

## Supplementary information

### DREAM SCTC Consortium authors and affiliations

Giacomo Baruzzo<sup>26</sup>, Marco Cappellato<sup>26</sup>, Irene Zorzan<sup>26</sup>, Simone Del Favero<sup>26</sup>, Luca Schenato<sup>26</sup>, Fabio Vandin<sup>26</sup>, Barbara Di Camillo<sup>26</sup>, Shruti Gupta<sup>27</sup>, Ajay Kumar Verma<sup>27</sup>, Shandar Ahmad<sup>27</sup>, Ronesh Sharma<sup>28,29</sup>, Edwin Vans<sup>28,29</sup>, Alok Sharma<sup>29,30,31,32</sup>, Ashwini Patil<sup>33</sup>, Alejandra Carrea<sup>34</sup>, Andres M. Alonso<sup>35,36</sup>, Luis Diambra<sup>35,36</sup>, Vijay Narsapuram<sup>37</sup>, Vinay Kaikala<sup>37</sup>, Chaitanyam Potnuru<sup>37</sup>, Sunil Kumar<sup>37</sup>, Jiajie Peng<sup>38</sup>, Xiaoyu Wang<sup>38</sup>, Xuequn Shang<sup>38</sup>, Dani Livne<sup>39</sup>, Tom Snir<sup>39</sup>, Hagit Philip<sup>39</sup>, Alona Zilberberg<sup>39</sup>, Sol Efroni<sup>39</sup>, Hamid Reza Hassanzadeh<sup>40</sup>, Reihaneh Hassanzadeh<sup>41</sup>, Ghazal Jahanshahi<sup>42</sup>, M-Mahdi Naddaf-Sh<sup>43</sup>, Phillip M. Drayer<sup>43</sup>, Sadra Naddaf-Sh<sup>44</sup>, Marouen Ben Guebila<sup>45</sup>, Changlin Wan<sup>46</sup>, Yuchen Cao<sup>47</sup>, Saber Meamardoost<sup>48</sup>, Nan Papili Gao<sup>49</sup>, and Rudiyanto Gunawan<sup>48</sup>

525

526 <sup>26</sup>Department of Information Engineering, University of Padova, Padova, Italy

527 <sup>27</sup>School of Computational & Integrative Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

528 <sup>28</sup>School of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Fiji National University, Suva, Fiji

529 <sup>29</sup>School of Engineering and Physics, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji

530 <sup>30</sup>Laboratory for Medical Science Mathematics, RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences, Yokohama, Japan

532 <sup>31</sup>Institute for Integrated and Intelligent Systems, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia

533 <sup>32</sup>CREST, JST, Tokyo, Japan

534 <sup>33</sup>Human Genome Center, The Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

535 <sup>34</sup>CREG, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

536 <sup>35</sup>InTech, Universidad Nacional de San Martin, Argentina

537 <sup>36</sup>CONICET, Argentina

538 <sup>37</sup>Data Science and Informatics, Corteva Agrisciences, Ascendas IT Park, Madhapur, Hyderabad, India

539 <sup>38</sup>School of Computer Science, Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi'an, China

540 <sup>39</sup>Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel

541 <sup>40</sup>School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA

542 <sup>41</sup>Department of Computer Science, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, USA

543 <sup>42</sup>J. Mack Robinson College of Business, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, USA

544 <sup>43</sup>Department of Electrical Engineering, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX, USA

545 <sup>44</sup>Computer Engineering Department, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran

546 <sup>45</sup>Department of Biostatistics, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA

547 <sup>46</sup>Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA

548 <sup>47</sup>Department of Statistics, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA

549 <sup>48</sup>Chemical and Biological Engineering Department, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, Buffalo, NY, USA

551 <sup>49</sup>Institute for Chemical and Bioengineering, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

## 552 Results from the challenge

553 For all animated figures see: <https://dream-sctc.uni.lu/>

Subchallenge 1: Reconstruction of spatial location of cells using 60 genes.

