# **Spatial Biology for Immunologists**

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# Outline for today

- Introduction to spatial biology technologies
- Overview of spatial biology data analysis
- Deep dive into spatial transcriptomics
  - $\rightarrow$  Paper #1 Meylan et al, Immunity 2022
- Deep dive into multiplexed spatial proteomics
  - → Paper #2 Gaglia, Burger et al, Cancer Cell 2023

Learning objectives:

- How to choose the correct spatial technology
- What insight can we get and how
- What are the current limitations & future developments of the field

# The evolution of single cell vs spatial transcriptomics



# The evolution of single cell vs spatial transcriptomics

	2015 2015 2015	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<ul> <li>Technologies are in flux</li> <li>Spatial biology is 5-10 years behind single cell</li> <li>Analytical challenges are emerging</li> </ul>		seqFISH	MERFISH	DNA-MERFISH OligoFISSEQ DBiT-seq Visium GeoMx DSP	Method of the Year 2020:	
<b>Resolution</b>		Subcellular	Subcellular	Subcellular Single-cell 10-25 µm 55 µm Single-cell	Spatially resolved trans	
Sample	FFPE tissue section Fresh-frozen tissue section Cultured cells	×	×	* * * * *		
order	In parallel Sequential	×	×	* * *		- The second
Proteome	DNA-conjugated antibody NGS readout DNA-conjugated antibody fluorescent readout Fluorescent antibody readout		•	• • • •		analytes utiti- ts
n Transcriptome	Probe hybridization-based Poly(A) capture-based	•		••		igues, iet targets ts
Epigenome/ genome	Probe hybridization-based (Open) chromatin			••		1999

# What can we measure?

- Genes

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Williams et al, Genome Medicine 2022



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# What can we measure?

#### Biased - Antibody-based detection



#### - Genes

- Proteins

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Moffitt et al, Nat Rev Gen 2022

# What can we measure?

- Genes
- Proteins
- Metabolites
- Lipids





# Which technology should I use and when?

Discussion points:

#### 1. What's the question – exploratory vs confirmatory

2. What is the variability of the phenotype?



How "well know"?

or intra-cellular?

Are antibodies available? Is it multicellular, cellular

# Toolbox

# • Spatial Transcriptomics with Visium 10X

- Experimental method
- Cell type imputation
- Clonotype imputation

# Single Cell Spatial Data Analysis

- Mathematical representation
- Spatial metrics
- Triangulation & networks

# Mapping phenotypic space to tissue space





# Let's get to science!



#### Investigating immune structures in cancer with spatially resolved methods

#### **Immunity**

#### Tertiary lymphoid structures generate and propagate anti-tumor antibody-producing plasma cells in renal cell cancer

#### **Graphical abstract**



#### Authors

Maxime Meylan, Florent Petitprez, Etienne Becht, ..., Aurélien de Reyniès, Catherine Sautès-Fridman, Wolf Herman Fridman

#### Correspondence

herve.fridman@crc.jussieu.fr

#### In brief

Meylan et al. show that tertiary lymphoid structures found in tumors are sites of generation of fully mature B cell immunity. Plasma cells disseminate into tumor beds, producing antibodies that bind to tumor cells and initiate their apoptosis, providing a mechanism to support cancer immunotherapies that modulate the tumor microenvironment.

#### **Cancer Cell**

#### Lymphocyte networks are dynamic cellular communities in the immunoregulatory landscape of lung adenocarcinoma

#### Graphical abstract



#### Authors

Giorgio Gaglia, Megan L. Burger, Cecily C. Ritch, ..., Peter K. Sorger, Tyler Jacks, Sandro Santagata

#### Correspondence

ssantagata@bics.bwh.harvard.edu

#### In brief

Gaglia et al. find striking changes in the spatial arrangement of immune cells in response to tumor antigens. T and B cells are recruited in lymphocyte networks ("lymphonets"), which contain progenitor T cells. After immunotherapy, lymphonets gain cytotoxic T cells, likely due to progenitor cell differentiation and activation in this distinct immune environment.

# Introduction to Tertiary Lymphoid Structures (TLS)

- Immune structures composed of multiple cell types
- Potential sites for local and antigen presentation and clonal selection
- Form in chronic inflammation and cancer
- Similarities and differences from primary secondary lymphoid organs



Sautès- Fridman et al, Nat Rev Cancer 2019

# Tertiary Lymphoid Structures in Lung Tumors



#### Fundamental questions

- 1) How is the spatial patterning of the immune cells in tumors established?
- 2) How are the phenotypes of immune cells impacted by the spatial organization?
- 3) What information about tumor growth and response to therapy can we glean from spatial analysis?

