

AnnoSpat annotates cell types and quantifies cellular arrangements from spatial proteomics

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1 Abstract

2 Cellular composition and anatomical organization influence normal and aberrant organ functions.
3 Emerging spatial single-cell proteomic assays such as Image Mass Cytometry (IMC) and
4 Co-Detection by Indexing (CODEX) have facilitated the study of cellular composition and
5 organization by enabling high-throughput measurement of cells and their localization directly in
6 intact tissues. However, annotation of cell types and quantification of their relative localization
7 in tissues remain challenging. To address these unmet needs, we developed AnnoSpat
8 (Annotator and Spatial Pattern Finder) that uses neural network and point process algorithms
9 to automatically identify cell types and quantify cell-cell proximity relationships. Our study of
10 data from IMC and CODEX show the superior performance of AnnoSpat in rapid and accurate
11 annotation of cell types compared to alternative approaches. Moreover, the application of
12 AnnoSpat to type 1 diabetic, non-diabetic autoantibody-positive, and non-diabetic organ donor
13 cohorts recapitulated known islet pathobiology and showed differential dynamics of pancreatic
14 polypeptide (PP) cell abundance and CD8⁺ T cells infiltration in islets during type 1 diabetes
15 progression.

16 Introduction

17 Tissues consist of diverse cell types whose functions are influenced by communication and
18 interaction with surrounding cells. In addition to cell intrinsic aberrations, dysfunction in the
19 cellular microenvironment impacts organ function and contributes to pathology of complex
20 diseases, such as type 1 diabetes. The emergence of spatially resolved single-cell proteomic
21 assays such as Image Mass Cytometry (IMC) and Co-Detection by Indexing (CODEX) has
22 allowed high-throughput measurement of cellular composition and localization within intact
23 tissues and advanced understanding of intricate cell-cell interactions. However, the unique
24 characteristics of spatial proteomic assays, coupled with their ability to measure millions of cells,
25 have created a need for efficient and automated computational tools that enable identification
26 of cell-types and quantification of their spatial colocalization. To address this unmet need, we
27 introduce AnnoSpat (Annotator and Spatial Pattern Finder) for rapid, scalable, and automated
28 annotation of cell types and quantification of their spatial relationships.

29 Despite the paucity of algorithms for cell-type annotation from IMC and CODEX data, several
30 algorithms have been proposed to predict cell types from single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-
31 seq) data¹. Many of these methods, such as scmap and Garnett, use clustering to group
32 together transcriptionally similar cells and then map each cluster to reference cell types from a
33 *priori* annotated datasets using representative cells from each group^{2,3}. These methods rely on
34 accurate clustering and reference data annotation, which was previously characterized based
35 on manual assessment of differential expression of selected marker genes. Another category
36 of scRNA-seq cell-type annotators use supervised machine learning models such as support
37 vector machines⁴, neural networks⁵, and random forests^{6,7}. Similarity-based methods, such

38 as TooManyPeaks⁸, are the third category of methods that annotate cell types based on bulk
39 measurement of purified reference cell populations. Training of supervised machine learning-
40 and similarity-based methods require large sets of purified or expert-annotated cell populations,
41 which are respectively lacking for *in situ* proteomic assays such as IMC and CODEX. Unique
42 characteristics of IMC and CODEX data further limit the use of existing cell-type annotation
43 methods developed for scRNA-seq. While scRNA-seq experiments provide expression of
44 thousands of genes for cell type prediction, IMC and CODEX measure the expression of
45 tens of proteins. Furthermore, IMC and CODEX readouts are continuous intensities that
46 cannot be readily inputted to most scRNA-seq cell-type annotators, such as Garnett, that only
47 accept scRNA-seq count readouts. To address such limitations, Astir was recently proposed
48 specifically for cell-type annotation from IMC data⁹. This method uses deep recognition neural
49 networks for inference of cell types based on known marker proteins. Benchmarking of Astir
50 suggests that supervised- and marker-based cell-type annotation methods tend to outperform
51 other approaches⁹. Guided by this observation, we developed AnnoSpat by combining semi-
52 supervised and supervised learning methods for cell-type annotation of IMC and CODEX data
53 in the absence of manually labeled cells for training.

54 Cell-type annotation is an initial step in the analysis of most spatial proteomic data such as
55 IMC and CODEX. To fully benefit from *in situ* single-cell assays and investigate tissue microen-
56 vironment, methods are needed to quantify the spatial organization of cells in regions of interest.
57 The current methods either measure cell density across distances⁷, use Bayesian models
58 estimating cell types across locations¹⁰, or use Ripley statistics¹¹. To create a comprehensive
59 tool capable of automating annotation of cell types and quantifying their spatial relationships,
60 we also equipped AnnoSpat with new point process-based algorithms that relate not only the
61 distribution of a single cell type in a region of interest as with Ripley's K function statistics, but
62 also examine the interaction of multiple cell types.

63 We assessed the accuracy and efficiency of AnnoSpat by benchmarking its ability to identify
64 various cell types within pancreatic tissues. In addition to quantitative comparative benchmarking
65 using IMC and CODEX data, we evaluated AnnoSpat performance based on expert annotated
66 pancreata of type 1 diabetes (T1D) and non-diabetic donors. Given that pancreas is the site of
67 T1D pathogenesis in which the host immune system mounts a response to insulin-secreting
68 pancreatic beta cells, we further used AnnoSpat to study the microenvironment of pancreata
69 from donors with autoantibodies towards pancreatic islet proteins in their blood but no clinical
70 diagnosis of T1D (AAb⁺) to better understand T1D progression. Together, our comprehensive
71 analysis of 1,170,000 cells from 143 slides of 19 Human Pancreas Analysis Program (HPAP)
72 donors revealed the effectiveness of AnnoSpat in reliably identifying cell types and quantifying
73 their spatial organization in complex tissues. AnnoSpat and its individual components are
74 available through <https://github.com/faryabiLab/AnnoSpat>.

75 Results

76 AnnoSpat identifies cell types and quantifies their relative localization.

77 To predict the identity of individual cells and quantify their localization within tissues, we
78 developed AnnoSpat for automated analysis of spatially aware single-cell proteomic data
79 (Figure 1). AnnoSpat provides an end-to-end solution for analysis of IMC and CODEX data
80 (Figure 1A) by implementing two distinct but complementary functionalities: “Annotator” (Figure
81 1B) and “Spatial Pattern Finder” (Figure 1C).

82 To address the unmet need for annotating individual IMC- or CODEX-measured cells, the
83 Annotator module of AnnoSpat learns a cell-type predictor from the matrix of raw protein
84 expression levels and a list of *a priori* cell-type marker proteins. To overcome the lack of
85 manually annotated training data, AnnoSpat implements a two-step learning process (Figure
86 1B). First, AnnoSpat deploys a constrained K-means semi-supervised clustering algorithm to
87 create training data from a subset of cells in the dataset. Using this automatically generated
88 training data, AnnoSpat then trains a classifier that will be used to predict the identity of additional
89 cells. The number of clusters is set to the number of expected cell types within the tissue of
90 interest along with an optional “Unknown” group that could account for cell types omitted from
91 the marker protein list. To enhance the accuracy of K-means clustering, AnnoSpat initializes
92 each cluster with cells that were annotated with high confidence based on distinct expression
93 of marker proteins (Materials and Methods). This crucial step provides semi-supervision to
94 the clustering algorithm, guiding AnnoSpat in grouping a subset of cells with similar protein
95 expression levels into cell-type-labeled training cells. Taking this automatically generated
96 training data, AnnoSpat then learns an extreme learning machine (ELM) classifier. ELM is
97 a feed-forward neural network with non-iterative single step learning, which does not require
98 tuning and backpropagation, and provides generalization performance and orders of magnitude
99 faster learning compared to support vector machines and multi-layer perceptron¹² (Materials
100 and Methods). Together, the two-step learning algorithm equips AnnoSpat with an efficient and
101 accurate cell annotation mechanism.

102 To enable the study of tissue microenvironment, we equipped AnnoSpat with the Spatial
103 Pattern Finder module, which takes as input the Annotator-predicted cell types and their physical
104 coordinates on the tissue region of interest (ROI) and quantifies cellular localization patterns
105 (Figure 1C). The Spatial Pattern Finder algorithm applies point process theory to summarize
106 cell relationships across a range of distances, from local neighborhoods to remote cells. Briefly,
107 AnnoSpat compares cell pairs based on their cell type to any randomly chosen cells at a given
108 distance apart. This process returns a mark cross-correlation function, a measure of cell-type
109 aggregation at different distances (see Materials and Methods). The application of the mark
110 cross-correlation function across ROIs allows for systematic quantification and comparison of
111 inter-cell-type proximity in different conditions (Figure 1C). In addition to AnnoSpat software,
112 we implemented Spatial Pattern Finder within the TooManyCells single-cell analysis suite¹³.
113 This implementation includes the generation of interactive proximity plots that may be filtered

114 by protein expression to fine-tune cell-type annotation. These interactive features also assist
115 with exploration of spatial cell relationships. AnnoSpat's Annotator and Spatial Pattern Finder
116 functionalities together provide a solution for rapid and accurate annotation of millions of cells to
117 study tissue microenvironment and cellular organization.

118 **AnnoSpat accurately identifies cell types in complex pancreatic tissues.**

119 To assess AnnoSpat's Annotator performance, we first used IMC experiments measuring 33
120 proteins in pancreata from T1D and non-diabetic donors (Tables S1 and S2), and compared the
121 ability of AnnoSpat, semi-supervised clustering (SSC), SCINA, AUCCell, and Astir in identifying
122 endocrine cell types. We considered these methods for comparative analysis since similar
123 to AnnoSpat, they automate cell-type annotation and do not need training data. Astir uses a
124 probabilistic Bayesian framework and is the only method developed for cell-type annotation
125 from proteomics data⁹. SSC is a variant of AnnoSpat with its classifier replaced by centroids
126 from the semi-supervised clustering step in Figure 1B. SCINA¹⁴ and AUCCell¹⁵ use expectation-
127 maximization and gene expression ranking for cell-type annotation from scRNA-seq count
128 data, respectively. Default or suggested filters and parameters were used for all algorithms
129 except AUCCell, where size-factor normalization was disabled due to differences between the
130 characteristics of discrete scRNA-seq count and continuous IMC data. Here, we used the
131 canonical protein markers listed in Table S3 as an input to AnnoSpat and SCC.

132 To examine the extent of protein expression homogeneity in cell types predicted by these
133 cell-type annotation methods, we compared their performances on 10 sets of 50,000 randomly
134 selected cells using the Silhouette Index (SI) and Davies Bouldin (DB) metrics. While SI
135 assesses how a cell's protein expression differs from other cells assigned the same type versus
136 those assigned other types, DB reports the average similarity of each cell type with its most
137 similar cell type, where similarity is defined as the ratio of intra-cell-type to inter-cell-type protein
138 expression distances. More accurate cell-type annotation results in higher SI and lower DB.
139 Based on these metrics, we observed differential performance of algorithms that depended
140 on both cell type and disease status (Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C row 1; Tables S4, S5, and S6;
141 and Supplemental Notes for AnnoSpat Benchmarking). For instance, AnnoSpat and SSC more
142 accurately detected delta cells in the control samples compared to other algorithms. Notably,
143 Astir, developed for cell-type annotation from IMC data, showed lower accuracy in identifying
144 many cell types in both control and T1D samples.

145 To complement quantitative benchmarking and further evaluate the performance of cell-type
146 annotation algorithms, we inspected protein expression profiles of cells labeled as alpha, beta,
147 pancreatic polypeptide (PP), delta, and epsilon from IMC of T1D and non-diabetic donors. Com-
148 pared to other cell types, these endocrine populations were particularly suitable for comparative
149 analysis due to higher quality of their antibodies. We used a variant of term-frequency inverse
150 document frequency (TF-IDF) normalization to reduce the effect of non-specific antibodies such
151 as anti-CD99 and anti-beta actin on data visualization (Figure S1 and Materials and Methods).
152 Inspection of endocrine canonical marker protein expression confirmed our quantitative bench-

153 marking (Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C row 1) and showed the higher performance of AnnoSpat
154 compared to other algorithms (Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C, rows 2 to 6; and Supplemental Notes for
155 AnnoSpat Benchmarking). In addition to endocrine cells, AnnoSpat effectively detected other
156 cell types that had high quality antibodies and are commonly present in the pancreatic tissue
157 (Figures S1C, S2, and Supplemental Notes for AnnoSpat Benchmarking).

158 In addition to accuracy, we compared completeness and run-time of cell-type annotation.
159 By using ELM, AnnoSpat annotated more than 90% of 1.1 million cells (Figure 2D and Table
160 S7) in less than 2 minutes, a run-time only 3-times longer than SSC and notably faster than
161 all other compared algorithms (Figure 2E and Table S8). Although SSC and AnnoSpat mostly
162 exhibited comparable performance, close examination of data highlighted the additional ben-
163 efit of AnnoSpat (Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C, rows 1 and 2, and S1). For instance, SSC- but
164 not AnnoSpat-annotated delta cells expressed high levels of CD14, a protein expressed in
165 macrophages and not delta cells (Figures 2B and 2C, rows 1 and 2). Notably, Astir failed to
166 label nearly 50% of the cells (Figure 2D, Table S7) while took 40-times longer (Figure 2E, Table
167 S8). Due to its bi-modal distribution model, SCINA assigned a label to almost all the cells
168 in a reasonable time (Figures 2D and 2E, Tables S7 and S8) at the expense of diminished
169 accuracy (Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C, rows 1, 2 and 5). Conversely, AUCell exhibited comparable
170 performance to AnnoSpat (Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C, rows 1, 2 and 6), but it failed to annotate
171 most cells included in the benchmarking analysis, potentially leading to information loss. Close
172 examination of data revealed that AUCell more accurately labeled cell types with a larger num-
173 ber of marker proteins such as ductal cells (Figure S2 and Table S3), a feature of scRNA-seq
174 measuring thousands of transcripts but not spatial proteomics measuring tens of proteins.

175 To assess the generalizability of our comparative analyses, we extended these analysis to
176 CODEX measurements of 24 proteins in 220,155 cells from 30 islets in a non-diabetic donor
177 (Tables S9 and S10). Similar to IMC results (Figures 2 and S2), qualitative and quantitative
178 studies showed higher performance of AnnoSpat in predicting endocrine cell types with high
179 quality antibodies from CODEX data compared to other algorithms (Figure S3 and Table S11,
180 and Supplemental Notes for AnnoSpat Benchmarking). Together, these comparative analyses
181 indicated the advantage of using AnnoSpat for accurate, comprehensive, and rapid cell-type
182 annotation from IMC and CODEX spatial proteomic measurements.

183 **AnnoSpat improves accuracy of cell type identification in expert-annotated pan-** 184 **creata.**

185 To further demonstrate AnnoSpat's ability in accurate cell-type annotation, we compared An-
186 noSpat and expert-annotated endocrine cell composition in pancreata of non-diabetic and
187 diabetic donors¹⁶ (Figure 3 and Table S12). Comparison of AnnoSpat- and expert-annotated
188 cells revealed concordance in endocrine cell composition in 12 out of 15 (80%) examined IMC
189 samples (Figures 3A and 3B). Notably, our analysis revealed manual cell-type mislabeling
190 in the remaining three discordant samples (Figures 3C, 3D and S4). Compared to expert
191 annotation, AnnoSpat identified markedly higher and lower percentages of PP and delta cells in

192 (HPAP002, Head) and (HPAP015, Head), respectively (Figures 3A and 3B). Close examination
193 of these samples confirmed the accuracy of AnnoSpat cell-type annotation and showed high
194 expression of canonical PP cell marker protein, PPY, in AnnoSpat-annotated cells (Figures 3C,
195 3D, S4A, and S4B). While AnnoSpat identified a high percentage of alpha cells in the body
196 region of HPAP006 pancreas, manual annotation indicated a low percentage of alpha and a
197 high percentage of delta cells (Figures 3A and 3B). In line with AnnoSpat cell-type annotation,
198 we observed a higher percentage of cells with elevated levels of glucagon (a canonical marker
199 of alpha cells) in HPAP006 pancreas body (Figures S4C and S4D).

