**Table S2.** Essential and nonessential subsets of gene pairs both have significantly high fractions of same-operon pairs f. The analysis was performed only for cases showing higher than random same-operon membership.

Network module	Number of essential cases	$f^{*}_{\mathrm{essential}}$	$f_{\it essential}^{\it rand}$	Number of nonessential cases	$f^*_{ m nonessential}$	$f_{\rm nonessential}^{\it rand}$
A. Linear metabolic pathway	139	0.029**	0.0094	399	0.033**	0.0065
B. Covalent modification	0	ND	ND	9	0.67	ND
C. Physical interaction	157	0.19**	0.0070	398	0.29**	0.0053

\* Essential and nonessental gene subsets as designated by Taniguchi et al (2010).

\*\*  $p < 10^{-6}$  compared to  $f^{rand}$ .

ND: insufficient data for analysis.