

Modeling the Tumor Microenvironment with Graph ML

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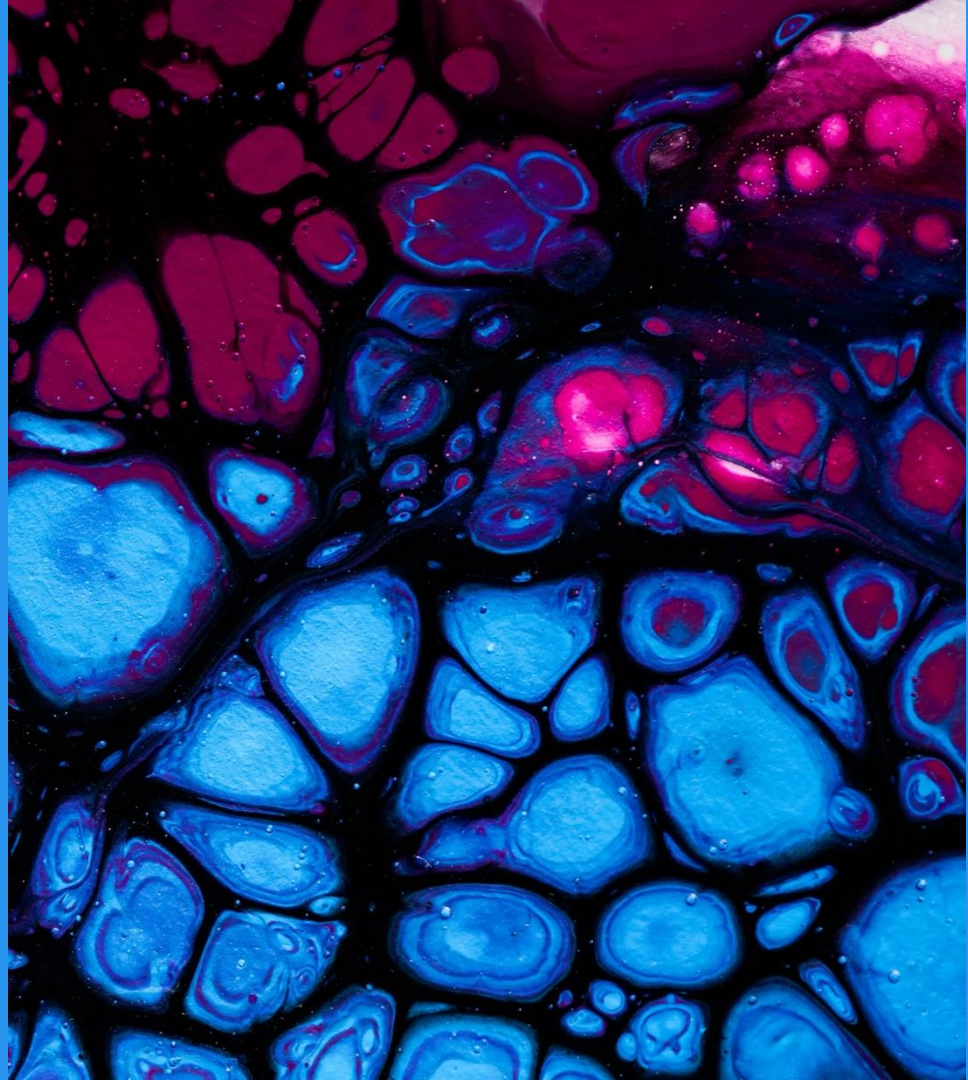
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EMBO Spatial Biology of Cancer Workshop
December 3rd, 2024





Raphael Gottardo
Translational Data Science



Jacques Fellay
Precision Medicine



Jean-Louis Raisaro
Clinical Data Science



Marianna Rapsomaniki
AI/ML for Biomedicine

Agenda

Introductions, Overview and Goals

Data | Single-cell and spatial omics

- Quick bio primer
- What is omics?
- Why *spatial* omics?

Break?

TME as a graph | Various applications

- Data exploration: ATHENA
- Biological Discovery: Concept learning

Exercise | Read and discuss paper: *Annotation of spatially resolved single-cell data with STELLAR*

Recap

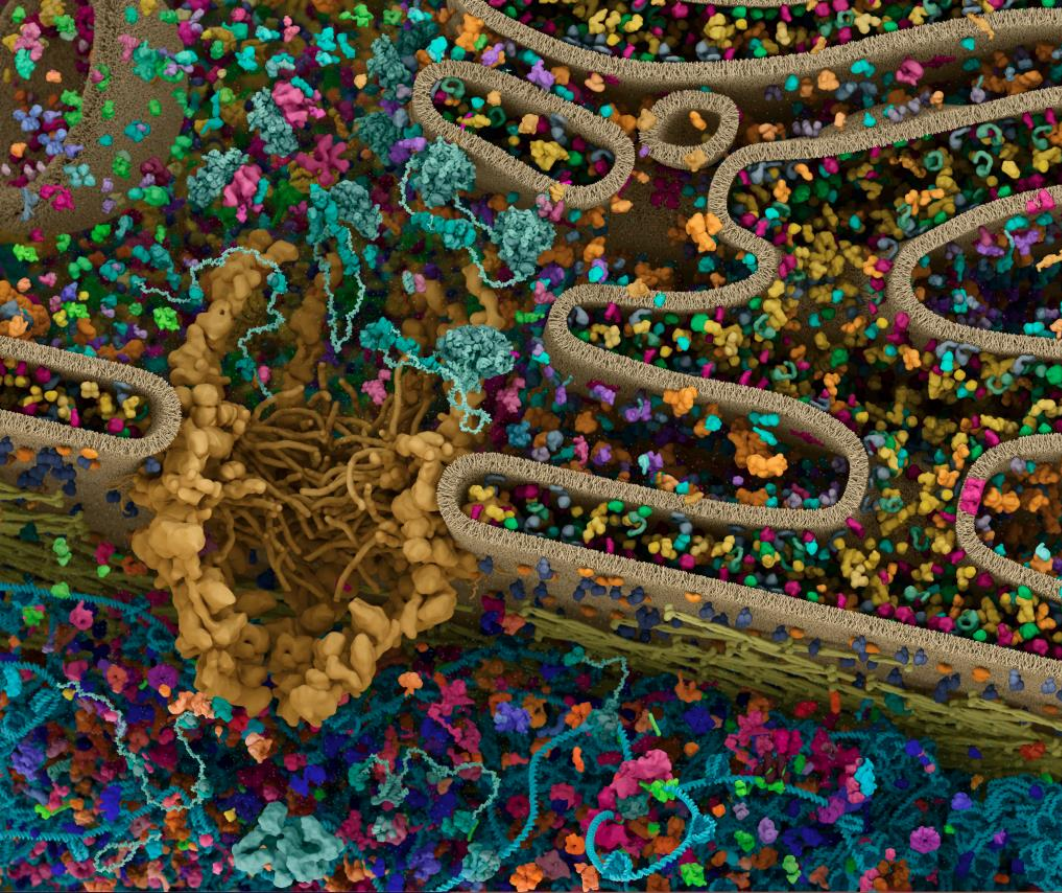
Conclusions, Q&A, and wrap-up



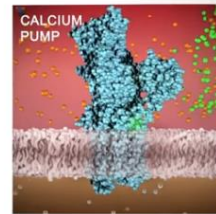
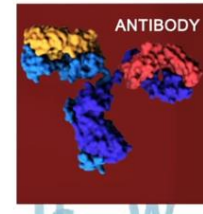
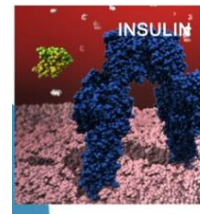
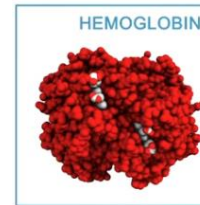
Goals? Questions?

<https://web.speakup.info/room/join/73803>

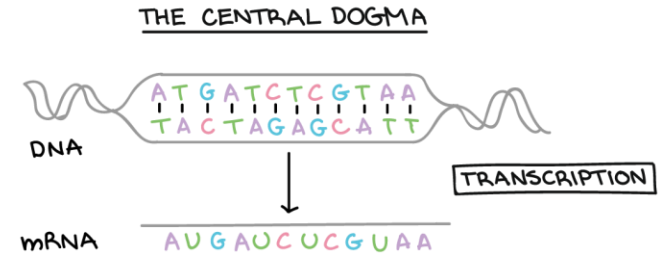
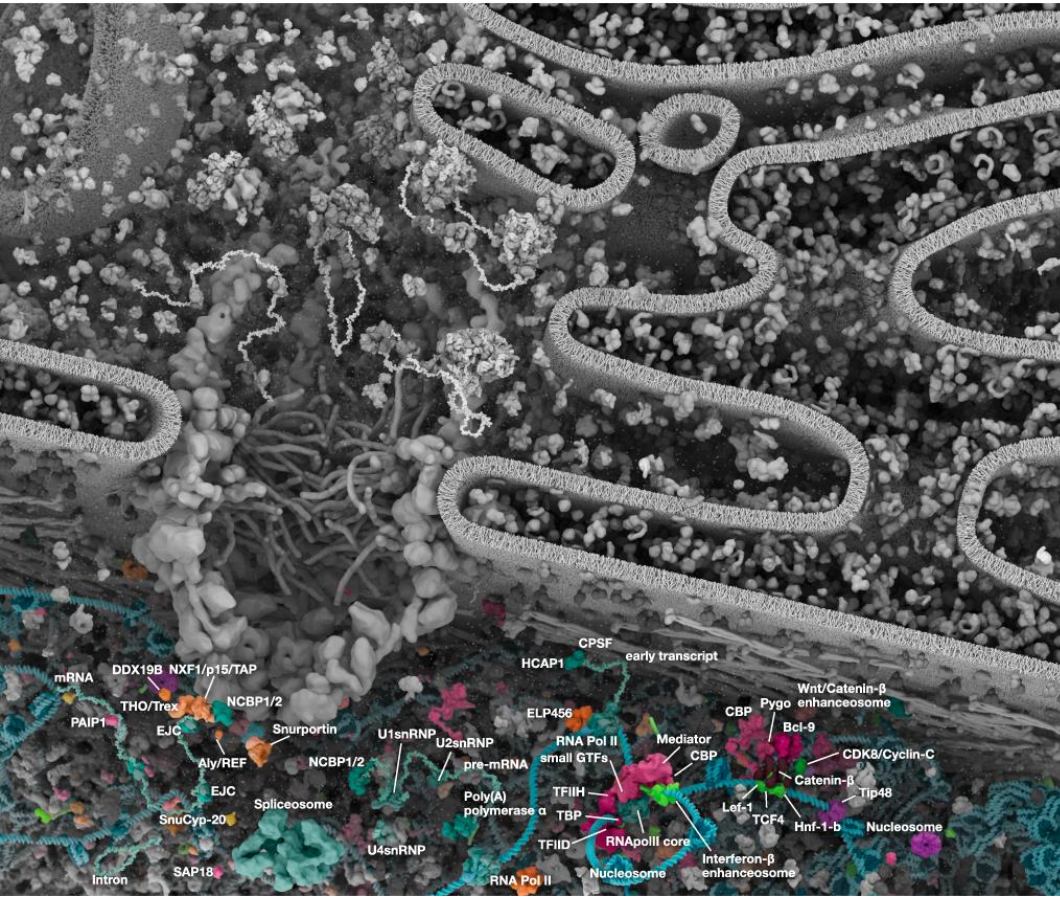
Proteins execute all essential functions of life



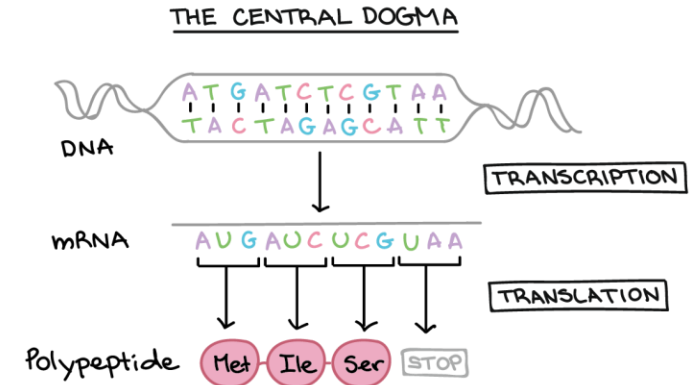
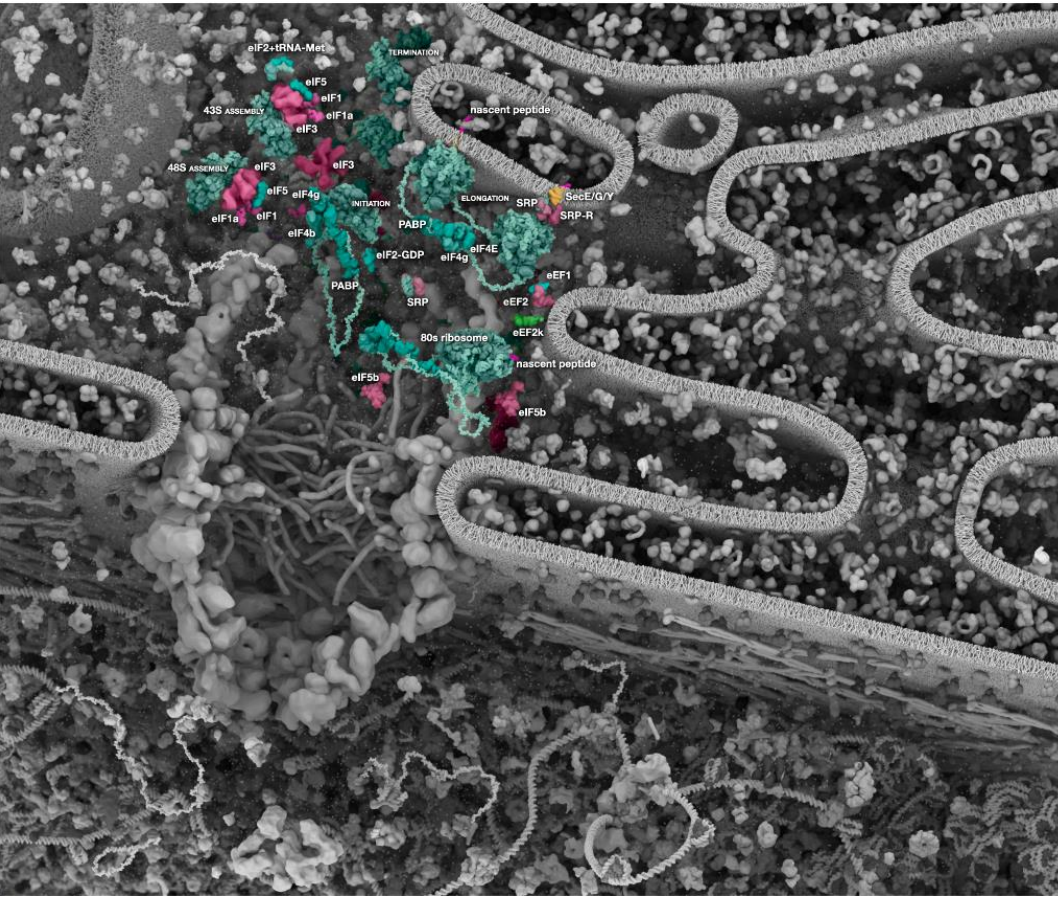
- Enzymes
- Structure
- Hormones
- Storage
- Response to stimuli
- Transport
- Immune response



How is this achieved?

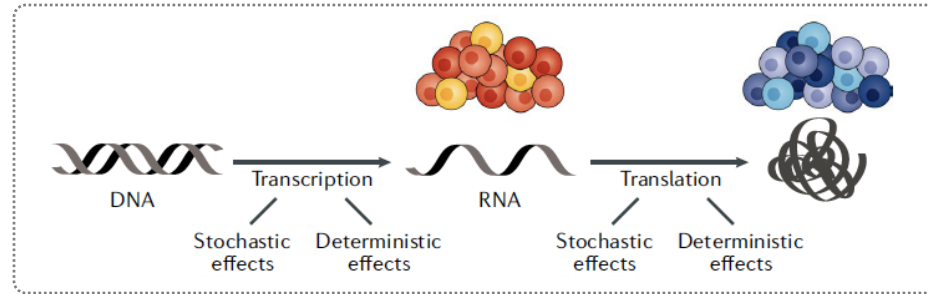


How is this achieved?



