKAG2*, *PTPRN2* and *TAMM41*. Where additional dmCpGs were located within a candidate gene listed, their FCs are indicated. Approved gene symbols are included in Table 2, the gene symbols as included in the manifest file from Illumina are included in the STs

Supplementary Figures

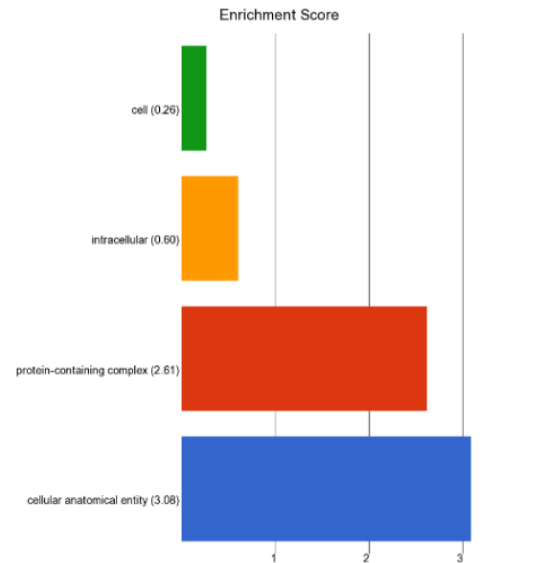


Supplementary Figure 1. Representative concordance plots for a duplicate sample pair - average r^2 for seven duplicates = 0.99.

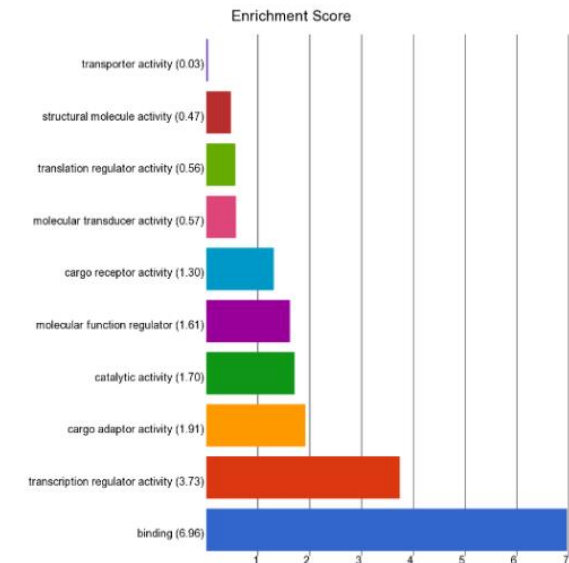
Analysis 1



SF 2a. GO analysis of biological processes



SF 1b. GO analysis of cellular components

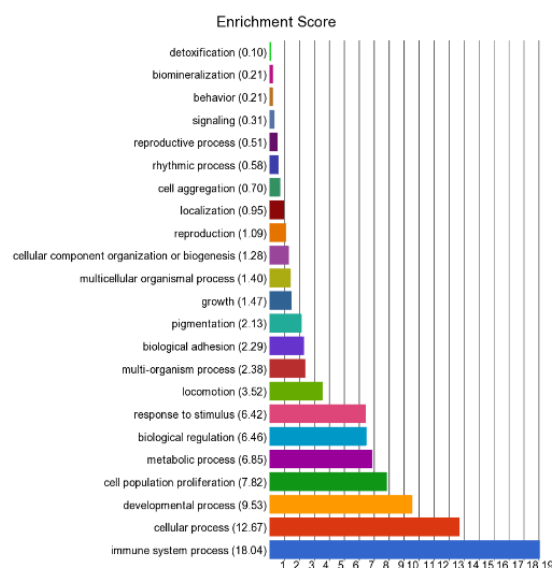


SF 1c. GO analysis of molecular functions

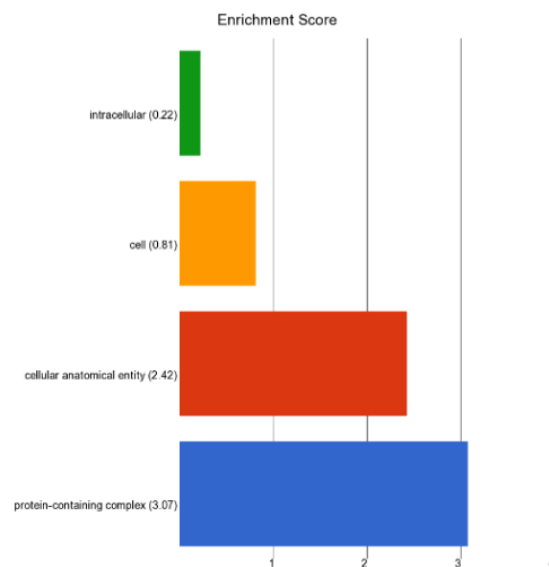
Supplementary Figure 2. GO enrichment results for *Analysis 1*. Enrichment of top-ranked CpG sites for matched individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=107) vs. T1DM (n=107): (FDR p-value $\leq 10^{-8}$ and FC $\geq \pm 2$). These gene classes are over-represented in the disease phenotype compared to a control gene set.

Abbreviations: CpG, cytosine-phosphate-guanine; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; GO, gene ontology; SF, Supplementary Figure