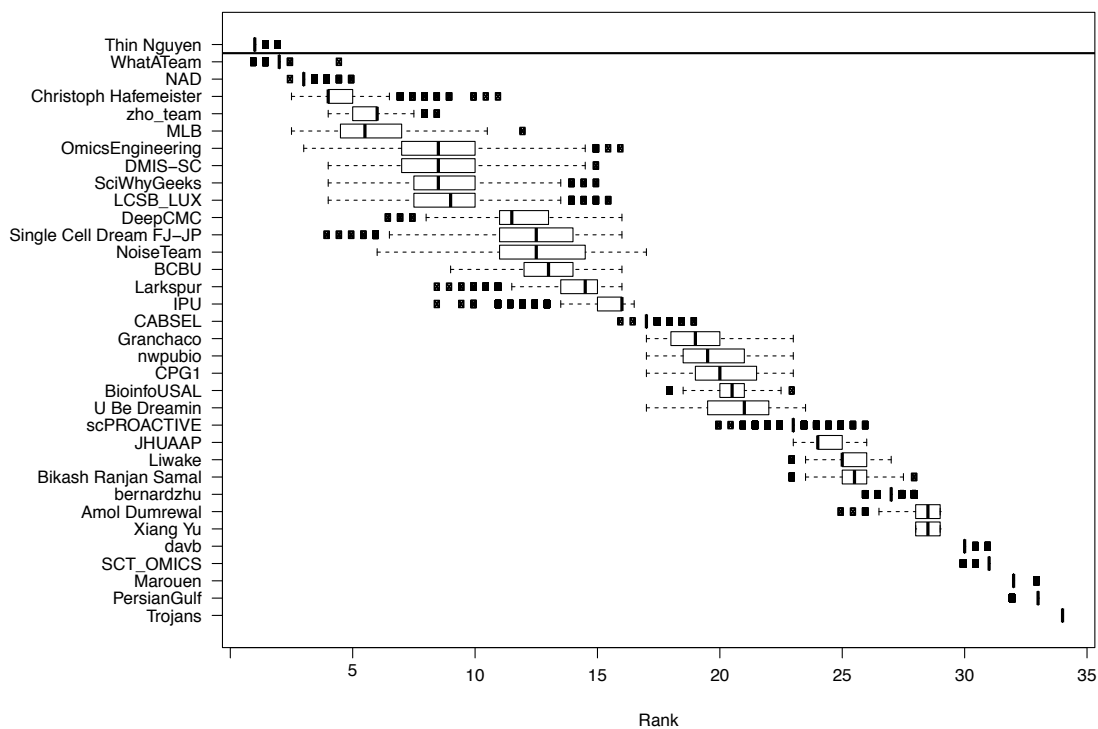


Figure S1: Results from the challenge showing boxplots of the average ranking across the 3 scoring schemes for the participating teams for 1000 bootstraps of the gold standard.

Subchallenge 2: Reconstruction of spatial location of cells using 40 genes.