200 Given the single-cell resolution of IMC data, we next used various visualization methods
201 to compare the AnnoSpat-assigned cell types with canonical marker protein expression levels
202 in individual endocrine cells. Uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) plots of
203 AnnoSpat cell label and endocrine marker protein expression clearly visualized specificity of
204 glucagon, c-peptide, somatostatin, ghrelin, and PPY expression in cells labeled as alpha, beta,
205 delta, epsilon, and PP cells, respectively (Figure S5). A similar analysis using TooManyCells,
206 which visualizes cell-cell protein expression relationships as a tree¹³, further confirmed our
207 UMAP analysis and demonstrated a high association between AnnoSpat-predicted endocrine
208 cell types and expression of their canonical marker proteins at cell clusters (Figure 3E).

209 Finally, we used the locational information from the spatial proteomic data to directly compare
210 AnnoSpat annotations and marker protein intensities of endocrine cells *in situ*. This analysis
211 revealed a stark concordance between the position of cells predicted as alpha, beta, delta,
212 epsilon, and PP and the intensity of glucagon, c-peptide, somatostatin, ghrelin, and PPY
213 expression on randomly selected IMC and CODEX slides, respectively (Figures 3F, 3G, S3I,
214 and S3J). This single-cell resolution analysis complemented benchmarking against expert-
215 annotated samples and further demonstrated the accuracy of AnnoSpat in identifying the
216 identity of individual cells in spatial proteomic data.

217 **AnnoSpat showed PP cell count increase during T1D progression.**

218 Linking expression of canonical protein markers with the predicated cell types demonstrated
219 AnnoSpat's superior ability to automatically identify various cell types within the heterogeneous
220 pancreas tissue, the site of T1D pathogenesis (Figures 2 and 3). To further evaluate AnnoSpat
221 functionality, we next examined whether it could correctly detect progressive changes in pan-
222 creata during T1D progression. We thus compared IMC data of four non-diabetic (control) and
223 four diabetic (T1D) donors with data of eight donors with autoantibodies towards islet proteins
224 (AABs) but without T1D medical history (AAb⁺) (Table S2). Given that many T1D patients harbor
225 AABs in their bloodstream prior to clinical diagnosis, we postulated that this analysis might
226 elucidate pathogenic events prior to disease manifestation.

227 Control, AAb⁺ and T1D donors demonstrated distinct total normalized protein expression
228 patterns in cell types annotated by AnnoSpat (Figure 4A). Comparison of cell-type composition
229 revealed marked decreases in beta-cell counts of T1D donors (Figure 4B), as expected^{17,18}.
230 This analysis further showed a notable increase in the number of cells labeled as PP in T1D

231 donors (Figure 4B).

232 In contrast to beta cells, the role of PP cells in T1D etiology is less understood. Furthermore,
233 there are conflicting reports regarding changes in the PP cell count during T1D development^{19–24}.
234 We thus compared the number of PP cells identified within the pancreata from control, AAb⁺,
235 and T1D donors. This analysis showed a marked increase in the number of PP cells in T1D
236 pancreata (Figure 4C), as reported^{16,21}.

237 To further scrutinize this observation, we examined the location of individual AnnoSpat-
238 annotated endocrine cells (Figure 4D) on the TooManyCells tree of non-diabetic control and T1D
239 pancreatic cells (Figure 4E). This single-cell resolution analysis further showed that AnnoSpat-
240 annotated PP cells were disproportionately located at T1D pancreas heads (Figures 4E and 4F),
241 with the exception of HPAP020. Given AAb⁺ donors also did not show elevated PP-cell counts
242 (Figure 4C), we tested whether disease progression correlates with changes in PP-cell numbers.
243 PP cell counts were comparable in control and T1D donors with less than 5 years of T1D, and
244 were markedly lower than donors with a prolonged T1D (Figures 4G and S6). Notably, fewer PP
245 cells were found in the head of HPAP020 pancreas, a 14-year-old donor who, with missed T1D
246 diagnosis, passed away within days of T1D onset (Figures 4G and S6). To further substantiate
247 this observation, we closely examined data from Damond et al.²⁵. This data set confirmed our
248 observation and showed enrichment of PP cells in the only donor with long-duration of T1D and
249 available head section sample in this cohort (nPOD case 6,264). Together, these data showed
250 the ability of AnnoSpat to identify rare PP cells, and further suggest changes in the PP cell
251 count during T1D progression in our cohort, which could be absolute or relative, respectively,
252 due to PP cell hyperplasia or PP-cell poor region atrophy impacting tissue sampling.

253 In addition to tissue level analysis (Figure 4), IMC data can be used for single-cell resolution
254 study of protein expression changes in T1D. To this end, we sought to identify the proliferating
255 cell populations within pancreatic tissue using Ki67 as a protein marker. Average normalized
256 protein levels showed high Ki67 expression in various immune populations (Figure 5A and
257 Materials and Methods). To identify the proliferating cell types and their disease status, we
258 used the TooManyCell tree to identify individual Ki67⁺ cells (Figure 5B). This analysis revealed
259 that myeloid and regulatory T cells comprised most of the Ki67⁺ cells (Figure 5C). Examination
260 of highly proliferating cells' positions further revealed that these cells were disproportionately
261 located in the tail region of AAb⁺ and T1D pancreata (Figure 5D). Although the role of these
262 highly proliferating immune cells in T1D patients awaits further investigation, this analysis
263 demonstrated the ability of AnnoSpat to simultaneously stratify multiple cell types enabling
264 detailed molecular phenotyping to identify changes in the immune milieu of complex diseases
265 such as T1D.

266 **AnnoSpat elucidates CD8⁺ T cell infiltration in islet during T1D development.**

267 Having identified composition of endocrine cells in control, AAb⁺, and T1D samples, we next
268 sought to understand the spatial relationships between islets and immune cells (Figure 6). To
269 quantify cell proximity, we used AnnoSpat's 'Spatial Pattern Finder' functionality, which identifies

270 spatial patterns of cells by reporting cross-correlation functions from point process theory.
271 Briefly, AnnoSpat interprets each cell as a point in space with the cell type as a discrete feature
272 “mark”. In this space, AnnoSpat measures the expected number of cells per unit area. AnnoSpat
273 compares this number, which is its null model, to the expected number of cells for a given
274 cell-type pairing to find whether these cell types tended to aggregate across a range of distances
275 (Figure 1C and Materials and Methods). To compare mark cross-correlation functions between
276 distributions of ROIs, we proposed multiple measures to summarize mark cross-correlation
277 functions into single values such as the distance at the maximum correlation value for each
278 ROI.

279 To verify the use of mark cross-correlation functions in IMC data, we first used AnnoSpat’s
280 Spatial Pattern Finder to compare endocrine cell aggregation into islets with their aggregation
281 with acinar cells in the ROIs of the control donors. As expected, endocrine cells aggregated
282 more with each other (Figure 6A, median 2.26 distance at maximum correlation value) than
283 with acinar cells (Figure 6B, median 149). These spatial relationships were confirmed by
284 visual inspection of the samples present at the median values, where the endocrine cells
285 were generally aggregated with each other while positioned more randomly with respect to
286 acinar cells (Figures 6C and 6D). Using an alternative measure to summarize the mark cross-
287 correlation functions, we observed similar spatial patterns confirming the use of both measures
288 in comparison of cell-cell proximity patterns (Figures S7A-D and Materials and Methods).

289 To further examine the utility of AnnoSpat’s Spatial Pattern Finder in studying T1D patho-
290 genesis, we next quantified the spatial relationship between CD8⁺ T and islet cells. Given that
291 the destruction of insulin-producing beta cells by cytotoxic CD8⁺ T cells contributes to T1D
292 pathogenesis^{17,18}, we tested the hypothesis that T1D progression would be characterized by
293 different levels of cytotoxic CD8⁺ T cell infiltration in islets. Applying mark cross-correlation
294 functions to all ROIs for four cohorts of control, AAb⁺, recent T1D (< 1 year), and prolonged
295 T1D (\geq 1 year) revealed two distinct patterns of spatial relationships between islets and CD8⁺
296 T cells: AAb⁺ with recent T1D and control with prolonged T1D (Figures 6E-I). Non-diabetic
297 control donors, as expected, had relatively low degrees of CD8⁺ T cell infiltration in islets
298 (median 146). Similarly, we observed low levels of CD8⁺ T infiltration in islets of prolonged
299 T1D (median 181). In contrast, both AAb⁺ (median 81.1) and recent T1D (median 55.7) had
300 markedly higher aggregation of CD8⁺ T cells within islets relative to both control and prolonged
301 T1D groups (Kruskal-Wallis $p < 0.01$), suggesting potential differences in immune responses
302 during T1D progression (Figures 6E-I). Furthermore, AAb⁺ and recent T1D tissues showed
303 similar levels of CD8⁺ T cells infiltration in islets ($p > 0.05$), suggesting similar autoimmune
304 responses in early stages of T1D with and without clinical diagnosis (Figures 6E-I). These
305 differential spatial relationships were confirmed using our alternative mark cross-correlation
306 summarization measure (Figures S7E-I). Visual inspection of IMC images further supported
307 these quantitative observations (Figure S7J-M), suggesting that CD8⁺ T cell infiltration in islets
308 increases in early onset but not prolonged T1D.

309 Discussion

310 Spatial profiling of cells *in situ* has enabled comprehensive exploration of cellular organization
311 in tissues. Such high-throughput data has led to the need for automated cell-type annotation
312 and methods to quantify cell-cell spatial relationships. However, current methods for cell-type
313 annotation in spatial proteomic analysis either involve manual labeling, which prohibits scalability,
314 or suffer from low accuracy as shown in our comparative studies. To address this unmet need
315 and overcome these limitations, we developed AnnoSpat for efficient and accurate prediction of
316 individual cell types and their relationships within spatial proteomic data. Using both quantitative
317 and qualitative benchmarking, we demonstrated that AnnoSpat can rapidly and accurately
318 predict the identity of millions of cells in complex human pancreata profiled with IMC and
319 CODEX assays. Our comparative studies further showed that AnnoSpat can predict lineages of
320 large fraction of cells with high accuracy, while other existing cell annotation algorithms failed
321 to do so. AnnoSpat accuracy is further exemplified by identifying endocrine cell populations
322 undetected by manual annotation.

323 Using the unique capabilities of AnnoSpat, we accurately recapitulated known changes
324 in the pancreas microenvironment during T1D progression such as depletion of beta cells
325 with minimal manual intervention on a dataset of over a million cells. Moreover, our analysis
326 supported the possibility of changes in the number of PP cells within the pancreas head region
327 during T1D progression. We also observed proliferating immune cells were enriched within
328 the tail region of pancreata from AAb⁺ and T1D donors. Differential immune-cell heterogeneity
329 during T1D progression was not solely limited to cell count. By using AnnoSpat's spatial
330 relationship quantification functionality, we found different spatial patterns between immune and
331 endocrine cells across donor types. Specifically, AnnoSpat reported marked changes in CD8⁺
332 T cell infiltration in islet during T1D progression, suggesting alternative disease categorizations
333 – donors recently diagnosed along with AAb⁺ donors versus control donors and those with
334 prolonged T1D, potentially due to a reduced autoimmunity response after beta cell depletion in
335 prolonged T1D.

336 AnnoSpat is generalized for spatial single-cell proteomics, potentially applicable to many
337 tissue types and disease conditions. Yet, the performance of AnnoSpat and other for automated
338 cell type annotation algorithms could be impacted by IMC and CODEX antibody quality, such
339 as the ones used for PPY and CD4 in CODEX and IMC experiments here. To enhance
340 usability across domains, AnnoSpat is well documented and available as an easy-to-install
341 standalone program through pip at <https://github.com/faryabiLab/AnnoSpat>. We also
342 provided Annospat's spatial pattern quantification functionality as part of the TooManyCells
343 suite located at <https://github.com/GregorySchwartz/too-many-cells>.

344 **Materials and Methods**

345 **Supplemental Notes for AnnoSpat Benchmarking**

346 Our comparative analysis presented in Figures 2 and S2 highlighted the intricacy of differences
347 in the ability of AnnoSpat, semi-supervised clustering (SSC), SCINA, AUCell, and Astir to
348 identify endocrine cell types in pancreatic tissues. Here, we presented a more comprehensive
349 description of these differences. Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C row 1; as well as Tables S4, S5,
350 and S6 revealed the algorithms' cell-type- and disease-status-related performance differences.
351 Despite a comparable performance in detecting most cells, AUCell exhibited low accuracy in
352 identifying beta cells in T1D samples, where immunological destruction of beta cells results in
353 low beta-cell abundance. Most methods underperformed in detecting the epsilon cells, which is
354 a rare endocrine cell type in islets. SCINA and AUCell more accurately detected PP compared
355 to delta cells. AnnoSpat and SSC more accurately detected delta cells in the control samples
356 compared to other algorithms. SCINA, designed for scRNA-seq count data, underperformed
357 on both metrics and sample conditions, underscoring the need for cell-type calling algorithms
358 specifically designed for spatial proteomics data that is fundamentally different from scRNA-seq
359 count data. Importantly, Astir, developed for cell-type detection from IMC data, showed lower
360 accuracy in identifying many cell types in both control and T1D samples.

361 Inspection of protein expression profiles of cells annotated as alpha, beta, PP, delta, and
362 epsilon from IMC of T1D and non-diabetic donors (Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C, rows 2 to 6) further
363 confirmed our quantitative benchmarking and showed the higher performance of AnnoSpat
364 compared to SCINA and Astir, the other method specifically designed for cell-type annotation
365 from spatial proteomic data. AnnoSpat- and Astir-predicted beta cells from T1D samples,
366 where beta cells are rare, showed high levels of immune cell-restricted proteins CD57 and
367 HLA-ABC. Comparing the result of cell-type prediction from T1D alone with T1D plus control
368 cohorts (i.e. Combined) showed that additional samples improved the performance of AnnoSpat
369 more-so than Astir. Notably, Astir equally failed to detect epsilon cells in T1D, control, and
370 combined data sets. CD11b, a marker of dendritic cells, was the highest expressed protein in
371 the Astir-predicted delta cells. Furthermore, Astir-predicted alpha cells expressed high levels of
372 somatostatin, a canonical marker of delta cells. Similar to Astir, SCINA failed to detect delta
373 cells in samples from non-diabetic donors. Moreover, SCINA-annotated PP cells were less
374 homogeneous compared to the AnnoSpat-labeled cells.

375 In addition to endocrine cells, AnnoSpat effectively detected other cell types that had high
376 quality antibodies and are commonly present in the pancreatic tissue (Figures S1C and S2).
377 For instance, AnnoSpat clearly identified CD8⁺ T cells that had a specific antibody (Figures
378 S1C and S2). Conversely, detection of helper and memory T cells was less accurate due to
379 their less specific antibodies (Figures S1C and S2).

