1	Unprepared colonoscopy identifies microbiota specific to
2	the proximal and distal human colon
3	Running title: Unprepared colonoscopy identifies proximal and distal human colonic microbiota
4	Kaitlin J. Flynn ¹ , Charles C. Koumpouras ¹ , Mack T. Ruffin IV ² , Danielle Kimberly Turgeon ³ , and
5	Patrick D. Schloss ^{1†}
	† Corresponding author: pschloss@umich.edu
6 7	1. Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor
8	Michigan 48109

3. Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Michigan Medical

2. Pennslyvania State University, Hershey, Pennslyvania??

School, Ann Arbor, Michigan

10

2 Abstract

The human colon contains chemicals and nutrients that change along the proximal to distal gut axis. These gradients create microenvironments that affect the distrubution and composition of the gut microbiota. The microbiome has been implicated in the colonic diseases colorectal cancer 15 (CRC) and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Further, these diseases exhibit different symptoms 16 depending on the location of the colon they are found in. CRC tumors of the proximal and distal 17 colon are morphologically and genetically distinct. Similarly, inflammatory bowel diseases such 18 as Crohn's are typically exacerbated in the proximal instestine while ulcerative colitis patients often experience symptoms in the distal colon. Previous analysis of the fecal microbiota from healthy and CRC or IBD patients has revealed different microbial signatures associated with these 21 diseases. We extended these observations of the fecal microbiome to include analysis of the proximal and distal healthy human colon. We used a two-colonoscope approach on subjects that had not undergone standard bowel preparation procedure. This technique allowed us to characterize the native proximal and distal luminal and mucosal microbiome without prior chemical disruption. 16S rRNA gene sequencing was performed on proximal and distal mucosal and luminal biopsies and home-collected stool for 20 healthy individuals. Diversity analysis revealed that each site contained a diverse community and that a patient's samples were more similar to each other than to that of other individuals. Comparison of all samples to fecal samples taken at exit uncovered that the feces were most similar to samples taken from the distal lumen, likely reflecting the anatomical structure of the colon. Since we could not differentiate sites along the colon based on community structure 31 or community membership alone, we employed the Random Forest machine-learning algorithm to identify key species that distinguish biogeographical sites. Random Forest classification models were built using taxa abundance and sample location and revealed distinct populations that were found in each location. A model differentiating the proximal mucosa and lumen was built with an AUC of 0.831. The proximal mucosa had a higher abundance of the genera Enterobacteriaceae and Bacteriodes. Peptoniphilus, Anaerococcus, Finegoldia, and Turicibacter were most likely to be found in distal mucosal samples versus distal luminal samples (AUC = 0.98). The classification model performed well (AUC = 0.912) when classifying mucosal samples into proximal or distal sides, but separating luminal samples from each side proved more challenging (AUC = 0.755). The

- 41 distal mucosa was found to have high populations of Finegoldia, Murdochiella and Porphyromonas.
- Proximal and distal luminal samples were comprised of many of the same taxa, likely reflecting the
- 43 fact that stool moves along the colon from the proximal to distal end. By sampling the unprepped
- 44 human colon, our results have identified distinct bacterial populations native to the proximal and
- 45 distal sides. Further investigation of these bacteria may elucidate if and how these groups contribute
- to different pathogenesis processes on the respective sides of the colon.

47 Introduction

The human colon is an ecosystem comprised of several different microenvironments inhabited by resident bacterial members of the microbiome. Concentrations of oxygen, water and anti-microbial peptides change along the gut axis and influence what populations of microbes reside in each location. Microenvironments differ not only longitutinally along the colon, but latitudinally from the epithelium to mucosa to intestinal lumen, offering several sites for different microbial communities to flourish. The identity of these specific microbes and communities are important for understanding the etiology of complex colon diseases such as Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and Colorectal Cancer (CRC). IBD and CRC are known to be preceded or accelerated by perturbations in gut microbes (1), (2), (3). The severity, symptoms, morbidity and mortality of these diseases is known to vary based upon the biogeographical location in which they occur. For instance, CRC tumors that arise on the distal side of the colon are infiltrating lesions that present with painful symptoms (4). In contrast, 47% of CRCs are caused by proximal-sided colon tumors that are sessile and form along the wall of the colon, often remaining asymptomatic until advanced carcinogenesis (4). The distal and proximal sides of the colon differ in the amount of inflammation present and the genomic instability of precancerous cells, respectively, in addition to variation in the previously mentioned chemical gradients (1), (5), (6). In IBD patients, disease flares in the distal colon are usually indicative of ulcerative colitis (UC), whereas Crohn's disease (CD) patients typically experience disease in the small intestine, ileum and proximal colon (2). UC presents as large and highly inflammed mucosal ulcers, where as CD lesions are often smaller and have areas of normal tissue distributed amongst the flare (2). Thus, given the varied physiology of the proximal-distal axis of the colon and known differences in disease patterns at these sites, symbiotic microbes and their metabolites likely vary as well, and may influence the heterogenous disease prognoses of IBD and CRC. Because CRC is a long-term complication of IBD, the distribution of microbes is important to understanding the pathophysiology of both diseases.

