

Supplementary Materials for
Cross-species identification of cancer resistance–associated genes that may mediate human cancer risk

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Sci. Adv. **8**, eabj7176 (2022)
DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.abj7176

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SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

1. Short review of cancer resistance mechanisms in different species

Different species have independently evolved unique cancer resistance mechanisms. Repression of somatic telomerase activity, and replicative senescence are important tumor-suppressing mechanisms evolved in species greater than approximately 10 kilograms (2). Cells of smaller but relatively long-lived animals are reported to have slower proliferation in culture (77). There have been a few reports of more efficient DNA repair in cancer-resistant and long-lived animals (3, 9). African elephants, the largest land mammals, have 19 extra retrogene copies of the tumor suppressor gene *TP53* and are more sensitive to *TP53*-mediated DNA damage response (78, 79). The remarkable cancer resistance of naked mole rat has been previously partly attributed to the production of high molecular mass hyaluronan (HMM-HA) (80, 81) but this mechanism has been questioned in a recent study (82). Blind mole rats also have abundant HMM-HA and increased interferon- β expression that contribute to cancer resistance (3, 81, 83). Various large-bodied whales do not have additional *TP53* copies, and their cancer resistance mechanisms are not clearly understood (3, 13).

2. Summary of the numbers of PC and NC genes

The table below summarizes the numbers of PC and NC genes identified (analysis done with humans as the reference for computing the gene conservation matrix) for the cancer resistance predictors: all-species, mammals, birds, and teleost fish, at FDR < 0.1. The table below summarizes the number of PC/NC genes at FDR<0.1 for the cancer resistance predictors (all-species, mammals, birds) using the different MLTAW/MLCAW cancer resistance estimates (robustness was also shown for other FDR thresholds). Note that for birds with MLCAW and Teleost fish, no genes passed the FDR 0.1 cutoff.

	MLTAW (all- species) (n=193 species)	MLCAW (all- species) (n=193 species)	MLTAW (Mamm allia) (n=108 species)	MLCAW (Mamm allia) (n=108 species)	MLTAW (Aves) (n=55 species)
No. of PC genes at FDR < 0.1	3506	2797	2211	1912	428
No. of NC genes at FDR < 0.1	4108	2184	2079	1524	132

For the LOEUF score analysis, we enclose a summary of the resulting numbers of PC and NC genes in the table below (we only used PC/NC genes identified from all species or mammals in these analyses):

	MLTAW (all- species) (n=193 species)	MLCAW (all- species) (n=193 species)	MLTAW (Mamm allia) (n=108 species)	MLCAW (Mamm allia) (n=108 species)
No. of PC genes	594	385	423	160
No. of NC genes	483	244	392	159

3. Cancer resistance prediction in birds and teleost fishes

Using leave-one-out cross-validation (LOOCV) we find a significant positive correlation between the predicted cancer resistance (CR) scores and MLTAW on all the bird species (Spearman's $\rho =$

0.43, $P = 0.00094$, Fig. S3A) though this is weaker than the corresponding predictions obtained by learning on all species (Spearman's $\rho = 0.57$, $P = 6.4e-6$, Fig. S16A, using LOOCV). The correlation is stronger for the order Passeriformes (Spearman's $\rho = 0.79$, $P = 0.0012$, Fig. S3B) for which we have the largest number of samples. Among Passeriformes, the highest CR scores are obtained for American crow (Fig. S3B). The MLCAW measure did not yield any PC/NC genes ($FDR < 0.1$) for birds, and hence no CR predictor could be built. We could not identify any PC/NC genes at $FDR < 0.1$ for teleost fishes (for both MLTAW and MLCAW measures) probably because of a small sample size ($n=18$); and hence we could not however build a cancer resistance predictor for them.

A detailed pathway enriched analysis for mammals, birds, and teleost fishes are provided in Fig. 3A, S12C. Many pathways show group-specific enrichment. For example, many cell cycle and DNA repair-related pathways are enriched by the PC genes in mammals, but not or to a much lesser extent in birds or teleost fishes; complement activation is enriched by PC genes in teleost fishes, but by NC genes in mammals or birds (Fig. 3A, S12C, Table S3). Bird PC genes are uniquely enriched for certain processes including fatty acid and amino acid metabolism and PI3K-AKT signaling pathway despite sharing interleukin, interferon signaling and mRNA transcription with mammals (Fig. 3A, S12C). GPCR signaling is commonly enriched by the NC genes based on MLCAW in all three groups (Fig. 3A, S12C, Table S3).

4. Control and robustness analysis

Random control experiments

Random controls experiments for predicting cancer resistance were done for using all species. We chose random PC/NC genes with the same size as the actual PC/NC genes identified from the all-species analysis at $FDR < 0.1$. We can predict cancer resistance using these genes. We do this for 1000 iterations and the empirical P-value is computed. We see that they are not correlated in comparison to the 'true' correlation obtained using the actual PC/NC genes (randomization test $P < 0.001$). The results for MLTAW/MLCAW are shown in Fig. S4.

PC/NC genes and cancer resistance predictors are robust to the method of correlation used.

To identify cancer resistance-associated genes (PC/NC genes) for all species, we used Pearson correlation between the conservation scores of each gene and the cancer-resistance estimates (MLTAW and MLCAW) across all species. Pearson correlation coefficient was used (instead of Spearman) in order to reduce the number of ties which will affect the gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA). We now show that the robust identification of PC/NC genes is possible even if we use Spearman's correlation instead of Pearson. To do this, we recomputed PC/NC genes using Spearman's correlation and compared it to those obtained using Pearson's correlation (FDR < 0.1). Using Fisher's exact test, we get a significant overlap in comparing cancer resistance-associated genes obtained using Pearson and Spearman's correlation (PC genes: Odds-ratio/OR = 111.64, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLTAW and OR = 94.22, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW; NC genes: OR = 126.52, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLTAW and OR = 184.78, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW). (Note: whenever the enrichment test software shows $P = 0$, we write as $P < 2.2e-16$.) Cancer-resistance (CR) predictors computed from PC/NC genes identified using Pearson or Spearman's correlation works very similar across all species (Pearson-based PC/NC identification: MLTAW $\rho=0.44$, $P=1.32e-10$, MLCAW $\rho=0.51$, $P=2.31e-14$; Spearman's-based PC/NC identification: MLTAW $\rho=0.43$, $P=3.65e-10$, MLCAW $\rho=0.51$, $P=5.16e-14$; using LOOCV or 'leave-one-out cross-validation').

PC/NC genes and cancer resistance predictors are robust to the choice of reference species

We used the human genome as a reference, for computing gene conservation matrix as most of our downstream analysis was on human genes and we aimed to identify genes relevant to cancer resistance in humans. To check if our analysis is robust to changes in reference, we recomputed the gene conservation matrix using a few different species genomes including some cancer prone species like the house mouse (*Mus Musculus*) (in comparison humans are known to be relatively cancer resistant). The thirteen-lined ground squirrel was also chosen as a reference as it is likely to be cancer prone given that it is a species with poor longevity (it is relatively low MLTAW and MLCAW estimates). In the all-species analysis, the PC/NC genes obtained using mouse or squirrel genome as reference are extremely similar to the PC/NC genes obtained using humans as reference. Using Fisher's exact test, we get a significant overlap in comparing the PC genes

obtained using humans and mouse/squirrel genomes as reference (mouse: OR = 14.67, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLTAW and OR = 30.87, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW; squirrel: OR = 33.78, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLTAW and OR = 55.31, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW). Similarly, we get a significant overlap in comparing the NC genes obtained using humans and mouse/squirrel genomes as reference (mouse: OR = 10.78, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLTAW and OR = 27.73, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW; squirrel: OR = 24.29, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLTAW; OR = 57.68, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW). Similarly, cancer-resistance (CR) predictors computed from a gene conservation matrix which uses mouse or squirrel genomes as reference, show good prediction results between CR scores and cancer-resistance estimates; similar to what was obtained using human as reference (Fig. S5; LOOCV). We also see that humans are predicted to be relatively cancer resistant as expected (Fig. S5).

Furthermore, for the sake of a more comprehensive analysis, we recomputed the gene conservation scores using 12 non-human species genomes as a reference including many evolutionarily distant species from humans (includes mammals, birds, fish, even plants). Those are *Mus musculus* (house mouse), *Ictidomys tridecemlineatus* (thirteen-lined ground squirrel), *Heterocephalus glaber* (naked-mole rat; known to be cancer-resistant), *Physeter catodon* (sperm whale; large animal), *Gallus gallus* (chicken), *Cyanistes caeruleus* (Eurasian blue tit), *Struthio camelus australis* (ostrich), *Danio rerio* (zebrafish), *Arabidopsis thaliana* (thale cress), *Petunia axillaris* (large white petunia), *Zea mays* (corn), *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato). We then recomputed the PC and NC genes (all-species analysis) using the gene conservation scores obtained from the analyses of each of these 12 reference species genomes (both the MLTAW and MLCAW measures), and checked if they significantly overlapped with the corresponding PC/NC genes identified using human genome as a reference (overlap enrichment test, using Fisher exact test) -- we see a very significant overlap in all 12 cases ($FDR < 0.0005$, Fig. S6). As probably expected, we see the strongest overlap if we choose any mammal as a reference (irrespective of its size, longevity, or whether it is cancer-prone/resistant) in comparison to using birds, fish, or plants (Fig. S6).

Next, we compared the overlap between the PC and NC genes identified using a cancer-prone species like house mouse and a cancer-resistant species like naked mole rat as reference

genomes. Notably, the PC/NC genes obtained using mouse genome as reference are very similar to the PC/NC genes obtained using naked-mole rat as reference: Using a Fisher's exact test, we get a significant overlap in comparing the PC/NC genes obtained using mouse and naked mole rat genomes as reference (PC genes: OR = 15.06, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLTAW and OR = 46.22, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW; NC genes: OR = 8.72, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLTAW and OR = 63.22, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW). Similarly, we compared the overlap between the PC and NC genes identified using a short-living species like house mouse and a long-living species like sperm whale as reference genomes. Like before, in the all-species analysis, the PC/NC genes obtained using mouse genome as reference are very similar to the PC/NC genes obtained using sperm whale as reference (PC genes: OR = 7.55, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLTAW and OR = 53.91, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW; and NC genes: OR = 4.44, $P < 1.02e-170$ for MLTAW and OR = 48.18, $P < 2.2e-16$ for MLCAW). (Note that whenever the enrichment test software shows $P = 0$, we write as $P < 2.2e-16$.) Based on these results we can see that our identification of PC/NC genes is quite robust to the choice of reference.

Using two-fold cross-validation instead of LOOCV

We also did a two-fold cross-validation (instead of LOOCV) for predicting cancer-resistance scores, i.e., identifying PC and NC genes in the training group and testing the accuracy of the CR predictions in the left-out group. We see that our results using two-fold cross-validation is similar to that obtained by LOOCV in the all-species analysis (Fig. S7 in comparison to Fig. 2A, S2).

Our results are robust to changes in FDR criteria and thresholds used

We predicted cancer-resistance scores (CR) by altering various parameters. Our original predictor as described in the manuscript uses PC genes and NC genes which are significantly associated with cancer resistance at $FDR < 0.1$. We now show that our CR predictor is robust to changes in FDR thresholds from 0.1 to 0.01 or 0.2 (Fig. S8A,B). The original predictor also computes the number of PC genes whose conservation score $>$ median conservation score; and the number of NC genes whose conservation score $<$ median conservation score. We also show that the CR predictor is robust to altering the thresholds from median conservation score to top and bottom

33 percentile of the conservation scores for PC and NC genes respectively (Fig. S8C). The same analysis was also done using the top and bottom 20 percentile (Fig. S8D).

