



MARDI 16 SEPTEMBRE 2025
MAS, Paris 13e
10 rue des terres au curé

LA PROTÉOMIQUE
À LARGE ÉCHELLE
POUR L'ÉTUDE DU MICRO-
ENVIRONNEMENT TUMORAL
GROUPE MICROENVIRONNEMENT TUMORAL

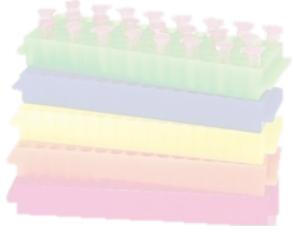
SPATIAL PROTEOMIC Mass Spectrometry Imaging

Hélène Cazier and Rémy Nicolle



Decipher the tumoral microenvironnement

Toward spatial proteomic approaches

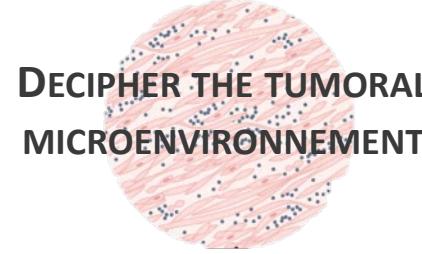


Bulk approaches

Homogenized molecular information

High coverage information with PTMs information

“Quick and cheap” sample prep
Specialized equipment



Spatial approaches

Regional level heterogeneity

Low coverage information

Specialized equipment
Time consuming sample prep



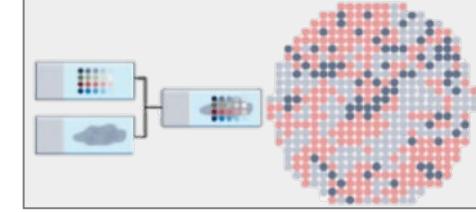
Single Cell approaches

Cellular level heterogeneity

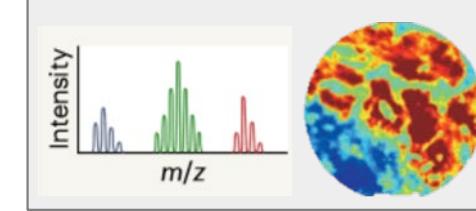
Full repertoire molecular state

Current cost are restricting

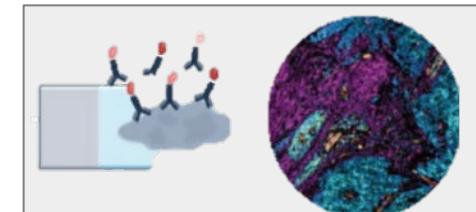
SPATIAL OMICS APPROACHES



TRANSCRIPTOMICS



METABOLOMICS AND LIPIDOMICS



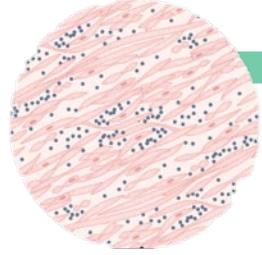
PROTEOMICS



Towards spatial proteomics

Spatial proteomics approaches

DECIPHER THE TUMORAL MICROENVIRONNEMENT



Why proteins ?

Proteins are the functional molecules carrying most cellular functions

Post-translational modifications critical for activity, localization and interactions

Many biomarkers and drug targets are actually proteins

TARGETED PROTEOMIC

Immunofluorescence

IHC multiplex

CyTOF
MALDI HiPLEX-IHC

UNTARGETED PROTEOMIC

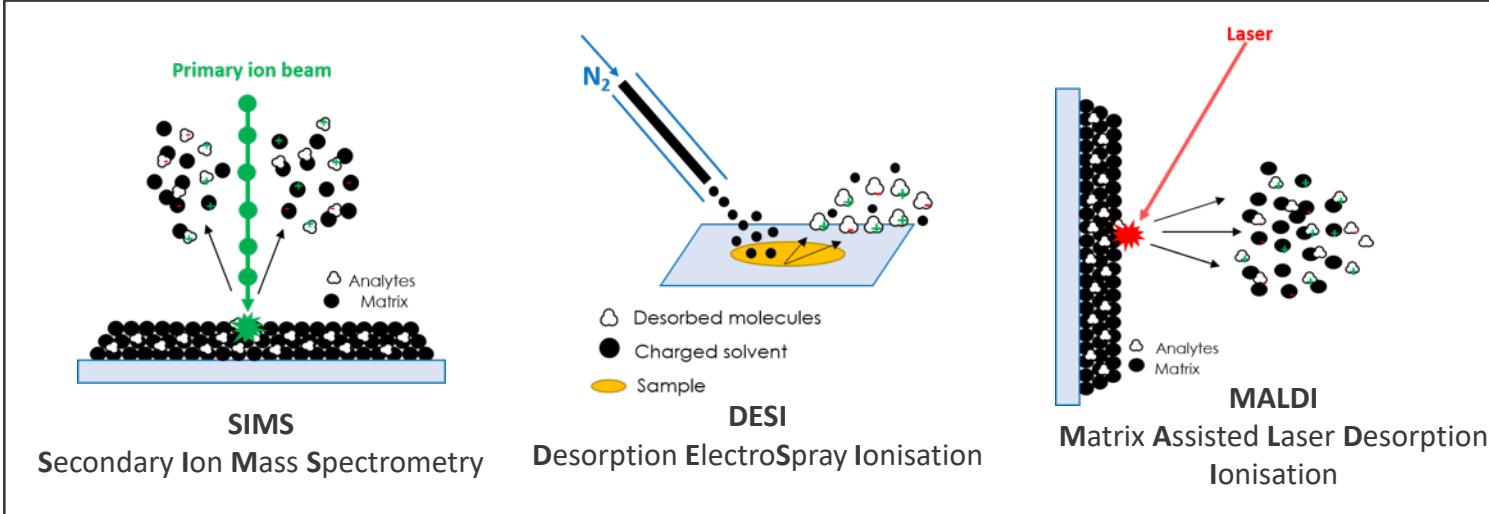
Mass spectrometry
Imaging

Top down (Protein Intact)

Bottom up (digested peptide)

Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

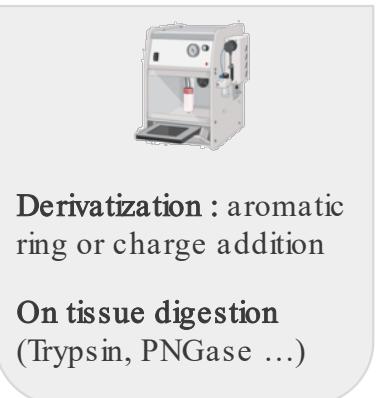
Samples and methods



Protocols for sample conservation

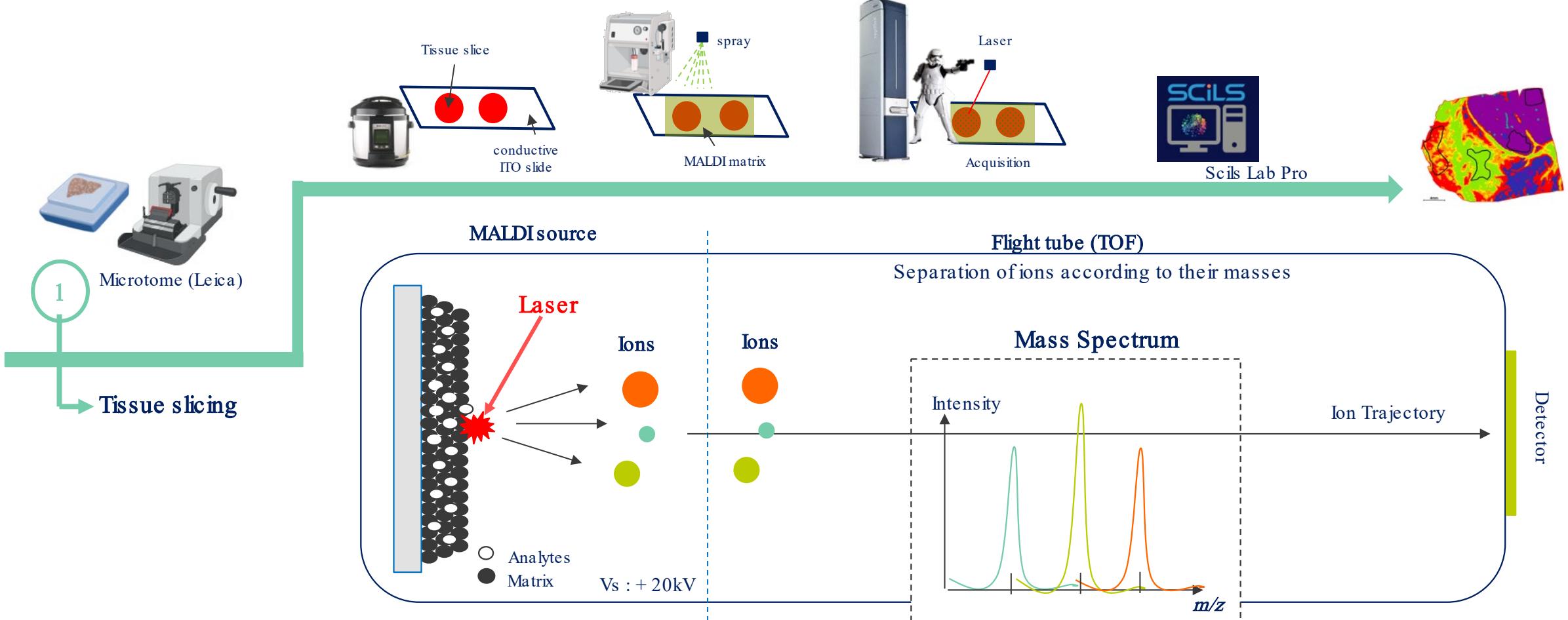


Samples treatments on slides



Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

MALDI Mass spectrometry imaging

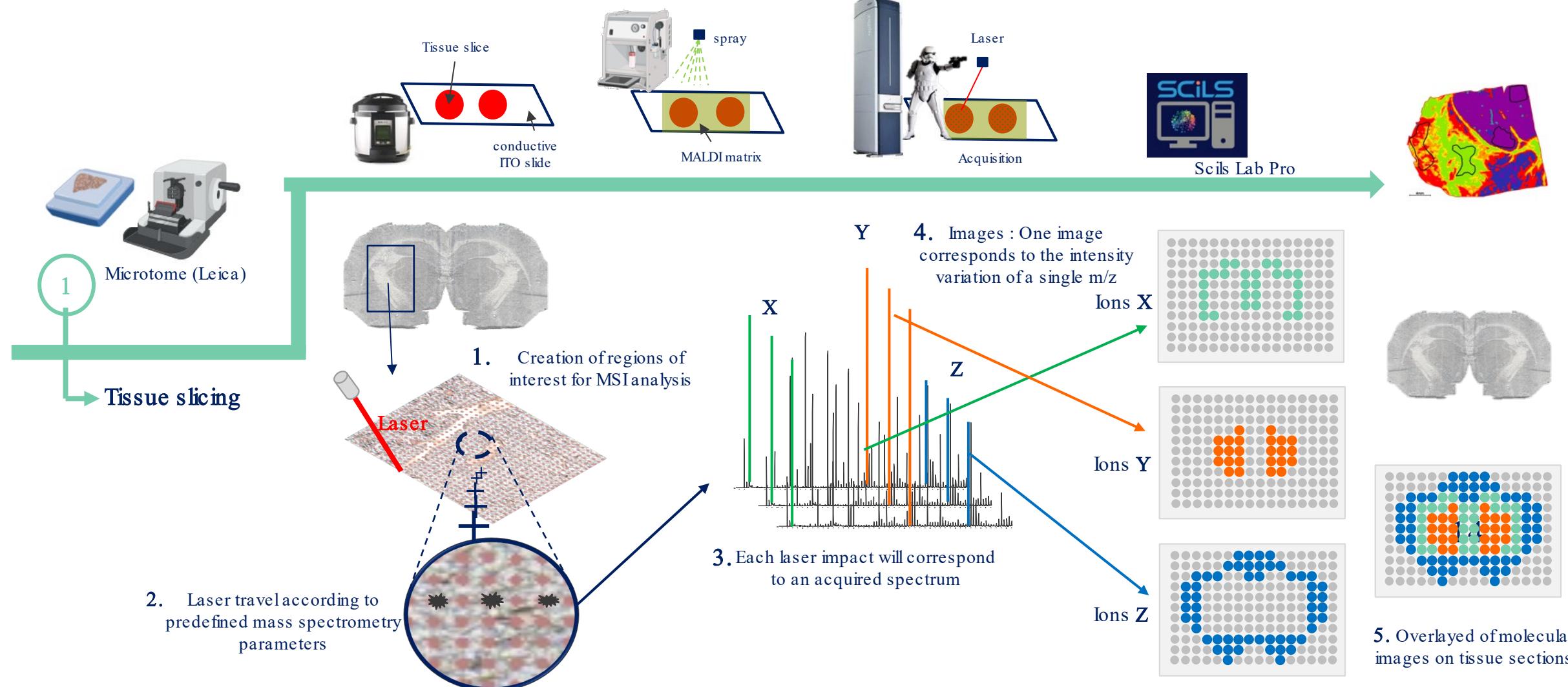


1. Co-crystallization of the matrix with the sample
2. Proton/electron exchange
3. Desorption and ionization of molecules

Molecular composition of the sample

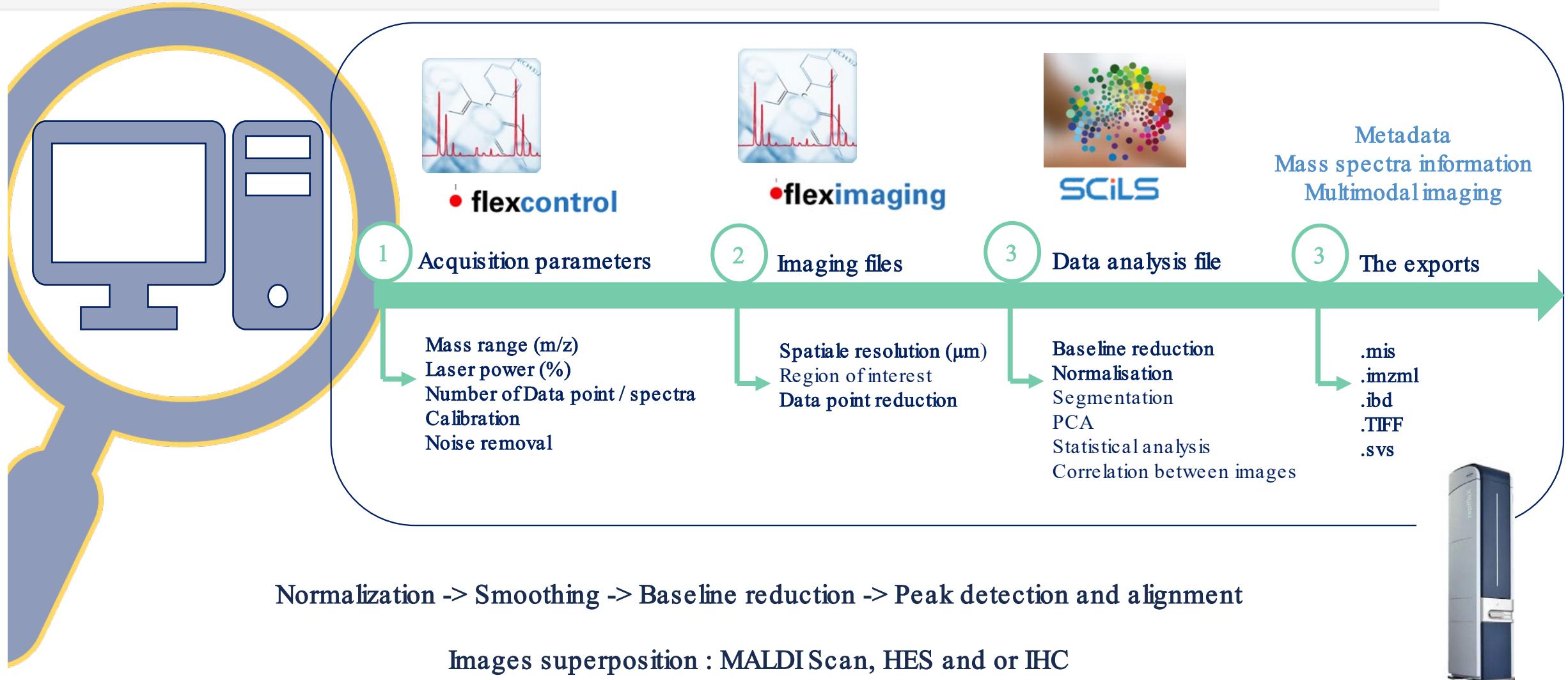
Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

MALDI Mass spectrometry imaging



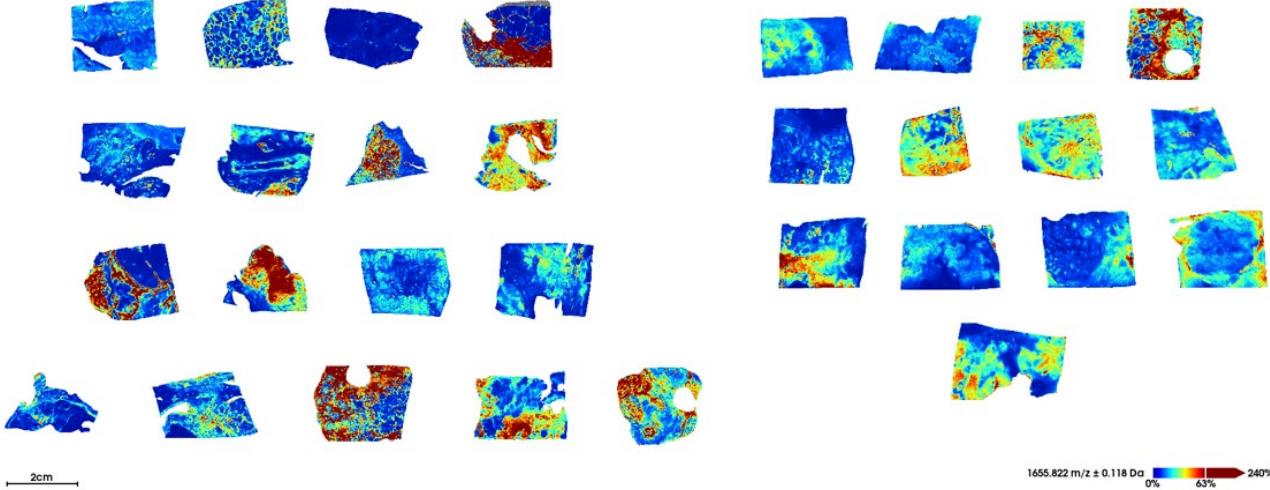
Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

Software and important parameters



Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

Analytical challenge and imaging data integration



Projet MAIA : 30 slices of cHCC-CCA

Acquisition : 100 µm on whole slice

Raw = 360 Go

Processed data = 1,656 To
Scan HES + IHC = 665 Go

Mean of 39 000 pixel/ slices
1,17 millions of pixels

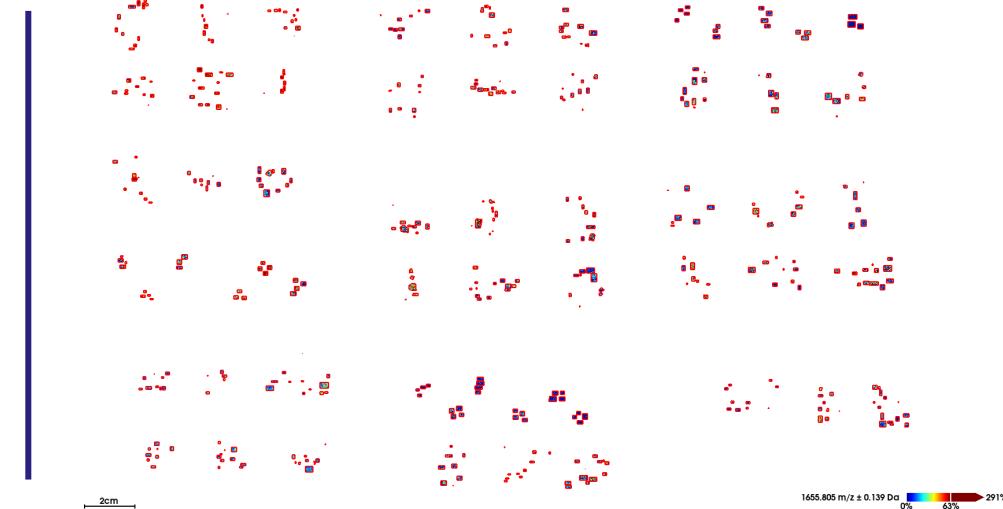
Projet CHRIS : 50 slices of ADK

Acquisition : 50 µm on whole slice

Raw = 2,5 To

Processed data = 7 To
Scan HES = 150 Go

Mean of 120 000 pixel/ slices
6 millions of pixels



61 slices of lung

Acquisition : 35 µm on partial slice

Raw = 482 Go

Processed data = 677 Go
Scan HES = 100 Go

Mean of 26 000 pixel/ slices
1,59 millions of pixels

Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

MALDI Mass spectrometry imaging



Benefits

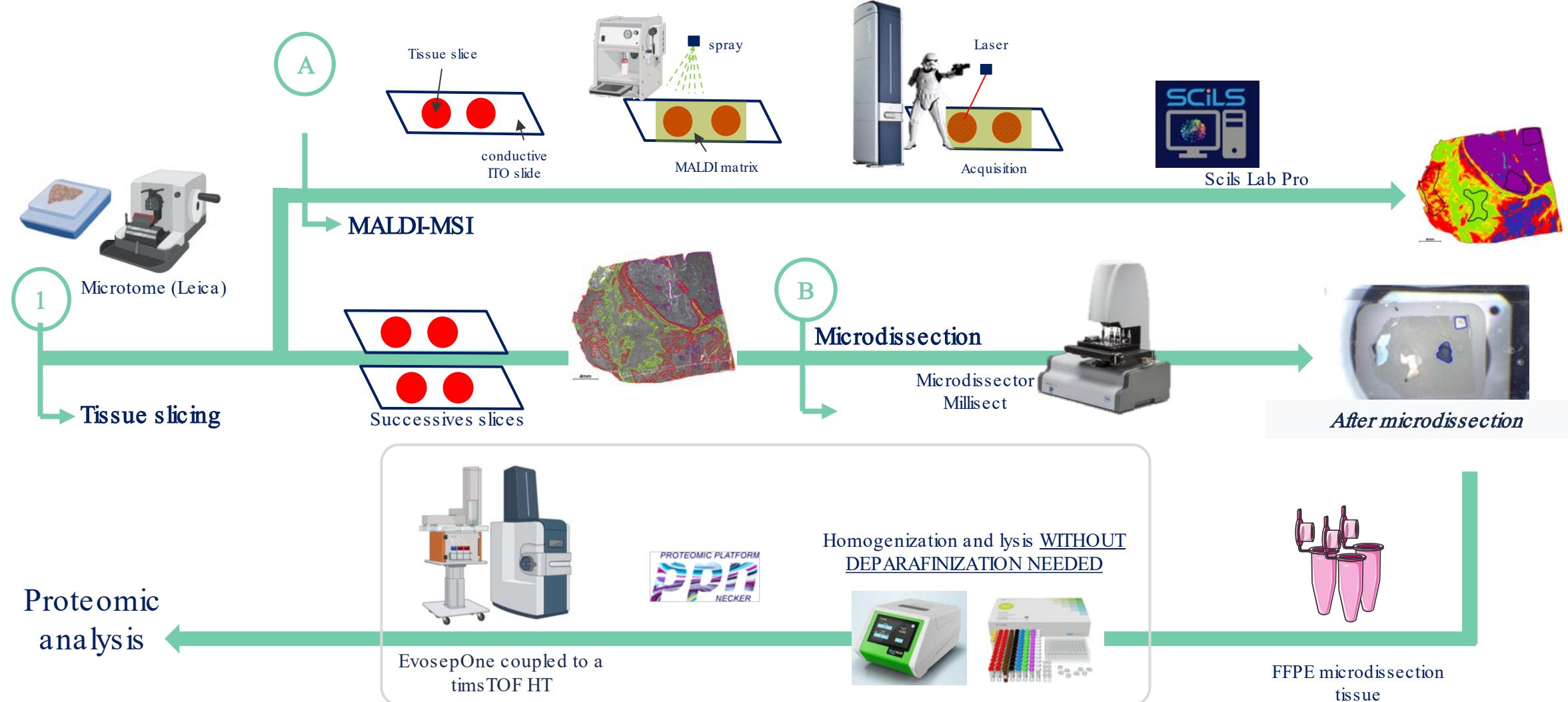
- ✓ Molecular biodistribution of protein
- Tissue slicing
 - ✓ Images acquisition at high spatial resolution
 - ✓ Knowledge's about molecules co-localization on tissues
 - ✓ Detection in a label-free manner
- ✓ Provide complementary information's with other imaging techniques as autoradiography, immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence

Drawbacks

- ✓ Time consuming workflow
- ✓ Big amount of data generated
- ✓ Successive slides to overlayed according approaches
- ✓ Tissue morphology sometimes difficult to preserve
- ✓ Low sensitivity or sample characterization compare to LCMSMS

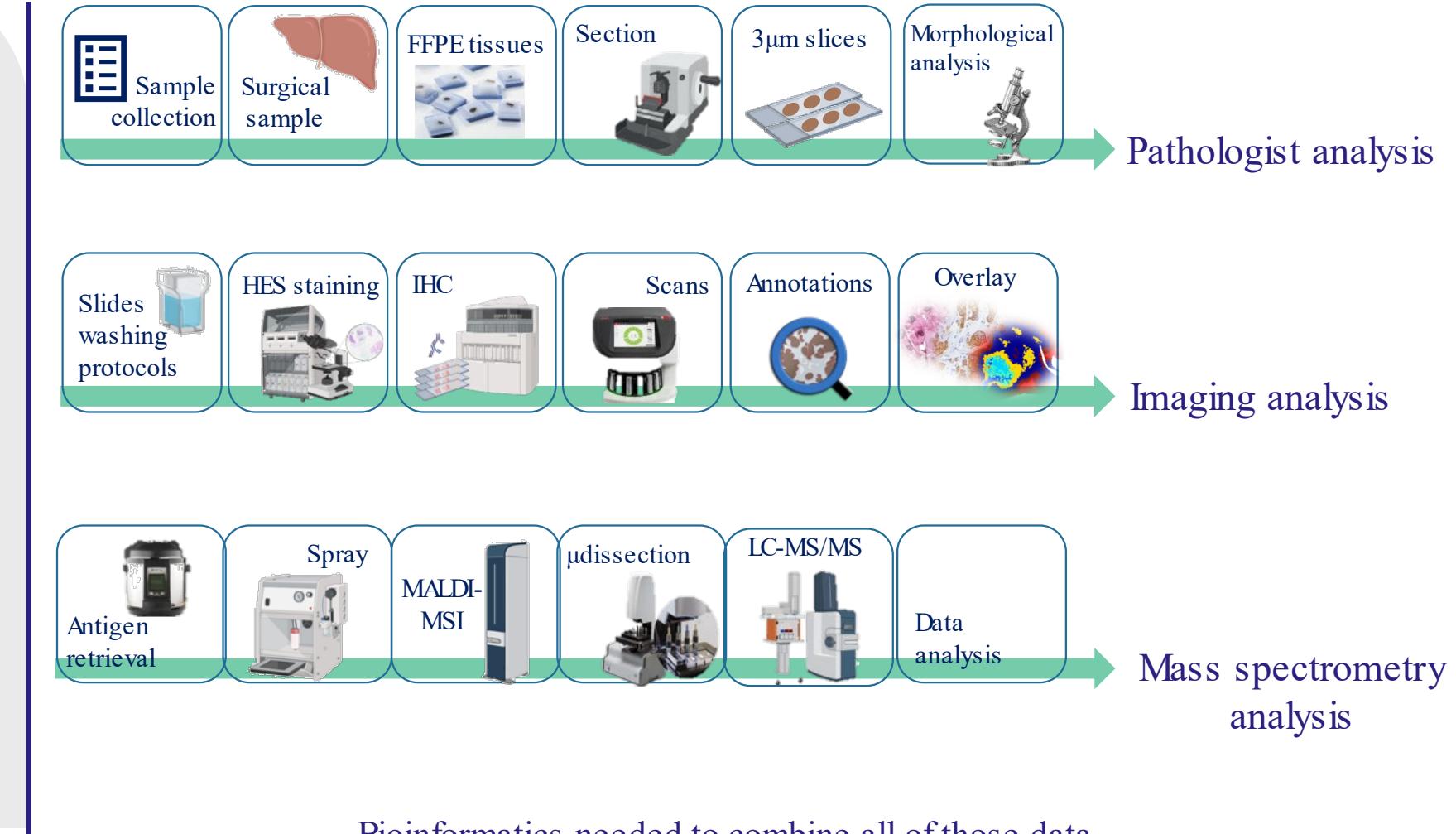
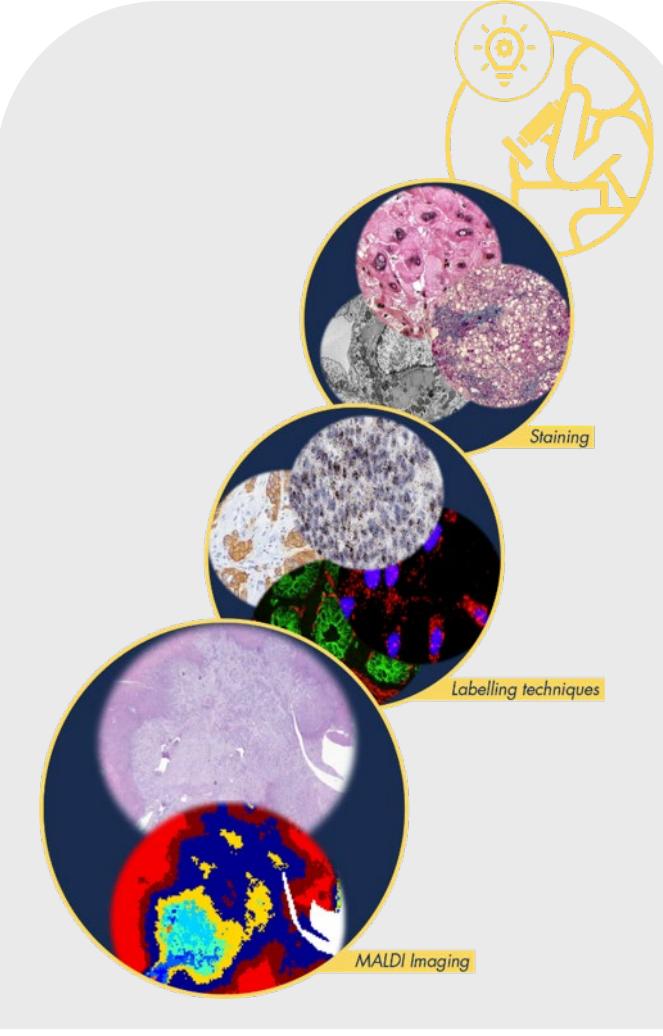
Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

Microdissection based on MALDI imaging



Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

Integration of MALDI-MSI in pathology routine

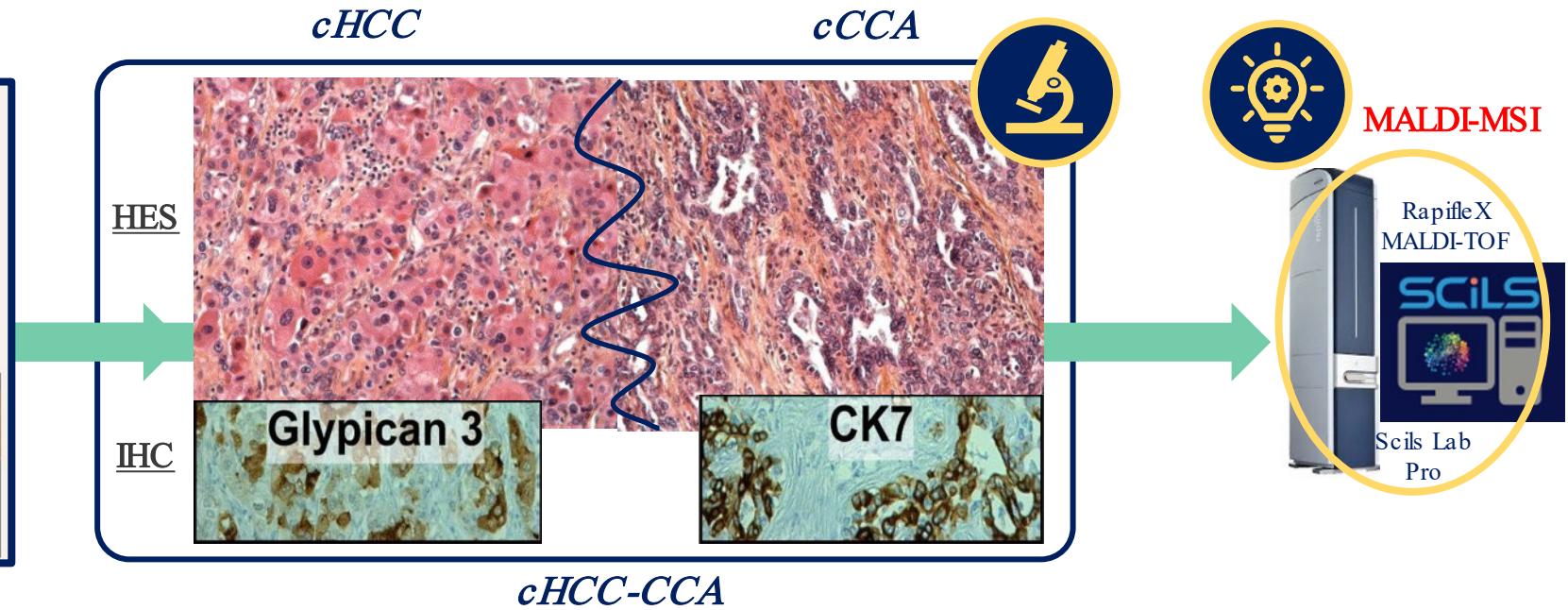
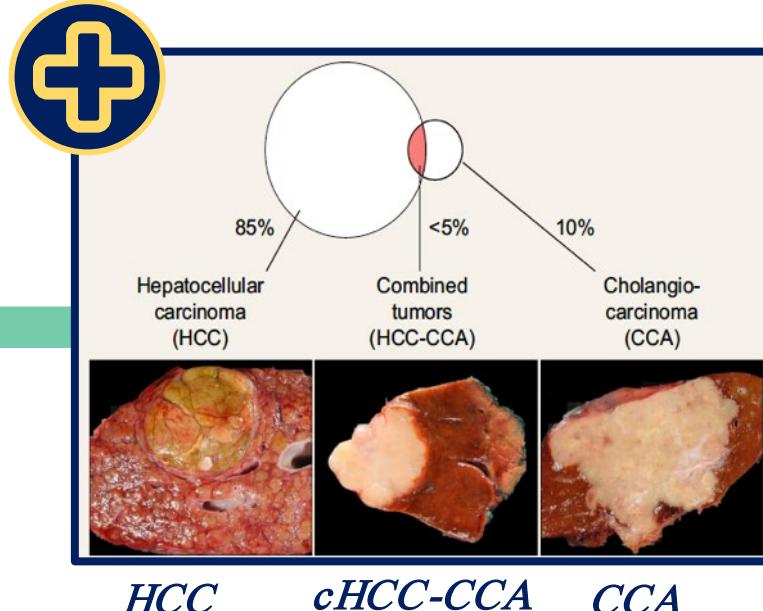


Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

cHCC-CCA analysis with mass spectrometry

Hepatocytic and cholangiocytic contingent sometimes associated with a “intermediate” contingent within the same tumor

Primary Liver Carcinomas (PLC)



BETTER CHARACTERIZATION OF MIXED TUMORS FOR IMPROVED DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CHCC-CCA TUMORS

Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

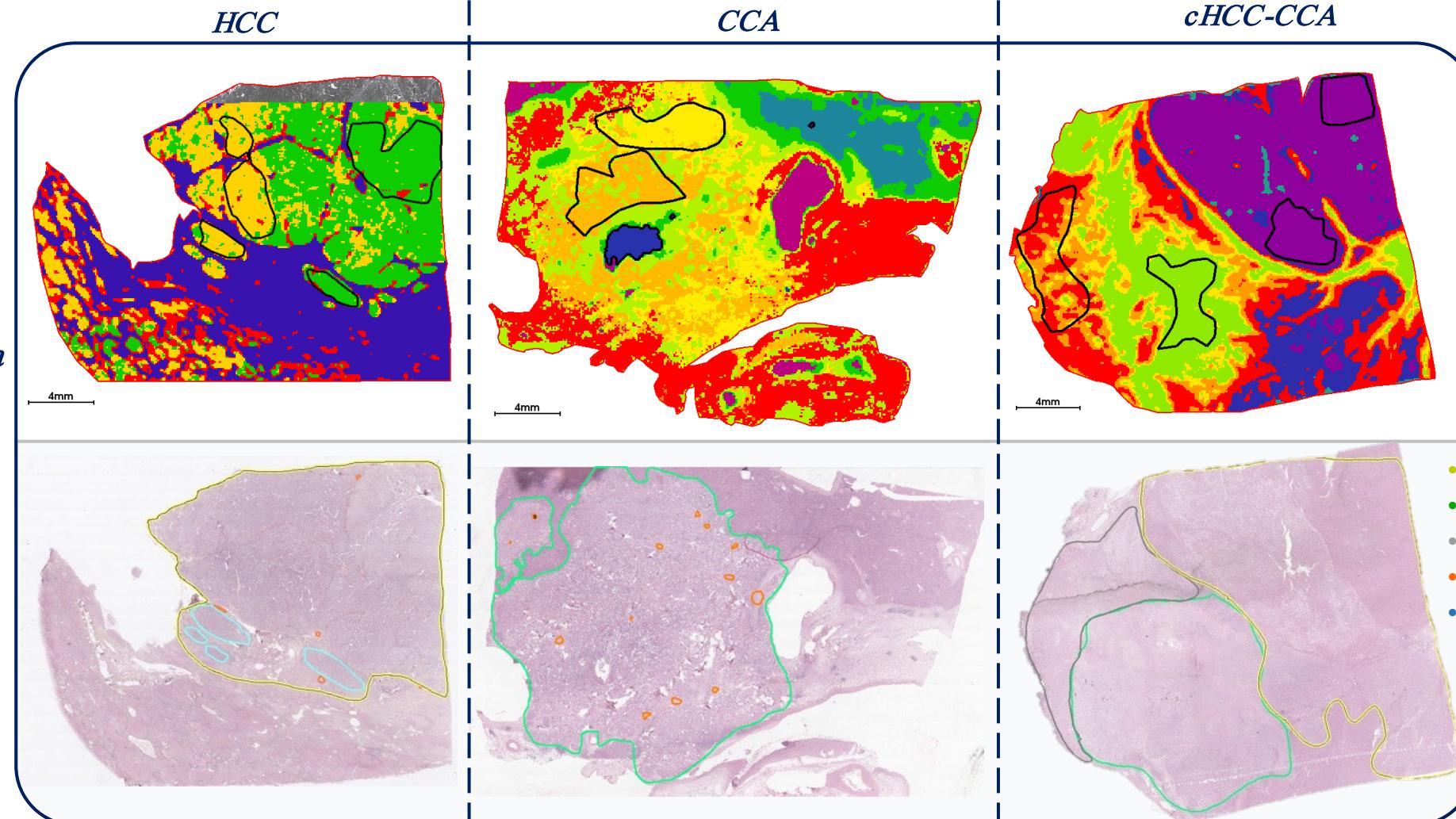
cHCC-CCA analysis with mass spectrometry



Segmentation
performed on
MALDI-MSI data



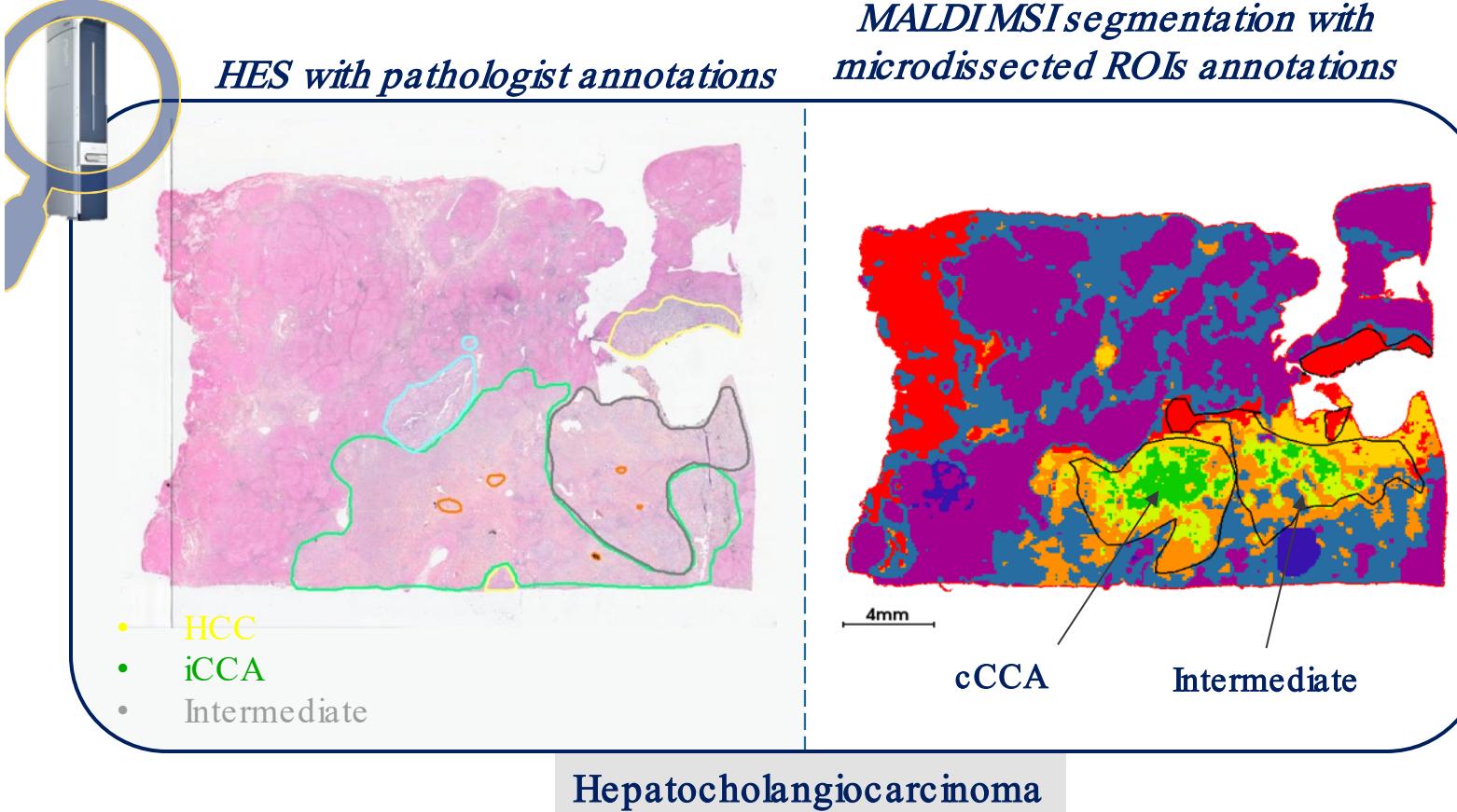
Pathologist
annotations on
HES



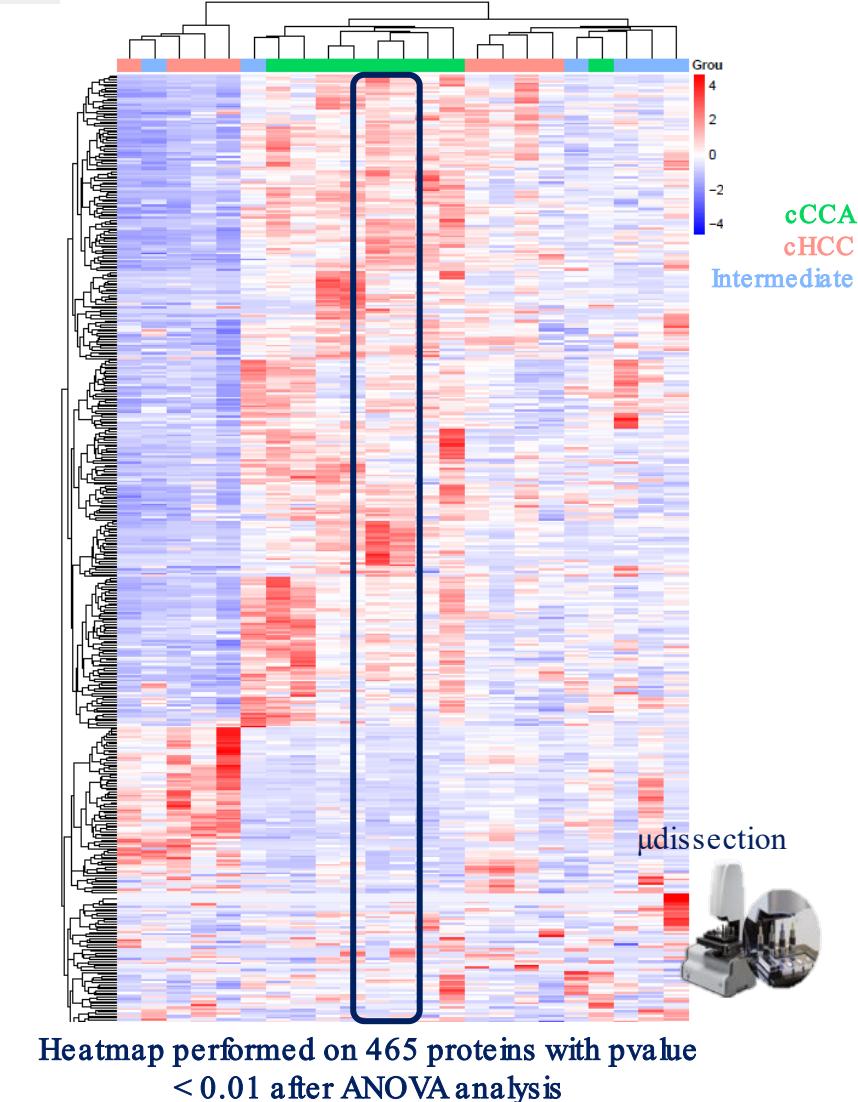
MORE HETEROGENEITY BASED ON MOLECULAR INFORMATION THAN ON MORPHOLOGY

Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

cHCC-CCA analysis with mass spectrometry

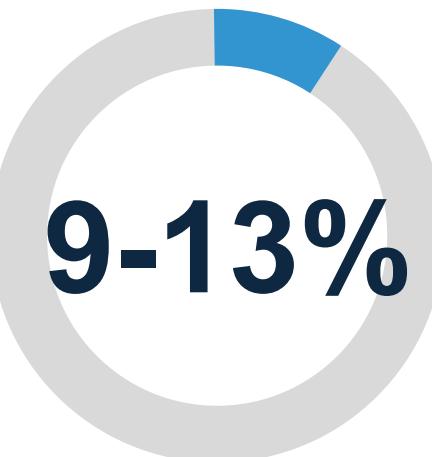


MALDI imaging analysis is correlated with LC/MS-MS proteomic rather than morphology for CCA and intermediate contingents





Pancreatic adenocarcinoma



5 year
survival

Frequent late-
stage diagnosis

High invasive
potential

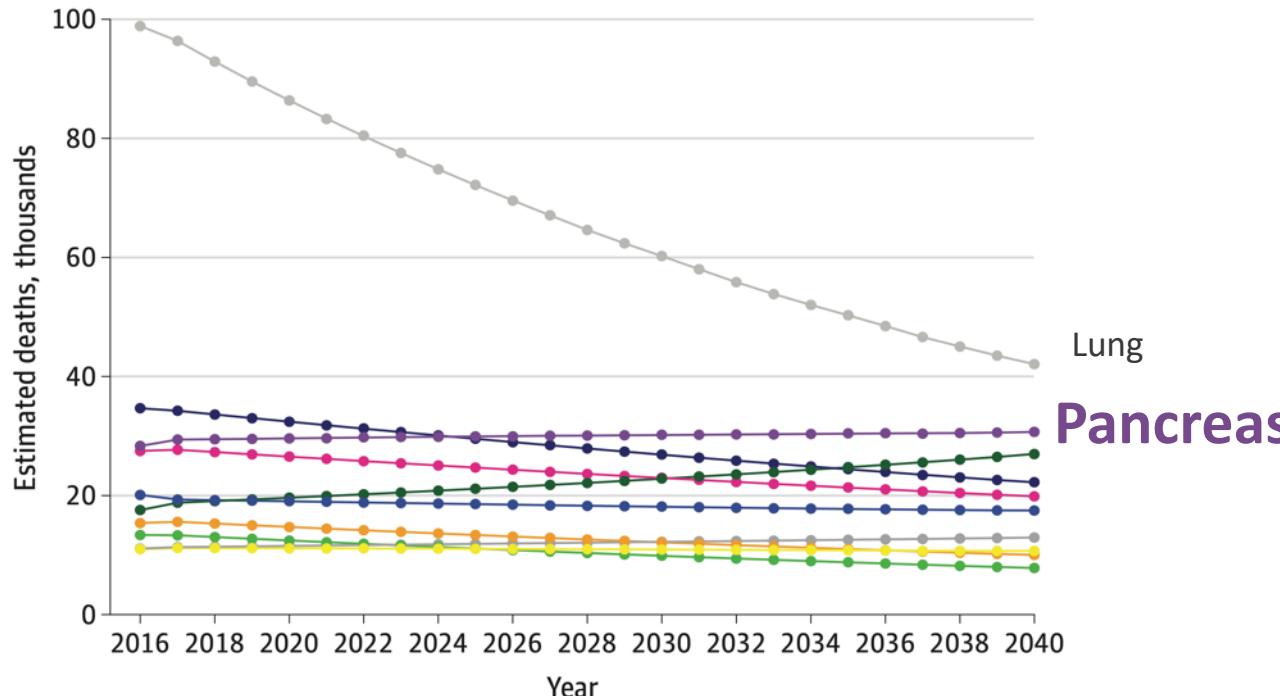
Broad
chemoresistance

510 992 cases diagnosed worldwide in 2022
In France **4 500** in 1997, **15 991** in 2023

A growing burden

Projected Cancer-related Deaths

+1,6% per year in men
+2,1% per year in women



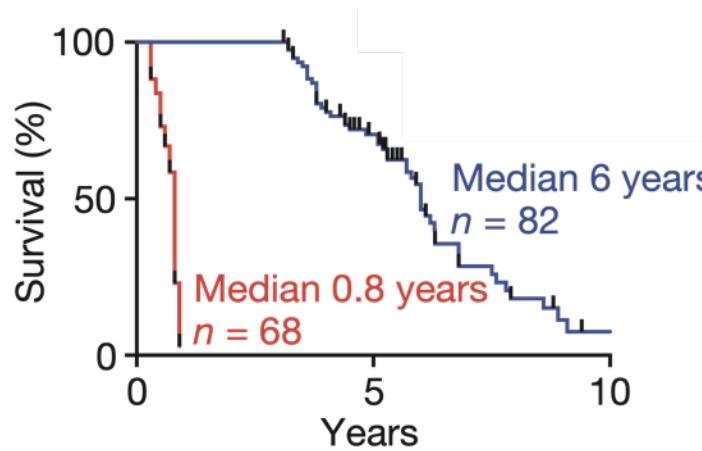
2040 projections :

11% of all cancer-related deaths

High level of heterogeneity

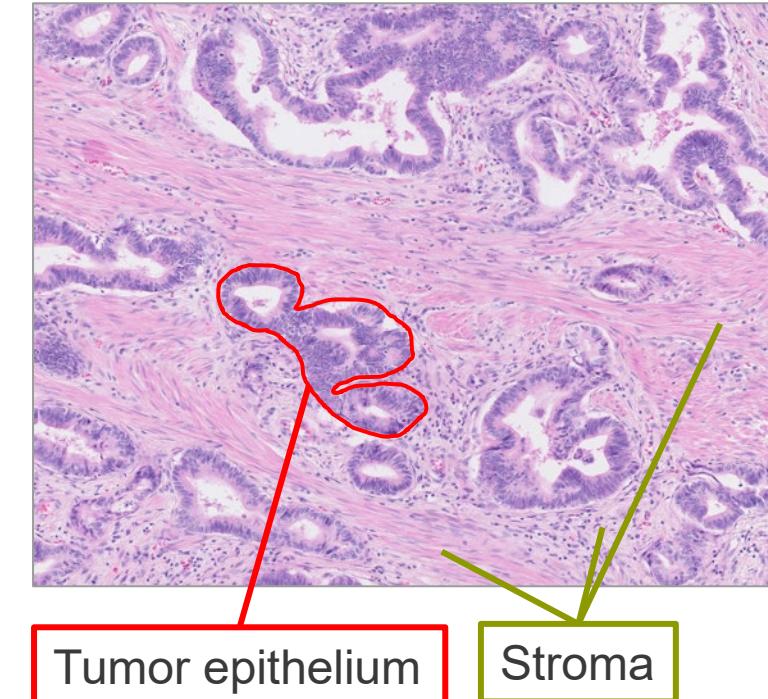
Inter-tumor heterogeneity

- Long survivors
- 10% to 30% initial responders to chemo
- ...



Balachandran et al. Nature 2017;551:512–516.

Intra-tumor heterogeneity



Epithelial and stromal classifications of PDAC

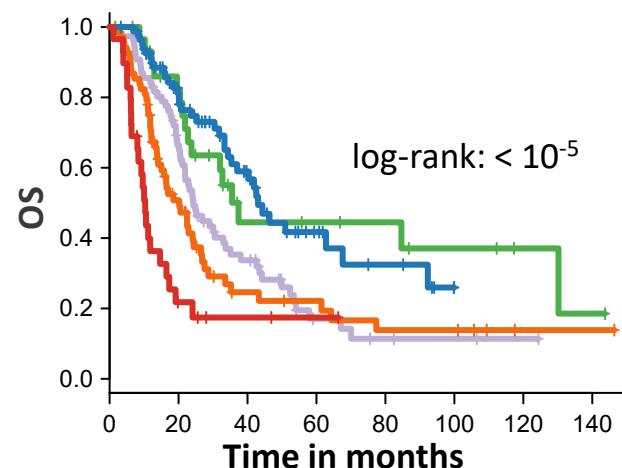
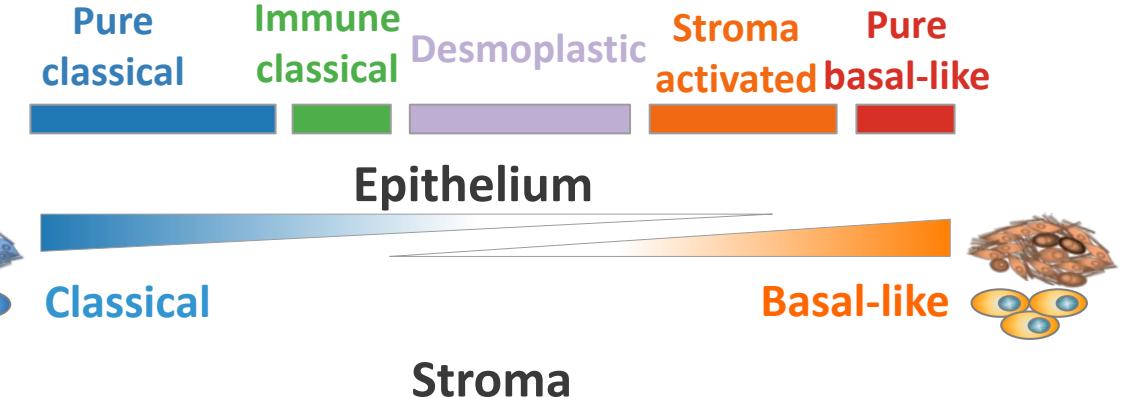
Molecular classifications

Classical	Hybrid	Basal
Classical		Basal-like
Classical	Exocrine-like	Quasi-mesenchymal
Classical A	Classical B	Hybrid
Progenitor / ADEX / Immunogenic		Basal-like A Basal-like B
GATA6 HNF1A HNF4A PDX1		MYC ΔNTP63 RUNX2 KRT5/14/17

← Better Survival Worse →

Bailey et al , Function 2023

Moffitt et al
Collisson et al
Chan-Seng-Yue et al
Bailey et al

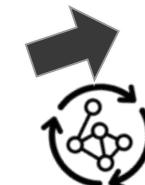
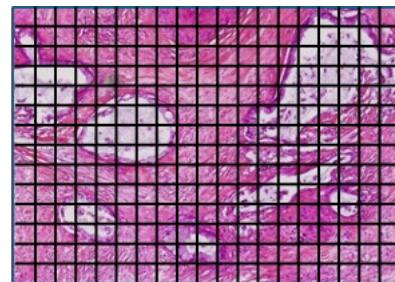
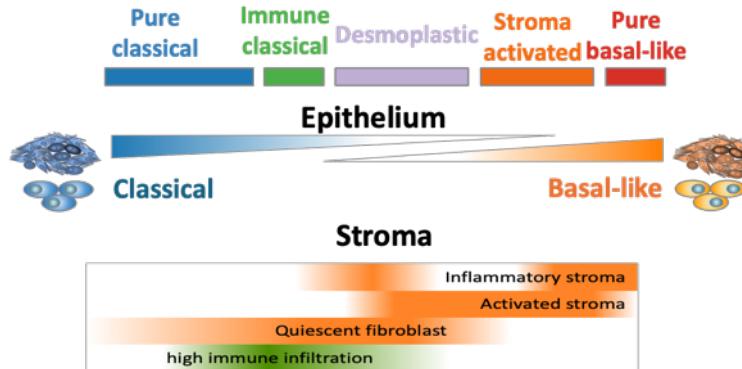


Puleo, Nicolle et al,
Gastroenterology 2018

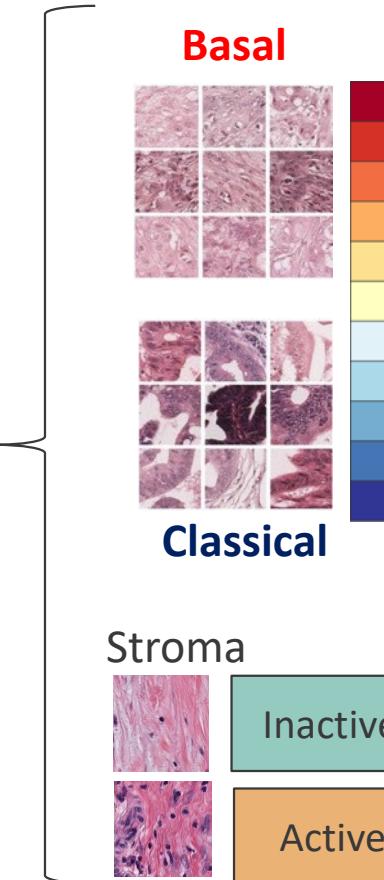


AI on histology to paint PDAC: PACpAInt

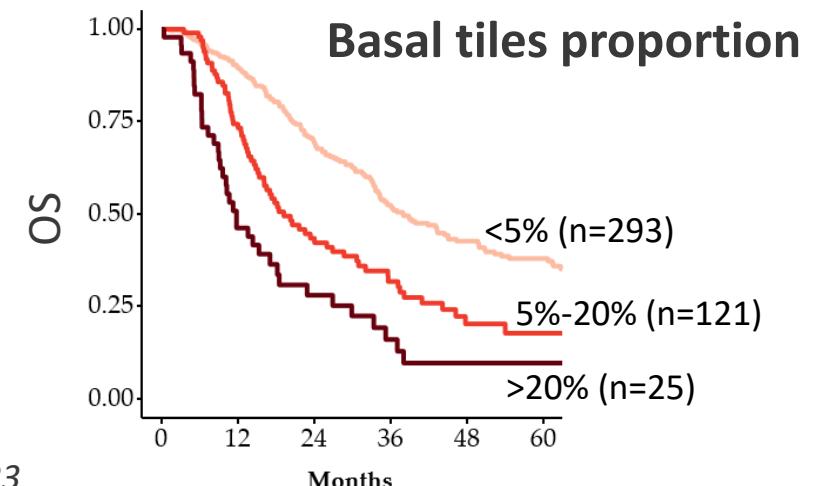
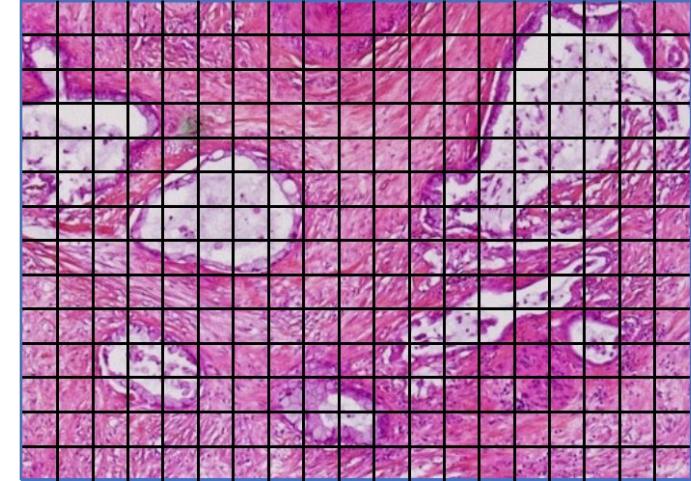
Transcriptome-based subtyping



Transfer to histology



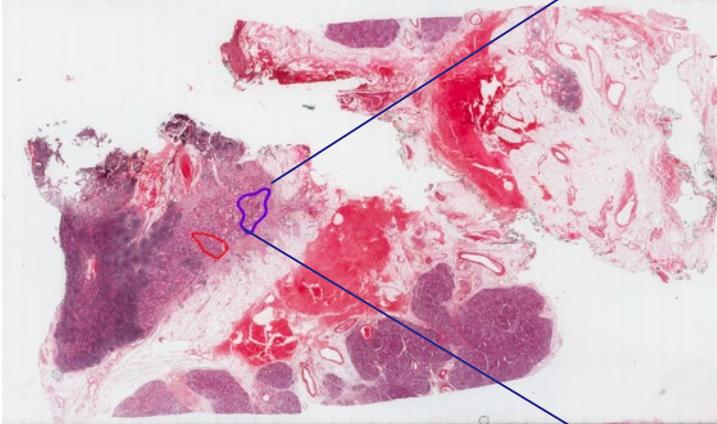
451 patients, 6.3 million tiles



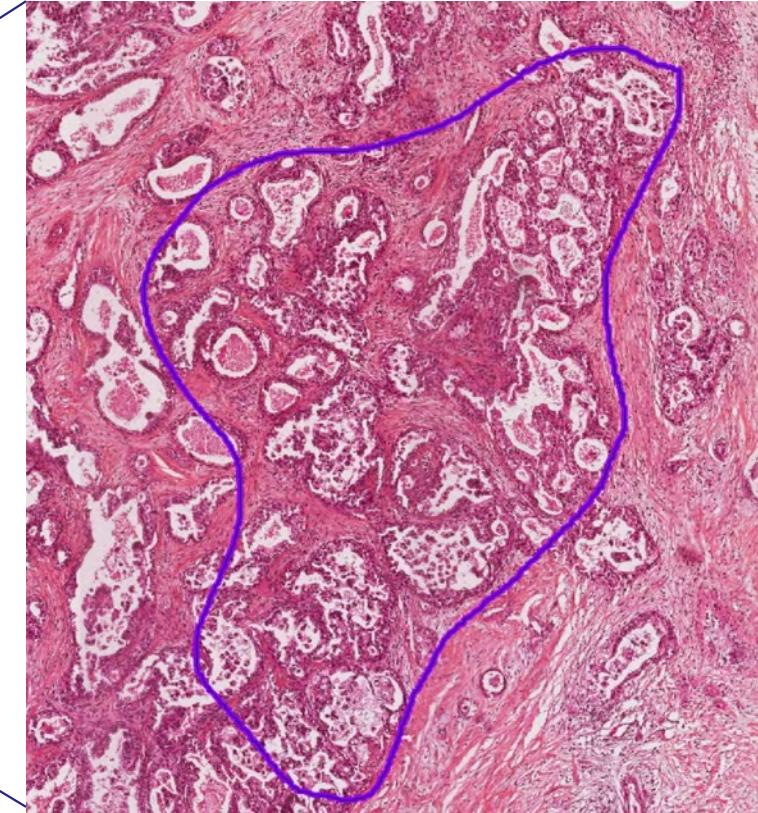
Morphomolecular patterns: associate the transcriptome to histology



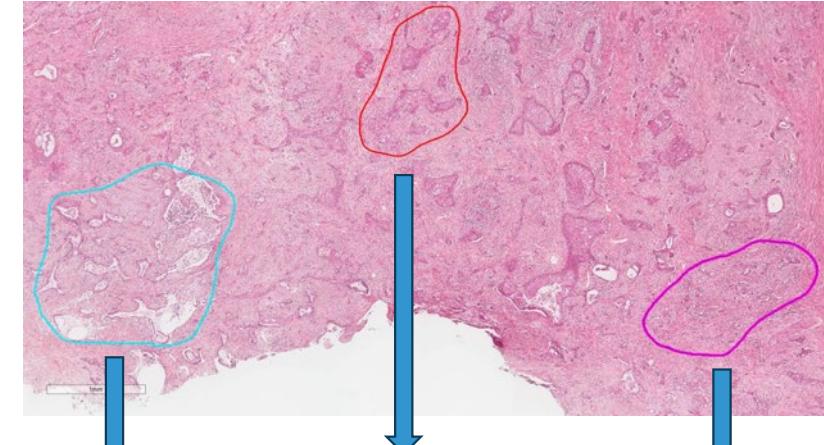
Pr. Jerome Cros Julien de
Martino



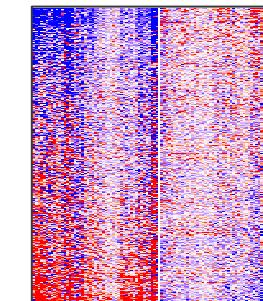
100 patients
1 019 tissue blocks



Ex: 1 slide, 3 different histological patterns



Area 1
Morphology 1
Area 2
Morphology 2
Area 3
Morphology 3

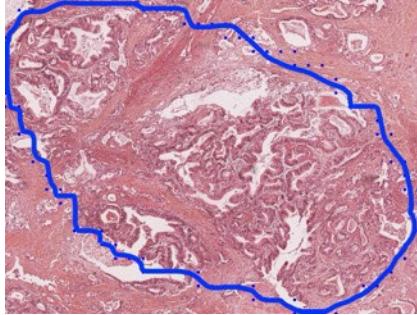


407 matched
transcriptome &
morphology

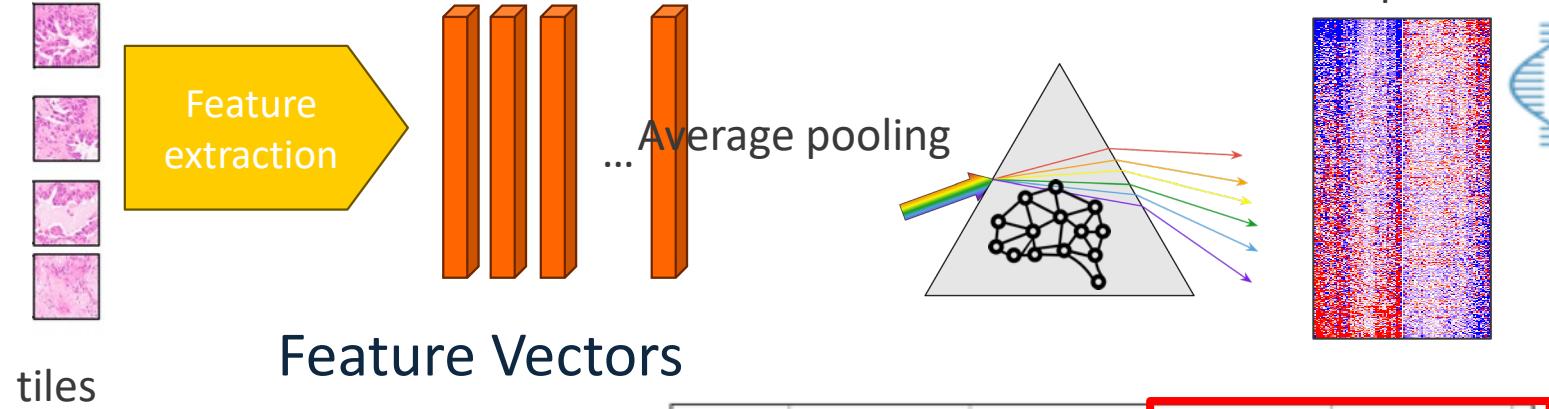
Taib Bourega



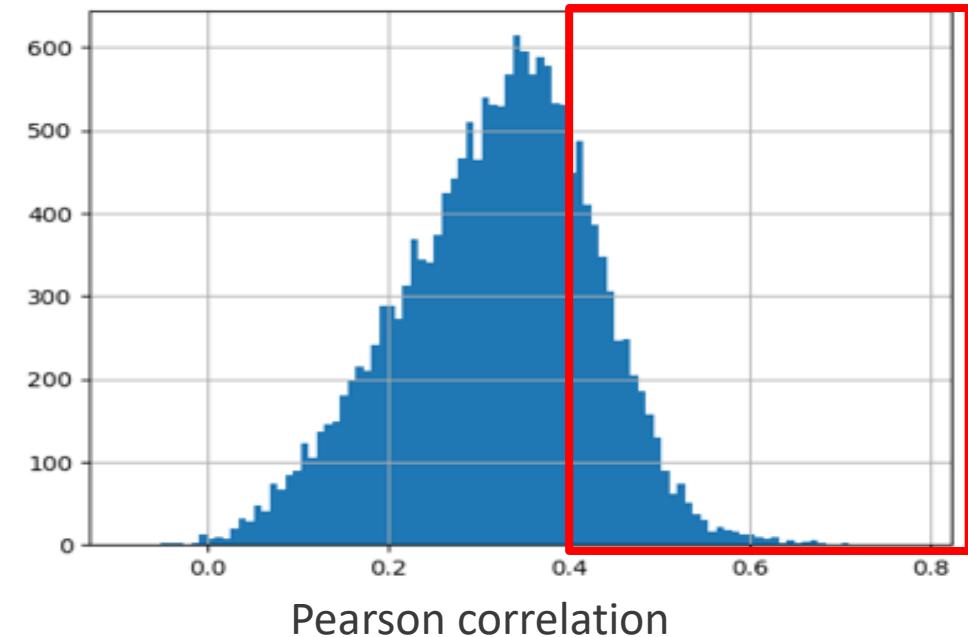
PhD student



ROI

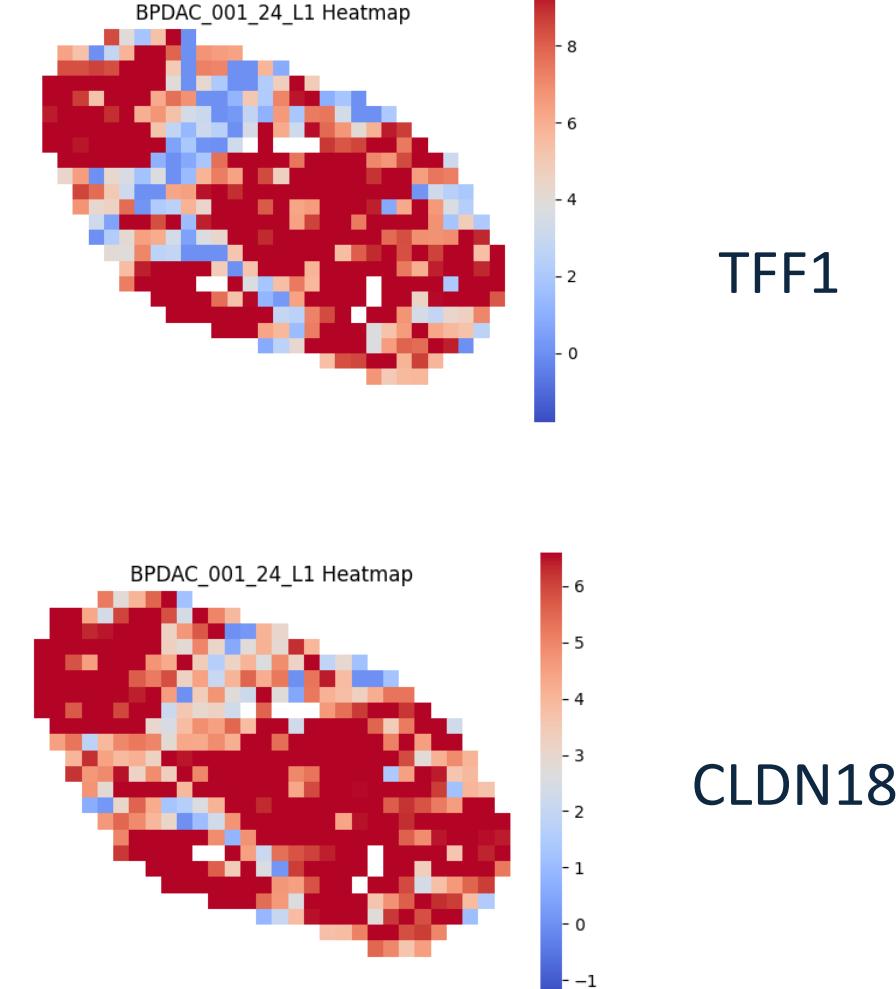
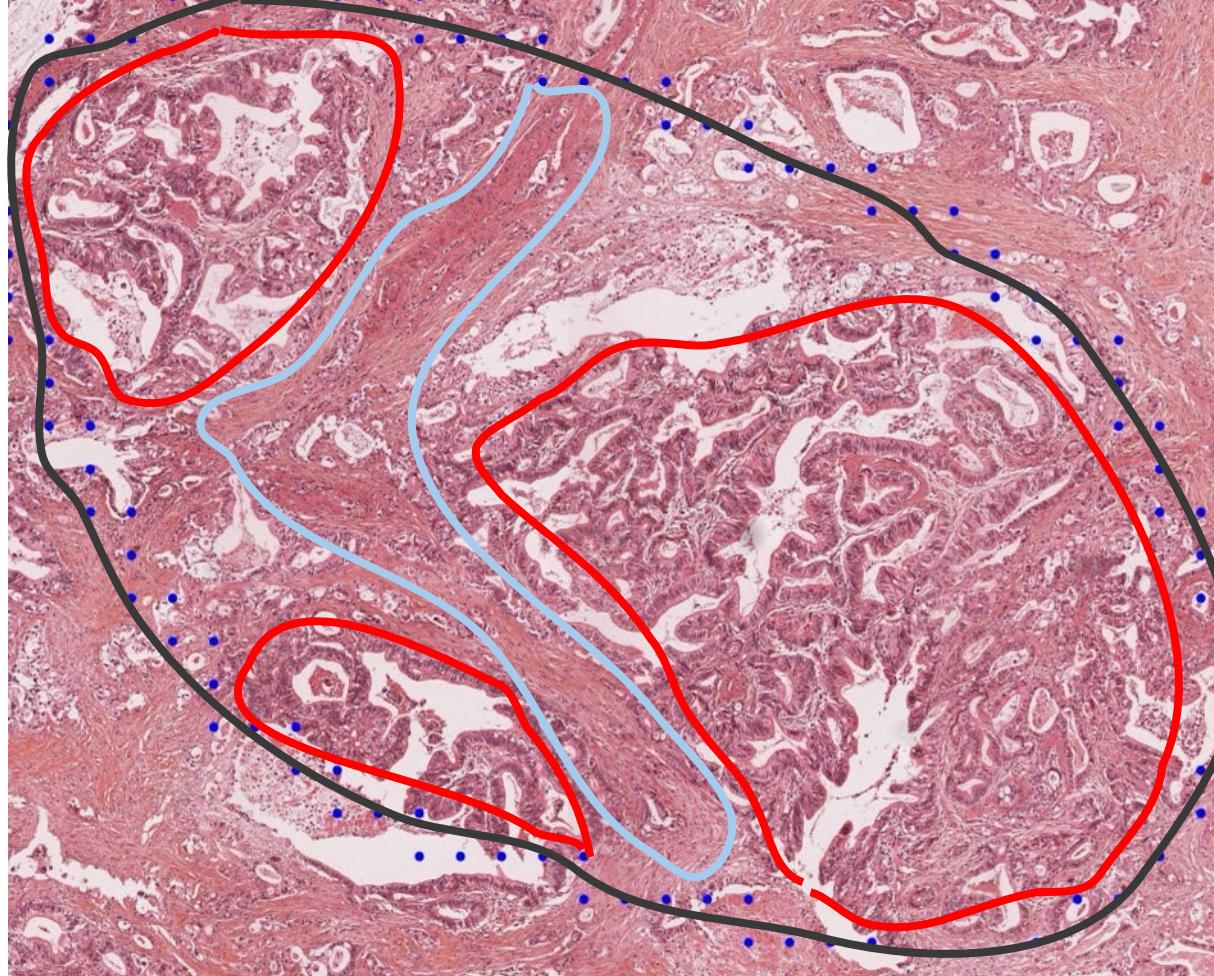


>17 000 genes tested



3789 genes

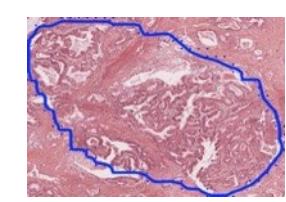
Marker gene prediction



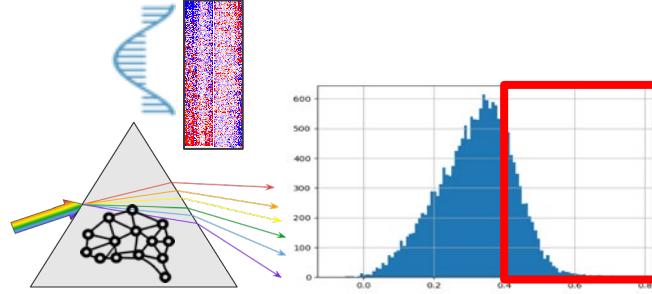
Marker genes of *Classical* tumor phenotype



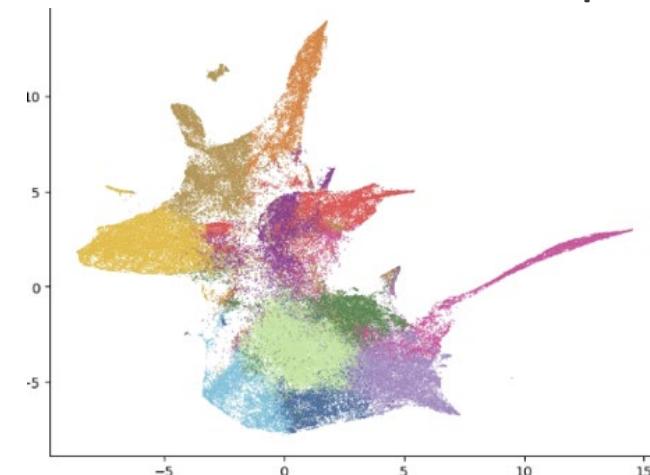
Delineate morpho-molecular patterns



ROI
n=407

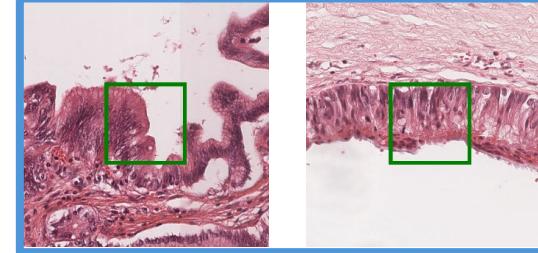


Tile-level
Unsupervised analysis

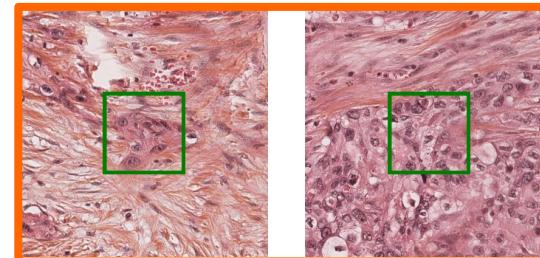


12 Patterns

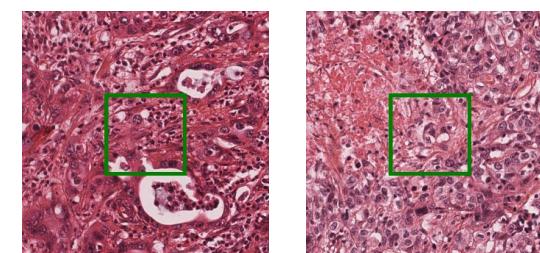
Tumor : classical



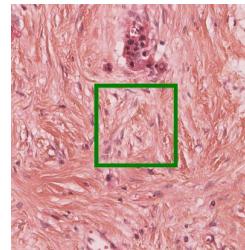
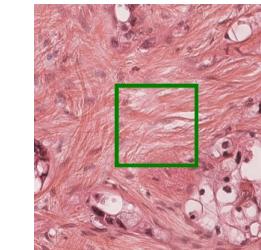
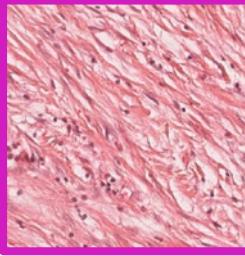
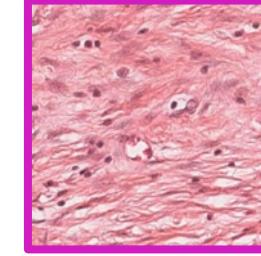
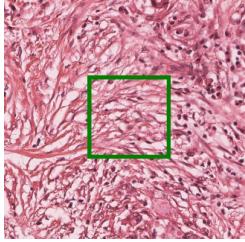
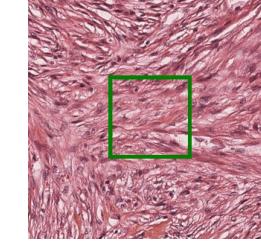
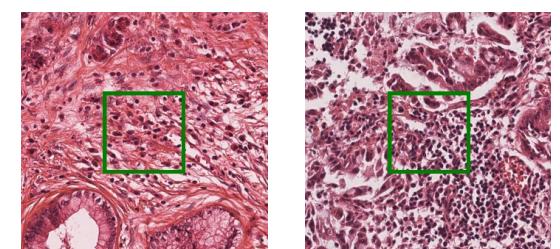
Tumor: Basal-like



Tumor: inflammatory “Basal”



