

# Deep Learning-based Identification of Intraocular Pressure-Associated Genes Influencing Trabecular Meshwork Cell and Organelle Morphology

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## 45 **ABSTRACT**

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47 **PURPOSE:** The exact pathogenesis of primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG) is poorly  
48 understood. Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have recently uncovered many loci  
49 associated with variation in intraocular pressure (IOP); a crucial risk factor for POAG. Artificial  
50 intelligence (AI) can be used to interrogate the effect of specific genetic knockouts on the  
51 morphology of trabecular meshwork cells (TMCs), the regulatory cells of IOP.

52

53 **METHODS:** Sixty-two genes at fifty-five loci associated with IOP variation were knocked out in  
54 primary TMC lines. All cells underwent high-throughput microscopy imaging after being stained  
55 with a five-channel fluorescent cell staining protocol. A convolutional neural network (CNN) was  
56 trained to distinguish between gene knockout and normal control cell images. The area under  
57 the receiver operator curve (AUC) metric was used to quantify morphological variation in gene  
58 knockouts to identify potential pathological perturbations.

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60 **RESULTS:** Cells where *RALGPS1* had been perturbed demonstrated the greatest  
61 morphological variation from normal TMCs (AUC 0.851, SD 0.030), followed by *LTBP2* (AUC  
62 0.846, SD 0.029) and *BCAS3* (AUC 0.845, SD 0.020). Of seven multi-gene loci, five had  
63 statistically significant differences in AUC ( $p < 0.05$ ) between genes, allowing for pathological  
64 gene prioritisation. The mitochondrial channel most frequently showed the greatest degree of  
65 morphological variation (33.9% of cell lines).

66

67 **CONCLUSIONS:** We demonstrate a robust method for functionally interrogating genome-wide  
68 association signals using high-throughput microscopy and AI. Genetic variations inducing  
69 marked morphological variation can be readily identified, allowing for the gene-based dissection  
70 of loci associated with complex traits.

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## 73 INTRODUCTION

74 Primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG) is a blinding disease characterised by progressive  
 75 degeneration of the optic nerve and retinal nerve fibre layer.<sup>1,2</sup> POAG is one of the leading  
 76 causes of blindness globally.<sup>3</sup> Whilst the precise pathophysiology of glaucoma is unknown, the  
 77 most important modifiable risk factor is raised intraocular pressure (IOP).<sup>1,4</sup> Raised IOP in  
 78 POAG is primarily caused by dysfunctional aqueous humour drainage through the trabecular  
 79 meshwork.<sup>1</sup> Family heritage studies and genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have  
 80 demonstrated a genetic contribution to trabecular meshwork dysfunction in POAG; however, the  
 81 exact cellular and genetic processes involved remain unknown.<sup>1</sup> Current treatments for POAG  
 82 focus on reducing IOP by decreasing the production of aqueous humour or increasing outflow,  
 83 with medications, or through the use of pressure-lowering surgery. However, there is currently  
 84 no definitive cure for all patients with POAG.<sup>5</sup> For novel pressure-lowering treatments to be  
 85 developed, the pathophysiology of raised IOP in POAG must be understood, and molecular  
 86 pathways for this vision-threatening disease uncovered.

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88 Previous research has implicated a number of genes that contribute to POAG development and  
 89 variation in IOP.<sup>1,6</sup> Linkage analysis identified variants in the *MYOC* gene as being strongly  
 90 associated with POAG.<sup>7-9</sup> Disease-causing mutations in this gene have been shown to cause  
 91 accumulation of a misfolded protein (myocilin), resulting in endoplasmic reticulum stress in  
 92 trabecular meshwork cells (TMCs) and a subsequent rise in IOP.<sup>6</sup> GWAS have identified  
 93 numerous genetic variants associated with raised IOP, many of which have also been  
 94 associated with POAG.<sup>10,11</sup> However, further investigation into these genetic variants is required  
 95 to identify which individual genes may be affected by these variants and, thus, what cellular  
 96 mechanisms may be involved. The ongoing development of artificial intelligence (AI) and deep-

learning tools such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) provides a unique opportunity to investigate the genes of interest highlighted in GWAS and their effect on single cell morphology.

Deep learning is a rapidly advancing field of machine learning that relies on neural networks to learn abstract representations of data. A CNN is a specialised deep-learning model designed to learn features of image data. In supervised learning, the original images are labelled, allowing CNNs to learn the correct representation for a given label. Given the effectiveness of CNNs at image classification<sup>12</sup>, they have been extensively used in the analysis of cellular morphology, which is relevant in many domains of biology and medicine such as phenotype analysis,<sup>13,14</sup> drug screening,<sup>15,16</sup> and cell sorting.<sup>17,18</sup>

This study aimed to train a CNN to distinguish between primary TMCs that had specific genes from selected IOP-associated loci,<sup>10,11</sup> knocked out using CRISPR/Cas and control TMCs transfected with non-targeting guide RNAs. The accuracy, as measured by the area under the receiver operator curve (AUC) metric, was used to quantify variation in morphological profiles between target gene knockouts and control cells. This high throughput approach uncovered genes at IOP loci, which, when perturbed, lead to marked variation in TMC morphology.

## METHODS

### *Cell culture and passaging*

Primary TMCs were collected from donors through the Lions Eye Donation service (Human Research Ethics Committee of the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital - reference number 13-1151H). Cells were cultured in Dulbecco's Minimal Essential Medium (Gibco, 11965118) with 10% Foetal Bovine Serum (Gibco, 16000044) and 0.5% antibiotic-antimycotic (Gibco, 15240-062) (herein referred to as 'culture medium') at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Cells were passaged by

removing the culture medium and washing twice with Phosphate Buffered Saline (Gibco, 14190144). Trypsin 0.25% diluted in PBS (Gibco, 25200056) was then added, and the cells were incubated for 3 minutes at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The trypsin was deactivated with cell culture medium, and cells were then aspirated into tubes and centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 5 minutes. The supernatant was aspirated, and the cell pellet was resuspended in culture medium before being plated at the desired ratio for ongoing culture. All TMCs were cultured in tissue culture treated polystyrene plates (Corning, 3516, 3524). Cell lines were tested for mycoplasma on a second weekly basis using the PCR Mycoplasma Test Kit (PromoKine, PK-CA91-1096)

### ***Cell transfection and CRISPR gene knockout***

A total of 67 TMC lines were generated using a library of 124 targeting single guide RNAs (sgRNAs) (two for each target gene), together with 10 non-targeting sgRNAs as negative controls. SgRNAs were designed using GUIDES<sup>19</sup> and are displayed in **Supplementary Table 1**. Following synthesis, sgRNAs were cloned into a novel construct that had previously been developed for the pooled single-cell RNA sequence profiling of primary cells (CROPseq-Guide-pEFS-SpCas9-p2a-puro; Addgene: #99248).<sup>20</sup> The lentivirus was then packaged by transfecting HEK 293FT cells with pCMV delta 8.91, pMDG, and the recombinant plasmid via lipofectamine 2000. Lentivirus was chosen as the optimal viral vector due to its large size of ~8.5kB allowing sgRNA, Cas9 and puromycin resistance genes to be packaged into one viral vector.<sup>21</sup>

Passage one primary TMCs were transfected with 50 µL of lentiviral plasmid and each CRISPR/Cas9/sgRNA/puromycin plasmid in an arrayed format. Individually cloned CRISPR/Cas9/sgRNA/puromycin plasmids were separately added to 450 µL of TMC cells in culture mixed with 1:100 lentiblast (OZ Bioscience, LB01500) in 24 well plates. Cell cultures were incubated for three days before 1 µg/mL puromycin selection occurred over four days. Transfected TMCs underwent standard cell passaging and were then resuspended in 100µl-

500µl DMEM depending on initial cell density. Initial cell density was qualitatively checked with brightfield microscopy before seeding. The predicted on-target editing efficiency for each sgRNA was generated for each sgRNA (**supplementary table 1**). The mRNA expression of each gene knockout can be quantified from RNA sequencing data, however, whilst CRISPR introduces indels into the targeted sequence, the transcription of mRNA for each target gene still occurs. Thus, directly editing efficiency is not able to be quantified using RNA sequencing data.

