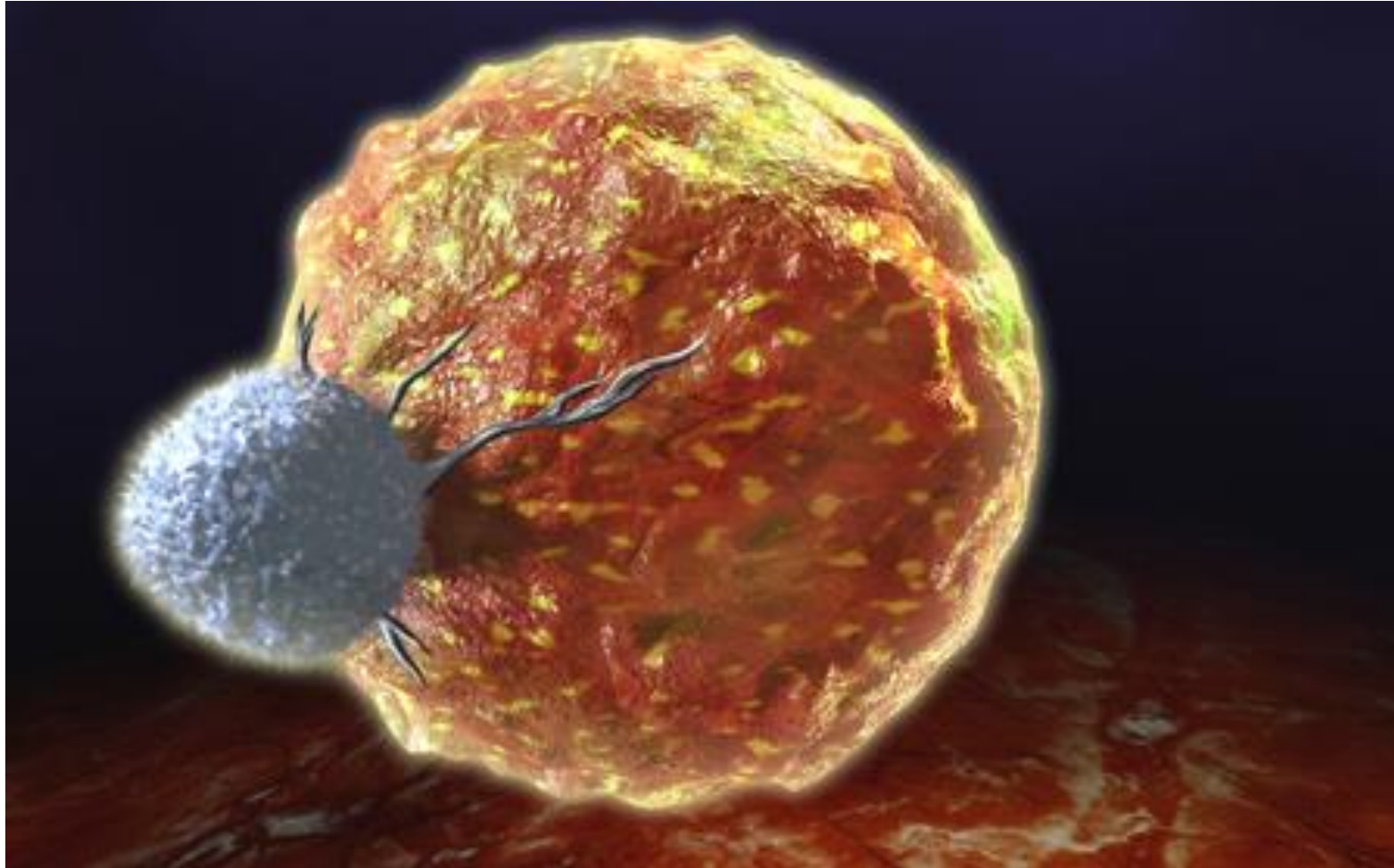


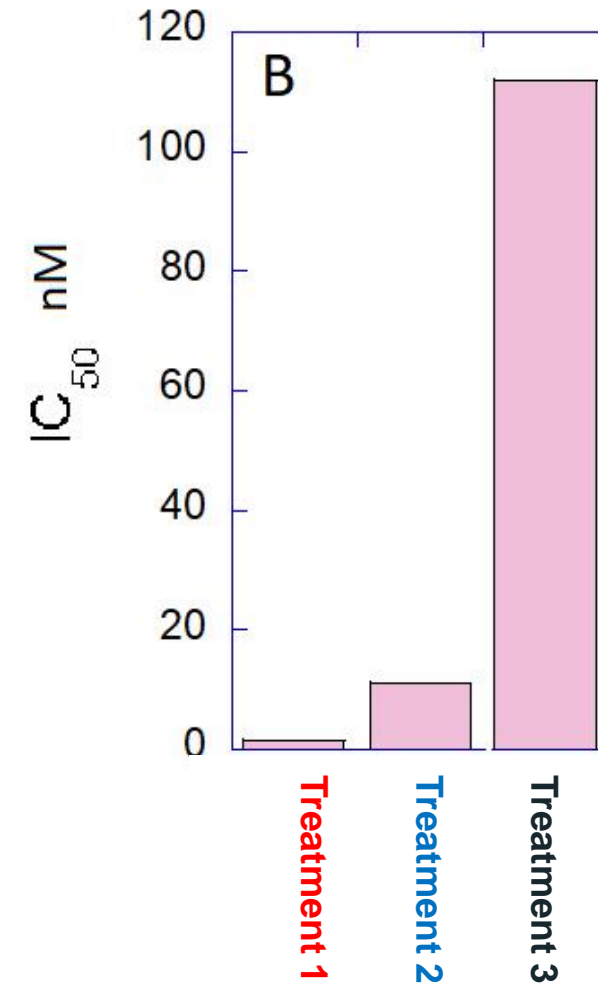
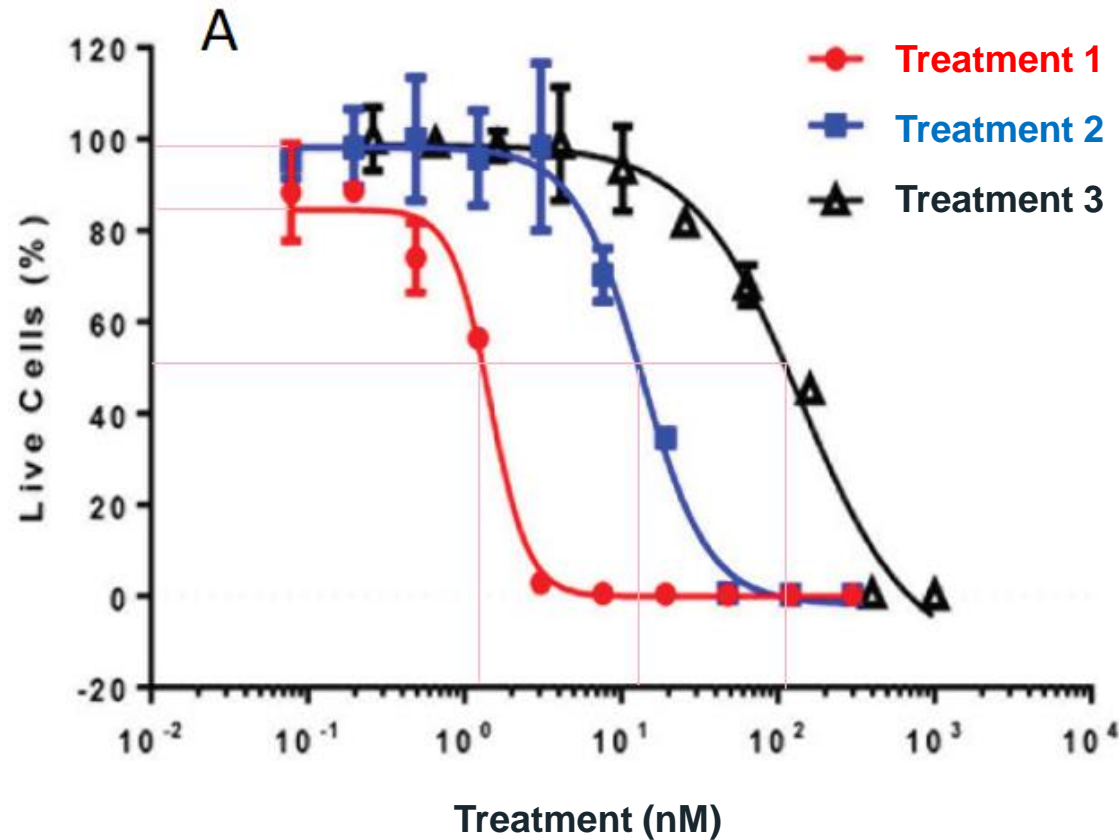
# Immuno oncology *in vitro* assays

Dr. Bart Landuyt  
Functional Genomics & Proteomics

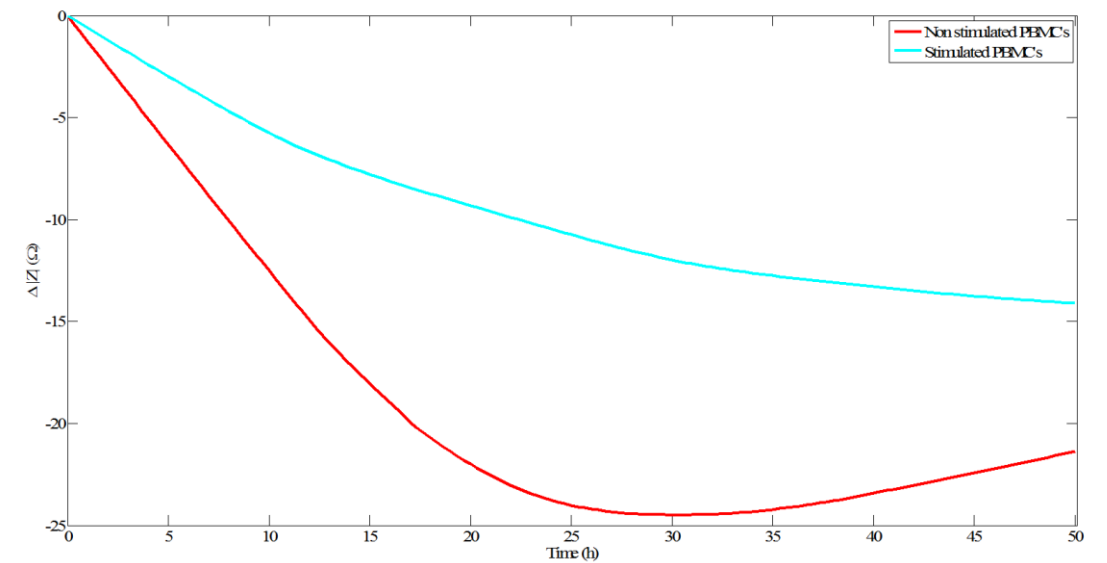
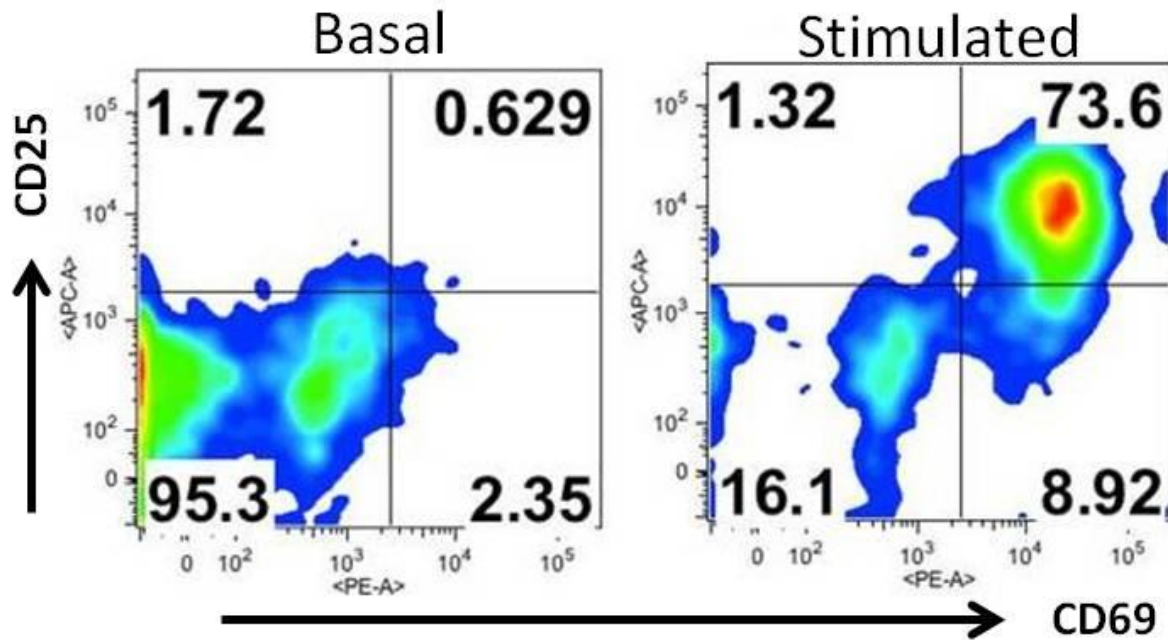
# Immuno oncology



# Tumor cell killing by CTLs



# CTL activation



# Contact

[bart.landuyt@kuleuven.be](mailto:bart.landuyt@kuleuven.be)

Functional Genomics & Proteomics

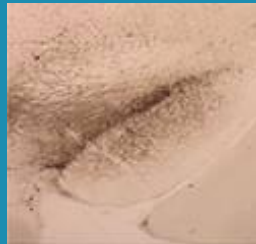
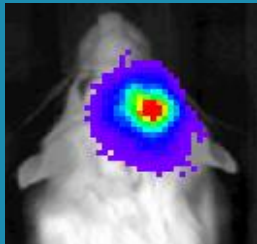
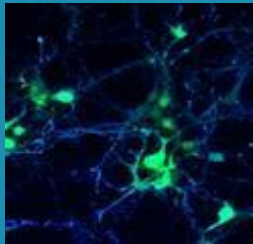
Naamsestraat 59

3000 Leuven

# Pre-clinical models for Parkinson's disease drug discovery

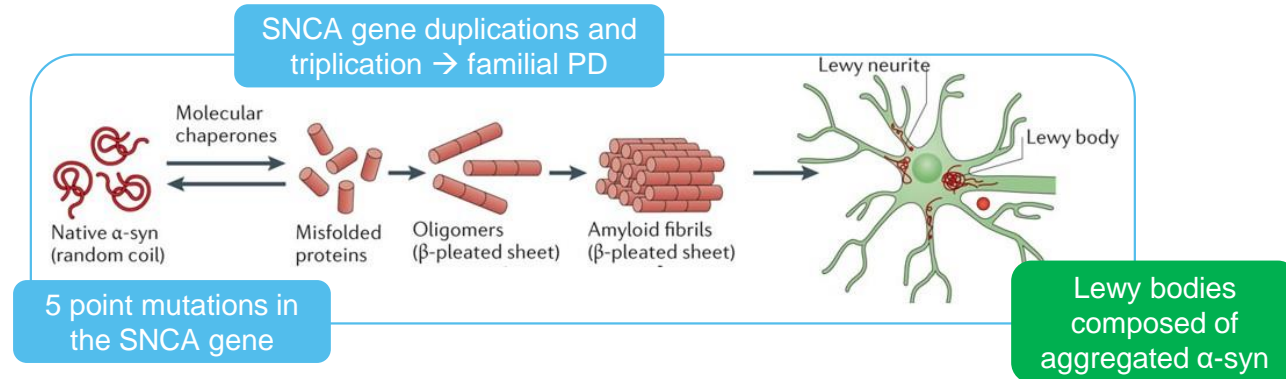
The Baekelandt Lab – KU Leuven

Veronique Daniëls, PhD



# $\alpha$ -synuclein based models for Parkinson's disease (PD)

## $\alpha$ -synuclein, a genetically validated target for PD

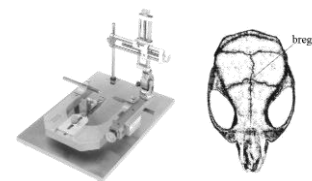
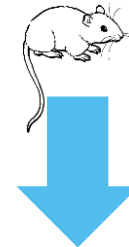


