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Heritability and reliability of automatically segmented human hippocampal formation subregions

Christopher D. Whelan ^a, Derrek P. Hibar ^a, Laura S. van Velzen ^b, Anthony S. Zannas ^{c,d}, Tania Carrillo-Roa ^c, Katie McMahon ^e, Gautam Prasad ^a, Sinéad Kelly ^a, Joshua Faskowitz ^a, Greig deZubiracay ^f, Juan E. Iglesias ^g,

- ⁵ Theo G.M. van Erp^h, Thomas Frodlⁱ, Nicholas G. Martin^j, Margaret J. Wright^k, Neda Jahanshad^a,
- ⁶ Lianne Schmaal ^b, Philipp G. Sämann ^c, Paul M. Thompson ^{a,*},
- ⁷ for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative ¹

^a Imaging Genetics Center, University of Southern California, Marina del Rey, CA, USA

9 b Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience Campus Amsterdam, VU University Medical Center and GGZ inGeest, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

10 ^c Department of Translational Research in Psychiatry, Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Munich, Germany

11 ^d Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA

12 ^e Centre for Advanced Imaging, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

13 ^f Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

14 g Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, Donostia, Gipuzkoa, Spain

15 ^h Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, University of California, Irvine, USA

¹⁶ Department of Psychiatry, Otto-von Guericke-University of Magdeburg, Germany

17 ^j QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

18 ^k Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

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АВЅТКАСТ

The human hippocampal formation can be divided into a set of cytoarchitecturally and functionally distinct subre- 26 gions, involved in different aspects of memory formation. Neuroanatomical disruptions within these subregions are 27 associated with several debilitating brain disorders including Alzheimer's disease, major depression, schizophrenia, 28 and bipolar disorder. Multi-center brain imaging consortia, such as the Enhancing Neuro Imaging Genetics through 29 Meta-Analysis (ENIGMA) consortium, are interested in studying disease effects on these subregions, and in the 30 genetic factors that affect them. For large-scale studies, automated extraction and subsequent genomic association 31 studies of these hippocampal subregion measures may provide additional insight. Here, we evaluated the test-retest 32 reliability and transplatform reliability (1.5 T versus 3 T) of the subregion segmentation module in the FreeSurfer 33 software package using three independent cohorts of healthy adults, one young (Queensland Twins Imaging 34 Study, N = 39), another elderly (Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative, ADNI-2, N = 163) and another 35 mixed cohort of healthy and depressed participants (Max Planck Institute, MPIP, N = 598). We also investigated 36 agreement between the most recent version of this algorithm (v6.0) and an older version (v5.3), again using the 37 ADNI-2 and MPIP cohorts in addition to a sample from the Netherlands Study for Depression and Anxiety 38 (NESDA) (N = 221). Finally, we estimated the heritability (h^2) of the segmented subregion volumes using the full 39 sample of young, healthy QTIM twins (N = 728). Test-retest reliability was high for all twelve subregions in the 40 3 T ADNI-2 sample (intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) = 0.70-0.97) and moderate-to-high in the 4 T QTIM sam- 41 ple (ICC = 0.5-0.89). Transplatform reliability was strong for eleven of the twelve subregions (ICC = 0.66-0.96); 42 however, the hippocampal fissure was not consistently reconstructed across 1.5 T and 3 T field strengths (ICC = 43 0.47–0.57). Between-version agreement was moderate for the hippocampal tail, subiculum and presubiculum 44 (ICC = 0.78 - 0.84; Dice Similarity Coefficient (DSC) = 0.55 - 0.70), and poor for all other subregions (ICC = 0.34 - 45)0.81; DSC = 0.28-0.51). All hippocampal subregion volumes were highly heritable ($h^2 = 0.67-0.91$). Our findings 46 indicate that eleven of the twelve human hippocampal subregions segmented using FreeSurfer version 6.0 may serve 47 as reliable and informative quantitative phenotypes for future multi-site imaging genetics initiatives such as those of 48 the ENIGMA consortium. 49

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* Corresponding author at: Imaging Genetics Center, Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute, 4676 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292, USA. *E-mail address*: pthomp@usc.edu (P.M. Thompson).

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Q4 Introduction

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56The mammalian hippocampal formation is one of the most important brain regions for spatial navigation (O'Keefe, 1990), episodic 57memory retrieval (Burgess et al., 2002), and associative learning pro-58cesses (Morris, 2006). This seahorse-shaped structure in the medial 59temporal lobe is divided into a set of cytoarchitectonically heteroge-60 61 neous subregions (Insausti and Amaral, 2004; Winterburn et al., 2013; Pipitone et al., 2014), each associated with distinct aspects of memory 62 formation, among other functions. For example, the dentate gyrus 63 (DG) and sectors 3 and 4 of the cornu ammonis (CA) are involved in 64 65 declarative memory acquisition (Coras et al., 2014), whereas the 66 subiculum and CA1 are associated with disambiguation during 67 working memory processes (Newmark et al., 2013). The CA2 subregion, 68 long assumed to be a simple transition point between CA3 and CA1, has recently been implicated in animal models of social memory (Hitti and 69 70 Siegelbaum, 2014) and episodic time encoding (Navratilova and Battaglia, 2015). The subiculum, a subregion that exerts control over 71 the hippocampal output, has been associated with spatial memory 7273functions, but its ventral part may play an additional regulatory role in 74inhibition of the HPA axis (O'Mara, 2006).

75Neuroanatomical abnormalities within these hippocampal subre-76gions are associated with a broad range of neurological and psychiatric 77 disorders, from ischaemic stroke, encephalitis, temporal lobe epilepsy, transient global amnesia and multiple sclerosis (Bartsch, 2012; Das 78et al., 2011) to bipolar disorder (BPD), major depressive disorder 79 80 (MDD) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Sala, 2008). Some of these malformations develop as a result of head trauma, intracranial 81 infection or other environmental influences, but genetic factors also 82 play a fundamental role (Thompson et al., 2008; van Erp et al., 2004). 83 Recent advances in genome-wide association (GWA) meta-analysis 84 and large-scale collaborative brain imaging (e.g. Enhancing Neuro 85 Imaging Genetics through Meta-Analysis (ENIGMA), the Early Growth 86 Genetics (EGG) consortium, and the Cohorts of Heart and Aging 87 Research in Genomic Epidemiology (CHARGE)) have helped identify 88 89 several common genetic variants associated with structural variation in the hippocampus (Hibar et al., 2015; Stein et al., 2012; Lim et al., 90 2012) as well as other brain regions including the putamen, caudate Q5 nucleus (Hibar et al., 2015), intracranial volume (Ikram et al., 2012; 92Stein et al., 2012) and head circumference (Taal et al., 2012). 93

94International consortia like ENIGMA are now turning their attention to specific investigations of genetic and phenotypic variation in healthy 95individuals as well as those diagnosed with schizophrenia, BPD, MDD, 96 PTSD, epilepsy and many other brain illnesses (Thompson et al., 97 98 2014). Among subcortical structures assessed, the hippocampus has 99 consistently shown the greatest effect sizes for differences between 100patients and controls, in both schizophrenia (van Erp et al., 2015) and major depression, particularly recurrent depression (Schmaal et al., 101 2015). Impaired hippocampal integrity may in turn impair treatment 102response, making it pivotal to detect such morphologically defined 103 104 subgroups (Frodl et al., 2008; Sämann et al., 2013).

Focusing on fine-grained phenotypic variation within small subre-105gions of the hippocampus may improve our power to localize genetic 106and disease-related effects on the brain as a whole. As part of its next 107 major project, the ENIGMA consortium aims to delineate specific 108 sub-regions of the hippocampus as quantitative phenotypes for 109 genome-wide association and cross-sectional case:control meta-110 analyses. Before these new ENIGMA initiatives can begin, we first 111 need to evaluate a non-invasive, reliable and relatively accessible 112 113 technique for reconstructing the human hippocampal subfields in vivo. In turn, for future genetic mapping efforts, we must validate 114 these automatically reconstructed hippocampal sub-regions as quanti-115tative endophenotypes - heritable, robust brain markers that may be 116 closer to the molecular basis of disease than diagnostic assessments in 117 118 the clinic (Braskie and Ringman, 2011; Glahn et al., 2007; Gottesman 119 and Gould, 2003; Hasler and Northoff, 2011).

