

# SPATIAL SINGLE-CELL METABOLOMICS EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FOR IMMUNOTHERAPY



EMBL, HEIDELBERG

THEODORE ALEXANDROV



BII

BIOINNOVATION INSTITUTE,  
COPENHAGEN

# DISCLOSURES

## Present

- SpaceM @ BioInnovation Institute – incubation phase (co-founder, equity holder)

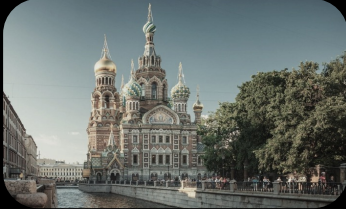
## Past

- SCiLS GmbH (co-founder, equity holder, SAB)
- Grant from OpenTargets partnership funded by Sanofi, GSK, BMS

Patents inventor on spatial and single-cell metabolomics

# CAREER

## ST.PETERSBURG



Mathematics, computer science

## BREMEN



Mass spectrometry



## SAN DIEGO



UC San Diego

Metabolomics

## HEIDELBERG



Spatial & single-cell metabolomics



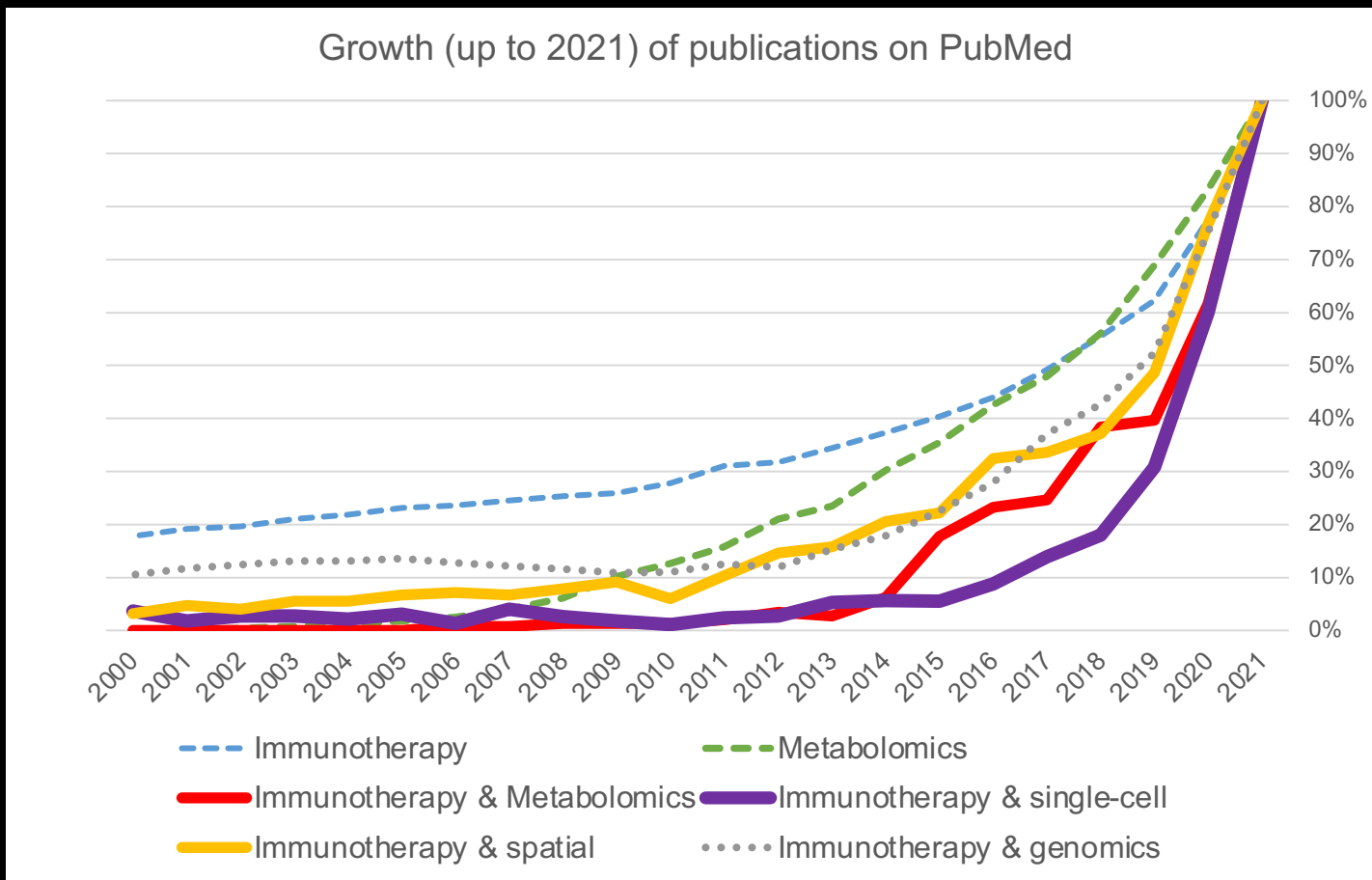
## COPENHAGEN



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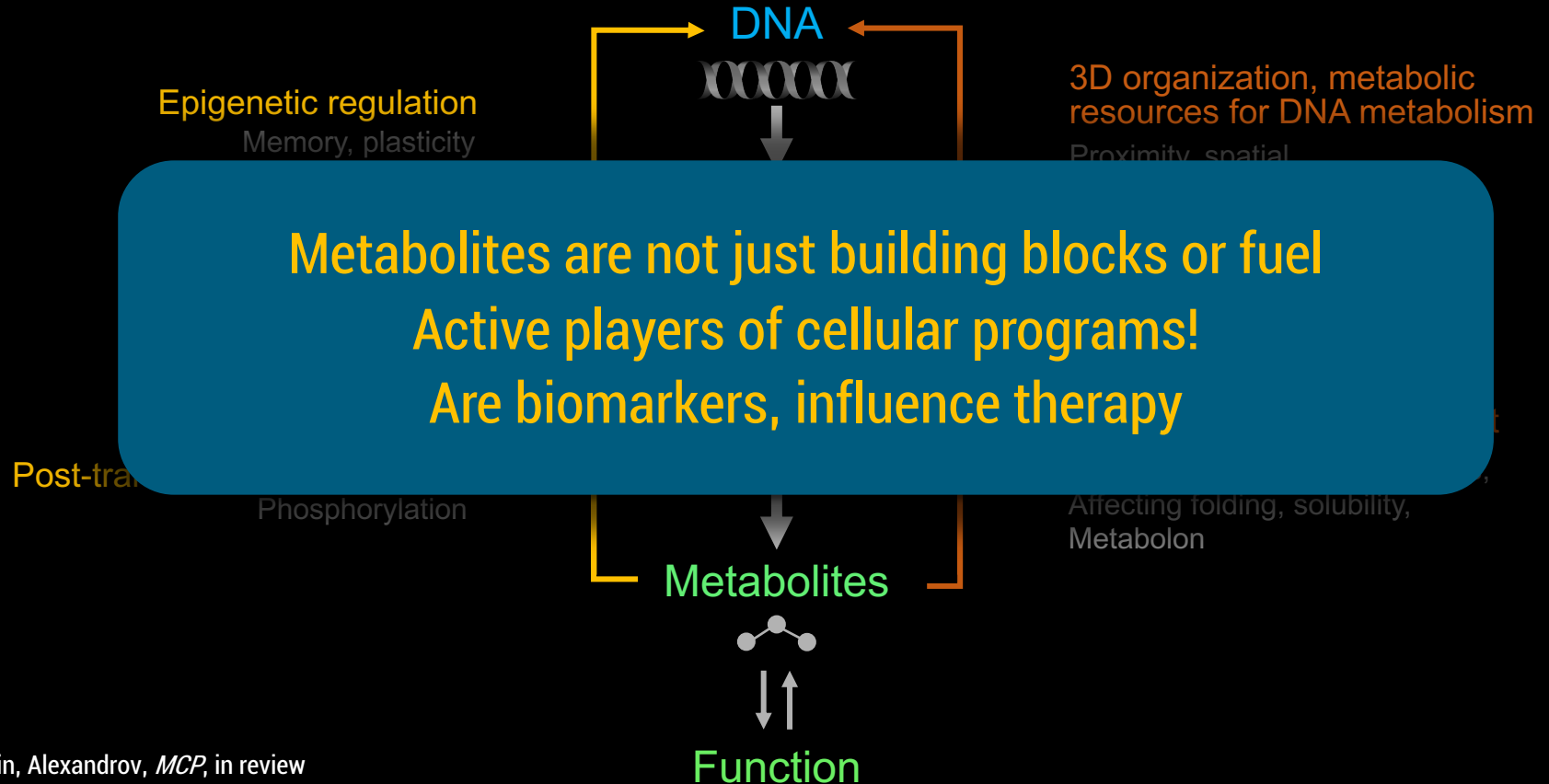
Startup on single-cell metabolomics for  
drug discovery and therapy

# IMMUNOTHERAPY + (SPATIAL & SINGLE-CELL) + METABOLOMICS?





# WHY METABOLOMICS?





# IMMUNOTHERAPY MEETS METABOLOMICS

## Biomarkers

**Open access**

**Hypothesis**

**Microbiome-derived metabolome as a potential predictor of response to cancer immunotherapy**

Agnieszka Beata Malczewski <sup>1,2,3</sup> Severine Navarro,<sup>4,5</sup> Jermaine IG Coward,<sup>1,2</sup> Natkunam Ketheesan<sup>3</sup>

**To cite:** Malczewski AB, Navarro S, Coward JIG, et al. Microbiome-derived metabolome as a potential predictor of response to cancer immunotherapy. *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* 2020;8:e001383. doi:10.1136/jitc-2020-001383

**ABSTRACT**  
Cancer immunotherapy with checkpoint blockade has become standard of care treatment for numerous cancer types. Despite this, robust predictive biomarkers are lacking. There is increasing evidence that the host microbiome is a predictor of immunotherapy response, although the optimal host microbiome has not been defined. Metabolomics is a new area of medicine that aims to analyze the metabolic profile of a biological system.

that is unique to immunotherapy responders. This metabolic signature could have application as a predictor of response to cancer immunotherapy.