## Rodent $\alpha$ -synuclein based PD models: robust & validated

$\alpha$ -synuclein overexpression using **rAAV** vectors



rAAV2/7 CMVie-Synapsin1- $\alpha$ -syn  
(wt or A53T)



Stereotactic injection  
(rat or mouse brain)

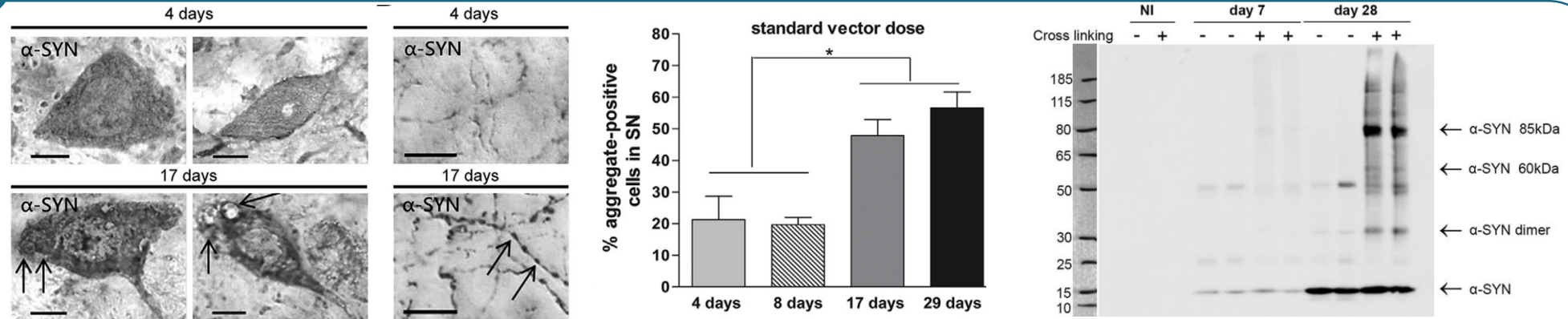
1.  $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregation
2. Neurotoxicity
3. Behavioural deficits



# Rodent models for Parkinson's disease

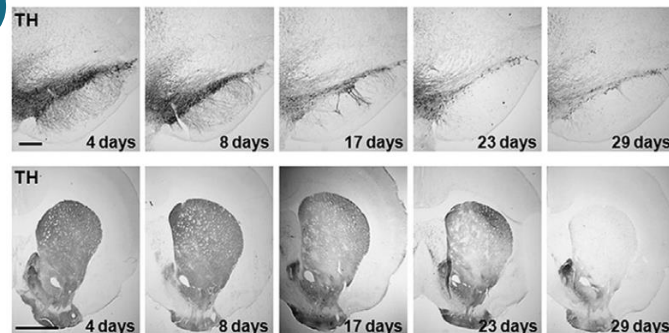
## 1 $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregation

Van der Perren A., *et al.* NBA 2015



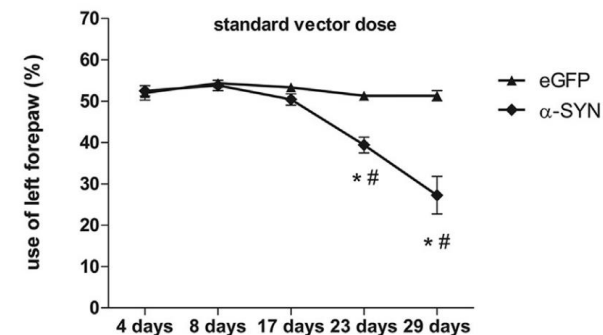
## Neurotoxicity – dopaminergic cell death

### 2



## Behavioural deficits

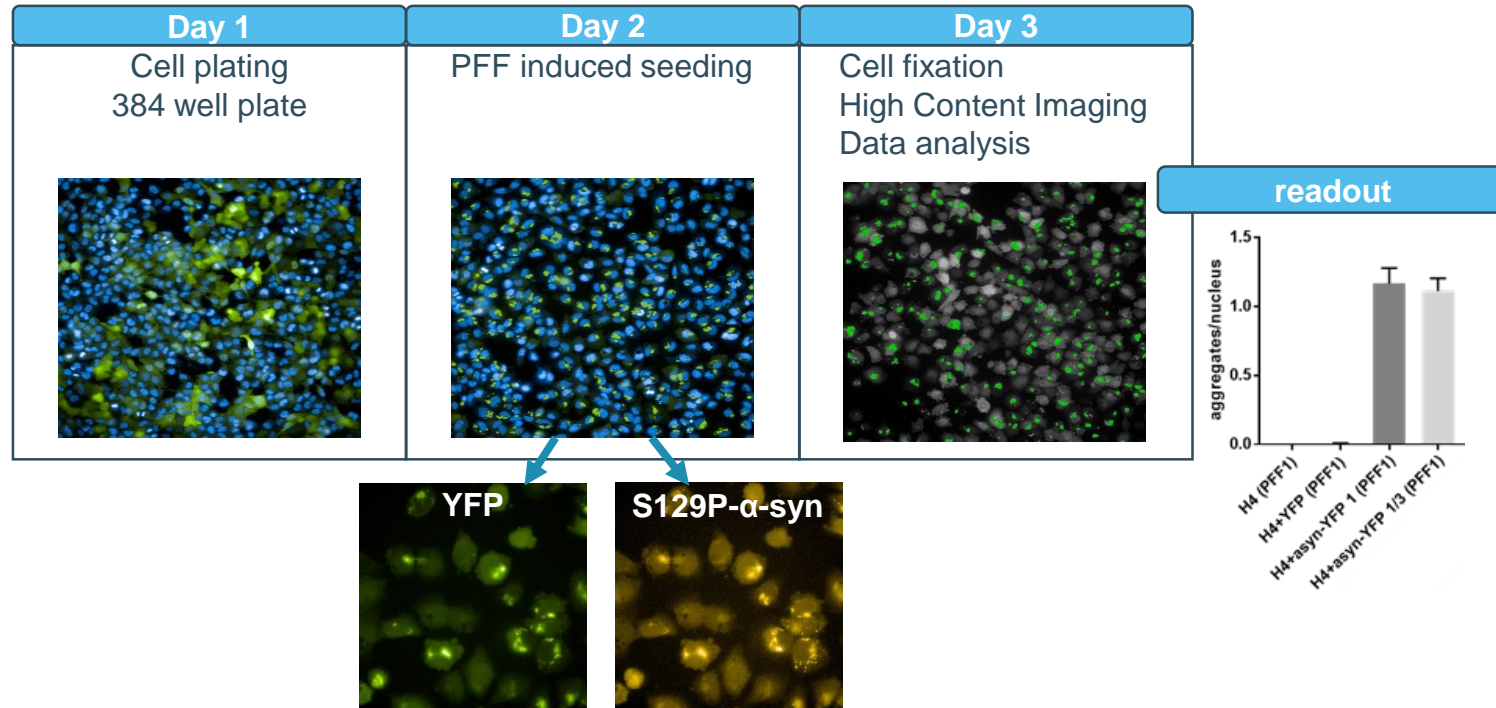
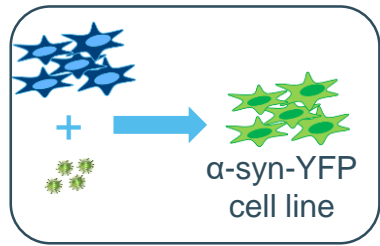
### 3





# Cellular model for Parkinson's disease

## Induction of $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregates in neuroglioma cells




### Access our PD models:

1. Fee-4-Service or Research collaboration (Baekelandt lab)
2. Obtain our AAV2/7- $\alpha$ -synuclein vectors through the LVVC

[www.lvvc.be](http://www.lvvc.be)

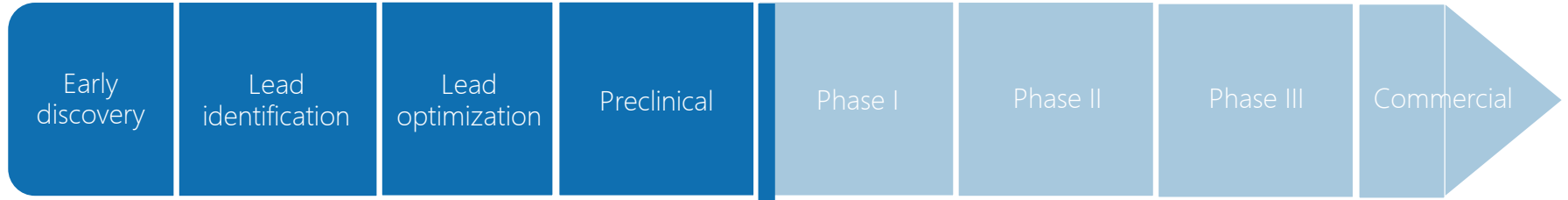
[www.parkinsonresearch.be](http://www.parkinsonresearch.be)



# Zebrafish platform for toxicity assessment and neuroactive drug discovery

Annelii Ny  
Laboratory for Molecular Biodiscovery

# Problem

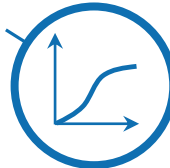


90% of drug candidates  
that enter clinical trials

fail

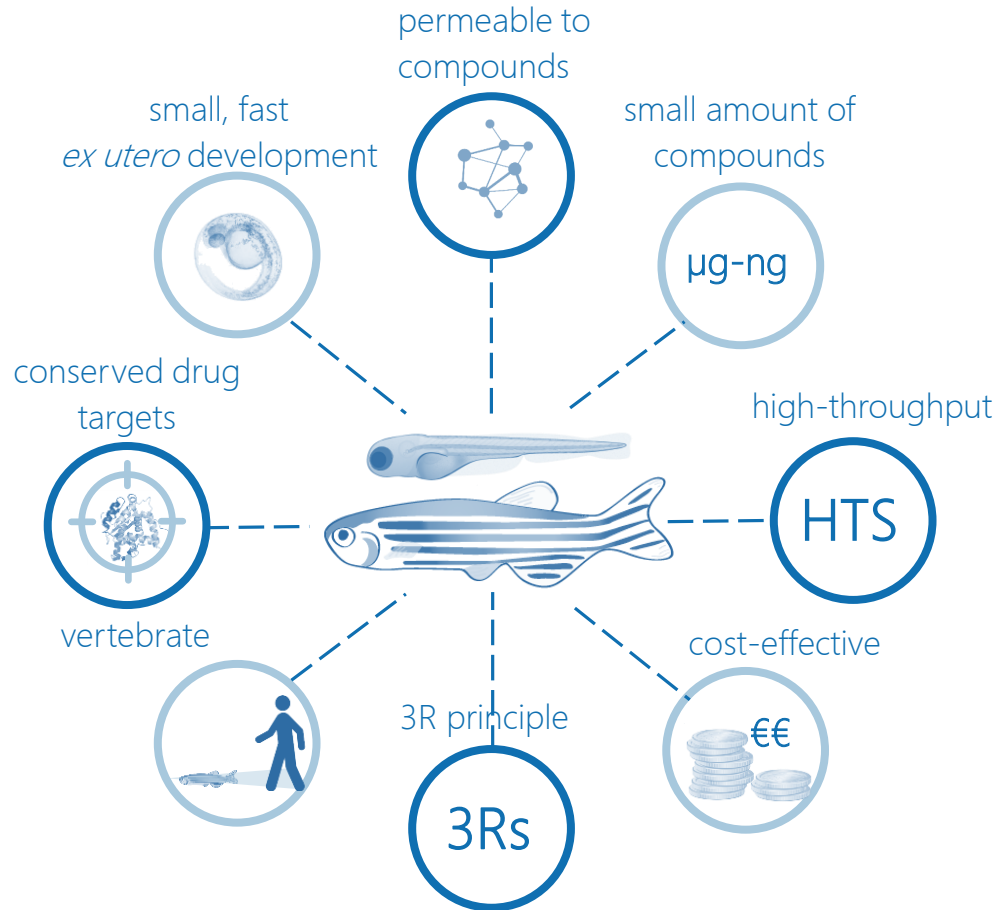


Toxicity



Lack of efficacy

# Solution



# Toxicity

## General morphology

- normal morphology



- abnormal morphology



heart edema



curved tail

## Organ specific assays

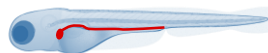
- hepatotoxicity



- neurotoxicity



- nephrotoxicity



## Functional assays

- cardiac function



- kidney filtration rate



- whole brain activity



Article  
**Cell Imaging Counting as a Novel Ex Vivo Approach  
for Investigating Drug-Induced Hepatotoxicity in  
Zebrafish Larvae**

Xuan-Bac Nguyen <sup>1,2</sup>, Stanislas Kislyuk <sup>2,3</sup>, Duc-Hung Pham <sup>1</sup>, Angela Kecskés <sup>1</sup>, Jan Maes <sup>1</sup>,  
Deirdre Cabooter <sup>2</sup>, Pieter Annaert <sup>2</sup>, Peter De Witte <sup>1,2</sup> and Anneli Ny <sup>1</sup>



PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF  
**Johnson & Johnson**



improve safety of drug leads, **decreased risk of late phase attrition**

# Neuroactive drug discovery

## Drug discovery

### Epilepsy models

- 4 chemical
- 1 mechanical
- 5 genetic



- PCT/EP2018/073147
- PCT/EP2018/073149
- PCT/EP2018/073159

## Target validation

- CRISPR/Cas9
- morpholino



## Functional assays

- locomotor assay
- epileptic activity (EEG)
- whole brain activity (neuroluminescence)
- social behavior



epilepsy drug candidates with improved efficacy and *in vivo* translatability

annelii.ny@kuleuven.be

# Low-cost pose estimation for rehabilitation

March 19, 2019

BiR&D Industry Meets University

Fons De Mey (fons.demey@uantwerpen.be)

Jan Steckel (jan.steckel@uantwerpen.be)



**CoSys-Lab**  
Constrained Systems Lab  
University of Antwerp





# Pose estimation = Motion Capturing



# Available solutions



- 😊 High accuracy
- 😊 High precision
- 😞 Very expensive (Installation & Maintenance)
- 😞 Fixed Installation
- 😞 Normal gait assumptions
- 😞 Limited Availability



- 😊 Low cost
- 😊 Widely available
- 😊 Plug-and-play
- 😞 Low accuracy
- 😞 Low precision

# Our solution

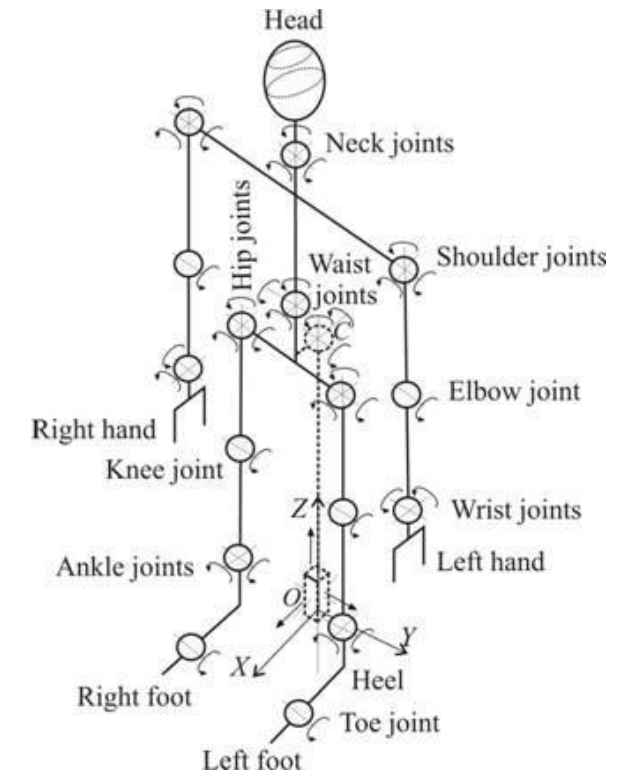
## Probabilistic Sensor Fusion



## WBSN



## Kinematic Chain



# Advantages



- 😊 Low cost
- 😊 High accuracy
- 😊 High precision
- 😊 Widely available

Available for  
kinesitherapists for  
whom installation of a  
high-end motion lab is  
not viable

# The ELIDOT Platform

The alliance between **Immunodot** and **ELISA** technologies

## ELISA

- + Automatisable
- + Well adapted to high-throughput laboratories
- Only one biomarker per plate
- Poor flexibility

## IMMUNODOT

- Multiplexin
- Flexible design
- Not fully automated
- Adapted for small and medium-sized laboratories

## ELIDOT

- + Automatisable
- + Well adapted to high-throughput laboratories
- + Multiplexing
- + Flexible design





# Solution

Antigens are first coated onto the nitrocellulose membrane (Fig. n°1). The membrane can even be printed for alphanumeric recognition. Then, the strips are fixed into the 96-well plate (Fig. n°2).

