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Utilizing 'omics tools to investigate the impact of process changes on product quality in cell culture-based influenza vaccine production

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Authors

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Utilizing 'Omics Tools to Investigate the Impact of Process Changes on Product Quality in Cell Culture-Based Influenza Vaccine Production

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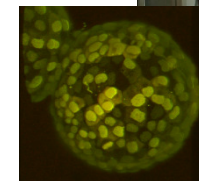
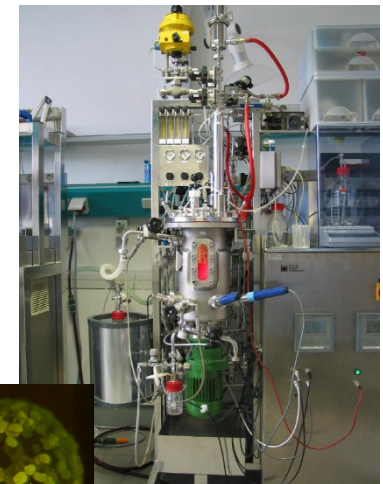
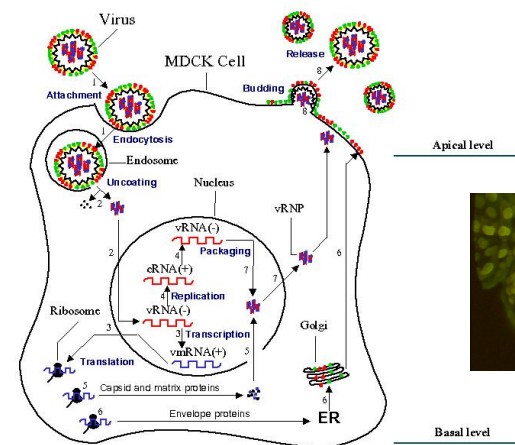
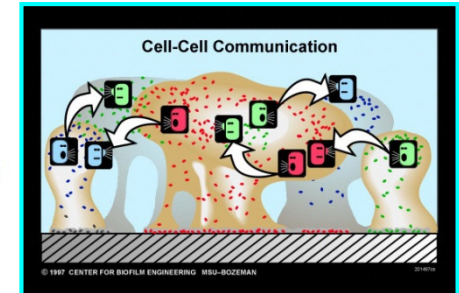
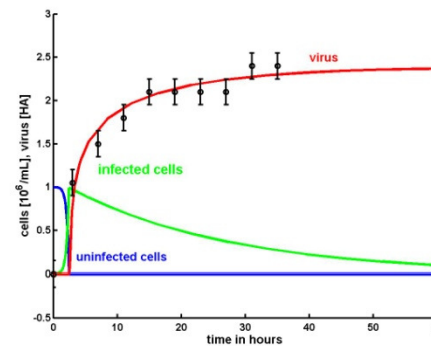


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Fundamental research on cell culture based Influenza vaccine production:

- **Process optimization**
(esp.: cell growth and virus yield)
- **Mathematical modeling**

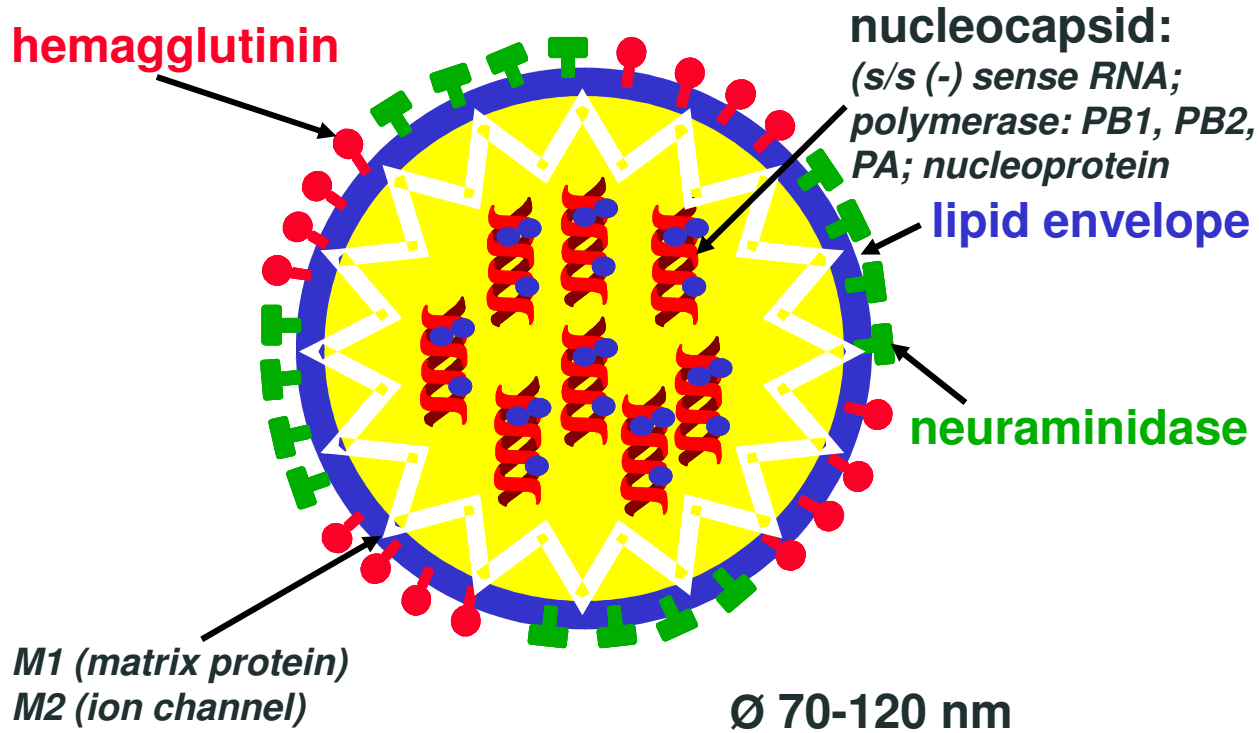
➔ **Needed:**
Understanding of production systems and parameters on molecular level
(e.g.: virus ↔ host cell interaction)



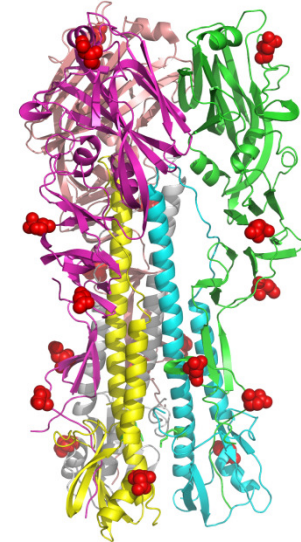
Influenza Virus



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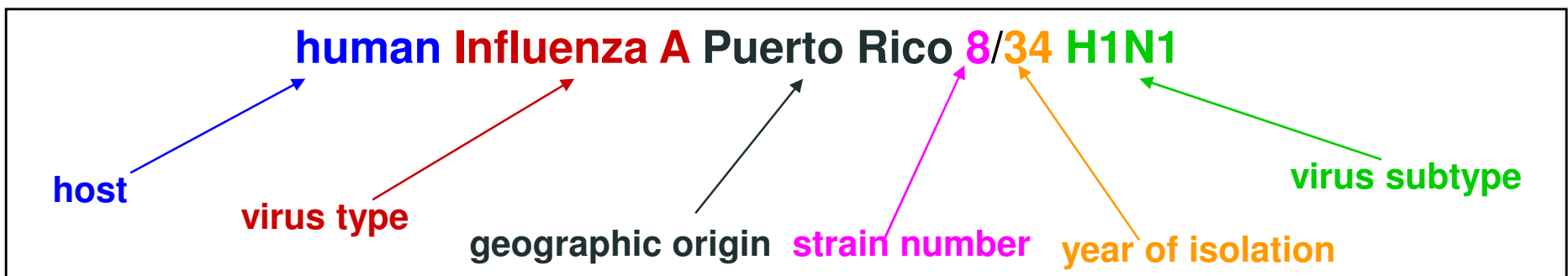


Hemagglutinin Trimer



3-9 N-Glycosylation Sites

Edited from PDB: 1RU7F: molecule 1RU7, chain 70;
Gamblin et al., Science, 2004, Vol 303, p. 1838-1842



Our Motivation for Digging into Glycosylation



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➔ **Change of common influenza vaccine production process in chicken eggs to production in mammalian cell cultures**

➔ **Influenza vaccine production process**
(understanding & optimization)

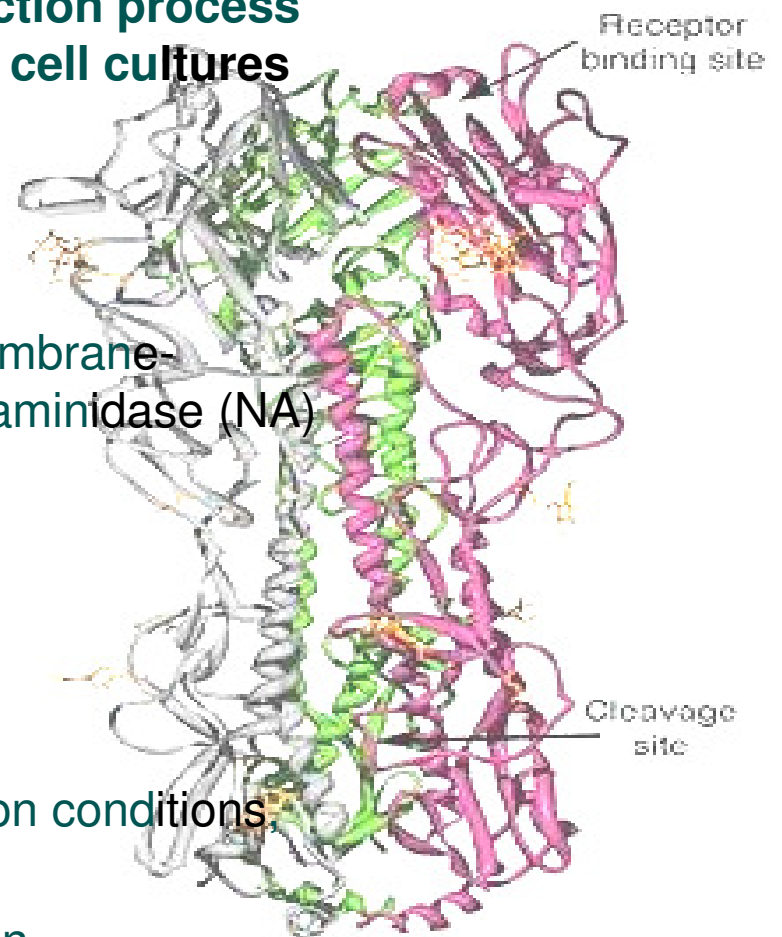
➔ **One important aspect:**
N-glycosylation pattern of the major viral membrane-glycoproteins Hemagglutinin (HA) and Neuraminidase (NA)

➔ **Glycosylation pattern may affect:**

- Viral immunogenicity
- Virus attachment to host cells
- Viral replication dynamics

➔ **Glycosylation pattern of may be affected by:**

- USP: Virus strain, host cell type, cultivation conditions, virus inactivation
- DSP: Each step of: filtration, centrifugation, & chromatography and the type of adjuvanting



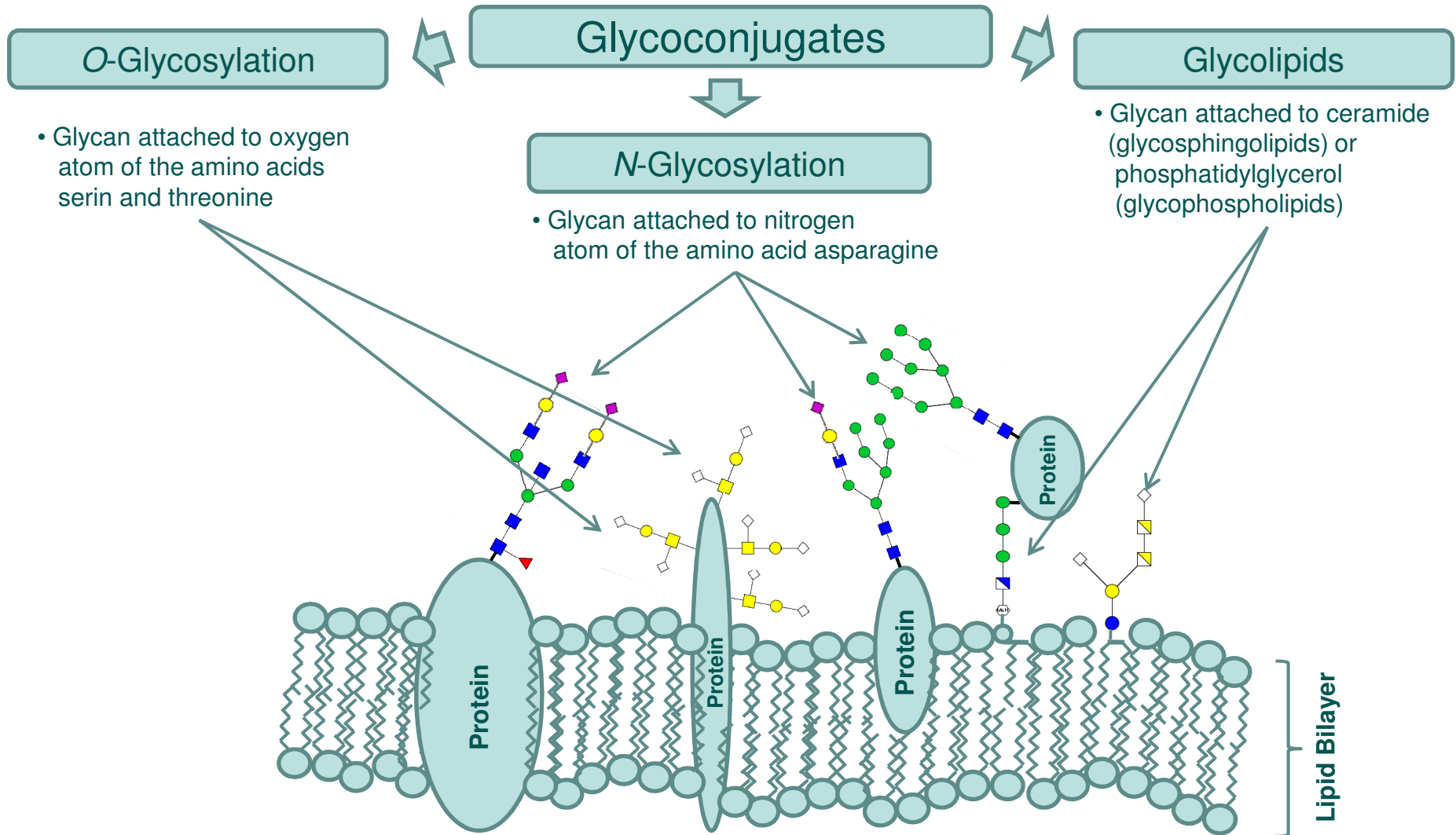
Ribbon representation of the HA₀ trimer from the 1918 influenza A virus

Source: <http://www.accessexcellence.org/WN/SU/avianflufeb04.htm> 20.10.05

Glycoconjugates / Glycosylation



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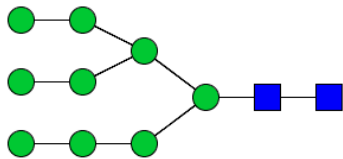


Typical N-Glycans of Mammalian Cells

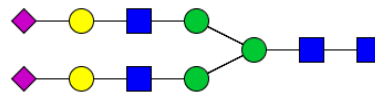


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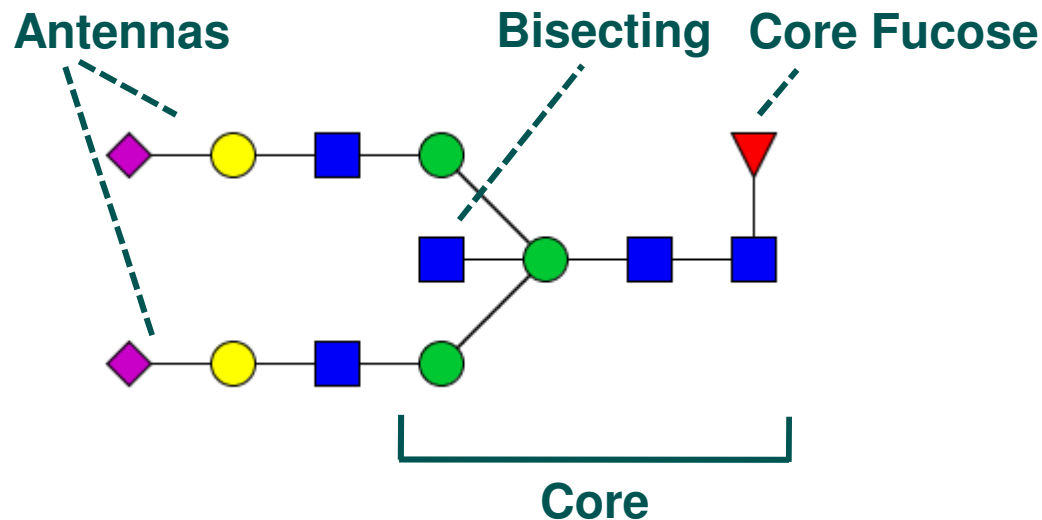
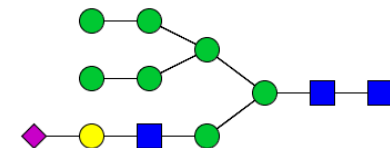
High-Mannose Type



Complex Type



Hybrid Type



- N-Acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc)
- Mannose (Man)
- Galactose (Gal)
- ◆ Sialic Acid (SA)
- ▲ Fucose (Fuc)

Impact of Complex Carbohydrates



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Oligosaccharides, glycolipids, glycans etc. play a central role in many aspects of life:

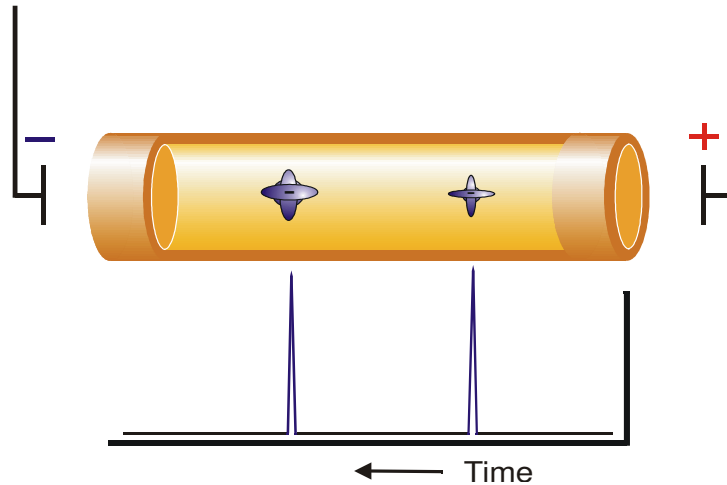
- Key-and-Lock principle for receptors and ligands.
- Signal transduction / communication between cells and pathogens.
- Modification of enzyme / protein activities and specificities.
- Potency and specificity of new drugs and vaccines.
- Health-promoting / preventive functions in food, food additives and functional food.