Alternative predictors using either PC or NC genes

For the original predictor which uses both PC and NC genes, our cancer resistance (CR) score was measured using the following equation:

Original predictor: CR score = [(No. of PC genes > MCS) + (No. of NC genes < MCS)] / (Total no. of genes)

where MCS is the median conservation score of all genes in a species; PC and NC genes are chosen for FDR < 0.1.

Now to test the individual contribution of using PC-only and NC-only genes to predict a good cancer-resistance estimate, we build alternative predictors as follows:

PC-only predictor: CR score = (No. of PC genes > MCS) / (Total no. of genes)

NC-only predictor: CR score = (No. of NC genes < MCS) / (Total no. of genes)

We then compare the PC-only and NC-only predictor with the original predictor in Fig. S9 for the all-species, Mammalia (mammals), and Aves (birds) analysis for both MLTAW and MLCAW measures. We see that both PC and NC genes have significant individual and comparable contributions to predict cancer resistance.

5. Cancer resistance prediction within specific mammalian orders

Using the predicted CR scores learnt from all mammalian species (in LOOCV), we further tested its association with cancer-resistance estimates for various orders with the class Mammalia, Rodentia, Primates, Carnivora, Artiodactyla, Cetacea, Chiroptera. We are able to predict at least one of the two cancer-resistance estimates effectively in Rodentia, Primates, Carnivora, and Chiroptera; but not for Artiodactyla, Cetacea (Fig. S10A,B). Just looking at rodents, we are able

to get good CR scores in known cancer resistant species like the naked mole rat and low CR scores for cancer prone species like the house mouse (Fig. S10C). Among primates, we see that animals like chimpanzees and gorillas are predicted to be cancer resistant (Fig. S10D). Among carnivores, we see that Steller sea lion and California sea lion have high CR scores (Fig. S10E). Among bats, we again see that species like the Brandt's bat which are known to live long for their body size are predicted to have high CR scores (Fig. 2D). Little brown bats are also seen to have high CR scores (Fig. 2D).

6. Copy numbers of top PC and NC genes across mammals

We have not explicitly considered the number of copies or paralogous genes in our analysis, and we have explained this as a limitation in the discussion section. To generally compute the copy numbers of genes in any species is not a trivial problem, requiring the careful choice of thresholds to find orthologues and paralogues. The appropriate thresholds depend on the phylogenetic distance between each pair of species and on sequence lengths. After determining the clusters of orthologous groups based on the normalized blast bit scores of each possible protein pair, gene copy numbers can be determined. A thorough investigation of the number of copies may be pursued in a future study. However, here we performed a smaller-scale analysis of top PC/NC gene copy numbers in mammalian species, as follows: From the EggNOG database (84), we obtained the gene orthologous group across mammals for each of the 5 top PC and NC genes correlated with MLTAW/MLCAW in the mammal-specific analysis. We found only one copy (a single orthologous gene per species) of most of these PC/NC genes in most species, and accordingly we do not see a significant correlation between copy-number and MLTAW/MLCAW measures. However, some of these PC/NC genes do have more than one copy (few paralogous) in well-known specific cancer resistance species (note that the term "single copy" is used here to describe the case where a gene is present on both chromosomes in a diploid genome). For example, we see that ZBED9 (a PC gene correlated with MLTAW) has 3 paralogues in the African elephant (the rest of the species have one copy) and KRBA2 (another PC gene correlated with

MLTAW) has 2 copies in the naked mole rat. This suggests that some of the PC/NC genes we identified may indeed undergo copy number alterations. As a sanity check, we also checked the number of copies for p53, and confirmed that there are multiple copies of p53 (most of them pseudo genes) in the African elephant. However, in most of the other species p53 has no paralogous, consistent with previous literatures (78, 79). These gene copy number results are given in Table S11.

7. Adaptation to different oxygen levels and cancer resistance

In our study, we have not explicitly considered factors potentially linked to variations in cancer resistance that are not reflected through body size and lifespan. These factors are more difficult to quantify with limited data available. One example is the adaptation to different oxygen concentrations and oxidative stress levels. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels have a complicated role in cancers, although one of the effects of ROS is DNA damage, which is linked to cancer development (85), and tolerance to hypoxia is also associated with cancer resistance, as evident in several well-known cancer resistant species including the naked mole rat and certain bats (68, 86). This was not considered in our analysis due to the challenge to quantitate hypoxia resistance for each species, which may underlie some notable outliers in our cancer resistance predictions. For example, the predicted gene conservation-based CR score was high for the small and short-lived star nosed mole (55 grams, 2.5 years; Fig. 2A, S2), which largely lives underground and is hypoxia-tolerant (87). When more phenotypic data across species become available in the future, further studies are required to refine and update our findings here.

8. Enrichment of PC and NC genes on the sex chromosomes of mammals and birds

To investigate whether the abundances of PC/NC genes on the sex chromosomes differ between mammals and birds, we downloaded the Mammalia genes that exist in X and Y mammalian-sex-chromosomes and birds' genes that exist in Z and W bird-sex-chromosomes. We then computed

the abundance of both PC and NC genes in sex chromosomes of birds and mammals. For each species in mammals or birds, we computed the total number of sex genes the species has and the number of sex genes that are present in PC/NC genes, and measured the enrichment of PC/NC genes in these sex chromosomes by odds ratios (ORs). The ORs for each set of PC or NC genes in the sex chromosomes of mammals (XY) were then compared to those for the birds (ZW) with Wilcoxon rank-sum tests. A summary of the distributions of the ORs and the two-sided Wilcoxon rank-sum test P-values are summarized in the table below. We see that the PC genes tend to be over-represented on the sex chromosomes of both mammals and birds (i.e., $OR > 1$), while the NC genes tend to be under-represented ($OR < 1$) on the sex chromosomes. However, the extent of under-representation for NC genes is significantly stronger in birds than in mammals. The extent of over-representation for PC genes are also different between birds and mammals, however, here the direction of the difference depends on whether MLTAW or MLCAW was used to identify the PC genes. MLCAW PC genes are more strongly over-represented on the sex chromosomes in birds than in mammals, while MLTAW PC genes exhibit the opposite trend.

genes	species	OR Min.	OR 1st Qu.	OR Median	OR Mean	OR 3rd Qu.	OR Max.	P-value
MLCAW PC	mammals (XY)	0.8807208336	1.116401695	1.165427249	1.193734882	1.189015498	2.355205658	3.48E-05
MLCAW PC	birds (ZW)	1.133449703	1.249361475	1.259597386	1.272658813	1.307364157	1.408332487	3.48E-05
MLCAW NC	mammals (XY)	0.7985345012	0.9139980765	0.9612346404	1.006265209	1.007656418	1.643790751	2.39E-07
MLCAW NC	birds (ZW)	0.338397378	0.3688231375	0.3904344464	0.3935403498	0.4063078041	0.4923647457	2.39E-07
MLTAW PC	mammals (XY)	0.5215046227	1.4511353	1.49583152	1.442961816	1.50863158	1.591965573	8.42E-08
MLTAW PC	birds (ZW)	0.9190058898	0.9963760673	1.030014239	1.031453072	1.072284008	1.127438833	8.42E-08
MLTAW NC	mammals (XY)	0.4492870386	0.4860804856	0.5077636619	0.5602773981	0.5707946462	1.057688892	6.36E-08
MLTAW NC	birds (ZW)	0.356980346	0.3734042482	0.3816719458	0.3965563195	0.3974321429	0.5778710576	6.36E-08

9. Rank-normalization

In general, a higher gene conservation score (for most genes) would be expected in species that are phylogenetically closer to humans than more distant species (as we use humans as a reference to compute gene conservation scores). To confirm this, we checked if the gene conservation scores are significantly higher in mammals in comparison to birds and teleost

fish and found that to be true (one-sided Wilcoxon rank-sum test, $P < 2.2e-16$; Fig. S17). However, reassuringly, after rank-normalization, we do not see any overall differences between the conservation profiles of mammals, birds, and teleost fish (one-sided Wilcoxon rank-sum test, $P = 0.5$; Fig. S17).

As we already noted, the gene conservation scores were obtained by rank-normalizing the protein length normalized bit scores across genes within each species, to control for the evolutionary distance between human and each species. These rank-normalized values range from 0 to 1, with higher values corresponding to higher levels of conservation. For ranking ties, we used the 'rank' function in R (<https://www.rdocumentation.org/packages/base/versions/3.6.2/topics/rank>). Although we used `ties.method = first` for ranking ties, we could have also used `ties.method = min`. The overall results for identifying PC and NC genes are robust irrespective of whether we use `ties.method = first` or `ties.method = min`.

10. Cancer resistance estimates and Peto's paradox

As explained in the main manuscript, since the strength of intrinsic cancer resistance mechanisms of a species is a "latent" property that is not directly observable, we used two proxy cancer-resistance estimates that have been proposed in the literature – *MLTAW* and *MLCAW*. As per Peto's paradox cancer incidence within the normal lifespan of a species appears to have comparable orders of magnitudes across large or small, and long-lived or short-lived species. It follows that the intrinsic level of cancer resistance in a given species needs to roughly counteract its risk of cancer development due to cell division, which accordingly to a simple cancer development model is proportional to $ML^6 \times AW$, where *ML* denotes the species maximum longevity and *AW* denotes its adult weight. This is our *MLTAW* measure.

Recently, Vincze et al. (20) published cancer-related mortality (cancer mortality risk or CMR) of 191 mammalian species using data on adult zoo mammals (110,148 individuals). They also published "Adult life expectancy" and "Species body mass (kg)" for each of these

species (there was no maximum longevity information provided). So, we recomputed MLTAW and MLCAW measures for these 39 species "Adult life expectancy" instead of "Maximum longevity", and "Species body mass (kg)" instead of "Adult weight" (referred to as MLTAW' and MLCAW' respectively). As expected, we do not see a correlation between MLTAW' and CMR (Spearman's $\rho=0.04$, $P=0.58$) showing that Peto's paradox is correct, that is, cancer mortality risk is not very dependent on body mass or adult weight (as already discussed in Vincze et al.). This justifies the use of MLTAW as an intrinsic level of cancer resistance. There was however a small positive correlation between MLCAW' and CMR (Spearman's $\rho=0.24$, $P=0.00078$).

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

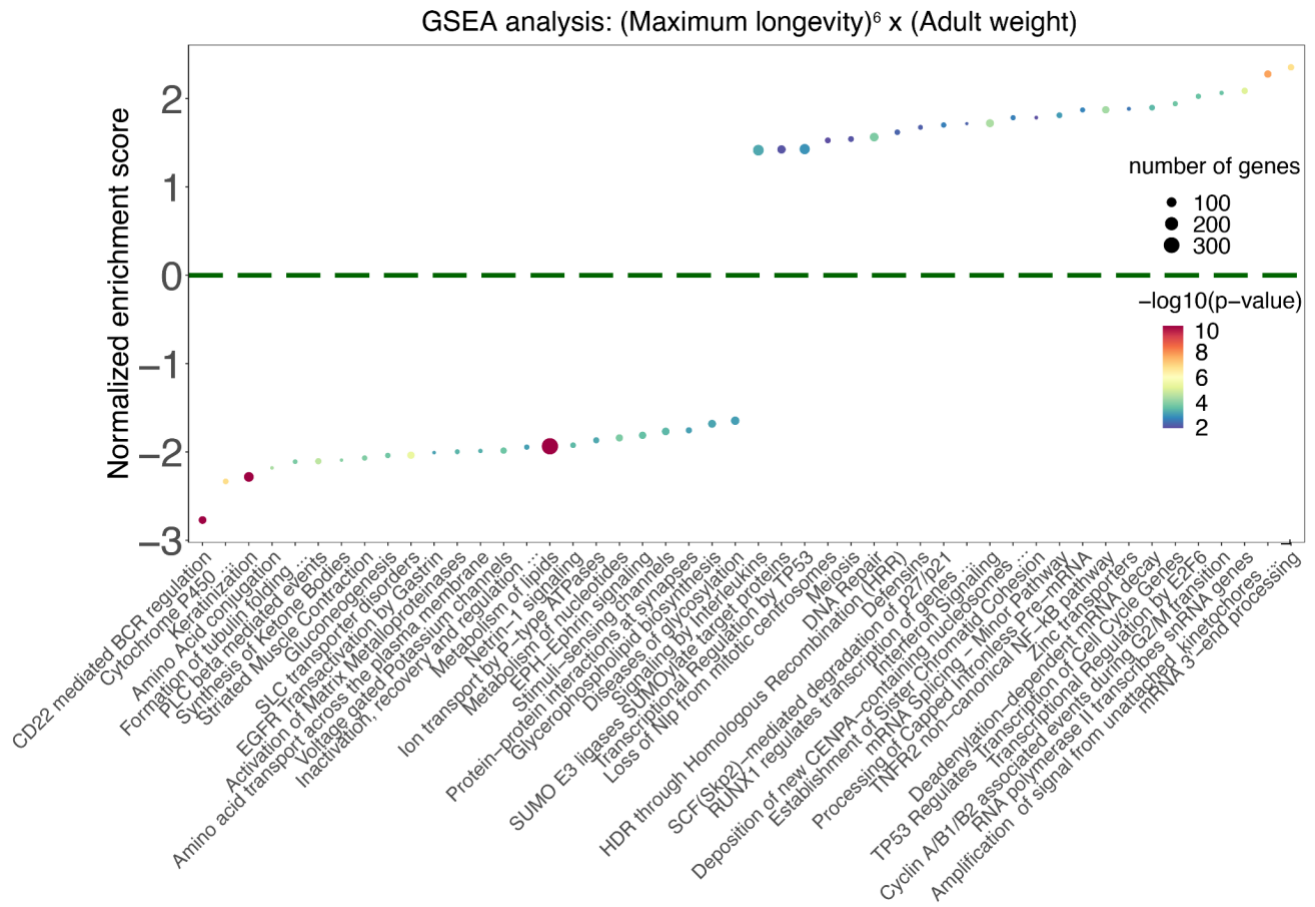


Figure S1: Summary of the top significantly enriched pathways (adjusted $P < 0.1$) by the genes whose conservation scores are correlated with cancer-resistance estimates (MLTAW), using gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) with gene set annotations from the Reactome database. The cancer-resistance estimate used is MLTAW or '(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (adult weight)'. The normalized enrichment score is plotted on the Y-axis, where positive values correspond to enrichment by the positively correlated (PC) genes and negative values correspond to enrichment by the negatively correlated (NC) genes. The dot color represents the significance of the enrichment (negative \log_{10} GSEA P-value), and the dot size represents the number of genes in the "leading edge", i.e., the set of genes that are enriched in a pathway. For the sake of clarity, only

a subset of the enriched pathways ($FDR < 0.1$) are shown and long pathway names have been shortened (using "..."). The complete pathway enrichment results are given in Table S3A.

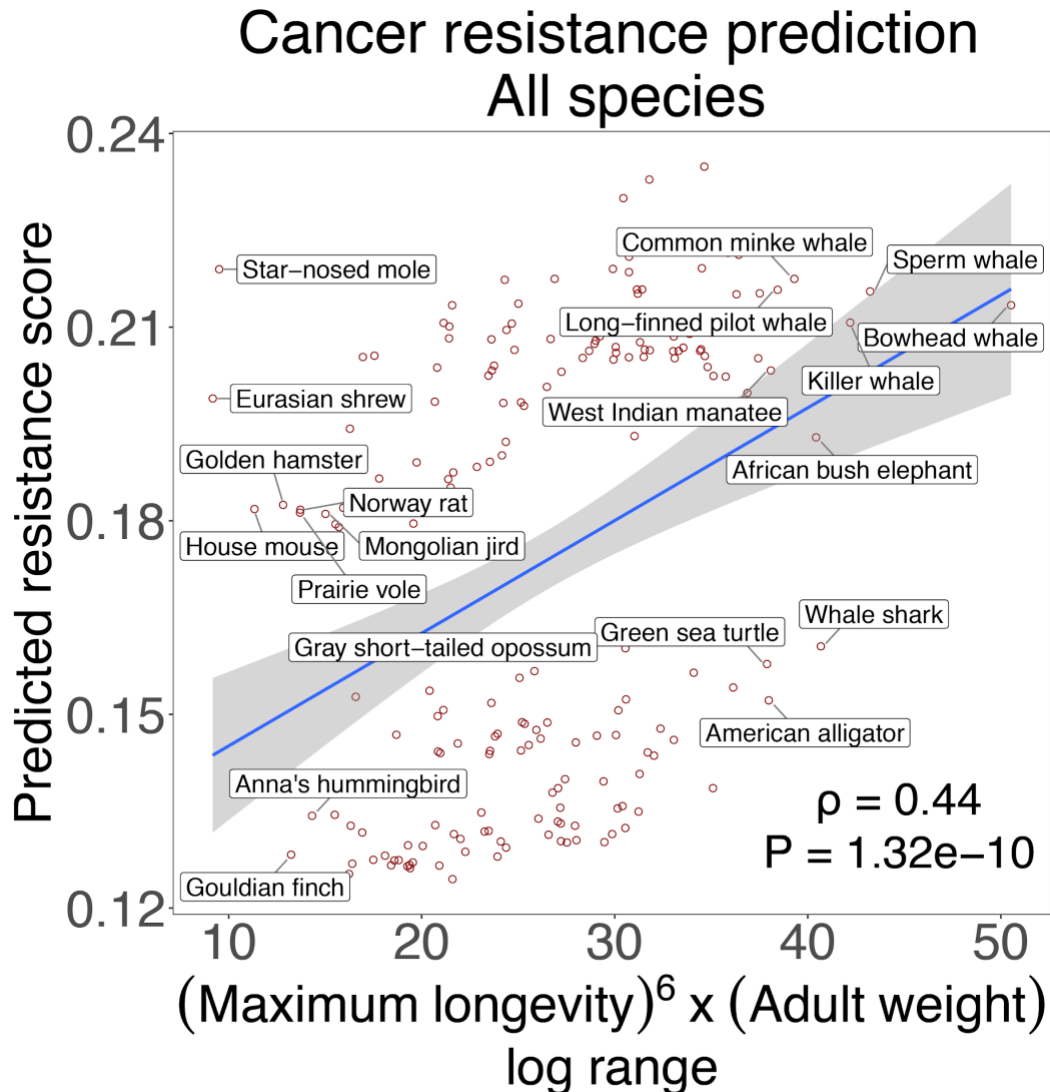


Figure S2: Scatter plots showing the correlation between the predicted cancer resistance (CR) scores computed based on gene conservation and for the cancer-resistance estimate MLTAW or $(\text{Maximum longevity})^6 \times (\text{adult weight})$, with leave-one-out cross-validation, for all species. Species with the top and bottom 10% MLTAW values are labeled by their common names for the sake of clarity. Spearman's ρ and p -values (P) are shown.

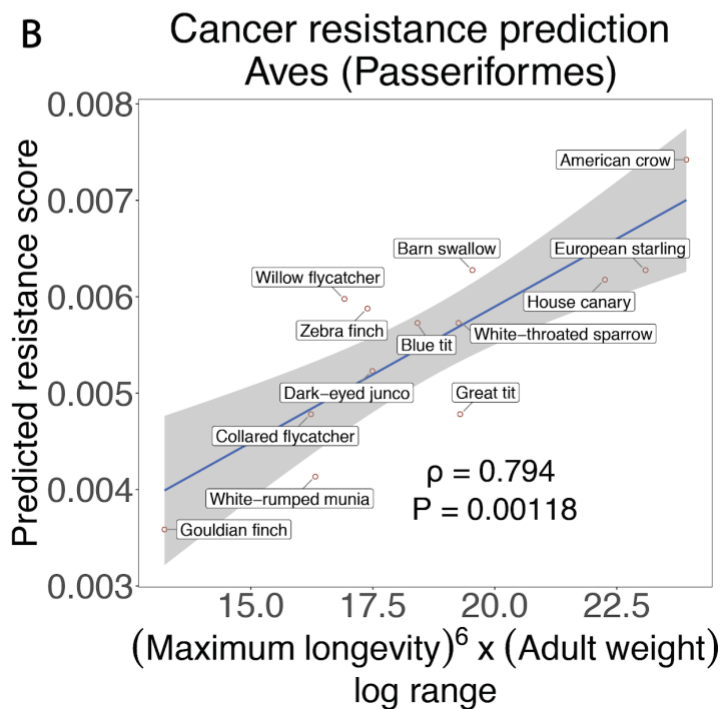
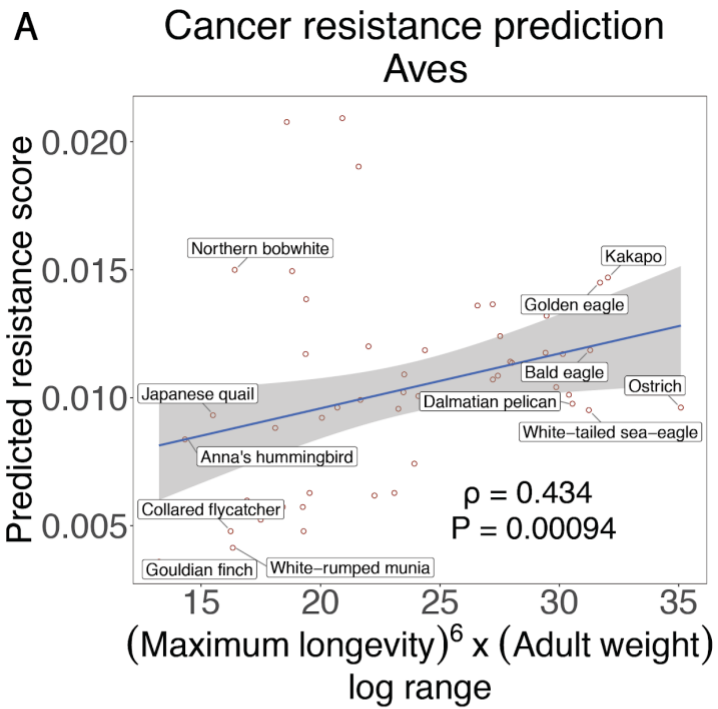


Figure S3: Scatter plots showing the correlation between the predicted cancer resistance (CR) scores computed based on gene conservation and for the cancer-resistance estimate MLTAW

for Aves (birds). (A) Cancer resistance (CR) predictions are done by identifying PC/NC genes using only Aves (bird) species (in cross validation). Scatter plots showing the Spearman's correlation between the predicted cancer-resistance estimates and '(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (adult weight)' or MLTAW is shown. Only species names for the top and bottom 10 percentile of the MLTAW measure are labeled for display clarity. (B) Scatter plots using the predicted scores in (A) are shown for only order Passeriformes (n=14) within the bird species. Spearman's ρ and p-values (P) are reported for (E, F). No CR predictor was built for birds using the MLCAW measure as we did not identify any PC/NC genes at (FDR < 0.1) for this measure.

