

1 **Effect of Genetic Variation in a Drosophila Model**
2 **of Diabetes-Associated Misfolded Human**
3 **Proinsulin**
4

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ABSTRACT

41 The identification and validation of gene-gene interactions is a major challenge in
42 human studies. Here, we explore an approach for studying epistasis in humans using a
43 *Drosophila melanogaster* model of neonatal diabetes mellitus. Expression of the mutant
44 preproinsulin (hINS^{C96Y}) in the eye imaginal disc mimics the human disease: it activates
45 conserved stress response pathways and leads to cell death (reduction in eye area).
46 Dominant-acting variants in wild-derived inbred lines from the *Drosophila Genetics*
47 *Reference Panel* produce a continuous, highly heritable distribution of eye degeneration
48 phenotypes in a hINS^{C96Y} background. A genome-wide association study (GWAS) in
49 154 sequenced lines identified a sharp peak on chromosome 3L, which mapped to a
50 400bp linkage block within an intron of the gene *sulfataseless* (*sfl*). RNAi knock-down of *sfl*
51 enhanced the eye degeneration phenotype in a mutant-hINS-dependent manner. RNAi
52 against two additional genes in the heparan sulfate (HS) biosynthetic pathway (*ttv* and
53 *botv*), in which *sfl* acts, also modified the eye phenotype in a hINS^{C96Y}-dependent
54 manner, strongly suggesting a novel link between HS-modified proteins and cellular
55 responses to misfolded proteins. Finally, we evaluated allele-specific expression
56 difference between the two major *sfl*-intronic haplotypes in heterozygotes. The results
57 showed significant heterogeneity in marker-associated gene expression, thereby
58 leaving the causal mutation(s) and its mechanism unidentified. In conclusion, the ability
59 to create a model of human genetic disease, map a QTL by GWAS to a specific gene,
60 validate its contribution to disease with available genetic resources, and the potential to
61 experimentally link the variant to a molecular mechanism, demonstrate the many

62 advantages *Drosophila* holds in determining the genetic underpinnings of human
63 disease.

64

INTRODUCTION

65 Limitations imposed by human subject research can be overcome by investigating
66 models of human disease in experimental organisms. *Drosophila* can provide genetic
67 insights relevant to human biology and disease, owing to the conservation of
68 fundamental cellular and developmental processes. We constructed a fly model of
69 protein misfolding disease, by creating a transgene of a diabetes-causing, human
70 mutant preproinsulin (hINS^{C96Y}) that could be expressed in the eye imaginal discs and
71 other tissues (Park et al., 2013). This misfolded proinsulin protein causes the loss of
72 insulin-secreting pancreatic beta cells and diabetes in humans and mice (Støy et al.,
73 2007). When misexpressed in the *Drosophila* eye imaginal disc, it disrupts eye
74 development, resulting in a reduced eye area in adult flies (Park et al., 2013).

75 In the accompanying paper (Park et al., 2013), we crossed the transgenic line
76 bearing the mutant preproinsulin and an eye-specific Gal4 driver (GMR>>hINS^{C96Y}) with
77 a subset of the lines from the *Drosophila* Genetics Reference Panel (DGRP). The F1
78 lines displayed a wide, nearly continuous, range of heritable eye degeneration
79 phenotypes, suggesting a polygenic basis for this genetic background variation (Park et
80 al., 2013). To investigate the genetic basis of this background variation, here we
81 performed a genome-wide association study in a larger set of 154 DGRP lines.

82 *Drosophila*'s many favorable attributes for mapping quantitative trait loci (QTL) — a
83 high density of common variants, relatively little population subdivision, a decay of
84 linkage disequilibrium (LD) over a scale of only 100's of bp, controlled crosses allowing
85 repeat measurements, and excellent resources for confirmatory genetics — allowed us
86 to identify a variant in the heparan sulfate (HS) biosynthesis pathway gene, *sulfataseless*

87 (*sfl*), contributing to the eye degeneration phenotype, and then confirm a genetic
88 interaction between mutant hINS and *sfl* by RNAi knockdown analysis. Two other genes
89 in the HS biosynthetic pathway, *tout-velo* (*ttv*) and *brother of tout-velo* (*botv*), displayed
90 a similar interaction upon genetic analysis, implicating HS-modified proteins, or
91 proteoglycans (HSPG), in the response to misfolded proteins.

92 We then tested the hypothesis that the intronic *sfl* variants act by decreasing gene
93 expression by measuring the relative expression level of each allele in 15 heterozygotes
94 containing both alleles. The results are mixed, with seven crosses showing a difference
95 that is consistent with the hypothesis; however, overall there is only modest correlation
96 between the genotype and the expression level, which leaves the causal mutation(s)
97 and its mechanism yet to be identified.

98 Although our model of neonatal diabetes in the fly — transgenic expression of a
99 mutant disease-causing human insulin allele — is Mendelian, the severity of the disease
100 trait is exquisitely sensitive to genetic background, and behaves as a complex trait. We
101 discuss the prospects for modeling complex human disease in the fly with this general
102 approach.

103

104

105 MATERIALS AND METHODS

106 ***Drosophila stocks and crosses***

107 The {GMR-Gal4, UAS-hINS^{C96Y}} line was generated by crossing the GMR-Gal4 line
108 (Stock #1104, Bloomington Stock Center) with the UAS-hINS^{C96Y} line (Park et al., 2013),
109 and obtaining the recombinant 2nd chromosome, which was balanced over CyO. DGRP

110 lines were obtained from the Bloomington stock center. RNAi lines against *sfl* (GD5070),
111 *ttv* (GD4871), *botv* (GD37186) were from the Vienna *Drosophila* RNAi center. Mutant
112 lines for *ttv* (*ttv*⁶⁸¹) and *botv* (*botv*⁵¹⁰) were described previously (Ren et al., 2009).

113

114 ***Eye area measurement***

115 All crosses were reared at 25°C. Total eye area was measured as described in (Park et
116 al., 2013). At least 10 images (independent flies) passing the quality check were
117 collected for each cross. Raw data is available in **Table S1**.

118

119 ***Principal Component Analysis***

120 The whole-genome SNP dataset for the 154 DGRP lines used for GWAS (see **Table S2**
121 for the list of line numbers) was downloaded from the DGRP website
122 (<http://dgrp.gnets.ncsu.edu/>, freeze 1). To characterize population structure, 900K SNPs
123 (after LD pruning using PLINK v1.07, with parameter --indep-pairwise 50 5 0.5) were
124 used to identify the top 15 principal components (PCs) (SmartPCA software in
125 EIGENSOFT v3.0, no outlier exclusion). We then estimated the correlation between the
126 *hINS*^{C96Y} phenotype (line mean) and projection length in the direction of the top five
127 principle components in each DGRP line to test whether population structure is a
128 confounding source of association in GWAS.

129

130 ***Genome wide association using linear regression***

131 The mean eye area of 154 DGRP lines crossed to the *hINS*^{C96Y} line was regressed on
132 each SNP with a minor allele frequency (MAF) > 5% (PLINK 1.07, quantitative trait

133 mode). 1,616,121 autosomal and 256,948 SNPs on the X chromosome were tested.
134 The F1 males inherited their X chromosome from the common transgene-containing
135 strain. The identity by descent of this X chromosome allowed us to test whether the X-
136 linked SNPs in the DGRP sample conformed to a null distribution assuming no
137 association (although linkage is likely to cause deviation from this expectation). This
138 was tested in quantile-quantile (Q-Q) plot analysis.

139

140 ***Association by mixed linear model to control for genetic relatedness***

141 A Python implementation of EMMA (Kang et al., 2010; Segura et al., 2012) was used
142 to estimate the Genetic Related Matrix (GRM) using inverse variance weighted SNPs.
143 The GRM is plotted using the pheatmap package in R to visualize any cryptic
144 relatedness (Kolde, 2011). When performing mixed linear model regression, we used
145 the GRM estimated from just the X-chromosome SNPs, for which the mixed model
146 yields a narrow sense heritability of 0.83 (SNPs with MAF>0.05). By doing so, we
147 increase our power to detect associations at loci on the other chromosomes, because
148 those are not included in the GRM (Listgarten et al., 2012). The ~250K SNPs on the X
149 chromosome are sufficient for inferring the population structure in the sample and
150 thereby controlling population stratification. This is evident by the uniform p-value
151 distribution in the Q-Q plots (**Fig. S4**). To assess the genome-wide significance
152 threshold while accounting for both the relatedness structure in the data as well as the
153 non-independence between SNPs due to LD, we performed a permutation procedure
154 (details in **Text S1**).

155

156 **Conditional analysis using *sfl* intronic SNPs as covariates**

157 To identify possible secondary associations in *sfl* or elsewhere in the genome
158 independent of the intronic QTL variants in *sfl*, we fit a linear model with the most
159 significant variant, a 18 bp /4 bp insertion/deletion polymorphism, as a covariate. This
160 analysis was performed either within the *sfl* locus or genome-wide. The p-values were
161 corrected for multiple testing using Bonferroni's method.

162

163 **Estimate proportion of variance explained by common SNPs**

164 We first used GCTA (v1.0) to estimate the genetic relatedness matrix with all SNPs with
165 minor allele frequency greater than 5% (--maf 0.05). We then used the restricted
166 maximum likelihood method implemented in GCTA to estimate the quantity V_G / V_P (--
167 reml), i.e. the narrow sense heritability.