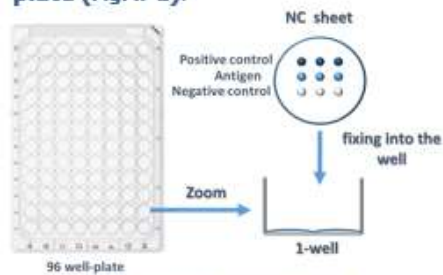


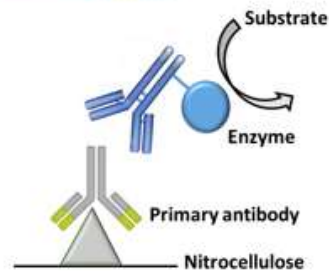
Fig. n°1: step representation of the ELIDOT platform



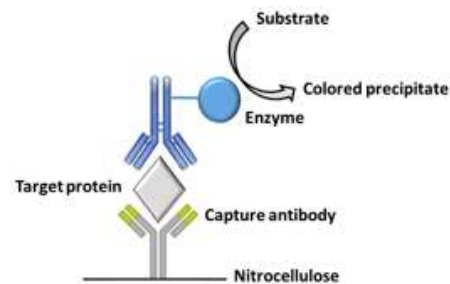
Fig. n°2: ELIDOT plate

## EIA test

### Indirect assay



### Capture assay « Sandwich »



## Interpretation system

### Reading system



Fig. n°3: CL-reader

Example for auto-immunity

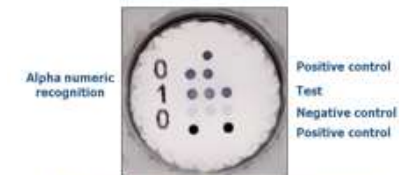


Fig. n°4: Detection of autoantibodies

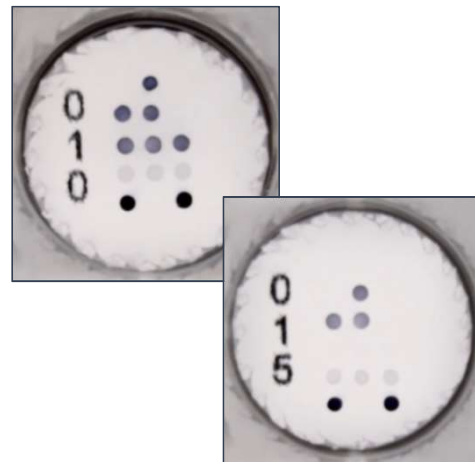
### Software

- Flexible
- Customized
- Full traceability
- Quantitative or Semi-quantitative

# *The ELIDOT Platform*

## Key characteristics

- Multiplexing on nitrocellulose
- Up 25 parameters in duplicate
- Up to 96 patients tested per run
- **Fully automated test procedure**
- Sample volume needed: 10µl
- Processing time: min. 1h30
- Innovative and rapid drying plate process in less than 10 minutes
- Flexible interpretation software incorporated into the reader



## Unique features and benefits

- Flexible
- Rapid
- Compatible with ELISA automates
- Full traceability
- Multiplexing
- Quantitative (standard curve)
- Breakable wells (12x8)



We are currently  
looking for  
collaborations and  
new partners

Contact :

<b>QUINTING Birgit</b>	<b><i>b.quinting@helmo.be</i></b>
<b>BIEMAR Sandrine</b>	<b><i>s.biemar@helmo.be</i></b>
	<b>+32 4 220 16 39</b>
	<b>+32 4 349 03 45</b>
<b>AUTEM Benoit</b>	<b><i>bautem@d-tek.be</i></b>
<b>BODART Nicolas</b>	<b><i>nbodart@d-tek.be</i></b>
	<b>+32 65 84 18 88</b>

➤ Extension to new applications

➤ Transferability studies



## *The ELIDOT Platform*



# TRinCE

*precision transfections*

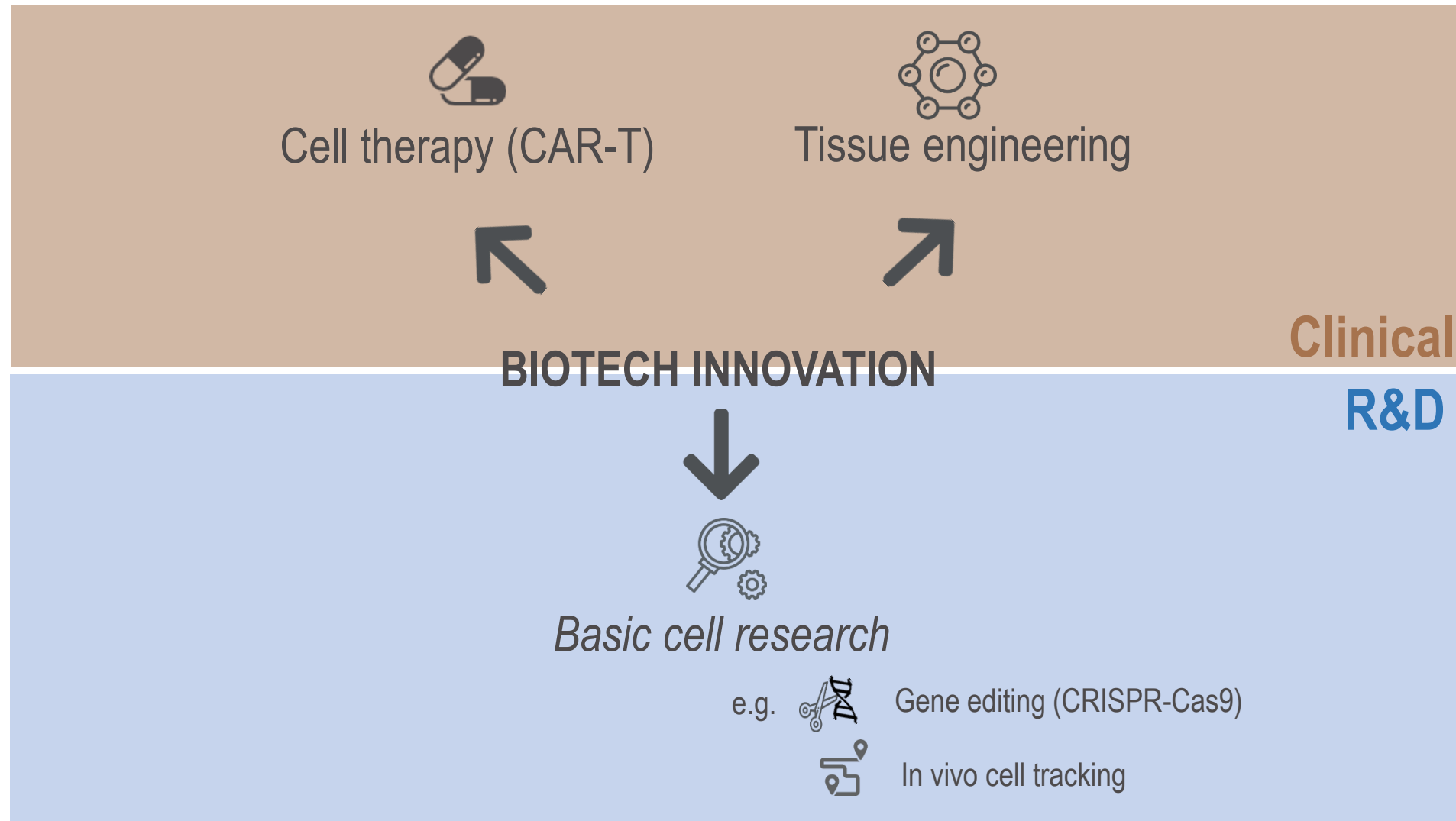
Allowing delivery of macromolecules into any cell with enhanced efficiency and unprecedented accuracy.



1000 μm

Smallest living painting

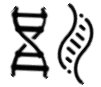
# Biotech innovations result in new (clinical) markets



**Biotech driven markets depend on adequate tools to deliver macromolecules into cells**

# Market need: overcome the cell membrane barrier

Basis = Modifying cells by introducing foreign materials



Genetic content



Peptides



(labelled) Antibodies



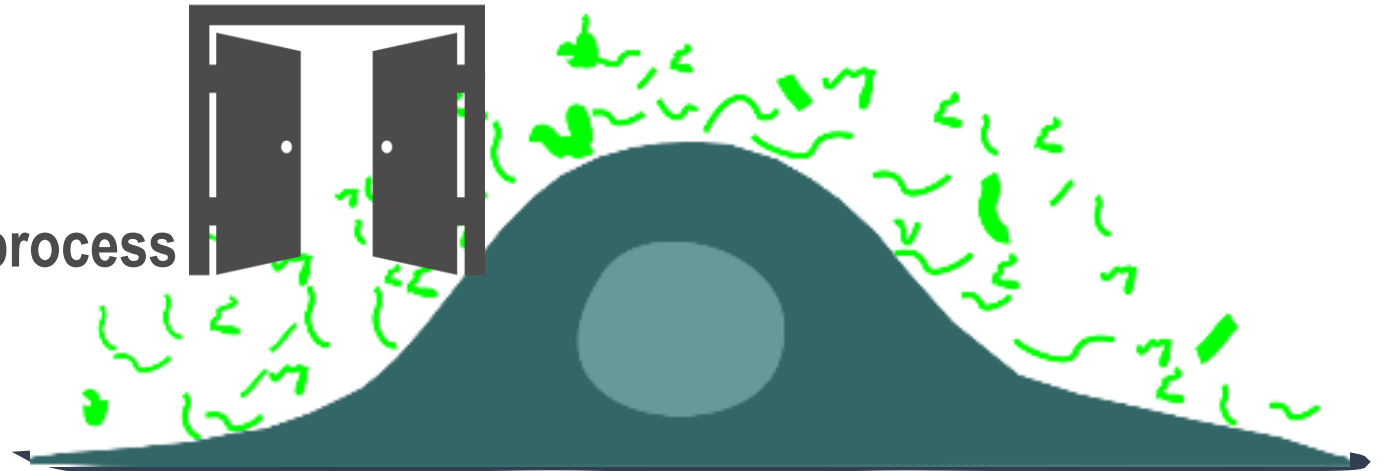
(targeted) Quantum Dots



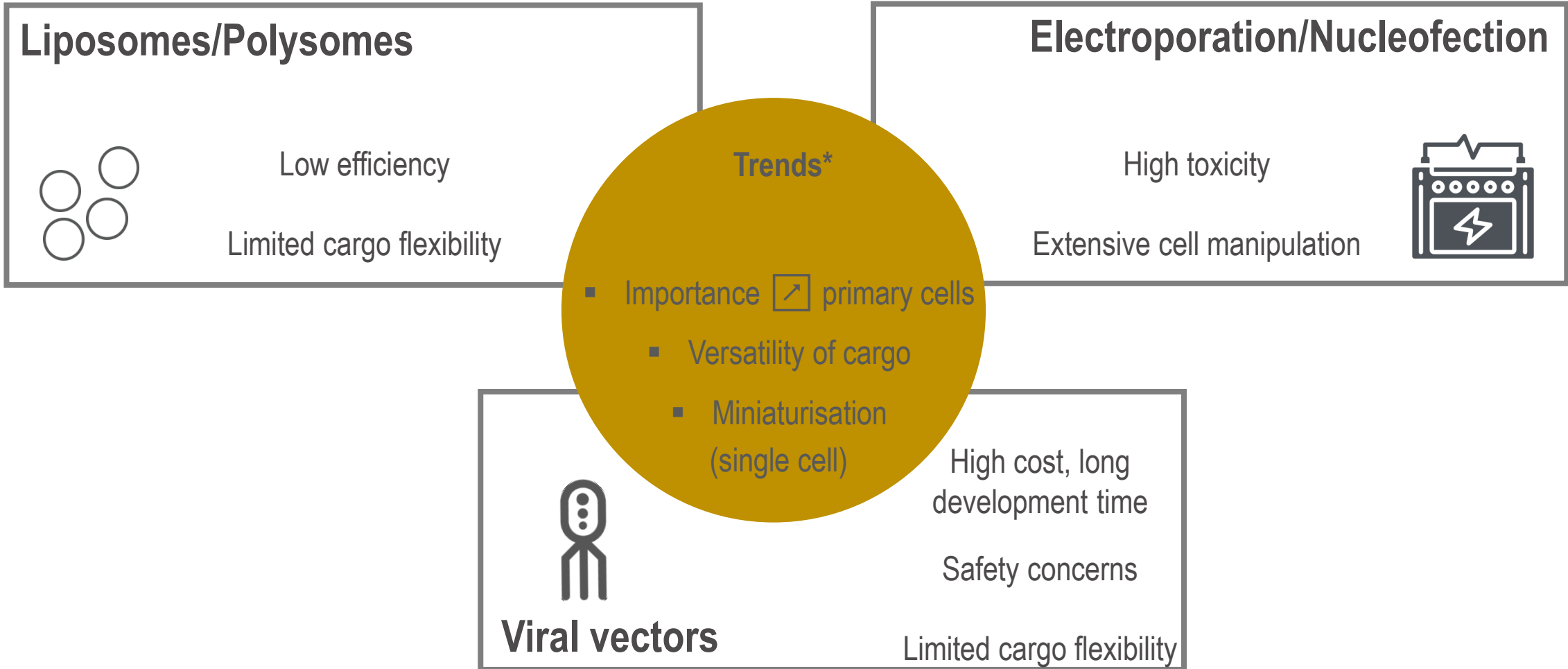
(labelled) Polymers



TRinCE™ facilitates this process



# Current delivery technologies do not meet the requirements



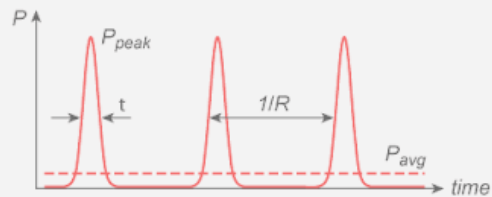
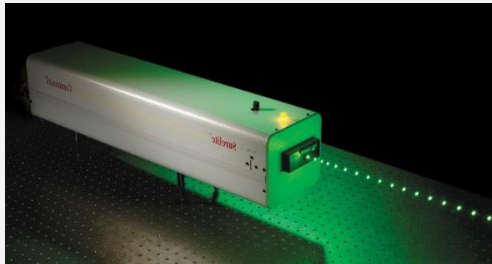


