

A multi-omic cohort as a reference point for promoting a healthy human gut microbiome

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1 **Abstract:**

2 **More than a decade of gut microbiome studies have a common goal for human**
3 **health. As most of the disease studies sample the elderly or the middle-aged, a**
4 **reference cohort for young individuals has been lacking. It is also not clear what**
5 **other omics data need to be measured to better understand the gut microbiome.**
6 **Here we present high-depth metagenomic shotgun sequencing data for the fecal**
7 **microbiome together with other omics data in a cohort of 2,183 adults, and observe**
8 **a number of vitamins, hormones, amino acids and trace elements to correlate with**
9 **the gut microbiome and cluster with T cell receptors. Associations with physical**
10 **fitness, sleeping habits and dairy consumption are identified in this large multi-omic**
11 **cohort. Many of the associations are validated in an additional cohort of 1,404**
12 **individuals. Our comprehensive data are poised to advise future study designs to**
13 **better understand and manage our gut microbiome both in population and in**
14 **mechanistic investigations.**

15

16 The gut microbiome has been implicated in a growing list of complex diseases, showing
17 great potential for the diagnosis and treatment of metabolic, autoimmune and
18 neurological diseases as well as cancer. While case-control studies have been

19 illuminating¹, recently published studies have emphasized difficulty in extrapolating to
20 natural cohorts due to heterogeneity in location and ethnicity^{2,3}. So far only a few cohorts
21 made use of metagenomic shotgun sequencing instead of 16S rRNA gene amplicon
22 sequencing, the largest being the LifeLines Deep cohort (n=1,135, 32 million reads per
23 sample) from the Netherlands⁴⁻⁷. Fecal or plasma metabolites are more or less included
24 in gut microbiome studies, but the conclusions usually did not go beyond short-chain
25 fatty acids (SCFA), amino acids, vitamin B complex or bile acids. Levels of trace
26 elements such as arsenic have been a health concern ([https://www.usgs.gov/mission-](https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/arsenic-and-drinking-water?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects)
27 [areas/water-resources/science/arsenic-and-drinking-water?qt-](https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/arsenic-and-drinking-water?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects)
28 [science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects,](https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/arsenic-and-drinking-water?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects)
29 <https://www.fda.gov/food/metals/arsenic-food-and-dietary-supplements>), but are
30 unexplored in the microbiome field. Biological sex is a strong determinant for the gut
31 microbiome in mice and livestock⁸⁻¹⁰. The impact of hormones on the human gut
32 microbiome, or vice versa, remains unclear.

33 As part of the 4D-SZ (trans-omic, with more time points in future studies) cohort, here
34 we present metagenomic shotgun sequencing data sufficient for high-resolution
35 taxonomic and functional profiling (86.1 ± 23.3 million reads per sample) of the fecal
36 microbiome in a cohort of 2,183 adults, along with questionnaire data, physical fitness
37 tests, facial skin features, plasma metabolome and immune repertoire. Trans-omics
38 analyses in this Han Chinese cohort put into context fecal microbiome disease markers,
39 and uncover previously overlooked measurements such as aldosterone, testosterone, trace
40 elements and vitamin A that influence the gut microbiome, which were validated in an
41 additional cohort of 1,400 individuals. Trends for cardiometabolic diseases and colorectal

42 cancer can be seen, despite the average age of 29.6. This is also to our knowledge the
43 largest cohort with facial skin data and immune repertoire data, which would also be of
44 interest for general health management and disease studies.

45 A recent study casted doubt over the health benefits of probiotic consumption, concluding
46 that colonization of the strains was highly variable between individuals ¹¹. Our large
47 cohort unequivocally showed commercial yogurt strains, especially *Streptococcus*
48 *thermophilus* and *Bifidobacterium animalis* in feces, and suggested beneficial effects in
49 cardiometabolic health.

50

51 **Results**

52 **Comprehensive gut microbiome data together with other omics**

53 Fecal samples were collected during a physical examination, and 2,183 samples (Age,
54 29.6 ± 5.5 , average \pm stdev) were subjected to metagenomic shotgun sequencing, yielding
55 82.95 ± 24.26 million high-quality non-human reads per sample (Supplementary Table
56 1a), ensuring accurate taxonomic and functional profiling. The reads were mapped to a
57 comprehensive human gut microbiome reference gene catalog containing 9.9 million
58 genes (with a saturating mapping rate of 80.1 ± 4.9 %) and then assigned to 1,507
59 Metagenomic Species (MGSs) ¹²⁻¹⁴ and 2,981 metagenomic linkage groups (MLGs,
60 Kendall's tau instead of Pearson's or Spearman's correlation between genes) (Qin et al,
61 2012, Jie et al, 2017), to include both known and unknown microbes.

62 Other omics data, including 104 plasma metabolites (3,980 samples), 634 immune
63 indices (PBMC (Peripheral blood mononuclear cells) V(D)J usage and its shannon

64 diversity, 4,120 samples) from buffy coat, 72 basic medical data (body measurements and
65 routine blood test, 2,715 samples), 49 facial skin imaging indices (2,049 samples), 24
66 physical fitness data (3,833 samples), 18 entries from psychological questionnaire (2,039
67 samples), and 56 entries from lifestyle questionnaire (3,820 samples) were collected from
68 the same individuals (Fig. 1, Supplementary Tables 1b-d).

69 **The gut microbiome as a relatively independent dimension for health**

70 To get an overall idea of the relationship between omics, an inter-omics prediction value
71 between omics data was calculated using a 5-fold cross-validated random forest model
72 (RFCV, Fig. 2a). Basic medical data showed the highest global systematic association
73 with other omics data. The accuracy of prediction from basic medical data to physical
74 fitness data and from metabolites to basic medical data reaching 75% quantile showed
75 RFCV $R = 0.461$ and 0.399 , respectively (Fig. 2a, b, Supplementary Fig. 1). Basic
76 medical data showed high prediction accuracy to metabolites (Fig. 2a, b); on the other
77 hand, serum creatinine, BMI, waist to hip ratio, hematocrit and triglyceride in basic
78 medical data can be predicted by metabolites (Fig. 2c). Metabolites constituted the
79 highest prediction accuracy to immune indices ($R = 0.292$) (Fig. 2b). Immune indices
80 showed the second highest prediction accuracy to metabolites (Fig. 2a, b). Facial skin
81 features can be predicted by basic medical data, metabolites, physical fitness data and
82 lifestyle questionnaire (Fig. 2b, c). Among the lifestyle questionnaire, smoking, drinking
83 (especially low concentration alcohol), sports habits (especially resistance training), high-
84 sugar and high-fat dietary habit, and staying up until midnight can be predicted by other
85 omics data (Fig. 2c).

86 A number of factors have been reported to explain gut microbial composition, while the
87 total percentage of variance explained remained in single digits^{4,15}. According to a
88 RFCV predict model, we observe in this metagenomic cohort influence from lifestyle
89 questionnaire factors such as defecation, yogurt, age, gender, smoking, milk, soymilk,
90 drinking alcohol, fruit and vegetables on gut microbiome composition (Fig. 3), and the
91 cumulative effect size was also in single digits (Supplementary Tables 2b,2c). The BMI
92 distribution is narrow in this cohort (21.729 ± 3.787 , Supplementary Table 1b), so its
93 effect size was 0.0015 (q-value=0.014, Supplementary Table 2b). ABO blood group
94 could also predict fecal microbiome composition (RFCV R=0.2, Fig. 3), and specific
95 differences include Lachospiraceae bacterium 3_1_46FAA in blood type A (q = 6.12E-5),
96 *Ruminococcus torques* in blood type B (q = 1.59E-2), unnamed MGS209 in blood type
97 AB (q = 1.59E-2) and *Megaspaera micronuciformis* in blood type O (q = 1.69E-2).

98 As our ‘other genome’, the gut microbiome could predict other omics in this cohort. Gut
99 microbiome showed the greatest prediction power for metabolites, such as plasma
100 vitamins (vitamin A, folic acid, vitamin B5, vitamin D), plasma hormones (testosterone,
101 aldosterone), trace elements (mercury, selenium, arsenic) and plasma amino acids
102 (branched chain amino acids (BCAA), glutamic acid, tryptophan, tyrosine, histidine,
103 alanine) (Fig. 3). Interestingly, hand grip strength, vital capacity, speckles and pores on
104 cheeks and staying up until midnight can also be predicted by the gut microbiome (Fig. 3).

105 We next included a validation cohort of 1404 individuals (mean age 29.515 ± 5.248 , 480
106 males and 570 females, 82.95 ± 24.26 million high-quality non-human reads per fecal
107 sample), which differed by hometown location compared to the initial cohort
108 (Supplementary Table 1a, Supplementary Table 1b, Fig. 1). The gut microbiome could

109 also predict these plasma metabolites, with greater effects from mercury, cysteine,
110 selenium, iron and cobalt (Fig. 3, Supplementary Table 3), while other data such as
111 physical fitness tests and facial skin features are not available.

112 **Defecation, hormone and gender**

113 We see that gender (female 1,016, male 1,007) was one of the most significant factors to
114 diverge gut microbiome composition (Supplementary Fig.2a). *Eubacterium dolichum*,
115 and *Blautia wexlerae* were significantly more abundant in males (Supplementary Fig. 2a),
116 after adjusting for age, BMI, medication and dietary supplements (Supplementary Table
117 3b). *Fusobacterium mortiferum*, which positively associated with testosterone, was
118 sensitive to the statistical adjustments (Supplementary Tables 3a, 3b). Compared to males,
119 females showed a greater α -diversity (Supplementary Table 2a, Supplementary Fig. 2c).
120 *Bifidobacterium longum*, *B. bifidum*, and *B. catenulatum*, *B. pseudocatenulatum* were all
121 significantly enriched in females, as well as potentially oral or vaginal bacteria such as
122 *Streptococcus parasanguinis*, *Prevotella bivia* (Supplementary Fig. 2a). Gut microbial
123 functional potential for secondary bile acids strongly associated with self-reported
124 defecation frequency, which were better validated than associations with sex hormones
125 (Supplementary Fig. 2b), suggesting that these are stable patterns.

126 Aldosterone, one of the major adrenal gland mineralcorticoid, positively correlated with
127 bacteria implicated in cardiometabolic health, such as *Bacteroides intestinalis*, *B.*
128 *cellulosilyticus*, *B. stercorisoris* and *Eubacterium eligens* (Supplementary Fig. 3) ¹⁶. *E.*
129 *eligens* and *Ruminococcus lactaris* scaled negatively with self-reported preference for a

130 salty diet, in contrast to *Blautia obeum* (Supplementary Fig. 2a), and mice on a high salt
131 diet showed decrease in a number of commensal bacteria ¹⁷.

132 **The metabolome-immune-gut axis**

133 Among the strongest associations between different omics is that between immune
134 repertoire and plasma metabolites (Fig. 2). More strikingly, when we plotted the
135 associations in detail, the clusters of metabolites corresponded either to the same *TRBV*
136 (T-cell receptor beta variable gene) or to the same *TRBJ* (T-cell receptor beta joining
137 gene) (Supplementary Fig. 4a). Vitamin A, 5-methyl four hydrogen folic acid, selenium,
138 mercury and serum aldosterone showed positive associations with a few TRBJ1-4 and
139 TRBJ2-1, and negative association with TRBJ2-4. Vitamin B5, Vitamin E, phosphoserine,
140 arginosuccinic acid and arsenic showed positive associations with TRBJ1-4, as well as
141 negative associations with TRBJ2-4, TRBV20-1 and TRBV3-1. Glutamic acid and serine
142 showed a pattern that were largely opposite to that of the vitamin A cluster, except for
143 negative associations with TRBV20-1.

