

# Pig genome functional annotation enhances biological interpretations of complex traits and comparative epigenomics

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1 **Pig genome functional annotation enhances biological interpretations of complex traits and**  
2 **comparative epigenomics**

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## 46 **Abstract**

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47 The functional annotation of livestock genomes is crucial for understanding the molecular  
48 mechanisms that underpin complex traits of economic importance, adaptive evolution and  
49 comparative genomics. Here, we provide the most comprehensive catalogue to date of regulatory  
50 elements in the pig (*Sus scrofa*) by integrating 223 epigenomic and transcriptomic data sets,  
51 representing 14 biologically important tissues. We systematically describe the dynamic epigenetic  
52 landscape across tissues by functionally annotating 15 different chromatin states and defining their  
53 tissue-specific regulatory activities. We demonstrate that genomic variants associated with  
54 complex traits and adaptive evolution in pig are significantly enriched in active promoters and  
55 enhancers. Furthermore, we reveal distinct tissue-specific regulatory selection between Asian and  
56 European pig domestication processes. Compared with human and mouse epigenomes, we show  
57 that porcine regulatory elements are more conserved in DNA sequence, under both rapid and slow  
58 evolution, than those under neutral evolution across pig, mouse, and human. Finally, we provide  
59 novel biological insights on tissue-specific regulatory conservation and demonstrate that,  
60 depending on the traits, mouse or pig might be more appropriate biomedical models for different  
61 complex traits and diseases in humans through integrating comparative epigenomes with 47 human  
62 genome-wide association studies.

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## 64 Main

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65 Functional elements play essential roles in regulating gene expression in living cells and tissues<sup>1</sup>.  
66 There have been great efforts on the identification and annotation of functional elements in human  
67 and mouse genomes<sup>1-11</sup> as well as other model organisms including *Drosophila*<sup>12</sup> and *C. elegans*<sup>13</sup>.  
68 Significant enrichment of variants associated with human complex traits within regulatory  
69 elements has demonstrated the importance of Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) data<sup>14</sup>.  
70 Comparative analysis of epigenomes and transcriptomes across species could provide novel  
71 insights into the interrogation of underlying molecular mechanisms of human disease<sup>8,15</sup>. Genetic  
72 variants associated with common illnesses are enriched in human orthologues of mouse regulatory  
73 elements identified by ENCODE<sup>39</sup>, which validates the mouse could serve as a biomedical model  
74 for understanding some human diseases. However, compared with the mouse, pig (*Sus scrofa*) has  
75 more anatomical and physiological similarities to humans<sup>16-18</sup>, and has been widely used as a  
76 human medical model<sup>16,17,19-21</sup>. The pig is also one of the most important farm animal species for  
77 meat production worldwide<sup>22</sup>. The genetic improvement of economically important complex traits  
78 such as growth, feed efficiency, and health contribute to efficient and sustainable production of  
79 animal protein ensuring a secure food supply for a growing world population. Functional  
80 annotation of regulatory elements in pig will lay a solid foundation for the identification of  
81 causative variants associated with phenotypic variations of complex traits, due to the enrichment  
82 of these variants in regulatory regions and the small genetic effect of each variant, making them  
83 difficult to discover<sup>23</sup>.

84 Following ENCODE and Roadmap Epigenomics projects<sup>8</sup>, the Functional Annotation of  
85 Animal Genomes (FAANG) initiative<sup>24</sup>, although still in its infancy, has made great progress

86 towards annotating functional elements in many tissues across multiple domestic species including  
87 pigs<sup>25-30</sup>. Here, we present 95 new genome-wide sequencing datasets from six gut-associated  
88 porcine tissues and integrate them with 128 previously published FAANG datasets from eight  
89 biologically distinct tissues. The collective interpretation of these datasets yields the most  
90 comprehensive annotation of functional elements to date in any domesticated animal species. In  
91 addition, we find that tissue-specific regulatory elements were enriched for the potential causative  
92 variants of complex phenotypes by integrating a large scale of genome-wide association studies  
93 (GWAS) and expression QTL (eQTL) datasets. Furthermore, by combining selection signature of  
94 the pig genome, we show that tissue-specific regulatory elements play an important role during  
95 the domestication. Finally, we compared porcine functional annotations with complementary  
96 datasets from the human and mouse and integrated GWAS datasets concerning 47 human complex  
97 traits. These comparisons demonstrate conservation of tissue-specific epigenetic signatures,  
98 suggesting that, depends on diseases, pig or mouse may be a better animal model for them than  
99 the other one.

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## 101 **Results**

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### 102 **Data summary**

103 We integrated 223 genome-wide sequencing datasets from 14 major tissues in pig (Fig. 1a),  
104 representing four histone modifications (H3K4me3, H3K4me1, H3K27ac and H3K27me3)  
105 measured by Chromatin Immunoprecipitation sequencing (ChIP-seq), chromatin accessibility by  
106 the Assay for Transposase-Accessible Chromatin (ATAC-seq), DNA methylation by Reduced  
107 Representation Bisulfite sequencing (RRBS), and gene expression by RNA-seq (Supplementary  
108 Fig. 1). We produced nearly 9 billion mapped reads with an average remaining rate of 68.81%

109 across samples (Supplementary Table 1). Among 14 tissues, we obtained an average of 32,387,  
110 106,849, 72,252, 98,721, and 122,585 peaks for H3K4me3, H3K4me1, H3K27ac, H3K27me3,  
111 and ATAC, covering 1.56, 2.78, 2.37, 7.74, and 3.31% of the entire genome, respectively (Fig. 1b,  
112 c). Additionally, we utilized 16 CTCF ChIP-seq datasets from eight tissues<sup>29</sup> and four Hi-C datasets  
113 from liver<sup>30</sup> to identify topologically associating domains (TADs) and Hi-C loop for associating  
114 regulatory elements (enhancers) with potential target genes.

115 The hierarchical clustering of samples based on the signal intensity of epigenetic marks and  
116 gene expression profiles clearly recapitulated sequencing assays, followed by tissue types and  
117 biological replicates (Fig. 1d), which was consistent with results of principal component analysis  
118 (PCA) (Supplementary Fig. 2). The six assays formed three major clusters: (1) active regulatory  
119 regions (H3K4me3, H3K27ac, H3K4me1 and ATAC), (2) Polycomb repression (H3K27me3), and  
120 (3) gene expression (RNA-seq). The four active regulatory marks were positively correlated with  
121 each other, but were negatively correlated with H3K27me3, especially H3K27ac. The signal  
122 intensity of RNA-seq (within gene bodies) showed a weakly positive correlation with active  
123 regulatory marks, and a negative correlation with H3K27me3. Overall, all four active regulatory  
124 marks exhibited significant enrichments in the upstream of transcription start sites (TSS) of genes  
125 across tissues (Fig. 1e).

126 We present Myosin IA (*MYO1A*) gene, which is engaged in responses to *Escherichia coli*  
127 infection and microvillar membrane morphology in intestinal tissues<sup>31,32</sup>, as an example to show  
128 the complex interplays of regulatory elements and gene expression in Figure 1f. *MYO1A* is  
129 specifically and highly expressed in intestine tissues, and showed specific enrichments of  
130 H3K27ac signals around its TSS in intestine tissues but not in other tissues (Fig. 1f). In addition,

131 the TSS of *MYO1A* is accessible and was enriched for other active regulatory marks (i.e., H3K27ac,  
132 H3K4me3 and H3K4me1) but not for Polycomb repression (H3K27me3) (Fig. 1f).

### 133 **Prediction and characterization of chromatin states across 14 tissues**

134 We defined 15 distinct chromatin states by combining all five epigenetic marks across 14 tissues.  
135 These states mainly represented promoters (TssA, TssAHet and TssBiv, covering 1.16% of the  
136 entire genome), TSS-proximal transcribed regions (TxFlnk, TxFlnkWk and TxFlnkHet, covering  
137 0.92% of the genome), enhancers (EnhA, EnhAMe, EnhAWk, EnhAHet and EnhPois, covering  
138 6.5% of the genome), repressed regions (Repr and ReprWk, covering 13.25% of the genome) and  
139 quiescent regions (73.39%) (Fig. 2a–e, Supplementary Table 2). Totally we identified 2,097,958  
140 regulatory elements (exclude Qui) spanning 14 tissues including 39,351 active promoters (TssA),  
141 188,827 active strong enhancers (EnhA), and 142,821 repressors (Repr) (Supplementary Fig. 4a-  
142 c). On average, 4.79% of the genome was accessible but did not coincide any other measured  
143 epigenetic marks (ATAC islands), indicating that additional epigenetic marks are required to  
144 further explore the biological function of such regions. TssA and TssBiv showed the highest  
145 enrichment of conserved DNA sequence elements, followed by TSS-proximal transcribed regions  
146 and accessible enhancers (EnhA and EnhAMe) (Fig. 2f). In general, TssA and TssBiv showed the  
147 highest enrichment at TSS, while other chromatin states showed enrichment at up- and down-  
148 stream of TSS (Fig. 2g). For instance, TssAHet and TSS-proximal transcribed states had the  
149 highest enrichment around 2kb up-stream of TSS, whereas enhancer states showed the highest  
150 enrichment around 20kb up-stream of TSS. Repressed states were enriched around 20kb up- and  
151 down-stream of TSS (Fig. 2g).

152 In general, different chromatin states showed distinct DNA methylation levels (Fig. 2h).  
153 Promoter and TSS-proximal transcribed states were hypomethylated compared to nearby sequence

154 (10kb up- and down-stream of TSS). Among promoter states, TssA had the lowest methylation  
155 level, confirming the well-known negative correlation between promoter methylation and gene  
156 expression<sup>33</sup>. The enhancer states showed intermediate methylation levels, among which EnhA and  
157 EnhAMe had lower methylation levels compared to other enhancers (Fig. 2g), where we also  
158 observed that EnhA and EnhAMe had more conserved sequence than other enhancers (Fig. 2f).  
159 This result suggests accessible enhancers may have more conserved sequences than non-accessible  
160 enhancers.

161 We took chromosome 7 (Chr7) as an example to explore the relationships among chromatin  
162 states, individual epigenetic marks, gene density, gene expression, DNA methylation and  
163 chromatin conformation (Fig. 2i). For instance, we observed that regions with higher density of  
164 genes were characterized by active chromatin states, higher gene expression, more chromatin  
165 accessibility, and lower methylation level. The chromatins were more physically interacted  
166 (measured by TADs from Hi-C data) within both gene desert and gene rich regions than the rest  
167 of genomic regions. To examine the associations of chromatin states with gene expression across  
168 tissues, we presented the *VILI* locus (Villin-1), which participates in response to  
169 intestinal inflammation<sup>34</sup>, as an example (Fig. 2j). *VILI* exhibited tissue-specific active promoters  
170 and enhancers, as well as high expression in intestinal tissues compared to other tissues. Of  
171 particular note, despite the presence of TssA, *VILI* was not expressed in stomach, possible due to  
172 the lack of enhancer activity in the upstream of its TSS, indicating that enhancers together with  
173 promoters may collectively regulate gene expression. Similar patterns were observed for *MYO1A*  
174 and *HNF4G* (Supplementary Fig. 3).

175 **Dynamics of chromatin states across genome and tissues**

176 We clustered the entire genome into 12 modules based on their relative frequency of chromatin  
177 states and observed that these modules exhibited distinct enrichments for protein-coding genes,  
178 non-coding genes and CpG islands (Fig. 3a). For instance, module 2 (M2) was characterized by  
179 active promoters and accessible enhancers, showed the highest enrichment for genes and CpG  
180 islands, and the lowest levels of DNA methylation, and the highest gene expression levels (Fig.  
181 3b). Compared to modules 11 and 12, module 10 showed similar enrichment for Polycomb  
182 repression but higher enrichment for TssBiv, in which genes exhibited significantly lower  
183 expression levels, suggesting the crucial role of TssBiv for regulating gene repression (Fig. 3b). In  
184 addition, we noticed that module 1 had high enrichment for TssAHet, high levels of DNA  
185 methylation, and high representation of genes located on the X chromosome and these genes are  
186 relevant with histone modification Gene Ontology (GO) terms (Supplementary Table 3). This may  
187 indicate potential roles of TssAHet in heterochromatin on the Chromosome X<sup>35</sup>.

188 By examining the distribution of chromatin states among all 14 tissues, we found that enhancer  
189 activity was the most variable between tissues, while promoters were least variable (Fig. 3c-d,  
190 Supplementary Fig. 4d,e). Among promoters, TssBiv was least constitutive and often switched to  
191 TSS-proximal transcribed or quiescent regions between tissues (Fig. 3d). Hierarchical clustering  
192 of samples using the signal intensity of H3K4me1 within EnhA clearly separated different tissue  
193 types (Fig. 3e), suggesting that the signal intensity of individual epi-mark in enhancers is highly  
194 indicative of tissue identity.