The microbiome consists of the trillions of commensal microbes that live within their human hosts.<sup>1</sup> The microbiome has been shown to influence immunity and help

## Metabolic barriers of tumor microenvironment

**nature reviews immunology**

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nature > nature reviews immunology > review articles > article

Review Article | [Published: 29 April 2021](#)

**Metabolic barriers to cancer immunotherapy**

[Kristin DePeaux](#) & [Greg M. Delgoffe](#) 

[Nature Reviews Immunology](#) **21**, 785–797 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

16k Accesses | 85 Citations | 95 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

## Predicting non-responders and poor survival



**nature communications**

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nature > nature communications > articles > article

Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 25 September 2019](#)

**Metabolomic adaptations and correlates of survival to immune checkpoint blockade**

[Haixin Li](#), [Kevin Bullock](#), [Carino Guriao](#), [David Braun](#), [Sachet A. Shukla](#), [Dominick Bossé](#), [Aly-Khan A. Lalani](#), [Shuba Gopal](#), [Chelsea Jin](#), [Christine Horak](#), [Megan Wind-Rotolo](#), [Sabina Signoretti](#), [David F. McDermott](#), [Gordon J. Freeman](#), [Eliezer M. Van Allen](#), [Stuart L. Schreiber](#), [F. Stephen Hodi](#), [William R. Sellers](#), [Levi A. Garraway](#), [Clary B. Clish](#), [Toni K. Choueiri](#)  & [Marios Giannakis](#) 

[Nature Communications](#) **10**, Article number: 4346 (2019) | [Cite this article](#)

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## Leveraging metabolism to enhance immunotherapy



**nature reviews immunology**

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nature > nature reviews immunology > review articles > article

Review Article | [Published: 28 February 2019](#)

**Metabolic interventions in the immune response to cancer**

[David O'Sullivan](#), [David E. Sanin](#), [Edward J. Pearce](#)  & [Erika L. Pearce](#) 

[Nature Reviews Immunology](#) **19**, 324–335 (2019) | [Cite this article](#)

20k Accesses | 133 Citations | 84 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