144 We next explored how the gut microbiome might help put the metabolome-immune
145 associations into context. Vitamin A is central to a healthy immune system but is
146 typically studied for its role in early development ¹⁸. A recent mice study reported
147 modulation of retinol dehydrogenase 7 expression and dampened antimicrobial response
148 in the gut by Clostridiales ¹⁹. Consistently, we observed associations between Clostridia
149 species (Clostridia MGS0123, MGS0560, MGS0558, Lachnospiraceae bacterium
150 1_4_56FAA, Lachnospiraceae bacterium 6_1_63FAA, Lachnospiraceae bacterium
151 9_1_43BFAA, *C. boltea*, *Clostridium* sp. AT4, *Clostridium* sp. M62.1) and vitamin A in
152 adult humans both with Spearman's correlation and with Masaslin associated

153 (Supplementary Fig. 3, Supplementary Table 3a). 5-methyl four hydrogen folic acid
154 exhibited a positive correlation with *Eubacterium eligens* (Supplementary Fig. 4a,
155 Supplementary Fig. 3), a butyrate-producing bacterium that was relatively depleted in
156 atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease¹⁶. 5-methyl four hydrogen folic acid also
157 negatively associated with *Dorea* and *Blautia* species (Supplementary Fig. 4a), which
158 have been implicated in obesity and could metabolize formate or hydrogen^{20–22}
159 (Supplementary Fig. 4a). Associations between the gut microbiome and trace elements
160 including mercury, selenium and arsenic might be surprising (Supplementary Fig. 4a).
161 Selenium-containing rice is commercially promoted as anti-cancer, and we found that the
162 association pattern largely followed arsenic, consistent with these two trace elements’
163 similar function in anaerobic respiration²³. Selenium and mercury also correlated with
164 disease-associated species such as *Clostridium bolteae* and *Ruminococcus gnavus* in the
165 gut microbiome.

166 The metabolome-immune cluster represented by phosphoserine, and argininosuccinic
167 acidnegatively associated with *Bacteroides coprophilus* (Supplementary Table 3i), a
168 prevalent but not very abundant species from the *Bacteroides* genus. MGSs from
169 *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* (Supplementary Fig. 4a, Supplementary Fig. 3), a bacterium
170 reported to produce butyrate and metabolize arsenic²⁴, positively associated with
171 L-homocitrulline, phosphoserine, negatively associated with vitamin A, mercury, as well
172 as with specific TCR V(D)J including positive correlation with TRBV27_TRBJ2.3 and
173 TRBV27_TRBJ2.5 and negative correlation with TRBV20–1:TRBJ2–4 (Supplementary
174 Fig. 4a, Supplementary Table 3). The third cluster represented by glutamic acid showed
175 negative associations with previously reported bacteria implicated with lower BMI such

176 as *Alistipes shahii*, *Bacteroides cellulosilyticus*, *Ruminococcus lactis* and *Eubacterium*
177 *eligens*¹⁶ in this large cohort (Supplementary Fig. 4a), consistent with higher glutamic
178 acid in individuals with obesity or insulin resistance^{21,25}, and here we tentatively
179 identified their associated TCRs (Supplementary Fig. 4a).

180 Moreover, gut microbiome functional potential showed specific associations with TCR
181 immune repertoire. The gut microbial module (GMM)²⁶ for homoacetogenesis
182 (production of acetate from hydrogen and carbon dioxide) displayed widespread negative
183 associations, most notably with TRBV7-8:TRBJ2-2 (Supplementary Fig. 4b). TRBV7-8
184 frequency had been reported to be higher in Pima Indian individuals with Type 2 diabetes
185²⁷ (Supplementary Table 3i). Modules for degradation of arginine and lysine, degradation
186 of lactose and galactose, also associated with a number of VJs (Supplementary Fig. 4b).

187 In the validation cohort, associations with fecal microbiome modules such as lysine
188 degradation, mucin degradation, lactose and galactose degradation, sulfate reduction were
189 validated (Supplementary Fig. 4b, Supplementary Table 3f), which was impressive given
190 the differences in trace metals and other metabolites between the two cohorts (Fig. 3,
191 Supplementary Table 1). So, from both taxonomic and functional points-of-view, the gut
192 microbiome is involved in the metabolome-immune interplay in circulation, with
193 important new leads for experimental investigations.

194 **Biomarkers for hyperuricemia and cardiometabolic diseases**

195 Hyperuricemia is common in the East Asian population, and urate is excreted in urine or
196 through the gastrointestinal tract. In our cohort, serum uric acid showed negative
197 correlations with gut bacteria such as *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii*, *Alistipes shahii*,
198 *Oscillospiraceae* and *Bacteroides intestinalis* (Fig. 4), adjusted for medication and

199 dietary supplements. Moreover, serum uric acid positively correlated with vitamins
200 (vitamin A, B5, D3 and E), amino acids (glutamic acid and alanine), trace elements
201 (arsenic and mercury), while negatively associated with testosterone (Fig. 4). The
202 negative associations between fecal *Butyricimonas virosa*, *Odoribacter splanchnicus* and
203 plasma alanine were consistent with butyrate production from amino acids
204 (Supplementary Table 3i)^{28,29}, which together with methylhistidines hinted at a meat-
205 excess diet³⁰. Self-reported dietary structure indeed showed association with serum uric
206 acid (Supplementary Table 3j). This is the first set of large-scale evidence for gut
207 microbiome dysbiosis in hyperuricemia, together with hormonal, metabolic and
208 potentially immunological differences.

209 We next defined a score according to 8 routine blood parameters and 80 fecal
210 microbiome features for cardiometabolic disease risk (see Methods) in this young cohort
211 and tested it in previously published case-control samples. With the fecal markers alone,
212 metagenomic samples from Chinese patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
213 (ACVD), liver cirrhosis, obesity and Crohn's disease all scored higher compared to
214 control samples without the disease ($P < 0.05$) (Supplementary Fig. 5a), while those from
215 diseases such as colorectal cancer, rheumatoid arthritis and medication-unstratified T2D
216 did not (Supplementary Fig. 5a)^{16,21,31-35}. The clinical parameters help clarified T2D and
217 Crohn's disease (Supplementary Fig. 5b). Thus, although regional differences and
218 misidentifications remain a concern, we illustrate the potential for population-wide
219 screens of cardiometabolic diseases using the fecal microbiome.

220 **Biomarkers for colorectal cancer**

221 This young multi-omic cohort also provide more insight into the relationship between gut
222 microbiome, plasma metabolome and colorectal cancer (CRC). Both the microbiome and
223 the plasma metabolome are being actively studied for CRC biomarkers, but to our
224 knowledge they have not been investigated in the same cohort. We see here that
225 previously reported CRC-enriched bacteria ^{1,33,36,37} showed associations with plasma
226 metabolites regardless of statistical adjustment for covariates (Supplementary Table 3a).
227 *Peptostreptococcus stomatis* positively associated with plasma leucine, phenylalanine,
228 alanine, tyrosine, as well as sarcosine, a metabolite studied for prostate cancer and a
229 degradation intermediate of glycine betaine ^{38,39} (Supplementary Fig. 6).
230 Enterobacteriaceae including *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Enterobacter*
231 *cloacae* and *Citrobacter freundii* positively associated with sarcosine, hydroxylysine,
232 branched chain amino acids, tyrosine, tryptophan, 1-methylhistidine, hydroxyproline,
233 and argininosuccinic acid (Supplementary Fig. 6). 1-methylhistidine is a marker for
234 habitual meat intake, especially red meat ³⁰. Bacteria such as *Bacteroides*
235 *thetaiotaomicron*, *Butyricimonas virosa* were more associated with 3-methylhistidine
236 (Supplementary Table 3a). Besides, the butyrate-producing *E. eligens* positively
237 associated with fruit and vegetable intake, while negatively associated with plasma
238 alanine (Fig. 4a, Supplementary Fig. 6). A number of these associations were also
239 observed in the validation cohort, e.g. *Enterobacter cloacae* and hydroxylysine, *E.*
240 *eligens* and alanine (Supplementary Table 3a). These results corroborate fecal markers of
241 CRC with plasma metabolites, and suggest further studies on the long-term interplay
242 between dietary metabolites and bacteria for CRC etiology and threshold for intervention.

243 **Physical fitness, exercising and sleeping reflected in the gut microbiome**

244 Vital capacity, a commonly used index to assess lung function, positively associated with
245 bacteria such as *A. shahii*, *F. prausnitzii* and *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, while
246 negatively correlated with disease-related bacteria including *Clostridium clostridioforme*,
247 *Ruminococcus gnavus* and *E. coli*, regardless of statistical adjustments (Fig. 2, Fig. 5,
248 Supplementary Table 3e). Hand grip strength, a protective factor for cardiovascular
249 casualty⁴⁰, negatively associated with *E. coli* (Fig. 5). Age and sex stratified vertical
250 jump score (Supplementary Table 4) negatively associated with *E. coli*, while positively
251 associated with *B. cellulosilyticus*, *B. intestinalis*, *Eubacterium rectale*, etc. *Bacteroides*
252 *cellulosilyticus* and *B. stercorisoris*, which associated with exercise intensity, even
253 correlated with a faster reaction time (Fig. 5), reminding us with associations between *B.*
254 *cellulosilyticus* and aldosterone, *B. stercorisoris* and folic acid in both cohorts
255 (Supplementary Table 3a). Moreover, gut microbiome diversity (Shannon index)
256 associated with favorable scores in most of the fitness tests (Supplementary Table 2a).
257 Besides, individuals who stay up until after midnight also showed negative correlations
258 with *Holdemania filiformis*, *Veillonella atypica* and 25-hydroxy vitamin D3/D, while
259 positively correlated with *Clostridium hathewayi*, *Clostridium phoceensis*, mercury,
260 selenium, arsenic, vitamin A, hydroxyproline and phosphoserine (Supplementary Fig. 2a,
261 Supplementary Fig. 5, Supplementary Table 3b). Thus, sleeping is also a factor to
262 consider for a complete understanding of the gut microbiome.