195 To explore the relationship between proximal regulatory elements (within 2kb of TSS of genes)  
196 and tissue-specific gene expression, we identified genes with tissue-specific expression (TSE),  
197 which were significantly engaged in known biological functions of specific tissues (Supplementary  
198 Fig. 5, Supplementary Table 4). We also observed that TSE were enriched for active states

199 (promoters, transcribed regions and enhancers) and depleted for repressed states in the 2kb regions  
200 around their TSS in the corresponding tissue compared to other tissues (Fig. 3f). Furthermore, we  
201 found that predicted target enhancers of TSE in a tissue were more constitutive among biologically  
202 similar tissues compared with other tissues (Fig. 3g), which was consistent with promoters of TSE  
203 (Supplementary Fig. 6).

#### 204 **Functional characterization of tissue-specific chromatin states**

205 As enhancers were most variable among tissues compared to other chromatin states, we  
206 identified an average of 6,895 tissue-specific EnhAs among 14 tissues, ranging from 1,393 in  
207 jejunum to 14,811 in skeletal muscle (Fig. 4a). To further investigate the biological functions of  
208 such enhancers, we defined three other types of EnhA, including all-common EnhA (shared among  
209 all tissues), gut-common EnhA (shared among gut tissues) and brain-common EnhA (shared  
210 among brain tissues). Gene Ontology (GO) analysis of putative target genes of these different types  
211 of EnhAs revealed distinct biological functions (Fig. 4b, Supplementary Table 5). For instance,  
212 all-common EnhAs were involved in fundamental biological processes (e.g., regulation of mRNA  
213 catabolic processes and responses to wounding), whereas gut-common EnhAs were significantly  
214 involved in intestinal development, digestion and absorption, and immune response. EnhAs that  
215 were specifically active in individual gut tissues showed distinct functions, clearly matching the  
216 known biological functions of the tissue in question. For example, jejunum-specific EnhAs were  
217 involved in biological processes relevant to T cell and lymphocyte function<sup>36</sup>, while colon-specific  
218 EnhAs were mainly engaged in stress-activated MAPK cascades<sup>37</sup> (Fig. 4b). We observed that  
219 intestine- and spleen-specific EnhAs shared many immune functions, and brain-specific EnhAs  
220 were significantly involved in memory and learning (Fig. 4b). Furthermore, we observed that  
221 genes whose topologically associated with tissue-specific EnhAs (Methods) were specifically

222 highly expressed in the corresponding tissues (Fig. 4c), and that methylation levels of tissue-  
223 specific EnhAs were lower in the corresponding tissues (Supplementary Fig. 7a), indicating that  
224 these tissue-specific enhancers and their methylation level were accurately predicted to regulate  
225 the expression of associated target genes.

226 To explore potential tissue-specific transcription factors (TF), first we identified motifs that  
227 were significantly enriched in tissue-specific EnhAs (Fig. 4d, Supplementary Fig. 8a), such as  
228 MEF2A, HNF1B, and HNF4A1 in muscle, liver and intestinal tissues, respectively, which was in  
229 line with previous findings in humans<sup>8</sup>. In addition, we found the binding motif of HNF4G, which  
230 participates in the renewal of intestinal stem cells in mice<sup>38</sup> and is specifically active in intestine  
231 (Supplementary Fig. 3b), and is enriched in most intestine-specific EnhAs, whereas CDX2, a major  
232 regulator of intestine-specific genes involved in cell growth and differentiation and is highly  
233 expressed in jejunum over duodenum and ileum<sup>39,40</sup>, and its motif is specifically enriched in  
234 jejunum-specific EnhAs. The expression levels of the inferred TFs were higher in the  
235 corresponding tissue than in other tissues (Supplementary Fig. 8b,c), indicating that these tissue-  
236 specific enhancers are hotspots for TF activity and play important roles in the tissue-specific  
237 regulation of gene expression. We further observed that genes linked to tissue-specific EnhAs were  
238 significantly associated with biologically relevant complex diseases in humans and mice (Fig. 4e,  
239 Supplementary Fig. 7b, Supplementary Table 6). For example, colon-specific EnhAs were  
240 associated with recurrent bacterial infection diseases, and cecum-specific EnhAs were  
241 significantly associated with bruising susceptibility diseases.

242 We also explored potential function for tissue-specific promoters (TssA), and found that  
243 promoters also showed tissue-specific regulatory (TSR) function, but to a lesser degree than  
244 enhancers (Supplementary Fig. 9, Supplementary Table 7).

245 **Chromatin states predictions enhanced the biological interpretations of adaptive evolution**  
246 **and complex traits in pigs**

247 To determine whether genomic regions associated with adaptive evolution are significantly  
248 enriched in regulatory elements (REs), we first identified selection signatures (the top 5% of  
249 regions measured by  $F_{st}$ ) by comparing wild with domesticated pigs in Asian and European  
250 populations separately (Supplementary Table 8). We found that genomic regions under selective  
251 pressure were most enriched for TssA and TSS-proximal transcribed regions, followed by  
252 enhancers, with similar patterns in both Asian and European populations (Fig. 5a, Supplementary  
253 Fig. 10a). In examining tissue-specific regulation, our analysis revealed that the all-common TssA  
254 were significantly enriched within regions under selective pressure in both populations (Fig. 5b).  
255 Interestingly, spleen-specific REs were most enriched in Asian pig domestication, whereas cortex-  
256 specific REs were most enriched in European pig domestication (Fig. 5b). Consequently, tissue-  
257 specific gene regulation may have played an essential role in the adaptive selection processes that  
258 resulted in Asian and European pig domestication. This result was also in agreement with the  
259 observation that Asian domesticated pigs being more disease resistant<sup>41</sup>, whereas European  
260 domesticated pigs are more active and aggressive<sup>42,43</sup>.

261 To ask whether SNPs associated with complex traits in pigs are enriched in regulatory regions,  
262 we integrated GWAS signal enrichment analysis for 44 complex traits (Supplementary Table 9)  
263 with all 15 chromatin states, and demonstrated that GWAS signals were most enriched in TssA  
264 (Fig. 5c), which was consistent with previous findings in humans<sup>44</sup>. We also found that enrichment  
265 for variants associated with complex traits was significantly positively correlated with signatures  
266 of selection (Supplementary Fig. 10b,c). We then asked if tissue-specific REs were involved in  
267 genetic control of specific complex traits. To answer this question, we conducted GWAS signal

268 enrichment analysis for average daily gain (ADG) in three separate breeds (i.e., Duroc, Landrace  
269 and Yorkshire), with emphasis on tissue-specific TssA and EnhA. As we expected, muscle,  
270 adipose, liver, and gut-common regulatory elements were the most relevant for ADG (Fig. 5d). In  
271 further examining the top ADG QTLs in Landrace (Fig. 5e), we found that the top hit SNPs that  
272 are within a muscle-specific EnhA (Fig. 5f) that appears to target two genes (*ZNF532* and *ALPK2*)  
273 based on TAD and Hi-C loop derived from CTCF and Hi-C data. Among all seven genes within  
274 this QTL, *ALPK2* plays important roles in cardiogenesis and was upregulated in the *longissimus*  
275 *dorsi* muscle in Wannanhua compared with Yorkshire pig<sup>45,46</sup>, and was the only gene specifically  
276 expressed in muscle (Fig. 5f-h). Additional evidence from the eQTLs in muscle showed the highest  
277 enrichment in accessible enhancers (EnhA and EnhAMe) compared to other chromatin states  
278 (Supplementary Fig. 10d), suggesting that genetic regulatory variants are more likely to influence  
279 gene expression through perturbing enhancers. In summary, these results together demonstrated  
280 the important role of functional genome annotation for interpreting the molecular mechanisms  
281 underpinning complex traits, adaptive evolution and gene regulation.

## 282 **Comparative analysis of pig, mouse and human epigenomes**

283 The distribution of individual histone epigenetic marks and chromatin accessibility with respect  
284 to genomic features (e.g., 5'UTRs and exons) was consistent between pig, mouse, and human  
285 (Supplementary Fig. 11). To determine if the chromatin states are similarly conserved between  
286 these species, we predicted 15 chromatin states in mouse and human based on the same epigenetic  
287 marks in pig. The resulting chromatin state predications demonstrated general similarity among  
288 the three species in terms of genome coverage, genomic distribution and sequence conservation  
289 (Fig. 6a, Supplementary Fig. 12).

290 To explore the relationship between the epigenome and DNA sequence conservation among  
291 three species, we divided each genome into regions corresponding to 50 different levels of  
292 sequence conservation (0<sup>th</sup>-49<sup>th</sup>) (Methods). Our results revealed that the majority of chromatin  
293 states showed higher conservation levels in sequences under both rapid and slow evolution than  
294 those under neutral evolution, following a U-shaped distribution<sup>47</sup> (Fig. 6b, Supplementary Fig.  
295 13a). We also found that the densities of chromatin states and gene elements followed the similar  
296 U-shaped distribution (Supplementary Fig. 13b,c), supporting the hypothesis that conserved epi-  
297 modifications may buffer negative selective pressures by providing the genome more elastic room  
298 to adapt<sup>47</sup>. Furthermore, we categorized orthologous genes into 50 groups based on the degree of  
299 conservation of gene expression between species and observed that genes with more conserved  
300 expression levels also demonstrated more conserved TssA and TssBiv signatures (Fig. 6c). In  
301 further examining sequence extremely conserved (49<sup>th</sup>) or extremely variable regions (0<sup>th</sup>), genes  
302 linked to TssA shared by human and pig are involved in basic biological processes, such as ncRNA  
303 metabolic process and mRNA catabolic process (Supplementary Fig.14). For the sequence  
304 extremely conserved region(49<sup>th</sup>), we found that genes proximal ( $\pm$  2 kb) by human-specific  
305 (comparing with pig) TssA in brain (e.g., *FOXG1*<sup>48</sup>) are engaged in neuron fate commitment,  
306 cerebral cortex development, learning and memory (Fig. 6d, Supplementary Fig. 15,  
307 Supplementary Table 10).

308 Next, we evaluated the evolutionary basis of complex traits in humans. Heritability enrichment  
309 analysis of 47 complex traits across 15 chromatin states that were mapped from pigs to orthologous  
310 regions in humans found that promoters and TSS-proximal transcribed regions were most enriched  
311 for variants (Fig. 6e). We further revealed that the more conserved (species-shared) chromatin  
312 states showed significantly higher enrichment of complex traits heritability than the more

313 divergent (species-specific) chromatin states (Fig. 6f). Then we further examined the role of tissue-  
314 specific gene regulation on human complex traits. Our heritability enrichment analysis of complex  
315 traits, based on human orthologous regions of tissue-specific EnhAs identified in pigs,  
316 demonstrated that tissue-specific enhancers were significantly enriched for the corresponding  
317 human complex traits relevant to biological functions of specific tissues (Fig. 6g). For instance,  
318 the lung-specific EnhAs were significantly enriched for the heritability of lung forced expiratory  
319 volume 1 (FEV1), liver for fasting glucose and cholesterol, colon for Crohn's disease, and cortex  
320 for intelligence (Fig. 6g).

321 Finally, we sought to determine if this annotation of regulatory elements substantiated the use  
322 of pig as an appropriate animal model for different human diseases by comparing human, mouse  
323 and pig epigenomes in specific tissues. In brain cortex, the mouse-human shared EnhAs exhibited  
324 significantly higher heritability enrichment than the pig-human shared EnhAs for most brain-  
325 relevant traits, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), intelligence, depression  
326 and reaction time, with the exception of Alzheimer's disease, for which heritability was  
327 significantly enriched in pig-human shared EnhAs rather than the mouse-human shared EnhAs  
328 (Fig. 6h). This was in line with previous findings that pigs have been used as a biomedical model  
329 for studying Alzheimer's disease<sup>21,49</sup>. Similar observations were found in intestine (Crohn's disease  
330 and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), but not colorectal cancer, which demonstrated more  
331 heritability in the pig-human shared EnhAs) (Fig. 6i) and in adipose (body mass index (BMI),  
332 body fat percentage, waist-hip ratio and weight with significantly higher heritability enrichments  
333 in the pig-human shared EnhAs) (Fig. 6j). Similar results showed in promoter (TssA)  
334 (Supplementary Fig.16). Our findings suggest the pig could be a better biomedical model for  
335 certain human traits and diseases than mouse, and vice versa.

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## 337 **Discussion**

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338 In this study, we provided the most comprehensive catalog of porcine regulatory elements to  
339 date, spanning 14 tissues including six gut-associated tissues, and characterized the dynamic  
340 chromatin state landscape across these tissues and uncovered extensive tissue-specific regulation  
341 of gene expression.

