

## Supplementary Methods

### Transcriptional regulatory networks

Neuroblastoma expression datasets (E-MTAB-1781, TARGET dataset) were pre-processed as described before. We filter the cohorts for the genes selected by the WGCNA analysis (we considered only the genes present in the 16 modules, genes not assigned to any module (module 0) were discarded). The list of transcriptional factors were obtained from Lambert et al (1). We used the RTN package (2–4) to reconstruct the transcriptional network. We selected a p-value cut-off ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$ ). We also selected  $\text{eps} = 0$  (no tolerance) for the ARACNe algorithm (5). All the other standard options were maintained. We conducted the enrichment for the retrieved regulons in the differential expressed genes between MYCN amplified patients versus no-MNA (we obtained the list as described before). We considered the top 50 regulons (absolute dES) and we selected the regulons in common between NB1 (E-MTAB-1781) and NB2 (TARGET neuroblastoma) cohorts. List of the top 50 regulons is present in the supplementary tables (NB1 top 50 regulon in supplementary table 6, NB2 top 50 regulon in supplementary table 7). Correlation between regulons was conducted using Pearson correlation followed by hierarchical clustering on the obtained matrix. Jaccard coefficient were calculated on the selected regulons in the NB1 and NB2. Protein Protein interaction were downloaded from STRING database together with the binding annotation, we selected only the interaction with a combined score higher than 400 (6). The regulons were divided in three clusters using hierarchical clustering (ward method and correlation as a distance). The regulated genes in each regulon were used for pathway enrichment using GSEA software (list of the top 20 positively and negatively enriched pathways for each regulon cluster is present in Supplementary Table 8). We also calculated enrichment for each regulon cluster in the previous identifies genes modules, and we verify the enrichment for different signature in the regulons (considering the positive regulated genes for each regulon). List of the N-Myc chip was downloaded from AnimalTFDB (7), the MYCN Chip Score was calculated as the average of the score. The top N-Myc enriched regulons were used to build the transcriptional network with the RedeR package.

### Patient expression profile clustering

The patient expression profiles clustering from NB1 cohort were clustered with hierarchical clustering (ward method and correlation as a distance). The four obtained clusters were grouped in three clusters and we calculate Kaplan-Meier survival curve. The three clusters were defined as follows: low risk group was defined as highly active in regulon cluster 2 and 3, high risk group as poorly active in regulon cluster 2 and 3 and highly active in regulon cluster 1, medium group showing intermediate features.

### Autoencoder for dimension reduction

We used autoencoder for dimension reduction to obtain a 2d projection. We use keras library for rstudio. As input for the neural network we used the regulon activity for the transcription factors present in the three

clusters. We use a (12x6x2x6x12 neuron network) with dropout and leaky ReLU as activating function. We used Adam optimizer (learning rate = 0.001, weight decay = 0.0001) and mean squared error as loss function.

### **PubMed text mining**

We download neuroblastoma and MYCN abstracts querying PubMed. We filtered out review articles and we selected only articles in English. The neuroblastoma query was restricted to the last ten years (both queries were conducted in July 2020). We downloaded all the abstract, we cleaned for stop words and punctuation, and the abstract (and titles) were tokenized. We then checked which genes of the *MYCN* immune signature were present in the neuroblastoma and *MYCN* abstracts, and the results summarized as Venn diagrams. Genes found in the neuroblastoma and MYCN queries are listed in supplementary table 11.

### **Tumour purity estimation**

Neuroblastoma expression datasets (E-MTAB-1781, TARGET dataset) were used as file input for the ESTIMATE algorithm in R (8).

### **Cox multivariate regression analysis**

Neuroblastoma expression datasets (E-MTAB-1781, TARGET dataset) were used as input for the analysis. The cohorts were processed as described before. Clinical data were retrieved from the meta-data associated to expression files. MYCN immune score was defined as described before. Sex and MYCN amplification status were selected as covariates. The model was fitted using survival package in R.

### **Statistical analysis and software**

Analysis were conducted in R (Rstudio) and Python (anaconda release). The following libraries from Python (version 3.7) were used: Scikit-learn, Matplotlib, matplotlib.pyplot, Pandas, UMAP, numpy. The following libraries from R (version 3.5) were used for analysis and graphs : ggplot2, dplyr, data.table, tydr, survival, survminer, wordcloud, WGCNA, circlize, iGraph, anRichment, stringr, ESTIMATE, Pheatmap, RTN, corrplot, RedeR, VennDiagram, tidytext, rentrez, RISmed, XML.

## Supplementary bibliography

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## Supplementary Figure legends

**Supplementary Figure 1.** MYCN is associated with immune pathway repression in neuroblastoma. **(A)** Bar plot represents Gene Ontology enriched term in the differential expressed genes (between *MYCN* amplified (MNA) and non-MNA gene expression profiles) in two neuroblastoma datasets (left panel: E-MTAB-1781, right panel: TARGET). Bar length represents NES absolute value while colour intensity represents  $-\text{Log}_{10}$  FDR. **(B)** Pie chart represent percentage of immune related pathways of the first 100 enriched pathways. First line: E-MTAB-1781, second line: TARGET. From left to right, 100 first pathways enriched in MNA and non-MNA differential expressed genes, pathway enriched in correlated and anti-correlated genes with MYCN **(C)** Number of pathways in common. Left panel: comparison between pathways enriched in E-MTAB-1781 MNA gene expression profiles, TARGET MNA gene expression profiles, E-MTAB-1781 *MYCN* positive correlated genes and TARGET *MYCN* positive correlated genes. Right panel: comparison between pathways enriched in E-MTAB-1781 non-MNA gene expression profiles, TARGET non-MNA gene expression profiles, E-MTAB-1781 *MYCN* negative correlated genes and TARGET *MYCN* negative correlated genes.

**Supplementary Figure 2.** MYCN is associated with immune pathway repression in different cancer datasets. **(A)** Table showing number of immune related pathways of the first 100 enriched pathways (enriched in the positive correlated or in the negative correlated genes). **(B)** Example of GSEA plot for GO ADAPTIVE IMMUNE RESPONSE for E-MTAB-1781 *MYCN* negative correlated genes, TARGET *MYCN* negative correlated genes, E-MTAB-1781 non-MNA gene expression profiles and TARGET non-MNA gene expression profiles.

**Supplementary Figure 3.** Exclusive presence of TH1/TH2 subsets in neuroblastoma. **(A)** heatmap representing the normalized relative abundance of TH subsets in NB1 cohort (E-MTAB-1781). Hierarchical clustering is conducted on the row and the columns using the Euclidean distance. Colour intensity represents z-score relative abundance of the Th subset.

**Supplementary Figure 4.** MYCN up-regulation impacts a wide immune interaction network. **(A-B)** Subpopulations are specified outside the circle, outer circle represents cell types, inner circle represents activation status. Connecting lines indicate connection between NB and immune subpopulation and are proportional to the number of connections. **(A)** *MYCN* negative regulated genes and the immune partners. **(B)** *MYCN* positive regulated genes and the immune partners.

**Supplementary Figure 5.** Correlation between immune WGCNA modules. **(A)** heatmap representing Pearson correlation between the module eigengenes **(B)** heatmap representing immune gene modules in neuroblastoma (on the vertical axis) and immune cell population on the horizontal axis. Colour intensity is proportional to z-score of the number of expressed proteins associated to each population.

**Supplementary Figure 6.** A conserved regulon pattern in neuroblastoma. **(A-D)** Correlation and overlap between the regulons (common regulons identified in NB1 (E-MTAB-1781) and NB2 (TARGET neuroblastoma)

cohorts) **(A)** Correlation between the regulons in NB1, boxes are identified by hierarchical clustering **(B)** Overlap between the regulons in NB1 using Jaccard coefficient. **(C)** Correlation between the regulons in NB2, boxes are identified by hierarchical clustering **(D)** Overlap between the regulons in NB2 using Jaccard coefficient.

**Supplementary Figure 7.** MNA different transcriptional regulons clusters have different immune features. **(A)** Differentially regulated regulons in MNA versus non-MNA patients (common regulons identified in NB1 (E-MTAB-1781) and NB2 (TARGET neuroblastoma) cohorts). Right panel: Bars are proportional to dES enrichment in NB1 cohorts. Colour shade indicate the number of elements present in the regulons. Left panel: Bars are proportional to dES enrichment in NB2 cohorts. Colour shade indicate the number of elements present in the regulons. **(B)** Protein-protein interaction between the transcription factors. The different colours indicate different type of interactions, grey colour indicate un-specified protein-protein interaction. **(C)** Hierarchical cluster dendrogram of the different transcriptional regulons. Hierarchical clustering is conducted on regulon activity in the NB1 patient cohort using the Euclidean distance. **(D)** Each different bar plot is showing enrichment for a different signature in each of the regulon clusters (regulon cluster 1 bar is not indicated in the last two bar plot as number of genes is zero). Bar plots showing number of genes positively regulated by the different cluster transcription factors. **(E)** Immune system gene module network in NB. Edges size is proportional to Pearson correlation coefficients, correlation is indicated in black and negative correlation in red. Modules with no connections are not shown, module size is proportional to the number of genes within. Pie chart colours correspond to positively and negatively regulated genes by the transcription factors present in each regulon cluster (one network for each regulon cluster), the size of the slices corresponds to the number of the genes.

**Supplementary Figure 8.** MYCN directly regulates transcription factors present in the regulator network **(A)** MYCN ChIP enrichment score in the transcription factors. **(B)** Transcription network of the top regulated N-Myc ChIP enriched. Square nodes indicate transcription factors and round nodes indicate inferred targets.

**Supplementary Figure 9.** Regulon clusters differentially impact the survival **(A)** regulon cluster projection obtained by autoencoder dimensionally reduction of the regulon activity. Colours indicate the regulon clusters, each dot represents a patient. **(B)** Kaplan–Meier plots for the probability of overall survival over time for patients in the NB1 cohort associated with regulon cluster (low risk, n = 345; medium risk, n = 138, high risk, n = 219). Associated P value is shown in the middle of the plot (log-rank test). **(C)** heatmap representing the normalize relative abundance of regulons in NB2 cohort. Hierarchical clustering is conducted on the row and the columns using the Euclidean distance. Clinical data are on top. **(D)** Kaplan–Meier plots for the probability of overall survival over time for patients in the NB2 cohort associated with regulon cluster (low risk, n =121; medium risk, n =33, high risk, n =89). Associated P value is shown in the middle of the plot (log-rank test).

**Supplementary Figure 10.** *MYCN* effect on immune system has a prognostic impact. **(A-B)** Wordclouds represent genes present in the *MYCN* immune score, ranked by normalized weight, the size is proportional to the associated weight. **(A)** Positive weight genes **(B)** Negative weight genes. **(C)** example of a Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve for logistic regression model (1 of 10 calculated). **(D)** Venn diagrams showing number *MYCN* signature genes found in PubMed text mining (genes present in neuroblastoma and *MYCN* related abstracts). Left panel: *MYCN* positive associated genes in the signature, right panel: *MYCN* negative associated genes in the signature. **(E)** left panel: Sankey plot of the transcription factor (TF) in the Regulon clusters and the regulated genes in the *MYCN* immune signature. Regulon cluster TF are order according to the identified cluster, the genes are order according their signature status (*MYCN* positive and negative associated). The colours of the line identify positive or negative regulations. Right panel: the Sankey plot is equivalent to the left panel, the interactions are grouped and summarized by regulon clusters.

**Supplementary Figure 11.** *MYCN* effect on immune system has a prognostic impact. **(A-F)** Analyses conducted on TARGET dataset (NB 2 cohort). **(A)** normalized *MYCN* immune score in MNA and non-MNA PGEF. **(B)** Kaplan–Meier plots for the probability of overall survival over time for patients associated with *MYCN* immune score (low enriched, n = 102; low enriched, n = 91; high enriched, n = 50). Associated P value is shown in the middle of the plot (log-rank test). **(C)** Kaplan–Meier plots for the probability of overall survival over time for patients associated with *MYCN* amplification status (MNA, n = 68; non-MNA, n = 175). Associated P value is shown in the middle of the plot (log-rank test). **(D)** normalized *MYCN* immune score in different INSS classification stages. **(E)** Ki-67 Log2 expression in patients associated with *MYCN* immune score. **(F)** normalized *MYCN* immune score associated with the histology. Wilcoxon matched pair test; \* P < 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\*\*, P < 0.0001.

**Supplementary Figure 12.** *MYCN* immune score correlation with immune system components. **(A-B)** ESTIMATE enrichment for immunoScore, stromalScore, EstimateScore and TumorPurity in NB1 **(A)** and NB2 **(B)** cohort. **(C-F)** Colour bar represent Spearman correlation between *MYCN* immune score and different immune genes in E-MTAB-1781 and TARGET datasets. **(A)** Toll Like Receptor genes. **(B)** Positive (above) and negative (below) immune checkpoints. **(C)** T-helper cytokines. **(D)** MHC I and II genes.

**Supplementary Figure 13.** *MYCN* immune score correlation with immune system components. **(A-D)** Kaplan–Meier plots for the probability of overall survival over time for non-MNA patients. Associated P value is shown in the middle of the plot (log-rank test n.s. not significant, \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\*, P < 0.001.). **(A)** E-MTAB1781 patient stratified for high and low *MYCN* immune score (low enriched, n = 100; medium enriched, n = 68; high enriched, n = 7). **(B)** E-MTAB1781 patient stratified for high and low *MYCN* expression (z-score higher than 1, high *MYCN*, n = 480, low *MYCN*, n = 532). **(C)** TARGET patient stratified for high and low *MYCN* immune score (low enriched, n = 100; medium enriched, n = 68; high enriched, n = 7). **(D)** TARGET patient stratified for high and low *MYCN* expression (z-score higher than 1, high *MYCN*, n = 25, low *MYCN*, n = 150).

**Supplementary Figure 14.** Immune score has a prognostic impact. **(A-H)** Cox multivariate regression analysis on NB1 (E-MTAB-1781) and NB2 (TARGET neuroblastoma) cohorts. Box plot that are on the left of the central line are positively associated with the hazard, Box plot that are on the right of the central line are negatively associated with the hazard. **(E-H)** Cox multivariate regression analysis on MYCN non-amplified NB1 (E-MTAB-1781) and NB2 (TARGET neuroblastoma) cohorts.

