

1 ***In silico* prioritization of transporter-drug relationships from drug**  
2 **sensitivity screens**

3

4 Running title: Computational identification of SLC-drug associations

5

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22 **Abstract**

23  
24 The interplay between drugs and cell metabolism is a key factor in determining both compound  
25 potency and toxicity. In particular, how and to what extent transmembrane transporters affect drug  
26 uptake and disposition is currently only partially understood. Most transporter proteins belong to  
27 two protein families: the ATP-Binding Cassette (ABC) transporter family, whose members are  
28 often involved in xenobiotic efflux and drug resistance, and the large and heterogeneous family of  
29 Solute carriers (SLCs). We recently argued that SLCs are collectively a rather neglected gene  
30 group, with most of its members still poorly characterized, and thus likely to include many yet-to-  
31 be-discovered associations with drugs. We searched publicly available resources and literature to  
32 define the currently known set of drugs transported by ABCs or SLCs, which involved ~500 drugs  
33 and more than 100 transporters. In order to extend this set, we then mined the largest publicly  
34 available pharmacogenomics dataset, which involves approximately 1000 molecularly annotated  
35 cancer cell lines and their response to 265 chemical compounds, and used regularized linear  
36 regression models (Elastic Net, LASSO) to predict drug responses based on SLC and ABC data  
37 (expression levels, SNVs, CNVs). The most predictive models included both known and  
38 previously unidentified associations between drugs and transporters. To our knowledge, this  
39 represents the first application of regularized linear regression to this set of genes, providing an  
40 extensive prioritization of potentially pharmacologically interesting interactions.

41

42 **Keywords**

43 Solute carriers (SLCs), ABC transporters (ATP binding cassette), drug sensitivity and resistance,  
44 drug transport, regularized linear regression

## 45 Introduction

46  
47 The role of cellular metabolism in determining the potency and distribution of drugs is increasingly  
48 recognized (Zhao et al., 2013). Along with the enzymes involved in actual xenobiotic  
49 transformation, such as members of the cytochrome and transferases families, a critical role is  
50 played by transmembrane transporters, which directly affect both the uptake and the excretion of  
51 drugs and their metabolites (Zhou et al., 2017). Among transmembrane transporters, two large  
52 families have been described: the family of ABC (ATP-binding cassette) transporters and the  
53 family of Solute carriers (SLCs) (Hediger et al., 2013). ABC transporters are pumps powered by  
54 the hydrolysis of ATP and show a remarkable broad range of substrates, including lipids,  
55 secondary metabolites and xenobiotics. Members of this family, such as the ABCB/MDR and  
56 ABCC/MRP proteins, have been associated with resistance to a large number of structurally  
57 diverse compounds in cancer cells (Fletcher et al., 2010). Solute carriers (SLCs) are secondary  
58 transporters involved in uptake or efflux of metabolites and other chemical matter (Cesar-Razquin  
59 et al., 2015). At more than 400 members and counting, SLCs represent the second largest family  
60 of membrane proteins and comprise uniporters, symporters and antiporters, further grouped into  
61 subfamilies based on sequence similarity (Hoglund et al., 2011). Among the reported SLC  
62 substrates are all major building blocks of the cell, such as nucleic acids, sugars, lipids and  
63 aminoacids as well as vitamins, metals and other ions (Hediger et al., 2013). Despite the critical  
64 processes mediated by these proteins, a large portion of SLCs is still poorly characterized and, in  
65 several cases, lacks any associations with a substrate (Cesar-Razquin et al., 2015). Importantly,  
66 several members of the SLCO (also known as Organic Anion Transporter Proteins or OATPs) and  
67 SLC22 families (including the group of organic cation transporters or OCTs, organic  
68 zwitterion/cation transporters or OCTNs and organic anion transporters or OATs) have been found  
69 to play prominent roles in the uptake and excretion of drugs, especially in the liver and kidneys  
70 (Hagenbuch and Stieger, 2013). Several other cases of Solute carriers mediating the uptake of  
71 drugs have been reported, such as in the case of methotrexate and related anti-folate drugs with  
72 the folate transporter SLC19A1 (Zhao et al., 2011) or the anti-cancer drug YM155/sepantronium  
73 bromide and the orphan transporter SLC35F2 (Winter et al., 2014). Indeed, whether carrier-  
74 mediated uptake is the rule or rather the exception is still a matter of discussion (Dobson and Kell,  
75 2008; Sugano et al., 2010). Due to the understudied nature of transporters and SLCs in particular,  
76 we can nonetheless expect that several other associations between drugs and transporters,  
77 involving direct transport or indirect effects, remain to be discovered and could provide novel  
78 insights into the pharmacokinetics of drugs and drug-like compounds.

79  
80 Analysis of basal gene expression and genomic features in combination with drug sensitivity data  
81 allows the identification of molecular markers that render cells both sensitive and resistant to  
82 specific drugs. Such a pharmacogenomic analysis represents a powerful method to prioritize *in*  
83 *silico* gene-compound associations. Different statistical and machine learning (ML) strategies have  
84 been used in the past to confirm known as well as to identify novel drug-gene associations,  
85 although generally in a genome-wide context (Iorio et al., 2016). For our study, we mined the  
86 “Genomics of Drug Sensitivity in Cancer” (GDSC) dataset (Iorio et al., 2016) which contains  
87 drug sensitivity data to a set of 265 compounds over ~1000 molecularly annotated cancer cell lines,  
88 in order to explore drug relationships exclusively involving transporters (SLCs and ABCs). To  
89 such end, we used regularized linear regression (Elastic Net, LASSO) to generate predictive  
90 models from which to extract cooperative sensitivity and resistance drug-transporter relationships,

91 in what represents, to our knowledge, the first work applying this type of analysis to this group of  
92 genes.