Several manual segmentation techniques have been developed 120 to reconstruct hippocampal and parahippocampal subregions from 121 T1-weighted MRI scans acquired at 3 to 7 T field strengths (La Joie 122 et al., 2010; Van Leemput et al., 2009; Mueller et al., 2007; Wisse 123 et al., 2012; Adler et al., 2014). Although these methods typically 0607 segment the hippocampal subregions at remarkably fine-scaled 125 resolution, a critical bottleneck for collaborative imaging initiatives 126 such as ENIGMA is the need to manually label the subregion boundaries, 127 which is laborious, time-consuming and susceptible to intra- and inter- 128 observer variability (Van Leemput et al., 2009). Several automated pro- 129 tocols have been developed to address this issue, combining rules on 130 image intensity and geometry to delineate the boundaries between 131 hippocampal and parahippocampal subregions (Van Leemput et al.; Q8 Yushkevich et al., 2009, 2010). One often-used automated technique 133 is provided as part of FreeSurfer, a freely available suite of neuroimaging 134 structural analysis tools (Fischl, 2012). 135

Initial versions of the FreeSurfer algorithm (versions 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3) 136 produce subregion segmentations that are largely inconsistent with 137 brain anatomy (de Flores et al., 2015; Pluta et al., 2012; Wisse et al., 138 2014). An updated version of the algorithm, to be released as part of 139 FreeSurfer version 6.0, uses a new statistical atlas constructed from 140 ultra-high resolution ex vivo MRI (Iglesias et al., 2015). This revised 141 algorithm produces subregion volume estimates that more closely 142 match volumes derived from histological investigations (Iglesias et al., 143 2015). However, consensus is still lacking on the most appropriate 144 subregion delineation protocol to use (Yushkevich et al., 2015). Here, 145 using four independent samples, we set out to validate version 6.0 of 146 the automated FreeSurfer algorithm from three complementary 147 perspectives: First, we evaluated the algorithm's 'test-retest' reliability; 148 i.e. its ability to extract comparable subregion measures across multiple 149 time points in two independent cohorts with different image acquisi- 150 tion parameters and age characteristics (our two samples differ in 151 mean age by approximately 50 years). Second, we examined the 152 algorithm's 'trans-platform' reliability – defined as its ability to repro- 153 duce similar subregion measures across different MRI scanner platforms 154 and field strengths (for example, 3 T versus 1.5 T). Third, we investigated 155 overall agreement between this new algorithm, which we will refer to 156 as 'FS6.0', and the older algorithm, version 5.3, which we will refer to 157 as 'FS5.3'. The degree of quantitative deviation between volumes 158 extracted using FS5.3 and volumes extracted using FS6.0 may help 159 users of the former evaluate the necessity of re-processing their data 160 with the latter. 161

Validation of a reliable, automated subregion segmentation tool may 162 allow ENIGMA and other imaging consortia to study hippocampal 163 subregions as fine-grained quantitative phenotypes in large-scale 164 genome-wide association meta-analyses. However, to be considered a 165 promising target for genetic mapping, the subregional volume esti- 166 mates must show evidence of heritability (h^2) . Quantitative genetic 167 analysis of automatically segmented, T1-weighted brain images from 168 paired twin samples has frequently been employed to estimate the 169 heritability of global volumetric measures. Prior estimates show that 170 total hippocampal volume is highly heritable in both healthy adults 171 $(h^2 = 0.66-0.71)$ (den Braber et al., 2013; Erp and Saleh, 2004; Q9 Q10 Wright et al., 2002) and children ($h^2 = 0.64-0.72$) (Swagerman and 173 Brouwer, 2014). However, structural variance within the whole hippo- 174 campus may be less heritable in elderly adults ($h^2 = 0.4-0.65$) 175 (DeStefano et al., 2009; Mather et al., 2015; Sullivan et al., 2001), possi-176 bly due to environmental stressors (Hedges and Woon, 2010), alter- Q11 ations in testosterone levels (Panizzon et al., 2012) or other 178 endogenous biological factors. Similarly, total hippocampal volume is Q12 only moderately heritable in schizophrenia ($h^2 = 0.36-0.73$) (Kaymaz Q13 and Os, 2009; Roalf et al., 2015). Thus, while the heritability of total 181 hippocampal volume is well established across many populations, the 182 heritability of structural variations in individual subregions has yet to 183 be delineated. Therefore, in the second part of this study, we set out to 184 disentangle the relative contributions of additive genetic variance and 185

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186 environmental influences on hippocampal subregion volume in two

independent cohorts of healthy adults, and by this to assess the eligibilityof such hippocampal subregion volumes as *endophenotypes* for future

189 large-scale collaborative genetic association studies in ENIGMA.

190 Methods

191 Participants and imaging protocols

192 Four collections of MRI scans were analyzed in this study.

193 ADNI-2

194 Subjects. For our test-retest and between-version reliability analyses, we analyzed publicly available data from 163 healthy control subjects 195 from the second phase of the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging 196 Initiative, ADNI-2 (81 women, 82 men, age mean \pm SD = 73.58 \pm 197 6.21 years) (http://adni.loni.usc.edu/). ADNI was launched in 2003 198 as a public-private partnership, led by Principal Investigator Michael 199 W. Weiner, MD. The primary goal of ADNI has been to test whether 200serial magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomogra-201 phy (PET), other biological markers, and clinical and neuropsychologi-202 203cal assessment can be combined to measure the progression of mild 204 cognitive impairment (MCI) and early Alzheimer's disease (AD). Further details of the ADNI project are given in Jack et al. (2010) and 205at http://www.adni-info.org. 206

207Imaging. T1-weighted MR images were acquired using a 3 T General Electric (GE) Medical Systems scanner with the following parameters: 208 3-dimensional MP-RAGE, 8-channel head coil, voxel size 1.2 \times 209 1.2×1.2 mm, time to repeat (TR) = 400 ms, time to echo (TE) = 2102.85 ms, flip angle = 11° , field of view (FOV) = 26 cm, resolution = 211212 256×256 mm. A baseline and follow-up scan was acquired for all 213healthy controls, with an average inter-scan interval of 3.3 months. Family trios or siblings were not scanned as part of the ADNI-2 protocol, 214

so this dataset was not included in our heritability analyses.

216 QTIM

Subjects. To estimate heritability and include an independent replication 217cohort for our test-retest reliability analysis, we analyzed MR images 218 from healthy Caucasian young adults, collected as part of the Queensland 219Twins Imaging (OTIM) study. OTIM is a joint effort by researchers at QIMR 220Berghofer, The University of Queensland and the University of Southern 221 California to study brain structure and function using T1-weighted MRI, 222223high angular resolution diffusion imaging (HARDI) and functional MRI 224in a large population of young adult twins of European ancestry. Full details of the QTIM cohort are found in Zubicaray et al. (2008). 225

The heritability analysis included 728 individuals (132 monozygotic (MZ) sibling pairs and 232 dizygotic (DZ) sibling pairs; 465 women and 263 men with an age mean \pm SD of 22.65 \pm 2.73 years). The test–retest reliability analysis included a subset of the twins; 20 women, 19 men; mean age in years (\pm SD) = 24.03 (\pm 2.04), who were scanned twice, with an average interval of 3 months between scanning sessions.

232Imaging. 3-Dimensional T1-weighted images were acquired on a 4 T233Bruker Medspec scanner using an inversion recovery rapid gradient234echo protocol. Key acquisition parameters were: TI = 700 ms, TR =2351500 ms, TE = 3.35 ms, voxel size $0.94 \times 0.98 \times 0.98$ mm, flip angle =2368°, slice thickness = 0.9 mm, 256 × 256 acquisition matrix.