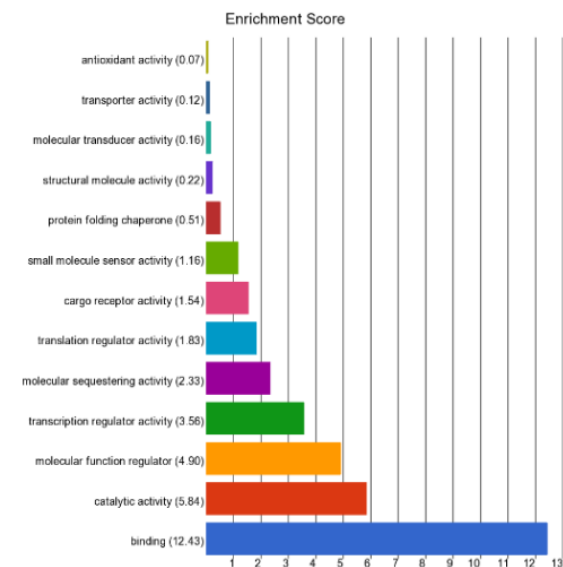
Analysis 2



SF 3a. GO analysis of biological processes



SF 3b. GO analysis of cellular components

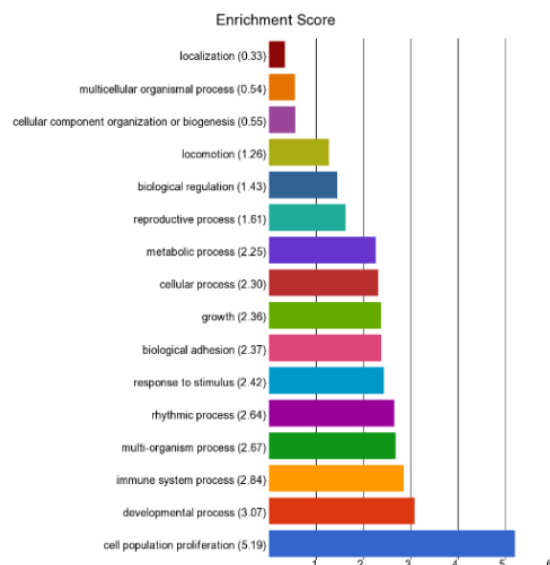


SF 3c. GO analysis of molecular functions

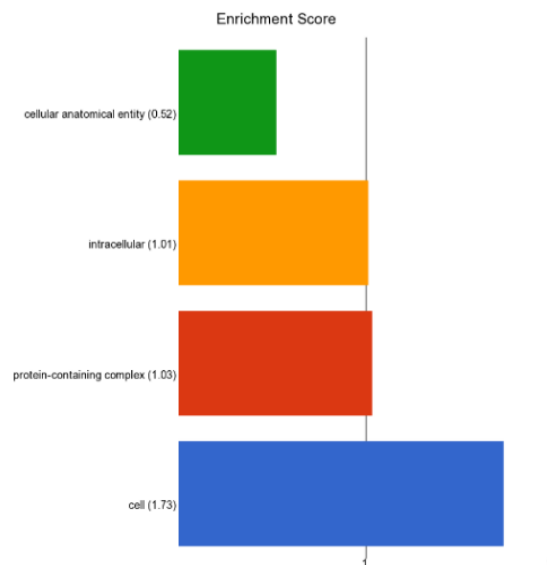
Supplementary Figure 3. GO enrichment results for *Analysis 2*. Enrichment of top-ranked CpG sites for matched individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=107) vs. T1DM (n=253): (FDR p-value $\leq 10^{-8}$ and FC $\geq \pm 2$). These gene classes are over-represented in the disease phenotype compared to a control gene set.

Abbreviations: CpG, cytosine-phosphate-guanine; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; GO, gene ontology; SF, Supplementary Figure

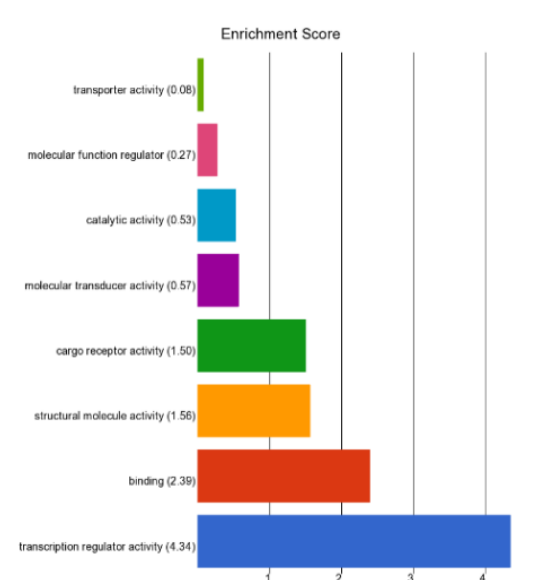
Analysis 3



SF 4a. GO analysis of biological processes



SF 4b. GO analysis of cellular components

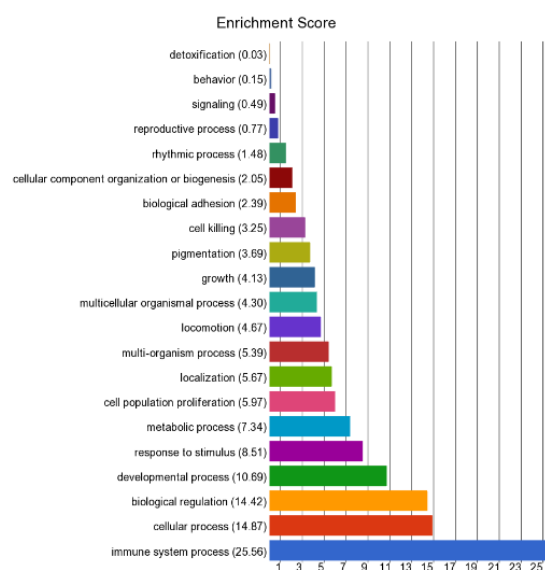


SF 4c. GO analysis of molecular functions

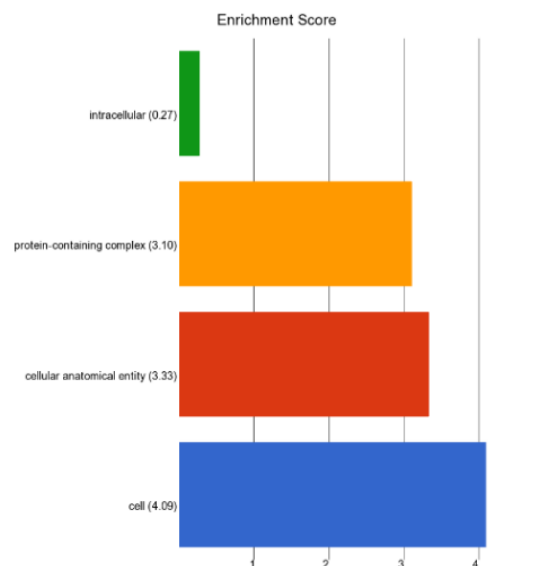
Supplementary Figure 4. GO enrichment results for *Analysis 3*. Enrichment of top-ranked CpG sites for matched individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=73) vs. T1DM (n=73): (FDR p-value $\leq 10^{-8}$ and FC $\geq \pm 2$). These gene classes are over-represented in the disease phenotype compared to a control gene set.