TRinCE™ provides an improved transfection platform

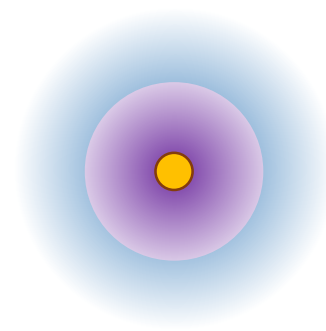
# LumiPore™ platform

*New technology to overcome the cell membrane based on a combination of photonics and nanoparticles*

PULSED LASER LIGHT



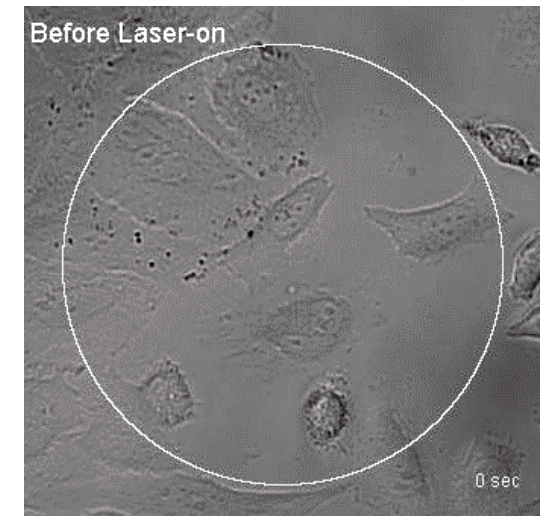
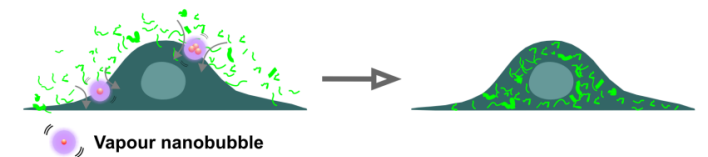
MECHANICAL ENERGY  
(@ nano-scale)



Vapour nanobubble (VNB)

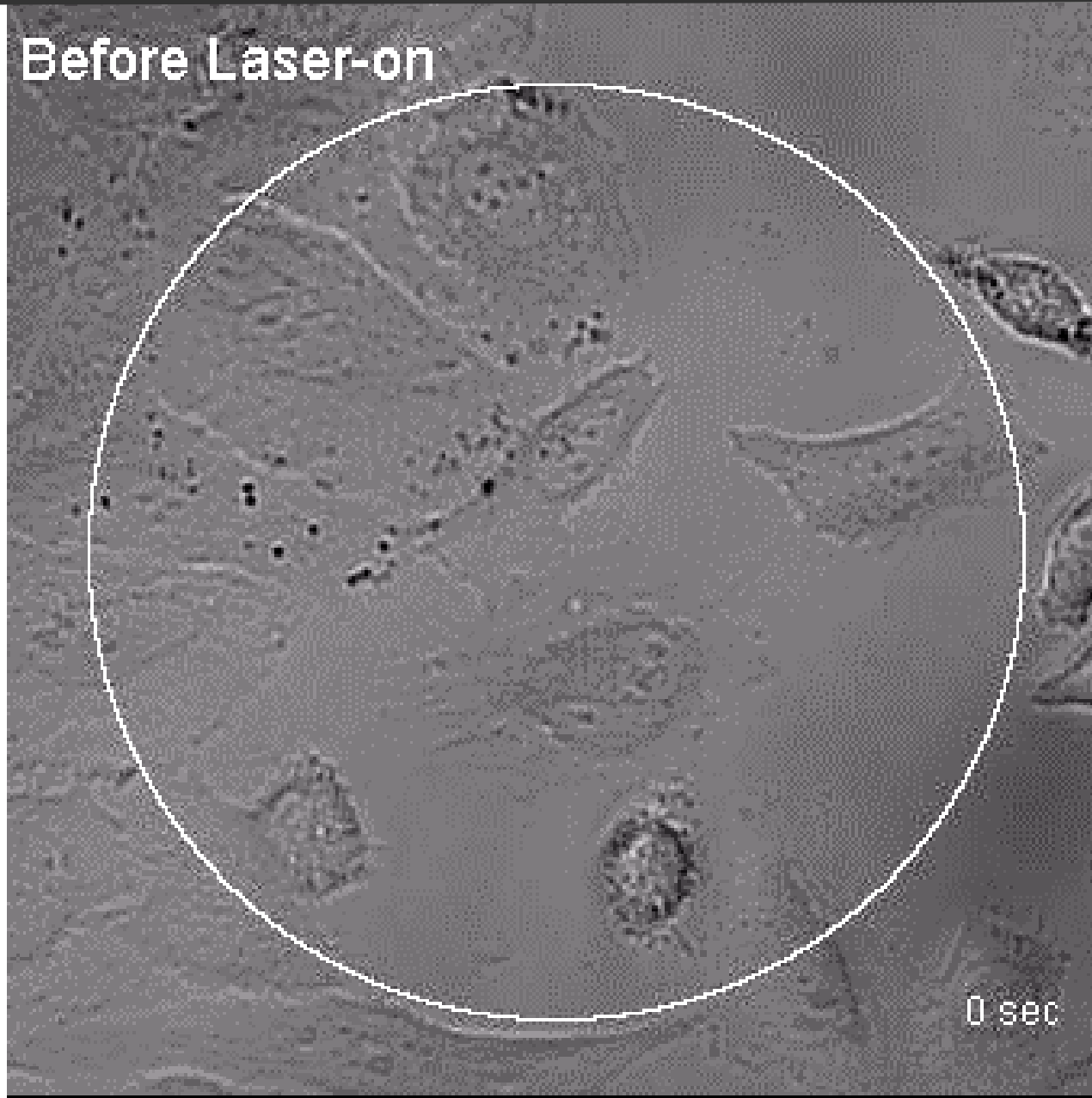


MACROMOLECULE DELIVERY VIA  
PORES IN CELL MEMBRANE



# TRinCE™ provides an improved transfection platform

Before Laser-on



0 sec



# TRinCE™ technology is best suited for a changing market

## USP 1

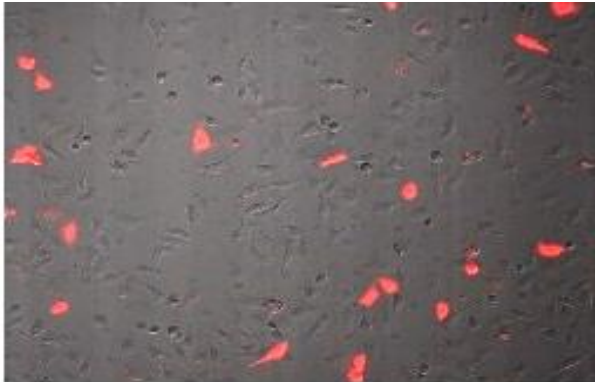
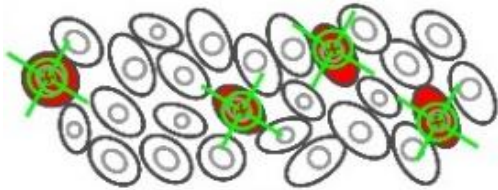


Unique ability to transfect specific cell subpopulations

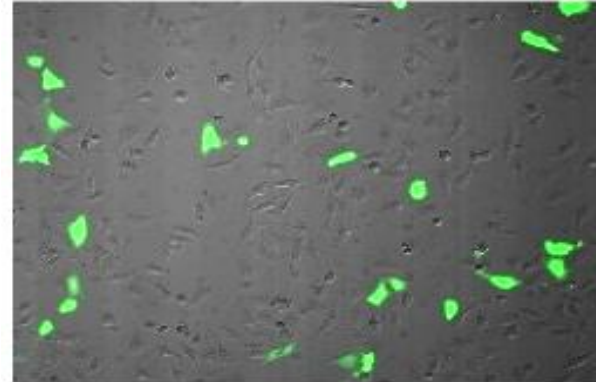
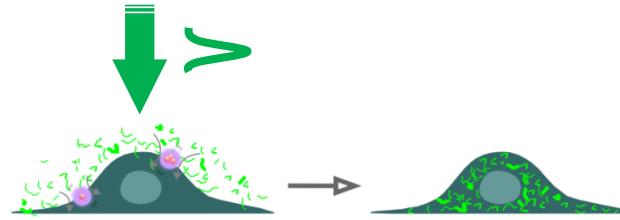
## LumiPore™ CELlect platform

### Platform workflow:

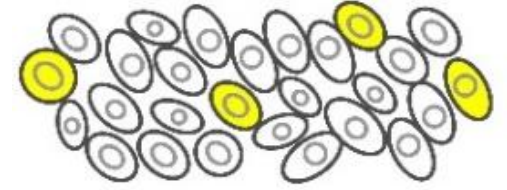
Find target cells



Deliver pulse to target cells



Transfected target cells



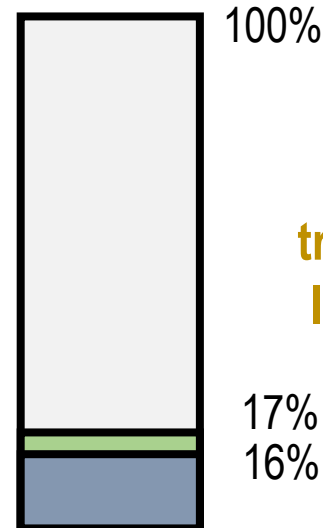
# TRinCE™ technology is best suited for a changing market

## USP 2

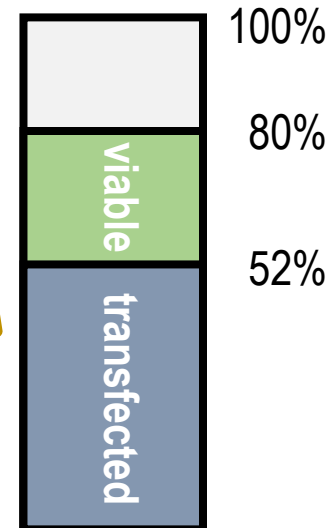


Improved performance for DTC (vs market leader)

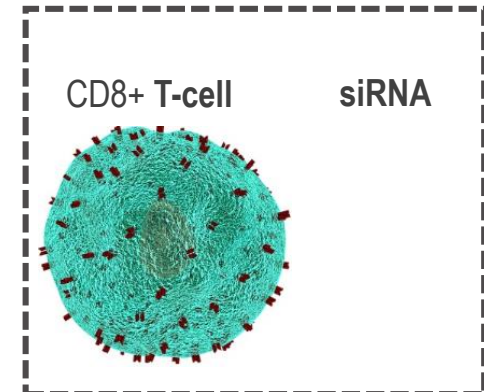
Nucleofection platform



LumiPore™ platform



3x more  
transfected,  
living cells



Published as: Wayteck et al. *J. Control. Release* 2017

# TRinCE™ technology is best suited for a changing market

## USP 3



Minimal cell manipulation required



Hands-on time ↘

Automation potential ↗

Risk of contamination ↘

Regulatory compliance ↗



# TRinCE™ development track

Research initiation



2012

PoC



2014

Research funding  
~ €4 600 000



2016

Seed funding  
~ €620 000



2018

Anticipated market entry

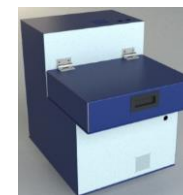


2020

Platform development



Prototype dev.



Beta-customer testing



Application development

Internal innovation → Strong track record of top scientific publications/awards + IP portfolio

Light Science & Applications



ACS NANO

Non-dilutive funding

First market traction →  
Academic facilities : VIB, CRIG, VUB  
Pharma/biotech companies

# Target the R&D market with device + reagents

## Devices

LumiPore™

LumiPore™ CELlect

+

## Reagents

Oligo-Sensitizer



Macro-Sensitizer



Efficiency indicator (oligo)



Efficiency indicator (macro)



+

## Services

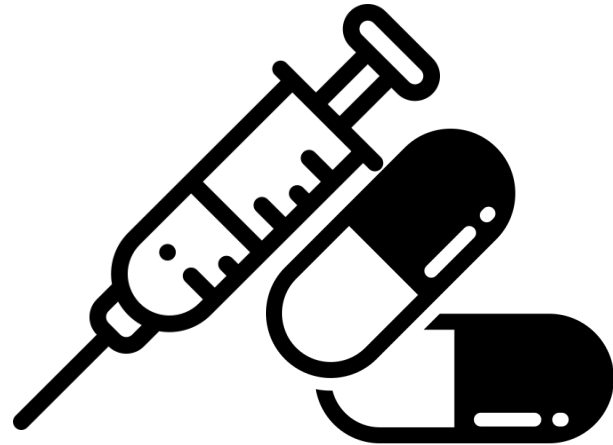


knowhow



Patent portfolio

# TRinCE™ future pipeline



**Cell therapy production**

## Device



Patent pending

## Reagents



Patent pending

Kit 2



Patent pending

Substrate 1

# What are we looking for?



**R&D Applications  
Academic and  
Biotech/Pharma**

**Contact: Daisy Flamez, PhD**

[Daisy.Flamez@ugent.be](mailto:Daisy.Flamez@ugent.be)

