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**Variation in protein coding genes identifies information flow as a contributor to animal complexity**

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**Abstract**

1 Across the metazoans there is a trend towards greater organismal complexity. How  
2 complexity is generated, however, is uncertain. Since *C.elegans* and humans have  
3 approximately the same number of genes, the explanation will depend on how genes are  
4 used, rather than their absolute number. Functional diversity is a measure that quantifies  
5 the isoforms, domains and paralogues of a gene. In this paper we determine functional  
6 diversity for each protein-coding gene in the human genome and its orthologues across  
7 eight commonly used model organisms. From this we derive the Comp<sub>x</sub> list of genes that  
8 correlate positively with their increase in cell-type number. We then select genes common  
9 to the Comp<sub>x</sub> list and the ExAC list, whose genes show minimal variation across many  
10 human genomes, and identify genes with common functions, notably in chromatin structure,  
11 RNA splicing, vesicular transport and ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation. Together  
12 these functions reveal that information flow within the cell relates to cell-type number, used  
13 as a measure of organismal complexity.

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17 Key words: Organismal complexity; information flow; chromatin; splicing; vesicular transport;  
18 ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation

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## 1 Introduction

2 Some animals are more complex than others. For example, the nematode worm, *C.*  
3 *elegans*, widely used as a model organism, has many fewer cell types than vertebrate  
4 models, such as the mouse. Consequently, cell-type number has been widely applied as a  
5 quantitative measure of complexity<sup>1 2</sup>. Since the number of genes in the genome does not  
6 correlate with complexity<sup>3</sup>, it is more likely that patterns of gene expression and the nature of  
7 the encoded proteins are important determinants.

8

9 Patterns of gene expression are determined by cis-acting regulatory elements<sup>4 5</sup>. Since  
10 these frequently act independently, the loss or gain of an element will have little effect on the  
11 expression pattern of the gene mediated by other elements. Cis-acting regulatory elements  
12 can therefore confer the capacity for adaptive evolution as documented by the different  
13 spatial patterns of the *Pitx1* expression in sticklebacks that cause a variation in body armour,  
14 dependent on the environment<sup>6</sup> and their role in the loss of powered flight in some birds<sup>7</sup>.  
15 Although the Encode project<sup>8</sup> has mapped many cis-acting regulatory elements within the  
16 human genome, comprehensive data is lacking for most other species. Instead, in this  
17 paper we focus on a set of factors that influence protein function, to analyse how changes to  
18 these factors in orthologues relate to the complexity of multicellular animals.

19

20 Several of these factors have been shown to correlate positively with the increase in cell-  
21 type number (CTN) across the metazoan phylogeny. For example, *C. elegans* produces on  
22 average just over 1 transcript type per gene (protein coding and non-coding), whilst in  
23 humans this rises to around 5 (based on Ensembl<sup>9</sup> assembly statistics) through the wider  
24 application of alternative splicing and the use of multiple transcript start sites. The resulting  
25 transcript diversity has been positively correlated with animal complexity<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the  
26 complement of protein domains and motifs within a protein across a range of species has  
27 been shown to correlate with complexity, again as measured by CTN<sup>1 10</sup>. Although the  
28 overall number of genes is unlikely to contribute, variation in the number of related genes,  
29 the paralogues within a species, could also be important<sup>11</sup>. When a gene is duplicated the  
30 resulting daughter genes have the opportunity either to take on new activities  
31 (neofunctionalization)<sup>12</sup> or to divide the activities between the two new genes  
32 (subfunctionalisation)<sup>13</sup>.

33

34 Combining data on the number of paralogs, transcript isoforms and protein domains  
35 associated with a gene defines a value termed the functional diversity ( $D_F$ ) of the gene<sup>14</sup>.

36 Correlating  $D_F$  with cell-type number across a range of metazoans for over 2000 genes

1 associated with transcription identified genes involved in chromatin dynamics as candidate  
2 contributors to animal complexity<sup>14</sup>.

3

4 This paper determines the functional diversity for each annotated gene in the human  
5 genome and then across an additional eight species commonly used as model organisms  
6 for biomedical research ([Supplementary Data 1](#)). This approach extends previous analysis  
7 to the complete human gene list and its orthologues generating data for more than 120 000  
8 genes to identify a list of genes, the CompX list, whose function may underpin complexity.  
9 We then identify a prominent overlap between the CompX list and the ExAC list of human  
10 genes that show reduced levels of variation within the human population<sup>15</sup>. It is thought that  
11 the ExAC genes are under purifying selection because they encode proteins that play  
12 important roles within the cell. Analysis of the overlapping genes found in both lists indicates  
13 that many encode proteins that determine information flow within the organism, relating  
14 increases in cell-type number to the ability to process information. This defines a wide,  
15 systems-based context in which to evaluate the contribution of specific genes and cellular  
16 processes to animal complexity.

17

## 18 **Methods**

### 19 *Data-mining and calculation of functional diversity*

20 For each human gene, information on the number of paralogues was obtained from the  
21 Ensembl database<sup>9</sup>. Similarly, the number of protein coding transcripts and the number of  
22 protein domains encoded by each gene, as defined by the Ensembl Prosite Profiles<sup>16</sup>, was  
23 extracted from the Ensembl database using Biomart and adapted protocols  
24 (<https://github.com/JackDean1/OrganismComplexity>). The pipeline was then used to extract  
25 the same information for orthologues of the human genes across eight additional species  
26 from the nematode worm, *C. elegans* to the Macaque, *Macaca mulatta*. Since not all human  
27 genes have orthologues across all the species, the dataset covers 19 908 identifiable human  
28 genes (97.5% of the Ensembl human gene list, unmapped genes were excluded) and 127  
29 355 genes in total. Details of the genomes analysed are provided in [Supplementary Data 1](#).

30

31 A value for the functional diversity ( $D_F$ ) of each gene was then calculated. The protocol is  
32 essentially as described<sup>14</sup> and is calculated from:

33

$$D_F = \log_2 P + \log_2 I + \sum_{I=1}^{I=n} \log_2 M$$

1 Where P is the number of paralogues, I the number of isoforms and M the number of protein  
2 motifs and domains associated with the gene. The complete dataset and calculation of  $D_F$  is  
3 in [Supplementary Data 2](#).

4

#### 5 *Correlation analysis*

6 Ortho-sets, which are named after the human gene, were selected that contained the human  
7 gene and either eight, seven or six orthologues allowing for the absence, or lack of  
8 annotation, of some genes in some species. The  $D_F$  values for each gene within the ortho-  
9 set were correlated with cell type number (CTN)<sup>1 2 17</sup>, taken as a measure of the complexity  
10 of an organism, using a Pearson's correlation (r) that takes account of the degrees of  
11 freedom defined by the number of orthologues in each ortho-set. A similar approach was  
12 taken to identify ortho-sets that showed only minimal change in the value of  $D_F$  for each  
13 gene of the ortho-set. Lists of ortho-sets from the 'complexity' analysis and the 'minimal  
14 change' analysis were compiled with increasing statistical probability in a two-tailed t-test for  
15 the Pearson's correlation and the overlap between the lists determined. At  $p < 0.05$  there was  
16 a 10% overlap in the ortho-sets between the two lists, but this reduced to a 0.2% overlap at  
17  $p < 0.01$ . Consequently, the complexity ortho-set list at  $p < 0.01$ , called the CompX list, was  
18 used in all analyses.

#### 19 *GO-term and STRING analysis of the gene lists*

20 The CompX list of 571 genes ([Supplementary Data 3](#)) was subject to a Gene Ontology (GO)  
21 -term over-representation analysis using Amigo2 v2.5.12<sup>18</sup> and the Panther Classification  
22 system v14<sup>19 20</sup> to identify terms enriched by more than 2.5 fold and with an adjusted  
23 probability of less than 0.05 (Fisher's Exact test with Bonferroni correction for multiple  
24 testing). Redundancy between terms within and across the three major GO-terms was  
25 identified on a Circos plot (gene lists in [Supplementary Data 4](#)). Interactions between the  
26 571 CompX genes were identified using the STRING application<sup>21</sup>.

27

#### 28 *Validation of the CompX – ExAC list overlap*

29 A bootstrap approach was taken to determine whether the overlap between the CompX and  
30 ExAC gene lists was greater than might be expected at random. Using simply the numbers  
31 of genes in each list (571 for CompX, 3230 for ExAC and 19 908 for the human genome) the  
32 overlap between 571 random numbers between 1 and 19 908 and 3 230 random numbers  
33 between 1 and 19 908 was determined across 1000 iterations and the mean and standard  
34 deviation calculated. The process was then repeated replacing 571 with 362, the number of

1 genes in the 'no change' analysis. These calculated, expected values were then related to  
2 the actual overlaps between the gene lists.

3

4 Keywords associated with the function of each of the 159 CompX-ExAC overlap genes were  
5 extracted from GeneCards<sup>22</sup> and validated by reference to published information. The gene  
6 list was then compiled by major function ([Supplementary Data 7](#)).

7

## 8 **Results**

9 *Creating a database of functional diversity for human protein coding genes and their*  
10 *orthologues in eight metazoan species.*

11 This analysis is based on the premise that changes to the biological activity of proteins will  
12 be one of a number of factors that contributes to organismal complexity<sup>1 11 14 23</sup>. When  
13 comparing orthologous genes, the range of biological activity will depend on three factors;  
14 the number of different protein-coding transcripts that can be generated from each gene, the  
15 types and numbers of each domain that are encoded in the protein and the number of  
16 paralogues present in the genome<sup>14</sup>. Values for each of these factors were extracted from  
17 Ensembl, using Biomart, to produce a database for 19 908 human protein coding genes and  
18 127 355 protein coding genes across the nine species considered ([Supplementary Data 2](#))  
19 representing a comprehensive coverage of genes from many of the model organisms used  
20 in biomedical research. The values were then used to calculate the functional diversity ( $D_F$ )  
21 of each gene in each species, providing a metric for the capacity of that gene to provide the  
22 diverse biological activities that determine complexity. As described in the Methods section,  
23 correlating the change in value of  $D_F$  with the change in value of the cell type number, taken  
24 as a measure of organismal complexity, identified a list of 571 ortho-sets that forms the  
25 CompX list

26

27 *GO-term over-representation analysis identifies a limited number of activities*

28 Whilst it is possible that any one of the 571 ortho-sets may contribute to animal complexity,  
29 to identify CompX those with common features, we compared the CompX and human gene  
30 lists to identify GO-terms over-represented in the CompX list. The Panther Classification  
31 system<sup>19 20</sup> was used to identify GO-terms that are over-represented more than 2.5 fold and  
32 with an adjusted p-value of less than 0.05. After the resolution of redundant, nested terms,  
33 seven GO-terms met these criteria (Fig. 1 and [Supplementary Data 4](#)). These included two  
34 associated with the processing of alcohol, two involving mRNA

