

curatedBladderData

Markus Riester

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1 curatedBladderData: Clinically Annotated Data for the Bladder Cancer Transcriptome

This package represents a manually curated data collection for gene expression meta-analysis of patients with bladder cancer. This resource provides uniformly prepared microarray data with curated and documented clinical metadata. It allows a computational user to efficiently identify studies and patient subgroups of interest for analysis and to run such analyses immediately without the challenges posed by harmonizing heterogeneous microarray technologies, study designs, expression data processing methods, and clinical data formats.

In this vignette, we give a short tour of the package and will show how to use it efficiently.

2 Load data sets

Loading a single dataset is very easy. First we load the package:

```
> library(curatedBladderData)
```

To get a listing of all the datasets, use the `data` function:

```
> data(package="curatedBladderData")
```

Now to load a single dataset, we use the `data` function again:

```
> data(GSE89_eset)
> GSE89_eset

ExpressionSet (storageMode: lockedEnvironment)
assayData: 5466 features, 40 samples
  element names: exprs
protocolData: none
phenoData
  sampleNames: GSM2505 GSM2506 ... GSM2544 (40 total)
  varLabels: alt_sample_name unique_patient_ID ...
    uncured_author_metadata (31 total)
  varMetadata: labelDescription
featureData
  featureNames: A2M AADAC ... ZYX (5466 total)
  fvarLabels: probeset gene
  fvarMetadata: labelDescription
experimentData: use 'experimentData(object)'
  pubMedIds: 12469123
Annotation: hu6800
```

The datasets are provided as Bioconductor `ExpressionSet` objects and we refer to the Bioconductor documentation for users unfamiliar with this data structure.

3 Load datasets based on rules

For a meta-analysis, we typically want to filter datasets and patients to get a population of patients we are interested in. We provide a short but powerful R script that does the filtering and provides the data as a list of `ExpressionSet` objects. One can use this script within R by first sourcing a config file which specifies the filters, like the minimum numbers of patients in each dataset. It is also possible to filter samples by annotation, for example to remove early stage and normal samples.

```
> source(system.file("extdata",
+ "patientselection_all.config", package="curatedBladderData"))
> ls()

[1] "GSE89_eset"           "keep.common.only"    "meta.required"
[4] "min.number.of.events" "min.sample.size"     "package.name"
[7] "quantile.cutoff"      "rescale"             "strict.checking"
```

See what the values of these variables we have loaded are. The variable names are fairly descriptive, but note that “rule.1” is a character vector of length 2, where the first entry is the name of a clinical data variable, and the second entry is a Regular Expression providing a requirement for that variable. Any number of rules can be added, with increasing identifiers, e.g. “rule.2”, “rule.3”, etc.

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Here `strict.checking` is `FALSE`, meaning that samples not annotated for the variables in these rules are allowed to pass the filter. If `strict.checking == TRUE`, samples missing this annotation will be removed.

```
> supply(ls(), get)

$GSE89_eset
ExpressionSet (storageMode: lockedEnvironment)
assayData: 5466 features, 40 samples
  element names: exprs
protocolData: none
phenoData
  sampleNames: GSM2505 GSM2506 ... GSM2544 (40 total)
  varLabels: alt_sample_name unique_patient_ID ...
    uncurated_author_metadata (31 total)
  varMetadata: labelDescription
featureData
  featureNames: A2M AADAC ... ZYX (5466 total)
  fvarLabels: probeset gene
  fvarMetadata: labelDescription
experimentData: use 'experimentData(object)'
pubMedIds: 12469123
Annotation: hu6800

$keep.common.only
[1] FALSE

$meta.required
NULL

$min.number.of.events
[1] 0

$min.sample.size
[1] 1

$package.name
[1] "curatedBladderData"

$quantile.cutoff
[1] 0

$rescale
[1] FALSE

$strict.checking
[1] FALSE
```

Now that we have defined the sample filter, we create a list of `ExpressionSets` by sourcing the `createEsetList.R` file:

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```
> source(system.file("extdata", "createEsetList.R", package =
+ "curatedBladderData"))