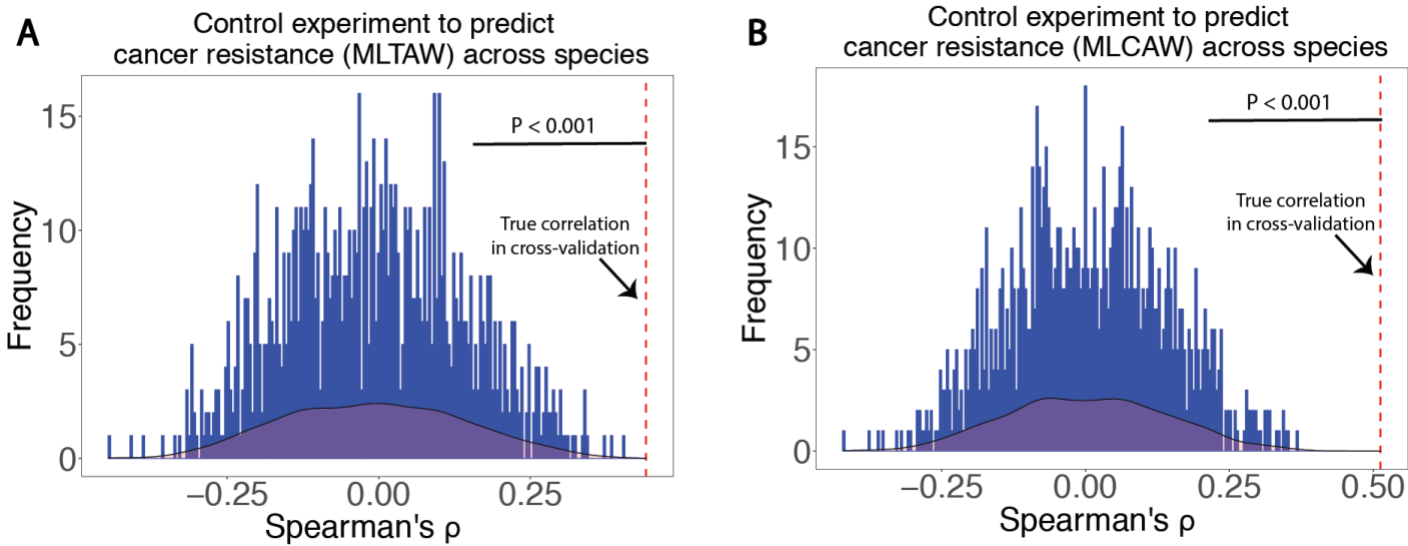


Figure S4: Random controls experiments for predicting cancer resistance using all species. We chose random PC/NC genes of the same size as the actual PC/NC genes identified from the all-species analysis at FDR < 0.1. We can predict cancer resistance using these genes. We do this for 1000 iterations and the empirical P-value is computed. We see that they are not correlated in comparison to the 'true' correlation obtained using the actual PC/NC genes (randomization test $P < 0.001$). Cancer-resistance estimates used are: (A) MLTAW; (B) MLCAW.

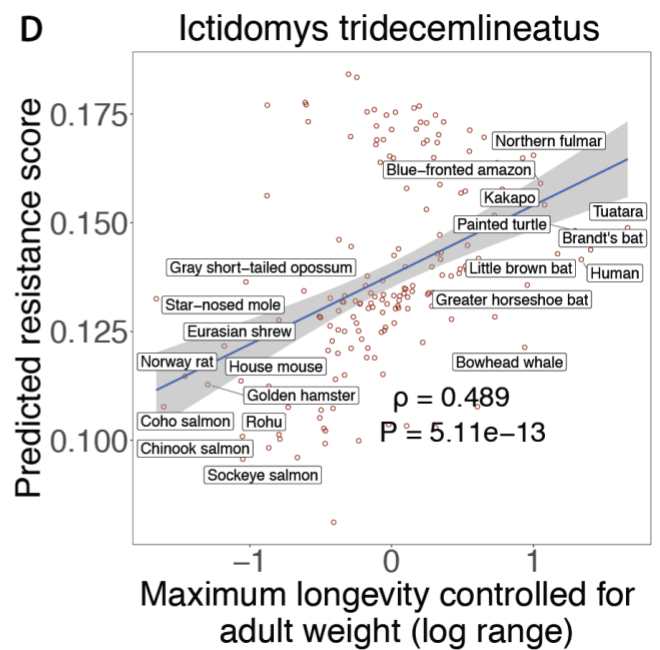
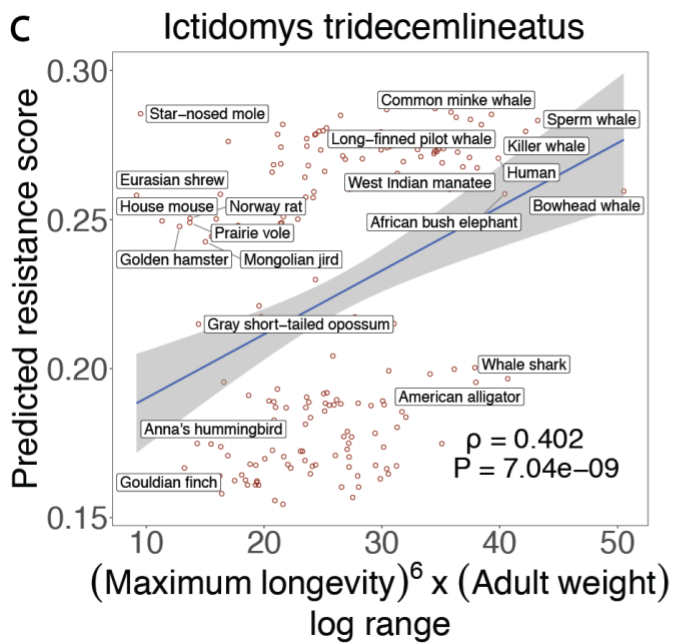
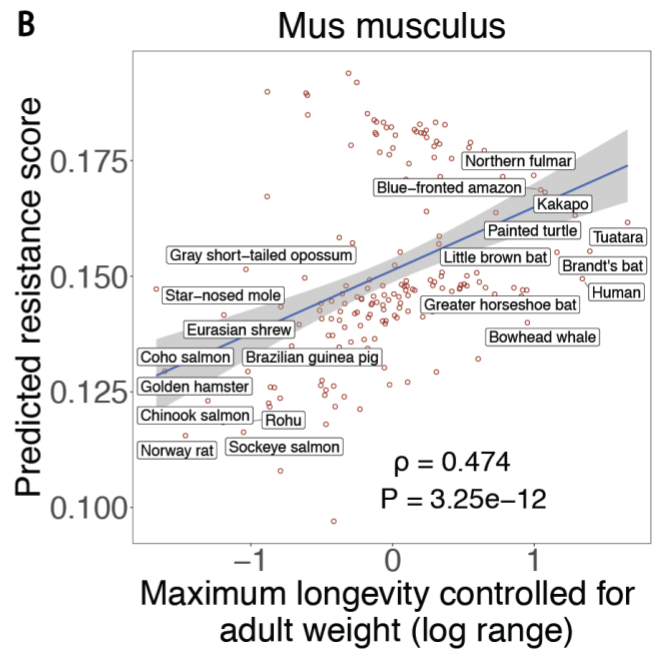
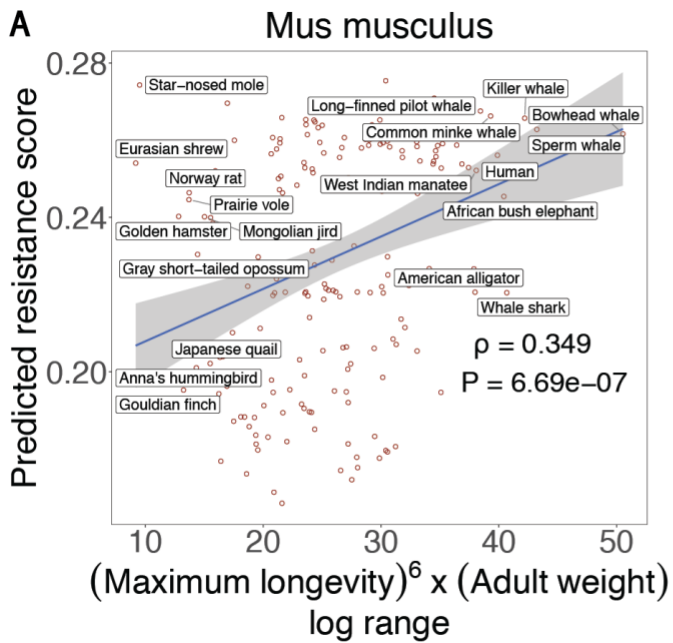


Figure S5: Instead of human reference to compute gene conservation scores, we use *Mus musculus* (house mouse) and thirteen-lined ground squirrel (*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*) as references and predict cancer resistance in the all-species analysis. Scatter plots along with the

Spearman's correlation between the predicted cancer-resistance estimates (in cross-validation, LOOCV) and the cancer-resistance estimates like (A) MLTAW or '(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (adult weight)' for mouse; (B) MLCAW or 'Maximum longevity controlled for adult weight' for mouse; (C) MLTAW for squirrel; (D) MLCAW for squirrel, are shown. Both Spearman's ρ and p-values (P) are reported. Only species names for the top and bottom 5 percentile of the MLTAW/MLCAW measures are labeled for display clarity. We see that humans are predicted to be relatively cancer resistant as expected. The results obtained are quite similar to the corresponding results using human reference.

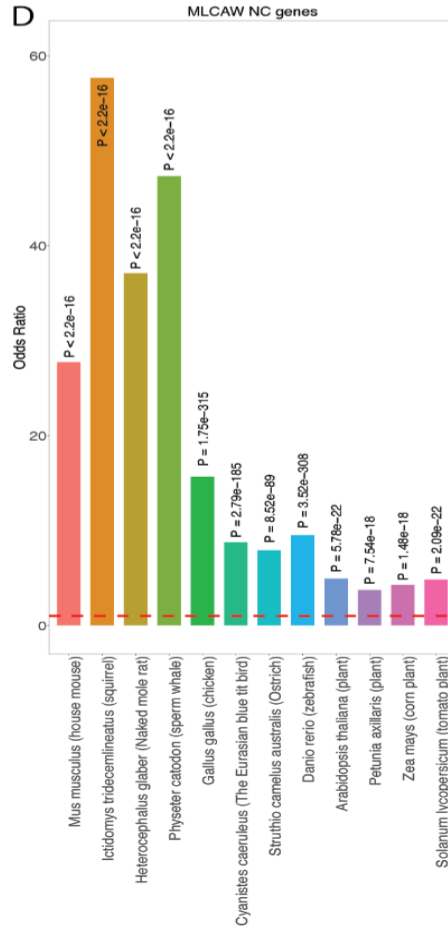
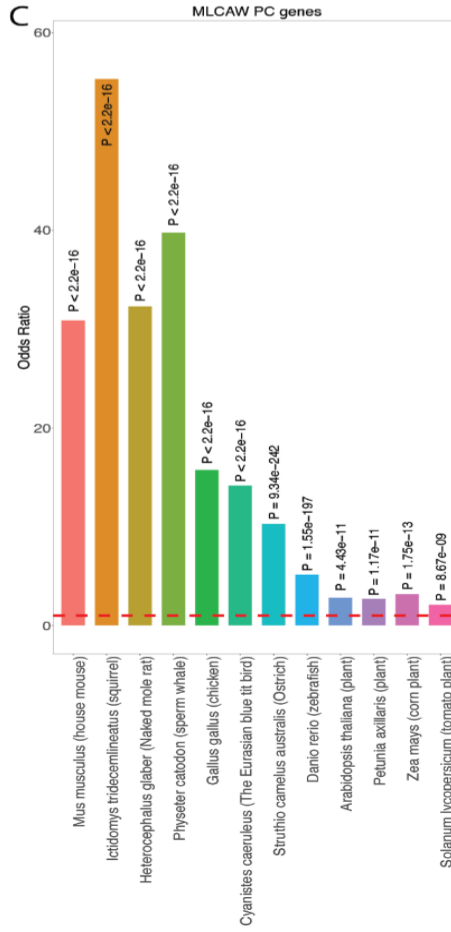
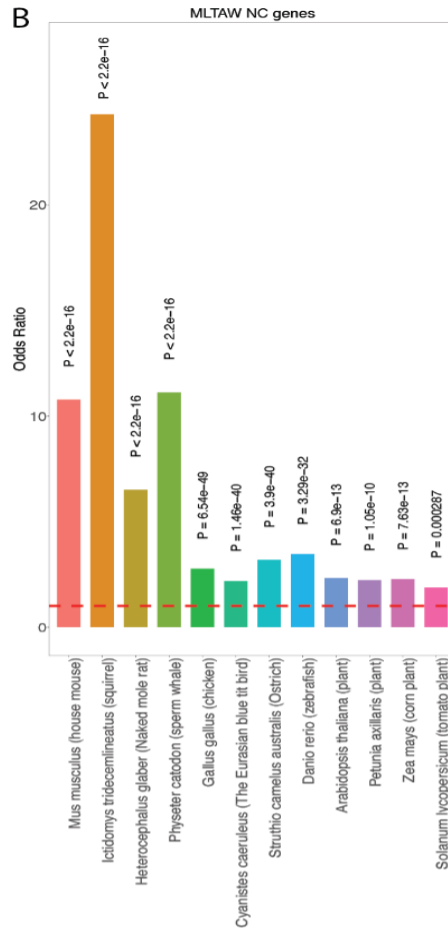
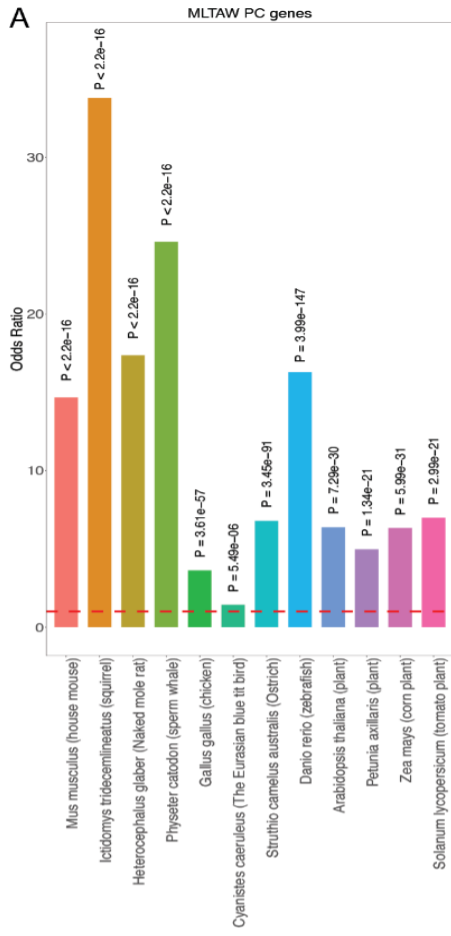