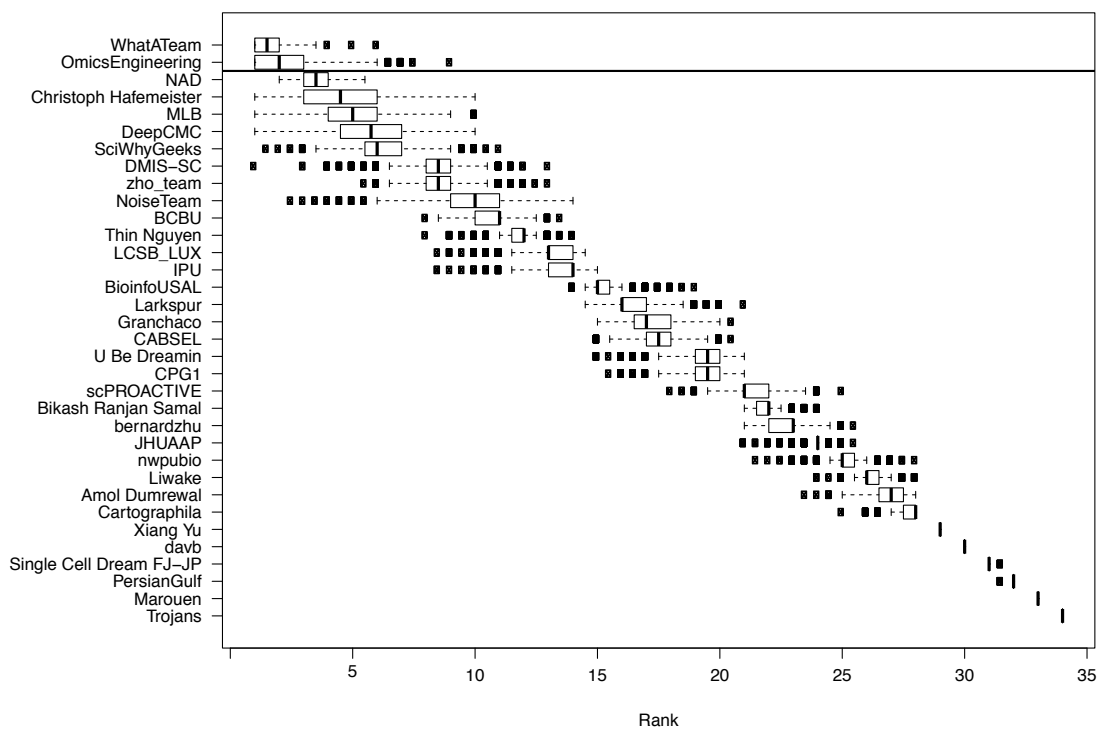


Figure S2: Results from the challenge showing boxplots of the average ranking across the 3 scoring schemes for the participating teams for 1000 bootstraps of the gold standard.

Subchallenge 3: Reconstruction of spatial location of cells using 20 genes.

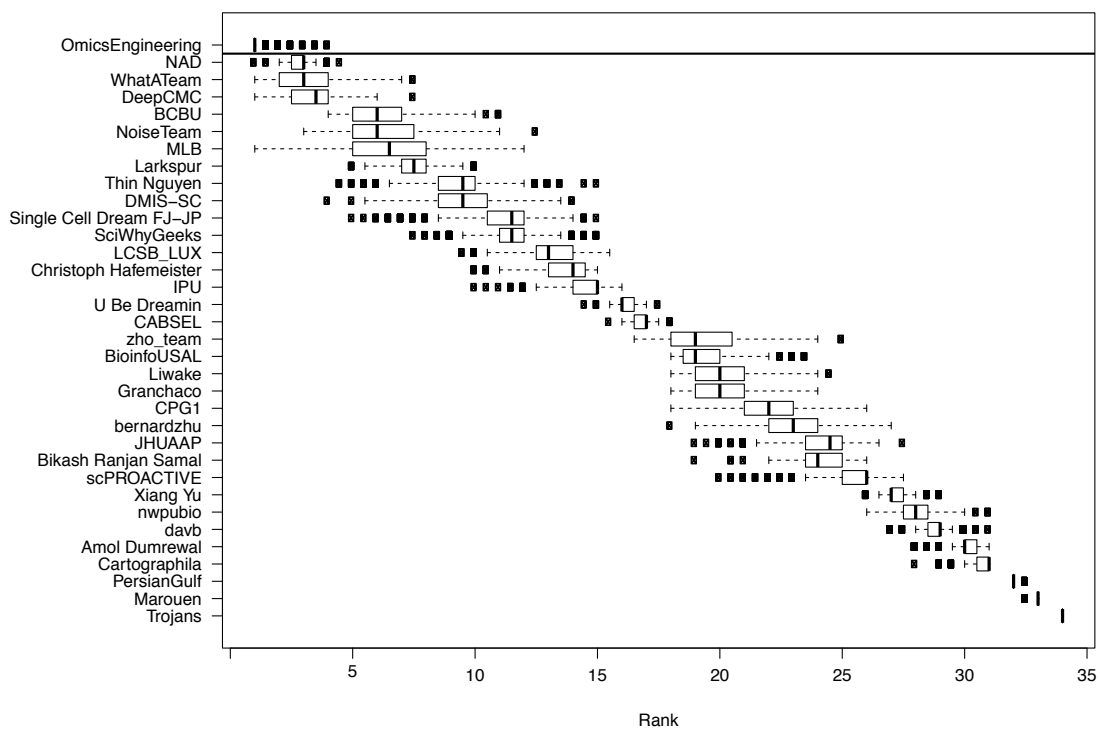


Figure S3: Results from the challenge showing boxplots of the average ranking across the 3 scoring schemes for the participating teams for 1000 bootstraps of the gold standard.