93

## 94 **Materials and Methods**

95

### 96 **Data**

97

98 SLC and ABC genes were considered as in (Cesar-Razquin et al., 2015). Known drug transport  
99 cases involving SLC and ABC proteins were obtained from four main repositories as of September  
100 2017: DrugBank (Law et al., 2014), The IUPHAR/BPS Guide to PHARMACOLOGY (Alexander  
101 et al., 2015), KEGG: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (Kanehisa and Goto, 2000), and  
102 UCSF-FDA TransPortal (Morrissey et al., 2012). These data were complemented with various  
103 other cases found in the literature (Sprowl and Sparreboom, 2014; Winter et al., 2014; Nigam,  
104 2015; Radic-Sarikas et al., 2017). Source files were parsed using custom python scripts, and all  
105 entries were manually curated, merged together and redundancies eliminated. The final compound  
106 list was searched against PubChem (Kim et al., 2016) in order to systematize names. *fA* list of  
107 FDA-approved drugs was obtained from the organization's website. Network visualization was  
108 done using Cytoscape (Shannon et al., 2003).

109

110 All data corresponding to the Genomics of Drug Sensitivity in Cancer (GDSC) dataset (drug  
111 sensitivity, expression, copy number variations, single nucleotide variants, compounds, cell lines)  
112 were obtained from the original website of the project <http://www.cancerrxgene.org/downloads> as  
113 of September 2016. Drug sensitivity and transcriptomics data were used as provided. Genomics  
114 data were transformed into a binary matrix of genomic alterations vs cell lines, where three  
115 different modifications for every gene were considered using the original source files:  
116 amplifications (ampSLCx), deletions (delSLCx) and variants (varSLCx). An amplification was  
117 annotated if there were more than two copies of at least one of the alleles for the gene of interest,  
118 and a deletion if at least one of the alleles was missing. Single nucleotide variants were filtered in  
119 order to exclude synonymous SNVs as well as nonsynonymous SNVs predicted not to be  
120 deleterious by either SIFT (Ng and Henikoff, 2001), Polyphen2 (Adzhubei et al., 2010) or  
121 FATHMM (Shihab et al., 2013).

122

### 123 **LASSO regression**

124

125 LASSO regression analysis was performed using the 'glmnet' R package (Friedman et al., 2010).  
126 Expression values for all genes in the dataset (17419 genes in total) were used as input features.  
127 For each compound, the analysis was iterated 50 times over 10-fold cross validation. At each cross  
128 validation, features were ranked based on their frequency of appearance (number of times a feature  
129 has non zero coefficient for 100 default lambda possibilities). We then averaged the ranking across  
130 the 500 runs (50 iterations x 10 CV) in order to obtain a final list of genes associated to each  
131 compound. In this context, the most predictive gene for a certain drug does not necessarily have  
132 an average rank of one, even though its final rank is first.

133

### 134 **Elastic Net regression**

135

136 Elastic Net regression analysis was performed using the ‘glmnet’ R package (Friedman et al.,  
137 2010). Genomic data (copy number variations and single nucleotide variants) and transcriptional  
138 profiles of SLC and ABC genes across the cell line panel were used as input variables, either alone  
139 or in combination. Drug AUC values were used as response. Elastic Net parameters were fixed as  
140 follows: i) alpha, the mixing parameter that defines the penalty, was set to 0.5 in order to apply an  
141 intermediate penalty between Ridge and LASSO, and ii) lambda, the tuning parameter that controls  
142 the overall strength of the penalty, was determined individually for every model (drug) by  
143 optimizing the mean squared cross-validated error.

144  
145 For each compound, 500 Elastic Net models were generated by a 100x 5-fold cross-validation  
146 procedure. In order to assess model performance, the Concordance Index (Harrell et al., 1996;  
147 Papillon-Cavanagh et al., 2013) between the predicted and observed AUC values was calculated  
148 for each run, and then averaged across all models. This index estimates the fraction of cell line  
149 pairs for which the model correctly predicts which of the two is the most and least sensitive; hence  
150 CI values of 0.5 and 1 would indicate random and perfect predictors, respectively. Feature weights  
151 were calculated by normalizing the fitted model coefficients to the absolute maximum at every  
152 cross-validation run. The final list of features associated with each compound was built by  
153 computing the frequency of appearance of each feature in all the 500 models as well as its average  
154 weight. Features with positive weights are associated with a resistance phenotype to the compound,  
155 and negative weights are indicative of sensitivity.

## 156 157 **Results**

### 158 159 **SLC and ABCs as drug transporters.**

160  
161 We collected data from public repositories as well as relevant publications to define the current  
162 knowledge on transport of chemical compounds by members of the SLC and ABC protein classes.  
163 A total of 493 compounds linked to 107 transporters were retrieved, which altogether formed a  
164 single large network with a few other smaller components (**Fig.1, Table S1**).

165  
166 Within the largest network and in agreement with previous reports (Nigam, 2015), three families  
167 are significantly enriched (hypergeometric test,  $FDR \leq 0.05$ ): the SLCO/SLC21 family of organic  
168 anion transporters (9/12 members) (Hagenbuch and Stieger, 2013), the SLC22 family of organic  
169 anion, cation and zwitterion transporters (13/23) (Koepsell, 2013; Nigam, 2018), and the ABCC  
170 family of multidrug resistance transporters (8/13) (Vasiliou et al., 2009). Not surprisingly, ABCB1  
171 (P-glycoprotein; MDR1), the very well-studied efflux pump known for its broad substrate  
172 specificity and mediation of resistance to a large amount of drugs (Aller et al., 2009), is the most  
173 connected transporter in the network, linked to more than 200 compounds. In particular, 106  
174 compounds are connected exclusively with ABCB1 and 25 other are exclusively shared with  
175 ABCG2 (BCRP), another well-known transporter and the one with the second highest degree in  
176 the network (Robey et al., 2007) (**Fig.1B**). Other top-connected SLCs include members of the  
177 above mentioned SLCO and SLC22 families, which also show several common substrates (e.g.  
178 SLCO1B1 and SLCO1B3 share 36 compounds, and SLC22A8 and SLC22A6 share 20), as well  
179 as members of the SLC15 family (SLC15A1 and SLC15A2, which share 22 compounds), involved  
180 in the transport of beta-lactam antibiotics and peptide-mimetics (Smith et al., 2013). In contrast to  
181 these cases, other transporters appear related to one or only a few compounds. One such case is

182 SLC35F2, whose only reported substrate to date is the anti-cancer drug YM155 (sepantronium  
183 bromide) (Winter et al., 2014). Finally, while most chemical compounds appear linked to one or  
184 two transporters, a few others show higher connectivities (**Fig.1C**). A well-known example,  
185 methotrexate is transported by more than 20 different SLC and ABCs, including some belonging  
186 to families not commonly involved in drug transport, such as the folate carriers SLC19A1 and  
187 SLC46A1.