Figure S6: Robustness analysis using 12 non-human species as reference for computing the gene conservation scores. Bar plots showing the odds ratio (OR) and p-values for this gene overlap enrichment test (Fisher exact test) for: (a) all-species PC genes for MLTAW, (b) all-species NC genes for MLTAW, (c) all-species PC genes for MLCAW, (d) all-species NC genes for MLCAW; identified from gene conservation scores computed using these 12 different references in comparison to identifying the corresponding PC/NC genes using humans as reference. We get significant overlap in all species ($FDR < 0.0005$). The dashed red line is at $OR=1$; $OR > 1$ signifies enrichment of gene sets.

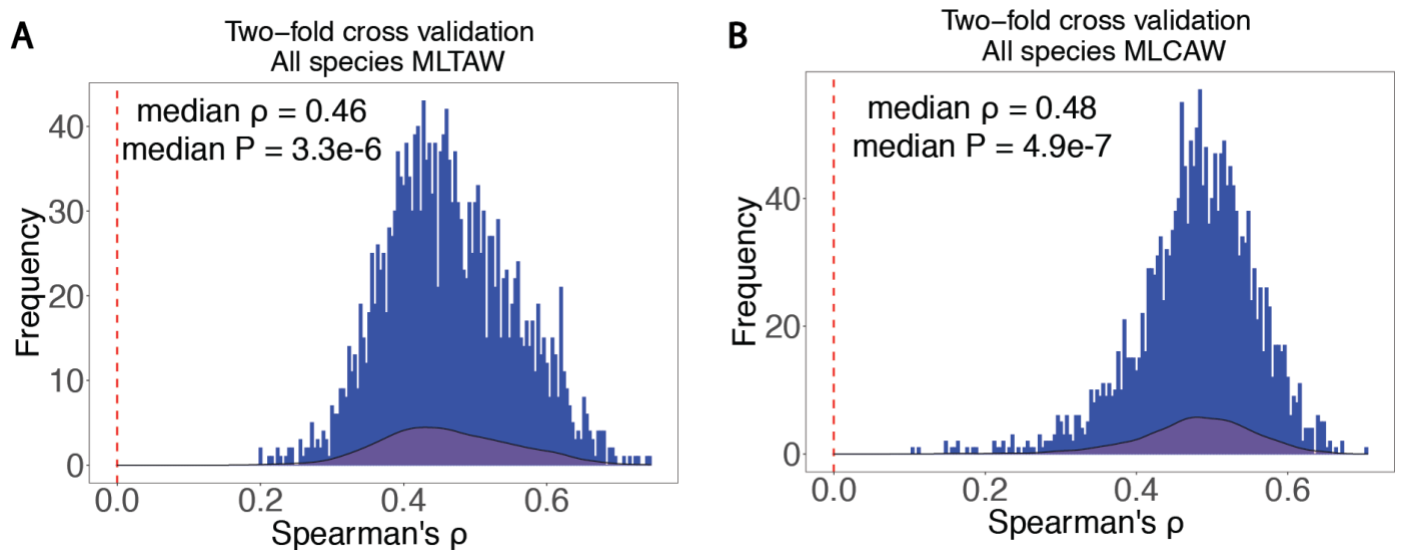


Figure S7: Plots show the distribution/frequency of Spearman's ρ between the predicted cancer resistance (CR) scores computed based on gene conservation and each of the two cancer-resistance estimates, using two-fold cross-validation (instead of LOOCV). (A) MLTAW, i.e., $(Maximum\ longevity)^6 \times (adult\ weight)$; (B) MLCAW, i.e., maximum longevity controlled for adult weight). The two-fold cross validation was carried out 1000 times (2000 data points). Median Spearman's ρ and p-values (P) are mentioned.

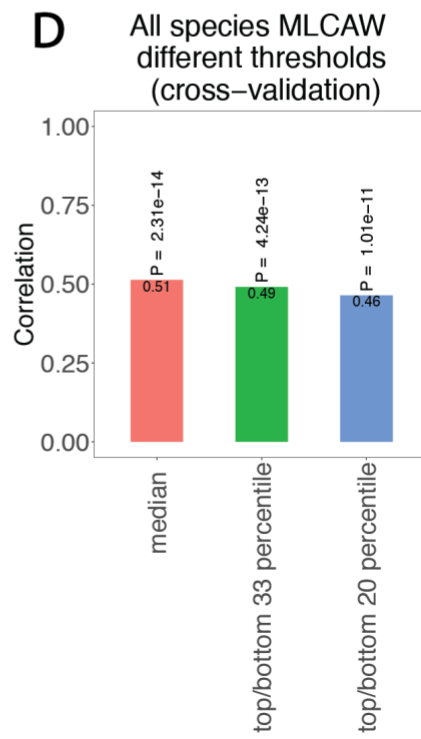
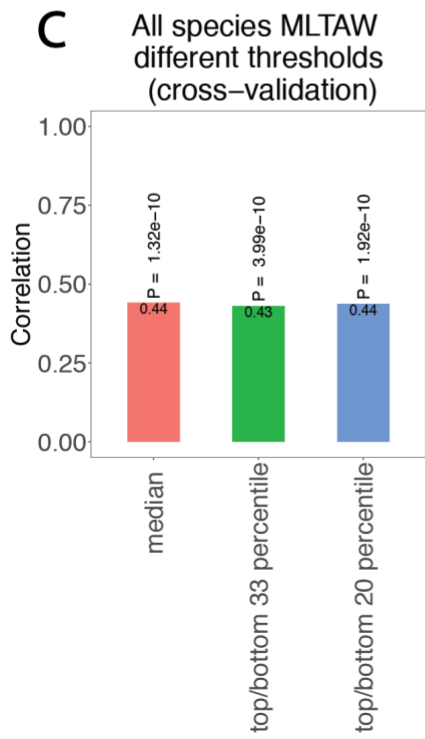
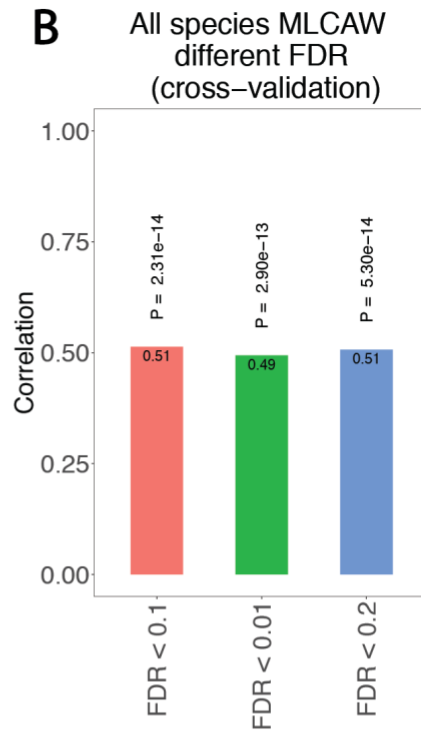
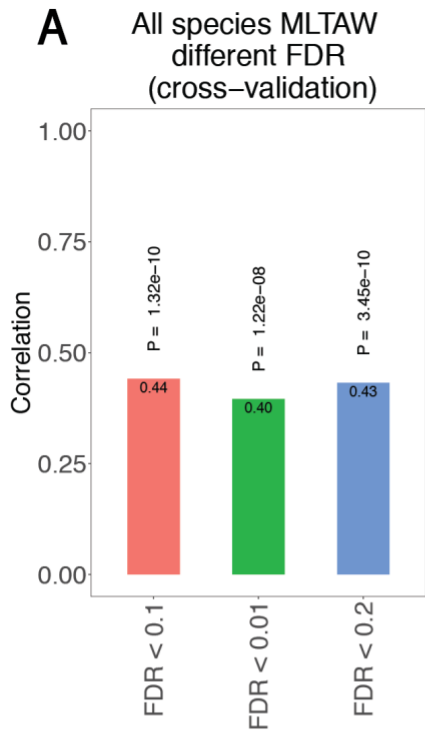
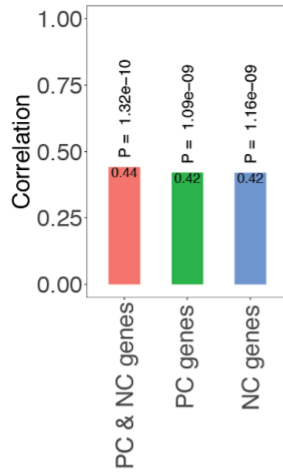
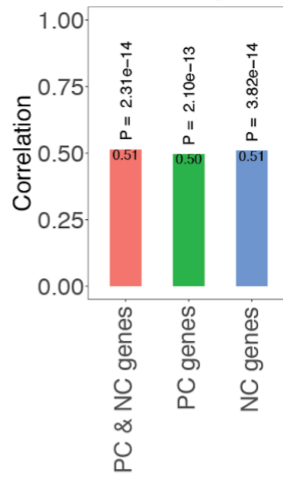


Figure S8: Predicting cancer-resistance (CR) scores by altering various parameters. CR predictors for different FDR thresholds (0.01, 0.01, or 0.2) are shown using **(A)** MLTAW; and **(B)** MLCAW measures. The original predictor also computes the number of PC genes whose conservation score > median conservation score; and the number of NC genes whose conservation score < median conservation score. CR predictor results are shown to be robust by altering the thresholds from median conservation score to top and bottom 33/20 percentile of the conservation scores for PC and NC genes respectively **(C, D)**. Both Spearman's ρ and p-values (P) are reported.

