# Single cell RNA-sequencing: A primer

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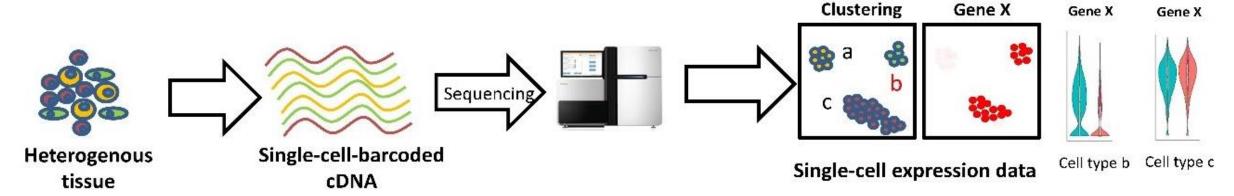
### Single Cell RNA seq: What is it?

#### **Bulk RNA sequencing**



No change of expression of Gene X

#### Single-cell RNA sequencing

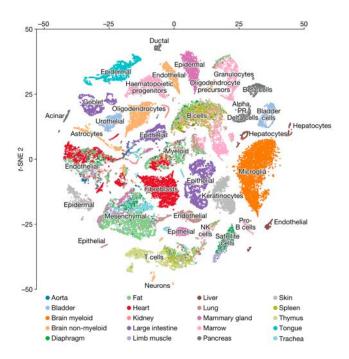


Expression of Gene X is affected in cell type b only

#### Single cell Studies: What we can learn.

#### Single-cell transcriptomics of 20 mouse organs creates a *Tabula Muris*

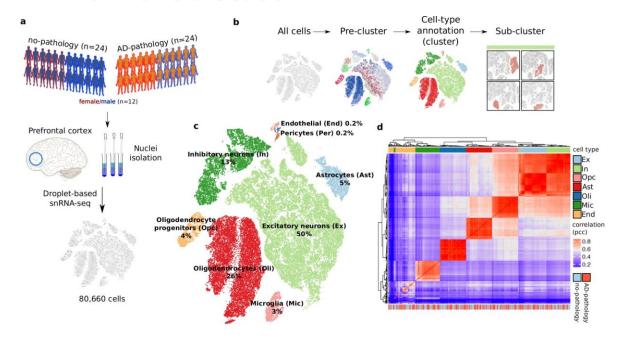
The Tabula Muris Consortium



- Profiled 100k cells from 20 organs and tissues.
- Approaches used
  - ✓ High throughput 3'-end counting approach.
  - ✓ FACs sorting of full transcriptomics.
- Foundation for a mouse single cell atlas.

Article | Published: 01 May 2019

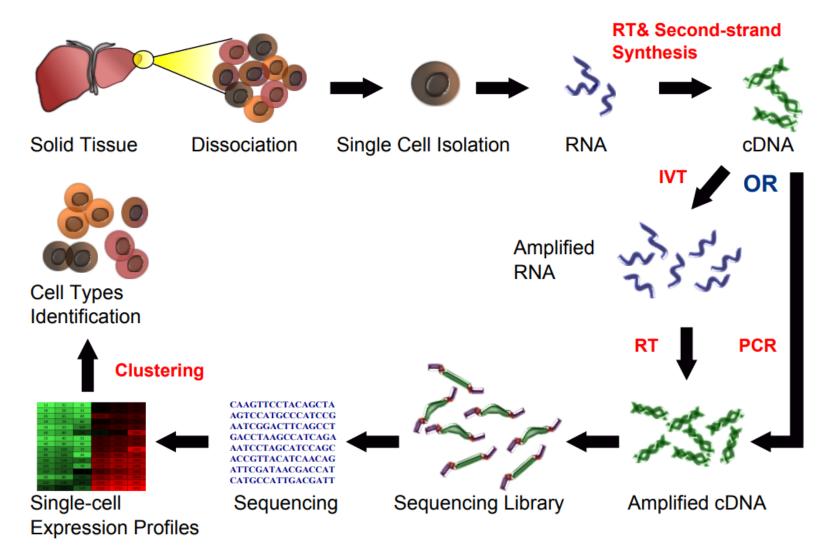
# Single-cell transcriptomic analysis of Alzheimer's disease



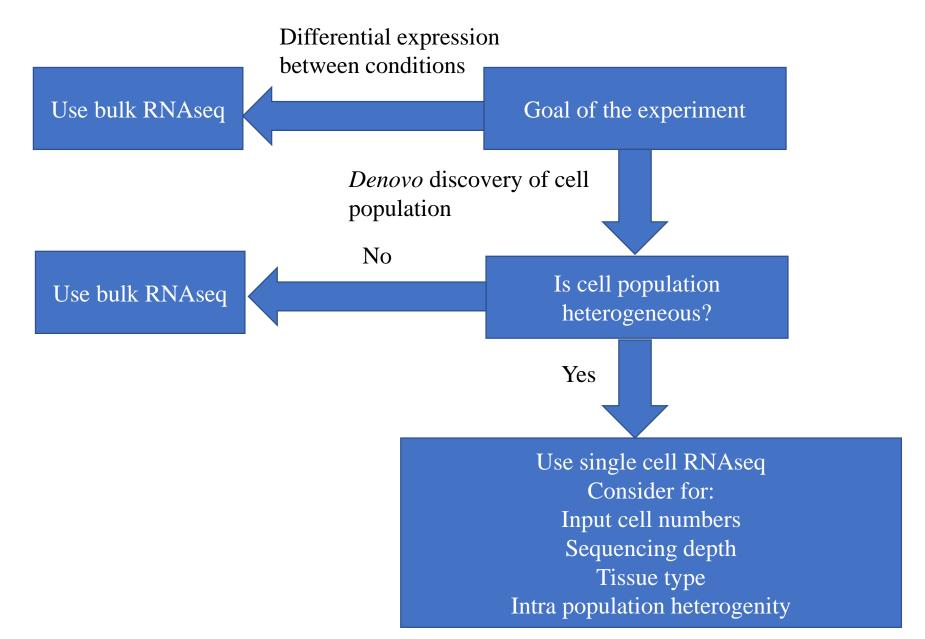
- Profiled 80,600 cells from prefrontal cortex of 48 individuals with varying degrees of Alzheimer's disease pathology.
- Transcriptionally distinct subpopulations identified.
- Female cells were overrepresented in disease-associated subpopulations and transcriptional responses were substantially different between sexes

# Single Cell RNA seq: Workflow

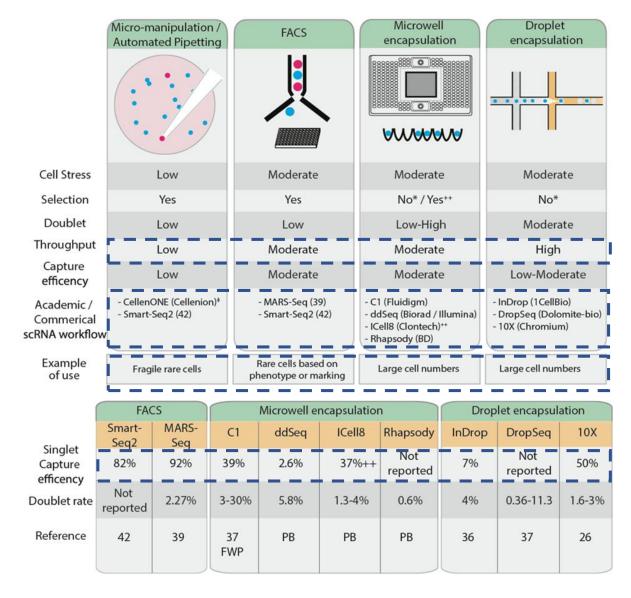
#### Single Cell RNA Sequencing Workflow



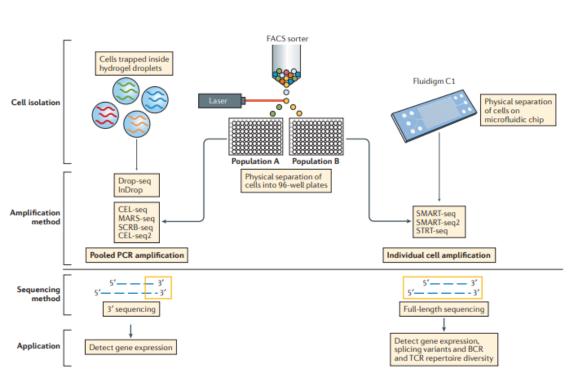
# Single Cell RNA seq: Design of the experiment



