

## Supervised selection of single nucleotide polymorphisms in chronic fatigue syndrome

Ricardo A. Cifuentes<sup>1</sup>, Emiliano Barreto<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Escuela de Medicina y Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, D.C., Colombia

<sup>2</sup> Instituto de Biotecnología, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, D.C., Colombia

**Introduction:** The different ways for selecting single nucleotide polymorphisms have been related to paradoxical conclusions about their usefulness in predicting chronic fatigue syndrome even when using the same dataset.

**Objective:** To evaluate the efficacy in predicting this syndrome by using polymorphisms selected by a supervised approach that is claimed to be a method that helps identifying their optimal profile.

**Materials and methods:** We eliminated those polymorphisms that did not meet the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Next, the profile of polymorphisms was obtained through the supervised approach and three aspects were evaluated: comparison of prediction accuracy with the accuracy of a profile that was based on linkage disequilibrium, assessment of the efficacy in determining a higher risk stratum, and estimating the algorithm influence on accuracy.

**Results:** A valid profile ( $p < 0.01$ ) was obtained with a higher accuracy than the one based on linkage disequilibrium, 72.8 vs. 62.2% ( $p < 0.01$ ). This profile included two known polymorphisms associated with chronic fatigue syndrome, the *NR3C1\_11159943* major allele and the *5HTT\_7911132* minor allele. Muscular pain or sinus nasal symptoms in the stratum with the profile predicted V with a higher accuracy than those symptoms in the entire dataset, 87.1 vs. 70.4% ( $p < 0.01$ ) and 92.5 vs. 71.8% ( $p < 0.01$ ) respectively. The profile led to similar accuracies with different algorithms.

**Conclusions:** The supervised approach made it possible to discover a reliable profile of polymorphisms associated with this syndrome. Using this profile, accuracy for this dataset was the highest reported and it increased when the profile was combined with clinical data.

**Key words:** genetic polymorphism, chronic fatigue syndrome, computational biology, artificial intelligence, systems biology, linkage disequilibrium

### Selección supervisada de polimorfismos de nucleótido único en el síndrome de fatiga crónica

**Introducción.** Las diferentes formas de seleccionar polimorfismos de nucleótido único se han relacionado con conclusiones paradójicas respecto a su utilidad para predecir el síndrome de fatiga crónica, incluso utilizando los mismos datos.

**Objetivo.** Evaluar la eficacia para predecir este síndrome de los polimorfismos seleccionados mediante un enfoque supervisado, método que permite ayudar a identificar el perfil óptimo de los polimorfismos.

**Materiales y métodos.** Se eliminaron los polimorfismos que no estaban en equilibrio de Hardy-Weinberg. Luego obtuvimos el perfil de polimorfismos mediante el enfoque supervisado y evaluamos tres aspectos: comparación de la exactitud de predicción con la del perfil obtenido mediante una selección basada en el desequilibrio de ligamiento, evaluación de la eficacia para determinar un estrato con mayor riesgo y estimación de la influencia del algoritmo de clasificación sobre la exactitud de predicción.

**Resultados.** Se obtuvo un perfil válido ( $p < 0,01$ ) con mayor exactitud que el basado en el desequilibrio de ligamiento, 72,8 Vs. 62,2 % ( $p < 0,01$ ), que incluyó el alelo mayor de *NR3C1\_11159943* y el menor de *5HTT\_7911132*, conocidos polimorfismos asociados a este síndrome. El dolor muscular o los síntomas de los senos paranasales en el estrato con el perfil, predijeron la presencia del síndrome con mayor exactitud que estos síntomas en toda la población, 87,1 % Vs. 70,4 % ( $p < 0,01$ ) y 92,5 % Vs. 71,8 % ( $p < 0,01$ ) respectivamente. El perfil llevó a una exactitud similar con diferentes algoritmos.

**Conclusiones.** El enfoque supervisado permitió descubrir un perfil válido y confiable de polimorfismos asociado al síndrome de fatiga crónica. Se encontró la mayor exactitud reportada con estos datos que aumentó al combinarse con las variables clínicas.

