Comparative analyses of aging-related genes in long-lived mammals provide insights into natural longevity

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Graphical abstract

Public summary

- Evolution analyses of 115 aging-related genes exploring natural longevity in mammals
- **Positively selected genes & rapidly evolved genes enriched in IIS and immune pathways**
- **Convergent mutations in genes associated with cancer in long-lived species**
- **Explution of longevity through cancer resistance in long-lived mammals**

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Extreme longevity has evolved multiple times during the evolution of mammals, yet its underlying molecular mechanisms remain largely underexplored. Here, we compared the evolution of 115 aging-related genes in 11 long-lived species and 25 mammals with non-increased lifespan (control group) in the hopes of better understanding the common molecular mechanisms behind longevity. We identified 16 unique positively selected genes and 23 rapidly evolving genes in long-lived species, which included nine genes involved in regulating lifespan through the insulin/IGF-1 signaling (IIS) pathway and 11 genes highly enriched in immune-response-related pathways, suggesting that the IIS pathway and immune response play a particularly important role in exceptional mammalian longevity. Interestingly, 11 genes related to cancer progression, including four positively selected genes and seven genes with convergent amino acid changes, were shared by two or more long-lived lineages, indicating that long-lived mammals might have evolved convergent or similar mechanisms of cancer resistance that extended their lifespan. This suggestion was further corroborated by our identification of 12 robust candidates for longevity-related genes closely related to cancer.

Keywords: mammals; longevity; positive selection; IIS pathway; immune response; cancer resistance

INTRODUCTION

Extant mammals differ dramatically in their maximum lifespans, ranging from a little over 1 year (e.g., forest shrews, Myosorex varius) to more than 200 years (e.g., bowhead whales, Balaena mysticetus), a difference of more than 100-fold.¹ In general, larger species tend to live longer than smaller ones, presumably due to higher intrinsic fitness (i.e., stress resistance) and a lack of apex predators.² For example, the bowhead whale has an estimated maximum lifespan of 211 years and a body mass of more than 100 tons.^{3[,4](#page-7-3)} The African elephant (Loxodonta africana), the largest land mammal, weighs more than 6 tons and lives up to 65 years.⁵ However, some species defy this apparent correlation between large body size and longevity. Brandt's bat (Myotis brandtii) weighs 5–20 g and lives for more than 40 years, 6 while the naked mole rat (Heterocephalus glaber) lives for more than 30 years—ten times longer than other similar-sized rodents.^{7[,8](#page-7-7)} Similar to large long-lived mammals, Brandt's bat and the naked mole rat reduce predation risk through flight/cave-dwelling and a subterranean lifestyle, respectively.⁹ To allow for cross-species comparisons of longevity, Austad and Fisher introduced the longevity quotient, maximum lifespan corrected for body size.¹⁰ Employing this variable, the longevity of many bats and subterranean rodents is striking. Thus, species such as the bowhead whale, African elephant, Brandt's bat, and naked mole rat are well positioned to evolve a longer lifespan.

To achieve longevity, species must evolve better mechanisms to attenuate aging (organismal senescence) and related diseases (e.g., cancer). The current consensus is that aging in diverse species is manifested by distinct hallmarks and that the aging process (and lifespan) can be modulated in various ways—by environmental, genetic, or pharmacological interventions.¹¹ Over the past few decades, numerous aging-related genes have been identified from experiments on model animals (e.g., mouse, fruit fly, and worm).¹¹ However, we do not know whether some of these genes are involved in controlling lifespan variations during the evolution of species. In recent years, aging research has paid more attention to long-lived mammals.^{12–16} For example, the small-sized naked mole rat experienced unique coding changes in its HAS2 (Hyaluronan Synthase 2) gene and secretes high-molecular-mass hyaluronan, a polysaccharide that likely mediates early contact inhibition and contributes to cancer resistance.¹⁶ A comparative study of liver transcriptomics among mice, naked mole rats, and humans revealed that DNA-repair genes of long-lived species are upregulated compared with those of short-lived mice, 17 which agrees with the argument that DNA repair plays a vital role in longevity.¹¹ A similar result was found in long-lived whales: genes linked to DNA repair and cancer resistance were found to be under positive selection and were found to have specific mutations in the bowhead whale and humpback whale (Megaptera novaean-gliae).^{[12](#page-7-11)[,13](#page-8-2)} Importantly, 12–20 copies of the tumor-suppressor gene TP53 were uniquely identified in the genome of elephants, helping to reduce their cancer incidence by increasing their cellular sensitivity to DNA damage.^{[14](#page-8-3)}

It is worth noting that lifespans may be extended by both specific adaptations and shared mechanisms. Better understanding of the latter requires identifying the molecular mechanisms that underlie extended lifespans across mammalian phylogeny, which in turn requires the analysis of agingrelated genes shared by long-lived species. In this study, we considered the molecular evolution of aging-associated genes in GenAge, a curated database of genes generated by surveying human disease data (e.g., genes associated with a longer lifespan in a population) and genetic perturbation ex-periments in animal models.^{[1,](#page-7-0)[18](#page-8-4)} Making use of 115 aging-related genes and 36 species spanning 14 mammal orders, we searched for the genes or pathways that may contribute to extending lifespan in mammals.

RESULTS

The maximum lifespan and body mass of 987 mammalian species were obtained from the AnAge database.^{[1](#page-7-0)} We calculated each species' longevity quotient based on the allometric equation for all mammals (see [supple](#page-8-5)[mental materials and methods\)](#page-8-5).^{[19](#page-8-6)} The mean longevity quotient value \pm standard deviation (SD) for all mammals was 1 ± 0.57 [\(Table 1\)](#page-2-0). In our 36-species dataset, 11 species had a longevity quotient value of >1.57 and were classified as long-lived: human (Homo sapiens), Sumatran orangutan (Pongo abelii), pigtailed macaque (Macaca nemestrina), common marmoset (Callithrix jacchus), gray mouse lemur (Microcebus murinus), naked mole rat (H. glaber), bowhead whale (B. mysticetus), killer whale (Orcinus orca), Brandt's bat The Innovation The Innovation

^aNumber of species included in each order.

b SD, standard deviation.

(M. brandtii), little brown bat (Myotis lucifugus), and Hoffman's two-toed sloth (Choloepus hoffmanni) [\(Figure 1\)](#page-3-0).

