

Genome-wide association study identifies five new susceptibility loci for primary angle closure glaucoma

Primary angle closure glaucoma (PACG) is a major cause of blindness worldwide. We conducted a genome-wide association study (GWAS) followed by replication in a combined total of 10,503 PACG cases and 29,567 controls drawn from 24 countries across Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. We observed significant evidence of disease association at five new genetic loci upon meta-analysis of all patient collections. These loci are at *EPDR1* rs3816415 (odds ratio (OR) = 1.24, $P = 5.94 \times 10^{-15}$), *CHAT* rs1258267 (OR = 1.22, $P = 2.85 \times 10^{-16}$), *GLIS3* rs736893 (OR = 1.18, $P = 1.43 \times 10^{-14}$), *FERMT2* rs7494379 (OR = 1.14, $P = 3.43 \times 10^{-11}$), and *DPM2-FAM102A* rs3739821 (OR = 1.15, $P = 8.32 \times 10^{-12}$). We also confirmed significant association at three previously described loci ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ for each sentinel SNP at *PLEKHA7*, *COL11A1*, and *PCMTD1-ST18*)¹, providing new insights into the biology of PACG.

Glaucoma is the most common cause of irreversible blindness worldwide². The main forms of glaucoma are primary open angle glaucoma (POAG), PACG, and exfoliation glaucoma. All three forms of glaucoma show familial clustering, suggesting a substantial genetic component in pathogenesis. Recent genetic studies have implicated several distinct loci associated with each of these types of glaucoma^{1,3–6}. For PACG, the epidemiological risk factors include advancing age, female sex, and East Asian ancestry^{7,8}. Up to 80% of the estimated 15 million people afflicted with PACG live in Asia⁹, where the disease is responsible for a high proportion of blindness^{10–13}. Patients either present with acute primary angle closure (APAC) or have PACG upon presentation (Supplementary Note). We previously performed a GWAS of PACG susceptibility on 1,854 PACG cases and 9,608 controls with replication in 1,917 cases and 8,943 controls, identifying three susceptibility loci¹.

We now expand the study to perform a discovery-stage GWAS on a combined total of 6,525 PACG cases and 19,929 controls, which were enrolled from 15 countries spanning East Asia, South Asia, Europe, and South America (Fig. 1 and Supplementary Table 1). We applied routine quality control checks for SNPs and samples as is usually done for GWAS analyses (Online Methods). SNPs at ten distinct loci surpassed $P < 1 \times 10^{-6}$ (Supplementary Table 2), a threshold we took to be indicative of suggestive evidence of association with disease¹⁴. Three of these loci have previously been reported (Fig. 2 and Supplementary Table 3)¹. We then subjected the ten sentinel SNPs representing each of the ten independent loci to replication geno-

typing in a further 3,978 cases and 9,638 controls from 14 countries (Supplementary Table 1). Significant replication was observed at eight distinct loci (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 2; the initial associations observed at *FNDC3B* rs16856870 on chromosome 3 and *SLC38A6* rs10483730 on chromosome 14 did not replicate), and meta-analysis of all discovery and replication samples totaling 10,503 PACG cases and 29,567 controls showed genome-wide significant evidence of association for the eight loci with PACG (Fig. 2 and Table 1). This two-stage study design is powered to detect effect sizes as low as 1.15 with minor allele frequencies (MAFs) as low as 0.15 at genome-wide significance (Supplementary Table 4).

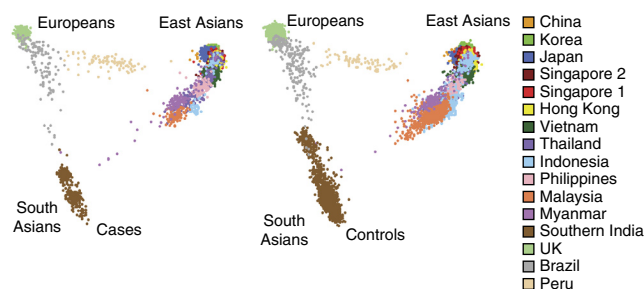
We next asked whether heterogeneity in genetic effect sizes exists across ancestry groups and geographical locations and found that only *EPDR1* rs3816415 showed discernable evidence of heterogeneity in the overall meta-analysis ($P_{\text{het}} = 0.0072$, I^2 index = 43.0%). Closer scrutiny showed that effect sizes were consistently larger in Europeans (OR = 1.42) than in Asians (OR = 1.21) (Fig. 3 and Table 1), despite similar risk allele frequencies across the ancestry groups (Supplementary Table 5). This discrepancy could be due either to more unreliable estimation in Europeans because of the smaller sample size in comparison to Asians ($n = 1,105$ European PACG cases versus 9,398 Asian PACG cases) or to a genuine difference in effect between Asians and Europeans^{15–17}. We did not observe significant heterogeneity in effect sizes at the other four loci (Fig. 3 and Table 1). Imputation-based fine-mapping and regional association analysis showed that each SNP locus mapped distinctly among its nearest genes, mostly framed by recombination events (Supplementary Fig. 1). However, as the GWAS approach assays mostly common, representative genetic variants across the human genome, we are unable to exclude the possibility that the identified SNPs at each locus could be tagging functional variants that are exerting control on distant gene targets in a position- and orientation-independent manner^{18,19}.