263 **Species from yogurt in the healthy gut microbiome**

264 Besides defecation frequency and gender, yogurt consumption explained a notable
265 portion of variances in the gut microbiome (Fig. 3, Supplementary Table 2b). A recent
266 study casted doubt over the health benefits of probiotics, concluding that colonization of

267 the bacteria was highly variable between individuals¹¹. In both our large cohorts,
268 *Streptococcus thermophilus*, a species included in commercial yogurt mainly for its
269 thermal stability and metabolic support for other strains, was consistently detected in
270 yogurt eaters, and scaled with self-reported frequency of yogurt consumption (Fig. 6,
271 Supplementary Fig. 7). *Bifidobacterium animalis*, likely representing the star strain from
272 CHR HANSEN, *B. animalis* subsp. lactis BB-12, was also enriched in yogurt eaters, and
273 fecal relative abundance of *B. animalis* associated with less stress, less bilirubin, lower
274 diastolic blood pressure, as well as with TCR V(D)J combinations (Fig. 6d), suggesting
275 immune modulation. The association between *B. animalis* and TRBV5.6:TRBJ2.5 was
276 also observed in the validation cohort (Supplementary Table 3c), while the other
277 parameters were unfortunately not available. In contrast to *S. thermophilus*, *B. animalis*,
278 and *Veillonella*, there was no significant increase in any *Lactobacillus* strains (Fig. 6).
279 Those who used to take yogurt also showed less *Clostridium bolteae*, a bacterium known
280 to be elevated in a number of cardiometabolic diseases^{1,16}. Intriguingly, fecal *C. bolteae*
281 associated with plasma triglyceride, uric acid, phosphoserine, vitamin A, and mercury
282 (Fig. 6e), offering an explanation for epidemiological evidence of yogurt consumption
283 and reduced risk of gout⁴¹. In the validation cohort, *C. bolteae* also associated with
284 mercury and to a lesser extent vitamin A (the vitamin A association was sensitive to
285 covariates, Supplementary Table 3a). Besides, yogurt consumption was associated with a
286 number of favorable measurements such as higher HDL (high-density lipoprotein)
287 cholesterols, lower uric acid and triglycerides, less cysteine, mercury and hydroxyproline
288 (Fig. 6a).

289 Regarding *Bifidobacterium* in the gut microbiome, however, individuals who consumed
290 milk enriched for *B. longum*, *B. catenulatum* and *B. pseudocatenulatum* (Fig. 6a, b),
291 implying that some of the yogurt-associated differences come from its exogenous strains
292 such as *S. thermophilus* and *B. animalis*, as well as less *C. bolteae*. The higher
293 *Bifidobacterium* spp., and lower *Blautia wexlerae* and *Ruminococcus* sp. 5_1_39BFAA
294 associated with milk intake were validated in the additional 1404 individuals
295 (Supplementary Table 3). Milk drinking also associated with vitamin B2, B5, B6, HDL,
296 lymphocytes, etc. in the blood, vital capacity, and psychological scores (Fig. 6a, b,
297 Supplementary Fig. 7).

298

299 **Discussion**

300 **Insights from multi-omics**

301 In summary, our trans-omic investigation of thousands volunteers establish an
302 unprecedented reference data set for the human gut microbiome. Judging from the
303 associations, it appears as though a number of factors in circulation crosstalk with the gut
304 microbiome, and then manifest on the face, in the head and in fitness tests. Levels of trace
305 elements, such as mercury, arsenic and selenium, as important cofactors for bacteria
306 respiration and other functions²³, should be measured even in uncontaminated regions,
307 and in individuals showing normal levels of these elements. Although rice is often
308 studied for such contaminants, exposure can be from other food, drink, air and soil
309 sources⁴²(<https://www.fda.gov/food/metals/arsenic-food-and-dietary-supplements>). Our
310 results suggest that commensal microbial metabolism of trace elements might help
311 determine their levels in the blood, and influence immune functions.

312 The PBMC TCR β CDR3 V(D)J usage in such a large cohort is a great resource for
313 discovering microbial antigens other than those from traditional pathogens. While some
314 *TRBV* and *TRBJ* segments are more frequent than others⁴³, we do not yet know how they
315 correspond to T cell sub-populations. Existing studies on TCR have been focusing on
316 pathogens, autoimmune diseases and cancer. For example, TCR profiles of tumor-
317 resident T_{reg} (regulatory T) cells have been shown to significantly overlap with those of
318 circulating T_{reg} cells⁴⁴; immune phenotype of peripheral blood T_{reg} II cells was not only
319 similar to that of intratumoral T_{reg} cells, but also predicted future relapse of breast cancer
320 patients⁴⁵. A high diversity in the T cell immune repertoire is believed to be preferable,
321 but the T cell immune repertoire diversity has been reported to be unchanged after a 3-
322 month switch from omnivorous to vegetarian and lower in long-term vegetarians⁴⁶. In
323 our analyses of this cohort, the overall diversity (Immunity index, Methods) was not the
324 most important factor that predicted other omics, yet could be reflected by metabolites,
325 physical fitness tests, lifestyle and skin features (RFCV R ~ 0.2, Fig. 2,3). We identify
326 clustering patterns of specific TCR β CDR3 VJ joining with plasma metabolites including
327 vitamins, trace elements and amino acids (Supplementary Fig. 4a). The chains of
328 causality remain to be fully elucidated; yet, it is likely to be a two-way interplay for
329 metabolite-gut microbiome, metabolite-T cells, and gut microbiome-T cells. Our results
330 imply long-term differences in these features in apparently healthy individuals. A similar
331 speculation could be made for facial skin features, which we expect to be resilient against
332 topical interventions judging from the strong associations with blood parameters.

333 We have tentatively identified gut bacteria associated with each ABO blood type. A
334 larger proportion of blood type A in Europeans compared to East Asians might help

335 explain the greater abundance of Lachospiraceae bacterium^{12,47}. Blood type B is more
336 prevalent in northern Chinese, and the blood type B-enriched mucin-degrading bacterium
337 *R. torques* has recently been reported to show an association with blood glucose⁴⁸ and
338 was also associated with ulcerative colitis⁴⁹ and a Bristol stool score of 1 or 2
339 (Supplementary Fig. 2a). *Megaspaera micronuciformis*, seen in association with blood
340 type O, can produce butyrate from acetate⁵⁰. Genetic studies of the gut microbiota have
341 not yet reported genome-wide significant associations with ABO blood type genes
342 themselves⁵¹⁻⁵⁴, while multiple studies have reported impact of *FUT2* secretor/non-
343 secretor status on gut microbiota composition⁵⁵⁻⁵⁷. Tentative associations here are yet to
344 be matched with *in vitro* studies with the glycans^{58,59}.

345 Differences in gut microbiome composition between sexes and a greater microbial
346 diversity in females have recently been reported in the LifeLines Deep cohort, yet the gut
347 microbiome in females was influenced by oral contraceptives, ovariectomy as well as
348 antibiotics for vaginal or pelvic infections⁶⁰. Males of Hadza hunter-gatherers showed
349 differences in gut microbiota compared to females⁶¹, including higher *Eubacterium*
350 and *Blautia* in men which were also recapitulated in our Chinese cohort (*E. dolichum*, *B.*
351 *wexlerae*). Interestingly, *E. dolichum* associated with a dietary structure of more meat
352 instead of fruit and vegetables, while *B. wexlerae* scaled negatively with milk
353 consumption (Supplementary Fig. 2, Fig. 6). The evolutionary implications remain
354 unclear.

355 **A baseline of the gut microbiome with deviations towards diseases**

356 Metagenome-wide association studies (MWAS) have documented gut microbial
357 perturbations in a growing list of diseases by comparing cases versus controls. Here we

358 provide a high-depth metagenomic cohort, the mean age for which did not exceed 30
359 years old. Alarming enough, trends for cardiometabolic diseases and colorectal cancer
360 can already be seen from the fecal microbiome and a few parameters in the blood. The
361 set of healthy gut microbes for leanness are increasingly clear¹⁶, such as *A. shahii*, *F.*
362 *prausnitzii*, *E. eligens* and *B. cellulosilyticus*. And we have a better idea how to increase
363 their relative abundances. Interestingly, we observed few association with *Akkermansia*,
364 which may indeed be too diverse among individuals^{5,62} or require mucosal sampling. The
365 list of potentially harmful gut microbes are also increasingly clear; future studies are
366 needed to confirm whether we can decrease *E. coli* and *R. gnavus* with exercising and
367 diet, fend off *C. boltae* with yogurt, etc.

368 While an older cohort would be needed to look at type 2 diabetes^{63,64}, hyperuricemia is
369 common in this cohort (Supplementary Table 1). *A. shahii* negatively associated with
370 plasma tryptophan (Fig. 4, Supplementary Table 3i), and hyperuricemia has been
371 reported to skew tryptophan metabolism towards kynurenine production in mice models
372⁶⁵, instead of indole reported for *A. shahii*⁶⁶, potentially modulating signaling through
373 aryl hydrocarbon receptors (AhR)⁶⁷. One of the bacteria negatively associated with
374 serum uric acid, *F. prausnitzii*, has been reported to encode a methyltransferase for
375 arsenic detoxification (Supplementary Table 3i)²⁴. IL-1 β , the major cytokine responsible
376 for gout⁶⁸, has been associated with urinary level of arsenic⁶⁹. Co-stimulation of patient-
377 derived PBMCs with monosodium urate crystals and TLR2 or TLR4 (toll-like receptors)
378 ligands have been shown to disrupt IL-1 β / IL-1Ra (IL1 receptor antagonist) balance⁷⁰,
379 consistent with involvement of microbes in gout.

380 Genetic potential for histidine degradation instead of synthesis have been observed to
381 increase in CRC relative to healthy controls according to metagenomic studies^{37,71}. 1-
382 methylhistidine, a marker for habitual meat intake³⁰, could be metabolized into histidine.
383 Plasma level of the amino acid proline was reported to increase in a mouse model of
384 CRC⁷², but found in another study to decrease in human CRC⁷³. In this young cohort
385 from China, we did not see significant associations between proline and known gut
386 microbiome markers of CRC. Hydroxyproline, on the other hand, is better predicted by
387 the gut microbiome composition compared to proline (Fig. 3), and associated with meat
388 consumption, staying up until after 0 am (Supplementary Fig. 7). Enterobacteriaceae such
389 as *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* positively associated with hydroxyproline
390 in this cohort. A recent study analyzed fecal metabolites together with fecal microbiome
391 and reported among others an increase in branched chain amino acids and aromatic amino
392 acids in CRC⁷⁴. Here we observe plasma levels of these amino acids to associate with
393 CRC markers such as *P. stomatis*, and *E. coli*, while the fecal metagenomic potential for
394 leucine biosynthesis was control-enriched^{37,74}, implying that leucine was normally not in
395 excess.

396 We also find it intriguing that decarboxylases appear generally important for bacterial
397 stress response in the microbiome, i.e. to maintain a balanced pH for themselves. The top
398 one for gut microbes may be glutamate decarboxylase (produces GABA (γ -aminobutyric
399 acid) from glutamate), while histidine decarboxylase in the female reproductive tract
400 might contribute to menstrual pains⁷⁵. Besides, recent studies identified tyrosine
401 decarboxylases in gut microbes that could digest the medication levodopa used to treat
402 Parkinson's disease^{76,77}.

403 **Behavioral changes to be trialed for a healthy gut microbiome?**

404 Although effects of sleep fragmentation on hemopoiesis have been seen despite antibiotic
405 treatment ⁷⁸, our results nonetheless suggest that the gut microbiome may have an
406 additional role, together with trace elements, vitamins, and host genetics ⁷⁹. The less
407 hypocretin in mice subjected to sleep fragmentation promoted atherosclerosis ⁷⁸. The
408 increased adiposity and decreased lean mass with sleep loss also involved toll-like
409 receptors (TLRs) ^{80,81}, and we identify cardiometabolic disease-associated species
410 including *Clostridium hatheway* here.

