

Supplementary Material

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1 Simulations details

Transitions can be explained using a simple multi-equilibrium ecological model, where each equilibrium consists of a small number of microbe strains. The Generalized Lotka-Volterra Model (GLVM)[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] offers a relatively straightforward way to describe such dynamics, and has recently been shown[4] to be a generic framework that captures the essential features of many more complex models. To account for transitions between equilibrium states, we introduced strain-specific stochastic variations in the growth rates, driven by random environmental fluctuations. A similar approach to microbiome dynamics was used in [6, 7, 8].

Specifically, we consider a community of S microbes, the abundance of each is given by n_i , where the index i runs from 1 to S . The dynamics of the i -th microbe is govern by the equation,

$$\frac{dn_i}{dt} = n_i \left(1 - n_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \alpha_{i,j} n_j \right) + \lambda_i + \sigma_e \eta_i(t) n_i. \quad (1)$$

Here, the interaction matrix term $\alpha_{i,j}$ corresponds to the pressure put by microbe j on microbe i . For a given abundance of microbe j , The larger $\alpha_{i,j}$ is, the larger is the suffering of i from competition with j . λ_i is the rate by which new immigrants reinforce the i -th population, and the σ_e term represents the stochasticity associated with environmental variations: $\eta_i(t)$ is a white noise process, so the growth rate of each microbe fluctuates erratically in time.

Additional elements can be incorporated into the model to enhance its realism, such as varying carrying capacities, species-specific growth rates, or Holling-type response functions. However, it was recently demonstrated that the core dynamics and their primary phases are fully captured by the simple model (1) [4]. Furthermore, as long as $\lambda > 0$, the results remain unchanged for different values of λ . Accordingly, we follow recent literature [2] and set $\lambda = 10^{-10}$ (uniform across all i). The values of $\alpha_{i,j}$ were randomly drawn from a normal distribution with mean α and variance σ^2 .

In the absence of stochasticity ($\sigma_e = 0$), The community splits into two types of microbes: those whose abundance is much greater than the square root of λ , and those whose abundance is smaller, approximately equal to λ . The microbes of the first type are "residents" forming a stable clique. The microbes of the second type are transients, unable to invade the resident clique. Competition with the residents would lead to their extinction, if not for the weak inward migration at a rate of λ . This behavior is demonstrated in Figure 1(A).

This division between a clique of species with high abundance and a collection of transients is not necessarily unique [2]. When interactions between microbes are relatively strong, as can be expected in cases of high niche overlap, alternative stable states emerge. Stochasticity allows the system to transition between these alternative states [1], as demonstrated in Figure 1(B).

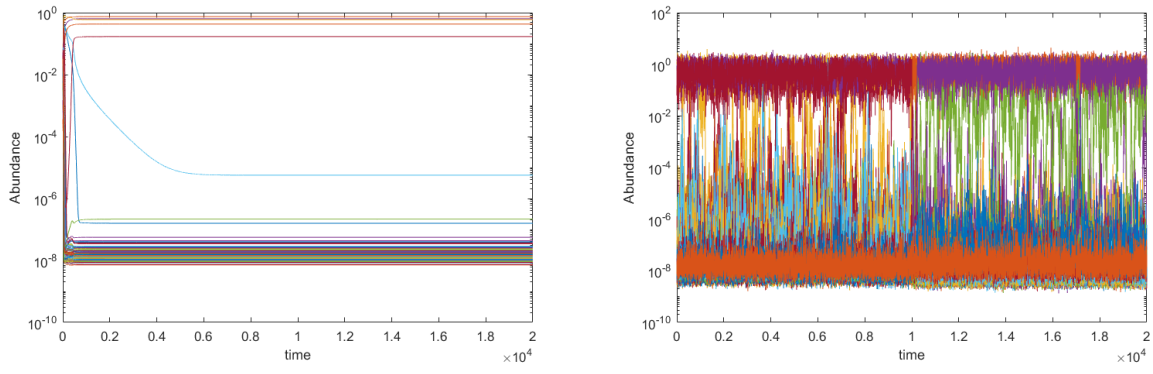


Figure 1: Community dynamics with and without stochasticity. **A.** shows the dynamics of $S = 100$ competing microbe strains as described by Eq. (1), with no stochasticity ($\sigma_e = 0$). Each line represents the abundance of a single strain, starting from random initial conditions. The community rapidly settles into a state where a few resident microbes, with large abundances, outcompete all other strains, which persist only due to immigration. **B.** presents the time evolution of the same community with identical parameters, but now stochasticity has been introduced. The dynamics become more erratic, and a regime shift is clearly observable. The model parameters are $\alpha = 0.65$, $\sigma = 0.25$, $\lambda = 10^{-10}$, and (for panel B) $\sigma_e = 0.7$. The interaction matrix is symmetric, i.e., $\alpha_{i,j} = \alpha_{j,i}$. Eq. (1) was integrated numerically using the Euler method with $dt = 0.01$. For the stochastic case, the Stratonovich integration procedure was implemented.

Table 1: Acronym table

| Acronym | Meaning |
|---------|--|
| FMT | Fecal Microbiota Transplantation |
| RSM | Regime Shifting Microbes |
| WGS | Whole-Genome Sequencing |
| QSS | Quasi-Steady States |
| BIC | Bayesian Information Criterion |
| LV | Lotka-Volterra |
| RPT | Reported Probiotic Taxa |
| IFMT | Influential FMT |
| SCC | Spearman Correlation Coefficient |
| LR | Logistic Regression |
| RF | Random Forest |
| AUC | Area Under the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve |
| S.D. | Standard Deviation |
| ANOVA | Analysis of Variance |
| NEC | Necrotizing Enterocolitis |
| IBD | Inflammatory Bowel Disease |
| ARD | Automatic Relevance Determination |
| GDM | Gestational Diabetes |
| ML | Machine Learning |
| SVR | Support Vector Machine Regression |
| RBF | Radial Basis Function |
| LSTM | Long Short-Term Memory |
| iMic | iMage Microbiome |

Table 2: All dataset details

| Dataset | Phenotype | Number of samples | Max number of time points | Avg. number of time points | 16S vs. WGS | Reference |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| GDM | GDM | 655 | 3 | 3 | 16S | [9] |
| PRJNA730851 | Infant allergy | 954 | 19 | 6 | 16S | [10] |
| PRJEB14529 | Early dynamics 2 | 807 | 43 | 18 | 16S | [11] |
| PRJEB6456 | Early dynamics 1 | 400 | 4 | 4 | WGS | [12] |
| PRJNA1130109 | Obesity | 203 | 5 | 4 | WGS | SRA accession PRJNA1130109 |
| PRJEB39500 | T2D | 202 | 3 | 2 | WGS | [13] |
| PRJNA345144 | Eczema | 646 | 5 | 3 | WGS | [14] |
| PRJNA290729 | Fatty liver | 92 | 6 | 6 | WGS | [15] |
| PRJNA273761 | NEC | 60 | 9 | 6 | WGS | SRA accession PRJNA273761 |
| PRJNA301903 | Preterm infants | 510 | 20 | 6 | WGS | SRA accession PRJNA301903 |
| PRJNA395569 | IBDMDB | 612 | 18 | 3 | WGS | [16] |
| PRJNA510445 | CF | 166 | 16 | 2 | WGS | [17] |
| PRJNA806984 | Healthy | 207 | 6 | 2 | WGS | [18] |

Table 3: Statistical tests on distance distributions between each two consecutive samples. The table includes results for: the BIC and F-test comparing bimodal to unimodal and three-modal distributions (Bimodal or multimodal > 3). Host sample distribution between Gaussians is measured by the fraction of host samples in more than one Gaussian (Host ratio between Gaussians). Kolmogorov-Smirnov test comparing time distributions across different Gaussians (Time distributions across Gaussians). Phenotype Chi-square test results (Phenotype Chi-square).

| Dataset | Phenotype | Bimodal or multimodal (> 3) | Host ratio between Gaussians | Time distributions across Gaussians | Phenotype Chi-square |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| GDM | GDM | Multimodal | 0.07 | n.s | n.s |
| PRJNA730851 | Infant allergy | Multimodal | 0.66 | n.s | Not available |
| PRJEB14529 | Early dynamics 2 | Bimodal | 1 | n.s | Only controls |
| PRJEB6456 | Early dynamics 1 | Bimodal | 0.69 | n.s | n.s |
| PRJNA1130109 | Obesity | Bimodal | 0.7 | n.s | n.s |
| PRJEB39500 | T2D | Bimodal | 0.06 | n.s | significant |
| PRJNA345144 | Eczema | Bimodal | 0.55 | n.s | n.s |
| PRJNA290729 | Fatty liver | Bimodal | 0.75 | n.s | significant |
| PRJNA273761 | NEC | Multimodal | 0.67 | n.s | Not available |
| PRJNA301903 | Preterm infants | Multimodal | 0.58 | n.s | Not available |
| PRJNA395569 | IBDMDB | Bimodal | 0.58 | n.s | significant |
| PRJNA510445 | CF | Bimodal | 0.09 | n.s | Not available |
| PRJNA806984 | Healthy | Bimodal | 0.13 | n.s | Only controls |

Table 4: Summary of Reported Probiotic Taxa (RPT)

| Genus | Species/ strain | Function |
|-------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Lactobacillus acidophilus | Treatment of travellers' diarrhea [19, 20]; Reduction of hospital stay of children with acute diarrhea [21]; Antifungal activity (L. acidophilus ATCC-4495) [22]; Prevention or treatment of bacterial vaginosis [23]; Treatment of C. difficile-associated diarrhea [22]; Reduction of incidence of febrile urinary tract infections in children [120]; Reduction of irritable bowel syndrome symptoms [24, 20]; Alleviate cancer [25]. |
| | Lacticaseibacillus casei | Treatment of functional constipation in adults (L. casei Lcr35 and L. casei Shirota) [26]; Treatment of C. difficile-associated diarrhoea [27]; Restoration of vaginal flora of patient with bacterial vaginosis (L. casei Lcr35) [28]; Reduction of irritable bowel syndrome symptoms and gingivitis [24, 29]; Reduction of diarrhea duration of antibiotic-associated diarrhea in geriatric patients (L. casei Shirota) [30]; Immunomodulatory mechanisms (L. casei Shirota) [31]; Improvement of rheumatoid arthritis status (L. casei 01) [32]; Protection against Salmonella infection (L. casei CRL-431) [33]; Prevention of Salmonella-induced synovitis [34]; Treatment of intravaginal staphylococcosis (L. casei IMV B-7280) [35]. |
| | Lactobacillus rhamnosus | Reduction of viral-associated pulmonary damage (L. rhamnosus CRL1505) [36, 37] Prevention and reduction of severity of atopic dermatitis in children (L. rhamnosus GG) [38]; Reduction of risk for developing allergic disease (L. rhamnosus GG) [38, 26], (L. rhamnosus HN001 [39]; Anti-diabetic potential (various strains from human infant faecal samples) [40]; Prevention of necrotizing enterocolitis in newborns (L. rhamnosus GG) [41, 42]; Prevention or treatment of bacterial vaginosis (L. rhamnosus GR-1) [23]; Aid in weight loss of obese women (L. rhamnosus CGMCC1.3724) [43, 44]; Treatment of acute gastroenteritis in children (L. rhamnosus GG) [45]; Reduction of risk for rhinovirus infections in preterm infants (L. rhamnosus GG and L. rhamnosus ATCC 53103) [46]; Protection of human colonic muscle from lipopolysaccharide-induced damage (L. rhamnosus GG) [47]; Has an effect on symptoms of maternal depression and anxiety during the postpartum period [48]. |
| | Lactiplantibacillus plantarum | Prevention of endotoxin production [49]; Antifungal activity (L. plantarum NRRL B-4496) [22]; Cholesterol lowering activity [50]; Reduction of irritable bowel syndrome symptoms [48]. |
| | Lactobacillus reuteri | Reduction of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (L. reuteri NCIMB 30242) [51]; Treatment of acute gastroenteritis in children [45]; Reduction of diarrhea duration in children (L. reuteri ATCC 55730) [52]; Management of infant colic (L. reuteri ATCC 55730 and L. reuteri DSM 17938) [53]; Reduction of onset of gastrointestinal disorders in infants (L. reuteri DSM 17938) [54]; Reduction of frequency of proven sepsis, feeding intolerance and duration of hospital stay in preterm infants (L. reuteri DSM 17938) [54]; Treatment of gingivitis in pregnant women and chronic periodontitis [55, 56, 57]. |

Table 4 continued from previous page

| Genus | Species/ strain | Function |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Lactobacillus</i> | Lactobacillus fermentum | Prevention or treatment of bacterial vaginosis (L. fermentum RC-14) [23]; Blockage of adherence of pathogenic microorganisms on vaginal epithelium [58]; Antistaphylococcal action (L. fermentum ATCC 11739) [59]; Potential for reduction of insulin resistance and hypercholesterolemia (L. fermentum NCIMB 5221) [60]. |
| | Lactobacillus delbrueckii subsp. bulgaricus | Antibiotic resistance of yogurt starter culture [61] Enhancement of systemic immunity in elderly (L. delbrueckii subsp. bulgaricus 8481) [62]; Antibacterial action against E. coli [63]; Modulation of brain activity [64]. |
| | Lactobacillus brevis | Protective role in bile salt tolerance (L. brevis KB290) [65]; Reduction in plague acidogenicity (L. brevis CD2) [66]. |
| | Lactobacillus johnsonii | Impact on adaptive immunity for protection against respiratory insults [67]; Reduction of occurrence of gastritis and risk of H. pylori infection (L. johnsonii MH-68) [68]; Inhibition of S. sonnei activity (L. johnsonii F0421) [69]; Treatment of perennial allergic rhinitis in children together with levocetirizine (L. johnsonii EMI) [70]. |
| | Bifidobacterium infantis | Reduction of irritable bowel syndrome symptoms [27, 71]; Reduction of necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants [72, 73, 74]; Inhibition the secretion of allergen induced IgE [57]. |
| <i>Bifidobacterium</i> | Bifidobacterium animalis subsp. lactis | Treatment of functional constipation in adults (B. animalis subsp. lactis DN-173 010) [75]; Reduction of incidence of febrile urinary tract infections in children [24]; Modulation of brain activity [64]; Reduction of necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants [72]; Reduction of total microbial counts in dental plaque (B. animalis subsp. lactis DN-173 010) [76]; Reduction of total cholesterol (B. animalis subsp. lactis MB 202/DSMZ 23733) [77]; Reduction of risk of upper respiratory illness (B. animalis subsp. lactis BI-04) [78]. |
| | Bifidobacterium bifidum | Reduction of hospital stay of children with acute diarrhea [21]; Reduction of necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants [73, 74]; Reduction of total cholesterol (B. bifidum MB 109/DSMZ 23731) [77]. |
| | Bifidobacterium longum | Prevention and treatment of necrotizing enterocolitis in newborns [79]; Reduction of radiation induced diarrhea [80, 81]; Reduction of necrotizing enterocolitis with Bifidobacteria cocktail (B. breve, B. infantis, B. bifidum, B. longum) [74]; Reduction of irritable bowel syndrome symptoms [27]; Treatment of gastrointestinal diseases (B. longum CMCC P0001) [82]; Modulation of the immune system through IL-10 production [83]; Perinatal intervention against onset of allergic sensitization (B. longum CCM 7952) [84]. |
| | Bifidobacterium adolescentis | Reducing inflammation of the spleen and brain and changes the microbiota of cecum and colon [85] |
| | Bifidobacterium breve | Prevention and treatment of necrotizing enterocolitis in newborns [79]; Reduction of necrotizing enterocolitis with Bifidobacteria cocktail (B. breve, B. infantis, B. bifidum, B. longum) [74]; Reduction of cholesterol (B. breve MB 113/DSMZ 23732) [77]. |
| <i>Saccharomyces</i> | Saccharomyces boulardi | Treatment of travellers' diarrhea [19]; Treatment and reduction of diarrhea duration regardless of cause [86, 87, 88, 89, 90]; Treatment of irritable bowel syndrome [91]; Treatment of moderate ulcerative colitis [92, 93]; Treatment and reduction of recurrent pseudomembrane colitis infection caused by C. difficile [94]; Treatment of acute gastroenteritis in children [45]. |

