Global compositional and functional state of the human gut microbiome in health and disease

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# Abstract

The role of gut microbiota in humans is of great interest, and metagenomics provides key opportunities for extensively analysing bacterial diversity in health and disease. Despite increasing efforts to expand microbial gene catalogues and an increasing number of metagenomes assembled genomes, there has been few investigations in pan-metagenomics and in-depth functional analysis across different geographies and diseases. Here, we explored 5,708 human gut metagenome samples across 19 countries and 23 diseases, performing compositional, functional cluster, and integrative analysis. We identified *Fusobacterium nucleatum* and *Anaerostipes hadrus* with the highest frequencies, enriched and depleted respectively, across different disease cohorts. Distinct functional distributions were observed in the gut microbiome of westernized and non-westernized populations. Additionally, a random forest machine learning model identified key species as disease biomarkers. This compositional and functional analysis are presented in an open-access Human Gut Microbiome Atlas (www.microbiomeatlas.org), allowing for exploration of the richness, diseases, and regional signatures of the gut microbiota across different cohorts.

# Introduction

Metagenomic studies of the human microbiome enable the characterization of microbial and functional diversity in health and disease[1]. A deeper understanding of the functional potential and taxonomic composition of the microbiome will have major implications in identifying health and disease signatures across different body sites and geographic regions [2]–[4]. Large-scale integration of microbiome functional changes and their associations with clinical data may provide novel information on temporal changes in the microbiome and host physiology and even new microbiome-based treatments and therapies [2], [3]. Recently, several studies have focused on the discovery of new uncultured microbes through the generation of metagenome species[6]–[10], while others have concentrated on the investigation of alterations in the microbiome compositions due to disease, geographical location, and interventions in the gut microbiome [2], [11], [12].

Key to advancing our understanding of the critical role played by the microbiome in health and disease is access to data from a wide range of studies and cohorts. Public resources collecting and processing microbiome data are essential, contributing to the laborious and necessary task of standardizing and making accessible this accumulated information. Some of them have particularly focused on the human gut microbiome (gutMDisorder [13], GIMICA [14], DISBIOME [15] and GMRepo [16]). However, there is a lack of integrative functional and compositional analysis across the cohorts and regions to provide a mechanistic understanding of the microbiome and biomarker identification. Here, we integrated publicly available data from a wide range of studies across different countries from both healthy and diseased individuals. We calculated the enrichment of microbial species in both disease and geographical regions, and performed SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) interpretations on Random Forest classification models to identify biomarkers of disease associated with metagenomic species. Additionally, we present an open-access Human Gut Microbiome Atlas (www.microbiomeatlas.org), that allows researchers to explore an integrative analysis of compositional, functional, richness, disease, and regional signatures for the gut microbiota across 19 geographical regions and 23 diseases.

**RESULTS**

# The Human Gut Microbiome Atlas; A pan-metagenomics study of compositional and functional changes of the human gut microbiome

To provide a central public resource for exploring the microbiome in different settings, we performed a large-scale integrative analysis of 5,708 publicly available shotgun metagenomics stool samples. The selected samples had at least 10 million high-quality sequencing reads from healthy and diseased cohorts from 19 different countries across five continents (Fig. 1a-b and Supplementary Table S1). We normalized all metagenomic sample abundances to enable comparative analysis across the different cohorts (Methods). Using these samples, we then created the Human Gut Microbiome Atlas (HGMA) using quantitative analysis of shotgun metagenomics based on microbial genomes assembled using Metagenomic Species Pan-genomes (MSPs) (Fig. 1c). We generated gene counts and MSP abundances for all the samples using the IGC2 10.4 million gene catalogue[17]. We also characterized the functions and phenotype of the identified MSPs in 7 different categories: KEGG orthologs (KOs) [18], protein families (PFAM) [19] carbohydrate-active enzyme (CAZymes) [20], antimicrobial resistance (AMR) [21], microbial phenotype [22], virulence factor [23], and biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs) [24]. We finally identified 7,763 co-conserved functional clusters across species (Methods).All these data are freely available in the HGMA without restrictions in the public open access database ([www.microbiomeatlas.org](http://www.microbiomeatlas.org)), as part of the Human Protein Atlas program (www.proteinatlas.org). All MSPs and functions are highlighted together with the 5,708 samples across 19 countries with disease and healthy cohorts.

