# Laboratory of Human Immune Disease Genetics 

## Background and Goals



We aimed to study transcriptional signatures of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) to better understand this complex disease. Synovial tissue biopsies from affected knee joints of patients with RA ( $\mathrm{N}=18$ ) or osteoarthritis (OA) $(\mathrm{N}=3)$ were subjected to single cell RNA sequencing, where gene expression of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) was measured, resulting in a gene expression matrix of 32,391 genes and 5,265 cells.
Zhang, Slowikowski, Fonseka, Rao, Wei et al, Nature Immunology 2019


Cell quality assessment


Gene selection quality outperforms state-of-the-art method Seurat

|  | Comparison of vst-like methods for choosing variable genes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Comparison of variance measures for choosing variable genes |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| marker_gene | 2 e | 2 mm | 2enzm | 2nzm | 4em | 4pow | myo | seur | 16med | 2mean | 4mean | jinny | nzm2 |
| PDGFRA(fib) | 17 | 130 | 909 | 1825 | 707 | 718 | 136 | 245 | 190 | 134 | 208 | 26996 | 5117 |
| CD2(Tc) | 2505 | 84 | 2289 | 13344 | 174 | 189 | 94 | 213 | 186 | 325 | 120 | 25290 | 1086 |
| CD79A(Bc) | 2257 | 21 | 397 | 12250 | 61 | 66 | 39 | 115 | 90 | 196 | 37 | 24770 | 123 |
| CD14(monoc.) | 2918 | 77 | 1565 | 15037 | 76 | 86 | 90 | 198 | 81 | 899 | 63 | 24243 | 1219 |
| 30 score | 52.89\% | 67.35\% | 48.39\% | 49.67\% | 60.01\% | 59.71\% | 65.77\% | 62.42\% | 66.13\% | 61.82\% | 67.24\% | 37.95\% | 52.78\% |

Legend (per-gene metrics)
2,4: indicates ^nth; e: \# cells expressing; em: mean expression; enzm: mean non-zero expression; pow: sd ^nth; original: (mean exp)^2; seur: Seurat’s (mean exp)^^2; med: median expression; jinny: economic disparity measure; 30 score indicates the proportion of variance captured by the top 30 PCs using each metric.

## Cell type annotation (dimensionality reduction and unsupervised clustering)



Dim 1 UMAP
Gene expression profiles


OA


Dim 1 UMAP



## $\xrightarrow[\star]{\text { RA GWAS analysis }} \star \underset{\text { RA DE gene }}{\star}$ SNP

hypothesis: SNPs in/near to differentially expressed genes in RA compared to OA should have greater disease association based on GWAS. SNPs in regulatory regions may impact transcription factor binding, next resulting in gene expression changes.

Disease associations in RA specific genes