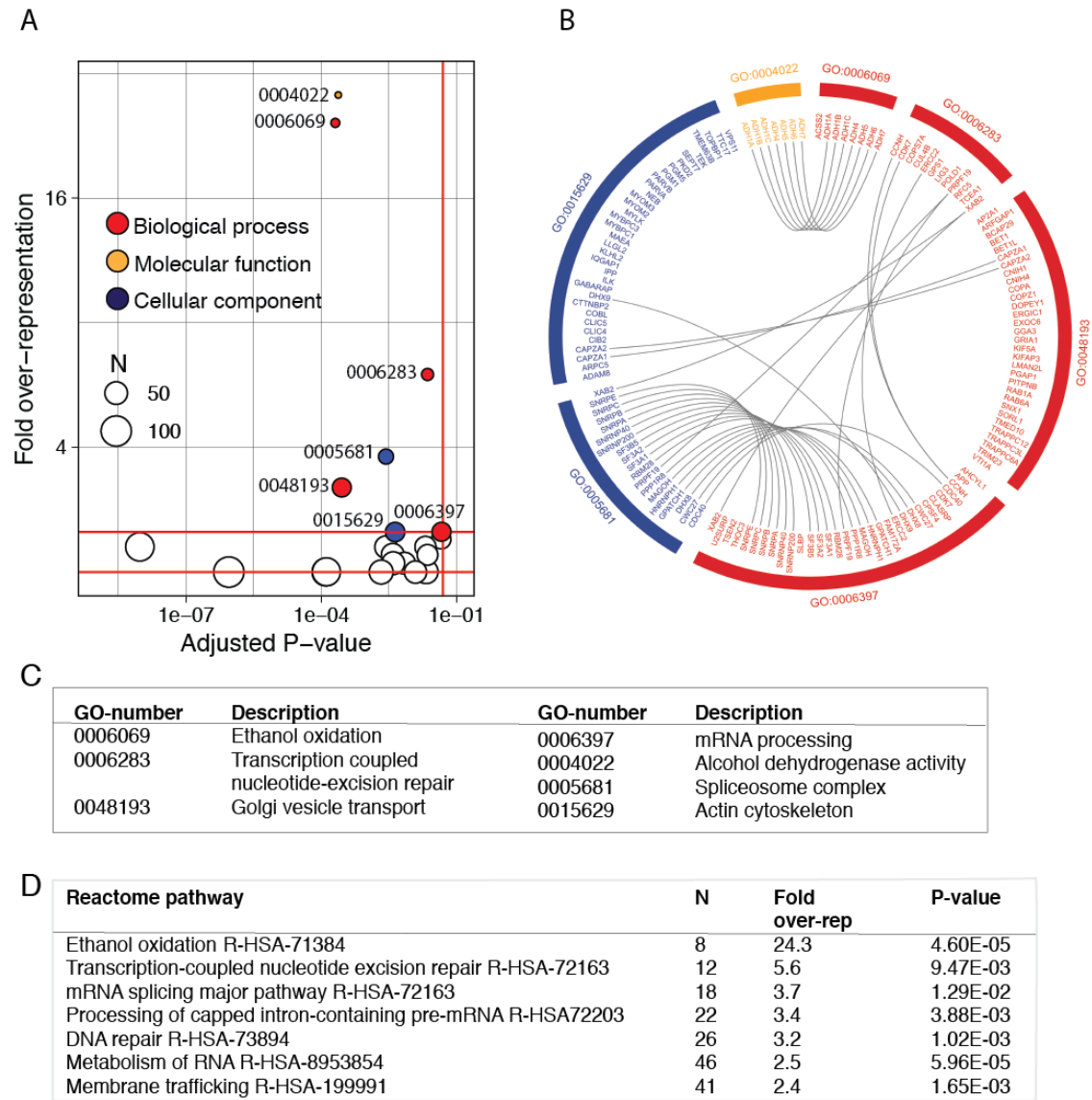


Figure 1. Over-representation assay for the 571 CompX list.

A. Combined graph for the three primary GO-term fields. 2-fold and 2.5-fold over-representation levels are shown and terms that meet the required criteria are coloured according to the primary GO-term. Terms with  $>2 < 2.5$ -fold over-representation are shown as open circles and are listed in [Supplementary Data 4](#). B. Circos plot showing redundant ortho-sets between the GO terms. Complete lists of ortho-sets are in [Supplementary Data 4](#). C. Identification of the major GO-terms. D. Identification of the major terms within the Panther Reactome for over-represented genes within the CompX list.

processing, including the spliceosome complex, and one each for transcription-coupled nucleotide excision repair, Golgi vesicle transport and the actin cytoskeleton. To further analyse the over-represented genes, the degeneracy between the ortho-sets both within and

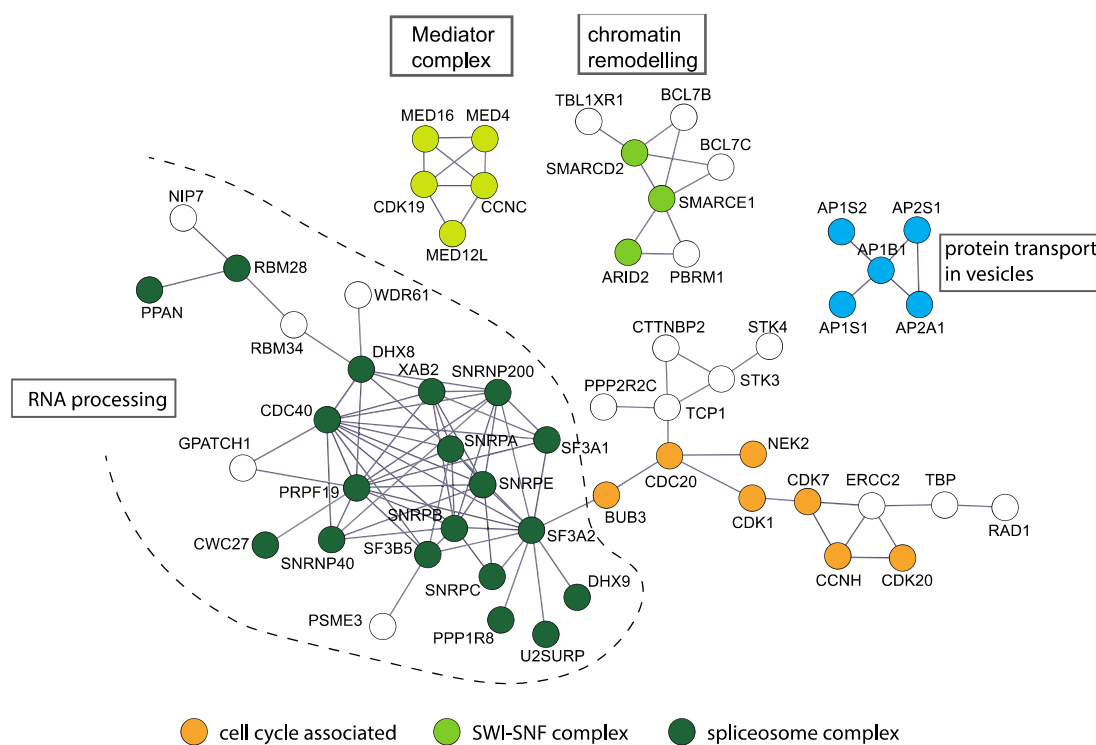
1 across the three primary GO-terms was determined (Fig. 1B, C) to identify a definitive list of  
2 109 ortho-sets (Supplementary Data 4). Combined with a Panther over-representation test  
3 for the reactome (Fig. 1D) this identified four main activities: ethanol oxidation, the regulation  
4 of splicing, DNA repair and membrane trafficking, specifically of ER-Golgi vesicles.

5

### 6 *Identifying interacting subsets using STRING analysis*

7 Identifying interactions between proteins encoded by the CompX list will point to additional  
8 functions to which these genes contribute. The bioinformatic STRING program<sup>21</sup>, set to  
9 identify high confidence, experimentally determined interactions identified 7 activities across  
10 4 networks. (Fig. 2).

11



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15 **Figure 2: Interaction analysis of the CompX ortho-set**

16 Only experimentally verified (confidence level 0.7) interactions and those networks containing at  
17 least one node with three connections are shown. Networks have been coloured by function. The  
18 distance between genes and the orientation is random. The analysis identified 7 major functions  
19 across 4 networks.

20

21 Conserved activities between the two approaches include RNA splicing (the regulation of  
22 splicing and snRNP complex) and protein-vesicle transport (associated mainly with the ER-  
Golgi). In addition, the interactions analysis identified members of the SWI/SNF chromatin



1 remodelling complex, proteins that impose repressive chromatin conformations, the Mediator  
2 complex and proteins that contribute to the cell cycle.

3

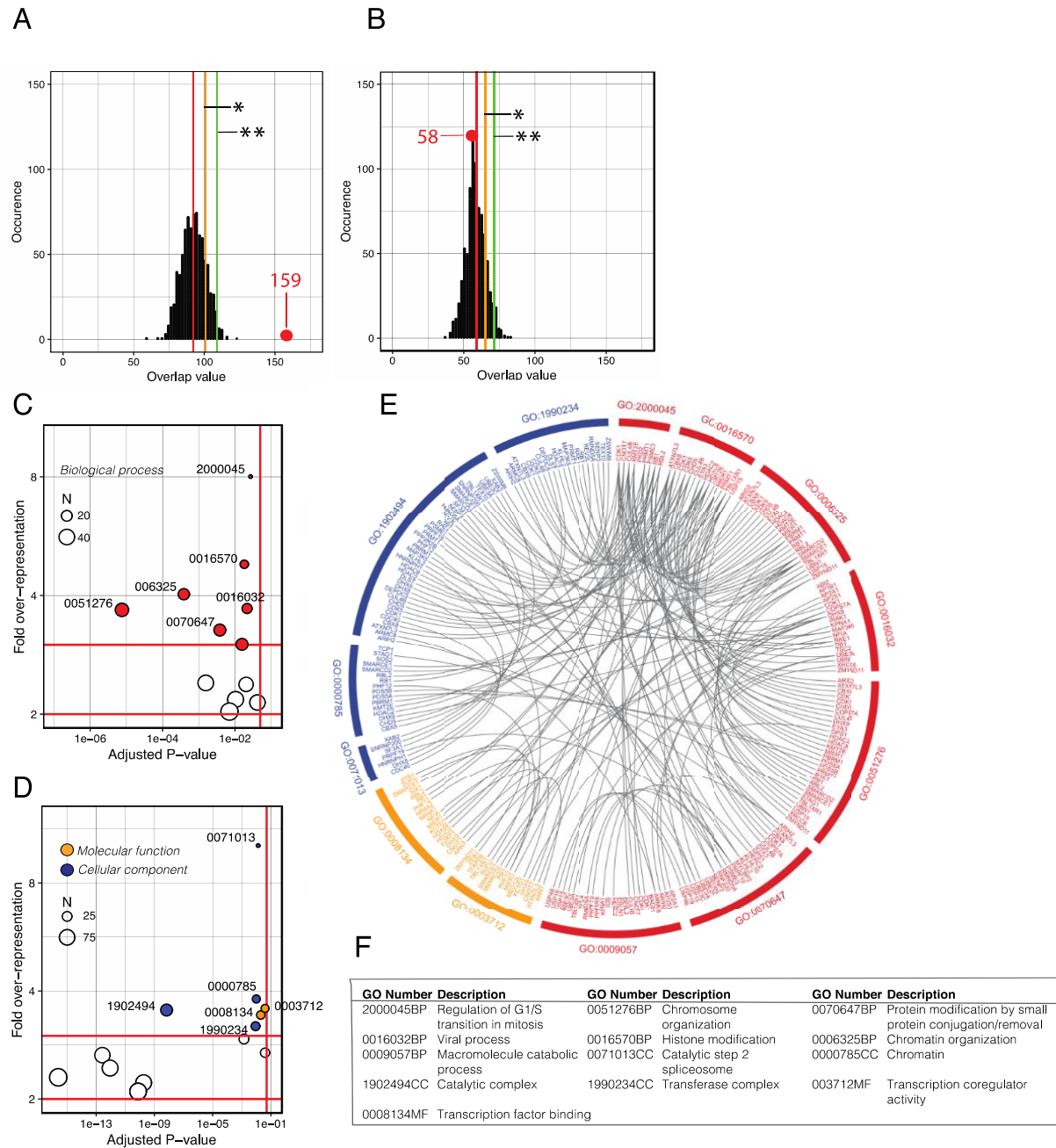
4 *Filtering the CompX list to identify genes with a critical function*

