

# Imaging and Image Analysis of Tissue Microarrays

Kristen L. Lecksell



*Department of Pathology, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*  
**NSH: 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium Convention Birmingham,  
AL**  
October 6, 2008

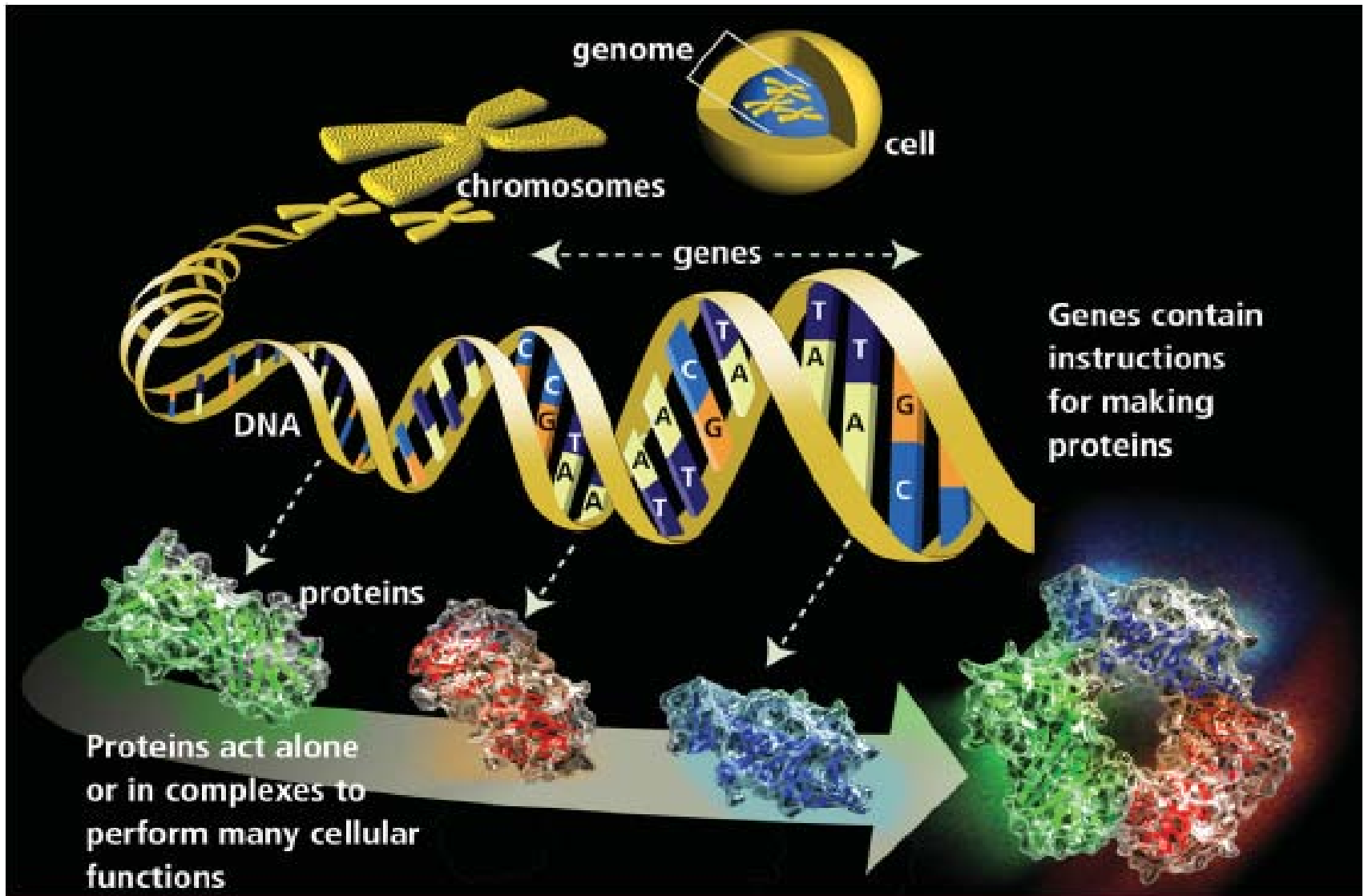
# Topics

- Background Information
- Imaging Tissue Microarrays Reasons
- TMA Imaging Systems
- Image Capture
- Quantitative Image Analysis
- Other Uses of Scanning

# Human Genome Project

- Sequencing of the human genome has yielded an estimate of 20,000–25,000 protein-coding genes

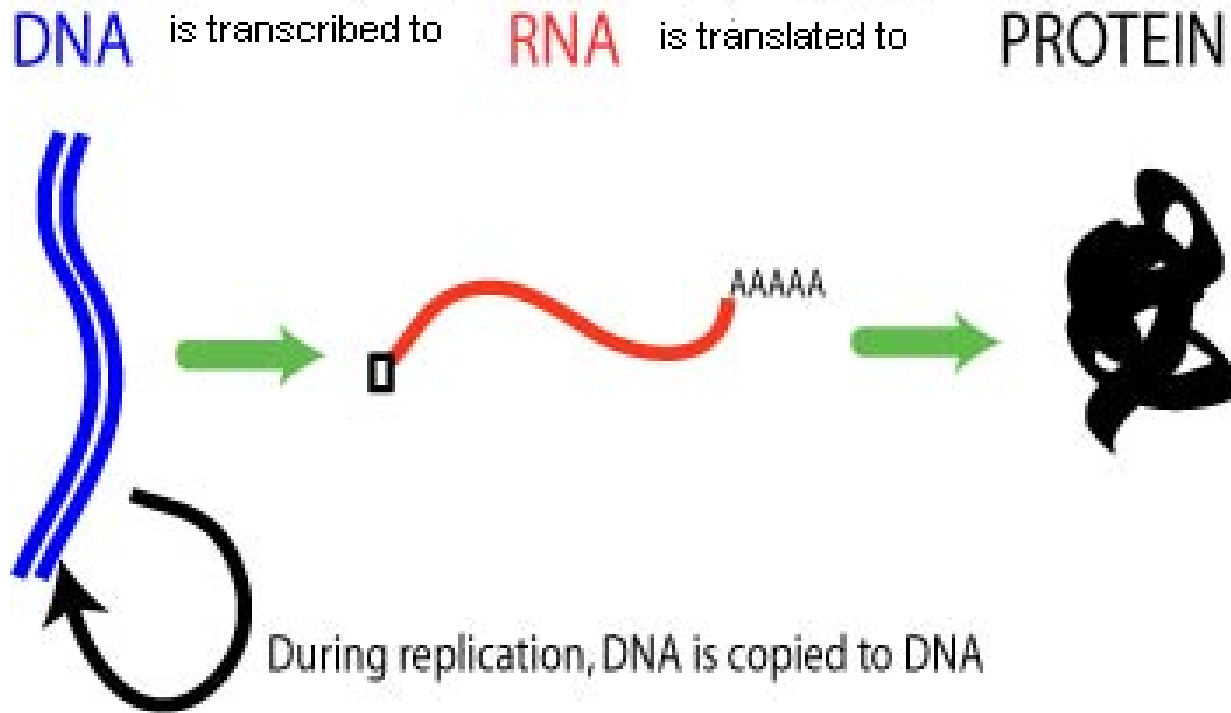
<http://www.genome.gov/12011238>



## From Genes to Proteins



# Central Dogma of Genetics



# Detection Techniques

DNA



Fluorescence *In Situ* Hybridization (FISH)

RNA



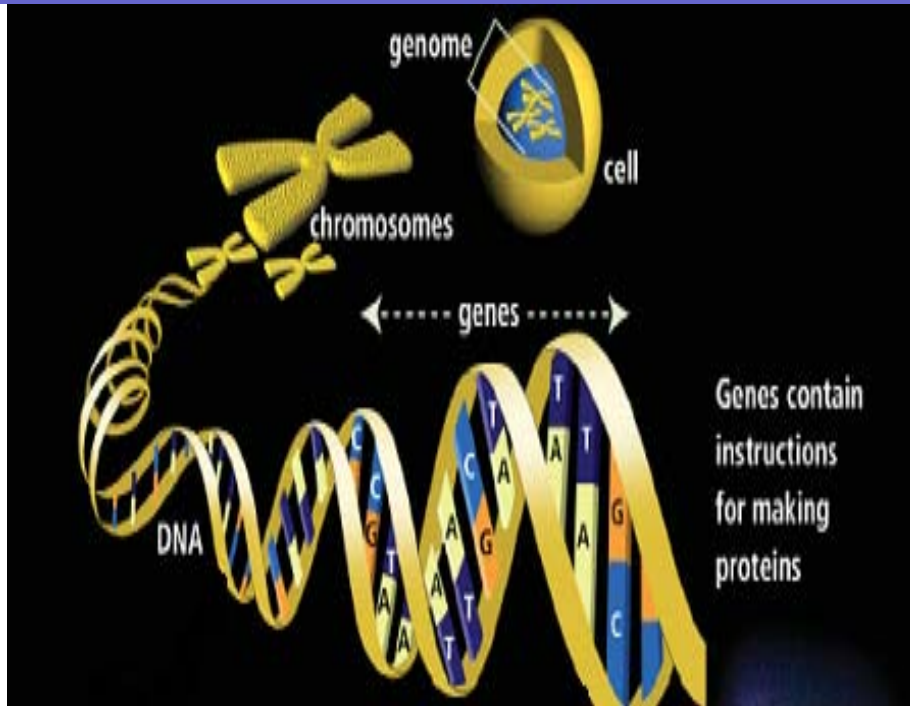
DNA microarrays, also called cDNA microarrays or Oligomicroarrays

PROTEIN



Immunohistochemistry (IHC)

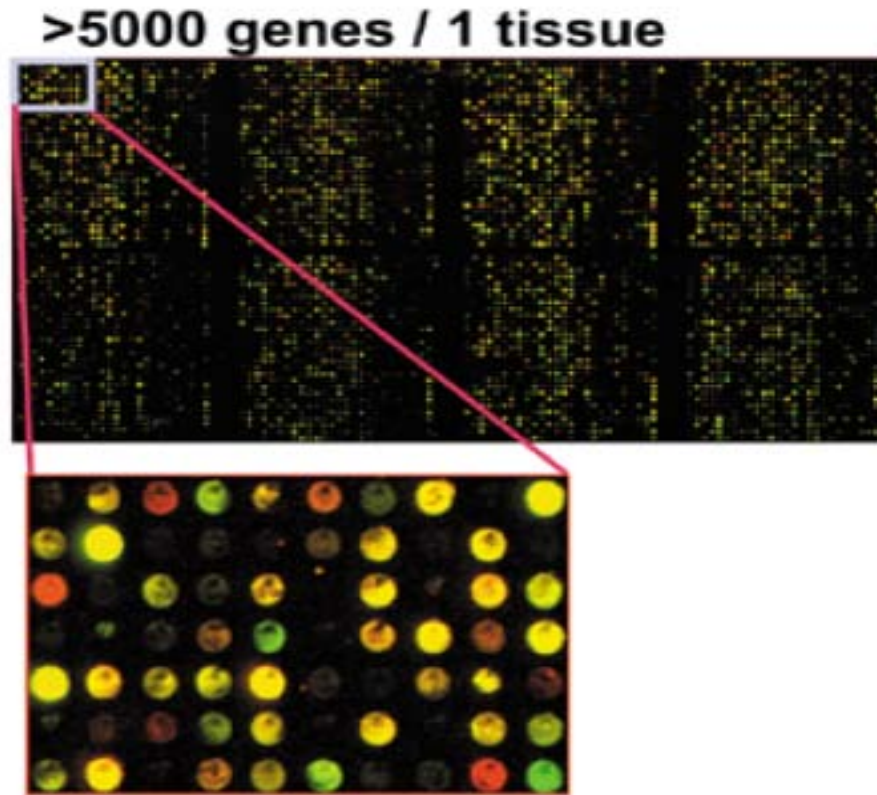
# Complementary Base Pairing



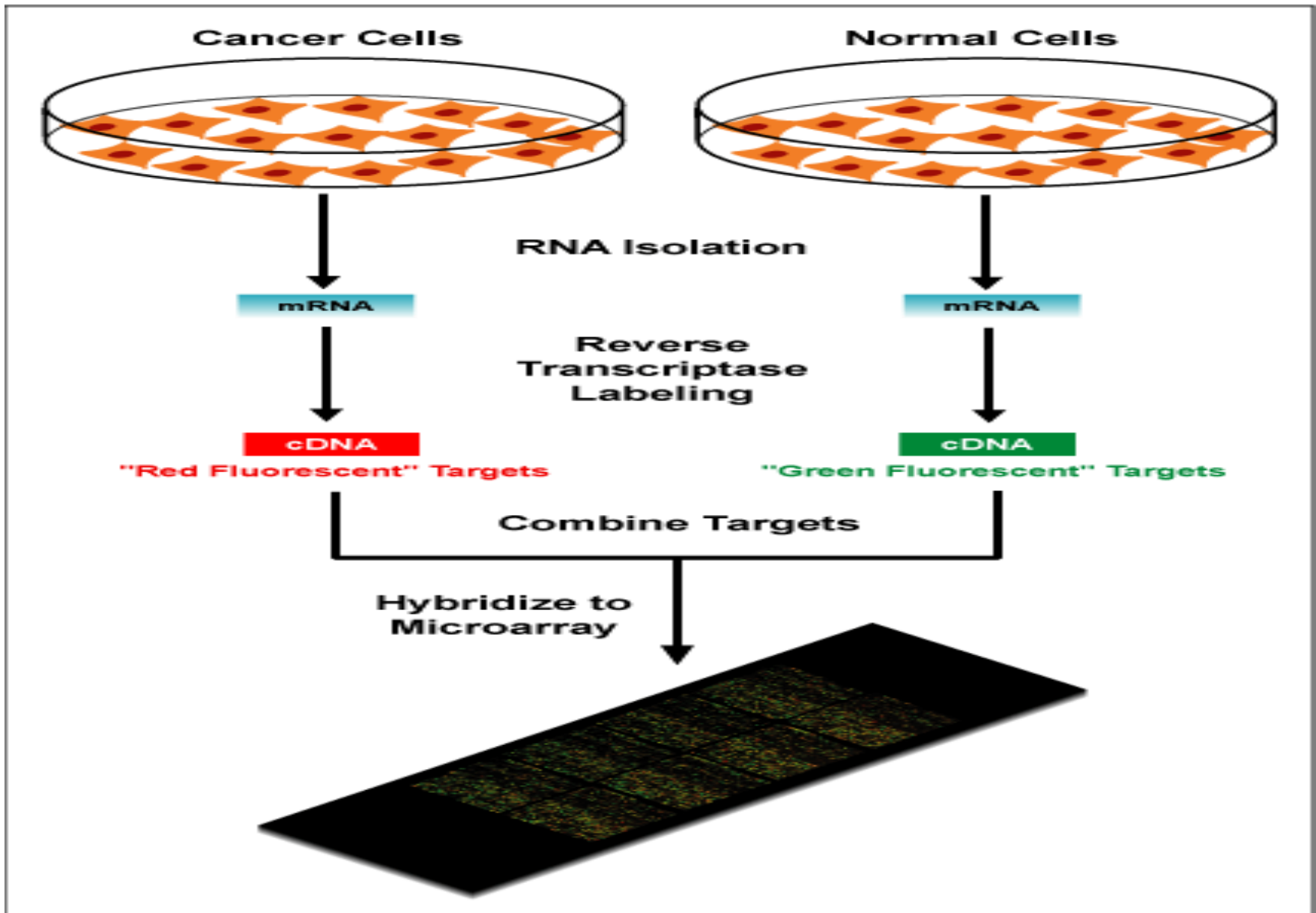
A = Adenine  $\longleftrightarrow$  T = Thymine