### ***Cell painting and imaging protocols***

Cells were seeded at random in triplicates across 96-well plates at a density of  $4.0 \times 10^3$  cells per well using a Beckman Coulter MoFlo Astrios EQ fluorescence-activated cell sorter (FACS) to ensure an equal distribution of cells. The Cell Painting protocol as described by Bray and colleagues was then followed.<sup>22</sup> Six fluorophores were used to highlight eight cellular components, which were imaged with high content microscopy taken at 20x magnification across five fluorescent channels on a Zeiss CellDiscoverer7 as outlined in **Table 1**. Images were auto-focussed using the definite focus strategy (a set focus point for each image) at 25 sites per well as shown in **Figure 1**.

### ***Image preprocessing and quality control***

All images were separated into multiple single-cell images using the “Save Cropped Objects” function in CellProfiler (version 3.1.9, Broad Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology).<sup>23,24</sup> This was undertaken to ensure that single-cell morphology was the only feature of the image, and classification was not influenced by overall cell confluency. An image quality filter was then applied using CellProfiler, which flagged any low-quality images that may contain artefacts or were inadequate for analysis, and these were subsequently removed. CellProfiler analysis data was used to calculate Spearman's rank correlation of individual cells for all cell lines. Non-correlated cells from each line were then removed by setting a Spearman

correlation cutoff value of 0.15 to reduce well-to-well and batch-to-batch variation.

## ***CNN architecture, training and evaluation***

The CNN architecture is outlined in **Supplementary Table 2** and accessible via GitHub. The dataset was first split into training (80%), validation (10%), and testing (10%) sets. A separate CNN was trained for each fluorescent channel of each gene across five replicates (each with a different random seed to create individual datasets). Training was conducted for 100 epochs, with the model being saved at each epoch. An Adam optimiser was used with a learning rate of 0.0001. For evaluation, the best-performing model of the 100 epochs as per the loss function was selected and evaluated on the test set. The AUC metric was used to quantify CNN performance and thus the degree of morphological variation induced by genetic variations. The highest-performing models were all selected prior to reaching 100 epochs where model overfitting began to reduce model accuracy.

## **RESULTS**

### ***Image Filtering and Data Split***

Filtering using CellProfiler and by Spearman correlation reduced the total dataset size from 225,095 images per channel to 114,830 images per channel, yielding a total of 574,150 images for analysis. The proportion of images removed via Spearman filtering varied across groups from 22.1% (*ANTXR1*) to 70.0% (non-targeting group one). The five non-targeting control lines had the greatest proportion of images removed via Spearman filtering as shown in **Figure 2**. The total number of cell images after filtering ranged from 221 (*ADAMTS6*) to 4323 (*ANTXR1*). This inter-group variability was balanced during training with image rotation data augmentation (0, 90, 180, 270, with or without horizontal mirroring) to reach approximately 3,000 images per

group. A random selection of non-targeting control images was then selected to produce a balanced dataset of gene knockout and non-targeting control images. The same non-targeting images were chosen for each knockout comparison. The dataset was split into training (80%), validation (10%), and testing (10%) sets.

### ***Overall morphological variation induced by genetic knockouts***

The AUC metric was used to assess the ability of the CNN to distinguish genetic knockout lines from non-targeting control lines thus providing a quantifiable value of morphological variation induced by gene knockouts. The mean AUC of five replicates across five channels was calculated to produce an overall AUC for each target gene. Knockout of *RALGPS1* produced the most morphologically distinct TMCs (AUC 0.851, SD 0.030), followed by *LTBP2* (AUC 0.846, SD 0.029) and *BCAS3* (AUC 0.845, SD 0.020). The overall AUCs ranged from 0.564 (*LMO7*) to the most distinguishable at 0.851 (*RALGPS1*) as displayed in **Figure 3**.

### ***Morphological variation induced in individual organelles***

Twenty one (33.9%) gene knockout groups had greater morphological distinction in the mitochondrial channel (mean AUC 0.760 of all cell lines, SD 0.070) compared to other organelles, illustrating that mitochondrial variation occurs in a large proportion of the gene knockouts. The relative AUC of each gene across all organelles is shown in **Figure 4**. Endoplasmic reticulum showed the next greatest morphological variation evident in 16 (25.8%) of the gene knockout lines (mean AUC 0.756, SD 0.079). The F-actin/cell membrane/Golgi body channel showed the highest morphological variation in 13 (20.9%) gene knockout lines (mean AUC 0.751, SD 0.073) followed by 11 (17.7%) knockout lines in the cytoplasmic RNA/nucleolus channels (mean AUC 0.753, SD 0.078). Finally, only the *ANAPC1* knockout showed morphological variation most in the nucleus (mean AUC 0.677, SD 0.079).



## Gene prioritisation

Finally, we used the trained CNN AUC metrics to investigate TMC morphological variation for genes at multi-gene loci.<sup>10,11</sup> **Table 2** displays the AUC (knock-out of target gene compared to non-targeting control) for 15 genes across seven loci. For five of these loci, we identified gene knockouts (*ALDH9A1*, *CAV2*, *ME3*, *RALGPS1* (present in two loci)) which resulted in greater morphological variation than knockout of their neighbouring gene counterparts. Knockout of genes at two multi-gene loci (*EMID1-KREMEN1* and *GNB1L-TXNRD2*) generated TMCs that were morphologically similar and thus, could not be prioritised.

## DISCUSSION

There has been a shift in recent years towards using high-throughput profiling to undertake large-scale studies investigating the cellular basis of disease. This shift has been accelerated by advancements in computational technology and AI as a method of rapidly analysing large, complex datasets. In this study, we utilised a convolutional neural network to perform a high-throughput morphological analysis of genetic variations associated with IOP variation in primary human TMCs. By training the CNN to distinguish gene knockout cells from healthy control cells, we could use the AUC as a metric to quantify differences in cellular morphology induced by various genetic variations. Therefore, the AUC can be used to identify which variations invoke a greater degree of morphological change and, thus, which are more likely to be involved in IOP dysregulation and the pathogenesis of POAG.

