

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

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43

44

45 **ABSTRACT**

46

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.

59

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.

71

72

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.

87

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-

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

99

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

107

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

## 114 METHODS

### 115 ***Cell culture and passaging***

116 Primary TMCs were collected from donors through the Lions Eye Donation service (Human  
117 Research Ethics Committee of the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital - reference number 13-  
118 1151H). Cells were cultured in Dulbecco's Minimal Essential Medium (Gibco, 11965118) with  
119 10% Foetal Bovine Serum (Gibco, 16000044) and 0.5% antibiotic-antimycotic (Gibco, 15240-  
120 062) (herein referred to as 'culture medium') at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Cells were passaged by

121 removing the culture medium and washing twice with Phosphate Buffered Saline (Gibco,  
122 14190144). Trypsin 0.25% diluted in PBS (Gibco, 25200056) was then added, and the cells  
123 were incubated for 3 minutes at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The trypsin was deactivated with cell culture  
124 medium, and cells were then aspirated into tubes and centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 5 minutes.  
125 The supernatant was aspirated, and the cell pellet was resuspended in culture medium before  
126 being plated at the desired ratio for ongoing culture. All TMCs were cultured in tissue culture  
127 treated polystyrene plates (Corning, 3516, 3524). Cell lines were tested for mycoplasma on a  
128 second weekly basis using the PCR Mycoplasma Test Kit (PromoKine, PK-CA91-1096)

129

130 ***Cell transfection and CRISPR gene knockout***

131 A total of 67 TMC lines were generated using a library of 124 targeting single guide RNAs  
132 (sgRNAs) (two for each target gene), together with 10 non-targeting sgRNAs as negative  
133 controls. SgRNAs were designed using GUIDE<sup>19</sup> and are displayed in **Supplementary Table**  
134 1. Following synthesis, sgRNAs were cloned into a novel construct that had previously been  
135 developed for the pooled single-cell RNA sequence profiling of primary cells (CROPseq-Guide-  
136 pEFS-SpCas9-p2a-puro; Addgene: #99248).<sup>20</sup> The lentivirus was then packaged by transfecting  
137 HEK 293FT cells with pCMV delta 8.91, pMDG, and the recombinant plasmid via lipofectamine  
138 2000. Lentivirus was chosen as the optimal viral vector due to its large size of ~8.5kB allowing  
139 sgRNA, Cas9 and puromycin resistance genes to be packaged into one viral vector.<sup>21</sup>

140

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

147 500 $\mu$ l DMEM depending on initial cell density. Initial cell density was qualitatively checked with  
148 brightfield microscopy before seeding. The predicted on-target editing efficiency for each sgRNA  
149 was generated for each sgRNA (**supplementary table 1**). The mRNA expression of each gene  
150 knockout can be quantified from RNA sequencing data, however, whilst CRISPR introduces  
151 indels into the targeted sequence, the transcription of mRNA for each target gene still occurs.  
152 Thus, directly editing efficiency is not able to be quantified using RNA sequencing data.

153

154 ***Cell painting and imaging protocols***

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

163

164 ***Image preprocessing and quality control***

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

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

174

175 ***CNN architecture, training and evaluation***

176 The CNN architecture is outlined in **Supplementary Table 2** and accessible via GitHub. The  
177 dataset was first split into training (80%), validation (10%), and testing (10%) sets. A separate  
178 CNN was trained for each fluorescent channel of each gene across five replicates (each with a  
179 different random seed to create individual datasets). Training was conducted for 100 epochs,  
180 with the model being saved at each epoch. An Adam optimiser was used with a learning rate of  
181 0.0001. For evaluation, the best-performing model of the 100 epochs as per the loss function  
182 was selected and evaluated on the test set. The AUC metric was used to quantify CNN  
183 performance and thus the degree of morphological variation induced by genetic variations. The  
184 highest-performing models were all selected prior to reaching 100 epochs where model  
185 overfitting began to reduce model accuracy.