We next examined the ocular expression of genes located in the newly identified PACG loci by RT-PCR. We detected mRNA expression of *EPDR1*, *GLIS3*, *FERMT2*, *DPM2*, *PIP5K1L1*, and *FAM102A* in human ocular anterior segment tissues such as the iris, ciliary body, and trabecular meshwork (Supplementary Fig. 2a). We also observed mRNA expression of all six genes in the cornea, lens, retina, choroid, optic nerve head, and optic nerve. We also investigated the distribution of the encoded proteins of these genes in ocular tissues by immunohistochemical labeling of sections of a normal human eye (Supplementary Figs. 3–9), testing for tissue specificity of expression through immunoblot analysis in ocular-tissue-derived cell lines

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Figure 1 Distribution of PACG cases and controls from the GWAS discovery stage, which encompassed collections from 15 countries. Cases and controls are projected onto the top two principal components of genetic stratification, with cases on the left and controls on the right. Principal-component comparisons for each of the East Asian countries are shown in **Supplementary Figure 10**.



(**Supplementary Fig. 2b–h**). Overall, protein expression and localization corroborated the mRNA data, except in the case of *GLIS3*, where pronounced protein expression was seen in the iris, different to what was observed in mRNA expression analysis (**Supplementary Fig. 2a**). This difference may be attributed to the insensitivity of the RT-PCR technique for transcripts present at low levels.

EPDR1 encodes a glycosylated type II transmembrane protein known as ependymin-related 1. It potentially has a role in cell adhesion, as it is similar to protocadherins and ependymins²⁰. SNP *EPDR1* rs16879765 has been shown to be significantly associated with Dupuytren's contracture, an inherited disorder of connective tissues²¹. Our genome-wide significant association at *EPDR1* for PACG is marked by the sentinel SNP rs3816415, which is very poorly correlated with rs16879765 despite being located less than 1 kb away. This pleiotropic association with *EPDR1* merits further study and highlights the relevance of cell adhesion molecules more broadly in PACG pathology.

SNP rs3739821 is located in an intergenic region between *DPM2* and *FAM102A*, a gene yet to be fully characterized. Mutations in *DPM2* have been linked to congenital defects in glycosylation²², leading to severe neurological phenotypes. Although not much is known about *FAM102A* except that its expression is sensitive to the addition of β -estradiol²³, the nearby *PIP5K1L1* gene (**Supplementary Fig. 1**) has been reported to be involved in cell proliferation²⁴ and potentially in tumorigenesis. Our expression analysis showed that all three genes (*FAM102A*, *DPM2*, and *PIP5K1L1*) were expressed in all eye tissues tested, thus providing biological support for their involvement in PACG (**Supplementary Figs. 2 and 7–9**). Further fine-mapping work is needed to identify the causative gene in this locus.

CHAT on chromosome 10 encodes choline acetyltransferase. This is an enzyme responsible for synthesis of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, which has a role in pupillary constriction. Anticholinergic medications can precipitate acute PACG via pupillary dilatation and subsequent pupillary block^{25,26}. Therefore, it is plausible that

natural genetic variation in a gene influencing acetylcholine metabolism could influence risk for PACG.

FERMT2 encodes a protein called pleckstrin-homology-domain-containing family C member 1 (PLEKHC1), a component of the extracellular matrix, and could thus have a role in cell adhesion²⁷. PLEKHC1 belongs to the same pleckstrin family of proteins as PLEKHA7, and we previously showed that common SNPs mapping to *PLEKHA7* are significantly associated with susceptibility to PACG¹. Our current observation of genome-wide significant associations at *FERMT2* and *EPDR1*, as well as the previous report of *PLEKHA7*, strongly implicates the cell–cell adhesion process as being important in the pathogenesis of PACG.

