

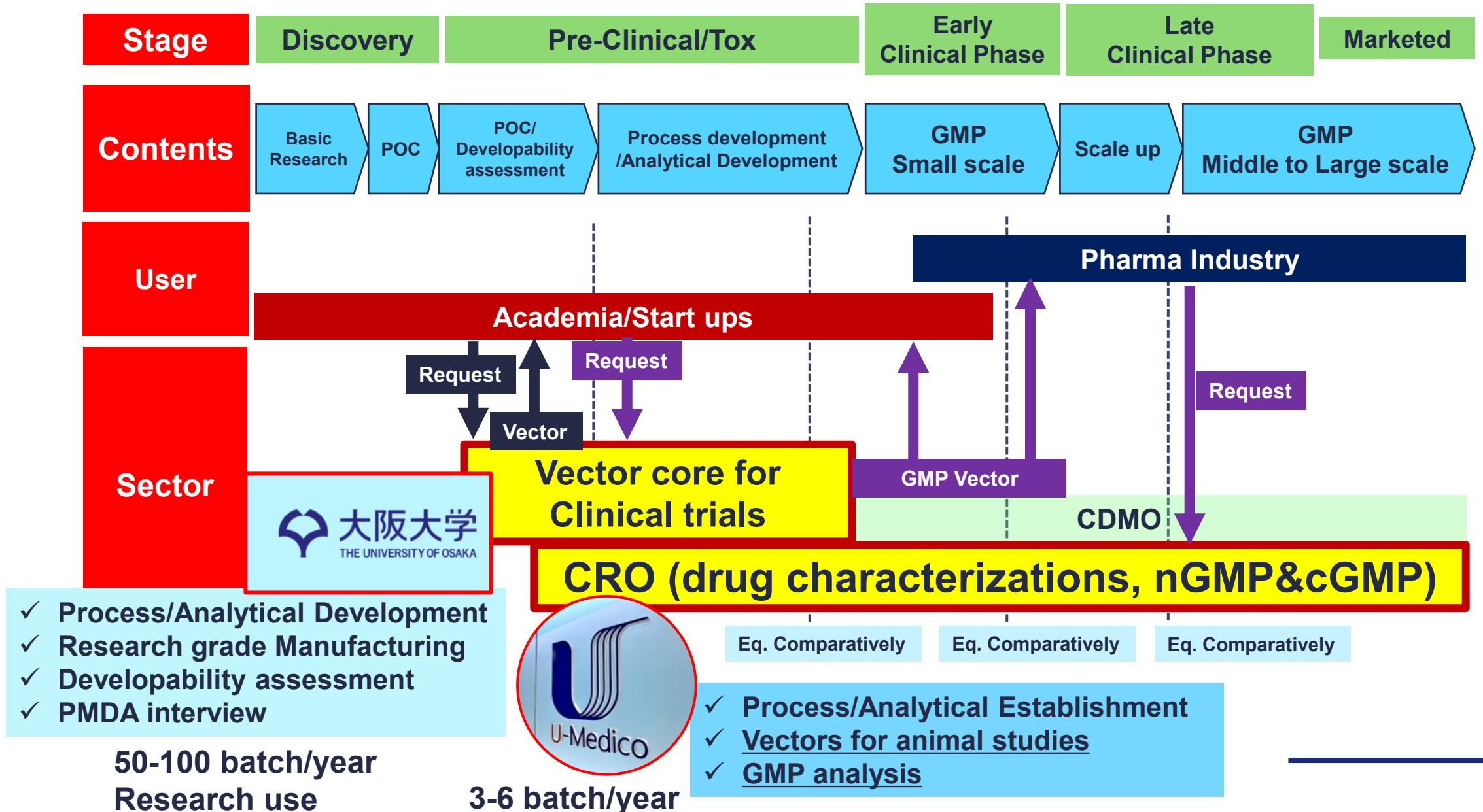
rAAV as a Heterogeneous Particle Ensemble: Current Understanding of Its Quality Attributes

Department of Biotechnology,
Graduate School of Engineering,
The University of Osaka
Susumu Uchiyama