Selective pressure test of aging-related genes across mammals

Under lower adult mortality rates, selection will favor gene changes that confer a later maturity and longer lifespan.^{20[,21](#page-8-8)} To test for divergent evolution patterns between the long-lived and control groups, we performed clade model C, revealing that 20% (23/115) of the genes in the long-lived group were rapidly evolving genes ([Table 2](#page-4-0)). Of these genes, three (INSR, IRS1, and PIK3CB) are associated with the process of signal transduction by insulin receptor kinase and two (ATM [ataxia telangiectasia mutated] and ERCC6) with DNA repair. Moreover, nine genes (BCL2, CDC42, DGAT1, GRN, PIK3CB, PLCG2, STAT5A, STAT5B, and VCP) are involved in the immune process.

The branch-site model was further used to identify positively selected genes on each branch across the phylogeny. A total of 29.57% (34/115) of the aging-related genes were identified to be under positive selection in the long-lived group after p-value adjustment ([Table S3\)](#page-8-5). Of them, 18 genes were also identified in the control groups; however, 16 genes were in at least one of the 11 long-lived lineages ([Figure 2A](#page-5-0) and [Table S4\)](#page-8-5). For example, five (CTGF, BCL2, GHRH, DBN1, and ERCC3) and two (CTGF and DBN1) genes were under positive selection along the branches leading to the little brown bat and Brandt's bat, respectively [\(Table S4](#page-8-5)). In addition, four positively selected genes were determined in two long-lived species: PDGFRB in the little brown bat and sloth; and CTGF, DBN1, and ABL1 in both the little brown bat and Brandt's bat (i.e., genus Myotis) ([Table S3](#page-8-5)).

The proportion of positively selected genes identified in the long-lived species was larger than that in the control group for genes related to immunity, metabolism, growth regulation, signal transduction, transcription regulation, cancer, and apoptosis, based on the GeneCards description [\(Figure 2](#page-5-0)B). In addition, we evaluated the functional enrichment of positively selected genes using gene ontology (GO) and Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) annotations. The 16 long-lived group-specific positively selected genes were significantly enriched for immune progress, such as lymphocyte proliferation, response to interleukin, and interleukin-2-mediated signaling pathway ([Figure 2](#page-5-0)C). These genes were also over-represented in several KEGG pathways, including endocrine resistance (i.e., estrogen resistance in breast cancer), focal adhesion, and the AGE-RAGE signaling pathway in diabetic complications [\(Figure 2](#page-5-0)D). In contrast, the genes under positive selection in the control group were enriched for DNA repair, the cell cycle, ERK1 and ERK2 signaling, and nucleotide excision repair [\(Figures 2B](#page-5-0)–2D and [Table](#page-8-5) [S5](#page-8-5)). In addition, 18 positively selected genes shared by two groups were enriched for the regulation of mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinase activity and the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K)-Akt signaling pathway [\(Figures](#page-5-0) [2C](#page-5-0) and 2D).

Convergent amino acid substitutions between long-lived species

To assess convergent evolution in long-lived species, we first reconstructed ancestral sequences for the internal nodes of the species tree to identify shared amino acid substitutions along lineages leading to extreme longevity based on the JTT-f_{genes} model. We then found three convergent amino acid changes in the distant species, including one change (BLM: S579P) in the naked mole rat and killer whale, and two substitutions (ERBB2: P385Q and GRN: S371N) in the lineages leading to the bowhead and killer whales ([Figure 1](#page-3-0)). Furthermore, five long-lived group-specific unique amino acid changes were also determined in four genes: EGFR (V111M), PEX5 (R396Q), PLCG2 (L517V, V967I), and PRKCD (K621R) ([Figure 1\)](#page-3-0). For example, the long-lived primates and bats (genus Myotis) had three convergent substitutions in EGFR, PEX5, and PLCG2 ([Figure 1\)](#page-3-0).

Gene-phenotype coevolution

To assess the relationship between the rate of gene evolution and agingassociated life-history traits, we performed a univariate linear regression

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Figure 1. The phylogeny of the mammals used for this study alongside their life-history traits Long-lived mammals are marked on red on the left-hand side of the figure. Life-history traits, including maximum lifespan (MLS), body mass (BM), and longevity quotient (LQ), are displayed in the middle. Seven cancer-associated genes showed convergent amino acid substitutions within long-lived mammals, which are listed in the right-hand side of the figure (long-lived species-specific amino acid changes are colored red).

analysis of maximum lifespan and two other longevity-associated traits (body mass and longevity quotient) obtained from AnAge. As expected, 22 the analyses revealed a significant association: maximum lifespan covaries with body mass (R^2 = 0.47, p < 2.17 \times 10⁻⁶) and longevity quotient (R^2 = 0.57, p < 5.19 \times 10⁻⁸). Multiple linear regression followed by a type I analysis of variance revealed that longevity quotient was the best predictor, accounting for 50% of the maximum lifespan variance ($p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$), whereas body mass accounted for 47% of the remaining variance and the remainder (3%) was residual error ([Figure S1\)](#page-8-5).

Pagel's λ model, used to assess the phylogenetic signal, showed that phylogeny explained a high proportion of the variance in mammalian maximum lifespan (λ = 0.97), body mass (λ = 0.99), and longevity quotient $(\lambda = 0.97)$ [\(Table S6\)](#page-8-5). We next employed the phylogenetic generalized leastsquares method to assess correlations between the evolutionary rate of genes (root-to-tip d_N/d_S) and longevity-associated traits. Phylogenetic generalized least-squares analysis revealed that the evolutionary rates of nine genes (ARNTL, ATM, BMI1, CDK1, CTNNB1, ERCC3, ERCC5, NRG1, and STAT5A) are associated with maximum lifespan [\(Table S7](#page-8-5)). Seven genes (BMI1, CTNNB1, E2F1, ERBB2, IGF1, IGF1R, and PDGFB) exhibited an association with body mass, while four (CDK1, ERCC3, HRAS, and INSR) showed an association with longevity quotient ([Table S7\)](#page-8-5). These 16 genes associated with one or more longevity-associated phenotypes were regarded as longevity-associated genes. Notably, the evolutionary rates of both CDK1 and ERCC3 showed an association with both maximum lifespan and longevity quotient, while the rate of BMI1 was associated with maximum lifespan and body mass [\(Figure 3\)](#page-6-0). Interestingly, a negative correlation was found between body mass and the evolutionary rates of two genes, IGF1R and IGF1 ([Table S7\)](#page-8-5). Specifically, these 16 longevity-associated genes were particularly enriched in several KEGG pathways, including

prostate cancer, breast cancer, and the Rap1 signaling pathway. In addition, the 16 longevity-associated genes were also significantly assigned to GO terms such as regulation of cell-cycle processes and cell aging, disease ontology (DO) terms including female reproductive organ cancer, sarcoma, and hereditary breast ovarian cancer, and Reactome pathways, including signaling by receptor tyrosine kinases and diseases of signal transduction ([Figure 4\)](#page-6-1).