Table S1: Methods used by the top 10 teams (ordered alphabetically) for gene selection and location prediction. The methods used for gene selection are categorized in four different categories: SFR - Supervised feature ranking, UFR - unsupervised feature ranking, KNW - background knowledge, and VAR - variance. The methods used for location3 prediction are categorized in three different categories: CMB - Combination of model prediction and MCC, MCC - Matthews correlation coefficient, and SIM - Similarity measure (non MCC). More detailed description (writeup) of the methods used by each team is available in the Leaderboards section on the challenge webpage <https://www.synapse.org/#!/Synapse:syn15665609/wiki/583233>.

Team	Selection	Prediction
BCBU	SFR - Random Forest	CMB - Random Forest, MCC
Challengers18	UFR - Particle Swarm Optimization	SIM - Weighted correlation
Christoph	UFR - PCA (principal component analysis)	MCC
Hafemeister	on most variable genes, Expression correlation	
Christoph	UFR - PCA on most variable genes, Expression correlation	SIM - Correlation
Hafemeister		
DeepCMC	SFR - LASSO (least absolute shrinkage and selection operator)	MCC
DeepCMC	SFR - Neural Network	MCC
MLB	UFR - Stepwise regression, PCA, k-nearest neighbors, F-score	SIM - F-score
NAD	SFR - Feedforward neural network, KNW - Clustering, VAR	CMB - Feedforward neural network, MCC
OmicsEngineering	UFR - Euclidean distance of expression	MCC
OmicsEngineering	SFR - Random Forest, Genetic algorithm	MCC
Thin Nguyen	VAR	MCC
Thin Nguyen	UFR - Nonnegative Discriminative Feature Selection	SIM - k-nearest neighbors
WhatATeam	KNW, Clustering	CMB - Local outlier factor, MCC
WhatATeam	UFR - Stepwise regression	CMB - Local outlier factor, MCC
Zho	UFR - Hierarchical clustering	SIM - Hamming distance, Silhouette score

Table S2: Summary of methods used by the top 10 teams for gene selection and location prediction. Some teams used different approaches or a combination of approaches for different subchallenges. The categories of the method used for gene selection and location prediction are the same as in Table S1.

		Selection			
		SFR	UFR	KNW	VAR
Prediction	CMB	2	1	2	
	MCC	3	2		1
	SIM		5		

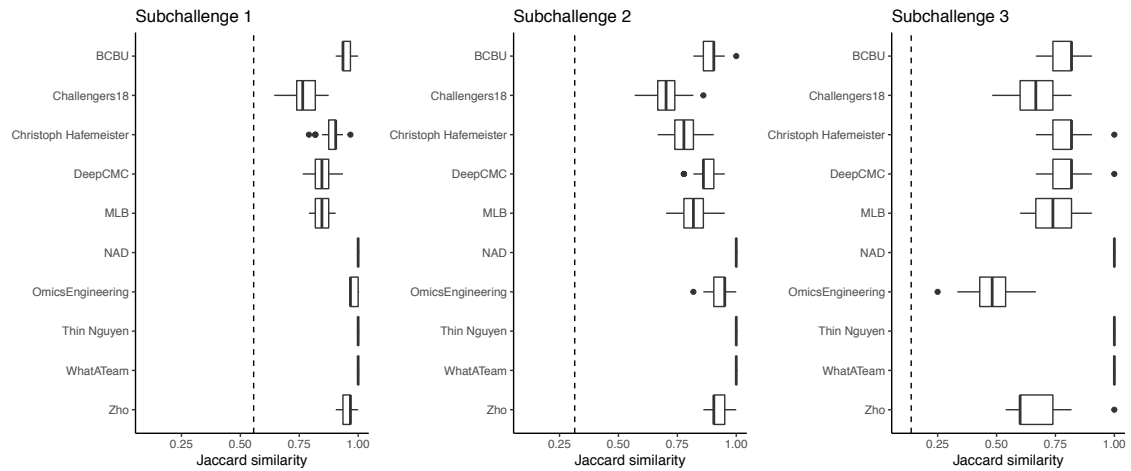


Figure S4: Boxplots of the Jaccard similarity between the genes selected for each of the 10 CV scheme in all 3 subchallenges. The teams that used the statistical properties of the genes as selection criteria, for example maximum variance, selected the same set of genes for all folds. This is expected since the distribution of a random subsample was selected to have the same properties as the original sample. Dotted line represents the limit for significance, i.e., the expected Jaccard similarity between two sets of randomly selected 60, 40 or 20 genes.