+32 9 264 99 12





**Prof. Kevin Braeckmans**



**Stephan Stremersch, PhD**



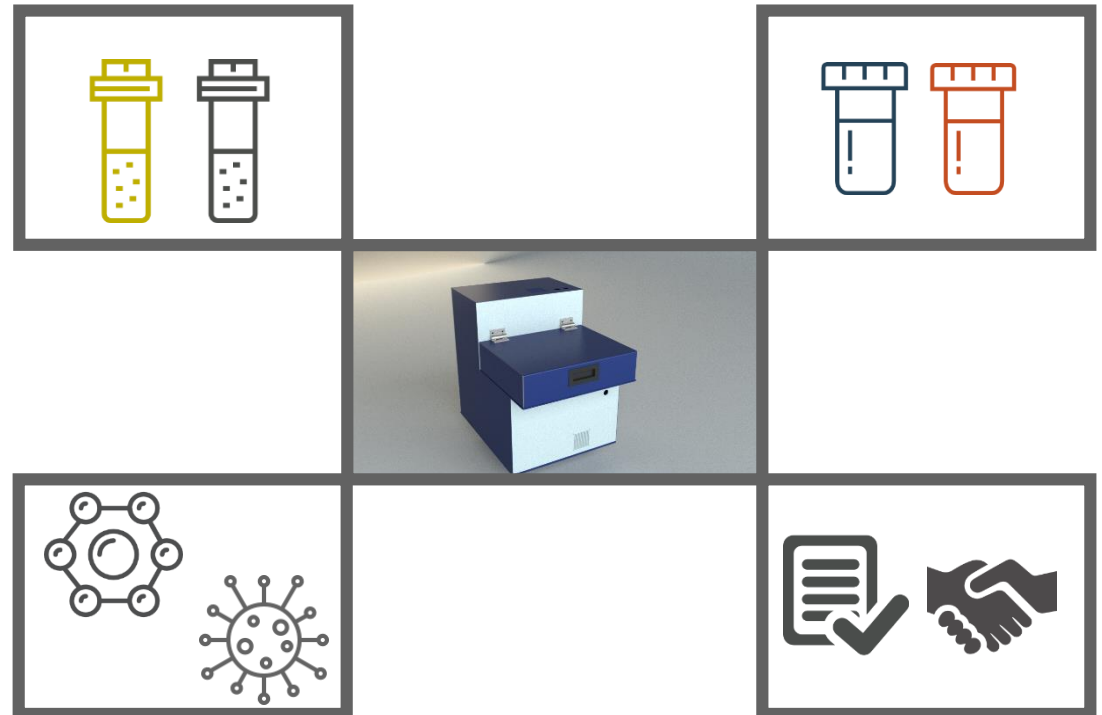
**Daisy Flamez, PhD**

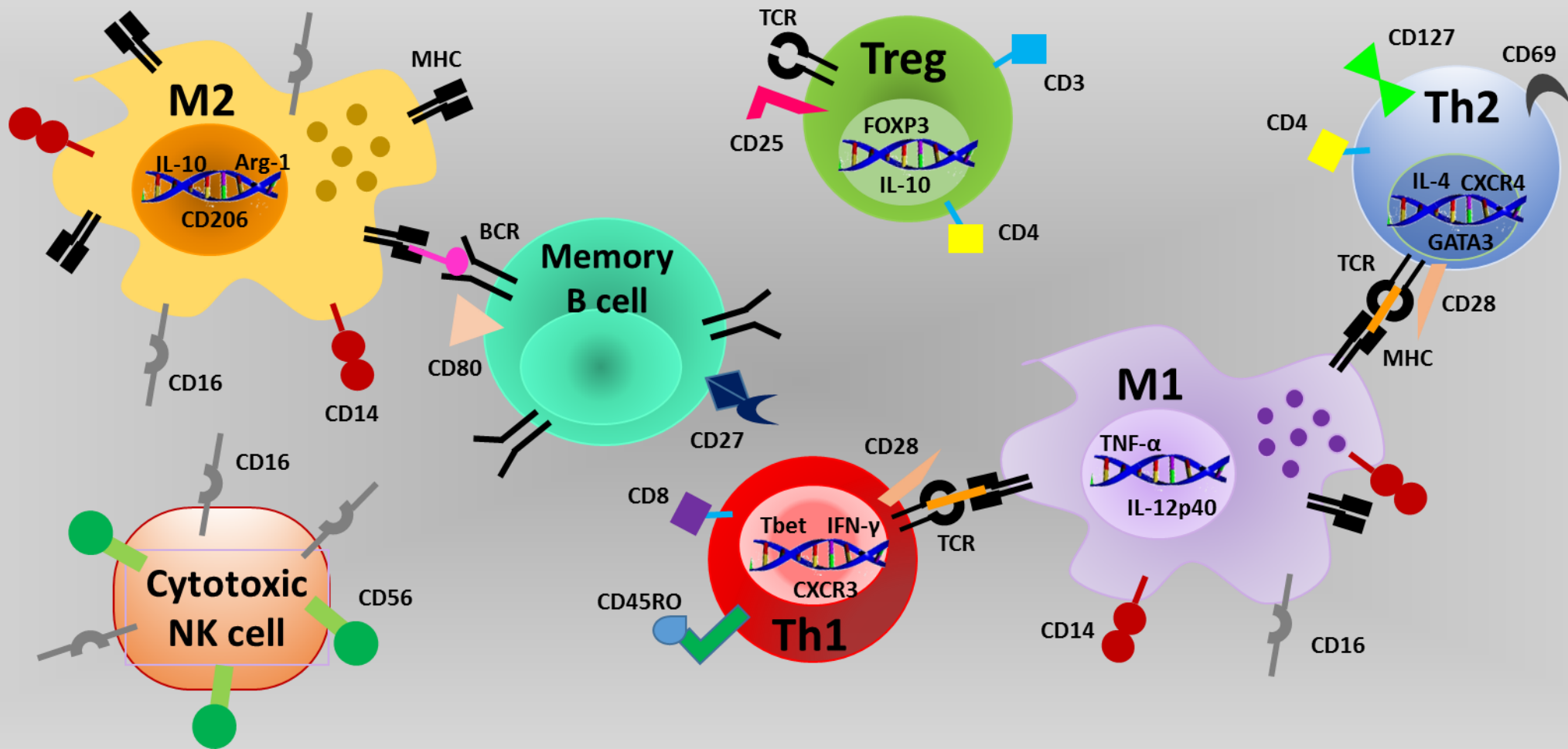


**Toon Brans, PhD**

# TRinCE

*precision transfections*





**Monitor immune status (changes) in function of therapy response and disease development**

An Voets, PhD – business developer Uhasseelt - BIOMED

# YOUR NEEDS

## CONTENT WISE

- **Monitoring of the immunological status of patients** in respect to the development of diseases and the effect of therapy
- **Cell sorting** of different populations for further analysis or culturing
- Measurement of **extracellular vesicles and nanoparticles** (uptake)
- Scientific (immunology) **advice on experimental set-up**

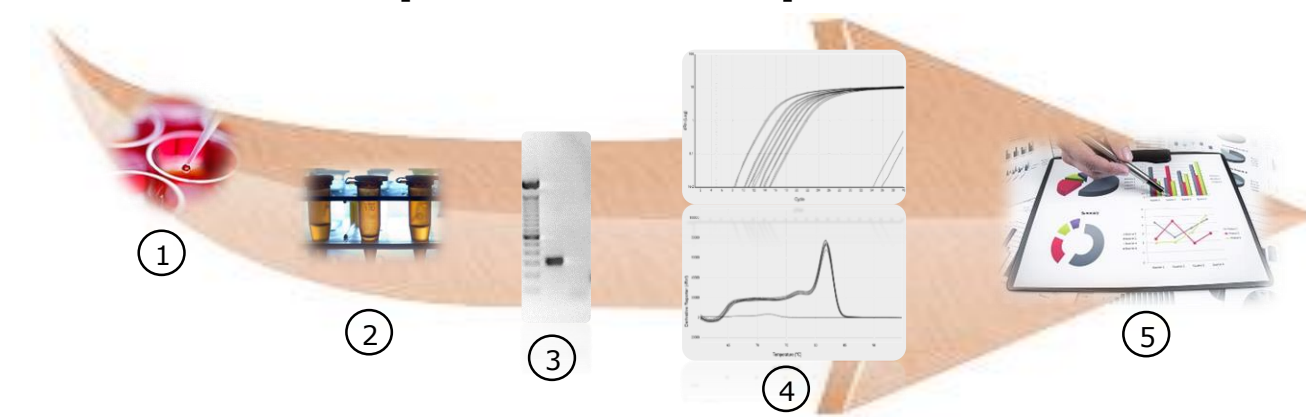
## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Speed
- Quality
- Flexibility

# OUR SOLUTION

Off-the-shelf validated and standardized qPCR and flow cytometry analyses building on our vast experience in (neuro)immunology!

## qPCR service options



1) cell culture, 2) RNA isolation and cDNA synthesis, 3) cDNA quality control, 4) quantitative PCR analyses, 5) report

## Human and murine cell subsets:

T cells

Macrophages

Pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines

Neurotrophic factors

## Flow cytometry panels

Starting material: serum, plasma, supernatant, other complex biological matrices

Available panels:

- Immune cell surface markers
- T cell surface markers
- B cell surface markers
- B cell survival surface markers
- Immune cell apoptosis
- T cell cytokines
- Murine immune cells from spleen, lymph nodes and brain/spinal cord tissues

# KEY FEATURES

## ADVANTAGES

- **Team**

dedicated qualified technicians + professors

- **Fast**

off-the-shelf, optimized analyses

- **Quality**

SOPs with necessary controls, reproducible

- **Flexibility**

pick and combine

## COLLABORATION OPTIONS

- Fee-for-service
- Consultancy and training
- Research collaboration (joint project proposals)

## TRACK RECORD

- Bogie et al. Mult Scler 2018; 24:290-300
- Ravanidis et al. Stem Cells International, vol. 2017, Article ID 2353240
- Claes et al. J Immunol 2016; 197:4576-4583
- Thewissen et al. Cell Transplant 2016; 25:1207-1218
- Dhaeze et al. J Immunol 2015; 195:832-840
- ...

# Technology Offers



2019/03/19





# Rapid diagnostic for bacterial infections



Bacterial infection, rapid diagnostic, RNA, patient blood, antibiotic resistance

## Laboratory

- **Molecular Bacteriology Laboratory**  
(Faculty of Medicine)



Dr Pierre Smeesters is a paediatrician and microbiology researcher with a strong clinical background in paediatric infectious diseases. Dr Smeesters was awarded the triennial GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals Award from the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine in June 2013.

## Team expertise

- Long-standing know-how in bacterial genetics and mobile genetic elements
- Translational research line in the field of bacterial infections to provide clinically relevant outcomes based on basic science expertise
- Modern molecular techniques offer the potential to develop new rapid diagnostic test for infectious diseases as they provide extensive information about the infecting bacteria more rapidly than conventional microbiology testing and yield thereby better decision for the clinician

# Rapid diagnostic for bacterial infections

## State of the art

- Current microbiological diagnosis of bacterial infections is mainly based on growth of clinical specimens on specific media.  
Time to receive the first results: 24 to 48 hours.
- An alternative consists in detecting the presence of its DNA in the clinical specimen. This diagnostic technique is faster than culture, but often lacks sensitivity and/or specificity.
- Another option: **detect the presence of bacterial specific RNA** in the clinical sample.
  - Technically difficult but has the advantages to detect genes that are expressed by the living bacteria (such as antibiotic resistance genes).
  - **All these results can be obtained in less than two hours.** The clinical potential of such RNA diagnostic test will improve the management of patients with infectious diseases and decrease antibiotic misuse.

## Technology description

- New technique for extraction and detection of bacterial RNA in patient blood by quantitative PCR (qPCR)
- The value of this promising technique evaluated on 117 patients with pneumonia
- The new diagnostic test detected the presence of bacterial RNA in 52% of patients (against 16% with the classical diagnostic, blood culture)
- Further improvements of the test are being made to allow for the detection of a broader array of bacterial pathogens and their antibiotic resistance profiles.

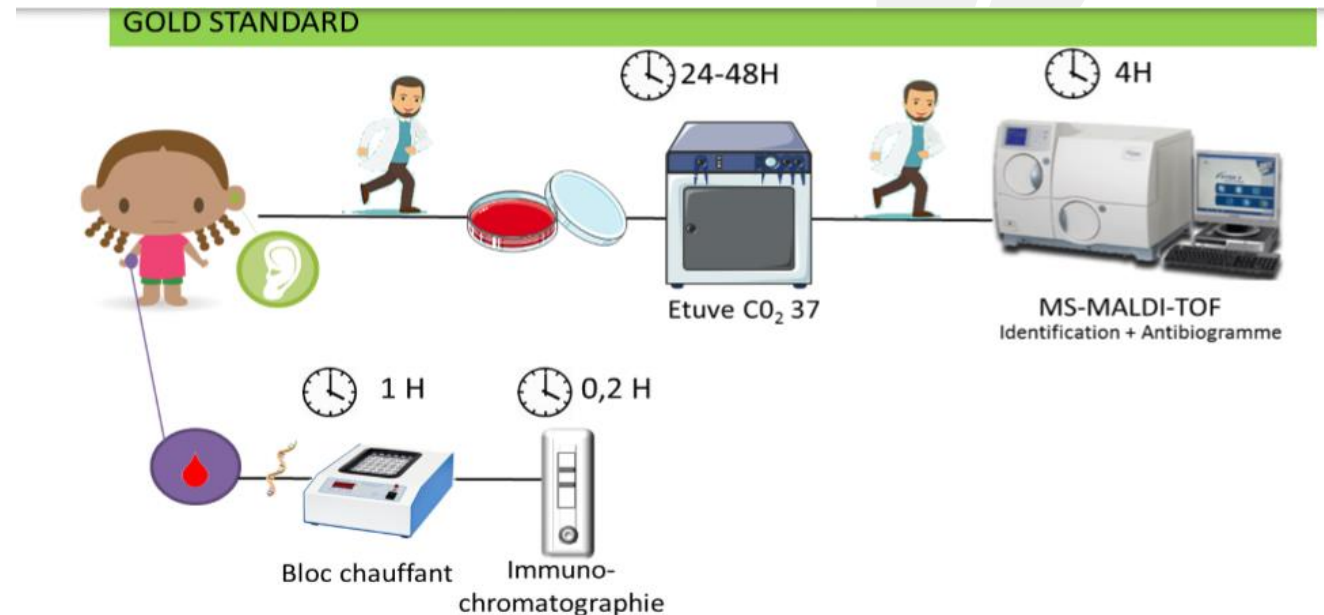
# Rapid diagnostic for bacterial infections

## Key advantages

- Rapid diagnostic (2 hours versus 48 hours with the classical diagnostic)
- Detect more cases (better sensitivity)
- Simultaneous detection of antibiotic resistance profile

## Commercial Interest

- Collaborative research & development (preclinical, early-phase clinical)
- Licensing



## Intellectual Property:

- **STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE DETECTION IN BLOOD**
- Priority Filing: PCT/EP2011/070127 (15.11.2011) WO 2013/071954
- Granted Patents: JP 6181660 (16.08.2017); US 9,890,431 (13.02.2018); EP 2780466 (27.02.2019)
- Patent Application Pending: US 2018/0208973 (Continuation 26.07.2018)


### Contact Labo :

*Prof. Pierre Smeesters*

 [pierre.smeesters@huderf.be](mailto:pierre.smeesters@huderf.be)

### Contact KTO :

*Arnaud Quintens, Business Developer*

 [arnaud.quintens@ulb.ac.be](mailto:arnaud.quintens@ulb.ac.be)  
+32 479/912-265

# Technology Offers

# New drug combinaison acting on M.Tuberculosis



Mycobacterial infections treatment; MDR and XDRTuberculosis treatment; MDR-TB; XDR-TB

## Laboratory

- Unit of Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Hygiene (**ULB-micropharma**)



## Team expertise

- **Research activities:** study of microorganisms and antimicrobial defenses, among others the study of microbial invasion and the development of new therapeutics against bacteria, viruses or cancers induced by microorganisms.
- **Two main axes:**
  - **Mycobacteriology:** better characterization of proteins involved in the synthesis of the waxy cell wall and identification of compounds able to inhibit the synthesis of this wall in order to target multidrug resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis
  - **Virology:** regulation of the HPV-16 early gene expression



# New drug combinaison acting on M.Tuberculosis

## State of the art

- More than 2 billion people worldwide infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (World Health Organization). In 2014, 9.6 million people fell ill with TB and 1.5 million died from the disease.
- High intrinsic resistance to the majority of clinically applied antibiotics, which severely limits treatment options.
- Urgent and unmet need to develop new treatments for TB (no susceptibility to most antibiotics & evolution of drug resistance)

## Technology description

- New specific pharmaceutical compositions based on the **combination of a glycopeptide antibiotic and a lipase inhibitor**
- -> **significant mycobacteriostatic** properties towards multidrug-resistant or extensively drug-resistant mycobacterial strains and a **new array of combination treatments**
- **Screening of new compounds** useful for the treatment of MDR or XDR mycobacterial infections

# New drug combinaison acting on M.Tuberculosis

## Key advantages

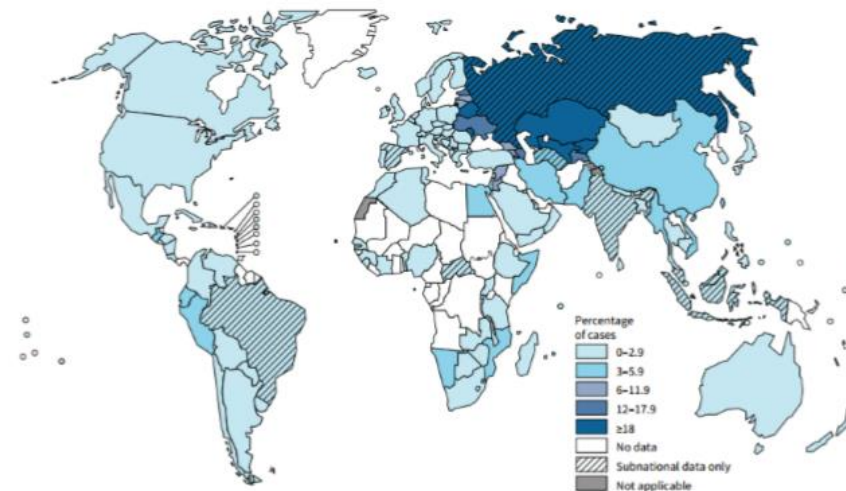
- New strategies against all mycobacteria including MDR and XDR-TB
- Successful in vitro antimycobacterial activity

## Commercial Interest

- Collaborative research & development (preclinical, early-phase clinical)
- Licensing

WHO 2014 Drug-resistant TB: surveillance & response.  
Supplement of Global TB Report 2014

PERCENTAGE OF NEW TB CASES WITH MDR-TB



### MDR-TB

480 000 cases  
5 % of TB cases  
4,6 % of new TB cases  
20.5 % of previously treated for TB

>50% of global MDR-TB cases are found in 3 countries:  
India, China and the Russian Federation

## Intellectual Property

- **COMPOSITION COMPRISING VANCOMYCIN AND ORLISTAT**
- Priority Filing: EP 14199908.6 (22.12.2014)
- Patent Applications Pending : EP, EA (Eurasian Patent)
- Publication: EP3237011 (01.11.2017); EA201791218 (29.12.2017)

Contact Lab :

*Prof. Véronique Fontaine*



[Veronique.Fontaine@ulb.ac.be](mailto:Veronique.Fontaine@ulb.ac.be)

Contact KTO :

*Arnaud Quintens, Business Developer*



[arnaud.quintens@ulb.ac.be](mailto:arnaud.quintens@ulb.ac.be)

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# A reference standard (rEV) bringing extracellular vesicle analysis to the next level.

