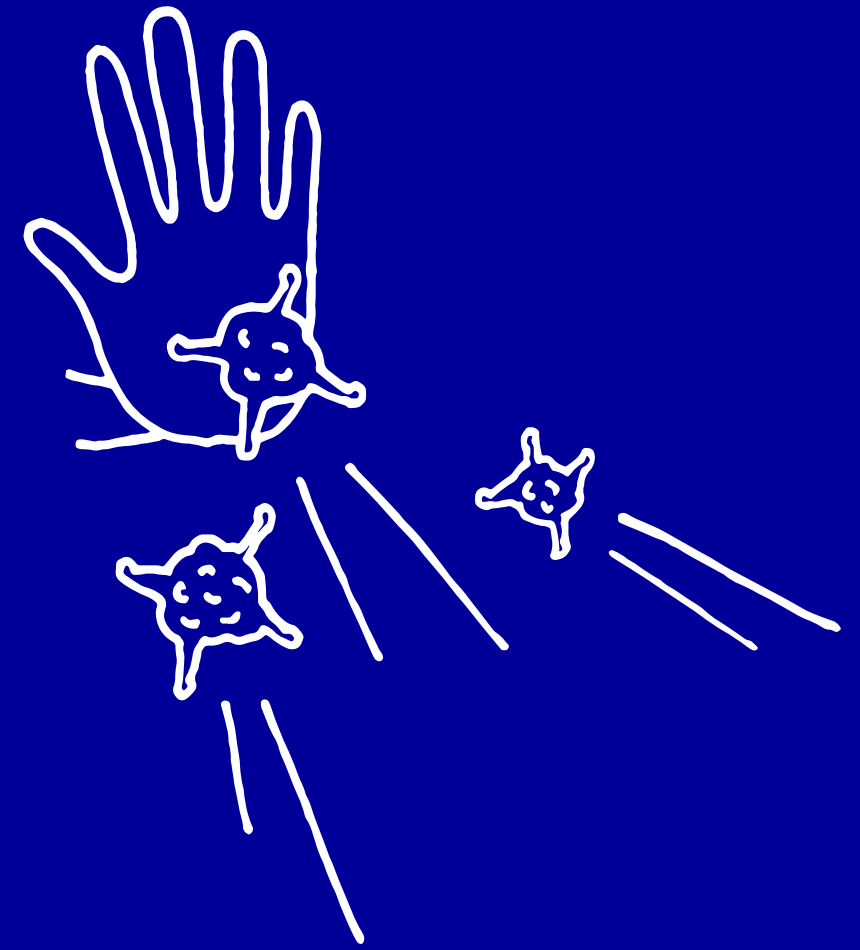


Antiviral capabilities at Evotec





Agenda

1. Evotec Virology Overview
2. Focus on Respiratory viruses
3. Focus on Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
4. NGS & Bioinformatics platforms
5. Integrated virology (Hit ID to PDC)



Agenda

1. Evotec Virology Overview
2. Focus on Respiratory viruses
3. Focus on Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
4. NGS & Bioinformatics platforms
5. Integrated virology (Hit ID to PDC)



Foundation for antivirals: Years of experience in academia and pharma

Experienced drug discovery team: Direct antiviral agents and host targeting approaches



Extensive experienced team

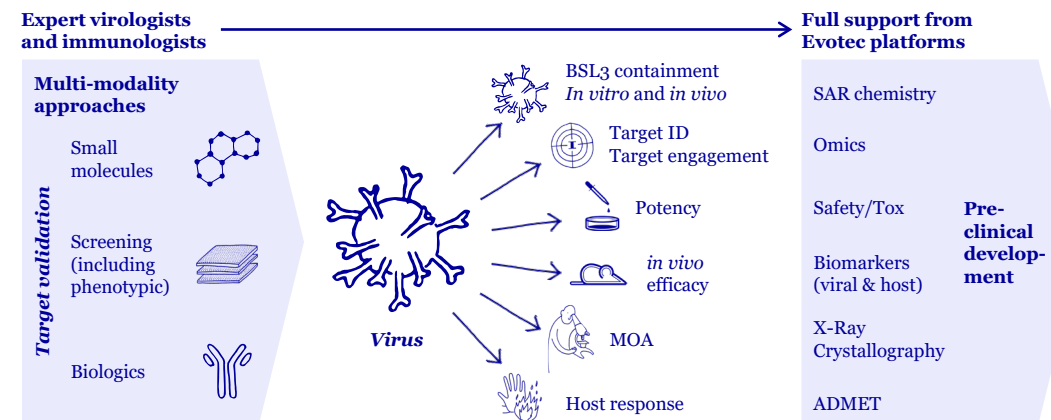
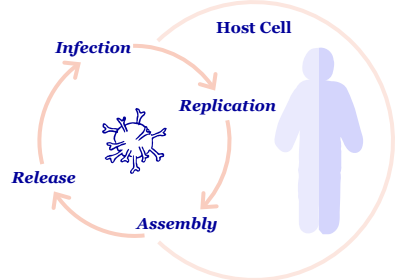
- Virology
- Immuno-virology
- Drug discovery

Integrated drug discovery projects

One entity and team to execute the whole project from conception to phase 1

Unique platforms and modalities to tackle viral infection from several angles

- Host targeting and Direct antivirals approaches
- Small molecules and Biotherapeutics

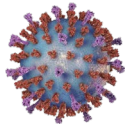




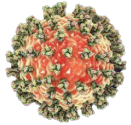
Continuous development of *in vitro* biology capability and expertise

From endemic to emerging viruses

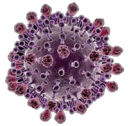
Respiratory viruses



RSV (A2, Long and clinical isolates, GFP-tagged RSV-A and B)

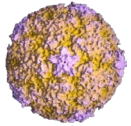


PIV (1,3 and 5, GFP-tagged HPIV-3)

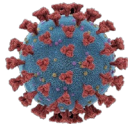


Influenza virus

FluA Brisbane/59/2007, H1N1
Flu A/Puerto Rico/8/34, H1N1

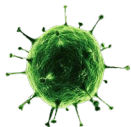


HRV (14 and 16)



Human Coronavirus

OC43, 229E and NL63
SARS-CoV-2 all variants of concern

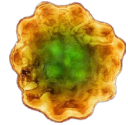


Adenovirus

Chronic Hepatic viruses



HBV (Genotype D)

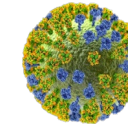


HDV (Genotype 1)

Other genotypes in development

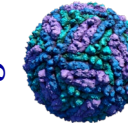
- Several standard and integrated *in vitro* and *in vivo* models
- Primary and integrated models
- Live viruses/clinical strains / recombinant viruses
- Pseudotyped viruses
- Minigenomes

Other viruses (In development)



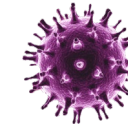
Orthomyxovirus

Avian highly pathogenic* H5N1, H5N8



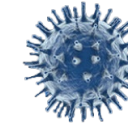
Flavivirus

Dengue*, West Nile, yellow fever, Zika



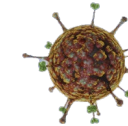
Retrovirus

Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV)



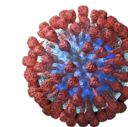
Herpesvirus

Human simplex Virus-1 (HSV-1)
Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)



Paramyxovirus

Cedar virus
(Nipah virus surrogate)



Arenavirus

Mopeia virus
(Lassa virus surrogate)

BSL3

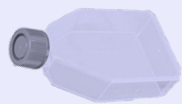
BSL2



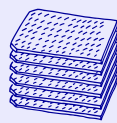
***In vitro* biology capability and expertise**

Extensive experience in both virus- and host-targeted antiviral discovery

Virus production & characterisation



Screening



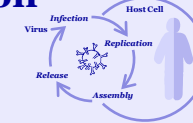
Antiviral drug profiling



Virus detection & quantification



Mode of action evaluation

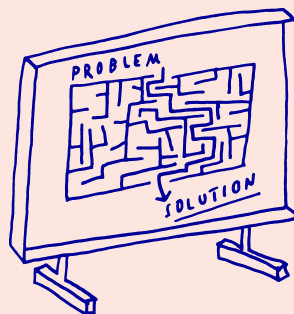


Host response



Available assays, including

- Compound testing in cell lines and primary cells
- Tailored experimental design
- Combination therapies studies
- Drug-resistance evaluation
- Target identification and validation
- Neutralization assays
- Detection and quantification of viral antigens
- Monitoring of host response



Read-out, including

- CPE-based antiviral assays
- Luminescent cell viability assays
- PFU, TCID₅₀, FFA
- PCR, qPCR, RTqPCR of viral / cellular nucleic acids
- ELISA and ELISpot
- Hemagglutination inhibition assay
- Viral protein activity assays: endonuclease, neuraminidase, polymerase (minigenome)
- Multiparametric flow cytometry
- Immune cell isolation and characterization
- Multiplexed cytokine assays
- Live cell imaging
- Immuno and nucleic acid blotting



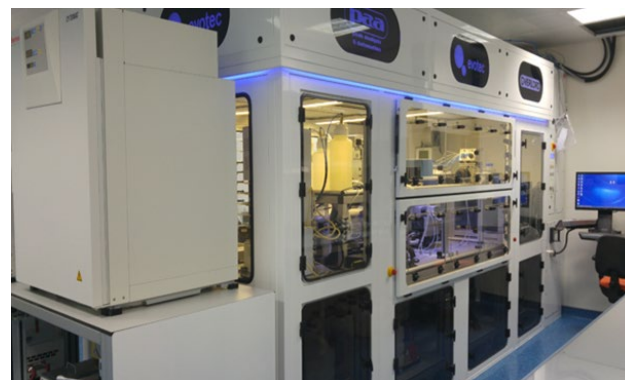


>15 years of screening expertise in antiviral space

Ability to screen at BSL2/BSL2⁺ & BSL3

- Screenings for several antivirals:
 - HBV, hPIV, RSV, hMPV, rhinovirus, coronavirus, influenza
- Medium to High Throughput
- BSL2/2⁺ and BSL3 facilities
- Access to >800,000 compounds
- Several readouts, including:
 - Reporter genes
 - RT-qPCR
 - Phenotypic
 - Target-based readouts
 - High-content imaging
- Hit **expansion** and characterization

BSL2/BSL2⁺ screening capabilities for HTS/MTS



BSL3 screening capabilities for MTS

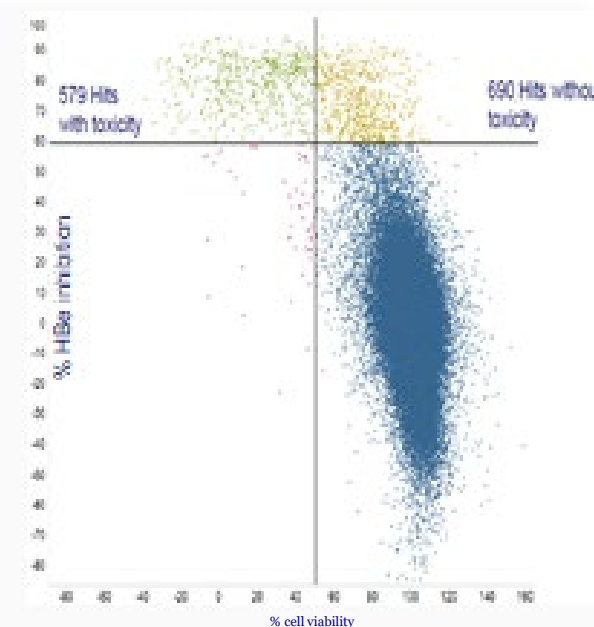
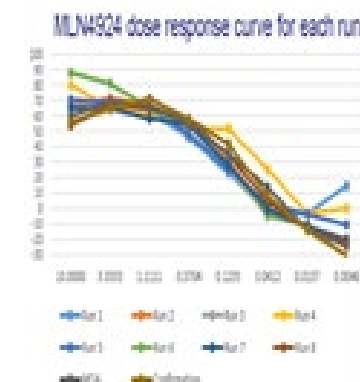


Close collaboration between scientific experts and HTS platform to setup involved screens e.g. using primary human hepatocytes

Primary screening

100K compounds tested

Concentration : 10 μ M single dose
Read-out : HBeAg , cell viability CTG





Continuous development of *in vivo* biology capability and expertise

Collection of validated animal models & development of bespoke models

In vivo tolerability and efficacy



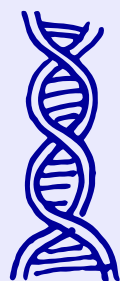
PK profiling

- Multiple sites/routes of drug administration
- Dose range finding/ maximum tolerated dose studies
- Blood and tissue-specific PK analysis
- Bioavailability/biodistribution assessments (ELISA, MSD)

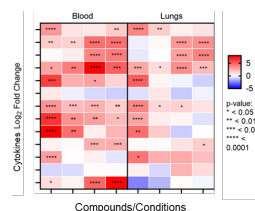
In vivo efficacy studies

- Broad range of infecting pathogens available
- Multiple hosts: Mouse, guinea pig, hamster, cotton rat
- Multiple sites/routes of infection and drug administration
- Multiple endpoints (host response and pathogen burden)

Biomarkers assessment



- Immune cell isolation and profiling
- Multiparametric flow cytometry
- Cytokine profiling (MSD, ELISA, ELISpot, bespoke Cytokine/Chemokine profile by RT-qPCR)
- Gene expression assays (qPCR)
- Live cell imaging (Incucyte)

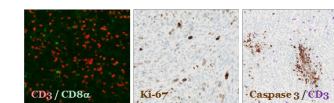


Histology and Immunohistochemistry

- Coloration, single and multiplex staining
- Validation of a biomarkers (FFPE or frozen samples):
 - IHC / multiplex IHC
 - RNA In Situ Hybridization (ISH)

Staining performed

Simple and multiplex staining: brightfield and IF



In situ Hybridization (RNAscope® technology)



Protein-protein interaction (Duolink® technology)



Several colorations

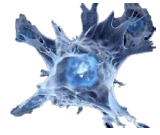




Broad and deep immuno-virology capabilities and expertise

Several assays available to monitor innate and adaptive immunity

Innate immune response



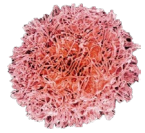
DC activation assays

(activation markers, cytokine secretion)



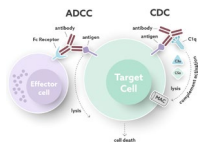
Macrophage activation assays (M1, M2)

(activation markers, cytokine secretion)



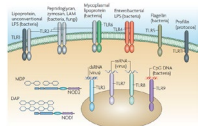
NK activation assays

(activation markers, proliferation, cytotoxicity, cytokine secretion)



Cytotoxicity assays with antibodies

(ADCC, CDC, ADCP)



PRRs activation

Several reporter systems available
Screening for activators/inhibitors

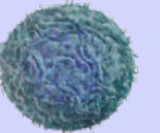


CRS evaluation (Whole blood Cells Assay)

Adaptive immune response

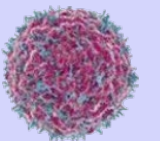
T CD4/ CD8 activation assays

- Activation markers,
- MLR « mixed lymphocyte reaction »
- Proliferation
- Cytokine secretion



B cell activation assays

- Activation markers
- Proliferation
- Antibodies secretion

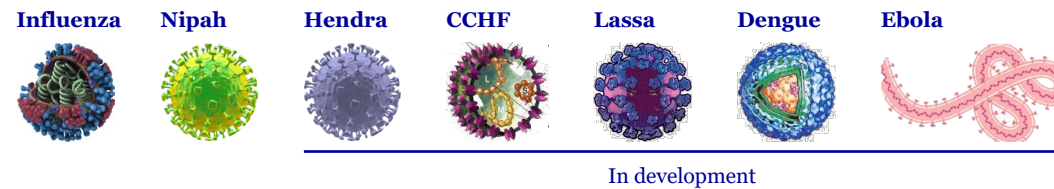
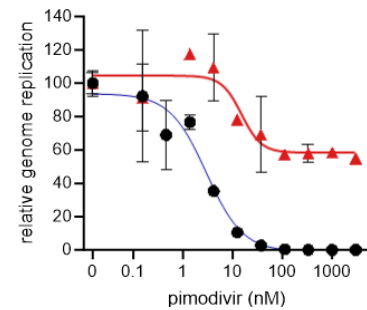
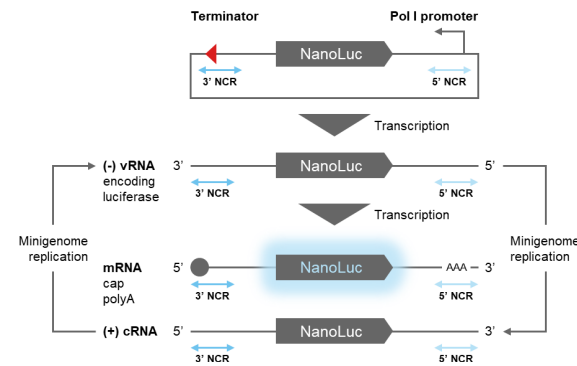




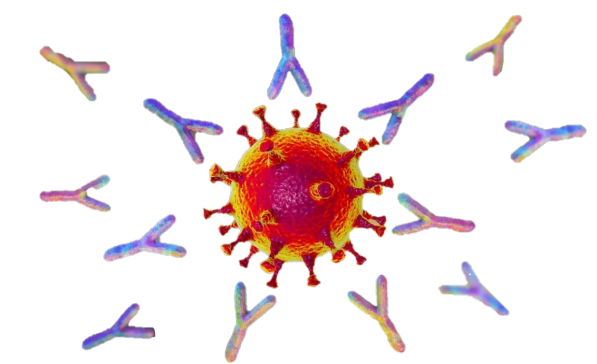
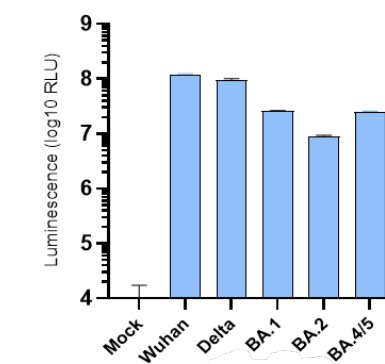
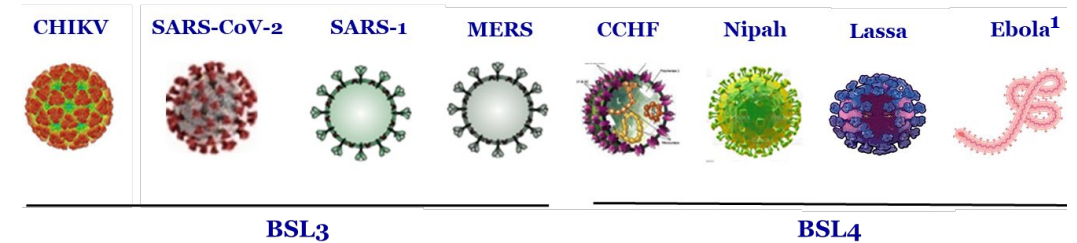
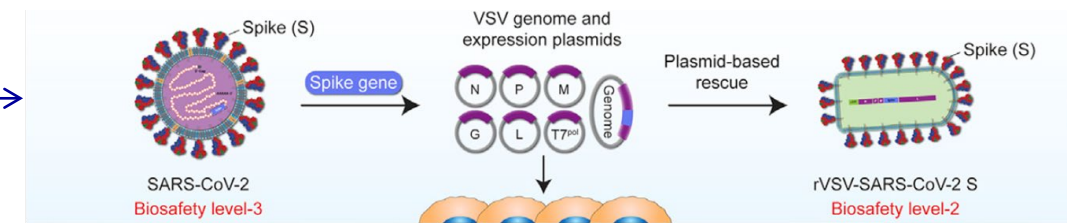
Splitting highly pathogenic viruses into pieces ...

... to develop and test antivirals

Minigenomes



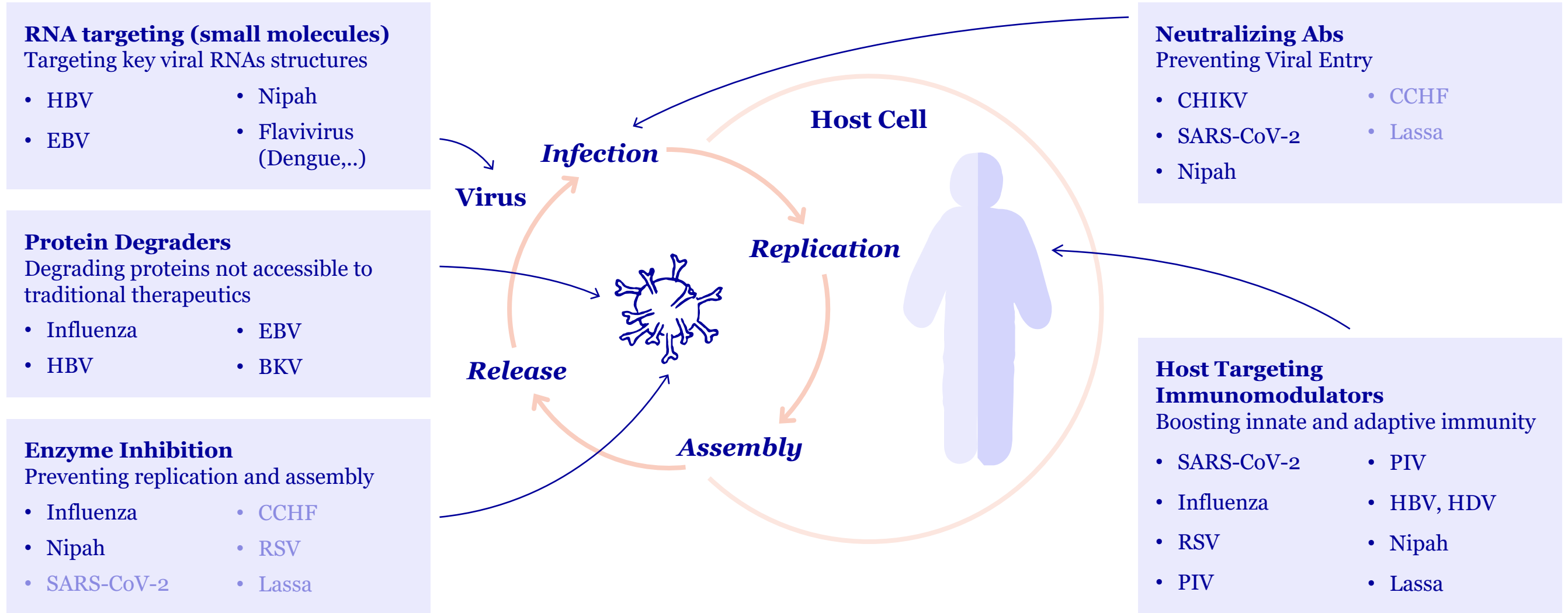
Pseudoviruses: Viral entry





A unique multi-modality & multi-targeting approach

Leveraging virus biology from all angles for therapeutic development

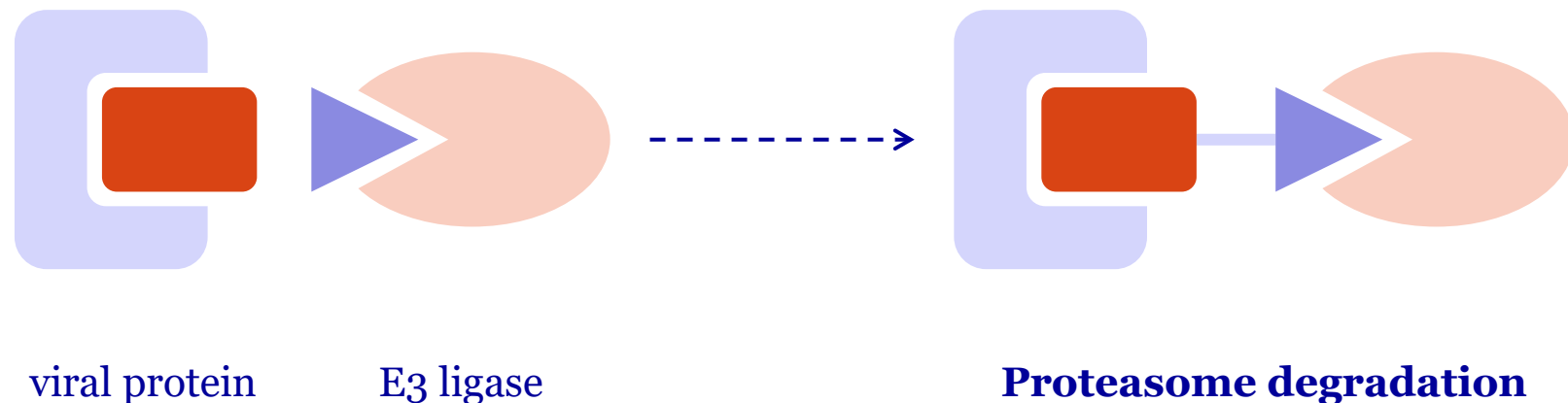




Targeted protein degradation to target undruggable viral proteins

Overcoming major challenges of antiviral drug discovery

- Targets “undruggable” proteins
- Applicable to any viral protein
- Resulting in complete silencing of viral activities
- Is less likely to lead to resistance
- Oral administration



- **Reporter cell lines expressing the target of interest**
 - Choice of tag (luminescent, fluorescent) & position
 - Full characterization of protein kinetics, turnover, activity
 - CRISPR knockout of E3 ligase of interest

- **High-throughput degradation assays**
 - 384-well plate format, DC_{50} and D_{max} determination
- **Live degradation** kinetics (fluorescence/luminescence)

- A panel of **additional assays** to study targeted protein degradation
 - Cellular E3 ligase engagement
 - Binding affinity to viral protein (e.g. SPR, MST etc.)
 - Ternary complex formation (NanoBRET)
 - Ubiquitination (NanoBRET) / Ubiquitinomics
 - Proteomics in infectious model
 - Chemical competition / E3 ligase modulation



Agenda

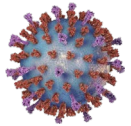
1. Evotec Virology Overview
2. Focus on Respiratory viruses
3. Focus on Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
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5. Integrated virology (Hit ID to PDC)



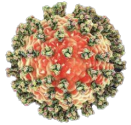
In vitro biology capability and expertise on respiratory viruses

Standard and integrated *in vitro* BSL2 and BSL3 models

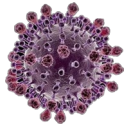
Respiratory viruses



RSV (A2, Long and clinical isolates, GFP-tagged RSV-A and B)

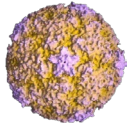


PIV (1,3 and 5, GFP-tagged HPIV-3)

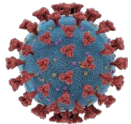


Influenza virus

FluA Brisbane/59/2007, H1N1
Flu A/Puerto Rico/8/34, H1N1

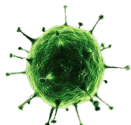


HRV (14 and 16)



Human Coronavirus

OC43, 229E and NL63
SARS-CoV-2 all variants of concern



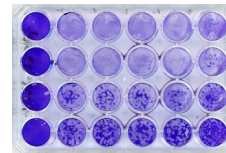
Adenovirus

In vitro infection models

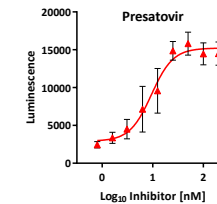
• Various assays including:

- CPE-based antiviral assays
- Cell viability (CTG, LDH)
- PFU, TCID₅₀, FFA
- PCR, qPCR, RTqPCR
- ELISA
- Immunostaining, Live cell imaging

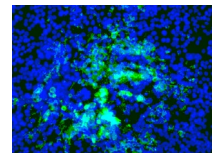
Plaque forming assay



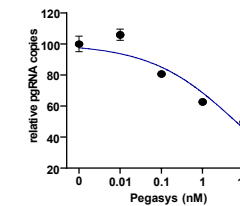
Cell viability assay



Immunostaining



RT-PCR/ ddPCR

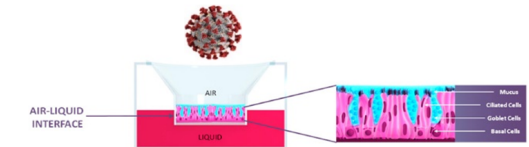


• Various viral strains: Live viruses, recombinant viruses¹, reference and clinical strains

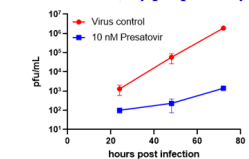
• Various cell lines, including

- VeroE6, MDCK, Hep-2, A549, Calu-3, SH-SY5Y
- THP-1, HepG2
- Human airway epithelial cells
- Primary cell lines

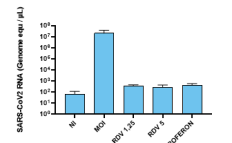
Human airway epithelial assay²



RSV levels by plaque assay



SARS-CoV2 RNA levels in bronchial Tissue



- **Additional Endpoints** including host biomarkers, multiplexed cytokines assay, antibody response, Multiparametric flow cytometry, immune cell isolation, ...
- **Additional available assays** including enzymatic assays³, immunoenzymatic assays, pseudotyped viruses, minigenomes, ...



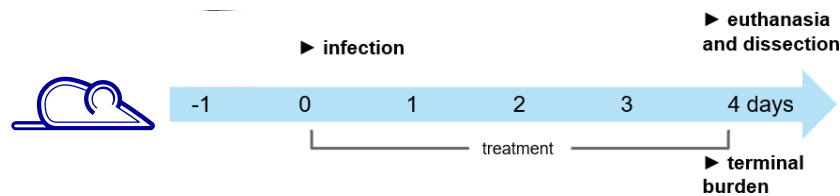
In vivo gold standard models in suitable animal hosts

BSL2 and BSL3 facilities for respiratory viruses

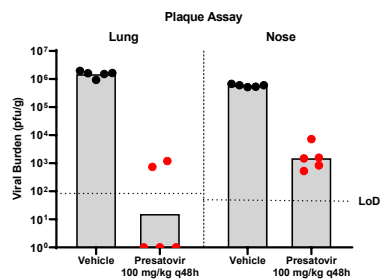
Respiratory virus capabilities

- **SARS-CoV-2** Hamster Model (intranasal Infection with SARS-CoV-2): infection model, transmission model as well as long-disease model
- **SARS-CoV-2** humanised ACE2 mouse model
- **RSV** infection model in cotton rat and mouse
- **Influenza** mouse model (survival and burden)

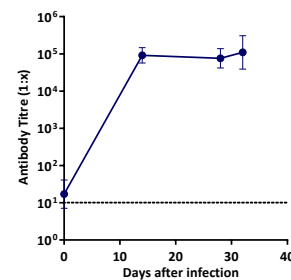
RSV cotton rat model



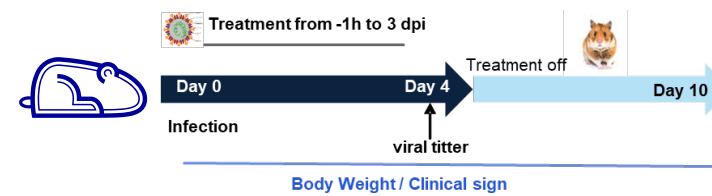
Viral burden



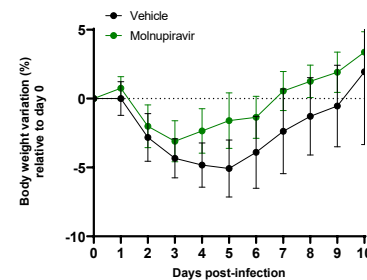
RSV specific antibodies



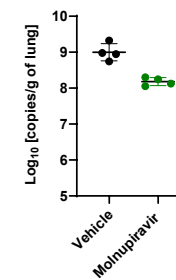
SARS-CoV-2 hamster model



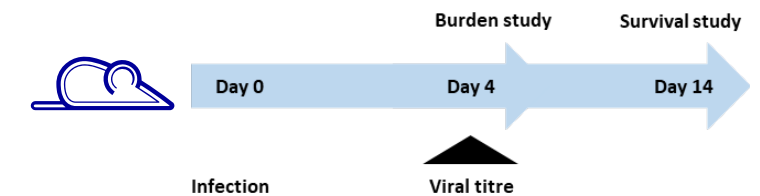
Body weights



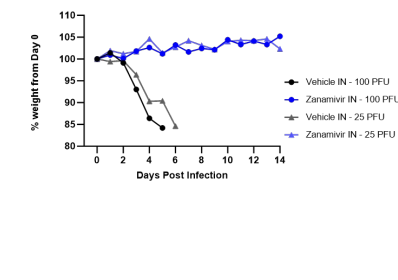
Viral burden



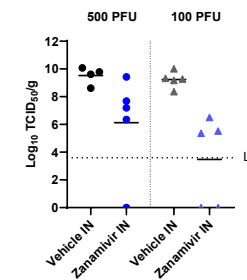
Influenza mouse model



Body weights



Viral lung burden





Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

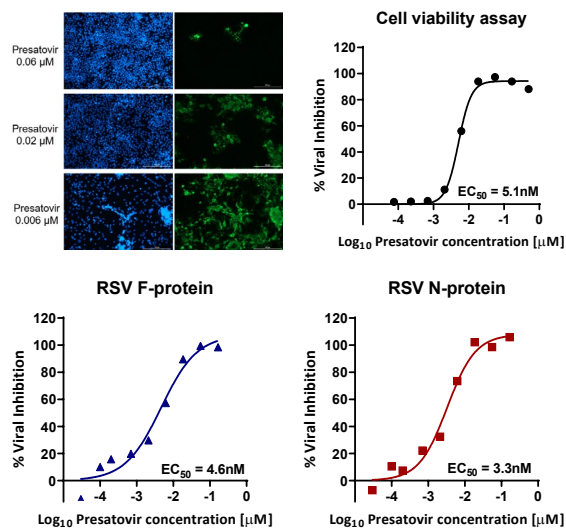


Capability and expertise on respiratory viruses – example of RSV

From screening to animals

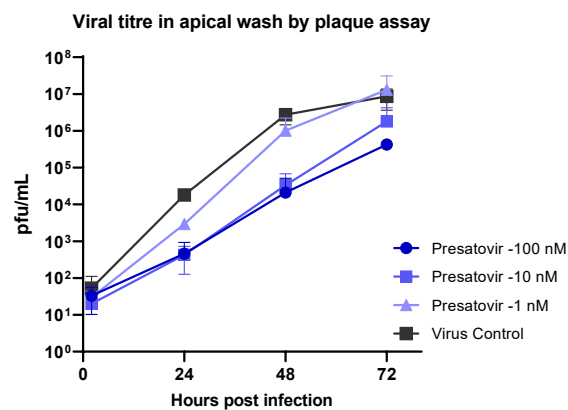
Cell based assays

- Cell viability as screening assays using Viral Toxglo™
- Direct antiviral assays for demonstration of antiviral effect and MOA studies: Plaque assay, ELISA against viral proteins, plaque staining assay



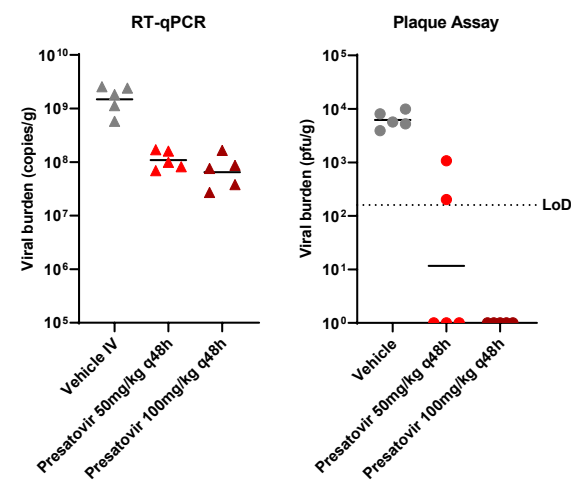
Epithelial Air Liquid Interface Assay

- RSV infection model of Mucilair™ epithelial nasal or bronchial air liquid interface tissue
- Treatment in basal medium
- Sequential sampling of apical wash
- Determination of virus load by plaque staining assay and RT-qPCR
- Determination of cytokine levels



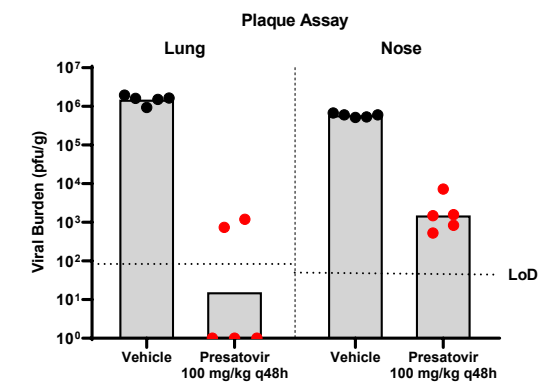
RSV mouse model

- Balb/c mouse model widely used to study RSV immunopathology
- Semi-permissive to the virus
- Intranasal infection, RSV-A2
- Viral load in lung homogenate by plaque assay and qPCR
- Cytokine levels determined by ELISA
- Viral titre peaks at day 4 and declines to undetectable at day 7