186

187 **RESULTS**

188 ***Image Filtering and Data Split***

189 Filtering using CellProfiler and by Spearman correlation reduced the total dataset size from  
190 225,095 images per channel to 114,830 images per channel, yielding a total of 574,150 images  
191 for analysis. The proportion of images removed via Spearman filtering varied across groups  
192 from 22.1% (*ANTXR1*) to 70.0% (non-targeting group one). The five non-targeting control lines  
193 had the greatest proportion of images removed via Spearman filtering as shown in **Figure 2**.  
194 The total number of cell images after filtering ranged from 221 (*ADAMTS6*) to 4323 (*ANTXR1*).  
195 This inter-group variability was balanced during training with image rotation data augmentation  
196 (0, 90, 180, 270, with or without horizontal mirroring) to reach approximately 3,000 images per

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

201

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

203 The AUC metric was used to assess the ability of the CNN to distinguish genetic knockout lines  
204 from non-targeting control lines thus providing a quantifiable value of morphological variation  
205 induced by gene knockouts. The mean AUC of five replicates across five channels was  
206 calculated to produce an overall AUC for each target gene. Knockout of *RALGPS1* produced  
207 the most morphologically distinct TMCs (AUC 0.851, SD 0.030), followed by *LTBP2* (AUC  
208 0.846, SD 0.029) and *BCAS3* (AUC 0.845, SD 0.020). The overall AUCs ranged from 0.564  
209 (*LMO7*) to the most distinguishable at 0.851 (*RALGPS1*) as displayed in **Figure 3**.

210

211 ***Morphological variation induced in individual organelles***

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

222

223 **Gene prioritisation**

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

231

232 **DISCUSSION**

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

243

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

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

258  
259 The *TEK* knockout cell line also showed significant differentiation (AUC 0.768) most prominent  
260 in the cytoplasmic RNA and nucleolus channel. This gene encodes for a tyrosine-kinase  
261 receptor and is highly involved in the regulation of angiogenesis and vascular stability.<sup>32</sup> It also  
262 acts as a receptor for *ANGPT1* which has been shown to be crucial for development of  
263 Schlemm's canal.<sup>33-35</sup> Variations in *TEK* have been associated with raised IOP and congenital  
264 glaucoma primarily due to disruption of Schlemm's canal, indicating a potential interaction with  
265 *ANGPT1* in the development of glaucoma.<sup>35-38</sup> Curiously, *MYOC*, *CYP1B1*, *GMDS*, and *FOXC1*  
266 knockouts resulted in only mild differentiation from control TMC morphology (AUC 0.615, 0.612,  
267 0.704, 0.665, respectively) despite an association with glaucoma and anterior segment  
268 dysgenesis.<sup>7,39-42</sup> These gene knockouts may not invoke significant morphological variation as  
269 they are primarily involved trabecular meshwork development rather than the maintenance.<sup>43</sup>  
270 Furthermore, some gene mutations associated with congenital glaucoma are gain-of-function  
271 mutations and therefore will not show significant change when knocked out. Another reason for  
272 not seeing change in cellular morphology is that these genes may primarily act extracellularly

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

275

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

286

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

299

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

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

331

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

337

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

345

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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