Overlap among different datasets

Our results revealed 23 rapidly evolving genes, 16 positively selected genes, and 16 longevity-associated genes in the long-lived group. There was some overlap among the three types of genes: five genes (BCL2, EGR1, NCOR1, STAT5B, and VCP) were identified as both positively selected and rapidly evolving genes, four (ARNTL, ATM, INSR, and STAT5A) were both rapidly evolving and longevity-associated genes, and three (ERBB2, ERCC3, and IGF1) were both positively selected and longevity-associated genes [\(Fig](#page-7-12)[ure 5A](#page-7-12)). Importantly, these overlapping genes were involved in DNA repair (ERCC3 and ATM), immune processes (BCL2, STAT5A, STAT5B, and VCP), and the insulin/IGF-1 signaling (IIS) pathway (IGF1 and INSR), which are essential for inhibiting tumorigenesis or longevity. Therefore, these 12 genes can be considered robust candidates of longevity-related genes. We further used the protein-protein interactions database STRING ([http://www.string](http://www.string-db.org)[db.org\)](http://www.string-db.org) to explore the interactions among the rapidly evolving genes, positively selected genes, and longevity-associated genes, and found that all these genes interacted with each other ($p < 1.0 \times 10^{-16}$, [Figure 5B](#page-7-12)). Specifically, the top genes with relatively high degrees of connectivity (\geq 10 degrees) were involved in the IIS pathway: GHR (11), IRS1 (10), PTPN1 (11), and SHC1 (13). In addition, three genes related to DNA repair interacted with each other: ERCC3 (2), ERCC5 (2), and ERCC6 (3).

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Table 2. List of rapidly evolving genes in long-lived group identified using the clade model C

DISCUSSION

Long lifespan evolved multiple times during the evolution of mammals. The last decade has seen an explosion in the number of genome assemblies and amount of genomic data from several long-lived mammals, and these have revealed shared and lineage-specific changes that facilitate a long lifespan by enhancing homeostasis throughout life. Sometimes this involves the changes directly resisting tumor development or progression, as is the case for the duplication of the tumor-suppressor gene TP53 in elephants (12–20 copies) and FBXO31 (Forkhead box protein 31) in Brandt's bat (57 copies)[.14,](#page-8-3)[15](#page-8-10) In this study, we examined the evolution of a set of 115 genes, designated "aging-associated" genes in the GenAge database,^{1[,1](#page-7-0)8} spanning 36 mammals in 14 orders.

The IIS pathway and immune genes contribute to extending longevity

Our results identified 16 positively selected genes and 23 rapidly evolving genes in the long-lived species, which included nine genes (growth hormone receptor [GHR], GHRH, IGF1, IRS1, INSR, SHC1, PIK3CB, PTPN1, and FOXO4 [Forkhead box protein 4]) involved in the IIS pathway, a key lifespan regulatory pathway.^{[23](#page-8-11)} Multiple genetic manipulations that attenuate signaling intensity at different levels of the IIS pathway extend the lifespan of mice. $24-26$ For example, previous studies showed that lower IGF1 levels and GHRH knockout in mice can extend their lifespan.^{[26](#page-8-13)} Mice with an adipose-specific knockout of INSR live 18% longer than those without the knockout.²⁵ In addition, mice heterozygous for IGF1R knockout live 26% longer than wild-type mice.^{[27](#page-8-15)} Interestingly, consistent with our findings, a number of genes in the IIS pathway were found to have unique sequence and expression changes in long-lived species. For example, unique amino acid deletion or replacement in the GHR was identified in the small-body-size and long-lived bat species.¹⁵ Interestingly, previous studies have revealed that mutations or deficiencies of the GHR result in human Laron-type dwarfism and increased resistance to cancer in humans and mice. $28-30$ In addition, the expression of insulin receptor (INSR) protein, which regulates energy metabolism by activating the insulin signaling pathway, was recently reported to be positively correlated with longevity across mammals. 31 Taken together, genes involved in the IIS pathway were identified to be under accelerated evolution or positive selection in the long-lived lineages, which may be contributing to extending lifespan in mammals.

Our results also revealed that five positively selected genes (BCL2, VCP, SHC1, EGR1, and STAT5B) and nine rapidly evolving genes (BCL2, CDC42, DGAT1, GRN, PIK3CB, PLCG2, STAT5A, STAT5B, and VCP) identified in the long-lived species were highly enriched in immune-associated pathways, including lymphocyte proliferation, leukocyte proliferation, and the interleukin-2-mediated signaling pathway. For instance, in peripheral immune cells, PLCG2 has been implicated in the signaling pathways downstream of the B cell receptor and is thought to modulate the functions of macrophages, neutrophils, and natural killer cells through the Fc receptor.³² As is well known, the immune system is often under strong selective pressure and has important implications for aging and disease resistance.³³ Similarly,

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Figure 2. Functional enrichment of positively selected genes in long-lived and control species (A) Number of positively selected genes (PSGs) identified in the long-lived and control groups. (B) Proportion of positively selected genes (PSGs) for gene function in the long-lived and control groups. (C and D) GO and KEGG pathway enrichment of PSGs in long-lived and control groups. Top functional terms of biological process or pathways are shown. Circle sizes are proportional to the number of genes assigned to a pathway, and the color of the circle indicates the adjusted p value for each pathway.

previous studies identified immune-response genes to be under positive selection, expanded, and upregulated in long-lived bats, blind mole rats, and naked mole rats.^{[34](#page-8-20)} Importantly, the expression of immune-response genes in the liver across 33 mammalian species was positively related to maximum lifespan.³⁵

In addition, comparative genomic analysis of the short-lived African turquoise killifish and exceptionally long-lived mammals revealed that some aging and longevity candidates—such as CREBBP, CGNL1, and IGF1R were under positive selection in both short- and long-lived species, suggesting that the same gene could underlie the evolution of both exceptionally extended and shortened lifespans.³⁶ Similarly, 18 aging-related genes were detected to be under positive selection in both long-lived and control groups. These genes were significantly enriched in the PI3K-Akt signaling pathway, which is critical to the cell-cycle process and is associated with cellular quies-cence, proliferation, cancer, and longevity.^{[37](#page-8-23)}

Genes related to cancer progression exhibit molecular convergence in long-lived species

Convergent phenotypic evolution provides unique opportunities for studying how genomes encode phenotypes. Convergence was observed at different molecular levels, such as amino acid substitutions, the same positively selected genes, and convergent shifts in amino acid preference.^{[38](#page-8-24)} The present study revealed that four positively selected genes (CTGF, DBN1, ABL1, and PDGFRB) related to longevity were uniquely shared by long-lived lineages. Three of these (CTGF, DBN1, and ABL1) were examined in the long-lived little brown bat and Brandt's bat (genus Myotis). ABL1 (ABL proto-oncogene 1 non-receptor tyrosine kinase) is an oncogene that encodes a protein tyrosine kinase involved in various cellular processes, including cell division and DNA repair.^{[39](#page-8-25)} PDGFRB (platelet-derived growth factor receptor β) was determined to be under positive selection in the little brown bat and Hoffman's twotoed sloth. Previous studies showed that PDGFRB stimulates cell proliferation and tumor migration through an array of signaling pathways, such as MAP kinases, PI3K, and STAT (signal transducers and activa-tors of transcription).^{[40](#page-8-26)}

In addition, three convergent amino acid substitutions in three genes (GRN, ERBB2, and BLM) were identified in the long-lived group. These genes are associated with cancer incidence and DNA repair. For example, GRN (granulin, a growth factor)-knockout mice exhibited decreased survival—with less than 50% of animals living more than 2 years—and signs of cellular aging.⁴¹ ERBB2, commonly referred to as HER2, was overexpressed in 20%–30% of invasive breast carcinomas.

Moreover, five specific amino acid changes in four genes (EGFR, PEX5, PLCG2, and PRKCD) were observed in long-lived species. Among them, EGFR was associated with tumorigenesis, and PEX5, PLCG2, and PRKCD were associated with immune processes. Thus, convergent signatures in more than 11 genes related to cancer progression—four positively selected genes and seven genes with convergent amino acid changes—were found in two or more long-lived lineages, suggesting that long-lived mammals might have evolved convergent or similar mechanisms for cancer resistance in response to increased longevity.

Evolution of longevity through cancer resistance

The risk of cancer is a major challenge for increasing lifespan in mammals. Previous studies have shown that long-lived mammals have evolved specific mechanisms to protect themselves from cancer invasion. For instance, the two longest-living subterranean rodent species, the naked mole rat and blind mole rat, were found to resist cancer by secreting high-molecular-mass hyaluronan to mediate early contact inhibition and by using interferon secretion to induce cell death, respectively.^{[42](#page-8-28)[,43](#page-8-29)}

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Figure 3. Root-to-tip d_N/d_S values of genes with significant correlation with three life-history traits Scatterplots of significant relationships between log_{10} (maximum lifespan) (A–C), log_{10} (body mass) (F), longevity quotient (D and E), and root-to-tip d_N/d_S values. Green and blue points represent long-lived and control species, respectively.

Most notably, the tumor-suppressing TP53 gene might function differently in blind mole rats and another group of long-lived species, elephants. It was found that an amino acid change in the p53 protein of blind mole rats (R174K in human) favors cell-cycle arrest over apoptosis to adapt to the rat's hypoxic subterranean environment.⁴⁴ However, massive expansion of the many copies of TP53 identified in elephants was suggested to increase cellular sensitivity to DNA damage by triggering p53-dependent apoptosis, which leads to efficient removal of mutant cells.¹

Previous studies have also shown that many genes related to cancer control (including DNA damage and repair, immune response, and tumor suppression) evolved under positive selection, duplication, and amino acid changes in several long-lived lineages, suggesting that they share a mechanism. Positive selection of the pro-apoptotic gene FOXO3 and tumor-suppressor gene PRDM1 (positive regulatory domain I), and the specific mutation of the DNA-repair enzymes ERCC1 (excision repair cross-complementation group 1) was identified in long-lived bowhead and humpback whales;^{12[,13](#page-8-2)}

Figure 4. Pathway enrichment of genes with significant correlation with longevity-associated traits Enriched (A) GO terms, (B) KEGG pathways, (C) DO terms, and (D) Reactome pathways of genes correlate with the longevity-associated traits (i.e., maximum lifespan, longevity quotient, and body mass). Only the top ten terms are shown. Circle sizes are proportional to the number of genes assigned to a pathway, and the color of the circle indicates the adjusted p value for each pathway.

Figure 5. Overview of 12 robust longevity-associated genes (A) Venn diagram of overlaps among positively selected genes, longevity-associated genes, and rapidly evolving genes. (B) Protein-protein interaction network generated using STRING. Nodes for positively selected genes, longevity-associated genes, rapidly evolving genes, and overlap genes are colored blue, purple, green, and gray, respectively. Lines between each node indicate inferred/experimentally demonstrated biological associations.

on the other hand, in blind mole rats and microbats, inflammation-regulationrelated genes (e.g., Ifnb1, Mx1, and c-REL) showed positive selection, and gene families involved in immune response underwent gene expansion.^{[34](#page-8-20)}