RSV cotton rat model

- Gold standard RSV animal model
- For vaccination and treatment studies
- Intranasal infection, RSV-A2
- Viral load in nose and lung tissue by plaque assay and RT-qPCR
- Antibody titre via ELISA
- Neutralisation assay to demonstrate presence of neutralizing antibodies
- Immunohistochemistry
- Viral titre peaks at day 4 and declines to undetectable level at day 6

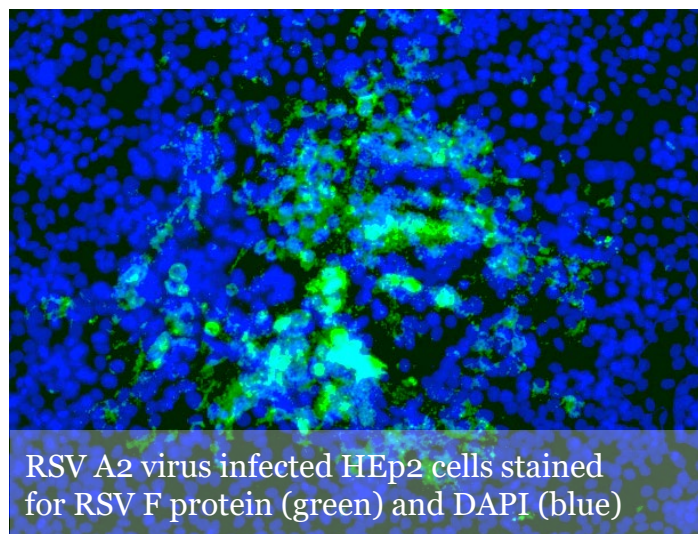
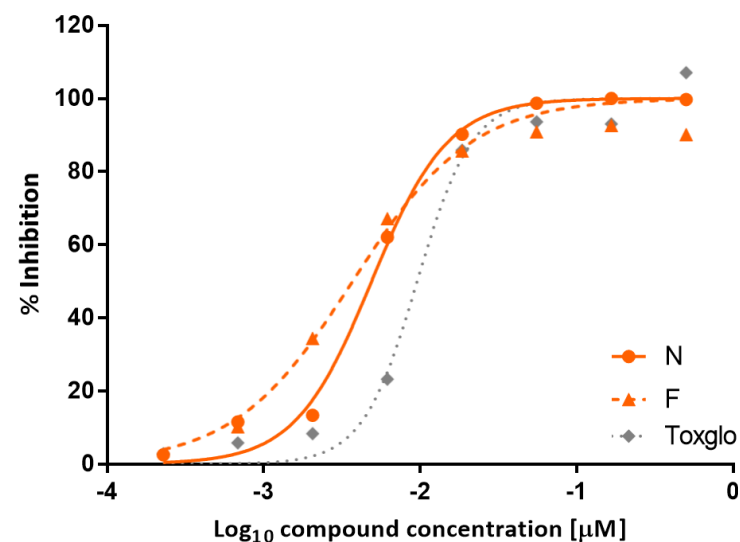




In vitro biology capability and expertise on RSV

In vitro infection models

- **Cell lines**
 - **A549:** human respiratory epithelial cells
 - **VeroE6 cells:** African green monkey kidney cell line
 - **Hep-2 cells:** immortalized cell line derived from human larynx carcinoma
 - **Human airway epithelial cells:** human upper airway epithelium cultured at the air liquid interface
- **Read outs**
 - Cell viability
 - Plaque assays
 - RT-qPCR
 - ELISA
 - Immunofluorescence



Various viral strains

- Human respiratory syncytial virus strain A2
- Long and clinical isolates (RSV-A) and (RSV-B strains available)
- **GFP-tagged RSV-A (strain A2), RSV-B (strain B1)**

Assay formats

- Cell viability (Viral ToxGlo™) screening assay
 - Suitable for routine screening including HTS
 - Combination studies
 - Also suitable for cytotoxicity counter screens
- RSV plaque assay
 - Validation of viral stocks
 - Viral burden in tissue, e.g. as read-out for *in vivo* studies
 - Generation of resistant virus and mechanistic studies
- RT-qPCR
- GFP labelled virus
- RSV ELISA
 - Quantification of virus specific antibodies
 - Quantification of virus via viral proteins
- RSV microneutralization assay
 - Quantification of virus specific neutralizing antibodies

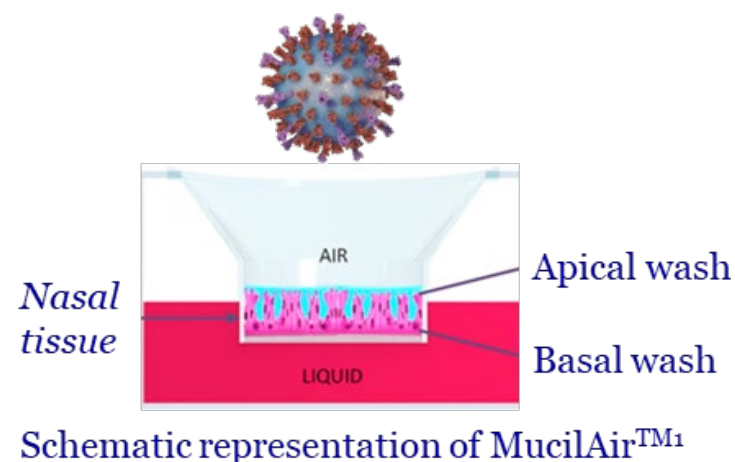


In vitro biology capability and expertise on RSV

RSV infection in human airway epithelial system

Human airway epithelial system

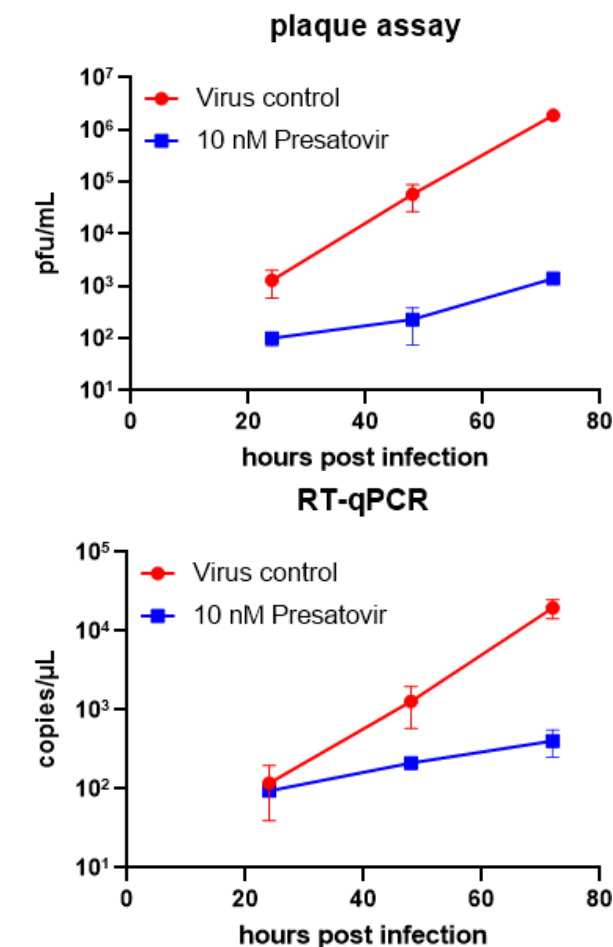
- MucilAir™ is a human *in vitro* model representing the upper airway epithelia containing beating cilia, goblet and basal cells
 - Single donor or pool of donors available in nasal healthy version
 - Different anatomical sites (Nasal, Tracheal or Bronchial)
- Highly relevant model to address pharmacology, toxicology and biology demands, in particular for cellular targets



Endpoints (in apical or basal wash)¹

- Viral load by plaque assay or TCID₅₀
- Viral titer by RT-qPCR
- Transepithelial electrical resistance (TEER) measurements to evaluate cell membrane integrity
- Cytotoxicity by LDH release
- Cytokine release

RSV





RSV *in vivo* infection models

Viral and host parameters

- **Animals**

- **Cotton Rat infection model:** Gold standard for development of RSV inhibitors (vaccination and treatment studies)
- **Mouse Balb/c mouse model** widely used to study RSV immunopathology (RSV-A2)

- **Infection**

- Intranasal infection

- **Viral endpoints**

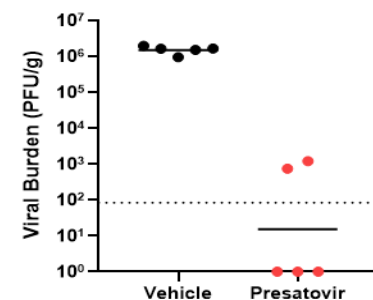
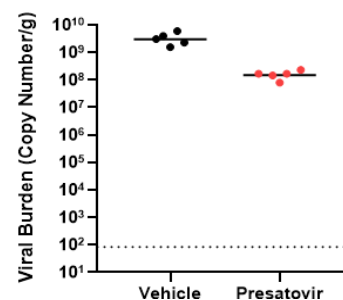
- Viral burden in nose and lung tissues by plaque assay and qPCR

- **Host endpoints**

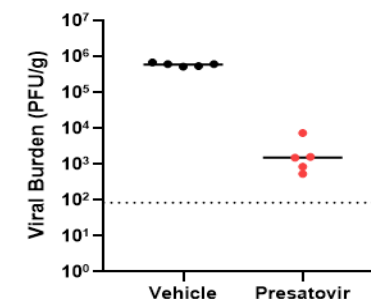
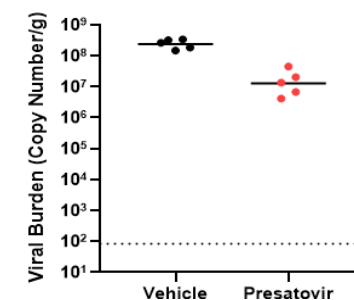
- cytokine analysis
- Antibody titre via ELISA
- Neutralization / seroneutralization assays
- immunohistochemistry
- PK analysis

Cotton rat model

Lung

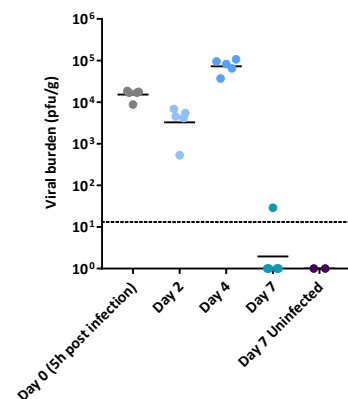


Nose



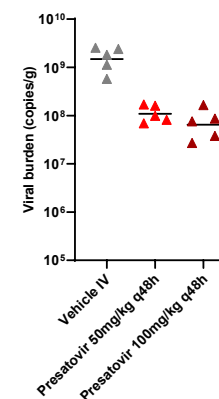
Mouse Balb/c model

Plaque assay



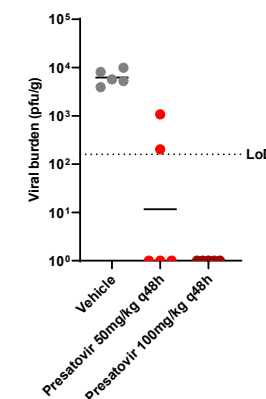
Time course of infection

RT-qPCR



Treatment study

Plaque assay



Treatment study





Influenza virus



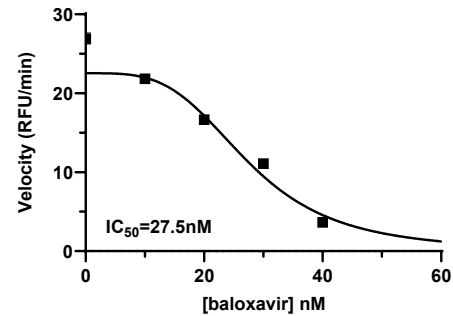
Capability and expertise on respiratory viruses – example influenza

From screening to animals

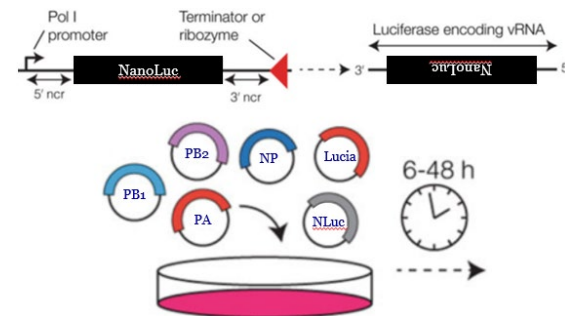
Target based assays

- Influenza virus PA endonuclease FRET assay
- Minigenome assays (polymerase)
- PA crystal structure

PA FRET assay



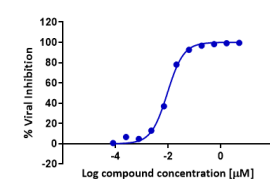
Minigenome assay



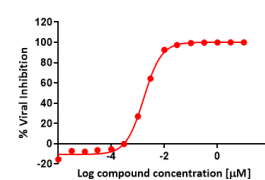
In vitro infection models

- Cellular models: MDCK, A-549, Calu-3, SH-SY5Y cells
- Cell viability as screening assays
- Direct antiviral assays for demonstration of antiviral effect and MOA studies: Plaque-forming assay, focus-forming assays, TCID₅₀, RT-qPCR (SN, cell lysates)
- Hemagglutination assay
- Neuraminidase assay
- Immunofluorescence
- Reverse genetic

A549 cells



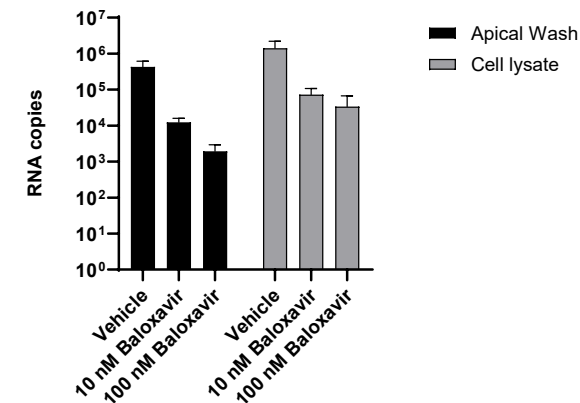
MDCK cells



Flu inhibition by Zanamivir

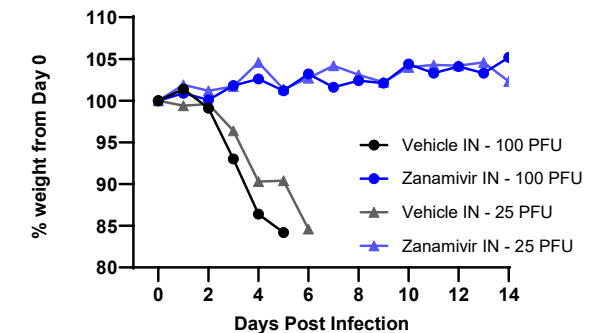
Epithelial Air Liquid Interface Assay

- Influenza infection model of Mucilair™ epithelial nasal or bronchial air liquid interface tissue
- Treatment in basal medium
- Sequential sampling of apical wash; terminal samples as cell lysate
- Determination of virus load by RT-qPCR
- Determination of cytokine levels



Influenza mouse model

- C57Bl/6 mice
- Intranasal infection with mouse adapted flu A/Puerto Rico/8/34, H1N1
- Viral load in lung homogenate by AVINA assay and qPCR
- Study length: Burden arm 4 days and Survival arm 14 days
- Endpoints: Weight loss, survival, viral lung burden determine by TCID₅₀, NA-TCID₅₀ (based on AVINA), RT-qPCR, WBC analysis, cytokines





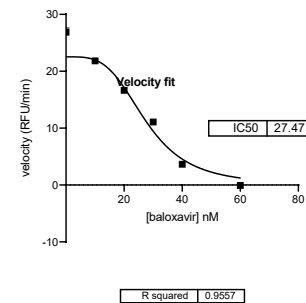
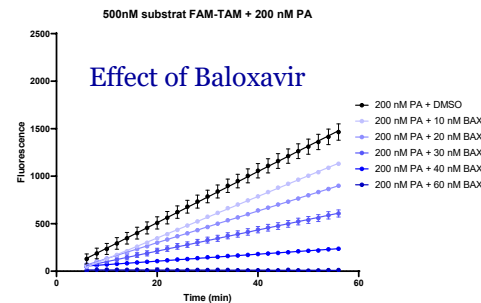
In vitro biology capability and expertise on respiratory viruses

Example of influenza virus: from target-based to integrated models

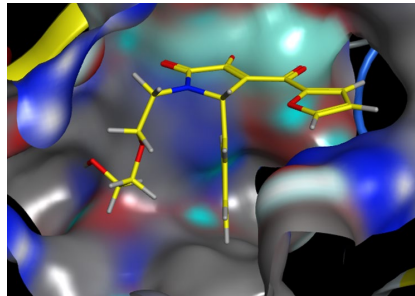
Endonuclease assay

- FRET based assay for detection of PA endonuclease activity via fluorescence
- Test of WT, resistant mutants and new emerging strains
- Baloxavir as control inhibitor

PA FRET assay

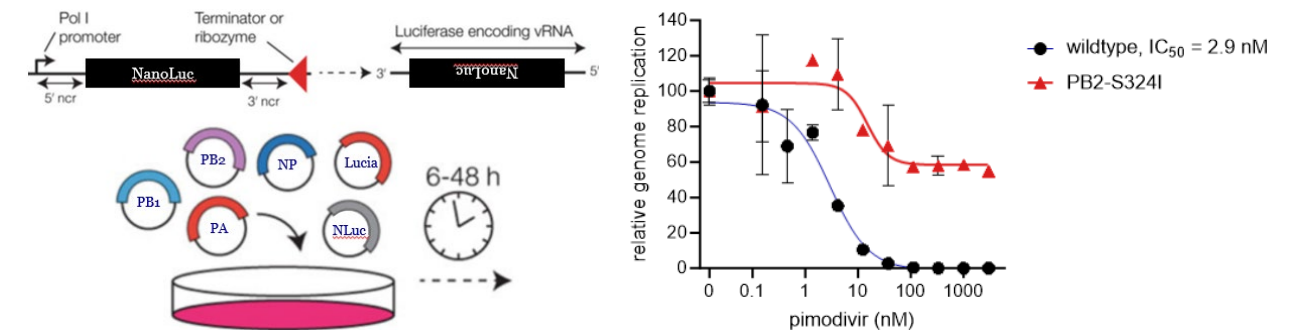


PA crystal



Minigenome assay¹

- Genome replication measured by intracellular NanoLuciferase
- Test of WT, resistant mutants and new emerging strains
- Pimodivir/Baloxavir as control inhibitors



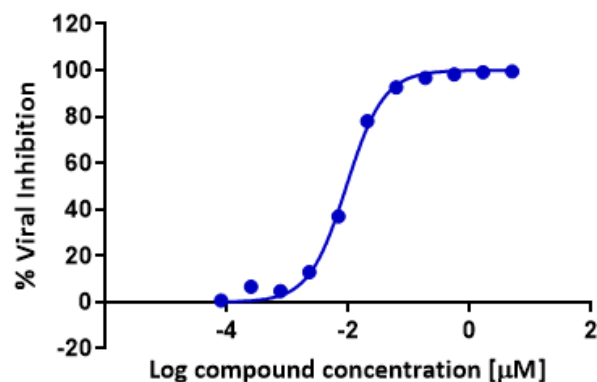


In vitro biology capability and expertise on influenza

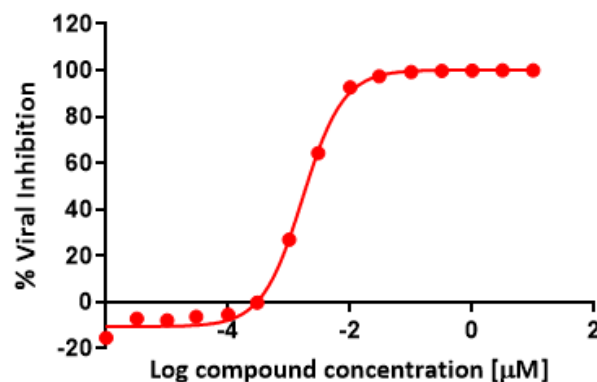
In vitro infection models

- **Cell lines**
 - **MDCK cells:** standard canine cells for influenza assays
 - **A549, Calu-3 cells:** human respiratory epithelial cells
 - **SH-SY5Y cells¹:** neuroblastoma cells
 - **Human airway epithelial cell line:** human upper airway epithelium cultured at the air liquid interface
- **Read outs**
 - RT-qPCR
 - PFU/TCID₅₀ methods
 - Cell viability (CPE)
 - Neuraminidase assay
 - Hemagglutination inhibition assay
 - Immunofluorescence

A549 cells



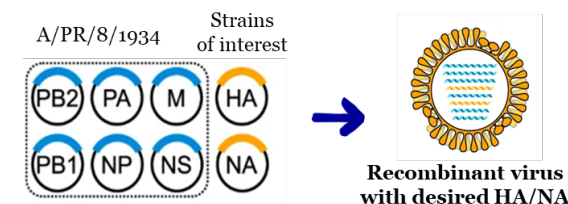
MDCK cells



Flu inhibition by Zanamivir

Various viral strains

- **Seasonal BSL2 strains:** A/Brisbane/59/2007, A/Puerto Rico/8/1934
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza **BSL3 strains** under implementation
- **Reverse Genetic technology¹:** Generation of seasonal and pandemic strains of interest/concern



In vitro assays

- Influenza viral culture in A549 and MDCK cells
 - Virus neuraminidase activity readout (AVINA assay)
 - Medium throughput screening and dose response
 - Virus inhibition calculated relative to virus control, negative signal for inhibition
 - Also suitable for cytotoxicity counter screens
- Viral production and characterization
- Antigens quantification
- Seroneutralization assays
- Multiplexed cytokine assays

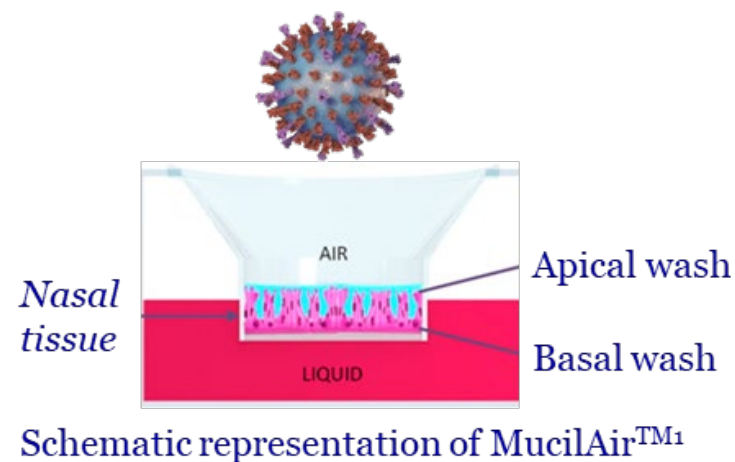


In vitro biology capability and expertise on influenza

influenza infection in human airway epithelial system

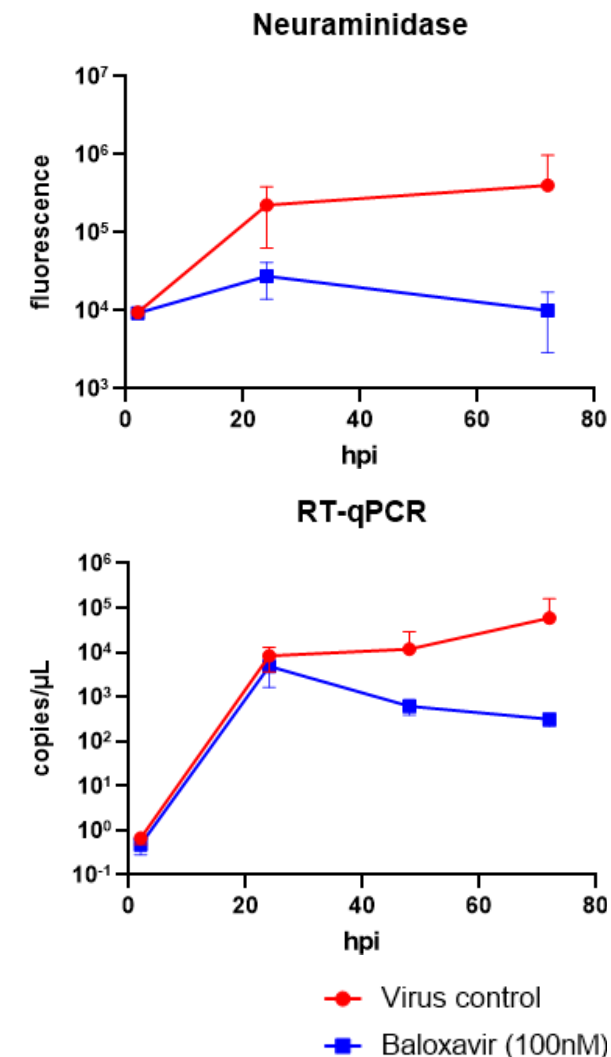
Human airway epithelial system

- MucilAir™ is a human *in vitro* model representing the upper airway epithelia containing beating cilia, goblet and basal cells
 - Single donor or pool of donors available in nasal healthy version
 - Different anatomical sites (Nasal, Tracheal or Bronchial)
- Highly relevant model to address pharmacology, toxicology and biology demands, in particular for cellular targets



Endpoints (in apical or basal wash)¹

- Viral load by plaque assay or TCID₅₀
- Viral titer by RT-qPCR
- Transepithelial electrical resistance (TEER) measurements to evaluate cell membrane integrity
- Cytotoxicity by LDH release
- Cytokine release





Influenza *in vivo* mouse Infection model

Viral and host parameters

- **Animals**

- C57Bl/6 mice, female
- 8 weeks of age on arrival
- 5 mice per group

- **Infection**

- Intranasal infection
- Mouse Adapted-Puerto Rico 8 (MA-PR8)

- **Viral endpoints**

- Viral lung burden: TCID₅₀, NA-TCID₅₀ (based on AVINA)
- RT-qPCR

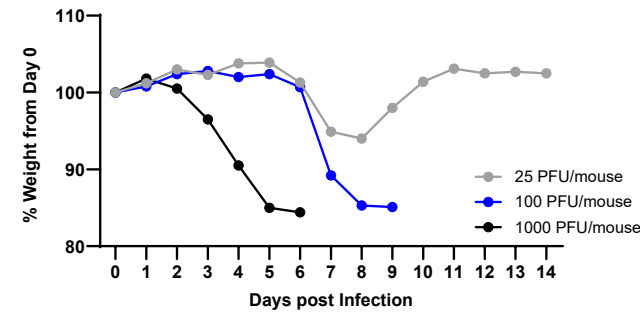
- **Host endpoints**

- Weight loss
- Survival (14 days)
- WBC analysis
- cytokine analysis

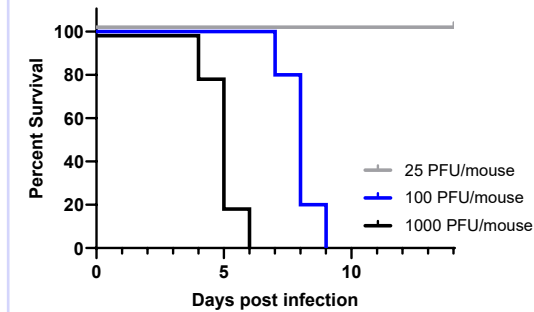
- **Model validation with ref cpds**

- Zanamivir intranasally, 12.5mg/kg, q24h
- 4'-Flu orally, 2mg/kg, q24h

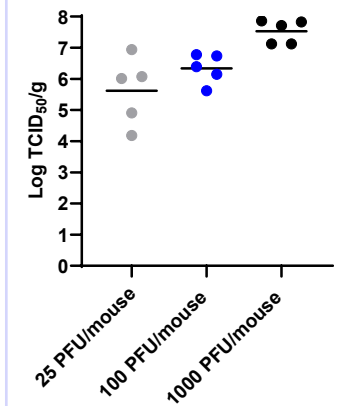
Body weights



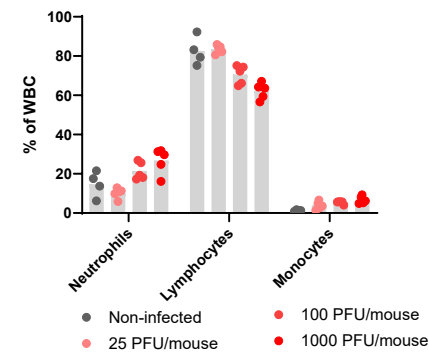
Survival



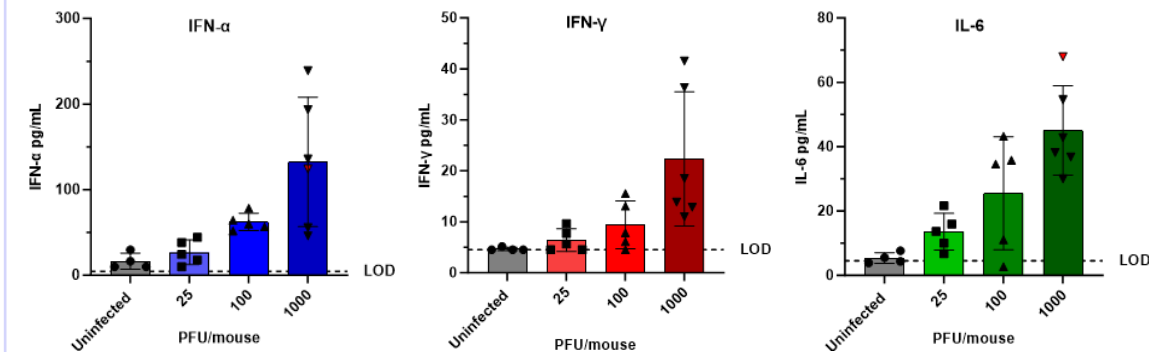
Day 4 Lung burden



White Blood Cells



Cytokines release





SARS-CoV-2 virus



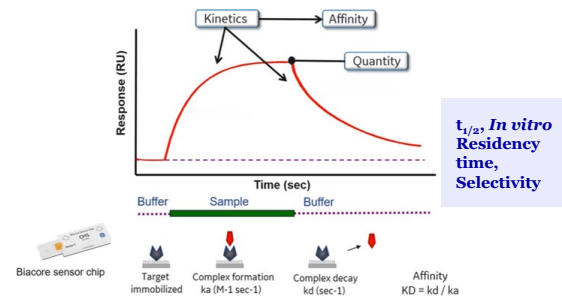
Capability and expertise on respiratory viruses – example SARS-CoV-2

From screening to animals

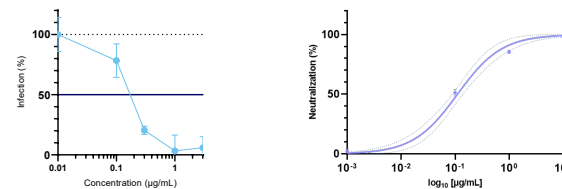
Target based assays

- *In vitro* pharmacology assays
 - SPR-based Assay
 - Alpha Assay technology
- SARS-CoV-2-Spike pseudotyped infection
 - VSV pseudotyped viruses available for all variants of concern

SPR-based assay



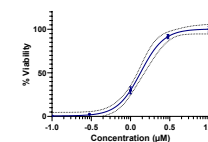
Neutralization assay of rVSV-SARS-CoV-2 Spike



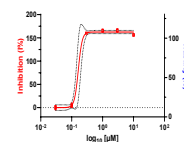
In vitro infection models

- Cellular models: VeroE6, A549-ACE2-TMPRSS2, Calu3
- Cell viability as screening assays using CellTiter Glow™, XCelligence
- Direct antiviral assays for demonstration of antiviral effect and MOA studies: Plaque-forming assay, focus-forming assays, TCID50, ELISA, RT-qPCR (SN, cell lysates), synergistic assays, neutralization assays
- Generation and characterization of resistant mutants

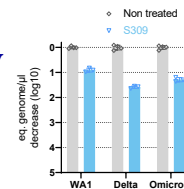
SARS-CoV-2 inhibition (Nirmaltrevir)



SARS-CoV-2 inhibition (Remdesivir)



SARS-CoV-2 neutralization assay

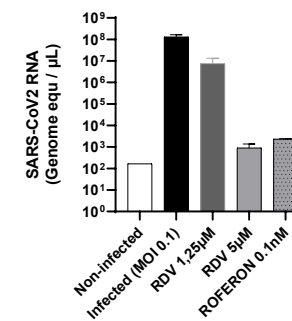


Epithelial Air Liquid Interface Assay

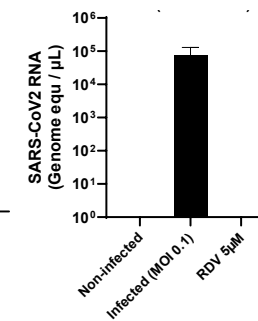
- SARS-CoV-2 infection model of Mucilair™ epithelial nasal or bronchial air liquid interface tissue
- Treatment in basal medium
- Sequential sampling of apical wash
- Determination of virus load by plaque assay and RT-qPCR
- Determination of cytokine levels

Virus titre in nasal tissue

Apical wash



Basal wash

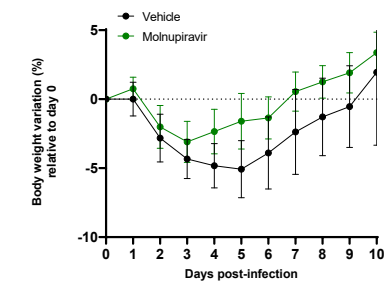


Influenza mouse model

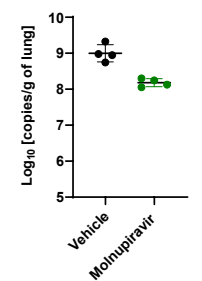
SARS-CoV-2 Hamster Model (including transmission model and long-disease model) and **SARS-CoV-2 humanised ACE2 mouse model** (vaccination and treatment studies)

- Intranasal infection
- Clinical observations
- Viral load by plaque assay and RT- qPCR
- Antibody titre via ELISA
- Neutralization assays
- Histopathology, immune responses, PK analysis

Body weights



Viral burden



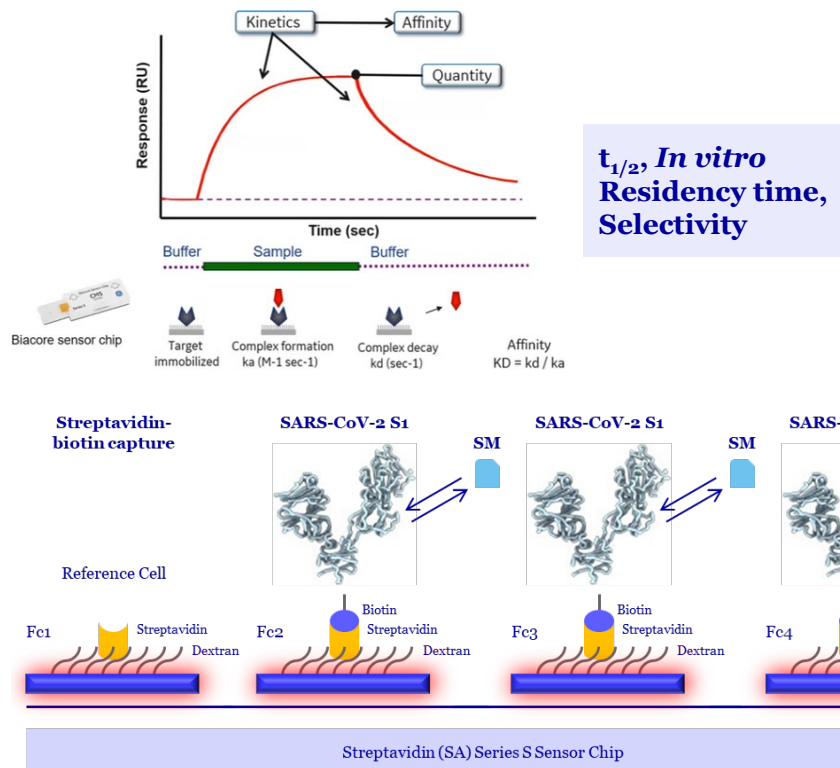


In vitro biology capability and expertise on respiratory viruses

Example of SARS-CoV-2 virus: from target-based to integrated models

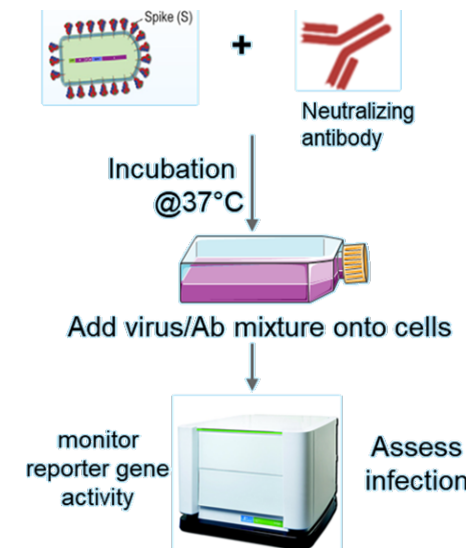
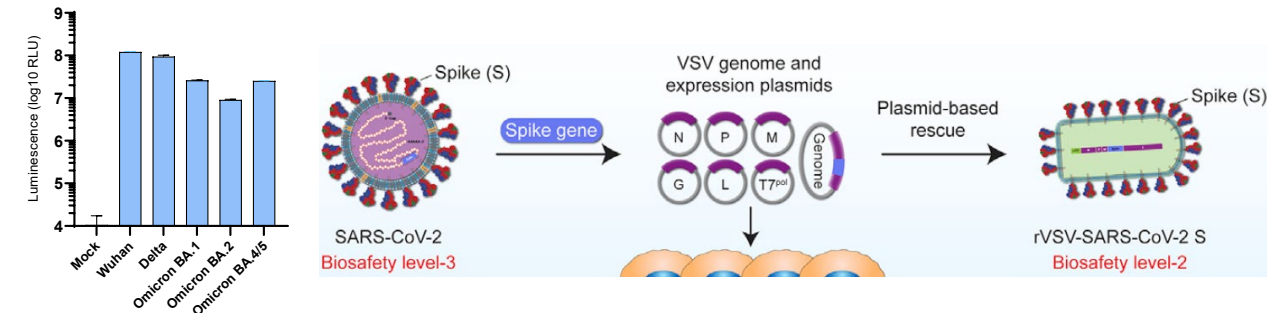
In vitro pharmacology assays

- Identification of molecules able to bind Spike subunit S1
 - SPR-based Assay with Biotinylated SARS-CoV-2 S1 protein, His, Avitag™
- Identification of molecules able to disrupt SARS-CoV-2-RBD / ACE2 binding
 - Alpha Assay technology

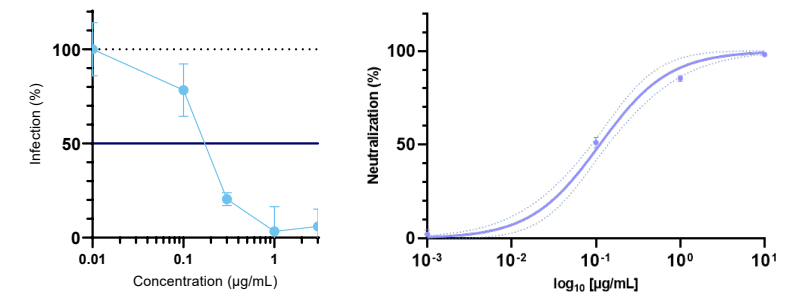


SARS-CoV-2-Spike pseudotyped infection

- VSV pseudotyped viruses available for all variants of concern



Neutralization assay of rVSV-SARS-CoV-2 Spike

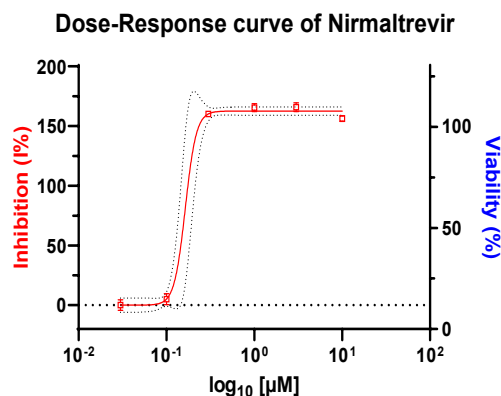




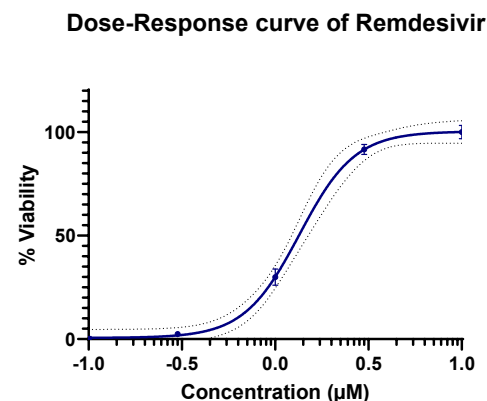
In vitro biology capability and expertise on SARS-CoV-2

In vitro infection models

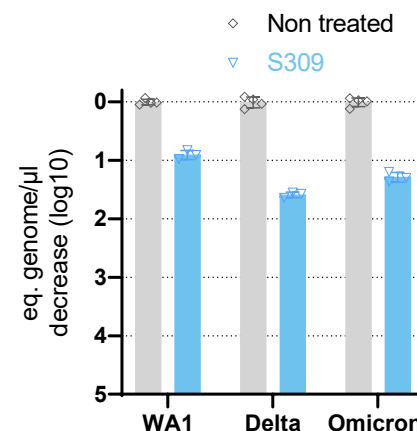
- **Cell lines**
 - **VeroE6 cells:** African green monkey kidney cells line
 - **A549-ACE2-TMPRSS2, Calu-3 cells:** human respiratory epithelial cells
 - **Human airway epithelial cell line:** human upper airway epithelium cultured at the air liquid interface
- **Read outs**
 - RT-qPCR (SN, cell lysates)
 - PFU/FFU/ TCID₅₀ methods
 - Cell viability (CPE)
 - ELISA
 - Immunofluorescence



SARS-CoV-2 inhibition
by Nirmaltrevir



SARS-CoV-2 inhibition
by Remdesivir



SARS-CoV-2
neutralization assay

Various viral strains

- Numerous SARS-CoV-2 variants
 - > 45 strains incl variants Wuhan, Delta, Gamma, Omicrons, XBB, EG5.1,...

