## Epigenetic encoding, heritability and plasticity of glioma transcriptional cell states

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**Emerging Technologies in Single Cell Research 2020** 









### Multi-omics single-cell sequencing of primary human gliomas separates malignant vs. non-malignant cells, and enables high-resolution copy number alteration mapping



- **Unidirectional hierarchies?**
- **Epigenetic encoding of cells states?**

**Plasticity?** 

- Heritability of cell states?
- Transition dynamics of cell states?



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**Unidirectional hierarchies?** 

IDH-wt glioblastoma



Plasticity?

**Epigenetic encoding of cells states?** 

- Heritability of cell states?
- Transition dynamics of cell states?

1,728 single-cell RNA + DNA methylomes + somatic mutation capture

Joint RNA and DNAme (Gaiti et al., Nature 2019) GBM (n= 7 patient samples) IDH-MUT (n= 4 patient samples)





#### Inference of copy number aberrations (CNAs) from single-cell DNAme



CNA inference by single-cell DNAme enables detection of genetic sub-clones



■ MGH105A ■ MGH105C MGH105B MGH105D





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**Unidirectional hierarchies?** 

MES-like

Plasticity?

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Collaboration with Mario Suva lab - MGH/Broad Institute



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### Stem-like GBM cells exhibit PRC2 targets hypomethylation compared with more differentiated cell states within the same GBM patient samples

#### Transcriptional cell states in GBM DMRs at promoters (n=15,218) GBM & OPC-like scores) AC-like scores)|+1) Hypo-methylated in AC / MES-like Hypo-methylated in NPC / OPC-like • NPC-like OPC-like AC-like Log<sub>2</sub>(|(NPC { -(MES & A 5 MES-like - log<sub>10</sub>(P) 2 n= 844 cells Log<sub>2</sub>(|(NPC | OPC-like scores) -(MES | AC-like scores)|+1) MES-like 0 **DNAme** AC-like -25 at promoters NPC-like DNAme difference (%) OPC-like • Benporath (PRC2 targets), adj P = 0.001 • Verhaak (GBM classical), adj P = 0.014 MEST Mann-Whitney U P

#### PRC2 targets are hypo-methylated in stem-like cells

CDX2

FGF3

FGF5

HOXD8

GATA6

FOXL1

ESPN

POU4F2

GABRA4

FOXD2

25



PRC2-target genes expression

### Cell state transition dynamics inference from lineage tree architectures reveal higher cellular plasticity in GBM compared to a more stable differentiation hierarchy in IDH-MUT



Projection of genotype and cell state identity onto lineage histories of glioma cells

# Cell state transition dynamics inference from lineage tree architectures reveal higher cellular plasticity in GBM compared to a more stable differentiation hierarchy in IDH-MUT









Unidirectional developmental hierarchy



- Glioma cellular states are encoded epigenetically
- PRC2 as a key switch in the differentiation of malignant GBM cell states
- Cancer cell states are heritable
- GBM exhibits higher cellular plasticity (bidirectional) vs. more stable differentiation hierarchy in IDH-MUT (unidirectional)



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**Epigenetic plasticity** 

Plastic bi-directional developmental hierarchy

• Challenge to glioma stem-like cell targeting paradigm? • Cell state targeting? • Cell transition targeting?