T and B cell receptor sequences and their usage in tumor immunotherapy

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Disclosure information: Sacha Gnjatic, PhD

The following relationships exist:

Regeneron: Research Support Janssen R&D: Research Support Genentech: Research Support Takeda: Research Support BMS: Research Support Boehringer Ingelheim: Research Support Celgene: Research Support Co-inventor on an issued patent for multiplex immunohistochemistry to characterize tumors and treatment responses (MICSSS). The technology is filed through Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS). Mount Sinai has received payments associated with licensing this technology and both Mount Sinai and Dr. Gnjatic are entitled to future payments.

OncoMed: Past Consulting Fees (e.g., advisory boards) Merck: Past Consulting Fees (e.g., advisory boards)

Cancer Immune Monitoring and Analysis Centers and Cancer Immunologic Data Commons The CIMAC-CIDC Network: A Cancer Moonshot Initiative (U24)

The CIMAC-CIDC network will provide a standing infrastructure of bioassays and data commons for correlative studies in NCI-funded trials involving immunotherapy (\$50M+)

4 CIMACs for scientific expertise and a wide range of highly specialized services using state-of-the-art equipment

One CIDC for centralized bioinformatics resources for data collection and integration across trials and clinical databases Scope of work

Support correlative studies in early (phase 1 / 2) immunotherapy trials in the CTEP Trial Networks and Grant-supported trials 500 patients / multiple timepoints / year for comprehensive profiling

Many additional patients from industry and non-NCI trials through Partnership for Accelerating Clinical Trials (PACT, \$220M)







Immuno-Oncology Biomarkers Network



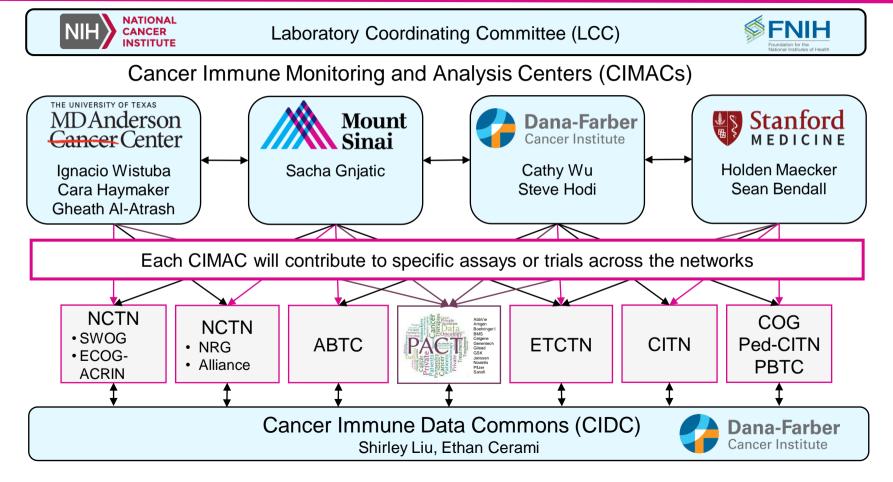
National Institutes of Health AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Celgene, Genentech, Gilead Sciences, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer



CIMAC-CIDC Network







Assays and platforms for monitoring https://cimac-network.org

Tier 1: recommended for all trials and chosen for balance between reproducibility/feasibility and innovation

	Tier 1	Tier 1 alternate if sample issues/allows	Tier 2	Tier 3
	WES RNAseq mIHC/IF PD-L1 IHC	Targeted mutation panel Nanostring (low RNA quality score)	scRNAseq MIBI, ISH	CITEseq HTG GeoMx, Visium 10x
	TCRvß Adaptive	TCR from RNA, alpha/beta paired chains	TCRvß Adaptive	scTCRseq
	CYTOF (pheno)	Flow cytometry	CYTOF (functional) ELISPOT neoAg	ICS, Ag-specific cell sorting Tetramers
	Olink PEA ELISA TAA-Ab ct/cfDNA	Luminex multiplex	ELISA TAA-Ab ct/cfDNA	Seromics (protein arrays) CTC, exosomes
00	16S Microbiome	<u> </u>	ATACseq 16S Microbiome	RRBS, scATACseq Shotgun metagenomics

Scope – Background, Methodologies, Applications

Applications:

- Analyze repertoire properties as potential biomarker: number of different clones, T cell repertoire diversity, clonality/entropy
- Analyze repertoire dynamics as potential biomarker: clonal expansion, changes with treatment
- Tracking T or B cell specificity at the gene level over treatment using receptor variable sequences as barcode
- Characterize TCR alpha-beta sequences for adoptive transfer
- Characterize BCR sequences for heavy-light chains for mAb or CAR-T
- Minimal residual disease (BCR) tracking

Challenges:

- Using TCR information to predict antigen specificity
- Coverage / sensitivity / errors / PCR expansion bias
- Adapting tests to formalin-fixed tissues with degradation (DNA/RNA, short/long reads)
- "Public", i.e., shared TCR sequences

TCR repertoire applications

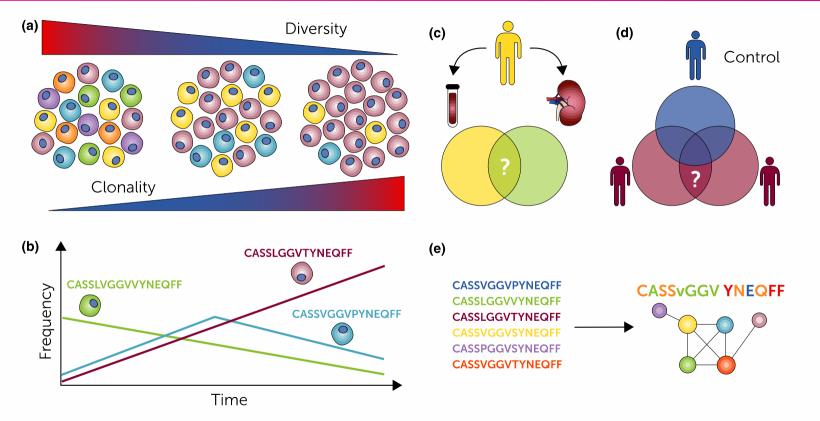
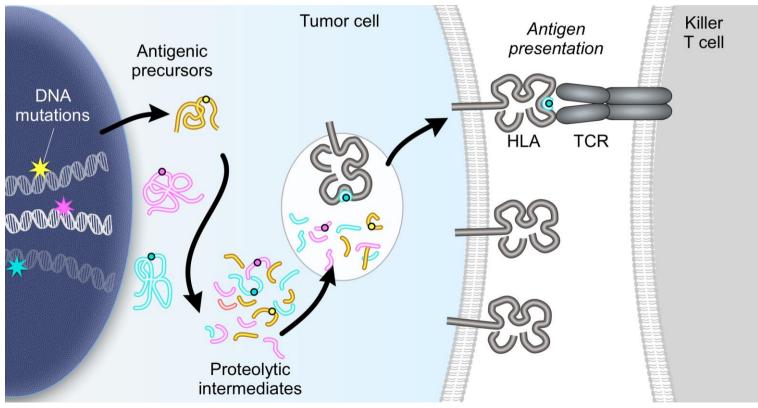


