



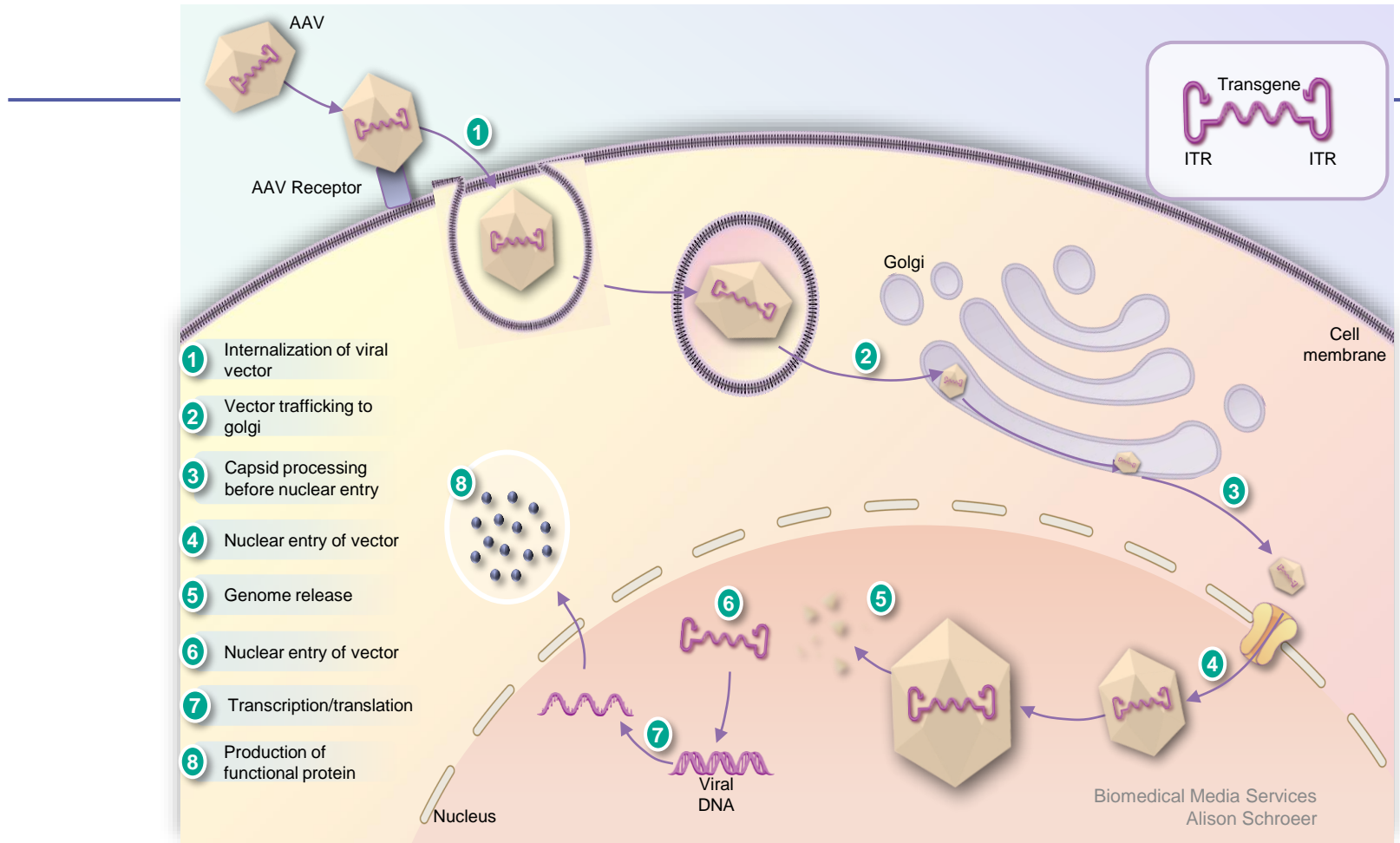
Photo credits: ©



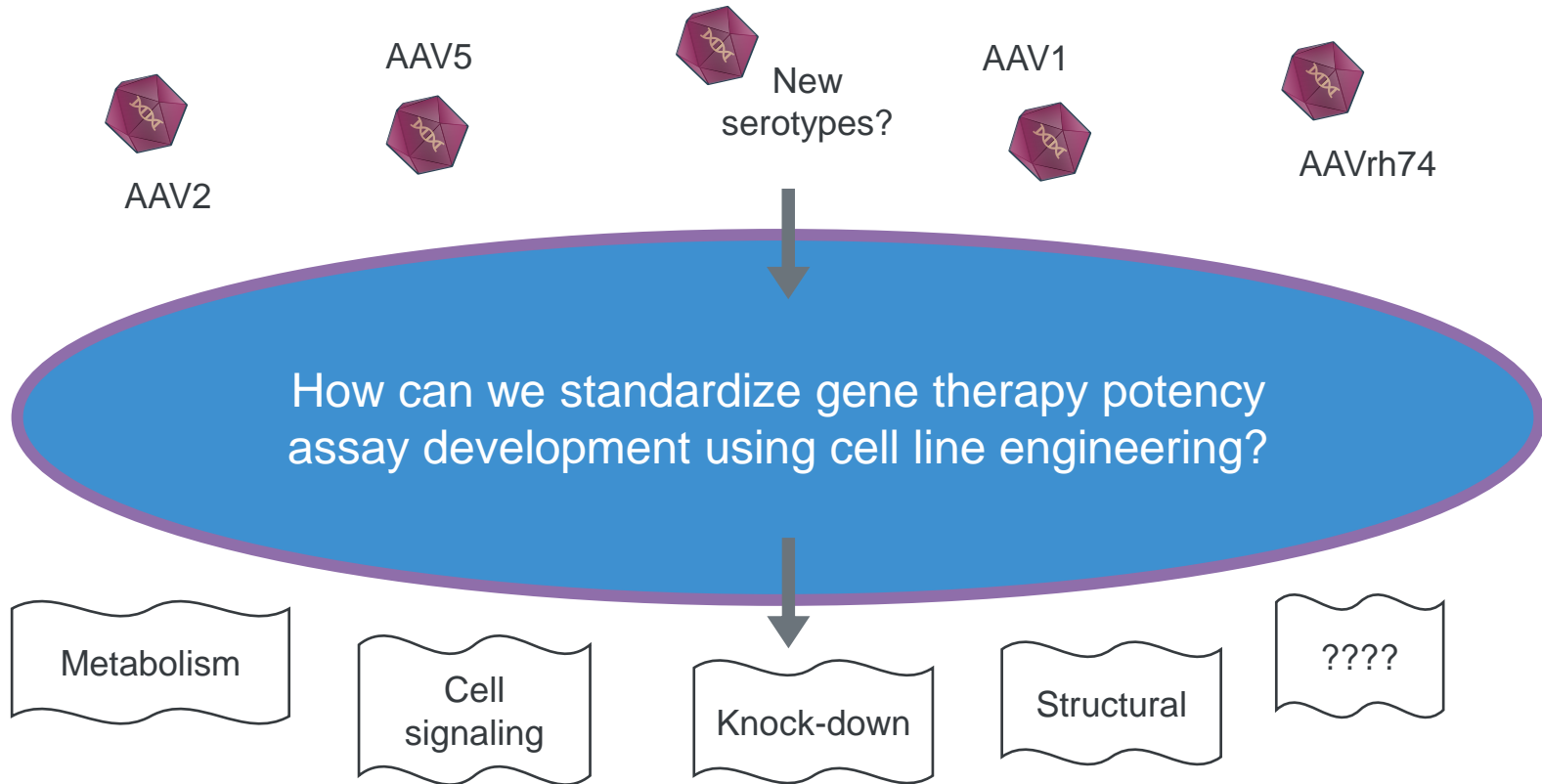
## Engineering cell lines for AAV cell-based potency assays

