

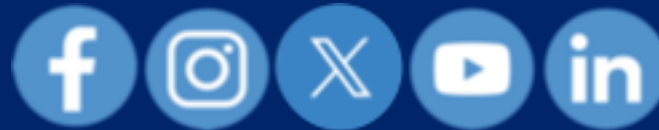
A customizable murine spectral backbone panel for immune surveillance in complex tissues

Rui Gardner

Director, Flow Cytometry Core Facility

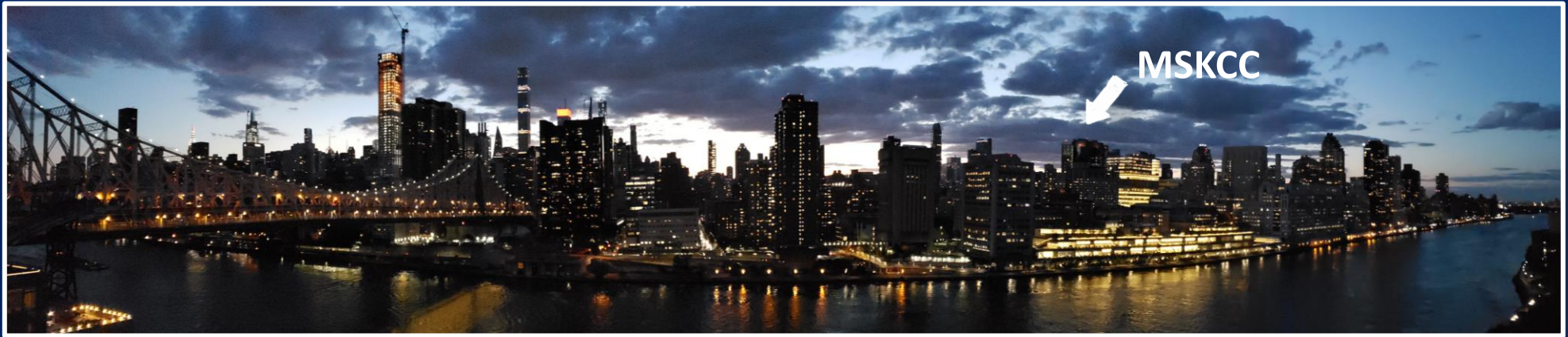
✉ gardnerr@mskcc.org

@flowMSKCC



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

••• **Flow Cytometry**
Core Facility



MSKCC



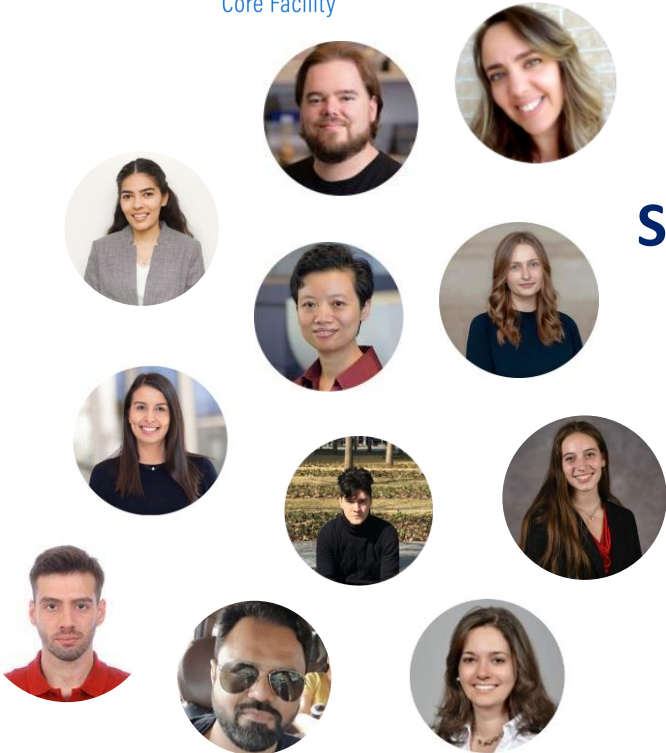
Downtown NYC



Central Park



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center



The FCCF Team

~250 labs
~350 assisted sorts/month
~25 panels/year (6-25 markers)

Sorters (10)

Spectral

Polychromatic



#1 FACSDiscover S8
50+ colors



#2 FACSsymphony S6
25+ colors



#5 FACSria
Up-to 18 colors



#2 SH800
Up-to 6 colors

Spectral

Polychromatic



#2 Aurora
40+ colors



#1 ID7000
40+ colors



#3 Fortessa/LSRII
Up-to 18 colors



#1 CytoFLEX LX
Up-to 21 colors

Analyzers (7)



Now Offering:

PANEL DESIGN SERVICE

- **Company Agnostic**

Panels are designed for any of our instruments with the best quality in mind considering all possible reagents, regardless of the vendor

- **Latest Knowledge of Biological Markers**

With our knowledge in immunology and cancer biology we consider the most up-to-date markers that identify the immune populations of interest

- **FCCF staff available throughout**

Staff are involved at every step and can more easily assist with troubleshooting

- **Support with data analysis**

Assistance with FlowJo, FCSExpress, and OMIQ and high-dimensional analysis



Panels for murine immune cells

Panel 1	Panel 2	Panel 3	Panel 4	Panel 5
CD8	CD45	CD45	CD127	CD3
CD4	CD4	CD3	CD135	CD4
MHC-II	CD3	CD4	Sca-1	CD8
Ly6G	CD8	CD8a	NK1.1	CD45
EB86	N1.1	NK1.1	CD3	CD11c
CD11c	CD25	CD11b	B220	MHC Class II
XCR1	CD11b	I-A/I-E	CD4	IB8-1
FOXP3	B220	CD86	CD8	Fox-P3
L/B	CD127	PDL1	CXCR3	EB123
Ki-67	Ly6G	ICOS	CCR4	Ly6C
CD45	CD44	PD-1	CD25	Ly6G
CD11b	CD69	FoxP3	CD11b	CD11b
CD103	CD62L	GranzymeB	Ly6C	B220
PD1	Ly6C	F4/80	F4/80	F4/80
TCRβ		LY6C	MHC II	CD25
F4/80		Ly6G	Ly6G	
GR206		CD11c	CXCR4	
NKp46		B220	CD11c	
Gzmb			CD127	
Ly6C				



A 33-color panel of phenotypic analysis of murine organ specific immune cells

Si-Yu Yang^{a,1}, Meng-Xing Huang^{a,1}, Yan-Xia Sun^{b,1}, Liang Li^c, Zhen-Hua Bian^a, Jie Long^d, Zhi-Bin Zhao^{e,*}

CANCER IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH | RESEARCH ARTICLE

Longitudinal Immune Profiling Reveals Unique Myeloid and T-cell Phenotypes Associated with Spontaneous Immunoediting in a Prostate Tumor Model

Casey R. Ager¹, Aleksandar Z. Obradovic^{1,2}, Juan M. Arriaga³, Matthew G. Chaimowitz¹, Andrea Califano^{2,4,5,6,7,8}, Cory Abate-Shen^{2,3,4,9,10}, and Charles G. Drake^{1,9,11}

Using Full-Spectrum Flow Cytometry to Phenotype Memory T and NKT Cell Subsets with Optimized Tissue-Specific Preparation Protocols

Kathryn Farrand^{1,5}, Lauren E. Holz^{2,5}, Laura Ferrer-Font^{1,3}, Michael D. Wilson¹, Mitch Ganley⁴, Jordan J. Minnell¹, Ching-Wen Tang¹, Gavin F. Painter⁴, William R. Heath², Ian F. Hermans^{1,3,6}, and Olivia K. Burn^{1,6,7}