**Supplementary Figure 15.** Immune checkpoint expression in neuroblastoma. **(A)** Pathway enrichment for four select immune pathways (GO terms) associated to MHC and antigen processing. (NB1: E-MTAB-1781, NB2: TARGET NB). Symbol size and colour intensity indicate  $-\log_{10}$  FDR and NES. GO terms enriched in *MYCN* (left) anti-correlated genes and GO terms enriched in non-MNA (right) patients. **(B)** heatmap of MNA and non-MNA patient gene expression profiles in NB1 cohort (E-MTAB-1781, MNA = 122, non-MNA = 580) and NB2 cohort (TARGET, MNA = 68, non-MNA = 175). Colour intensity is proportional to z-score of the average gene for each group. MICA gene is not present in the NB2 cohort and for this reason not indicated. **(C)** density plot representing mRNA expression of different immune checkpoint in neuroblastoma divided for MNA and non-MNA patients: on the left, NB1 cohort (E-MTAB1781) and on the right NB2 cohort (TARGET). The line in the middle is representing the median. From the top to the bottom: CD274, CD276, PVR, CTLA4. **(D)** mRNA basal expression of different genes (from left to right: CD276, CD274, HMGA1, PVR) in NB cell lines measured through Real-Time PCR after 12 hours of treatment with BGA002 2.5  $\mu$ M (black is the control, red the treatment, n = 3 biological replicates for each cell line).

## Supplementary tables

**Supplementary table 1: Enriched pathways in neuroblastoma cohorts.** Pathway enrichment for NB1 (E-MTAB-1781) and NB2 cohorts (TARGET). GSEA pathway enrichment in MYCN correlated gene list and MNA versus non-MNA gene list. In the table are listed the first 100 pathways.

**Supplementary table 2: Enriched pathways in MYCN correlating gene list.** GSEA Pathway enrichment in MYCN correlated gene list in different malignancies (NB1: E-MTAB-1781, NB2: TARGET neuroblastoma, Wilms: TARGET Wilms, SCLC1: E-MTAB-1999, SCLC2: PMID 26168399, RB: GSE59983, Rhabdo: GSE114621, T-ALL: GSE13159, AML: GSE13159). In the table are listed the first 100 pathways.

**Supplementary table 3: Enriched pathways in MYC correlating gene list.** GSEA Pathway enrichment in MYC correlated gene list in different malignancies (NB1: E-MTAB-1781, NB2: TARGET neuroblastoma, Wilms: TARGET Wilms, SCLC1: E-MTAB-1999, SCLC2: PMID 26168399, RB: GSE59983, Rhabdo: GSE114621, T-ALL: GSE13159, AML: GSE13159). In the table are listed the first 100 pathways.

**Supplementary table 4: WGCNA module assigned genes.** Module 0 represents genes not assigned to any modules. Module column (first column) indicate the WGCNA modules.

**Supplementary table 5: WGCNA module pathway enrichment.** GO pathway enriched in the WGCNA module. Module column (first column) indicate the WGCNA modules.

**Supplementary table 6: List of the 50 regulons in the NB1 cohort.** (NB1: E-MTAB-1781)

**Supplementary table 7: List of the 50 regulons in the NB2 cohort.** (NB2: TARGET neuroblastoma)

**Supplementary table 8: List of the first 20 pathways enriched in each regulon cluster.**

**Supplementary table 9: List of genes used for the logistic regression model.**

**Supplementary table 10: List of significant genes: univariate Cox regression.** Only significantly genes are present

**Supplementary table 10: List of significant genes: univariate Cox regression**

**Supplementary table 11: List of genes and corresponding weights in the logistic regression model.**

**Supplementary table 12: clinical information for neuroblastoma dataset (accession: E-MTAB-1781).** MYCN\_status columns represent amplification status (MNA for MYCN amplification, non-MNA for not amplified), sex column, Age (in days), OS\_d represents overall survivals, OS\_bin (Overall survival status, 1 death, 0 censored), Stage (2A and 2B collapsed as 2), imm\_z (MYCN immune score normalized, z-score), MYCN immuno signature (MYCN immune status group stratification)

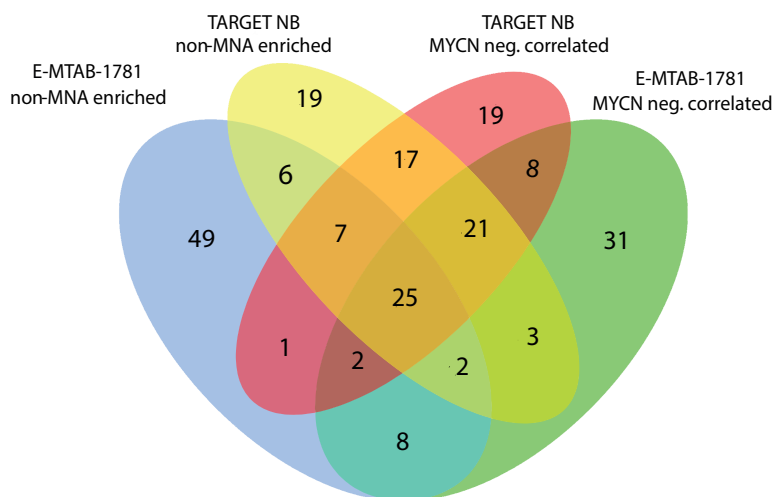
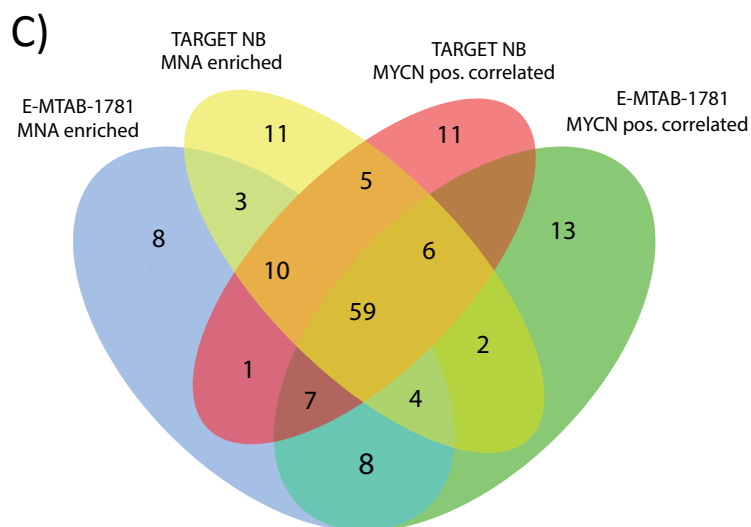
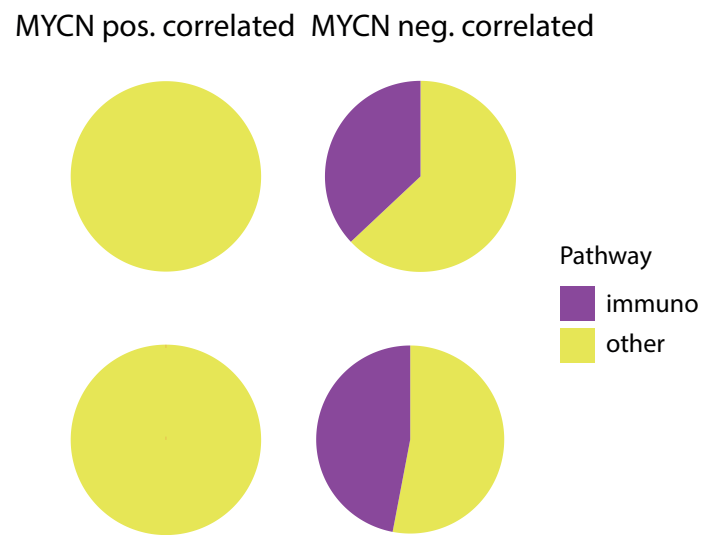
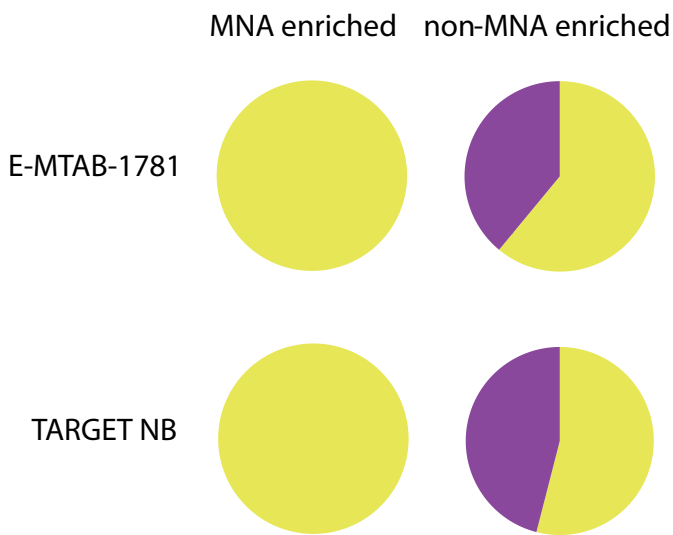
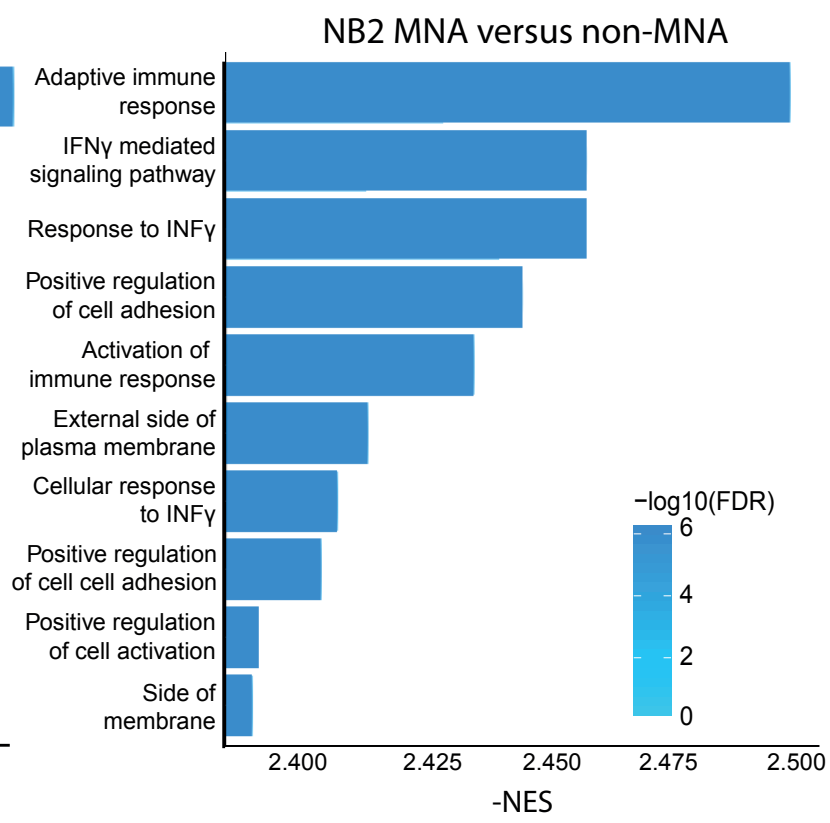
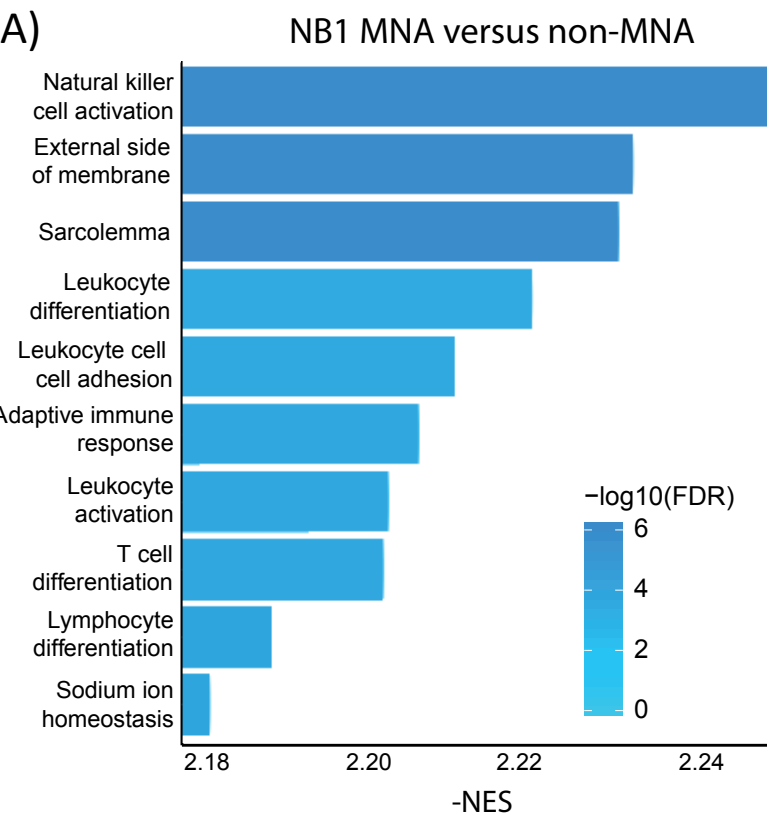
**Supplementary table 13: clinical information for neuroblastoma dataset (accession: TARGET).** MYCN\_status columns represent amplification status (MNA for MYCN amplification, non-MNA for not



amplified), Gender, Age represents age at the diagnosis (in days), OS\_d represents overall survivals, OS\_bin (Overall survival status, 1 death, 0 censored), Stage, imm\_z (MYCN immune score normalized, z-score), MYCN immune signature (MYCN immune status group stratification)

**Supplementary table 14: list of cell lines used in this study.** For each cell line is listed the source, the MYCN-status, source, data obtained, mycoplasma testing, citation.