2026-05-05 11:12:17.585842 INFO::Inside script createEsetList.R - inputArgs =
2026-05-05 11:12:17.631232 INFO::Loading curatedBladderData 1.48.0
2026-05-05 11:12:28.633477 INFO::Clean up the esets.
2026-05-05 11:12:28.786202 INFO::including GSE13507_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.265768 INFO::including GSE1827_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.290735 INFO::including GSE19915.GPL3883_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.325222 INFO::including GSE19915.GPL5186_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.367686 INFO::including GSE31189_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.427059 INFO::including GSE31684_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.878044 INFO::including GSE32894_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.928712 INFO::including GSE37317_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.953504 INFO::including GSE5287_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.976308 INFO::including GSE89_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:29.992723 INFO::including PMID17099711.GPL8300_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:30.012386 INFO::including PMID17099711.GPL91_eset
2026-05-05 11:12:30.105774 INFO::Ids with missing data: GSE1827_eset, GSE19915.GPL3883_eset, GSE19915.GPL5186_eset
```

It is also possible to run the script from the command line and then load the R data file within R:

```
R --vanilla "--args patientselection.config ovarian.eset.rda tmp.log" < createEsetList.R
```

Now we have 12 datasets with samples that passed our filter in a list of `ExpressionSets` called `esets`:

```
> names(esets)

[1] "GSE13507_eset"      "GSE1827_eset"
[3] "GSE19915.GPL3883_eset" "GSE19915.GPL5186_eset"
[5] "GSE31189_eset"      "GSE31684_eset"
[7] "GSE32894_eset"      "GSE37317_eset"
[9] "GSE5287_eset"       "GSE89_eset"
[11] "PMID17099711.GPL8300_eset" "PMID17099711.GPL91_eset"
```

4 Non-unique gene symbols

In the standard version of `curatedBladderData` (the version available on Bioconductor), we collapse manufacturer probesets to official HGNC symbols using the Biomart database. Some probesets are mapped to multiple HGNC symbols in this database. For these probesets, we provide all the symbols. For example `220159_at` maps to `ABCA11P` and `ZNF721` and we provide `ABCA11P///ZNF721` as probeset name. If you have an array of gene symbols for which you want to access the expression data, "ABCA11P" would not be found in `curatedBladderData` in this example. The following function will create a new `ExpressionSet` in which both `ZNF721` and `ABCA11P` are features with identical expression data:

```
> expandProbesets <- function (eset, sep = "///")
+ {
+   x <- lapply(featureNames(eset), function(x) strsplit(x, sep)[[1]])
+   eset <- eset[order(sapply(x, length)), ]
+   x <- lapply(featureNames(eset), function(x) strsplit(x, sep)[[1]])
+   idx <- unlist(sapply(1:length(x), function(i) rep(i, length(x[[i]]))))
+   xx <- !duplicated(unlist(x))
+   idx <- idx[xx]
+   x <- unlist(x)[xx]
+   eset <- eset[idx, ]
+   featureNames(eset) <- x
+   eset
+ }
> X <- GSE89_eset[head(grep("///", featureNames(GSE89_eset))),]
> exprs(X)[,1:3]
```

	GSM2505	GSM2506	GSM2507
ACOT1///ACOT2	11.324354	11.149031	10.847654
ACTBP11///ACTB	15.257080	15.123444	15.008748
ACY1///ABHD14A-ACY1	10.733768	12.309362	11.906228
ADH1A///ADH1B///ADH1C	8.899369	9.618607	10.684844
AGAP11///ADIRF	11.769862	15.264290	14.838765
AK4P3///AK4P1///AK4	10.273964	8.519981	8.572399