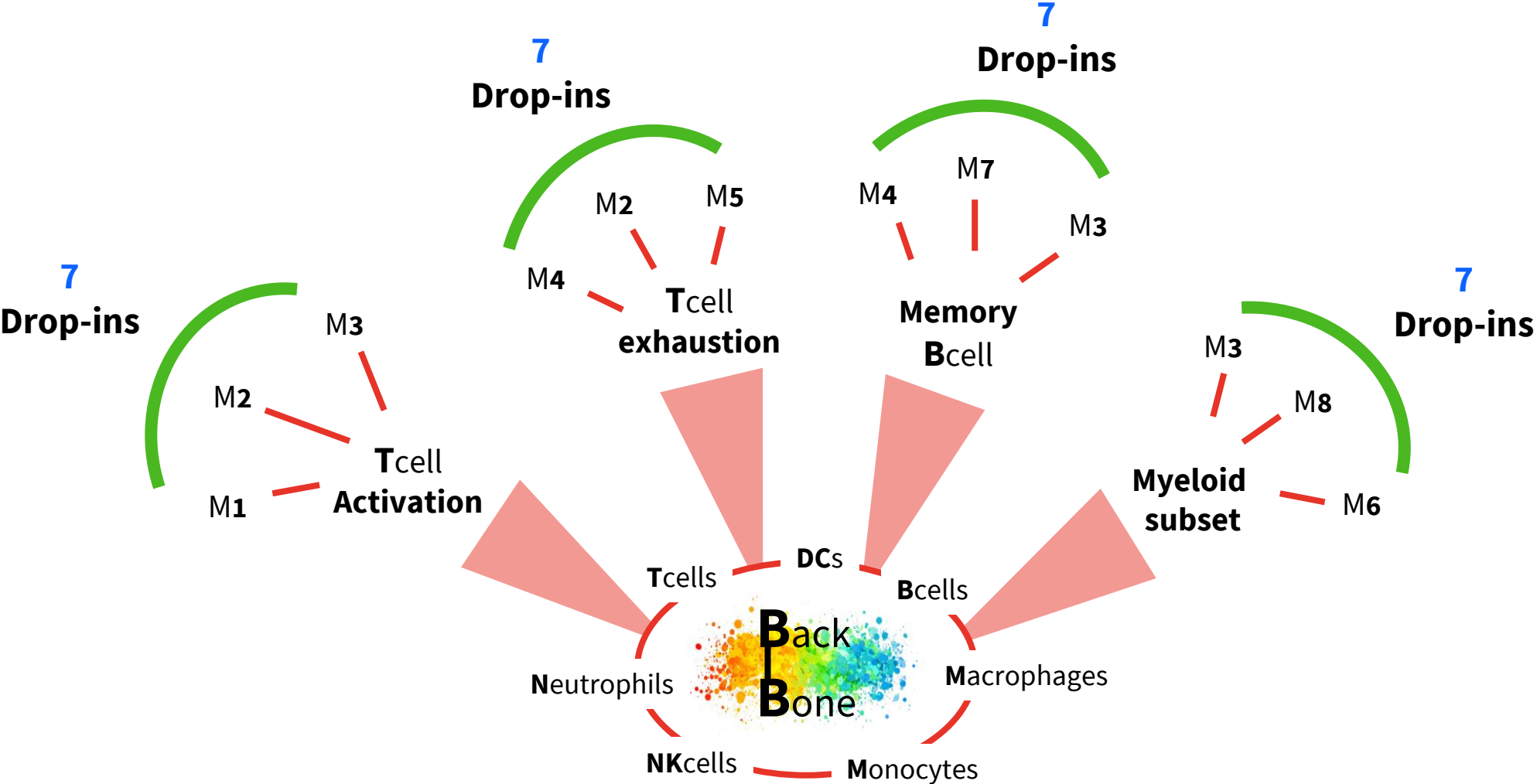


OMIP | Open Access | CC BY

OMIP-93: A 41-color high parameter panel to characterize various co-inhibitory molecules and their ligands in the lymphoid and myeloid compartment in mice

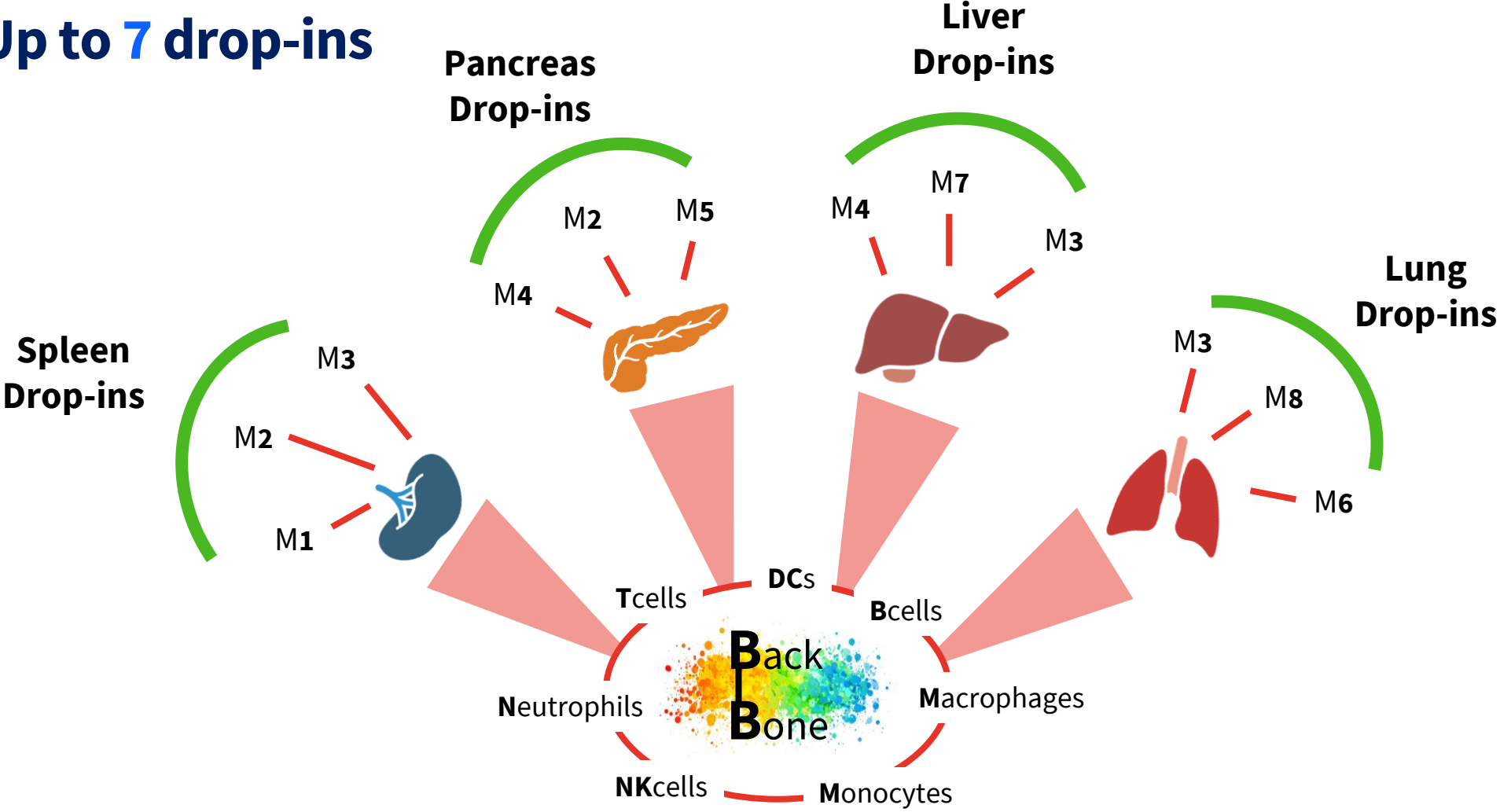
Johannes Brandl, Carsten Wiethe, Mathias Riehn, Thomas Jacobs

Immune surveillance of different subsets



Immune surveillance of different tissues

Up to 7 drop-ins



Murine spectral backbone panel for immune surveillance

 **frontiers** | Frontiers in **Immunology**

TYPE Original Research
PUBLISHED 27 March 2024
DOI 10.3389/fimmu.2024.1374943

 Check for updates

OPEN ACCESS

EDITED BY

Paola Cappello,
University of Turin, Italy

REVIEWED BY

Vera Svobodova Donnenberg,
University of Pittsburgh, United States
Aaron Victor,
Cedars Sinai Medical Center, United States

*CORRESPONDENCE

Ana Leda F. Longhini
 figueia@mskcc.org
Ross L. Levine
 leviner@mskcc.org
Rui Gardner
 gardnerr@mskcc.org

[†]These authors have contributed equally to this work

RECEIVED 23 January 2024

ACCEPTED 13 March 2024

PUBLISHED 27 March 2024

CITATION

Longhini ALF, Fernández-Maestre I, Kennedy MC, Wereski MG, Mowla S, Xiao W, Lowe SW, Levine RL and Gardner R (2024) Development of a customizable mouse backbone spectral flow cytometry panel to delineate immune cell populations in normal and tumor tissues.

Development of a customizable mouse backbone spectral flow cytometry panel to delineate immune cell populations in normal and tumor tissues

Ana Leda F. Longhini^{1*†}, Inés Fernández-Maestre^{2,3†}, Margaret C. Kennedy^{3,4}, Matthew G. Wereski², Shoron Mowla², Wenbin Xiao^{2,5,6}, Scott W. Lowe^{4,7}, Ross L. Levine^{2,5,8*†} and Rui Gardner^{1*†}

¹Flow Cytometry Core Facility, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), New York, NY, United States, ²Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, United States, ³Louis V. Gerstner Jr Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, United States, ⁴Department of Cancer Biology and Genetics, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, United States, ⁵Center for Hematologic Malignancies, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, United States, ⁶Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Hematopathology Service, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, United States, ⁷Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, United States, ⁸Department of Medicine, Leukemia Service, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, United States

Introduction: *In vivo* studies of cancer biology and assessment of therapeutic



Ana Longhini



Ines Maestre

Longhini et al (2024) *Front Immunol*
doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2024.1374943

Building a backbone panel

Purpose:

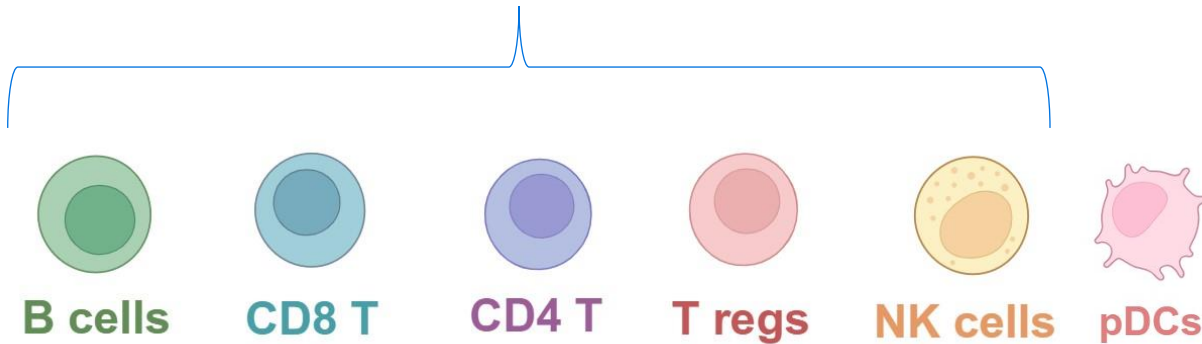
Mouse Immuno-profiling of tumor samples and other disease models

- Characterize the major immune populations
- Expandable and customizable panel – pre-defined drop-in fluorochromes
- Work for a variety of tissues
- Work on any spectral cytometer