380 We further extended our comparative studies to CODEX measurements of 24 proteins in
381 220,155 cells from 30 islets in a non-diabetic donor (Tables S9 and S10). For this analysis, we
382 focused on detection of alpha, beta, and delta cells due to lower quality of PPY and grehlin

383 antibodies (Figure S3A). SI and DB metrics suggested that AnnoSpat's performance was
384 comparable to AUCell and SCINA for most populations (Figure S3B, Table S11). Yet, a close
385 examination of labeled cells revealed that in contrast to AnnoSpat, SCINA-annotated beta cells
386 expressed high levels of somatostatin, a canonical marker of delta cells (Figures S3C and S3F).
387 While AnnoSpat identified a pure delta cell population, SCINA-annotated delta cells lacked
388 high levels of canonical marker SST. AUCell-annotated delta cells expressed high levels of
389 CD206, ARG1, and CD4, canonical markers of macrophages and T helper cells, respectively
390 (Figures S3C and S3G). In contrast to IMC analysis, AnnoSpat consistently outperformed SSC
391 in predicting abundant endocrine cells from CODEX data. For instance, ghrelin, a canonical
392 marker of epsilon cells, was highly expressed in SSC-labeled delta cells (Figure S3C and
393 S3D), supporting advantage of ELM usage in AnnoSpat. Similar to benchmarking with IMC
394 data (Figure 2), AnnoSpat outperformed Astir in predicting endocrine cells from CODEX data
395 (Figures S3C and S3E). Besides beta cells, Astir failed to annotate other major endocrine cell
396 populations (Figure S3E). Close examination of data further showed high levels of non-beta-cell-
397 associated proteins in Astir-labeled beta cells (Figures S3B and S3E). Notably, we observed
398 high levels of canonical marker proteins in the nucleus and/or cytoplasm of AnnoSpat-labeled
399 cells from high-resolution CODEX data, further supporting the accuracy of AnnoSpat in cell type
400 annotation (Figure S3H). Together, these comprehensive analyses indicated the advantage
401 of using AnnoSpat for accurate, comprehensive, and rapid cell-type annotation from IMC and
402 CODEX spatial proteomic measurements.

403 **IMC and CODEX Data**

404 IMC data were obtained from Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded (FFPE) pancreatic tissues
405 collected by the Human Pancreas Analysis Program (HPAP) as described previously¹⁶, and is
406 available at the HPAP data repository <https://hpap.pmacs.upenn.edu/>. CODEX data were
407 obtained from the same source, and will be deposited at the HPAP data repository. In IMC, cell
408 segmentation of all images was performed with the Vis software package (Visiopharm). All
409 image channels were pre-processed with a 3×3 -pixel median filter. Afterwards, cells were
410 segmented by applying a polynomial local linear parameter-based blob filter to the Iridium-193
411 DNA channel of each image to select objects representing individual nuclei. Identified nuclear
412 objects were restricted to those greater than $10 \mu m^2$. The detected objects were dilated up to
413 seven pixels to approximate cell boundaries. For all proteins, the average pixel intensity of the
414 channel per cell was exported from Visiopharm and used for AnnoSpat's input. Cell locations
415 on each ROI were also exported for AnnoSpat's input.

416 **AnnoSpat Overview**

417 AnnoSpat is a tool to annotate single cells from their proteomic profiles and measure spatial
418 cellular relationships using their *in situ* coordinates within the ROI. AnnoSpat takes as input
419 a single-cell raw proteomic data with associated spatial information as well as a signature file

420 listing potentially both positive and negative protein signatures associated with desired cell
421 types. The format of the signature file can be found in Tables S3 and S10.

422 AnnoSpat first normalizes the protein channel intensity data to reduce the effect of outliers
423 and varied protein intensity scales (Materials and Methods: Data Processing). AnnoSpat then
424 randomly splits the normalized data into two partitions (training and testing sets). Cells from
425 50% of each ROI are placed in the training set, while the remaining are used as the testing
426 set. If the ROIs' disease condition/status is available, AnnoSpat can split the ROIs by status to
427 ensure that equal percentage of each type of ROIs are included in each set.

428 AnnoSpat implements constrained K-means semi-supervised clustering^{27,28} to identify
429 groups of cells in the training set that are similar in proteomic space. AnnoSpat's constrained K-
430 means clustering is initialized by "initial cluster centroids", providing "cell-type aware" clustering
431 (Materials and Methods: Generation of Initial Cluster Centroids). The number of clusters is
432 deterministic and is equal to $K + 1$, where K denotes the number of expected cell types in the
433 sample. The additional $(K + 1)$ th cluster accounts for other cell types in the experiment that are
434 not specified in the marker file, including "Unknown" ones. The output of constrained K-means
435 produces the cells that are predicted to be related and thus are used by AnnoSpat as a training
436 set to learn the label of the remaining cells by training an extreme learning machine classifier
437 (ELM)¹² (Materials and Methods: Training Extreme Learning Machine Classifier). The trained
438 model is saved to label cells from other data sources, eliminating the need for re-clustering or
439 re-training whenever new data is available.

440 AnnoSpat can use the cell-type labels and cellular coordinates to quantify spatial relation-
441 ships between each pair of cell types (Materials and Methods: AnnoSpat's Spatial Pattern
442 Finder). Briefly, AnnoSpats uses point process theory to quantify relationships (aggregation
443 or repulsion) between any two cell types across a range of distances. This information is
444 summarized with a variety of different metrics including the distance at the maximum correlation,
445 the distance at which the correlation first becomes positive or negative, and more in order to
446 quantify proximity relationships across ROIs. Interactive plots of each cell location with observed
447 feature (protein expression) distributions are also outputted to facilitate data exploration (For
448 example see Figures 6 and S7).

449 AnnoSpat Data Processing

450 To reduce the effect of outliers, AnnoSpat first calculates Data matrix D by log transforming
451 cell-by-protein channel intensity (expression) after addition of pseudo-count 1. Specifically,
452 $d_{c \times p} = e_{c \times p} + 1$, where $e_{c \times p}$ is the expression of protein p channel in cell c . Then, AnnoSpat
453 unit normalizes the log-transformed intensity matrix to scale each cell vector to unit length. This
454 projects each cell to a unit sphere in the proteomic space. We denote the normalized proteomic
455 matrix by X obtained from scaling each row d_i of D as follows:

$$x_i = \frac{d_i}{\|d\|}, \text{ where } \|d_i\| = \left(\sum_{j=1}^P \|d_j\|^2 \right)^{1/2},$$

456 where, $\|d_i\|$ denotes the l_2 or Euclidean norm of i th cell. P is the number of measured proteins.

457 This step accounts for variable expression across proteins and correlates the Euclidean
458 distances (used for clustering) between cell vectors and cosine distances in the proteomic
459 space. Compared to euclidean distance, the angle between the cell vectors in proteomic space
460 better reflects cell-cell similarities/differences²⁹.

461 **Generation of Initial Cluster Centroids**

462 As opposed to traditional K-means where the initial cluster centroids are randomly selected,
463 AnnoSpat implements constrained K-means that follows a more “cell-type aware” approach^{27,28}.
464 Initial cluster centroids are obtained from representatives of each cluster (“cell-type” here).
465 AnnoSpat calculates initial cluster centroids by taking the mean of representative cells R_k for
466 each cluster $k = 1, \dots, K + 1$. The number of clusters is one more than the number of cell
467 types K ; an extra (“Unknown”) cluster accounts for cell types not included in the marker file.

468 AnnoSpat obtains the cluster representations R_1, R_2, \dots, R_{K+1} by:

- 469 1. Obtaining positive and negative markers M^+ and M^- from the signature file.
- 470 2. Calculating the score M_c for c^{th} cell type by multiplying the protein intensities correspond-
471 ing to positive markers and the compliment of protein intensities corresponding to negative
472 markers as follows:
473

$$M_c = \prod_{i \in M^+} X_i * \prod_{j \in M^-} (max(X_j) - X_j), \quad c = 1, \dots, K.$$

- 474 3. Selecting cell representatives R_1, R_2, \dots, R_K of cell types $c = 1, \dots, K$ in the signature
475 file such that they have

$$M_c > M_{c,high} \quad \text{and} \quad M_c < M_{c,max}, \text{ where}$$

476
$$M_{c,high} = \text{percentile}(M_c, q_{high}) \quad \text{and} \quad M_{c,max} = \text{percentile}(M_c, q_{max}).$$

477 The value q_{high} is adaptive and can be optionally chosen based on prior knowledge of the
478 number of cells from the cell type present in the data (defaulting to the 95th percentile).
479 Here, q_{high} was set to $99 \leq q_{high} \leq 99.9$ and $99.5 \leq q_{high} \leq 99.99$ for various cell
480 types in the analysis of pancreas IMC and CODEX data, respectively. $M_{c,high}$ is the
481 score cut-off to pick cluster representative cells as the ones having a very high score M_c
482 corresponding to the c^{th} cell type. The threshold q_{max} is set to 100 or a value slightly less

483 than that to make sure that assay artifacts are not included in the initial cluster centroid
484 calculation. Here, q_{max} was set to 99.999 and 100 for the analysis of pancreas IMC and
485 CODEX data, respectively.

486 4. Assigning cell representatives R_{K+1} of the “Unknown” cluster such that they have $M_c <$
487 $M_{c,low}$ where

$$M_{c,low} = \text{percentile}(M_c, q_{low}).$$

488 The threshold q_{low} defines the cut-offs to pick cells with expression $< M_{c,low}$ in all cell
489 types.

490 AnnoSpat performs the above procedure to assign cluster representative cells in decreasing
491 order of cell-type abundance (representative of more abundant cell types are selected first).
492 Cell-type abundance acts as a proxy for the expected number of cells for each cell type and is
493 obtained by summing cell intensities of the scale-normalized canonical protein markers.

494 Once the cell representatives R_1, R_2, \dots, R_{K+1} have been assigned, AnnoSpat computes
495 initial centroids \bar{x}_k for cluster $k = 1, \dots, K + 1$ by taking the average across the representative
496 cells R_k as follows:

$$\bar{x}_{kj} = \frac{1}{|R_k|} \sum_{x_i \in R_k} x_{ij}, \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, P$$

497 where x_{ij} represents the intensity of the j^{th} protein in i^{th} cell.

498 Cell Labeling with Semi-supervised Clustering

499 AnnoSpat takes the cell representatives R_k 's and initial cluster centroids \bar{x}_k 's and iteratively
500 runs constrained K-means algorithm on the cells from 50% of the ROIs included in the training
501 set as shown in Algorithm 1. L_i denotes the cluster label assigned to the i^{th} cell and C_k denotes
502 the set of cells in cluster k . The assigned cell labels are the predicted cell types of training data
503 for the AnnoSpat's Annotator.

504 Training Extreme Learning Machine Classifier

505 AnnoSpat uses the cell-type labels L predicted by its semi-supervised clustering algorithm
506 as training labels Y_{TR} to then learn an ELM classifier¹². The classifier predicts the label of
507 remaining cells in new ROIs not included in the training data. We implemented ELM in AnnoSpat
508 because it is a single-layer feed-forward neural network classifier and does not need to be
509 iteratively tuned via backpropagation. This would enable AnnoSpat to learn accurate cell type
510 prediction models markedly faster than gradient-based learning techniques. AnnoSpat's ELM is
511 implemented as follows:

Algorithm 1 Constrained K-means

- 1: **Initialize** K, n
 - 2: **Input:** Normalized data X , initial centroids $\{\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_{K+1}\}$ and cell representatives $\{R_1, R_2, \dots, R_{K+1}\}$
 - 3: **For** $iter = 1, 2, \dots, n$
 - 4: Cluster assignment:
 - 5:
$$L_i = \begin{cases} k & \text{when } x_i \in R_k \\ \operatorname{argmin}_k \|x_i - \bar{x}_k\|^2, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 - 6: Centroid computation
 - 7: $\bar{x}_k = \frac{1}{|C_k|} \sum_{x_i \in C_k} x_i$
 - 8: **End For**
 - 9: **Return:** Labels L , Centroids \bar{x}
-

- 512 • Assign input layer weights W_I and bias b_I randomly from normal distributions:

$$W_I \sim \mathbb{N}(0, \mathbb{I})$$

513

$$b_I \sim [N(0, 1)]$$

- 514 • Compute hidden layer output H :

$$H = \phi(W_I * X_{TR} + b_I)$$

515 Here, ϕ denotes the activation function used at the hidden layer, and X_{TR} is the normal-
516 ized protein intensity of training set.

- 517 • Compute the output layer weights W_O

$$W_O = H^\dagger * Y_{TR}$$

518 Here H^\dagger is the Moore–Penrose inverse of hidden layer output matrix H . The training
519 labels Y_{TR} are transformed into a one-hot encoded format to avoid ordinal relationship
520 interpretability between cell types by the model.

Once the output weights are learned, the types (labels) of new cells Y_{TS} can be predicted from their normalized protein expression X_{TS} by the learned weights in ELM:

$$Y_{TS} = \phi(W_I * X_{TS} + b_I) * W_O$$

521 Data Processing for Visualization

522 Data for Heatmaps in Figures 2 and S1C have been normalized to penalize the expression
523 of non-specific proteins using an analog variant of TF-IDF (term frequency-inverse document

524 frequency) normalization after min-max scaling of protein expression. The specificity of a protein
525 can be quantified as an inverse function of the number of cell types in which it is expressed (its
526 abundance across various cell types). Hence, the normalized value of protein p_i is obtained by
527 multiplying each value by the logarithm of ratio of total protein abundance p_{total} in the data and
528 the abundance of that protein across all cell types p_{sum} . If p is the expression of protein p_i in
529 cell c_j , then the normalized value is calculated by:

$$p_{i,j}^{TF,IDF} = p * \log\left(\frac{p_{total}}{p_{sum}}\right).$$

530 In min-max normalization, min and max values are the 0.01th and 99.99th percentile expression,
531 respectively.

532 AnnoSpat's Spatial Pattern Finder: Quantification of Cell Proximity Pattern

533 In order to quantify the relationships between cell types in the T1D pancreas, we interpreted
534 the cell locations and cell type labels as a marked point pattern. A point pattern provides the
535 locations of observations; here, cell locations are represented as Cartesian coordinates. Each
536 cell can have additional features known as marks; here, each cell's mark is the predicted cell
537 type. By realizing the marked point pattern as a random marked point process, we can quantify
538 cell type spatial relationships. A point process is a random set of points, where the number of
539 points and their locations are both random. Using point process theory, we can understand the
540 relationship between cell types not as a single index, but rather as many values resulting in
541 formulation of a given function of distance r .

542 The standard model of a point process \geq assumes that the process extends all space, but
543 the observed region is bounded by a window W . Then we can define the data as an unordered
544 set³⁰

$$\psi = \psi_1, \dots, \psi_n, \psi_i \in W, n > 0,$$

545 the point pattern of Ψ .

546 Now we can define our ROI within the context of marks. Consider the marked point pattern
547 as an unordered set of cells observed within a window W with marks in M ,

$$\gamma = (\psi_1, m_1), \dots, (\psi_n, m_n), \psi_i \in W, m_i \in M,$$

548 where ψ_i is the location and m_i is the mark of cell i , respectively³⁰. Marks may be continuous
549 real numbers, such as cell size, or discrete, such as cell type. Our objective is to quantify the
550 dependence between the marks of two cells of distance r apart in the marked point process Γ .
551 This dependence, known as the mark correlation function $k_f(r)$, is informally defined as^{30,31}

$$k_f(r) = \frac{\mathbb{E}_{i,j}[f(M_i, M_j)]}{\mathbb{E}[f(M, M')]} ,$$

552 where M_i, M_j are marks of two cells separated by distance r , M, M' are independent real-
553 izations of the marginal distribution of marks, and \mathbb{E} is the *intensity* of a point process, or the
554 average density of points (the expected number of points per unit area), and where $\mathbb{E}_{i,j}$ is the
555 conditional expectation that there exist cells at locations i and j separated by distance r . While
556 f is any function that returns a non-negative real value, we commonly use $f(m_1, m_2) = m_1 m_2$
557 for continuous marks and $f(m_1, m_2) = \mathbb{1}(m_1, m_2) = 1$ where $m_1 = m_2$ and $= 0$ for everything
558 else for discrete (categorical) marks³⁰. Then, $k_f(r) = 1$ suggests a lack of correlation such
559 that under random mark labeling, $k_f(r) \equiv 1$. The interpretation of greater than or less than 1
560 would be determined by the chosen function f , but throughout this study we interpret > 1 as
561 correlated and < 1 as anti-correlated. This mark correlation function, however, assumes that
562 cell type would be a single mark and does not specify the relationship between, for instance,
563 CD8⁺ T cells and islet cells.