Of the genes known to cause primary congenital glaucoma or anterior segment dysgenesis, *LTBP2* and *TEK* showed marked differentiation from normal control morphology. The *LTBP2* knockout cell line was readily distinguished from normal control TMCs (AUC 0.846) with the

greatest degree of difference occurring in mitochondrial morphology indicating that *LTBP2* may play a role in mitochondrial function. *LTBP2* encodes for latent transforming growth factor beta binding protein 2 which is an extracellular matrix protein associated with fibrillin-1 containing microfibrils and is hypothesised to modulate extracellular matrix production.<sup>25</sup> Variations in *LTBP2* have been previously associated with primary congenital glaucoma, microspherophakia, megalocornea and Weill-Marchesani syndrome.<sup>25–28</sup> A previous study has identified that *LTBP2* knockout may contribute to the development of POAG via dysregulation of the extracellular matrix; a crucial component of the trabecular meshwork.<sup>29</sup> Studies looking at dilated cardiomyopathy and right ventricular failure have also implicated *LTBP2* function in fibrosis regulation which may indicate a role in the pathogenesis of trabecular meshwork dysfunction.<sup>30,31</sup>

The *TEK* knockout cell line also showed significant differentiation (AUC 0.768) most prominent in the cytoplasmic RNA and nucleolus channel. This gene encodes for a tyrosine-kinase receptor and is highly involved in the regulation of angiogenesis and vascular stability.<sup>32</sup> It also acts as a receptor for *ANGPT1* which has been shown to be crucial for development of Schlemm's canal.<sup>33–35</sup> Variations in *TEK* have been associated with raised IOP and congenital glaucoma primarily due to disruption of Schlemm's canal, indicating a potential interaction with *ANGPT1* in the development of glaucoma.<sup>35–38</sup> Curiously, *MYOC*, *CYP1B1*, *GMD5*, and *FOXC1* knockouts resulted in only mild differentiation from control TMC morphology (AUC 0.615, 0.612, 0.704, 0.665, respectively) despite an association with glaucoma and anterior segment dysgenesis.<sup>7,39–42</sup> These gene knockouts may not invoke significant morphological variation as they are primarily involved trabecular meshwork development rather than the maintenance.<sup>43</sup> Furthermore, some gene mutations associated with congenital glaucoma are gain-of-function mutations and therefore will not show significant change when knocked out. Another reason for not seeing change in cellular morphology is that these genes may primarily act extracellularly

such as *MYOC* which has been shown to demonstrate accumulation of extracellular products in specific mutations.<sup>44</sup>

The knockout of *RALGPS1* resulted in the greatest degree of differentiation (AUC 0.851) compared to other cell lines and was most prominent in the mitochondrial channel. This gene encodes for ras-specific guanine nucleotide-releasing factor RalGPS1, which is involved in Ras protein activation.<sup>45</sup> Not only has *RALGPS1* been associated with raised IOP<sup>10,11</sup>, but previous studies have also highlighted a link to high myopia as well as a role in optic nerve regeneration.<sup>46,47</sup> The *BCAS3* gene knockout also produced a high degree of differentiation (AUC 0.845), which was also greatest in the mitochondrial channel. This gene encodes for breast carcinoma-amplified sequence 3 and has been shown to play a role in angiogenesis.<sup>48,49</sup> *BCAS3* variants have been previously associated with glaucoma and optic nerve head parameters.<sup>50–52</sup>

Overall, the mitochondrial channel most frequently displayed the greatest degree of differentiation (33.9% of all cell lines). Previous studies have highlighted an association between glaucoma and mitochondrial dysfunction, likely related to the high energy requirements of retinal ganglion cells.<sup>53–55</sup> Studies have also shown direct evidence of mitochondrial dysfunction in POAG affected eyes indicated by increased mitochondrial respiratory activity and elevated retinal mitochondrial flavoprotein; both of which are associated with mitochondrial dysfunction.<sup>56–58</sup> The endoplasmic reticulum channel also showed the most morphological variation in a large proportion of cell lines (25.8%), which is in keeping with many studies that have highlighted a link between glaucoma and endoplasmic reticulum stress.<sup>59–61</sup> Interestingly, the *ANAPC1* knockout was the only cell line to display the greatest differentiation in the nucleus channel compared to other organelles. Similarly, this gene is involved in progression through cellular mitosis.<sup>62</sup>

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300 This work introduced a novel method for prioritising genes at overlapping loci identified in  
 301 GWAS using CNN analysis.<sup>10,11</sup> The results show that *ALDH9A1*, *RALGPS1*, *CAV2* and *ME3*  
 302 show statistically greater differentiation from control cells than the respectively associated gene  
 303 at the same locus. Studies have previously associated POAG with genetic variants at the inter-  
 304 genomic region of *TMCO1* and *ALDH9A1*.<sup>63–65</sup> The results of this study point toward *ALDH9A1*  
 305 being the implicated gene in POAG due to inducing a greater degree of morphological change  
 306 compared to *TMCO1* (p-value 7.78e–05). The mitochondrial channel in *ALDH9A1* displayed the  
 307 greatest degree of differentiation, highlighting the potential role of mitochondrial dysfunction in  
 308 *ALDH9A1* interruption in POAG. This is supported by the role of *ALDH9A1* in carnitine  
 309 synthesis, which takes place in the mitochondrial matrix.<sup>66</sup> There have also been numerous  
 310 studies illustrating an association between POAG and variations at the inter-genomic region of  
 311 *CAV1* and *CAV2*.<sup>67–70</sup> This analysis prioritised *CAV2* as a potential causative gene, with a higher  
 312 degree of morphological change from control cells than *CAV1* (p-value 4.00e–03). The *CAV2*  
 313 knockout cell line displayed the most prominent changes in the F-actin, Golgi complex, cell  
 314 membrane fluorescent channel. Supporting this, previous studies have highlighted the  
 315 interaction between *CAV2* and the Golgi complex.<sup>71–73</sup> The genomic region containing *ME3* and  
 316 *PRSS23* has previously been associated with open-angle glaucoma.<sup>74</sup> Our study highlighted a  
 317 statistically greater degree of morphological change in the *ME3* cell line providing evidence for  
 318 prioritisation over *PRSS23* in the pathogenesis of POAG. The remaining genes at overlapping  
 319 loci (*EMID1* vs *KREMEN1* and *GNB1L* vs *TXNRD2*) showed no statistically significant  
 320 differences in morphology. They will require further investigation to prioritise which of these may  
 321 be the causative gene.

322

323 A further application of AI-based analysis of single cell morphology is to predict gene expression  
 324 as demonstrated in prior studies. For example, Chlis and colleagues developed a machine

learning model to predict gene expression of human mononuclear blood cells and mouse myeloid progenitor cells based on cellular morphology.<sup>75</sup> Our study further highlights the complex interaction between cell morphology and gene expression and the opportunity that AI poses as a means of analysing the large amounts of data produced. Further investigation into this field could uncover the genetic drivers behind pathological changes in morphology that drive disease processes and allow for identification of novel therapeutic targets.<sup>75,76</sup>

One of the main limitations of this study lies in the intrinsic difficulty in interpreting the decision-making process of CNNs. This means it can be difficult to establish if morphological features learned by the CNN are truly pathological or simply due to systematic bias. For example, if wells had lower cell density, the cells may grow to a larger size, thus cell size may inadvertently influence the decision-making of the CNN.

In summary, this study used a powerful approach to quantify morphological change induced by genetic variations associated with POAG. *RALGPS1* produced the greatest morphological variation. As well as this, we could prioritise genes at overlapping loci identified to have an association with IOP. However, there are some limitations due to the difficulty in removing systematic bias from the methodology. This bias may result in the CNN learning features that are not directly associated with IOP physiology. This study highlights a new avenue for utilising CNNs trained on single-cell morphology to further interpret the results of GWAS.

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Cell Painting reagent	Fluorescent channel	Excitation filter (nm)	Emission filter (nm)	Organelles
Hoechst 33342	DAPI	387/11	417-477	Nucleus
Concanavalin A/Alexa Fluor 488 conjugate	EGFP	472/30	503-538	Endoplasmic reticulum
SYTO 14 Green Fluorescent Nucleic Acid stain	AF514	531/40	573-613	Cytoplasmic RNA, nucleolus
Phalloidin/AlexaFluor 568 Wheat-Germ Agglutinin/AlexaFluor 555 conjugate	AF594	581/609 (phalloidin) 590/617 (WGA)	622-662	F-actin, golgi complex, cell membrane
MitoTracker Deep Red	AF647	628/40	672-712	Mitochondria

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537 **Table 1 - Cell Painting reagents, fluorescent channels and associated cellular organelles**

538 The Cell Painting protocol was designed to allow a maximum number of cellular organelles to be  
539 visualised with minimal overlap of fluorescent channels.