Using all samples obtained from individuals across 19 countries, we uncovered the geographical distribution of the gut microbiome. Both *Clostridium* and *Bacteriodes* were found to have higher mean relative abundance within western countries, whereas *Prevotella* specieshad a higher mean relative abundance within non-western countries (Fig. 1d). We applied the unsupervised clustering method, *monocle*, to MSP abundance profiles of all samples (Methods)[25], [26] and observed that there were two distinct ordinations of non-westernized and European samples of subjects connected by a mixture of western/non-western samples belonging to China/Japan/US (Fig. 1e). Based on comparative analysis across different regions, we identified 624 MSPs specifically enriched in certain countries (See Methods and Supplementary Table S2). Functional annotation-based analysis across geographical clusters revealed enrichment of CAZymes for degrading host mucins, food carbohydrates from animal origins, and storage carbohydrates in westernized populations, where antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and virulence factors were also more prevalent (Fig. 1f). Comparing the functions of region enriched MSPs in westernized countries revealed that genes encoding for vancomycin resistance and lipopolysaccharide (LPS) biogenesis are overrepresented. An overrepresentation of genes encoding for complex polysaccharide binding proteins mostly belonging to the *Prevotella* genus was found in the non-westernized cohorts. Moreover, we identified that the cluster for vancomycin resistance is enriched in the westernized population while the tetracycline resistance cluster is enriched in the non-westernized population.

# Pan-metagenomics association study across 23 diseases

We performed a Pan-metagenomics association (Pan-MGAS) of multiple disease cohorts (23 diseases across 43 cohorts from 14 countries) to distinguish diseased *versus* healthy microbiomes within the multiple cohorts. We determined the enriched and depleted species within the different disease cohorts compared to healthy samples from the same country, showing an effect size greater than 0.3 (Fig. 2a, Supplementary Table S3 and Method). Some cohorts showed a depletion of multiple species, notably in cancer [Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC, from France), renal cell carcinoma (RCC from France), adenoma (from Italy)] (Fig. 2a). Conversely, some diseases had several enriched species, as seen for most Colorectal Cancer (CRC) cohorts.

Some species were either enriched or depleted across multiple cohorts, regardless of geographical differences. For example, *Anaerostipes hadrus,* *Coprococcus comes,* and *Blautia obeum,* which have been associated with healthy individuals, areamong the most frequently depleted species, found in at least six different disease cohorts (Fig. 2b, Supplementary Fig. S1)*.* The firsttwo species have been described as butyrate producers and dominant species isolated from the healthy human colon[27]–[29], and the third has been associated with gut microbiota recovery after cholera infection and with normal maturation of the infant gut microbiota[30].

Between the species found enriched in at least 6 different cohorts we find *Fusobacterium nucleatum, Clostridium bolteae, Clostridium clostridioforme, Clostriduium symbiosum, Peptostreptococcus stomatis, Flavonifractor plautii, Parvimonas micra,* among others (Fig. 2C, Supplementary Fig. S1). Several of them also have been isolated from oral samples (*F. nucleatum*[31], *P. stomatis*[32]*, P. micra*[33]) and some of them have been identified in infections, including bacteremia (*C. bolteae*[34], *C. clostridioforme*[35], *P. micra*[36]). Along with *F. nucleatum* and *C. symbiosum*, which were enriched in western countries and are associated with CRC[37]–[39], we also identify *P. micra* to be enriched in multiple cohorts of CRC and *P. stomatis* enriched several times only in solid tumour cohorts (Supplementary Table S4, Supplementary Fig. S1).

# Disease enriched-functional clusters showed distinct links to gut microbiome dysbiosis

To analyze the functional content in the MSP from the human microbiome, we applied an unsupervised clustering approach to the MSPs’ annotated gene content (Fig. 3a-c, Supplementary Fig. 2 and Methods). This analysis provided a better representation of microbial functions than single annotations or known pathway definitions (*e.g*., KEGG) (Fig. 3b). We identified 7,763 functional clusters and 6,297 singletons based on the community detection algorithm (Supplementary Table 5). For example, antimicrobial resistance and secondary biosynthetic genes were found to be singletons and not co-conserved with other functional genes. After excluding singletons and unreliable functional clusters detected in less than three species, we retained 591 representative clusters of microbial functions. One of the two largest clusters (CL-12 in Supplementary Table 5, named “*comm-cluster*” hereafter) was over-represented among many commensal species, while the other (CL-10, named “*patho-cluster*”) was enriched in a few pathobionts, such as *Klebsiella* spp., *Enterobacter* spp., and *E. coli*. Interestingly, the *comm-cluster* was enriched with genes involved in the biosynthesis of amino acids. In contrast, the *patho-cluster* was enriched in functions associated with the uptake of several substrates. These included siderophores, amino acid, and vitamin transport, thus improving competitive fitness against the commensal bacteria. We also found other functionally enriched clusters such as butyrate metabolism cluster, propionate metabolism cluster, and the CRISPR-cas system cluster (Fig. 3c); a number of these were correlated with phylum-level taxonomy (Supplementary Fig. 2c).