342 The annotation of functional elements in human and mouse has proven highly effective for the  
343 identification of causative variants of complex traits<sup>23,27</sup>. Our results also demonstrated that variants  
344 of complex traits and eQTLs of growth-related traits were significantly enriched in the active  
345 promoters and enhancers annotated by this study. Specifically, we speculate that a potential  
346 causative SNP, which was associated with average daily gain and which was found within a  
347 muscle-specific enhancer, may regulate the expression of *ALPK2*<sup>45,46</sup>, a gene demonstrating  
348 muscle-specific expression (0.5Mb away). In addition, our annotation of functional elements in  
349 pigs allows us to evaluate the potential role of regulatory elements on pig domestication. Our  
350 analysis illustrated that signatures of domestication were significantly enriched in porcine  
351 regulatory elements. Specifically, genetic variants in the spleen-specific promoters were enriched  
352 during Asian pig domestication, whereas variants within cortex-specific promoters were enriched  
353 during European pig domestication. This novel insight may reflect the observed distinct  
354 phenotypic difference between Asian (more disease resistance<sup>41</sup>) and European domesticated pigs  
355 (more active and aggressive<sup>42,43</sup>). Further investigation is warranted to deepen our understanding  
356 of genetic selection and domestication in the pig. This regulatory element atlas will serve as a  
357 valuable source for the livestock community to inform GWAS and eQTL findings, genomic

358 selection program, and genome editing strategies, as well as to enhance our understanding of  
359 genome evolution and adaptation. With continued efforts by the FAANG Consortium<sup>50</sup>, more  
360 epigenomic data will be available from diverse samples such as reproduction related tissues,  
361 additional developmental stages, and different physiological states. The systemic integration of  
362 “omics” data, for instance, the on-going pig GTEx effort will contribute additional insight into the  
363 biological mechanisms that underpin agronomic traits, and thereby enhancing genetic  
364 improvement of economically important phenotypes<sup>50</sup>.

365 Finally, this atlas of functional elements provided a unique opportunity for comparative  
366 epigenomic analysis between human, mouse and pig, the results of which can inform which species  
367 constitute the most appropriate biomedical model(s) for specific human diseases. We observed  
368 that regions under positive or negative selective pressure demonstrated higher conservation of  
369 epigenetic signatures (such as TssA, TssBiv and TxFlnk) than those under neutral selective  
370 pressure, further confirming the hypothesis that elasticity of regulatory conservation may play an  
371 important role in the evolution of the less conserved regions (impact of negative selection  
372 pressure)<sup>47</sup>. Recently evolved liver enhancers (i.e., species-specific) are often associated with  
373 genes that show evidence for being under positive selection<sup>51</sup>. Such enhancers have been further  
374 demonstrated to actively affect gene expression, although they have a lower effect than those  
375 enhancers shared across species when the comparison is controlled for number of enhancer  
376 elements acting on that gene<sup>52</sup>. However, the human-specific promoters in brain tissues were  
377 enriched in intelligence related genes, which suggests a critical role for epigenomic regulation of  
378 novel biological function in humans in the sequence most evolutionarily conserved regions. It is  
379 widely accepted that neither mouse nor pig is universally appropriate to serve as an animal model  
380 for every human disease<sup>18,53</sup>. Gene regulatory networks play significant roles in controlling

381 phenotypic variance of complex traits, including most human diseases. In examining heritability  
382 enrichment of 47 complex traits in humans, our epi-conservation analysis among three species by  
383 comparing pig-human vs. mouse-human shared enhancers in different tissues revealed novel  
384 insights and potential underlying molecular mechanisms as to why pig might be a more appropriate  
385 animal model for certain human diseases than mouse and vice versa. This new line of evidence  
386 aligns well with many studies of human diseases using either mouse or pig as an animal model<sup>18</sup>.  
387 Our study provides a new basis for understanding genetic regulation of complex traits, such as  
388 human diseases by focusing on regulatory network conservation across different mammalian  
389 species. While the findings from our study are exciting, they are not yet conclusive. More  
390 epigenomic data from additional tissues and cell types, as well as additional species such as non-  
391 human primates, along with more experimental studies will be needed to extend and functionally  
392 validate these mechanisms that underpin complex traits and diseases<sup>9,47</sup>.

393

394

## 395 **Methods**

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### 396 **Animals and tissues**

397 Procedures for tissue collection followed the Animal Care and Use protocol (#18464) from the  
398 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), University of California, Davis. We  
399 collected five gut-associated tissues (stomach, jejunum, duodenum, ileum, and colon) of two  
400 Yorkshire littermate male pigs at six months of age from Michigan State University<sup>29</sup>. Cecum from  
401 two female hybrid pigs (Yorkshires X Hampshires, five months) were obtained at University of  
402 California, Davis meat lab. Tissues were first flash frozen in liquid nitrogen, and then stored at –  
403 80 °C until further processing.

#### 404 **Library construction and sequencing**

405 We performed ChIP-seq (H3K4me3, H3K4me1, H3K27ac and H3K27me3) experiments on  
406 flash-frozen tissue samples using the iDeal ChIP-seq kit for histones (Diagenode Cat.#C01010059,  
407 Denville, NJ), as previously described<sup>29</sup>. Libraries were sequenced on the Illumina's HiSeq 4000  
408 with 50 bp single-end reads. ATAC-seq libraries were generated from frozen tissue samples by a  
409 modified protocol ([https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Final\\_ATAC\\_protocol\\_docx/13891268](https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Final_ATAC_protocol_docx/13891268))  
410 according to the protocol of Omni-ATAC<sup>54</sup> and cryopreserved nuclei<sup>55</sup>. The sequencing was  
411 performed on Illumina's NextSeq with paired-end 40 bp reads (PE40). For the RRBS-seq  
412 experiments, DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) was used for extraction of  
413 DNA from frozen tissues. The samples were sent to Novogene (Sacramento, CA, USA) for library  
414 construction and sequencing by Illumina HiSeq 4000 PE150. Total RNA isolated from flash-  
415 frozen tissue by Zymo Quick-RNA™ Miniprep Kit (Irvine, CA, USA). RNA-seq libraries were  
416 constructed by NEBNext® Poly(A) mRNA Magnetic Isolation Module kit (NEB #E7490) and  
417 NEBNext® Ultra™ Directional RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (NEB #E7720, New England  
418 Biolabs (NEB), Ipswich, MA) and sequenced on Illumina HiSeq 4000 with PE100.

#### 419 **Data processing and data summary**

420 In total, 95 new datasets including ChIP-seq (H3K4me3, H3K4me1, H3K27ac, H3K27me3,  
421 input control), ATAC-seq, RRBS, RNA-seq in two biological replicates of six gut-associated  
422 tissues were generated. We also integrated additional 144 existing pig epigenomic datasets  
423 including ChIP-seq (H3K4me3, H3K4me1, H3K27ac, H3K27me3, CTCF, input control), ATAC-  
424 seq, RRBS, RNA-seq in the same two biological replicates of eight core tissues (Adipose,  
425 Cerebellum, Cortex, Hypothalamus, Liver, Lung, Muscle, Spleen) from our FAANG pilot project  
426 (PRJEB14330)<sup>29</sup>, and four Hi-C pig liver datasets from publicly available dataset (PRJEB27364)<sup>30</sup>.

427 UC Davis FAANG Functional Annotation Pipeline (<https://github.com/kernco/functional->  
428 [annotation](https://github.com/kernco/functional-)) was applied to process the ChIP-seq, ATAC-seq, and RNA-seq as previously  
429 described<sup>29</sup>. Briefly, the susScr11 genome assembly and Ensembl genome annotation (v100) were  
430 used as references for pig. Sequencing reads were trimmed with Trim Galore!<sup>56</sup>(v.0.6.5), and  
431 aligned with STAR<sup>57</sup>(v.2.5.4a) or BWA<sup>58</sup> (v0.7.17) to the respective genome assemblies.  
432 Alignments with MAPQ scores less than 30 were filtered using Samtools<sup>59</sup>(v.1.9). For RNA-seq,  
433 gene counts were determined using htseq-count<sup>60</sup>(v.0.13.5), and then trimmed mean of M-values  
434 (TMM) and transcript per million (TPM) normalization were performed using EdgeR (v3.32.0)  
435 and StringTie2 (v.1.3.3), respectively<sup>61</sup>. For ChIP-seq, after the filtering, duplicates were marked  
436 and removed using Picard (v.2.18.7). Regions of signal enrichment (“peaks”) were called by  
437 MACS2<sup>62</sup> (v.2.1.1). Various quality metrics (e.g., JSD, Supplementary Table 1) were calculated  
438 following the method described in our previous study<sup>29</sup>. RRBS data were processed using  
439 Bismark<sup>63</sup> (v.0.22.1) with parameter set in RRBS pipeline (<https://github.com/zhypan/Functional->  
440 [Annotation-of-Pig](https://github.com/zhypan/Functional-)). We called the Hi-C contacts using the Juicer pipeline<sup>64</sup> with default parameters.

441 The global correlations among assays, tissues, and biological replicates were performed by  
442 deepTools<sup>65</sup>(v.3.5.0). Briefly, the Z-score normalized read signals of all samples with step of 1k  
443 bp window were calculated by multiBigwigSummary and were presented by plotCorrelation. The  
444 signal of marks along with protein coding genes were generated by deepTools<sup>65</sup> (computeMatrix  
445 scale-regions function) with parameter -a 2500 -b 2500. The Z-score was used to normalize bigWig  
446 of five marks as input files.

#### 447 **Annotation of chromatin states**

448 ChromHMM<sup>66</sup> (v.1.20) was used to train the chromatin state prediction model by integrating  
449 ChIP-seq (H3K4me3, H3K4me1, H3K27ac, H3K27me3, and input control) and ATAC-seq data

450 from two biological replicates of 14 tissues. The same tissue of two biological replicates were  
451 collectively considered as one tissue epigenome. The 15-state model was chosen, as it presented  
452 maximum number of states with distinct epigenetic mark combinations. We labelled these 15  
453 chromatin states based on their combinations of histone modifications and enrichment around  
454 TSS<sup>8,27</sup>. Then the fold enrichment of each chromatin state for each external gene element (e.g.,  
455 exon, CpG islands) was calculated by  $(C/A)/(B/D)$ , where A, B, C, D are the number of bases in a  
456 chromatin state, a gene element, overlapped between a chromatin state and a gene element, in the  
457 genome, respectively. In addition, we also computed chromatin state fold enrichment in  
458 mammalian conserved elements which identified from Multiple Sequence Alignments (MSA)  
459 using the Genomic Evolutionary Rate Profiling (GERP) software based on 103 mammals  
460 ([ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-100/bed/ensembl-](ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-100/bed/ensembl-compara/103_mammals.gerp_constrained_element/)  
461 [compara/103\\_mammals.gerp\\_constrained\\_element/](ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-100/bed/ensembl-compara/103_mammals.gerp_constrained_element/)). The methylation level of each state and its  
462 up- and down- stream 10kb was calculated by the computeMatrix scale-regions function of  
463 deepTools with parameters --binSize 500, --regionBodyLength 2000 and --skipZeros.

#### 464 **Clustering of large-scale chromatin structure**

465 To examine genome-wide chromatin structure, we first divided the genome (excluding chrUn)  
466 into 1,224 fragments of 2Mb in length. Then we calculated the state frequencies (state bin/total  
467 bin) in each 2Mb fragment for each tissue and then the average frequency across tissues. To  
468 identify modules, column clustering was performed by k-means=12, and rows were clustered using  
469 k=3. In addition, we calculated number of protein-coding, lncRNA, and CpG islands for each 2Mb  
470 fragment by BEDTools<sup>67</sup> (v.2.29.2). We also calculated the average TPM of protein coding gene  
471 and average methylation level across 14 tissues in each 2Mb fragment. Then the average gene

472 expression and methylation level in each of the 12 modules were calculated and a Student's T-test  
473 was performed with parameter setting `ref.group = "M3"`.

#### 474 **Chromatin state variability**

475 For each state, we first obtained regulatory regions across 14 tissues (RRATs) (Supplementary  
476 Fig. 4a-c) using BEDtools merge function (any regulatory region between two tissues overlapped  
477 by 1 bp was merged), then we calculated the total genomic length for each tissue (GL) and the  
478 total combined genomic length (TGL) for RRATs. The relative state coverage per tissue was  
479 derived by  $GL/TGL$  (Supplementary Fig. 4d). Finally, followed by the order from high to low  
480 based on the  $GL/TGL$  value in each tissue, we calculated the total genomic length of accumulated  
481 tissues (aGL) by adding one tissue each time until all 14 tissues were added, and the cumulative  
482 state coverage was calculated as  $aGL/TGL$ . States whose cumulative coverage changed faster than  
483 others were considered to be less constitutive (more variable) states.

#### 484 **Chromatin state switching between tissues**

485 Chromatin state switching between tissues was calculated by pairing two tissues. Given a  
486 pairing of A and B tissues, we first counted total bins of chromatin state "e" in A (TbAe), then  
487 obtained the overlap bins of chromatin state "e" (Obe) in A and B, then computed the state  
488 switching probabilities using  $Obe/TbAe$  for the tissue A to B transition and  $Obe/TbBe$  for the  
489 tissue B to A transition. By averaging these calculations for a pair of tissues, we obtained the pair  
490 switching probabilities. We calculated the state switching probabilities in between intestinal  
491 tissues, between brain tissues (Supplementary Fig. 6a,b) and between 8 distinguishable tissues  
492 (jejunum, cortex, adipose, liver, lung, muscle, spleen).