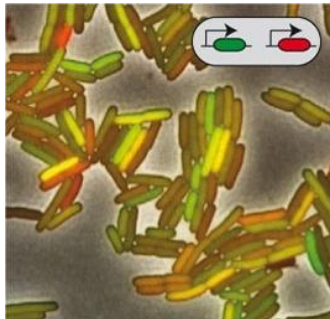


Biological stochasticity



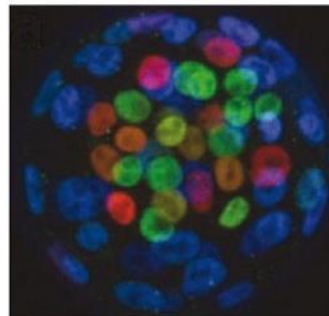
Eling *et al.*, 2019

Gene expression



Elowitz, *et al. Science* (2002)

Differentiation



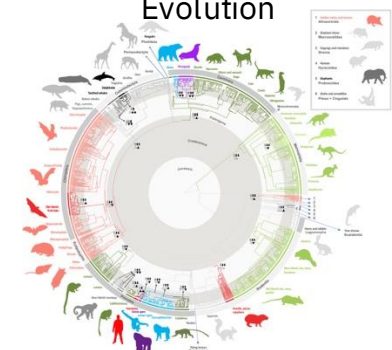
Eldar, *et al. Nature* (2010)

Pattern formation



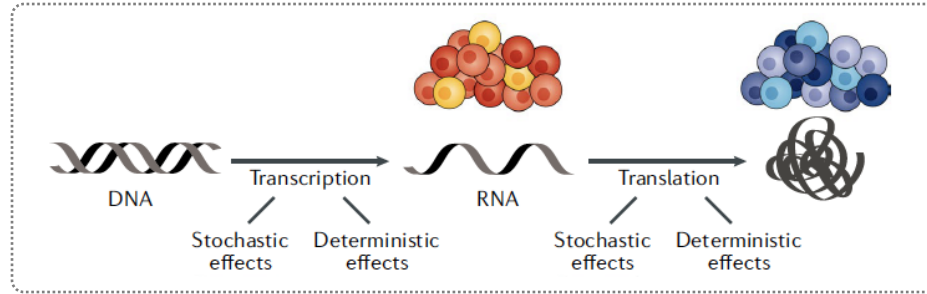
Image credit: <https://ifisc.uib-csic.es/>

Evolution

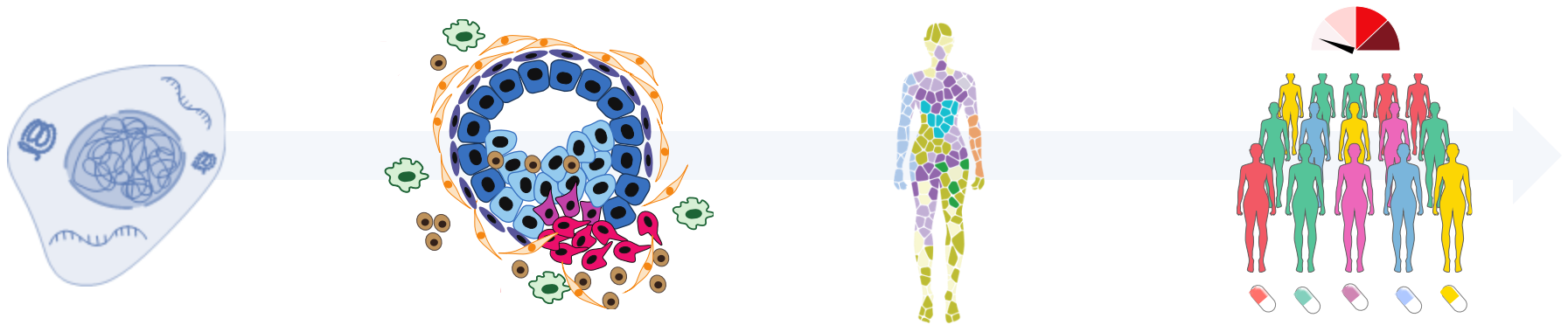


Smaers *et al., Science Advances* 2021

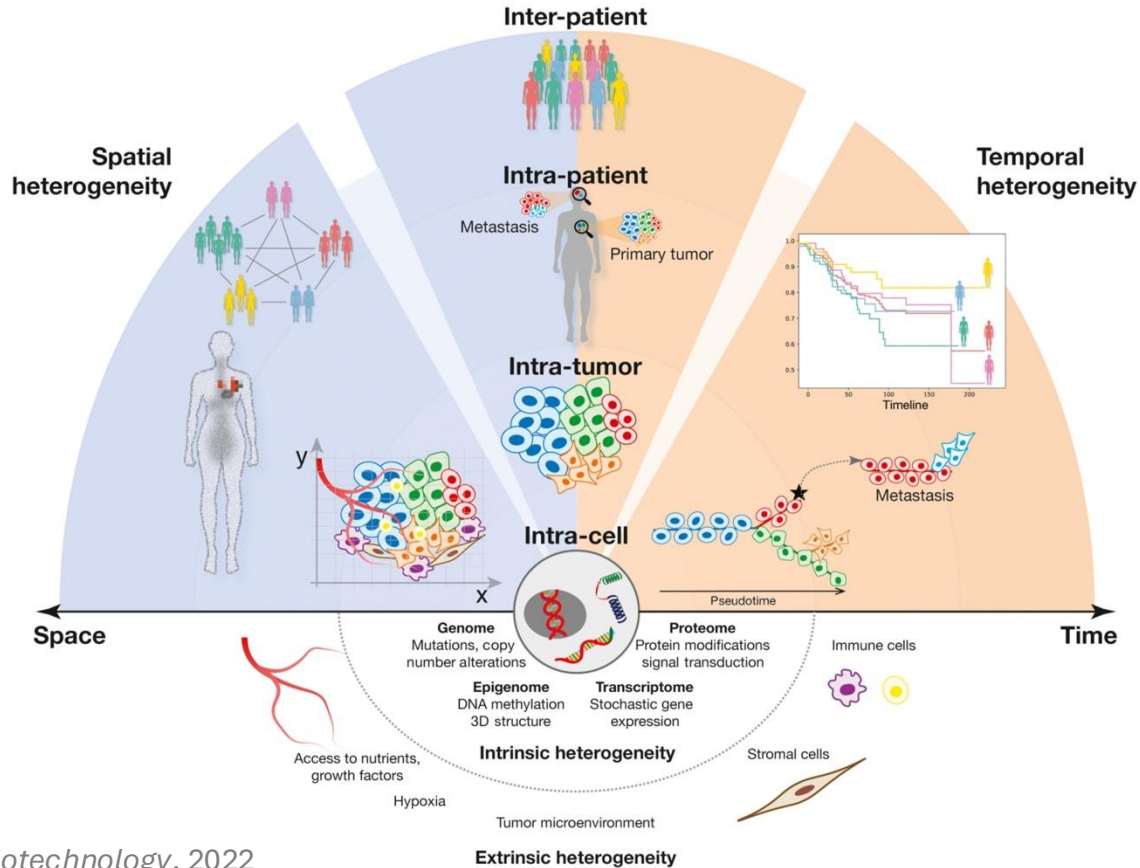
From stochasticity to tumor heterogeneity



Eling *et al.*, 2019



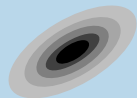
From stochasticity to tumor heterogeneity



Graph ML



Generative AI



AI/ML for Biomedicine

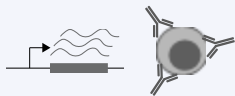
Multimodal AI



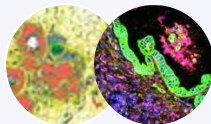
Interpretability



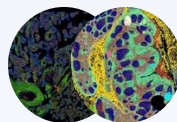
Single-cell (multi)-omics



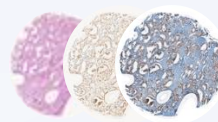
Spatial omics



Multiplexed Imaging



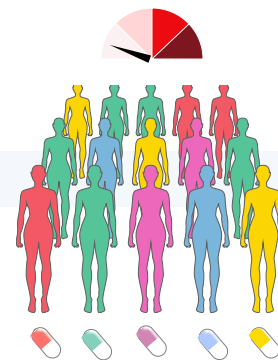
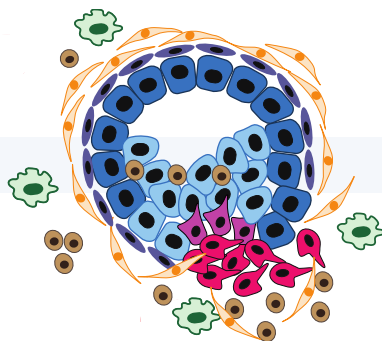
Histopathology



Drug Perturbations

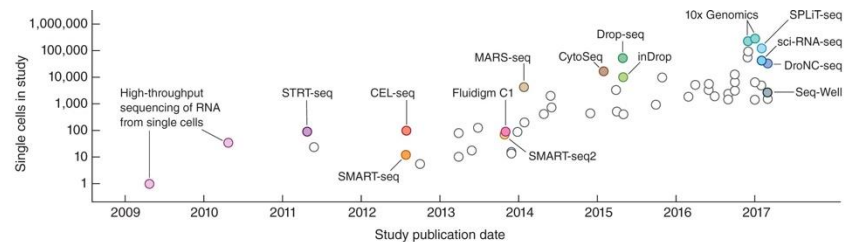


Clinical data



An emerging era for single-cell biology

Single-cell omics



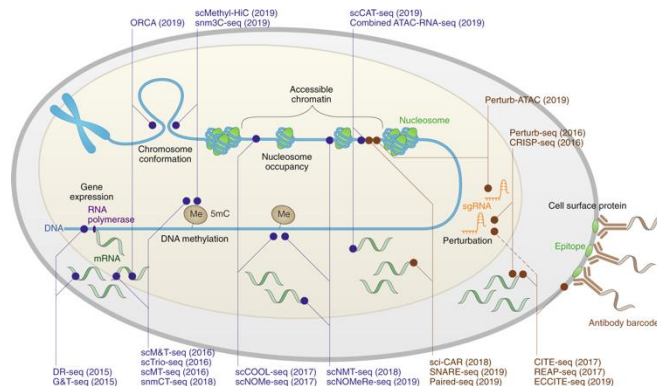
Svensson et al., Nat Protocols, (2018)

An emerging era for **single-cell** biology

Single-cell omics

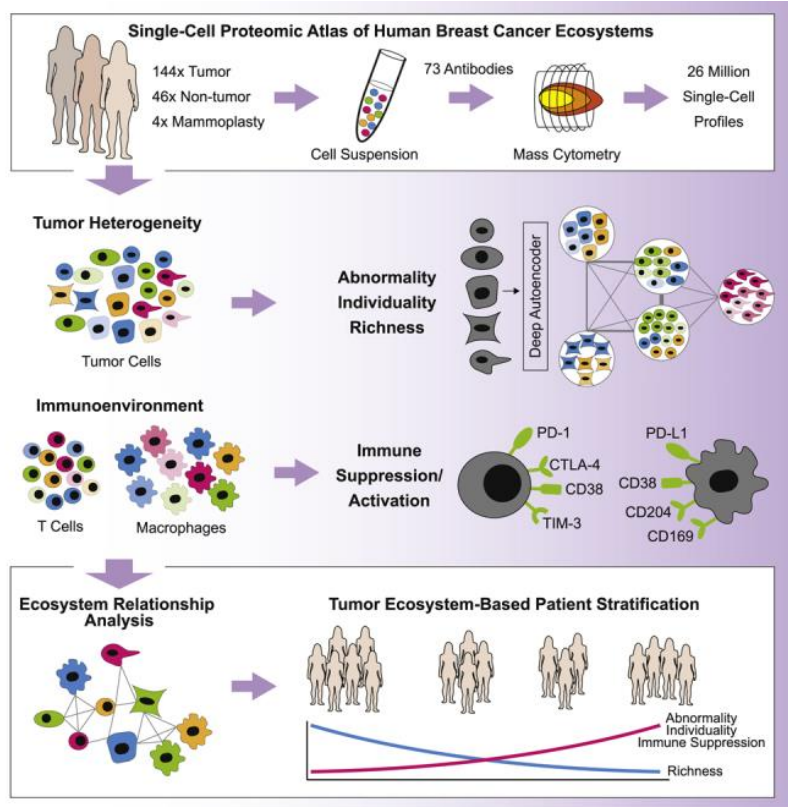


Single-cell multiomics



Zhu et al., *Nat Methods*, (2020)

A Single-Cell Atlas of Breast Cancer Ecosystems



Machine Learning-based tumor heterogeneity scores

Abnormality

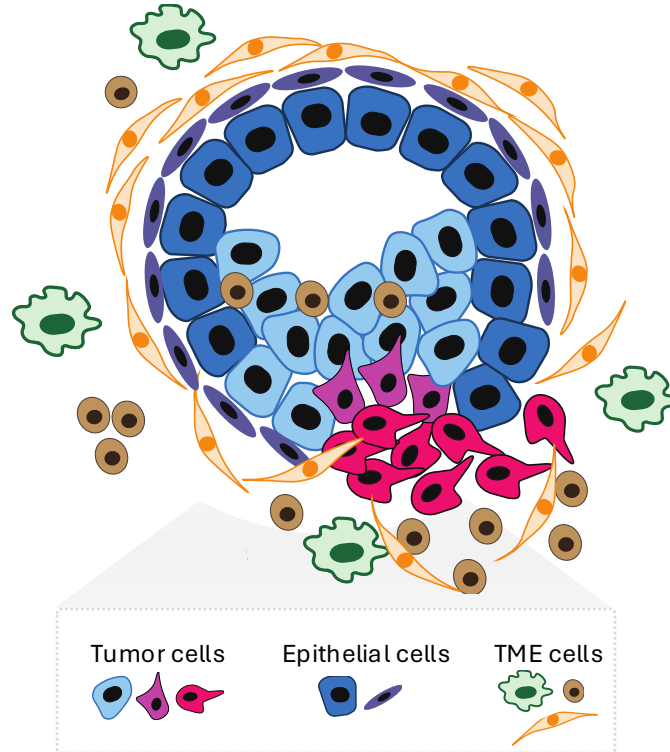
How much have the tumor cells deviated from non-tumor?

Individuality

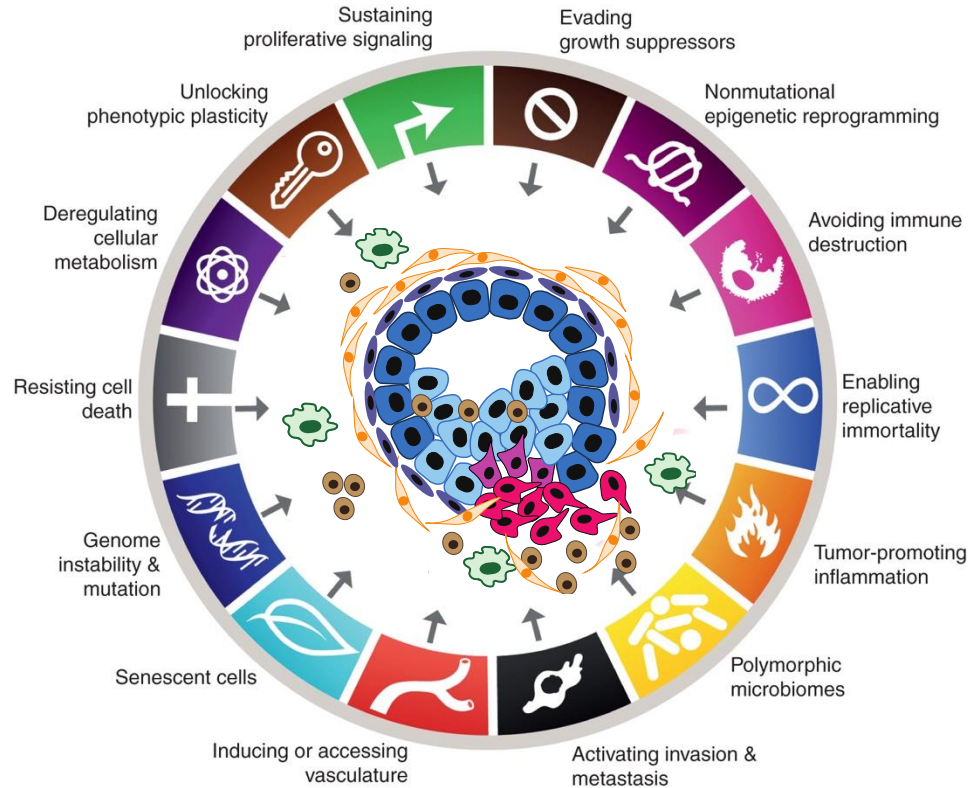
How distinct is the tumor within the cohort?

