Text S6: Tissue-specific translation rates in Human

In humans and other mammals the correlations between expression levels and codon bias are relatively low [1,2,3]. Thus, in the next stage, we aimed at studying how well the predictions of the RFM correlate with the expression levels in human tissues, comparing it with the correlations obtained using the tAI. The correlations with gene expression of 12,173 genes across 73 tissue are depicted in Figure 6C. As can be seen, some of the correlations with the RFM are more than 8 times higher than the correlations with the tAI the mean improvement in percentages of the RFM with respect to the tAI was 80% (Figure 6C, inset). In addition, some of the correlations between tissue-specific gene expression and tAI are negative while in the case of the RFM all the correlations are positive. Furthermore, in 71% of the tissues the RFM performed better (Figure 6C).

These results demonstrate that our model should be more useful than alternative models for analyzing human gene translation. Thus, it should be helpful for analyzing mutations (see, for example [4]) or SNPs (see, for example, [5,6]) that cause diseases due to problems in gene translation.