

LncCE: Landscape of Cellular-Elevated LncRNAs in Single Cells Across Normal and Cancer Tissues

Kang Xu^{1,#,a}, Yujie Liu^{1,#,b}, Chongwen Lv^{1,#,c}, Ya Luo^{1,d}, Jingyi Shi^{1,e}, Haozhe Zou^{1,f}, Weiwei Zhou^{1,g}, Dezhong Lv^{1,h}, Changbo Yang^{1,i}, Yongsheng Li^{2,*j}, Juan Xu^{1,*k}

¹College of Bioinformatics Science and Technology, Harbin Medical University, Harbin 150081, China

²School of Interdisciplinary Medicine and Engineering, Harbin Medical University, Harbin 150081, China

Equal contribution.

* Corresponding authors.

E-mail: xujuanbiocc@ems.hrbmu.edu.cn (Juan X); liyongsheng@ems.hrbmu.edu.cn (Yongsheng L)

Running title: *Kang Xu et al* / LncCE: Landscape of cellular-elevated lncRNAs in single cells

Total word counts (from “Introduction” to “Conclusions” or “Materials and methods”): 2,680

Total figures: 4

Total tables: 0

Total supplementary figures: 1

Total supplementary tables: 4

Total supplementary files: 0

28 **Abstract**

29 Long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) have emerged as significant players for
30 maintaining the morphology and function of tissues or cells. The precise regulatory
31 effectiveness of lncRNA is closely associated with the spatial expression patterns
32 across tissues and cells. Here, we proposed the Cellular-Elevated LncRNA (LncCE)
33 database to systematically explore cellular-elevated (CE) lncRNAs across normal and
34 cancer tissues in single cells. LncCE encompasses 87,946 CE lncRNAs of 149 cell
35 types by analyzing 181 single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) datasets, involved
36 in 20 fetal normal tissues, 59 adult normal tissues, as well as 32 adult and 5 pediatric
37 cancer tissues. Two main search options were provided via a given lncRNA name or a
38 cell type. The output results emphasize both qualitative and quantitative expression
39 features of lncRNAs across different cell types, co-expression with protein-coding
40 genes as well as their involved in biological functions. For cancers, LncCE
41 particularly provided quantitative figures for exhibiting their expression changes
42 compared to control samples and clinical associations with patient overall survivals.
43 Together, LncCE offers an extensive, quantitative and user-friendly interface to
44 investigate cellular-elevated expression atlas for lncRNAs across normal and cancers
45 tissues at single-cell level. The LncCE database is available at
46 <http://bio-bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/LncCE>.

47 **KEYWORDS:** lncRNA; LncCE; single-cell sequencing; cancer; cellular-elevated

48

49 Introduction

50 Long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) are a class of noncoding RNAs which are longer
51 than 200 nucleotides (nt) and lack protein coding capacity [1-3]. It was widely
52 accepted that lncRNAs were closely associated with various crucial biological
53 functions to maintain tissue morphology, even cancer development [4-6].

54 Emerging studies have comprehensively characterized the expression patterns of
55 genes with bulk transcriptomes. Besides tissue-specific (TS) genes, other two kinds of
56 genes were found to be important for the realization of the physiological function of
57 normal tissues as well as the formation and development of cancer, including
58 tissue-enhanced genes and tissue enriched ones [7, 8]. These three categories of genes
59 all exhibit tissue-elevated expression in a certain tissue, that is, the gene expression is
60 dominantly higher in some tissues than in other tissues. Genes with tissue-elevated
61 expression patterns were constantly identified and validated across normal and cancer
62 tissues [9-11], and their biomarker potential for cancer diagnosis and prognosis were
63 discussed [6, 12]. Thus, comprehensive characterization of spatial expression can
64 reveal the function of lncRNAs across tissues and cancers. Indeed, current
65 developments in transcriptome analyses unveiled the stronger tissue-specificity
66 expression of lncRNAs than protein-coding genes [13]. In our previous studies, the
67 tissue-elevated expression patterns of lncRNAs have been systematically explored
68 across normal and cancer tissues, and their key roles were also revealed in
69 maintaining morphology and function of tissues [6, 12].

70 Single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) technologies are powerful for analyzing
71 the spatial expression patterns of genes at single cell level [14], providing an
72 unprecedented chance to highlight increasingly challenging biological questions and
73 explore the molecular mechanisms related to carcinogenesis [15-17]. Emerging
74 studies also have investigated the expression pattern of lncRNA across normal and
75 cancer cells [18-21], and further experimentally validated lncRNAs with cell
76 state-specific functions involved in cell cycle progression and apoptosis [22, 23]. For
77 example, lncRNAs specially expressed in T cell were found to play important roles in

cancer immunity [24]. However, yet little is known about lncRNA expression properties at the single-cell level, and there is still no comprehensive database for providing CE lncRNA expression atlas across human tissues and cancers via large-scale scRNA-seq data.

To address these challenges, we constructed the public resource, LncCE (<http://bio-bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/LncCE>), which is a landscape of Cellular-Elevated lncRNAs in single-cell across normal and cancer tissues. The cellular-elevated (CE) lncRNAs were comprehensively discovered, which were further classified into three categories based on their dominant in a certain cell type, including cell specific (CS), cell enriched (CER) and cell enhanced (CEH). LncCE not only provides the cellular-elevated expression patterns of lncRNAs, but also can be used for downstream analysis, such as identifying novel cellular markers and comparing cellular-elevated expression patterns of lncRNAs across different cellular states. LncCE could significantly help the research community to understand the biological functions of lncRNA in cells, tissues and tumorigenesis.

Data collection and processing

Data collection and pre-processing in LncCE

For single-cell RNA transcriptome resources across normal tissues, three widely available transcriptome datasets were collected (**Table S1**), including Human Cell Landscape (HCL) [25], Cross-tissue Immune Cell Atlas (TICA) [26], The Tabula Sapiens (TTS) [27]. Specially, one normal fetal transcriptome datasets, HCL Fetal datasets, also had been contained in our study for a comprehensive compare of CE (cellular-elevated) lncRNAs of development.

For single-cell RNA transcriptome resources across cancer tissues, we collected scRNA raw count files from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) [28], ArrayExpress [29], TISCH [30] and TISCH2 [31]. Similarly, pediatric cancer transcriptome datasets were also collected, including five pediatric cancer types [32, 33].

For all scRNA transcriptome resources, we also collected the metadata information (including sample ID, organ/tissue origin, clinical treatment, biosample

groups, and major cell types) of each normal or cancer tissue. For all scRNA datasets, we removed genes that were not expressed in at least 3 cells and cells that did not have at least 50 detected genes. The data was then normalized using scale factor of 10,000 and natural log-transformed, and then LncCE documented 2,893,787 cells from 181 transcriptome resources, including 74 transcriptomes of 32 cancers, 5 transcriptomes of 5 pediatric cancers, 82 transcriptomes of 59 normal tissues and 20 transcriptomes of 20 fetal normal tissues. In the cell type identification, LncCE used the original major cell type annotation from the metadata information. To provide comprehensive and precise annotations of similar cell types, we have corrected and unified the cell types, such as, in some datasets the cell names are misspelled or the same cell type have different names in different datasets. Furthermore, to identify clusters of distinct cell populations, the tSNE clustering algorithms was implemented in the Seurat R package (v4.3.0).

Gene annotation

Gene annotation files were downloaded from GENCODE (release 38, GRCh38) [34] which includes different types of genes, including protein-coding genes, long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs), and pseudogenes. For a more comprehensive analysis of lncRNAs expression patterns at single-cell level, we consider ‘pseudogenes’ as ‘long noncoding RNAs’ in our study.

Identifying the CE lncRNA

To identify CE lncRNAs in each tissue, we identified lncRNAs that have at least 5-fold higher expression levels in one cell-type compared with all other cell-types [6, 9, 12, 35]. Moreover, CE lncRNAs were also further classified into three subcategories to reflect increasing degrees of elevated expression in a particular tissue, including “cell specific (CS)”, “cell enriched (CER)”, and “cell enhanced (CEH)”. (i) CS lncRNAs were expressed only in a particular cell-type, where the expression thresholds were set 0.001 for counts per million (CPM); (ii) CER lncRNAs were with at least 5-fold higher expression level in a particular cell-type compared with the max expression levels in all other cell-types; and (iii) CEH lncRNAs were with at least 5-fold higher expression level in a particular cell-type compared with the average

138 expression levels in all other cell-types. Furthermore, we defined a CE lncRNA when
139 it expressed in more than ten cells of the same cell-types. Similarly, we also identified
140 cancer CE lncRNAs in each cancer cell-type. Moreover, CE protein-coding genes in
141 each cell-type under normal or cancer states were also identified.