Abbreviations: CpG, cytosine-phosphate-guanine; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; GO, gene ontology; SF, Supplementary Figure

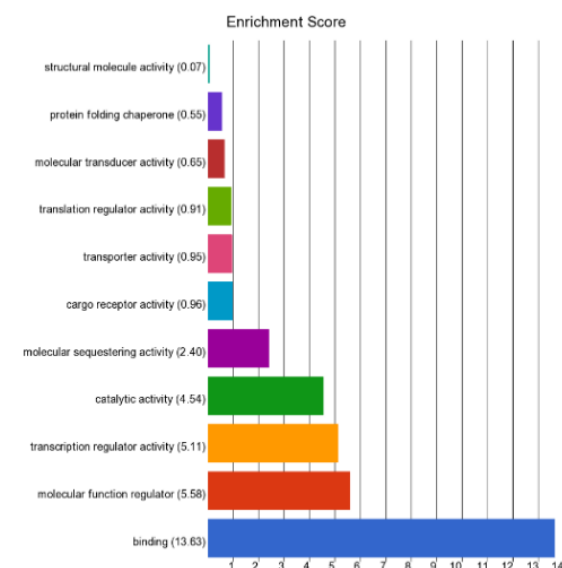
Analysis 4



SF 5a. GO analysis of biological processes



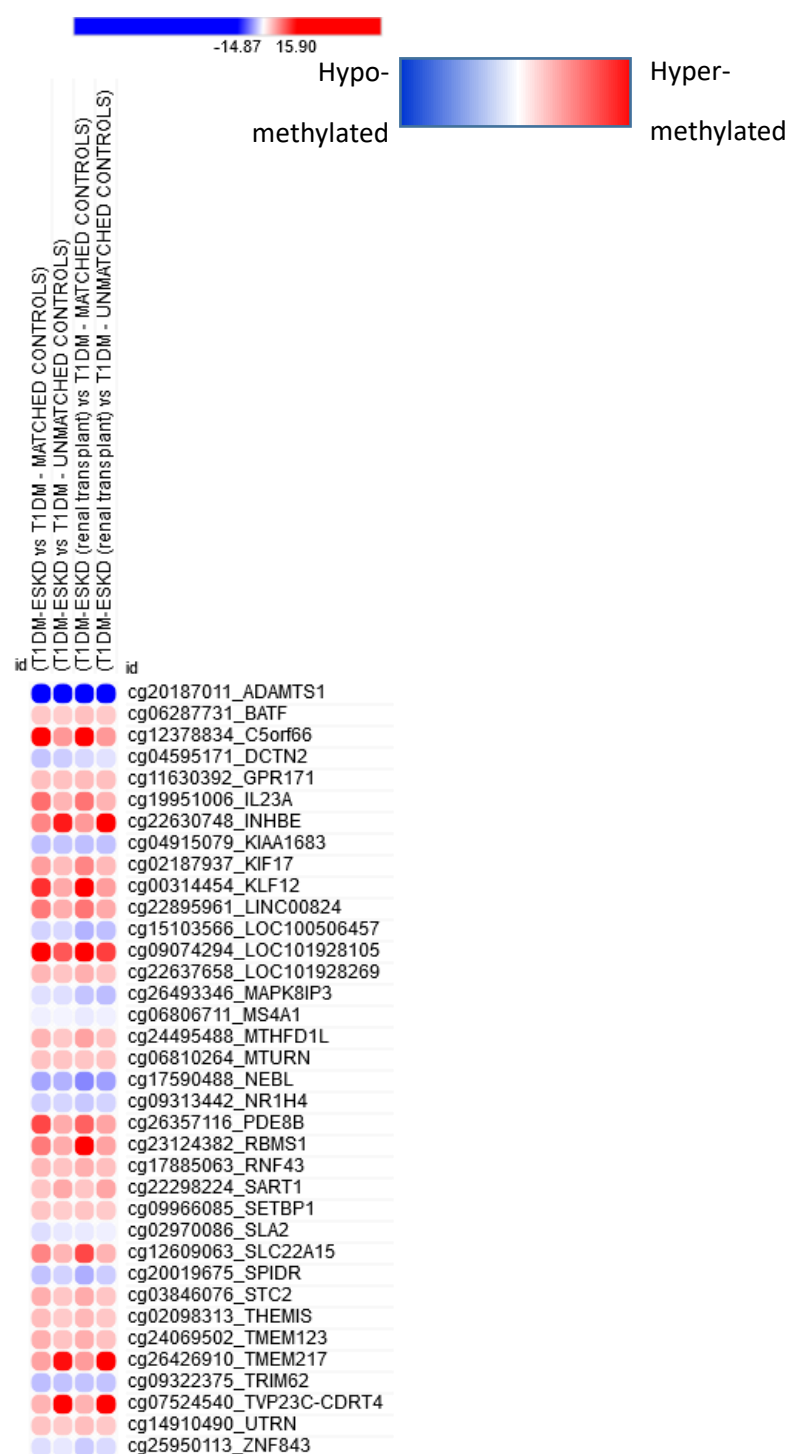
SF 5b. GO analysis of cellular components