188

### 189 **Transporter expression landscape in cancer cell lines**

190

191 The GDSC dataset contains expression data for 371 SLCs and 46 ABCs across a panel of ~1000  
192 cell lines of different tissue origin. Each of these cell lines effectively express between 167 and  
193 255 transporters, with a median value of 195 (**Fig.2A**). Although all together they cover almost  
194 the whole transporter repertoire (414/417), the distribution is clearly bimodal, with a common set  
195 of ~130 transporters expressed in at least 900 cell lines and a more specific set of ~140 expressed  
196 in less than 100 (**Fig.2B**). Among the most commonly expressed transporters, we find several  
197 members of the SLC25 (mitochondrial carriers) and SLC35 (nucleoside-sugars transporters) sub-  
198 families, the two largest among SLCs, as well as several members of the SLC39 family of zinc  
199 transporters. On the other end, many members of the SLC22 family, a large and well known group  
200 of proteins involved in the transport of drugs, as well as the SLC6 family, a well-studied family of  
201 neurotransmitter transporters, show a more specific expression pattern. As for ABCs, it is worth  
202 highlighting that subfamilies A and C present half of their members in the set of transporters of  
203 specific expression, while subfamily B has members in both sets.

204

205 When looking at actual expression values across the panel, some of the commonly expressed  
206 transporters coincide with those of highest expression (**Fig.2C**). The most extreme cases are  
207 SLC25A5, SLC25A3, SLC25A6 and SLC38A1, which present very similar maximum and median  
208 values across the cell line panel. On the contrary, other transporters such as SLC26A3, SLC17A3,  
209 or SLC38A11 present a much wider range of expression, being amongst the highest expressed in  
210 some cell lines but completely absent from others.

211

212 Finally, substantial differences become apparent when considering transporter expression patterns  
213 according to the tissue of origin of the GDSC cancer cell lines (**Fig.2D**). Cell lines belonging to  
214 the hematopoietic (blood) lineage, which includes leukemias, lymphomas and myelomas, present  
215 the largest proportion of transporters with highest average expression values (28%), as indicated  
216 by Z-score, followed by cancer cell lines belonging to skin, kidney and the digestive system. This  
217 indicates a broad spectrum of transporters being present in cell lines of these tissue origins.  
218 Interestingly, kidney cell lines also present the largest number of transporters with low expression  
219 values, pointing to a very wide range of expression and high specificity in those cells.

220

### 221 **LASSO regression shows importance of SLC genes across whole genome**

222

223 We investigated the importance of SLC and ABC transporters for drug response by applying  
224 regularized linear regression on the GDSC dataset. To this end, we first built LASSO models of  
225 sensitivity to each compound based on genome-wide gene expression levels (17419 genes in total)  
226 (Tibshirani, 1996), and then looked for cases where a transporter ranked as the top (first) predictor  
227 (see Methods). The choice of the LASSO method is motivated by its ability to shrink a large

228 number of coefficients to zero, ideal for models that make use of thousands of predictors.  
229 Moreover, being a linear regression method, it can account for both positive and negative  
230 interactions (i.e. resistance and sensitivity, for example by export and import in the case of a  
231 transporter), thus increasing the interpretability of the results. The decision to focus exclusively on  
232 the top predictor is supported by a literature search. Indeed, the average number of PubMed  
233 publications containing both the drug and the gene name was over 40 in the case of top predictors,  
234 falling down to below 10 for the ones ranked second (**Fig.S1**).

235  
236 Consistent with their well-characterized role as drug-transporters, the multi-drug resistance pump  
237 ABCB1, as well as ABCG2, were the main predictors of resistance to a large number of drugs  
238 (**Table 1A**). More interestingly, several compounds had an SLC as their best predictor (**Table 1B**).  
239 Among them, and in concordance with previous expression-sensitivity data (Rees et al., 2016), we  
240 find the sensitive association of sepantronium bromide (YM155) and SLC35F2, its main known  
241 importer (Winter et al., 2014). Another sensitive association involving SLC35F2 links this  
242 transporter to NSC-207895, a MDMX inhibitor (Wang et al., 2011). DMOG  
243 (dimethyloxalylglycin), a synthetic analogue of  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate that inhibits HIF prolyl  
244 hydroxylase (Zhdanov et al., 2015), showed association to two SLCs: monocarboxylate transporter  
245 SLC16A7 (MCT2) was the main predictor for sensitivity to this compound, while creatine  
246 transporter SLC6A8 (CT1) was associated with resistance. However, due to the high IC<sub>50</sub> values  
247 of DMOG (in the millimolar range), this association is unlikely to be clinically relevant. Finally,  
248 cystine-glutamate transporter SLC7A11 (Blomen et al., 2015) is associated to resistance to the  
249 ROS-inducing drugs Shikonin, (5Z)-7-Oxozeaenol and Piperlongumine. This is in agreement with  
250 previous studies that highlighted a positive correlation of the expression of this transporter and  
251 resistance to several drugs via import of the cystine necessary for glutathione balance maintenance  
252 (Huang et al., 2005).

### 253 254 **Elastic Net regression identifies transporter-drug relationships**

255  
256 In order to further explore SLC and ABC involvement in drug response, we decided to build new  
257 predictive models based on transporter molecular data only. By removing the effect of other genes  
258 in the models, we can prioritize compounds that show a stronger dependency on transporters, as  
259 well as to analyze potential cooperative interactions among them. Given the smaller amount of  
260 predictors in this case, we used Elastic Net regression, a generalization of the LASSO that  
261 overcomes some of its limitations and that has already been applied in similar contexts (Zou, 2005;  
262 Barretina et al., 2012; Iorio et al., 2016). Assessment of model performance was done by cross-  
263 validation using the Concordance Index (CI) (see Methods).