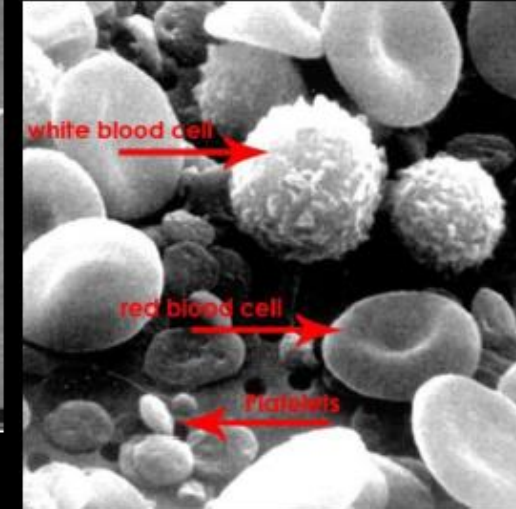
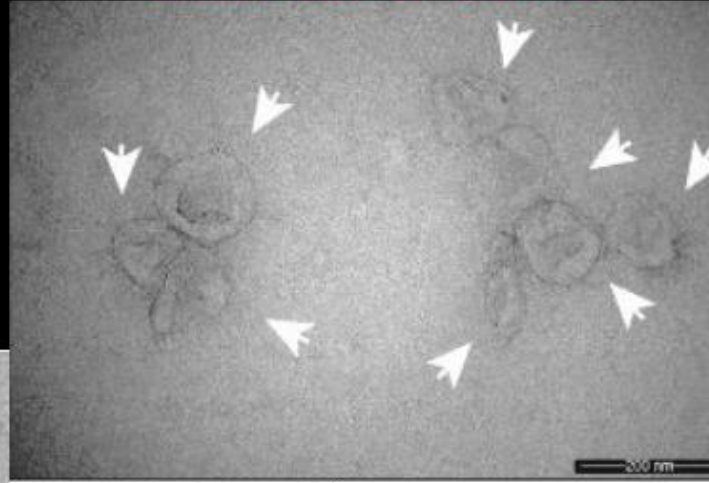
**Expertise Ghent University:** Prof An Hendrix, Prof Olivier De Wever  
Daisy Flamez, IOF Business developer



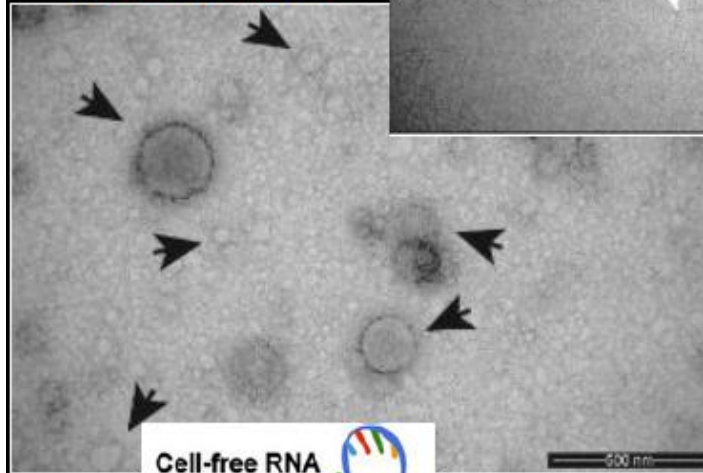
# Introduction: Non-invasive diagnostics

## The complexity of liquid biopsies

### Extracellular vesicles



### Lipoproteins



Cell-free RNA

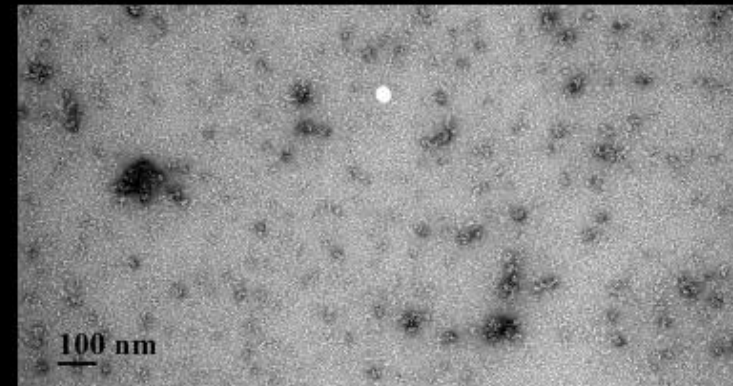


Cell-free DNA



### Abundant proteins and aggregates

Albumin, globulin, fibrinogen, Tamm Horsfall protein ..



# Introduction: Extracellular vesicles (EV)

**Extracellular vesicles (EV)** are membrane nanometer-sized vesicles produced via endosomal compartments, they are secreted by all cell types.

EVs

- contain cell-type-specific combinations of proteins, nucleic acids and metabolites.
- transmit information between different cell types, organs and even between organisms,
- have been detected in multiple body fluids,
- orchestrate physiological and pathophysiological processes

**Tumor-derived EVs** enter the circulation to assist organ metastasis, a process responsible for more than 90% of cancer-associated mortality. The content of EVs reflects the origin and state of the cell.

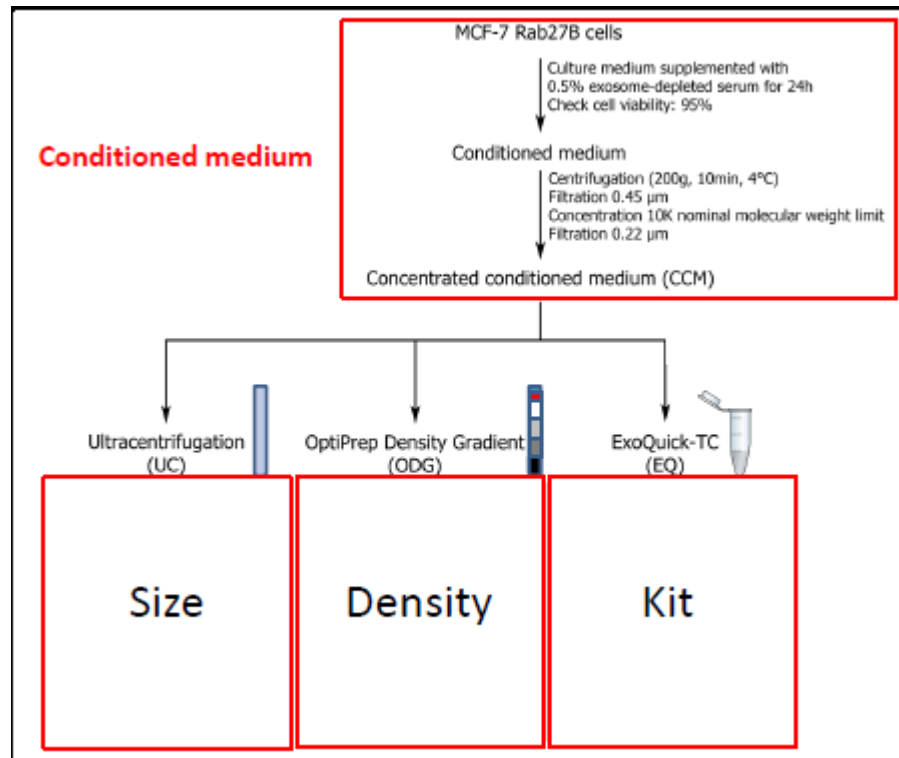
**Quantification and characterization of tumor-derived EVs obtained by liquid biopsy may enable the prognosis of patients or predict therapy response.**



# Market Need: standardized and reproducible EV isolation

Because of the EV involvement in disease progression and their presence in different easy accessible **biofluids** these EV have gained interest for the use as **diagnostic** biomarker

**but currently with poor clinical relevance !!!**



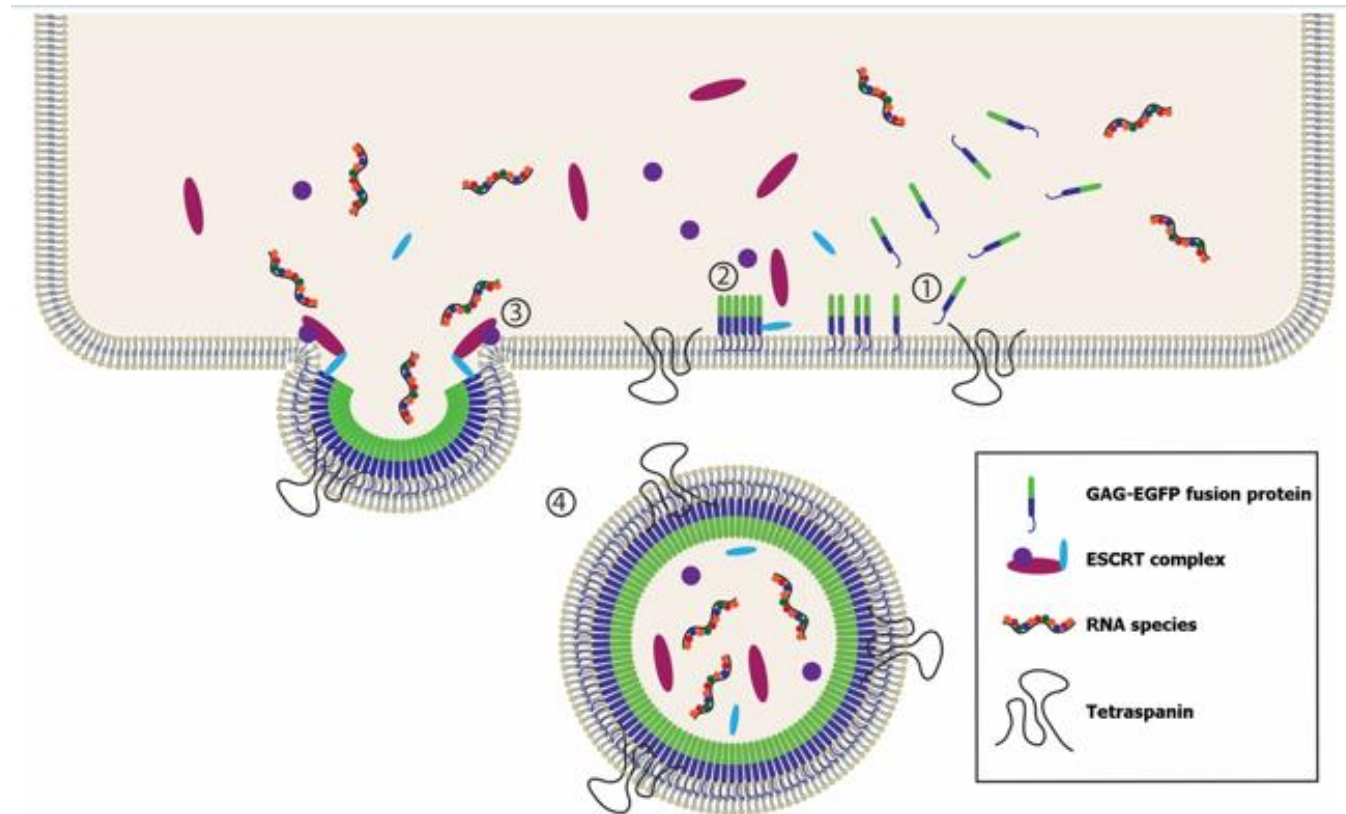
Different isolation methods enrich for single or multiple EV subtypes with diverse composition and variable purity, thus identifying method-dependent EV content and function

The current lack of standardized isolation methods is due to the **complete lack of a standard reference material that mimics the physical and biochemical properties of natural occurring EVs.**

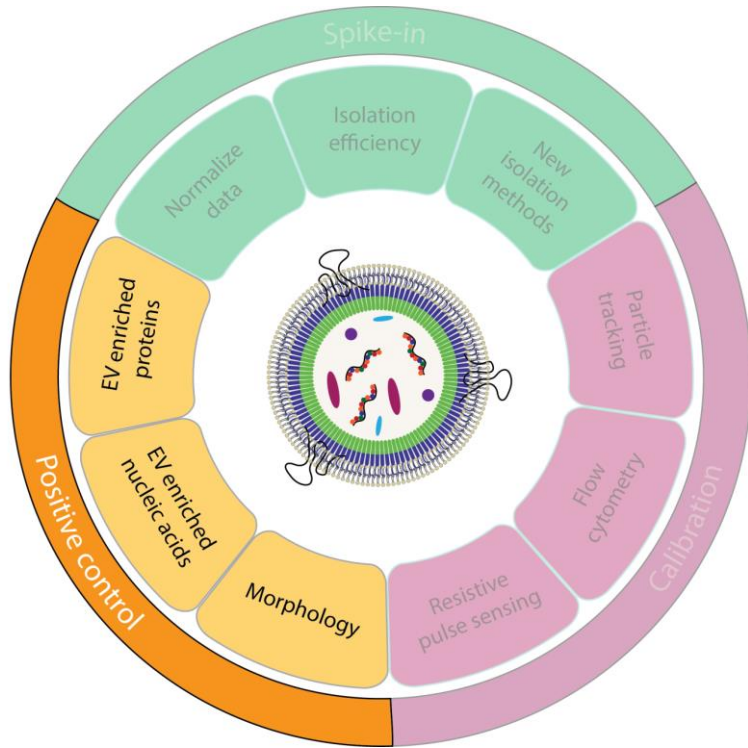
# Solution: R-EV a biological reference material for EV-analysis

Development of a biological reference material (R-EV) that comprises :

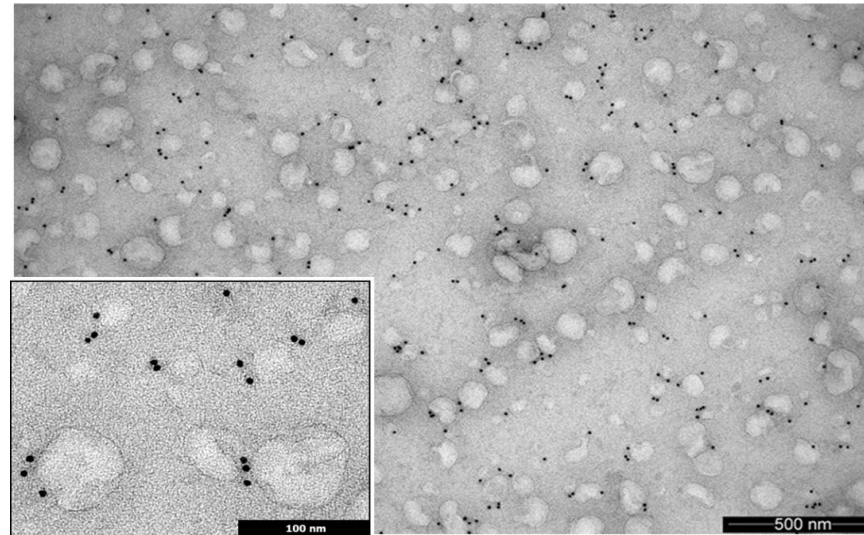
- a) a self-assembling protein (retroviral group specific antigen (GAG) that directs its own release through EV as a luminal membrane bound protein
- b) a heterologous marker such as the light-emitting enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP).



