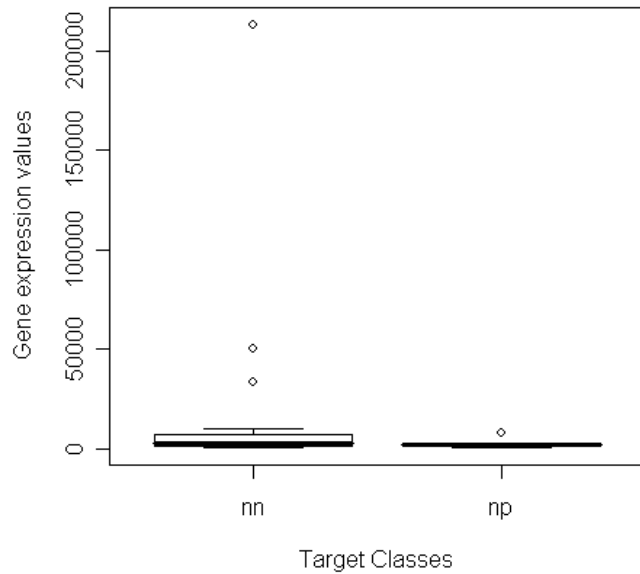
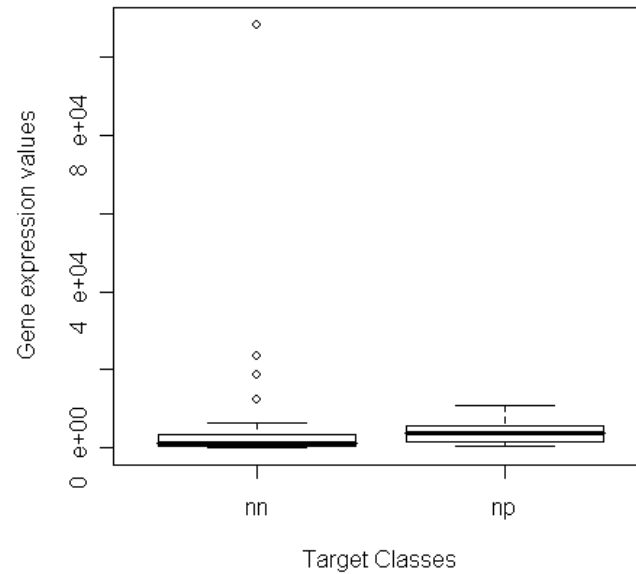


### Additional File 2

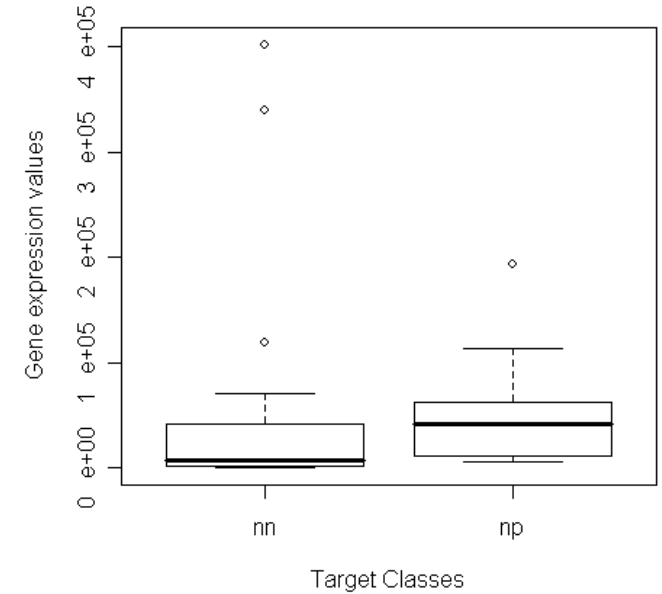
**Differential KDR expression**



**Differential MAP2K6 expression**



**Differential ICAM1 expression**



### **Box plots for gene expression values for *KDR*, *MAP2K6* and *ICAM1***

The box plots show that the genes *KDR*, *MAP2K6* and *ICAM1* are differentially expressed in the node positive and the node negative cases. However, the figure also indicates that these genes, either independently or in a linear combination, cannot be used to discriminate between the node positive and the node negative classes. Relative comparisons of the gene expression values, however, can be used as indicators of nodal status.