## Tumor microenvironment



Buck et al, *Cell* 2017

# MALDI-IMAGING MASS SPECTROMETRY

Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization

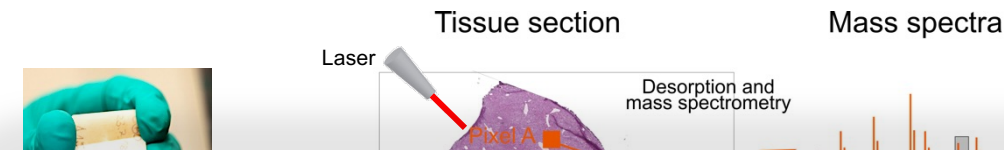




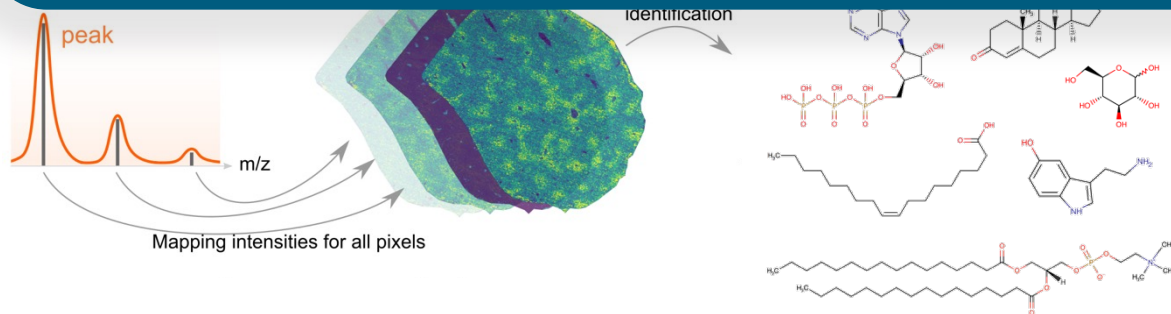
# MALDI-IMAGING MASS SPECTROMETRY

Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization

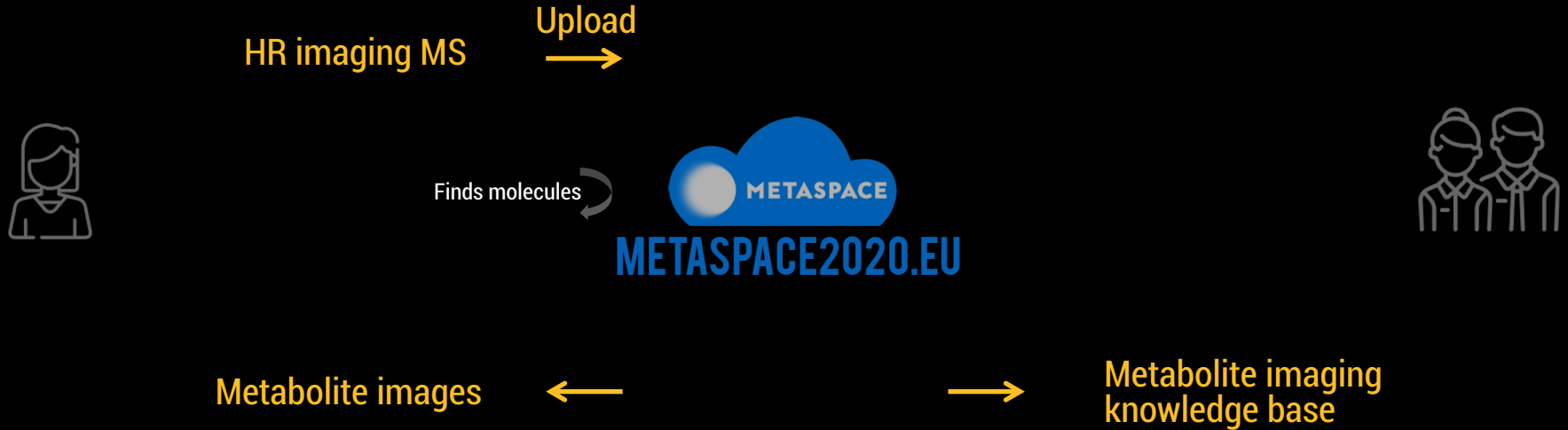
Alexandrov, *Annu Rev Biomed Data Sci* 2020



However, challenges of accessibility & data interpretation for non-experts in mass spectrometry!



# METASPACE: TRANSLATING SPECTRA INTO MOLECULAR DATA



100+ labs / 1000+ users / 150+ publications



Palmer et al, *Nat Methods* 2017



Welcome to

# METASPACE

Platform for metabolite annotation of imaging mass spectrometry data

## Metabolite Annotation

[Submit](#) your high-resolution imaging mass spectrometry data to our high-throughput metabolite annotation engine

## Explore the Knowledgebase

[Browse](#) annotations from all datasets using our interactive interface

You can search, filter and compare your annotations alongside those from the whole imaging mass spectrometry community

## Get Going Fast

Head to the [upload](#) page to submit a dataset.

We also have interactive [tutorials](#) prepared to help you.

## Open Access

All code is open-source, the input format is the [imzML](#) supported by all mass spec major vendors, the metabolite annotations from the community datasets are public and can be browsed or exported.

# SUMMARY #1

- **Metabolism emerged as a key factor in biology & medicine**
  - Metabolites are not only building blocks and fuel! "Two-ways street"
- **Spatial metabolomics has matured over the past decade**
  - Used by top-10 pharma for DMPK, increasing interest in clinical applications
- **Spatial metabolomics requires big data approaches**
  - METASPACE: converting spectra into molecular data



SPATIAL SINGLE-CELL METABOLOMICS

ML / AI

# SPATIAL SINGLE-CELL METABOLOMICS REVEALS METABOLIC CELL STATES

MULTI-OMICS

BIG DATA  
INFRASTRUCTURE

# SINGLE-CELL METABOLOMICS: EMERGING FIELD

37th Asilomar Conference on  
Mass Spectrometry

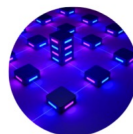
Single-Cell Mass  
Spectrometry

October 7 - 11, 2022

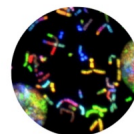
metabolomics



## IUPAC Top Ten Emerging Technologies in Chemistry 2021



Blockchain



Semisynthetic life



Superwettability



Artificial humus



RNA synthesis



Single-cell  
metabolomics

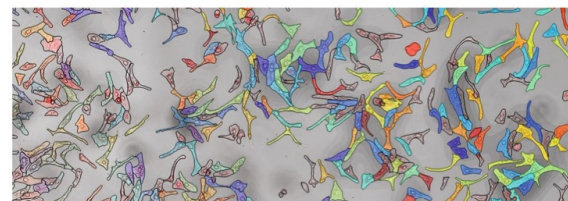
## Single-cell metabolomics hits its stride

An array of new techniques allow researchers to catalog the chemical contents of a single cell, or even a single organelle.

