Emerging Insights in Asthma Pathobiology From Airway Omics

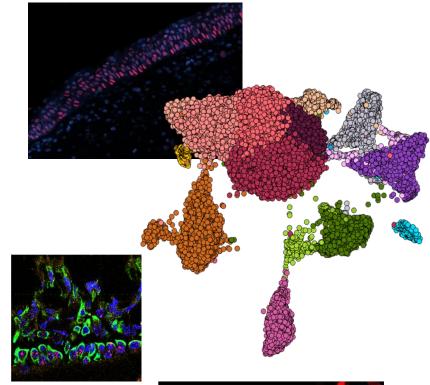
Nora Barrett, M.D.

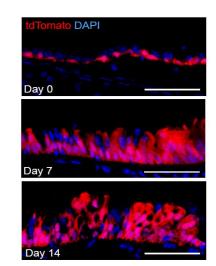
Director of Research Training, Allergy and
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Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Brigham and

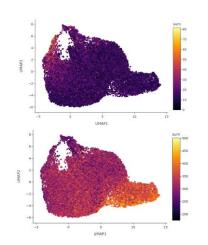
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

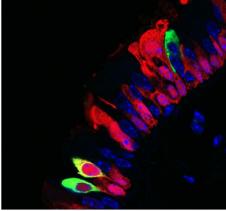
Women's Hospital















Disclosures

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Not Relevant to Presentation Here

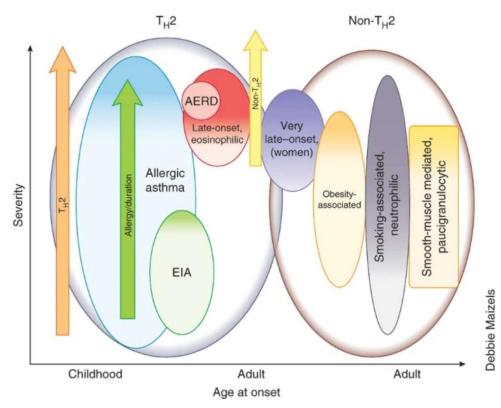
Outline

- Defining Asthma Endotypes in Transcriptomics
 - Sputum
 - Bronchial brushings
- Loss of a Regulatory Axis Identified in scRNA-seq
- Novel Methods to Define Pathobiologic Axes





Airway transcriptomics in severe asthma.... Are we there yet?



Wenzel Nat Med 2012

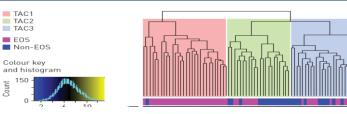
- Severe Asthma Research Program (SARP)
- European Network for Understanding Mechanisms of Severe Asthma (ENFUMOSA)
- Unbiased Biomarkers for the Prediction of Respiratory Disease Outcome (U-BIOPRED)
- Airways Disease Endotyping for Personalized Therapeutics (ADEPT)

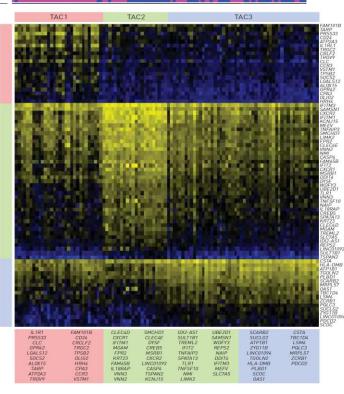




Sputum transcriptomics identifies endotypes

- U-BIOPRED 104 mod/sev asthma and 16 healthy controls
- Induced sputum transcriptomics (microarray)
- Identified 508 DEGS between asthma with sputum eos, no eos, healthy control
- Identified 3 clusters (TACs)





