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1 **Geospatial immune variability illuminates differential evolution of**
2 **lung adenocarcinoma**

3

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36 **Abstract**

37

38 Remarkable progress in molecular analyses has improved our understanding of the
39 evolution of cancer cells towards immune escape¹⁻⁵. However, the spatial configurations of
40 immune and stromal cells, which may shed light on the evolution of immune escape across
41 tumor geographical locations, remain unaddressed. We integrated multi-region exome and
42 RNA-seq data with spatial histology mapped by deep learning in 100 non-small cell lung
43 cancer (NSCLC) patients from the TRACKing Cancer Evolution through Therapy (Rx)
44 (TRACERx) cohort⁶. Cancer subclones derived from immune cold regions were more closely
45 related in mutation space, diversifying more recently than subclones from immune hot
46 regions. In TRACERx and in an independent multi-sample cohort of 970 lung
47 adenocarcinoma (LUAD) patients, the number of immune cold regions significantly
48 correlated with risk of relapse, independently of tumor size, stage and number of samples
49 per patient. In LUAD, but not lung squamous cell carcinoma (LUSC), geometrical irregularity
50 and complexity of the cancer-stromal cell interface significantly increased in tumor regions
51 without disruption of antigen presentation. Decreased lymphocyte accumulation in adjacent
52 stroma was observed in tumors with low clonal neoantigen burden. Collectively, immune
53 geospatial variability elucidates tumor ecological constraints that may shape the emergence
54 of immune evading subclones and aggressive clinical phenotypes.

55 **Main Text**

56

57 Using an artificial intelligence framework, we developed a generalizable deep learning
58 pipeline to spatially profile immune infiltration and discover tumor topological determinants
59 of immunosuppression in digital pathology. Convolutional neural networks were tailored for
60 the analysis of NSCLC morphology using diverse histology samples in the multi-region
61 TRACERx 100 cohort⁶ to avoid overfitting (Methods). This approach enabled the spatial
62 mapping of cancer cells, lymphocytes, stromal cells (fibroblasts and endothelial cells), and
63 an “other” cell class (macrophages, pneumocytes and non-identifiable cells) in hematoxylin
64 & eosin (H&E)-stained images (275 tumor regions from 85 patients and 100 diagnostic slides
65 from all patients, Fig. 1a-c, CONSORT diagram Extended Data Fig. 1a-b, Supplementary
66 Table 1). T cell subsets were also identified in CD4/CD8/FOXP3 immunohistochemistry (IHC)
67 images for all 100 diagnostic samples (Fig. 1d).

68

69 This pipeline for H&E analysis exhibited high accuracy and consistency compared with five
70 orthogonal data types within TRACERx, including DNA-seq, RNA-seq, IHC, 5,951 single-cell
71 annotations by pathologists (balanced accuracy, as an average of specificity and sensitivity =
72 0.932), and pathology tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) estimates following the guidelines
73 developed by the International Immuno-Oncology Biomarker Working Group⁷ (Extended
74 Data Fig. 2, Supplementary Table 2). The Leicester Archival Thoracic Tumor Investigatory
75 Cohort⁸ (LATTICE-A, Extended Data Fig. 1c-d), a retrospective study of 970 resected LUAD
76 patients that included H&E sections from all diagnostic tumor blocks with a median of four
77 samples per tumor, was used for independent validation. The pipeline’s generalizability was
78 supported using 5,082 pathologists’ single-cell annotations (balanced accuracy = 0.913), and
79 virtual integration of IHC and H&E images generated from the same slides (Fig. 1e-h,
80 Extended Data Fig. 2e-g, Supplementary Table 3). Using this unbiased scalable approach,
81 immune infiltration was quantified as the percentage of all cells that were lymphocytes in
82 each H&E image.

83

84 High geospatial immune variability between tumor regions within the same patients was
85 revealed (Fig. 2a-b), which did not reflect associations with pathological stage (Extended
86 Data Fig. 3). To differentiate highly from poorly immune infiltrated tumor regions, regions
87 containing a lymphocyte percentage greater than a quarter standard deviation above the
88 median lymphocyte percentage were classified as immune hot, and regions containing a
89 lymphocyte percentage below a quarter standard deviation of the median were classified as
90 immune cold. The remaining 20% were classified as intermediate (Fig. 2b). Subsequent
91 results were tested on four more classification schemes based on the standard deviation to
92 ensure that results derived from this classification were not contingent upon choice of
93 thresholds used (Extended Data Fig. 4). Significant difference in pathology TIL estimates was
94 observed between immune hot and cold regions ($P = 4.6 \times 10^{-8}$, Extended Data Fig. 5a).
95 Significantly higher levels of RNA-seq estimated immune infiltrate¹, particularly for immune

96 activation subsets, were consistently observed in immune hot compared to cold regions,
97 supporting the validity of histology-based immune classification (Fig. 2c-d). We next directly
98 compared our immune hot and cold regional classification (excluding intermediate regions)
99 against RNA-seq-based¹ classifications ($n = 109$ regions with histology and RNA-seq data). 78
100 out of 109 regions were in agreement (Fisher's exact test for overlap: $P = 7.8 \times 10^{-6}$,
101 Extended Data Fig. 5b). Regions with discrepant classification ($n = 31$) had significantly
102 higher spatial heterogeneity of lymphocyte distribution compared to regions concordant
103 between the two methods ($P = 0.01$, Extended Data Fig. 5c), suggesting spatial intratumor
104 heterogeneity could contribute towards the discrepancy, since the different data types were
105 derived from adjacent sections of the same tumor blocks.

106

107 Ecological selection pressures drive genetic divergence^{9,10}. To determine if cancer genetic
108 divergence differs according to immune context, we calculated the genomic distance as the
109 Euclidean distance of subclonal mutations for each pair of tumor regions with the same
110 immune phenotype in a patient. We observed significantly lower genomic distance,
111 indicating more shared subclonal mutations, for pairs of immune cold regions than for pairs
112 of immune hot regions in LUAD (Fig. 3a, Extended Data Fig. 4b, $P < 0.005$ for all immune
113 classification schemes), but not in LUSC (Extended Data Fig. 6a). In LUAD but not LUSC,
114 analysis of immune phenotypes mapped onto the phylogenetic trees⁶ revealed that
115 dominant clones (cancer cell fraction $\geq 75\%$, see Methods) in pairs of cold regions were
116 more closely related on the phylogenetic tree, compared to dominant clones in pairs of
117 immune hot regions (Fig. 3b). Moreover, dominant clones in hot regions almost always
118 diversified at the most recent common ancestor of the tree (13/15, 87%, Fig. 3c), in contrast
119 no such preference was observed in immune cold regions (11/23, 48%).

120

121 We investigated the impact of immune context on disease-free survival. Tumors with high
122 number of immune cold regions were at significantly increased risk of relapse that was
123 independent of the total number of regions sampled, tumor size and stage in both histology
124 types in TRACERx (Fig. 3d-e, Extended Data Fig. 6c-h). This association with disease-free
125 survival was also significant using the number of immune low regions as estimated by RNA-
126 seq¹ in 64 TRACERx tumors with available RNA-seq data ($P = 0.002$, Extended Data Fig. 6b).
127 Following the genomic findings in LUAD, we sought to validate this in 970 LUAD patients in
128 the multi-sample LATTICE-A cohort, confirming the prognostic value of immune cold sample
129 count, that was also independent of the number of samples per patient, tumor size and
130 stage (Fig. 3f-g, Extended Data Fig. 6c-e). In both cohorts, the number of immune cold
131 samples per patient correlated with relapse, more significantly than any other immune
132 feature generated using deep learning, including the average and variability of lymphocyte
133 percentage per tumor, number of immune hot regions, proportion of immune cold regions
134 to the number of regions sampled, as well as CD8⁺ cell percentage or CD8⁺ to CD4⁺FOXP3⁺
135 ratio in TRACERx diagnostic slides (Extended Data Fig. 6e).

136

137 Studies have revealed immunosuppressive fibroblast subsets localizing to the boundary of
138 tumor nests possibly contribute to T cell exclusion¹¹⁻¹³. Therefore, we hypothesized that
139 increased cancer-stroma physical contact may reflect stroma-modulated inhibition of anti-
140 tumor immune responses¹⁴⁻¹⁷. To measure the physical contact between cancer and
141 stromal cells (the majority being fibroblasts) identified by image analysis, we developed a
142 spatial measure, using fractal dimension to quantify the geographical irregularity and
143 complexity of the cancer-stromal cell interface (Methods, Fig. 4a, Extended Data Fig. 7a,b,e).
144 Within the same tissue space, higher fractal dimension of cancer-stromal cell interface
145 suggests increased geometric irregularity and more extensive physical contact between
146 tumor and stromal cells than samples with a smooth interface. For both histology types,
147 fractal dimension was significantly higher in immune cold regions compared to immune hot
148 regions (Fig. 4b, Extended Data Fig. 7c). Moreover, the difference in fractal dimension
149 between immune cold and hot regions was more significant compared to the difference in
150 stromal cell percentage (both histology types combined: $P = 0.00036$, effect size 0.49 for
151 fractal dimension versus $P = 0.018$, effect size 0.38 for stromal cell percentage, Extended
152 Data Fig. 7d), suggesting the importance of stromal cell geographical location rather than
153 their quantity. This supports the hypothesis that the stroma-based inhibition of immune
154 infiltration¹⁷ may result from a specific topological pattern in the form of cancer-stroma
155 engagement.

156

157 To understand the associations of stromal-mediated immunosuppression in the context of
158 the genetic mechanisms of immune evasion, we related fractal dimension to dysfunction in
159 antigen presentation through loss of heterozygosity at the human leukocyte antigen locus
160 (HLA LOH), which has been identified as a potent immune escape mechanism^{1,18}. A
161 significantly higher fractal dimension was found in LUAD tumor regions with intact HLA
162 alleles compared with regions harboring HLA LOH (Fig. 4c, Extended Data Fig. 7f). This was
163 observed at the tumor level (see Methods for definition), independent of clonal neoantigen
164 burden ($P = 0.04$, multivariate regression, Extended Data Fig. 7h), but was not observed in
165 LUSC (Extended Data Fig. 7g, i).

166

167 Although clonal neoantigens have been associated with a cytotoxic immune response¹⁹, the
168 spatial distribution of lymphocytes in relation to clonal neoantigens remained unclear. To
169 provide sufficient spatial context for analysis of cell distribution, whole-section TRACERx
170 diagnostic H&E images, typically 10x larger than the regional samples, were used. To test
171 the relationship between lymphocyte spatial distribution and clonal neoantigens, we
172 leveraged an established method for lymphocyte spatial modeling²⁰. Each lymphocyte was
173 classified into three distinct spatial compartments: intra-tumor, adjacent-to-tumor or distal-
174 tumor, based on unsupervised modeling of cancer-lymphocyte proximity (Fig. 4d). In LUAD,
175 but not LUSC, clonal neoantigens¹⁹ were found to be associated with a specific immune
176 spatial score to approximate pathology TIL estimates⁷, defined as the ratio of adjacent-
177 tumor lymphocytes to stromal cells in the diagnostic H&E samples ($P = 0.0074$, high clonal

178 neoantigen defined as above median in LUAD, Fig. 4e; correlation as continuous variables
179 $Rho = 0.37$, $P = 0.035$ after multiple testing correction, Extended Data Fig. 8a). By contrast,
180 subclonal neoantigen burden did not correlate with any immune score (Extended Data Fig.
181 8a), supporting the notion that clonal but not subclonal neoantigens is associated with
182 infiltration of cytotoxic T cells¹⁹ adjacent to tumor nests.

183

184 To determine if there was an enrichment of a specific lymphocyte subpopulation within the
185 adjacent-tumor compartment in LUAD, we spatially aligned IHC to H&E in 10 samples with
186 the highest adjacent-tumor lymphocytes to stromal cell ratio, and projected IHC-derived T
187 cell subsets onto H&E images, thereby creating virtual staining of cells in the H&E sections
188 (Methods, Fig. 4f, Extended Data Fig. 8b-c). $CD4^+FOXP3^-$, $CD8^+$, and $CD4^+FOXP3^+$ cells
189 classified in IHC were projected onto a density map of cancer cell distribution inferred from
190 H&E, and were classified into adjacent-tumor, intra-tumor, and distal-tumor compartments.
191 In this limited dataset, a significant increase of the effector-regulator balance defined by
192 $CD8^+/CD4^+FOXP3^+$ cell ratio was observed in adjacent-tumor stroma compared to the distal
193 tumor compartment (Fig. 4g).

194

195 In summary, by training deep learning algorithms in diverse histology samples, we
196 demonstrated that digital pathology can provide accurate tools for defining the ecological
197 spatial context that may improve our understanding of cancer evolution and the immune
198 response. In TRACERx and LATTICE-A cohorts, LUAD tumors with increased immune cold
199 regions were at a significantly higher risk of cancer relapse, independent of total regions
200 sampled and immune phenotypes of other regions. Thus, even within a tumor that has on
201 average increased immune infiltration, if it contains regions classified as immune cold,
202 prognosis appears to be associated with the number of cold regions. Analysis of cancer
203 branched evolution within the ecological context of immune hot and cold regions revealed a
204 difference in the evolution history of cancer subclones in these regions, possibly as a result
205 of immunoediting. Based on this finding, we speculate that by identifying the subclone
206 where immunoediting is likely to have occurred, new drivers of immune evasion may be
207 elucidated.

208

209 Spatial histology data can extend our knowledge of the tumor microenvironment
210 topological configuration in relation to genetic alterations relevant to immune surveillance,
211 including HLA LOH and clonal neoantigens in LUAD (Extended Data Fig. 9). Increased cancer-
212 stromal engagement as measured by fractal dimension may signal physical constraints
213 against T cell ingress. This is supported by previous studies in lung cancer showing
214 restriction of $CD8^+$ and $CD4^+$ T cell motility in dense stromal extracellular matrix areas
215 around tumor epithelial cell regions which prevent them from entering tumor islets¹³.
216 Additionally, the association between specific spatial localization of lymphocytes in tumor-

217 adjacent stroma and clonal neoantigens further support exploration of the role of stromal
218 cells in limiting tumor infiltration by T cells¹⁴⁻¹⁷.

219

220 It will be imperative to validate our findings on a larger multi-region cohort of untreated
221 NSCLC tumors. Differences in our findings pertaining to LUAD and LUSC may reflect
222 differences in biology²¹⁻²³ and immune evasion mechanisms, including increased prevalence
223 of antigen presentation dysfunction (HLA transcriptional repression and HLA LOH¹) in LUSC.
224 Other limitations include the lack of detailed staining using multiplexing technologies²⁴⁻²⁶
225 that could provide further insights into immune composition. However, with advanced deep
226 learning developments and detailed tumor phylogenetic data, histology can be used to
227 highlight fundamental immune contexture such as immune exclusion and its topological
228 determinants. These data illuminate the clinical significance of immune cold regions that
229 may reflect immune evading subclones, warranting further investigation into mechanisms
230 that could contribute to the spatial variability of immune cells.

231

232 **Figures legends**

233

234 **Figure 1. The computational pathology deep learning pipeline for dissecting**
235 **heterogeneous NSCLC tumor microenvironment.** **a.** Histology sample generation in Lung
236 TRACERx. To preserve morphology and generate good quality histology, samples from the
237 same tumor regional frozen blocks specifically collected for TRACERx and generated
238 molecular data^{1,6} were re-embedded in formalin fixed paraffin (FFPE). From these, H&E-
239 stained tumor section slides were generated. In addition, H&E section and triplex
240 CD4/CD8/FOXP3 IHC slides were also generated from diagnostic blocks that represent
241 clinical standard sampling. **b.** Our multistage deep learning pipeline consists of three key
242 stages: fully automated tissue segmentation, single-cell detection and classification. The
243 final output is shown as an image with all cells identified. For more details, please see the
244 ‘Training the deep learning pipeline’ section of the Methods. **c.** Illustrative 3-dimensional
245 distribution of input image patches in the feature space learned by the convolutional neural
246 networks, using Principal Component Analysis. The feature clusters were pseudo-colored to
247 display segregation for four cell types in H&E, and **d** CD8⁺, CD4⁺FOXP3⁺, CD4⁺FOXP3⁻ and
248 “other” cell class (hematoxylin cells) in IHC, respectively. **e.** The deep learning single-cell
249 classification model was trained using expert pathology annotations from a variety of
250 TRACERx samples (diagnostic, regional, TMA). The trained model was then applied to the
251 remaining TRACERx samples (predominantly LUAD and LUSC) and the LATTICE-A cohort
252 (only LUAD), identifying over 171 million cells in TRACERx and over 4.9 billion cells in
253 LATTICE-A. WSI: whole-section image. **f.** Biological validation of the deep learning approach.
254 H&E and IHC images generated from the same TMA slide were virtually integrated for
255 comparison of H&E-based cell classification and cell type marker expression. For each
256 marker, the experiment was conducted once using a single TMA (n cores/patients = 48
257 TTF1; 38 CD45). Scale bars represent 100 μ m. **g-h.** Correlations between cancer/lymphocyte
258 cell percentage determined by H&E and TTF1⁺ (tumor marker)/CD45⁺ (immune marker) cell
259 percentage per LUAD image tiles of size 100 μ m² (n = 100 TTF1; 83 CD45). The shading
260 indicates 95% confidence interval.

261

262 **Figure 2. Geospatial heterogeneity of lymphocytic infiltration in the TRACERx cohort.** **a.**
263 Representative examples of immune hot and immune cold multi-region H&E samples, scale
264 bars represent 100 μ m. **b.** Each column represents a tumor, grouped by their histologic
265 subtype (the “Other” group consists of adenosquamous carcinoma, large cell
266 neuroendocrine carcinoma, pleomorphic carcinoma, and sarcomatoid carcinoma of
267 pleomorphic type arising from adenocarcinoma). Tumor regions (illustrated as dots) were
268 assigned to immune hot, immune cold, and intermediate phenotypes based on percentage
269 of lymphocytes in all cells following H&E-based deep learning analysis. CD8⁺/CD4⁺FOXP3⁻
270 /CD4⁺FOXP3⁺ percentages based on automated analysis of the IHC diagnostic samples are
271 also shown. **c.** A heatmap showing gene expression patterns of 14 immune cell populations
272 across tumor regions, each row represents a tumor region (n = 142). The three clusters

273 correspond to the proposed immune regional classification as shown in **b. d.** Significant
274 enrichment of all immune cell populations in hot regions, as compared to cold regions,
275 particularly for the immune activating cell subsets, including cytotoxic, B-cell, and natural
276 killer cells ($n = 109$ regions; 52 patients). A two-sided, non-parametric, unpaired, Wilcoxon
277 signed-rank test was used for each box plot, all P -values were corrected for multiple
278 comparisons. Thick horizontal lines indicate the median value; outliers are indicated by the
279 extreme points; the first and third quantiles are represented by the box edges; and vertical
280 lines indicate the error range.