xCGE-LIF for Glycoanalysis Principles and Advantages

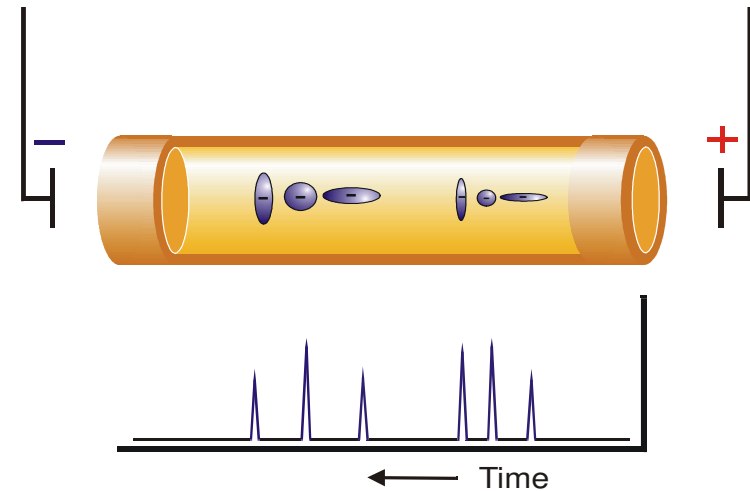


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separation by m/z

AND



separation by
molecular shape

- NO sample carryover // Only ion migration
- Extraordinary separation power and sensitivity
- High reproducibility of migration times (\Rightarrow Longterm RSD for $< 0,5\%$)
- Good reproducibility of relative peak heights (\Rightarrow RSD $< 5\%$)
- Fully automated multicapillary array systems enable “real” HT
 \Rightarrow xCGE-LIF with up to 96 capillaries

System (Method, Software & Database) for Automated HT Glycoanalysis via xCGE-LIF



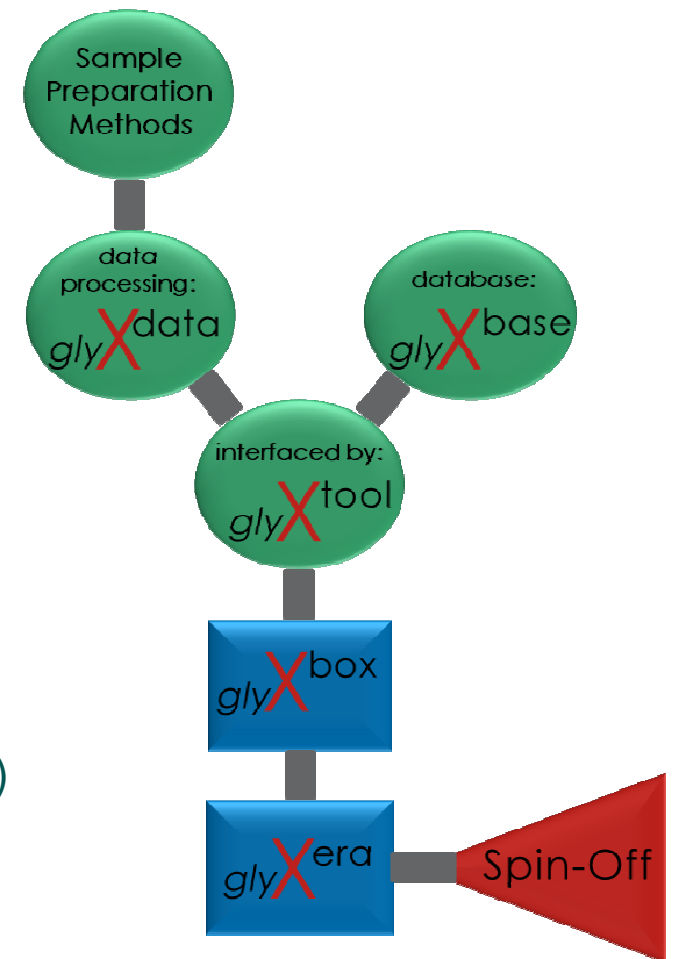
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(Ongoing project of M. Borowiak (glyXera), PhD thesis of R. Hennig & PhD thesis of T. Muth)

First powerful "real" HT glycoanalysis-tool
(method, software with GUI & database):

the "glyXbox"

- ⇒ **Sample preparation methods**
- ⇒ **Glycoanalysis with:**
 - Automated parallel separation and sensitive detection with xCGE-LIF systems
 - Automated data-processing (glyXdata)
 - Automated data-analysis (glyXtool)
- ⇒ **Glycodatabase:**
an oligosaccharide / glycan database (glyXbase)
- ⇒ **The system is ready for take-off !**



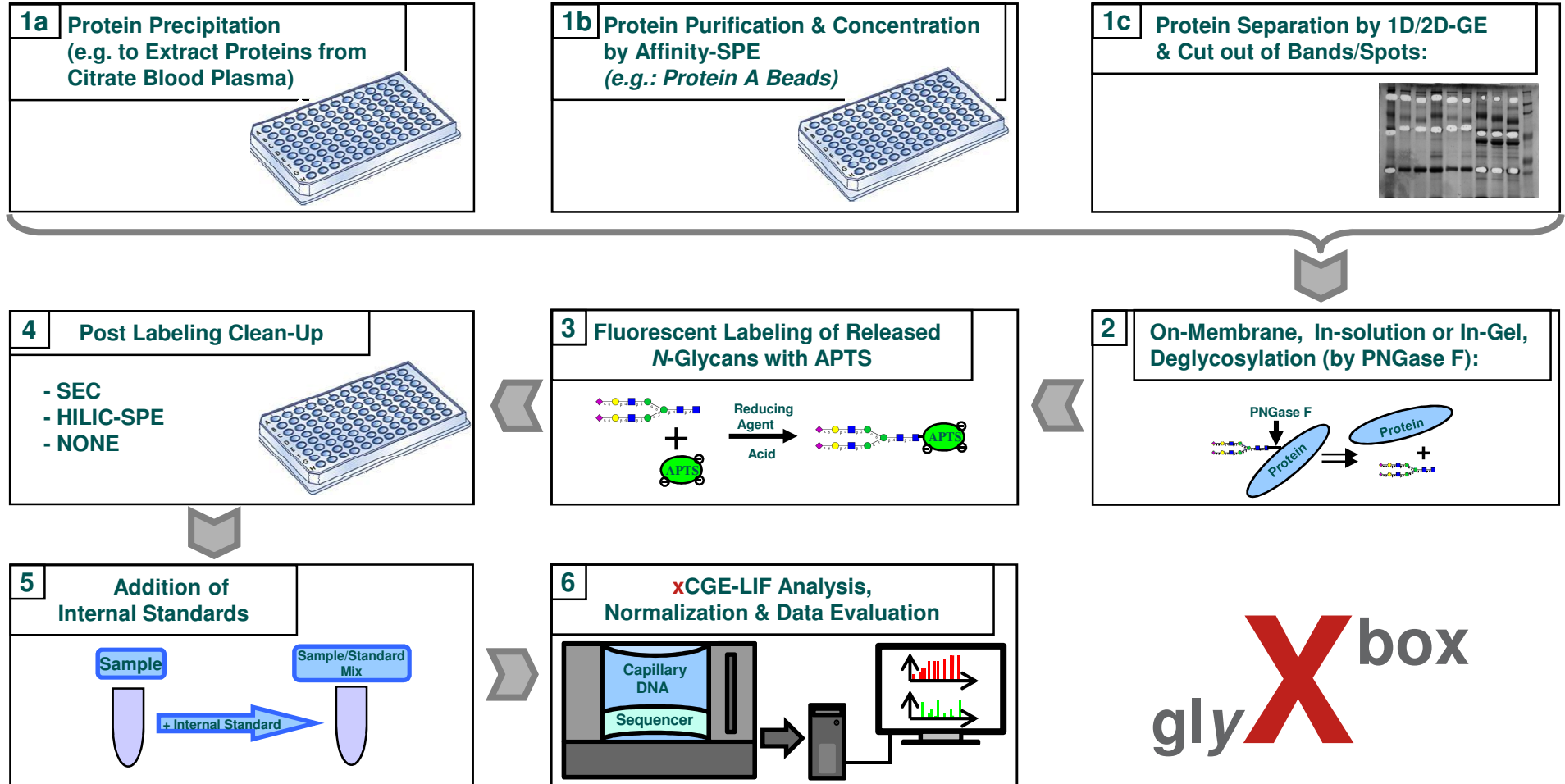
www.glyxera.com

Using glyXbox for Automated HT-Glycoanalysis via xCGE-LIF



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(Project of R. Hennig, T. Muth & M. Borowiak)



glyXbox

Schwarzer J, Rapp E, Reichl U, Electrophoresis 2008, 29, 4203-4214.

Rapp E, Schwarzer J, Reichl U, Bohne C: European patent: EP 08007887.6 (24.4.2008).

Ruhaak L, Hennig R, Huhn C, Borowiak M, Dolhain R, Deelder A, Rapp E, Wührer M, J Proteome Res 2010, 9, 6655-6664.

Rapp E, Schwarzer J, Reichl U, Bohne C: US patent: US 12/428,003 (22.4.2009).

Software-Development for Automated HT Glycoanalysis via XCGE-LIF



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(Ongoing project @ glyXera, PhD thesis of R. Hennig & PhD thesis of T. Muth)

glyXtool beta version 4.6

File Export Normalization Database Settings Help

Project Settings
Settings File: POP7_Standard.set Browse...

File Input
Loaded Samples:

Glycan Peaks

Sample: Blutserum3_POPT.xml
No. Picked Peaks: 15 | Total Peak Intensity: 7420.783 | Mean Peak Intensity: 494.719 | Peak Intensity Deviation: 539.149
Pattern: UNKNOWN

Peak	Migration Time (MTU)	Peak Intensity (RFU)	Relative Sum Height (%)	Relative Max Height (%)	Peak Area
1	168.062	512.878	18.98	100.00	792.742
2	194.245	443.273	16.40	86.43	746.842
3	220.978	386.472	14.30	75.35	706.299
4	248.051	323.733	11.98	63.12	627.727
5	275.723	270.66	10.02	52.77	570.809
6	303.42	225.162	8.33	43.90	515.659
7	331.534	185.772	6.87	36.22	450.502
8	360.065	146.413	5.42	28.55	385.714
9	388.965	116.225	4.30	22.66	319.319
10	418.000	88.000	3.48	17.81	261.500

Glycan Identifications

Peak	Annotation	Observed Time (MTU)	Expected Time (MTU)	Absolute Error	Error (%)
1	1N(2,6)-2A+F	168.062	167.827	0.236	0.15
1	Man5	168.062	167.175	0.888	0.54
1	1N(2,6)-2A+F	168.062	167.674	0.389	0.24

Growing Glycan / Oligosaccharide Library for Structural Elucidation via “Migration-Time-Matching”



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(Ongoing project of R. Hennig & R. Kottler)

**Excerpt from
in-house library:**

No.	N-Glycan Standard Name			Simplified Structure	t_{mig} in MTU ^a
	TheraProteins Nomenclature	Merck Nomenclature	Dextra Nomenclature / Alternative Nomenclature		Major Peak
3	0N-2A-2G	A2G0	NGA2		252,45 (+/- 0,50)
5	0N-2A	A2G2	NA2		332,55 (+/- 0,65)
19	2N(2,6)-2A+F	A2FG2S2(2,6)	A2F		180,40 (+/-1,30)
22	0N-2A+2α(13)Gal+F	A2FG2αG2	-		435,75 (+/-0,60)
27	Man5	Man5	Man5		248,35 (+/-0,40)
34	0N-4A-4G	A4G0	NGA4		322,80 (+/-0,10)

At present:

- **Over 70 entries for N-glycans.**
- **Normalized migration times for two different gel matrices.**
- **Human milk oligosaccharide database started (about 30 entries).**

Summary I



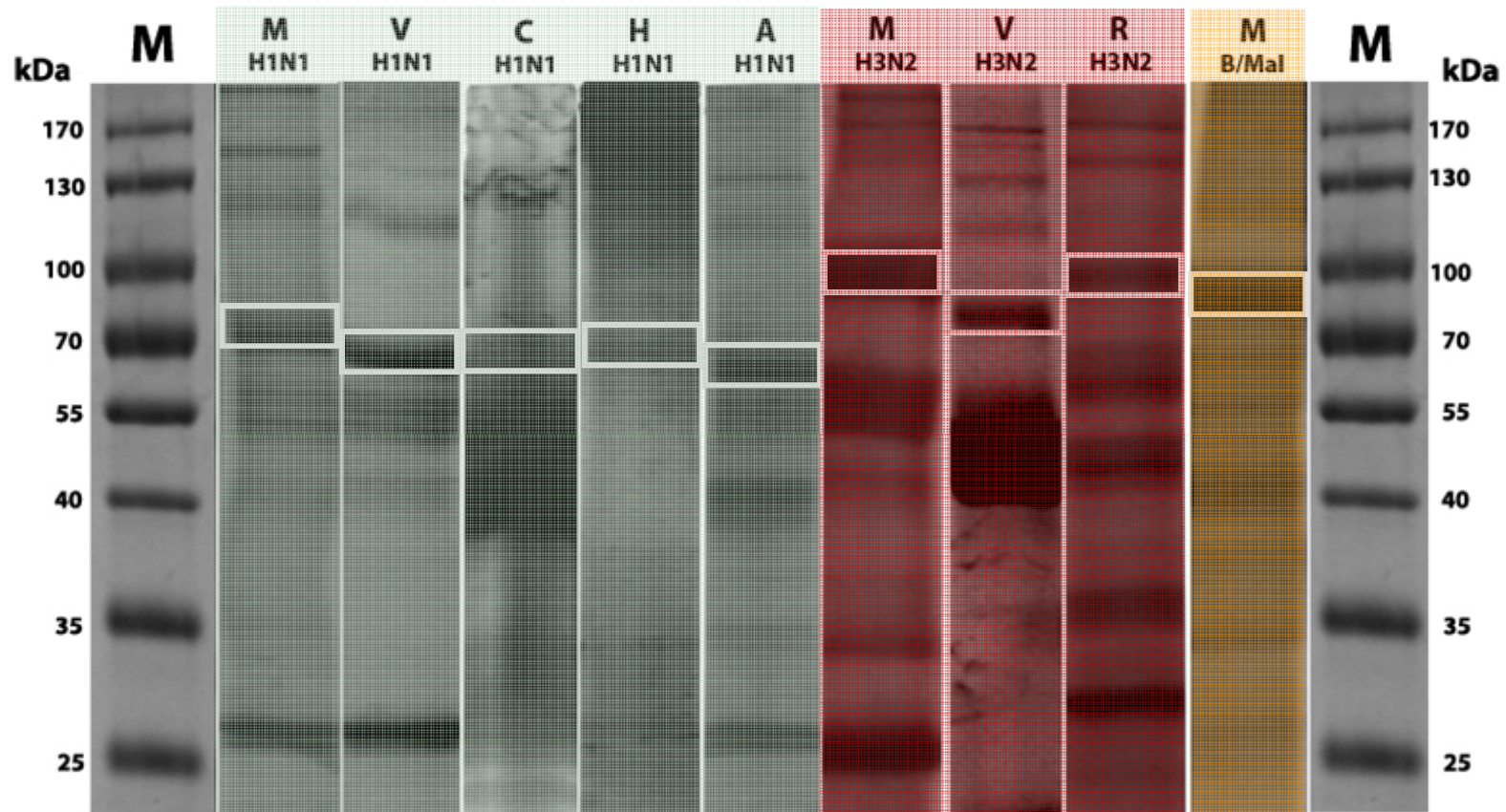
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- **Systems allows fast and easy characterization of *N*-glycosylation patterns (qualitative & quantitative) and other carbohydrate pools.**
- **Highly sensitive - high resolution - “real” high throughput system & method for profiling glycoproteins and other carbohydrate mixtures.**
- ***N*-Glycans and other carbohydrates can be analyzed on three levels:**
 - ***Fingerprint Analysis***
 - ***Glycoprofiling***
 - ***Extended Structural Analysis***

SDS-PAGE of Variants of Human Influenza Virus Type A (H1N1, H3N2) and Type B (B/Mal)



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Higher molecular weights MW for all variants of the H3N2 virus, compared to the H1N1 variants.

Schwarzer J, Rapp E, Hennig R, Genzel Y, Reichl U, Vaccine 2009, 27, 4325–4336.