#### Author contributions:

Ricardo A. Cifuentes: data analysis and manuscript writing.

Emiliano Barreto: review and supervision of the whole process.

**Palabras clave:** polimorfismo genético, síndrome de fatiga crónica, biología computacional, inteligencia artificial, biología de sistemas, desequilibrio de ligamiento

Groups of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) could be markers for the genetic predisposition towards complex diseases given that a significant fraction of disease susceptibility may be explained by the relatively modest effects of a small number of common genetic variants (1). Thus, profiles of SNPs could be used as objective markers for diseases that are diagnosed by means of subjective symptoms such as the chronic fatigue syndrome (2).

However, to discover clinically relevant profiles, the informative SNPs must be selected (3). In the case of high-dimensional data, the performance of most classification algorithms suffers as the number of features becomes excessively large (4). Moreover, in a small dataset, there is no single solution if a training set contains only a limited subset of all possible instances as each distinct training instance removes those possible SNP profiles where the guesses are wrong. Thus, the selection of SNPs is necessary since the number of possible instances increases when the number of variables does (5).

The algorithms for SNP selection typically use the genetic concept of linkage disequilibrium or, in other words, when the presence of one SNP predicts the presence of another SNP (6). Then, based on measurements of linkage disequilibrium such as  $r^2$  (7), a group of SNPs is selected to represent all the SNPs in a given dataset (8, 9). Other test statistic approaches such as feature ranking, feature subset selection constructive induction, induction scan statistics, score statistics, weighted-average statistics and the supervised recursive feature addition have been proposed for SNP selection in genetic association studies (10, 11). The supervised approach is claimed by its authors to be a method that helps to identify the optimal subset of SNPs necessary for discovering the variations associated with disease (10).

With regards to the chronic fatigue syndrome, different researchers reached contradictory results on the usefulness of SNPs for disease prediction in spite of the fact that they analyzed the same dataset of SNPs. However, there were differences

in their methodologies. A group of researchers from the United States that evaluated all the possible combinations of SNPs by using an enumerative search concluded that SNP profiles improve accuracy in predicting chronic fatigue syndrome (12). In contrast, a group from Trento, Italy made a selection with a supervised approach based on entropy and concluded that the SNPs in this dataset were not useful for prediction of the chronic fatigue syndrome (Bassetti M, Bernabe M, Borile M, Desilvestro C, Fedrizzi T, Giordani A, *et al.* Validation of CFS classification with different data sources. Critical Assessment of Microarray Data Analysis Conference, June 2006). However, these studies had differences in the SNP selection, the use of the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium as a criterion for SNP exclusion, and the learning algorithm that was chosen for prediction. These differences in methodology showed a need for further research to evaluate the supervised approach.

As a consequence, the aim of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of the supervised approach based on entropy in selecting useful SNPs for predicting the chronic fatigue syndrome. That is the reason we evaluated three different aspects: comparison of the prediction accuracy of the supervised approach with the one that was based on linkage disequilibrium for SNP selection, assessment of the efficacy of the SNPs selected by the supervised approach in determining a population with a higher risk of chronic fatigue syndrome, and an estimate of the machine learning algorithm influence on the prediction accuracy.

## Materials and methods

### Database cleansing

From the SNP dataset, provided by the Critical Assessment of Microarray Data Analysis Conference, June 2006 (CAMDA 2006), available at <http://www.camda.duke.edu/camda06/datasets/>, we eliminated 9 of the 44 SNP that were not in the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. All of the excluded SNPs had fewer heterozygous genotypes than expected based on allele frequencies, something that was highly suggestive of technical error. Next, those subjects that did not have SNP data were excluded from the analysis thus leaving 43 cases of patients with chronic fatigue syndrome and 58 non-fatigued controls for analysis as previously described (12).