Figure 2 Insights from immune repertoire analysis. Analysis of repertoire data can offer a variety of valuable immunological information, including: (a) clone size distribution statistics such as diversity and clonality, (b) tracking of clones in time, (c) physical/phenotypic space, (d) sharing between individuals and (e) clonal sequence features (motifs, VJ-usage biases etc.).

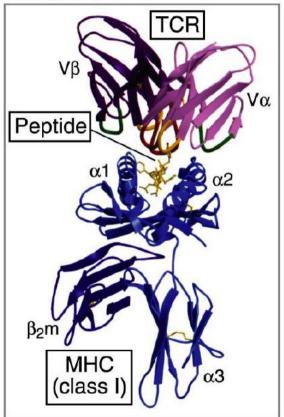
Somatic mutations generate neoantigens

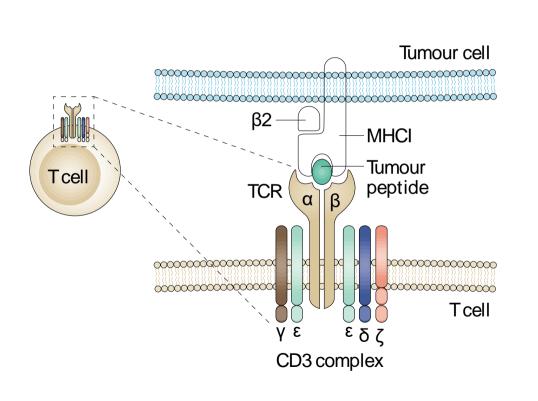


Cold Spring Harb Perspect Med. 2017;7:a026740.

Peptide presentation

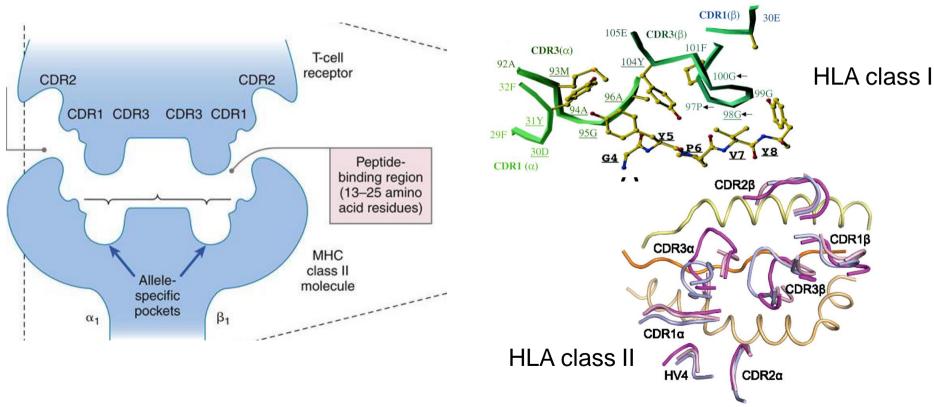
The recognition of a peptide-MHC complex by a T cell antigen receptor.





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CDR3 region from TCR Vbeta as the biggest contributor to antigen specificity

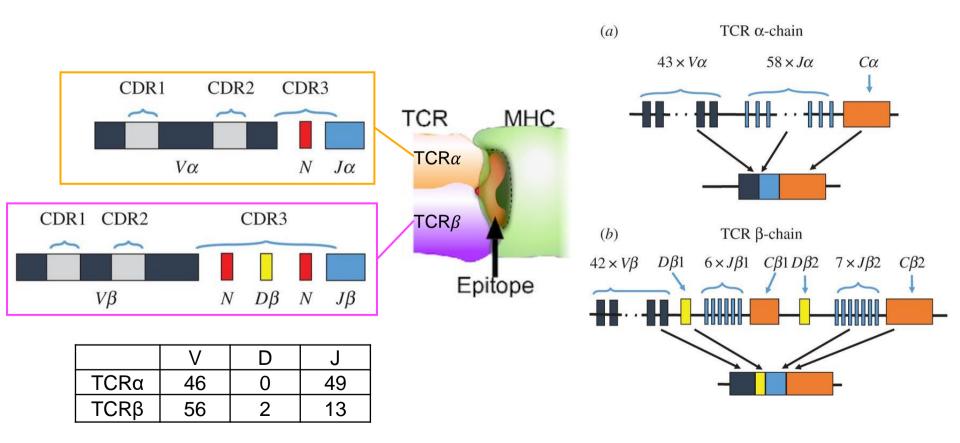


https://clinicalgate.com/surface-interactionsbetween-t-cells-and-antigen-presenting-cells/

