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QUANTIFYING INTRATUMORAL HETEROGENEITY AT SINGLE CELL LEVEL

ABSTRACT

Single cell measurements change the modern biology due to bringing the 'Big Data'-related approaches and challenges to the studies of normal physiology and diseases such as cancer. A number of novel computational methods and paradigms have emerged to deal with complexity of single cell genomic and epigenomic data. In this talk, I will present several methods for dealing with large and complex single-cell RNASeq datasets, including Independent Component Analysis for identification of hidden factors shaping cell populations and ElPiGraph method for quantifying branching or circular pseudo-time. I will

present our recent single cell study of heterogeneity of tumors of Ewing sarcoma, starting from characterizing the cell cycle-independent transcriptional program of EWS/FLI-1 oncogene in inducible cell line and finishing by the analysis of patient-derived xenografts profiled with 10x Genomics platform. Our study shows that the tumors of Ewing sarcoma are characterized by intratumoral heterogeneity strongly associated with activity of the EWS/FLI-1 oncogene, with existence of tumor cell subpopulations characterized by specific and unexpected biological properties.