In our study, 12 robust candidates for longevity-related genes identified in the long-lived lineages were involved in DNA repair (ERCC3 and ATM), immune processes (BCL2, STAT5A, STAT5B, and VCP), and the IIS pathway (IGF1 and INSR). Interestingly, 8 of these 12 candidates are known cancer genes according to the COSMIC $v92^{45}$ and TSGene 2.0⁴⁶ databases: five tumor-suppressor genes (ATM, EGR1, IGF1, STAT5A, and NOCR1); two oncogenes (BCL2 and ERBB2); and STAT5B, which is classified as both a tumorsuppressor gene and an oncogene. For example, EGR1 (early growth response 1), detected to be under positive selection in the long-lived Sumatran orangutan, upregulates the expression of TP53 to induce apoptosis in cancer cells.⁴⁷ STAT5B (signal transducer and activator of transcription 5B), identified to be under positive selection and rapid evolution in the longlived lineages, has been shown to activate STAT5, which is associated with the suppression of antitumor immunity and an increase in the proliferation, invasion, and survival of tumor cells.^{[48](#page-8-34)} ATM is a key DNA-damage response gene that commonly mutates in cancer; it functions as a regulator of a wide variety of downstream proteins, including the tumor-suppressor proteins TP53 and BRCA1.^{[49](#page-8-35)} Similarly, ATM was also identified to be under positive selection in the genus Myotis.^{[50](#page-8-36)} As mentioned above, a number of genes involved in cancer-related pathways have evolved via the same or different evolutionary pathways in individual or multiple long-lived lineages, suggesting that cancer resistance could be achieved through lineage-specific adaptations or common mechanisms to extend lifespan. Of course, functional experiments are needed to test whether the candidate cancer-related genes have higher cancer-resistance activity in the long-lived mammals compared with short-lived counterparts; such experiments are important in part because they may provide new strategies to extend the lifespan of humans.

Conclusion

The striking variability in lifespans across the mammalian phylogeny provides an ideal dataset to investigate the evolution of extended lifespan (longevity) and aging. Using mammalian comparative genomics, we juxtaposed 11 long-lived species with 25 shorter-lived counterparts. Our findings support our hypothesis that the IIS pathway and immune regulation play a particularly important role in exceptional mammalian longevity. Eleven

cancer-related genes were found to have convergent signatures in the long-lived species, indicating functional convergence or similar anticancer mechanisms in response to increased longevity in animals. Importantly, we identified 12 robust candidates for longevity-related genes that were closely related to cancer, which corroborated the notion that long-lived mammals have evolved effective anticancer mechanisms to extend their lifespan. Together, these findings provide insights into how evolution reversibly adjusts lifespan and presents candidate genes and pathways for further experimental exploration.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

See [supplemental information](#page-8-5) for details.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

S.X. and G.Y. designed the study. Z.Y. was responsible for data collection and analysis. S.X. and Z.Y. drafted the manuscript. I.S., S.X., and G.Y. revised the manuscript. M.Y. participated in data collection. D.S. contributed to data analysis. R.T. and W.R. assisted with manuscript editing. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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Supplementary Information

Comparative analyses of aging-related genes in long-lived mammals provide insights into natural longevity

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Species Coverage and Definition of Long-lived Species

A total of 36 mammals representing 14 orders were examined: Cetartiodactyla (*B. mysticetus*, *Tursiops truncates*, *Orcinus orca*, *Lipotes vexillifer*, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, *Physeter catodon*, *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*, *Vicugna pacos*, *Bos Taurus*, *Ovis aries*), Perissodactyla (*Equus caballus*), Carnivora (*Canis lupus familiaris*, *Felis catus*), Chiroptera (*M. brandtii*, *Myotis lucifugus*, *Pteropus vampyrus*), Eulipotyphla (*Sorex araneus*, *Erinaceus europaeus*), Primates (*H. sapiens*, *M. nemestrina*, *Carlito syrichta*, *P. abelii*, *C. jacchus*, *M. murinus*), Rodentia (*H. glaber*, *Rattus norvegicus*, *Mus musculus*, *Cavia porcellus*), Lagomorpha (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*, *Ochotona princeps*), Proboscidea (*L. Africana*) , Hyracoidea (*Procavia capensis*), Afrosoricida (*Echinops telfairi*), Cingulata (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), Pilosa (*Choloepus hoffmanni*), and Didelphimorphia (*Monodelphis domestica*) (Table S1).

We used the scientific method of evaluating longevity quotient (LQ)—i.e., the ratio of the observed maximum lifespan (MLS) to the predicted maximum lifespan¹⁻² to determine whether species are long-lived for their body size. We first obtained the maximum lifespan and body mass (BM) records for all mammals ($n = 987$) from the AnAge online database.³ Each species' longevity quotient was calculated to follow the allometric equation for mammals:²

$$
LQ = \frac{MLS}{6.32 \times BM^{0.139}}
$$

Then, we split the dataset into two groups based on longevity quotient: long-lived group contained the species with a longevity quotient greater than 1 SD (standard deviation) from the mean of all mammals, and the control group contained all other species.

Sequence Retrieval and Alignments

Aging-related gene list of human was first retrieved from the GenAge³ database. The protein-coding sequence (CDS) for each human aging-related gene was then downloaded from the NCBI database. The CDS of other mammalian species was downloaded from NCBI, the OrthoMAM v10 database,⁴ and the Bowhead Whale Genome Resource [\(http://www.bowhead-whale.org/\)](http://www.bowhead-whale.org/).⁵ Additionally, the low quality or unannotated CDS in the database was further verified using BLASTn searches. For each gene, the longest transcript was kept in our analysis. Thus, 115 one-to-one orthologous genes among 36 species were selected for subsequent analysis (Table S2). Next, we performed multiple sequence alignments for each orthologous gene using PRANK with default settings, which uses phylogenetic information to distinguish alignment gaps caused by insertions or deletions and produces good alignments for evolutionary inferences.6-7 Finally, potentially unreliable regions of multiple alignments were removed using the Gblocks v0.91 program with default settings ("-t = c").⁸

Molecular Evolution Analyses

The measure of natural selection acting on the genes was determined by estimating the ratio of nonsynonymous (d_N) / synonymous (d_S) substitution rates (d_N/d_S) implemented in the CodeML program of the PAML software package $v4.9$ ⁹ Briefly, $d_N/d_S < 1$, $d_N/d_S = 1$, and $d_N/d_S > 1$ indicate negative selection, neutral evolution, and positive selection, respectively. A well-accepted species tree of 36 species in our study from the TimeTree database (http://www.timetree.org/) was used as the input tree for all analyses. 10

