

# SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

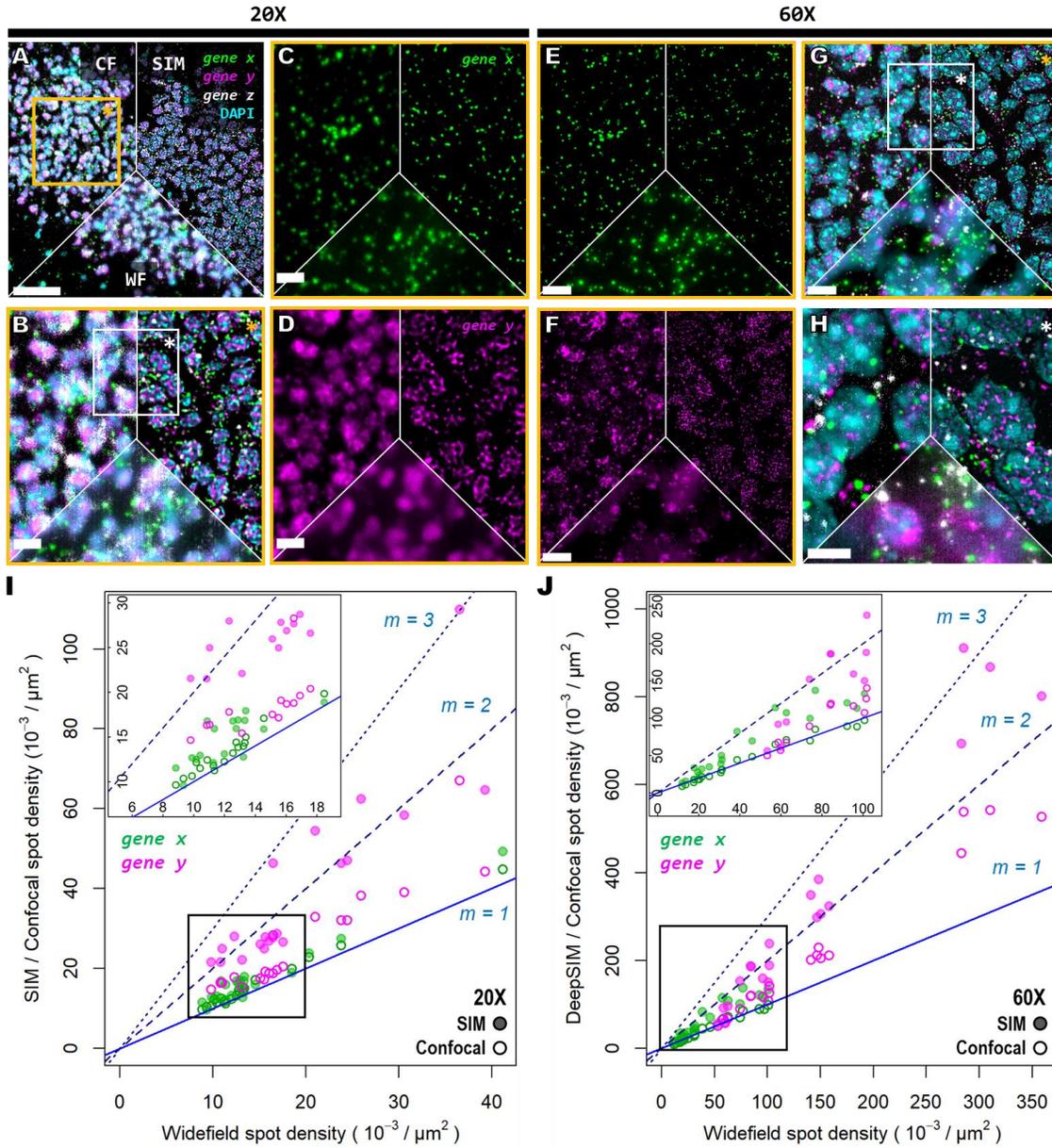
## Structured illumination microscopy improves spot detection performance in spatial transcriptomics

Alejandro Linares <sup>1</sup>, Carlo Brighi <sup>2</sup>, Sergio Espinola <sup>1</sup>, Francesco Bacchi <sup>2</sup> and Álvaro H. Crevenna <sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Epigenetics and Neurobiology Unit, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Rome, Italy

<sup>2</sup> CrestOptics, Rome, Italy

\* Correspondence: [alvaro.crevenna@embl.it](mailto:alvaro.crevenna@embl.it)



**Figure S1.** Structured illumination enhances spot contrast and resolution and allows resolving individual transcripts across various spot densities, magnification levels and imaging modalities. **(A)** Three different groups of 50 genes are visualized in each channel (Cy3, Cy5 and Cy7) referred to as *gene x*, *gene y* and *gene z* for simplicity. A single FOV of a mouse brain coronal section stained with DAPI is shown, imaged with a 20X objective. For panels **(A)** through **(H)**, a comparison of the same FOV imaged in widefield (lower sector), spinning disk confocal (upper-right) and SIM (upper-right) modalities is shown. **(B)** Zoomed image of the yellow box in **(A)**. Panels **(C)** through **(F)** correspond to the same zoomed FOV as in **(B)**, displaying only the channels for either *gene x* (upper row) or *gene y* (lower row) alone, both in 20X **(C,D)** and 60X **(E,F)** magnification. **(G)** FOV corresponding to the region inside the yellow box in **(A)**, but imaged with a 60X objective. **(H)** Zoomed image of the white box in **(G)** and **(B)**. In all panels, color-wise asterisks indicate micrographs corresponding to the same physical region of the sample. Plots show the ratio of spot detection density when comparing imaging of *gene x* (green dots) and *gene y* (magenta dots) in widefield against spinning disk confocal (hollow dots) and SIM (colored dots) modes, both for the 20X **(I)** and 60X **(J)** objectives. Blue and dotted blue lines correspond to an increasing spot density ratio from 1 to 3. The inner plot shows a zoomed version of the regions in the black boxes. Scale bars: **(A)** = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ ; **(B,C,D,E,F)** = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ; **(H)** = 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .