

# Subclinical mastitis regulation by extracellular vesicles miRNAs in dairy cows

*Cuccato M., Divari S., Giannuzzi D., Moretti R., Leroux C.,  
Sacchi P. and Cannizzo F.T.*



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TORINO



Micr  
genomics  
2023

INRAE



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE

# Mastitis



Bovine mastitis



Antimicrobials

EU Regulation  
N. 6/2019

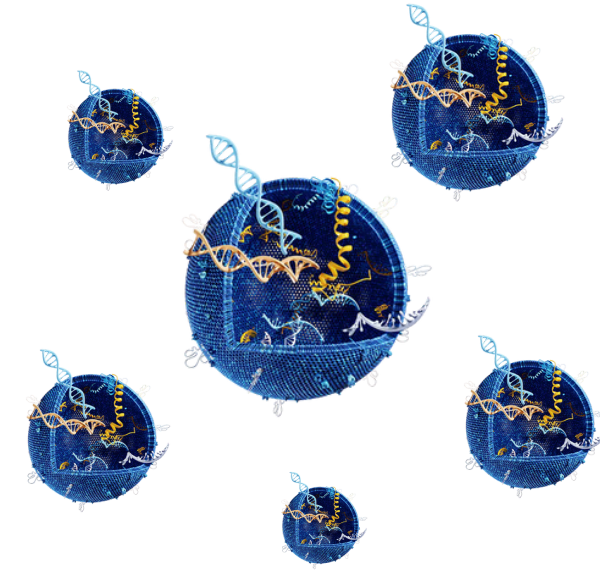
Antimicrobial  
prophylaxes  
in veterinary  
medicine



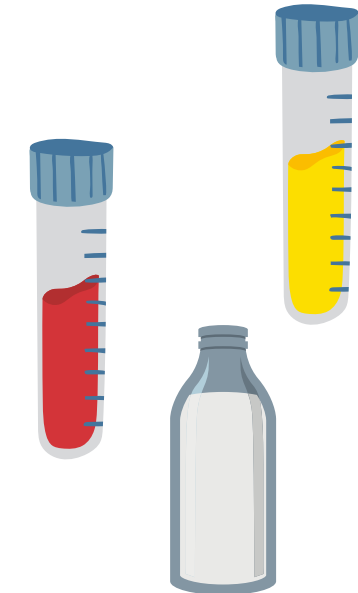
# EVs and miRNAs



Bovine farming

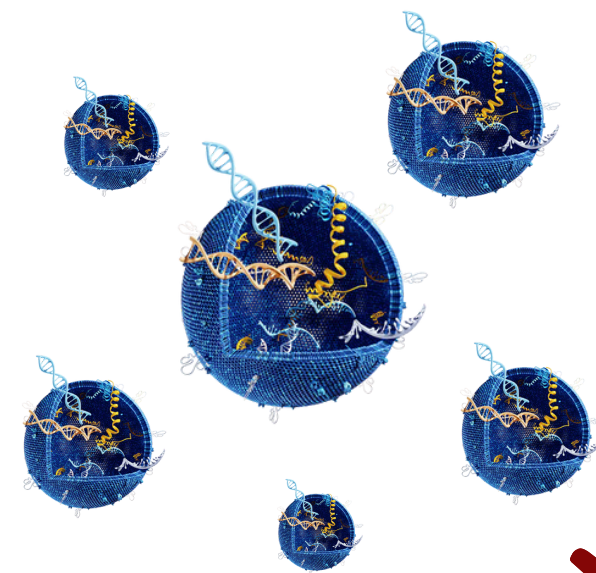
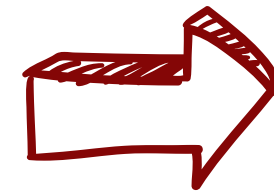