Caroline Seydel

Studying genomics reveals what a cell is capable of; transcriptomics gives a view of what the cell is planning to do. To find out what the cell is actually doing, however, requires proteomics and metabolomics.

"Metabolomics is very important," says computational biologist Theodore Alexandrov of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). "It is the youngest of the omics, but it provides the



# SPACeM: SPATIAL SINGLE-CELL METABOLOMICS



Rappez et al, *Nature Methods* 2021  
Patent applications

Cells

Microscopy

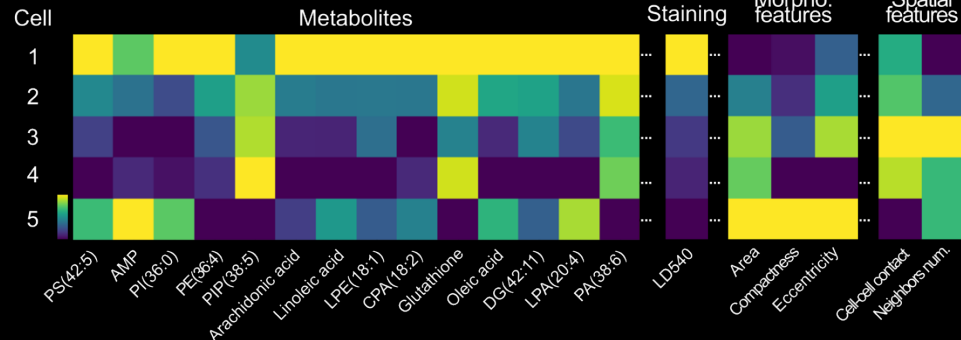
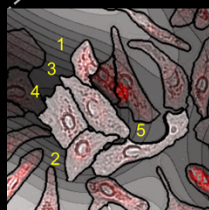
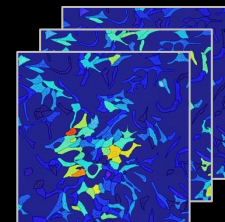
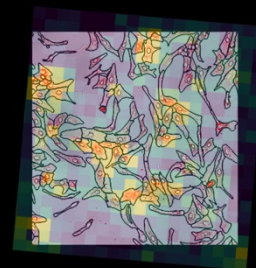
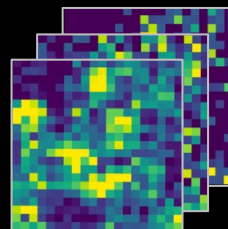
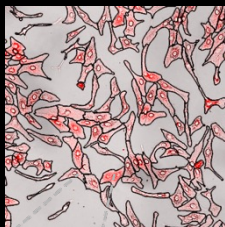
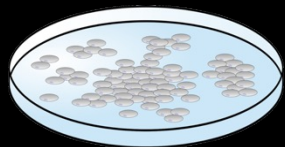
MALDI-imaging

Image analysis

Cell image, morphology,  
spatial relationships

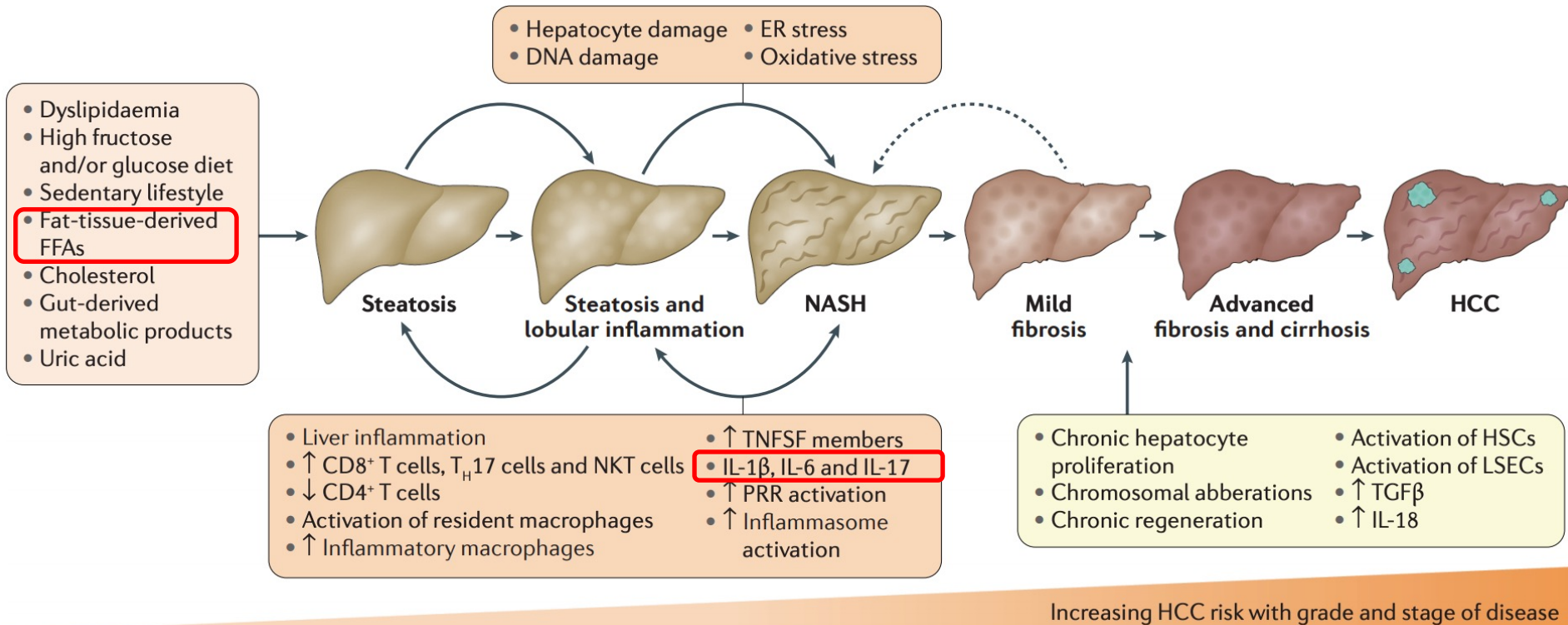


Single-cell  
metabolite images



100+ molecules  
1.000+ cells

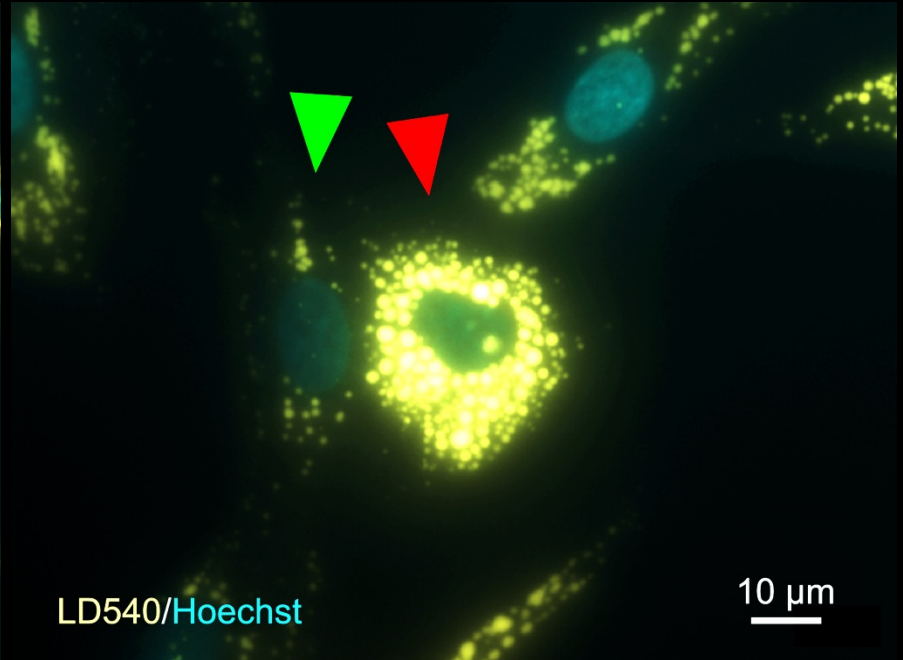
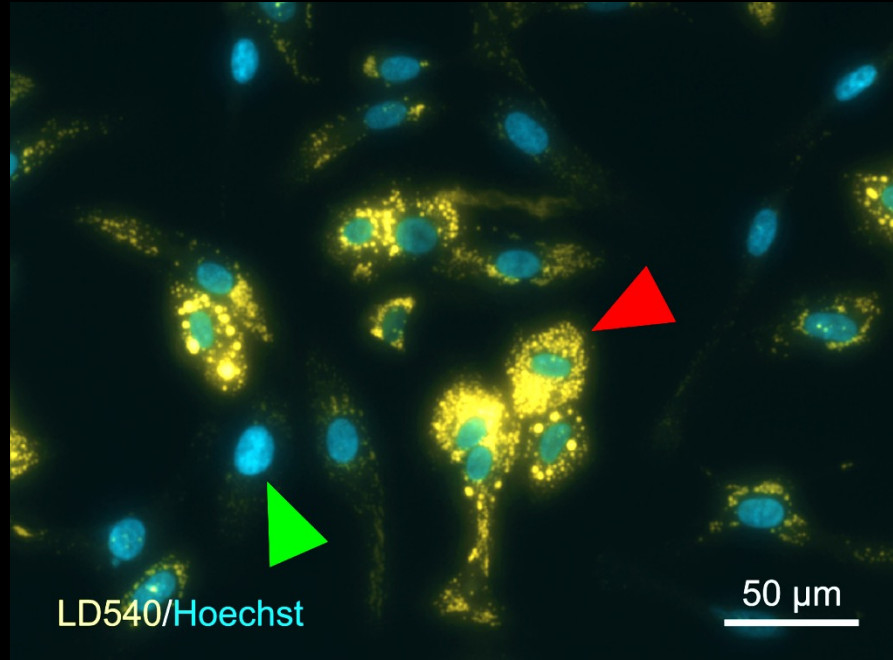
# NON-ALCOHOLIC STEATOHEPATITIS COMMON FACTOR FOR LIVER CANCER





# SINGLE-CELL ANALYSIS OF NASH *IN VITRO*

Human hepatocytes dHepaRG +oleic acid +palmitic acid +TNF $\alpha$



*With Mira Stadler, Mathias Heikenwaelder, DKFZ*

# STIMULATED HEPATOCYTES

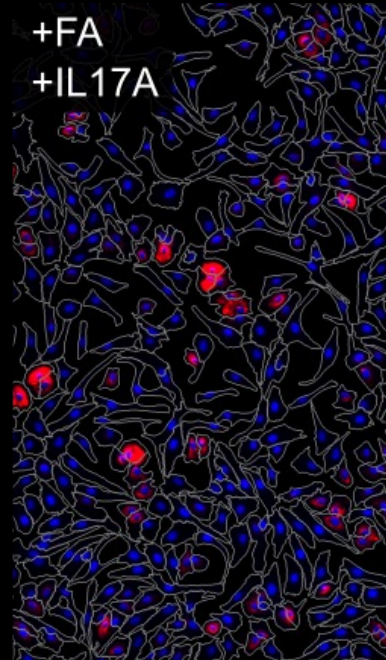
dHepaRG hepatocytes  
control



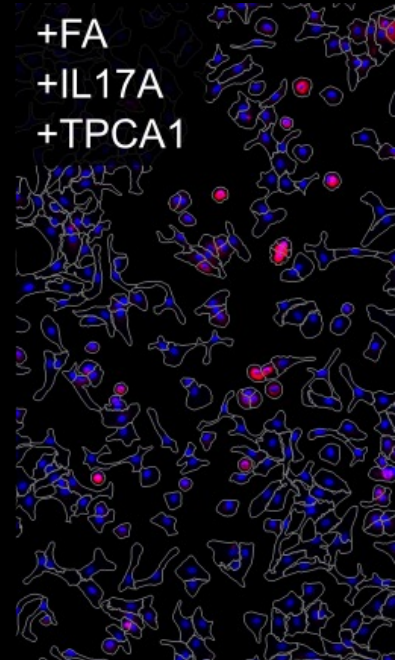
+palmitic acid +oleic acid  
"NAFLD"



+IL17a  
"NASH"