Differences in Molecular Weight of HA Due to Differences in *N*-Glycosylation



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variant and virus	overall MW of HA (estimated via SDS-PAGE) [kDa]	calculated mass of HA AA ¹ sequence* [kDa]	Estimated mass of HA N-glycan pool [kDa]	TNP	<i>t_{mig}</i> range of HA N-glycans [bp]
M H1N1	79±5	63.0	16±5	16	273.3-426.5
V H1N1	68±5	63.0	5(±5)	16	214.0-378.3
C H1N1	68±5	63.0	5(±5)	14	222.5-385.0
H H1N1	68±5	63.0	5(±5)	14	243.0-406.9
A H1N1	65±5	63.0	2(±5)	11	214.0-406.9
M H3N2	95±5	62.1	31±5	34	57.9-418.0
V H3N2	81±5	62.1	17±5	29	51.8-372.5
R H3N2	93±5	62.1	29±5	19	64.0-308.9
M B/Mal	86±5	65.6	22±5	37	171.5-418.0

- Almost identical MW comparing only AA-sequences
- Significant differences in MW for glycosylated forms
(*virus & host cell related*)

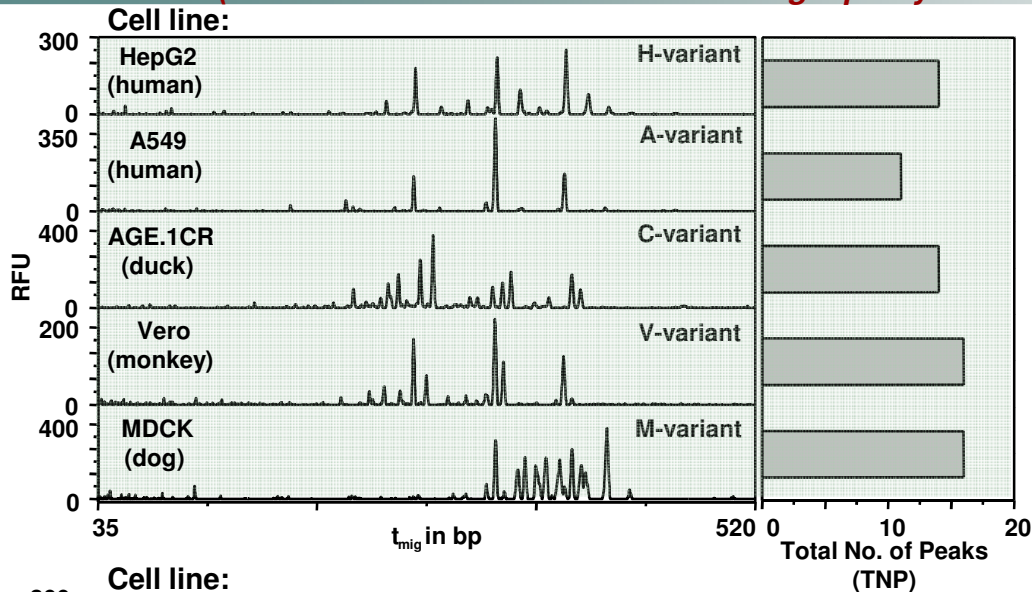


Variations in the MW of the HA proteins of the different virus variants correlate with their HA *N*-glycan amount (TNP) and size distribution.

Application of glyXbox to Generate HA N-Glycan Fingerprints of Influenza Viruses Produced in Different Cell Lines



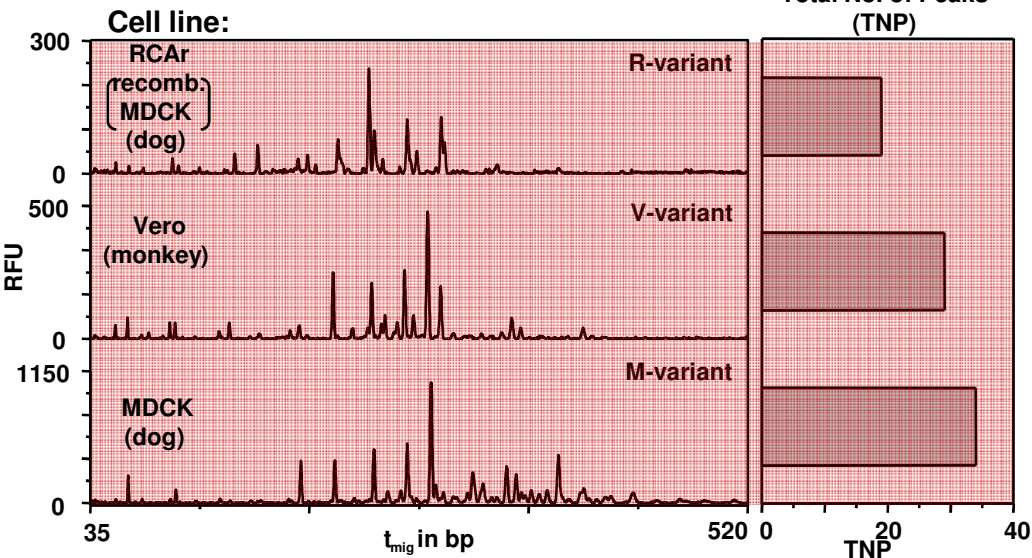
(PhD thesis of S. Schwarzer & J. Rödig – partly in coop. with ProBioGen (Berlin/D))



⇒ Variants of H1N1

⇒ Differences host cell related

⇒ Differences virus related



⇒ Variants of H3N2

Structural Investigation of HA N-glycan Pools of the Different Influenza Viruses



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=> detailed structural information via SED and “in-house” database matching

<i>virus and variant</i>	<i>complex type; with terminal ...</i>	<i>core fucosylation</i>	<i>high mannose type</i>	<i>hybrid type</i>
A/PR/8/34 H1N1				
M-variant	all; α - (8; 10-16) ² and β -galactose (2-7; 9) ²	yes	no	no
V-variant	most; β -galactose (6-16) ²	yes	some	no
C-variant	most; β -galactose (5-14) ²	yes	some	some
A-variant	all; β -galactose (5-11) ²	yes	no	no
H-variant	all; β -galactose (4-14) ²	yes	no	no
A/WSN/67/2005 H3N2				
M-variant	few; α - and β -galactose (some > 16) ²	ND ¹	major peaks (< 16, some >16) ²	no
V-variant	some; β -galactose (17,18,23, some > 23) ²	ND ¹	major peaks (9-16, 19-22, some > 23) ²	no
R-variant	no	ND ¹	few (11,14,15,17,19) ²	major peaks (12,13,16,18) ²
B/Mal/2506/2004				
M-variant	some; β -galactose (13-15, some > 15) ²	ND ¹	major peaks (all < 13, some > 15) ²	no

¹ ND, not determined

² numbers of the peaks (corresponding to glyXdata peaklists of the normalized EPGs) related to the particular N-glycan types

Summary II



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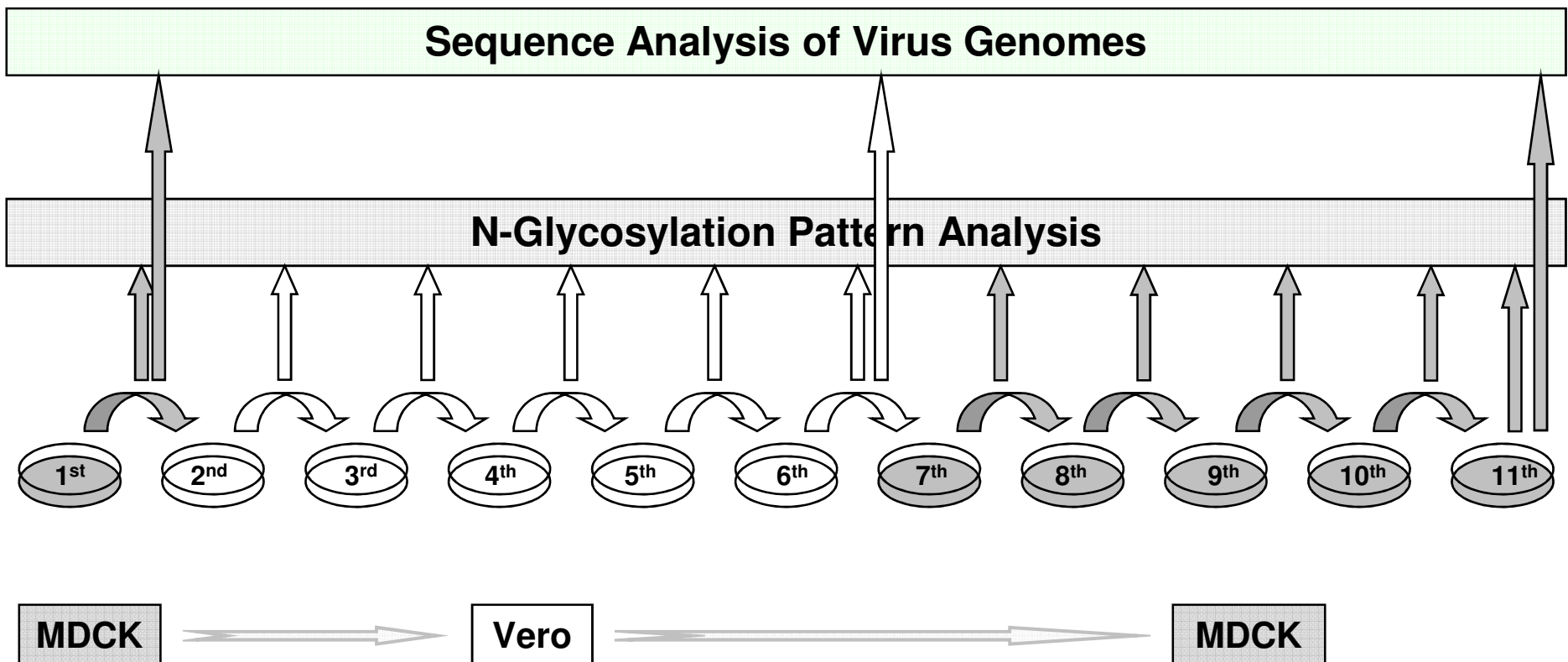
- **Virus and host cell type are determining the HA *N*-glycosylation pattern.**
- **Both seem to impact the principal *N*-glycan type attached.**
- **Virus mainly determines the number of different *N*-glycans attached.**
- **Host cell mainly causes:**
 - **Variations of (monomeric) constitution of single *N*-glycans.**
 - **Shifts of *N*-glycan pool composition.**
*(percentage of different *N*-glycan types)*

Virus Adaptation to Host Cells



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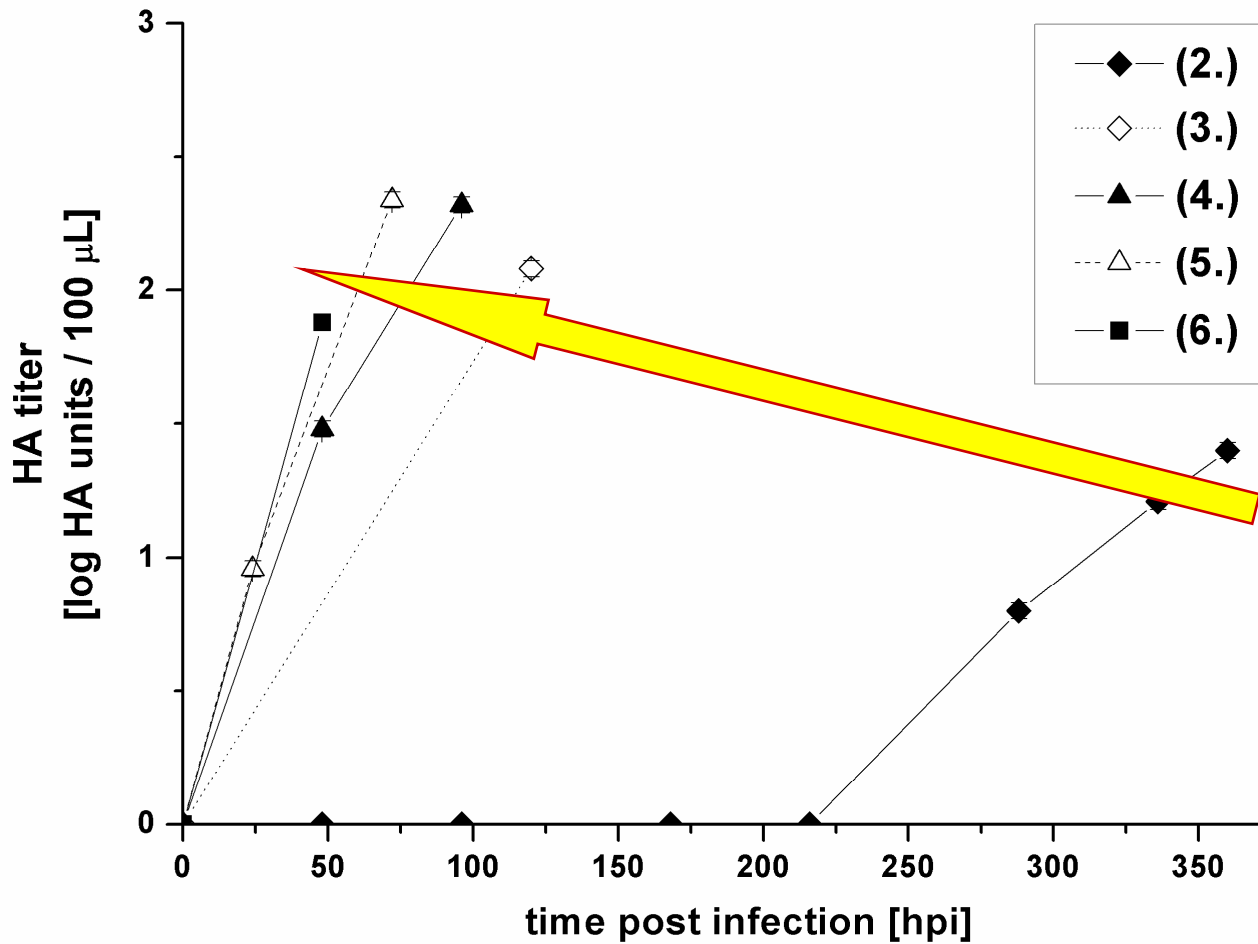
Influenza Virus A PR/8/34 (*H1N1*) from **RKI**
Influenza Virus A PR/8/34 (*H1N1*) from **NIBSC**



Virus Titer Improves During Adaptation



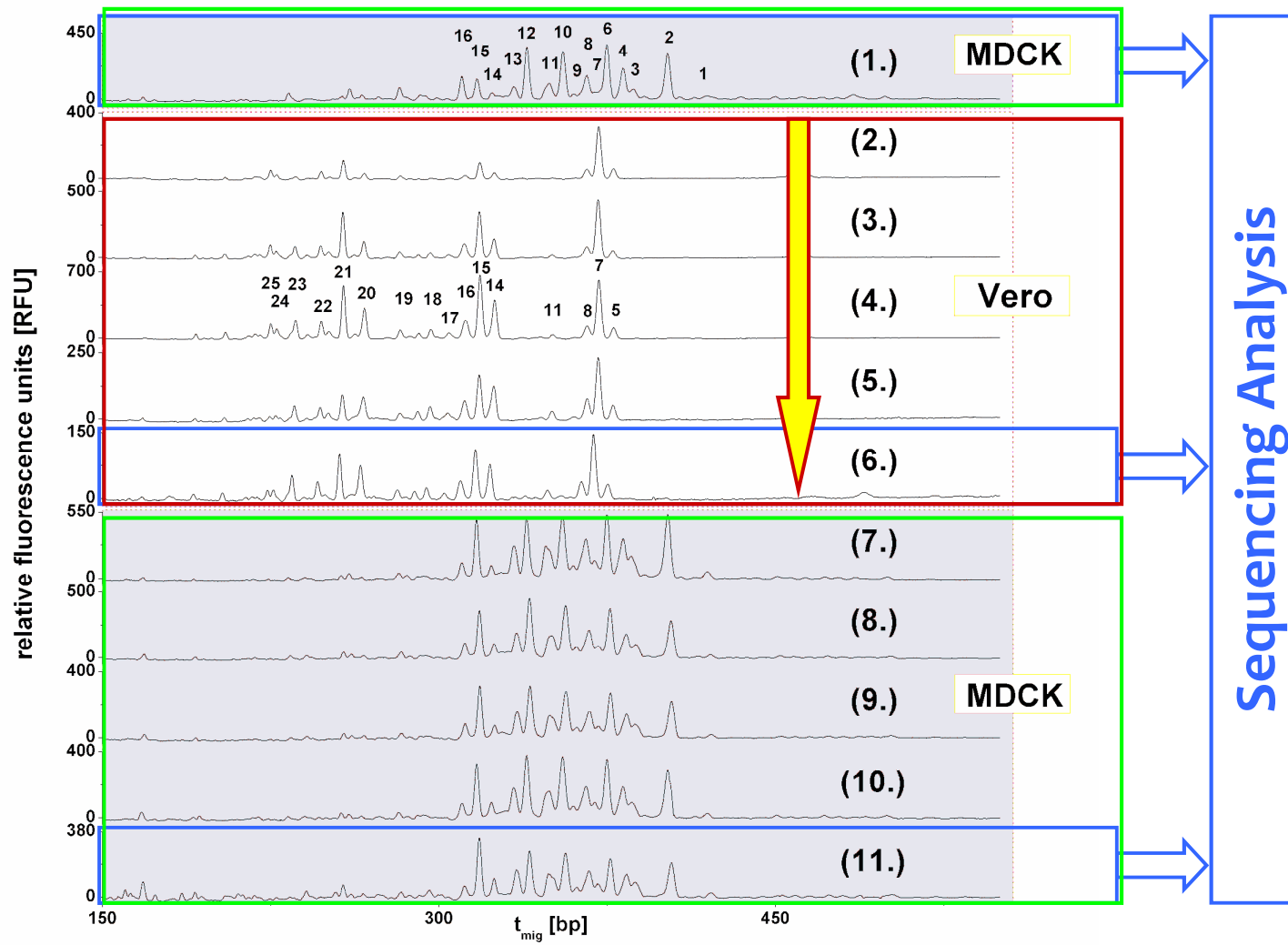
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Host Cell Specificity of HA N-Glycosylation (Changes during Adaptation)



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HA Quasispecies Composition

RKI ↔ NIBSC



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table S3: Changes of quasispecies' composition on HA level of Influenza A/PR/8/34 (H1N1) (RKI, Amp. 3138) during virus adaptation. Passage 1 represents the MDCK cell adapted seed virus. Passage 6 represents the last of five successive virus passages in Vero cells. In passage 6 and 11 the two substitutions at amino acid positions 457 and 460 are uncoupled.

Influenza Virus A PR/8/34 (H1N1) from RKI

DNA Level	Protein Level	Passage 1	Passage 6	Passage 11
C 1370 T	S 457 L	0	19	9
A 1378 G	K 460 E	0	80	81
initial seed virus	no AA-substitutions	100	few reads	10

table S4: Changes of quasispecies' composition on HA level of Influenza A/PR/8/34 (H1N1) (NIBSC, #06/114) during virus adaptation. Passage 1 represents the MDCK cell adapted seed virus. Passage 6 represents the last of five successive virus passages in Vero cells. In passage 6 and 11 the two substitutions at amino acid positions 457 and 460 are uncoupled.