### Single Cell methods: isolation and library generation



## Single Cell methods: isolation and library generation



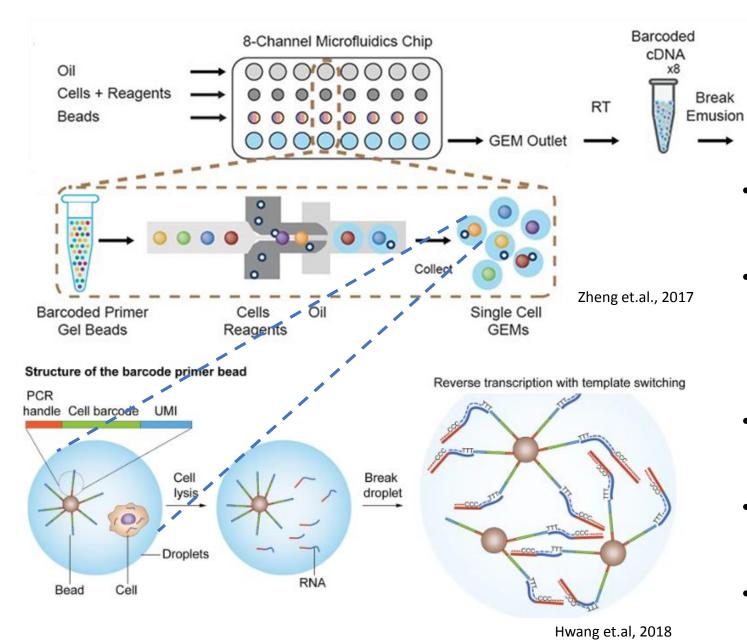
https://www.nature.com/articles/nri.2017.76

|                                  | F  | Full length 3' sequencing and barcoding |  |   |                            |                               |   |                            |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| Applications                     | Gene expression<br>Splice variants and BCR<br>and TCR repertoire diversity |   |  | Splice variants and BCR Gene expression       |                            |                               |   |                            |  |  |
| Costs                            |  | High                                    |  |   |                            | Lov                           | v   |                            |  |  |
|                                  | Smart-<br>Seq2   | Smarter<br>/ICell8/C1                   | NuGEN<br>Solo  | MARS-<br>Seq                                  | ddSeq                      | Rhapsody                      | InDrop  | DropSeq                    | 10X*   |  |
| UMI                              | -  | -                                       | √  | V   | V                          | √                             | √   | V                          | V  |  |
| mRNA priming<br>(1st strand syn) | polyT  | polyT                                   | Random<br>priming &<br>poly T                                  | poly T  | poly T                     | polyT                         | polyT   | polyT                      | poly T   |  |
| Template<br>Switching            | V  | <b>v</b> /                              | -  | -   | -                          | -                             | -   | √                          | √  |  |
| DNase<br>treatment               | -  | -                                       | √  | √   | -                          | -                             | -   | -                          | -  |  |
| cDNA<br>preamplification         | PCR  | PCR                                     | -  | In Vitro<br>Transcription                     | PCR                        | PCR                           | In Vitro<br>Transcription                     | PCR                        | PCR  |  |
| Targeted sequencing              | -  | -                                       | Depletion  | -   | -                          | Enrichment                    | -   | -                          | -  |  |
| Library<br>generation            | Transposon<br>Tagmentation   | Transposon<br>Tagmentation              | cDNA<br>fragmentation,<br>adapter ligation<br>&<br>library amp | RNA<br>fragmentation<br>& adapter<br>ligation | Transposon<br>Tagmentation | PCR targeted<br>primer panels | RNA<br>fragmentation<br>& adapter<br>ligation | Transposon<br>Tagmentation | cDNA<br>fragmentation,<br>adapter ligation<br>&<br>library amp |  |
| Example of use                   | Sequencing the TCR of tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes                      |   |  | High  |                            | it sequencir<br>n tumours i   |   |                            | s from   |  |

<sup>\*10</sup>X has recently released a 5' barcoding that allows reconstruction of full length idiotype sequences

https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2018.01553/full

### Single Cell methods: droplet based method (10X)



• Cells get encapsulated into oil droplets along with the beads (nanoparticles) and lysis buffer.

Construct

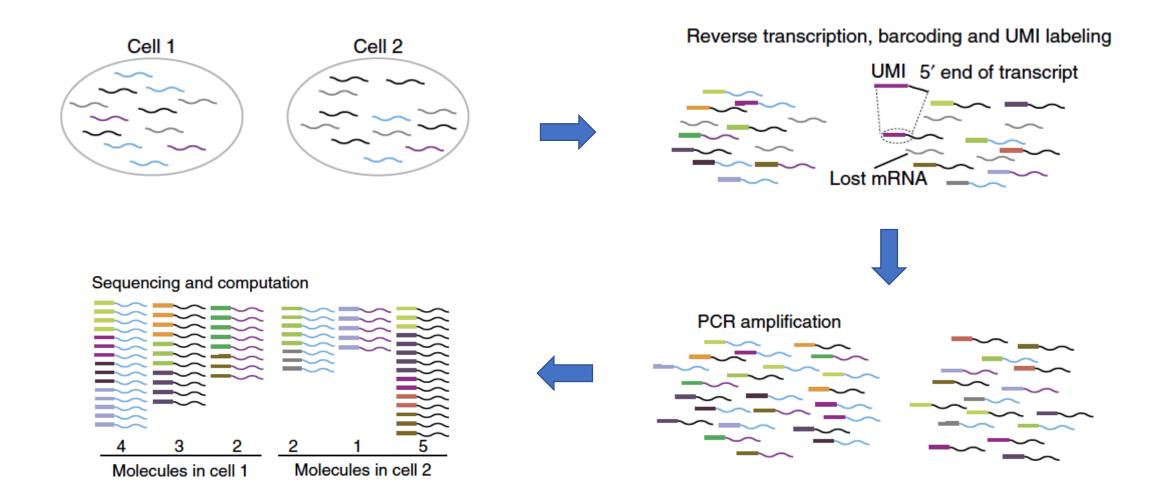
Library

cDNA

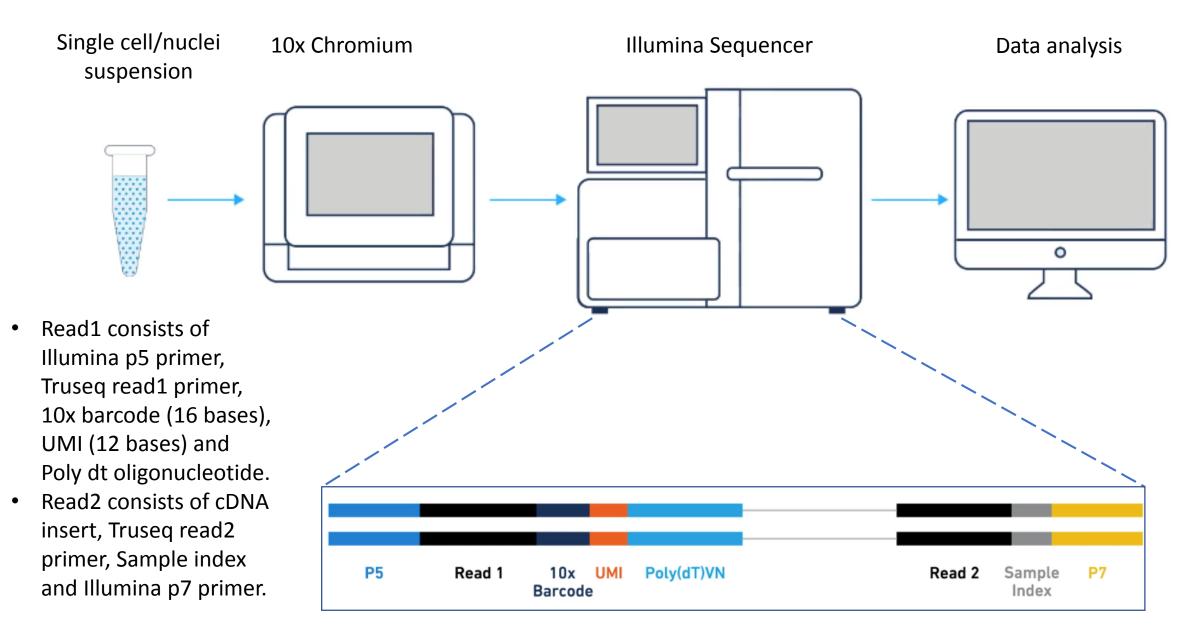
Sequence

- The bead "tentacles" have PCR handle, a barcode for cell identification, an Unique Molecular Identifier (UMI), and a "30 bp oligodT to prime polyadenylated RNA transcripts".
- Cells are lysed. Oligo DT primer of the beads, reverse transcribes the poly-A RNA to cDNA.
- cDNA thus formed has a cell barcode, a UMI and template switching oligo at 3'end.
- Emulsion is broken. cDNA extracted and amplified, library prepared and 3'sequenced.