Table 4 continued from previous page

| Genus | Species/ strain | Function |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Lactococcus</i> | Lactococcus lactis subsp. lactis | Treatment of antibiotic-associated diarrhea [87]; Adhesion to vaginal epithelial cells (L. lactis subsp. lactis KLDS4.0325) [95]; Nisin production (L. lactis subsp. lactis CV56) [96]; Modulation of brain activity [64]; Antimicrobial activity against C. difficile [97]; Antimicrobial and probiotic properties (L. lactis subsp. lactis ATCC 11454) [98]. |
| | Enterococcus durans | Antibiotic and antioxidant activity (E. durans LAB18s) [99], Adherence to colonic tissue and anti-inflammatory activity [100]. |
| <i>Enterococcus</i> | Enterococcus faecium | Treatment of antibiotic-associated diarrhea [101]; Modulation of the Th2-mediated [102, 103] Efficient animal probiotic [104]. |
| | Streptococcus thermophilus | Reduction of irritable bowel syndrome symptoms [27]; Antibiotic resistance of yogurt starter culture [61]; Producing some antioxidant compounds and mitigating the risk of some types of cancer [105] Reduction of necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants [72, 73]. |
| <i>Pediococcus</i> | Pediococcus acidilactici | Pediocin production with antimicrobial and probiotic properties (P. acidilactici UL5) [98]; Bacteriocin production [106]; Elimination of H. pylori infections (P. acidilactici BA28) [107]. |
| <i>Leuconostoc</i> | Leuconostoc mesenteroides | Leucocin production, probiotic profile (survival at low pH, in presence of bile salts, in presence of pepsin) (L. mesenteroides B7) [108]. |
| <i>Bacillus</i> | Bacillus coagulans | Treatment of antibiotic-associated diarrhea [101, 109], Treatment of bacterial vaginosis (B. coagulans ATCC PTA-11748) [110]; Immunological support (B. coagulans GandenBC30) [111]; Prevention of caries in children [112?]. Efficient animal probiotic [113, 114]; |
| | Bacillus subtilis | Treatment of diarrhea and aiding in H. pylori eradication (B. subtilis R0179) [115]; Production of vitamin K [48]; Production of nitric oxide [116]. |
| | Bacillus cereus | Efficient animal probiotic (B. cereus NVH75/95) [117]. |
| <i>Escherichia</i> | Escherichia coli Nissle 1917 | Treatment of functional constipation in adults [24]; Treatment of inflammatory bowel disease [118]; Treatment of gastrointestinal disorders [119]; Pro-inflammatory potential [120]; Prevention of surface ocular diseases [121]; Reduction of Salmonella enterica Typhimurium intestinal colonization by iron competition [122]. |

Table 5: Characteristics of all published human to human datasets used for defining the influential taxa within FMT (IFMT).

| Accession number | Disease | Abx | Sample size | FMT | 16S region | Reference |
|------------------|---------|-----|-------------|-----|------------|-----------|
| ERP021216 | CDI | T | 86 | 20 | V4 | [123] |
| PRJDB4959 | IBD | F | 28 | 10 | V1V2 | [124] |
| PRJNA221789 | CDI | T | 20 | 10 | V1-V3 | [125] |
| PRJNA238042 | CDI | T | 22 | 11 | V3-V5 | [126] |
| PRJNA238486 | CDI | T | 23 | 3 | V6 | [127] |
| PRJNA380944 | IBD | T | 83 | 21 | V4 | [128] |
| PRJNA412501 | IBD | T | 52 | 19 | V3V4 | [129] |
| PRJNA428898 | IBD | F | 35 | 9 | V4V5 | [130] |

Table 6: Gut colonization data of ingested *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* strains in the gut of infants or mother–infant pairs. Taxa that appear in the top 5th percentile of S.D. people are highlighted in blue.

| Species | Strain | Persistence time during washout period | Strain-specific |
|-----------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| <i>L. rhamnosus</i> | 19070-2, GG, DR20, LC705 | [< 5–11 days, > 21 days] | Yes |
| <i>L. rhamnosus</i> | GG | [> 6 months, 0–18 months] | NA |
| <i>L. reuteri</i> | DSM 12246, 108, 47 (R2LC), ATCC PTA 6475, DSM 17938, ATCC 55730 | [< 1 days, > 28 days] | Yes |
| <i>L. casei</i> | CHCC 3137, LC10, Shirota, 136, 98, 271 , Lcr35 | [< 1 days, > 3 weeks] | Yes |
| <i>L. casei</i> | GG | > 2 weeks | NA |
| <i>L. plantarum</i> | LPT, 283, 299, 299v | [< 1 days, > 11 days] | Yes |
| <i>L. plantarum</i> | ATCC 20195 | > 6 months | NA |
| <i>L. crispatus</i> | M247, MU5 | [< 8 days, > 8 days] | Yes |
| <i>L. delbrueckii</i> | CHCC 2329 | < 5 days | NA |
| <i>L. paracasei</i> | IMPC 2.1 | < 7 days | NA |
| <i>B. longum</i> | AH1206, SBT2928 | [> 6–30 days, > 6 months] | NA |
| <i>B. infantis</i> | NA | < 3 weeks | NA |
| <i>B. lactis</i> | NA | > 3 weeks | NA |
| <i>L. salivarius</i> | 132, 280, UCC118 | [< 1 days, 3 weeks] | NA |
| <i>L. acidophilus</i> | DDS-1 | < 8 days | NA |

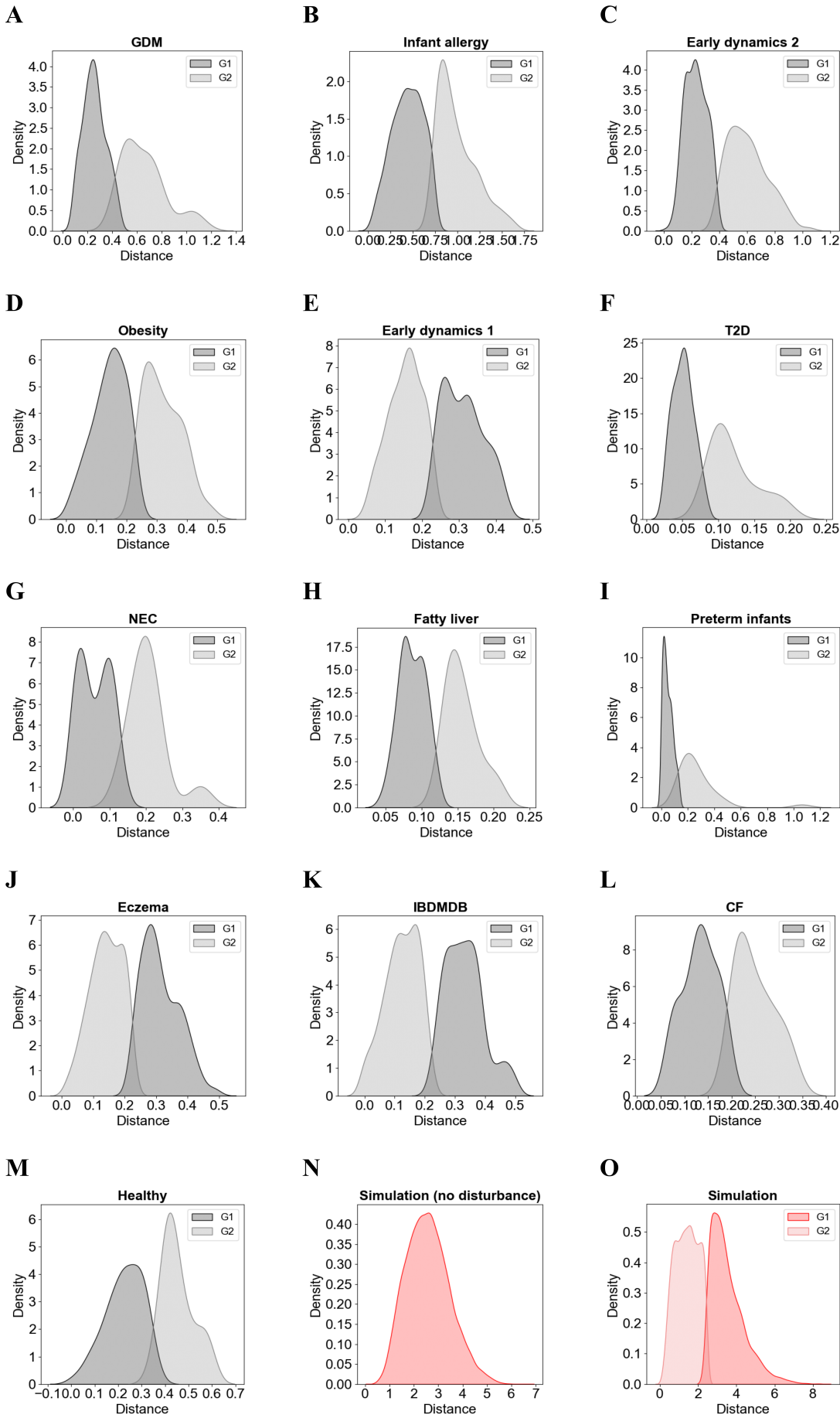


Figure 2: Histograms of microbiota distance between consecutive time points across different cohorts (A-M). These histograms represent the distribution of microbiota distances measured between two successive time points for each cohort, providing insights into how microbiota compositions change over time within each group. N, O. Histograms of simulated microbiota distance between consecutive time points across a simulation with no disturbance (N) and a simulation with disturbance (O).

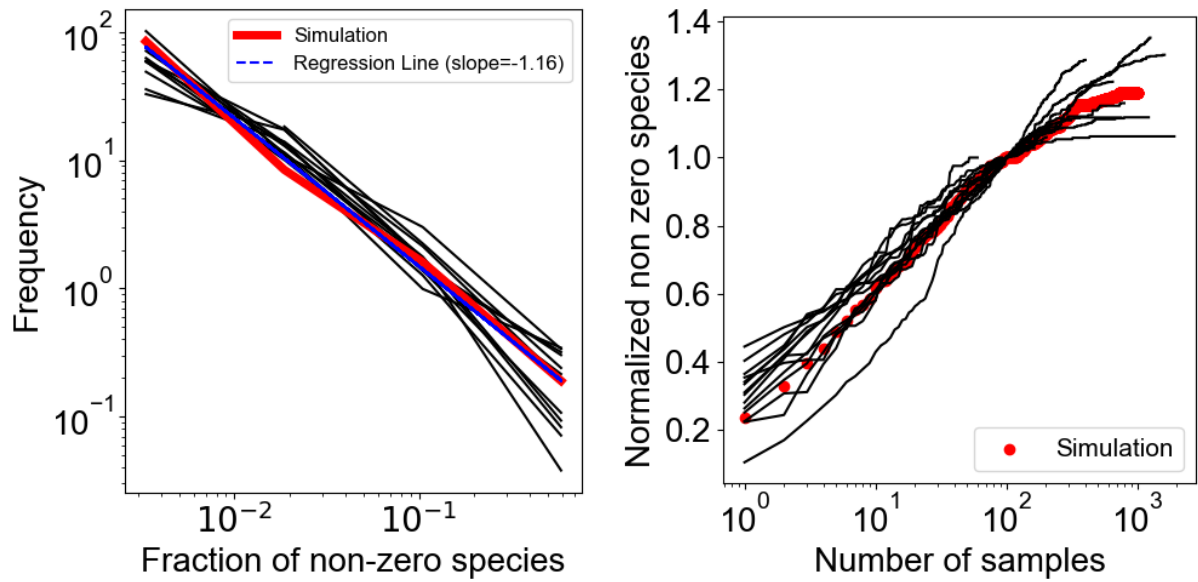


Figure 3: The species microbiome system exhibits generic features, such as TOP (**left**) and DTN (**right**). Each black line represents a separate study. The red lines represent the simulation, while the blue line in the left plot depicts the regression line based on all points from all studies.

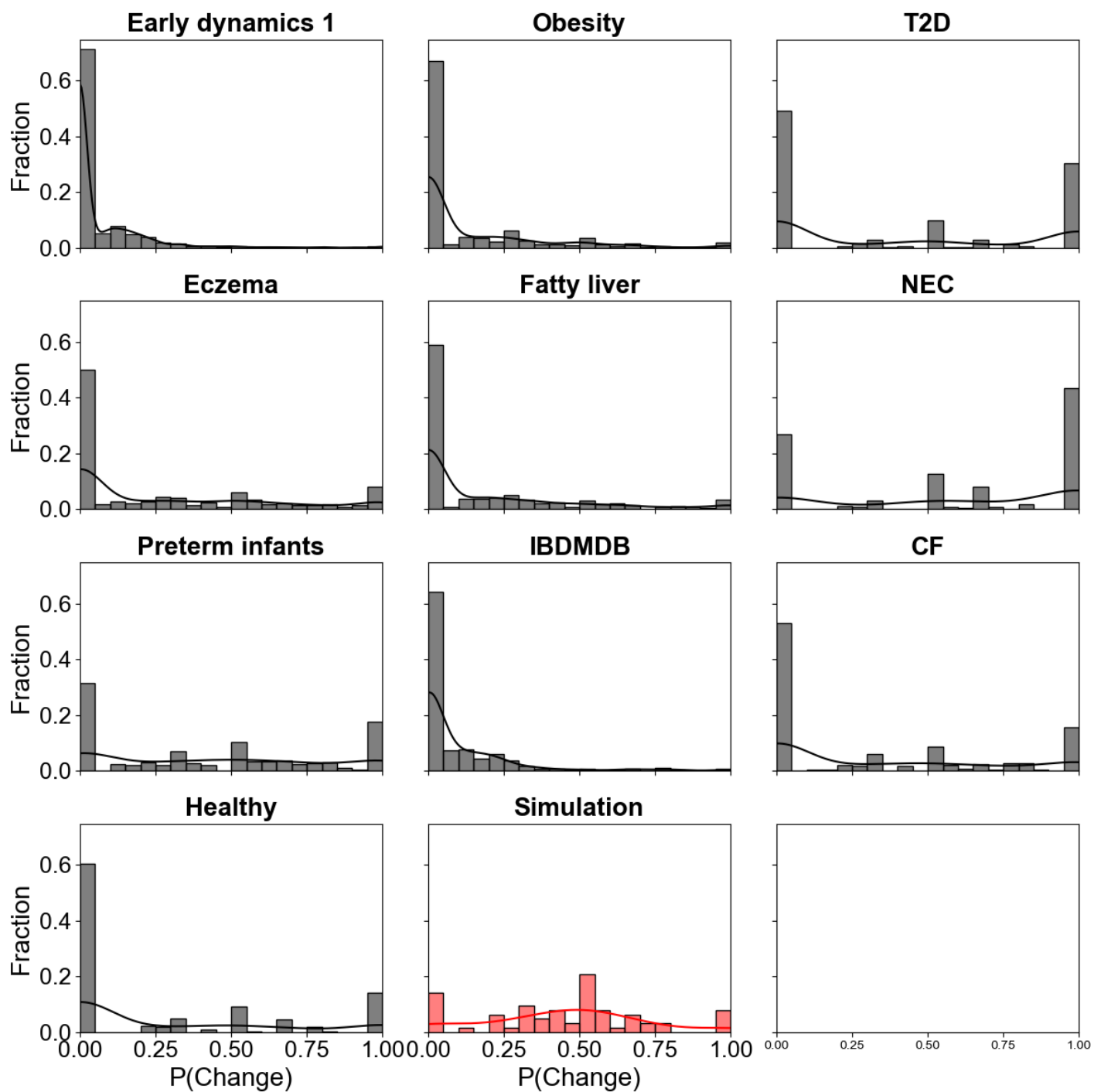


Figure 4: Probability to change distribution over the different cohorts (black) and the simulation (red) analyzed at the **strain-level**. $P(\text{change})$ was measured by the $P(011)$ probability, which represents the likelihood of a taxon that is absent at a certain time step to appear in the next step and remain in the subsequent one. This is divided by the $P(01X)$ probability, representing the likelihood of a taxon appearing at a time step when it was not previously present in the sample.