Type2

Type 1

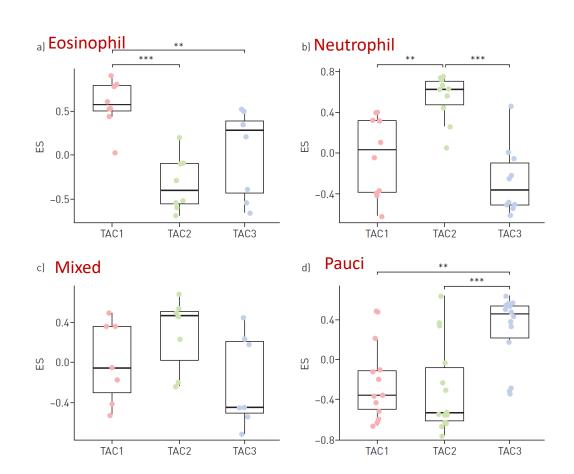
Cell stress and ageing





Sputum endotypes correlate with granulocyte phenotype

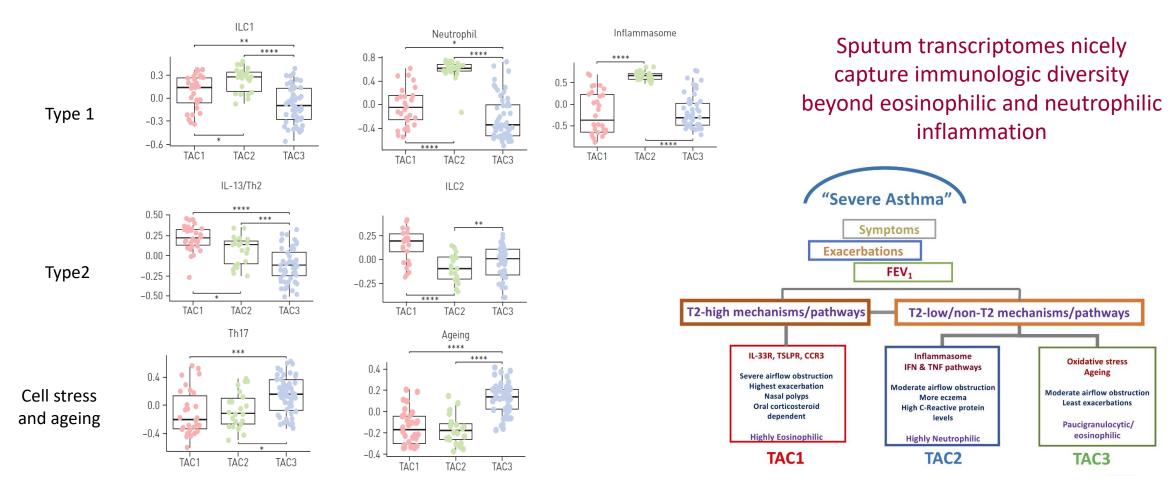
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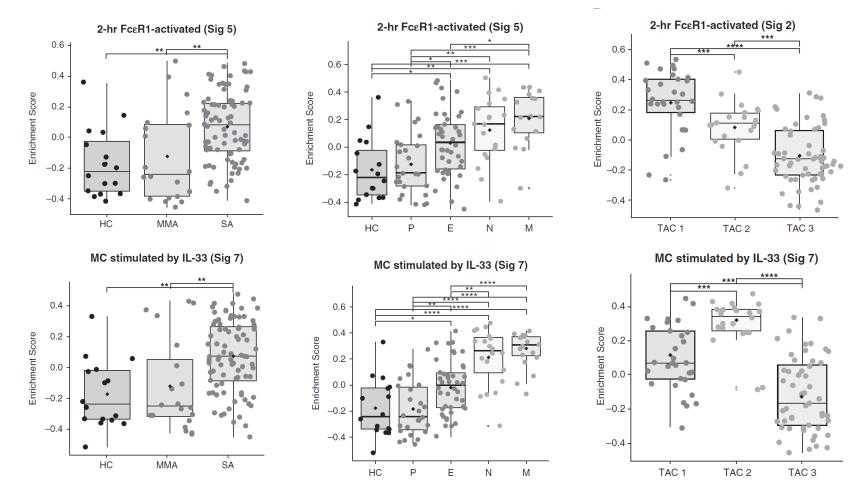
Sputum endotypes expresses distinct immunologic genes (GSVA)







Sputum endotypes express distinct signatures of mast cell activation

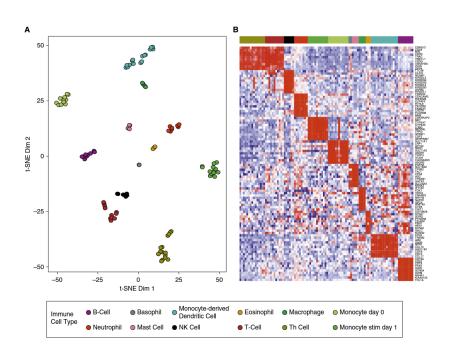




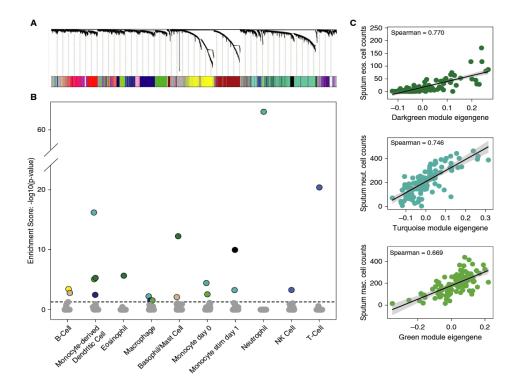


Further assessment of immunocytes in sputum of mild/mod asthma

Defining the transcriptome of immunocytes



Assessing for enrichment in the sputum

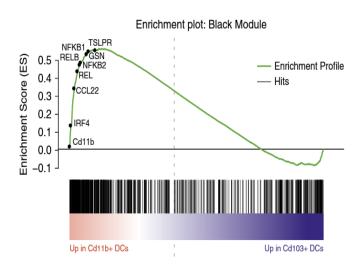




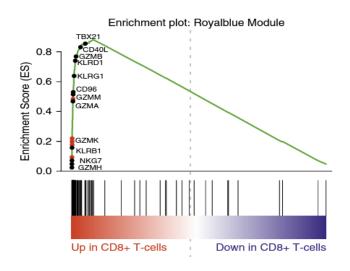


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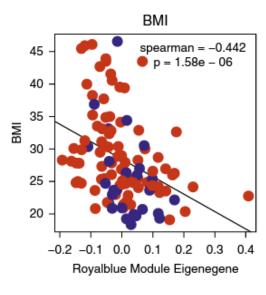
Increased CD11b+IRF4+ myeloid cells in Th2 asthma



Loss of cytotoxic cells in T2 low asthma



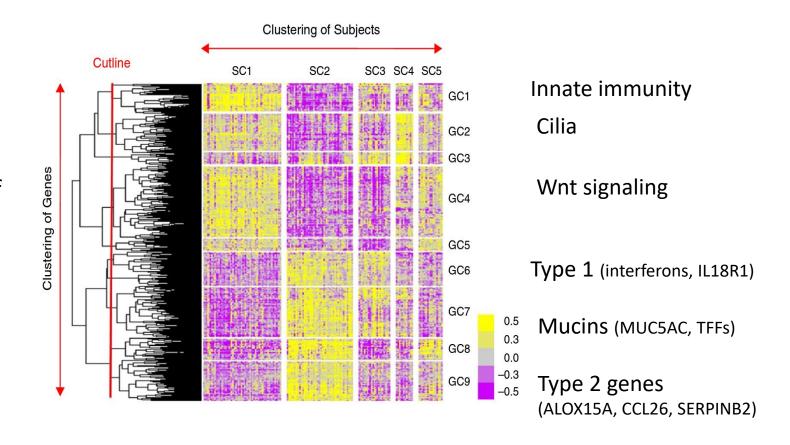
Cytotoxic module is lost in obesity





Bronchial brushing transcriptomics – supervised analysis

- SARP 154 patients
 - HC, MMA, SA
- Bronchial brushings, microarray
- Supervised clustering
- Atopy, FENO, eosinophilia, age of onset, and lung function