We next projected the functional clusters on enriched/depleted MSPs in HGMA disease cohorts (Fig. 3d: hypergeometric tests, p-value < 10-4). We found several functional clusters commonly associated with the enriched species in disease. Among these, we found CL-1006, related to antibiotic resistance; CL-1032, a competence-related DNA transformation transport, which could provide an advantage by improving the integration of new functions into the genome; or clusters related to metabolic pathways that could contribute indirectly to pathogenicities like the Pentose Phosphate Pathway [40] or Ethanolamine utilization [41]. Among the most frequent functional clusters that accompany the depleted species in disease, we found the CL-12 comm-cluster, and other clusters with functions related to pectate degradation and biofilm formation (Fig. 3d), all of them related to the normal function of the healthy microbiota.

# Global view of gut microbiome species pangenomes

To get a holistic view of the human gut MSPs we generated a phylogenetic tree displaying the taxonomic resolution of disease and region enriched species (Fig. 4, Methods) and estimated proportionality (see methods) between MSPs pairs. Most MSPs are present in both western and non-western regions. While some of them are enriched in one of the two regions, we could not identify any apparent phylogenetic pattern. When looking at the enrichment/depletion across the different cohorts, the *Streptococcus* genus shows particularly interesting features: members within this genus were found enriched in some cohorts while being depleted in others. For example, three different species within the genus (*S. anginosus,* *S. parasanguinis* and *S. vestibularis*) were enriched in two distinct liver disease cohorts, while in contrast, species including *S. salivarius* and *S. sanguinis* were depleted in cancer cohorts (Figure 2C, Supplementary Figure S3, Supplementary Table S4).

In addition, we observed proportionality between MSPs (Supplementary FigureS3). A high proportionality value between a pair of MSPs suggests they tend to increase or decrease together. Most MSPs showing the highest proportionality values belong to the same genus. Only a small subset of MSPs was found with proportionality values above the selected threshold. Many of the MSP pairs we found are inhabitants of the oral cavity, and the *Streptococcus* genus stands out again.

Bacterial infections of the *Streptococcus* genus play a central role from a clinical point of view. However, the complete role of this genus is still not fully understood and should be the subject of further research [42], [43].

# A Random Forest classification model can identify biomarkers of disease from metagenomic species

To identify disease biomarkers, we implemented feature selection-based random forest classifier models trained using the MSPs constructed from each cohort on the HGMA grouped by disease (Fig. 5). These models were able to classify between a pool of randomly selected healthy samples and disease groups with variable discriminatory performances. Prediction performance was evaluated by the Area Under the Curve (AUC) metric. The models with the highest predictive capabilities were for the prediction of Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT), Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada (VKH), Non-small-cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC), melanoma, advanced adenoma, and Crohn’s Disease (CD) (AUCROC = 1.0, 1.0, 0.96, 0.95 0.92, 0.91 respectively).

The generalization of these models was assessed with an interstudy cross-validation which demonstrated that a model trained on the CRC training cohort PRJEB10878 [44] was able to maintain predictive power of disease classification when applied to the CRC test cohort PRJEB6070 [45] (Figure 5A) (AUCROC = 0.68). Additional validation of the importance of randomly selected healthy samples was carried out by combining 30 random groups of 40 healthy samples with 40 random CRC samples and repeating the cross-validation. It was shown that the AUCROC of predicting the test cohort was 0.69 ± 0.04 showing conservation of predictive capabilities.

The interpretable machine learning framework, SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations), was used to identify disease-specific gut microbiome features [47]*.* SHAP is a state-of-the-art framework for understanding ‘black-box’ classifiers. The disease classification models reproduced the importance of metagenomic species as biomarkers for several diseases in the HGMA. As with the effect size calculation for biomarker identification, the number of shared species deemed necessary for disease prediction between diseases was low. Of note, an increase in abundance of the commensal oral bacteria *Haemophilus parainfluenzae,* *V. dispar*, *V. atypica*, and *V. parvula* were shown to have high importance in predicting liver cirrhosis but not NAFLD, as found previously [48], and were found to be enriched in multiple cohorts regardless of region (Fig. 5). In the NAFLD model, an increase in the abundance of *S. parasanguinis* was the most important factor for predicting the disease. This species was found enriched across multiple cohorts of the HGMA and is part of a cluster of oral commensal species shown previously to be biomarkers of the disease [49]. In the prediction of VKH, enrichment *Eubacteria eligens* and *Paraprevotella clara* also demonstrated high feature importance for predicting the disease; their enrichment in disease was also found previously [50].