SF 5c. GO analysis of molecular functions

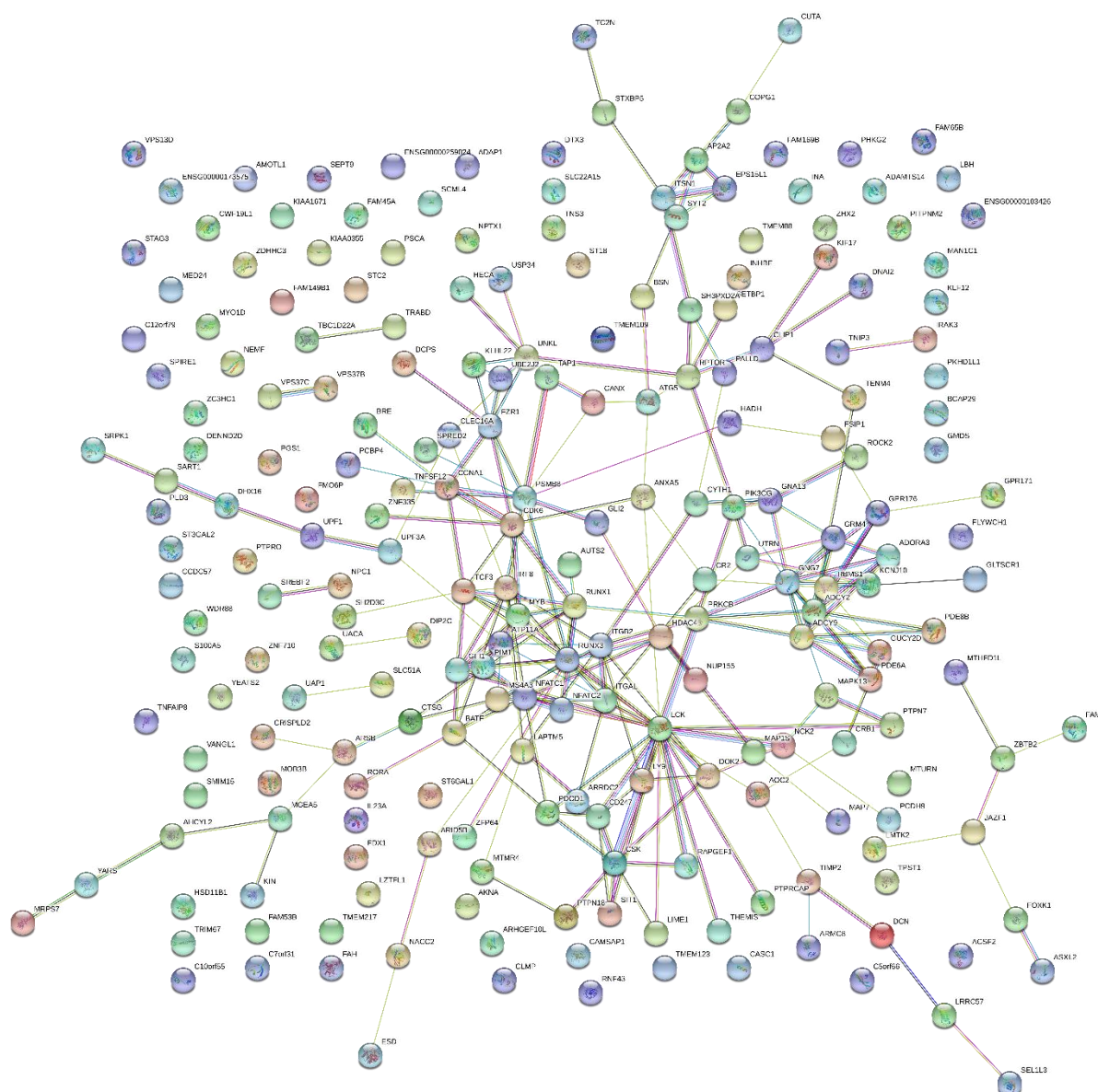
Supplementary Figure 5. GO enrichment results for *Analysis 4*. Enrichment of top-ranked CpG sites for matched individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=73) vs. T1DM (n=253): (FDR p-value $\leq 10^{-8}$ and FC $\geq \pm 2$). These gene classes are over-represented in the disease phenotype compared to a control gene set.

Abbreviations: CpG, cytosine-phosphate-guanine; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; GO, gene ontology; SF, Supplementary Figure



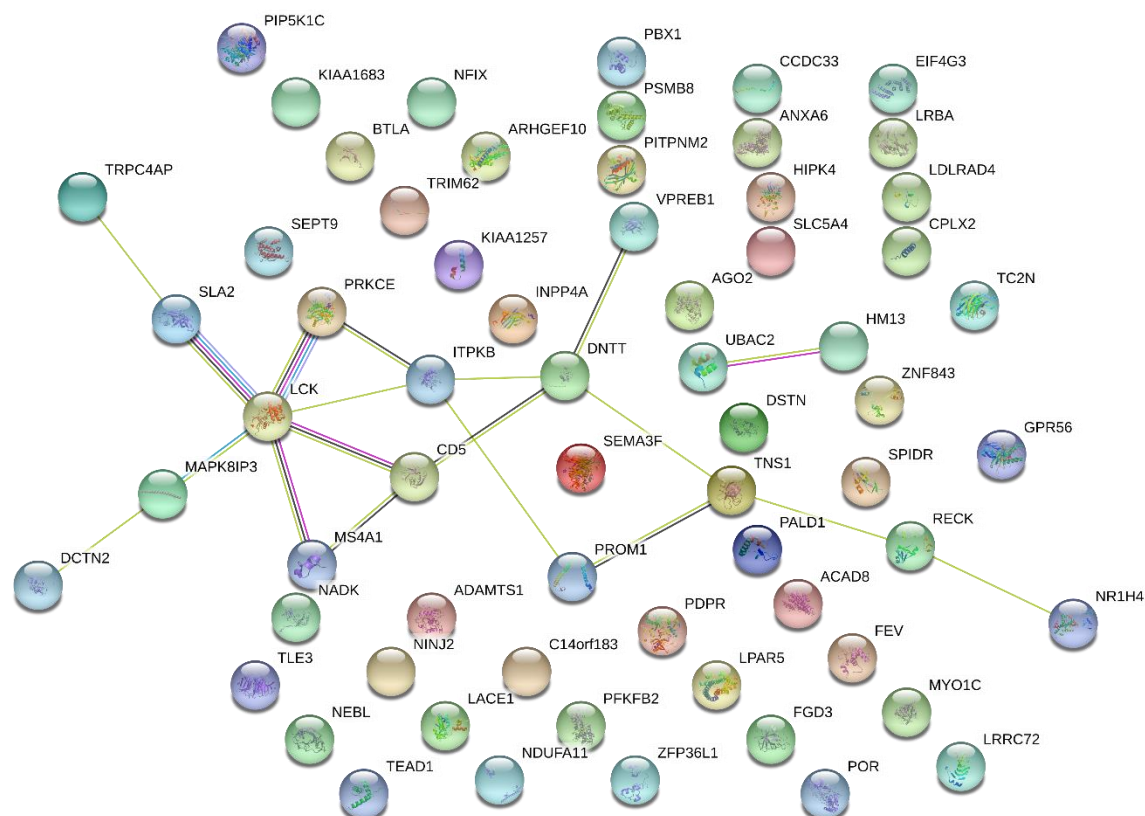
Supplementary Figure 6. Heatmap of discovery dmCpGs in blood samples derived from T1DM ESKD versus T1DM individuals. Depicted dmCpGs are significant ($p < 0.05$) in *Analyses 1-4*.