## 493 **Hierarchical epigenome clustering**

494 We first calculated the an epigenetic mark's signal confidence scores ( $-\log_{10}(\text{Poisson } P \text{ value})$ )  
495 within 200 bp of the genomic regions for each mark of each sample as described in  
496 [http://jvanheld.github.io/stats\\_avec\\_RSTudio\\_EBA/practicals/02\\_peak-calling/peak-](http://jvanheld.github.io/stats_avec_RSTudio_EBA/practicals/02_peak-calling/peak-calling_report.html#data_sets)  
497 [calling\\_report.html#data\\_sets](http://jvanheld.github.io/stats_avec_RSTudio_EBA/practicals/02_peak-calling/peak-calling_report.html#data_sets). Then, we extracted a specific mark's signal confidence score of  
498 each sample for specific state of RRATs regions. For example, we extract H3K4me1 signal  
499 confidence scores for EnhA. After combining all samples' mark confidence scores for each tissue  
500 and each state, we constructed a distance matrix using the ward.D2-linkage hierarchical clustering  
501 following by Euclidean distance method in R.

## 502 **Promoter enrichment analysis of tissue-specific expressed genes among 14 tissues**

503 To evaluate how chromatin state changes at promoter regions of TSE genes across tissues, we  
504 first performed a Student's *t*-test among 14 tissues to identify tissue-specific expressed genes based  
505 on TPM. We further grouped some tissues into different sub-groups such as small intestine  
506 (Jejunum, Ileum, Duodenum), large intestine (Cecum, Colon), and brain (Cortex, Cerebellum,  
507 Hypothalamus), and identified tissue-specific expressed genes by excluding the tissues in the same  
508 sub-group. Then we selected genes with the top 5% *t*-value as TSE genes<sup>68</sup>. The biological process  
509 of GO enrichment for these TSE genes were identified by WebGestalt2019<sup>69</sup> using the default  
510 significance level ( $\text{FDR} < 0.05$ ). Then we calculated the chromatin state fold enrichment of TSE  
511 (up and down stream 2000bp around TSS) in each tissue and the change in enrichment by TSE  
512 enrichment in specific tissue minus other tissues.

## 513 **Chromatin state switching of target enhancer (EnhA) of TSE gene**

514 To evaluate how enhancers of TSE genes switch among tissues, we first identified the target  
515 enhancers of TSE genes following the method described in our recent study<sup>29</sup>. Briefly, we  
516 generated the predicted TADs from CTCF ChIP-seq data by FIMO<sup>70</sup> following the method  
517 described in Oti, et al.<sup>71</sup>. Then we predicted the enhancer-gene pairs according to the Spearman's  
518 rank correlation of every possible combination of regulatory element H3K27ac signal and gene  
519 expression value within each TAD. Benjamini-Hochberg adjustment (FDR < 0.05) was used to  
520 define putative interacting pairs. The enhancers in the enhancer-gene pairs that corresponded to  
521 TSE genes were considered as TSE genes' target enhancers. Finally, we computed enhancer state  
522 switching probabilities of TSE genes among tissues using the method described above.

### 523 **TSR of enhancer, promoter and their putative functional regulation**

524 For strong enhancer (EnhA) identified in each tissue, we counted the bins of overlapping RRATs  
525 by comparing to other tissues. If the number of bins  $\geq 1$ , the tissue of this RRATs region would  
526 be assigned 1, otherwise it was assigned 0. We generated a total of 17 modules of tissue-specific  
527 regulatory elements (TSR) enhancers. The 17 modules included all-common (presented in all  
528 tissues), gut-common (presented in all 5 intestinal tissues), brain-common (presented in all 3 brain  
529 tissues) and 14 tissue-specific modules. The same method was used to obtain TSR for promoters  
530 (1\_TssA). In addition, we performed enrichment analyses (GO, Human Phenotype Ontology  
531 (HPO), Mouse Phenotype) based on genes proximal to TSR using the GREAT<sup>72</sup> tool with default  
532 parameters except for TSR promoters (proximal 2kb upstream, 1kb downstream, plus distal up to  
533 3kb). We used a cut-off of FDR<0.05 for both the binomial and the hypergeometric distribution-  
534 based tests.

535 The motifs of tissue-specific EnhAs were identified by HOMER<sup>73</sup> (v.4.11) with cutoff  
536 FDR<0.05. We selected the top three enriched or tissue function relevant motifs for each tissue as  
537 the candidate tissue-specific EnhAs motifs and generated a total of 51 motifs enriched in tissue-  
538 specific EnhAs. In addition, we used these 51 motifs as known TF motifs to conduct the enrichment  
539 for all tissues by HOMER. The mRNA expression of corresponding TFs in pigs were used to  
540 calculate the correlation with motif enrichment.

#### 541 **Selection signature enrichment analysis of chromatin state**

542 A total of 406 whole genome sequence datasets (Supplementary Table 8 ) in pigs (Asian wild  
543 (58) and domestic pigs (129), European wild (35) and domestic pigs (184)) were trimmed by  
544 Trimmomatic<sup>74</sup> (v.0.39), mapped by BWA (0.7.17), and marked duplicates by GATK<sup>75</sup> (v4.1.4.1)  
545 MarkDuplicates with default parameters. The SNPs of Gvcf for each sample were called by GATK  
546 HaplotypeCaller. All Gvcf were then combined and the variants for each sample were called by  
547 GenotypeGVCFs. After SNP calling, the variants were filtered using VariantFiltration (QD < 2.0,  
548 MQ < 40.0, FS > 60.0, SOR > 3.0, MQRankSum < -12.5, ReadPosRankSum < -8.0) to remove  
549 low-quality SNPs. We then performed Fst analysis between Asian wild and domestic pigs, and  
550 between European wild and domestic pigs, and calculated the fold enrichment of selection  
551 signature for chromatin states using the same method for gene elements enrichment described  
552 above.

#### 553 **GWAS and eQTL signal enrichment of chromatin state**

554 The pig GWAS data of 44 traits was described previously<sup>76,77</sup>(Supplementary Table 9). First, we  
555 filtered out all SNPs with minor allele frequency below 0.5%, with a large deviation from Hardy–

556 Weinberg proportions ( $P < 1.0^{-6}$ ), or with a R2 value of the imputation accuracy estimated by  
557 Minimac4 of less than 0.4. We performed GWAS signal enrichment of 44 pig complex traits (3  
558 daily gain related, 20 lipid related, and 21 feed efficiency related) for each chromatin state across  
559 14 tissues using a 10,000 times genotype cyclical permutation tests<sup>68</sup>. The eQTLs data in pig  
560 muscle<sup>78</sup> with FDR < 0.05 were used to calculate the fold enrichment for the chromatin states using  
561 the same method above.

## 562 **Interspecies conservation of chromatin state**

563 We collected data from ENCODE<sup>4,9</sup>, Roadmap Epigenomics<sup>8</sup> and published articles<sup>79</sup> (9 tissues  
564 in human and 7 tissues in mouse, Supplementary Table 11,12), including ChIP-seq (H3K4me3,  
565 H3K4ac, H3K4me1, H3K27me3, Input), ATAC-seq, DNase-seq, and RNA-seq. In total, we  
566 obtained six matched tissues (small intestine, liver, spleen, lung, adipose, cortex) among pig,  
567 human, and mouse. All the data were processed following the same pipeline used in pig. The  
568 GRCh38 (human) and GRCm38 (mouse) assemblies with Ensembl annotations (v100) were used  
569 for data analysis. Chromatin states of human and mouse were also trained by ChromHMM and 15  
570 chromatin states were identified. To explore the relationship between sequence conservation and  
571 epi-conservation among the three mammals, we first divided the genome into 50 equal sized sets  
572 (0<sup>th</sup>-49<sup>th</sup>) with increasing average PhyloP scores using the method detailed by Xiao *et al*<sup>47</sup>. Briefly,  
573 the human genome was divided into 15 million 200 bp segments. Then average PhyloP score (100  
574 vertebrate genomes<sup>80</sup>) was computed for each 200 bp segment. These genomic segments were  
575 divided into 50 equal sized sets from the fastest changing sequence (smallest PhyloP scores) to the  
576 most conserved (greatest PhyloP scores). (Supplementary Fig. 13d). To quantify epigenomic  
577 conservation, we downloaded the whole genome alignments UCSC chain files among human

578 (hg38), pig (SusScr11), mouse (mm10) and processed as described in the UCSC Genome Wiki  
579 website ([http://genomewiki.ucsc.edu/index.php/HowTo:\\_Syntenic\\_Net\\_or\\_Reciprocal\\_Best](http://genomewiki.ucsc.edu/index.php/HowTo:_Syntenic_Net_or_Reciprocal_Best)) to  
580 derive reciprocal best chains. Then we converted genomic coordinates between assemblies using  
581 the UCSC Liftover tool (<https://genome.sph.umich.edu/wiki/LiftOver>) based on 0.65 sequence  
582 identity. All the chromatin states in pig and mouse were lifted over to human. The conservation  
583 rate (0~1) of each region of each state from pig to human was calculated based on state region  
584 coverage of pig over human. If there was no overlap it was assigned 0, if completely occupied it  
585 was assigned 1. The same analysis was conducted for pig to mouse and mouse to human.  
586 Furthermore, we performed genomic and epigenomic conservations for every pair of mammalian  
587 species in each tissue. Finally, we conducted the same analysis on mammalian conserved score  
588 based Genomic Evolutionary Rate Profiling (GERP) using 103 mammalian genomes  
589 ([ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-](ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-100/compara/conservation_scores/103_mammals.gerp_conservation_score/)  
590 [100/compara/conservation\\_scores/103\\_mammals.gerp\\_conservation\\_score/](ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-100/compara/conservation_scores/103_mammals.gerp_conservation_score/))

591 To examine the biological relevance of sequence extremely variable (0<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>th</sup> sets) and conserved  
592 regions (47<sup>th</sup>-49<sup>th</sup> sets), we extracted the human-pig shared and human-specific chromatin state  
593 TssA from these regions. Then the GREAT tool with parameter of proximal 2kb upstream, 1kb  
594 downstream, plus distal up to 3kb was used to conduct GO function enrichment analysis.

### 595 **Expression conservation versus epi-conservation**

596 The TPM of 14302 orthologous genes from pig, human, and mouse were used to identify  
597 differentially expressed genes in each tissue using the Student's *t*-test. We sorted the genes by *p*-  
598 value within each species and divided them into 50 equally sized sets. Then we calculated the  
599 average epi-conservation score of states in the 20kb region around TSS of gene in each set.

## 600 **Heritability enrichment of human complex traits in chromatin state**

601 To explore how conserved or species-specific chromatin states affects complex traits in humans,  
602 we extracted six types of species-share or species-specific regulatory elements (all\_shared,  
603 human\_mouse\_shared, human\_pig\_shared, human\_specific, mouse\_specific, pig\_specific). We  
604 applied stratified linkage disequilibrium score regression (LDSC) to partition heritability of 47  
605 human complex traits into distinct functional categories<sup>44</sup>, which revealed which functional regions  
606 explained more genetic variation of complex traits from an evolutionary point of view. These  
607 functional categories included six types of species-shared/specific regulatory elements, chromatin  
608 state of each tissue, and TSR of EnhA/TssA. We calculated the stratified LD scores using 1000G  
609 Phase 3 European human samples, where only HapMap3 SNPs with  $INFO \geq 0.9$  and  $MAF > 0.05$  in  
610 1000G European samples were used (the 1000G samples and default SNP weights were obtained  
611 from <https://github.com/bulik/ldsc>).

612 The GWAS summary statistics for 47 human complex traits were obtained from public  
613 databases (Supplementary Table 13), with an average sample size of 321,978 (all European  
614 ancestry) and a high quality overlap with HapMap3 panel. In addition, these GWAS results have,  
615 a mean  $\chi^2$  statistics of  $> 1.02$  and a heritability Z-score of  $> 4^{81}$ . We also performed default  
616 quality control for each GWAS summary statistics by LDSC to remove GWAS SNPs that are with  
617  $MAF \leq 0.01$ , genotype call rate  $\leq 0.75$ ,  $INFO \leq 0.9$ , out-of-bounds  $P$ -value, duplicated Rsid, strand  
618 ambiguous variants and extreme large  $\chi^2$  statistics<sup>81</sup>. The results of LDSC regression for base  
619 model, which has not been partitioned heritability, are available in Supplementary Table 14.