Corresponding author:

Emiliano Barreto, Avenida carrera 30 N° 45-03, Edificio Manuel Ancizar, Bogotá, D.C., Colombia  
Telephone: (571)316 5000, extensión 16956; fax: (571) 316 5415  
ebarretoh@unal.edu.co

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### **Comparison of SNP selection approaches**

Two different approaches were used for selecting SNPs. One approach kept the SNPs that best represent the other SNPs in each one of the groups that were in LD (1). The first step was to determine the haplotype frequencies for each pair of SNPs by means of the expectation-maximization algorithm (8). Next, the  $r^2$  measure for each pair of SNPs in the same chromosome was calculated and the ones which were highly significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) were determined. This is supported by the fact that  $r^2$  times N (number of subjects in the study) is equal to the chi square value with 1 degree of freedom for the case of two loci with two alleles each. Finally, those SNPs for which the lowest highly significant  $r^2$  value was higher than the lowest highly significant  $r^2$  value of the other SNPs were kept.

The other approach was to select SNPs through the supervised approach. This was done with the *CfsSubsetEval* function of the *Weka software*® (13) that chose the group of SNPs with the highest correlation to the diagnostic categories, namely, fatigued patients with chronic fatigue syndrome and non-fatigued controls. At the same time, this group also included only those SNPs with the lowest possible correlation to each other (14). This function used a *best first search* to determine the combinations of SNPs to be evaluated by the *CfsSubsetEval* function. A ten-fold cross validation was used to measure the generalization performance of the combinations in each of the ten different partitions of the dataset (15). The selected SNPs were those that were chosen by the *CfsSubsetEval* function from any of the ten partitions.

Next by using the SPSS® software, two predictive models, one for each group of SNPs selected by the two previously described approaches, were generated by logistic regression as described (Lee E, Cho S, Park T. Integration of expression data and genotype data: application of chronic fatigue syndrome data. Critical Assessment of Microarray Data Analysis Conference, June 2006). Observations with missing values were not taken into account and values were assigned to the SNPs according to the codominant inheritance as follows (12): two points for the homozygous genotype with two minor alleles, one point for the heterozygous genotype and zero points for the homozygous genotype with two major alleles. In the case of sex linked SNPs, two points were assigned when the genotype was hemizygous for the minor allele and zero points when it was hemizygous for the major allele.

The SNP profiles that were kept in each model were chosen by forward selection and backward elimination based on the accuracy achieved with a leave-one-out cross validation (15). To compare the two models, the mean accuracies and their 95 percent confidence intervals were obtained in 30 different test sets. Each test set had 20% of the observations and these had the same percentage of both cases and controls that the original dataset did. This guaranteed that each class was properly represented in the test set which the leave-one-out cross validation does not do. The test sets were selected after setting a random seed by using the Bernoulli formula in the *Compute Variable option* in the *Transform menu* at SPSS®. Next, the validity of the model based on the supervised approach was evaluated by means of a permutation test. We created 200 shuffled versions of the data by randomly relabeling subjects as cases or controls and keeping an equal number of subjects in each category, as described (12).

### **Efficacy in determining a population with higher risk**

The efficacy of the SNP profile from the model based on the supervised approach to determine a population with a higher risk of chronic fatigue syndrome was evaluated by a comparison between the prediction accuracy in the general population of the dataset and the prediction accuracy in the stratum that had the SNP profile associated with chronic fatigue syndrome, under nonspecific clinical conditions. Briefly, the accuracy values in both groups when there is one symptom, for instance sore throat was compared. The difference in the values of sensitivity, specificity and the positive predictive value (PPV) was also assessed (16). All these values were procured in 30 randomly generated test sets of 20% of the observations. Statistical significance of the difference was evaluated by T-test and comparison of their 95% confidence intervals. The same analysis was done with each one of the symptoms that were registered in the dataset: tender nodes, diarrhea, exertion fatigue, muscle pain, joint pain, fever, chills, unrefreshing sleep, sleep problems, headache, memory and concentration problems, nausea, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, photophobia, depression and sinus nasal problems.