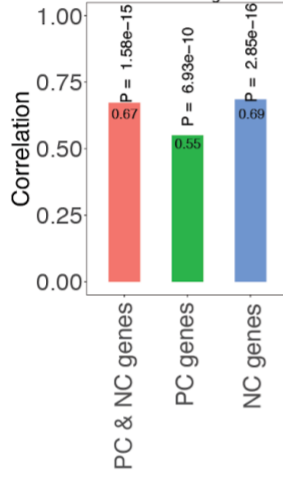
A All species (cross-validation)
(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (Adult weight)



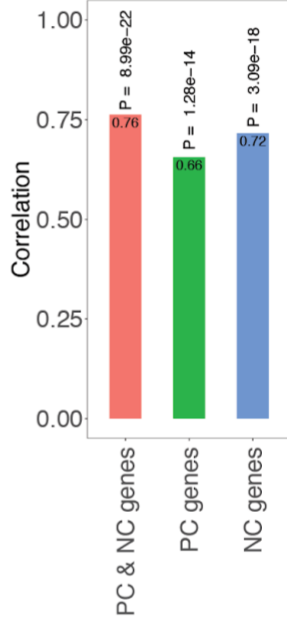
B All species (cross-validation)
Maximum longevity controlled for adult weight



C Mammalia (cross-validation)
Maximum longevity controlled for adult weight



D Mammalia (cross-validation)
(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (Adult weight)



E Aves (cross-validation)
(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (Adult weight)

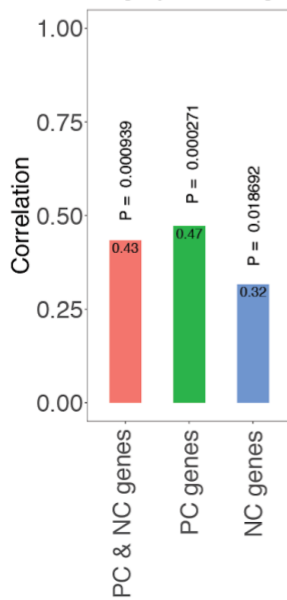
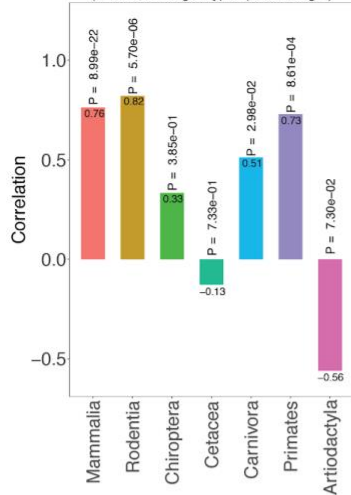
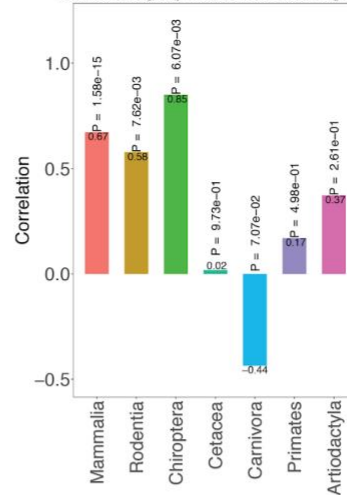


Figure S9: Predicting cancer-resistance (CR) scores by using both PC and NC genes (PC & NC genes); PC genes only; NC genes only. Results for MLTAW or '(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (adult weight)'; and MLCAW or 'Maximum longevity controlled for adult weight' are shown for the all-species analysis **(A,B)**, Mammalia-only analysis **(C,D)**, and Aves-only **(E)** analysis. MLCAW analysis is not shown for birds as we could not identify PC/NC genes at FDR < 0.1 and therefore could not build a CR predictor.

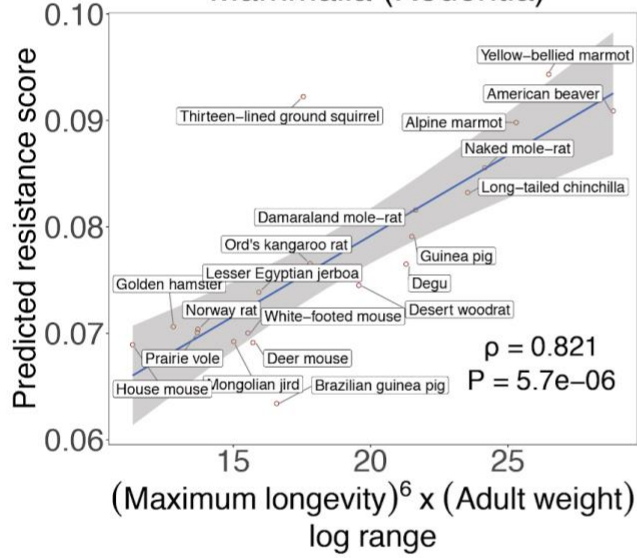
A Mammalia (cross-validation)
(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (Adult weight)



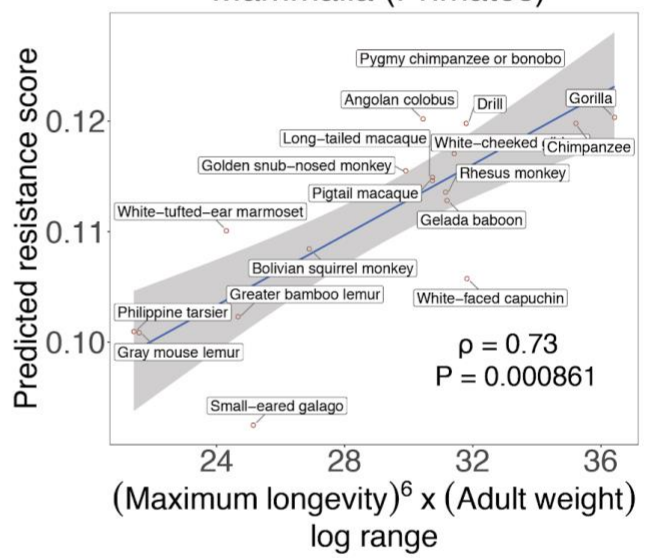
B Mammalia (cross-validation)
Maximum longevity controlled for adult weight



C Cancer resistance prediction
Mammalia (Rodentia)



D Cancer resistance prediction
Mammalia (Primates)



E Cancer resistance prediction
Mammalia (Carnivora)

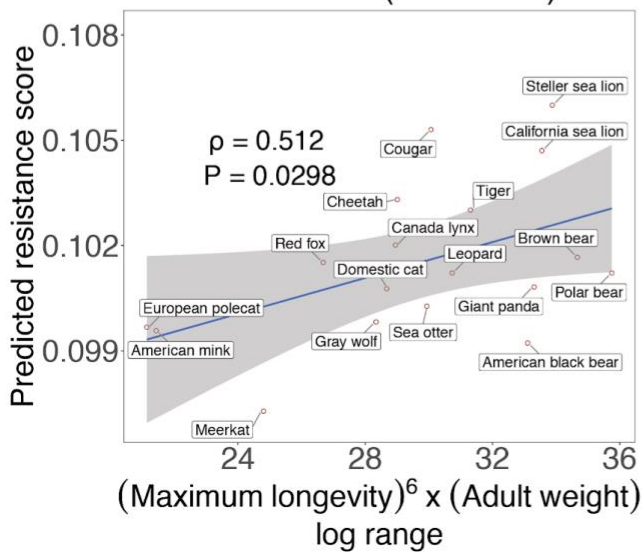


Figure S10: Cancer resistance predictions on the entire mammalian species. Cancer resistance predictions were done on the entire mammalian species (LOOCV, by learning PC/NC genes from mammals). Using these predictions, Spearman's correlation (ρ and p -values) for different orders (sub-groups) of mammals: Rodentia (rodents), Chiroptera (bats), Cetacea (aquatic mammals like whales), Carnivora (carnivores), Primates, Artiodactyla (even-toed hoofed mammals) are shown for (A) MLTAW or '(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (adult weight)' and (B) MLCAW or 'Maximum longevity controlled for adult weight'. Scatter plots showing the Spearman's correlation between the predicted cancer-resistance estimates and the MLTAW cancer-resistance estimate for some of the orders are shown in (C-E). Spearman's ρ and p -values (P) are reported.

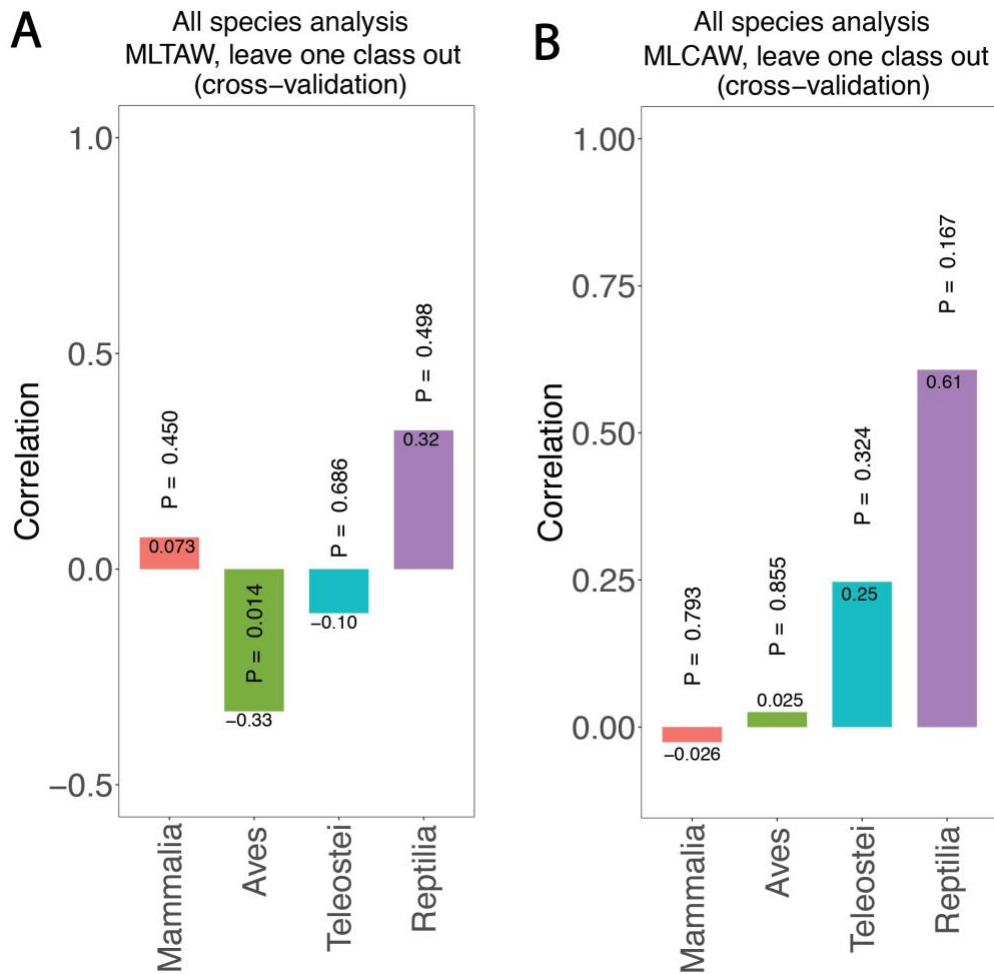


Figure S11: Predicting cancer resistance (CR) scores by identifying PC/NC genes by leaving out one class and testing on that left-out class (cross-validation; all-species analysis). We show the accuracies for the following classes: *Mammalia* (mammals), *Aves* (birds), *Teleostei* (fish), and *Reptilia* (reptiles). Spearman's ρ and p -values (P) are reported using the two cancer-resistance estimates: **(A)** MLTAW; and **(B)** MLCAW.