411 Potential influence of physical activity on the gut microbiota has been analyzed in small
412 cohorts of rugby athletes ⁸² and colorectal cancer ³⁷. Although more detailed information
413 for physical activity is preferable, compliance to recordings such as Fitbit is notoriously
414 bad in healthy individuals ⁸³. Results from this large cohort at least suggest that
415 exercising might help improve cardio-pulmonary function (grip strength, vital capacity)
416 to decrease incidence of cardiometabolic diseases. Intense exercise, explored for
417 application to individuals with diseases such as prediabetics and Alzheimer's ^{84,85}, may be
418 no less important than endurance or resistance training; and our results suggest that
419 different types of exercise could have differential impacts on the gut microbiome and the
420 microbiome changes could be a readout for monitoring effects of training. Endurance
421 training actually lowers testosterone ⁸⁶ and could lead to hyperuricemia, especially if
422 combined with high-fructose food and drinks and lack of dairy consumption ⁴¹.

423 Our large-scale analyses provide substantial support for health benefits of yogurt
424 consumption. The universally present species were *Streptococcus thermophilus* and
425 *Bifidobacterium animalis* instead of commonly tested probiotics from *Lactobacillus*. An

426 orally administered strain of *B. longum* has been shown to persist in 30% of individuals
427 for at least 6 months⁸⁷, while we failed to detect in feces an *L. casei* strain gavaged to
428 rats^{88,89}, suggesting general differences between *Bifidobacterium* and *Lactobacillus*. The
429 strains used by Zmora et al. included a number of *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, as well
430 as *Streptococcus* and *Lactococcus*, all detectable in various gastrointestinal sites despite
431 laxative and colonoscopy¹¹. One potential explanation for the association with desirable
432 cardiometabolic and psychological scores observed in our study for yogurt or milk is the
433 production of metabolites such as folate and GABA by *S. thermophilus*, *Bifidobacterium*
434 and *Lactobacillus*^{90,91}. Moreover, Lactobacilli have been reported to sequester heavy
435 metals including lead and cadmium⁹². All of these live or dead probiotics could
436 potentially exert functions on the immune system or even the brain. The positive
437 association with endogenous *Bifidobacterium* species with milk intake is more likely due
438 to live bacteria which help metabolize the lactose in this largely lactose-intolerant
439 population. It remains to be seen whether and how dairy consumption affects the gut
440 microbiome in other cohorts, and there appears to be regional differences in China
441 already.

442 Thus, this study provides a young reference for the gut microbiome with physical fitness
443 test and questionnaire data, and reveals interrelationship with other omics such as trace
444 elements, hormones and immune repertoire that have so far not been included in other
445 study designs. There is a lot more to investigate both in vitro and in vivo by researchers
446 across disciplines. Interventional as well as mechanistic studies will be needed to see how
447 physical activity, well-timed sleeping and dietary interventions such as yogurt, milk and

448 vegetables might improve the gut microbiome, hormone levels, cardiometabolic and
449 mental health.

450

451 **Data and materials availability:** Metagenomic sequencing data for all samples have
452 been deposited to the CNSA (<https://db.cngb.org/cnsa/>) of (CNGB) database under the
453 accession code CNP00 00426, CNP0000289.

454

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460

461 **Author contributions:**

462 J.W. initiated the overall health project. Y.Z., H.Z., K.C., P.C., X.X. organized the
463 sample collection and processing, with immune repertoire from X.L., W.Z, metabolomics
464 from X.Q., Q.L., Y.L., D.Z., H.Lian, Y.Z., X.C., W.R., Y.R., Y.W., J.Z., R.W., raw
465 metagenomic profile from Q.D, X.W., and J.Z., Q.D., S.T., Y.L., D.W. checked the host
466 metadata and matched the omics data. H.Zhou, H.Lu led the DNA extraction and
467 sequencing, respectively. Z.J. led the bioinformatic analyses, including S.L. and F.L.
468 H.Zhong, Q.D., S.T., D.W. performed early analyses which are not included in the

469 manuscript. Z.J., H.J. interpreted the data. H.J., S.L., Z.J., F.L. wrote the manuscript and
470 rendered the display items. All authors contributed to finalizing this manuscript.

471

472 **Competing interests:** The authors declare no competing financial interest.

473

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710 bowel disease and treatment. *Genome Biol.* **13**, R79 (2012).

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725 **Online Methods :**

726 **Study Cohort**

727 As part of 4D-SZ, all the >2000 volunteers for the first cohort were recruited
728 between May 2017 and July 2017 during a physical examination. The 1400 volunteers for
729 the second cohort were also recruited in 2017, with no overlaps. The samples in each
730 omics are shown in Supplementary Table 1c. Baseline characteristics of the cohort are
731 shown in Supplementary Table 1b, 1d.

732 The study was approved by the Institutional Review Boards (IRB) at BGI-Shenzhen,
733 and all participants provided written informed consent at enrolment.

734

735 **Demographic Data Collection**

736 The lifestyle questionnaire contained 56 entries involving age, marital status, disease
737 history of the volunteer and his/her family, eating and exercise habits (Supplementary
738 Table 1b, 1d). The psychological questionnaire contained 18 entries for the evaluation of
739 irritability, dizziness, frustration, fear, appetite, self-confidence, resilience
740 (Supplementary Table 1b).

741

742 **Samples Collection**

743 Fecal samples were self-collected by volunteers, using a kit containing a room
744 temperature stabilizing reagent to preserve the metagenome⁹³. The samples were frozen
745 on the same day. The overnight fasting blood samples were drawn from a cubital vein of
746 volunteers by the doctors.

747

748 **DNA extraction and metagenomics shotgun sequencing**

749 DNA extraction of the stored fecal samples within the next few months was
750 performed as previously described (Qin et al., 2012). Metagenomic sequencing was done
751 on the BGISEQ-500 platform (100bp of singled-end reads for fecal samples and four
752 libraries were constructed for each lane)⁹⁴.

753

754 **Amino Acid Measurements**

755 40 μ l plasma was deproteinized with 20 μ l 10% (w/v) sulfosalicylic acid (Sigma)
756 containing internal standards, then 120 μ l aqueous solution was added. After centrifuged,
757 the supernatant was used for analysis. The analysis was performed by ultra high pressure
758 liquid chromatography (UHPLC) coupled to an AB Sciex Qtrap 5500 mass spectrometry
759 (AB Sciex, US) with the electrospray ionization (ESI) source in positive ion mode. A
760 Waters ACQUITY UPLC HSS T3 column (1.8 μ m, 2.1 \times 100 mm) was used for amino
761 compound separation with a flow rate at 0.5 ml/min and column temperature of 55 °C.
762 The mobile phases were (A) water containing 0.05% and 0.1% formic acid (v/v), (B)
763 acetonitrile containing 0.05% and 0.1% formic acid (v/v). The gradient elution was 2% B
764 kept for 0.5 min, then changed linearly to 10% B during 1 min, continued up to 35% B in

765 2 min, increased to 95% B in 0.1 min and maintained for 1.4 min. Multiple Reaction
766 Monitoring (MRM) was used to monitor all amino compounds. The mass parameters
767 were as follows, Curtain gas flow 35 L/min, Collision Gas (CAD) was medium, Ion
768 Source Gas 1 (GS 1) flow 60 l/min, Ion Source Gas 2 (GS 2) flow 60 l/min, IonSpray
769 Voltage (IS) 5500V, temperature 600 °C. All amino compound standards were purchased
770 from sigma and Toronto research chemical (TRC).

771

772 **Hormone Measurements**

773 250 µl plasma was diluted with 205 µl aqueous solution, For SPE experiments, HLB
774 (Waters, USA) was activated with 1.0 ml of dichloromethane, acetonitrile, methanol,
775 respectively and was equilibrated with 1.0 ml of water. The pretreated plasma sample was
776 loaded onto the cartridge and was extracted using gravity. Clean up was accomplished by
777 washing the cartridges with 1.0 ml of 25% methanol in water. After drying under
778 vacuum, samples on the cartridges were eluted with 1.0 ml of dichloromethane. The
779 eluted extract was dried under nitrogen and the residual was dissolved with 25%
780 methanol in water and was transferred to an autosampler vial prior to LC–MS/MS
781 analysis. The analysis was performed by UHPLC coupled to an AB Sciex Qtrap 5500
782 mass spectrometry (AB Sciex, US) with the atmospheric pressure chemical ionization
783 (APCI) source in positive ion mode. A Phenomene Kinetex C18 column (2.6 µm, 2.1 ×
784 50 mm) was used for steroid hormone separation with a flow rate at 0.8 ml/min and
785 column temperature of 55 °C. The mobile phases were (A) water containing 1mM
786 Ammonium acetate, (B) Methanol containing 1mM Ammonium acetate. The gradient
787 elution was 25% B kept for 0.9min, then changed linearly to 40% B during 0.9min,

788 continued up to 70% B in 2 min, increased to 95% B in 0.1 min and maintained for 1.6
789 min. Multiple Reaction Monitoring (MRM) was used to monitor all steroid hormone
790 compounds. The mass parameters were as follows, Curtain gas flow 35 l/min, Collision
791 Gas (CAD) was medium, Ion Source Gas 1 (GS 1) flow 60 l/min, Ion Source Gas 2 (GS
792 2) flow 60 l/min, Nebulizer Current (NC) 5, temperature 500 °C. All steroid hormone
793 profiling compound standards were purchased from sigma, Toronto research chemical
794 (TRC), Cerilliant and DR. Ehrenstorfer.

795

796 **Trace element Measurements**

797 200 µl of whole blood were transferred into a 15 mL polyethylene tube and diluted
798 1:25 with a diluent solution consisting of 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100, 0.1% (v/v)
799 HNO₃, 2mg/L AU, and internal standards (20 µg/L). The mixture was sonicated for
800 10min before ICP-MS analysis. Multi-element determination was performed on an
801 Agilent 7700x ICP-MS (Agilent Technologies, Tokyo, Japan) equipped with an octupole
802 reaction system (ORS) collision/reaction cell technology to minimize spectral
803 interferences. The continuous sample introduction system consisted of an autosampler, a
804 quartz torch with a 2.5-mm diameter injector with a Shield Torch system, a Scott double-
805 pass spray chamber and nickel cones (Agilent Technologies, Tokyo, Japan). A glass
806 concentric MicroMist nebuliser (Agilent Technologies, Tokyo, Japan) was used for the
807 analysis of diluted samples.