536

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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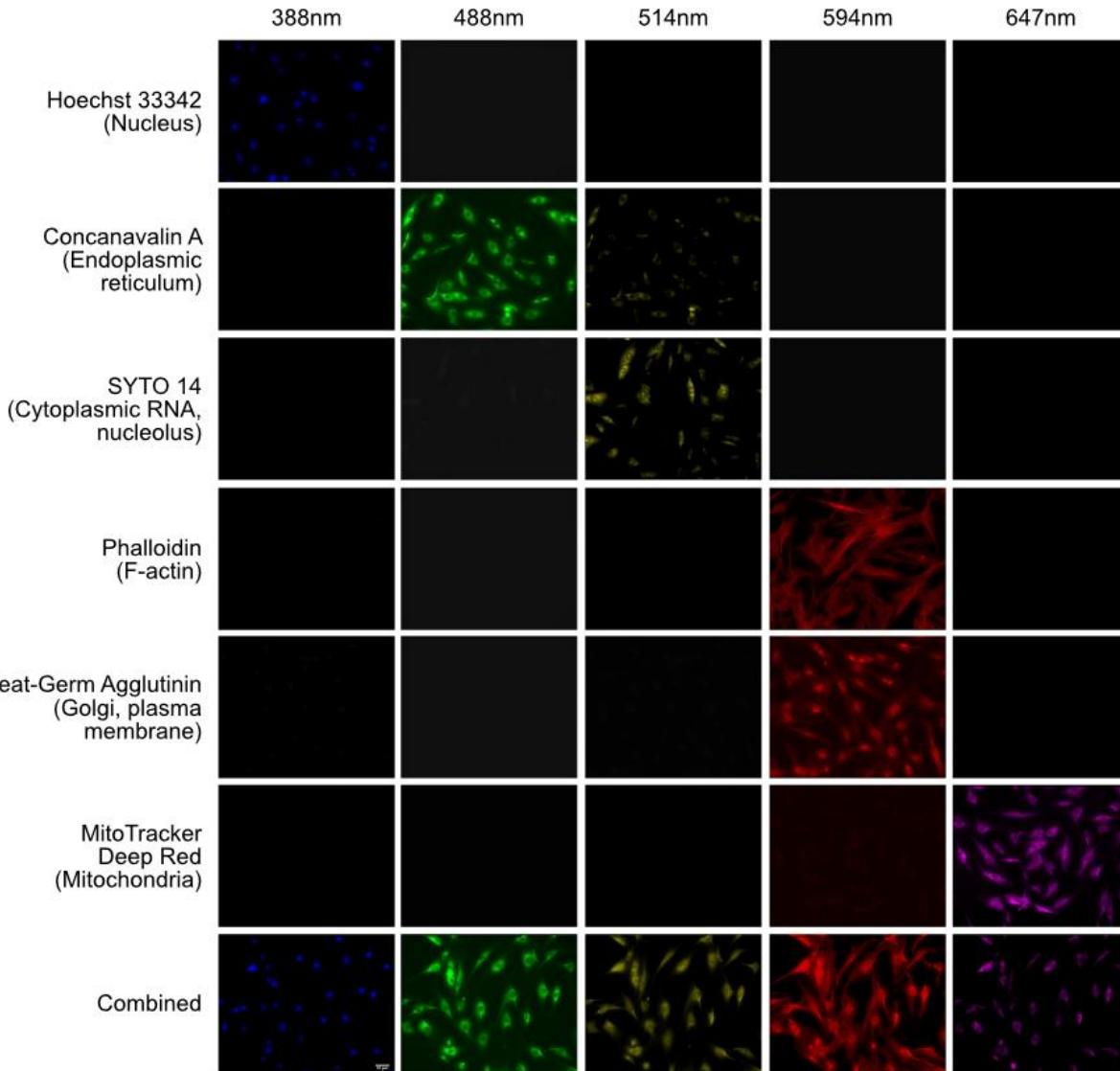
Top GWAS SNP	Overlapping Genes (mean AUC)	P-value
rs7518099	<i>ALDH9A1</i> (AUC 0.709, SD 1.93e-02) <i>TMCO1</i> (AUC 0.634, SD 4.76e-02)	<b>7.78e-05</b>
rs11795066	<i>RALGPS1</i> (AUC 0.851, SD 3.05e-02) <i>ANGPTL2</i> (AUC 0.811, SD 2.50e-02)	<b>4.12e-04</b>
rs6478746	<i>LMX1B</i> (AUC 0.803, SD 2.03e-02) <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>

