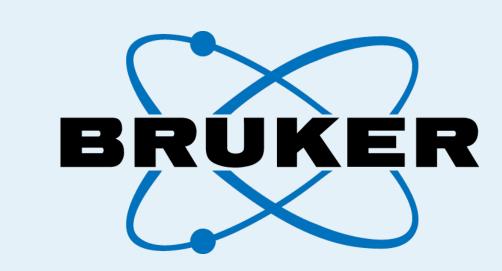
Expandable Immunofluorescence Assays with Next-Generation VistaPlex Immune Profiling Kits



Matthew H. Ingalls¹; Charles E. Jackson¹; Brian Lane¹; J. Spencer Schwarz¹; Jannik Boog²; Arne Christians²; Kayla E Cashion¹; Xenia Meshik¹, Adam Northcutt¹; Oliver Braubach¹

1 Bruker Spatial Biology, St. Louis, MO, USA | 2 Bruker Spatial Biology, Hannover, DE

Introduction

VistaPlex™ assay kits are modular ready-to-use multiplex immunofluorescence (mIF) assays designed to provide indepth cellular phenotyping and tissue information for spatial biology assays. The CellScape™ Precise Spatial Proteomics platform was recently upgraded to utilize EpicIF™ technology for expanded multiplex dye capabilities. Next-Generation VistaPlex assay kits were created to be compatible with the EpicIF workflow. Here, data demonstrate the utility of Segmentation, Spatial Immune Profiling, and Architecture panels for a broad range of human FFPE tissues. Our data demonstrate unique biological observations that can be revealed with each kit alone or in combination.

Methods

Experiments were performed on the CellScape platform following the new EpicIF workflow upgrade. Following interand intra-assay reproducibility and validation experiments, we tested three ready-to-use antibody panels against four different human FFPE tissue types. Downstream segmentation was performed using CellPose on membrane and nuclear markers from the segmentation kit. Cell phenotyping was conducted by unsupervised clustering on the spatial immune and architecture markers. Cellular neighborhoods were calculated using the K-means nearest-neighbors approach.

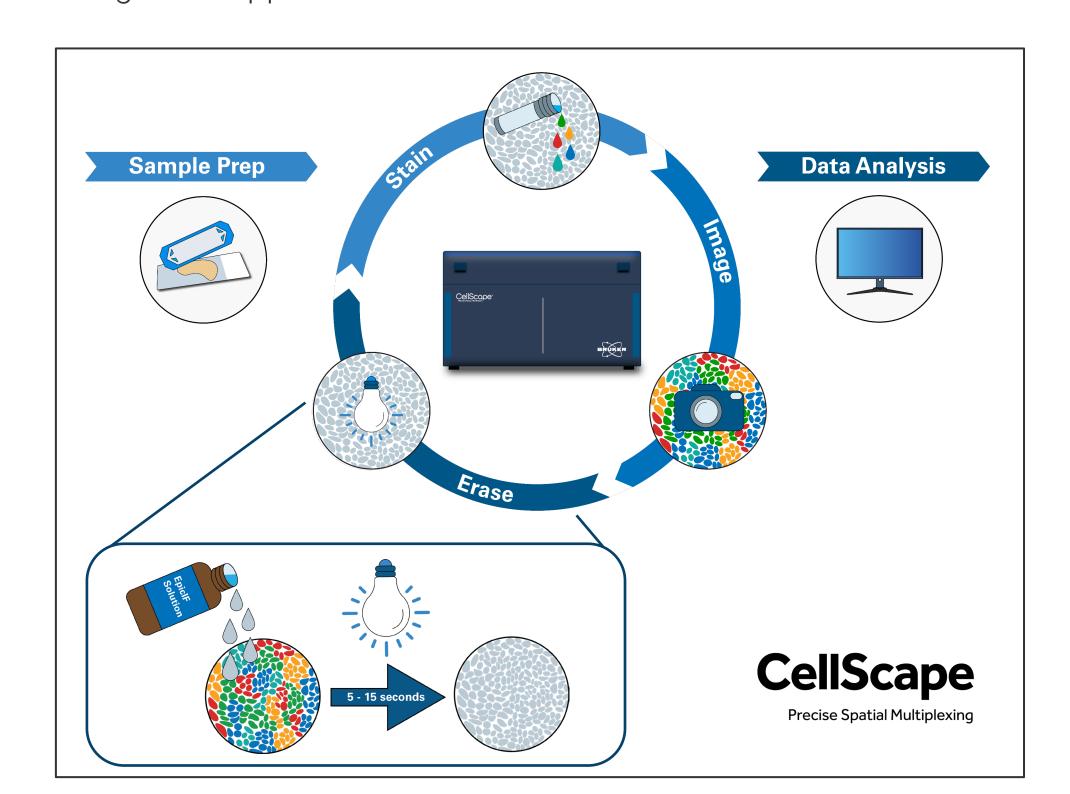


Figure 1. The EpicIF workflow on the CellScape platform. The instrument uses cycles of staining, imaging, and signal removal to detect biomarkers with spatial context at single-cell resolution. Signal removal facilitated by filtered photobleaching and EpicIF™ Solution is safe, gentle, and effective.