168

169 **Expression of *sfl* and CG32396**

170 Expression profiles in adult tissues were assessed using data from FlyAtlas (Chintapalli
171 et al., 2007) and modENCODE (Roy et al., 2010). To assay expression in the eye
172 imaginal discs, we isolated total RNA from 10 pairs of discs from 3rd instar larvae.
173 Individual larva was sexed and dissected in 1X phosphate buffer saline (PBS); the eye
174 portions of the eye-antennal disc were collected and the isolated discs immediately
175 dissolved in 300 μ l Trizol (Invitrogen). Total RNA was extracted according to the
176 manufacturer's instructions. cDNA libraries were constructed using (dT)20 primers after
177 DNase I treatment (Invitrogen). Real time quantitative PCR was performed with primer
178 pairs targeting either *sfl* or CG32396, with expression of the gene *rp49* as an

179 endogenous reference (SYBR-Green assay). Primers used for qRT-PCR are listed in
180 **Table S3.**

181

182 ***RNAi and validation studies***

183 All RNAi lines were originally from the Vienna Drosophila RNAi Center as P-element
184 insertion lines on a co-isogenic w1118 background. Each RNAi line was first tested to
185 determine whether it alone had an effect on eye development by crossing it to GMR-
186 Gal4 and comparing the eye area of the F1 males (or females) to the control cross
187 between w1118 and GMR-Gal4. In all crosses, GMR-Gal4 was used as the maternal
188 parent. To test its effect on the hINS^{C96Y}-induced eye degeneration phenotype, the
189 RNAi line was crossed to the GMR>>hINS^{C96Y} line (used as maternal parent), so that
190 both hINS^{C96Y} and the RNAi constructs are driven by GMR-Gal4. The resulting
191 phenotype was compared to the cross between hINS^{C96Y} females and w1118 males. At
192 least 10 individual flies were measured per cross and a t-test was used to determine
193 significance at 0.05 level with multiple testing correction. For mutant lines, GMR-Gal4
194 was replaced with w1118 in the first test and used as a control. The same scheme was
195 used for the second test. It is worth noting that because the mutants were tested in
196 heterozygous states, only dominant interaction with hINS^{C96Y} will be revealed.

197

198 ***sfl expression studies***

199 Six lines carrying the 18 bp indel allele and eight carrying the 4 bp allele were chosen
200 and paired to form 15 crosses (**Figure S1A**). Three sets of ten late 3rd instar (wandering
201 stage) larvae were collected from each cross and dissected in 1X PBS to isolate eye

202 imaginal discs. RNA isolation and cDNA library preparation are the same as described
203 above. Genomic DNA was extracted from adult flies from the same cross. Because the
204 18 bp/4 bp polymorphism is in the intron of *sfl*, a SNP in the cDNA was identified that
205 could be used to distinguish the two alleles in each cross (**Figure S1B**). Four such
206 SNPs were chosen and pyro-sequencing assays were designed (primers listed in **Table**
207 **S3**). Pyro-sequencing was performed as previously described (Wittkopp, 2011). Briefly,
208 each of the three cDNA and one gDNA sample per cross was analyzed by
209 pyrosequencing in four replicate PCR amplifications to determine relative expression.
210 The ratio in genomic DNA analysis was used to account for amplification bias. The
211 resulting 12 ratios were first log2 transformed and analyzed using ANOVA according to
212 the model $y_{ij} = \alpha + L_i + \varepsilon_{ij}$, where α is the estimate of the relative expression ratio,
213 which is expected to be significantly different from zero when the two alleles are
214 differentially expressed; L_i is a random effect term for the biological replicates ($i = 1, 2, 3$).
215 For 13 of the 15 crosses the p-value > 0.1 ; for these crosses the data were fit to a
216 reduced ANOVA model $y_i = \alpha + \varepsilon_i$, from which the estimate and the 95% confidence
217 interval for the ratio of expression (α) were calculated. In the two cases where the
218 random effect term was nominally significant ($P < 0.1$), a linear mixed-effect model was
219 fit using the lme package in R to obtain an estimate and 95% confidence interval for the
220 same ratio.

221

222 RESULTS

223 ***Effect of natural variation on hINS^{C96Y}-induced eye phenotype***

224 We crossed the transgenic fly line (w; P{GMR-Gal4}, P{UAS-hINS^{C96Y} }/CyO) as the
225 maternal parent to 178 inbred lines from DGRP (only 154 were used in the subsequent
226 GWAS analyses due to genome sequence availability). These lines represent a
227 spectrum of natural variation, except for recessive lethal variants, which were eliminated
228 in the formation of the DGRP. Among several eye phenotypes observed — rough eye,
229 reduced total area, distortion of the oval shape and black lesion spots — we chose total
230 eye area as the phenotype to carry out a GWAS. We quantified eye area in ten male
231 progeny from each hINS^{C96Y} x DGRP cross. We observed a continuously varying
232 distribution of this phenotype, ranging from 13% to 86% of wild type fly eye area (**Figure**
233 **1**). ANOVA indicated that 58.6% of the variance is between genotypes (approximately
234 equal to the broad sense heritability (Falconer, 1981, p115), indicating a large genetic
235 component. Males were chosen for measurement and analysis because they showed a
236 more severe phenotype than females (Park et al., 2013). However, we also measured
237 F1 females for a subset of 38 lines and found a strong correlation between the two
238 sexes from the same cross ($r=0.8$, **Figure S2**).

239 The observed variation in eye degeneration is consistent with the hypothesis that it
240 reflects differences in cellular response to the expression of hINS^{C96Y}. The severity of
241 the eye degeneration phenotype is not correlated with body size of the same individual,
242 or the mean eye size of the same line; neither is it correlated with GAL4 protein levels in
243 eye imaginal discs (Park et al., 2013). The GWAS described below showed no evidence
244 for association between eye area and SNPs in or surrounding the *glass* (*gl*) locus, the
245 trans-activator of GMR-Gal4, a result consistent with Gal4 protein measurements and
246 the fact that the eye degeneration phenotype is insensitive to GMR-Gal4 gene dose

247 when hINS^{C96Y} is present in single copy (Figure 3 in Park et al., 2013). Finally, when we
248 expressed hINS^{C96Y} in the notum (rather than the eye) and measured the loss of
249 macrochaetae in F1 crosses to 38 DGRP lines for which we also collected eye
250 degeneration data, we observed no correlation between the two traits, indicating that
251 the degeneration phenotypes are not caused by line-specific differences in mutant
252 insulin expression (Park et al., 2013).

253

254 ***Genome-wide association analysis***

255 To identify candidate genetic loci and variants underlying the phenotypic variation, we
256 carried out GWAS on the F1 males from the crosses of hINS^{C96Y} and 154 DGRP lines.
257 We used mean eye area as a quantitative trait to perform single marker regression for
258 1.6 million autosomal SNPs, restricted to bi-allelic sites for which the minor allele
259 frequency is at least 5%. The result revealed a strong peak on chromosome 3L and
260 minor ones on other major chromosome arms (**Figure 2C**). The most significant SNP
261 underlying the chromosome 3L peak has a raw p-value of 2.4×10^{-8} (t-test); the
262 Bonferroni corrected P = 0.04.

263 Population stratification is a potential confounder for GWAS – it can inflate the test
264 statistic for non-associated variants if the population structure correlates with the
265 phenotype. We assessed its impact in our study in three ways. First, we evaluated the
266 Quantile-Quantile (Q-Q) plots for autosomal and X-linked variants. Neither showed a
267 systematic shift towards low p-values compared to the null expectation, which would be
268 expected if population structure induces false association signals (**Figure 2A,B**).
269 Second, we used Principle Component Analysis (PCA) to calculate the top eigenvectors

270 explaining the most genetic variation in the sample. Plotting the phenotype of each
271 cross against the coordinate of each of the top five eigenvectors revealed no correlation
272 between the two (Materials and Methods, **Figure S3**). Third, because all F1 males
273 inherited their X-chromosome from the GMR>>hINS^{C96Y} tester line, we expect no
274 association between the phenotype and X-linked SNPs. Indeed, we only found an
275 excess of low p-values in autosomal variants, but not in X-linked ones (**Figure 2A,B**).
276 The above analyses suggested that population stratification does not correlate with the
277 trait and does not influence the results of the association study.

278 Cryptic relatedness, i.e. unknown genetic relationships between individuals in a
279 sample, can also confound the association analysis due to non-independence and
280 larger than expected phenotypic variance (Cheng et al., 2010; Voight & Pritchard, 2005).
281 We estimated the Genetic Relatedness Matrix (GRM) from whole genome SNP data
282 using mixmogam (a Python implementation of EMMAX) (Kang et al., 2010; Segura et al.,
283 2012). We found while the majority of the 154 lines are genetically unrelated (**Figure**
284 **S4A**), several pairs of lines showed higher levels of relatedness, e.g. RAL-350/RAL-358
285 and RAL-352/RAL-712 (**Figure S4B**). Next, we performed mixed linear model (MLM)
286 regression to explicitly account for the cryptic relatedness as well as population
287 stratification (Atwell et al., 2010; Yu et al., 2006). A permutation procedure specifically
288 designed to preserve the phenotype covariance structure is used to establish a
289 genome-wide 5% significance threshold (**Text S1**). The resulting p-value distribution is
290 qualitatively similar to the linear regression analysis, and it identified *sfl* as significantly
291 associated with the trait under a permutation-based 5% genome-wide threshold (**Figure**
292 **S4E**). The most significant SNP (3L:6523119, dm3) has a raw *p*-value of 1.4×10^{-8} .

293 Below we will focus on identifying the gene(s) underlying the peak and genetically
294 testing its association with the phenotype.

295

296 ***sulfateless (sfl) modifies eye area phenotype***

297 The peak on chromosome 3L is confined to the third intron of the gene, *sfl* (**Figure 2D**).
298 This intron also contains a nested gene (CG32396) lying close to the association peak.
299 CG32396 is predicted to encode a protein with a probable tubulin beta-chain. To
300 determine which of the two genes, or possibly both, is responsible for the association,
301 we examined the expression pattern of each gene and also used RNAi to knock down
302 gene expression. *sfl* is expressed in the eye-antennal imaginal disc and eye and brain in
303 adults (**Figure S5, S6**). CG32396 has a testis-specific expression pattern in adults, with
304 very low expression in the adult eye (**Figure S5**) and no detectable expression in eye
305 imaginal discs by RT-PCR (**Figure S6, S7**).