- Aggressive tumors are characterized by **few but highly abnormal and unique** cell subtypes
- Ecosystem-based approach enables **patient stratification**

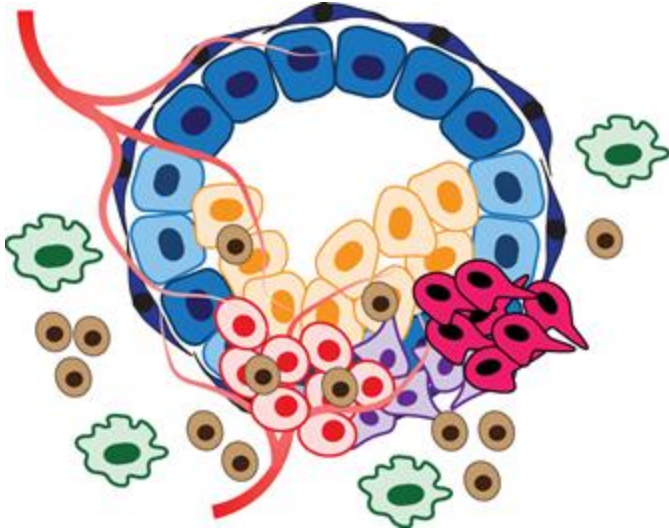
Tumors are **spatially** heterogeneous ecosystems



Tumors are **spatially** heterogeneous ecosystems



Tumors are **spatially** heterogeneous ecosystems



Normal cells



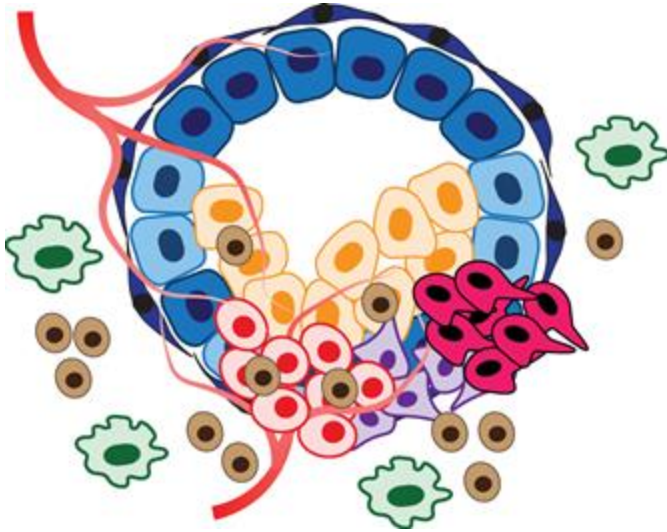
Tumor cells



Immune cells



Tumors are **spatially** heterogeneous ecosystems



Tumor-tumor interactions:

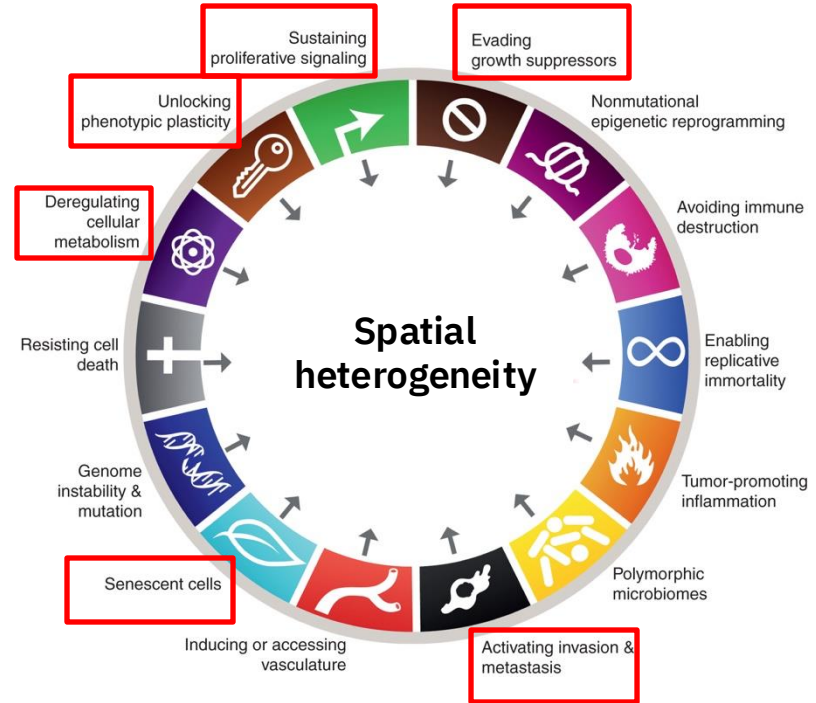
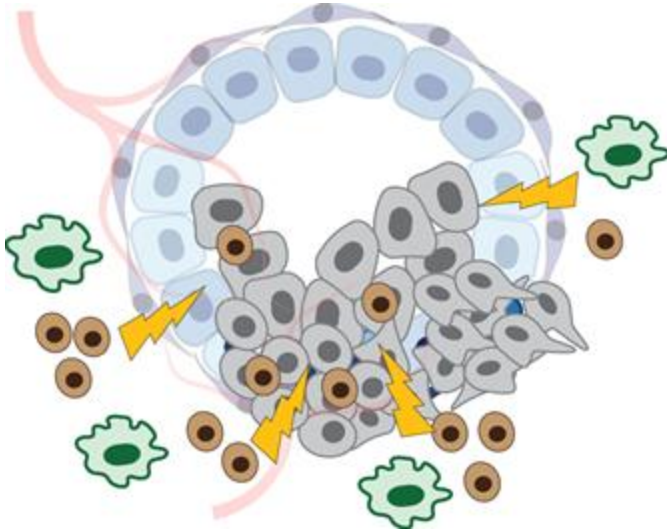


Image from: Hanahan et al., 2022

Tumors are **spatially** heterogeneous ecosystems



Immune attack: 

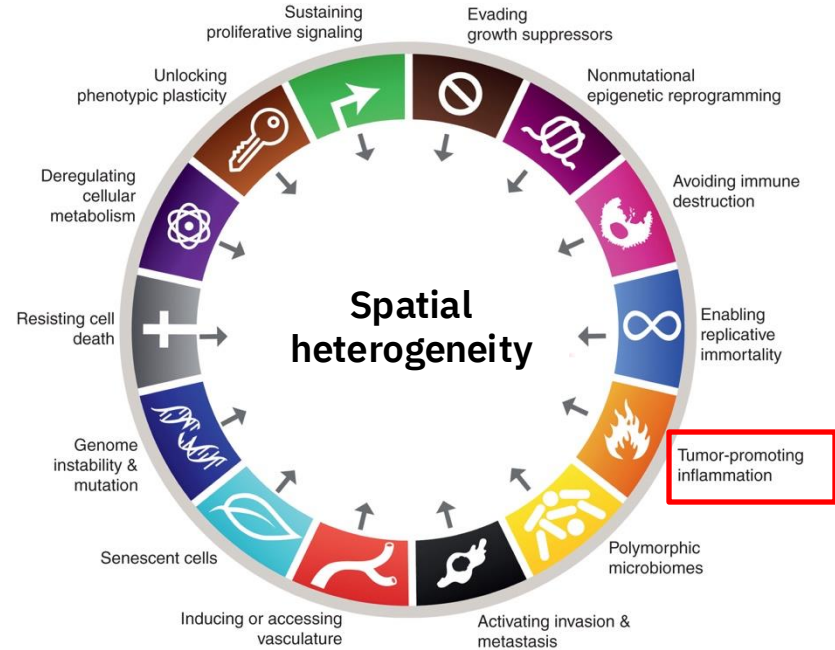
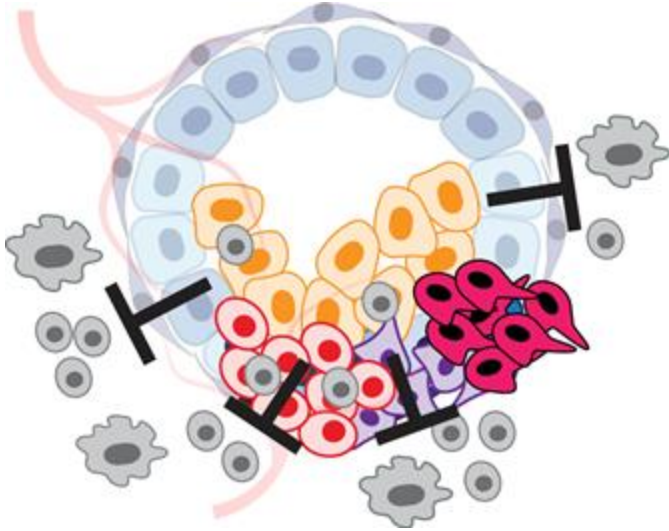


Image from: Hanahan et al., 2022

Tumors are **spatially** heterogeneous ecosystems



Immune suppression:   

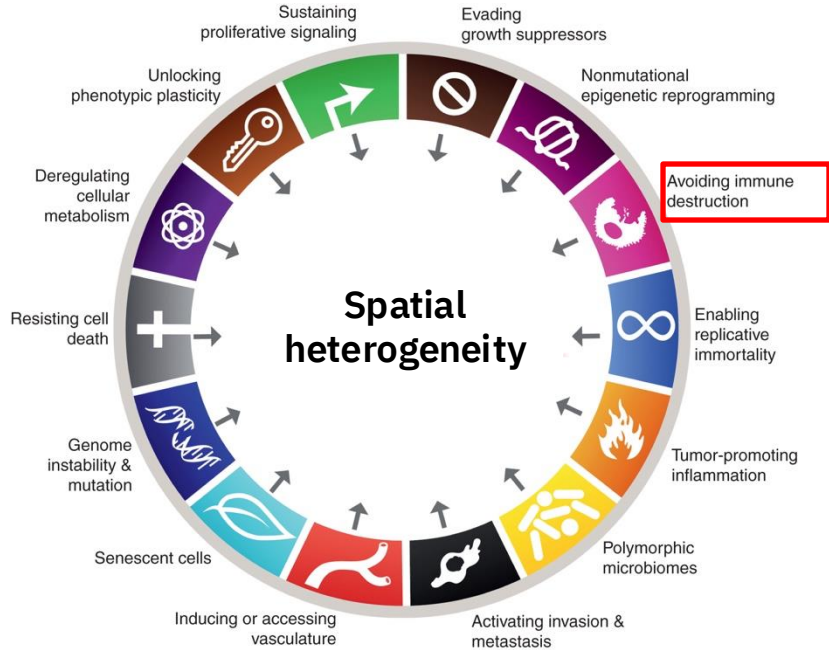


Image from: Hanahan et al., 2022

Tumors are **spatially** heterogeneous ecosystems

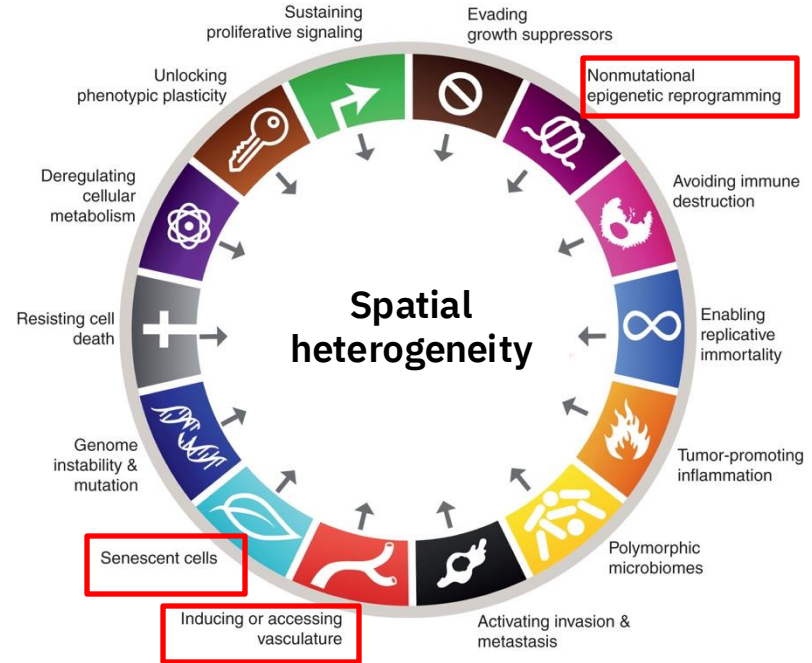
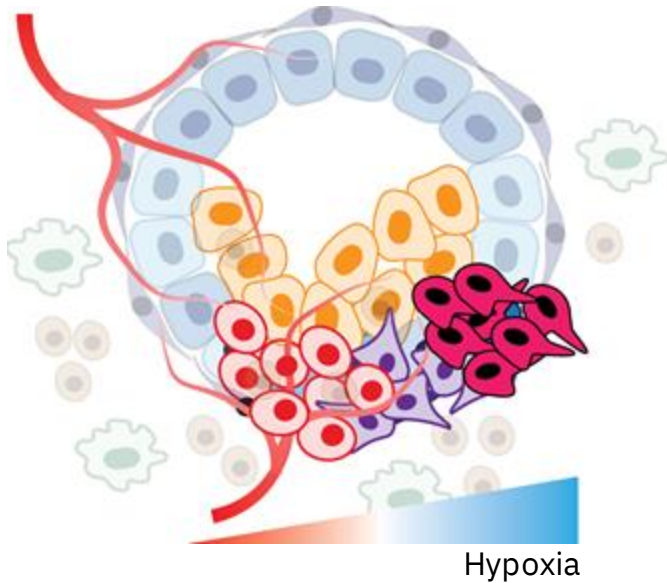


