

Summer 8-10-2022

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Recommended Citation

Muirhead, Jordan N.; Sagar, Satish; Rajesh, Christabelle; Black, Adrian; and Radhakrishnan, Prakash, "Effect of MUC16 Blockade using the Humanized AR9.6 Antibody in Patient Derived Organoid Models of PDAC" (2022). *Posters: 2022 Summer Undergraduate Research Program*. 37.
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Effect of MUC16 Blockade Using the Humanized AR9.6 Antibody in Patient-Derived Organoid Models of PDAC

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Background

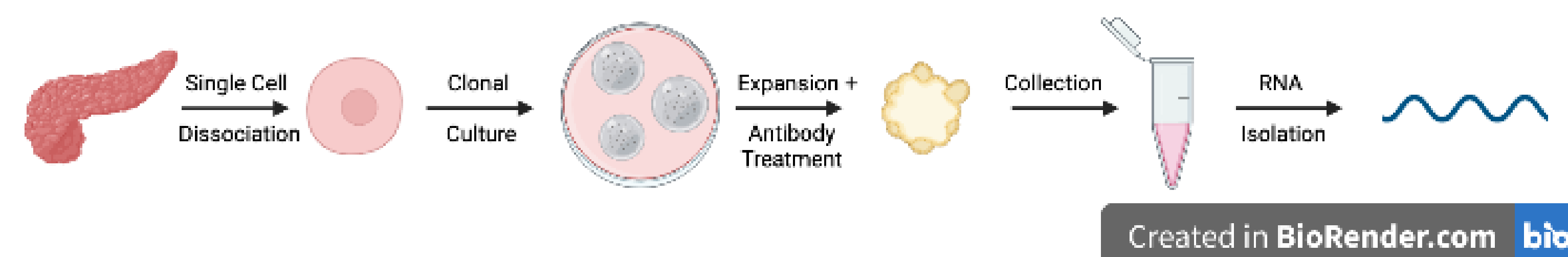
Pancreatic cancer is an aggressive malignancy, 90% of which is accounted for by Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). As of 2022, PDAC accounts for 3.2% of new cancer cases and 8.2% of all cancer related deaths, owing to its poor overall survival of a mere 11.5% [1]. Patients with PDAC often present at a late-stage of disease progression, thereby increasing the need for effective standard of care, which is met with issues of therapeutic resistance. Mutations in the *KRAS* oncogene is a salient feature of PDAC that acts partly by increasing the expression of pro-tumoral proteins such as Mucin-16 (MUC-16) [2]. MUC16, a heavily glycosylated transmembrane protein is overexpressed in more than 65% of PDAC cases and is absent in the normal pancreas, making it a suitable biomarker for PDAC [3]. Our research focusses on the development of the humanized, monoclonal antibody AR9.6 (HuAR9.6) [4] that targets MUC16 and its application in clinically relevant patient-derived PDAC organoids.

Objective

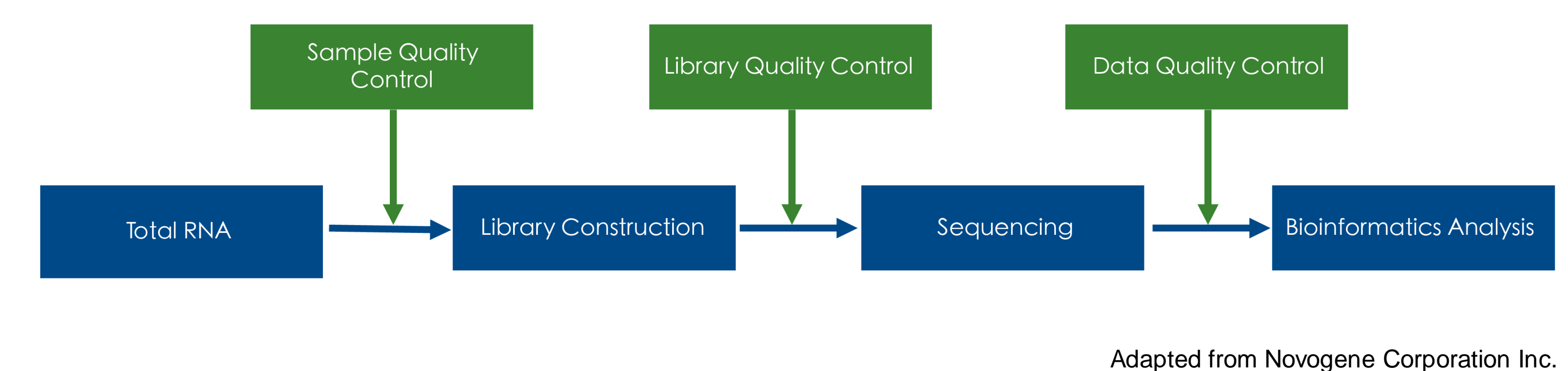
Evaluate the MUC16 mediated transcriptomic changes by using the humanized AR9.6 antibody in patient-derived organoid models of PDAC.

