

**Antonio Peixoto**

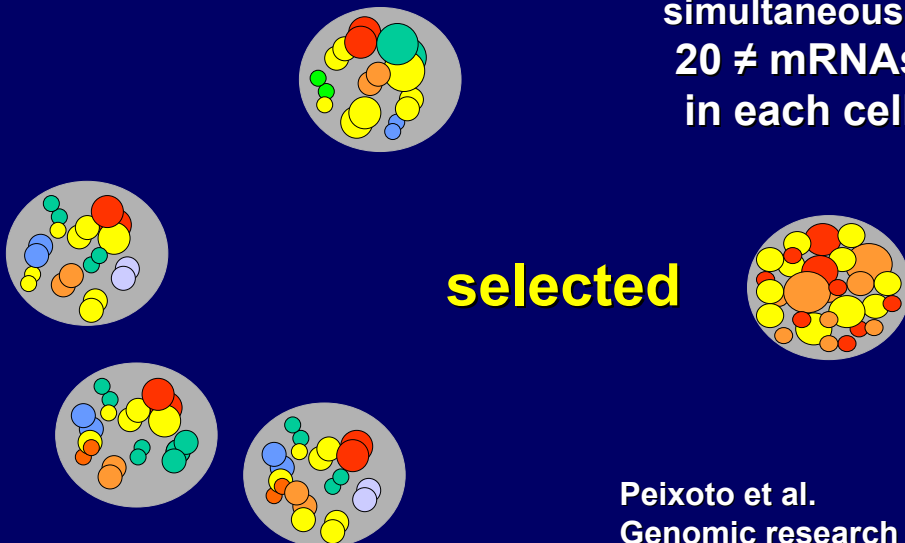
**César Evaristo**

**Ivana Munitic**

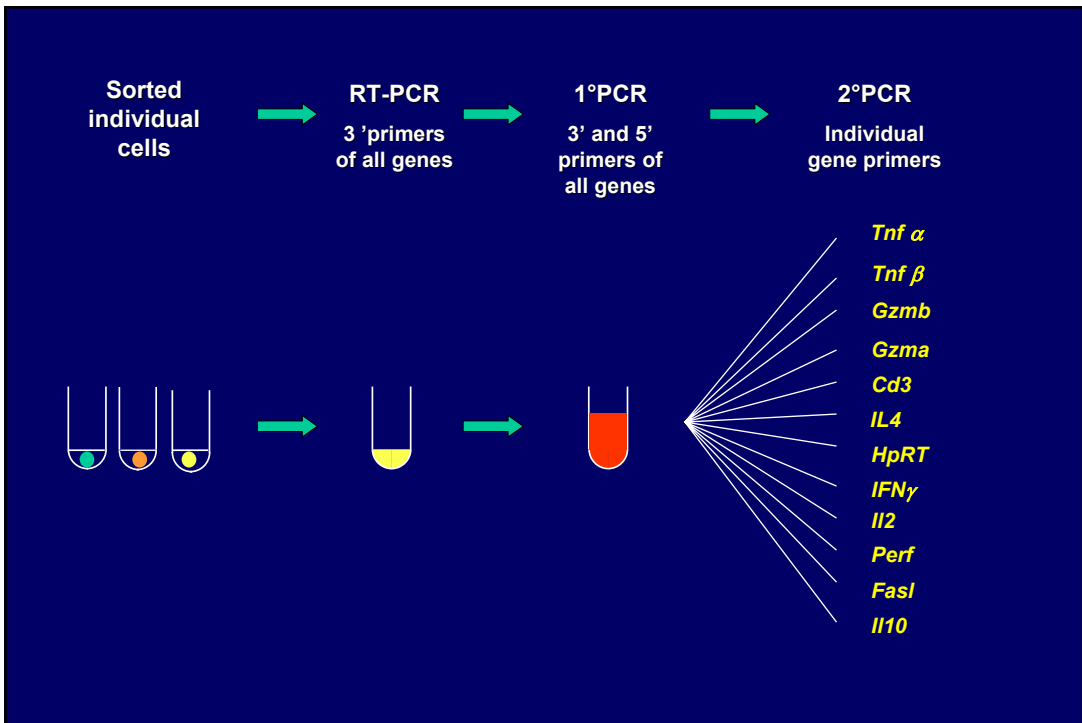
**H.Veiga-Fernandes**

**Marta Monteiro**

**Quantify  
simultaneously  
20 ≠ mRNAs  
in each cell**



**Peixoto et al.  
Genomic research 2004**



## Primer selection (I)

1° primers in different exons

2° the same efficiency in all amplifications

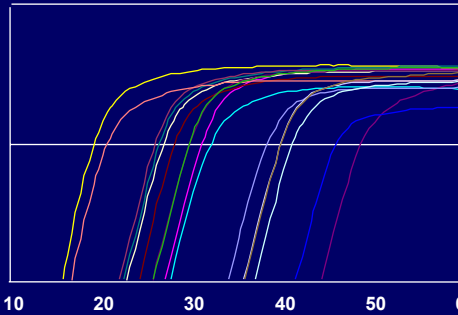
20 bp primers targeting non-repetitive sequences