306 RNAi knockdown of either *sfl* or CG32396 in the eye imaginal disc had no
307 measurable effect on eye area. In contrast, RNAi against *sfl*, but not CG32396,
308 significantly decreased mean eye area in the presence of hINS^{C96Y} but not hINS^{WT}
309 (**Figure 3**). These results rule out CG32396 as the causal gene, and strongly implicate
310 *sfl* as the genetic modifier of hINS^{C96Y}-induced eye degeneration.

311 To test if *sfl* also modifies the hINS^{C96Y}-induced phenotype in other tissues, we
312 carried out RNAi knockdown of *sfl* in the developing wing (using a dpp-Gal4 driver) and
313 notum (using an ap-Gal4 driver). In both experiments we observed more severe
314 phenotypes than that caused by hINS^{C96Y} alone (**Figure S8, S9**). However, the
315 interpretation is made complicated by the fact that *sfl* knockdown alone causes mutant

316 phenotypes in these tissues, consistent with previous knowledge (Lin, 2004). At present
317 we cannot distinguish the alternative hypotheses of additive vs. epistatic interactions
318 between *sfl* and *hINS*^{C96Y}.

319

320 ***Heparan sulfate biosynthetic pathway modifies the hINS*^{C96Y}*-induced eye***
321 ***degeneration***

322 *Sulfateless* encodes a bi-functional enzyme in the heparin sulfate biosynthesis pathway.
323 An important component of the cell surface and extracellular matrix (Kirkpatrick &
324 Selleck, 2007), heparan sulfate-modified proteins, or proteoglycans (HSPG) regulate
325 signaling during development by influencing the levels and activity of growth factors and
326 morphogens at cell surfaces and in the extracellular matrix (Fujise et al., 2003; Giráldez
327 et al., 2002; Häcker et al., 1997; Kirkpatrick et al., 2004; Nakato et al., 1995). The
328 involvement of HSPGs in the cellular responses to misfolded proteins (proteostasis) has
329 not been previously described.

330 To further examine the *hINS*^{C96Y}-dependent interaction of *sfl*, we examined RNAi
331 knockdowns and mutants for two additional genes in the HS biosynthetic pathway: *ttv*
332 and *botv*, producing the glycosaminoglycan polymer that is modified by *sfl* (Lin, 2004).
333 SNPs in neither of the genes showed evidence of association in our GWAS (lowest
334 adjusted $P > 0.5$ in both loci, adjusted for multiple-testing using Bonferroni's method).
335 RNAi knockdown of both genes shows a *hINS*^{C96Y}-dependent effect on eye area in the
336 same direction as *sfl* RNAi (**Figure 4**). In addition, a mutant allele of *botv* also showed a
337 significant dominant enhancement of the eye degeneration phenotype. These results

338 implicate HSPGs in modifying the cellular response to misfolded proteins. Neither of the
339 genes, however, was identified in the GWAS.

340

341 ***Intronic variation and *sfl* expression***

342 We re-sequenced a 3 kb region containing the GWAS peak in *sfl* (and the nested gene
343 CG32396) in 19 of the 154 DGRP lines and the transgenic hINS^{C96Y} stock to identify all
344 the variants in this region. We found that the SNP achieving the lowest p-value genome-
345 wide was an 18 bp/4 bp length polymorphism (relative to the *D. simulans* orthologous
346 sequence) (**Figure 5A**). We also found three other insertion/deletion (INDEL)
347 polymorphisms in this region, with sizes ranging from 4 – 30 bp and the minor alleles
348 (deletion in all three cases) being present only once or twice in the sample. In contrast,
349 the 18/4 bp polymorphism is present at 50% frequency in the DGRP sample. Below we
350 will use the term "Single Feature Polymorphism" (SFP) to refer to both INDEL and
351 single nucleotide polymorphism in the *sfl* locus.

352 A plot of haplotype structure surrounding the association peak (Haploview v4.2)
353 pinpoints an LD block of 400 bp (block 66 in **Figure 5A**, chr3L:6523119-6523518).
354 There are two major haplotypes in this block, each represented by two equal-sized
355 groups among the 154 DGRP lines (**Figure 5B**). For convenience, we refer to these two
356 haplotypes as the 18bp or 4bp allele, although it is worth noting that we don't have the
357 ability to distinguish between the SFPs within this block, unless further recombinant
358 individuals are sampled or generated.

359 Because all coding variants in *sfl* lie outside of this 400 bp LD block, we
360 hypothesized that one or more of these intronic SFPs are the causal variant(s) and

361 modify the hINS^{C96Y}-induced eye phenotype by altering *sfl* expression. We tested this
362 hypothesis by examining the correlation between the allelic states and the allele-specific
363 expression level. We selected pairs of 4 bp and 18 bp lines from the respective
364 phenotypic spectrum, crossed them to obtain F1 individuals heterozygous for the two
365 alleles, and used pyro-sequencing to estimate the relative expression of the two alleles
366 in eye imaginal discs. This method allowed us to measure the ratio of expression of *sfl*/
367 associated with each allele in the same animal, thereby controlling for both the trans-
368 environment as well as experimental noise, resulting in highly reproducible results
369 (**Figure S10**). Based on RNAi knock-down of *sfl*, which enhanced the hINS^{C96Y}
370 phenotype, we expected the 4 bp allele (associated with more severe phenotypes in the
371 GWAS) to produce less transcript than the 18 bp allele.

372 Allele-specific expression of *sfl* differed in both magnitude and direction among the
373 15 crosses (**Figure 6**). Seven crosses supported the hypothesis by exhibiting
374 significantly greater expression from the 18 bp allele, with an 18/4 bp ratio ranging from
375 1.03 - 2.8 (median = 1.15). Two crosses, however, showed slightly greater expression
376 from the 4 bp allele (18 bp/4 bp ratios of 0.94 and 0.96). The remaining six crosses
377 showed no significant differences in expression of the two alleles in our test. While both
378 more strains showed higher expression of the transcript linked to the 18 bp allele, and
379 the difference in this direction is stronger, the small sample size and the modest
380 correlation between the allelic states and the transcription level prevented us from
381 drawing a conclusion. Proving the causal mutation(s) and identifying the mechanisms
382 require further experiments making precise changes at the candidate loci and assaying
383 the effects in the same genetic background.

384

385 **Search for additional association by conditional analysis**

386 In light of the above finding, we carried out a conditional analysis to identify variants that
387 act independently of the 18 bp/4 bp SFP. To do so, we tested variants other than the
388 18/4 bp SFP, either within the *sfl* locus or genome-wide, by treating the 18/4 bp SFP as
389 a covariate in a linear regression model. After accounting for multiple testing, we
390 observed no significant signals in either case (**Figure S11**). The lack of significance
391 genome-wide may be attributable to the lack of power after correcting for multiple
392 testing. The analysis restricted to the 40 kb *sfl* locus reduces the burden of multiple
393 testing by several orders of magnitude, but also fails to identify a significant association.
394 Considering the large range of allele-specific expression differences between the 18 bp
395 and 4 bp alleles observed in the 15 crosses, the additional *cis*-acting expression
396 variants must either be low frequency alleles or have epistatic properties, two situations
397 this analysis would be underpowered to detect.

398

399 **DISCUSSION**

400 ***sfl* and *hINS*^{C96Y}-induced eye degeneration**

401 Statistical (GWAS) and genetic (RNAi) evidence support a role for *sfl* as a natural
402 genetic modifier for *hINS*^{C96Y}-induced eye degeneration. Although we conducted a
403 GWAS for dominant-acting modifiers in a relatively small sample of lines (154)
404 considering the large number of segregating common SNPs (1.6M), we found statistical
405 support for a QTL in *sfl* in a mixed model analysis, which addresses effects of both
406 population structure and genetic relatedness in the sample. One possible reason the *sfl*/

407 QTL achieves statistical significance is because the two alternative alleles occur at
408 approximately a 50% frequency in the sample, where GWAS is maximally powerful.
409 RNAi knockdown experiments showed that perturbation of *sfl* expression, and also
410 two other genes in the HS biosynthesis pathway, has a measurable effect on eye
411 degeneration, but only in the presence of hINS^{C96Y} expression, indicating a specific
412 interaction between protein misfolding and HS biosynthesis (also see (Park et al., 2013).
413 RNAi against CG32396, the gene nested inside the intron of *sfl*, had no effect on eye
414 area both in the absence and presence of hINS^{C96Y}, suggesting that the hINS^{C96Y}-
415 induced eye degeneration phenotype is not simply a consequence of RNAi expression.
416 We caution, however, that a genetic proof of *sfl* as modifying the phenotype in this
417 population will require additional studies.
418 A direct test for *sfl* and the intronic variation being causal would be to genetically
419 engineer two lines in the same genetic background, differing only at the *sfl* locus. A
420 potential caveat of this approach lies in the assumption that the differential activity of the
421 two alleles is independent of the genetic background (*i.e.*, no epistasis), which, if
422 violated, will lead to a false negative result (Chandler et al., 2013). We used instead an
423 indirect approach by examining the correlation between the allelic states and the
424 expression level. To take into account the genetic background differences, we
425 measured allele-specific gene expression of 18bp and 4bp *sfl* alleles in 15 different
426 “controlled” genetic backgrounds, but keeping the background the same for the two
427 alleles by comparing their expression ratios in heterozygotes. The results are mixed: the
428 ratio of expression from the 18 bp/4 bp alleles differed in the 15 crosses, ranging from
429 2.8 to 0.94 (**Figure 6**); nearly half (7/15) showed greater expression from the allele

430 associated with the 18 bp variant, consistent with the expectation based on the RNAi
431 result; two showed a small difference in the contrary direction (18bp/4bp ratio = 0.94
432 and 0.96); the remaining six were insignificant in our test. This marked heterogeneity in
433 expression means we can neither accept nor reject the hypothesis of a causal role for
434 the intronic variants and the expression level of *sfl*. Hence we are also not able to
435 conclude that expression difference is the mechanism underlying the genotype-
436 phenotype association, though it remains a possibility. Future experiments employing
437 genome-editing technologies will allow better resolution of the mechanism(s) underlying
438 the association (Gratz et al., 2013; Jinek et al., 2012; Ran et al., 2013).

439 Finally, we investigated whether additional eQTLs exist in *sfl* or in other genes acting
440 epistatically with *sfl*. Likely due to lack of power, a conditional analysis failed to identify
441 additional variants in the *sfl* locus or elsewhere in the genome. However, it is now well
442 established that gene expression is a highly polygenic trait in *D. melanogaster*, with
443 many eQTLs contributing to expression variability both in cis and trans (Brem et al.,
444 2005; Brem et al., 2002; West et al., 2007), and intra-locus genetic complexity
445 influencing a quantitative trait has long been known, as in the Adh example (King et al.,
446 2012). In the 40 kb region spanning the *sfl* locus alone, 1,358 SNPs are present among
447 the 14 lines used in this experiment, which individually or in combination could influence
448 expression of the gene. Thus, predictions based on one or two strongly associated
449 variant(s) is not adequate. A polygenic risk predictor may be needed to summarize
450 contributions even from a single locus.

451

452 **HSPG function and misfolded protein response**

453 Our study identified the HS biosynthesis pathway (*sfl*, *ttv* and *botv*) as a modifier of eye
454 degeneration induced by expression of a misfolded human proinsulin protein. Although
455 we do not yet know whether this response is to a specific misfolded protein (hINS^{C96Y})
456 or whether it applies to a broader class of misfolded proteins, our discovery now
457 implicates the HSPGs in the regulation of cellular proteostasis.

458 We propose that genetic variation in HS biosynthesis influences the response to
459 misfolded protein through its biological activity in vesicular trafficking of misfolded
460 protein. HS-modified proteins (heparin sulfate proteoglycans, HSPGs) are abundant
461 components of cell surfaces and extracellular matrices, and are best understood for
462 their roles in cell signaling and in functioning as co-receptors, processes integral to
463 normal development (H\"{a}cker et al., 2005; Kirkpatrick & Selleck, 2007). HSPGs are
464 also involved in endocytosis (Ren et al., 2009; Stanford et al., 2009) and vesicular
465 trafficking (Nybakken & Perrimon, 2002; Sarrazin et al., 2011), roles that may link them
466 to cellular response to misfolded proteins (Higashio & Kohno, 2002; Kim et al., 2009;
467 Kimmig et al., 2012).

468 HSPGs may also influence membrane trafficking indirectly, perhaps by regulating
469 signaling events that impinge on trafficking processes. The generation of
470 phosphatidylinositol (3,4,5) triphosphate [PtdIns(3,4,5)P₃] by type I phosphoinositide
471 (PI) 3-kinases is affected by a number of growth factors and cytokines, many of which
472 are influenced by HSPGs as accessory molecules. PtdIns(3,4,5)P₃ affects a number of
473 trafficking events, including endocytosis and autophagy (Downes et al., 2005).

474 In a yeast study of the mutant protein folding assistant, protein disulfide isomerase
475 (Pdi1a'), the authors found that more than 50% of the 130 genes identified as synthetic-

476 lethal were related to vesicle trafficking, while only 10 belonged to the canonical
477 unfolded protein response (UPR) pathway (Kim et al., 2009). In another study, Kimmig
478 *et al* found an enrichment of vesicle-trafficking related genes among those that changed
479 expression significantly after induction of ER-stress (Kimmig et al., 2009). Both studies
480 indicate that a global regulation of vesicle trafficking is important to a cell's response to
481 unfolded or misfolded protein. Activation of UPR has also been shown to affect ER-to-
482 Golgi transport via stimulation of COPII vesicle formation from the ER (Higashio &
483 Kohno, 2002). We propose that either natural variation or genetic perturbation of HS
484 biosynthesis influences the global regulation of vesicle trafficking, which in turn affects
485 the cell's ability to process an excess of unfolded or misfolded protein. Prolonged ER-
486 stress may then lead to apoptosis.

487

488 ***Genetic architecture of the hINS^{C96Y}-induced eye degeneration phenotypes***

489 Phenotypic heterogeneity that is dependent on the genetic background is a common
490 phenomenon, and in humans, imposes a significant challenge in both diagnosis and
491 treatment. Our fly model provides a tractable system for studying the genetic and
492 molecular basis for such phenotypic heterogeneity, but with limitations imposed by the
493 sample size of the study. To assess the power for identifying QTL using this population,
494 we did a simple calculation for a t-test based statistic at $P = 0.05$ level, with Bonferroni's
495 correction for multiple testing, which indicates that we have 66% power to identify a
496 variant at 50% population frequency, with an effect-size of 1.0 (measured as the shift in
497 phenotypic mean in units of standard deviation of the trait, see **Table S4**). This example
498 was chosen to match the estimates for the 18 bp/4 bp indel polymorphism in the *sfl*

499 intron in the sample of 154 crosses. Any variant with a smaller effect-size and/or lower
500 frequency than the 18bp/4bp polymorphism would likely have been missed in this study.

501 *Sulfateless* was the only QTL identified as genome-wide significant in this study
502 (**Figure 2, S4**); its association with the trait is robust with respect to population structure
503 and cryptic relatedness (**Figure S3, S4**). This does not mean, however, that the genetic
504 architecture for the hINS^{C96Y}-induced eye phenotype involves a single locus. Rather, we
505 have several reasons to believe the genetic architecture must involve many loci. First,
506 the distribution of the phenotype, i.e. eye areas expressed as line means, suggests a
507 non-Mendelian genetic basis (**Figure 1**). Second, while ANOVA estimates that nearly
508 60% of the total phenotypic variance is between crosses, less than 20% within the 60%
509 (i.e. < 12% of the total variance) can be attributed to the *sfl* locus. Even this 20%
510 estimate, because it is derived from the same population used to identify the locus, is
511 liable to be an overestimate due to the Winner's Curse effect (Garner, 2007).

512 To estimate what percentage of the between-cross variance can be explained by the
513 additive effects of common variants combined, we applied the GCTA tool, which uses a
514 mixed linear model method, to the line means of the 154 crosses (Yang et al., 2011).
515 The result showed that 83% (standard error = 37%) of the variance between crosses
516 could be attributed to common, autosomal variants with minor allele frequencies greater
517 than 5%. Analysis using GEMMA (v0.94beta), which used a Bayesian method, achieved
518 nearly identical results (posterior mode = 0.83, s.e. = 0.41). We then did the same
519 analysis with GCTA, but including the 18bp/4bp indel polymorphism as a covariate to
520 remove the effect of *sfl*, in order to estimate the remaining additive heritability. As a
521 result, we got 62% (s.e. 47%). The large standard error as a result of the limited sample

522 size leaves the proportion of variance explained by all common SNPs undetermined.
523 However, the estimates are encouraging and suggest that a potentially large proportion
524 of phenotype variance may be explained by additional loci, which require larger sample
525 size to identify.

526

527 ***Relationship to common, complex diseases***

528 While our fly model is of a monogenic form of diabetes, it exhibits a complex genetic
529 architecture when placed on a diverse set of genetic backgrounds. We posit that fly
530 models of monogenetic disease are suitable subjects for the genetic dissection of
531 common disorders in human.

532 One role of the Mendelian mutation is to sensitize the fly to allow phenotypic effects
533 of background genetic modifiers to become visible. Although common disorders are
534 normally considered as lacking a major mutation, a careful consideration suggests that
535 this view is inaccurate. What common disorders lack are large-effect mutations shared
536 by a substantial proportion of the affected individuals. For many diseases, perturbation
537 may be required to boost the expressivity of additive genetic variation that would
538 otherwise be cryptic, i.e., below a disease-causing threshold. Such a perturbation could
539 be genetic, such as driver mutations in cancer, but could also be environmental, such
540 as diet and life-style changes in the case of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.
541 Consistent with this view, it has been proposed that recent genome evolution and rapid
542 environmental as well as cultural changes in human history have decanalizing effects
543 on physiology, which release cryptic genetic variation and underlie the rising incidence
544 of common human disorders (Gibson, 2009).

545 A genetic screen for naturally occurring modifiers in a sensitized background, such
546 as the one we employed here, should apply equally well in the study of Mendelian or
547 complex disease. Were this not the case, two different classes of genetic modifiers
548 would have to be posited. An intriguing question, which we found little empirical
549 evidence for or against, could be addressed in the fly by constructing a series of
550 sensitized backgrounds utilizing different disease-causing mutant hINS alleles of
551 varying effect on disease (e.g., neonatal diabetes vs. maturity-onset diabetes of the
552 young (Støy et al., 2007)), and comparing the composition of naturally occurring
553 modifiers.

554

555 ***Advantages of a fly model of complex disease***

556 A primary mutation can manifest itself in different ways and with tissue-specific effects
557 (Mefford et al., 2008), possibly a consequence of its interdependence with the
558 individual's genetic background. The binary Gal4-UAS system enables the creation of a
559 series of models using the same disease mechanism, but directed to different tissues
560 with high tissue-specificity. The ability to construct and study multiple related models in
561 parallel can provide insight into the basis of disease heterogeneity. In the accompanying
562 paper we show, for example, that the developing eye and notum have different sets of
563 genetic background modifiers of hINS^{C96Y}-dependent disease (Park et al., 2013). Sex-
564 specific difference in disease risk and severity are also readily modeled in the fly. In
565 both the fly and mouse model of hINS^{C96Y}-induced disease, males consistently show
566 more severe disease phenotypes (Wang et al., 1999; Park et al., 2013).

