Automated Interpretation of Subcellular Patterns in Microscope Images: Bioimage Informatics for Systems Biology

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# Eukaryotic cells have many parts





#### **Protein localization**

- The sequence of each protein determines where it is localized in cells
- Subsequences ("motifs") within a protein's sequence are responsible for targeting it to one (or more) locations (structures/organelles)



#### **Open questions**

- How many distinct locations can proteins be found in? What are they?
- How many distinct motifs direct proteins to those locations? What are they?



#### **Proteomics**

- The set of proteins expressed in a given cell type or tissue is called its proteome
- Proteomics projects
  - sequence
  - structure
  - activity
  - partners
  - Iocation



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# Systems Biology and Location Proteomics

- All systems biology must be data driven
- Key to progress
  - identification of aspect that needs to be analyzed "ome-wide"
  - development of assays and automated analysis approaches
- Systems biology needs systematic information on highresolution subcellular location
  - Eventually, for every expressed protein for all cell types under all conditions
- Providing this information is the goal of Location Proteomics
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#### **Automated Interpretation**

- Traditional analysis of fluorescence microscope images has occurred by visual inspection
- Our goal over the past ten years has to been automate the interpretation, to yield better
  - Objectivity
  - Sensitivity
  - Reproducibility

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### Supervised Learning of High-Resolution Subcellular Location Patterns



### The goal: Learn to recognize all major subcellular patterns

ER	giantin	gpp130	
			2D
LAMP	Mito	Nucleolin	Images of
		0::.	HeLa
			cells
Actin	TfR	Tubulin	DNA
Como orio Mollon			

Garnegiewienon

### The Challenge

- Pixel-by-pixel or region-by-region matching will not work for cell patterns because different cells have different shapes, sizes, orientations
- Organelles/structures within cells are not found in fixed locations
- Instead, describe each image numerically and compare the descriptors



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## Feature-based, Supervised learning approach

- Create sets of images showing the location of many different proteins (each set defines one class of pattern)
- 2. Reduce each image to a set of numerical values ("features") that are insensitive to position and rotation of the cell
- 3. Use machine learning methods to "learn" how to distinguish each class using the features

Boland et al 1996; 1997; 1998; Boland & Murphy 2001; Huang & Murphy 2004





### Acquisition considerations

- Resolution defined as ability to distinguish two "point-sources"
- Maximal resolution in x-y plane given by Rayleigh (or Abbe) limit

#### 1.22λ/2NA

- where λ is wavelength of emitted light and NA is the numerical aperture of the objective; 244 nm for 520 nm light and 1.3 NA
- Sampling theorem (Nyquist) says maximum information can be obtained if we sample at twice the maximum frequency present in a sample
- Try to achieve Nyquist Sampling at Rayleigh limit

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#### Acquisition considerations

- Maintain low cell density if single cell measurements desired
- Control acquisition variables
  - Select (initial) focal plane consistently
  - Select fields consistently (at least one full cell per field)
  - Maintain constant camera gain, exposure time, number of slices
  - Select interphase cells or ensure sampling of cell cycle



#### Acquisition considerations

- Collect sufficient images per condition
  - For classifier training or set comparison, more than number of features
  - For classification or clustering, based on confidence level desired
- Collect reference images if possible (DNA, membrane)



#### Annotation considerations

- Maintain adequate records of all experimental settings
- Organize images by cell type/probe/condition



#### Preprocessing

- Correction for/Removal of camera defects
- Background correction
- Autofluorescence correction
- Illumination correction
- Deconvolution



#### 3D HeLa

2D slices

 (from bottom
 to top) for
 cell labeled
 for
 transferrin
 receptor
 (primarily in
 endosomes)





2D slices

 (from bottom
 to top) for
 cell labeled
 for giantin
 (primarily in
 Golgi)

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### 3D HeLa

2D slices

 (from bottom
 to top) for
 cell labeled
 for tubulin
 (major
 constituent of
 microtubules)



## Single cell segmentation approaches

- Voronoi
- Watershed
- Seeded Watershed
- Level Set Methods
- Graphical Models



#### Voronoi diagram

Given a set of seeds, draw vertices and edges such that each seed is enclosed in a single polygon where each edge is equidistant from the seeds on either side.