GLIS3 is a member of the GLI-similar subfamily of Krüppel-like zinc-finger proteins²⁸. Earlier studies have shown that mutations in *GLIS3* cause neonatal diabetes and congenital hypothyroidism²⁹. SNP markers mapping close to *GLIS3* have been observed to be significantly associated with type 1 diabetes in Europeans (rs7020673)³⁰, type 2 diabetes in East Asians (rs7041847)³¹, and fasting plasma glucose levels in a large meta-analysis of European collections (rs7034200)³². These SNPs are independent from rs736893, which we observe here to be associated with PACG. These observations implicate yet unknown metabolic pathways that could contribute to PACG pathogenesis.

We next looked up reported loci showing genome-wide significant association with POAG^{3,4,33,34} in our PACG discovery GWAS data set, as susceptibility variants for the two common forms of glaucoma could potentially be shared. We observed evidence of association at *ARHGEF12* rs2276035 and *GAS7* rs12150284. For both loci, the direction of effect was consistent in PACG and POAG (**Supplementary Table 6**). Reciprocally, we also assessed all eight genome-wide significant PACG loci in 968 POAG cases and 3,916 controls of Singaporean Chinese descent³⁵ but did not observe consistent evidence of association between the PACG loci and POAG (**Supplementary Table 7**).

Both ocular axial length and anterior chamber depth have previously been reported as anatomical risk factors for PACG, whereby individuals with eyes having less anterior chamber depth and shorter axial length are at increased risk of PACG³⁶. We examined the six loci associated with axial length at

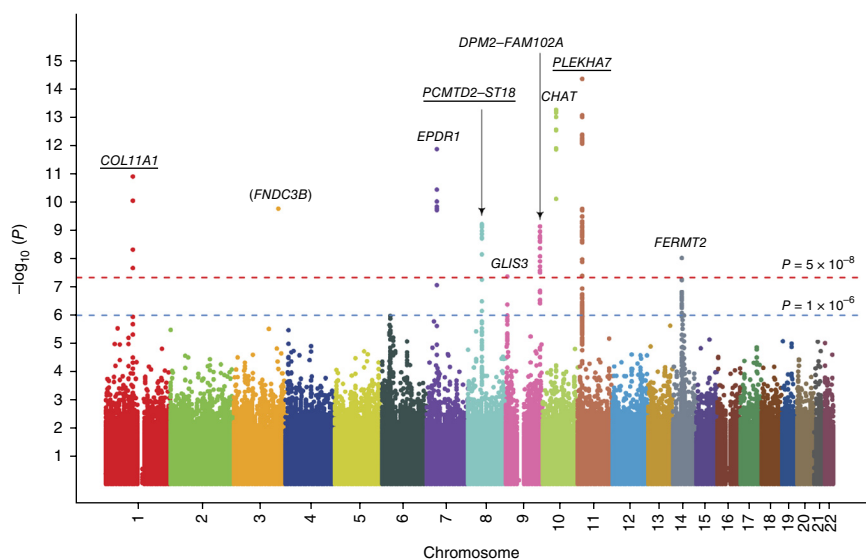


Figure 2 Results of the discovery GWAS meta-analysis. The three previously reported loci are underlined. *FNDC3B* did not replicate in the replication collections. SNPs at *EPDR1*, *GLIS3*, *DPM2-FAM102A*, *CHAT*, and *FERMT2* represent new genome-wide significant associations.

Table 1 Results for the eight genome-wide significant loci upon meta-analysis of all PACG case-control collections