Several recent findings have shown that development and progression of IBD or CRC can be attributed to specific molecular events as a result of interactions between the gut microbiota and human host (1), (3). For instance, comparison of the bacteria present on CRC tumors with those found on nearby healthy tissue has identified specific species that are tumor-associated (7). These species include the oral pathogens Fusibacterium nucleatum and Porphyromonas asacharolytica. Interestingly, these periodontal pathogens have been highly predictive of whether a patient had CRC tumors or not in our prior human stool classification studies (8). F. nucleatum has also been found to be elevated in the stool and biopsies of patients with IBD as compared to healthy controls 79 (9). Furthermore, studies of F. nucleatum isolated from mucosal biopsies showed that more invasive F. nucleatum positively correlates with IBD disease level (9). Like many intestinal pathogens, the bacteria appear to have a high-impact despite being lowly-abundant in the community (2). The molecular capabilities of these rare taxa may contribute to the colonic disease state. These studies often examined only shed human stool or the small intestine, preventing fine-resolution analysis of paired samples from the proximal and distal sides of the colon. Similarly, comparisons of on- or off-tumor/lesion bacteria rarely have matched tissue from the other side of the colon from the same patient, limiting what conclusions can be drawn about the colonic microbiome overall, let alone at that specific site. Due to these limitations, the contribution of the gut microbiota to IBD and CRC disease location in the colon is largely undefined. Characterizing these communities could provide needed insight into disease etiology, including how the disruption of the healthy community could promote the initiation or proliferation of the distinct proximal and distal CRC tumors or IBD flares. The few existing profiles of the microbial biogeography of the gut have been limited by sample collection methods. The majority of human gut microbiome studies have been performed on whole shed stool or on samples collected during colonoscopy procedures. While the latter method allows investigators to acquire samples from inside the human colon, typically this procedure is preceded by the use of bowel preparation methods such as the consumption of laxatives to cleanse the bowel. Bowel preparation is essential for detecting cancerous or precancerous lesions in the colon, but

complicates microbiome profiling as the chemicals strip the bowel of contents and disrupt the mucosal layer (10), (11). As such, what little information we do have about the biogeographical distribution of the microbes in the proximal and distal colon is confounded by the bowel preparation procedure.

Here we aimed to address the limitations of previous studies and effectively identify the microbes 102 specific to the lumen and mucosa of the proximal and distal healthy human colon. Our design used 103 an unprepared colonoscopy technique to sample the natural community of each location of the gut without prior disruption of the native bacteria in 20 healthy volunteers. To address the inherent 105 inter-individual variation in human microbiomes, we used a machine-learning classification algorithm 106 trained on curated 16S rRNA sequencing reads to identify microbes specific to each location. We found that our classification models were able to separate mucosal and lumenal samples as well as 108 differentiate between sides of the colon based on populations of specific microbes. By identifying 100 the specific microbes we are poised to ask if and how the presence or disruption of the microbes at 110 each site contribute to the development of the specific tumor subtypes of CRC in the proximal and 111 distal human colon. 112

13 Results

114 Microbial membership and diversity of the proximal and distal colon

Lumenal and mucosal samples were collected from the proximal and distal colon of 20 healthy 115 humans that had not undergone bowel preparation (Figure 1). Participants also collected stool 116 at home one week prior to the procedure. To characterize the bacterial communities present at 117 these sites, 16S rRNA gene sequencing was performed on extracted DNA from each sample. Each 118 site was primarily dominated by Firmicutes and Bacteriodetes (Figure 2A), consistent with known 119 variability in human microbiome research (12). Likewise, samples had varying levels of diversity at each site, irrespective of the individual (Figure 2B). For example, the proximal mucosa was more 121 diverse than the distal for some individuals while the opposite was true for others. Therefore we 122 could not identify a clear pattern of changes in microbial diversity along the gut axis. 123

To compare similarity between sides (proximal or distal) or sites (lumen or mucosa), we calculated

 θ YC distances from OTU abundances and compared these distances for all individuals. Again, across all patient samples we observed a range of θ YC distances when comparing sample locations (Figure 3A) and again those ranges did not follow a clear pattern on an individual basis. However, when comparing median distances between the proximal lumen and mucosa, the proximal versus distal lumen, the proximal versus distal mucosa, and the distal lumen and mucosa, we found that the proximal lumen and mucosa were most similar to each other than the other samples (P < 0.005, Wilcoxon, BH adjustment).