Methods

Development of Primary PDAC Organoids from RAP #142 [5]

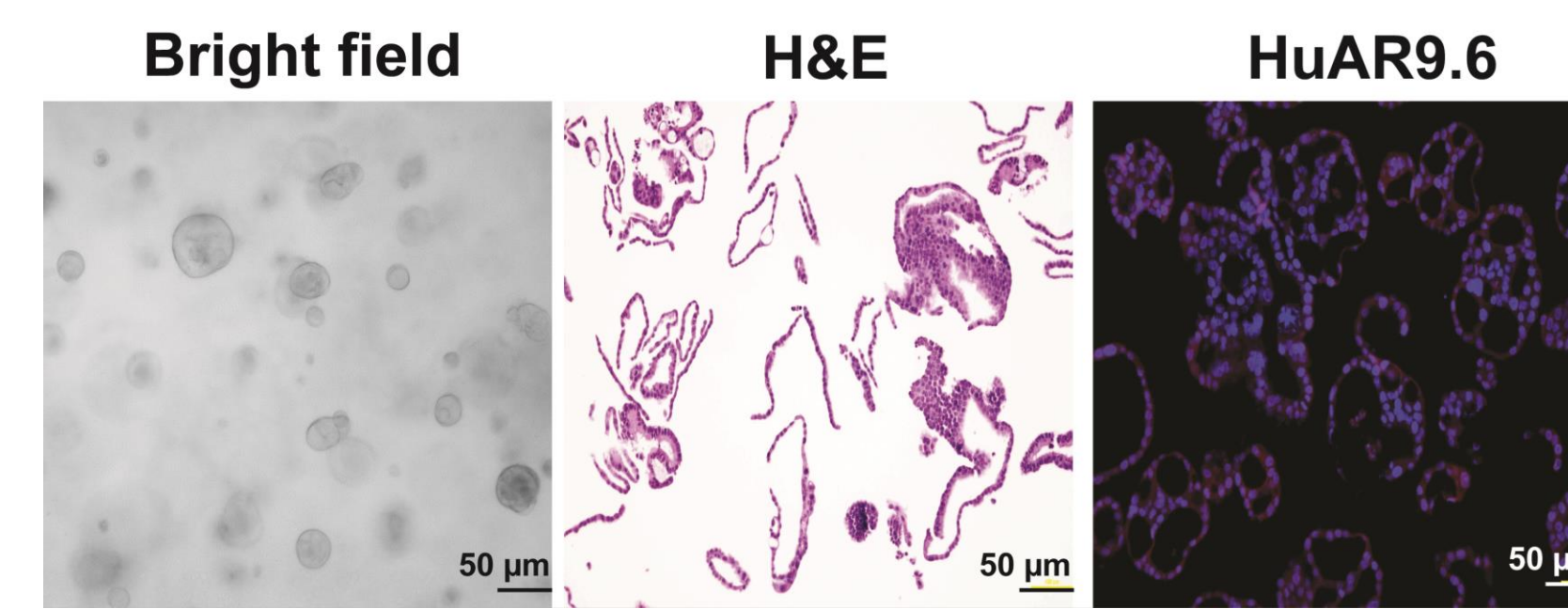