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## 621 **Data availability**

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622 All high-throughput sequencing data in this study were deposited in European Nucleotide  
623 Archive (ENA) with accession number PRJEB37735 and PRJEB14330. All raw data are also  
624 available through the FAANG portal (<https://data.faang.org/dataset>). All processed data are  
625 publicly available at <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.13480425>. Chromatin states of pig,  
626 mouse, and human are available in Genome Browser:  
627 [http://genome.ucsc.edu/s/zhypan/susScr11\\_15\\_state\\_14\\_tissues\\_new](http://genome.ucsc.edu/s/zhypan/susScr11_15_state_14_tissues_new) .  
628 [http://genome.ucsc.edu/s/zhypan/mm10\\_7tissues\\_chr\\_state](http://genome.ucsc.edu/s/zhypan/mm10_7tissues_chr_state);  
629 [http://genome.ucsc.edu/s/zhypan/hg38\\_9tissue\\_chr\\_state](http://genome.ucsc.edu/s/zhypan/hg38_9tissue_chr_state).

## 630 **Code availability**

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631 The pipeline for RNA-seq, ATAC-seq, DNase-seq and CHIP-seq processing is available at  
632 <https://github.com/kernco/functional-annotation>. RRBS pipeline and other processing codes are  
633 publicly available at <https://github.com/zhypan/Functional-Annotation-of-Pig>.

634

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## 645 **Author contributions**

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647 H.Z., L.F. Z.P. P.R., C.W. E. and C.K.T. conceived and designed the study. C.E., Y.W., K.C.  
648 and Z.P. were responsible for sample collection. Z.P., Y.W. and M.H. performed ChIP-seq,  
649 ATAC-seq, RNA-seq. Z.P., N.T. and K.W. contribute for RRBS data collection. Z.P., Y.Y. L.F.  
650 and C. K. conducted bioinformatic analysis. Z.X., G.S., GS. S., MS. L., M.F., and P. KM. were  
651 responsible for pig GWAS data analysis. H.Y. and L.B. responsible for pig selection signature  
652 collection. Z.P., L.F., Y.Y. and H.Z. wrote the initial draft of the manuscript. M.H. C.W. E., P.  
653 R., and C.K. T. revised manuscript. All co-authors contributed to the final manuscript.

654

## 655 **Competing interests**

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656 The authors declare no competing interests.

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## 658 **Additional information**

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659

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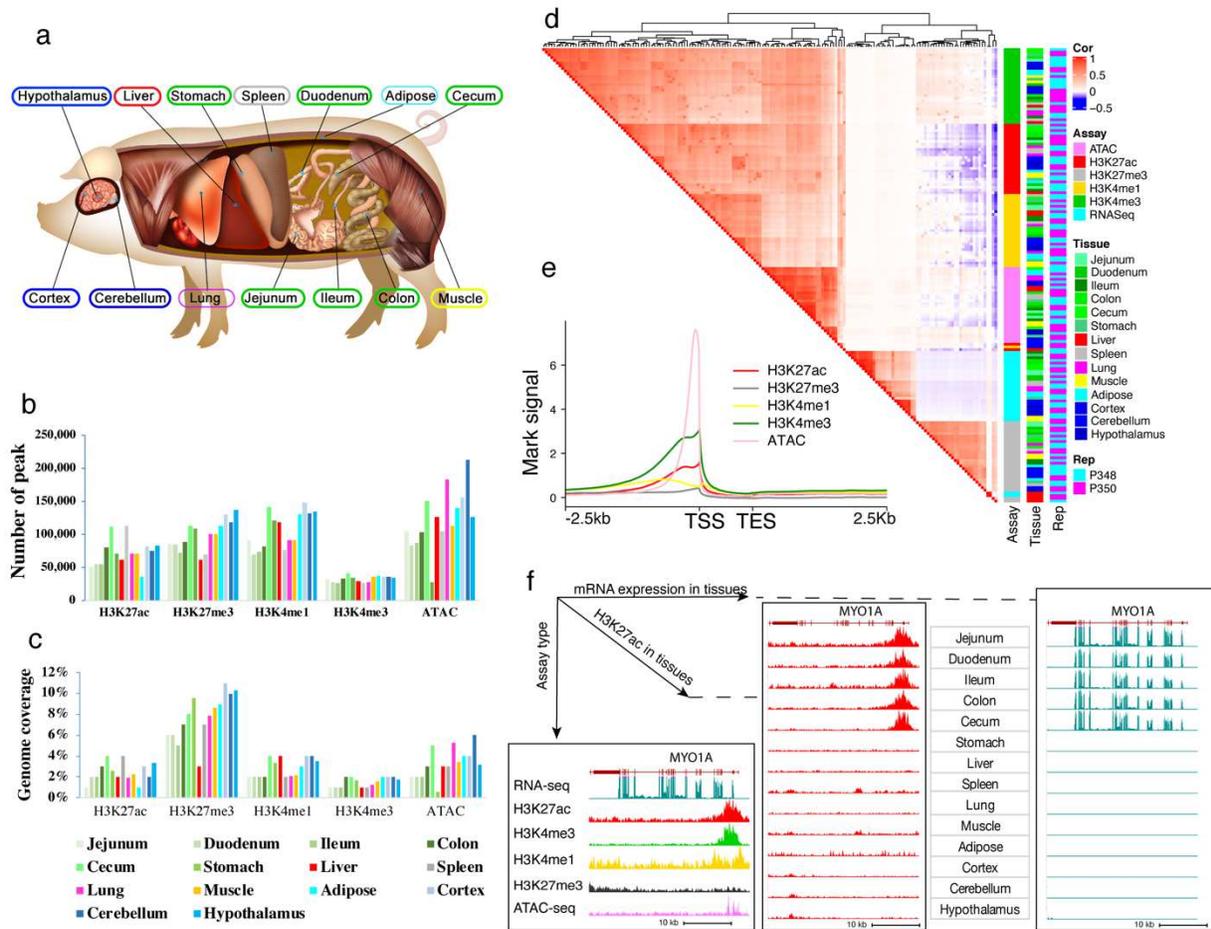
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858 **Figures and legends:**

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862 **Fig.1 Data summary of epigenomic information across tissues and marks.**

863 **a**, Tissues assayed by this study. **b,c**, Average peak number and genome coverage for each

864 epigenetic mark in each tissue. **d**, The Pearson correlations among assays, tissues, and biological

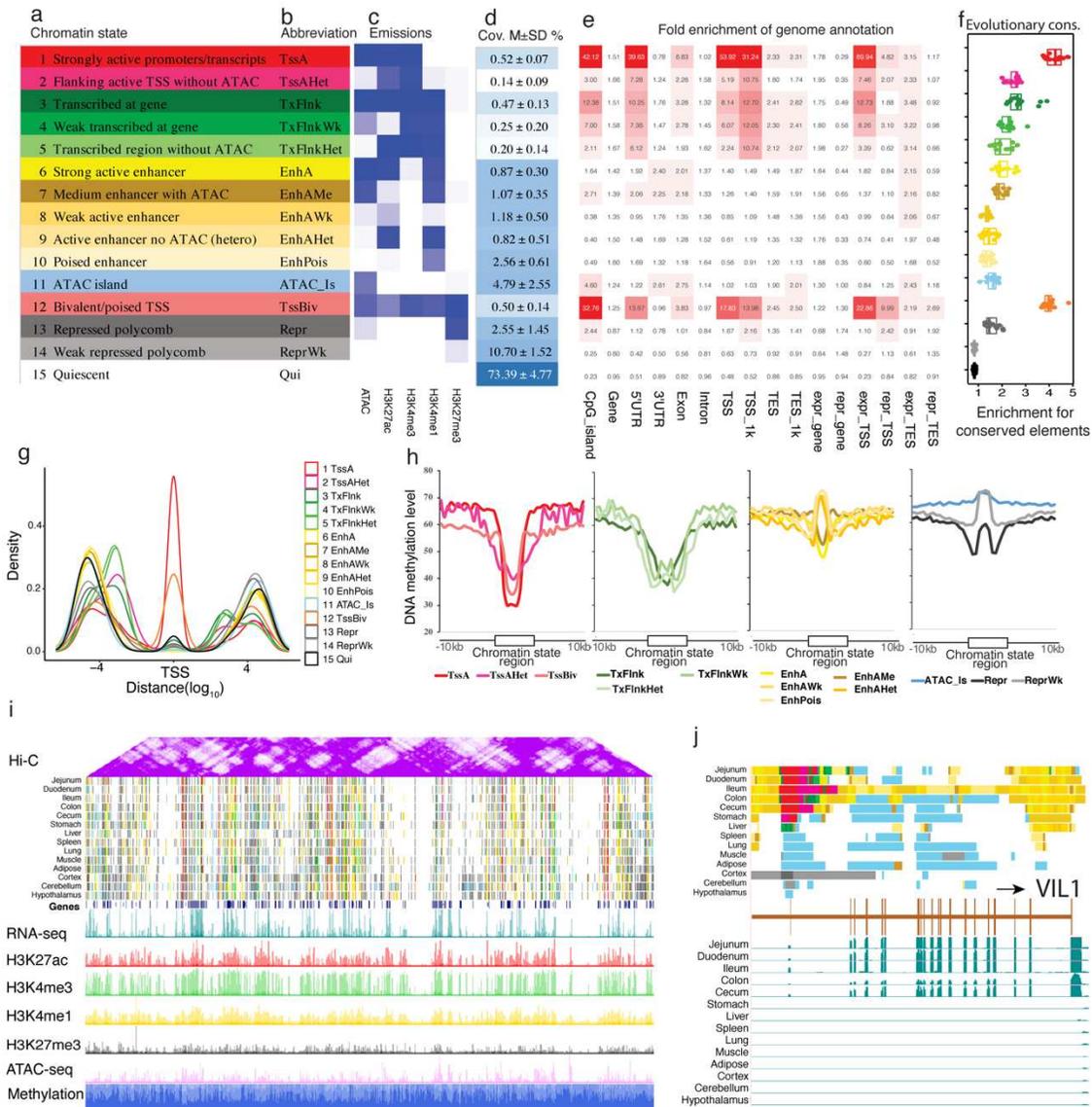
865 replicates (P348 and P350) based on the normalized signal in 1kb windows stepped across the

866 whole genome. **e**, Average epigenetic mark signals proximal to protein coding genes. TSS,

867 transcription start site. TES, transcription end site. **f**, Epigenetic signal at the *MYO1A* locus

868 according to different assays and in different tissues. Vertical scale UCSC reads signal 0-200 for

869 RNA-seq, 0-100 for H3K27ac and H3K4me3, 0-50 for other marks and ATAC-seq.



870

871 **Fig.2 Chromatin landscape across 14 tissues.**

872 **a, b,** Definitions and abbreviations of 15 chromatin states. **c,** Emission probabilities of individual

873 epigenetic marks for each chromatin state. The color from white to deep blue indicate emission

874 probability (0-1). **d,** Genomic coverages of each chromatin state. M±SD, means ± standard

875 deviation **e,** Average enrichments of chromatin states for genomic annotations, including CpG

876 islands, genes, TSS/TES\_1K (± 1 kb around transcription start/end sites), expressed genes

877 (TPM >=0.1), repressed genes (TPM < 0.1) in each tissue. **f,** Fold enrichments of chromatin states