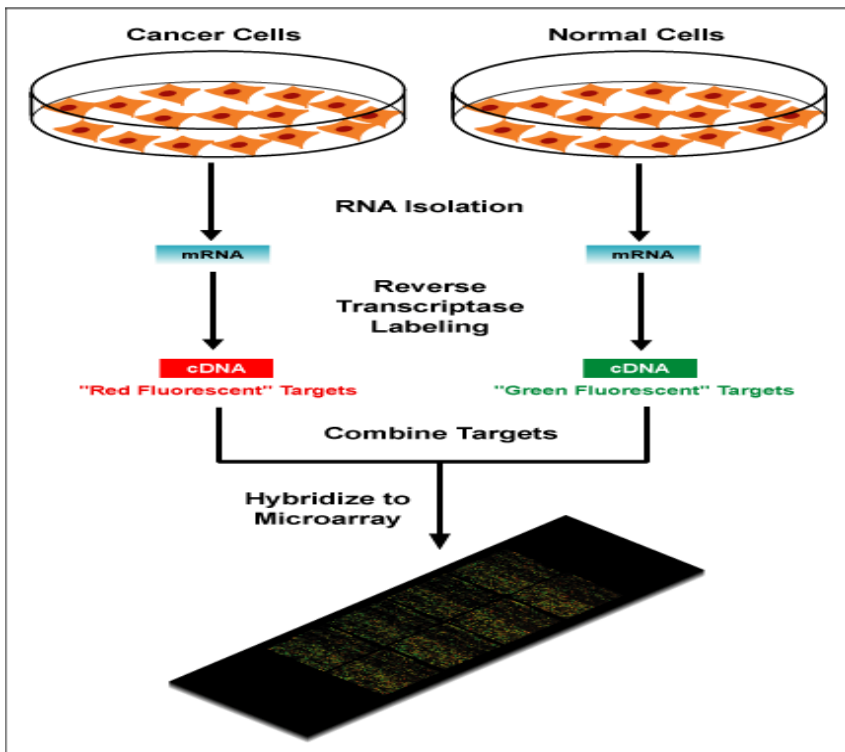
G = Guanine  $\longleftrightarrow$  C = Cytosine

# DNA Microarray



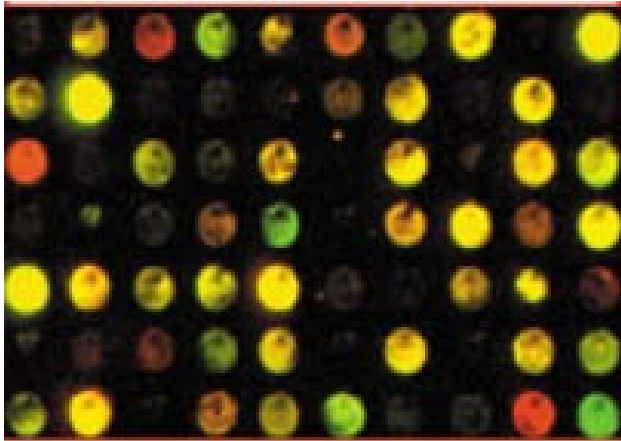
Tissue microarray technology for high-throughput molecular profiling of cancer Kallioniemi O et.al. Human Molecular Genetics, 2001, vol. 10, No. 7





## Gene expression

Red Spot = Cancer  
 Green Spot = Normal  
 In-Between Spot = Both



# High Throughput Techniques

- High throughput techniques such as DNA microarrays, serial analysis of gene expression (SAGE) and proteomic surveys have produced many new potential diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic targets that may lead to clinically useful applications

Tissue microarray technology for high-throughput molecular profiling of tumor specimens  
Kononen J et.al. Nature Medicine, 1998, vol. 4, no. 7, pp. 844-847

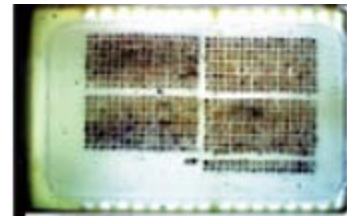
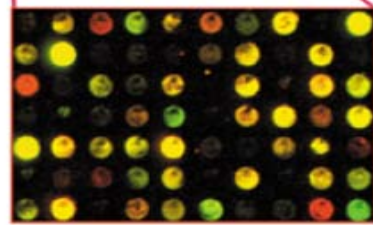
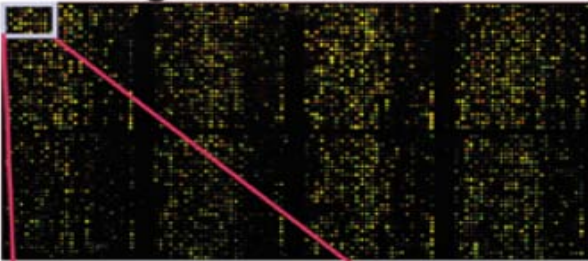
# Disadvantages of Techniques

- Histology is not preserved (sample ground up)
- Genes may be expressed in multiple different cell types
- Validation requires many samples

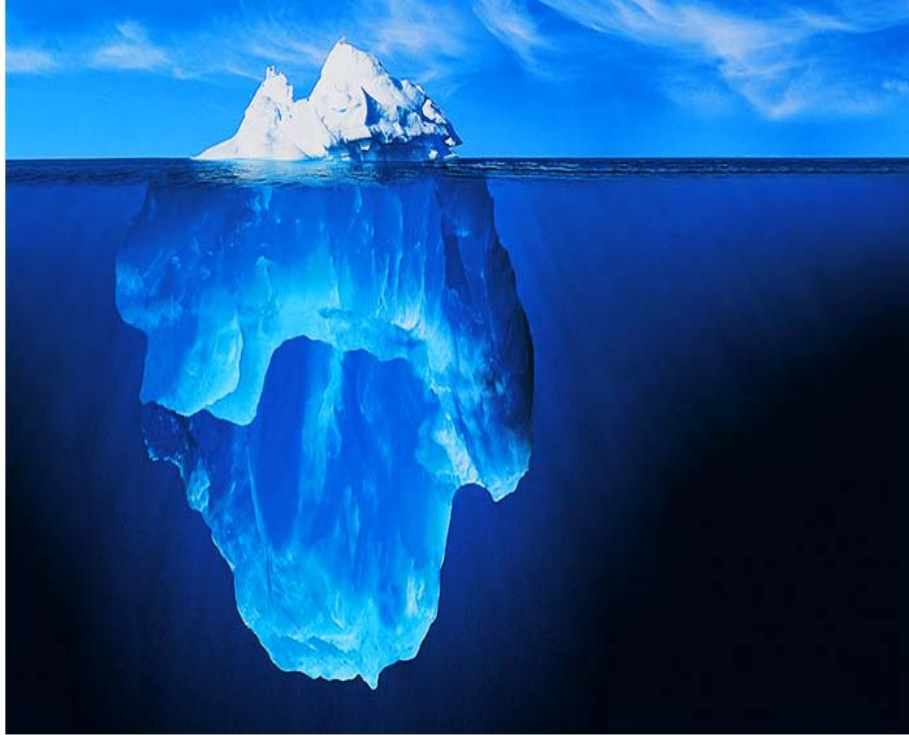


# First Gene Discovery, Then Validation

>5000 genes / 1 tissue



# HER2, ER & PR



<http://www.ralphclevenger.com/>

# Other Targets

<b>Angiogenesis Inhibitors</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Phase of Testing</b>	<b>Cancer Type</b>
Avastin (bevacizumab)	VEGF	Filed for approval	Kidney
Cilengitide	Integrins	III	Brain
Pazopanib	VEGFR and PDGF	III	Kidney, Inflammatory Breast

[http://www.curetoday.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/article.show/id/2/article\\_id/1133](http://www.curetoday.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/article.show/id/2/article_id/1133)

# Other Targets

<b>HER Family Inhibitors</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Phase of Testing</b>	<b>Cancer Type</b>
Erbitux (cetuximab)	EGFR (HER 1)	III	Lung, Pancreatic
Trastuzumab-DM1	HER2	II	Breast
Vectibix (panitumumab)	EGFR (HER1)	III	Head and Neck

[http://www.curetoday.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/article.show/id/2/article\\_id/1133](http://www.curetoday.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/article.show/id/2/article_id/1133)

# Histotechnologists Needed

- To make TMAs
- To do IHC on TMAs
- To image slides
- To run image analysis

# Why TMA Technology Was Created

- “...analysis of hundreds of specimens from patients in different stages of disease is needed to establish the diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic importance of each of the emerging cancer gene candidates.”

Tissue microarray technology for high-throughput molecular profiling of tumor specimens  
Kononen J et.al. Nature Medicine, 1998, vol. 4, No. 7

# Imaging Tissue Microarray Reason #1

- Permanent electronic record which can be stored on a server and accessed from any computer with internet access



Birmingham, AL

Become a Fan

Wall

Info

Photos

Birmingham, AL's Albums



Profile Pictures

2 photos

Fan Photos 14 photos

View Comments





**Picture Tasks**

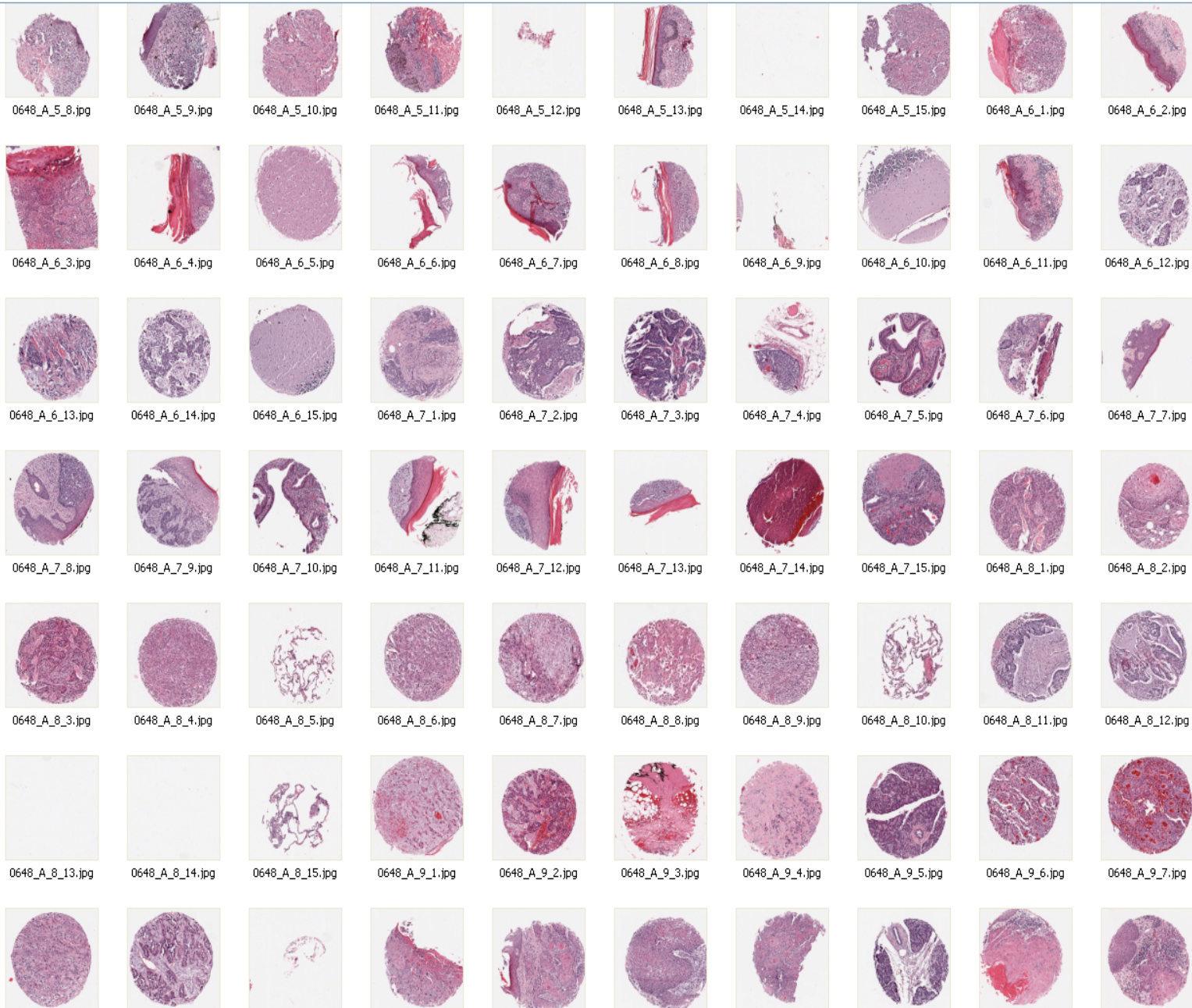
- View as a slide show
- Order prints online
- Print pictures
- Copy all items to CD