RNA Sequencing and Bioinformatic Analysis by Novogene

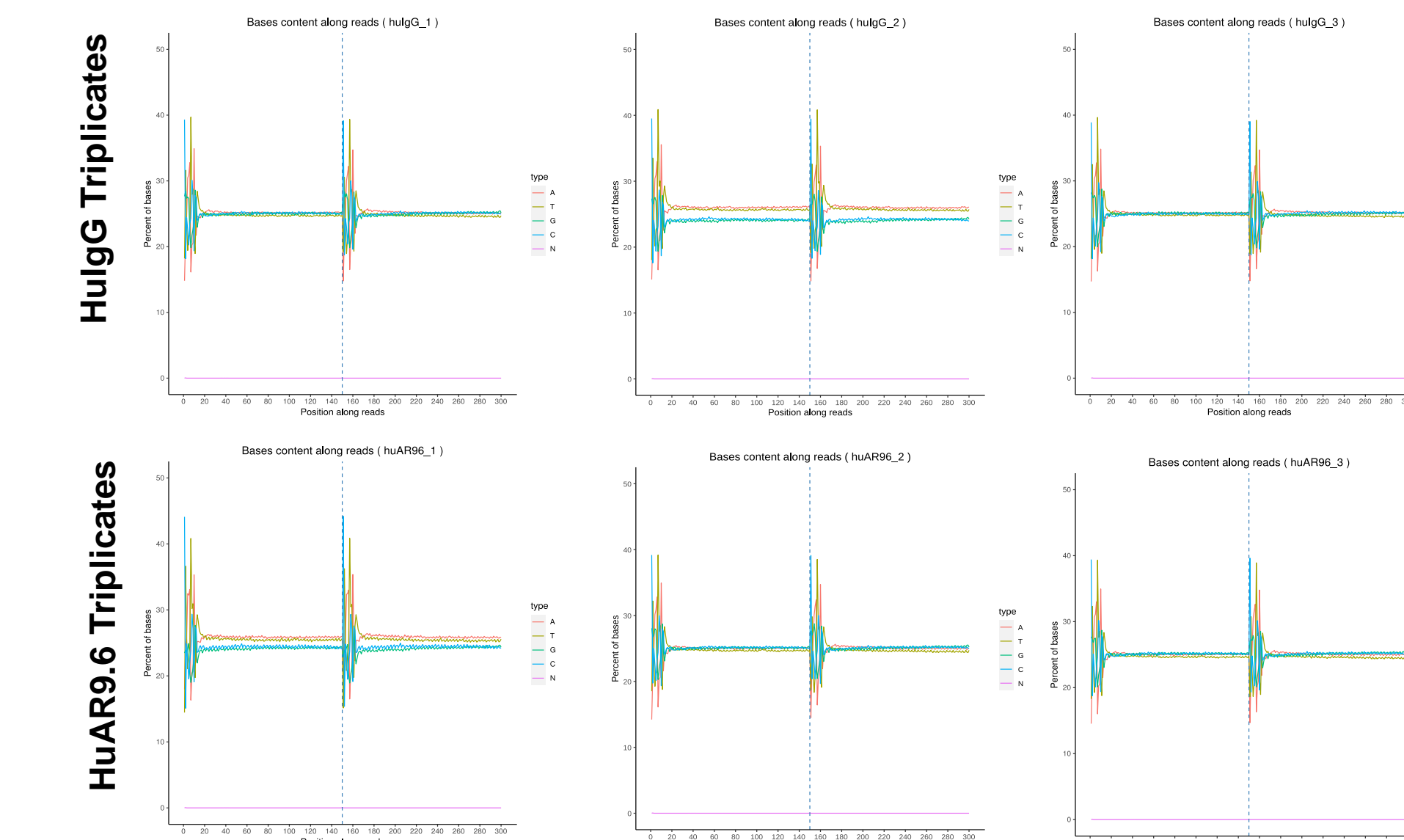


Results

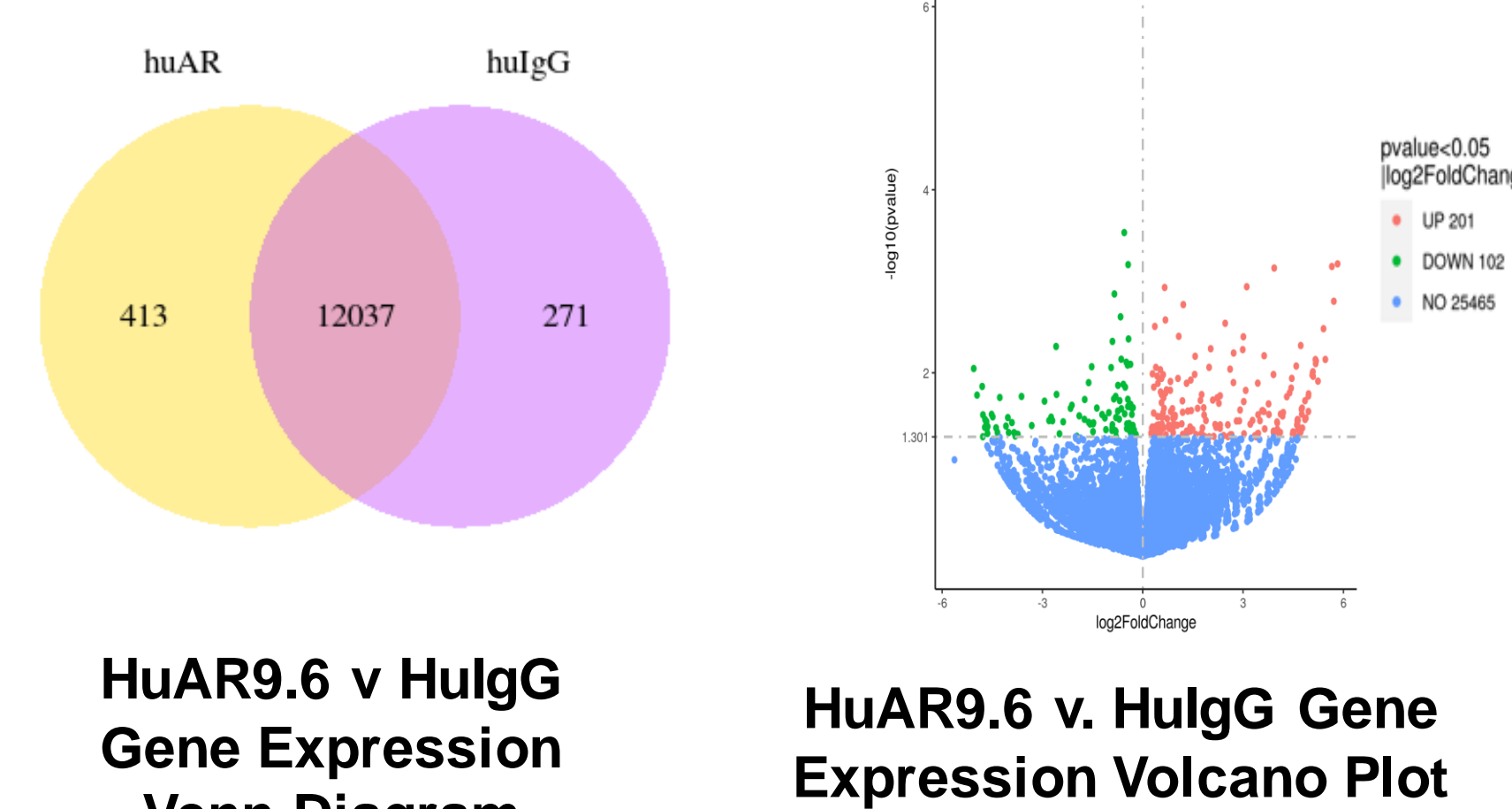
Organoids generated from RAP #142 primary PDAC. Bright-field image, H&E staining, immunofluorescent staining with HuAR9.6