Tables 1-3: Markers targeted in Next-Generation VistaPlex
Multiplex Assay Kits designed for CellScape and compatible with the EpicIF workflow.

2. Spatial Immune
Profiling

CD20 GrnB
CD56 CD8

| workflow. | CD20 | GrnB |
|-----------------|-------|--------|
| | CD56 | CD8 |
| | CD3 | CD45RO |
| 1. Segmentation | PD-1 | CD38 |
| | PD-L1 | Ki67 |
| DNA | FoxP3 | CD68 |
| LaminB1 | CD4 | CD45RA |
| B2M | CD45 | PanCK |
| ATP1A1 | CD19 | CD163 |
| | | |

EpCAM

Results

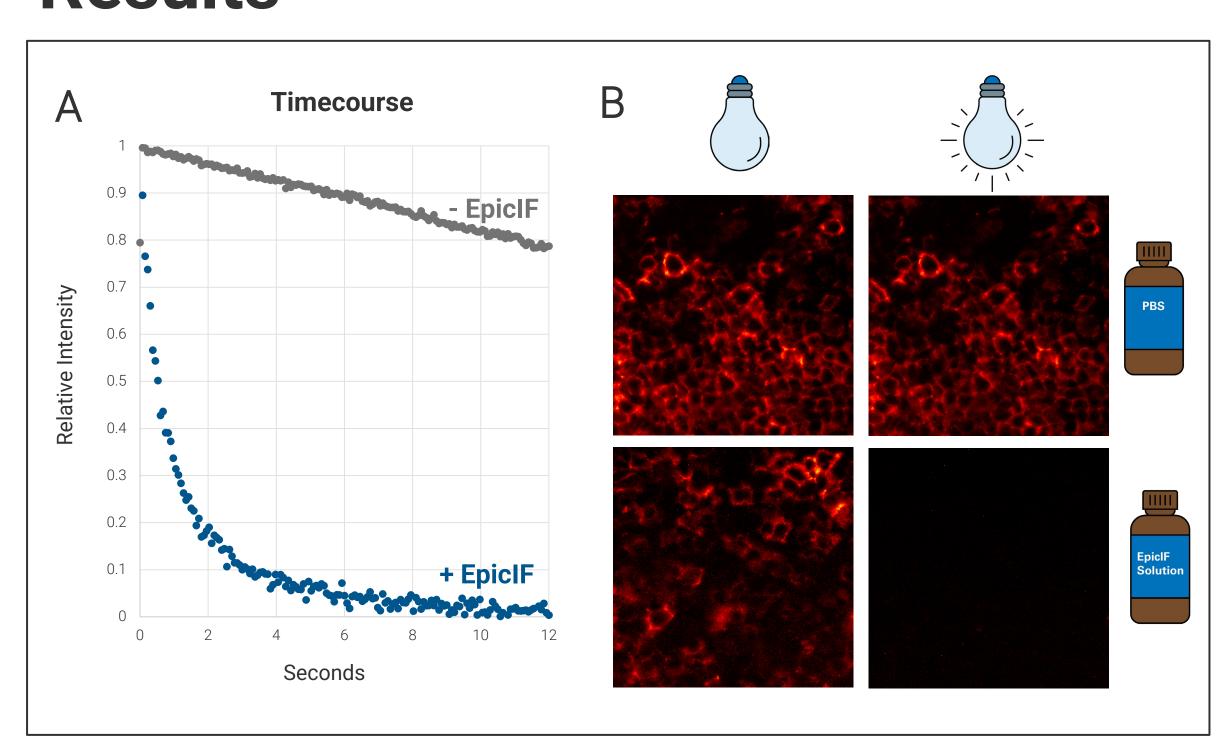


Figure 2. Demonstration of EpicIF efficacy over time. EpicIF effectively removes signal from photostable dyes of the AlexaFluorTM (Thermo) and CoraLiteTM (Proteintech) families. A timecourse of CD20-AF647 relative signal intensity with and without EpicIF solution (A) and single position images of CD20-AF647 signal at T0 (light off) and after 5 seconds of photobleaching (light on), with and without EpicIF solution added (B) as an example.