**File and Folder Tasks**

- Make a new folder
- Publish this folder to the Web

**Other Places**

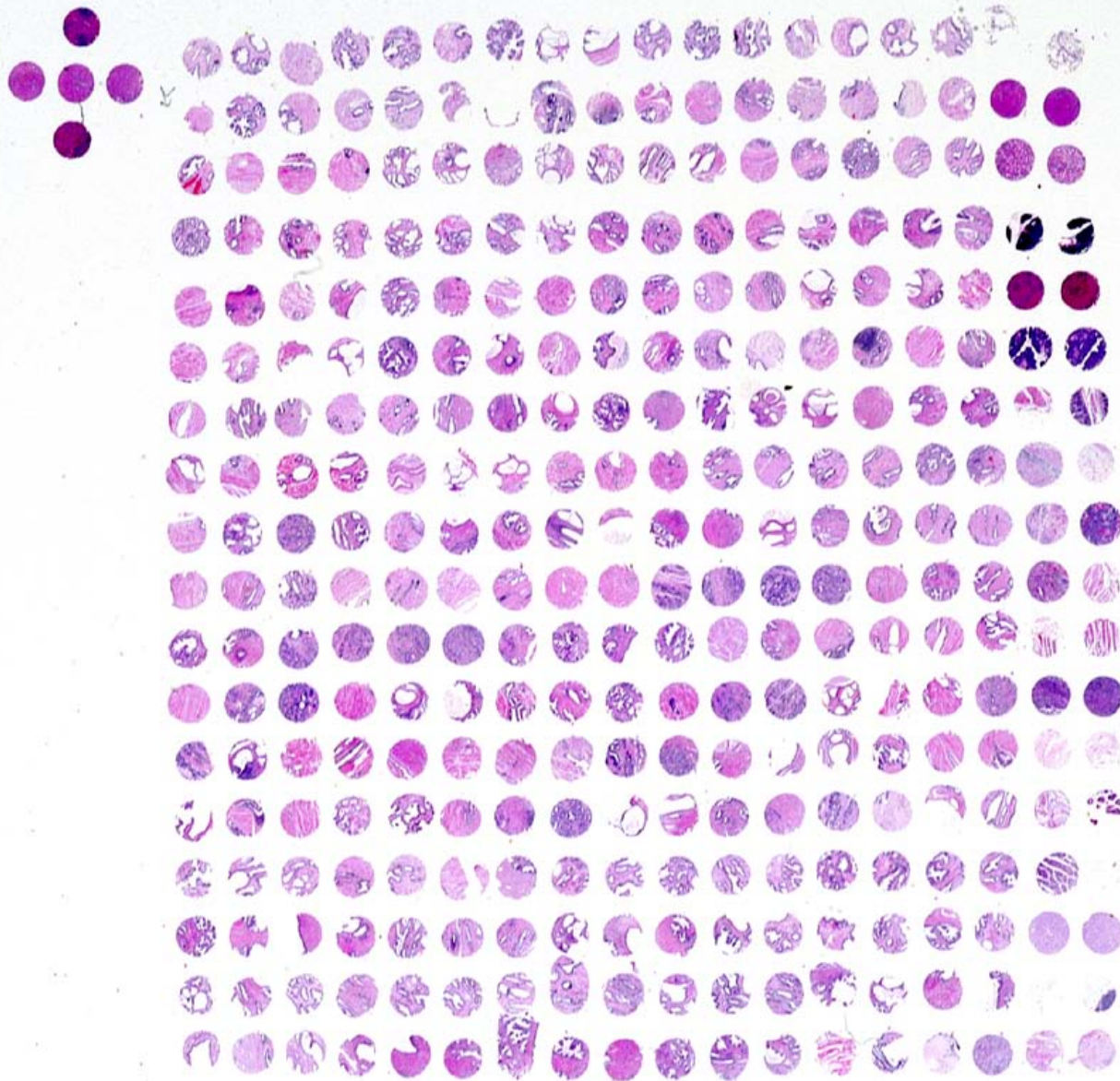
- tmaj\_images\_directory on bui2' (U:)
- My Pictures
- My Computer
- My Network Places



# Imaging Tissue Microarray Reason

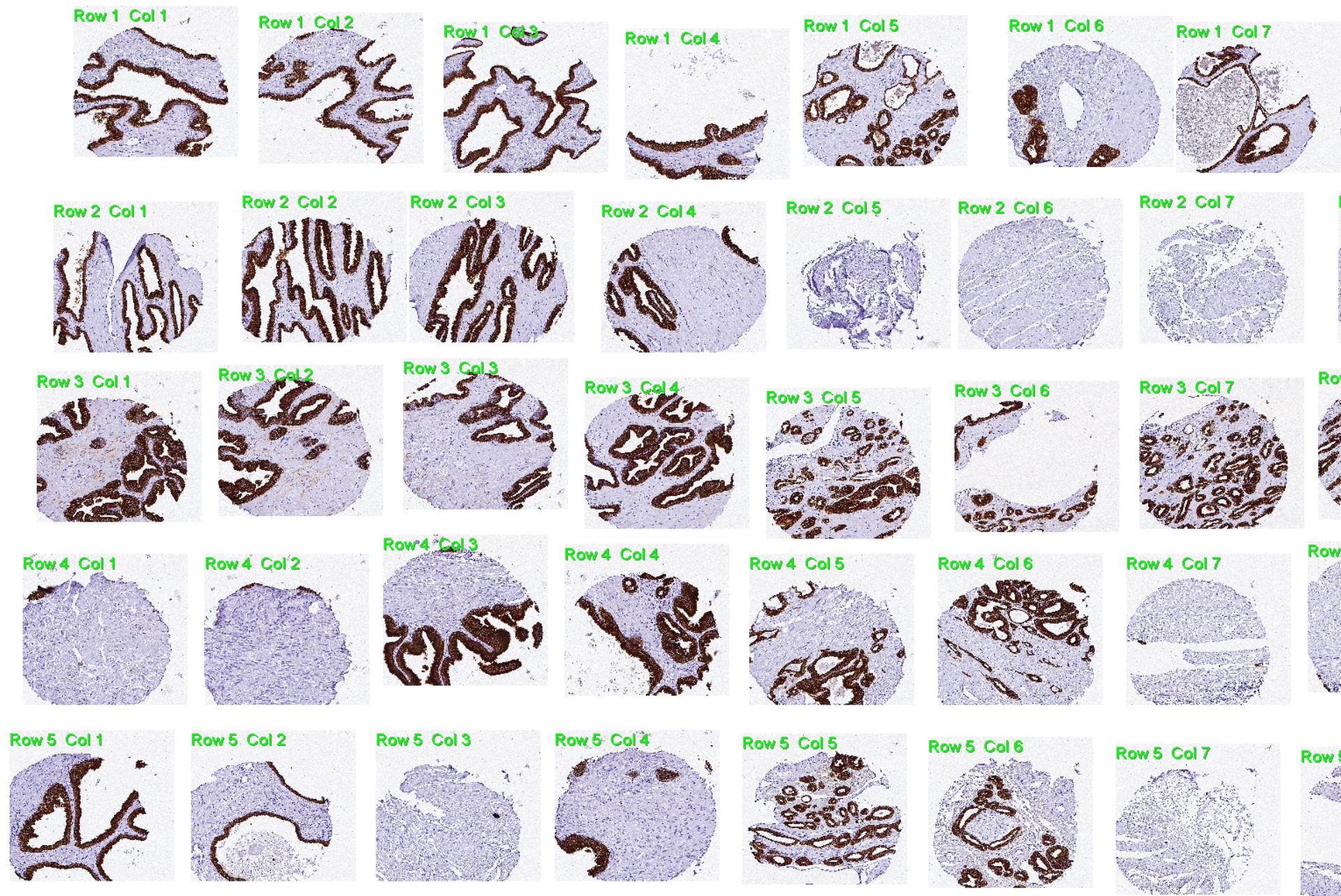
## #2

- Keep track of the x, y spot coordinates, making spot review and data entry **MUCH** easier



Tissue Microarray – 400 cores, 0.6 mm each – H&E of 4  $\mu$ m section





Tissue Microarray – 400 cores, 0.6 mm each – CK8 of 4  $\mu$ m section



# Imaging Tissue Microarray Reason

## #3

- To collaborate efforts between pathologists via telepathology

# https://secondslide.com/

HOME

HOW IT WORKS

FAQ

CONTACT US

“SecondSlide improves turnaround time for consultations by eliminating glass slide logistics.”

— Juan Rosai, MD

FREE  
SERVICE

## Background



Data Sheet

Application Sheet

SecondSlide Webinars

## Free Digital Slide Sharing Service for Pathology

SecondSlide makes slide sharing easy:

- Share slides with anyone you choose, regardless of geographical location
- Improve turnaround time
- Eliminate glass slide logistics
- Provide pathology services to remote hospitals
- Gain access to subspecialty expertise



## SecondSlide Applications



Clinical



Research



Education

Please contact us with questions or

[+ Sign Up for A Free Trial](#)

## Imaging Tissue Microarray Reason #4

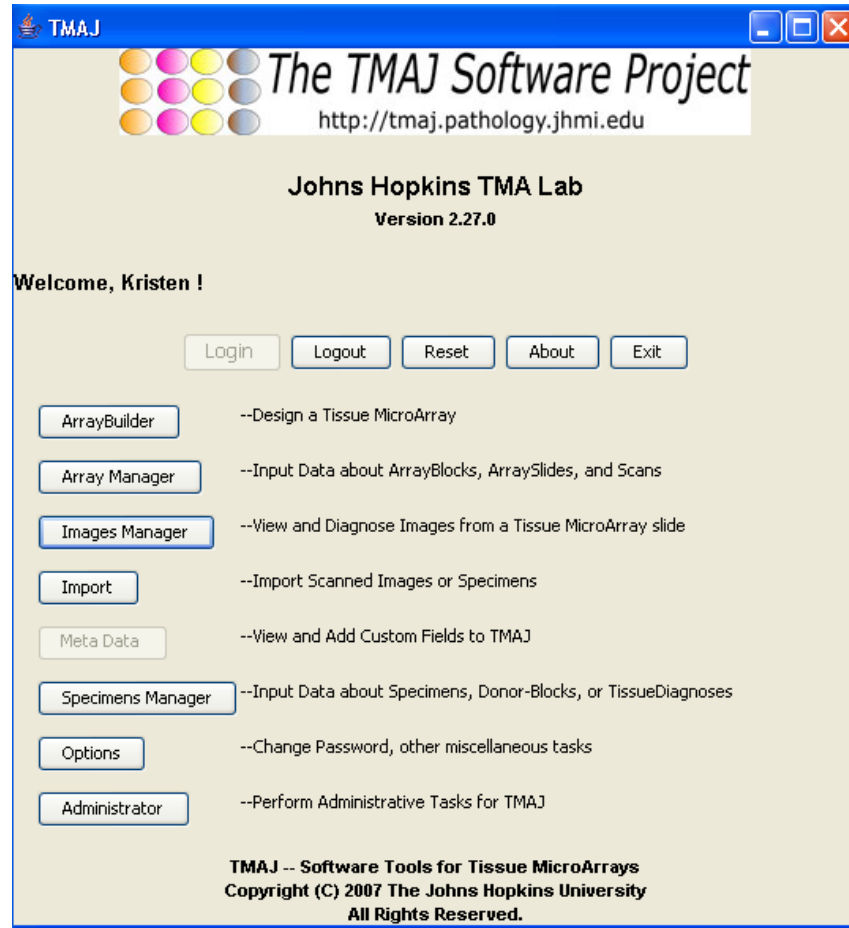
- Can import images into a database linked to image, pathology, and clinical information.

# Publicly Available TMA Databases

Institution	Name of Database	Webpage
Stanford University, California, USA	TMAD	<a href="http://tma.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/home.pl">http://tma.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/home.pl</a>
Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, USA	TMAJ	<a href="http://tmaj.pathology.jhmi.edu/">http://tmaj.pathology.jhmi.edu/</a>
Graz University of Technology, Austria	TAMEE	<a href="https://esus.genome.tugraz.at/tma/">https://esus.genome.tugraz.at/tma/</a>
MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, USA	TAD	<a href="http://bioinformatics.mdanderson.org/tad.html">http://bioinformatics.mdanderson.org/tad.html</a>



# Johns Hopkins Online TMA Database



Dennis Faith  
Brian Razzaque  
James D. Morgan  
Helen Fedor  
Angelo M. De Marzo

<http://tmaj.pathology.jhmi.edu/>

SessionID#1092 (TMA#18, Cut#31, Stain-CK8)

View Tools Help

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	X	/																	
2																			
3																			
4																			
5																			
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13																			
14																			
15																			
16																			
17																			
18																			
19																			

SessionID#1092 (TMA#18, Cut#31, Stain-CK8)

Options Action Go Help

ScoredIm...	HistologicType	SecondaryHistologicType	Notes
100687	Normal Prostatic Epithelium		

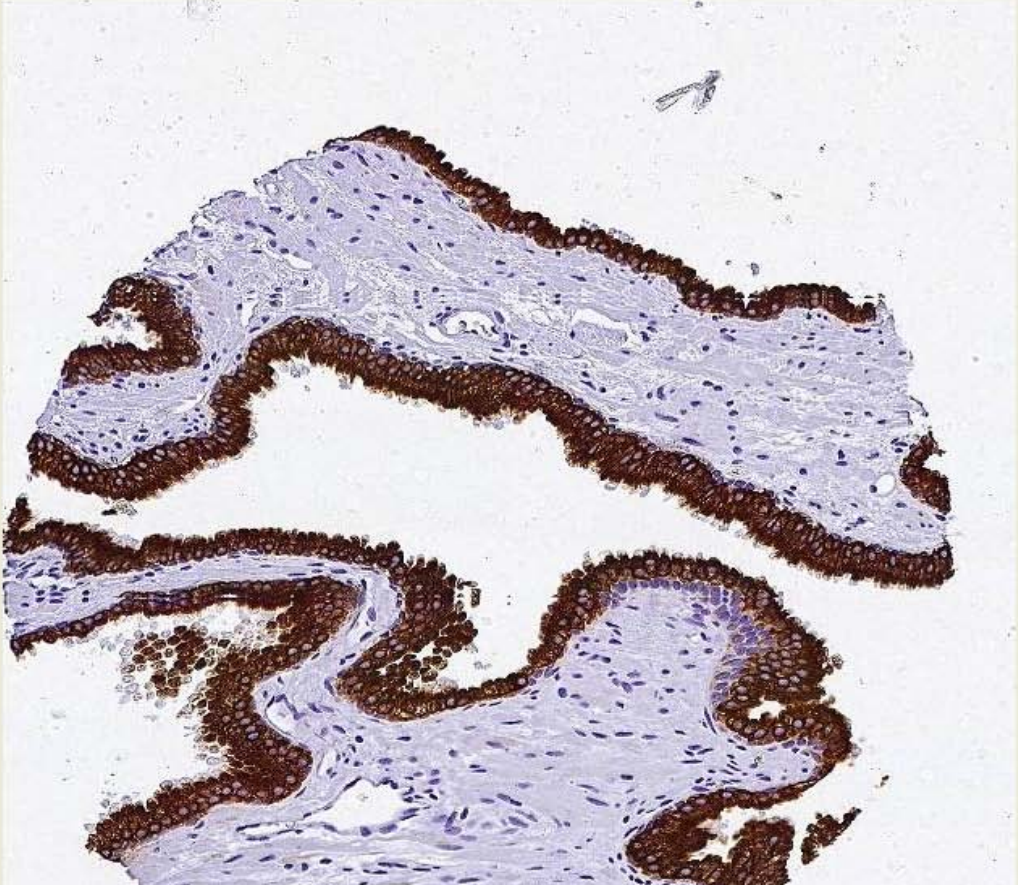
Type: Prostate -- Normal/Other

- Control Tissue
- Prostate -- Carcinoma
- Prostate -- Normal/Other
- Animal
- Artery -- Autopsy
- Bladder -- Invasive Neoplasms

Up Down Next

X: 1 Y: 1

Accept



<http://tmaj.pathology.jhmi.edu/>

Edit Session: SessionID#2161: Kristen Lecksell's scores for (TMA#17, Cut#72, St... 