564 To understand the relationship between any two cell types, we expand the mark correlation
565 function $k_f(r)$ to define the mark cross-correlation function, $k_{mm}(r)$. Here, instead of $m_i \in M$
566 as a single mark, we define $\succ_{ia} \in M$ as the value of mark a in cell i from the row vector of
567 marks \succ_i attached to cell i . Instead of a single mark for cell type, we convert the mark into a
568 mark row vector m_i for cell i containing c entries, where each index $0 < j \leq c$ represents an
569 indicator value for cell type a . In short, $\succ_{ia} = 1$ indicates that the cell i is of cell type a .

570 Using this expanded mark vector, we can define the mark cross-correlation function³⁰ as

$$k_{mm}(r) = \frac{\mathbb{E}_{i,j}[f(M_{ia}M_{jb})]}{\mathbb{E}[f(M_a, M_b)]},$$

571 where M_{ia} and M_{jb} are the marks a and b attached to cells i and j , respectively, while M_a and
572 M_b are independent random values drawn from all cells at mark indices a and b , respectively.
573 Here, f is defined as with the mark correlation function. Using categorical marks for cell types,
574 we then interpret $k_{mm}(r) > 1$ as correlated, < 1 as anti-correlated, and $= 1$ as random. We
575 carried out all mark cross-correlation analyses using the spatstat R package³⁰.

576 The output of each mark cross-correlation function on an ROI is a series of correlation
577 values as a function of distance r . To compare across several ROIs, we summarized each curve
578 by either the r at the maximum $k_{mm}(r)$ ($\max_r k_{mm}(r)$) (Figure 6) or the log-transformed ratio
579 of the maximum $k_{mm}(r)$ to the r at the maximum $k_{mm}(r)$ ($\log \frac{\max_r k_{mm}(r)}{\arg \max_r k_{mm}(r)}$) (Figure S7). The
580 former value decreases with increasing aggregation (the highest correlation is with cells with
581 smaller r) while the latter increases with increasing aggregation. To compare distributions, we
582 used Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance for multiple hypotheses followed by pairwise
583 Mann-Whitney U tests.

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Authors Contributions

Conceptualization: R.B.F., G.W.S.; Methodology: A.M., G.W.S., R.B.F.; Software: A.M., G.W.S.; Investigation: A.M., G.W.S., R.B.F.; Formal Analysis: A.M., D.T., D.S., G.W.S., R.B.F.; Resources and Reagents: R.B.F., Y.J.W., A.C.P., K.H.K., G.V., A.N.; Writing-Review & Editing: G.W.S., R.B.F.; Writing-Original Draft: A.M., G.W.S., R.B.F.; Supervision: R.B.F.; Funding Acquisition: R.B.F., G.V., A.N.

Data Availability

IMC and CODEX data are available at PANC-DB, the data portal of Human Pancreas Analysis Program (HAPA) developed by the Faryabi Lab, <https://hpap.pmacs.upenn.edu/>.

Code Availability

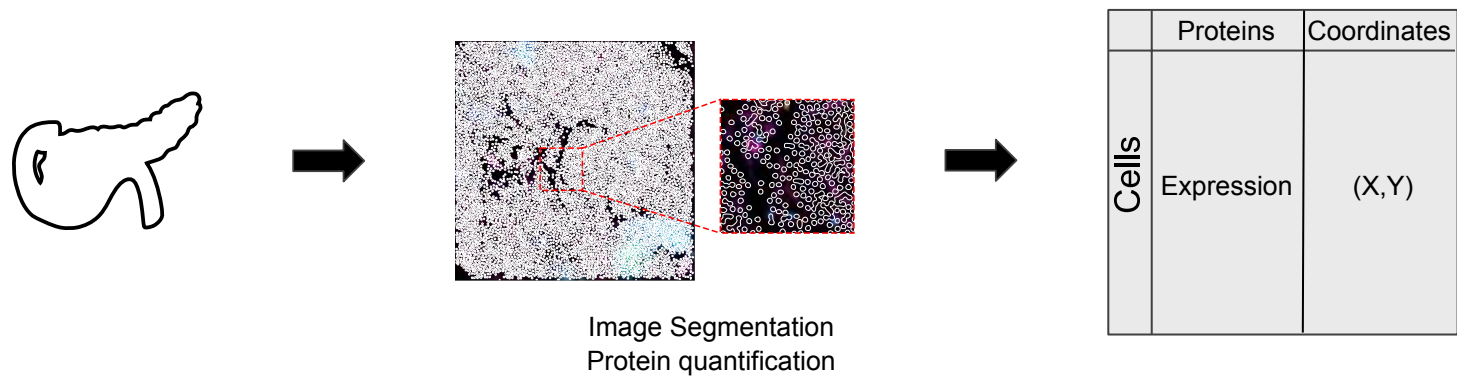
AnnoSpat is available at <https://github.com/faryabiLab/AnnoSpat>. Spatial Pattern Finder is also available as part of the TooManyCells suite located at <https://github.com/faryabib/too-many-cells>.

Competing Interests

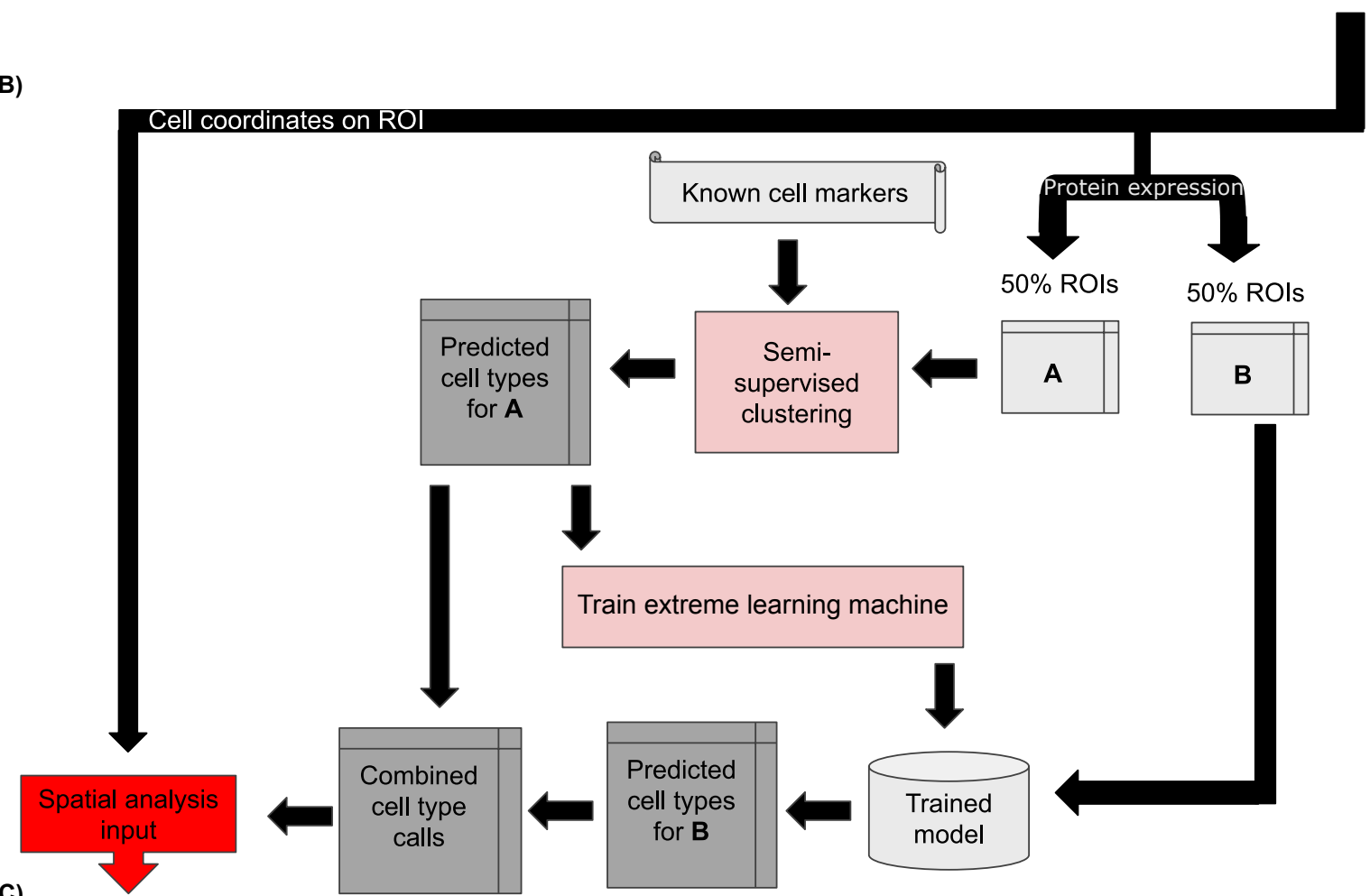
The authors declare no competing interests.

Figure 1

A)



B)



C)

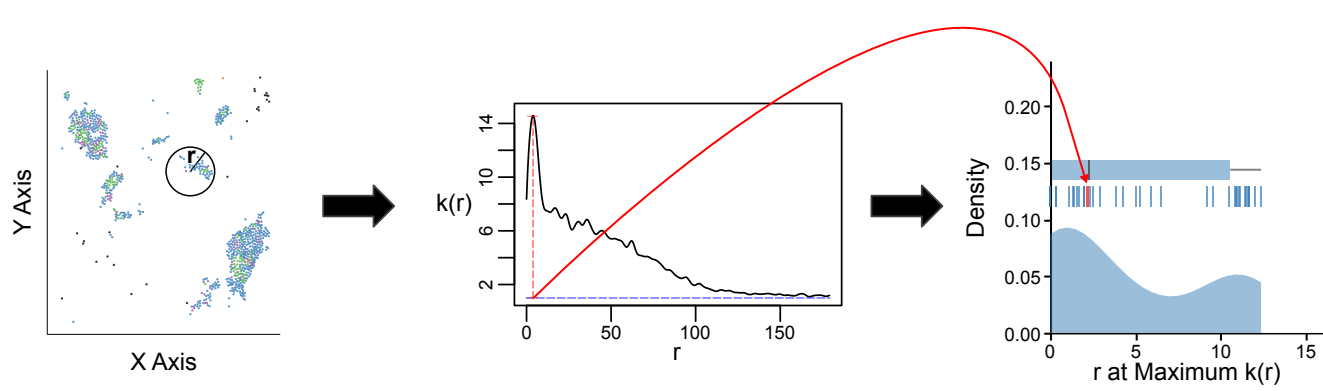


Figure 1: Overview of IMC or CODEX data analysis with AnnoSpat (Annotator and Spatial Pattern Finder). **(A)** From left to right: A tissue's region of interest (ROI) (e.g. from the pancreas) is measured using a spatial single-cell proteomics assay such as IMC or CODEX, reporting position and protein expression levels of individual cells *in situ*. **(B)** To overcome lack of manually annotated training data, AnnoSpat's Annotator module learns a cell-type predictor by first processing protein expression data with a semi-supervised clustering algorithm, which creates a training dataset from a subset of cells in the overall dataset (e.g. 50% in matrix \mathbb{A}). Using this automatically generated training data, AnnoSpat then trains and applies an extreme learning machine classifier to label the remaining cells (e.g. 50% in matrix \mathbb{B}). **(C)** AnnoSpat's Spatial Pattern Finder component interprets cell locations as point processes to quantify relationships between cell types using distance-dependent (r) mark cross-correlation function ($k(r)$). Mark cross-correlation functions across ROIs are systematically summarized using different features of them such as the distance where the function is maximal.

Figure 2

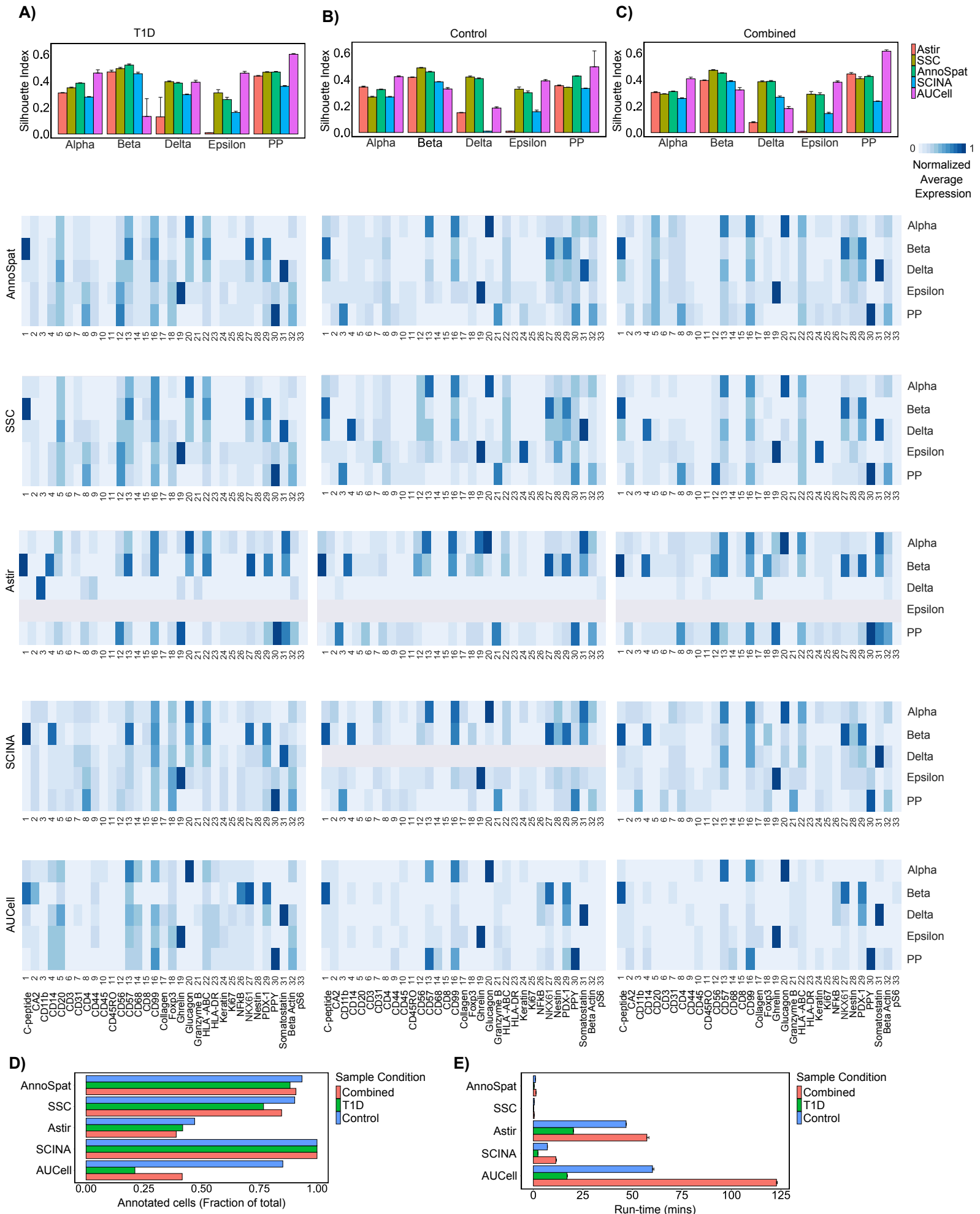


Figure 2: Comparative analysis of AnnoSpat cell-type annotation from IMC data. **(A)** From top to bottom: bar plots with error bars showing average and standard deviation Silhouette Index (SI), heatmaps showing marker proteins' normalized average expressions for cells annotated as alpha, beta, delta, epsilon, and PP by AnnoSpat, semi-supervised clustering (SSC), Astir, SCINA, and AUCell from T1D pancreas IMC data ($n = 374,397$ measured cells). **(B)** Similar to (A) from non-diabetic (control) pancreas IMC data ($n = 795,604$ measured cells). **(C)** Similar to (A) from combined T1D and control pancreas IMC data ($n = 1,170,001$ measured cells). $m = 10$ sets of $n = 50,000$ randomly selected cells are used for evaluation using SI in each bar plot in top panel of A-C. **(D)** Bar plots showing the fraction of $n = 374,397$, $n = 795,604$, and $n = 1,170,001$ IMC-measured cells from T1D, control, and combined T1D and control pancreata, respectively, annotated by AnnoSpat, SSC, Astir, SCINA, and AUCell. **(E)** Bar plots with error bars showing mean and standard deviation of run-time for the listed algorithms to annotate cells as in (D). Each algorithm was run three times on a machine with Ubuntu 20.04, 1.05TB Memory, Intel Xeon Gold CPU 6230R @ 2.1GHz, 2 physical processors 52 cores, and 104 threads.