Table S3: Most frequently selected 60, 40 and 20 genes in subchallenges 1,2 and 3 respectively, in alphabetical order, colored according to Figure 5 from the main text. That is yellow are gap genes and green are pair-rule genes

Subchallenge 1	<i>aay ama ance antp apt blimp-1 brk btk29A bun cg10479 cg14427 cg43394 cg8147 croc cyp310a1 d dan danr dfd disco doc2 doc3 dpn E(spl)m5-HLH edl eve fj fkh ftz gt h hb htl ilp4 impE2 impL2 kni knrl kr lok mdr49 mes2 mESR3 noc nub oc odd prd rau rho run sna srp tkv toc traf4 trn tsh twi zen zfh1</i>
Subchallenge 2	<i>aay ama ance antp blimp-1 brk btk29A cg43394 cg8147 croc cyp310a1 d dan disco doc3 dpn edl fj fkh ftz gt h ilp4 impE2 impL2 kni knrl kr mes2 mESR3 noc nub oc rho run sna srp tsh twi zfh1</i>
Subchallenge 3	<i>ama antp brk cg8147 cyp310a1 disco doc2 doc3 fkh h ilp4 impE2 kni knrl mes2 nub oc sna tsh twi</i>

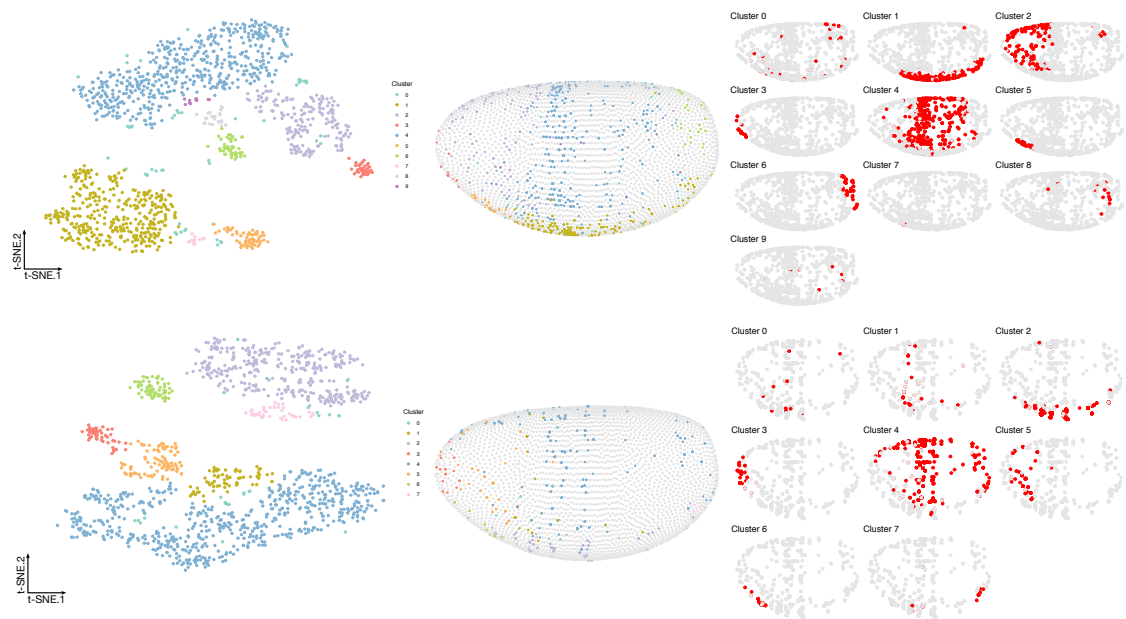


Figure S5: Visualization of the transcriptomics data containing only the most frequently selected **A** 40 genes from subchallenge 2 and **B** 20 genes from subchallenge 3 by the top performing teams (embedding to 2D by t-SNE). *Left* each point (cell) is filled with the color of the cluster that it belongs to (density-based clustering with DBSCAN). *Middle*, spatial mapping of the cells in the Drosophila embryo as assigned by DistMap using only the 60 most frequently selected genes from subchallenge 1. The color of each point corresponds to the color of the cluster from the t-SNE visualization. *Right*, highlighted (red) location mapping of cells in the Drosophila embryo for each cluster separately.