32 Stool at exit most resembles lumenal samples from the distal colon

Next, we calculated θ YC distances to examine how each sample compared to the home-collected exit 133 stool. Amidst variability between patients, we did identify significantly smaller θYC distance between 134 the distal lumenal sample and the exit stool (Figure 3B, P < 0.05, Wilcoxon, BH adjustment). 135 Furthermore, there was an even larger difference in the comparisons of the distal mucosa to the exit stool, indicating that the mucosa is different from the stool as compared to lumen (P < 0.0005, 137 Wilcoxon, BH adjustment). To determine what factors may be driving the differences seen among 138 the samples, we compared θYC distances between samples from all subjects (interpersonal) versus 139 samples from within one subject (intrapersonal). We found that samples from one individual were 140 far more similar to each other than to other study subjects (Figure 3C), consistent with previous 141 human microbiome studies that have sampled multiple sites of the human colon (13), (14), (15). 142 Thus interpersonal variation between subjects drives the differences between samples more than sample site or location. Overall, the results comparing the structure of the communities suggest 144 that the contents of the distal lumen are most representative of stool at exit, and the microbes 145 remaining on the mucosa are much different.

147 Random Forest classification models identify important OTUs on each side

To identify OTUs that were distinct at each biogeographical site, we constructed several Random
Forest models trained using OTU abundances. We built the first model to classify the lumen versus
mucosal samples for the proximal and distal sides, independently (Figure 4A). The constructed
model used 14 features for the proximal and 6 for the distal. The models performed well when

classifying these samples (0.831 and 0.98, respectively). The OTUs that were most predictive of 152 each site are identified by their greatest mean decrease in accuracy when removed from the model. For distinguishing the proximal lumen and mucosa, OTUs from the Bacteriodes, Actinomyces, 154 Psuedomonas and two OTUs from the Enterobacteraceae genera were differentially abundant 155 (Figure 4B). The model classifying the distal lumen and mucosa identified OTUs from Turicibacter, 156 Finegoldia, Peptoniphilus and two OTUs from the Anaerococcus genera that could distinguish lumen 157 from mucosal samples (Figure 4C). These results indicate that there are fine differences between the 158 different sites of the colon, and that these can be traced to specific OTUs on each side. 159 Next, we built a model to differentiate the proximal and distal lumenal samples. The model

160 performed best when distinguishing the proximal versus distal mucosa (Figure 5A, AUC = 0.912) 161 compared to the proximal versus distal lumen (AUC = 0.755). The model that separated proximal 162 and distal mucosal samples used 6 features. OTUs that were differentially abundant between the 163 distal and proximal mucosa included members of the Porphyromonas, Murdochiella, Finegoldia, Anaerococcus and Peptoniphilus genera (Figure 5B). The model used 44 features to separate proximal 165 and distal lumenal samples. Differentially abundant OTUs of the proximal and distal lumen included 166 three OTUs of the Bacteroides genus, a Clostridium IV OTU and an Oscillibacter OTU (Figure 167 5C). This analysis found that some of the same OTUs that are distinct between the mucosa and 168 lumen also helped to differentiate between the two sides- such as Anaerococcus and Finegoldia. 169

70 Bacterial OTUs associated with cancer are found in healthy individuals

Given that specific bacterial species have been associated with colorectal cancer and IBD, we probed 171 our sample set for these OTUs. Among our 100 samples, the most frequent sequence associated 172 with the Fusobacterium genus was OTU179, which aligns via BLASTn to Fusobacterium nucleatum 173 subsp animalis (100% over full length). This is the only species of Fusobacterium known to have 174 oncogenic properties and be found on the surfaces of colorectal cancer tumors. (16). There were 175 14 samples with the F. nucleatum subsp. animalis sequence. Four sequences were located in the 176 proximal mucosa and three in the distal mucosal samples (Figure 6A). The second most frequent 177 Fusobacterium sequence was OTU472, which aligns with 99% identity to F. varium. In addition to F. nucleatum, F. varium has been associated with IBD (17). 4 study participants harbored F. varium and the samples were split evenly between the proximal and distal mucosa (Figure 6B).

OTU152 was similar to the members of the *Porphyromonas* genus and the most frequent sequence in that OTU aligned to *Porphyromonas asacharolytica* (99% over full length), another bacterium commonly detected and isolated from colorectal tumors. OTU152 was only detected on the distal mucosa, and in fact was one of the OTUs the classification model identified as separating distal and proximal sides (Figure 6C). Among the samples that were positive for *P. asacharolytica*, the relative abundances for this OTU ranged from 0.01% - 16%. Thus, disease-associated OTUs could be found in our sample set of 20 healthy individuals.