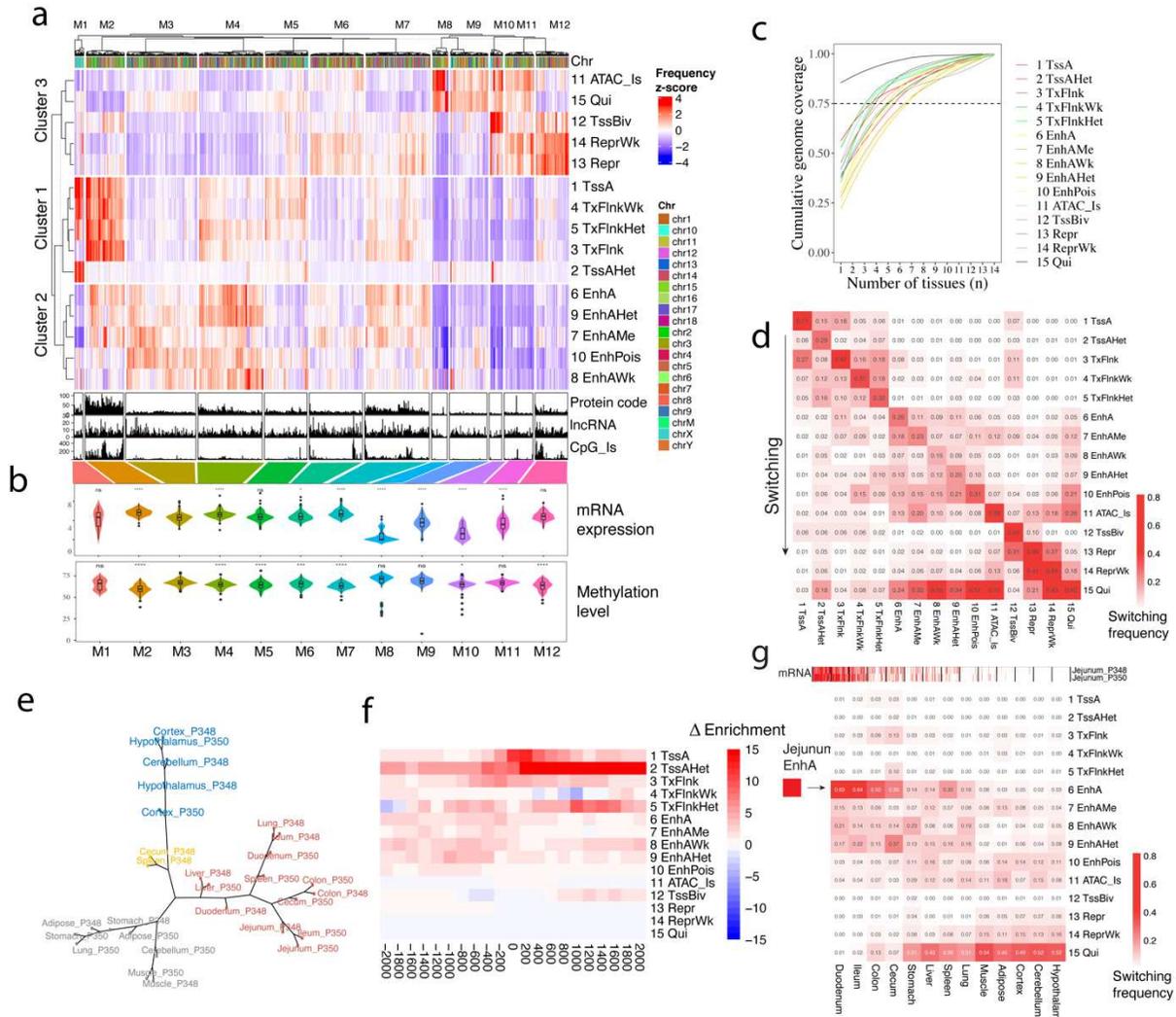
878 for non-coding mammalian conserved elements from Genomic Evolutionary Rate Profiling  
879 (GERP). **g**, Density of each chromatin state in positions relative to gene transcription start sites  
880 (TSS). **h**, Average methylation level of chromatin states in jejunum. **i**, Hi-C (250kb resolution),  
881 predicted chromatin states, and epigenetic signal, and normalized methylation level landscape in  
882 jejunum across the Chr7. **j**, Chromatin state landscapes and mRNA expression at *VILI* locus  
883 (chr15:120,459,825-120,493,312, susScr11) across 14 tissues in pig. Vertical scale UCSC reads  
884 signal 0-200 for RNA-seq.

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890 **Fig.3 Genome-wide chromatin state dynamics across tissues.**

891 **a**, Clustering of 2-Mb intervals (1,224 columns) into modules (M1-M12) based on average

892 chromatin state frequency across tissues in each interval. **b**, Average mRNA expression (TPM) of

893 genes and average methylation level of 2-Mb intervals belonging to each module. The statistical

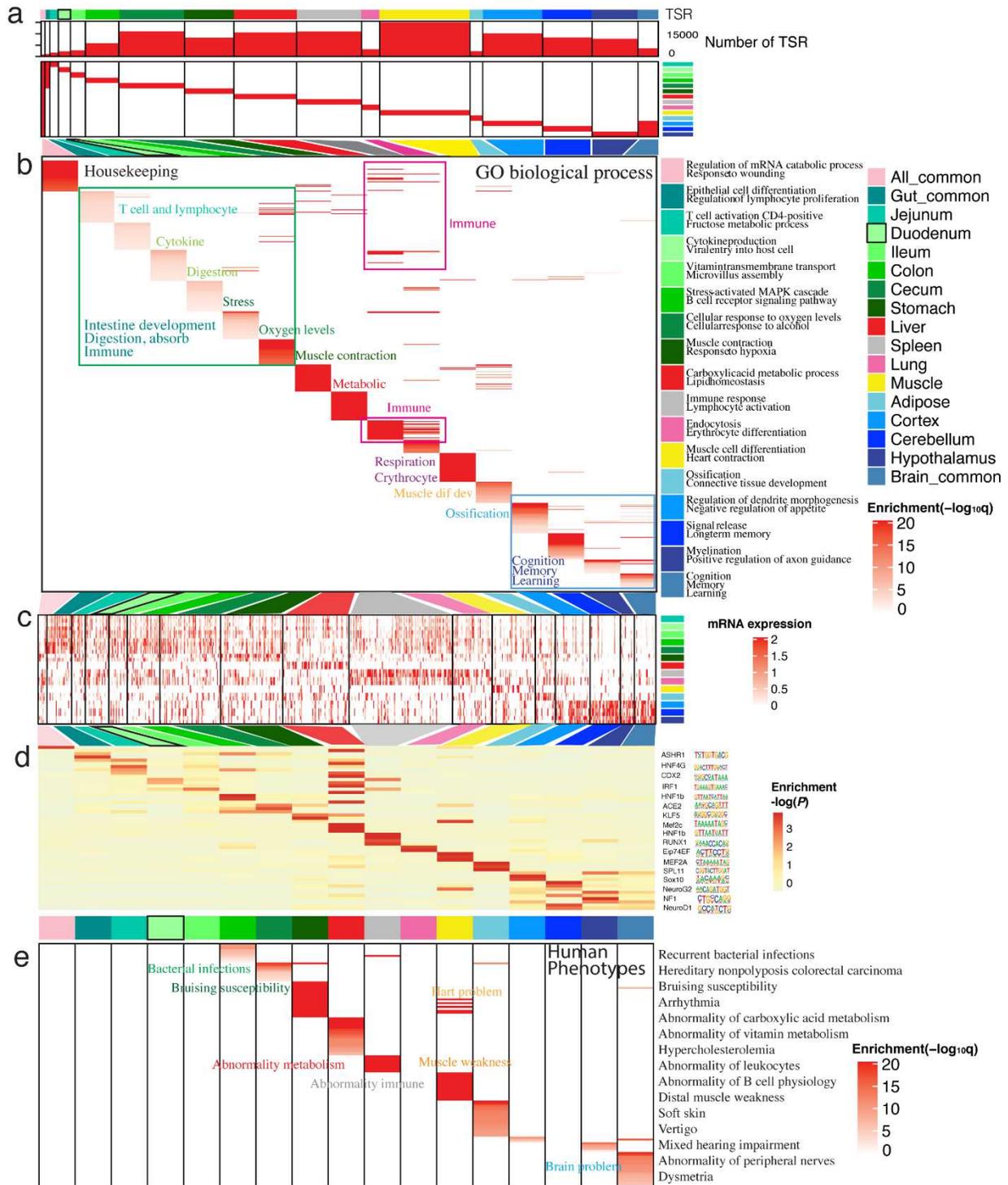
894 significances for comparisons were calculated using t test, where “\*” means  $P < 0.05$ , “\*\*” means

895  $P < 0.01$ , “\*\*\*” means  $P < 0.001$ . **c**, Chromatin state variability based on cumulative genome

896 coverage fraction. Dash line = 0.75. **d**, Chromatin state switching between all tissues. **e**,

897 Hierarchical epigenome clustering using H3K4me1 signal in EnhA states. **f**, Chromatin state

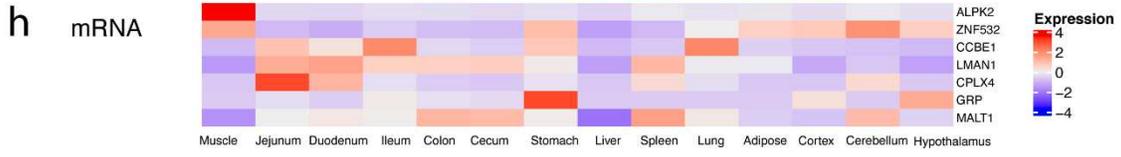
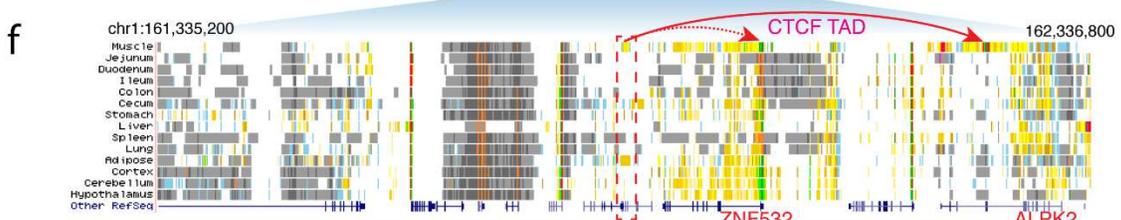
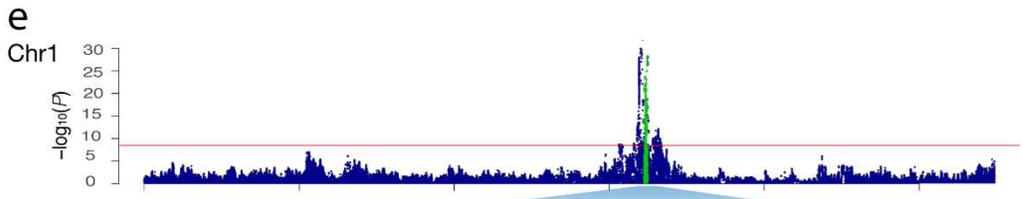
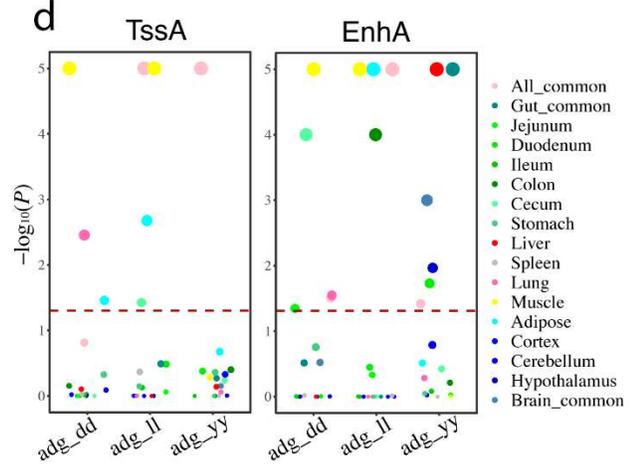
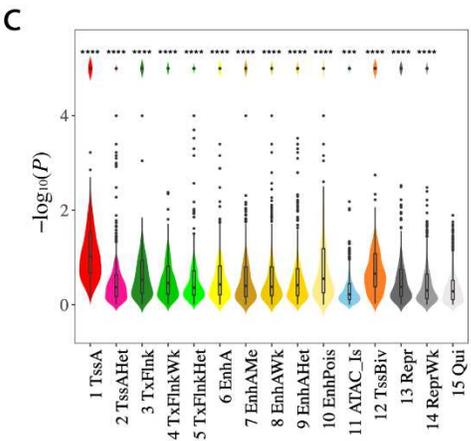
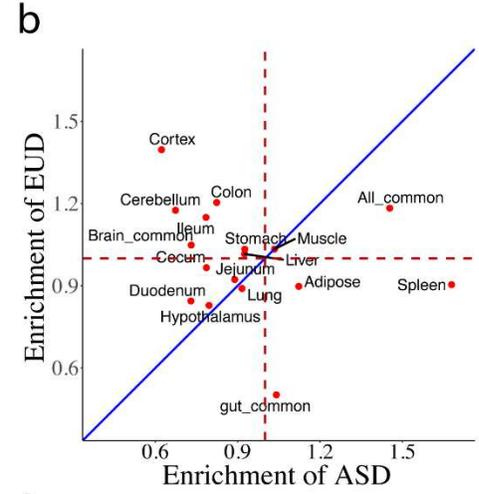
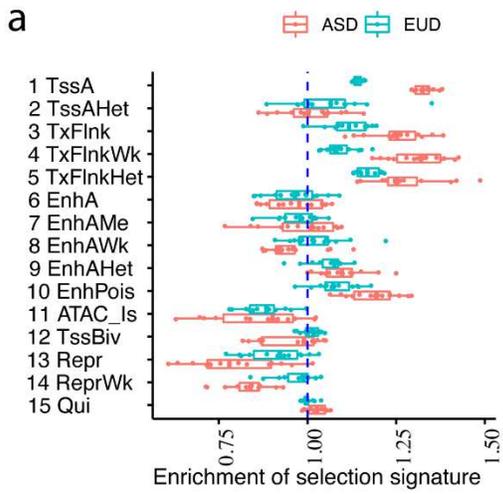
898 enrichment relative to promoters of genes with jejunum-specific expression genes, relative to  
899 muscle. **g**, Chromatin state switching of target enhancers (EnhA) of jejunum-specifically expressed  
900 genes in other tissues.  
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902

903 **Fig.4 Tissue-specific strong enhancers (EnhA) and their potential functions in 14 tissues.**

904 **a**, The number and enrichment distribution of 17 modules of TSR (strong enhancers (EnhA)) in  
905 tissues. TSR: tissue-specific regulatory elements. The top colors represent 17 modules of strong  
906 enhancers (column) referred to the legend on the right side. The side colors represent 14 tissues  
907 (row) referred to the legend on the right side. **b**, Functional enrichment of proximal genes for each  
908 module based on gene ontology (GO) biological processes. The columns represent 17 modules of  
909 strong enhancers. The rows represent GO terms in each module. All GO terms are presented in  
910 Supplementary table 5 (The notes in heatmap are summary function of nearby GO terms  
911 enrichment (up-noted from jejunum to spleen, down-noted for lung, muscle and adipose)). **c**, The  
912 mRNA expression (TPM) of EnhAs' putative target genes in each module. The columns represent  
913 the genes in each module, the rows represent each tissue. **d**, The enrichment of transcription factor  
914 motifs in each module. The columns represent 17 modules of EnhAs. The rows represent motif in  
915 each module. All enriched motifs are presented in Supplementary Fig. 8a. **e**, Enrichment for human  
916 phenotypes in each module, based on proximal genes. The columns represent 17 modules of  
917 EnhAs. The rows represent phenotypes in each module. All phenotypes' enrichment are presented  
918 in Supplementary table7. The notes in heatmap are summary function of nearby phenotypes  
919 enrichment (each color stands for each tissue).