Human lung adenocarcinoma in multiplexed IF Gaglia et al Cancer Cell 2023

# Potential contributions of TLS to antitumor immunity & treatment



# TLS promote of immunotherapy response





Melanoma treated with treated with neo-adjuvant Ipilimumab and Nivolumab NCT02437279

Helmink et al. Nature 2020





#### Multi-tumor analysis

Vanhersecke et al. Nature 2020

# What are the open questions?



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Schumacher TN and Thommen DS, Science 2022

# Paper #1

# Immunity

## Tertiary lymphoid structures generate and propagate anti-tumor antibody-producing plasma cells in renal cell cancer

#### **Highlights**

- Tertiary lymphoid structures are sites of *in situ* B cell maturation toward plasma cells
- IgG+ and IgA+ plasma cells disseminate into the tumor tissue along fibroblastic tracks
- Tumor cells are labeled by locally produced IgG
- Patients with IgG-labeled tumor cells have high response rate to ICI and prolonged PFS



# Paper flow



#### **10X Visium Transcriptomics**



#### **Multiplexed Immunofluorescence**

# Main workflow combines H&E annotation by pathologist and spatial transcriptomics

#### **H&E Reviewed by Pathologist**

 $\rightarrow$  Manual annotation of TLS

All spatial analysis and insights are based on this annotation



#### Figure 1A-B



#### Spatial Transcriptomics by 10X Visium

- $\rightarrow$  Quantify gene expression
- $\rightarrow$  Impute cell types by signatures (MCP-Counter)
- → Impute B cell clonality (MiXCR)

# Deep dive into 10X Visium Technology





5000 spots 10<sup>6</sup> probes/spot 55uM diameter



# Deep dive into 10X Visium Technology





# Deep dive into 10X Visium Technology





# Spatial transcriptomics can detect cell types (?)





Cell types are **imputed** at the **spot level** by averaging set of genes (**signature**)

# Cell type imputation strategy – estimate fractions





• Agility

 $\rightarrow$  user can input list of genes for each cell types of interest, change it and re-run

- Proportion have pros and cons
  - $\rightarrow$  useful if cell counts are available
  - $\rightarrow$  risky if there are unknown cell types

# Cell type imputation strategy – signature detection







# Cell type imputation strategy – signature detection





Becht et al. Genome Biology, 2016

OUTPUT: **Cell type signature score** → proportional to cell type abundance

#### SONOFI FOCIS 2023 - SYSTEMS IMMUNOLOGY WORKSHOP

# Cell type imputation strategy – comparison





Petitprez F et al. Cancer Immunol Immunother 2018 https://doi.org/10.1007/s00262-017-2058-z



# Spatial characterization of B cell phenotypes



- Detection of subtypes of B cells by signature
- Spatial analysis limited to H&E annotation of TLS



# Paper flow



#### **10X Visium Transcriptomics**



#### Multiplexed Immunofluorescence

# Cell averaging allows for application bulk RNA-seq algorithms





MIXCR – Bolotin et al, Nat Meth 2015

software for fast and accurate analysis of raw T- or B- cell receptor repertoire sequencing data

(requires 3X deeper sequencing)

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Final clonotypes extraction into a tab-delimited file

# Spatial characterization of B cell clonotypes



 Highest BCR clonotype diversity is observed in TLS
 → number of different clones



# Paper #1: Summary and conclusions



#### **10X Visium Transcriptomics**



#### **Overall conclusions**:

- Sequencing-based spatial transcriptomics enables huge depth of analysis
- The actual <u>spatial analysis is limited</u> to definition of broad region of interest (such as TLS)
- Technical aspects are the bottleneck
  - 1. Lack of single cell resolution and averaging across cell types
  - 2. Substantial gaps in the tissue sampling

# Detour: Comparison between transcriptomics and proteomics

- Spatial resolution

#### Colonrectal Carcinoma Keratin = Tumor Cell CD8 = T cell



Example of Visium 10X Spot >20 cells

- Spatial resolution Ref: Cell size (diameter) range = 5um - 20um



Multicellular

# PDL1 PD1 DNA

Subcellular

Nirmal AJ et al. Cancer Discov, 2022

#### **RNA** Sequencing

#### Multiplexed Immunofluorescence

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- Spatial resolution
- Number of features Ref: 20K genes, 20-100K proteins