Stephanie Whipple, PhD, Scientist, Analytical Development

20Apr2020



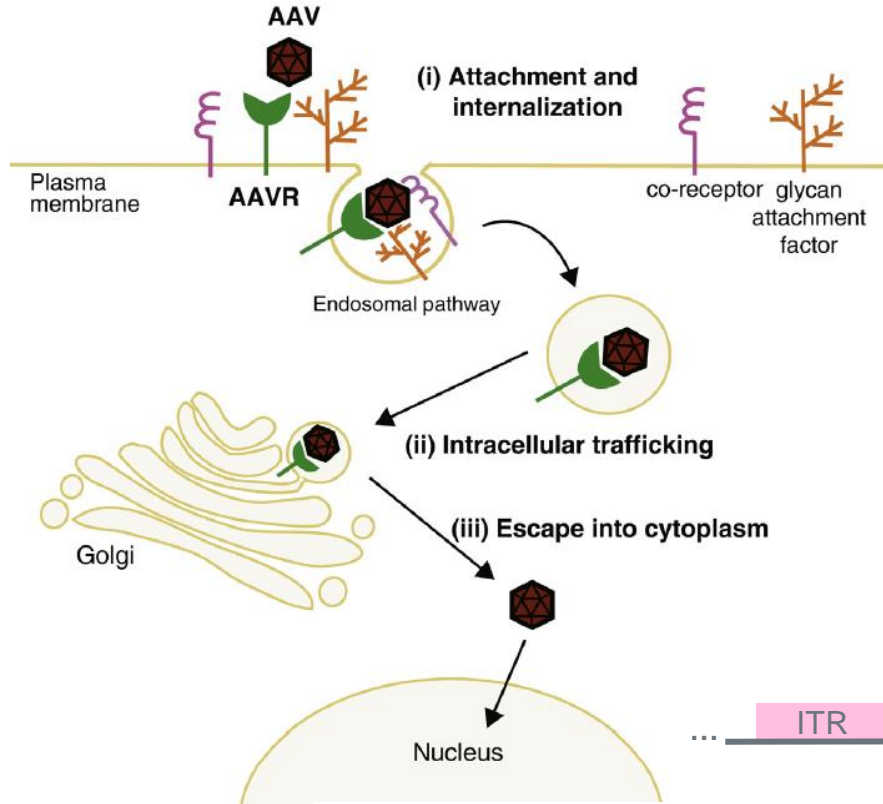
# Project goal



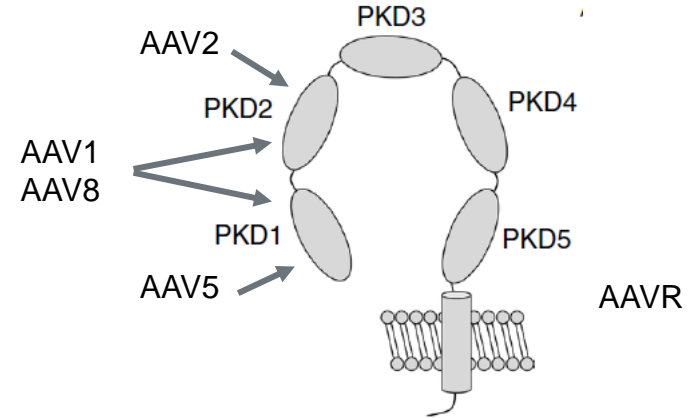
# AAV receptors

AAV	Lamin Receptor	Heparan Sulfate proteoglycan	Sialic acid	AAV Receptor (AAVR)	G protein-coupled receptor 108	HeLa
1			X	X	X	X
2	X	X		X	X	X
3	X	X		X	X	X
4			X		X	X
5			X	X		X
6		X	X	X		X
7						X
8	X			X	X	X
9	X			X	X	X
Rh.10				X	X	
po1						
12						
13		X				

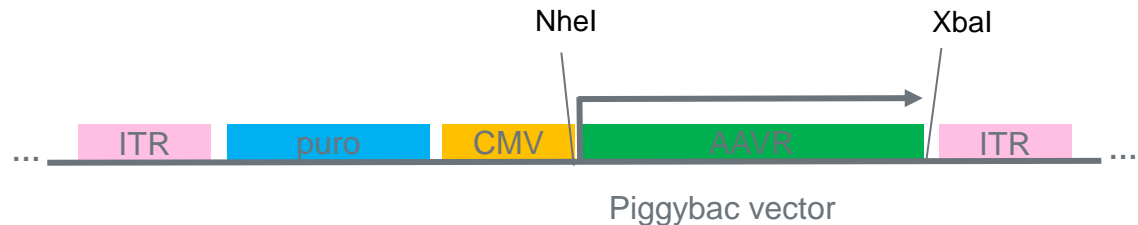
# AAVR – a tool for gene therapy potency assays



Pillay and Carette, 2017

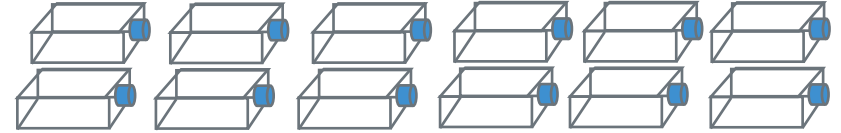


Adapted from Zhang et al, 2019



# AAVR cells: Cell line development

1. 10-15 clones frozen down as pre-MCBs



2. Test for gene **expression**: choose top 4 expressers



3. Test for **cell growth**: choose best 2



4. Test in assay for **signal** and dynamic range: choose best 1



5. After 2 months in culture, repeat **expression and growth** for **stability**



6. Test pre-MCB and MCB to alongside continuous culture in **assay** for **stability**

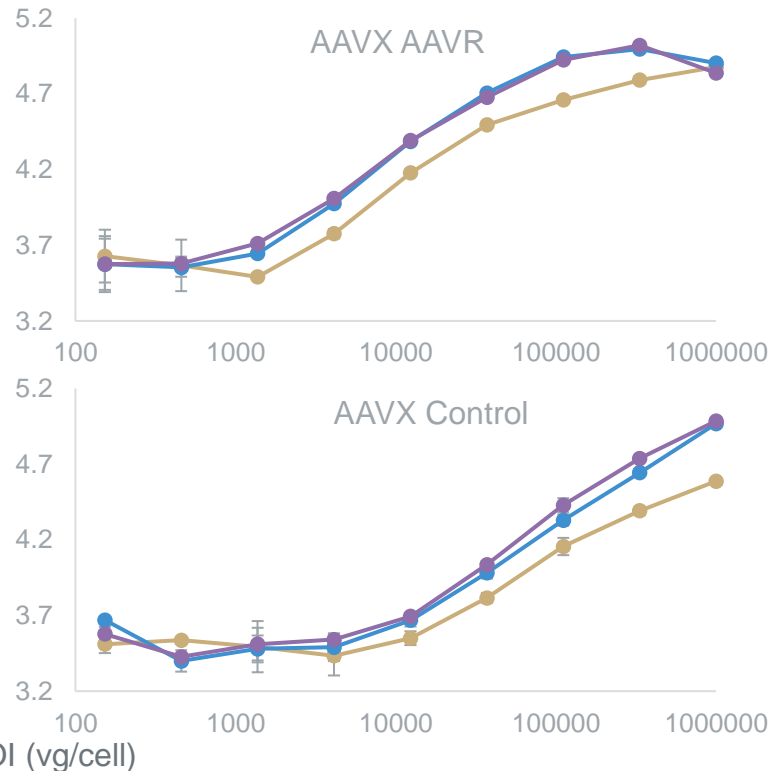


# AAVR cells: Assay development

Time points



Intra-assay CV  $\leq 5\%$

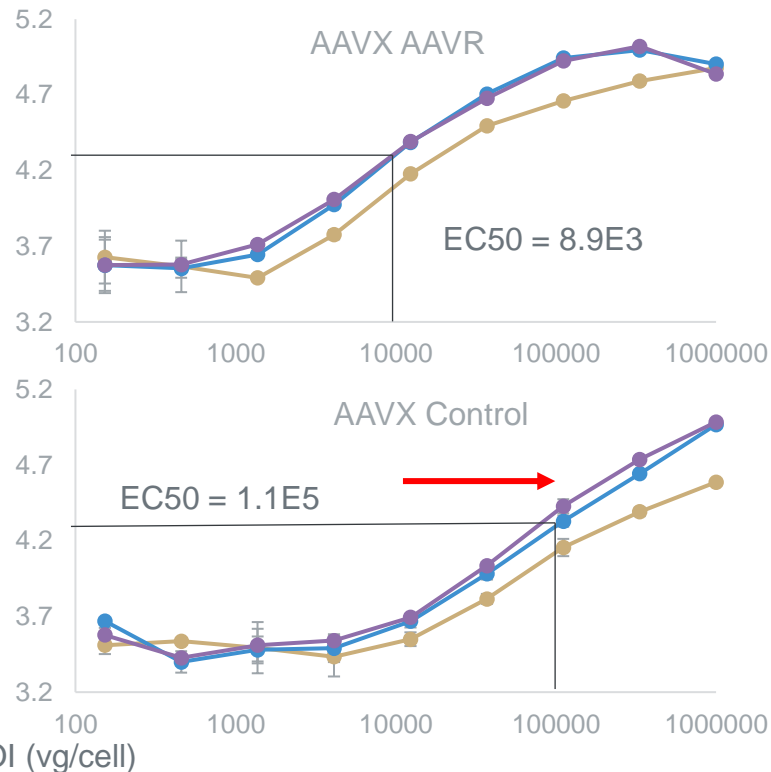


# AAVR cells: Assay development

Time points



Intra-assay CV  $\leq 5\%$

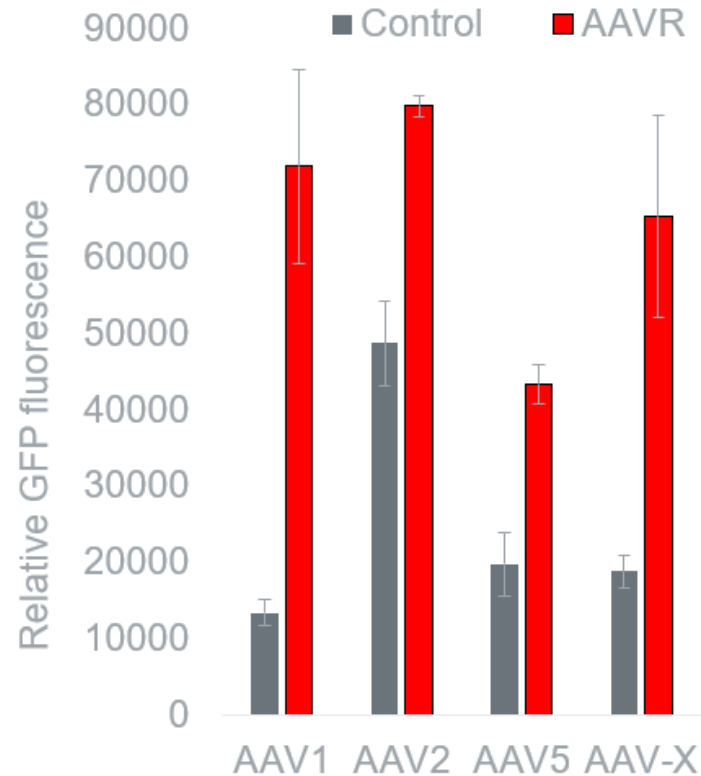




# AAVR cells: Assay development

## AAVR vs Control

- Lower EC50
  - Lower %CV on EC50, asymptotes and slope
  - Improved F test and  $R^2$
  - Potency mimics
- 
- ✓ Cell seeding density
  - ✓ Plate uniformity
  - ✓ Linearity
  - ✓ Platformable