Image from: Hanahan et al., 2022

Tumors are **spatially** heterogeneous ecosystems

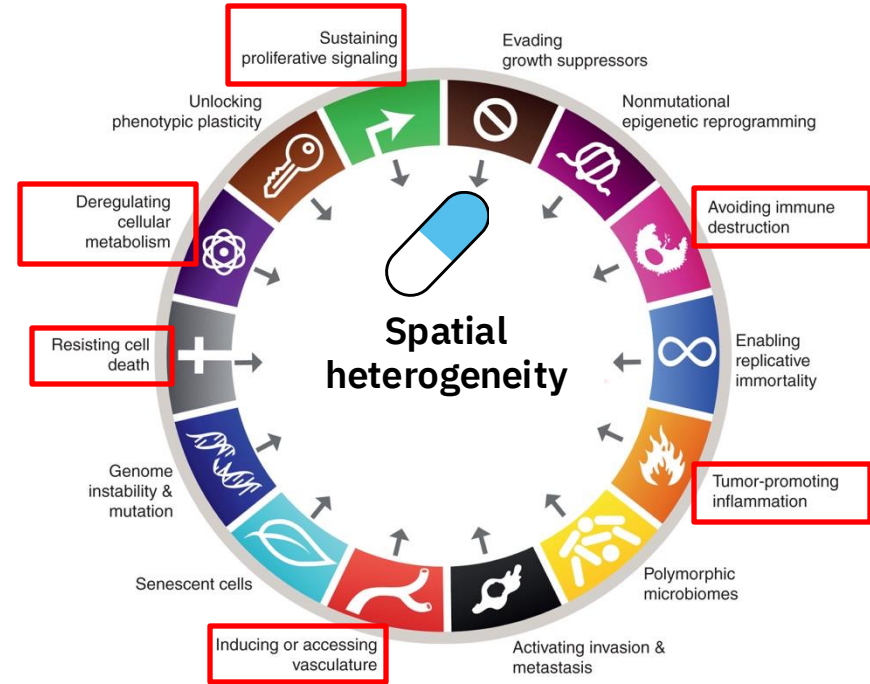
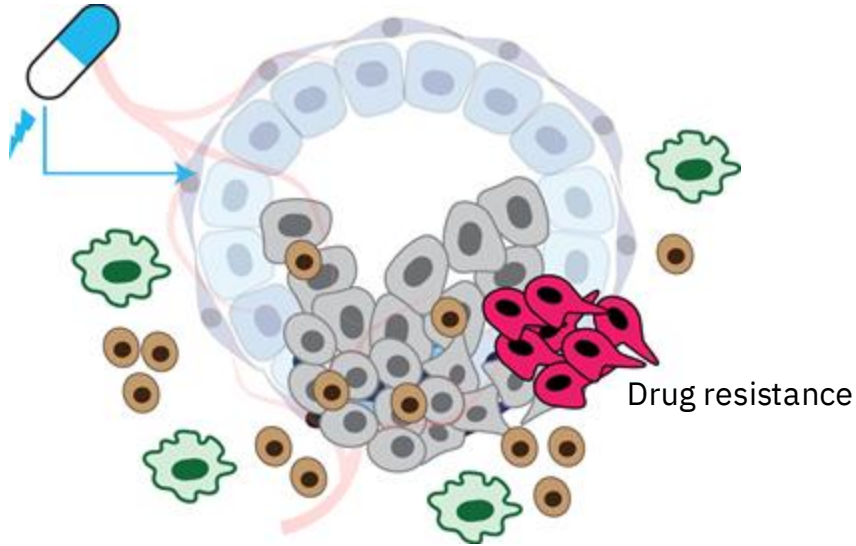
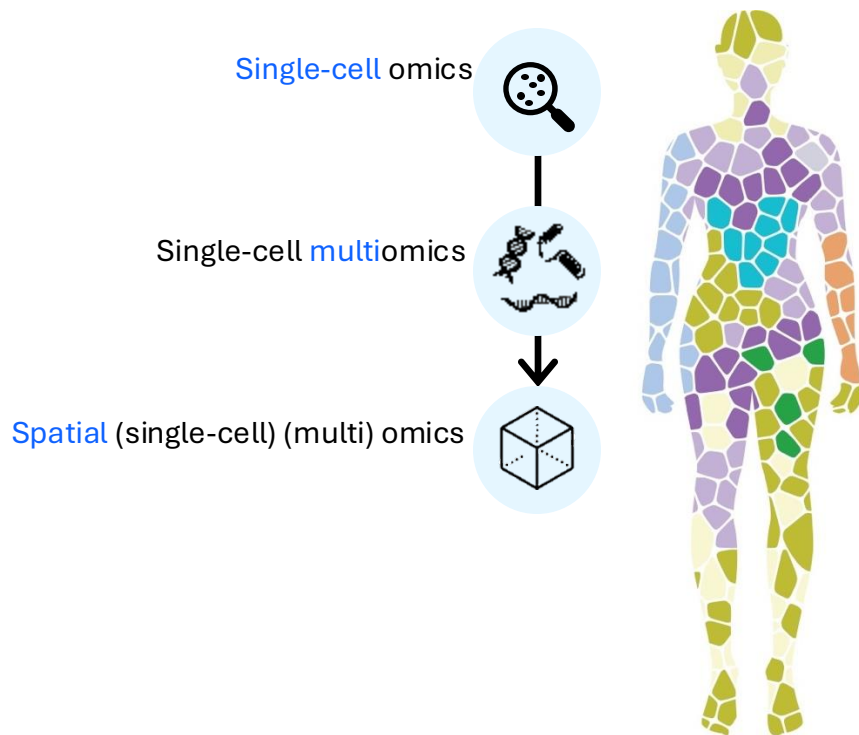
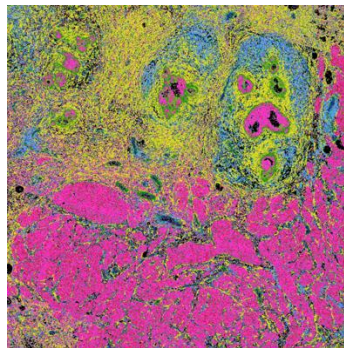


Image from: Hanahan et al., 2022

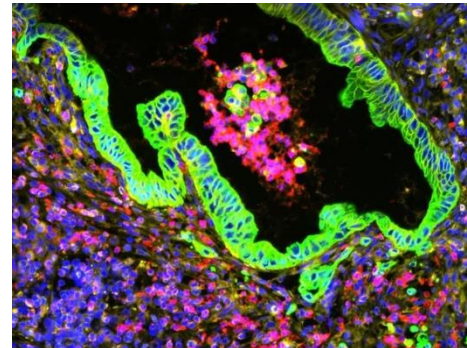
An emerging era for **spatial** biology



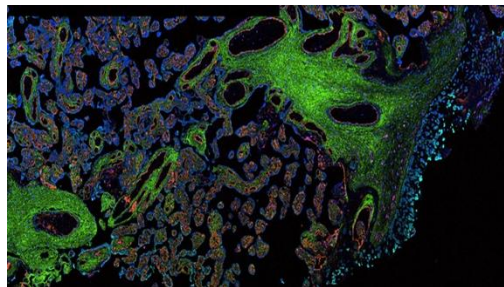
10X Xenium - Breast Cancer



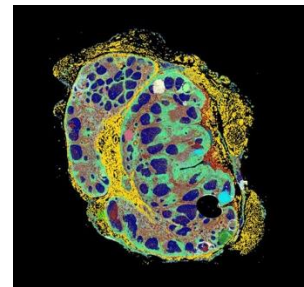
Nanostring CosMx – Human Lung



Imaging Mass Cytometry - Human Placenta

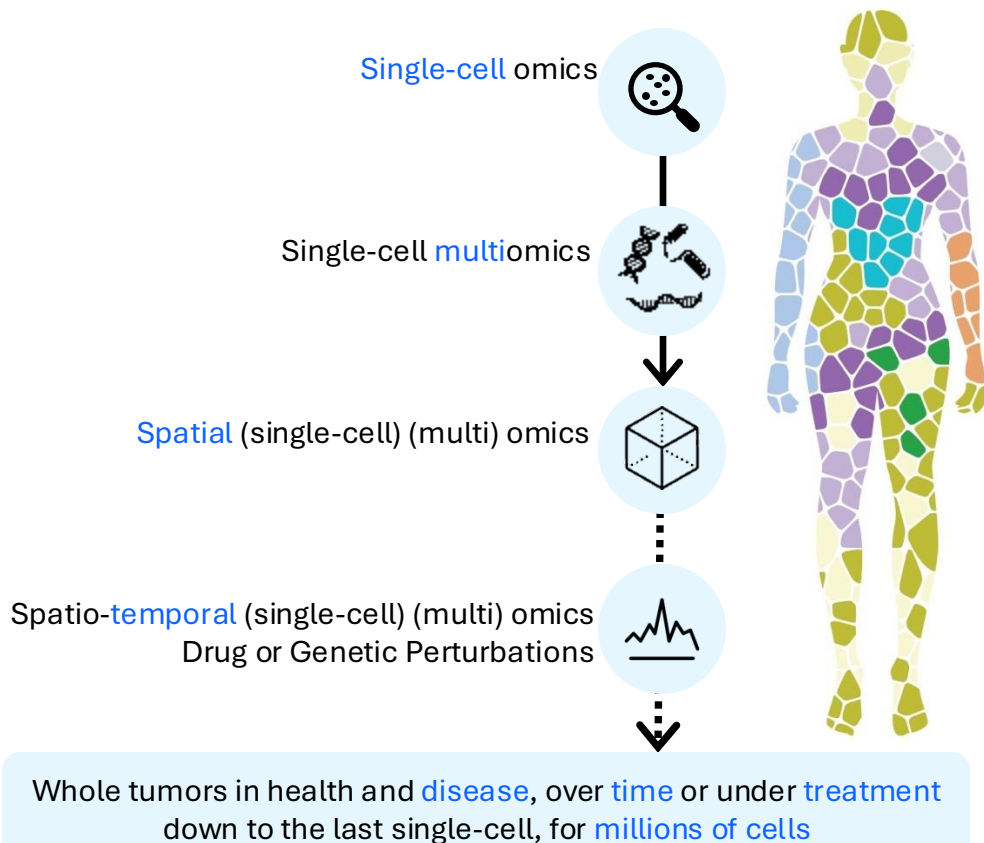


CODEX – Lymph node

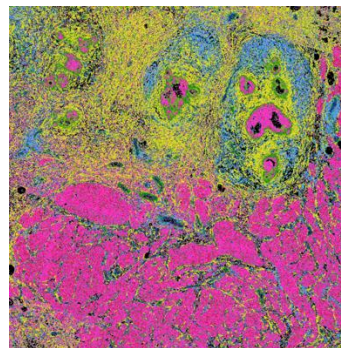


Images from <https://hubmapconsortium.org>, [10Xgenomics.com](https://10xgenomics.com) and [Nanostring.com](https://nanostring.com)

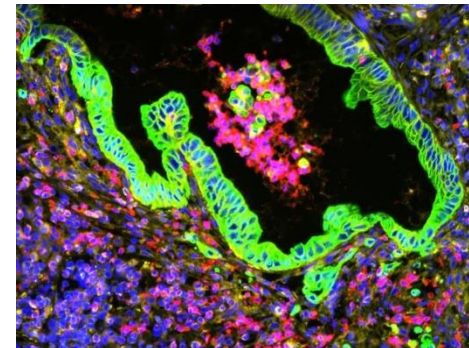
An emerging era for **spatial** biology



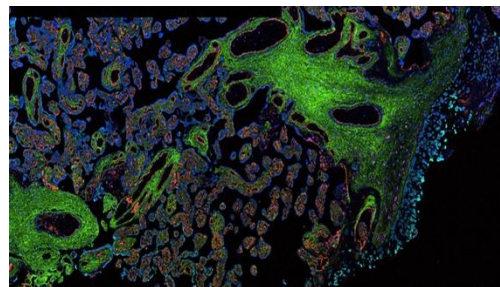
10X Xenium - Breast Cancer



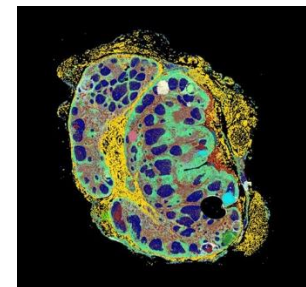
Nanostring CosMx - Human Lung



Imaging Mass Cytometry - Human Placenta



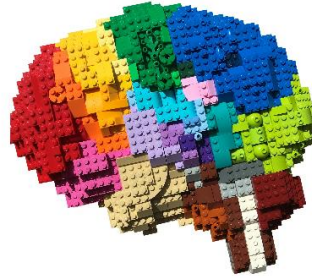
CODEX - Lymph node



Images from <https://hubmapconsortium.org>, [10Xgenomics.com](https://10xgenomics.com) and [Nanostring.com](https://nanostring.com)

Bulk vs. single-cell vs. spatial

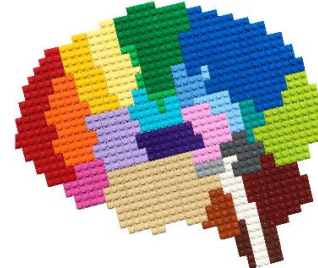
organ



Bulk RNA-seq

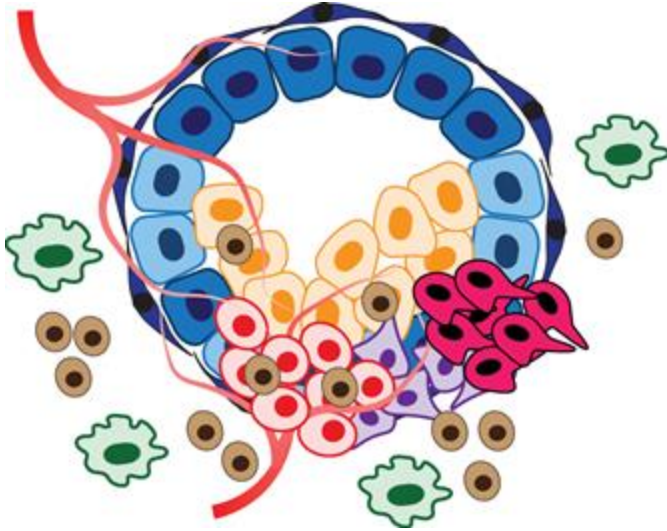


scRNA-seq



spatial RNA-seq

Spatial omics: the new frontier



Spatial transcriptomics:

e.g., smFISH, MERFISH, seqFISH, LCM, Visium, FISSEQ

Spatial proteomics:

e.g., mIHC, CycIF, CODEX, ImmunoSABER, IMC, MIBI

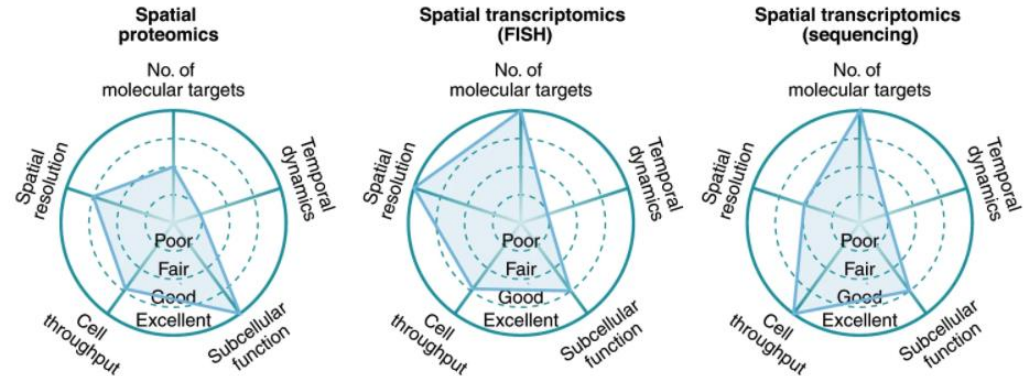
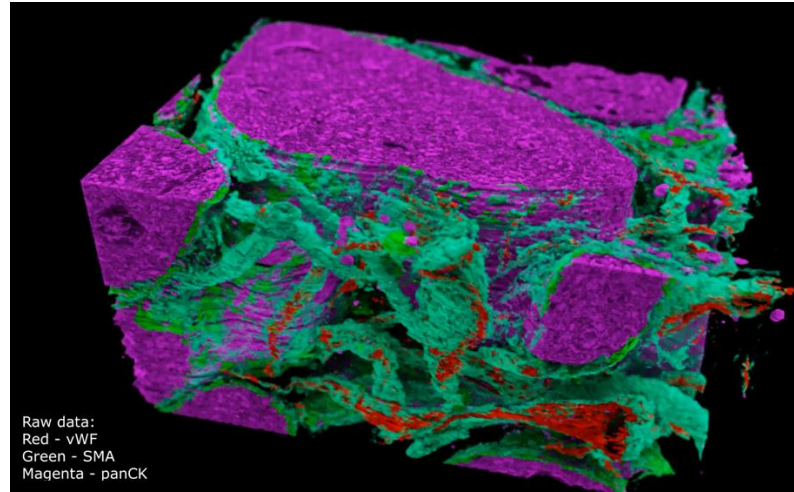


Figure from: Lewis *et al.*, *Nature Methods*, 2021



How do cancer subpopulations interact with each other and the TME?

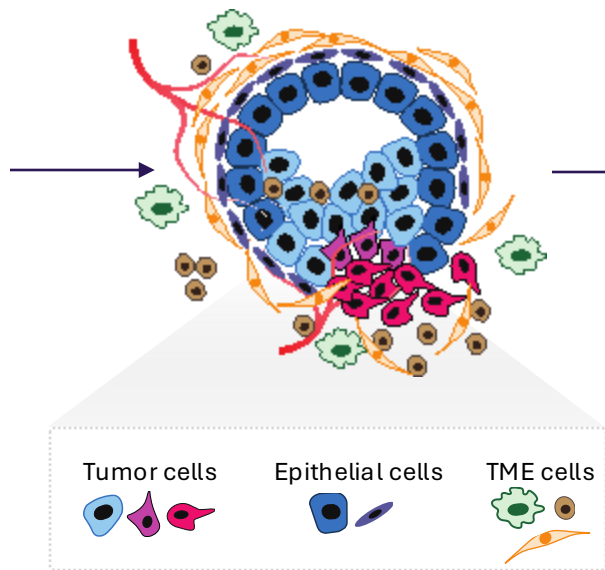
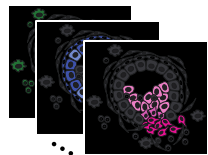
How do they evade immune destruction and treatments?

How does the TME influence tumor growth?