To investigate whether aging-related genes have undergone significant differences in selection pressures between long-lived species and the control group, the branch-site model was used to test the selection of each extant lineage in this study.¹¹ Each longlived species was used as a foreground branch in every run, and all control group species were set as the background branch. Compared with the null hypothesis model of neutral evolution $(d_N/d_S = 1)$, foreground branches in the modified model A that have a class of sites with the ratio $d_N/d_S > 1$ for positive selection. All positively selected sites in the branch-site model were identified using a Bayes Empirical Bayes (BEB) analysis with posterior probabilities ≥ 0.80 ¹² In addition, the clade model C and its null model M2a rel (nearly neutral) were used to detect evidence of divergent selective pressures acting across the combined branch of all extant long-lived lineage as the foreground compared with the remaining species in the tree as the background.¹³ The clade model C assumes variation in d_N/d_S among sites, allowing a fraction of sites evolving under divergent selective pressures. The model assumes three classes of sites, representing evolutionarily conserved codons, neutral codons, and codons under divergent selection pressures between the foreground and background clades. We set each model with three initial d_N/d_S values (0.5, 1, and 1.5) to obtain the robust average d_N/d_S , and compared this result with that of model M2a_ref. Only genes with an unchangeable likelihood value for the three initial d_N/d_S values were considered. The likelihood ratio test (LRT) with χ^2 distribution was used to determine which models were statistically different from the null model. The *P*-values were adjusted for multiple testing using the false discovery rate (FDR) procedure and adjusted *P*-values < 0.05 were considered significant for branch-site model analysis.¹⁴

Convergent Evolution Detection

Here, we used two methods to detect the molecular basis of convergent evolution in long-lived species. First, ancestral amino acid sequences were reconstructed for 115 one-to-one orthologous genes among 36 species using the CodeML program in PAML 4.9.⁹ Then, convergent amino acid substitutions in independent pairs of long-lived lineage were detected by Zhang and Kumar's method. ¹⁵ Considering noise resulting from the random amino acid substitutions of convergence, the JTT-fgenes model of amino acid substitution were used to estimate the expected number of molecular convergences in each protein alignment.¹⁶ A Poisson test was finally performed to verify whether the observed number of convergent sites in each gene was significantly more than the expected number caused by random substitution.

Second, we determined unique amino acid substitutions based on sequence alignments using FasParser2,¹⁷ since convergent phenotypic characteristics can also arise from unique substitutions that independently evolved in different species.¹⁸ If the same amino acid changes were identified in at least five long-lived species and none were found in the control group, then these amino acid changes were considered to be long-lived group specific amino acid substitutions.

Association Analysis between Gene Evolution and Phenotypes

Finally, we wished to assess the relationship between the rate of gene evolution and aging-associated life-history traits.¹⁹ To test whether maximum lifespan covaries with body mass and longevity quotient, we first carried out a nonphylogenetic regression using the *lm* function in R 3.5.1. Moreover, we used Pagel's λ model to test for phylogenetic signals in mammalian life-history traits. Pagel's λ describes the proportion of variance that can be attributed to Brownian motion along a phylogeny. A value of λ equal or close to 1 suggests that the character is evolving stochastically, whereas λ < 1 indicates a departure from neutral drift. Estimates of λ for all life-history traits were computed using the *phytools* package in R 3.5.1.²⁰

To explore the potential relationships between the evolutionary rate (d_N / d_S) of aging-related genes and life-history phenotypes, the root-to-tip d_N / d_S that considers the evolutionary history of a locus were calculated for each gene using the free-ratio model from PAML v4.9.⁹ For this analysis, a *ds* value of approximately 0 along a branch always yields a very high d_N/d_S value. Hence, genes with $d_S < 0.0001$ were discarded in our analysis. Finally, phylogenetic generalized least squares regression was performed in the *caper* package in R $3.5.1²¹$ to evaluate the associations between Log₁₀transformed root-to-tip d_N/d_S and life-history traits (longevity quotient without logtransform). 22

To assess the robustness of the results, we applied a two-step verification

procedure as previously described.²³ First, the regression was performed by excluding the species with the largest residue error (e.g., a potential outlier) to report the regression slope *P*-value ("*P* value.robust"). Second, the regression was repeated by excluding each species, one at a time, to report the maximum (i.e., least significant) *P*value ("*P* value.max"), and ensure that the overall relationship did not depend on any single species. Both *P* value.robust ≤ 0.01 and *P* value.max ≤ 0.1 were chosen as the cut-offs.

Pathway Enrichment and Protein-protein Interaction Analysis

We performed a pathway enrichment analysis to explore the biological mechanisms underlying the associations between the candidate genes and longevity pathways. The functional enrichment analyses in Gene Ontology (GO) terms for Biological Process (BP), the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG), Disease Ontology (DO), and Reactome pathway were performed in the R package *clusterProfiler*. ²⁴ DO provides a consistent description of genes in disease perspectives and Reactome is a manually curated resource that describes chemical reactions and biological processes and pathways. For each pathway, the hypergeometric test was used to detect any overrepresentation of our set of genes among all genes in the pathway. FDR was controlled using the Benjamini–Hochberg procedure in R $3.5.1²⁵$ A proteinprotein interaction network analysis was performed using STRING v11.²⁶

Supplementary Figure

Figure S1. Bar plot showing the variance in maximum lifespan (MLS) explained by each life-history trait (body mass (BM) or longevity quotient (LQ)) as studied in a multivariate model, ***P value < 0.001.

Supplementary Tables

Table S1 Datasets of 36 mammals in the present study.

