



Subsequent Event Risk in Individuals with Established Coronary Heart Disease

Design and Rationale of the GENIUS-CHD Consortium

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Subsequent Event Risk in Individuals With Established Coronary Heart Disease

Design and Rationale of the GENIUS-CHD Consortium

BACKGROUND: The Genetics of Subsequent Coronary Heart Disease (GENIUS-CHD) consortium was established to facilitate discovery and validation of genetic variants and biomarkers for risk of subsequent CHD events, in individuals with established CHD.

METHODS: The consortium currently includes 57 studies from 18 countries, recruiting 185 614 participants with either acute coronary syndrome, stable CHD, or a mixture of both at baseline. All studies collected biological samples and followed-up study participants prospectively for subsequent events.

RESULTS: Enrollment into the individual studies took place between 1985 to present day with a duration of follow-up ranging from 9 months to 15 years. Within each study, participants with CHD are predominantly of self-reported European descent (38%–100%), mostly male (44%–91%) with mean ages at recruitment ranging from 40 to 75 years. Initial feasibility analyses, using a federated analysis approach, yielded expected associations between age (hazard ratio, 1.15; 95% CI, 1.14–1.16) per 5-year increase, male sex (hazard ratio, 1.17; 95% CI, 1.13–1.21) and smoking (hazard ratio, 1.43; 95% CI, 1.35–1.51) with risk of subsequent CHD death or myocardial infarction and differing associations with other individual and composite cardiovascular endpoints.

CONCLUSIONS: GENIUS-CHD is a global collaboration seeking to elucidate genetic and nongenetic determinants of subsequent event risk in individuals with established CHD, to improve residual risk prediction and identify novel drug targets for secondary prevention. Initial analyses demonstrate the feasibility and reliability of a federated analysis approach. The consortium now plans to initiate and test novel hypotheses as well as supporting replication and validation analyses for other investigators.

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Key Words: coronary artery disease ■ genetics ■ myocardial infarction ■ prognosis ■ secondary prevention

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Major public health initiatives and policy changes, along with advances in drug and interventional therapies have significantly reduced cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in most high-income countries.^{1–3} However, the improved survival rates following an initial presentation with coronary heart disease (CHD) has, paradoxically, led to a growing number of patients living with established CHD (eg, 16M in the United States and 3M in the United Kingdom)^{4,5} who remain at substantially high risk of subsequent cardiovascular events. These include myocardial infarction (MI), repeated revascularizations but also heart failure, stroke, and sudden death.⁴

Despite a large body of knowledge on the pathophysiology of first CHD events in general populations,^{6,7} little is known about factors that influence disease progression or subsequent events in patients with established CHD, beyond those consequent to the acute index event in the short-term (such as biomarkers of myocardial dysfunction or necrosis, left ventricular function, or arrhythmia).⁸ As a result, although guidelines and treatment thresholds have progressively evolved over the past 2 decades, the targeted risk factors per se have remained largely unaltered.⁹ Novel therapies beyond lipid lowering, antiplatelet agents, and drugs recommended for high blood pressure and heart failure have been slow to emerge. Importantly, multiple novel and existing agents (eg, darapladib, varespladib, and folic acid) have failed in very late stage clinical development despite promising observational data.^{10–13} In contrast, some traditional risk factors, such as obesity, which show robust associations with initial CHD onset,¹⁴ continue to show inverse or null associations with subsequent events once CHD has developed.¹⁵

Ultimately, the high (residual) risk in individuals with existing CHD despite optimal contemporary therapy emphasizes the need for studying risk of subsequent events and their related causal pathways. For example, in the intervention arm of the IMPROVE-IT study (Vytorin Efficacy International Trial), despite simvastatin and ezetimibe treatment following an acute coronary syndrome, at 7 years, almost a third of participants experienced the primary end point (a composite of cardiovascular death, major coronary event, coronary revascularization, or nonfatal stroke).¹⁶ Similarly, in the FOURIER trial (Further Cardiovascular Outcomes Research with PCSK9 [proprotein convertase subtilisin-kexin type 9] Inhibition in Subjects with Elevated Risk), almost 10% of patients with established but stable CVD, experienced an event at 2.2 years despite high-intensity statin and PCSK9 inhibition, with achieved median LDL-C (low-density lipoprotein cholesterol) levels of 30 mg/dL.¹⁷ These data point to the existence of risk factors beyond traditional ones such as LDL-C, and the need to elucidate their related causal pathways.¹⁸ By studying those with established CHD at high risk of

subsequent events, we plan to gain novel insights into other drivers of atherosclerosis or features that identify patients who may benefit most from novel therapies.⁹ Genetic and biomarker studies in these individuals may help identify novel molecular pathways and future drug targets with the goal of advancing precision medicine.

In the absence of a single-large resource to study the determinants of coronary heart disease prognosis, we have established the Genetics of Subsequent CHD (GENIUS-CHD) consortium.¹⁹ Assembling studies from across the globe that have recruited patients with different types of CHD at baseline, have acquired prospective follow-up, and have stored biological specimens, or genetic data, the consortium aims to: (1) investigate genetic and nongenetic determinants of risk for subsequent CHD, systematically and at scale and (2) facilitate access to data and expertise, as a platform to foster collaboration among investigators working in the field.

Here, we describe the design of the consortium, including details of participating studies, available data, and samples, as well as the governance procedures and the consortium's approach to data sharing and collaboration to further advance the stated scientific aims. In addition, we present some early findings from an investigation of the association of patient characteristics and certain routinely recorded measures on the risk of subsequent events among patients with different types of CHD at baseline.

METHODS

In accordance with Transparency and Openness Promotion Guidelines, the data, analytic methods, and study materials will be made available to other researchers for purposes of reproducing the results or replicating the procedures. Participating studies received local institutional review board approval and included patients who had provided informed consent at the time of enrollment. The central analysis sites also received waivers from their local institutional review board for collating and analyzing summary-level data from these individual studies. Full details on the eligibility criteria, definitions of terminology, management of the consortium, and planned projects are provided in Materials in the [Data Supplement](#).