In vitro assays

- SARS-CoV-2 viral culture in VeroE6, A549-ACE2-TMPRSS2¹, Calu3
 - Cell TiterGlo™ screening assay (VeroE6)
 - MTS and dose response
 - cytotoxicity counter screens
- SARS-CoV-2 plaque assay (PFU, FFU) and TCID₅₀
 - viral stocks and viral burden in tissue (*in vivo* studies)
 - Generation of resistant virus
 - Mechanistic studies
- SARS-CoV-2 RT-qPCR
 - MTS and dose response
 - Quantification of genomic viral RNA (cells and supernatants)
- SARS-CoV-2 ELISA: Quantification of virus and viral specific antibodies
- SARS-CoV-2 neutralization assay

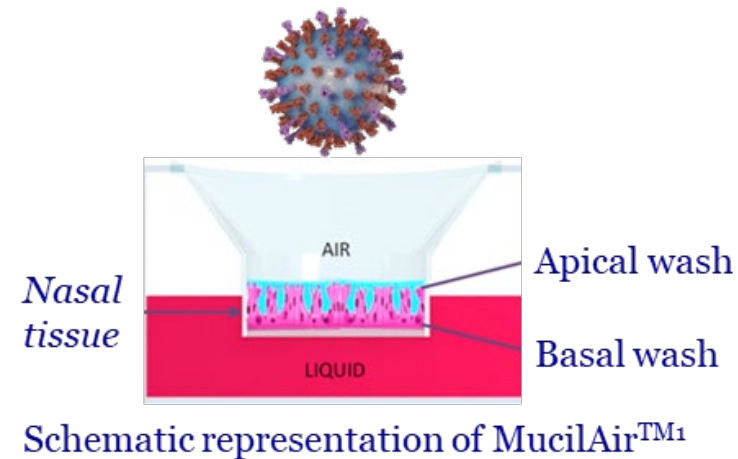


In vitro biology capability and expertise on SARS-CoV-2

SARS-CoV-2 infection in human airway epithelial system

Human airway epithelial system

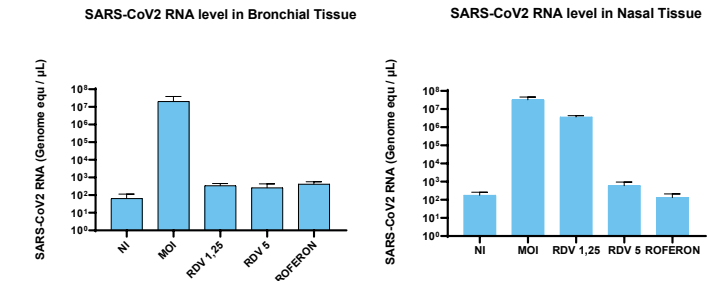
- MucilAir™ is a human *in vitro* model representing the upper airway epithelia containing beating cilia, goblet and basal cells
 - Single donor or pool of donors available in nasal healthy version
 - Different anatomical sites (Nasal, Tracheal or Bronchial)
- Highly relevant model to address pharmacology, toxicology and biology demands, in particular for cellular targets



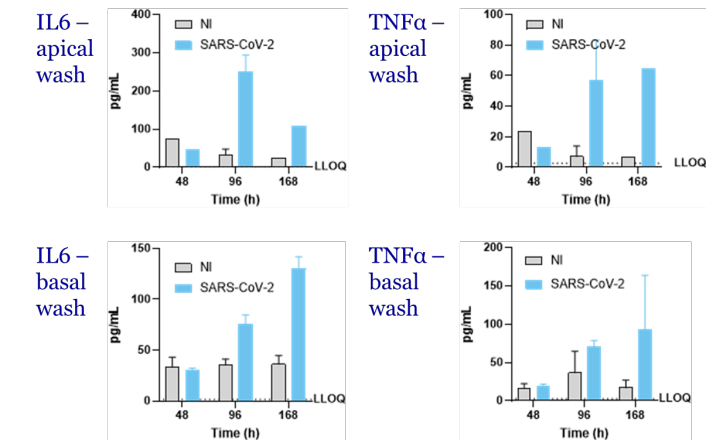
Endpoints (in apical or basal wash)¹

- Viral load by plaque assay, TCID₅₀ and viral titer by RT-qPCR (intercellular and apical wash)
- Transepithelial electrical resistance (TEER) measurements to evaluate cell membrane integrity
- Cytotoxicity by LDH release
- Cytokine release

Virus titre in bronchial and nasal tissues



Inflammatory cytokines in nasal tissues





SARS-COV-2 *in vivo* infection models

Viral and host parameters

- **Animals**

- Golden Syrian Hamster (incl. long-disease and transmission models)
- Humanised K18-ACE2 mouse

- **Infection**

- Intranasal infection (Several viral strains)

- **Treatment**

- Monotherapy or combination
- small molecule, Antibody, Vaccine

- **Viral endpoints**

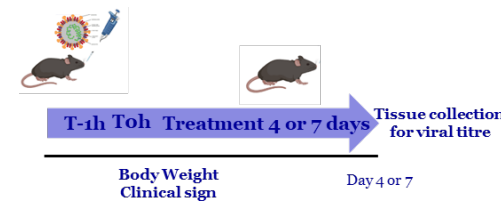
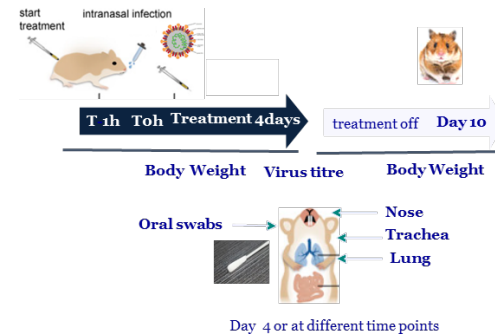
- Viral burden in tissues and Throat swabs

- **Host endpoints**

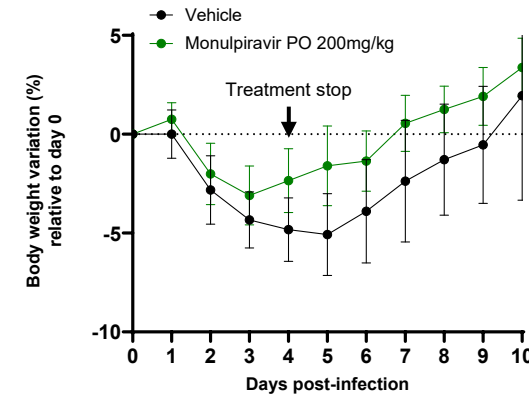
- Weight loss, clinical signs
- cytokine analysis
- Antibody titer via ELISA
- Seroneutralization assays
- Histopathology
- PK analysis

- **Bespoke dosing regimen**

- **Bespoke treatment duration & Study duration**

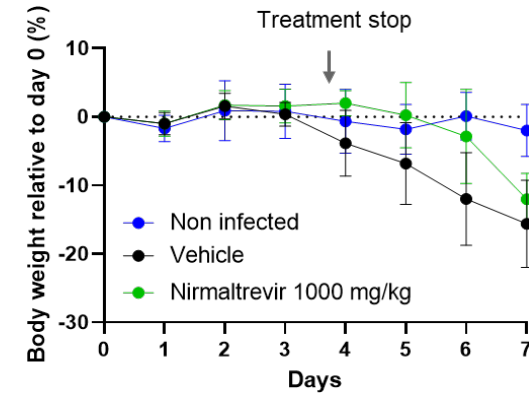
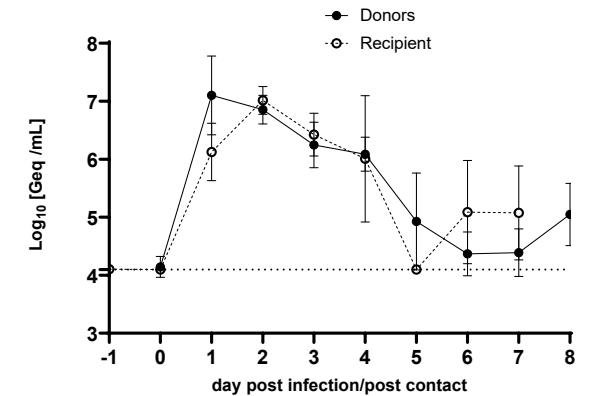
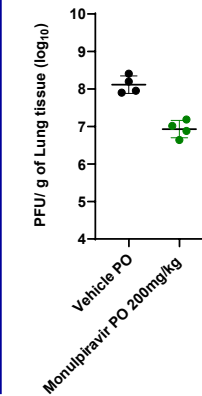


Body weight

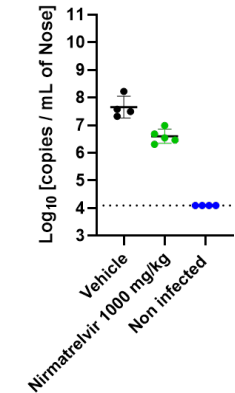
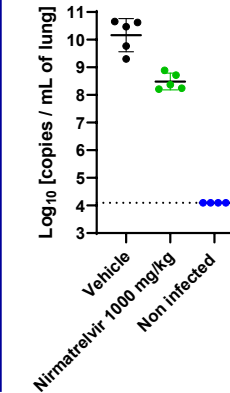


Virus Titre at day 4

Plaque Assay: Lung RT-qPCR oral swabs



RT-qPCR: lung and nose





Agenda

1. Evotec Virology Overview
2. Focus on Respiratory viruses
3. Focus on Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
4. NGS & Bioinformatics platforms
5. Integrated virology (Hit ID to PDC)



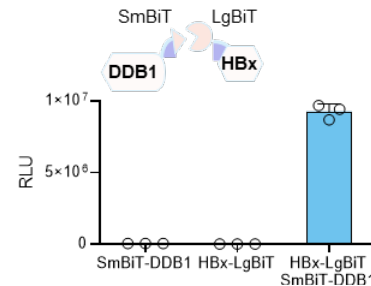
Capability and expertise on hepatitis viruses

From screening to animals

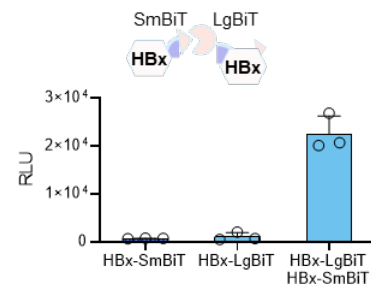
Target based assays

- *In vitro* pharmacology assays
 - SPR-based Assay
 - Thermal shift assay
 - HBx/DDB1 dimerization
 - HBx homodimerization
 - Proteins degradation

HBx DDB1 interaction

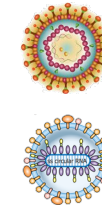


HBx dimerization

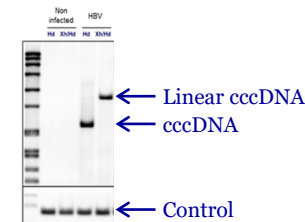


In vitro infection model

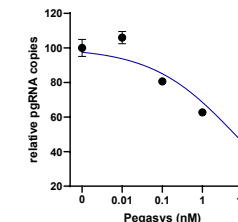
- Cellular models: HepaRG, HepAD38, PHH
- Readouts:
 - Viral DNA and cccDNA
 - Cellular / viral RNAs
 - Circulating DNA and RNA
 - HBe/HBs release
 - Cell viability
 - Cytokines release



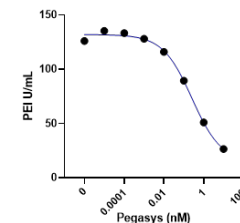
cccDNA



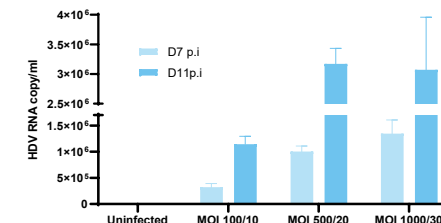
Intracellular pgRNA



HBe /HBs release



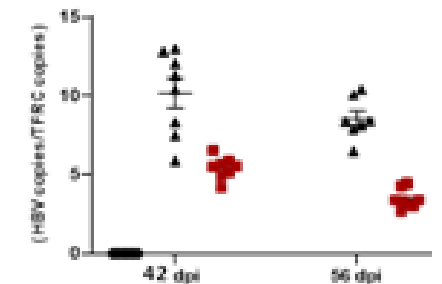
HDV / HBV coinfection (PHH)



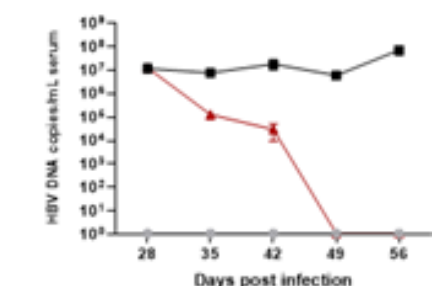
HBV animal model

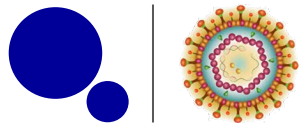
- Immune competent animals transduced with HBV via AAV carrier
- Viral readouts: HBs, HBe, HBV DNA, pgRNA, cccDNA
- Host readouts: immunoprofiling, cytokines, liver enzymes

Liver HBV DNA



Peripheral blood HBV DNA





In vitro biology capability and expertise on hepatitis B virus

In vitro infection models

• Cell lines

- **HepaRG**: human hepatic cell line
- **HepAD38**: inducible liver-derived cell line expressing HBV genome
- **HepG2-NTCP** stably transfected cell line
- **PHH**: Primary human hepatocytes

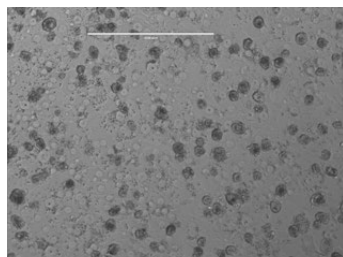
• Read outs

- qPCR, RT-qPCR, ddPCR
- Southern blot
- Immunofluorescence
- Cell viability (CTG, LDH, HAS)
- Elisa

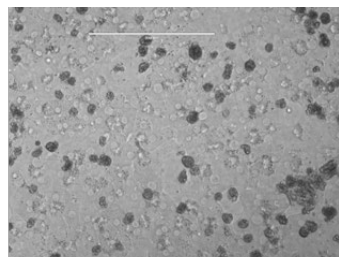
Various viral strains

- **Hepatitis B** genotype D

HBV infection in PHH

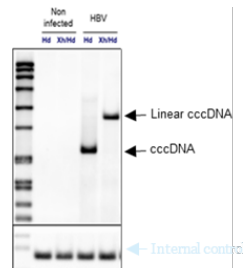


Infection Day

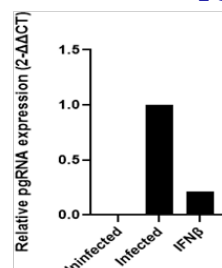


Day 7 post infection

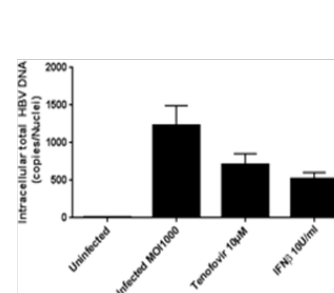
cccDNA



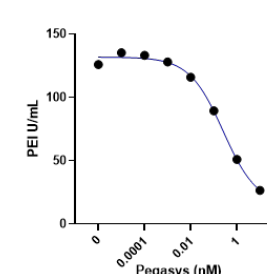
Intracellular pgRNA



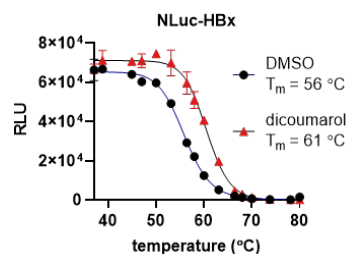
HBV DNA



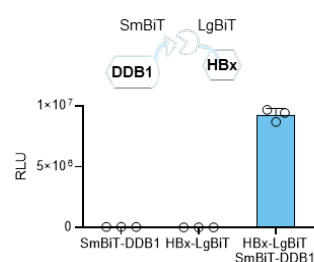
HBe release



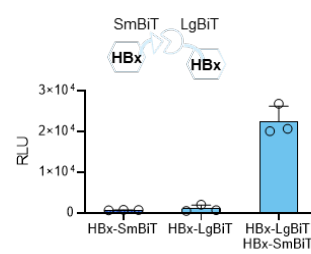
Cellular thermal shift (CTS)



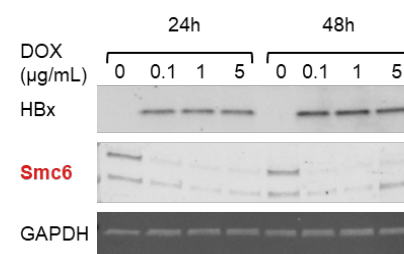
HBx/DDB1 dimerization



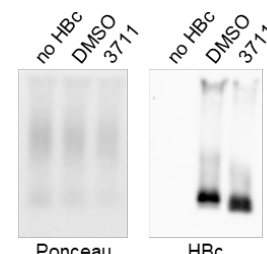
HBx dimerization



Smc6 degradation

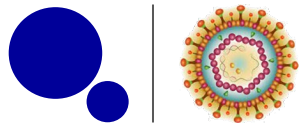


Nucleocapsid formation



In vitro assays

- Antiviral testing – Dose response, incl. cytotoxicity assays
- Viral production and characterization
- Mechanistic studies
- Quantification of Antigens
- Quantification of intracellular viral DNA, RNA and cccDNA
- Quantification of extracellular viral DNA, Hbe and Hbs release and viral burden in tissue
- Multiplexed cytokine assays



Hepatitis B Infection Model

Screening capabilities: HTS in BSL3 laboratory

Assay development

Primary Screen

Analysis

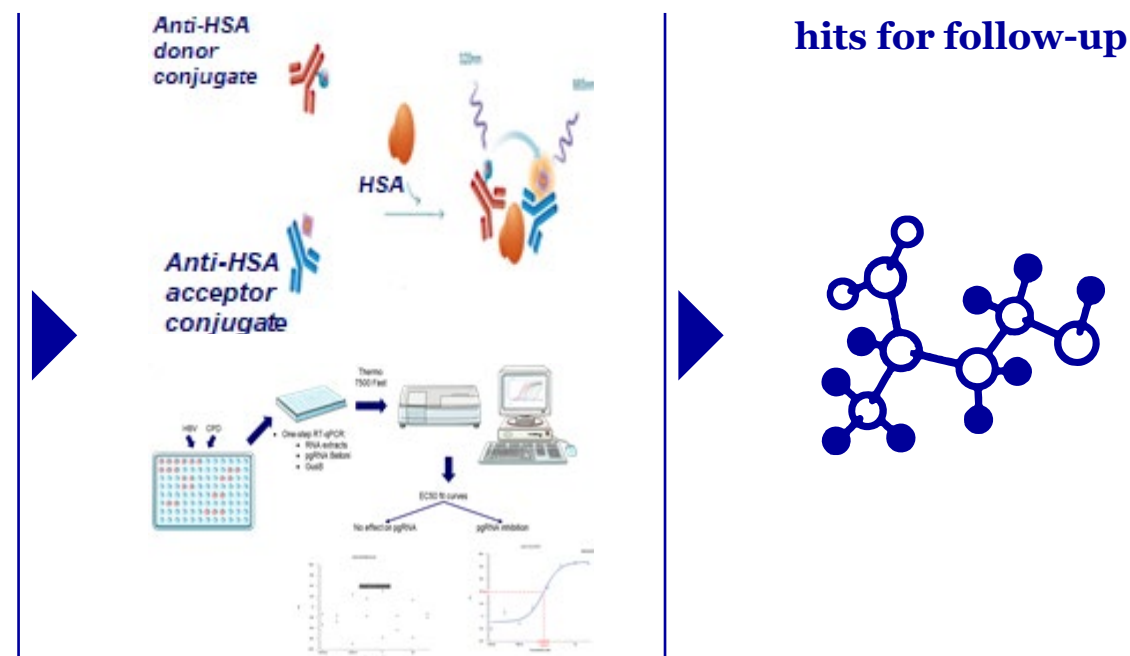
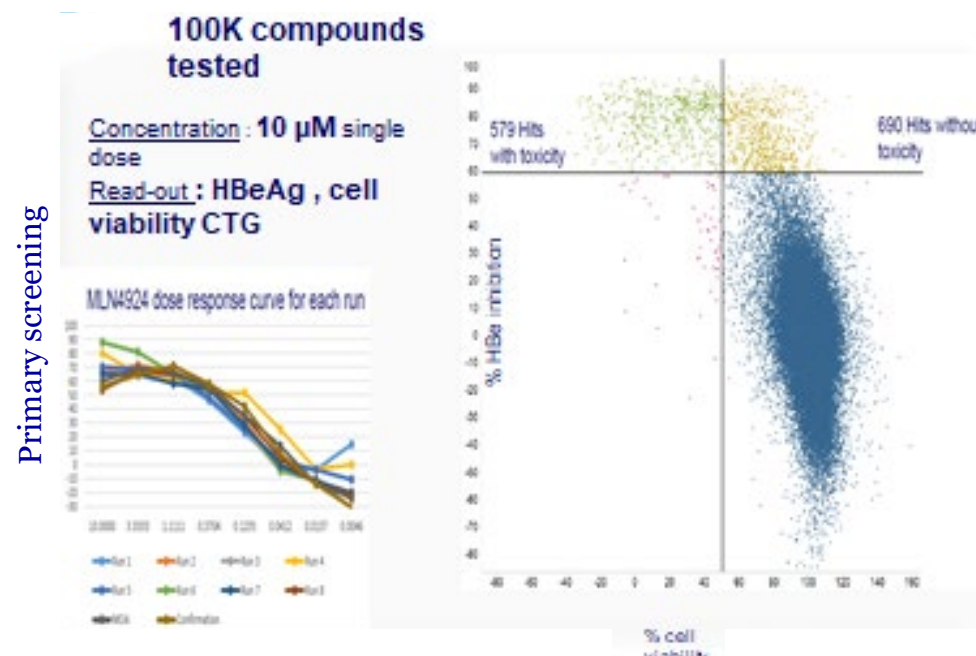
Secondary Screen

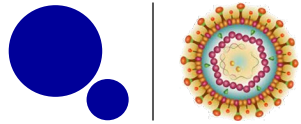
Counter Screen

- Highest quality chemical start points
- Best value

- Choice of cells
 - Primary Human Hepatocytes
 - HepaRG
- HepG2-NTCP
- Plate format
 - 96w
 - 384w
 - 1536w
- Treatment conditions
- Readouts

Integrated Biology and Medchem Process to identify most suitable hits for progression into hit expansion
1,269 active hits





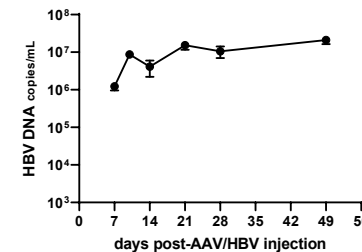
Hepatitis B virus *in vivo* infection model

Viral and host parameters

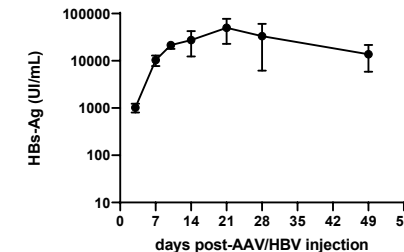
- **Animals**
 - AAV/HBV-transduced mouse model
 - Various routes of treatment (direct antivirals or host-targeting agents)
- **Infection**
 - Immune competent animals transduced with HBV via AAV carrier
- **Viral readouts**
 - Circulating viral DNA, RNA
 - HBeAg, HBsAg, HBcAg
 - Liver viral DNA, RNA and cccDNA
- **Host readouts**
 - Activated immune cells
 - cytokines
 - AST/ALT
 - Anti-HBsAg, anti-HBcAg antibodies
 - **Histology on liver biopsies**
 - Standard coloration (H&E staining, Sirius red staining, HBc-Ag Immunohistochemistry)
 - In depth histopathological analysis and/or IHC

Persistence of viremia and viral antigens

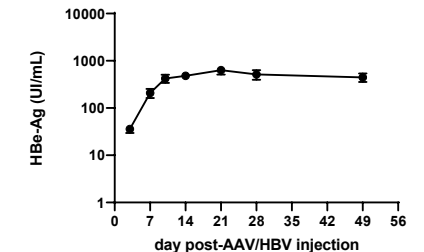
Peripheral Blood HBV DNA level



Peripheral Blood HBs-Ag level

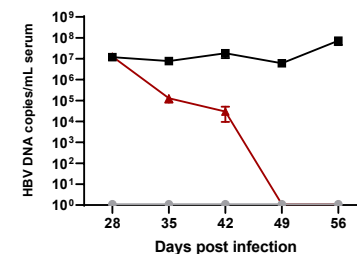


Peripheral Blood HBe-Ag level

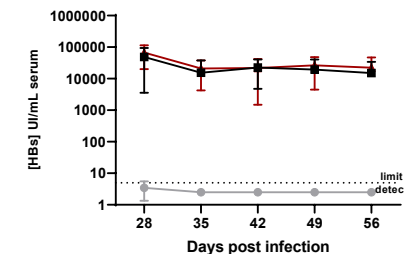


Effect of Nucleoside analogue (Entecavir 0.1 mg/kg)

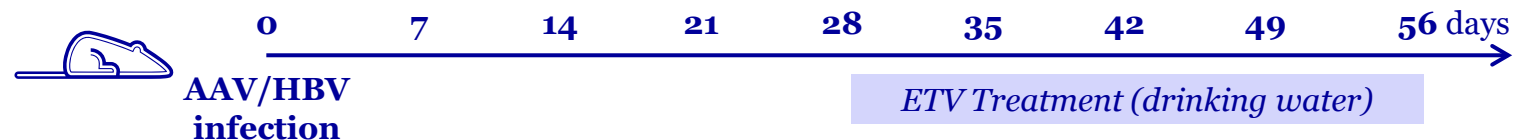
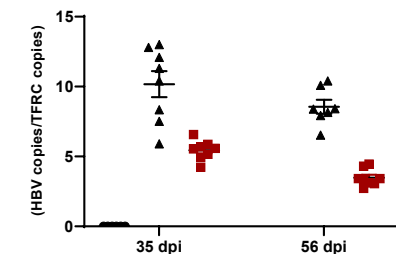
Peripheral Blood HBV DNA level

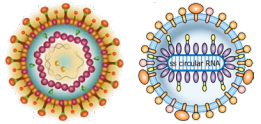


Peripheral Blood HBs-Ag level



Liver HBV DNA level





In vitro biology capability and expertise on hepatitis D virus

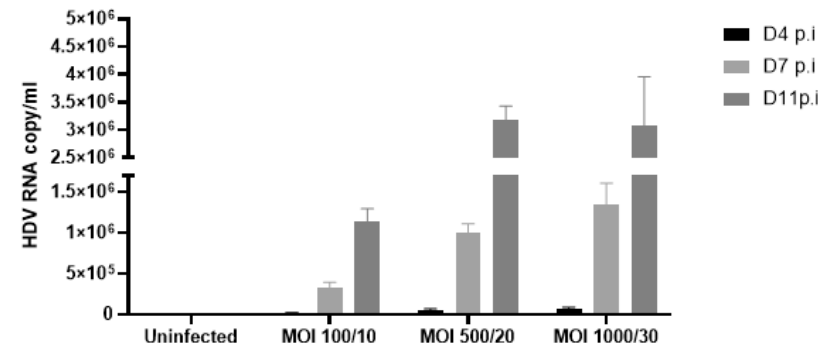
Coinfection, superinfection in Primary human hepatocytes

In vitro infection models

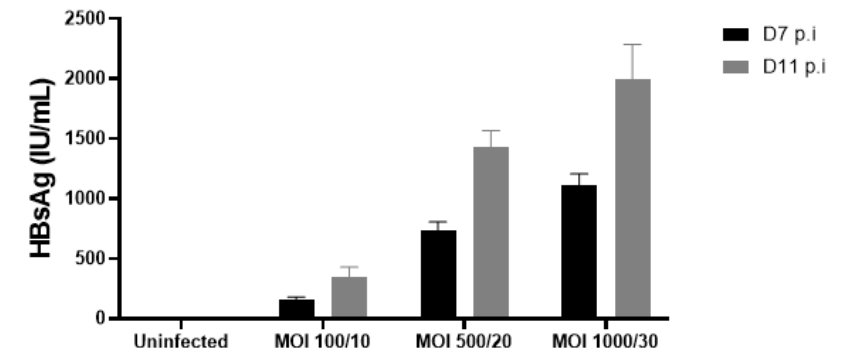
- **Cell lines:** cryoplateable PHH (Multiple PHH donors)
- **Viral strains**
 - **Hepatitis D genotype 1** (*Genotypes 2 to 8 under development*)
- **Different infection protocols**
 - Co-infection HBV/HDV
 - Super-infection HBV/HDV
 - Mono infection HDV
- **Readouts**
 - Intracellular viral DNA/RNA (qPCR, RT-qPCR), cccDNA (SB, ddPCR)
 - Extracellular viral DNA/RNA (q-PCR, RT-qPCR)
 - HBe and HBs release (ELISA)
 - HD-Ag (WB)
 - Host parameters (gene expression, cytokine profiles)
 - Cell viability (CTG, LDH, HSA)

Viral parameters follow-up (co-infection protocol)

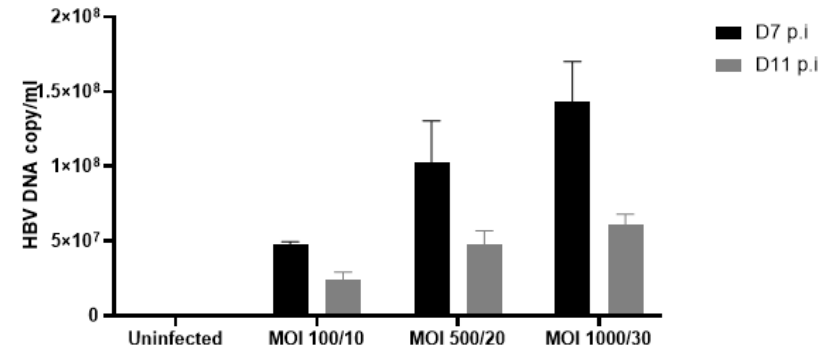
Extracellular HDV RNA



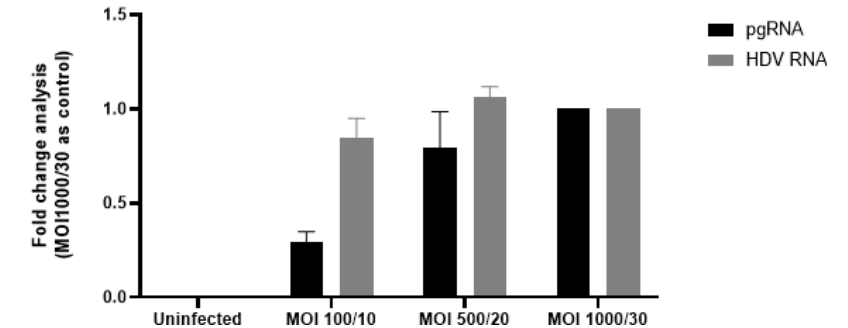
HBsAg secretion

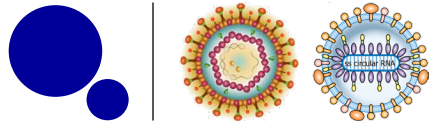


Extracellular HBV DNA



Intracellular HBV and HDV RNA

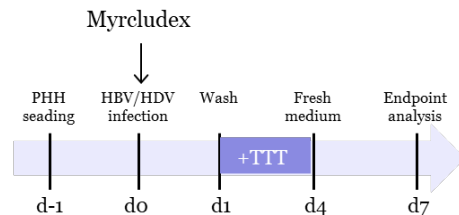




In vitro biology capability and expertise on hepatitis D virus

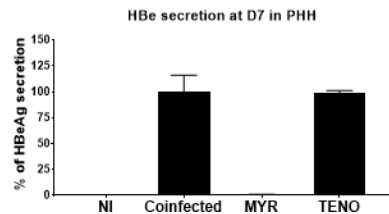
HBV/ HDV co-infection in Primary Human Hepatocytes (PHH)

