

Mapping the Protein Interactome of Single Immune Cells using the Proximity Network Assay

Filip Karlsson¹*, Michele Simonetti¹, Christina Galonska¹, Max Karlsson¹, Hanna van Ooijen¹, Tomasz Kallas¹, Divya Thiagarajan¹, Maud Schweitzer¹, Ludvig Larsson¹, Vincent van Hoef¹, Pouria Tajvar¹, Johan Dahlberg¹, Florian De Temmerman², Louise Leijonancker¹, VanessaTrombin¹, Sylvain Geny¹, Rikard Forlin³, Erika Negrini³, Stefan Petkov¹, Lovisa Franzén¹, Jessica Bunz¹, Christine Moge¹, Henrik Everberg¹, Petter Brodin^{3,4,5}, Alvaro Martinez Barrio¹, and Simon Fredriksson¹*

¹Pixelgen Technologies AB, Stockholm, Sweden, ² BioLizard nv, Ghent, Belgium, ³ Department of Women's and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet, 17165, Solna, Sweden, ³ ⁴ Department of Immunology and Inflammation, Imperial College London, London, UK, ⁵ Medical Research Council, London Institute of Medical Sciences (LMS), Imperial College Hammersmith Campus, London, UK

WHY PROTEIN INTERACTOMICS OF SINGLE CELLS?

Cellular function depends on dynamic interactions and nanoscale spatial organisation of proteins. While transcriptomic and proteomic methods have enabled single-cell profiling, scalable technologies allowing high-resolution analysis of protein organization at omics-scale are lacking. Here we present the Proximity Network Assay (PNA), a DNA-based method for constructing three-dimensional nanoscale maps of 155 proteins in single cells without the use of optics. Protein interactomics by Proximity Networks delivers this new exciting omics dimension.

WHY USE PIXELGEN FOR YOUR RESEARCH?

(♣) IN-DEPTH DISEASE PROFILING

UNRAVELLING MOLECULAR MECHANISMS

Q DRUG TARGET IDENTIFICATION & MODE-OF-ACTION

BIOMARKER DISCOVERY & PATIENT STRATIFICATION

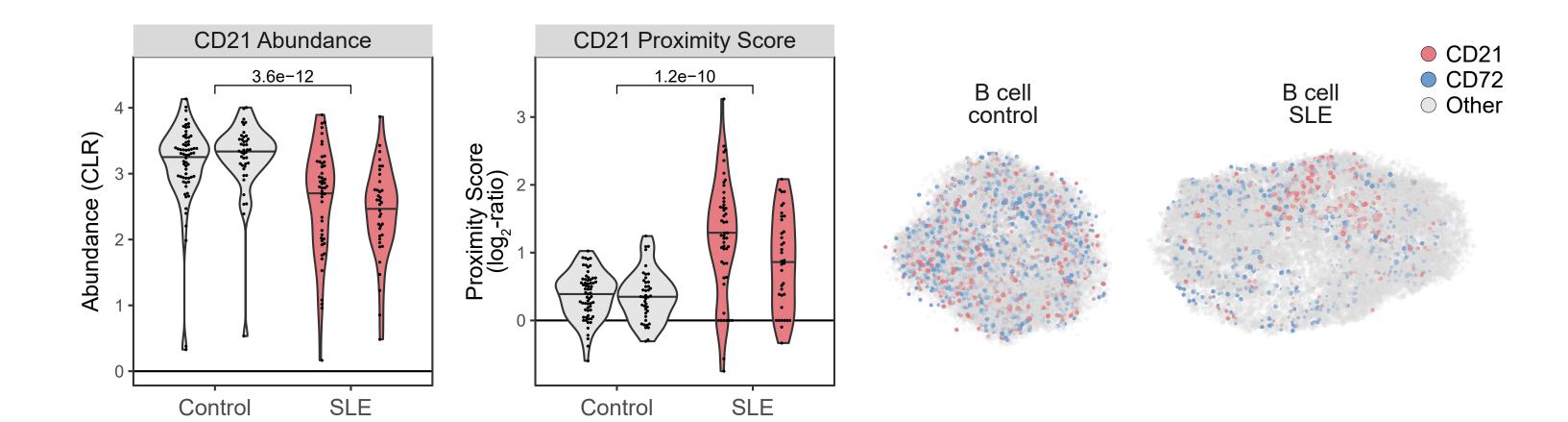
Protein X Linker Protein Y $\bullet \bullet \bullet$ STEP 1 Cell fixation **Amplification**