545

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

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

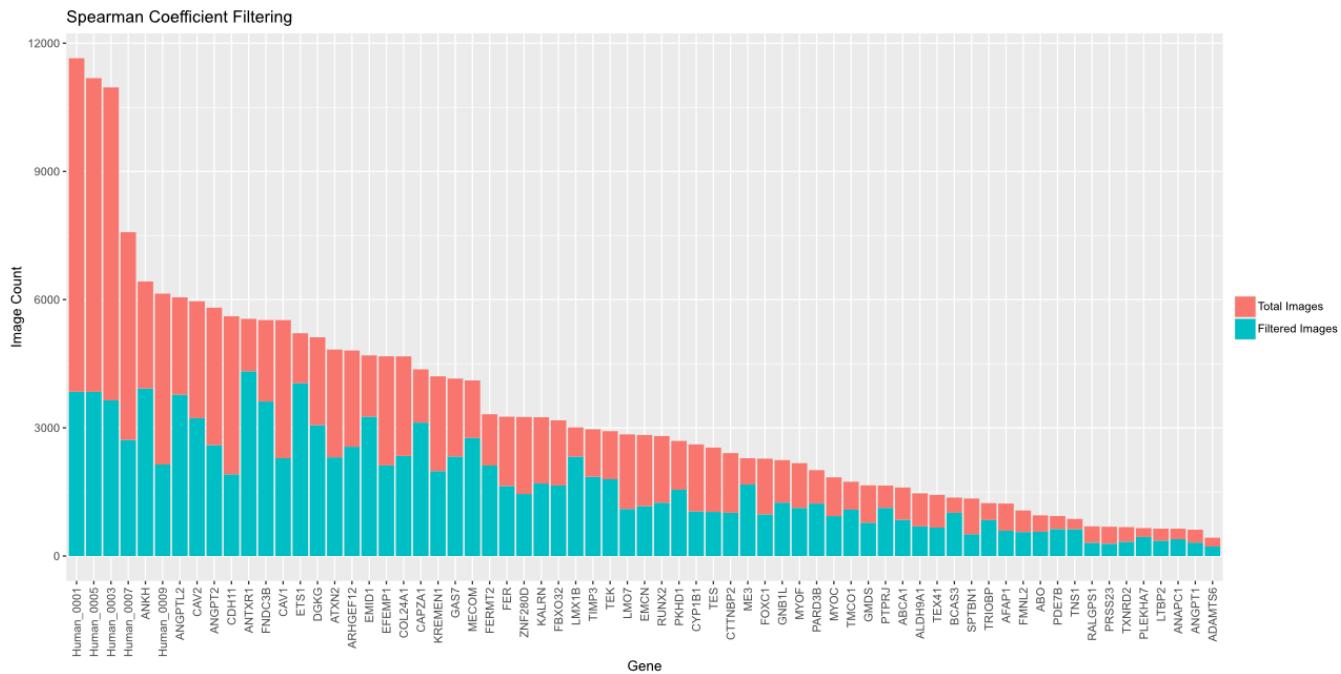
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553  
554

### Figure 1: Cell Painting Assay

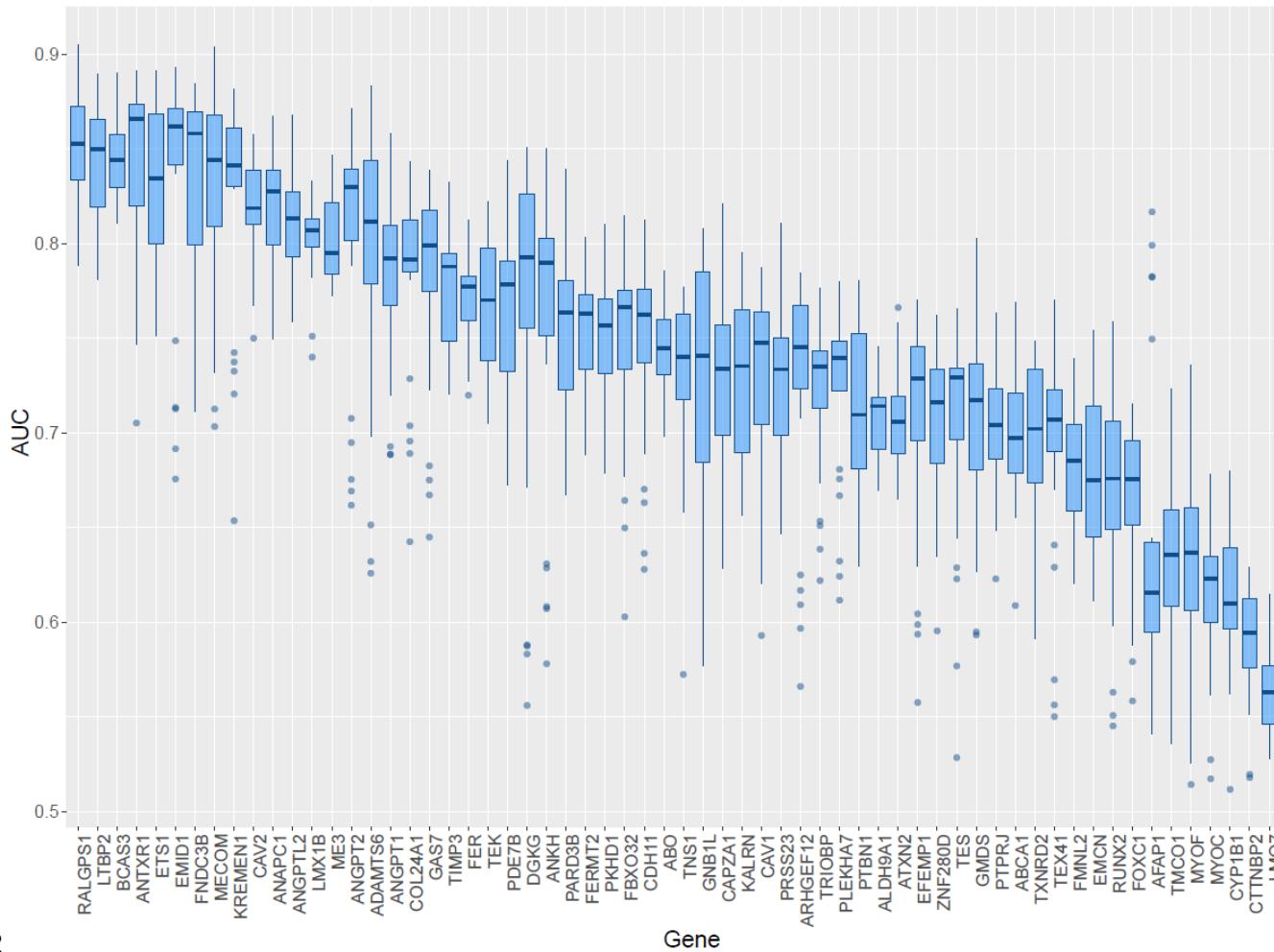
555 Example image of TMCs stained with the Cell Painting protocol in which six fluorophores are  
556 imaged over five channels to identify eight distinct intracellular organelles for morphological  
557 profiling. Each row shows cells stained with the indicated dye, or with all dyes combined (bottom  
558 row); columns indicate excitation wavelengths. Single channel testing shows minimal overlap  
559 across channels except for the Phalloidin and Wheat-Germ Agglutinin stains which are analysed  
560 together. This ensures that only a single stain will fluoresce when exposed to a particular  
561 wavelength of light. This figure shows whether a single stain would contaminate other emission  
562 channels and whether the signal of the light emission channel was dominated by the dyes we  
563 selected.  
564  
565



566

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

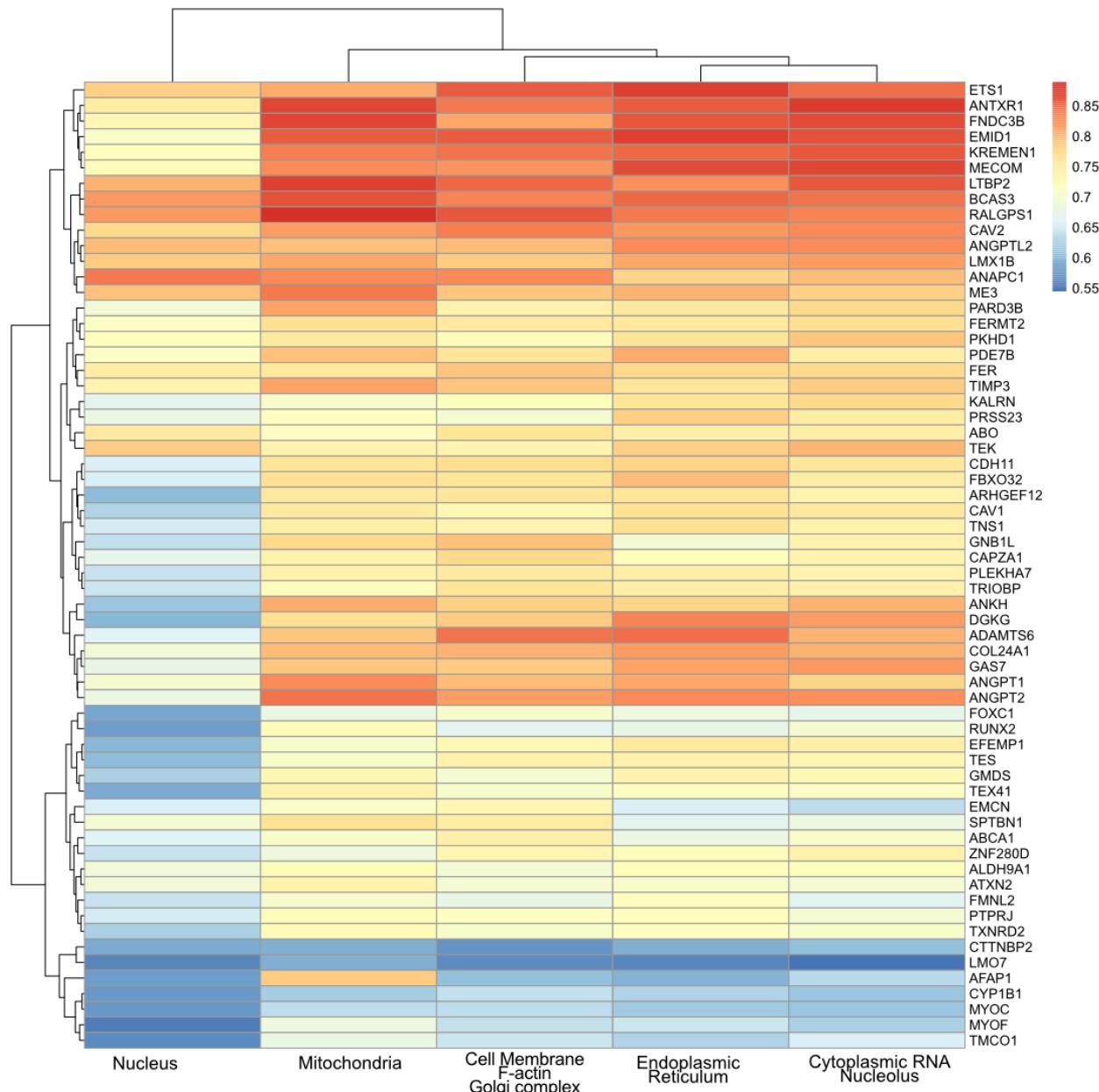
569 Images were removed from the dataset if the Spearman correlation was  $>0.15$  in order to improve  
570 the quality of the dataset and reduce the effect of well-to-well and batch-to-batch variation.  
571 Ultimately, the percentage of cells removed ranged from 67% (control line 1) to 22% (ANTXR1).