Similar melting temperatures

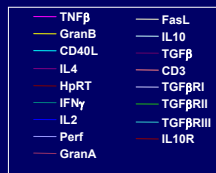
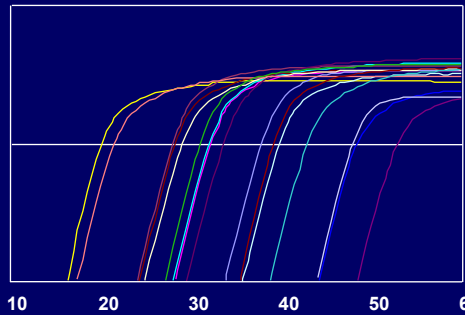
About 50% GC content

# ALL PCRS HAVE THE SAME EFFICIENCY

## 1° PCR



## 2° PCR



## RT-PCR

3' primers  
of all genes



## 1°PCR

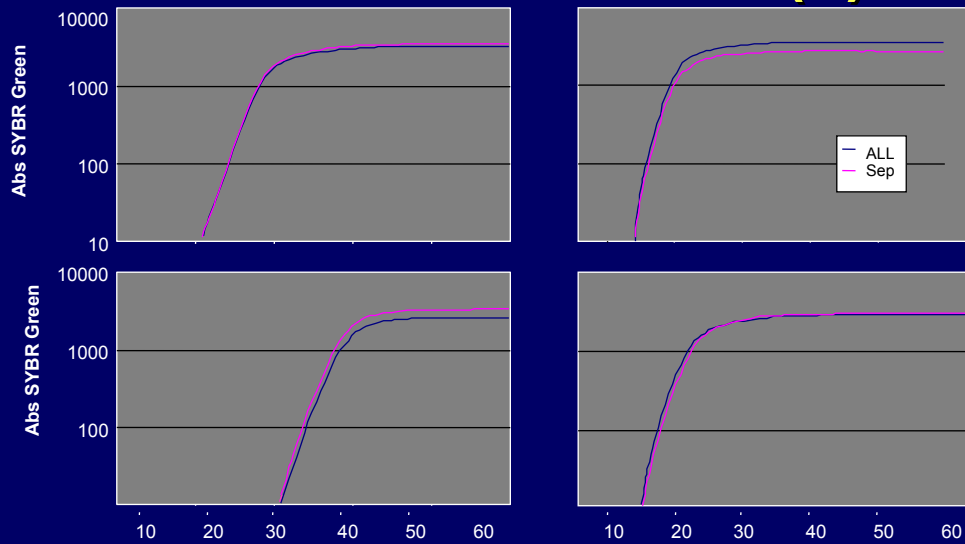
3' and 5' primers  
of all genes



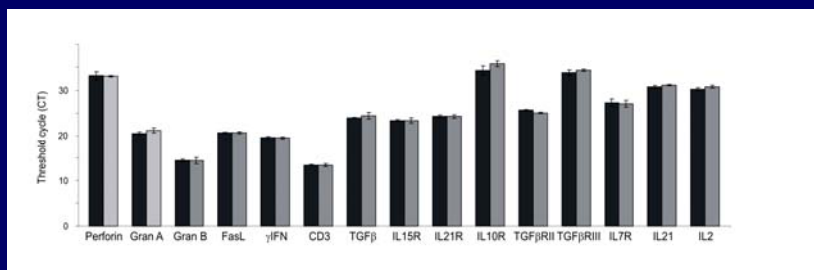
**NO COMPETITION**

between  
40 primers  
40 amplicons

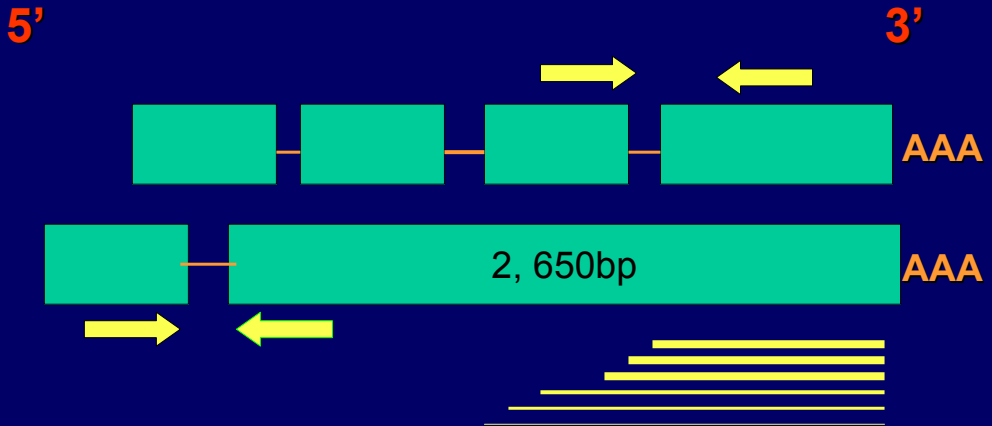
# Primer selection (II)



## Absence of competition between primers and amplicons



Primers may be located at different distances from poly AAA