Figure 3

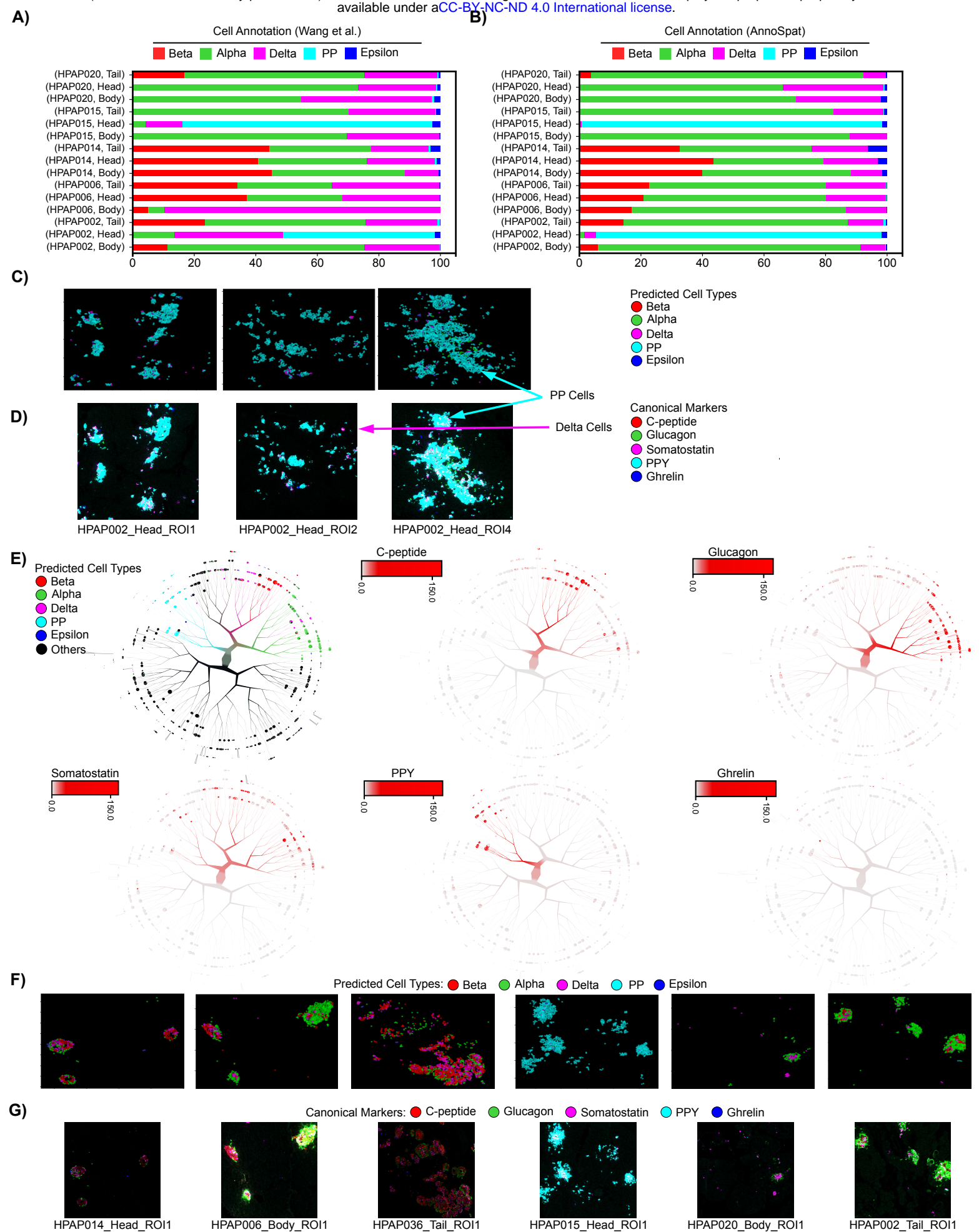


Figure 3: Comparison of expert and AnnoSpat endocrine cell-type annotation. **(A, B)** Proportion of expert-annotated (A) and AnnoSpat-annotated (B) endocrine cell types from the IMC of different pancreas regions of donors studied in¹⁶. **(C, D)** Representative protein channel intensities (expression levels) from IMC images of donors with discordant expert and AnnoSpat cell-type annotation is overlaid with AnnoSpat predicted cell types (C) or endocrine canonical marker protein channels (D). **(E)** From left to right, top to bottom: TooManyCells tree overlaid by AnnoSpat-predicted cell types, and expression levels of c-peptide, glucagon, somatostatin, pancreatic polypeptide protein (PPY), and ghrelin marking beta, alpha, delta, PP, and epsilon cells, respectively in $n = 65,643$ cells across $m = 141$ slides of 16 pancreas donors. **(F, G)** Six representative IMC images from $m = 141$ slides of 16 donors overlaid by AnnoSpat-predicted cell types (F) or endocrine canonical marker protein channels (G).

Figure 4

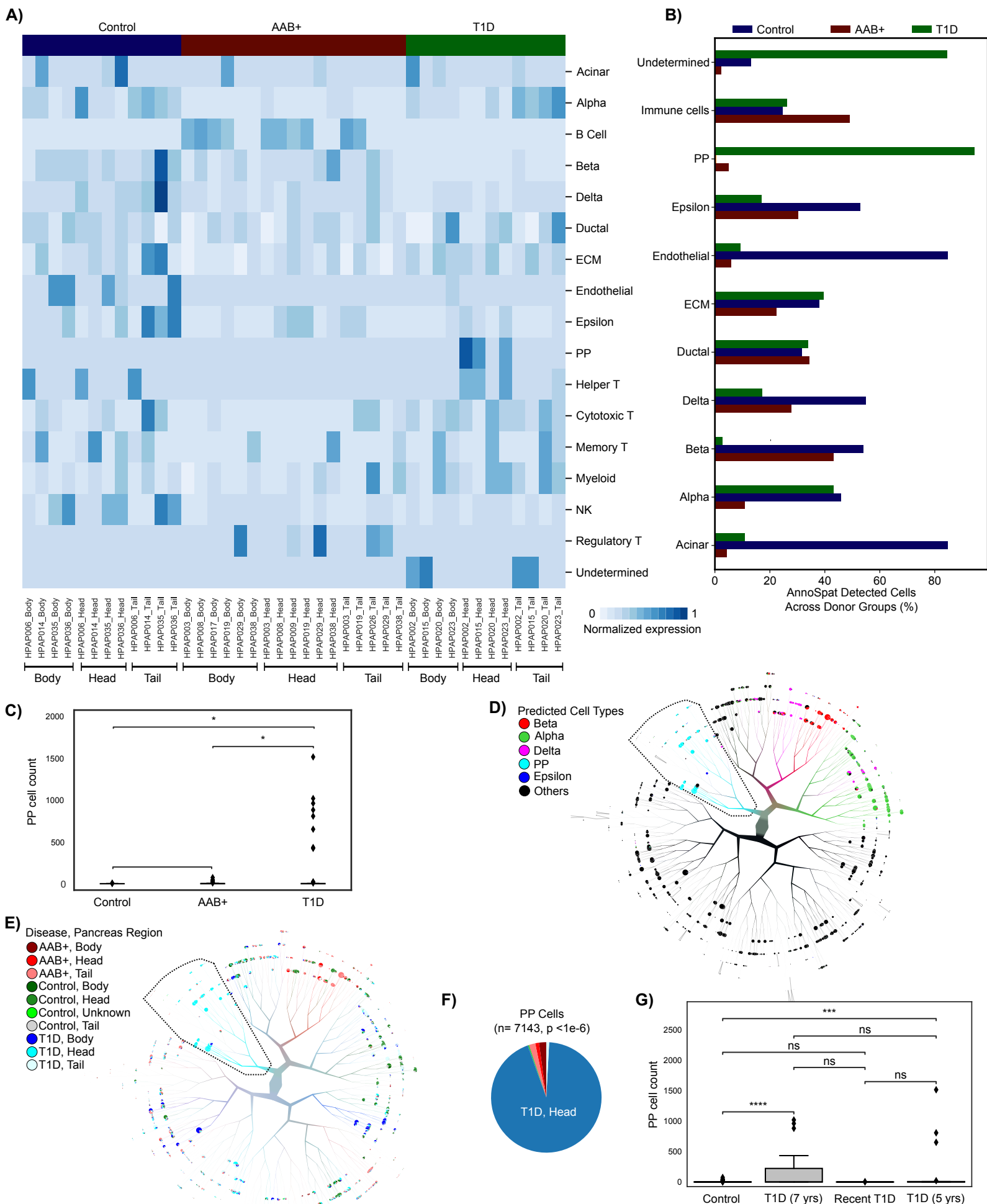
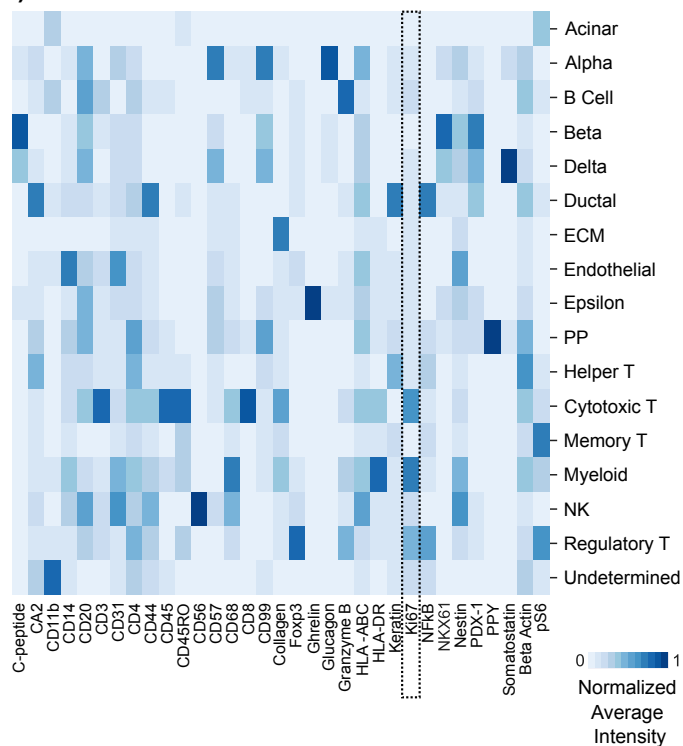


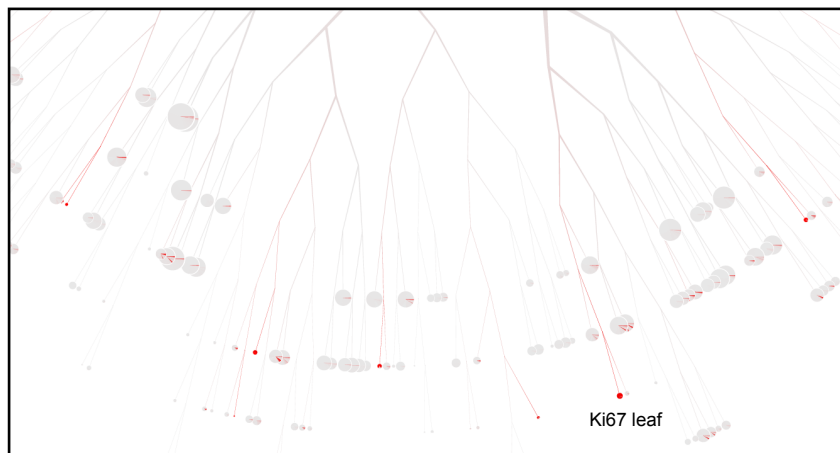
Figure 4: PP cell count increases in the pancreas head during T1D progression. **(A)** Heatmap showing total normalized protein expression for each pancreas region across non-diabetic control, T1D and AAb⁺ donors. Normalized protein expression for each cell type is calculated by scaling for ROI count per donor pancreas region ($3/ROIcount$) of min-max and TF-IDF normalized expression levels. **(B)** Bar plots showing percentage of each AnnoSpat-annotated cell type across pancreata of control, T1D, and AAb⁺ donors. **(C)** Plots showing PP cell counts in pancreata from control, T1D, and AAb⁺ donors. **(D, E)** TooManyCells tree overlaid with AnnoSpat-predicted cell types (D), as well as disease status and pancreas region (E). TooManyCells default parameters (quartile normalization and filter threshold of channel intensity < 250 and marker protein intensity < 1) were used. **(F)** Pie chart showing fraction of PP cells from different pancreas regions across control, T1D, and AAb⁺ cohorts. **(G)** Box-and-whisker plots quantifying PP cell counts in control and T1D donors stratified by disease duration. ** p -value < 0.01, *** p -value < 0.001, **** p -value < 0.0001, n.s. not significant (p -value \geq 0.05). Box-and-whisker plots: center line, median; box limits, upper (75th) and lower (25th) percentiles; whiskers, $1.5 \cdot$ interquartile range; points, outliers.