808

809 **Water-soluble Vitamins Measurements**

810 200 µl plasma were deproteinized with 600 µl methanol (Merck), water, acetic acid
811 (9:1:0.1) containing internal standards, thiamine-(4-methyl-13C-thiazol-5-yl-13C3)
812 hydrochloride (Sigma-Aldrich), levomefolic acid-13C, d3, riboflavin-13C,15N2, 4-
813 pyridoxic acid-d3 and pantothenic acid-13C3,15N hemi calcium salt (Toronto Research
814 Chemicals). 500 µl supernatant were dried by nitrogen flow. 60 µl water were added to
815 the residues, vortexed, the mixture was centrifuged and the supernatant was for analysis.
816 The analysis was performed by UPLC coupled to a Waters Xevo TQ-S Triple Quad mass
817 spectrometry (Waters, USA) with the electrospray ionization (ESI) source in positive ion
818 mode. A Waters ACQUITY UPLC HSS T3 column (1.7 µm, 2.1 × 50 mm) was used for
819 water-soluble vitamins separation with a flow rate at 0.45 ml/min and column
820 temperature of 45 °C. The mobile phases were (A) 0.1 % formic acid in water, (B) 0.1%
821 formic acid in methanol. The following elution gradient was used: 0–1 min,99.0%–99.0%
822 A; 1–1.5 min, 99.0% A–97.0% A; 1.5–2 min, 97.0% A–70.0% A,2–3.5 min, 70% A–
823 30% A; 3.5–4.0 min, 30%A–10.0%A; 4.0–4.8 min, 10%A–10.0%A; 4.9–6.0 min,
824 99.0%A–99.0%A. Multiple Reaction Monitoring (MRM) was used to monitor all water-
825 soluble vitamins. The mass parameters were as follows, the capillary voltages of 3000V
826 and source temperature of 150°C were adopted. The desolvation temperature was 500°C.
827 The collision gas flow was set at 0.10 ml/min. The cone gas and desolvation gas flow
828 were 150 l/h and 1000 l/h, respectively. All water-soluble vitamins standards were
829 purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (USA).

830

831 **Fat-soluble Vitamins Measurements**

832 250 µl plasma were deproteinized with 1000 µl methanol and acetonitrile, (v/v,1:1)
833 (Fisher Chemical) containing internal standards, all-trans-Retinol-d5, 25-
834 HydroxyVitamin-D2-d6, 25-HydroxyVitamin-D3-d6, vitamin K1-d7, α-Tocopherol-d6
835 (Toronto Research Chemicals). 900 µl supernatant were dried by nitrogen flow. 80 µl
836 80% acetonitrile were added to the residues, vortexed, the mixture was centrifuged, and
837 the supernatant was used for analysis. The analysis was performed by UPLC coupled to
838 an AB Sciex Qtrap 4500 mass spectrometry (AB Sciex, USA) with the atmospheric
839 pressure chemical ionization (APCI) source in positive ion mode. A Waters ACQUITY
840 UPLC BEH C18 column (1.7 µm, 2.1 × 50 mm) was used for fat-soluble vitamins
841 separation with a flow rate at 0.50 ml/min and column temperature of 45 °C. The mobile
842 phases were (A) 0.1 % formic acid in water, (B) 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile. The
843 following elution gradient was used: 0–0.5 min,60.0%–60.0% A; 0.5–1.5 min, 60.0% A–
844 20.0% A; 1.5–2.5 min, 20.0% A–0% A,2.5–4.5 min, 0% A–0% A; 4.5–4.6 min, 0%A–
845 60.0%A; 4.6–5.0 min, 60.0%A–60.0%A. Multiple Reaction Monitoring (MRM) was
846 used to monitor all fat-soluble vitamins. The mass parameters were as follows, Curtain
847 gas flow 30 l/min, Collision Gas (CAD) was medium, Ion Source Gas 1 (GS 1) flow 40
848 l/min, Ion Source Gas 2 (GS 2) flow 50 l/min, Nebulizer Current (NC) 5, temperature 400
849 °C. All fat-soluble vitamins standards were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (USA),
850 Toronto research chemical (TRC).

851

852 **Immune indices Measurements**

853 10 ml whole blood was centrifuged at 3,000 r/min for 10 min, then 165 µl buffy coat
854 were obtained to extract DNA using MagPure Buffy Coat DNA Midi KF Kit (Magen,

855 China). The DNA was sequenced on the BGISEQ- 500 platform using 200 bp singled-
856 end reads. The data processing was performed using Immune IMonitor⁹⁵. VJ Gene use
857 diversity is shannon index of VJ gene usage profile. Immune cell diversity is Shannon
858 index of CDR3. Immune cell species result is unique CDR3 number. Immunity
859 uniformity is CDR3 pielou index. Score of above index is the sample rank in population.

860

861 **Medical Parameters**

862 All the volunteers were recruited during the physical examination. The medical test
863 including blood tests, urinalysis, routine examination of cervical secretion. All the
864 medical parameters were measured by the physical examination center and shown in
865 Supplementary Table 1b, 1d.

866

867 **Facial Skin feature**

868 The volunteer's frontal face without makeup was photographed by VISIA-CRTM
869 imaging system (Canfield Scientific, Fairfield, NJ, USA) equipped with chin supports
870 and forehead clamps that fix the face during the photographing process and maintain a
871 fixed distance between the volunteers and the camera at all times. Eight indices were
872 obtained including spots, pores, wrinkles, texture, UV spots, porphyrins, brown spots and
873 red area from the cheek and forehead, respectively (Supplementary Table 1b). The
874 percentile of index was calculated based on the index value ranked in the age-matched
875 database, the higher the better (Supplementary Table 1b).

876

877 **Physical fitness test**

878 8 kinds of tests were performed to evaluate volunteers' physical fitness condition
879 (Supplementary Table 1b). Vital capacity was measured by HK6800-FH (Hengkangjiaye,
880 China). Eye-closed and single-legged standing was measured by HK6800-ZL. Choice
881 reaction time was measured by HK6800-FY. Grip strength was measured by HK6800-
882 WL. Sit and reach was measured by HK6800-TQ. Sit-ups was measured by HK6800-YW.
883 Step index was measured by HK6800-TJ. Vertical jump was measured by HK6800-ZT.
884 We got a measure value from each test. Then each measure value score was assigned 1
885 through 5 based on its corresponding age-matched national standards (Supplementary
886 Table 4). Both the direct measurements and the scores were used for analyses
887 (Supplementary Table 2, Supplementary Table 3).

888

889 **Quality control, taxonomic annotation and abundance calculation**

890 The sequencing reads were quality-controlled as described previously⁹⁴. Taxonomic
891 assignment of the high-quality fecal metagenomic data was performed using the reference
892 gene catalog comprising 9,879,896 gene¹². Taxonomy of the fecal MGSs/MLGs were
893 then determined from their constituent genes, as previously described^{1,13,14,35}.

894

895 **The factors in each type of omics predicted by other type omics**

896 The factors in each type of omics were regressed against the relative abundances of
897 mgs profile (found in at least 10% of the samples) in the fecal samples using default
898 parameters in the RFCV function from randomForest package in R. Dichotomous
899 variables (such as gender) and unordered categorical variable (such as region) were re-
900 coding into dummy variables. Frequency items such as yogurt eating habit were assigned

901 integers. RFCV R defined as spearman's correlation between measured value and 5-fold
902 cross-validation predicted value was calculated, and then rank the top 5 predictable
903 factors in each omics type. The same prediction process was done between any two types
904 of omics. Then ggplot2 package in R was used to boxplot predict power of target omics
905 factors by all kinds of other predictor omics (Fig. 2b). 75% quantile RFCV R between
906 any two types omics (from a to b and from b to a) was used to construct the bi-direction
907 global omics correlation network using CytoScape (Fig. 2a). R heatmap and barplot was
908 used to make heatmap plot for some representative factors (Fig. 2c, Supplementary Fig.
909 1).

910

911 **Adjusting for potential confounders**

912 Associations between gut microbiome MGSs, functional modules, Shannon
913 diversity, and variance explained and other omics data were all adjusted for factors that
914 probably influence the gut microbiome, including gender, age, BMI, health products
915 (amino acid, vitamin, calcium), antiviral, antibiotics, drugs (currently using
916 antihypertensive drugs, hyperglycemic drugs, lipid lowering drugs), days since last
917 menstrual bleeding, pregnant, lactation, bowel problem (defecation). Besides the above
918 basic set of confounders, we also show the results adjusting for more potential
919 confounders including dietary (dietary taste spicy, sweet, salty, oil, or light, high sugar
920 and high-fat diet habit, fruit and vegetable intake, favors fat meat), exercise (exercise
921 frequency, exercise intensity, average time per exercise), drinking, smoking and Bristol's
922 stool score.

923

924 **Benjamini-Hochberg multiple hypothesis testing correction**

925 The multiple hypothesis testing Benjamini-Hochberg corrections are done for one
926 source target omics pair each time for Fig. 4-6, except immune index and gut microbe
927 pair which BH-adjust was done on one immune index each time. We show two versions
928 of Benjamini-Hochberg correction for Shannon and other omics in Supplementary Table
929 2a. One of the BH adjust was done within one omics each time. Another adjust was done
930 overall on all omics.

931

932 **Robust association network construction between any two omics data type including**
933 **fecal microbial MGSs**

934 An rank average method⁹⁶ was used to combine the results of multiple inference
935 methods to make a robust omics association network. We combined two non-linear
936 models, one-to-many randomforest and one-to-one partial spearman's correlation, to test
937 the association between factor from any two types omics.

938 *Step 1: Data preprocessing.*

939 Dichotomous variables (such as gender) and unordered categorical variable (such as
940 region) were re-coding into dummy variables. Frequency items such as yogurt eating
941 habit were assigned integers. We removed variables following these rules: (i) The
942 microbial species less than 10% in all the samples. (ii) Near zero variance. (iii) With
943 more than 70% missing value. Missing values were filled with median. Outliers were
944 defined as outside of the 95% quartiles and outliers samples are removed.

945 *Step 2: Computation of associations using multiple inference methods.*

946 For each factor in one omics, we did regression using RFCV function with default
947 parameter based on all factors in one other omics and calculated RFCV R.⁹⁷ 5-fold
948 average variable importance was output for step3. Partial spearman's correlation (ppcor R
949 package) between factors from any two types of omics were also output. Potential
950 confounders were considered as described above. We also show generalized linear model
951 results from MaAslin R package⁹⁸) with default parameters after adjusting above
952 confounders.

953 *Step 3: Robust networks construction.*

954 To get the robust and strongest association between factors from any two type omics,
955 in other words, to filter predictor factors and target factors, we did it in two steps. First to
956 choose the target factors, we just kept the top 20 target factors with highest RFCV R.
957 Then to choose predictor factors for every selected target factor, we kept predictor factors
958 with top 30 average ranks and retained edges with partial spearman's correlation BH-
959 adjusted pvalue <0.05. The average rank was computed as sum of the ranks across the
960 RFCV importance and absolute partial spearman rho. For example, metabolites as target
961 and gut microbe as source. We regressed gut microbes against the metabolites and
962 compute the 5-fold cross validation predict power (RFCV R) for each metabolites and
963 partial spearman correlation. 20 metabolites with highest RFCV were kept. For each of
964 the 20 select metabolites such as VA, average ranks across RFCV and partial spearman
965 were done. Gut microbe biomarker for VA was found with average rank top 30th and
966 passed the partial spearman BH-adjusted pvalue <0.05.

967 *Step 4: Network visualization.*

968 For each target factor, top 5-10 average ranks source factor in each source omics
969 type were selected as representative factors to make barplots using ggplot2 package (Fig.
970 6). The pheatmap package was used to plot the common representative factors that could
971 be strongest predicted by multiple omics data type (Fig. 2c). All the source-target factors
972 pair RFCVR (a as source, b as target and b as source, a as target) was boxplot (Fig. 2b)
973 using ggplot2. The ComplexHeatmap package in R was used to plot omics triadic relation
974 (Fig. 4-6). CytoScape was also used to visualize the global omics network (Fig. 2a).