237 Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry (MPIP)

Subjects. As part of the (i) between-version agreement and (ii) transplatform reliability analyses, high resolution T1-weighted anatomical images collected at the MPIP of Psychiatry (MPIP), Munich, Germany, from 222 healthy participants and 367 patients major 241 depressive disorder (MDD) (334 women, 255 men, mean age \pm SD = 242 48.4 \pm 13.5, age range: 18 to 87), were included, in addition to 20 healthy Q15 controls who were scanned on a 1.5 T and 3 T platform 244

Imaging. The between-version comparison sample (total N = 589) was 245 acquired on a 1.5 T General Electric clinical scanner (T1-weighted SPGR 246 3D volume, TR 10030 ms; TE 3.4 ms; 124 sagittal slices; matrix 247 256×256 ; FOV 23.0 \times 23.0 cm²; voxel size 0.8975 \times 0.8975 \times 1.2- 248 1.4] mm³; flip angle = 90°; birdcage resonator) with N = 186 of Q_{16} the total sample scanned after a coil upgrade (Signa Excite, sagittal 250 T1-weighted spin echo sequence, TR 9.7 s, TE 2.1 ms). For the 251 trans-platform sample, one image was acquired on 3 T scanner 252 (General Electric MR750, 3D BRAVO, TR 6.1 s; TE minimum; TI 253 450 ms, 124 sagittal slices; matrix 256 \times 256; FOV 25.6 \times 25.6 cm²; 254 voxel size $1 \times 1 \times 1$ mm³; flip angle = 12°) and a second image after 255 immediate repositioning in the 1.5 T scanner (General Electric MR450, 256 3D FSPGR, TR 7.9 s; TE minimum, TI 450 ms, 188 sagittal slices; matrix 257 320×256 ; FOV 24 × 24 cm²; voxel size 0.9375 × 0.9375 × 1 mm³; flip 258 angle = 12°). 259

Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety (NESDA)

Subjects. To further assess the agreement between FreeSurfer versions, 261 we analyzed data from 64 healthy controls and 157 patients with a 262 diagnosis of MDD or comorbid anxiety disorder, collected as part of 263 the Netherlands Study for Depression and Anxiety (NESDA) (145 264 women, 76 men, mean age \pm SD = 38.14 \pm 10.33 years, age range: 265 18 to 57).

Imaging. Imaging data were acquired using Philips 3 T magnetic reso-267 nance imaging systems (Best, The Netherlands) located at the Leiden 268 University Medical Center, Amsterdam Medical Center, and University 269 Medical Center Groningen. For each subject, anatomical images were 270 obtained using a sagittal 3-dimensional gradient-echo T1-weighted 271 sequence (repetition time, 9 ms, echo time, 3.5 ms; matrix, 256 \times 256; 272 voxel size, $1 \times 1 \times 1$ mm; 170 slices; duration, 4.5 min). 273

Full participant demographics for the ADNI-2, QTIM, MPIP and 274 NESDA samples are detailed in Table 1. 275

Image processing

T1-weighted images were processed using FreeSurfer (FS) version 277 5.3.0 using the software package's default, automated reconstruction 278 protocol described by Anders M. Dale, Bruce Fischl and colleagues 279 ('recon-all'-see Dale et al., 1999; Fischl et al., 1999). Briefly, each 280 T1-weighted image was subjected to an automated segmentation 281 process involving: (i) conversion from three-dimensional nifti format, 282 (ii) affine registration into Talairach space, (iii) normalization for 283 variable intensities caused by inhomogeneities in the radiofrequency 284 field, (iv) 'skull-stripping', i.e. extraction of the skull and extra- 285 meningeal tissues from each image, (v) segregation into left and right 286 hemispheres using 'cutting planes', (vi) removal of the brain stem and 287 cerebellum, (vii) correction for topology defects, (viii) definition of 288 the gray/white matter and gray/cerebrospinal fluid boundaries using 289 surface deformation (Fischl et al., 2004a) and (ix) parcellation of the 290 subcortical region into distinct brain tissues, including the hippocam- 291 pus, amygdala, thalamus, caudate nucleus, putamen, pallidum and 292 accumbens (Fischl et al., 2002, 2004a, 2004b). Using FreeSurfer's native Q17 visualization toolbox, tkmedit, we visually inspected each image for 294 over- or under-estimation of the gray/white matter boundaries and to 295 identify brain areas erroneously excluded during skull stripping. 296

Hippocampal subregion segmentation

After successful reconstruction of the whole hippocampus and 298 its neighboring subcortical regions, we used a revised version of the 299 automated subregion parcellation protocol previously described by 300

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1.1 **Table 1**

11.2	raiucipant ueniograpi	ncs.				
t1.3	Cohort	N	Field strength	Mean age (years + SD)	Age range (years)	Female/male
t1.4	ADNI-2	163	3 T	73.6	56.3-89.1	81/82
t1.5	QTIM (test-retest)	39	4 T	24.03 (3.49)	20.72-27.31	20/19
t1.6	QTIM (full) ^a	728	4 T	22.65 (2.73)	18.1-29.73	465/263
t1.7	NESDA	221	3 T	38.14 (10.33)	18-57	145/76
t1.8	MPIP	589	1.5 T	48.4 (13.5)	18-87	334/255

'SD' = standard deviation, MPIP = Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, NESDA =
 t1.10 Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety, ADNI-2 = Alzheimer's Disease NeuroImaging
 t1.11 Initiative, QTIM = Queensland Twins Imaging Study.

t1.12 ^a The QTIM cohort included 132 monozygotic twin pairs and 232 dizygotic twin pairs.

Q18 Van Leemput and colleagues (Van Leemput et al., 2008; Van Leemput et al., 2009) to segment specific subregions of the hippocampal formation 302 in the OTIM, ADNI-2, NESDA and MPIP datasets. This revised module is 303 compatible with FreeSurfer v5.3 (FS5.3) and will be freely distributed 304 with FreeSurfer v6.0 (FS6.0) (Iglesias et al., 2015). Prior versions of the 305 algorithm (FS5.1 to FS5.3) combined a single probabilistic atlas with 306 high-resolution, T1-weighted in-vivo manual segmentations to predict 307 the locations of eight hippocampal subregions. The new version (FS6.0) 308 309 predicts the location of twelve hippocampal subregions, using a refined probabilistic atlas built upon a combination of manual delineations of 310 the hippocampal formation from 15 ultra-high resolution, ex-vivo MRI 311 scans and manual annotations of the surrounding subcortical structures 312 (e.g., amygdala, cortex) from an independent dataset of 39 in-vivo, 313 314 T1-weighted, 1 mm resolution MRI scans (Iglesias et al., 2015). This revised algorithm features the following enhancements: (i) first-hand 315 knowledge of histological staining of the hippocampus by a neuroanato-316 317 mist; (ii) a cytoarchitectural atlas of the hippocampal formation 318 (Rosene and Hoesen, 1987); and (iii) high-resolution, ex-vivo brain MRI 319 scans (120 μ m³), which show definitive borders between the subregions and greater consistency with manual segmentation methods (Yushkevich 320 et al., 2015). Previous versions of the FreeSurfer algorithm reconstructed 321 eight subregions per hemisphere, including the CA1, CA2/3, fimbria, 322 323 subiculum, presubiculum, CA4/DG, hippocampal tail and hippocampal 324 fissure. The new algorithm provides more anatomically sensitive reconstructions of these eight subregions as well as four new subregions: the 325parasubiculum, the molecular layer, granule cells in the molecular layer 326 of the DG (GC-ML-DG) and the hippocampal-amygdala transitional area 327 328 (HATA).

329 Test-retest reliability analysis

330 Using FS6.0, we extracted volume estimates for the whole hippocampus and its twelve subregions from (i) the ADNI-2 and (ii) the QTIM 331 332 cohorts. All QTIM and ADNI-2 images, including both test and re-test scans, were processed in parallel. After successful subregion segmenta-333 tion, we used a custom-designed Matlab code to visually inspect each 334 segmentation (see Fig. 1). Subregion volume estimates were exported 335 to SPSS (for reliability analysis) and reformatted into phenotype covari-336 337 ance matrices (for heritability analysis described below).