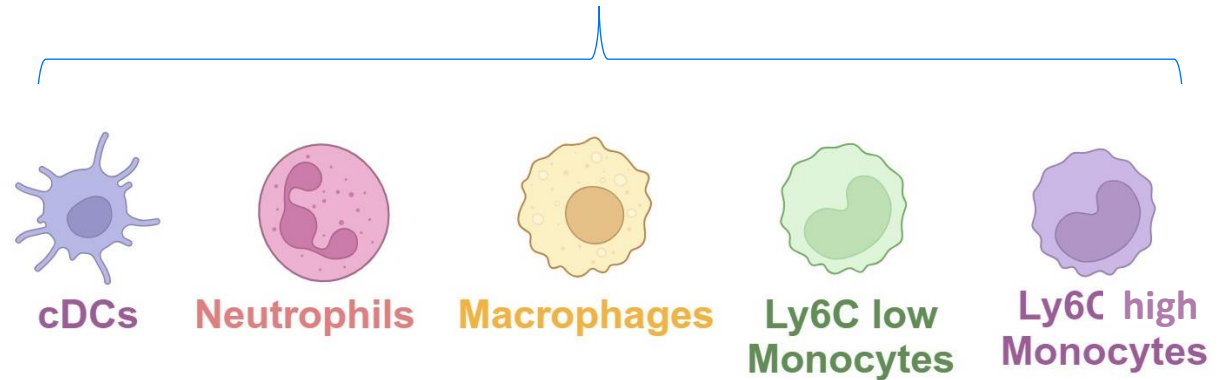


Immune populations

Lymphoid cells



Myeloid cells

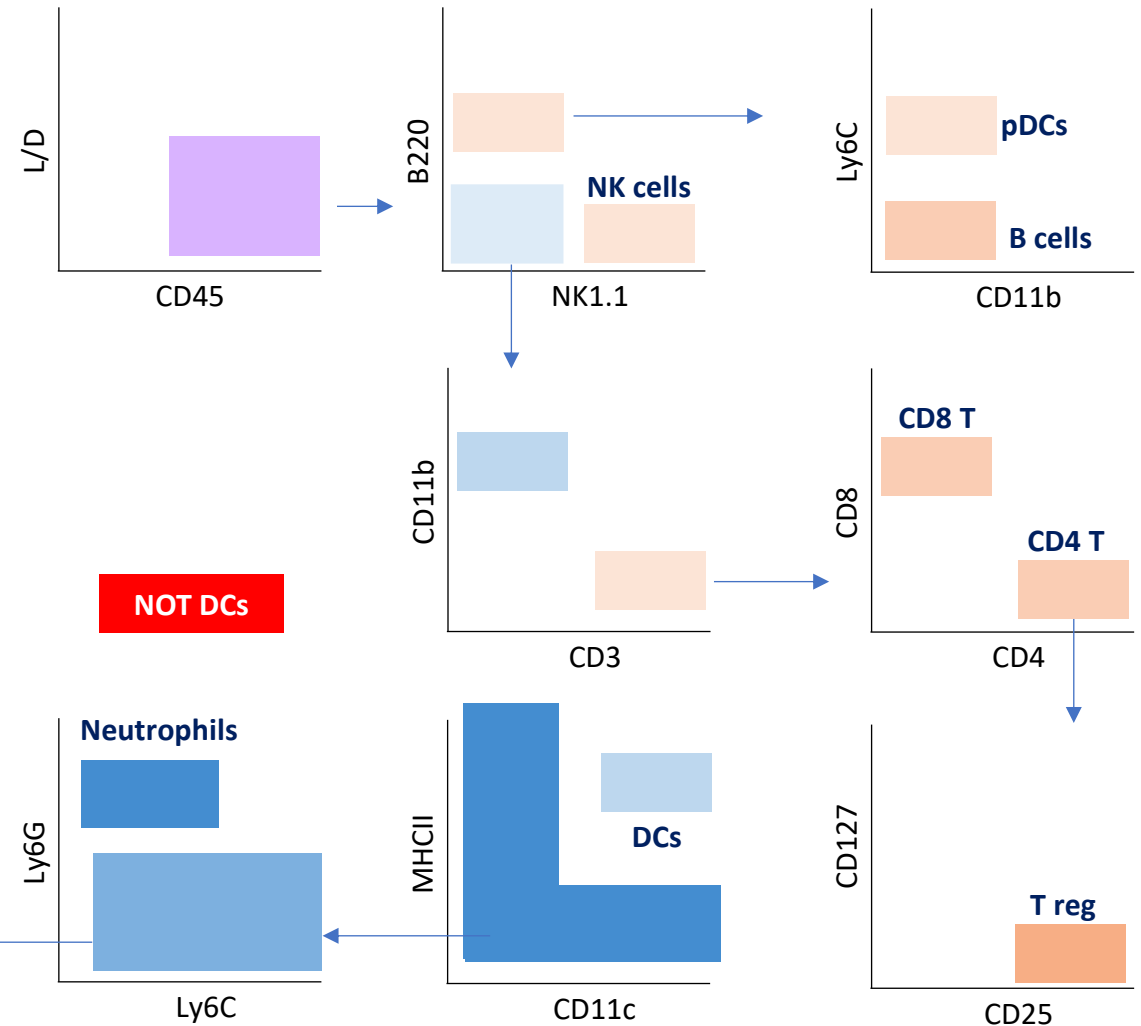


Backbone Markers and gating strategy

Backbone: 14 markers + L/D

Lymphoid Markers	Myeloid Markers	Common Markers
CD3	CD11b	CD45
B220	Ly6C	L/D
CD4	F4/80	
CD8	MHC II	
NK1.1	LY6G	
CD25	CD11c	
CD127		

Gating strategy allows definition of **11** subpopulations



Front. Immunol., 27 March 2024
 Sec. Cancer Immunity and Immunotherapy
 Volume 15 - 2024 |
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2024.1374943>



Drop-in
fluors

Drop-ins – the logic behind

- Fluors: Bright and common
 - Minimal impact on the Backbone resolution and vice-versa
 - Minimal impact between each other
- First-choice drop-ins : BV421, FITC (or BB515), PE, APC
- Another valuable point:** First-choice Drop-ins are not tandem dyes - less problems when unmixing – fluor library
- Suggestions for additional drop-ins : BV605, BV786, PE-Cy7

The backbone fluor assignment

Respect the rules for panel design

1. Bright fluors – low expression and dim fluors – high expression
2. Spread: impact on co-expressed markers

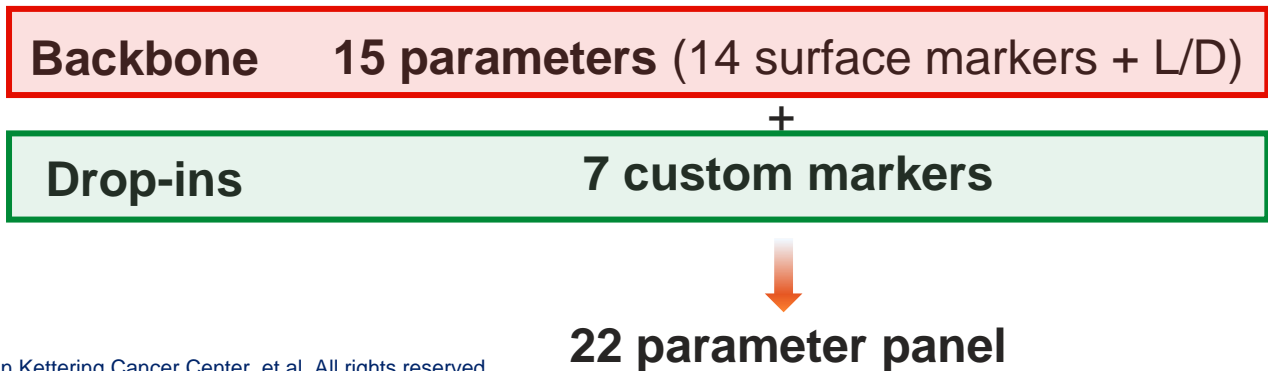


Intercalate myeloid markers with lymphoid markers on the same laser line and avoid co-expression across lasers

λ nm	UV (355 nm)		Violet (405 nm)		Blue (488 nm)		YG (561 nm)		Red (640 nm)	
	Antigen	Fluor	Antigen	Fluor	Antigen	Fluor	Antigen	Fluor	Antigen	Fluor
390	MHC II	BUV395	Drop-in	BV421						
490	CD8	BUV496			Drop-in	BB515				
590	CD11c	BUV563	CD11b	BV570			Drop-in	PE		
			Drop-in	BV605						
690	CD127	BUV661	B220	BV650					Drop-in	APC
					NK1.1	BB700	CD25	PE-Cy5		
			Ly6G	BV711					CD4	R718
	F4-80	BUV737								
790			Drop-in	BV785	Ly6-C	RB780	Drop-in	PE-Cy7	L/D	NIR
	CD3	BUV805							CD45	APC/Fire 810

Fluorochrome assignment

- ❖ Myeloid markers
- ❖ Lymphoid markers
- ❖ Common marker
- ❖ Drop-in fluorochromes