SessionID:	# 2161
User:	Lecksell, Kristen
Scan:	ScanID#39 (ScanNumber-1 ArraySlideID#1392)
Project:	Kristen's Practice Image Analysis project
Creation Date:	2009-08-26 00:00:00
Status:	Incomplete / Not-Shared / Writable
Description:	#B
Notes:	
Scoring Strategy:	<input type="text" value=""/>
Image Analysis Session:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Percent Negative/<i>Weak</i>/Mod/Strong</li><li>Percent Positive</li><li>Percent Positive/Strong</li><li>Spectrum</li><li>Immuno</li><li>Percent TissueType</li><li>PTEN Staining</li></ul>

Options

- Share...
- Delete
- Copy...
- Finalize
- Publish

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	210	210	210	210	164	164	164	164	liver	69
2	212	212	212	212	213	213	213	213	liver	35
3	1040	1040	1040	1040	1041	1041	1041	1041	liver	857
4	858	858	858	858	860	860	860	860	liver	48
5	19438	19438	19438	19438	11	11	11	11	liver	1086
6	1013	1013	1013	1013	1010	1010	1010	1010	liver	1091
7	1109	1109	1109	1109	1111	1111	1111	1111	liver	1031
8	900	900	900	900	1022	1022	1022	1022	brain	943
9	934	934	934	934	876	876	876	876	brain	447
10	481	481	481	481	479	479	479	479	brain	465
11	419	419	419	419	420	420	420	420	kid	433
12	85	85	85	85	84	84	84	84	kid	179
13	188	188	188	188	182	182	182	182	kid	194
14	175	175	175	175	176	176	176	176	kid	171
15	131	131	131	131	115	115	115	115	kid	416
16	492	492	492	492	491	491	491	491	tonsil	446
17	533	533	533	533	534	534	534	534	tonsil	516
18	696	696	696	696	698	698	698	698	tonsil	707
19	776	776	776	776	777	777	777	777	tonsil	790
20	756	756	756	756	757	757	757	757	tonsil	440

< [Progress Bar] >

Tissue Diagnosis

TissueDiagnosisID:

Lesion Letter:

Outside TD Number:

Tissue Type:

Block

BlockID:

Block:

Part:

OutsideBlockNum:

Specimen

SpecimenID:

Surg Path Number:

Hospital:

Specimen Type:

Details

# Data in TMAJ Specimens Table

- Patient Data
  - PatientID
  - Age
  - Race
- Surgical Pathology Data
  - SurgPathNumber
  - DateSpecimenTaken
  - PStage
  - HistologicalType (Gleason for radical prostatectomies)
  - MarginsPositive
- Clinical Data
  - PreOpPSA (for radical prostatectomies)





ScoredIm...	HistologicType	SecondaryHistologicType
100687	Normal Prostatic Epithelium	



Type: Prostate -- Normal/Other

Back

Up

Next

X: 1 Y: 1

Down

 Accept

Draw

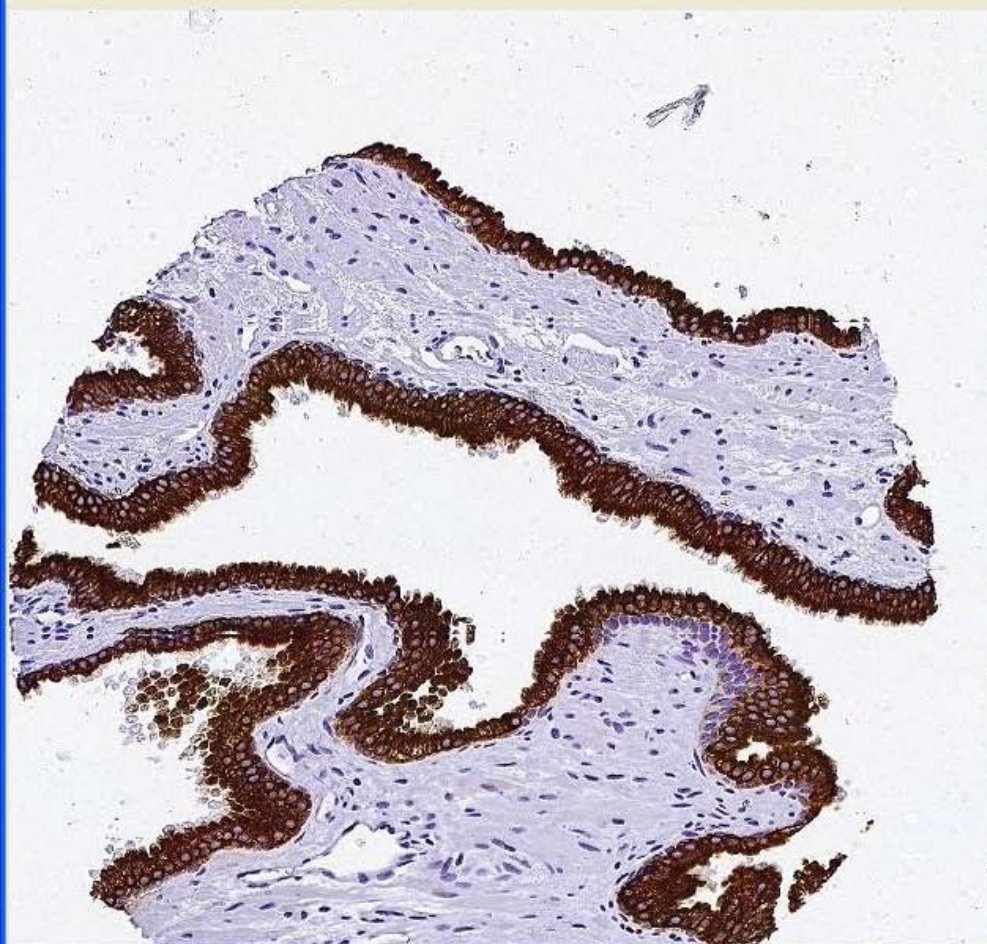
Save

Log

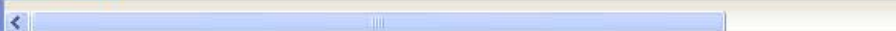
Link

Info

Large



ScoredIm...	HistologicType	SecondaryHistologicType
84911	Normal Prostatic Epithelium	



Type: Prostate -- Normal/Other

Back

Up

Next

X: 1 Y: 1

Down

 Accept

Draw

Save

Log

Link

Info

Large







# Scanners

Aperio Technologies	ScanScope™ XT, GL, CS, OS & FL	<a href="http://www.aperio.com">http://www.aperio.com</a>
Olympus and its wholly owned subsidiary Bacus Laboratories Inc. (BLI)	BLISS™ and Nanozoomer™ RS & HT	<a href="http://www.olympusamerica.com/">http://www.olympusamerica.com/</a>
Dako – think it's now Zeiss, but Dako web link still works	ACIS III™	<a href="http://www.dako.com/go/acis.htm">http://www.dako.com/go/acis.htm</a>
HistoRx	PM-2000™ (fluorescence only)	<a href="http://www.historx.com/">http://www.historx.com/</a>



# Aperio Scanners



ScanScope® XT

ScanScope® GL

ScanScope® CS

ScanScope® OS

ScanScope® FL

# Olympus/Bacusc Scanners



**BLISS**



**Nanozoomer RS**



**Nanozoomer HT**

# Dako/Zeiss Scanner

PATHOLOGY  
ACIS® III | Automated Cellular Imaging System



# HistoRx Scanner



**PM-2000™ (fluorescence only)  
by HistoRx**

# Hardware of Most Scanning Systems

- Brightfield microscope, objectives (Plan Achromat: 1.25x, 5x, 10x, 20x, 40x , 60x & 100x) and motorized stage
- Color video camera such as a 3 CCD (charge-coupled device)
- High resolution monitor
- Slide loader
- CPU

# Software of Most Scanning Systems

- Proprietary
- Composite
- Controls the hardware
  - Stage – it's movement
  - Objectives
  - Video camera
- Image analysis
  - Morphometric measurements
  - IHC quantification
  - Histology pattern recognition



# Three Ways to Capture a Virtual Slide

- “Taking static images of a glass slide using a conventional light microscope and then collating them together;”
- “Remotely operating a microscope that is capable of dynamically changing its field of view and capturing an image at a user-defined resolution;”
- “High-resolution scanning of the whole glass slide.”

# Image Capture

- Digitizing the tissue or cells on a glass microscope slide, so that the personal computer becomes the microscope
- Can view under different magnifications
- Can represent whole tissues or TMAs
- Working with pixels instead of a paper image

# 20x Camera Capture

	Pixel # / Micron
Aperio: ScanScope CS	2
Dako/Zeiss: ACIS II	2
Olympus/Bacus Labs: BLISS	2.37

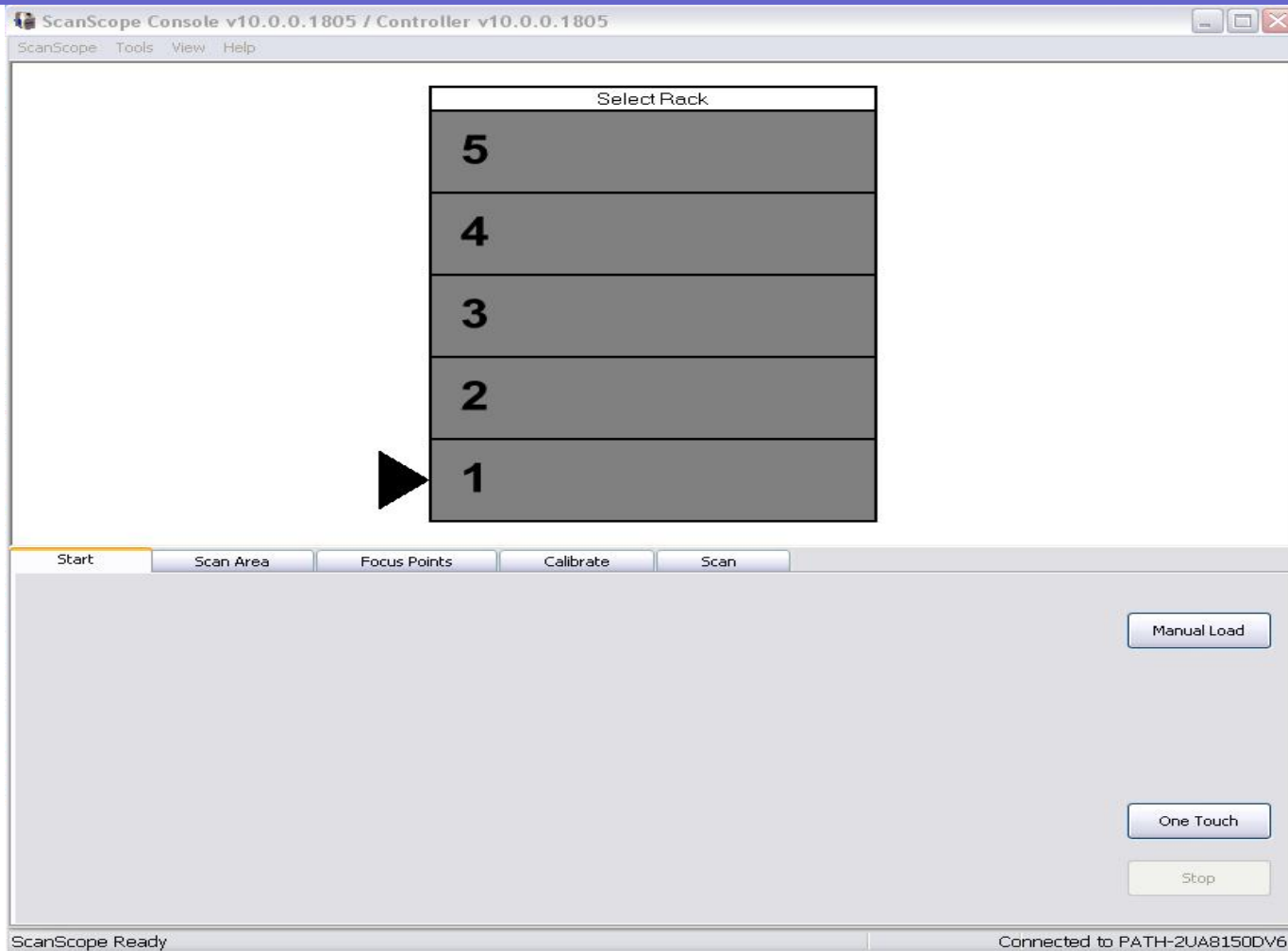
# Megabytes, Gigabytes & Terabytes

- Digitized TMA: 100 MB to 3 GB
- Storage is an issue
- BUT storage is getting cheaper