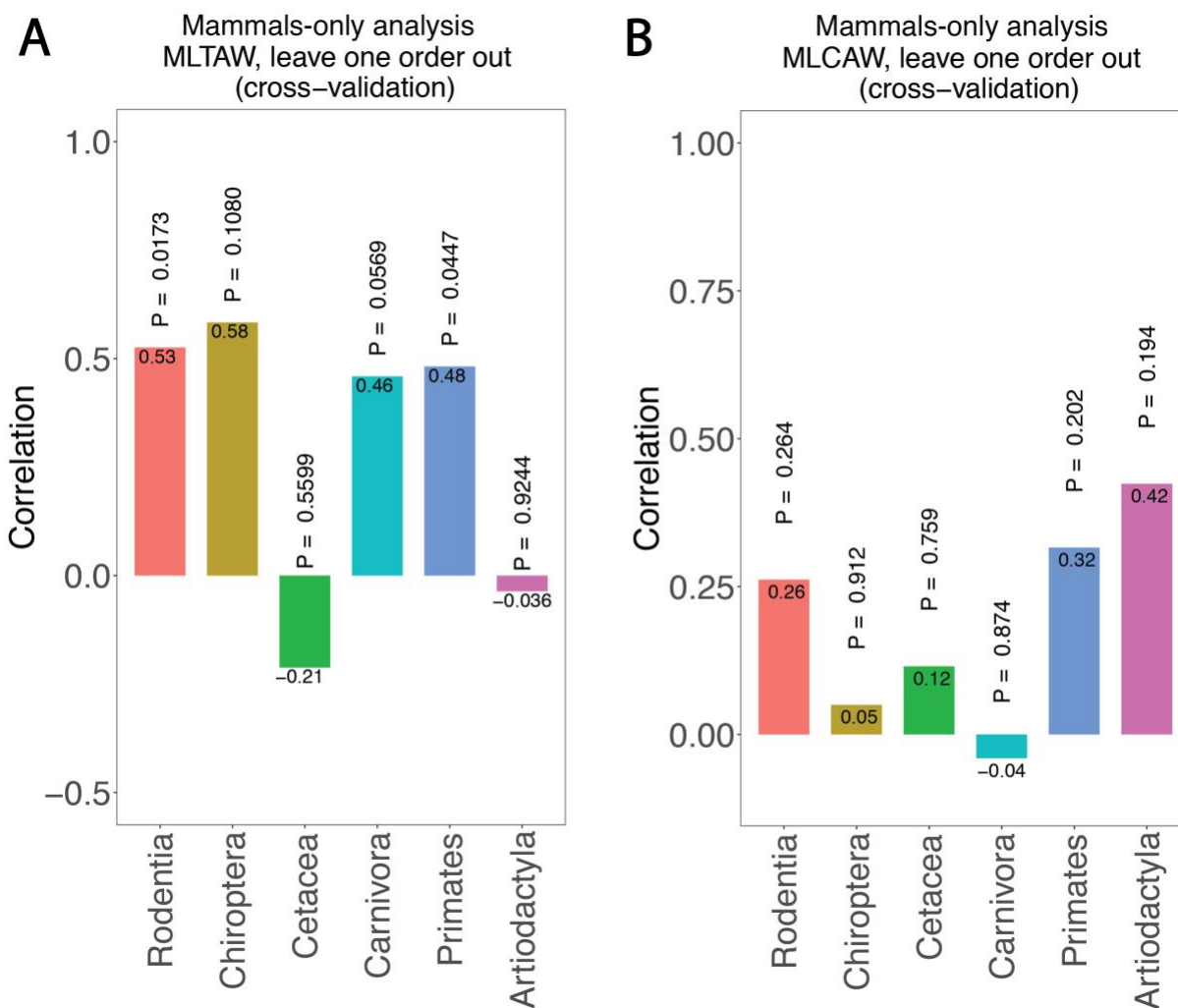


Figure S12: Predicting cancer resistance (CR) scores by identifying PC/NC genes (using mammalian data) by leaving out one order of mammals and testing on that left-out order (cross-validation; mammals-only analysis). We show the accuracies for the following orders: Rodentia (rodents), Chiroptera (bats), Cetacea (aquatic mammals like whales), Carnivora (carnivores), Primates, Artiodactyla (even-toed hoofed mammals). Spearman's ρ and p -values (P) are reported using the two cancer-resistance estimates: **(A)** MLTAW; and **(B)** MLCAW.

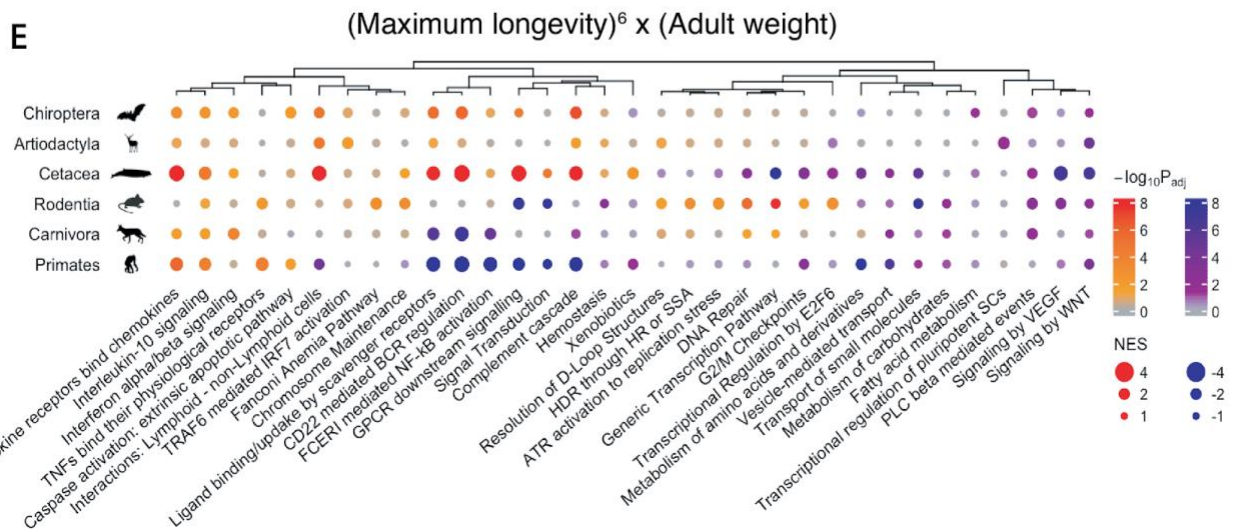
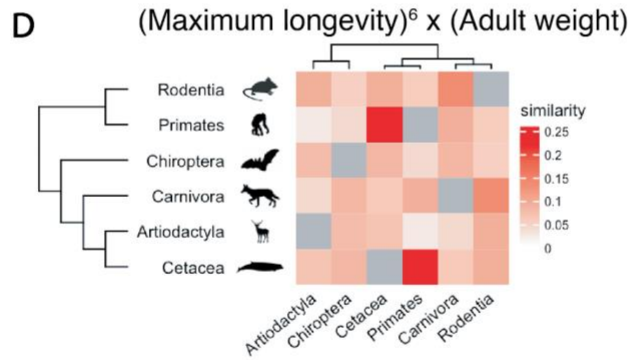
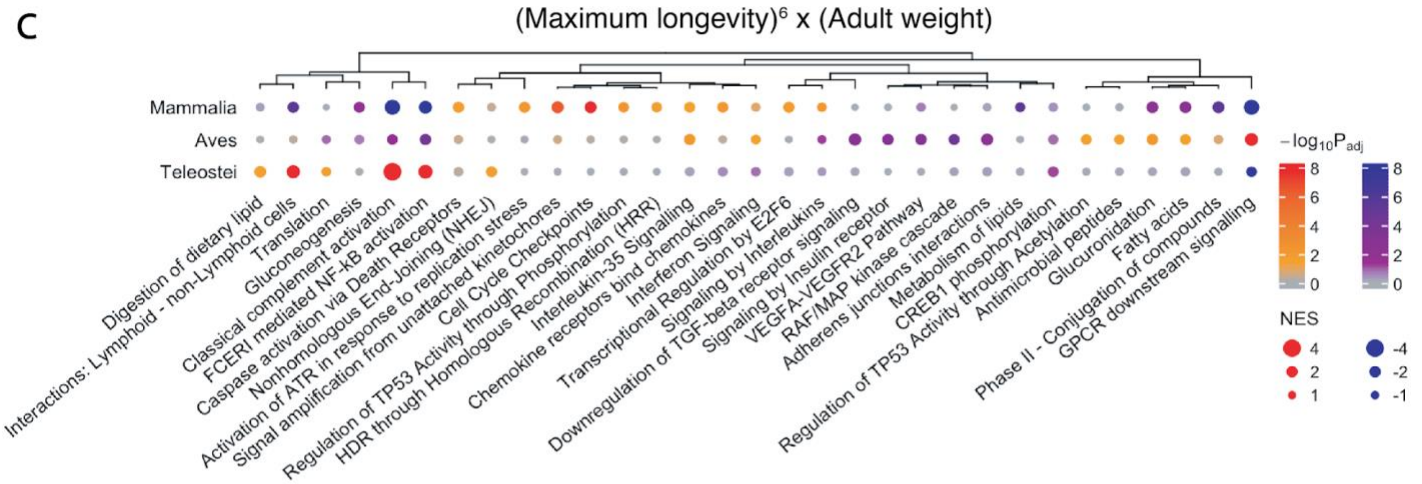
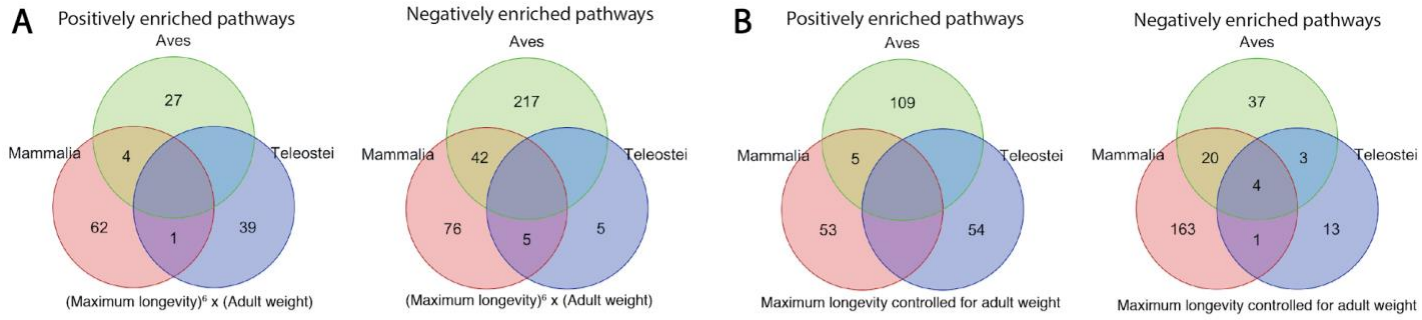


Figure S13: Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) of the correlation between the gene conservation scores and cancer-resistance estimates including (maximum longevity)⁶ x (adult weight) (MLTAW), or the residue of maximum longevity after regressing out adult weight (MLCAW), for three classes of species: Mammalia (mammals), Aves (birds), and Teleostei (fish).