142 **LncRNA-mRNA correlation**

143 Due to the inefficiency of the technical molecule, scRNA-Seq may not be able to
144 detect the truly expressed gene in some cells and is therefore represented by false zero
145 expression. Thus, scRNA-seq data may be much sparser than the whole tissue RNA
146 sequencing, we apply scLink, a new method to better characterize the statistical
147 dependencies between genes in single cell [36]. Users can set different correlation
148 thresholds, spatial pattern of mRNAs to visualize the co-expressed lncRNA-mRNA
149 subnetwork based on the tool echarts. Moreover, CE mRNAs in the same cell were
150 also highlighted in the co-expression subnetwork by node colors.

151 **Function prediction of CE lncRNAs**

152 Function prediction of CE lncRNAs also provided in single-cell. After users select the
153 co-expressed mRNAs in the above step, genes are online subjected into the R
154 packages “clusterProfiler” to predict enriched functions of lncRNA, including Gene
155 Ontology categories and pathways [37].

156 **Database construction**

157 LncCE was constructed by Java Server Pages and deployed on Tomcat software (v6).
158 All datasets in LncCE were documented and managed in MySQL database (v5.5).
159 Several commonly used Java script packages, including ECharts (v5.2.2), Datatable
160 (v1.12.1), Highcharts (v7.1.2) and plotly (v2.16.1), were implemented for
161 presentation of query results and interactive visualization of data. All data processing
162 and integration analysis were performed using R software (v4.1.2). Currently, the
163 website has been tested on several popular web browsers, including Google Chrome
164 (preferred), Firefox, or Apple Safari browsers.

165

166 **Database content and usage**

167 **Data summary**

168 The current version of LncCE includes 2,893,787 cells, covering 149 cell types across
 169 37 cancer types and 79 normal tissues of the human body. There were 20 fetal normal
 170 tissues, 59 adult normal tissues, 32 adult and 5 pediatric cancer tissues. On average,
 171 each scRNA-seq dataset has 34,865 cells, ranging from 515 to 103,703 cells (**Table**
 172 **S1**). A total of 14,941 lncRNAs were identified in LncCE database. The CE lncRNAs
 173 were comprehensively identified (details in data collection and processing), which
 174 were further classified into three categories, including CS lncRNAs, CER lncRNAs
 175 and CEH lncRNAs. Currently, there were 87,946 CE lncRNAs were curated in
 176 LncCE (**Table S2**), with the largest number of CE lncRNAs in lacrimal gland
 177 functional unit cell of eye (TTS, n = 3342) and the smallest number of CE lncRNAs
 178 in B cell of BRCA (GSE114727_indrop, n = 1).

179 **Database overview**

180 LncCE is not only a comprehensive resource of CE lncRNAs across single-cell but
 181 also provides a user-friendly web interface for investigating the spatial expressions of
 182 lncRNA across cellular states (**Figure 1**). The users can switch between adult and
 183 pediatric normal/cancer tissues by typing the button on the homepage. Users could
 184 click on the corresponding button in the homepage to enter the “Browse”, “Search”,
 185 and “Download” pages for browsing, searching, and downloading all CE lncRNAs in
 186 LncCE.

187 CE lncRNAs could be browsed by “lncRNA-Centric”, “Normal-Centric” and
 188 “Cancer-Centric”. In lncRNA-Centric page, all CE lncRNAs were organized in the
 189 hierarchical structure based on chromosomal localization. In the other two browse
 190 pages, normal, adult, and pediatric cancer tissues were also organized in hierarchical
 191 structure based on anatomic classification in human body map. Moreover, users can
 192 quickly enter the “Searching Result” pages by clicking tissue of interest in the human
 193 body on the home page. In the “Search” sections, four different query options were
 194 provided on the basis of normal or cancer tissues of interest, lncRNA names or cell
 195 types. In addition, the statistic information of LncCE can also be accessed from the
 196 “Statistics” page. All data in the database can be freely downloaded from the
 197 “Download” page. A detailed tutorial showing how to browse and query data was also

198 available on the “Help” page.

199 **LncRNA-based exploration with LncCE**

200 Recently, some studies have reported that *LUCATI* (lung cancer associated transcript
201 1) is a cancer-related and myeloid cell-specific lncRNA, which can interact with
202 *STAT1* (signal transducer and activator of transcription 1) to inhibit ISGs
203 (interferon-stimulated genes) transcription [38-40]. As use case for a “LncRNA”
204 search, we employed LncCE to identify the cell types expressing *LUCATI* across
205 different tissues.

206 Upon entering a lncRNA in the corresponding search field at the “LncRNA”
207 region of the “search” page, the LncCE displays a table of the gene’s basic
208 information in each cell type in every dataset in which the gene is identified as CE
209 lncRNA (**Figure 2A and B**). We searched for *LUCATI* and observed that it is most
210 highly expressed in myeloid cells in most cancers including lung cancer and
211 colorectal cancer, and also highly expressed in myeloid cells in normal tissues
212 including lung, esophagus tissues (**Figure 2A**).

213 By clicking the details button in these tables, users can further obtain more details
214 for individual entry. A hyperlink was linked to the detail result page for the CE
215 lncRNA *LUCATI* in NSCLC (non-small cell lung cancer) of GSE117570. Eight major
216 types of information were provided (**Figure 2C-2K**). (i) Basic annotation information
217 was provided and an annotation link could provide annotations of *LUCATI* in
218 ImmReg [41], TransLnc [42] and LncSpA [6]. (ii) CE cancer tissue (NSCLC),
219 subclassification of CE, and corresponding expression levels were listed in a table, a
220 bar chart and box chart of expression across cell types was provided, and a tSNE
221 figure which is colored by cell type was used to visualize the expression of lncRNA,
222 such as *LUCATI*. (iii) The qualitative and quantitative spatial expression patterns in
223 normal tissues (lung tissue as its CE tissue) were provided. (iv) Co-expression
224 between CE lncRNA *LUCATI* and mRNAs were shown in a network view. In
225 addition, the correlation information was listed in a table, and users could select
226 different thresholds (0-0.7) to filter the lncRNA-mRNA co-expression network. (v)
227 Co-expressed mRNAs were used for functional and pathway enrichment analysis,

228 identifying various kinds of relations with physiologic and pathologic lung tissue. (vi)
 229 Evidences have also shown the association between NSCLC and *LUCAT1* from
 230 Lnc2Cancer, LncRNADisease, and exoRBase. (vii) Expressions of lncRNA in cancer.
 231 We found that *LUCAT1* was upregulated in LUAD (lung adenocarcinoma) and LUSC
 232 (lung squamous cell carcinoma) in TCGA, suggesting *LUCAT1* as a candidate
 233 oncogenic lncRNA, which is consistent with the study of Agarwal S. et.al [38]. (viii)
 234 The results of regression analysis and the Kaplan–Meier survival plot indicated that
 235 *LUCAT1* was a protective factor in LUAD and LUSC. Taken together, these eight
 236 panels provided detailed information for understanding the function of CE lncRNA
 237 across different cell types under normal and cancer tissues.

238 **Cell type-based exploration with LncCE**

239 Emerging studies have well-characterized the function of cell-type elevated mRNAs
 240 across normal and cancer tissues, but there has been less research to lncRNAs. LncCE
 241 represents a comprehensive annotation of cell-type elevated lncRNAs, providing the
 242 possibility to investigate the function of CE lncRNAs. LncRNAs are cell-type
 243 specifically expressed in a variety of cell types (**Table S3**), including immune cells (T
 244 cell, B cell, macrophage and etc.), stromal cell, endothelial cell, and muscle cell.