# Scanning: Aperio

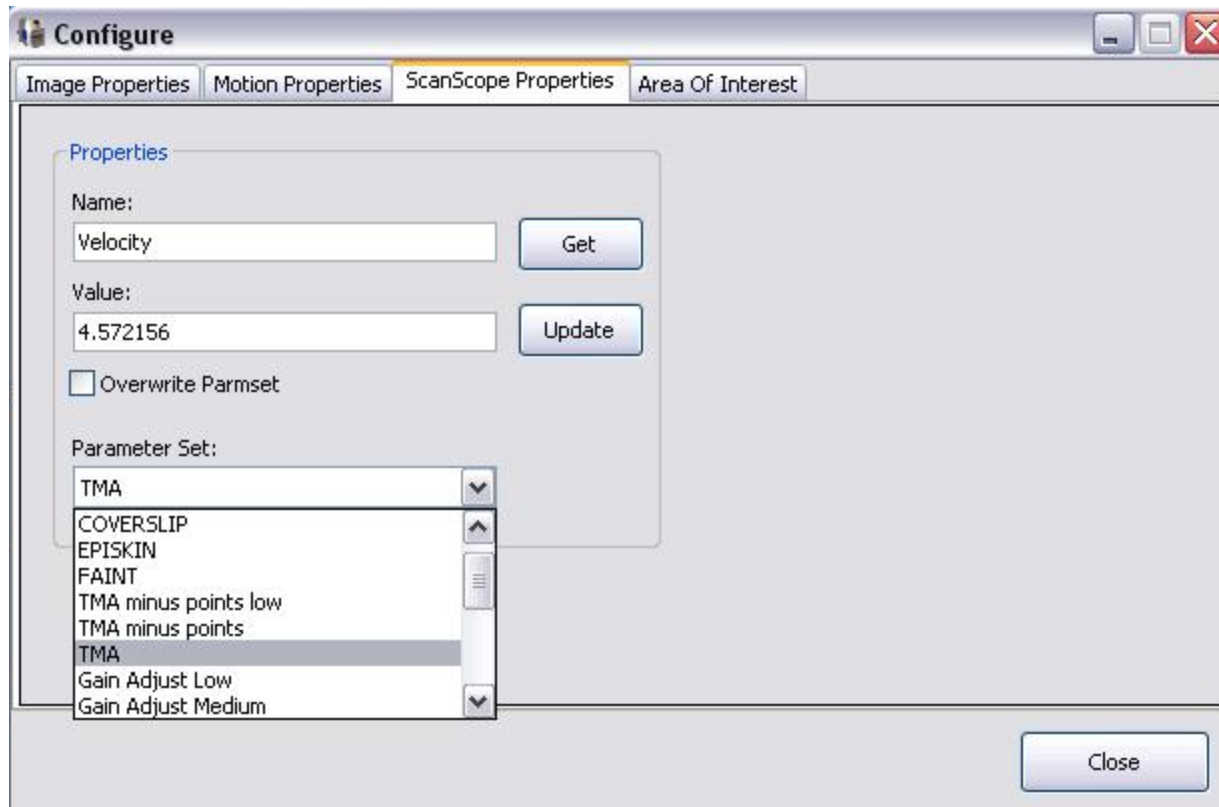


# Scanning: Aperio

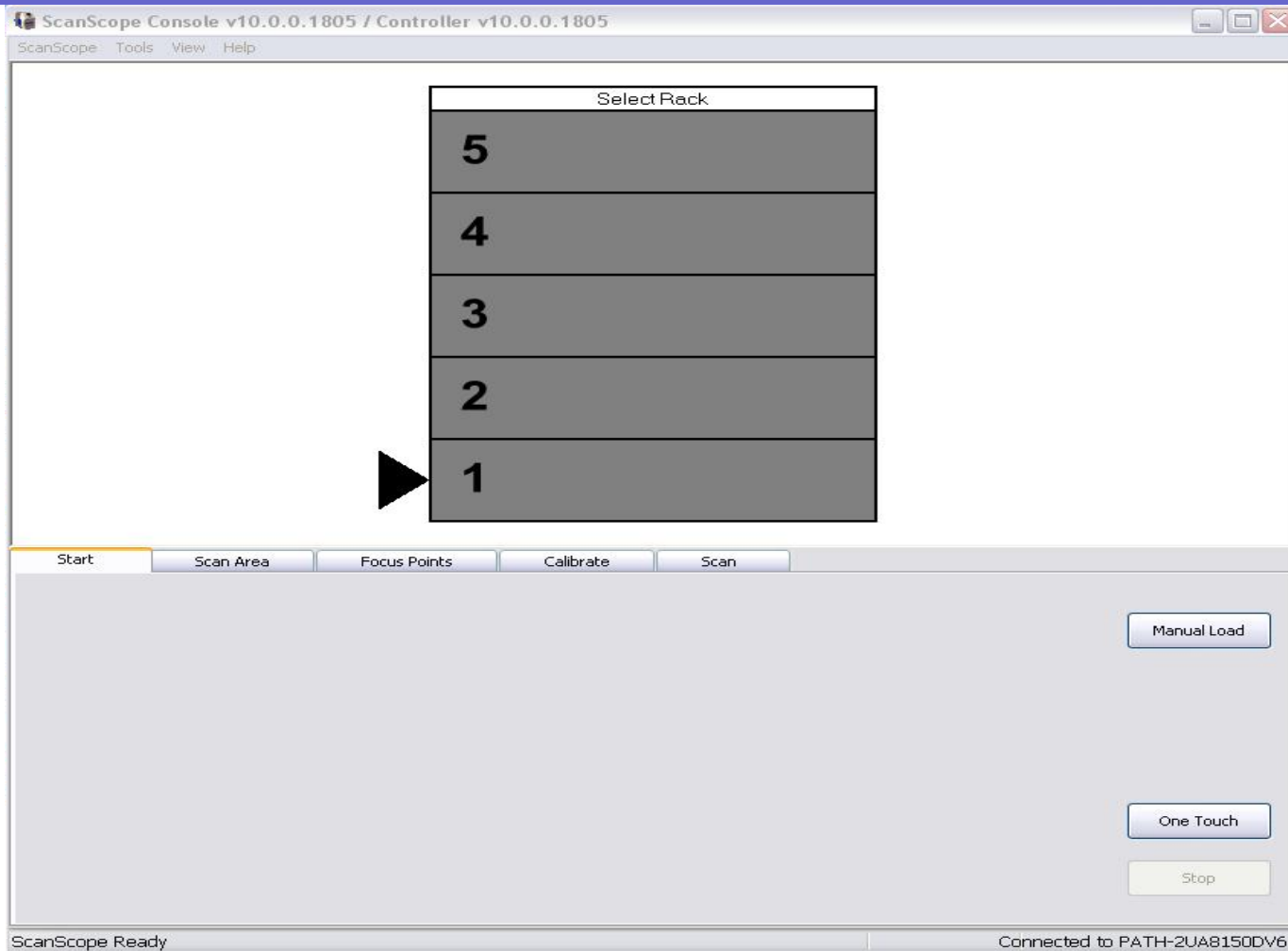




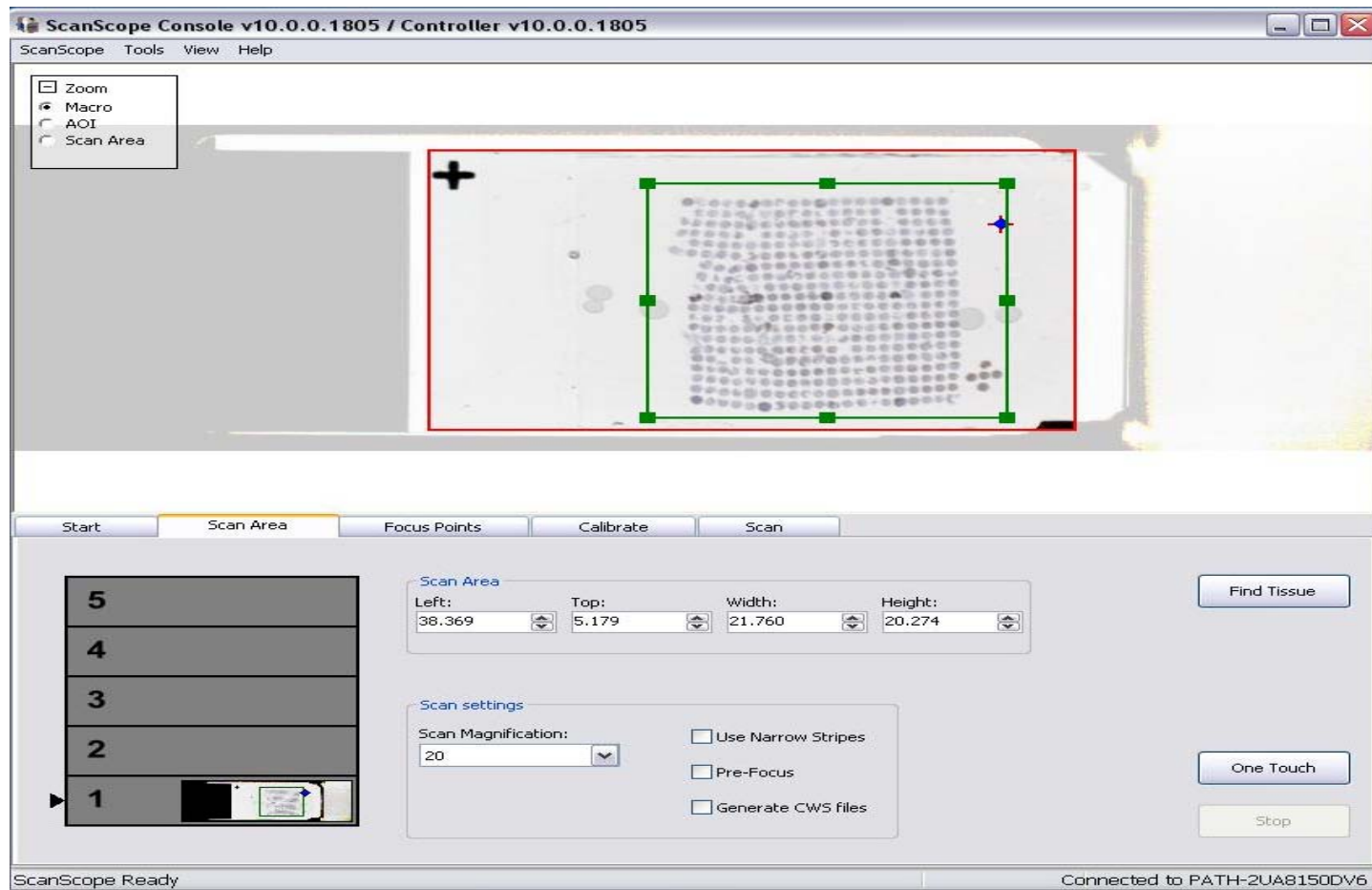
# Scanning: Aperio



# Scanning: Aperio



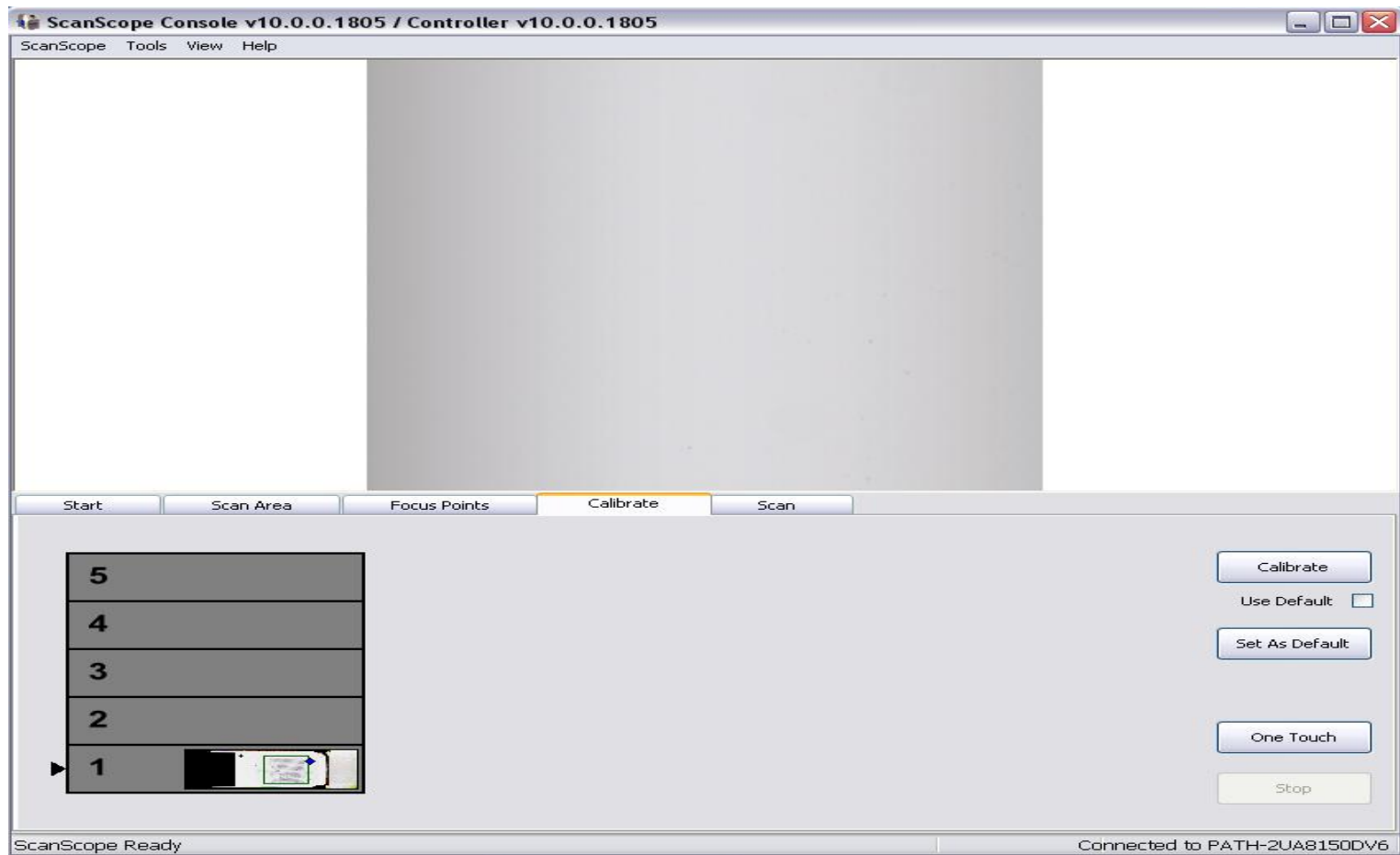
# Scanning: Aperio



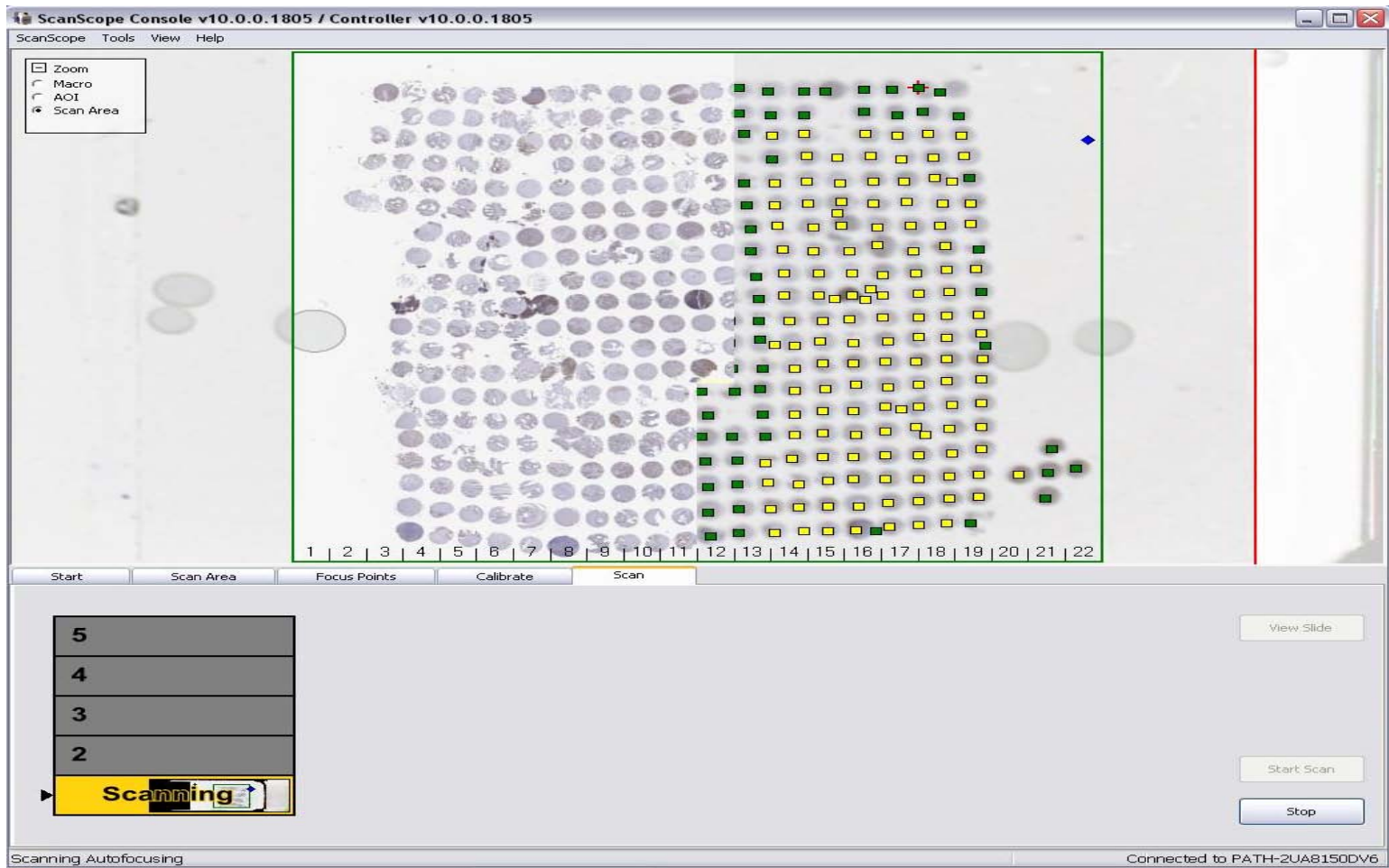
# Scanning: Aperio



# Scanning: Aperio

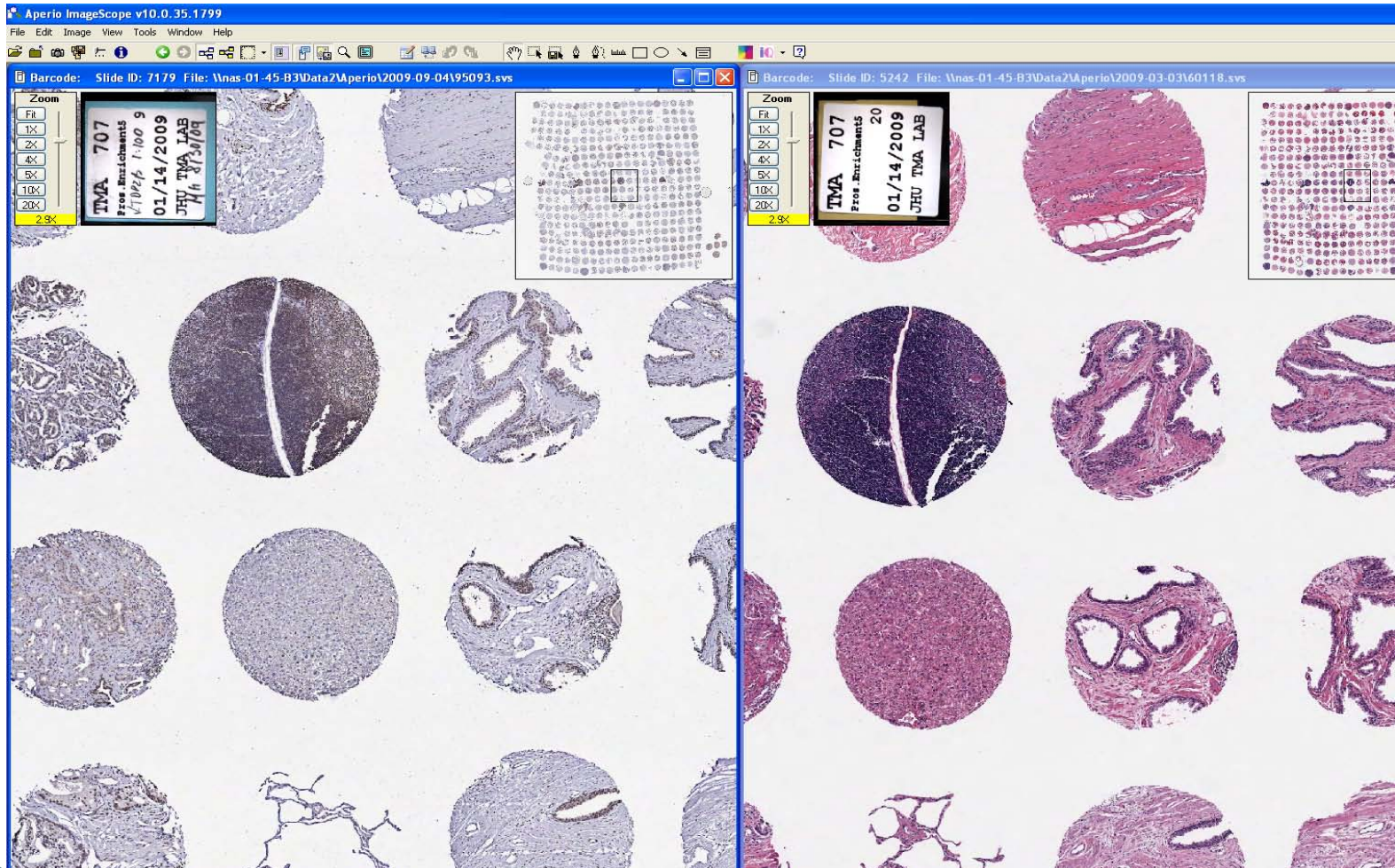


# Scanning: Aperio





# Viewing an Image: Aperio



Tissue Microarray – 400 cores, 1.5 mm each – stained with TOP2B on the left and H&E on the right - 4 µm section each



## Edit TMA Map

**Sectors**

Add Sector Rows

Delete Sector Cols

Center Spots Spot Size

Auto Segment

**Coordinate Labels**

Row Labels

Col Labels

Sector Labels

Reverse Rows

Reverse Columns

Submit

Cancel



# TMA Composites



0707\_A\_1\_5\_.jpg



0707\_A\_1\_6\_.jpg



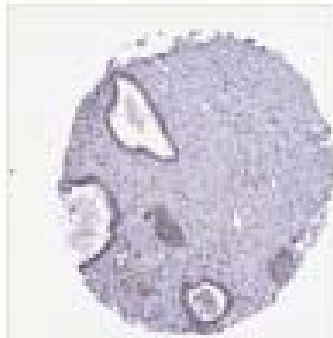
0707\_A\_1\_7\_.jpg



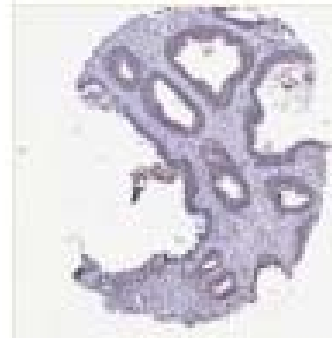
0707\_A\_1\_8\_.jpg



0707\_A\_1\_12\_.jpg



0707\_A\_1\_13\_.jpg



0707\_A\_1\_14\_.jpg



0707\_A\_1\_15\_.jpg

# Pathologist-based Analysis

- Standard on IHC studies
- Semi-quantitative
- Qualitative
- Inter-observer variation
- Intra-observer variation
- Difficult to reproduce

# Pathologist-based analysis of HER2 on HerceptTest

<b>Score</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Weakly Positive: 2+	Weak to moderate complete membrane staining in >10% of tumor cells
Strongly Positive: 3+	Strong complete membrane staining in >10% of tumor cells

# Quantitative Image Analysis

“It is the extraction of meaningful information from images; mainly from digital images by means of digital image processing techniques. Image analysis tasks can be as simple as reading bar coded tags or as sophisticated as identifying a person from their face.”

# Quantitative Image Analysis

“With automated image analysis, complex computer algorithms are used to enhance the slide image, making interpretation straight-forward and facilitating a more objective interpretation.”

# Algorithm

“An algorithm is a computer-based specific set of instructions for carrying out a task or solving a problem.”



# Typical Quantitative Image Analysis

- Separating stains (color deconvolution)
- Quantifying a particular stain (measuring pixel color intensities)
- Identifying a region of pathological interest (cancer vs. normal)

