Hindawi Mediators of Inflammation Volume 2018, Article ID 4789035, 2 pages https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/4789035



Letter to the Editor

Comment on "Analysis of Microarray-Identified Genes and MicroRNAs Associated with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis"

Chenyu Li D, Shujuan Wang, Lin Che, Xianghua Wang, and Yan Xu D

Department of Nephrology, The Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University, Qingdao, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Yan Xu; xuyanqyfy@126.com

Received 12 June 2017; Accepted 11 January 2018; Published 27 September 2018

Academic Editor: Hermann Gram

Copyright © 2018 Chenyu Li et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Recently, we read the article by Dr. Fan and colleagues, "Analysis of Microarray-Identified Genes and MicroRNAs Associated with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis" [1] which appeared in the 14 May 2017 issue of Mediators of Inflammation. Since the results of the article are very useful, we collected original data and used different bioinformatics methods to reanalyse the raw data; however, we get different results compared with those of the article, and we think that the author's methods in bioinformatics analysis are inappropriate.

We noticed that the author did not perform quality assessment for the microarray; therefore, we utilized Normalized Unscaled Standard Errors (NUSE) [2]. NUSE is a more sensitive measure than Relative Log Expression (RLE). If the analysts are skeptical about the quality of a chip in the RLE charts, that suspicion can easily be determined when using the NUSE diagram. The calculation of NUSE is actually very simple, it is the standard deviation of a chip relative to the standard deviation of the entire group. If the whole group of chips is reliable, their standard deviation will be very close and usually around 1. Therefore, if there is a problem with the quality of the chip, it will significantly deviate from 1, which will affect the NUSE values of the other

chips in the opposite direction. Of course, there is a very extreme situation, that is, when most chips have quality problems but their standard deviation is relatively close, which also appears that the NUSE value of the qualified chips will be significantly deviated from 1.

We collected raw data from GSE32537 and GSE32538 from the GEO database and used the R tool to perform quality assessment of the microarray. Since the platform of GSE32537 is the Affymetrix Human Gene 1.0 ST Array, we used the oligo [3] package for quality assessment. Figure 1 shows that GSM806284's NUSE is higher than 1.05, obviously, which means that GSM806284 is an unqualified sample and cannot be used for further analysis. For GSE32538 (Affymetrix Multispecies miRNA-1 Array), we used the AffyPLM [2] package for quality assessment. Figure 2 shows that GSM806429's NUSE is around 1.05 which means that GSM806284 is an unqualified sample and also cannot be used for further analysis. In summary, quality assessment is a very important part of bioinformatics analysis. Performing the quality assessment and obtaining more accurate and convincing results of differentially expressed gene analysis is the basis for further analysis such as GO enrichment analysis and KEGG pathway analysis.

2 Mediators of Inflammation

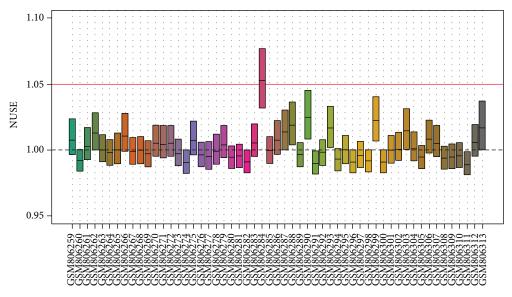


FIGURE 1: The NUSE plot of GSE32537.

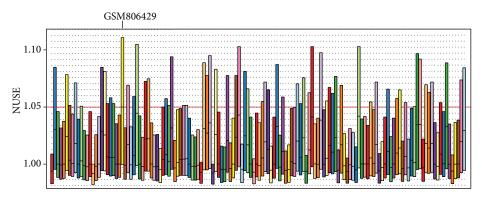


FIGURE 2: The NUSE plot of GSE32538.

Conflicts of Interest

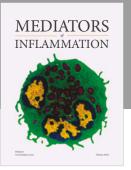
The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

References

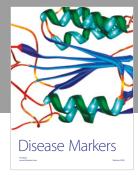
- [1] L. Fan, X. Yu, Z. Huang et al., "Analysis of microarray-identified genes and microRNAs associated with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis," *Mediators of Inflammation*, vol. 2017, Article ID 1804240, 9 pages, 2017.
- [2] S. Heber and B. Sick, "Quality assessment of Affymetrix GeneChip data," *OMICS*, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 358–368, 2006.
- [3] B. S. Carvalho and R. A. Irizarry, "A framework for oligonucleotide microarray preprocessing," *Bioinformatics*, vol. 26, no. 19, pp. 2363–2367, 2010.









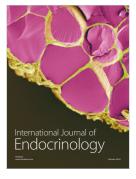




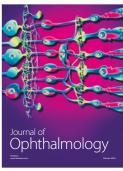




Submit your manuscripts at www.hindawi.com









Stem Cells

International