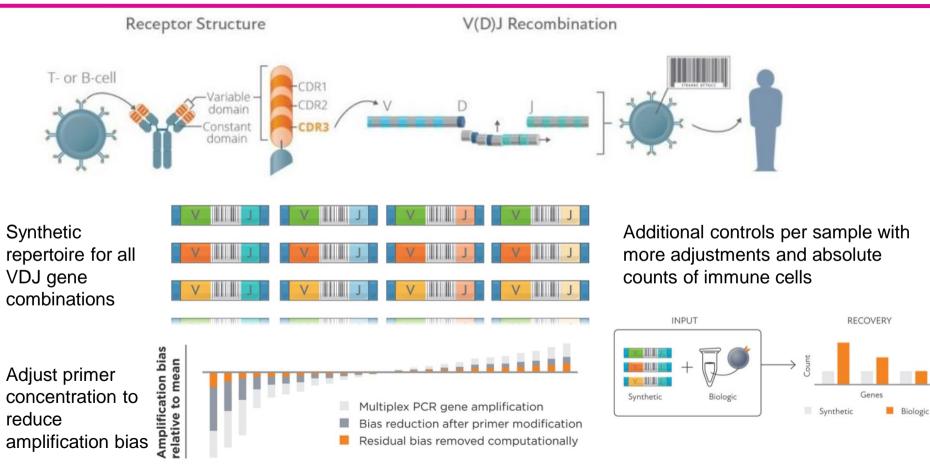
Journal of Virology 2001, 75:9836-9843

J Immunol, 2011, 186:5823-5832

T cell receptor diversity

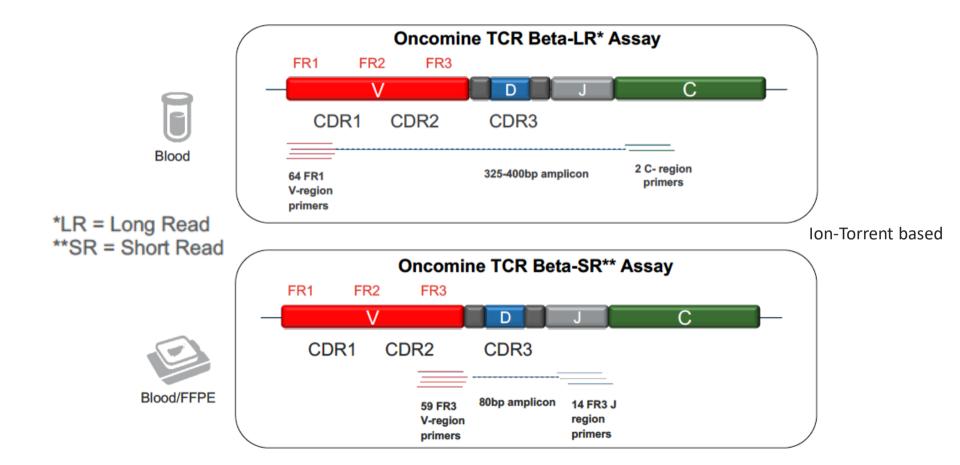


Adaptive Biotech Immunoseq TCR Beta Sequencing

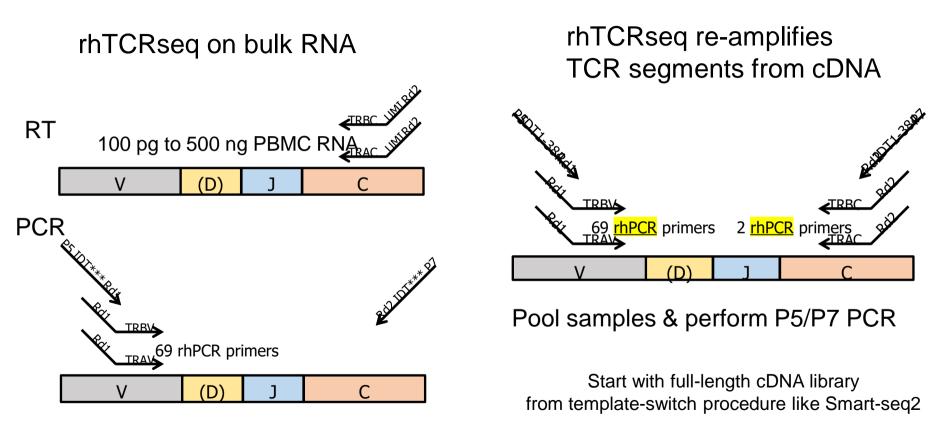


www.adaptivebiotech.com

Oncomine TCR Beta Sequencing

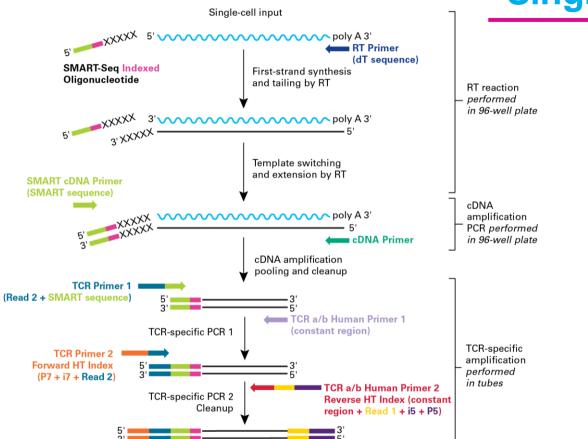


RNA-based sequencing (Ken Livak, DFCI)



Pool samples & perform P5/P7 PCR

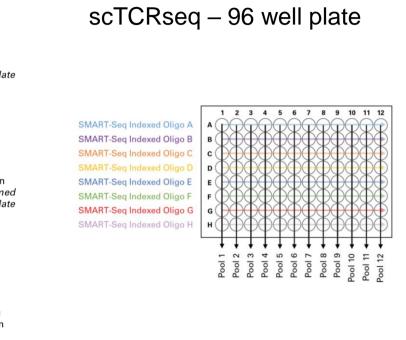
Ken Livak. Nat Protoc. 2019 14:2571-2594



