

# Investigating the microbial community of the human gut in colorectal cancer

Nicole Bowers, Brittany Hicks, Christina Kang-Yun, Katelyn Polemi, Kelly Sovacool

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## **Abstract**

## **Introduction**

## **Methods**

### **Study design and data collection**

study design / data collection based on hannigan and zackular papers

(1, 2)

The data are available in the NCBI Sequence Read Archive as [PRJNA389927](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/PRJNA389927). All code used in preparation of this report is available in the following GitHub repository: <https://github.com/kelly-sovacool/bioinf545-group3-project>.

### **16S rRNA gene sequence processing**

#### **Metagenome and virome quality control**

Trimmomatic (v.0.39) (3) was used to remove adapter sequences and low-quality reads in metagenome and virome sample sets. The read quality was assessed using FastQC (v.0.11.9) (4) before and after adapter trimming to confirm removal of adapters and low quality reads. Unpaired reads were dropped using the repair function in BBTools (v.37.62) (5). Then, reads mapping to the human GRCh38 reference genome were removed using the BWA-MEM algorithm (BWA v.0.7.12) (6). The paired unmapped reads were used for taxonomic profiling and gene annotation.

#### **Virome assembly**

#### **Classification modeling**

#### **Metagenome taxonomic profiling and gene annotation**

The human genome-free reads were used to profile the metagenomic taxonomy at the species, genus, family, and phylum levels using MetaPhlAn2 (7). The results were visualized using the R package phyloseq (8).

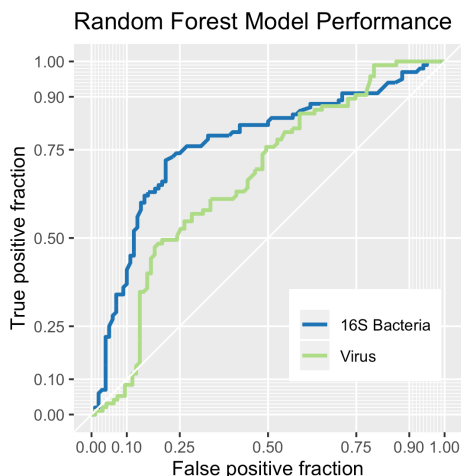
The paired reads that did not map to the human genome were aligned to the Integrated Gene Catalog (IGC) (9) of 1,267 gut microbiome samples consisting of approximately 10 million genes with the BWA MEM algorithm for metagenome annotation (6). Annotated genes were extracted from the alignment results using functions geneList and countKegg modified from the MGS-Fast pipeline (10). The differences in gene abundance between healthy, adenoma, and cancer groups were assessed using the R package edgeR (11). Up to 480 top KEGG numbers of genes that were

significantly different between healthy and other groups were selected and the relevant KEGG pathway was determined using the KEGG mapper tool (12).

## Results

### Bacterial diversity

### Classification modeling



**Figure 1:** Model performance as measured by the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve for models trained on 16S bacterial OTU abundance or virus OVU abundance.

(Fig. 1)

### Taxonomonic abundance

### Metagenome annotation and quantification

The gut metagenome from patients that are healthy or diagnosed with adenoma or cancer was aligned to the IGC database to annotate the genes with KEGG numbers. KEGG number counts were calculated for all samples, then were used to determine whether specific genes were more or less abundant in patients with adenoma or cancer as compared to those who are healthy using edgeR. Seven samples, including the negative control, with extremely low read counts were excluded from subsequent analyses, as they strongly skewed the results. Multidimensional scaling (MDS) analysis of the KEGG number counts between different groups did not show clear clustering within groups (Fig. 2).

In the subsequent differential gene abundance analysis, abundance of 6,104 distinct genes were compared between healthy vs adenoma and healthy vs cancer patients. In both cases, there were approximately 130 genes that were less abundant in adenoma and cancer patients, whereas around 600 to 1,000 genes were more abundant. Differentially abundant genes that were found in both adenoma and cancer patient groups were selected and used to map to metabolic pathways using the KEGG mapper (see Tables 1 and 2).

The less and more abundant genes found in adenoma and cancer patients mapped to approximately 20 and 550 genes in the KEGG pathways, respectively. Less abundant genes in adenoma and cancer patients were slightly enriched in pathways in metabolism, genetic information processing, signal transduction, transport and catabolism, immune system, and bacterial infectious disease (Table 1). Contrastingly, more abundant genes in adenoma and cancer patients were most enriched in pathways in metabolism, environmental information processing, and cellular processes amongst other pathways. Though human genome was filtered out through pre-processing,