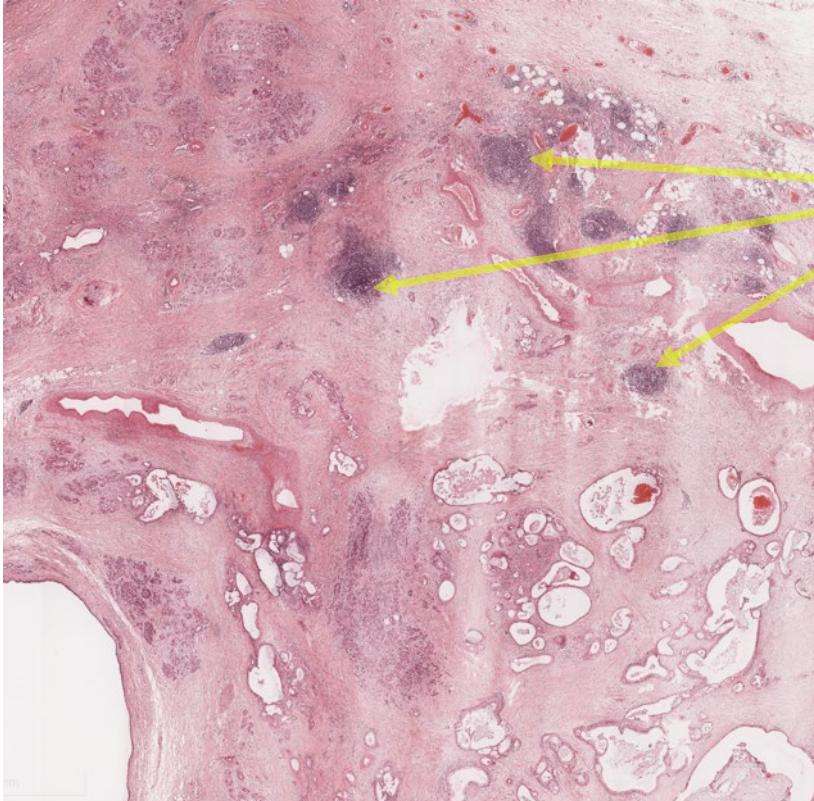
Lymphoid pattern



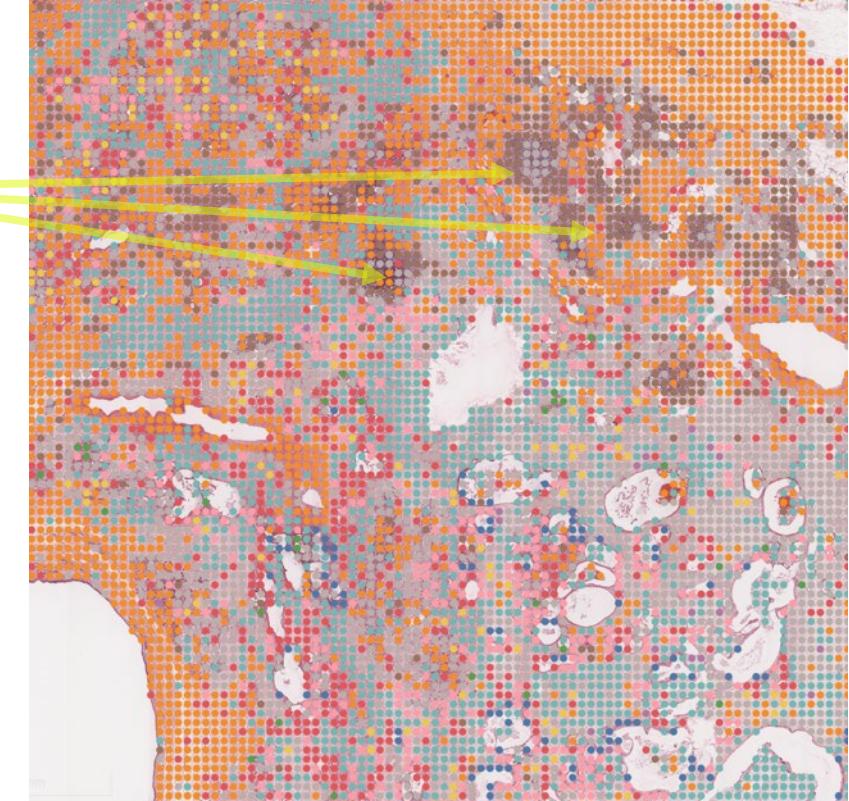
Spatial distribution and co-occurrence

Trained on 407 small ROI

Projected on 1'019 whole tumor blocks

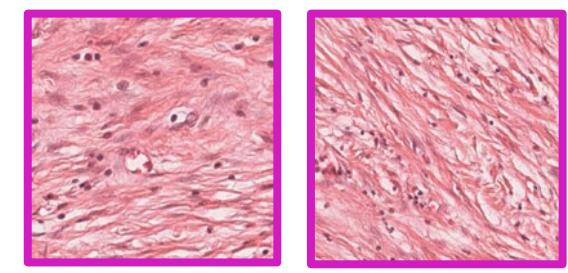
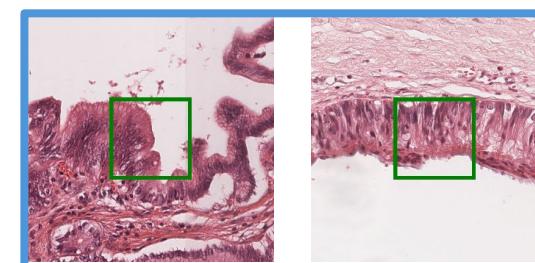
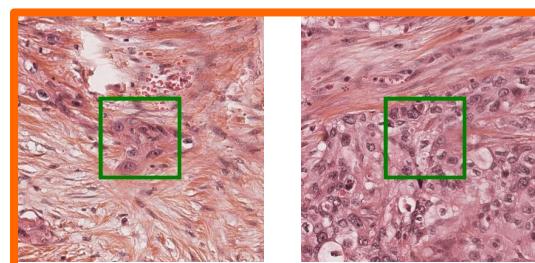
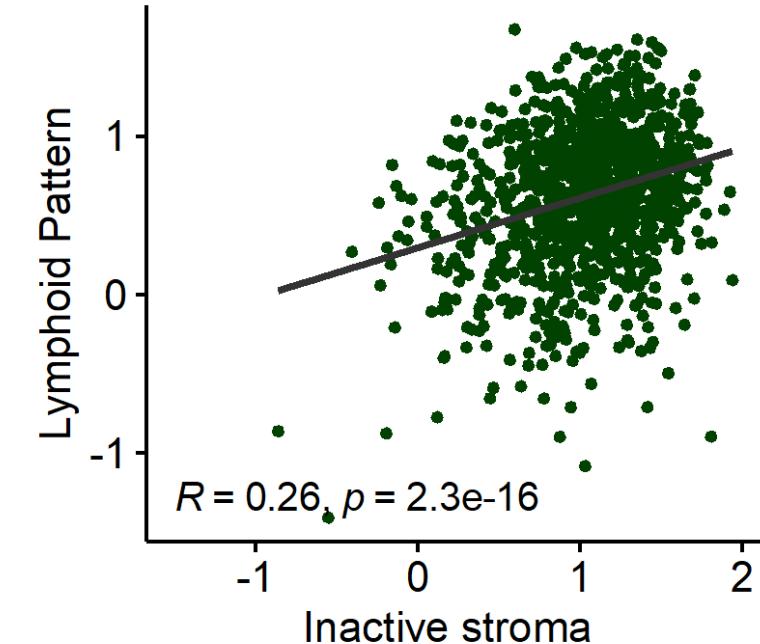
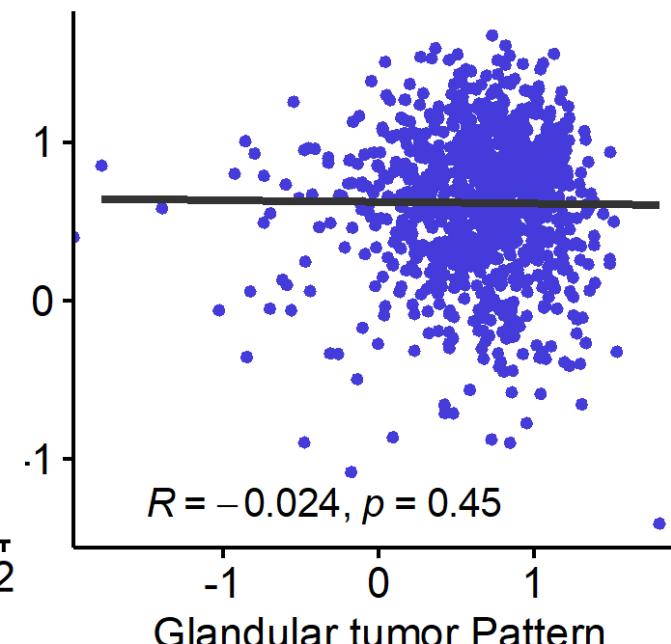
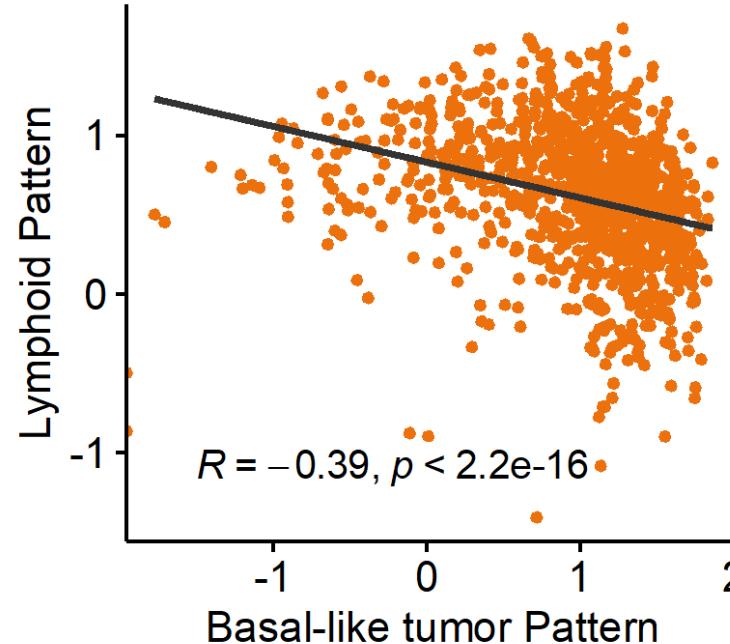
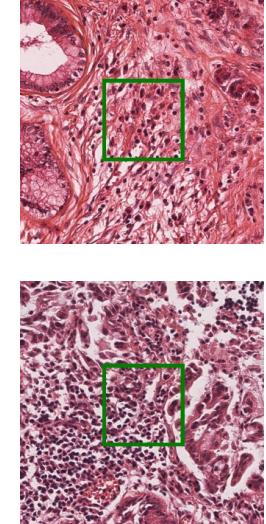


Lymphoid
dense areas



Association with Lymphoid infiltration

n = 1 019

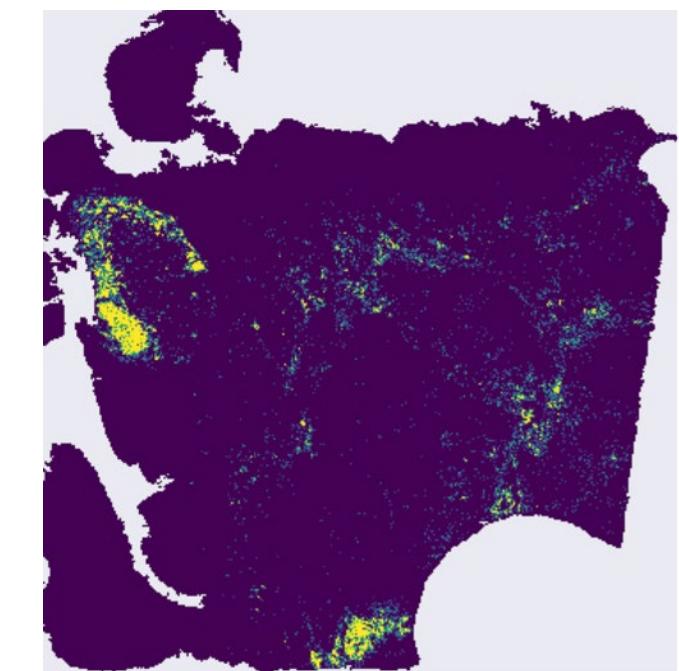
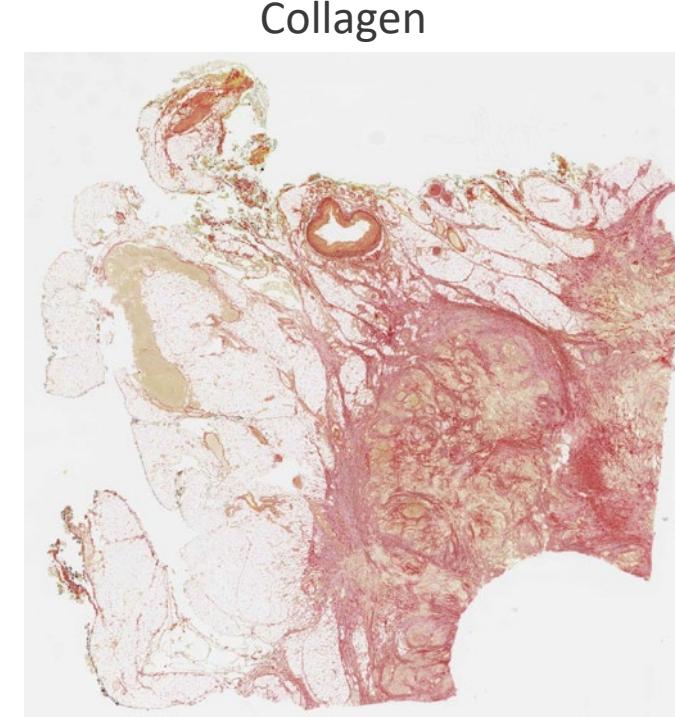
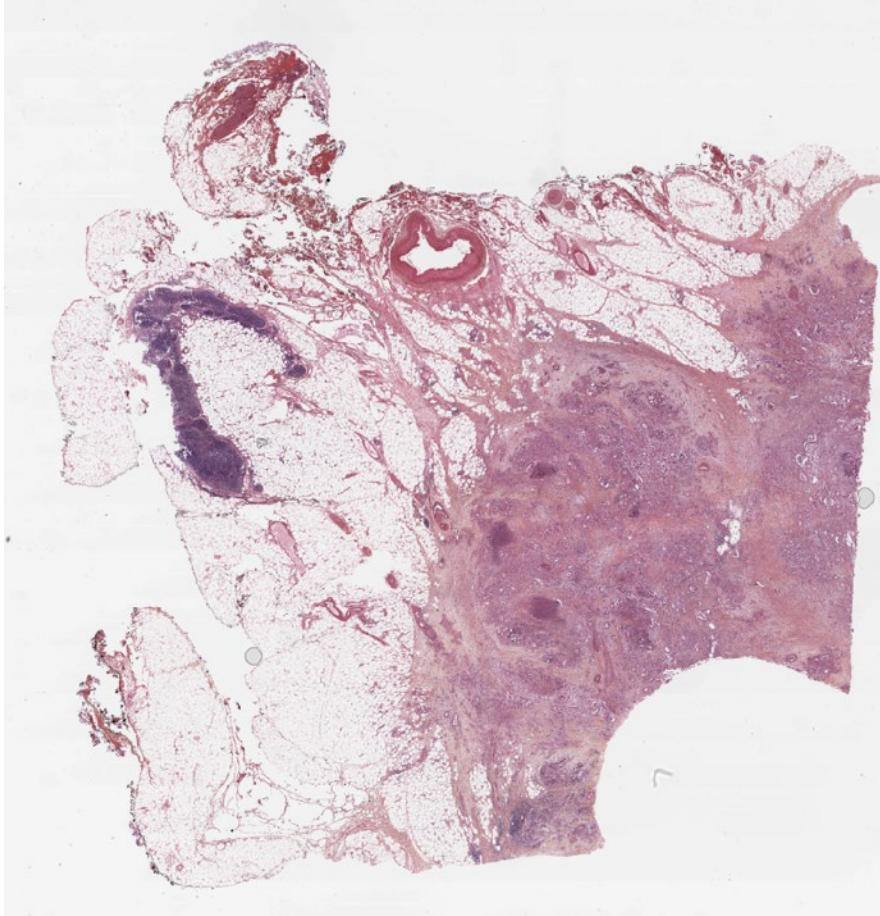




What makes up a CD8 T cell-compliant stroma?