Effect of Myrcludex & Tenofovir

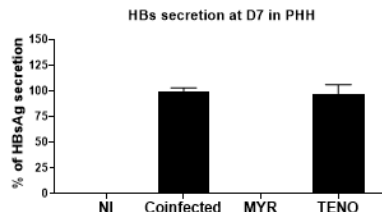


Intracellular and Extracellular viral parameters

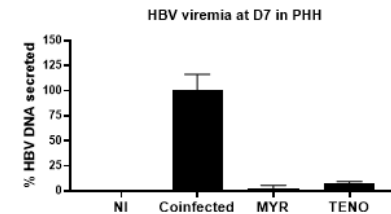
HBe-Ag



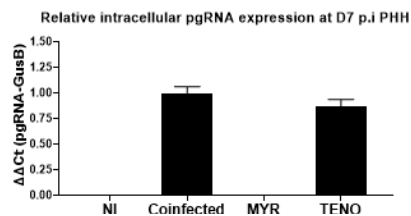
HBs-Ag



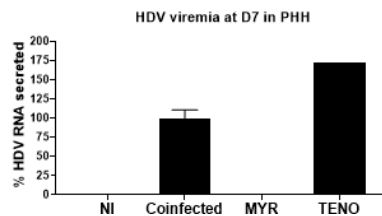
HBV Viremia



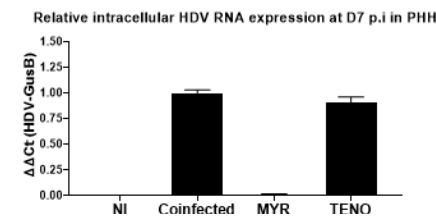
HBV pgRNA



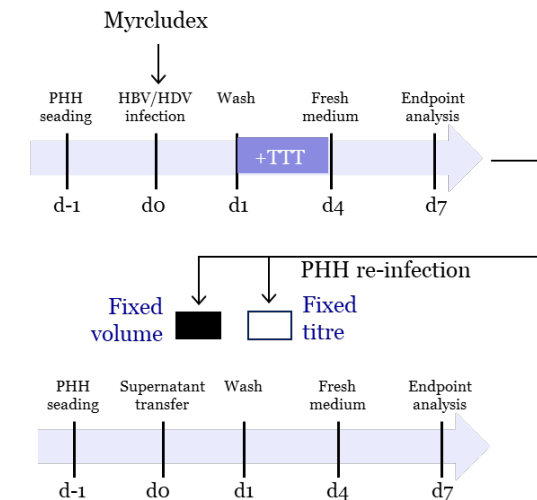
HDV Viremia



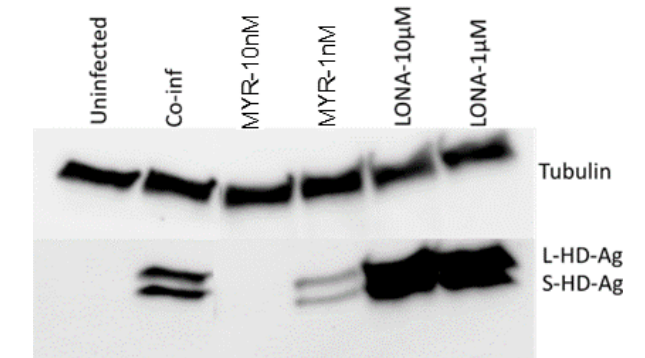
HDV intracellular



Propagation assay protocol

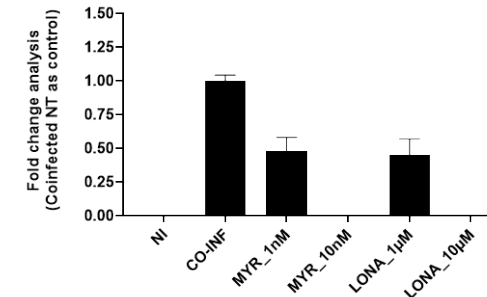


WB (HD-Ag in PHHs)

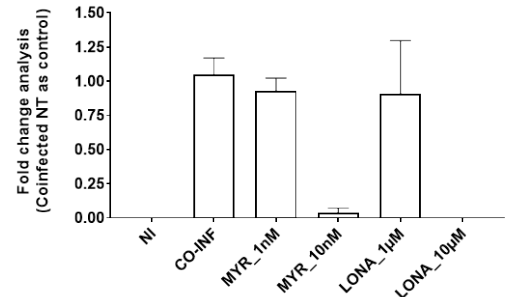


HDV intracellular expression

Fixed volume



Fixed Titre





Agenda

1. Evotec Virology Overview
2. Focus on Respiratory viruses
3. Focus on Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
4. NGS & Bioinformatics platforms
5. Integrated virology (Hit ID to PDC)



NGS and Bioinformatics platforms

Functional Genomics for Infectious Disease

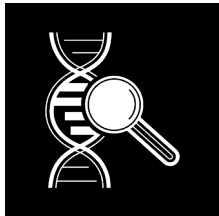
Available technologies to support drug discovery



Genomics – Microbial whole genome sequencing (bacteria, viruses)

WGS: Illumina and **Nanopore long-read** technologies

Pool-seq: Variants detection in a population



Transposon sequencing

Tn-seq: saturated transposon library generated with commercial or custom transposon

Sequencing with commercial or custom primers

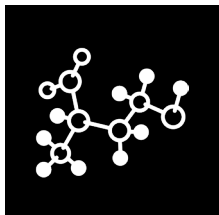


Transcriptomics

Direct RNA sequencing (Nanopore)

Single **RNA-seq**, dual (mammalian & microbial) RNA-seq

High-throughput **qPCR** (Fluidigm Biomark), **digital PCR**



Metagenomics

Based on the current NGS expertise in extraction and sequencing

Illumina and **Nanopore long-read** technologies

Whole metagenome shotgun and amplicon sequencing (16S)

Under
develop-
ment

Multiple technologies, fast turnaround time

Illumina NextSeq 550

Accuracy

High throughput



Illumina NextSeq 550

Ultra-long reads

Mid throughput



Illumina ISeq

Accuracy

Low throughput



QC controls

Fluorometric

Spectrophotometric

Electrophoretic



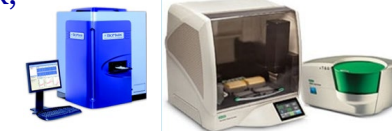
Q(RT-)PCR, HT-qPCR & ddPCR

Fluidigm

Biomark,

Bio-rad

QX200



Automation

Automated

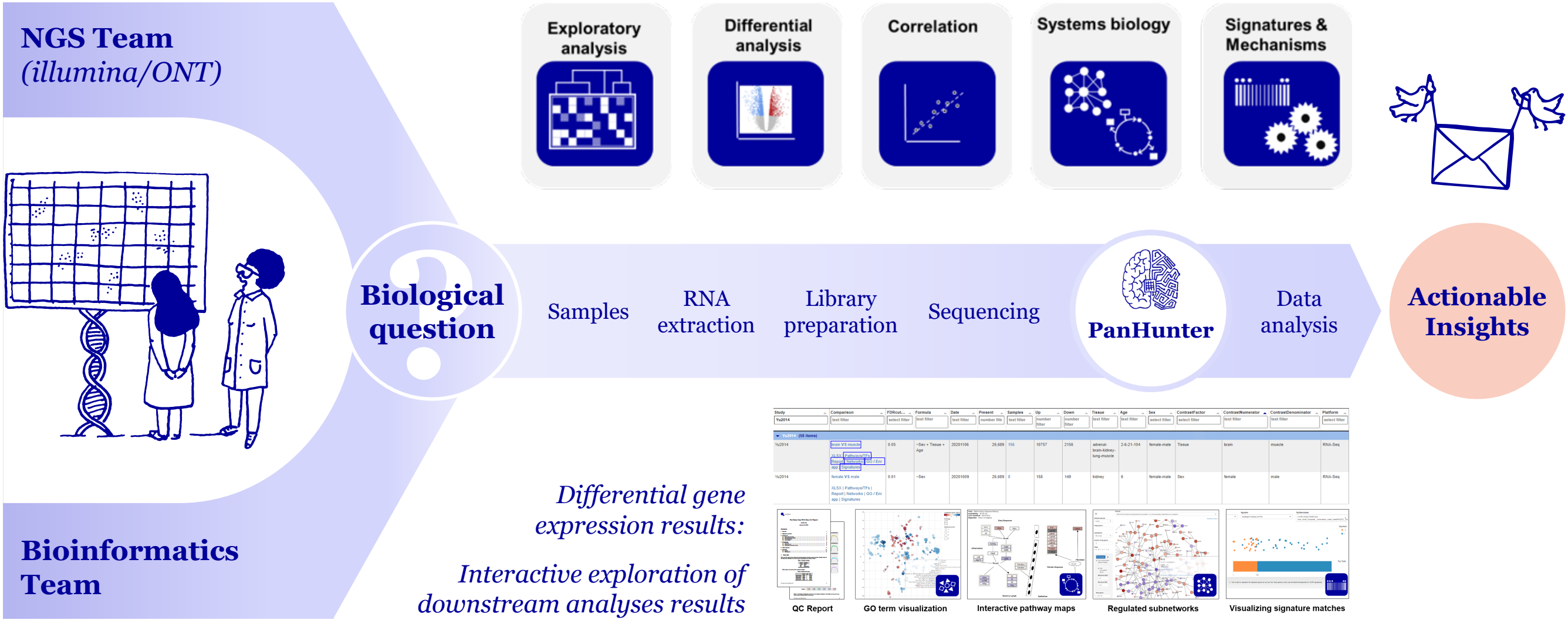
DNA extraction





NGS and Bioinformatics platforms

End-to-end workflow





Agenda

1. Evotec Virology Overview
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3. Focus on Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
4. NGS & Bioinformatics platforms
5. **Integrated virology (Hit ID to PDC)**



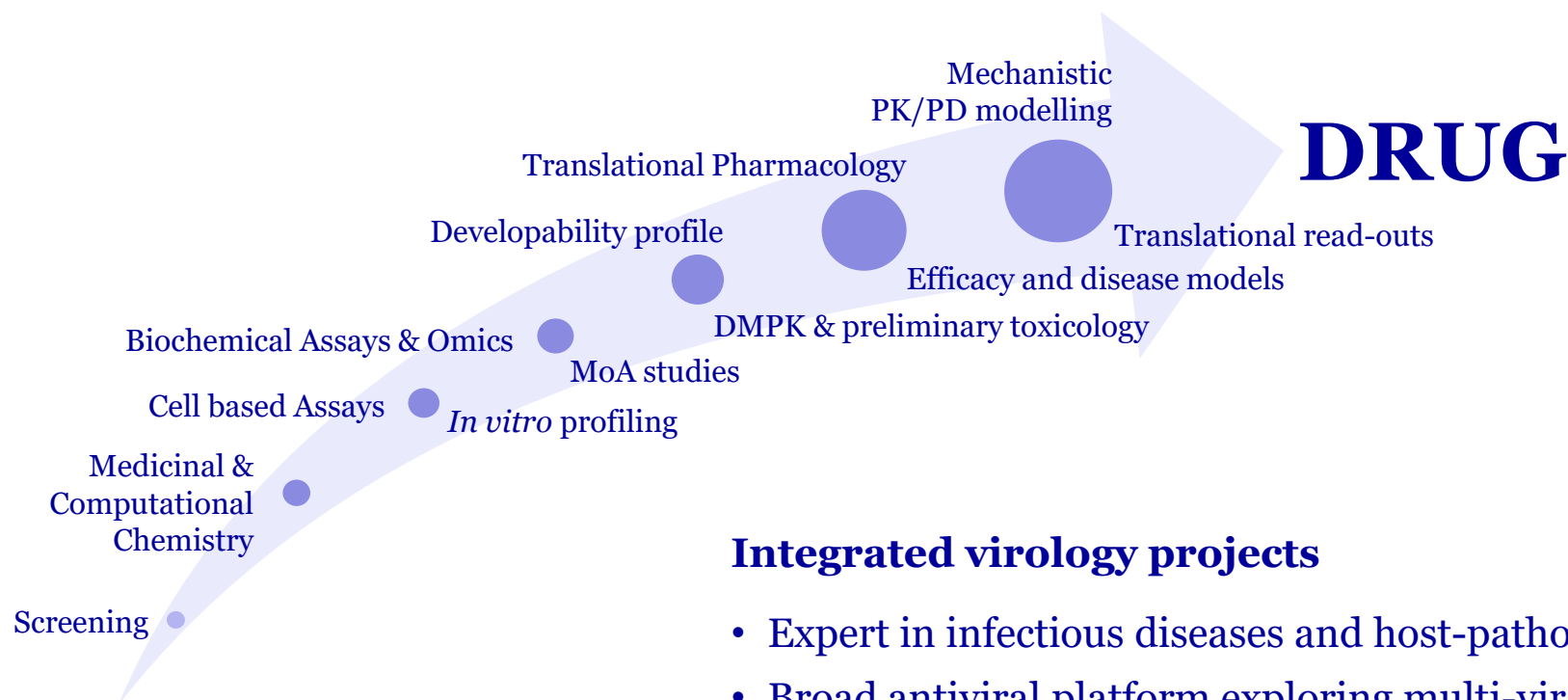
Agenda

1. Evotec Virology Overview
2. Focus on Respiratory viruses
3. Focus on Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
4. NGS & Bioinformatics platforms
5. Integrated virology (Hit ID to PDC)



Integration of knowledge is key

ONE Project Team



Integrated virology projects

- Expert in infectious diseases and host-pathogen interaction
- Broad antiviral platform exploring multi-viral activity of new molecules
- Disease area specific infrastructure (BSL3, vivarium etc.)
- Exploration across disease areas (virology, respiratory, immunology, fibrosis etc.)
- Single team executing whole project
- Flexibility to react to results and strategic changes

*Business Development
114 Innovation Drive, Milton Park, Abingdon
Oxfordshire OX14 4RZ, UK*

*T: +44.(0)1235.86 15 61
info@evotec.com*



Agenda

BACK UP SLIDES

1. Respiratory viruses
2. Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
3. Immunology capabilities
4. Integrated virology R&D platforms (Hit ID to PDC)



Agenda

BACK UP SLIDES

1. Respiratory viruses
2. Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
3. Immunology capabilities
4. Integrated virology R&D platforms (Hit ID to PDC)



RSV In vivo model

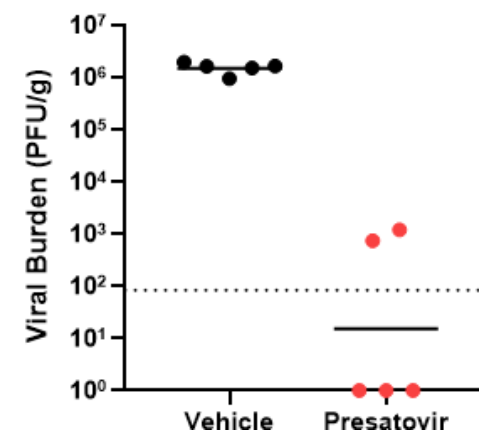


In vivo capability and expertise on RSV

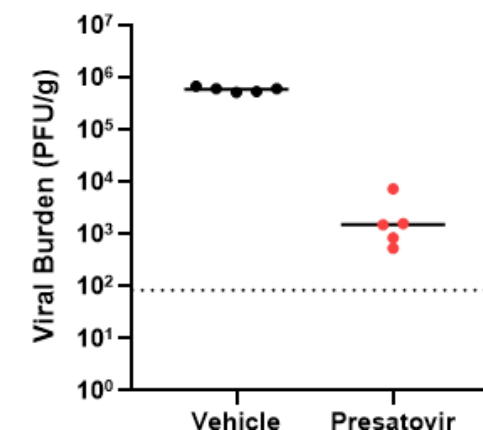
Cotton Rat Infection Model

- Gold standard model for development of RSV inhibitors
- Cotton rats are not standard laboratory animals
 - Animals handled in specific manner to reduce stress including cage changes and all procedures
 - Most procedures performed under brief isoflurane anaesthesia
- Validated model Read-Outs
 - Viral load measured 4 days post intranasal infection in nose and lung tissue by plaque assay; improved tissue extraction method for quicker processing
 - Antibody titre via ELISA
 - Neutralising antibodies in neutralisation assay
 - Immunohistochemistry
 - qPCR for viral load
- Results
 - Burden high until day 4 post infection, cleared by day 6
 - High levels of RSV specific antibodies throughout course of infection
 - Antibodies able to neutralize infection
- Model used in for vaccination and treatment studies

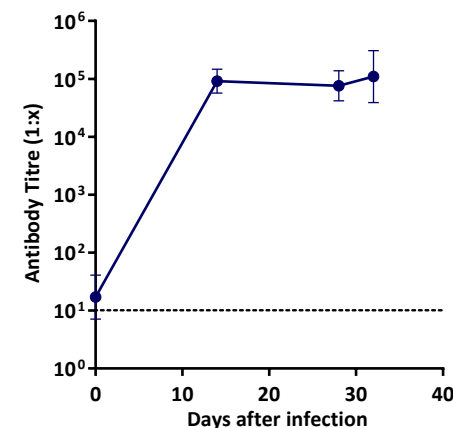
Lung



Nose



RSV specific antibodies





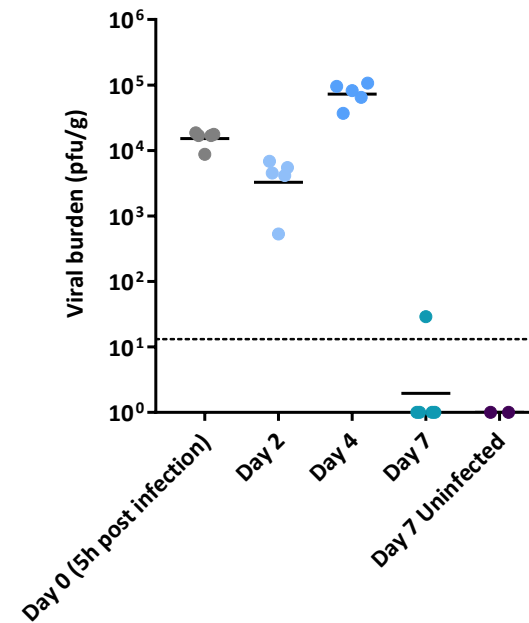
In vivo capability and expertise on RSV

Mouse Infection Model

- Balb/c mouse model widely used to study RSV immunopathology
 - Semi-permissive to the virus
 - Similar viral growth kinetic to the cotton rats; viral titre peaks at day four and declines to undetectable at day seven
 - More cost effective compared to the cotton rat model
 - Intranasal infection, RSV-A2
- Validated model endpoints
 - Viral load in lung homogenate by plaque assay
 - qPCR for viral load
 - Cytokine levels determined by ELISA
- Results
 - Consistently higher burden in the lung than in the nose
 - RSV detected within 5 hours of infection
 - Infection cleared by day 7
 - Burden data tight and reproducible

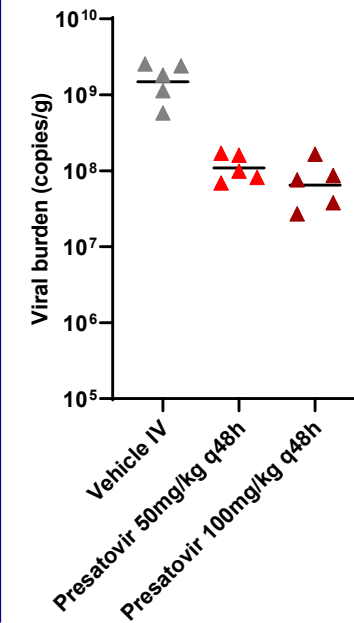
Time course of infection

Plaque assay

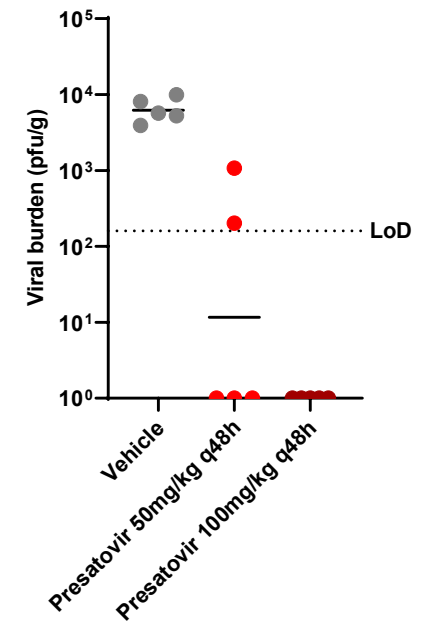


Treatment study

RT-qPCR



Plaque assay





Influenza in vivo model



Influenza *in vivo* model

Mouse Infection Model

- **Animals**

- C57Bl/6 mice, female
- 8 weeks of age on arrival
- 5 mice per group

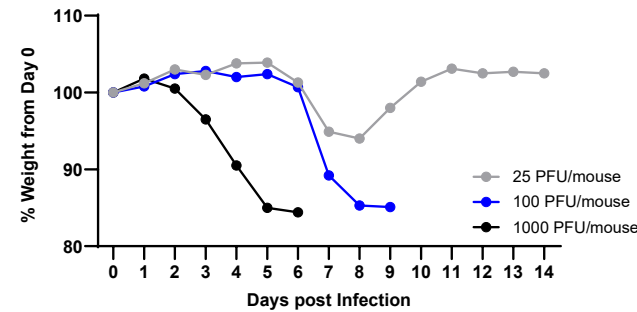
- **Infection**

- Intranasal infection, 50 μ L/mouse under isoflurane anaesthesia
- Infection with mouse adapted Flu A/Puerto Rico/8/34, H1N1

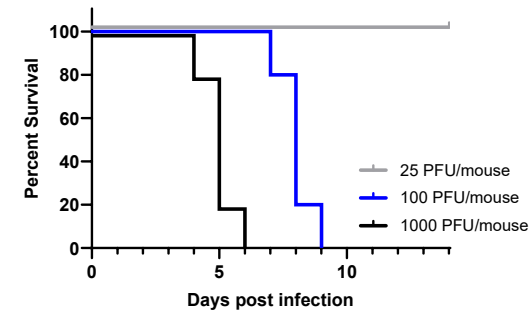
- **Endpoints**

- Study length: Burden arm 4 days and Survival arm 14 days
- Weight loss, Survival, Viral lung burden determine by TCID₅₀, NA-TCID₅₀ (based on AVINA), RT-qPCR, WBC analysis, cytokine analysis

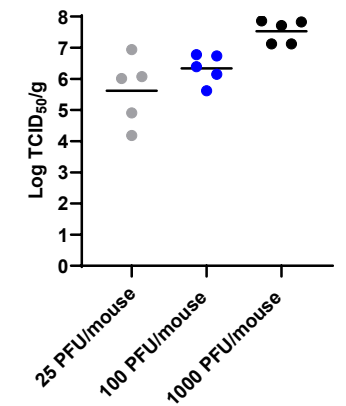
Body weights



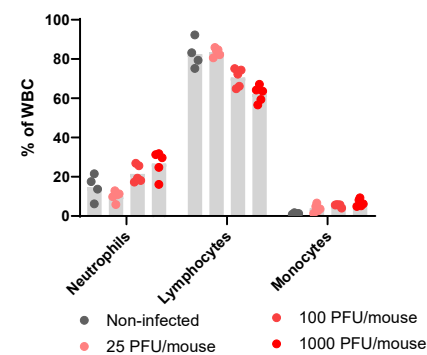
Survival



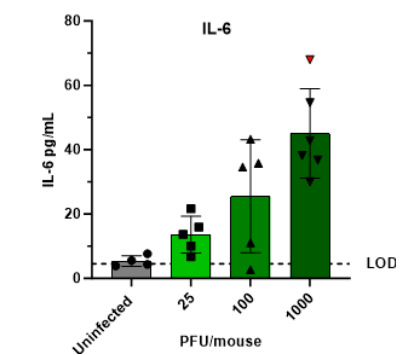
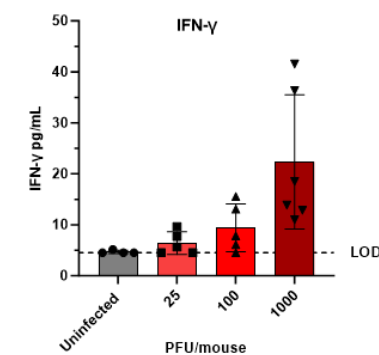
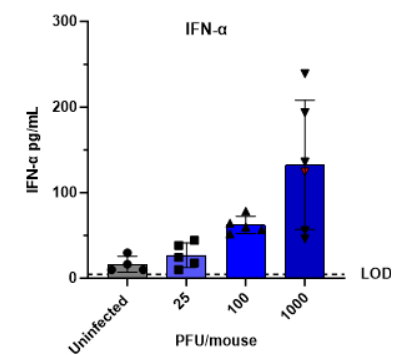
Day 4 Lung burden



White Blood Cells



Example Cytokines





Influenza *in vivo* model

Mouse Infection Model – two different treatment regimen

- **Animals**

- C57Bl/6 mice, female, 8 weeks of age on arrival, 5 mice per group

- **Infection**

- Intranasal infection, 50μL/mouse under isoflurane anaesthesia
- Infection with mouse adapted Flu A/Puerto Rico/8/34, H1N1

- **Endpoints**

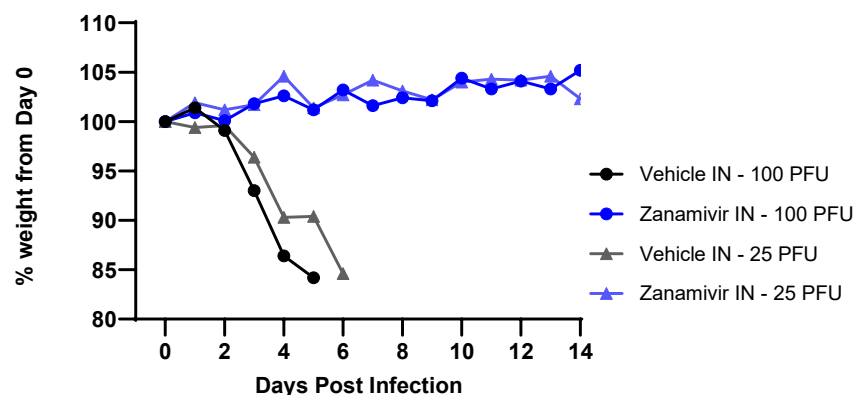
- Study length: Burden study 3/4 days, Survival study 14 days
- Weight loss, Survival, Viral lung burden determine by TCID₅₀, NA-TCID₅₀ (based on AVINA), RT-qPCR, WBC analysis

- **Treatments**

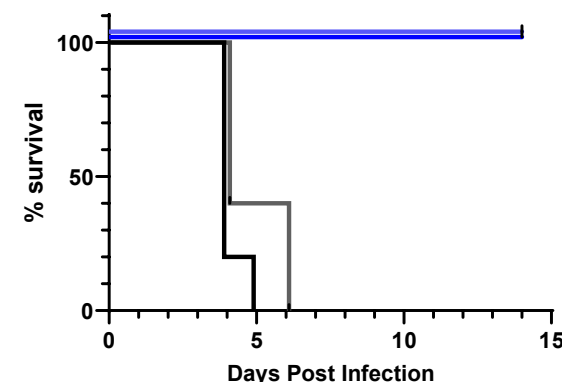
- Zanamivir intranasally, 12.5mg/kg, q24h
- 4'-FlU orally, 2mg/kg, q24h

Body weights

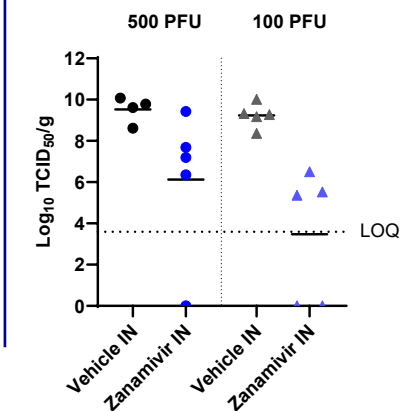
ZANAMIVIR



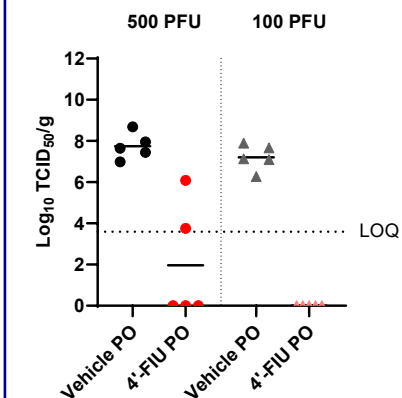
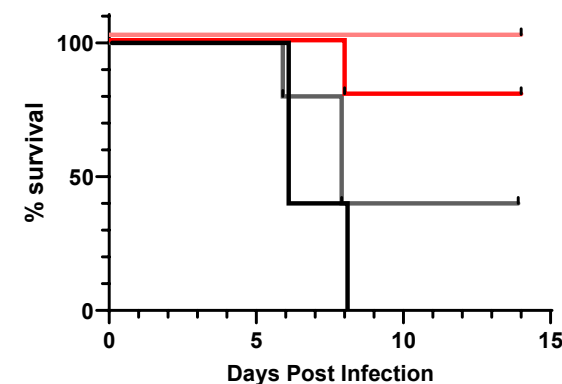
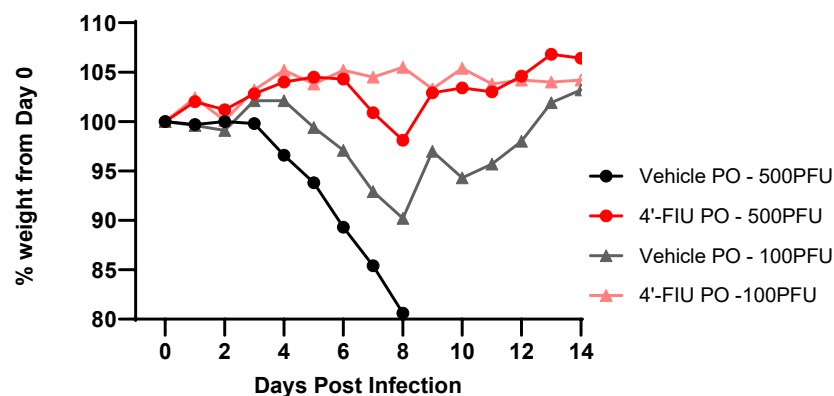
Survival



Day 4 Lung burden



4'-FlU





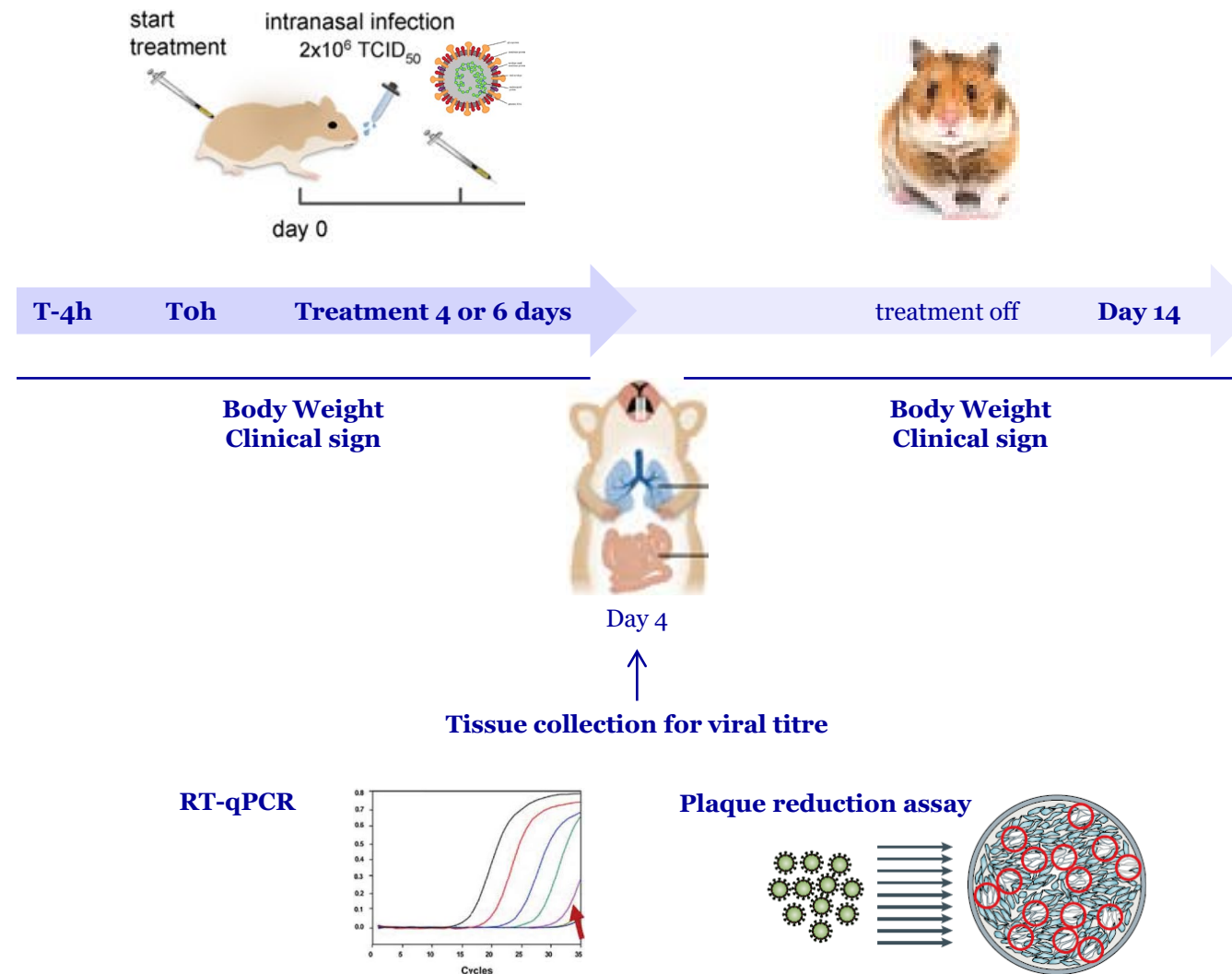
SARS-CoV-2 in vivo model



SARS-CoV-2 Hamster Model

Study design

- Golden Syrian Hamster
- Infection intranasally
- Several strains in development
- Dose range
- Monotherapy or combination
- Treatment with small molecule, Biology, Vaccine
- Bespoke dosing regimen
- Bespoke treatment duration & Study duration



Standard endpoints

- Virus titre in tissues and throat swabs
 - RT-qPCR
 - Plaque assay
- Clinical observations
 - Body weight
 - Health Scoring