567 *Drosophila* models of human disease provide a useful alternative to the study of
568 complex disease in patient populations. First, many models of human disease have
569 been established in the fly, most notably neurodegeneration and cancer (Bilen & Bonini,
570 2005; Gonzalez, 2013). We predict that natural variation will influence the severity of
571 disease phenotypes in all of them. Second, many models of disease can be created by
572 expression of a mutant allele, which makes them suitable for F1 screens between a
573 tester stock and inbred population collections, such as we employed here. Our study
574 shows that dominant genetic variation for disease severity is abundant. This outcrossing
575 design also avoids unwanted effects of inbreeding on traits and better mimics the
576 natural heterozygosity of low frequency variants. Third, this experimental design
577 facilitates repeated measurement of a disease phenotype, thereby increasing the power
578 to detect a causal association (Mackay et al., 2009). Fourth, LD is low in *D.*
579 *melanogaster* and SNP are 20-40X more abundant than in humans. Finally, both
580 forward and reverse genetics can be applied to investigate the biology and pathway
581 genetics of candidate variants. For all these reasons we believe fly models will prove
582 useful in understanding the genetic architecture of complex human disease.

583

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597

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713

714

715

716

FIGURE LEGENDS

717 **Figure 1** Distribution of eye area in $hINS^{C96Y}$ x DGRP crosses. Mean \pm 1 s.d., sorted by
718 the mean, is shown for crosses between the transgenic {GMR>> $hINS^{C96Y}$ } line to 178
719 DGRP lines, and two randomly chosen DGRP inbred lines (red). Representative
720 photographs of eyes from across the range of the distribution are shown. The rightmost
721 image is of a non-transgenic wild type fly eye.

722

723 **Figure 2** Genome-wide scan identifies candidate locus associated with the $hINS^{C96Y}$ -
724 induced phenotype. Quantile-Quantile (Q-Q) plot reveals an excess of small p-values on
725 autosomes (A) but not on the X chromosome (B), which is not variable in the mapping
726 population due to cross design. (C) Manhattan plot shows a strong peak (green) on
727 chromosome 3L. The blue and red horizontal lines indicate raw $P < 10^{-5}$ and Bonferroni
728 corrected $P < 0.05$, respectively. (D) UCSC browser view of the *sfl* locus containing the
729 association peak. The intron containing the peak also contains a nested gene CG32396.

730

731 **Figure 3** RNAi knockdown confirms *sfl* and excludes CG32396 as the causal gene.
732 The effect of knocking down either CG32396 or *sfl* was tested in the absence ({UAS-
733 RNAi} x {GMR-Gal4}) or presence ({UAS-RNAi} x {GMR-Gal4, UAS- $hINS^{C96Y}$ }) of
734 $hINS^{C96Y}$. Compared to the control crosses (first and third columns in both sexes),
735 significant difference in mean eye area was observed only with RNAi against *sfl* and
736 only in the presence of $hINS^{C96Y}$ (n=15, asterisks above a box plot indicate significant
737 differences at 0.05 level determined by a student's t-test, with Bonferroni correction for
738 multiple testing). In box plots, the median (black dot), interquartile (box) and 1.5 times

739 the interquartile range (whiskers) are indicated; data points outside the range are
740 represented by circles.

741

742 **Figure 4** RNAi and mutant analysis for heparin sulfate biosynthesis pathway genes.

743 The experimental design is the same as in Figure 3. Left panel shows the effect of RNAi
744 or mutant alleles in the absence of hINS^{C96Y} expression; right panel shows the effect
745 when hINS^{C96Y} is expressed in the eye imaginal disc. Mutants were tested in
746 heterozygous states for a dominant interaction with hINS^{C96Y}. Fifteen male flies are
747 measured for each group. The statistical significance of differences from the control
748 cross (gray, w1118) was determined by a two-sided student's t test. Those that are
749 significant at 0.05 level after Bonferroni correction are marked with a red arrowhead.

750

751 **Figure 5** Sequencing of a 3 kb region in *sfl* and the LD patterns in the region. (A)
752 Alignment of 19 DGRP sequences ordered by their eye degeneration phenotype (mean,
753 most severe on the bottom). The hINS^{C96Y} transgenic line (asterisk) was also
754 sequenced. Red ticks and white spaces indicate SNPs and deletions relative to the
755 reference sequence. No insertions relative to the reference were found. The purple
756 track shows the -log₁₀ of GWAS P-values. The bottom track shows the linkage blocks as
757 determined by Haploview (4.02) using the solid spine method with default settings (D' >
758 0.8). (B) Detailed haplotype block structures. Each numbered column represents a
759 polymorphic site, with the alleles colored as blue or red; each row represents a
760 haplotype with frequency > 0.01. An arrowhead marks the 18/4 bp indel polymorphism
761 (see text; 18 bp: blue; 4 bp: red). Finally, the number between any two blocks

762 represents the multi-allelic D', which quantifies the associations between adjacent
763 blocks.

764

765 **Figure 6** Pyro-sequencing measure of *sf1* allele-specific transcript ratio in 18 bp/4 bp
766 heterozygotes. (A) Schematic diagram of the pyro-sequencing approach. Colored lines
767 represent transcripts (mRNA) associated with either the 18 bp or the 4 bp allele,
768 expressed at different levels. Common primers were used to amplify both transcripts of
769 the gene of interest from the cDNA library made from eye imaginal disc tissues. Pyro-
770 sequencing was carried out on the amplified products. (B) A pyrogram of a heterozygote
771 with the polymorphic site (G/C) that is diagnostic for the 18 bp/4 bp indel highlighted.
772 The ratio of the two peaks (light intensity, y-axis) are used to calculate the relative ratio
773 of the two alleles. (E: enzyme, S: substrate, A/C/G/T: nucleotides). (C) Log2
774 transformed ratio of 18 bp/4 bp allele expression in 15 crosses between randomly
775 paired 18bp and 4bp lines. Estimates of the ratio and 95% confidence intervals are
776 plotted. The dotted line corresponds to equal expression from the two alternative alleles.

777

778

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

779 **Figure S1** Pyro-sequencing cross and assay design. (A) Cross design for pyro-
780 sequencing. Six 18 bp and eight 4 bp lines were chosen from the 154 DGRP lines used
781 in GWAS. The Bloomington center stock number is listed. In each cell, the order of the
782 letter/number indicates the direction of the cross. For example, A1 indicates that males
783 of #28240 were crossed to virgin females of #28190. (B) Pyro-sequencing assays. Four
784 SNPs were selected within the transcribed regions to distinguish alleles associated with
785 the 18/4 bp indel polymorphism.

786

787 **Figure S2** Correlations of eye area between F1 males and females within the same
788 cross. Mean \pm 1 s.d. are plotted for a subset of 38 lines. The least square linear fit is
789 indicated.

790

791 **Figure S3** Population structure assessed through principal component analysis (PCA)
792 using 900K autosomal SNPs after LD pruning. (A) 154 DGRP inbred lines projected
793 onto the plane spanned by the first two principal components (PC1, PC2). The points
794 are colored according to the phenotype severity in the *hINS^{C96Y}* crosses (red: severe, or
795 first 25%; blue: intermediate, 25%-75%; green: mild, 75%-100%, percentiles in eye area
796 distribution from small to large). (B) projection onto PC1 grouped by the severity of the
797 eye phenotype showed no correlation between the two.

798

799 **Figure S4** Mixed linear model regression accounting for cryptic relatedness. (A) The
800 heat map shows a 154 x 154 matrix representing the centered genetic relatedness

801 matrix (GRM) estimated using EMMAX. The boxed area is shown in detail in (B), with
802 their line ID (RAL#) indicated on the right and bottom. The GRM was used in a mixed
803 linear model to perform genome wide association in the 154 lines. And the resulting p-
804 values for autosomal and X-linked variants are plotted as Q-Q plot in (C) and (D), with
805 the red line indicating matches between the data and the null (uniform) p-value
806 distribution. (E) Manhattan plot showing the $-\log_{10}$ p-values against the chromosomal
807 coordinates. No association is expected on the X chromosome. The blue dotted line
808 indicates a Bonferroni corrected $P < 0.05$, while the red solid line indicates a 5%
809 genome-wide significant level based on 500 permutations.

810

811 **Figure S5** FlyAtlas expression report for CG32396 and *sfl*. (A) CG32396 (B) *sfl*. Figure
812 obtained through FlyBase.

813

814 **Figure S6** Quantitative RT-PCR quantification of mRNA levels for CG32396 and *sfl* in
815 eye imaginal disc samples. Two DGRP lines were chosen and eye imaginal discs were
816 prepared from either six male or six female larvae, resulting in four biological samples.
817 qRT-PCR were performed for each sample and three genes (RP49 -- red curve, *sfl* --
818 yellow, and CG32396 -- green). Shown is the amplification plot: x-axis -- cycle number;
819 y-axis -- base-line corrected relative fluorescence intensity proportional to the amount of
820 amplicons. Both RP49 and *sfl* were first detected in the 18-20th cycle, whereas the
821 appearance of CG32396 did not occur until after 32 cycle. In addition, multiple melting
822 points were detected for CG32396 assays, but not in the other two genes.