#### Unbaised

#### **Baised panel**

~2-4K genes (average)

#### 40-60 antibodies/proteins

**RNA** Sequencing

Multiplexed Immunofluorescence

- Spatial resolution
- Number of features
- Throughput (area x time) Ref: single operator on one machine

## Large ROI Large ROI

A:  $\sim 1 \text{cm}^2$ T: 4 days

~4 samples

A:  $\sim 10 \text{ cm}^2$ T: 10 days

~20 samples

**RNA** Sequencing

Multiplexed Immunofluorescence

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## Discussion points – how to study spatial biology of TLS?

#### Variables

- Spatial resolution
- Number of features
- Throughput (area x time)

#### **Questions:**



## Discussion points – how to study spatial biology of TLS?

#### Variables

- Spatial resolution -
- Number of features \_
- Throughput (area x time) -

#### **Questions:**



## Paper #2

## **Cancer Cell**

## Lymphocyte networks are dynamic cellular communities in the immunoregulatory landscape of lung adenocarcinoma

#### **Highlights**

- Interacting networks of lymphocytes (lymphonets) from in the KP GEMM of lung cancer
- Small lymphonets have mostly T cells, and B cell fraction rises as networks enlarge
- A key feature of lymphonets is that they contain TCF1<sup>+</sup>PD-1<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell progenitors
- Lymphonets gain cytotoxic CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells after immunotherapy



## Paper #2: Key aspects



- 1. Multimodal data integration
  - Pathology
  - Proteomics
  - RNA





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**Cell Type Annotation** 

## GEMMs are a tractable of model of spatial heterogeneity





#### Intra-mouse tumor heterogeneity











CD8 IHC

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Jackson et al. Cancer Res 2005 DuPage et al. Nat Protocols, 2009 DuPage et al. Nature 2012 41



#### KP = Kras G12D/p53-/-, LucOS = CD8 T neo-antigen





Neo-antigen presentation does not alter whole lung immune landscape

→ Spatial resolution needed!

## Basic transformation from cells to.. points with labels





## Mathematical representation



Small & Dense





# Ripley's K index



Density & number of cells  $\rightarrow$  Averaging factors

Single value for the whole field → Aggregation index

## First-order global metric: aggregation indices

Ripley's K index



Other common aggregation indices:

- Moran's I
- Geary's C
- Pair Correlation

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"Characteristic size" of aggregation

## Application of Moran's I to nuclear shape in cancer



## Historical detour

Other major academic scientific fields have investigated spatial organization:

- Statistical Physics
- Astronomy

AstroPath - Berry et al, Science 2021

#### **RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY**

CANCER

Analysis of multispectral imaging with the AstroPath platform informs efficacy of PD-1 blockade

Fig 1 Strong parallels between multispectral analyses in astronomy and emerging multiplexing platforms for pathology. The next generation of

Inspiring analogy.. but the stellar and tissue context have extremely **different density and heterogeneity** 



## Historical detour

Other major academic scientific fields have investigated spatial organization:

- **Statistical Physics**
- Astronomy
- Ecology





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Fig. 3 a Location of the three quadrats (160 × 300 m) in Torreya Forest. b Distribution of T. nucifera trees according to sex and size groups in each quadrat: small males (DBH < 50 cm, △), large males (DBH ≥ 50 cm, ▲), small females (DBH < 50 cm, o), and large females (DBH ≥ 50 cm, •)

## Historical detour

Other major academic scientific fields have investigated spatial organization:

- Astronomy
- Statistical Physics
- Ecology

Key Similarities between Ecology and Immunology :

- (1) Temporal and spatial problems & observations
- (2) Length scale of complexity
- (3) Overlay of environment and "agent" interactions



## Abiotic vs Biotic contribution parallels tissue architecture



A Landscape

Hagen et al, PLOS Biol, 2021

## Abiotic vs Biotic contribution parallels tissue architecture



#### Tissue structure are ubiquitous → How can we exploit them?





## ImmunoScore – Basic but powerful application of distance

Α

100 um

CD3/AE1AE3

captured spot







Stratification of patients based on abundance of lymphocytes inside tumors predicts response to therapy

## Artificial intelligence extends ImmunoScore

Serial section staining for multiple markers + AI model == greatly improved accuracy





#### KP = Kras G12D/p53-/-, LucOS = CD8 T neo-antigen

### FLASHBACK





Neo-antigen presentation does not alter whole lung immune landscape

→ Spatial resolution needed!