281

282 **Figure 3. Evolution of immune escape, and survival analysis in TRACERx and LATTICe-A. a.**
283 A box plot showing the difference in genomic distances for pairs of immune hot or immune
284 cold regions within the same patients in LUAD ($n = 66$ pairs). **b.** A box plot showing the
285 difference in mutational distance between the dominant subclones in pairs of immune hot
286 or immune cold regions via their last common ancestor in LUAD ($n = 23$ immune cold pairs;
287 15 immune hot pairs). This distance was calculated by taking the furthest dominant clone
288 (cancer cell fraction (CCF) $\geq 75\%$) from the trunk, and it remained significant when the
289 dominant clone closest to the most recent common ancestor of each tree was considered
290 ($P = 0.02$). **c.** Illustrative examples of tumor phylogenetic trees for a pair of immune hot and
291 immune cold regions. Dominant subclones were labelled and their last common ancestor
292 (annotated with arrows) was then identified. Minor (CCF $< 75\%$) or undetected clones were
293 neglected in this analysis. **d,e.** Kaplan-Meier curves illustrating the difference in disease-free
294 survival according to the number of immune cold regions, dichotomized by the median
295 value, in TRACERx (**d**) (LUAD and LUSC, $n = 79$ patients, 249 regions) and LATTICe-A (**e**)
296 (LUAD, $n = 970$ patients, 4,324 samples). The same deep learning histology analysis and
297 immune regional classification developed for TRACERx were applied directly to LATTICe-A.
298 WSI: whole-section image. **f.** Forest plots showing multivariate Cox regression analyses in
299 TRACERx ($n = 79$ patients; LUAD and LUSC). Clonal neoantigens were dichotomized using the
300 upper quartile, determined individually for LUAD and LUSC tumors¹. **g.** Forest plots showing
301 multivariate Cox regression analyses in LATTICe-A ($n = 651$ LUAD patients with complete
302 stage and smoking pack years data). For the patient subset with complete stage data but
303 missing pack years information, the test remained significant ($n = 827$, $P < 0.001$, HR =
304 1.4[1.1-1.9]). For statistical comparisons among groups, a two-sided, non-parametric,
305 unpaired, Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used, unless stated otherwise.

306

307 **Figure 4. Association of spatial histology with genetic alterations relevant to immune**
308 **surveillance. a.** An illustrative example of fractal dimension calculated by the box-counting
309 algorithm to quantify the geospatial complexity of the cancer cell-stromal cell interface. By
310 examining boxes of decreasing sizes that contain both cancer and stromal cells, the box
311 counting algorithm quantifies the rate at which the geometrical details of cancer-stromal
312 interface develop at increasingly fine scales. Blue box illustrates the smallest box of $20\mu\text{m}$ by
313 $20\mu\text{m}$ in size. Scale bar represent $100\mu\text{m}$. An example of a fractal structure displaying

314 geometrical self-similarity is shown below the panel. **b.** A box plot to illustrate the significant
315 difference in fractal dimension between all TRACERx immune hot and cold regions ($n = 219$).
316 **c.** A box plot showing a significant difference in fractal dimension between LUAD tumor
317 regions ($n = 116$) harboring an LOH event for class 1 HLA of any type versus regions that do
318 not, adjusted for multiple comparisons with the remaining HLA type-specific tests (see
319 Extended Data Fig. 7f). **d.** Illustration of the adjacent-tumor lymphocyte/stroma ratio
320 inferred by spatial modeling of cancer cell density (contours) and lymphocyte classification
321 into spatial compartments. Cell classification in IHC sample of the same block was shown for
322 comparison. Scale bars represent $50\mu\text{m}$. **e.** A box plot showing the difference in the
323 adjacent-tumor lymphocyte/stroma ratio between high (\geq median) and low ($<$ median)
324 clonal neoantigens for all LUAD patients in TRACERx ($n = 61$). **f.** Illustration of image
325 registration to spatially align serial sections of H&E and IHC and generate a virtual composite
326 map of T cell subset in the context of cancer/stroma density. T cell subsets classified in the
327 IHC were projected onto the cancer density map inferred from H&E, so that they can be
328 classified into adjacent-tumor, intra-tumor, and distal-tumor compartments. **g.** A box plot
329 showing significantly higher ratio of CD8^+ to $\text{CD4}^+\text{FOXP3}^+$ cells in adjacent-tumor and intra-
330 tumor lymphocytes compared with distal-tumor lymphocytes in registered LUAD image tiles
331 ($n = 20$ image tiles, using paired Wilcoxon test). For statistical comparisons among groups, a
332 two-sided, non-parametric, unpaired, Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used, unless stated
333 otherwise.

334

335

336 **Main References**

337

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395

396 **Acknowledgements**

397 This study is funded by a Cancer Research UK Career Establishment Award to Y.Y.
398 (C45982/A21808). The TRACERx study (Clinicaltrials.gov no: NCT01888601) is sponsored by
399 University College London (UCL/12/0279) and has been approved by an independent
400 Research Ethics Committee (13/LO/1546). TRACERx is funded by Cancer Research UK
401 (C11496/A17786) and coordinated through the Cancer Research UK and UCL Cancer Trials
402 Centre. Y.Y. acknowledges additional support from Breast Cancer Now (2015NovPR638),
403 Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLGA201906), NIH U54 CA217376 and R01
404 CA185138, CDMRP Breast Cancer Research Program Award BC132057, European
405 Commission ITN (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2019), Wellcome Trust (105104/Z/14/Z), and The Royal
406 Marsden/ICR National Institute of Health Research Biomedical Research Centre. C.S. is Royal
407 Society Napier Research Professor. This work was supported by the Francis Crick Institute
408 that receives its core funding from Cancer Research UK (FC001169,FC001202), the UK
409 Medical Research Council (FC001169, FC001202), and the Wellcome Trust (FC001169,
410 FC001202). C.S. is funded by Cancer Research UK (TRACERx, PEACE and CRUK Cancer
411 Immunotherapy Catalyst Network), the CRUK Lung Cancer Centre of Excellence, the
412 Rosetrees Trust, NovoNordisk Foundation (ID16584) and the Breast Cancer Research
413 Foundation (BCRF). This research is supported by a Stand Up To Cancer-LUNGevity-
414 American Lung Association Lung Cancer Interception Dream Team Translational Research
415 Grant (Grant Number: SU2C-AACR-DT23-17). Stand Up To Cancer is a program of the
416 Entertainment Industry Foundation. Research grants are administered by the American
417 Association for Cancer Research, the Scientific Partner of SU2C. CS receives funding from the
418 European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Seventh Framework
419 Programme (FP7/2007-2013) Consolidator Grant (FP7-THESEUS-617844), European
420 Commission ITN (FP7-PloidyNet 607722), an ERC Advanced Grant (PROTEUS) from the
421 European Research Council under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and
422 innovation programme (grant agreement No. 835297), and Chromavision from the
423 European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement
424 665233). S.A.Q. is funded by a Cancer Research UK Senior Cancer Research Fellowship
425 (C36463/A22246) and a Cancer Research UK Biotherapeutic Program Grant
426 (C36463/A20764). S.L. is supported by the National Breast Cancer Foundation of Australia
427 Endowed Chair and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, New York. L.Z. has received
428 funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme
429 under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 846614. C.T.H. is funded by the UCL
430 Biomedical Research Council. M.J.H. has received funding from Cancer Research UK,
431 National Institute for Health Research, Rosetrees Trust and UKI NETs. We thank the
432 members of the TRACERx and PEACE consortia for participating in this study. We thank the
433 Tissue Image Analytics lab at the University of Warwick, Coventry, UK for their help in
434 method implementation. We thank the Scientific Computing team at The Institute of Cancer
435 Research, London for technical support. We also thank Ana Teodósio and Catherine Ficken
436 from the MRC Toxicology Unit core histology facility for their expert technical assistance.

437

438 **Author Contributions**

439 K.A. and S.E.A.R. contributed equally to this work. S.E.A.R. and K.A. developed the image
440 processing and deep learning pipeline and performed the geospatial analysis. K.A.
441 performed the bioinformatics and statistical analyses. J.L.Q., R.S. and D.A.M. provided
442 pathological expertise. M.J.-H. provided clinical expertise and patient characterization. S.V.
443 performed histology sample generation and digitized H&E slides. A.A. generated and
444 digitized IHC slides under the supervision of T.M. T.L. provided annotations for training and
445 validating IHC analysis. N.M., R.R. and L.Z. assisted with genomic data integration. J.L.Q.,
446 R.S., S.L., M.A.B., D.A.M., C.T.H., and T.L. analyzed pathology TIL estimates. J.L.Q., L.O., M.S.,
447 and C. R. S. provided data and advice for LATTICE-A. Y.Y., N.M., J.L.Q., C.S., A.H. and S.A.Q.
448 provided data analysis support and supervision. K.A., R.R., N.M., C.S. and Y.Y. wrote the
449 manuscript with input from all authors. Y.Y. and C.S. jointly conceived and supervised the
450 study.

451

452 **Competing Interests**

453 Y.Y. has received speakers bureau honoraria from Roche and is a consultant for Merck and
454 Co Inc. C.S. receives grant support from Pfizer, AstraZeneca, BMS, Roche-Ventana,
455 Boehringer-Ingelheim and Ono Pharmaceutical. C.S. has consulted for Pfizer, Novartis,
456 GlaxoSmithKline, MSD, BMS, Celgene, AstraZeneca, Illumina, Genentech, Roche-Ventana,
457 GRAIL, Medicxi, and the Sarah Cannon Research Institute. C.S. is a shareholder of Apogen
458 Biotechnologies, Epic Bioscience, GRAIL, and has stock options in and is co-founder of
459 Achilles Therapeutics. M.A.B. is a consultant for Achilles Therapeutics. S.L. receives research
460 funding to her institution from Novartis, Bristol Meyers Squibb, Merck, Roche-Genentech,
461 Puma Biotechnology, Pfizer, Eli Lilly and Seattle Genetics. S.L. has acted as consultant (not
462 compensated) to Seattle Genetics, Pfizer, Novartis, BMS, Merck, AstraZeneca and Roche-
463 Genentech. S.L. has acted as consultant (paid to her institution) to Aduro Biotech, Novartis,
464 and G1 Therapeutics. D.A.M. has received speaker's fees from AstraZeneca. M.J.H. is a
465 member of the Advisory Board for Achilles Therapeutics.

466

467 **Materials and Correspondence**

468 Materials request and general correspondence should be addressed to J.L.Q., C.S. and Y.Y.

469

470 **Data availability**

471 The digital pathology images from the TRACERx study generated or analysed during this
472 study are not publicly available and restrictions apply to its use. A test subset of such digital
473 pathology images are available through the Cancer Research UK & University College
474 London Cancer Trials Centre (ctc.tracex@ucl.ac.uk) for non-commercial research purposes
475 and access will be granted upon review of a project proposal that will be evaluated by a
476 TRACERx data access committee and entering into an appropriate data access agreement,
477 subject to any applicable ethical approvals. Digital pathology images for LATTICE-A samples

478 with expert pathologist's annotations used for validation are available:
479 <https://github.com/qalid7/compath>. Request for data access for the remaining LATTICe-A
480 samples can be submitted to J.L.Q.

481

482 **Code availability**

483 The deep learning pipeline for digital pathology image analysis is available for non-
484 commercial research purposes: <https://github.com/qalid7/compath>. All code used for
485 statistical analyses of image data was developed in R version (3.5.1) and is available:
486 https://github.com/qalid7/tx100_compath.

487

488 **Methods**

489

490 **Tissues and digital images**

491 The main cohort evaluated comes from the first 100 patients prospectively analyzed by the
492 lung TRACERx study⁶ (Extended Data Fig. 1, Supplementary Tables 1, 4,
493 <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01888601>, approved by an independent Research
494 Ethics Committee, 13/LO/1546). 62 were men and 38 were women, with a median age of
495 68. 61 were LUAD, 32 were LUSC and the remaining 7 had ‘other’ histology subtypes
496 (including adenosquamous carcinoma, large cell carcinoma, large cell neuroendocrine
497 carcinoma, pleomorphic carcinoma and pleomorphic carcinoma arising from
498 adenocarcinoma).

499

500 The 85 case subcohort with regional histology consisted of 55 male and 30 female patients
501 and of those 49 were LUAD, 32 were LUSC and 6 were ‘other’ types. 10 of these patients
502 had a single region while the rest ranged between 2-8 regions ($n = 275$ total regional
503 histology samples). Snap-frozen regional samples were processed to FFPE blocks after
504 dissecting fresh-frozen tissues for DNA-seq and RNA-seq analyses. Tissue microarrays (TMAs)
505 were created containing 133x2mm regional tissue cores from 75 patients in 7 blocks.

506

507 In addition to the regional samples, full-sized diagnostic blocks were obtained for all 100
508 cases precisely mirroring the Jamal-Hanjani et al. 2017 prospective 100 patient cohort⁶.
509 4 μ m thick sections were cut and subjected to H&E staining and multiplex IHC for
510 CD8/CD4/FOXP3: anti-CD8 (type: Rabbit Monoclonal, clone: SP239, cat. no.: ab178089,
511 source: Abcam Plc, Cambridge, UK, used at 1:100); anti-CD4 (type: Rabbit Monoclonal,
512 clone: SP35, cat. no.: ab213215, source: Abcam Plc, Cambridge, UK, used at 1:50); anti-
513 FOXP3 (type: Mouse, clone: 236A/E7, source: kind gift from Dr G Roncador, CNIO, Madrid,
514 Spain, used at: 1:100). All regional and diagnostic slides were scanned using NanoZoomer
515 S210 digital slide scanner (C13239-01) and NanoZoomer digital pathology system version
516 3.1.7 (Hamamatsu, Japan) at 40x (228 nm/pixel resolution).

517

518 The external validation cohort was obtained from the Leicester Archival Thoracic Tumor
519 Investigatory Cohort – Adenocarcinoma (LATTICe-A) study⁸, a continuous retrospective
520 series of resected primary LUAD tumors from a single surgical center between years 1998 to
521 2014 (Extended Data Fig. 1, Supplementary Table 5). It consists of 4,324 whole-tumor
522 diagnostic blocks from 970 LUAD patients (ranging from 1 to 16 blocks per case with a
523 median of 4). 455 were men and 515 were women with a median age of 69. Most clinical
524 data (age, sex, adjuvant therapy status and time to recurrence or death) were available for
525 all patients, with complete pathological stage for 827 and smoking history for 651. All
526 archival slides containing tumor material were used in order to capture the full diversity of
527 each lesion. Slides were dearchived and scanned using a Hamamatsu NanoZoomer XR at 40x
528 (226 nm/pixel resolution) yielding 15 TB of image data. Images containing incidental lymph

529 node tissue were excluded to avoid confounding immune infiltration analysis. For the
530 biological validation assay, a subset of 49 paraffin blocks from 49 patients was obtained
531 from the same study, and from these a validation TMA was prepared, containing a single
532 1mm core from each case. The work was ethically approved by an NHS research ethics
533 committee (ref. 14/EM/1159). This study complies with the STROBE guidelines.

534

535 **The deep learning pipeline for cell detection and classification**

536 The deep learning pipeline consists of three parts. First, the pipeline segments tissue regions
537 utilizing multi-resolution input/output image features (Micro-Net²⁷). It was designed to
538 capture global tissue context and learn weak features that could be important for
539 identifying tissue boundary, but are often not achieved by other machine learning methods
540 such as thresholding of the grey-scale image, active contours, watershed segmentation or
541 Support Vector Machine-based training on local binary pattern features²⁷. Tissue
542 segmentation removes background noise and artefacts and subsequently allows for more
543 computationally efficient cell detection and accurate classification. Secondly, a cell
544 detection model modified from SCCNN²⁸ predicts for each pixel the probability that it
545 belongs to the center of a nucleus within tissue regions identified by Micro-Net. Nuclei are
546 detected from the probability map obtained from the deep network. Lastly, a cell
547 classification framework utilizes a neighboring ensemble predictor classifier coupled with
548 SCCNN to classify each cell by type.

549

550 For tissue segmentation, each whole slide image was reduced to 1.25x resolution and
551 segmented for tissue regions using Micro-Net-512²⁷ architecture. This architecture visualizes
552 the image at multiple resolutions, captures context information by connecting intermediate
553 deep layers and adds bypass connections to max-pooling to maintain weak features (Fig.
554 1b). 10 whole slide images were used to train the tissue segmentation network using Micro-
555 Net. The segmented images from the network were inspected visually and quantitatively
556 (Supplementary Table 6, Supplementary Figures 1-20) to evaluate performance using an
557 independent set of images.

558

559 The SCCNN adds two layers to conventional deep learning architecture for cell detection
560 within the segmented tissue. SC1 estimates the location and probability of each pixel
561 belonging to the center of a cell, and these probabilities are then mapped by SC2 to the
562 image. A customized implementation of SCCNN was coded in Python (version 3.5) using
563 TensorFlow²⁹ library (version 1.3) which makes it computationally more efficient compared
564 to the original MATLAB implementation²⁸. To process an image of size 1000×1000 pixels, the
565 Python implementation takes 4.8 seconds for nucleus detection compared to 41.0 seconds
566 using the original implementation²⁸, excluding preprocessing which remained the same in
567 both implementations (using MATLAB (version 2018b)). In addition, through empirical
568 experimentation, we optimized the patch size to 31x31 instead of 27x27 in the original
569 implementation for increased cell detection accuracy. To generate nuclear locations from

570 the SC2 probability map, peak detection was applied where thresholds for intensity and
571 minimum grouping distance were also optimized to 0.15 and 12 pixels through
572 experimentation using validation data.

573

574 For cell classification, a neighboring ensemble predictor was used. This predictor utilizes
575 SCCNN to classify cells in neighboring locations to the detected center of the cell. In our
576 implementation, the ensemble classifier required votes from SCCNN classification of nine
577 different neighborhood locations near to the center of the cell compared to five votes in
578 original implementation. Through experimentation, the patch size was optimized to 51x51
579 for classification instead of 27x27 as originally proposed. This permitted incorporation of
580 greater tissue spatial context while maintaining the accuracy of classifying small cells.

581

582 Altogether, this pipeline enabled the spatial mapping of four cell types from H&E images:
583 cancer (malignant epithelial) cells, lymphocytes (including plasma cells), non-inflammatory
584 stromal cells (fibroblasts and endothelial cells), and an “other” cell type that included non-
585 identifiable cells, less abundant cells such as macrophages and chondrocytes, and ‘normal’
586 pneumocytes and bronchial epithelial cells.

587

588 **Training the deep learning pipeline**

589 To improve neural network generalizability and to avoid overfitting for cell detection and
590 classification, we trained and tested our pipeline on a variety of sample types, including
591 diagnostic ($n = 100$), regional ($n = 275$) and 133 cores corresponding to 75 TRACERx patients
592 from TMA slides (63 patients had two cores and 12 patients had a single core). Both cell
593 detection and classification were trained based on single-cell annotations from pathologists.
594 Two thoracic pathologists annotated 26,960 cells on 53 whole slide images (3 TMAs, 35
595 regional slides and 15 diagnostic slides) to incorporate morphological variations in
596 appearance of various cell types and stain variability. Several hundred examples of each cell
597 class were marked on 76 cores selected at random from TMA images. In total, 4,056, 5,310,
598 15,007, 2,587 annotations were collected for stromal cells, lymphocytes, cancer cells and
599 “other” cell types, respectively. These whole slide images were divided into small tile images
600 of size 2000x2000 pixels (each pixel = 0.5 μ m), which were then divided into three sample
601 sets maintaining the class distribution of cells. These included: 13 diagnostic, 58 regional
602 and 134 TMA tile images for training; 4 diagnostic, 21 regional and 72 TMA tile images for
603 validation; and 3 diagnostic, 22 regional and 61 TMA tile images for testing. As a result, the
604 annotations were divided between the three groups; 2/3 for training, 1/6 for validation and
605 1/6 for testing. The training set included annotations for 2,147 stromal cells, 3,183
606 lymphocytes, 10,103 cancer and 1,357 other cell types. The validation set had annotations
607 for 473 stromal cells, 825 lymphocytes, 2,562 tumor and 359 other cell types. Breakdown
608 for the test set is provided in Supplementary Table 2.

609

610 For IHC cell classification, we used a pretrained SCCNN network on samples stained for
611 CD4/CD8/FOXP3. The training set consisted of 1,657 CD4⁺FOXP3⁻, 3,187 CD8⁺, 1,001
612 CD4⁺FOXP3⁺, and 3,488 other (negative) cells. The trained network was tested on 5,028 cell
613 annotations collected on 6 lung diagnostic whole slide images, including 251 CD4⁺FOXP3⁻,
614 406 CD8⁺, 123 CD4⁺FOXP3⁺ and 4,248 other cells to test the ability of the algorithm in
615 correctly detecting and classifying negative cells. See Supplementary Table 7 for the total
616 number of identified cells in the H&E diagnostic, H&E multi-region and IHC diagnostic
617 datasets.

618

619 **Validation of the H&E deep learning pipeline with orthogonal data types**

620 The algorithms' performance in detecting and classifying single cells in H&E were first
621 evaluated against the test set of 5951 cells. Individual class accuracy statistics were
622 calculated using the R function 'confusionMatrix' from the R package 'caret'.

623

624 Pathology TIL estimates were scored following the international guidelines developed by the
625 International Immuno-Oncology Biomarker Working Group⁷. Briefly, by inspection of H&E
626 slide of a given tumor region, the fraction of the stromal area infiltrated by TILs was
627 assessed.

628

629 For regional samples, tumor cellularity, estimated as the computed percentage cancer cells
630 was correlated with tumor purity estimated by ASCAT based on DNA-seq copy number and
631 VAF purity (both available from Jamal-Hanjani et al.⁶, $n = 239$ regional tumor samples). The
632 RNA-seq-based CD8⁺ T cell signature (available from Rosenthal et al.¹, computed using the
633 Danaher et al. method³⁰) was correlated with the deep learning based lymphocyte
634 percentage for 142 regional tumor samples. For diagnostic samples, deep learning-based
635 lymphocyte percentage from H&E was correlated with deep learning-based CD8⁺ cell
636 percentage from IHC ($n = 100$ diagnostic samples, Extended Data Fig. 2a-d).

637

638 Discordance rate between RNA-seq based¹ and histology/deep learning-based immune hot
639 and cold regional classification was calculated by cross-tabulation of immune hot and cold
640 (from histology) versus high and low (from RNA-seq), disregarding any regions without one
641 of these two types of data. The RNA-seq method used 15 immune cell signatures presenting
642 different T- and B-cell subsets, as well as neutrophils, macrophages, mast and dendritic cells,
643 to classify tumor regions into high and low categories. A Fisher's exact test was used to
644 compute the overlap between the two immune classifications. Distributions of multiple
645 immune scores (lymphocyte percentage, intra-tumor lymphocytes and adjacent-tumor
646 lymphocytes/stroma) as well as ASCAT tumor purity were compared between hot versus
647 cold (deep learning) and high versus low (RNA-seq) classifications (Extended Data Fig. 5).

648

649 **Validation of the deep learning pipeline with the independent LATTICE-A cohort**

650 The external validity of the proposed deep learning pipeline was performed on 100
651 randomly selected patients from the LATTICe-A cohort⁸. This validation ensures that the
652 trained cell detection and cell classification models from the TRACERx tumor blocks are
653 generalizable to a distinct dataset which is processed, stained and scanned in another
654 center (the LATTICe-A study, University of Leicester).

655

656 All 100 whole-tumor H&E sections were processed using the same TRACERx trained model.
657 The validation was then performed using two data types. First, a pathologist provided 5,082
658 single-cell annotations following the same protocol for TRACERx in 20 randomly selected
659 LATTICe-A sections. The breakdown for single-cell annotations was 1,997 stromal cells, 787
660 lymphocyte cells, 1,839 cancer cells and 459 other cells (see Supplementary Table 3).
661 Second, two independent pathologists jointly scored the remaining 80 sections for overall
662 fraction of lymphocytic infiltration and pathology TIL estimates⁷. These manual scores were
663 correlated with the deep learning-based lymphocyte percentage and adjacent-tumor
664 lymphocytes/total stroma (Extended Data Fig. 2e).

665

666 **Validation of the deep learning pipeline with biological assays**

667 A new biological validation method was developed to overcome the challenge of obtaining
668 large quantities of cell-specific validation data (Fig. 1f-h, Extended Data Fig. 2f-g). 48 cores
669 were available for the TTF1-H&E image pairs, 38 for the CD45-H&E pairs, and 33 for the
670 SMA-H&E pairs. Stains were performed using a Ventana BenchMark ULTRA instrument
671 (H&E, TTF-1) or a Dako Link 48 (CD-45, SMA). Digital images were acquired using a
672 Hamamatsu Nanozoomer slide scanner. First, H&E staining was performed using a Leica
673 Infinity kit, and a digital image was collected. The slide was subsequently de-coverslipped,
674 the H&E stain removed by acid alcohol washing, and then an immunohistochemical stain
675 with haematoxylin counterstain was applied using a standard diagnostic antigen retrieval
676 and antibody protocol. A second digital image was acquired after mounting and
677 coverslipping. Through experimentation, no difference in the staining was observed when
678 the procedure was reversed.

679

680 TTF-1 (type: Novocastra Liquid Mouse Monoclonal antibody thyroid transcription factor 1,
681 clone: SPT24, cat. no.: NCL-L-TTF-1, source: Leica biosystems, Germany, used at 1:100) was
682 selected as the cancer cell marker in these LUAD samples because it is the most robust and
683 widely used immunohistochemical marker of LUAD cells³¹. It is very specific, both in that
684 only epithelial cells are stained in the lung, and in that very few tumors of non-lung or
685 thyroid origin are stained³². The sensitivity of the antibody clone used (SPT24) is also high,
686 staining >75% of tumor cells in 76% of LUAD tumors in one published series³³. However, as
687 this implies, there are many tumors in which tumor cell staining is incomplete (i.e. <100%).
688 Therefore, only cores showing near-universal TTF-1-positivity of tumor cells were used for
689 validation, in order to provide the best possible 'gold standard' comparator for the deep
690 learning algorithm. The same procedure was followed for pairs of H&E-CD45 (anti-human

691 CD45, type: Mouse Monoclonal, clone: 2B11 + PD7/26, cat. no.: M0701, source: Agilent
692 DAKO, USA, used at 1:200) and H&E-SMA (myofibroblast marker, type: Mouse Monoclonal
693 antibody Smooth Muscle Actin (1A4), cat. no.: 760-2833, source: Roche, Switzerland, a
694 ready to use antibody) to biologically validate the accuracy of single cell classification.

695

696 In total, 64,976 TTF1⁺ cells, 26,284 CD45⁺ cells and 46,343 SMA⁺ cells were detected from
697 the IHC images, denoting the advantage of this method in acquiring large amount of
698 validation data at single-cell resolution. The correlation measured (Fig. 1f-h, Extended Data
699 Fig. 2g) was that between the fraction of classified cells in the H&E versus fraction of
700 positively stained IHC cells per 100 μm^2 .

701

702 **Immune phenotype classification**

703 To classify tumor regions into different immune phenotypes, we assigned each region to an
704 immune hot, cold or intermediate category based on lymphocyte percentage. The
705 dependency of our subsequently results on thresholds chosen for this classification scheme
706 was tested after applying perturbations to the thresholds used. Four new classification
707 schemes were tested: no intermediate zone (i.e. using median lymphocyte percentage for
708 separating hot and cold regions), regions with lymphocyte percentage greater than standard
709 deviation/2 above/below the median lymphocyte percentage classified as immune hot/cold,
710 , and similarly for standard deviation/3 and standard deviation/6 (Extended Data Fig. 4a-b).
711 For every new classification, we repeated the multivariate survival analysis to confirm the
712 significance of the number of immune cold regions in predicting disease-free survival as well
713 as the genomic distance test for pairs of immune hot versus immune cold regions in LUAD
714 patients (Extended Data Fig. 4b). In addition, the CD8⁺ RNA-seq signature was used to test
715 the difference in CD8⁺ levels between immune hot and immune cold phenotypes across all
716 classification schemes (Extended Data Fig. 4c).

717

718 **Genomic distance measure**

719 Genomic distance was calculated as described previously¹, by taking the Euclidean distance
720 of the mutations present for every pair of immune hot and immune cold regions from the
721 same patient. All mutations present in a region from a tumor were turned into a binary
722 matrix of which the rows were mutations and columns were the tumor regions. From this
723 matrix, the pairwise distance was determined.

724

725 **Distance between dominant clones to the last common ancestor of region pair**

726 Deep learning-based immune phenotypes were integrated with the TRACERx phylogenetics
727 data⁶. Dominant clones (using the upper quartile of cancer cell fraction, $\geq 75\%$) were
728 labelled for all tumor regions' trees which had an available H&E sample in LUAD patients (n
729 = 76 regions, 15 immune hot pairs and 23 immune cold pairs). For every pair of immune hot
730 / cold regions within a tumor, the distance between the dominant clones (as measured by
731 branch length, i.e. number of mutations) via their last common ancestor was computed. The

732 recently shared ancestry clone between the two dominant clones was labelled as the ‘last
733 common ancestor of region pair’ (annotated with arrows in Fig 3.c). To ensure this analysis
734 was not dependent on a certain cancer cell fraction threshold, multiple thresholds (CCF \geq
735 80%, 85%) were placed while repeating the same analysis. Next, by identifying the last
736 common ancestral subclone for pairs of the same phenotype, each pair was categorized into
737 one of two diversification patterns: ‘diversifying at the most recent common ancestor
738 (MRCA) of the tree’ or ‘diversifying at a descendant subclone of the MRCA of the tree’. The
739 latter category included a pattern exclusive to immune cold pairs, where the two regions
740 shared the same dominant subclone that was the direct descendant of the MRCA of the
741 tree.

742

743 **Tumor spatial modelling**

744 H&E and IHC cell abundance scores (e.g. lymphocyte percentage, CD8⁺ percentage) were
745 computed as the percentage of a cell type in the total sample cell count. Stromal TILs were
746 identified using spatial modelling^{20,34,35}, where lymphocytes were classified (using
747 unsupervised clustering) into intra-tumor lymphocytes, adjacent-tumor lymphocytes and
748 distal-tumor lymphocytes based on their spatial proximity to epithelial cell nests in H&Es.
749 The immune hotspot score was calculated using the Getis–Ord algorithm as previously
750 described³⁶. To capture the emergence of complex morphological patterns that dictate
751 cancer-stromal cell spatial contact preserved over varying spatial scales, a fractal dimension
752 calculation (Minkowski-Bouligand dimension) was performed using the box-counting
753 algorithm³⁷. This algorithm calculates the number of boxes of a certain size needed to cover
754 a geometric pattern. We modified a MATLAB-based algorithm³⁸ to include both spatial
755 information of cancer and stromal cells, as opposed to its conventional use on one variable
756 (i.e. pixel information of an image). The analysis was carried out on spatial maps generated
757 using coordinates of classified stromal and cancer cells, while utilizing the tissue segmented
758 image (as a boundary mask) to exclude all empty tissue areas. Choices of box size were
759 informed by the distribution of minimum and maximum Euclidean distance for each stromal
760 cell to its nearest cancer cell in all 275 tumor regions (Extended Data Fig. 7a). The mean
761 minimum distance was 21.43 μ m. We limited the upper box size at 300 μ m, which is just
762 above a previously proposed cell-cell communication distance of 250 μ m³⁹ but designed to
763 be more inclusive. For statistical tests where fractal dimension was represented at tumor
764 level, the maximum regional score was used.

765

766 **H&E-IHC spatial alignment/immune subset projection**

767 For a H&E diagnostic slide, we determined the number of intra-tumor lymphocytes,
768 adjacent-tumor lymphocytes and distal-tumor lymphocytes (n_i , n_a , n_o) based on spatial
769 modelling of the H&Es. After spatial alignment of IHC and projecting IHC-derived cells onto
770 the H&E, the number of CD8⁺ cells that were also intra-tumor lymphocytes was determined
771 ($n_{i,CD8}$), and similarly for other cell types. As a result, intra-tumor lymphocytes were
772 deconvoluted by $n_i = n_{i,CD8} + n_{i,CD4} + n_{i,FOXP3} + n_{i,other}$. Two-sided paired Wilcoxon was used to test the

773 difference in the percentage of CD8⁺ cells among intra-tumor lymphocytes, adjacent-tumor
774 lymphocytes and distal-tumor lymphocytes (n_{ATL}^{CD8} , n_{DTL}^{CD8} , n_{ITL}^{CD8}). The same test was performed
775 for CD4⁺FOXP3⁻ and CD4⁺FOXP3⁺ cells.

776

777 The 10 LUAD patients with the highest adjacent-tumor lymphocytes to stromal cell ratio
778 were selected for this immune subset spatial projection. All samples had above median
779 CD8⁺%. One sample was excluded due to poor HE-IHC alignment quality and the subsequent
780 analysis was performed on the remaining nine samples. The quality of alignment was
781 evaluated by manually identifying 238 visible landmarks and placed on corresponding
782 positions in H&E and IHC tiles (total number of tiles = 249, maximum landmarks per tile = 5),
783 as shown in Extended Data Fig. 8b. These marked points were used to compute the
784 Euclidean distance (difference in x, y coordinates) between them to obtain a quantitative
785 measurement of alignment accuracy. The average distance between matching landmarks
786 was 9.57 μ m, whereas the maximum distance between the H&E and CD4/CD8/FOXP3
787 sections was 16 μ m.

788

789 **Survival analysis and other statistical methods**

790 Survival tests were conducted using Kaplan-Meier estimator ('ggsurvplot' R function from
791 the 'survminer' and 'survival' R packages) as well as Cox model ('coxph' R function and
792 displayed using 'ggforest' R function). Forest plots show the hazard ratio in the x-axis; each
793 variable's hazard ratio is plotted and annotated with a 95% confidence interval. The clinical
794 parameters included in the multivariate model were age, sex, smoking pack years, histology
795 (whether LUAD, LUSC or otherwise), tumor stage, adjuvant therapy (whether received or
796 not). Because of its prognostic importance in TRACERx, the upper quartile of clonal
797 neoantigens in each histology cohort was also incorporated in the multivariate model. The
798 range of available disease-free survival data was 34-1364 days (median = 915 days) in
799 TRACERx, and 1-6139 days (median = 684 days) in LATTICE-A. All hazard ratios were
800 computed on all time points (i.e. the whole survival curve, not at a specific time point).
801 Correlation tests used Spearman's method and were generated using the function
802 'ggscatter' from the 'ggpubr' R package. All correlation plots show the Rho (ρ) coefficient
803 and the significance P -value. For statistical comparisons among groups, a two-sided, non-
804 parametric, unpaired, Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used, unless stated otherwise. All box
805 plots were generated using the function 'ggboxplot' from the 'ggpubr' R package (all data
806 points are plotted with the 'jitter' option, the median value is indicated by a thick horizontal
807 line; minimum and maximum values are indicated by the extreme points; the first and third
808 quantiles are represented by the box edges; and vertical lines indicate the error range) or
809 the function 'ggbetweenstats' from the 'ggstatplot' R package for more than two groups.
810 Tests for concordance between two data classes were analyzed using a Fisher's exact test.
811 All statistical tests were two-sided, a P value of less than .05 was considered statistically
812 significant. To adjust P -values for multiple comparisons, the Benjamini & Hochberg method

813 was used. To measure effect size, Cohen's d method was used. All statistical analyses were
814 conducted in R (version 3.5.1).

815

816 **Reporting summary**

817 Further information on research design is available in the Nature Research Reporting
818 Summary linked to this paper.