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Top GWAS SNP	Overlapping Genes (mean AUC)	P-value
rs7518099	<i>ALDH9A1</i> (AUC 0.709, SD 1.93e-02) <i>TMCO1</i> (AUC 0.634, SD 4.76e-02)	<b>7.78e-05</b>
rs11795066	<i>RALGPS1</i> (AUC 0.851, SD 3.05e-02) <i>ANGPTL2</i> (AUC 0.811, SD 2.50e-02)	<b>4.12e-04</b>
rs6478746	<i>LMX1B</i> (AUC 0.803, SD 2.03e-02) <i>RALGPS1</i> (0.851)	<b>5.5e-06</b>
rs10281637 rs55892100	<i>CAV1</i> (AUC 0.726, SD 5.53e-02) <i>CAV2</i> (AUC 0.817, SD 2.71e-02) <i>TES</i> (AUC 0.704, SD 5.79e-02)	4.49e-01 ( <i>CAV1</i> , <i>TES</i> ) <b>3.00e-03</b> ( <i>CAV2</i> , <i>TES</i> ) <b>4.00e-03</b> ( <i>CAV1</i> , <i>CAV2</i> )
rs9608740	<i>EMID1</i> (AUC 0.834, SD 6.50e-02) <i>KREMEN1</i> (AUC 0.824, SD 5.70e-02)	5.73e-01
rs8141433	<i>GNB1L</i> (AUC 0.729, SD 5.97e-02) <i>TXNRD2</i> (AUC 0.695, SD 4.47e-02)	3.75e-01
rs746491	<i>ME3</i> (AUC 0.803, SD 2.45e-02) <i>PRSS23</i> (AUC 0.725, SD 4.25e-02)	<b>3.47e-04</b>

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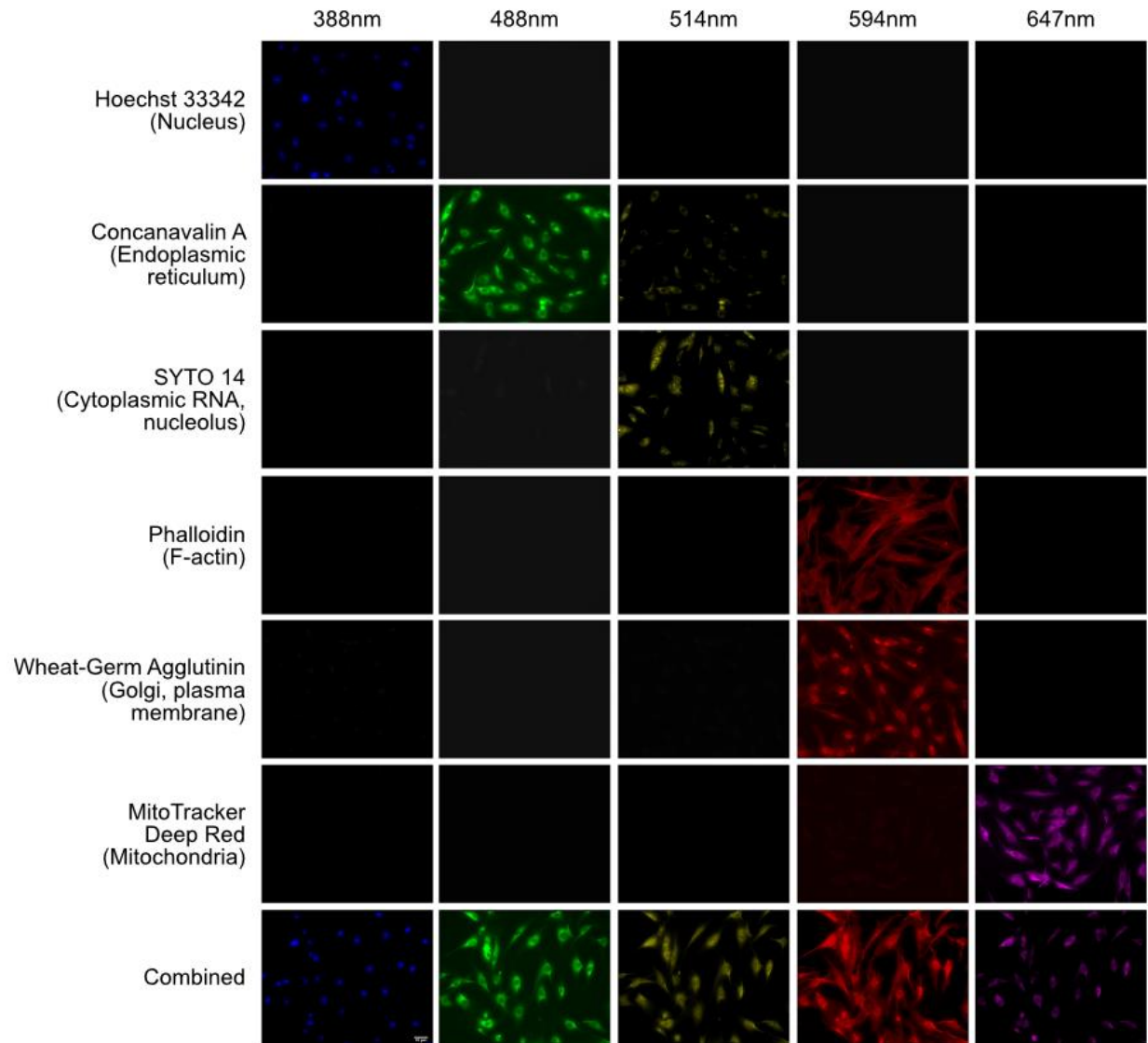
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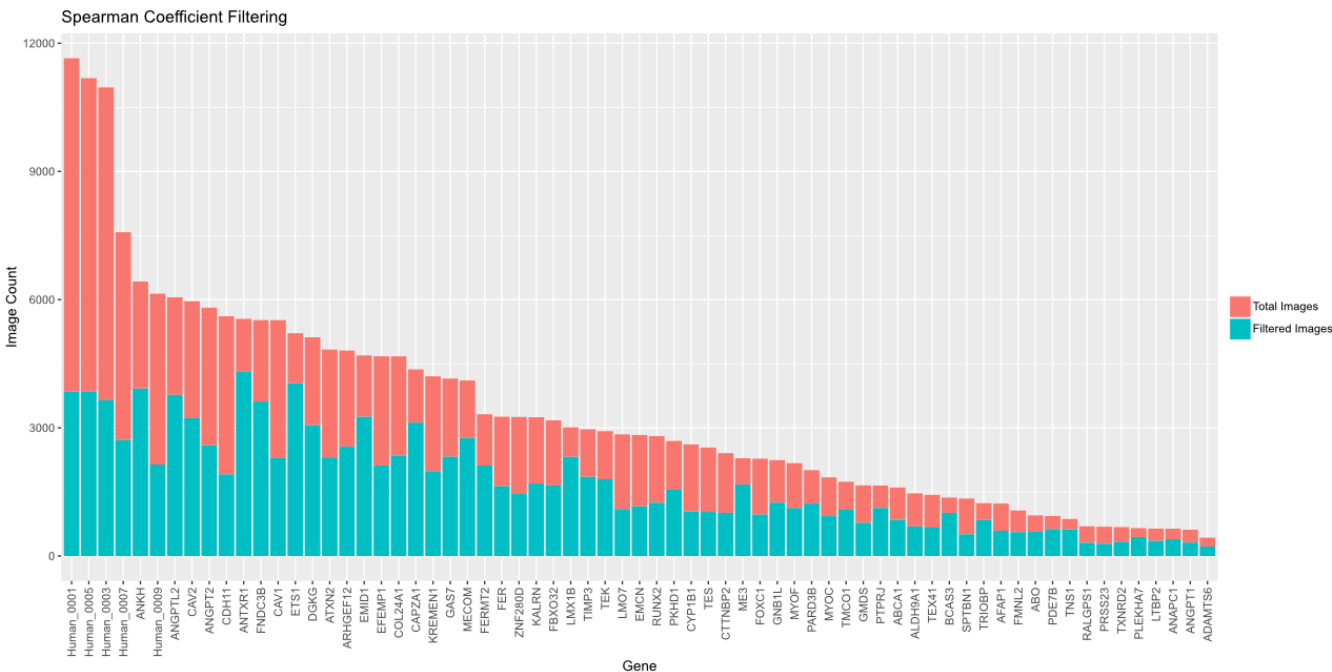
**Table 2: Comparison of CNNs to morphologically distinguish TMCs with knockout of genes at overlapping IOP-associated loci.<sup>10</sup>**