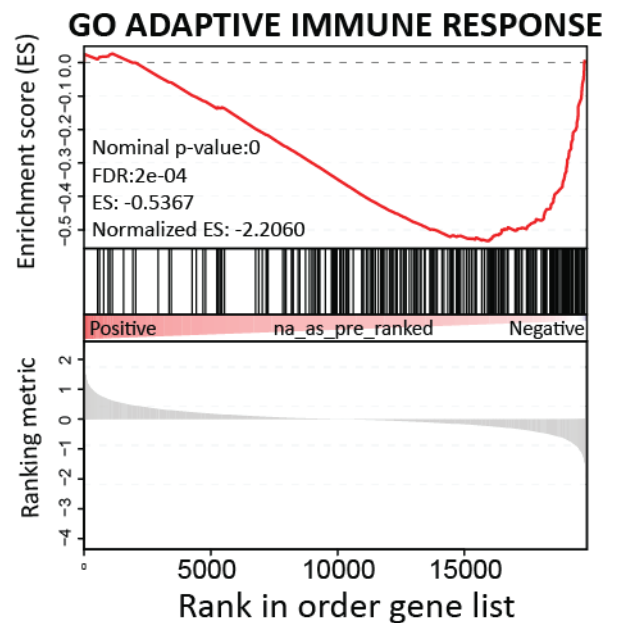
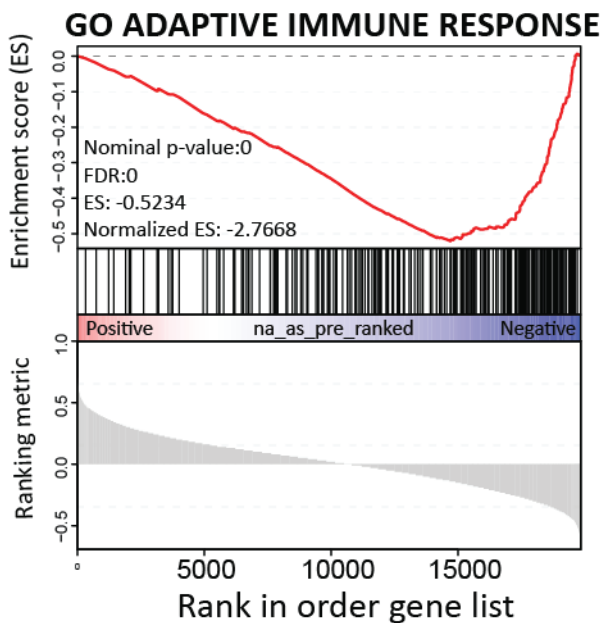
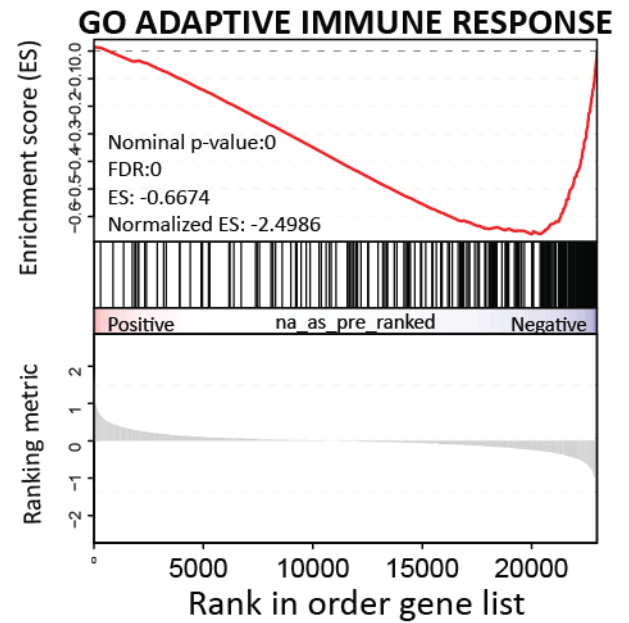
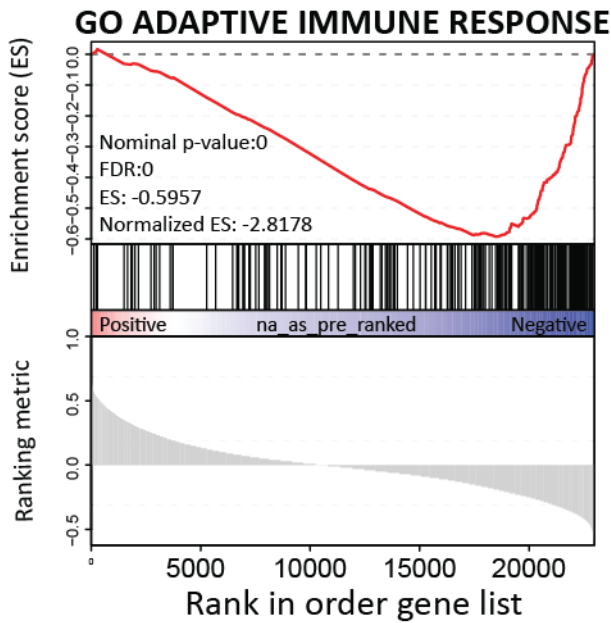
**Supplementary table 15: List of primers used in this study.** Sense and anti-sense

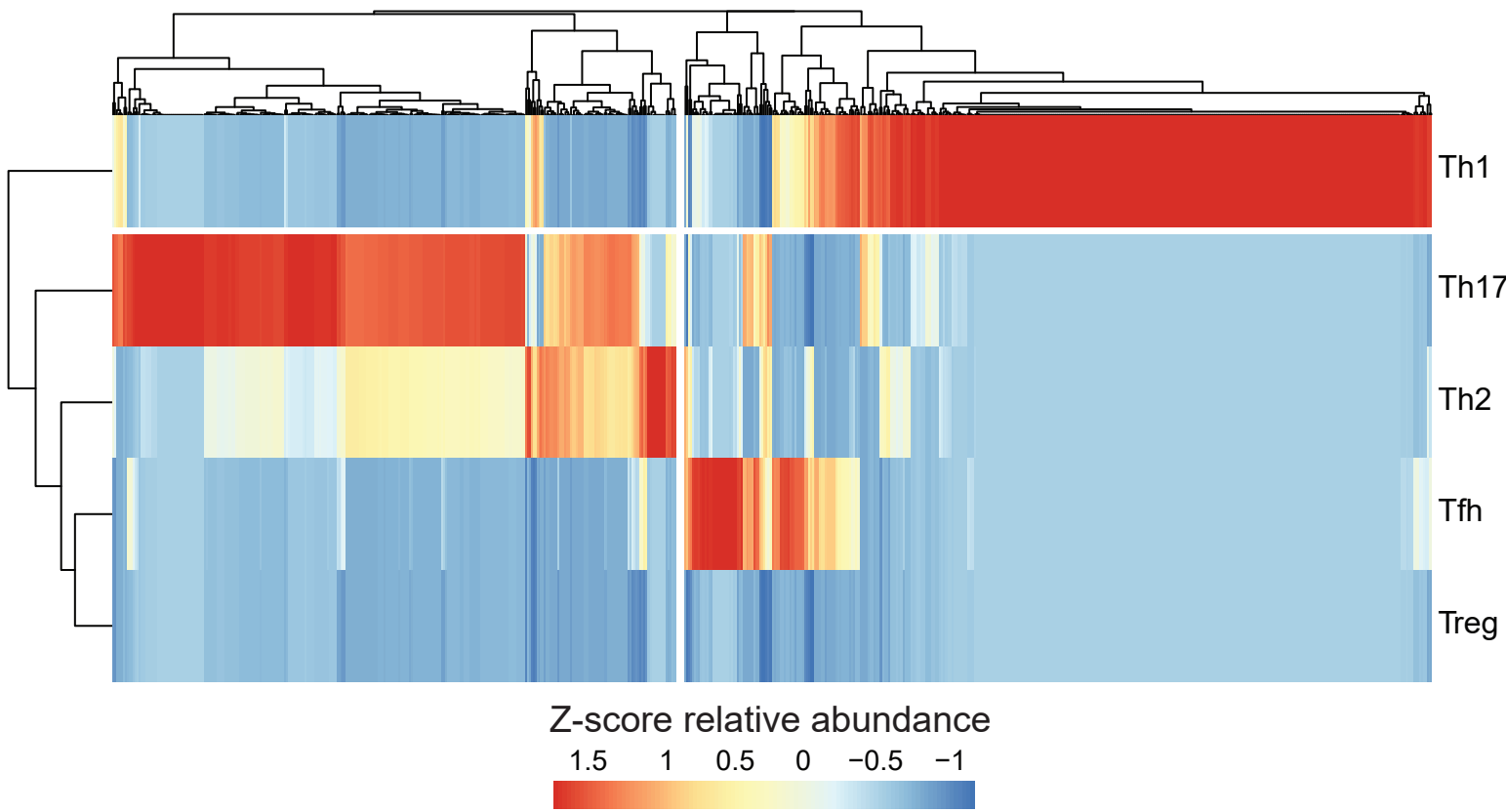


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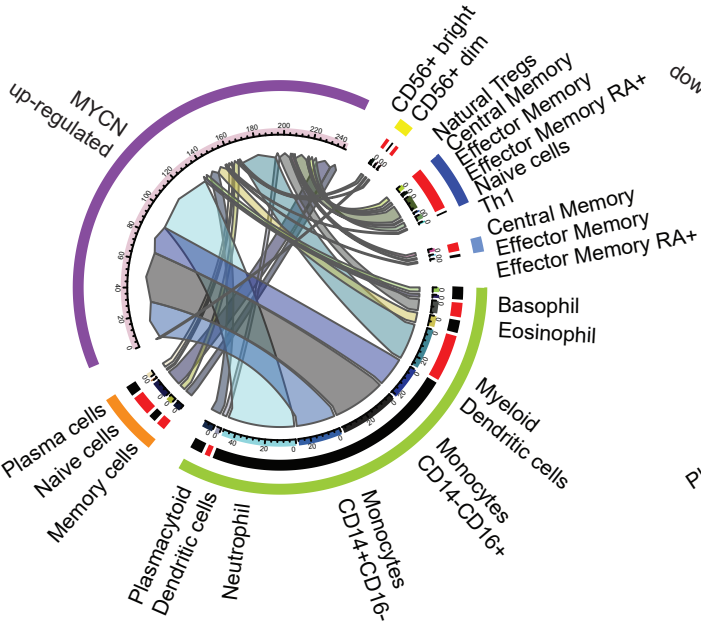
Dataset	Cancer	MYCN corr. Pathway	Immune pathway	Other
E-MTAB-1781	Neuroblastoma	pos. enrich.	0	100
		neg. enrich.	37	63
TARGET	Neuroblastoma	pos. enrich.	0	100
		neg. enrich.	47	53
TARGET	Wilms	pos. enrich.	0	100
		neg. enrich.	11	89
GSE 59983	Retinoblastoma	pos. enrich.	0	100
		neg. enrich.	9	91
GSE 114621	Rhabdomyosarcoma	pos. enrich.	0	100
		neg. enrich.	46	54
GSE 13159	T-ALL	pos. enrich.	5	95
		neg. enrich.	16	84
GSE 13159	AML	pos. enrich.	0	100
		neg. enrich.	29	71
PMID: 26168399	SCLC	pos. enrich.	0	100
		neg. enrich.	61	39
E-MTAB-1999	SCLC	pos. enrich.	0	100
		neg. enrich.	15	85

B)

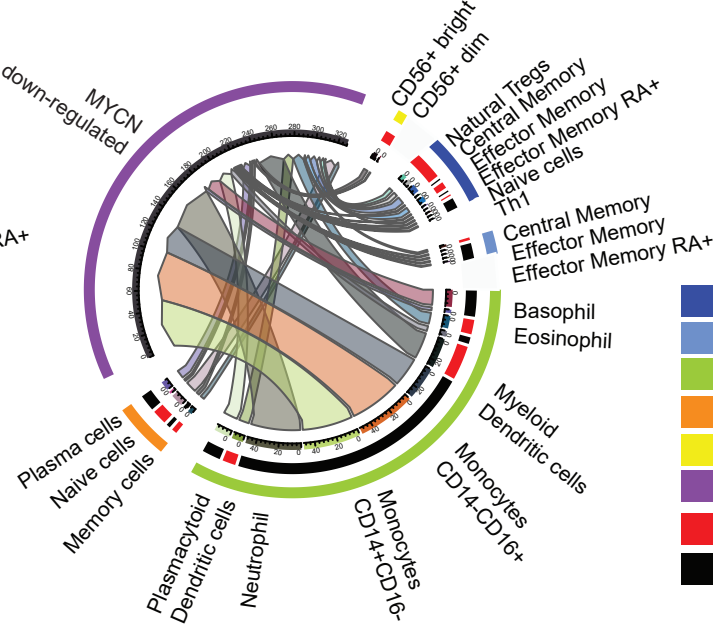




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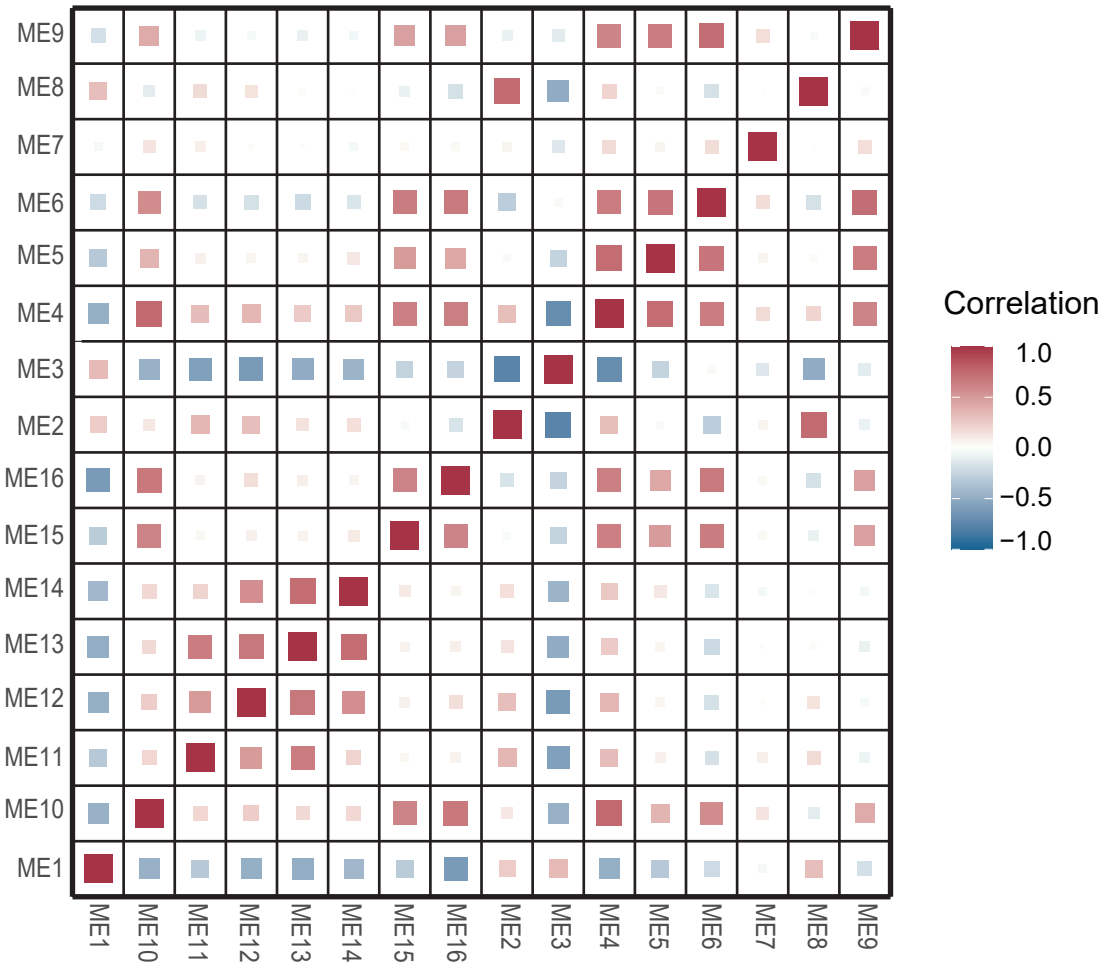


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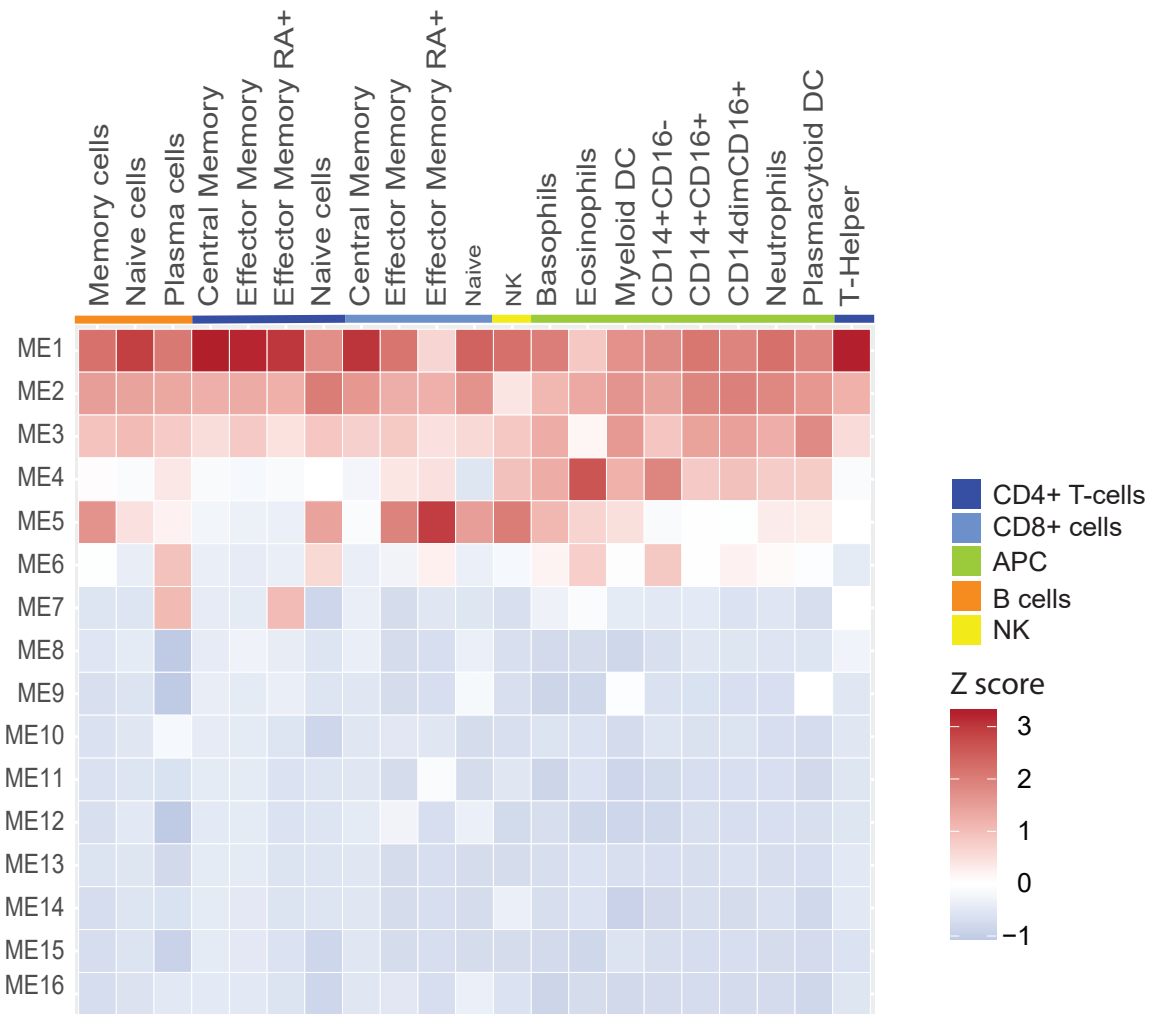


- CD4+ T-cells
- CD8+ cells
- APC
- B cells
- NK
- NB
- Activated
- Steady state

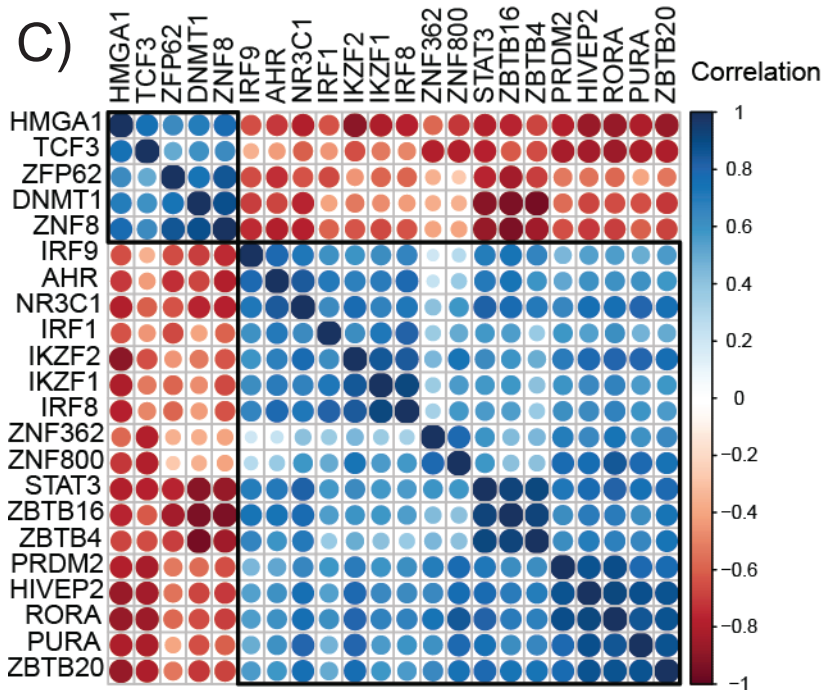
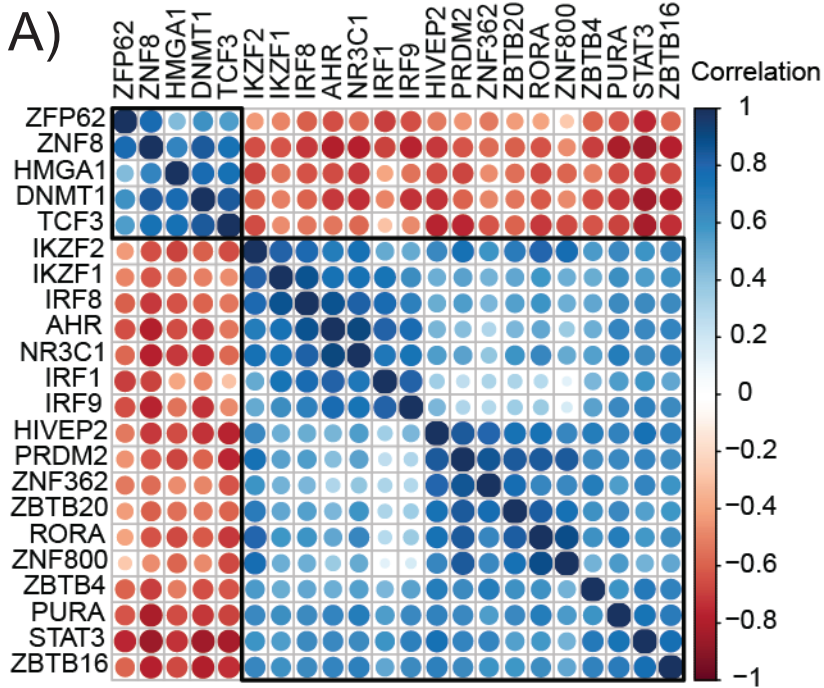
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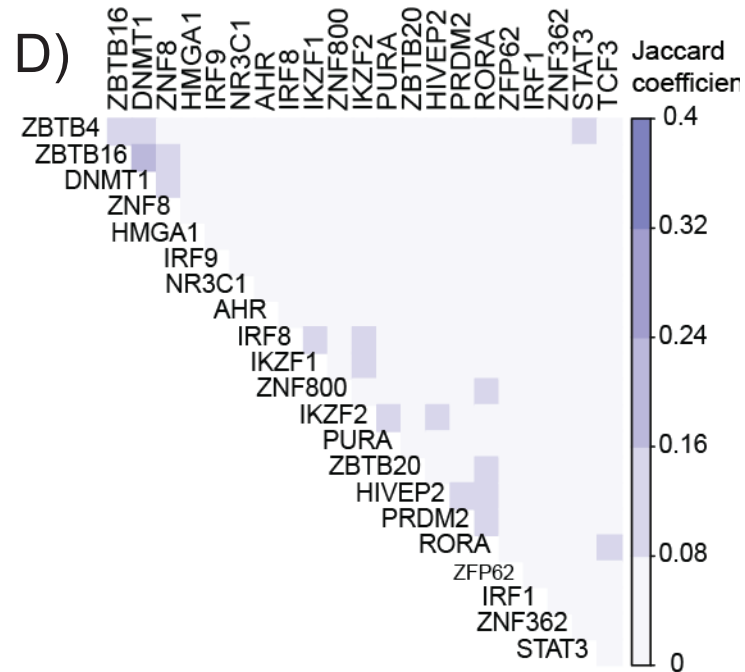
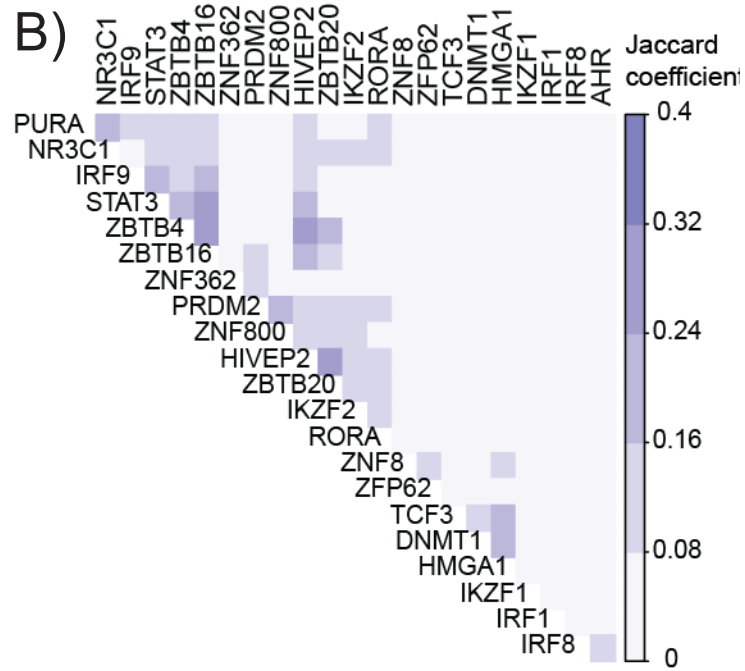
B)