Front. Immunol., 27 March 2024

Sec. Cancer Immunity and Immunotherapy

Volume 15 - 2024 |

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2024.1374943>

Steps for panel evaluation

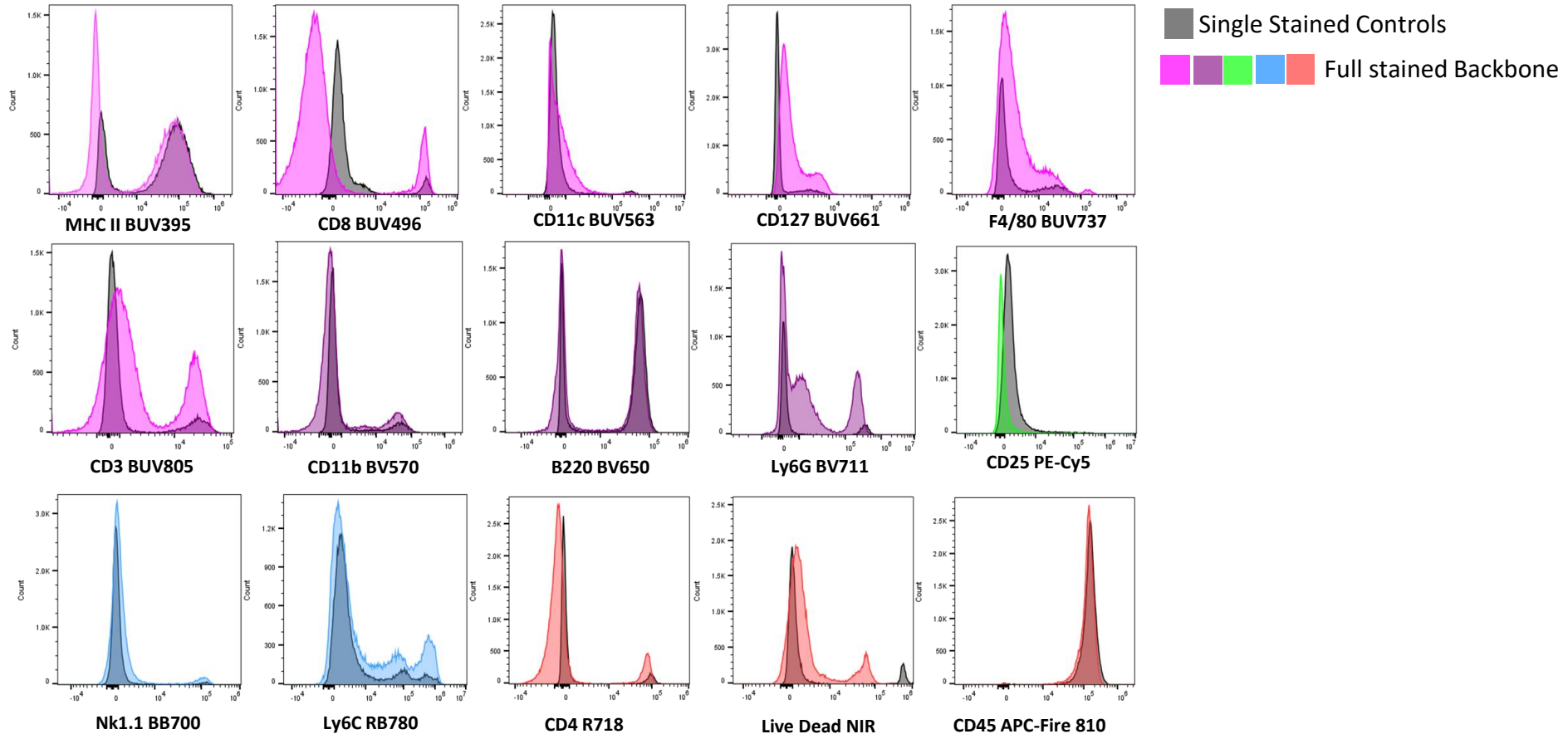
- The backbone panel clearly resolves major immune cells subsets
- The backbone panel must have **minimal** impact on the resolution of the drop-in fluorochromes
- The drop-in fluors must have **minimal** impact on the backbone resolution

Backbone panel N x N plots – unmixing evaluation

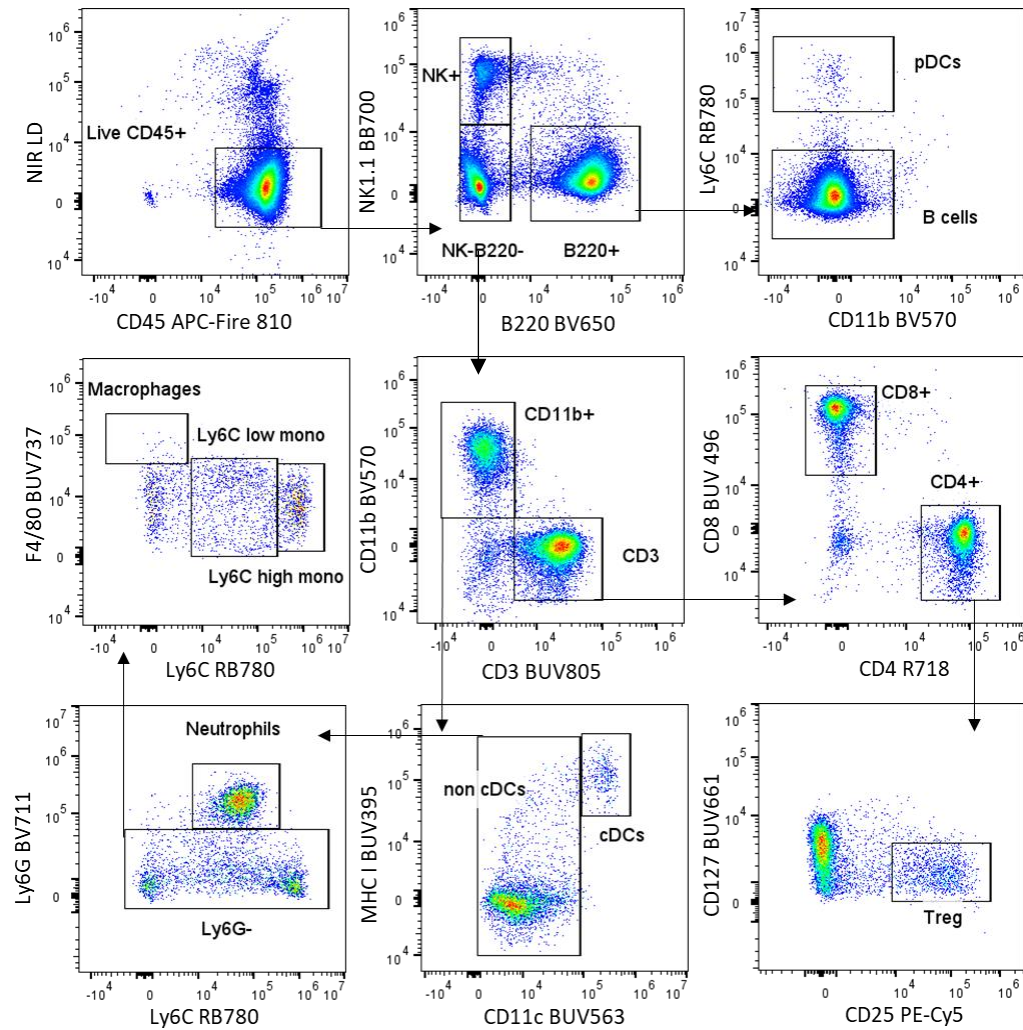


Comparison of single stained controls with fully stained backbone sample

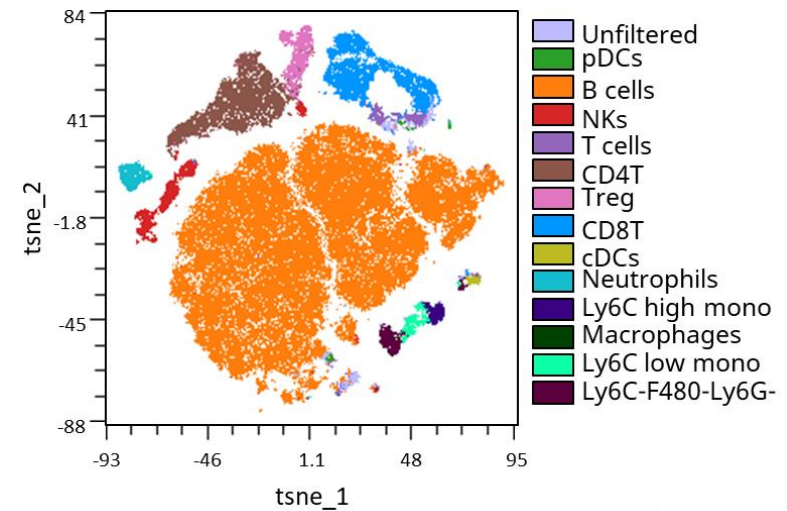
Panel evaluation



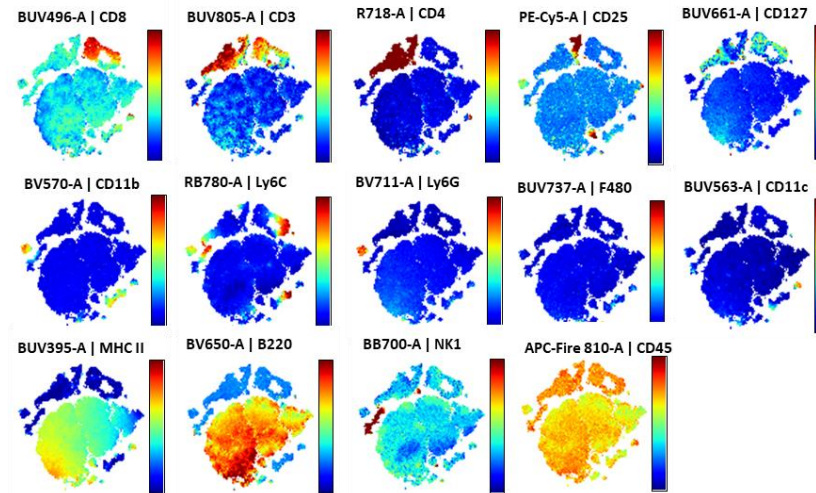
Backbone panel: manual and unsupervised analysis