SNP (risk/reference)	Chr.	Position (bp)	Gene locus	Stage	Per-allele OR	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i> _{het}	<i>r</i> ² index (%)
New loci								
rs3816415 (A/G)	7	37,988,311	<i>EPDR1</i>	GWAS	1.28	1.28×10^{-12}	0.6	0
				Replication	1.17	0.00032	0.0013	60.4
				All-data meta-analysis	1.24	5.94×10^{-15}	0.0072	43.0
				Asian descent	1.21	7.49×10^{-11}	0.095	29.1
				European descent	1.42	1.86×10^{-6}	0.029	55.3
rs736893 (G/A)	9	4,217,028	<i>GLIS3</i>	GWAS	1.16	4.23×10^{-8}	0.85	0
				Replication	1.20	4.64×10^{-8}	0.48	0
				All-data meta-analysis	1.18	1.43×10^{-14}	0.78	0
				Asian descent	1.17	1.2×10^{-11}	0.57	0
				European descent	1.25	0.00015	0.94	0
rs3739821 (G/A)	9	130,702,477	<i>DPM2-FAM102A</i>	GWAS	1.17	7.08×10^{-10}	0.93	0
				Replication	1.11	0.0013	0.28	15.7
				All-data meta-analysis	1.15	8.32×10^{-12}	0.62	0
				Asian descent	1.15	4.5×10^{-11}	0.46	0
				European descent	1.12	0.06	0.79	0
rs1258267 (A/G)	10	50,895,770	<i>CHAT</i>	GWAS	1.25	5.06×10^{-14}	0.59	0
				Replication	1.16	0.00046	0.57	0
				All-data meta-analysis	1.22	2.85×10^{-16}	0.58	0
				Asian descent	1.22	4.99×10^{-16}	0.58	0
				European descent	1.43	0.24 ^a	0.32	14.2
rs7494379 (G/A)	14	53,411,391	<i>FERMT2</i>	GWAS	1.15	9.26×10^{-9}	0.56	0
				Replication	1.11	0.00065	0.24	19.2
				All-data meta-analysis	1.14	3.43×10^{-11}	0.39	5.0
				Asian descent	1.13	5.42×10^{-9}	0.36	7.3
				European descent	1.22	0.00066	0.52	0
Previously reported loci								
rs3753841 (G/A)	1	103,379,918	<i>COL11A1</i>	GWAS	1.18	1.18×10^{-11}	0.32	11.4
				Replication	1.29	1.15×10^{-14}	0.47	0
				All-data meta-analysis	1.21	1.27×10^{-23}	0.21	16.8
				Asian descent	1.21	4×10^{-21}	0.35	8.1
				European descent	1.20	0.00076	0.099	42.0
rs1015213 (A/G)	8	52,887,541	<i>PCMTD1-ST18</i>	GWAS	1.44	1.75×10^{-9}	0.21	21.2
				Replication	1.40	5.47×10^{-8}	0.51	0
				All-data meta-analysis	1.42	5.42×10^{-16}	0.34	8.0
				Asian descent	1.44	1.68×10^{-13}	0.096	29
				European descent	1.35	0.0006	0.99	0
rs11024102 (G/A)	11	17,008,605	<i>PLEKHA7</i>	GWAS	1.20	4.1×10^{-15}	0.77	0
				Replication	1.15	5.51×10^{-5}	0.48	0
				All-data meta-analysis	1.18	1.93×10^{-18}	0.71	0
				Asian descent	1.20	8×10^{-19}	0.87	0
				European descent	1.05	0.38	0.54	0

All SNPs reported here were directly genotyped on the GWAS arrays. Chr., chromosome.

^aThe minor allele for *CHAT* rs1258267 is very rare in Europeans (Supplementary Table 5). Of the six European-ancestry populations (Australia, Brazil, Peru, Poland, UK, and United States), only those from Brazil, Peru, and Poland had MAF >1% and thus could be tested for genetic association.

genome-wide significance previously reported in a large meta-analysis of 12,531 Europeans and 8,216 Asians³⁷ in our discovery GWAS for PACG. None of the associations (Supplementary Table 8) survived correction for multiple comparisons. We note nominal evidence of association with PACG at the *ABCC5* locus, which we previously reported³⁸ as being associated with anterior chamber depth (for SNP rs4148579, pairwise $r^2 = 0.99$ with the previously reported rs1401999; OR = 1.07, $P = 0.017$).

We then checked whether any of the five newly associated PACG loci directly underlie functional genomic elements. We observed that almost all of the sentinel SNPs as well as SNPs in linkage disequilibrium (LD) are located within potential transcription factor binding sites

(Supplementary Table 9)^{39–41}. None of the sentinel SNPs tag ($r^2 > 0.8$) any exonic SNPs in genes within the respective loci. Examination of recently available large-scale expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) mapping databases^{42,43} indicated that only SNPs rs3739821 on chromosome 9 and rs7494379 on chromosome 14 are significant eQTLs in human tissues (Supplementary Table 10). However, the data may allow us to draw limited inferences, as rs3739821 has significant eQTL effects on *DPM2* ($P = 1.44 \times 10^{-12}$) and *FAM102A* ($P = 4.57 \times 10^{-6}$), as well as on the neighboring *ST6GALNAC6* ($P = 6.79 \times 10^{-20}$) and *ST6GALNAC4* ($P = 5.32 \times 10^{-6}$) genes⁴². Looking up our loci in a second eQTL database derived from gene expression analysis in blood cells⁴⁴, SNP rs3739821 has a significant