The mean AUC across all fluorescent channels of target knockouts versus non-targeting control cells was compared for genes at the same locus. A higher AUC indicates a larger degree of morphological variation compared to normal control cells. This allows for prioritisation of overlapping genes at given loci.



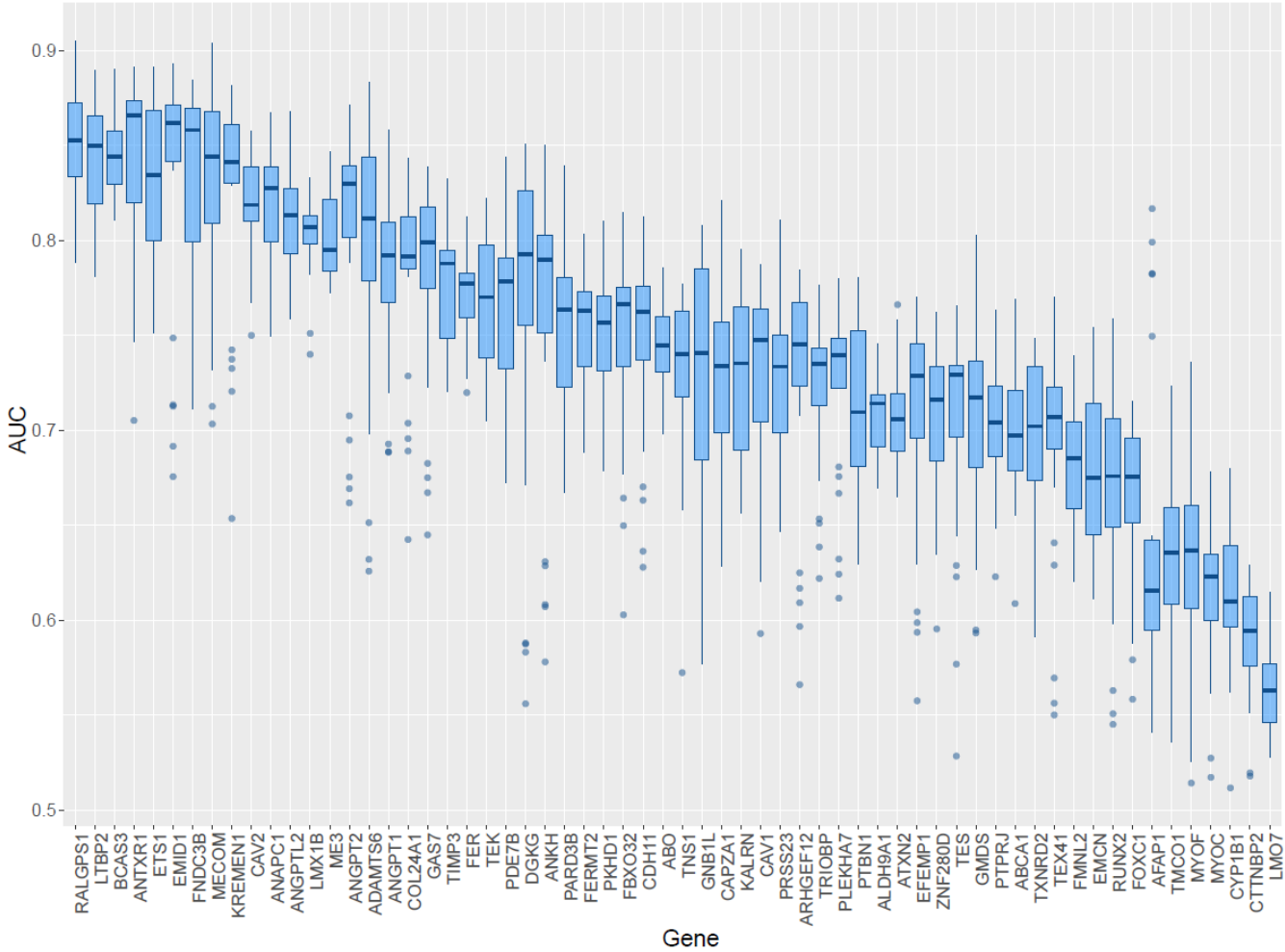
# **Figure 1: Cell Painting Assay**

Example image of TMCs stained with the Cell Painting protocol in which six fluorophores are imaged over five channels to identify eight distinct intracellular organelles for morphological profiling. Each row shows cells stained with the indicated dye, or with all dyes combined (bottom row); columns indicate excitation wavelengths. Single channel testing shows minimal overlap across channels except for the Phalloidin and Wheat-Germ Agglutinin stains which are analysed together. This ensures that only a single stain will fluoresce when exposed to a particular wavelength of light. This figure shows whether a single stain would contaminate other emission channels and whether the signal of the light emission channel was dominated by the dyes we selected.