Volume measures were imported into SPSS (IBM Corp., Version 21.0) and subjected to a series of two-way reliability analyses, using Cronbach's alpha (α) (Cronbach, 1951) as a measure of internal consistency. Cronbach's alpha is calculated as follows:

$$\propto = \frac{N \cdot \overline{c}}{\overline{v} + (N-1) \cdot \overline{c}}$$

where N is the number of subregion volume estimates, *c-bar* is the average inter-subject covariance among these estimates and *v-bar*is the average variance. The resulting α, interpreted as the *intraclass correlation coefficient* (ICC), provides an estimate of how consistently
the FreeSurfer v6.0 parcellation protocol reconstructs hippocampal subregions from baseline to follow-up scan. ICC ranges from 0 (indicating

high variability between baseline and follow-up volume estimates) 348 to 1 (denoting high reproducibility between baseline and follow-up 349 estimates). 350

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Between-version reliability analysis

We compared subregional hippocampal volumes estimates extracted 352 using FS5.3 and FS6.0 from three independently acquired cohorts: 353 (i) baseline scans of the ADNI-2 cohort (N = 163), (ii) the NESDA cohort 354 (N = 221), and (iii) the MPIP cohort (N = 589). Volume measures 355 for each subregion were bilaterally 'averaged' across the left and right 356 hemispheres. 357

Volume measurements from FS6.0 are given in mm³, whereas 358 volume measurements in FS5.3 are returned on the basis of 0.5 mm 359 isotropic. Therefore, the latter set of volume estimates was divided 360 by a factor of 8 in order to transform them to mm³ measurements. 361

Volume estimates for the eight sub-regions extracted using FS5.3 362 were imported into SPSS alongside eight of the twelve possible subregions extracted using FS6.0. Volume estimates for the parasubiculum, 364 molecular layer, GC_ML_DG and HATA (extracted using FS6.0) had no 365 direct corresponding subregions in FS5.3 and were not included in this 366 between-version analysis. We conducted eight sets of two-way mixed 367 reliability analyses, using the same statistical model applied for our 368 prior test-retest comparison (Cronbach's alpha). This produced a series 369 of ICC values measuring the agreement between the old (FS5.3) and new 370 (FS6.0) versions of the FreeSurfer subregion segmentation algorithm. 371

As a second measure of reproducibility and spatial overlap between 372 FS5.3 and FS6.0, we employed a custom-designed Matlab code to extract 373 a series of Dice similarity coefficients (DSC) for each hippocampal subre-374 gion. The DSC, first proposed by Dice (1945), provides a validation metric 375 for evaluating reproducibility and has previously been used to assess 376 spatial overlap between automated MRI reconstructions (Zou et al., 377 2006). DSC values range from 0 (indicating no spatial overlap between **Q19** two sets of binary segmentations) to 1 (full overlap between binary 379 segmentations). 380

DSCs were calculated by dividing the sum of volumes segmented 381 using FS5.3 and volumes segmented using FS6.0 by twice the volume 382 of the intersection between these segmentations; *i.e.* 383

$$DSC(A, B) = 2(A \cap B)/(A + B)$$

where *A* is the first hippocampal subregion (reconstructed using FS5.3), 385 *B* is the second hippocampal subregion volume (reconstructed using FS6.0) and \cap is the intersected space between the two subregions. 386

Trans-platform reliability analysis

20 pairs of T1-weighted images were acquired on a 1.5 T and a 3 T $_{388}$ scanner system to investigate the stability of both FS5.3 and FS6.0 across $_{389}$ platforms. The repositioning between the end of the first acquisition $_{390}$ and the start of the second acquisition was performed as fast as possible, $_{391}$ usually taking 2–3 min. Both subregional segmentation tools (FS5.3 and FS6.0) were employed on the 2 \times 20 images. Subregional volume $_{393}$ estimates were imported into SPSS (to extract ICC values) and Matlab $_{394}$ (to estimate DSC scores) respectively. All ICC analyses were conducted $_{395}$ using the same statistical models previously described for the test–re- test analysis. $_{397}$

Heritability of hippocampal subregion volumes

Heritability, defined here as the fraction of the phenotypic variability 399 attributable to genetic variation, was calculated for each hippocampal 400 subregion volume using a variance components model, as implemented 401 in version 7.2.5 of the Sequential Oligogenic Linkage Analysis Routines 402 (SOLAR) software package (http://www.nitrc.org/projects/se_linux) 403 (Almasy and Blangero, 1998). Methods to estimate heritability in SOLAR 404 are detailed elsewhere (Kochunov et al., 2010; Winkler et al., 2010). 405

Briefly, SOLAR implements a maximum likelihood variance decom- 406 position method, expanding on prior algorithms developed by Amos 407

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Fig. 1. Color-coded illustration of 11 hippocampal subfields in sagittal (top left), axial (bottom left) and coronal (top right) views. Subfield volumes for each participant were overlaid on their whole-brain T1-weighted image ('nu.mgz') and visually inspected for over- or under-estimation of the hippocampal subfields. In the above rendering, a representative subject from the QTIM cohort was de-identified by blurring around the edges of the skull and face. The image was generated using FreeSurfer's high-resolution visualization tool, *FreeView* (https://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/fswiki/FreeviewGuide/).

408 (1994). The algorithm decomposes phenotypic variance (σ_P^2) into a 409 genetic (σ_g^2) and a residual component (σ_e^2) – the latter represents 410 variation not accounted for by the genetic component (*i.e.*, random 411 environmental variation and/or experimental error). Mean volumes for 412 the whole hippocampus and twelve of its subregions were extracted 413 from all twin pairs in the QTIM sample (N = 132 MZ pairs and N = 414 232 dizygotic pairs) and reformatted into a phenotype covariance matrix.

415 Each covariate matrix was adjusted to include sex, age, and age * sex 416 interactions as covariates. The covariance matrix, Ω , for each pedigree of

417 individuals was then integrated into the following expression:

$$\Omega = 2\Phi\sigma_{g}^{2} + l\sigma_{e}^{2}$$

419 where Ω represents covariance between one relative and another, Φ is the pair-wise kinship coefficient representing the relationship between
420 these relatives (0.5 for full siblings), σ²_g represents the additive genetic
421 component of phenotypic variance, *I* is the identity matrix and σ²_e
422 is residual non-genetic variation (*i.e.*, individual-specific environmental
423 variance).

Heritability (h^2) was computed from this model by comparing the observed covariance matrix for phenotypic variance (σ_p^2) with the observed covariance matrix for additive genetic effects (σ_g^2), *i.e.*,

$$h^2 = \sigma^2_{\rm g} / \sigma^2_{\rm P}$$

428

Here, h^2 is a value between 0 and 1 representing total additive genetic heritability, ranging from 0 (no genetic contributions) to 1 (all phenotypic 429variance reflects a genetic effect). Significance of heritability was 430 estimated by computing a model in which σ_{g}^{2} was constrained to 431 zero, computing a second model in which σ_g^2 was estimated, and 432computing twice the difference between the first and second models' 433 log-likelihoods. For our analysis, we employed a polygenic model that 434 calculated the effects of specific variables (additive genetic variation, 435and covariates including age, sex and sex * age interactions) in explaining 436each subregion's volumetric variance within the QTIM population. Three 437 main test statistics were then recorded for each subregion volume: its 438 439 h^2 estimate, the significance (*p*-value) of this heritability estimate and its standard error. All test statistics were compared to an adjusted alpha 440 level of $p \le 3.84 \times 10^{-3}$ to reduce the probability of type 1 errors arising 441 from multiple measurements (N = 13). 442

HATA

Test–retest reliability

Results

Test–retest reliability estimates from ADNI-2, a cohort of 163 445 healthy, elderly adults scanned three months apart at 3 T, revealed 446 good reliability for all automatically segmented subregion volumes. 447 Larger hippocampal regions (mean volume > 90 mm³) showed highest 448 ICC values from baseline to follow-up session. These regions included 449 the whole hippocampus (ICC \geq 0.94), CA1 subregion (ICC \geq 0.91), CA3 450 subregion (ICC \geq 0.88), CA4 subregion (ICC \geq 0.9), molecular layer 451 (ICC \geq 0.93), subiculum (ICC \geq 0.91), presubiculum (ICC \geq 0.93), granule 452 cells (ICC \geq 0.91), hippocampal tail (ICC \geq 0.93), hippocampal fissure 453 (ICC \geq 0.88) and fimbria (ICC \geq 0.89). Automated segmentation was 454 also stable for smaller subregions, including the HATA (ICC \geq 0.78) and 455 parasubiculum (ICC \geq 0.75) (see Table 2).