Interestingly, in the highest Z-score adjusted SHAP scoring species for the CRC predictive model, several that were reported as important for CRC diagnosis were absent, including *F. nucleatum*. However, the presence of *Ruminococcus torques* was the most significant contributing factor to the prediction of CRC; an association that has been shown previously [51]. Models for predicting CRC and adenoma had similar species profiles. Discrimination of this difference has been investigated in more detail previously [52]. Additionally, there were several shared disease predictive species, such as *Acidaminococcus intestini* and *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii,* with their presence and absence characterizing a general dysbiotic state, respectively.

# Discussion

One of the urgent requirements in applying our developing knowledge of the microbiome to predicting and treating disease are tools for assessing and analysing data from a wide range of different studies. We performed a comprehensive integrative analysis of global and temporal gut microbiomes and provided an open access HMGA portal (http://microbiomeatlas.org). This tool allows for integrating several studies simultaneously that link species to disease, region, and function. It also presents a means of contextualizing gene and species enrichments phylogenetically. We demonstrated that the difference in origin (western/non-western) is reflected by the gut microbial composition with species/genes being over/under-represented in each origin. Finally, we also found that some species and functions are enriched or depleted across multiple diseases and studies. A number of those species were important in predicting those diseases using a random forest classification model.

Confirming previous observations [6], we have described the gut microbiome regional specificity, which needs to be considered before using the gut microbiome for patient stratification or designing intervention studies. Beyond previous observations, we find there are distinctions in functions enriched in westernized and non-westernized countries including resistance to vancomycin and tetracycline respectively.

The physiological changes caused by disease might partly explain why some diseases have a pronounced compositional imbalance while others do not. Diseases affecting the bowel and CRC show a high effect size of many species, while some diseases affecting other body parts tend to produce smaller imbalances. Some other factors might also be involved in the magnitude of the imbalance, for example, the changes in diet[53], [54] or the use of drugs for treating the disease [55]–[57]).

The loss of species actively contributing to maintaining a healthy gut environment could increase the host’s vulnerability to further health complications. For example, we observed some of the more frequently depleted species have been described as butyrate producers. Butyrate has been associated with beneficial effects in the colon, such as inhibition of inflammation, reinforcing the epithelial barrier and decreasing oxidative stress [58]. Conversely, some enriched species might induce disease pathology by leading to new infections, potentiating the disease symptoms and even weakening the immune response. Some reports suggest *F. nucleatum* promotes CRC development and metastasis[59], [60]. However, although here we have found a similar link between this species and CRC using ES calculation, we do not see the same link using a random forest predictive model. A previous report found *Flavonifractor plautii*, a species we found enriched in 6 cohorts, suppresses Th2 immune responses in mice[61] which leads us to speculate that this species could exert a similar effect in humans. The Pan-MGAS we present shows a clear bias toward CRC studies due to the greater number of these studies. We expect new studies released in the future to include more countries and diseases that will help to update our analyses and balance out this bias. It is interesting to note that many of the species identified in our analyses as either enriched or depleted in disease states are more commonly associated with the oral cavity. This is particularly true of the representatives of the *Streptococcus* genus. Many of the streptococcal species identified here are members of the viridans group *streptococci* – a diverse group that has members associated with disease and polymicrobial infection (*e.g*. *S. anginosus*, associated with liver and soft tissue abscesses [62], as well as members that have been proposed for use as probiotics (*e.g*. *S. salivarus* ([62], [63];)

The projection of functions associated with enriched/depleted species in disease supports the observations made with species alone. The functions found commonly enriched in disease suggest they provide their carriers increased fitness, meaning that they have a better chance of thriving in altered conditions, playing indirect roles in disease pathology for example, by utilizing additional carbon sources (CL543-pentose phosphate pathway[64], ethanolamine [65]) or increasing their ability to survive environmental stresses (CL-592 osmoprotectant cluster [62]). However, the enrichment of these functions does not imply they are exclusive to pathogenic organisms. For example, although anaerobic sulphite reducing activity is often used as a marker for food contamination [67] the activity is also present in several non-pathogenic bacteria. Conversely, functions depleted across different diseases could be playing an active role in health maintenance. This can be seen in recent research that has revealed that pectic substances can inhibit gut inflammation and relieve inflammatory bowel disease symptoms [68].