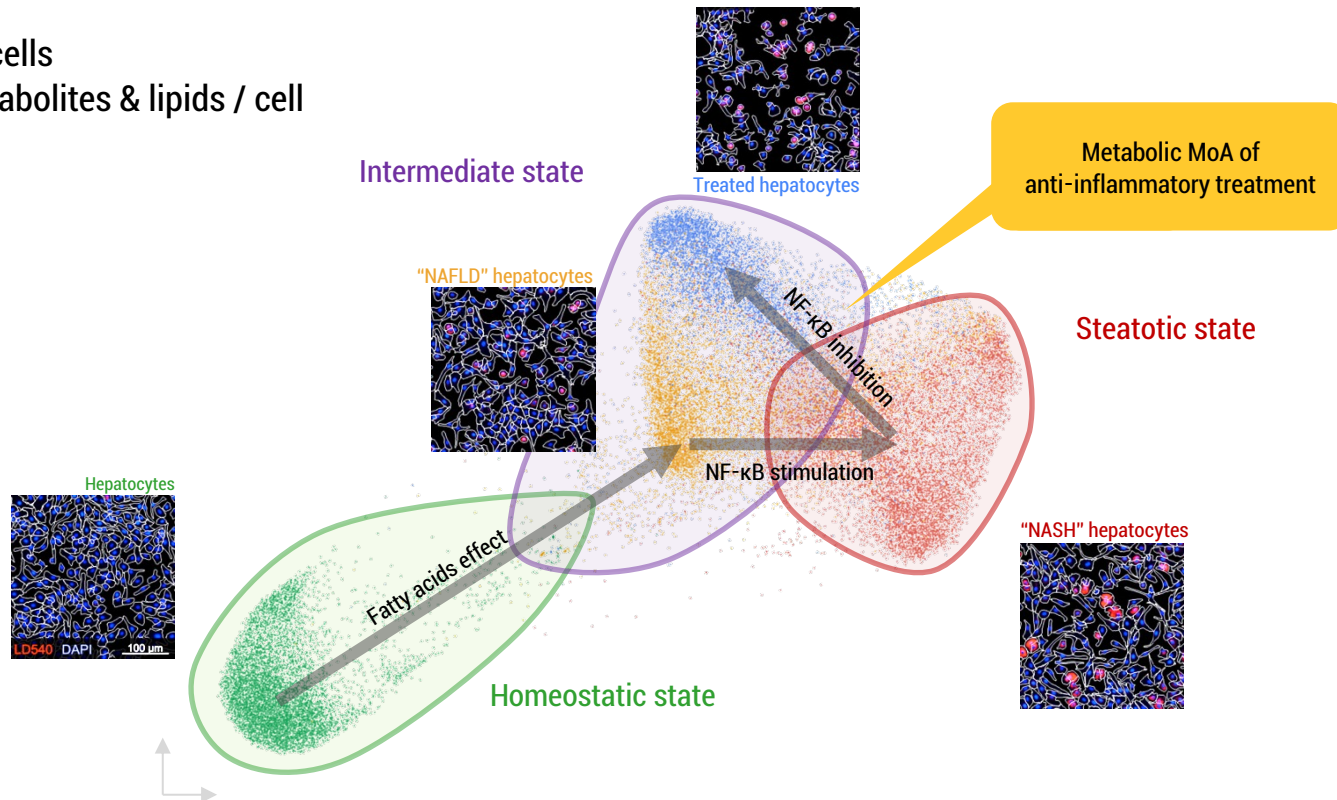
+TPCA-1, inhibitor of NFkB  
anti-inflammatory treatment



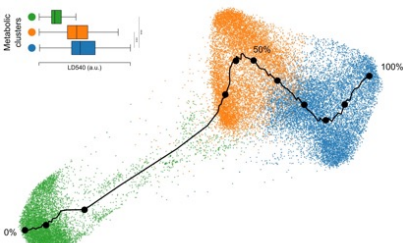
# SINGLE-CELL METABOLOMICS OF NAFLD/NASH

27.000+ cells

700+ metabolites & lipids / cell



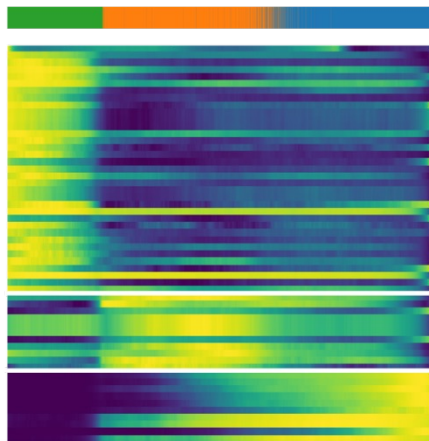




# STEATOTIC LIPID MARKERS

## Metabolite markers

PC(34:2) \* / PE(37:2)  
 PI(20:1)  
 LPC(15:0) / LPE(18:0)  
 PC(34:3) \* / PE(37:3)  
 PS(30:1)  
 PC(35:2) \* / PE(38:2) \*  
 PC(37:7) / PE(40:7)  
 PC(30:0) / PE(33:0)  
 PC(32:2) \* / PE(35:2)  
 PC(35:1) / PE(38:1)  
 PC(36:4) \* / PE(39:4)  
 PC(35:3) \* / PE(38:3) \*  
 LPC(16:0) \* / LPE(19:0)  
 SM(d36:1) \*  
 PC(34:1) \* / PE(37:1)  
 DG(34:1)  
 DG(32:0) \*  
 PC(36:4) \* / PE(39:4)  
 TG(52:2) \*  
 TG(54:3)  
 TG(50:1) \*  
 DG(36:2)



## Enriched LO terms

Glycerophospholipids  
 Fatty acids with less than 2 double bonds  
 Endoplasmic reticulum  
 Membrane  
 Fatty acid  
 Diacylglycerol  
 Monounsaturated  
 Mitochondrial  
 Fatty acid w  
 Below average  
 Headgroup w  
 Lipid-mediated  
 High lateral di  
 Membrane co  
 Above average

Volume 106, Issue 6  
 June 2004



## dHepARG

SpaceM  
 annotations

Normal

Steatotic

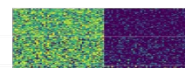


ND

WD

LC-MS/MS  
 annotations

PC(34:2) / PE(37:2)  
 PC(34:3) / PE(37:3)



PC(18:2\_16:0)  
 PC(18:3\_16:0)

RESEARCH ARTICLE | JUNE 01 2004

## Increase in long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acid n-6/n-3 ratio in relation to hepatic steatosis in patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

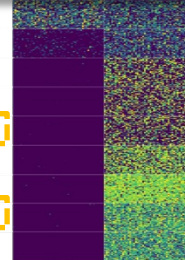
Julia ARAYA; Ramón RODRIGO; Luis A. VIDELA; Lilian THIELEMAN; Myriam ORELLANA; Paulina PETTINELLI; Jaime PONIACHIK

Check for updates

Clin Sci (Lond) (2004) 106 (6): 635–643.