RESULTS

The design and structure of the GENIUS-CHD consortium are presented in Figure 1. Studies meeting the main eligibility criteria were identified and invited to participate (Methods in the [Data Supplement](#)). In brief, studies are eligible to join the GENIUS-CHD consortium if they meet 3 inclusion criteria: (1) included individuals with established CHD (defined as the presence of or confirmed history of acute coronary syndrome at baseline, or of coronary artery disease as evidenced by any revascularization procedure (percutaneous coronary

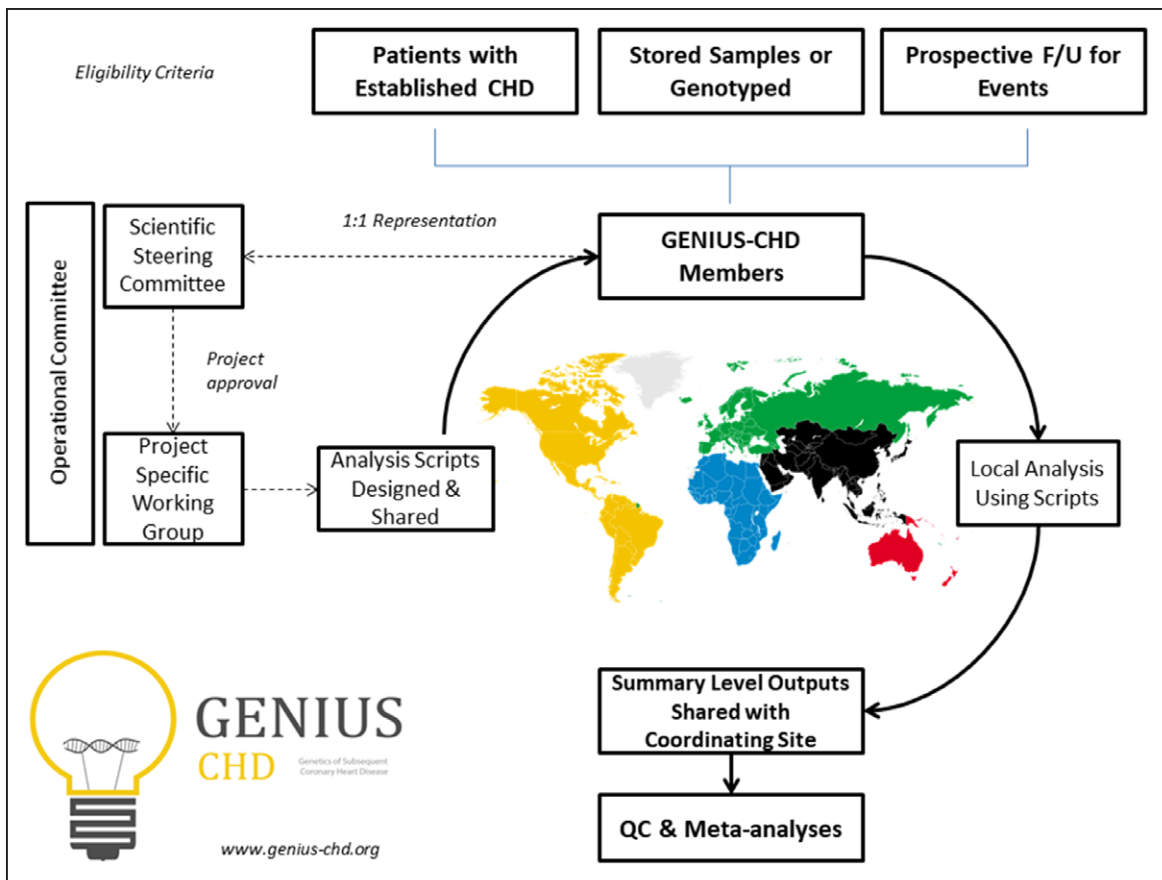


Figure 1. Overview of the Genetics of Subsequent Coronary Heart Disease (GENIUS-CHD) consortium, illustrating inclusion criteria and governance structure.

Following project approval by the steering committee, analyses scripts are prepared and distributed to all members, with sharing of summary-level outputs before meta-analysis at the coordinating centers. Further details can be found at www.genius-chd.org. QC indicates quality control.

intervention or bypass surgery) or demonstrable plaque in any epicardial vessel on direct coronary imaging); (2) acquired prospective follow-up of participants with ascertainment of one or more subsequent cardiovascular disease events as well as all-cause mortality; and (3) had stored blood samples, which are viable and suitable for DNA and biomarker analysis or previously collected such data before sample depletion.

At the time of writing, 57 studies from 18 countries are participating in the consortium and are listed in Table 1. Please refer to www.genius-chd.org for an updated list. Brief narrative descriptions of each study are provided in Methods in the [Data Supplement](#).

The majority of studies are either investigator-led clinical cohorts ($n=42$), but clinical trials ($n=10$) and nested case-cohort (inception-study design) studies ($n=5$) are also included. Of the total, 23 studies have included participants at the time of an acute coronary syndrome, while the remainder recruited those with stable CHD or a mixture of the 2 (eg, from cardiac catheterization labs). Collectively, 185 614 participants have been enrolled with CHD at baseline (including 812 803 person-years of follow-up); of which 170 343 are of self-reported European descent. Recruitment times varied

between studies, ranging from the earliest recruitment in 1985 to studies that remain actively recruiting to the present day. All studies enrolled patients >18 years of age, although one study exclusively recruited only those with premature CHD (MI <45 years), while another recruited only older subjects (>70 years). The overall mean age within each study reflects this heterogeneity, ranging from 40 to 75 years of age, and proportion of male sex ranging from 44% to 91% (Table 1).

Available Data

Core Phenotypes

All studies collected data on age, sex, and ethnicity. Risk factor data are available for diabetes mellitus, obesity, and smoking status in almost all participating studies (96%), while data on concentrations of routine blood lipids (total cholesterol, LDL-C, HDL-C [high-density lipoprotein cholesterol], and triglycerides; 84%), and blood pressure values at enrollment (82%) were collected by the majority of studies. Data on statin use at baseline are available in 90% of all participating studies (Table 2).