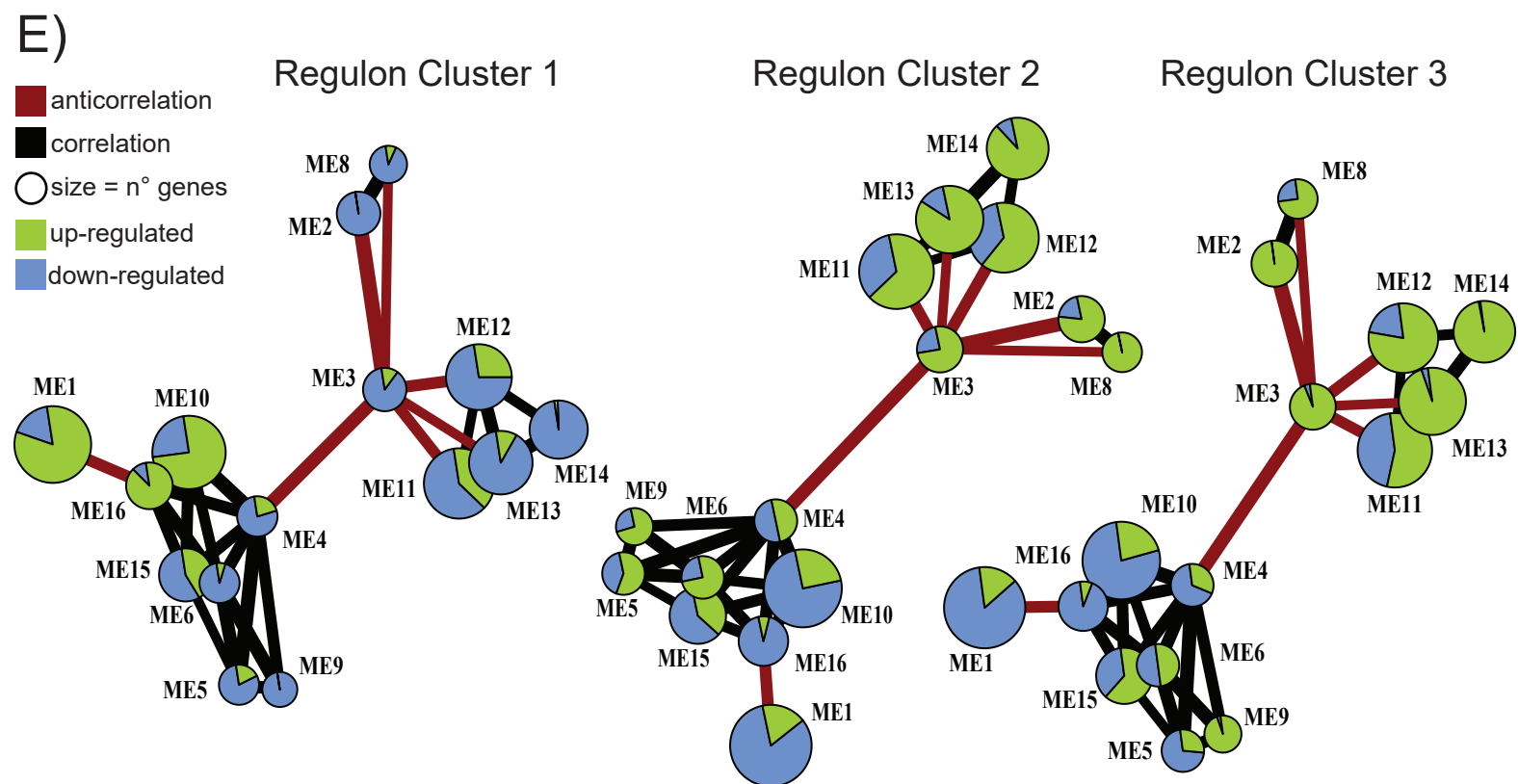
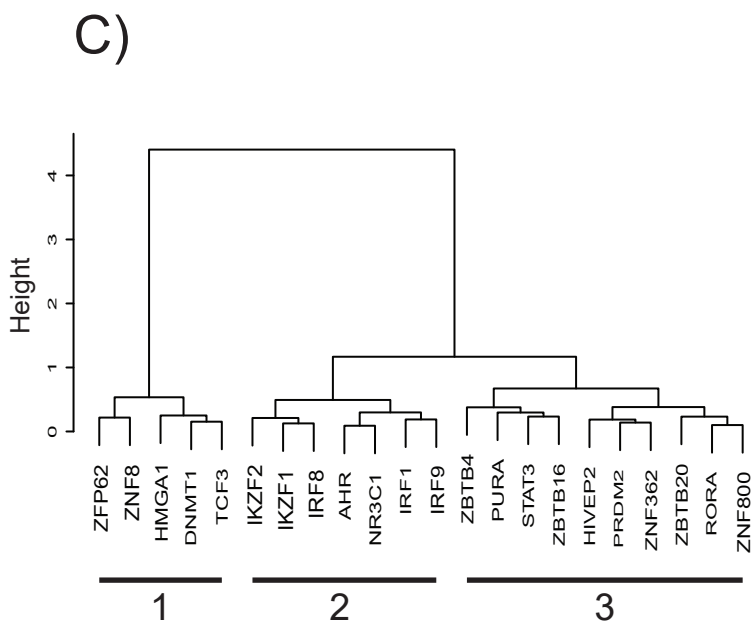
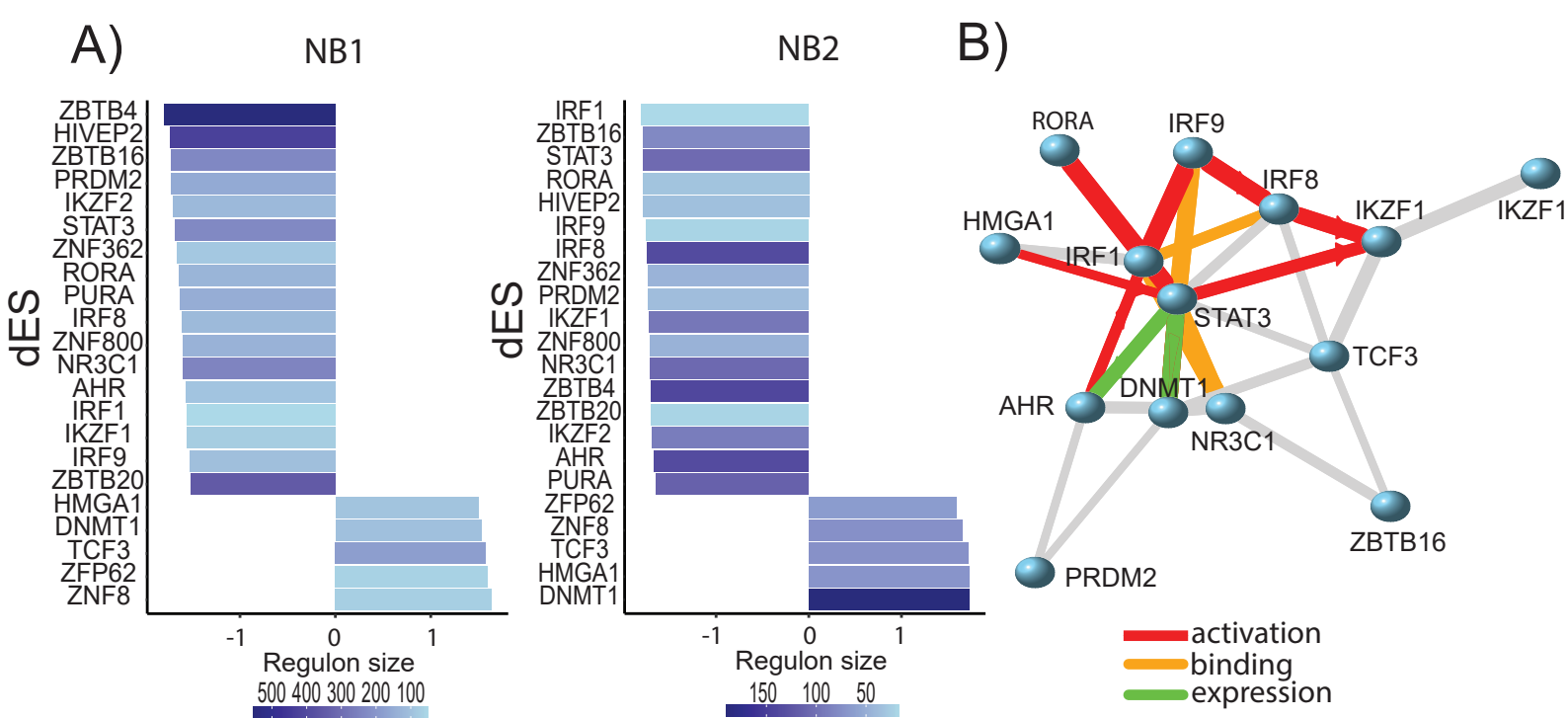