<https://doi.org/10.1042/CS20020226> Article history

SM(d36:1)  
 PC(32:0) / PE(35:0)  
 TG(52:1)  
 TG(54:2)  
 TG(48:1)  
 TG(50:2)  
 TG(56:6)  
 TG(50:1)  
 TG(52:2)



SM(d36:1)  
 PC(32:0)  
 TG(18:1\_16:0\_18:0)  
 TG(18:1\_16:0\_20:1)  
 TG(16:0\_16\_1\_16:0)  
 TG(16:1\_16:0\_18:1)  
 TG(56:6)  
 TG(16:0\_18:1\_16:0)  
 TG(18:1\_16:0\_18:1)

Research | Open Access | Published: 20 June 2018

## Hepatic steatosis risk is partly driven by increased de novo lipogenesis following carbohydrate consumption

Francis W. B. Sanders, Animesh Acharjee, Celia Walker, Luke Marney, Lee D. Roberts, Fumiaki Imamura, Benjamin Jenkins, Jack Case, Sumantra Ray, Samuel Virtue, Antonio Vidal-Puig, Diana Kuh, Rebecca Hardy, Michael Allison, Nita Forouhi, Andrew J. Murray, Nick Wareham, Michele Vacca, Albert Koulman & Julian L. Griffin

Sanders et al, *Genome Biol* 2018

Araya et al, *Clinical Science* 2004



# SUMMARY #2

- Single-cell metabolomics is an emerging field
- SpaceM: method for spatial single-cell metabolomics
  - Reveals metabolic states in steatosis and NASH
  - Detects prognostic biomarkers
- Single-cell metabolomics: cheapest and fastest of all omics
  - x100 cheaper than scRNAseq
  - x10 faster than scRNAseq