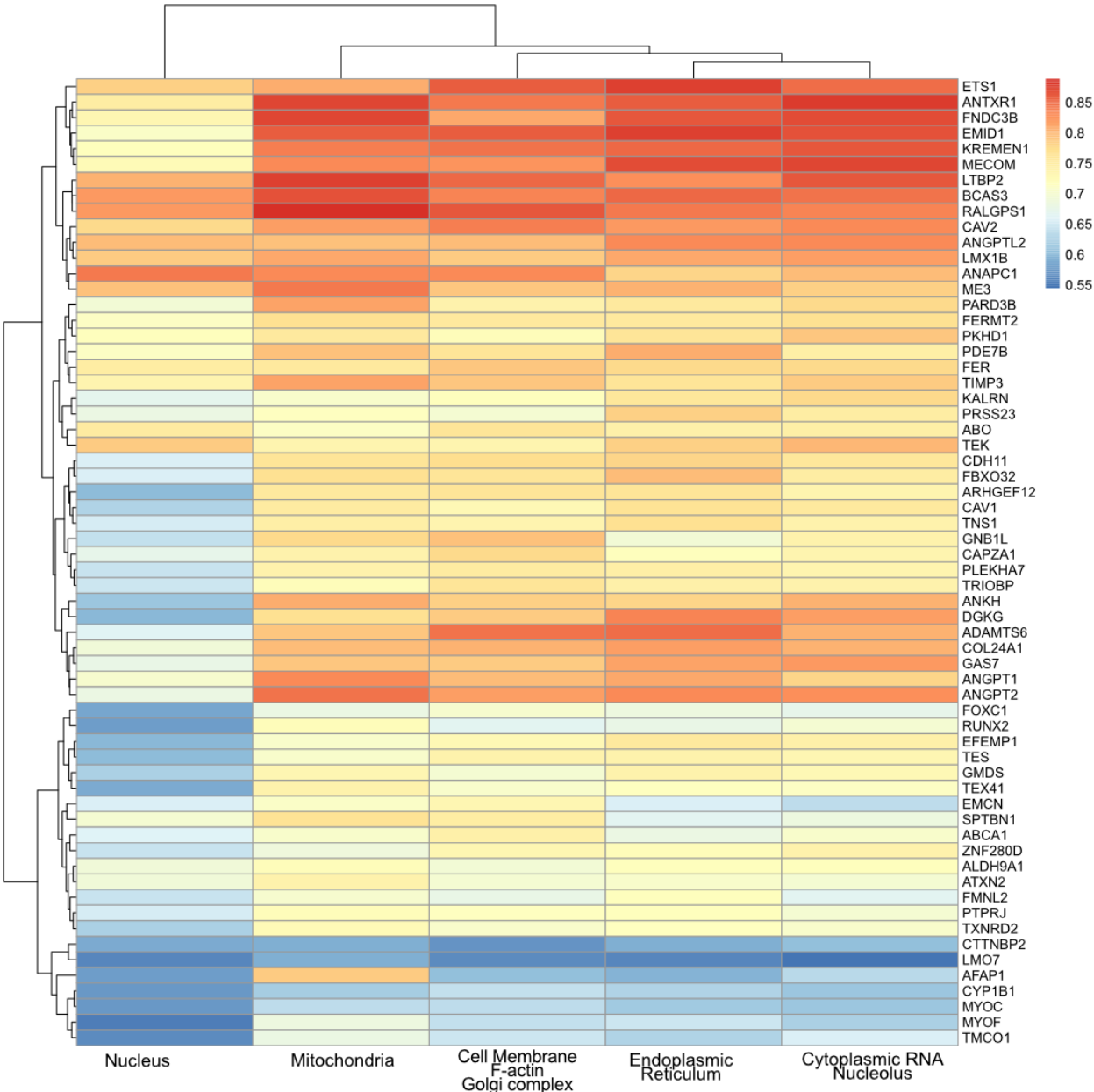
**Figure 2: Total number of images for each arrayed cell line following Spearman correlation filtering.**

Images were removed from the dataset if the Spearman correlation was  $>0.15$  in order to improve the quality of the dataset and reduce the effect of well-to-well and batch-to-batch variation. Ultimately, the percentage of cells removed ranged from 67% (control line 1) to 22% (*ANTXR1*).



**Figure 3: Mean CNN AUC scores for each gene-knockout cell-line**

The mean AUC score when training a CNN to distinguish between gene-knockout cell-lines and non-targeting control cell-lines. A higher AUC indicates a more distinct morphological variation induced by a particular gene-knockout. The gene knockouts are ordered in decreasing order of mean AUC across all organelles. The bars represent the median AUC with upper and lower quartile boxes. Outliers are displayed as single dots.



**Figure 4: Gene knockout cell line AUC for each organelle.**  
Heatmap of the morphological variation (AUC) across individual fluorescent channels for each gene knockout. Red shading indicates a higher degree of morphological variation as indicated by a higher AUC.



585     **SUPPLEMENTARY**

586     **Code availability**

587     The Python functions utilised for data preparation, CNN training and evaluation are available on  
588     GitHub: [https://github.com/ConnorG1/TMC\\_CNN](https://github.com/ConnorG1/TMC_CNN)

589     **Data availability**

590     Data is available at the European Bioimage Institute Bioimage Archive: Accession S-BSST841

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# 592 Supplementary table 1

sgRNA name	Sequence	Gene	Exon	Protein domain targeted	Predicted On-target efficiency
GUIDES_sg001	GTTGACTGGGAGAGAACACG	<i>ABCA1</i>	46	ABC_tran	0.707186352
GUIDES_sg002	GTGTTCTAAAAGAGAAACAC	<i>ABCA1</i>	50	-	0.684107302
GUIDES_sg003	GTGCAGTGTCTCTCCTACAC	<i>ADAMTS6</i>	28	-	0.720054847
GUIDES_sg004	ACCAGTCATGTCCACCACAG	<i>ADAMTS6</i>	26	-	0.71972146
GUIDES_sg005	CAAGGGTAAAAAGCCCCCG	<i>AFAP1</i>	16	-	0.759587174
GUIDES_sg006	GGAAAGAAAAGACCTTCGAG	<i>AFAP1</i>	17	-	0.753862205
GUIDES_sg007	CAACTATAACGTCAGCCAG	<i>ALDH9A1</i>	10	Aldedh	0.764185557
GUIDES_sg008	TATGAACAATGCTGTAAAGG	<i>ALDH9A1</i>	6	Aldedh	0.704113168
GUIDES_sg009	GTGCTGTGAGCTGGGAAGTG	<i>ANAPC1</i>	39	-	0.69840945
GUIDES_sg010	ATGGCTCTTCTGTAGGACG	<i>ANAPC1</i>	27	-	0.641611628
GUIDES_sg011	CCCCAGCCAATATTCACCGG	<i>ANGPT1</i>	9	Fibrinogen_C	0.666179972
GUIDES_sg012	AATATGGATGTCAATGGGGG	<i>ANGPT1</i>	8	Fibrinogen_C	0.630390739
GUIDES_sg013	TAACGTGTAGATGCCATTG	<i>ANGPT2</i>	5	Fibrinogen_C	0.692502215
GUIDES_sg014	TGTGACATGGAAGCTGGAGG	<i>ANGPT2</i>	6	Fibrinogen_C	0.647042655
GUIDES_sg015	ACTCGCTCTCAGGTTCCAGG	<i>ANGPTL2</i>	5	Fibrinogen_C	0.761119961
GUIDES_sg016	CACCAGCATGTCACGCACAG	<i>ANGPTL2</i>	2	RasGEF	0.753686491
GUIDES_sg017	CTTTGTGGGAGAATCCACCA	<i>ANKH</i>	14	ANKH	0.705623542
GUIDES_sg018	TGAGGGCGCATCTCACC GGG	<i>ANKH</i>	13	ANKH	0.671178514
GUIDES_sg019	CTTCCGACATGCCCGCAACG	<i>ANTXR1</i>	10	Anth_Ig	0.66965417
GUIDES_sg020	CAGAACTGGAGATAAAAGAG	<i>ANTXR1</i>	12	Anth_Ig	0.661995855
GUIDES_sg021	CTGCTGGACCAGAAATTCGG	<i>ARHGEF12</i>	39	-	0.715629912
GUIDES_sg022	TCTCTGGGGTCATAATCATG	<i>ARHGEF12</i>	38	-	0.682338139
GUIDES_sg023	TACCAAAATATGCCCAACAG	<i>ATXN2</i>	21	-	0.746394842
GUIDES_sg024	ATTACAGGACTATAGACATG	<i>ATXN2</i>	22	-	0.705381212
GUIDES_sg025	ATGGGCCCAGGACTTCCAGG	<i>BCAS3</i>	35	-	0.763805308
GUIDES_sg026	TGAACTGGATGAGATAACTG	<i>BCAS3</i>	36	-	0.749363581
GUIDES_sg027	AGTTTTTAGGCTGAAACTGG	<i>CAPZA1</i>	6	F-actin_cap_A	0.671121892
GUIDES_sg028	GGAATAATGGTCTTTCACAT	<i>CAPZA1</i>	5	F-actin_cap_A	0.61837895
GUIDES_sg029	TAAACACCTCAACGATGACG	<i>CAV1</i>	3	Caveolin	0.697766064
GUIDES_sg030	TGGGGGCAAATACGTAGACT	<i>CAV1</i>	1	Caveolin	0.638532867
GUIDES_sg031	GATGTGCAGACAGCTGAGGG	<i>CAV2</i>	23	Caveolin	0.699222046
GUIDES_sg032	CGGCGTACTCGAGGCCGCTG	<i>CAV2</i>	22	Caveolin	0.674769146
GUIDES_sg033	TCAGGAAGCCAAAGTCCCAG	<i>CDH11</i>	19	Cadherin	0.765145054
GUIDES_sg034	GGATTGTGAATGATTTACAGG	<i>CDH11</i>	20	Cadherin	0.686839641
GUIDES_sg035	GGGTTATCTCGTGTGCCAAG	<i>COL24A1</i>	60	COLFI	0.662833491
GUIDES_sg036	GAAATTGCAGAAAACCTCAA	<i>COL24A1</i>	61	COLFI	0.614109727
GUIDES_sg037	AAGCGGCCAGACTTCTGCG	<i>CTTNBP2</i>	25	-	0.737788504
GUIDES_sg038	GCCAGGTTGTCTTTTCACAG	<i>CTTNBP2</i>	24	-	0.682279464
GUIDES_sg039	AACATTCCCAGCATGTACGG	<i>DGKG</i>	22	DAGK_acc	0.746132205
GUIDES_sg040	GTACTTTGAATTTGGCACCT	<i>DGKG</i>	21	DAGK_acc	0.610555363
GUIDES_sg041	GACCACAAATGAATGCCGGG	<i>EFEMP1</i>	9	EGF_CA	0.7383367
GUIDES_sg042	TCACCACTTGGTATCCCTGG	<i>EFEMP1</i>	8	EGF_CA	0.711733541