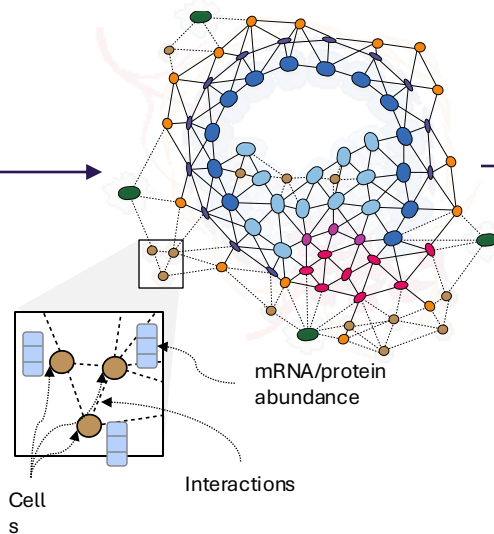
Spatial heterogeneity as an **opportunity** to enable novel biomarker and therapeutic discovery

Modeling the TME with **Graph Representation Learning**

Spatial omics or
multiplexed imaging



Heterogeneous graph
representation

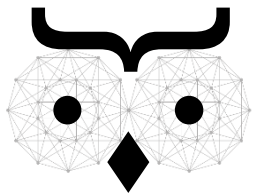


Patient
stratification

Prognosis

Treatment
selection

Motif
identification



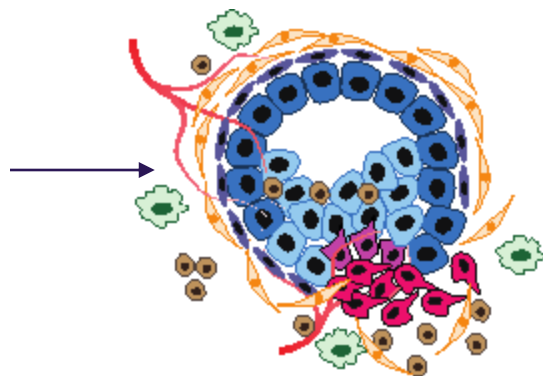
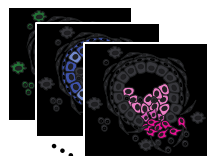
ATHENA

Analysis of Tumor Heterogeneity from Spatial Omics

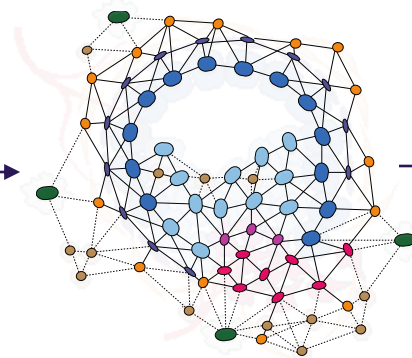


Adriano
Martinelli

Spatial omics or
multiplexed imaging



Heterogeneous graph
representation



Patient
stratification

Prognosis

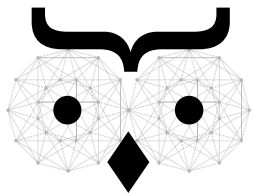
Treatment
selection

Motif
identification

Martinelli and Rapsomaniki, *Bioinformatics* (2022)



<https://github.com/AI4SCR/ATHENA>



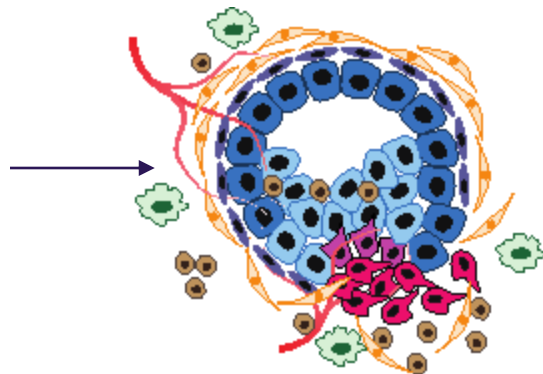
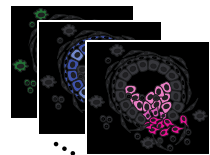
ATHENA

Analysis of Tumor Heterogeneity from Spatial Omics

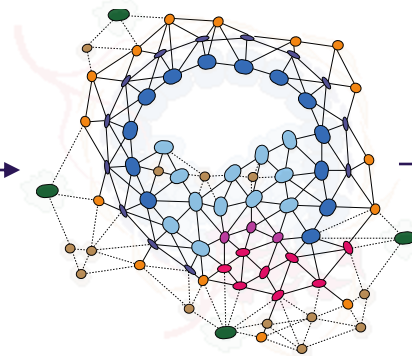


Adriano
Martinelli

Spatial omics or
multiplexed imaging



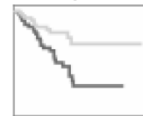
Heterogeneous graph
representation



Patient
stratification



Prognosis



Treatment
selection



Motif
identification



Feature 1



Feature n

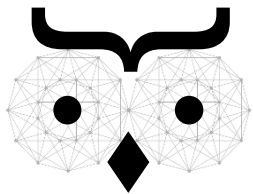


Interpretable spatial heterogeneity scores

Martinelli and Rapsomaniki, *Bioinformatics* (2022)



<https://github.com/AI4SCR/ATHENA>



ATHENA

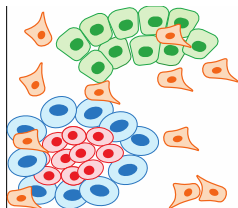
Analysis of Tumor Heterogeneity from Spatial Omics

Spatial Omics Datasets

raw data



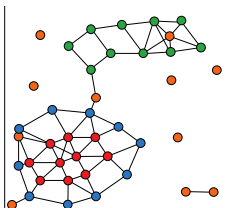
cell phenotypes



cell masks

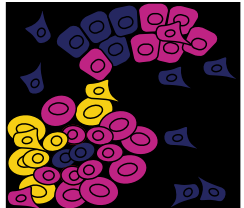


Graph Representation

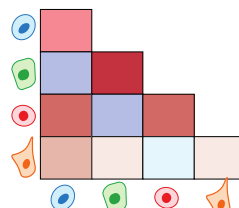


Spatial Heterogeneity Quantification

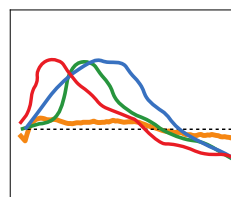
tumor diversity



cell interactions

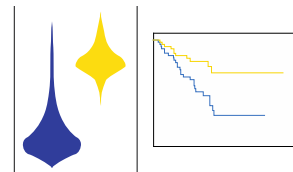


spatial patterns



Downstream Analysis

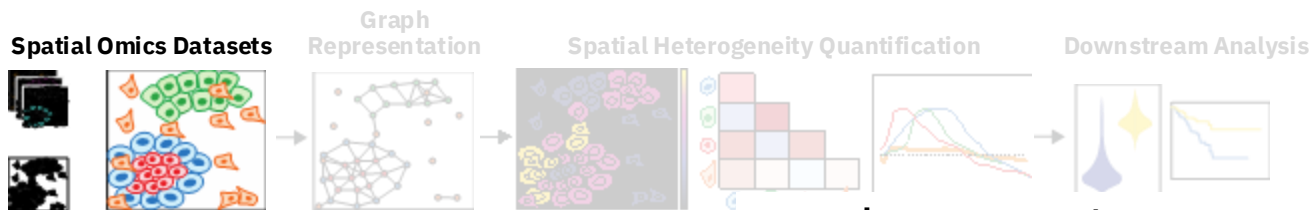
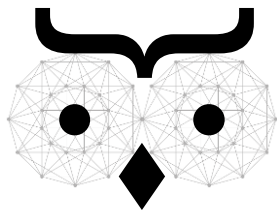
statistical / survival analysis



Martinelli and Rapsomaniki (2022) ATHENA: analysis of tumor heterogeneity from spatial omics measurements, *Bioinformatics*, doi: [10.1093/bioinformatics/btac303](https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btac303)

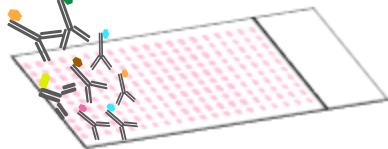


<https://github.com/AI4SCR/ATHENA>



From multiplexed imaging...

Breast Cancer cohort*

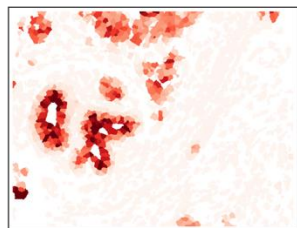


Imaging Mass Cytometry

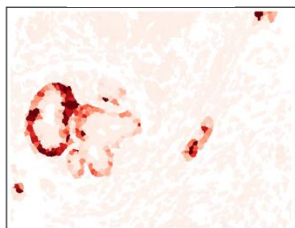


... to single-cell spatial proteomics

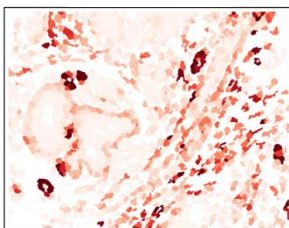
Pan Cytokeratin



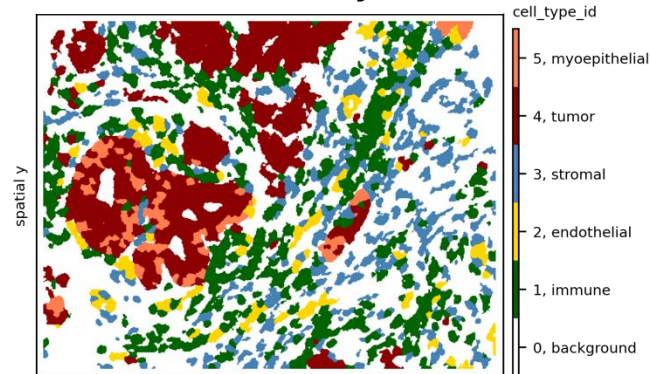
Cytokeratin 5



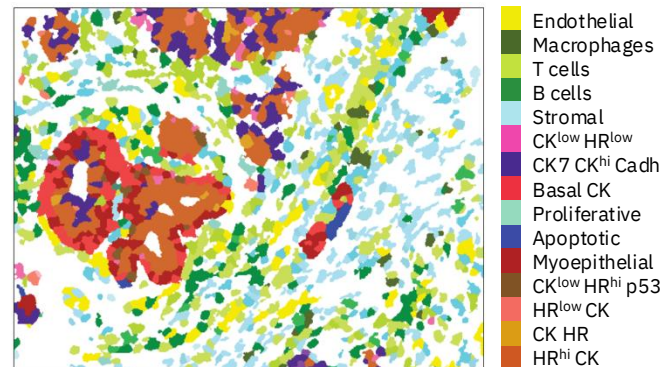
Smooth Muscle Actin



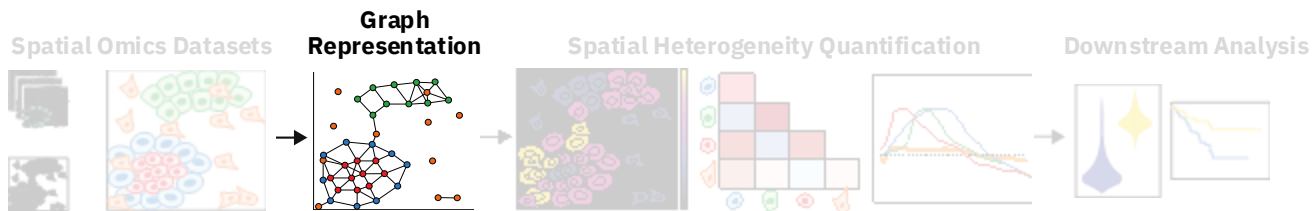
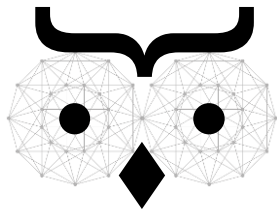
... and cancer ecosystems



Annotated subpopulations



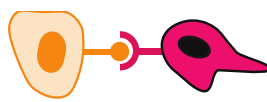
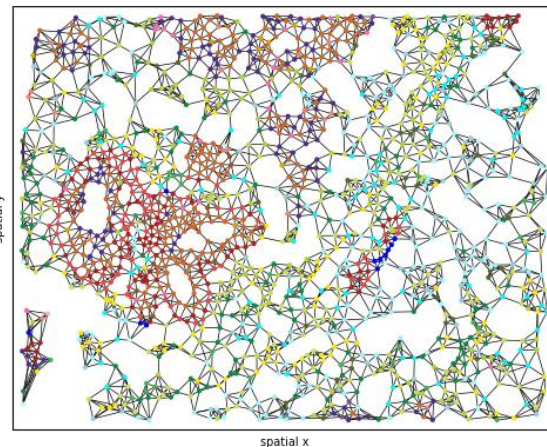
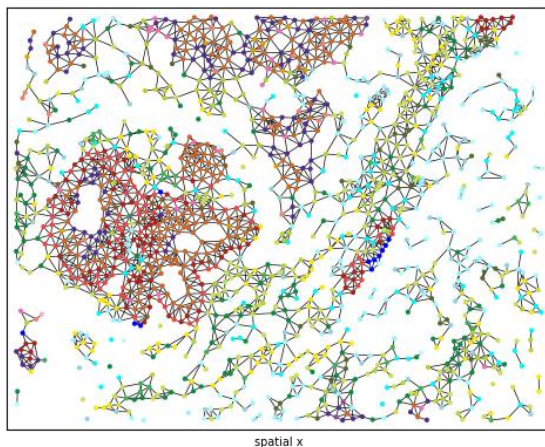
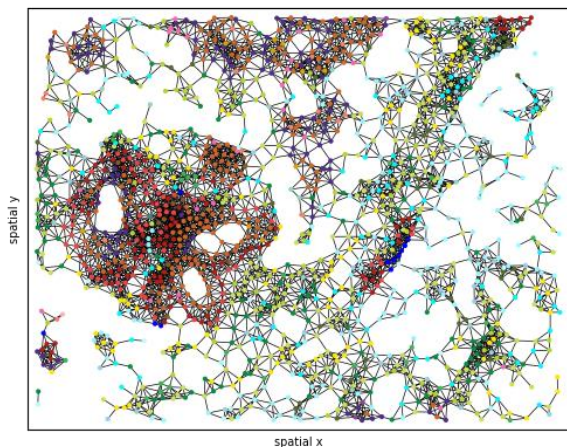
*Sample data from Jackson *et al.*, *Nature*, 2019

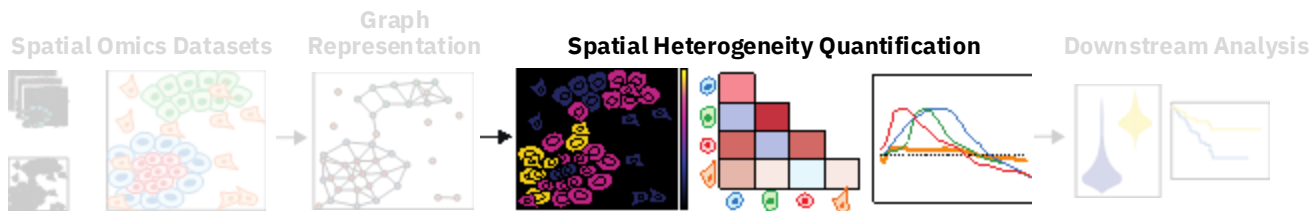
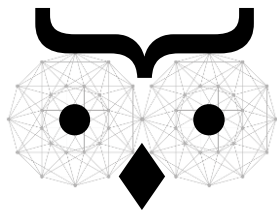