5 The ExAC genes are identified as the human genes that, following sequencing of over 60  
6 000 genomes, show less than expected variation<sup>15</sup>. The suggestion is that the function of  
7 genes on the ExAC list cannot be maintained if the gene is subject to the standard rate of  
8 mutational change, indicating that their products may play critical roles in the cell<sup>15</sup>. We then  
9 hypothesise that genes from the ExAC list may be over-represented in the CompX list. This  
10 would then provide a filter to identify genes that are both vital to the cell and contribute to  
11 animal complexity.

12

13 A direct comparison shows that 159 of the ExAC list of 3230 genes are represented in the  
14 571 gene CompX list ([Supplementary Data 5](#)). A bootstrap method of 1000 sampling events  
15 shows that the expected overlap between two groups the size of the CompX and ExAC lists,  
16 selected at random from a pool the size of the human gene list, is 92. The observed figure of  
17 159 genes is almost 8 standard deviations greater than the expected mean for the random  
18 selection (Fig. 3A).

Animal complexity and information flow



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Figure 3: Demonstration of a prominent overlap between the 571 complexity genes set and ExAC list

A. The distribution of 1000 predicted overlap values between samples of size 571 corresponding to the complexity ortho-set list and 3230 corresponding to the ExAC gene list taken from a stock of 19908, corresponding to the number of human genes in the analysis. The actual overlap value 159 is marked by the red dot.

- 1 B. The same analysis, repeated using a sample size of 362 corresponding to the  
2 minimal-change ortho-set. In each, the mean is marked by a red line, one standard  
3 deviation from the mean by the amber line (\*) and two standard deviations by the  
4 green line (\*\*).
- 5 C. GO-term over-representation analysis for the complexity and ExAC overlapping  
6 gene list. For the analysis of the general GO-term, Biological Process, the red circles  
7 identify terms over-represented by >3x and with adjusted  $P < 0.05$ .
- 8 D. Combined analysis for the general GO-terms Cellular Component (blue circles)  
9 and Molecular Function (orange circles) (over-represented by >3x and adjusted  
10  $P < 0.05$ ). The identity of the terms over-represented by  $>2 < 3x$  are listed in  
11 [Supplementary Data 6](#).
- 12 E. A Circos plot of the individual genes identifies a high degree of redundancy  
13 between the over-represented GO-terms and a unique list of 90 genes  
14 ([Supplementary Data 6](#)).
- 15 F. Table of the over-represented GO-terms, the colours refer to the major GO-terms  
16 as shown in C and D where red denotes Biological Process, orange is Molecular  
17 Function and blue is Cellular Component.

18

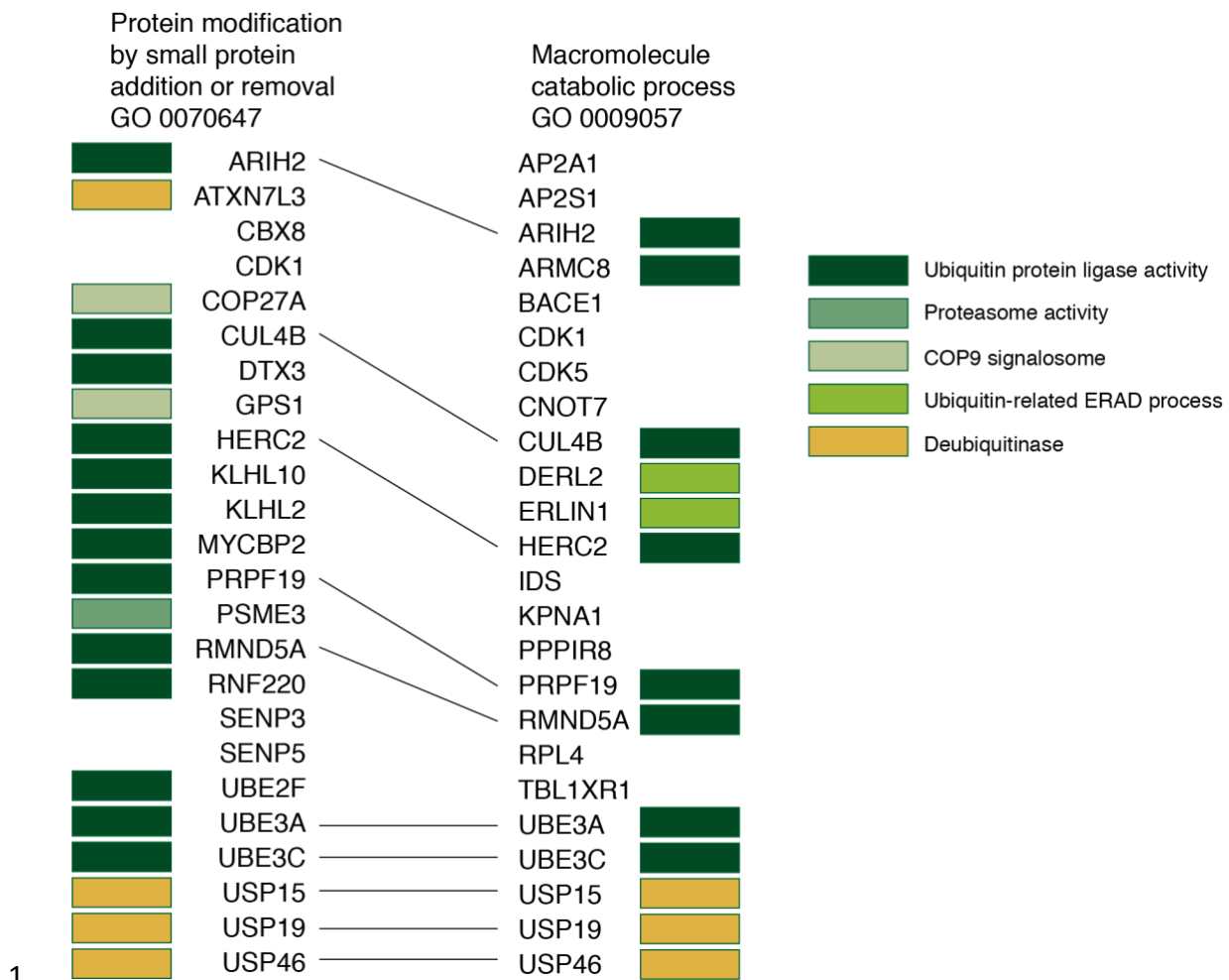
19 In contrast, the same approach, replacing the CompX list with the 362 minimal-change ortho-  
20 set, described above, predicts an overlap with the ExAC list of 58 genes, which is identical to  
21 the observed figure of 58 (Fig. 3B). This approach validates the hypothesis of a relationship  
22 between genes of the CompX and ExAC lists and produces an overlap-list of 159 genes.  
23 Many of the genes resulting from this filter are likely to have both a crucial function in the cell  
24 and critically influence animal complexity.

25

26 *Analysis of the 159 genes that are common to the CompX and ExAC gene lists.*

27 The 159 overlapping genes were subject to GO-term over-representation analysis to  
28 highlight commonalities and the hierarchical terms rationalised using Revigo<sup>24</sup>. GO-terms  
29 were selected that met the criteria of a greater than 3-fold enrichment, when compared to  
30 the standard human genome gene list, and with a probability of less than 0.05 (Fig. 3C and  
31 D). This identified terms across the three major GO-term categories, notably associated  
32 with chromatin dynamics, transcription coregulation, RNA splicing and the cell cycle. In  
33 addition are the terms 'protein modification by small protein conjugation or removal' and  
34 'macromolecule catabolic process' that refer extensively to protein ubiquitination and related  
35 processes including the breakdown of proteins in the proteasome<sup>25</sup> and the elimination of  
36 misfolded proteins in the ER-Golgi system by ERAD<sup>26 27</sup> (Fig. 4).