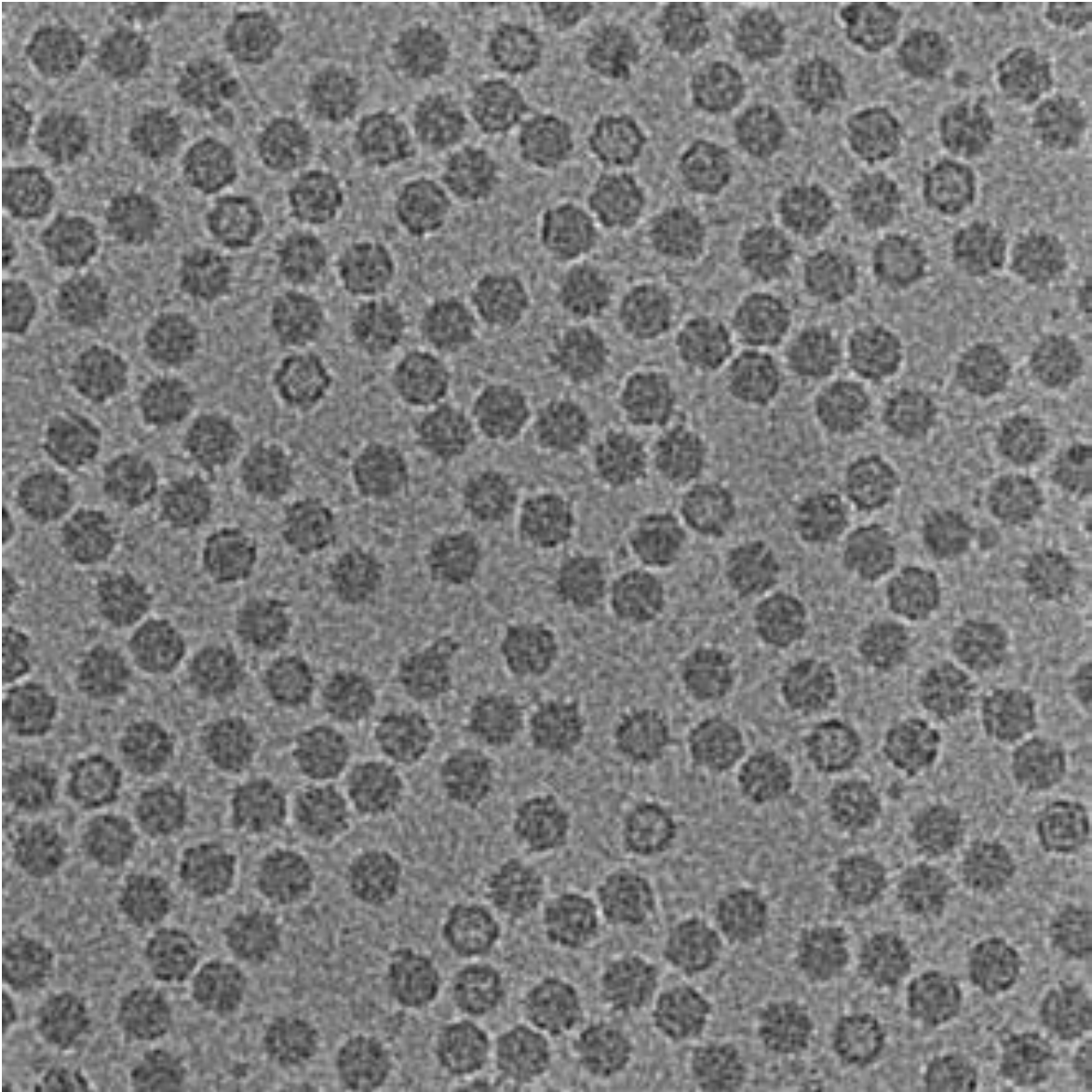
COI disclosure

Susumu Uchiyama is a founder and CSO of U-Medico. Inc.
Susumu Uchiyama is a member of expert committee of USP.
The opinions expressed are the speaker's own and do not represent the views of USP.