NB1 cohort



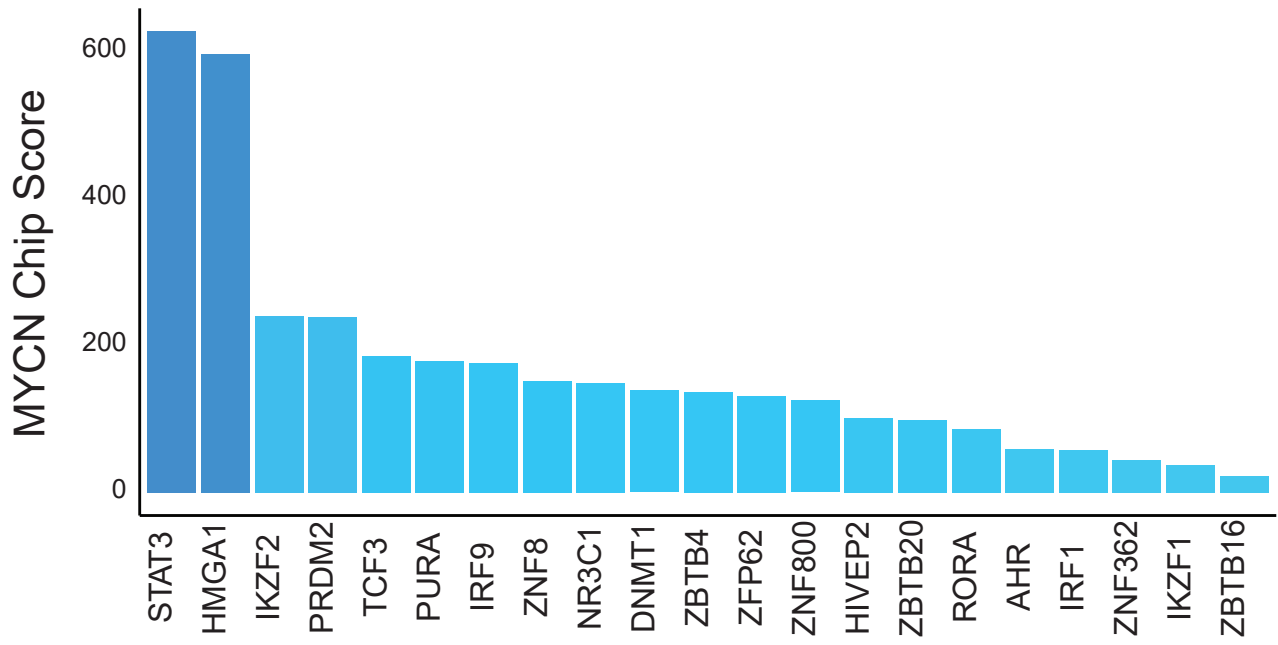
NB2 cohort



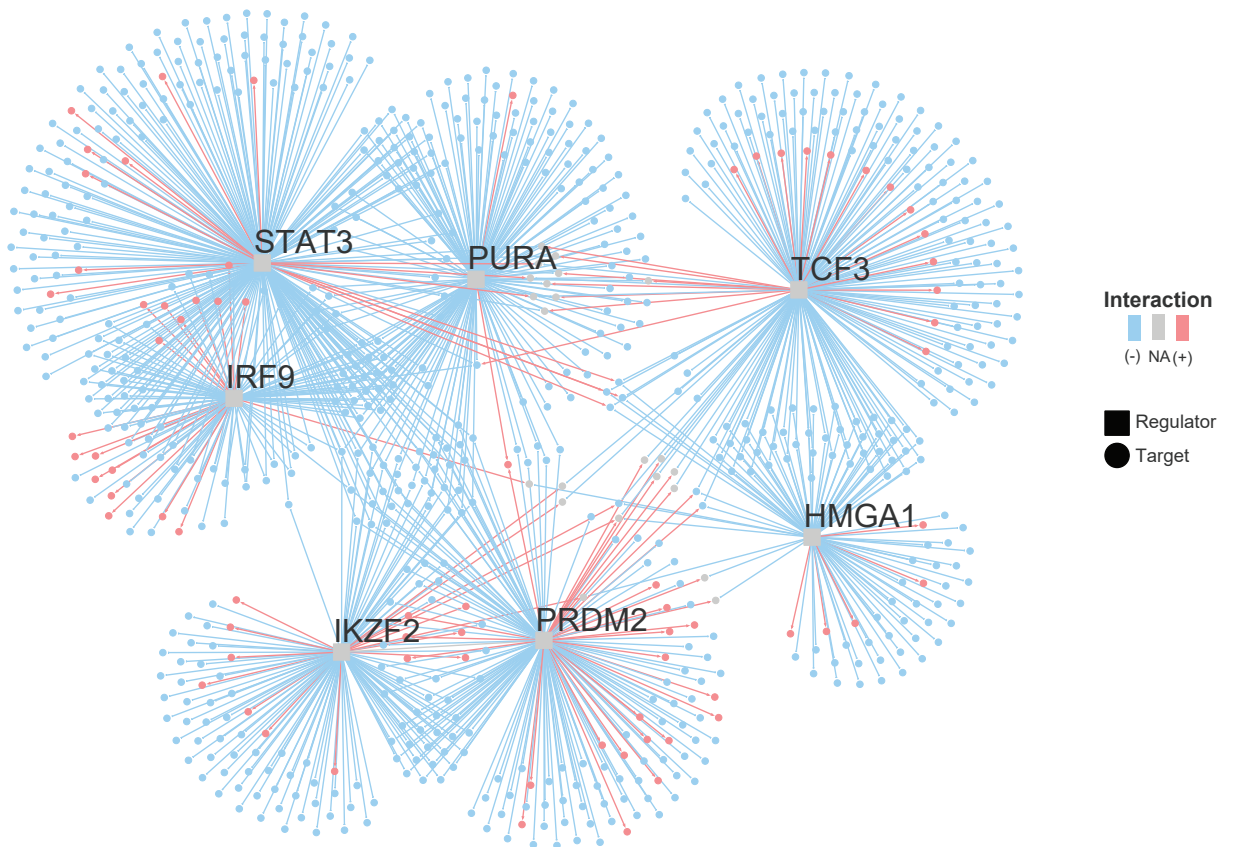


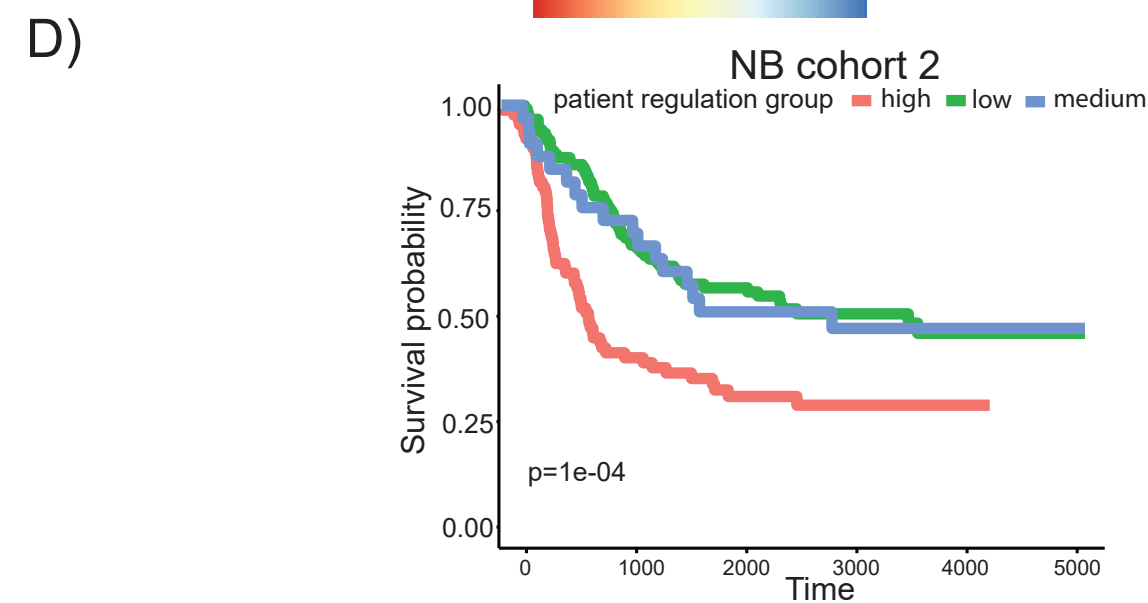
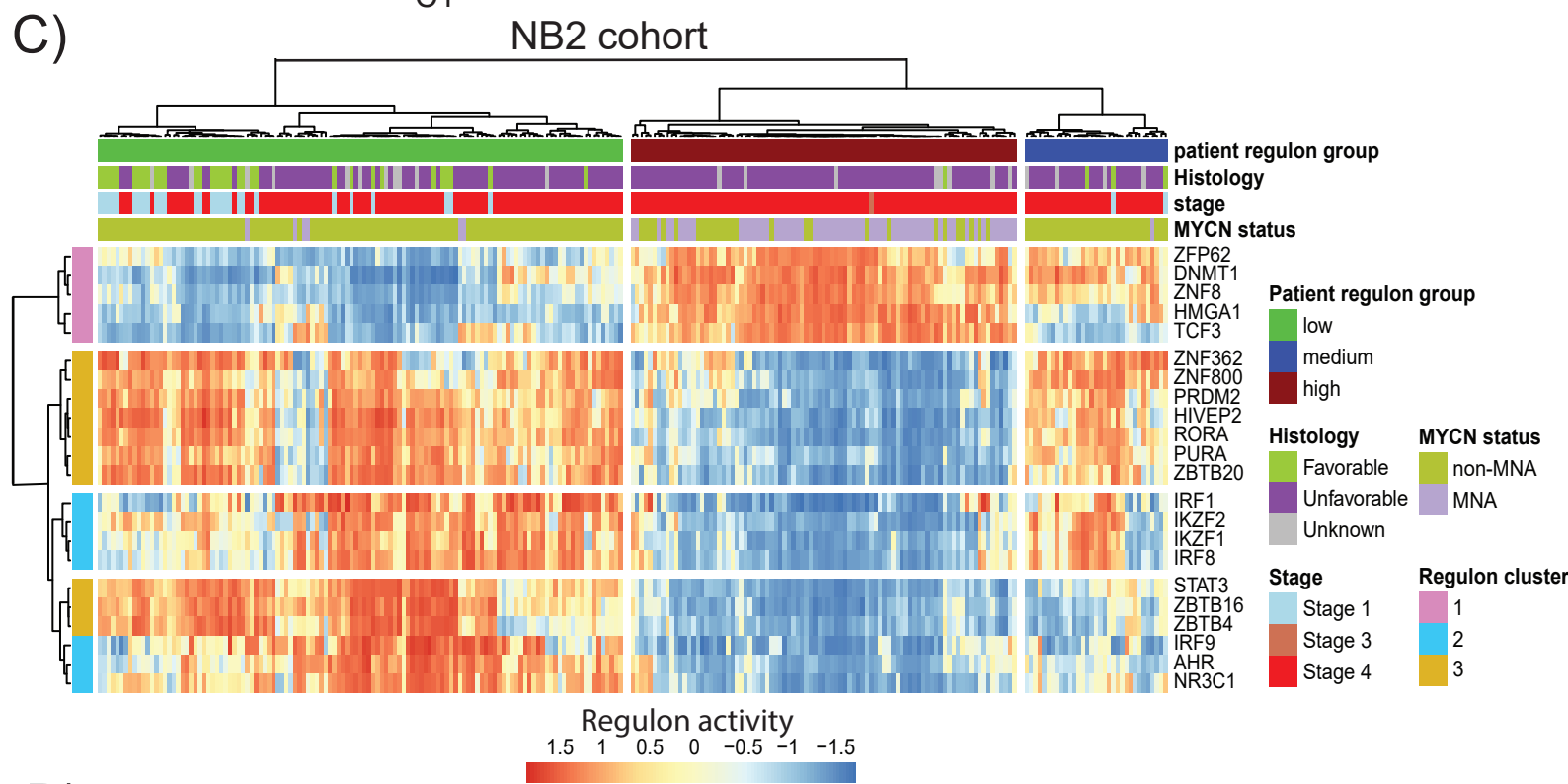
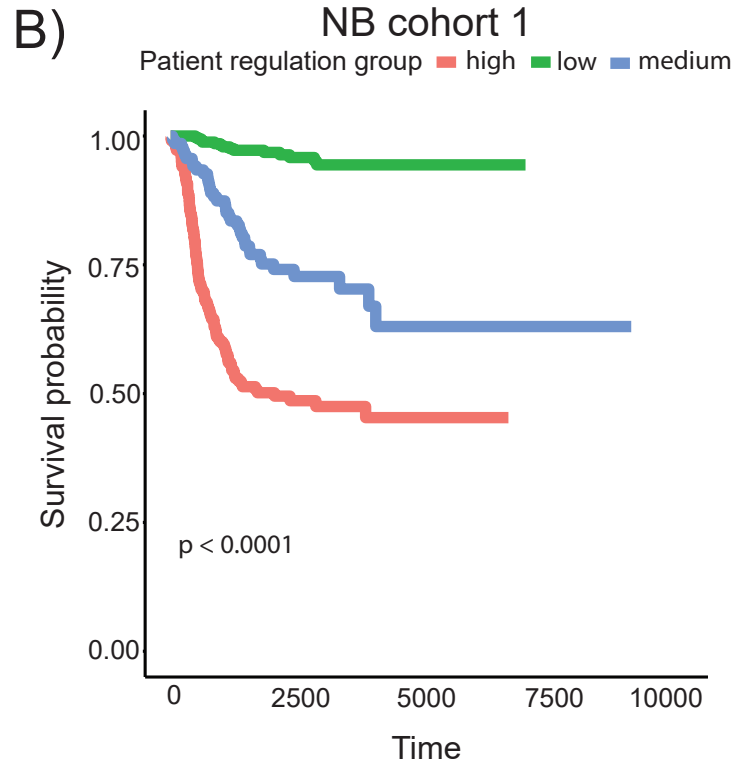
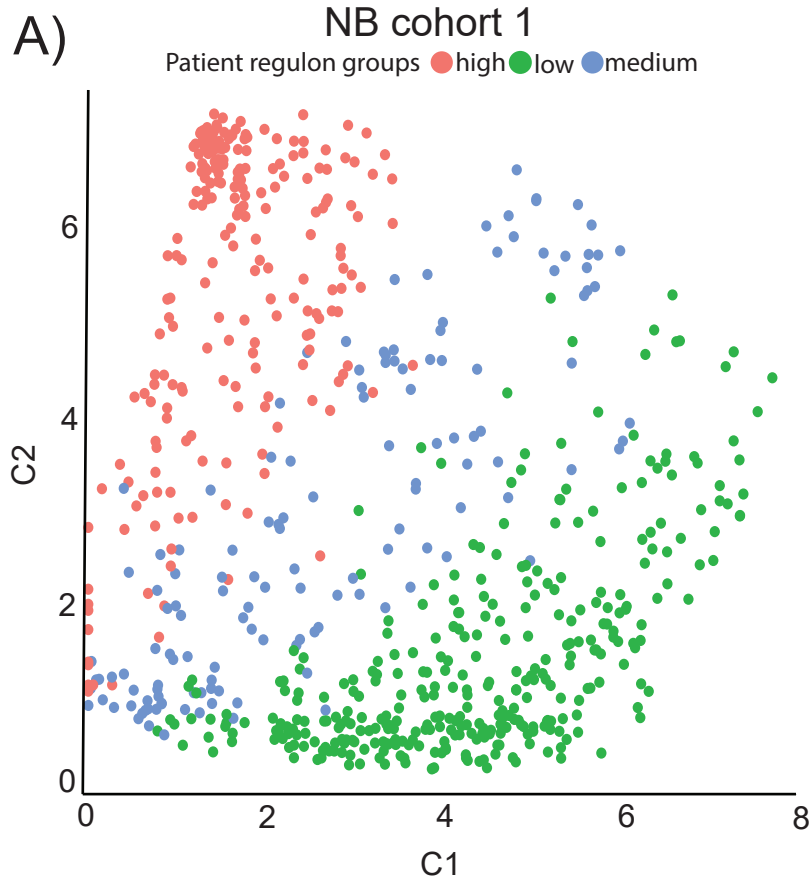


A)

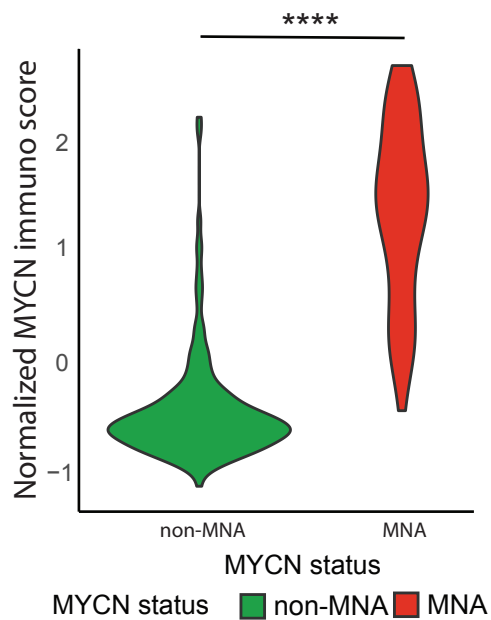
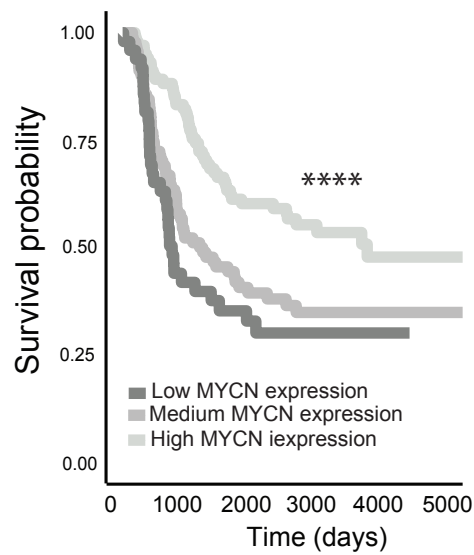
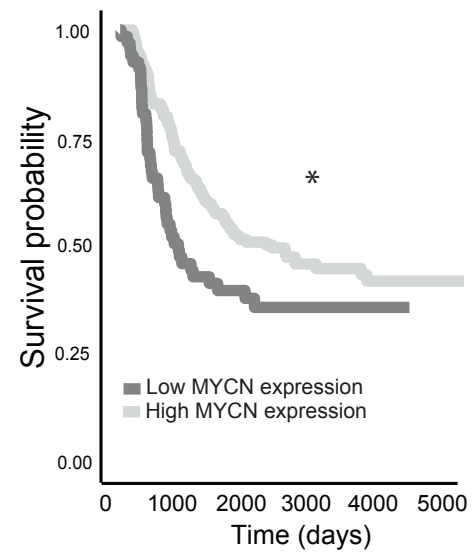
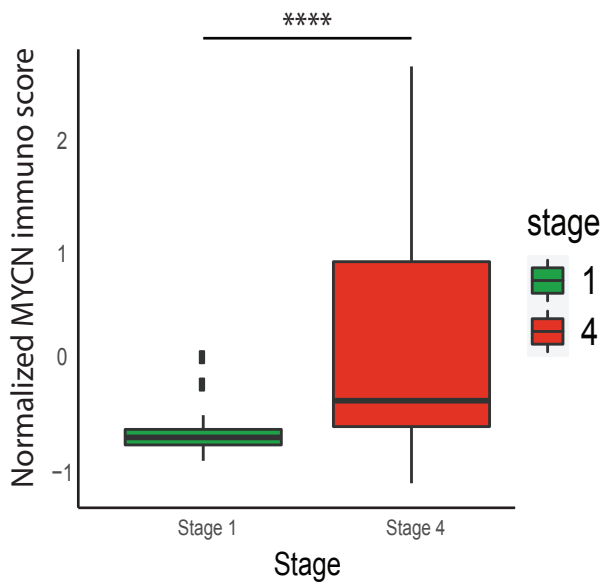
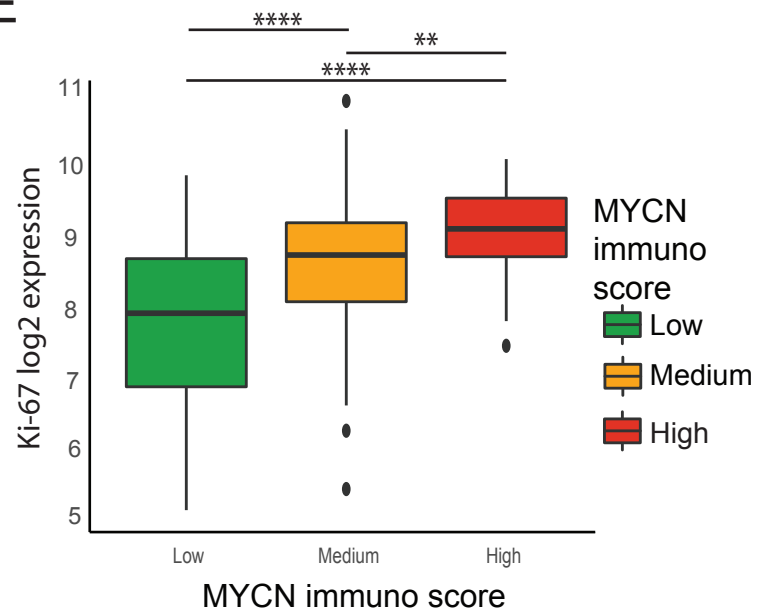
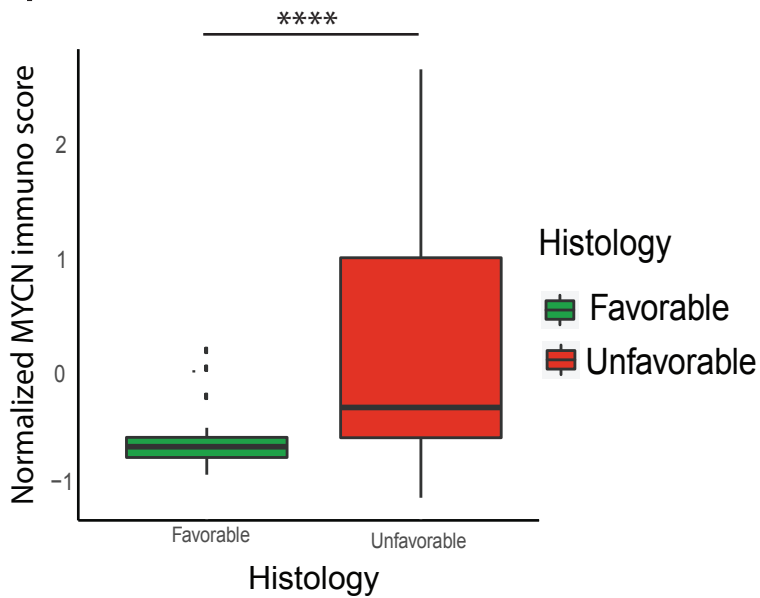