819

820 **Extended Data Figures legends**

821

822 **Extended Data Fig. 1. CONSORT diagrams for TRACERx 100 and LATTICe-A histology**
823 **cohorts and patient characteristics.** **a.** TRACERx CONSORT diagram to illustrate sample
824 collection and analysis of regional and diagnostic histology samples, as well as the overlap
825 with RNA and DNA studies. **b.** TRACERx patient characteristics for the histology cohort. **c.**
826 LATTICe-A CONSORT diagram ($n = 970$ LUAD patients). Legends for 'type of the analysis'
827 correspond to panel **a.** **d.** Demographics and clinical patient characteristics for TRACERx (top
828 three panels) and LATTICe-A (bottom three panels) showing the distribution of age (colored
829 by sex), distribution of smoking pack years and the proportion of patients in each
830 pathological stage. Horizontal lines indicate the median value.

831

832 **Extended Data Fig. 2. Validation of the automated single-cell classification for H&E.** **a.** A
833 scatter plot showing the correlation between H&E-based adjacent-tumor
834 lymphocytes/stromal and pathology TIL estimates in diagnostic samples ($n = 98$ diagnostic
835 slides/patients). **b.** Scatter plots showing the correlations between H&E-based tumor
836 cellularity estimate and ASCAT/VAF purity scores ($n = 238$ regions; 83 patients). **c.** A scatter
837 plot showing the correlation between H&E-based estimate of lymphocyte percentage
838 among all cells and RNA-seq-based CD8⁺ signature using the Danaher et al. method³⁰ ($n =$
839 142 regions; 56 patients). **d.** A scatter plot showing the correlation between H&E-based
840 estimate of lymphocyte percentage among all cells and CD8⁺ cell percentage in IHC in the
841 diagnostic samples ($n = 100$ diagnostic slide/patients). **e.** Scatter plots showing the
842 correlation between H&E-based lymphocyte percentage versus pathological scores of
843 overall lymphocytic cell fraction, and adjacent-tumor lymphocytes/stromal versus pathology
844 TIL estimates in an external cohort (LATTICe-A, $n = 80$ diagnostic slides/patients). **f.**
845 Illustrative example to show the spatial alignment of TTF1/CD45/SMA-stained IHC and H&E
846 images obtained using sequential staining on the same tissue microarray section for
847 biological validation. **g.** A scatter plot showing the correlation between stromal cell
848 percentage determined by H&E and SMA⁺ cell percentage per LUAD image tiles of size
849 $100\mu\text{m}^2$ ($n = 144$). The experiment was conducted once using one TMA ($n = 33$
850 cores/patients). The shading indicates 95% confidence interval.

851

852 **Extended Data Fig. 3. Distribution of regional lymphocytic infiltration according to**
853 **pathological stage.** All available patients' data have been used in this figure except for the
854 standard deviation tests excluding patients with a single tumor region. Patients without
855 pathological staging information from the LATTICe-A cohort were also removed. **a, b, c,** top
856 row: TRACERx and bottom row: LATTICe-A. Horizontal lines indicate the median value. **a.**
857 Distribution of the standard deviation of regional lymphocyte percentage for LUAD and
858 LUSC patients in TRACERx ($n = 69$), and LUAD in LATTICe-A ($n = 814$). **b.** Distribution of the

859 standard deviation of regional lymphocyte percentage across pathological stages ($n = 69$ for
860 TRACERx, 814 for LATTICe-A). **c.** Distribution of regional mean of lymphocyte percentage
861 across stages ($n = 79$ for TRACERx, 827 for LATTICe-A). **d.** No significant difference among
862 stages with respect to standard deviation ($n = 69$ for TRACERx, 814 for LATTICe-A) or mean
863 ($n = 79$ for TRACERx, 827 for LATTICe-A) of regional lymphocytic infiltration. Left panel,
864 TRACERx and right panel, LATTICe-A. Correction for multiple testing was applied in **d**, for
865 each cohort individually. A two-sided, non-parametric, unpaired, Wilcoxon signed-rank test
866 was used; each dot represents a patient; the mean value is annotated with a large dot; the
867 median value is represented by a thick horizontal line; minimum and maximum values are
868 indicated by the extreme points; the first and third quartiles are represented by the box
869 edges; and the violin shape shows the data distribution as a kernel density estimation.

870

871 **Extended Data Fig. 4. Validation of immune phenotype classification.** **a.** The proposed
872 immune classification imposed on density plot showing distribution of lymphocyte
873 percentage. The middle zone corresponds to the intermediate phenotype, red zone for
874 immune hot and blue zone for immune cold. Black dash line shows the median. This
875 classification was validated after applying small perturbations to the thresholds to re-classify
876 regional immune phenotypes, illustrated as grey dash lines: no intermediate zone (i.e. hard
877 median for separating hot and cold), standard deviation (SD)/2 above and below the
878 median, SD/3 and SD/6. **b.** Forest plots to show repeated multivariate Cox regression tests
879 for the number of immune cold regions using these new classifications ($n = 79$ patients),
880 after accounting for stage, total number of samples, upper quartile of clonal neoantigens
881 determined for LUAD and LUSC individually, and other clinical parameters. Box plots
882 showing difference in genomic distance for pairs of hot regions compared with pairs of cold
883 regions for LUAD and LUSC separately (LUAD: $n = 45$ hot pairs, 45 cold pairs for no
884 intermediate zone; $n = 19$ hot, 25 cold for SD/2; $n = 25$ hot, 33 cold for SD/3; $n = 32$ hot, 41
885 cold for SD/6. LUSC: $n = 32$ hot pairs, 54 cold pairs for no intermediate zone; $n = 19$ hot, 27
886 cold for SD/2; $n = 19$ hot, 37 cold for SD/3; $n = 27$ hot, 41 cold for SD/6.). **c.** Box plots
887 showing significant difference in CD8⁺ RNA-seq signature using the Danaher method
888 between regions of hot and cold phenotype across all classification schemes ($n = 219$ for
889 SD/4; 275 for no intermediate zone; 173 for SD/2; 204 for SD/3; 237 for SD/6). **d.**
890 Distribution and difference of lymphocytic infiltration for LUAD versus LUSC regions in
891 TRACERx ($n = 275$ regions; 85 patients) as well as distribution for LUAD in LATTICe-A ($n =$
892 4,324 samples; 970 patients). Horizontal lines in the distribution plots indicate mean values.
893 For statistical comparisons among groups, a two-sided, non-parametric, unpaired, Wilcoxon
894 signed-rank test was used, unless stated otherwise.

895

896 **Extended Data Fig. 5. Concordance between histology deep learning and RNA-seq immune**
897 **classification.** **a.** A box plot showing the difference in pathology TIL estimates between

898 immune hot and immune cold regions ($n = 219$). Pathology TIL estimates score fraction of
899 stroma containing TILs, whereas immune classification was defined based on the percentage
900 of lymphocytes in all cells within a slide. **b.** A confusion matrix to compare RNA-seq and
901 deep learning histology immune classifications (discarding immune intermediate regions, n
902 = 109 regions (57 LUAD, 37 LUSC, 15 other histology subtypes); 52 patients). The p-value
903 was generated using a two-sided Fisher's exact test for overlap. **c.** A box plot showing the
904 difference in the fraction of immune hotspots³⁶ in regions where the two classifications are
905 in agreement ($n = 78$; labeled as 'In agreement') against the discrepant regions ($n = 31$,
906 labeled as 'Discrepant'). Each dot represents a region, the median value is indicated by a
907 thick horizontal line; minimum and maximum values are indicated by the extreme points;
908 and the first and third quartiles are represented by the box edges. **d.** Box plots to support
909 the overall consistency between H&E-deep learning and RNA-seq methods by comparing
910 different immune scores as well as ASCAT tumor purity between immune hot/high and
911 cold/low tumor regions (all P -values < 0.0001). Top row, H&E-deep learning immune
912 classification ($n = 219$; except the ASCAT purity box plot $n = 186$ regions), bottom row, RNA-
913 seq derived immune classification ($n = 142$; except the ASCAT purity box plot, $n = 141$
914 regions). For statistical comparisons among groups, a two-sided, non-parametric, unpaired,
915 Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used, unless stated otherwise.

916

917 **Extended Data Fig. 6. Genomic and survival analysis of tumor regions according to**
918 **immune phenotypes. a.** A box plot showing the difference in genomic distances for pairs of
919 immune hot versus immune cold regions within the same LUSC patients ($n = 59$ pairs). A
920 two-sided, non-parametric, unpaired, Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used. **b.** Forest plots to
921 show the univariate prognostic value for the number of immune low regions (both as
922 continuous and dichotomized at the median (≤ 1 versus >1)), or the number of immune high
923 regions, using the immune classification generated by RNA-seq-based infiltrating immune
924 cell populations¹ in 64 TRACERx tumors (41 LUAD, 16 LUSC and 7 other histology subtypes).
925 **c.** Forest plots showing multivariate Cox regression analyses in both TRACERx ($n = 79$
926 patients; LUAD and LUSC combined) and LATTICe-A ($n = 651$ LUAD patients representing a
927 subset with complete stage and smoking pack years data) with the number of immune cold
928 regions dichotomized at the median (≤ 1 versus >1). This remains significant when the
929 number of immune cold regions was replaced as a continuous variable, in the same
930 multivariate model, ($P = 0.019$ in TRACERx and < 0.001 in LATTICe-A, for the number of
931 immune cold regions). Clonal neoantigens were dichotomized using the upper quartile,
932 determined individually for LUAD and LUSC tumors¹. **d.** The same test in **c** when tumor size
933 (in mm) was also controlled in the multivariate model in LATTICe-A. This test also remained
934 significant for a bigger group of patients with complete stage data, but missing pack years
935 information ($n = 815$, $P < 0.001$, HR = 1.4[1.1-1.8]). **e.** Forest plots to compare the prognostic
936 value of regional immune scores as well as diagnostic H&E and IHC scores for relapse-free
937 survival in TRACERx ($n = 79$ patients, LUAD and LUSC combined). Wherever possible, these

938 immune features were tested in LATTICe-A ($n = 970$ patients). To compare the prognostic
939 value of the number of immune cold region with other immune features, LATTICe-A
940 comparisons were conducted in Cox multivariate regression models to include every
941 immune feature after correcting for the number of immune cold regions in the same model.
942 Each variable's HR is plotted with a 95% confidence interval; all P -values were adjusted for
943 multiple testing; and the size of the circles denotes $-\log_{10}(P)$. For the sake of visualization,
944 a minor adjustment was made to the HR for the number of cold regions/total number of
945 regions in LATTICe-A from 0.88[0.57-1.3] to 0.99[0.97-1.3]. SD: standard deviation, used for
946 measuring variability of lymphocyte percentage among samples within a tumor. **f.** Forest
947 plots using Cox multivariate regression analysis showing that the prognostic value of the
948 number of immune cold regions was independent of: 1) genetic measure, subclonal copy
949 number alteration (obtained from ⁶); 2) tumor cellularity from DNA-seq-based ASCAT purity,
950 3) tumor cellularity measured by deep learning-based cancer cell percentage. **g.** Kaplan
951 Meier curves to illustrate the difference in relapse-free survival for TRACERx patients
952 including other histology types ($n = 85$; representing all TRACERx patients in the multi-
953 region histology cohort) with high and low number of immune cold regions, dichotomized
954 by its median value. Log-rank $P = 0.0017$. **h.** Forest plot using Cox regression for the
955 multivariate survival analysis for the number of immune cold regions in TRACERx including
956 patients with other histology subtypes ($n = 85$).

957

958 **Extended Data Fig. 7. Fractal dimension and relationships with stromal cells. a.**
959 Distribution of the average minimum Euclidean distance between a stromal cell to its
960 neighboring cancer cell. For every stromal cell in a tumor region slide, the minimum distance
961 to nearest cancer cell was computed. This distance was then averaged for all identified
962 stromal cells in every region to plot the distribution ($n = 275$ regions; 85 patients). **b.**
963 Distribution of the fractal dimension of the cancer-stroma cell interface for histology types
964 in the TRACERx cohort ($n = 275$ regions; 85 patients). **c.** Box plots to show the difference in
965 fractal dimension between immune hot and cold regions in TRACERx LUAD ($n = 113$) and
966 LUSC ($n = 84$). **d.** Box plots showing the difference in stromal cell percentage between
967 immune hot and cold regions in all ($n = 219$), LUAD ($n = 113$), and LUSC ($n = 84$). **e.** Scatter
968 plots showing the correlation between fractal dimension and percentage of cells that are
969 stromal or cancer in all tumor regions ($n = 275$ regions; 85 patients). This shows that fractal
970 dimension was independent of tumor cell composition, with only a weak correlation with
971 stromal cell percentage and no correlation with tumor cellularity. **f.** Box plots showing the
972 difference in fractal dimension between LUAD tumor regions harboring an LOH event for
973 HLA type A ($n = 106$), type B ($n = 113$), type C ($n = 108$) versus regions that do not, adjusted
974 for multiple comparisons with the corresponding test in Fig. 4c. **g.** The same test in **f**
975 repeated for LUSC tumor regions ($n = 87$) for HLA of any type. **h.** Box plots showing the
976 difference in tumor-level fractal dimension using the maximum value of regional measures
977 between LUAD tumors ($n = 48$) harboring a single LOH event for any HLA type, HLA type A,

978 type B and type C versus tumors that do not, independent of predicted clonal neoantigens.
979 Each p-value was generated using a multiple regression linear model and was also adjusted
980 for multiple testing correction. **i.** The same test in **h** repeated for LUSC tumors ($n = 29$) for
981 HLA of any type. For statistical comparisons among groups, a two-sided, non-parametric,
982 unpaired, Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used, unless stated otherwise.

983

984 **Extended Data Fig. 8. Relationship of immune subsets and spatial TILs in LUAD. a.**
985 Spearman's correlations between immune scores in diagnostic slides and genetic measures
986 including predicted neoantigens and HLALOH in LUAD patients ($n = 46$). ITLR: intra-tumor
987 lymphocytes to total tumor cell ratio. Only significant correlations after multiple testing are
988 highlighted ($\rho = 0.37$, $P = 0.035$). **b.** Examples of registered H&E and IHC tiles. The green
989 cross denotes a manually placed landmark repeated 238 times on pairs of H&E-IHC image
990 tiles. The Euclidean distance (difference in x, y coordinates) was computed between the two
991 landmarks which was then **c.** shown as a distribution to represent the accuracy of the
992 registration ($n = 249$ total H&E-IHC image tiles, maximum five landmarks per a pair of tiles).
993 The average distance between matching landmarks was $9.57\mu\text{m}$ and the distribution is
994 within the expected range of maximum distance between four serial sections ($16\mu\text{m}$). **d.** Box
995 plots to illustrate the difference in percentage of immune cell subsets among adjacent, intra
996 and distal-tumor lymphocytes ($n = 20$ image tiles), a non-parametric, paired Wilcoxon test
997 was used.

998

999 **Extended Data Fig. 9. Summary of immune and genomics features in NSCLC.** An extended
1000 heatmap showing all immune variables described in TRACERx across all patients ($n = 275$
1001 regions; 85 patients), along with genetic measures and clinical parameters. Each column
1002 represents a tumor, grouped by their histologic subtype. Tumor regions (illustrated as dots)
1003 were assigned to immune hot, immune cold and intermediate phenotypes based on
1004 percentage of lymphocytes in all cells following H&E-based deep learning analysis. Cancer-
1005 stromal fractal dimension, defined using the maximum fractal dimension in regions of a
1006 patient, using the median as cut-off to determine high and low groups.

1007

1008 **Methods and Extended Data References**

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1140 **Geospatial immune variability illuminates differential evolution of**
1141 **lung adenocarcinoma**
1142
1143
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1156 Christopher Abbosh (18), Yin Wu (18), Marcin Skrzypski (18), Robert E Hynds (18), Andrew
1157 Georgiou (18), Mariana Werner Sunderland (18), James L Reading (18), Karl S Peggs (18),
1158 John A Hartley (18), Pat Gorman (18), Helen L Lowe (18), Leah Ensell (18), Victoria Spanswick
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1160 Ariana Huebner (18), Michelle Dietzen (18), Cristina Naceur-Lombardelli (18), Mita Afroza
1161 Akther (18), Haoran Zhai (18), Nnennaya Kannu (18), Elizabeth Manzano (18), Supreet Kaur
1162 Bola (18), Ehsan Ghorani (18), Marc Robert de Massy (18), Elena Hoxha (18), Emine
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1167 Schmid (22), Louise Lim (22), John Conibear (22), Roland Schwarz (23,24,25), Jonathan
1168 Tugwood (26), Jackie Pierce (26), Caroline Dive (26,27), Ged Brady (26,27), Dominic G
1169 Rothwell (26,27), Francesca Chemi (26,27), Elaine Kilgour (26,27), Fiona Blackhall (27,30),
1170 Lynsey Priest (27,30), Matthew G Krebs (27,30), Philip Crosbie (27,51,52), Apostolos Nakas
1171 (28), Sridhar Rathinam (28), Louise Nelson (28), Kim Ryanna (28), Mohamad Tuffail (28),
1172 Amrita Bajaj (28), Jan Brozik (28), Fiona Morgan (29), Malgorzata Kornaszewska (29), Richard
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1193 Ahmad (47), Siow Ming Lee (47), Javier Herrero (47), Dawn Carnell (47), Ruheena Mendes
1194 (47), Jeremy George (47), Neal Navani (47), Marco Scarci (47), Elisa Bertoja (47), Robert CM
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1196 (47), Babu Naidu (48), Gerald Langman (48), Andrew Robinson (48), Hollie Bancroft (48),
1197 Amy Kerr (48), Salma Kadiri (48), Charlotte Ferris (48), Gary Middleton (48), Madava
1198 Djearaman (48), Akshay Patel (48), Christian Ottensmeier (49), Serena Chee (49), Benjamin
1199 Johnson (49), Aiman Alzetani (49), Emily Shaw (49), Jason Lester (50), Yvonne Summers (51),
1200 Raffaele Califano (51), Paul Taylor (51), Rajesh Shah (51), Piotr Krysiak (51), Kendadai
1201 Rammohan (51), Eustace Fontaine (51), Richard Booton (51), Matthew Evison (51), Stuart
1202 Moss (51), Juliette Novasio (51), Leena Joseph (51), Paul Bishop (51), Anshuman Chaturvedi
1203 (51), Helen Doran (51), Felice Granato (51), Vijay Joshi (51), Elaine Smith (51), Angeles
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1205