miRNAs in EVs as  
potential biomarkers



Biological fluids

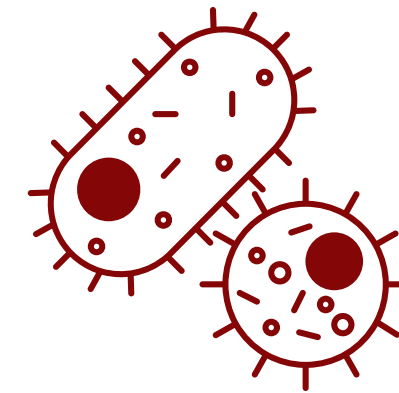
# miRNAs in mastitis



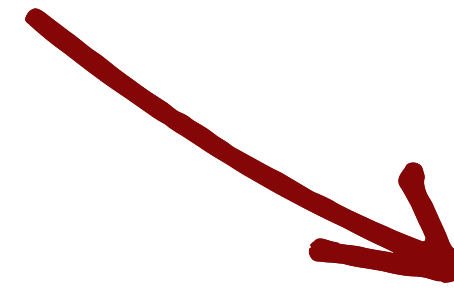
miRNAs in  
EVs



Inflammation



Pathogens  
response



Immune response



# Aims of the study

1

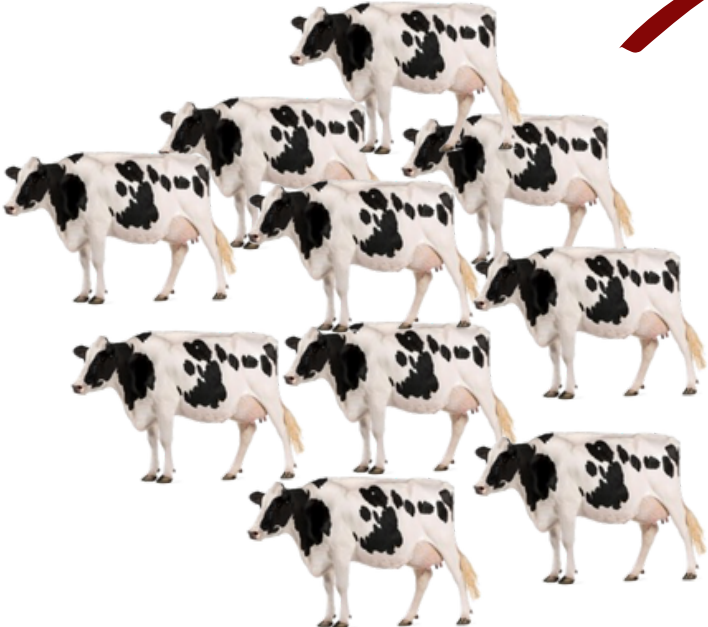
Evaluation of biological pathways regulated by miRNAs

2

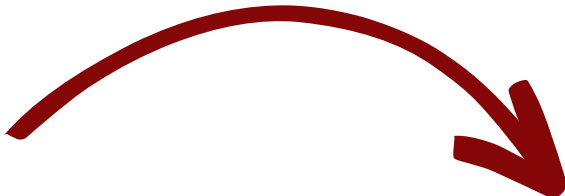
Identification of putative early biomarkers of mastitis



# Sampling



60 dairy cows in 10 farms from Piedmont

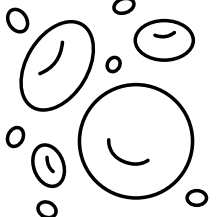


2 milk aliquots (50 ml each)

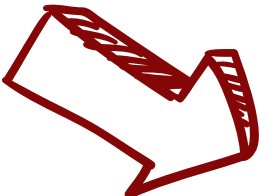


Microbiology

**ARAP**



Somatic cell count (SCC)

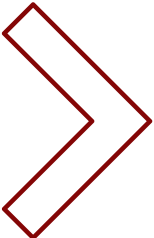
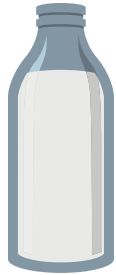
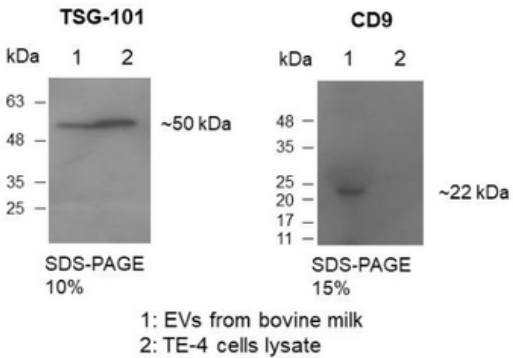