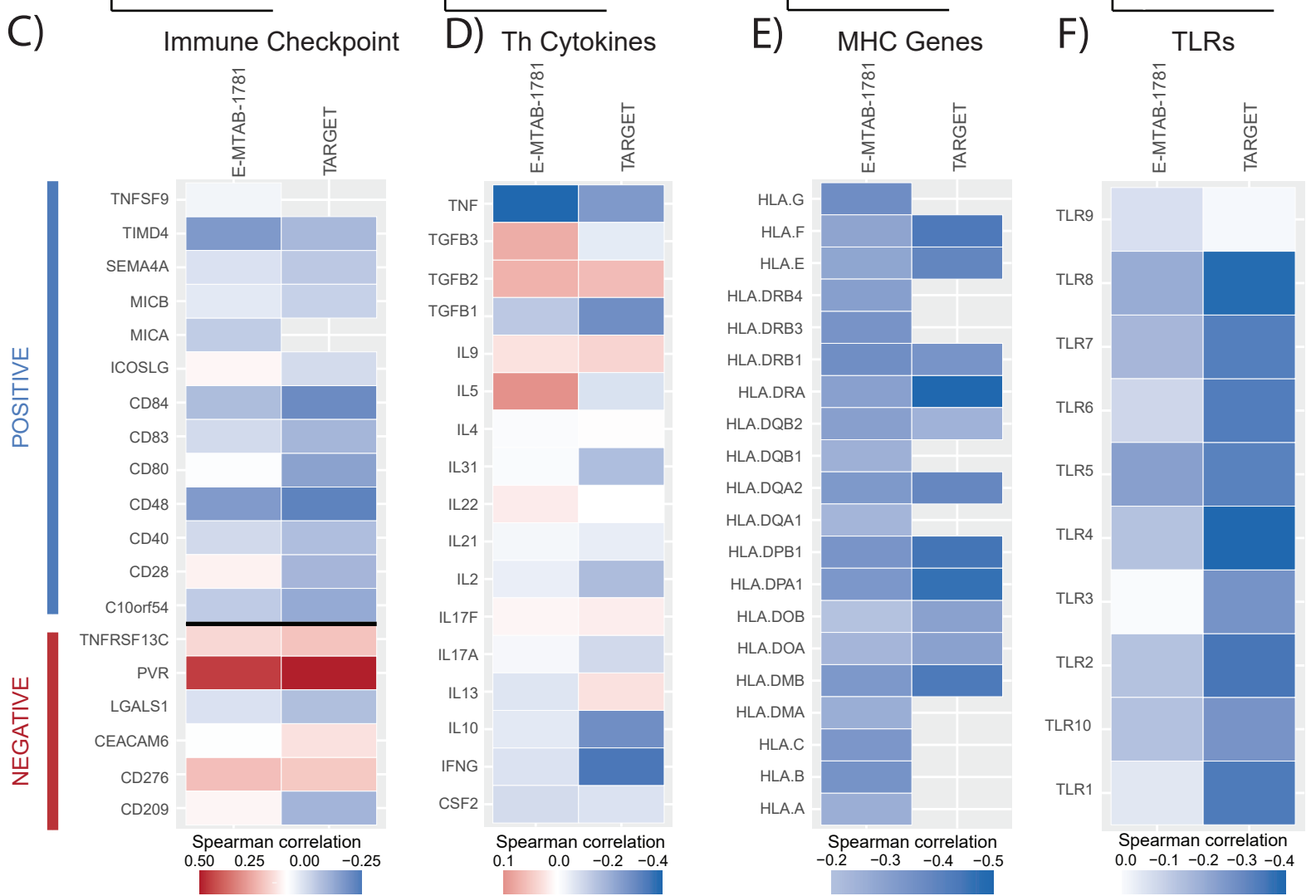
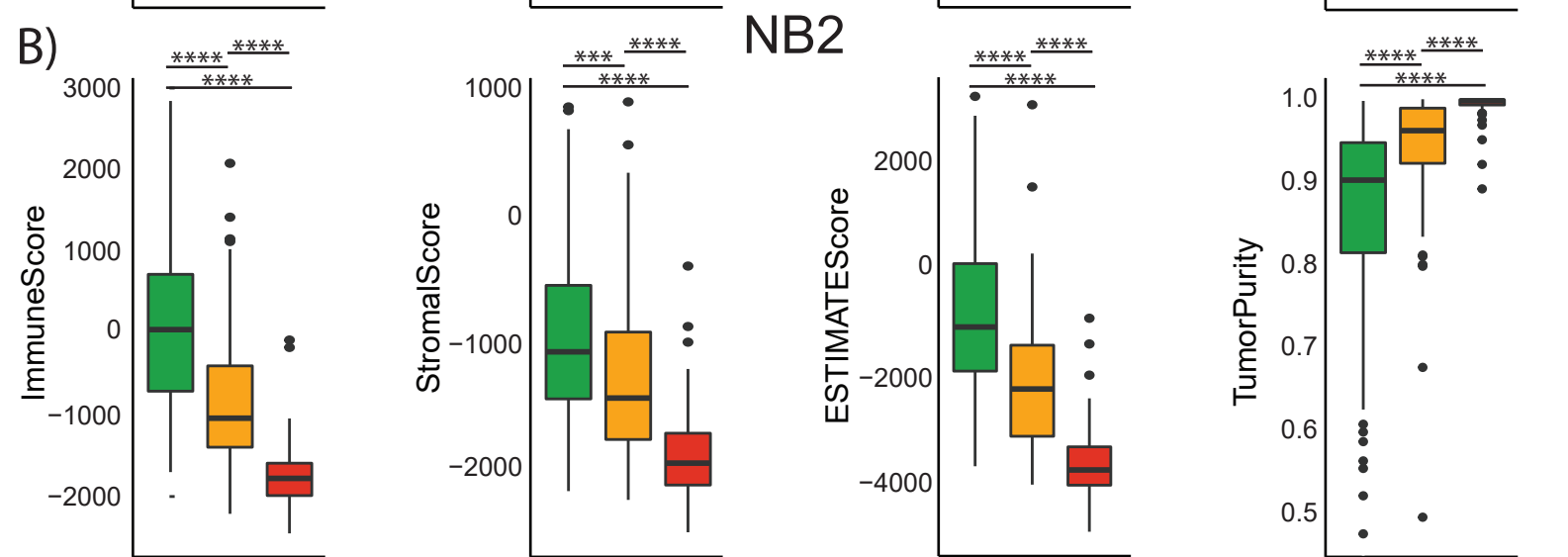
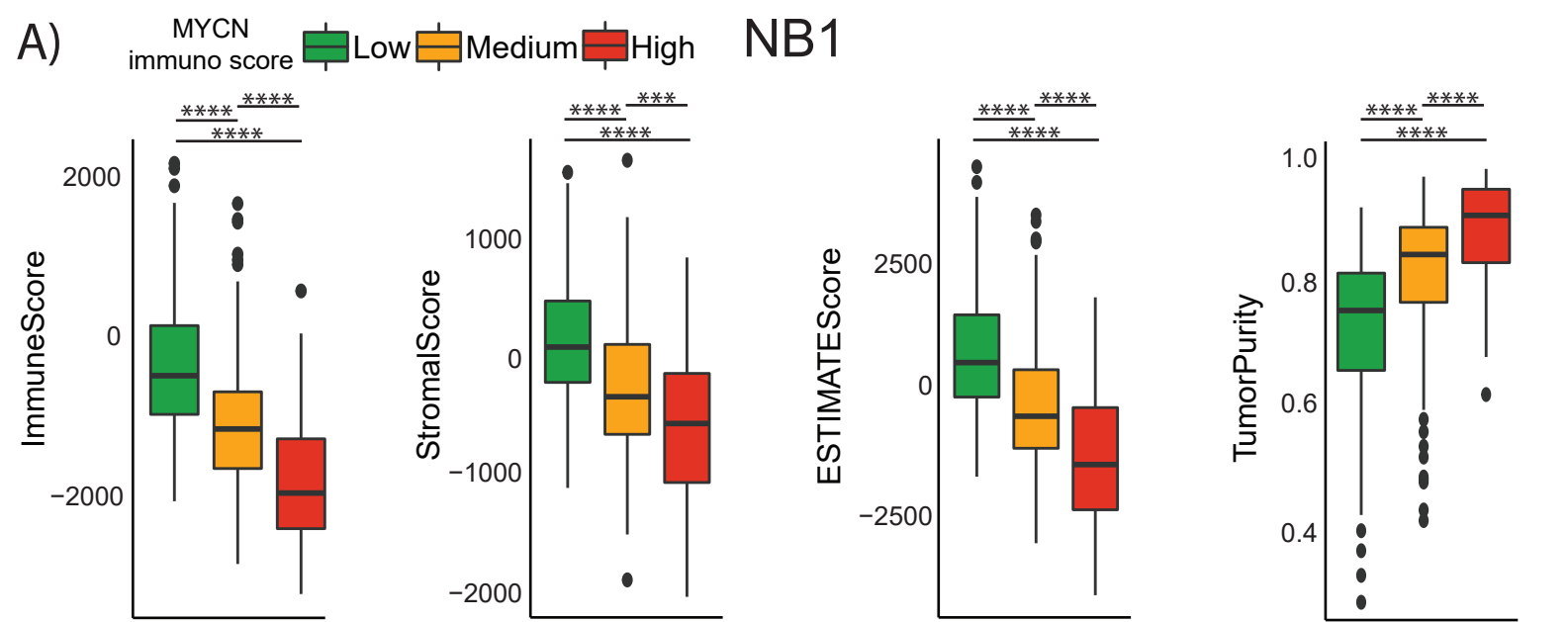
B)

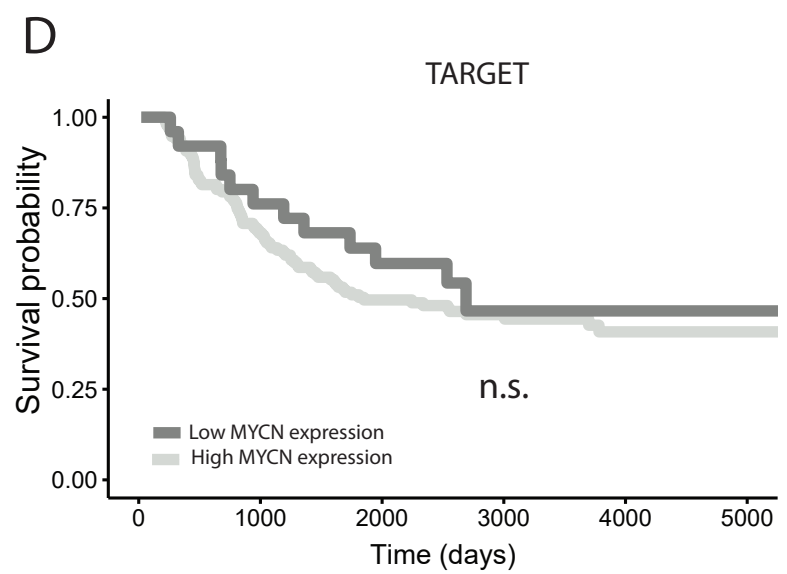
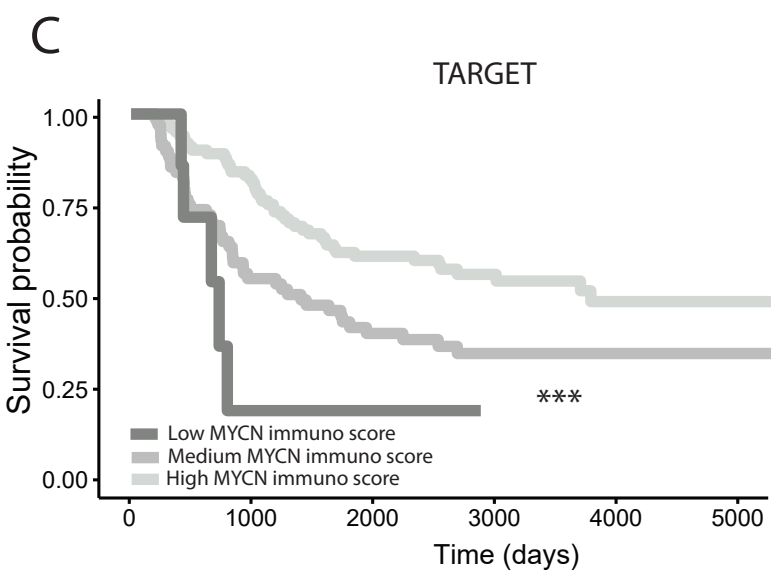
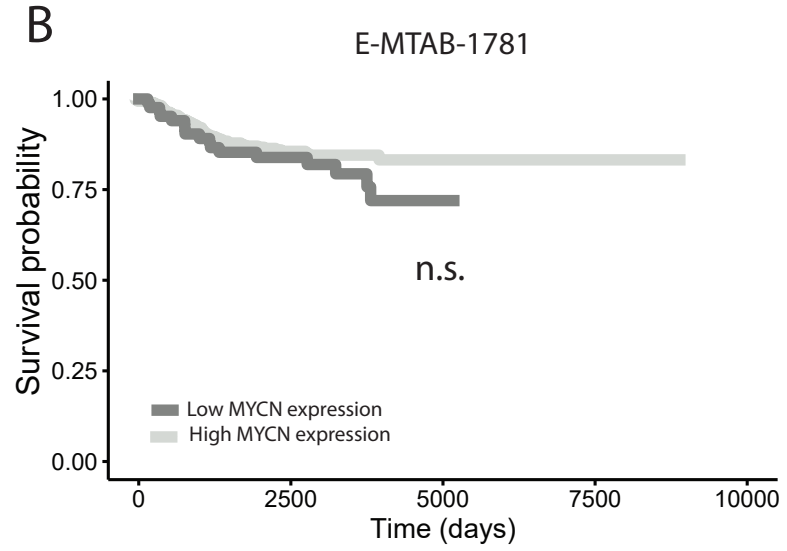
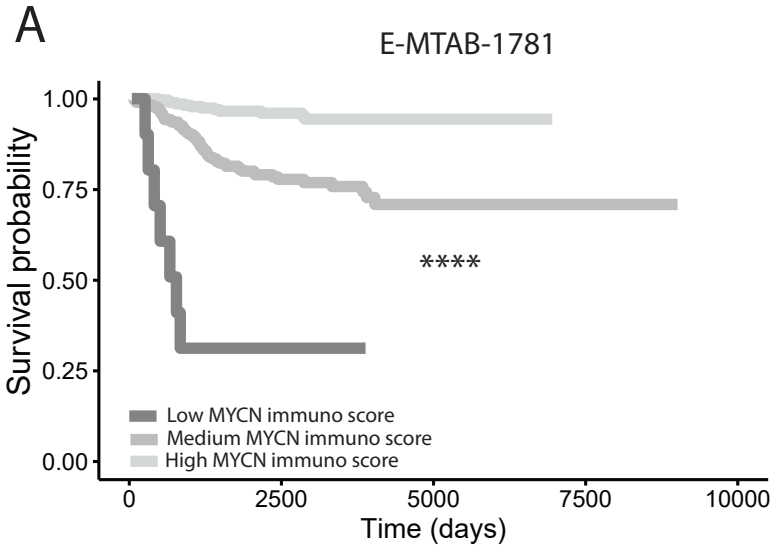