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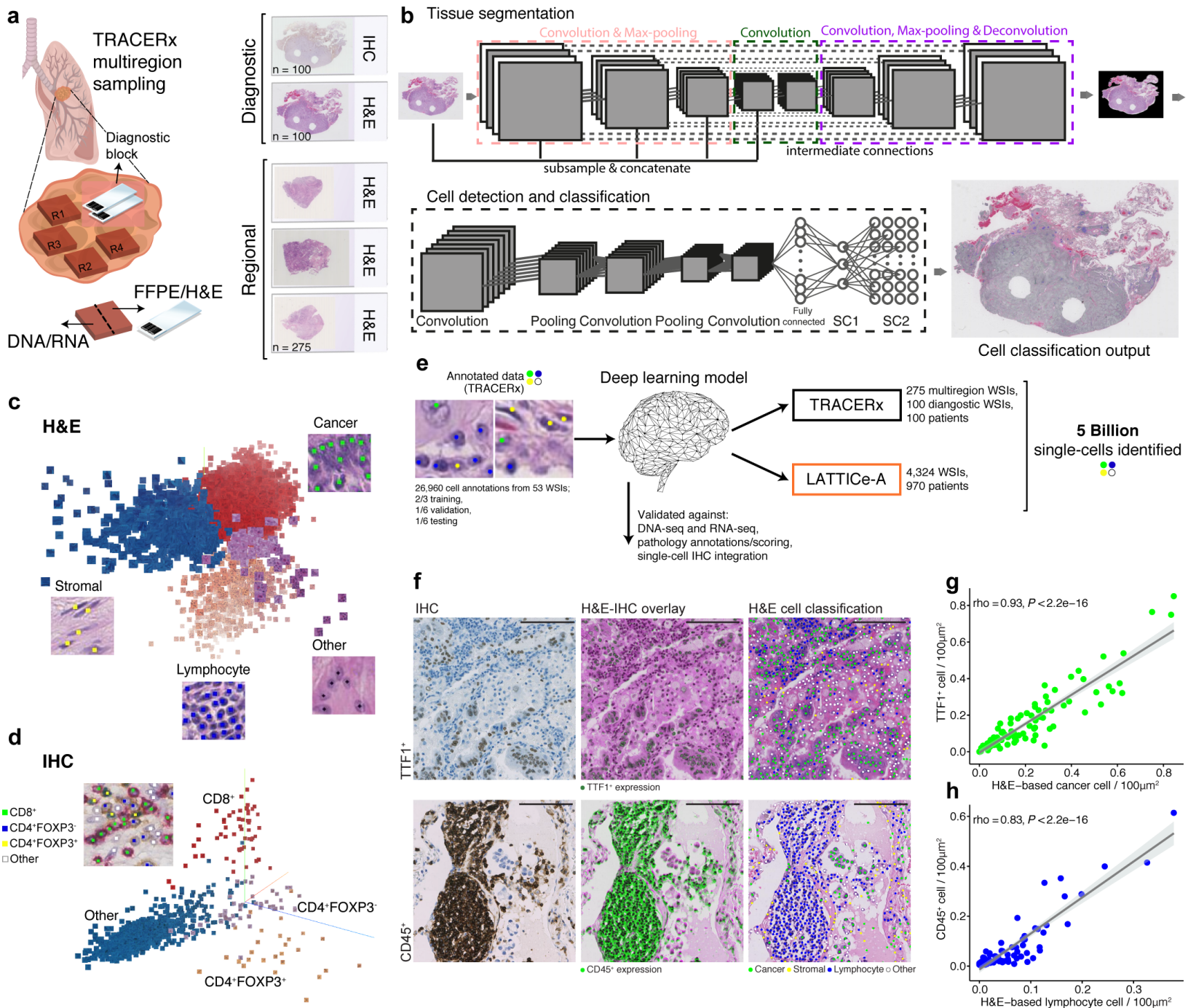
1216 (8) Department of Pathology, GZA-ZNA-Ziekenhuizen, Antwerp, Belgium

