

CRISPR screens with single-cell transcriptome readout reveal potential mechanisms of response to natural killer cell treatment in multiple myeloma

Sara Gandolfi, MD, PhD

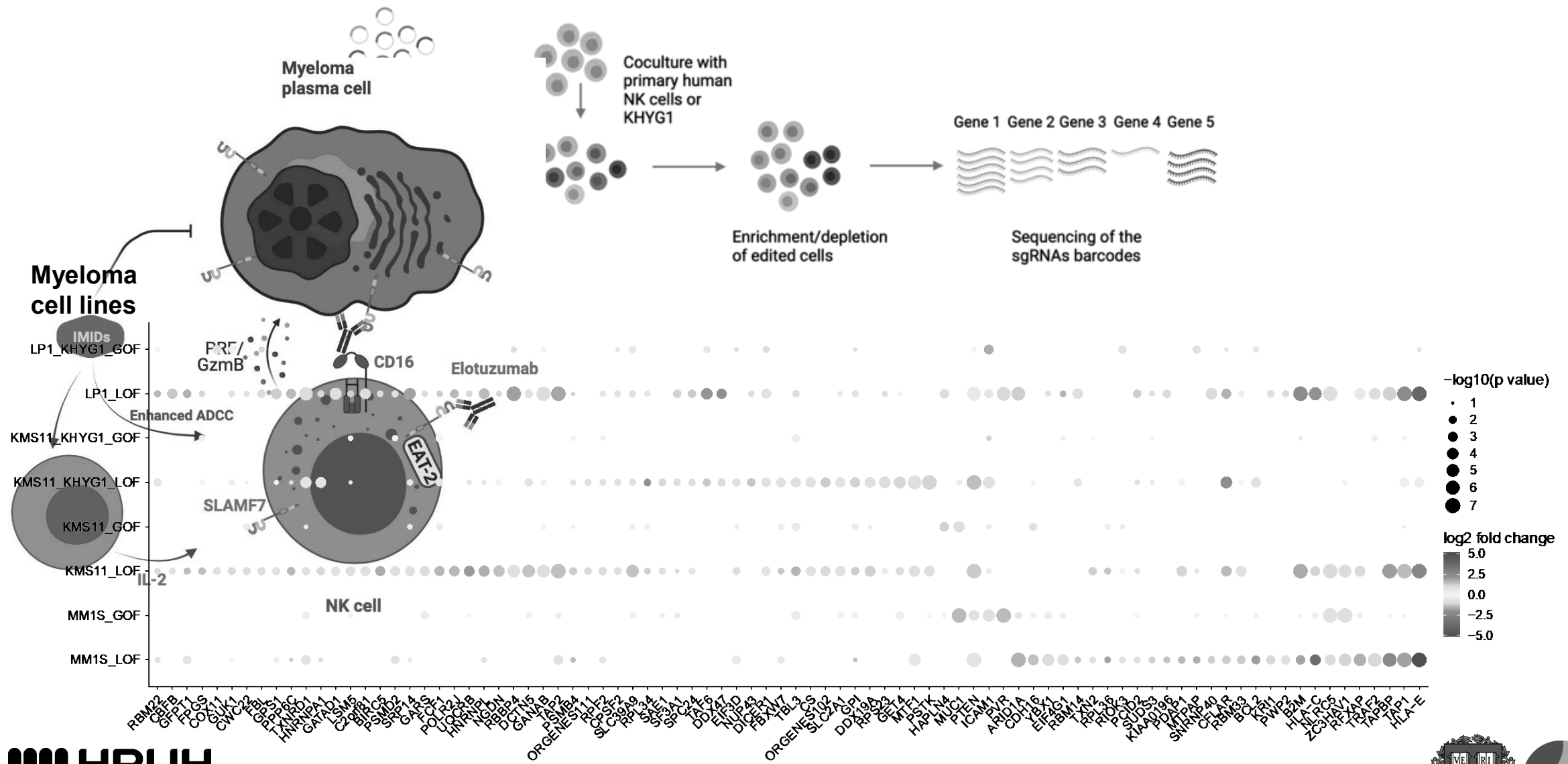
18th International Myeloma Workshop

Vienna, September 9th 2021

COI disclosure

- *No COI to declare*

Background



CRISPR with single cell readout

CRISPR hits

IFN γ signaling pathway

JAK1 *IFNGR2*
JAK2 *NLRC5*
STAT1 *RFXAP*

Death receptor/NF- κ B signaling

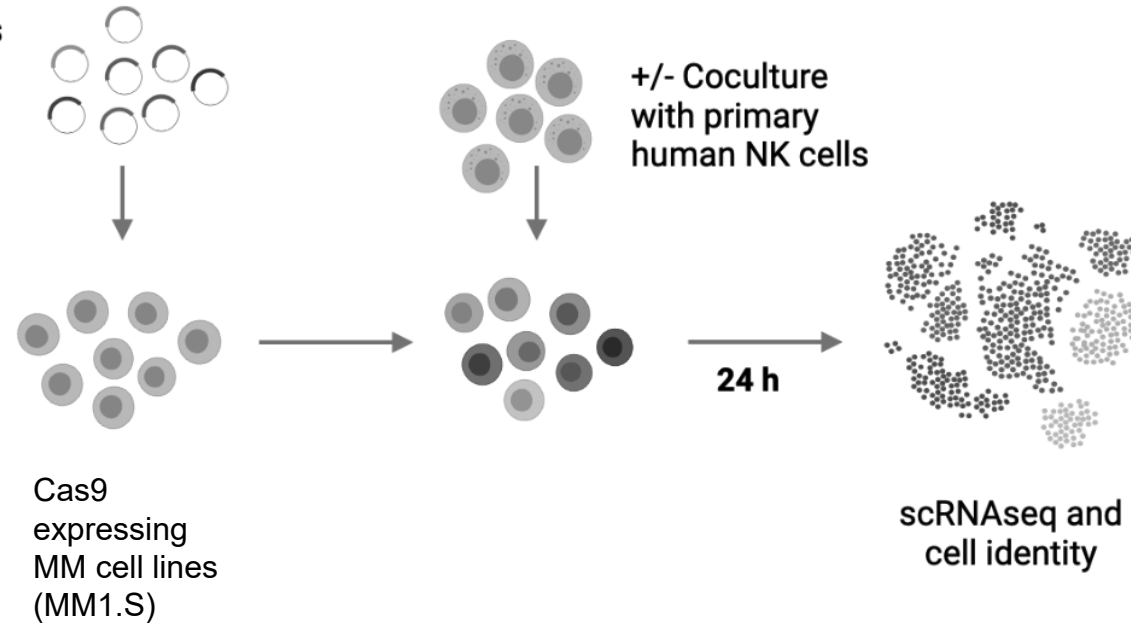
TRAF2 *TNFRSF10A*
NFKBIA *CASP8*
NFKBIB

Transcription factors/others

GNA13 *ARHGAP1*
PCGF5 *RNF31*
AEBP2 *PTEN*

+ non-targeting controls

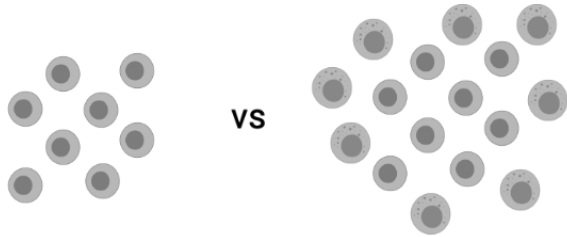
CRISPR sgRNAs targeting genome-wide screen hits