975

976 **Microbial metabolic syndrome risk index validation in cardiometabolic cohort.**

977 Using multi-omics analyses method described above after controlling for the
978 potential confounders above, we picked up 80 MGSs that significantly correlated with
979 one of the eight cardiometabolic risk factors (waist Hip Ratio, BMI, triglyceride
980 (mmol/L), High-Density-Lipoprotein (mmol/L), serum Uric Acid (μ mol/L), γ -glutamyl
981 transpeptidase (U/L), serum alanine aminotransferase(U/L), fasting blood glucose
982 (mmol/L)) (Supplementary Fig. 5, 6). And they are link to the BCAA metabolites (valine
983 / leucine / alanine), tryptophan, glutamic acid ($q < 0.1$, Supplementary Table 3a). For the
984 published disease studies from China, all the MGSs abundances were derived from
985 metagenomic shotgun data, while the 8 clinical measurements could be missing, e.g. liver
986 cirrhosis and Crohn's disease only had BMI available^{21,31,32,34,35} (Supplementary Fig. 5,
987 6). The microbial metabolic syndrome risk index is similar with the T2D index (Qin et al,
988 2012). For each individual validation sample, the microbial metabolic syndrome risk
989 index of sample j that denoted by $MMSR_j$ was computed by the formula below:

$$PR_{ij} = \text{Count}(A_{ij} > R_i) / N$$

$$J^B = \sum_{i \in B} PR_{ij}$$

$$J^G = \sum_{i \in G} PR_{ij}$$

$$MMSR_j = \frac{J^B}{|B|} - \frac{J^G}{|G|}$$

990 Where A_{ij} is a scalar represents the relative abundance of MGS i in validation
991 sample j . R_i is a vector represents the relative abundance of MGS i of all samples in this
992 cohort which served as healthy reference. N is the sample size of this cohort that is 2183.
993 Percentile rank PR_{ij} is the percentage of test sample j 's MGS i relative abundance in its
994 reference cohort frequency distribution that are equal to or lower than it. B is 12 out of 80
995 MGS that were positively correlated with BMI and Triglyceride. G is 68 out of 80 MGS
996 that were negatively correlated with BMI and Triglyceride. And $|B|$ and $|G|$ are the sizes
997 of these two sets. We used percentile rank instead of relative abundance to avoid that the
998 index was influenced too much by the dominant species.

999

1000 **Figure legends:**

1001 **Fig. 1 | Overview of the multi-omic cohorts.** Diagram for features available from the
1002 main cohort of 2,183 individuals and validation cohort of 1,404 volunteers. Details are
1003 available in Supplementary Table 1.

1004 **Fig. 2 | Overview of the interrelationship between omics in the main cohort. a,**
1005 Global association strength between omics datasets. Each arrow is a 5-fold cross-
1006 validation random forest (RFCV) prediction. The direction of the arrow indicated the

1007 direction of prediction, used the source omics dataset to predict the target dataset. The
1008 darkness and size of the arrow lines indicated 75% quantile of spearman's correlation
1009 between measured value and 5-fold cross-validation RFCV predicted value (RFCV R). **b**,
1010 Detailed predict power of source omics for each target omics. Tick label in x-axis is
1011 target omics. Title in top is source omics. Each node in box is a target factor. The color of
1012 the node and box line indicated the target omics data type. Y-axis is the target factor
1013 RFCV R predicted from source omics. **c**, Common representative factors that could be
1014 strongest predicted by multiple omics data type. Y-axis tick label is source omics. Title is
1015 target omics. X-axis tick label is common representative factors (target factors). The cell
1016 color in heat map indicated the RFCV R using the omics data in y-axis to predict each
1017 factor in x-axis.

1018 **Fig. 3 | Factors associated with gut microbiome in both cohorts.** Top 45 factors with
1019 RFCV R > 0.1 in each type of omics that are predicted by gut microbiome. Factors with
1020 $R \leq 0.1$ in main cohort are not shown. The length of the bar indicated the rank RFCV R
1021 using all samples and the color indicated the rank of max of RFCV R using male or
1022 female samples only, the darker the greater. Due to missing medical data in the validation
1023 cohort (Fig. 1, Supplementary Table 1), only red blood cell count can be validated.

1024 **Fig. 4 | Association map of the four-tiered analyses integrating the metabolites,**
1025 **clinical indices, life style and the fecal microbiome.** The color of heat map show the
1026 partial spearman correlation adjusted for factors that probably influence the gut
1027 microbiome, as shown in Supplementary Fig. 3. BH-adjusted p-value is denoted: +, q-
1028 value < 0.1; *, q-value < 0.05; **, q-value < 0.01.

1029 **Fig. 5 | Gut microbiome associated with physical fitness and exercise in the main**

1030 **cohort.** The color of heat map shows the partial spearman correlation adjusted factors

1031 that probably influence the gut microbiome, as shown in Supplementary Fig. 3. BH

1032 adjusted p-value is denoted: +, q-value<0.1; *, q-value<0.05; **, q-value<0.01

1033 **Fig. 6 | Influence of yogurt and milk intake on omics in the main cohort. a-e,** The top

1034 5 factor in each omics data associated with yogurt, milk intake habit and the

1035 *Streptococcus thermophiles*, *Bifidobacterium animalis* and *Clostridium bolteae*

1036 abundance. The length of the bars represents partial Spearman's correlation coefficient

1037 adjusted for factors that probably influence the gut microbiome, as shown in

1038 Supplementary Fig. 3. BH adjusted p-value is denoted: +, q-value<0.1; *, q-value<0.05;

1039 **, q-value<0.01; ***, q-value<0.001; ****, q-value<0.0001. **f,** Fecal relative abundance

1040 of *S. thermophilus* in volunteers with increasing frequency of yogurt consumption.

49 facial skin imaging indices (only in the main cohort)

Spots, Pores, Wrinkles, Porphyrins, Texture, UV spots, Porphyrins, Brown spots and red area from the cheek and forehead, respectively.



Psychological questionnaire (18 entries)

The evaluation of irritability, Appetite, Dizziness, Frustration, Resilience, Fear, Self-confidence...



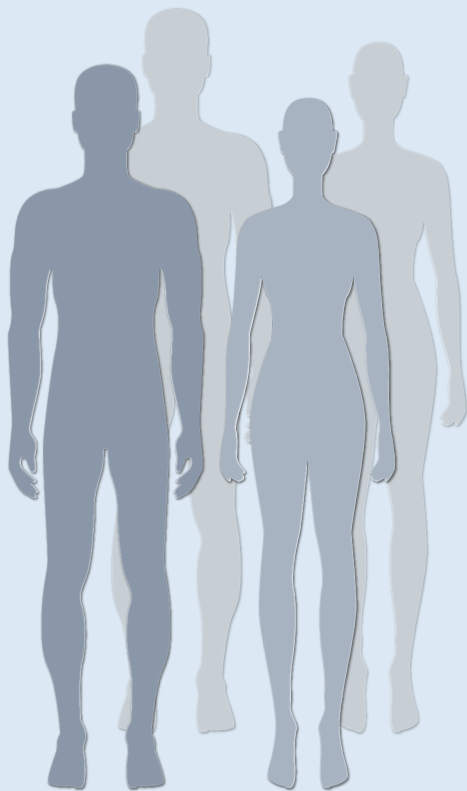
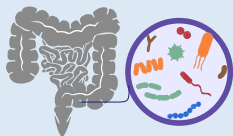
Lifestyle questionnaire (56 entries)

Age, Gender, Marital status, BMI, Smoking, Drinking, Disease history, Eating habits, Exercise habits...



Fecal microbiome

Shotgun metagenomics
(1,507 MGSs and 2,981 MLGs)



3,587 Healthy adults

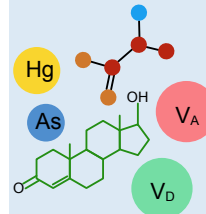
The main cohort: 2,183 individuals

The validation cohort: 1,404 individuals



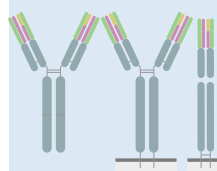
24 physical fitness data (only in the main cohort)

Vital capacity, Grip strength, Sit-ups, Choice reaction time, Sit and reach, One-leg stand with eyes closed, Step index, Vertical jump...

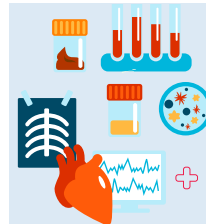


104 plasma metabolites

Amino acids (plasma)
Hormones (plasma)
Vitamins (plasma)
Trace elements (whole blood)