Table 1. Overview of Each Study Participating in the GENIUS-CHD Consortium

Alias	Cohort Name	Country	Study Design	Recruitment Period	CHD Type	Total Recruited With CHD	European Ancestry (%)	Europeans Recruited With CHD	Mean Follow-Up Time (SD)	Age (SD)	Male (%)	PubMed ID
4C	Clinical Cohorts in Coronary disease Collaboration	United Kingdom	Clinical Cohort	2009–2014	CAD	3345	54.8	1832	2.56 (0.95)	61.8 (12.14)	61.5	NA
AGNES	Arrhythmia Genetics in The Netherlands	The Netherlands	Clinical Cohort	2001–2005	ACS	1459	100.0	1459	6.73 (4.75)	57.8 (10.73)	79.2	20622880
ANGES	Angiography and Genes Study	Finland	Clinical Cohort	2002–2005	Mixed	588	100.0	588	8.20 (4.47)	64.1 (9.59)	65.5	21640993
ATVB	Italian Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology Group	Italy	Clinical Cohort	1997–2006	ACS	1741	100.0	1741	10.47 (4.45)	40.0 (4.40)	90.8	21757122
CABGenomics	CABG Genomics	United States	Clinical Cohort	2001–2014	Mixed	2694	85.5	2303	6.9 (3.5)	64.4 (10.38)	79	25649697
CARDIOLINES	Cardiolines	The Netherlands	Clinical Cohort	2011	Mixed	1269	75.0	1692	1.3 (0.5)	63.5 (11.6)	72.8	NA
CDCS	Coronary Disease Cohort Study	New Zealand	Clinical Cohort	2002–2009	ACS	2139	91.4	1956	5.21 (2.15)	67.4 (12.01)	71.3	20400779
COGEN	The Copenhagen Cardiovascular Genetic study	Denmark	Clinical Cohort	2011–2017	Mixed	3709	95.0	3904	5.5 (1.01)	70.1 (17.4)	67.5	In press
COROGENE	Corogene Study	Finland	Clinical Cohort	2006–2008	ACS	1489	100.0	1489	7.7 (0.5)	64.7 (11.88)	70.9	21642350
CTMM	Circulating Cells	The Netherlands	Clinical Cohort	2009–2011	Mixed	713	96.5	688	0.97 (0.37)	62.6 (10.08)	69	23975238
CURE	Cure-Genetics Study	Canada	RCT	1998–2000	ACS	12434	82.1	10203	0.78 (0.28)	65.4 (11.19)	61.4	11102254
EGCUT	Estonian Biobank	Estonia	Population	2002–2011	CAD	2783	100.0	2783	6.65 (2.93)	66.6 (10.99)	51.5	24518929
EMORY	Emory Cardiovascular Biobank	United States	Clinical Cohort	2004	Mixed	5873	72.0	4229	4.49 (3.15)	65.4 (11.74)	68.7	20729229
ERICO	Estratégia de Registro de Insuficiência Coronariana	Brazil	Clinical Cohort	2009–2014	ACS	738	61.0	450	2.85 (1.48)	63.8 (13.35)	56	23644870
FASTMI2005	The French Registry of Acute ST-elevation MI	France	Clinical Cohort	2005	ACS	3669	100.0	3669	1.72 (0.63)	67.3 (13.94)	68.5	17893635
FINCAVAS	Finnish Cardiovascular Study	Finland	Clinical Cohort	2001–2008	Mixed	1671	100.0	1671	8.57 (3.99)	60.9 (11.04)	69.4	16515696
FRISII	FRISII Study	Sweden	RCT	1996–1998	ACS	3147	99.3	3125	7.46 (2.09)	66.3 (9.82)	69.5	10475181
GENDEMIP	Genetic Determination of Myocardial Infarction in Prague	Czech Republic	Clinical Cohort	2006–2009	ACS	1302	100.0	1302	1.13 (0.78)	56.5 (8.66)	74.4	23249639
GENEBANK	Cleveland Clinic Genebank Study	United States	Clinical Cohort	2001–2007	Mixed	2345	100.0	2345	3.00 (0.00)	61.5 (11.06)	74.3	21475195
GENESIS-PRAXY	Gender and Sex Determinants of Cardiovascular Disease: From Bench to Beyond-Premature Acute Coronary Syndrome	Canada	Clinical Cohort	2009–2013	ACS	784	99.4	779	1.00 (0.00)	48.3 (5.62)	69.1	22607849
GENOCOR	Genetic Mapping for Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk	Italy	Clinical Cohort	2007–2010	Mixed	497	100.0	497	5.68 (1.20)	65.2 (8.47)	86.7	22717531
GEVAMI	The Genetic Causes to Ventricular Arrhythmia in Patients During First ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction	Denmark	Clinical Cohort	2011	ACS	1033	100.0	1033	3.93 (1.40)	59.5 (10.37)	79.3	25559012
GoDARTS incident	Genetics of Diabetes Audit and Research in Tayside Scotland (I)	Scotland	Population	2004–2012	CAD	1261	99.8	1258	3.47 (2.95)	71.3 (10.91)	61.1	29025058
GoDARTS prevalent	Genetics of Diabetes Audit and Research in Tayside Scotland (P)	Scotland	Population	2004–2012	CAD	2514	99.7	2507	6.48 (3.06)	69.1 (9.41)	65.9	29025058

(Continued)

Table 1. Continued

Alias	Cohort Name	Country	Study Design	Recruitment Period	CHD Type	Total Recruited With CHD	European Ancestry (%)	Europeans Recruited With CHD	Mean Follow-Up Time (SD)	Age (SD)	Male (%)	PubMed ID
TNT	Treating to New Targets	Canada	RCT	1998–1999	CAD	10 000	94.1	9409	4.36 (1.47)	61.1 (8.82)	81.6	15755765
TRIUMPH	Translational Research Investigating Underlying Disparities in Acute Myocardial Infarction Patients' Health Status	United States	Clinical Cohort	2005–2008	ACS	2062	100.0	2062	0.97 (0.15)	59.8 (12.10)	72.2	21772003
UCORBIO	Utrecht Coronary Biobank	The Netherlands	Clinical Cohort	2011–2014	Mixed	1493	72.4	1081	1.6 (0.9)	65.4 (10.27)	75.6	NA
UCP	Utrecht Cardiovascular Pharmacogenetics Study	The Netherlands	Clinical Cohort	1985–2010	Mixed	1508	100.0	1508	8.00 (4.16)	64.1 (9.97)	75.4	25652526
UKB	UK Biobank	United Kingdom	Population	2006–2010	CAD	12 045	94.2	11 342	6.39 (1.72)	69.9 (6.07)	80.6	1001779
VHS	Verona Heart Study	Italy	Clinical Cohort	1996–	CAD	939	100.0	939	5.62 (2.97)	61.3 (9.74)	81	10984565
VIVIT	Vorarlberg Institute for Vascular Investigation and Treatment Study	Austria	Clinical Cohort	1999–2008	CAD	1447	99.8	1444	7.43 (2.91)	64.5 (10.45)	72	24265174
WARSAW ACS	Warsaw ACS Genetic Registry	Poland	Clinical Cohort	2008–2011	ACS	681	100.0	681	2.97 (1.16)	63.5 (11.84)	74.2	NA
WTCC	WTCCC CAD Study	United Kingdom	Clinical Cohort	1998–2003	Mixed	1926	100.0	1926	10.05 (2.81)	60.0 (8.13)	79.3	16380912, 17634449

Alias denotes the abbreviated name of study used in figures and analyses. PubMed IDs are provided for individual study descriptions; mean (SD) with proportions (%) are provided unless otherwise stated. ACS indicates acute coronary syndrome; CAD, coronary artery disease; GENIUS-CHD, Genetics of Subsequent Coronary Heart Disease; and RCT, randomized controlled trial.

Additional Phenotypes

A list of selected additional phenotypes available by study is presented in Table I in the [Data Supplement](#). Of note, 79% have available data on plasma CRP (C-reactive protein), while coronary disease burden information, from invasive angiography is available in 52% of studies. Finally, over a third of studies have also collected data on physical activity (38%) and socioeconomic status (37%).

Samples

Stored samples are available in most studies for future assay testing and stored frozen. The majority have stored plasma (75%), while others also have serum, blood EDTA, RNA, and urine (Table II in the [Data Supplement](#)).

DNA and Genotyping

More than two-thirds of the studies have DNA still available, either preextracted or as whole blood collected in EDTA and stored for future genotyping. All studies within the consortium have performed genotyping in some capacity, with genome-wide data available in a subset of studies (Table III in the [Data Supplement](#)).