188 Discussion

Here we identified bacterial taxa that were specific to the lumen and mucosa of the proximal and distal sides of the human colon from samples collected during unprepared colonoscopy. We 190 found that all locations contained a range of phyla abundances and a range of diversity, but that 191 there was a wide variability between subjects. Pairwise comparisons of each of the sites revealed 192 that the proximal mucosa and lumen were most similar to each other. Further, comparison of 193 colonoscopy-collected samples with samples collected from stool at home showed that the distal 194 lumen is most similar to stool at exit. Random Forest models built on OTU relative abundances 195 from each sample identified microbes that are particular to each location of the colon. Finally, we were able to detect some bacterial OTUs associated with colonic disease in our healthy patient 197 cohort. Using unprepped colonoscopy and machine learning, we have identified bacterial taxa 198 specific to the healthy proximal and distal human colon. 199

When examining the relative abundance of the different phyla at each site, there was a wide amount
of variation with communities primarily dominated by the *Bacteriodes* and *Firmicutes*. This likely
reflects not only the variability between human subjects, casued by differences in age, gender, diet,
but also reports of biogeogrphical "patchiness" in the gut microbiome. Several studies have noted
that the bacteria recoverable from the same mucosal sample location can be vastly different when
the samples are taken just 1 cm away from each other (18). Similar patchiness is also observed in
lumenal contents and fecal samples themselves; there is observed separation of different interacting
microbes along the length of a stool sample, for instance (19). That said, across our samples the

mucosal samples harbor more *Proteobacteria*, consistent with previous studies comparing mucosal swabs to lumenal content in humans (5). Hence, the conclusions we can draw from phyla analysis are likely impacted by patchiness between subjects.

To get around the noisiness from a diverse set of samples, we built a Random Forest model to identify 211 microbes specific to each side. For each comparison we identified top 5 OTUs that were strongly 212 predictive of one site or another. Generally, OTUs identified in each location were consistent with 213 known physiological gradients along the gut axis (6). For instance, the proximal mucosa contains the highest oxygen concentrations of the colon and harbored mucosa-associated facultative anaerobes 215 such as Actinomyces and Enterobacteraceae and aerobic Psuedomonas. The distal mucosa was far 216 more likely to host strictly anaerobic species such as Porphyromonas, Anaerococcus, Finegoldia and Peptoniphilus. The model was less effective at classifying the proximal and distal lumenal 218 contents, probably because the samples are arguably composed of the same bacteria but differ in 219 water content. 220

We detected F. nucleatum and P. asacharolytica in 8 and 5 of our subjects, respectively. These 221 bacteria have been shown to be predictive of colorectal cancer in humans (8) and have oncogenic properties in cell culture and in mice (20). Interestingly, while F. nucleatum was found on both 223 sides of the colon, P. asacharolytica was only detected in the distal mucosa. Not much is known 224 about the distribution of P. asacharolytica but given its documented anaerobic characteristics and asacharolytic metabolism, it might not be surprising that it resides in the less-oygen-rich and 226 proteinaceous distal mucosa (5). In studies examining bacteria on colorectal cancer tumors, F. 227 nucleatum is more commonly detected on proximal-sided tumors, and distribution of F. nucleatum 228 decreases along the colon to rectum (21). Of the 8 (40%) individuals positive for F. nucleatum in this 229 study, the bacterium was spread across the proximal mucosa, distal lumen and distal mucosa. Data 230 examining bacterial biofilms on the mucosa of CRC tumors suggests that Fusobacteria species are 231 more commonly found on proximal tumors and in biofilms, indicating that it is not only the presence of the bacteria but the organization of the tumor community that contributes to Fusobacterium's 233 role in tumorigenesis (7). Finally, Fusobacterium and Porphyromonas species have been known 234 to not only co-occur on CRC tumors but also to synergistically promote tumorigenesis in an oral cancer model (22), (23). Thus, further analysis of the distribution and activities of these pathogens 236

may elucidate a mechanism for development of IBD or CRC subtypes in the proximal or distal colon.

The Fusibacterium species nucleatum and varium have been commonly isolated from mucosal 239 biopsies of patients with IBD (17). Laboratory experiments with these isolates have shown that 240 disease-isolated F. nucleatum are more invasive and stimulate more TNF-a production than strains 241 from healthy individuals (9), suggesting the bacteria may increase inflammation in the gut as well 242 (24). F. varium isolated from UC patients caused colonic ulcers in an experimental mouse model (25). F. varium was only detected in three of our study participants and two of those samples were 244 isolated form the proximal mucosa (Figure 6B). Although there is low occurrance in our study, 245 F. varium is most commonly isolated from UC patient biopsies from the ileum or cecum (26), suggesting this species may exhibit preference for the different environmental conditions of these 247 gastrointestinal sites. Further work will assess how gut environment may select for species which 248 may then cause localized disease.