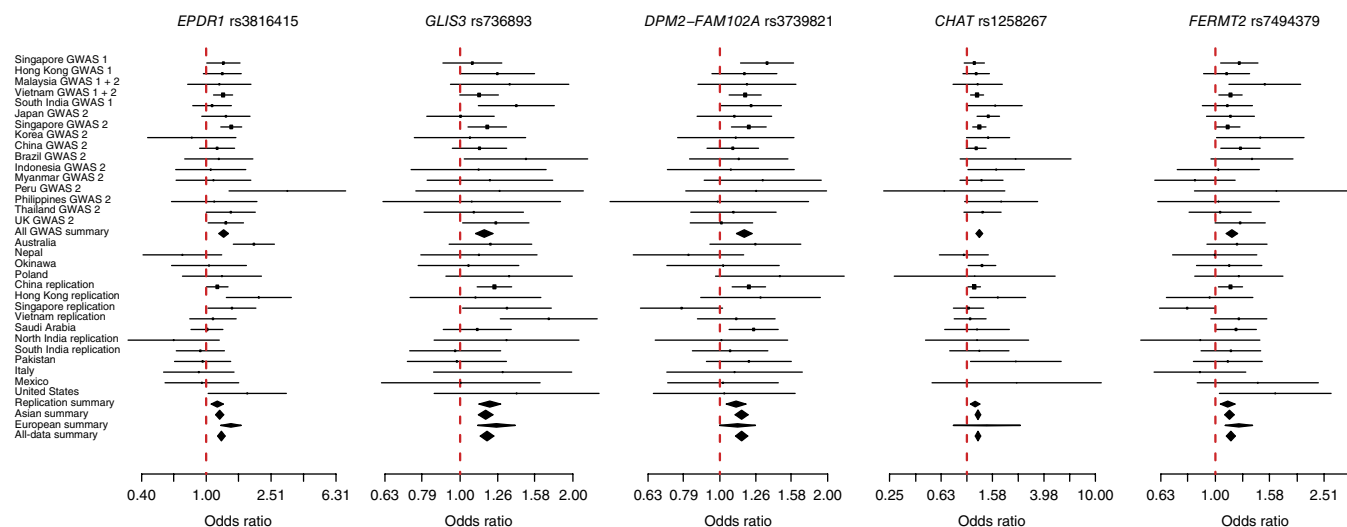


Figure 3 Forest plots for the five new genome-wide significant loci. Point estimates for each locus are denoted as risk allele odds ratios, accompanied by horizontal lines representing the 95% confidence interval for each point estimate. Diamonds represent meta-analyses for the GWAS discovery stage, replication stage, all Asians, and all Europeans, as well as for all samples. The vertical dashed red line represents an OR of 1.00, indicating no effect.

eQTL effect on *ST6GALNAC4* in monocytes, associated with lower expression ($\beta = -0.1$, $P = 2.4 \times 10^{-8}$). Further work is needed to determine the functional effects of these variants on PACG susceptibility.

In summary, our expanded GWAS and replication study of PACG has identified five new susceptibility loci, thus bringing the total number of replicated loci to eight. These eight loci explain up to 1.8% of the overall disease variance in PACG, in line with observations for many complex diseases^{45,46}. These results further reinforce the potential importance of cell–cell adhesion and collagen metabolism in PACG pathogenesis. Furthermore, our observations newly implicate acetylcholine metabolism, yet uncharacterized metabolic pathways mediated through zinc-finger activation and repression of transcription, and changes in glycosylation as candidate pathways for future work aimed at identifying the mechanisms responsible for PACG susceptibility.

URLs. PLINK, <http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/~purcell/plink/>; R statistical package, <https://www.r-project.org/>; IMPUTE, https://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/impute/impute_v2.html.

METHODS

Methods and any associated references are available in the [online version of the paper](#).

Accession codes. The genome-wide association summary statistics for all SNP markers with direct microarray genotyping together with imputation fine-mapping of the significant loci are provided as the [Supplementary Data Set](#).

Note: Any Supplementary Information and Source Data files are available in the online version of the paper.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