Similarly, in the smaller QTIM sub-sample, consisting of 39 457 young, healthy adults scanned on average three months apart at 458 4 T, we found strong test–retest reliability for large subregions 459 (mean volume > 90 mm³). These subregions included the CA1 460 (ICC \geq 0.86), CA3 (ICC \geq 0.78), CA4 (ICC \geq 0.75), molecular layer 461 (ICC \geq 0.86), subiculum (ICC \geq 0.8), granule cells (ICC \geq 0.78), hippocampal 462 tail (ICC \geq 0.72), hippocampal fissure (ICC \geq 0.73). Test–retest reliability of the 464 presubiculum varied considerably from the left (ICC = 0.89) to the right 465 hemisphere (ICC = 0.65). Volume estimates were moderately 466 reproduced for the parasubiculum (ICC \geq 0.68) and the HATA subregion 467 (ICC \geq 0.5).

Between-version agreement

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444

In the MPIP cohort (N = 589, 3 T) we found strong agreement $_{\rm 470}$ between versions 5.3 and 6.0 of the FreeSurfer segmentation algorithm $_{\rm 471}$

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for the subiculum (0.857). We observed moderate agreement between 472473 the following subregions: (i) the hippocampal tail (ICC = 0.778), (ii) the fimbria (ICC = 0.78), (iii) the hippocampal fissure (ICC = 0.78) 474475and (iv) the presubiculum (ICC = 0.797). Agreement between the three major sectors of the cornu ammonis (CA1, CA2_3 and CA4) varied 476 considerably; for example, the CA1 (extracted using FS6.0) showed 477strong agreement with the CA4/Dentate (extracted using FS5.3; 478 ICC = 0.872) and CA2_3 (extracted using FS5.3; ICC = 0.817) but only 479480 moderately correlated with its direct counterpart, CA1 (extracted using FS5.3; ICC = 0.645). Similarly, the CA4 subregion extracted 481 482 using FS6.0 only moderately correlated with the combined CA4-DG from FS5.3 (ICC = 0.66), whereas the CA3 extracted using FS6.0 corre-483lated poorly with its closest counterpart in FS5.3, the CA2_3 (ICC =484 4850.383) (see Table 3).

The second set of ICCs, examining between-version agreement using 486 volume estimates from the ADNI-2 cohort (N = 163, 3 T), revealed 487strong agreement between versions 5.3 and 6.0 for (i) the hippocampal 488 tail (ICC = 0.839), (ii) the fimbria (ICC = 0.805), (iii) the presubiculum 489(ICC = 0.825) and (iv) the subiculum (ICC = 0.833). Between-version 490 agreement was moderate for the hippocampal fissure (ICC = 0.628) 491 and the CA4 (ICC = 0.633). The CA1 subregion (segmented using 492 FS6.0) showed greater correspondence with FS5.3 reconstructions of 493 494 the CA4_DG (ICC = 0.872) and CA2_3 (ICC = 0.817) than its direct anatomical counterpart, the CA1 (ICC = 0.645). Similarly, the CA3 495 (showed poor correlation between FS5.3 and FS6.0 (ICC = 0.344), 496 although correlations were higher between the CA3 (extracted using 497FS6.0) and other subregions from FS5.3, including the CA1 (ICC =498 4990.523) and CA4_DG (ICC = 0.567) (see Table 4).

The third set of ICCs examined between-version agreement using 500values extracted from the NESDA cohort (N = 221, 3 T). This analysis 501revealed strong agreement between FS5.3 and FS6.0 for the subiculum 502503(ICC = 0.815) and moderate agreement for the following subregions: 504(i) hippocampal tail (ICC = 0.778), (ii) fimbria (ICC = 0.758) and (iii) presubiculum (ICC = 0.783). CA1 volumes extracted using FS6.0 505correlated moderately with CA1 volumes extracted using FS5.3 (ICC =5060.698), but correlated more highly with CA4_DG volumes extracted 507

using FS5.3 (ICC = 0.856). Similarly, CA4 volumes extracted using 508 FS6.0 correlated moderately with CA4_DG volumes from FS5.3 (ICC = 509 0.592), but correlated more highly with CA1 volumes from FS5.3 510 (ICC = 0.729). Further, the CA3 subregion extracting using FS6.0 corre- 511 lated poorly with the CA2_3 subregion extracted using FS5.3 (ICC = 512 0.334), but correlated moderately with the CA1 (0.679) and CA4_DG 513 (0.545). Between-version agreement was poor for the hippocampal fis- 514 sure (ICC = 0.321) (see Table 5). 515

A complementary analysis of spatial overlap and reproducibility (as 516 measured by the Dice Similarity Coefficient, DSC) revealed high spatial 517 overlap across the ADNI-2, MPIP and NESDA cohorts for the whole 518 hippocampus (DSC = 0.82-0.85). Between-version agreement was 519 moderate for the hippocampal tail across the three cohorts (DSC = 520 0.67–0.70). Between-version agreement was poor-to-moderate for the 521 CA4_DG (DSC = 0.49-0.51), fimbria (DSC = 0.45-0.53), presubiculum 522 (DSC = 0.57-0.62) and subiculum (DSC = 0.39-0.4) and the 524 CA2_3 (DSC = 0.28-0.30; see Table 6).

Trans-platform reliability

We conducted two sets of intraclass correlations, testing reliability 527 across two MRI scanner platforms – 1.5 T and 3 T – using (i) FS5.3 and 528 (ii) FS6.0, respectively. The subregion segmentation algorithm provided 529 as part of FS5.3 produced stable volume estimates across scanning 530 platforms for the following regions: (i) the whole hippocampus 531 (ICC = 0.855), (ii) the CA2_3 (ICC = 0.856), (iii) the CA4/dentate 532 (ICC = 0.892), (iv) the presubiculum (ICC = 0.818), (v) the subiculum 533 (ICC = 0.725) and (iix) the fimbria (ICC = 0.720). Volume estimates 535 were not reliably reproduced across scanner platforms for the hippocampal fissure (ICC = 0.465) (see Table 7). 537

The subregion segmentation algorithm provided as part of FS6.0 538 produced high ICC estimates for the following regions: (i) the whole 539 hippocampus (ICC = 0.942), (ii) the subiculum (ICC = 0.858), (iii) 540 the CA1 (ICC = 0.915), (iv) the presubiculum (ICC = 0.853), (v) the 541

t2.1 Table 2

t2.2 Test-retest intra-class coefficients, dice similarity coefficients and mean volumes for the ADNI-2 and QTIM samples.

t2.3	Region	Hemi	QTIM 4.0 T Bruker Medscape, N = 39							
t2.4			Mean volume (mm ³)	ICC	CI upper	CI lower	Mean volume (mm ³)	ICC	CI upper	CI lower
t2.5	Whole hippocampus	Left	3494.56	.94	.91	.95	3162.66	.88	.79	.94
		Right	3565.37	.97	.95	.98	3250.55	.85	.73	.92
t2.6	CA1	Left	653.08	.91	.88	.93	574.11	.86	.75	.92
		Right	676.32	.94	.91	.95	602.92	.89	.80	.94
t2.7	Molecular layer	Left	572.70	.93	.90	.95	515.64	.86	.75	.92
		Right	593.24	.96	.94	.97	528.06	.88	.78	.93
t2.8	Hippocampal tail	Left	510.04	.93	.91	.95	496.55	.83	.69	.90
		Right	511.88	.93	.91	.95	523.04	.72	.53	.84
t2.9	Subiculum	Left	407.45	.91	.88	.93	388.12	.80	.65	.89
		Right	411.34	.94	.92	.96	388.72	.86	.74	.91
t2.10	Granule cells in the molecular layer of the DG (GC-ML-DG)	Left	315.69	.91	.88	.93	277.84	.78	.62	.88
		Right	326.69	.94	.92	.96	288.63	.78	.62	.88
t2.11	Presubiculum	Left	297.3	.9	.86	.92	291.6	.89	.80	.94
		Right	291.18	.92	.89	.94	276.73	.65	.42	.80
t2.12	CA4	Left	271.82	.9	.87	.93	241.75	.75	.58	.86
		Right	283.69	.92	.89	.94	251.44	.77	.60	.87
t2.13	CA3	Left	227.13	.88	.85	.91	203.38	.78	.62	.88
		Right	239.38	.93	.91	.95	220.03	.82	.68	.90
t2.14	Hippocampal fissure	Left	159.59	.88	.84	.91	157.05	.80	.64	.88
		Right	162.1	.9	.86	.92	164.92	.70	.51	.84
t2.15	Fimbria	Left	99.83	.9	.88	.93	56.77	.80	.65	.89
		Right	96.64	.89	.86	.92	52.67	.86	.75	.93
t2.16	Hippocampal-amygdaloid transition area (HATA)	Left	77.19	.79	.73	.85	56.16	.50	.23	.70
		Right	72.48	.78	.71	.83	56.69	.64	.41	.79
t2.17	Parasubiculum	Left	62.23	.81	.75	.86	60.69	.74	.55	.85
		Right	62.24	.75	.67	.80	61.06	.68	.46	.81

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t3.1 Table 3

t3.2 Intra-class correlation coefficients for between-version agreement (MPIP cohort, N = 589, 3 T).