**Object = single cells!** 





Neo-antigen presentation leads to tumor infiltration

## B and T cell infiltration responses are coordinated



### **Object = single tumors**





n = 112 individual KP LucOS tumors

## Immune cells aggregate into groups

So far:

- First-order metrics
  → clustering patterns
- Second-order metrics
  → distance between objects



## Higher order metrics: community detection





Schurch et al Cell 2020

## Higher order metrics: community detection







Goltsev et al Cell 2018





## Bootstrapping as a statistical test for spatial significance





How do we statistically test spatial hypotheses?

#### Bootstrapping testing procedure



- 1. Define quantitative phenotype & calculate it  $\rightarrow$  e.g. # cell-cell contacts between cells labelled "A" and "B"
- ►2. Randomly shuffle cell labels
  → preserves (1) tissue structure, (2) label proportions
- 3. Recalculate # cell interactions
- 4. Repeat step 2 and 3 for 1000 times (or more)
- 5. The 1000 shuffles create a "null distribution"
- 6. Establish how many times the real measure exceeds the randomly shuffled null distribution  $\rightarrow$  **p-value**!

## Most interactions are between cell of the same type!



**Spleen i-niches** Goltsev et al Cell 2018





Shapiro et al, Nature Methods 2017





#### **Colorectal Cancer Neighborhoods** Schurch et al, Cell 2020

### How do you calculate this?

## Back to math - triangulation



**Point process** 



Network?

How to select connection? Ie defining neighboring points/cells





**Delaunay Triangulation** 

## Lymphonets – fully connected networks of lymphocytes



- Non-lymphocyte cells
- Networked Lymphocytes
- Free Lymphocytes
- All cell-cell contacts
- Lymphocyte contacts









## Antigen exposure re-localizes lymphonets to inside tumors





Lymphonets in regular KP mice are located near tumors

Lymphonets in KP mice expressing neoantigen are located inside tumors

## CD8 T cells exhibit multidimensional phenotypes





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## Mapping phenotypic landscape and physical space





#### Binning cells by distance from tumor



Binning cell by location relative to lymphonets

→ Lymphonets harbor progenitor TCF1+/PD1+ CD8 T cells (T2)

## Summary and main take homes

- Spatial technologies and analytics are in flux with new methods and algorithms coming out every month
- Methods that do not reach single cell resolution can leverage bulk RNAseq algorithm BUT have limited use in spatial analysis
- Spatial analysis can be classified in three orders
  - First-order Aggregation indices
  - Second-order Distance between cells or to regions of interest
  - Higher-order Neighborhoods/Communities
- Statistical tests are somewhat limited and need further development
- The field is shifting from atlas creation to biological discovery

## Thank you!

### FOCIS Systems Biology Course – 2023 Faculty

Emanuele de Rinaldis, PhD – Sanofi Magnus Fontes, PhD – Merck Shameer Khader, PhD MBA – Sanofi



# Spatial Biology for Immunologists Additional Materials

Giorgio Gaglia, PhD Single Cell Discovery and Validation Lead Precision Medicine and Computational Biology Sanofi US R&D





where

- N is the number of spatial units indexed by i and j;
- x is the variable of interest;
- $\bar{x}$  is the mean of x;
- $w_{ij}$  are the elements of a matrix of spatial weights with zeroes on the diagonal (i.e.,  $w_{ii} = 0$ );

$$ullet$$
 and  $W$  is the sum of all  $w_{ij}$  (i.e.  $W = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N w_{ij}$ 



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W<sub>ii</sub>

Weight

Matrix
## Historical perspective



Other major academic scientific fields have investigated spatial organization:

- Statistical Physics

Ising model for "spin" of magnetic particles





- Lattice structure is closer to biological systems yet too regular & homogeneous
- Still computationally intractable
- Variable state space (n = 2) is far from biologic reality

#### SCALING LAWS FOR ISING MODELS NEAR T.

#### Abstract

A model for describing the behavior of Ising models very near  $T_c$  is introduced. The description is based upon dividing the Ising model into cells which are microscopically large but much smaller than the coherence length and then using the total magnetization within each cell as a collective variable. The resulting calculation serves as a partial justification for Widom's conjecture about the homogeneity of the free energy and at the same time gives his result sv' =  $\gamma' + 2\beta$ .