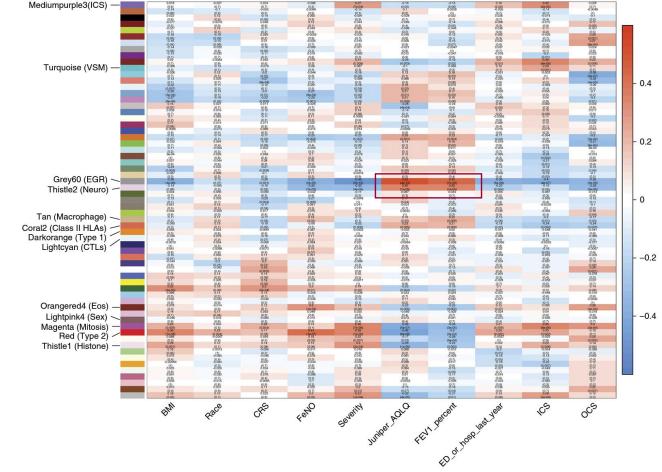






Bronchial brushing transcriptomics – unsupervised analysis Weighted Gene Correlation Network Analysis (WGCNA)

- SARP 154 patients
 - HC, MMA, SA
- Bronchial brushings, microarray
- WGCNA

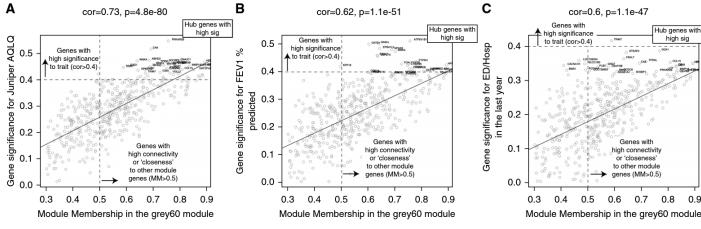




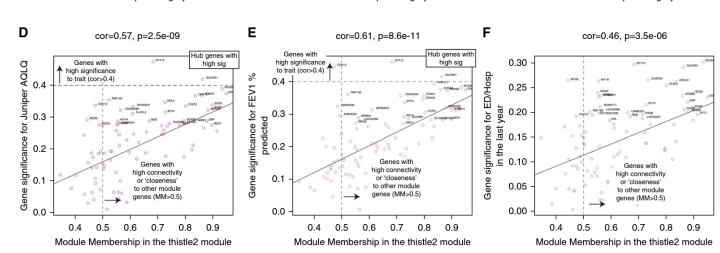


WGCNA reveals and epithelial repair module and neural module associated with AQLQ, FEV1%, and hospitalization in the last year

Epithelial growth and repair



Neuronal function

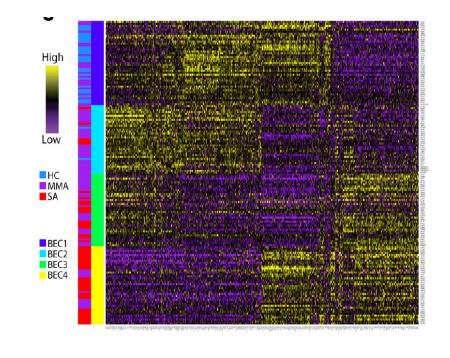


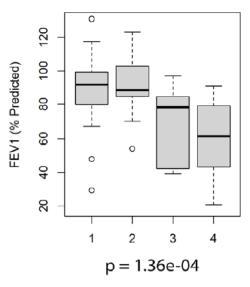




Bronchial brushings transcriptomics – partially supervised analysis identify a cluster with low lung function

- SARP 154 patients
 - HC, MMA, SA
- Bronchial brushings, microarray
- 758 DEGs, unsupervised clustering
- 4 clusters
 - BEC1 HCs, low T2
 - BEC2 downregulated inflammation and ECM remodeling
 - BEC3 high T2 status
 - BEC4 high stress response, lowest lung function