Gandolfi S et al, ASH 2018

Transcriptional changes upon engagement with NK cells

MM1.S carrying
non – targeting
guides



Untreated

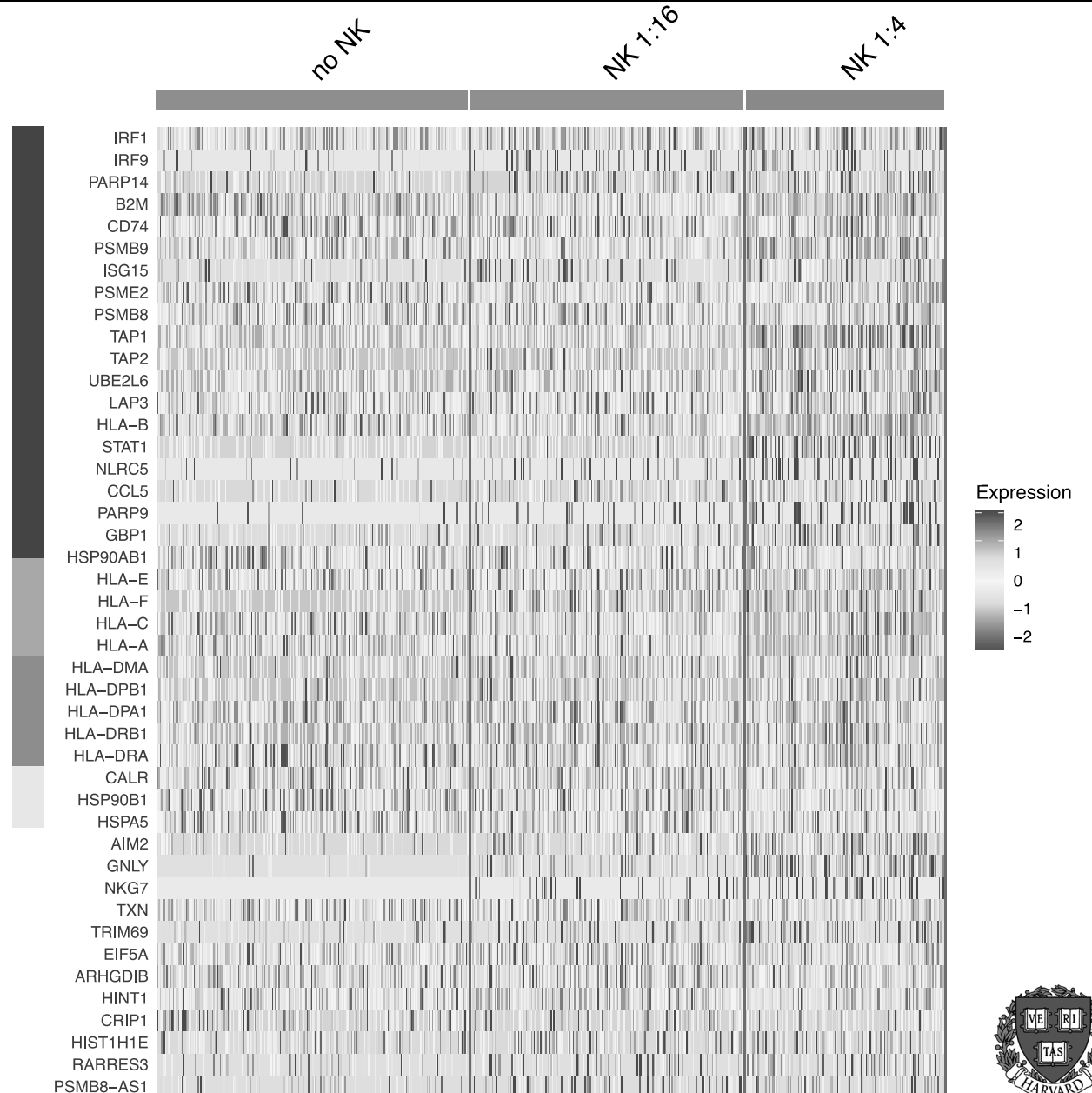
Coculture with
primary human
NK cells

IFN γ response

Class I HLA

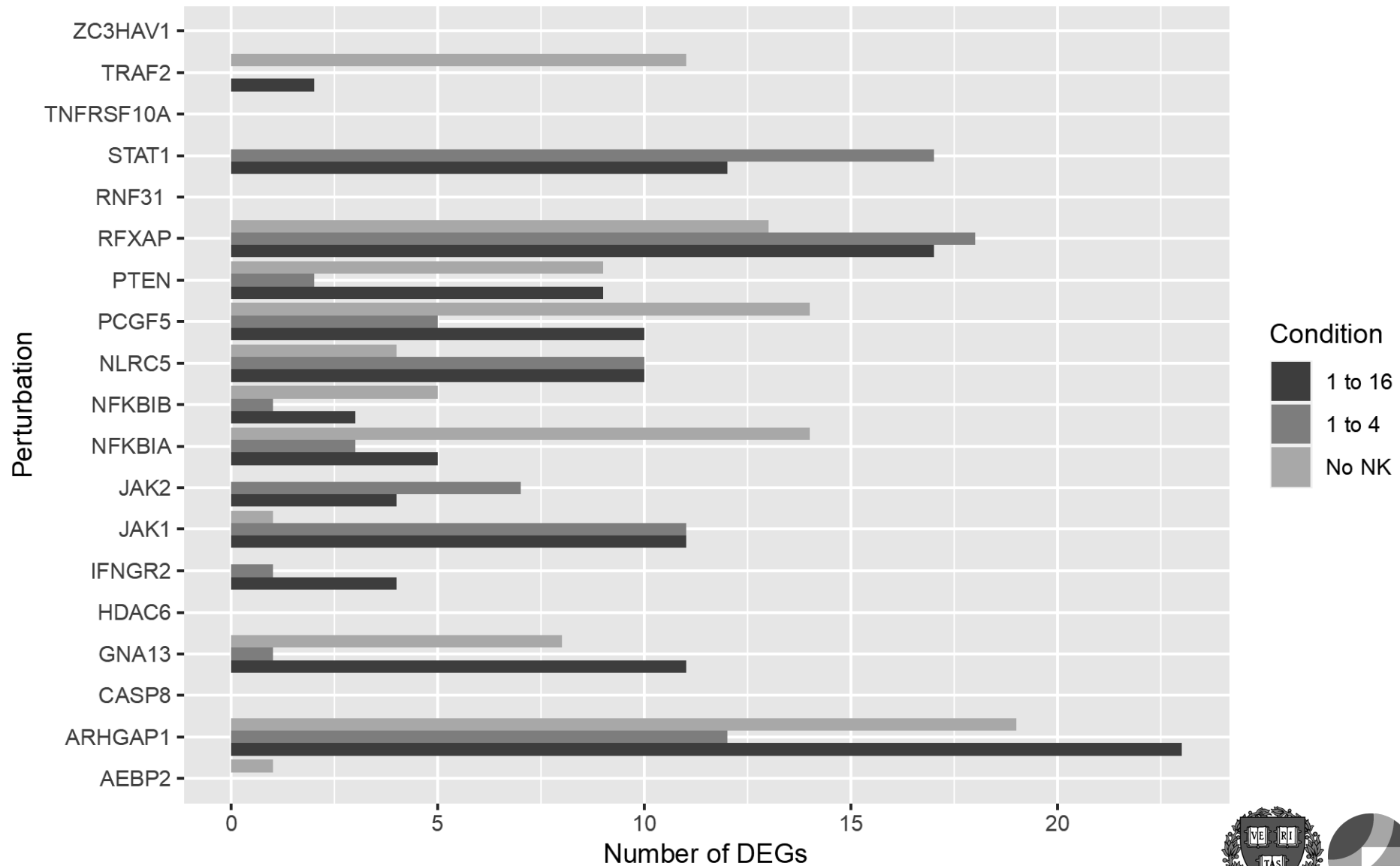