Specific comparisons of our findings to previously published gut biogeography studies are additionally 250 confounded by the use of bowel preparation methods in most other studies. A rare report of a 251 matched-colonoscopy study sampled 18 patient's colonic mucosa and lumenal contents prior to and 252 after bowel cleansing (27). This group found that mucosal and lumenal samples were distinguishable 253 prior to bowel cleansing, but that bowel preparation resulted in an increase in shared OTUs between each site (27). Bowel cleansing not only made the samples harder to distinguish, it resulted in 255 decreases in diversity across sites. Further, the differences were not great enough to overcome 256 interpersonal differences between subjects. Bowel preparation clearly induces bias into the microbes recovered from sampling the lumen or mucosa of a prepared bowel. Thus our findings in this study 258 are strengthened by the lack of bowel preparation. 250

By revealing specific differences in microbial populations at each location in the gut via sampling an unprepared bowel, we can begin to form hypothesies about how specific host-microbe interactions can affect disease progression of proximal and distal CRC and IBD subtypes. To this point, 16S rRNA gene sequecing community profiling studies do not provide enough information to fully probe these questions. In particular, 16S sequencing cannot not profile the host characteristics at each site. Combining the unprepared colonoscopy approach with analysis of multi-omic sequencing data

may be useful in further characterizing host-microbiome interactions along the gut axis for both health and disease.

268 Acknowledgments

We thank all the individuals who volunteered for the study. This work was supported by the Rose and
Lawrence C. Page Foundation (DKT). We would also like to thank Brian Kleiner, Chelsea Crofoot,
and Kirk Herman for their roles in study coordination, subject recruitment, sample collection and
sample processing.

273 Methods

274 Human subjects

The procedures in this study and consent were approved by the Institutional Review Board at the 275 University of Michigan Health System with protocol number XXXX. Subjects were recruited using 276 the online recruitment platform and were pre-screened prior to enrollment in the study. Exclusion 277 criteria included: use of asprin or NSAIDs within 7 days, use of antibiotics within 3 months, current use of anticoagulants, known allergies to Fentanyl or Benadryl, prior history of colon disease, 270 diabetes, abdominal surgery, respiratory, liver, kidney or brain impairments, undergoing current 280 chemotherapy or radiation treatment and subjects that were pregnant or trying to conceive. 20 subjects that met the criteria were selected and provided signed informed consent prior to the 282 procedure. There were 13 female and 7 male subjects ranging in age from 25 to 64. 283

284 Sample collection

At a baseline visit, subjects were consented and given a home collection stool kit (Source of kit?).

At least one week prior to the scheduled colonoscopy, subjects were to collect whole stool at home
and ship the samples to the University on ice. Notably, subjects did not undergo any bowel
preparation method prior to sampling. On the procedure day, subjects reported to the Michigan
Clinical Research Unit at the University of Michigan Health System. Patients were consciously
sedated using Fentanyl, Versed and/or Benadryl as appropriate. A flexible sigmoidoscope was first

inserted about 25cm into the colon and endoscopy brush used to collect lumenal/stool contents.
Two lumenal samples were collected and the contents immediately deposited into RNAlater (Fischer)
and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen. The brushes were withdrawn and biopsy forceps were used to
collect mucosal biopsies on sections of the colon that were pink and free of stool matter. Three
mucosal biopsies were collected and flash-frozen in RNAlater. These samples comprised the distal
or distal colon samples. The sigmoidoscope was then withdrawn and a pediatric colonoscope was
inserted to reach the ascending colon. Samples were then collected as in the distal colon and the
colonoscope withdrawn. All samples were stored at -80 C until study completion.

DNA extraction was performed using the PowerMicrobiome DNA/RNA Isolation Kit (MO BIO