572

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

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



579

580 **Figure 4: Gene knockout cell line AUC for each organelle.**

581 Heatmap of the morphological variation (AUC) across individual fluorescent channels for each  
582 gene knockout. Red shading indicates a higher degree of morphological variation as indicated by  
583 a higher AUC.

584

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

591

592 **Supplementary table 1**

sgRNA name	Sequence	Gene	Exon	Protein domain targeted	Predicted On-target efficiency
GUIDES_sg001	GTTGACTGGGAGAGAACACG	ABCA1	46	ABC_tran	0.707186352
GUIDES_sg002	GTGTTCTAAAAGAGAACAC	ABCA1	50	-	0.684107302
GUIDES_sg003	GTGCAGTGTCTCTCCTACAC	ADAMTS6	28	-	0.720054847
GUIDES_sg004	ACCAGTCATGTCCACCAACAG	ADAMTS6	26	-	0.71972146
GUIDES_sg005	CAAGGGTAAAAAGCCCCCCG	AFAP1	16	-	0.759587174
GUIDES_sg006	GGAAAGAAAAGACCTTCGAG	AFAP1	17	-	0.753862205
GUIDES_sg007	CAACTATAACGTAGCCCCAG	ALDH9A1	10	Aldedh	0.764185557
GUIDES_sg008	TATGAACAATGCTGTAAAGG	ALDH9A1	6	Aldedh	0.704113168
GUIDES_sg009	GTGCTGTGAGCTGGAAAGTG	ANAPC1	39	-	0.69840945
GUIDES_sg010	ATGGCTCTCCTGTAGGACG	ANAPC1	27	-	0.641611628
GUIDES_sg011	CCCCAGCCAATATTACCGG	ANGPT1	9	Fibrinogen_C	0.666179972
GUIDES_sg012	AATATGGATGTCAATGGGGG	ANGPT1	8	Fibrinogen_C	0.630390739
GUIDES_sg013	TAACGTGTAGATGCCATTG	ANGPT2	5	Fibrinogen_C	0.692502215
GUIDES_sg014	TGTGACATGGAAGCTGGAGG	ANGPT2	6	Fibrinogen_C	0.647042655
GUIDES_sg015	ACTCGCTCTCAGGTTCCAGG	ANGPTL2	5	Fibrinogen_C	0.761119961
GUIDES_sg016	CACCAGCATGTCACGCACAG	ANGPTL2	2	RasGEF	0.753686491
GUIDES_sg017	CTTTGTGGGAGAACATCCACCA	ANKH	14	ANKH	0.705623542
GUIDES_sg018	TGAGGGCGCATCTCACCGGG	ANKH	13	ANKH	0.671178514
GUIDES_sg019	CTTCCGACATGCCGCAACG	ANTXR1	10	Anth_Ig	0.66965417
GUIDES_sg020	CAGAACTGGAGATAAAAGAG	ANTXR1	12	Anth_Ig	0.661995855
GUIDES_sg021	CTGCTGGACCAGAAATTG	ARHGEF12	39	-	0.715629912
GUIDES_sg022	TCTCTGGGGTCATAATCATG	ARHGEF12	38	-	0.682338139
GUIDES_sg023	TACCAAATATGCCCAACAG	ATXN2	21	-	0.746394842
GUIDES_sg024	ATTACAGGACTATAGACATG	ATXN2	22	-	0.705381212
GUIDES_sg025	ATGGGCCAGGACTTCCAGG	BCAS3	35	-	0.763805308
GUIDES_sg026	TGAACCTGGATGAGATAACTG	BCAS3	36	-	0.749363581
GUIDES_sg027	AGTTTTAGGCTGAAACTGG	CAPZA1	6	F-actin_cap_A	0.671121892
GUIDES_sg028	GGAATAATGGTCTTCACAT	CAPZA1	5	F-actin_cap_A	0.61837895
GUIDES_sg029	TAAACACCTCAACGATGACG	CAV1	3	Caveolin	0.697766064
GUIDES_sg030	TGGGGGCAAATACGTAGACT	CAV1	1	Caveolin	0.638532867
GUIDES_sg031	GATGTGCAGACAGCTGAGGG	CAV2	23	Caveolin	0.699222046
GUIDES_sg032	CGCGTACTCGAGGCCGCTG	CAV2	22	Caveolin	0.674769146
GUIDES_sg033	TCAGGAAGCCAAGTCCCAG	CDH11	19	Cadherin	0.765145054
GUIDES_sg034	GGATTGTGAATGATTCAGG	CDH11	20	Cadherin	0.686839641
GUIDES_sg035	GGGTTATCTCGTGTGCCAAG	COL24A1	60	COLFI	0.662833491
GUIDES_sg036	GAAATTGCAGAAAACCTCAA	COL24A1	61	COLFI	0.614109727
GUIDES_sg037	AAGCGGCCAGACTTCTGCG	CTTNBP2	25	-	0.737788504
GUIDES_sg038	GCCAGGTTGTCTTCACAG	CTTNBP2	24	-	0.682279464
GUIDES_sg039	AACATTCCCAGCATGTACGG	DGKG	22	DAGK_acc	0.746132205
GUIDES_sg040	GTACTTGAATTGGCACCT	DGKG	21	DAGK_acc	0.610555363
GUIDES_sg041	GACCACAAATGAATGCCGG	EFEMP1	9	EGF_CA	0.7383367
GUIDES_sg042	TCACCACTGGTATCCCTGG	EFEMP1	8	EGF_CA	0.711733541