37

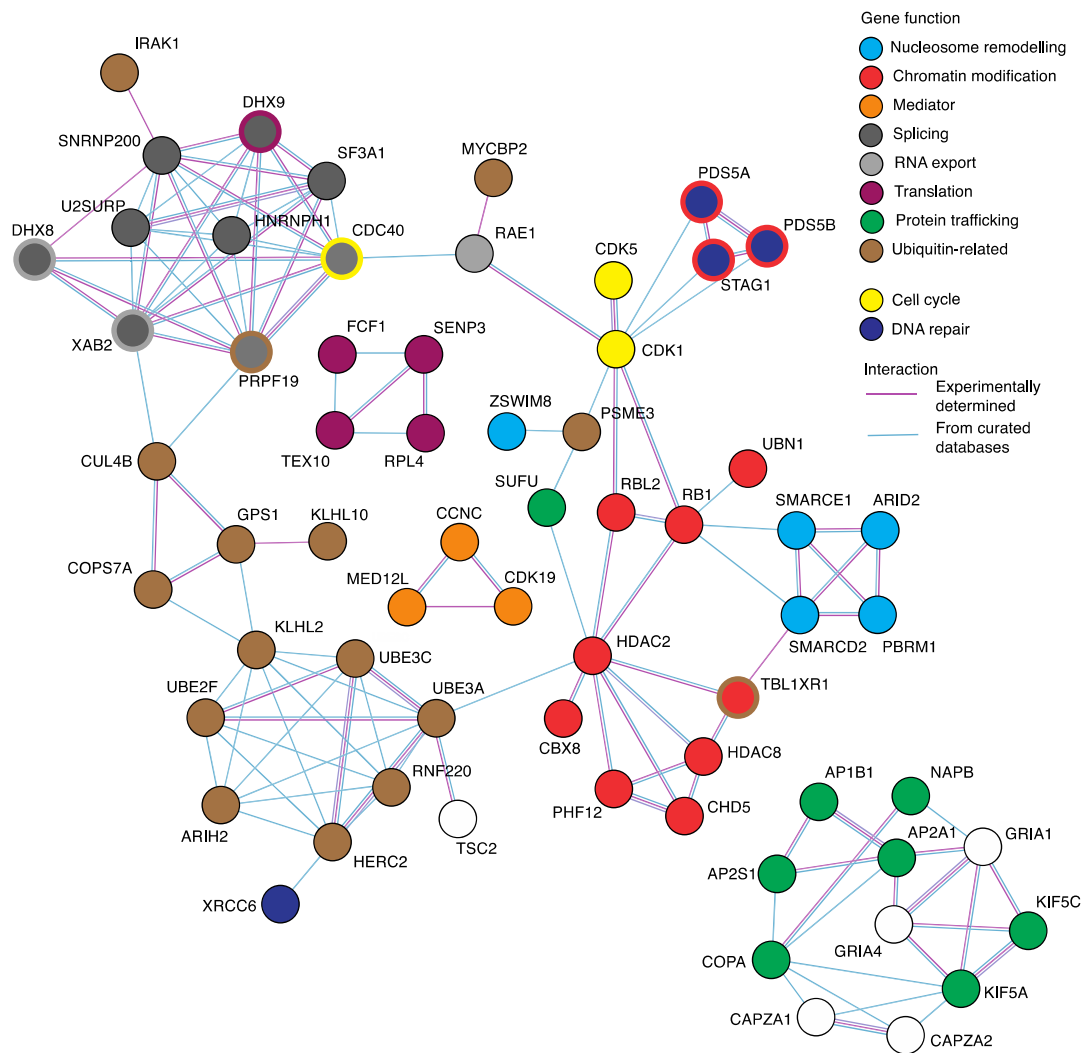


1  
2 Figure 4. The overlap list contains ortho-sets associated with protein ubiquitination  
3 Isolating the overlap between GO:0070647 protein modification by small protein  
4 conjugation or removal and GO:0009057 macromolecule catabolic process, identifies  
5 genes involved in the tagging of proteins with ubiquitin and their recognition for  
6 breakdown in the proteasome and for the removal of misfolded proteins from the ER-  
7 Golgi by the ERAD process.

8  
9 The extensive redundancy of genes within the GO-terms was plotted using Circos and  
10 identifies that 90 of the 159 ortho-sets (61%) are registered in the over-representation GO-  
11 term analysis ([Supplementary Data 6](#)).

12  
13 The products of the 159 overlapping genes were analysed for protein interactions using  
14 STRING (Fig. 5).

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Fig 5. Interaction analysis of the CompX versus ExAC overlap gene list.

Only networks with nodes that contained at least three connections are included. Nodes have been coloured to indicate function. The connectivity of the interacting nodes is more than expected for a random selection of genes with a  $p=8.0E-06$ .

STRING analysis identified a range of interacting groups that could be described in terms of the function of the genes, as described in GeneCards and identified eight major and two minor groupings (Fig. 5). Although there may seem to be little in common between the groupings, a closer consideration suggests these are all components that contribute to information flow in the cell, from access to the chromatin to the final removal of the protein. Information flow in the cell can be described as a sequence of seven events (Fig. 6 and see Discussion). In addition, the integrity of the information needs to be maintained by DNA repair mechanisms and information flow integrated with the cell cycle.

1 To address further the possibility that complexity relates to information flow, the functions of  
2 the genes identified in the GO-term analysis that did not appear in the STRING analysis  
3 were similarly categorized by reference to GeneCards<sup>22</sup> and published data. In total 81 of  
4 the 97 genes could be allocated to events relating to information flow. Of the remaining 61  
5 genes, 25 could be similarly allocated, giving a total of 106 out of 159 genes (67%) that are  
6 held in common between the CompX and ExAC gene lists that may play a role in information  
7 flow in the cell ([Supplementary data 7](#)). These genes were mapped to the seven events  
8 (Fig. 6) and those genes that contribute to more than one event indicated. In addition to  
9 DNA repair, the integrity of information flow is maintained by the removal of mis-folded  
10 proteins in the ER-Golgi system through endoplasmic reticulum-associated degradation  
11 (ERAD)<sup>26 27</sup>.

12

13 These results indicate an important relationship between information flow and a cell-type  
14 number, a measure of complexity for multicellular organisms.

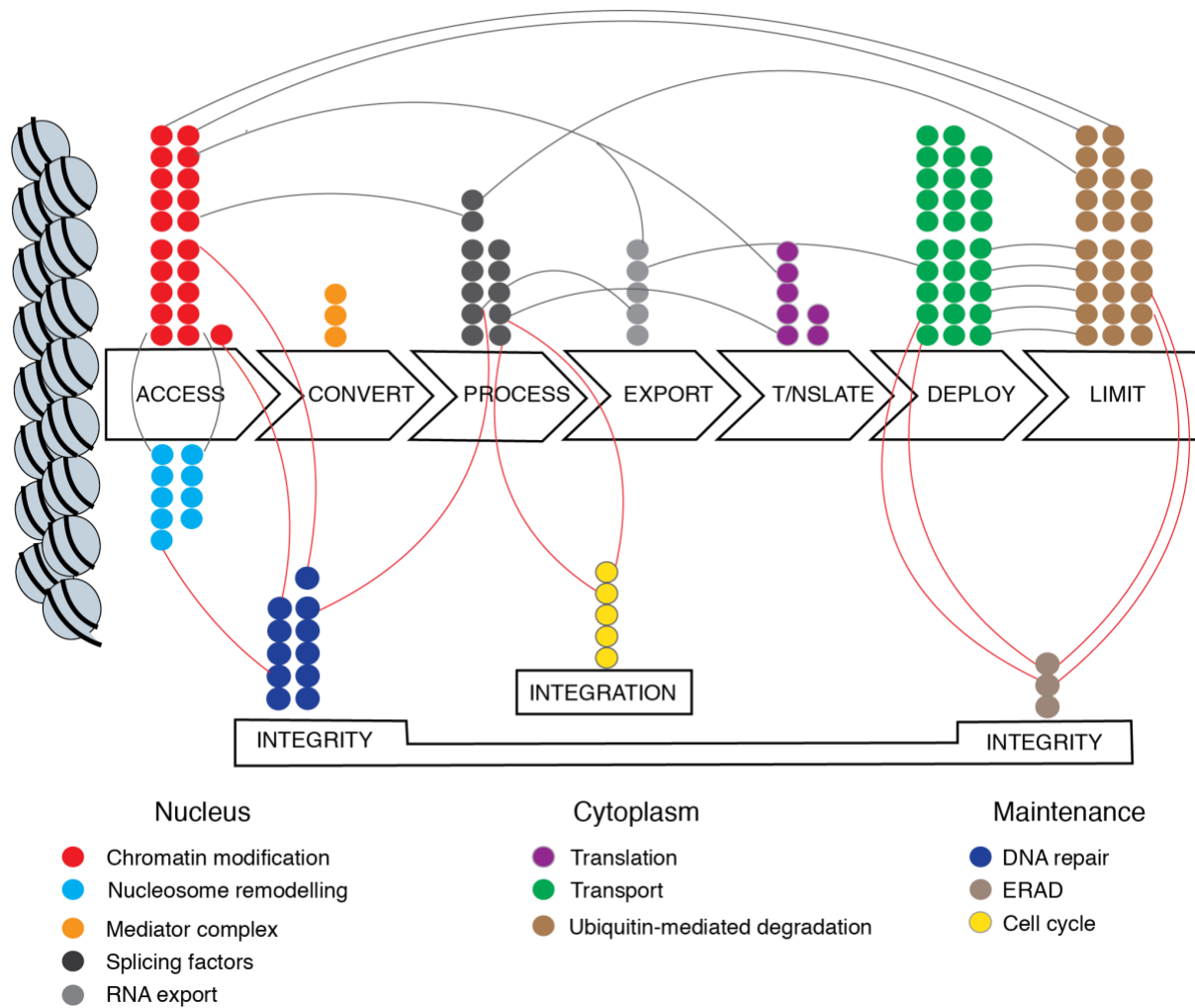
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3 Figure 6 Mapping the CompX-ExAC overlap genes to the elements of information flow in the  
4 cell.

5 Individual genes (coloured circles) are mapped to the seven elements of gene flow and to  
6 the two maintenance factors, integrity and integration. Justification for the allocation is  
7 given in [Supplementary Data 7](#). The contribution of one gene product to more than one  
8 element is marked by a connecting arc.

9

10

## 11 Discussion

12 In this paper, we use a simple approach to data-mine three variables that define and  
13 quantify the functional diversity ( $D_F$ ) of proteins derived from each human gene and its  
14 orthologues from up to eight other species (termed an ortho-set). The change in  $D_F$  for each  
15 gene is correlated with the change in number of different cell types in the species, a proxy  
16 for organismal complexity, to identify 571 ortho-sets with a positive correlation.

1 This approach subscribes to a specific model in which incremental changes in functional  
2 diversity across an ortho-set relate to an incremental change in complexity. Alternative  
3 models, in which, for example, major changes in functional diversity occur at a specific point  
4 in the phylogeny, are also likely and can be extracted from our data set ([Supplementary  
5 Data 2](#)). Whilst individual genes, acting in isolation, are likely to relate complexity in either  
6 model, GO-term over-representation and interaction analysis point towards processes and  
7 systems and it is these that will contribute to a broader understanding of the basis of  
8 organismal complexity.

9  
10 This paper considers functional diversity, but this will be only one of several factors  
11 associated with animal complexity. Amongst others, an increasing diversity in cis-acting  
12 regulatory elements (CAREs) across a phylogeny will play a role<sup>4 5 28</sup> and there may also be  
13 a contribution to complexity from changes to the complement of regulatory non-coding  
14 RNAs, including the miRNAs<sup>29 30</sup> and lncRNAs that have been shown to modulate gene  
15 expression<sup>31</sup>.

16  
17 We have not been able to include all the factors that affect protein functional diversity in this  
18 analysis. For example, short linear motifs (SLiMs)<sup>23</sup> impact on the function of proteins such  
19 as NCoR2<sup>11</sup>, but these are not currently widely annotated. The functional capabilities of a  
20 protein may also be honed by a small number of changes within the sequence that affect  
21 neither protein domain number, nor the range of isoforms<sup>32</sup>. Lack of this data may mean that  
22 some ortho-sets that contribute to complexity have not been identified.

23  
24 Other studies have successfully identified the contribution of individual components to  
25 complexity, such as protein domains and alternative splicing<sup>1 2</sup>. A previous paper used the  
26 approach taken here to assess genes broadly associated with transcription, as listed in the  
27 AnimalTFDB 2.0 database of 2087 human genes<sup>14</sup>. The identified ortho-sets that are  
28 primarily involved in the dynamic structure and function of chromatin, including nucleosome  
29 remodeling, the modulation of chromatin activity and the Mediator function. By extending the  
30 analysis to the whole genome we aimed to expand this selection to include events outside  
31 the nucleus. GO-term over-representation analysis (Fig. 1A) indicated that the oxidation of  
32 alcohol, mRNA processing, notably splicing, aspects of DNA repair and protein transport via  
33 vesicles should also be considered. For the oxidation of alcohol, the main component of  
34 functional diversity is the reiterative gene duplication followed by sub- and neo-  
35 functionalization that have produced a range of enzymes that metabolize ethanol and related  
36 alcohols<sup>33 34</sup>. Analysis of interactions amongst the CompX ortho-sets via STRING identified  
37 components of the spliceosome and of vesicular transport and in addition highlights



1 chromatin remodeling and the Mediator complex, consistent with the results from the  
2 previous, more limited, survey<sup>14</sup>.