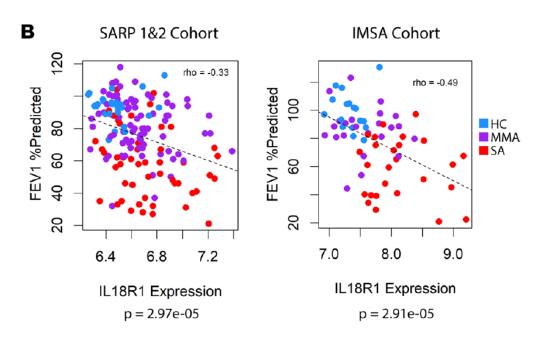




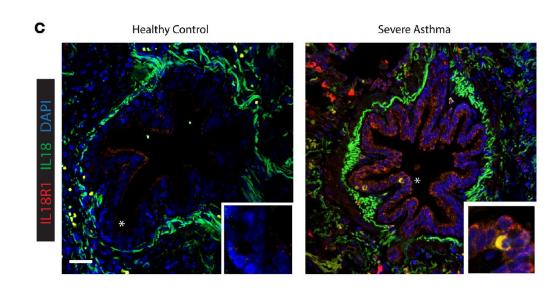


IL18R1 expression in severe asthma with low lung function

• IL18R1, expressed in cluster, inversely correlates with lung function



IL18R1 Upregulated in SA







IL-18 function

- Member of the IL-1 family
 - Made as an inactive pro-IL-18 and requires cleavage for mature active form
 - Caspase-1, caspase-8, proteinase-3, chymase, granzyme B
- Promote T1 or T2 inflammation depending on the presence of IL-12
 - In basophils and NKT cells, IL-18 drives IL-4 production
 - In T cells, IL-18 + IL-12 drives IFNy generation
- BEC4 was mixed eosinophilic and neutrophilic BAL, mixed T2 and IFN transcripts
- Subsequent paper identified patients with IFNy+ T cells





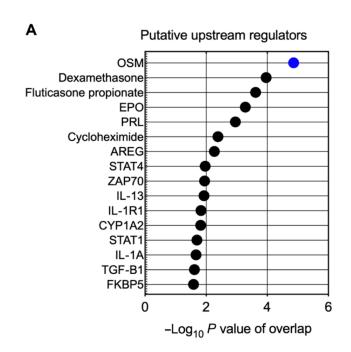
Oncostatin M (OSM) – a mediator of bacterial-elicited inflammation and mucus

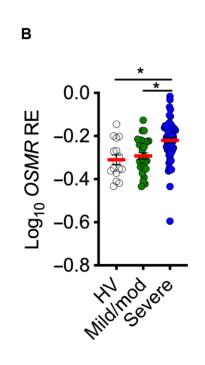
- Member of the gp130 family of cytokines (IL-6 family)
- Expressed by human DCs and macrophages
- Increased in allergic diseases
- Receptor OSM receptor B (OMSRB) on epithelial cells, fibroblasts, and airway smooth muscle cells