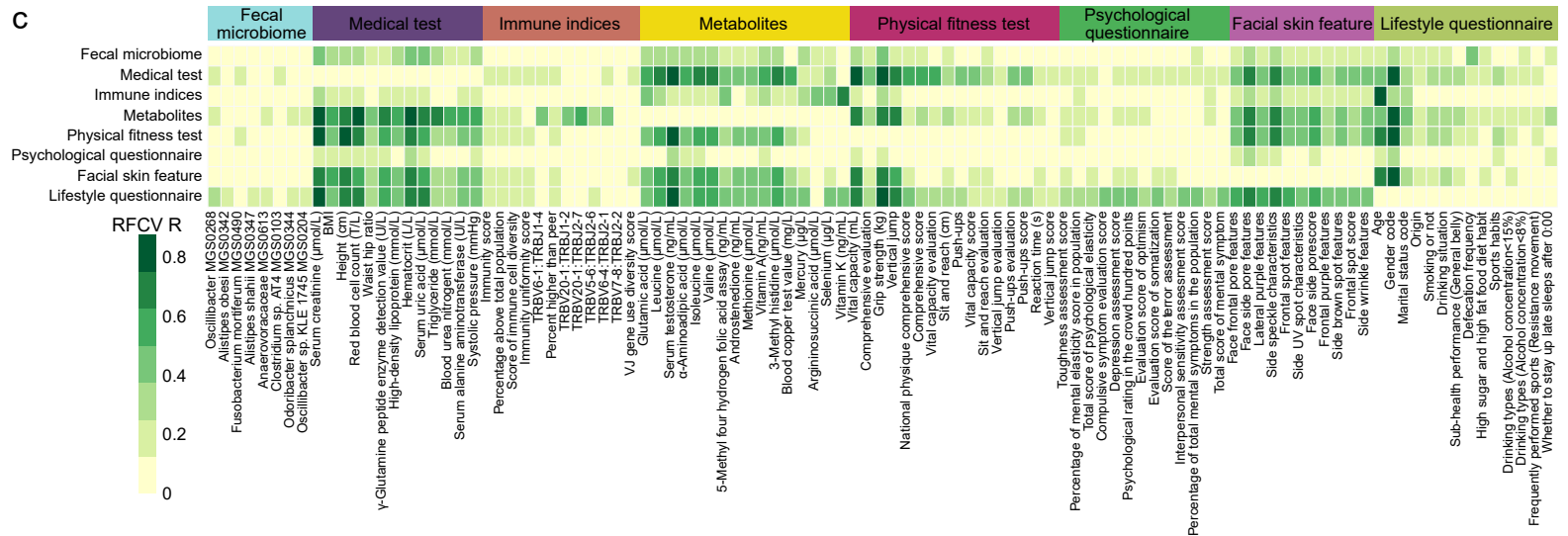
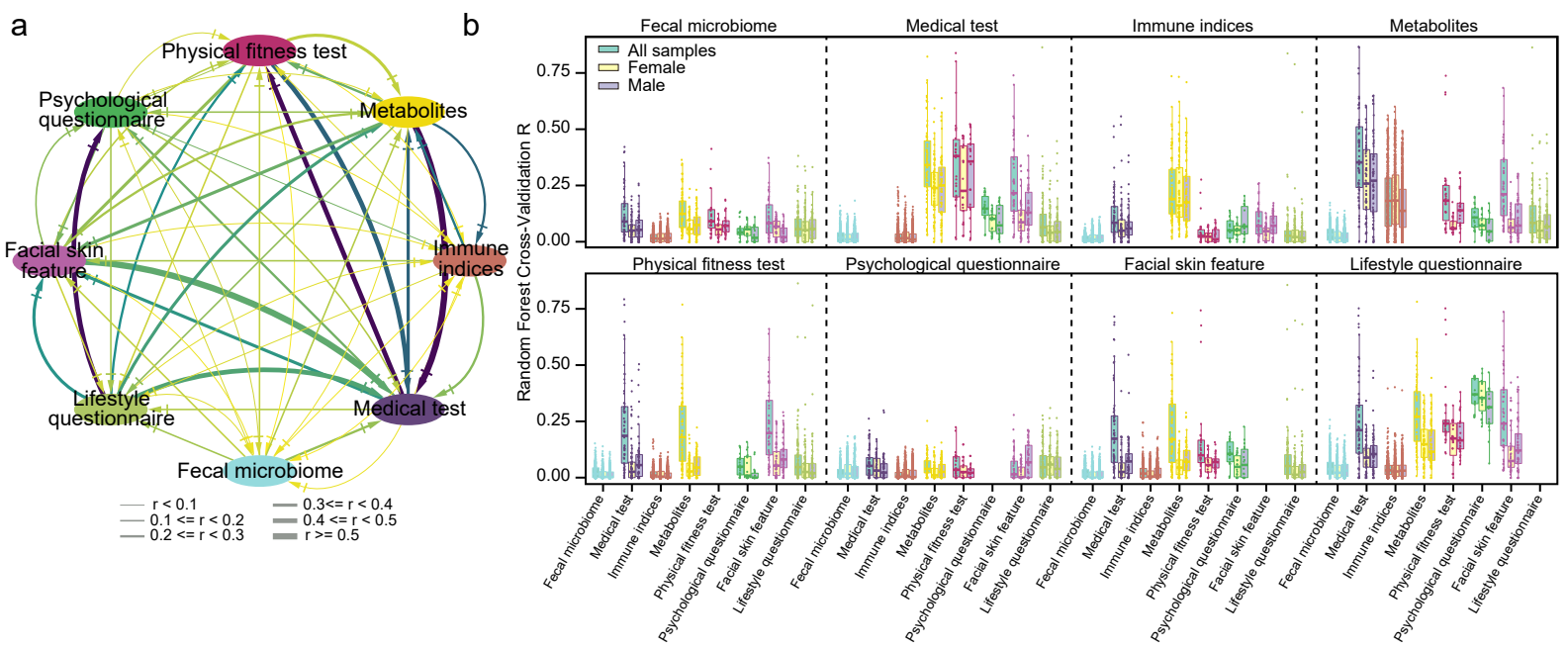


634 immune indices (buffy coat)

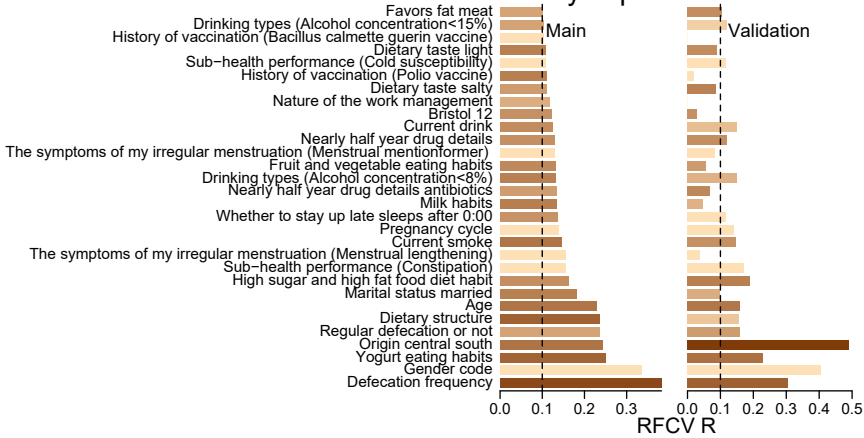


72 basic medical data (9 in validation cohort)

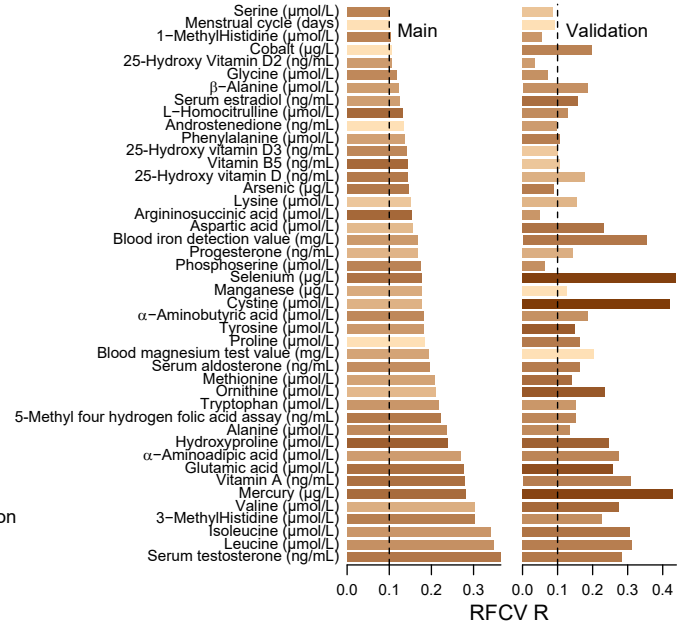
Body measurements:
BMI, Chest circumference, Uric acid
Routine blood test:
Alkaline phosphatase, Bilirubin, HDL, LDL, Globulin, Creatinine (serum)