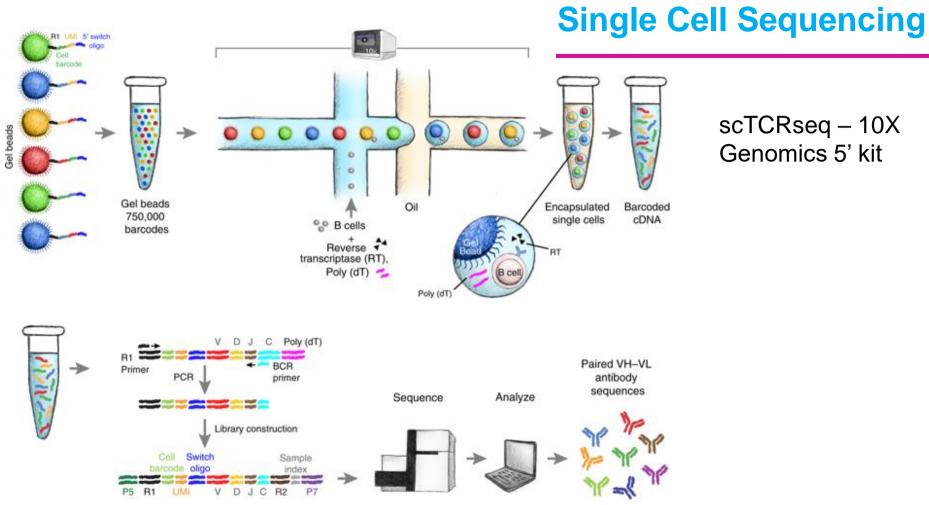
Single-cell TCR profiling – 96-well plate

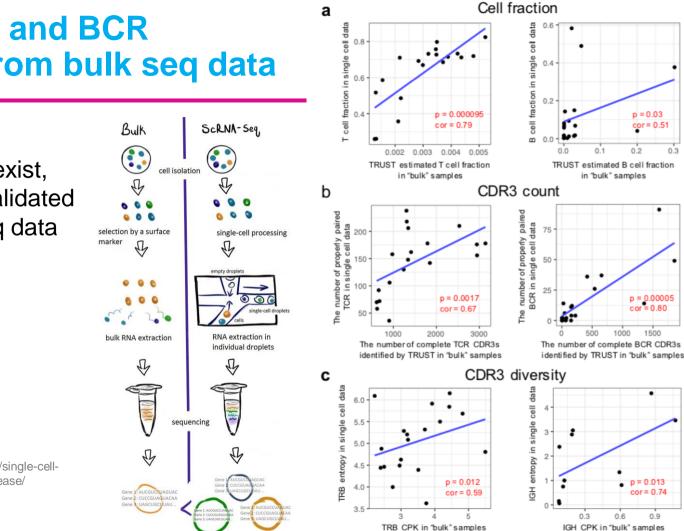
Sequencing-ready library

Single Cell Sequencing



https://www.takarabio.com/products/next-generation-sequencing/immune-profiling/human-sctcr-profiling-kit-for-illumina-sequencing





p = 0.03

cor = 0.51

p = 0.00005 cor = 0.80

1500

p = 0.013

cor = 0.74

0.9

0.6

1000

0.3

0.2

Inferring TCR and BCR information from bulk seq data

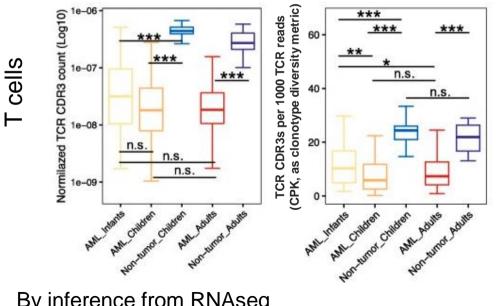
Several algorithms exist, including TRUST, validated here with scRNAseq data

http://sitn.hms.harvard.edu/flash/2017/single-cellrevolution-zooming-human-health-disease/

Genome Med. 2019 Nov 26;11(1):73

Immune receptor repertoires in pediatric and adult acute myeloid leukemia

Higher clonal expansion of both T cells and B cells in the AML microenvironment.



By inference from RNAseq using TRUST algorithm cells

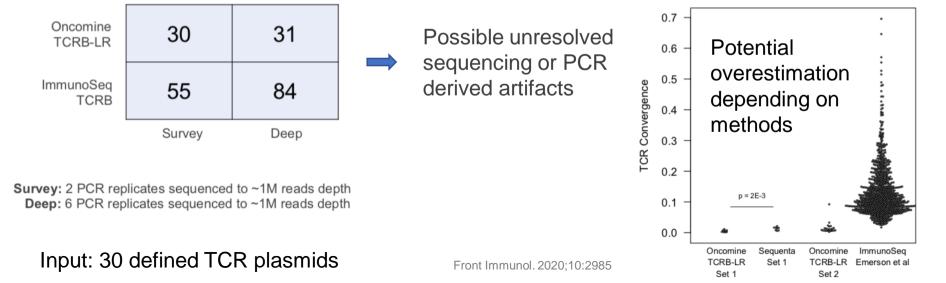
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1e-05 (0,001) 1e-06 *** n.s. *** Normalized Count 1e-07 1e-08 n.s. 30 n.s. *** BCR CPK 20 n.s. n.s 10 0.100 **n.s**. etta 0.075 WHS 0.050 n.s. *** ** Б n.s 0.025 NAN ADINS POURS 0.000 AML Hants Coulder Non-tuned Children

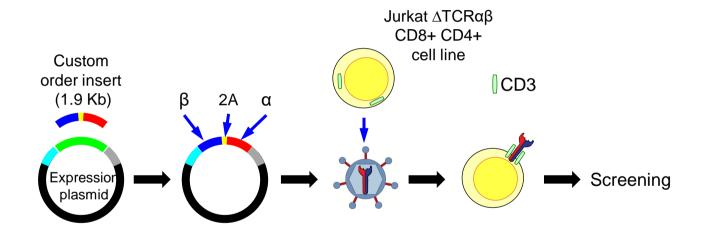
Convergence as new proposed metric

- Convergent TCRs are identical in amino acid space but different in nucleotide space
- Instances where T cells independently underwent VDJ recombination and proliferated in response to a common antigen
- Proposed to serve as an indicator of the immunogenicity of tumor

TCR Convergence Across Datasets



Cloning and expressing TCR



Useful for characterizing or confirming T cell specificity and for generating TCR-transduced cells for adoptive transfer

Applications

Higher intra-tumoral TCR clonality has been observed in responders to anti-PD-1 antibody treatment at both pre-treatment and duringtreatment timepoints, whereas no such effect was observed for CTLA-4 blockade therapy [64–67].