Additional endpoints

- Histopathology
- Immune response
 - Cytokines
 - Serology
- PK analysis

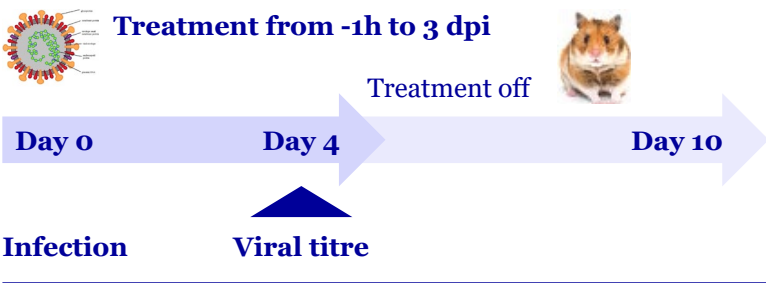


SARS-CoV-2 Hamster model

Validation with reference compound

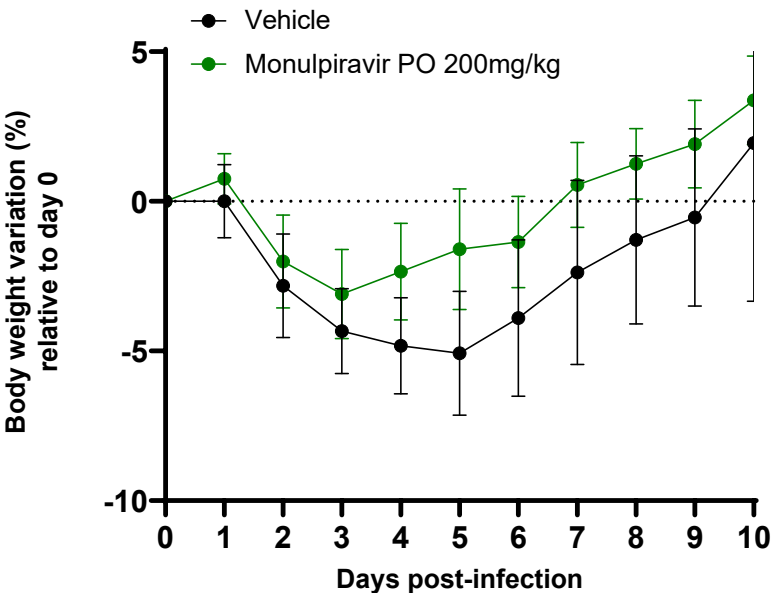
Infection

SARS-CoV-2 USA-WA1/2020

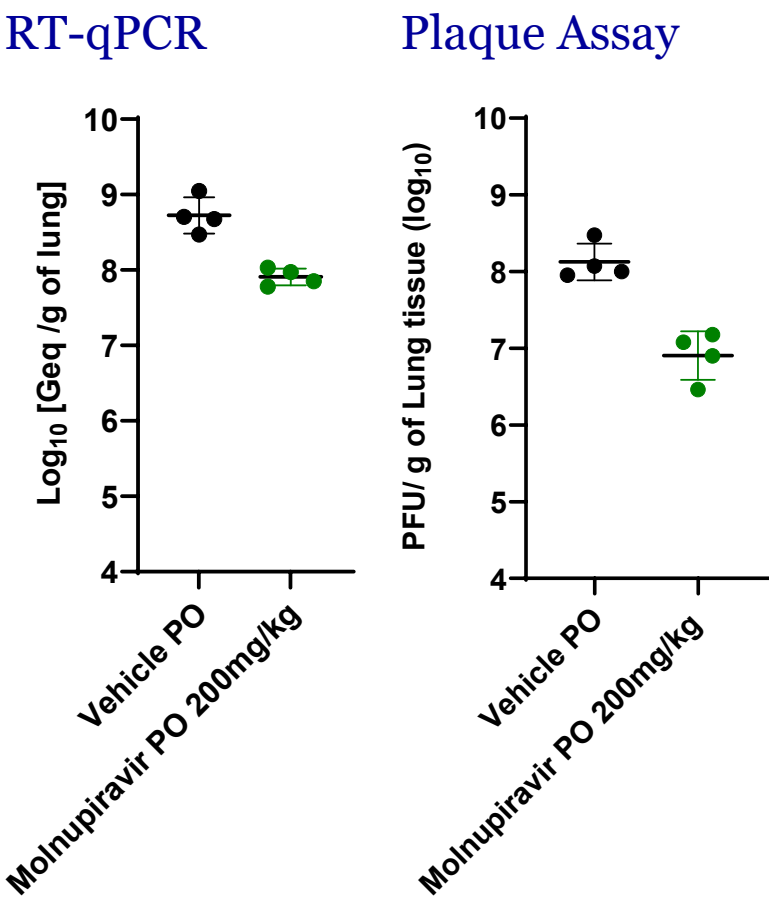


Body Weight / Clinical sign				
Treatment	Treatment route and regimen	Tissue collection (day post infection)	End of experiment (day post infection)	No. Hamster
Vehicle	PO BID	4	4	4
		–	10	8
Molnupiravir 200mg/kg	PO BID	4	4	4
		–	10	8

Body weight



Virus Titre at Day 4



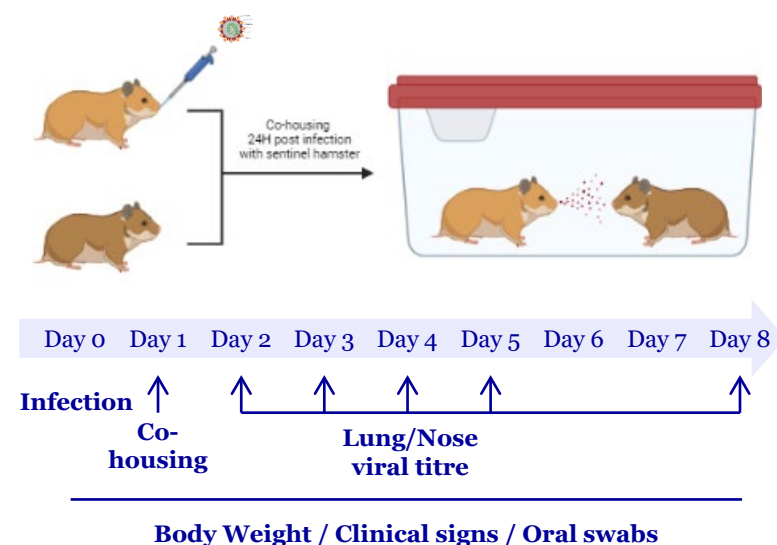


SARS-CoV-2 Hamster model

Validation of transmission model

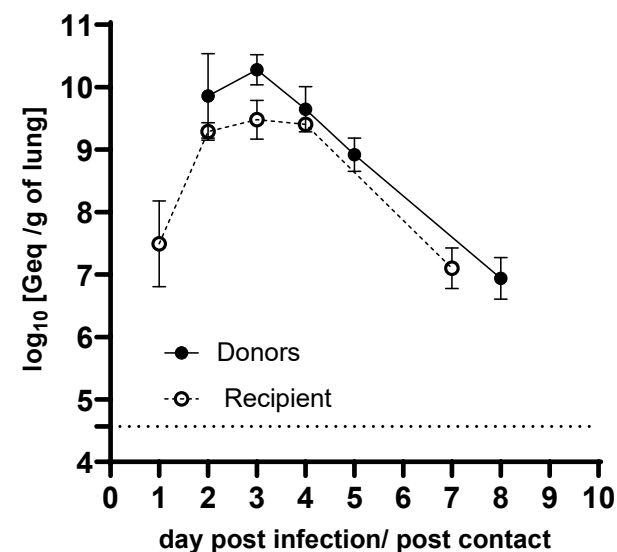
Infection

SARS-CoV-2 USA-WA1/2020



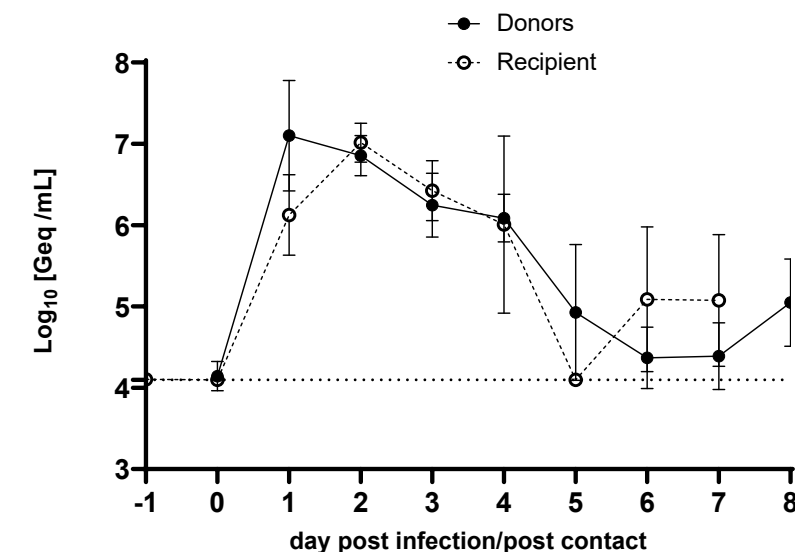
Kinetics of virus titre in lung

RT-qPCR



Kinetics of virus titre in oral swabs

RT-qPCR



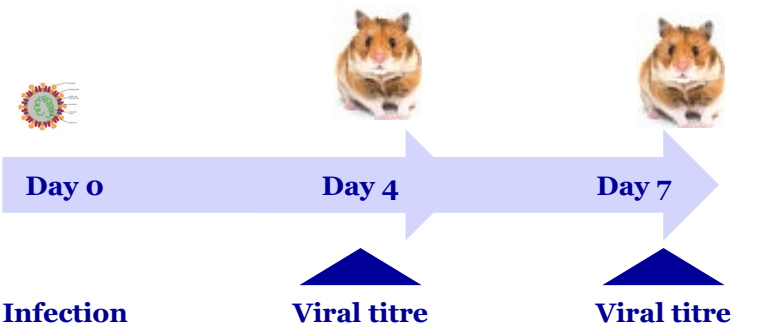


SARS-CoV-2 Hamster model

Validation of long disease model

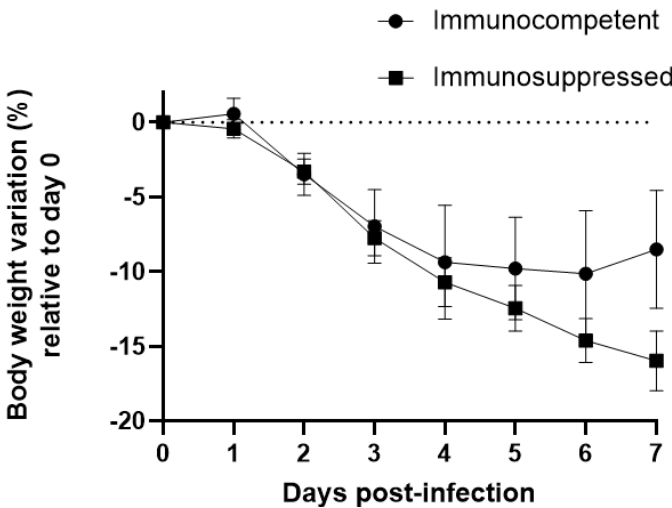
Infection

SARS-CoV-2 USA-WA1/2020

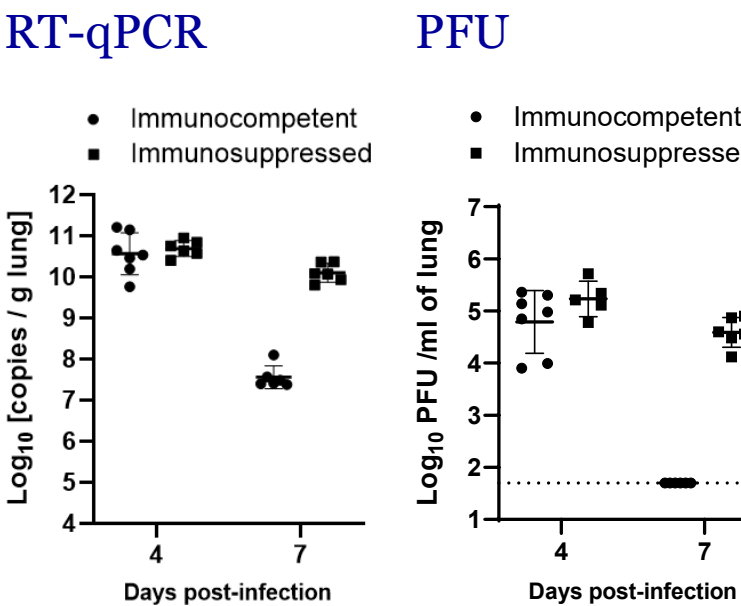


Body Weight / Clinical signs		
	Tissue collection (day post infection)	End of experiment (day post infection)
Immunocompetent	4	7
Immunosuppressed	4	7

Body weight



Virus Titre at Day 4 and Day 7

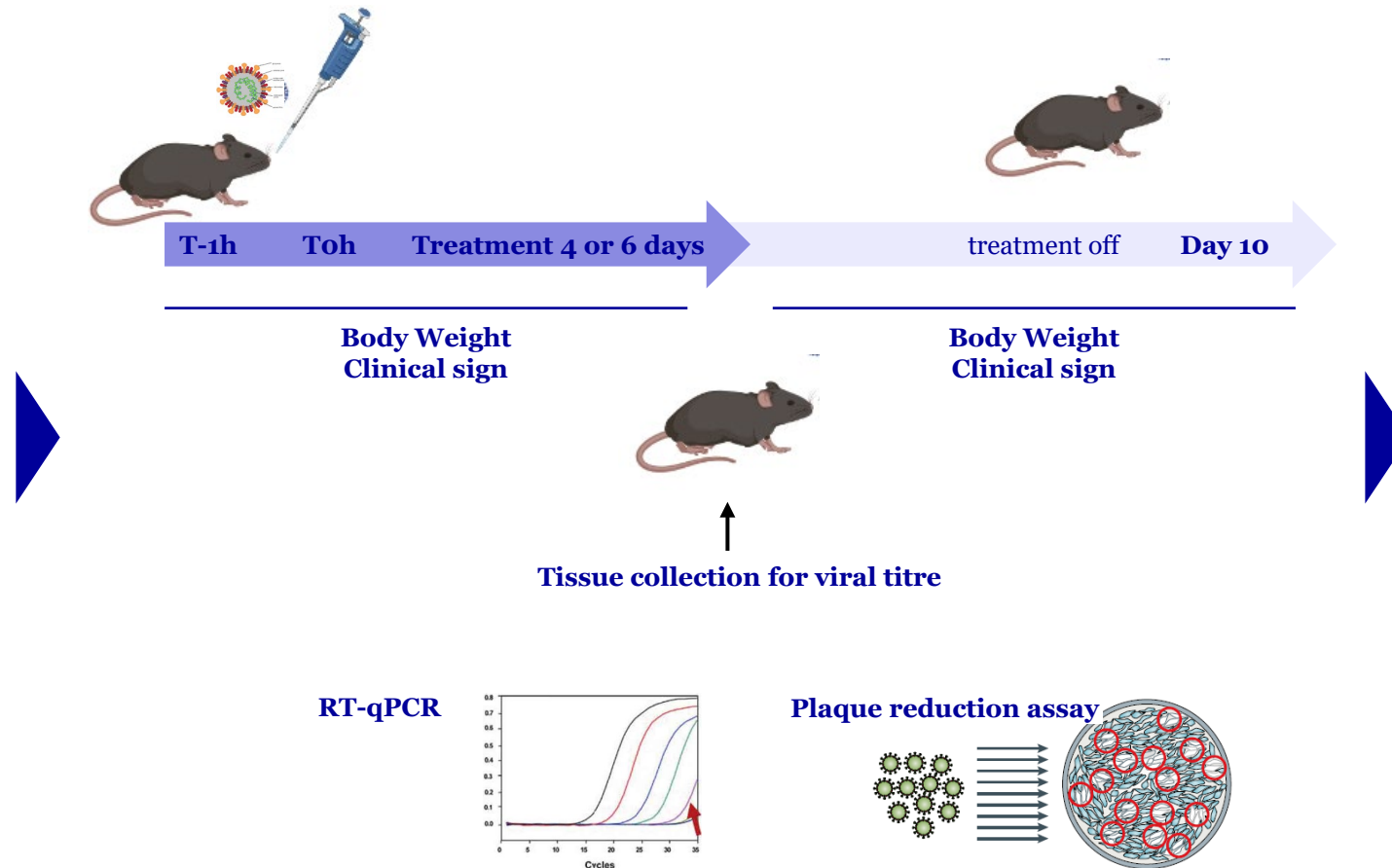




SARS-CoV-2 Mouse Model

Study design

- Humanised K18-ACE2 mouse
- Infection intranasally
- Several strains in development
- Dose range
- Monotherapy or combination
- Treatment with small molecule, Biology, Vaccine
- Bespoke dosing regimen
- Bespoke treatment duration & Study duration



Standard endpoints

- Virus titre in tissues (lung, trachea, nose)
 - RT-qPCR
 - Plaque assay
- Clinical observations
 - Body weight
 - Scoring

Additional endpoints

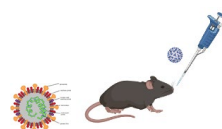
- Histopathology
- Immune response
 - Cytokines
 - Serology
- PK analysis



SARS-CoV-2 Humanised ACE2 mouse model

Infection

SARS-CoV-2 USA-WA1/2020



Day 0

Day 4

Day 7

Infection

Viral titre

Body Weight / Clinical signs

Tissue collection
(day post
infection)

End of
experiment (day
post infection)

Vehicle

4

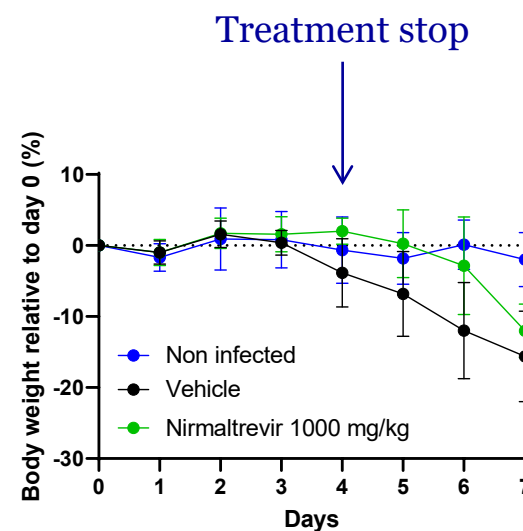
7

Nirmaltrevir

4

7

Body weight

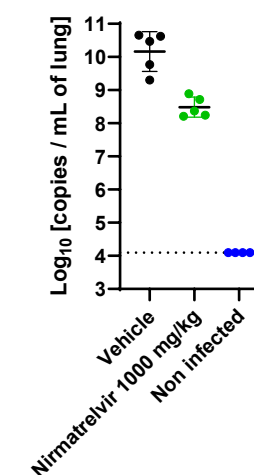


Virus Titre

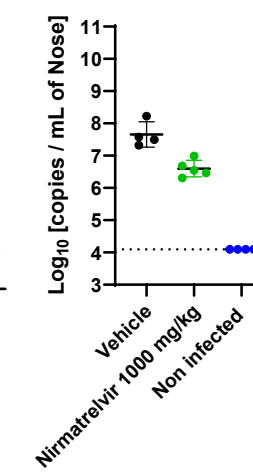
at Day 4

RT-qPCR

Lung



Nose

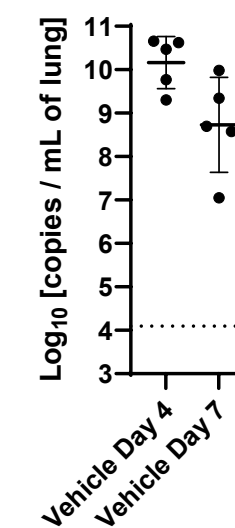


Virus Titre

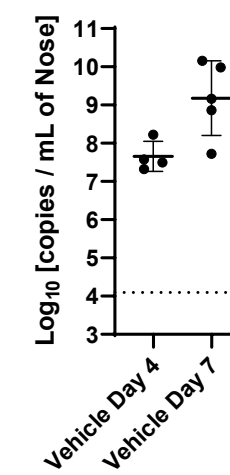
Day 4 vs Day 7

RT-qPCR

Lung



Nose





Agenda

BACK UP SLIDES

1. Respiratory viruses
2. Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
3. Immunology capabilities
4. Integrated virology R&D platforms (Hit ID to PDC)



Biology capabilities and expertise on hepatic viruses

Platform for hepatitis B and Hepatitis D viruses

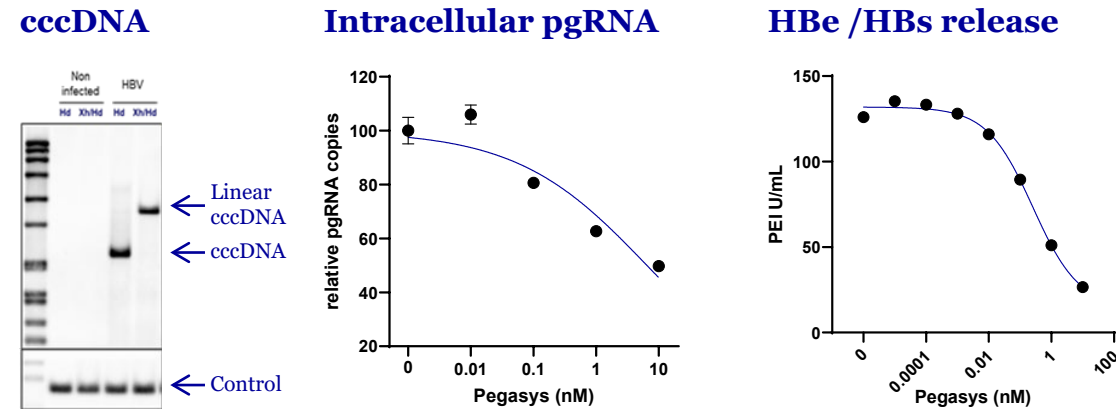
Antiviral *in vitro* assays

• Cells

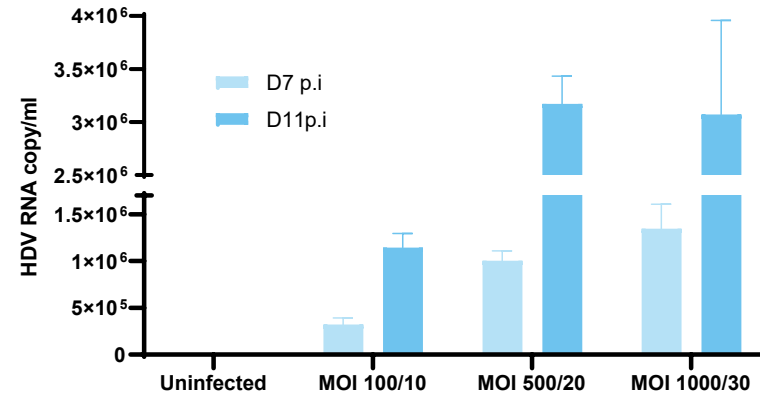
- **Primary Human Hepatocytes**
- HepaRG
- HepaD38

• Readouts

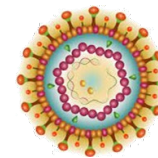
- Viral DNA
- cccDNA
- Cellular / viral RNAs
- Circulating DNA
- Circulating RNA
- HBe/HBs release
- Cell viability
- Cytokines release
- Target specific assays



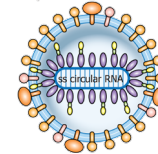
HDV / HBV coinfection of primary hepatocytes



HBV



HDV

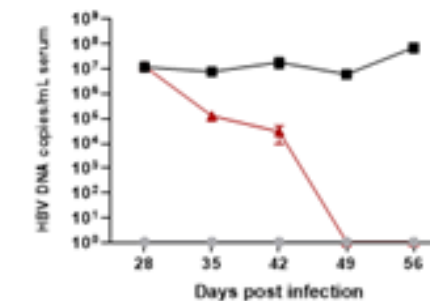


HBV mouse model

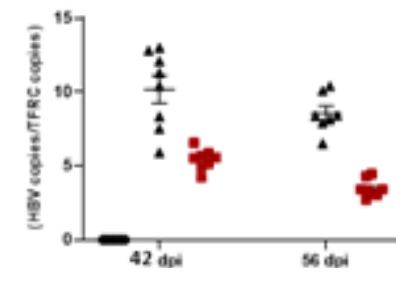
Immune competent animals transduced with HBV via AAV carrier

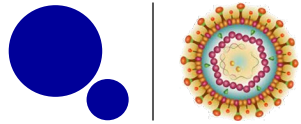
- **Viral readouts:** HBs, HBe, HBV DNA, pgRNA, cccDNA
- **Host readouts:** immunoprofiling, cytokines, liver enzymes

Peripheral blood HBV DNA



Liver HBV DNA

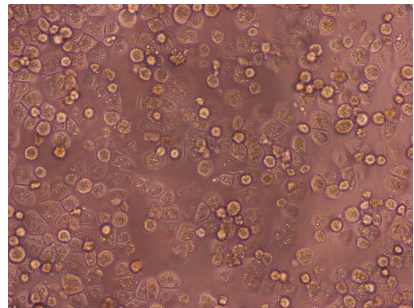




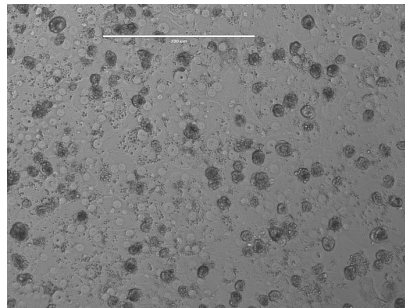
Hepatitis B virus *in vitro* infection model and read-outs

Primary Human Hepatocytes (PHH) infection model

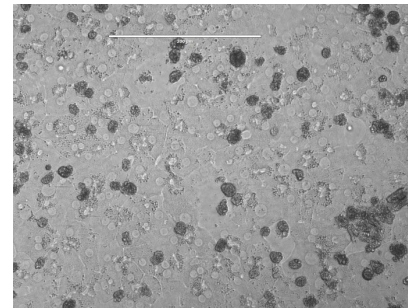
HBV infection in Primary Human Hepatocytes (PHH)



Post-thawing



Infection Day



Day 7 post infection

• Standard protocol: (can be adapted)

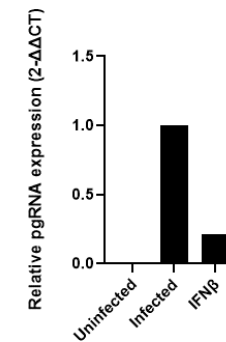


• Readouts:

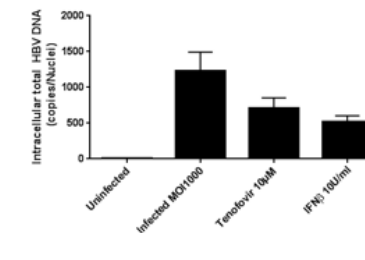
- Intracellular viral DNA and RNA (qPCR, RT-qPCR and ddPCR), cccDNA (Southern blot, ddPCR and qPCR)
- Extracellular viral DNA (q-PCR); Hbe and Hbs release (ELISA, WB)
- Cell viability (CTG, LDH, HSA)

Intracellular and Extracellular viral parameters

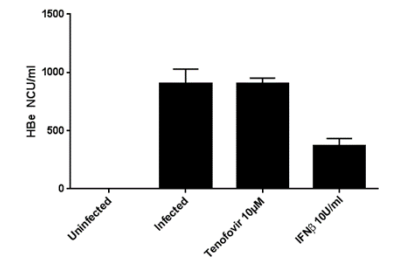
HBV pgRNA



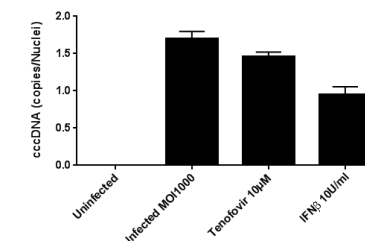
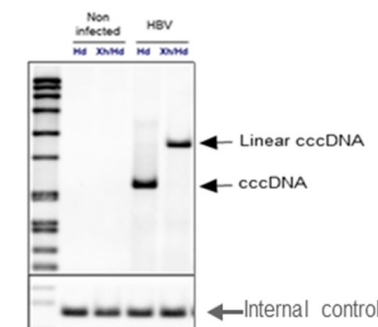
HBV DNA



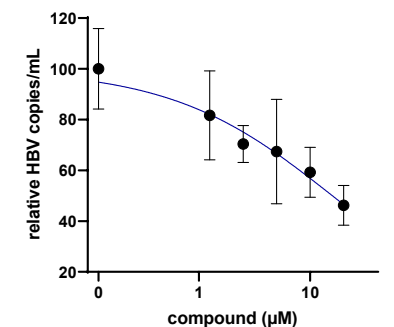
HBe-Ag release

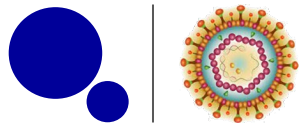


HBV cccDNA southern Blot and PCR



Circulating DNA





Hepatitis B virus *in vitro* infection model and read-outs

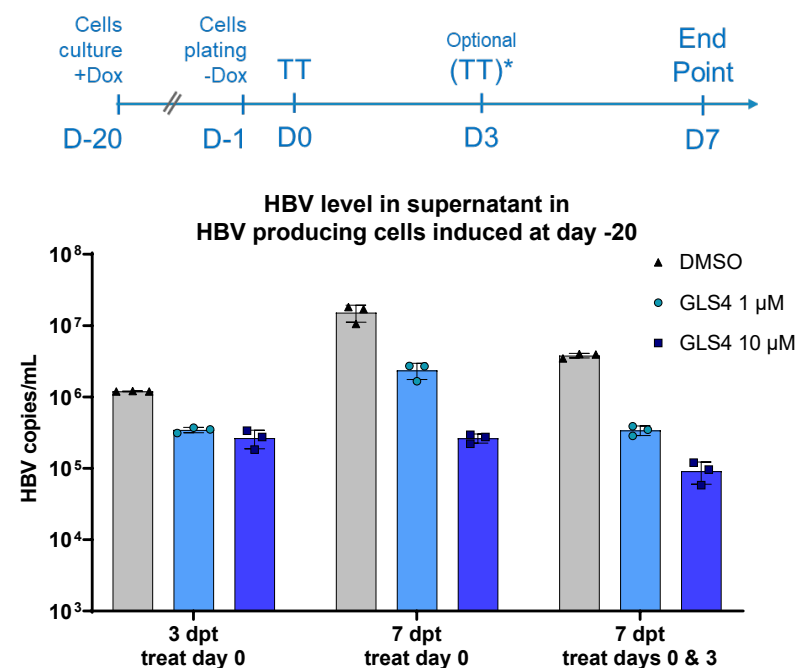
Anti-HBV activity of test articles in HBV *in vitro* models

HepAD38 cells: HBV expression models

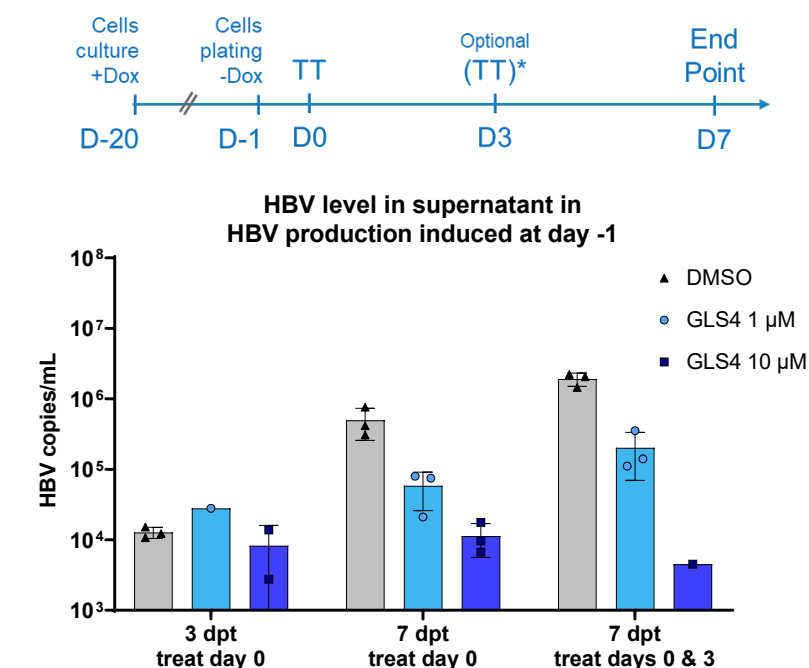
- Under licensing conditions
- **Treatment**
 - On well-induced HBV producing cells or on freshly-induced HBV expressing cells
 - Applied once or multiple times during HBV expression period
 - Dose range effect of single drug (8 to 10 dose levels) or multiple drugs
- **Read-out:**
 - Cell viability
 - Extracellular and Intracellular HBV DNA
 - Intracellular HBV pgRNA

Different Treatment designs can be adapted

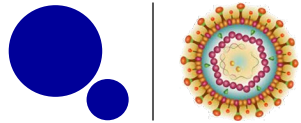
Treatment on well-induced HBV producing cells



Treatment on freshly-induced HBV expressing cells



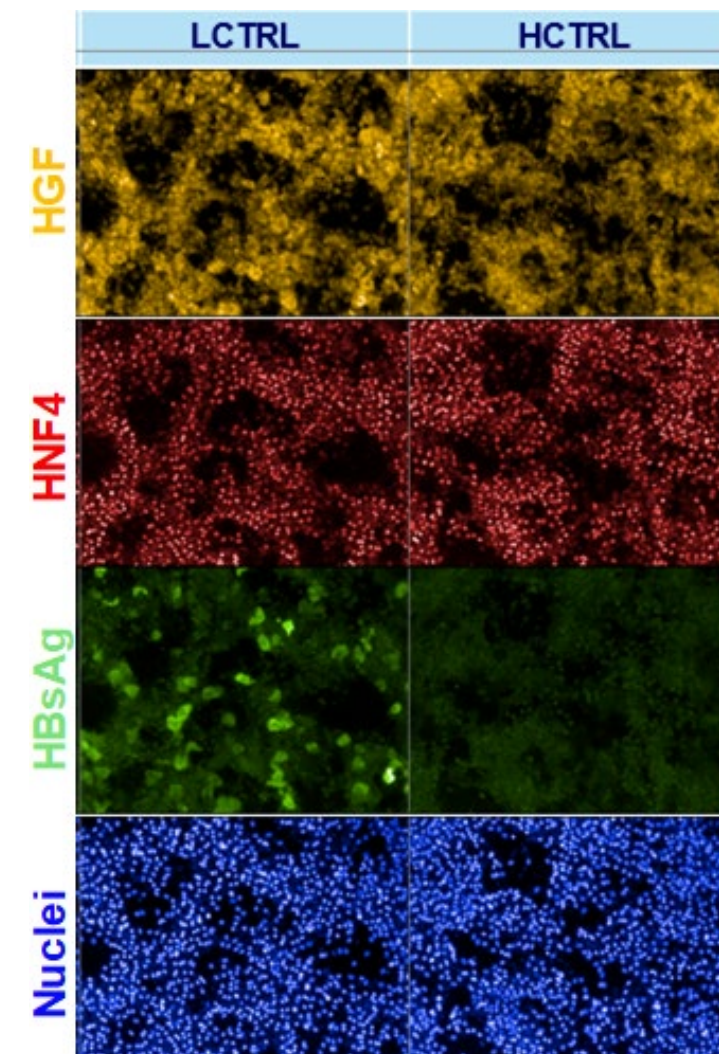
Internal data with the HepAD38 model including the evaluation of a capsid inhibitor during the model development.

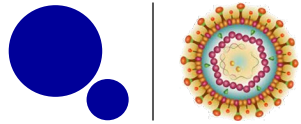


Hepatitis B Infection Model

Screening capabilities: assay principle using HBs-Ag marker

- High content screening assay in human hepatocytes derived from HepaRG cells infected with Hepatitis B Virus
- 4 week assay in BSL3 environment
- Readout: 3 marker + nuclear staining (Hoechst)
 - HGF (hepatocyte growth factor): cytoplasmic marker for hepatocytes
 - HNF4 (hepatocyte nuclear factor 4): nuclear marker for differentiated hepatocytes (loss of HNF4 leads to de-differentiation)
 - HBsAg (Hepatitis B surface antigen): cytoplasmic marker for HBV
- HTS with 110K small molecules resulting into ~1% “specific” confirmed hits
- Highly successful Hit ID campaign. Identified hits progressed by partner.