Red = Hypermethylated; Blue = Hypomethylated.



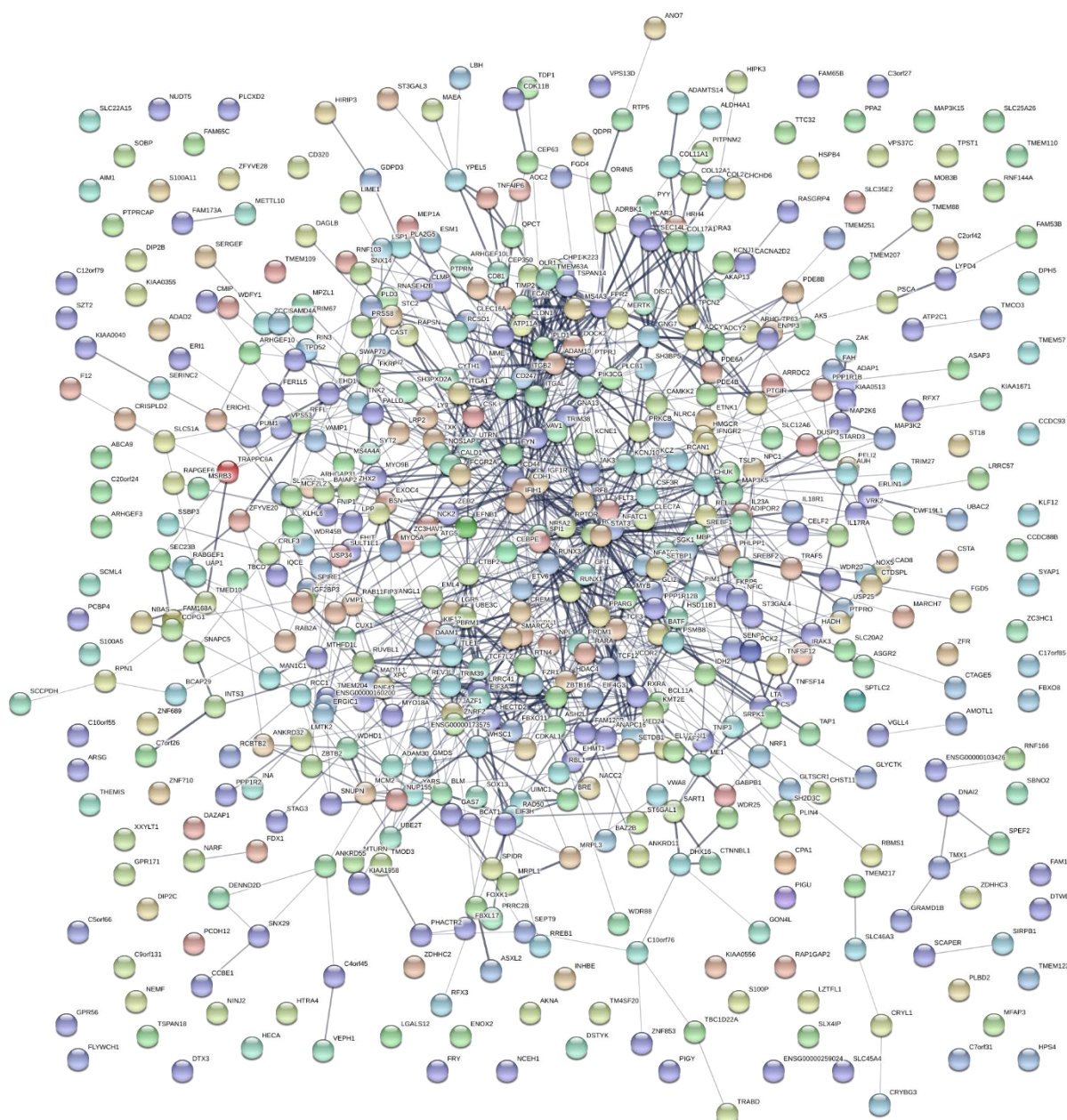
Supplementary Figure 7. STRING analysis of genes which showed an increase in FC in individuals with T1D-ESKD from *Analysis 1*: matched individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=107) vs. T1DM (n=107): FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC ± 2 (ST4)

Abbreviations: ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; ST, Supplementary Table; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus



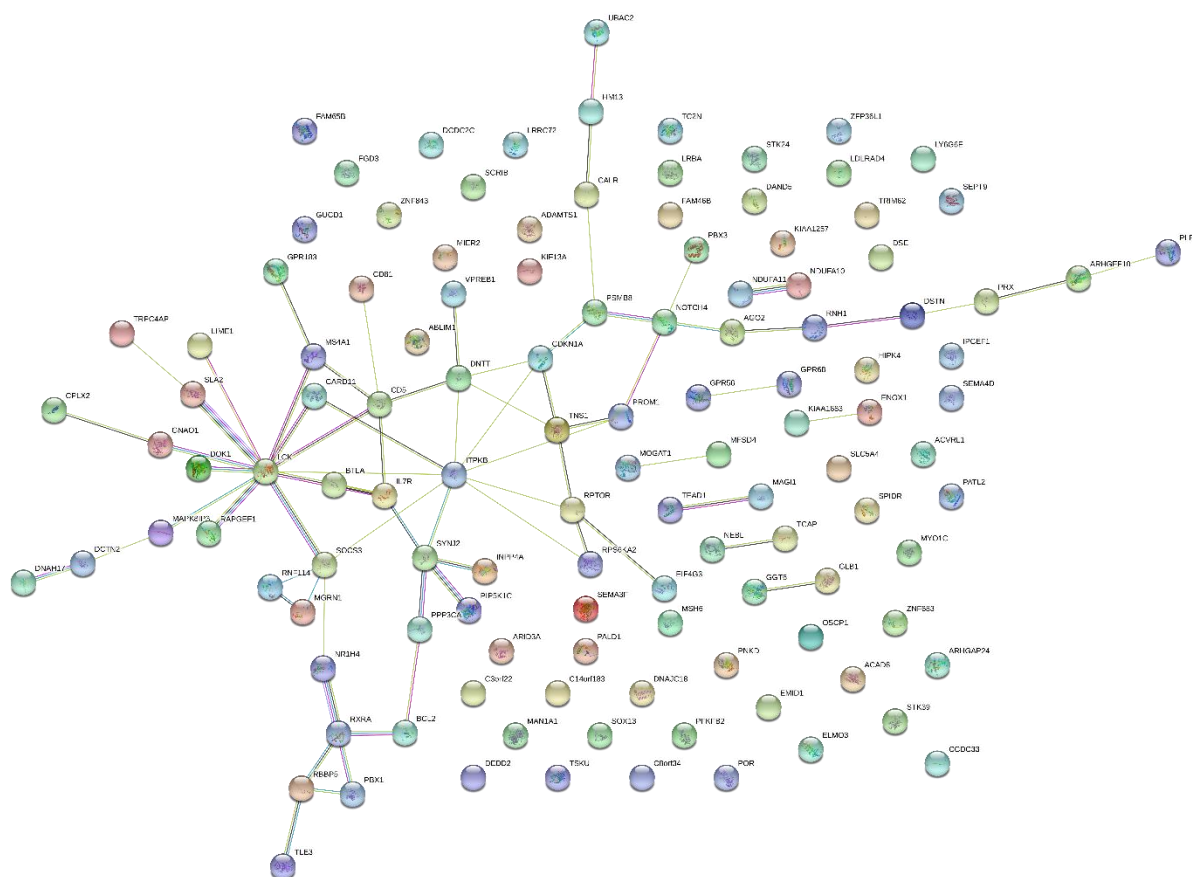
Supplementary Figure 8. STRING analysis of genes which showed a decrease in FC in individuals with T1D-ESKD from *Analysis 1*: matched individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=107) vs. T1DM (n=107): FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$ (ST4)