# Unique molecular identifiers (UMIs)



## Overview of 10x Single-cell RNA-Seq pipeline

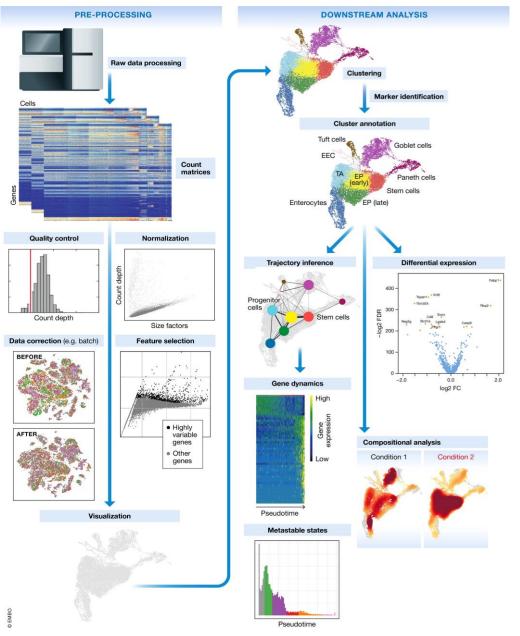


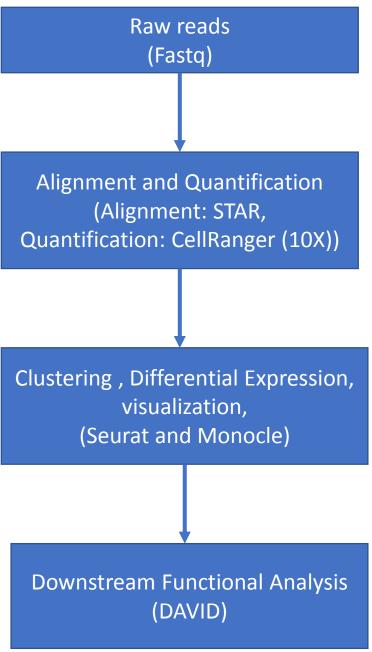
#### Cost and amount of sample required

#### Single RNA Sequencing

- ➤ Cell isolation and addition of 10X barcodes: \$500 per sample.
- Sequencing: 8,000 cells you need 288, 000, 000 good reads, with sequencing cost in Novogene approximately \$1300
- > Total cost: Approximately \$2000 to \$3000 per sample depending on number of cells sequenced
- Arr RIN  $\geq$ 8, 260/280/230 ratios, 700-1200 cell/ul.
- ➤ Check Cell viability **before** and **after** the nuclei/cell isolation
- A picture of the cell suspension (to make sure that the suspension is free from clumps, aggregates, debris that can cause a clog)
- ➤ Wash twice the cells or nuclei prior to loading on the chip in PBS + BSA 0.04%, sometimes the nuclei especially from brain are very sticky and the tend to clump together, using BSA 2% will help to prevent the clumping.

## Bioinformatics pipeline: Single Cell RNA-seq



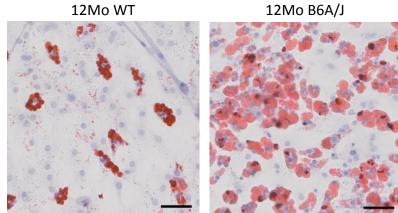


### Case Study: Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy

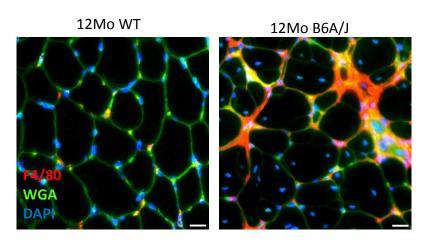
- Mutations in Dysferlin cause Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Type 2B, a rare disease which features progressive muscle weakness in the shoulder and hip joints.
- A major driver of the pathology is the replacement of functional muscle fibers with fat.
- Major Goal of this experiment, how is the fat forming?



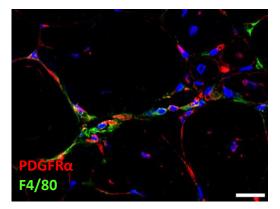
12month old dysferlin knock out (KO) mouse (12Mo B6A/J) quadriceps showing replacement of muscle with fat.



Dysferlin KO muscle shows a progressive accumulation of fibro/adipogenic progenitors (FAPs), compared to Wild Type (WT).

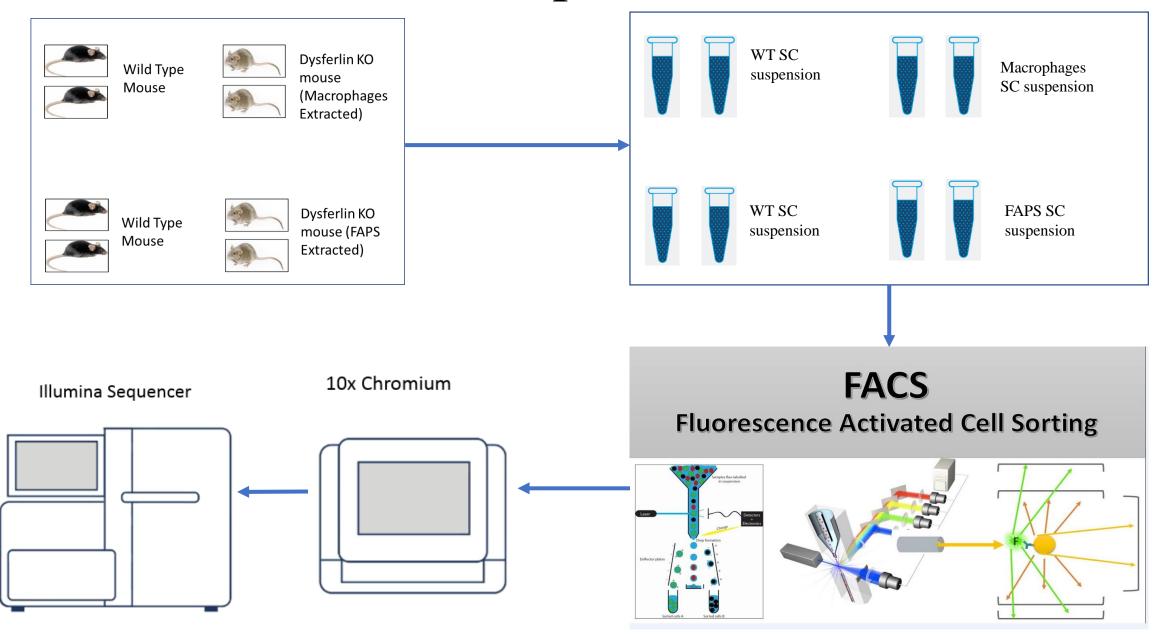


Macrophages are known to influence FAPs. In a Dysferlin KO mouse, macrophages(F4/80) are increased, compared to WT.