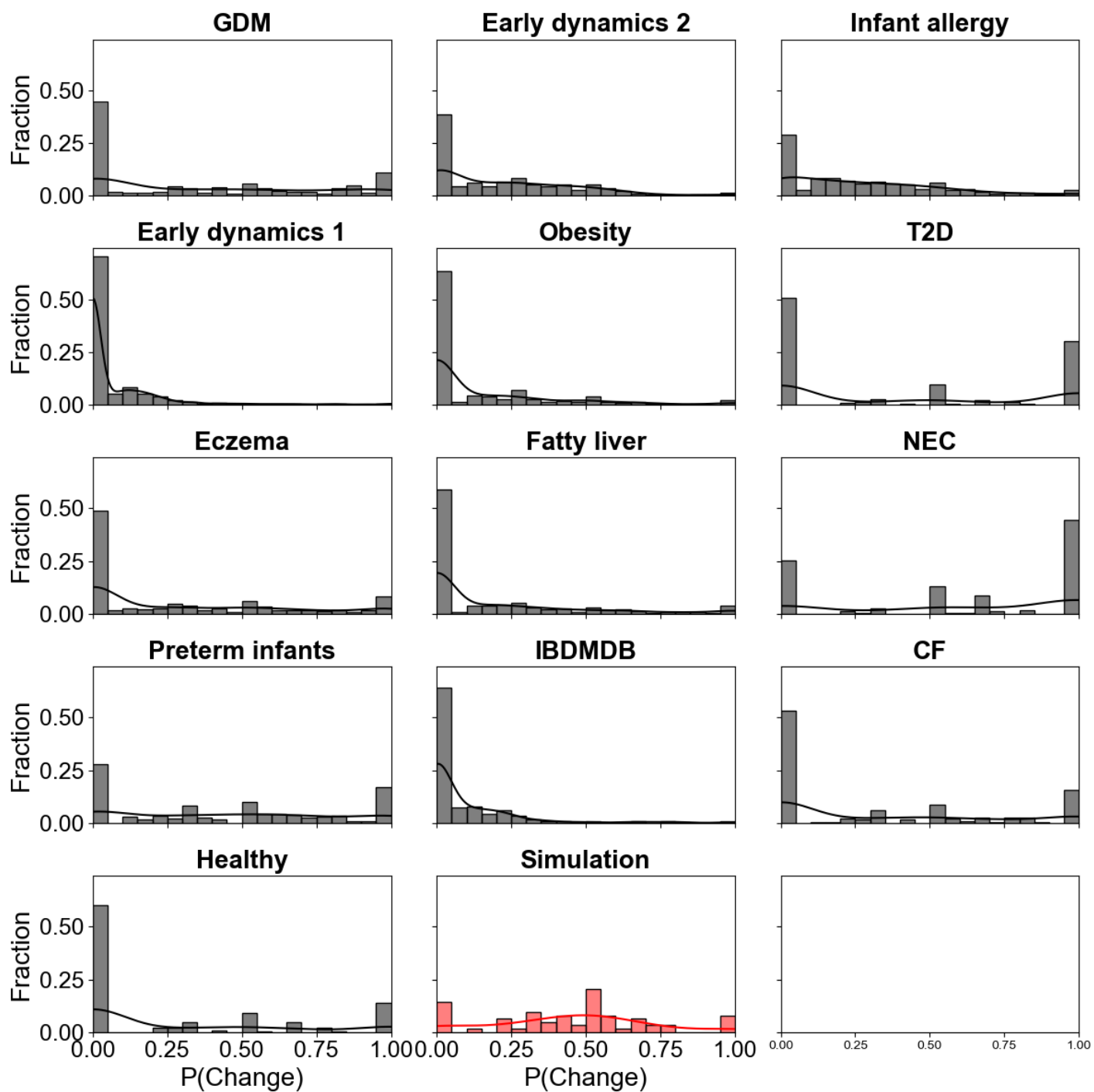


Figure 5: Probability to change distribution over the different cohorts (black) and the simulation (red) analyzed at the **species-level**. P(Change) was measured by the $P(011)$ probability, which represents the likelihood of a taxon that is absent at a certain time step to appear in the next step and remain in the subsequent one. This is divided by the $P(01X)$ probability, representing the likelihood of a taxon appearing at a time step when it was not previously present in the sample.

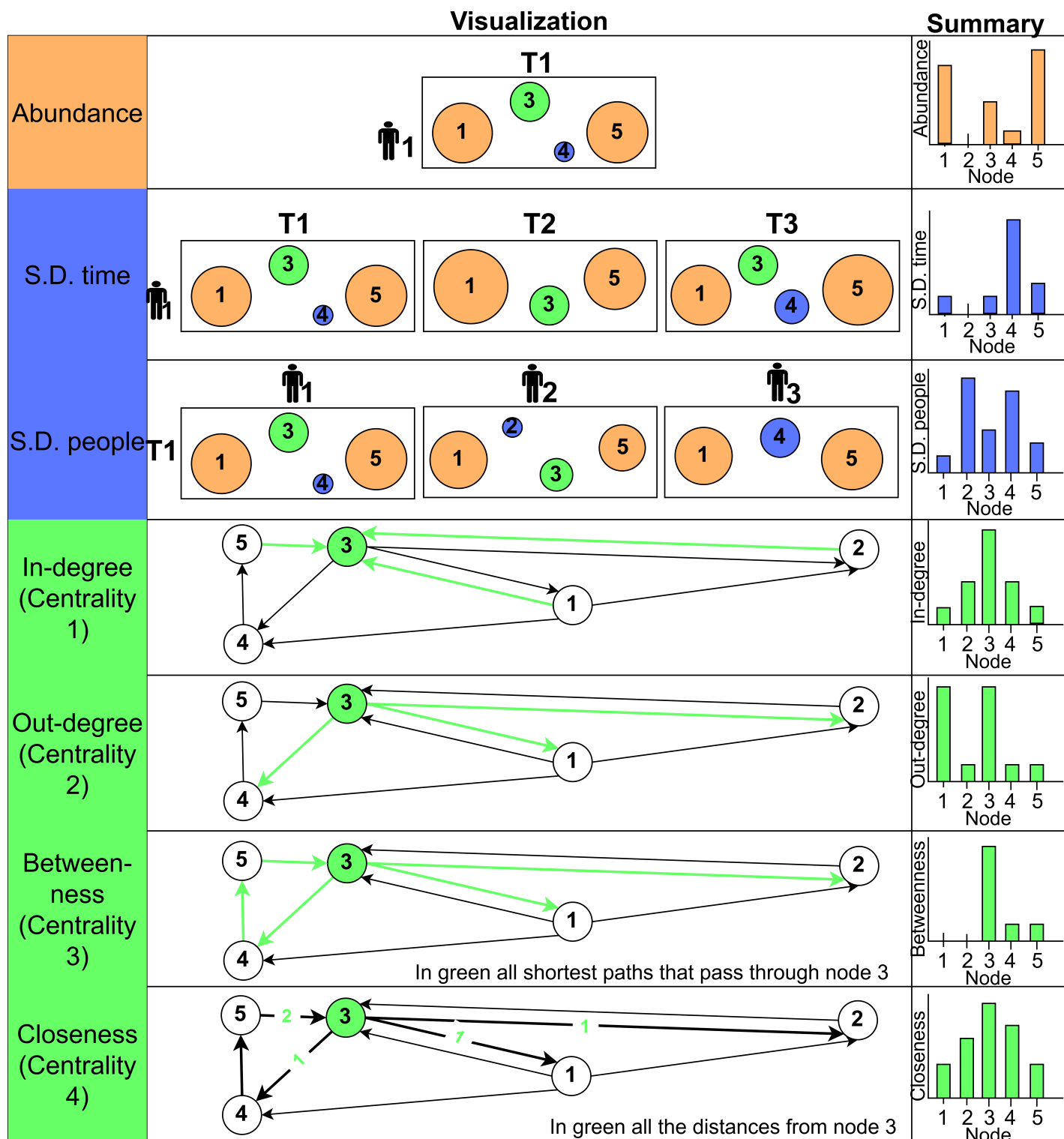


Figure 6: Visualizaion of the different microbial features divided to the 3 groups of abundance, fluctuation and centrality.

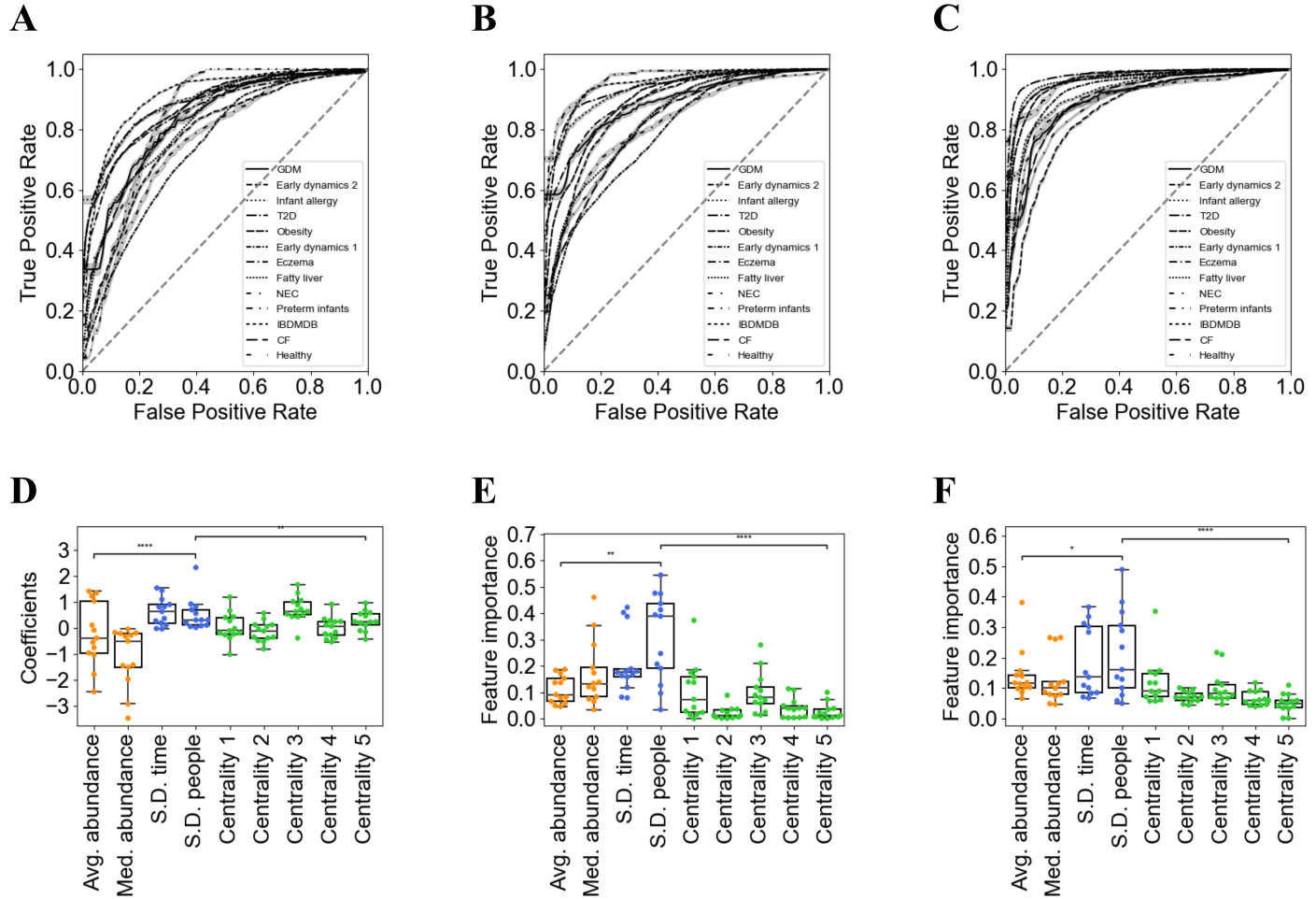


Figure 7: Prediction of RSM using non-log normalized microbiome data, demonstrating consistent performance across different models and cohorts. **A-C**. ROC curves show the predictive accuracy of RSM across various cohorts using three models: **A** depicts results from the LR model, **B** from the RF model, and **C** from XGBOOST. **D-F**. Patchy features emerge as the most informative predictors. This is evident in the LR coefficients (**D**), as well as the feature importance (FI) scores for RF (**E**) and XGBOOST (**F**). The results highlight the robustness of patchy microbial features in predicting regime shifts across multiple models. The stars represent the p-values of t-tests between the fluctuating features (S.D. time and S.D. people) vs. the highly abundant features (average and median) and the central features (in-degree, out-degree, betweenness and closeness), such that * for $p - value < 0.05$, ** for $p - value < 0.01$, *** for $p - value < 0.001$ and **** for $p - value < 0.0001$.

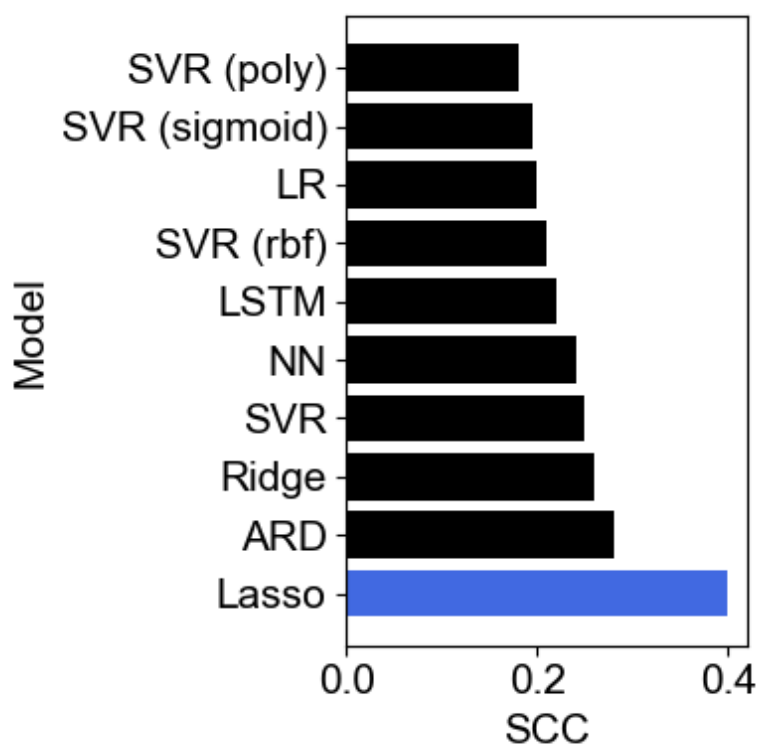


Figure 8: Overall average SCC between predicted and actual taxon differences over time across models. This plot shows the overall average Spearman correlation coefficient (SCC) between the differences predicted for each taxon and the real observed differences over time, as a function of the model used for prediction. The best correlations were achieved using the Lasso model (blue).