# Color Deconvolution

Analytical and Quantitative Cytology and Histology®

## Color Deconvolution for the Analysis of Tissue Microarrays

Toby C. Cornish, M.D., Ph.D., and Marc K. Halushka, M.D., Ph.D.

*OBJECTIVE: To analyze tissue microarrays (TMAs) using color deconvolution, a method for separating component dyes in digital images, and compare the results to observer scoring.*

*STUDY DESIGN: TMAs were constructed from tissues from 100 adult autopsies and immunohistochemically stained for connective tissue growth factor. A region of interest (ROI) was created for each core image using 3 binary masks—tissue area, inclusion area, and exclusion area. The diaminobenzidine (DAB) and hematoxylin sig-*

*istry, staining, tissue microarray.*

Immunohistochemistry (IHC) is a powerful method for evaluating protein expression in tissues. The advent of high temperature antigen retrieval methods in the 1990s improved the repeatability and quality of IHC, and it is now routinely used for both clinical and research applications.<sup>1</sup> A significant advantage of IHC over techniques such as Western blotting and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

# Color Deconvolution for TMA Images Website

- <http://colordecontmas.sourceforge.net/>

# Typical Quantitative Image Analysis

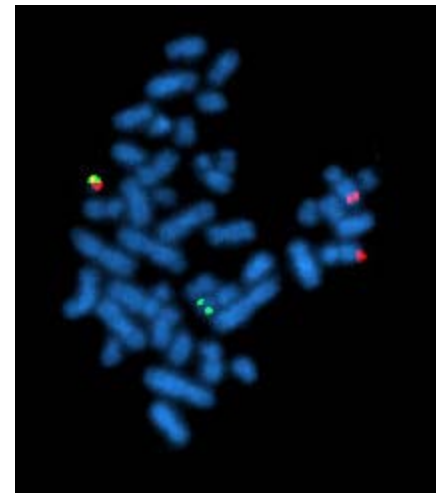
- Determine where the edges of an object begin and end
- Count similar objects
- Calculate the area, perimeter & length of objects such as:
  - Nuclei
  - Microvessels
  - Lymphoid cells

# ImmunoHistoChemistry

- Method of protein detection and localization
- Can use frozen or formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue

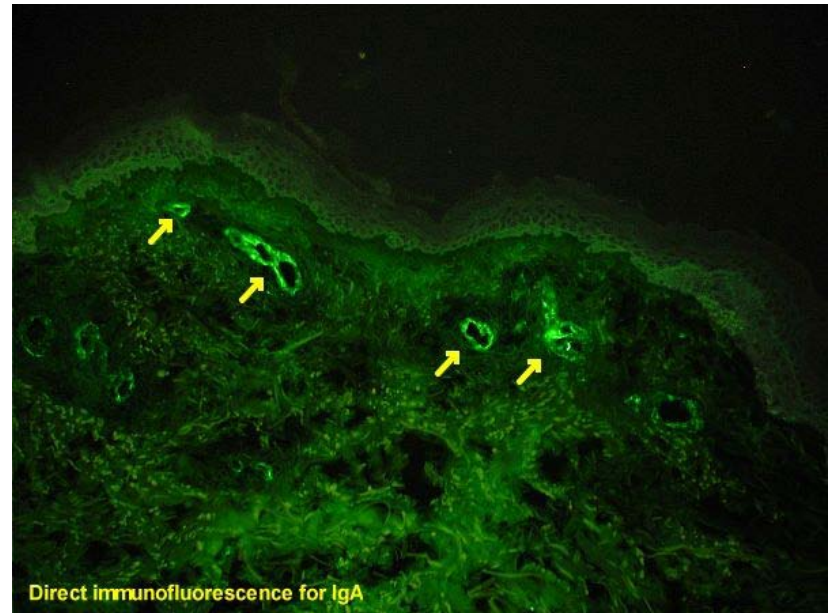
# Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization

- Cytogenetic technique
- Detects and localizes the presence or absence of specific DNA sequences on chromosomes



# Immunofluorescence

- The labeling of antibodies or antigens with fluorescent dyes
- Used to visualize subcellular distribution of biomolecules





# Users of Quantitative Image Analysis

- Oncology
- Pathology
- Toxicology within the pharmaceutical industry

# Why Use It

“The continuous staining intensity values provided by the quantitative image analysis allows for better discrimination of subtle protein expression differences, which may not be apparent in the pathologist categorical evaluation.”