**DSV**

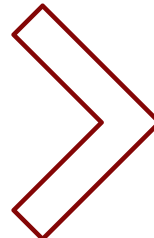


EVs

# miRNAs workflow



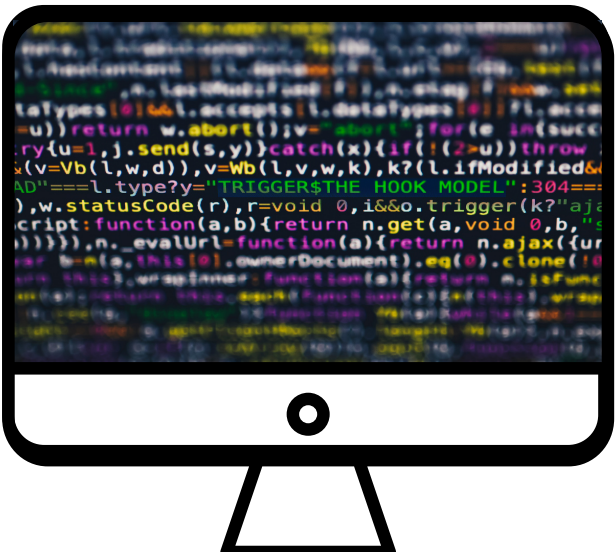
Size exclusion chromatography and western blot (TSG-101 and CD9)



miRNAs extraction



smallRNA-seq on HiSeq (Illumina)