In contrast, higher TCR repertoire diversity in the peripheral blood after CTLA-4 blockade was correlated with drug-related toxicities in prostate cancer [68,69] and metastatic melanoma [70].

It was recently shown that both PD1+CD8+ [79] and CD4+ Treg clonotypes [80] from peripheral blood match corresponding tumor-resident clones and appear to be tumor-reactive.

Transplant International 2019; 32: 1111–1123

64. Amaria RN, Reddy SM, Tawbi HA, et al. Publisher correction: neoadjuvant immune checkpoint blockade in high-risk resectable melanoma. Nat Med 2018; 24: 1942.

65. Forde PM, Chaft JE, Smith KN, et al. Neoadjuvant PD-1 blockade in resectable lung cancer. N Engl J Med 2018; 378: 1976.

66. Roh W, Chen PL, Reuben A, et al. Integrated molecular analysis of tumor biopsies on sequential CTLA-4 and PD-1 blockade reveals markers of response and resistance. Sci Transl Med 2017; 9: eaah3560.

67. Tumeh PC, Harview CL, Yearley JH, et al. PD-1 blockade induces responses by inhibiting adaptive immune resistance. Nature 2014; 515: 568.

68. Oh DY, Cham J, Zhang L, et al. Immune toxicities elicted by CTLA-4

blockade in cancer patients are associated with early diversification of the T-cell repertoire. Cancer Res 2017; 77: 1322.

69. Subudhi SK, Aparicio A, Gao J, et al. Clonal expansion of CD8 T cells in the systemic circulation precedes development of ipilimumab-induced toxicities. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2016; 113: 11919.

70. Robert L, Tsoi J, Wang X, et al. CTLA4 blockade broadens the peripheral T-cell receptor repertoire. Clin Cancer Res 2014; 20: 2424.

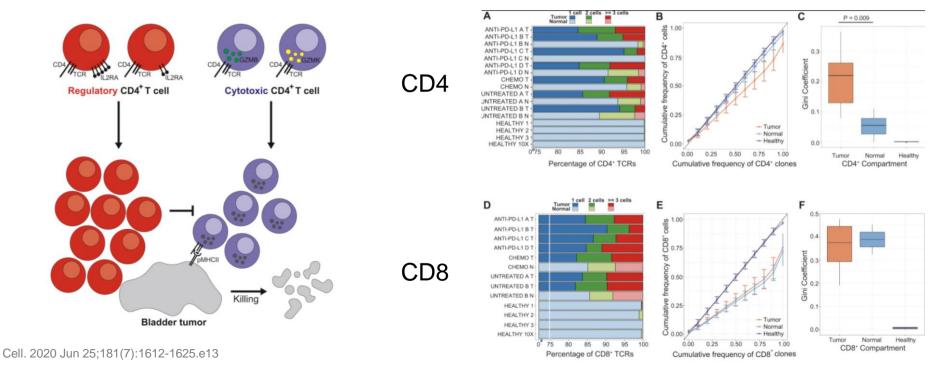
79. Gros A, Parkhurst MR, Tran E, et al. Prospective identification of neoantigen-specific lymphocytes in the peripheral blood of melanoma patients. Nat Med 2016; 22: 433.

80. Ahmadzadeh M, Pasetto A, Jia L, et al. Tumor-infiltrating human CD4(+) regulatory T cells display a distinct TCR repertoire and exhibit tumor and neoantigen reactivity. Sci Immunol 2019; 4: eaao4310.

Clonally expanded intratumoral cytotoxic CD4 T cells in bladder cancer

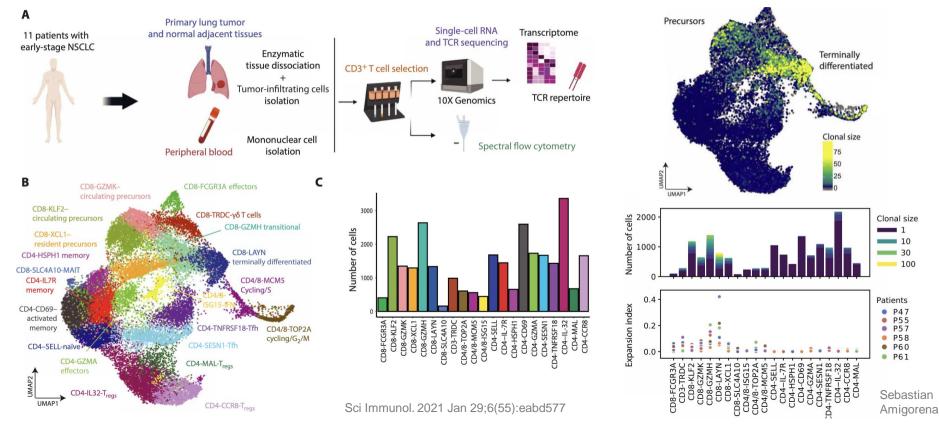
Larry Fong

Single-cell RNA and paired T cell receptor (TCR) sequencing of 30,604 T cells from 7 patients. We find that the states and repertoires of CD8+ T cells are not distinct in tumors compared with non-malignant tissues. In contrast, single-cell analysis of CD4+ T cells demonstrates several tumor-specific states, including multiple distinct states of regulatory T cells. Surprisingly, we also find multiple cytotoxic CD4+ T cell states that are clonally expanded. These CD4+ T cells can kill autologous tumors in an MHC class II-dependent fashion and are suppressed by regulatory T cells.



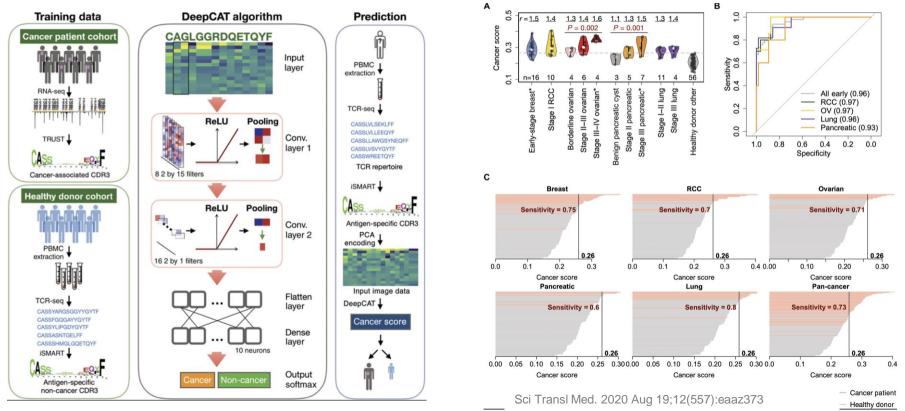
Tracking clonally expanded T cells and their transitional states in early NSCLC

Two precursor populations converge through a unique transitional state into terminally differentiated dysfunctional or exhausted cells, along with TCR expansion, and transition from precursor to late-differentiated states correlates with intratumor T cell cycling.