HOW TO AVOID RT BIAS???

RT-PCR  
3' primers  
of all genes



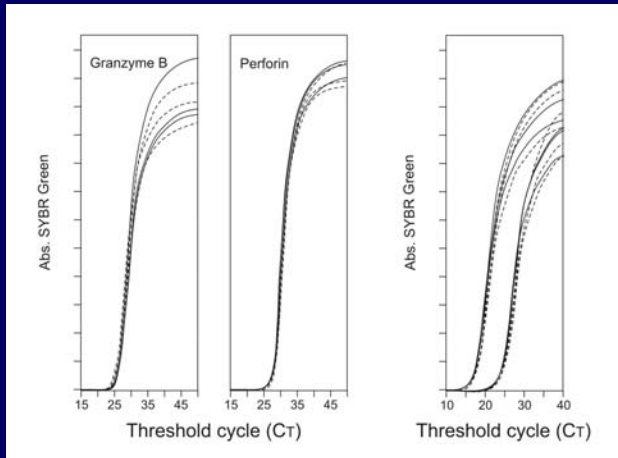
SPECIFIC  
RT-PC



1°PCR  
3' and 5' primers  
of all genes



NO COMPETITION  
between  
40 primers  
40 amplicons



**100% Efficient RT**

1°PCR  
3' and 5'  
primers of  
all genes

2°PCR  
Individual gene  
primers

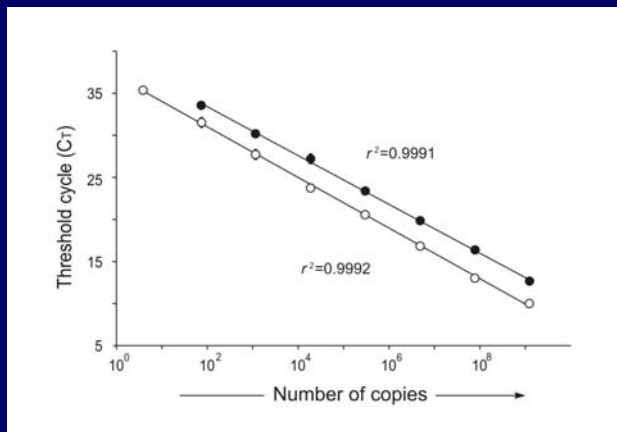


*Tnf α*  
*Tnf β*  
*Gzmb*  
*Gzma*  
*Cd3*  
*IL4*  
*HpRT*  
*IFNγ*  
*IL2*  
*Perf*  
*FasI*  
*IL10*

# From 1° to 2° PCR

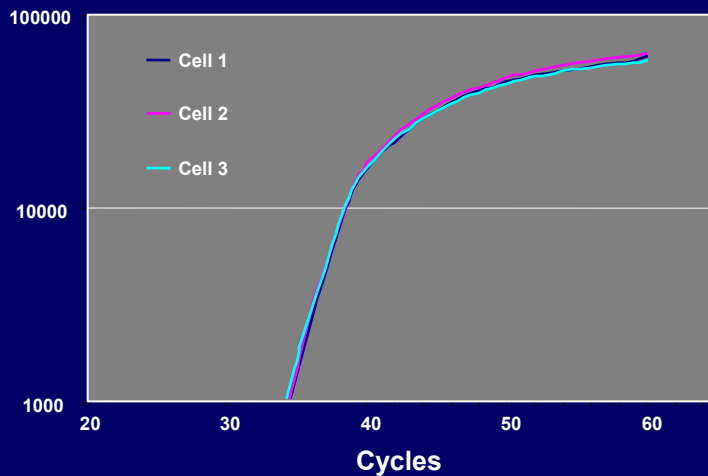
- **Maintainance of abundance relationships**