245 Next, we focused on CE lncRNAs which were identified in no less than 15
 246 datasets (**Figure 3**). Several lncRNAs, including *LUCAT1*, *MIAT* (myocardial
 247 infarction associated transcript), *WFDC21P* (WAP four-disulfide core domain 21),
 248 *CARMN* (cardiac mesoderm enhancer-associated non-coding RNA) and *PCAT19*
 249 (prostate cancer associated transcript 19), appear to be expressed in matched cell
 250 types, suggesting a conserved role in these cell types. *LUCAT1* is reported as a
 251 myeloid-specific lncRNA, and it is identified as CE lncRNA in 85 datasets in LncCE
 252 (**Figure 4A**), in particular with myeloid derived cells (macrophage, monocyte and
 253 neutrophil, 66/85) and myeloid cell (7/85). *MIAT* is a T cell marker in LncCE which is
 254 identified as CE lncRNA in 20 adult cancer datasets (**Figure 4B**), and it has been
 255 reported mainly expressed in tumor and T cells which indicating that *MIAT* may be
 256 involved in the immune escape process of cancer [43]. *WFDC21P*, also known as
 257 *lnc-DC*, is a lncRNA expressed exclusively in human dendritic cells, that is required

258 for optimal dendritic cell differentiation from human monocytes and *WFDC21P* has
 259 been shown to promotes the nuclear translocation and function of *STAT3* by
 260 interacting with the transcription factors *STAT3* [44], and is identified as CE lncRNA
 261 of dendritic cell in 23 datasets (**Figure S1A**). *CARMN* has been reported an
 262 evolutionarily conserved smooth muscle cell-specific lncRNA [45] and is identified as
 263 CE lncRNA in endothelial and muscle cells (**Figure S1B**). *PCAT19* has been reported
 264 to safeguard DNA in quiescent endothelial cells by preventing uncontrolled
 265 phosphorylation of *RPA2* (replication protein A2) [46] and drive prostate cancer [47]
 266 or as a prognostic biomarker for endometrial cancer [48]. In LncCE, *PCAT19* is
 267 identified as CE lncRNA in 126 datasets, particularly in endothelial cell (108/126),
 268 suggesting *PCAT19* may be a novel biomarker for endothelial cell (**Figure S1C**).

269 These observations suggested a considerable number of cell elevated lncRNAs are
 270 involved in cellular differentiation, activation and inflammation based signaling,
 271 cancer initiation, development and treatment resistance.

272

273 Discussion

274 In summary, LncCE is a comprehensive resource for investigating the spatial
275 expression patterns of lncRNAs at single-cell level across adult and fetal normal
276 tissues, as well as adult and pediatric cancer types. User-friendly interface was
277 designed for querying, browsing, and downloading the CE lncRNAs of interest. Eight
278 major types of information for CE lncRNAs were provided for visualizing and
279 understanding their function in physiologic and pathologic phenotypes.

280 Comparing with the other resources, LncCE is particularly dedicated to
281 cellular-elevated lncRNA across normal and cancer single-cell transcriptomic datasets
282 (**Table S4**). LncCE not only provides the spatial expression patterns of CE lncRNAs,
283 but also can be used for downstream analysis, such as identifying novel cellular
284 markers and comparing spatial patterns of lncRNAs across different states. In the
285 future, we will continue to update LncCE to include more cells across normal and
286 cancer tissues and maintain it as a valuable resource. In addition, the drug
287 susceptibility for CE lncRNAs will also be added to our database in the future. CE
288 lncRNAs in LncCE are potentially promising candidate therapeutic targets in
289 precision oncology. The CE lncRNAs may be the marker genes for distinguishing cell
290 types. We believe that LncCE will be a valuable resource for both experimental and
291 computational researchers to bridge the knowledge gap from lncRNA expression to
292 phenotypes.

293

294

295 **Data availability**

296 The online database LncCE is publicly available at
297 <http://bio-bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/LncCE>.

298

299 **Competing interests**

300 The authors have declared no competing interests.

301

302 **CRedit author statement**

303 **Kang Xu:** Formal Analysis, Data curation, Writing - original draft, Visualization.

304 **Yujie Liu:** Software, Writing - original draft, Visualization. **Chongwen Lv:** Data

305 curation, Writing - original draft, Visualization. **Ya Luo:** Data curation, Visualization.

306 **Jingyi Shi:** Resources, Visualization. **Haozhe Zou:** Data Curation, Resources.

307 **Weiwei Zhou:** Data Curation, Resources. **Dezhong Lv:** Software, Data Curation.

308 **Changbo Yang:** Visualization. **Yongsheng Li:** Conceptualization, Funding

309 acquisition, Writing - review & editing, Supervision. **Juan Xu:** Conceptualization,

310 Funding acquisition, Writing - review & editing, Supervision. All authors have read

311 and approved the final manuscript.

312

313 **Acknowledgments**

314 This research was funded by National Natural Science Foundation of China

315 [32170676, 31970646, 32060152 and 32070673]; Natural Science Foundation of

316 Heilongjiang Province (Key Program) [ZD2023C007]; the China Brain Project

317 [2021ZD0202403], and Heilongjiang Touyan Innovation Team Program.

318

319 **ORCID**

320 ORCID: 0000-0003-4543-0998 (Kang Xu)

321 ORCID: 0000-0001-9385-0255 (Yujie Liu)

322 ORCID: 0000-0002-2098-9739 (Chongwen Lv)

323 ORCID: 0009-0000-4994-9987 (Ya Luo)

324 ORCID: 0009-0004-0214-0311 (Jingyi Shi)

325 ORCID: 0000-0002-2761-8447 (Haozhe Zou)

326 ORCID: 0000-0003-1641-8965 (Weiwei Zhou)

327 ORCID: 0009-0007-1287-9197 (Dezhong Lv)

328 ORCID: 0000-0003-3927-7683 (Changbo Yang)

329 ORCID: 0000-0003-1914-0727 (Yongsheng Li)

330 ORCID: 0000-0002-3709-4165 (Juan Xu)

331

332 References

- 333 [1] Kapranov P, Cheng J, Dike S, Nix DA, Dutttagupta R, Willingham AT, et al. RNA maps reveal new
334 RNA classes and a possible function for pervasive transcription. *Science* 2007;316:1484-8.
- 335 [2] Wang KC, Chang HY. Molecular mechanisms of long noncoding RNAs. *Mol Cell* 2011;43:904-14.
- 336 [3] Sarropoulos I, Marin R, Cardoso-Moreira M, Kaessmann H. Developmental dynamics of lncRNAs
337 across mammalian organs and species. *Nature* 2019;571:510-4.
- 338 [4] Li Y, Li L, Wang Z, Pan T, Sahni N, Jin X, et al. LncMAP: Pan-cancer atlas of long noncoding
339 RNA-mediated transcriptional network perturbations. *Nucleic Acids Res* 2018;46:1113-23.
- 340 [5] Li Y, Jiang T, Zhou W, Li J, Li X, Wang Q, et al. Pan-cancer characterization of immune-related
341 lncRNAs identifies potential oncogenic biomarkers. *Nat Commun* 2020;11:1000.
- 342 [6] Lv D, Xu K, Jin X, Li J, Shi Y, Zhang M, et al. LncSpA: LncRNA Spatial Atlas of Expression
343 across Normal and Cancer Tissues. *Cancer Res* 2020;80:2067-71.
- 344 [7] Fagerberg L, Hallstrom BM, Oksvold P, Kampf C, Djureinovic D, Odeberg J, et al. Analysis of the
345 human tissue-specific expression by genome-wide integration of transcriptomics and antibody-based
346 proteomics. *Mol Cell Proteomics* 2014;13:397-406.
- 347 [8] Uhlen M, Fagerberg L, Hallstrom BM, Lindskog C, Oksvold P, Mardinoglu A, et al. Proteomics.
348 Tissue-based map of the human proteome. *Science* 2015;347:1260419.
- 349 [9] Uhlen M, Hallstrom BM, Lindskog C, Mardinoglu A, Ponten F, Nielsen J. Transcriptomics
350 resources of human tissues and organs. *Mol Syst Biol* 2016;12:862.
- 351 [10] Shi Y, Chen L, Liotta LA, Wan HH, Rodgers GP. Glia maturation factor gamma (GMFG): a
352 cytokine-responsive protein during hematopoietic lineage development and its functional genomics
353 analysis. *Genomics Proteomics Bioinformatics* 2006;4:145-55.
- 354 [11] Amaral PP, Mattick JS. Noncoding RNA in development. *Mamm Genome* 2008;19:454-92.
- 355 [12] Xu K, Jin X, Luo Y, Zou H, Lv D, Wang L, et al. Spatial transcriptome analysis of long
356 non-coding RNAs reveals tissue specificity and functional roles in cancer. *J Zhejiang Univ Sci B*
357 2023;24:15-31.
- 358 [13] Rinn JL, Chang HY. Genome Regulation by Long Noncoding RNAs. *Annual Review of*
359 *Biochemistry*, Vol 81 2012;81:145-66.
- 360 [14] Ziegenhain C, Vieth B, Parekh S, Reinius B, Guillaumet-Adkins A, Smets M, et al. Comparative
361 Analysis of Single-Cell RNA Sequencing Methods. *Mol Cell* 2017;65:631-43 e4.
- 362 [15] Ziaee S, Boroumand MA, Salehi R, Sadeghian S, Hosseindokht M, Sharifi M. Non-invasive
363 diagnosis of early-onset coronary artery disease based on cell type-specific gene expression analyses.
364 *Biomed Pharmacother* 2018;108:1115-22.
- 365 [16] Saviano A, Henderson NC, Baumert TF. Single-cell genomics and spatial transcriptomics:
366 Discovery of novel cell states and cellular interactions in liver physiology and disease biology. *J*
367 *Hepatol* 2020;73:1219-30.
- 368 [17] Joanito I, Wirapati P, Zhao N, Nawaz Z, Yeo G, Lee F, et al. Single-cell and bulk transcriptome
369 sequencing identifies two epithelial tumor cell states and refines the consensus molecular classification
370 of colorectal cancer. *Nat Genet* 2022;54:963-75.
- 371 [18] Sanmarco LM, Rone JM, Polonio CM, Fernandez Lahore G, Giovannoni F, Ferrara K, et al.
372 Lactate limits CNS autoimmunity by stabilizing HIF-1alpha in dendritic cells. *Nature* 2023;620:881-9.
- 373 [19] Fyfe I. Single-cell atlas maps cell-specific gene changes in Alzheimer disease. *Nat Rev Neurol*
374 2020;16:1.