Hepatitis B virus *in vivo* infection model

Histopathological analysis

- **Histology on liver biopsies from AAV/HBV mice**

- Organ weight and macroscopic observation performed at the necropsy

- **Standard histology of the liver is based on:**

- H&E staining
- Sirius red staining
- HBc-Ag Immunohistochemistry

Our histological data are in accordance with published data and confirmed AAV/HBV model features

- **In depth histopathological analysis and/or IHC**

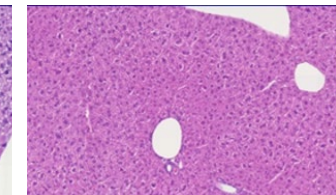
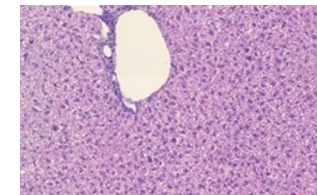
- can be performed on our histology platform in Toulouse. Already validated:
 - HBc-Ag quantification (%HBc+ cell)
 - CD3/CD8 co-staining for total lymphocyte infiltrate quantification and CD4 and CD8 population quantification

**Non-infected
(PBS)**

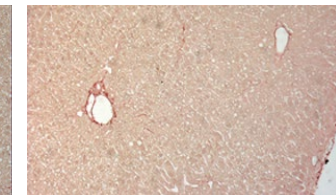
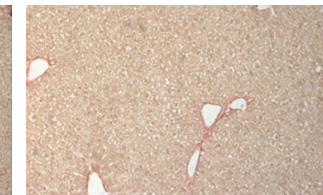
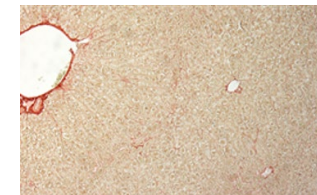
**AAV/HBV
1x10¹⁰ vg/mouse**

**AAV/HBV
5x10¹⁰ vg/mouse**

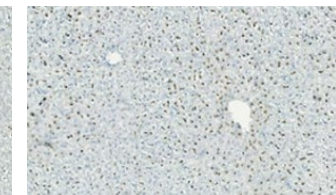
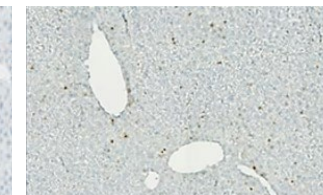
**H&E
x10**



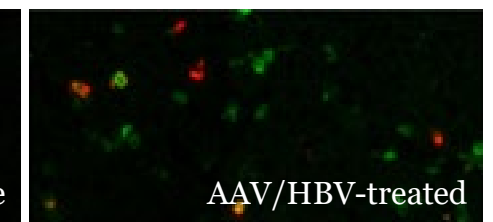
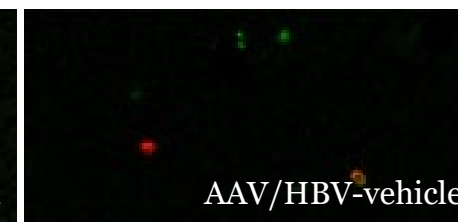
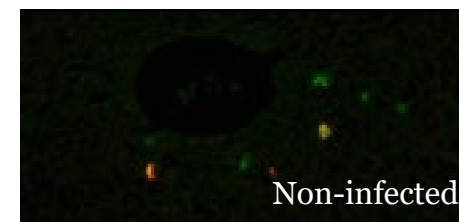
**SR
x10**



**HBc-Ag
x20**



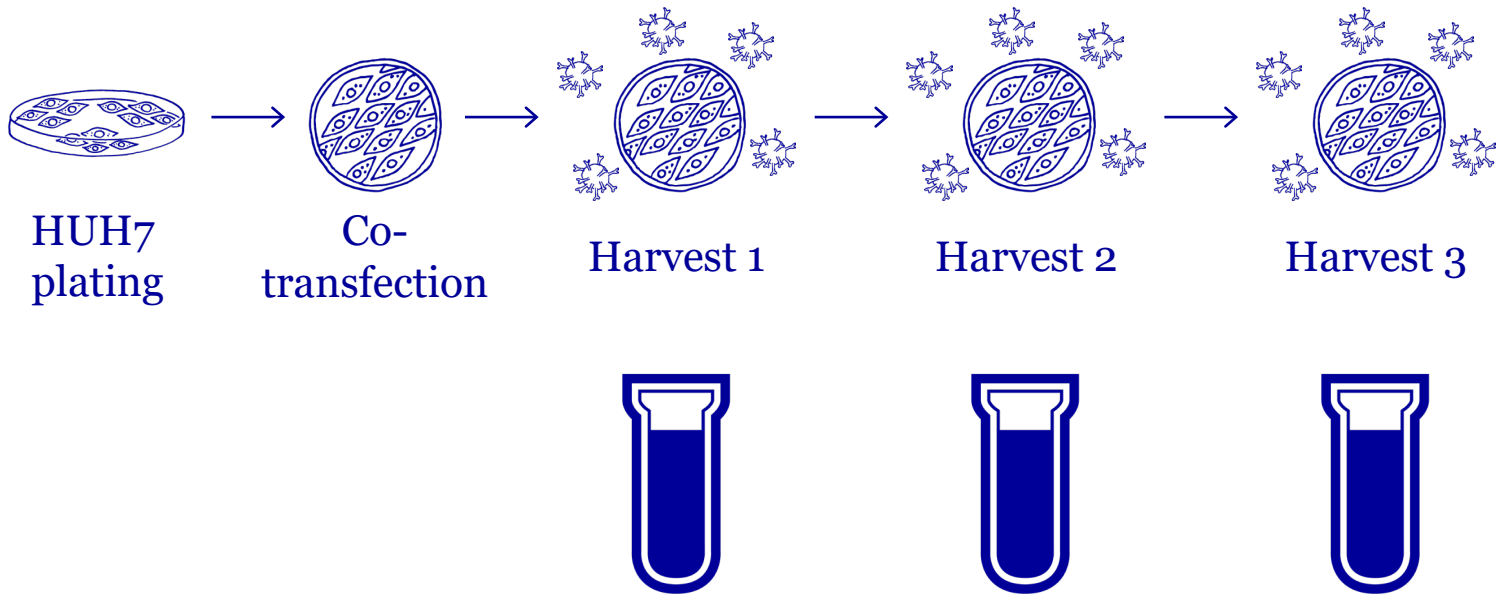
CD3/CD8 co-staining





Ongoing: production and characterization of different HDV genotypes

Viral production ongoing



Plasmid name	Geno- type	Origin	Genebank accession No.	Genome size
pcDNA3.1-HDV-1	1	Ethiopia	U81989	1,679 bp
pcDNA3.1-HDV-2	2	Japan	X60193	1,683 bp
pcDNA3.1-HDV-3	3	Peru	L22063	1,677 bp
pcDNA3.1-HDV-4	4	Japan	AB118847	1,678 bp
pcDNA3.1-HDV-5	5	Guinea-Bissau	AB183331	1,687 bp
pcDNA3.1-HDV-6	6	Nigeria	AM183329	1,680 bp
pcDNA3.1-HDV-7	7	Cameroon	AM183333	1,674 bp
pcDNA3.1-HDV-8	8	Ivory Cost	AM183327	1,681 bp



Agenda

BACK UP SLIDES

1. Respiratory viruses
2. Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
3. Immunology capabilities
4. Integrated virology R&D platforms (Hit ID to PDC)



Broad and deep immuno-virology capabilities and expertise

Several assays available to monitor innate and adaptive immunity

Technologies and readouts

- **Multiparametric flow cytometry:**
 - Extracellular
 - Intracellular
 - Nuclear
 - Phosphoflow
- **Immune cell isolation**
 - Magnetic isolation
- **Multiplexed cytokine assays**
 - CBA, MSD platform
- **Live cell imaging** (Incucyte)
- **RT-qPCR**
- **ELISPOT**

Immunological assays & Immunomodulatory drugs

Innate immune responses

DC activation assays
(activation markers, cytokine secretion)

Macrophage activation assays (M1, M2) (activation markers, cytokine secretion)

NK activation assays
(activation markers, proliferation, cytotoxicity, cytokine secretion)

Cytotoxicity assays with mAbs
(ADCC, CDC, ADCP)

PRRs activation
Several reporter systems available

Whole blood (CRS evaluation)

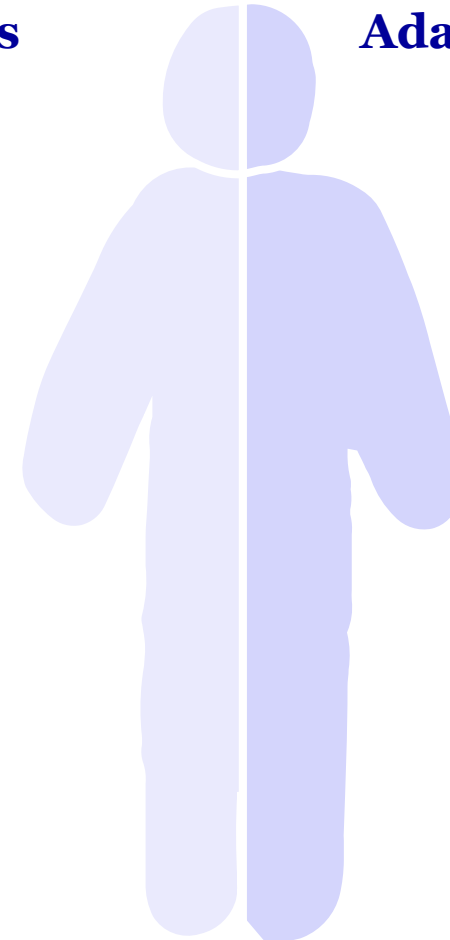
Adaptative immune responses

T CD4/CD8 activation assays

- Activation markers
- MLR “mixed lymphocyte reaction”
- Proliferation
- Cytokine secretion

B cell activation assays

- Activation markers
- Proliferation
- Antibodies secretion





Innate immunity

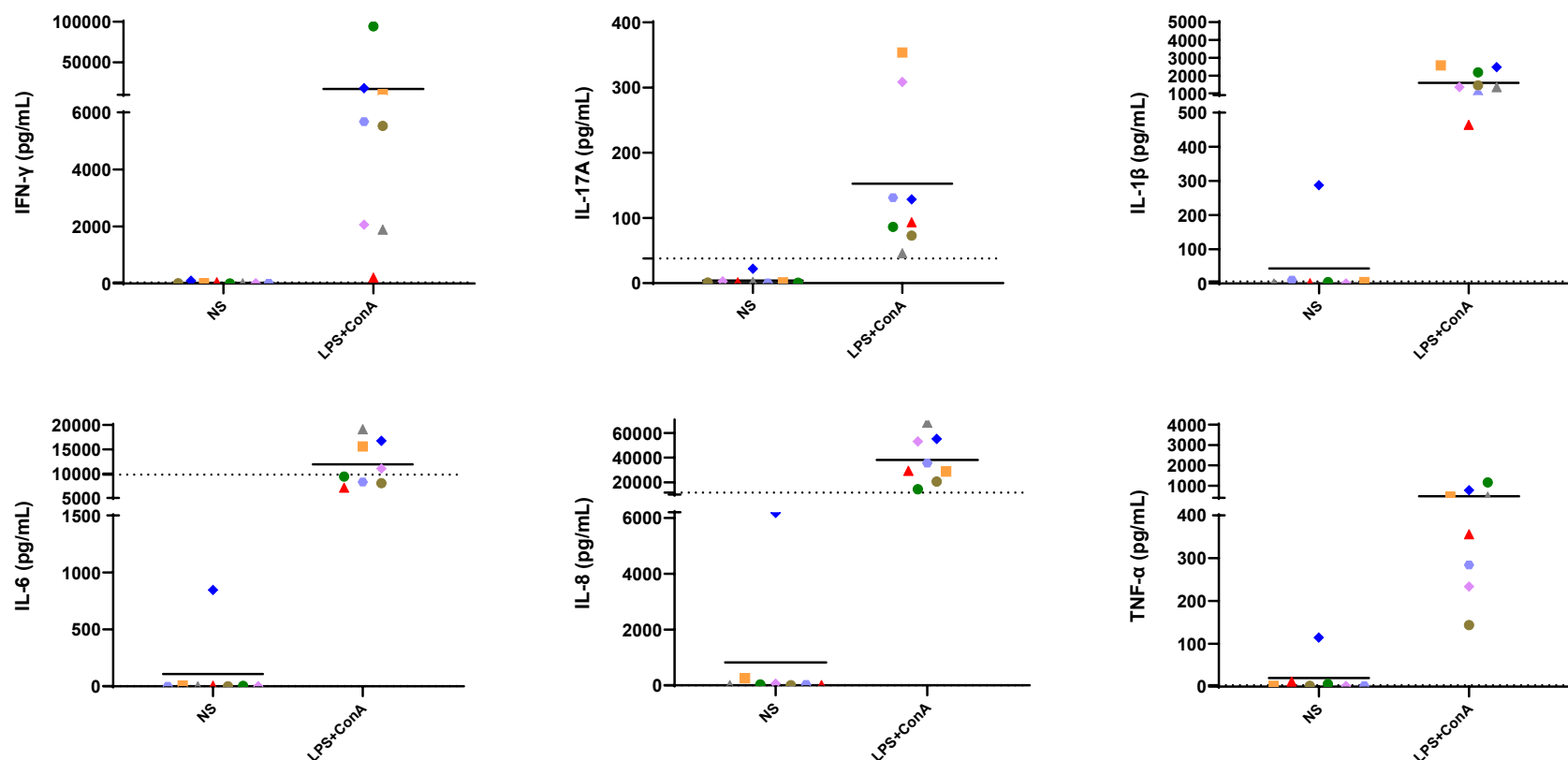
Whole blood activation assay

- **Whole Blood from healthy donors**
- **Cytokine release profiling**
 - For safety assessment of immunomodulators and biomarker characterization
- **Various matrices**
 - Human whole blood or PBMC
 - Other species (mouse, NHP...)
 - In liquid or plate-bound formats
- **Multiplexed cytokine analysis using MSD platform (mesoscale technology)**



Case study: Cytokine release syndrome assessment

- Whole blood activation with LPS + Concanavalin A during 24h – 8 donors
- Monitoring of pro-inflammatory cytokine release by MSD:

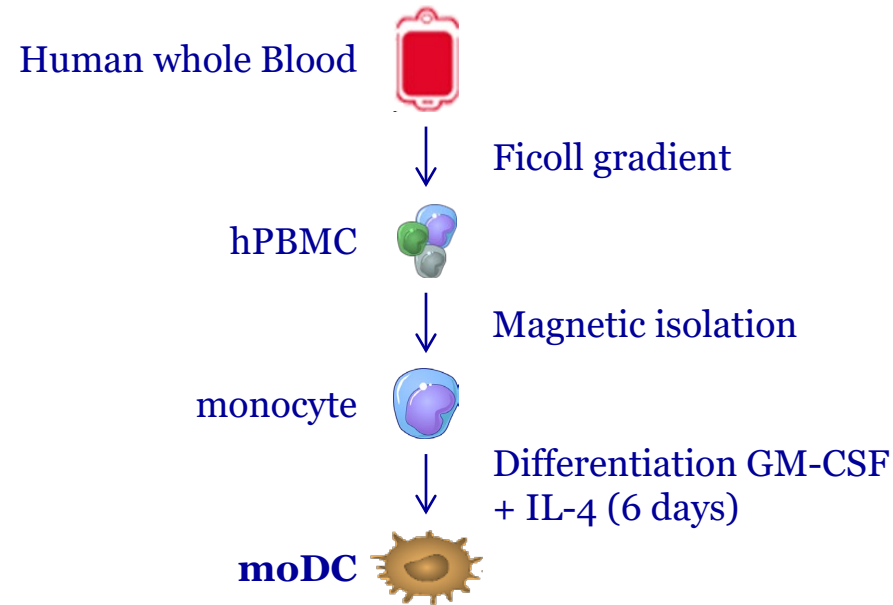




Innate immunity

Dendritic cell activation assay

Protocol:

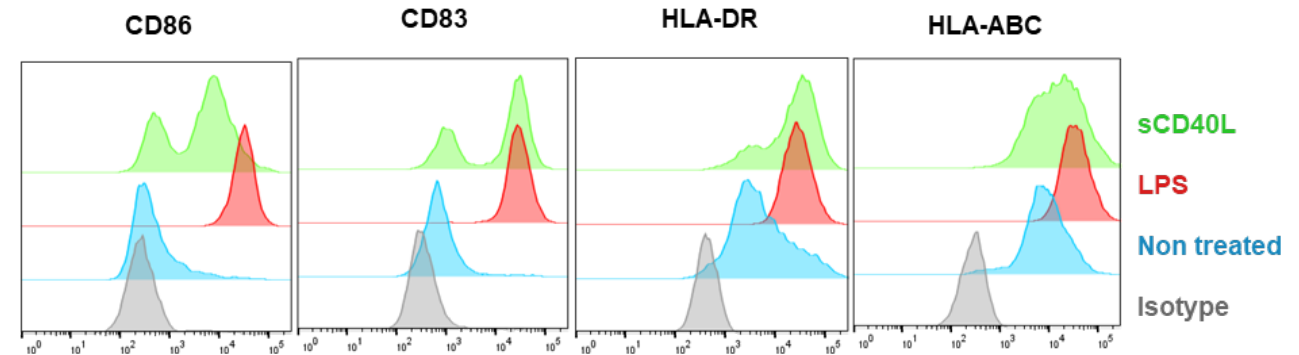


Endpoints:

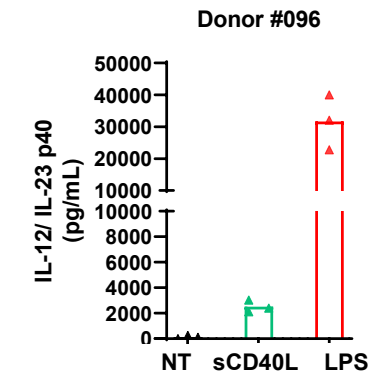
- **Activation markers** (CD86, CD83, HLA-DR, HLA-ABC ...)
- **Cytokine release** (IL-12p70, IL-12/IL-23p40, IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-8...)

Case study: moDC activation

- MoDC treatment with LPS or sCD40L during 24h
- Monitoring of activation markers by flow cytometry:



- Monitoring of IL-12/IL-23p40 secretion by ELISA:



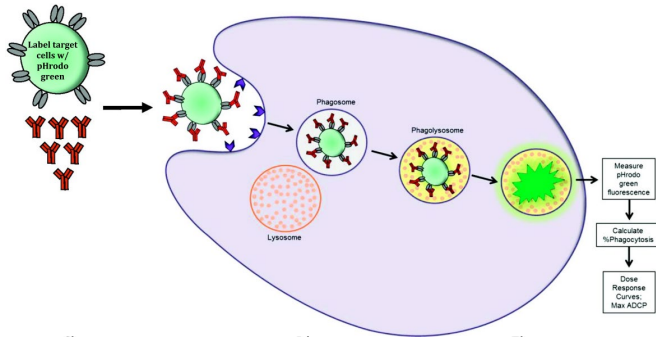


Innate immunity

Macrophage phagocytosis

Protocol:

- Target cell labelled with pH rodo dye
- Effector cells: Macrophages M2c differentiated from monocytes



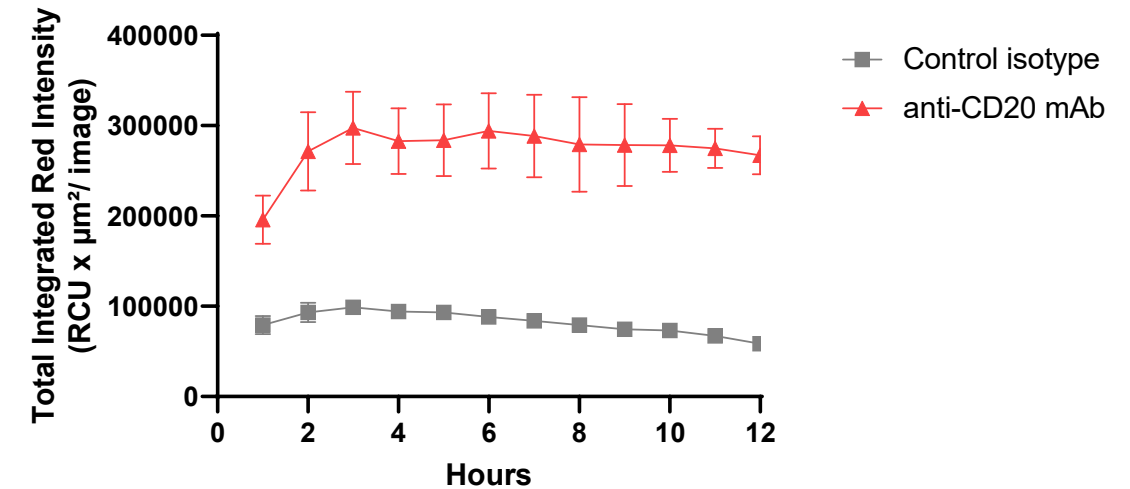
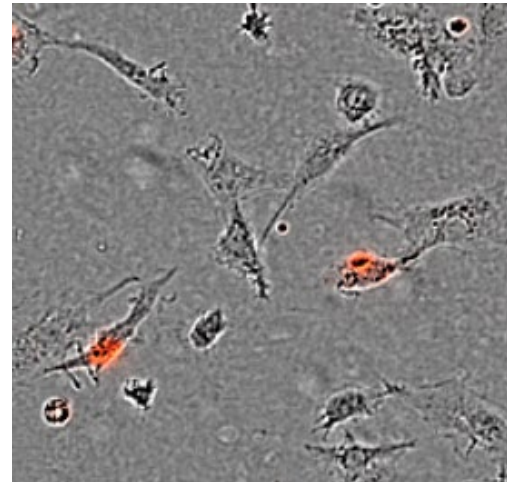
Fluorescence increase upon target cell phagocytosis

Endpoints:

- **Phagocytosis** = Target cell pH rodo + (Incucyte)
- **Genotyping FcγRIIA 131 H / R** by PCR
- **Cytokine release**

Case study: ADCP (Antibody Dependent Cell Phagocytosis)

- Target cell : Raji labelled with pH rodo Red dye
- Target cell : Raji + Effector cells: M2c (ratio 1:1) + anti-CD20 mAb: Rituximab
- Phagocytosis monitored by Live imaging (Incucyte):

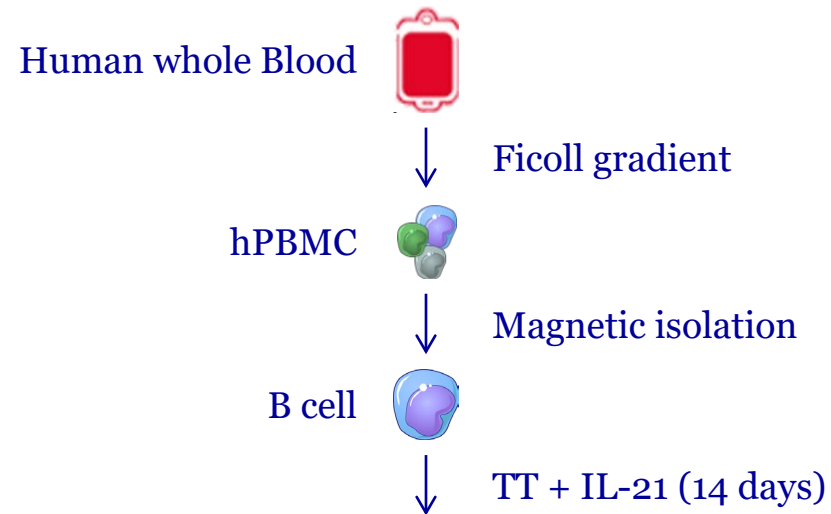




Adaptative immunity

B cell activation assay

Protocol:



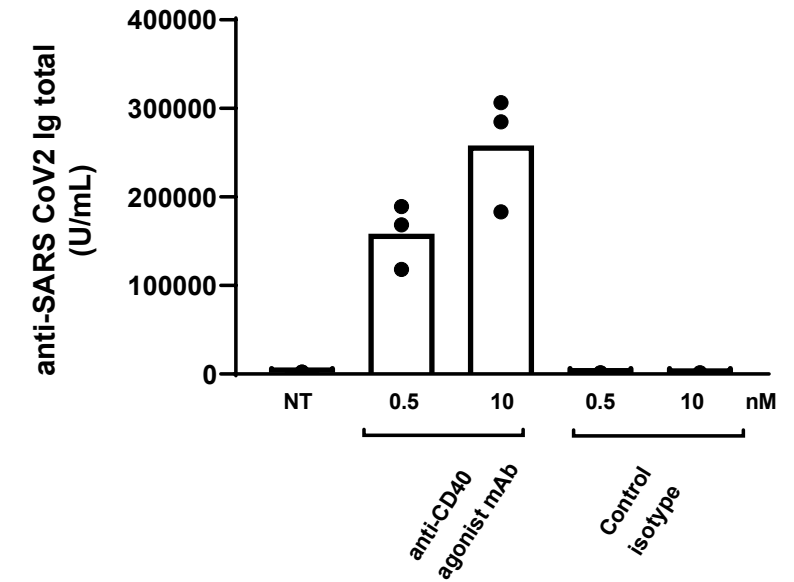
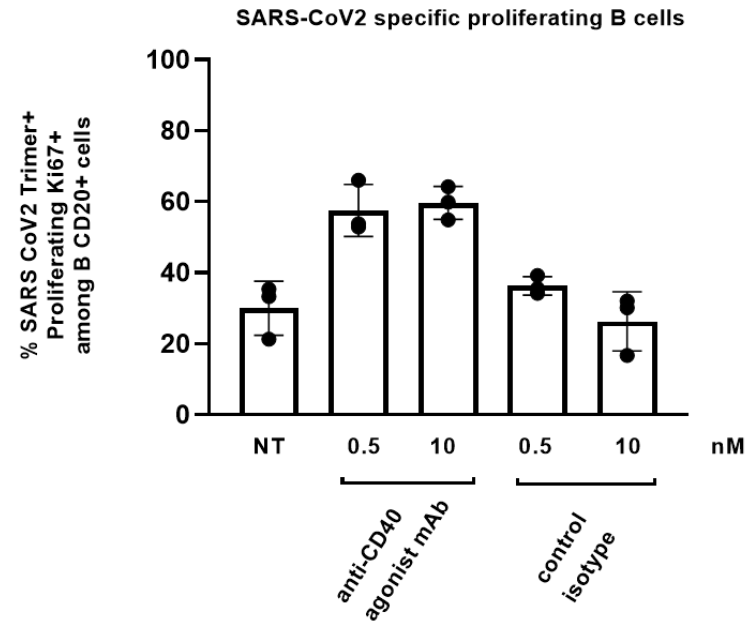
Monitoring of B cell specific & non specific responses

Endpoints:

- **Proliferation** (Ki67, CFSE by flow cytometry)
- **Mabs secretion** (IgM, IgA, IgG...by ELISA)
- **Cytokine release**
- **Activation markers** (CD69, CD86 -flow cytometry)

Case study: Specific SARS-CoV2 B cell recall

- B cell (from COVID-19 vaccinated donor) treatment with anti-CD40 mAb agonist during 14 days
- Monitoring of:
 - SARS-CoV2 specific B cells proliferating by flow cytometry
 - Anti-SARS CoV2 Ig total secretion by ELISA



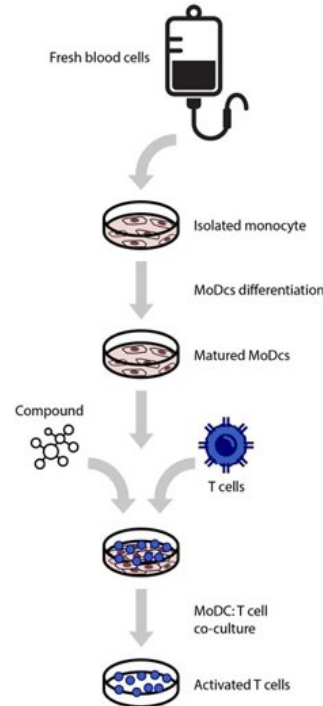


Adaptive immunity

T cell activation assay

Protocol:

- Monitoring of T cell specific and non-specific responses
- Monitoring of T cell sub-populations (TCD4 Th1/ Th2/ Th17/ Treg - T CD8)

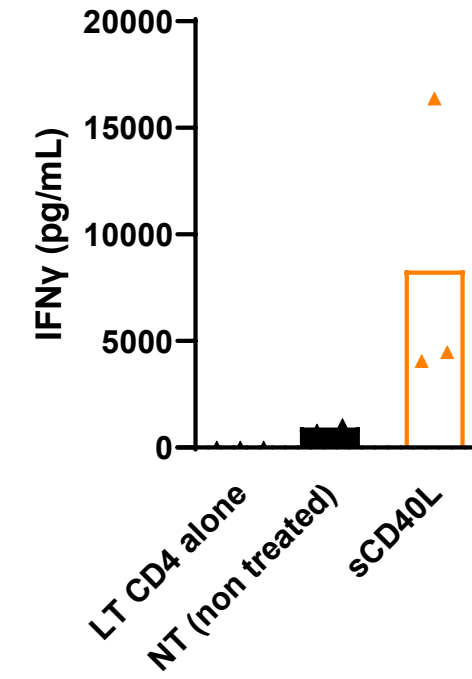
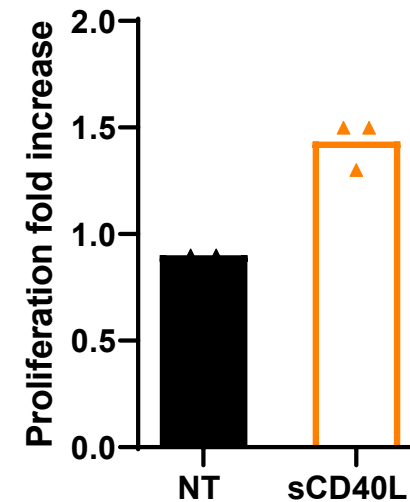


Endpoints:

- **Proliferation**
(Ki67, CFSE by flow cytometry)
- **Cytokine release** (IL-2, IFN- γ , TNF- α ...)
- **Activation markers**
(CD69, CD25- flow cytometry)

Case study: Mixed lymphocyte reaction

- moDC co-culture with naive TCD4 (ratio 1:10) from different donors + TT during 7 days
- Monitoring of:
 - T CD4 cell proliferation by ATP quantification and
 - IFN- γ secretion by ELISA:





Internalization assay

Protocol:

Primary cells
or Cell line



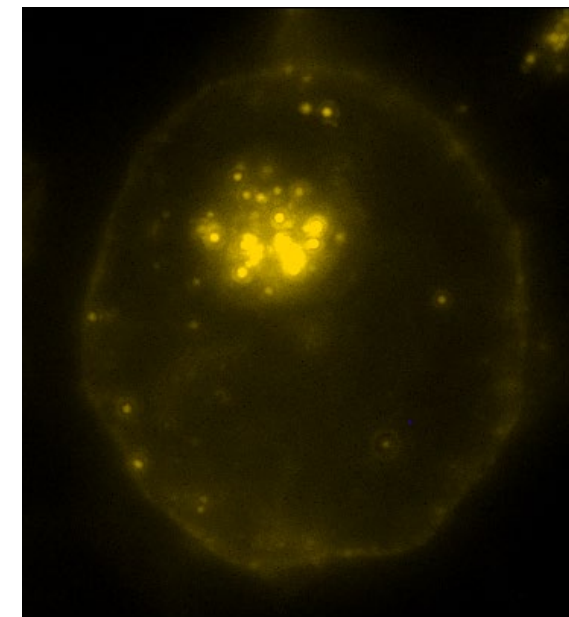
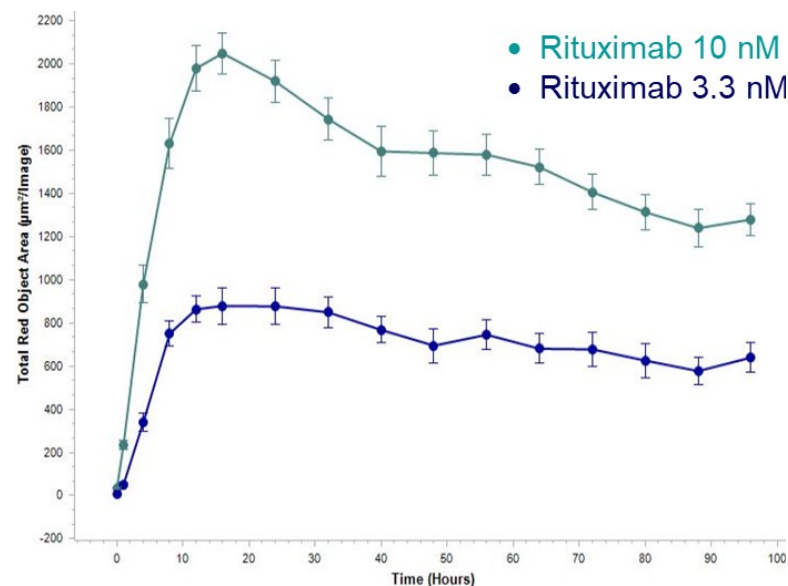
Monitoring of Protein or mAb internalization
in kinetic

Endpoints:

- Internalization using Live imaging (Incucyte)
- Internalization using fluorescence microscopy (Nikon Zeiss)

Case study: Internalization assay

- B cell or Raji cell line incubated with Rituximab-Fabfluor pH Red or Compound X-AF546
- Monitoring of Internalized Red object increase using Incucyte technology:



Monitoring of cell localization of compound
X-AF456 by fluorescence microscopy

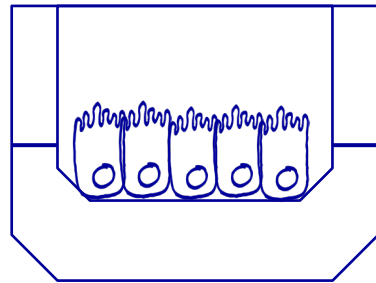
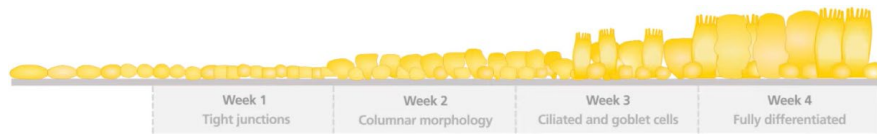


Host – Pathogen *in vitro* model

Airway model

Protocol:

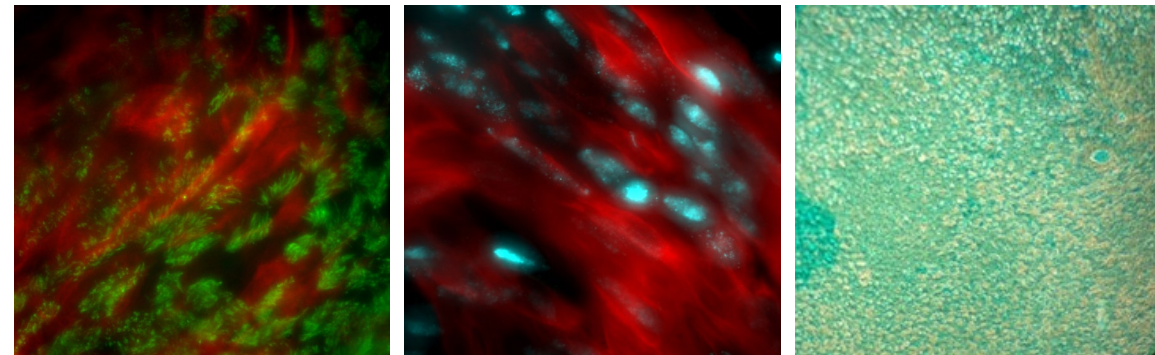
Airway Epithelial primary cells differentiation in transwell in Air-Liquid interface during 28 days



- Donor primary cells from different anatomical sites (Nasal, Tracheal, Bronchial or Small airway cells)
- Highly relevant model to address pharmacology, toxicology and biology demands

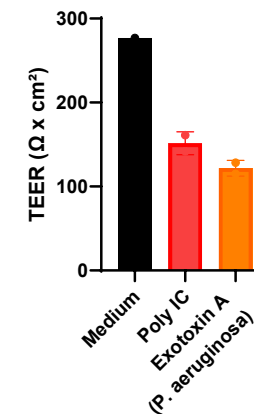
Case study: Airway model characterization

Human *in vitro* model representing the airway epithelia containing beating cilia, goblet and basal cells and secreting mucus:



Ciliated cells = AC tubulin;
Goblets cells = MUC5AC;
Basal cells = KRT5;
Mucus = Alcian blue staining

Airway *in vitro* model responsive to viral and bacterial stimuli:





Host – Pathogen *in vitro* model

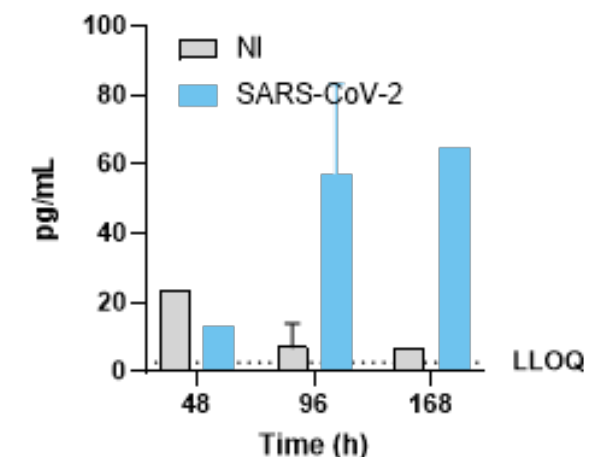
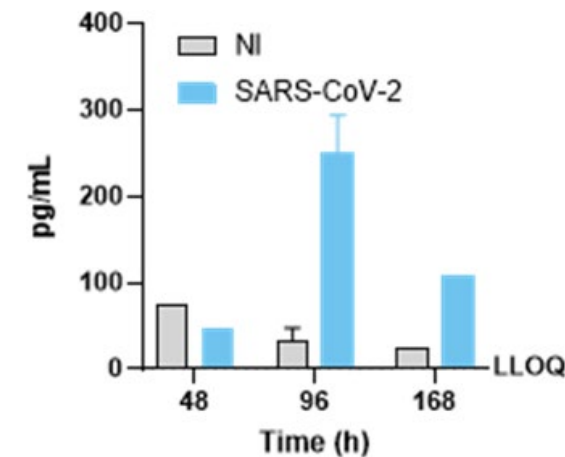
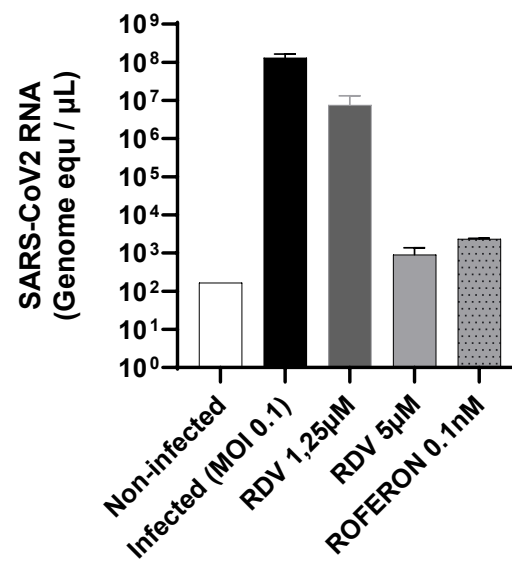
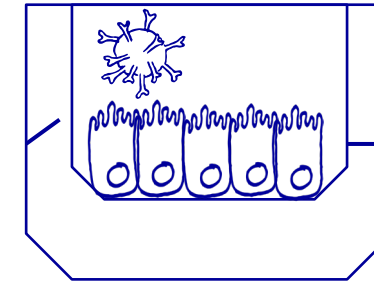
Airway model