DeepCAT: a deep learning tool for de novo prediction of cancer-associated TCRs

Blindly apply DeepCAT to distinguish over 250 patients with cancer from over 600 healthy individuals using blood TCR sequences: high prediction accuracy (AUC \ge 0.95) for multiple early-stage cancers for using peripheral blood TCR repertoire as noninvasive cancer detection.



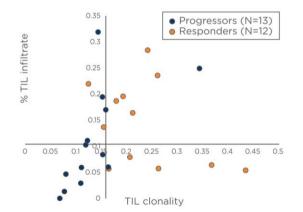


Comparing T cell repertoire clonality and abundance with anti-PD-1 therapy in advanced melanoma

Tumeh PC, et al. (2014) Nature 515(7528):568–71 (Adaptive Biotech.com)

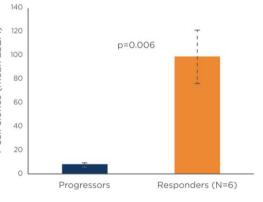
RESULTS

Quantitative sequencing of T-cell receptor beta (TCRB) in patients with melanoma



T-cell abundance, pretreatment





Progressors were associated with lower levels of TILs and lower TIL clonality

Representative scatterplot of clones from a responding tumor

T-cell abundance, post-treament

Clonal expansion in terms of clinical response

29 patients with urothelial carcinoma in a single arm, phase II clinical trial were evaluated.



Pre-treatment tumor → whole exome sequencing, RNA-seq and **immunoSEQ** hsTCRB Assay

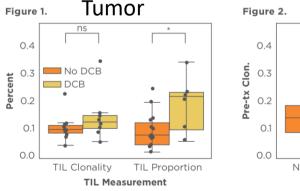
Pre-treatment and serially collected post-treatment blood \rightarrow immunoSEQ hsTCRB A

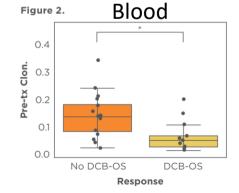
RESULTS

- Increased pre-treatment TIL density corresponded to DCB, but not continuous progression free survival (PFS).
- High diversity in pre-treatment blood is associated with improved PFS and overall survival (OS).
- Expansion of TIL clones (at 3 weeks after initiation of treatment) was pronounced in the post-treatment blood of patients with DCB.
- All patients with high diversity blood repertoires and increased TIL clonality survived over 1 year following treatment.
- No significant association between mutation burden or predicted neoantigen load with DCB or OS.

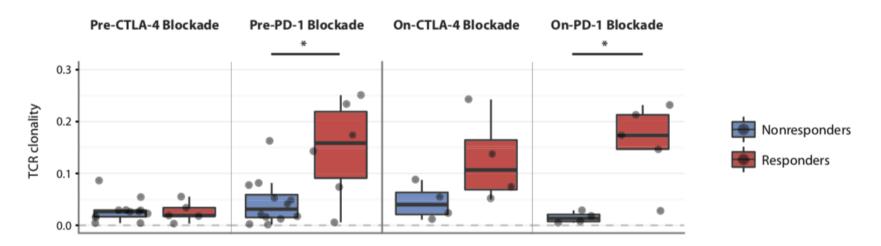
Contribution of systemic and somatic factors to clinical response and resistance to PD-L1 blockade in urothelial cancer: An exploratory multi-omic analysis

Snyder A, et al. PLOS Medicine. 2017; 14(5): e1002309.





Immune checkpoint blockade in melanoma leads to more clonal and diverse T cell infiltrate in responders



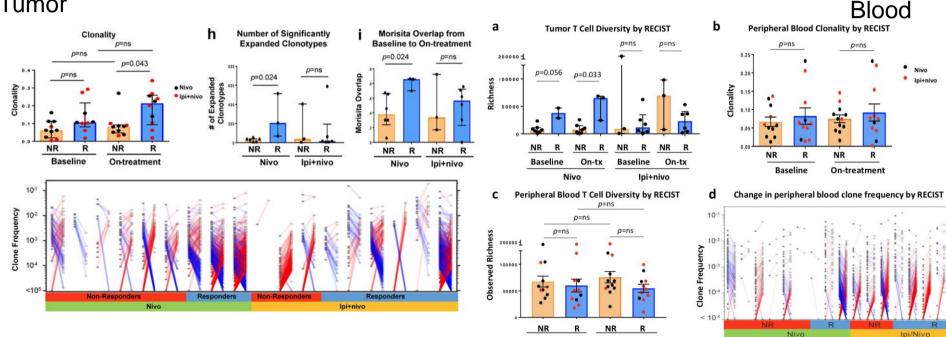
a more clonal T cell repertoire was predictive of response to PD-1 but not CTLA-4 blockade, already from baseline

Clonality was measured as 1-(entropy)/log2(# of productive unique sequences), with entropy taking into account clone frequency

Neoadjuvant immune checkpoint blockade in melanoma (nivo or nivo+ipi) leads to more clonal and diverse T cell infiltrate (along with higher lymphoid infiltrate) in responders, but not in blood