264  
265 We considered different predictors to build the models: genomics (Copy Number Variations and  
266 Single Nucleotide Variants), transcriptomics (gene expression) and a combination of both. Among  
267 these, gene expression resulted to be most predictive, in agreement with previous reports (Aydin  
268 et al., 2014)(**Fig.3A**). 139 (53%) of the 265 drugs included in the dataset had predictive models  
269 with a CI higher than 0.60, and 36 (14%) higher than 0.65 (**Fig.3B**). For those drugs, we then  
270 ranked genes based on their frequency of appearance in the cross-validated models (indicative of  
271 the robustness of the association) and their average weight (indicative of the strength of the  
272 association as well as its direction). In this context increased levels of transporter expression could  
273 therefore be associated with either sensitivity or resistance to the drug, for example through its

274 uptake or efflux, respectively (**Fig.3C**). Among the top ranked transporter-drug associations, we  
275 identified several known cases of drug transport. For instance, the strongest sensitivity association  
276 with sepantronium bromide (YM155) corresponded again to SLC35F2. Similarly, the strongest  
277 resistance association for this drug was ABCB1, which includes YM155 among its many  
278 substrates (Lamers et al., 2012; Voges et al., 2016; Radic-Sarikas et al., 2017). Another example  
279 was methotrexate, for which the folate transporter SLC19A1, known to mediate its import (Zhao  
280 et al., 2011), ranked second for sensitivity association (**Table S3**).

281  
282 Two major patterns are apparent in the set of top-ranking associations: genes showing similar  
283 profiles of resistance or sensitivity across several different and unrelated compounds as well as  
284 groups of genes showing a similar profile in relation to a functionally related class of drugs (**Fig.**  
285 **3C**).

286  
287 A prototypical case of the first pattern is ABCB1, which is associated with resistance phenotypes  
288 to several compounds (**Fig.3D**). Together with the aforementioned YM155, resistance  
289 relationships were predicted for known substrates vinblastine and docetaxel (Fletcher et al., 2010),  
290 17-AAG/Tanespimycin (Huang et al., 2007) and AT-7519 (Cihalova et al., 2015) as well as other  
291 not previously associated compounds such as ZG-10 (a JNK1 inhibitor), the CDK2/5/7 inhibitor  
292 PHA-793887 and the broad kinase inhibitor WZ3105. Similar to ABCB1, other transporters  
293 showed multiple resistance and sensitivity associations to different compounds, particularly  
294 kinases and chromatin-related enzymes. Two of these “hubs” were SLC12A4/KCC1, a potassium-  
295 chloride cotransporter involved in cell volume homeostasis (Arroyo et al., 2013), and SLC35D2,  
296 an activated sugar transporter localized in the Golgi (Song, 2013).

297  
298 As an example of the second class of associations, some of the best models were achieved for  
299 compounds belonging to the MEK inhibitor drug class (Trametinib, Selumetinib, Refametinib, CI-  
300 1040, PD-0325901, (5Z)-7-oxozeaenol), which showed very similar patterns, with sensitivity  
301 associated to SLC45A2, SLC27A1, SLC20A1, and SLC22A15 (**Fig.3E**). SLC45A2 has been  
302 related to melanin synthesis and it is highly expressed in melanomas (Park et al., 2017), a cancer  
303 type sensitive to MEK inhibitors. Interestingly, SLC20A1/PiT1, a sodium-dependent phosphate  
304 transporter (Olah et al., 1994), was previously shown to regulate the ERK1/2 pathway  
305 independently of phosphate transport in skeletal cells (Bon et al., 2018). SLC27A1, a long-chain  
306 fatty acid transporter, and SLC22A15, an orphan member of the well-known family of cationic  
307 transporters involved in the transport of different compounds, were not previously associated with  
308 this drug class.

309  
310 Finally, we also observed a strong sensitivity relationship between expression levels of the amino  
311 acid transporter SLC7A5/LAT1 and the Her2 and EGFR kinase inhibitors Afatinib, Gefitinib and  
312 Bosutinib (**Fig. 2C**), consistent with previously published data (Timpe et al., 2015).

## 313 314 **Discussion**

315  
316 Transporters of the ABC and SLC superfamilies are increasingly recognized as key players in  
317 determining the distribution and metabolism of drugs and other xenobiotic compounds as they  
318 possess distinct and extremely variable expression patterns across cell lines and tissues (O'Hagan  
319 et al., 2018). Moreover, they have been implicated in the development of resistance to several



320 chemotherapeutic drugs (Fletcher et al., 2010). A survey of currently known drug transport  
321 relationships revealed that only a fifth of the more than 500 SLCs and ABCs have been described  
322 to be involved in the transport of drugs. These transporters appear to be very unevenly distributed,  
323 with some genes and families considerably more represented and better connected than others  
324 (**Fig.1**). This is the case for several members of the ABCB, ABCC, SLCO and SL22 sub-families.  
325 Similarly, while compounds such as methotrexate are linked to more than 20 transporters, most  
326 drugs are connected to only one.

327  
328 To further expand this network, we took advantage of the expression and drug sensitivity data  
329 available within the GDSC project. We started by characterizing the expression patterns of SLCs  
330 and ABCs in the GDSC panel of ~1000 cancer cell lines, covering thirteen different tissues of  
331 origin (**Fig.2**). Roughly 80% of SLCs and 90% of ABCs were included in the datasets and we  
332 observed a bimodal distribution of their expression, with similarly-sized sets of transporters either  
333 present in most cell lines or specific to a few. A large variability in the level of expression was  
334 also observed within the superfamilies, consistent with what recently reported by another recent  
335 study (O'Hagan et al., 2018).