Subsequent Events and Follow-Up

The most commonly collected end point was all-cause death, collected by all but 2 studies. CHD death during follow-up was collected in 70% of studies, while incident MI was reported by 82% of studies. Studies ascertained end points through different means, including telephone contact, in-person patient interviews, clinical chart reviews, and linkage to national mortality registers and hospital records (Table IV in the [Data Supplement](#)).

Power Calculations

Empirical power was estimated based on a conservative sample size of 150 000 subjects with an event rate of 10% (across the entire follow-up period with a mean of about 5 years); Figure 2. Given that the GENIUS-CHD consortium is designed to answer multiple questions, power was estimated for a range of genetic single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and nongenetic (biomarkers and clinical risk factors) effects.

Minor allele frequencies of 0.01, 0.05, 0.10, and 0.25 were examined, representing rare to common SNPs. For each minor allele frequency, power was calculated for a range of plausible SNP effects on biomarkers (mean difference [μ] 0.01, 0.03, and 0.05) and clinical end points (odds ratios of 1.02, 1.05, and 1.10). For the association of SNPs with biomarkers, power was 80% ($\alpha=0.05$) or more unless the SNP was rare (minor allele frequency of 0.01) or the effect size was small (eg, 0.01 per allele). For the association of SNPs with clinical end points, power was close to 80% when the effect size was large (odds ratio ≥ 1.10) or the minor allele frequency was ≥ 0.10 .

Table 2. Participant Characteristics of Each Study Contributing to GENIUS-CHD

Alias	BMI, kg/m ² (SD)	Systolic BP (SD)	Diastolic BP (SD)	Diabetes mellitus (%)	Current Smoking (%)	Total cholesterol (SD), mmol/L	LDL-C (SD), mmol/L	HDL-C (SD), mmol/L	Creatinine (SD)	Statin use (%)	Prior Revascularization (%)	Prior MI (%)
4C	30.2 (5.7)	133.8 (23)	77.9 (12.2)	21.8	19.1	4.64 (1.10)	NA	1.309 (0.42)	98.7 (81)	24.7	20.6	14.1
AGNES	26.6 (3.9)	NA	NA	7.9	61.0	5.26 (1.04)	3.25 (1.01)	1.198 (0.45)	NA	10.0	0.0	0.0
ANGES	28.1 (4.4)	NA	NA	30.8	14.7	4.71 (0.84)	2.68 (0.77)	1.166 (0.33)	83.0 (37)	69.4	42.4	24.7
ATVB	26.8 (4.0)	132.4 (21)	83.5 (13.5)	8.2	79.5	5.83 (1.39)	NA	1.080 (0.33)	NA	55.4	NA	NA
CABGenomics	29.8 (5.6)	NA	NA	9.0	10.3	4.32 (0.94)	2.13 (0.85)	1.085 (0.35)	NA	74.1	NA	37.0
CARDIOLINES	26.9 (3.8)	134.4 (23)	84.34 (14.6)	NA	0.6	5.43 (1.1)	3.84 (1.0)	1.16 (0.3)	73.09 (15)	NA	NA	NA
CDCS	27.3 (4.7)	129.1 (22)	74.6 (11.7)	15.2	5.8	5.01 (1.09)	2.95 (1.03)	1.175 (0.34)	100.8 (41)	46.0	26.5	30.4
COGEN	NA	NA	NA	16.7	26.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
COROGENE	27.6 (4.8)	NA	NA	18.2	34.4	4.58 (0.99)	2.43 (0.88)	1.250 (0.37)	84.0 (46)	5.2	NA	NA
CTMM	27.6 (4.4)	135.5 (19)	77.4 (11.2)	21.0	20.9	4.54 (1.06)	2.59 (0.98)	1.135 (0.32)	86.2 (40)	NA	NA	30.3
CURE	27.7 (4.5)	135.1 (22)	77.1 (13.6)	20.9	23.0	NA	NA	NA	93.1 (35)	NA	14.8	31.7
EGCUT	29.0 (5.2)	135.7 (18)	80.4 (10.6)	18.9	19.8	5.70 (1.17)	3.84 (1.08)	1.340 (0.35)	NA	27.7	15.4	35.3
EMORY	29.8 (6.7)	137.0 (22)	75.0 (15.0)	34.2	7.8	4.49 (1.04)	2.42 (0.93)	1.090 (0.34)	100.2 (56)	74.2	59.6	26.8
ERICO	27.0 (5.1)	134.8 (32)	99.4 (38.0)	39.4	31.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	23.8	11.7	26.2
FASTMI2005	27.2 (4.8)	139.9 (28)	80.0 (17.0)	35.9	29.1	5.03 (1.22)	3.03 (1.07)	1.239 (0.43)	103.4 (62)	74.1	NA	18.2
FINCAVAS	27.8 (4.3)	140.2 (22)	82.2 (10.6)	18.4	24.3	4.70 (0.90)	2.62 (0.80)	1.300 (0.39)	90.8 (70)	57.3	32.6	39.0
FRISII	26.8 (3.9)	143.4 (23)	82.0 (10.6)	12.8	27.0	5.81 (1.12)	3.72 (0.99)	1.151 (0.36)	90.6 (19)	12.3	12.1	27.2
GENDEMIP	28.6 (4.7)	137.1 (21)	84.0 (10.8)	19.0	61.0	5.42 (1.16)	3.58 (1.09)	1.183 (0.33)	NA	16.7	30.2	40.8
GENEBANK	29.4 (5.4)	132.7 (21)	75.0 (12.0)	11.8	16.8	4.38 (0.93)	2.51 (0.82)	0.903 (0.26)	NA	71.8	65.3	56.1
GENESIS-PRAXY	29.5 (6.5)	139.5 (27)	86.2 (17.2)	13.9	44.2	4.87 (1.19)	2.89 (1.13)	0.966 (0.30)	75.9 (20)	92.9	11.4	11.5
GENOCOR	NA	129.5 (20)	75.4 (11.1)	13.3	64.4	4.82 (0.92)	3.10 (0.83)	1.082 (0.28)	94.8 (27)	72.1	13.7	63.2
GEVAMI	27.2 (4.3)	124.8 (18)	73.2 (11.1)	8.9	52.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	13.4	0.0	0.0
GoDARTSincident	29.8 (5.6)	126.7 (17)	NA	70.9	NA	4.57 (1.02)	2.43 (0.91)	1.277 (0.41)	107.0 (65)	49.6	0.2	1.2
GoDARTSprevalent	30.2 (5.4)	136.0 (20)	NA	75.8	14.5	4.37 (0.84)	2.04 (0.74)	1.320 (0.38)	101.0 (34)	66.3	30.2	46.8
GRACE_B	27.0 (4.3)	138.3 (25)	78.7 (14.6)	81.1	49.3	5.19 (1.20)	3.06 (1.09)	1.343 (0.98)	102.6 (63)	79.4	NA	80.5
GRACE_UK	27.9 (5.0)	137.9 (27)	76.4 (16.5)	13.9	69.2	5.20 (1.27)	3.07 (1.14)	1.204 (0.49)	101.5 (38)	14.5	20.2	30.0
IDEAL	27.3 (3.8)	136.9 (20)	80.4 (10.2)	11.9	20.7	5.09 (1.00)	3.14 (0.90)	1.192 (0.31)	100.6 (17)	75.5	40.9	100.0
INTERMOUNTAIN	29.5 (6.1)	141.8 (24)	81.1 (13.3)	20.3	10.2	4.91 (1.12)	2.76 (0.94)	1.048 (0.35)	99.6 (67)	38.7	NA	6.6
INVEST	29.4 (5.6)	148.4 (18)	82.4 (10.5)	24.3	13.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	52.7	48.1	23.3
JUMC	26.3 (4.5)	148.2 (25)	80.3 (12.4)	36.1	27.5	4.97 (1.08)	3.11 (1.14)	1.232 (0.37)	91.3 (42)	87.5	49.8	39.9
KAROLA	26.9 (3.3)	120.0 (16)	73.1 (9.1)	18.6	31.8	4.44 (0.84)	2.61 (0.76)	1.030 (0.28)	82.7 (28)	77.0	42.8	22.4