Influenza Virus A PR/8/34 (H1N1) from NIBSC

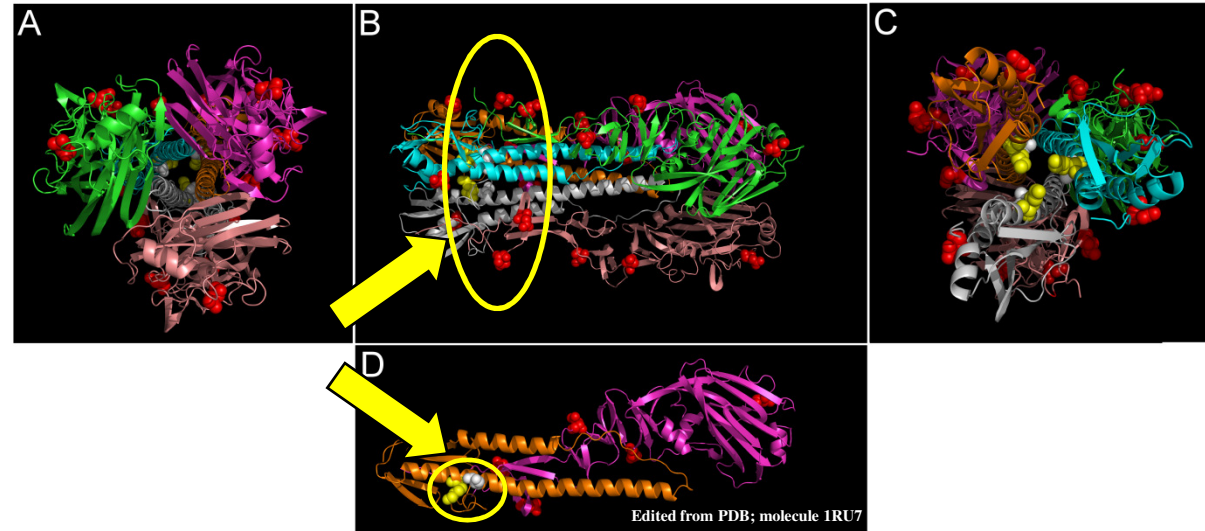
DNA Level	Protein Level	Passage 1	Passage 6	Passage 11
Base Substitution	Amino Acid Substitution	Population Ratio [%]	Population Ratio [%]	Population Ratio [%]
T 70 C	Y 24 H	22	0	0
G 1183 A	V 395 M	0	41.5	11.3
A 1189 G	T 397 A	1.3	0	0
A 1189 T	T 397 S	0.6	0	5.4
G 1363 T	D 455 Y	21.4	6.1	3.2
G 1363 C	D 455 H	0	52	44.1
A 1375 G	K 459 E	0	0	44.2
A 1378 G	N 460 D	12.2	41.1	10.5

Substitution Sites within the HA-Molecule

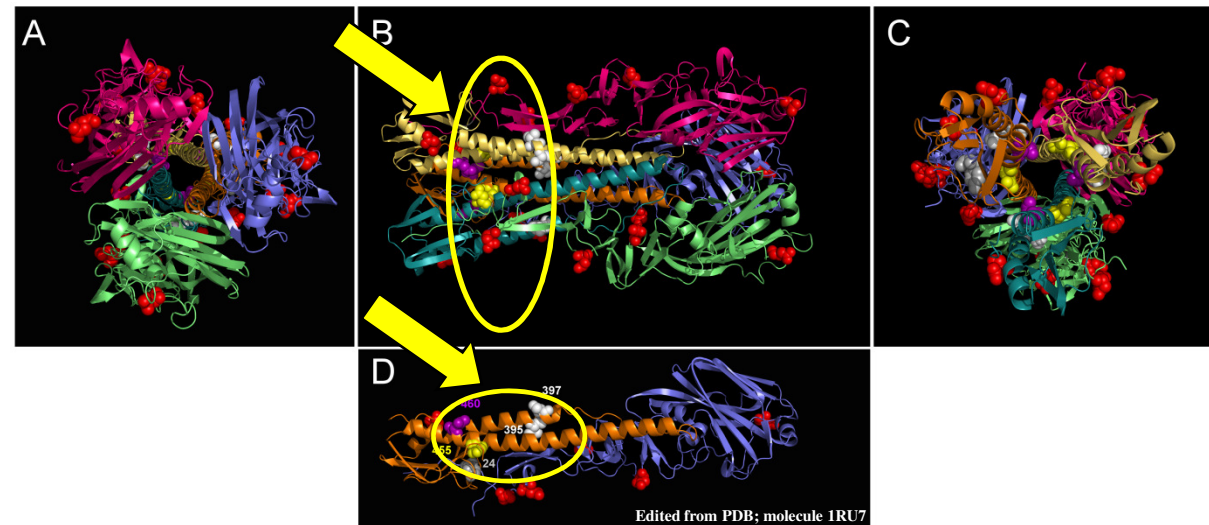


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A/PR/8/34
from **RKI**



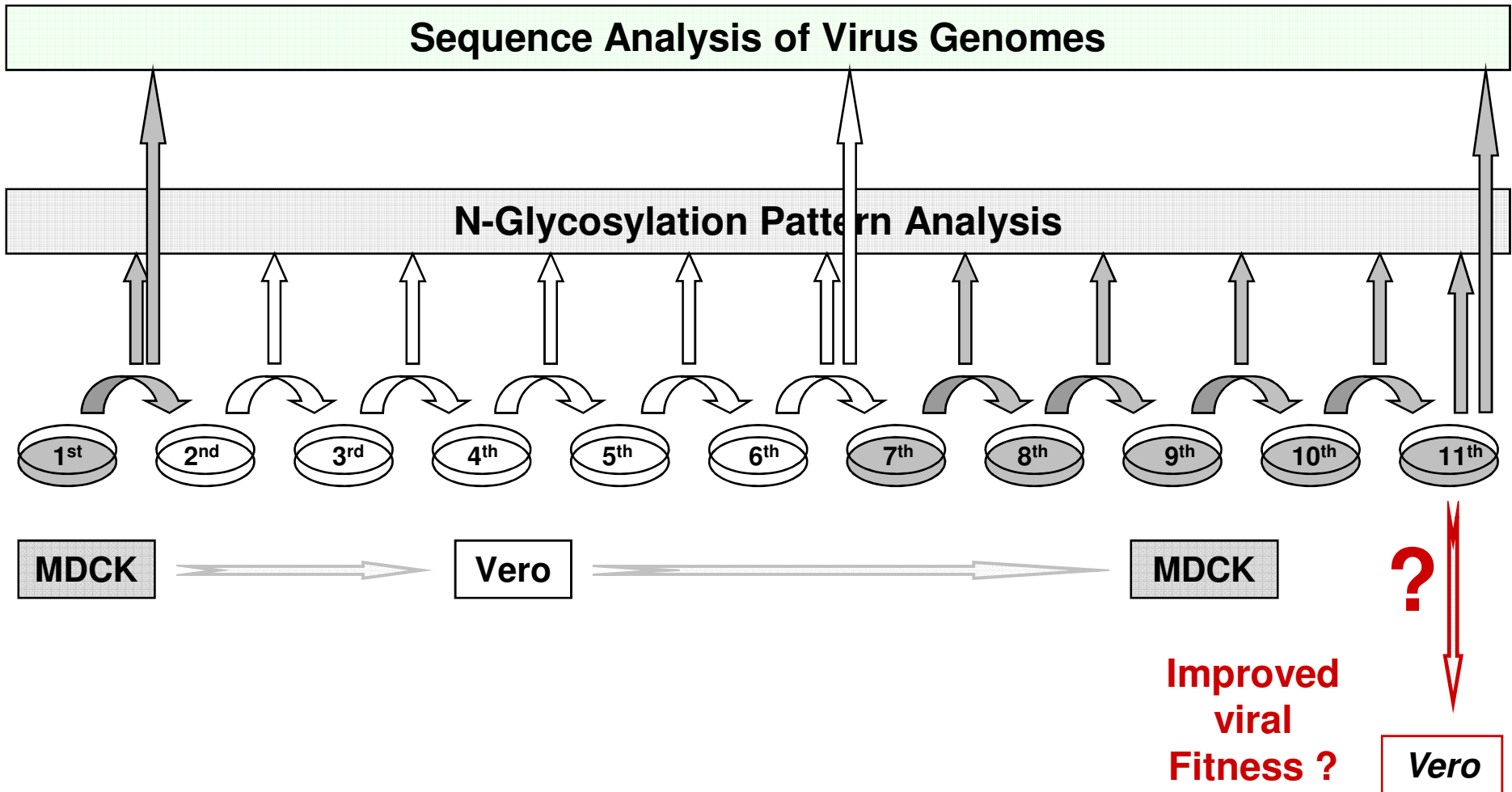
A/PR/8/34
from **NIBSC**



Do Substitutions Increase Viral Fitness in Vero?



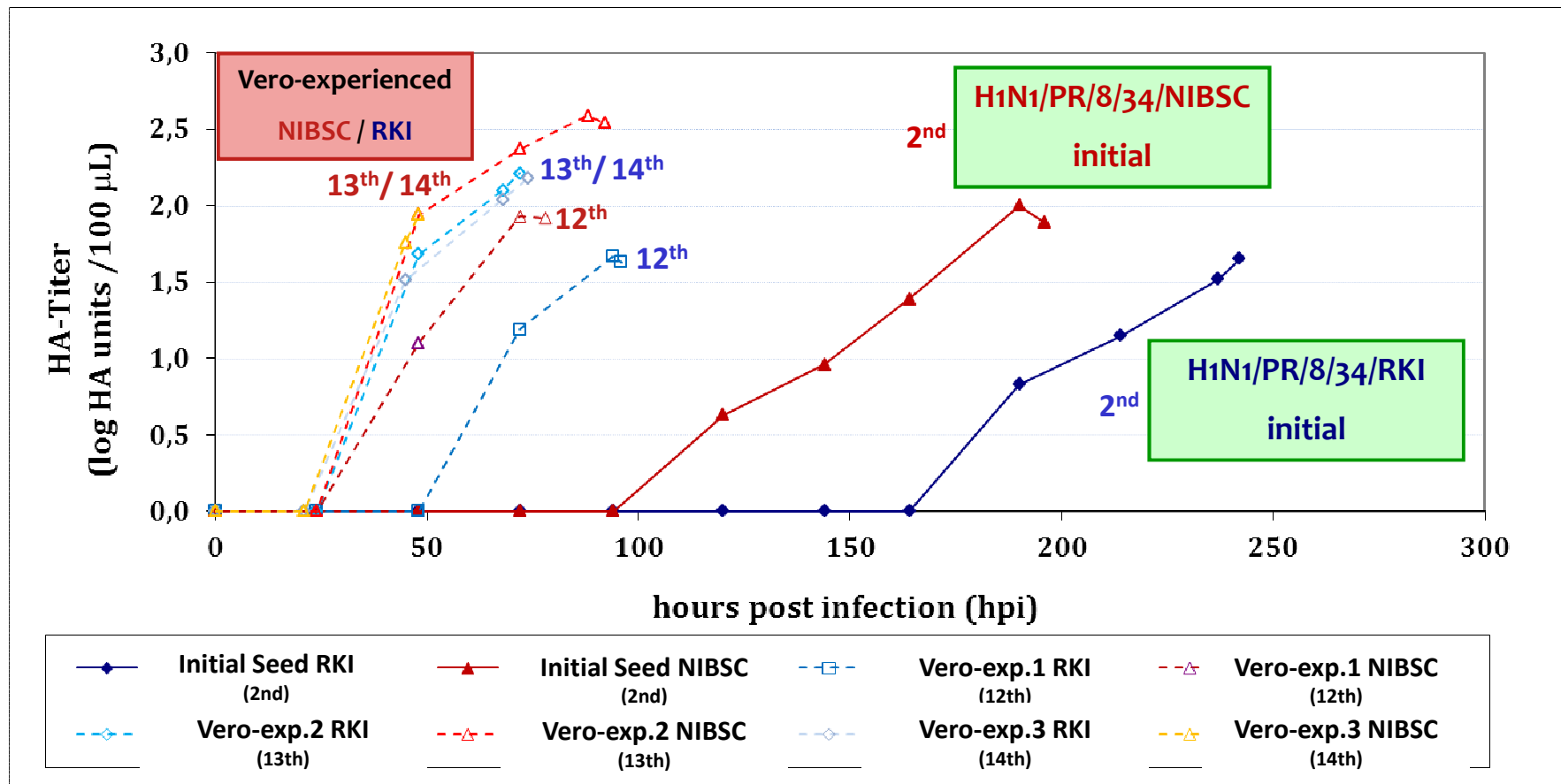
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Improved Viral Fitness also in Vero !



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Helene Kaffka

Summary III



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- **„Unexperienced“ Influenza viruses being adapted to new host cells need 2-3 passages to stabilize their glycosylation pattern.**
- **NIBSC derived seed virus shows much more heterogeneous quasispecies composition than RKI derived.**
- **Challenging Influenza viruses with new host cells results in “rescue mutations” and quasispecies diversification.**
- **“Experienced” Influenza viruses show improved viral fitness.**

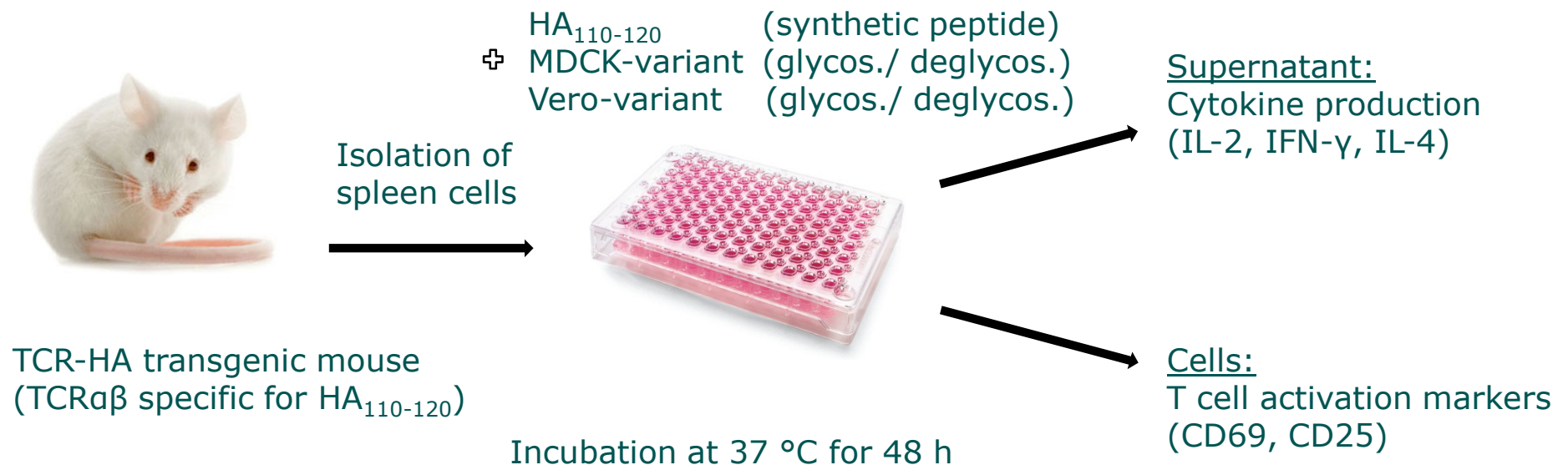
Impact of HA N-Glycosylation on Immunogenicity of Influenza Viruses Produced in Different Cell Lines



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(PhD thesis of J. Rödiger - in coop. with Dr. Bernd Lepenies @ MPI of Colloids and Interfaces)

⇒ Whole spleen cell stimulation assay (*in vitro*)

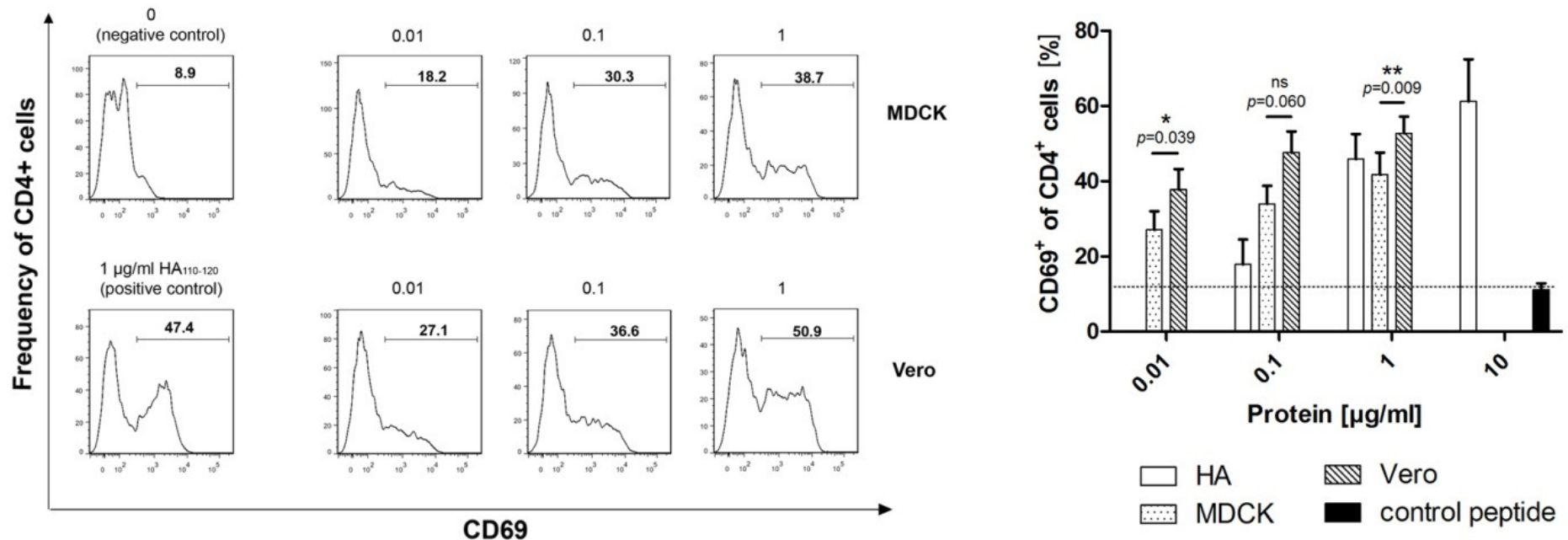


(performed by Julia Hütter @ MPI of Colloids and Interfaces)