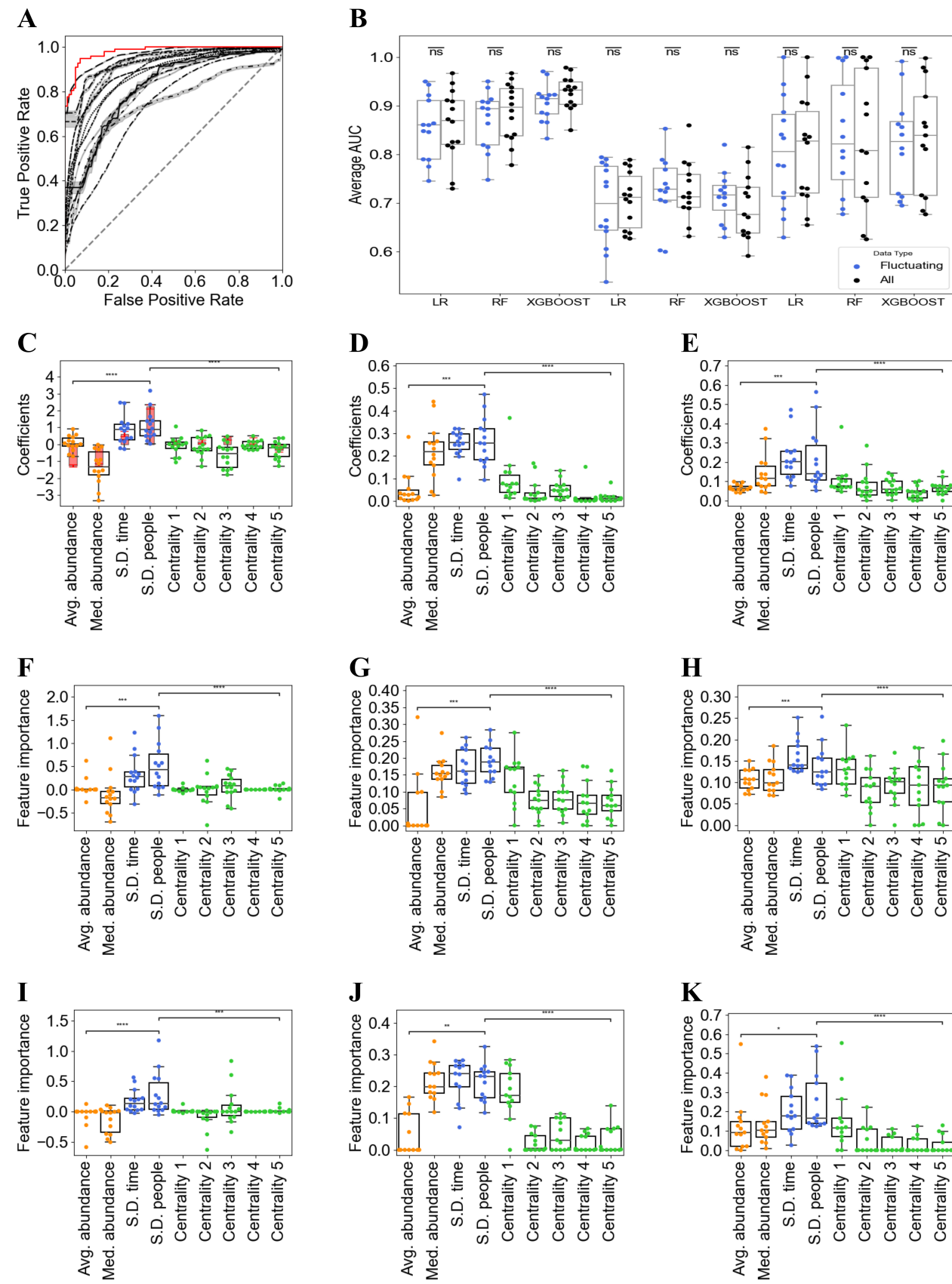


Figure 9: Microbial features accurately predict RSM (species), primarily through fluctuating microbes. **A**. ROC AUCs for predicting RSM taxa (colonization success measured by high $P(\text{Change})$) using the LR model across 10 WGS cohorts (black) and in a simulation (red). **B**. Comparison of prediction performance using only fluctuating features (blue) versus all features (black). Each point represents the average AUC from the test set of a different study. No significant difference is observed between models using all features and those using fluctuating measures alone. **C-I**. The most informative features for predicting RSM capture variability and define fluctuating taxa, consistently performing well across various RSM definitions and models. These features include predictions of taxa with high likelihood to colonize (light grey C-E), RPT (pink F-H), or influential FMT (yellow I-K) across different models, including LR models (C,F,I), RF models (D,G,J), and XGBOOST models (E,H,K). Feature contributions are measured by coefficients in LR models and feature importance (FI) in RF and XGBOOST models. Blue features consistently show significantly higher positive contributions across all tasks. Stars indicate p-values from paired t-tests comparing blue features with orange and green features such that $*-p < 0.05$, $** -p < 0.01$, $*** -p < 0.001$.

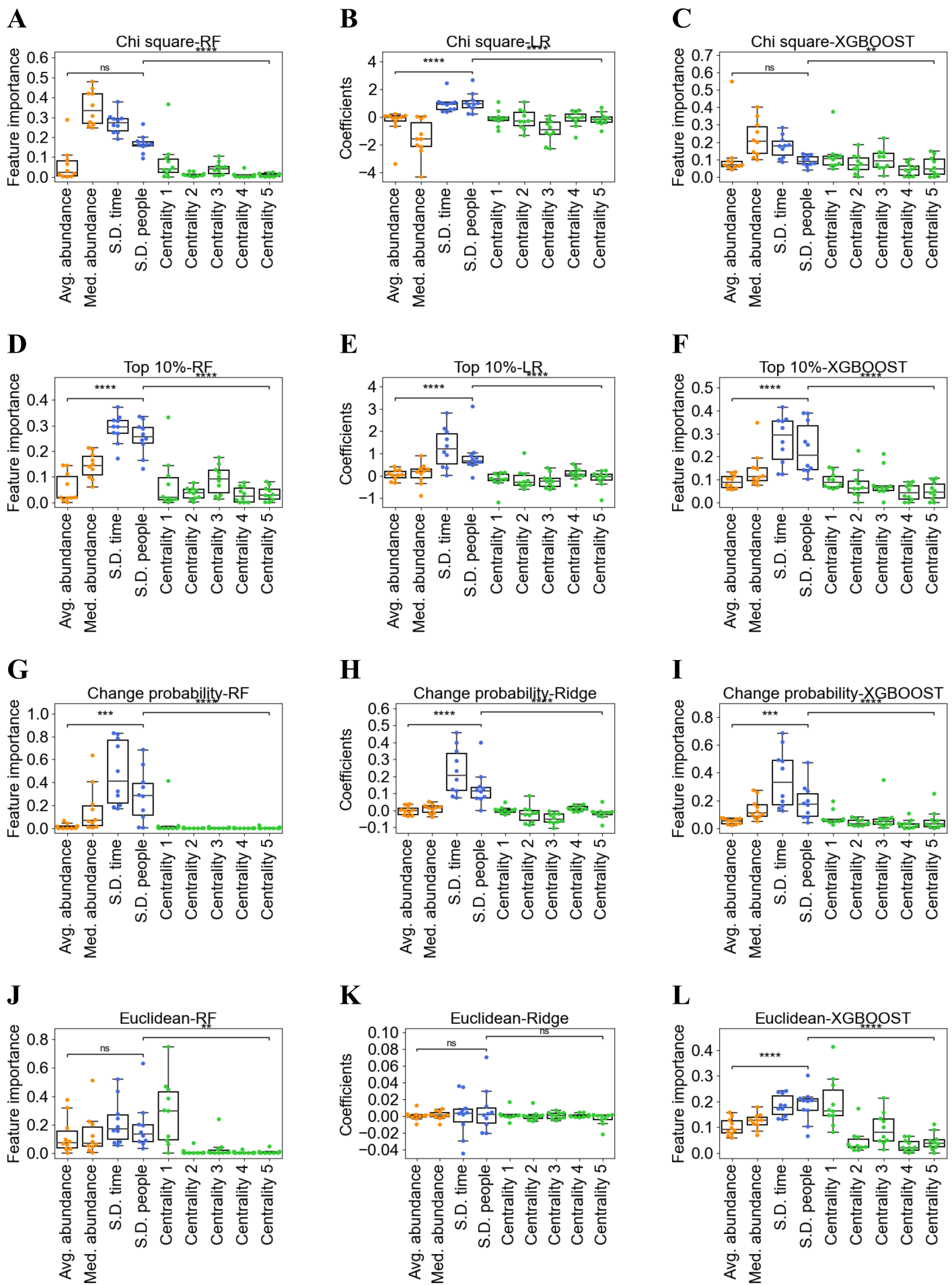


Figure 10: Taxa fluctuation (blue) emerged as the most influential factor contributing to the predictive accuracy of identifying RSM taxa across multiple definitions and models. These include using a fixed cutoff of 0.8, where taxa with a probability to change above this threshold are classified as changing ME taxa (A-C), or selecting the top percentile of taxa (D-F). Additionally, continuous prediction tasks were explored, such as predicting the probability of change itself (G-H), or the Euclidean distance between RSM taxa and other taxa. This analysis was applied at the **strain-level** only to the WGS cohorts.

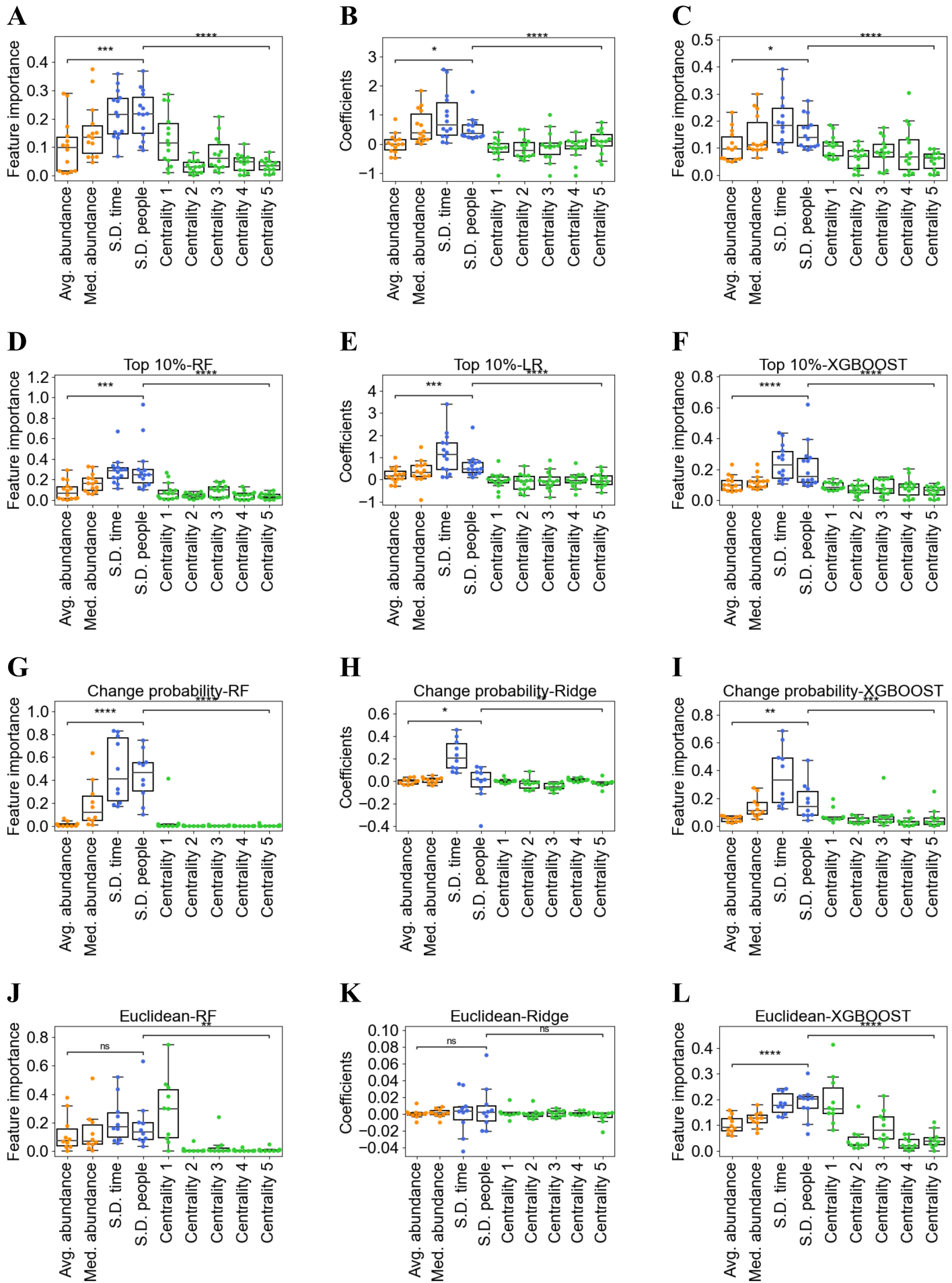


Figure 11: Taxa dynamics (blue) emerged as the most influential factors contributing to the predictive accuracy of identifying RSM taxa across multiple definitions and models. These include using a fixed cutoff of 0.8, where taxa with a probability to change above this threshold are classified as changing ME taxa (A-C), or selecting the top percentile of taxa (D-F). Additionally, continuous prediction tasks were explored, such as predicting the probability of change itself (G-H), or the Euclidean distance between changing ME taxa and other taxa. This analysis was applied at the **species-level** both to WGS and 16S cohorts.

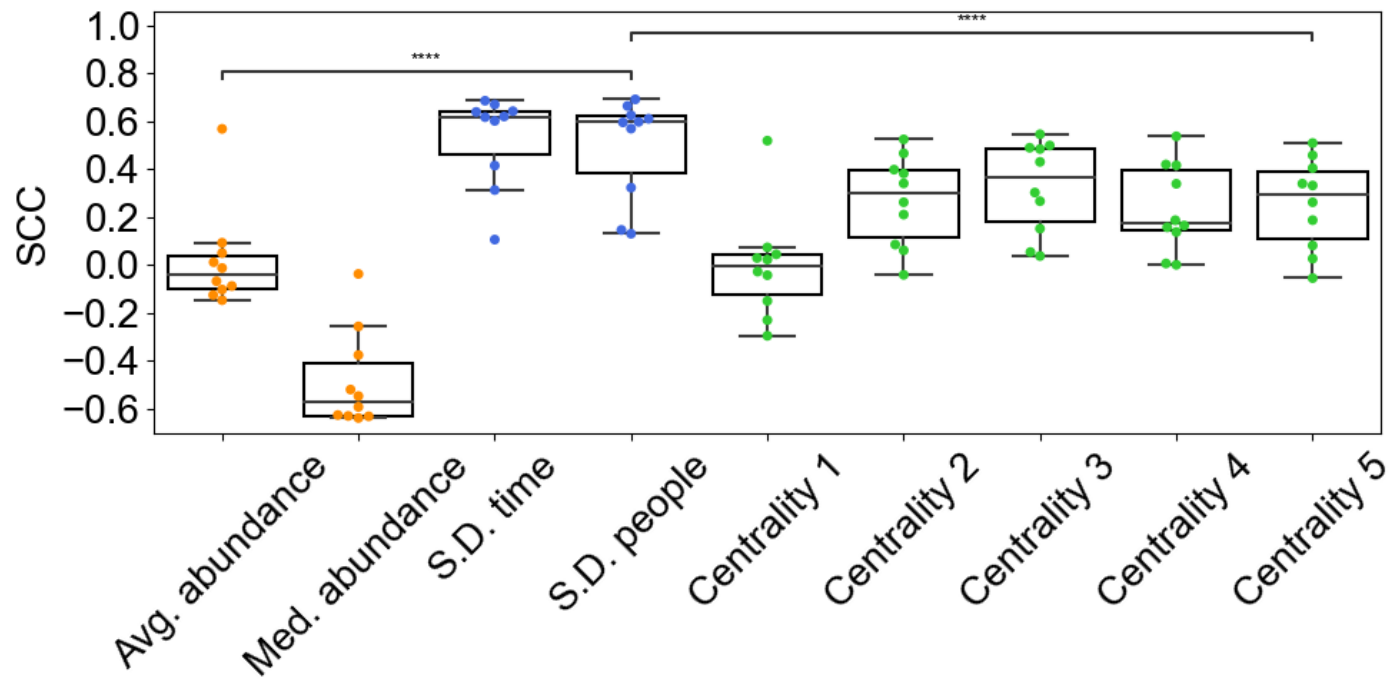


Figure 12: Spearman Correlation Coefficients (SCCs) between the probability to change and various taxa characteristics: average abundance (orange), dynamics (standard deviation of time and population in blue), and interaction network metrics (such as Fiedler vector, in-degree, out-degree, betweenness centrality, and closeness centrality in green) across different dynamic cohorts. Notably, the highest correlations were observed with taxa dynamics. This analysis was applied at the **strain-level** only to the WGS cohorts.