**Table 1:** Genes that are less abundant in adenoma or cancer patients as compared to healthy patients.

KEGG Pathway		Number of Genes	KEGG No.
<b>Metabolism</b>			
Global and overview maps	Metabolic pathways	5	K00750
			K00895
			K01184
			K03280
			K11694
	Biosynthesis of secondary metabolites	2	K00750
			K00895
	Microbial metabolism in diverse environments	1	K00895
Carbohydrate metabolism	Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis	1	K00895
	Pentose phosphate pathway	1	K00895
	Pentose and glucuronate interconversions	1	K01184
	Fructose and mannose metabolism	1	K00895
	Starch and sucrose metabolism	1	K00750
Glycan biosynthesis and metabolism	Lipopolysaccharide biosynthesis	1	K03280
	Peptidoglycan biosynthesis	1	K11694
<b>Genetic Information Processing</b>			
Folding, sorting and degradation	Ubiquitin mediated proteolysis	1	K10595
Replication and repair	Homologous recombination	1	K10875
<b>Environmental Information Processing</b>			
Signal transduction	Two-component system	1	K07770
<b>Cellular Processes</b>			
Transport and catabolism	Autophagy - yeast	1	K01336
<b>Organismal Systems</b>			
Immune system	Toll and Imd signaling pathway	1	K01446
<b>Human Diseases</b>			
Infectious disease: bacterial	Vibrio cholerae infection	1	K10954

pathways pertaining to human diseases and organismal systems were also enriched in the case of genes more abundant in adenoma and cancer patients.

## Discussion

## Acknowledgements

Author order was determined by alphabetizing by last name. Christina Kang-Yun constructed the workflow for preprocessing metagenome data, taxonomic profiling, and gene annotation and prepared the methods and results for these analyses.

insert contribution statement here

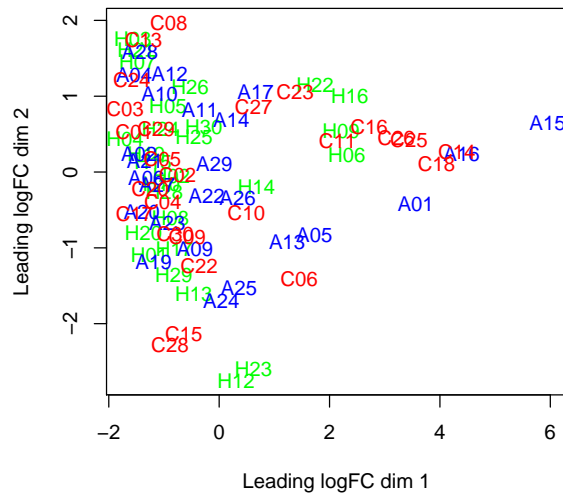
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**Table 2:** Genes that are more abundant in adenoma or cancer patients as compared to healthy patients.

KEGG Pathway		Number of Genes
<b>Metabolism</b>		
Global and overview maps	Metabolic pathways, etc.	193
Carbohydrate metabolism	Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis, etc.	40
Energy metabolism	Oxidative phosphorylation, etc.	15
Lipid metabolism	Fatty acid biosynthesis, etc.	17
Nucleotide metabolism	Purine metabolism, etc.	4
Amino acid metabolism	Alanine, aspartate and glutamate metabolism, etc.	50
Metabolism of other amino acids	beta-Alanine metabolism, etc.	14
Glycan biosynthesis and metabolism	Lipopolysaccharide biosynthesis, etc.	8
Metabolism of cofactors and vitamins	Riboflavin metabolism, etc.	17
Metabolism of terpenoids and polyketides	Limonene and pinene degradation, etc.	7
Biosynthesis of other secondary metabolites	Isoquinoline alkaloid biosynthesis, etc.	6
Xenobiotics biodegradation and metabolism	Benzoate degradation, etc.	20
<b>Genetic Information Processing</b>		
Transcription	RNA polymerase	1
Folding, sorting and degradation	Protein export, etc.	2
Replication and repair	DNA replication, etc.	8
<b>Environmental Information Processing</b>		
Membrane transport	ABC transporters, etc.	47
Signal transduction	Two-component system, etc.	35
<b>Cellular Processes</b>		
Cell growth and death	Cell cycle - yeast	1
Cellular community - prokaryotes	Quorum sensing, etc.	27
Cell motility	Bacterial chemotaxis, etc.	12
<b>Organismal Systems</b>		
Immune system	Complement and coagulation cascades	1
Aging	Longevity regulating pathway - worm	1
<b>Human Diseases</b>		
Cancer: overview	Pathways in cancer, etc.	3
Cancer: specific types	Hepatocellular carcinoma, etc.	2
Cardiovascular disease	Fluid shear stress and atherosclerosis	1
Infectious disease: bacterial	Epithelial cell signaling in Helicobacter pylori infection, etc.	10
Drug resistance: antimicrobial	beta-Lactam resistance, etc.	3
Drug resistance: antineoplastic	Platinum drug resistance	1

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**Figure 2:** Multidimensional scaling (MDS) abundance plot based on KEGG annotation counts derived from gut microbiome of patients that are healthy (H) or diagnosed with adenoma (A) or cancer (C).

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