HA N-Glycosylation Impacts T Cell Activation



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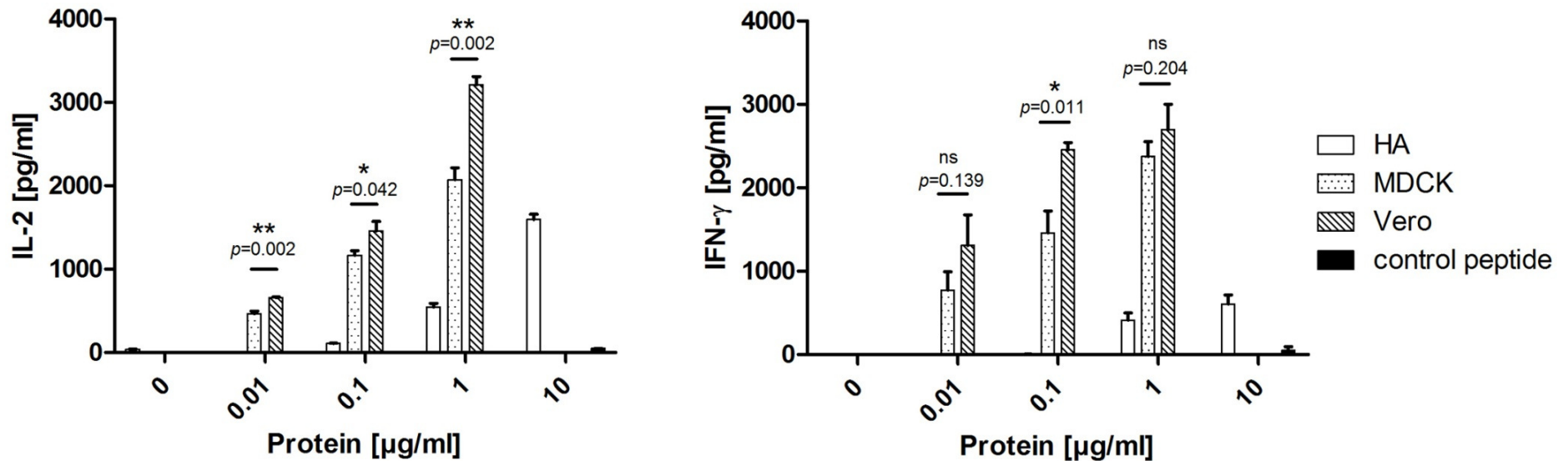


- Significantly higher frequency of T cells expressing the activation marker CD69 upon stimulation with the Vero cell-derived influenza virus glycovariant

HA N-Glycosylation Affects Cytokine Production



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- IL-2 and IFN- γ are produced in significantly higher levels by splenocytes stimulated with the Vero cell-derived influenza virus glycovariant

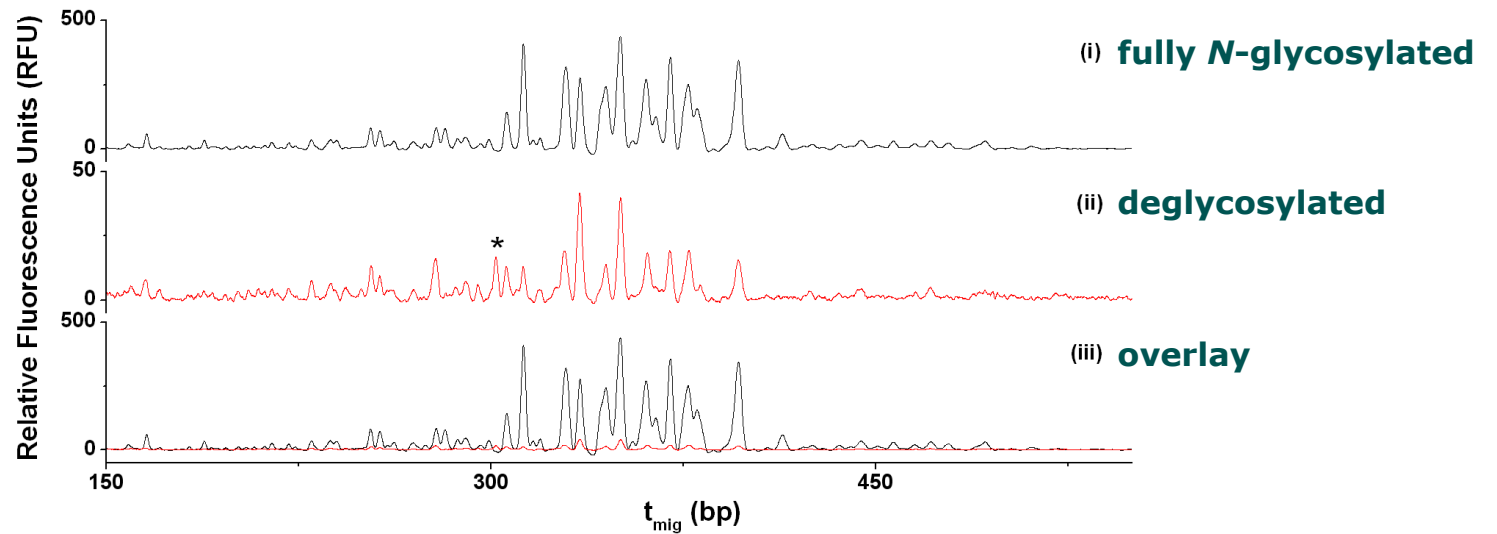
Hemagglutinin - Derived from Glycosylated & Deglycosylated Virus



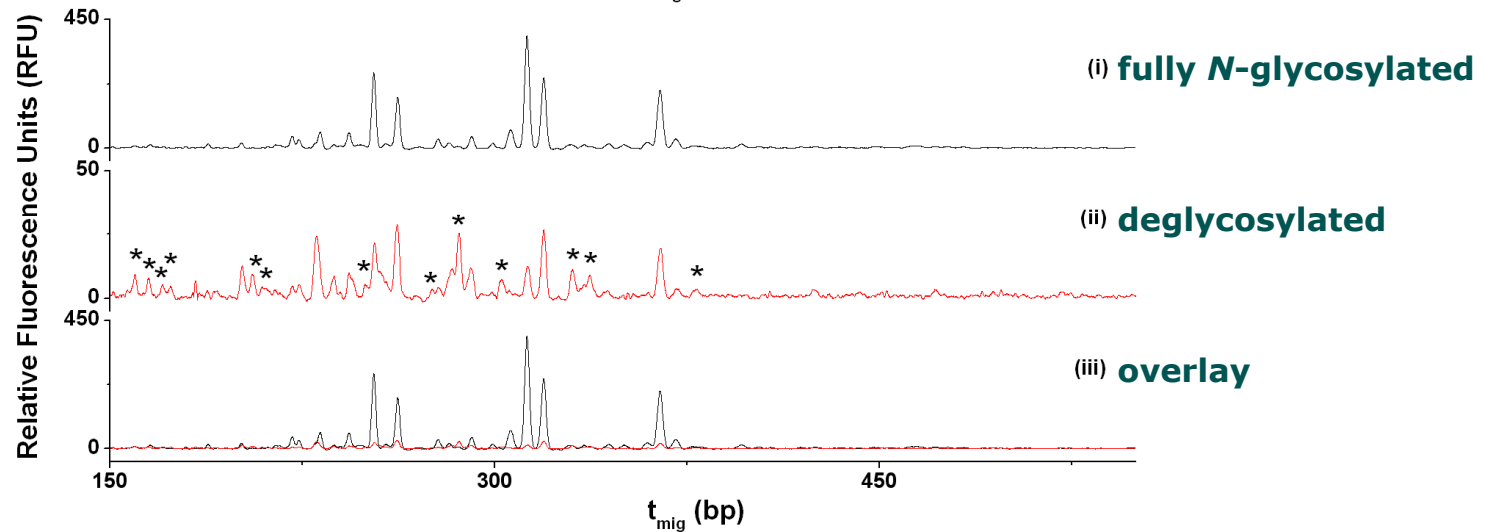
MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

(PhD thesis of J. Rödiger - in coop. with Dr. Bernd Lепенies @ MPI of Colloids and Interfaces)

**MDCK cell-
derived
Influenza Virus
A PR/8/34 (H1N1)**



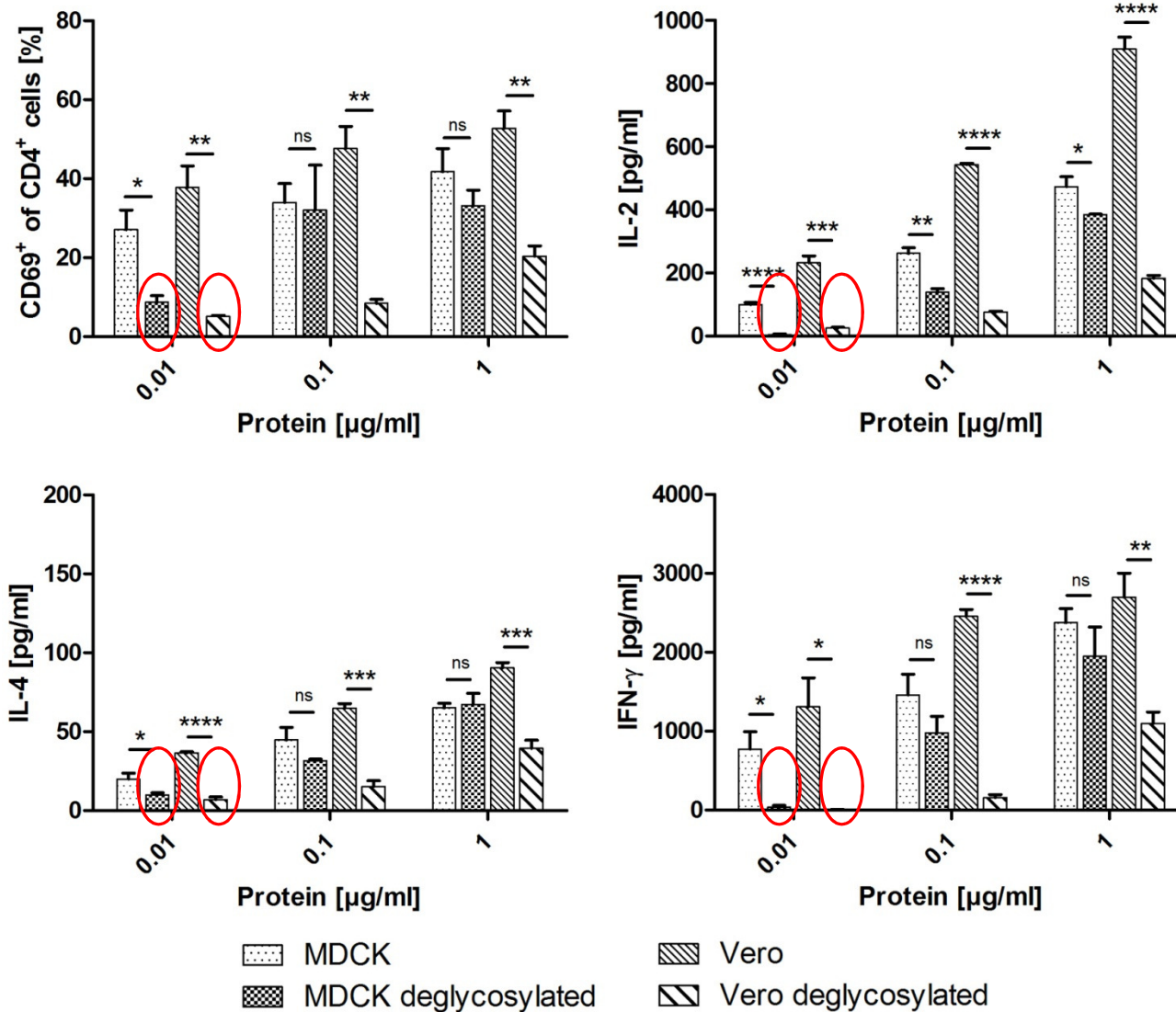
**Vero cell-
derived
Influenza Virus
A PR/8/34 (H1N1)**



Virus Deglycosylation Abolishes Cytokine Production



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Summary IV



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- **The platform of pyrosequencing, glycoanalysis and immunogenicity assays allows to investigate immunogenic differences of influenza virus glycovariants.**
- **Hemagglutinin N-glycosylation has a significant impact on immunogenicity.**
- **The differential immune stimulatory effects mediated by the influenza virus glycovariants seem to be also relevant in vivo.**
- **These findings might impact cell line-based influenza vaccine design.**

Outlook



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- **Screening for the optimal influenza production system using pyrosequencing, glycoanalysis and immunogenicity assays => “Sweet” vaccine design**
- **Extension of *N*-glycan and HMOS libraries and generation of other oligosaccharide libraries (e.g. *O*-glycans)**
- **Applying this method to other fields:**
(e.g. in the context of the "HighGlycan" EU-consortium)
 - **Glycome GWAS studies**
 - **Biopharmaceuticals like recombinant glycoproteins or vaccines**
 - **Functional food (e.g. infant nutrition) & food additives**
 - **Large scale clinical studies**
 - **Early diagnosis of diseases (e.g.: diabetes, cancer, ...)**
 - ...
- **Commercialized via:**



www.glyxera.com

Thanks to ...



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... **YOU**

... the BPE-Group

esp.:

- Yvonne Genzel
- Udo Reichl

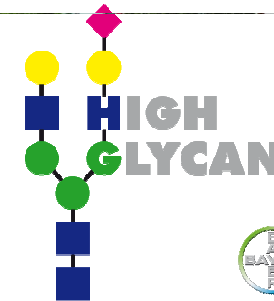
... and the A-Team !!!

esp.:

- Jana Schwarzer
... now J.Bohne
@ Novartis Vaccines
- Jana Rödiger
- René Hennig



... our cooperation partners:



Influenza Vaccine Production



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Classical production:



Chicken eggs

- 1-3 eggs per vaccination
- 5 mio. vaccinations every year

Trend:



Mammalian cell culture

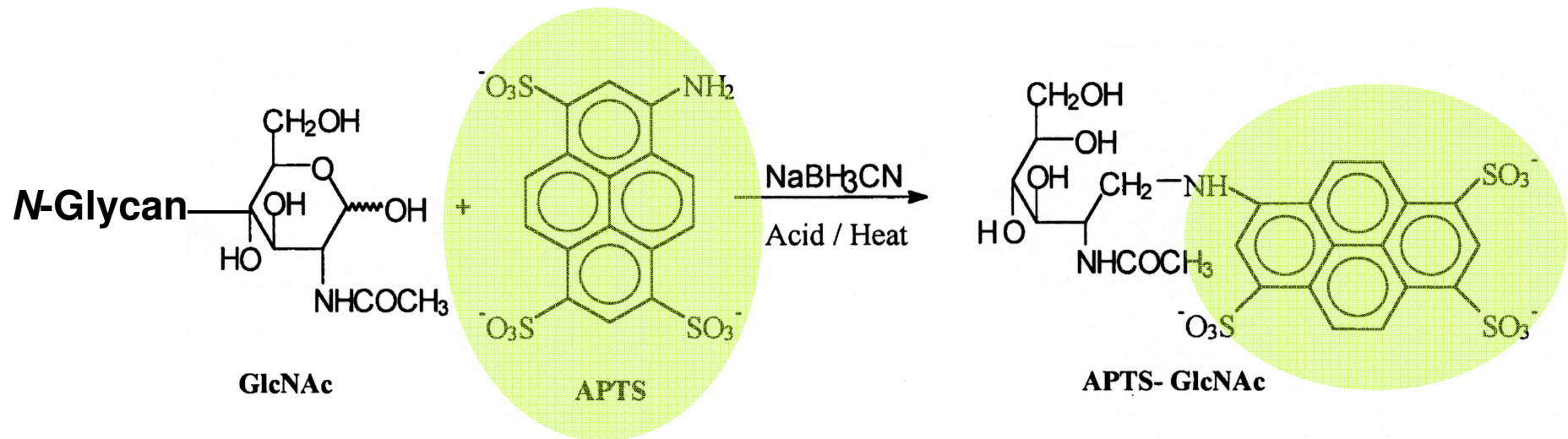
Advantages:

- Cell culture derived viruses are closer to the lateron human host
- Alternative for patients showing allergic reactions against chicken proteins
- Enables faster vaccine production scale-up in case of epidemics or pandemics
- Enables vaccine production for protection against avian influenza (H5N1)

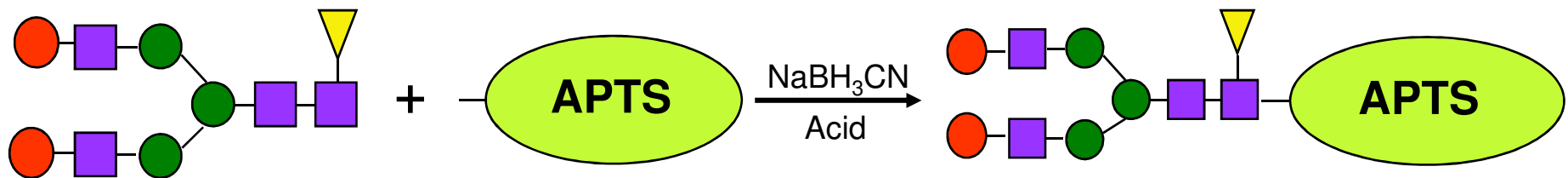
Labeling



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Modified from: Chen et al. (1998) *Glycobiology* (8): 1045-1052