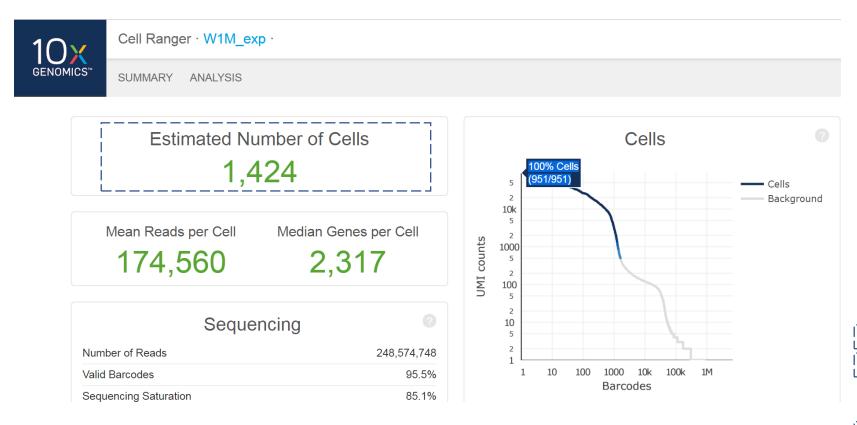


Macrophages and FAPs (PDGFR $\alpha$ ) are closely associated in areas of pathology in dysferlin-deficient muscle.

#### Work Flow of the experiment



# Summary of Samples: Quality Metrics: Clean Sample



Primary Quality matrices are: Estimated Number of cells, Reads Mapped Confidently to Transcriptome, Reads mapped Antisense to gene, Fractions of Reads per cell.

| Sequencing                                     |             |
|--|-------------|
| Number of Reads                                | 248,574,748 |
| Valid Barcodes                                 | 95.5%       |
| Sequencing Saturation                          | 85.1%       |
| Q30 Bases in Barcode                           | 97.7%       |
| Q30 Bases in RNA Read                          | 87.9%       |
| Q30 Bases in Sample Index                      | 94.6%       |
| Q30 Bases in UMI                               | 97.4%       |
| Mapping  |             |
| Reads Mapped to Genome                         | 90.0%       |
| Reads Mapped Confidently to Genome             | 87.0%       |
| Reads Mapped Confidently to Intergenic Regions | 6.7%        |
| Reads Mapped Confidently to Intronic Regions   | 20.3%       |
| Reads Mapped Confidently to Exonic Regions     | 60.0%       |
| Reads Mapped Confidently to Transcriptome      | 55.7%       |
| Reads Mapped Antisense to Gene                 | 1.1%        |
|  | ',          |
| Estimated Number of Cells                      | 1,424       |
| Fraction Reads in Cells                        | 81.3%       |
| Mean Reads per Cell                            | 174,560     |
| Median Genes per Cell                          | 2,317       |
| Total Genes Detected                           | 16,265      |
| Median UMI Counts per Cell                     | 7,405       |

#### Summary of Samples: Quality Metrics: Contaminated Sample



Cell Ranger · W2M\_exp ·

1 SUMMARY ANALYSIS

#### The analysis detected some issues. Details »

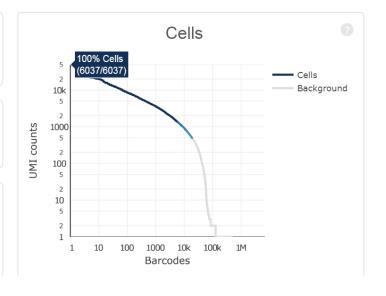
Estimated Number of Cells 12,077

Mean Reads per Cell

Median Genes per Cell

741

Number of Reads 221,226,020
Valid Barcodes 96.6%
Sequencing Saturation 67.2%



| Sequencing                |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Number of Reads           | 221,226,020 |
| Valid Barcodes            | 96.6%       |
| Sequencing Saturation     | 67.2%       |
| Q30 Bases in Barcode      | 97.9%       |
| Q30 Bases in RNA Read     | 89.1%       |
| Q30 Bases in Sample Index | 95.1%       |
| Q30 Bases in UMI          | 97.7%       |

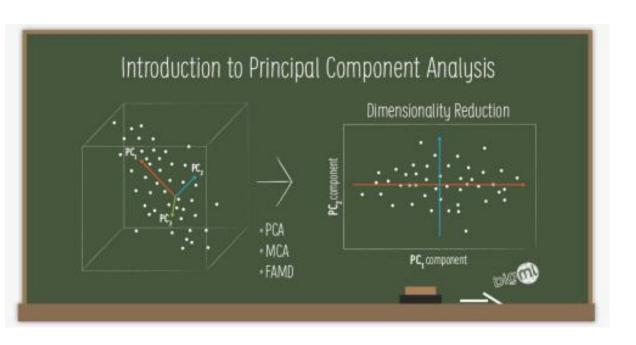
| 89.6% |
|-------|
| 86.0% |
| 7.6%  |
| 25.5% |
| 52.9% |
| 48.2% |
| 2.0%  |
|       |

| Estimated Number of Cells  | 12,077 |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Fraction Reads in Cells    | 64.0%  |
| Mean Reads per Cell        | 18,317 |
| Median Genes per Cell      | 741    |
| Total Genes Detected       | 17,270 |
| Median UMI Counts per Cell | 1,324  |

#### The analysis detected some issues. <u>Details »</u>

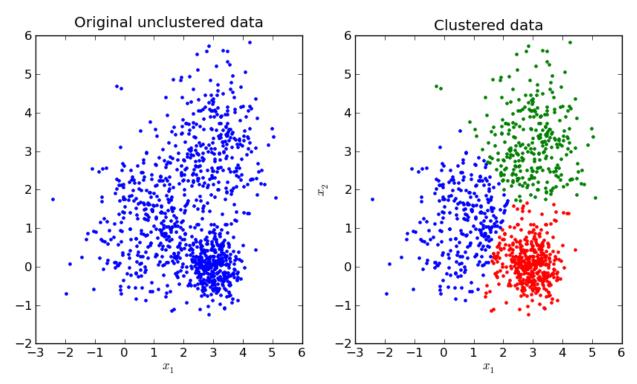
| Alert                                  | Value | Detail   |
|--|-------|--|
| A Low<br>Fraction<br>Reads<br>in Cells | 64.0% | Ideal > 70%. Application performance may be affected. Many of the reads were not assigned to cell-associated barcodes. This could be caused by high levels of ambient RNA or by a significant population of cells with a low RNA content, which the algorithm did not call as cells. The latter case can be addressed by inspecting the data to determine the appropriate cell count and usingforce-cells. |

#### Principal component analysis (PCA)



- "In statistics, machine learning, and information theory, dimensionality reduction or dimension reduction is the process of reducing the number of random variables under consideration by obtaining a set of principal variables." (Wikipedia)
- In other words we have ~1500 cells per sample and ~750 genes per cells (1500 X 750 dimensions), it is completely impossible to analyze this data with current available computational power we reduce the number of dimensions to more reasonable numbers for ease of computation.
- Principle component Analysis (PCA) is one method used for dimensionality reduction.

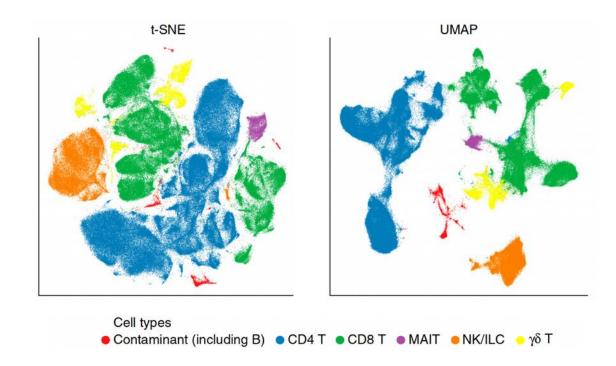
#### Clustering



https://mubaris.com/posts/kmeans-clustering/

- Clustering is the technique of grouping objects based on certain features.
- They are unsupervised, and are based on the characteristics of the samples and not on any other previous knowledge of the samples.
- The clusters for single cell analysis are based on gene expression patterns, and the clusters may or may not represent cell clusters of biological significance.