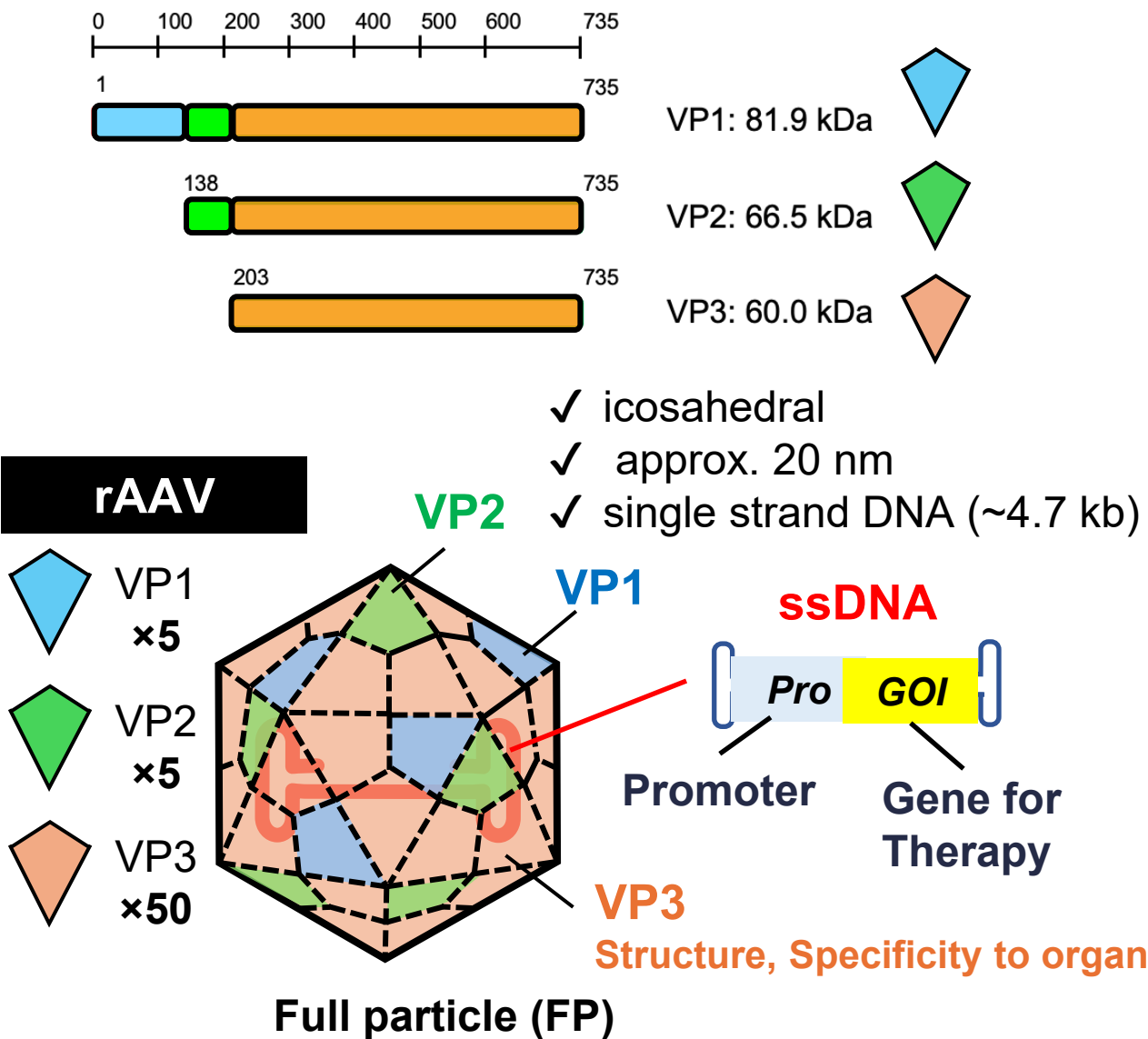
For the success of Gene Therapy



Recombinant adeno-associated virus: rAAV

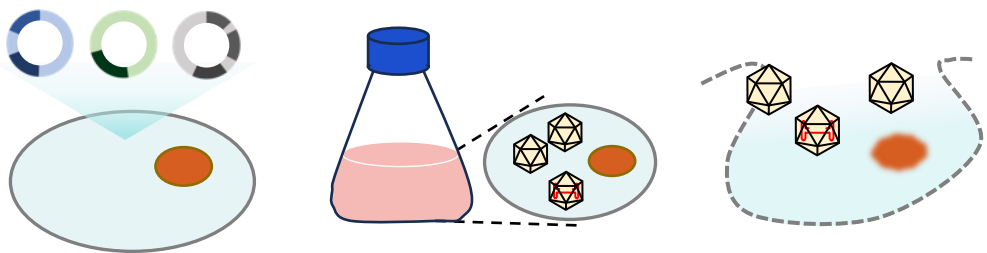


Nishiumi et al., *J. Pharm. Sci.* 2024

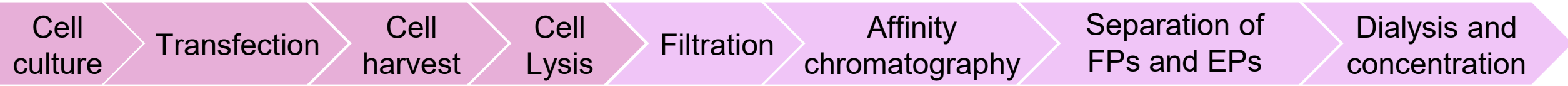
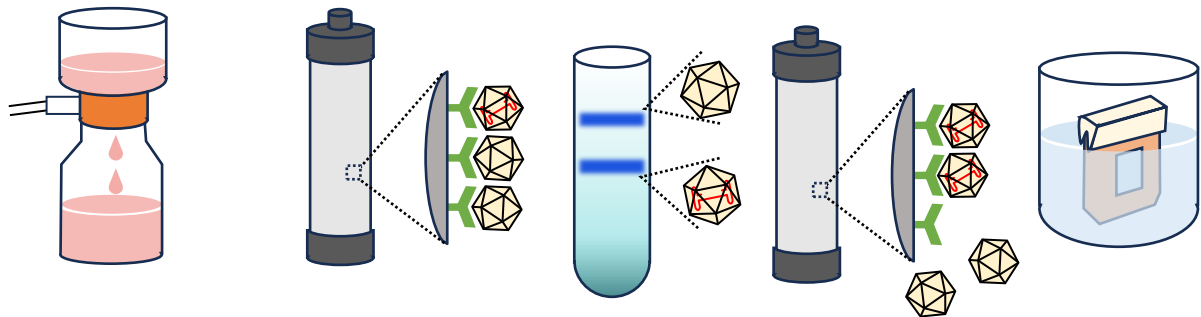


