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Multiplexed and spatial biology: connecting anatomical scales

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André F. Rendeiro Principal Investigator

Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Science @afrendeiro

github.com/afrendeiro

andre-rendeiro.com



Multiplexed imaging: omics with spatial context



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The spatial landscape of lung pathology in COVID-19

Cohort of 23 individuals with various lung infections:

- "Early" COVID-19 (succumbed 1-5 days after onset)
- "Late" COVID-19 (>30 days after disease onset)
- ARDS (influenza, bacterial pneumonia, sepsis)

Multiplexed imaging of lung tissue:

- 37 marker antibody panel for imaging mass cytometry
- 247 images, ~1mm2 each









Rendeiro et al., Nature (2021), doi:10.1038/s41586-021-03475-6; Melms et al., Nature (2021), doi:10.1038/s41586-021-03569-1

Quantification of lung pathology at micro-anatomical level





Cellular quantification and phenotyping



Infiltration of interstitial macrophages in severe COVID-19





Good agreement of immunohistochemistry and multiplexed imaging



Targeted spatial transcriptomics of COVID-19

TMPRSS2

ACE2







ROI 1: Alveoli ROI 2: Large airway ROI 3: Vasculature GeoMx targeted spatial transcriptomics (1666 targets)



Good agreement of spatial transcriptomics and multiplexed imaging



Complementary information between spatial transcriptomics and multiplexed imaging



Detection and characterization of infected cells



Infiltration of interstitial macrophages during fibrosis



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Augmenting spatial atlases with clinical interpretability



Rendeiro et al., Nature (2021), doi:10.1038/s41586-021-03475-6; Melms et al., Nature (2021), doi:10.1038/s41586-021-03569-1

Persistent dysfunction of post-acute COVID-19 lung

PASC/post-acute COVID-19 patients followed up to 359 days with incidental death





Persistent SARS-CoV-2 and AT-2 cell senescence



The cross anatomical scale impact of aging



20 years old Ludvík Chybík, photographed by Jan Langer, "Faces of Century" project



Young mouse lung



Young skin (28 years old)



Young fibroblasts



Older mouse lung



Older skin (69 years old)



Aged fibroblasts

Fane et al., Nature (2022), doi:10.1038/s41586-022-04774-2; Diekman, et al. Exp Dermatology (2015), doi:10.1111/exd.12866

Microanatomical manifestations of aging

The aging process and age-related diseases manifest at the micro-anatomical tissue level, progressively resulting in loss of tissue integrity and function.

We are interested in:

- Spatial distribution of cells and cell states and their organization in healthy and aging tissue.
- Using tissue images/features to predict biological age and risk of disease onset.



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Unappreciated biomedical goldmine: histopathological images

Scanned whole slide images Pathology reports Whole slide tiling Tissue tile 1XYZ-123 ibiect ID Age 67 Sex Female Tissue Spleen canned whole slide: 2 pieces; vascular congestion; capsule present 1-10Gb, compressed file x = 65735 px y = 36645 px 4 mm 200µm > 25,000 slides in total for 40 tissues 2,000 to 10,000 tiles per slide >160 million tiles in total





Changes in tissue pathology over the human lifespan



Comprehensive representation of H&E images using deep learning models



Training data balanced for tissue type, age and sex.

Predictors of biological aging from tissue images





Rendeiro lab: spatial and computational biology of aging



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Amir Horowitz

Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

www.cemm.at

andre-rendeiro.com 🖉

@afrendeiro 🔰

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