# Commercially Available Software Packages for Quantitative Image Analysis

## Software Package

## Company

ScanScope Systems®

Aperio Technologies, Inc., CA, USA

BLISS™ workstation with  
TMAScore

Bacus Laboratories, Inc., IL, USA

Automated Quantitative Analysis  
(AQUA®)

HistoRX, CT, USA

HistoQuant

3DHistech, Budapest, Hungary

# Quantitative Image Analysis Article

Review

For reprint orders, please contact [reprints@expert-reviews.com](mailto:reprints@expert-reviews.com)

EXPERT  
REVIEWS

## Automated image analysis in histopathology: a valuable tool in medical diagnostics

*Expert Rev. Mol. Diagn.* 8(6), 707–725 (2008)

Laoighse Mulrane,  
Elton Rexhepaj,  
Steve Penney,  
John J Callanan and  
William M Gallagher<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>*Author for correspondence*  
UCD School of Biomolecular and  
Biomedical Science, UCD  
Conway Institute, University  
College Dublin, Belfield,  
Dublin 4, Ireland  
Tel.: +353 1716 6743  
Fax: +353 1283 7211

Virtual pathology, the process of assessing digital images of histological slides, is gaining momentum in today's laboratory environment. Indeed, digital image acquisition systems are becoming commonplace, and associated image analysis solutions are viewed by most as the next critical step in automated histological analysis. Here, we document the advances in the technology, with reference to past and current techniques in histological assessment. In addition, the demand for these technologies is analyzed with major players profiled. As there are several image analysis software programs focusing on the quantification of immunohistochemical staining, particular attention is paid to this application in this review. Oncology has been a primary target area for these approaches, with example studies in this therapeutic area being covered here. Toxicology-based image analysis solutions are also profiled as these are steadily increasing in popularity, especially within the pharmaceutical industry. Reinforced by the phenomenal growth of the virtual pathology field, it is envisioned that the market for automated image analysis tools will greatly expand over the next 10 years.

# FrIDA: An open source framework for image dataset analysis

- FrIDA is image analysis software.
- Developed by the Johns Hopkins University Tissue Microarray Core Facility.
- Open source and written in 100% Java.
- Makes use of functionality from the NIH's ImageJ application.

<http://bui2.win.ad.jhu.edu/frida/>

# Image information on the pixels is quantified

- Hue (Color) – stain color
- Saturation (Color Purity) – amount of stain
- Luminosity (Intensity) – specimen density
- Good description is found at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HSL\\_and\\_HSV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HSL_and_HSV)

# Setting Up a Quantitative Image Analysis

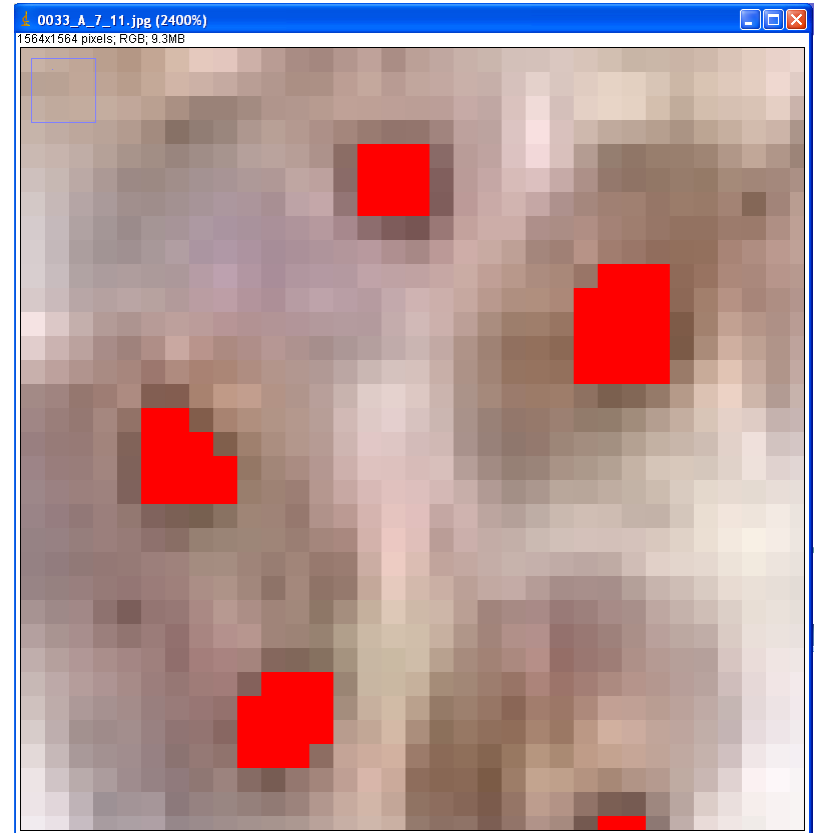
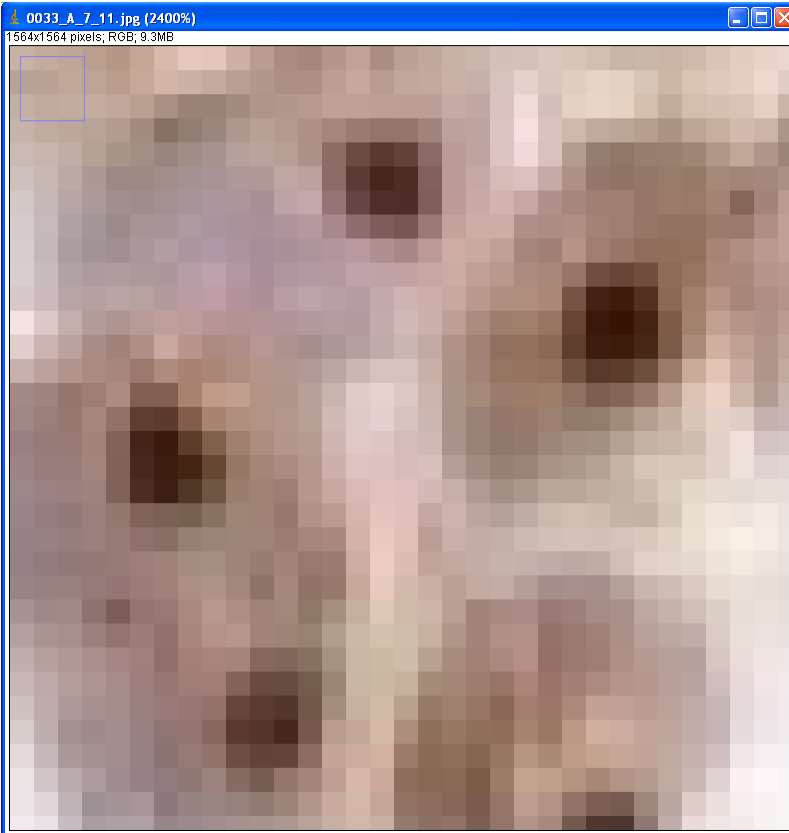
- Create a color mask
- Create a lasso mask
- Create a meta-mask



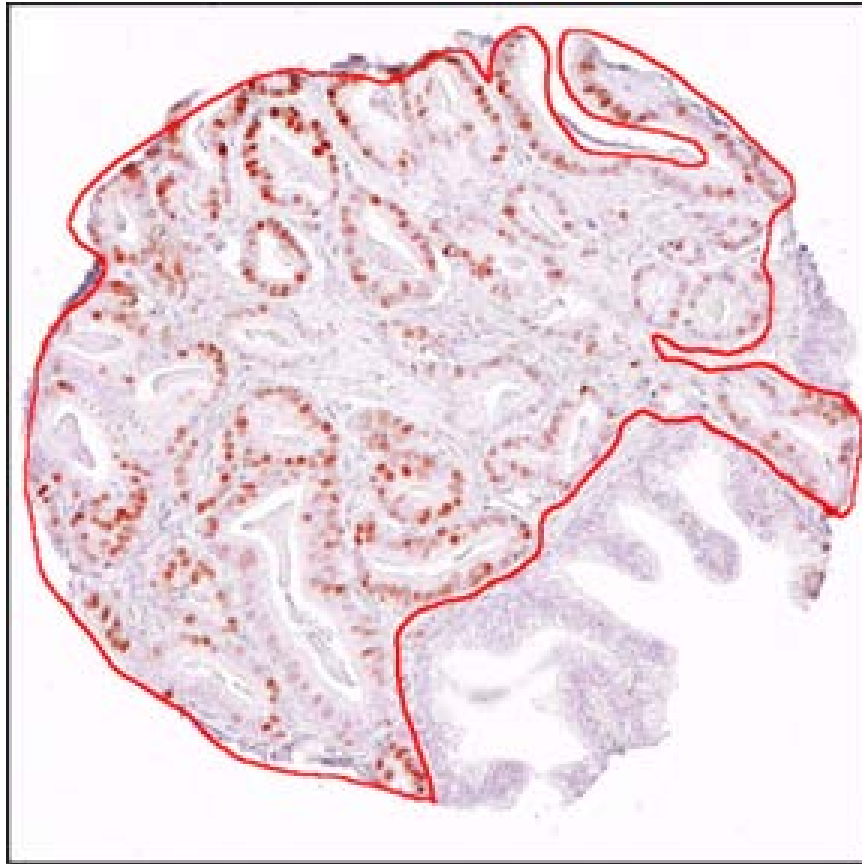
# Creating a Color Mask



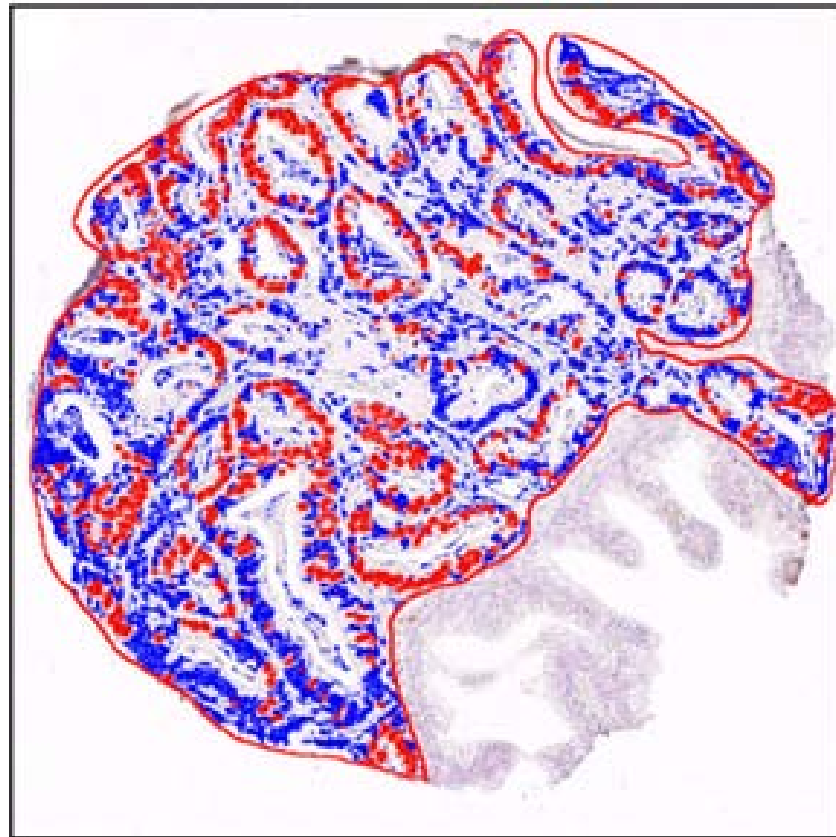
# Creating a Color Mask



# Creating a Lasso Mask



# Creating a Meta-Mask Using Boolean Logic



# Quantitative Image Analysis Data: Intensity Values

- 0 = no stain
- $>0 < 255$  = some stain
- 255 = maximum stain

# Quantitative Image Analysis Data: FrIDA

- Blue Intensity Mean
- Brown Intensity Mean
- Blue Total Area
- Brown Total Area
- Brown and Tumor Intensity Mean
- Lasso + Blue or brown Intensity Mean

# Publishing TMA Images and Scoring Data Over the Internet

- Roughly modeled after Stanford Microarray Database
- Concept:
  - Once a study is published by a journal, all TMA diagnoses, image, scoring and non-protected clinical data can be “published” as supplemental data to the Internet for public online viewing or down loading
  - In addition, some TMAJ Images are now linked to “Proteinpedia” database (<http://humanproteinpedia.org>) by Akhilesh Pandey, MD PhD.