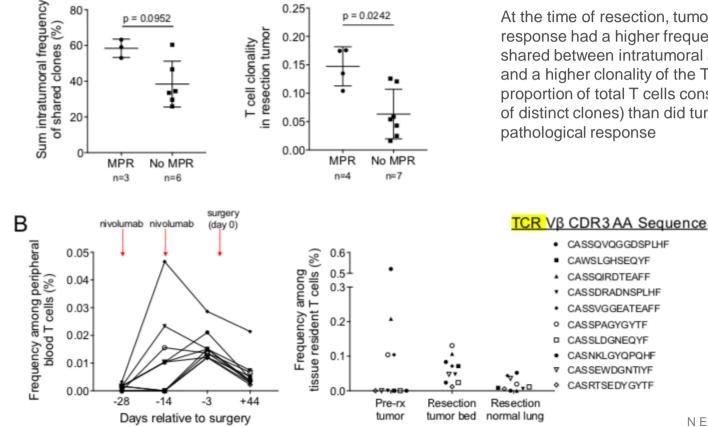
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Baseline

On-treatment

Clonotypes through neoadjuvant PD-1 blockade in resectable lung cancer



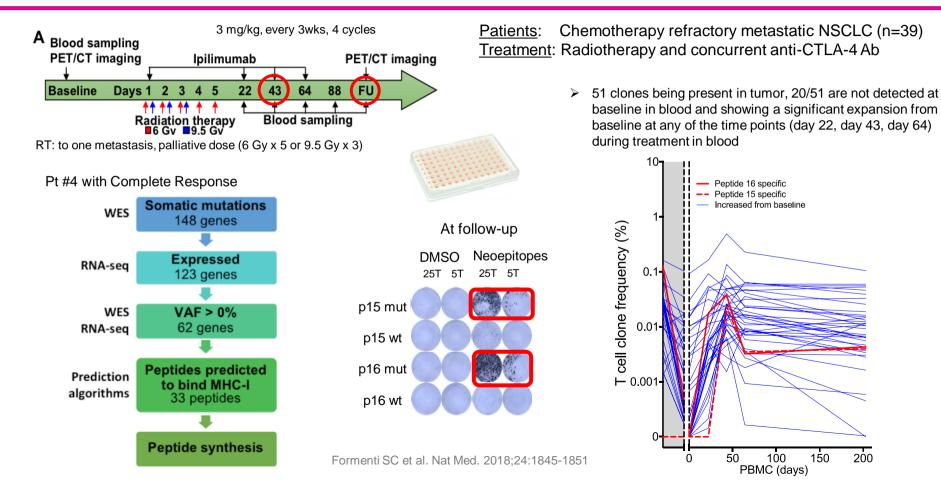
At the time of resection, tumors with a major pathological response had a higher frequency of T-cell clones that were shared between intratumoral and peripheral compartments and a higher clonality of the T-cell population (i.e., a higher proportion of total T cells constituted by a restricted number of distinct clones) than did tumors without a major pathological response

N Engl J Med 2018;378:1976-86.

Example of NSCLC study combining radiotherapy and ipilimumab

200

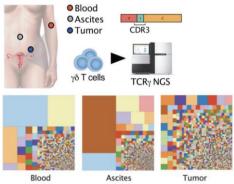
Collaboration with C.Lhuillier and S. Demaria



More recent evidence of clinical association with TCRseq

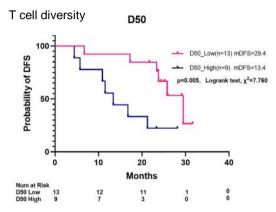
Characterization of ascites- and tumor-infiltrating $\gamma\delta$ T cells reveals distinct repertoires and a beneficial role in ovarian cancer

Sci Transl Med. 2021;13:eabb0192.

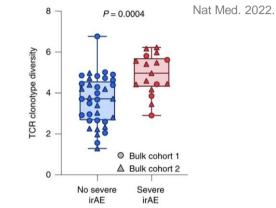


High TCR clonality (and % CD8⁺ T cells) as predictors of efficacy of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in breast cancer

Front Immunol. 2021;12:689091.

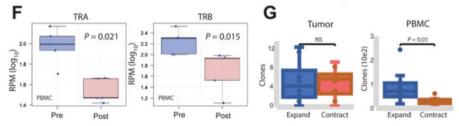


Pretreatment TCR diversity (and $CD4^+T_{em}$) in circulation is associated with severe immune-related adverse events after immune checkpoints



TCR sequencing changes in T-cell repertoire in peripheral blood with PD-L1+CTLA-4+Radiation for metastatic colorectal cancer

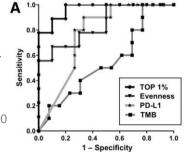
Clin Cancer Res. 2021;27:2470-2480



Pretreatment TCR evenness and top 1% clones

outperform PD-L1 TPS and TMB as predictive biomarkers of complete pathological response after neoadjuvant chemoimmunotherapy in NSCLC

Clin Cancer Res. 2021;27:5878-5890

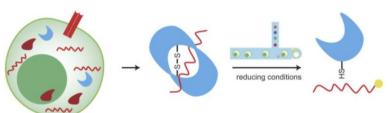


Recent technical advances (fixed cells, integration with GEX, AI)

Droplet-based mRNA sequencing of fixed and permeabilized cells by CLInt-seq allows for antigen-specific TCR cloning with intracellular cytokine information

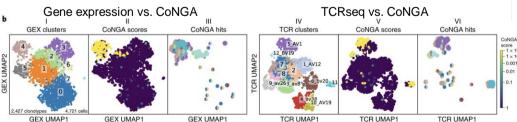
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2021;118(3):e2021190118

Fix via DSP Permeabilize via Triton X-100 RNase free conditions Droplet-based cell barcoding via 10X Genomics microfluidics



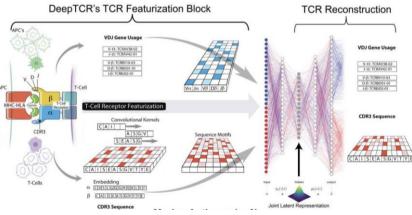
Integrating T cell receptor sequences and transcriptional profiles by clonotype neighbor graph analysis (CoNGA)

Nat Biotechnol. 2022;40:54-63



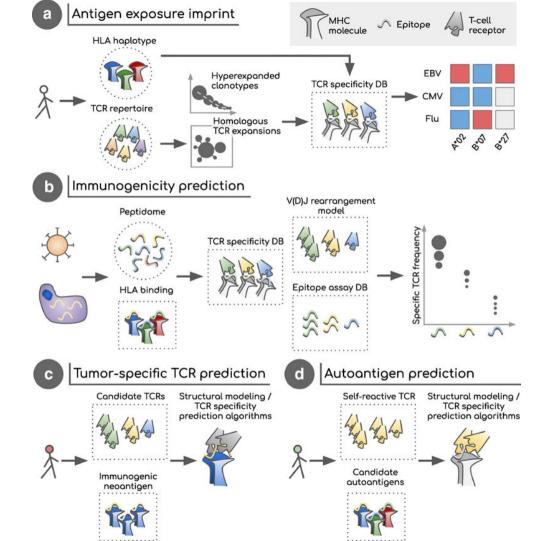
DeepTCR: a deep learning framework for revealing sequence concepts within T-cell repertoires (convolutional neural networks)

Nat Commun. 2021;12:1605.