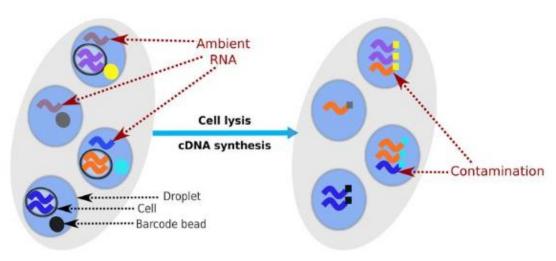
#### tSNE vs UMAP



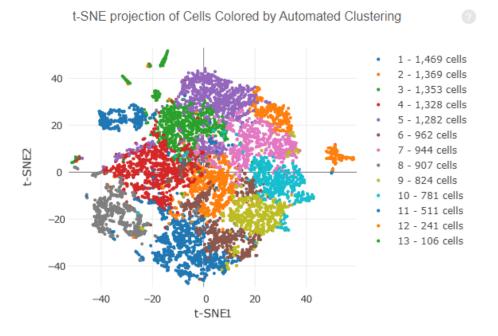
https://www.nature.com/articles/nbt.4314

- In Seurat, we first do PCA reduction, followed by clustering of the data and then another reduction method t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE), which is the general method of visual representation of the single cell RNAseq data.
- t-SNE, reduces the larger dimension datasets into 2 dimensions. The major goal of t-SNE plot is to put the cells with similar property near each other. It is just a visualization method.
- UMAP is a new popular dimension reduction method, faster too
- Distances between clusters in a tSNE plot does not mean anything, UMAP does!

#### Contamination: What is it?



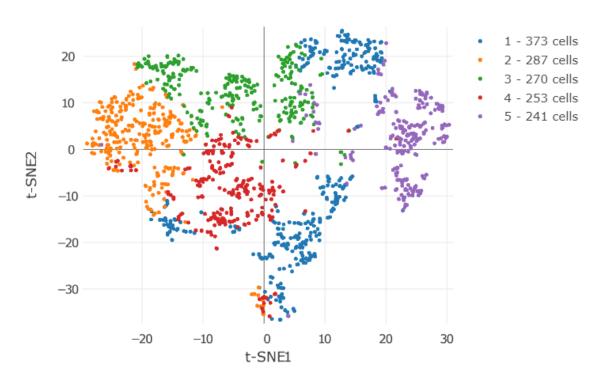
https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/704015v1.full



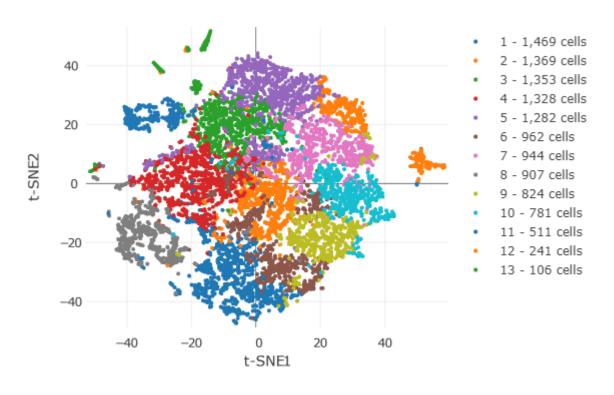
- Single cell RNA-seq experiences contamination due to "ambient RNA".
- Ambient RNA is a pool of mRNA molecules that have been released in the cell suspension, likely from cells that are stressed or are dead (apoptosis).
- Cross-contamination occurs when the ambient RNA gets incorporated into droplets and is barcoded and amplified along with a cell's mRNA.
- This leads to a badly clustered t-sne plot.

### Clean vs Contaminated sample





t-SNE projection of Cells Colored by Automated Clustering



**Clean Sample** 

**Contaminated Sample** 

# Summary of the Samples: Macrophage

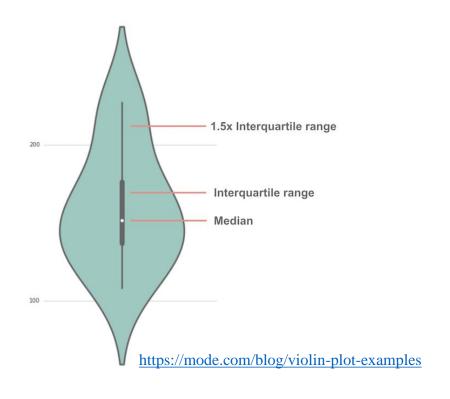
| Sample ID                  | Input<br>Number<br>of cells | Estimated<br># of cells | Reads Mapped<br>Confidently to<br>Transcriptome | Reads<br>mapped<br>Antisense to<br>gene | Fraction<br>Reads per cell | Quality of the sample |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wild type macrophage (W1M) | 8000                        | 1424                    | 55.7%   | 1.1%                                    | 81.3%                      | Clean                 |
| Wild type macrophage (W2M) | 8000                        | 12,077                  | 48.2%   | 2%                                      | 64%                        | Contaminated          |
| Diseased macrophage (B1M)  | 8000                        | 1453                    | 55.3%   | 1.1%                                    | 81.1%                      | Clean                 |
| Diseased macrophage (B2M)  | 8000                        | 2054                    | 58.8%   | 1%                                      | 78.8%                      | Clean                 |

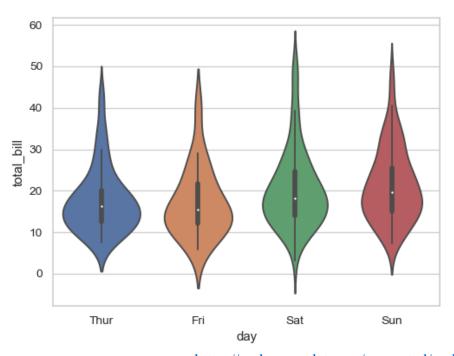
#### Summary of the Samples: FAPs

| Sample ID            | Input<br>Number<br>of cells | Estimated<br># of cells | Reads Mapped Confidently to Transcriptom e | Reads<br>mapped<br>Antisense to<br>gene | Fraction<br>Reads per cell | Quality of the sample |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wild type FAPs (W1F) | 8000                        | 14,201                  | 53.2%                                      | 3.3%                                    | 60.3%                      | Contaminated          |
| Wild type FAPs (W2F) | 8000                        | 2073                    | 59.4%                                      | 1.7%                                    | 85.3%                      | Clean                 |
| Diseased FAPs (B2F)  | 8000                        | 1724                    | 50.9%                                      | 1.4%                                    | 84.9%                      | Clean                 |

<sup>\*</sup> Sample B1F was not sequenced as it did not meet RNA Quality (RIN) standards.

#### Violin Plots: What does it represent?





https://seaborn.pydata.org/generated/seaborn.violinplot.html

- Violin Plot represents the spread of the data, as well as a probability density representation of each element.
- Wider sections of the violin plot represent a higher probability that members of the population will take on the given value; the skinnier sections represent a lower probability.
- For example, maximum people in a restaurant will have a total bill between \$10-\$20 from Thursday- Sunday, with the probability of people having a bill of 15\$ is highest on Thursday.

### Quality Check: Seurat

#### Commonly used Quality Check criterions are:

• Low quality cells or empty droplets, will have few genes/UMIs/transcripts, whereas doublets or multiplets (droplets having two or multiple cells) will have more genes. The two features that represent this criteria are

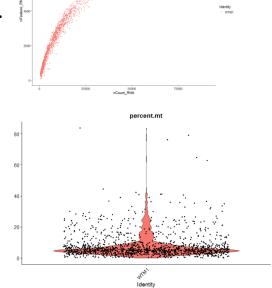
Unique genes (nFeature\_RNA)

Unique UMIs (nCounts\_RNA)

ncount\_RNA

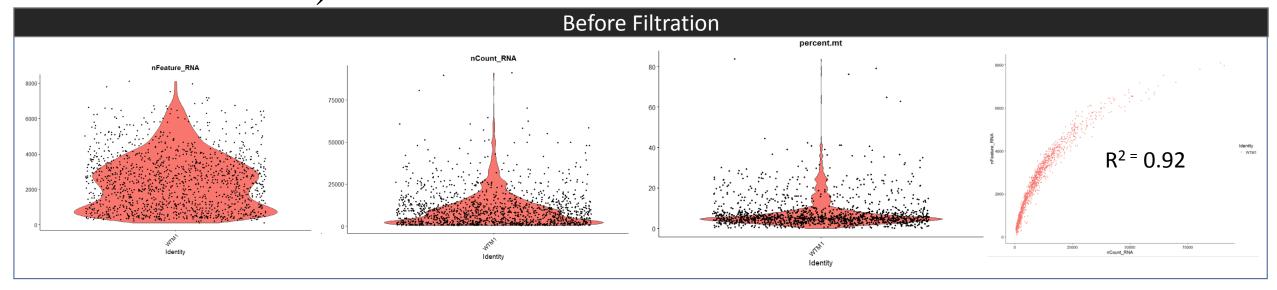
Correlation between, nFeature RNA and nCount\_RNA is generally high for a good sample.