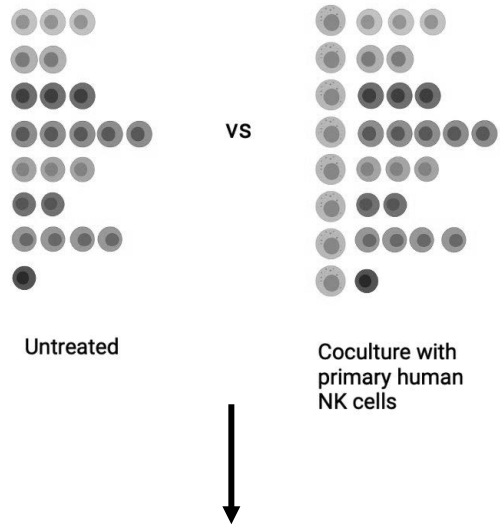
Class II HLA

Unfolded protein response



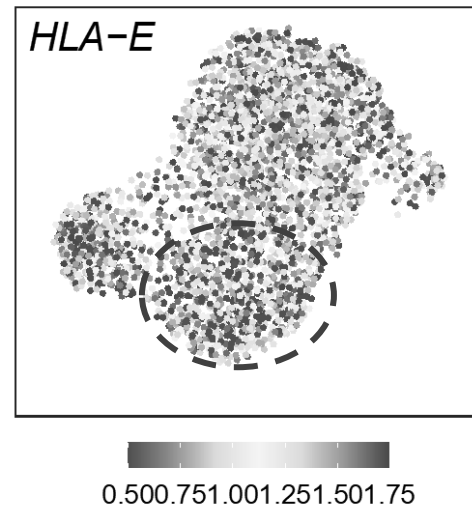
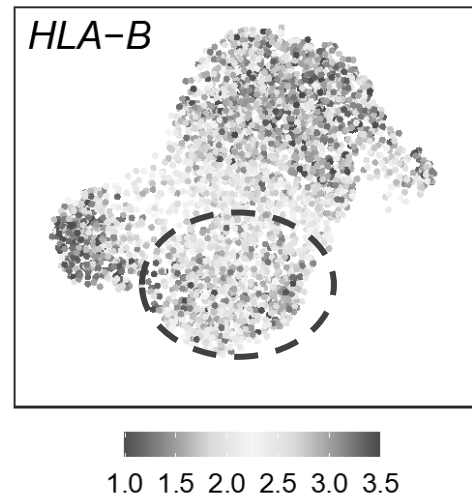
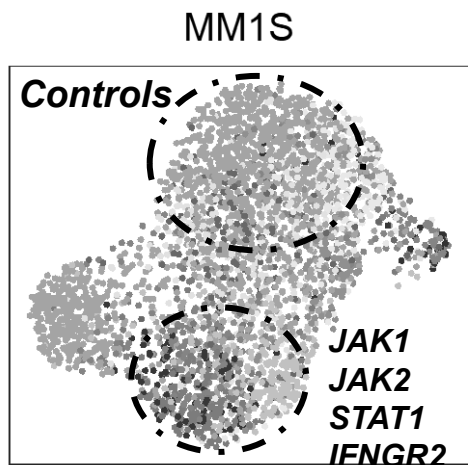
Not all the perturbations are associated with a transcriptomic phenotype