### **Estimate of machine learning algorithm influence on prediction accuracy**

The reliability of the SNP profile selected by the supervised approach was assessed by a

comparison of the prediction accuracies obtained with different types of machine learning algorithms. To do this, all the algorithms included in the Weka® software were run after which they were divided into one of the five main types of algorithms: Functions, Bayesians, Instance Based Learners, Decision Trees and Rules. Then, ones that had the highest prediction accuracy in each of these groups were compared. The accuracies were procured by using a ten-fold cross-validation. The statistical significance of the comparison was evaluated with the Kruskal-Wallis test by using the SPSS® software. This non-parametric test was chosen as we did not assume a normal distribution of the data, which would not be the case with the analogous one-way analysis of variance, ANOVA (17). In this case, we used the data in each one of the ten partitions from the cross-validation to calculate each one of the mean accuracies.

## Results

With the approach that was based on linkage disequilibrium, we kept 13 SNPs. In general, one SNP was selected from each one of the seven groups of SNPs that was in linkage disequilibrium. Each group corresponded to one of the following seven genes: Glucocorticoid receptor (*NR3C1*), corticotropin releasing hormone receptor-2 (*CRHR2*), tryptophan hidroxilase (*TPH2*), serotonin

receptor 2A (*HTR2A*), corticotropin releasing hormone receptor-1 (*CRHR1*), serotonin transporter (*5HTT*) and catechol-O-methyltransferase (*COMT*). However, there were two exceptions: the two SNPs from the *HTR2A* gene and the SNPs in the *TPH2* gene. The SNPs from the *HTR2A* gene were kept because there was only one  $r^2$  measure. In the case of the *TPH2* gene, one SNP was not in linkage disequilibrium so we kept this single SNP and the one that best represented the group of SNPs that were in linkage disequilibrium. So, we kept 9 SNPs from the 7 groups in linkage disequilibrium and the 4 SNPs that were not in linkage disequilibrium: two from the tyrosine hidroxilase gene (*TH*) and two from genes that had only one SNP in the dataset: pro-opiomelanocortin (*POMC*) and monoamine oxidase B (*MAOB*) genes (Table 1).

With the supervised approach, 14 SNPs were kept. In 8 cases, the SNPs were the same as those kept with the other approach. However, in some cases, this approach was more conservative because it held on to more than one SNP from some groups in linkage disequilibrium. At the same time, it eliminated some SNPs that had a low correlation with the diagnosis despite the fact that they represented other SNPs. The supervised approach also eliminated one of the two SNPs from the *HTR2A* gene that could not be differentiated

**Table 1.** Comparison of the SNPs selected by two different approaches

Chromosome	Linkage disequilibrium approach (LD)	Supervised approach (SA)
2	<i>POMC_3227244</i>	<i>POMC_3227244</i>
5	<i>NR3C1_11159943</i>	<i>NR3C1_11159943</i> <i>NR3C1_1046360†</i> <i>NR3C1_1046353†</i>
7	<i>CRHR2_11823513</i>	<i>CRHR2_11823513</i> <i>CRHR2_1587287†</i>
11	<i>TH_245410</i> <i>TH_243542</i>	<i>TH_245410</i> <i>TH_243542</i>
12	<i>TPH2_1843075</i> <i>TPH2_8376042 ‡</i>	<i>TPH2_1843075</i>
13	<i>HTR2A_8695278</i> <i>HTR2A_3042197*</i>	<i>HTR2A_8695278</i>
17	<i>5HTT_1841702</i>  <i>CRHR1_2544830†</i>	<i>5HTT_1841702</i> <i>5HTT_7911132†</i>  <i>CRHR1_745077†</i>
22	<i>COMT_11804654†</i>	<i>COMT_2539273†</i>
X	<i>MAOB_15959461†</i>	

† SNPs kept with the SA that were discarded based on LD.

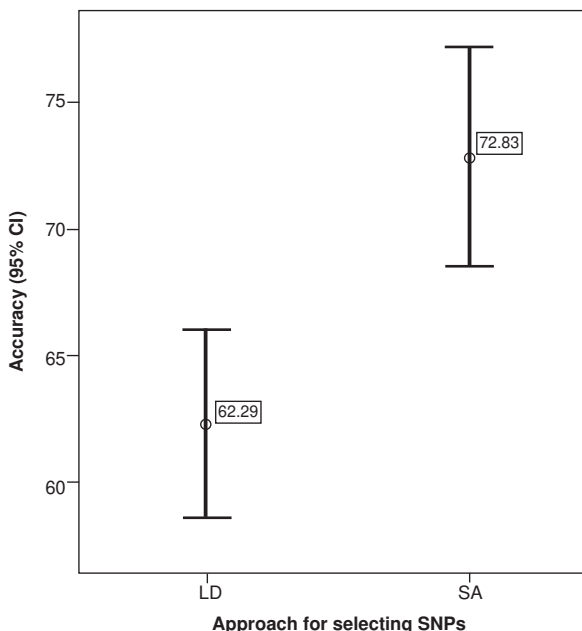
‡ SNPs discarded with the SA but kept based on LD.

\*SNP that could not be discarded based on LD in spite of giving redundant information but discarded by the SA.

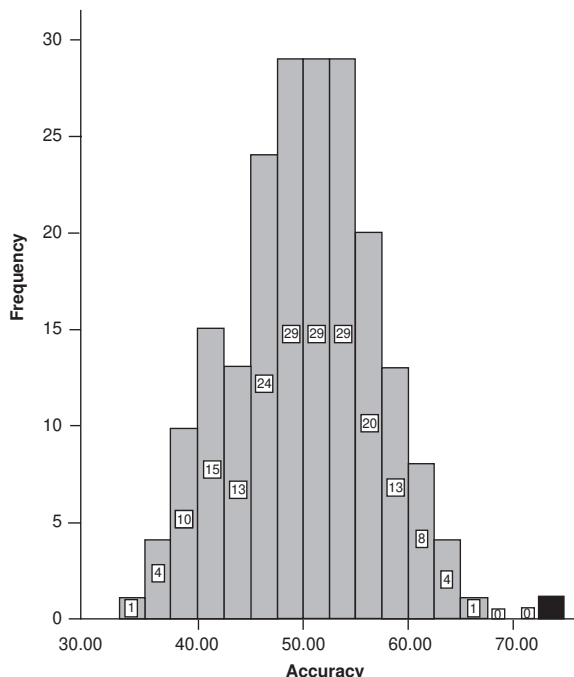
by the approach based on linkage disequilibrium (Table 1).

With regards to the purpose of comparing the two selection approaches, the models that were built showed different prediction accuracies. The model based on the supervised approach had a higher accuracy than the model based on linkage disequilibrium, 74.4% and 65.6% respectively, according to the result of the leave-one-out cross validation. Similar mean accuracies were obtained in the test sets, 72.8% and 62.2% respectively,  $p=4E-04$  (Figure 1).

In detail, the model based on linkage disequilibrium showed an association of chronic fatigue syndrome with the presence of the major alleles of *NR3C1\_11159943* and *TH\_243542*, and the minor allele of *TPH\_1843075*. Only *NR3C1\_11159943* made a significant contribution to the model ( $p=0.015$ ). In contrast, the model based on the supervised approach showed that the chronic fatigue syndrome was associated with the presence of the major alleles of *NR3C1\_11159943*, *CRHR1\_7450777*, and *TH\_245410*, and minor alleles of *5HTT\_7911132*, *TPH2\_1843075*, and *HTR2A\_8695278*. Of the SNPs in the model only *NR3C1\_11159943* and *5HTT\_7911132* made a significant contribution ( $p=0.01$  and  $p=0.04$  respectively). The permutation test showed that all



**Figure 1.** Comparison of the prediction accuracy between the two models based on different approaches for selecting SNPs. Supervised approach (SA) and linkage disequilibrium approach (LD).



**Figure 2.** Permutation test of the accuracy obtained with the supervised approach. It shows a comparison between the prediction accuracy in the true dataset (black bar) and in 200 shuffled versions (clear bars) of data by randomly relabeling subjects as chronic fatigue syndrome patients or non-fatigued controls.

200 shuffled versions had lower accuracy than the actual version (Figure 2).

With regards to the efficacy of the SNPs selected through the supervised approach to determine a population with a higher risk, 37 subjects had the SNP profile associated with chronic fatigue syndrome. In this stratum, the presence of muscular pain led to a higher prediction accuracy than the presence of this symptom in the total population of the dataset, 87.1% vs. 70.4% respectively,  $p= 3E-07$ . In this stratum, the presence of sinus nasal symptoms also led to a higher prediction accuracy than the presence of this symptom in the general population, 92.5% vs. 71.8% respectively,  $p=2E-11$  (Table 2).

When there was muscular pain, the probability of having chronic fatigue syndrome was also higher (88.8%) in the stratum with the SNPs profile associated with chronic fatigue syndrome than in the general population (59.6%) based on the PPV values. However, the presence of muscular pain in chronic fatigue syndrome or its absence in controls were not higher in the stratum with the SNP profile than in the general population as indicated by the values of sensitivity and specificity, 95.6% vs. 96.9% and 45% vs. 50.8% respectively.

**Table 2.** Comparison of the classification performance between the general population and the stratum with the SNPs associated with chronic fatigue syndrome in the presence of muscular pain or sinus nasal symptoms

	Muscular pain		Sinus nasal symptoms	
	General population	Stratum	General population	Stratum
True positives	251	175	235	169
False positives	170	22	146	3
True negatives	176	18	200	39
False negatives	8	8	24	12
Sensitivity	96.9	95.6	90.7	93.3
Specificity	50.8	45	57.8	92.8
PPV*	59.1	88.8	61.6	98.2
Prediction accuracy	70.4	87.1	71.8	92.5

\*positive predictive value

Regarding the probability of having chronic fatigue syndrome when there were sinus nasal symptoms, this was also much higher (98.2%) in the stratum with the SNPs profile associated with chronic fatigue syndrome than in the general population (61.6%) according to the PPV values. The presence of sinus nasal symptoms in chronic fatigue syndrome was a little higher in the stratum with the SNP profile than in the general population as indicated by the values of sensitivity, 93.3% vs. 90.7% respectively. But furthermore, the absence of sinus nasal symptoms in controls was much higher in the stratum with the SNP profile than in the general population as indicated by the values of specificity, 92.8% vs. 57.8% respectively.

With regards to the influence on the accuracy of data mining techniques, the algorithms that achieved the highest accuracies among all of the algorithms already included in the Weka® software were: *Decorate-Simple Logistic* and *Decorate-Logistic* (76% and 74% respectively) in the group of *Functions*, *Complement Naive Bayes* (72%) in the group of *Bayesian Learners*, *One-R Multiboost* (73%) in the group of *Rules*, *Kstar* (68.9%) in the group of *Instance Based Learners*, and *ADTree* (66.6%) in the group of *Decision Trees*. However, in spite of the fact that the *Functions* tended to get higher accuracies, the differences in prediction accuracy among these algorithms were not significant (Figure 3).

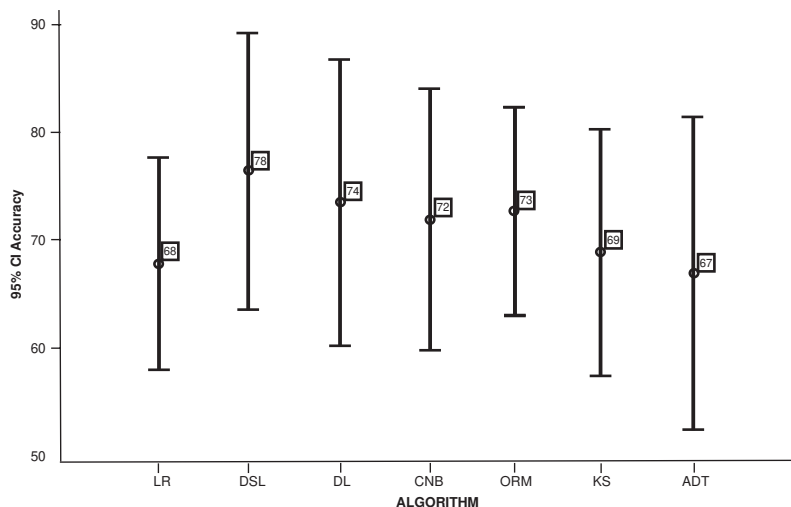
## Discussion

The supervised approach based on entropy made it possible to find a SNP profile useful for prediction of chronic fatigue syndrome in the individuals included in the study. This approach, which takes into account the correlation with diagnostic categories, selected a SNP profile that predicted the chronic fatigue

syndrome with the highest accuracy reported so far. It also determined a stratum of the population with a higher risk of having this disease in presence of nonspecific symptoms. Furthermore, the supervised approach enabled us to find a reliable SNP profile since similar results were produced while using different machine learning algorithms.

The classification accuracy with the supervised approach was not only 10 points above the accuracy of the approach based on linkage disequilibrium, but also higher than the 64.5% based on cross-validation results reported by another research group that also used the same data and an approach based on LD (Lim S, Le W, Hu P, Xing B, Greenwood CMT, Bayene J. Integration of clinical, SNP, and microarray gene expression measurements in prediction of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Critical Assessment of Microarray Data Analysis Conference, June 2006). Moreover, the accuracy with the supervised approach was not significantly different from the highest reported of 76% (12) that was only achieved in a training set of observations. In other words, this accuracy was not obtained by the accepted methods for determining the prediction such as cross-validation or the estimate in an independent test set.

In addition, the model based on selection by a supervised approach demonstrated statistical and biological validity. The SNPs in the model predicted the dummy classifications with lower accuracies than the actual one. Furthermore, the two significant SNPs in the model were genetic variants with an already established association with chronic fatigue syndrome. *NR3C1* has been implicated as regulator of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (18) and of the immune function: the increase in its ligand affinity has led to a reduction in T cell numbers and to a change in susceptibility to



**Figure 3.** Comparison of the prediction accuracy among different machine learning algorithms that use the SNP profile selected with the supervised approach.

LR: logistic regression; DSL: decorate-simple logistic; DL: decorate-logistic; CNB: complement naive Bayes; RRM: one-R multiboost; KS: kstar; ADT: ADTree

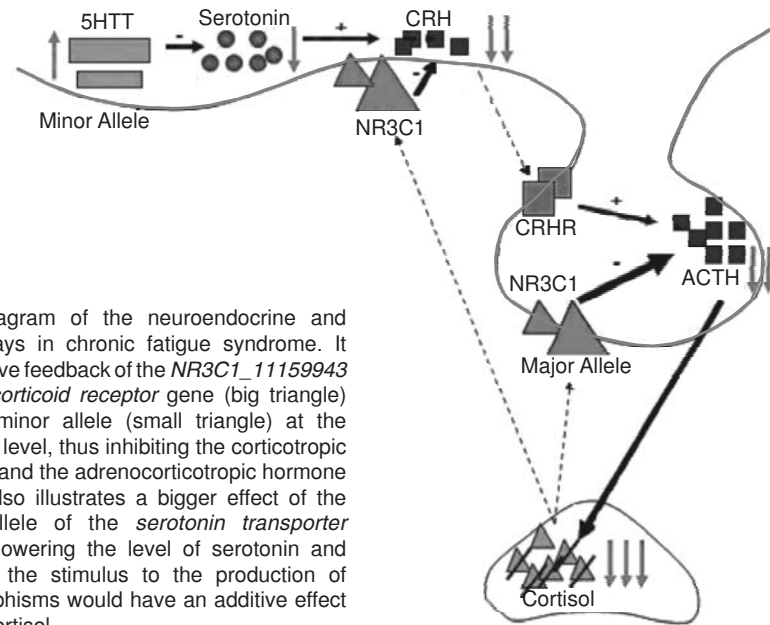
autoimmune diseases (19). A higher frequency of the *NR3C1\_11159943* major allele has also been reported in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (20). Moreover, the model associated the syndrome with the minor allele of *5HTT\_7911132*, a SNP that belongs to a gene that decreases the level of active serotonin when the allelic variants with increased transcriptional activity are present (21). Taken together, these findings agree with an additive effect that leads to a lower level of cortisol (22, 23) and to alterations in the neurotransmission and in the immune function (24, 25) already described in the chronic fatigue syndrome (Figure 4).

With regards to the finding that there is a higher probability of the group of people with the SNP profile associated with chronic fatigue syndrome having the disease when there were muscular pain or sinus nasal symptoms, it is remarkable that this was discovered through the leave-one-out cross validation. This offers the chance to squeeze the maximum out of a small dataset and to procure as accurate an estimate as possible (15) such as in the cases of using molecular markers to predict the response cancer patients will have to a treatment (26) or of the genes involved in the pluripotency of stem cells (27).

Furthermore, the results of the leave-one-out cross-validation were confirmed in stratified test sets of 20% of the observations (five-fold cross validation), thus improving the reliability of the prediction accuracy (28). These results also suggest that muscular pain and the sinus nasal symptoms seem

to represent other pathways related to chronic fatigue syndrome in addition to the described alterations in the immune or neuroendocrine system that have been related to the SNPs successfully selected by the supervised approach. Thus, the reported disturbance of excitability and increase in oxidative response in the muscle (29, 30), the hyperalgesia to pressure at paranasal sinuses, the rhinosinusitis complaints (31), and the increased prevalence of non-allergic rhinitis in patients with CFS (32) agree with our results.

With regards to the data mining techniques, the similar accuracies obtained with different learning algorithms makes the use of more than one algorithm to get strong evidence about the validity and reliability of a SNP profile feasible and even advisable. The most significant SNP in our study, *NR3C1\_11159943*, had also been found to be highly relevant for distinguishing cases of chronic fatigue syndrome from non-fatigued individuals by a Bayesian approach (33). Moreover, the finding that the *Function* type of algorithms tended to get higher prediction accuracies seems to be interesting for further research. This could be explained by the fact that these algorithms allow the use of SNP values based on the type of inheritance and that the output gives different weights to the SNPs according to their contribution to the model. But, what is even more interesting is that these algorithms can be complemented by meta-algorithms especially useful for small samples, such as Decorate, that improve the classification task by using several



**Figure 4.** Suggested diagram of the neuroendocrine and neurotransmission pathways in chronic fatigue syndrome. It illustrates the bigger negative feedback of the *NR3C1\_11159943* major allele of the *glucocorticoid receptor* gene (big triangle) in comparison with the minor allele (small triangle) at the hypothalamic and pituitary level, thus inhibiting the corticotropic releasing hormone (CRH) and the adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH), respectively. It also illustrates a bigger effect of the *5HTT\_7911132* minor allele of the *serotonin transporter* gene (big rectangle) by lowering the level of serotonin and consequently diminishing the stimulus to the production of CRH. Thus, both polymorphisms would have an additive effect by lowering the levels of cortisol.

artificial training sets (34) and by the selection of kernels that allow better discrimination between the diagnostic categories (35, 36).

In conclusion, the supervised approach helped to find a reliable and valid SNP profile for prediction of chronic fatigue syndrome in this dataset that deserves to be tested as a possible marker for chronic fatigue syndrome. Perhaps, having four or more symptoms, as described in chronic fatigue syndrome, it will not be necessary to make the diagnosis (37) and what is even better, people with the SNP profile could be closely observed given that the chronic fatigue syndrome could be hidden for periods of time (38). With regards to research, new approaches such as systems biology could integrate these genetic marker data with gene co-expression network analysis to identify disease-related pathways (39). As a final point, the supervised approach seems to be useful for identifying the optimal SNP profiles for prediction of other complex diseases after an appropriate database cleansing based on the genetics problem.

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### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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