(Continued)

Table 2. Continued

Alias	BMI, kg/m ² (SD)	Systolic BP (SD)	Diastolic BP (SD)	Diabetes mellitus (%)	Current Smoking (%)	Total cholesterol (SD), mmol/L	LDL-C (SD), mmol/L	HDL-C (SD), mmol/L	Creatinine (SD)	Statin use (%)	Prior Revascularization (%)	Prior MI (%)
LIFE-Heart	28.9 (4.7)	139.0 (22)	80.0 (12.9)	33.9	27.8	5.16 (1.19)	3.12 (1.05)	1.227 (0.35)	88.8 (34)	45.8	NA	13.3
LURIC	27.5 (4.0)	142.2 (24)	81.0 (11.5)	44.1	24.6	4.94 (0.99)	2.98 (0.89)	0.965 (0.26)	88.7 (38)	58.9	48.3	57.8
MDCS	25.8 (4.0)	141.1 (20)	85.6 (10.0)	4.4	26.6	6.17 (1.1)	4.16 (1.0)	1.38 (0.4)	84.76 (16)	0.03	0.00	0.00
NE_POLAND	24.8 (3.8)	138.7 (27)	88.1 (15.6)	22.3	48.5	5.12 (1.04)	3.31 (0.97)	1.126 (0.34)	92.0 (36)	81.2	1.7	11.2
NEAPOLIS	28.0 (4.2)	129.4 (14)	75.7 (7.7)	42.7	26.9	4.49 (1.03)	2.45 (0.99)	1.233 (0.66)	101.0 (68)	82.6	41.9	40.9
OHGS	28.5 (4.9)	132.2 (19)	72.1 (11.3)	5.5	19.3	5.57 (1.05)	3.46 (0.88)	1.222 (0.34)	89.1 (21)	91.6	27.8	23.3
PERGENE	27.5 (3.5)	136.9 (15)	81.8 (8.1)	12.7	14.7	5.41 (1.04)	NA	NA	86.5 (26)	55.3	54.6	65.4
PLATO	28.2 (4.5)	135.6 (22)	79.5 (12.9)	22.8	35.2	5.40 (1.23)	3.27 (1.11)	1.279 (0.35)	85.6 (26)	79.7	15.1	20.6
PMI	26.5 (3.8)	116.5 (16)	66.5 (9.6)	12.5	28.0	5.97 (1.19)	3.98 (1.07)	NA	88.0 (28)	44.6	NA	18.4
POPular	27.2 (4.1)	144.9 (22)	81.4 (12.1)	19.0	27.6	4.56 (0.94)	2.73 (1.15)	1.260 (0.32)	92.7 (27)	80.7	32.9	43.6
POPular Genetics	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
PROSPER	26.6 (3.9)	150.0 (22)	81.1 (11.4)	10.4	17.3	5.55 (0.84)	3.74 (0.74)	1.174 (0.31)	109.2 (23)	0.0	26.5	86.9
RISCA	27.2 (4.4)	NA	NA	19.8	30.4	NA	NA	NA	100.6 (29)	46.6	28.3	27.8
SHEEP	26.8 (4.0)	131.8 (21)	79.6 (10.3)	18.2	50.1	6.20 (1.16)	4.22 (1.01)	1.082 (0.31)	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0
SMART	27.4 (3.7)	137.0 (19)	80.1 (10.8)	17.1	24.2	4.66 (0.95)	2.64 (0.88)	1.231 (0.72)	92.3 (23)	77.5	100.0	44.5
STABILITY	29.9 (5.0)	131.7 (16)	79.1 (10.0)	38.4	21.4	NA	2.25 (0.85)	1.216 (0.32)	NA	97.3	74.6	58.6
THI	29.6 (5.6)	NA	NA	30.4	21.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	57.2	21.7	16.7
TNT	28.5 (4.5)	130.7 (17)	77.9 (9.4)	14.2	13.3	4.53 (0.61)	2.52 (0.45)	1.223 (0.28)	104.5 (17)	70.1	NA	58.2
TRIUMPH	29.6 (6.0)	117.7 (18)	68.1 (10.9)	29.1	37.4	NA	2.70 (1.02)	1.037 (0.33)	113.7 (81)	89.0	27.2	18.5
UCORBIO	27.2 (4.3)	NA	NA	21.4	23.1	4.80 (1.18)	2.64 (1.05)	1.205 (0.33)	92.0 (45)	63.9	NA	29.0
UCP	NA	153.4 (25)	87.1 (13.3)	NA	NA	5.66 (1.10)	3.36 (1.01)	1.244 (0.33)	94.7 (25)	27.0	NA	NA
UKB	29.4 (4.9)	139.1 (20)	78.7 (10.9)	22.2	75.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	82.9	59.6	36.7
VHS	26.8 (3.6)	NA	NA	18.4	69.1	5.51 (1.13)	3.69 (1.00)	1.175 (0.30)	96.7 (32)	46.4	17.6	59.4
VIVIT	27.4 (4.1)	137.4 (19)	80.6 (10.9)	31.0	19.4	5.36 (1.15)	3.33 (1.02)	1.348 (0.40)	89.9 (41)	49.9	20.6	30.4
WARSAW ACS	28.1 (4.7)	128.0 (23)	76.2 (13.2)	21.8	42.4	4.98 (1.06)	2.99 (1.02)	1.105 (0.33)	93.5 (44)	NA	NA	18.9
WTCC	27.6 (4.2)	143.6 (22)	84.3 (12.3)	11.7	12.8	5.31 (0.98)	3.12 (0.90)	1.198 (0.38)	NA	71.6	67.2	72.0

Data were collected through a federated analysis. Alias denotes the abbreviated name of study used in figures and analyses. Mean (SD) and proportions (%) are provided unless otherwise stated. BMI indicates body mass index; BP, blood pressure; GENIUS-CHD, Genetics of Subsequent Coronary Heart Disease; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; MI, myocardial infarction; and NA, not applicable.