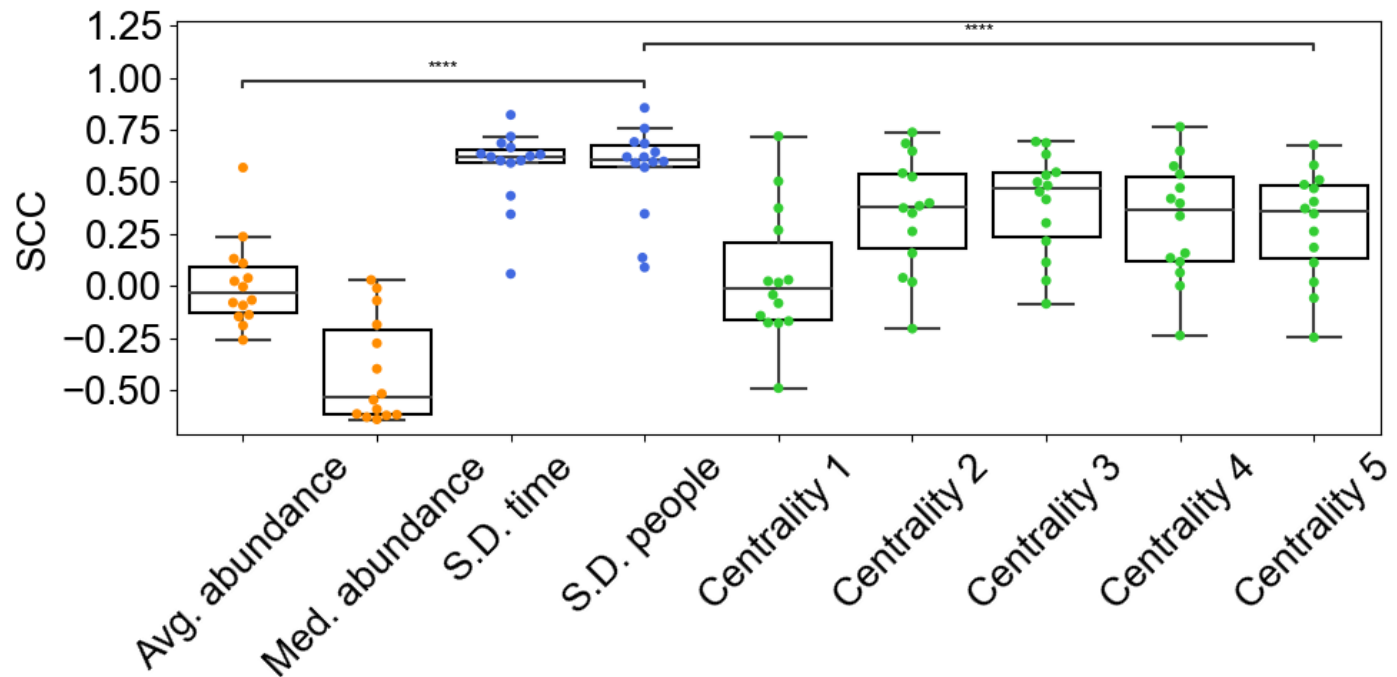


Figure 13: Spearman Correlation Coefficients (SCCs) between the probability to change and various taxa characteristics: average abundance (orange), dynamics (standard deviation of time and population in blue), and interaction network metrics (such as Fiedler vector, in-degree, out-degree, betweenness centrality, and closeness centrality in green) across different dynamic cohorts. Notably, the highest correlations were observed with taxa dynamics. This analysis was applied at the **species-level** both to WGS and 16S cohorts.

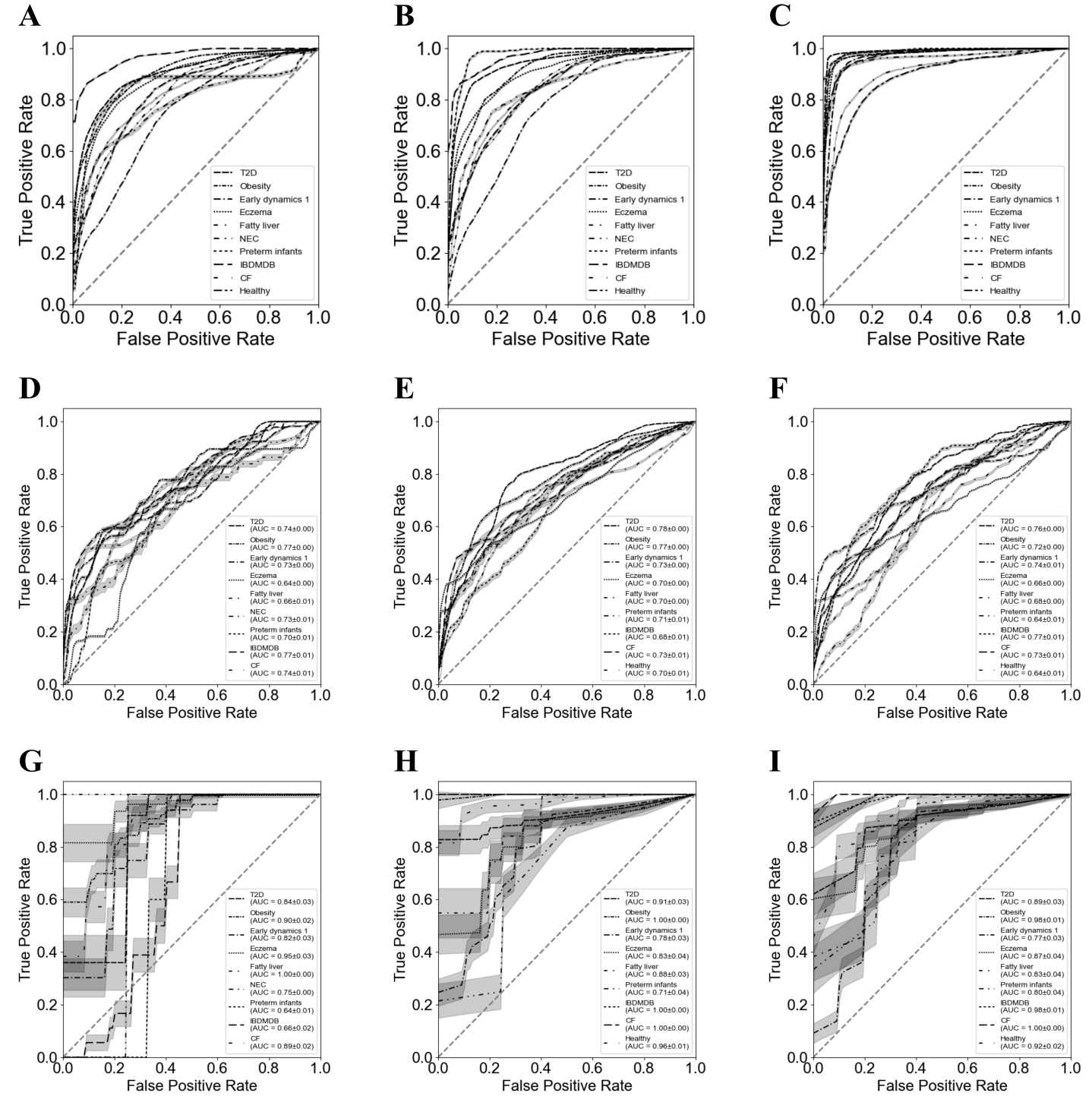


Figure 14: All ROC curves over different tasks and different models. **A-C.** ROC curves of predicting changing ME taxa by LR (**A**), RF (**B**), and XGBOOST (**C**). **D-F.** ROC curves of predicting RPT taxa by LR (**D**), RF (**E**), and XGBOOST (**F**). **G-I.** ROC curves of predicting dominant within FMT taxa by LR (**G**), RF (**H**), and XGBOOST (**I**). The dotted line represents random performance with an AUC of 0.5. Different line styles indicate the average ROC curves for different cohorts, and the standard deviation across runs is shown as a shaded region. This analysis was applied at the **strain-level** only to the WGS cohorts.

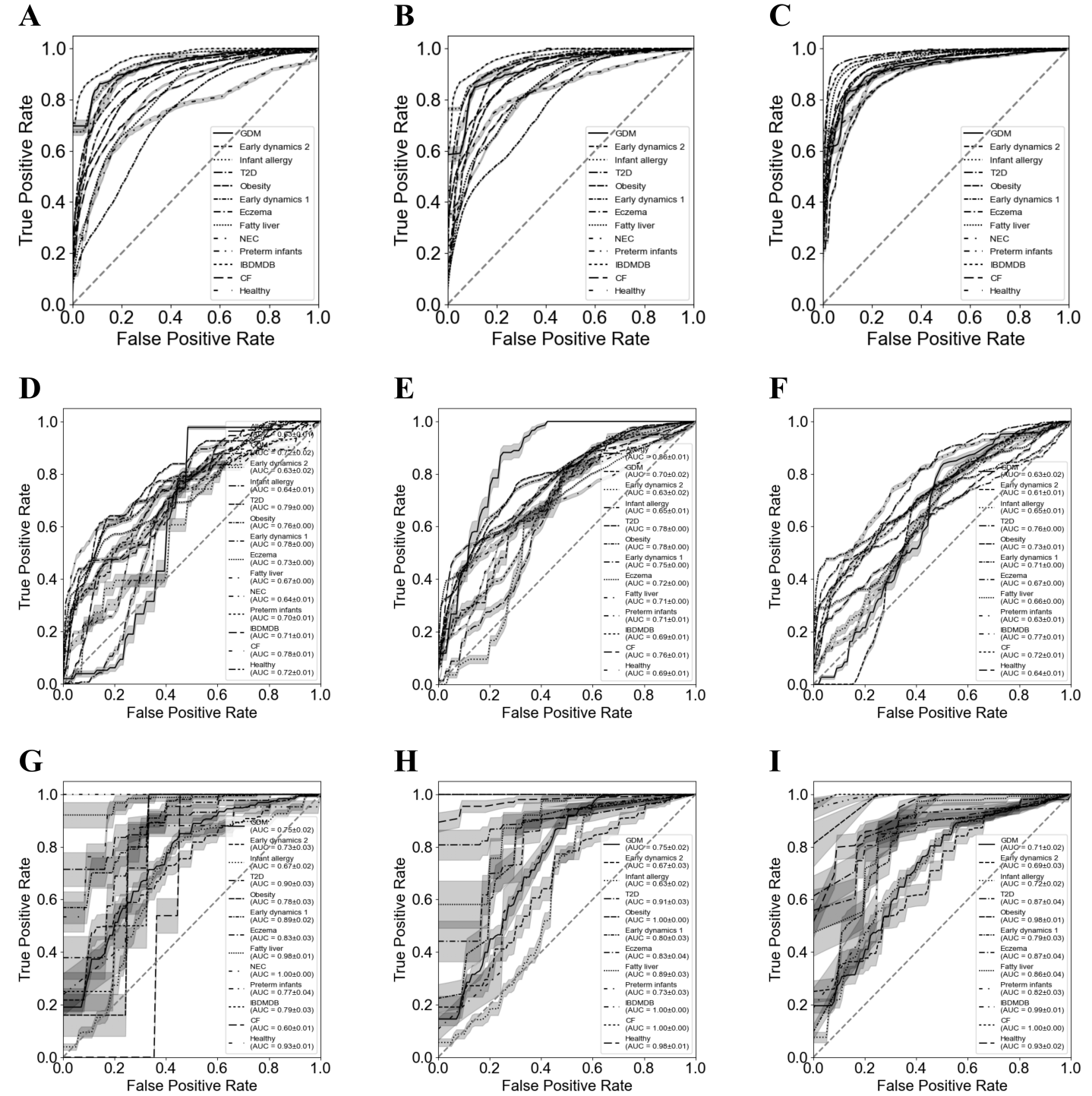


Figure 15: All ROC curves over different tasks and different models. **A-C.** ROC curves of predicting changing ME taxa by LR (**A**), RF (**B**), and XGBOOST (**C**). **D-F.** ROC curves of predicting RPT taxa by LR (**D**), RF (**E**), and XGBOOST (**F**). **G-I.** ROC curves of predicting dominant within FMT taxa by LR (**G**), RF (**H**), and XGBOOST (**I**). The dotted line represents random performance with an AUC of 0.5. Different line styles indicate the average ROC curves for different cohorts, and the standard deviation across runs is shown as a shaded region. This analysis was applied at the **strain-level** only to the WGS cohorts.

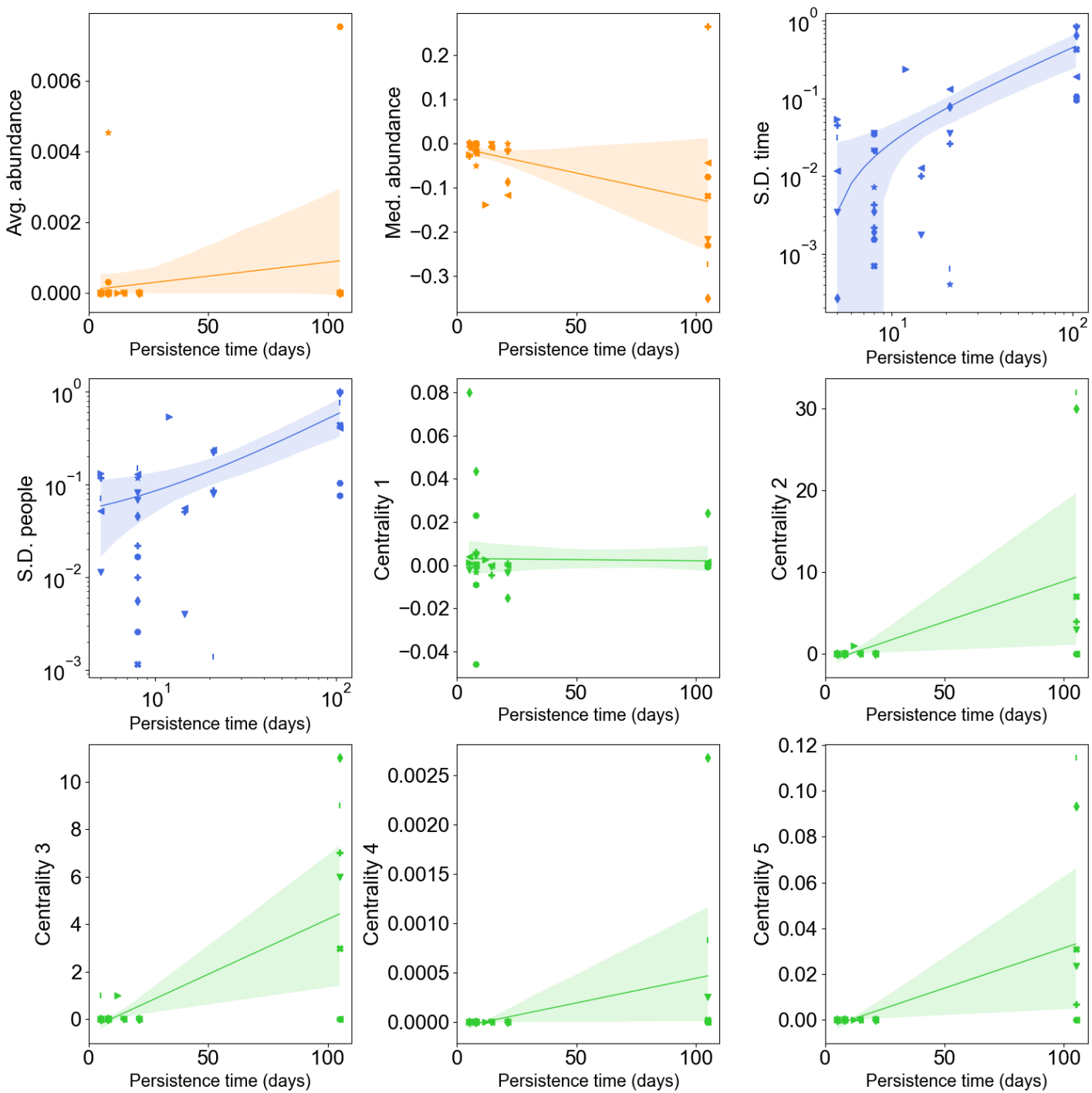


Figure 16: Variability shows a positive correlation with probiotics persistence times. The scatter plots with the black trend lines depict the relationships between probiotics' persistence times and various microbiome attributes such as frequency (orange), patchy (blue), and centrality (green). Each shape represents another dataset. This analysis was applied only to the WGS cohorts at the **strain-level**.