Manufacturing process of rAAV and analytical Challenges

Upstream processes



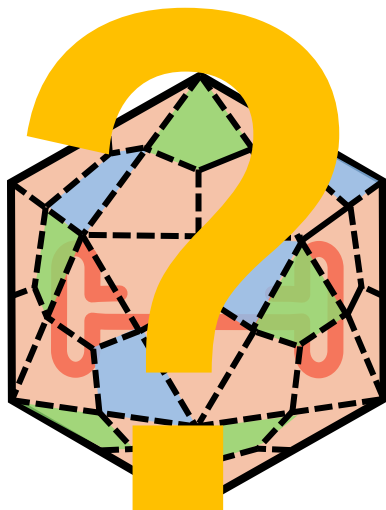
Downstream processes



Variation of Produced rAAV particles

Purification is challenging
Impurity analysis is required

1L Culture 0.1 mg (10^{13} particles)
60kg/person $\Rightarrow 5 \times 10^{13}$ vg
 \Rightarrow 30L Culture (0.5M USD)



QAs of rAAV and evaluation methods

Attribute category	Quality attribute	Method	Comment
Identity	Genome	PCR	dPCR no standard, better CV than qPCR
		CGE	Genome size needs to be confirmed
		NGS	Short read or Long read
	Capsid	CE-SDS	+ VP ratio
		SDS-PAGE	Need standard
		ELISA	Mutant AAV is difficult, Ab dependent
		WB	Need standard, Ab dependent
		LC-MS	Intact MS
		LC-MS/MS	Sequence + PTM + chemical mod
		MALDI-MS	Newly added
Titer	Genome	PCR	ITR lead to higher value than GOI
	Capsid	ELISA	Total particle number
		UV-Abs	Assumption: only F and E
		AEX	Assumption: only F and E with no PTM
		SEC	Assumption: only F and E
		AUC	Reliable

Attribute category	Quality attribute	Method	Comment
Purity	Genome	PCR	Multiple primer dPCR
		CGE	Suitable for lot-to-lot variation
		NGS	Identify sequences
	Capsid	CE-SDS	Suitable for lot-to-lot variation
		SDS-PAGE	Need standard
		ELISA	Need standard, Ab dependent
	F/E	UV	Assumption: only F and E
		ELISA/PCR	Assumption: only F and E
		AEX	Assumption: only F and E with no PTM
		SEC-MALS	Assumption: only F and E
		Cryo TEM	Assumption: only F and E
		Mass Photometry	Assumption: only F and E, PP > component number needs to be defined as prior knowledge
	F/E/PP/OP	AUC	Gold standard, base line separation
		CD-MS	Base line separation, careful parameter settings
	Aggregation	DLS	Qualitative
		SEC	Most commonly used
		AUC	Alternative candidate to SEC

Attribute category	Quality attribute	Method	Comment
Potency and Biological Activity	In vitro expression	ELISA	Need Ab for GOI protein
		WB	Need Ab for GOI protein
		FCM	Need Ab for GOI protein
		PCR	RT-PCR, need specific primer
		NGS	Advanced
	Transduction efficiency	TCID50	Independent of GOI, but not reflect actual in vivo situation
		FCM	Need Ab for GOI protein

Key points:
QAs analysis using orthogonal methods

Assessment of Full and Empty Particles

ARTICLE

Empty virions in AAV8 vector preparations reduce transduction efficiency and may cause total viral particle dose-limiting side effects

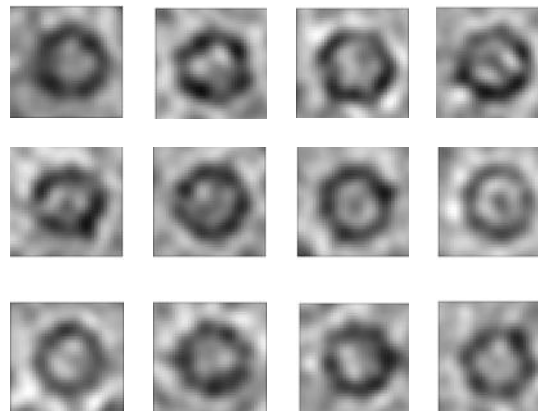
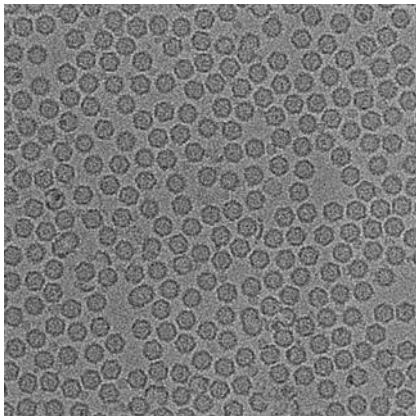
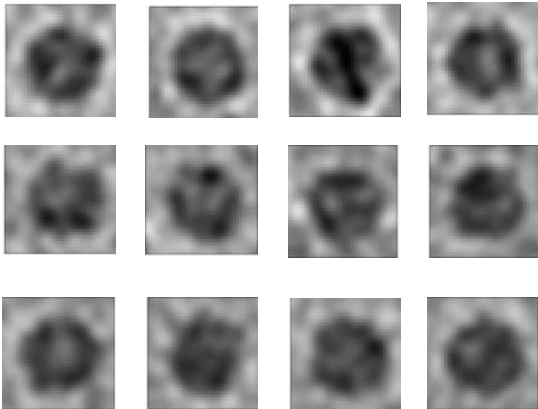
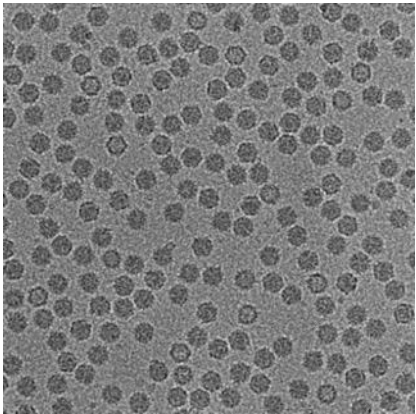
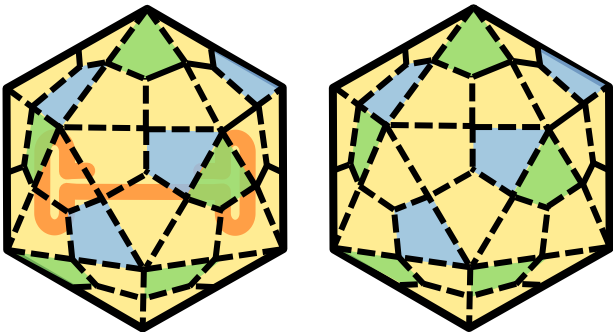
Kai Gao^{1,2}, Mengxin Li^{1,3,4}, Li Zhong^{1,3,5}, Qin Su^{1,3}, Jia Li^{1,4}, Shaoyong Li^{1,4}, Ran He^{1,3}, Yu Zhang^{1,6}, Gregory Hendricks⁷, Junzhi Wang² and Guangping Gao^{1,3,4,8}

Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Control (CMC) Information for Human Gene Therapy Investigational New Drug Applications (INDs)

Guidance for Industry

iii. Physicochemical and Biologic Properties (3.2.P.2.2.3)

In your IND you should describe the parameters relevant to the performance of the DP, (or reference relevant DS sections, if appropriate). These parameters include physicochemical or biological properties of the product (e.g., dosing units, genotypic or phenotypic variation, particle number and size, aggregation state, infectivity, specific activity (ratio of infectious to non-infectious particles or full to empty particles), biological activity or



MW-SV-AUC, Band Sedimentation AUC (BS-AUC):small volume AUC, DGE-AUC separation based on buoyant density

Buoyant density based separation

MW-SV-AUC

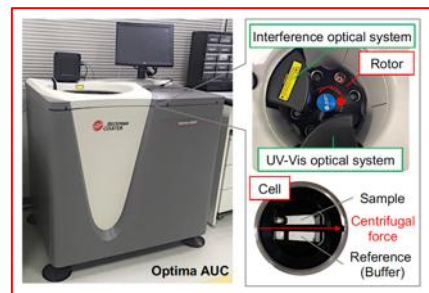
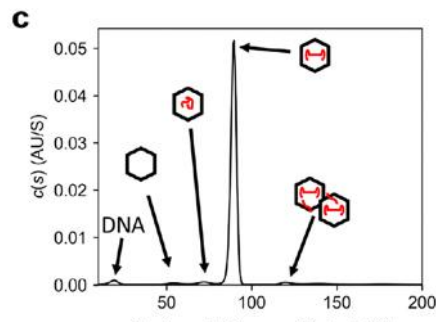


Pharmaceutical Biotechnology
Comprehensive Size Distribution and Composition Analysis of Adeno-Associated Virus Vector by Multiwavelength Sedimentation Velocity Analytical Ultracentrifugation

Takahiro Maruno^a, Kaede Usami^a, Kentaro Ishii^a, Tetsuo Torisu^a, Susumu Uchiyama^{a,b,*}

cGMP

In house software + Sedfit



DGE-AUC

analytical chemistry

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Applications and Limitations of Equilibrium Density Gradient Analytical Ultracentrifugation for the Quantitative Characterization of Adeno-Associated Virus Vectors

Kiichi Hirohata, Yuki Yamaguchi, Takahiro Maruno, Risa Shibuya, Tetsuo Torisu, Takayuki Onishi, Hideto Chono, Junichi Mineno, Yuan Yuzhe, Kiyoko Higashiyama, Kyoko Masumi-Koizumi, Kazuhisa Uchida, Takenori Yamamoto, Eriko Uchida, Takashi Okada, and Susumu Uchiyama*

Cite This: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.analchem.3c01955>