3  
4 In this paper we apply an additional filter by identifying the overlap between the CompX and  
5 ExAC genes lists. The ExAC genes have less than expected variation within the human  
6 population, suggesting they play important functions that are sensitive to mutation<sup>15</sup>. This  
7 might seem to contradict the essence of the CompX list, which selects for increases in  
8 functional diversity, but the CompX list reflects changes between orthologues across a wide  
9 phylogeny, rather than variation within a single species. There is a greater than expected  
10 overlap between the CompX list and the ExAC list that is not seen when the ExAC list is  
11 compared to the 'minimal-change' list of genes selected for minimally changing values of  
12 functional diversity (Fig. 4). The hypothesis is that the filter will highlight those ortho-sets  
13 that both relate to complexity and are important to the function of the cell, allowing the  
14 identification of cellular processes that are critical for organismal complexity.

15  
16 Within the overlap list, GO-term analysis identified sub-terms associated with chromatin  
17 dynamics, the spliceosome, protein modification by ubiquitination and the cell cycle.  
18 Interaction analysis similarly identified ortho-sets associated with mRNA splicing and  
19 chromatin dynamics, notably nucleosome remodeling, ubiquitin-mediated protein turnover  
20 and, in addition, ortho-sets that encode proteins involved in the distribution of proteins via  
21 vesicles within the ER-Golgi apparatus.

22  
23 Is there a common theme? Each of these groupings can be directly related to the concept of  
24 information flow in the cell. We hypothesise that the contribution of protein functional  
25 diversity to complexity is primarily, though not exclusively, at the level of information flow in  
26 the cell. Information flow can be explained in terms of seven sequential elements (Fig. 6).  
27 First, nucleosome re-modelling and epigenetic marks regulate *access* to chromatin, flipping  
28 chromatin between states that either promote or repress gene expression<sup>35 36 37 38 39</sup>. The  
29 Mediator complex then promotes interactions between distant enhancer elements and the  
30 genes to be expressed<sup>40 41</sup> which in combination with transcription factors and RNA  
31 polymerases will *convert* the primary information to the intermediate, RNA. The division of  
32 eukaryotic genes into exons and introns requires subsequent *processing* of the primary  
33 transcript by the spliceosome<sup>42 43</sup> before *export* of the RNA to the cytosol where it is  
34 *translated* to protein. The next step in cellular information flow is one of logistics, *deploying*  
35 the product to the right location and in the correct format. Vesicular transport in the cell,  
36 associated with the ER-Golgi apparatus, transports proteins to the cell surface and for  
37 secretion<sup>15</sup>, destinations that will be important as multicellular organisms gain in complexity

1 and require signaling between cell types. Finally, the specific and regulated addition and  
2 removal of ubiquitin<sup>44</sup>, coupled with the proteasome, ensures that specific proteins are  
3 turned over, to provide a *limitation* to the pathway of information flow<sup>45 46</sup>.

4  
5 We have also identified a number of genes whose function can be ascribed to maintaining  
6 the integrity of the information flow. These include DNA repair functions that are important  
7 for the stored information and processes such as ERAD that take place in the endoplasmic  
8 reticulum to remove defective proteins<sup>27</sup>. Unsurprisingly, information flow needs to be  
9 coordinated to the cell cycle and a number of genes that function in both have been  
10 identified (Fig. 6 and [Supplementary data 7](#)).

11  
12 We can speculate that the increased range of functions of key proteins at each stage  
13 increases the efficiency of information flow through processes of neo- and sub-  
14 functionalization of paralogues and isoforms<sup>47</sup>. Whilst this paper identifies a general trend,  
15 further analysis of specific genes will be required to determine precisely how these  
16 efficiencies are achieved. It is clear, though, that the genes identified in this analysis do not  
17 greatly affect the cell-type specific activities of different differentiated cell types, rather they  
18 relate to the processing of information to generate those specific activities. Applying the  
19 concept of information flow within the cell is important because it will provide the context for  
20 a more detailed analysis and understanding of animal complexity.

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25 PhD bursary with Professor A. Callaghan and research support, respectively.

## 26 27 **Contributions**

28 JD collected and analysed the data, DLC analysed the data and CS analysed the data and  
29 wrote the manuscript.

## 30 31 **Competing interests**

32 The authors declare no competing interests.

## 33 34 **Data availability**

35 The authors declare that all other data supporting the findings of this study are available in  
36 the paper, in its supplementary information files (S1 and S3-7 are attached at the end of this  
37 document) and S2 is available in the University of Portsmouth repository, PURE, at DOI:

1 10.17029/3d3b91c7-3ae2-4ef8-9703-852709d04a8f and (S2-7) at  
2 <https://github.com/colin17/complexity.git> .

3

4

### 5 **Code availability**

6 The code used, in R, to extract data from the Ensembl database is freely available at  
7 <https://github.com/JackDean1/OrganismComplexity>.

8

### 9 **Supplementary information**

10 **S1** Table of the genome data used in this research.

11 **S2** Table of calculations of functional diversity for all genes across the eight species  
12 (CSV format).

13 **S3** The CompX list of genes (CSV format)

14 **S4** GO-term details for the CompX gene list (CSV format)

15 **S5** The CompX-ExAC overlap list of genes (CSV format)

16 **S6** GO-term details for the CompX-ExAC overlap gene list (CSV format)

17 **S7** CompX-ExAC overlap gene list, functional details (CSV format)

18

19

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32   Supplementary data

33   **Supplementary Data S1, S3-7**

34

35   **S1**

36   **Supplementary Table 1**

37

Organism	Classification	Genome version	Gene number <sup>1</sup>	Cell type Number <sup>2</sup>
Homo sapiens	Mammal	GRCh38.p12	20,418	171
Macacca mulata	Mammal	Mmul_8.0.1	21,099	171
Mus musculus	Mammal	GRCm38.p6	22,600	157
Gallus gallus	Bird	GRCg6a	16,878	150
Xenopus tropicalis	Amphibian	JGI 4.2	18,442	121
Takifugu rubripes	Bony fish	FUGU5	20,545	114
Ciona intestinalis	Urochordate	KH	16,671	71
Drosophila melanogaster	Insect	BDGP6	13,931	60
Caenorhabditis elegans	Nematode worm	WBcel235	20,222	29

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

1. As given on the Ensembl database

2. Cell type number taken from :

Vogel C, Chothia C (2006) Protein family expansions and biological complexity. PLoS Comput Biol 2: e48.

pmid:16733546

Hedges SB, Blair JE, Venturi ML, Shoe JL (2004) A molecular timescale of eukaryote evolution and the rise of complex multicellular life. BMC Evol Biol 4: 2. pmid:15005799

## Animal complexity and information flow

24

1 **S3**  
2 Compx gene list,,"""Flat"" list",,  
3 ABI2,,ABHD2,,  
4 AC235565.2,,ADORA2A,,  
5 ACOT11,,AGPAT5,,  
6 ACOT7,,AK6,,  
7 ACSS2,,ALAD,,  
8 ADAM15,,ALG1,,  
9 ADAM8,,ALG10,,  
10 ADAMTS3,,ALG10B,,  
11 ADH1A,,ALG8,,  
12 ADH1B,,AMT,,  
13 ADH1C,,ANAPC10,,  
14 ADH4,,ANKZF1,,  
15 ADH5,,ANXA6,,  
16 ADH6,,ARHGDIA,,  
17 ADH7,,ARL5A,,  
18 ADORA3,,ARPC1B,,  
19 ADSS,,ASAH1,,  
20 AGBL4,,ASMT,,  
21 AHCYL1,,ASRGL1,,  
22 AKR1A1,,ATG12,,  
23 ALAS2,,ATG13,,  
24 ALDH1L1,,ATG9B,,  
25 ANKRD50,,ATP13A1,,  
26 AP1B1,,ATP6V0D1,,  
27 AP1S1,,ATP6V1G3,,  
28 AP1S2,,BBS1,,  
29 AP2A1,,BBS2,,  
30 AP2S1,,BCKDHA,,  
31 AP3S2,,BCL6,,  
32 APP,,BTBD3,,  
33 ARAP2,,BYSL,,  
34 ARFGAP1,,C15orf41,,  
35 ARG2,,C1QTNF1,,  
36 ARHGDIB,,C9orf64,,  
37 ARID2,,CACYPB,,  
38 ARIH2,,CAPSL,,  
39 ARL14EP,,CARHSP1,,  
40 ARL15,,CAV2,,  
41 ARMC8,,CCDC124,,  
42 ARNT,,CCDC181,,  
43 ARPC5,,CCDC25,,  
44 ASCL3,,CCNG1,,  
45 ASF1B,,CCS,,  
46 ASNA1,,CCZ1B,,  
47 ATG2A,,CDC16,,  
48 ATP5F1A,,CENPV,,  
49 ATP6V1E1,,CEP78,,  
50 ATXN7L3,,CFAP157,,  
51 BACE1,,CFAP57,,  
52 BANF2,,CHMP7,,  
53 BBS9,,CHRM2,,  
54 BCAP29,,CHSY1,,  
55 BCL7B,,CHSY3,,  
56 BCL7C,,CIRBP,,  
57 BET1,,CLNS1A,,  
58 BET1L,,CLPTM1L,,



## Animal complexity and information flow

25

1 BLM,,CMC1,,  
2 BNC2,,CMC2,,  
3 BPNT1,,CMTR2,,  
4 BSDC1,,CNDP2,,  
5 BUB3,,CNKSR2,,  
6 C1D,,COASY,,  
7 C1QTNF3,,COL4A3BP,,  
8 CA2,,COPB1,,  
9 CA5A,,COX11,,  
10 CALHM3,,CPA1,,  
11 CALHM4,,CPA4,,  
12 CALHM6,,CPLX2,,  
13 CAPN3,,CPSF2,,  
14 CAPZA1,,CPSF7,,  
15 CAPZA2,,CRAMP1,,  
16 CASP2,,CRBN,,  
17 CBLN2,,CSTF1,,  
18 CBX6,,CTCF,,  
19 CBX8,,CTNNB1,,  
20 CCDC151,,CTNNBIP1,,  
21 CCNC,,CTSB,,  
22 CCND1,,DAD1,,  
23 CCNH,,DCAF13,,  
24 CCZ1,,DDB1,,  
25 CCZ1B,,DDX6,,  
26 CD63,,DECR1,,  
27 CDC20,,DGCR8,,  
28 CDC40,,DHRS2,,  
29 CDCA7,,DHX36,,  
30 CDK1,,DHX38,,  
31 CDK11A,,DLX4,,  
32 CDK11B,,DMGDH,,  
33 CDK19,,DMRT2,,  
34 CDK20,,DNAAF3,,  
35 CDK5,,DNAAF5,,  
36 CDK7,,DNAJC18,,  
37 CERS5,,DPH1,,  
38 CHD5,,DPH2,,  
39 CHMP2B,,DPP9,,  
40 CIB2,,DTWD1,,  
41 CIB3,,DUOX1,,  
42 CLASRP,,DUS4L,,  
43 CLIC4,,DYM,,  
44 CLIC5,,DYNC2LI1,,  
45 CLIC6,,EARS2,,  
46 CMTM6,,EDC3,,  
47 CNIH1,,EEF1AKMT2,,  
48 CNIH4,,EEPDI,,  
49 CNOT7,,EFCAB2,,  
50 COBL,,EFHC1,,  
51 COL12A1,,EFHD1,,  
52 COL14A1,,EIF1AD,,  
53 COL6A1,,EIF3B,,  
54 COL6A2,,EIF3C,,  
55 COLQ,,EIF3F,,  
56 COMMD7,,EIF3H,,  
57 COPA,,ELP2,,  
58 COPS7A,,ELP4,,