Radius Graph

Contact Graph

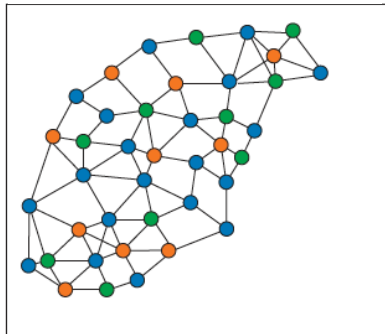
k-NN Graph



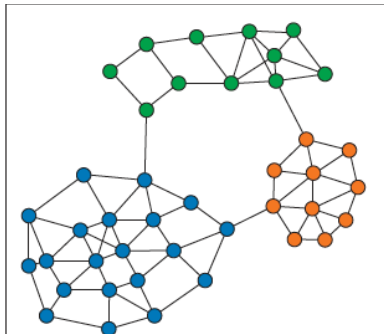


Graph-theoretic scores

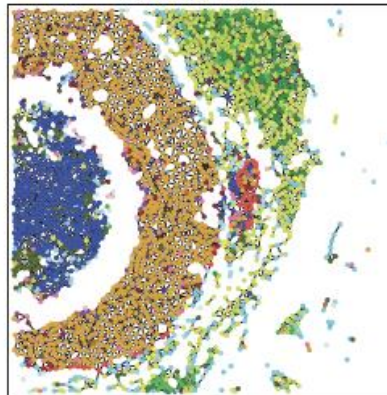
low modularity



high modularity

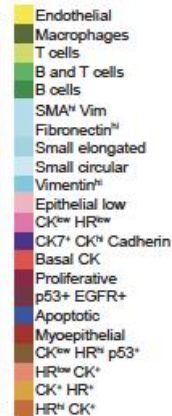
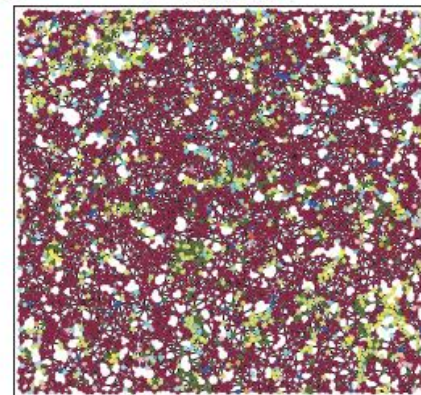


Modularity = 0.41



D

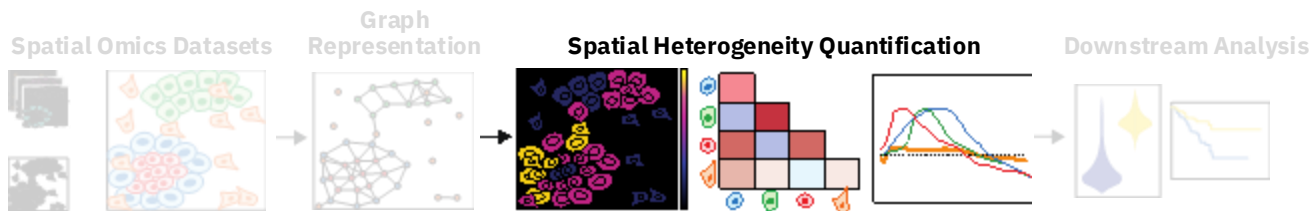
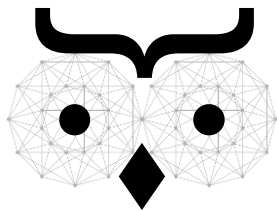
Modularity = 0.08



Modularity:

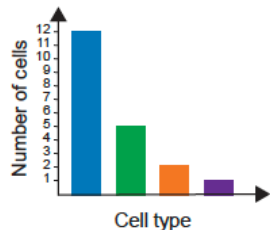
$$Q = \sum_{c=1}^n \left[\frac{L_c}{m} - \gamma \left(\frac{k_c}{2m} \right)^2 \right]$$

where m : #connections, γ : resolution, L_c : inter-community edges, k_c : sum of degrees of all nodes in community c

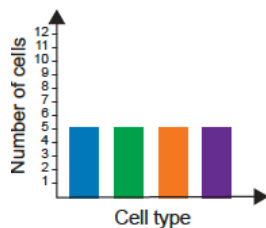


Information-theoretic scores

low entropy



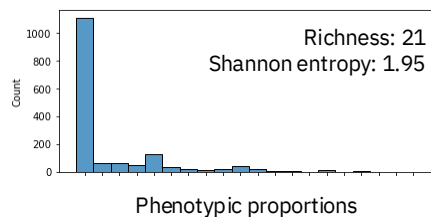
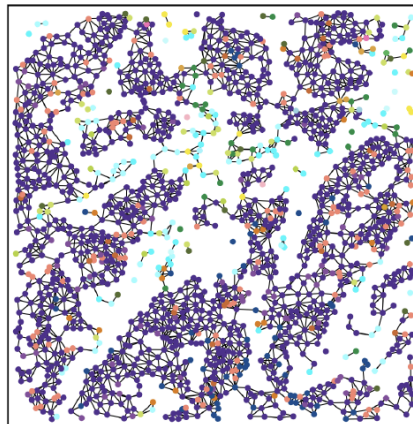
high entropy



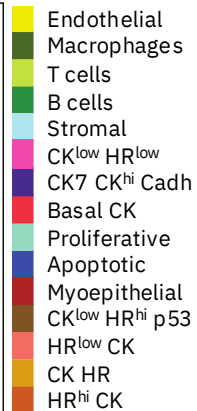
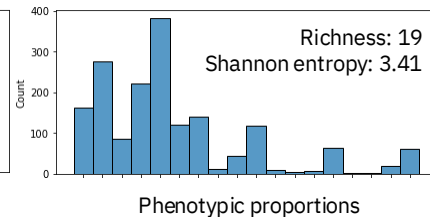
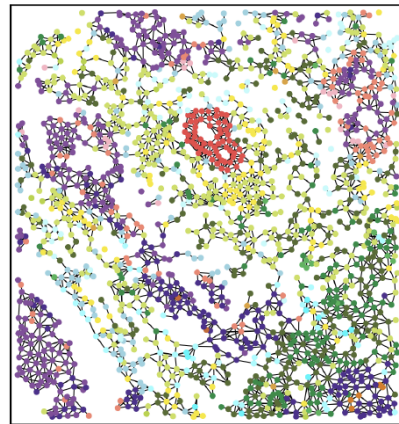
Shannon entropy:
$$-\sum_{i=1}^S p(x_i) \log p(x_i)$$

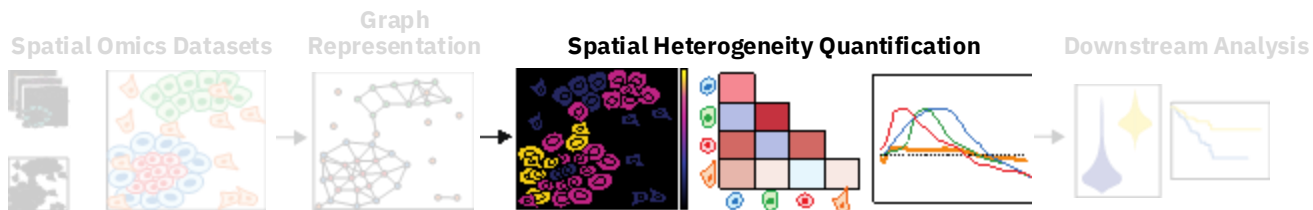
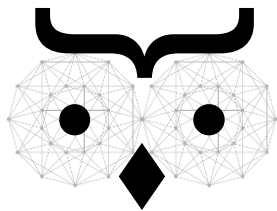
Quadratic entropy:
$$\sum_{i=1}^{S-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^S d(x_i, x_j) p(x_i) p(x_j)$$

low entropy

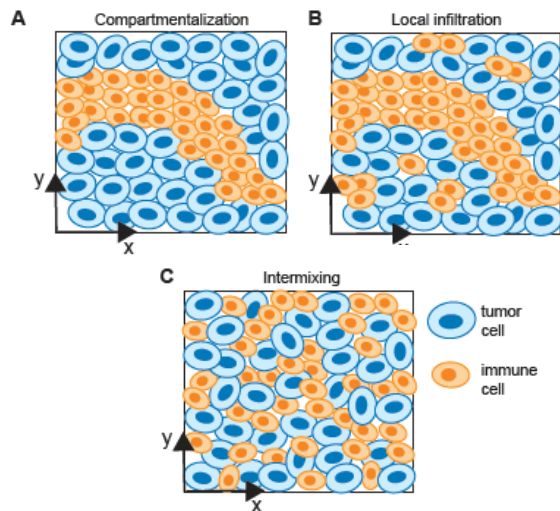


high entropy

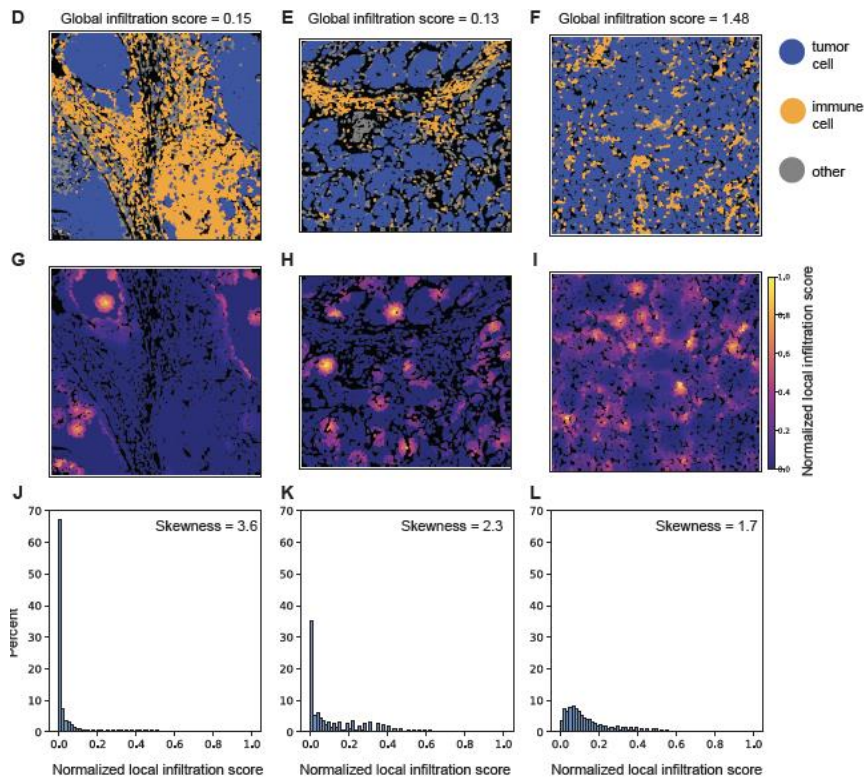


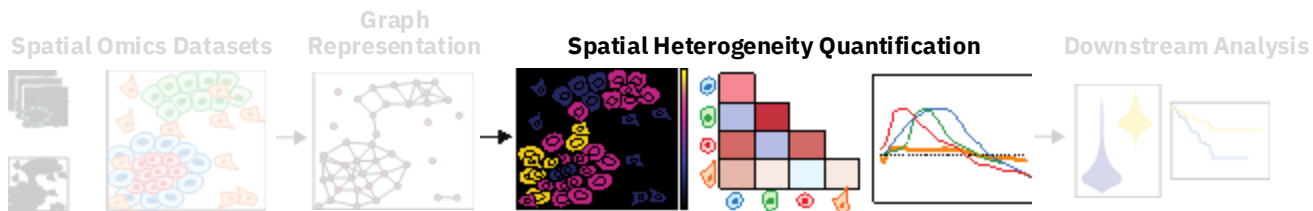
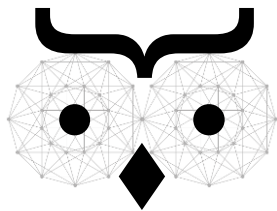


Immune infiltration scores

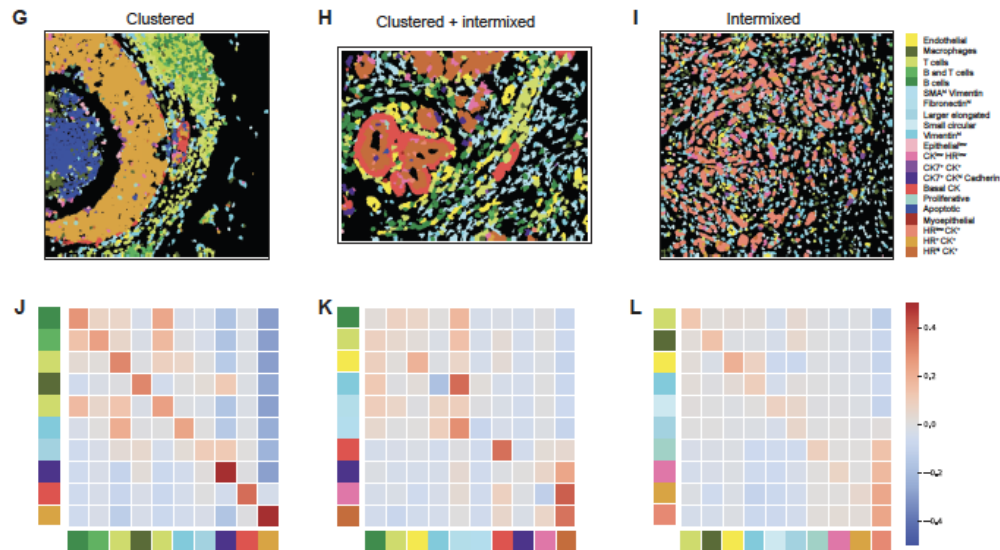
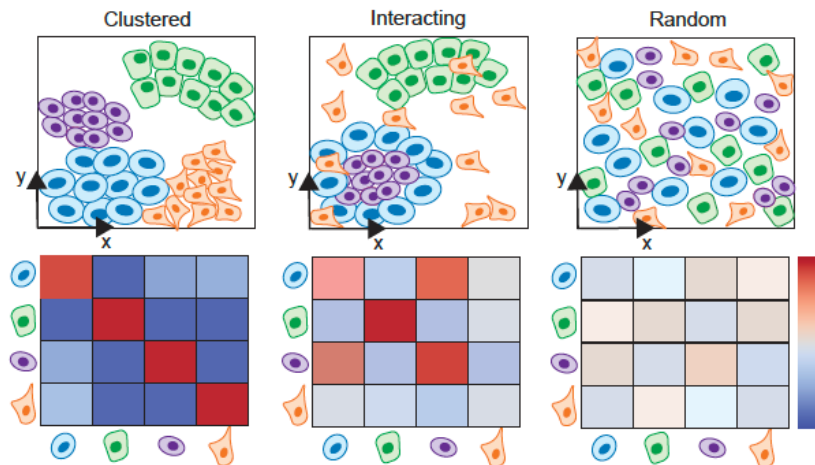


Infiltration score:
$$\frac{\text{tumor-immune interactions}}{\text{immune-immune interactions}}$$





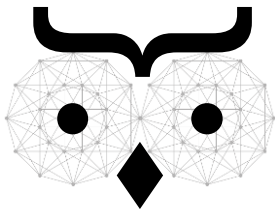
Cell interaction scores



Neighborhood analysis - Spatial enrichment methods

Schapiro et al., *Nature Methods*, 2017

Keren et al., *Cell*, 2018



ATHENA

Implementation

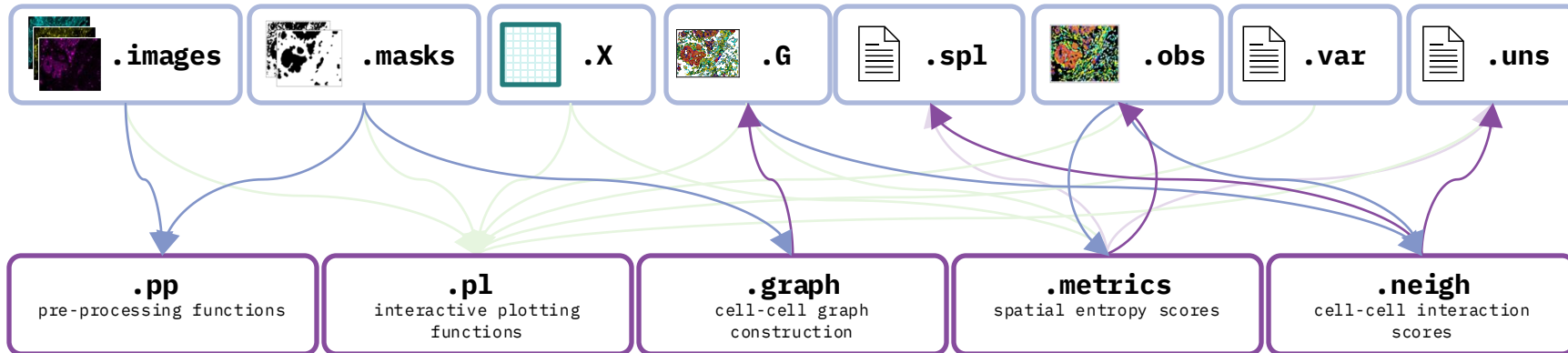


Adriano Martinelli



Theo Maffei

SpatialOmics Data Structure



SpatialHeterogeneity

Compatible with popular analysis frameworks



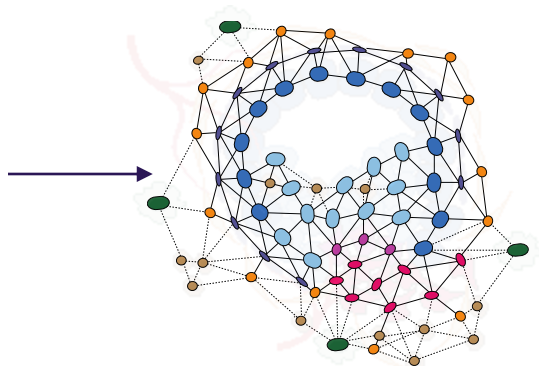
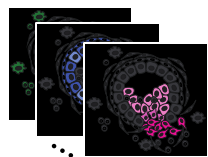
Code, tutorials, datasets:

<https://github.com/AI4SCR/ATHENA>

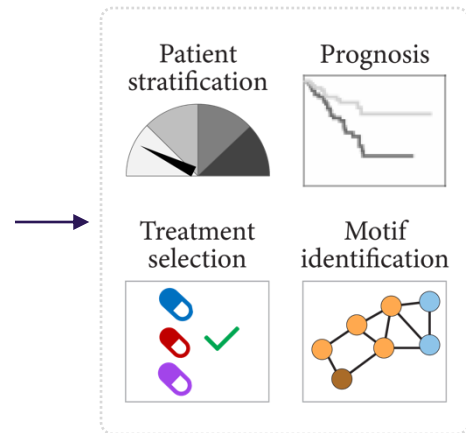


Modeling the TME with Graph Concept Learning

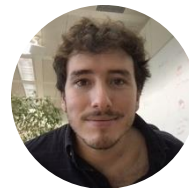
Spatial omics or
multiplexed imaging



Graph
Neural
Network



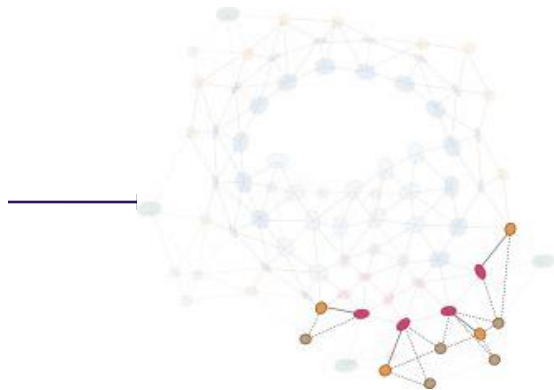
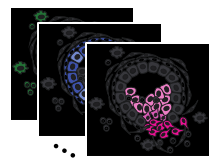
- Limited interpretability
- Is the model able to pick up the signal in the noisy data?



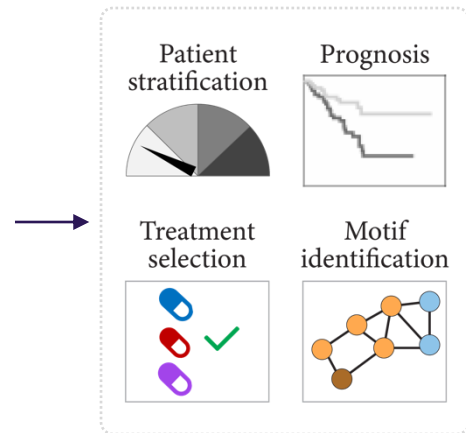
Santiago Castro Dau

Modeling the TME with Graph Concept Learning

Spatial omics or
multiplexed imaging



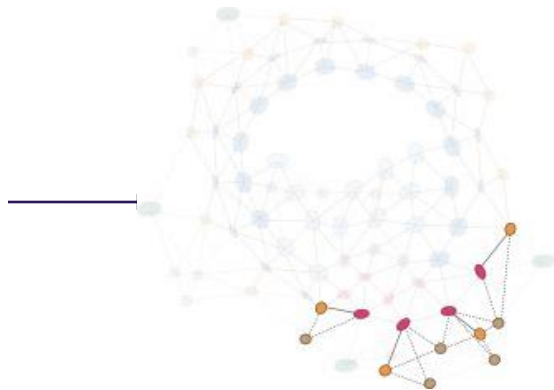
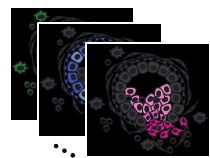
Graph
Neural
Network



- What if we focused on the relevant part of the graph?

Modeling the TME with Graph Concept Learning

Spatial omics or
multiplexed imaging



Graph
Neural
Network

Patient
stratification

Prognosis



Treatment
selection



Motif
identification



+

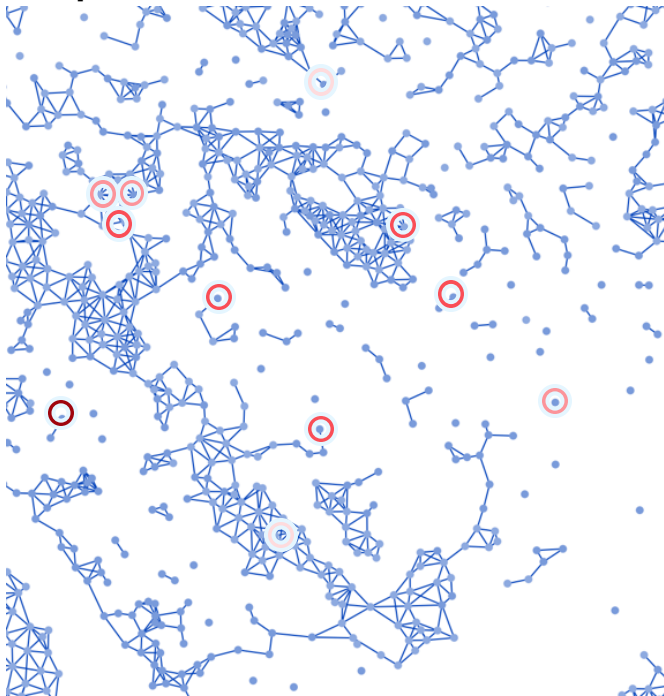


Attention
scores

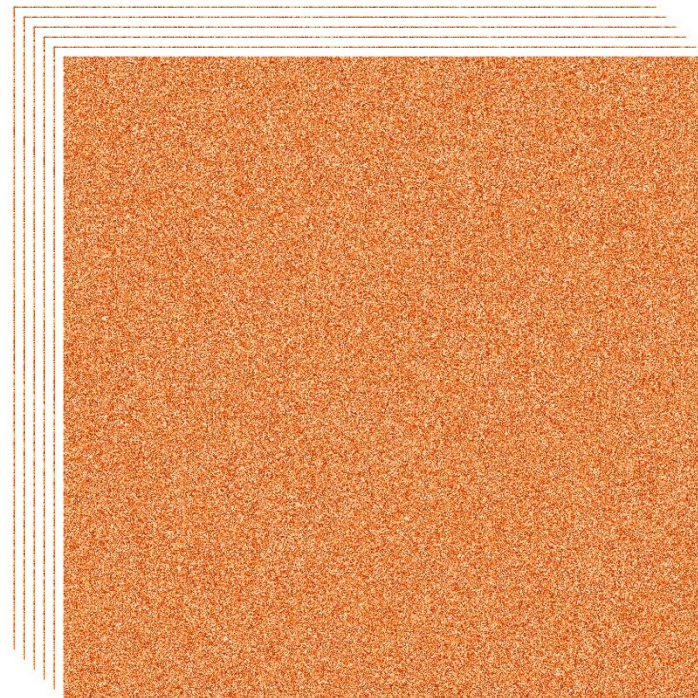
- Attention as interpretation

Limited Interpretability

Simple attention:

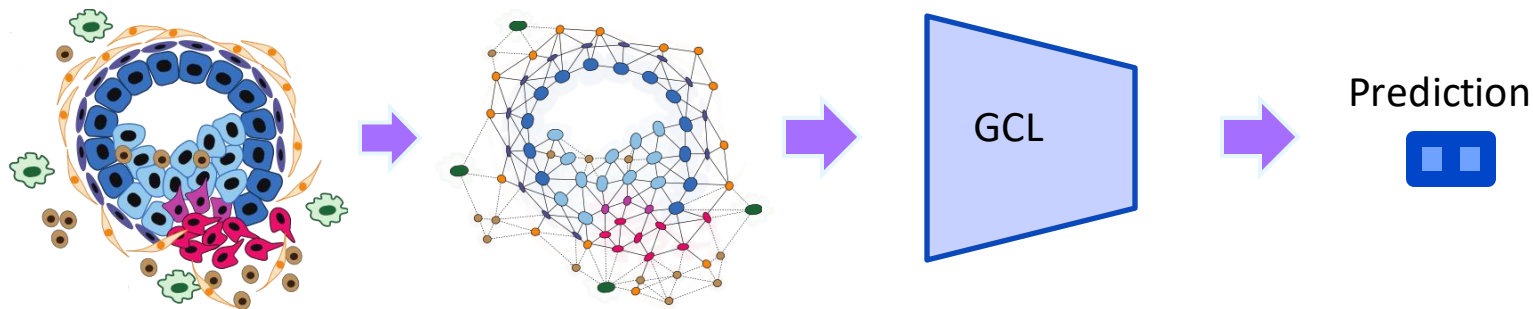


Multi-head self attention:



The Graph Concept Learner

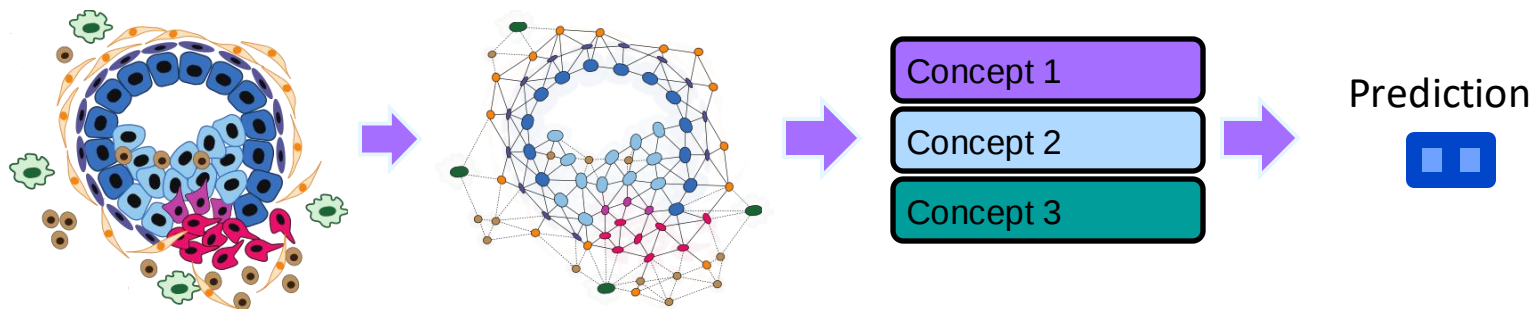
A Novel Machine Learning Framework



- Mode for inclusion of prior knowledge
- Improved interpretability

The Graph Concept Learner

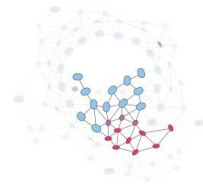
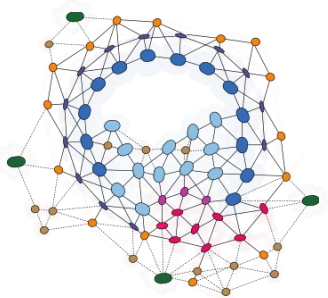
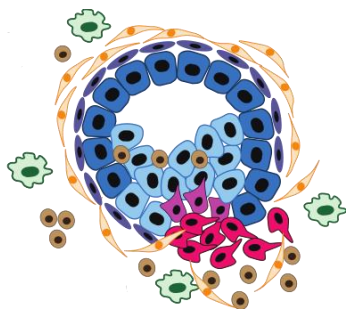
A Novel Machine Learning Framework



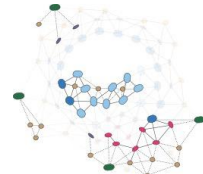
- Mode for inclusion of prior knowledge
- Improved interpretability