Read Online

S-value (Mw + shape) based separation

FP/EP/PP/OP/freeDNA

BS-AUC

Band Sedimentation AUC :
Vinograd J, et al., PNAS1963

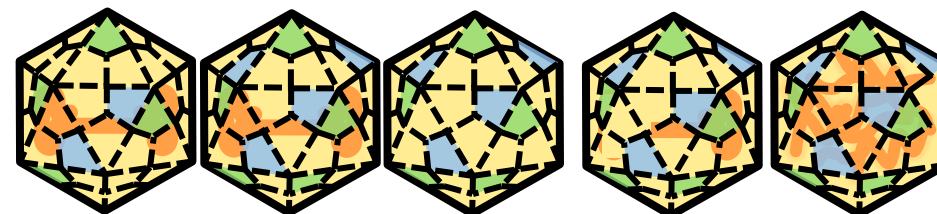
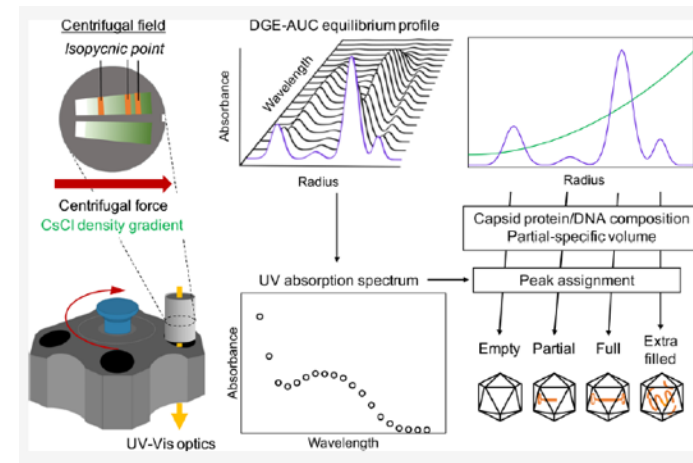
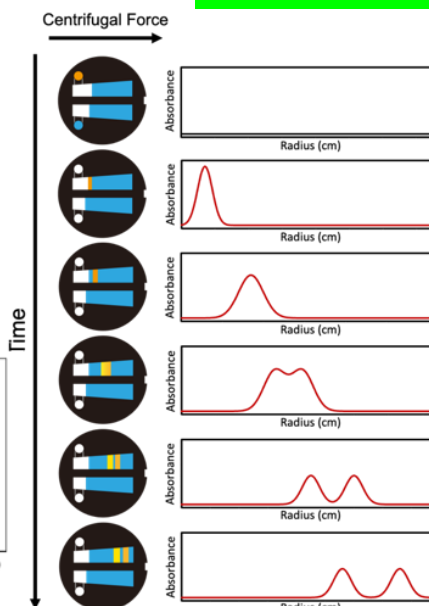
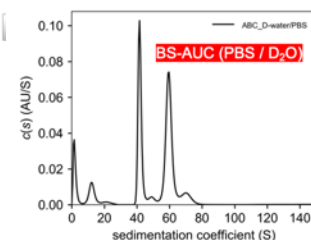


Pharmaceutical Biotechnology
Size Distribution Analysis of the Adeno-Associated Virus Vector by the $c(s)$ Analysis of Band Sedimentation Analytical Ultracentrifugation with Multiwavelength Detection

Takahiro Maruno^{a,b}, Kentaro Ishii^a, Tetsuo Torisu^a, Susumu Uchiyama^{a,*}

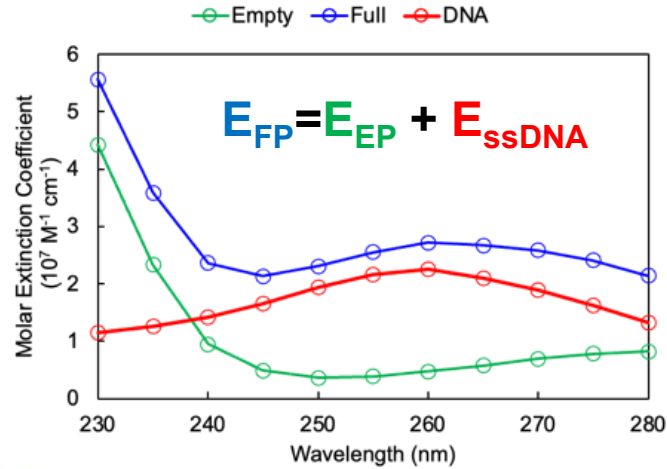
^aGraduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, 2-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan
^bU-Medico Inc., 2-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

AUC with 10^{10} vg sample

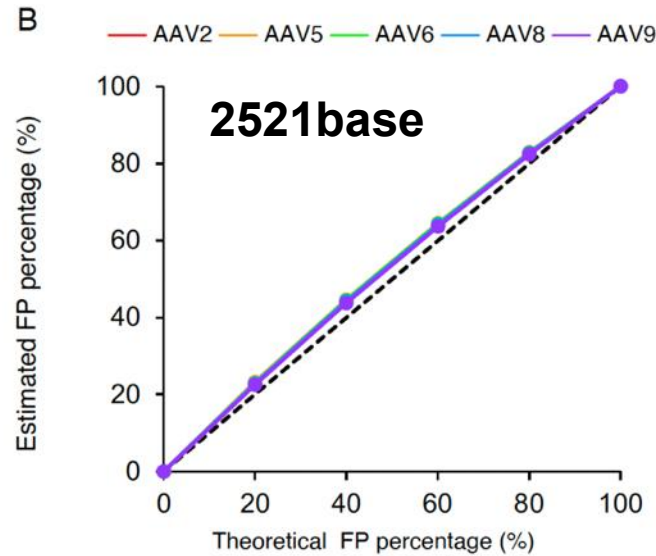
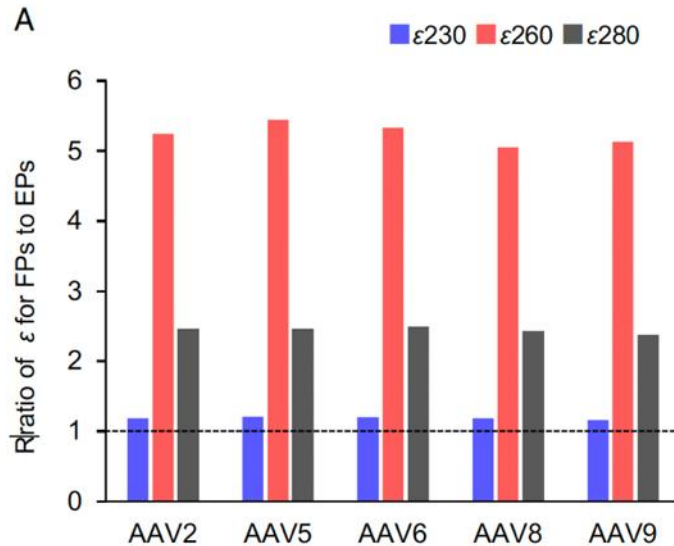