WHAT DOES THE PIXELGEN PROXIOME KIT OFFER?

The Pixelgen Proxiome Kit, Immuno 155, enables nanoscale (~50 nm) single-cell protein interactomics. It supports processing of suspended cells from various source e.g. PBMCs, bone marrow, cell lines, organoids, or frozen tissue. The method is built on a simple NGS prep protocol and recuires no specialized instrumentation. Data is processed using open-source analysis pipelines and the output includes protein clustering, colocalization, and abundance for each single cell. One kit supports 8 reactions, generating data for 1,000 cells per reaction.

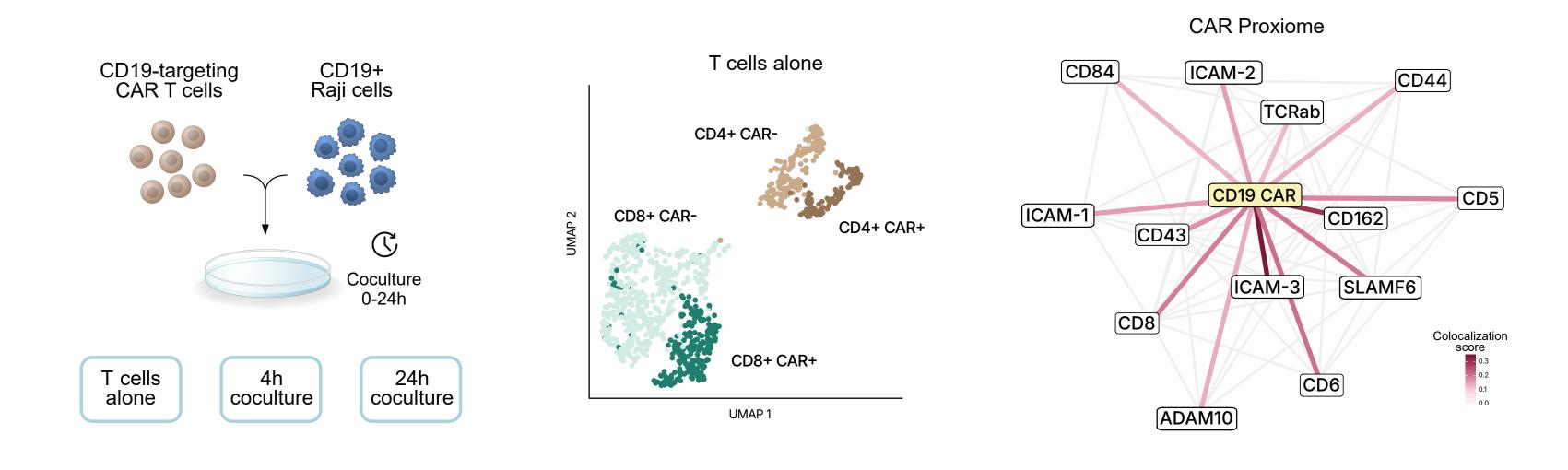
UNIQUE PROTEIN ORGANIZATION IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)

The Proximity Network Assay (PNA) can be harnessed to provide insights into disease mechanisms of auto immune disorders like SLE. PNA was used to profile B cells from patients of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE, n = 2) and healthy controls (Control, n=2).