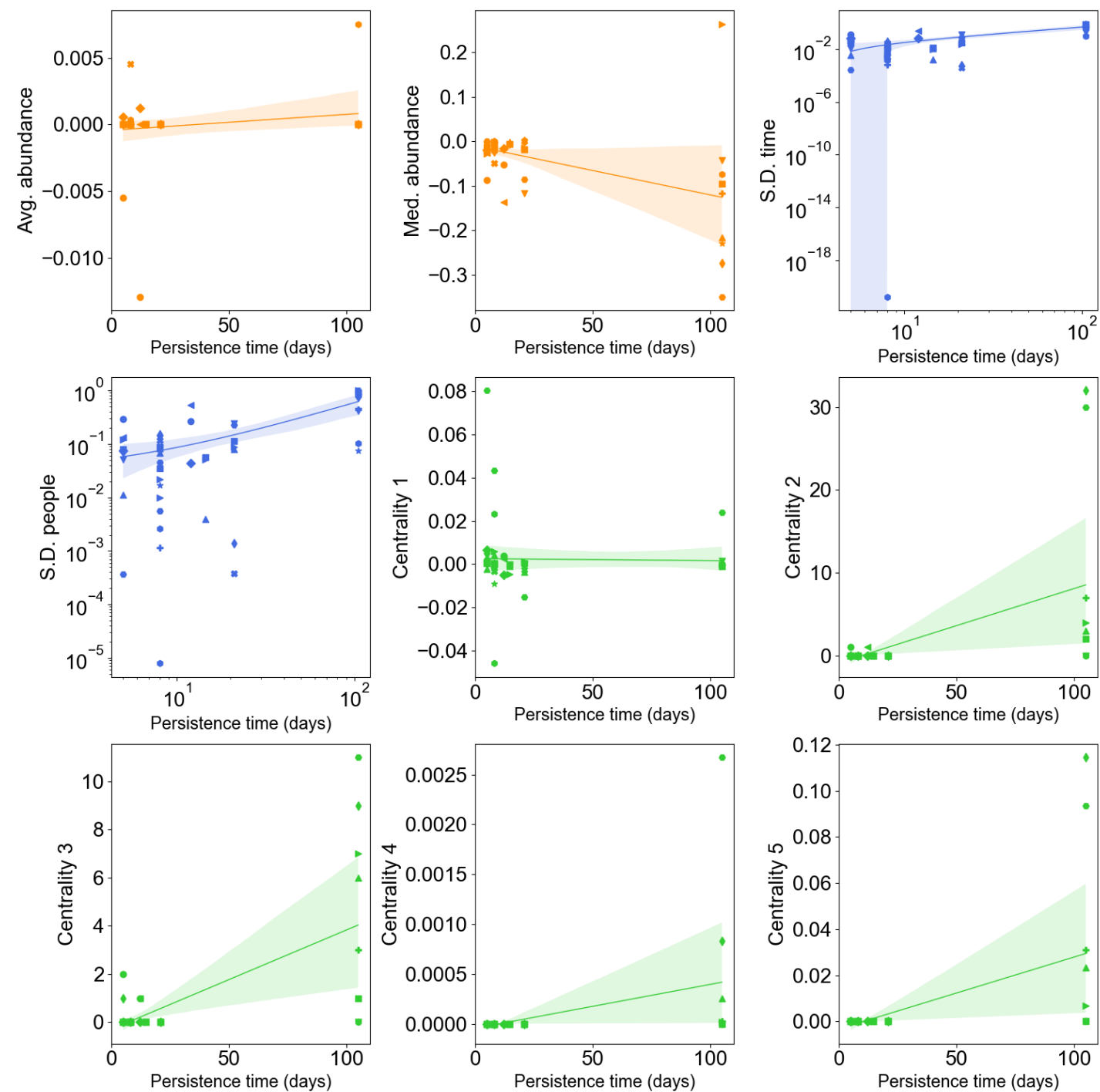


Figure 17: Variability shows a positive correlation with probiotics persistence times. The scatter plots with the black trend lines depict the relationships between probiotics' persistence times and various microbiome attributes such as frequency (orange), patchy (blue), and centrality (green). Each shape represents another dataset. This analysis was applied both to the WGS and 16S cohorts at the species-level.

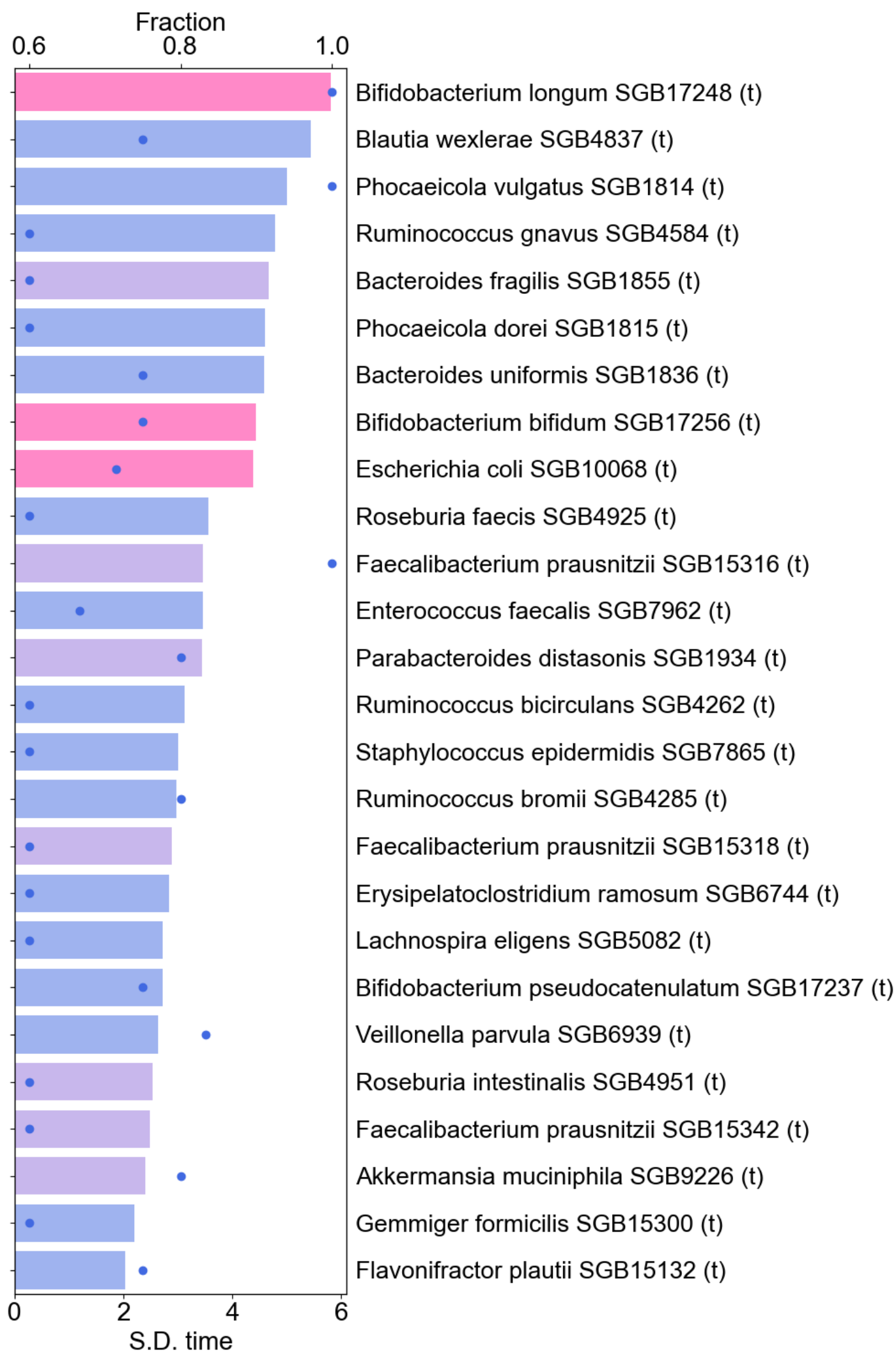
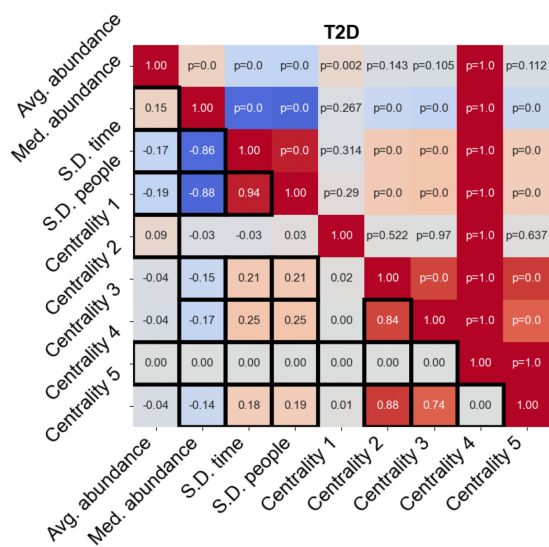
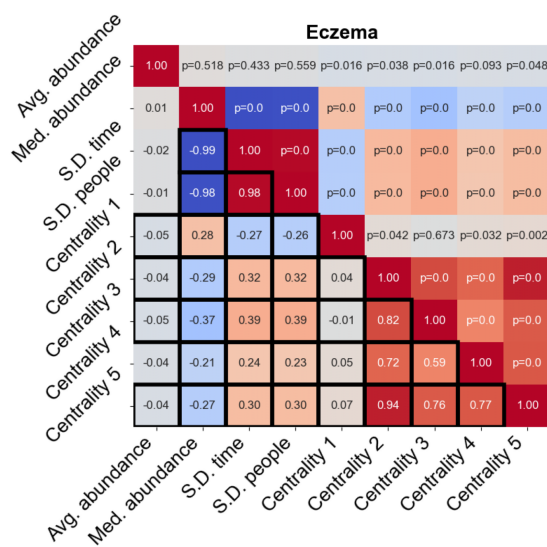


Figure 18: List of fluctuating based on std time, consistent in at least three studies and within the top 5th percentile. The bar plots represent the average S.D. people score of the taxa (bottom x-axis), while the dots represent the consistency of fluctuation as a fraction of the studies in which it ranks in the top percentile of all studies it appears in (top x-axis). Dark pink bars correspond to taxa already known as probiotics (RPT), light pink bars represent taxa identified as next-generation probiotics, and blue bars indicate newly identified taxa.

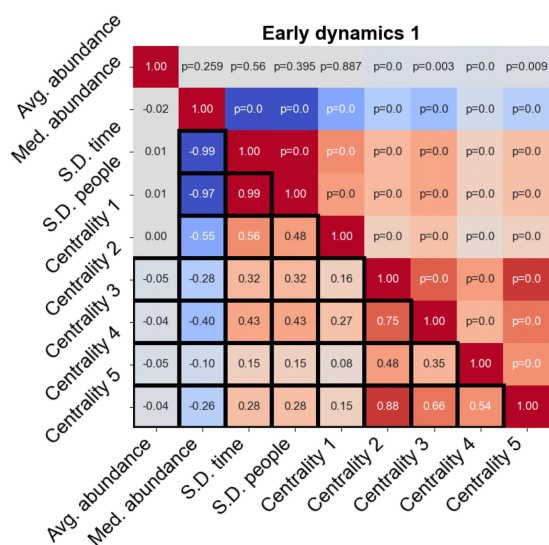
A



B



C



D

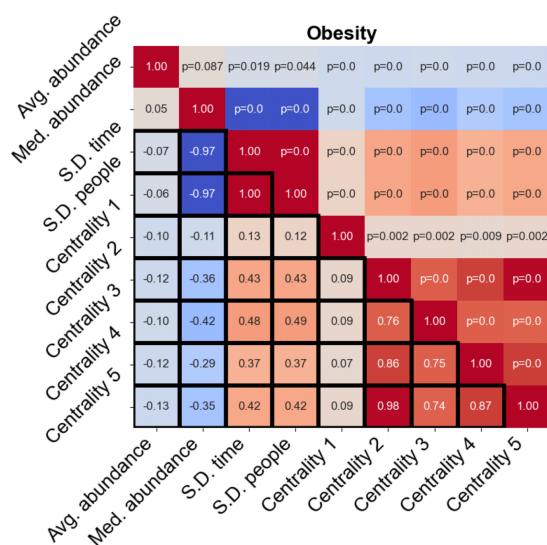
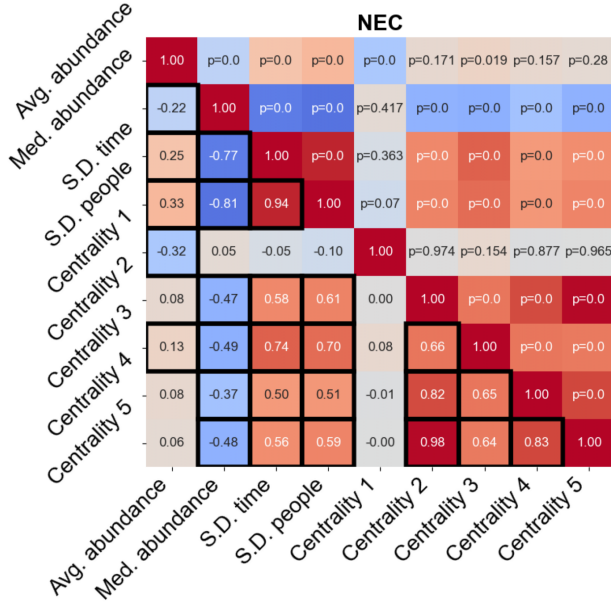
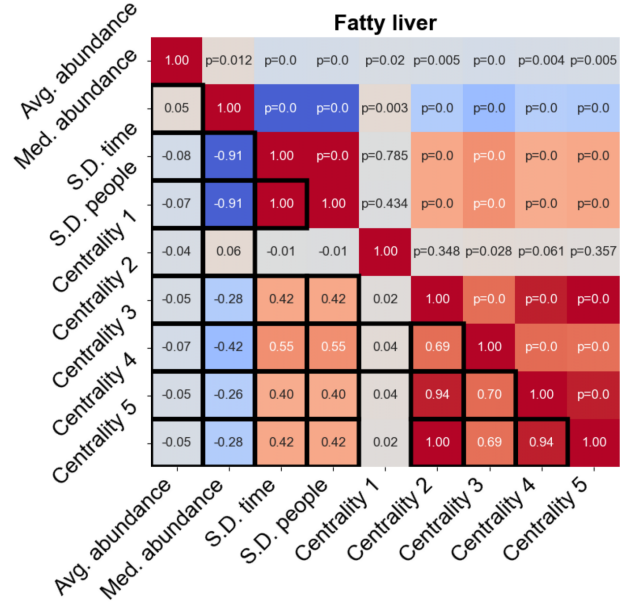


Figure 19: Spearman correlation heatmaps of microbial features at the **strain level** across **T2D**, **Eczema**, **early dynamic 1** and **obesity** cohorts. Below the diagonal, statistical correlation values are shown, with significant correlations highlighted by a black border. Above the diagonal, the corresponding p-values are displayed to indicate the strength of the correlations.