Correct extinction coefficient is essential for reliable quantification

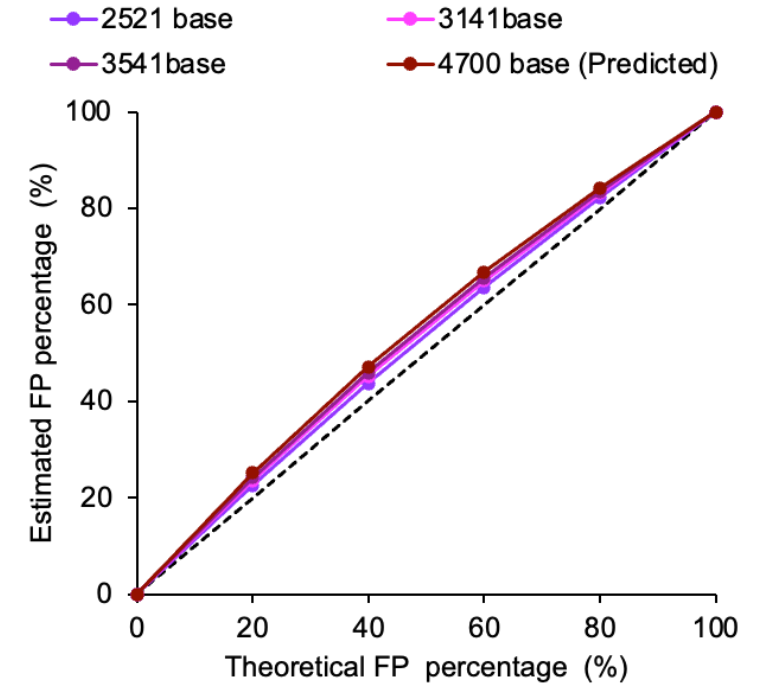
The difference in the ϵ values for EPs and FPs in various serotypes



Maruno T, et al., J Pharm Sci. 2022



When $E_{FP} = E_{EP}$
FPs is more overestimated
as ssDNA length longer



✓ On average, FP values were 5.2-, 2.4-, and 1.2-fold higher than those of EPs at 260, 280, and 230 nm, respectively.