The Graph Concept Learner

A Novel Machine Learning Framework



Concept 1



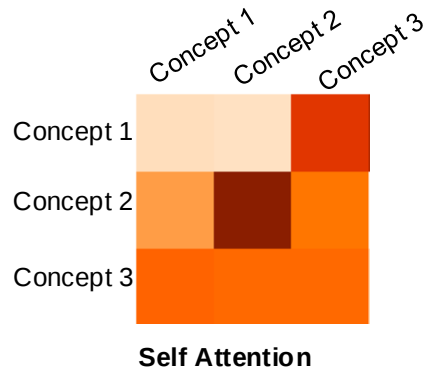
Concept 2



Concept 3



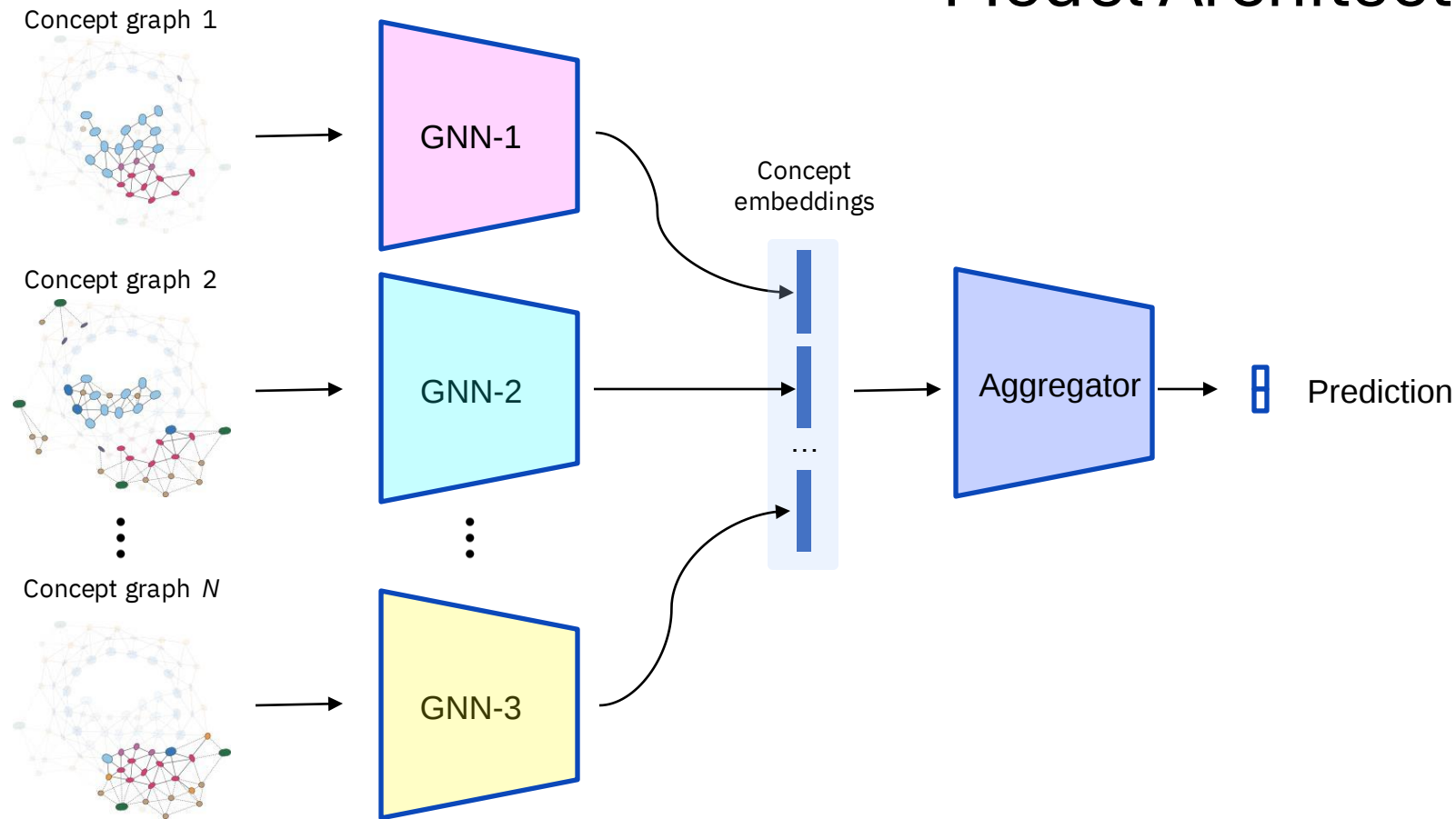
Prediction



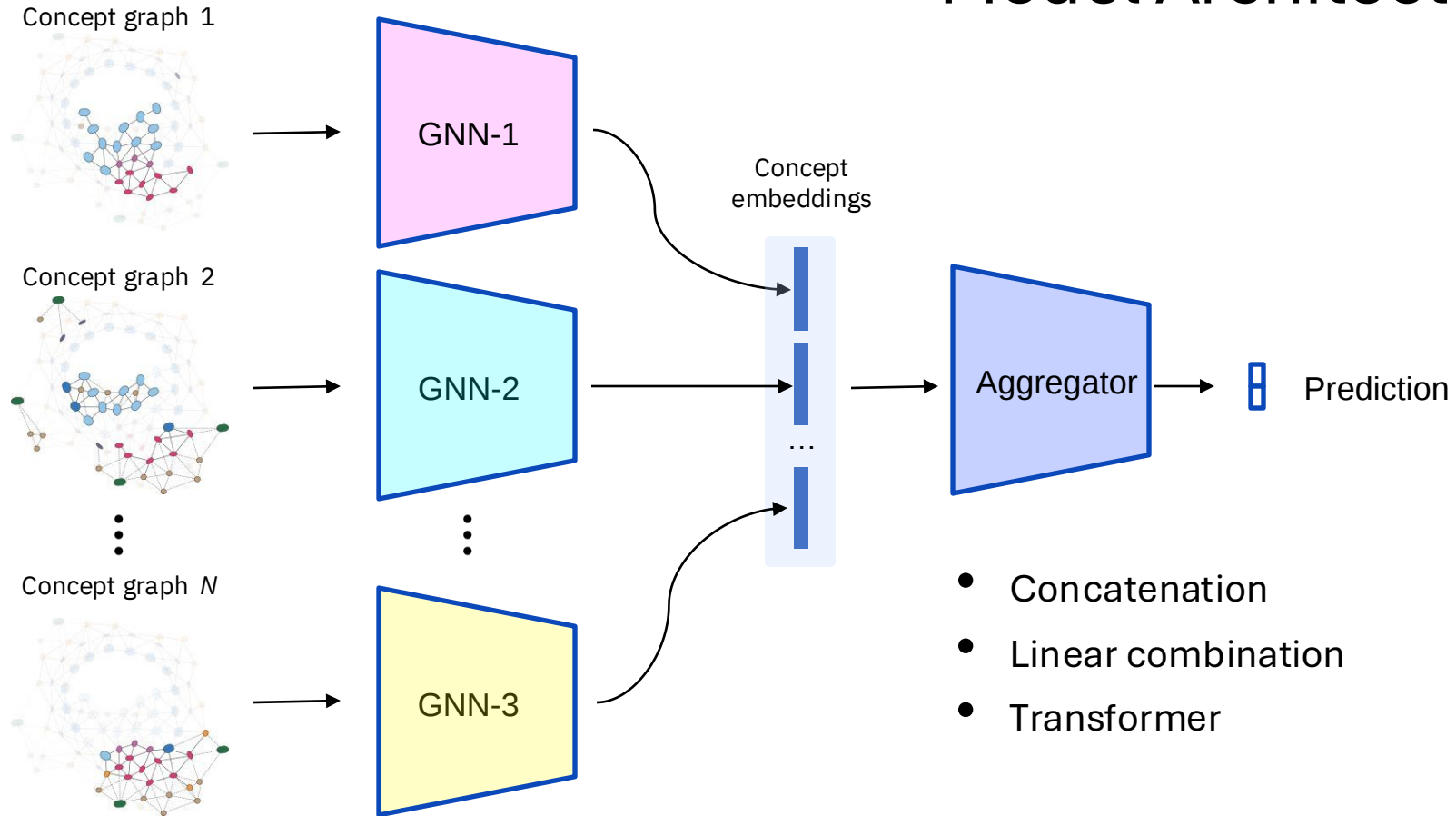
Deconvolving the input:

- Improve interpretability
- Place inductive bias in the model

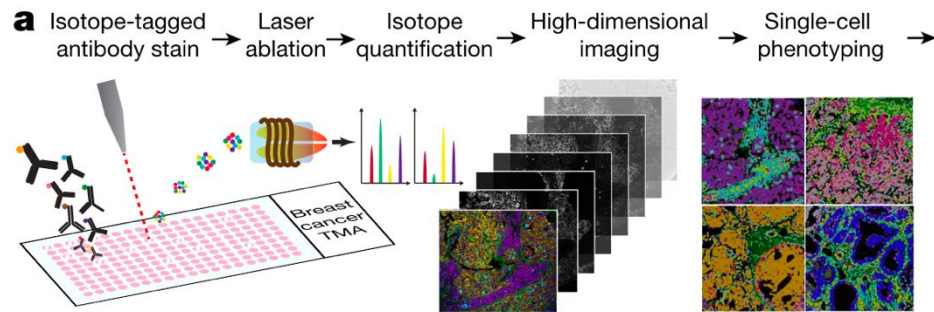
Model Architecture



Model Architecture



Proof of Concept: Estrogen Receptor Status Prediction

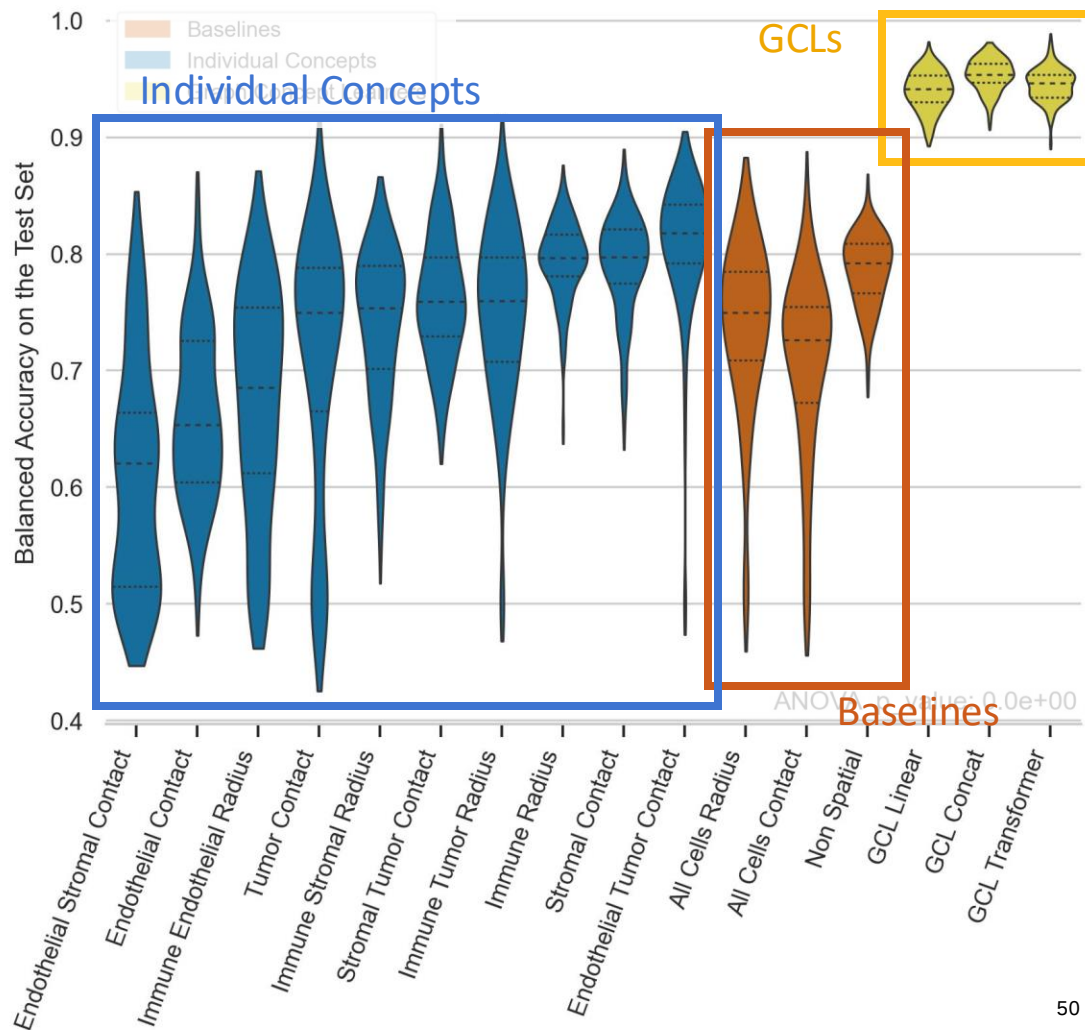


- The Jackson dataset: over 700 35-plex Imaging Mass Cytometry breast cancer images.

- Why ER status? Clear understanding of how labels are generated.
- Expectation: Concepts that include tumor cells would be the most attended to.

Performance

- GCL models excel
 - Increased performance
 - Reduced variance
- The effect size of aggregation strategy on performance seems small.
- Tumor concepts not clearly outperforming others.
- Concept decomposition can improve performance.
- Non-geometric baseline outperforms most concepts.



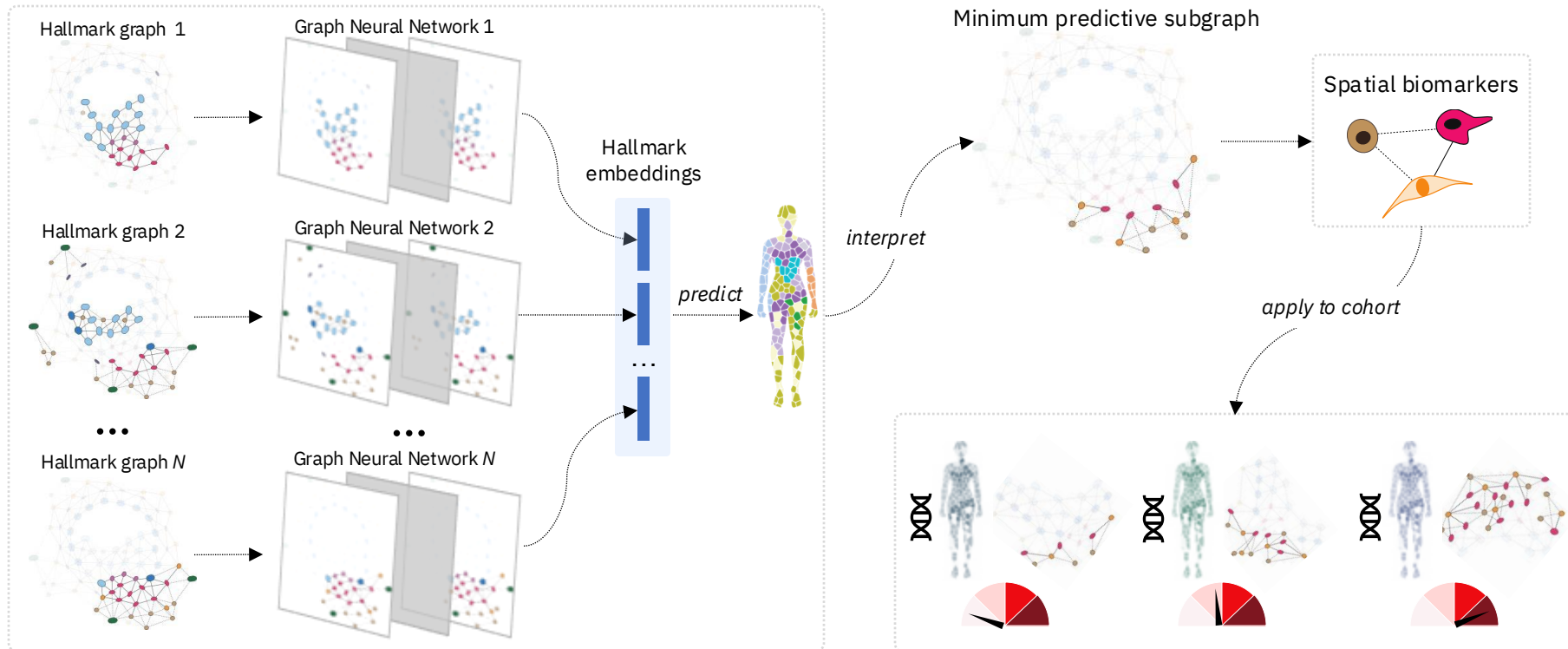
Future work



Theo Maffei



Louis McConnell



EXERCISE

Article | Published: 24 October 2022

Annotation of spatially resolved single-cell data with STELLAR

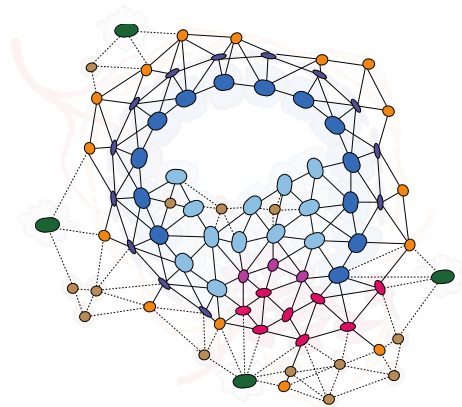
[Maria Brbić](#), [Kaidi Cao](#), [John W. Hickey](#), [Yuqi Tan](#), [Michael P. Snyder](#), [Garry P. Nolan](#)  & [Jure Leskovec](#) 

[Nature Methods](#) **19**, 1411–1418 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

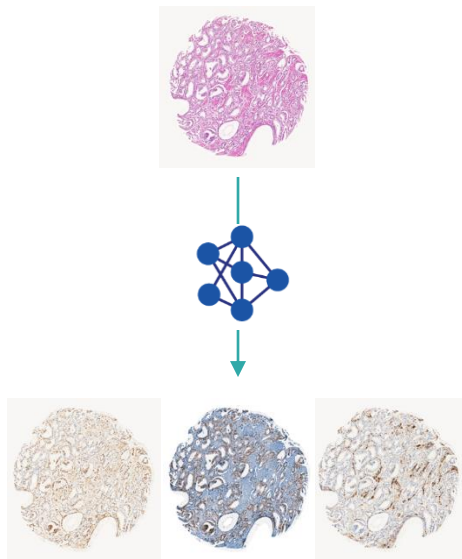
17k Accesses | **31** Citations | **91** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

30 mins to read the paper, 30 mins discussion

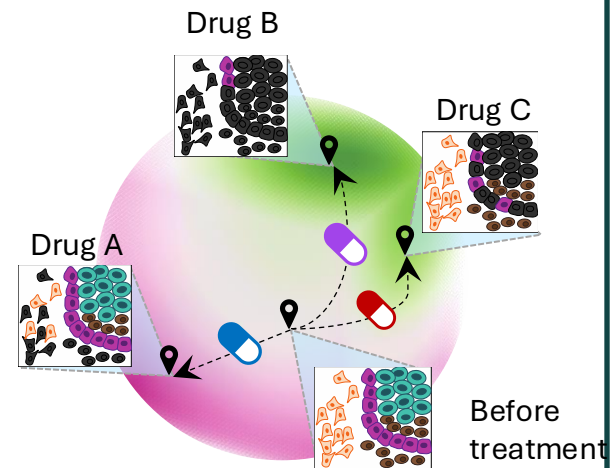
Interpretable modeling of the tumor microenvironment



Learning multimodal representations from data



Predicting drug perturbations at the single-cell level



KEY PAPERS AND CODE



- **ATHENA:** Martinelli & Rapsomaniki, *Bioinformatics*, 2022
- **Ovchinnikova et al.**, *npj Precision Oncology*, 2023
- **MatchCLOT:** Gossi et al., *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, 2023
- **VirtualMultiplexer:** Pati et al., *Nature Machine Intelligence*, 2024

- **CMonge:** Harsanyi et al., ICML MLXGen Workshop, 2024
- **CAROT:** Driessen et al., bioRxiv 2024.11.11.622906



<https://github.com/AI4SCR/>

AI/ML for Biomedicine



Adriano
Martinelli



Theo Maffei



Louis
McConnell



Melissa
Ensmenger

Biomedical Data Science Center

Gottardo Group: Translational Data Science

Raisaro Group: Clinical Data Science

Fellay Group: Precision Medicine



IBM Research Zurich



Pushpak Pati
Santiago Castro
Federico Gossi



Alice Driessen
Benedek
Harsanyi
Jannis Born



Marianna Kruithof-de Julio

Sofia Karkampouna

Francesco Bonollo

Katja Ovchinnikova

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Science Foundation**



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