### Voronoi Segmentation Process

- Threshold DNA image (downsample?)
- Find the objects in the image
- Find the centers of the objects
- Use as seeds to generate Voronoi diagram
- Create a mask for each region in the Voronoi diagram
- Remove regions whose object that does not have intensity/size/shape of nucleus



#### Original DNA image





After thresholding and removing small objects





After removing edge cells and filtering



#### Watershed Segmentation

- Intensity of an image ~ elevation in a landscape
  - Flood from minima
  - Prevent merging of "catchment basins"
  - Watershed borders built at contacts between basins



http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/KYW/glossary/whatisaws.html



#### Watershed Segmentation

- If starting image has intensity centered on the cells (e.g., DNA) that you want to segment, invert image so that bright objects are the sources
- If starting image has intensity centered on the boundary between the cells (e.g., plasma membrane protein), don't invert so that boundary runs along high intensity



### Seeded Watershed Segmentation

- Drawback is that the number of regions may not correspond to the number of cells
- Seeded watershed allows water to rise only from predefined sources (seeds)
- If DNA image available, can use same approach to generate these seeds as for Voronoi segmentation
- Can use seeds from DNA image but use total protein image for watershed segmentation



#### Seeded Watershed Segmentation



Original image

#### Seeds and boundary

Applied directly to protein image (no DNA image)

Note non-linear boundaries



#### Level Set Methods

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- Level set function  $\phi(x,y,t)$ 
  - Positive inside the contour (mountain)
  - Negative outside the contour (valley)
  - Zero on the contour, C embedded at its zero level (sea level)



#### **Graphical Model Methods**

- Assumptions
  - Two classes of pixels: those part of a cell or part of the background
  - Each pixel is likely to be the same class as its neighbors
  - Have information about where cells are likely to be and where boundaries (edges) are likely to be
  - Probability that two pixels are same class related to probability that there is an edge between them





1. Start with initial DNA and edge potential



4. Pick the most confident foreground pixel, Run BP, find Carnegoth foreground iterate....



2. Run 1<sup>st</sup> believe propagation (BP), separate foreground and background. Pick the most confidence foreground pixel p, set its DNA potential high



5. Iteration stops when the segmented cell is too small



3. Run 2<sup>nd</sup> BP, assign the pixels with the same class of p to be *segmented\_cell1*, then set these pixels to be background



6. The resulting masks

#### **Feature extraction**


# Morphological Features -Thresholding

- Morphological features require some method for defining objects
- Most common approach is global thresholding
- Methods exist for automatically choosing a global threshold (e.g., Riddler-Calvard method)



### **Ridler-Calvard Method**

- Find threshold that is equidistant from the average intensity of pixels below and above it
- Ridler, T.W. and Calvard, S. (1978) Picture thresholding using an iterative selection method. *IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics* 8:630-632.



#### **Ridler-Calvard Method**

Blue line shows histogram of intensities, green lines show average to left and right of red line, red line shows midpoint between them or the RC threshold



### **Ridler-Calvard Method**



original

thresholded



# **Object finding**

 After choice of threshold, define objects as sets of touching pixels that are above threshold



#### 2D Features Morphological Features

SLF No.	Description			
SLF1.1	The number of fluorescent objects in the image			
SLF1.2	The Euler number of the image			
SLF1.3	The average number of above-threshold pixels per object			
SLF1.4	The variance of the number of above-threshold pixels per object			
SLF1.5	The ratio of the size of the largest object to the smallest			
SLF1.6	The average object distance to the cellular center of fluorescence(COF)			
SLF1.7	The variance of object distances from the COF			
SLF1.8	The ratio of the largest to the smallest object to COF distance			

#### 2D Features DNA Features

#### DNA features (objects relative to DNA reference)

SLF No.	Description
SLF2.17	The average object distance from the COF of the DNA image
SLF2.18	The variance of object distances from the DNA COF
SLF2.19	The ratio of the largest to the smallest object to DNA COF distance
SLF2.20	The distance between the protein COF and the DNA COF
SLF2.21	The ratio of the area occupied by protein to that occupied by DNA
SLF2.22	The fraction of the protein fluorescence that co-localizes with DNA

#### 2D Features Skeleton Features

#### **Skeleton features**

SLF No.	Description
SLF7.80	The average length of the morphological skeleton of objects
SLF7.81	The ratio of object skeleton length to the area of the convex hull of the skeleton, averaged over all objects
SLF7.82	The fraction of object pixels contained within the skeleton
SLF7.83	The fraction of object fluorescence contained within the skeleton
SLF7.84	The ratio of the number of branch points in the skeleton to the length of skeleton

#### Illustration – Skeleton













### 2D Features Edge Features

#### Edge features

SLF No.	Description
SLF1.9	The fraction of the non-zero pixels that are along an edge
SLF1.10	Measure of edge gradient intensity homogeneity
SLF1.11	Measure of edge direction homogeneity 1
SLF1.12	Measure of edge direction homogeneity 2
SLF1.13	Measure of edge direction difference



### 2D Features Haralick Texture Features (SLF7.66-7.78)

- Correlations of adjacent pixels in gray level images
- Start by calculating co-occurrence matrix P: N by N matrix, N=number of gray level.
   Element P(i,j) is the probability of a pixel with value i being adjacent to a pixel with value j
- Four directions in which a pixel can be adjacent
- Each direction considered separately and then features averaged across all directions





#### **Pixel Resolution and Gray Levels**

- Texture features are influenced by the number of gray levels and pixel resolution of the image
- Optimization for each image dataset required
- Alternatively, features can be calculated for many resolutions



# 2Dt or 3Dt Features Temporal Texture Features

- Haralick texture features describe the correlation in intensity of pixels that are next to each other in space.
  - These have been valuable for classifying static patterns.
- Temporal texture features describe the correlation in intensity of pixels in the same position in images next to each other over time.



#### Temporal Textures based on Co-occurrence Matrix

- Temporal co-occurrence matrix P: N<sub>level</sub> by N<sub>level</sub> matrix, Element P[i, j] is the probability that a pixel with value i has value j in the next image (time point).
- Thirteen statistics calculated on P are used as features



Image at t0						
 4	2	2	2	4		
1	2	4	1	1		
3	4	4	4	2		
2	2	3	3	2		
3	3	3	2	4		

Temporalco-occurrencematrix (forimage that doesnot change)

#### $\left( \right)$ $\left( \right)$ $\mathbf{0}$ $\mathbf{0}$ ()()()

Image at t1

4	2	2	2	4
1	2	4	1	1
3	4	4	4	2
2	2	3	3	2
3	3	3	2	4



Image at t1

2	4	2	1	4
4	4	2	2	3
2	3	3	2	2
1	4	2	3	3
2	1	4	4	3

	1	2	3	4
1	1	0	2	0
2	2	1	1	5
3	0	5	0	1
4	0	3	3	1

# Implementation of Temporal Texture Features

 Compare image pairs with different time interval, compute 13 temporal texture features for each pair.



 Use the average and variance of features in each kind of time interval, yields 13\*5\*2=130 features



## Machine Learning -Classification Methods



## Simple two class problem



???





## k-Nearest Neighbor (kNN)

In feature space, training examples are

Feature #2 (e.g.., roundness)



Feature #1 (e.g.., 'area')



## k-Nearest Neighbor (kNN)

#### We want to label '?'

Feature #2 (e.g.., roundness)



Feature #1 (e.g.., 'area')





Feature #1 (e.g.., 'area')



#### **Decision trees**

#### Again we want to label '?'

Feature #2 (e.g.., roundness)



Feature #1 (e.g.., 'area')



#### **Decision trees**

#### so we build a decision tree:

Feature #2 (e.g.., roundness)

40



50

Feature #1 (e.g.., 'area')





**Slide courtesy of Christos Faloutsos** 







#### Again we want to label '?'

Feature #2 (e.g., roundness)



Feature #1 (e.g.., 'area')



# Support Vector Machines (SVMs)

Use single linear separator??

round.







# Support Vector Machines (SVMs)

Use single linear separator??

round.









