

Table S1. List of commercially available automated microscopes

| Company | Device name | Confocal | Link |
|---|---|----------|---|
| Acquifer AG (Karlsruhe) | IM03 | No | http://www.acquifer.de/high_content_screening/ |
| GE Healthcare Europe GmbH (Freiburg) | IN CELL 2200/6000 | No/ Yes | http://www.gelifesciences.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/catalog/en/GELifeSciences-de/products/AlternativeProductStructure_12997/29043323 |
| Leica Microsystems GmbH (Wetzlar) | HCS-A module for Leica microscopes | Yes | http://www.leica-microsystems.com/de/produkte/lichtmikroskope/biowissenschaften/fluoreszenzmikroskope/details/product/leica-las-x-widefield-systems/ |
| Molecular Devices, LLC (CA, USA) | Image Express Micro/Ultra | No/Yes | http://www.moleculardevices.com/systems/high-content-imaging/imageexpress-ultra-confocal-high-content-analysis-system |
| Nikon GmbH (Düsseldorf) | Ti HCS | Yes | http://nikon.com/products/instruments/lineup/bioscience/biological-microscopes/inverted/ti_eus/index.htm |
| Olympus Deutschland GmbH (Hamburg) | ScanR | No | http://www.olympus-europa.com/microscopy/en/microscopy/components/component_details/component_detail_21320.jsp |
| PerkinElmer Inc. (MA, USA) | Operetta/Opera | No/yes | http://www.perkinelmer.com/pages/020/cellularimaging/products/operetta.xhtml |
| Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (MA, USA) | CellInsight/ Arrayscan XT1 Infinity | No/Yes | https://www.lifetechnologies.com/order/catalog/product/ASN00004F |
| Visitron Systems GmbH (Puchheim) | CellVoyager CV100 (preliminary) | Yes | http://www.visitron.de/Products/Confocal/Cell_Voyager_CV1000/cell_voyager_cv1000.html |
| Wako Automation (CA, USA) | Yokogawa CV7000s/CQ1 | Yes | https://www.lifetechnologies.com/order/catalog/product/ASN00004F |

Table S2. Bioinformatical approaches for compound profiling

| Approach | Description | References See main text |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Principal component analysis (PCA) | PCA aims at reducing data complexity (dimension reduction by linear combination of descriptors/features) of multivariate data sets and improving interpretation and visualization. For this only principal components are considered that cover most of the variability within the dataset. | 41, 49, 51 |
| Kohonen neural networking | A Kohonen network is a self-organizing map (SOM) that produces a low dimensional representation for comparison of multiparametric phenotypic responses. First, multivariate measurements of a training set (compounds with known MOA) are analyzed for constructing a map. In the second step, measurements from unknown compounds are mapped to the predefined classes. | 49 |
| Distance/ similarity of mean profiles | For each feature the average is calculated. Feature responses derived from untreated or with known compounds treated cells are scaled to cover a common range. Compound profiles are then generated consisting of all features represented by their mean values. Using a distance measure the similarity of the profiles can be calculated and further analyzed by e.g. rank based approaches or cluster analysis. | 41, 47, 51 |
| Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS)-statistic | The KS-algorithm is a nonparametric hypothesis test for comparing population responses. It is based on the maximum difference that is calculated between two cumulative distribution functions (CDF) of each feature. Profiles of scored KS-statistics can be used for profiling mode of actions. | 9, 47 |
| Normal vector to support-vector machine (SVM) hyperplanes | The SVM algorithm is a supervised data mining method that can be used, for pattern recognition. For constructing a SVM, objects for training are needed. In case of image analysis the SVM has to be trained to discriminate compound-treated from control cells. The SVM is then able to generate a hyperplane that divides both conditions in the feature space. The normal vector of the hyperplane is included from every feature for generating a profile. | 44, 47 |
| Gaussian mixture modeling (GMM) | In GMM it is assumed that compound treatment induces a limited number of cellular phenotypes. Features are represented here as a mixture of Gaussian distributions. Subsamples of the data set are used to generate GMM profiles for untreated cells/ known compounds. Unknown samples can be assigned to a MOA class by the probability of their features to belong to one of the GMM profiles. | 45, 47 |
| Factor analysis | The application of factor analysis for phenotypic profiling is based on the assumption that a certain biological response (induced by compound treatment) is represented by several features of which subsets can exhibit high correlation. Correlated features are grouped and represent a common underlying factor. The factors allow for the interpretation of the biological effect of a compound. | 47, 48 |