299 Sample processing, sequencing and analysis

300

Laboratories). For tissue biopsies, Bond-Breaker TCEP solution (Fisher) and 2.8mm ceramic beads 301 (MO BIO Laboratories) were added to the bead beating step to enhance DNA recovery from mucosal 302 samples. The resulting DNA was used as template for amplification of the V4 region of the 16S 303 rRNA gene and fragments were sequenced on an Illumina MiSeq as previously described (28). 304 Sequences were curated using the mothur software as described previously (29). The sequences were assigned taxonomic classification using a naive Bayesian classifier trained using a 16S rRNA 306 gene training set from the Ribosomal Database Project (RDP) (30) and clustered into operational 307 taxonomic units (OTUs) based on a 97% similarity cutoff. Sequencing and analysis of a mock 308 community revealed the error rate to be 1.8%. Samples were rarefied to 4231 sequences per sample in order to reduce uneven sampling bias. 310 Diversity analysis was performed using the Simpson diversity calculator and thetaYC calculator 311 metrics in mother version 3.2 (29). ThetaYC distances were calculated to determine the dissimilarity 312 between two samples. Random Forest classification models were built using the randomForest 313 R package and resultant models were used to identify the OTUs that were most important for 314 classifying each location (31). To get species-level information about sequences of interest, sequences 315 were aligned using blastn and the species name was only used if the identity score was $\geq 99\%$. 316

Statistical analysis

Differences in community membership at the phyla level were tested using the analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) metric in mothur. Differences in thetaYC distances by location were tested using the Wilcoxon rank-sum test adjusted for multiple comparisons using the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure. #### Data availability 16S rRNA gene sequence reads and experiment metadata are available on the NCBI Sequence Read Archive (SRA) with accession number XXXX. A reproducible data analysis pipeline can be found at https://github.com/SchlossLab/Flynn_LRColon_XXXX_2017.

Figures Figures

Figure 1

Sampling strategy. A flexible sigmoidoscope was used to sample the distal colonic luminal contents and mucosa. The scope was inserted ~ 25cm into the subject and endoscopy brushes were used to sample the luminal contents (green star). A separate set of biopsy forceps was used to sample the distal mucosa (blue star). The sigmoidoscope was removed. A pediatric colonoscope was inserted and used to access the proximal colon. Biopsies were taken of the proximal luminal contents and mucosa as described. One week prior to the procedure stool was collected at home and sent into the laboratory. Representative images from one individual are shown.

Microbial membership and diversity of the proximal and distal human colon. A) Relative abundance of the top five bacterial phyla in each sampling site. Each box represents the median and confidence intervals. B) Simpson diversity of the microbial communities at each location. The lines represent the median values.

343

site to the exit stool are shown.

Distances of microbial community structure between sites of the gut. ThetaYC distances are shown for interpersonal similarities between two sites – each point represents one individual. In (A), comparisons of the proximal and distal mucosal and lumen are shown. In (B), comparisons of each

Random Forest classifies the mucosa and lumen of each side of the colon. A) Receiver Operator
Characteristic curves are shown for the 10-fold cross validation of the Random Forest model
classifying lumen and mucosal samples for the distal and proximal sides of the colon. (B) Top five
OTUs that are most important for the classification model for the distal mucosa and lumen (B) and
the proximal mucosa and lumen (C).

Random Forest classifies the distal and proximal sides of the colon. A) Receiver Operator Characteristic curves are shown for the 10-fold cross validation of the Random Forest model classifying
distal lumen versus proximal lumen (orange) and distal mucosa vs proximal mucosa (green). (B)
Top five OTUs that are most important for the classification model for the distal and proximal
mucosa (B) and the distal and proximal lumen (C).

- 257 Location and abundance of cancer-associated OTUs. Relative abundance was calculated and
- plotted by sample site for each OTU of interest: (A) Fusobacterium nucleatum subsp. animalis (B)
- Fusobacterium varium and (C) Porphyromonas asacharolytica

60 References

- 1. Yamauchi M, Lochhead P, Morikawa T, Huttenhower C, Chan AT, Giovannucci E,
- Fuchs C, Ogino S. 2012. Colorectal cancer: A tale of two sides or a continuum?: Figure 1. Gut
- 363 **61**:794–797. doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2012-302014.
- 2. Forbes JD, Domselaar GV, Bernstein CN. 2016. The gut microbiota in immune-mediated
- inflammatory diseases. Frontiers in Microbiology 7. doi:10.3389/fmicb.2016.01081.
- 366 3. Halfvarson J, Brislawn CJ, Lamendella R, Vazquez-Baeza Y, Walters WA, Bramer
- LM, DAmato M, Bonfiglio F, McDonald D, Gonzalez A, McClure EE, Dunklebarger
- MF, Knight R, Jansson JK. 2017. Dynamics of the human gut microbiome in inflammatory
- bowel disease. Nature Microbiology 2:17004. doi:10.1038/nmicrobiol.2017.4.
- 4. Benedix F, Kube R, Meyer F, Schmidt U, Gastinger I, Lippert H. 2010. Com-
- parison of 17, 641 patients with right- and left-sided colon cancer: Differences in epidemiol-
- ogy, perioperative course, histology, and survival. Diseases of the Colon & Rectum 53:57–64.
- doi:10.1007/dcr.0b013e3181c703a4.
- 5. Albenberg L, Esipova TV, Judge CP, Bittinger K, Chen J, Laughlin A, Grunberg S,
- Baldassano RN, Lewis JD, Li H, Thom SR, Bushman FD, Vinogradov SA, Wu GD. 2014.
- 376 Correlation between intraluminal oxygen gradient and radial partitioning of intestinal microbiota.
- 377 Gastroenterology **147**:1055–1063.e8. doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2014.07.020.
- ³⁷⁸ 6. **Donaldson GP**, Lee SM, Mazmanian SK. 2015. Gut biogeography of the bacterial microbiota.
- Nature Reviews Microbiology 14:20–32. doi:10.1038/nrmicro3552.
- 7. Dejea CM, Wick EC, Hechenbleikner EM, White JR, Welch JLM, Rossetti BJ,
- Peterson SN, Snesrud EC, Borisy GG, Lazarev M, Stein E, Vadivelu J, Roslani AC,