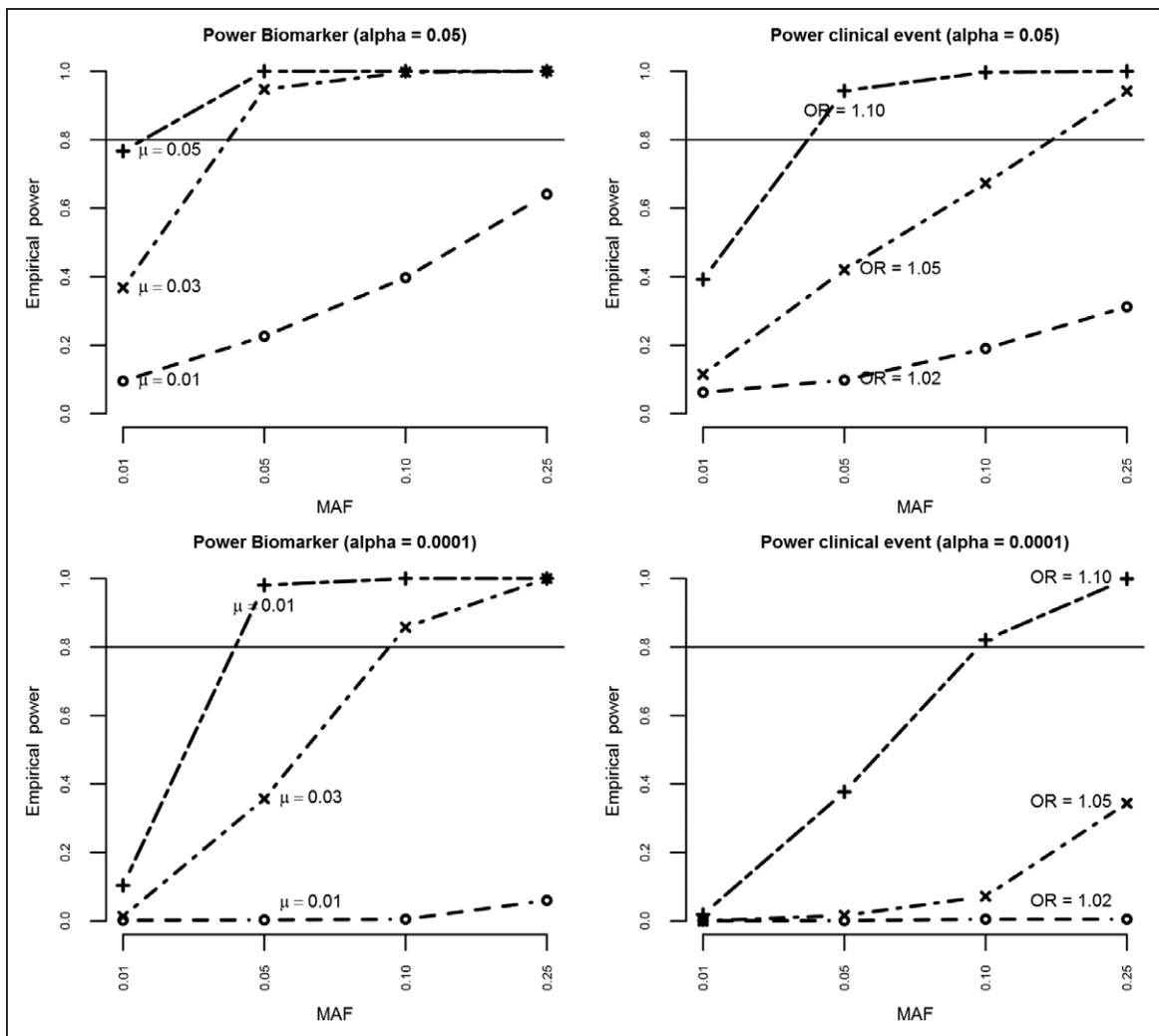


Figure 2. Figure illustrating empirical power for detecting different effect sizes for biomarker variance and clinical events for both $\alpha = 0.05$ and 0.0001 , by varying minor allele frequencies, for a conservative total number of 150 000 with an event rate of 10%. MAF indicates minor allele frequency; and OR, odds ratio.

Power of observational (ie, nongenetic) analysis was $>99\%$ for both continuous and binary exposures unless the odds ratio was close to 1. In addition to continuous and binary outcome data, GENIUS-CHD also collects time-to-event data. Given the similarity (in most empirical settings) between odds ratio and hazard ratios,²⁰ similar power is to be expected for time-to-event analysis.

Initial Analysis

To examine the feasibility of the federated analysis approach, we sought to collect data on participant characteristics, cardiovascular and mortality outcomes and association analyses with common clinical exposures. A standardized dataset was developed, with a federated analysis conducted using standardized statistical scripts. The summary-level outputs generated were then shared with the coordinating centers for aggregating and meta-analysis (Methods in the [Data Supplement](#)).

Participant Characteristics

Detailed characteristics of participants by study are presented in Table 2. Prevalence of risk factors varied by study, with diabetes mellitus ranging from 4% to 76%; smoking from 8% to 79%. Mean total cholesterol by study ranged from 166.3 to 239.8 mg/dL, mean body mass index ranged from 24.8 to 30.2 kg/m² and mean systolic blood pressure from 117 to 153 mmHg. The proportion of participants with prior revascularization or MI was high in most studies reflecting the inclusion criteria for the consortium (Table 2).

Review of returned outputs from the federated analysis revealed good quality data with estimates falling within expected ranges for age, sex, and other variables, such as body mass index (Figure I in the [Data Supplement](#)).

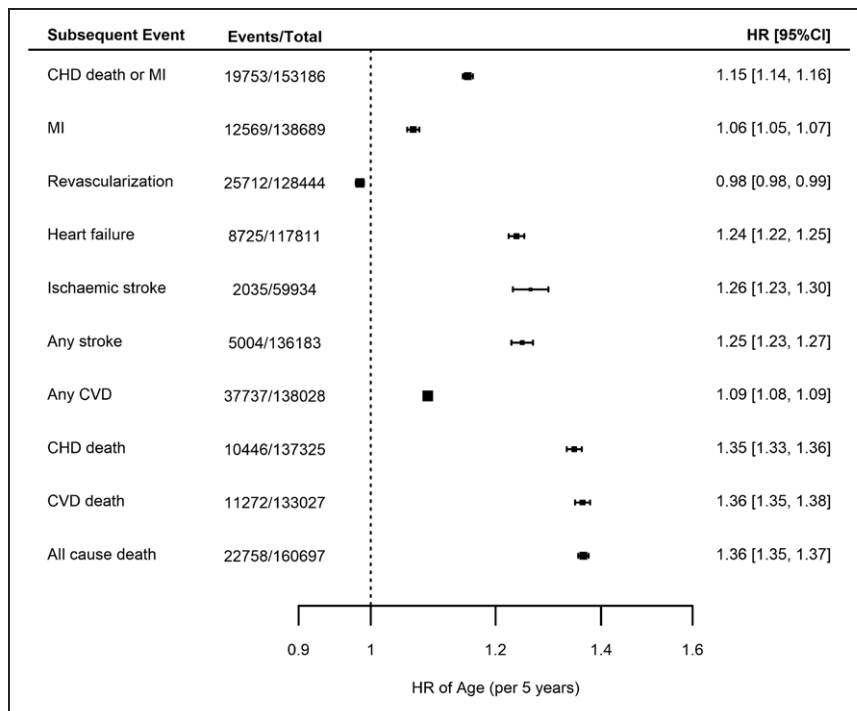


Figure 3. Meta-analyses of the associations between age (per 5-year intervals) and different end points, adjusted for sex. Estimates are presented as hazard ratios (HRs) with 95% CI. CHD indicates coronary heart disease; CVD, cardiovascular disease; and MI myocardial infarction.