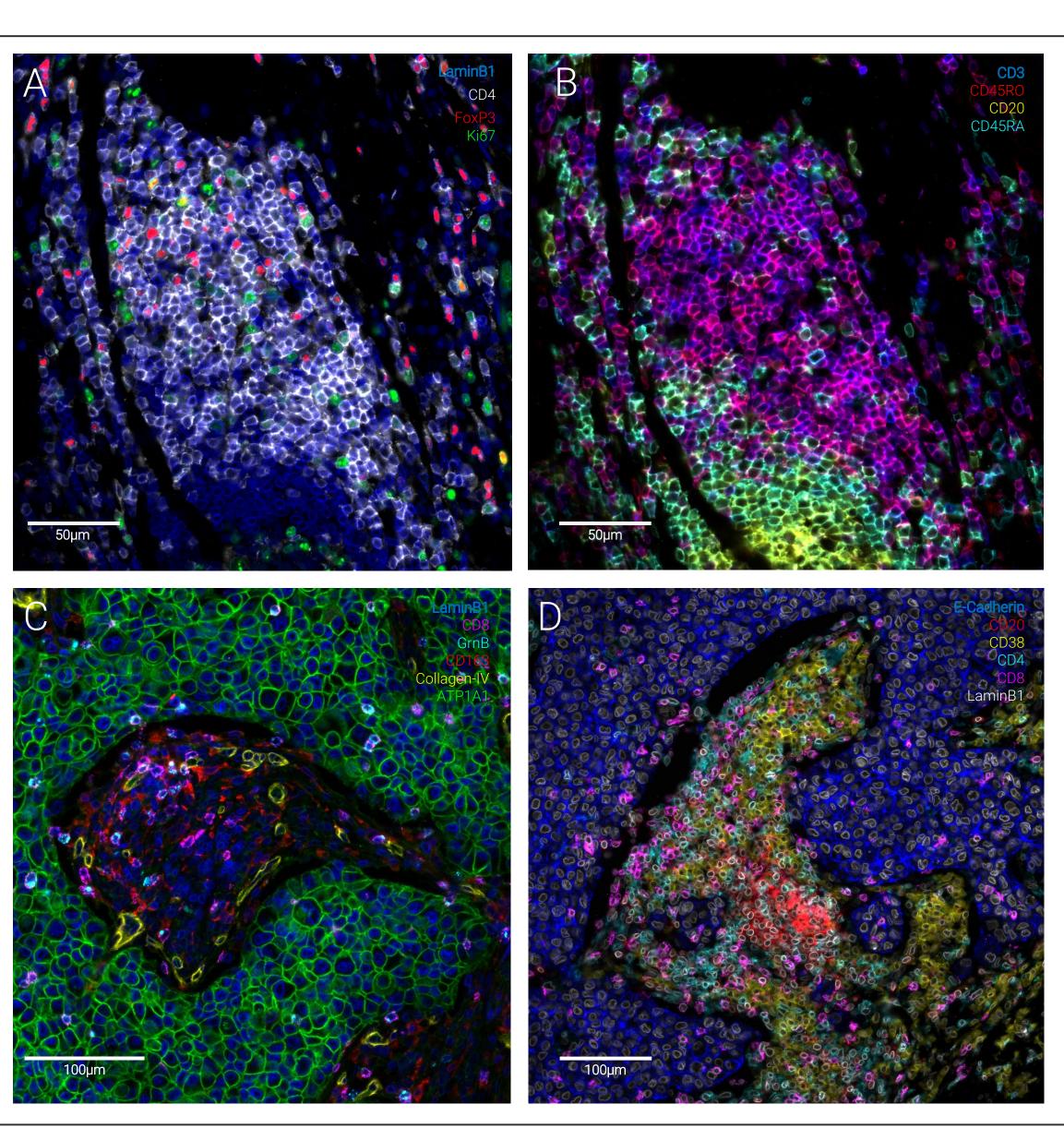
