



Figure S1. The heatmap of the Pearson's correlation coefficient (r^2) of 170 samples as pairwise comparisons for quality control. The r^2 values have been converted into pseudo-color scale ranging from 0.5 to 1. Pearson correlation coefficient is a measure of the degree of linear relationship between two samples. A higher correlation indicates a more similar gene expression pattern between two samples. Each row or column represents one sample. Each point is a Pearson correlation coefficient between a sample in a column and a sample in a row. Darker blue and red indicate lower and higher values of r^2 , respectively. All 170 data points in one row (same for one column) show the correlation of one sample to all other samples. Thus, a blue line conveys that the sample does not correlate well to other samples. We considered a threshold of 0.514 as the minimum accepted value (Rule of Thumb*) for a significant linear relationship between samples.

* T. C. Krehbiel, "Correlation Coefficient Rule of Thumb," *Decis. Sci. J. Innov. Educ.*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 97–100, 2004.