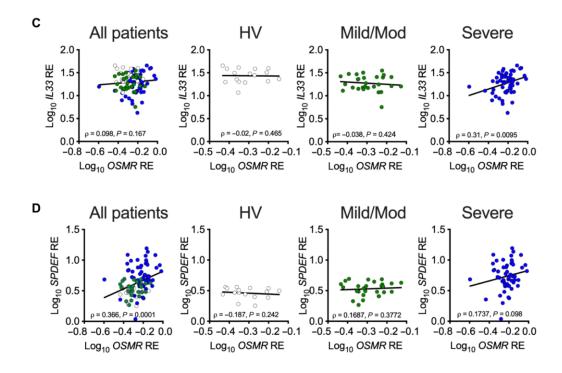




Oncostatin M: ASMR in Severe Asthma







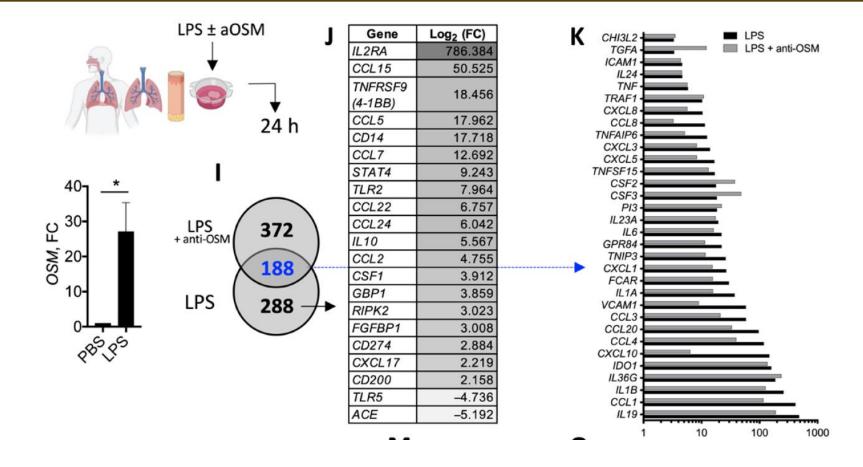


Oncostatin M: ASMR in Severe Asthma

- OSM drives inflammatory and mucus pathways in human epcs
- OSM drives eosinophilic and neutrophilic inflammation in a murine HDM asthma model
- Deletion of OSM attenuates eosinophilic and neutrophilic inflammation in HDM asthma model
- Blocking Ab to OSM also attenuates inflammation



OSM neutralization prevents LPS-elicited chemokines in PCLS



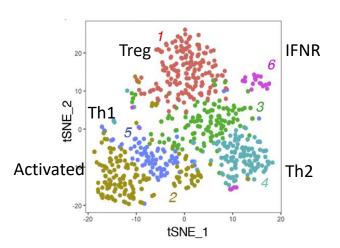




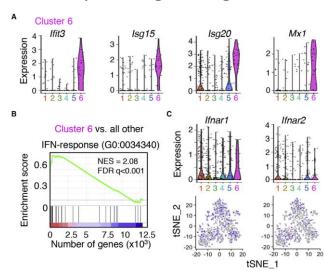
IFNR+ CD4+ T cells in HDM-elicited asthma



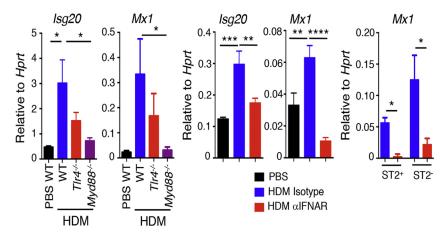
HDM-elicited CD4+ T cells



CD4+ T cell cluster expressing IFNR genes

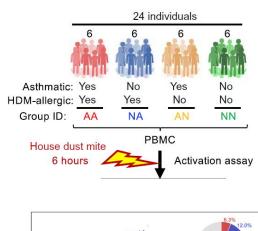


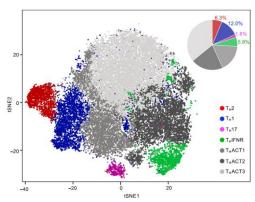
CD4+ T cell cluster is generated in response to IFNAR (binding type 1 interferons

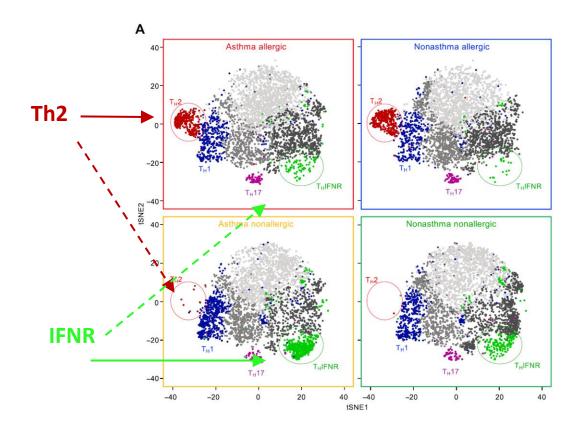




IFNR+ CD4+ T cells are detected in human PBMCs and reduced in patients with allergic asthma