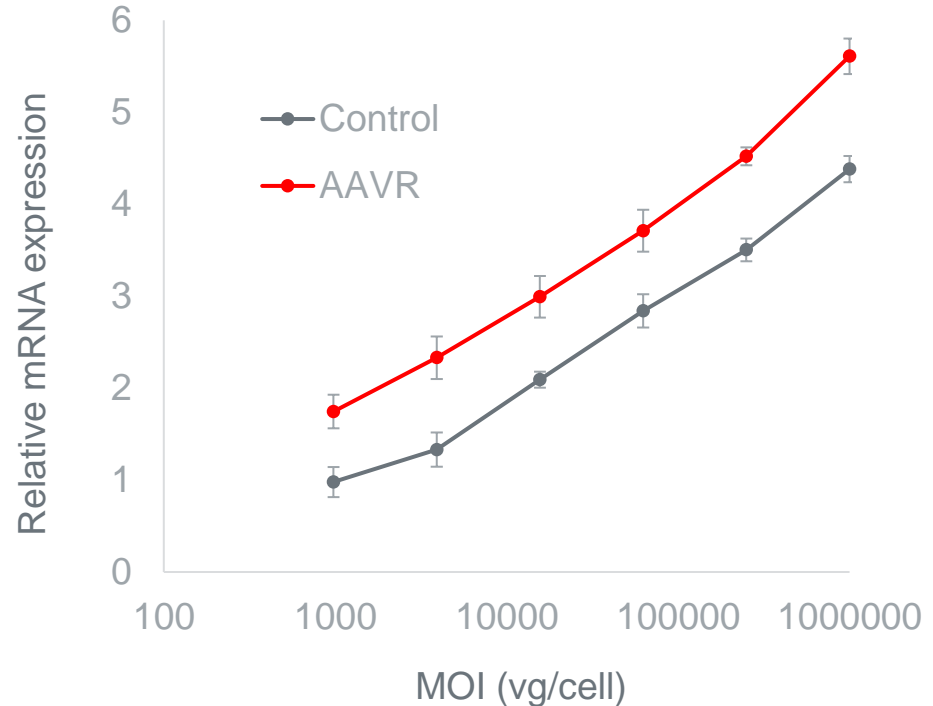


# AAVR cells: mRNA expression assay

→ Infection with AAV-X

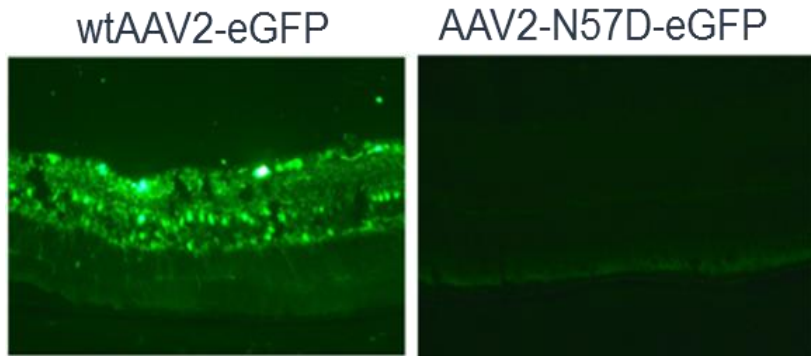
→ mRNA semi-automated  
King Fisher Flex extraction

→ RT and qPCR



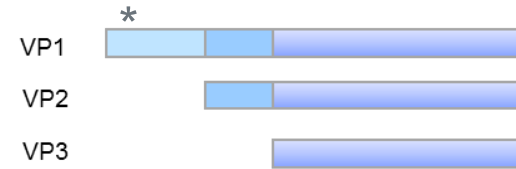
# AAVR cells: Stability indicating

Deamidation of N57D – a CQA?