GUIDES_sg043	ACGCTCTCTTTATCAGACTG	<i>EMCN</i>	19	Endomucin	0.716120299
GUIDES_sg044	GTTTTAGAAGGTGATGCATC	<i>EMCN</i>	15	Endomucin	0.500046723
GUIDES_sg045	AGGACTCCCAGGGACACCTG	<i>EMID1</i>	11	Collagen	0.633805274
GUIDES_sg046	GCTGCCCAGCAGAGCCTTGG	<i>EMID1</i>	13	Collagen	0.50154336
GUIDES_sg047	GCAGTGACCAATCCAGCTA	<i>ETS1</i>	13	Ets	0.590477455
GUIDES_sg048	CACTAAAGAACAGCAACGAC	<i>ETS1</i>	8	SAM_PNT	0.507782957
GUIDES_sg049	ATGTTTCAGTTGTAGGCACAA	<i>FBXO32</i>	7	-	0.680491123
GUIDES_sg050	AACTTGTCGGATGTTACCCA	<i>FBXO32</i>	8	-	0.665922839
GUIDES_sg051	ACAGTTCAGAGAGTGACGTG	<i>FER</i>	26	Pkinase	0.744231001
GUIDES_sg052	ATGTCTCGTCAAGAGGATGG	<i>FER</i>	25	Pkinase	0.666176654
GUIDES_sg053	GCCTGCAGATTAGCCTCCAA	<i>FERMT2</i>	17	PH	0.635135622
GUIDES_sg054	CTGAGGTTTCATCTGATGAGC	<i>FERMT2</i>	15	PH	0.496718402
GUIDES_sg055	GGAGTTCATCCTCAACAATG	<i>FMNL2</i>	23	FH2	0.656016612
GUIDES_sg056	TTCACAAACCGACAAAGAC	<i>FMNL2</i>	24	FH2	0.52306371
GUIDES_sg057	TGTGTACACACTACAGCTGG	<i>FNDC3B</i>	31	fn3	0.726749897
GUIDES_sg058	GCTCTTCCCAGTTCAGTACA	<i>FNDC3B</i>	30	fn3	0.69274705
GUIDES_sg059	GCTGAGCAACAAGACAGAGG	<i>GAS7</i>	19	-	0.715444147
GUIDES_sg060	GCTTGCGAAGGTCGGCAATG	<i>GAS7</i>	18	-	0.692490099
GUIDES_sg061	GCCCACACTCTCCAAGCACA	<i>GNB1L</i>	3	-	0.656080017
GUIDES_sg062	GCAGGCTCCAGATGTGTACC	<i>GNB1L</i>	2	WD40	0.572759585
GUIDES_sg063	TGAACAGAGAGACTTCTGAG	<i>KALRN</i>	59	PH	0.713929927
GUIDES_sg064	CTTCCTGAGATACAGTGAGA	<i>KALRN</i>	56	RhoGEF	0.590046749
GUIDES_sg065	TGATTACTGGAAGTACGGGG	<i>KREMEN1</i>	5	WSC	0.732200895
GUIDES_sg066	TTACTGGTGCCAGTTAGAGG	<i>KREMEN1</i>	4	WSC	0.660612633
GUIDES_sg067	CAGGGACTCGATGATCATGG	<i>LMO7</i>	34	LIM	0.767439497
GUIDES_sg068	GATCCTGACTTCAGCTCCTG	<i>LMO7</i>	35	LIM	0.666458078
GUIDES_sg069	CTTCGACGAGACCTCGAAGG	<i>LMX1B</i>	4	Homeobox	0.713403988
GUIDES_sg070	GTGCAAGGGTGACTACGAGA	<i>LMX1B</i>	3	LIM	0.675803927
GUIDES_sg071	ACGTCTCGGATGGTGCTGAG	<i>ME3</i>	18	Malic_M	0.711900963
GUIDES_sg072	AGAGAAAGAAGGTGTACCGA	<i>ME3</i>	14	Malic_M	0.683948993
GUIDES_sg073	TAGTACTTCCCATGTGCCAG	<i>MECOM</i>	24	-	0.69054325
GUIDES_sg074	ACTGTGGCAAGATTTTCCA	<i>MECOM</i>	20	zf-C2H2	0.638498746
GUIDES_sg075	GGACTTCTGCTCAAAGAGGG	<i>MYOF</i>	56	-	0.689398449
GUIDES_sg076	TGCATGGGTTGGTGAACCAG	<i>MYOF</i>	58	-	0.68114604
GUIDES_sg077	AAAGGTACTCTGAAACATGG	<i>PARD3B</i>	24	-	0.748915706
GUIDES_sg078	TGGTCTCTTTCTGGAGACAG	<i>PARD3B</i>	25	-	0.687131379
GUIDES_sg079	TCTGGGAGATGAGCAAGCAG	<i>PDE7B</i>	11	PDEase_I	0.63710316
GUIDES_sg080	TCTTTCTGTTGATTACAAAG	<i>PDE7B</i>	12	PDEase_I	0.626787508
GUIDES_sg081	CGTGAGACTCCAGTCACAGG	<i>PKHD1</i>	20	-	0.721146822
GUIDES_sg082	ATGGGATAGCCCCAAGCAGG	<i>PKHD1</i>	16	-	0.648027027
GUIDES_sg083	TACTCAGGGGATCACCAGCG	<i>PLEKHA7</i>	28	-	0.733493753
GUIDES_sg084	CCCCGAAGTCTACAGCCAG	<i>PLEKHA7</i>	25	-	0.727012157
GUIDES_sg085	GCTGCCCAGTGCATACACGA	<i>PRSS23</i>	3	Trypsin	0.707785666
GUIDES_sg086	AACATCAGTGAAGTTATCCA	<i>PRSS23</i>	3	Trypsin	0.589826381
GUIDES_sg087	CAGTGGTGTGCGGAACACCG	<i>PTPRJ</i>	26	Y_phosphatase	0.752294442
GUIDES_sg088	GTTCCGGTAAAGGTCCTTGTG	<i>PTPRJ</i>	24	Y_phosphatase	0.742428198

