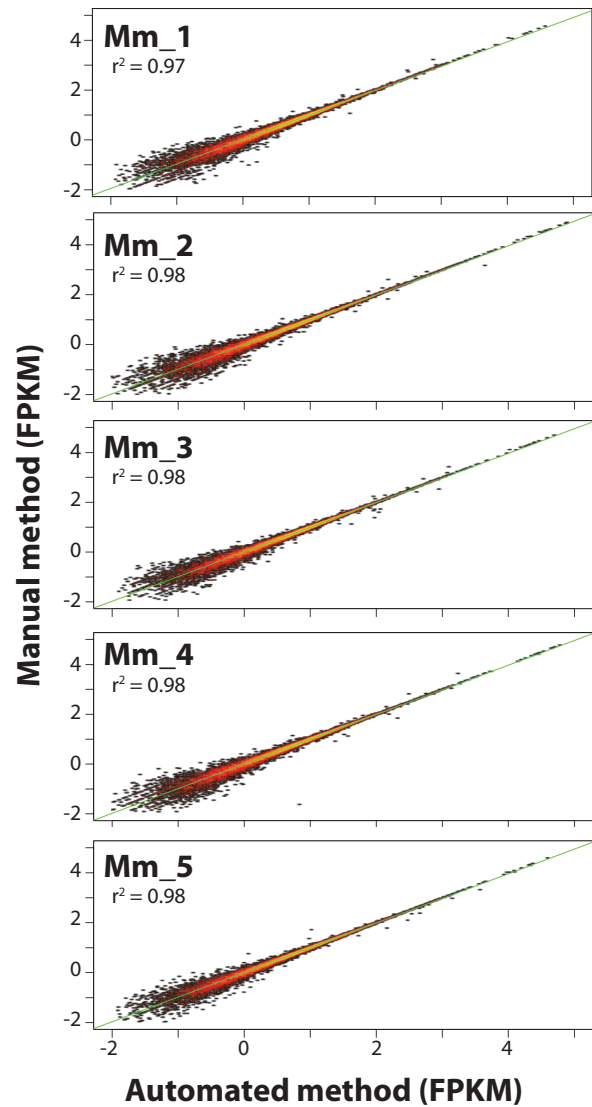


**Figure 2: Comparison of distribution of FPKM values.** A) Density distribution and B) box plots of FPKM values created using the CummeRbund 2.7.1 R package, support high data concordance among samples and corresponding technical replicates. Mm\_1-5\_Auto and Mm\_1-5\_Man correspond to mouse samples processed with the automated and manual protocols respectively.



**Figure 3: Correlation analysis of FPKM values.** Heat map plots generated based on FPKM data from samples processed with the IP-Star® Compact System (Mm\_1-5\_Auto) and their corresponding technical replicates (Mm\_1-5\_Man). Transcripts from unexpressed genes were excluded using a cut-off FPKM value equal or less to 0.01. Correlation coefficient  $r^2$  between each sample and technical replicate was estimated using the linear regression model in R and ranged from 0.97-0.98, confirming the high technical reproducibility between the two tested protocols.