Figure 5

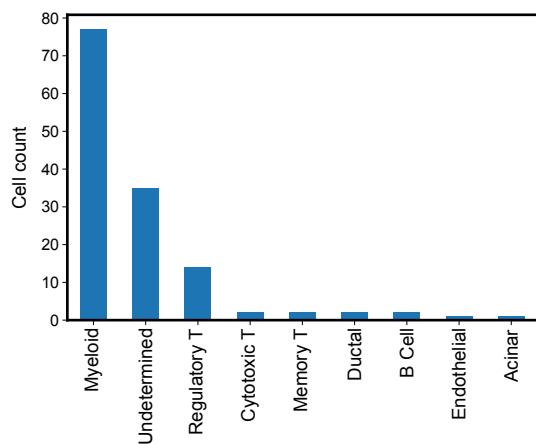
A)



B)



C)



D)

Disease, Pancreas Region

- AAB+, Body
- AAB+, Head
- AAB+, Tail
- Control, Body
- Control, Head
- Control, Unknown
- Control, Tail
- T1D, Body
- T1D, Head
- T1D, Tail

Ki67+ Cells
(n= 190, p <1e-6)

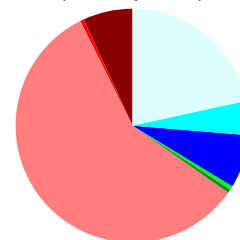


Figure 5: Myeloid and regulatory T cells are hyper-proliferative in T1D pancreata. **(A)** Heatmap showing normalized average expression of 33 IMC-measured proteins across AnnoSpat-annotated cell types. Dash-lined box marking Ki67 column. **(B)** TooManyCells sub-tree colored by Ki67 expression. **(C)** Bar plots showing cell-type count of $n = 190$ cells within the TooManyCells sub-tree in (B). **(D)** Pie chart showing fraction of Ki67⁺ cells from different regions of pancreata of control, T1D, and AAb⁺ donors (p -value: chi-square test).

Figure 6

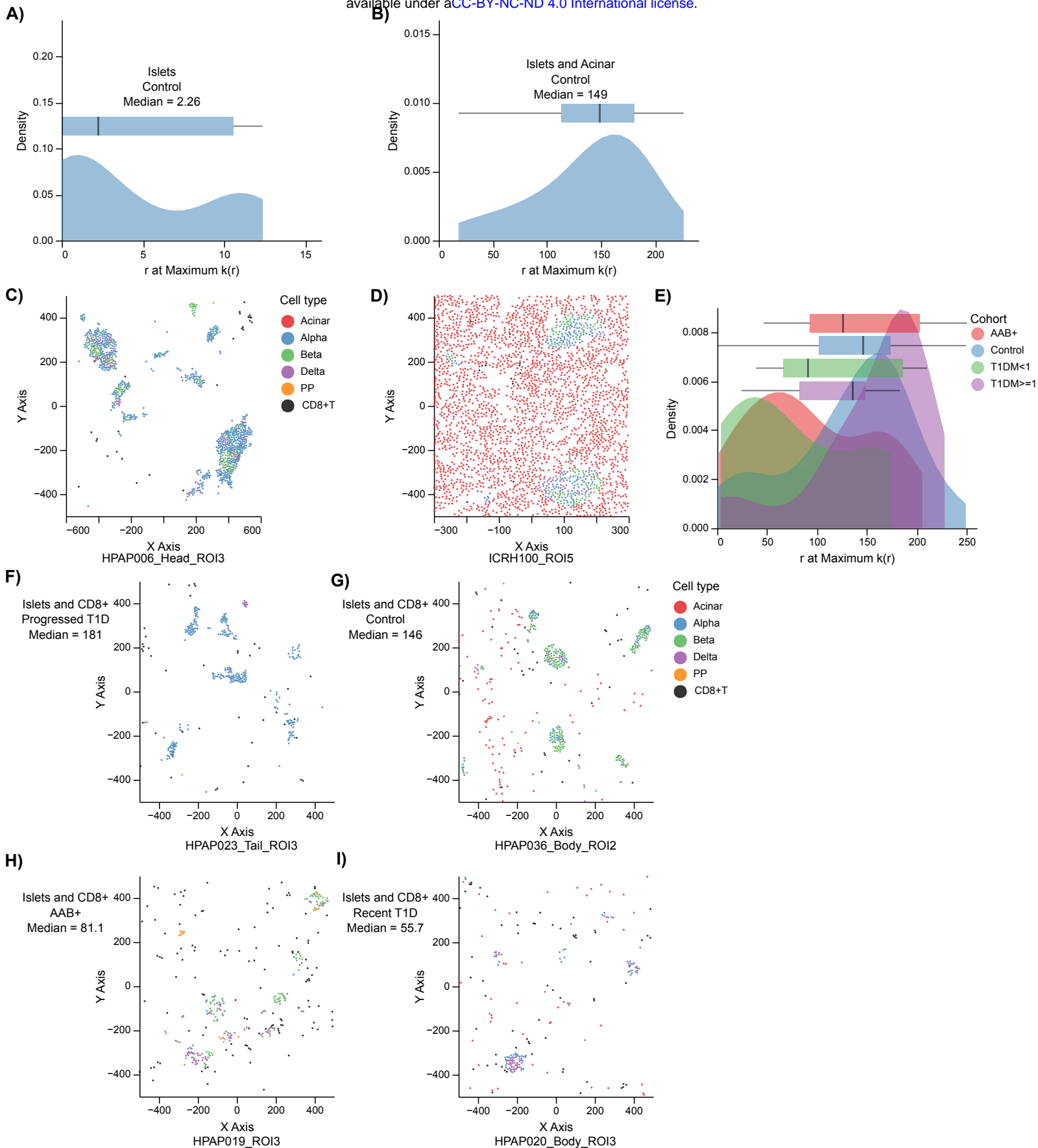
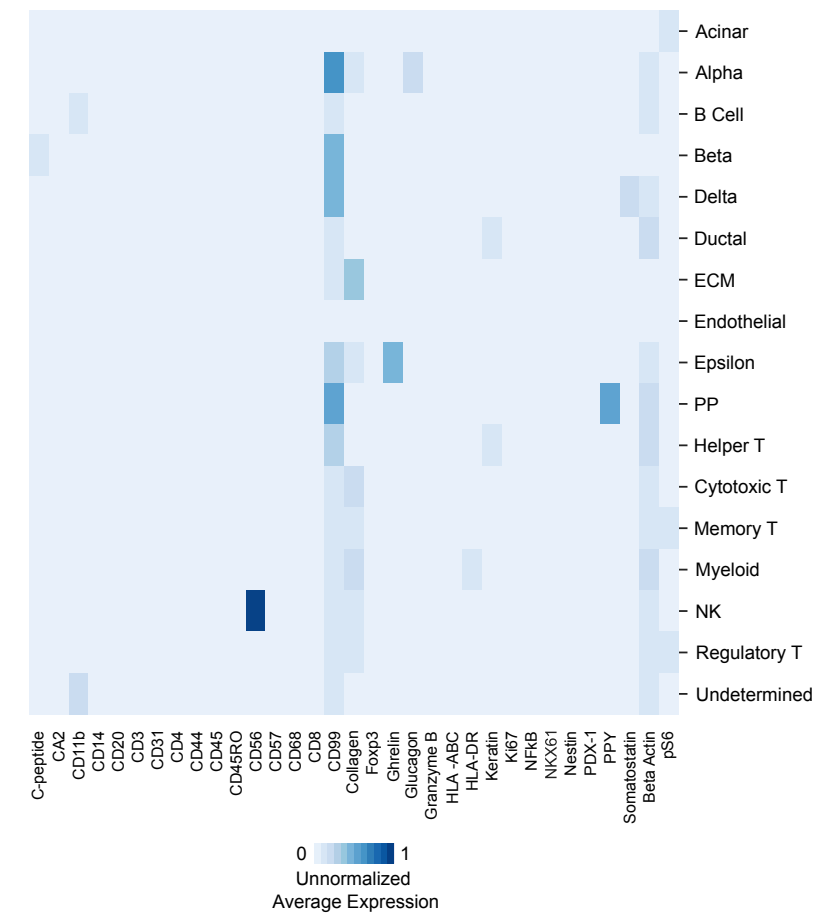


Figure 6: The extent of CD8⁺ T cell infiltration in islets changes during T1D progression. **(A, B)** Distributions with box-and-whisker plot overlays of distance r at the maximum value of $k(r)$ across all ROIs for endocrine cells with respect to themselves (A) or with respect to acinar cells (B). **(C, D)** Scatter plots showing location of cells within ROIs at the median of (A) and (B) distributions are plotted at (C) and (D), respectively. Cells are colored by AnnoSpat-predicted cell types. Endocrine cells tend to aggregate around themselves more often than with acinar cells. **(E)** The distributions with box-and-whisker plot overlays of the distance at the maximal point in the mark cross-correlation functions across control, AAb⁺, recent T1D, and prolonged T1D. AAb⁺ and recent T1D tend to have greater aggregation of islets with CD8⁺ T cells than control and prolonged T1D cohorts. **(F-I)** Scatter plots showing location of cells within ROIs at the median of each cohort in (E). From lowest to highest aggregation: prolonged T1D (F), control (G), AAb⁺ (H), and recent T1D (I). Cells are colored by AnnoSpat-predicted cell types. Box-and-whisker plots: center line, median; box limits, upper (75th) and lower (25th) percentiles; whiskers, 1.5 · interquartile range; points, outliers.

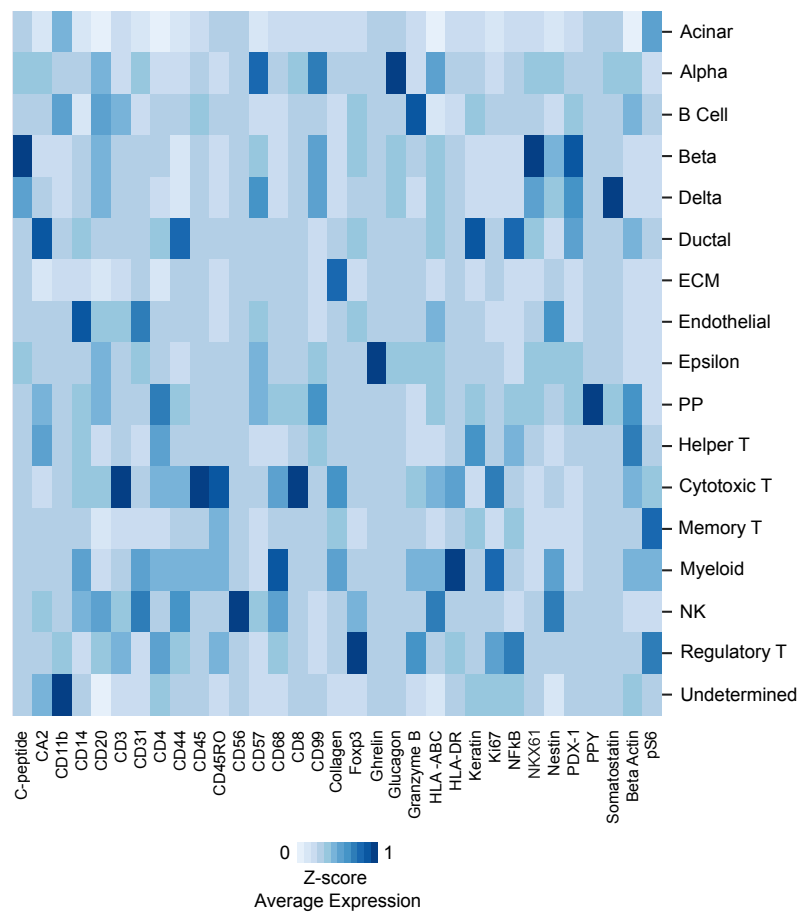
Supplementary Materials

Supplementary Figures

A)



B)



C)

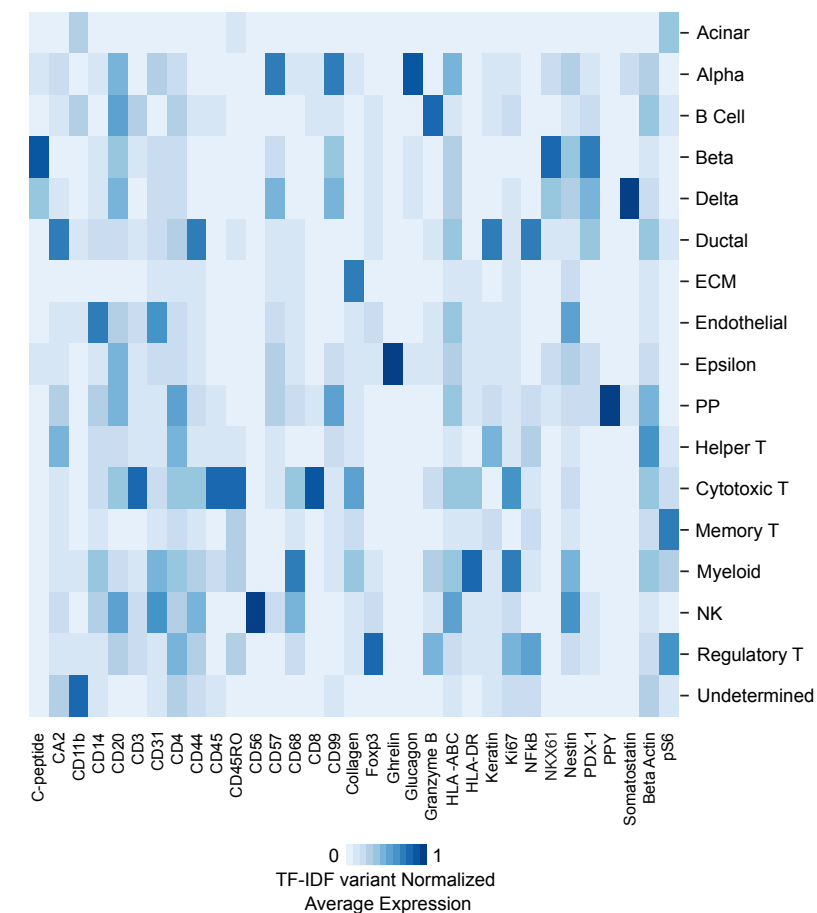


Figure S1: Comparison of various IMC data normalization methods. Heatmaps showing average unnormalized (**A**), protein-wise z-score normalized (**B**), and a variant of TF-IDF normalized (**C**) expression levels of 33 IMC-measured proteins across AnnoSpat-annotated cell types. Heatmaps comparison indicates the benefit of a variant of TF-IDF for normalization in visualizing continuous protein expression readouts. Note: TF-IDF variant normalization is only used for data visualization and not cell-type annotation.