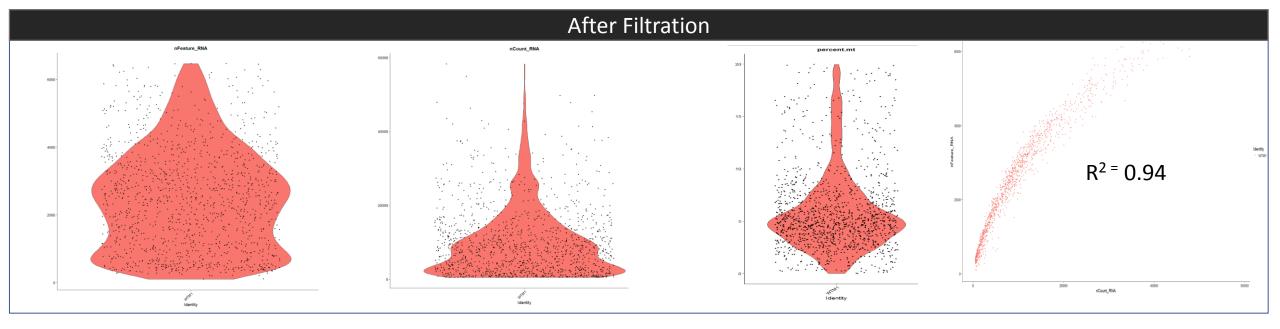
• The percentage of reads that map to the mitochondrial genome. Low-quality / dying cells often exhibit extensive mitochondrial contamination



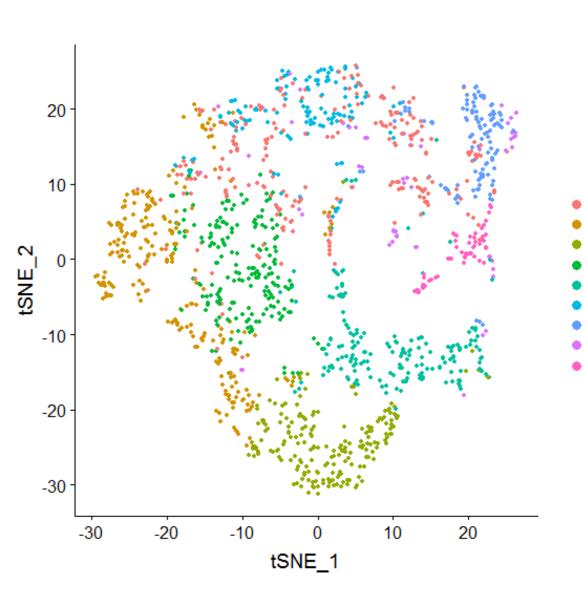
 $R^2 = 0.92$ 

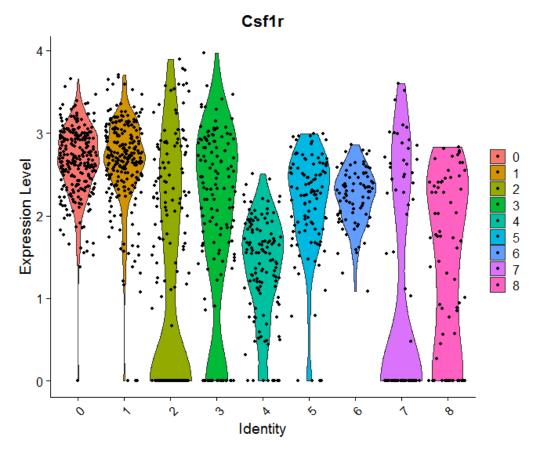
# Quality Check: Wild Type Macrophage (W1M) (Before vs after Filtration)





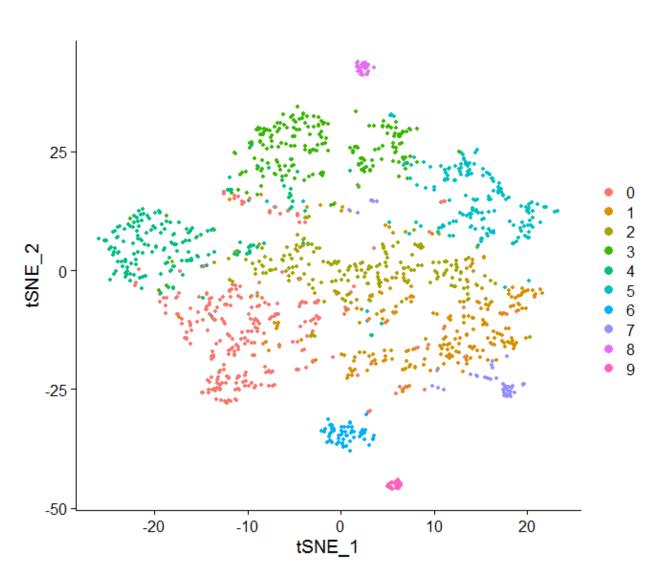
### Single cell t-sne plots: W1M

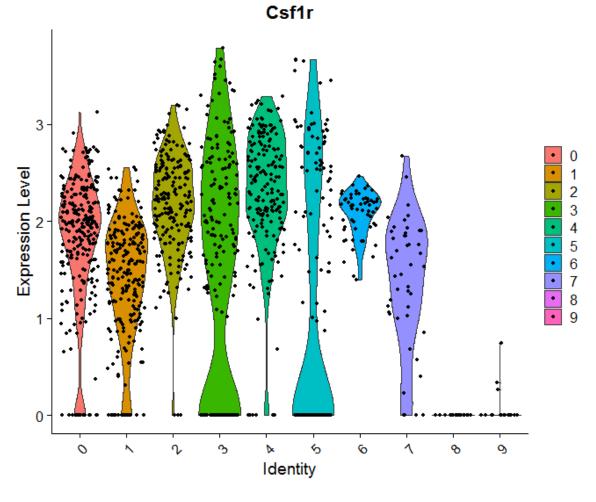




- Marker for macrophages.
- Have a quite significant expression across all clusters.

### Single cell t-sne plots: B1M





- Marker for macrophages.
- Has different expression between Diseased and wild type

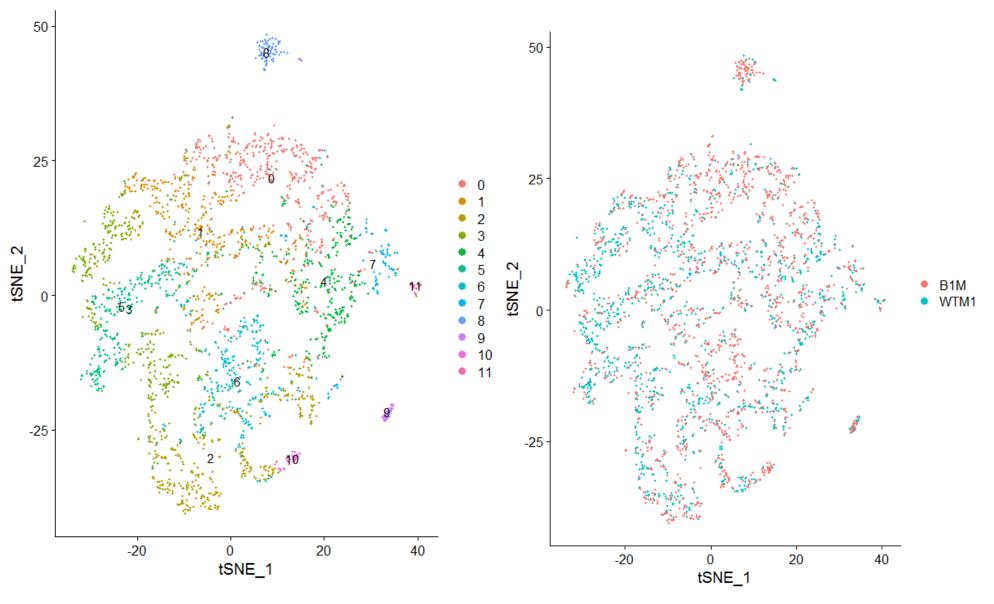
# Differential expression (DE) of genes in each cluster: W1M

