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Enhancer locus in ch14q23.1 modulates brain asymmetric temporal regions involved in language processing

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- 9 the results; and Y.L.G., C.P., G.D.L. and V.F. wrote the paper.
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- 12

13 Abstract

14 Identifying the genes that contribute to the variability in brain regions involved in language processing may

shed light on the evolution of brain structures essential to the emergence of language in Homo sapiens. The

superior temporal asymmetrical pit (STAP), which is not observed in chimpanzees, represents an ideal

17 phenotype to investigate the genetic variations that support human communication. The depth of the left

19 *KIAA0586*, in the UK Biobank British discovery sample (N=16,515). This association was replicated in the 20 IMAGEN cohort (N=1,726) and the UK Biobank non-British validation sample (N=2,161). This genomic

region was also associated to a lesser extent with the right STAP depth and the formation of sulcal

interruptions, *plis de passage*, in the bilateral STAP but not with other structural brain MRI phenotypes,

highlighting its notable association with the superior temporal regions. Diffusion MRI emphasized an

association with the fractional anisotropy of the left auditory fibers of the corpus callosum and with networks

involved in linguistic processing in resting-state functional MRI. Overall, this evidence demonstrates a

26 specific relationship between this locus and the establishment of the superior temporal regions that support

27 human communication.

28 Introduction

29 Which genes participate in the biological foundations of human language processing? This question remains unanswered. Initial approaches sought to identify rare monogenic mutations in families with language and 30 speech disorders, which revealed the roles of FOXP2 (Fisher et al. 1998) and KIAA0319 (Francks et al. 31 32 2004), for example. The discovery of these genes led to productive research in humans and animals in the following aspects: First, which brain areas do these genes modulate either structurally or functionally in 33 humans: and second, how do animal variants and even human variants in animals affect neural networks 34 35 and animal abilities? A complementary approach, which is now possible due to genotyping and 36 neuroimaging in large cohorts, is to investigate the relationship between certain brain structures and allelic 37 variations in the normal human population (Cai et al. 2014). Although all participants have language ability, this type of research can pinpoint particular genetic and neural architectures, opening new windows to 38 understanding language. For example, Dediu and Ladd (Dediu and Ladd 2007) proposed that typological 39 features of languages may depend on certain allele frequencies in human groups, and they explored the 40 relationship between tonal languages and the distribution of allelic variants of ASPM and Microcephalin. 41 Functional and structural asymmetries may be one of the human brain phenotypes whose genetic study may 42 43 shed light on this issue. Indeed, human communication is based on the retrieval of two crucial types of 44 information in speech, who speaks and what is said. In most adults, the message and the messenger are processed in parallel in the superior temporal region, with the linguistic message (Mazover et al. 1993) and 45 voice identification (Belin et al. 2000) processed in the left and right hemispheres, respectively. This 46 channeling is present early in human infants (Dehaene-Lambertz et al. 2002; Bristow et al. 2009). At six 47 months of gestation, activations to syllables are differently lateralized when preterm infants discriminate a 48 49 phonetic change (/ba/ vs /ga/) or a voice change (male vs female) (Mahmoudzadeh et al. 2013). Thus, the left and right peri-sylvian regions are distinctly functionally organized from the onset of thalamocortical 50 connectivity. Therefore, this organization occurs before sensory input can shape these regions, suggesting 51 52 genetically determined protomaps.

These functional asymmetries should be discussed in relation to the notable asymmetries visible at the 53 macroscopic level and reported near the Sylvian fissure. The Sylvian fissure is more dorsal and oblique in 54 the right hemisphere, the *planum temporale* is larger in the left hemisphere (Geschwind and Levitsky 1968) 55 and the right superior temporal sulcus (STS) is deeper than the left (Leroy et al. 2015). Some asymmetries, 56 57 such as the shape and location of the Sylvian fissure and the left-right size difference in the *planum*, are 58 observed in apes (Hopkins et al. 2000), but the STS depth asymmetry is the first macroscopic brain asymmetry that has been observed only in humans. A 45-mm-long segment located under Heschl's gyrus, 59 superior temporal asymmetrical pit (STAP), is deeper in the right hemisphere than in the left in 96% of 60 human infants, children, and adults but not in chimpanzees (Leroy et al. 2015). During gestation, the right 61 STS appears earlier than the left, similar to many other sulci (Dubois et al. 2008; Habas et al. 2012); however 62 other left sulci catch up, while the left STS remains shallower than the right STS and is more often 63 interrupted by one or more *plis de passage* (PPs) (Leroy et al. 2015; Le Guen, Leroy, et al. 2018). The 64 65 observation of these structural and functional differences before term age suggests that genetically driven mechanisms guide the development of peri-sylvian regions to endorse the complexity of verbal and 66 nonverbal communication in the human species. Because of the sharp distinction between chimpanzees and 67 humans, Leroy et al. (2015) suggested that the STAP may represent an important macroscopic marker of 68 the recent cytoarchitectonic changes (Cantalupo and Hopkins 2001) in the primate lineage supporting the 69 communication function in humans. We have previously examined the heritability (i.e., the genetic 70

- 71 proportion in phenotypic variance across individuals) of STS characteristics. Because sulcal pits correspond
- to the deeper parts of sulci where the initial or primary folds occur, they show less intersubject variability
- 73 (Meng et al. 2014; Le Guen, Auzias, et al. 2018). In the left STAP area, the two sulcal pit regions (STS b
- and c in Le Guen, Auzias, et al. (2018)) are highly heritable, in contrast to the right STS, yielding the largest
- asymmetric estimate of heritability for all brain sulci. In addition, the PPs that interrupt some sulci are more
- frequent and heritable in the left STS ($h^2 = 0.53$) than in the right ($h^2 = 0.27$) (Le Guen, Leroy, et al. 2018).
- 77 In most brain regions, this interhemispheric difference in heritability estimates was not detected, therefore
- resuggesting a distinctive genetic modulation in the superior temporal lobes.
- Therefore, to clarify the genetic influence on the development of the human communication system, we 79 studied the genetic variants that are significantly associated with STAP phenotypes (i.e., the right and left 80 sulcal depths, their asymmetry and the formation of PPs). We took advantage of the most recent release of 81 82 the UK Biobank, which includes approximately 22,000 individuals genotyped and scanned with the same 83 MRI scanner and imaging protocol (Miller et al. 2016). We used 16,515 genetically confirmed individuals of British ancestry as our discovery sample and the remaining 2,161 non-British ancestry subjects as a first 84 replication sample. In addition, we used the IMAGEN cohort of 1,726 adolescents (14-15 years) as the 85 second replication sample. We found that an intergenic region upstream of DACT1 located in 14q23.1 86 modulates STS phenotypes. To further understand the functional role of this region, we first used databases 87 of information on gene tissue expression and chromatin states in various brain tissues at different stages of 88 development. Second, we investigated the effect of this region on brain phenotypes by taking advantage of 89 the multimodal sequences acquired in the same UK Biobank subjects (T1w, diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) 90
- and resting state). We observed that this gene has a localized effect on the superior temporal regions,
- 92 particularly on the left STS, which suggests a role in the establishment of the linguistic network.

93 Methods

94 Subjects. In this study, we used the UK Biobank data released in October 2018, including 22,392 subjects with T1-weighted MRI who were aged 44 to 81 years at the time of the imaging visit. The genetic data have 95 already been subject to rigorous quality control (Bycroft et al. 2018). We limited our analysis to individuals 96 97 identified by the UK Biobank as belonging to the main subset of white British ancestry. Subjects with high genotyped missingness, high heterozygosity or sex mismatches were excluded from our analysis (Bycroft 98 et al. 2018). Briefly, the UK Biobank contains genotypes of 488,377 participants who were genotyped on 99 the following arrays: UK BiLEVE Axiom Array (807,411 markers; 49,950 participants) and UK Biobank 100 Axiom Array (825,927 markers; 438,427 participants). The two arrays are very similar, sharing 101 102 approximately 95% of the marker content. Genotypes were called from the array intensity data in 106 batches of approximately 4700 samples each using a custom genotype-calling pipeline. 103

Among individuals with the STAP phenotype, 13,956 individuals of British ancestry were scanned at Cheadle and 2,559 at Nottingham, while, 1,935 individuals of non-British ancestry were scanned at Cheadle and 226 at Nottingham. In addition, we described previous results obtained with the HCP cohort (Le Guen, Leroy, et al. 2018), and details are included in **Supplementary Methods**.

Ethical approval. UK Biobank has approval from the North West Multi-centre Research Ethics Committee
 (MREC), which covers the UK. The present study was approved by the UK Biobank ethics committee under
 application number 25251.

Imputation. Phasing and imputation were carried out by the UK Biobank and are described in detail 111 elsewhere (Bycroft et al. 2018). Briefly, phasing on the autosomes was performed using SHAPEIT3 112 (O'Connell et al. 2016) with the 1000 Genomes Phase 3 dataset as a reference panel. For imputation, both 113 the Haplotype Reference Consortium (HRC) reference panel (McCarthy et al. 2016) and a merged 114 UK10K/1000 Genomes Phase 3 panel were used. This imputation resulted in a dataset with 92,693,895 115 autosomal SNPs, short indels and large structural variants. This customized imputation represents the most 116 reliable high-resolution imputation to date and enables fine-mapping to identify causal genetic variants 117 118 (Schaid et al. 2018).

Quality control and filtering. QC was performed using PLINK v1.9 ^{18,19}. We removed all SNPs with a call rate < 90% accounting for the two genotyping platforms used to genotype individuals (784,256 genotyped variants remained). In the genotyped variants, we removed variants with more than 5% missing genotype data (70,737 variants removed), variants with Hardy-Weinberg exact test < 10⁻⁶ (18,462 variants) and variants with minor allele frequency < 0.01 (101,839 variants). A total of 593,218 genotyped variants remained for analysis. The same thresholds were applied to the imputed SNPs, and 8,011,919 imputed variants remained after filtering.

126 In addition, we excluded all individuals who fulfilled at least one of the following criteria: discrepancy 127 between genetically inferred sex (Data field 22001) and self-reported sex (Data field 31), outliers in 128 heterozygosity and missing rates (Data field 22027), and individuals not flagged by UK Biobank as 129 belonging to a white British ancestry subset (Data field 22006) (i.e., identified as British by principal

130 component analysis and self-reported 'British').

MRI data acquisition. The MRI data acquisition parameters and preprocessing are described in detail in
the UK Biobank Brain Imaging Documentation (v.1.5, August 2018) and in previous UK Biobank
publications describing imaging phenotypes and QC (Miller et al. 2016; Alfaro-Almagro et al. 2018; Elliott
et al. 2018).

135 Briefly:

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T1 images were acquired with 1 mm isotropic resolution (key parameters: 3D MPRAGE, sagittal, 136 • R=2, T1/TR = 880/2000 ms, duration = 4 min:54 s); 137 T2 FLAIR images were acquired with a 1.05*1.0*1.0 mm resolution (key parameters: FLAIR, 3D 138 • SPACE, sagittal, R = 2, PF 7/8, fat sat, T1/TR = 1800/5000 ms, elliptical, duration 5 min:52 s); 139 diffusion MRI (dMRI) images were acquired with 2.0 mm isotropic resolution (key parameters: MB 140 • = 3, R = 1, TE/TR = 92/3600 ms, PF 6/8, fat sat, b = 0 s/mm² (5x+ 3*phase-encoding reversed), b 141 $= 1000 \text{ s/mm}^2 (50^*), b = 2000 \text{ s/mm}^2 (50^*), duration = 7 \text{ min:}8s);$ 142 resting-state functional MRI (rfMRI) images were acquired with 2.4 mm isotropic resolution (key • 143 parameters: TE/TR = 39/735 ms, MB = 8, R = 1, flip angle = 52° , fat sat, duration = 6 min: 10 s). 144 145 **STAP depth extraction.** The STAP section was extracted using the automated method described in Le 146 147 Guen, Leroy, et al. (2018). Briefly, we first extracted the sulcal pits (primary cortical folds) using a 148 watershed algorithm (Auzias et al. 2015). Then, we summed all the individual pit densities on a symmetric template using surface-based interhemispheric registration (Greve et al. 2013). We used a watershed 149

algorithm on this group pit density, which yielded a group parcellation of the sulcal pits. We projected these

group areas onto the individual meshes and identified areas denoted STS b, c, d (Le Guen, Auzias, et al.

- 152 2018). Then, we extracted the geodesic path of the vertices that follow the sulcal fundus on the white mesh
- between the deepest pits STS b and the STS c/d border, which approximately correspond to the STAP
- 154 Talaraich coordinates defined by Leroy et al. (2015). From this set of vertices, we obtained individual
- profiles of the geodesic depth and depth potential function (PF), which considers both sulcal depth and
- 156 convexity. We averaged these values along the STAP for each subject to obtain our depth phenotypes. We
- also applied the PP detection method described in Le Guen, Leroy, et al. (2018) and benchmarked on manually labeled data from Leroy et al. (2015) to identify subjects with at least one sulcal interruption in
- their depth profile. This process led to the binary phenotype "presence or absence of PP". Among our British
- discovery sample that completed the pipeline (16,515 subjects), 9,501 subjects had a left PP (57.53%), and
- 161 2,587 had a right PP (15.66%). We defined the asymmetry index as 2(L-R)/(L+R).
- **Phenome-wide analysis.** We processed the T1w and T2w images with the Freesurfer v6 pipeline (Fischl 162 2012), and extracted individual measures from the following output files: ?h.aparc.stats (Desikan 163 164 parcellation (Desikan et al. 2006)), ?h.aparc.a2009s.stats (Destrieux parcellation (Destrieux et al. 2010)), and aseg.stats (subcortical volumes). We processed the T1w images with Brainvisa Morphologist pipeline 165 (Perrot et al. 2011) and obtained individual sulcus measures per subject. We obtained diffusion MRI and 166 resting-state MRI phenotypes from the UK Biobank (Miller et al. 2016; Elliott et al. 2018). Briefly, diffusion 167 MRI measures were extracted using TBSS (Smith et al. 2006) from the ICBM 48 white matter tracts atlas 168 (Mori et al. 2008). For resting-state fMRI (rfMRI), independent component analysis (ICA) was performed 169 by the UK Biobank on the first 4,181 participants (Miller et al. 2016). A total of 21 and 55 good components 170 were identified for 25 and 100 component analyses, respectively (Elliott et al. 2018). These components 171 172 were subsequently used for rfMRI acquired in the following subjects. The rfMRI phenotypes include the 173 amplitude of the ICA weighted rfMRI BOLD signal, referred to as ICA amplitude, the Pearson correlation and partial correlations between pairs of ICA time series, which are also referred to as functional 174 175 connectivity.
- **Quantitative genetics.** In our discovery sample, we used genome complex trait analysis (GCTA), (Yang et 176 al. 2011) which provides an estimate of heritability in population studies with unrelated genotyped 177 178 participants. To compute the kinship matrix of the population, we selected specific SNPs with PLINK v1.9 (Purcell et al. 2007) using the following thresholds: missing genotype = 5% (70,737 variants excluded), 179 Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium test (hwe) = 10^{-6} (18,462), and minor allele frequency (maf) = 1.0% (101,839). 180 We kept the SNPs in moderate linkage disequilibrium with a variation inflation factor of 10 within a window 181 of 50 SNPs (91,496 variants excluded). Then, we computed the genetic relationship matrix with GCTA 182 1.25.3 using the 501,722 SNPs left. The amount of phenotypic variance captured by this matrix is estimated 183 using a mixed-effects linear model. As covariates, we included gender, genotyping array type, age at the 184 MRI session and the 10 genetic principal components (PCs) provided by the UK Biobank to account for 185
- 186 population stratification.
- Heritability replication in the HCP cohort. The heritability estimates for the Human Connectome Project followed the steps described in our previous study (Le Guen, Leroy, et al. 2018). Briefly, these estimates are computed using the Sequential Oligogenic Linkage Analysis Routines (SOLAR) (Almasy and Blangero 1998) on an extended pedigree of 820 Caucasian individuals, which includes twins and siblings. To replicate heritability estimates of the STAP phenotypes, we included 820 subjects (383/437 M/F) labeled as Caucasian with 69 individuals from the Hispanic ethnicity. The pedigree is composed of 191 twin pairs (127 monozygotic (MZ) with 123 siblings and 64 dizygotic (DZ) with 64 siblings and 1 half sibling), 190 siblings,

- 194 1 half sibling and 59 unpaired individuals, aged between 22 and 36 years old ($\mu \pm \sigma = 29.0 \pm 3.6$ years). The
- 195 pedigree was provided by the HCP, and most sibling pairs were genetically confirmed. Note that in (Le
- 196 Guen, Leroy, et al. 2018), we only reported in the main text the heritability of the PPs. However, these were
- extracted in each individual based on their STAP geodesic depth and depth PF; thus, to obtain the other
- 198 STAP features, we averaged these depth profiles and computed their asymmetry index in the same set of
- subjects and used the same methodology to estimate the heritability.

Genome-wide associations in the UK Biobank. The analyses of genotype-phenotype associations were performed with PLINKv1.9 (Purcell et al. 2007) using the imputed genotype data. The same thresholds as above were applied (missing genotype: 5%, hwe: 10^{-6} , and maf: 0.01). We included the same covariates as those in the quantitative genetics section. For association with the lead SNP, we controlled a posteriori for the MRI scanner center and brain volumes (**Tables S3-S4**). These two covariates do not affect the main result presented here.

GWAs replication in the IMAGEN cohort. For the replication of GWAS, we included 1726 subjects with T1 MR Images (ADNI-MPRAGE whose parameters are available in (Schumann et al. 2010)) and genotyping data. The SNPs common to the Illumina 610-Quad and 660-Quad arrays were considered and we used the imputed data available from the IMAGEN project (<u>https://imagen2.cea.fr</u>). Briefly, imputation was performed using MaCH using the 1000 genome Phase 3 dataset as a reference (v3.20101123).

- Functional annotation. The functional annotations of loci were provided by FUMA (Watanabe et al. 2017), 211 which notably annotates SNP location, expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) querying the Braineac 212 (Ramasamy et al. 2014), GTEx (GTEx Consortium 2017), Common Mind (CMC) (Fromer et al. 2016), and 213 eQTLGen (Võsa et al. 2018) databases, and splicing QTL (sQTL) in GTEx. GTEx, Braineac and eQTLGen 214 were further manually gueried. Additionally, we gueried the Brain-eMeta eOTL summary data (Oi et al. 215 2018), which is a set of eQTL data from a meta-analysis of GTEx brain(GTEx Consortium 2017), 216 CMC(Fromer et al. 2016), and ROSMAP (Ng et al. 2017). The estimated effective is n = 1,194 samples. 217 Only SNPs within a 1Mb distance from each probe are available. This dataset is available on the SMR 218 website (cnsgenomics.com/software/smr). The chromatin state was from the Roadmap Epigenomics 219 Consortium (Roadmap Epigenomics Consortium et al. 2015) and inferred by ChromHMM (Ernst and Kellis 220 2012) in various brain tissues. 221
- 222 **Results**

Heritability and genome-wide association. The first two columns in **Table 1** present the heritability 223 224 estimates of STAP phenotypes in the following populations: the extended pedigree of the Human Connectome Project (HCP) using SOLAR (Almasy and Blangero 1998) and unrelated individuals in the 225 UK Biobank using GCTA (Yang et al. 2011). Although weaker due to the different cohort design, the higher 226 heritability estimates in the left hemisphere of the geodesic depth and presence of PP previously obtained 227 in HCP (Le Guen, Leroy, et al. 2018) were reproduced in UK Biobank individuals (details in Table S1). 228 The depth asymmetry index was also heritable. We computed the genome-wide association (GWA) with 229 these phenotypes in the UK Biobank discovery sample (see Fig. S1-S3 for the Manhattan and QQ plots of 230 these association tests). A region upstream (26.5 kb) of the DACT1 gene in the cytogenetic band 14q23.1 231 contains SNPs whose associated p-values passed the Bonferroni-corrected genomic threshold ($p < 5 \cdot 10^{-8}/8$ 232 = $6.25 \cdot 10^{-9}$) (Fig. 1A). Fig. S4 presents the associated region corresponding to 2 MB around the locus. The 233 strongest association in imputed SNPs was with rs160458 (p = $2.0 \cdot 10^{-12}$, N = 16,203, base pair (bp) position 234

235 = 59074878 (GRCh37)) and in genotyped SNPs with rs160459 ($p = 4.2 \cdot 10^{-12}$, N=16,515, base pair position 236 = 59074136), which are both annotated in Ensembl (Zerbino et al. 2018) as "human-specific bases". 237 Suggestive associations ($10^{-6}) were observed for other left/right STAP phenotypes, while the$ 238 asymmetry index of the geodesic depth and DPF were significant at <math>p < 0.05 (uncorrected). In the following 239 section, we focus on the genotyped SNP rs160459 because its chromatin state in the brain appears more 240 consistent with a regulatory role (**Fig. 1B**), and both SNPs are in strong linkage disequilibrium ($r^2 = 0.936$ 241 in British ancestry, distance in build GRCh37 = 742 bp).

242 Replication of the association in two other populations (Table 1 for rs160459 and Table S2 for rs160458). The association with the STAP left geodesic depth was replicated in the two samples above the 243 nominal significance level (p < 0.05), with $p = 8.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$ in the IMAGEN cohort and p = 0.041 in the non-244 British UK Biobank sample. On average, the allelic repartition across the three population samples is 21.6% 245 'CC', 49.9% 'CA', and 28.5% 'AA'. Fig. S5 illustrates the effect size of the rs160459 allelic configuration 246 on the geodesic depth and depth PF in the three populations revealing shallower STS in the 'AA' allelic 247 configuration. Fig. 2A shows the influence of rs160459 along the STAP geodesic depth profile. Its allelic 248 configuration exerts a strong control on the posterior part of the left STAP notably at the average location 249 of the posterior PP when it exists. 250

Role of the rs160459 region in the regulation of nearby genes. Fig. 1B presents the chromatin state 251 functional annotation of the genomic region upstream of DACT1 (i.e., the region significantly associated 252 with the left STAP geodesic depth). The subregion around rs160459 has its chromatin state in brain tissues 253 annotated as enhancer (Enh) and/or flanking active transcription start site (TssAFlnk) (Ernst and Kellis 254 2012; Roadmap Epigenomics Consortium et al. 2015), thus revealing its active chromatin state in all tested 255 brain areas, with the notable exception of the dorso-lateral prefrontal cortex. In contrast, this region has a 256 quiescent chromatin state in most other body tissues except stem cells and epithelial cells, suggesting a 257 tropism for neuro-ectoderm derived cell lines (Fig. S6). Table S5 provides the eQTL query results in Brain-258 eMeta for the genome-wide significant (GWS) hits. We did not find any significant eQTLs in brain tissues 259 among our GWS SNPs in Brain-eMeta, expect rs10782438 which eQTL of *PSMA3-AS1* ($p_{uncorrected} = 7 \cdot 10^{-5}$, 260 $p_{FDR} = 0.05$). Querying eQTLGen, which includes a large number of subjects with gene expression in blood, 261 rs160459 is an eQTL of *DACT1* ($p_{uncorrected} = 9 \cdot 10^{-5}$, N = 30,757) but not of other protein coding genes, with 262 a decrease in DACT1 expression with rs160459-C. Additionally, one of the GWS SNPs, rs10782438, is a 263 FDR significant eQTL of DACT1 (puncorrected = 5.10-7, N = 31,086, p_{FDR} = 0.01) (Table S6). In British 264 ancestry, according to LDlink, rs160459 and rs10782438 are in strong linkage disequilibrium with $r^2 =$ 265 0.9132 and D' = 0.9772. Additionally, we note in GTEx that rs160459 and several SNPs of the GWS locus 266 267 block are splicing QTLs (sQTLs) of KIAA0586 and PSMA3-AS1 in several non-brain tissues (Table S7).

268

Nearby gene expression across the lifespan. Fig. S7 presents the expression levels of genes within +/- 1 269 MB of the GWS locus, across brain developmental stages, from Brainspan (Miller et al. 2014). Among these 270 genes, ACTR10, RTN1 and DACT1 showed the highest expression level, with RTN1 mainly expressed in 271 brain tissues (GTEx data not shown). The normalized expression of the genes at least moderately expressed 272 in the brain is reported in **Fig. 1C**. We note that *DACT1* and *DAAM1* are mainly expressed during early 273 brain development in the following distinct periods: high expression from the early to late mid-prenatal 274 period (8 to 24 weeks post-conception (pcw), no data before 8 pcw), followed by a decrease from the late 275 prenatal period (26 pcw) until the end of the first year, and minimal expression after early childhood (from 276

- 277 2 years of age). KIAA0586 is mainly expressed during the early prenatal period (8 to 12 pcw), while PSMA3-
- ASI has a similar trend with an expression level peak during the late-mid prenatal period (16-17 pcw).
- 279

280 Association of multimodality MRI phenotypes association with rs160459. To characterize the potential role of this enhancer genomic region in shaping the human brain, we performed a phenome-wide association 281 (PheWA) of rs160459 with various brain phenotypes computed on structural, diffusion and functional MRI 282 exams available from the UK Biobank. We extracted (i) the brain sulci features with Morphologist (Perrot 283 284 et al. 2011); (ii) cortical thickness, surface area and gray matter volumes with Freesurfer on the Desikan (Desikan et al. 2006) and Destrieux (Destrieux et al. 2010) atlases; and (iii) the subcortical volumes with 285 Freesurfer. From the UK Biobank, we obtained (iv) tract-based spatial statistics (TBSS) (Smith et al. 2006) 286 on white matter tracts from the ICBM atlas (Mori et al. 2008) and (v) resting-state functional MRI (rfMRI) 287 phenotypes (see Methods). 288

Table 2 summarizes the 20 phenotypes with the strongest associations (smallest p-values) with rs160459 (**Table S8** for rs160458, **Table S9** with all phenotypes for rs160459). The Bonferroni significance threshold was $p < 9.7 \cdot 10^{-6}$ (0.05/5179 phenotypes, strict correction not accounting for correlations between phenotypes). A majority of phenotypes are directly related to lateral and superior parts of the temporal cortex, notably the left STS (depth, gray matter volume, surface area and thickness of its banks).

- Fig. S8 shows the mapping of the p-values of the association between rs160459 and brain sulci features (maximum depth, mean depth, sulcal width, surface, gray matter thickness along the sulcus, and sulcus length). This genetic variant clearly has a localized effect on the superior temporal region curvature, with an effect on both the left and right STS as well as on the anterior inferior temporal sulcus. Similarly, regarding cortical features obtained from Freesurfer parcellations (gray volume, surface area, and cortical thickness), the effect is localized to the temporal regions, notably the left banks of the STS in the Desikan
- atlas (Fig. S9) and the left temporal pole and the middle temporal gyrus in the Destrieux atlas (Fig. S10).
- Two main associations were uncovered with diffusion MRI analysis. The most significant association was with the fractional anisotropy (FA) measured in the left tapetum of the corpus callosum, and the second corresponded to the mode of anisotropy (MO) of the left cerebellar peduncle.
- Finally, we analyzed resting-state activity. rs160459 modulates several components that comprise linguistic regions (**Fig. S11**, p < 0.01, uncorrected), such as the superior temporal regions, the insula, the inferior
- frontal region and the basal ganglia (component 18 for ICA25; and components 9 and 38 for ICA100). Associations with ICA100 amplitudes included the left fusiform and associative visual areas (components
- 308 52 and 8, respectively). Correlations between resting-state networks revealed associations with components
- 29-41 and 8-31 for ICA100 and 5-18 for ICA25 (**Fig. S12**), which are implicated in language processing
- 310 (Fig. S13). In particular, Fig. 3A presents the most associated pair, 29-41, with rs160459. Notably,
- 311 component 29 bilaterally comprises the angular and supra-marginal gyri, the STAP and the posterior
- cingulate. Component 41 includes a string of areas from Brodmann area 19 and the fusiform gyri to the
- 313 posterior STS.
- 314 Characterizing the local influence of rs160459 on brain anatomy. The 'CC' and 'AA' allelic
- configurations were observed in a roughly similar number of subjects. We compared brain anatomy (DTI
- **316** FA values, sulcal depth and thickness values) in 'CC' vs 'AA' subjects. A voxelwise difference in FA values
- in the MNI space was detected between the 4,742 British subjects with the 'AA' allele and the 3,470 subjects
- with the 'CC' allele (**Fig. 3C**, left). These regions are projected on the cortex in **Fig. 3C** (right). The tapetum,
- which comprises the auditory callosal fibers, is delineated bilaterally, in addition to a region close to the
- hippocampus. We also noted a difference in FA in the left STS region at the average boundary between gray

and white matter, which corresponds to the average location of the posterior PP in the STAP when present. 321 Similarly, Fig. 3B highlights the vertexwise difference in sulcal depth between 'AA' and 'CC' individuals 322 (other configuration differences are shown in Fig. S14). The left STAP clearly appears as the region with 323 the most substantial difference in depth between these two groups of individuals. Two other areas display 324 reverse effects relative to the STAP; the first area is in the left intraparietal sulcus, and the second is in the 325 left inferior temporal gyrus along the STAP. In the posterior part of the left STAP relative to 'CC' subjects, 326 'AA' subjects have a shallower sulcus surrounded by more pronounced gyri, whereas the white matter is 327 328 more isotropic under the sulcus and anisotropic under the *planum temporale* and the middle temporal gyrus. The vertexwise gray matter thickness difference between 'AA' and 'CC' subjects did not produce 329 remarkable differences, although a small cluster in the left inferior temporal gyrus along the STAP is notable 330 (Fig. S15). 331

332 **Discussion**

333 A genomic effect focused on the language comprehension network. We explored the genetic associations 334 of a recent evolutionary brain feature, the asymmetry of the depth of the STS, and found that the depth of the left STS was heritable in two different population samples (HCP, UK Biobank from British ancestors) 335 and associated with a genomic region upstream of DACT1. This genomic region modulates several other 336 features of the left STS (the gray matter volume, thickness and surface areas of its banks) and of close brain 337 parcels within the left auditory/linguistic network (i.e., Jensen sulcus at the border between the supra-338 marginal and angular gyri, Heschl's gyrus volume and thickness of the left middle temporal lobe), as well 339 as, to a lesser extent, their right homologues (i.e., STS depth and thickness). Notably, although we started 340 from an asymmetric feature, rs160459 associations with brain phenotypes were often significant in both 341 hemispheres. However, the most apparent effects were always observed in the left hemisphere. As 342 summarized in Fig. 3C, this SNP mainly modulated the macro- and microstructure of the temporal and 343 supra-marginal components of the linguistic network with an effect limited to the left STS for some 344 phenotypes, such as sulcal depth (Fig. S7-S11). This tropism for the auditory/linguistic regions was 345 confirmed by resting-state analyses. rs160459 modulated the amplitude of components comprising the 346 classical language areas (superior temporal and inferior frontal regions and the basal ganglia), as indicated 347 by the correlation between two resting-state components (ICA100: 29-41, $p \sim 10^{-6}$). The ICA recovers 348 bilateral components, making it difficult to disentangle the contribution of each hemisphere. Nonetheless, 349 350 in the left hemisphere, the correlation between components 29-41 is reminiscent of the ventral and dorsal pathway of the reading network. This interpretation related to reading would also be consistent with the 351 significant modulation of the amplitude of the left fusiform gyrus (ICA100: component 52). The relationship 352 between this genomic region and language is also supported by two patients with a 14q23.1 deletion who 353 had moderate to severe expressive language delay (Jiang et al. 2008; Martínez-Frías et al. 2014). 354

355 An interesting structure was also highlighted in our analyses: the left tapetum, i.e., the auditory fibers of the 356 corpus callosum. This result may be associated with the observation that patients with corpus callosum agenesis are also the only group with no significant STS depth asymmetry in Leroy et al. (2015). The authors 357 speculated that the dense local connectivity useful for phonetic encoding (DeWitt and Rauschecker 2012) 358 intertwined with many long-range bundles (Turken and Dronkers 2011) (the callosal auditory fibers but also 359 the arcuate fasciculus, inferior occipito-frontal fasciculus, and middle and inferior longitudinal fasciculi), 360 which underlie the left STS and create different tensions and tissue stiffness compared with those in the 361 right hemisphere, explaining the depth asymmetry of this sulcus. Therefore, the elevation of the bottom of 362

the left sulcus, particularly in its posterior part, could be related to a localized higher fiber density, which may eventually result in a PP (**Fig. 2, 3B**). Among these tracts, the arcuate fasciculus, which is the most left-lateralized tract (Dubois et al. 2010), was not directly extracted in our analyses, but the voxelwise differences between allelic variants below the left STAP could correspond to it.

A role in establishing the auditory/linguistic network. The locus uncovered by our genome-wide 367 association is nearest to DACT1, a gene mainly active, in human brain tissues, during gestation until the age 368 of two years, a crucial period for language acquisition and social communication. The protein encoded by 369 DACT1 belongs to the dapper family and is involved in regulating intracellular signaling pathways during 370 development. Among its related pathways is the noncanonical Wnt/planar cell polarity pathway, which is 371 activated in the neuronal differentiation process (Jiao et al. 2018) and synaptogenesis (Rosso et al. 2013). 372 DACT1 is reportedly involved in excitatory synapse organization, dendrite and synapse formation, 373 establishment of spines in hippocampal pyramidal neurons (Okerlund et al. 2010), and in migration of 374 375 cortical interneurons (Arguello et al. 2013). Thus, DACTI plays a major role in the morphology of pyramidal cells and interneurons. Our results suggest that the uncovered locus regulates DACT1 expression in blood. 376 Since, blood cis-eQTLs often support cis-eQTLs in brain tissues, providing a sufficient sample size (Qi et 377 al. 2018), this locus may be an eQTL early in brain development when DACT1 is most highly expressed. 378 Additionally, the STS becomes visible at approximately 25-29 wGA (Chi et al. 1977; Habas et al. 2012) -379 the right STS appears one or two weeks earlier than the left – at which time the DACTI expression level 380 significantly decreases (Fig. 1C). At this age, the majority of neurons remain in the subplate, but the main 381 tracts (e.g., the corpus callosum and the fronto-occipital fasciculus) become visible. Short-range 382 383 connectivity emerges, bending around the bottom of the sulci. The brain begins to process external stimuli, such as sounds and voices, along distinctive pathways, but as maturation progresses and stimulation 384 becomes richer, dendrite development and axonal arborization complexify the gyrification pattern, 385 386 accentuating the initial hemispheric biases. Furthermore, analyzing sQTL data, the uncovered locus regulates PSMA3-AS1 and KIAA0586 splicing (evidence from non-brain tissues). PSMA3-AS1 is a PSMA3 387 antisense and has 42 long non-coding RNA transcripts according to LNCipedia. Antisense transcript roles 388 are generally not well characterized, but it is suggested that they may be involved in the regulation of gene 389 expression through RNA hybrids that lead to transcriptional interference or even gene silencing (Wight and 390 Werner 2013). A previous study showed that PSMA3-ASI can form an RNA duplex with pre-PSMA3, which 391 392 promotes PSMA3 and increases its stability (Xu et al. 2019). KIAA0586, also known as Talpid3, has 24 transcripts according to the NCBI. Studies in various animal models and humans (see Fraser and Davey 393 (2019) for review) have shown that KIAA0586 is required for ciliogenesis (Yin et al. 2009), sonic Hedgehog 394 signaling (Davey et al. 2006), and the asymmetrical localization of CEP210 to daughter centrioles 395 (Kobayashi et al. 2014). Additionally, mutations in KIAA0586 have been linked to Joubert Syndrome 396 (Bachmann-Gagescu et al. 2015), which is characterized by underdevelopment of the cerebellar vermis and 397 the molar tooth sign, corresponding to a malformed brain stem. 398

In conclusion, the genomic region in linkage disequilibrium with rs160459 modulates the STS depth and other related MRI phenotypes in the temporal lobe. Overall, the identified locus contributes to human variability in the formation of superior temporal networks, especially those involved in language. The link between this locus and the following three candidate genes should be further investigated: *DACT1*, whose gene expression in the brain corresponds with the STS formation timeframes; *KIAA0586*, which is required for sonic Hedgehog signaling and essential for primary ciliogenesis, and whose loss of function causes ciliopathies; and *PSMA3-AS1* whose function remains largely unexplored. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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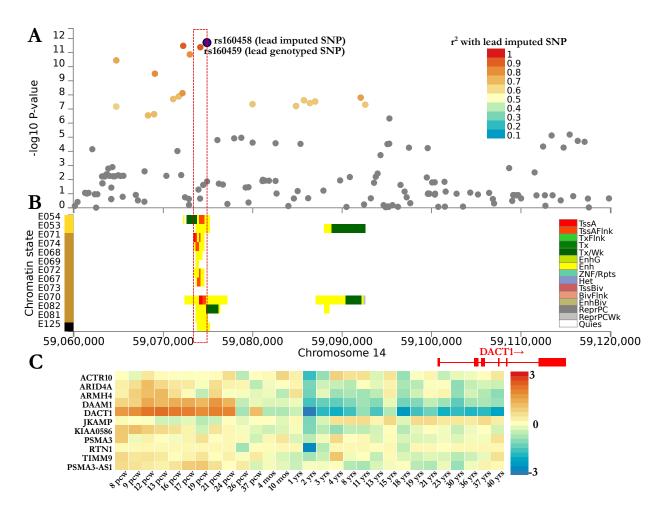
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Fig. 1 (A) Manhattan plot of the geodesic depth in the left STAP zoomed in on the significant 645 associations upstream of the DACT1 gene (14q23.1). (B) Chromatin state of the genomic region near 646 lead SNPs rs160458 (imputed) and rs160459 (genotyped). The DACTI position and exons are highlighted 647 in red on the axis showing the base pair position (GRCh37) on chromosome 14. Yellow corresponds to the 648 enhancer (Enh) state, red-orange to the flanking active transcription start site (TssAFlnk), green to weak 649 transcription (Tx/Wk) and white to quiescent (Quies) (see ref. (Ernst and Kellis 2012; Roadmap 650 Epigenomics Consortium et al. 2015) for the complete legend). (C) Average normalized gene expression 651 (zero mean across samples) of genes +/- 1 MB of rs160459 (Fig. S4, Fig. S7) at 29 developmental ages 652 from Brainspan (Miller et al. 2014). Brain tissue name abbreviations in (B): E054: Ganglion Eminence-653 derived primary cultured neurospheres, E053: Cortex-derived primary cultured neurospheres, E071: Brain 654 Hippocampus Middle, E074: Brain Substantia Nigra, E068: Brain Anterior Caudate, E069: Brain Cingulate 655 Gyrus, E072: Brain Inferior Temporal Lobe, E067: Brain Angular Gyrus, E073: Brain Dorsolateral 656 Prefrontal Cortex, E070: Brain Germinal Matrix, E082: Fetal Brain Female, E081: Fetal Brain Male, E125: 657 Astrocyte Primary Cells. 658