823

824 **Figure S7** Relative quantity of mRNA quantified by qRT-PCR in male and female larvae.
825 In each category, the first three bars represent three independent female larvae sample
826 (whole larva), each assayed with three technical replicates. The heights of the bars
827 represent the mean; the full range of RQ values are indicated by the error bars. The
828 next three bars correspond to three independent male larvae assayed for the same
829 gene. *kl-3* and *Pp1-Y2* are both located on the Y-chromosome and are known to have
830 testis-specific expression. The RQ values were measured using *RP49* gene as the
831 internal control, with the first female larva sample (F-1) as the reference and RQ set to
832 one.

833

834 **Figure S8** Depletion of *sf1* by RNAi in the developing wing expressing *hINS^{C96Y}* driven
835 by *dpp-Gal4*. For both females and males, *dpp* >> *hINS^{C96Y}* or *Dpp* >> *sf1* RNAi
836 expression alone reduces wing area between the L2 and L4 longitudinal veins relative
837 to the posterior-most sector of the wing (bordered by L5). This reduction is more severe
838 in the *sf1* knockdown genotype than in the *hINA^{C96Y}*-expressing genotype. Co-
839 expression of *sf1* RNAi and *hINS^{C96Y}* by *dpp-Gal4* results in the obliteration of the L3
840 vein and further relative reduction of the L2-L4 area. (A): Wild type wing showing the
841 measured regions of the wing used to quantify the effects of both *sf1* RNAi and *hINS^{C96Y}*
842 expression in *dpp-Gal4* domain (L3-L4 intervein sector). Quantification of the (B)
843 female or (E) male wing phenotypes generated by transgenes *dpp-Gal4*; *dpp-Gal4*
844 >UAS-*hINS^{C96Y}*; (C, G) *dpp-Gal4* >> UAS-*sf1* RNAi; and (D, H) *dpp-Gal4* >>UAS-*sf1*
845 RNAi; UAS-*hINS^{C96Y}*. The values represent the ratio of the third posterior cell (in pink

846 color) divided by the L2-L4 intervein sector (in green color) wing area. ***, $P < 0.001$;
847 Mann-Whitney U test.
848 Females: dpp-Gal4 (n= 15; Mean= 0.62), dpp-Gal4 >UAS-hINS^{C96Y} (n= 15; Mean=0.65),
849 dpp-Gal4 >> UAS-*sf1* RNAi (n= 23; Mean=1.3) and dpp-Gal4 >>UAS-*sf1* RNAi; UAS-
850 hINS^{C96Y} (n= 22; Mean=1.76).
851 Males: dpp-Gal4 (n= 15; Mean=0.59), dpp-Gal4 >UAS-hINS^{C96Y} (n= 15; Mean=0.64),
852 dpp-Gal4 >> UAS-*sf1* RNAi (n=23; Mean=1.2) and dpp-Gal4 >>UAS-*sf1* RNAi; UAS-
853 hINS^{C96Y} (n= 29; Mean=1.68).

854

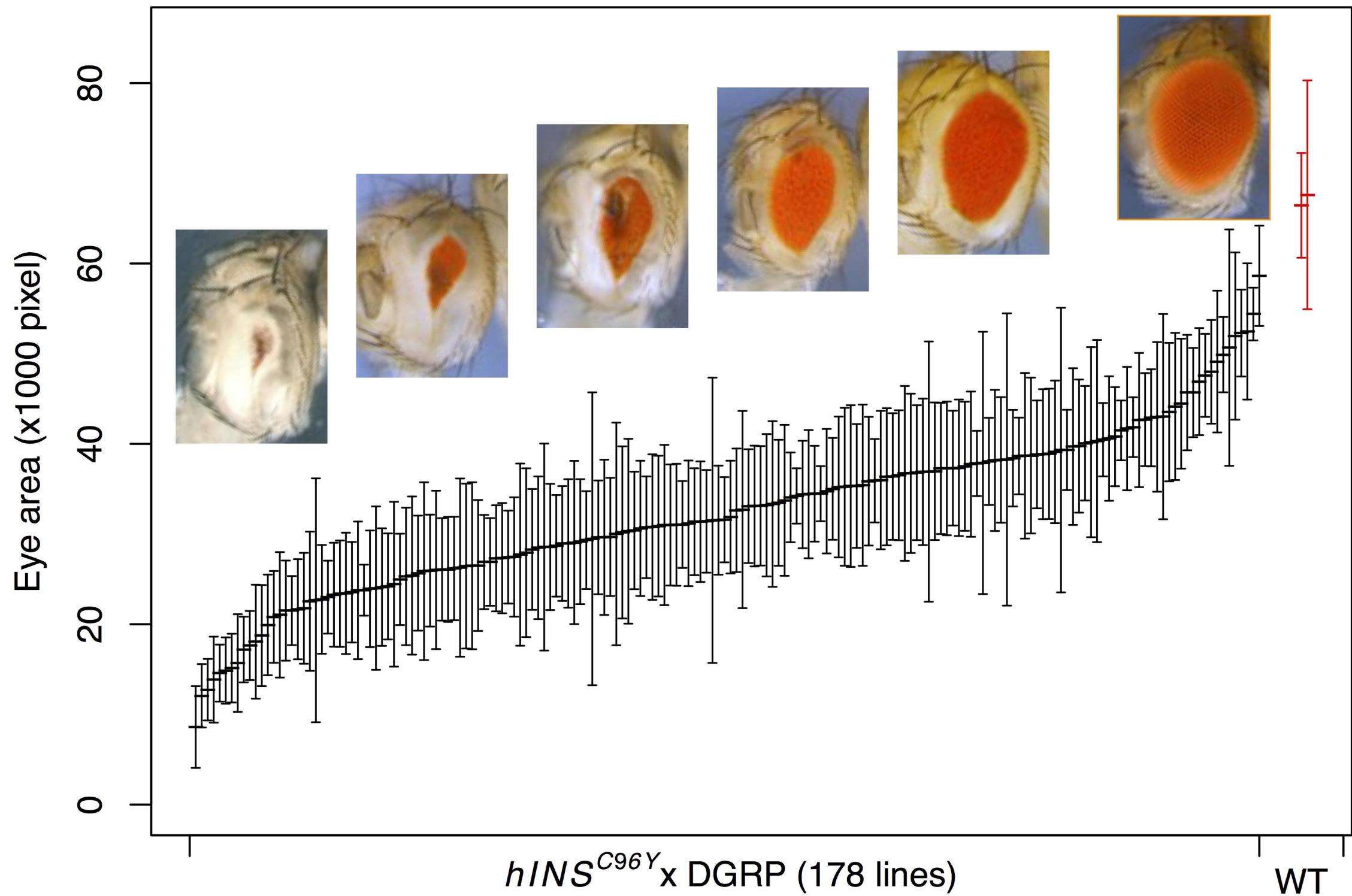
855 **Figure S9** Depletion of *sf1* by RNAi in the developing notum expressing hINS^{C96Y} driven
856 by ap-Gal4. For both females and males, ap > hINS^{C96Y} or ap > *sf1* RNAi expression
857 alone reduces notum area and causes loss of dorsal macrochaetae. Co-expression of
858 *sf1* RNAi and hINS^{C96Y} by ap-Gal4 results in greater destruction of the notum and
859 macrochaetae in both sexes. However, in the male the notum and additional dorsal
860 structures are absent and this phenotype is lethal.
861 ap-Gal4 > hINS^{C96Y} (A) female and (D) male;
862 ap-Gal4 > *sf1* RNAi (B) female and (E) male;
863 ap-Gal4>> hINS^{C96Y}, *sf1* RNAi (C) female (F) male
864