Adapted from Frederick, 2020

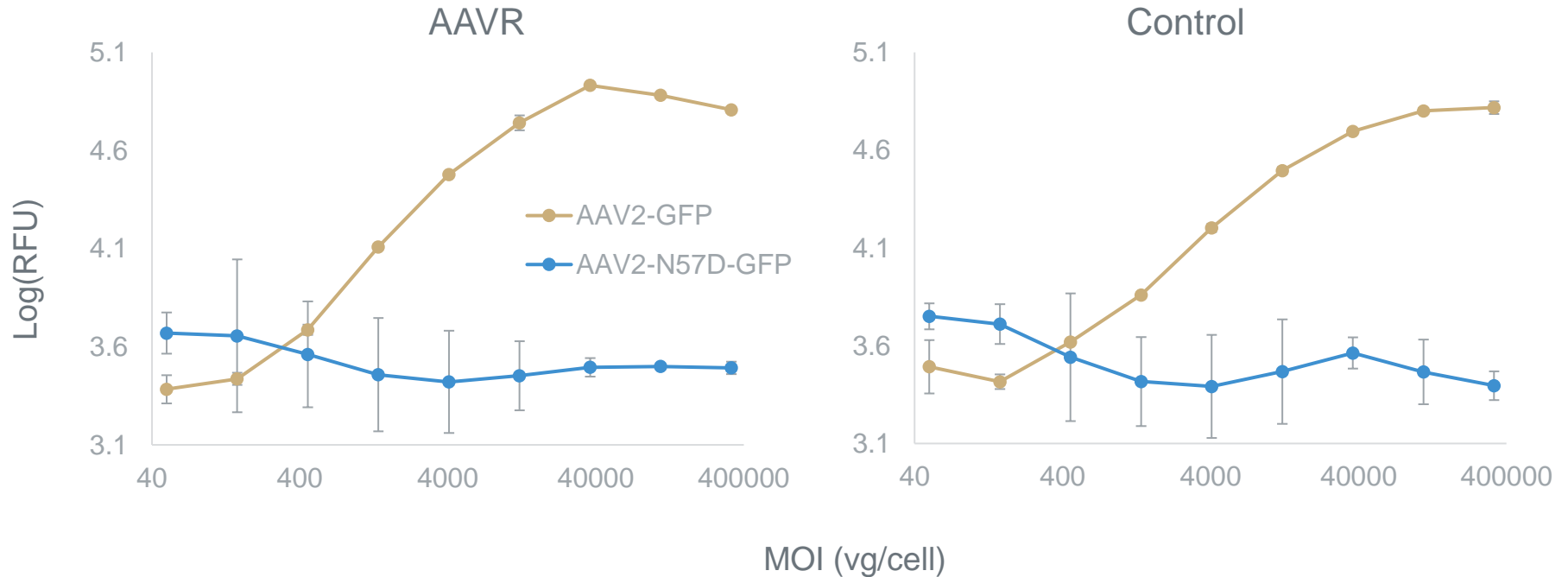
AAV capsid proteins



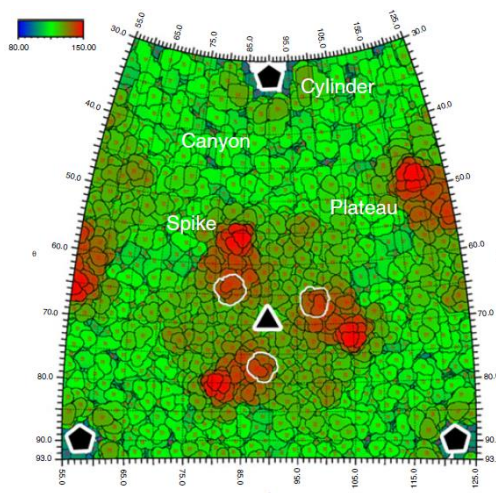
\*PLA2 domain  
Endosomal escape

# AAVR cells: Stability indicating

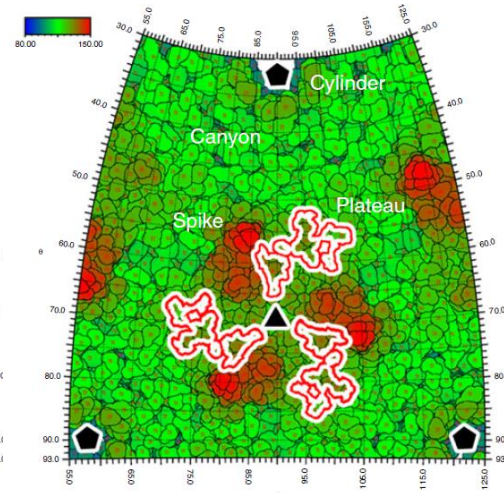
Sensitive to deamidation modification



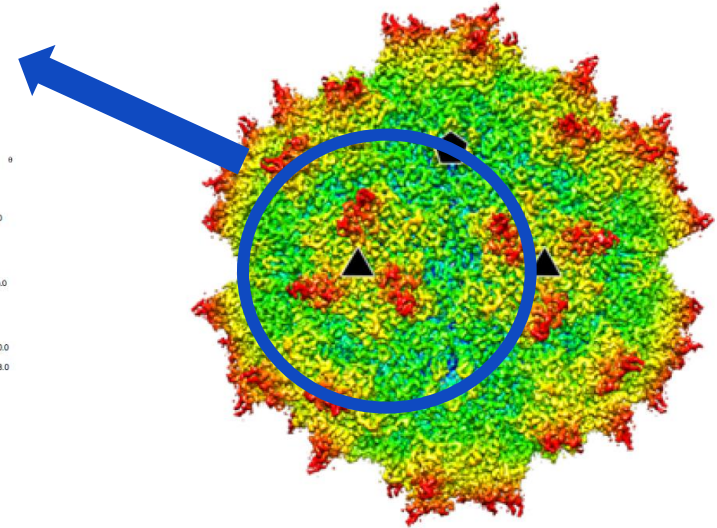
# AAVR cells: AAVR and heparan sulfate receptor



HSPG on AAV2



AAVR on AAV2



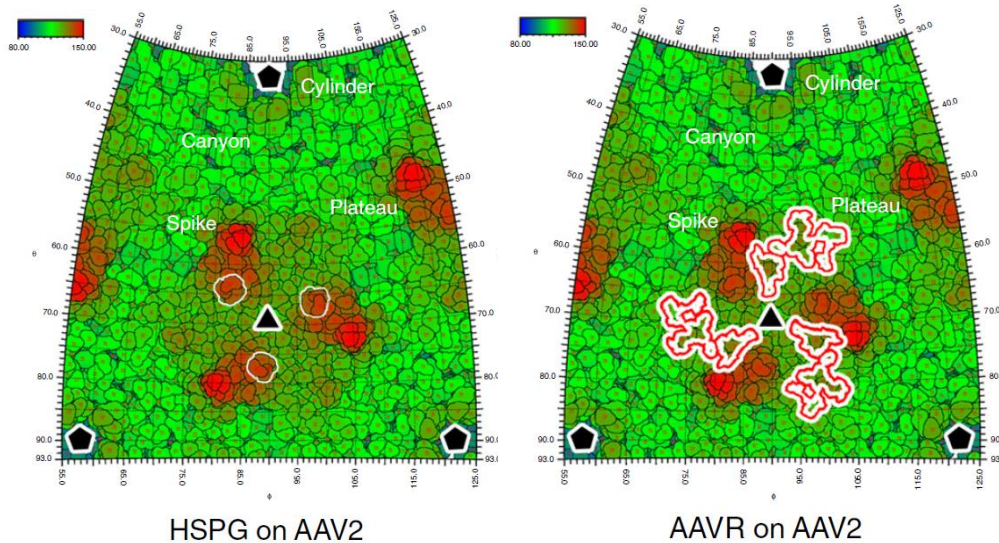
AAV2

HSPG binds R484, R487, K532, R585, R588

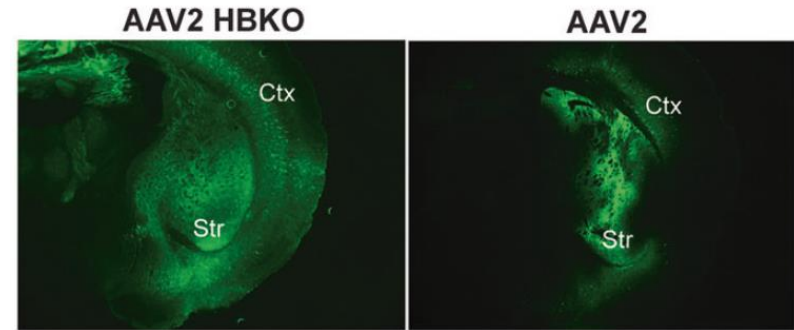
AAVR binds via four loops on PKD1, four loops on PKD2 incl R588

Adapted from Zhang et al, 2019

# AAVR cells: AAVR and heparan sulfate receptor



HSPG binds R484, R487, K532, R585, R588  
AAVR binds via four loops on PKD1, four loops on PKD2 incl R588