Finally, the integration of metagenomics data from many studies spanning five continents provides a valuable knowledge resource for researchers investigating the impact of the microbiome on individual health parameters. This open-access atlas will be updated routinely with the new publicly available gut metagenomics data, including the recently announced One Million Microbiome Project to provide comprehensive open-access metagenomics data from multiple research centres. In this manner, in-depth analysis of the impact of the gut microbiome on health and disease will be used to facilitate future studies to reveal the critical role of the gut microbiome in human maintaining health.

# Data availability

The datasets used in this study are available in http://www.microbiomeatlas.org, with relevant project accession codes of raw data provided in Supplementary Table S1.

# Code availability

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# Author contributions

S.S., S.D.E., and M.U. conceived the project. S.L., T.P, F.G.G. and S.S. led the design and analysis of the data. S.L., T.P, and F.G.G developed the temporal pipeline, analysis, and made the figures. L.E. and M.U. provided the wellness gut metagenomics samples. M.A., F.P., E.L., and S.D.E. generated the MSPs, performed quality checks and taxonomy updates. N.P. annotated the updated gut gene catalogue. N.B., C.P., S.V., D. R. and A.H. analysed part of the data and prepared the materials for the HGMA. K.F. and F.J. developed the HGMA website. V.L. and B.H. annotated the gut catalogue with new CAZymes. J.P. and D.L. annotated the secondary metabolites of the gene catalogue. M.A. and G.B. contributed to testing the pipeline, statistical and functional analysis. S.S., S.L. and T.P. wrote and drafted the manuscript. L.A.E, D.L.S, A.M., G.P. J.N. D.L.M. provided critical feedback on the data and manuscript. All authors read, edited, and reviewed the manuscript.

# Competing interests

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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# Methods

## Metagenomics species pan-genome (MSP) creation

The 1,601 metagenomic samples used to build the Integrated Gene Catalog of the human gut microbiome (IGC2) were downloaded from the European Nucleotide Archive [69]. Using the Meteor software suite[70] (available at https://forgemia.inra.fr/metagenopolis/meteor), reads from each sample were mapped against the IGC2 catalog and a raw gene abundance table was generated. This table was submitted to MSPminer[9] that reconstituted 1,989 clusters of co-abundant genes named Metagenomic-Species Pangenomes (MSPs). Quality control of each MSP was manually performed by visualizing heatmaps representative of the normalized gene abundance profiles. In addition, MSPs completeness and contamination were assessed by searching for 40 universal single copy marker genes[71] and by checking taxonomic homogeneity.

## MSP taxonomic annotation with phylogenetic tree.

MSPs taxonomic annotation was performed by aligning all core and accessory genes against *nt* and NCBI WGS (version of September 2018 restricted to the taxa Bacteria, Archaea, Fungi, Viruses and Blastocystis) using *blastn* (version 2.7.1, task = megablast, word\_size = 16)[72]. The 20 best hits for each gene were kept. A species-level assignment was given if more than 50% of the genes matched the RefSeq reference genome of a given species, with a mean identity ≥ 95% and mean gene length coverage ≥ 90%. The remaining MSPs were assigned to a higher taxonomic level (genus to superkingdom) if more than 50% of their genes had the same annotation.

40 universal phylogenetic markers genes were extracted from the MSPs with MOCAT[73]. MSPs with less than 5 markers were discarded. Next, the markers were separately aligned with MUSCLE[74]. The 40 alignments were merged and trimmed with trimAl[75]. Finally, the phylogenetic tree was computed with FastTreeMP[76] and visualized with iTOL[77]. Phylogenetic placement was further used to improve and correct taxonomic annotation. Pylogenetic data, species labels, and phylum colouring can be accessed from https://data.inrae.fr/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.15454/FLANUP, with annotation for enriched species found at https://github.com/sysbiomelab/ATLAS.

## Functional annotation of the gut gene catalog and MSP

IGC2 catalog was annotated for the Antibiotic Resistant Determinants (ARD) described in Mustard database (v1.0) (http://www.mgps.eu/Mustard/)[78]. Protein sequences were aligned against 9,462 ARD sequences using *blastp* 2.7.1+ (option -evalue = 10-5). Best-hit alignments were filtered for identity ≥ 95% and bidirectional alignment coverage ≥ 90% (at query and subject level), giving a list of ARD candidates belonging to 30 families. Annotation of the carbohydrate-active enzymes (CAZymes) of the IGC2 catalog was performed by comparing the predicted protein sequences to those in the CAZy database and to Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) built from each CAZyme family[79], following a procedure previously described for other metagenomics analysis[80]. Proteins of IGC2 catalog were also annotated to KEGG orthologous using Diamond (version 0.9.22.123)[81] against KEGG database (version 82). Best-hit alignments with e-value ≤ 10-5 and bit score ≥ 60 were considered. Proteins involved in virulence factors of PATRIC[82], [83] were matched against IGC2[17] by BLASTP (best identity > 50%, e-value < 10-10). Phenotypes of MSPs were manually checked and annotated based on JGI-GOLD phenotype (organism metadata)[84]. We identified biosynthetic genes of MSPs with the use of the standalone anti-SMASH program with minimal run option, focused on core detection modules (version 5)[24]. Loading antiSMASH into Amazon cloud computing (AWS) as a docker image, we executed its mining process per MSP in a massive parallel setting.

## Quality control/normalization of gene counts and species abundance profiling

We filtered out human reads and then mapped metagenomic data (Supplementary Table S1) on IGC2 catalogue of human gut metagenome by METEOR[85] and based on the aligned reads, we estimated the abundance of each reference gene of the catalogue, normalizing multiple mapped reads by their numbers and summing up normalized counts for a given gene. Reducing the variability by sequencing depths, gene count values were downsized into 10 million reads per sample; and any samples less than 10 million mapped reads were excluded from our dataset. Normalized gene counts were used for the quantification of MSP abundance by R *momr* (*MetaOMineR*) package[86]. MSP abundances were estimated by the mean abundance of its 100 ‘marker’ genes (that is, the genes that correlate the most altogether). If less than 10% of ‘marker’ genes were seen in a sample, the abundance of the MSPs was set to 0. Sample metadata of all metagenomics data such as sequencing platform, geography, age, body-mass index, gender, and the data source were provided under HGMA (http://microbiomeatlas.org).

## Tracing the diversifications of healthy metagenomic samples of different geography

After the quantification and per-million scaling of MSP abundance profiles, we employed trajectory analysis in R *monocle* ver.2 package to identify how samples were clustered [26]. In short, we selected the species profiles of all normal samples from different geographical origins and reduced the sample profiles into two dimensions by advanced nonlinear reconstruction algorithm, *DDRTree*. Based on the reduced two-dimensional components, we presented how samples were closely clustered as branches in scatter plots. Based on reduced profiles, we also calculated centroids and standard deviations of samples of given countries, except Finland population in toddlers (2 years).

## Identification of region-enriched species and genes from geographically distinct cohorts

Regional enrichment of species was calculated from calculating the Z-score for of each MSP. The Z-score is calculated as the difference between the mean relative abundance for each country against the whole population. Displayed are the top 20 greatest mean species Z-scores of western and non-western groups.

By selecting the top 100 overrepresented MSPs in western and non-western groups, two separate cumulative sums of their genes were filtered to have more than 90 genes. The genes in each of these lists were mapped against the CAZy, PATRIC, and CARD databases. 18 of the max differences between the western and non-western gene count lists were calculated and plotted.

## Pan-metagenomics association studies (Pan-MGAS)

First, we selected healthy and disease samples without interventions and redundant measurement (i.e., multiple visits) and performed comparative analyses of chosen samples (number of selected samples were shown in Supplementary Table S1). We estimated the effect sizes of Wilcoxon signed rank (one-sided) tests for MSP enrichment and depletion in diseases compared to healthy controls of given country[87] and identified significantly enriched or depleted species having medium effect sizes (effect size ≥ 0.3). Manhattan plots of pan-MGAS based on effect sizes were plotted with R *qqman* package[88].

## Unsupervised clustering of co-conserved functions of gut microbiota

We calculated Jaccard index among functional annotations to calculate number of species that share a pair of functions. We selected highly shared pairs of functions (Jaccard index >= 0.75) and merged into functional co-occurrence network using R *igraph* package[89]. Functional clusters within the network were identified by unsupervised community detection, short random work algorithm (*cluster\_walktrap* function)[90], [91] and identified singleton functions within the network. Among non-singleton functional clusters, we selected representative functional clusters if functions of given functional clusters were found more than three species, thereby excluding functional clusters sparsely annotated over MSPs. MSPs were associated to functional if the given MSP covered more than 75% functions of the functional cluster (Supplementary Table S5).

## Proportionality between MSPs

Proportionality was estimated using the *propr* R package [92]. We used as input the relative abundance matrix of all samples against MSP. Only MSPs with values above 0 in more than 50 samples were included. FDR cutoff values were estimated using the *propr* function *updateCutoffs.* We made a network representation of the resulting MSP pairs with proportionality values above 0.65.

## Random forest classification model to predict disease phenotype

We trained a random forest classifier with default hyperparameters to distinguish between diseases that contained a minimum of 40 samples (17 diseases) and a random, stratified sample from 100 healthy samples from all cohorts using the Scikit-learn python package [93]. Firstly, relative abundance data was standardised using the scikit-learn implementation of the StandardScaler function. Training and testing was performed on randomly selected samples split 70% and 30% of the full data respectively with a fixed random seed to ensure reproducibility of the model. Model performances were measured using AUCROC scoring with confusion matrices generated by applying the model to the 30% test set. The python implementation of the explainable AI algorithm, Shapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP), was used to show species contribution to disease classification [94].

# Figure legends

**Fig. 1. Characterization of the global gut microbiome in health and disease.** Pan-metagenomics studies of health and disease. Corresponding datasets were publicly shared as a resource: human gut microbiome atlas (HGMA). **A,** geographical distribution of the datasets used in this study (the number of the samples is shown in parentheses). **B,** types of disease datasets of shotgun metagenomics used in this study. **C,** the workflow of the metagenomic species pan-genome (MSP) quantification together with functional characterization. In total, 5,708 shotgun metagenome samples, were aligned against the gene catalogue of the human gut microbiome and quantified at the level of MSP. **D,** heatmap showing the top 15 overrepresented MSPs between western and non-western cohorts coloured by mean species Z-score for each country against all countries. **E,** *monocle* ordination of the gut microbiome. Individual samples from non-westernized countries, European countries, and US/China/Japan were coloured green, orange, and blue, respectively. **F,** stacked bar plots of contrasting functions among region-enriched species classified as non-westernized or westernized. Based on gene functional annotations of CAZyme, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and virulence factors (PATRIC database), we calculated regional functional overrepresentation by cumulatively summing and filtering by top 18 maximal differences of gene count (Methods).

**Fig. 2. Pan-metagenomics association studies (Pan-MGAS) of 43 cohorts from 23 different diseases and 14 countries (n=2,185).** **A,** We identified significantly enriched/depleted species of cohorts based on effect sizes (ESs) of Wilcoxon one-sided tests (ES ≥ 0.3); the list is displayed in Supplementary Table 3. Acronyms are: ACVD, Acute Coronary Cardiovascular Disease; Ob, obesity; CRC, Colorectal Cancer; NSCLC, Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer; RCC Renal Cell Carcinoma; GDM, Gestational Diabetes Mellitus; T1D Type 1 Diabetes; T2D, Type 2 Diabetes; LC Liver Cirrhosis; NAFLD Non-Alcoholic Fatty Acid Liver; UC, Ulcerative Colitis; CD, Crohn's disease; BD Behçet's disease; RA, Rheumatoid Arthritis; SPA, Ankylosing Spondylitis; ME/CFS Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome; PD, Parkinson Disease. **B,** Jitter plots of frequency of the significantly enriched/depleted cohorts of all MSPs (effect size >0.3) were calculated: total frequency of enriched/depleted cohorts (number of enriched cohorts + number of depleted cohorts Y axis) and subtracted frequency between enriched cohorts and depleted cohorts (number of enriched cohorts - number of depleted cohorts X axis). Point colours changed from red (left) to blue (right) according to x-axis values. Common enriched/depleted species among cohorts were identified when total frequency ≥ 3 and absolute subtracted frequency ≥ 2. **c**, Species found depleted (*Anaerostipes hadrus*) and enriched (*Fusobacterium nucleatum subspecies animalis*) in most studies.

**Fig. 3. Analysis of functional clusters.** For the functional characterization of human gut MSPs, we annotated respective genes with 19,540 features of microbial function/phenotype databases and identified 7,763 functional clusters better representing the microbiome. **A,** Identification of functional clusters based on co-conserved genes across species. Unlike the manually curated module database, we identified functional clusters based on high co-conservation across species using the unsupervised clustering method. **B,** among different sources of microbial functional annotations (e.g., KEGG module and pathway), we found that co-conservation of genes across different species was substantially low (Jaccard index < 0.5). **C**, Functional clusters identified by unsupervised community detection, the y-axis displays the number of genes within the functional cluster and the x-axis displays the number of MSPs possessing more than 70% of the clusters’ genes. **D**, Functional clusters projected on enriched/depleted MSPs across disease cohorts. The Jitter plot display the frequency functional of functional clusters significantly associated with the enriched/depleted species (hypergeometric test p < 0.0001) in disease cohorts. Y-axis shows the total frequency of cohorts where a functional cluster was found significantly associated with enriched/depleted species. X-axis shows the difference in the number of cohorts where a function was found enriched minus the frequency it was found depleted. Point colours changed from red (left) to blue (right) according to x-axis values. Common enriched/depleted species among cohorts were identified when total frequency ≥ 3 and absolute subtracted frequency ≥ 2.

**Fig. 4. Phylogenetic differences between species function, disease enrichment, and region enrichment.** Inner annotation of dendrogram is species phylum, second is enrichment of functional cluster, third is the total number of disease cohorts that the species is enriched/depleted in, and the outer annotation is the normalised, mean Z-score between western and non-western cohorts scaled between 0-1. Itol annotations and dendrogram are publicly available (Methods). Highlighted group are MSPs from the *Streptococcus* genus.

**Fig 5. Random forest models trained on multiple cohorts to discriminate between disease and healthy controls.** Acronyms are: ACVD, Acute Coronary Cardiovascular Disease; CRC, Colorectal Cancer; NSCLC, Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer; RCC Renal Cell Carcinoma; GDM, Gestational Diabetes Mellitus; T1D Type 1 Diabetes; T2D, Type 2 Diabetes; LC liver Cirrhosis; NAFLD Non-Alcoholic Fatty Acid Liver; UC, Ulcerative Colitis; CD, Crohn's disease; BD Behçet's disease; RA, Rheumatoid Arthritis; SPA, Ankylosing Spondylitis; ME/CFS Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome; PD, Parkinson Disease; IGT, Impaired Glucose Tolerance; VKH, Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada **A)** Left**:** Heatmap of the most important species for prediction of 17 diseases by random forest classification as calculated by mean Shapley Additive Explanations (SHAP) score (rows contain at least one species with Z score adjusted SHAP score above 4.5 in any of the diseases). Right: Corresponding effect size for the enrichment and depletion in each disease (coloured red and blue respectively) **B)** AUCROC curves of an inter (top) and intra (bottom) cohort validation for a RF model that predicts CRC.

# Supplementary Figure Legends

**Supplementary Fig. 1.** Species found either depleted or enriched (effect size >0.3) in at least 6 different disease cohorts.

**Supplementary Fig. 2. Analysis of functional clusters. A,** Overview of the identification of functional clusters. **B,** community network detected from the co-occurrence network of functional annotations. All functional clusters were shown as nodes and significant co-occurrences of functional clusters across species were shown as edges in the network. “Comm-cluster” and “patho-cluster” were coloured blue and red, respectively. **C,** number of functional clusters mapped with microbial function/phenotype databases and their singleton cluster fractions (singleton and non-singleton coloured green and red, respectively).

## **Supplementary Tables Legends**

**Supplementary Table S1.** Description of Human Gut Microbiome Atlas (HGMA) datasets used in this study. We showed the overall statistics of HGMA datasets, including total number of samples, number of samples without intervention and multiple visits, number of matched healthy controls, sequencing platform, geography, reference, and raw data link.

**Supplementary Table S2.** List of region enriched MSPs. Based on effect sizes (>0.3 in more than six countries of comparison), we identified total 782 regionally enriched MSPs among healthy samples of 17 countries.

**Supplementary Table S3.** Statistics of pan-metagenomics association study (pan-MGAS) results of 28 geographically distinct disease cohorts. We performed pan-MGAS analysis and identified enriched/depleted species in each cohort with effect sizes by each column.

**Supplementary Table S4.** Statistics of MSP common enriched/depleted in diseases. We examined the total and subtracted frequency of significantly enriched and depleted species in diseases.

**Supplementary Table S5.** Characteristics of 7,763 functional clusters. For a more detailed understanding, per functional cluster we presented the size of cluster, number of enriched species, enriched MSP identifiers, enriched species names, enriched KEGG modules (hypergeometric tests p-value < 0.01), subsystems of enriched KEGG modules, and KEGG orthology terms, PFAM terms, virulence term, CAZyme terms, anti-microbial resistance (Mustard) terms, secondary metabolism (anti-SMASH) terms, phenotype (JGI-GOLD) terms, product names of virulence terms, and all functional terms of a given cluster.