336  
337 We then implemented a linear regression-based approach to identify the set of transporters  
338 associated with sensitivity to each compound across all cell lines. Previous reports undertook a  
339 similar approach to identify associations of the ABC (Szakacs et al., 2004) and SLCO/SLC22  
340 (Okabe et al., 2008) families with drug sensitivity within a limited set of about 60 cell lines. We  
341 now extended these results to a much more comprehensive set of cell lines while implementing  
342 regularized linear regression approaches (Elastic Net and LASSO regression). We identify a large  
343 set of drug-transporter associations roughly split between sensitivity and resistance relationships  
344 (**Tables 1A and 1B, Fig.3**). Known associations involving, for example, ABCB1 expression levels  
345 with increasing resistance to several unrelated compounds as well as known interactions such as  
346 the associations between antifolates and SLC19A1 or YM155 and SLC35F2 were clearly  
347 identified. Interestingly, we also observed cases were, similarly to ABCB1, a single gene was  
348 associated with several compounds, possibly as a result of an alteration of the general metabolic  
349 state of the cell. We also observed the opposite scenario, with several genes associated with a  
350 functionally related class of compounds as in the case of the MEK inhibitors and the genes  
351 SLC45A2, SLC27A1, SLC20A1, and SLC22A15. To our knowledge, no transporter has so far  
352 been identified for any member of this class of compounds, and while the association with the  
353 skin-specific SLC45A2 transporter is likely the result of the high sensitivity of melanoma cell lines  
354 to these drugs, other associations are more difficult to interpret.

355  
356 We propose the gene list reported here as a means of prioritizing transporters that could explain  
357 the transport and pharmacodynamics of the associated compounds. While in many cases these  
358 associations could be due to indirect effects, such as a change in the metabolic state of the cells  
359 that renders them more sensitive or resistant to a compound, some might correspond to actual  
360 import or export processes. Further validation, for example modulating the expression levels of  
361 the transporters or by transport assays, will be necessary in order to confirm and distinguish such  
362 different scenarios. Finally, the power of the analysis could also be increased by larger datasets,  
363 for instance including additional compounds, as well as by orthogonal or more accurate  
364 measurements. Availability of such pharmacogenomics datasets will be of critical importance for  
365 the further identification and characterization of transporter-drug associations. In conclusion, we

366 provide here an overview of the known ABC- and SLC-based drug transport relationships and  
367 expand this with an *in silico*-derived ranking of transporter-drug associations, identifying several  
368 novel and potential interesting interactions that could affect the pharmacodynamics and  
369 pharmacokinetics of a large set of clinically relevant compounds.

370

### 371 **Acknowledgments**

372

373 CeMM and the Superti-Furga laboratory are supported by the Austrian Academy of Sciences  
374 (G.S.-F. and A.C.R.). We acknowledge receipt of third-party funds from the Austrian Science  
375 Fund (FWF I2192-B22 ERASE, A.C.R and FWF P29250-B30 VITRA, E.G), and from the JRC  
376 for Computational Biomedicine which was partially funded by Bayer AG.

377

### 378 **Author contributions**

379

380 ACR, MY performed the data analysis. EG, MB, JSR and GSF provided scientific insight and  
381 project supervision. ACR, EG, MY, JSR and GSF wrote the manuscript.

382

### 383 **Conflict of interest statement**

384

385 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

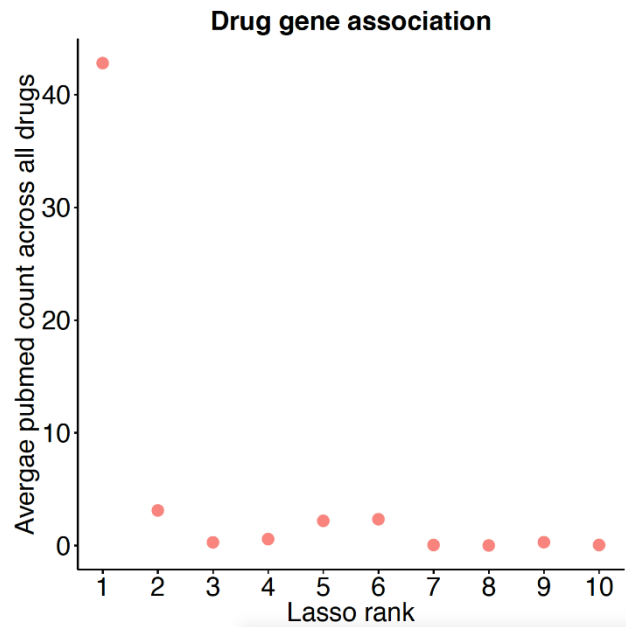
## 386 **Figures**

387  
388 **Figure 1. A)** Network visualization of known SLC/ABC-mediated drug transport cases. Circular  
389 nodes represent SLC and ABC transporters, and squares represent chemical compounds. Drugs  
390 approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) are displayed with thicker gray borders.  
391 Edges connect transporters to compounds and their thickness indicates the number of sources  
392 supporting each connection (see Methods). Size indicates node degree (number of edges incident  
393 to the node). Relevant transporter families are color coded. **B)** Transporter degree distribution. The  
394 inlet barchart displays the transporters connected to at least 15 compounds. Bar colors correspond  
395 to transporter families in A. **C)** Same as B for drugs.

396  
397 **Figure 2. A)** Number of transporters (SLCs and ABCs) expressed across cell lines in GDSC  
398 dataset. A cut-off of 3.5 in RMA units is set to consider a gene as expressed (~73% genes  
399 expressed). The red line indicates the median number of transporters expressed per cell line. The  
400 inlet lists the 11 cell lines expressing the highest number of transporters, indicated between  
401 parentheses. **B)** Number of cell lines expressing each of the transporters. The color bars and inlets  
402 indicate sets of transporters showing more common or specific expression across the panel. **C)**  
403 Median expression vs maximum expression for each transporter across the cell line panel. Color  
404 indicates the tissue of origin of the cell line presenting the maximum expression for the transporter.  
405 **D)** Transporter Z-scores of the average expression values within each tissue. Tissue names with  
406 number of cell lines between parenthesis are indicated on the x-axis. Transporters are ordered  
407 alphabetically by family and name.