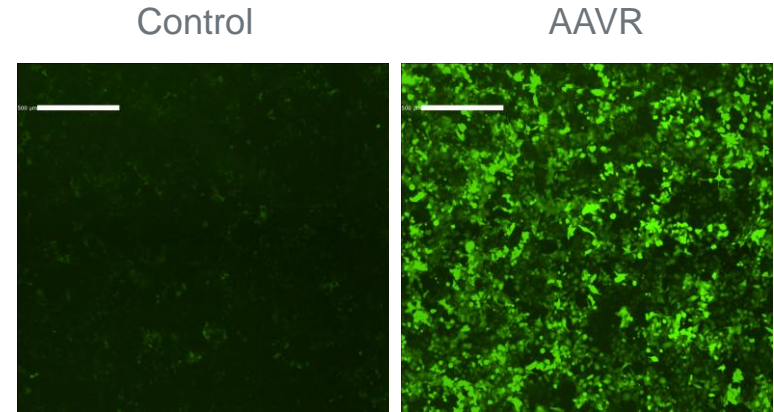
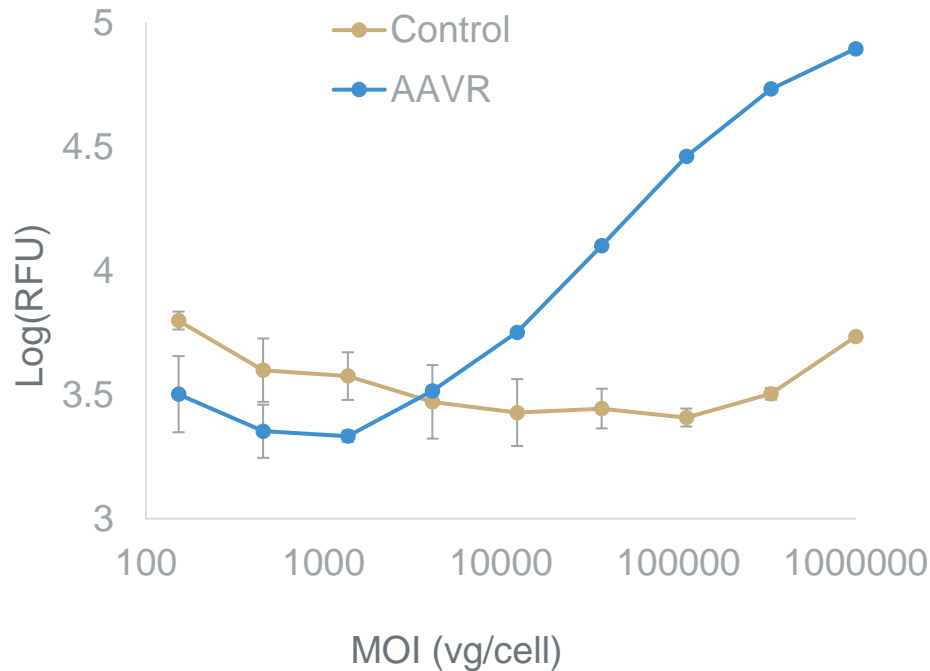
Mouse brain, adapted from Sullivan et al, 2018

AAV2-HBKO = R585A + R588A

Can AAVR cells still enhance transduction for AAV2-HBKO capsid?

# AAVR cells: AAVR and heparan sulfate receptor

Enhanced transduction by AAV2-HBKO mutant



AAV2-HBKO-CBA-eGFP MOI 1E6vg/cell, 72hpi

→ R585 and R588 are not required for AAVR binding to AAV2

# Cell line engineering summary

Module 1:

Choose cell

Epithelia



Liver  
Muscle



Neuron  
Bone



Retina

Module 2:

Choose  
assay

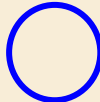
Promoter



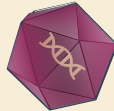
Luciferase

Module 3:

Engineer  
vector



Piggybac

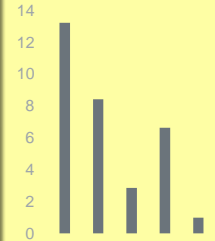


Lentivirus

CRISPR

Module 4:

Test system



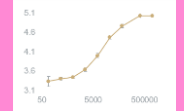
Module 5:

Develop  
Cell Line



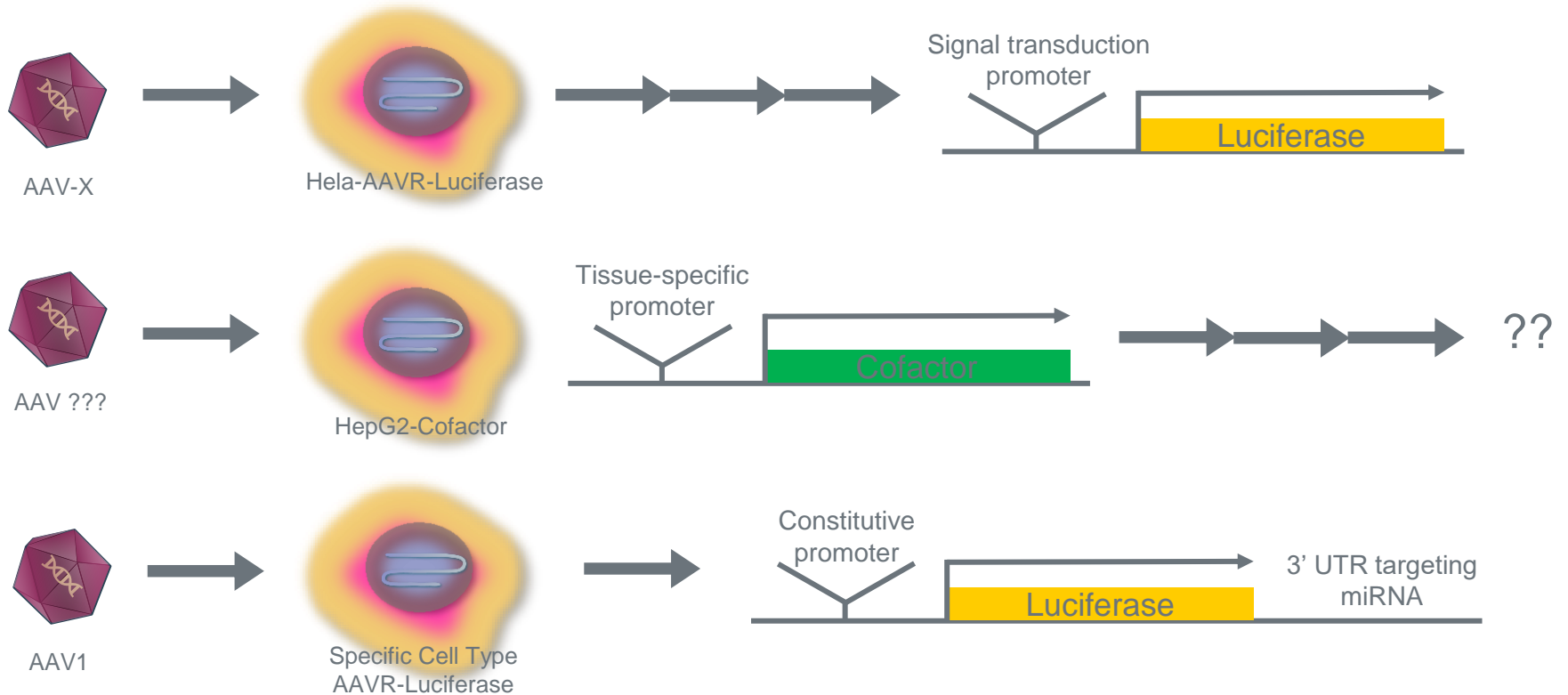
Module 6:

Develop  
Assay





# Bioassay cell engineering examples



# Reporters offer improved assays


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## AAV-miRNA potency assay

### qPCR

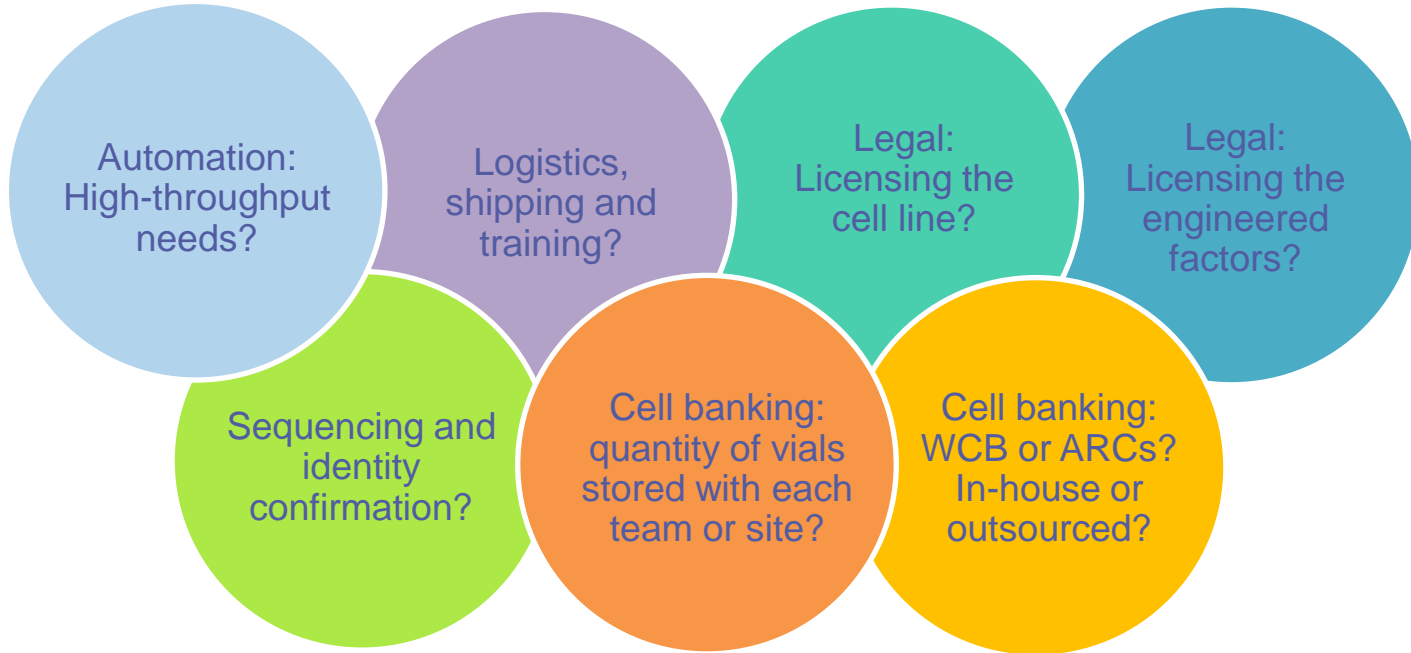
- ~ 7 hours, four days
- Pipetting errors
  - Cell seeding
  - AAV infection
  - RNA extraction lysis buffer
  - RNA extraction polyT beads
  - RNA extraction wash buffers
  - RNA extraction elution buffer
  - Reverse transcription
  - qPCR

### Luciferase reporter

- ~ 2.5 hours, four days
  - Pipetting errors
    - Cell seeding
    - AAV infection
    - Luciferase reagent
  - Improved assay dynamic range?
  - Improved precision and linearity?
- 

# Bioassay cell line engineering considerations

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# Potency assay development timeline and strategy