921 **Fig.5 Chromatin state plays an important role in pig domestication and complex traits.**

922 **a**, Domestication selection signature enrichment of chromatin states in Asian and European pigs.

923 ASD: Asian pig domestication. EUD: European pig domestication. Dash-line = 1, above dash line

924 means significant enrichment. **b**, Domestication selection signature enrichment in tissue-specific

925 promoters (TssA) between Asian and European pigs. Dash-line = 1, above 1 dash line means

926 significant enrichment. **c**, Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) signal enrichment within

927 chromatin states across 14 tissues and 44 complex traits in pigs. The statistical significances for

928 comparisons were calculated using a t test, where “\*\*\*” means  $P < 0.001$ . **d**, GWAS signal

929 enrichment of promoter (TssA) and strong enhancer (EnhA) tissue-specific regulatory elements

930 (TSR) in average daily gain (adg) of three pig populations (dd: Duroc, ll: Landrace, yy: Yorkshire).

931 Dash line= $-\log_{10}(P=0.05)$ , over dash line means significantly high enrichment. **e**, Manhattan plot

932 of average daily gain in the Landrace population. **f**, Chromatin states in the genomic region where

933 GWAS hits for each tissue (dashed rectangle box includes a muscle-specific enhance where SNPs

934 of GWAS hits locate; two arrows in red were predicted from CTCF TAD and H3K27ac signal that

935 suggest the muscle-specific enhancer may target *ZNF532* and *ALPK2*). **g**. Hi-C loop (25kb

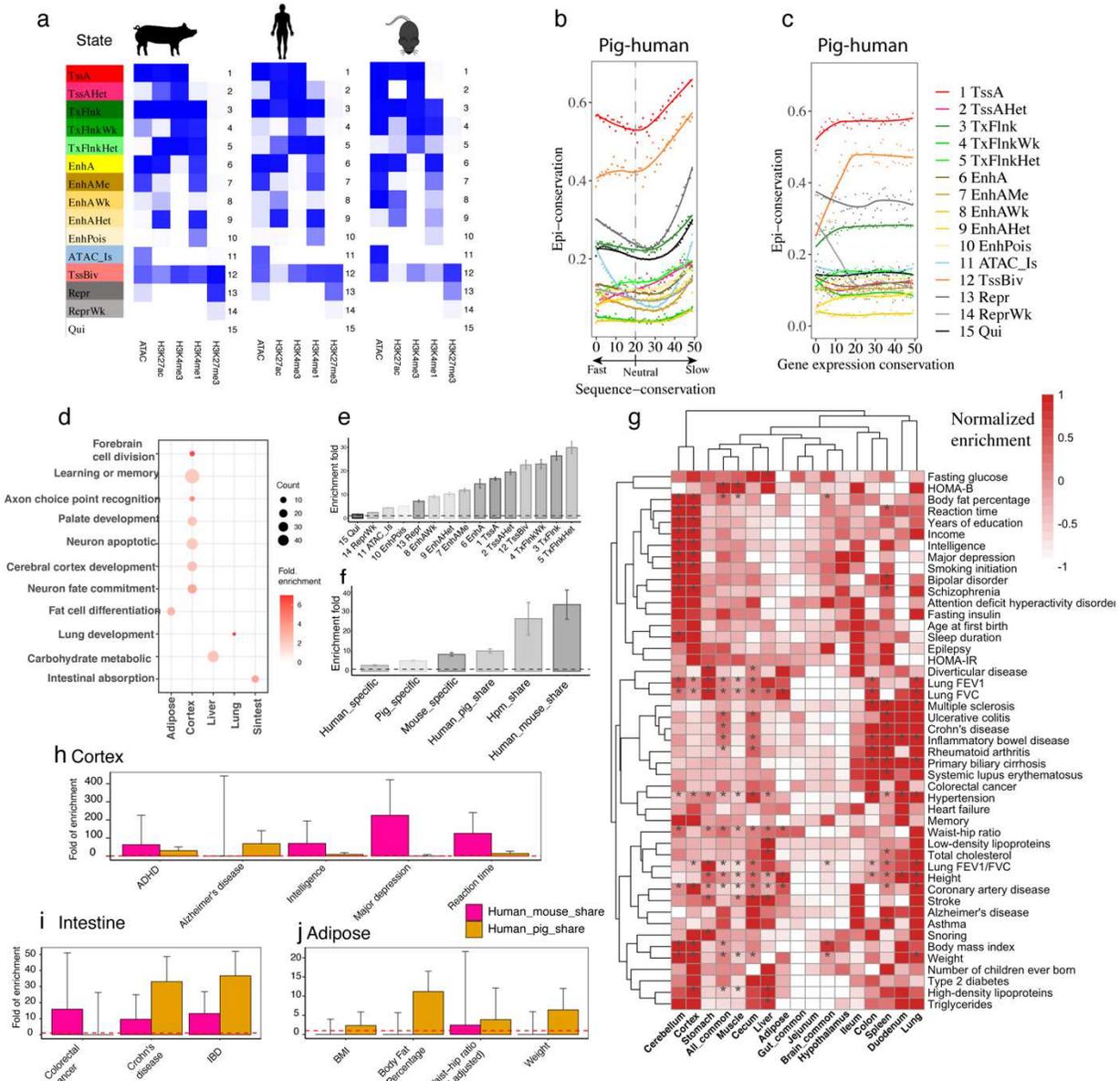
936 resolution) depiction between a muscle-specific enhancer and putative target genes. Purple shading

937 for the Hi-C data means loop intensity (auto-scale). Two highlighted Hi-C loop with the red circles

938 are potential contacts between a muscle-specific enhancer and *ZNF532* and *ALPK2*. **h**, Expression

939 (normalized and centered TPM) of genes proximal to the muscle-specific enhancer.

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941  
 942 **Fig.6 Interspecies conservation of chromatin states.**  
 943 **a**, 15 chromatin states predicated in three species. The colors from white to deep blue indicate  
 944 emission probability from 0 to 1. **b**, Relation between sequence conservation and epigenomic  
 945 conservation across six tissues. 50 genomic regions were ordered from the fastest changing (0<sup>th</sup>),  
 946 to neutral (20<sup>th</sup>), and to slowest changing (49<sup>th</sup>) in terms of sequence conservation  
 947 (Supplementary Fig. 13d). Epigenome conservation (see method) of chromatin states (**b**) within

948 these regions was calculated for pig to human. Value in each region for each chromatin state was  
949 then plotted. **c**, Relation between expression conservation and epigenomic conservation across  
950 six tissues. Expression conservation was based on expression of 14,302 orthologous genes  
951 among 3 species. Regions were ordered from the biggest difference in expression (0<sup>th</sup>), to the  
952 smallest difference (49<sup>th</sup>). **d**, GO enrichment was based on genes proximal to ( $\pm 2$  kb) human-  
953 specific TssA in sequences of extreme conservation sets (49<sup>th</sup>). Count refers to the number of  
954 genes. **e**, Human GWAS signal enrichment in different chromatin states. dash line=1, over dash  
955 line means significant high enrichment. Error bars represent standard error around the estimates  
956 of enrichment. Same meaning for dash line and error bars in following sub-figures. **f**, Human  
957 GWAS enrichment in 6 groups of species-specific or shared EnhA. hpm\_share stands for human-  
958 pig-mouse shared. **g**, GWAS enrichment of pig tissue-specific enhancer (EnhA) in humans.  
959 \*means significant enrichment (FDR<0.05). **h,i,j**, Different GWAS enrichments between human-  
960 pig and human-mouse shared strong enhancers (EnhA) in brain cortex, small intestine, and  
961 adipose, respectively.

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## 963 **Supplementary information**

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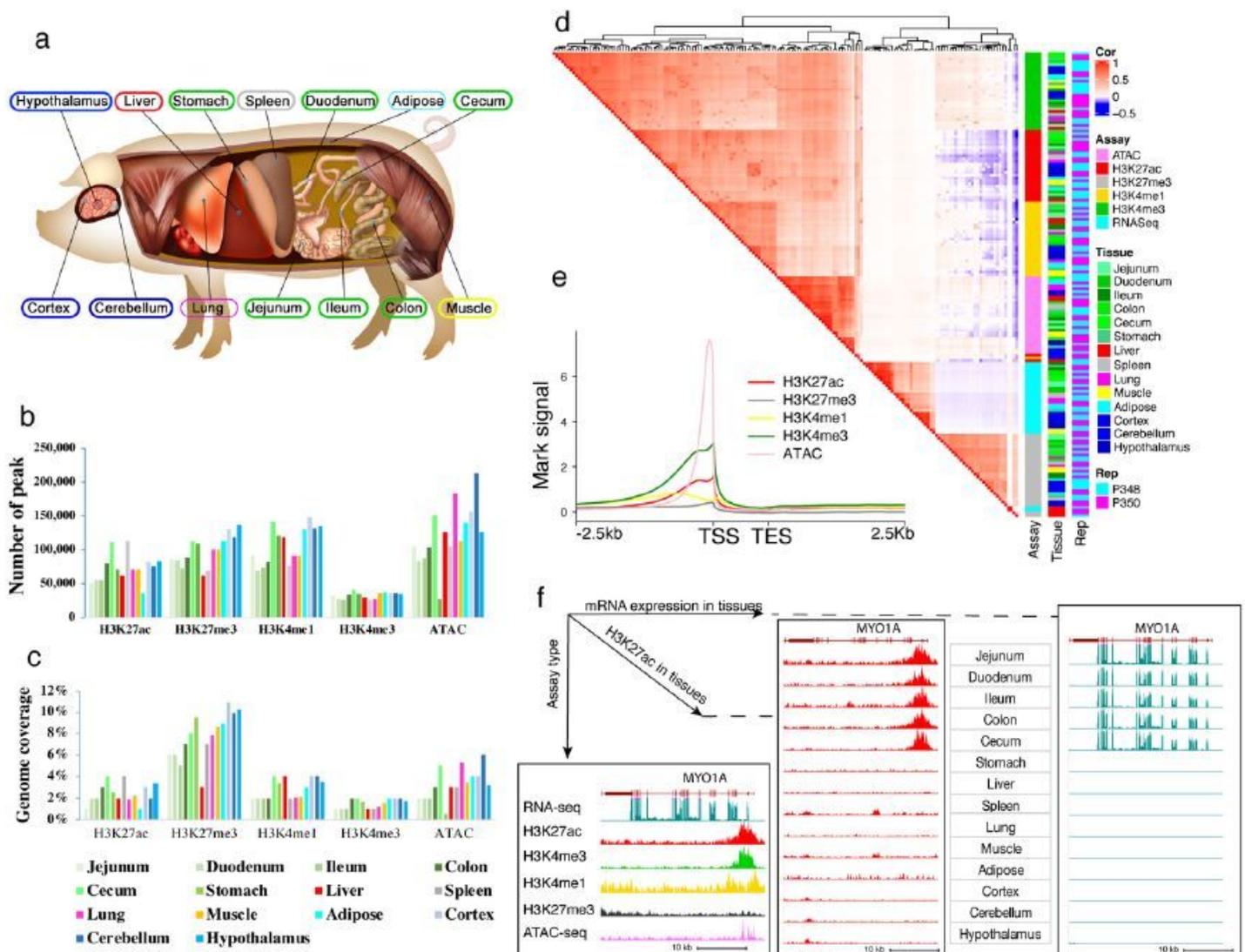
964 [Supplementary Information](#)