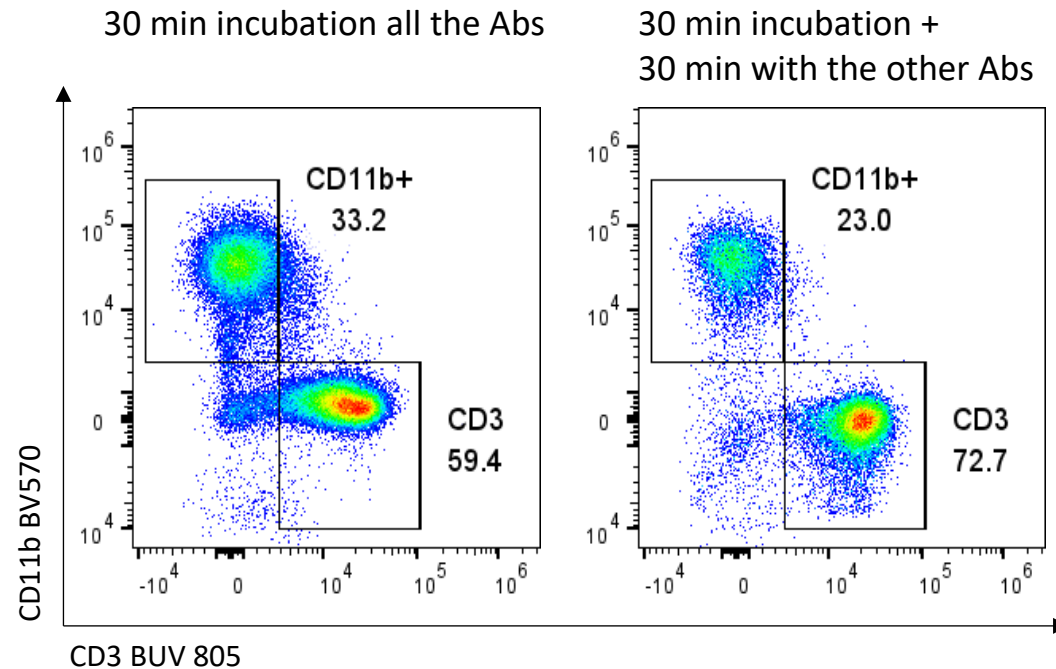
Sample: spleen cells from C57B6/N mice



Panel evaluation

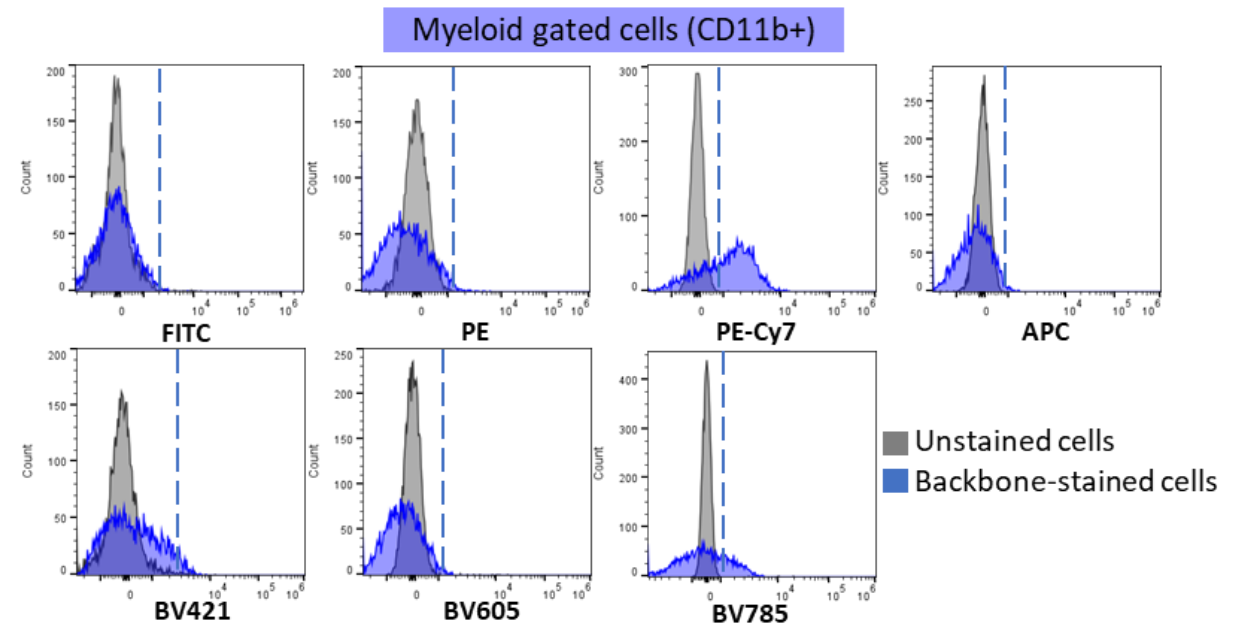
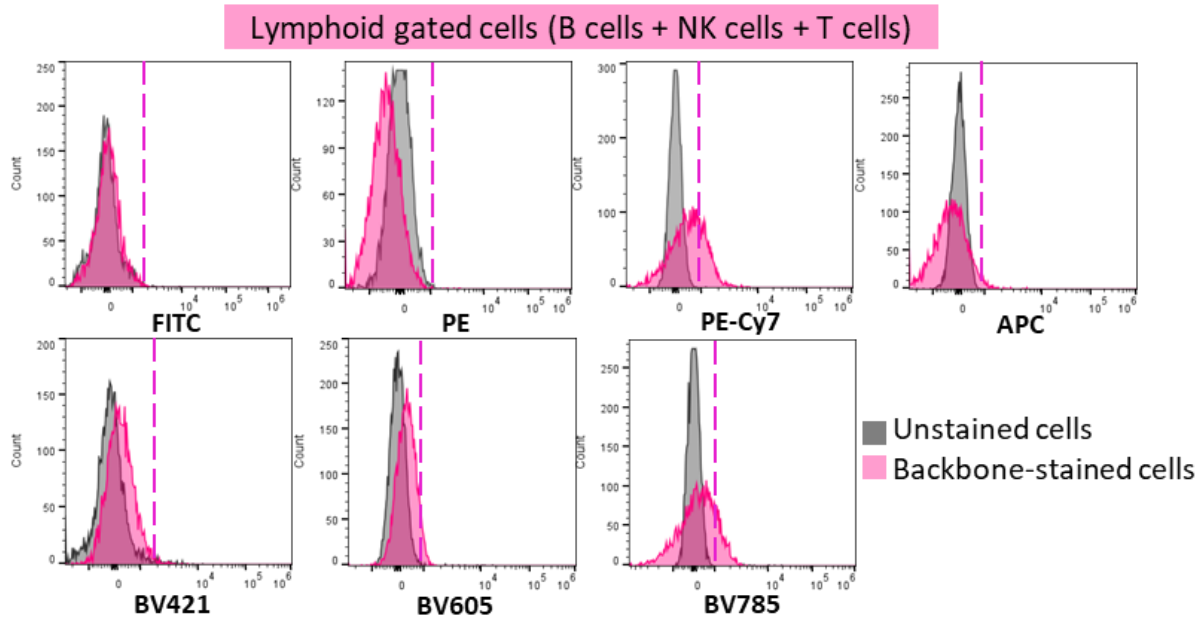


CD3 signal is improved by increasing the incubation time



Impact of the backbone panel on the drop-in fluorochromes

Panel evaluation

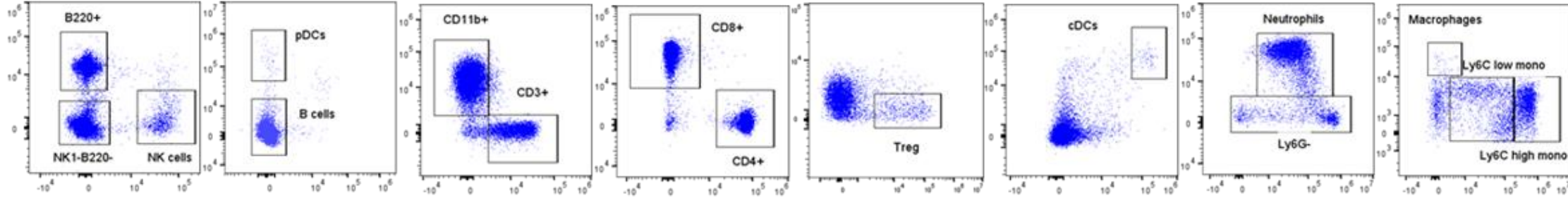


Unstained and fully stained sample: C57B6/N mice splenocytes
Single stained controls for the drop-in fluorochromes: splenocytes were stained with CD4 for each individual fluorochrome

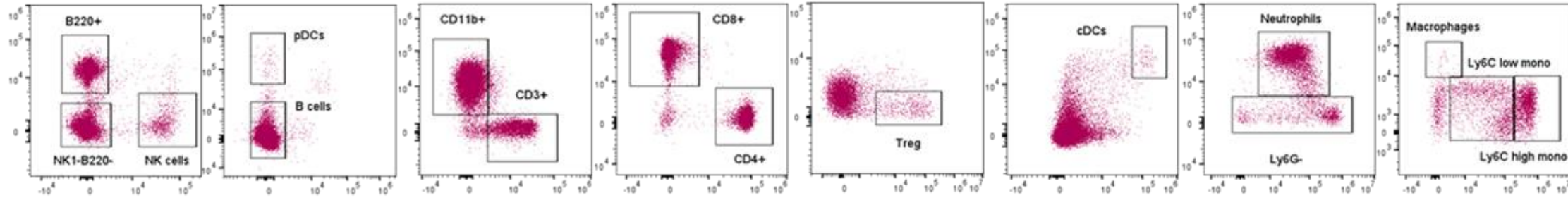
The addition of drop-ins does not impact the backbone resolution on spleen samples