CMC

CLD

Tox/Car

GMP/FAM

CTM

Analytical Development

Early method development

Method Qualification, **Cell line engineering**

Method Validation, Transfer

Analytical Strategy \*

Release: Expression

Release: Expression Char: MOA potency

Release: MOA potency and expression

Release: MOA potency

# THANK YOU

## *Analytical Development*

Sonia Connaughton

Arkadi Manukyan

Alex Depalma

Jarrold Dean

Ying Xu

Aisleen McColl-Carboni

Hannah Maheno

Claire Davies

Francis Poulin

## *Characterization*

Lin Liu

Xiaoying Jin

Qiyu Wang

## *CLD*

Victor Cairns

Jason Vitko

## *Research*

Amy Frederick

Jen Sullivan

Cate O'Riordan

Shelley Nass

Denise Woodcock

## *Legal*

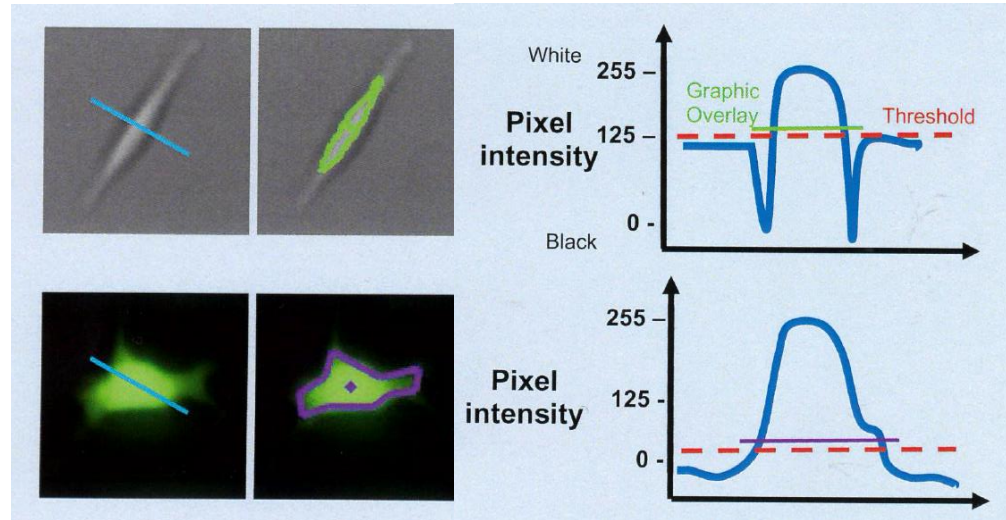
Anne Collins

Ludovic Villeger

# AAVR cells: Assay development

## Celigo Cell Imager

- Plates or flasks imaged in up to 5 channels: Brightfield and 4 fluorescent colors
- Images and counts every cell in each well
- Fast scanning acquires images with minimal plate movement



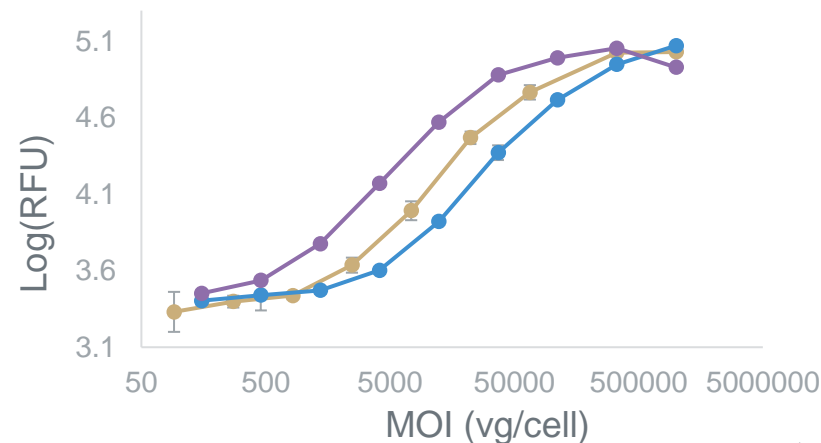
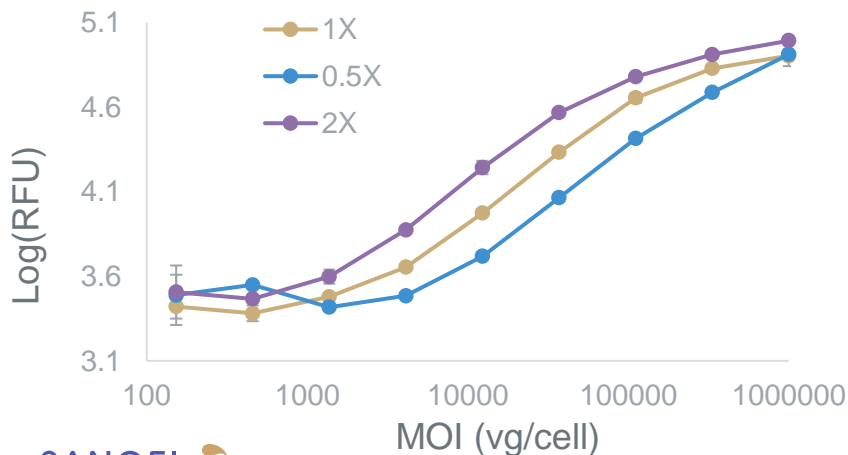
# AAVR cells: Assay development

Potency mimics

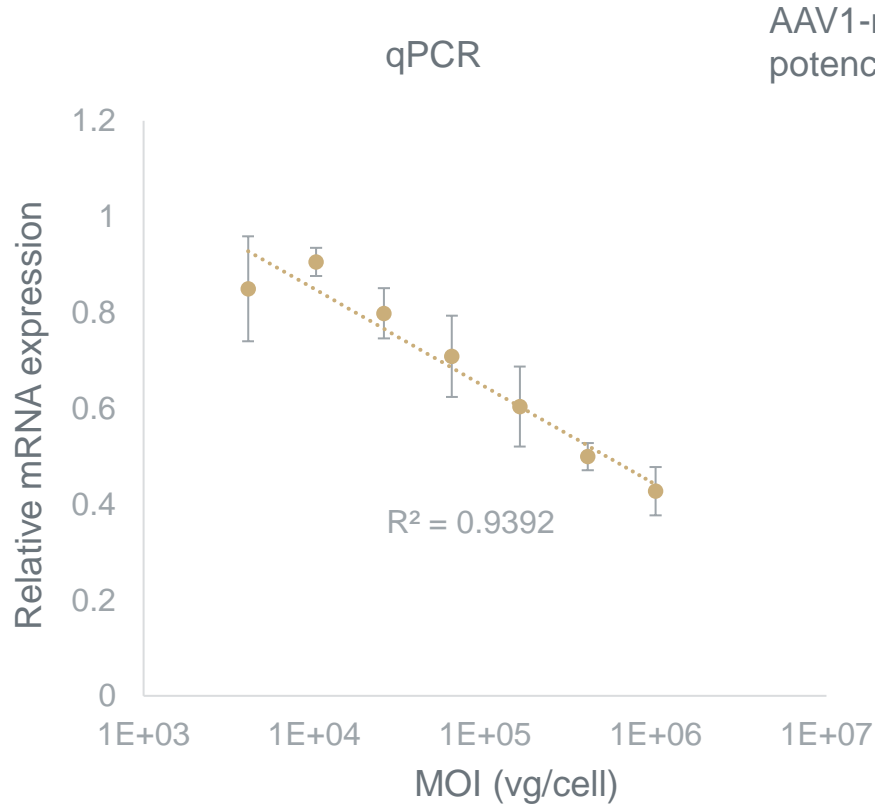
AAV5

AAVX

	Potency Mimic	Potency (%CV)	% Recovery	F test p value	Adjust R <sup>2</sup>	Potency (%CV)	% Recovery	F test p value	Adjust R <sup>2</sup>
AAVR	0.5X	43.5% (8%)	87%	0.406	0.993	49.5% (6%)	99%	0.278	0.997
	2X	224.3% (5%)	112.2%	0.332	0.993	276.1% (6%)	138.1%	0.312	0.996
	1X	92.7% (7%)	92.7%	0.770	0.996	96.2% (13%)	96.2%	0.806	0.982



# Reporters offer improved assays



AAV1-miRNA  
potency assay