MM1.S with KO guides

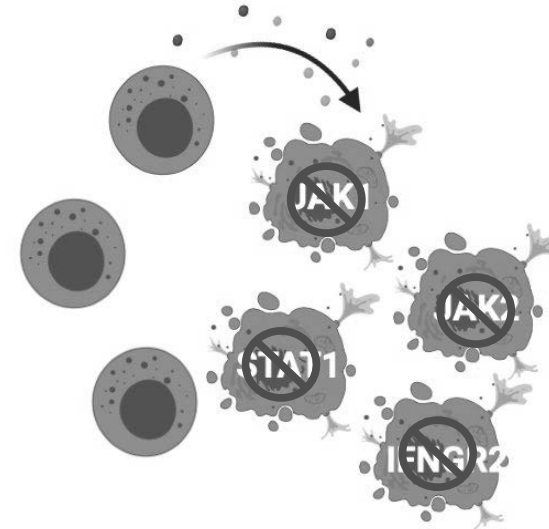


Differentially expressed genes with CRISPR perturbations upon NK cell engagement

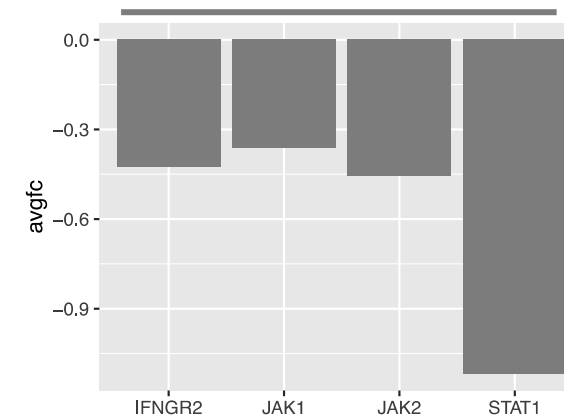
CROPseq



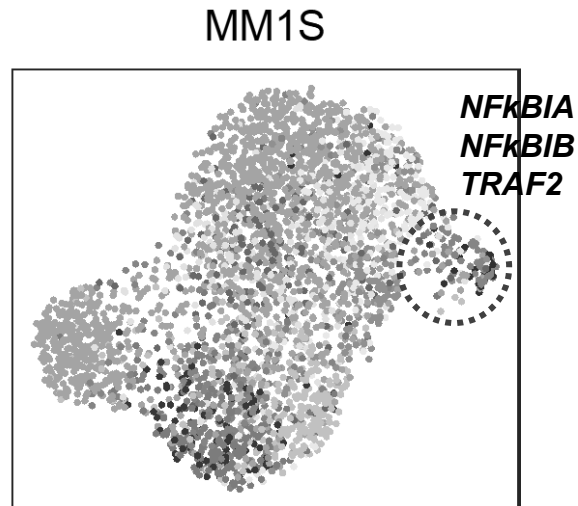
CRISPR



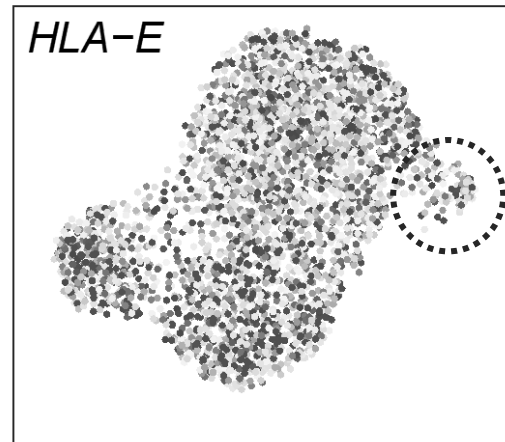
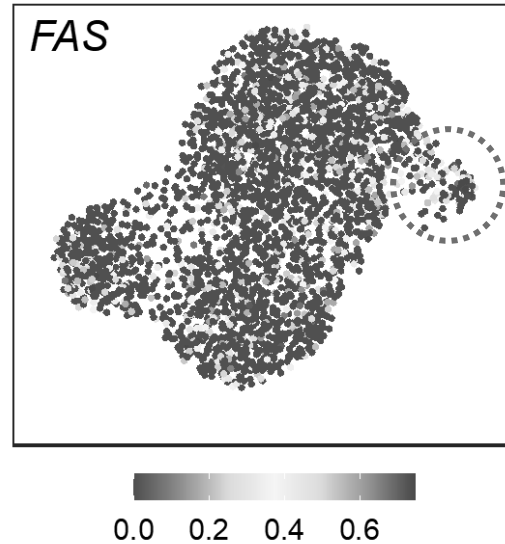
Increased cell death with gene KO