T.A. and C.C. Khor conceived the project. T. Do, H.J., M.N., R.G., K.A.-A., R. Duvsh, L.J.C., Z.L., M.E.N., S.A.P., C.Q., H.-T.W., H. Sakai, M.B.d.M., Y.A., T.L.H.D., Y.I., R.A.P.-G., T.Z., A.C.D., J.B.J., P.O.S.T., T.A.T., H.A., F.A., S.M., P.T.K.C., L.A.A., T. Dada, T.T.L., M.S.A., N.K., B.W., Y.Y.A., J.M.-N., S.V., S.S., R.H., A.J., M.B., D.G., D.H.S., H.W., V.K.Y., L.W.Y., T.B.T., M.M., T.T.N., E.U.L., K.-H.P., W.A.W., R.S.K., C.T., Y.K., S.S.T., K.P., J.E.S., Y.H.S., A.F., M.O., J.S.M.L., V.T., C.C. Khaing, T.M., S.N., C.-Y.K., G.T., S.F., R.W., H.M., T.T.G.N., T.D.T., M.U., J.M.M., N.R., Y.M.A., R.D.R., S.A.V., S.K.F., Z.X., X.Y.C., J.N.F., K.S.S., T.T.W., D.T.Q., R.V., S. Kavitha, S.R.K., N. Soumittra, B.S., B.-A.L., J.O., J.P.C.d.V., V.P.C., R.Y.A., B.B.d.S., C.C.S., M.C.A., E.K.-J., G.B.F., V.C.T., R.F., Y.J., N. Waseem, S.L., H.N.P., S.A.-S., E.R.C., M.I.K., R. Dada, K. Mohanty, M.A.F., A.W.H., K.P.B., E.H.G., A.P., T.P., M.A.T.C., I.R.F., C.S.L., E.R., V.W.I., G.C., G.P., C.L., P.R., L.M., S.C., J.C.H.C., B.N.K.C., J.W.H.S., H.M.T., K.T.O., A.T.H., V.H.Y., X.-Y.N., F.P., D.P., P.F., J.J.W., P.M., J.H.F., R.R.A., M.A.H., R. Stead, R. Quino, S.N.Z., U.L., R. Shetty, M.Z., H.W.B., N.L.O., T.K., A.M., W.L.H., L.D., Y.H.H., C.A.K., M.K., Z.E.D., J.I.M.P., A.G., J.W.J., T.S.H., N. Srisamran, T.S., S.H.S., V.H.D., S.S.B., C.-L.H., D.T.T., R. Sihota, S.-C.L., K. Mori, S. Kinoshita, A.I.d.H., R. Qamar, Y.-X.W., Y.Y.T., E.-S.T., C.H.-M., D.L.-G., S.M.S., C.-Y.C., J.C.Z., C.P.P., H.T.T.B., O.H., J.E.C., D.P.E., M.Y., J.M.N., M.L.G.-F., L.X., R.R., A.T.L.-S., T.Y.W., S.A.-O., N.H.D., P.S., C.C.T., P.J.E., L.V., K.T., E.N.V., and N. Wang were responsible for sample collection, data analysis, and sample administration. M.L.H., M.S., E.P., S.J.D., N.V.V.C., J.B., Y.X.Z., A.K., S.T.L., S.H.C., R.P.E., A.S., K.H.P., J.A., G.B., H. Snippe, and A.B. contributed control data sets with genome-wide genotyping data. M.-C.L., A.S.C., S.R.G., Y.F.C., and E.N.V. were responsible for molecular biology work and pathological tissue staining and interpretation. The manuscript was written by C.C. Khor, with approval from all authors. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript for publication. T.A. was responsible for obtaining financial support for the study.

COMPETING FINANCIAL INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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ONLINE METHODS

Patient collections. DNA samples from all PACG cases and controls were collected after written informed consent was obtained from each participant, strictly in accordance with the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki. Details for each case–control collection are provided in the **Supplementary Note**.

Genotyping. For the GWAS discovery stage, genome-wide genotyping was performed using the Illumina 610K/660W and OmniExpress BeadChips following the manufacturer's instructions and as previously described¹.

For the replication stage, the most significantly associated SNPs from the discovery stage were genotyped using Applied Biosystems TaqMan genotyping assays as well as the Sequenom MassARRAY system, as previously described⁴⁷. We performed cross-platform concordance checks and verified > 99.9% concordance of genotypes for the SNP markers surpassing genome-wide significance reported here.

Statistical analysis. Stringent quality checks were performed on a per-SNP and per-sample basis, with removal of SNPs showing a genotyping success rate of <95% or a MAF of <1%, as well as deviation from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium ($P < 1 \times 10^{-6}$ for deviation). Samples were similarly checked, and those with a genotyping success rate of <95% were removed, as were those showing excesses heterozygosity and outliers on principal-component analysis of genetic ancestry. PACG cases were contrasted to ancestry- and geographically matched controls for each country strata, as is now routinely done in GWAS^{48–50}. PACG cases and controls appeared to be well matched in terms of ancestry for each stratum, as well as in overall assessment (**Fig. 1** and **Supplementary Figs. 10** and **11**). In the discovery stage, we analyzed a total of 745,080 SNPs with direct genotyping and > 4,500,000 SNPs with imputation. The relationship between each variable genetic SNP marker and PACG disease was measured using logistic regression with further adjustments for principal components of genetic stratification. We observed minimal overall genomic inflation in each of the discovery sample collections and in the discovery meta-analysis (overall λ_{GC} for the meta-analysis = 1.05; **Supplementary Fig. 12** and **Supplementary Table 1**). We then performed a meta-analysis of all the discovery-stage PACG collections, summarizing the data across the 16 case–control strata (**Supplementary Table 1**) using random-effects meta-analysis. We used the random-effects model to provide for more robust estimation of P values and odds ratios in the discovery stage because of the ancestrally and geographically diverse patient collections. Such an approach allows us the best chance of identifying PACG susceptibility variants shared by most of the ancestry groups.