Use single linear separator??

round.







# Support Vector Machines (SVMs)

Use single linear separator??

round.











# Support Vector Machines (SVMs)

we want to label '?' - linear separator??
A: the one with the widest corridor!



round.

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# Support Vector Machines (SVMs)

we want to label '?' - linear separator??
A: the one with the widest corridor!





### **Cross-Validation**

- If we train a classifier to minimize error on a set of data, have no ability to generalize error that will be seen on new dataset
- To calculate *generalizable* accuracy, we use *n*-fold cross-validation
- Divide images into n sets, train using n-1 of them and test on the remaining set
- Repeat until each set is used as test set and average results across all trials


### **Describing classifier errors**

- For multi-class classifiers, typically report
  - Accuracy = <u># test images correctly classified</u> # test images
- For binary classifiers (positive or negative), define
  - TP = true positives, FP = false positives
  - TN = true negatives, FN = false negatives
  - Recall = TP / (TP + FN)
  - Precision = TP / (TP + FP)
  - F-measure= 2\*Recall\*Precision/(Recall + Precision)



#### Murphy et al 2000; Boland & Murphy 2001; Huang & Murphy 2004

#### **2D Classification Results**

True	Output of the Classifier												
Class	DNA	ER	Gia	Gpp	Lam	Mit	Nuc	Act	TfR	Tub			
DNA	99	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
ER	0	<b>97</b>	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1			
Gia	0	0	91	7	0	0	0	0	2	0			
Gpp	0	0	14	82	0	0	2	0	1	0			
Lam	0	0	1	0	88	1	0	0	10	0			
Mit	0	3	0	0	0	92	0	0	3	3			
Nuc	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>99</b>	0	1	0			
Act	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0			
TfR	0	1	0	0	12	2	0	1	81	2			
Tub	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	95			

#### Overall accuracy = 92%

#### Human Classification Results

True	Output of the Classifier												
Class	DNA	ER	Gia	Gpp	Lam	Mit	Nuc	Act	TfR	Tub			
DNA	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
ER	0	90	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	0			
Gia	0	0	56	36	3	3	0	0	0	0			
Gpp	0	0	54	33	0	0	0	0	3	0			
Lam	0	0	6	0	73	0	0	0	20	0			
Mit	0	3	0	0	0	96	0	0	0	3			
Nuc	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0			
Act	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0			
TfR	0	13	0	0	3	0	0	0	83	0			
Tub	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	93			

Overall accuracy = 83%

#### Computer vs. Human



#### Velliste & Murphy 2002

### 3D HeLa cell images





Images collected using facilities at the Center for Biologic Imaging courtesy of Simon Watkins



	3D Classification Results										
True	Output of the Classifier										
Glas S	DNA	ER	Gia	Gpp	Lam	Mit	Nuc	Act	TfR	Tub	
DNA	<b>98</b>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ER	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Gia	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Gpp	0	0	0	96	4	0	0	0	0	0	
Lam	0	0	0	4	95	0	0	0	0	2	
Mit	0	0	2	0	0	96	0	2	0	0	
Nuc	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	
Act	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	
TfR	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	96	2	
Tub	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>98</b>	

#### Overall accuracy = 98%

### Conclusions (1996-2004)

- Automated classification of subcellular patterns possible without colocalization
- Accuracy better than visual examination
  - Similar for basic patterns
  - Better for similar patterns
- 3D images give better accuracy than 2D
   >> SLFs capture essence of patterns



Unsupervised Learning to Identify High-Resolution Protein Patterns



# **Location Proteomics**

**Tag** many proteins

 We have used CD-tagging

 (developed by Jonathan Jarvik and Peter Berget): Infect population of cells with a retrovirus carrying DNA sequence that will "tag" in a random gene







# **Location Proteomics**

**Tag** many proteins

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Jarvik et al 2002

Isolate separate **clones**, each of which produces express one tagged protein

Use RT-PCR to identify tagged gene in each clone

 Collect many live cell images for each clone using spinning disk confocal fluorescence microscopy