End Points

The primary end point preselected for the study was a composite of coronary death or MI (CHD death/MI). Mean follow-up was estimated in each study and ranged between 9 months and 15 years. In total, we estimated over 748 000 person-years of follow-up were available for the primary end point analysis.

Information was collected on 10 subsequent event end points in the initial feasibility analysis. Across all studies, the most frequently occurring event during prospective follow-up was the composite of all cardiovascular events (27%); followed by revascularization (21.8%); all-cause mortality (15%); coronary death or MI (14.2%); MI (10.7%); cardiovascular death (8.3%); coronary death (8%); heart failure (6.3%); all stroke (3.6%); and ischemic stroke (3.4%).

Association Analyses

As a feasibility analysis, we examined associations between age, male sex, and smoking with the primary end point CHD death/MI as well as with the 9 other secondary end points, to investigate any differential associations across discrete subsequent events.

In analyses unrestricted by race or type of CHD at baseline, but adjusted for sex, there was a strong association between each 5-year increment in age with subsequent risk of the primary end point of CHD death/MI (hazard ratio [HR] 1.15; 95% CI, 1.14–1.16). The largest observed HRs were for all-cause mortality (HR, 1.36; 95% CI, 1.35–1.37), cardiovascular death (HR,

1.36; 95% CI, 1.35–1.38), and heart failure (HR, 1.25; 95% CI, 1.24–1.27), while a smaller risk increase was observed for MI (HR, 1.06; 95% CI, 1.05–1.07). The risk of future revascularization, however, showed a modest inverse association with increasing age (HR, 0.98; 95% CI, 0.98–0.99; Figure 3).

Male sex was a risk factor for CHD death/MI (HR, 1.17; 95% CI, 1.13–1.21) and other coronary and mortality end points (Figure 4) after adjustment for age. In particular, the largest observed HR was for risk of revascularization, which was considerably higher in males (HR, 1.24; 95% CI, 1.20–1.27). In contrast, there was no strong evidence for an association between male sex and risk of stroke (ischemic or any stroke; Figure 4).

Finally, in analyses adjusted for age and sex, current smoking (compared to prior or never smoking) at the time of enrollment showed a strong association with risk of future CHD death/MI (HR, 1.43; 95% CI, 1.35–1.51). Similarly, smoking was associated with an increased risk of all-cause mortality (HR, 1.53; 95% CI, 1.47–1.58) and an increased risk of all other end points, although there was no strong evidence for an association with incident revascularization (HR, 1.02; 95% CI, 0.99–1.05; Figure 5).

When stratified by type of CHD at enrollment, that is, among those presenting with an acute event, those with stable CAD without ever having had an MI and those with stable CAD and a prior MI, the findings were similar and directionally concordant to nonstratified analyses described above, for all end points (data not shown).

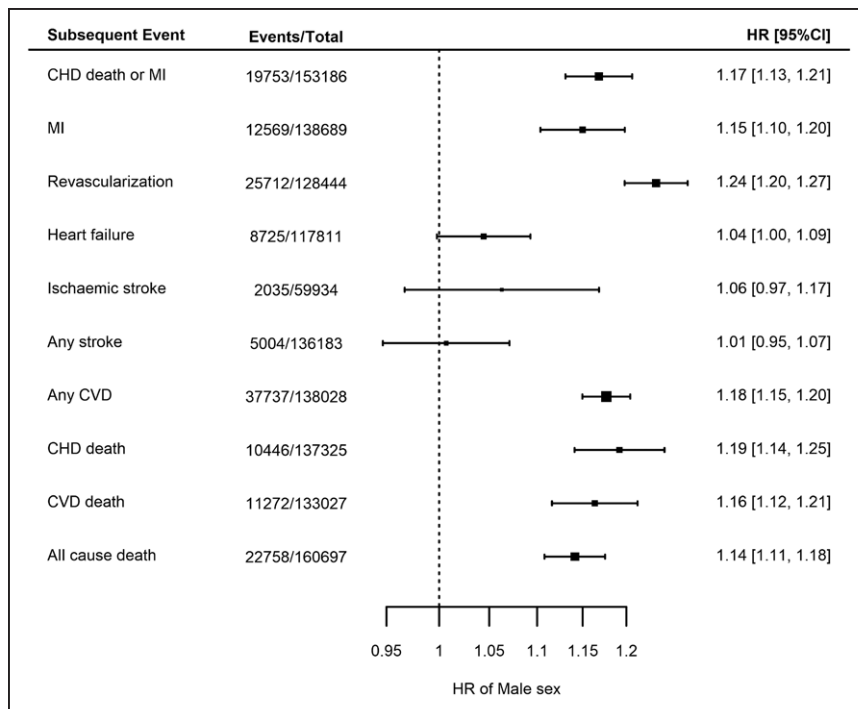


Figure 4. Meta-analyses of the associations between male sex and different end points, adjusted for age.

Estimates are presented as hazard ratios (HRs) with 95% CI. CHD indicates coronary heart disease; CVD, cardiovascular disease; and MI, myocardial infarction.

DISCUSSION

The GENIUS-CHD Consortium is a global collaborative effort engaging 57 studies, including almost 185 000 patients with established CHD, for whom genetic and prospective follow-up data are available. It brings together over 170 domain experts, including clinicians, data scientists, geneticists, and epidemiologists, all engaged in improving our understanding of the determinants of subsequent event risk in these patients.

With an agreed governance structure and a proven federated analysis approach, we anticipate that this consortium will be a valuable long-term resource for genetic and nongenetic research in this field.