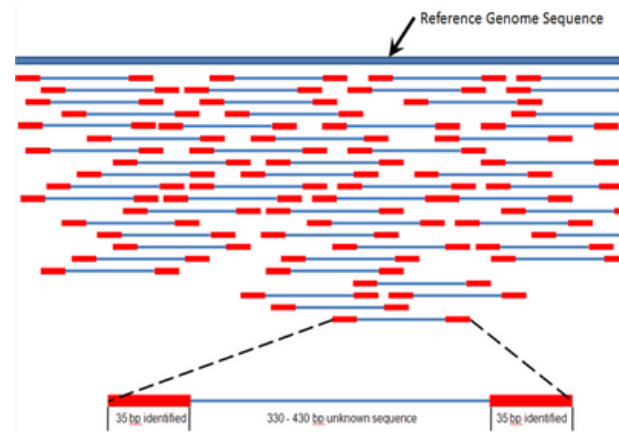


Bioinformatic analysis

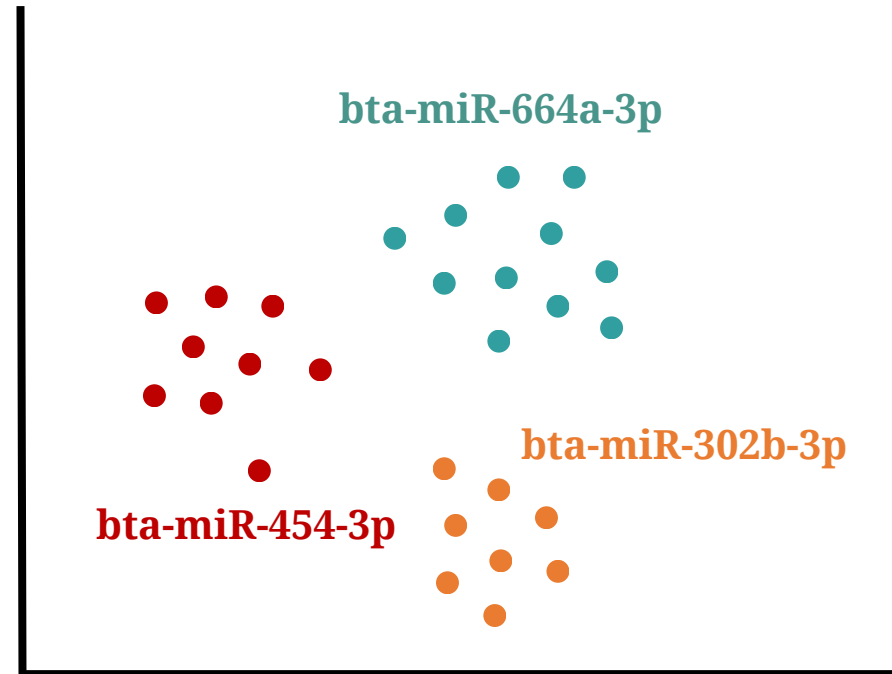
# miRNAs workflow



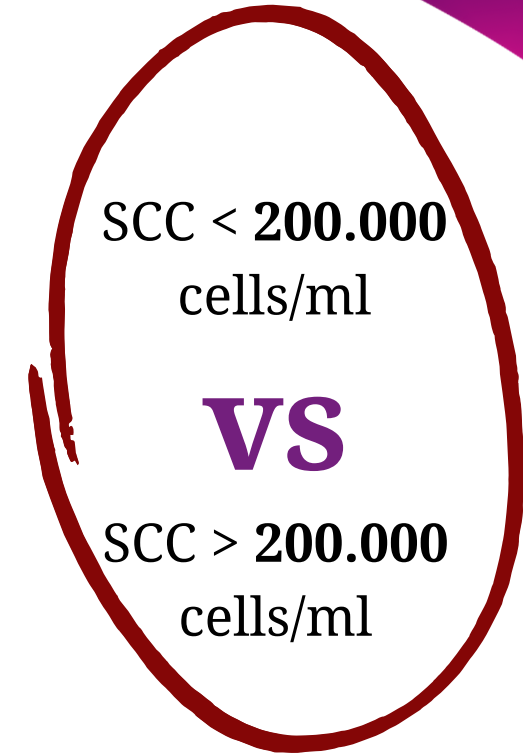
Trimming with cutadapt and trimmomatic



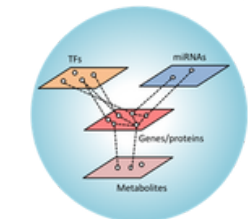
Reads were mapped to bovine miRNA precursors using BWAigner



