3D cell positioning by optical labelling



Challenge

- The spatiotemporal distribution of cells in a tissue has become important in diagnostics and precision medicine by promising to facilitate clinical practice.
- This trend led to the development and improvement of various spatial omics technologies including spatialtranscriptomics, -proteomics, -metabolomics, -genomics and -epigenomics.
- Despite their potential, transcriptomic technologies have limiting factors such as only 2-dimensional (2D) resolution, poor capture depth and often the requirement for deconvolution.
- Our 3D cell positioning technology overcomes these limitations. It has been successfully employed in transcriptomics and is potentially applicable to any type of omics.

Intellectual Property

A priority patent application has been filed in 2022.

Further Reading

Sharpe Group EMBL Barcelona



Technology

- Creation of coordinate system to trace back the original position of a cell in a tissue by fluorescent labelling.
- Labelling prior to dissociation of the tissue sample.
- Full 3-dimensional (3D) reconstruction of the tissue after single cell analysis.



2D FINITE VOLUME MODEL Marcon et al (2011) PLoS Computational Biology 7(2):e1001071

Nature Reviews Genetics 12:230

Sheth et al. (2012) Science 338:1476 Commentary: - Science 338:1406

Science Signalling 6:pe1

opovic et al. (2014

- Science 345:516 - Cell 159:1235

Advantages:

- Revolutionary: Genuine 3D omics approach, avoiding the need to reconstruct 3D tissues with multiple 2D slices, which is expensive, time-consuming and error-prone.
- When used for transcriptomics, the depth and coverage could potentially approach what is achieved with scRNASeq
- > No deconvolution required.

Commercial Opportunity

The proof of principle shown for spatial transcriptomics by RNASeq and multiplex qRTPCR.

We offer collaboration, co-development and licensing opportunities as well as a technology evaluation program.

Internal EMBLEM Reference

2022-017

Boehm et al (2010) PLoS Biology 8(7):e1000420

- PLoS Biology 8(7):e1000421

New Scientist 2880:38

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