Genetic association studies for CHD disease progression, recurrence, and adverse events after a CHD event may have particular utility for identifying novel causal pathways and therapeutic targets that may be different than those for first events, a concept recently supported by research in other disease areas.²¹ However, informa-

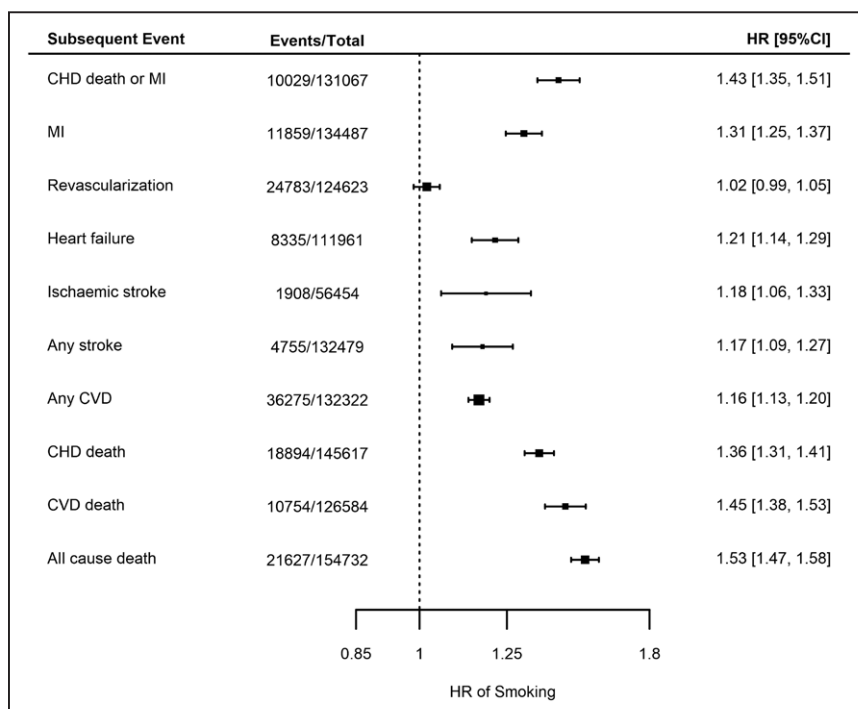


Figure 5. Meta-analyses for the associations between smoking at coronary heart disease (CHD) indexing event compared to not smoking and for different end points, adjusted for age and sex.

Estimates are presented as hazard ratios (HRs) with 95% CI. CVD indicates cardiovascular disease; and MI, myocardial infarction.

tion on the determinants of subsequent CHD event risk is scarce, in contrast to the extensive knowledge about risk factors for a first CHD event. This disparity is due, in part, to the relatively small sample sizes of individual studies in the secondary prevention setting. While larger registry and electronic health care records efforts will result in higher numbers, they typically suffer from the lack of necessary depth of phenotyping, accuracy, and availability of biospecimens to infer further biological insights.^{22,23} In contrast, large population studies with detailed phenotyping have relatively small numbers of mostly stable CHD patients, who have survived many years after their index event.^{24,25} By bringing together multiple investigator-led studies, the GENIUS-CHD consortium aims to address and overcome this major limitation to subsequent CHD risk research.

Importantly, the scale and depth of the GENIUS-CHD consortium offer greater scope to tackle key challenges within subsequent CHD risk-related research. First, CHD is a heterogeneous phenotype, consisting of stable, unstable, and pathologically distinct subtypes, which have often been combined for individual studies to satisfy the need for statistical power. With the sample size available in GENIUS-CHD, we anticipate being able to disaggregate CHD into more precise subphenotypes such as acute versus stable CHD at baseline, or those with versus without prior MI, which may help uncover relevant biological differences.²⁶ Additional stratification on variables such as sex, time period of recruitment, duration of follow-up, country of study, LV function and treatment (such as statin, blood pressure lowering, and antiplatelet agent use) will also be possible, providing greater insights into the modifying influences of these variables on outcome.

A major strength of the consortium is the use of a federated analysis approach that permits individual level analysis without the need for sharing either samples or the individual datasets themselves, thereby overcoming major privacy and governance hurdles. The effort has been successful because (1) participation is entirely voluntary, with studies only participating in those analyses they feel are of value, or to which they have the capacity to contribute; (2) ownership of all data and samples remain with the principal investigator and are not shared nor stored centrally; and (3) there are open and transparent governance procedures. Our feasibility analysis has demonstrated that this federated approach works well and yields results that are consistent and suitable for high-quality meta-analysis.

Indeed, supported by this initial feasibility analysis, our findings demonstrate the validity of the data collected by confirming the anticipated associations of increasing age, male sex, and current smoking with higher risks of subsequent CHD death/MI during follow-up. Furthermore, by exploring multiple individual and composite end points, we can begin to unravel associa-

tions not discoverable in smaller studies. For example, we find that the risk of incident revascularization is lower with advancing age but higher for male sex and neutral for smoking. Plausible explanations may exist for each of these findings (eg, an association induced by clinical practice, with fewer older people being offered invasive treatments), but importantly they highlight the value of exploring multiple end points at an appropriate scale. This is especially relevant when exploring novel biomarkers or drug targets as these may, in turn, be used to inform clinical testing strategies and choice of end points to study in trials.

By virtue of the expertise it has assembled, the consortium is also well placed to address important methodological issues surrounding prognosis research in general. For example, selection bias is a key concern, whereby it is conceivable that those at highest risk may die early and not enter any of the member studies for evaluation (survival bias), or selection on an indexing event itself may distort patient characteristics and impact association findings (index event bias).²⁷ In addition, treatment effects may alter the trajectory of disease by stabilizing or regressing plaque burden or altering baseline risk, such as with high-dose statin or PCSK9 inhibitor use.^{17,28} To address these and other issues, the consortium has established working groups of relevant national and international experts to explore the extent and impact of such biases/effects and if needed, to develop approaches to address these.²⁹

There are inherent challenges to overcome when working with diverse multiple studies, including variations in definitions and processes for data collection and curation across different studies in different centers and different countries. The consortium members have attempted to standardize common data elements, for example, the measurement units for quantitative traits. Variability between studies will persist, but we anticipate that the overall size of the effort will help reduce the impact of such study level heterogeneity on any findings, which will also be explored through subgroup analyses where possible (eg, country, study size, and year of first recruitment). Analytical challenges will additionally include dealing with variability in length of follow-up across studies, handling multiple subsequent events along with competing risks, as well as confounding by treatment and selection biases as described above. The collective experience of the consortium members will be leveraged to address these as carefully as possible within each future analysis. Finally, factors influencing enrollment into genetic studies of CHD may limit the generalizability of findings. Men are over represented in participating CHD studies, partly reflecting sex-differential prevalence of disease but also underpinning a wider concern about underinvestigation of women, who may be inadvertently excluded given that entry criteria for most studies relies on documented presence of CHD.

Similarly, many studies in the consortium have recruited mostly Europeans, limiting the opportunity to explore hypotheses in other ethnic groups. The steering committee is conscious of these imbalances and is actively seeking studies enriched for women and non-European participants to join the collaboration. In summary, the GENIUS-CHD consortium is a global collaboration among investigators who have recruited patients with CHD into multiple individual studies, seeking to gain a better understanding of subsequent CHD event risk and enhance secondary prevention. It seeks to be an open, collegiate, and transparent effort and we invite investigators with suitable studies to join and collectively enhance research efforts in this domain.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

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