408  
409 **Figure 3. A)** Comparison of Elastic Net regression performance (Concordance Index) using  
410 different input data: gene expression, genomics (CNVs and SNVs) and a combination of both. **B)**  
411 CI value distribution using gene expression as input. Red bars indicate drugs with a median CI  
412 higher than 0.65, which were selected for subsequent analysis. **C)** Elastic Net results for drugs  
413 with the highest CI values. The top 5 associations are shown for each compound. Purple indicates  
414 associations linked to sensitivity (higher expression value confers sensitivity to the compound),  
415 and orange indicates resistance. **E)** Network representation of three transporters appearing as  
416 “hubs” (e.g. connected to several different compounds) in the results, including the well-known  
417 multidrug resistance protein ABCB1. **D)** Same as E for MEK inhibitors, which show a similar  
418 association pattern.

419 **Supplemental Figure 1.** PubMed search of drug gene associations.  
420



421 **Tables**

422

423 **Table 1A. LASSO ABC-drug top associations.**

424

LASSO Top Hits, all 17419 genes used	Top sensitive associations (average rank)	Top resistant associations (average rank)
<b>ABCB1</b>		YM155 (1) Paclitaxel (1.1) BI-2536 (6.0) A-443654 (32) Vinorelbine (1) Thapsigargin (20) AT-7519 (1.8) WZ3105 (1) PHA-793887 (2.2) GSK690693 (15) Vinblastine (1.1) Docetaxel (1.2) ZM447439 (77) ZG-10 (1.3) QL-VIII-58 (1) QL-XII-61 (9.7)
<b>ABCG2</b>		CUDC-101 (12) THZ-2-102-1 (1.8)
ABCA10	STF-62247 (20) FR-180204 (22)	

425

426 **Table 1B. LASSO SLC-drug top associations.**

427

LASSO Top Hits, all 17419 genes used	Top sensitive associations (average rank)	Top resistant associations (average rank)
SLC16A7	DMOG (1)	
SLC6A8		DMOG (40)
SLC30A2		CP724714 (28)
SLC35F2	YM155 (2.24)	
SLC35F2	NSC-207895 (9.5)	
SLC7A11		Shikonin (2)
SLC7A11		(5Z)-7-Oxozeanol (12)
SLC7A11		piperlongumine (12)

428

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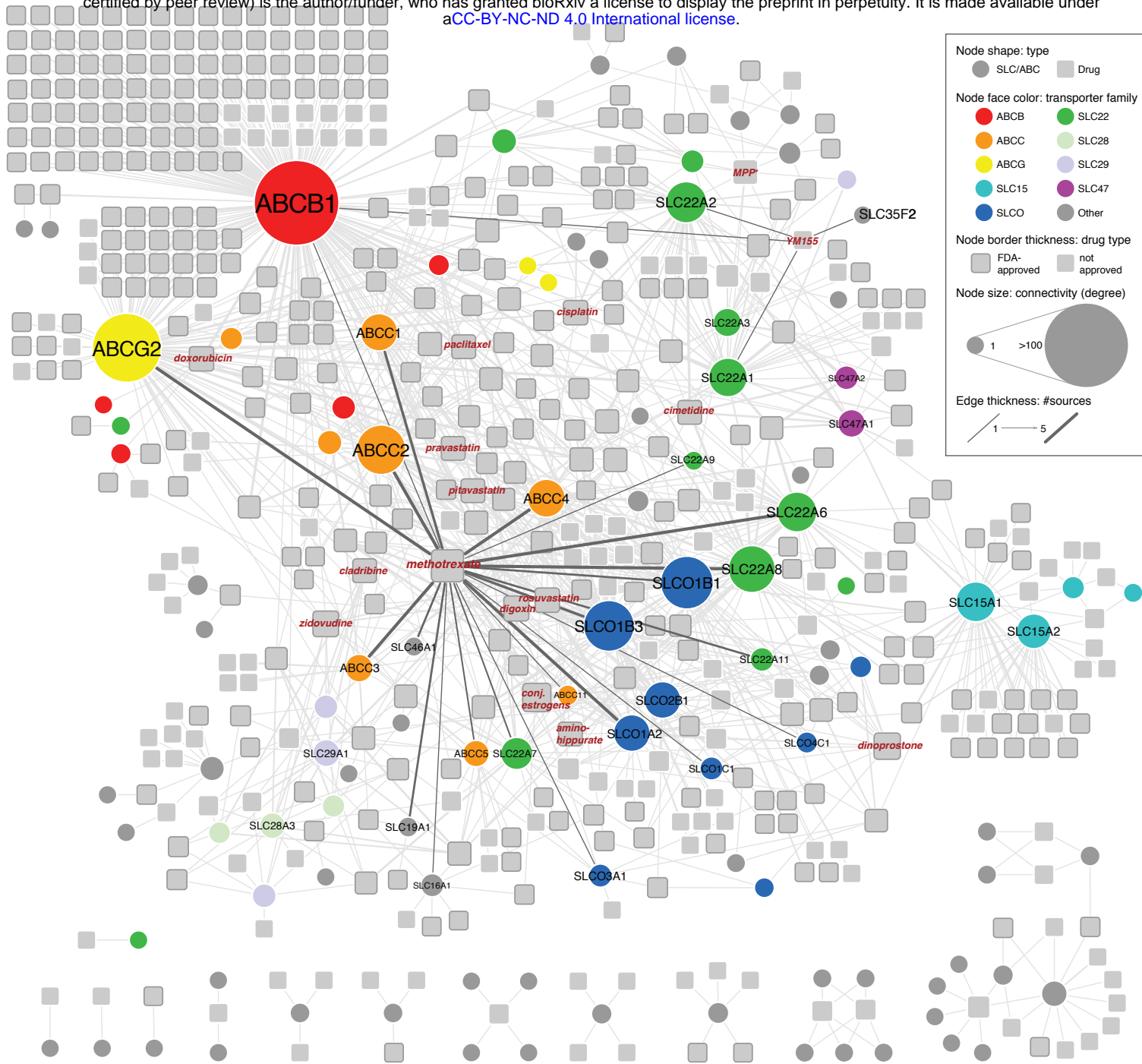