GUIDES_sg043	ACGCTCTCTTATCAGACTG	<i>EMCN</i>	19	Endomucin	0.716120299
GUIDES_sg044	GTTTAGAAGGTGATGCATC	<i>EMCN</i>	15	Endomucin	0.500046723
GUIDES_sg045	AGGACTCCCAGGGACACCTG	<i>EMID1</i>	11	Collagen	0.633805274
GUIDES_sg046	GCTGCCAGCAGAGCCTTGG	<i>EMID1</i>	13	Collagen	0.50154336
GUIDES_sg047	GCAGTGGACCAATCCAGCTA	<i>ETS1</i>	13	Ets	0.590477455
GUIDES_sg048	CACTAAAGAACAGCAACGAC	<i>ETS1</i>	8	SAM_PNT	0.507782957
GUIDES_sg049	ATGTCAGTTGAGGCACAA	<i>FBXO32</i>	7	-	0.680491123
GUIDES_sg050	AACTTGTCCGATGTTACCCA	<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	CTGAGGTTCATCTGATGAGC	<i>FERMT2</i>	15	PH	0.496718402
GUIDES_sg055	GGAGTTCATCCTCAACAATG	<i>FMNL2</i>	23	FH2	0.656016612
GUIDES_sg056	TTCACAAACCGGACAAAGAC	<i>FMNL2</i>	24	FH2	0.52306371
GUIDES_sg057	TGTGTACACACTACAGCTGG	<i>FNDC3B</i>	31	fn3	0.726749897
GUIDES_sg058	GCTCTCCCAGTTCAGTACA	<i>FNDC3B</i>	30	fn3	0.69274705
GUIDES_sg059	GCTGAGCAACAAGACAGAGG	<i>GAS7</i>	19	-	0.715444147
GUIDES_sg060	GCTTGCAGAGGTCGGCAATG	<i>GAS7</i>	18	-	0.692490099
GUIDES_sg061	GCCCACACTCTCCAAGCACA	<i>GNB1L</i>	3	-	0.656080017
GUIDES_sg062	GCAGGGCTCCAGATGTGTACC	<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	TTACTGGTGCAGTTAGAGG	<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	ACGTCCTGGATGGTGTCTGAG	<i>ME3</i>	18	Malic_M	0.711900963
GUIDES_sg072	AGAGAAAAGAAGGTGTACCGA	<i>ME3</i>	14	Malic_M	0.683948993
GUIDES_sg073	TAGTACTTCCATGTGCCAG	<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	TGCATGGTTGGTAACCAAG	<i>MYOF</i>	58	-	0.68114604
GUIDES_sg077	AAAGGTAECTCTGAAACATGG	<i>PARD3B</i>	24	-	0.748915706
GUIDES_sg078	TGGTCTCTTCTGGAGACAG	<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	CCCCGAACCTACAGCCCCAG	<i>PLEKHA7</i>	25	-	0.727012157
GUIDES_sg085	GCTGCCCACTGCATACACGA	<i>PRSS23</i>	3	Trypsin	0.707785666
GUIDES_sg086	AACATCAGTGAAGTTATCCA	<i>PRSS23</i>	3	Trypsin	0.589826381
GUIDES_sg087	CAGTGGTGTGGAAACACCG	<i>PTPRJ</i>	26	Y_phosphatase	0.752294442
GUIDES_sg088	GTTCGGTAAAGGTCTTGTG	<i>PTPRJ</i>	24	Y_phosphatase	0.742428198

GUIDES_sg089	TGGCAAAAGGTTCCATCG	<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	TGGAATTCCCTACCAACAGCG	<i>SPTBN1</i>	36	PH	0.712246448
GUIDES_sg094	TCAGTCTAACCAATTCCCAT	<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	AGTCCTGGATGTAAGAAAG	<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	CAGAAGGTGACAGTGTGAG	<i>TNS1</i>	43	PTB	0.675343539
GUIDES_sg103	GCCGACTGGTACCTCATGG	<i>TRIOBP</i>	3	-	0.713915639
GUIDES_sg104	GGGAGCAGGAGGCAGGAACG	<i>TRIOBP</i>	4	-	0.656603289
GUIDES_sg105	TAAACCACTGGAGTTACCGG	<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	CCACCTGGTACATGCCCTCA	<i>TEX41</i>	2	TRANSCRIPT	0.6631
GUIDES_sg112	AACTCAAGACATTGAAACCA	<i>TEX41</i>	5	TRANSCRIPT	0.6251
GUIDES_sg113	AATGTGGTAGGCCAAGACAG	<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	TCGTCGTCCCTGAGTCACGG	<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	ATGCCAGTACCTTCAGTG	<i>MYOC</i>	1	-	0.722928246
GUIDES_sg123	TCTTGCAGAGGAAGTCCAGA	<i>TEK</i>	17	Pkinase	0.627785812
GUIDES_sg124	ATCTAATGAGACAATGCTGG	<i>TEK</i>	22	Pkinase	0.626682424
NonTargeting Human_0001	ACGGAGGCTAACCGTCGCAA	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0002	CGCTTCCGGGCCCGTCAA	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0003	ATCGTTCCGCTAACGGCG	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0004	GTAGGCGCGCCGCTCTAC	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0005	CCATATCGGGCGAGACATG	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0006	TACTAACGCCGCTCCTACAG	-	-	-	-

NonTargeting Human_0007	TGAGGATCATGTCGAGCGCC	-	-	-	-
NonTargeting Human_0008	GGGCCCGCATAGGATATCGC	-	-	-	-
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