Gene	Entrez ID	Gene Name	Gene Function/GeneCards
ABLI	25	ABL proto-oncogene 1, non-receptor tyrosine kinase	Cancer
AGTR1	185	angiotensin II receptor, type 1	Metabolism
APOE	348	apolipoprotein E	Metabolism
APP	351	amyloid beta precursor protein	Transcription regulation
APTX	54840	aprataxin	DNA damage repair
ARNTL	406	aryl hydrocarbon receptor nuclear translocator-like	Transcription regulation
ATF ₂	1386	activating transcription factor 2	Transcription regulation
ATM	472	ATM serine/threonine kinase	Cancer
ATP5O	539	ATP synthase peripheral stalk subunit OSCP	Metabolism
ATR	545	ATR serine/threonine kinase	Cancer
BAX	581	BCL2-associated X protein	Apoptosis
BCL2	596	B-cell CLL/lymphoma 2	Apoptosis
BLM	641	Bloom syndrome, RecQ helicase-like	DNA damage repair
BMI1	648	BMI1 proto-oncogene, polycomb ring finger	DNA damage repair
BRCA1	672	breast cancer 1, early onset	Cancer
BSCL2	26580	Berardinelli-Seip congenital lipodystrophy 2	Immune system
BUB3	9184	BUB3 mitotic checkpoint protein	Cell cycle
ClQA	712	complement component 1, q subcomponent, A chain	Cell cycle
CCNA2	890	cyclin A2	Cell cycle
CDC42	998	cell division cycle 42	Cell cycle
CDK1	983	cyclin-dependent kinase 1	Cell cycle

Table S2 List of 115 aging-related genes used in in the present study.

Branch	Gene	Model	LnL	2Δ lnL	p.adjust	Parameters	Positive Sites $(pp > 0.8)$
	IL7R	ModelA	-5355.063			ω_0 = 0.136 ω_1 = 1.0 ω_2 = 55.56	184 0.990**;
		ModelA Null	-5358.884	7.642	0.006	$\omega_0 = 0.136 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	
	DGAT1	ModelA	-7826.170			ω_0 = 0.037 ω_1 = 1.0 ω_2 = 206.344	271 0.995**;
		ModelA Null	-7831.196	10.051	0.002	$\omega_0 = 0.038 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	
Heterocephalus glaber	NGF	ModelA	-4700.352			$\omega_0 = 0.057 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 19.701$	1200.986 [*] ;
		ModelA Null	-4702.660	4.615	0.032	$\omega_0 = 0.057 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	
	SHC1	ModelA	-8468.794			ω_0 = 0.021 ω_1 = 1.0 ω_2 = 23.46	51 0.972*;
		ModelA Null	-8471.238	4.888	0.027	$\omega_0 = 0.021 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	
	STAT5A	ModelA	-11545.632			$\omega_0 = 0.022 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 435.158$	519 0.901; 603 0.985*;
		ModelA Null	-11548.466	5.669	0.017	$\omega_0 = 0.022 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	
Balaena mysticetus	GSK3B	ModelA	-4458.212			$\omega_0 = 0.01 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 999.0$	57 0.840; 118 0.841;
		ModelA Null	-4460.432	4.440	0.035	$\omega_0 = 0.01 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	
Homo sapiens	EMD	ModelA	-1585.090			$\omega_0 = 0.066 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 325.92$	$60.996**;$
		ModelA Null	-1588.927	7.674	0.006	$\omega_0 = 0.065 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	
	PPARA	ModelA	-9645.415			$\omega_0 = 0.023 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 8.497$	220 0.978*; 222 0.992**; 223 $0.838; 2910.989*;$
		ModelA Null	-9649.334	7.838	0.005	$\omega_0 = 0.023 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	
Pongo abelii	EGR1	ModelA	-8655.636			$\omega_0 = 0.032 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 10.739$	83 0.994**; 95 0.996**; 313 0.967^* ; 415 0.562; 417 0.987*;
		ModelA Null	-8660.138	9.005	0.003	$\omega_0 = 0.031 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	
	GSS	ModelA	-7345.481			ω_0 = 0.064 ω_1 = 1.0 ω_2 = 999.0	
		ModelA Null	-7347.529	4.097	0.043	$\omega_0 = 0.063 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	

Table S3 List of positively selected genes identified in long-lived species.

Branch	Gene	Model	LnL	2Δ lnL	p.adjust	Parameters	Positive Sites $(pp > 0.8)$	
Heterocephalus glaber	SHC1	ModelA	-8468.794			ω_0 = 0.021 ω_1 = 1.0 ω_2 = 23.46	51 0.972*;	
		ModelA Null	-8471.238	4.888	0.027	$\omega_0 = 0.021 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$		
Homo sapiens	EMD	ModelA	-1585.090			ω_0 = 0.066 ω_1 = 1.0 ω_2 = 325.92	$60.996**;$	
		ModelA Null	-1588.927	7.674	0.006	$\omega_0 = 0.065 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$		
	PPARA	ModelA	-9645.415			$\omega_0 = 0.023 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 8.497$	220 0.978*; 222 0.992**; 223	
							$0.838; 2910.989$ [*] ;	
		ModelA Null	-9649.334	7.838	0.005	$\omega_0 = 0.023 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$		
Pongo abelii	EGR1	ModelA	-8655.636			$\omega_0 = 0.032 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 10.739$	83 0.994**; 95 0.996**; 313	
		ModelA Null	-8660.138	9.005	0.003	$\omega_0 = 0.031 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$	0.967^* ; 415 0.562; 417 0.987*;	
	STAT5B	ModelA	-11534.536			ω_0 = 0.015 ω_1 = 1.0 ω_2 = 12.221	625 0.962*; 627 0.988*;	
		ModelA Null	-11538.173	7.274	0.007	$\omega_0 = 0.015 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$		
Microcebus murinus	HELLS	ModelA	-12118.730			ω_0 = 0.046 ω_1 = 1.0 ω_2 = 73.435	267 0.956*; 271 0.916;	
		ModelA Null	-12123.525	9.590	0.002	$\omega_0 = 0.045 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$		
							1377 0.991**; 1533 0.995**; 1536	
Callithrix jacchus	NCOR1	ModelA	-33035.937			$\omega_0 = 0.044 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 909.062$	M 0.992**; 1547 0.993**; 1548	
							$0.992**$	
		ModelA Null	-33055.111	38.347	0.000	$\omega_0 = 0.043 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$		
Macaca nemestrina	ERBB2	ModelA	-22231.960			$\omega_0 = 0.04 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 147.608$	536 0.984*; 538 0.983*;	
		ModelA Null	-22242.961	22.002	0.000	$\omega_0 = 0.04 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$		
	VCP	ModelA	-11067.049			ω_0 = 0.001 ω_1 = 1.0 ω_2 = 8.211	630 0.975*;	
Choloepus hoffmanni		ModelA Null	-11069.586	5.074	0.024	$\omega_0 = 0.001 \omega_1 = 1.0 \omega_2 = 1.0$		

Table S4 List of 16 unique positively selected genes identified in long-lived species none in the Control group.