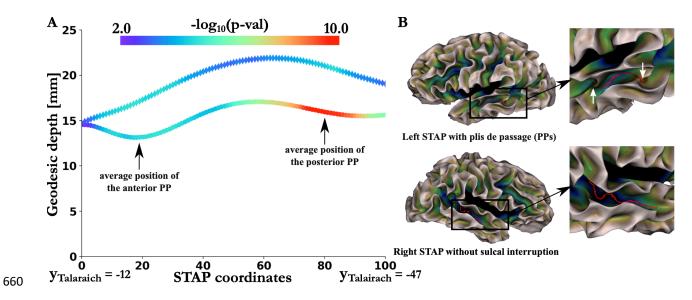
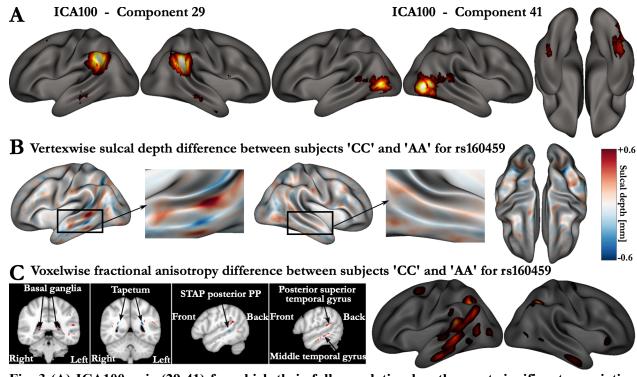


Fig. 2 (A) Mapping of the p-values along the STAP profile averaged over 16,515 British subjects of the association between rs160459 and geodesic depth. Left values are represented by disks and right values by diamonds (for more details, see Fig. S16). (B) Example of asymmetries in an individual subject with anterior and posterior PPs in the left STAP but no PP in the right STAP. Note that most subjects have only one PP either anterior or posterior in the left STAP and no sulcal interruption in the right STAP

666 (Le Guen, Leroy, et al. 2018).



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- Fig. 3 (A) ICA100 pair (29-41) for which their full correlation has the most significant association
- with rs160459. (B) Vertexwise sulcal depth difference in rs160459 between 'CC' and 'AA' subjects.
- 670 Red values show higher depth values for CC subjects and blue for AA subjects. (C) Voxelwise fractional
- 671 anisotropy difference in rs160459 in the MNI space between 'CC' and 'AA' subjects. These figures are
- thresholded at 0.005 [unitless fractional measure] to underline the main differences. In the right column,
- 673 these differences in white matter are projected onto the cortex.

Table 1. P-values of the association of rs160459 with the STAP phenotypes in three populations.

* indicates significant heritability estimates ($p < 6.3 \cdot 10^{-3}$, details in Table S1.). AI: asymmetry index = 2(L-R)/(L+R), PF: potential function, PP: *pli de passage*. β are provided for quantitative phenotypes and OR for PPs.

	Heritability		Association - β (p-val) and OR (p-val) for PPs		
Phenotype/Cohort	НСР	UKB	UKB discovery N=16,515 British	IMAGEN replication N=1,726	UKB replication N=2,161 Non- British
Left STAP geodesic depth	48%*	21%*	$0.2683 (4.2 \cdot 10^{-12})$	0.4614 (8.0.10-5)	0.242 (0.0133)
Right STAP geodesic depth	46%*	15%*	0.179 (1.3.10-7)	0.3204 (2.2.10-4)	0.04269 (0.1563)
AI of the STAP geodesic depth	30%*	9%*	0.008638 (0.0017)	0.01226 (0.0406)	0.01355 (0.1675)
Left STAP depth PF	25%*	18%*	0.009865 (3.8.10-8)	0.01265 (0.01)	0.009936 (0.1004)
Right STAP depth PF	38%*	4%	0.004759 (4.1.10-6)	0.005239 (0.0971)	0.004668 (0.0249)
AI of the STAP depth PF	22%*	11%*	0.004949 (0.0053)	0.007321 (0.0909)	0.005525 (0.5414)
PP in the left STAP	53%*	16%*	0.8901 (2.7.10 ⁻⁷)	0.8025 (0.0022)	0.9084 (0.2447)
PP in the right STAP	27%	0%	0.8533 (2.6.10-7)	0.7506 (0.0034)	0.8724 (0.2067)

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Table 2. Top 20 MRI phenotypes associated with rs160459 (significant after Bonferroni correction p

681 < 9·10⁻⁶, 0.05/5179). (GM: gray matter, DKT: Desikan-Killiany atlas, DST: Destrieux atlas, rfMRI: resting-

state functional MRI). Color code: orange: Brainvisa phenotypes, green: Freesurfer phenotypes, blue:

683 diffusion MRI phenotypes, red: rfMRI phenotypes.

Phenotypes	Pvals	N subjects (British)
Mean depth of the left STS	$1.4 \cdot 10^{-13}$	18101
Surface area of the left temporal pole - DST	5.8·10 ⁻¹²	17127
GM volume of the left banks STS - DKT	7.6.10-8	17127
Surface area of the right cuneus gyrus - DST	2.3.10-7	17127
Surface area of the left banks STS - DKT	2.8.10-7	17127
Fractional anisotropy of the left tapetum of corpus callosum	5.7·10 ⁻⁷	16541
Surface area of the right cuneus - DKT	6.6·10 ⁻⁷	17127
GM thickness of the right middle temporal gyrus - DKT	6.9·10 ⁻⁷	17127
GM thickness of the left banks STS - DKT	8.8.10-7	17127
GM thickness of the left middle temporal - DKT	1.1.10-6	17127
Maximum depth of the left anterior inferior temporal sulcus	1.5.10-6	18101
GM thickness of the left middle temporal gyrus - DST	1.9.10-6	17127
rfMRI correlation between ICA100: 29 and 41 (edge 1146)	2.1.10-6	15859
Mean depth of the right STS	2.3.10-6	18100
Surface area of the right temporal pole - DST	$2.4 \cdot 10^{-6}$	17126
GM thickness of the right banks STS - DKT	6.0.10-6	17127
rfMRI correlation between ICA25: 5 and 18 (edge 87)	7.6.10-6	15864
GM volume of the left Jensen sulcus - DST	7.6.10-6	17108
GM volume of the left transverse temporal - DKT	7.9·10 ⁻⁶	17126
Surface area of the left anterior inferior temporal sulcus	8.6.10-6	18101