965 Supplementary Figs. 1-16 and Tables 1–13

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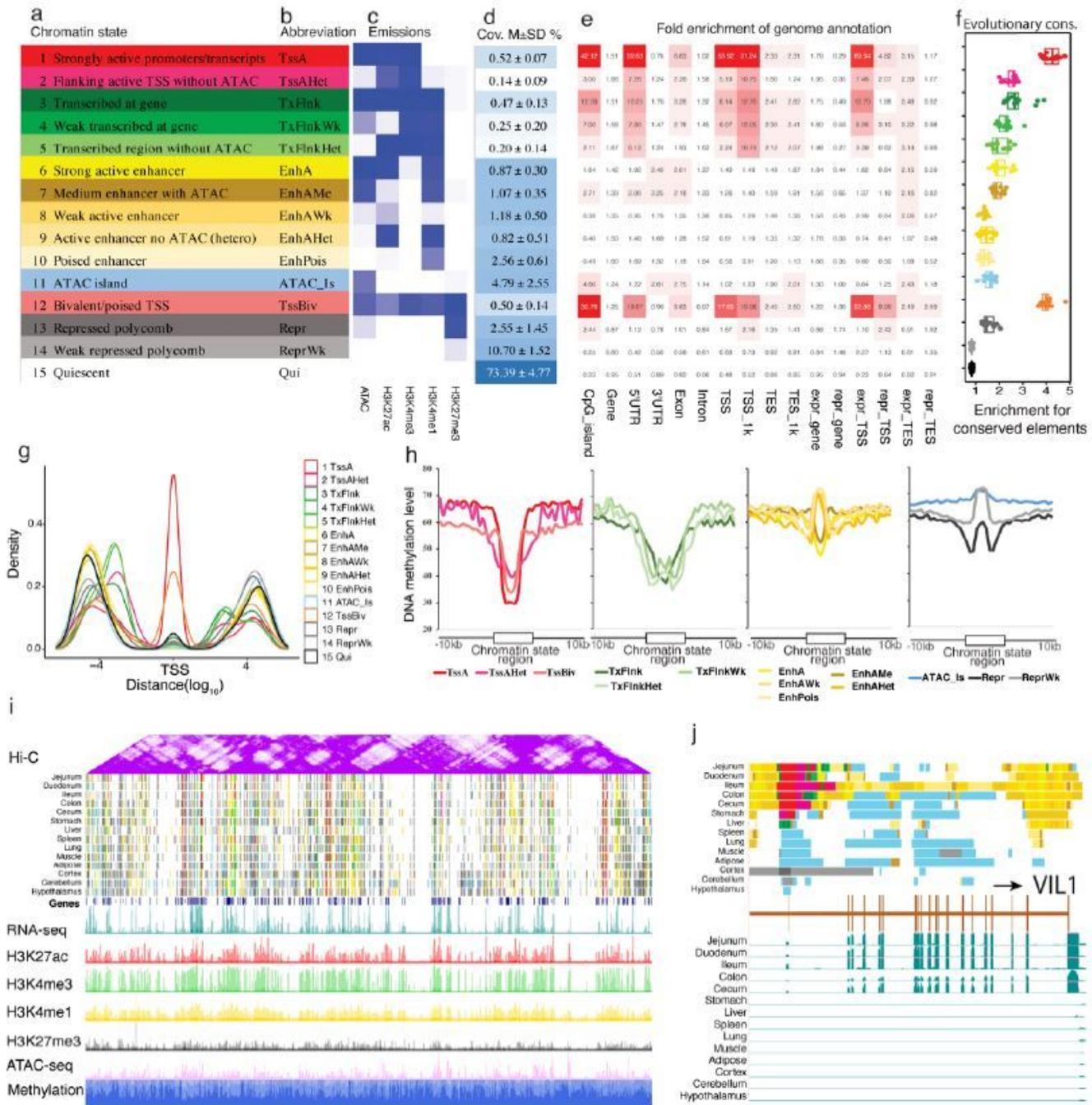
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# Figures



**Figure 1**

Fig.1 Data summary of epigenomic information across tissues and marks. a, Tissues assayed by this study. b,c, Average peak number and genome coverage for each epigenetic mark in each tissue. d, The Pearson correlations among assays, tissues, and biological replicates (P348 and P350) based on the normalized signal in 1kb windows stepped across the whole genome. e, Average epigenetic mark signals proximal to protein coding genes. TSS, transcription start site. TES, transcription end site. f, Epigenetic signal at the MYO1A locus according to different assays and in different tissues. Vertical scale UCSC reads signal 0-200 for RNA-seq, 0-100 for H3K27ac and H3K4me3, 0-50 for other marks and ATAC-seq.



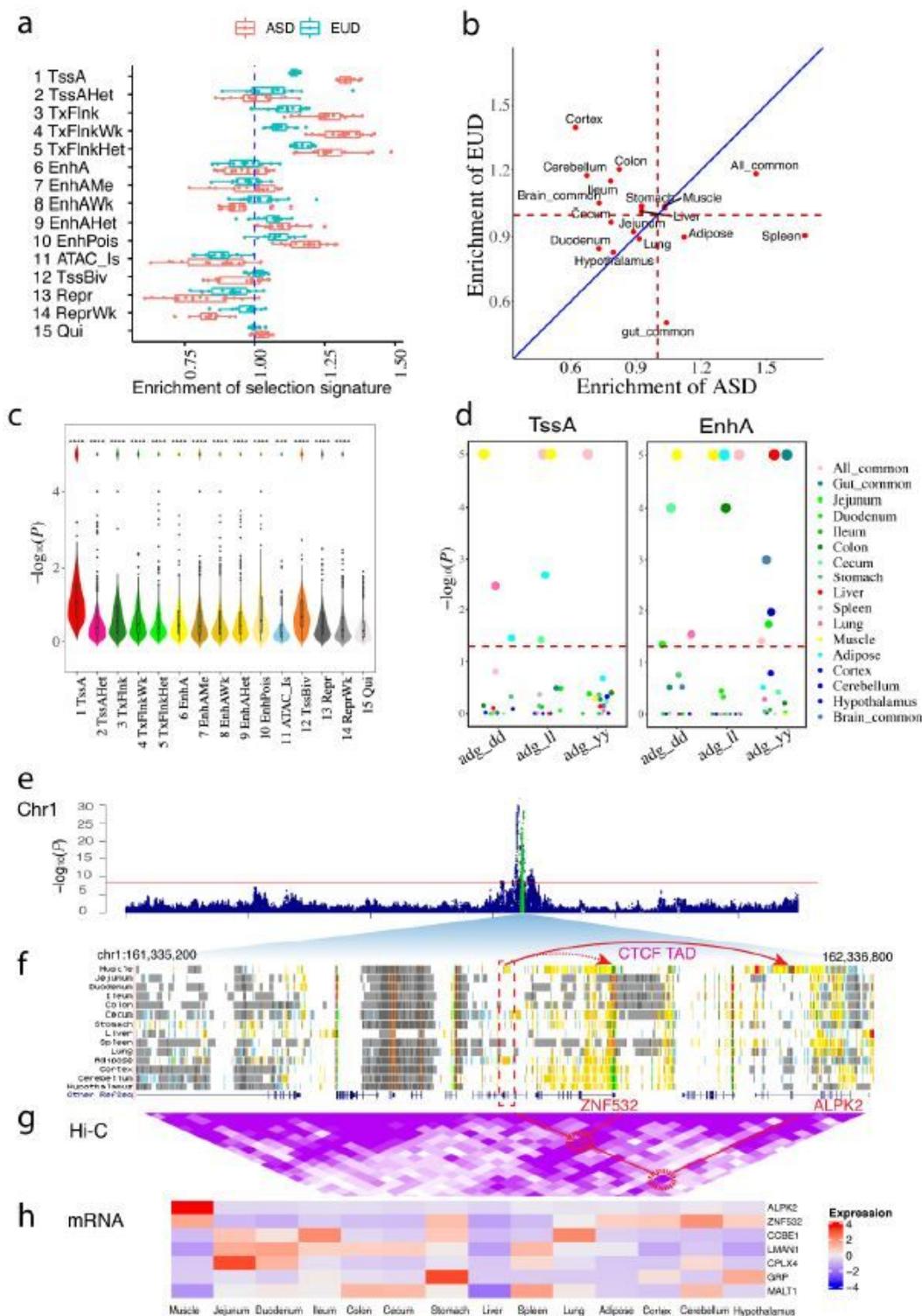
**Figure 2**

Chromatin landscape across 14 tissues. a, b, Definitions and abbreviations of 15 chromatin states. c, Emission probabilities of individual epigenetic marks for each chromatin state. The color from white to deep blue indicate emission probability (0-1). d, Genomic coverages of each chromatin state.  $M \pm SD$ , means  $\pm$  standard deviation e, Average enrichments of chromatin states for genomic annotations, including CpG islands, genes, TSS/TES\_1K ( $\pm 1$  kb around transcription start/end sites), expressed genes (TPM  $\geq 0.1$ ), repressed genes (TPM  $< 0.1$ ) in each tissue. f, Fold enrichments of chromatin states 42 for non-coding mammalian conserved elements from Genomic Evolutionary Rate Profiling (GERP). g, Density of each chromatin state in positions relative to gene transcription start sites (TSS). h, Average





Tissue-specific strong enhancers (EnhA) and their potential functions in 14 tissues. 46 a, The number and enrichment distribution of 17 modules of TSR (strong enhancers (EnhA)) in tissues. TSR: tissue-specific regulatory elements. The top colors represent 17 modules of strong enhancers (column) referred to the legend on the right side. The side colors represent 14 tissues (row) referred to the legend on the right side. b, Functional enrichment of proximal genes for each module based on gene ontology (GO) biological processes. The columns represent 17 modules of strong enhancers. The rows represent GO terms in each module. All GO terms are presented in Supplementary table 5 (The notes in heatmap are summary function of nearby GO terms enrichment (up-noted from jejunum to spleen, down-noted for lung, muscle and adipose)). c, The mRNA expression (TPM) of EnhAs' putative target genes in each module. The columns represent the genes in each module, the rows represent each tissue. d, The enrichment of transcription factor motifs in each module. The columns represent 17 modules of EnhAs. The rows represent motif in each module. All enriched motifs are presented in Supplementary Fig. 8a. e, Enrichment for human phenotypes in each module, based on proximal genes. The columns represent 17 modules of EnhAs. The rows represent phenotypes in each module. All phenotypes' enrichment are presented in Supplementary table7. The notes in heatmap are summary function of nearby phenotypes enrichment (each color stands for each tissue).



**Figure 5**

Chromatin state plays an important role in pig domestication and complex traits. a, Domestication selection signature enrichment of chromatin states in Asian and European pigs. ASD: Asian pig domestication. EUD: European pig domestication. Dash-line = 1, above dash line means significant enrichment. b, Domestication selection signature enrichment in tissue-specific promoters (TssA) between Asian and European pigs. Dash-line = 1, above 1 dash line means significant enrichment. c, Genome-wide

association studies (GWAS) signal enrichment within chromatin states across 14 tissues and 44 complex traits in pigs. The statistical significances for comparisons were calculated using a t test, where “\*\*\*” means  $P < 0.001$ . d, GWAS signal enrichment of promoter (TssA) and strong enhancer (EnhA) tissue-specific regulatory elements (TSR) in average daily gain (adg) of three pig populations (dd: Duroc, ll: Landrace, yy: Yorkshire). Dash line= $-\log_{10}(P=0.05)$ , over dash line means significantly high enrichment. e, Manhattan plot of average daily gain in the Landrace population. f, Chromatin states in the genomic region where GWAS hits for each tissue (dashed rectangle box includes a muscle-specific enhance where SNPs of GWAS hits locate; two arrows in red were predicted from CTCF TAD and H3K27ac signal that suggest the muscle-specific enhancer may target ZNF532 and ALPK2). g, Hi-C loop (25kb resolution) depiction between a muscle-specific enhancer and putative target genes. Purple shading for the Hi-C data means loop intensity (auto-scale). Two highlighted Hi-C loop with the red circles are potential contacts between a muscle-specific enhancer and ZNF532 and ALPK2. h, Expression (normalized and centered TPM) of genes proximal to the muscle-specific enhancer.



extreme conservation sets (49th). Count refers to the number of genes. e, Human GWAS signal enrichment in different chromatin states. dash line=1, over dash line means significant high enrichment. Error bars represent standard error around the estimates of enrichment. Same meaning for dash line and error bars in following sub-figures. f, Human GWAS enrichment in 6 groups of species-specific or shared EnhA. hpm\_share stands for human958 pig-mouse shared. g, GWAS enrichment of pig tissue-specific enhancer (EnhA) in humans. \*means significant enrichment (FDR<0.05). h,i,j, Different GWAS enrichments between human pig and human-mouse shared strong enhancers (EnhA) in brain cortex, small intestine, and adipose, respectively.

## Supplementary Files

This is a list of supplementary files associated with this preprint. Click to download.

- [3SupplementaryFig.pdf](#)
- [4SupplementaryTable.xlsx](#)