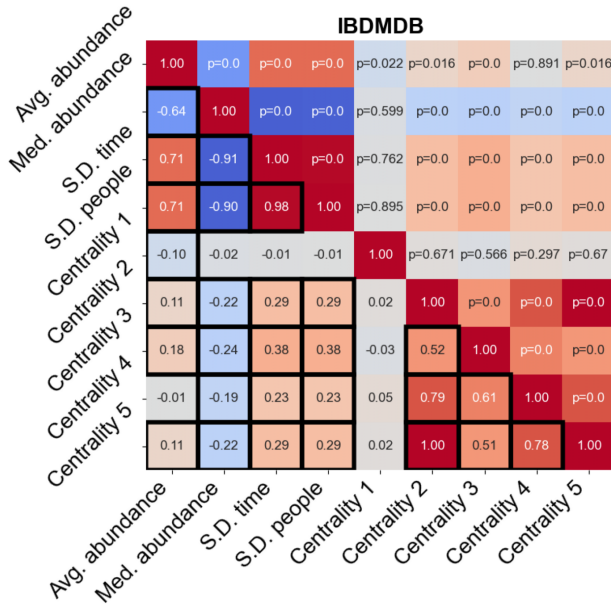
A



B



C



D

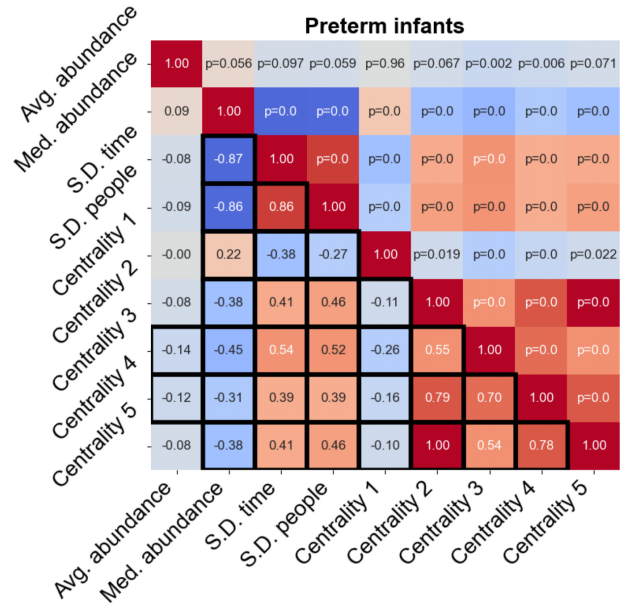
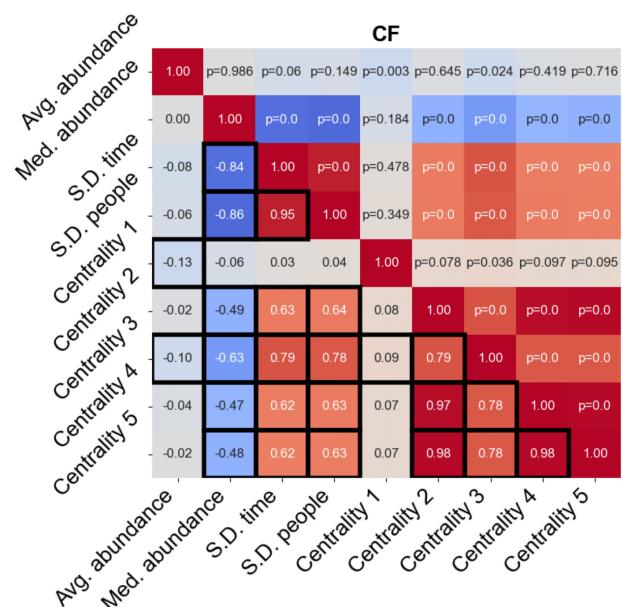


Figure 20: Spearman correlation heatmaps of microbial features at the **strain level** across **NEC**, **Fatty liver**, **IBDMDB** and **Preterm infants** cohorts. Below the diagonal, statistical correlation values are shown, with significant correlations highlighted by a black border. Above the diagonal, the corresponding p-values are displayed to indicate the strength of the correlations.

A



B

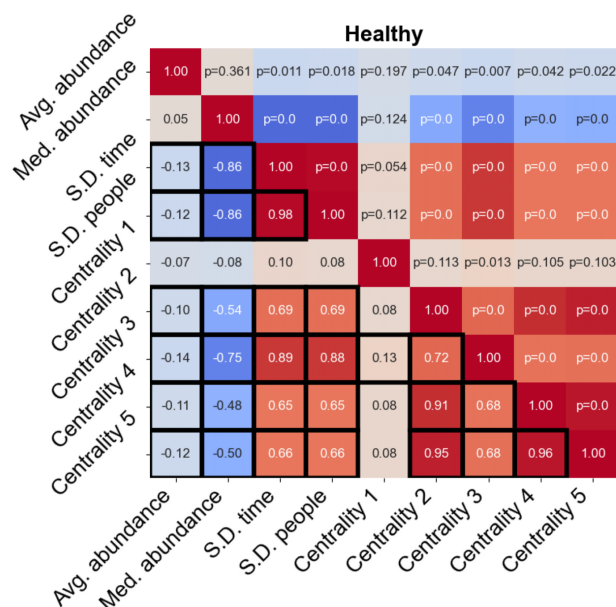
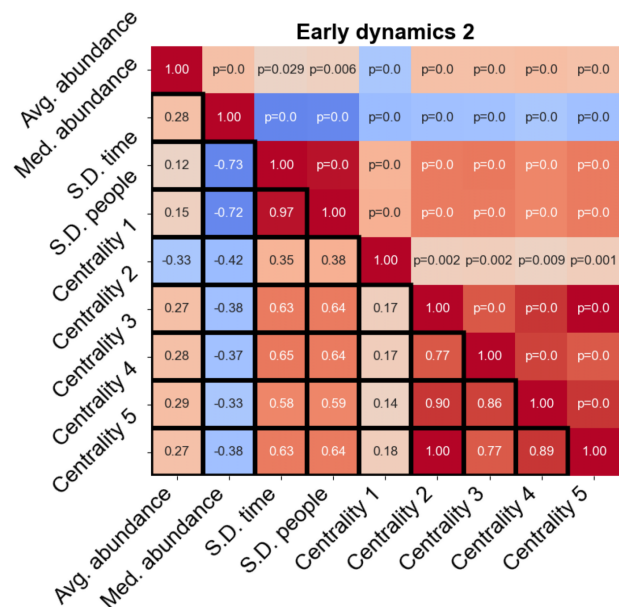
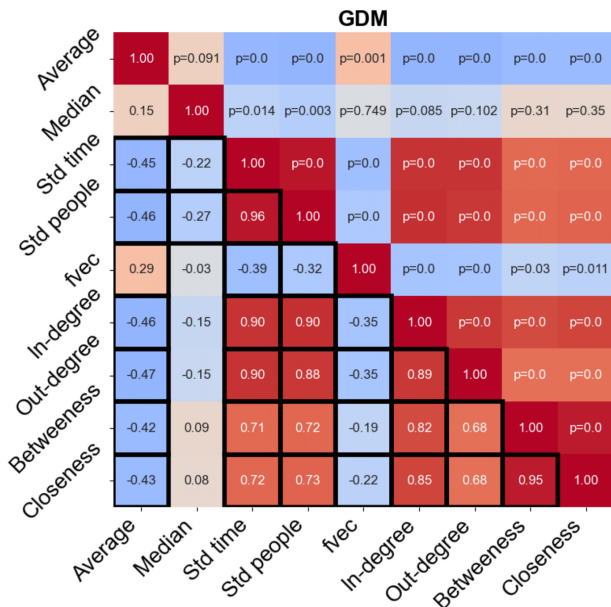


Figure 21: Spearman correlation heatmaps of microbial features at the **strain level** across **CF**, **Healthy** cohorts. Below the diagonal, statistical correlation values are shown, with significant correlations highlighted by a black border. Above the diagonal, the corresponding p-values are displayed to indicate the strength of the correlations.

A



B



C

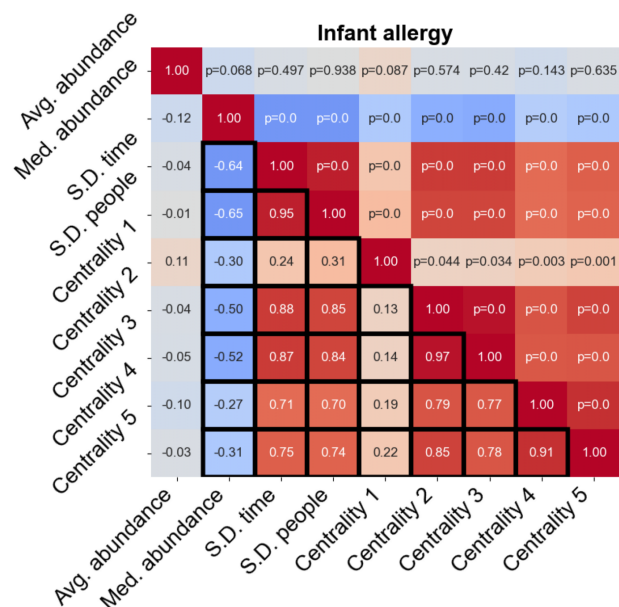
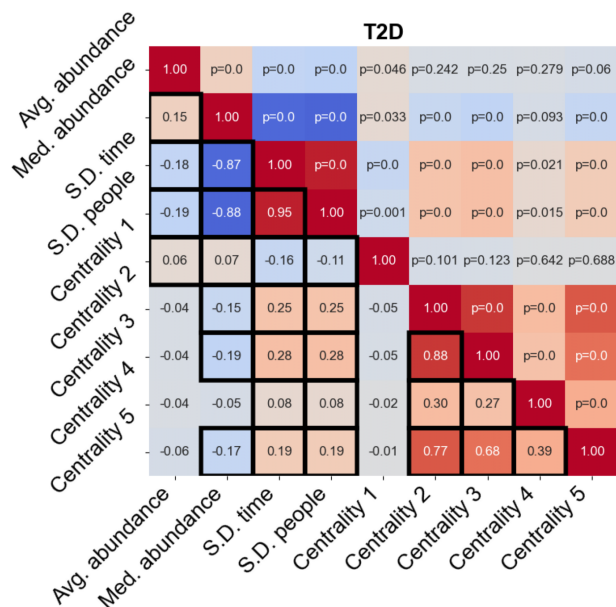
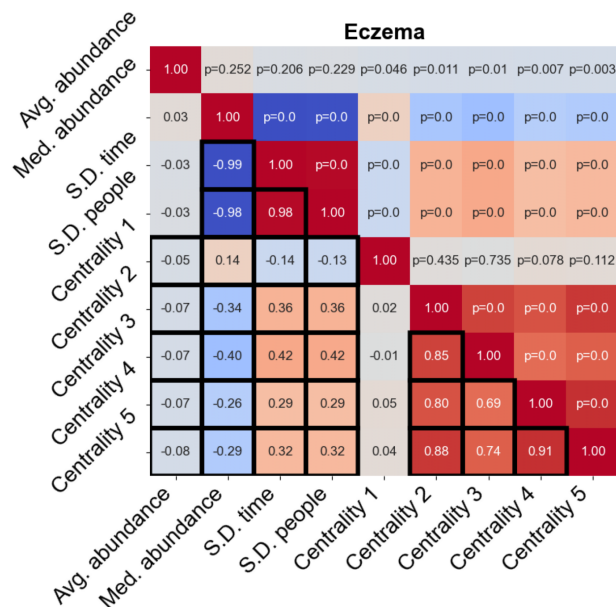


Figure 22: Spearman correlation heatmaps of microbial features at the **species level** across **GDM**, **Infant allergy** and **Early dynamics 2** cohorts. Below the diagonal, statistical correlation values are shown, with significant correlations highlighted by a black border. Above the diagonal, the corresponding p-values are displayed to indicate the strength of the correlations.

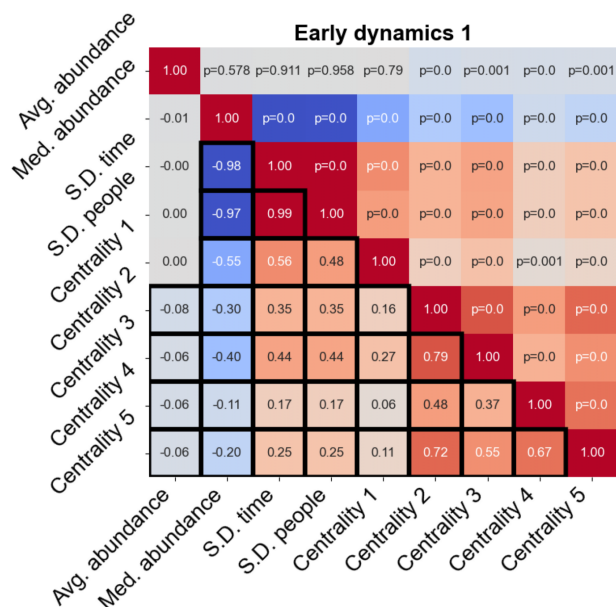
A



B



C



D

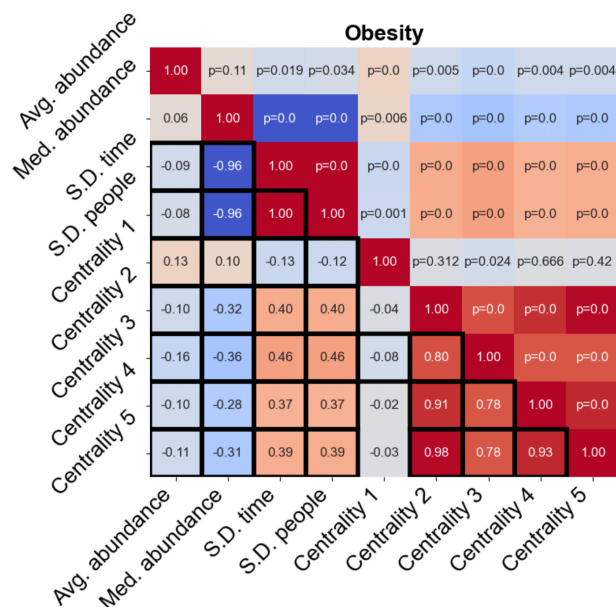
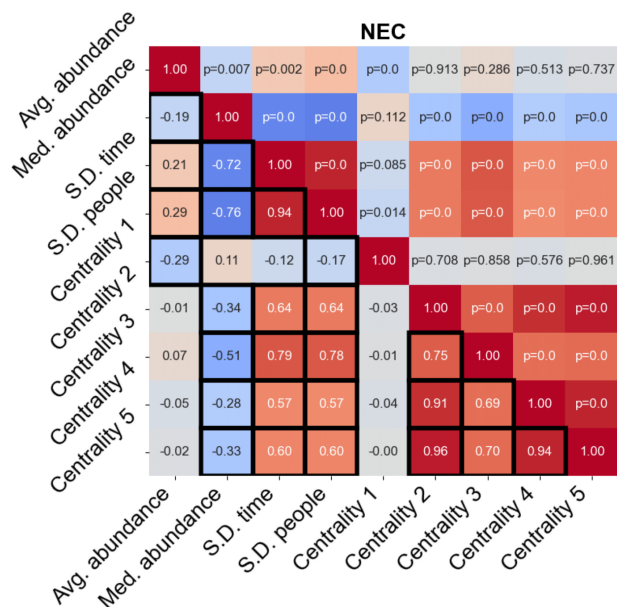
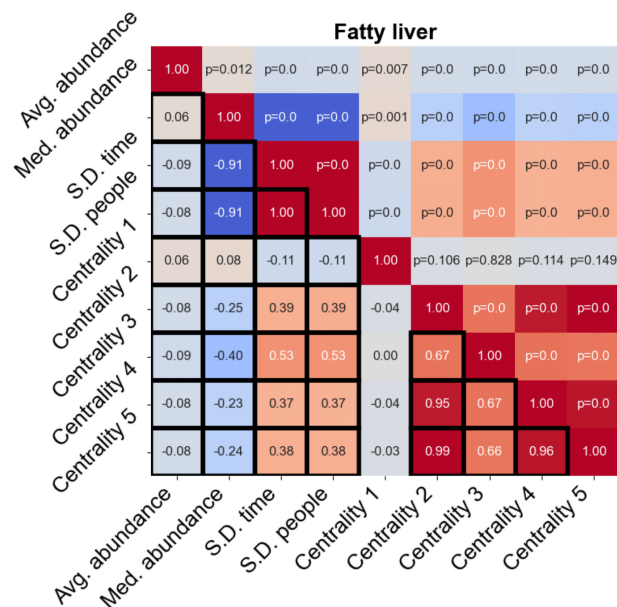


Figure 23: Spearman correlation heatmaps of microbial features **species level** across **T2D**, **Eczema**, **early dynamic 1** and **obesity** cohorts. Below the diagonal, statistical correlation values are shown, with significant correlations highlighted by a black border. Above the diagonal, the corresponding p-values are displayed to indicate the strength of the correlations.