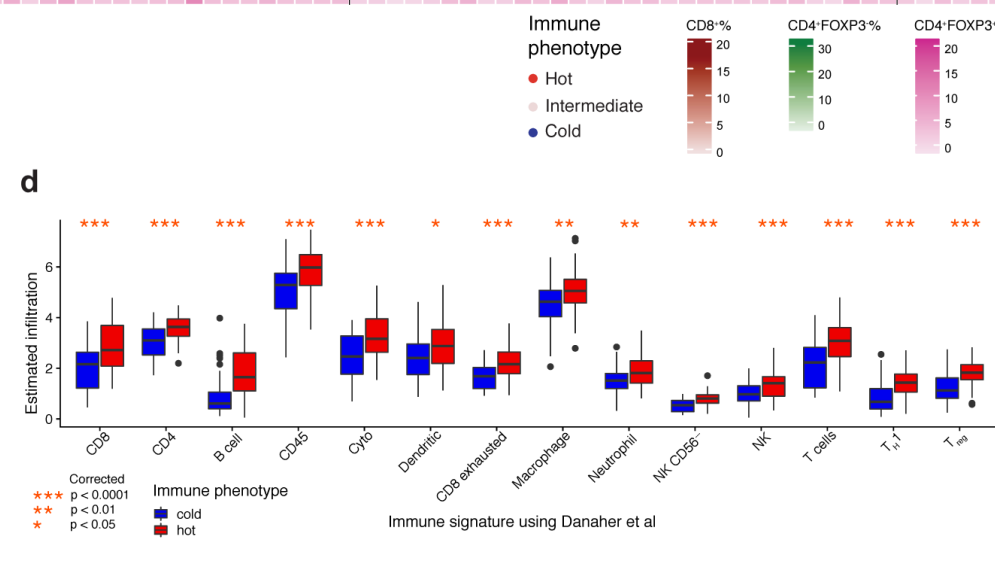
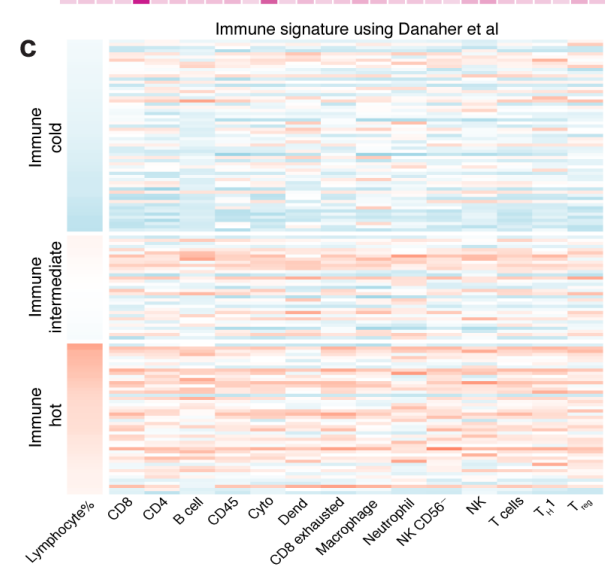
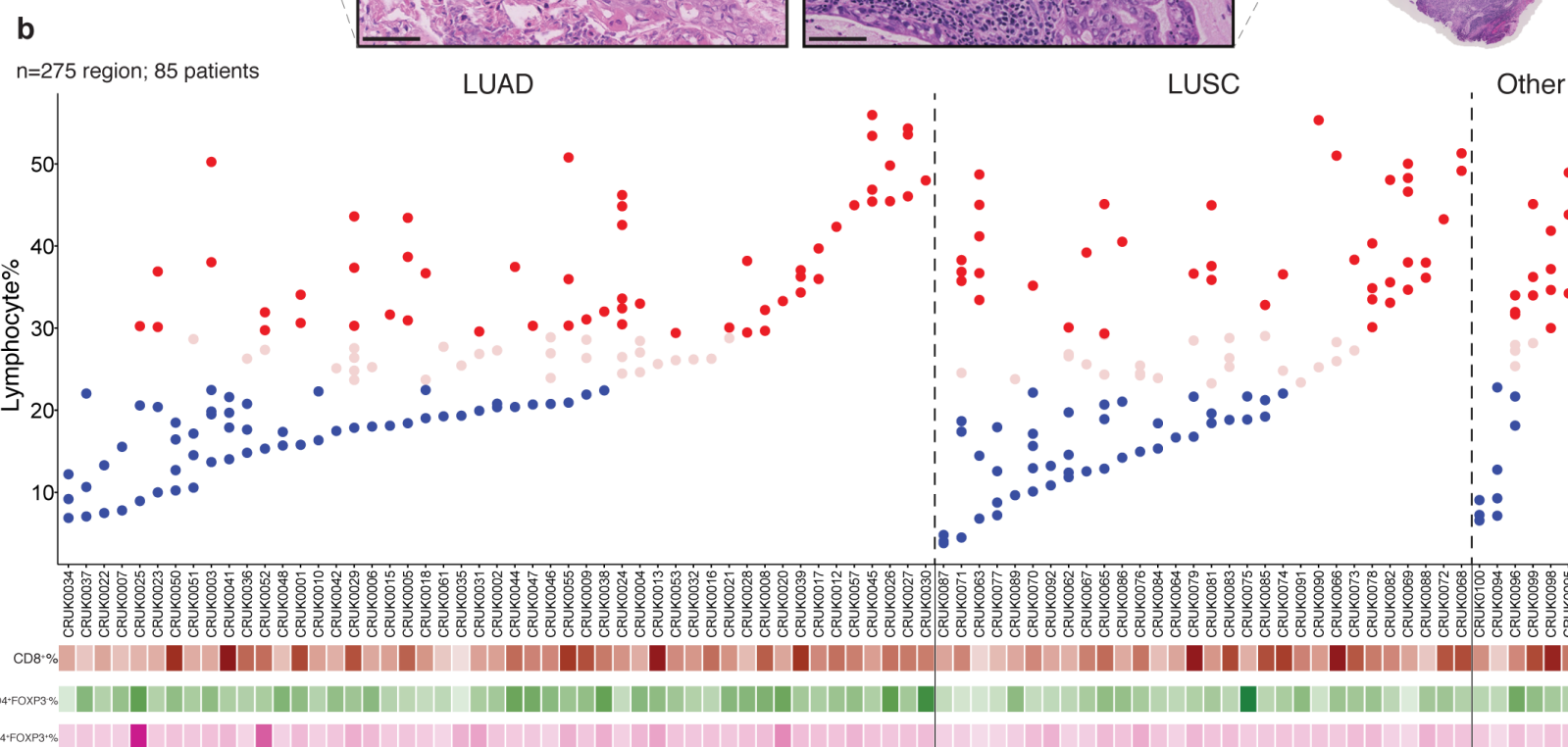
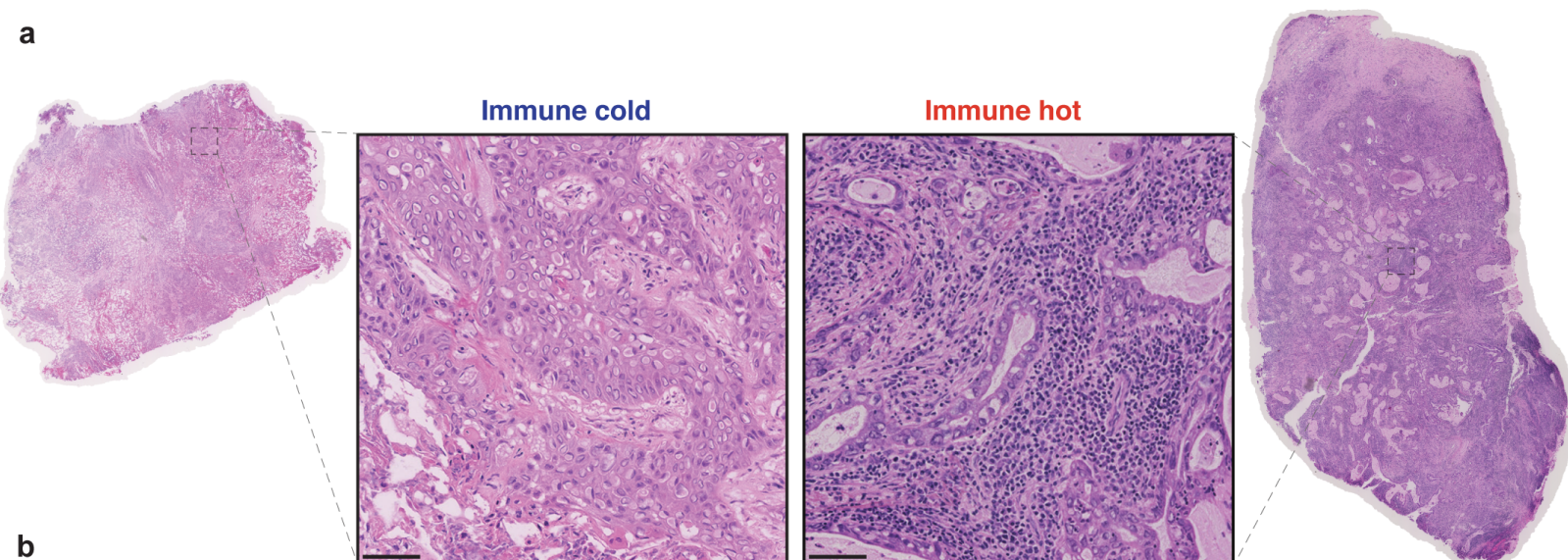
1217 (9) Division of Research, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, University of Melbourne, Melbourne,
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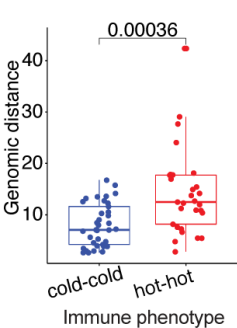
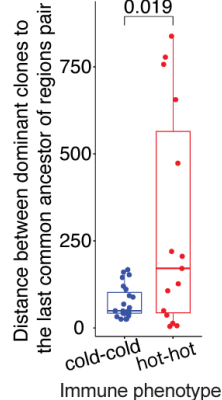
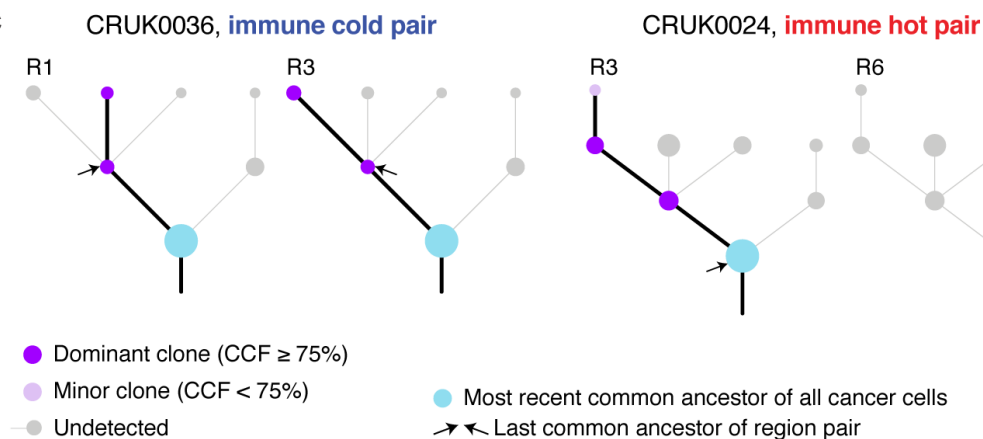
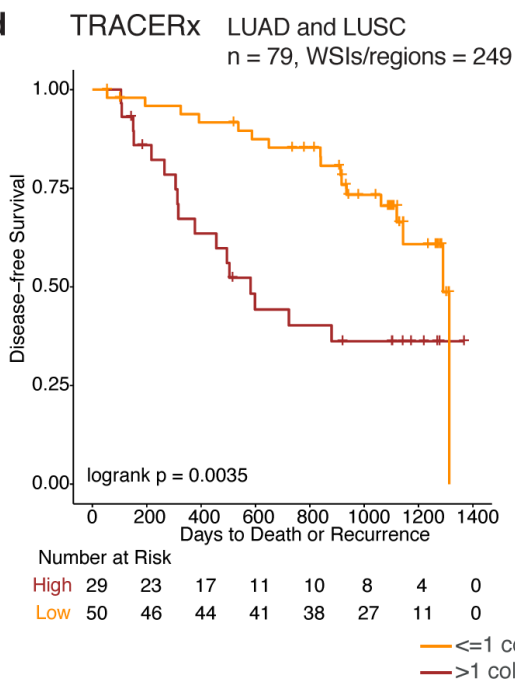
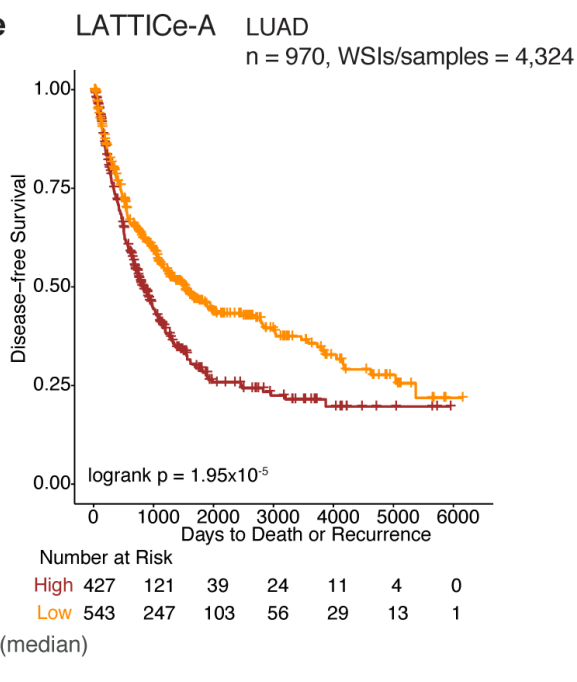
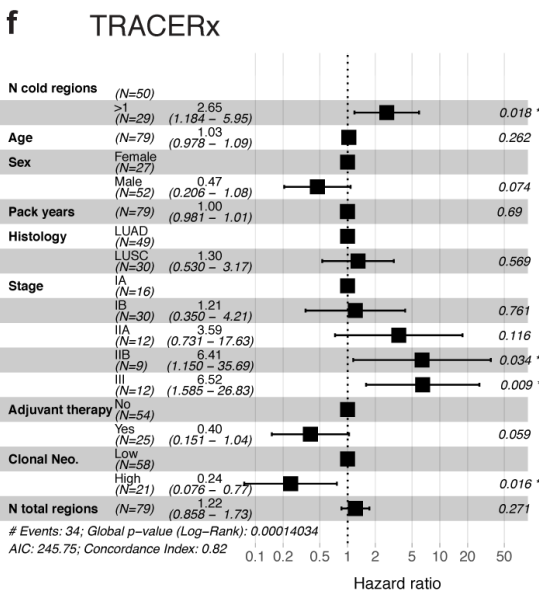
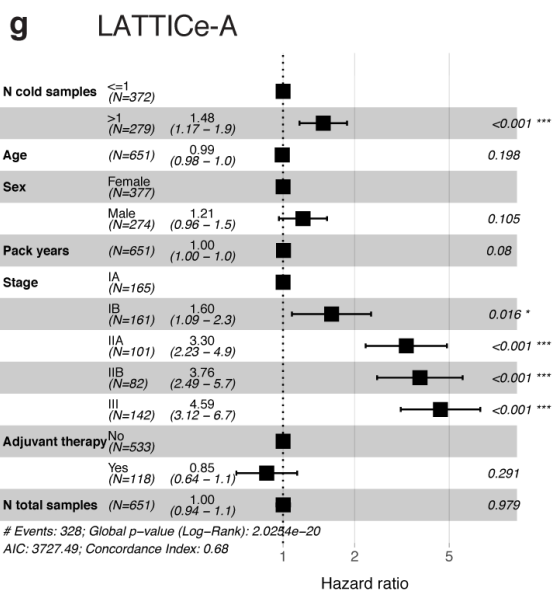
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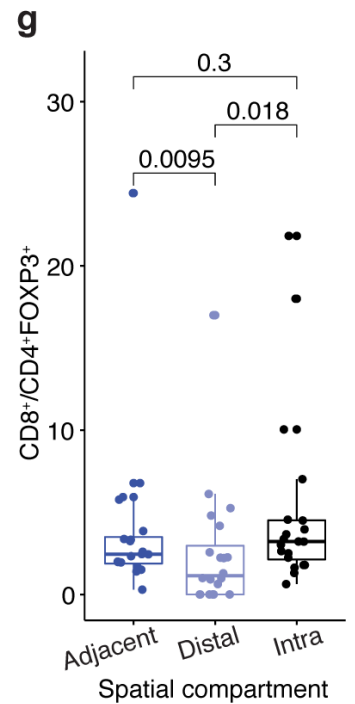
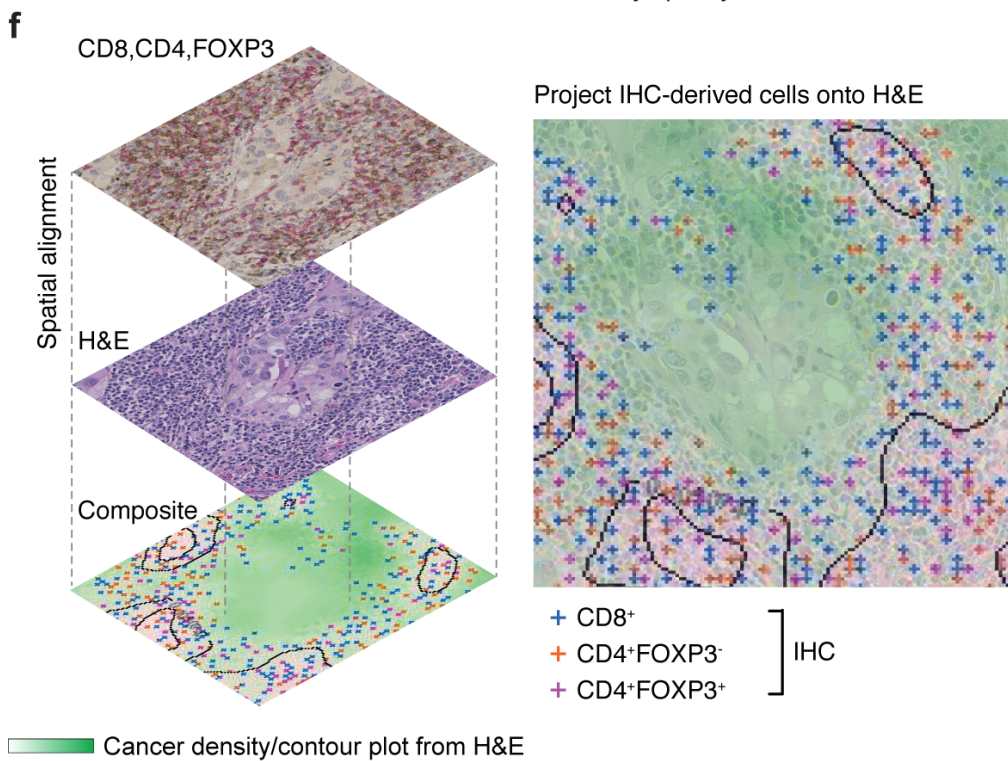
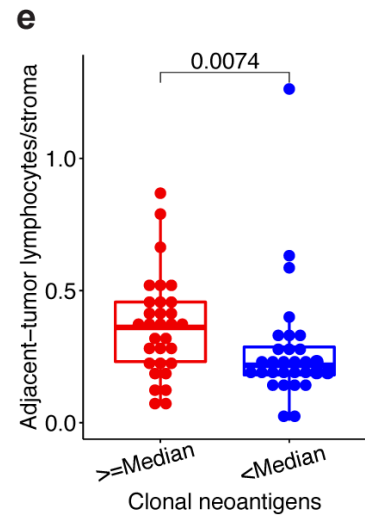
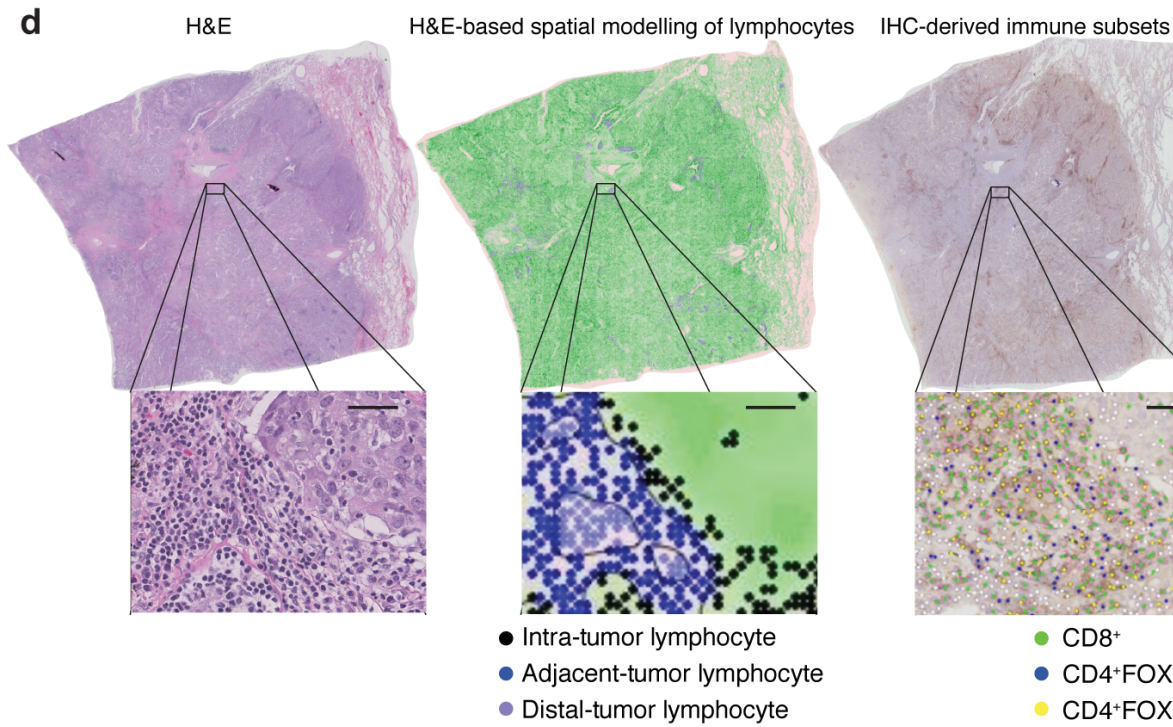
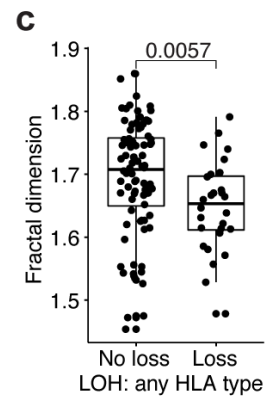
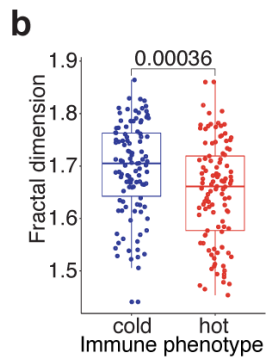
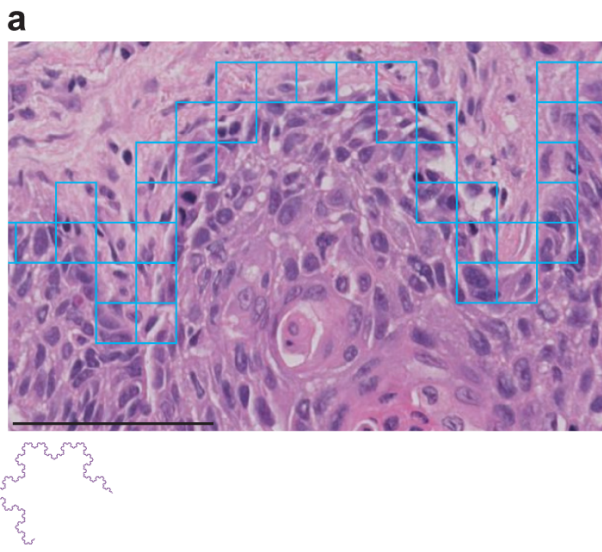
- 1220 (11) Leicester Cancer Research Centre, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK
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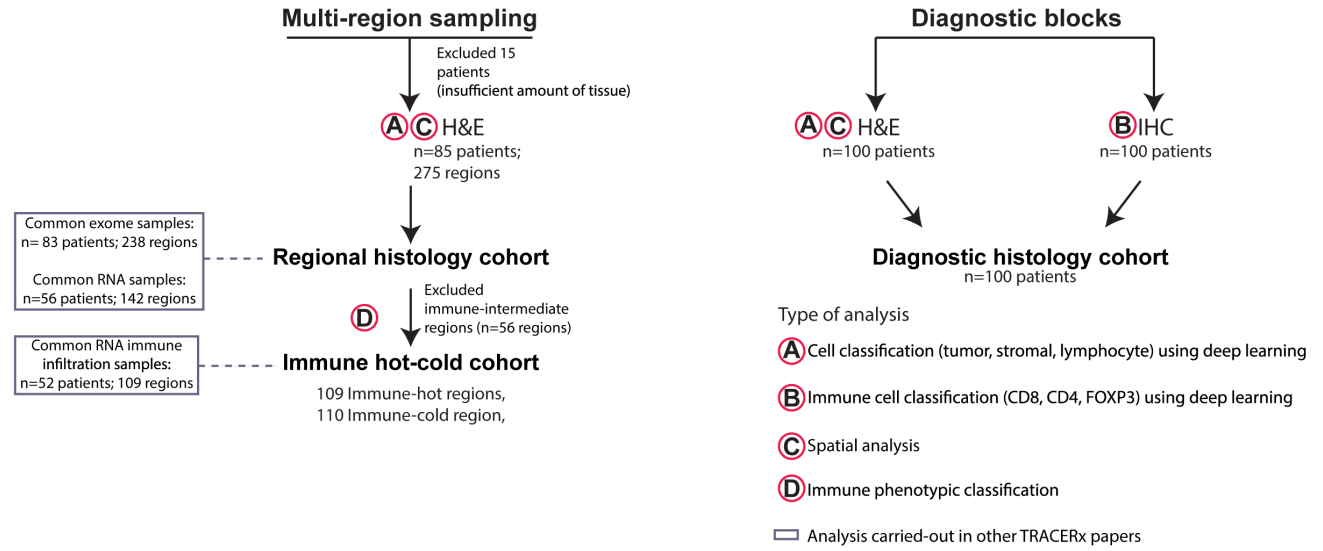
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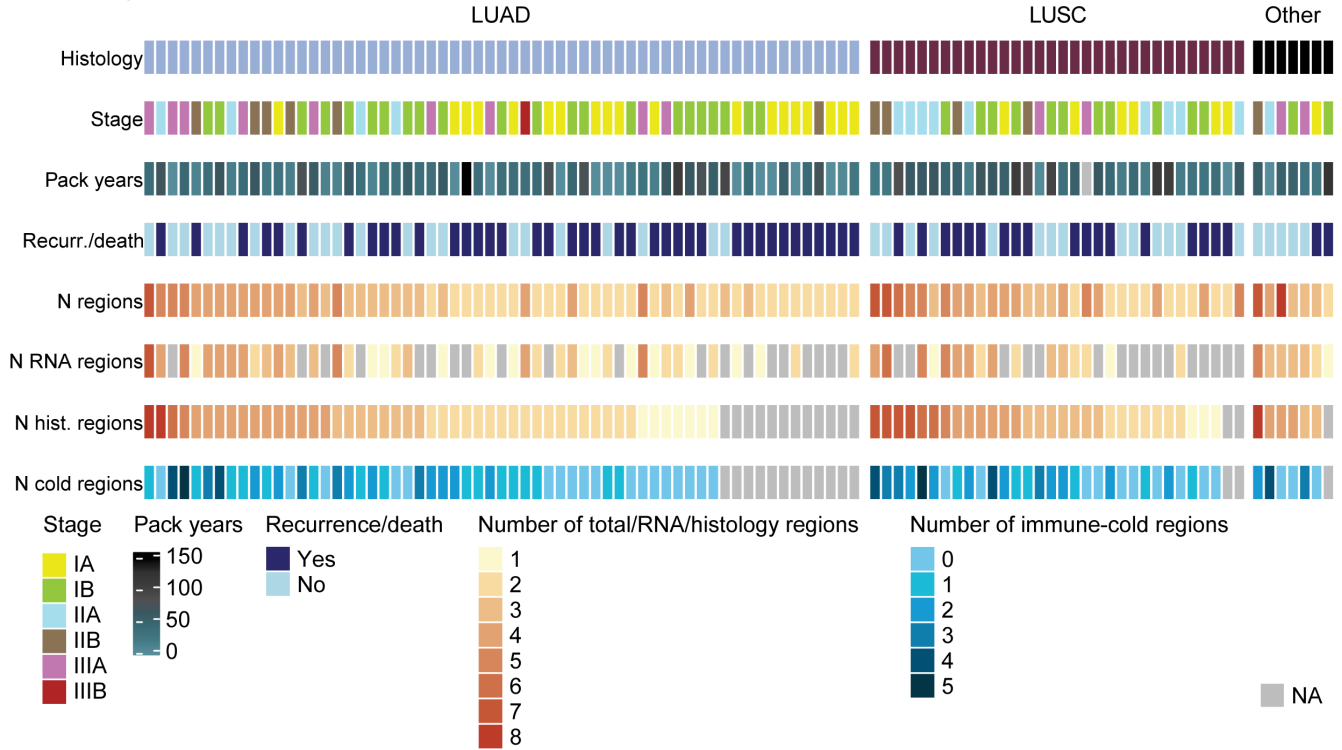
a TRACERx histology CONSORT diagram

TRACERx 100 patient cohort [2017, Jamal-Hanjani]

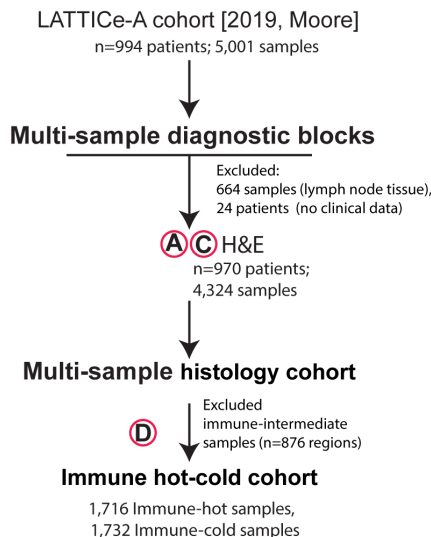
n=100 patients; 303 regions



b TRACERx patient characteristics

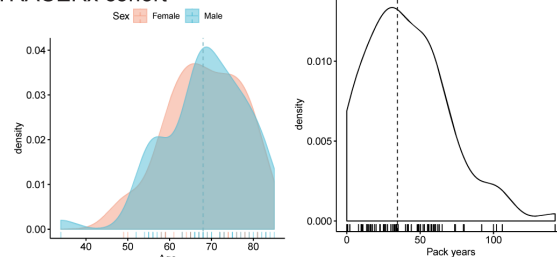


c Validation CONSORT diagram

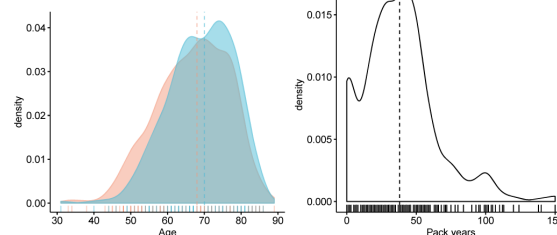


d Demographic and clinical overview

TRACERx cohort

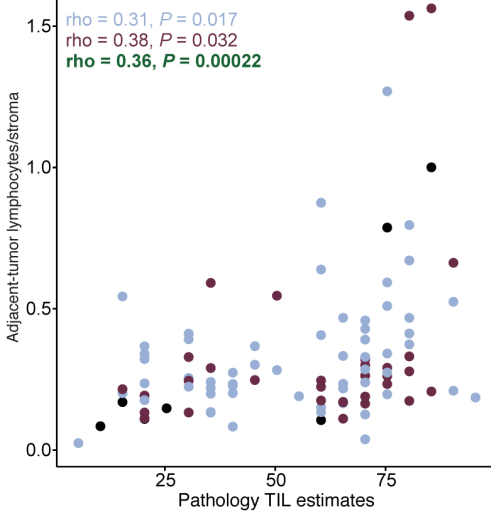


LATTICE-A cohort

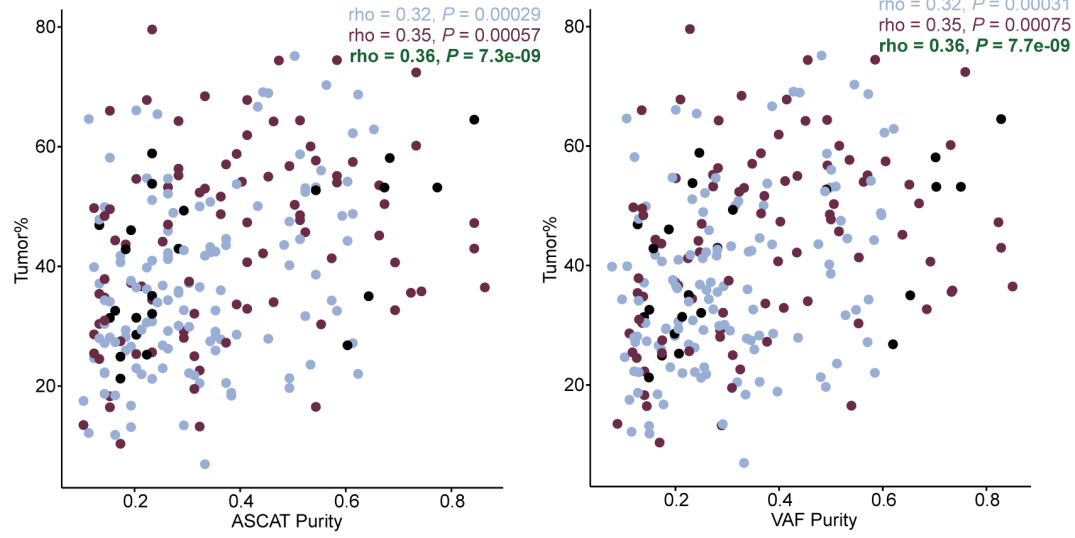


● LUAD
 ● LUSC
 ● Other — All

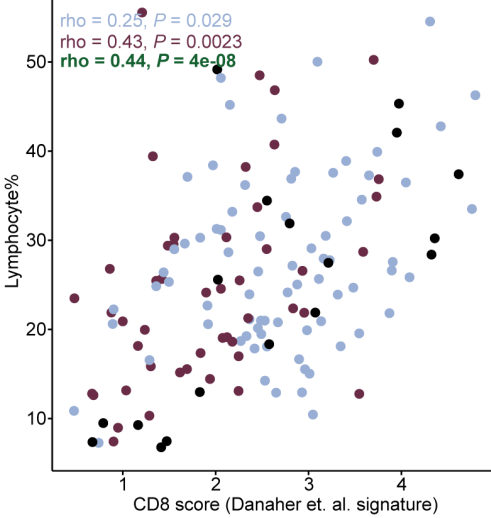
a TRACERx, diagnostic samples (n=98)