```
> exprs(expandProbesets(X))[,1:3]
```

	GSM2505	GSM2506	GSM2507
ACOT1	11.324354	11.149031	10.847654
ACOT2	11.324354	11.149031	10.847654
ACTBP11	15.257080	15.123444	15.008748
ACTB	15.257080	15.123444	15.008748
ACY1	10.733768	12.309362	11.906228
ABHD14A-ACY1	10.733768	12.309362	11.906228
AGAP11	11.769862	15.264290	14.838765
ADIRF	11.769862	15.264290	14.838765
ADH1A	8.899369	9.618607	10.684844
ADH1B	8.899369	9.618607	10.684844
ADH1C	8.899369	9.618607	10.684844
AK4P3	10.273964	8.519981	8.572399
AK4P1	10.273964	8.519981	8.572399
AK4	10.273964	8.519981	8.572399

A Available Clinical Characteristics

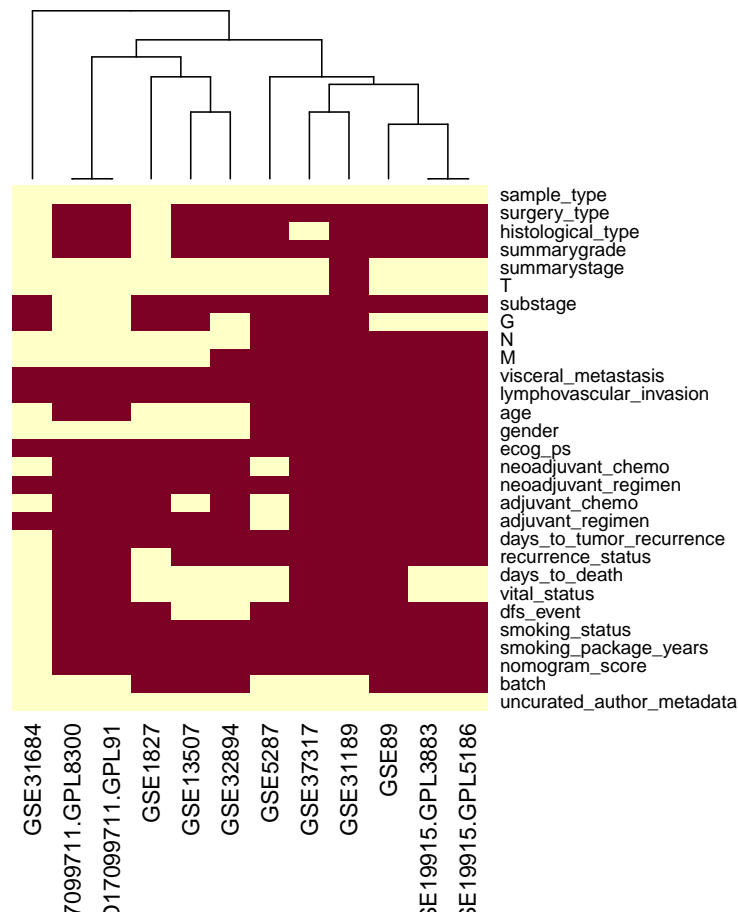


Figure 1: Available clinical annotation. This heatmap visualizes for each curated clinical characteristic (rows) the availability in each dataset (columns). Red indicates that the corresponding characteristic is available for at least one sample in the dataset. This plot is Figure 2 of the curatedBladderData manuscript.

B Summarizing the List of ExpressionSets

This example provides a table summarizing the datasets being used, and is useful when publishing analyses based on curatedBladderData. First, define some useful functions for this purpose:

```
> source(system.file("extdata", "summarizeEsets.R", package =
+   "curatedBladderData"))
```

Optionally write this table to file, for example (replace myfile <- tempfile() with something like myfile <- "nicetable.csv")

```
> (myfile <- tempfile())
[1] "/tmp/RtmpGmliNF/file3d4f45229f3e2"
```

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```
> write.table(summary.table, file=myfile, row.names=FALSE, quote=TRUE, sep=",")
```

	PMID	N samples	stage	histology	Platform
GSE13507 GSE1827 GSE19915.GPL3883 GSE19915.GPL5186 GSE31189 GSE31684 GSE32894 GSE37317 GSE5287 GSE89 PMID17099711.GPL8300 PMID17099711.GPL91	20059769	255	103/62/90	0/0/0/255	Illumina human-6 v2.0
	15930339	80	27/53/0	74/0/6/0	JAKE
	20406976	84	73/2/9	0/0/0/84	Swegene Human 27K
	20406976	98	43/45/10	0/0/0/98	SWEGENE H_v3.0.1 35K
	23097579	92	0/0/92	0/0/0/92	Affymetrix HG-U133Plus2
	22228636	93	15/78/0	86/2/5/0	Affymetrix HG-U133Plus2
	22553347	308	213/93/2	0/0/0/308	Illumina HumanHT-12 V3.0
	22586063	19	8/11/0	18/0/1/0	Affymetrix HG-U133A
	17671123	30	0/30/0	0/0/0/30	Affymetrix HG-U133A
	12469123	40	31/9/0	0/0/0/40	Affymetrix HuGeneFL
	17099711	30	16/14/0	0/0/0/30	Affymetrix U95Av2
	17099711	31	9/17/5	0/0/0/31	Affymetrix U95A

Table 1: Datasets provided by curatedBladderData.