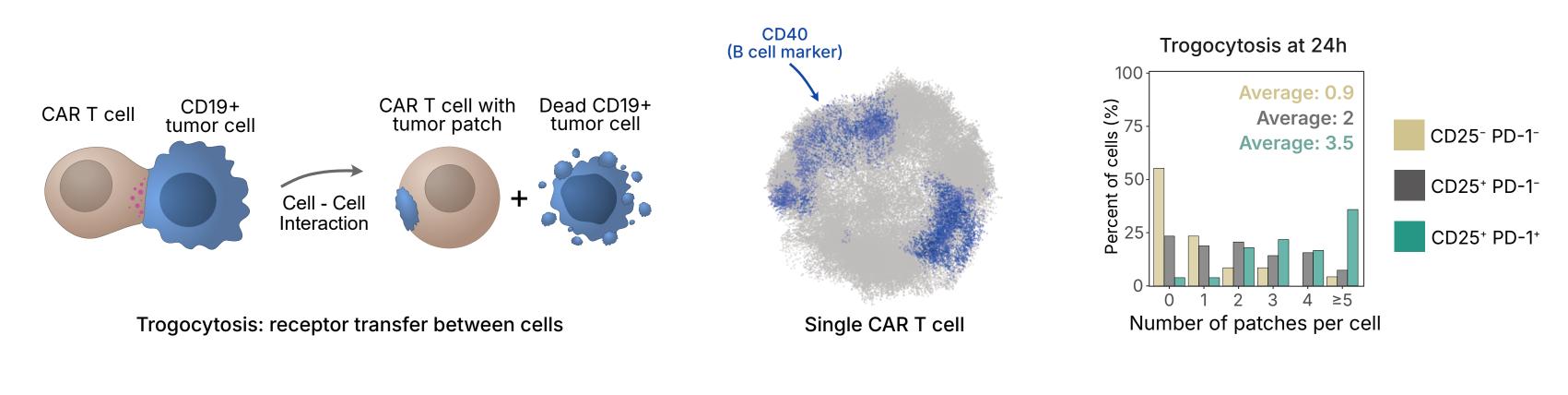


Despite being downmodulated in SLE patients, the BCR-regulating protein CD21 displayed a higher Proximity Score in lupus B cells, reflecting greater protein clustering and possible affects on autoreactive signaling.

DEEP CHARACTERIZATION OF CD19-TARGETING CAR T CELLS



The Proximity Network Assay was used to profile a CD19-targeting CAR T cell product at rest and during tumor cell interaction. The CD19-targeting CAR, known for its low degree of tonic signalling, displayed a dispersed distribution and colocalization with proteins involved in T cell activation and immune synapse formation, including TCRαβ, CD5, CD6, CD44, and ICAM-1/2/3, suggesting its integration into signaling-competent regions.

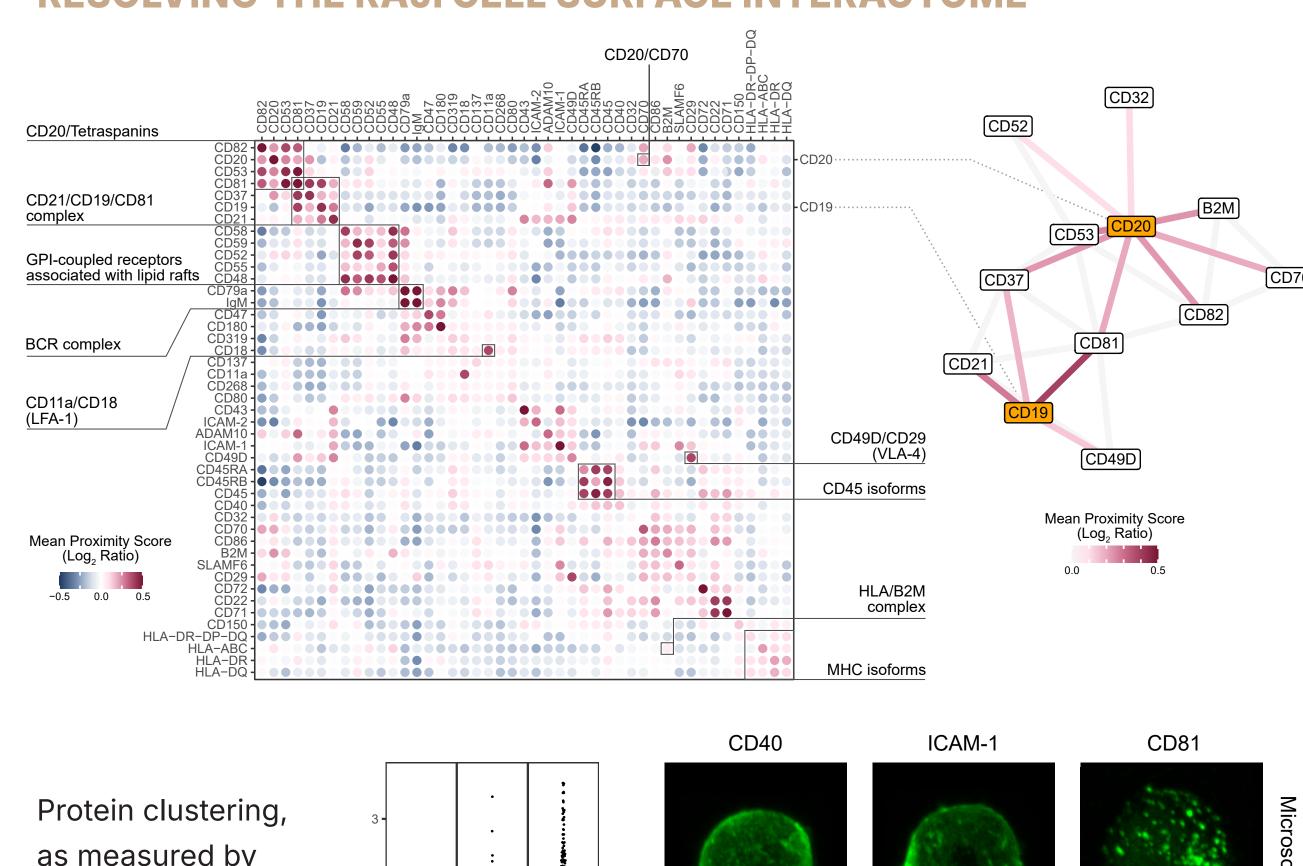


Localization of CD3e and CD40 on a single T cell - tumor cell conjugate CD3e **CD40** (B cell specific) (T cell specific)

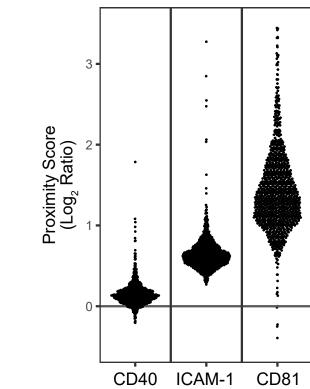
CAR cells, especially CD25+ PD-1+ cells, displayed large degrees of trogocytosis following 24h of coculture. A large number of markers were found to be trogocytosed including CD40, CD22 and ICAM-1. The PNA assay can efficiently differentiate between trogocytosis and conjugate formation enabeling correct characterization of cellular function.