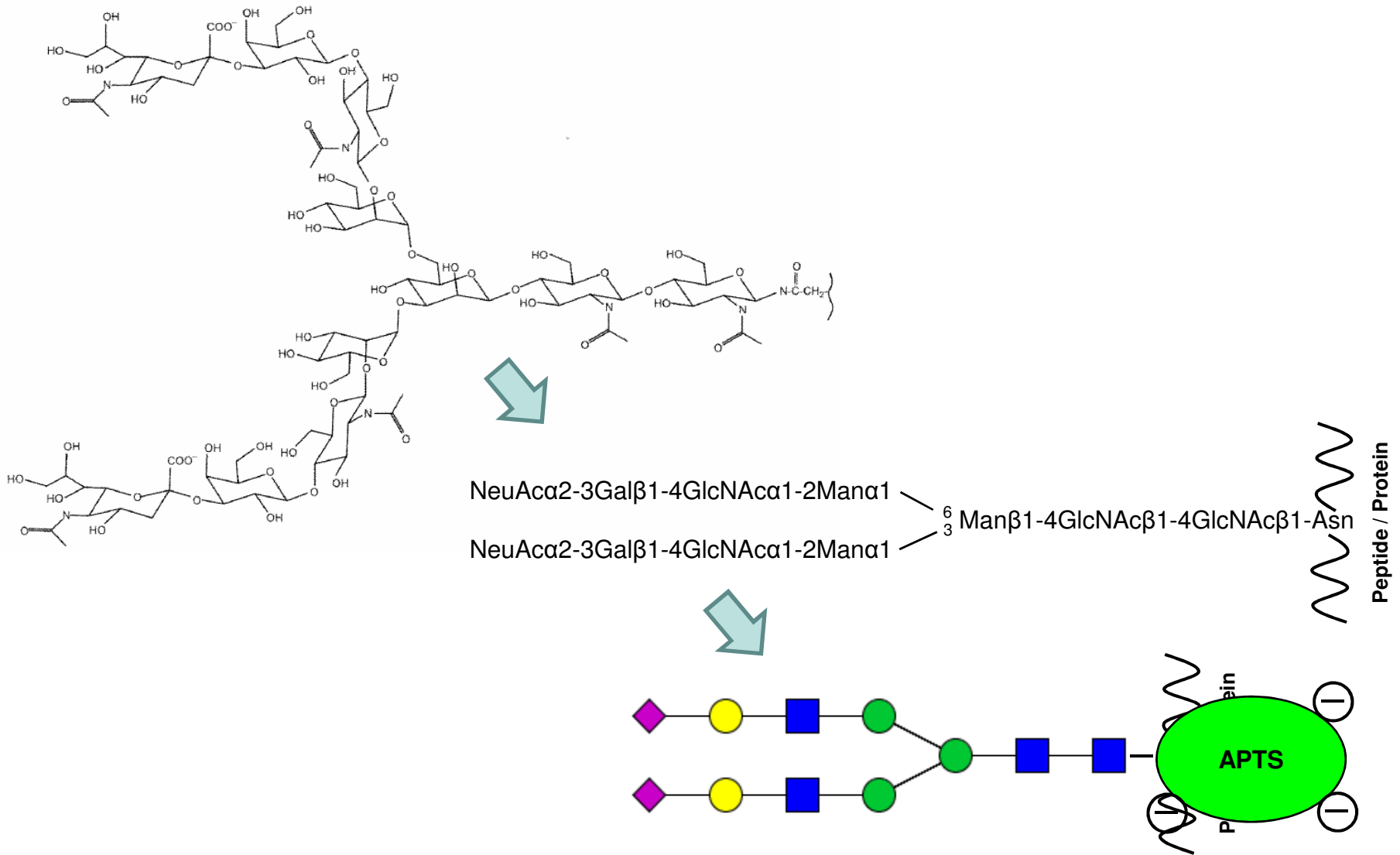


APTS = 8-amino-1,3,6-pyrenetrisulfonic acid

Schematic Representation of *N*-Glycans



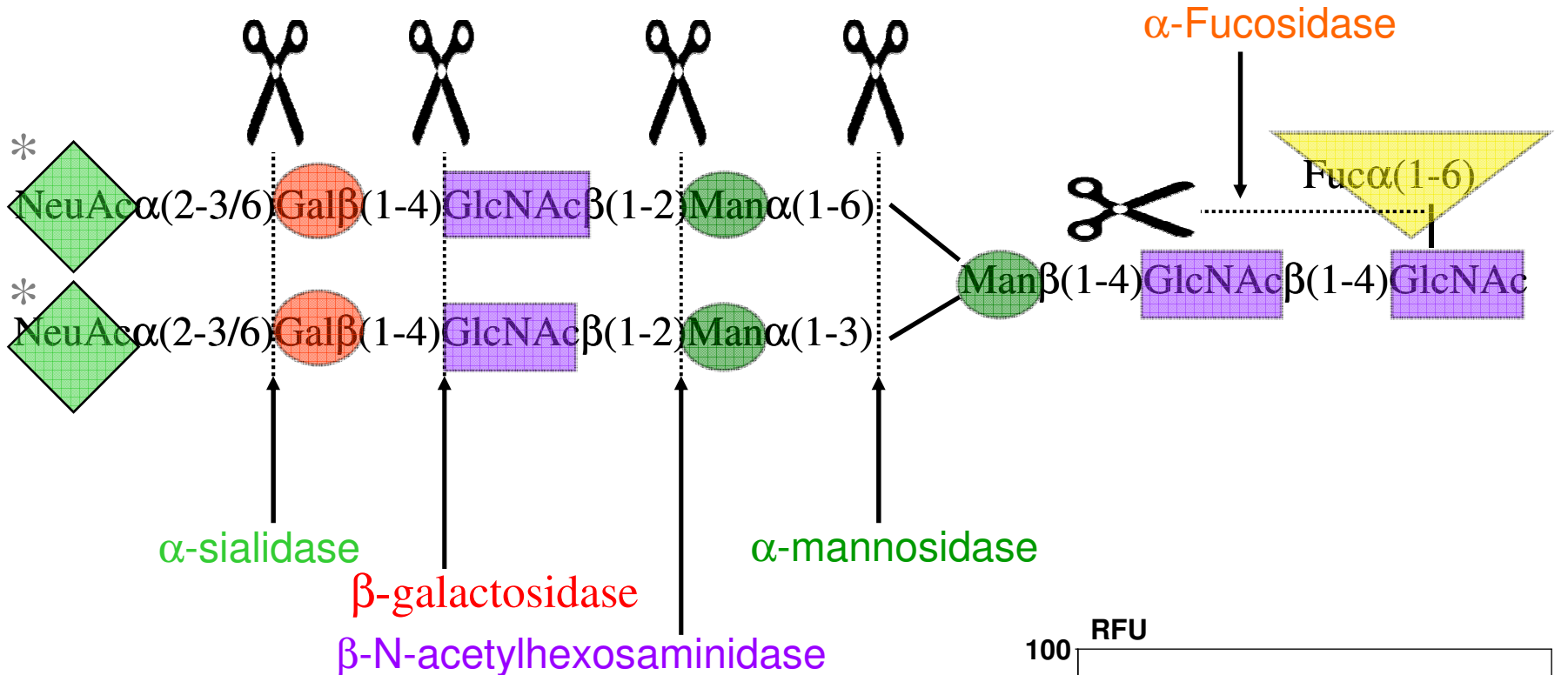
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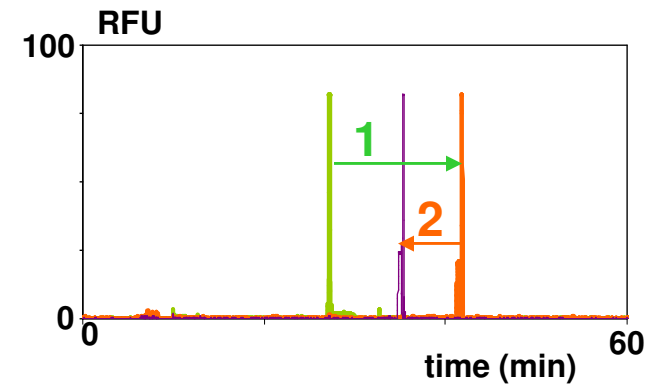
Sequential Exoglycosidase Digestion

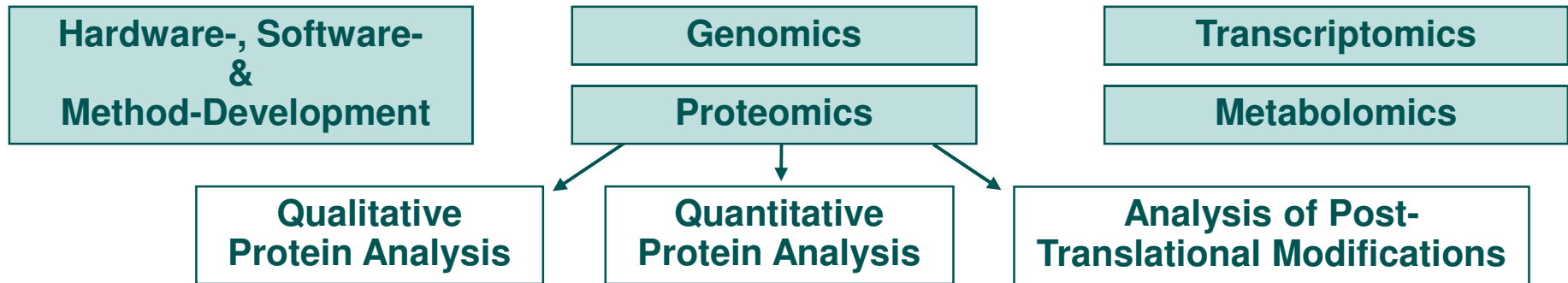


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* can be substituted with α -galactose





- Phosphorylation
- Glycosylation
- ...



Team:

9 PhD Students, 8 Students, 1 Techn. Assistant

Instrumentation:

- **Capillary-(Gel-)Electrophoresis Systems:**
 - CE System with UV-Detection
 - Multiplexing CGE-LIF Systems (xCGE-LIF)
- **HPLC Systems:**
 - HPLC-FLR
 - nanoHPLC-LIF
 - HPAEC-PAD
- **Diverse Gelelectrophoresis Systems**
(1D, 2D & DIGE)
- **LC-MS/MS Systems:**
 - Online: nanoHPLC-QqTof & nanoHPLC-QIT
 - Offline: 2D-nanoHPLC & MALDI-Tof/Tof
- **GC-MS/MS System**

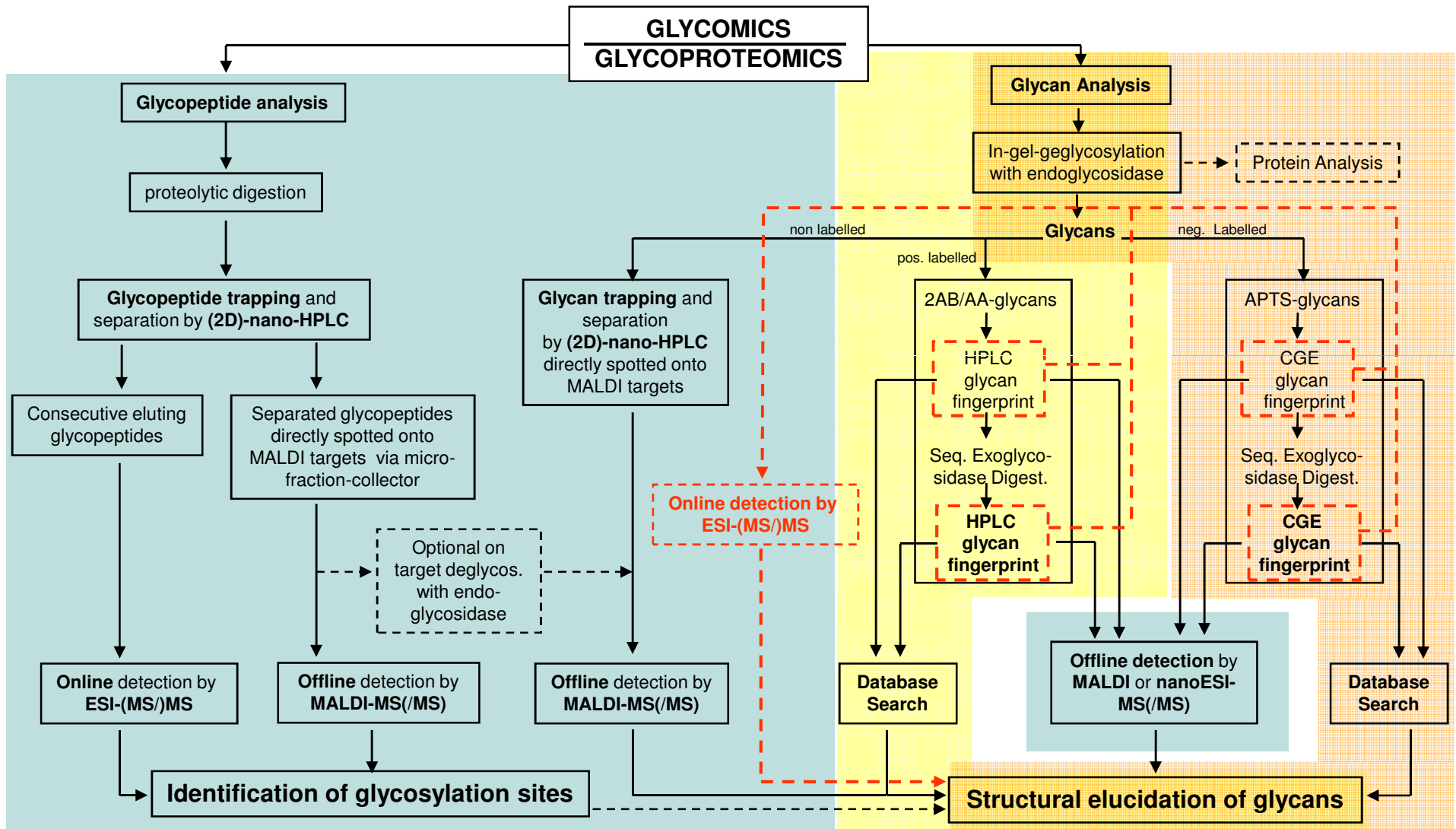
**Glycomics,
Glycoproteomics
&
Carbohydrate
Analytics**

- Glycans
- Glycopeptides
- Glycoproteins
and
- other Carbohydrates
(e.g.: Milk oligosaccharides)

Glycomics & Glycoproteomics Toolbox



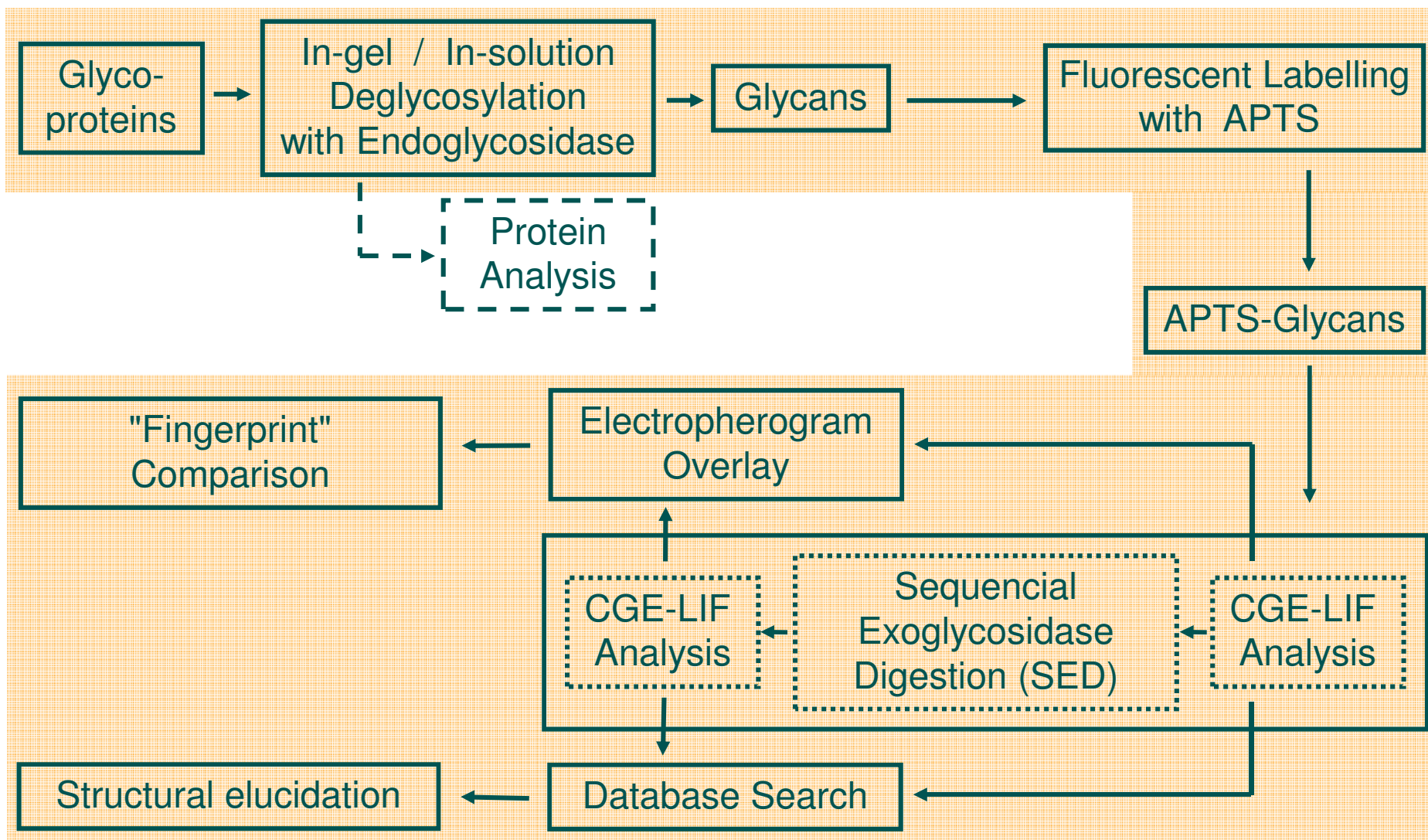
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CGE-LIF Based Glycomics



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HILIC-FLR vs. xCGE-LIF

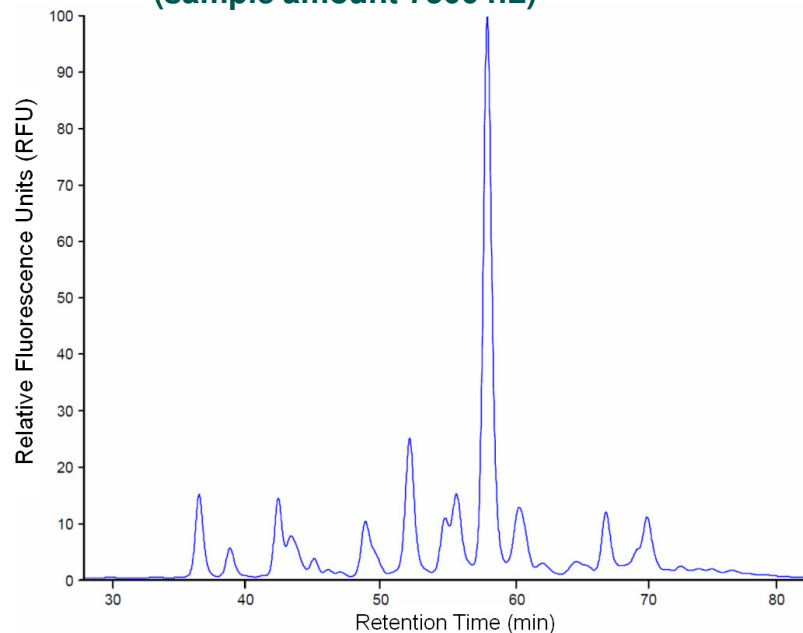


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Separation power, performance and sensitivity:

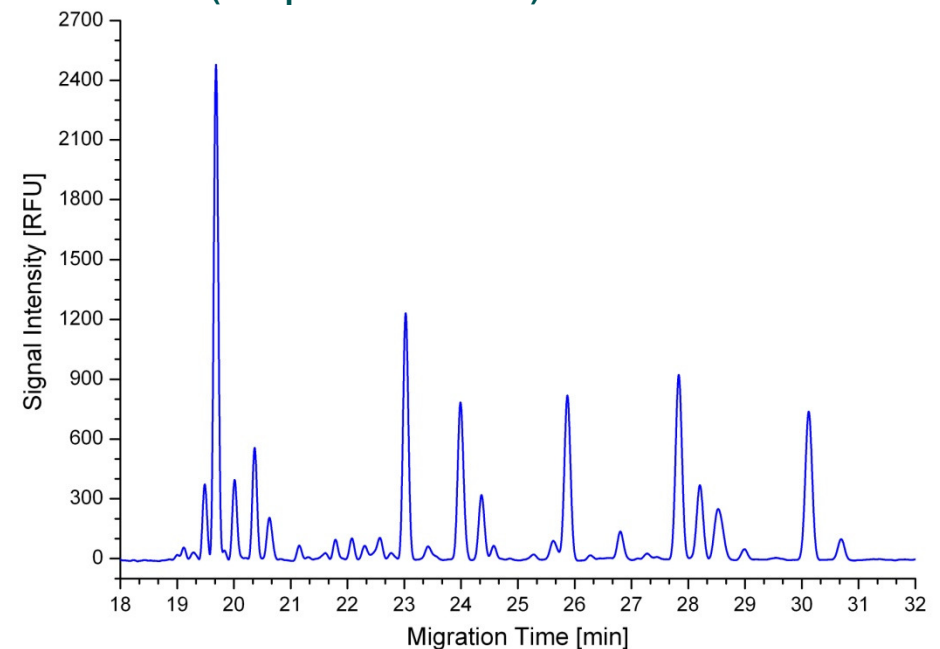
HILIC-FLR

(sample amount 7500 nL)



xCGE-LIF (via DNA-Sequencer)

(sample amount 2 nL)



Separation of two aliquots of the same sample: the "blood-plasma glycome"

⇒ Separation power more than one order of magnitude better !