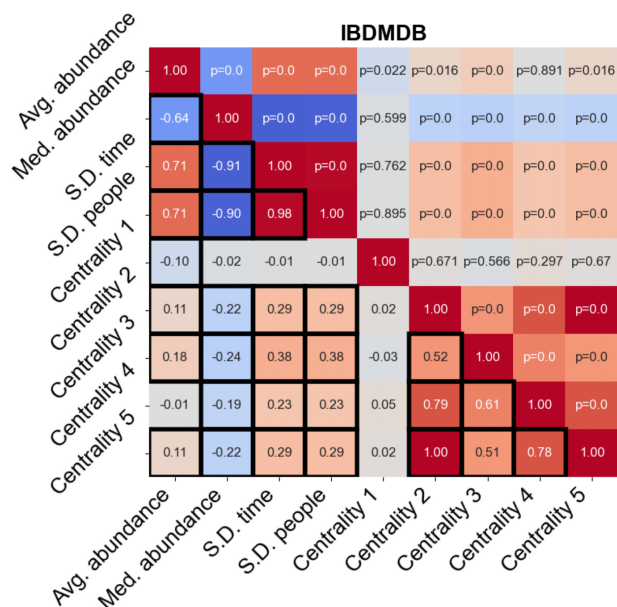
A



B



C



D

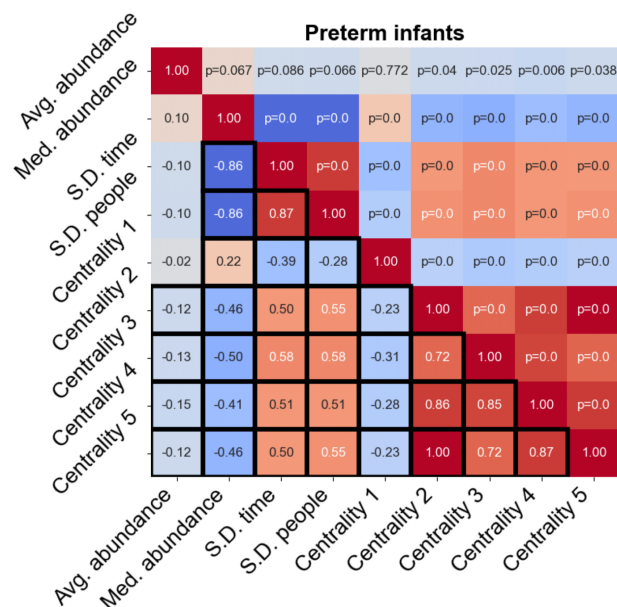
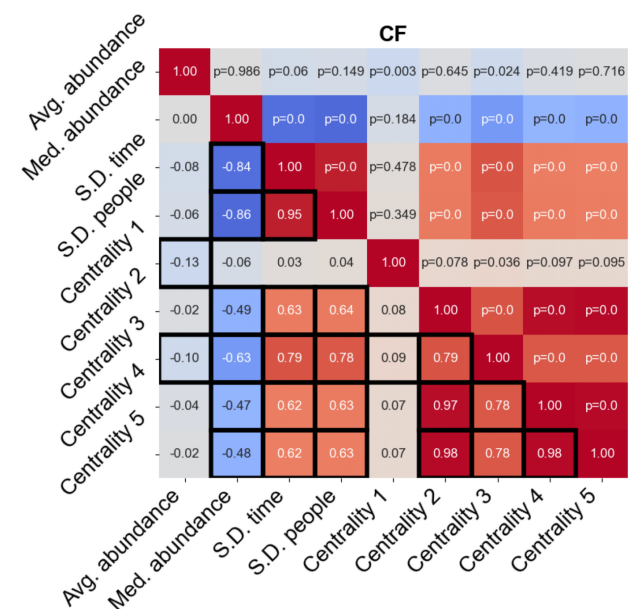


Figure 24: Spearman correlation heatmaps of microbial features **species level** across **NEC**, **Fatty liver**, **IBDMDB** and **Preterm infants** cohorts. Below the diagonal, statistical correlation values are shown, with significant correlations highlighted by a black border. Above the diagonal, the corresponding p-values are displayed to indicate the strength of the correlations.

A



B

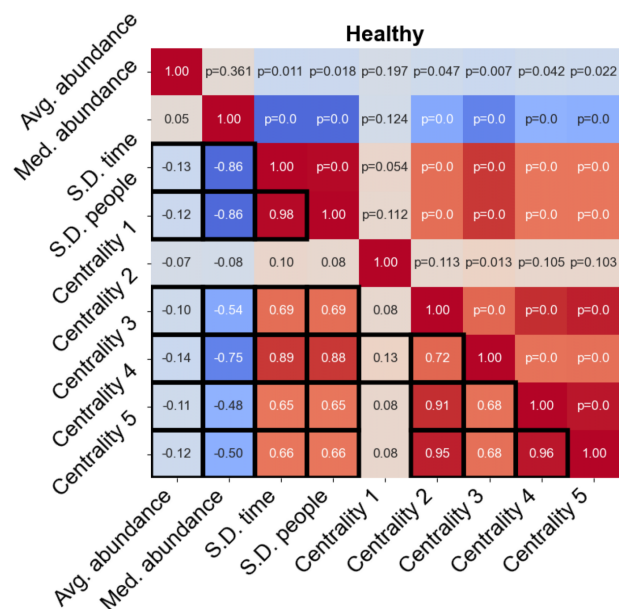


Figure 25: Spearman correlation heatmaps of microbial features **species level** across **CF** and **Healthy** cohorts. Below the diagonal, statistical correlation values are shown, with significant correlations highlighted by a black border. Above the diagonal, the corresponding p-values are displayed to indicate the strength of the correlations.

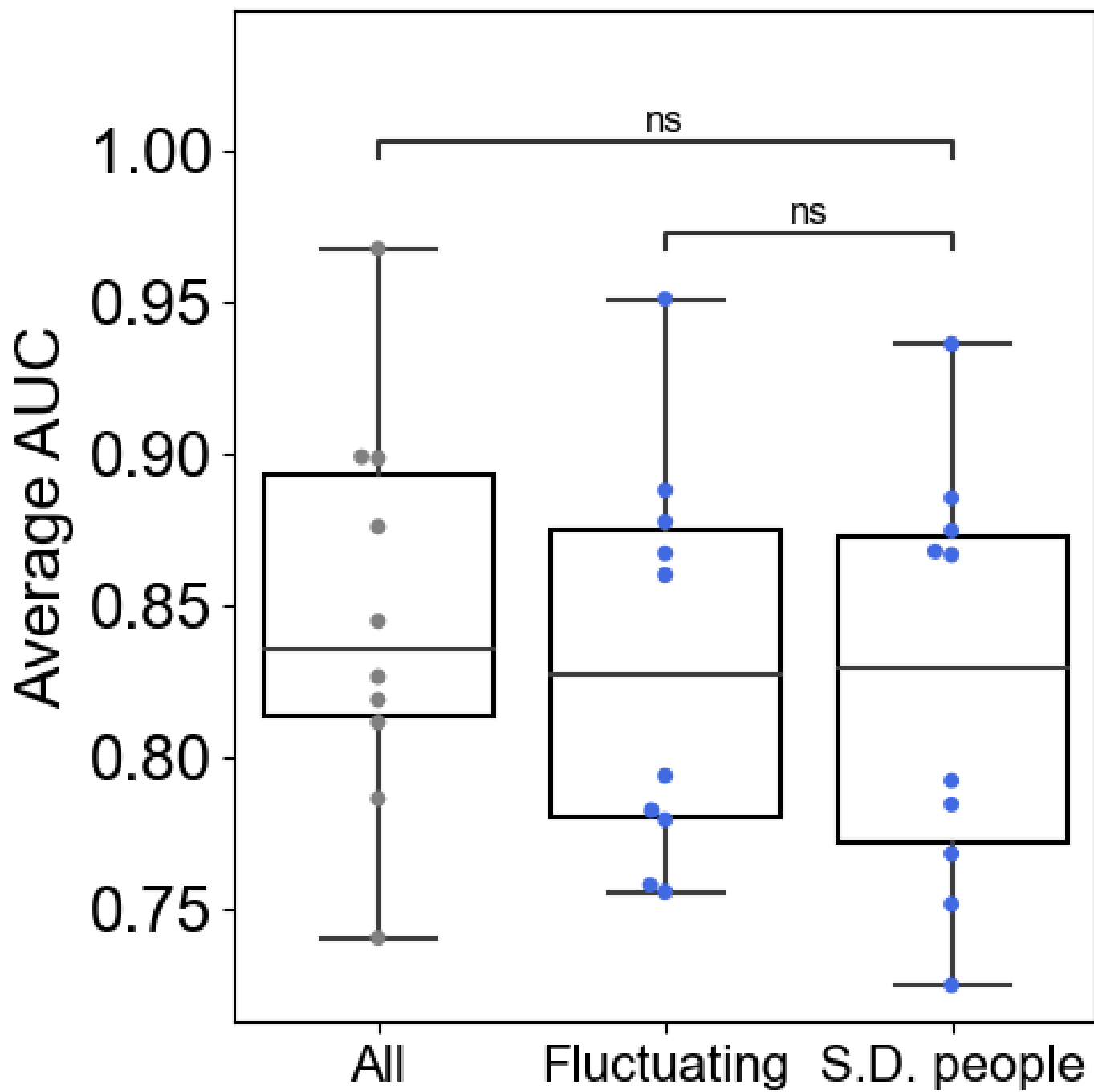


Figure 26: The S.D. over the host alone suffices as an RSM predictor. Swarm plot of average AUCs across 10 WGS studies, where each point represents the average AUC of a single study. Grey dots indicate results from logistic regression (LR) using all nine features, central blue dots show results from LR using only fluctuating features (S.D. time and S.D. people), and right blue dots show AUCs based solely on the S.D. people feature. No significant differences were observed between the groups

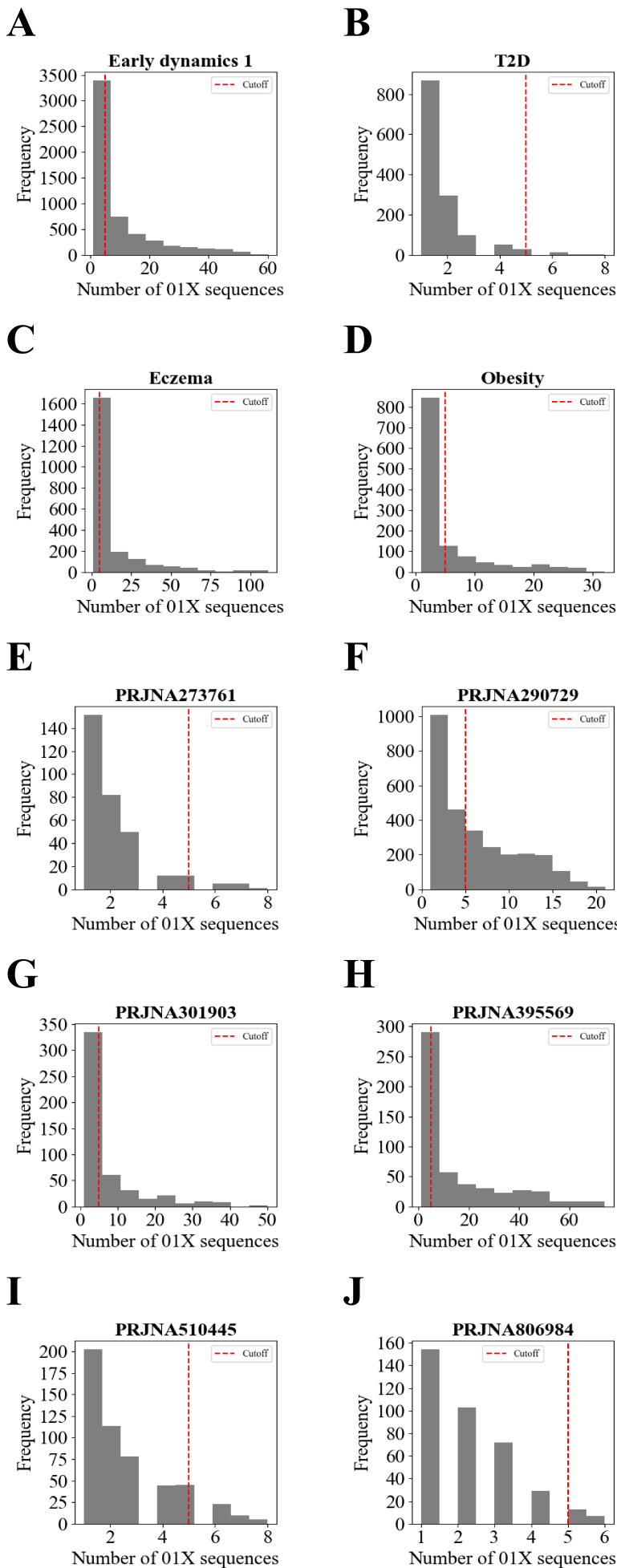


Figure 27: All 0, 1, X distributions over the different cohorts. The red line represents the cutoff of 5 samples, such that taxa with less than 5 appearances in the whole cohort were removed from the analysis. This analysis was applied at the **species-level** both to WGS and 16S cohorts

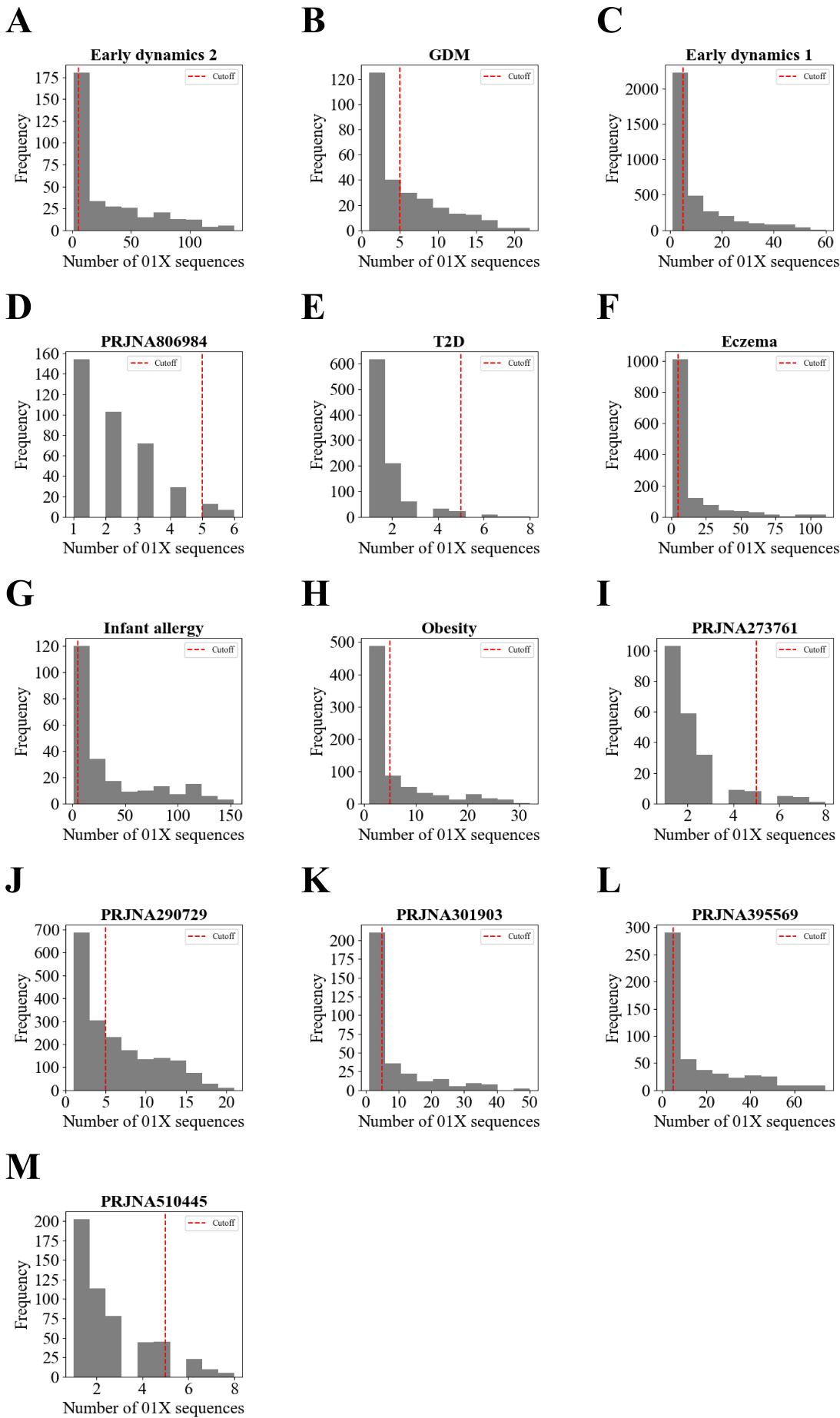


Figure 28: All 0, 1, X distributions over the different cohorts. The red line represents the cutoff of 5 samples, such that taxa with less than 5 appearances in the whole cohort were removed from the analysis. This analysis was applied at the **species-level** both to WGS and 16S cohorts

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