# Published TMAJ Images

- <http://tmaj.pathology.jhmi.edu>
- To see published images
  - login to tmaj as a guest and then click the Images button.
    - Username: guest
    - Password: guest



## Decreased NKX3.1 Protein Expression in Focal Prostatic Atrophy, Prostatic Intraepithelial Neoplasia, and Adenocarcinoma: Association with Gleason Score and Chromosome 8p Deletion

Carlise R. Bethel,<sup>1</sup> Dennis Faith,<sup>4</sup> Xiang Li,<sup>2</sup> Bin Guan,<sup>2</sup> Jessica L. Hicks,<sup>3</sup> Fusheng Lan,<sup>5</sup> Robert B. Jenkins,<sup>5</sup> Charles J. Bieberich,<sup>2</sup> and Angelo M. De Marzo<sup>3</sup>

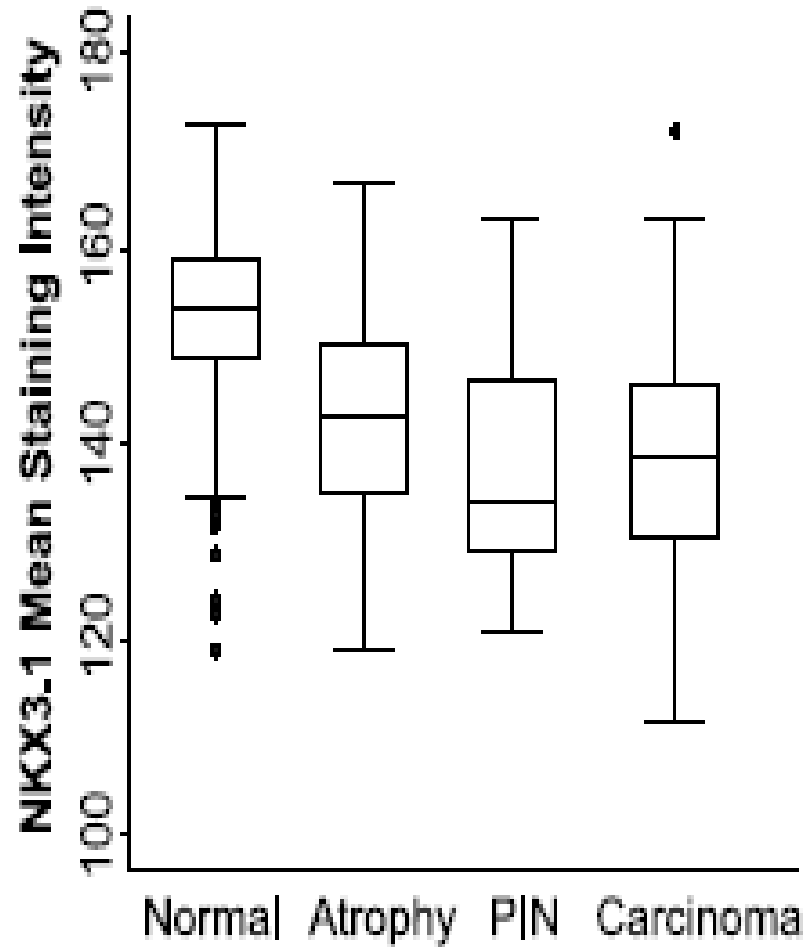
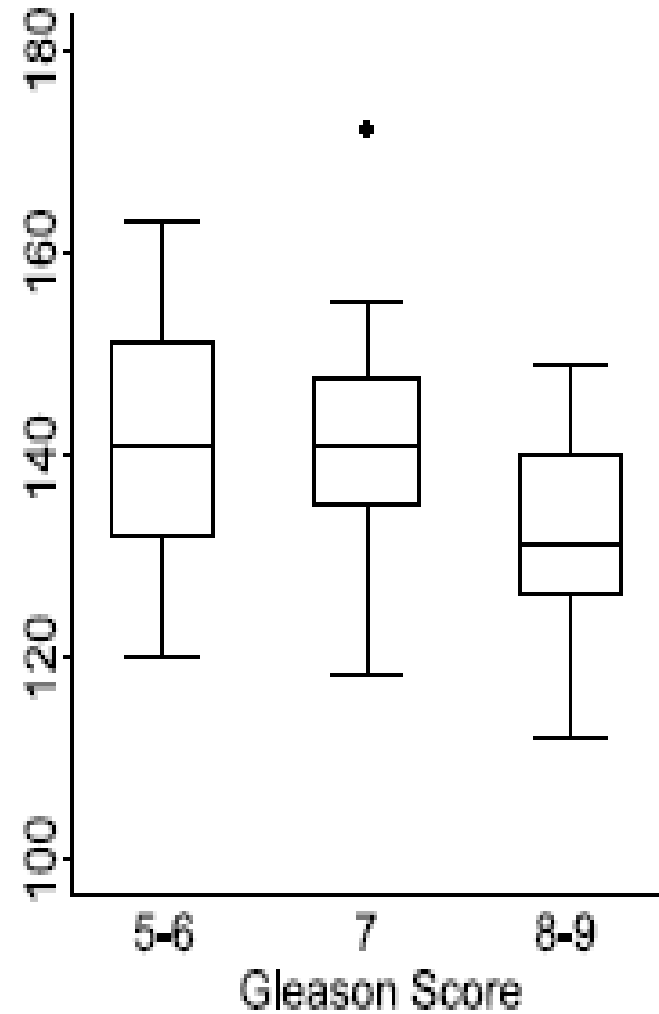
<sup>1</sup>Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Bloomberg School of Public Health; <sup>2</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, University of Maryland Baltimore County; <sup>3</sup>Departments of Pathology and Urology, The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland; <sup>4</sup>The University of Minnesota School of Medicine, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and <sup>5</sup>The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

### Abstract

*NKX3.1* is a homeobox gene located at chromosome 8p21.2, and one copy is frequently deleted in prostate carcinoma. Prior studies of *NKX3.1* mRNA and protein in human prostate cancer and prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN) have been conflicting, and expression in focal prostate atrophy lesions has not been investigated. Immunohistochemical staining for NKX3.1 on human tissue microarrays was decreased in most focal atrophy and PIN lesions. In carcinoma, staining was inversely correlated with Gleason grade. Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization showed that no cases of atrophy had loss or gain of 8p, 8 centromere, or 8q24 (*C-MYC*) and only 12% of high-grade PIN lesions harbored loss of 8p. By contrast, NKX3.1 staining in carcinoma was correlated with 8p loss and allelic loss was inversely related to Gleason pattern. Quantitative reverse transcription-PCR for *NKX3.1* mRNA using microdissected atrophy revealed a concordance with protein in five

in approximately 50% to 85% of cases (2, 3). Given that mutations in the remaining allele of *NKX3.1* have not been detected (4, 5), *NKX3.1* may function as a haploinsufficient tumor suppressor gene. That loss of one allele of *NKX3.1* occurs early in prostate carcinogenesis is evidenced by the finding that LOH on chromosome 8p has been reported to occur in high-grade prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN), a lesion that is a putative precursor to many invasive prostatic carcinomas (6), at a frequency between 20% and 80% (7–9).

Targeted disruption of *Nkx3.1* in mice results in abnormal prostate ductal morphogenesis and protein secretion (10–12). Although *Nkx3.1* homozygous mutant mice do not develop invasive carcinoma, epithelial hyperplasia and PIN lesions arise with age. Compound mutant mouse studies indicate that cooperativity exists between *Nkx3.1* and the tumor suppressors *Pten* and *Cdkn1b* (encoding p27; refs. 13–17). These compound mutants develop PIN lesions that progress to invasive carcinomas and at times to metastatic disease. Because the effects are seen in *NKX3.1*

**A****B**

# Trefoil Factor 3 Overexpression in Prostatic Carcinoma: Prognostic Importance Using Tissue Microarrays

Dennis A. Faith,<sup>1</sup> William B. Isaacs,<sup>1,3</sup> James D. Morgan,<sup>2</sup> Helen L. Fedor,<sup>2</sup> Jessica L. Hicks,<sup>2</sup> Leslie A. Mangold,<sup>1</sup> Patrick C. Walsh,<sup>1</sup> Alan W. Partin,<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth A. Platz,<sup>4</sup> Jun Luo,<sup>1\*\*</sup> and Angelo M. De Marzo<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Brady Urological Institute, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Pathology, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland*

<sup>3</sup>*The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland*

<sup>4</sup>*Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland*

**BACKGROUND.** Human intestinal trefoil factor 3 (TFF3) is a member of a family of polypeptides encoded by a cluster of genes on chromosome 21. Through gene expression profiling studies TFF3 mRNA has been found to be overexpressed in prostate cancer.

**METHODS.** We used immunochemistry on tissue microarrays and software tools, collectively

# Nuclear MYC protein overexpression is an early alteration in human prostate carcinogenesis

Bora Gurel<sup>1</sup>, Tsuyoshi Iwata<sup>1</sup>, Cheryl M Koh<sup>1</sup>, Robert B Jenkins<sup>2</sup>, Fusheng Lan<sup>2</sup>, Chi Van Dang<sup>3</sup>, Jessica L Hicks<sup>1</sup>, James Morgan<sup>1</sup>, Toby C Cornish<sup>1</sup>, Siobhan Sutcliffe<sup>4</sup>, William B Isaacs<sup>5,6,7</sup>, Jun Luo<sup>5,7</sup> and Angelo M De Marzo<sup>1,5,6,7,8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pathology, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA; <sup>2</sup>The Mayo Clinic, Minnesota Siteman Cancer Center, Rochester, MN, USA; <sup>3</sup>Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA; <sup>4</sup>The Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, Department of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO, USA; <sup>5</sup>Department of Urology, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA; <sup>6</sup>The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA; <sup>7</sup>The Brady Urological Research Institute, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA and <sup>8</sup>Department of Oncology, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA

The MYC onco-protein is a transcription factor that regulates cell proliferation, metabolism, protein synthesis, mitochondrial function and stem cell renewal. A region on chromosome 8q24 encompassing the *MYC* locus is amplified in prostate cancer, but this occurs mostly in advanced disease suggesting that *MYC* alterations occur late in prostate cancer. In contrast, *MYC* mRNA is elevated in most prostate cancers, even those of relatively low stage and grade (eg Gleason score 6) suggesting that MYC plays a role in initiation. However, since MYC protein levels are tightly regulated, elevated *MYC* mRNA does not necessarily imply elevated MYC protein. Thus, it is critical to determine whether MYC protein is elevated in human prostate cancer, and if so, at what stage of the disease this elevation occurs. Prior studies of MYC protein localization have been hampered by lack of suitable antibodies and controls. We utilized a new anti-MYC antibody coupled with genetically defined control experiments to localize MYC protein within human tissue microarrays consisting of normal, atrophy, PIN, primary adenocarcinoma, and metastatic adenocarcinoma. Nuclear overexpression of MYC protein occurred frequently in luminal cells of PIN, as well as in most primary carcinomas and metastatic disease. MYC protein did not correlate with gain of 8q24, suggesting alternative mechanisms for MYC overexpression. These results provide evidence that upregulation of nuclear MYC protein expression is a highly prevalent and early change in prostate cancer and suggest that increased nuclear MYC may be a critical oncogenic event driving human prostate cancer initiation and progression.

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**Keywords:** MYC oncoprotein; prostatic carcinoma; prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia

# Automated subcellular localization and quantification of protein expression in tissue microarrays

ROBERT L. CAMP, GINA G. CHUNG & DAVID L. RIMM

*Department of Pathology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut, USA*

*Correspondence should be addressed to D.L.R.; email: david.rimm@yale.edu*

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The recent development of tissue microarrays—composed of hundreds of tissue sections from different tumors arrayed on a single glass slide—facilitates rapid evaluation of large-scale outcome studies. Realization of this potential depends on the ability to rapidly and precisely quantify the protein expression within each tissue spot. We have developed a set of algorithms that allow the rapid, automated, continuous and quantitative analysis of tissue microarrays, including the separation of tumor from stromal elements and the sub-cellular localization of signals. Validation studies using estrogen receptor in breast carcinoma show that automated analysis matches or exceeds the results of conventional pathologist-based scoring. Automated analysis and sub-cellular localization of beta-catenin in colon cancer identifies two novel, prognostically significant tumor subsets, not detected by traditional pathologist-based scoring. Development of automated analysis technology empowers tissue microarrays for use in discovery-type experiments (more typical of cDNA microar-

ment for compartmentalization of expression) utilizes fluorescent tags to separate tumors from stroma and to define subcellular compartments. The distribution of a target antigen is then quantitatively assessed according to its co-localization with these tags. As subcellular compartments (for example, membrane, cytoplasm, nuclei and so forth) of different tissues and tumors vary widely in size and shape, traditional methods of defining compartments based on morphometric criteria (that is, feature extraction) perform poorly on a large-scale basis. Rather than counting target-containing features, PLACE delineates target expression as the sum of its intensity divided by the total size of the assayed compartment.

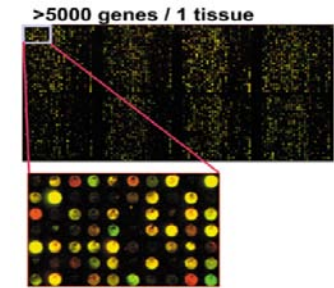
As the thickness of tissue sections makes it difficult to discriminate between overlapping subcellular compartments, we have also developed a novel, rapid exponential subtraction algorithm (RESA), which subtracts an out-of-focus image, collected slightly below the bottom of the tissue, from an in-focus image, based on pixel intensity, signal-to-noise ratio, and the

# Other Uses of Scanning:

- **Telepathology**
  - Diagnosis
  - Consultation
- **Education**



# Recap



gene discovery



tissue microarray

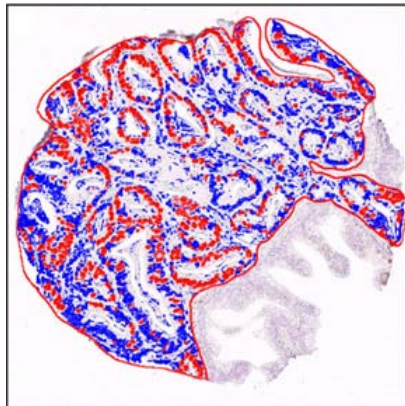
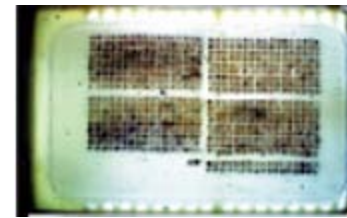


Image analysis

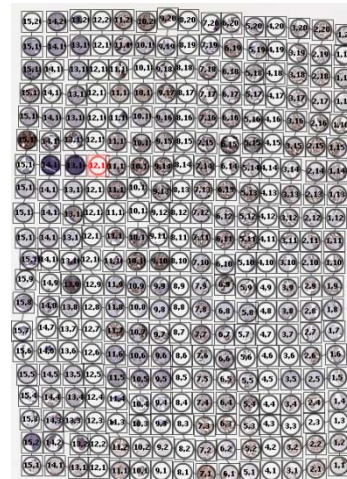


image acquisition and segmentation

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<http://users.skynet.be/J.Beever/hosepipe.html>