		ModelA	ModelA				Positive Sites ($pp > 0.8$)	
Branch	Gene	LnL	Null LnL	2Δ LnL	P.adj	$\boldsymbol{\omega}$		
	CIQA	-5538.881	-5545.187	12.610	0.000	999.000	73 0.867;	
	CDKN2B	-1863.771	-1865.890	4.237	0.040	999.000		
	E2FI	-2392.934	-2395.489	5.111	0.024	172.285	13 0.958*; 120 0.996**;	
	EPOR	-6314.556	-6317.221	5.331	0.021	999.000		
Monodelphis domestica	GRN	-10086.825	-10089.485	5.320	0.021	6.174	82 0.997**; 218 0.937; 237 0.921; 361 0.928;	
	PDGFRB	-19240.541	-19242.569	4.055	0.044	999.000		
	TCF3	-5075.225	-5079.541	8.633	0.003	999.000	37 0.900;	
	WRN	-20595.302	-20597.668	4.732	0.030	3.803	122 0.815; 140 0.916; 179 0.880; 221 0.944; 754	
							0.930; 830 0.800;	
	ATP5O	-5154.135	-5158.448	8.626	0.003	998.999	108 0.955*;	
	EGFR	-19923.857	-19927.105	6.498	0.011	222.335	108 0.879; 362 0.992**;	
	ERCC ₂	-9250.400	-9252.840	4.881	0.027	76.206	115 0.971*;	
Erinaceus europaeus	IL7R	-5444.146	-5448.084	7.878	0.005	998.996	130 0.959*;	
	IRS1	-17165.290	-17168.343	6.106	0.013	71.541	813 0.980*;	
	PLCG2	-19713.551	-19716.032	4.962	0.026	193.319	529 0.848;973 0.958*;	
	PRKCD	-10447.433	-10449.841	4.814	0.028	289.954	126 0.956*;	
	WRN	-20593.655	-20597.108	6.905	0.009	48.257	46 0.977*;	
	ATM	-46023.593	-46025.930	4.675	0.031	71.039	1292 0.918;	
	CSNK1E	-3547.007	-3550.472	6.929	0.008	131.183	196 S 0.999**;	
Sorex araneus	DGAT1	-7318.911	-7321.407	4.992	0.025	10.190	144 0.974*; 155 0.979*;	
	EGFR	-19918.687	-19921.351	5.328	0.021	6.760	51 0.815; 61 0.969*; 273 0.979*; 311 0.974*;	

Table S5 List of positively selected genes identified in the Control group (lifespan with non-increased).

Life-History Trait	λ	$P(\lambda)^a$
MLS	0.97	< 0.001
ΒM	0.99	< 0.001
LQ	0.97	0.004

Table S6. Lambda (λ) parameter estimates for life-history traits in mammals

^a Significance of difference of the **λ** model.

formula	model	outlier sample	\mathbf{R}^2	lambda	coefficient	p value	p value.robust	\mathbb{R}^2 .robust	p value.max
$BM \sim BMI1$	pgls	"Balaena mysticetus"	0.2845	0.94	4.0224	0.0006	0.0004	0.311	0.0157
$BM \sim CTNNB1$	pgls	"Myotis brandtii"	0.2076		5.1071	0.0035	0.0035	0.2126	0.0216
$BM \sim E2F1$	pgls	"Orcinus orca"	0.1146	0.961	3.2092	0.0246	0.0066	0.1792	0.0203
$BM \sim ERBB2$	pgls	"Physeter catodon"	0.1539		6.6927	0.0104	0.0043	0.1985	0.034
$BM \sim IGF1$	pgls	"Balaena mysticetus"	0.227	0.983	-3.1432	0.0034	0.0045	0.2204	0.016
$BM \sim IGF1R$	pgls	"Loxodonta african"	0.3368	0.849	-4.8164	0.0001	0.0001	0.3558	0.0003
$BM \sim PDGFB$	pgls	"Myotis brandtii"	0.1799	0.931	7.015	0.0065	0.0028	0.2226	0.0091
$LQ \sim CDK1$	pgls	"Myotis brandtii"	0.337	0.439	1.7315	0.0045	0.002	0.2435	0.0075
$LQ \sim ERCC3$	ols	"Myotis brandtii"	0.1541	$\boldsymbol{0}$	1.8044	0.0103	0.0024	0.2236	0.0085
$LQ \sim HRAS$	pgls	"Homo sapiens"	0.2071	0.735	0.6264	0.0035	0.0005	0.2959	0.0045
$LQ \sim INSR$	ols	"Homo sapiens"	0.2197	$\boldsymbol{0}$	3.574	0.0023	0.0003	0.3103	0.0035
$MLS \sim ARNTL$	pgls	"Sorex araneus"	0.1233	0.886	0.9055	0.022	0.0044	0.2029	0.0202
$MLS \sim ATM$	pgls	"Balaena mysticetus"	0.1834	0.894	3.7153	0.0053	0.0025	0.2216	0.0517
$MLS \sim BMI1$	pgls	"Rattus norvegicus"	0.2084	0.855	0.7916	0.0034	0.0008	0.2756	0.0034
$MLS \sim CDK1$	ols	"Mus musculus"	0.369	$\overline{0}$	0.7481	0.0001	0.0001	0.4139	0.0003
$MLS \sim CTNNB1$	pgls	"Sorex araneus"	0.143		1.0173	0.0144	0.0014	0.2537	0.0079
$MLS \sim ERCC3$	pgls	"Equus caballus"	0.1007	0.753	0.5619	0.0333	$\boldsymbol{0}$	0.4039	0.001
$MLS \sim ERCC5$	pgls	"Balaena mysticetus"	0.1829	0.673	1.6322	0.0054	0.0058	0.1851	0.088
$MLS \sim NRG1$	pgls	"Balaena mysticetus"	0.1874	0.997	0.6153	0.0049	0.0018	0.2356	0.0589
$MLS \sim STAT5A$	ols	"Homo sapiens"	0.4206	$\overline{0}$	1.4094	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	0.4723	$\overline{0}$

Table S7. Summary of genes with a root-to-tip d_N/d_S significantly correlated with maximum lifespan (MLS), body mass (BM), longevity quotient (LQ).

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