⇒ Sensitivity more than three orders of magnitude higher !

xCGE-LIF Analysis of N-Glycan Pools

(Normalized Electropherogram = "Fingerprint")

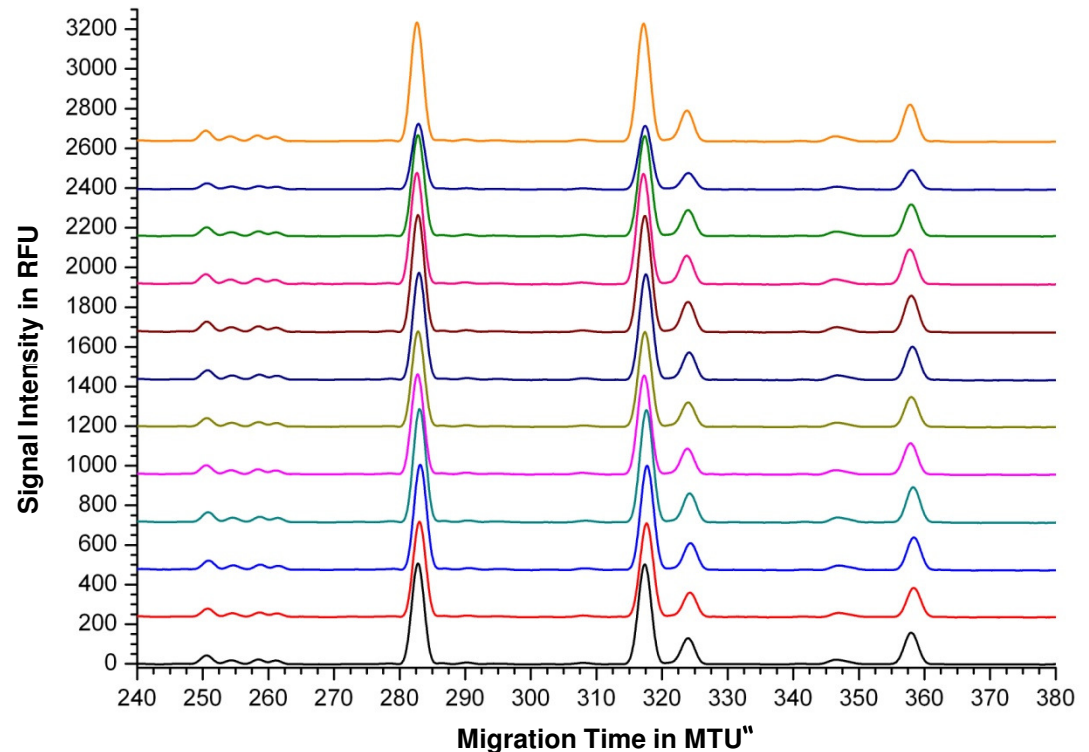


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(LOD and reproducibility of xCGE-LIF)

Overlay of 12 "fingerprints" of the N-glycan pool of a mAB:

- **Limit of detection:**
50 attomole on column.
- **Linear dynamic range:**
4 orders of magnitude.
- **Good reproducibility**
with respect to
relative peak heights.

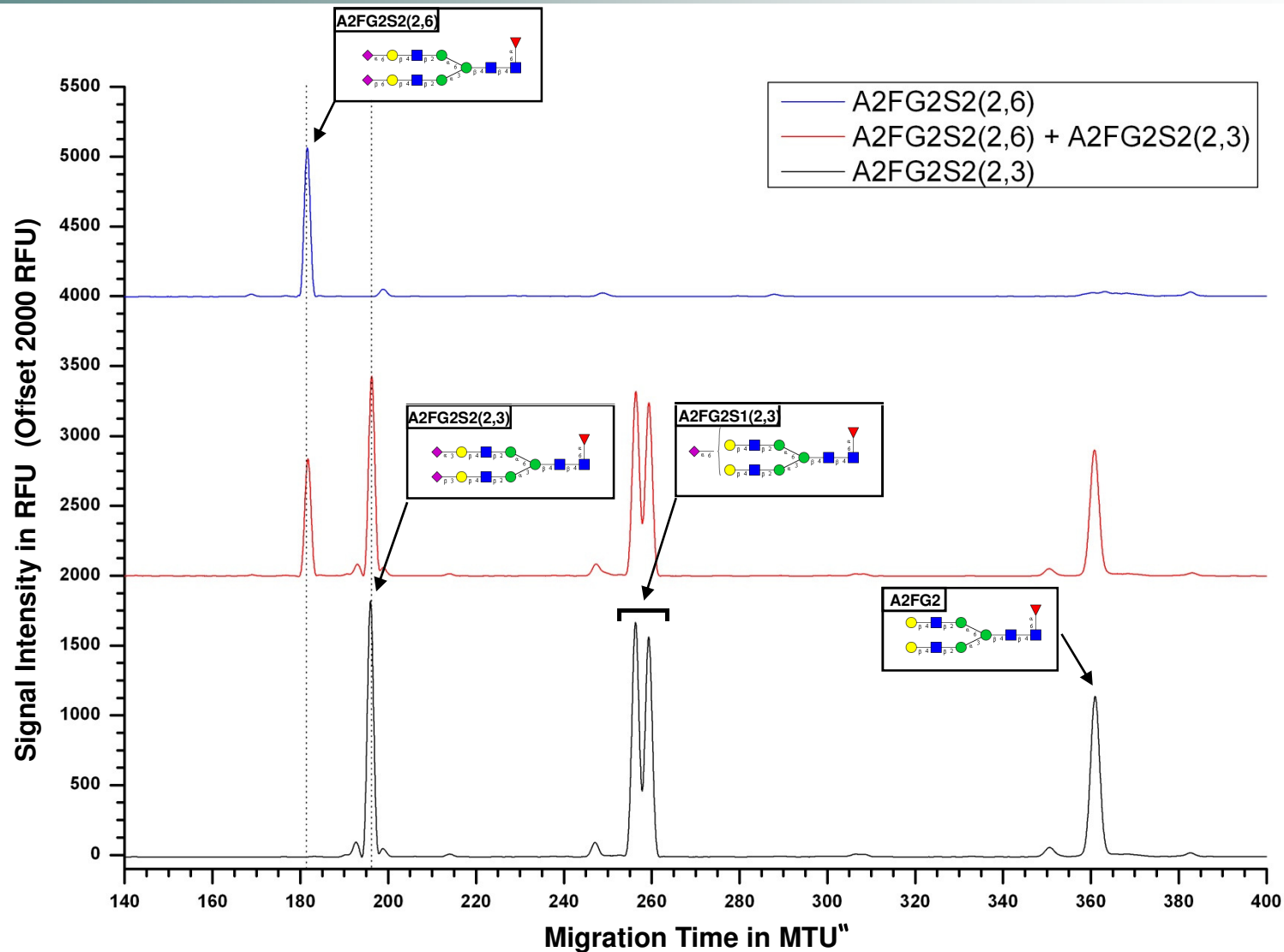


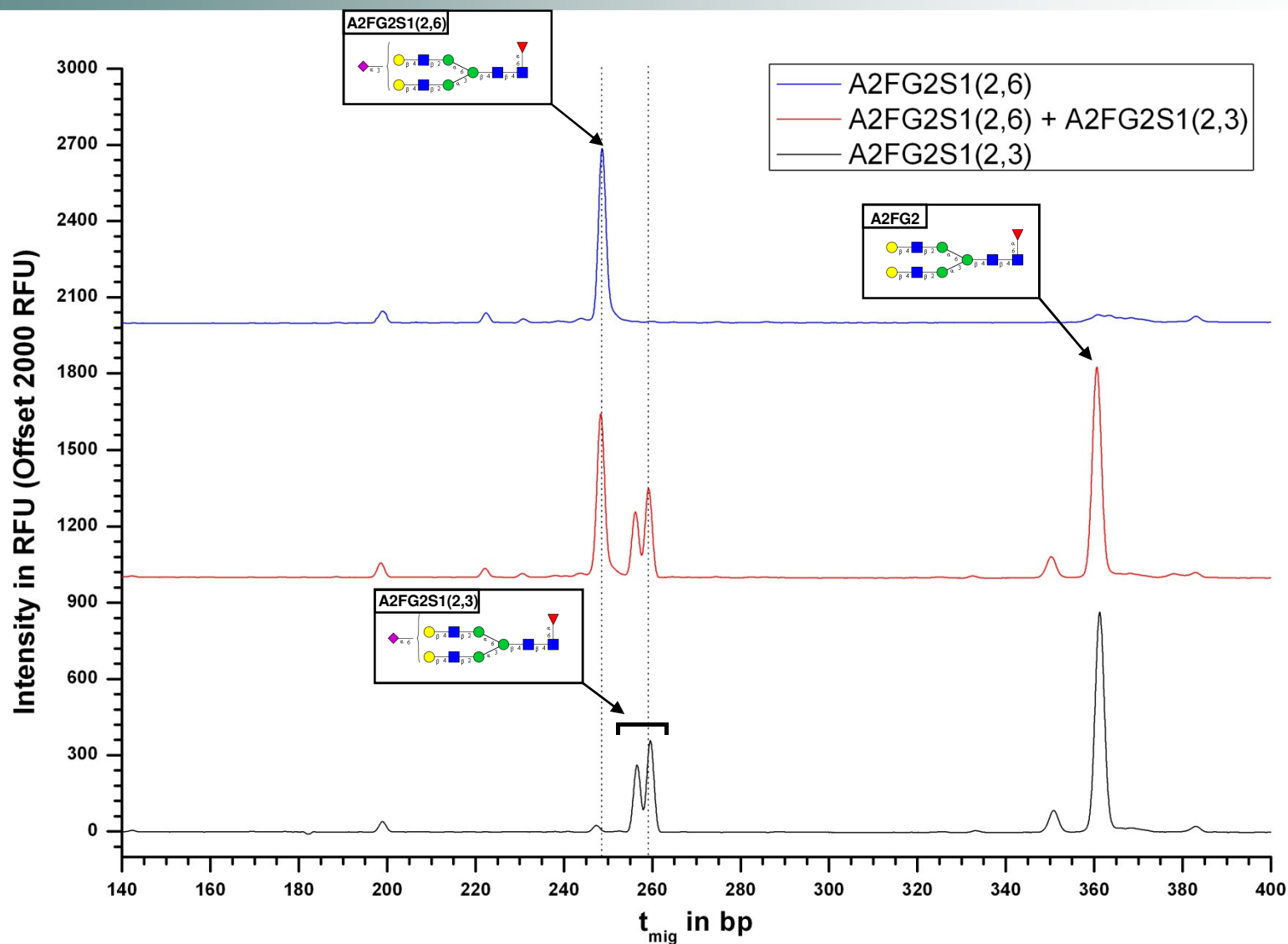
- **RSD for migration times of more than 36 consecutive runs < 0,03%.**
(xCGE-LIF analyses of 3 techn. replicates à 12 repeated runs)
- **Longterm RSD (about two years) for migration times < 0,5%.**

Separation Power of *N*-Glycan Analysis via xCGE-LIF



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Typical Cells



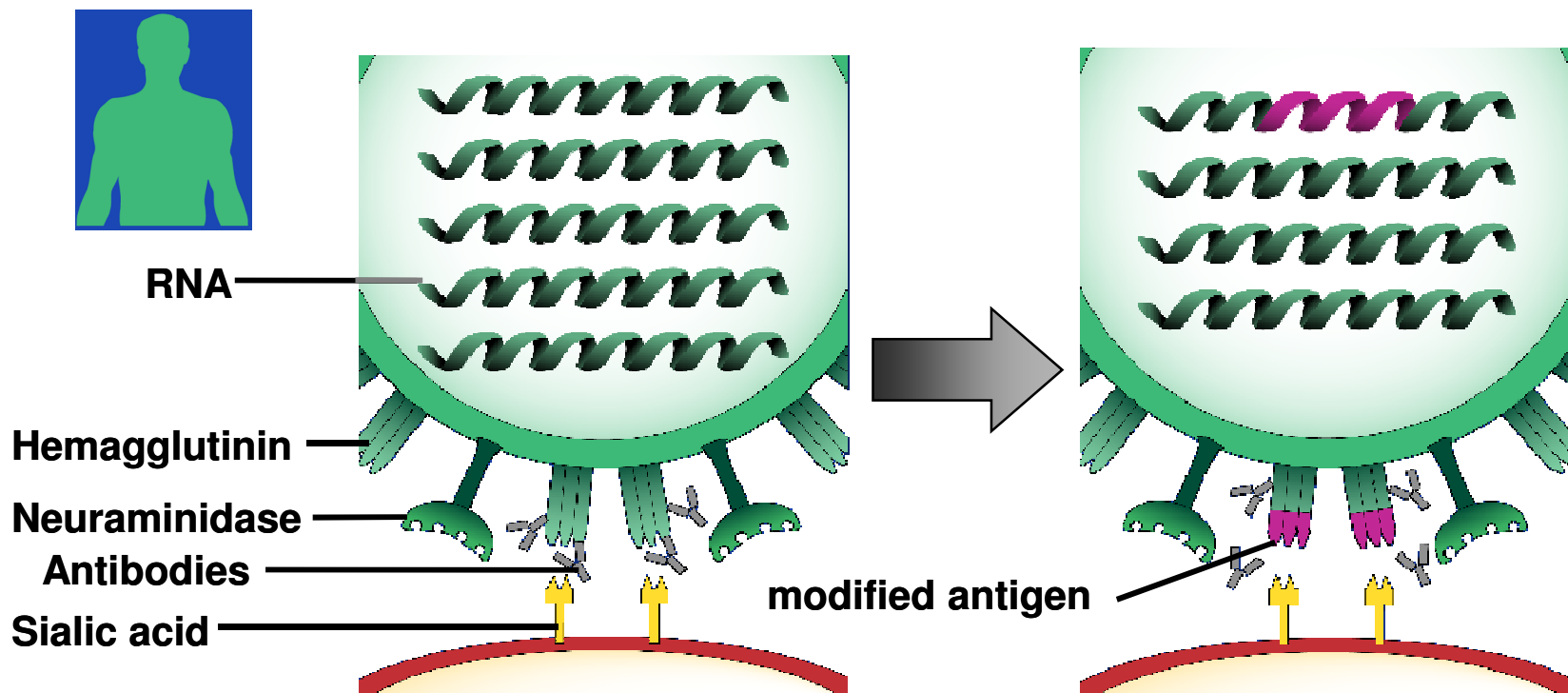
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cell line	derivation	application
CHO	Chinese hamster ovary	good product glycosylation
CHO dhfr	Mutant for genetic amplification	recombinant products
BHK21	Syrian hamster	viruses/veterinary vaccines
HeLa	Human cervical adenocarcinoma	polio vaccine
Namalwa	Human B lymphoblastoid	Interferon
COS 1/COS 7	African green monkey kidney	recombinant products
293	Adenovirus transformed HEK	Gene therapy
Sf9	Spodoptera frugipeda	Baculoviruses
MDCK	Cocker spaniel kidney	viral vaccines
Vero	African green monkey, kidney	viral vaccines
AGE1.CR	Duck, retina	viral vaccines
A549	Human, lung epithel carcinoma	viral vaccines
HepG2	Human, hepatocell. epith. carcin.	viral vaccines
RCAr	modified MDCK	viral vaccines