- Malik AA, Wanyiri JW, Goh KL, Thevambiga I, Fu K, Wan F, Llosa N, Housseau F,
- Romans K, Wu X, McAllister FM, Wu S, Vogelstein B, Kinzler KW, Pardoll DM, Sears
- CL. 2014. Microbiota organization is a distinct feature of proximal colorectal cancers. Proceedings
- of the National Academy of Sciences 111:18321–18326. doi:10.1073/pnas.1406199111.
- 8. Baxter NT, Ruffin MT, Rogers MAM, Schloss PD. 2016. Microbiota-based model
- improves the sensitivity of fecal immunochemical test for detecting colonic lesions. Genome Medicine
- 8. doi:10.1186/s13073-016-0290-3.
- 9. Strauss J, Kaplan GG, Beck PL, Rioux K, Panaccione R, DeVinney R, Lynch
- T, Allen-Vercoe E. 2011. Invasive potential of gut mucosa-derived fusobacterium nucleatum
- positively correlates with IBD status of the host. Inflammatory Bowel Diseases 17:1971–1978.
- 392 doi:10.1002/ibd.21606.
- ³⁹³ 10. Jalanka J, Salonen A, Salojärvi J, Ritari J, Immonen O, Marciani L, Gowland P,
- Hoad C, Garsed K, Lam C, Palva A, Spiller RC, Vos WM de. 2014. Effects of bowel
- cleansing on the intestinal microbiota. Gut **64**:1562–1568. doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2014-307240.
- 11. Harrell L, Wang Y, Antonopoulos D, Young V, Lichtenstein L, Huang Y, Hanauer
- 397 S, Chang E. 2012. Standard colonic lavage alters the natural state of mucosal-associated microbiota
- in the human colon. PLoS ONE 7:e32545. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0032545.
- 399 12. Lloyd-Price J. Abu-Ali G. Huttenhower C. 2016. The healthy human microbiome. Genome
- 400 Medicine 8. doi:10.1186/s13073-016-0307-y.
- 401 13. Eckburg PB. 2005. Diversity of the human intestinal microbial flora. Science 308:1635–1638.
- doi:10.1126/science.1110591.
- 14. Cárcer DA de, Cuív PÓ, Wang T, Kang S, Worthley D, Whitehall V, Gordon I,
- 404 McSweeney C, Leggett B, Morrison M. 2010. Numerical ecology validates a biogeographical
- distribution and gender-based effect on mucosa-associated bacteria along the human colon. The
- 406 ISME Journal 5:801–809. doi:10.1038/ismej.2010.177.
- 15. Zhang Z, Geng J, Tang X, Fan H, Xu J, Wen X, Ma Z (Sam), Shi P. 2013. Spatial
- heterogeneity and co-occurrence patterns of human mucosal-associated intestinal microbiota. The

- 409 ISME Journal 8:881–893. doi:10.1038/ismej.2013.185.
- 410 16. Castellarin M, Warren RL, Freeman JD, Dreolini L, Krzywinski M, Strauss J,
- Barnes R, Watson P, Allen-Vercoe E, Moore RA, Holt RA. 2011. Fusobacterium nu-
- cleatum infection is prevalent in human colorectal carcinoma. Genome Research 22:299–306.
- 413 doi:10.1101/gr.126516.111.
- 414 17. Lee Y, Eun CS, Lee AR, Park CH, Han DS. 2016. FusobacteriumIsolates recovered from
- colonic biopsies of inflammatory bowel disease patients in korea. Annals of Laboratory Medicine
- 416 **36**:387. doi:10.3343/alm.2016.36.4.387.
- 18. Hong P-Y, Croix JA, Greenberg E, Gaskins HR, Mackie RI. 2011. Pyrosequencing-
- based analysis of the mucosal microbiota in healthy individuals reveals ubiquitous bacterial groups
- and micro-heterogeneity. PLoS ONE 6:e25042. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0025042.
- 19. Stearns JC, Lynch MDJ, Senadheera DB, Tenenbaum HC, Goldberg MB,
- ⁴²¹ Cvitkovitch DG, Croitoru K, Moreno-Hagelsieb G, Neufeld JD. 2011. Bacterial
- biogeography of the human digestive tract. Scientific Reports 1. doi:10.1038/srep00170.
- 423 20. Sears CL, Garrett WS. 2014. Microbes, microbiota, and colon cancer. Cell Host & Microbe
- 424 **15**:317–328. doi:10.1016/j.chom.2014.02.007.
- ⁴²⁵ 21. Mima K, Cao Y, Chan AT, Qian ZR, Nowak JA, Masugi Y, Shi Y, Song M, Silva A
- da, Gu M, Li W, Hamada T, Kosumi K, Hanyuda A, Liu L, Kostic AD, Giannakis M,
- Bullman S, Brennan CA, Milner DA, Baba H, Garraway LA, Meyerhardt JA, Garrett
- WS, Huttenhower C, Meyerson M, Giovannucci EL, Fuchs CS, Nishihara R, Ogino S.
- ⁴²⁹ 2016. Fusobacterium nucleatum in colorectal carcinoma tissue according to tumor location. Clinical
- and Translational Gastroenterology 7:e200. doi:10.1038/ctg.2016.53.
- 431 22. Whitmore SE, Lamont RJ. 2014. Oral bacteria and cancer. PLoS Pathogens 10:e1003933.
- doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003933.
- 433 23. Flynn KJ, Baxter NT, Schloss PD. 2016. Metabolic and community synergy of oral bacteria
- in colorectal cancer. mSphere 1:e00102–16. doi:10.1128/msphere.00102-16.
- 24. Dharmani P, Strauss J, Ambrose C, Allen-Vercoe E, Chadee K. 2011. Fusobacterium

- ⁴³⁶ nucleatum infection of colonic cells stimulates MUC2 mucin and tumor necrosis factor alpha.
- Infection and Immunity **79**:2597–2607. doi:10.1128/iai.05118-11.
- 438 25. Ohkusa T. 2003. Induction of experimental ulcerative colitis by fusobacterium varium isolated
- from colonic mucosa of patients with ulcerative colitis. Gut 52:79-83. doi:10.1136/gut.52.1.79.
- 26. Ohkusa T, Sato N, Ogihara T, Morita K, Ogawa M, Okayasu I. 2002. Fusobac-
- terium varium localized in the colonic mucosa of patients with ulcerative colitis stimulates species-
- specific antibody. Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology 17:849–853. doi:10.1046/j.1440-
- 443 1746.2002.02834.x.
- 444 27. Shobar RM, Velineni S, Keshavarzian A, Swanson G, DeMeo MT, Melson JE,
- Losurdo J, Engen PA, Sun Y, Koenig L, Mutlu EA. 2016. The effects of bowel preparation
- 446 on microbiota-related metrics differ in health and in inflammatory bowel disease and for the
- mucosal and luminal microbiota compartments. Clinical and Translational Gastroenterology 7:e143.
- ⁴⁴⁸ doi:10.1038/ctg.2015.54.
- 28. Kozich JJ, Westcott SL, Baxter NT, Highlander SK, Schloss PD. 2013. Development
- 450 of a dual-index sequencing strategy and curation pipeline for analyzing amplicon sequence data on
- the MiSeq illumina sequencing platform. Applied and Environmental Microbiology 79:5112–5120.
- 452 doi:10.1128/aem.01043-13.
- 453 29. Schloss PD, Westcott SL, Ryabin T, Hall JR, Hartmann M, Hollister EB, Lesniewski
- RA, Oakley BB, Parks DH, Robinson CJ, Sahl JW, Stres B, Thallinger GG, Horn
- 455 DJV, Weber CF. 2009. Introducing mothur: Open-source, platform-independent, community-
- supported software for describing and comparing microbial communities. Applied and Environmental
- ⁴⁵⁷ Microbiology **75**:7537–7541. doi:10.1128/aem.01541-09.
- 458 30. Wang Q, Garrity GM, Tiedje JM, Cole JR. 2007. Naive bayesian classifier for rapid
- assignment of rRNA sequences into the new bacterial taxonomy. Applied and Environmental
- 460 Microbiology **73**:5261–5267. doi:10.1128/aem.00062-07.
- 461 31. Liaw A, Wiener M. 2002. Classification and regression by randomForest. R News: The
- Newsletter of the R Project 2:18–22.