C For non-R users

If you are not doing your analysis in R, and just want to get some data you have identified from the curatedBladderData manual, here is a simple way to do it. For one dataset:

```
> library(curatedBladderData)
> library(affy)
> data(GSE89_eset)
> write.csv(exprs(GSE89_eset), file="GSE89_eset_exprs.csv")
> write.csv(pData(GSE89_eset), file="GSE89_eset_clindata.csv")
```

Or for several datasets:

```
> data.to.fetch <- c("GSE89_eset", "GSE37317_eset")
> for (ondata in data.to.fetch){
+   print(paste("Fetching", ondata))
+   data(list=ondata)
+   write.csv(exprs(get(ondata)), file=paste(ondata, "_exprs.csv", sep=""))
+   write.csv(pData(get(ondata)), file=paste(ondata, "_clindata.csv", sep=""))
+ }
```

D Session Info

- R version 4.6.0 RC (2026-04-17 r89917), x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
- Locale: LC_CTYPE=en_US.UTF-8, LC_NUMERIC=C, LC_TIME=en_GB, LC_COLLATE=C, LC_MONETARY=en_US.UTF-8, LC_MESSAGES=en_US.UTF-8, LC_PAPER=en_US.UTF-8, LC_NAME=C, LC_ADDRESS=C, LC_TELEPHONE=C, LC_MEASUREMENT=en_US.UTF-8, LC_IDENTIFICATION=C
- Time zone: America/New_York
- TZcode source: system (glibc)
- Running under: Ubuntu 24.04.4 LTS
- Matrix products: default
- BLAS: /home/biocbuild/bbs-3.23-bioc/R/lib/libRblas.so
- LAPACK: /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/lapack/liblapack.so.3.12.0
- Base packages: base, datasets, grDevices, graphics, methods, stats, utils
- Other packages: Biobase 2.72.0, BiocGenerics 0.58.0, BiocParallel 1.46.0, affy 1.90.0, curatedBladderData 1.48.0, genefilter 1.94.0, generics 0.1.4, logging 0.10-108, mgcv 1.9-4, nlme 3.1-169, survival 3.8-6, sva 3.60.0, xtable 1.8-8
- Loaded via a namespace (and not attached): AnnotationDbi 1.74.0, BiocManager 1.30.27, BiocStyle 2.40.0, Biostrings 2.80.0, DBI 1.3.0, IRanges 2.46.0, KEGGREST 1.52.0, Matrix 1.7-5, MatrixGenerics 1.24.0, R6 2.6.1, RSQLite 2.4.6, S4Vectors 0.50.0, Seqinfo 1.2.0, XML 3.99-0.23, XVector 0.52.0, affyio 1.82.0, annotate 1.90.0, bit 4.6.0, bit64 4.8.0, blob 1.3.0, cachem 1.1.0, cli 3.6.6, codetools 0.2-20, compiler 4.6.0, crayon 1.5.3, digest 0.6.39, edgeR 4.10.0, evaluate 1.0.5, fastmap 1.2.0, grid 4.6.0, htmltools 0.5.9, httr 1.4.8, knitr 1.51,

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lattice 0.22-9, limma 3.68.1, locfit 1.5-9.12, matrixStats 1.5.0, memoise 2.0.1,
otel 0.2.0, parallel 4.6.0, png 0.1-9, preprocessCore 1.74.0, rlang 1.2.0,
rmarkdown 2.31, splines 4.6.0, statmod 1.5.1, stats4 4.6.0, tools 4.6.0, vctrs 0.7.3,
xfun 0.57, yaml 2.3.12