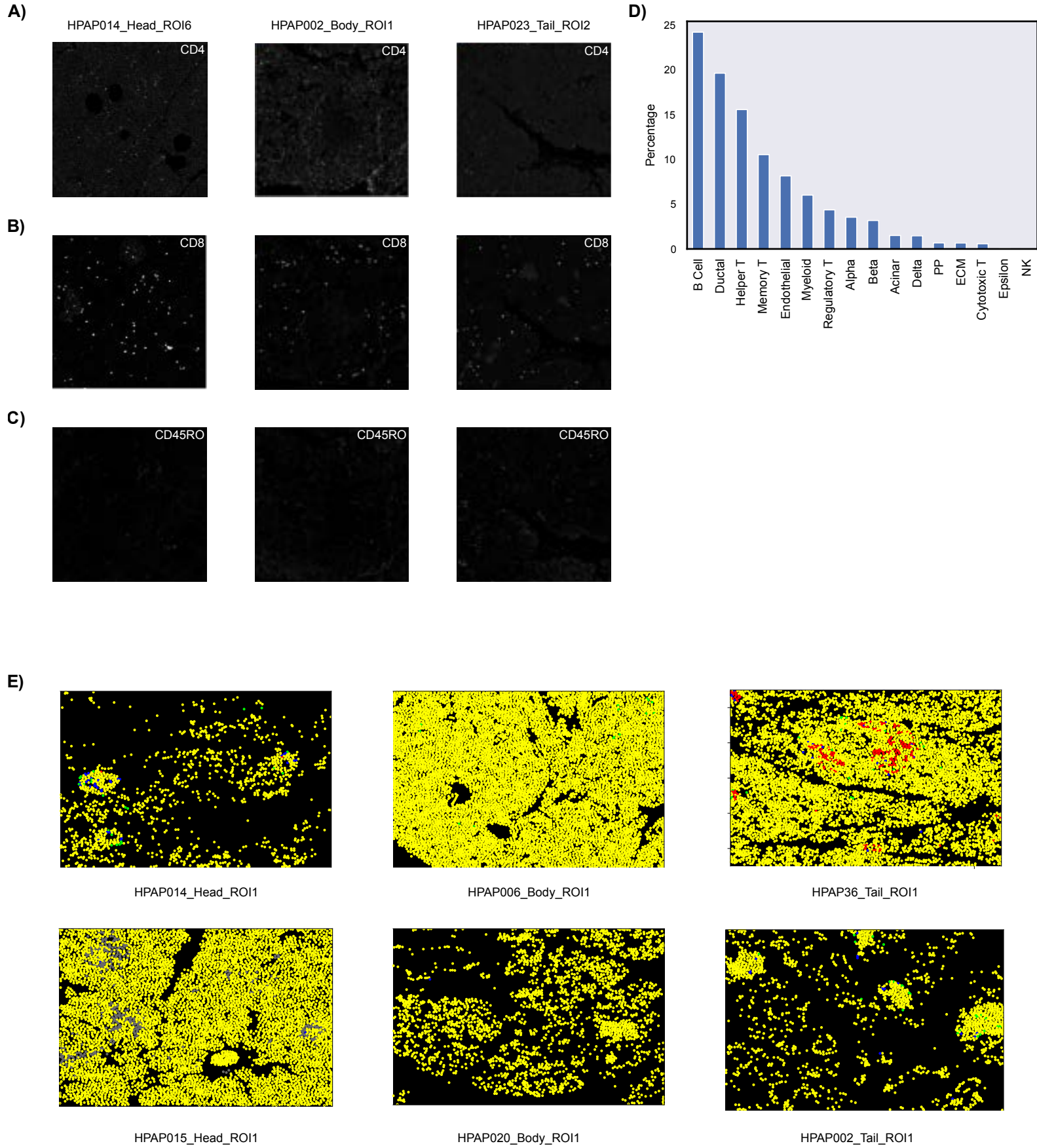


Figure S2: Comparison of AnnoSpat and AUCell cell-type annotation. **(A-C)** Randomly selected IMC images of ROIs from pancreas head, body, tail comparing CD4 (A), CD8 (B) and CD45RO (C) staining quality showing higher quality of CD8 compared to CD4 and CD45RO staining. **(D)** Bar plots showing percentage of AnnoSpat-annotated cell types that AUCell failed to annotate. **(E)** Yellow pseudo-color marking AnnoSpat-annotated cells that AUCell failed to annotate on randomly selected IMC images. Other cell types are colored as before (e.g. refer to Figure 3C).

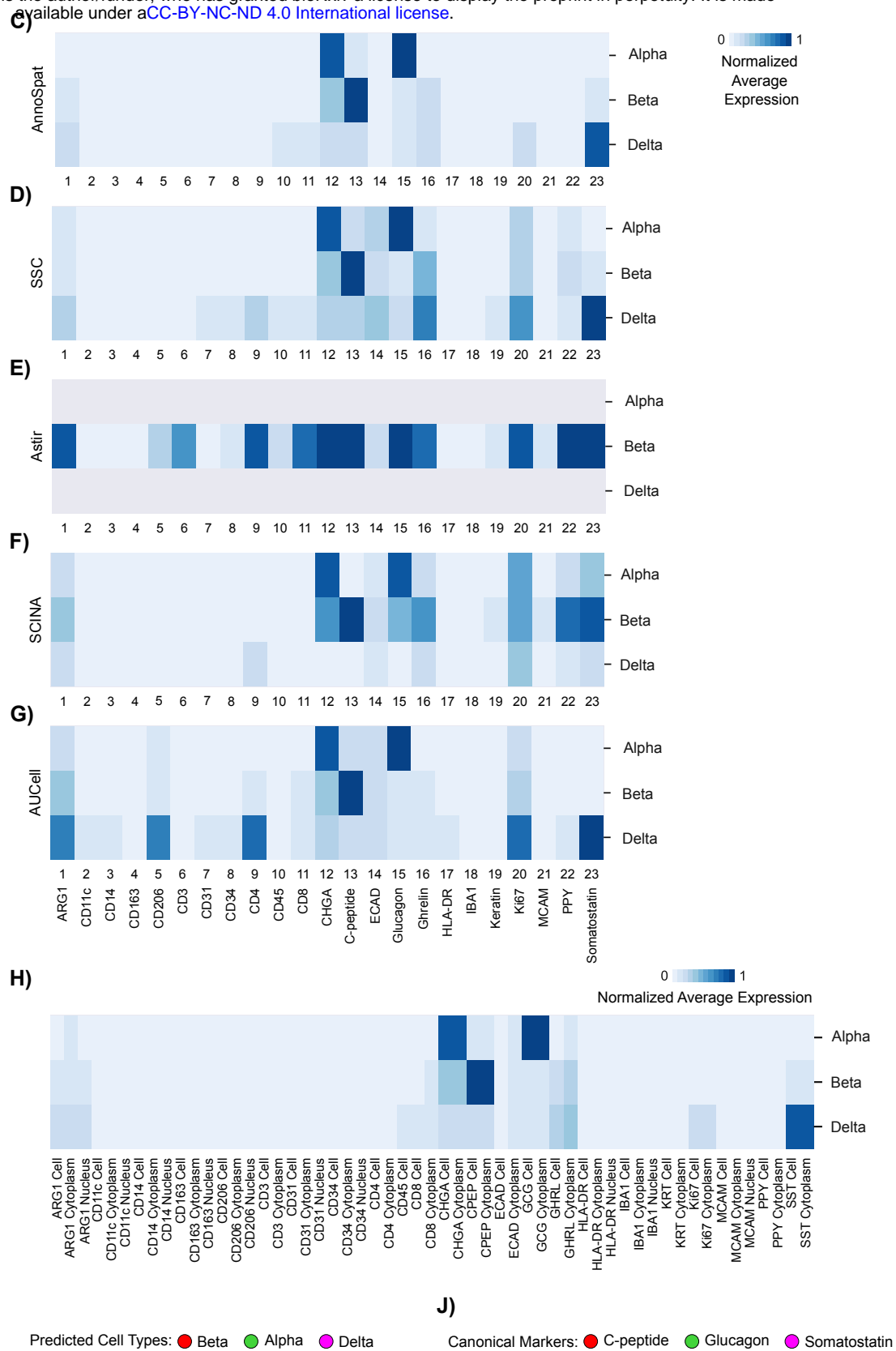
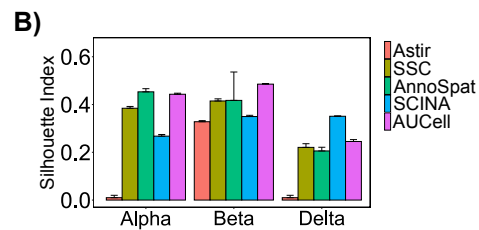
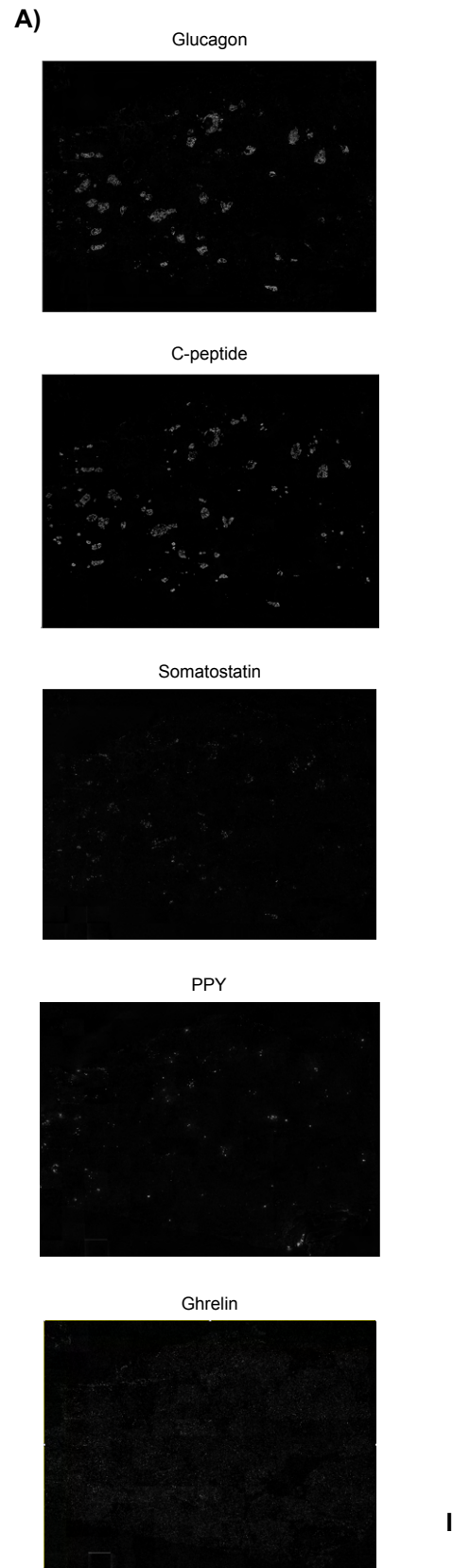
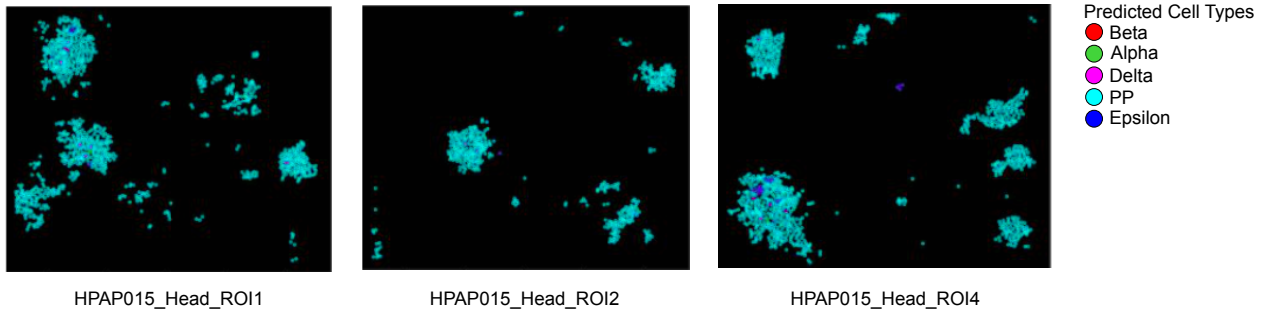
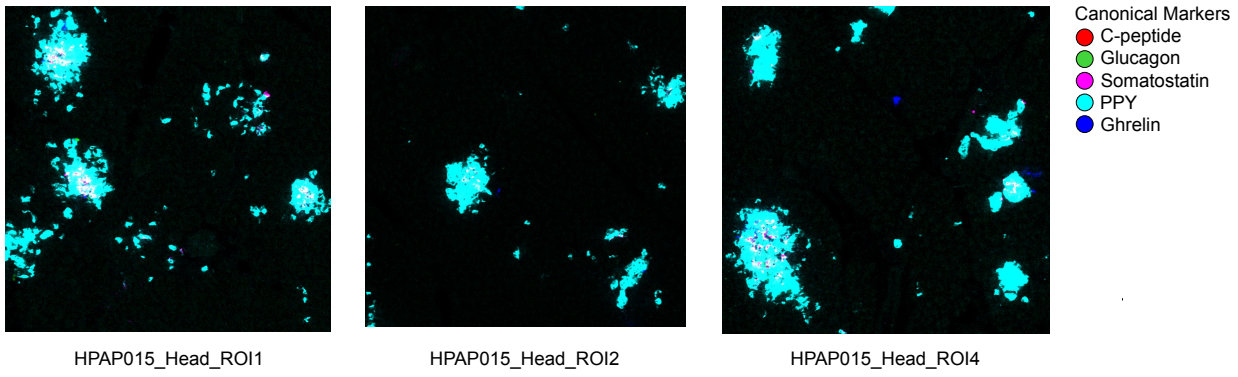


Figure S3: Comparative analysis of AnnoSpat cell-type annotation from CODEX data. **(A)** From top to bottom: raw images of glucagon, c-peptide, somatostatin, PPY, and ghrelin showing non-specificity of PP and epsilon markers in CODEX experiments. **(B)** Bar plots with error bars showing average and standard deviation Silhouette Index (SI) for cells annotated as alpha, beta, and delta by AnnoSpat, semi-supervised clustering (SSC), Astir, SCINA, and AUCell from non-diabetic pancreas CODEX data ($m = 10$ sets of $n = 50,000$ cells randomly selected from $n = 220,155$ measured cells). **(C-G)** Heatmaps showing marker proteins' normalized average expression levels for cells labeled as alpha, beta, and delta by AnnoSpat, SSC, Astir, SCINA, and AUCell from non-diabetic pancreas CODEX data ($n = 220,155$ measured cells). **(H)** Heatmap showing marker proteins' normalized average expression levels separately for the nucleus and cytoplasm of the cells annotated as alpha, beta, and delta by AnnoSpat based on protein intensity in the entire cells from non-diabetic pancreas CODEX data ($n = 220,155$ measured cells). **(I, J)** CODEX image is overlaid by AnnoSpat predicted cell types (I) or alpha (glucagon), beta (c-peptide), and delta (somatostatin) marker protein channels (J).

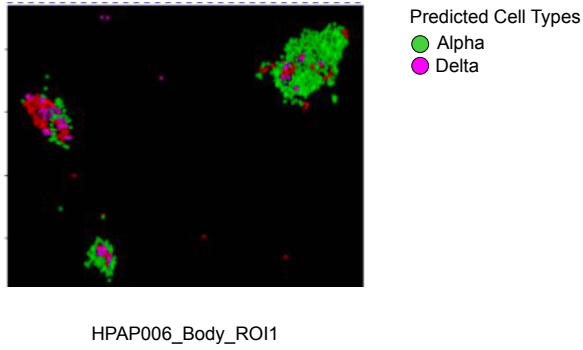
A)



B)



C)



D)

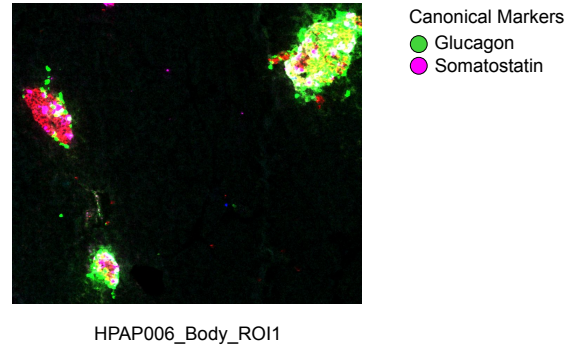
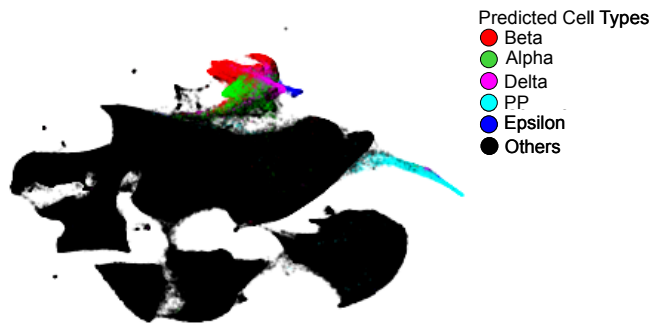


Figure S4: Comparison of AnnoSpat and expert annotation of pancreatic endocrine cell types. **(A-D)** Representative IMC images from donors with discordant expert and AnnoSpat cell-type annotation in Figures 3A and 3B are overlaid with AnnoSpat-predicted cell types (A and C) or endocrine canonical marker protein channels (B and D). C-peptide, glucagon, somatostatin, PPY, and ghrelin marking beta, alpha, delta, PP, and epsilon cells, respectively.