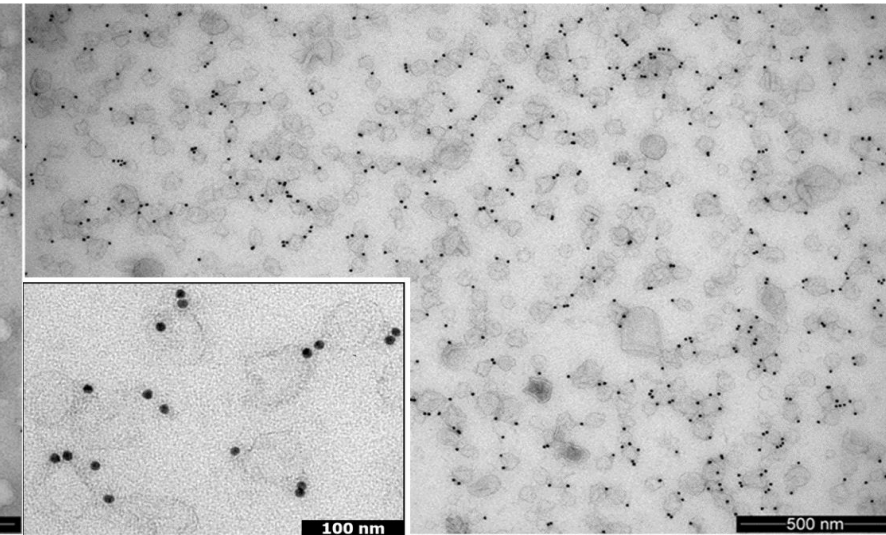
# R-EV positive control: EV like physical and biochemical characteristics



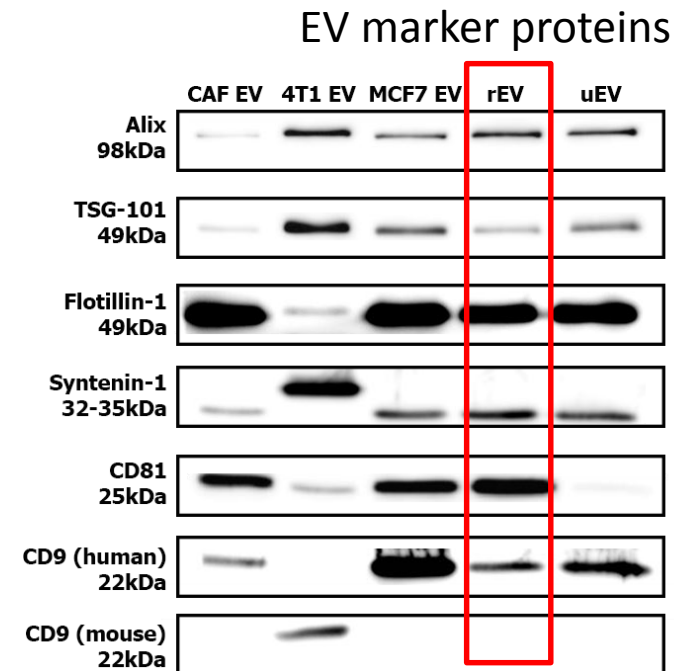
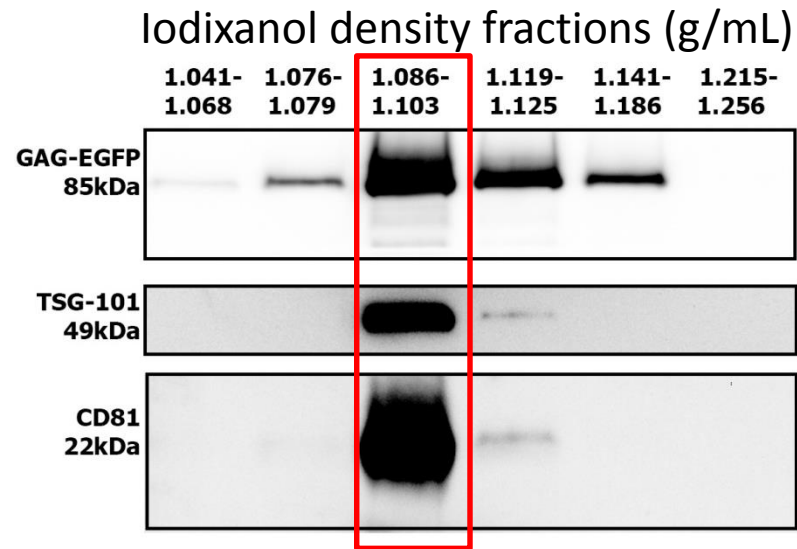
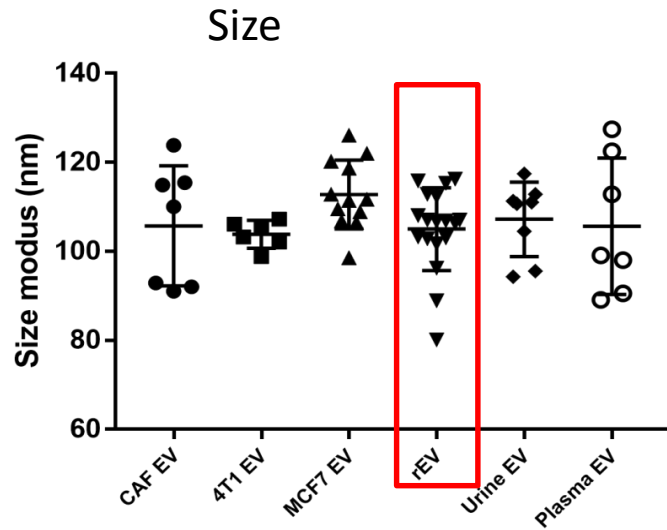
rEV – CD63 IEM



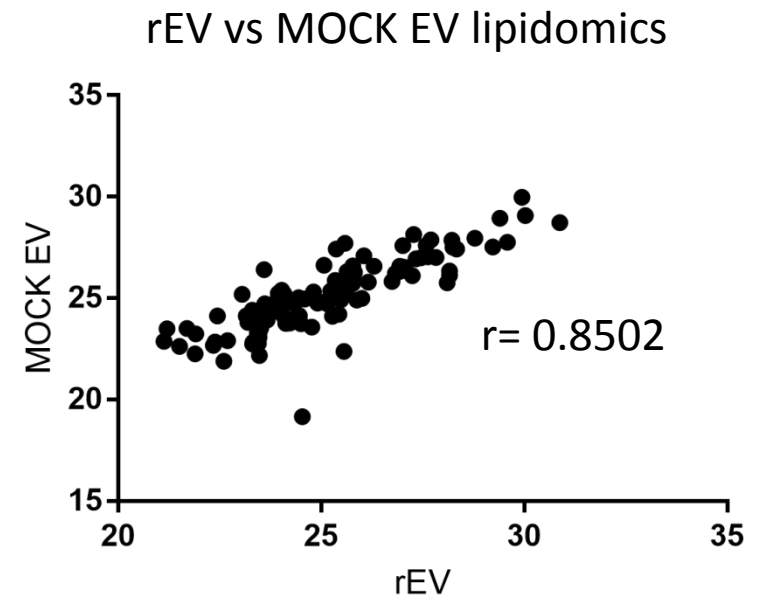
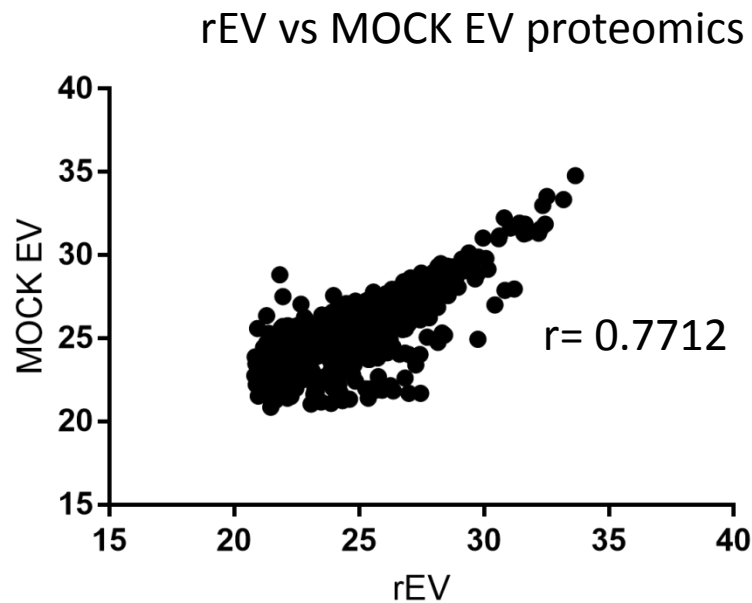
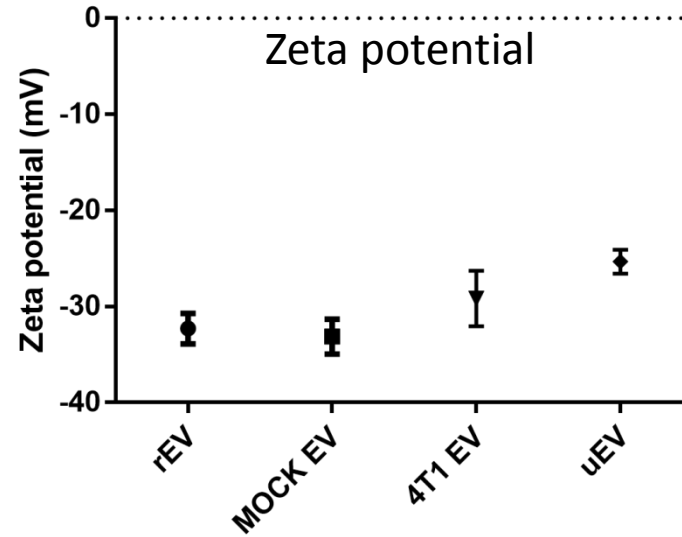
EV – CD63 IEM



# R-EV positive control: EV like physical and biochemical characteristics

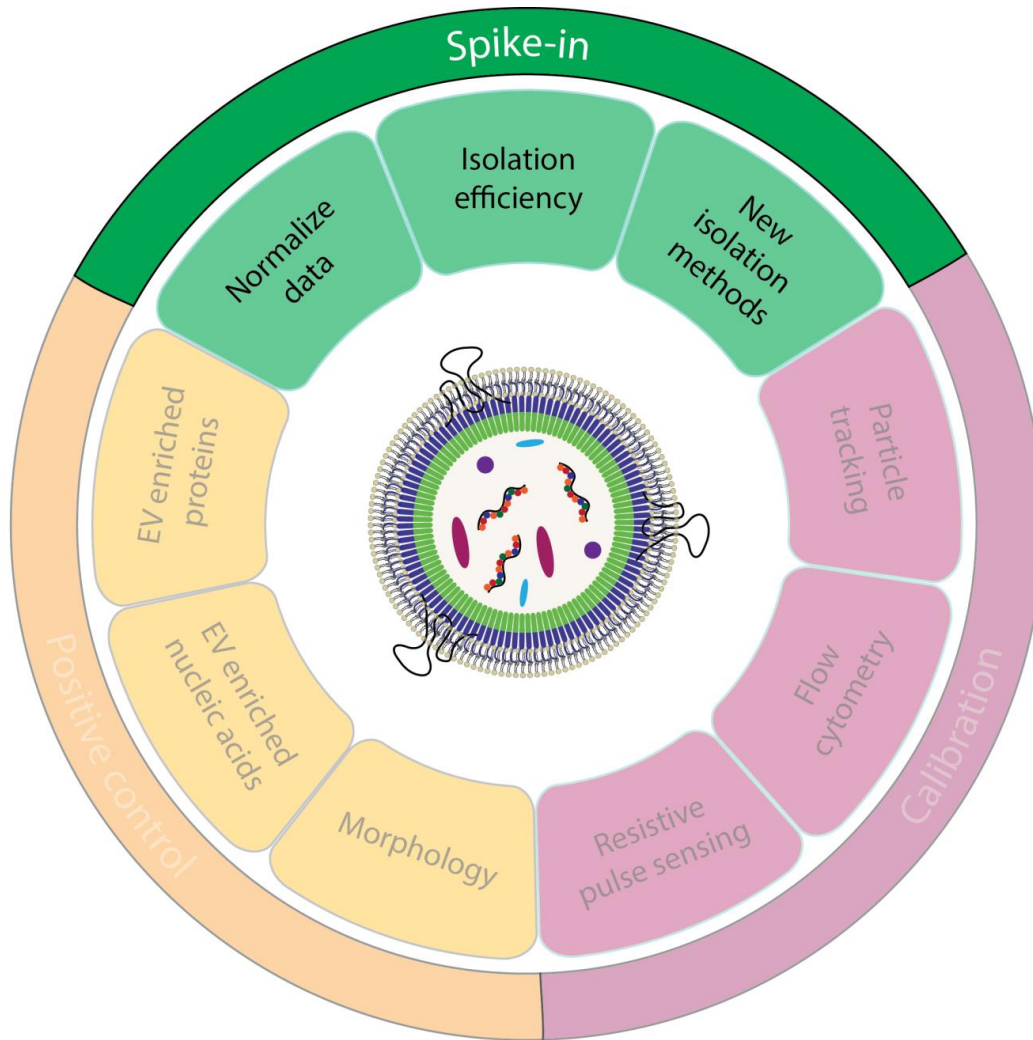


# R-EV positive control: EV like physical and biochemical characteristics





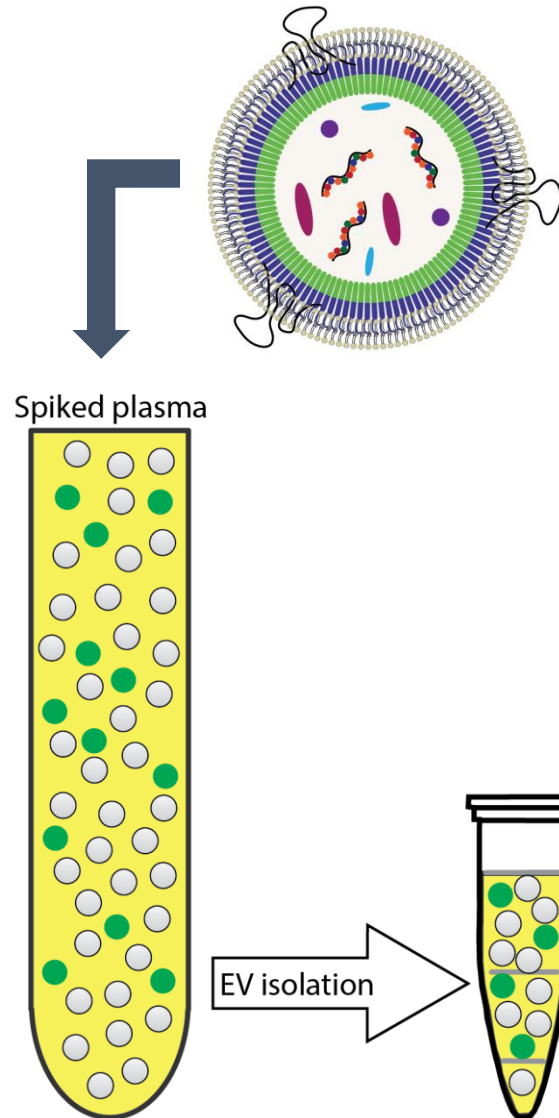
# R-EV as a spike-in material: read out methods