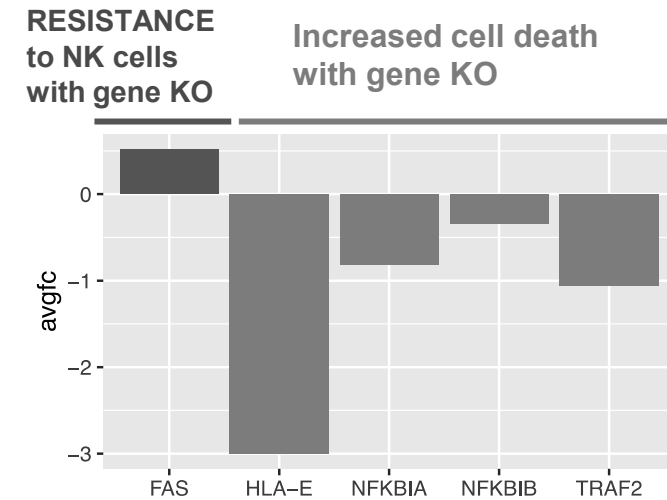
Disruption of negative regulators of NFkB is associated with *HLA-E* downregulation and *FAS* upregulation



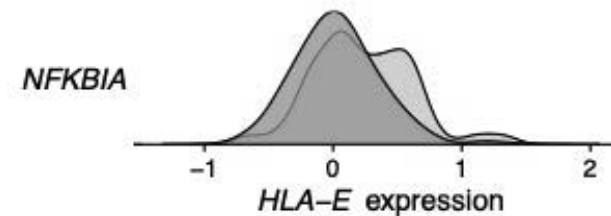