## Animal complexity and information flow

26

1 COPZ1,, EMC4,,  
2 COQ8B,, EMC7,,  
3 COQ9,, ENKUR,,  
4 CPSF4,, ENO1,,  
5 CRYZL1,, ERCC3,,  
6 CTTNBP2,, EXTL3,,  
7 CUL4B,, FAM185A,,  
8 CWC27,, FAM72A,,  
9 DAP3,, FAM72B,,  
10 DBT,, FAXDC2,,  
11 DEPDC5,, FBXL16,,  
12 DERL2,, FEM1B,,  
13 DHX8,, FGL1,,  
14 DHX9,, FICD,,  
15 DIS3L2,, FMC1,,  
16 DLST,, FNIP1,,  
17 DNTTIP2,, FNTA,,  
18 DOK1,, FRMD6,,  
19 DOK6,, FRS2,,  
20 DOPEY1,, FTCD,,  
21 DPH5,, GAS8,,  
22 DTL,, GATB,,  
23 DTX3,, GATC,,  
24 EEF1B2,, GATM,,  
25 EEF1D,, GCNT3,,  
26 EIF1,, GDF9,,  
27 EIF1B,, GLDC,,  
28 EIF3E,, GOSR1,,  
29 ELFN1,, GOSR2,,  
30 EMC9,, GPALPP1,,  
31 EML4,, GPR89A,,  
32 EMSY,, HAAO,,  
33 ENTPD5,, HADH,,  
34 ERCC2,, HAO2,,  
35 ERGIC1,, HEXB,,  
36 ERLIN1,, HSD17B4,,  
37 ETHE1,, HSPA9,,  
38 EXOC6,, HYDIN,,  
39 EXOC7,, IFT74,,  
40 EXOSC6,, IMMP1L,,  
41 EXT2,, IMP3,,  
42 EYA3,, INTS12,,  
43 FAM120B,, INTS14,,  
44 FAM160A1,, INTS9,,  
45 FAM172A,, IQUB,,  
46 FAM206A,, IRAK4,,  
47 FAM49B,, JOSD1,,  
48 FAM92A,, KATNB1,,  
49 FAM98C,, KCNC4,,  
50 FANCD2,, KDELR2,,  
51 FBLL1,, KDELR3,,  
52 FBXO8,, LACTB,,  
53 FCF1,, LARP7,,  
54 FN1,, LARS,,  
55 FO393400.1,, LCMT1,,  
56 FOXP1,, LGMN,,  
57 FREM1,, LIG4,,  
58 GABARAP,, LONP1,,

## Animal complexity and information flow

27

1 GCAT,,LRRC6,,  
2 GDPD5,,LTN1,,  
3 GFOD1,,MAATS1,,  
4 GFOD2,,MAGEA2,,  
5 GGA3,,MAGEA2B,,  
6 GNA13,,MAGEA4,,  
7 GNG2,,MAPK10,,  
8 GNG3,,MCM4,,  
9 GNL1,,MCTS1,,  
10 GPATCH1,,MED17,,  
11 GPC1,,MED22,,  
12 GPC2,,MED9,,  
13 GPS1,,MFSD8,,  
14 GRIA1,,MIOS,,  
15 GRIA4,,MLEC,,  
16 GRIK1,,MLST8,,  
17 GRIK2,,MOGS,,  
18 GRTP1,,MORN5,,  
19 GSX2,,MPPE1,,  
20 GTF3A,,MRPL11,,  
21 GUCY1B1,,MRPL16,,  
22 H2AFV,,MRPL22,,  
23 HACD2,,MRPL28,,  
24 HADHB,,MRPL43,,  
25 HAND2,,MRPL55,,  
26 HDAC2,,MRPS2,,  
27 HDAC8,,MRPS22,,  
28 HERC2,,MSH6,,  
29 HHIPL1,,MTFP1,,  
30 HM13,,MTRF1,,  
31 HMBS,,MTTP,,  
32 HMGCL,,MVD,,  
33 HNRNPH1,,MYL6B,,  
34 HOOK2,,NAF1,,  
35 HOOK3,,NAT9,,  
36 HOXC4,,NDUFA2,,  
37 HS3ST2,,NDUFAF5,,  
38 HSD17B2,,NDUFAF7,,  
39 ID2,,NDUFB9,,  
40 ID3,,NECAP1,,  
41 IDS,,NELFA,,  
42 IFRD2,,NFS1,,  
43 IFT140,,NHP2,,  
44 IFT20,,NOP16,,  
45 IGSF9,,NOP2,,  
46 IL18RAP,,NOP53,,  
47 ILK,,NUDT2,,  
48 ILKAP,,NUDT4,,  
49 IP6K2,,OSBPL2,,  
50 IPO11,,OTUD4,,  
51 IPP,,PAX6,,  
52 IQGAP1,,PCNX4,,  
53 IRAK1,,PDCD10,,  
54 IRF1,,PDP2,,  
55 IRX4,,PDZD3,,  
56 IRX6,,PES1,,  
57 ITGB4,,PGS1,,  
58 JMJD7,,PHOSPHO1,,

## Animal complexity and information flow

28

1 KCNC2,, PIGL,,  
2 KCND3,, PIGS,,  
3 KCNIP1,, PIN1,,  
4 KCNIP4,, PIP4K2C,,  
5 KCNK15,, PISD,,  
6 KCTD1,, PKMYT1,,  
7 KCTD15,, PLA2G15,,  
8 KCTD3,, PNPO,,  
9 KCTD8,, POLA2,,  
10 KCTD9,, POLH,,  
11 KIF5A,, POLR2D,,  
12 KIF5C,, POLR2G,,  
13 KIFAP3,, PPP2CB,,  
14 KLF6,, PPWD1,,  
15 KLHL10,, PRELID3A,,  
16 KLHL2,, PREPL,,  
17 KMT2E,, PRICKLE1,,  
18 KPNA1,, PRPF8,,  
19 KPNA2,, PSEN1,,  
20 KPNA6,, PSMC2,,  
21 KRI1,, PSMC5,,  
22 KTI12,, PSMD7,,  
23 LANCL1,, PSMG2,,  
24 LIG3,, PTRHD1,,  
25 LLGL2,, RAB10,,  
26 LMAN2L,, RAB27A,,  
27 LMBR1,, RAD51C,,  
28 LMNA,, RAD9A,,  
29 LOXHD1,, RANBP3,,  
30 MAEA,, RASSF8,,  
31 MAFK,, RBM15,,  
32 MAGOH,, RBP5,,  
33 MAGT1,, RCL1,,  
34 MAP3K5,, REEP2,,  
35 MAR7,, REGL,,  
36 MCCC2,, RFWD3,,  
37 MCRS1,, RHAG,,  
38 MDH1,, RHOH,,  
39 MEAF6,, RNASEH2B,,  
40 MED12L,, RNPS1,,  
41 MED16,, RPL10,,  
42 MED4,, RPLP0,,  
43 METTL15,, RUVBL1,,  
44 METTL2A,, SARAF,,  
45 MIER1,, SARS2,,  
46 MKS1,, SCPEP1,,  
47 MRO,, SCYL1,,  
48 MROH1,, SDF2,,  
49 MROH2A,, SDHD,,  
50 MROH7,, SERP1,,  
51 MROH7-TTC4,, SETD4,,  
52 MROH8,, SFXN2,,  
53 MROH9,, SH3BP4,,  
54 MRPL39,, SH3GL1,,  
55 MRPS18A,, SIK1,,  
56 MSX2,, SLC19A3,,  
57 MTERF3,, SLC25A46,,  
58 MTMR2,, SLC25A48,,

## Animal complexity and information flow

29

1 MTREX,, SLC30A8,,  
2 MXI1,, SLC35F5,,  
3 MYBPC1,, SLC46A1,,  
4 MYBPC3,, SLC52A2,,  
5 MYCBP2,, SLC6A1,,  
6 MYLK,, SLX1A,,  
7 MYOM2,, SLX1B,,  
8 MYOM3,, SMARCB1,,  
9 N6AMT1,, SMARCE1,,  
10 NAPB,, SMN2,,  
11 NAT10,, SNF8,,  
12 NEB,, SNRNP25,,  
13 NEK2,, SNRPF,,  
14 NEK7,, SNUPN,,  
15 NEK8,, SPATA20,,  
16 NETO2,, SPEF2,,  
17 NEUROG2,, SPG7,,  
18 NFIA,, SPRYD7,,  
19 NIP7,, SSR3,,  
20 NIPAL1,, SSU72,,  
21 NIPAL3,, STUB1,,  
22 NIT2,, STX16,,  
23 NKX3-1,, SUOX,,  
24 NME2,, SUPT4H1,,  
25 NME7,, SUPT6H,,  
26 NODAL,, SYS1,,  
27 NR4A1,, TACO1,,  
28 NR4A2,, TARBP1,,  
29 NR4A3,, TATDN1,,  
30 NT5C1B,, TBC1D2,,  
31 NUP43,, TBC1D32,,  
32 OLFM1,, TBCE,,  
33 OLFM3,, TBCE,,  
34 OSBPL1A,, TBCE,,  
35 OSCP1,, TBCE,,  
36 PANK2,, TBL1X,,  
37 PAQR9,, TCTN1,,  
38 PARVA,, TFIP11,,  
39 PARVB,, TLR2,,  
40 PBRM1,, TMEM138,,  
41 PCBD1,, TMEM14B,,  
42 PCBD2,, TMEM169,,  
43 PCMT1,, TMEM41A,,  
44 PDC,, TMEM67,,  
45 PDCL,, TMLHE,,  
46 PDCL3,, TPO,,  
47 PDK3,, TPT1,,  
48 PDS5A,, TRAPPC5,,  
49 PDS5B,, TRAPPC8,,  
50 PDZD11,, TROVE2,,  
51 PDZRN4,, TRPT1,,  
52 PELI3,, TSNAX-DISC1,,  
53 PEPD,, TUBB6,,  
54 PGAP1,, TVP23C,,  
55 PGM1,, TWNK,,  
56 PGM5,, TXNDC15,,  
57 PHF12,, UBA5,,  
58 PHGDH,, UBE3B,,