- Human *in vitro* model representing the airway epithelia containing beating cilia, goblet and basal cells
- Donor primary cells from different anatomical sites (Nasal, Tracheal, Bronchial or Small airway cells)
- Highly relevant model to address pharmacology, toxicology and biology demands
- Model available for SARS-CoV2, RSV, HPIV, Influenza A
- Can be adapted for other pathogens including bacteria

Endpoints:

- **Pathogen read out:**
 - Viral load
 - Viral titer by RT-qPCR
- **Host read out:**
 - Barrier integrity (TEER)
 - Paracellular permeability (FITC-dextran)
 - Cytokine release
 - Cytotoxicity (LDH)

Case study: SARS-CoV2 infection in airway model



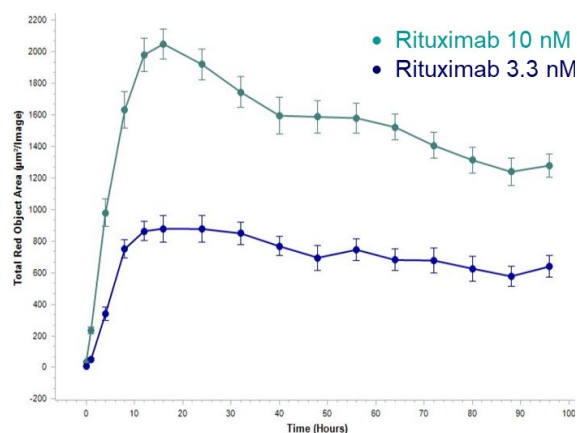


Immuno-virology case study

Assay for Target exploration, Cytokine profiling and immune cells activation evaluation

Target expression, activation and Internalization assays

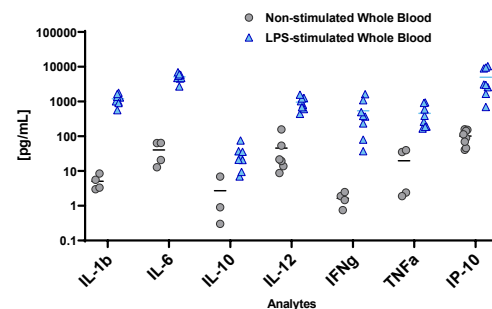
- Flow cytometry on various cell populations for target expression and activation assessment
- Reporter Cells system for target binding and activation
- Internalization assay using Live imaging (Incucyte)



Rituximab internalization monitored with the Red fluorescence increase

Cytokine release profiling

- For safety assessment of immunomodulators and biomarkers characterization
- Various matrices:
 - Human whole blood or PBMC
 - Other species (mouse, NHP...) or other cell types possible
- In liquid or plate-bound formats
- Multiplexed cytokine analysis using MSD platform (mesoscale technology)



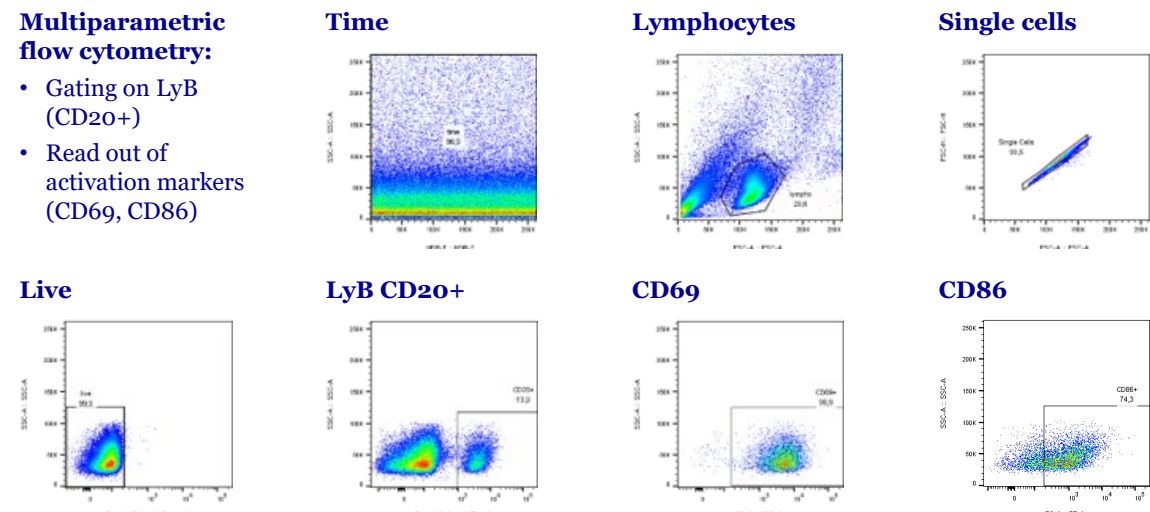
Whole blood from 8 human donors stimulated with LPS (10 ng/mL): multiplex cytokine analysis (values <LLOQ in Non-stimulated condition are not represented)

MOA on immune cell population

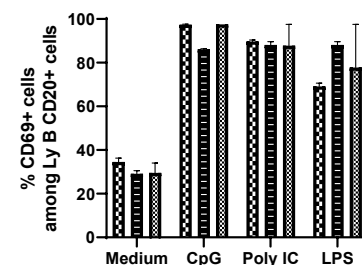
- PBMCs or isolated immune cells
- Proliferation, differentiation & activation assays

Multiparametric flow cytometry:

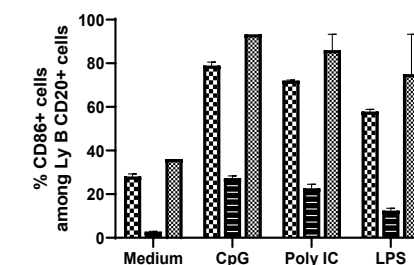
- Gating on LyB (CD20+)
- Read out of activation markers (CD69, CD86)



CD69 expression on B cells



CD86 expression on B cells





Agenda

BACK UP SLIDES

1. Respiratory viruses
2. Hepatic viruses (HBV and HDV)
3. Immunology capabilities
4. Integrated virology R&D platforms (Hit ID to PDC)

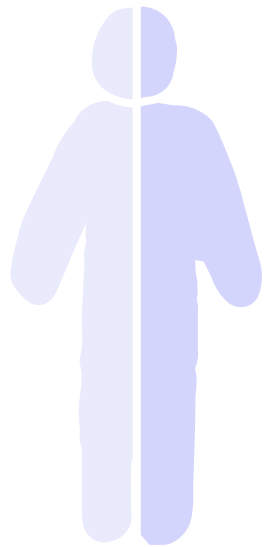


Complementary approaches and modalities to tackle viruses

Developing tailored therapeutics that delay or prevent escape and resistance

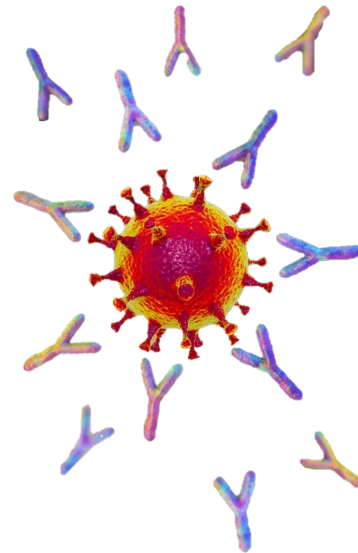
Boosting innate and adaptive immunity

Host targeting platform



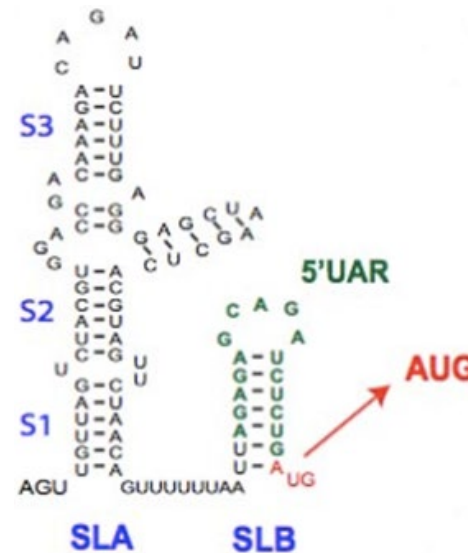
Preventing Viral entry

Neutralizing antibodies



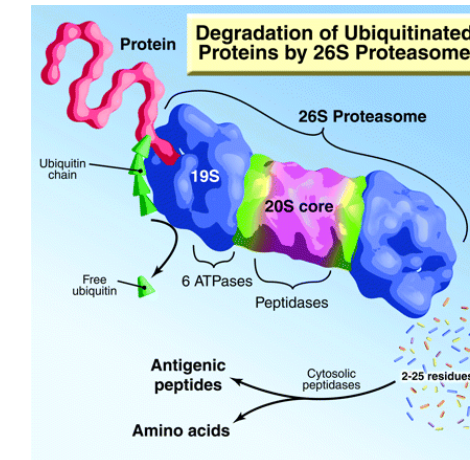
Targeting key viral RNAs structures

RNA targeting with small molecules



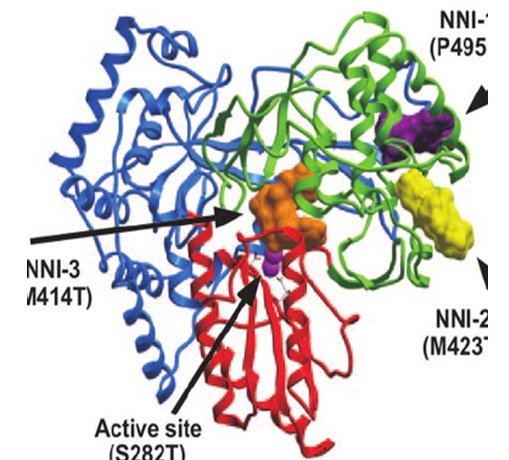
Degrading proteins not accessible to traditional therapeutics

Targeted protein degradation



Preventing replication & assembly

Inhibiting key enzymes



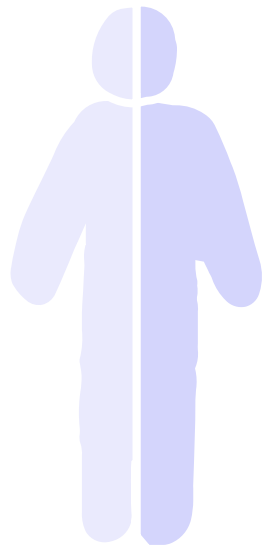


Drug discovery platforms to tackle endemic and emerging viruses

Developing tailored therapeutics that delay or prevent escape and resistance

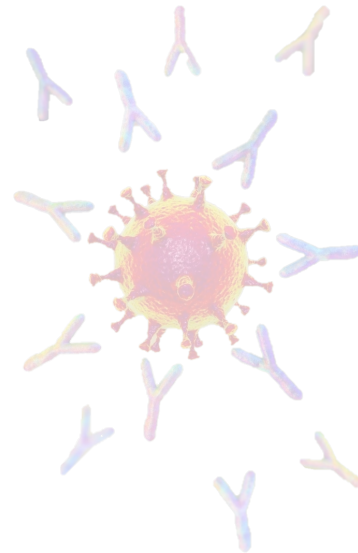
Boosting innate and adaptive immunity

Host targeting platform



Preventing Viral entry

Neutralizing antibodies



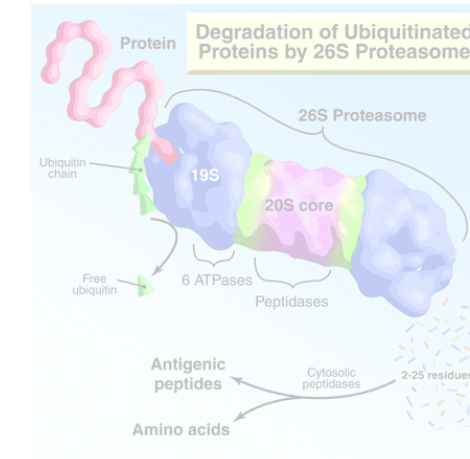
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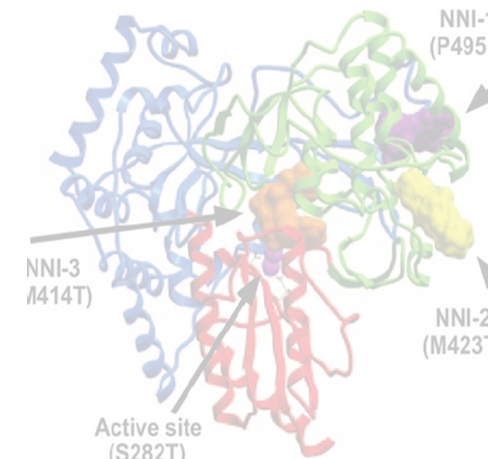
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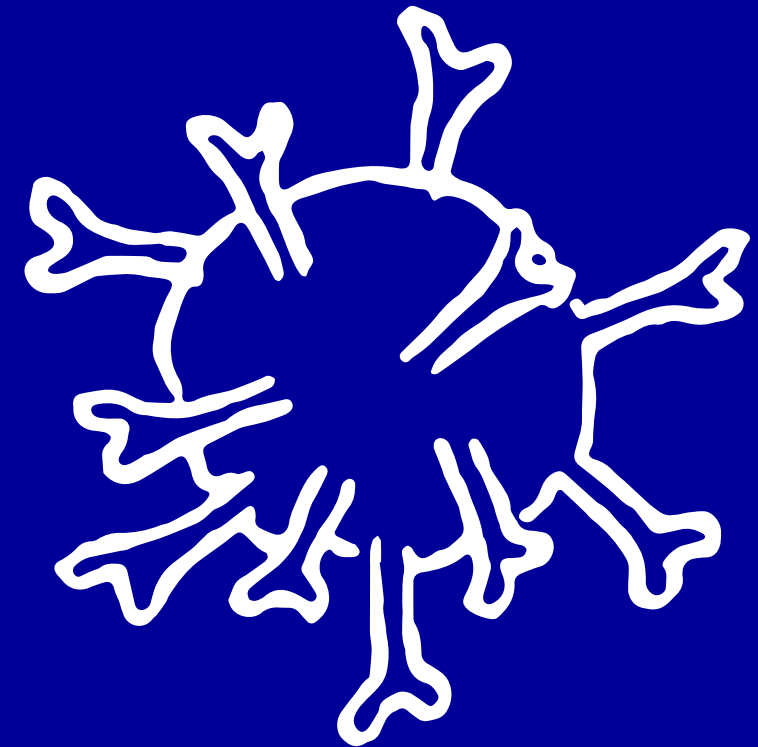
Preventing replication & assembly

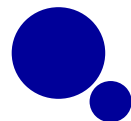
Inhibiting key enzymes



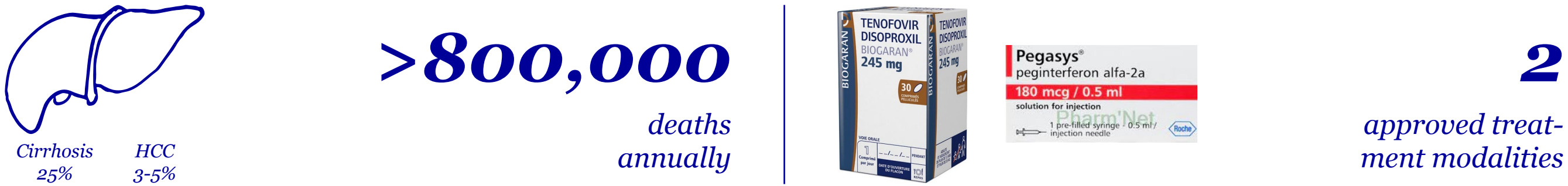
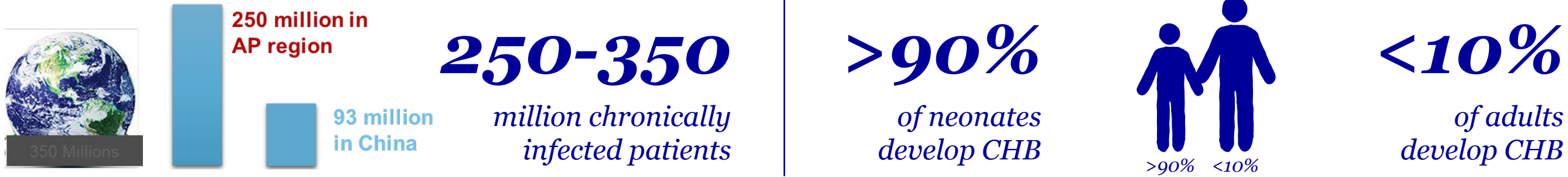
*A bifunctional immune
modulator exhibits potent
antiviral activity in HBV
infection models*

Show case





HBV infection causes chronic hepatitis B (CHB) with significant global health burden and no cure

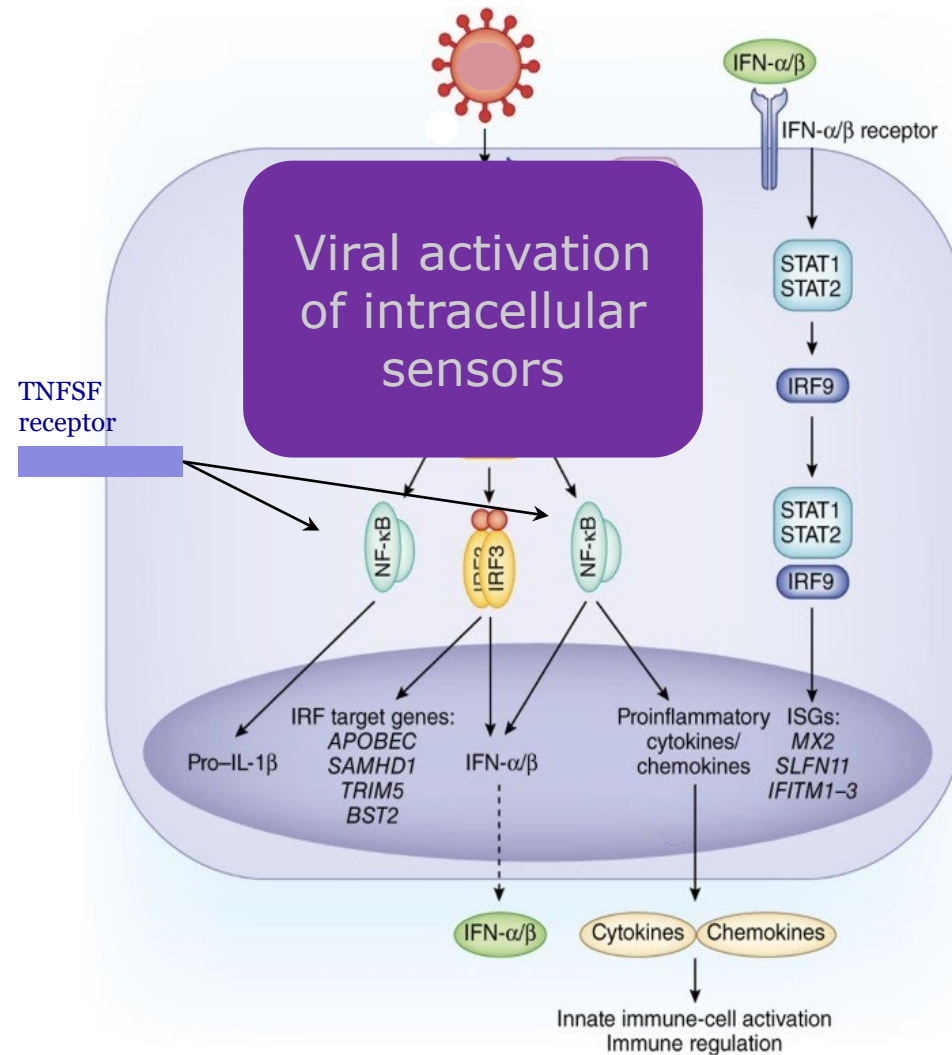


T and B-cell dysfunction and exhaustion are typical features of persistent HBV infection

Boosting the IFN pathway and restoring an adaptive immune response are required to achieve cure



Efficient antiviral response requires full activation of intracellular signals to induce a full spectrum of antiviral proteins



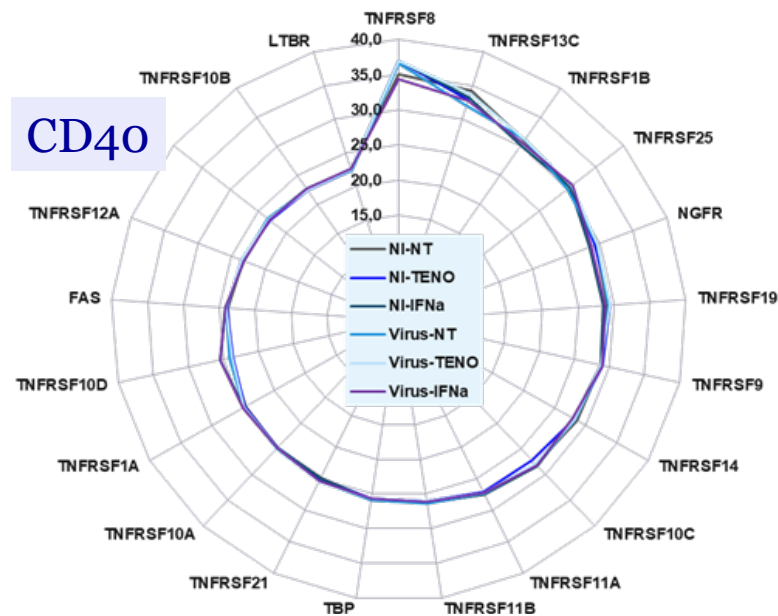
Type I interferons are active, but have limited efficacy:

- Viruses block of the innate immune response
- High levels of IFN are needed to produce suboptimal therapeutic benefit
- IFN induces tolerability issues



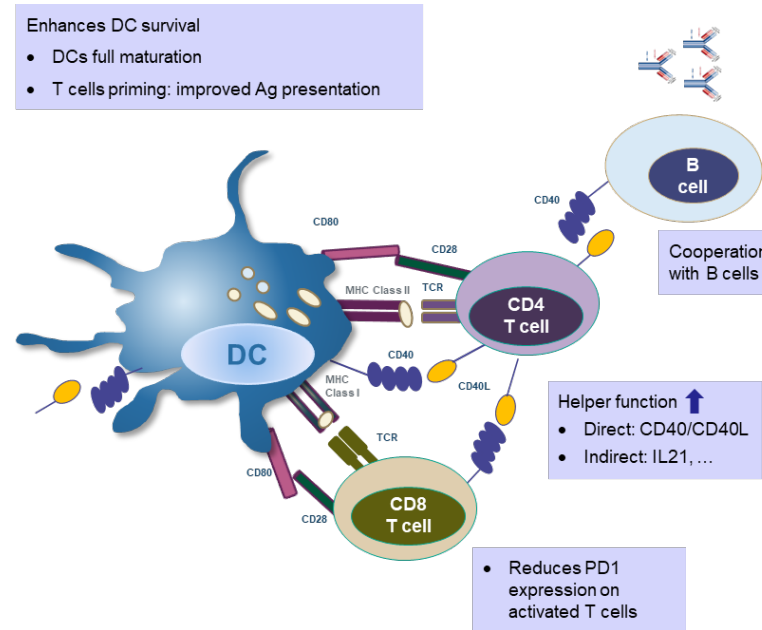
Combination of CD40 agonism and IFN synergistically increases ISGs without increasing inflammatory markers

Several TNFRs are expressed in hepatocytes



RT-PCR (Ct) analysis of TNFRSFs in hepatocytes

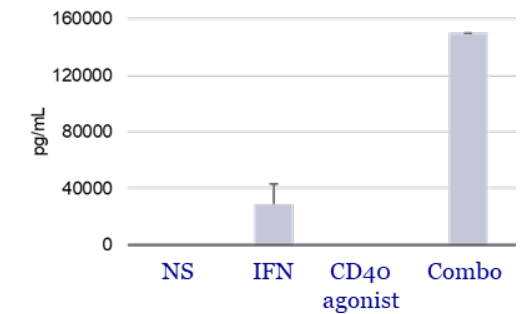
CD40 is a key player of adaptive immunity



The **direct** role of CD40 activation on HBV infection in hepatocytes is not known

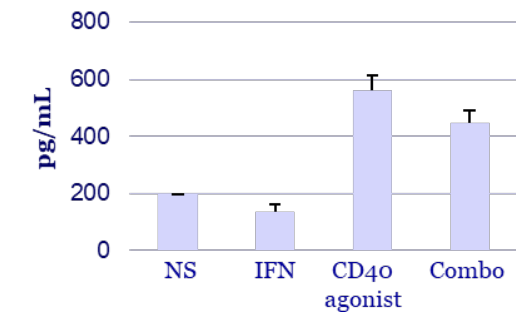
Enhancement of innate immunity in hepatocytes

CXCL10 release



No enhancement of inflammatory markers

IL8 release

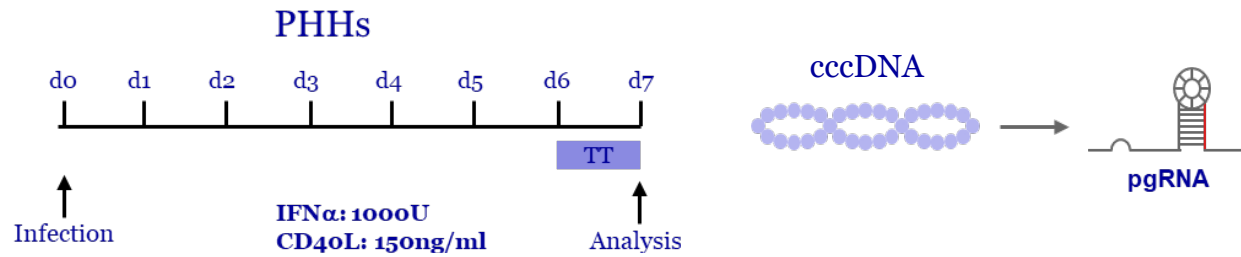




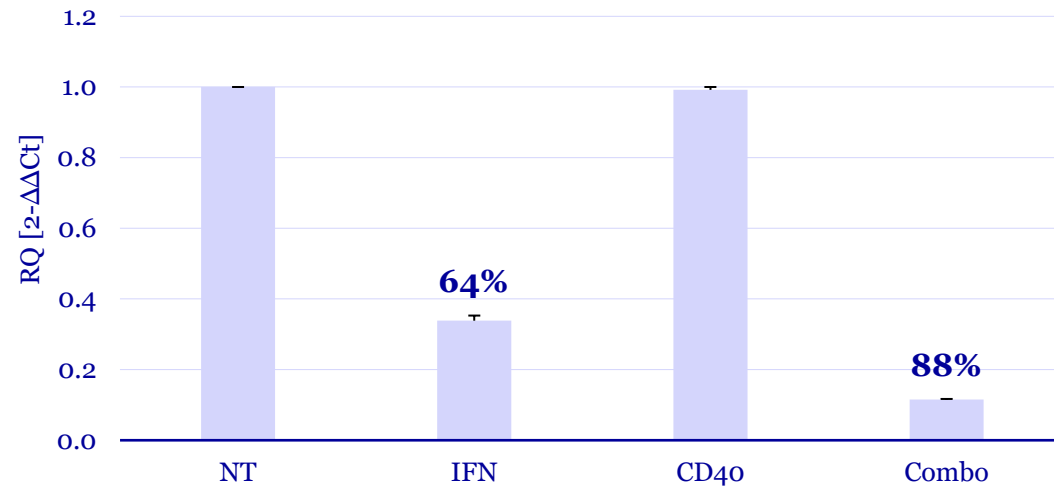
CD40 agonism & Type I IFN translate to potent antiviral activity

The combination produces a more robust and complete antiviral response

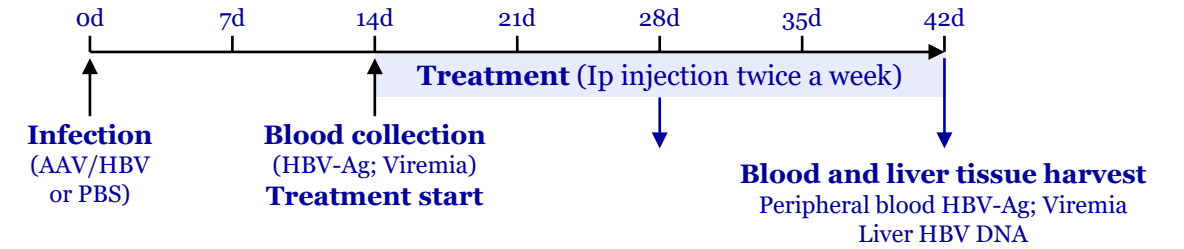
Effect on HBV infected primary human hepatocytes (PHH)



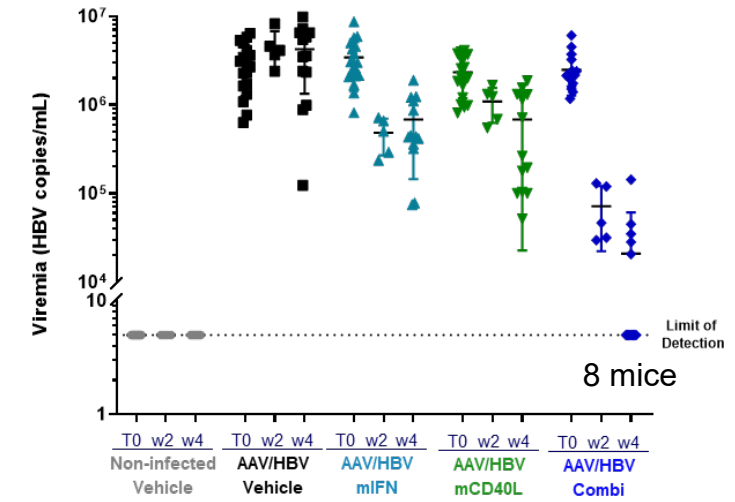
pgRNA



Target validation in the AAV/HBV model



Circulating HBV DNA (d28+d42)





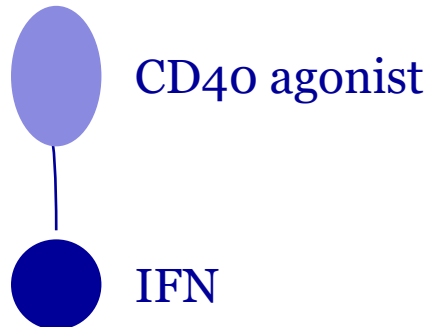
How can this combination be translated to the clinic for the benefit of patients suffering from Chronic Hepatitis B?



Bifunctional molecules combining CD40 agonism and IFN activity recapitulate potent antiviral activity

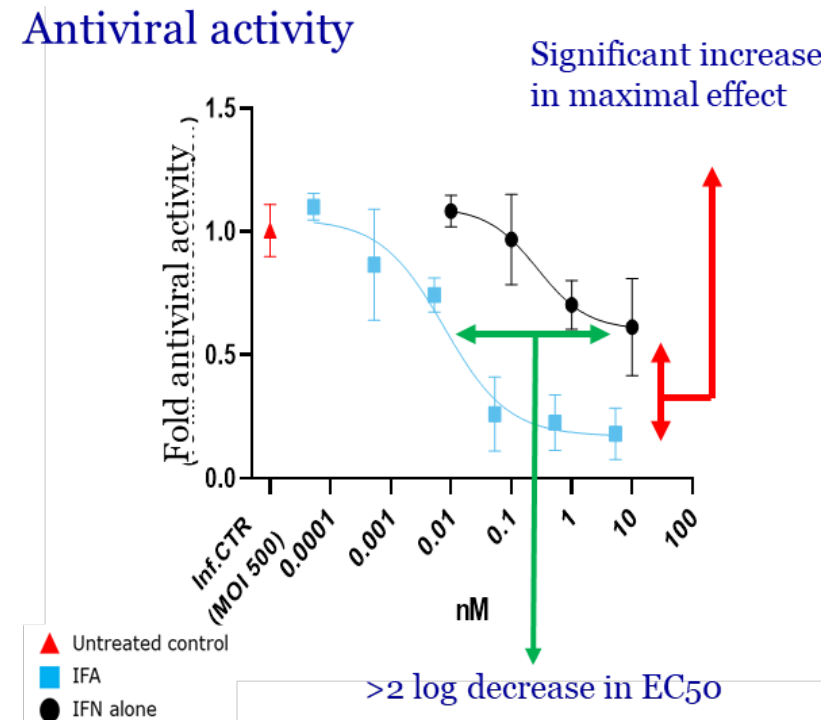
Generation of single bifunctional molecules

- fuses IFN to a CD40 agonist
- Simplify dosing and clinical development



- Maintain both CD40 and IFN activities

Example of molecule highly potent against select viruses including HBV



Ready to initiate phase 1 studies

- **Robust manufacturing** process established
- **The lead molecule is well tolerated in NHP**
- **IND enabling studies** completed
- **CTA approved** to initiate phase 1 i.v in HV

- **Proprietary Know-How and Patent Families**
- **Technical expertise** to tailor-make immunomodulators addressing additional combinations



Drug discovery platforms to tackle endemic and emerging viruses

Developing tailored therapeutics that delay or prevent escape and resistance

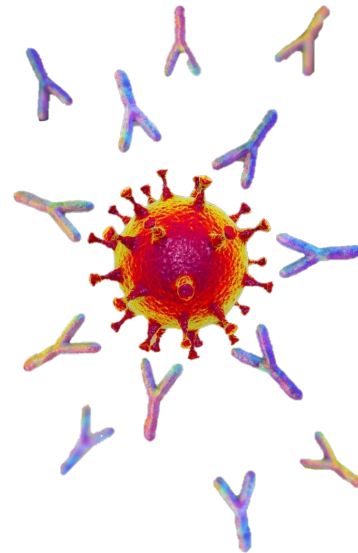
Boosting innate and adaptive immunity

Host targeting platform



Preventing Viral entry

Neutralizing antibodies



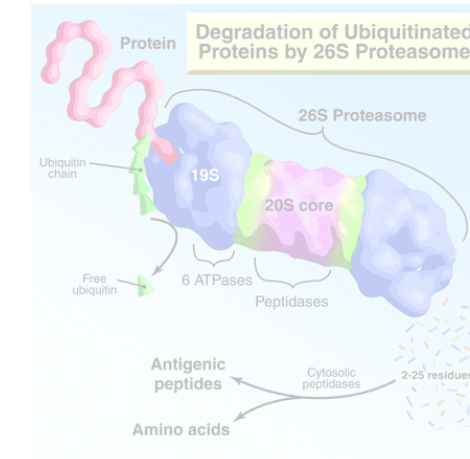
Targeting key viral RNAs structures

RNA targeting with small molecules



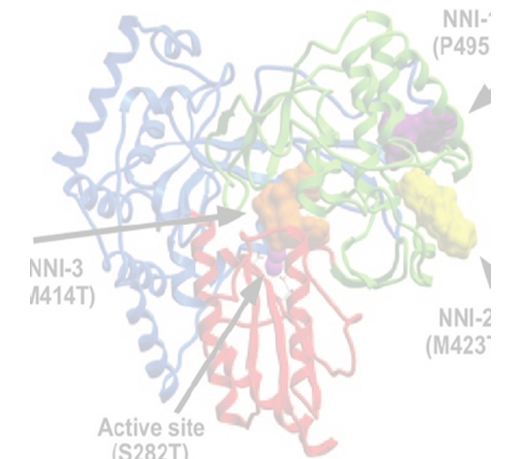
Degrading proteins not accessible to traditional therapeutics

Targeted protein degradation



Preventing replication & assembly

Inhibiting key enzymes





J-HAL library screening to identify potent and broadly neutralizing Abs

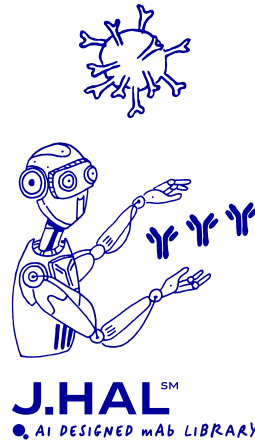
PoC studies with SARS-CoV-2 anti-Spike antibodies

Evotec Antibodies Discovery Platforms

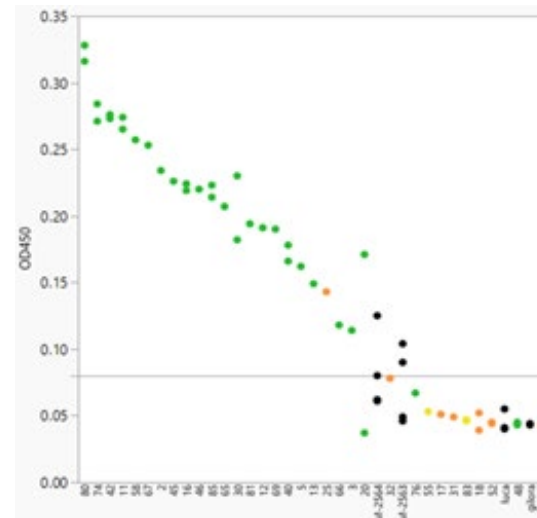
Hybridoma platform
Natural immune
repertoire