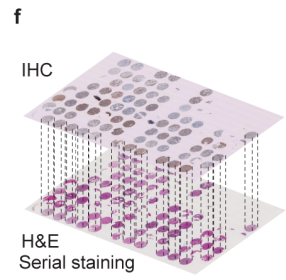
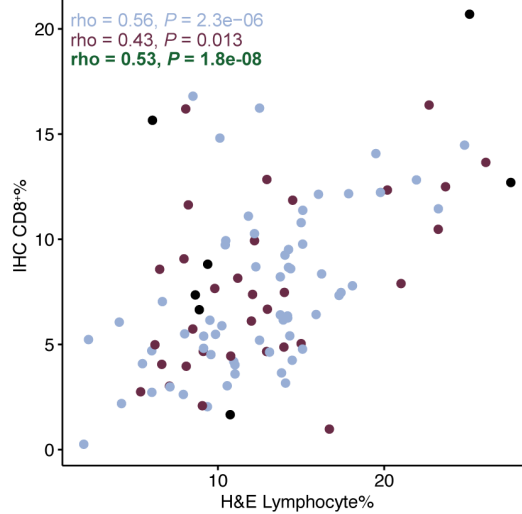
b TRACERx, regional histology and CNA samples (n=238)



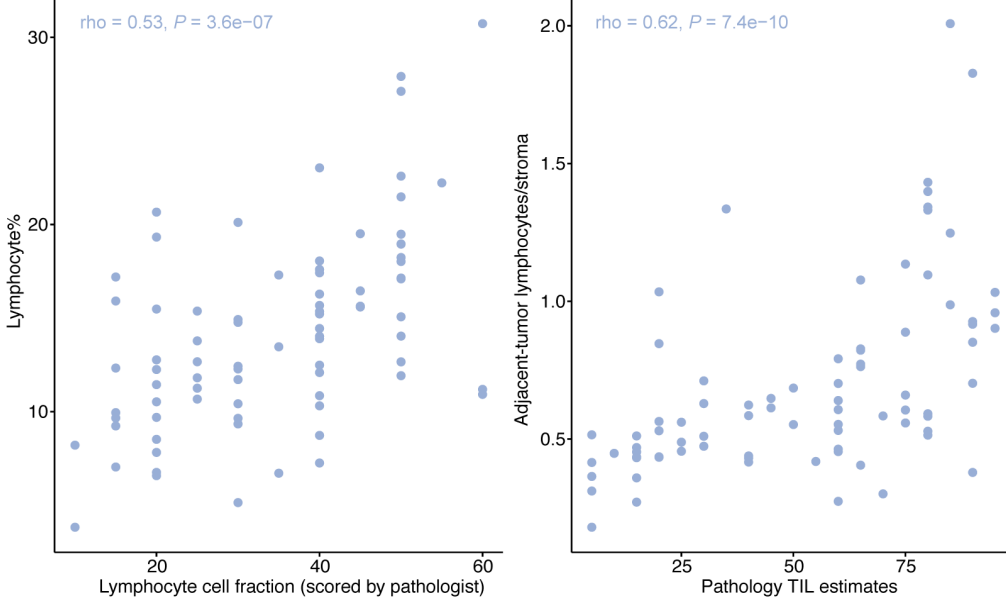
c TRACERx, regional histology and RNA-seq samples (n=142)



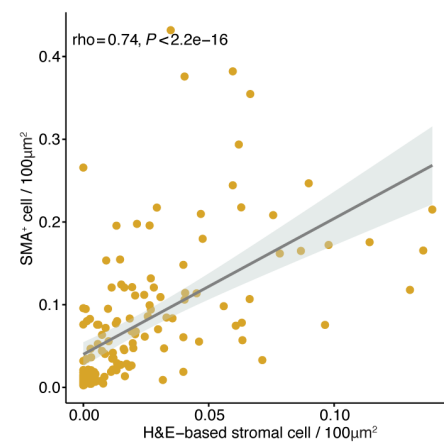
d TRACERx, diagnostic samples (n=100)

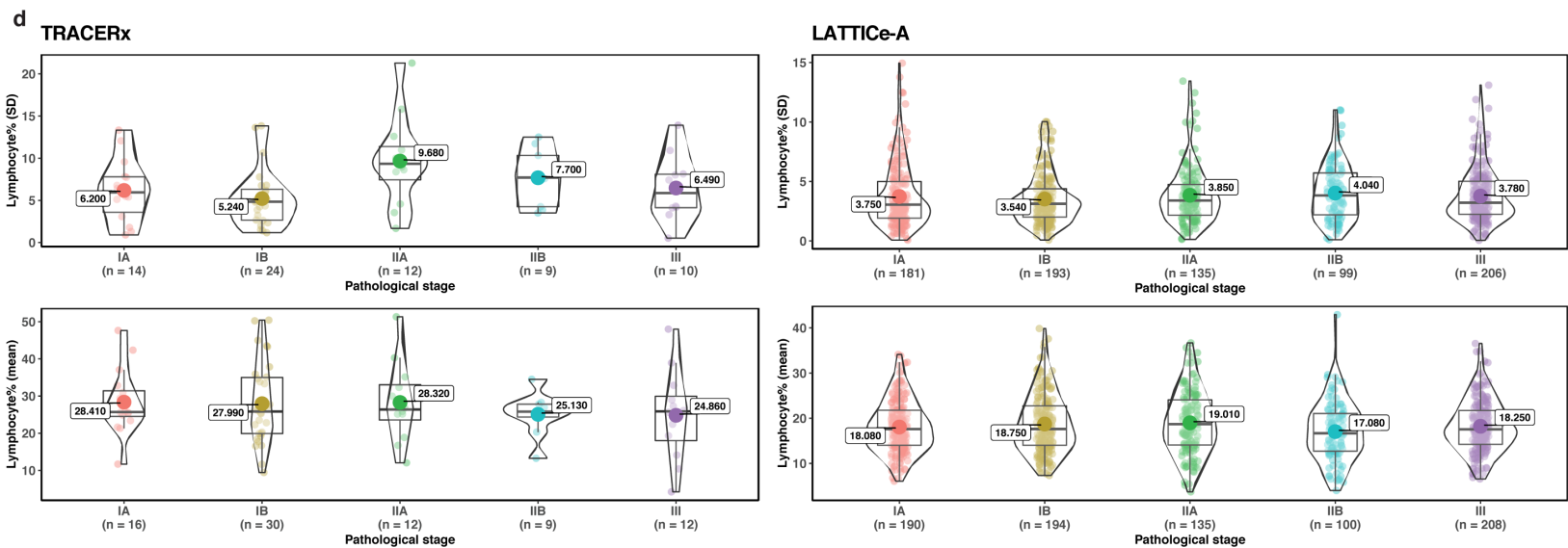
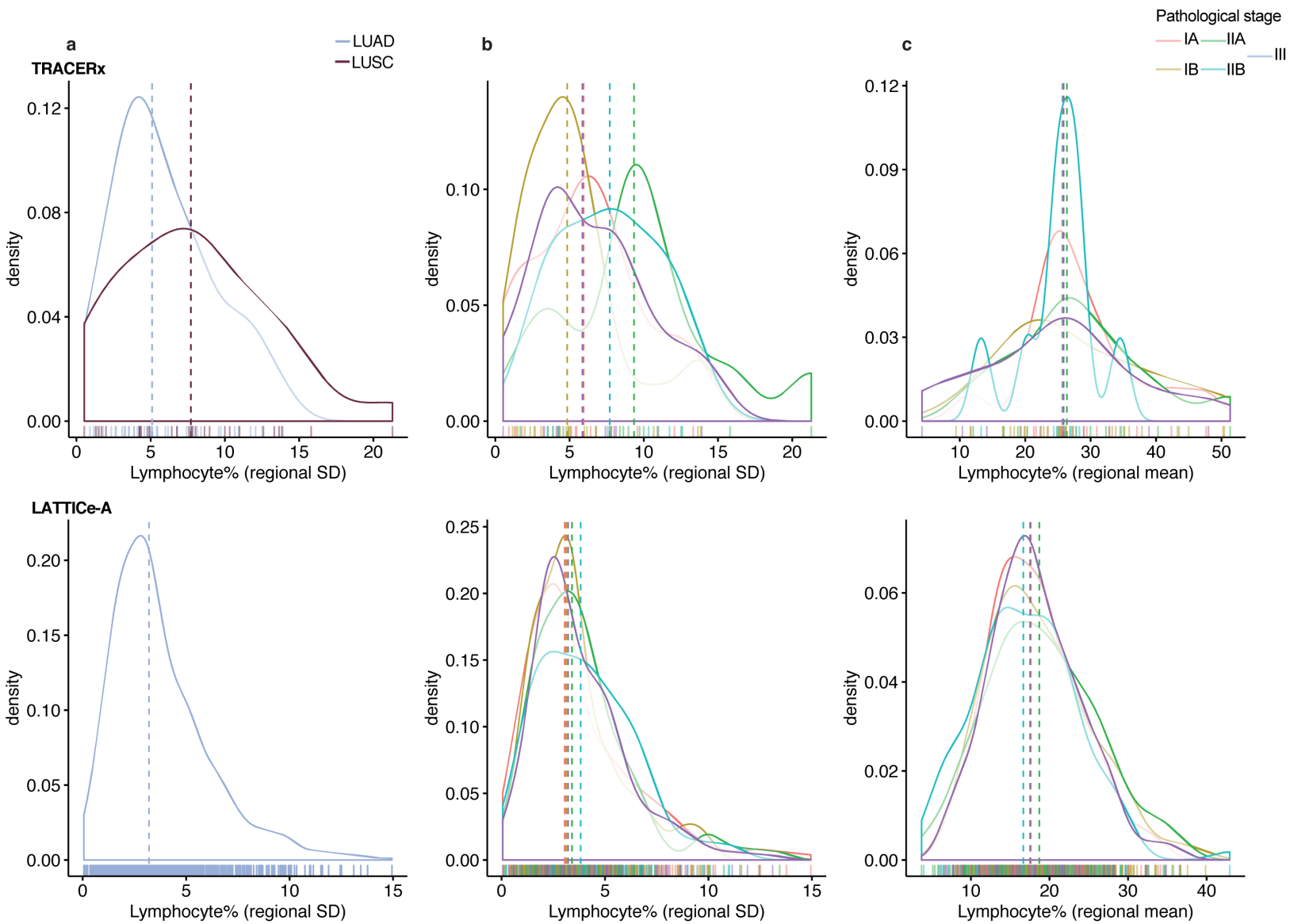


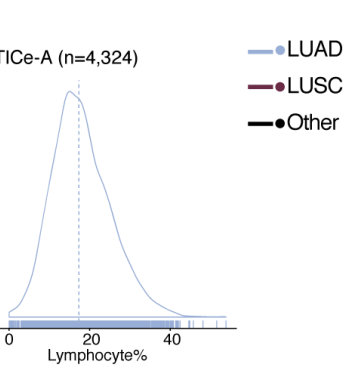
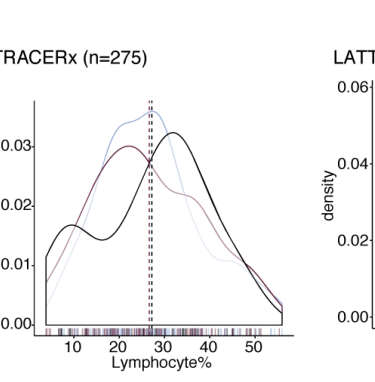
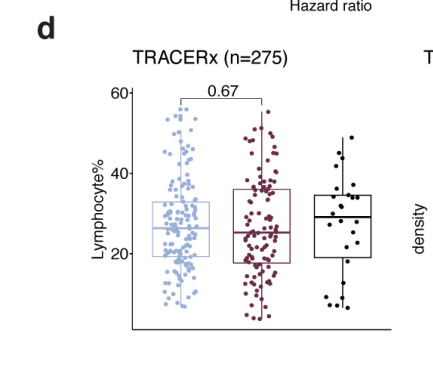
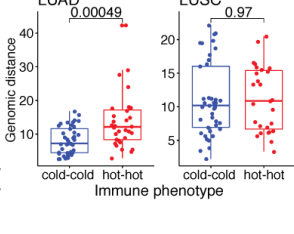
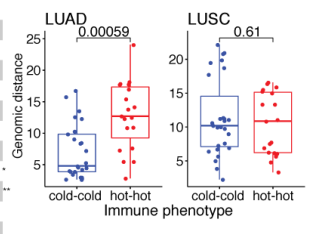
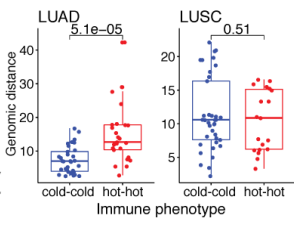
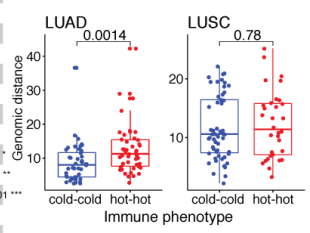
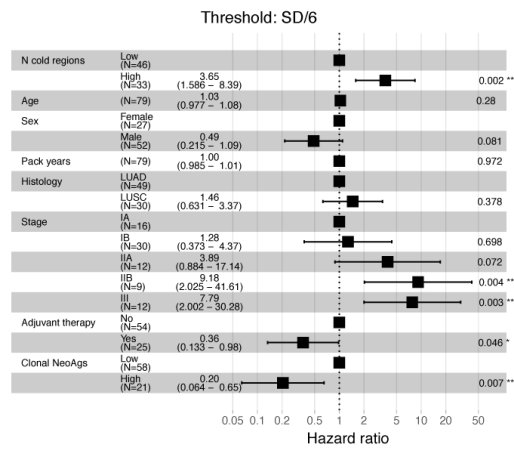
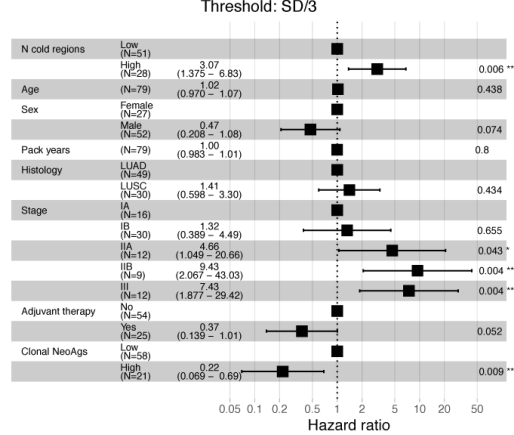
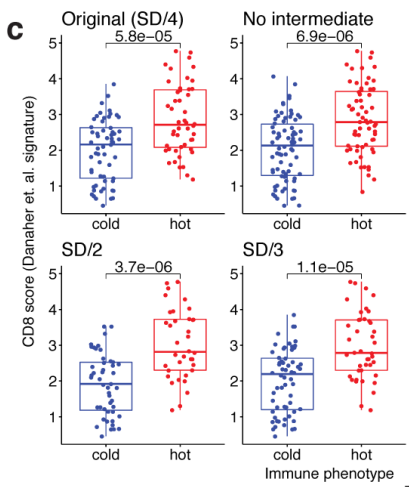
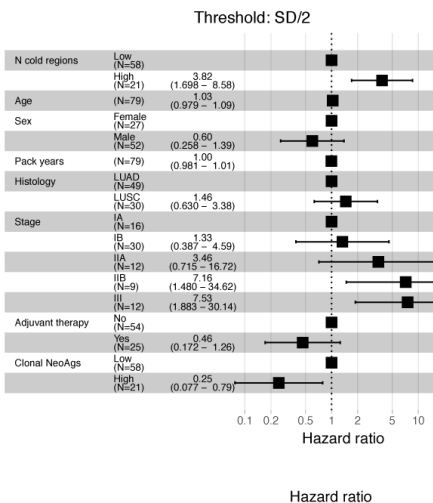
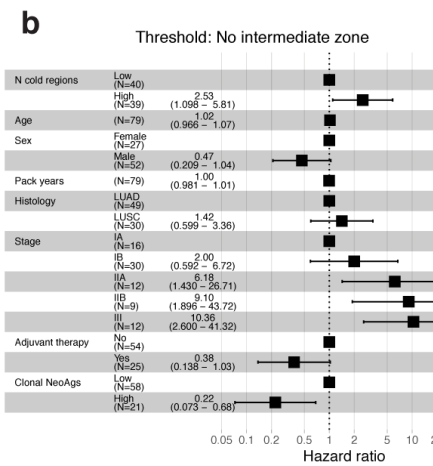
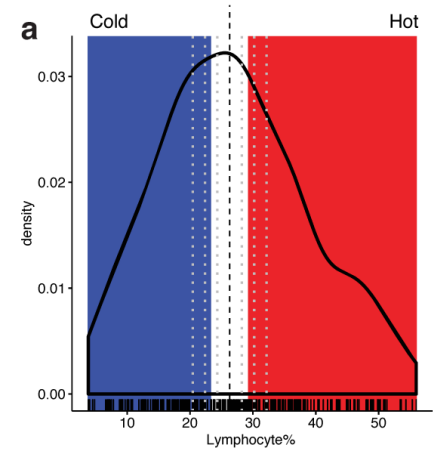
e LATTICE-A, diagnostic samples (n=80)