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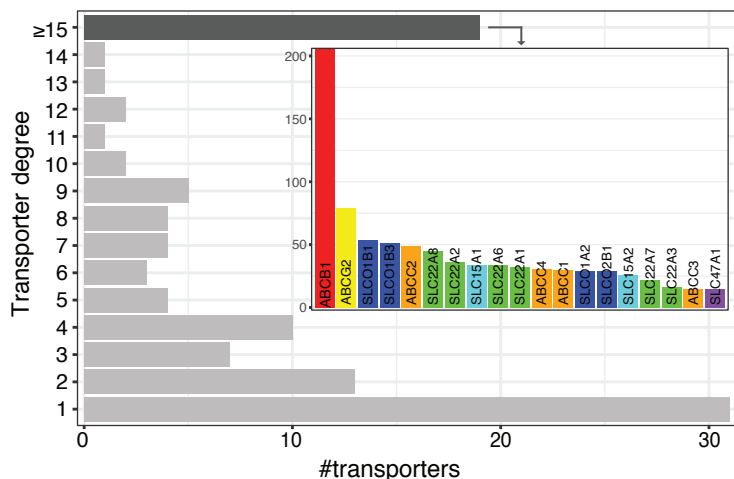
Figure 1.

A.

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B.



C.

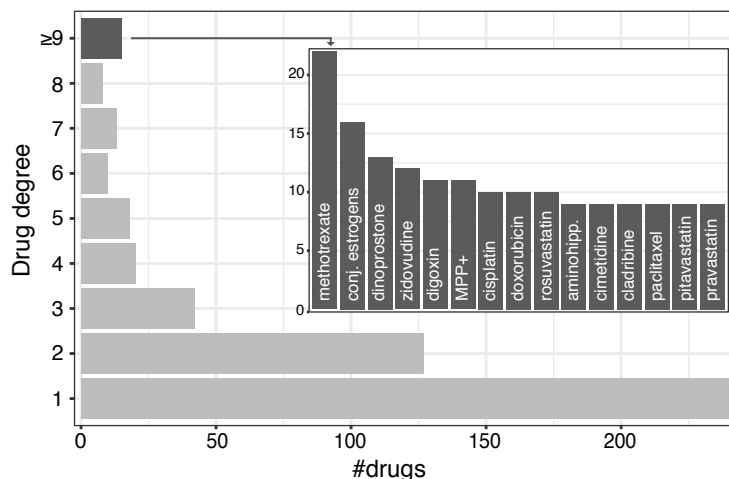


Figure 2.

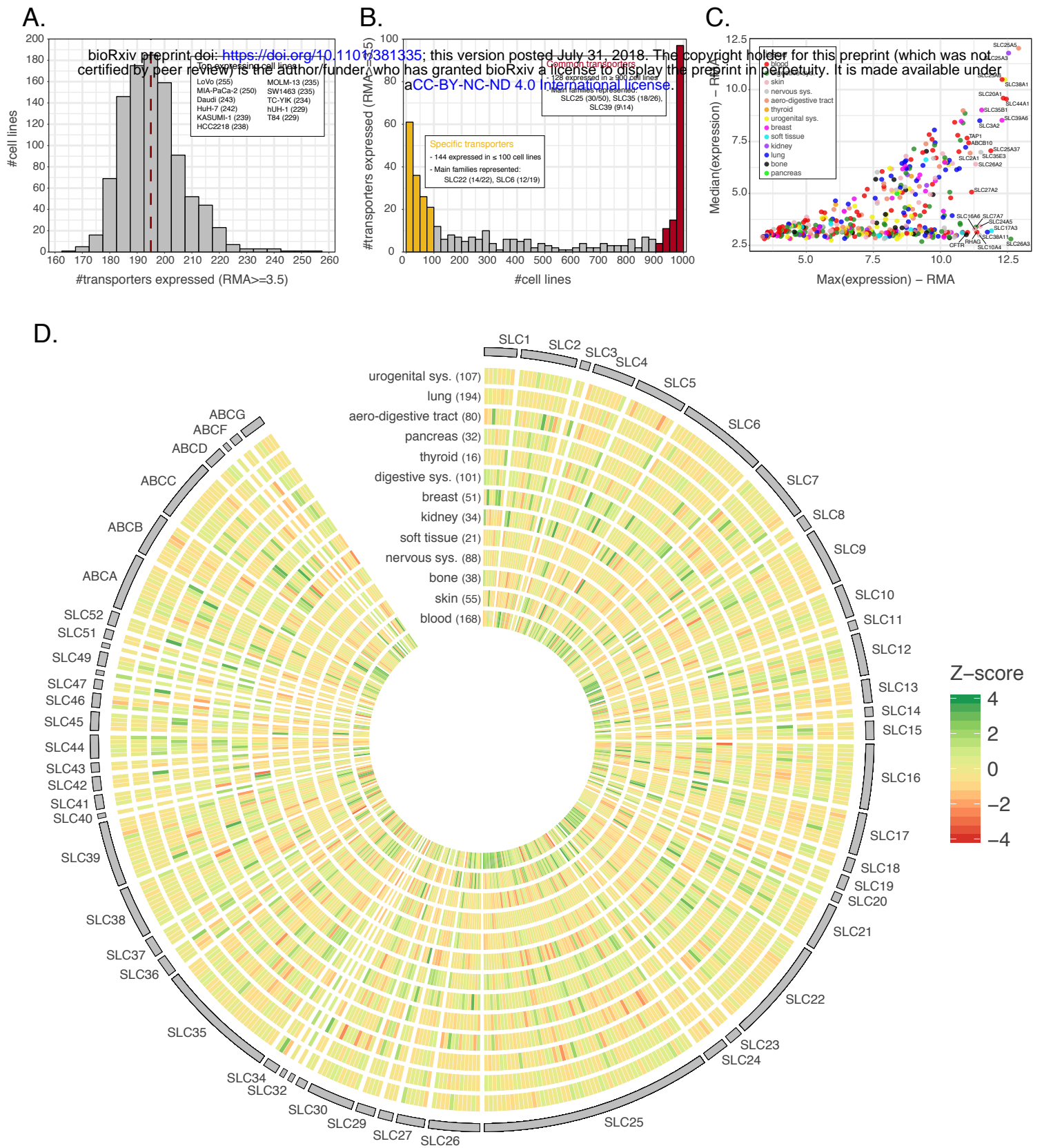
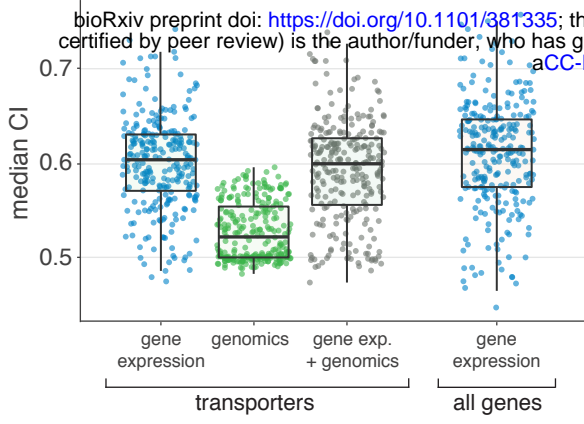
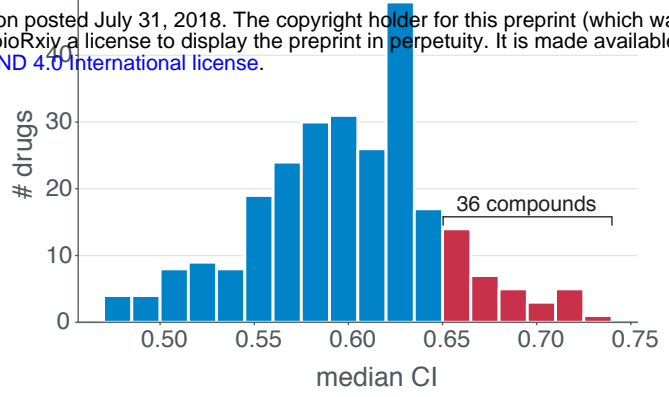