## Animal complexity and information flow

30

1 PIGO,,UBXN1,,  
2 PIP4K2A,,ULK3,,  
3 PIP4K2B,,UPRT,,  
4 PITPNA,,UTP15,,  
5 PITPNB,,UTP4,,  
6 PKD2,,VPS36,,  
7 PLPPR1,,VSNL1,,  
8 PLXNB2,,WARS,,  
9 PLXNC1,,WASHC4,,  
10 PMS1,,WDR55,,  
11 PNKP,,WDR74,,  
12 POLD1,,WEE1,,  
13 POLR1C,,WRB,,  
14 PORCN,,WWC2,,  
15 PPA2,,YIPF5,,  
16 PPAN,,YPEL5,,  
17 PPAN-P2RY11,,ZC2HC1C,,  
18 PPFIA1,,ZCCHC10,,  
19 PPP1R21,,ZNF830,,  
20 PPP1R8,,,,  
21 PPP2R2B,,,,  
22 PPP2R2C,,,,  
23 PPP2R2D,,,,  
24 PRMT1,,,,  
25 PRPF19,,,,  
26 PSME1,,,,  
27 PSME3,,,,  
28 QTRT2,,,,  
29 RAB1A,,,,  
30 RAB6A,,,,  
31 RAB9B,,,,  
32 RABGGTB,,,,  
33 RAD1,,,,  
34 RAD54L2,,,,  
35 RAE1,,,,  
36 RAP1GDS1,,,,  
37 RASGRP1,,,,  
38 RB1,,,,  
39 RBL2,,,,  
40 RBM12,,,,  
41 RBM28,,,,  
42 RBM34,,,,  
43 RCAN1,,,,  
44 RCAN3,,,,  
45 RETSAT,,,,  
46 REV3L,,,,  
47 RFC5,,,,  
48 RHD,,,,  
49 RMND5A,,,,  
50 RNF115,,,,  
51 RNF126,,,,  
52 RNF157,,,,  
53 RNF220,,,,  
54 RPL22L1,,,,  
55 RPL4,,,,  
56 RPS25,,,,  
57 RPS6KB2,,,,  
58 RRAGC,,,,

## Animal complexity and information flow

31

1 RRM2,,,,,  
2 RTRAF,,,,,  
3 SALL2,,,,,  
4 SAT1,,,,,  
5 SATL1,,,,,  
6 SBF2,,,,,  
7 SCAF4,,,,,  
8 SCMH1,,,,,  
9 SCR2,,,,,  
10 SCR3,,,,,  
11 SDR42E2,,,,,  
12 SEC11A,,,,,  
13 SEC11C,,,,,  
14 SECISBP2,,,,,  
15 SENP3,,,,,  
16 SENP5,,,,,  
17 SEPT6,,,,,  
18 SEPT7,,,,,  
19 SESN1,,,,,  
20 SESN3,,,,,  
21 SETD3,,,,,  
22 SF3A1,,,,,  
23 SF3A2,,,,,  
24 SF3B5,,,,,  
25 SFT2D1,,,,,  
26 SFT2D2,,,,,  
27 SIGIRR,,,,,  
28 SIRT6,,,,,  
29 SIX1,,,,,  
30 SLBP,,,,,  
31 SLC10A3,,,,,  
32 SLC10A6,,,,,  
33 SLC19A1,,,,,  
34 SLC25A28,,,,,  
35 SLC35A1,,,,,  
36 SLC38A7,,,,,  
37 SLC7A6,,,,,  
38 SLCO4A1,,,,,  
39 SMAD3,,,,,  
40 SMARCD2,,,,,  
41 SMARCE1,,,,,  
42 SNRNP200,,,,,  
43 SNRNP40,,,,,  
44 SNRPA,,,,,  
45 SNRPB,,,,,  
46 SNRPC,,,,,  
47 SNRPE,,,,,  
48 SNX1,,,,,  
49 SNX10,,,,,  
50 SNX12,,,,,  
51 SNX3,,,,,  
52 SORL1,,,,,  
53 SOS2,,,,,  
54 SP5,,,,,  
55 SPOUT1,,,,,  
56 SRP72,,,,,  
57 ST3GAL2,,,,,  
58 ST7,,,,,

## Animal complexity and information flow

32

1 STAG1,,,,,  
2 STK3,,,,,  
3 STK4,,,,,  
4 STMN2,,,,,  
5 STMN4,,,,,  
6 STXBP1,,,,,  
7 STXBP2,,,,,  
8 SUFU,,,,,  
9 SUMF1,,,,,  
10 SUMF2,,,,,  
11 TBC1D23,,,,,  
12 TBL1XR1,,,,,  
13 TBL1Y,,,,,  
14 TBP,,,,,  
15 TCEA1,,,,,  
16 TCF3,,,,,  
17 TCP1,,,,,  
18 TCP11X2,,,,,  
19 TECR,,,,,  
20 TEK,,,,,  
21 TERT,,,,,  
22 TEX10,,,,,  
23 TFAP2B,,,,,  
24 THOC3,,,,,  
25 THSD7A,,,,,  
26 TMC7,,,,,  
27 TMCC2,,,,,  
28 TMED10,,,,,  
29 TMEM106B,,,,,  
30 TMEM120B,,,,,  
31 TMEM131,,,,,  
32 TMEM161A,,,,,  
33 TMEM161B,,,,,  
34 TMEM167B,,,,,  
35 TMEM231,,,,,  
36 TMEM63B,,,,,  
37 TOPBP1,,,,,  
38 TPD52,,,,,  
39 TPD52L2,,,,,  
40 TRAF4,,,,,  
41 TRAPPC12,,,,,  
42 TRAPPC3L,,,,,  
43 TRAPPC6A,,,,,  
44 TRIM23,,,,,  
45 TRMT112,,,,,  
46 TRPC6,,,,,  
47 TRPM1,,,,,  
48 TRPM2,,,,,  
49 TRPM3,,,,,  
50 TRPM8,,,,,  
51 TSC2,,,,,  
52 TSEN2,,,,,  
53 TSFM,,,,,  
54 TSN,,,,,  
55 TSPAN17,,,,,  
56 TSPAN3,,,,,  
57 TSR1,,,,,  
58 TTC1,,,,,



## Animal complexity and information flow

33

1 TTC17,,,,,  
2 TTC39A,,,,,  
3 TTC39C,,,,,  
4 TTC7A,,,,,  
5 TTC7B,,,,,  
6 TTLL5,,,,,  
7 TTLL7,,,,,  
8 TTLL9,,,,,  
9 TUSC3,,,,,  
10 TUT7,,,,,  
11 TXLNB,,,,,  
12 U2SURP,,,,,  
13 UBE2A,,,,,  
14 UBE2B,,,,,  
15 UBE2F,,,,,  
16 UBE2L3,,,,,  
17 UBE2L5,,,,,  
18 UBE3A,,,,,  
19 UBE3C,,,,,  
20 UBN1,,,,,  
21 UGGT2,,,,,  
22 UHRF1BP1L,,,,,  
23 UNC45A,,,,,  
24 UNC5C,,,,,  
25 USP15,,,,,  
26 USP19,,,,,  
27 USP46,,,,,  
28 VPS11,,,,,  
29 VPS33B,,,,,  
30 VPS35L,,,,,  
31 VTI1A,,,,,  
32 WASHC3,,,,,  
33 WDR3,,,,,  
34 WDR61,,,,,  
35 WDR91,,,,,  
36 XAB2,,,,,  
37 XRCC6,,,,,  
38 ZC2HC1A,,,,,  
39 ZC3H14,,,,,  
40 ZCCHC24,,,,,  
41 ZCCHC4,,,,,  
42 ZDHHC17,,,,,  
43 ZEB1,,,,,  
44 ZFAND2A,,,,,  
45 ZFAT,,,,,  
46 ZMYND11,,,,,  
47 ZNF687,,,,,  
48 ZSWIM8,,,,,  
49 ZXDA,,,,,  
50 ZXDB,,,,,  
51

1 **S4**  
2 ,,,,,,Gene summary,,  
3 GO-term Biological Process,N, Enrich,P-value,,,,,  
4 ethanol oxidation (GO:0006069),8,24.3,2.03E-04,,,GO-terms,total,genes  
5 transcription-coupled nucleotide-excision repair  
6 (GO:0006283),12,6.0,2.27E-02,,,5681 6283 6397,2,PRPF19  
7 endoplasmic reticulum to Golgi vesicle-mediated transport  
8 (GO:0006888),21,3.7,8.55E-03,,,,,XAB2  
9 Golgi vesicle transport (GO:0048193),32,3.2,2.86E-04,,,4022 6069,7,ADH5  
10 mRNA processing (GO:0006397),32,2.5,4.66E-02,,,,,ADH4  
11 heart development (GO:0007507),34,2.4,4.53E-02,,,,,ADH1A  
12 mRNA metabolic process (GO:0016071),42,2.3,2.04E-02,,,,,ADH7  
13 cellular component morphogenesis (GO:0032989),49,2.3,2.71E-03,,,,,ADH1C  
14 RNA processing (GO:0006396),51,2.2,3.81E-03,,,,,ADH1B  
15 protein-containing complex subunit organization  
16 (GO:0043933),100,2.0,8.95E-07,,,,,ADH6  
17 chromosome organization (GO:0051276),56,2.0,2.14E-02,,,5681  
18 6397,17,SNRNP200  
19 protein transport (GO:0015031),81,2.0,1.26E-04,,,,,MAGOH  
20 protein-containing complex assembly (GO:0065003),83,2.0,1.31E-  
21 04,,,,,RBM28  
22 ,,,,,,SNRPE  
23 ,,,,,,SNRNP40  
24 GO-term Molecular Function,N,Enrich ,P-value,,,,,PPP1R8  
25 alcohol dehydrogenase (NAD) activity (GO:0004022),7,28.4,2.40E-  
26 04,,,,,HNRNPH1  
27 transcription factor binding (GO:0008134),40,2.2,2.27E-02,,,,,CWC27  
28 ,,,,,,DHX8  
29 ,,,,,,SF3A1  
30 GO-term Cellular Compartment,N,Enrich,P-value,,,,,CDC40  
31 catalytic step 2 spliceosome (GO:0071013),14,5.9,6.88E-04,,,,,SNRPB  
32 spliceosomal complex (GO:0005681),19,3.8,2.69E-03,,,,,SF3B5  
33 actin cytoskeleton (GO:0015629),34,2.5,4.35E-03,,,,,GPATCH1  
34 catalytic complex (GO:1902494),86,2.3,9.45E-09,,,,,SF3A2  
35 transferase complex (GO:1990234),46,2.1,6.94E-03,,,,,SNRPA  
36 chromosomal part (GO:0044427),51,2.1,3.93E-03,,,,,SNRPC  
37 chromosome (GO:0005694),57,2.0,2.13E-03,,,15629 48193,2,CAPZA2  
38 ribonucleoprotein complex (GO:1990904),48,2.0,1.22E-02,,,,,CAPZA1  
39 ,,,,,,15629 6397,1,DHX9  
40 ,,,,,,6283 6397,3,CDK7  
41 ,,,,,,ERCC2  
42 ,,,,,,CCNH  
43 ,,,,,,15629,31,IQGAP1  
44 ,,,,,,ARPC5  
45 ,,,,,,PKD2  
46 ,,,,,,LLGL2  
47 ,,,,,,CIB2  
48 ,,,,,,KLHL2  
49 ,,,,,,ILK  
50 ,,,,,,TEK  
51 ,,,,,,PARVA  
52 ,,,,,,CLIC5  
53 ,,,,,,CLIC4  
54 ,,,,,,MYBPC3  
55 ,,,,,,ADAM8  
56 ,,,,,,NEB  
57 ,,,,,,PGM5  
58 ,,,,,,PARVB

