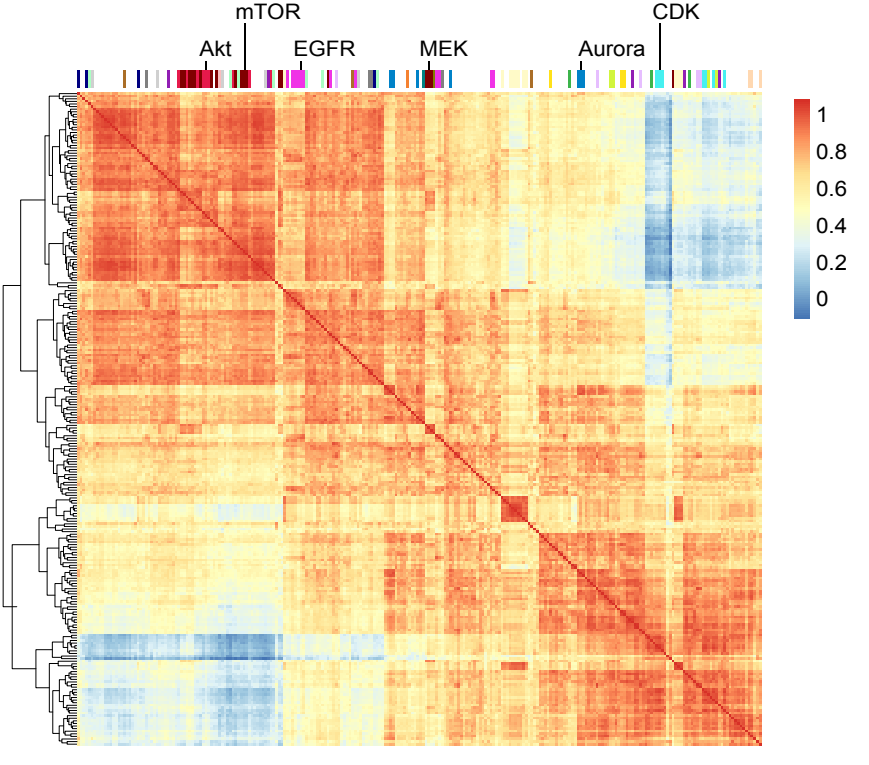**a**