Mature 3p or 5p forms were assigned and counted using docker4seq workflow



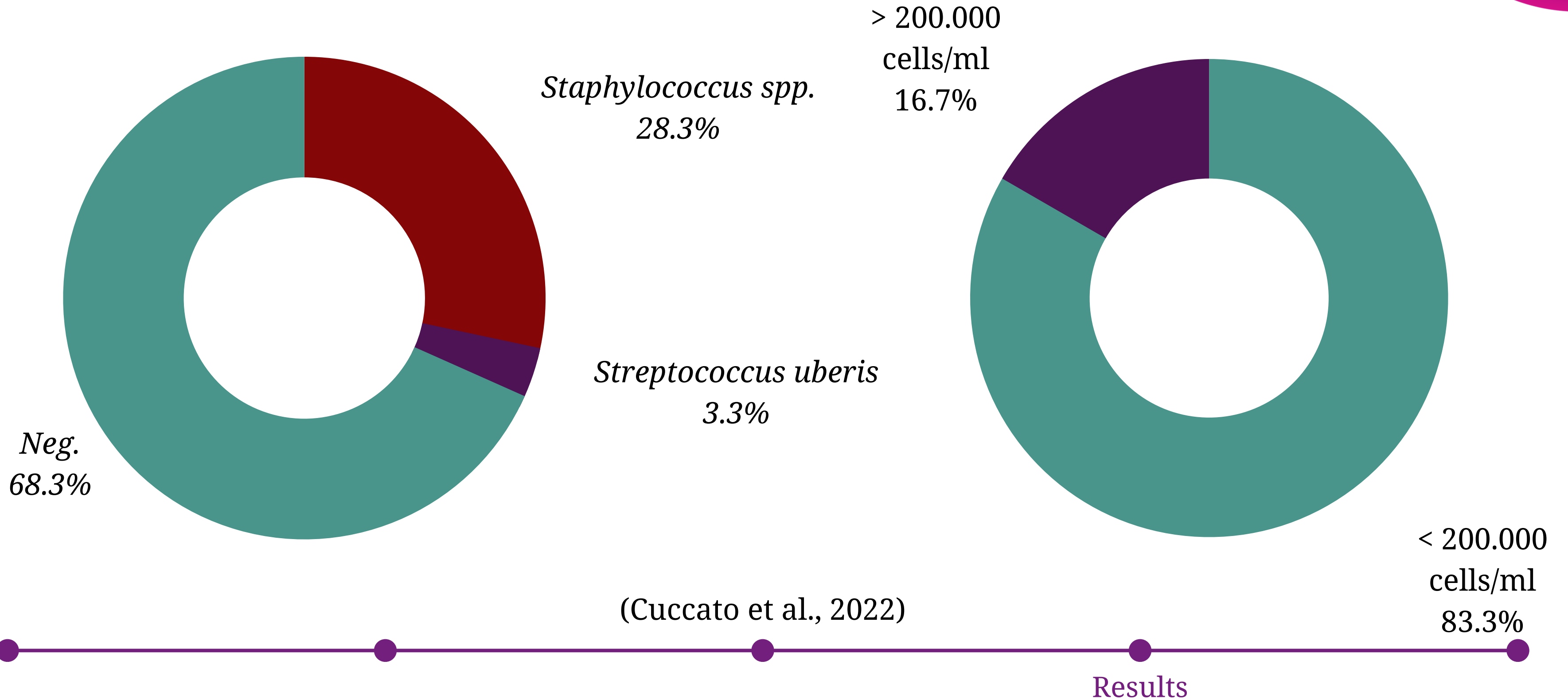
Differential analysis in RStudio



Functional analysis