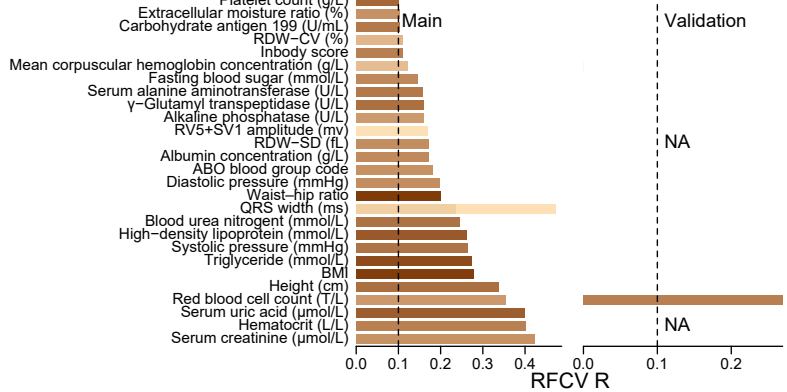
Lifestyle questionnaire



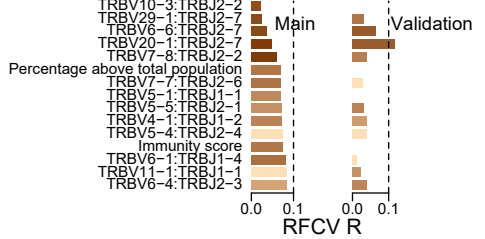
Metabolites



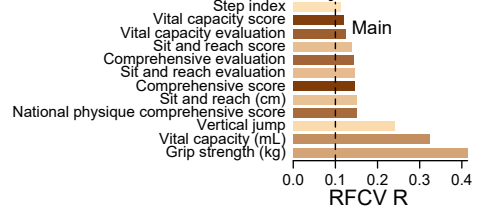
Medical test



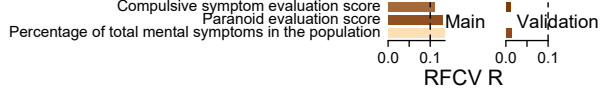
Immune indices



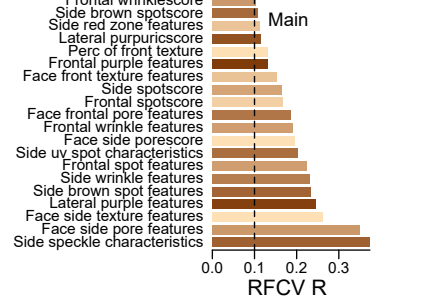
Physical fitness test

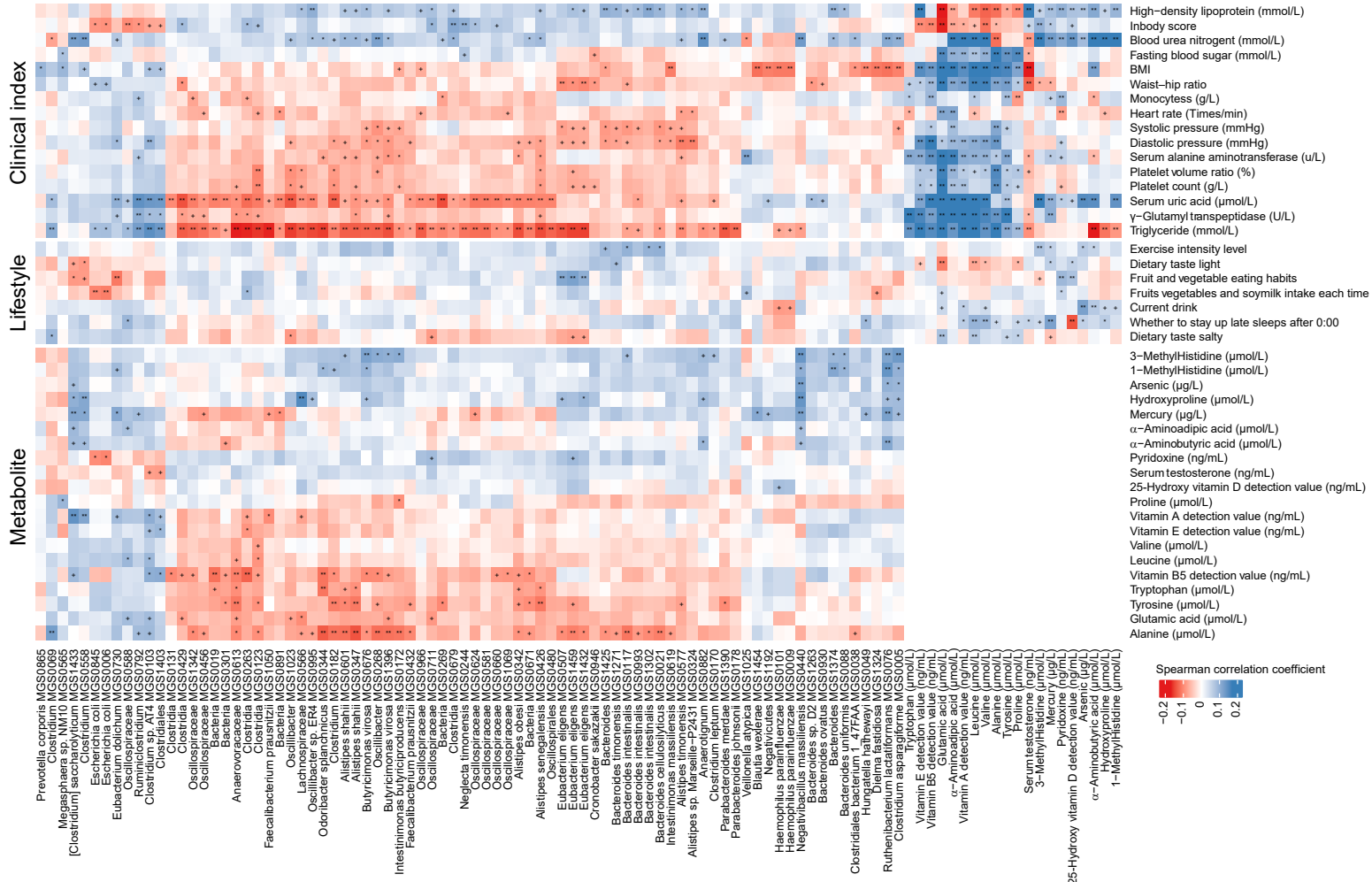


Psychological questionnaire



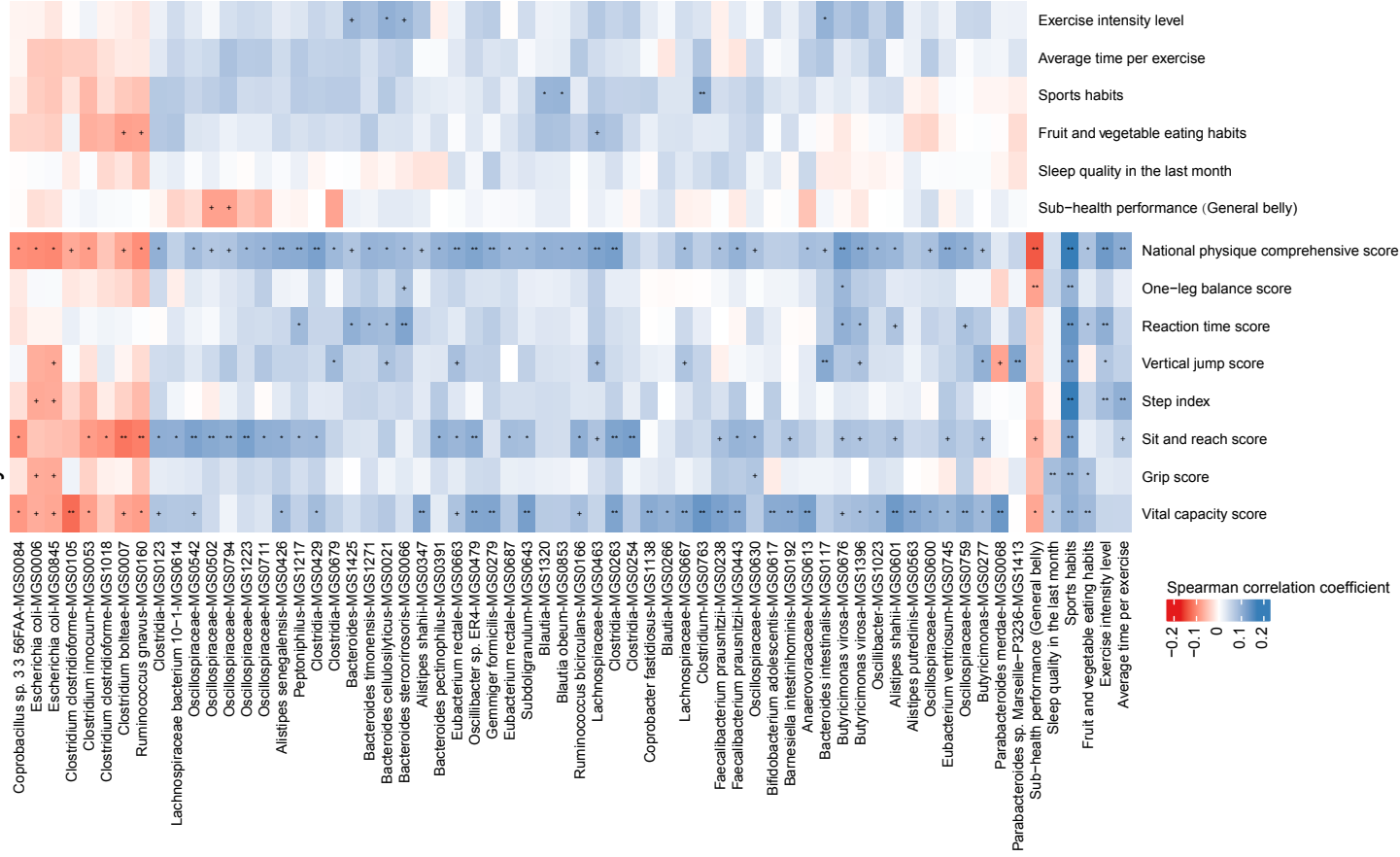
Facial skin feature

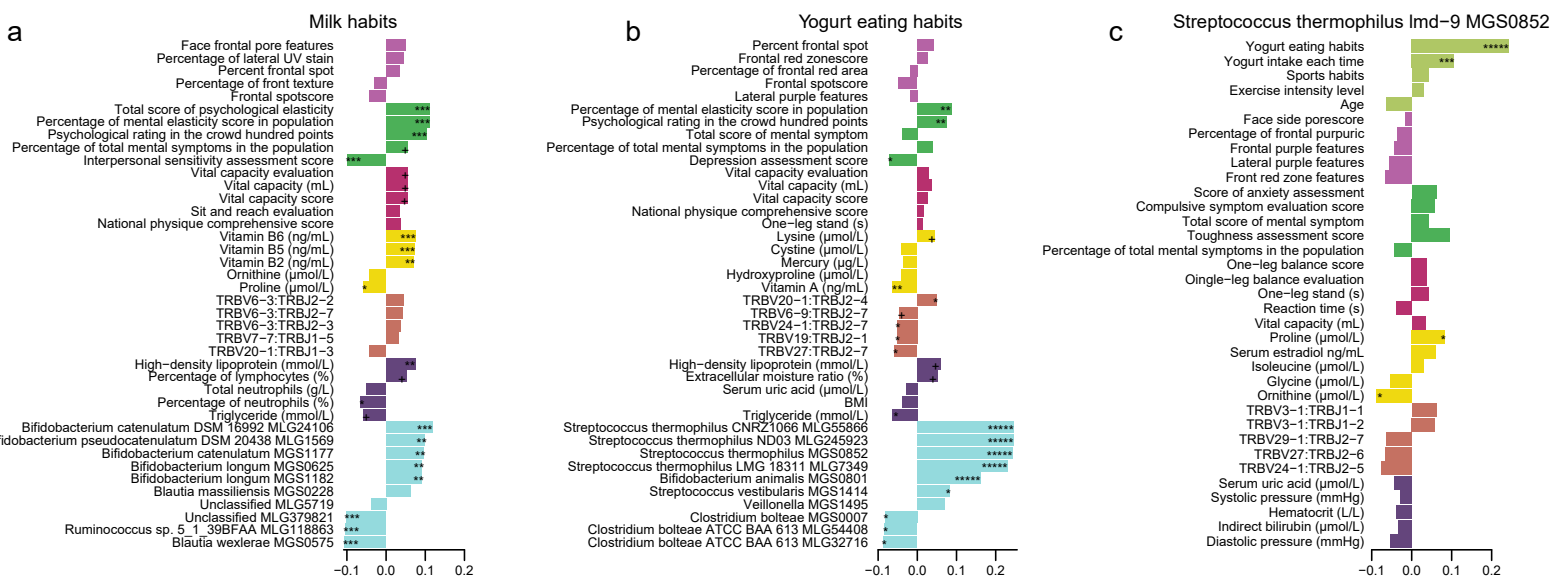




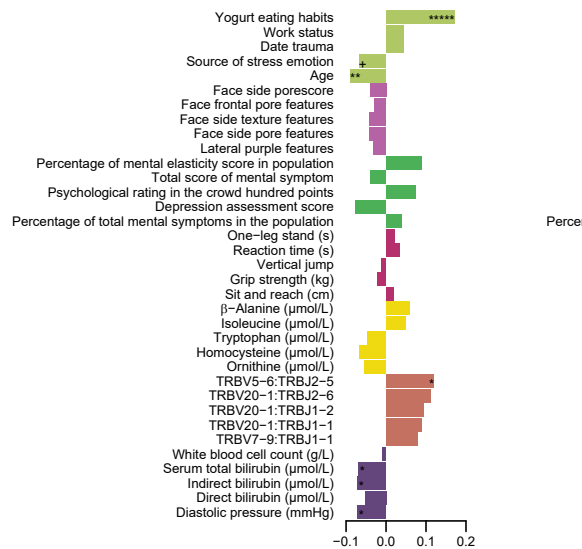
Physical fitness test

Exercise

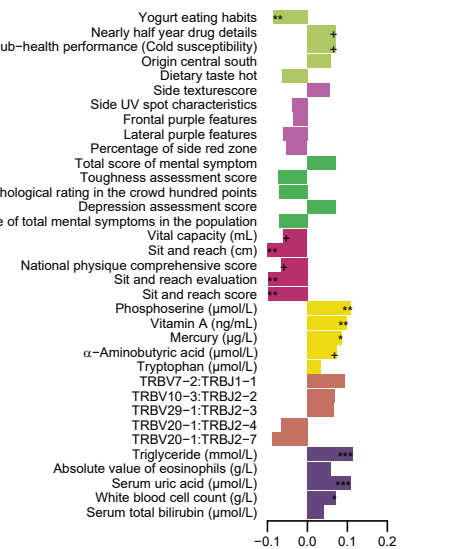




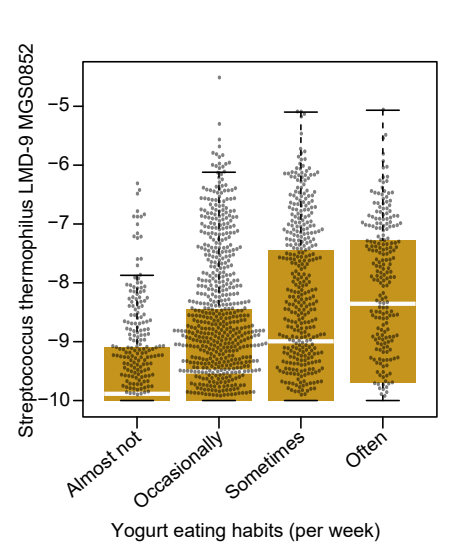
d Bifidobacterium animalis lactis CNCM I 2494 MLG1576



e Clostridium botetiae ATCC BAA 613 MLG32716



f Streptococcus thermophilus LMD-9 MGS0852



■ Fecal microbiome
 ■ Medical test
 ■ Metabolites
 ■ Physical fitness test
 ■ Psychological questionnaire
 ■ Facial skin feature
 ■ Lifestyle questionnaire
 ■ Immune indices