Spleen cells

Backbone only

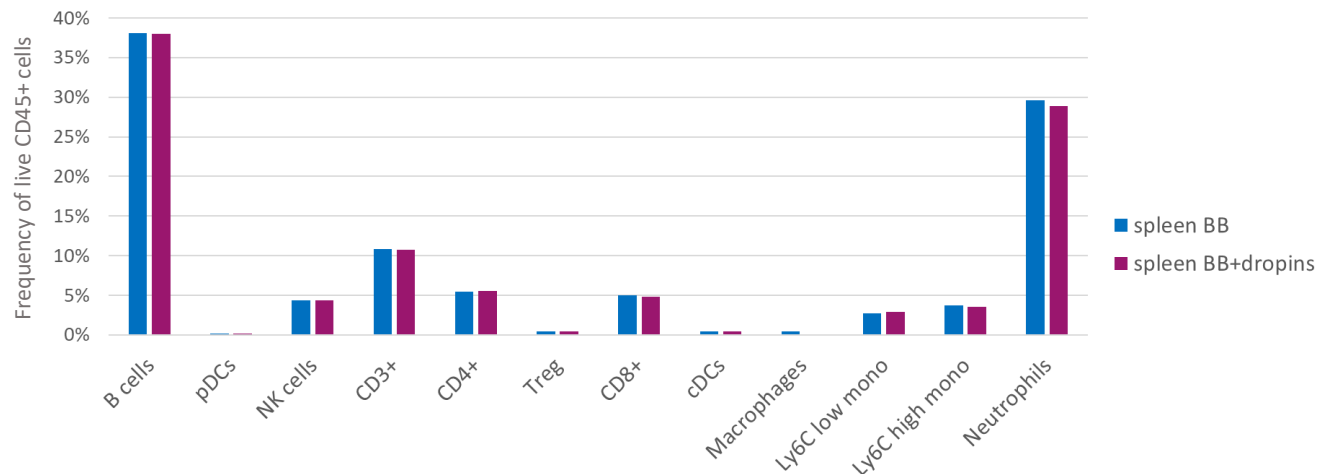


Backbone +
drop-ins
Immune panel



Drop-ins Immune panel

Fluor	Marker
BV421	CD62L
BV605	Siglec-F
BV785	c-Kit
BB515	-----
FITC	CD44
PE	TIM-4
PE-Cy7	PD-1
APC	Lag-3

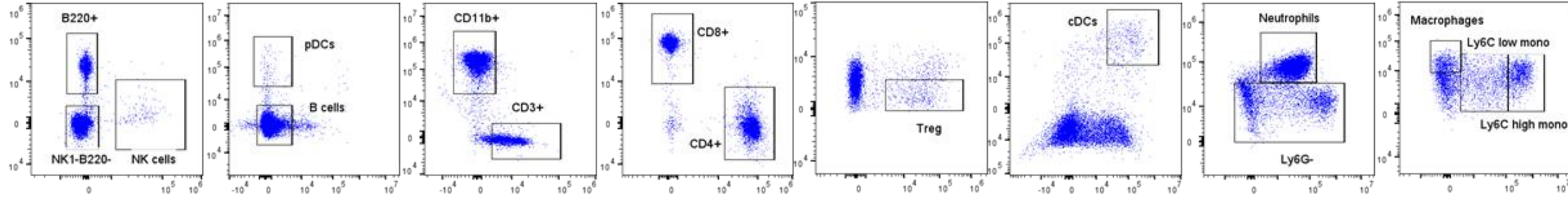


Front. Immunol., 27 March 2024
 Sec. Cancer Immunity and Immunotherapy
 Volume 15 - 2024 |
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2024.1374943>

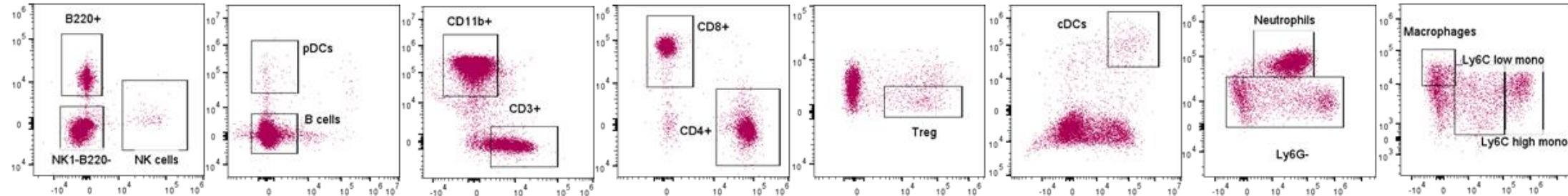
The addition of drop-ins does not impact the backbone resolution on KRAS-driven lung adenocarcinoma

Lung tumor

Backbone only



Backbone +
drop-ins
TME panel



Samples: dissociated lungs from C57Bl6/N mice injected with *Kras*G12C/+; *Trp53*fl/fl lung cells.