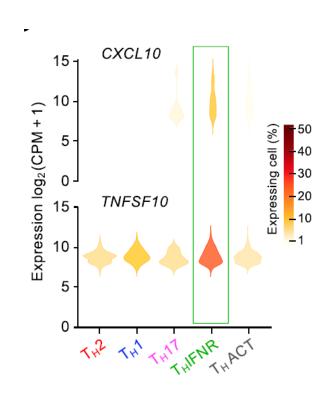


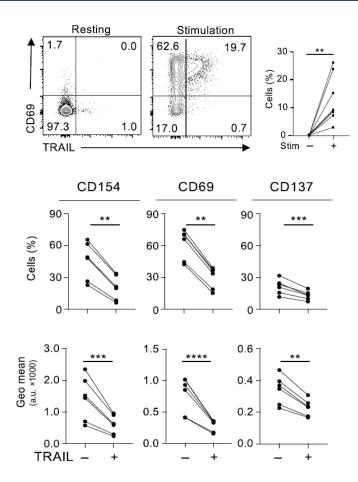






IFNR+ CD4+ T cells secrete immunoregulatory molecules such as Trail

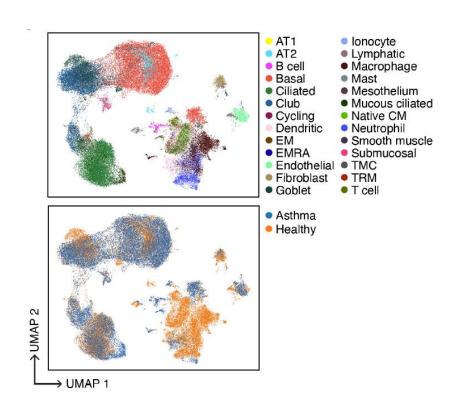


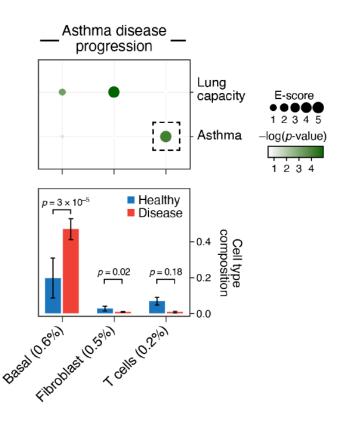






Novel Methods to Identify Cell States Mediating Asthma and its Phenotypic Correlates

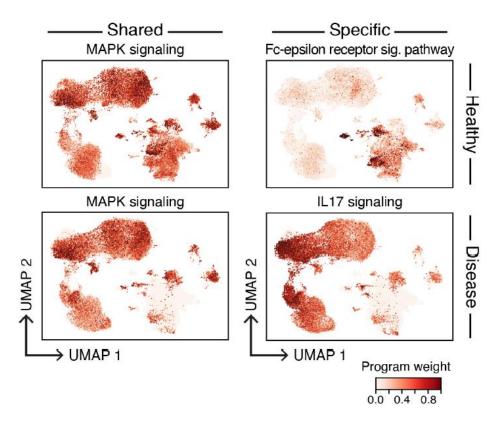


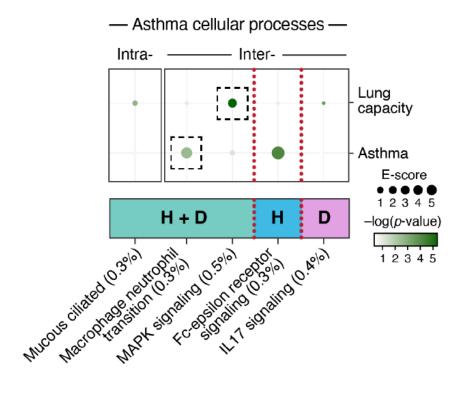






Novel Methods to Identify Cell States Mediating Asthma and its Phenotypic Correlates









Airway Transcriptomics in Asthma: Are We There Yet?

- Identify activated immunocytes from induced sputum and peripheral blood
- Identify structural alterations in bronchial brushings (epithelial and neural components). ASM is a big miss!
- IL18/IL18R and OSM/OSMR
- scRNA-seq can detect altered abundance, gene expression, and gene sets
- Novel methods integrating GWAS and scRNA-seq will allow scRNA-seq data to be used to characterize larger cohorts 'in silico'