| Top Genes  | By Cluster | (Log2 fold-change,   | p-value) |
|------------|------------|----------------------|----------|
| TOP COLICO | Dy Olastol | (Logz lola ollaligo, | p value) |

|                    |           | Clu  | ster 1  | Clu  | ster 2  | Clu  | ster 3  | Clu  | ster 4  | Clu  | ster 5  | Clu  | ster 6  | Clu  | ster 7  |
|--------------------|-----------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|
| Gene ID            | Gene name | L2FC | p-value |
|                    |           | •    |         |      |         |      |         |      |         |      |         |      |         |      |         |
| ENSMUSG00000030787 | Lyve1     | 2.31 | 2e-32   |      | 1e-35   |      | 1e+00   |
| ENSMUSG00000051504 | Siglech   | 2.31 | 1e-24   |      | 1e-26   |      | 1e+00   |
| ENSMUSG00000009185 | Ccl8      | 2.26 | 1e-17   |      | 3e-15   |      | 1e+00   |      | 2e-01   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |
| ENSMUSG00000022122 | Ednrb     | 2.17 | 1e-24   |      | 2e-31   |      | 1e+00   |      | 8e-01   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |
| ENSMUSG00000026938 | Fcna      | 2.14 | 1e-24   |      | 2e-24   |      | 1e+00   |      | 7e-01   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |
| ENSMUSG00000051906 | Cd209f    | 2.14 | 1e-25   |      | 3e-21   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e-01   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |
| ENSMUSG00000055546 | Timd4     | 2.13 | 1e-22   |      | 9e-23   |      | 1e+00   |      | 8e-01   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |
| ENSMUSG00000031495 | Cd209d    | 2.10 | 3e-25   |      | 1e-22   |      | 1e+00   |      | 5e-01   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |
| ENSMUSG00000032725 | Folr2     | 2.08 | 2e-26   |      | 2e-22   |      | 1e+00   |      | 3e-01   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |
| ENSMUSG00000079168 | Cd209g    | 2.05 | 2e-22   |      | 1e-19   |      | 1e+00   |      | 5e-01   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |      | 1e+00   |

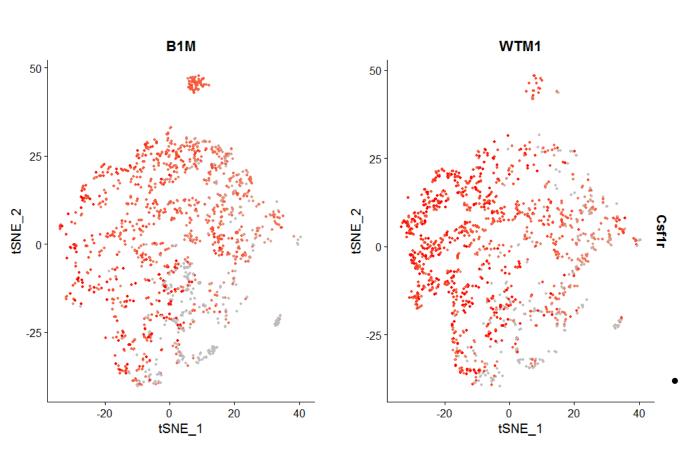
- Differential gene expression between genes of cells in one cluster versus all the other cells in different clusters, gives us a knowledge about the cell.
- For example, gene Lyve1 has log2FC of 2.31 with adjusted p-value of 2e-32, for cluster 1, compared to all cells present in clusters 2-7.
- Functional annotation of these DE genes gives the cell its identity.

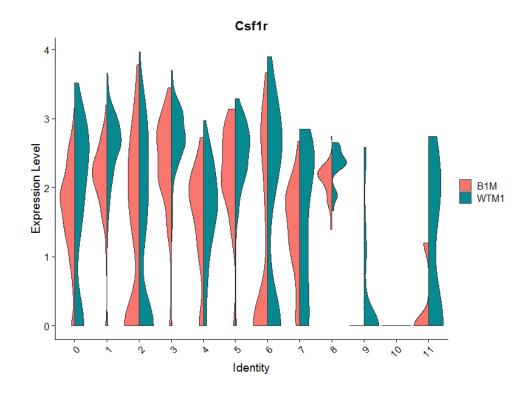
#### Differential Expression: B1M and W1M



- Differential expression in Seurat is done using DEseq2.
- You can visualize the expression of the genes in each condition for individual clusters
- You can also output the results as a table.

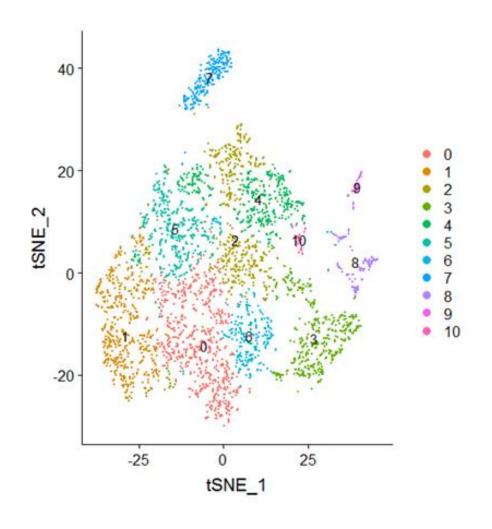
#### Differential Expression Csf1r: B1M and W1M

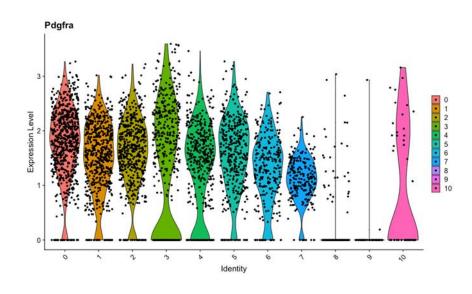


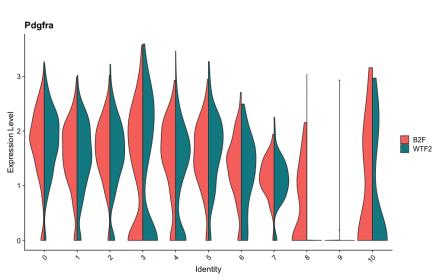


- Csfr1 gene expression remains quite similar across the clusters.
- The difference occurs in cluster 9 and 11, where it is more in Wild type than diseased condition.
- Cluster 10 has no difference for both the conditions.

#### FAP Marker Expression



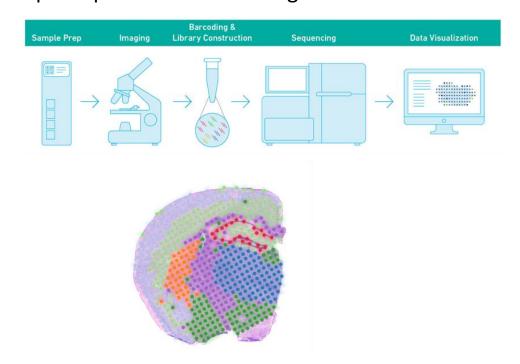


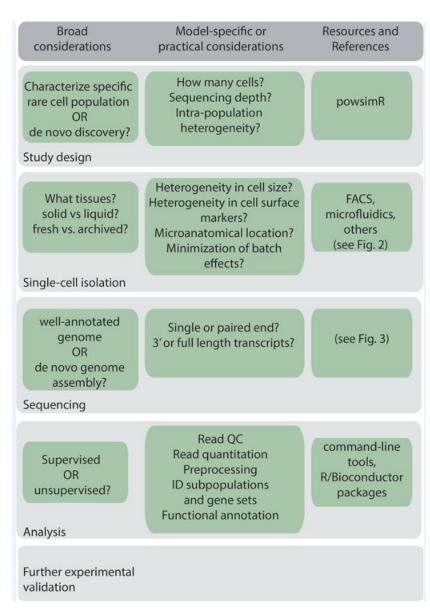


- Pdgfra is a marker for FAPs.
- Not expressed in 2 clusters in WT.
- Can be due to macrophage contaminations
- More markers are being identified for both FAPs and macrophages.