- Fluorescent NTA
  - Fluorescent threshold flow cytometry
  - Fluorescent plate reader
  - Anti-GAG ELISA
  - RT-qPCR for EGFP mRNA
- Direct
- Indirect



# R-EV as a spike-in material: calculate isolation efficiency

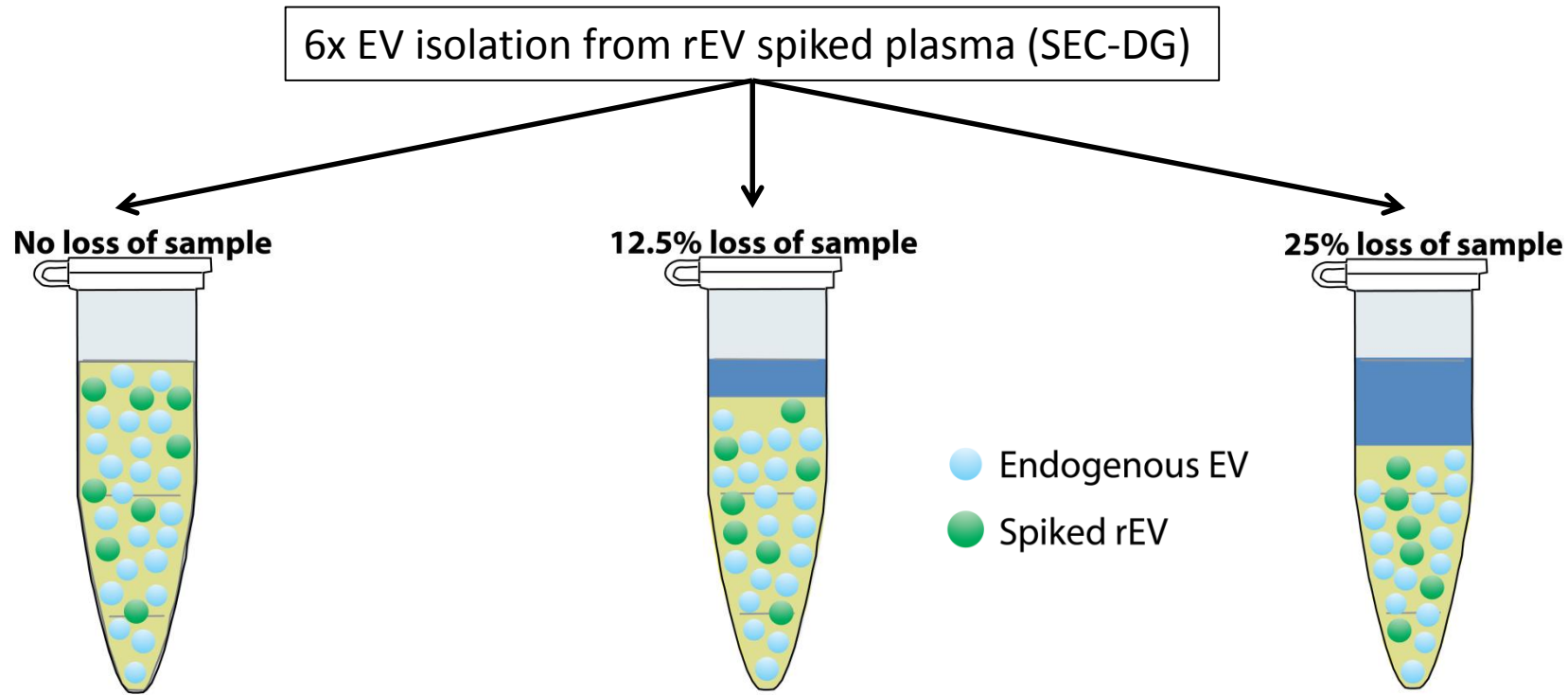


## Frequently used EV isolation methods

- Differential ultracentrifugation (dUC)
- Density gradient centrifugation (DG)
- Size exclusion chromatography (SEC)

→ Calculated recovery rate

# R-EV as a spike-in material: normalize data

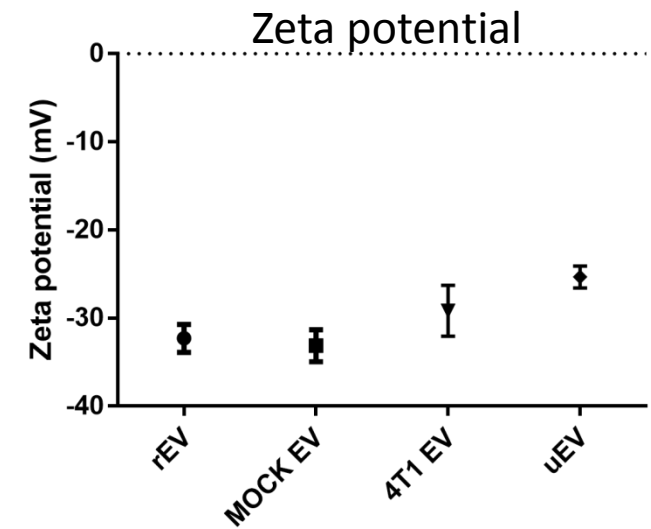
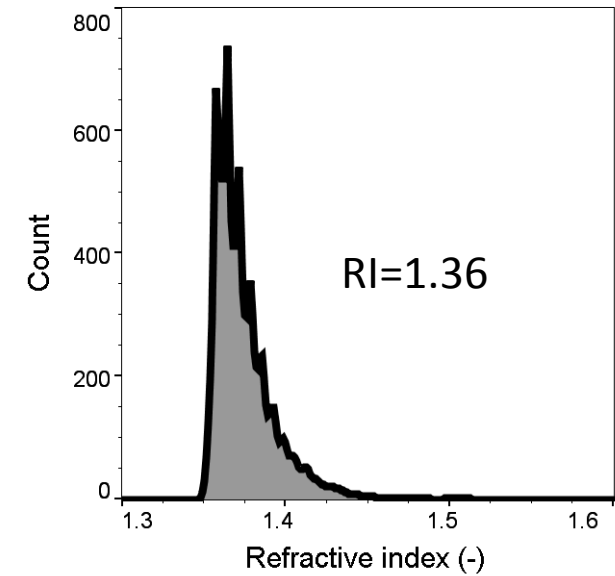
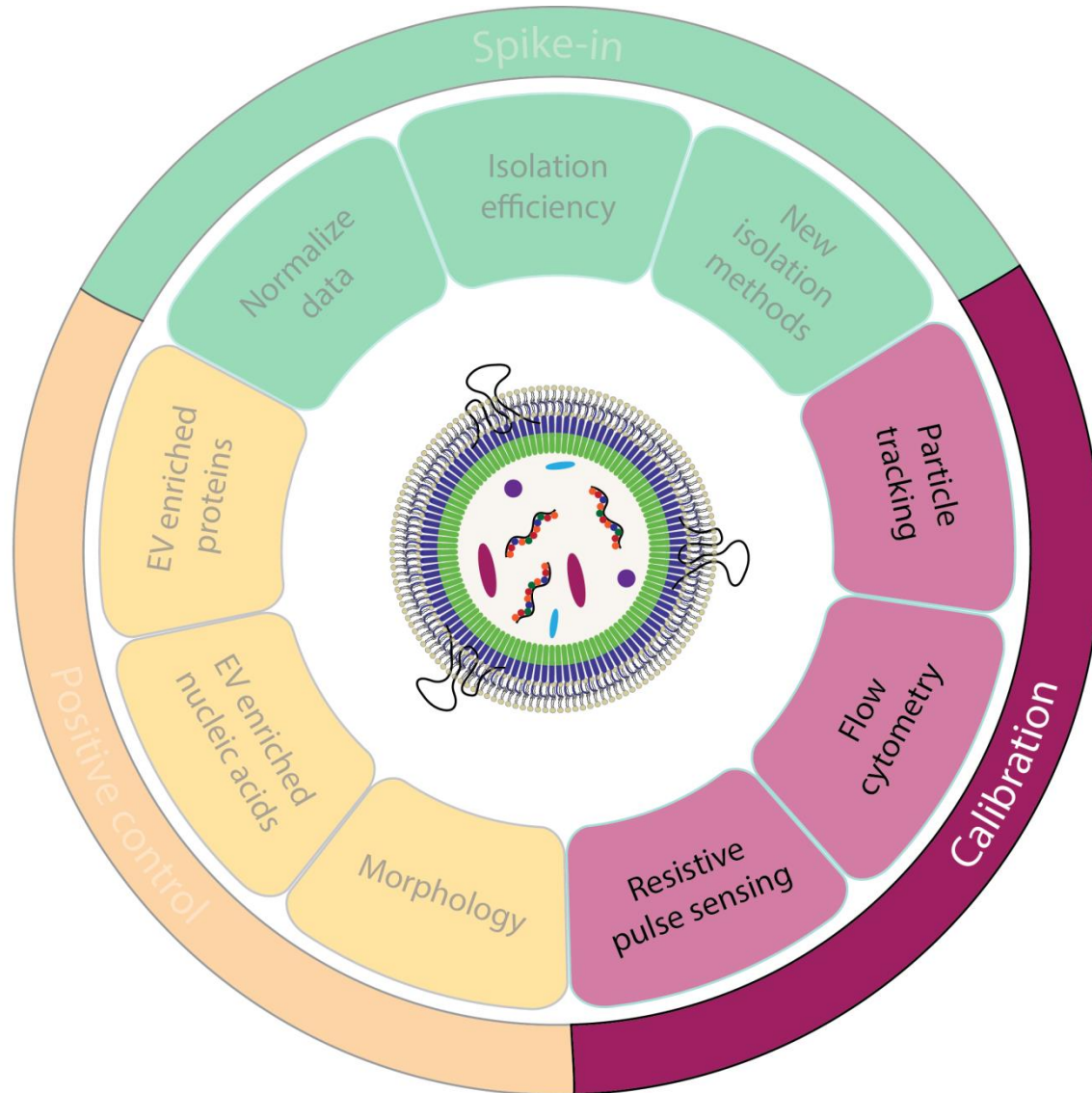


1) ● **NTA** → Absolute EV concentration

2) ● **fNTA** → Isolation efficiency

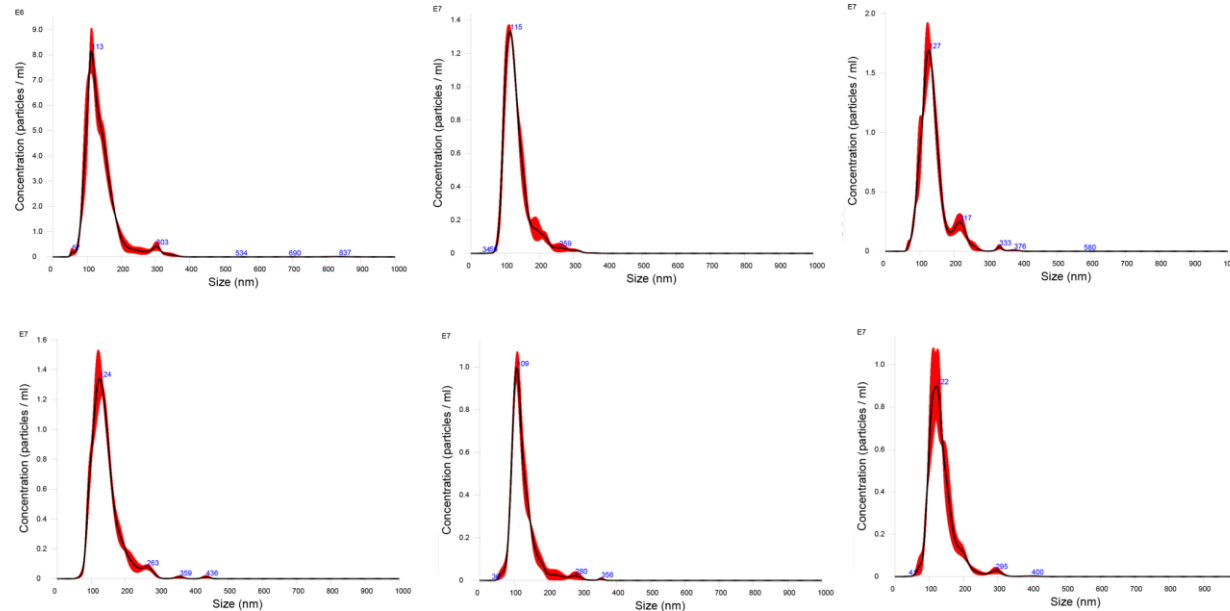
→ **Normalized EV concentration**

# R-EV for calibration



# R-EV Advantages

- + R-EV is highly fluorescent and traceable.
- + R-EV is stable.
- + R-EV can be produced in high quantities and can be detected in a very sensitive manner.
- + R-EV reflects physical, biochemical characteristics of endogenous sample EV.
  - 1) R-EV has common traits with sample EV
  - 2) unique properties distinguish R-EV from sample EV



**Batch to batch  
variability of rEV**

# Stage of development and what are we looking for?



Patent PCT

Validated via beta users  
(Batches produced in house)

## EV-TRACE

EV Tracking using surface proteins and  
Resonance Assays to detect breast Cancer in Early stage

**Searching for a licensing  
partner to bring R-EV to the  
market worldwide**

**R&D Applications  
Academic and  
Biotech/Pharma**

**Contact: Daisy Flamez, PhD**

[Daisy.Flamez@ugent.be](mailto:Daisy.Flamez@ugent.be)

+32 9 264 99 12

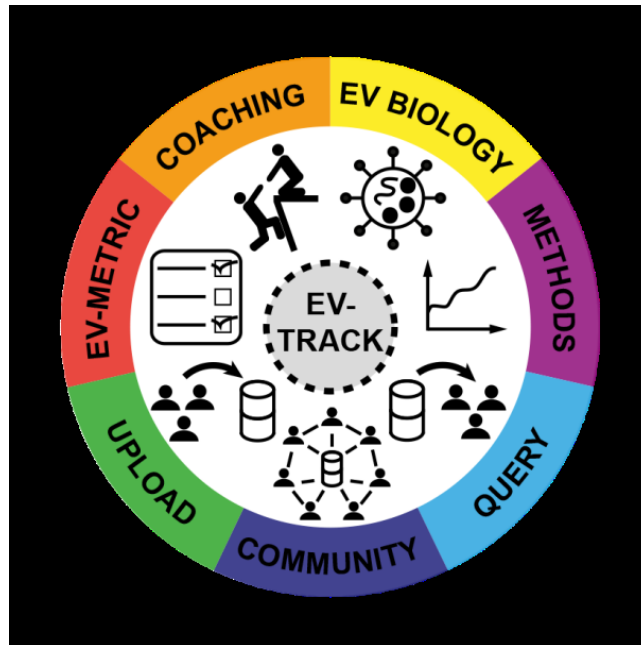
# Team Laboratory of Experimental Cancer Research



Prof An Hendrix  
Ghent University

[Gut.](#) 2018 Dec 5. (IP 17)

**Increased levels of systemic LPS-positive bacterial extracellular vesicles in patients with intestinal barrier dysfunction.**



Van Deun et al. Nature Methods 2017