

## **"To pool or not to pool: an experience with GeneChips"**

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A question many people ask is whether pooling mRNA from different samples and then running technical replicates of the pool can lead to savings in chips, with no downside. This talk presents the design and analysis of an experiment seeking an answer to this question. Unfortunately, the design was not as rigorous as it should have been, and so anomalies arose which compromise the study's conclusions. However, it does seem possible to say that there are risks with pooling, and that the likely advantages may not be great enough to warrant the risk.