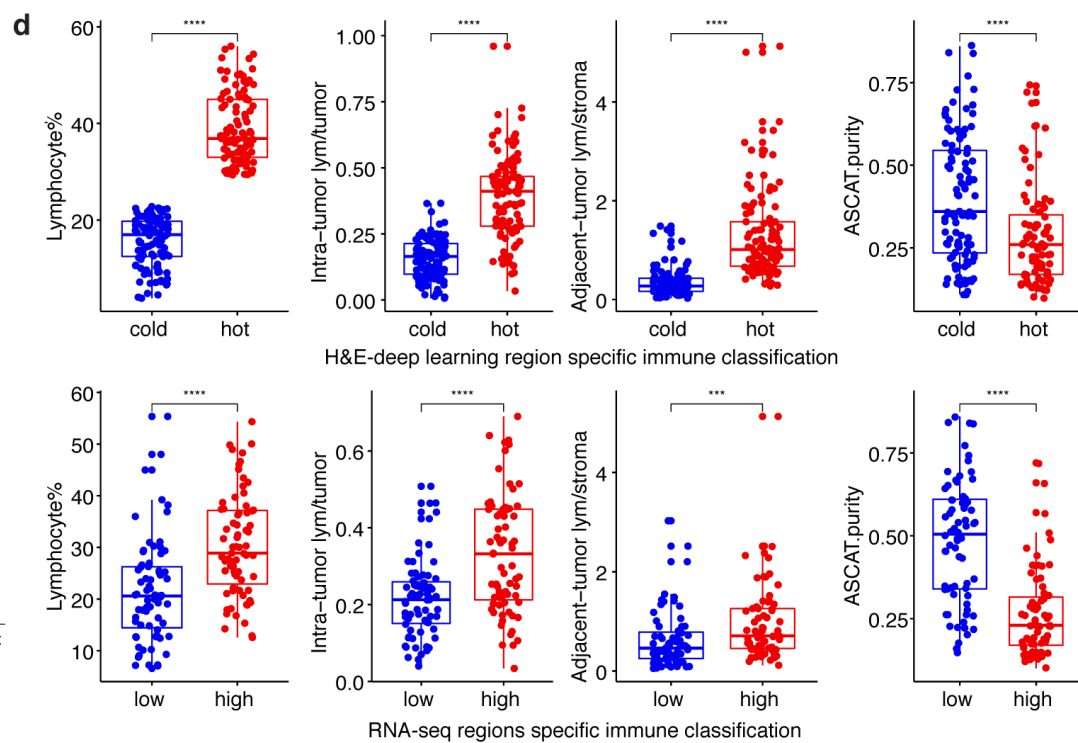
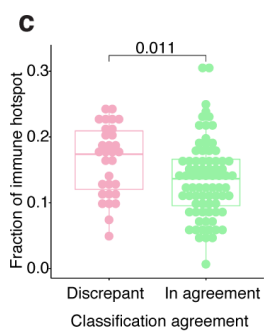
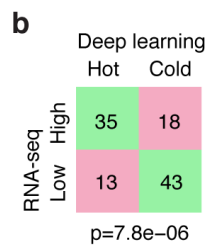
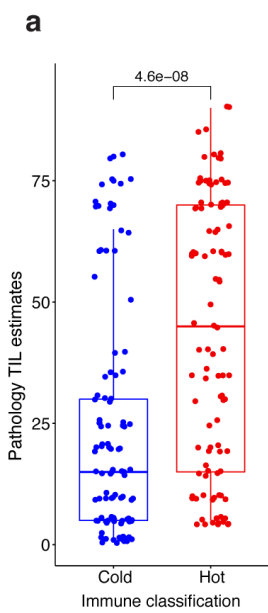
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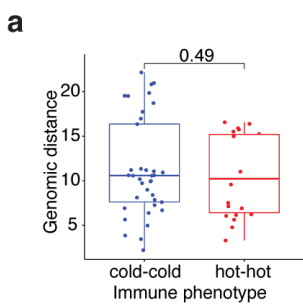




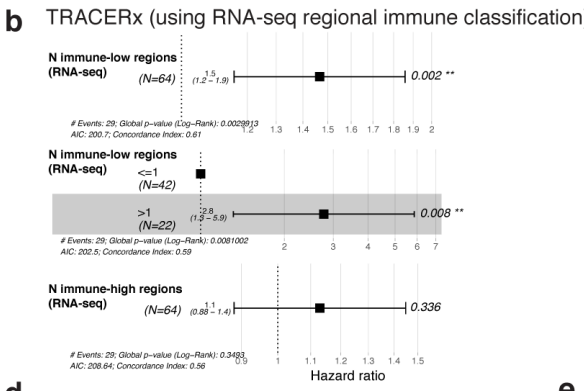
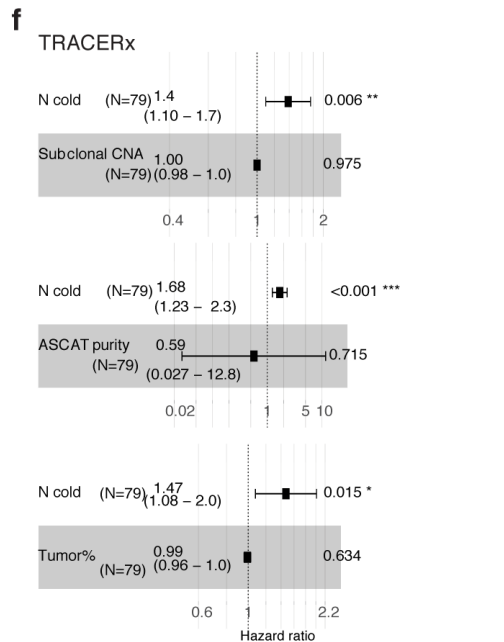
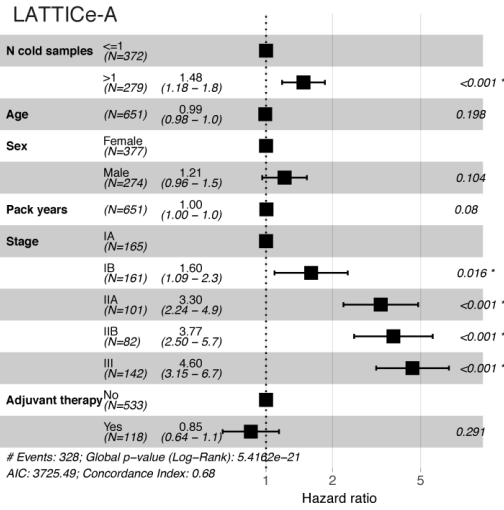
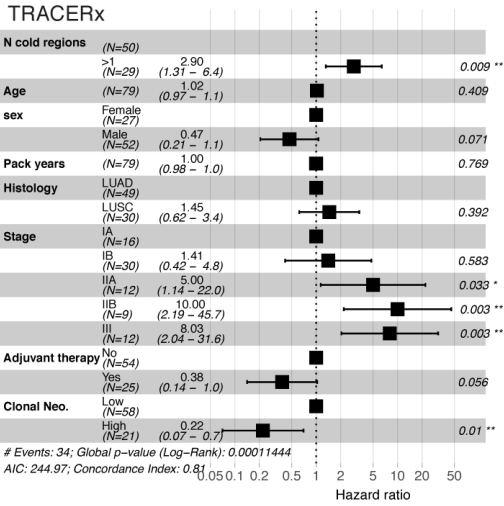


—●— LUAD
—●— LUSC
—●— Other

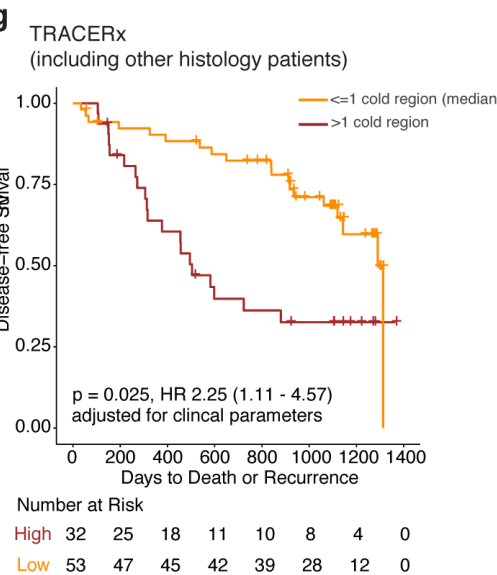
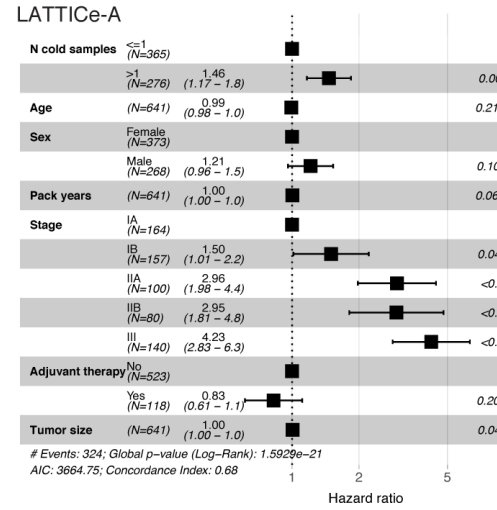
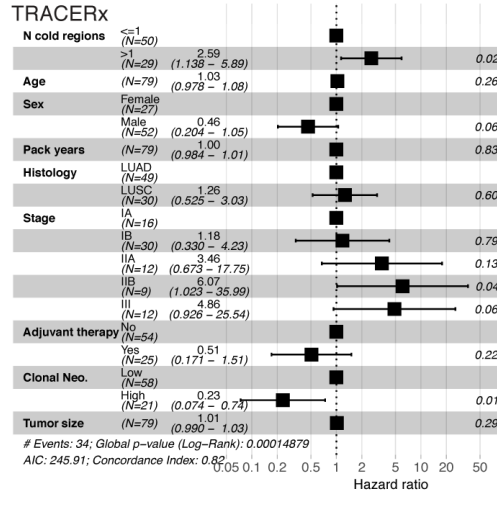




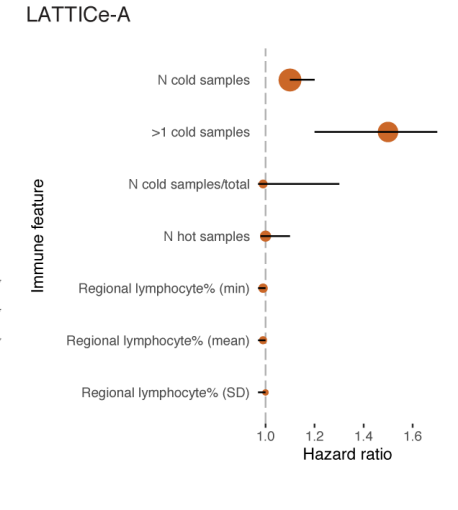
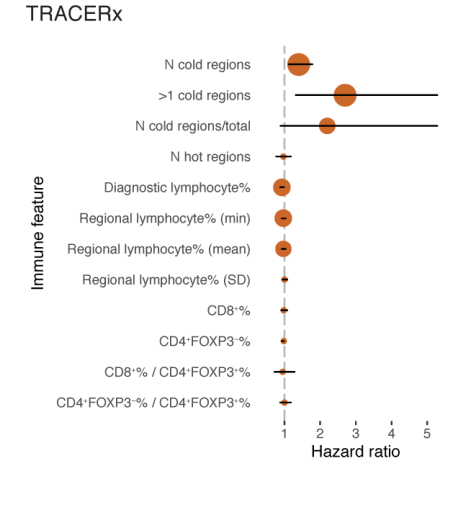
c
Multivariate analysis



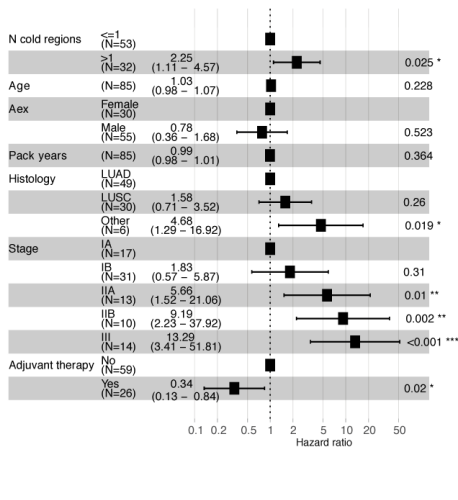
d
Multivariate analysis (including tumor size)

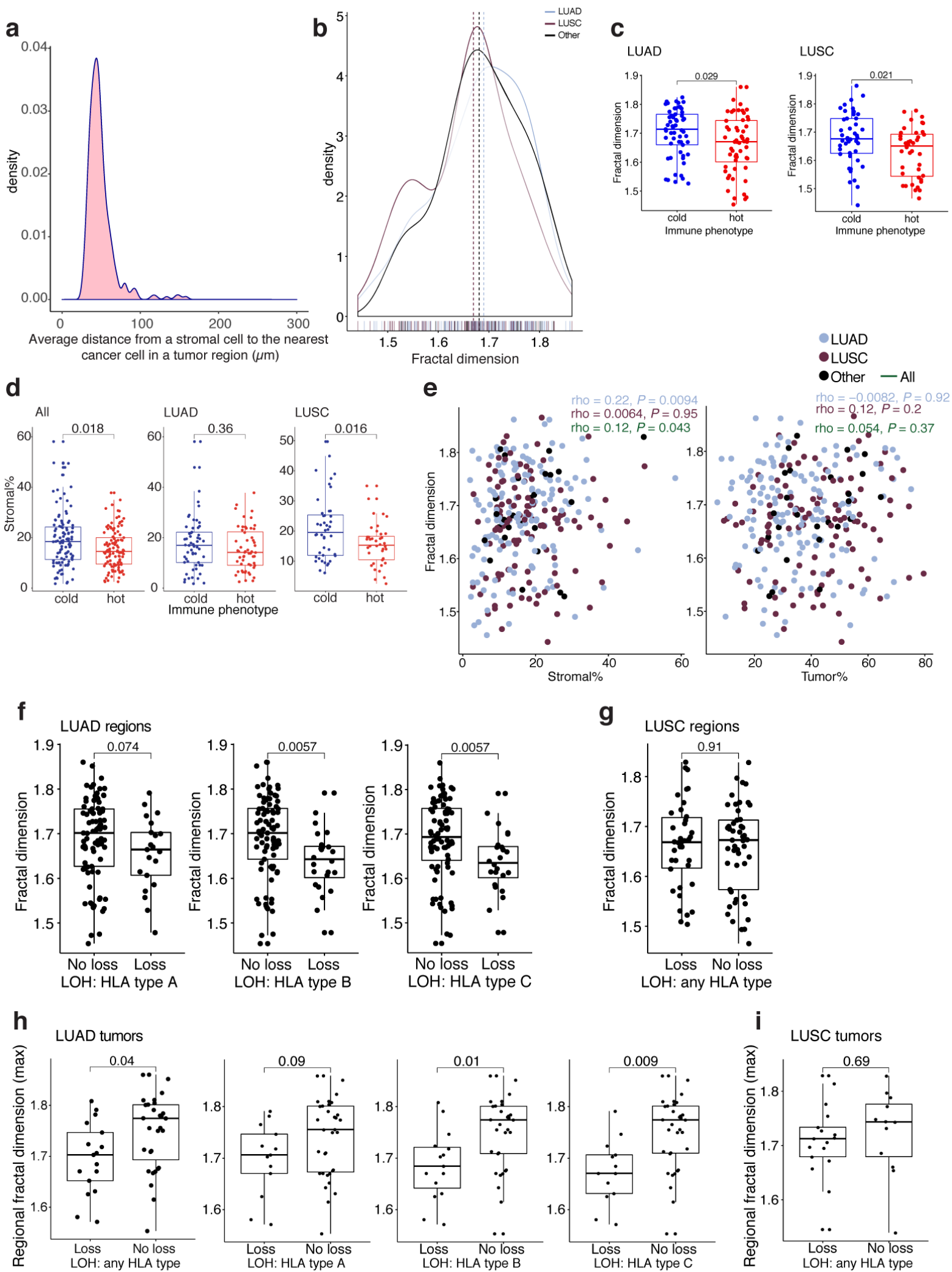


e
TRACERx



h
TRACERx (including other histology patients)





a

CD8 ⁺ /CD4 ⁺ FOXP3 ⁺					
CD8 ⁺ %	0.13				0.11
CD4 ⁺ FOXP3 ⁺ %		-0.17			
ITLR	0.19	0.16		0.19	0.22
Adjacent tumor lym/stroma	0.37*	0.19		0.15	
Lymphocyte%	0.3	0.2	0.16	0.13	0.16
	Clonal neo.	Subclonal neo.	HLA/LOH-A	HLA/LOH-B	HLA/LOH-C