375 [20] Ner-Gaon H, Melchior A, Golan N, Ben-Haim Y, Shay T. JingleBells: A Repository of
376 Immune-Related Single-Cell RNA-Sequencing Datasets. *J Immunol* 2017;198:3375-9.

377 [21] Cao Y, Zhu J, Jia P, Zhao Z. scRNASeqDB: A Database for RNA-Seq Based Gene Expression
378 Profiles in Human Single Cells. *Genes (Basel)* 2017;8.

379 [22] Johnsson P, Ziegenhain C, Hartmanis L, Hendriks GJ, Hagemann-Jensen M, Reinis B, et al.
380 Transcriptional kinetics and molecular functions of long noncoding RNAs. *Nat Genet* 2022;54:306-17.

381 [23] Kim DH, Marinov GK, Pepke S, Singer ZS, He P, Williams B, et al. Single-cell transcriptome
382 analysis reveals dynamic changes in lncRNA expression during reprogramming. *Cell Stem Cell*
383 2015;16:88-101.

384 [24] Luo H, Bu D, Shao L, Li Y, Sun L, Wang C, et al. Single-cell Long Non-coding RNA Landscape
385 of T Cells in Human Cancer Immunity. *Genomics Proteomics Bioinformatics* 2021;19:377-93.

386 [25] Han X, Zhou Z, Fei L, Sun H, Wang R, Chen Y, et al. Construction of a human cell landscape at
387 single-cell level. *Nature* 2020;581:303-9.

388 [26] Dominguez Conde C, Xu C, Jarvis LB, Rainbow DB, Wells SB, Gomes T, et al. Cross-tissue
389 immune cell analysis reveals tissue-specific features in humans. *Science* 2022;376:eabl5197.

390 [27] Tabula Sapiens C, Jones RC, Karkanas J, Krasnow MA, Pisco AO, Quake SR, et al. The Tabula
391 Sapiens: A multiple-organ, single-cell transcriptomic atlas of humans. *Science* 2022;376:eabl4896.

392 [28] Barrett T, Wilhite SE, Ledoux P, Evangelista C, Kim IF, Tomashevsky M, et al. NCBI GEO:
393 archive for functional genomics data sets--update. *Nucleic Acids Res* 2013;41:D991-5.

394 [29] Athar A, Fullgrabe A, George N, Iqbal H, Huerta L, Ali A, et al. ArrayExpress update - from bulk
395 to single-cell expression data. *Nucleic Acids Res* 2019;47:D711-D5.

396 [30] Sun D, Wang J, Han Y, Dong X, Ge J, Zheng R, et al. TISCH: a comprehensive web resource
397 enabling interactive single-cell transcriptome visualization of tumor microenvironment. *Nucleic Acids*
398 *Res* 2021;49:D1420-D30.

399 [31] Han Y, Wang Y, Dong X, Sun D, Liu Z, Yue J, et al. TISCH2: expanded datasets and new tools for
400 single-cell transcriptome analyses of the tumor microenvironment. *Nucleic Acids Res*
401 2023;51:D1425-D31.

402 [32] Slyper M, Porter CBM, Ashenberg O, Waldman J, Drokhlyansky E, Wakiro I, et al. A single-cell
403 and single-nucleus RNA-Seq toolbox for fresh and frozen human tumors. *Nat Med* 2020;26:792-802.

404 [33] Gillen AE, Riemondy KA, Amani V, Griesinger AM, Gilani A, Venkataraman S, et al. Single-Cell
405 RNA Sequencing of Childhood Ependymoma Reveals Neoplastic Cell Subpopulations That Impact
406 Molecular Classification and Etiology. *Cell Rep* 2020;32:108023.

407 [34] Frankish A, Diekhans M, Jungreis I, Lagarde J, Loveland JE, Mudge JM, et al. Gencode 2021.
408 *Nucleic Acids Res* 2021;49:D916-D23.

409 [35] Uhlen M, Zhang C, Lee S, Sjostedt E, Fagerberg L, Bidkhori G, et al. A pathology atlas of the
410 human cancer transcriptome. *Science* 2017;357.

411 [36] Vivian Li W, Li Y. scLink: Inferring Sparse Gene Co-expression Networks from Single-cell
412 Expression Data. *Genomics Proteomics Bioinformatics* 2021;19:475-92.

413 [37] Wu T, Hu E, Xu S, Chen M, Guo P, Dai Z, et al. clusterProfiler 4.0: A universal enrichment tool
414 for interpreting omics data. *Innovation (Camb)* 2021;2:100141.

415 [38] Agarwal S, Vierbuchen T, Ghosh S, Chan J, Jiang Z, Kandasamy RK, et al. The long non-coding
416 RNA LUCAT1 is a negative feedback regulator of interferon responses in humans. *Nat Commun*
417 2020;11:6348.

418 [39] Sun Y, Jin SD, Zhu Q, Han L, Feng J, Lu XY, et al. Long non-coding RNA LUCAT1 is associated

419 with poor prognosis in human non-small lung cancer and regulates cell proliferation via epigenetically
420 repressing p21 and p57 expression. *Oncotarget* 2017;8:28297-311.

421 [40] Luzon-Toro B, Fernandez RM, Martos-Martinez JM, Rubio-Manzanares-Dorado M, Antinolo G,
422 Borrego S. LncRNA LUCAT1 as a novel prognostic biomarker for patients with papillary thyroid
423 cancer. *Sci Rep* 2019;9:14374.

424 [41] Jiang TT, Zhou WW, Chang ZH, Zou HZ, Bai J, Sun QS, et al. ImmReg: the regulon atlas of
425 immune-related pathways across cancer types. *Nucleic Acids Research* 2021;49:12106-18.

426 [42] Lv DZ, Chang ZH, Cai YY, Li JY, Wang LP, Jiang QS, et al. TransLnc: a comprehensive resource
427 for translatable lncRNAs extends immunopeptidome. *Nucleic Acids Research* 2022;50:D413-D20.

428 [43] Peng L, Chen Y, Ou Q, Wang X, Tang N. LncRNA MIAT correlates with immune infiltrates and
429 drug reactions in hepatocellular carcinoma. *Int Immunopharmacol* 2020;89:107071.

430 [44] Wang P, Xue Y, Han Y, Lin L, Wu C, Xu S, et al. The STAT3-binding long noncoding RNA
431 lnc-DC controls human dendritic cell differentiation. *Science* 2014;344:310-3.

432 [45] Dong K, Shen J, He X, Hu G, Wang L, Osman I, et al. CARMN Is an Evolutionarily Conserved
433 Smooth Muscle Cell-Specific LncRNA That Maintains Contractile Phenotype by Binding Myocardin.
434 *Circulation* 2021;144:1856-75.

435 [46] Oo JA, Palfi K, Warwick T, Wittig I, Prieto-Garcia C, Matkovic V, et al. Long non-coding RNA
436 PCAT19 safeguards DNA in quiescent endothelial cells by preventing uncontrolled phosphorylation of
437 RPA2. *Cell Rep* 2022;41:111670.