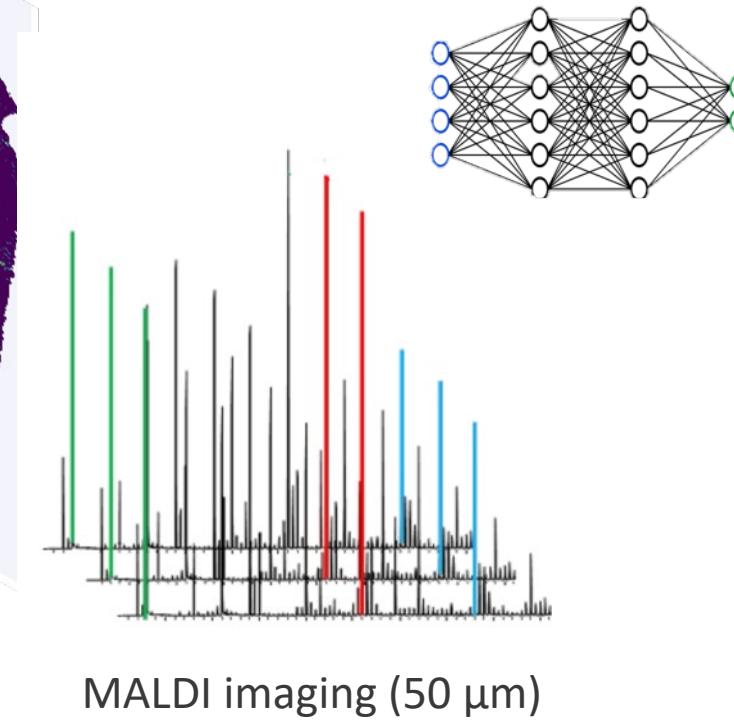
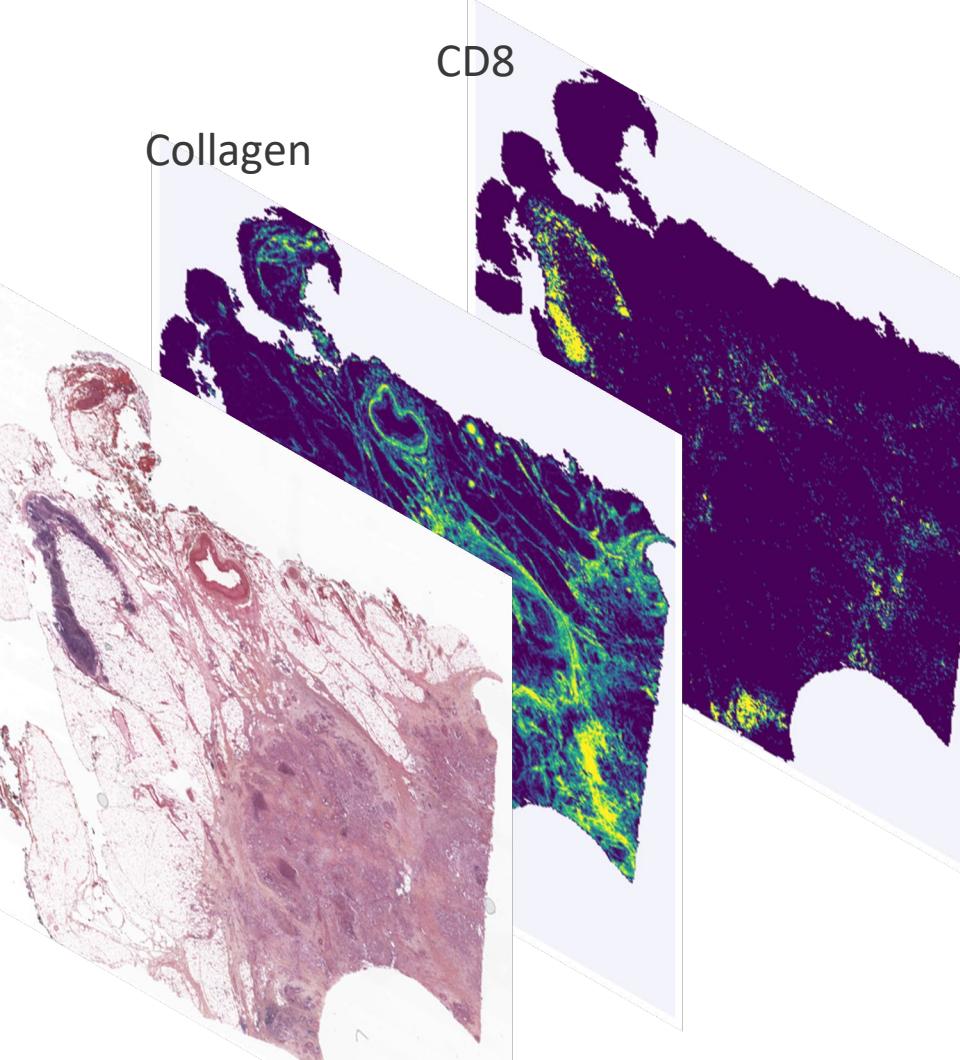
C. JEAN



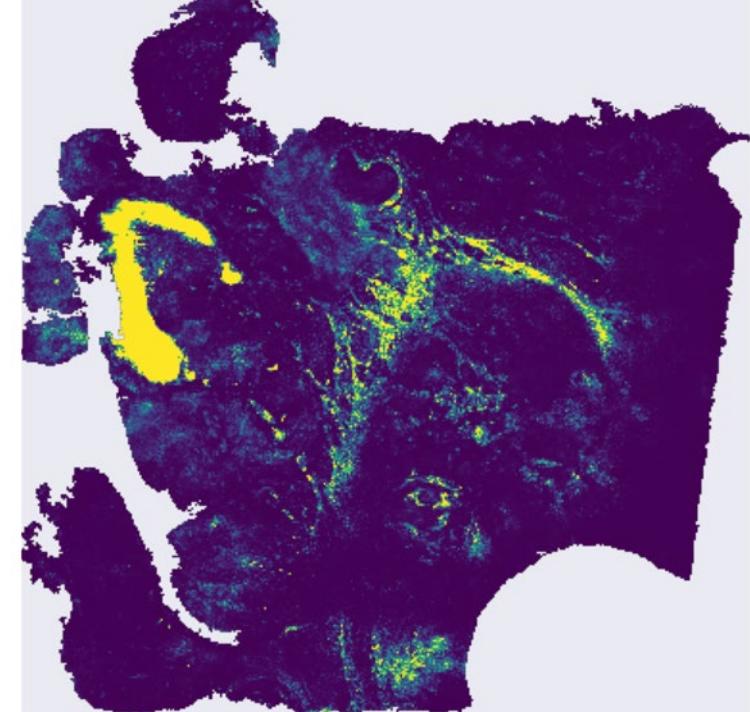
Can protein content identify a CD8 stroma?



A. Abdelrahman
postdoc



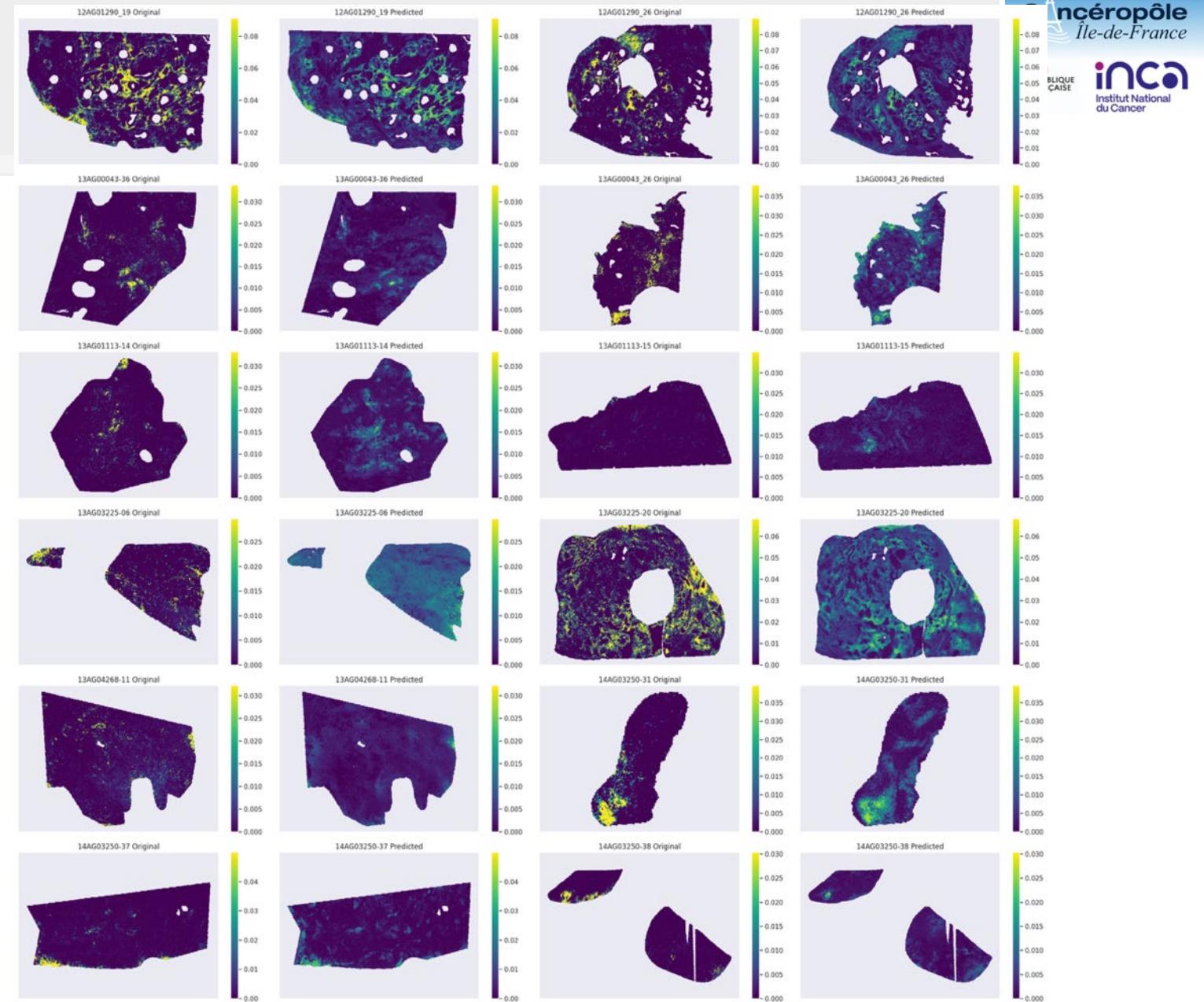
Lymphoid-compliant stroma





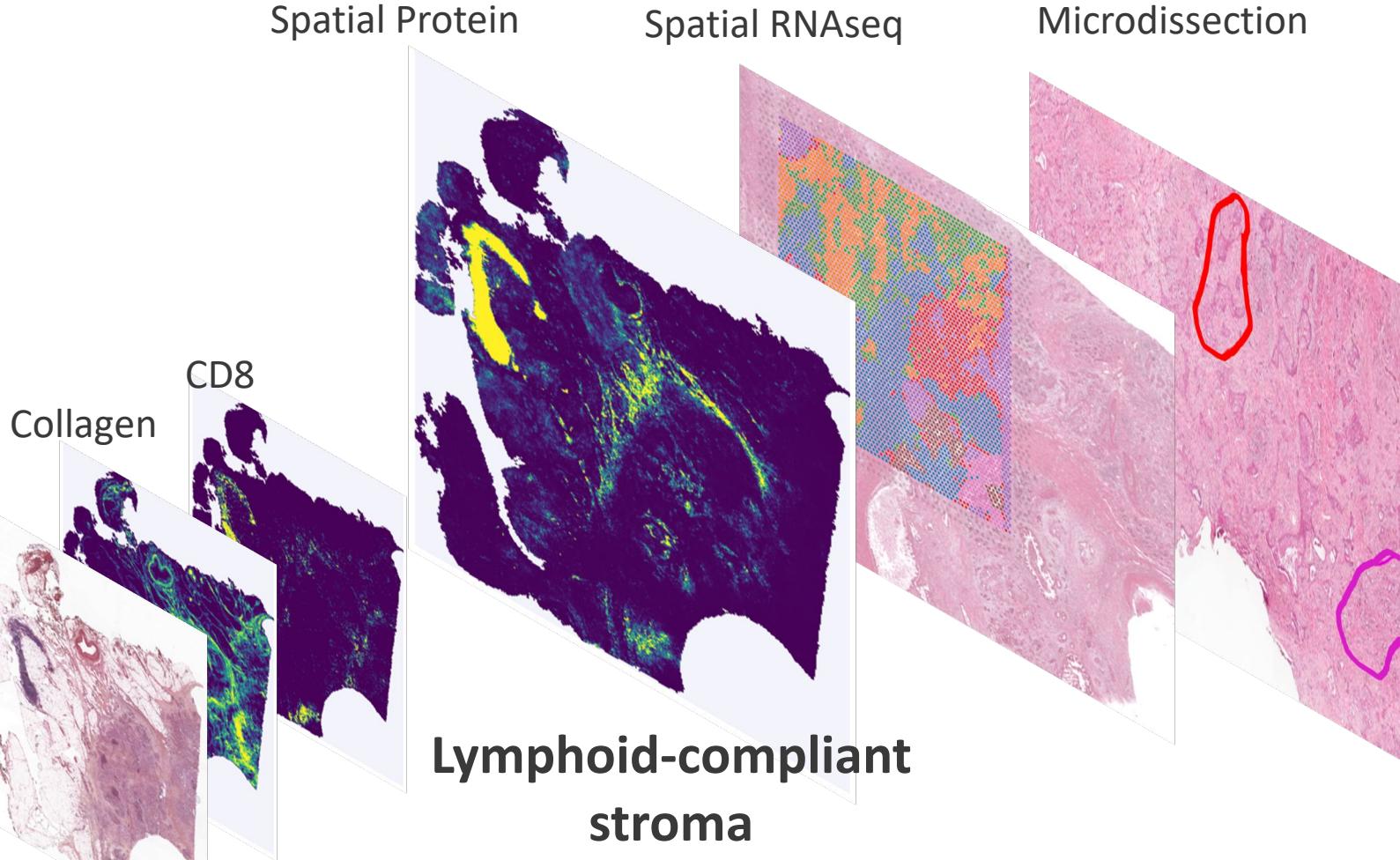
40 PDAC

CD8-compliant stroma found in every tumor around CD8 infiltration





Characterize CD8-related stroma



CD8 excluding stroma

COL1A1/2, COL11A1, COL12A1,
COL5A1, Fibronectin

CD8 infiltrated stroma

COL4A3/4, COL19A1, Reelin

Towards spatial proteomics in mass spectrometry

To conclude ...

- ✓ Molecular heterogeneity are more important than their histological heterogeneity
- ✓ We have demonstrated the usefulness of mass spectrometry imaging to highlight intra-tumoral heterogeneity using proteomic approaches.
- ✓ Mass spectrometry imaging identifies novel diagnostic and biological biomarkers

- ✓ MALDI-MSI combined with targeted microdissected areas analyzed by LC-MS/MS = optimal method for FFPE tissues
- ✓ Bioinformatics is essential for big data analysis, as it provides the computational tools and algorithms needed to process, integrate, and interpret complex biological datasets



Service de pathologie

Valérie Paradis
 Aurélie Beaufrere
 Alexandre Sayadi
 Miguel Albuquerque
 Nathalie Colnot

Equipe Genethex

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