Region (bilateral)				Versio	n 5.3 \rightarrow			
Version 6.0 \downarrow	Tail	CA1	CA2_3	CA4_DG	Fimbria	Fissure	Presubiculum	Subiculum
Tail	0.778	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CA1	-	0.645	0.817	0.872	-	-	-	-
CA3	-	0.607	0.383	0.594	-	-	-	-
CA4	-	0.673	0.405	0.661	-	-	-	-
Fimbria	-	-	-	-	0.780	-	<u> </u>	-
Fissure	-	-	-	-	-	0.716	-	-
Presubiculum	-	_	-	-	_	-	0.797	-
Subiculum	_	_	_	_	-		-	0.857

t3.5

molecular layer (ICC = 0.932), (vi) the granule cells of the dentate gyrus (ICC = 0.932), (vii) the hippocampal tail (ICC = 0.863), (iix) the CA3 (ICC = 0.827), (ix) the HATA (ICC = 0.801), (x) the CA4 (ICC = 0.792) and (xi) the fimbria (ICC = 0.721). Volume estimates were moderately correlated between scanning platforms for the parasubiculum (ICC = 0.659) and the hippocampal fissure (ICC = 548 0.575) (see Table 7).

549 Heritability of hippocampal subregion volumes

550Fig. 2 shows the proportion of structural variance attributable to genetic factors for the whole hippocampus and its subregions in the 551QTIM sample. All regions exhibited high heritability, between 0.56 and 5520.88. The highest heritability estimates $(h^2 \ge 0.7)$ were observed for 553large regions with mean volumes of 220 mm³ or greater (*i.e.*, the 554whole hippocampus, molecular layer, CA1, CA3, CA4, hippocampal tail, 555 granule cell layer, subiculum and presubiculum). Smaller subregions 556(mean volume: 60–165 mm³) showed moderate-to-high heritability 557 $(0.55 < h^2 < 0.7)$ (see Fig. 2). Table 8 shows the heritability estimates 558559alongside their significance values and standard errors. Using a combination of FreeSurfer subregion labels and TrackVis (http:// 560561trackvis.org/), we constructed a three-dimensional visualization of each 562heritability estimate, this shows how large, posterior subregions (*i.e.*, the hippocampal tail) were most heritable, whereas smaller, anteromedial 563

t4.1 Table 4

t4.2 Intra-class correlation coefficients for between-version agreement (ADNI-2 cohort, N = 163, 3 T).

subregions (parasubiculum, presubiculum and fimbria) were less 564 influenced by genetic factors (see Fig. 3). 565

Discussion

Here we evaluated a series of automatically segmented volumetric 567 measures from the hippocampus and twelve of its major subregions 568 as reliable, heritable quantitative phenotypes for future large-scale 569 imaging genetics studies. We had four main findings. First, the most 570 recent version of a widely employed FreeSurfer segmentation protocol 571 (FS6.0) showed good test-retest reliability, both at 3 T and 4 T in healthy 572 young and older adults. Spatial overlap between segmentations pro- 573 duced at baseline and follow-up time points was moderate-to-high for 574 all subregions, with the exception of the hippocampal fissure. Second, 575 segmentations produced using FreeSurfer v6.0 showed strong repro- 576 ducibility from 1.5 T to 3 T field strengths. Third, subregional volume 577 estimates varied between prior and revised versions of the FreeSurfer 578 algorithm, with some subregions (e.g. the hippocampal tail) remaining 579 stable, and others (e.g. the cornu ammonis) diverging notably from one 580 version to the next. Fourth, genetic factors significantly affected the 581 volume of the human hippocampus and its twelve major subregions 582 in a sample of healthy, adult twins. Multi-site genetic analysis may 583 therefore be feasible for automatically extracted subregion measures, 584 building on prior studies that detected common variants associated 585 with overall hippocampal volume (Stein et al., 2012; Hibar et al., 2015). 586

Region (bilateral)				Versio	n 5.3 \rightarrow			
Version 6.0 \downarrow	Tail	CA1	CA2_3	CA4_DG	Fimbria	Fissure	Presubiculum	Subiculum
Tail	0.839	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CA1	-	0.661	0.774	0.901	-	-	-	-
CA3	-	0.523	0.344	0.567	-	-	-	-
CA4	-	0.598	0.372	0.633	-	-	-	-
Fimbria	-	-	-	-	0.805	-	-	-
Fissure	-	-	-	-	-	0.628	_	-
Presubiculum	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.825	-
Subiculum	-	-	-	-	-	_	_	0.833

t4.5

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Table 5

t5.1

t5.2 t5.3

Intra-class correlation coefficients for between-version agreement (NESDA cohort, N = 221, 3 T).

Region (bilateral)	Version 5.3 \rightarrow							
Version 6.0 \downarrow	Tail	CA1	CA2_3	CA4_DG	im b ria	Fissure	Presubiculum	Subiculum
Tail	0.778	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CA1	-	0.698	0.694	0.856	-	-	-	-
CA3	-	0.679	0.334	0.545	-	-	-	_
CA4	-	0.729	0.343	0.592	-	-	-	-
Fimbria	-	-	_	_	0.758	-	<i></i>	-
Fissure	-	-	_	_	-	0.321		_
Presubiculum	-	-	_	_	_	-	0.783	_
Subiculum	-	_	_	_	_	_	<u> </u>	0.815

t5.5

587 FreeSurfer v6.0: Reliable test-retest segmentations of eleven hippocampal
 588 subregions

Automated parcellation algorithms are essential neuroimaging tools, 589 as they facilitate the harmonized, time-efficient and precise reconstruc-590tion of brain regions across multiple sites. The automated subcortical 591 segmentation protocol included in the FreeSurfer software package has 592593been employed in several important imaging collaborations, leading to the discovery of genetic polymorphisms associated with subcortical 594595and intracranial volumes (Hibar et al., 2015; Ikram et al., 2012; Stein et al., 2012) and the identification of robust subcortical alterations in 596large populations of people with schizophrenia (Van Erp et al., 2015) 597598and major depressive disorder (Schmaal et al., 2015). FreeSurfer has been validated as a reliable method to reconstruct and measure larger 599brain regions (Jovicich et al., 2006; Wonderlick et al., 2009), but early 600 versions of its hippocampal subregion segmentation module were 601 602 criticized by some as anatomically inaccurate, overly reliant on lowresolution images and not yet validated against manual tracing 603 techniques (de Flores et al., 2015; Pluta et al., 2012; Wisse et al., 604 2014). Here, we found that a revised version of the FreeSurfer subregion 605 segmentation tool, due to be released with FreeSurfer v6.0, produces 606 607 reliable segmentations for eleven of the twelve hippocampal subregions 608 at 3 T and 4 T field strengths. The most reliably reconstructed sub-609 regions included the hippocampal tail, CA1, CA4, presubiculum and 610 subiculum. These subregions showed excellent test-retest reliability in two independent tests (ICC and DSC analysis) and in two unrelated 611 612 cohorts (ADNI and QTIM).