#### **Conclusion**

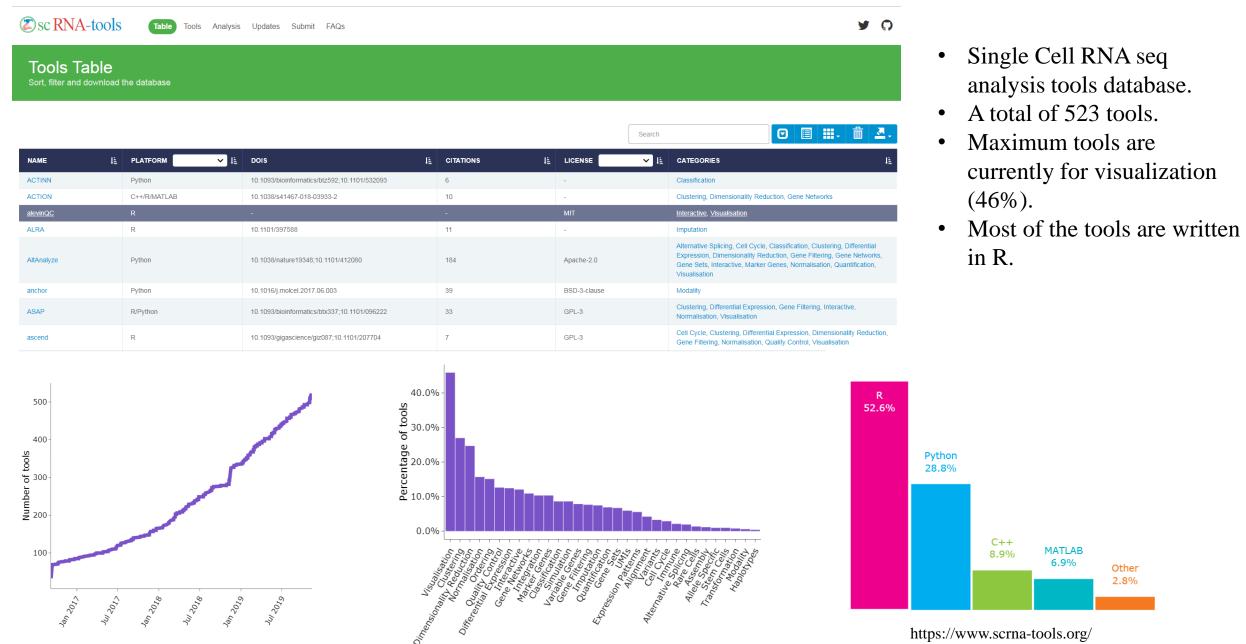
- Single cell RNA-sequencing method is a still evolving field, with the amount of new technologies, and analysis tools being created for the same.
- Before a single cell experiment one has to be cautious of various factors as illustrated in the workflow.
- A future innovation in single cell technique is spatial transcriptomics, where single cell rna-seq result is superimposed on tissue images.





https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2018.01553/full

# Bioinformatics pipeline: Tools



### Single cell Databases: PanglaoDB

PanglaoDB is a database for the scientific community interested in exploration of single cell RNA sequencing experiments from mouse and human. We collect and integrate data from multiple studies and present them through a unified framework.

#### Usage examples

- Run a gene search for SOX2 or PECAM1
- · Browse the full list of samples
- Explore the list of cell type markers for Schwann cells
- · Browse cell types of the mouse retina
- Look at the expression of CRX in photoreceptor cells
- Find cell clusters where <u>both</u> PECAM1 and VCAM1 are expressed using a <u>boolean search</u> with the 'and' operator
- Find quiescent neural stem cells using AND+NOT

#### How to cite

Oscar Franzén, Li-Ming Gan, Johan L M Björkegren, *PanglaoDB: a web server for exploration of mouse and human single-cell RNA sequencing data*, **Database**, Volume 2019, 2019, baz046,

doi:10.1093/database/baz046

#### What is single cell RNA sequencing?

Adapted from the Wikipedia article on the topic: Single cell RNA sequencing examines the transcriptomes from individual cells with optimized next generation sequencing technologies, providing a higher resolution of gene expression and a better understanding of the function of an individual cell in the context of its microenvironment.

| Database statistics |              |              |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
|                     | Mus musculus | Homo sapiens |  |  |  |  |
| Samples             | 1063         | 305          |  |  |  |  |
| Tissues <b>②</b>    | 184          | 74           |  |  |  |  |
| Cells 🚱             | 4,459,768    | 1,126,580    |  |  |  |  |
| Clusters <b>②</b>   | 8,651        | 1,748        |  |  |  |  |

#### Dataset of the day

Take a closer look at the cellular composition of Ventral striatum, using a dataset which consists of 7663 cells. Clustering of this dataset resulted in 21 cell clusters, containing among others, Oligodendrocytes.

#### News

**01-07-2019** Updated the 2d view for data sets (now colors by cell type and not by cluster and colors are consistent across data sets). For example, see this data set.

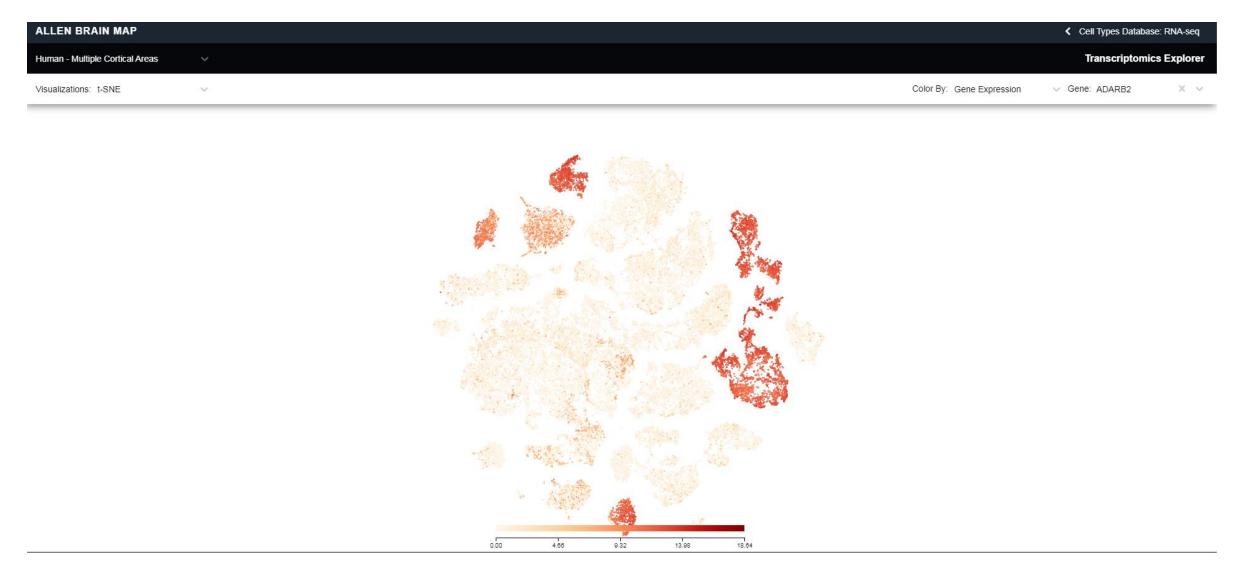
16-05-2019 Added more markers for Tanycytes.

07-05-2019 Added markers for Chromaffin cells.

**01-05-2019** Markers for an additional cell types added: meet the sebocyte.

30-04-2019 Added sensitivity and specificity to the marker list (shown separately for mouse and human).

#### Single cell Databases: Allen Brain Institute



#### Contacts

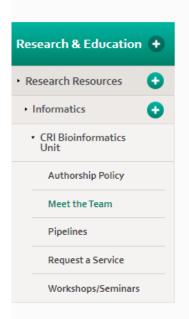
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- ► <a href="https://singlecell.broadinstitute.org/single-cell">https://singlecell.broadinstitute.org/single-cell</a> : Single cell databases
- <u>https://bioturing.com/bbrowser</u> : Single cell databases
- https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/704015v1.full: decontX

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#### The Children's Research Institute



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- Kazue Hashimoto-Torii, Ph.D. (Center for Neuroscience Research liaison)
- Susan Koblach, Ph.D. (Director of Genomics Core)
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Questions?