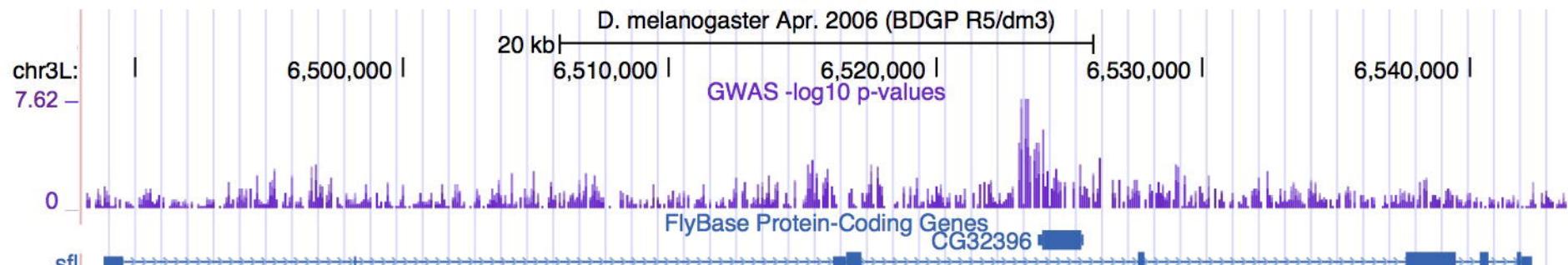
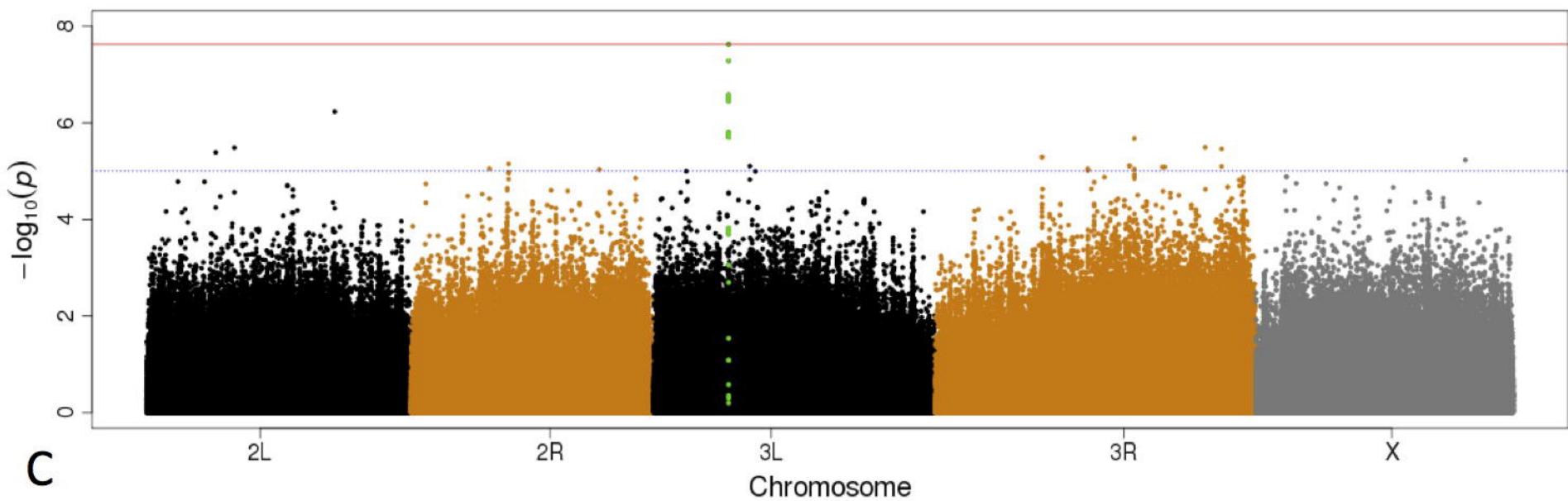
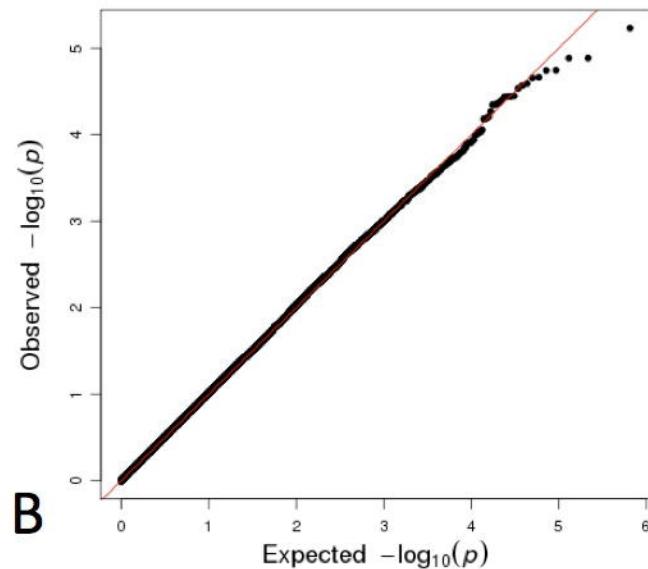
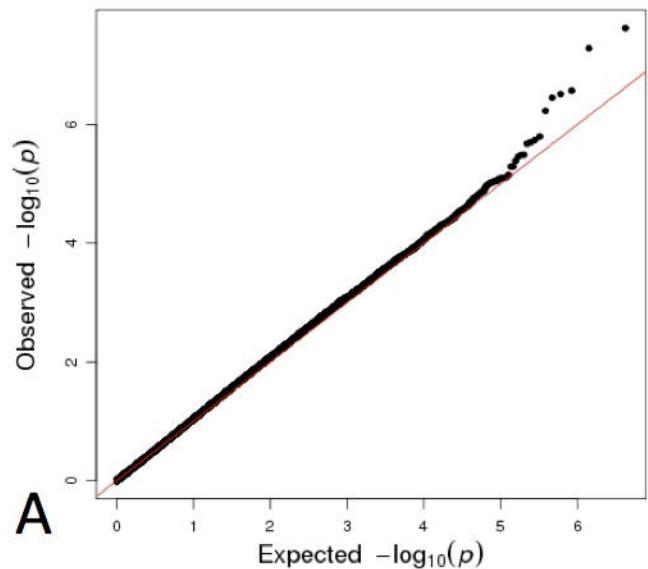
865 **Figure S10** log2 transformed ratios between transcript levels associated with 18 bp/4
866 bp alleles. The allele-specific expression ratios were measured in each F1 heterozygote
867 by pyro-sequencing, with three (or four) biological replicates and four (or three) pyro-
868 technical replicates, to obtain a total of 12 measurements. In each of the 15 crosses, the

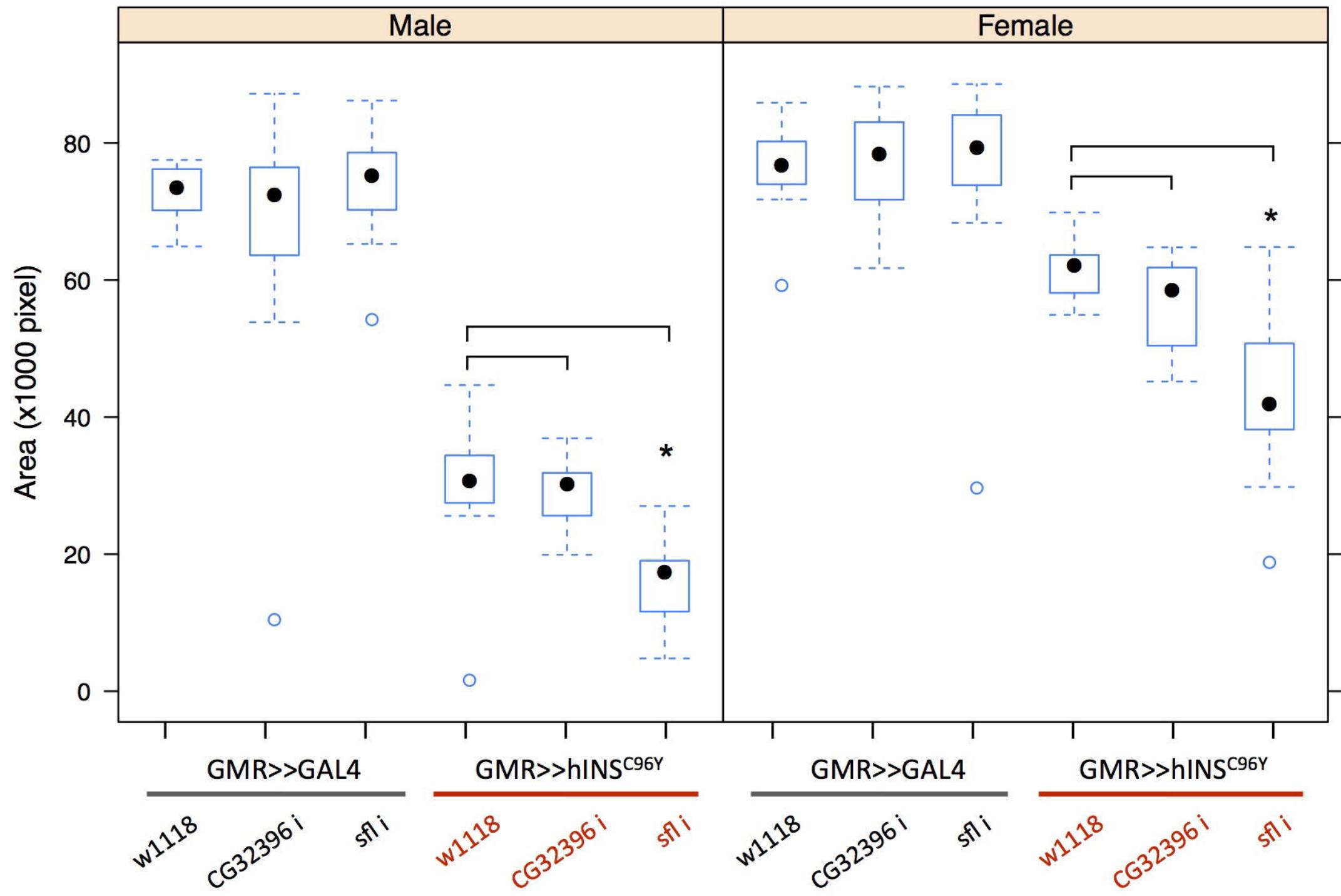
869 technical replicates were plotted in a single column, with different columns representing
870 the biological replicates. In the titles of each panel, the last three digits in the stock
871 number were shown for lines used in the cross.