Abbreviations: ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; ST, Supplementary Table; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus



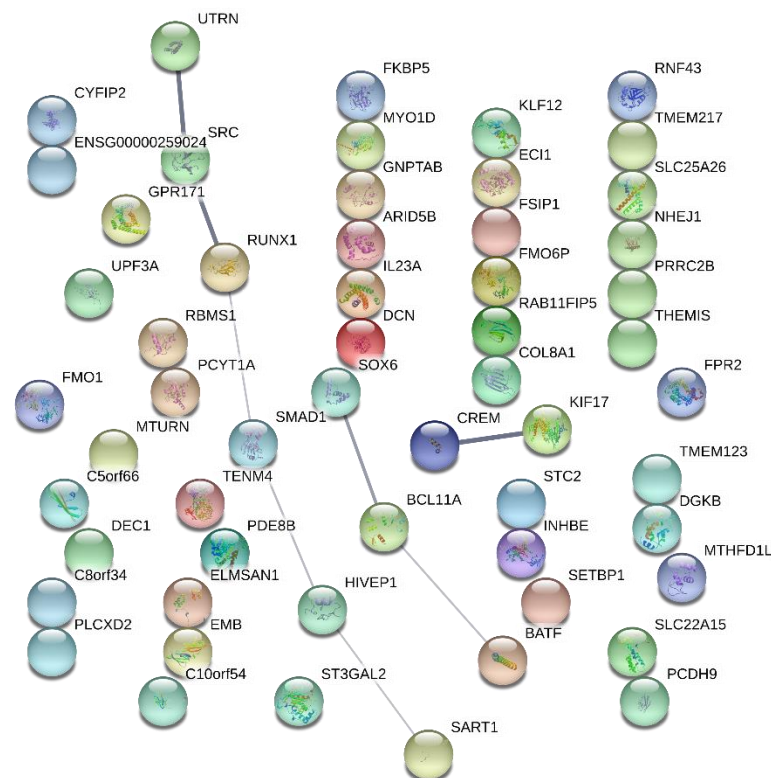
Supplementary Figure 9. STRING analysis of genes which showed an increase in FC in individuals with T1D-ESKD from *Analysis 2*: individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=107) vs. T1DM (n=253); FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$ (ST10)

Abbreviations: ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; ST, Supplementary Table; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus



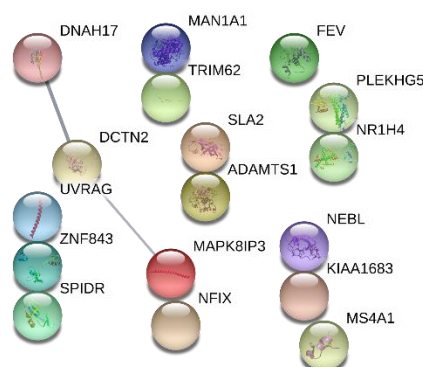
Supplementary Figure 10. STRING analysis of genes which showed a decrease in FC in individuals with T1D-ESKD from *Analysis 2*: individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=107) vs. T1DM (n=253): FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$ (ST10)

Abbreviations: ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; ST, Supplementary Table; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus



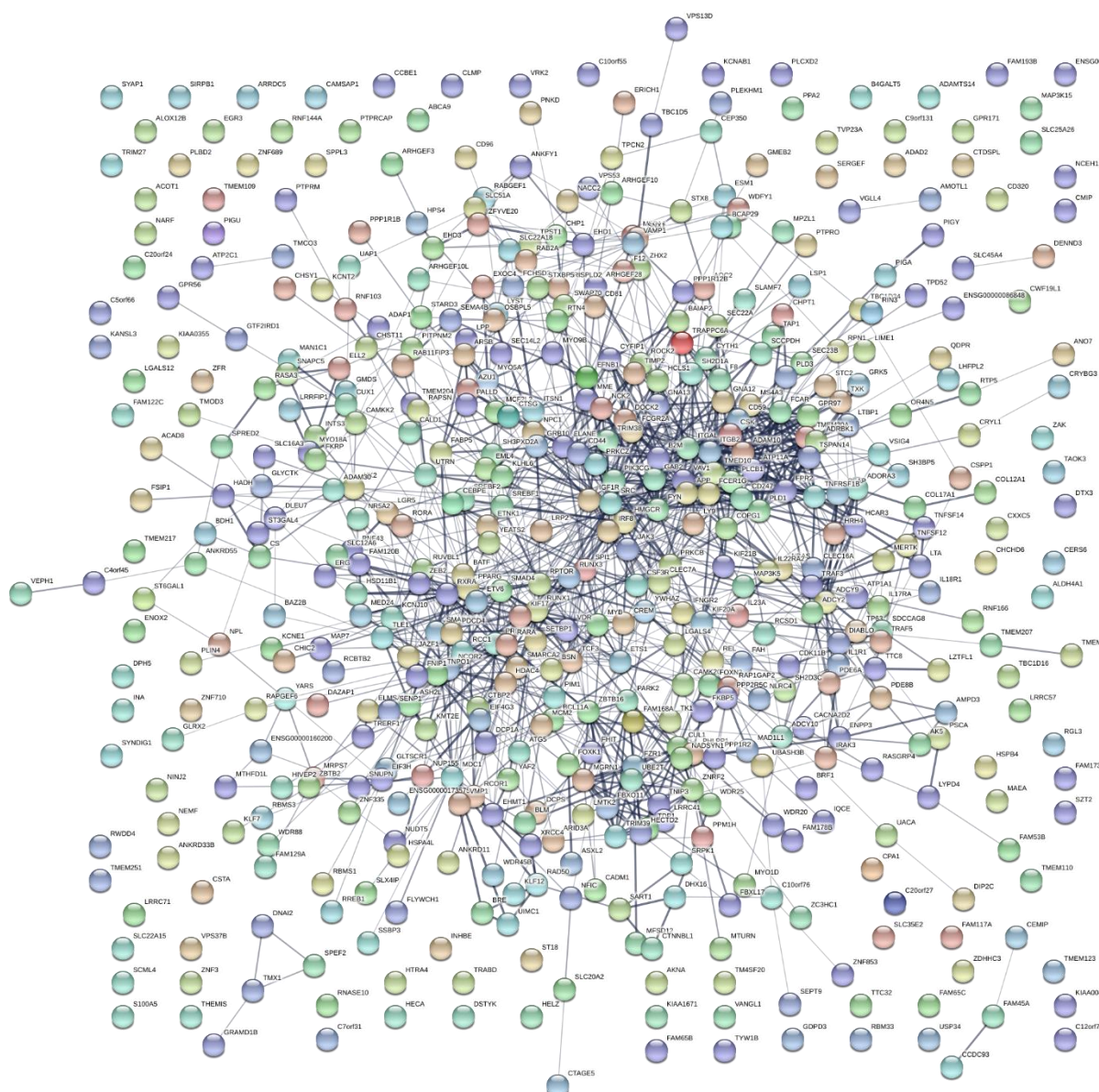
Supplementary Figure 11. STRING analysis of genes which showed an increase in FC in individuals with T1D-ESKD from *Analysis 3*: matched individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=73) vs. T1DM (n=73): FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC ± 2 (ST17)

Abbreviations: ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; ST, Supplementary Table; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus



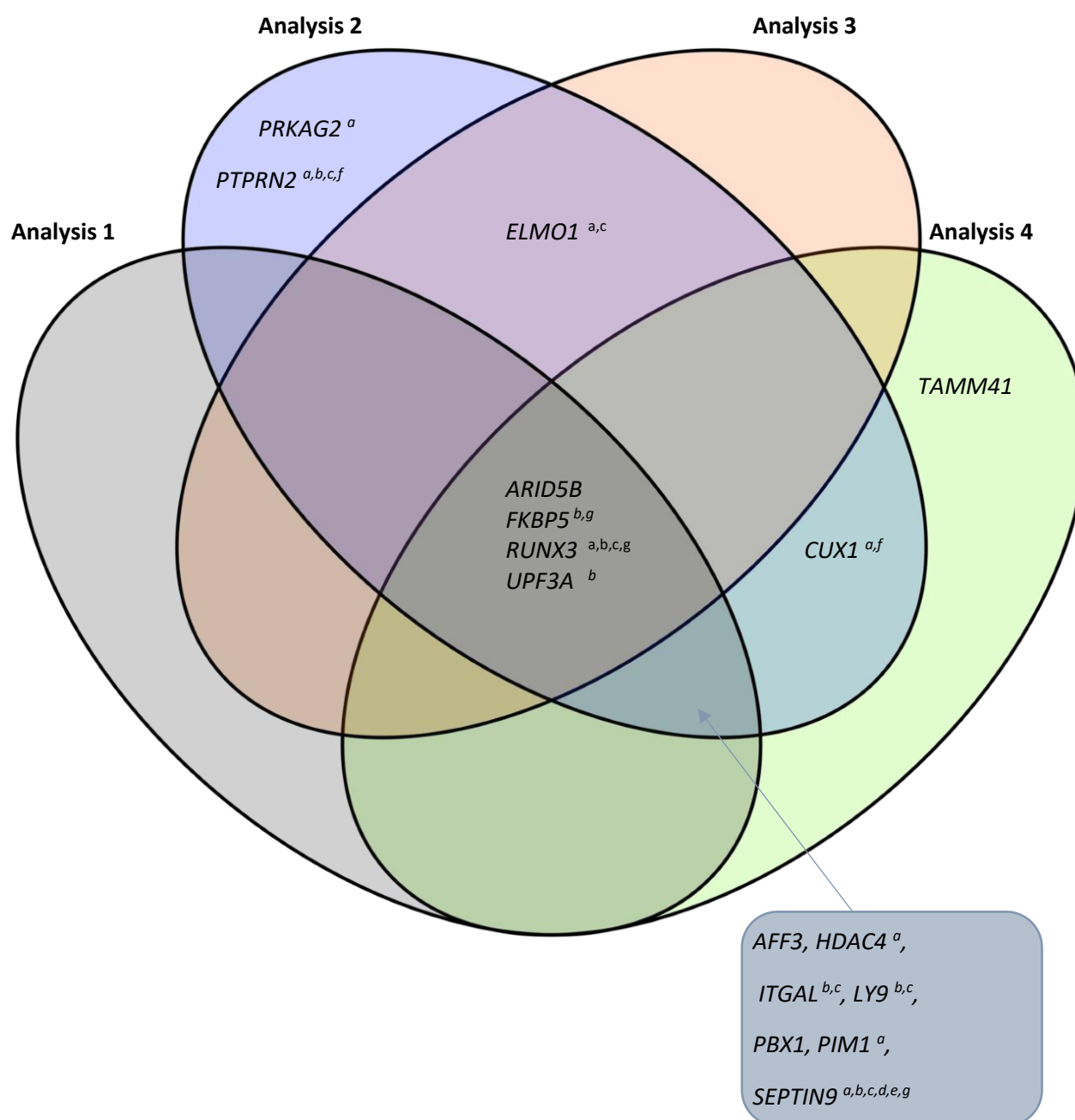
Supplementary Figure 12. STRING analysis of genes which showed a decrease in FC in individuals with T1D-ESKD from *Analysis 3*: matched individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=73) vs. T1DM (n=73): FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC ± 2 (ST17)

Abbreviations: ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; ST, Supplementary Table; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus



Supplementary Figure 13. STRING analysis of genes which showed an increase in FC in individuals with T1D-ESKD from *Analysis 4*: individuals with T1DM-ESKD (n=73) vs. T1DM (n=253): FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and $FC \pm 2$ (ST23)

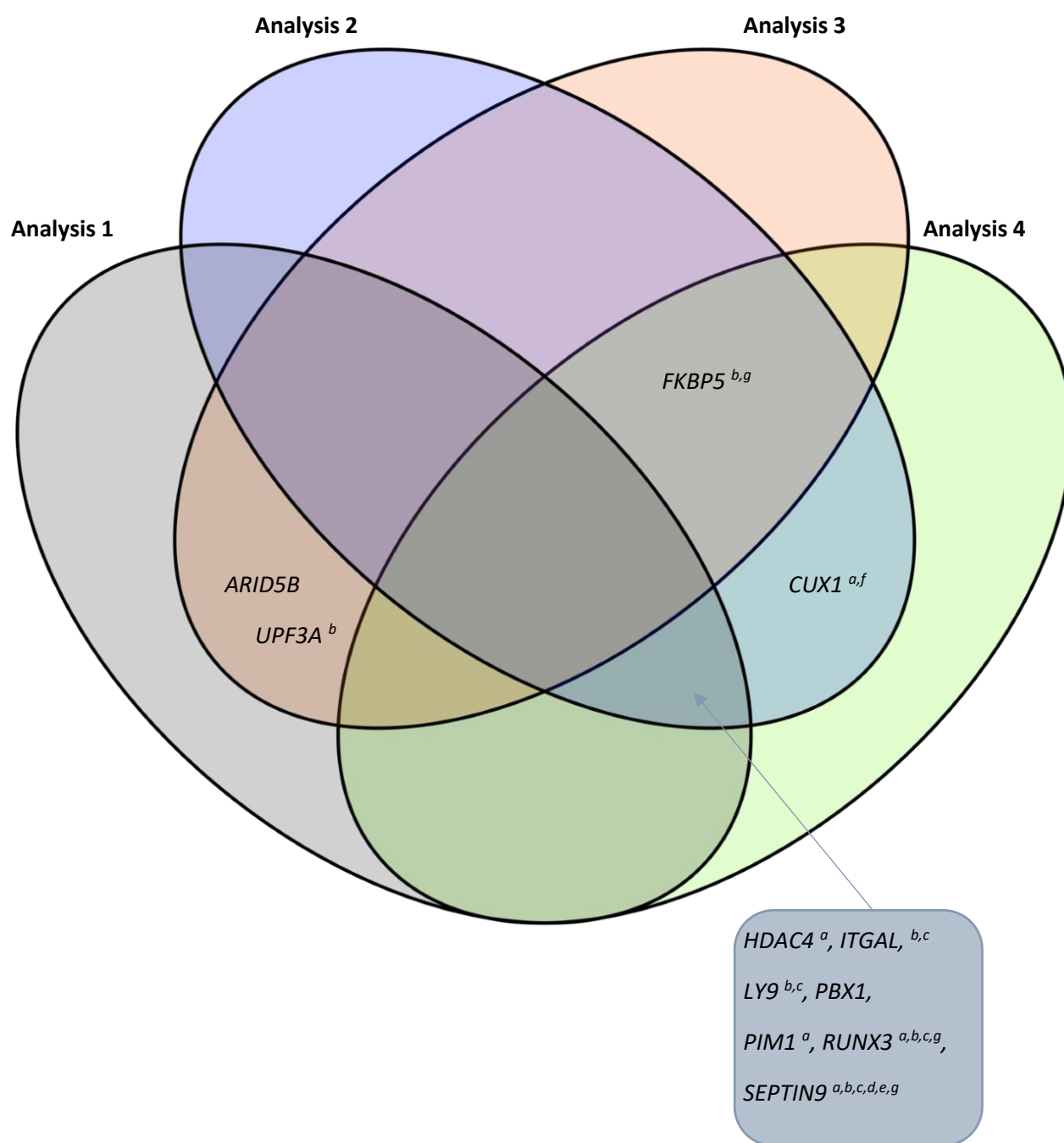
Abbreviations: ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; ST, Supplementary Table; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus



Supplementary Figure 15. Venn diagram highlighting the genes in which top-ranked dmCpGs were located in individuals with T1DM-ESKD vs. T1DM (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$)

Footnote (functional support): a, eQTL support ($p < 10^{-5}$) in Pima Indians (T2DM); b, glomerular kidney tissue support ($p < 0.05$); c, tubular kidney tissue support ($p < 0.05$); d, kidney tubule support for GFR slope ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data; e, kidney tubule support for fibrosis ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data; f, blood support for GFR ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data; g, blood support for GFR slope ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data.

Abbreviations: dmCpGs, differentially methylated CpG sites; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; eQTL, expression quantitative trait loci; ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FDR, false discovery rate; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus; T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus.



Supplementary Figure 16. Venn diagram highlighting the genes in which top-ranked dmCpGs were located in individuals with T1DM-ESKD vs. T1DM (FDR $p \leq 10^{-8}$ and FC ± 2)

Footnote (functional support): a, eQTL support ($p < 10^{-5}$) in Pima Indians (T2DM); b, glomerular kidney tissue support ($p < 0.05$); c, tubular kidney tissue support ($p < 0.05$); d, kidney tubule support for GFR slope ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data; e, kidney tubule support for fibrosis ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data; f, blood support for GFR ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data; g, blood support for GFR slope ($p < 0.05$) using 450K data.

Abbreviations: dmCpGs, differentially methylated CpG sites; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; eQTL, expression quantitative trait loci; ESKD, end-stage kidney disease; FC, fold change; FDR, false discovery rate; T1DM, type 1 diabetes mellitus; T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus.