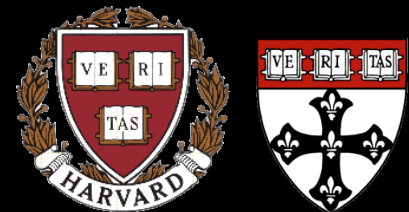


# Functional analysis of human microbiome metagenomes, metatranscriptomes, and multi'omics

Curtis Huttenhower



Harvard School of Public Health  
Department of Biostatistics

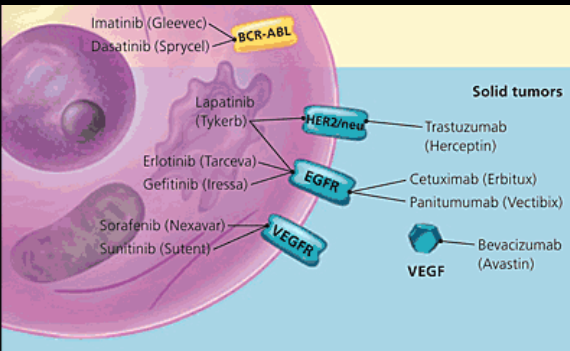


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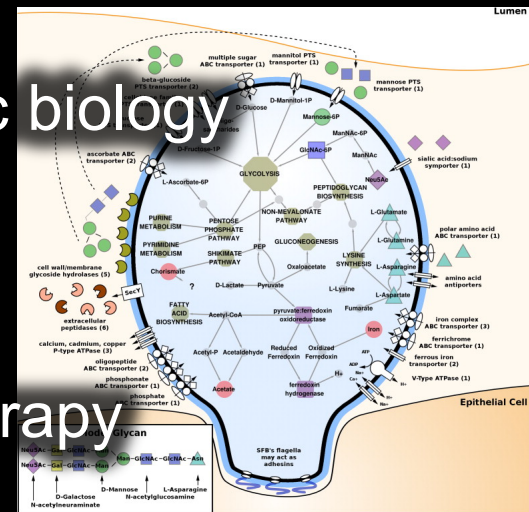


# Linking who, what, and how in the human microbiome

What are the biomolecular networks driving emergent phenotypes in the microbiome and their influences on human health?



- Links translation to basic biology
- Identifies actionable molecular targets for therapy

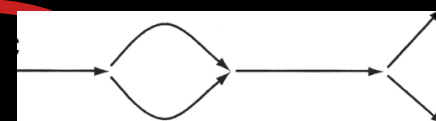




# What does shotgun meta'omics tell us about the human microbiome?



Boisvert Genome Bio 2012 (*Ray*)  
Pell PNAS 2012 (*khmer*)  
Treangen Genome Bio 2013 (*MetAMOS*)  
Namiki NAR 2012 (*MetaVelvet*)

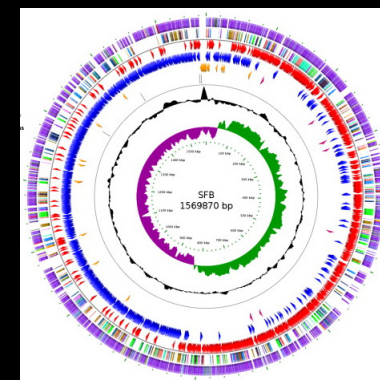
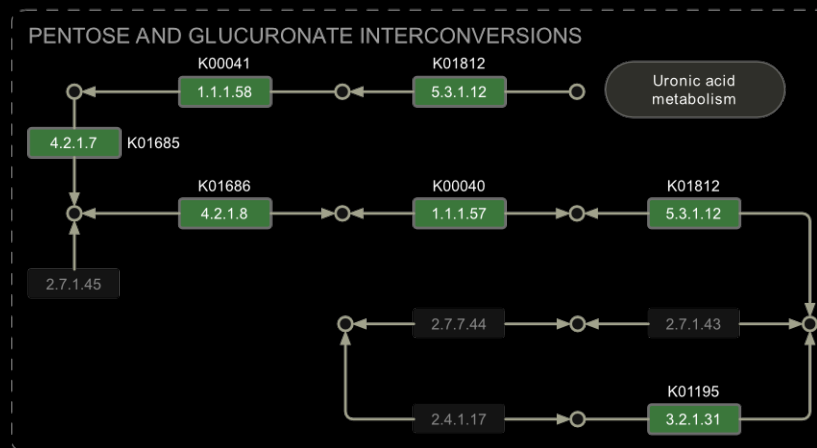


**Assembly**

**Taxonomy/phylogeny**

**Functional profiling**

**Comparative genomics**



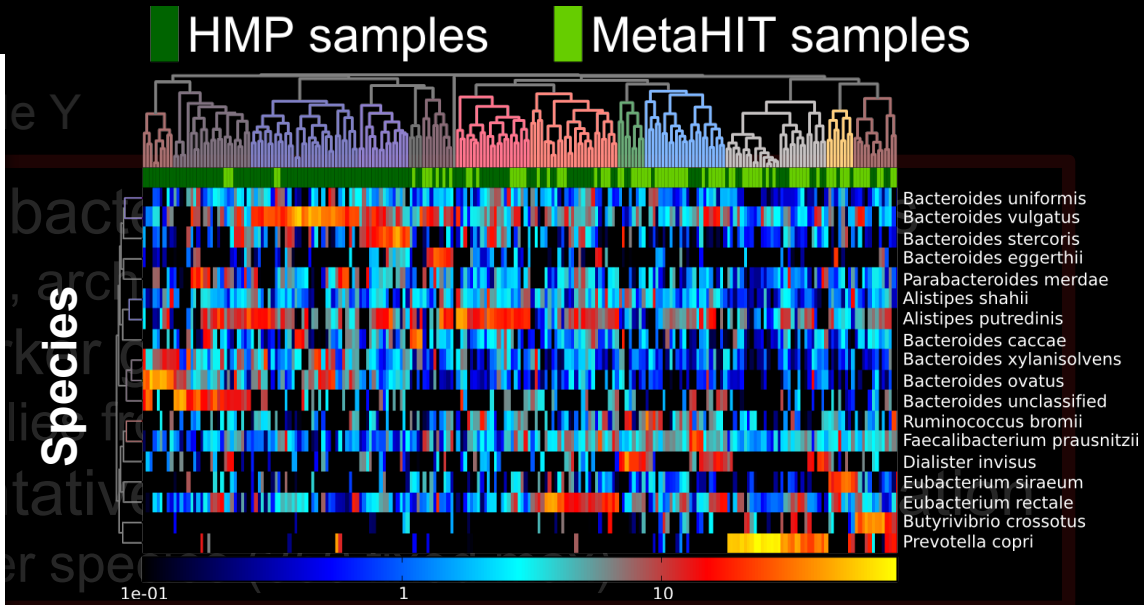
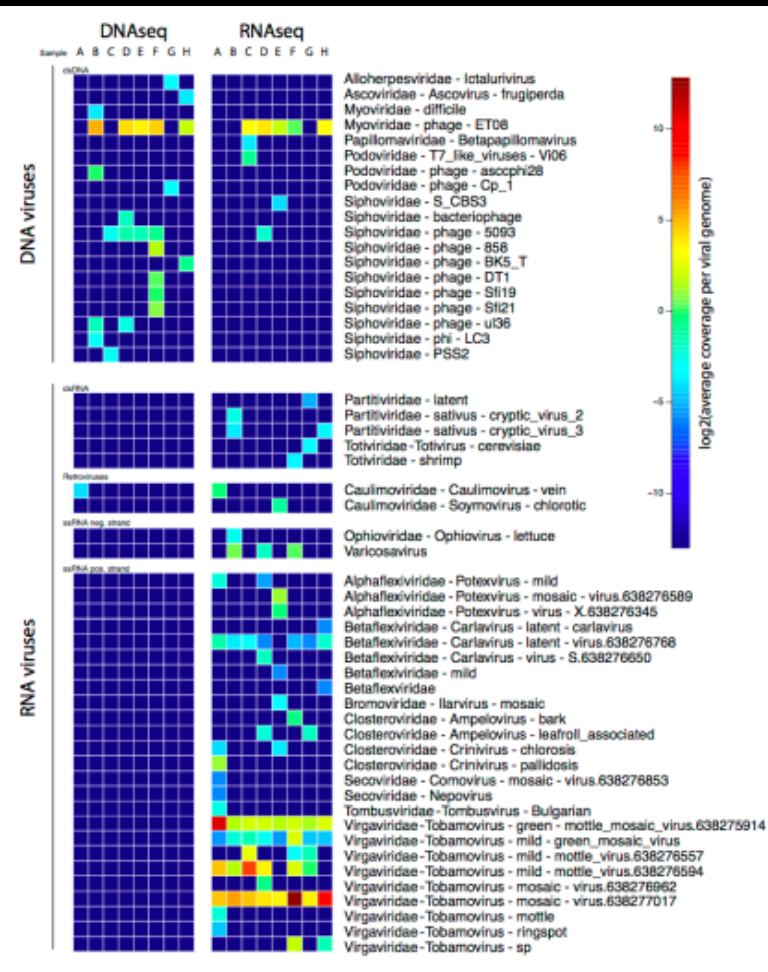
Brady NatMet 2011 (*PhymmBL*)  
Patil PLoS ONE 2012 (*PhyloPythia*)  
Wu Bioinf 2012 (*AMPHORA*)  
Segata NatMet 2012 (*MetaPhlan*)

Abubucker PLoS CB 2012 (*HUMANn*)  
Meyer BMC Bioinf 2008 (*MG-RAST*)  
Markowitz NAR 2011 (*IMG/M*)  
Konwar BMC Bioinf 2013 (*MetaPathways*)

Schloissnig Nature 2013  
Hehemann Nature 2010  
Stern Genome Res 2012  
Rho PLoS Gen 2012



# Meta'omic taxonomic profiling with **MetaPhlAn**: leveraging 1,000s of microbial genomes



**PhlAn (offline pipeline)**

reference genes for all clades

marker genes for unique marker genes

representative marker genes

**Available reference genomes**

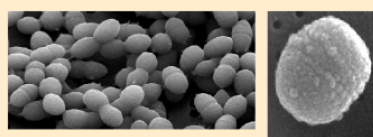
**MetaPhlAn**

**Metagenome**

- Blast reads against the marker genes
- Assign, count, normalize reads



# A map of diversity in the human microbiome



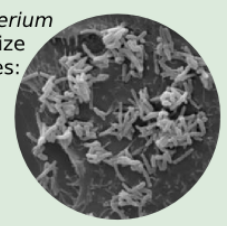
*Streptococcus* dominates the oral cavity with *S. mitis* > 75% in the **cheek**

*Propionibacterium acnes* lives on the skin and nose of most people



Many *Corynebacterium* species characterize different body sites:

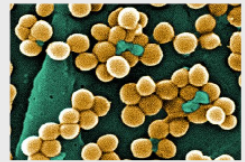
- C. matruchoti* the **plaque**
- C. accolens* the **nose**
- C. croppenstedtii* the **skin**



*Lactobacillus* species (*L. gasseri*, *L. jensenii*, *L. crispatus*, *L. iners*) are predominant but mutually exclusive in the **vagina**



*Staphylococcus epidermidis* colonizes external body sites



- Commensal microbes
- ☆ Potential pathogens

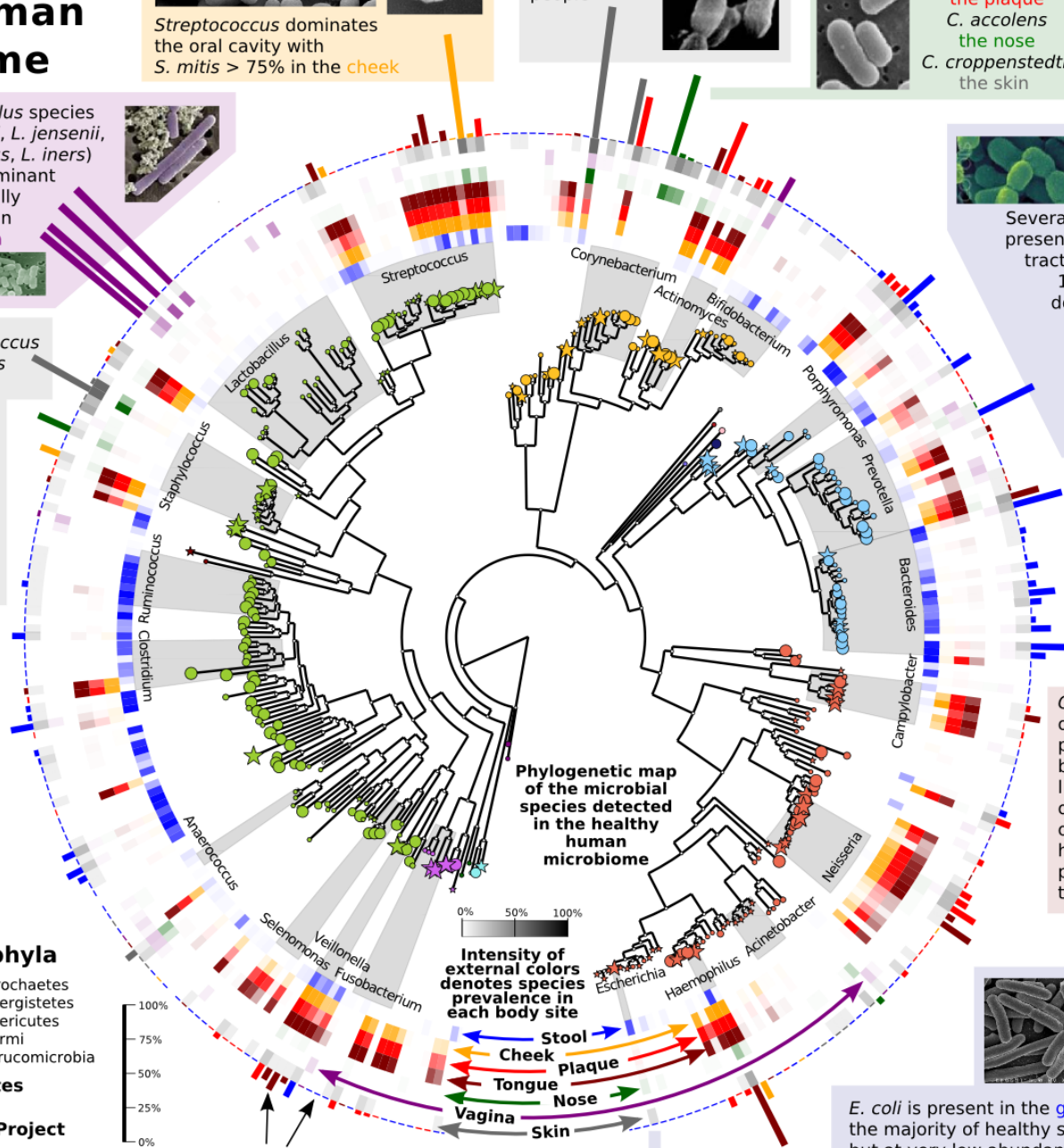
## The four most abundant phyla

- Actinobacteria
- Bacteroidetes
- Firmicutes
- Proteobacteria

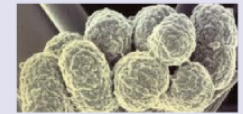
## Low abundance phyla

- Chloroflexi
- Cyanobacteria
- Euryarchaeota
- Fusobacteria
- Lentisphaerae
- Spirochaetes
- Synergistetes
- Tenericutes
- Thermi
- Verrucomicrobia

National Institutes of Health  
Human Microbiome Project  
Morgan TiG 2012



Several *Prevotella* species are present in the gastrointestinal tract. *P. copri* is present in 19% of the subjects and dominates the **intestinal** flora when present

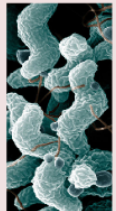


Microscopy from <http://bacmap.wishartlab.com>

*Bacteroides* is the most abundant genus in the **gut** of almost all healthy subjects



*Campylobacter* includes opportunistic pathogens, but members live in the oral cavities of most healthy people in the cohort



*E. coli* is present in the **gut** of the majority of healthy subjects but at very low abundance

Bar lengths indicate microbial abundance (colored by body site of greatest prevalence)

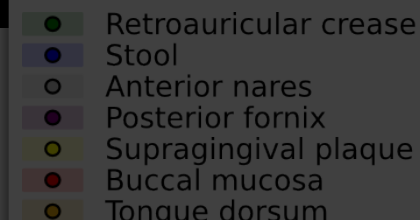


# Meta'omic functional profiling with **ShortBRED**: the Short Better REad Database creator

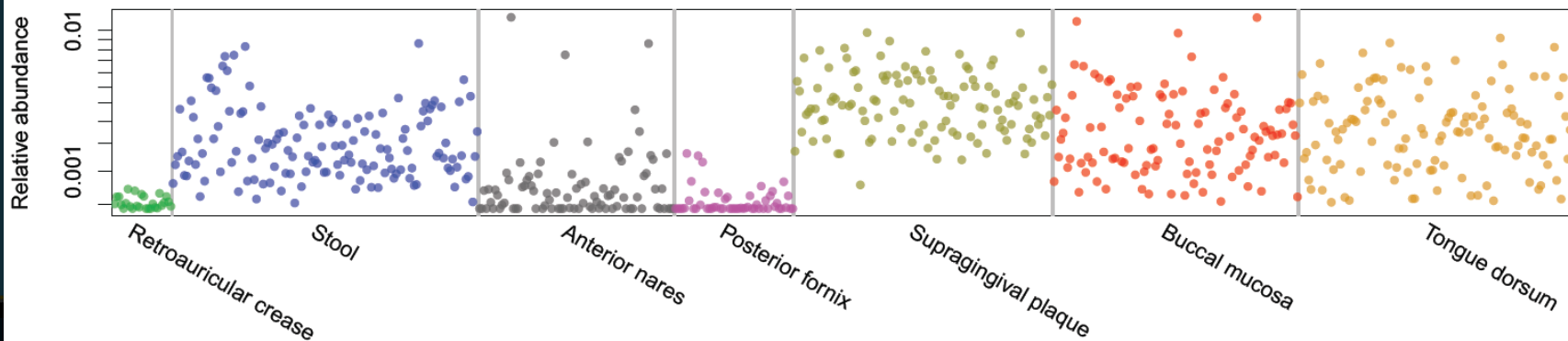
← Phylum abundance →

← Pathway abundance →

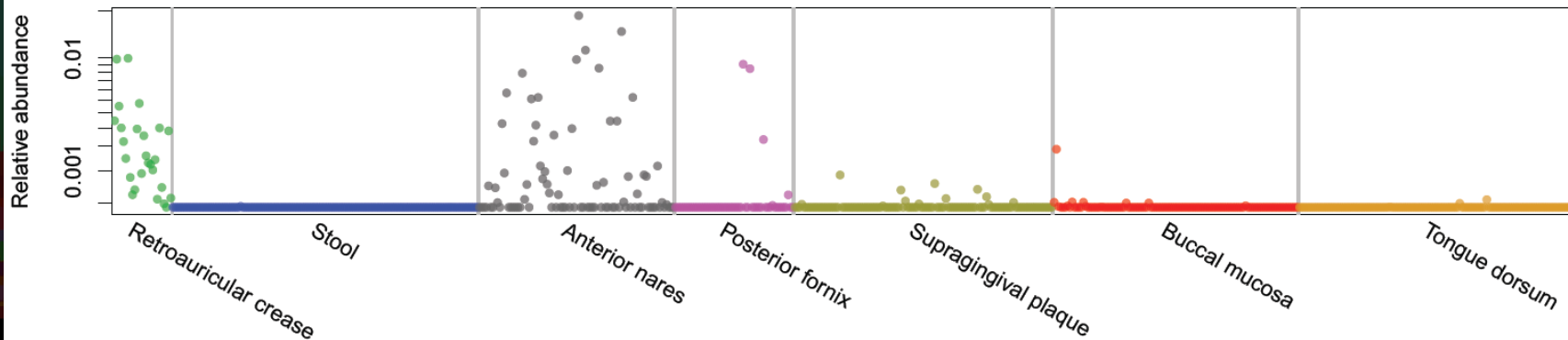
← Subjects →



**M00185: Sulfate transport system**



**M00142: Complex I (NADH dehydrogenase), NADH dehydrogenase I**

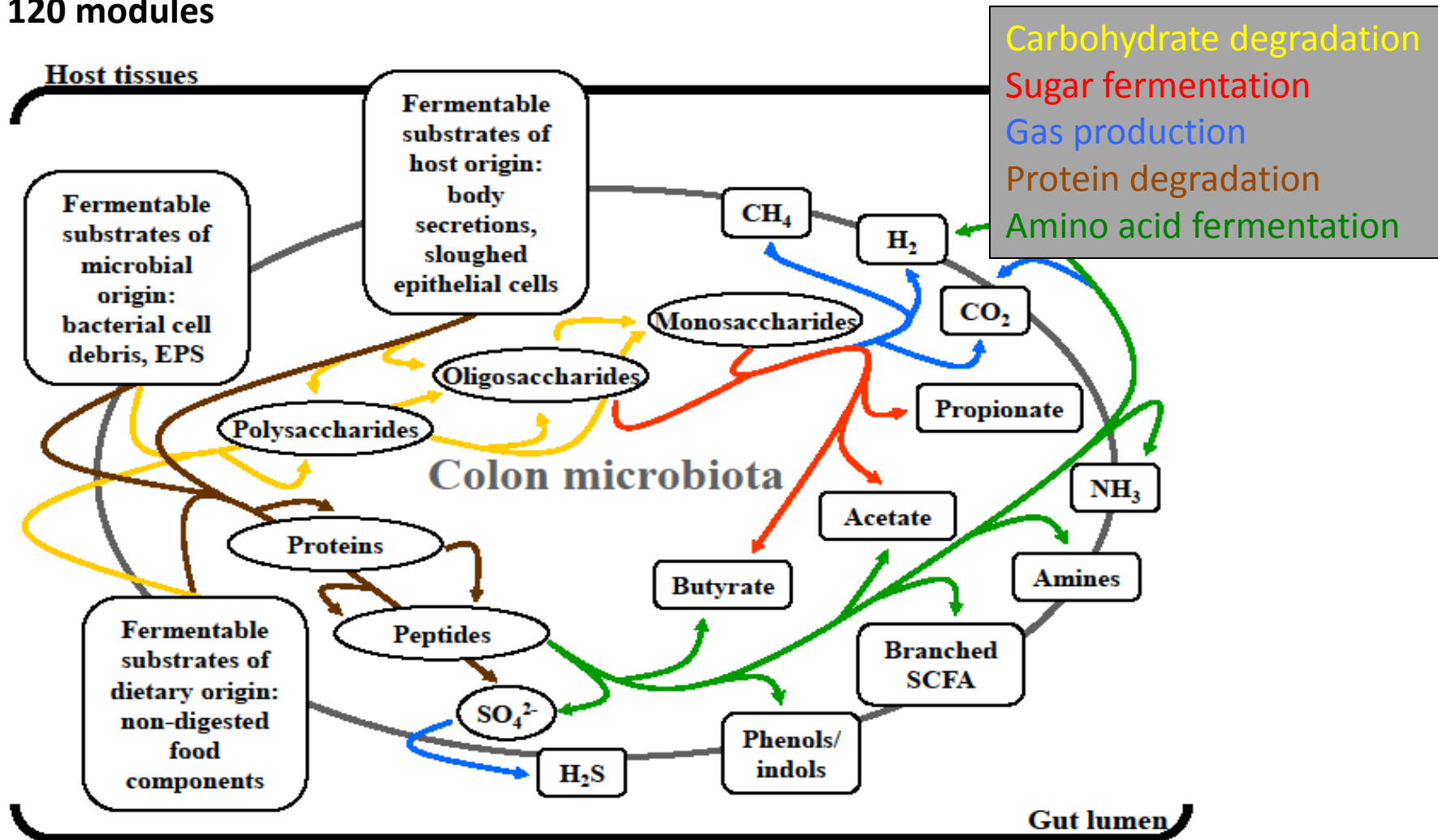


- Contrast **zero** microbes meeting this threshold!
- Most **processes are habitat-adapted**: >66% are differentially abundant by body site

# Reconstructing the gut metabolism from metagenomics data

Manually compiled set of pathway modules that captures microbial 'food chain'

120 modules

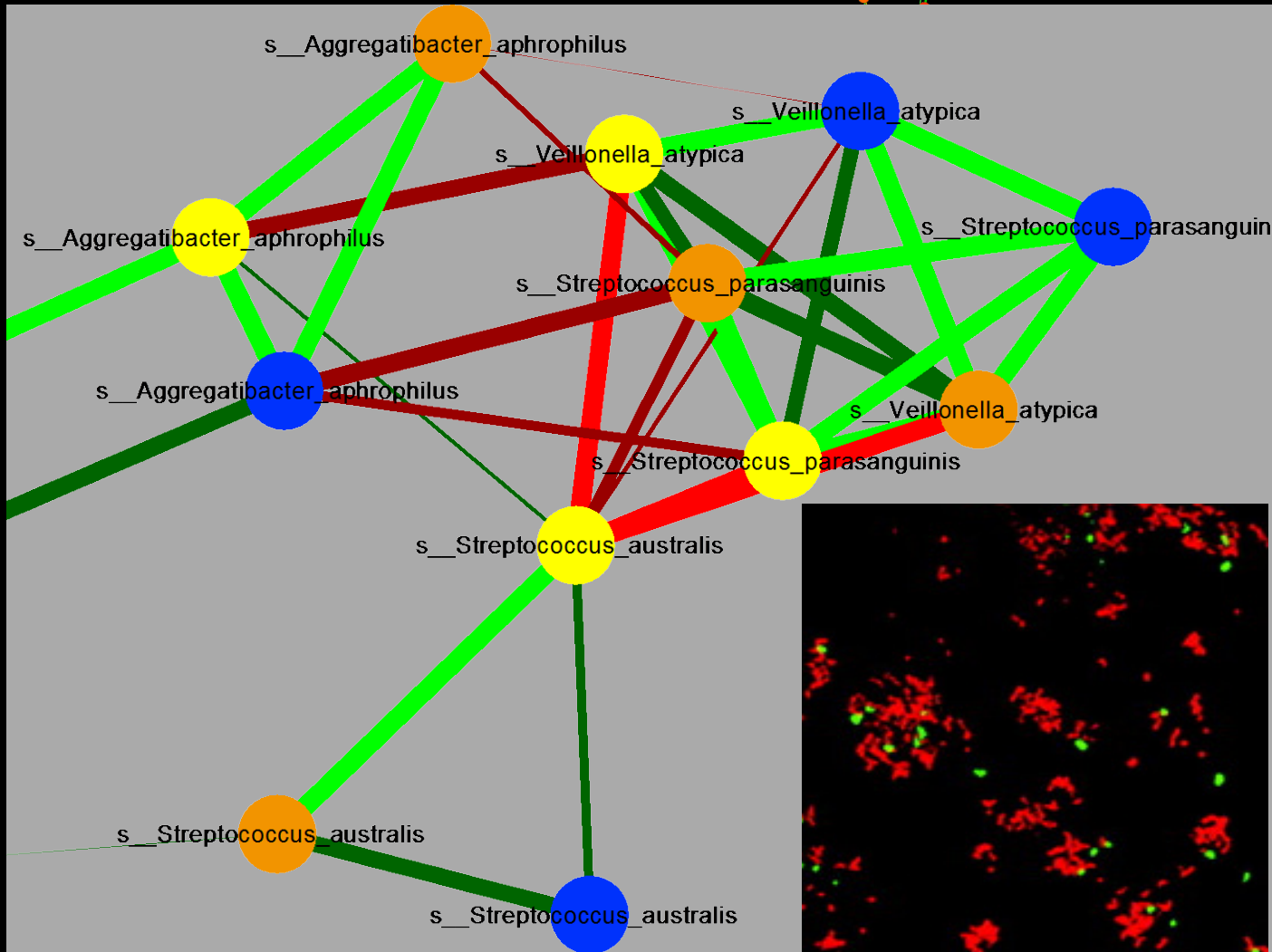




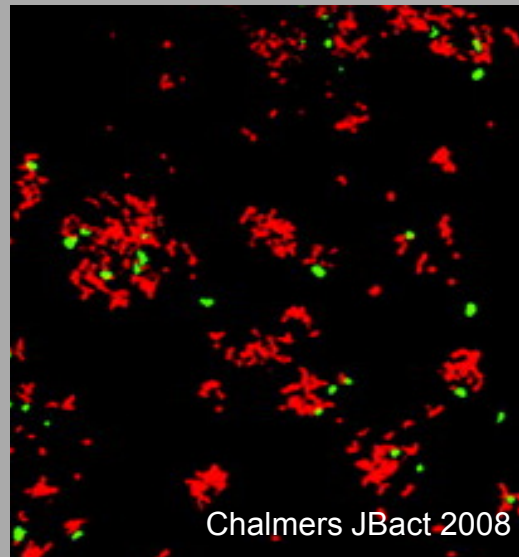
# Meta'omic ecological profiling with **CCREPE**: identifying co-occurring microbial consortia

With Jeroen Raes, Karoline Faust

**Co-** **Anti-**

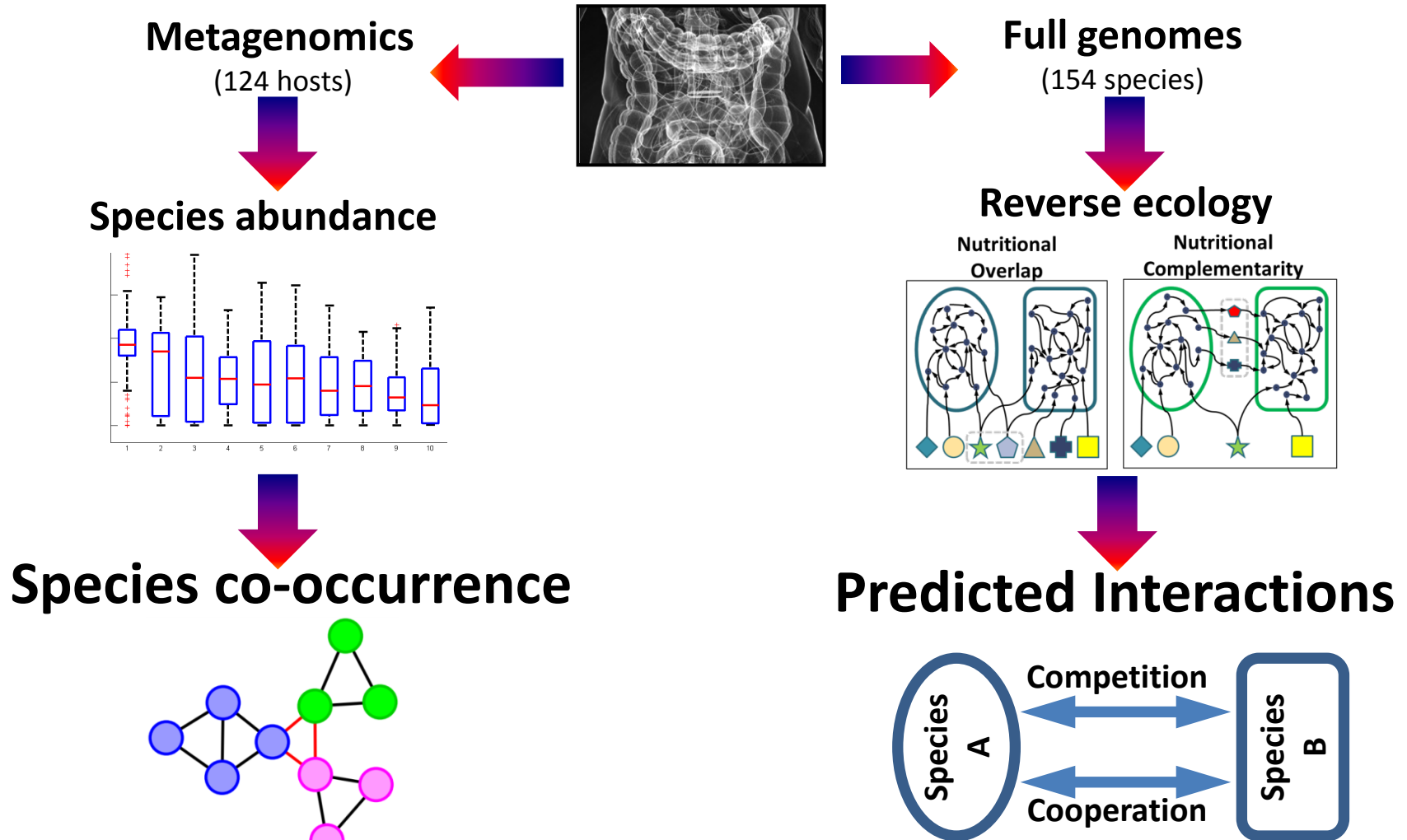


- Anterior nares
- Buccal mucosa
- Hard palate
- Keratinized gingiva
- Palatine tonsils
- Saliva
- Subgingival plaque
- Supragingival plaque
- Throat
- Tongue dorsum
- Left retroauricular crease
- Right retroauricular crease
- Right antecubital fossa
- Left antecubital fossa
- Stool
- Mid vagina
- Posterior fornix
- Vaginal introitus



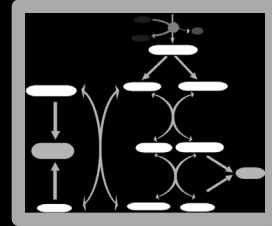
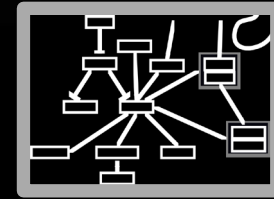
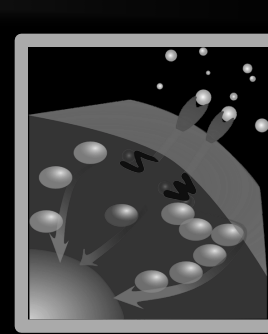


# Comparing Co-Occurrence and Predicted Interactions in the Gut Microbiome





# Multi'omic data integration is necessary to understand biomolecular function in the microbiome



Species/strains

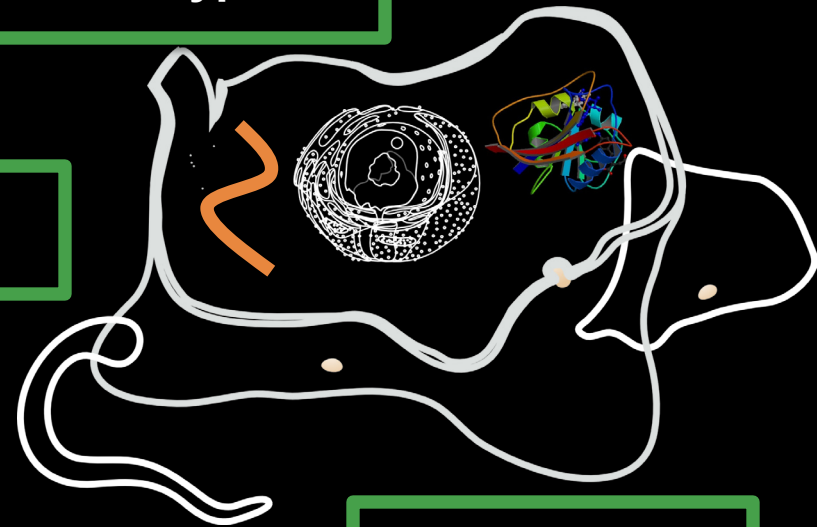
Signaling molecules

Cell types

Transcripts



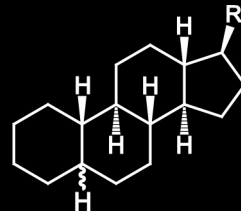
Metabolites



Proteins

Genomes  
Genes + variants

Epigenetics

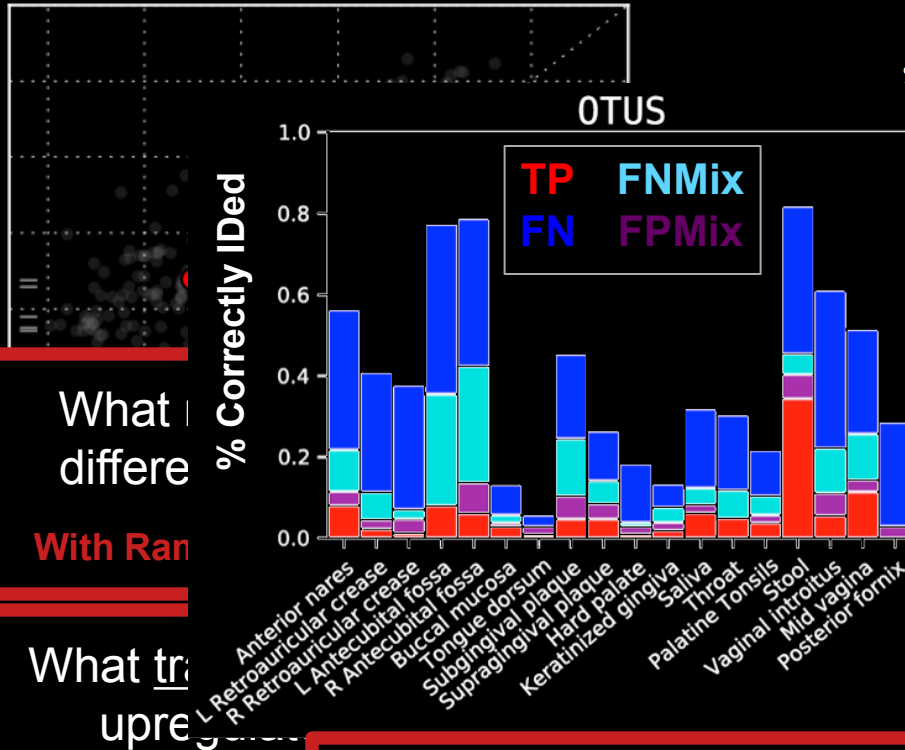




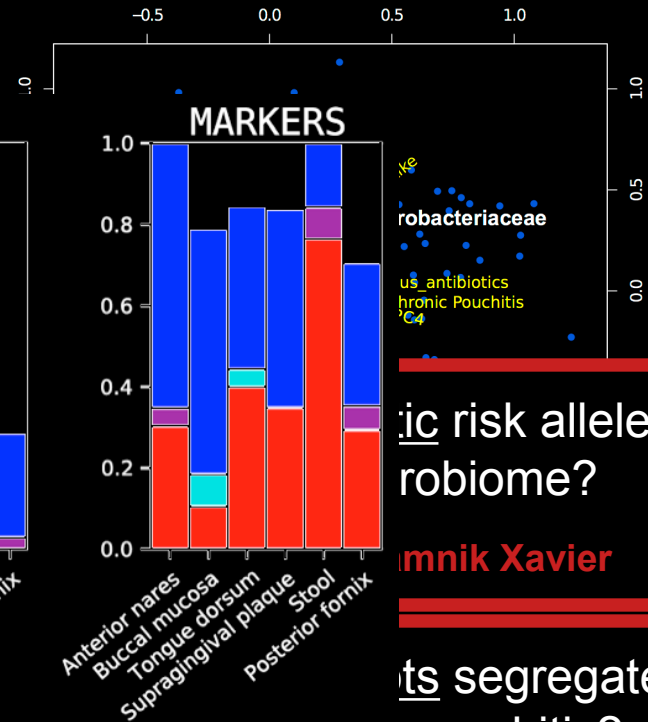
# Multi'omic data integration is necessary to understand biomolecular function in the microbiome

M00347: Methanogenesis, formate => methane

Relative RNA abundance



Pouchitis Cohort Metadata



What |  
differ

With Ran

What tr  
upre

With Wendy G

ic risk alleles  
robiome?

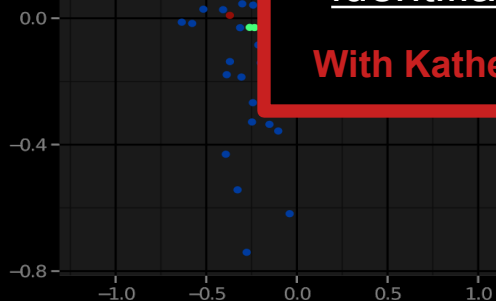
mnik Xavier

ts segregate  
pouchitis?

Are human hosts uniquely and stably identifiable using the microbiome?

With Katherine Lemon, Brendan Bohannon

berg, Ramnik Xavier



M0018

-1.5

p = 0.0025  
q = 0.036

Number of NOD2-associated risk alleles

- Unaffected
- rs104895431
- rs104895467
- rs2066844
- rs2066845
- rs5743277
- rs5743293



# The microbiome in IBD: a group of complex microbial diseases

- The gut microbiota varies in IBD
  - Diversity is almost certainly reduced  
(Manichanh 2006, Ott 2006, Frank 2007, Sokol 2008, Nishikawa 2009, Willing 2010; contrast Lepage 2009)
  - Specific clades are often over/under enriched  
(Baumgart 2007, Frank 2007, Willing 2010, Joossens 2011, Frank 2011, Lepage 2011)
  - IBD subsets – colitis, ileal CD, etc. – are differentially affected  
(Sokol 2008, Willing 2010, Joossens 2011, Lepage 2011)

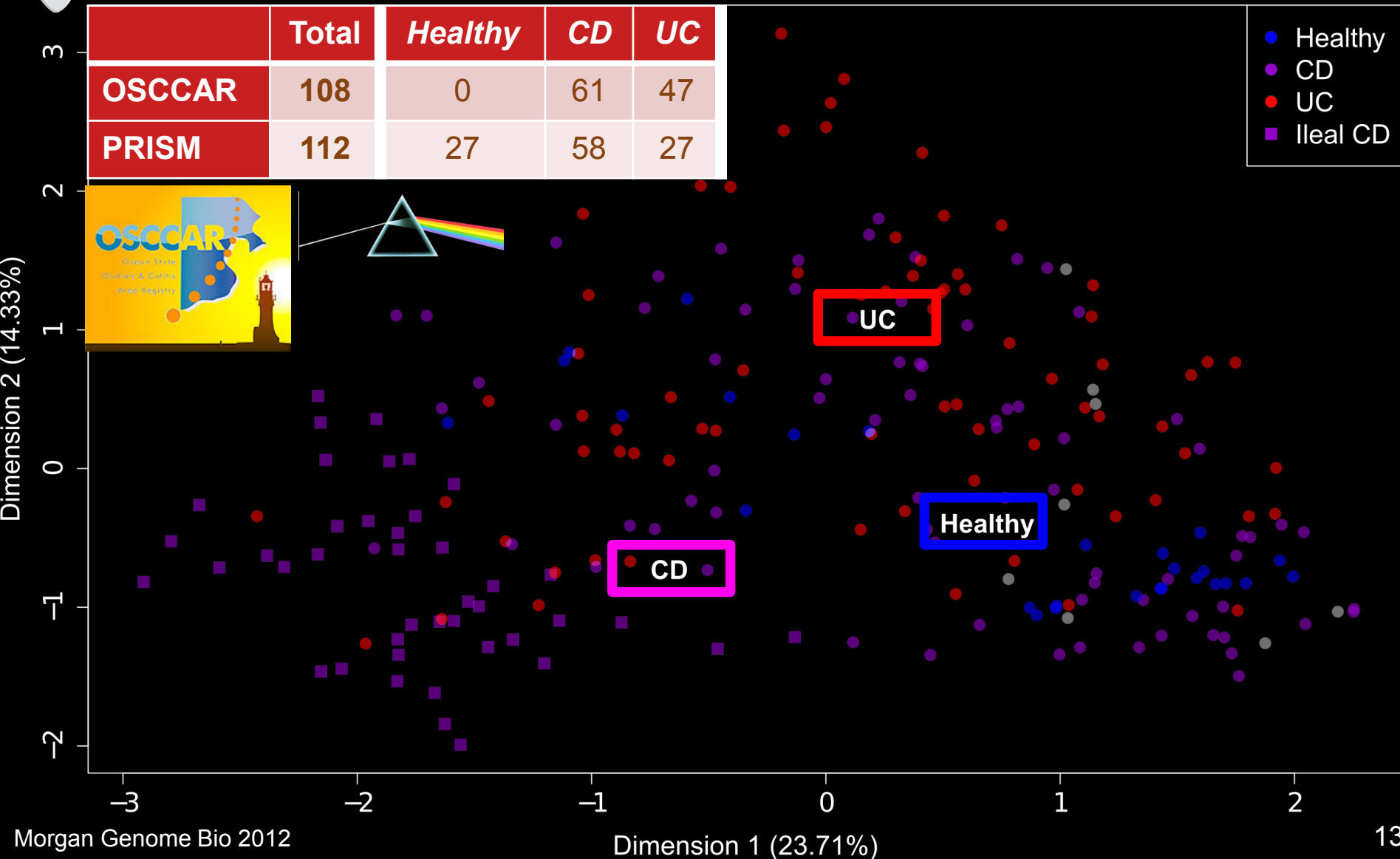
Like disease alleles,  
infectious disease  $\leftrightarrow$  one microbe,  
complex disease  $\leftrightarrow$  many microbes

- Which structural changes might be functional?
  - (If any)
  - (In each subset)
  - And which are instead associated with treatment/environment?
- And why: which specific microbial functions are involved in these changes?



# How is the gut microbiome disrupted during IBD and its treatment?

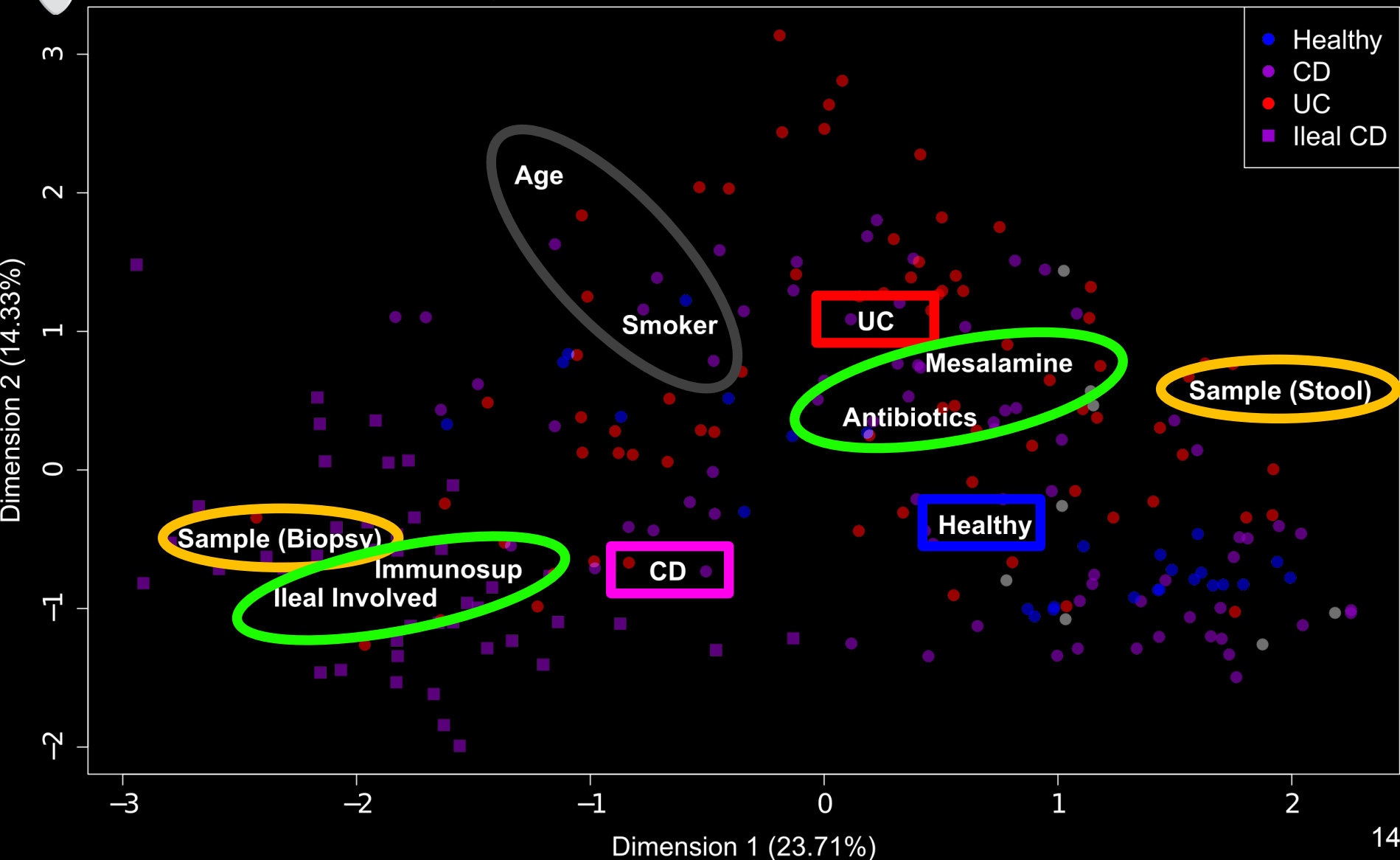
With Ramnik Xavier, Bruce Sands





# How is the gut microbiome disrupted during IBD and its treatment?

With Ramnik Xavier, Bruce Sands



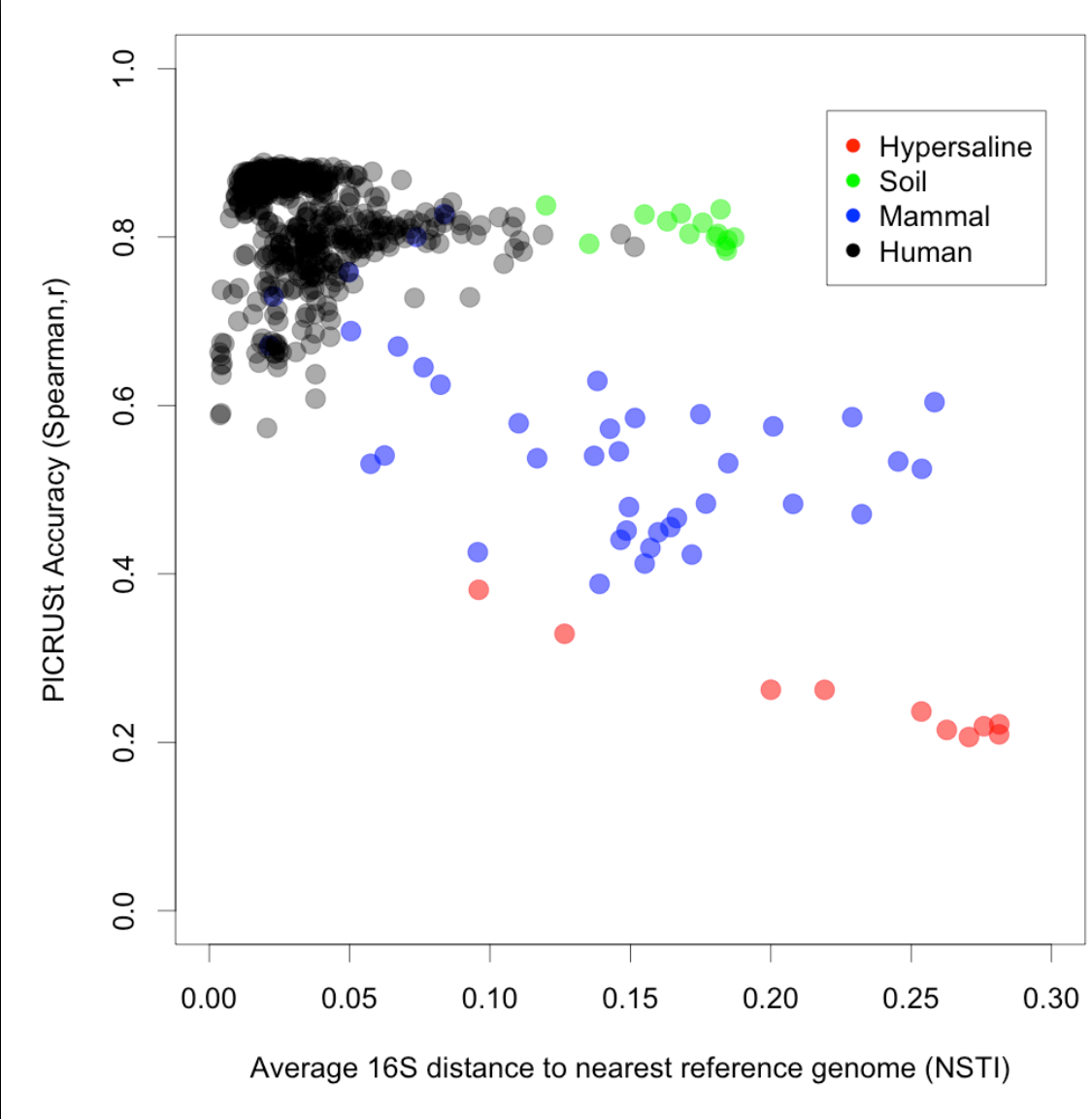
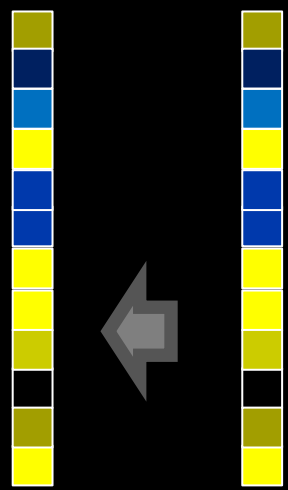


# PICRUSt: Inferring community metagenomic potential from marker gene sequencing

With Rob Knight, Rob Beiko

One can recover *general* community function with reasonable accuracy from 16S profiles.

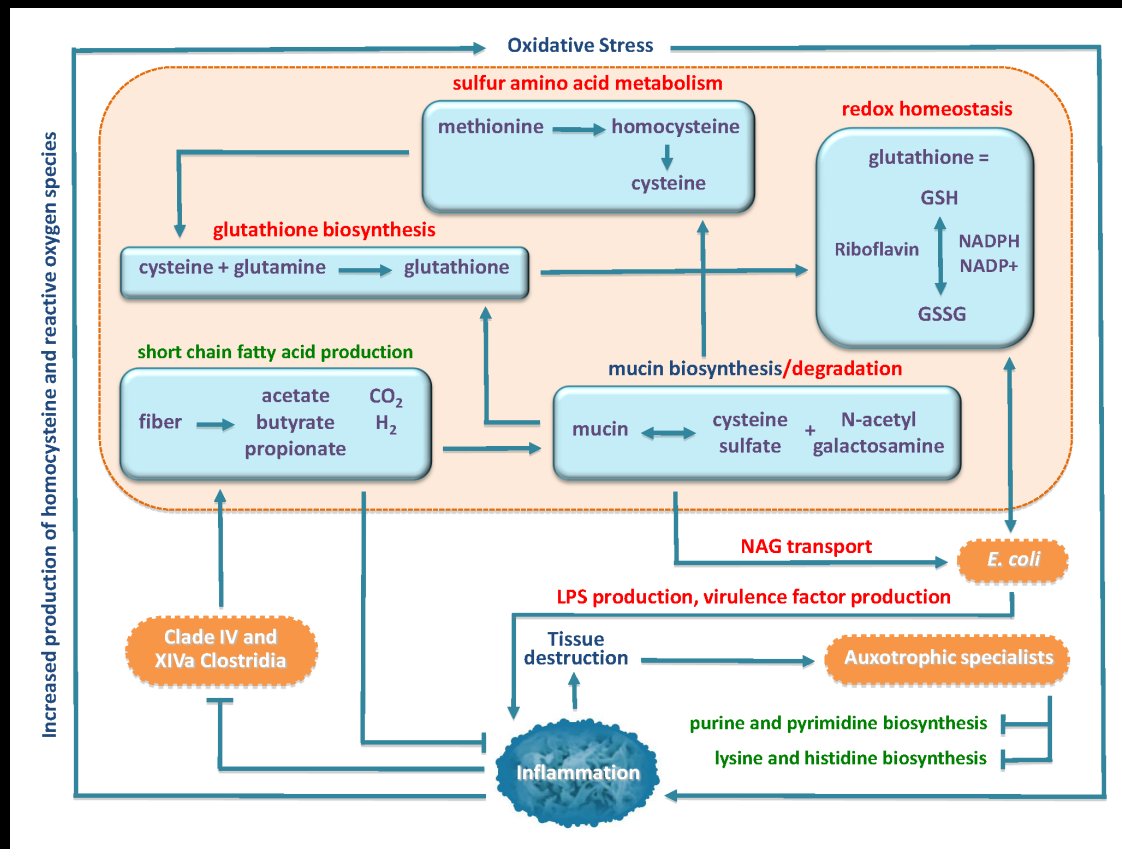
Orthologous gene families      Taxon abundances





# Which *functions* of the gut microbiome are disrupted by IBD?

- Over six times as many microbial metabolic processes disrupted in IBD as microbes
  - If there's a transit strike, everyone working for the MBTA is disrupted, not everyone named Smith or Jones







# Gaps in knowledge and methods for microbiome functional 'omics:

- **Tools to make meta'omics as easy as microarray analysis**
  - Web for data organization and acquisition, desktop for visualization and manipulation, cloud for democratized scalability
- **Systematic, cross-species microbial protein function cataloging**
- **Quantitative models of community metabolic and regulatory networks**
- **Exhaustive identification of microbe-microbe and host-microbe interaction mechanisms**
  - Small molecule signals, bioactive metabolites, secreted and cell surface peptides...
- **Detailed, temporally-resolved "microbiogeography"**
- **In vitro models of human-associated microbial communities for controlled gene and microbe "knock out" and "knock in" experiments**
- **Standards for reproducibility of all aspects human microbiome experiments and analysis to ensure translation-quality results**



# Thanks!



## Human Microbiome Project

Owen White	Sahar Abubucker
Joe Petrosino	Brandi Cantarel
George Weinstock	Alyx Schubert
Karen Nelson	Mathangi Thiagarajan
Lita Proctor	Beltran Rodriguez-Mueller
Erica Sodergren	Makedonka Mitreva
Anthony Fodor	Yuzhen Ye
Marty Blaser	Mihai Pop
Jacques Ravel	Larry Forney
Pat Schloss	Barbara Methe

Bruce Birren Mark Daly  
Doyle Ward Ashlee Earl



Nicola Segata Levi Waldron Xochi Morgan

Tim Tickle



Dirk Gevers  
Kat Huang



Ramnik Xavier  
Harry Sokol  
Dan Knights  
Moran Yassour

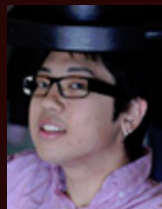


Felix Wong

Emma Schwager

Eric Franzosa

Daniela Boernigen



Joseph Moon

Jim Kaminski

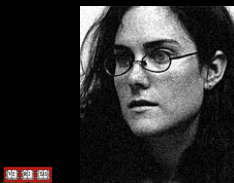
Boyu Ren



Brian Palmer

Ren Lu

Koji Yasuda



Wendy Garrett  
Michelle Rooks

Ruth Ley  
Omry Koren



Rob Beiko  
Morgan Langille

Jacques Izard  
Katherine Lemon



Rob Knight  
Jesse Zaneveld  
Greg Caporaso

Bruce Sands



Mark Silverberg  
Boyko Kabakchiev  
Andrea Tyler

Jeroen Raes  
Karoline Faust





# Why shotgun metagenomics and metatranscriptomics?

- Currently the simplest and most cost-effective way to assess microbiome biomolecular function
  - ~3-8x per-sample cost of 16S amplicon sequencing
  - *Strain* level identification of microbes
  - Readily accesses bacteria, archaea, viruses, and eukaryotes
  - Exposes not just who's there, but genetic potential, synteny, regulation, and variation
  - Leverages analysis methods from single-organism DNA/RNA-seq
- What's the bad news?
  - ~3-8x per-sample cost of 16S amplicon sequencing
  - Requires samples with greater biomass
  - Sensitive to samples with greater host contamination
  - Can require more complex informatics