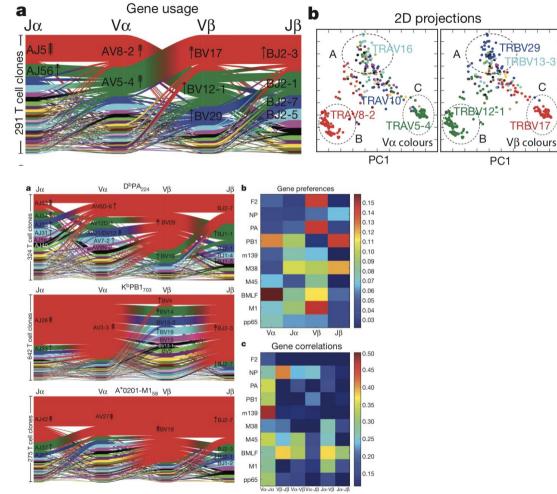
Cluster antigen-specific TCRs better

CoNGA identifies statistically significant overlap between a GEX similarity graph and a TCR sequence similarity graph

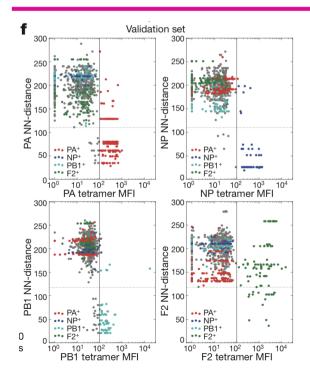


Querying TCR specificity

Zvyagin IV, Tsvetkov VO, Chudakov DM, Shugay M. Immunogenetics. 2019



Combine tetramer sorting with single-cell TCRseq to find clusters of related TCRs and metrics that can predict similar specificity

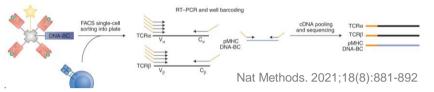


Dash et al. Nature 2017;547;89

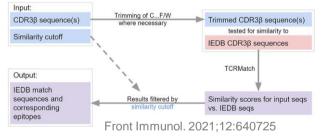
PC2

Predicting antigen specificity

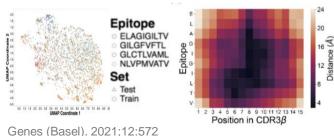
Linking TCR sequence to antigen specificity using tetramers

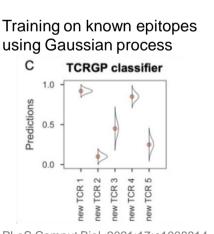


TCRMatch: Predicting T-cell receptor specificity based on sequence similarity to previously characterized receptors



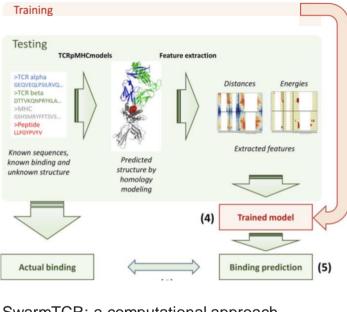
Neural network model to predict epitopes

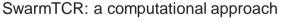


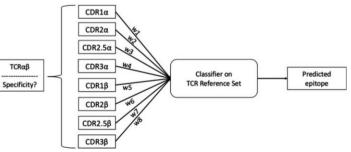


PLoS Comput Biol. 2021;17:e1008814

Based on homology models Front Physiol. 2021;12:730908

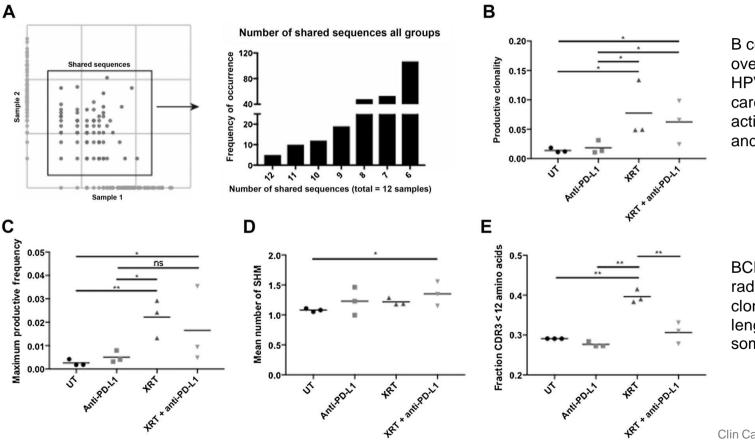






BMC Bioinformatics. 2021;22:422

BCR sequencing as biomarker of cancer outcome still underexplored



B cells associated with overall survival benefit in HPV+ squamous cell carcinomas and are activated by radiation and PD-1 blockade

BCR-sequencing found that radiotherapy enhances B cell clonality, decreases CDR3 length, and induces B-cell somatic hypermutation.

Clin Cancer Res. 2020;26:3345-3359.

Take home message

TCR and BCR sequencing provide important metrics of clonality/diversity of the adaptive immune repertoire of lymphocytes in cancer patients

Many papers showing predictive biomarker value for TCR repertoire in I-O trials

Flexibility of methods (bulk, single cell, survey, deep) from different materials (FFPE, blood, RNA, gDNA) allow for a wide variety of tissue sources

Choosing the approach depends on downstream need and tissue availability

TCR/BCR sequencing is a useful tool in the arsenal of immune monitoring technologies