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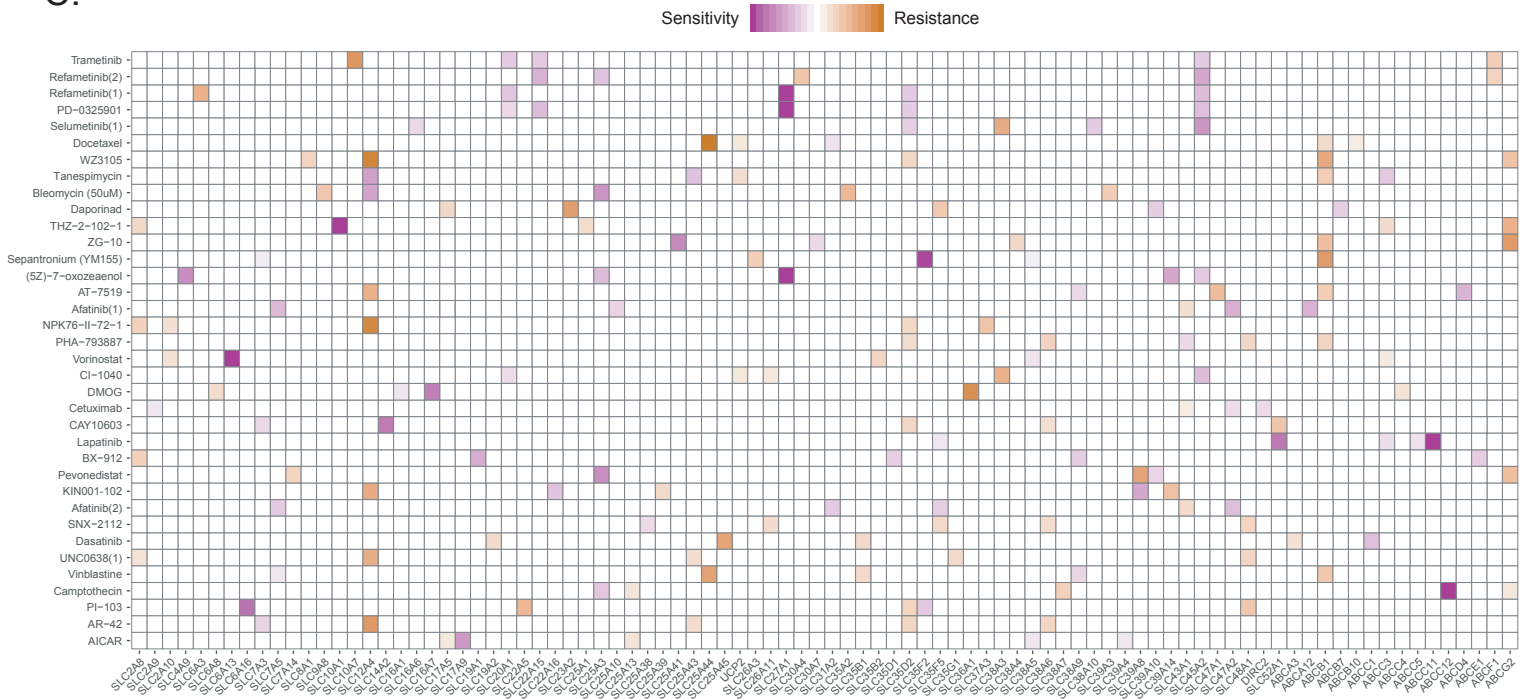
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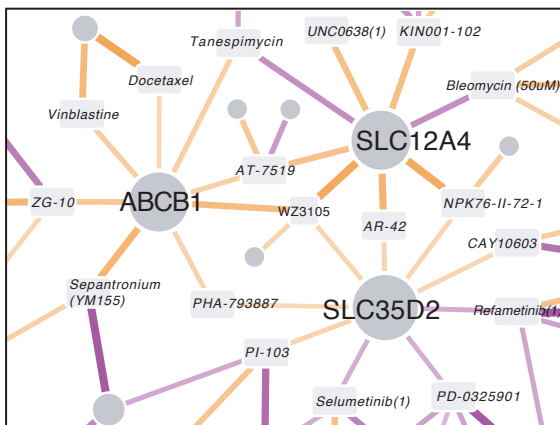
B.



C.



D.



E.