The biological relationships of all remaining samples were then verified using the principle of variability in allele sharing. Identity-by-state information from comparisons of each sample pair was derived using PLINK software (see URLs). For each pair of individuals showing evidence of cryptic relatedness (possibly due either to inadvertent sample duplication or biologically related samples), we excluded the sample with the lower call rate from further analysis. Principal-component analysis was then undertaken to minimize spurious associations due to ancestry differences between PACG cases and controls. Plots of principal components were generated using the R statistical package (see URLs).

For both the GWAS discovery and replication stages, the association between SNP genotypes and PACG disease status was measured using score-based tests (1 degree of freedom). These general tests model additive effects of the minor allele on disease risk. They do not assume any mode of inheritance and are well described elsewhere. Each SNP genotype is coded according to allele dosage: 0 for individuals with the wild-type genotype for a given SNP, 1 for individuals heterozygous for the alternate allele, and 2 for individuals homozygous for the alternate allele.

In the GWAS discovery stage, the association analysis was also adjusted for the principal components of genetic stratification for sample collections where residual population stratification existed. Details on the overall genomic inflation factor and number of principal components used for adjustment in each of the GWAS discovery collections are provided in **Supplementary Table 1**. The genome-wide association summary statistics for all SNP markers with direct microarray genotyping together with imputation fine-mapping of the significant loci are provided as the **Supplementary Data Set**.

As the replication stage only tested a limited number of SNP markers, we were unable to adjust for population stratification in this stage. Nonetheless, association tests were performed for each stratum separately, and the cohorts were subsequently combined in meta-analysis. Meta-analysis was conducted using inverse-variance weights for each PACG case–control collection, which calculates an overall z statistic, its corresponding P value, and accompanying odds ratios for each SNP analyzed. All P values reported here are two-tailed.

At each locus, the sentinel SNP is defined as the most significant directly genotyped SNP within that locus. Independent loci are defined as loci with no LD between them (pairwise $r^2 < 0.01$) and are located more than 1 Mb apart from one another.

Genotype imputation. To improve the genetic resolution beyond that provided by the directly genotyped SNPs present on standard-content GWAS arrays, we performed imputation for the GWAS discovery sample collections using samples and SNP markers passing standard GWAS quality control checks. The imputation and phasing of genotypes were carried out using IMPUTE2 software (see URLs) with a reference panel constructed from cosmopolitan population haplotypes based on data obtained for 2,535 individuals from 26 distinct populations around the world. These data are part of the 1000 Genomes Project Phase 3 (June 2014) release. Imputed genotypes were called with an IMPUTE probability threshold of 0.90, with all other genotypes classified as missing. We applied additional quality control filters to exclude SNP markers with a call rate of <99% should the SNP have a MAF of <5% in either cases or controls. For common SNPs with MAF > 5%, the filtering criterion was set to exclude SNPs with a call rate of <95%.

Power calculation. All statistical power calculations were performed as previously described for two-stage GWAS and replication studies⁵⁰. We present these power calculations for each of the following conditions: (i) GWAS discovery stage only and (ii) GWAS discovery and replication stages (**Supplementary Table 4**).

Expression analysis. Expression of *EPDR1*, *GLIS3*, *DPM2*, *FAM102A*, *PIP5K1L1*, and *FERMT2* was assessed by semiquantitative RT–PCR using gene-specific primers (**Supplementary Table 11**) on the following human ocular tissues: sclera, cornea, lens with lens capsule, iris, trabecular meshwork, ciliary body, retina, choroid, optic nerve head, and optic nerve. Human donor eyes were obtained from the Florida Lions Eye Banks and dissected into respective ocular regions for RNA extraction and semiquantitative RT–PCR expression analysis. Ethical approval for this section of the study was granted by the Institutional Review Board of the Singapore Eye Research Institute for donor eyes procured from the Florida Lions Eye Bank. All of the investigated genes produced multiple transcripts through alternative splicing that resulted in several protein isoforms. In this study, we investigated the mRNA expression of the full-length or leading transcript that produced the ‘canonical’ protein isoform (**Supplementary Table 11**). The NCBI reference sequence from which the primer sequences were derived is indicated for each gene. Primers were selected specifically to target the mRNA and not the genomic DNA of the genes examined. All gene-specific primers therefore spanned an intron, and the sizes of the PCR products obtained (*EPDR1*, 210 bp; *GLIS3*, 247 bp; *DPM2*, 218 bp; *FAM102A*, 155 bp; *PIP5K1L1*, 189 bp; *FERMT2*, 159 bp) confirmed the amplification of mRNA. We were unable to successfully amplify a specific PCR product for the *CHAT* gene despite multiple attempts. The ocular expression of CHAT protein was therefore investigated through immunoblot and immunohistochemistry analyses in ocular tissues. Total RNA was extracted from a variety of ocular tissues (sclera, cornea, iris, trabecular meshwork, ciliary body, lens and capsule, retina, choroid, optic nerve head, and optic nerve) with TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) in accordance with the manufacturer's protocol. First-strand cDNA synthesis was performed with the SuperScript First-Strand Synthesis System for RT–PCR (Invitrogen) using random primers. Semiquantitative RT–PCR was performed according to the manufacturer's protocol, with SYBR Green Mastermix (Invitrogen) using the specified gene primers and equal amounts of cDNA template. The resulting PCR products were separated on a 2%