Other subregions, including the dentate gyrus, CA3, fimbria, HATA 613 and parasubiculum, showed strong test-retest reproducibility at 3 T 614 field strength, but a wider range of test-retest reproducibility at 4 T 615 field strength. This discrepancy may be explained, in part, by the smaller 616 617 sample size of the 4 T cohort (QTIM; N = 39) compared to the 3 T cohort 618 (ADNI-2; N = 163). ICC estimates extracted from the 4 T cohort were associated with larger confidence intervals (CIs), many of which 619 overlapped with CIs from the 3 T cohort (see Table 2). Voxel size 620 differences between ADNI-2 (1.2 \times 1.2 \times 1.2 mm) and QTIM 621 $(0.94 \times 0.98 \times 0.98 \text{ mm})$ may have also contributed towards these 622

discrepancies: FreeSurfer resamples MR images to 1 mm isotropic voxel 623 size during its automated reconstruction process and this interpolation 624 procedure may produce variable resolutions in datasets that are 625 'down-sampled' (*i.e.* ADNI-2) compared to those that are 'up-sampled' 626 (*i.e.* QTIM). 627

Of the twelve subregions we investigated, only one – the hippocampal 628 fissure – produced unreliable volume estimates between baseline and 629 follow-up acquisitions. The hippocampal fissure is a vestigial sulcus 630 located between the molecular layer of the hippocampus and the 631 dentate gyrus. Several neuroanatomical and methodological variables 632 may contribute to the inconsistent segmentation of this subregion. Its 633 relatively small size and complex cytoarchitectural morphometry may 634 make the subregion more susceptible to partial volume effects caused 635 by changes in the subject's head positioning, variable tissue contrast 636 profiles or even small, undetected changes in the MR signal (Morey 637 et al., 2010). The relatively arbitrary boundary between the fissure 638 and extrahippocampal cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) (Iglesias et al., 2015) 639 may have also contributed towards its poor reproducibility. 640

Prior appraisals of the FS5.3 segmentation algorithm noted its inconsistent delineations of the hippocampal head and tail (Yushkevich et al., 642 2010). This new algorithm – FS6.0 – which relies upon a refined atlas 643 built upon high-resolution *ex vivo* MRI data (Iglesias et al., 2015), ap-644 pears to reconstruct the hippocampal tail and parts of the hippocampal 645 head (CA1, CA2/3) with a high degree of spatial overlap and test–retest 646 reproducibility. Segmentations of the dentate gyrus have also been crit-647 icized in FS5.3, as they appear to mismatch with known anatomical 648 boundaries (Wisse et al., 2012), In FS6.0, the dentate is reconstructed Q20 as three individual subregions, namely; the hilar region (CA4), the 650 granule cells (GC-DG) and, partially, the molecular layer. Our study 651 showed stable test–retest reliability in all three subregions. 652

Prior evaluations of the FS5.3 algorithm also noted that the CA1 is 653 the smallest of the three *cornu ammonis* segmentations (CA1, CA2 & 654 CA3), despite *post-mortem* studies contradictorily indicating that the 655 CA1 is the largest and the CA2&3 are the smallest subfields (Wisse 656 et al., 2014). This neuroanatomical inconsistency may yield misleading 657 clinical interpretations: For example, FreeSurfer-based investigations 658 of the human hippocampal subregions have associated neurological 659

t6.1	Table 6
t6.2	DICE coefficients for between-version spatial overlap in the ADNI-2, NESDA and MPIP cohorts.

t6.3	Tail	CA1	CA2_3	CA4_DG	Fimbria	Fissure	Presubiculur	n Subiculum	Whole
t6.4 ADNI t6.5 NESD	-2 0.68 A 0.67	0.40 0.39 0.40	0.30 0.28 0.30	0.50 0.51 0.49	0.45 0.53 0.51	0.30 0.33 0.32	0.60 0.57 0.62	0.56 0.55 0.58	0.85 0.82 0.83

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t7.1 Table 7

t7.2 Trans-platform reliability across 1.5 T and 3 T field strengths, using estimates extracted from using FreeSurfer v5.3 and v6.0 (MPIP cohort, N = 10, 3 T).

-	Region (bilateral)	ICC (FS 5.3)	ICC (FS 6.0)
	Whole hippocampus	0.855	0.960
	CA1	0.725	0.915
	CA2_3	0.856	0.871
	CA4_DG	0.892	0.792
	Fimbria	0.720	0.721
	Fissure	0.465	0.575
	Presubiculum	0.818	0.853
	Subiculum	0.866	0.858
	Tail	0.875	0.863
	Parasubiculum	-	0.659
	GC-ML-DG	_	0.828
	Molecular_layer_HP	_	0.932
	HATA	_	0.801

t7.18 Median cross-platform reliability ICC across values = 0.855 (FreeSurfer 5.3), 0.853
t7.19 (FreeSurfer 6.0).

conditions such as MCI or Alzheimer's disease with atrophy of the 660 CA2&3 (Hanseeuw et al., 2011; Lim et al., 2012), whereas anatomical 661 studies have reported the most profound atrophy in the CA1 (Simic 662 663 et al., 1997; Rossler et al., 2002). Our findings suggest that this anatomical inconsistency appears to be resolved in FS6.0; the CA1 is now the largest 664 and most reliably reconstructed of the three subfields (see Table 2). 665 Future in-vivo investigations of the human hippocampal subregions 666 should therefore prioritize the use of the revised algorithm, FS6.0, as 667 668 our results show that FS6.0 reliably reproduces eleven major hippocampal subregions across two independent cohorts (QTIM and ADNI-2), 669 despite differences in age, scanning interval and image acquisition 670 671 method. Clinical findings reported using the algorithm's predecessor, FS5.3, should be interpreted with caution. 672

673 Between-version agreement and trans-platform reliability: Implications for 674 imaging consortia

675 International consortia like ENIGMA typically involve large-scale 676 implementation of harmonized segmentation protocols across diverse **Table 8** Heritabili

(QTIM cohort, $N = 72$	for hippocampal subfield 8, 4 T).	volumes, calculated	using FreeSurfer v6.0	t8.2 t8.3
Region	QTIM			t8.4
	h^2	Std. error	p-Value	t8.5

	h^2	Std. error	p-Value	t8.5
Hippocampal fissure	0.56	0.06	1.90×10^{-14}	t8.6
Parasubiculum	0.57	0.05	6.16×10^{-17}	t8.7
Fimbria	0.64	0.05	$3.06 imes 10^{-19}$	t8.8
HATA	0.67	0.04	$2.76 imes 10^{-24}$	t8.9
CA3	0.75	0.03	4.23×10^{-33}	t8.10
Subiculum	0.76	0.03	5.02×10^{-32}	t8.11
CA4	0.79	0.03	$1.27 imes 10^{-38}$	t8.12
Presubiculum	0.72	0.04	$6.80 imes 10^{-30}$	t8.13
CA1	0.84	0.02	$2.54 imes 10^{-47}$	t8.14
Granule cells of DG	0.82	0.03	$5.66 imes 10^{-41}$	t8.15
Molecular layer of DG	0.85	0.02	2.56×10^{-49}	t8.16
Whole hippocampus	0.88	0.01	$1.19 imes 10^{-54}$	t8.17
Hippocampal tail	0.84	0.02	$\textbf{3.28}\times \textbf{10}^{-44}$	t8.18

networks of research laboratories. Many of these laboratories may 677 have already processed their T1-weighted images through older 678 versions (v5.1-5.3) of the FreeSurfer subregion segmentation tool, 679 raising questions about the need to process their data through a new 680 version of the algorithm. Here, we found strong agreement between 681 older (v5.3) and newer (v6.0) versions of the tool for the hippocampal 682 tail, presubiculum and subiculum. However, versions 5.3 and 6.0 683 produced variable volume estimates for the cornu ammonis, fimbria, 684 and hippocampal fissure. These discrepancies were expected, due to 685 the algorithm's revised definitions of subregional borders (Iglesias 686 et al., 2015). FS6.0 also produced four new subregions with no directly 687 corresponding structures in FS5.3 (the parasubiculum, molecular 688 layer, granule cells of the dentate and HATA). Furthermore, version 6.0 689 produced slightly more consistent estimates across lower (1.5 T) and 690 higher (3 T) MRI scanner field strengths. Overall, these findings suggest 691 that the latest version of the FreeSurfer subregion segmentation 692 algorithm is a more reliable, versatile and anatomically accurate tool 693 than its predecessors (Iglesias et al., 2015). International consortia 694 such as ENIGMA may benefit by encouraging all participating sites to 695



Fig. 2. Heritability of the whole hippocampus and its respective subfields in the QTIM cohort (N = 728).