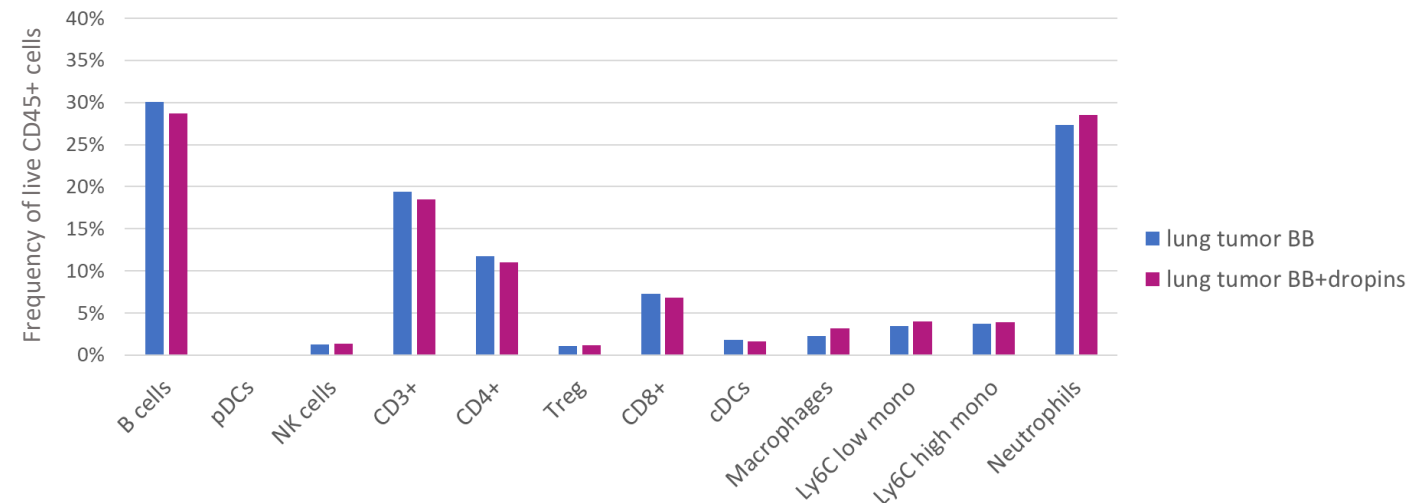
Front. Immunol., 27 March 2024

Sec. Cancer Immunity and Immunotherapy

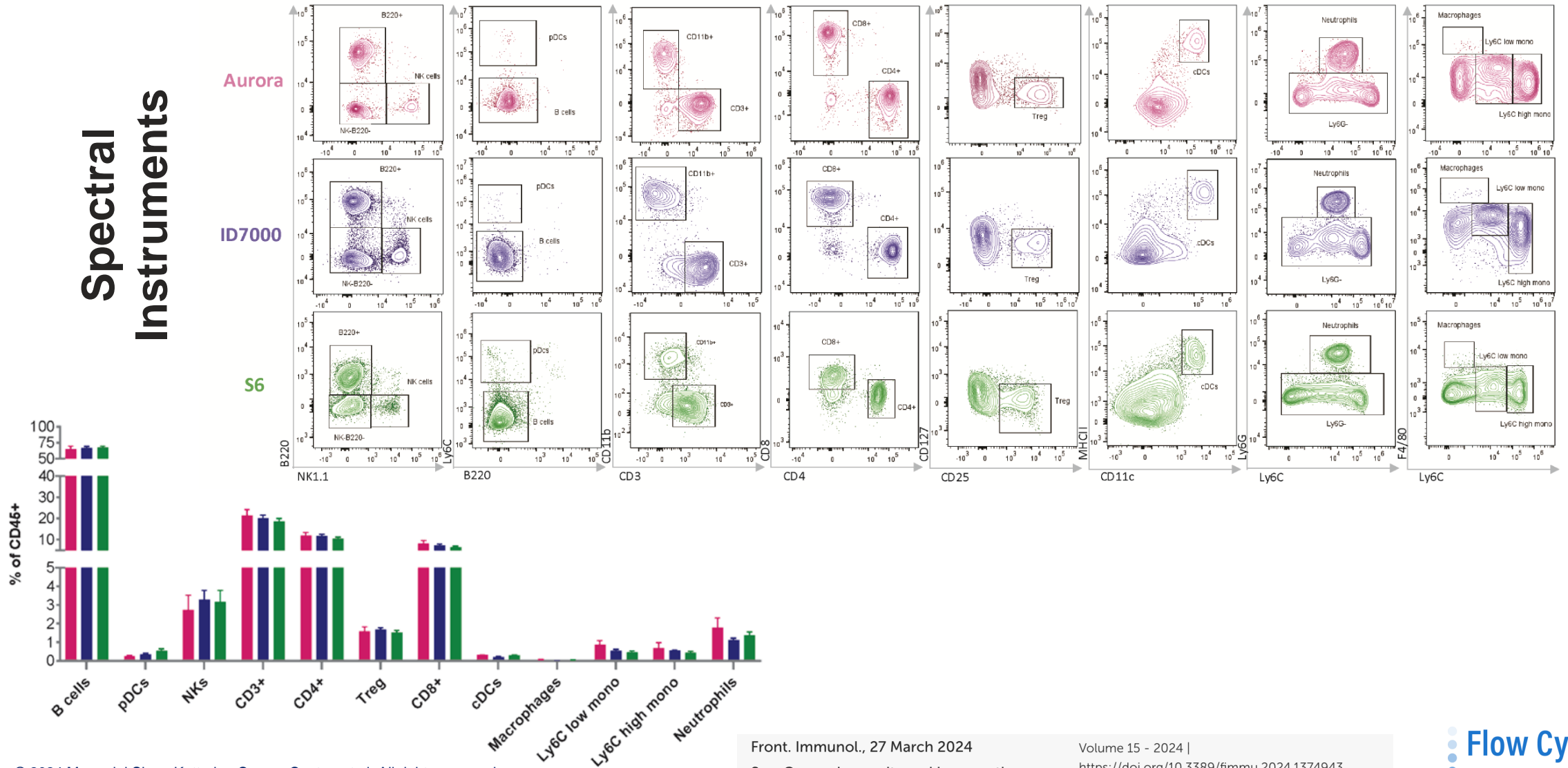
Volume 15 - 2024 |

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2024.1374943>

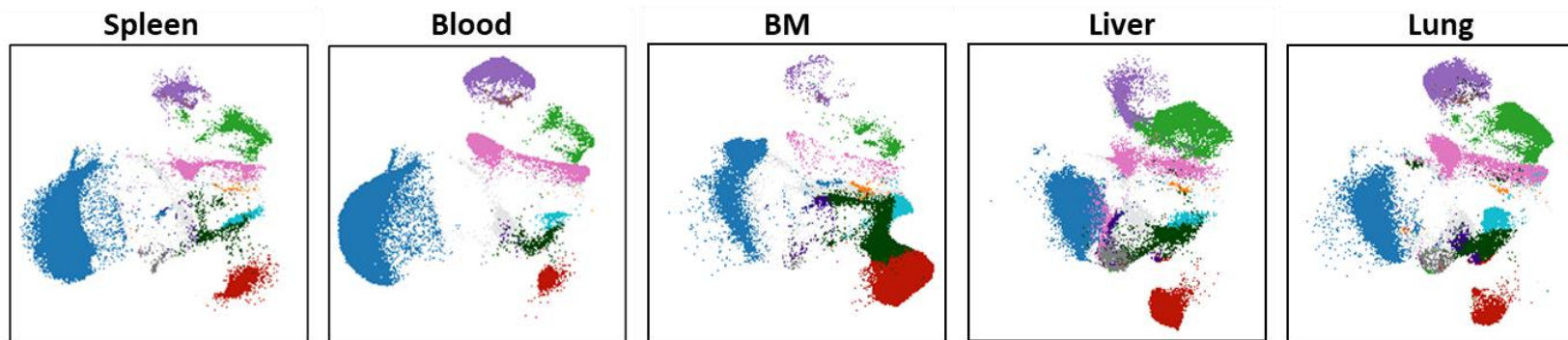
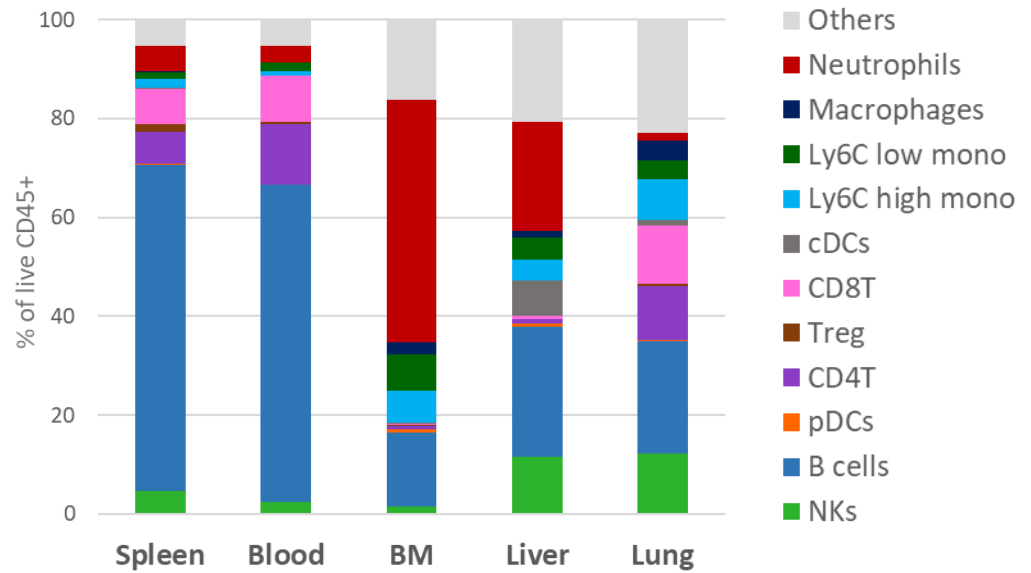
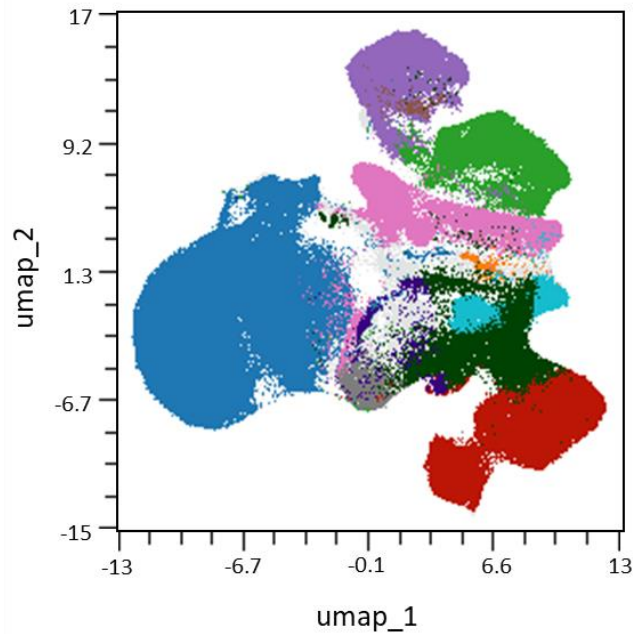
Drop-ins TME panel	
Fluor	Marker
BV421	PDPN
BV605	Epcam
BV785	----
BB515	Lag-3
FITC	----
PE	----
PE-Cy7	PD-1
APC	CD31