Gene expression levels



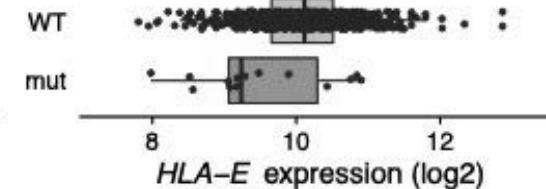
Concordance with CRISPR LOF data



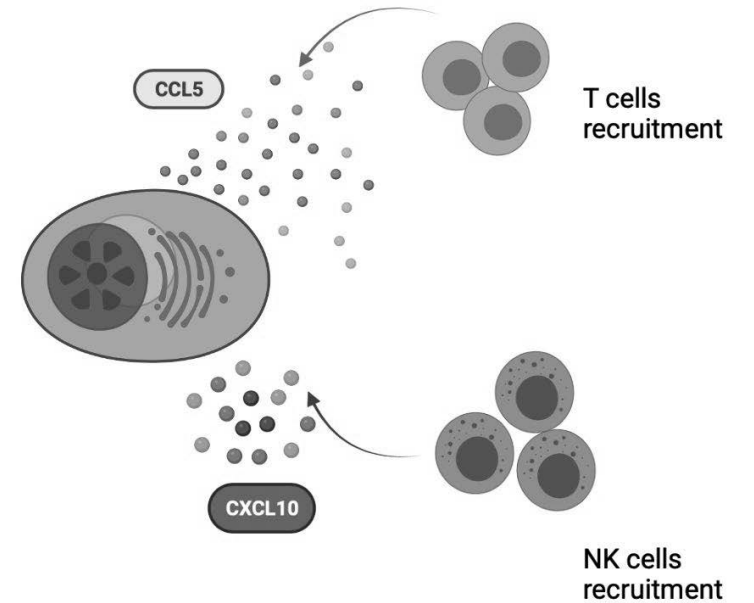
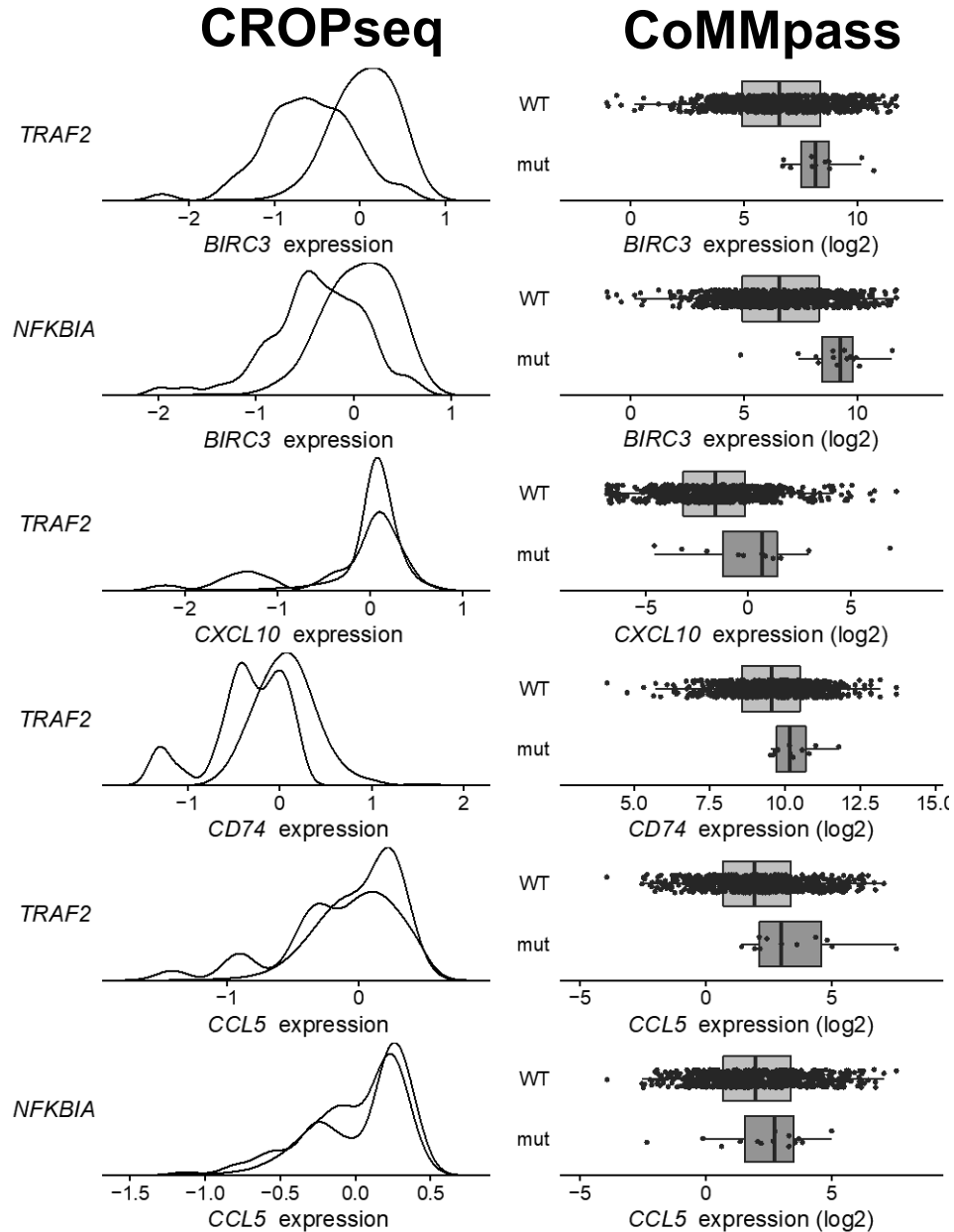
CROPseq