	Stai	ning
sm sm ieton		sm+w nucleus
	Cytop+Unk Rib+Unk	





Nuclear and Cytoplasmic Proteins with Some Punctate Staining



### Generative Models for Subcellular Location Patterns



# Need

- How do we communicate results of clustering patterns?
- Show all images from a given cluster?
  - Long download
  - No ability to generalize
- Proposal: Use generative models





#### Synthesized Images



Lysosomes

Endosomes



#### Synthesized Images



Mitochondria

Nucleoli



### **Model Distribution**

- Generative models provide better way of distributing what is known about "subcellular location families" (or other imaging results, such as illustrating change due to drug addition)
- Have initial XML design for capturing the models for distribution
- Have portable tool for generating images from the model



#### **Generation Process**





## Generating Multiple Distributions for Simulations





## Combining Models for Cell Simulations



## The Protein Subcellular Location Image Database (PSLID)



#### Huang et al 2002; Huang et al 2007

#### **PSLID:** Protein Subcellular Location Image Database

- A publicly accessible image database at http://pslid.cbi.cmu.edu
  - Version 3 released February 2, 2007
  - 2D and 3D images (single cell regions defined)
  - Two cell types, HeLa and 3T3
  - Over 120,000 images/3000 unique fields/14,000 cells
  - 111classes; 55 known proteins; 11 targeting mutants of a single protein
  - Programmatic search via URL



#### Huang et al 2002; Huang et al 2007

#### **PSLID:** Protein Subcellular Location Image Database

- A downloadable open source system for creating local databases
  - Version 3 of software released February 13, 2007
  - Focused on subcellular pattern analysis
  - SLF features integrated into database
  - Integrated comparison, classification, clustering tools
  - Designed for high-throughput microscopy
  - Interface to OME in the works
  - Large ITR project with UCSB for distributed system





http://pslid.cbi.cmu.edu/public3/index.html



**PSLID** stands for Protein Subcellular Localization Image Database. PSLID collects and structures 2-D through 5-D fluorescence microscope images, annotations, and derived features in a relational schema.

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It is designed so that interpretations as well as annotations can be queried. <u>The annotations in PSLID</u>, composed of 44 linked tables with publicly available descriptions, provide a thorough description of sample preparation and fluorescence microscope imaging.

Image interpretation is achieved using <u>Subcellular Location Features</u> that have been shown to be capable of recognizing all major subcellular structures and of resolving patterns that cannot be distinguished by eye.

The fundamental unit of PSLID is an *image set*, which is simply a logical grouping of images. Image sets can be defined at the time of image loading, or they can be defined by searching for images that meet specified criteria (e.g., all images of "actin" or all images that are similar to a query image). They can also be created by analysis functions such as cluster analysis (e.g., the images in each cluster found by cluster analysis can be put into distinct sets).

Analysis capabilities that are incorporated in PSLID include:

- · Searching for images by context (annotations) or content
- Ranking images by typicality within a set
  - e.g., to choose an image for presentation or publication
- Ranking images by similarity to one or more query images
  - "searching by image content" or "relevance feedback"
- · Comparing two sets of images (hypothesis testing)
  - · e.g., to determine whether a drug alters the distribution of a tagged protein
- Training a classifier to recognize subcellular patterns
- Using a trained classifier to assign images to pattern classes
  - e.g., assigning images to "positive" or "negative"
- · Clustering images by their subcellular patterns
  - · e.g., finding "subcellular location families" within a large set of images

You can go to the Quick Start page to see instructions for PSLID installation, image loading, and image analysis using PSLID.

The public PSLID database currently contains a number of large image <u>collections</u>. It can be accessed interactively or via <u>queries embedded in URLs</u>. We encourage the submission to PSLID of other image collections documenting the subcellular location of proteins to facilitate "one-stop" searching for information on subcellular patterns.



#### **External search**

http://pslid.cbi.cmu.edu/public3/search.j sp?protein=calponin-2



🛶 🔹 🔁 💿 🕋 🕒 http://pslid.cbi.cmu.edu/public3/search.jsp?protein=calponin-2

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limit http://pslid.cbi...otein=calponin-2 limit temp7\_710B35DB64C10A8CF21...