438 [47] Hua JT, Ahmed M, Guo H, Zhang Y, Chen S, Soares F, et al. Risk SNP-Mediated
439 Promoter-Enhancer Switching Drives Prostate Cancer through lncRNA PCAT19. *Cell* 2018;174:564-75
440 e18.

441 [48] Wang Z, Liu Y, Zhang J, Zhao R, Zhou X, Wang H. An Immune-Related Long Noncoding RNA
442 Signature as a Prognostic Biomarker for Human Endometrial Cancer. *J Oncol* 2021;2021:9972454.

443

444

445 **Figure legends**

446 **Figure 1 Schematic of overall design of LncCE**

447 Top, workflow of obtaining all CE lncRNAs from multiple scRNA-seq datasets.
 448 Middle and bottom, user interface of LncCE. The users can select adult or fetal
 449 normal tissues, or adult or pediatric cancer tissues for quick queries. In this panel, the
 450 Search, Browse, Statistics, Download, and Help modules provide flexible ways to
 451 access the dataset. Four types of search mouldles were provides for all CE lncRNAs.
 452 Three browsing ways are also given.

453

454 **Figure 2 LncRNA-based exploration with LncCE**

455 **A.** Search by adult or fetal normal tissues, or adult or pediatric cancer tissues,
 456 lncRNAs or cell types of interests. **B.** The result list for lncRNAs. **C.** Basic annotation
 457 information for cellular-elevated lncRNA *LUCAT1* and annotations in other relevant
 458 databases. **D.** A global map of different cell populations and expression levels of
 459 *LUCAT1* across cell types in CE cancer tissue (NSCLC) in the selected dataset
 460 (GSE117570). **E.** A global map of different cell populations and expression levels of
 461 *LUCAT1* across cell types in CE cancer tissue (NSCLC) in the other dataset. **F.** A
 462 global map of different cell populations and expression levels of *LUCAT1* across cell
 463 types in normal tissues (Lung) associated with CE cancer tissue (NSCLC). **G.**
 464 Co-expression network between CE lncRNA *LUCAT1* and mRNAs. **H.** Functional
 465 and pathway enrichment analysis of co-expression mRNAs. **I.** External links related
 466 to NSCLC and *LUCAT1*. **J.** Expression and regulation of lncRNA *LUCAT1* in TCGA
 467 cancer. **K.** Survival analysis of CE lncRNA *LUCAT1* in TCGA cancer.

468

469 **Figure 3 Distribution of CE lncRNA in each cell type ($n \geq 15$) across adult and** 470 **fetal normal tissues, adult and pediatric cancer tissues**

471 The outermost circle is the cell type, the length shows the amount of CE lncRNAs.
 472 The penultimate circle is CE lncRNA names. The third last circle is the distribution of
 473 CE lncRNAs count in adult cancer tissues, followed by adult normal tissues, pediatric

474 cancer tissues and fetal normal tissues. The height of the bar shows the number of
475 datasets that the lncRNA is identified as CE lncRNA.

476

477 **Figure 4 Cell type-based exploration with LncCE**

478 **A.** tSNE plots of GSE117570_NSCLC dataset colored by cell type and *LUCAT1*
479 expression. **B.** tSNE plots of GSE140819_Metastatic_breast_cancer dataset colored
480 by cell type and *MIAT* expression.

481

482 **Supplementary material**

483 **Figure S1** tSNE plots of GSE140228_LIHC (A), GSE139829_UVM (B) and
484 **CRA001160_PAAD (C)** dataset colored by cell type and CE lncRNAs (*WFDC21P*,
485 *CARMN* and *PCAT19*) expression

486 **Table S1** The information of all datasets

487 **Table S2** The number of CE lncRNA of each datasets across adult/pediatric
488 cancer/normal tissues

489 **Table S3** The list of CE lncRNAs for each cell type

490 **Table S4** Highlights of LncCE comparing with other human scRNA-seq
491 database

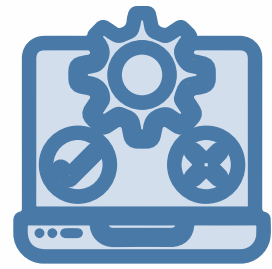
492

Database Content

Data Collection

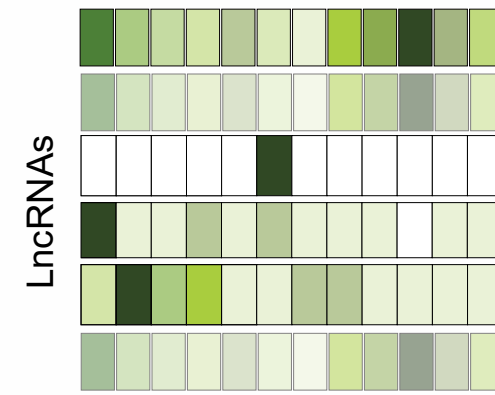


Quality Control



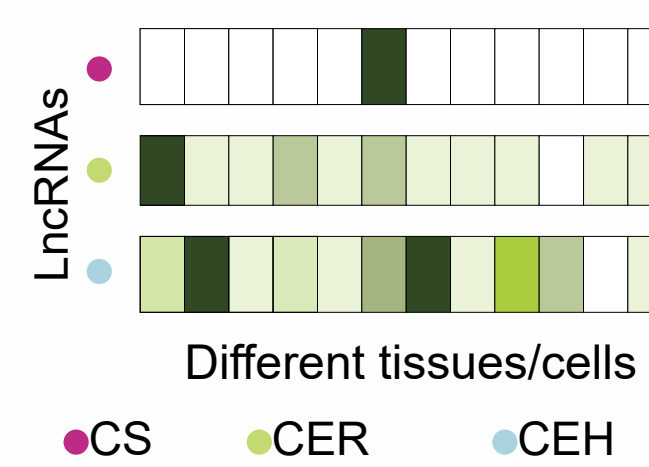
- cell number per gene (>10)
- cell number per feature (≥ 3)
- feature number per cell (≥ 50)

LncRNA Transcriptome



Different normal/cancer tissues/cells

LncRNA Classification



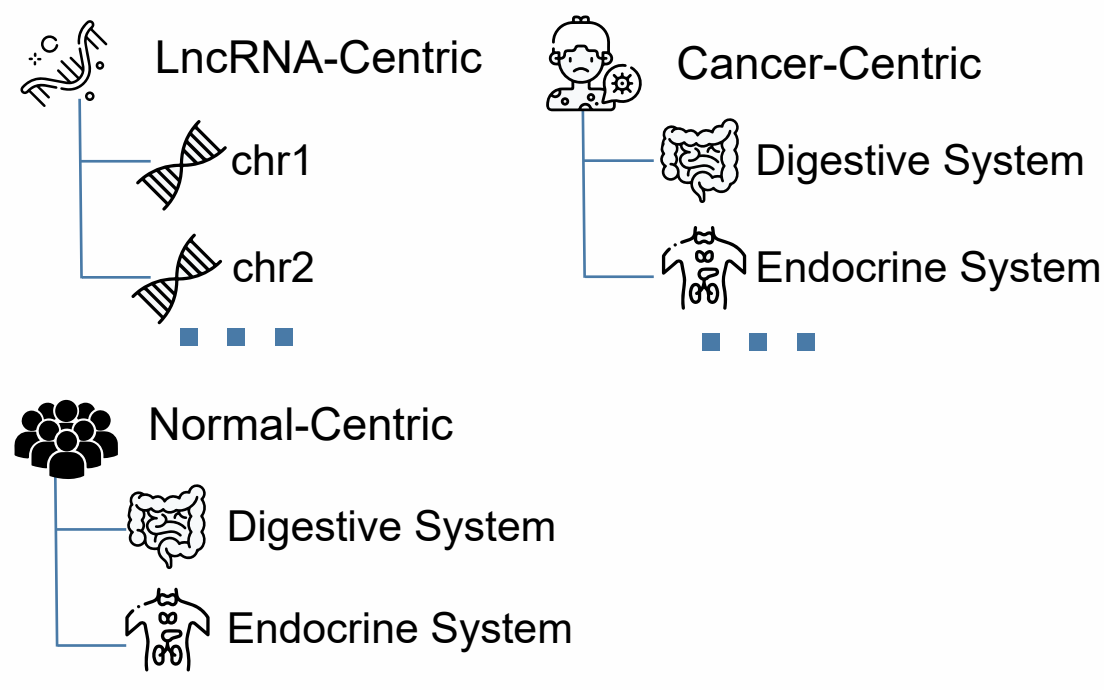
Data Summary

- 2,893,787 cells.
- 59 normal adult tissues.
- 20 normal fetal tissues.
- 32 adult cancer.
- 5 pediatric cancer.