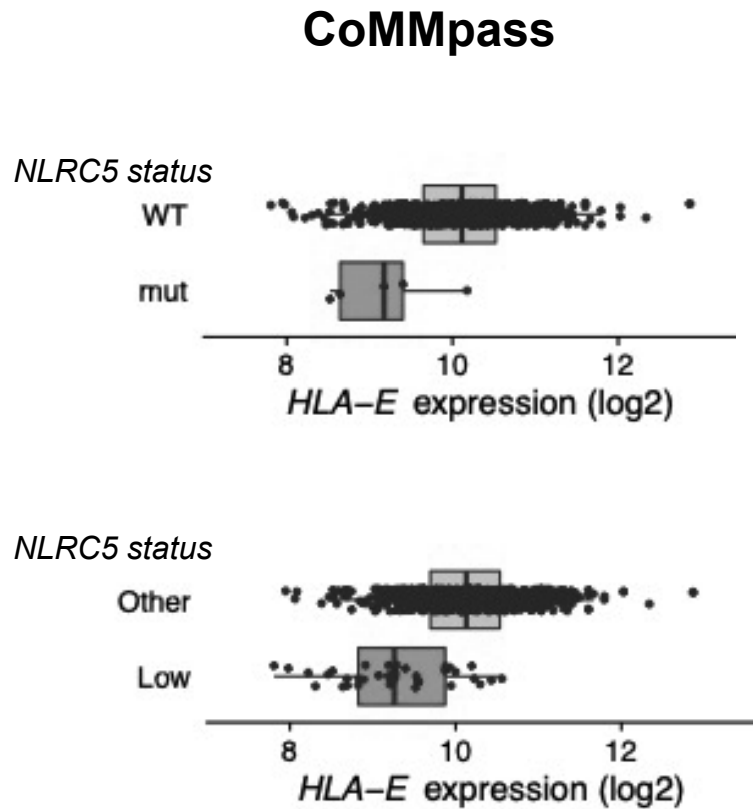
CoMMpass



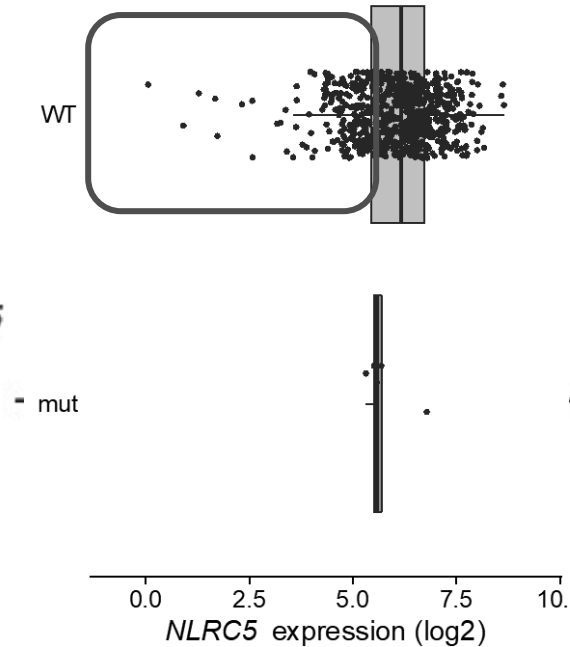
Disruption of *NFkB* negative regulators increases *NFkB* signature in MM patients



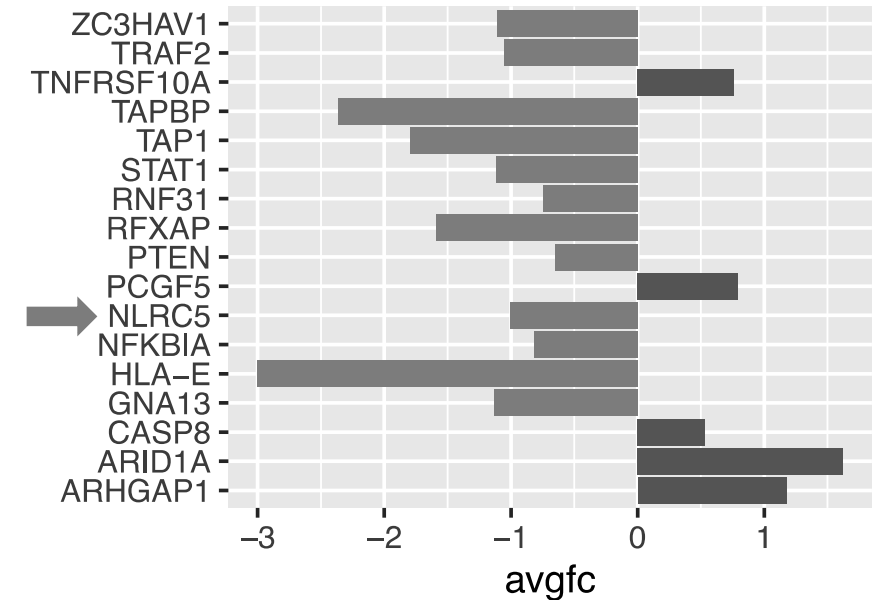
Identification of a potential subset of MM patient with low *NLRC5* expression and a more NK cell sensitive phenotype



NLRC5 expression in CoMMpass



CRISPR loss of function



Gene LOF causes increased response to NK cells

Gene LOF causes resistance to NK cells

Conclusions

- Our study sheds light in some of the mechanisms driving NK cell response in MM
- Data from large molecular profiling studies of patient samples are concordant with our *in vitro* observations, supporting their translational relevance
- Studies on NK cell transcriptional changes upon MM cells engagement are underway



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