GUIDES_sg089	TGGCAAAAAGGTTTCCATCG	<i>RALGPS1</i>	25	PH	0.63983389
GUIDES_sg090	CGAAAGAAGATAATTACAAG	<i>RALGPS1</i>	11	RasGEF	0.632295378
GUIDES_sg091	AGAGGTACCAGATGGGACTG	<i>RUNX2</i>	5	Runt	0.707376125
GUIDES_sg092	CATGGCGGAAGCATTCTGGA	<i>RUNX2</i>	11	Runxl	0.681198759
GUIDES_sg093	TGGAATTCCTACCACAGCG	<i>SPTBN1</i>	36	PH	0.712246448
GUIDES_sg094	TCAGTCTTAACCATTCCCAT	<i>SPTBN1</i>	31	Spectrin	0.683179693
GUIDES_sg095	GGGCTGGCTATGATAAACTG	<i>TES</i>	6	LIM	0.774116567
GUIDES_sg096	CCATGAGTTGTCTCCCAGAG	<i>TES</i>	5	PET	0.735126362
GUIDES_sg097	GAAGCTTCCGAGAGTCTCTG	<i>TIMP3</i>	3	TIMP	0.703685264
GUIDES_sg098	CTATGATGGCAAGATGTACA	<i>TIMP3</i>	4	TIMP	0.591387438
GUIDES_sg099	AGTCCTTGGATGTAAGAAAG	<i>TMCO1</i>	9	DUF841	0.652850785
GUIDES_sg100	GAAACAATAACAGAGTCAGC	<i>TMCO1</i>	5	DUF841	0.622258097
GUIDES_sg101	AGAGACTTTGAAGTGAACGA	<i>TNS1</i>	42	PTB	0.715095311
GUIDES_sg102	CAGAAGGTGACAGTGTTGAG	<i>TNS1</i>	43	PTB	0.675343539
GUIDES_sg103	GCCGACTGGTGACCTCATGG	<i>TRIOBP</i>	3	-	0.713915639
GUIDES_sg104	GGGAGCAGGAGGCAGGAACG	<i>TRIOBP</i>	4	-	0.656603289
GUIDES_sg105	TAAACCACTGGAGTTCACGG	<i>TXNRD2</i>	20	Pyr_redox_dim	0.785275668
GUIDES_sg106	TCATCATTGCTACTGGAGGG	<i>TXNRD2</i>	8	Pyr_redox_2	0.706088692
GUIDES_sg107	GGTGAAGCTCCTGATTGCAG	<i>ZNF280D</i>	27	-	0.700021186
GUIDES_sg108	GAAGAAAGTAAAAGAAGTTG	<i>ZNF280D</i>	15	-	0.599965492
GUIDES_sg109	ATGGAGTTCCGCGACCACGT	<i>ABO</i>	7	CDS	0.6563
GUIDES_sg110	CCGGTCCCCAGCGTCACGCG	<i>ABO</i>	7	CDS	0.6687
GUIDES_sg111	CCACCTGGTACATCGCCTCA	<i>TEX41</i>	2	TRANSCRIPT	0.6631
GUIDES_sg112	AACTCAAGACATTGGAACCA	<i>TEX41</i>	5	TRANSCRIPT	0.6251
GUIDES_sg113	AATGTGGTAGCCCAAGACAG	<i>CYP1B1</i>	5	p450	0.775320729
GUIDES_sg114	GTGGCCACTGATCGGAAACG	<i>CYP1B1</i>	3	p450	0.726256031
GUIDES_sg115	GCAAGCCATGAGCCTGTACG	<i>FOXC1</i>	1	-	0.747984594
GUIDES_sg116	TCGTCTGCCCTGAGTCACGG	<i>FOXC1</i>	1	-	0.730741126
GUIDES_sg117	GATTGTGGTGAACCTCCGTG	<i>GMDS</i>	8	Epimerase	0.727535334
GUIDES_sg118	GTTGCAGAATGATGAGCCGG	<i>GMDS</i>	10	Epimerase	0.65599947
GUIDES_sg119	CCTCCCGCACGCGCACACAG	<i>LTBP2</i>	35	EGF	0.755863507
GUIDES_sg120	CAGGCAGACATAACCAGGCA	<i>LTBP2</i>	31	EGF_CA	0.708717
GUIDES_sg121	GGTCATACTCAAAAACCTGG	<i>MYOC</i>	3	OLF	0.763937898
GUIDES_sg122	ATGCCAGTATACCTTCAGTG	<i>MYOC</i>	1	-	0.722928246
GUIDES_sg123	TCTTGCGAAGGAAGTCCAGA	<i>TEK</i>	17	Pkinase	0.627785812
GUIDES_sg124	ATCTAATGAGACAATGCTGG	<i>TEK</i>	22	Pkinase	0.626682424
NonTargeting Human_0001	ACGGAGGCTAAGCGTCGCAA	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0002	CGCTTCCGCGGCCCGTTCAA	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0003	ATCGTTTCCGCTTAACGGCG	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0004	GTAGGCGCGCCGCTCTCTAC	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0005	CCATATCGGGGCGAGACATG	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0006	TACTAACGCCGCTCCTACAG	-	-	-	-

NonTargeting Human_0007	TGAGGATCATGTCTGAGCGCC	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0008	GGGCCCCGCATAGGATATCGC	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0009	TAGACAACCGCGGAGAATGC	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0010	ACGGGCGGCTATCGCTGACT				

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Layer	Output shape	Trainable parameters
conv2d (Conv2D)	(None, 54, 54, 96)	34,944
activation (relu)	(None, 54, 54, 96)	0
max_pooling2d (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 27, 27, 96)	0
conv2d_1 (Conv2D)	(None, 17, 17, 256)	2,973,952
activation_1 (relu)	(None, 17, 17, 256)	0
max_pooling2d_1 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 8, 8, 256)	0
conv2d_2 (Conv2D)	(None, 6, 6, 384)	885,120
activation_2 (relu)	(None, 6, 6, 384)	0
conv2d_3 (Conv2D)	(None, 4, 4, 384)	1,327,488
activation_3 (relu)	(None, 4, 4, 384)	0
conv2d_4 (Conv2D)	(None, 2, 2, 256)	884,992
activation_4 (relu)	(None, 2, 2, 256)	0
max_pooling2d_2 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 1, 1, 256)	0
flatten (Flatten)	(None, 256)	0
dense (Dense)	(None, 4096)	1,052,672
activation_5 (relu)	(None, 4096)	0
dropout (Dropout)	(None, 4096)	0
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 4096)	16,781,312
activation_6 (relu)	(None, 4096)	0
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 4096)	0
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 1000)	4,097,000
activation_7 (relu)	(None, 1000)	0
dropout_2 (Dropout)	(None, 1000)	0
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 2)	2,002
activation_8 (softmax)	(None, 2)	0
Total trainable parameters		28,039,482