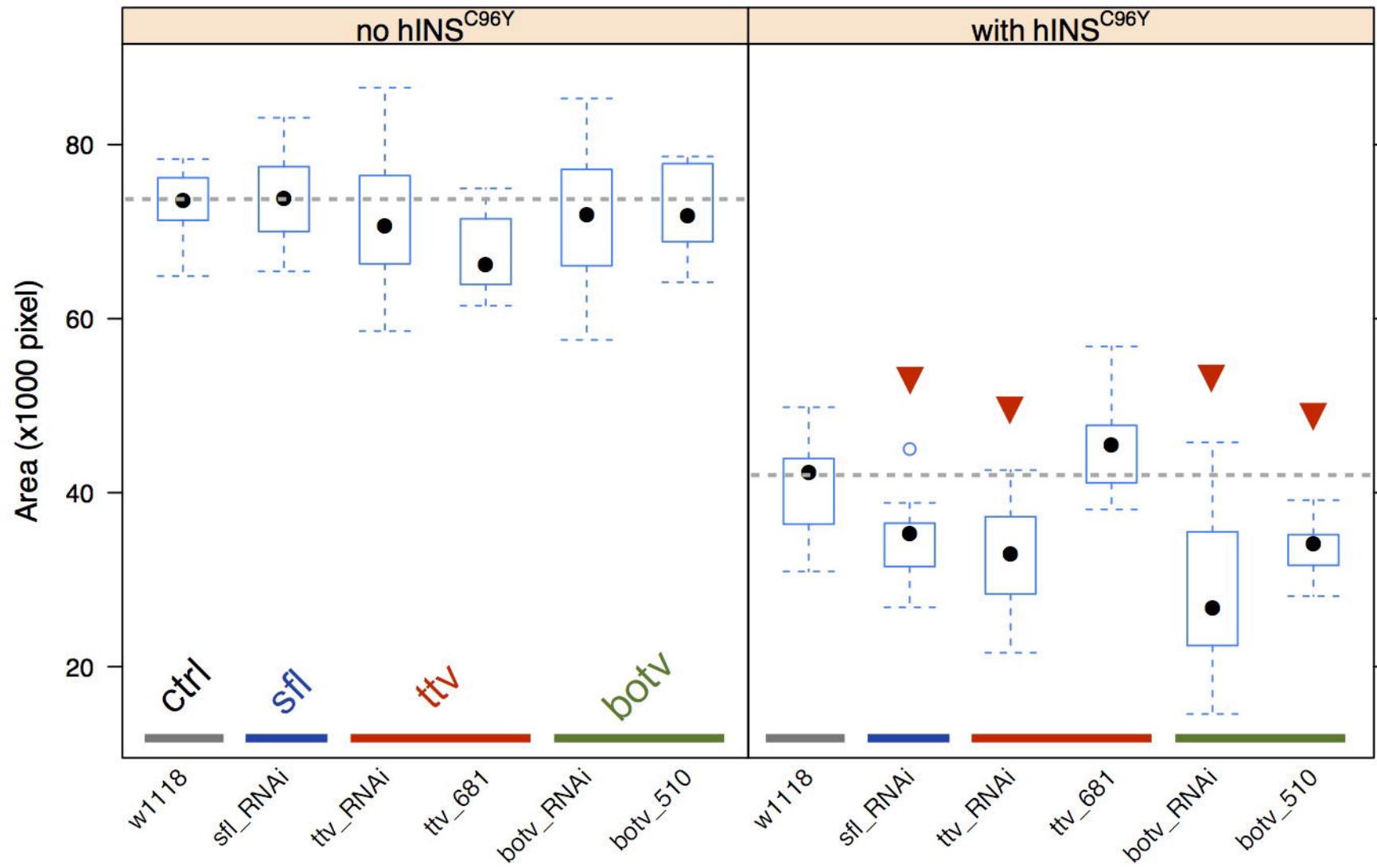
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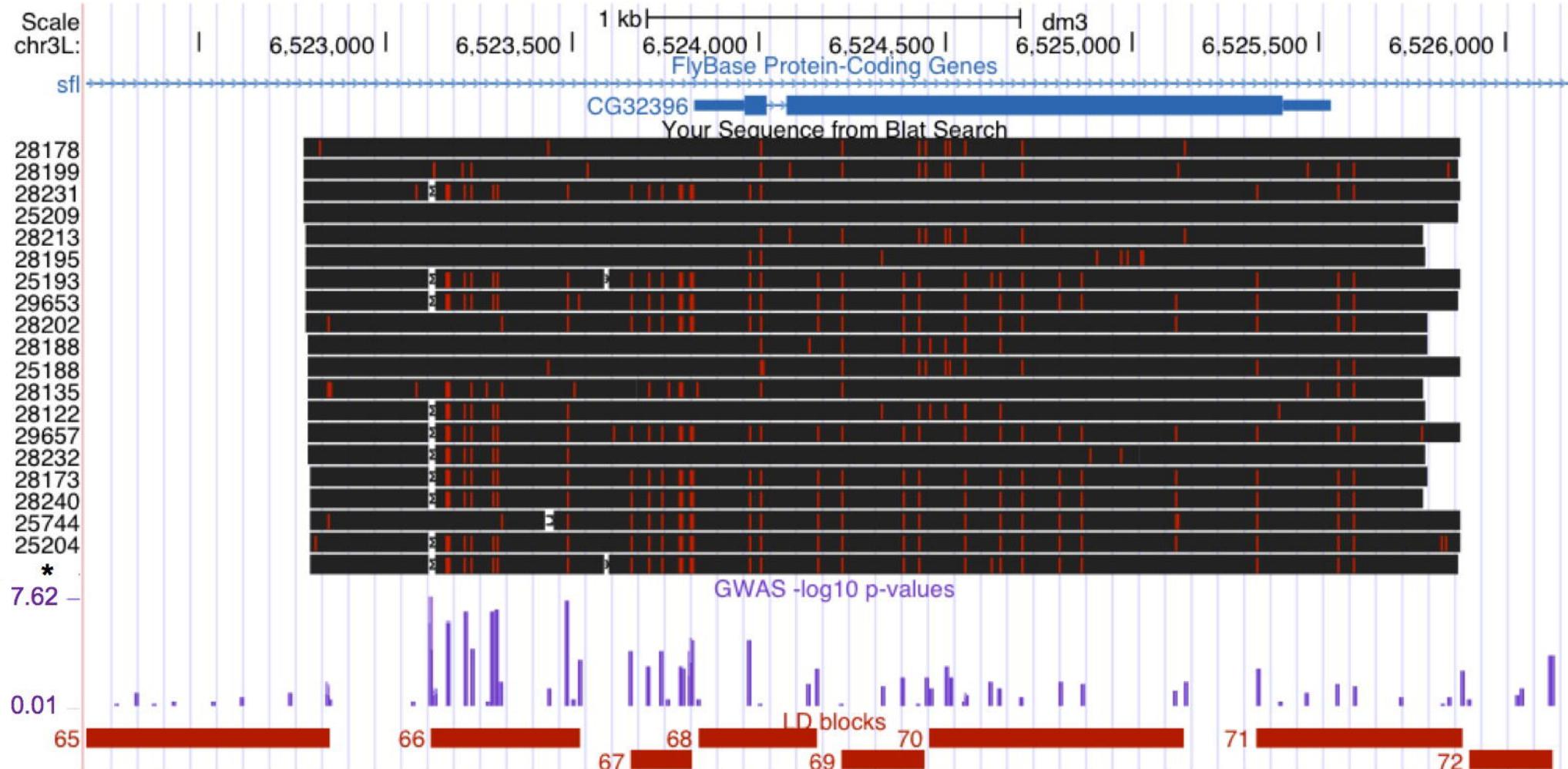
873 **Figure S11** Conditional regression analysis to detect additional SNPs associated with
874 the phenotype of interest. (A) within the *sfl* locus; (B) all chromosomes. The intronic 18
875 pb/4 bp polymorphism in *sfl* is included in the linear model as a covariate. The two
876 dotted lines in (A) correspond to a single test 0.05 level (red) and the multiple testing
877 corrected 0.05 level using Bonferroni's method (blue). The red line in (B) represents the
878 Bonferroni corrected 0.05 level.



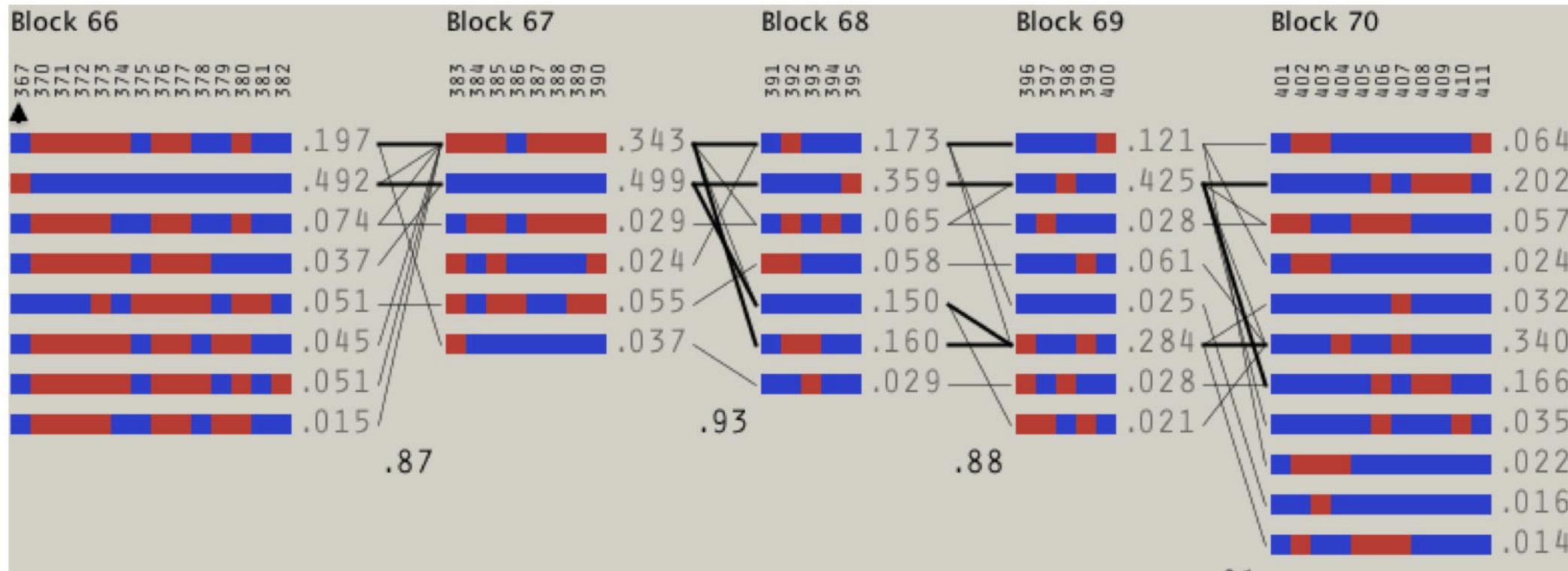








A



B