# Microbiology and SCC



# DE miRNAs

1997

Differentially expressed miRNAs according to  
SCC cut-off of 200.000 cells/ml

1267

Down-regulated miRNAs

730

Up-regulated miRNAs

68

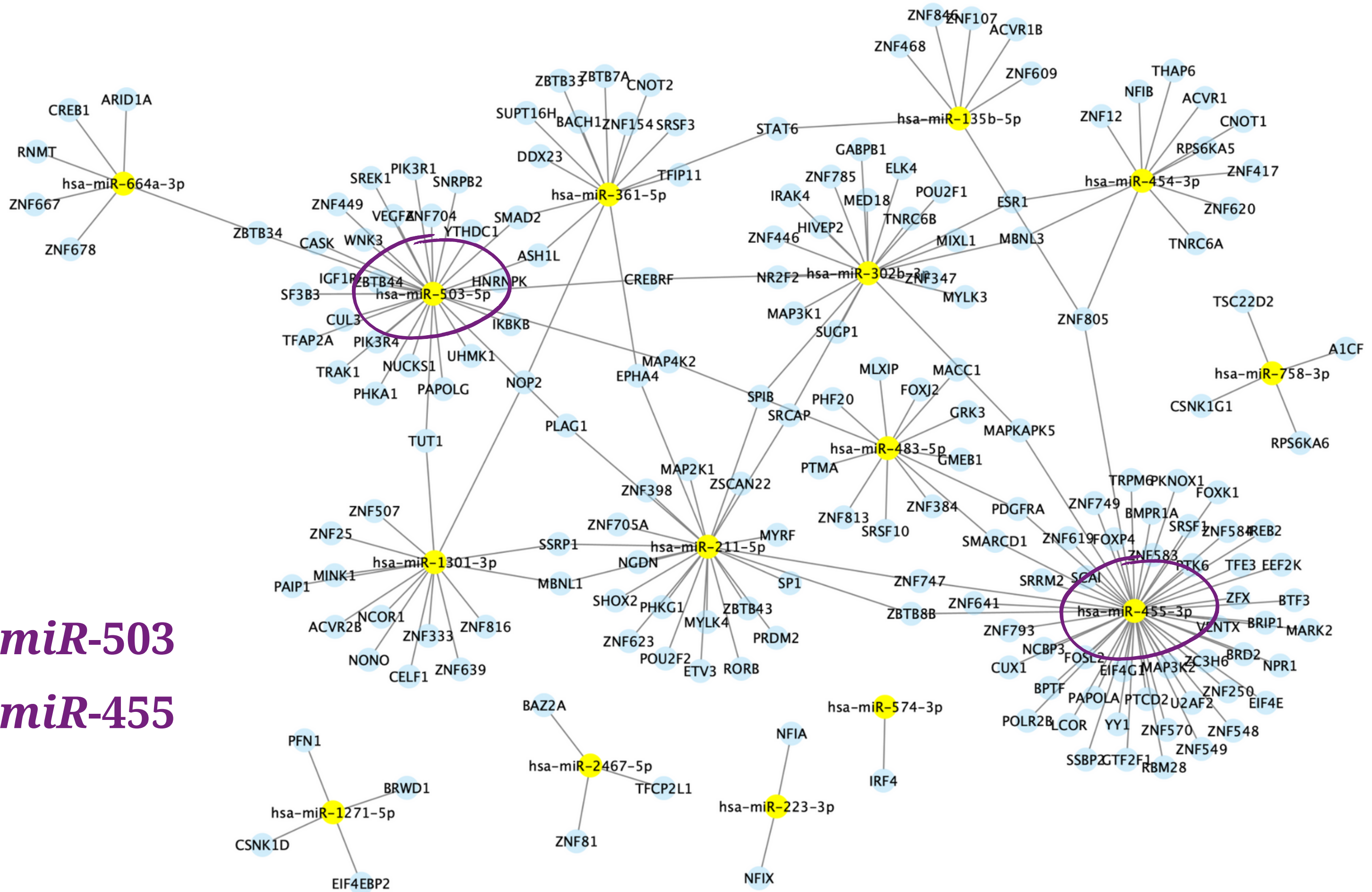
FDR < 0.05

Mostly (67) down-regulated miRNAs

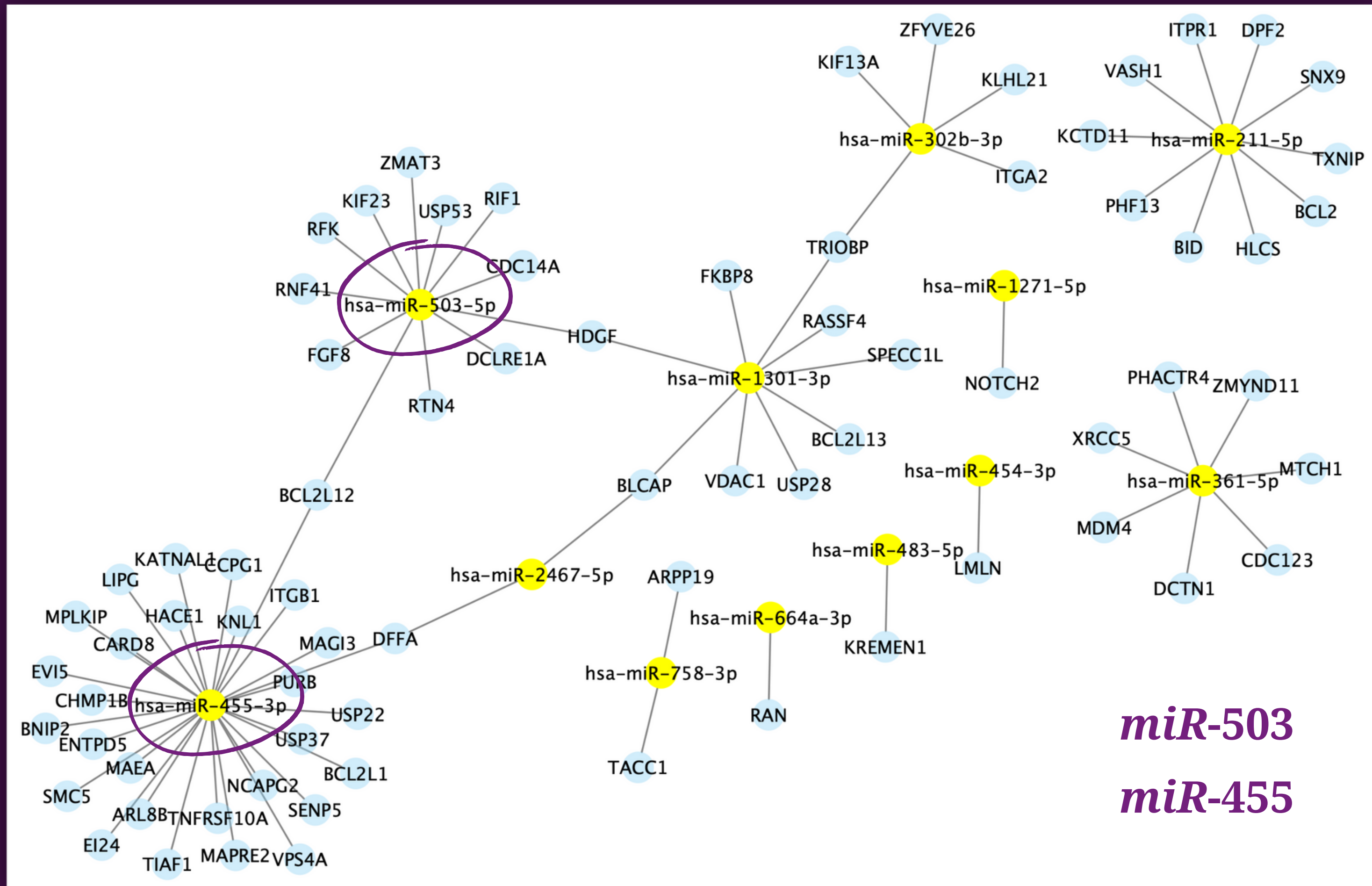
miRNA-gene interactions involved in gene expression processes

*miR-503*

*miR-455*

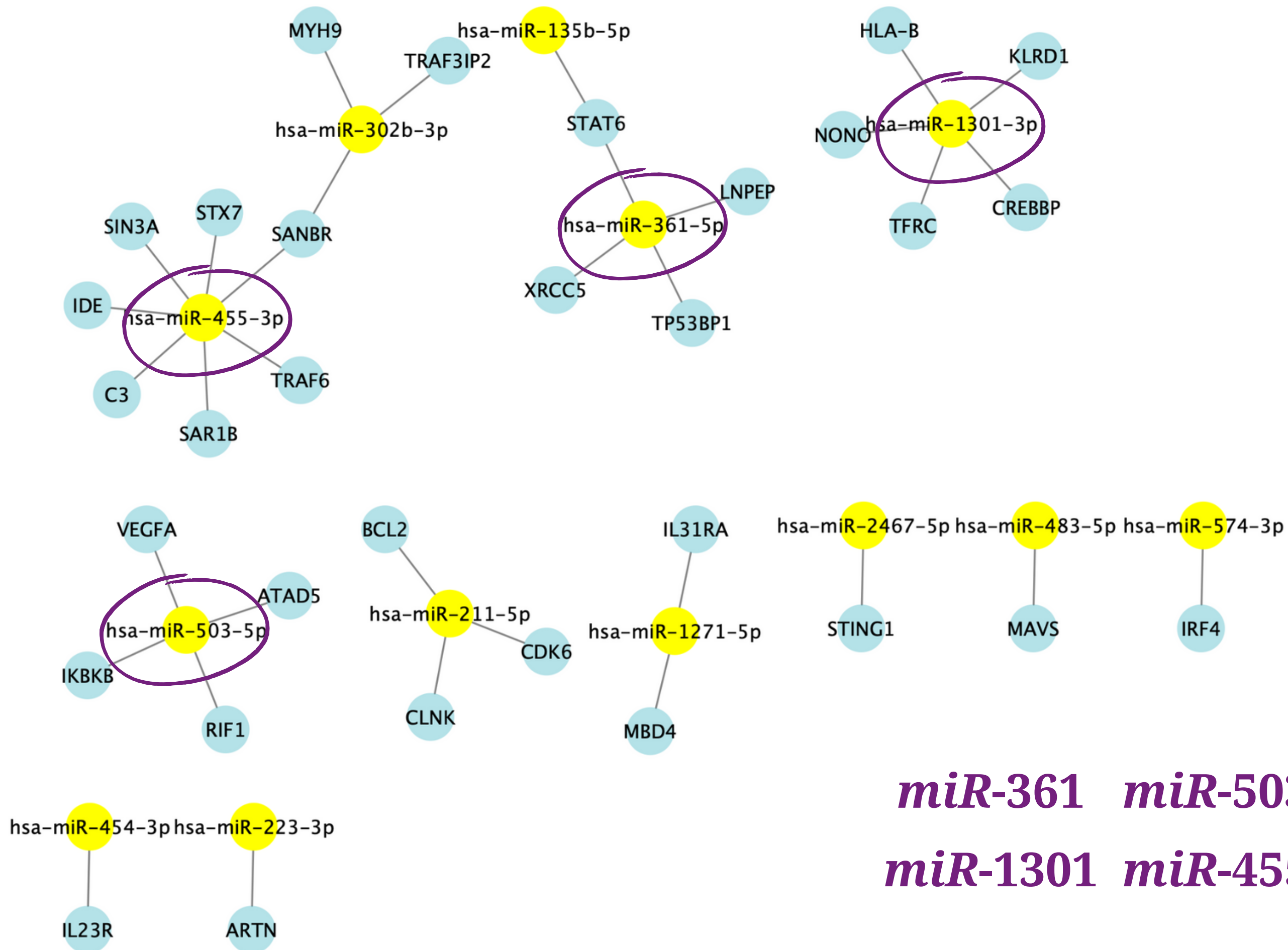


miRNA-gene interactions involved in cell life processes



*miR-503*  
*miR-455*

miRNA-gene interactions involved in immunity processes



*miR-361* *miR-503*  
*miR-1301* *miR-455*

# The promising four

miR-361

Involved in the regulation of host-pathogen interaction (Qi et al., 2012; Ndzi et al., 2019)

In dairy farming, miR-361 is differently regulated between free-grazing and housed cows (Muroya et al., 2015)

miR-455

Similar results in dairy cows subjected to dietary restriction (Webb et al., 2020)

Activation of inflammatory pathways (Torabi et al., 2015)

# The promising four

miR-503

Involved in the pathogenesis of diabetes and LPS injury in human (De Silva et al. 2018; Zapala et al., 2023)

miR-503 downregulation seems to be involved in the activation of NF-κB signalling and PPAR-gamma pathway (Zhou et al., 2013; Lee et al., 2017)

miR-1301

Upregulation in blood collected from dairy cows experimentally infected by *S. aureus* (Luoreng et al., 2018)

miR-1301 may be strictly related to the etiological agent causing the mastitis

# Conclusion

This study presents an in-field scenario with naturally mastitis-affected cows, more reliable than experimental conditions

Moreover, the large dataset of this study (60 dairy cows) provides new insights in the study of bovine mastitis



# Conclusion

One limitation of this research is the narrow representation of mastidogen bacteria (i.e. absence of gram negative bacteria)

In conclusion, the four main miRNAs highlighted here and their affected biological processes seem promising results in the discovery of new biomarkers for mastitis detection

# Thank you for your attention

A special mention to all the people involved in this project

**INRAE**

Christine Leroux  
Sebastian Bes



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TORINO

Sara Divari  
Tiziana Cannizzo  
Paola Sacchi  
Riccardo Moretti  
Alessia Finotto



Diana Giannuzzi