User Interface

Browse

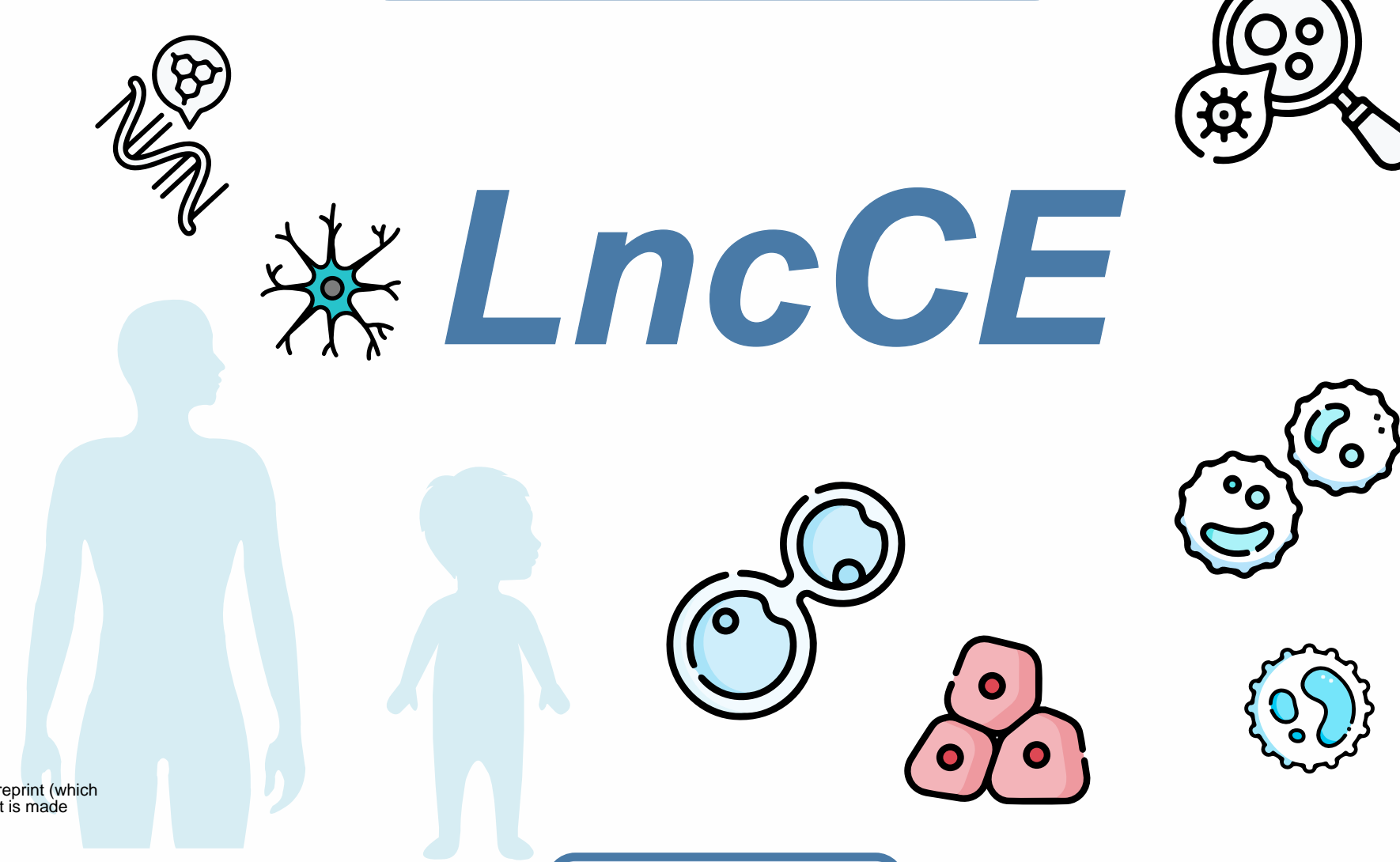
Single-cell RNA-sequencing



bioRxiv preprint doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.05.17.594684>; this version posted May 21, 2024. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 International license.



User Interface



Search

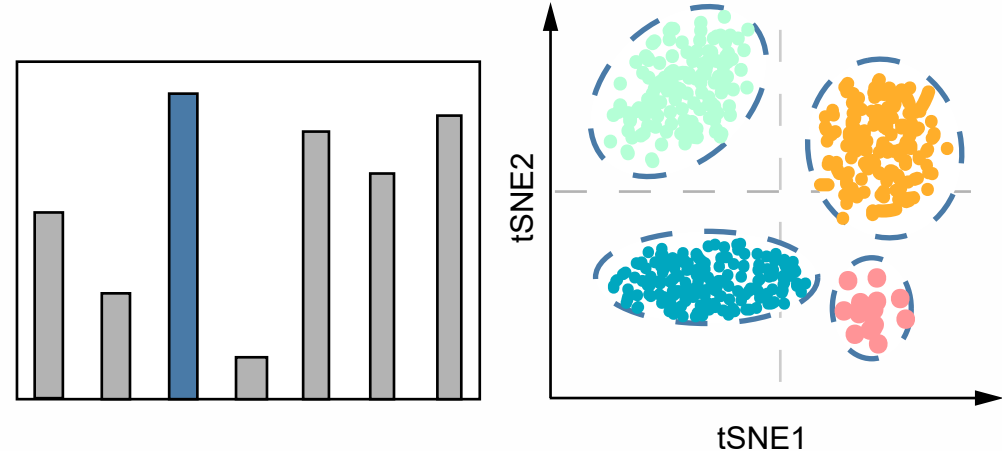
- Quick search
- Search by normal tissue
 - ☐ testis ☐ brain ☒ lung
- Search by cancer type
 - ☐ TGCT ☐ GBM ☒ NSCLC
- Search by lncRNA
 - ❖ LUCAT1 or ENSG00000248323
- Search by cell
 - ❖ immune, Monocyte/Macrophage

Result

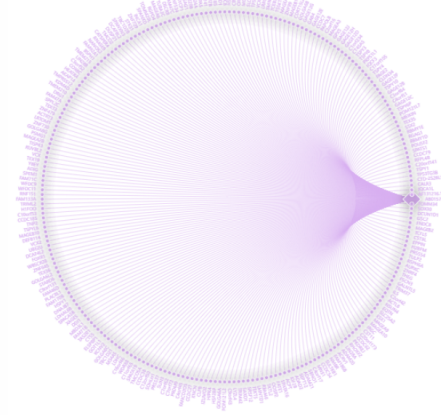
❖ Basic information



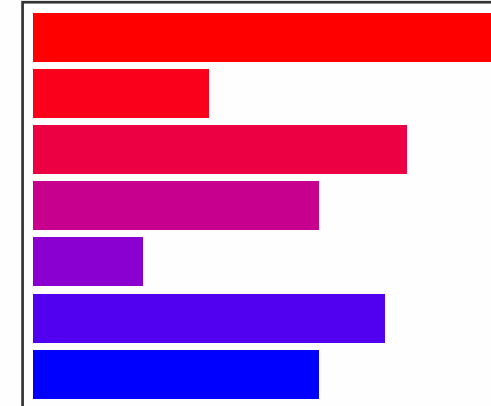
❖ Spatial pattern in cancers/tissues



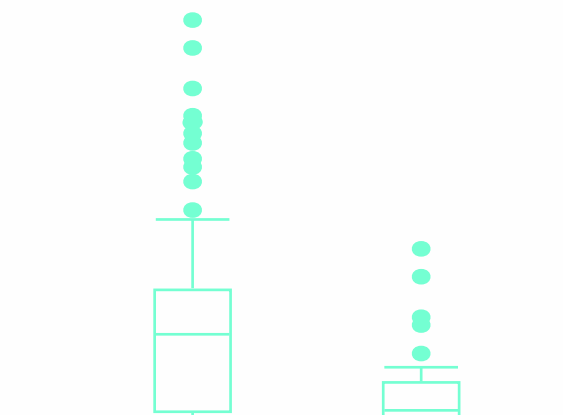
❖ LncRNA-mRNA



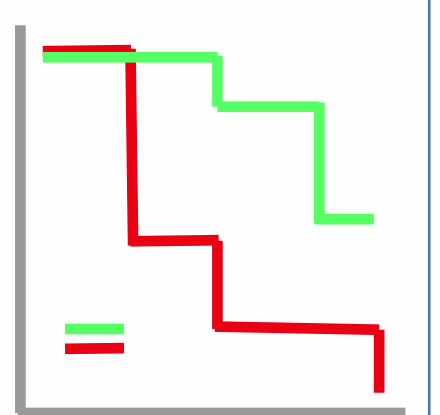
❖ Functional enrichment



❖ Differential expression analysis



❖ Survival analysis



Statistics

- Data overview
- The definition of spatial classification of lncRNAs
- Number of CE lncRNAs in each resource
- Number of CE lncRNAs in each tissue
- CE lncRNAs distribution on chromosome
- Cancer name abbreviations