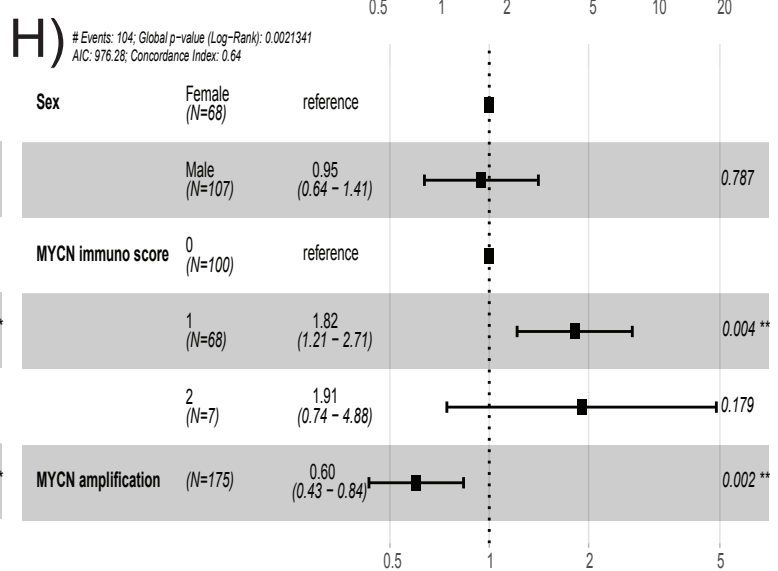
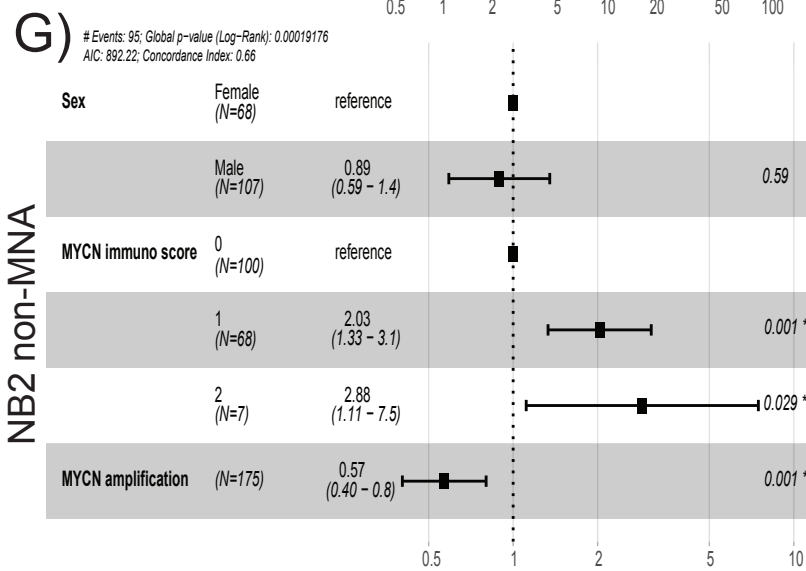
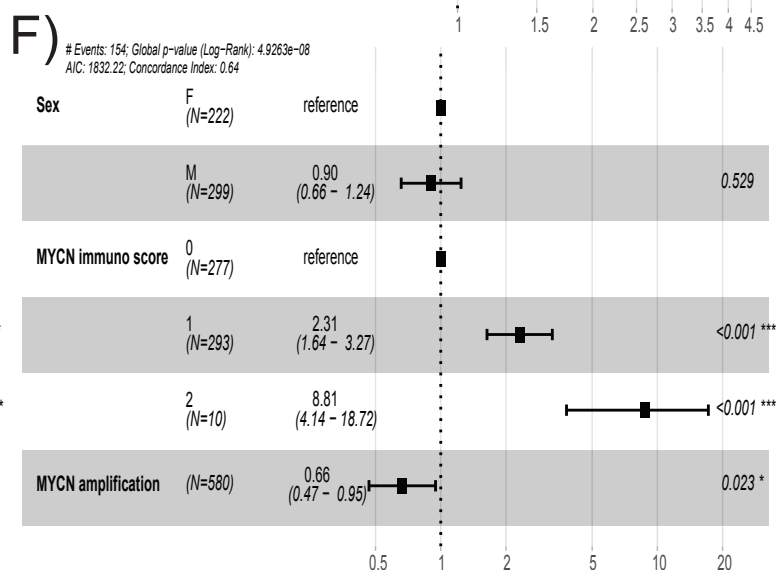
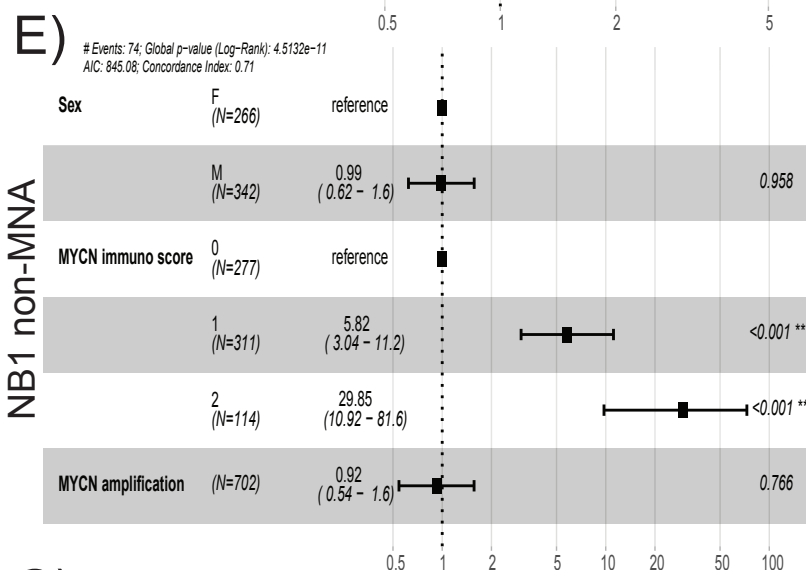
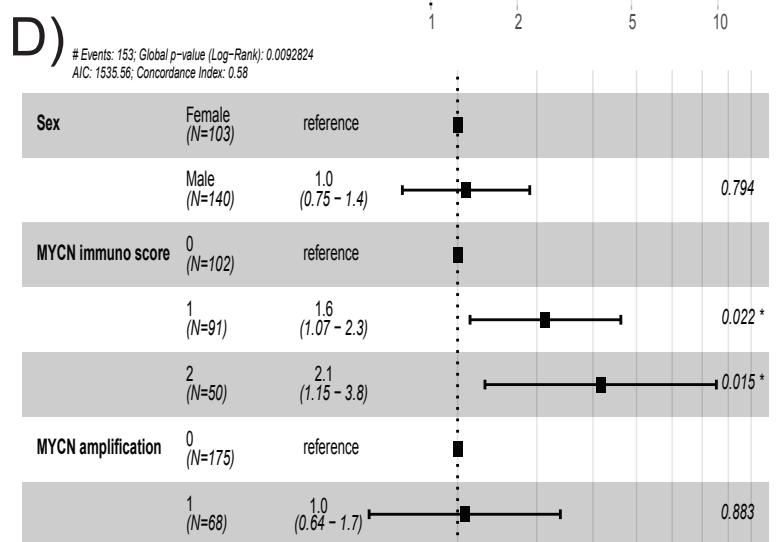
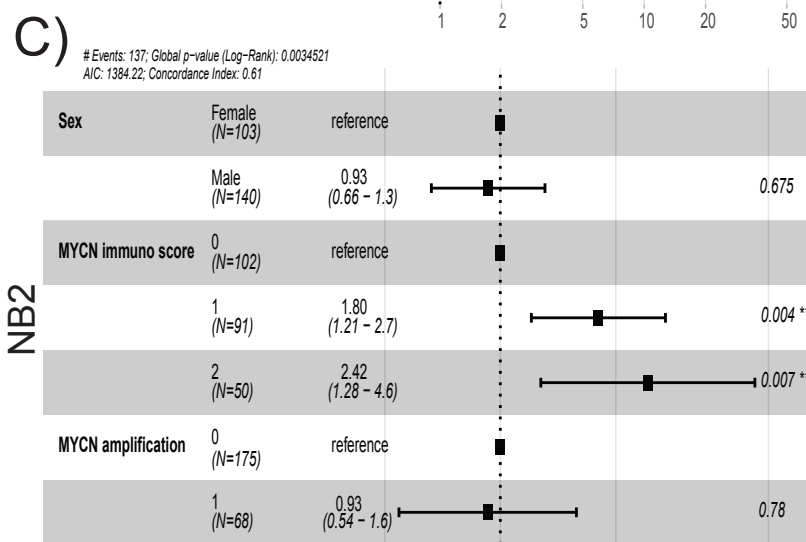
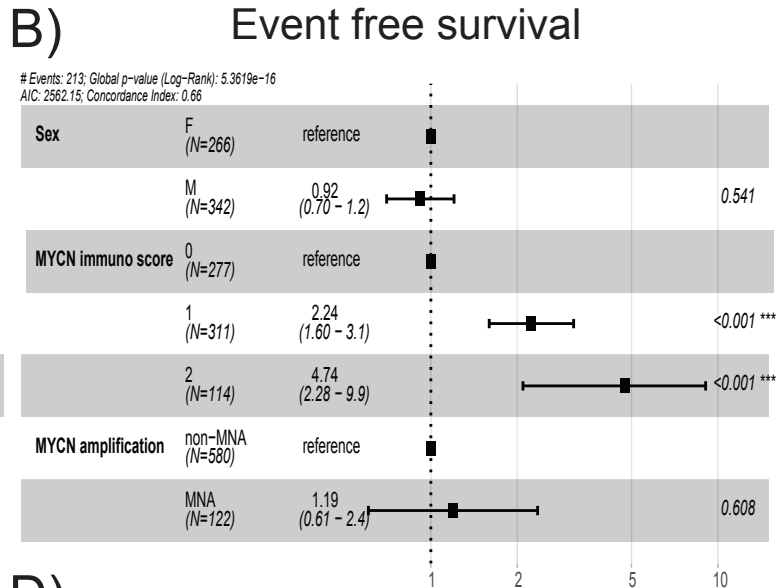
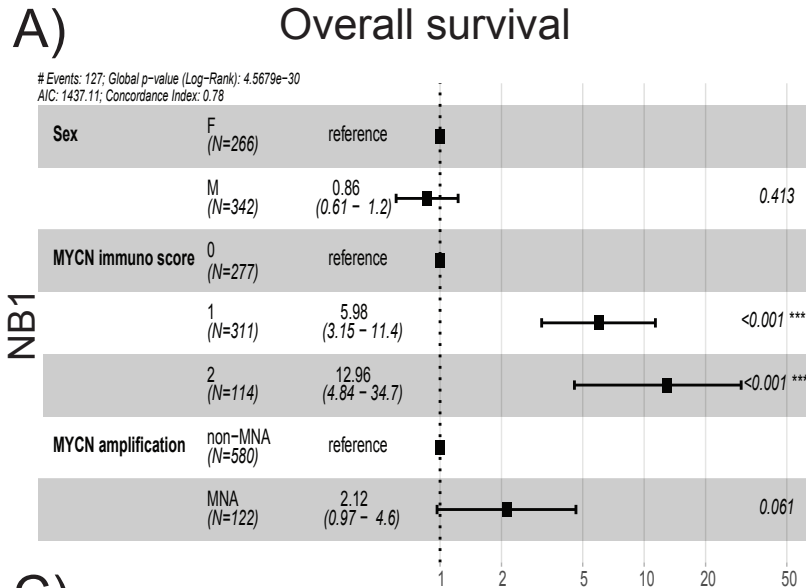




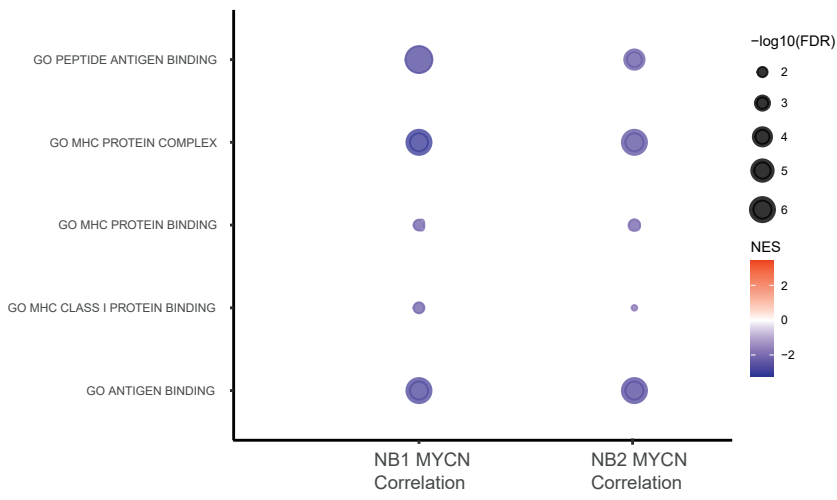
**A****B****C****D****E****F**



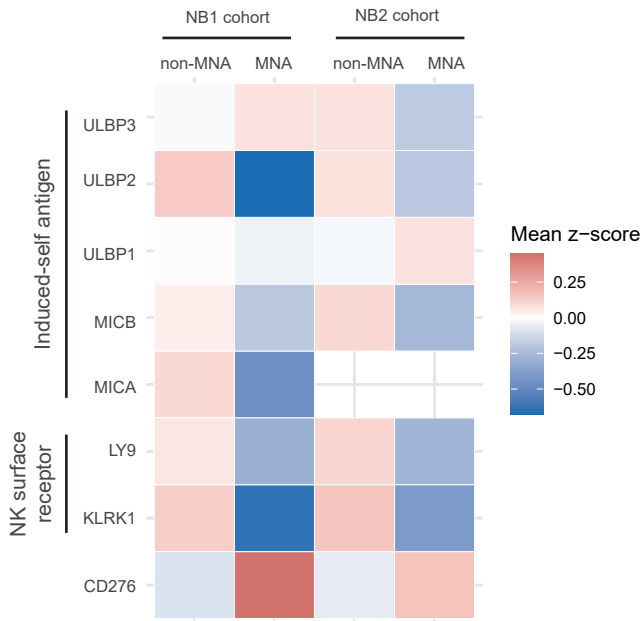




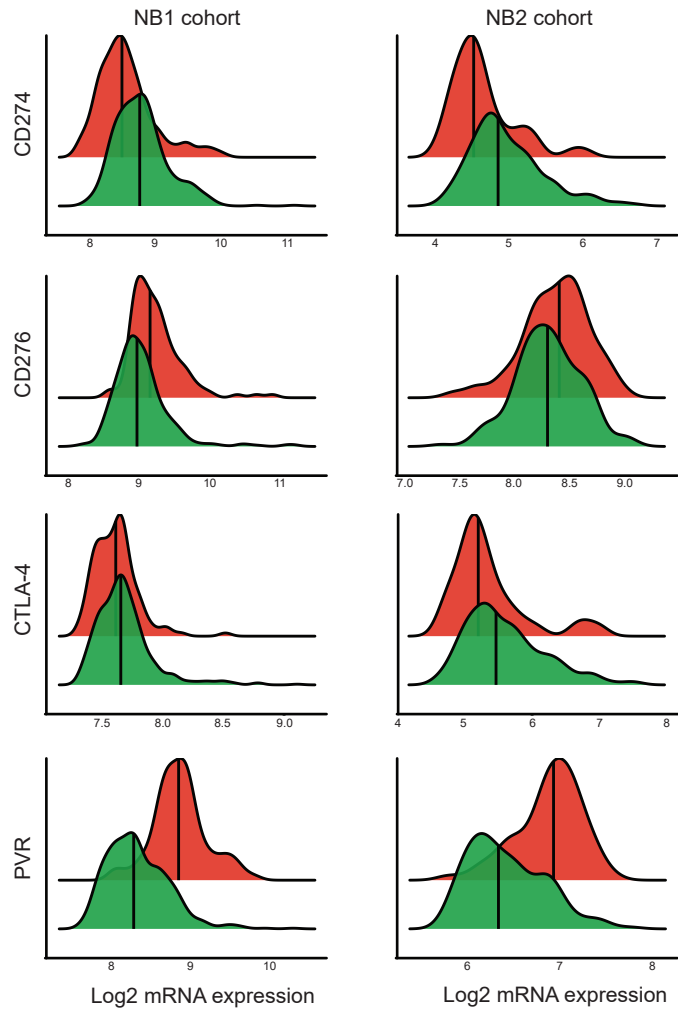
A)



B)



C)



MYCN status

non-MNA

MNA

D)