J.HAL

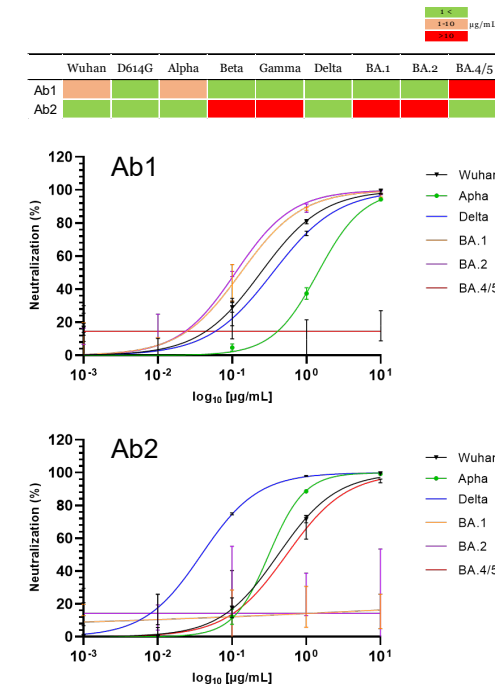
In future:
B cell technology
De novo mAb design



Robust & target-specific dose-dependent binding

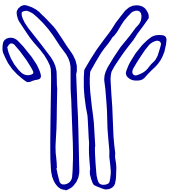


Potent and broadly neutralizing antibodies



High potential for manufacturability

- Reduced Immunogenicity
- Extended half life
- Thermal & chemical stability
- Inherent high solubility
- Favorable colloidal stability
- Productivity/Cost



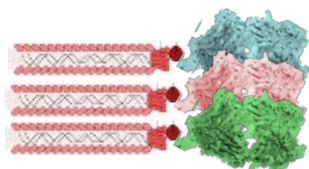
*J.HAL® library-derived neutralizing anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies showed **good binding profile, broad spectrum anti-viral activity** without need of affinity maturation and **high potential for manufacturability***



J.HAL: Biased libraries to find the best therapeutic

A novel, cost-effective and accelerated approach to therapeutic antibody discovery

Filamentous
phage Fab



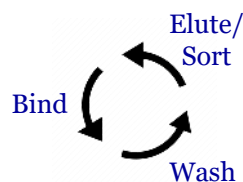
J.HAL



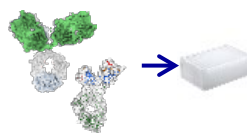
Target production &
functional validation



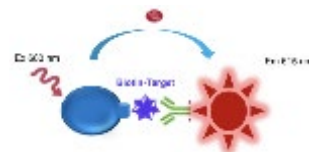
Iterative
selection pro-
cess to enrich
for binders



Clonal
production
of IgG



Binding specificity
confirmation



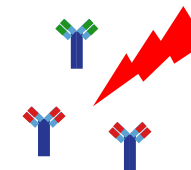
BioActivity
assessment



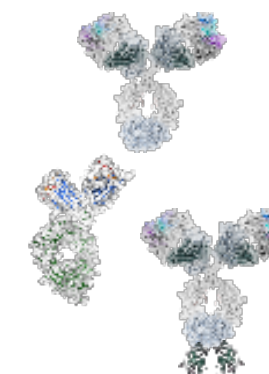
Kinetics /
Binning



Stability

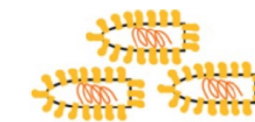


Humanoid
antibody



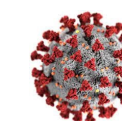
Therapeutic
Ab Candidates

Pseudo-virus



Neutralisation
Assay

wt Virus



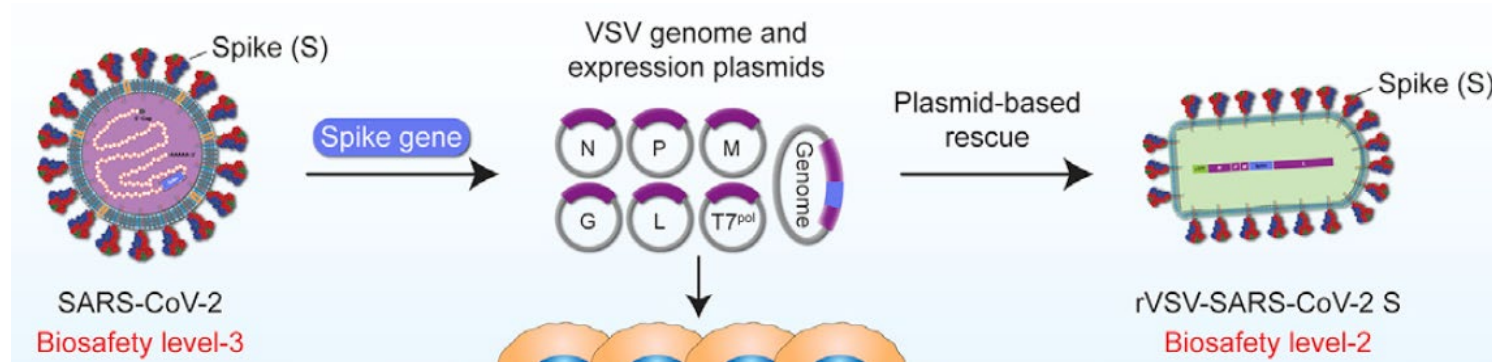
Neutralisation
Assay



VSV-Pseudoviruses platform

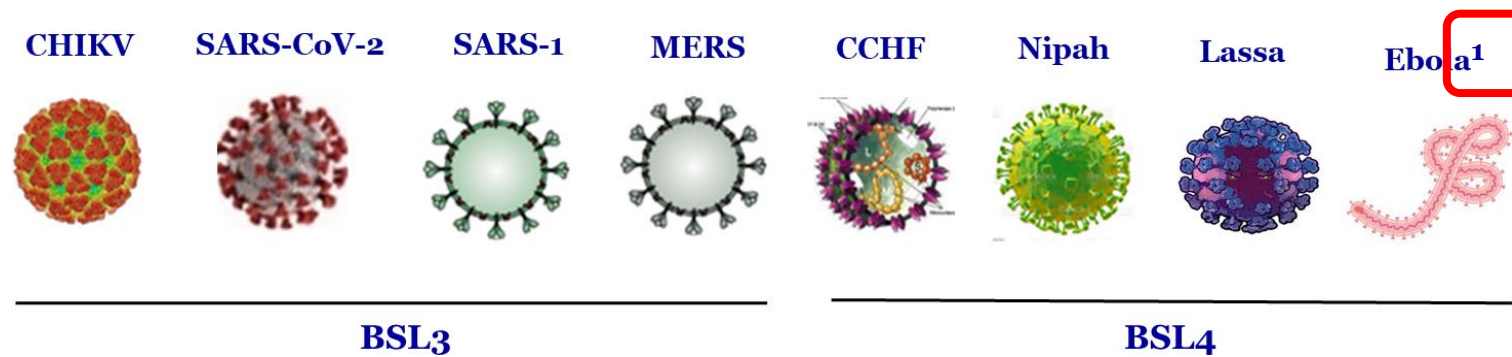
A safe toolbox to identify antiviral strategies interfering with viral entry

VSV pseudoviruses



- Safer and cost-effective alternative to live viruses
- Support working on BSL3 and BSL4 viruses within a BSL2 environment
- Potential to evaluate therapeutic / vaccine efficacy against different variants

VSV pseudoviruses pipeline



- Various pseudoviruses already generated, characterized and validated
- Potential to apply to many other virus
- Facility to test several variants



Drug discovery platforms to tackle endemic and emerging viruses

Developing tailored therapeutics that delay or prevent escape and resistance

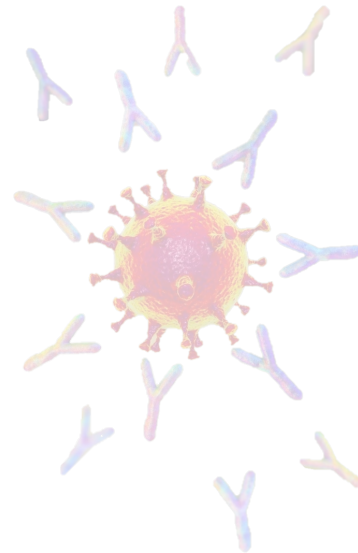
Boosting innate and adaptive immunity

Host targeting platform



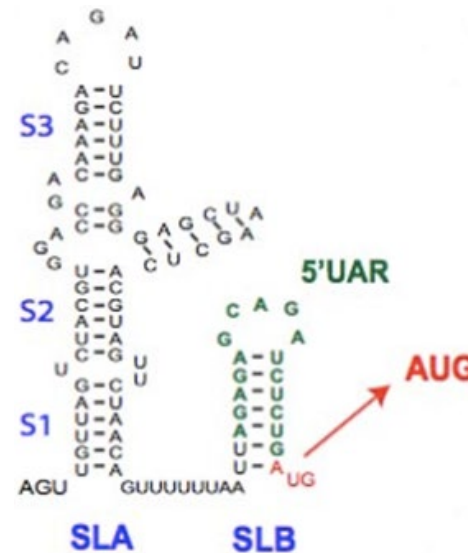
Preventing Viral entry

Neutralizing antibodies



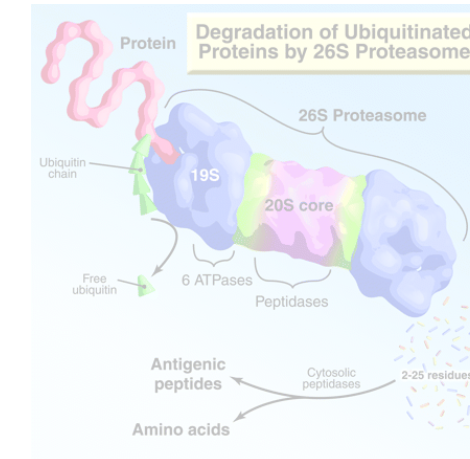
Targeting key viral RNAs structures

RNA targeting with small molecules



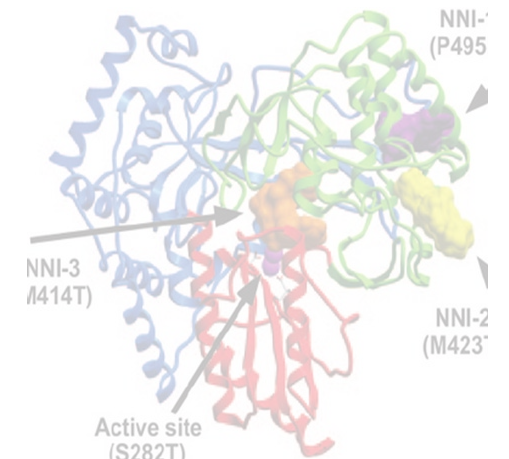
Degrading proteins not accessible to traditional therapeutics

Targeted protein degradation



Preventing replication & assembly

Inhibiting key enzymes





RNA targeting platform

Small molecules to targeting key viral RNA elements

Targeting regulatory RNA with small molecules is an emerging area of drug discovery

- Targeting RNAs with small molecules offers opportunities to modulate numerous cellular processes
- Messenger and non-coding RNAs adopt 3D structures that confer varied functional roles

5'UTR 1&2



Envelope 4



NS2A 8



NS2B 10



3'UTR 24

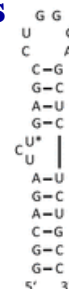


Viral RNA potential as a drug target

- Multiple highly structured functional elements
- Key roles for RNA elements throughout virus infectious cycle
- Highly selective pressure, which reduces risk for resistance

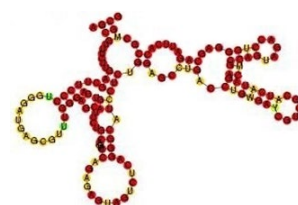
Transcription regulation

- HIV TAR element
- **HBV epsilon**, others



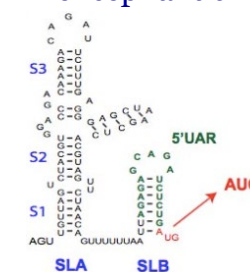
IRES Translation

- **EBV**, HCV, others



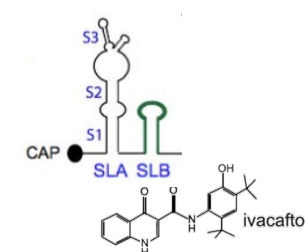
Genome cyclization

- **Dengue virus** YFV, Japanese encephalitis



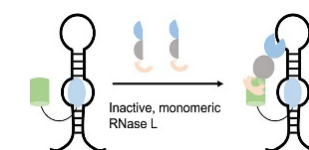
Ribosomal frameshift

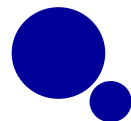
- ChikV, HIV, RSV SARS-CoV-2, WNV...



Ribozyme: Enzymatic activity

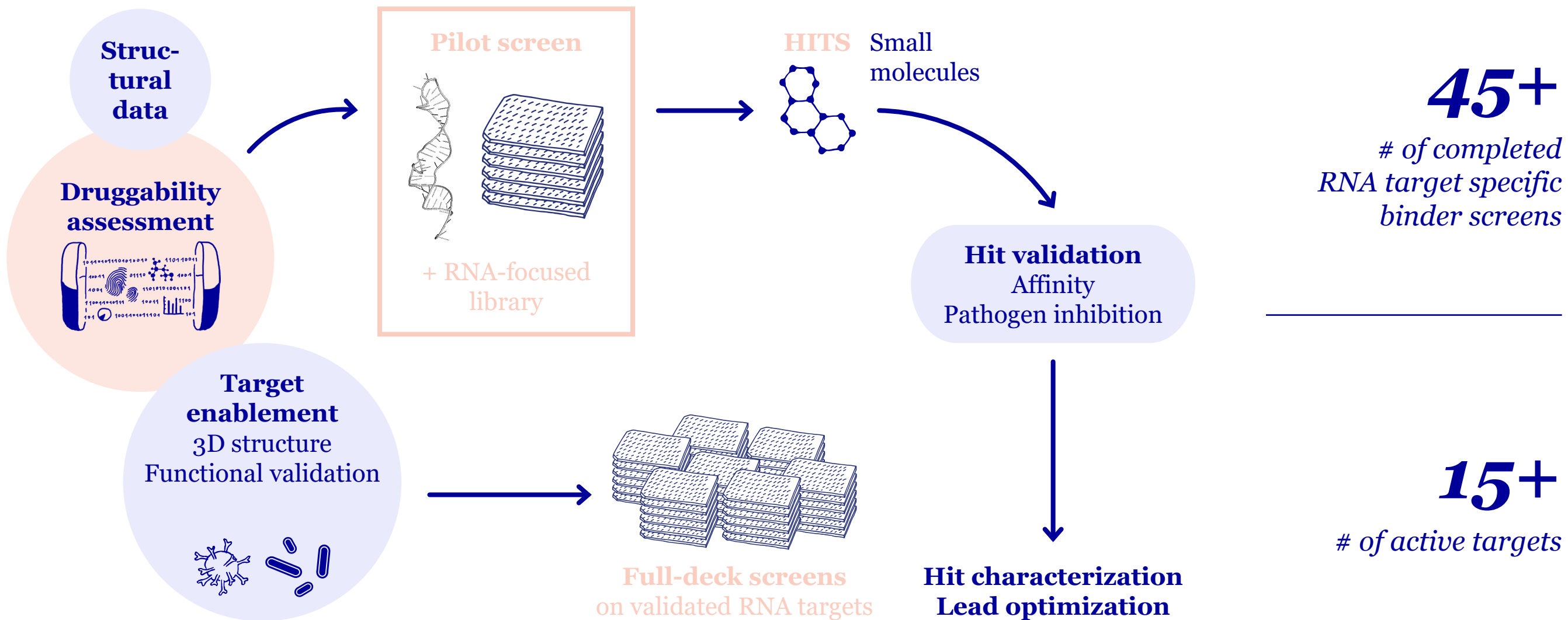
- **Hepatitis D virus**





RNA targeting platform

From RNA structure analysis to Lead identification and optimization





Drug discovery platforms to tackle endemic and emerging viruses

Developing tailored therapeutics that delay or prevent escape and resistance

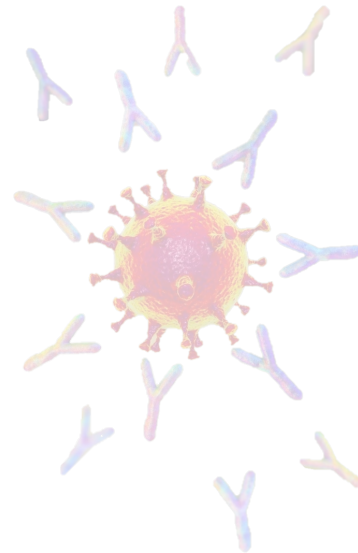
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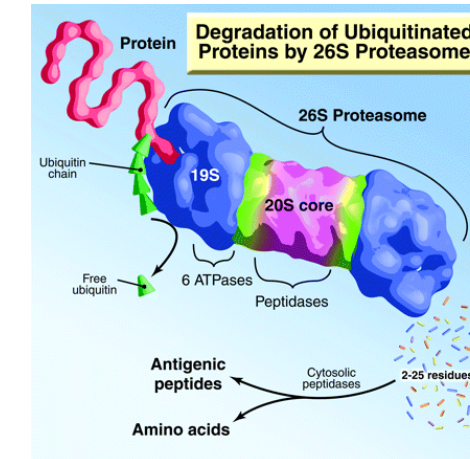
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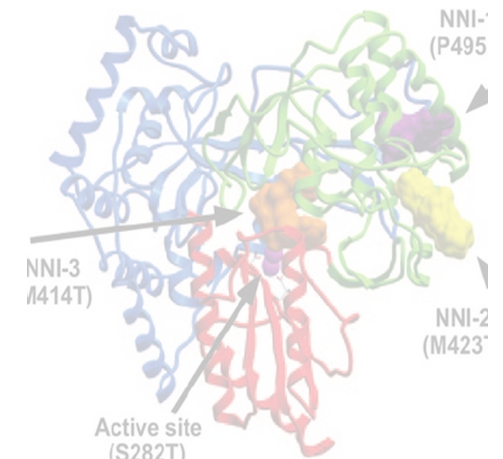
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Targeted protein degradation



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Inhibiting key enzymes

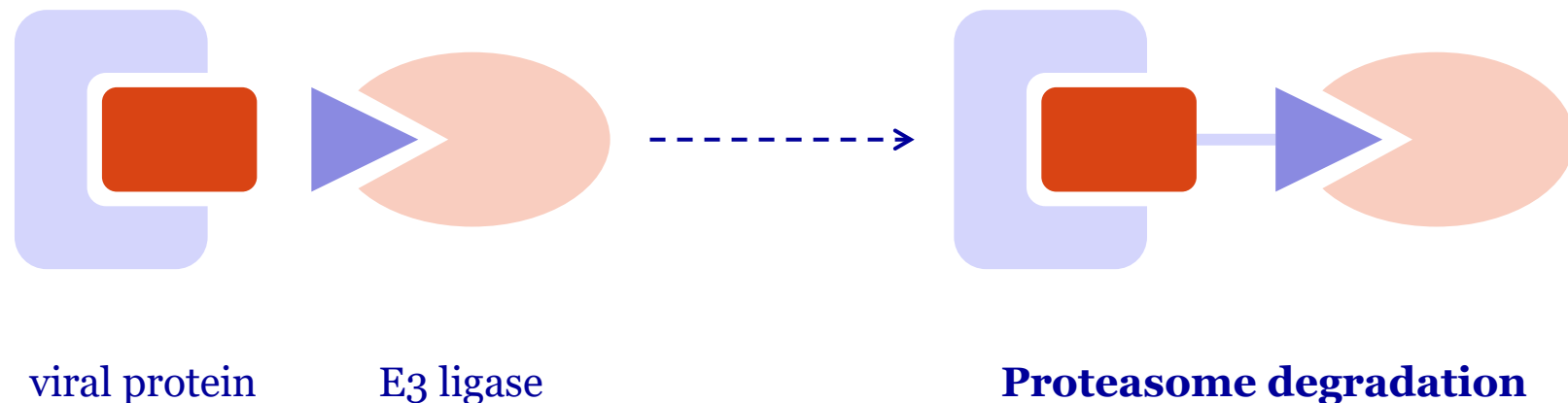




Targeted protein degradation to target undruggable viral proteins

Overcoming major challenges of antiviral drug discovery

- Targets “undruggable” proteins
- Applicable to any viral protein
- Resulting in complete silencing of viral activities
- Is less likely to lead to resistance
- Oral administration



- **Reporter cell lines expressing the target of interest**
 - Choice of tag (luminescent, fluorescent) & position
 - Full characterization of protein kinetics, turnover, activity
 - CRISPR knockout of E3 ligase of interest

- **High-throughput degradation assays**
 - 384-well plate format, DC_{50} and D_{max} determination
- **Live degradation** kinetics (fluorescence/luminescence)

- A panel of **additional assays** to study targeted protein degradation
 - Cellular E3 ligase engagement
 - Binding affinity to viral protein (e.g. SPR, MST etc.)
 - Ternary complex formation (NanoBRET)
 - Ubiquitination (NanoBRET) / Ubiquitinomics
 - Proteomics in infectious model
 - Chemical competition / E3 ligase modulation



A panel of assays to evaluate small molecule degraders activities

On-demand generation of reporter cell lines expressing the target of interest

Multiple choices of tags

luminescent



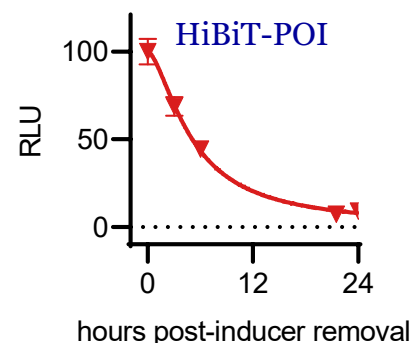
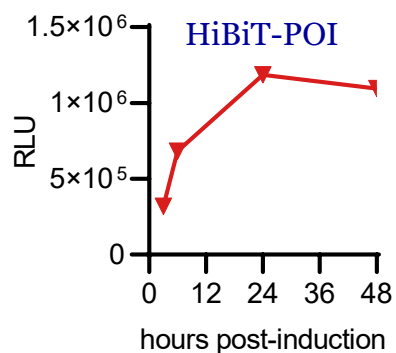
Nluc



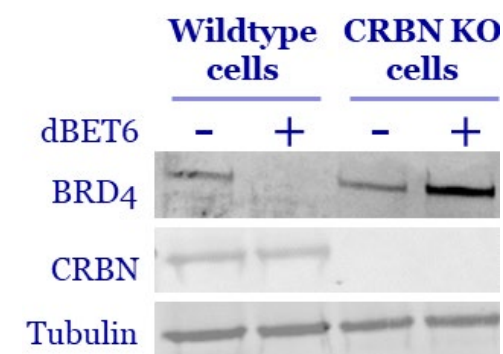
fluorescent



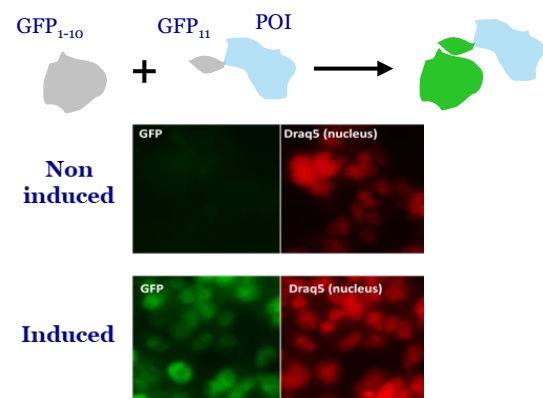
Full characterization of protein kinetics, turnover, activity



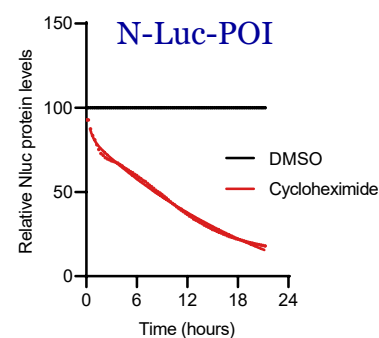
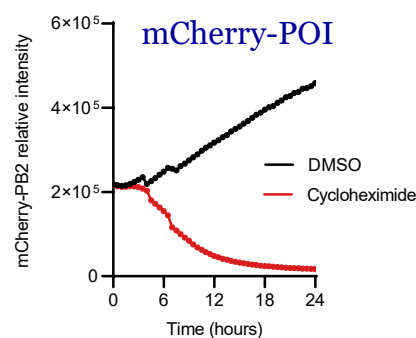
CRISPR knockout of E3 ligase of interest



Stable cells expressing split GFP-POI

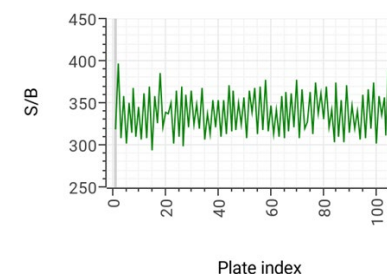


Live degradation kinetics (fluorescence/luminescence)

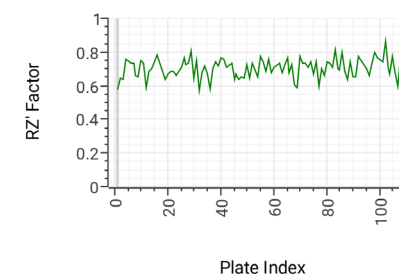


Successful High-throughput screenings

S/B = 336



RZ' = 0.7

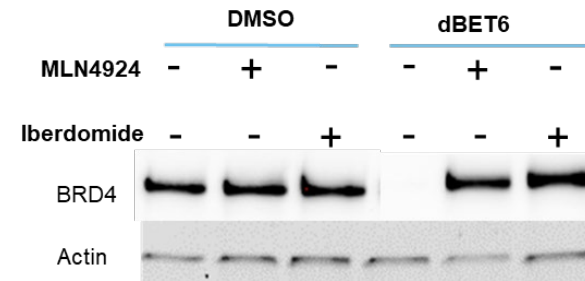




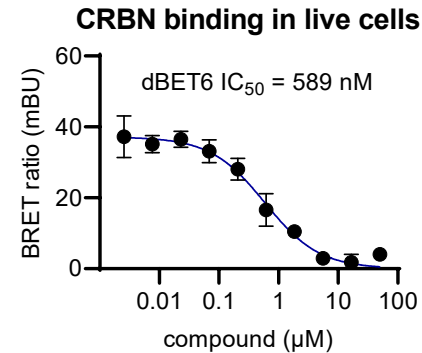
A panel of assays to study targeted protein degradation

Flexibility in reporter type, full characterization

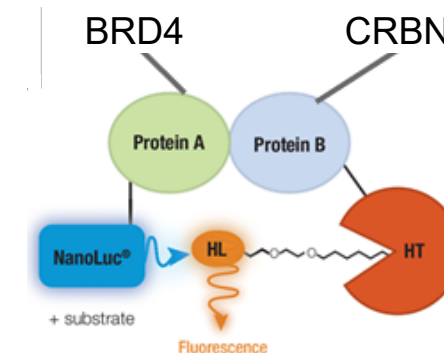
Chemical competition / E3 ligase modulation



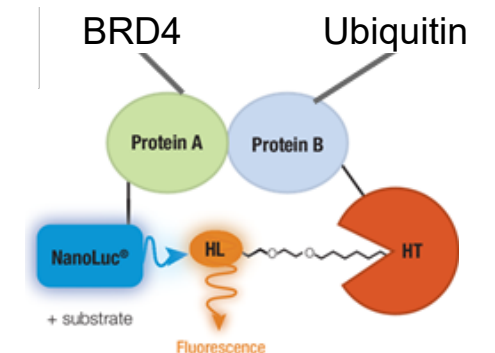
E3 ligase cellular engagement



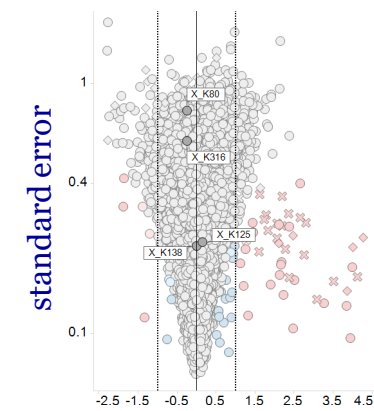
Ternary complex formation (NanoBRET)



Ubiquitination (NanoBRET)



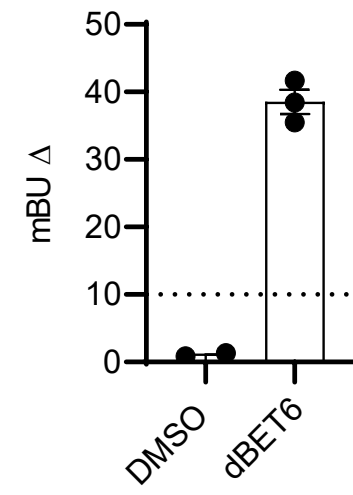
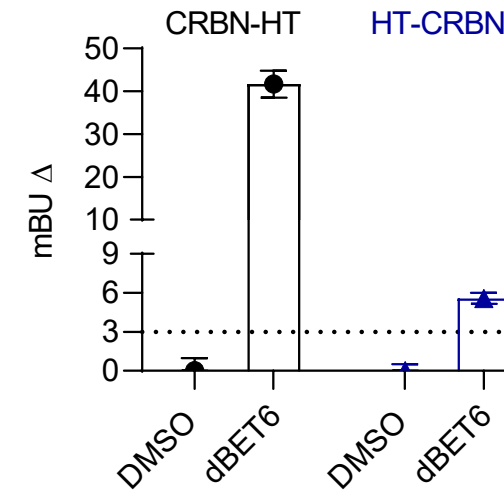
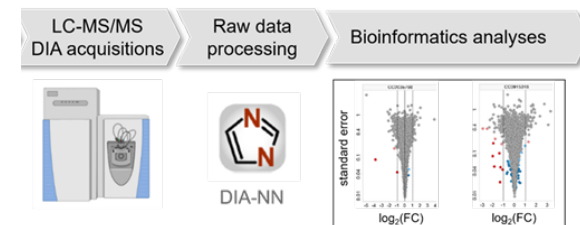
Ubiquitinomics



Pulldown of ubiquitinated peptides

Nluc-POI peptides well detected in stable cells

Proteomics in infectious model





Drug discovery platforms to tackle endemic and emerging viruses

Developing tailored therapeutics that delay or prevent escape and resistance

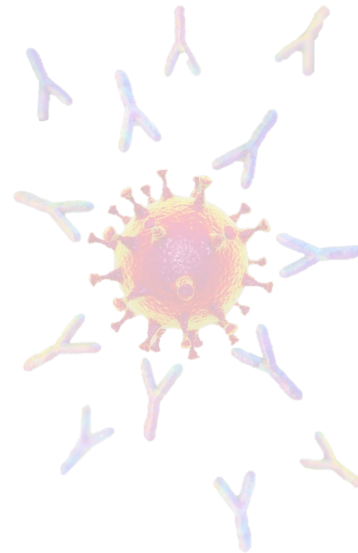
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Neutralizing antibodies



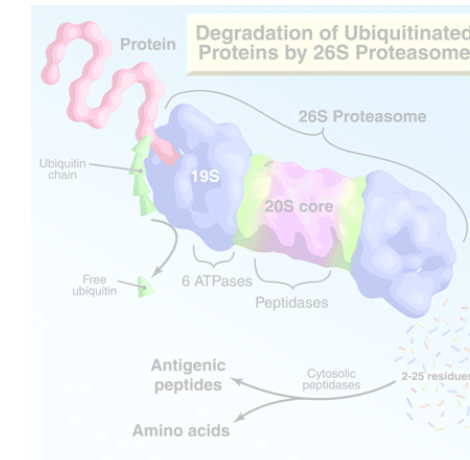
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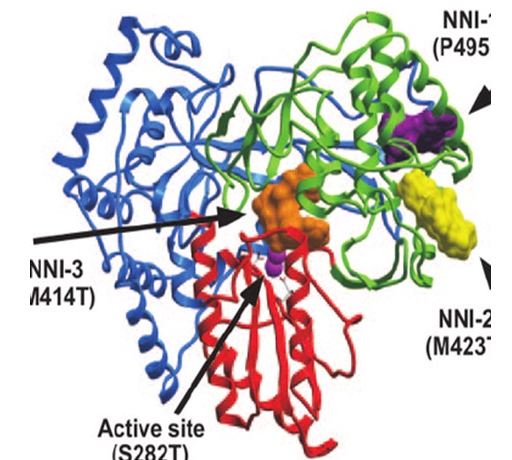
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Targeted protein degradation



Preventing replication & assembly

Inhibiting key enzymes





Novel platform to rapidly identify broadly acting small molecule antivirals

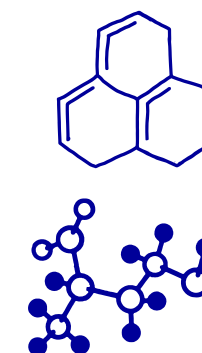
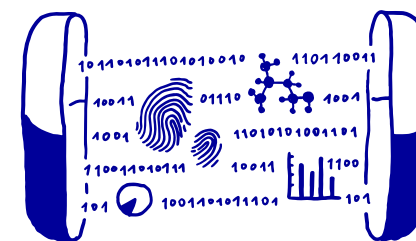
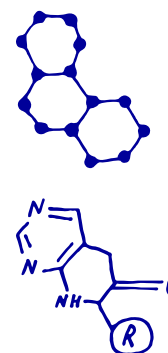
Enabling technologies applicable across virus families

Establishing an antiviral focused library to accelerate antiviral research and development

Initial focus and Poc: RNA-dependent RNA polymerases

- Validated targets (HIV, HCV, IAV...)
 - Conserved structures¹
 - Permanent need:** New variants / single mutations can lead to drug resistance²

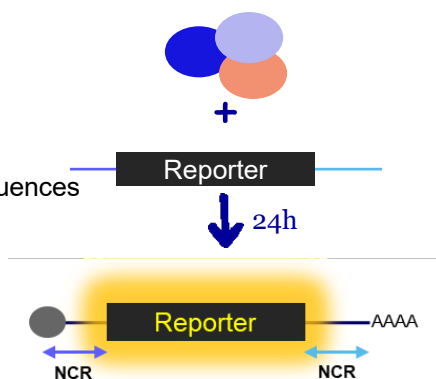
Library building approach: Literature, ligand-based pharmacophore modelling and machine learning



In cellulo minigenome polymerase assay

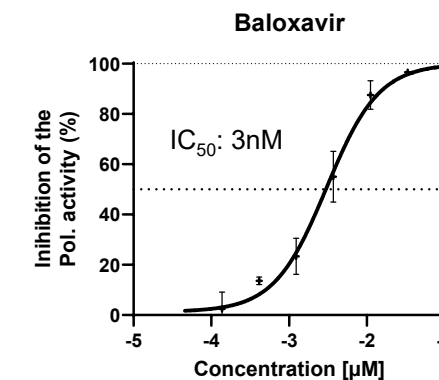
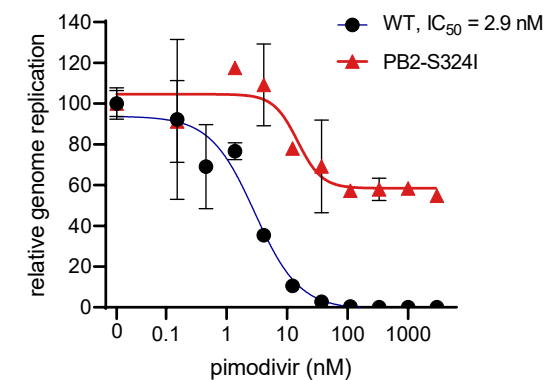
Transfect Viral polymerases

Reporter gene + specific viral sequences



- Applicable to many viruses
- Work on BSL4 viruses in BSL2 labs
- Easy to test variants with natural or induced resistance mutations
- Adaptable to HTS: ongoing on influenza

Validation of Influenza minigenome with 2 ref cpds






















Novel platform to rapidly identify broadly acting small molecule antivirals

Building a pan-viral screening platform

Many viruses of concern

	Virus of concern	Biosafety level	Design	Assay development
	Influenza	2		
	Nipah ¹	4		
	CCHF ¹	4		
	Hendra ¹	4		
	Dengue	3		
	Lassa ¹	4		
	Ebola ¹	4		
	MERS-CoV ¹	3		
	SARS-CoV-1 ¹	3		
	SARS-CoV-2 ¹	3		
	RSV	2		
	Chikungunya virus	3		

Approach: One-stop shopping