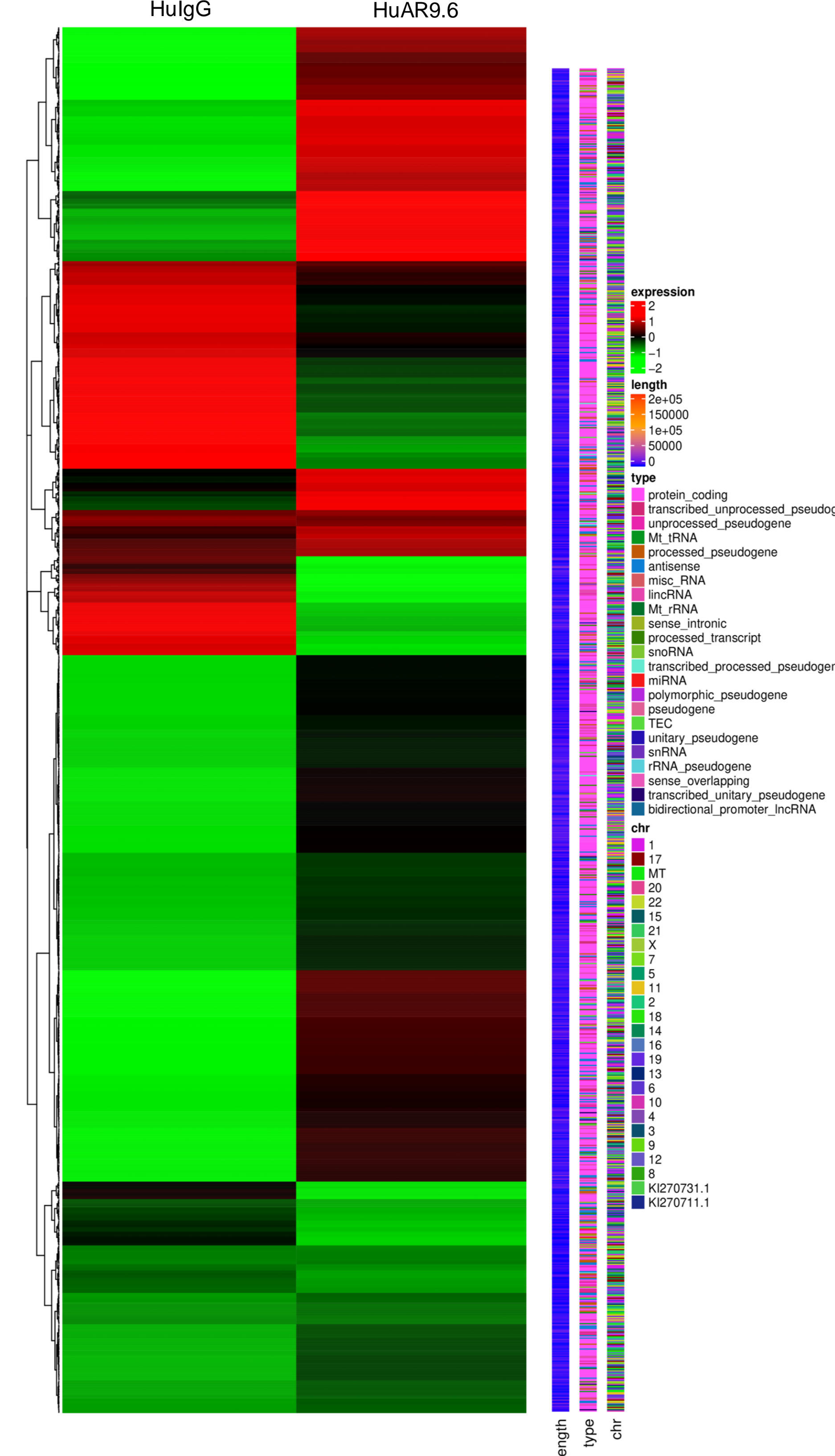
ATGC profiling validating quality of RNA yield