The backbone panel performs across different spectral cytometers

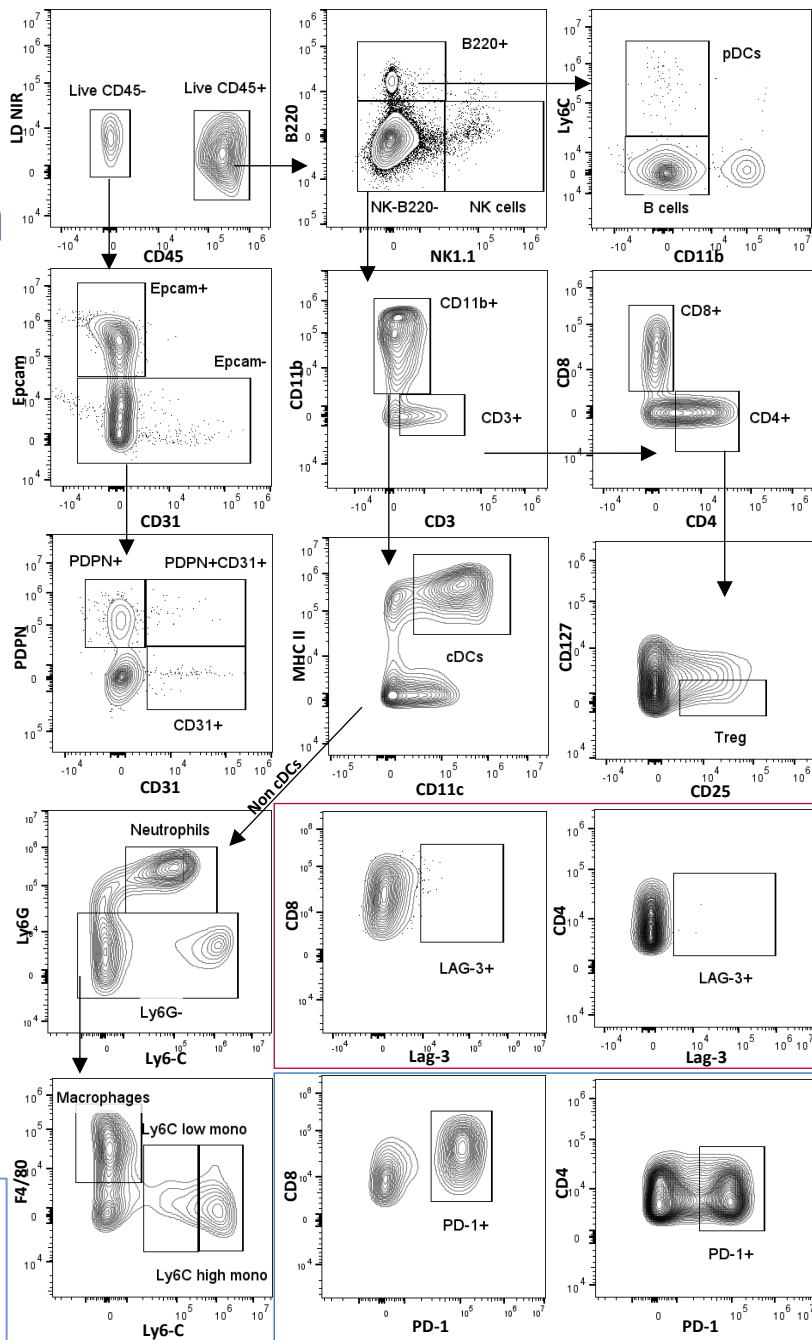


The backbone is organ agnostic



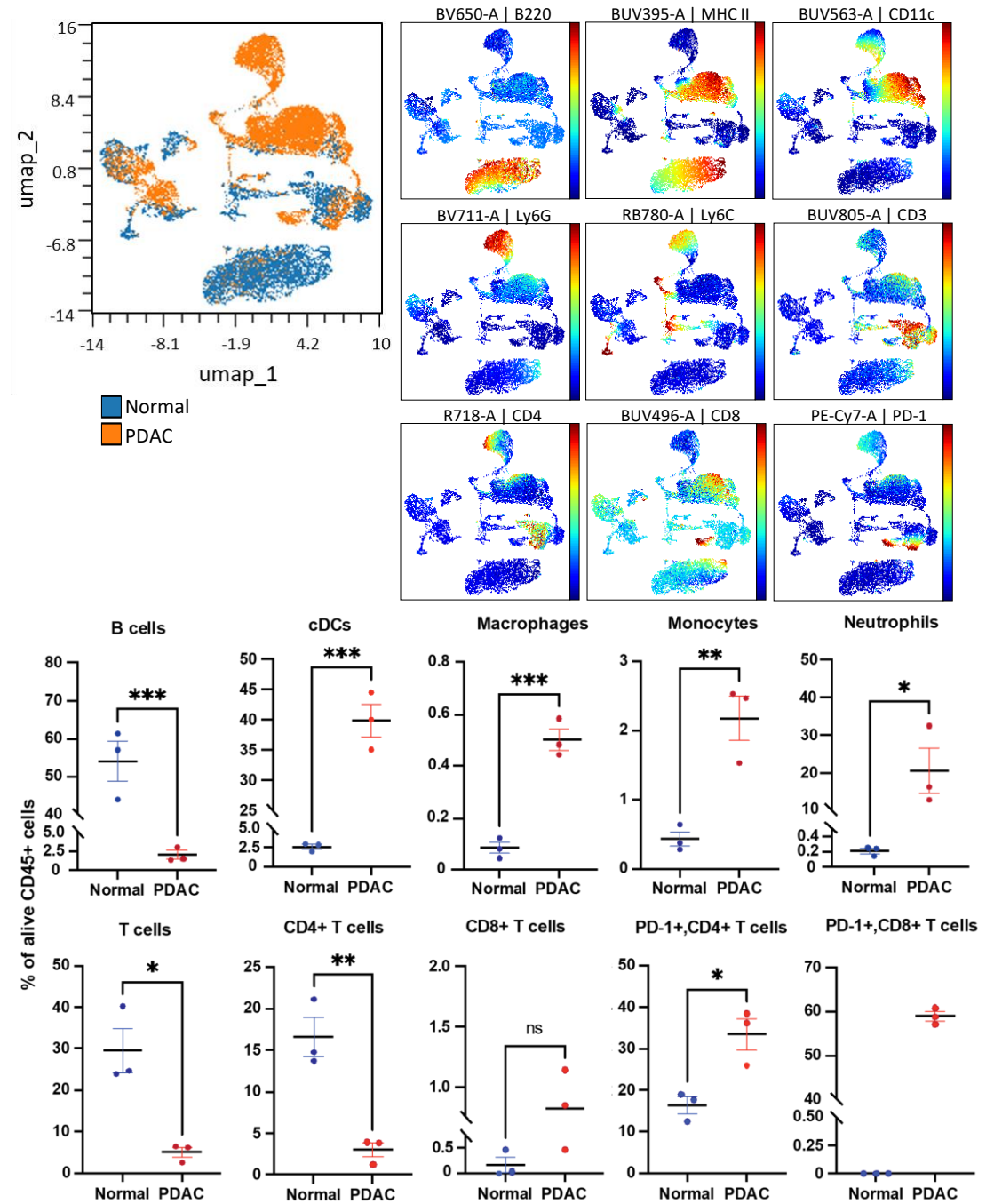
Front. Immunol., 27 March 2024
 Sec. Cancer Immunity and Immunotherapy
 Volume 15 - 2024 |
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2024.1374943>

The backbone can be used with complex tumor samples



Drop-ins TME panel	
Fluor	Marker
BV421	PDPN
BV605	Epcam
BV785	-----
BB515	Lag-3
FITC	-----
PE	-----
PE-Cy7	PD-1
APC	CD31

Samples: pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) and normal dissociated pancreas from C57Bl6/N

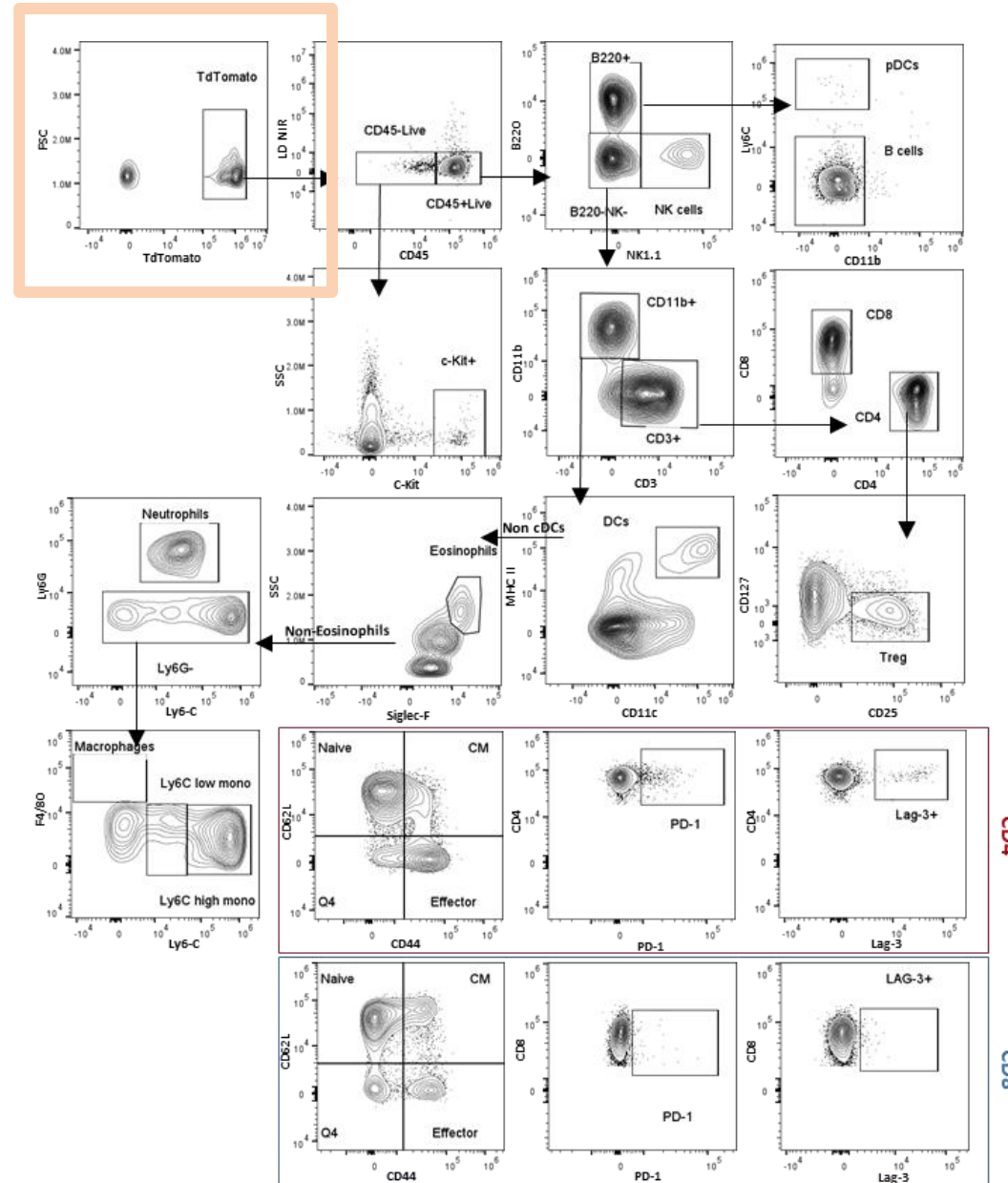


The backbone performs with highly expressed TdTomato cells

Drop-ins Immune panel TdTomato

Fluor	Marker
BV421	CD62L
BV605	Siglec-F
BV785	c-Kit
BB515	-----
FITC	CD44
PE	-----
PE-Cy7	PD-1
APC	Lag-3
TdTomato	TdTomato

Sample: splenocytes from tdT+ HSC-Scl-Cre-ERT C57Bl6/N mouse



Front. Immunol., 27 March 2024
 Sec. Cancer Immunity and Immunotherapy
 Volume 15 - 2024 |
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2024.1374943>

Future improvements

- Improve CD3 resolution
Swap fluor (BUV805)
Alternatively use TCR $\alpha\beta$
- Develop backbone panel for intracellular staining
- Develop human backbone panel
- Explore autofluorescence extraction to improve resolution

Summary

- The backbone panel is reliable for profiling immune cells from **hematopoietic and non-hematopoietic organs**, as well as **tumors** with complex immune microenvironments.
- The backbone panel **maintains its resolution** across **different spectral flow cytometers**.
- The panel is validated to incorporate up to **seven other fluorochromes** and can be associated with bright fluorescent proteins, such as tdTomato.
- A robust backbone that can be customized with pre-tested drop-in fluorochromes not only **saves time and resources**, but also **brings consistency and standardization**, making it a valuable solution for immuno-oncology researchers.

Acknowledgements



Ines Maestre

Matthew G. Wereski

Shoron Mowla

Wenbin Xiao

Ross Levine

Margaret C. Kennedy

Scott Lowe

Luciana Kimmal (**Thermofisher**)

Anthony Carcio (**Sony**)

Wences Castillo (**BD**)

Diana Vesely (**Biolegend**)

Mark Edinger (**Cytek**)



Ana Longhini
(**Scientific Manager**)

The FCCF Team



Flow Cytometry

Core Facility



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Building Flow Cytometry tools to improve research

Rui Gardner

Director, Flow Cytometry Core Facility

✉ gardnerr@mskcc.org

Questions?

@flowMSKCC



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

••• **Flow Cytometry**

Core Facility