## Abundance relationships



**$10^9$  to 4 copies**

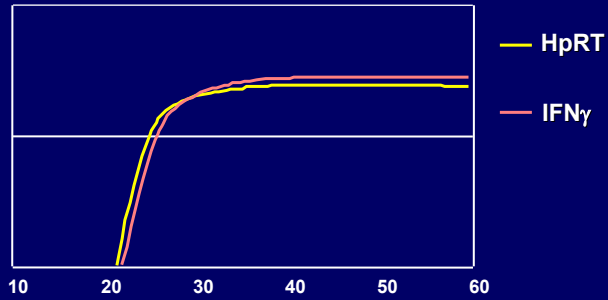
## sensitivity-reproductibility



**2 gene Copies can be quantified**

**Single cell  
versus  
population analysis??**

## Quantitative RT-PCR is misleading



**A mRNA expressed by all cells (at low level)  
may give the same signal  
as a mRNA expressed by rare cells (at high level)**

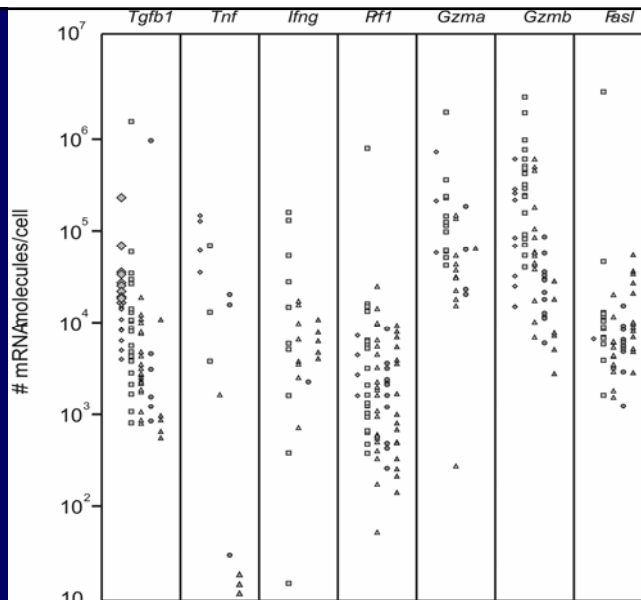
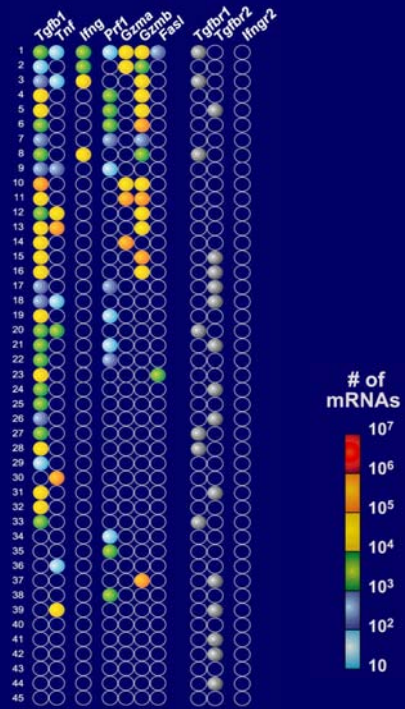
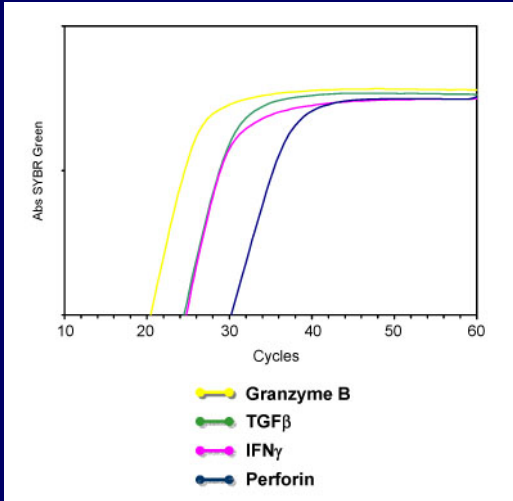


Fig 1



## POPULATION VS SINGLE-CELL

- The most expressed gene is **Granzyme B**
- Cells **ARE CYTOTOXIC**
- Cells are **ANTI-INFLAMMATORY**
- The most expressed gene is **TGF-β**
- Cells **ARE NOT CYTOTOXIC**
- Cells are **PRO-INFLAMMATORY**

**Analysis of gene expression in  
populations  
is  
good to « catch » genes**

**IS INSUFFICIENT** and  
**Highly misleading**

**Single cell analysis is  
fundamental  
to  
gasp cell heterogeneity  
and  
understand cell properties**