agarose gel and visualized by ethidium bromide staining. The ubiquitously expressed β -actin (*ACTB*) gene (primers listed in **Supplementary Table 11**) was used as an amplification and normalizing control. All RT-PCR products were resequenced to confirm that the correct template was targeted by the primer pair selected for each gene. Semiquantitative RT-PCR was performed in triplicate to confirm the expression results, and a representative image of each agarose gel is shown.

Immunoblotting. A human non-pigmented ciliary epithelial (NPCE) cell line was provided by M. Coca-Prados (Yale School of Medicine); a human trabecular meshwork (HTM) cell line was purchased from PromoCell; and a human cervical adenocarcinoma cell line (HeLa S), a human breast adenocarcinoma cell line (MCF-7), and a human embryonic kidney epithelial cell line (HEK293) together with a human retinal pigment epithelial cell line (APRE-19) were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection. All cell lines were tested for mycoplasma and were found to be negative. Cell lysates were generated by lysing individual cell lines with lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 1.0% Nonidet P-40, 0.5% deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 0.2 mM sodium orthovanadate, 10 mM sodium fluoride, 0.4 mM EDTA, and 10% glycerol). Proteins were resolved by SDS-PAGE and transferred to HyBond-C Extra nitrocellulose membranes (Amersham Life Science). Membranes were blocked in 5% nonfat milk with 10% BSA and 0.1% Tween-20 in Tris-buffered saline (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6 and 150 mM NaCl) for 1 h before incubation with antibody to choline acetyltransferase (1:500 dilution) from Pierce (PA1-9027; RI); antibody to ependymin-related protein 1 (zebrafish) (EPDR1) (1:500 dilution) from antibodies-online (AA 38-225); antibody to GLIS3 (1:250 dilution) from Sigma-Aldrich (HPA056426); antibody to FERMT2 (1:250 dilution) from Sigma-Aldrich (HPA040505); antibody to DPM2 (1:250 dilution) from Sigma-Aldrich (SAB1104864); antibody to FAM102A (1:250 dilution) from Novus Biologicals (NBP1-88808); antibody to PIP5KL1 (1:250 dilution) from Novus Biologicals (NBP2-29992); and antibody to GAPDH (1:50,000 dilution) from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (sc-25778). Blocking and blotting with antibodies were performed in 5% nonfat milk with 10% BSA and 0.1% Tween-20 in PBS for 1 h each. Horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated secondary antibodies

(GE Healthcare Biosciences) were applied to detect the bound primary antibodies, and signal was visualized with Luminata Forte Western HRP substrate (Millipore).

Immunofluorescence confocal microscopy of tissue sections. Three archival human enucleated eye globes from Singapore (Singapore General Hospital-SNEC Ophthalmic Pathology Service, SGH Department of Pathology) were retrieved for immunofluorescence analysis as normal controls. Ethical approval was provided by the Singapore Health Services Centralized Institutional Review Board. These globes were enucleated for other pathological diagnoses and did not have any intraocular disease. Immunofluorescence analysis was performed according to our previously published protocol⁶. Briefly, paraffin sections were cut at 4 μ m and fished onto coated slides, before being dewaxed. Antigen retrieval was performed using Leica Bond ER2 solution for 20 min at 100 °C. Tissue sections were then blocked using 10% FBS and 0.1% Tween-20 in PBS with 1 \times penicillin-streptomycin for 1 h at room temperature. All primary antibodies were diluted by 1:100 with blocking buffer and incubated with sections overnight at 4 °C. Sections were subsequently labeled with FITC-conjugated (1:300 dilution) anti-mouse, anti-rabbit, or anti-goat secondary antibody (Jackson Laboratories), followed by application of Vectashield with DAPI (Vector Laboratories). Stained histology sections were then coverslipped and stored in the dark at 4 °C. Images were acquired with a Leica TCS SP8 confocal microscope (Leica Microsystems) at the Advanced Bioimaging Core at the Academia, Singapore Health Services.

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