Search results for Image Type: 2D Static, Target: calponin-2

10 regions returned (30 regions shown) from the query.

View the summary of set temp8\_710B35DB64C10A8CF219992B3A193B57.

Click of besides a given image to retrieve similar images in the database.

	Image	Cell Name	Organism	Segmenter	Experiment	Protocol	Target	Microscopy & Filter
q	Region 68249	3T3	Mus musculus	External	<u>Cyto039</u>	GFP Live	<u>Calponin-2</u>	<u>Olympus IX500</u>
9	Region 68280	3T3	Mus musculus	External	<u>Cyto039</u>	GFP Live	Calponin-2	<u>Olympus IX500</u>
9	Region 68311	3T3	Mus musculus	External	<u>Cyto039</u>	GFP Live	<u>Calponin-2</u>	<u>Olympus IX500</u>
9	Region 68342	3T3	Mus musculus	External	Cyto039	GFP Live	<u>Calponin-2</u>	Olympus IX500
9	Region 68373	3T3	Mus musculus	External	<u>Cyto039</u>	GFP Live	<u>Calponin-2</u>	<u>Olympus IX500</u>
q	Region 68404	3T3	Mus musculus	External	<u>Cyto039</u>	GFP_Live	Calponin-2	<u>Olympus IX500</u>
q	Region 68435	3T3	Mus musculus	External	Cyto039	GFP Live	Calponin-2	Olympus IX500
0	-	3T3	Mus musculus	External	Cyto039	GFP Live	Calponin-2	Olympus IX500

#### Conclusions

- Methods well worked out for classifying and learning protein patterns - better than visual examination
- Temporal information improves discrimination
- Progress on decomposing complex patterns and synthesizing distributions
  - High-resolution, reliable data for bottom-up systems modeling
- Graphical models provide improved classification of single cells in fields (and potentially tissues)
  - New fast inference algorithm
- Image database integrated with interpretation tools (PSLID)
- Information extractor for online text and images (SLIF)

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## Vision

- Full automation of
  - experiment design
  - adaptive acquisition
  - model-based image interpretation
- to generate biological knowledge from images in a form suitable for systems modeling



## The Future of Subcellular Pattern Analysis





# Other subcellular location projects

- O'Shea group Yeast
  - GFP-tagged cDNAs
  - GFP and DNA images with some additional markers
- Pepperkok group human (MCF7 cells)
  - GFP-tagged cDNAs
  - GFP and DNA images
- Uhlen group (Protein Atlas) human
  - Immunohistochemistry with monospecific antibodies
  - DAB and hematoxylin images
  - Fixed tissues
- Schubert group (MELK technology)
  - Cycles of immunofluorescence, imaging and bleaching
  - Fixed tissues
- Teasdale group (Locate, Hela)
  - Immunofluorescence and GFP-tagged proteins
  - GFP and DNA images

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# How do we really analyze subcellular location?

- Classification and comparison good for focused questions but there are too many questions to ask
- Scope of problem argues for cooperation on grand scale: Human Cytome Project?
- Need intelligent (optimized) data collection: probabilistic methods to integrate available data, make predictions and suggest experiments





### **NIH Technology Center for Networks** and Pathways **Carnegie Mellon**

Alan Waggoner





**Simon Watkins** 



### What do we do

- 1. Biology: Pose a question about a biological system
- 2. Acquisition: Design strategy for collecting relevant information in the form of images of molecules, cells, organisms
- 3. Signal Processing/Computer Science: Find the answer through image processing and machine learning
- 4. Scientific Computing: Optimize computational performance for real-time applications and sharing

For more information: <a href="http://www.cbi.cmu.edu">http://www.cbi.cmu.edu</a>

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nation access and data analysis workflow nowledge models of biological systems roblems are prostate cancer progression, ity of type 2 diabetes, and genetic susc

ach, training, and education programs.

**Collaborations with Bill** Mohler, Ian Moraru, Les Loew, Paul Campagnola (U Conn)

UM Press Release

**Collaboration with Badri Roysam (RPI) and Sally Temple (Albany Med Coll)**, **Stem Cell Patterning and FARSIGHT** system

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## Thank you !