Antigenic Drift



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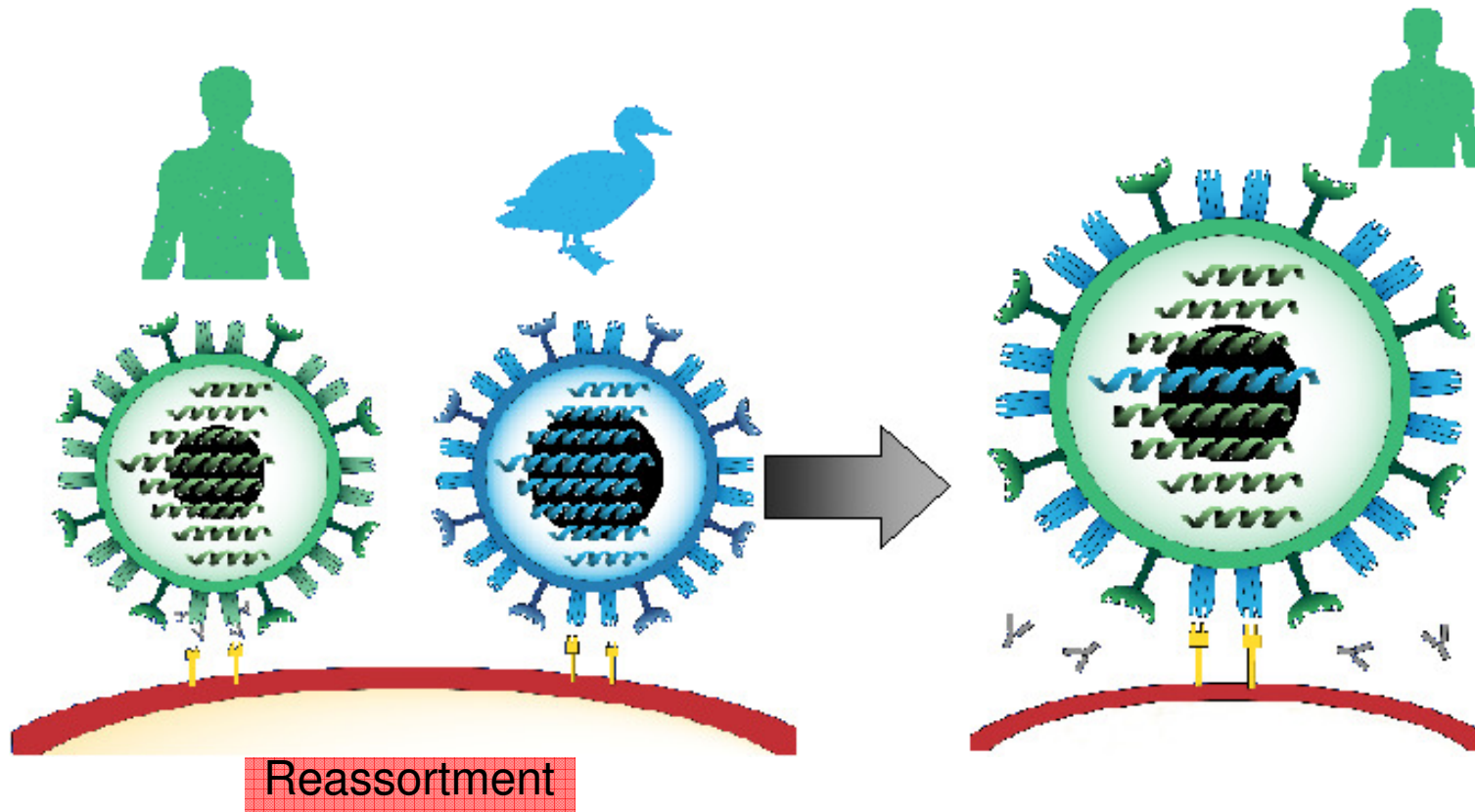
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Modified from: Influenza: Virus and Disease; Roche homepage; Oktober 2005

Antigenic Shift



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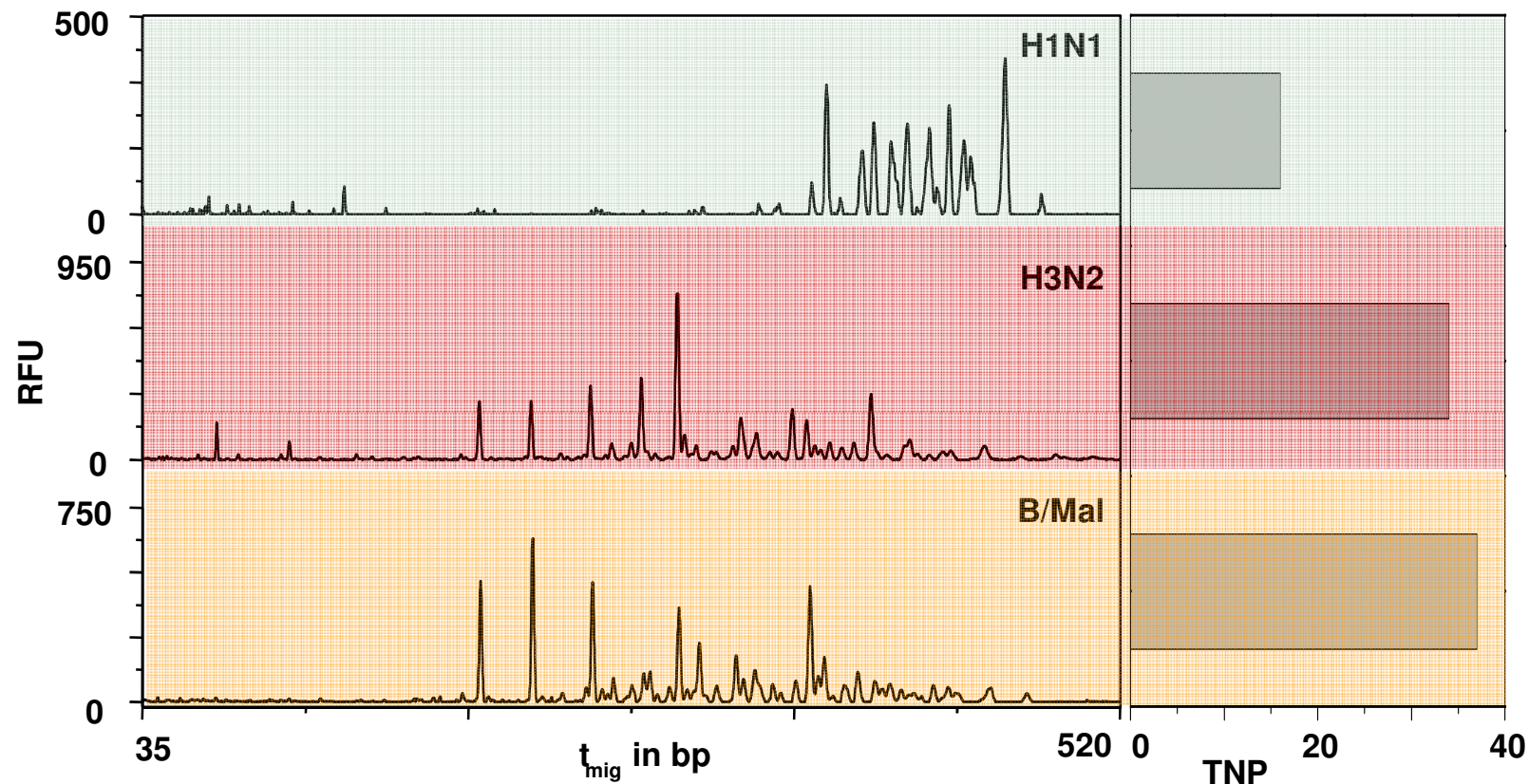
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Modified from: Influenza: Virus and Disease; Roche homepage; Oktober 2005

HA N-Glycan Fingerprints of Different Human Influenza Viruses Produced in MDCK cells



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Differences virus related

Quasispecies Composition - RKI



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Multiple Substitutions in Consensus Sequence

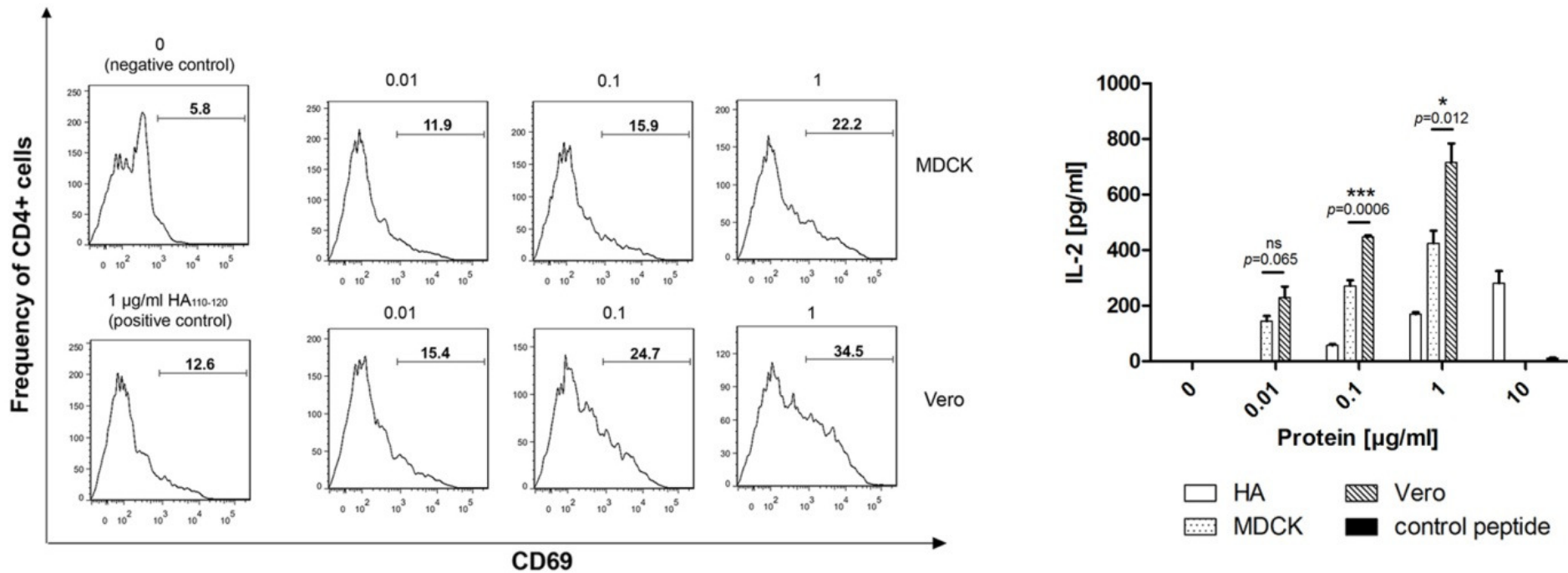
Segment	Coded Protein	bp-Substitution			AA-substitution			Passage 1	Passage 6	Passage 11
1	PB2	C	588	G	C	196	W			44
		G	1351	A	V	451	I		12	
2	PB1	ACAAAGA 524-530 CAAG			NKE 175-177 TR				16	
3	PA	T	150	C	D	50	D			24
		G	585	A	E	195	E			34
4	HA	A	189	G	G	63	G			<10
		C	1370	T	S	457	L		19*	9*
		A	1378	G	K	460	E		80*	81*
		initial seed virus			no AA-substitutions			100	few reads	10
5	NP	A	859	C	S	287	R		22	50
		G	882	T	E	294	D		45	
		A	926	G	N	309	S		19	
		G	1414	C	A	472	P		42	
		G	1418	A	S	473	N		31	
6	NA	A	21	G	I	7	M		<5	>95
8	NS1	T	307	T	S	103	P		100	100

=> Substitutions Improve Viral Fitness in Vero Host Cell System

Crucial role of CD11c⁺ dendritic cells



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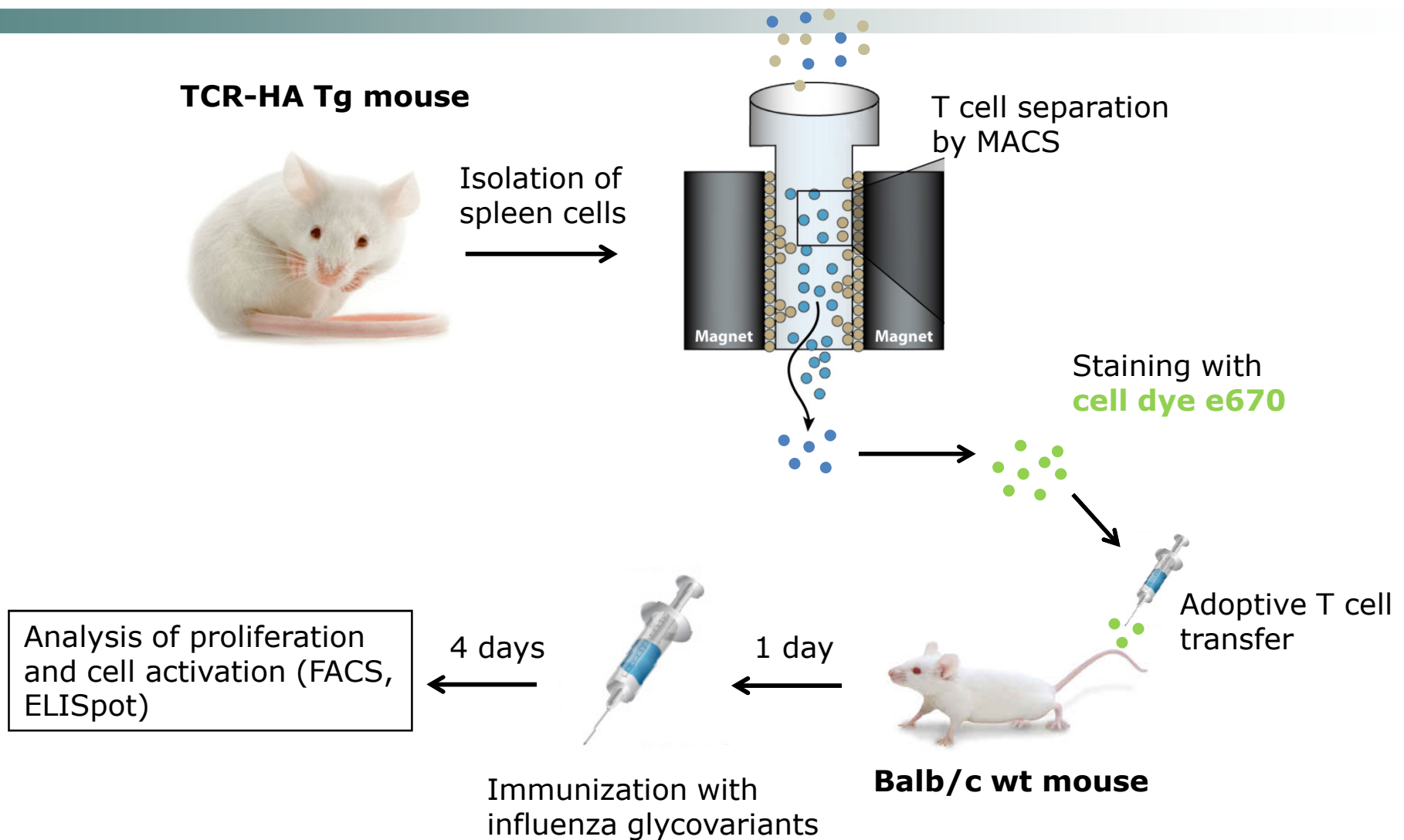


- CD11c⁺ dendritic cells were separated by magnetic cell separation (MACS) and co-cultivated with TCR-HA transgenic T cells
- Dendritic cells are responsible for the differential T cell activation, presumably by differential recognition and/or uptake of the glycovariants

Adoptive transfer of transgenic T cells



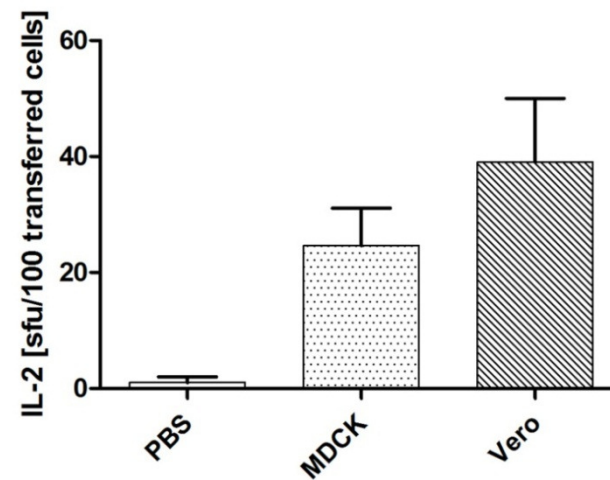
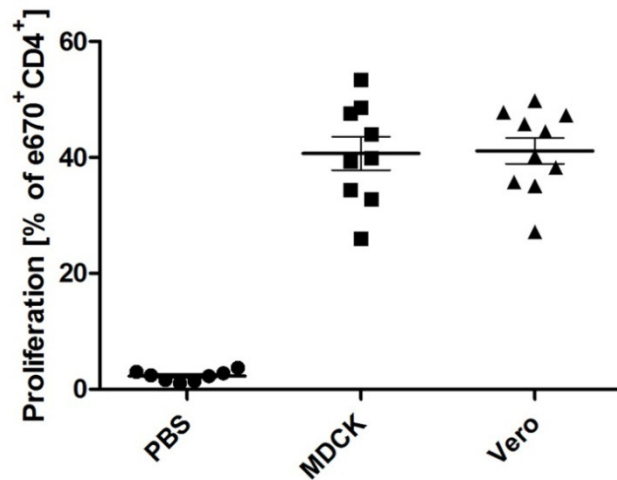
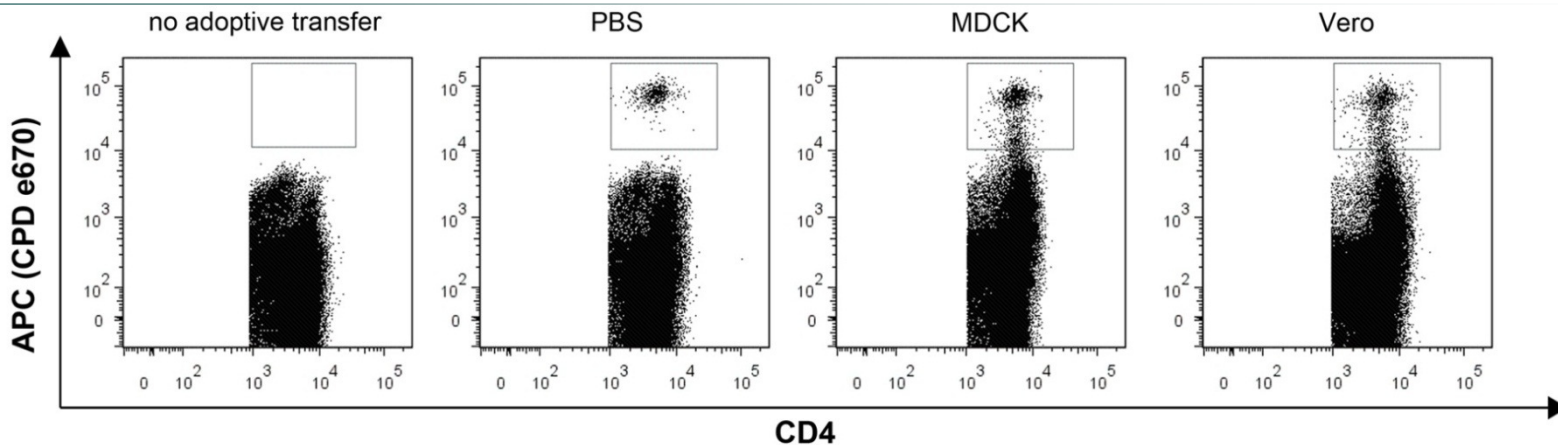
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In vivo T cell activation and proliferation



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- Increased IL-2 production upon immunization with Vero cell-derived glycovariant => observed effects might also be relevant in vivo