## Animal complexity and information flow

35

1       , VPS11  
2       , MYBPC1  
3       , TTC17  
4       , IPP  
5       , TOPBP1  
6       , COBL  
7       , CTTNBP2  
8       , GABARAP  
9       , MAEA  
10      , MYLK  
11      , MYOM3  
12      , PGM1  
13      , TMEM63B  
14      , SEPT7  
15      , MYOM2  
16      , 6069, 1, ACSS2  
17      , 6283, 7, RFC5  
18      , CUL4B  
19      , GPS1  
20      , TCEA1  
21      , LIG3  
22      , COPS7A  
23      , POLD1  
24      , 48193, 29, ERGIC1  
25      , LMAN2L  
26      , DOPEY1  
27      , COPA  
28      , GRIA1  
29      , PITPNB  
30      , AP2A1  
31      , RAB1A  
32      , KIF5A  
33      , TRAPPC3L  
34      , ARFGAP1  
35      , CNIH1  
36      , VTI1A  
37      , CNIH4  
38      , COPZ1  
39      , TRIM23  
40      , GGA3  
41      , BET1  
42      , RAB6A  
43      , PGAP1  
44      , TMED10  
45      , BCAP29  
46      , SNX1  
47      , TRAPPC12  
48      , SORL1  
49      , BET1L  
50      , EXOC6  
51      , KIFAP3  
52      , TRAPPC6A  
53      , 6397, 9, FAM172A  
54      , SLBP  
55      , CLASRP  
56      , THOC3  
57      , U2SURP  
58      , APP

## Animal complexity and information flow

36

1    , , , , , , , , CPSF4  
2    , , , , , , , , AHCYL1  
3    , , , , , , , , TSEN2  
4

1	<b>S5</b>
2	CompX ExAC overlap list
3	159 genes
4	ABI2
5	AHCYL1
6	ALAS2
7	ANKRD50
8	AP1B1
9	AP2A1
10	AP2S1
11	ARID2
12	ARIH2
13	ARMC8
14	ARNT
15	ATG2A
16	ATXN7L3
17	BACE1
18	BNC2
19	CAPZA1
20	CAPZA2
21	CBX8
22	CCNC
23	CCZ1
24	CDC40
25	CDK1
26	CDK19
27	CDK5
28	CHD5
29	CLASRP
30	CNOT7
31	COBL
32	COL12A1
33	COL6A1
34	COPA
35	COPS7A
36	CUL4B
37	DEPDC5
38	DERL2
39	DHX8
40	DHX9
41	DLST
42	DOPEY1
43	DTX3
44	ERLIN1
45	EYA3
46	FAM49B
47	FCF1
48	FOXP1
49	GNL1
50	GPS1
51	GRIA1
52	GRIA4
53	GRIK2
54	HDAC2
55	HDAC8
56	HERC2
57	HMBS
58	HNRNP1

## Animal complexity and information flow

38

- 1 HOOK3
- 2 IDS
- 3 ILKAP
- 4 IP6K2
- 5 IPO11
- 6 IQGAP1
- 7 IRAK1
- 8 KCNIP4
- 9 KCTD1
- 10 KCTD3
- 11 KIF5A
- 12 KIF5C
- 13 KLF6
- 14 KLHL10
- 15 KLHL2
- 16 KMT2E
- 17 KPNA1
- 18 KPNA6
- 19 LMNA
- 20 MAP3K5
- 21 MDH1
- 22 MED12L
- 23 MIER1
- 24 MYCBP2
- 25 NAPB
- 26 NFIA
- 27 NODAL
- 28 NR4A1
- 29 NR4A2
- 30 OLFM1
- 31 PBRM1
- 32 PDS5A
- 33 PDS5B
- 34 PGM5
- 35 PHF12
- 36 PIP4K2B
- 37 PITPNA
- 38 PITPNB
- 39 PKD2
- 40 PLXNB2
- 41 PLXNC1
- 42 PORCN
- 43 PPFIA1
- 44 PPP1R8
- 45 PPP2R2B
- 46 PRMT1
- 47 PRPF19
- 48 PSME3
- 49 RAD54L2
- 50 RAE1
- 51 RB1
- 52 RBL2
- 53 REV3L
- 54 RMND5A
- 55 RNF220
- 56 RPL4
- 57 RRM2
- 58 SCAF4

## Animal complexity and information flow

39

- 1 SENP3
- 2 SENP5
- 3 SESN3
- 4 SF3A1
- 5 SIX1
- 6 SMARCD2
- 7 SMARCE1
- 8 SNRNP200
- 9 SNX1
- 10 SOS2
- 11 ST3GAL2
- 12 ST7
- 13 STAG1
- 14 STMN2
- 15 STXBP1
- 16 SUFU
- 17 TBL1XR1
- 18 TCP1
- 19 TEK
- 20 TEX10
- 21 TFAP2B
- 22 THSD7A
- 23 TMEM131
- 24 TMEM63B
- 25 TOPBP1
- 26 TSC2
- 27 TSN
- 28 TTC17
- 29 TTC7B
- 30 U2SURP
- 31 UBE2F
- 32 UBE3A
- 33 UBE3C
- 34 UBN1
- 35 UHRF1BP1L
- 36 USP15
- 37 USP19
- 38 USP46
- 39 XAB2
- 40 XRCC6
- 41 ZC3H14
- 42 ZDHHC17
- 43 ZEB1
- 44 ZMYND11
- 45 ZNF687
- 46 ZSWIM8
- 47

```
1 S6
2 ,,,,,,#GO term overlap data,,
3 GO biological process complete,N,Enrich,P-value,,,GO terms,Number,Genes
4 regulation of G1/S transition of mitotic cell cycle
5 (GO:2000045),9,8.02,2.69E-02,,,16032 16570 1902494 1990234 2000045
6 51276 6325 70647 9057,1,CDK1
7 histone modification (GO:0016570),14,4.8,1.82E-02,,,16032 1902494
8 1990234 2000045 3712 51276 6325 785 8134,1,RB1
9 chromatin organization (GO:0006325),22,4.03,3.85E-04,,,16570 1902494
10 1990234 2000045 51276 6325 70647 9057,1,CUL4B
11 viral process (GO:0016032),18,3.71,2.16E-02,,,16570 1902494 1990234
12 3712 51276 6325 70647,1,ATXN7L3
13 chromosome organization (GO:0051276),30,3.68,7.56E-06,,,16570 1902494
14 1990234 51276 6325 70647 785,1,CBX8
15 protein modification by small protein conjugation or removal
16 (GO:0070647),24,3.27,3.84E-03,,,16570 1902494 1990234 51276 6325 785
17 8134,1,HDAC2
18 macromolecule catabolic process (GO:0009057),24,3.01,1.57E-02,,,16570
19 1902494 1990234 2000045 51276 6325,1,PRMT1
20 protein localization (GO:0008104),40,2.4,1.56E-03,,,16570 1902494 3712
21 51276 6325 9057,1,TBL1XR1
22 protein-containing complex subunit organization
23 (GO:0043933),34,2.38,2.03E-02,,,16570 1902494 1990234 51276 6325
24 9057,1,CDK5
25 macromolecule localization (GO:0033036),42,2.18,1.05E-02,,,1902494 3712
26 51276 6325 785 8134,1,SMARCE1
27 nucleic acid metabolic process (GO:0090304),39,2.14,4.19E-02,,,16032
28 1902494 3712 51276 785 8134,1,DHX9
29 cellular protein modification process (GO:0006464),49,2.03,7.05E-
30 03,,,16570 2000045 51276 6325 785,1,KMT2E
31 ,,,,,,16570 51276 6325 70647 9057,1,USP15
32 ,,,,,,16570 3712 51276 6325 8134,1,MIER1
33 GO molecular function complete,N,Enrich,P-value,,,16570 1902494 51276
34 6325 8134,1,HDAC8
35 transcription coregulator activity (GO:0003712),16,3.58,3.98E-
36 02,,,16570 1902494 51276 6325 785,1,CHD5
37 transcription factor binding (GO:0008134),18,3.43,1.98E-02,,,2000045
38 51276 6325 785 8134,1,RBL2
39 ,,,,,,1902494 3712 51276 6325 785,1,SMARCD2
40 ,,,,,,16032 3712 51276 6325,1,ZMYND11
41 GO cellular component complete,N, Enrich,P-value,,,1902494 51276 6325
42 785,1,PBRM1
43 catalytic step 2 spliceosome (GO:0071013),7,10.18,1.32E-02,,,16032
44 1902494 1990234 51276,1,RAE1
45 chromatin (GO:0000785),16,3.8,9.83E-03,,,2000045 3712 8134 9057,1,CNOT7
46 catalytic complex (GO:1902494),39,3.54,6.72E-09,,,16032 1902494 70647
47 9057,1,UBE3A
48 transferase complex (GO:1990234),20,3.19,8.67E-03,,,1902494 70647 71013
49 9057,1,PRPF19
50 nucleoplasm part (GO:0044451),26,2.94,1.40E-03,,,1902494 1990234 70647
51 9057,2,RMND5A
52 chromosome (GO:0005694),22,2.69,3.96E-02,,,,,ARIH2
53 nucleoplasm (GO:0005654),73,2.65,2.72E-13,,,1902494 3712 785
54 8134,1,PHF12
55 nuclear lumen (GO:0031981),79,2.44,9.19E-13,,,16570 51276 6325,1,EYA3
56 protein-containing complex (GO:0032991),98,2.3,2.53E-16,,,16032 51276
57 6325,1,UBN1
58 nuclear part (GO:0044428),79,2.22,1.83E-10,,,16032 51276 70647,1,COPS7A
```



## Animal complexity and information flow

41

1 organelle lumen (GO:0043233),87,2.1,7.51E-11,, ,1902494 2000045  
2 70647,1,PSME3  
3 intracellular organelle lumen (GO:0070013),87,2.1,7.51E-11,, ,16032  
4 1902494 1990234,1,MAP3K5  
5 membrane-enclosed lumen (GO:0031974),87,2.1,7.51E-11,, ,1902494 70647  
6 9057,1,UBE3C  
7 ,,,,,,1902494 1990234 70647,2,KLHL2  
8 ,,,,,, ,SENP3  
9 ,,,,,,1902494 1990234 9057,1,ARMC8  
10 ,,,,,,51276 6325,1,ARID2  
11 ,,,,,,16032 51276,1,XRCC6  
12 ,,,,,,51276 70647,1,GPS1  
13 ,,,,,,51276 785,3,STAG1  
14 ,,,,,, ,PDS5B  
15 ,,,,,, ,PDS5A  
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1 **S7**  
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