Download



All CE lncRNA in Human Cell Landscape, The Tabula Sapiens, TICA, GEO, NGDC, EMTAB and Qian et al., Cell Research 2020

Help



- Overview
- Four ways to search
- Search results
- Spatial expression pattern
- Prediction of function
- Co-expression
- Clinical relevance
- Browse
- Statistics

A Search

Search by

- Normal
- Cancer
- LncRNA
- Cell

Tissue: Lung

Resource: The Tabula Sapiens

Classification: CE

Cell type: Neutrophil

Cancer: Lung cancer

Dataset: NSCLC(GSE117570)

Classification: CE

Cell type: Monocyte/Macrophage

LncRNA: LUCAT1

Compartment: Immune

Resource: NSCLC(GSE117570)

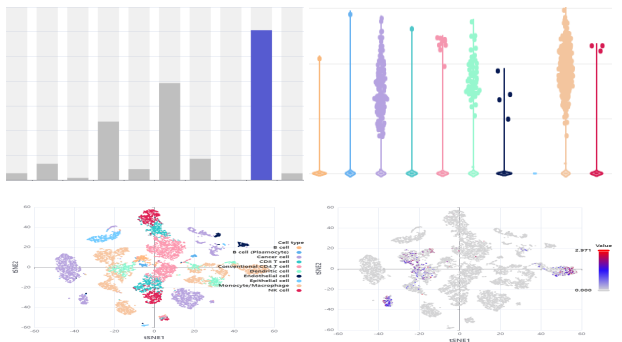
B Results

Name	ID	Source	Biotype
LUCAT1	ENSG00000248323	GSE139555	lncRNA
Classification	Tissue	Cell	Details
CEH	NSCLC	Monocyte/Macrophage	

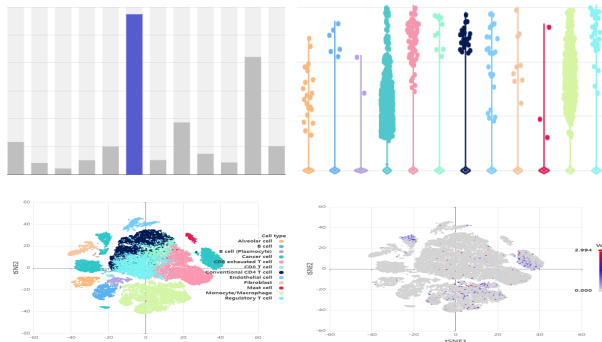
C Details

Basic information	
Cancer tissue	NSCLC
Dataset	GSE117570
Cell type	Monocyte/Macrophage
Name	LUCAT1
ID	ENSG00000248323
Location	chr5,91054834-91314547,-
Type	lncRNA
Annotation	ImmReg;TransLnc

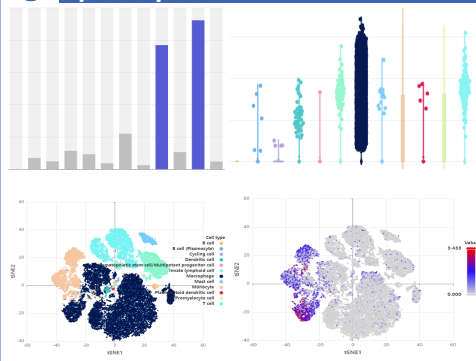
D Spatial pattern in cancers



E Spatial pattern in other resources

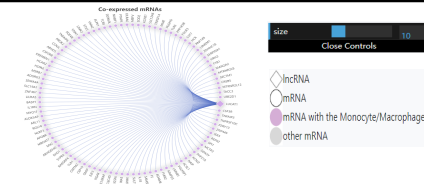


F Spatial pattern in normal tissues



G LncRNA-mRNA

Name	Cancer	Cell	Classification	R ²	P
ACSL1	NSCLC	Monocyte/Macrophage	CS	0.6864	0
ADAMTSL4	NSCLC	Monocyte/Macrophage	CER	0.8184	0
ADGRE1	NSCLC	Monocyte/Macrophage	CS	0.8926	0
ADGRE2	NSCLC	Monocyte/Macrophage	CS	0.7506	0
ALOX5	NSCLC	Monocyte/Macrophage	CER	0.5723	0
ANPEP	NSCLC	Monocyte/Macrophage	CS	0.6935	0
AGPP9	NSCLC	Monocyte/Macrophage	CS	0.6370	0

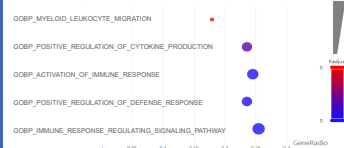


H Function

i) KEGG Enrichment



ii) GO Enrichment

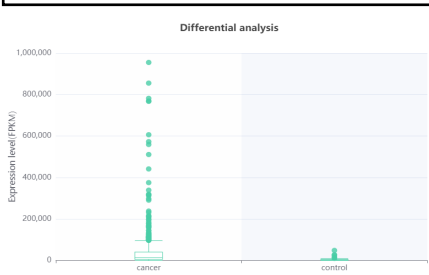


I External links

Database	Disease
Lnc2Cancer	osteosarcoma, ovarian cancer, esophageal squamous cell cancer, glioma, clear cell renal cell carcinoma, non small cell lung cancer, lung cancer
LncRNADisease	non-small cell lung cancer, lung cancer
exoRBase	coronary heart disease, hepatocellular carcinoma, pancreatic adenocarcinoma

