Different Genetic Associations of the IgE Production among Fetus, Infancy and Childhood

Jen-Chieh Chang1,2, Ho-Chang Kuo3, Te-Yao Hsu4, Chia-Yu Ou4, Chieh-An Liu5, Hau Chuang2, Hsiu-Chen Fang6, Jen-Chieh Chang1,2, Ho-Chang Kuo3, Te-Yao Hsu4, Chia-Yu Ou4, Chieh-An Liu5, Hau Chuang2, Hsiu-Chen Fang6, Kuender D. Yang6,7,*, Yang Kuender D. Yang6,7,*, Hsiu-Chen Fang6,7,*, Yang Kuender D. Yang6,7,*, Hsiu-Chen Fang6,7,*, Yang Kuender D. Yang6,7,*, Hsiu-Chen Fang6,7,*, Yang Kuender D. Yang6,7,*, Hsiu-Chen Fang6,7,*, Yang Kuender D. Yang6,7,*, Hsiu-Chen Fang6,7,*, Yang Kuender D. Yang6,7,*, Y

Abstract

Elevation of serum IgE levels has long been associated with allergic diseases. Many genes have been linked to IgE production, but few have been linked to the developmental aspects of genetic association with IgE production. To clarify developmental genetic association, we investigated what genes and gene-gene interactions affect IgE levels among fetus, infancy and childhood in Taiwan individuals. A birth cohort of 571 children with completion of IgE measurements from newborn to 1.5, 3, and 6 years of age was subject to genetic association analysis on the 384-customized SNPs of 159 allergy candidate genes. Fifty-three SNPs in 37 genes on innate and adaptive immunity, and stress and response were associated with IgE production. Polymorphisms of the IL13, and the HLA-DPA1 and HLA-DQA1 were, respectively, the most significantly associated with the IgE production at newborn and 6 years of age. Analyses of gene-gene interactions indentified that the combination of NPSR1, rs324981 TT with FGF1, rs2282797 CC had the highest risk (85.7%) of IgE elevation at 1.5 years of age (P = 1.46 x 10^-6). The combination of IL13, CYFIP2 and PDE2A was significantly associated with IgE elevation at 3 years of age (P = 5.98 x 10^-7), and the combination of CLEC2D, COLEC11 and CCL2 was significantly associated with IgE elevation at 6 years of age (P = 6.65 x 10^-10). Our study showed that the genetic association profiles of the IgE production among fetus, infancy and childhood are different. Genetic markers for early prediction and prevention of allergic sensitization may rely on age-based genetic association profiles.

Introduction

The prevalence of allergic diseases has dramatically increased over the past decades, especially in children [1]. Atopic diseases such as asthma, rhinitis and eczema are among the most common chronic diseases in developed countries [2,3]. Immunoglobulin E (IgE) plays a central role in the allergic response, and elevation of total IgE levels is considered as an indicator for atopy. Recently, evidence has demonstrated that allergy sensitization may occur in fetal life [4]. A higher antenatal IgE production reflected in the elevation of cord blood IgE (CBIgE) levels has been shown to correlate with the development of Aeroallergen sensitization [5], and the later development of childhood asthma [6].

A large body of evidence shows that regulation of serum IgE levels is under strong genetic control with heritability estimates of 50–80% [7], and it has been suggested that genetic regulation of basal IgE production is independent of specific responses to allergens [8]. We have previously shown that gene influence of IgE production might begin in prenatal stage [9]. To date, only a few studies have investigated IgE production as a primary trait in children at different ages. We here postulate that certain different genes in different ages may affect IgE production for the development of allergic diseases.

IgE production and allergic diseases have a complex background, affected by innate and adaptive immunity genes [10–15], and other oxidative, remodeling genes as well [11,16–21]. Many genetic association studies have identified more than 100 genes in 22 chromosomes associated with asthma [12,22,23]. Some of the genes associated with asthma were replicated in different studies, but most of them were not. This may be because different studies were performed in different populations with different genetic background, age, time and environment. There are few studies doing genetic association studies with a developmental trend from newborn, infant, toddler to childhood. This study sought allergy candidate genes and their SNPs responsible for allergic diseases, allergic reaction or inflammation for a customized 384-plex SNP array analysis of genetic association of the IgE production in...
Kinetic Gene-Gene Interactions on IgE Production

Subjects and Blood Sample Collection
To study the association between genetic polymorphisms and blood IgE levels, we collected blood samples from neonatal umbilical cord blood in a birth cohort study after informed consent as previously described [27,28]. Of the 571 in the cohort study [26], 469 infants at 1.5 years, 491 at 3 years, and 409 at 6 years of age completed the follow-up. The study protocol was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan. Because this is a birth cohort follow-up study, the initially informed consent was obtained from parents in prenatal stage, and the informed re-consent was obtained in each session of questionnaire. All parents signed the consent in written form after the informed communications.

IgE Measurements and DNA Extraction
Total IgE levels were measured using a Pharmacia CAP system (Pharmacia & Upjohn Diagnostics AB, Uppsala, Sweden). We used Pharmacap Cap System to detect allergic sensitization as reflected on allergen specific IgE levels. The allergen specific IgE levels detected by Pharmacap Cap System have been shown to closely correlate to skin prick tests [29–31]. In consideration of skin reactivity to allergen challenge in young children is lower and the multiple skin prick in different age of 1.5, 3 and 6 years are painful to small children. This study used in vitro specific IgE detection by the Pharmacap Cap System. Total IgE measurements were measured at ages newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years and analyzed in tertiles. Blood DNA samples were extracted by 0.5% SDS lysing buffer followed by proteinase K (1 mg/ml) digestion, phenol-chloroform extraction, and 70% alcohol precipitation as our previous description [27,28,32].

Amplification of Genomic DNA for Oligonucleotide-based 384 SNP Multiplex Microarray Assay and Verification
In an attempt to select 384 customized SNPs in and around allergy candidate genes for this study, we searched allergy candidate genes and its SNPs associated with IgE production or allergic diseases reported in literature [10–15,26], and also included the genes whose SNP(s) was (were) associated with immune responses. Moreover, we included oxidative stress and remodeling genes in this study because certain oxidative stress response and remodeling genes such as ADAM33, CAT, NOS1, NOS2, NOS3, GSTPI and MSR1 have been shown to be responsible for modulation of allergy reaction in prenatal or postnatal environment [11,16–21]. These SNPs were preliminarily screened via a proprietary algorithm of Illumina (San Diego, CA, USA) that predicts the performance of oligonucleotide hybridiza-

tion on the Illumina platform. After excluding the SNPs with minor allele frequency <0.05 in Chinese population, we selected 91 SNPs in 44 innate genes, 102 SNPs in 37 adaptive genes, and 191 SNPs in 78 oxidative stress and remodeling genes for the 304 customized SNPs design (Fig. S1), showing all the genes selected on different chromosomes. The 384 SNPs in 159 allergy candidate genes with representative SNPs in the NCBI Genome Build 36.3 (dbSNP build 129) were genotyped with an Illumina BeadStation 500 GX.

In brief, DNA samples were quantified with a Picogreen dsDNA Quantitation Kit (Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR, USA). After DNA quantification, the DNA samples were adjusted to 50 ng/µl in TE buffer (Tris–HCl, 10 mM, EDTA 1 mM, pH 8.0) for PCR amplification in an Oligo Pool All (OPA) containing a set of all the primers for the 384 SNPs. The PCR products were hybridized and analyzed using BeadStudio software with genotyping analysis module version 2.3.43 (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). The overall call rate of the 384 SNPs was 97.1%. After excluding 14 SNPs with a call rate less than 90%, the average call rate of the SNPs subjected to the analysis was 99.0%. Verification of the accuracy of the 384 SNP microarray data by repeat measurements and parallel experiments of restriction fragment length polymorphisms of IL13, 2044 A/G and CTLA-4, 49 A/G was performed as described in our previous report [26]. The genotyping accuracy for the IL13, 2044 A/G polymorphism between these two methods was 99%, and that for the CTLA-4, 49 A/G polymorphism between these two methods was 98%.

Data Analysis and Statistics
The associations of elevated IgE in subjects with different genotypes or alleles were analyzed by univariate analyses using SPSS 17.0 (SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Genes associated with IgE elevation were arbitrarily classified into three categories: innate immunity, adaptive immunity, and stress and response genes. Total IgE levels are not normally distributed. We followed previous articles to use quartile classification [33,34] for the Chi-square test of risk SNPs to higher IgE production in children with different ages of 1.5, 3 and 6 years old in this study (higher vs. lower tertiles). Cord blood IgE levels were presented and analyzed as in our previous description [26]. IgE levels at the ages of 1.5, 3, and 6 years were cut off at <25% and >75% to define the high and low IgE groups for statistical analyses. The intra-correlations of the IgE levels among newborn, 1.5, 3, and 6 years of age were analyzed by nonparametric correlation.

Gene-gene interactions were analyzed by multifactor dimensionality reduction software (MDR version 1.1.0), which is an open source project available at http://sourceforge.net/projects/mdr/. The MDR approach of the gene-gene interactions has been described previously [24–26]. The MDR method includes a combined cross-validation/permutation testing procedure that minimizes the false-positive findings that may otherwise result from multiple comparisons. In brief, cross-validation consistency (CVC) and prediction error were calculated for each combination of a pool of polymorphisms. The model with the combination of items that maximizes the CVC and minimizes the prediction error is selected to be the best model. The statistical significance by comparing the average prediction error from the observed data with the distribution of average prediction errors under the null hypothesis of no associations derived empirically from 10,000 permutations. The null hypothesis was rejected when the P value derived from the permutation test was 0.05 or less. Because IgE elevation was defined by a binary cut-off at >75% vs. <25% rather than continuous variable in this study, we used a binary logistic regression to confirm the high and low risk classifications of

children at ages of newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years old. Gene-gene interactions can be investigated by multifactor dimensionality reduction (MDR), a method designed to translate high-dimensional genetic data into a single dimension [24,25]. In our previous studies on antenatal IgE production, we found that 14 genes were associated with higher CBIgE levels, and that gene-gene interactions on IgE production begin at a prenatal stage [26]. In this study, we followed the same cohort to 6 years of age, and studied whether gene-gene interactions on IgE production are different among childhood stages may allow us to tract whether gene-gene interactions on IgE production begin at a prenatal stage [26]. In this study, we followed the same cohort to 6 years of age, and studied
the significant gene-gene interactions revealed by MDR analyses. Moreover, we also used rate displays of the IgE elevation for Chi-square tests to validate the differences between high and low risk genotypes using the whole dataset at the ages of 1.5, 3 and 6 years.

Results

Subjects and Demographic Data

Of the 571 DNA samples with genotyping of the 384 SNPs in the 159 allergy candidate genes (Fig. S1) in our cohort study [26], 469, 491 and 409 subjects completed follow-up at 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age, respectively. The demographic data of the subjects at 1.5, 3 and 6 ages were comparable with those of the 571 subjects with cord blood (CB) samples studied in our previous report [26]. There were no significant differences in gender, family atopy history, parental smoking history, prematurity or CB IgE elevation. The mean IgE levels (± standard deviation) at newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age were, respectively, 0.36±1.34, 120.70±212.31, 152.29±265.73 and 223.20±409.16 kU/L. The characteristics of the infants participating in this genetic study are presented in Table 1. The demographic data among subjects studied at newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age were not significantly different (P>0.05). The intra-correlations of IgE levels among newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years were highly significant correlated one another (r=0.25–0.27), but lower than the correlations of the IgE levels among 1.5, 3, and 6 years of age (r=0.59–0.75). The highly significant intra-correlations of IgE levels among different ages (newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years) suggest that allergic sensitization with IgE production occurs early in perinatal stage. Moreover, we found that total IgE levels in the Taiwanese children were higher than those in children of other cohorts [33,35].

Associations of Gene Polymorphisms with IgE Production during Childhood

Of the 384 SNPs studied, a total of 350 SNPs were included for the final analysis after excluding those with a call rate less than 90% or beyond the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) [26]. We used the Chi-square test to analyze whether certain genotypes were associated with elevation of IgE levels at ages 1.5, 3 and 6 years (higher (>75th) vs. lower (<25th) percentile), tested the gene-gene interactions by MDR analyses and validated the risk gene-gene interactions on IgE production by the rate displays of Chi-square tests.

We have previously shown that twenty-one SNPs in 14 genes are associated with CB IgE elevation (≥ 0.5 kU/L) [26] (summarized as Table 3 and Fig. 1A). Here, we found that 53 SNPs in 37 genes were associated with IgE elevation in different ages (newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years) using univariate analysis (UVA). The IL-13, rs1800925 was the most significantly associated with CB IgE elevation, and HLA-DPA1, rs1413199 was the most significantly associated with the IgE elevation at 6 years of age. Five genes associated with CB IgE elevation persisted into childhood associated with infant IgE elevation at 3 years of age. The CD209 polymorphisms were associated with infant IgE elevation both at 3 and 6 years of age. The CYFIP2 polymorphisms were associated with IgE elevation at newborn, 3 and 6 years of age (Table 3; Fig. 1B).

While we arbitrarily clustered whether the genes associated with IgE production are related to innate immunity, adaptive immunity or stress and response genes, we found that 13 SNPs in 9 innate immunity genes conferred risk for or protected against elevated IgE levels. These innate immunity genes, namely CCR5, TNFA, IL6, CLEC2D, CLEC7A, CLEC9A, CCL17, CXCL1 and CD209, were significantly associated with higher or lower IgE levels. These genes were mainly clustered in chromosomes 3, 6, 7, 12, 16 and 19 (Table 3). Nineteen SNPs in 14 adaptive immunity genes were associated with higher or lower IgE levels. These adaptive immunity genes were IL5RA, CD80, IL13, IL9, HAVCR1, HAVCR2, IL17A, HLA-DPA, HLA-DQA, TAPI, IL2RA, RAG2, ILAR and IFNGR2, mainly clustered in chromosomes 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 16 and 21 (Table 3). We also discovered 21 SNPs in 14 stress and response genes associated with higher or lower IgE levels at different ages (Table 3).

Table 1. Demographic data of the cohort population from newborn to 6 years of age.

| Demographic data | Newborn* (n = 571) | 1.5 y/o (n = 469) | 3 y/o (n = 491) | 6 y/o (n = 409) | p values |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Median total IgE levels (kU/L) (25th, 75th percentile) | 0 (0, 0.41) | 49.20 (21.85, 140.00) | 61.20 (22.90, 143.00) | 69.40 (22.60, 245.00) | – |
| Maternal atopy | 24.50% | 24.30% | 24.20% | 23.00% | 0.951 |
| Paternal atopy | 25.00% | 25.20% | 26.50% | 26.20% | 0.940 |
| Prematurity | 5.10% | 5.50% | 5.70% | 5.10% | 0.965 |
| Gender (Male) | 53.40% | 55.20% | 55.00% | 53.80% | 0.924 |
| Parental smoking | 34.60% | 34.10% | 34.80% | 34.50% | 0.996 |
| CB IgE (≥0.5 kU/L) | 21.50% | 19.60% | 21.60% | 20.80% | 0.861 |

*A higher total IgE level in cord blood (newborn) was cut-off at ≥0.5 kU/L as previously described; higher total IgE levels at 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age were defined as above the 75th percentile of the total blood collected from the study population.

†Atopy was defined as phenotypic asthma, rhinitis and/or atopic dermatitis along with detectable serum specific IgE to one or more common allergens.

‡Prematurity was defined as a gestational age <37 weeks. Demographic data among the different age groups were not significantly different (Chi-square test).

Table 2. The intra-correlations of the IgE levels among newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age (y/o).

|          | 1.5 y/o | 3 y/o | 6 y/o |
|----------|---------|-------|-------|
| Newborn  | 0.262   | 0.252 | 0.259 |
| 1.5 y/o  | 0.747   | 0.590 |       |
| 3 y/o    |         | 0.739 |       |

Data presented are correlation coefficient. All p values are <10^-5 by Spearman’s correlation.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0070362.t001
newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age. These stress and response genes, including \textit{PTPN22}, \textit{PDGFRA}, \textit{GC}, \textit{FGF1}, \textit{CYFIP2}, \textit{GSR}, \textit{GNAQ}, \textit{C11orf74}, \textit{EHF}, \textit{C11orf72}, \textit{GSTM1}, \textit{GSTM7}, \textit{ADAM33}, \textit{GNAQ}, \textit{C11orf74}, \textit{EHF}, \textit{C11orf72}, \textit{GSTP1}, \textit{EMR3}, \textit{XRCC1}, and \textit{ADAM33}, were mainly clustered in chromosomes 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 19 and 20 (Table 3). We formulated these genes associated with IgE production from newborn, 3, and 6 years of age in an immune response pathway scheme as shown in Fig. 1. \textit{CX3CL1}, \textit{IL13}, \textit{IL17A}, \textit{PDGFRA}, \textit{ADAM33}, etc. were associated with the CBIgE elevation; \textit{CX3CL1}, \textit{CYFIP2}, \textit{PDGFRA}, \textit{GC}, and \textit{IL13} were associated with the IgE elevation at newborn and 3 years of age; \textit{HLA-DPA1}, \textit{HLA-DQA1}, \textit{CCR5}, \textit{IL5RA}, \textit{CD80}, etc. were associated with the IgE production at 6 years of age.

Gene-gene Interactions on IgE Production during Childhood by MDR Analysis

Given the important role of genes related to higher or lower IgE production, we sought to study gene-gene interactions on IgE production at newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age. Multifactor dimensionality reduction analysis was used to investigate whether certain SNP combinations of the 350 SNPs studied were significantly associated with IgE production (Table 4). In MDR, we found significant combinations on two-way and three-way models of gene-gene interactions, but not on four-way model of IgE production at newborn, 1.5, 3, and 6 years of age (Table 4). The combination of \textit{NPSR1}, rs324981 and \textit{FGF1}, rs2282779 was associated with IgE production at 1.5 years of age; the combination of \textit{IL13}, rs1800925, \textit{CIFIP2}, rs767007 and \textit{PDE2A}, rs755933 was associated with IgE production at 3 years of age; and the combination of \textit{CLEC2D}, rs1560011, \textit{COLE11}, rs10210631 and \textit{CCL2}, rs2857656 was associated with IgE levels at 6 years of age. The false positive rate (FPR) and false negative rate (FNR) of these putative combinations were 0.385, 0.258 and 0.350 (FPR); 0.299, 0.341 and 0.225 (FNR), respectively, at 1.5, 3, and 6 years of age.

To validate the gene-gene interactions revealed by MDR analyses, we controlled for the significant SNPs of allergy candidate genes at the ages of 1.5, 3 and 6 years and for the prenatal factors including maternal atopy, paternal atopy, parental smoking, gender, and maturity in the multivariate analysis. As shown in Table S1A, the interaction of \textit{NPSR1}, rs324981 and \textit{FGF1}, rs2282779 was significantly associated with IgE production at 1.5 years of age (P = 1.46×10^{-4}). The interaction among \textit{IL13}, rs1800925, \textit{CIFIP2}, rs767007 and \textit{PDE2A}, rs755933 was significantly associated with IgE production at 3 years of age (Table S1B, P = 5.98×10^{-7}). The interaction among \textit{CLEC2D}, rs1560011, \textit{COLE11}, rs10210631 and \textit{CCL2}, rs2857656 was significantly associated with IgE levels at 6 years of age (Table S1C, P = 6.65×10^{-7}). We also validated the risk classifications by rate displays of the Chi-square test. As shown in

Figure 1. 37 genes were associated with IgE elevation in different ages. Genes in innate immunity, adaptive immunity, and stress and response associated with IgE production from newborn (CB) to childhood at 3 and 6 years of age. Genes associated with CBIgE elevation are indicated in orange (A). Genes associated with IgE elevation persistent into childhood are indicated in orange, blue and/or red color. Those associated with IgE elevation at 3 years of age is labeled in blue, and those at 6 years of age are labeled in red (B).

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0070362.g001
Table 3. Association of 53 SNPs in 37 innate immunity, adaptive immunity, and stress and response genes with total IgE elevation.

| Genes       | dbSNP BUILD 129 | Protective genotype | Risk genotype | Newborn* | 1.5 y/o | 3 y/o | 6 y/o |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|---------|-------|-------|
| Innate immunity |                 |                     |               |          |         |       |       |
| CCR5        | rs1799987       | AA, AG              | GG            | ns       | ns      | ns    | 0.009 |
| TNFA        | rs1800629       | GG                  | AG            | ns       | ns      | ns    | 0.019 |
| IL6         | rs1880242       | GG                  | TT, TG        | 0.008    | ns      | ns    |       |
| CLEC2D      | rs1560011       | AA                  | AG            | ns       | ns      | 0.043 | ns    |
| CLEC7A      | rs2078178       | CC                  | TT, TC        | 0.048    | ns      | ns    |       |
| CLEC9A      | rs874463        | AT                  | TT            | 0.046    | ns      | ns    |       |
| CCL17       | rs223895        | CC                  | TC            | 0.004    | ns      |       |       |
| CCL17       | rs223900        | CC                  | TC            | 0.001    | ns      |       |       |
| CX3CL1      | rs170361        | AA*, AG*            | AG            | 0.004    | 0.034   | 0.043 | ns    |
| CX3CL1      | rs4151117       | TT, GG              | TG            | 2.39×10⁻⁴| ns      |       |       |
| CD209       | rs4804801       | AA, AT              | TT            | ns       | ns      | 0.012 | ns    |
| CD209       | rs7248637       | AG                  | GG            | ns       | ns      |       | 0.05  |
| Adaptive immunity |             |                     |               |          |         |       |       |
| IL5RA       | rs163550        | CC, CG              | GG            | ns       | ns      | ns    | 0.043 |
| IL5RA       | rs340833        | GG                  | AG            | ns       | ns      |       | 0.03  |
| CD80        | rs2629396       | AC, CC              | AA            | ns       | ns      |       | 0.003 |
| IL13        | rs1295686       | GG                  | AA, AG        | 1.60×10⁻⁴| ns       | 0.012 | ns    |
| IL13        | rs1800925       | CC                  | TC            | 2.62×10⁻⁴| ns       | 0.002 | ns    |
| IL13        | rs20541         | GG                  | AA*, AG*      | 1.86×10⁻⁴| ns       | 0.007 |       |
| IL9         | rs10477776      | AG                  | GG            | 0.041    | ns      |       |       |
| HAVCR1      | rs953569        | AA*, AC*            | AC*, AA²      | 0.015    | ns      |       | 0.04  |
| HAVCR2      | rs11134551      | AG                  | AA            | ns       | ns      |       | 0.049 |
| IL17A       | rs3748067       | AG, GG              | AA            | 0.024    | ns      |       |       |
| HLA-DPA1    | rs1431399       | AG, GG              | AA            | ns       | ns      |       | 1.87×10⁻⁴|
| HLA-DQA1    | rs2040410       | GG                  | AA            | ns       | ns      |       | 0.004 |
| TAP1        | rs2284190       | TC                  | TT            | 0.009    | 0.037   |       |       |
| IL2RA       | rs4749926       | GG                  | AA            | 0.044    | ns      |       |       |
| RAG2        | rs867801        | TC                  | TT            | 0.003    | 0.01    |       |       |
| IL4R        | rs1801275       | AA                  | AG            | ns       | ns      |       | 0.05  |
| IFNGR2      | rs2268241       | AA                  | AG, GG        | 0.023    | 0.016   |       |       |
| IFNGR2      | rs9808753       | GG                  | AA, AG        | 0.011    | 0.017   |       |       |
| IFNGR2      | rs9976971       | GG                  | AA, AG        | 0.032    |         |       |       |
| Stress and response |        |                     |               |          |         |       |       |
| PTPN22      | rs3765598       | TC                  | CC            | ns       | ns      | ns    | 0.013 |
| PDGFRα       | rs4358459       | TT*<sup>a</sup>, TG<sup>a</sup> | GG | 0.041 | ns | 0.028 |
| GC          | rs222016        | AA                  | AG            | 0.031    | ns      |       |       |
| GC          | rs4588          | AA                  | AC, CC        | ns       | ns      | 0.046 |       |
| FGF1        | rs2278688       | CG, GG              | CC            | 0.023    | ns      |       |       |
| FGF1        | rs2282797       | TT, TC              | CC            | 0.022    | 0.026   | ns    |       |
| CYFIP2      | rs2863198       | CC                  | CG            | ns       | ns      |       | 0.006 |
| CYFIP2      | rs3734028       | AA*, GG<sup>a</sup> | AG            | 0.046    | ns      |       | 0.012 |
| CYFIP2      | rs767007        | GG                  | CG            | ns       | 0.045   | 0.01  |       |
| GSR         | rs8190955       | CC                  | TC            | ns       | ns      | 0.006 |       |
| GNAQ         | rs4744850       | CC<sup>a</sup>, CG<sup>a</sup> | GG | 0.02 | 0.044 |       |       |
| CT10r74      | rs2422297       | CG                  | GG            | ns       | 0.001   | 0.009 |       |
| EHF         | rs717582        | AG, GG              | AA            | 0.024    | ns      |       |       |
| CT10r72      | rs12790798      | AA                  | AG            | 0.003    | ns      |       |       |
Table 3. Cont.

| Genes   | dbSNP BUILD 129 | Protective genotype | Risk genotype | Newborn* | 1.5 y/o | 3 y/o | 6 y/o |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|---------|-------|-------|
| GSTP1   | rs1871042       | CC                  | TC            | ns       | ns      | 0.009 | ns    |
| EMR3    | rs10410566      | CG                  | CC            | ns       | ns      | ns    | 0.027 |
| XRCC1   | rs25487         | AA                  | AG            | ns       | ns      | ns    | 0.044 |
| ADAM33  | rs2280091       | AA                  | AG            | ns       | 0.008   | ns    | ns    |
| ADAM33  | rs3918395       | GG                  | TG            | ns       | 0.019   | ns    | ns    |
| ADAM33  | rs528557        | CC                  | CG            | 0.041    | ns      | ns    | ns    |
| ADAM33  | rs612709        | GG                  | AG            | 0.05     | ns      | ns    | ns    |

ns, not significant. a, newborn; b, 1.5 y/o; c, 3 y/o; d, 6 y/o.

*The results were derived from our previous study [26].
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0070362.t003

Table 4. Summary of the gene-gene interactions on total IgE production among newborns, infancy and early childhood.

| Interactions* | Best Model | Average testing | Average CV | P value|
|---------------|------------|-----------------|------------|--------|
|               |            | Bal. Acc. (%)   | consistency |        |
| **Total CBiGE°** |            |                 |            |        |
| 1             | IL13 (rs1295686) | 55.1            | 11/20      | 0.060  |
| 2             | ADAM33 (rs597980) | 51.9            | 6/20       | 0.252  |
| 3             | CCL17 (rs223900) | 55.5            | 13/20      | 0.006  |
|               | CCL10 (rs867562) |                 |            |        |
| 4             | CCL17 (rs223900) | 48.1            | 10/20      | 0.748  |
|               | ILSRA (rs163550) |                 |            |        |
|               | L17S (rs1365801) |                 |            |        |
| **Total IgE°, 1.5 years of age** |            |                 |            |        |
| 1             | ADAM33 (rs288557) | 47.4            | 6/20       | 0.868  |
| 2             | NPSR1 (rs324981) | 62.4            | 19/20      | 0.006  |
| 3             | CD14 (rs2569190) | 54.3            | 9/20       | 0.058  |
|               | TXN (rs4135218) |                 |            |        |
| 4             | ADAM33 (rs288557) | 51.8            | 11/20      | 0.132  |
|               | TXN (rs4135218) |                 |            |        |
|               | CLECL1 (rs741199) |                 |            |        |
| **Total IgE°, 3 years of age** |            |                 |            |        |
| 1             | IL13 (rs1800925) | 57.4            | 18/20      | 0.021  |
| 2             | IL13 (rs1800925) | 49.4            | 8/20       | 0.588  |
| 3             | IL13 (rs1800925) | 63.1            | 20/20      | <0.001 |
|               | CYFIP2 (rs767007) |                 |            |        |
| 4             | CD14 (rs2569190) | 53.4            | 14/20      | 0.058  |
|               | IFNGR2 (rs2268241) |                 |            |        |
|               | GPAP1 (rs7113413) |                 |            |        |
| **Total IgE°, 6 years of age** |            |                 |            |        |
| 1             | CD80 (rs2629396) | 47.3            | 10/20      | 0.132  |
| 2             | PTPN22 (rs3765598) | 42.5            | 7/20       | 0.979  |
| 3             | CLEC2D (rs1560011) | 67.2            | 19/20      | <0.001 |
|               | COLEC11 (rs10210631) |                 |            |        |
| 4             | NPSR1 (rs323922) | 45.1            | 5/20       | 0.588  |
|               | IL2RA (rs3118470) |                 |            |        |
|               | CLEC2D (rs1560011) |                 |            |        |

CV, Cross-validation; Bal. Acc., Balance accuracy.

*Number of loci considered.

°Significance of prediction error (empirical P value based on 10,000 permutations).

°Cut off ≥0.5 (kU/L).

°Higher (>75%) vs. lower tertile (<25%).
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0070362.t004
Fig. 2A, we evaluated the two-way model of MDR on the interaction between NPSR1, rs324981 and FGF1, rs2282797. The left column in all boxes represented the case number whose IgE levels were higher than 75th percentile, and the right column in all boxes showed their IgE levels were lower than 25th percentile. The high-risk genotypes with an increase in total IgE levels were defined as the ratio of left to right column greater than or equal to the threshold of 1.0, whereas low-risk groups were defined as the threshold were less than 1.0. The nine combinations of different genotypes were classified into high (black bars) and low (white bars) risk groups of IgE production by MDR analysis (A). The differences between high and low risk classifications were validated by the Chi-square test (*P<0.001), showing that the combination of NPSR1, rs324981 TT with FGF1, rs2282797 CC had the highest risk of infant IgE elevation at 85.7%, and the combination with NPSR1, rs324981 TT and FGF1, rs2282797 TC had the lowest risk of infant IgE elevation at 1.5 years of age of 19.4% (B).

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0070362.g002

Figure 2. Gene-gene interaction on IgE elevation at 1.5 years of age. The display and validation of the gene-gene interactions on IgE elevation between NPSR1, rs324981 and FGF1, rs2282797. The left column in all boxes represented the case number whose IgE levels were higher than 75th percentile, and the right column in all boxes showed their IgE levels were lower than 25th percentile. The high-risk genotypes with an increase in total IgE levels were defined as the ratio of left to right column greater than or equal to the threshold of 1.0, whereas low-risk groups were defined as the threshold were less than 1.0. The nine combinations of different genotypes were classified into high (black bars) and low (white bars) risk groups of IgE production by MDR analysis (A). The differences between high and low risk classifications were validated by the Chi-square test (*P<0.001), showing that the combination of NPSR1, rs324981 TT with FGF1, rs2282797 CC had the highest risk of infant IgE elevation at 85.7%, and the combination with NPSR1, rs324981 TT and FGF1, rs2282797 TC had the lowest risk of infant IgE elevation at 1.5 years of age of 19.4% (B).

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0070362.g002
In the three-way model of gene-gene interactions, the combination of \textit{IL13}, \textit{rs1800925}, \textit{CYFIP2}, \textit{rs767007} and \textit{PDE2A}, \textit{rs753993} had the highest average testing balance accuracy at 63.1\%, classifying high and low risk classifications to the IgE elevation at 3 years of age (Fig. S2A). The differences between the high and low risk classifications were validated by the rate displays of the Chi-square test on IgE production at 3 years of age (Fig. S2B), showing the highest risk (100\%) of IgE elevation at 3 years of age in the combination of three \textit{IL13}, \textit{CYFIP2}, and \textit{PDE2A} genotypes. Similarly, the three-way model of gene-gene interactions on elevation of IgE levels at 6 years of age was classified into high and low risk groups by MDR (Fig. S3A), and validated by rate displays of IgE elevation on the Chi-square test. The combination of \textit{CLEC2D}, \textit{rs1560011 AG}, \textit{COLEC11}, \textit{rs10210631 AA}, and \textit{CCL2}, \textit{rs2857656 GC} or the combination of \textit{CLEC2D}, \textit{rs1560011 GG}, \textit{COLEC11}, \textit{rs10210631 AA}, and \textit{CCL2}, \textit{rs2857656 CC} had the highest risk for higher IgE production (Fig. S3B). Fig. S4 showed longitudinal analyses of the trajectory of IgE production from newborn to 6 years of age based on the best MDR models of gene-gene interactions for the IgE production at different ages. The higher risk classifications of gene-gene interactions for CBkIgE elevation identified by MDR analysis were significantly associated with the higher IgE production at 1.5 and 3 years of age but not at 6 years of age (Fig. S4A). The higher risk classifications of gene-gene interactions for the higher (\textit{>75\%}) IgE production at 1.5 years of age identified by MDR analysis were significantly associated with the higher IgE production at all age groups (newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age; Fig. S4B). The higher risk classifications of gene-gene interactions for the higher IgE production at 3 years of age were significantly associated with the higher IgE production at 1.5 and 6 years of age (Fig. S4C). The higher risk classifications of gene-gene interactions for the higher IgE production at 6 years of age were significantly associated with the higher IgE production in all age groups (Fig. S4D). This suggests that the genetic association with CBkIgE production could predict the IgE production until 3 years of age, and the genetic association with IgE production at 1.5 years of age could predict IgE production at 3 and 6 years of age.

**Discussion**

Understanding the genes susceptible to higher IgE production may provide a way to probe the functional genetics of IgE-mediated allergic diseases [10]. Data accumulated indicate that a distinct subphenotype with elevated IgE levels has a discrete genetic control independent of other subphenotypes involved in atopic diseases [36]. Many different genes or loci have been associated with IgE production and/or asthma in different studies [10,12,13,15,26–28,32]. However, not many allergy candidate genes could be replicated or validated in different studies [10,12,13,15,26–28,32]. A review article summarizing dozens of genome-wise association study (GWAS) for asthma and allergy related traits has shown that few genetic variants give the highest risk to allergy related traits but limited to certain populations indicating a complex origin of allergic diseases [37]. Recently, a GWAS study focusing on childhood asthma has identified a locus on chromosome 17q12-21 (encoding \textit{ORMDL3} and \textit{GSDMB}) as a risk factor for predominantly childhood-onset asthma, but not for atopy, and overall not for adult-onset asthma [38]. The wide variations of the genes associated with IgE-mediated diseases may in part be explained by different polymorphisms in different populations, different environments and the statistical methods used to detect gene-gene interactions. The GWAS was not made in this study because it is too expensive for us to perform 571 cohort samples using GWAS approach. Thus, we sorted allergy candidate genes and immune related genes for customized chips with 304 SNPs. Employing the 304-customized SNPs, we studied and demonstrated the kinetic associations of IgE production with different gene profiles at newborn, 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age. The polymorphism of \textit{IL-13} was the most significantly associated with CBkIgE production, and the HLA class II alleles were not associated with IgE production until children at 6 years of age.

The HLA genotype dictates an individual’s repertoire of the peptide presentation to lymphocytes [39]. Studies of HLA Class II alleles have established that the locus influences total and/or specific IgE production [40–45]. Cookson et al. [44,46] showed that HLA-DRB1 is responsible for a greater proportion of the variation in total IgE levels in different ethnic populations. A recent GWAS from the Framingham cohort [41] found that \textit{HLA-G}, \textit{HLA-A} and \textit{HLA-DQ4}2 were associated with total serum IgE levels. Another GWAS from the United States also demonstrated that \textit{HLA-DR/DQ} region on chromosome 6p21 was associated with asthma [47]. It is well-known that HLA molecules are highly polymorphic in different races and populations. However, there is little theoretical basis upon what to assume that HLA alleles are associated with IgE production in different ages. In this study, we found that the SNPs of \textit{HLA-DPA1} and \textit{HLA-DQA1}, although not associated with IgE production in children under 3 years of age, were significantly associated with total IgE production when children reached 6 years of age. IgE production associated with innate immunity in earlier ages, but with HLA genotypes at 6-year old suggests that infants and small children may develop allergic sensitization depending on the interactions between certain genetic polymorphism and environmental exposure in different ages. Since children 6 years of age have greater exposure to a wider range of antigens than those under 3 years of age, further studies to validate whether \textit{HLA-DPA1} and \textit{HLA-DQA1} interact specifically with environmental factors for antigen presentation and allergic responses are warranted.

Interestingly, we also found that the SNPs of \textit{IL13} and \textit{CX3CL1} were the most significantly associated with IgE production in newborns at \textit{P} values around $10^{-4}$, whose \textit{P} value decreased to around $10^{-2}$ to $10^{-3}$ at 1.5 and 3 years of age, respectively, and down to no significant difference (\textit{P}>0.05) at 6 years of age. In contrast, the SNPs of \textit{HLA-DPA1} and \textit{HLA-DQA1} revealed a significant association with IgE production when the children grew up to 6 years of age. IgE is produced by B cells, which interact with \textit{T}H2 cells and undergo isotype class-switching after the induction of \textit{T}H2 cell-derived cytokines. It is well known that an imbalance between \textit{T}H1 and \textit{T}H2 immune response is critical for IgE production and to the subsequent development of allergic diseases. In addition, evidence has suggested that inappropriate \textit{T}H1 and \textit{T}H2 responses can be suppressed by regulatory T (Treg) cells [48]. \textit{IL-13} is an important \textit{T}H2 cytokine, which increased in the sera of individuals with atopic diseases and also in the bronchoalveolar lavage fluids of asthmatic patients. The overexpression of \textit{IL-13} in the airway leads to an increase in mucus production, bronchial hyperresponsiveness, and goblet cell hyperplasia [49,50]. Additionally, it had been suggested that \textit{IL-13} might inhibit the development of arthritis in animal models, and that an increase in production of \textit{IL-13} significantly correlates with a reduction in pro-inflammatory cytokines. A humanized \textit{IL-13} monoclonal antibody, lebrikizumab displayed pharmacodynamic activity in reducing serum total IgE levels [51]. These do support the role of \textit{IL-13} in regulating IgE levels. The genetic association of \textit{IL-13} with CBkIgE production has been reported in our birth cohort [26] and two other groups [52,53]. In this study, we reported its association with IgE production persists from newborn stage to 3 years of age.
The different combinations of IL13, CYFIP2, and PDE2A genotypes caused different high and low risk classifications for IgE production at 3 years of age, showing the highest risk in the combinations of IL13, rs1800925 CC, CYFIP2, rs767007 CC and PDE2A, rs755933 AA or IL13, rs1800925 TC, CYFIP2, rs767007 CC and PDE2A, rs755933 AG or IL13, rs1800925 TC, CYFIP2, rs767007 GG and PDE2A, rs755933 AA. Different gene-gene interactions associated with IgE production among newborn, infancy and childhood suggest prediction of allergic sensitization in perinatal stage may rely on age-based genetic association profiles, and environmental factors in different ages.

In this study, we initially analyzed associations of the 350 SNPs with IgE elevation and arbitrarily summarized the risk SNPs into different compartments of the immune genes studied. We then traced kinetic changes of the genetic associations from newborn, 1.5, 3 to 6 years of age. For gene-gene interactions are difficult to be assessed by multivariate logistic regression analyses, we used MDR analysis, which could identify high order gene-gene interactions without previous information of disease-associated genes [54,55], to detect gene-gene interactions based on the cross-validation/permutation testing of the 350 SNPs dataset matched to rates of the IgE elevation in different ages of children. We found that the higher risk classifications of gene-gene interactions on the CBlgE elevation identified by MDR analysis were longitudinally associated with higher (>75th percentile) IgE production until 3 years of age. The higher risk classifications of gene-gene interactions on the higher IgE production at 1.5 years of age identified by MDR analysis were significantly correlated to the higher IgE production at all age groups (newborn, 1.5, 3 or 6 years of age). The results are compatible to the intra-correlations of the IgE production among 0, 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age by Spearman’s correlation (Table 2), in which the higher IgE production at 1.5 years of age was more significantly than the higher CBlgE levels on the association with the IgE production at 3 or 6 years of age. This suggests that MDR is a suitable method to identify gene-gene interactions on the higher IgE production, even in the analysis of genetic associations with longitudinal trajectory of IgE production from birth, 1.5, 3 and 6 years of age.

The CBlgE levels detected in this cohort are similar to other cohorts in Germany and Canada [35,56,57]. However, when we continued to follow up the total IgE levels in this Taiwanese cohort, their total IgE levels in childhood were much higher than other prospective follow-up groups in the literature [33,35]. Hence, different exposures interact with various genetic backgrounds in a range of age, racial or ethnic groups as well as socioeconomic status will eventually result in different concentrations of IgE production and IgE-mediated diseases. Prevention of IgE production and IgE-mediated diseases may be made possible by control of different environments for the subjects with susceptible genotypes early in the perinatal stage. Further studies to compare gene-gene and gene-environment interactions on IgE production in different ethnic populations are necessary.

The strengths of this study are its larger sample size and prospective follow-up to 6 years of age, which enabled us to evaluate the kinetic genetic associations of IgE production during early childhood. The limitations of the study are its analysis with dichotomous dataset to do permutation; the dichotomous cut-off values of IgE levels at 75th vs. 25th percentile may not completely represent the high and low risk groups. This study only analyzed serum IgE pool because this study did not measure cell bound IgE levels that are age-dependent [58]. The cell bound IgE may affect the total IgE in blood and influence the associations between genes and total IgE levels. These limitations should be considered in future studies.

Supporting Information

Figure S1 Candidate genes on list on chromosomes. A list of the customized 384 SNPs in 159 allergy candidate genes on 22 somatic and X chromosomes. (TIFF)

Figure S2 Gene-gene interaction on IgE elevation at 3 years of age. The display and validation of the gene-gene interactions among IL13, CYFIP2, and PDE2A genes. Twenty combinations of different genotypes were classified into high (black bars) and low (white bars) risk groups of IgE production by MDR analysis (A). The differences between high and low risk classifications for IgE production at 3 years of age were validated by the Chi-square test ($P<0.001$), showing the highest risk (100%) of infant IgE elevation at 3 years of age in the combination of three IL13, CYFIP2, and PDE2A genotypes (B). (TIF)

Figure S3 Gene-gene interaction on IgE elevation at 6 years of age. The display and validation of the gene-gene interactions among CLEC2D, COLEC11, and CCL2 genes. Twenty-four combinations of different genotypes were classified into high (black bars) and low (white bars) risk groups of IgE production by MDR analysis (A). The differences between high and low risk classifications for IgE production at 6 years of age were validated by the Chi-square test ($P<0.001$), showing the highest risk (100%) of infant IgE elevation at 6 years of age in the combination of two CLEC2D, COLEC11, and CCL2 genotypes (B). (TIF)

Figure S4 MDR analyses of longitudinal trajectory of IgE production from newborn to 6 years of age. The combination of CCL17, rs2239900, PTRN22, rs1217395 and CX3CL10, rs867562 significantly associated with CBlgE production at newborn stage retained its association with the higher IgE production at 1.5 and 3 years of age, but not in 6 years of age (A). The combination of NRPS1, rs324961 and FGF1, rs2202797 associated with the higher IgE production at 1.5 years of age was significantly associated with the higher IgE production at all age groups (birth, 3 and 6 years of age) (B). The combination of IL13, rs1800925, CYFIP2, rs767007 and PDE2A, rs755933 associated with the IgE production at 3 years of age was significantly associated with the higher IgE production at 1.5 and 6 years of age (C). The combination of CLEC2D, rs1560011, COLEC11, rs10210631 and CCL2, rs2857656 associated with the higher IgE production at 6 years of age was significantly associated with the higher IgE production at all age groups (birth, 1.5 and 3 years of age) (D). (TIF)

Table S1 A. Validation of the gene-gene interactions by MDR analysis on IgE production at 1.5 years of age in multivariate logistic regression. B. Validation of the gene-gene interactions by MDR analysis on IgE production at 3 years of age in multivariate logistic regression. C. Validation of the gene-gene interactions by MDR analysis on IgE production at 6 years of age in multivariate logistic regression. (DOC)

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the staff of the delivery room and outpatient clinics of Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital for their collection of blood samples. The authors also thank the individuals who participated in this study.
Author Contributions
Conceived and designed the experiments: JCC HCK TYH CYO CAL KDY. Performed the experiments: JCC HCK CAL HML. Analyzed the data: JCC HC HML. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: JCC HCK TYH CYO CAL KDY. Wrote the paper: JCC HWH KDY.

References
1. Pedersen SE, Hued SS, Lemanske RF Jr., Becker A, Zar HJ, et al. (2011) Global strategy for the diagnosis and management of asthma in children 5 years and younger. Pediatric pulmonology 46: 1–17.
2. Asher MI, Montefort S, Bjerkedal T, Lai CK, Strachan DP, et al. (2006) Wheeze and asthmatic features in the prevalence of symptoms of asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, and eczema in childhood: ISAAC Phases One and Three repeat multicountry cross-sectional surveys. Lancet 368: 733–743.
3. Hon KL, Wang SS, Hung EC, Lam HS, Liu HH, et al. (2010) Serum levels of heavy metals in childhood eczema and skin diseases: friends or foes. Pediatric allergy and immunology : official publication of the European Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology 21: 831–836.
4. Sandberg M, Frykman A, Emerlidh, J, Berg G, Matthiasen L, et al. (2009) Cord blood cytokines and development of allergic disease. Pediatric allergy and immunology : official publication of the European Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology 20: 519–527.
5. Karmawa W, Arshad H, Mattes J (2001) Does the sibling effect have its origin in utero? Investigating the birth order, cord blood immunoglobulin E concentration, and allergic sensitization at age 8 years. American journal of epidemiology 154: 909–915.
6. Sadehghejjad A, Karmawa W, Davis S, Kurukulaarachchi RJ, Matthews S, et al. (2009) Raised cord serum immunoglobulin E increases the risk of allergic sensitisation at ages 4 and 10 and asthma at age 10. Thorax 59: 936–942.
7. Jacobsen HP, Herskind AM, Nielsen BW, Husby S (2001) IgE in unselected like-sexed monozygotic and dizygotic twins at birth and at 6 to 9 years of age: high but dissimilar genetic influence on IgE levels. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 107: 639–655.
8. Palmer LJ, Burton PR, Faux JA, James AL, Musk AW, et al. (2000) Independent inheritance of serum immunoglobulin E concentrations and airway responsiveness. American journal of respiratory and critical care medicine 161: 1836–1843.
9. Yang KH, Ou CY, Hsu TY, Chang JC, Chuang H, et al. (2007) Interaction of maternal atopy, CTLA-4 gene polymorphism and gender on antenatal immunoglobulin E production. Clinical and experimental allergy : journal of the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology 37: 690–697.
10. Altin J, Shen C, Liston A (2010) Understanding the genetic regulation of IgE production. Blood reviews 24: 163–169.
11. Hofijn S, Osovenaja I, Nicolai D, Newman DL, Nicolai R, et al. (2004) Genetic variation in immunoregulatory pathways and atopie phenotypes in infancy. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 113: 541–548.
12. Maleba G, Pigatti PF (2005) A review of asthma genetics: gene expression studies and recent candidates. Journal of applied genetics 46: 93–104.
13. Scirica CV, Celedon JC (2007) Genetics of asthma: potential implications for reducing asthma disparities. Pediatric pulmonology 46: 177–186.
14. Shiina T, Inoko H, Kulski JK (2004) An update of the HLA genomic region, HLA-DRB1 sequence diversity, and allelic associations with asthma. Journal of human genetics 50: 249–258.
15. Karmaus W, Arshad H, Mattes J (2001) Does the sibling effect have its origin in utero? Investigating the birth order, cord blood immunoglobulin E concentration, and allergic sensitization at age 8 years. American journal of epidemiology 154: 909–915.
16. Fryer AA, Bianco A, Hepple M, Jones PW, Strange RC, et al. (2000) Increased serum total IgE and IgG4 concentrations and decreased IgA concentration reflect reduced asthma disparities. Pediatric pulmonology 46: 177–186.
17. Mapp CE, Fryer AA, De Marzo N, Pozzato V, Padoan M, et al. (2002) Polymorphism in a disintegrin and metalloprotease 33 (ADAM33) predict bronchial hyperresponsiveness and asthma. American journal of respiratory and critical care medicine 165: 731–739.
18. Warrier MR, Hershey GK (2008) Asthma genetics: personalizing medicine. The Journal of asthma : official journal of the Association for the Care of Asthma 45: 257–264.
19. Moore JH, Gilbert JC, Tsai CT, Chiang FT, Holden T, et al. (2006) A flexible computational framework for detecting, characterizing, and interpreting statistical patterns of epistasis in genetic studies of human disease susceptibility. Journal of theoretical biology 241: 252–261.
20. Gui J, Moore JH, Kelcey KT, Marsit CJ, Karagas MR, et al. (2011) A novel survival multivariate dimensionality reduction method for detecting gene-gene interactions in applications with radiation cancer prognosis. Human genetics 129: 101–110.
21. Yang KD, Chang JC, Chuang H, Lang HM, Kuo HC, et al. (2010) Gene-gene and gene-environment interactions on IgE production in prenatal stage. Allergy in childhood 65: 731–739.
22. Chang JC, Liu CA, Chuang H, Ou CY, Hsu TY, et al. (2004) Gender-limited association of cytoxic T lymphocyte antigen-4 (CTLA-4) polymorphism with cord blood IgE levels. Pediatric allergy and immunology : official publication of the European Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology 15: 506–512.
23. Liu CA, Wang CL, Chuang H, Ou CY, Hsu TY, et al. (2003) Prenatal prediction of infant atopy by maternal but not paternal total IgE levels. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 112: 899–904.
24. Ciprandi G, De Amici M, Marsaglia G (2011) Comparison of serum specific IgE levels in grass pollen and birch pollen allergic children. Clinical laboratory 57: 83–88.
25. Rico G, Capelli M, Miniero R, Menna G, Zannarini L, et al. (2003) A comparison of different allergometric tests, skin prick test, Pharmacia UniCAP and ADVIA Centaur, for diagnosis of allergic diseases in children. Allergy 58: 346–351.
26. Van Asperen PP, Kemp AS, Mellis CM (1984) Skin test reactivity and clinical allergen sensitivity in infancy. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 73: 381–386.
27. Yang KD, Ou CY, Chang JC, Chen RF, Liu CA, et al. (2007) Infant frequent wheezing correlated to Clara cell protein 10 (CC10) polymorphism and concentration, but not allergy sensitization, in a perinatal cohort study. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 120: 192–198.
28. Bottema RW, Khokhlov M, Reijnierik NE, Thijs C, Smit HA, et al. (2010) Gene-gene interaction in regulatory T-cell function in atopy and asthma development in childhood. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 126: 330–346, 346 e331–310.
29. Bottema RW, Postma DS, Reijnierik NE, Thijs C, Stelma FF, et al. (2010) Interaction of T-cell and antigen presenting cell co-stimulatory genes in childhood IgE. The European respiratory journal : official journal of the European Society for Clinical Respiratory Physiology 35: 54–63.
30. Chen CM, Weidinger S, Klopp N, Sausenthaler S, Bischof W, et al. (2009) Common variants in FEVR/A influence total serum IgE levels from cord blood up to six years of life. Allergy 64: 1327–1332.
31. Palmer LJ, Burton PR, James AL, Musk AW, Cookson WO (2000) Familial aggregation and heritability of asthma-associated quantitative traits in a population-based sample of nuclear families. European journal of human genetics : EJHG 8: 853–860.
32. Wijt M, Sargurupremraj M, Arnold M (2013) Genome-wide association studies in asthma: what they really told us about pathogenesis. Current opinion in allergy and clinical immunology 13: 112–118.
33. Dijk FN, de Jungste JC, Postma DS, Koppelman GH (2013) Genetics of onset of asthma. Current opinion in allergy and clinical immunology 13: 193–202.
34. Klein J, Sato A (2000) The HLA system. First of two parts. The New England journal of medicine 343: 702–709.
35. Cardaiba B, Moffat MF, Fernandez E, Jurado A, Rojo M, et al. (2001) Allergy to dermatoaphidinae in a group of Spanish gynipis: genetic restrictions. International archives of allergy and immunology 125: 297–306.
36. Granada M, Wilk JB, Tuzova M, Strachan DP, Weidinger S, et al. (2012) A genome-wide association study of plasma total IgE concentrations in the Framingham Heart Study. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 129: 845–855 e821.
37. Mansur AH, Williams GA, Bishop DT, Markham AF, Lewis S, et al. (2000) Evidence for a role of HLA DRB1 alleles in the control of IgE levels, strengthened by interacting TCR A/D marker alleles. Clinical and experimental allergy : journal of the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology 30: 1371–1378.
38. Moffat MF, Gut IG, Demenais F, Strachan DP, Bouzign S, et al. (2010) A large-scale, consortium-based genome-wide association study of asthma. The New England journal of medicine 363: 1211–1221.
39. Moffat MF, Schou C, Faux JA, Abecasis GR, James A, et al. (2004) Association between quantitative traits underlying asthma and the HLA-DRB1 locus in a family-based population sample. European journal of human genetics : EJHG 9: 341–346.
40. Woszczak G, Kowalski ML, Borowiec M (2002) Association of asthma and total IgE levels with human leukocyte antigen-DR in patients with grass allergy. The European respiratory journal : official journal of the European Society for Clinical Respiratory Physiology 20: 79–85.
46. Moffatt MF, Faux JA, Lester S, Pare P, McCluskey J, et al. (2003) Atopy, respiratory function and HLA-DR in Aboriginal Australians. Human molecular genetics 12: 625–630.
47. Li X, Howard TD, Zheng SL, Haselkorn T, Peters SP, et al. (2010) Genome-wide association study of asthma identifies RAD50-IL13 and HLA-DR/DQ regions. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 125: 328–335 e311.
48. Akdis M, Blaser K, Akdis CA (2005) T regulatory cells in allergy: novel concepts in the pathogenesis, prevention, and treatment of allergic diseases. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 116: 961–968; quiz 969.
49. Wills-Karp M, Layimbazi J, Xu X, Schofield B, Neben TY, et al. (1998) Interleukin-13: central mediator of allergic asthma. Science 282: 2258–2261.

50. Zhu Z, Homer RJ, Wang Z, Chen Q, Geba GP, et al. (1999) Pulmonary expression of interleukin-13 causes inflammation, mucus hypersecretion, subepithelial fibrosis, physiologic abnormalities, and eotaxin production. The Journal of clinical investigation 103: 779–786.
51. Corren J, Lemanske RF, Hanania NA, Korenblat PE, Parsey MV, et al. (2011) Lebrikizumab treatment in adults with asthma. The New England journal of medicine 365: 1088–1098.
52. Hong X, Tsai HJ, Liu X, Arguelles L, Kumar R, et al. (2010) Does genetic regulation of IgE begin in utero? Evidence from T(H)1/T(H)2 gene polymorphisms and cord blood total IgE. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 126: 1059–1067, 1067 e1051.
53. Sadeghnejad A, Karnaas W, Hasan Arshad S, Evart S (2007) IL13 gene polymorphism association with cord serum immunoglobulin E. Pediatric allergy and immunology : official publication of the European Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology 18: 280–292.
54. Moore JH, Williams SM (2002) New strategies for identifying gene-gene interactions in hypertension. Annals of medicine 34: 80–95.
55. Ritchie MD, Hahn LW, Roodi N, Bailey LR, Dupont WD, et al. (2001) Multifactor-dimensionality reduction reveals high-order interactions among estrogen-metabolism genes in sporadic breast cancer. American journal of human genetics 69: 138–147.
56. Ferguson A, Dimich-Ward H, Becker A, Watson W, DyBuncio A, et al. (2009) Elevated cord blood IgE is associated with recurrent wheeze and atopy at 7 yrs in a high risk cohort. Pediatric allergy and immunology : official publication of the European Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology 20: 710–713.
57. Heinrich J, Bolte G, Holsher B, Douwes J, Lehmann I, et al. (2002) Allergens and endotoxin on mothers' mattresses and total immunoglobulin E in cord blood of neonates. The European respiratory journal : official journal of the European Society for Clinical Respiratory Physiology 20: 617–623.
58. Dehlink E, Baker AH, Yen E, Nurko S, Fiebiger E (2010) Relationships between levels of serum IgE, cell-bound IgE, and IgE-receptors on peripheral blood cells in a pediatric population. PloS one 5: e12204.