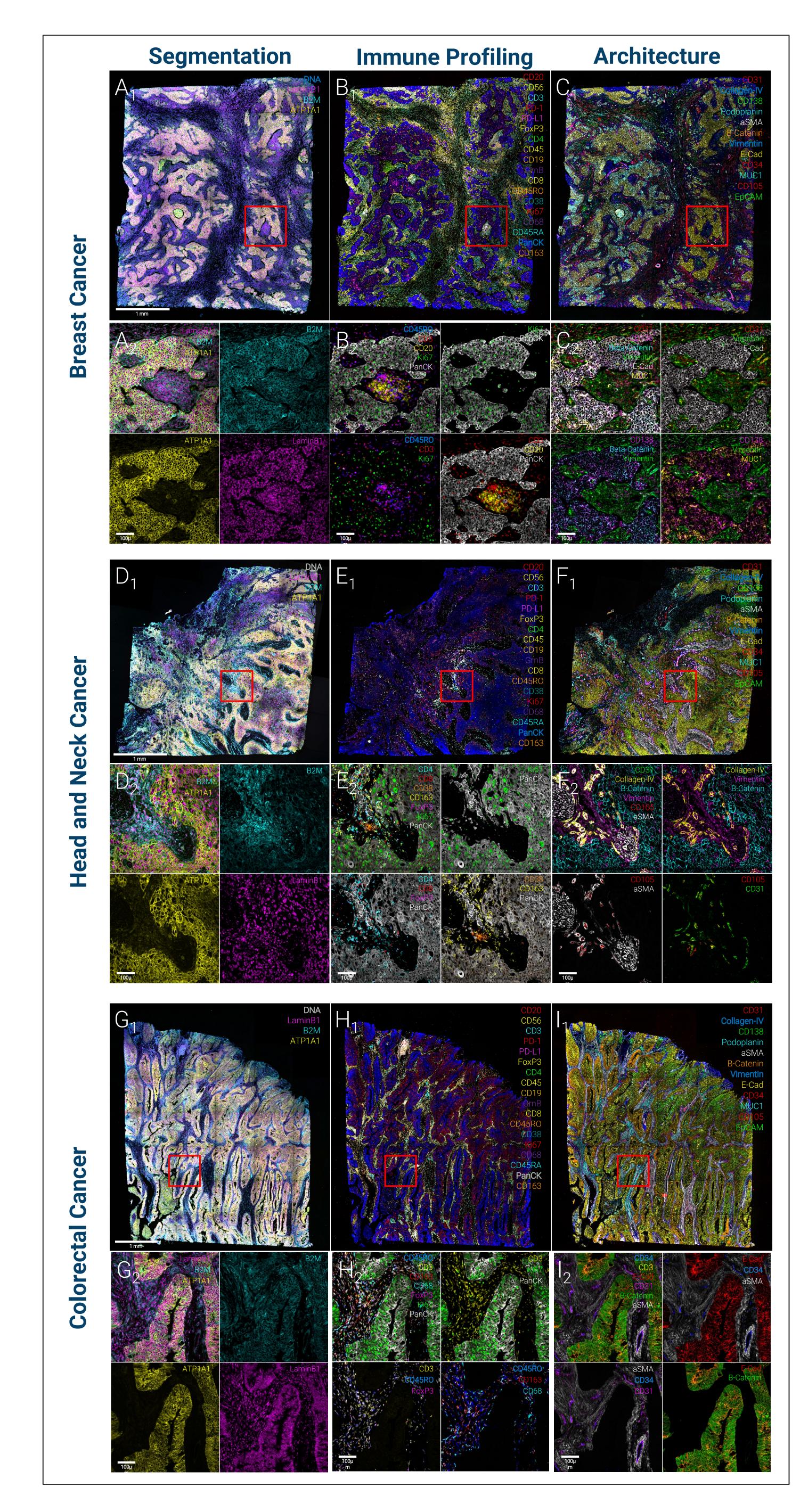