(A,B) Venn diagram showing the number of positively and negatively enriched gene sets in the three classes based on correlations with: (A) MLTAW and (B) MLCAW. **(C)** Summary visualization of the GSEA result for the top significantly enriched gene sets in the three classes (Mammalia, Aves, Teleostei) based on correlations with MLCAW. A selected subset of top gene sets are shown to save space, all with adjusted $P < 0.1$ in at least one of the classes. GSEA significance (negative \log_{10} adjusted P -values) is encoded by dot color, with two sets of colors (red-orange and blue-purple) representing positive or negative enrichment, respectively; grey color means adjusted $P \geq 0.1$. Dot size represents the absolute value of normalized enrichment scores (NES) measuring the effect size of enrichment. The complete GSEA results are given in Table S3. **(D)** GSEA analysis of the correlation between the gene conservation scores and cancer-resistance estimates such as MLTAW were performed for different orders of mammalian species including Rodentia (rodents), Primates (primates), Chiroptera (bats), Carnivora (carnivores), Artiodactyla (even-toed hoofed animals), and Cetacea (whales). A heatmap showing the similarity (Jaccard index) between the significantly enriched gene sets ($FDR < 0.1$) from each pair of mammalian orders, based on the MLTAW correlation. The dendrogram on the left is the phylogenetic tree of the mammalian orders, and the rows of the heatmap are arranged accordingly. The dendrogram on the top represents the hierarchical clustering of the orders based on their similarities in the GSEA results. **(E)** Summary visualization of the GSEA result for the top significantly enriched gene sets in the mammalian orders based on MLTAW correlation. A selected subset of top gene sets are shown to save space, all with adjusted $P < 0.1$ in at least one of the orders (complete results in Table S5). The color code and dot size are as described in (C).

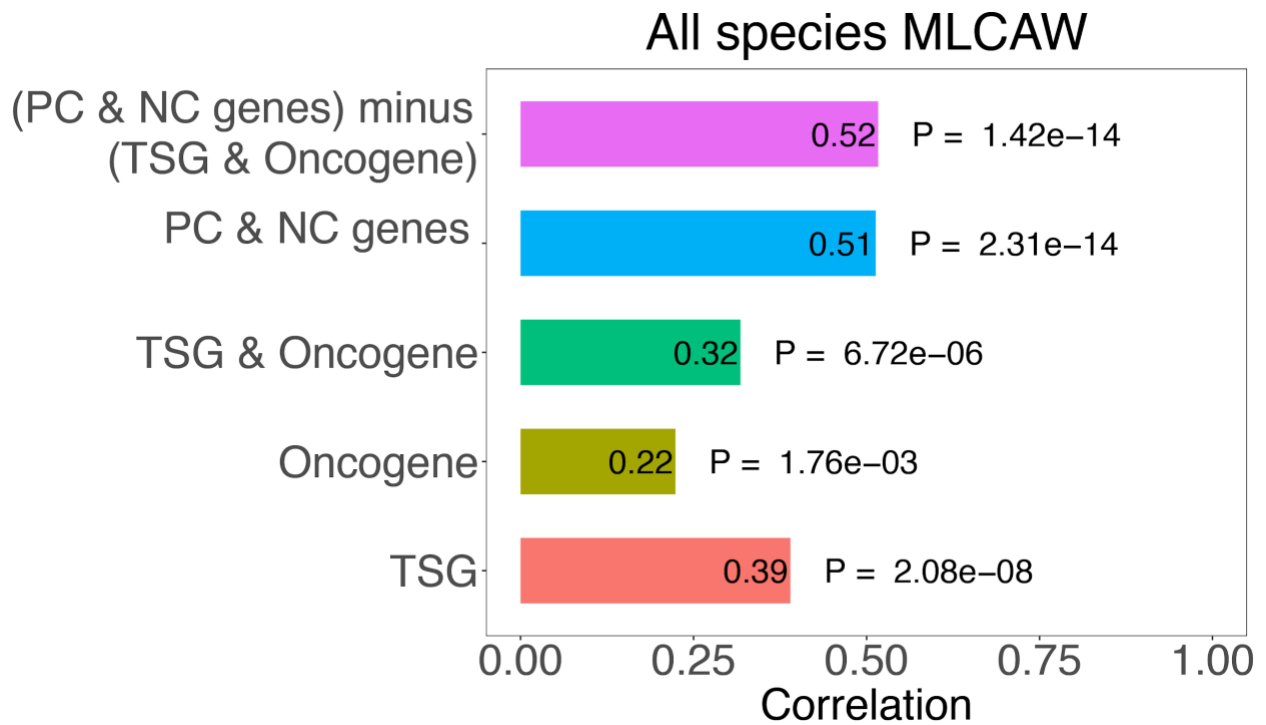


Figure S14: Spearman's correlation (ρ) in predicting cancer resistance (MLCAW) in all species using only TSGs, only oncogenes, both TSGs and oncogenes, using PC and NC genes in cross validation, using PC and NC genes after removing TSGs and oncogenes in cross validation is shown.

Canine transmissible venereal tumors Mammals MLTAW

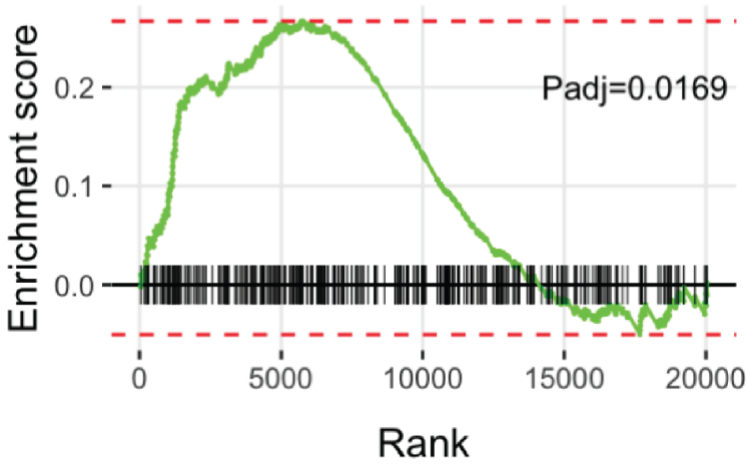
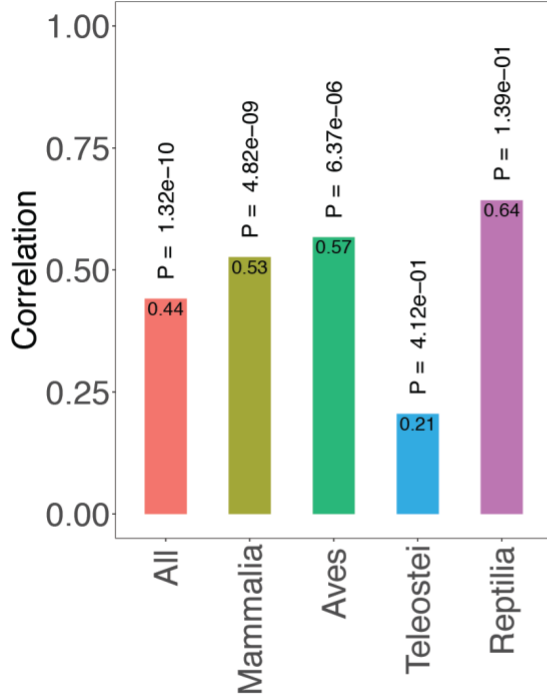


Figure S15: Looking at loss-of-function genes observed in canine transmissible venereal tumors. Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) plot showing a significant enrichment of the PC genes in mammals (using MLTAW measure) for the loss-of-function genes observed in canine transmissible venereal tumors.

A All species (cross-validation)
 (Maximum longevity)⁶ x (Adult weight)



B All species (cross-validation)
 Maximum longevity controlled for adult weight

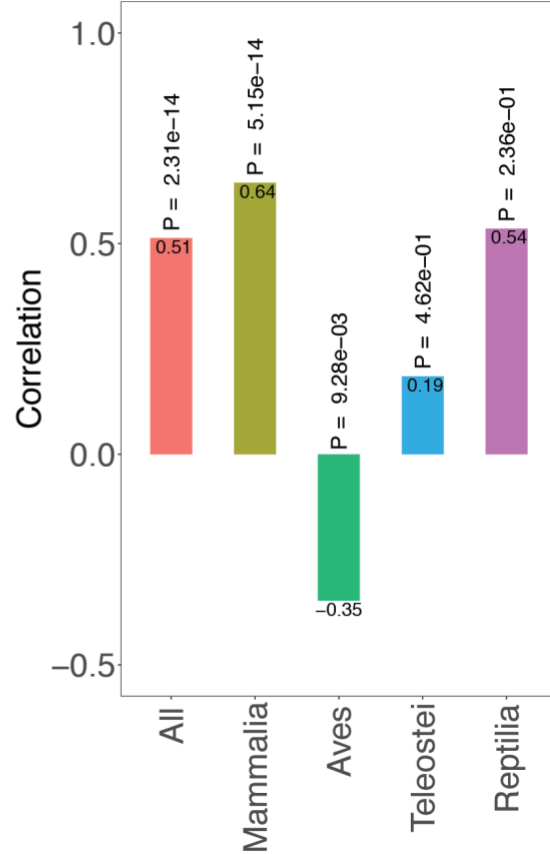


Figure S16: The cancer resistance (CR) scores predicted on all species (in leave-one-out cross-validation) analysis are individually tested on different classes of species: *Mammalia* (mammals), *Aves* (birds), *Teleostei* (fish), *Reptilia* (reptiles). Spearman's ρ and p-values (P) are reported using the two cancer-resistance estimates: **(A)** MLTAW or '(Maximum longevity)⁶ x (adult weight)'; and **(B)** MLCAW or 'Maximum longevity controlled for adult weight'.

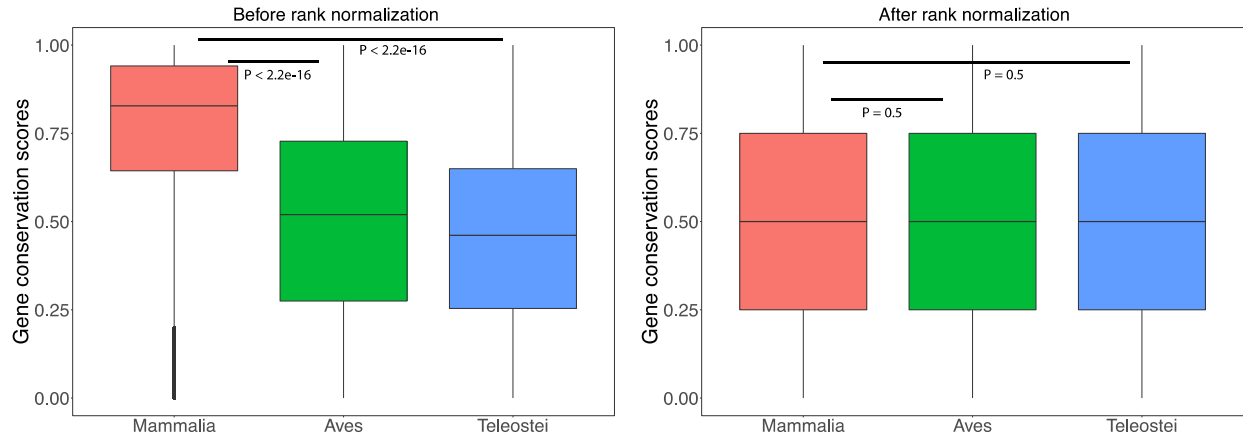


Figure S17: Gene conservation profiles for all genes and species, before (left sub-figure) and after (right sub-figure) rank-normalization. Box plots show the range of gene conservation scores (obtained using humans as reference species) for mammals (Mammalia), birds (Aves), and fish (Teleostei). One-sided Wilcoxon rank-sum test comparing mammals to the other two classes are shown (whenever the p -value was computed as 0 by the Wilcoxon rank-sum test software, we wrote $P < 2.2e-16$ in the left figure).

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