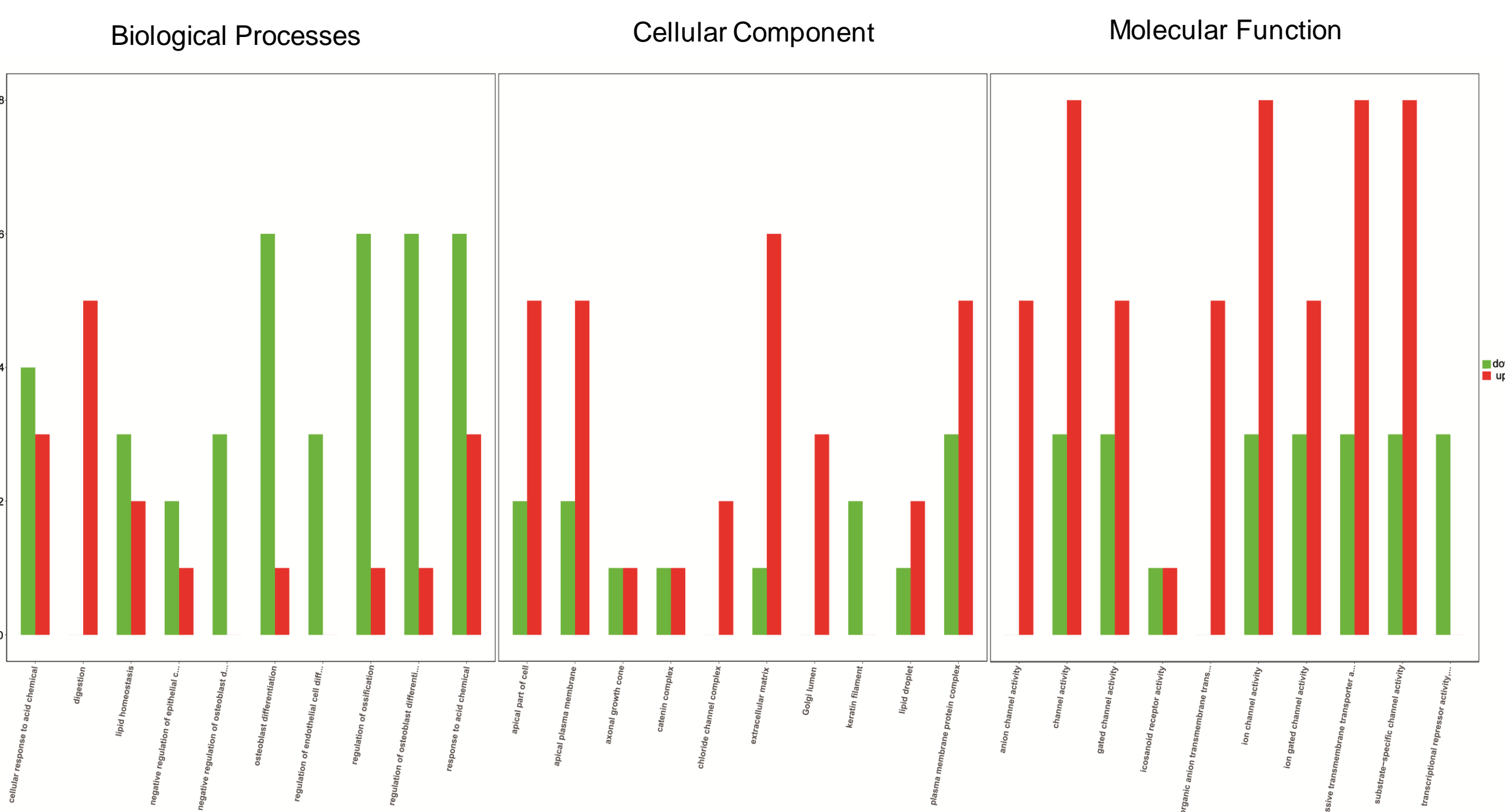
Differentially expressed genes in HuAR9.6 and HuLgG treated PDAC organoids



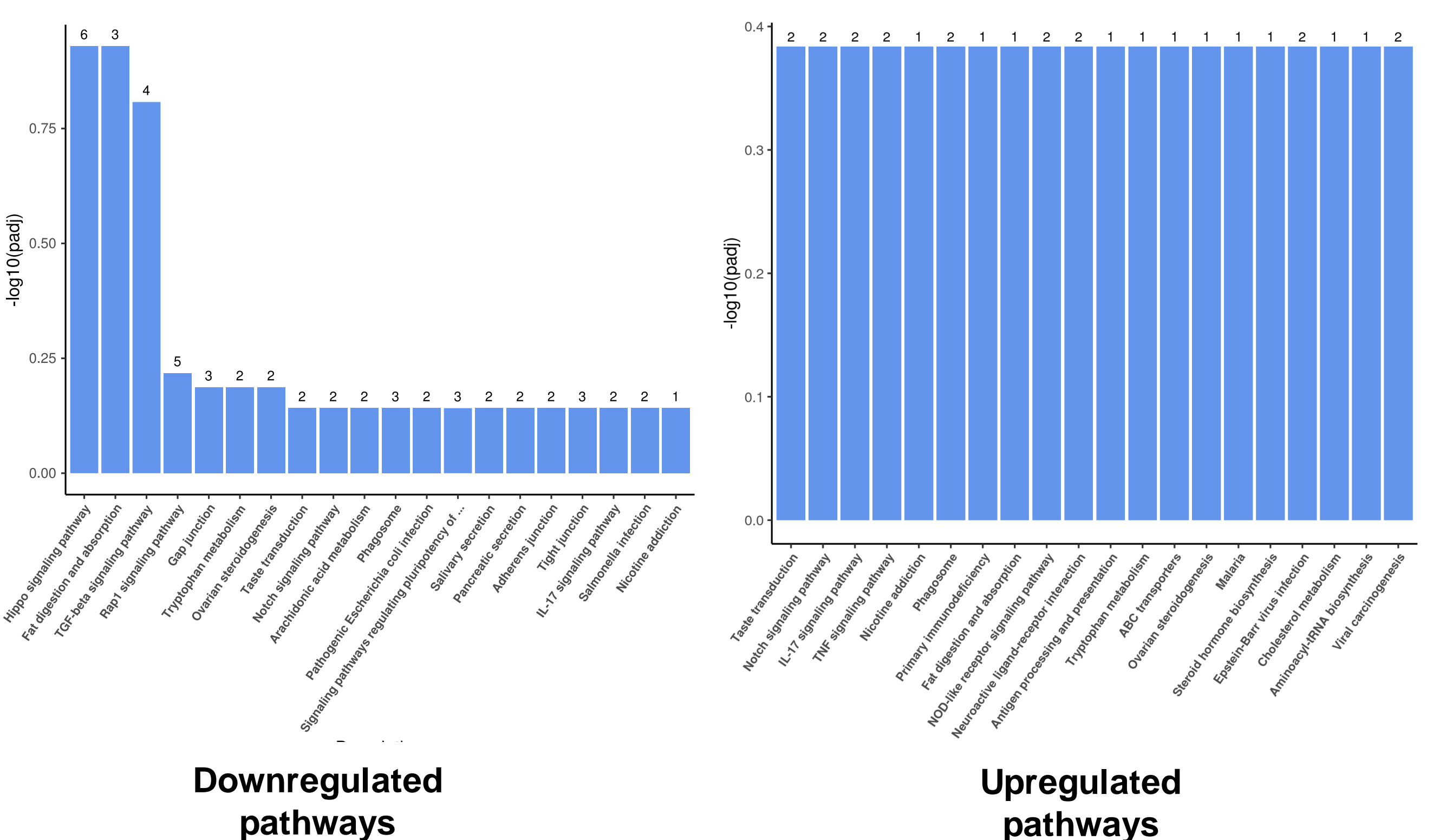
Heat map depicting clustering of differentially expressed genes in HuLgG vs HuAR9.6 treated PDAC organoids



Gene Ontology Analysis showing Biological Processes, Cellular Location and Molecular Function influenced by HuAR9.6 treatment in PDAC organoids



KEGG Enrichment Analysis stratifying the pathways influenced by HuAR9.6 treatment in PDAC organoids



Conclusions

- Tumor cells isolated from primary PDAC of RAP #142 successfully formed organoids *in vitro* that had a MUC16^{high} profile.
- RNA quality was determined to be proficient.
- About, 413 genes were uniquely expressed – of which 201 were upregulated and 102 were downregulated.
- Gene Ontology and KEGG Enrichment analyses revealed pathways like Hippo signaling were altered by blocking MUC16 in PDAC organoids.

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