Figure 3. Deep Immune Phenotyping. The Spatial Immune Profiling panel captures complex CD4+ phenotypes with differential FoxP3 and Ki67 statuses (A) and differential CD45RA/CD45RO expression in CD3+ and CD20+ cell populations (B) in human colorectal cancer. Combining the VistaPlex kits enables detection of CD8+ T-cell activation by expression of GrnB (C) and broad immune infiltrate categorization in breast cancer (D).

Figure 4. Human FFPE cancer tissue samples stained with EpicIF-compatible VistaPlex panels. A,D,G, Segmentation panel. B,E,H Spatial Immune Profiling panel. C,F,I, Tissue Architecture panel. Markers are as shown in insets, and cancer types are indicated on the left side.



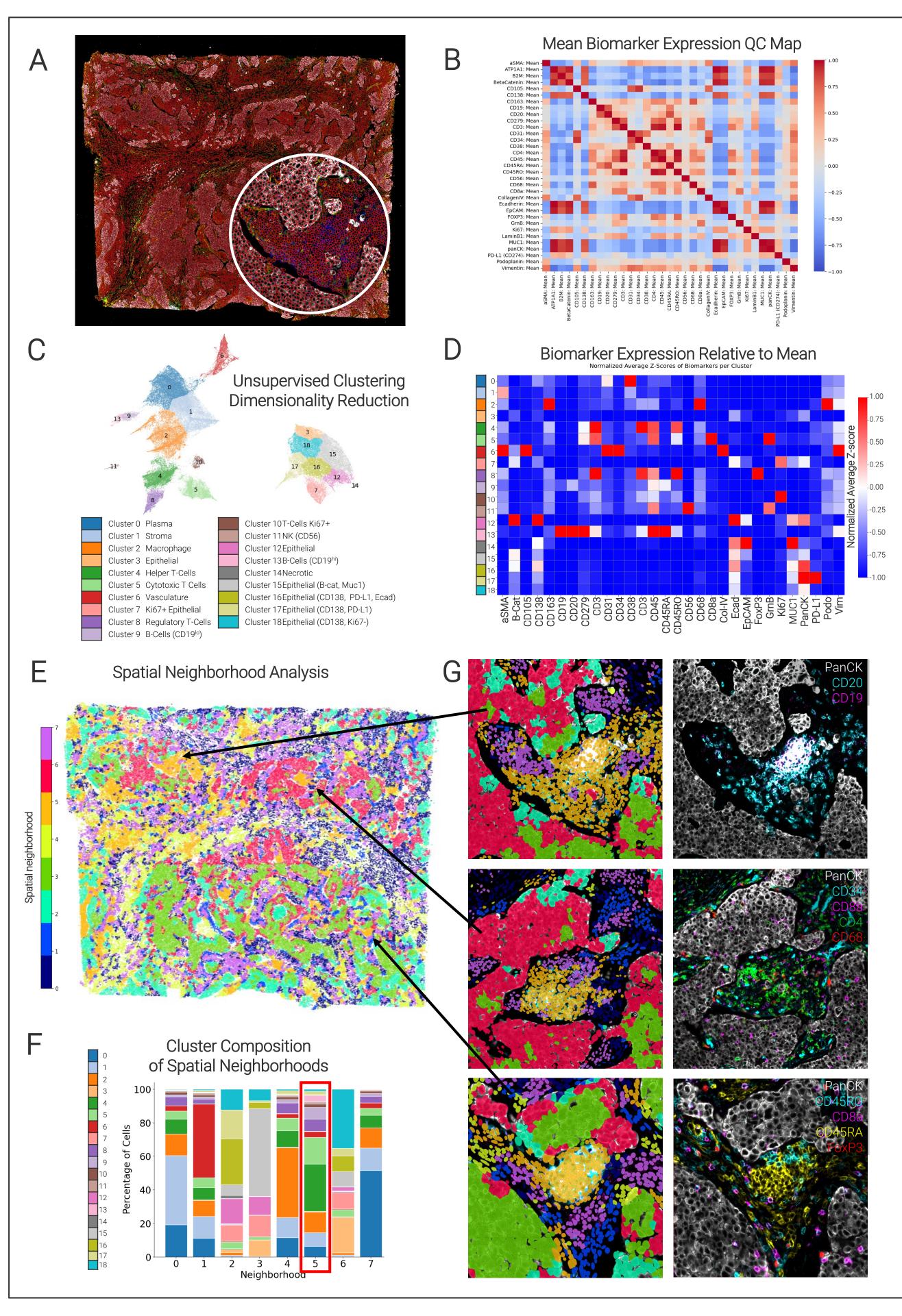


Figure 5. End-to-end analysis: The Next-Generation VistaPlex panels achieved high quality segmentation, phenotyping, and spatial analyses. Precise segmentation (A-B) enabled accurate phenotyping by unsupervised clustering (C, D), which allowed for the downstream characterization of spatial neighborhoods (E) containing multiple cell types of interest in the context of the surrounding microenvironment (F, G).

Conclusions

- Next-generation antibody panels are compatible with the new EpicIF workflow.
- Modular combination of VistaPlex panels provided distinct information on relevant cell and tissue types, enabling broad coverage for deep phenotyping without *de novo* validation.
- Precise segmentation allowed robust phenotyping using an unsupervised method, dramatically increasing analysis throughput and opening the door for personalized medicine using spatial biology.

Contact

Matthew H. Ingalls, PhD

Matthew.Ingalls@Bruker.com



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