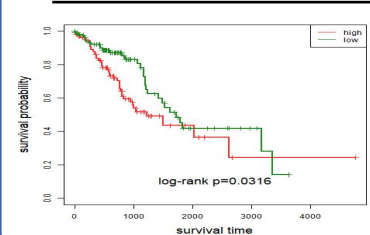
J Differential expression

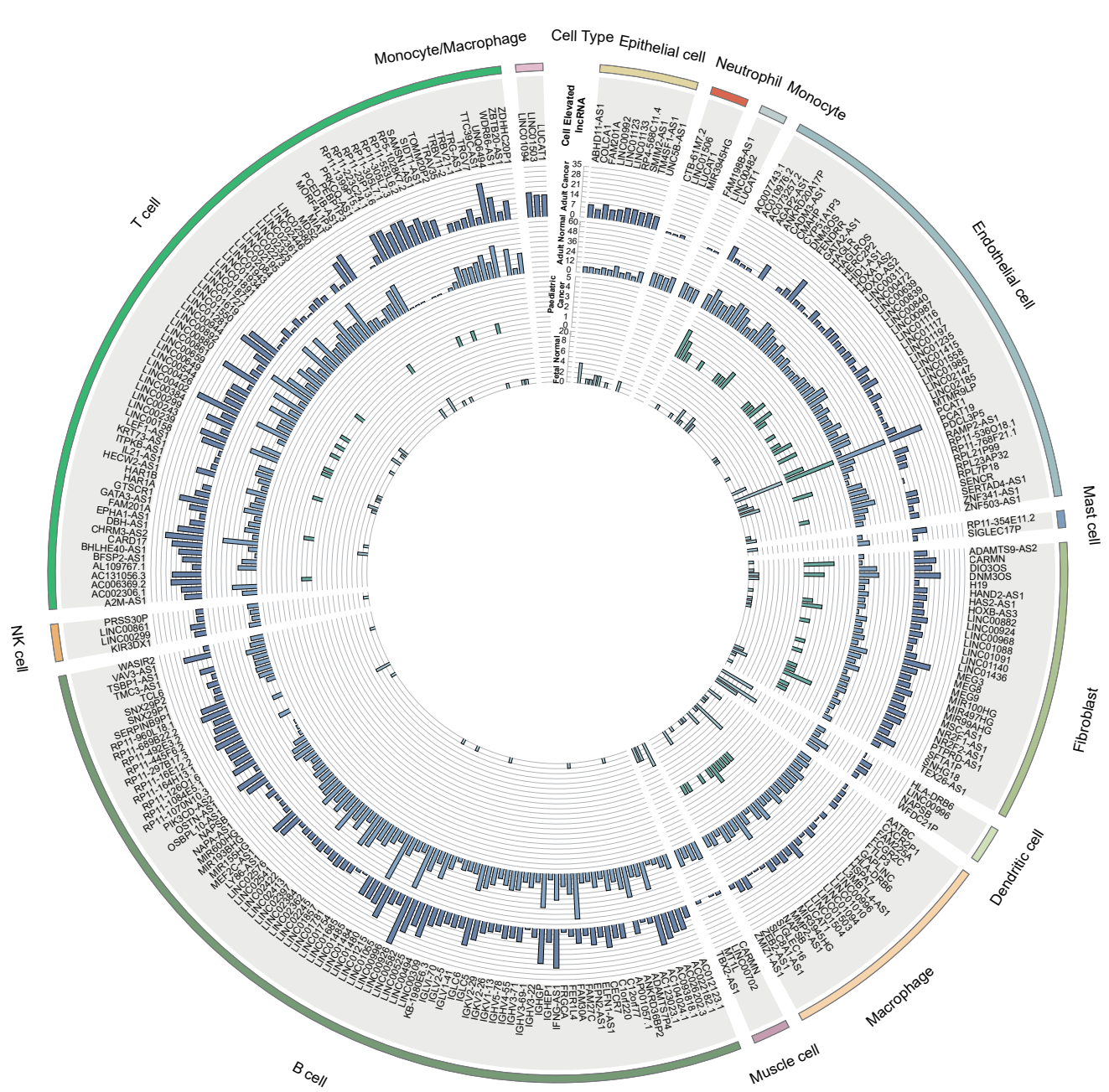
LncRNA Name	Cancer	Differential Type
LUCAT1	LUAD	up
Mean in Cancer	Mean in Control	P
46142.61	4732.89	0



K Survival analysis

	beta	HR	P
univariate	LUCAT1 0.0503	1.0516	0.0841
	LUCAT1 0.0401	1.0409	0.228
multivariate	gender -0.043	0.9579	0.7785
	age 0	1	0.2111
	stage 0	1	0.2111





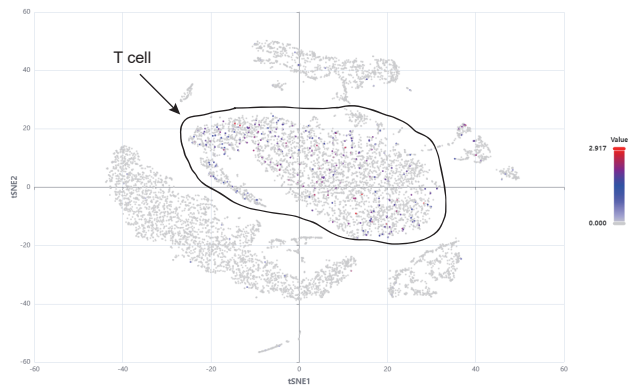
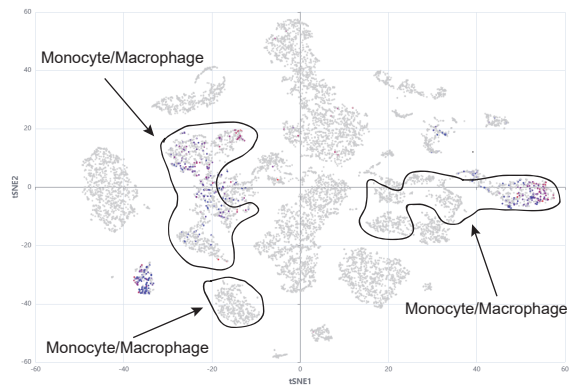
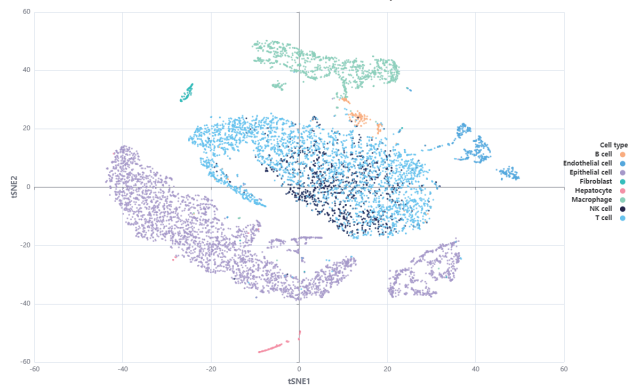
A

LUCAT1 (Monocyte/Macrophage;
NSCLC; GSE117570)



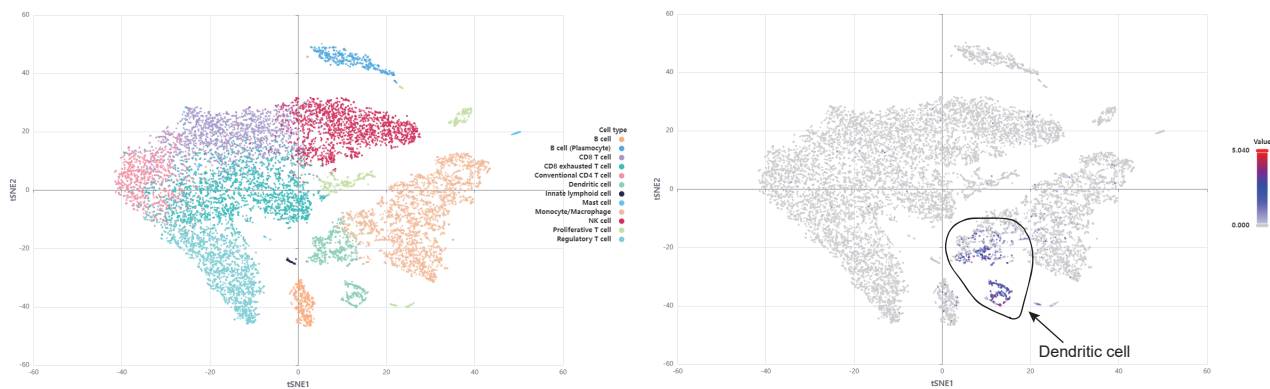
B

MIAT (T cell; Metastatic breast
cancer; GSE140819)



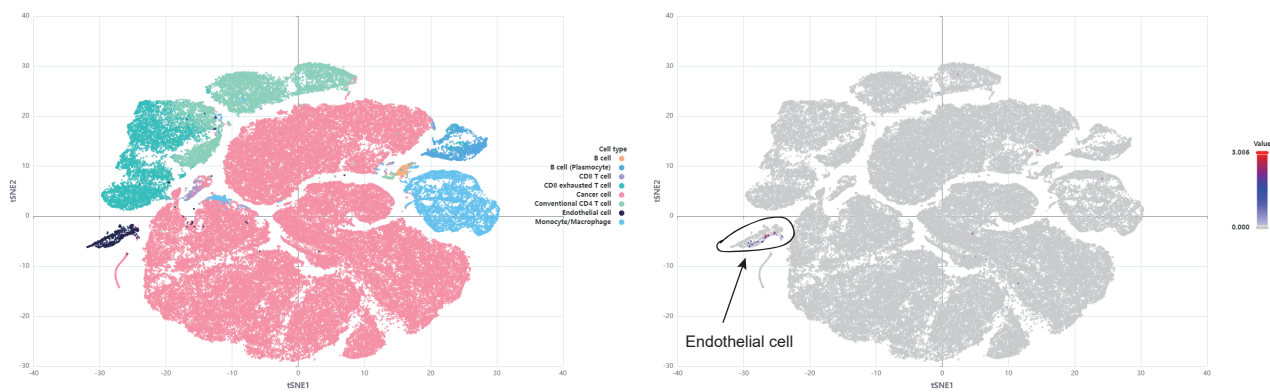
A

WFDC21P (Dendritic cell; LIHC; GSE140228_10x)



B

CARMN (Endothelial cell; UVM; GSE139829)



C

PCAT19 (Endothelial cell; PAAD; CRA001160)