Figure S5

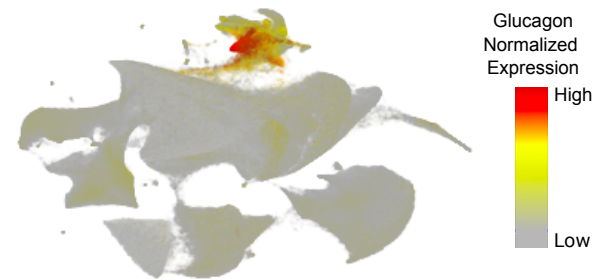
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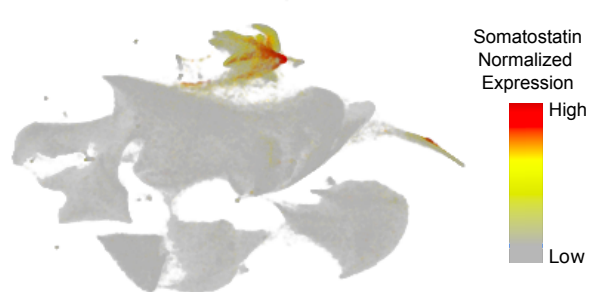
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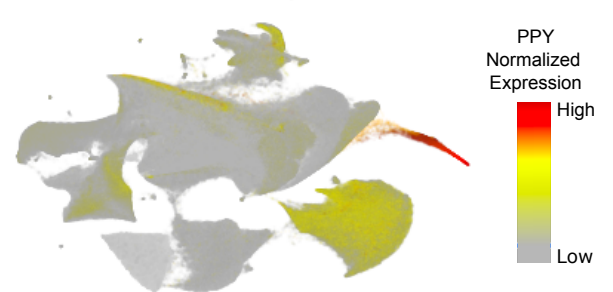
C)



D)



E)



F)

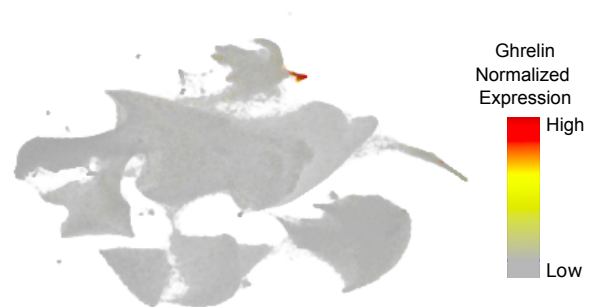
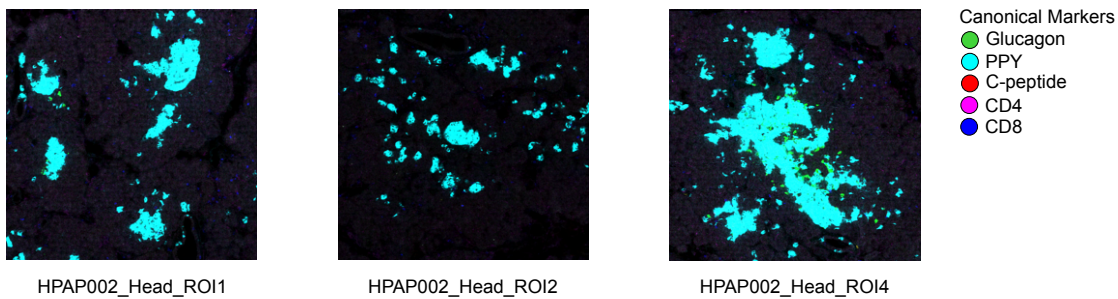
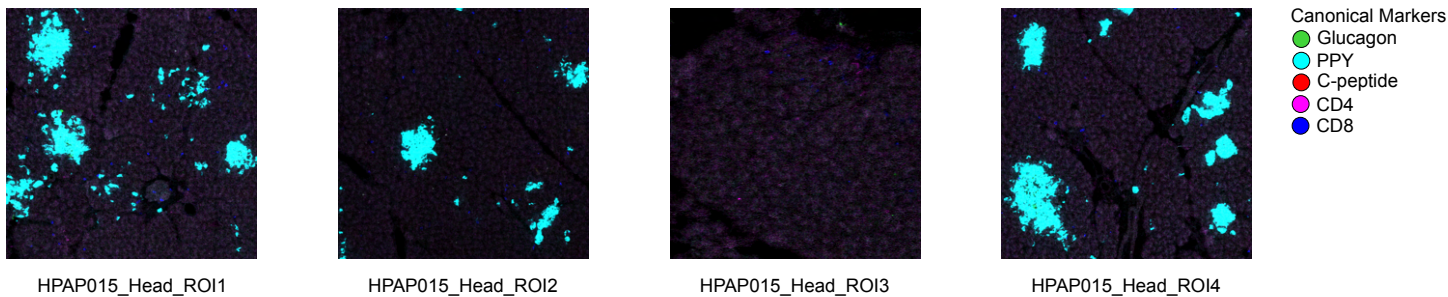


Figure S5: Comparison of protein marker expression levels and AnnoSpat annotations across pancreatic endocrine cell types. **(A-F)** UMAP plots overlaid by AnnoSpat-predicted cell types (A), and expression levels of c-peptide (B), glucagon (C), somatostatin (D), PPY (E), and ghrelin (F) in $n = 65,643$ cells across $m = 141$ slides of 16 pancreas donors.

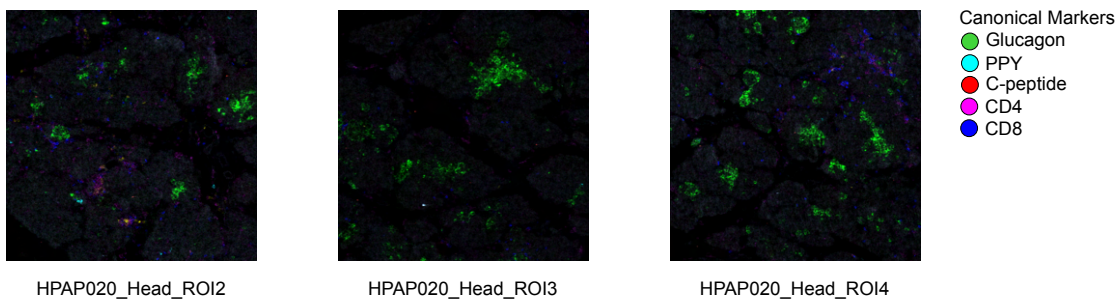
A)



B)



C)



D)

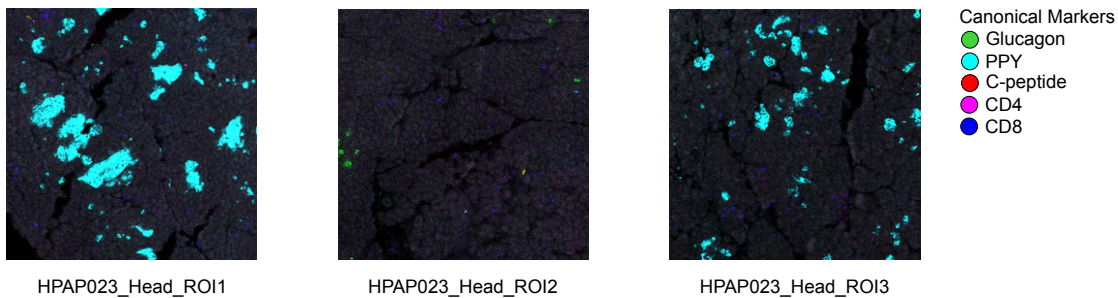


Figure S6: PP cell count increases in the pancreas head during T1D progression. **(A-D)** IMC images from pancreatic head ROIs overlaid with expression levels of canonical protein markers of alpha (glucagon), beta (c-peptide), PP (PPY), helper T (CD4), and cytotoxic T (CD8) cells.

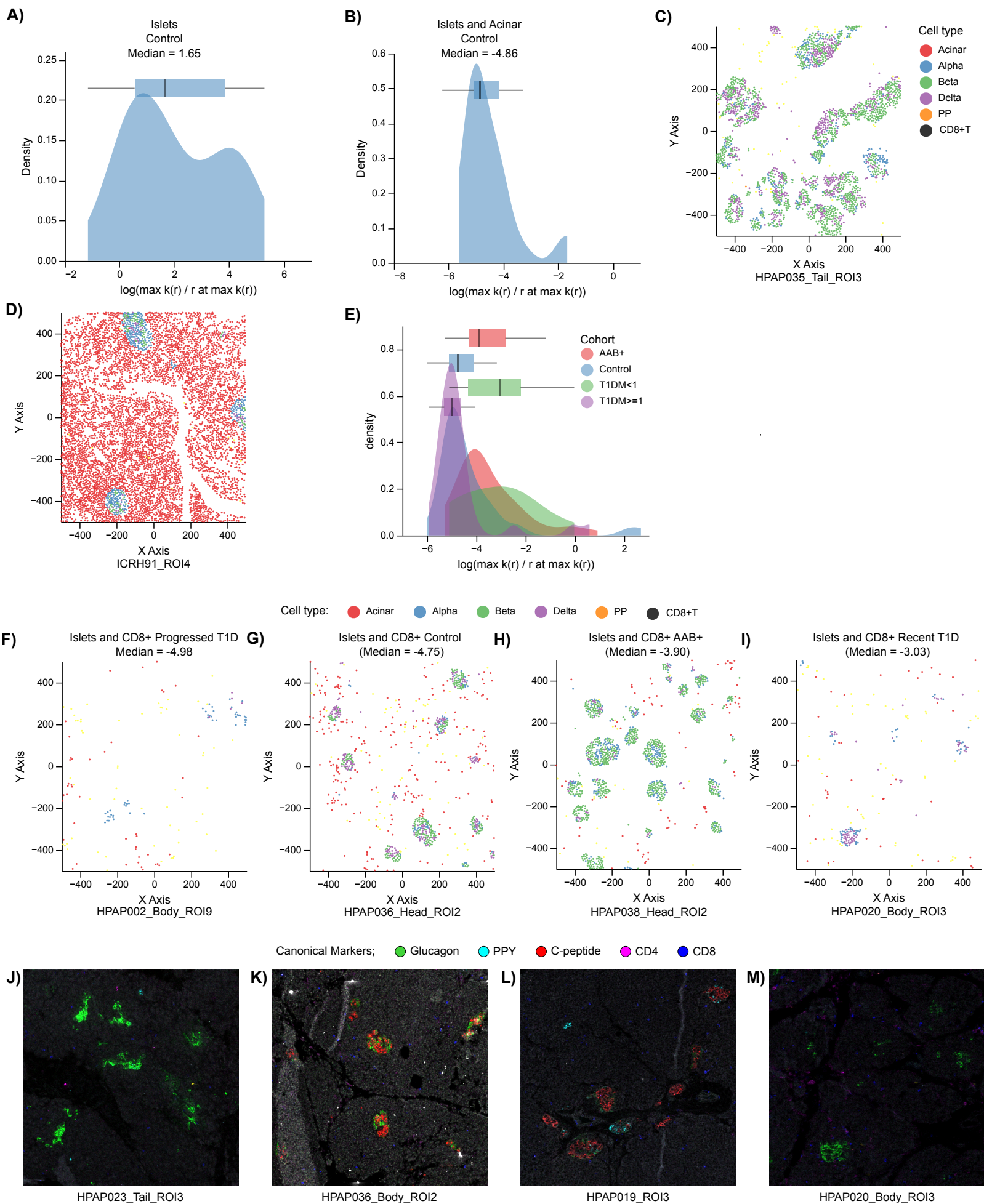


Figure S7: The extent of CD8⁺ T cell infiltration in islets changes during T1D progression. Analysis corresponding to Figure 6 but with an alternative summarization measure of mark cross-correlation function, which takes into account correlation value as well as distance (r): $\omega(r) = \log \frac{\max_r k_{mm}(r)}{\arg \max_r k_{mm}(r)}$. **(A, B)** Distributions with box-and-whisker plot overlays of $\omega(r)$ across all ROIs for endocrine cells with respect to themselves (A) or with respect to acinar cells (B). **(C, D)** Scatter plots showing location of cells within ROIs at the median of (A) and (B) distributions are plotted in (C) and (D), respectively. Cells are colored by AnnoSpat-predicted cell types. Endocrine cells tend to aggregate around themselves more often than with acinar cells. **(E)** The distributions with box-and-whisker plot overlays of $\omega(r)$ across control, AAb⁺, recent T1D, and prolonged T1D. AAb⁺ and recent T1D tend to have greater aggregation of islets with CD8⁺ T cells than control and prolonged T1D cohorts. **(F-I)** Scatter plots showing location of cells within ROIs at the median of each cohort in (E). From lowest to highest aggregation: prolonged T1D (F), control (G), AAb⁺ (H), and recent T1D (I). Cells are colored by AnnoSpat-predicted cell types. **(J-M)** IMC images from pancreatic ROIs overlaid with expression levels of canonical protein markers of alpha (glucagon), beta (c-peptide), PP (PPY), helper T (CD4), and cytotoxic T (CD8) cells confirming changes in the CD8⁺ T cell infiltration in islets during T1D progression. Images in (J) to (M) correspond to scatter plots in Figures 6F to 6I, respectively. Box-and-whisker plots: center line, median; box limits, upper (75th) and lower (25th) percentiles; whiskers, 1.5 · interquartile range; points, outliers.

Supplementary Tables

Table S1

IMC antibody panel.

Table S2

HPAP pancreas donor information.

Table S3

AnnoSpat's marker file input for annotating the listed cell types from IMC antibodies.

Table S4

SI and DB scores for labeling endocrine cells from IMC samples of T1D donors' pancreata. Numbers in parentheses: standard deviation. NA: no cell was annotated.

Table S5

SI and DB scores for labeling endocrine cells from IMC samples of non-diabetic (control) donors' pancreata. Numbers in parentheses: standard deviation. NA: no cell was annotated.

Table S6

SI and DB scores for labeling endocrine cells from IMC samples of combined non-diabetic and T1D (Combined) donors' pancreata. Numbers in parentheses: standard deviation. NA: no cell was annotated.

Table S7

Fraction of endocrine cells labeled by each algorithm from IMC samples of T1D, non-diabetic (control), and combined T1D and control (Combined) donors' pancreata.

Table S8

Mean and standard deviation of run-time for listed algorithms to annotate cells from IMC samples of T1D, non-diabetic (control), and combined T1D and control (Combined) donors' pancreata. Each algorithm was run three times on data sets of $n = 374,397$, $n = 795,604$, and $n = 1,170,001$ cells from IMC samples of T1D, control, and combined T1D and control donors

using a machine with Ubuntu 20.04, 1.05TB Memory, Intel Xeon Gold CPU 6230R @ 2.1GHz, 2 physical processors 52 cores, and 104 threads.

Table S9

CODEX antibody panel.

Table S10

AnnoSpat's marker file input for annotating the listed cell types from CODEX antibodies.

Table S11

SI and DB scores for labeling alpha, beta, and delta cells from a non-diabetic donor pancreas CODEX. Numbers in parentheses: standard deviation. NA: no cell was annotated.

Table S12

Fraction of expert-annotated endocrine cell types in different regions of pancreata from donors studied in¹⁶.