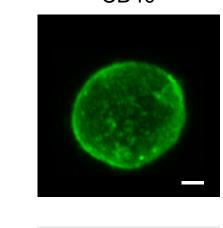
RESOLVING THE RAJI CELL SURFACE INTERACTOME

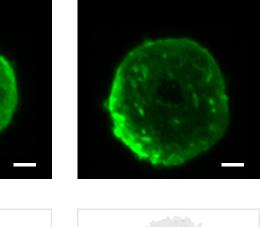
Network linking

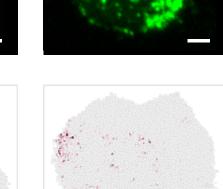


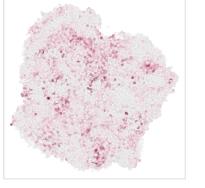
as measured by the Proximity Score, correlates well with protein apperance in IF microscopy.

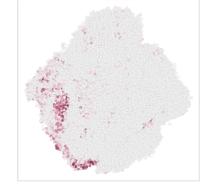


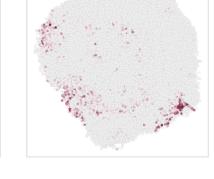






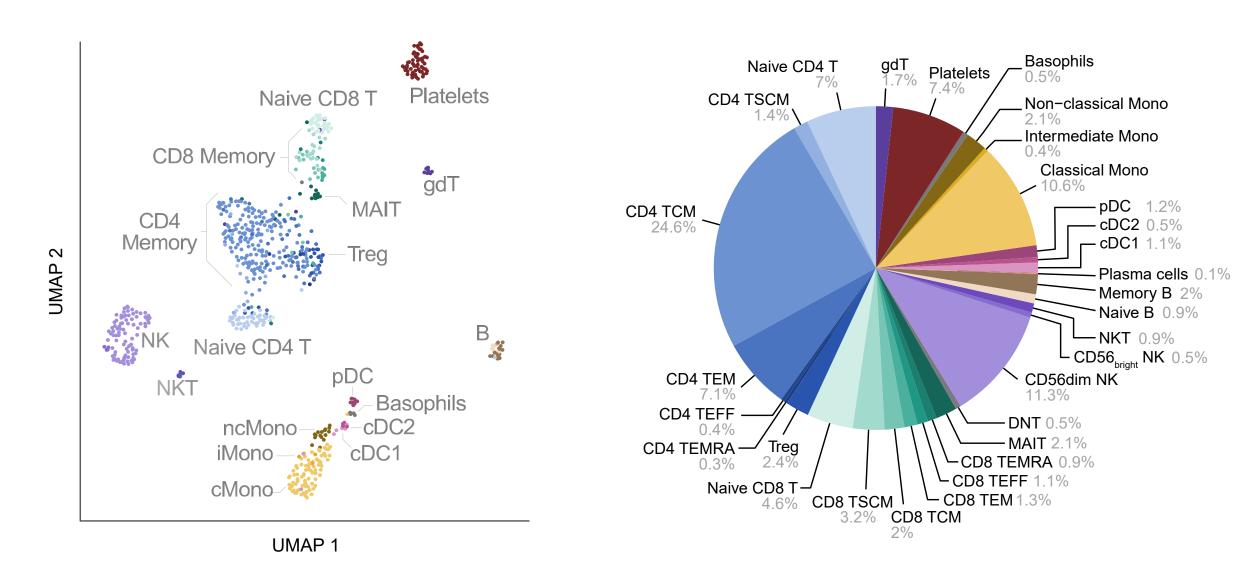






CELL IDENTIFICATION IN HETEROGENOUS CELL POPULATIONS

The 155-plex panel of the Proxiome kit was developed to cover the most important surface markers to characterize the function and identity of key human immune cell types. It enables the identification of ~30 major PBMC lineages.



SUMMARY

- The Proximity Network Assay provides a new dimension of immune cell profiling by enabeling single-cell protein interactomics.
- It uncovers biomarkers, enables patient stratification, and sheds light on disease mechanisms and drug-mode-of-actions.
- Designed for ease of use, it requires no specialized instrumentation, offering a streamlined kit-and-software workflow for accessible, high-resolution analysis.

The SLE study was performed in collaboration with Petter Brodin, Karolinska Institutet.