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t8.1

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Fig. 3. Three-dimensional visualization of narrow-sense heritability within twelve subfields of the human hippocampal formation, using the average heritability estimates calculated from the QTIM cohort. Heritability is represented as a heat map, with the most heritable subregions depicted in red (see: the hippocampal tail) and moderately heritable subfields colored in green/yellow (see: the hippocampal fissure and parasubiculum). The first image (on the left) is a full reconstruction of the hippocampal formation, showing the most lateral subfields including the CA1, CA3, hippocampal tail (*'hippo. tail*'), fimbria and hippocampal-amygdaloid transition area (*'HATA*'). The middle image removes some lateral substructures, including the fimbria and CA3, in order to display mid-lying subfields including the hippocampal fissure'), molecular layer and granule cells of the DG (*'ML-DG'*) and CA4. The third image (on the right) further removes these subfields in order to display three remaining medial sub-regions, including the subiculum, presubiculum and parasubiculum. This rendering represents bilateral *h*² estimates, although only the left hippocampus is shown here. Image generated using TrackVis (http://trackvis.org/).

process their imaging data with the revised segmentation tool (FS6.0).
 The combination of volume estimates acquired using previous (FS5.3)
 and revised (FS6.0) algorithms is not recommended.

Validating the human hippocampal subfields as quantitative phenotypesfor genetic mapping

In the second part of this manuscript, we used SOLAR to calculate the 701 heritability of all twelve automatically segmented hippocampal subre-702 gions. The greatest genetic effects were observed in larger subregions, 703 particularly within the granule cells of the DG, molecular layer and the 704 705 hippocampal tail ($h^2 = 0.74-0.91$). Smaller subregions such as the hippocampal fissure and parasubiculum produced strong but lower 706 heritability estimates ($h^2 = 0.56-0.57$). This pattern of heritability has 707 previously been reported across the wider collection of subcortical 708 structures, with larger regions (such as the thalamus) showing higher 709 710 heritability than smaller regions (such as the amygdala) (see Hibar et al., 2015). These heritability fluctuations may be explained by the 711 712 reduced measurement errors associated with larger segmentations. 713 However, biological factors may also play a role. For example, the cornu ammonis is among the earliest brain regions to develop prenatally 714 715 (Taupin, 2007), whereas the subiculum and CA2 are the first hippocampal subregions to mature postnatally (Jabès et al., 2011). The 716 DG and hippocampal tail show accelerated patterns of neurogenesis 717 after the first postnatal year (Insausti et al., 2010). In adult life, 718 hippocampal neurons continue to proliferate from precursor cells 719 720 in the DG (Kempermann et al., 2004). Given the early development 721 of the CA subregions (Taupin, 2007) and hippocampal tail (Insausti et al., 2010) and the key memory-processing role of the DG in adulthood 722 (Coras et al., 2014), it is likely that genetic factors significantly influence 723 each region. Total hippocampal volume was also significantly heritable 724 $(h^2 = 0.86-0.88)$ – supporting prior estimates from healthy popula-725tions; this further shows the impact of genetic factors on the structure as 726 a whole (den Braber et al., 2013; van Erp and Saleh, 2004; Swagerman 021 and Brouwer, 2014; Wright et al., 2002). 728

Our main aim here was to identify reliable quantitative phenotypes that can be used in future collaborative genetic mapping efforts. A biomarker must satisfy several explicit criteria before it can be considered an endophenotype (Gottesman and Gould, 2003). First, it should be associated with illness in the population. Structural changes in the hippocampal subregions are implicated in a wide range of brain disorders, from Alzheimer's disease to epilepsy and schizophrenia (Bartsch, 2012; 735 Sala, 2008). Second, a useful quantitative endophenotype must be 736 heritable. In this study, all major subregions of the hippocampus 737 were highly influenced by additive genetic effects, with heritability 738 estimates ranging from $h^2 = 0.56$ to $h^2 = 0.91$. All subregions, with 739 the exception of the hippocampal fissure (which shows inconsistent 740 volume estimates across image acquisition time points and field 741 strengths), could therefore be considered as reliable and robust 742 quantitative phenotypes for future genetic mapping studies. 743

744

Limitations and future directions

In this collaborative investigation, we evaluated a revised version 745 of the FreeSurfer subregion segmentation tool using data collected and 746 analyzed at multiple, independent sites (ADNI-2, QTIM, MPIP and 747 NESDA) at two different field strengths (3 T and 4 T) across large samples 748 of healthy (QTIM, ADNI-2) and affected populations (MPIP, NESDA). We 749 found that the revised algorithm produces heritable and reliable segmen-750 tations for eleven human hippocampal subregions, but future users 751 should note some limitations. First, the algorithm has yet to be validated 752 against manual segmentations. A recent quantitative comparison of 21 753 manual segmentation protocols, including the protocol used to generate 754 manually annotated training data for the revised FreeSurfer algorithm, 755 revealed significant variability among the labels used to define subre-756 gions, how boundaries were placed between labels, and the overall 757 extent of the hippocampal formation that is labeled across protocols 758 (Yushkevich et al., 2015). FS6.0 is already a reliable, accessible tool for 759 automated subregion segmentation, but it continues to evolve alongside 760 on-going efforts to harmonize hippocampal subfield protocols (The 761 Hippocampal Subfields Group (HSG), 2014; see hippocampalsubfields. Q22 com). As such, it is inevitably subject to revisions as the field 763 develops. Second, although the revised algorithm can segment T1-764 and T2-weighted images (and their combination; Iglesias et al., 2015), 765 the results presented here are inferred from standard resolution, 766 T1-weighted data only, which is more commonly available across 767 large consortium efforts, such as ENIGMA. Test-retest reliability 768 estimates were extracted using a series of 1.2 mm³ and ~0.95 mm³ 769 isotropic images, respectively, possibly introducing measurement 770 errors for smaller subregions like the fimbria (mean volume: 771 98.24 mm³), HATA (mean volume: 74.84 mm³) and parasubiculum 772 (mean volume: 62.23 mm³) (see Table 2). Future versions of the 773

FreeSurfer segmentation algorithm may yield more robust estimates for
low resolution data (<1 mm³) by combining smaller subfields such as
the subiculum and CA2/3. Third, while we observed good reliability
between subregion segmentations acquired at 1.5 T and 3 T field
strengths, test-retest reproducibility estimates were not established
at 1.5 T.

Despite these limitations, the present study supports the utility of 780 eleven automatically segmented hippocampal subregion volumes as 781 782 quantitative endophenotypes for future imaging genetics collaborations. Progressing from macro-level investigations of large brain regions 783 784towards more fine-grained maps of specific hippocampal subregions may add more precise localization to GWAS effects. The ENIGMA 785786 consortium is now conducting related, finer-grained efforts using diffu-787 sion tensor imaging (Jahanshad et al., 2013; Kochunov et al., 2015) and shape analysis (Thompson et al., 2014). Here, we evaluated the auto-788 mated reconstruction of hippocampal subregion volumes as another 789 useful intermediate biomarker for genome-wide association. As multi-790 center consortium efforts continue to discover genes associated with 791 brain measures, future quantitative genetic investigations of specific 792 hippocampal subregions may point to a more mechanistic understand-793 ing of these genes, and how they affect cognition, behavior and neuro-794 logical illness. 795

796 Conclusion

The hippocampal formation is one of the most profoundly disrupted 797 brain regions in many neurological and psychiatric illnesses. As the 798 799 present study illustrates, it is now possible to reconstruct eleven major subregions of the hippocampus using almost fully automated brain 800 imaging methods, to a high degree of accuracy and reliability within 801 and across populations. All eleven subregions are highly influenced by 802 803 genetic factors. As the field of imaging genetics and large-scale imaging consortia continue to successfully identify genes associated with 804 805 measures from the living human brain, our results may help these initia-806 tives stratify their traits of interest and better understand the mechanisms of gene action. 807

808 Disclosures

None of the authors has any conflict of interest to disclose. We have
 read the Journal's position on issues involved in ethical publication and
 affirm that our study is consistent with the guidelines.

Q23 Uncited references

- 813 Kaymaz, 2009
- 814 Kochunov et al., 2014
- 815 Miyoshi et al., 2003
- 816 Van et al., 2008
- 817 Yamasaki et al., 2008

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