SPATIAL SINGLE-CELL METABOLOMICS

ML / AI

# SINGLE-CELL METABOLOMICS OF HUMAN T CELLS

MULTI-OMICS

BIG DATA  
INFRASTRUCTURE

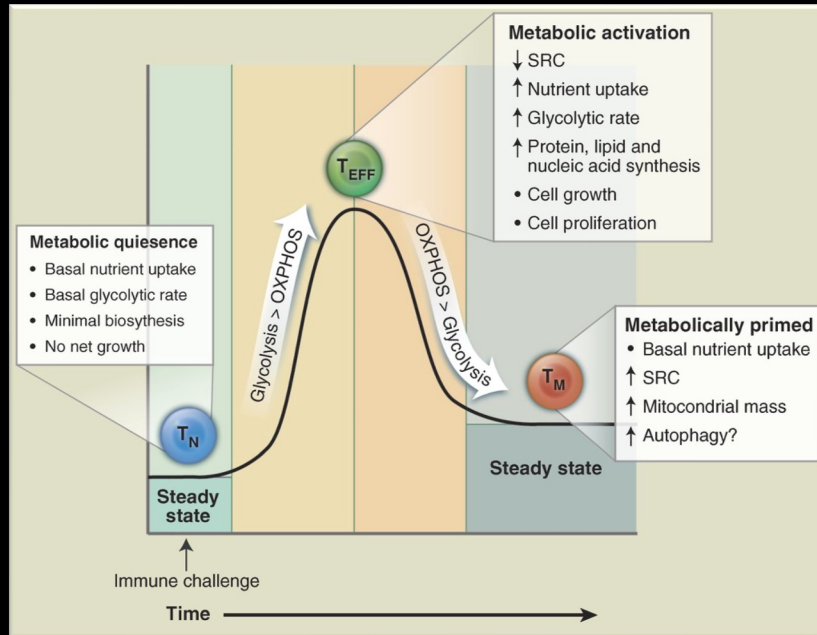
unpublished

# METABOLIC REPROGRAMMING OF T CELLS



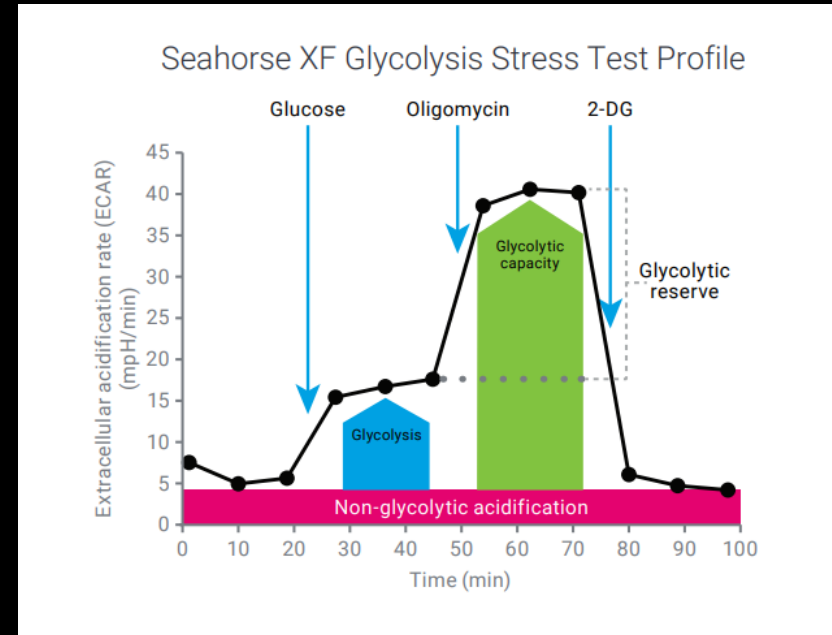
Luisa Abreu

## Metabolic switch upon activation

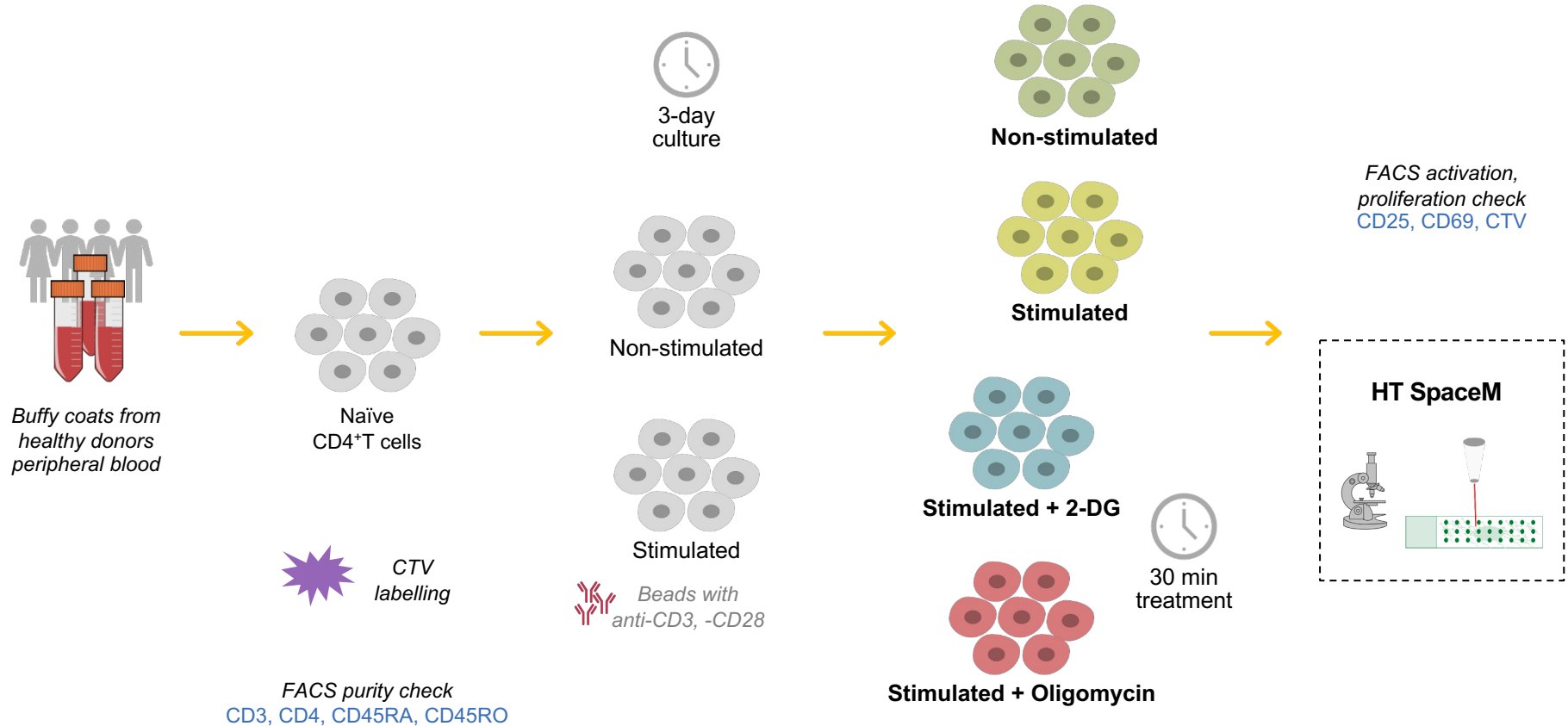


Pearce et al, *Science* 2013

## Seahorse: Bulk assay



# EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN



# METABOLIC REPROGRAMMING OF HUMAN T CELLS

20K cells  
80 metabolites

# SUMMARY #3

- SpaceM profiles metabolism of single immune cells
  - Detects the metabolic reprogramming
- High-throughput SpaceM
  - Analyzes 64 samples, 1000s cells each (100.000+ cells) – overnight



# LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE: SPATIAL & SINGLE-CELL METABOLOMICS IN IMMUNOTHERAPY

nature immunology

## Metabolic reprogramming of terminally exhausted CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells by IL-10 enhances anti-tumor immunity

[Yugang Guo](#), [Yu-Qing Xie](#), [Min Gao](#), [Yang Zhao](#), [Fabien Franco](#), [Mathias Wenes](#), [Imran Siddiqui](#), [Alessio Bevilacqua](#), [Haiping Wang](#), [Hanshuo Yang](#), [Bing Feng](#), [Xin Xie](#), [Catherine M. Sabatel](#), [Benjamin Tschumi](#), [Amphun Chaiboonchoe](#), [Yuxi Wang](#), [Weimin Li](#), [Weihua Xiao](#), [Werner Held](#), [Pedro Romero](#), [Ping-Chih Ho](#) & [Li Tang](#) ✉

*Nature Immunology* 22, 746–756 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

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## Journal of Translational Medicine

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Review | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 07 December 2021](#)

## Optimization of metabolism to improve efficacy during CAR-T cell manufacturing

[Meng Zhang](#), [Xin Jin](#), [Rui Sun](#), [Xia Xiong](#), [Jiaxi Wang](#), [Danni Xie](#) & [MingFeng Zhao](#) ✉

*Journal of Translational Medicine* 19, Article number: 499 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

4808 Accesses | 9 Citations | 2 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Metabolic barriers of tumor microenvironment

1. Spatial chemical profiling of microenvironment, ECM
2. Spatial profiling of metabolism of immune cells *in situ*

Metabolic revival of exhausted immune cells

Single-cell

Leveraging metabolism to enhance immunotherapy

Optimizing metabolic fitness of CAR T cells

# TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Metabolomics in immunotherapy is emerging
- Spatial metabolomics detects 100+ metabolites in tissues
- Spatial single-cell metabolomics (SpaceM) reveals metabolic reprogramming in NASH, T cells
- Prominent future applications include metabolic revival of exhausted immune cells and metabolic optimization of CAR T cells



**alexandrovteam**

Shahraz Mohammed, Luisa Abreu,  
Andreas Eisenbarth, Volker Hilsenstein  
Alex Mattausch, Jeany Delafiori  
Alberto Bailoni, Veronika Saharuka  
Bishoy Wadie, Sharath Menon  
Mans Ekelof, Sergii Mamedov  
Amandine Prats, Lucas Maciel  
Bernhard Drotleff, Svitlana Dekina  
Nastassia Robert

### Selected past members

Martijn Molenaar, Luca Rappez,  
Sergio Triana, Vitaly Kovalev,  
Andrew Palmer

## Uni Heidelberg

Jan Siemens

Julio Saez-Rodriguez

## EMBL

ALMF (Sabine, Beate, Stefan)

FACS (Diana)

## Wellcome Sanger

Gosia Trynka

Blagoje Soskic

## Sanofi

Thomas Leeuw

Andreas Lindenschmidt

## John Hopkins

Erika & Ed Pearce

*Seeking collaborators on  
metabolic CAR T optimization*

Chica and Heinz  
Schaller Foundation



DFG



Open Targets