Kadanoff LP, Physics 1966

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## Ecology parallels: Predator-prey model





Kareva et al, Front. Immunol., 2021

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## Ecology parallels: Predator-prey model





#### Tumour immunotherapy: lessons from predator-prey theory

Hamilton et al, Nat Rev Immunology, 2022

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## What can we measure?





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### **Spatial Omics with Mass Spectrometry Imaging**

Mapping metabolites, lipids, proteins, and drugs



Slide courtesy of Chelsea Nikula, Sanofi US R&D

### **Examples of Spatial Metabolomics**

Mapping metabolites, lipids, proteins, and drugs

1718

DOI 10.1002/pmic.201600036

Proteomics 2016, 16, 1718–1725

RESEARCH ARTICLE

# MALDI-MSI for the analysis of a 3D tissue-engineered psoriatic skin model

Amanda Harvey<sup>1</sup>, Laura M. Cole<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca Day<sup>1</sup>, Maggie Bartlett<sup>2</sup>, John Warwick<sup>2</sup>, Richard Bojar<sup>2</sup>, David Smith<sup>1</sup>, Neil Cross<sup>1</sup> and Malcolm R. Clench<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centre for Mass Spectrometry Imaging, Biomolecular Sciences Research Centre, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, UK

<sup>2</sup> Innovenn, Sand Hutton Innovation Campus, York, UK



 $\rightarrow \mbox{Drug}$  and endogenous species distribution in psoriatic skin models show penetration depth of drug

#### **Cell Reports**



#### APOE modulates microglial immunometabolism in response to age, amyloid pathology, and inflammatory challenge

Sangderk Lee,<sup>2,7</sup> Nicholas A. Devanney,<sup>1,2,7</sup> Lesley R. Golden,<sup>1</sup> Cathryn T. Smith,<sup>1</sup> James L. Schwartz,<sup>2</sup> Adeline E. Walsh,<sup>1</sup> Harrison A. Clarke,<sup>5,5,6</sup> Danielle S. Goulding,<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth J. Allenger,<sup>1</sup> Gabriella Morillo-Segovia,<sup>1</sup> Cassi M. Friday,<sup>1</sup> Amy A. Gorman,<sup>2</sup> Tara R. Hawkinson,<sup>3,5,6</sup> Steven M. MacLean,<sup>1</sup> Holden C. Williams,<sup>1</sup> Ramon C. Sun,<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup> Josh M. Morganti,<sup>2,3,4,4</sup> and Lance A. Johnson<sup>1,2,8,9,4</sup>



 $\rightarrow$  Spatial and non-spatial multi-omicscombined to understand immunometabolism of amyloid pathology

What variables are important in spatial biology



Spatial resolution Ref: Cell size (diameter) range = 5um - 20um-



## What variables are important in spatial biology



- Spatial resolution
- Number of features Ref: 20K genes, 20-100K proteins \_

Unbaised	Probe panel	Antibody panel	Antibody panel
~2-4K genes (average)	Range: 4-1k mRNA	40-100 proteins	40-60 proteins
	ACD: ~4 mRNA Vizgen: ~1k mRNA GeoMX: ~1k mRNA Xenium: ~100 mRNA	IMC: ~40 proteins MIBI: ~100 proteins	CODEX: ~40 proteins cycIF: ~60 proteins
RNA Sequencing	RNA In Situ Hybridization	Imaging Mass Spec or Cytometry	Multiplexed Immunofluorescence
inofi			

## What variables are important in spatial biology





## Visinity: Visual Spatial Neighborhood Analysis for Multiplexed Tissue Imaging Data



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Warchol S et al, IIIE Vis, 2022

## Visinity: Visual Spatial Neighborhood Analysis for Multiplexed Tissue Imaging Data



### (1) Visinity: Visual Spatial Neighborhood Analysis for Multiplexed Tissue Imaging Data — Teaser - YouTube



## Visinity highlights B & T cell homotypic interactions





Cells closer to each other by their neighborhood composition



Lymphocyte neighborhoods clustering together