Yamaguchi et al., *Submitted*

**analytical
chemistry**

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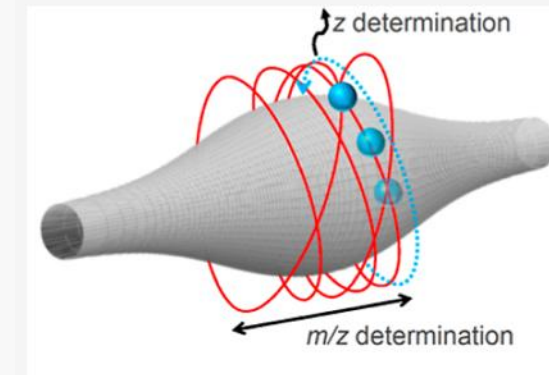
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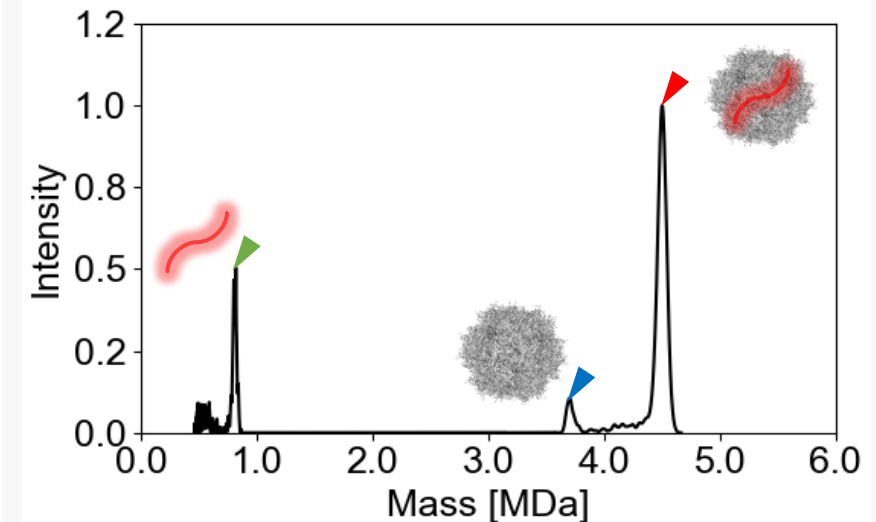
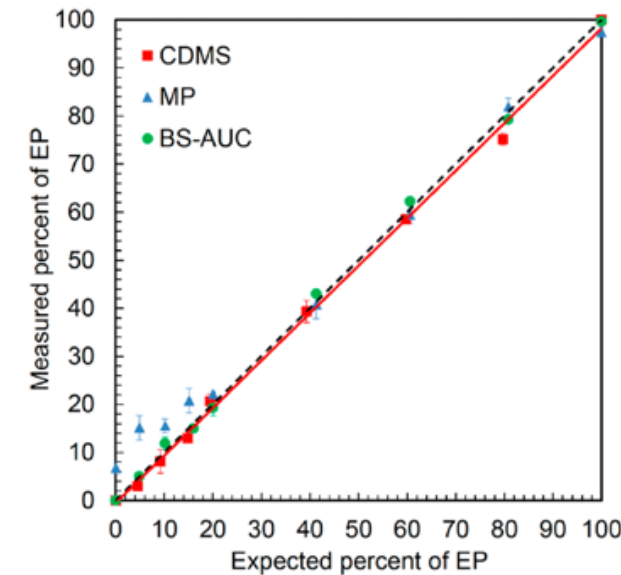
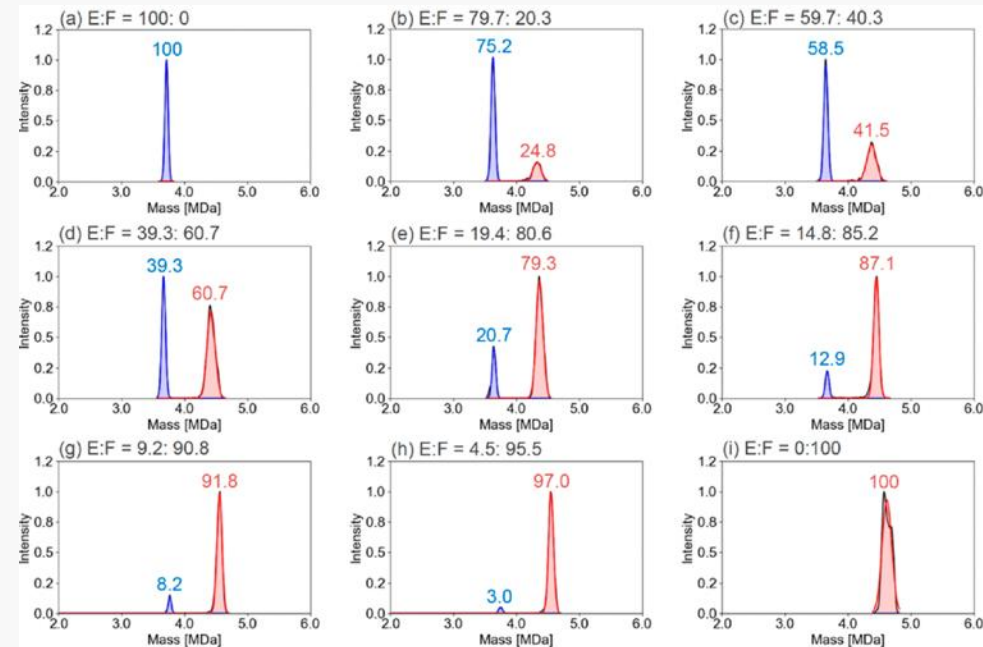
Article

Multimass Analysis of Adeno-Associated Virus Vectors by Orbitrap-Based Charge Detection Mass Spectrometry

Ryoji Nakatsuka, Yuki Yamaguchi, Kiichi Hirohata, Saki Shimojo, Makoto Murakami, Mark Allen Vergara Rocafort, Yasuo Tsunaka, Mitsuko Fukuhara, Tetsuo Torisu, and Susumu Uchiyama*

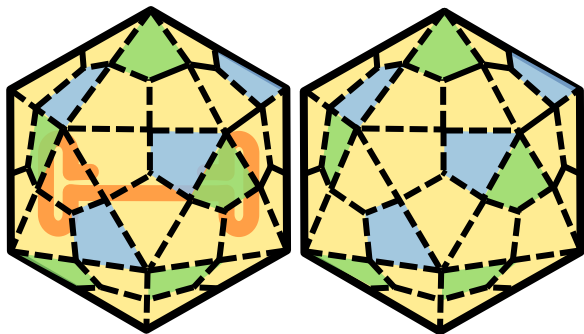


CDMS analysis with capsid disassembly in MS



Nakatsuka et al., 2024

DirectMP F/E determination in Cell Lysate



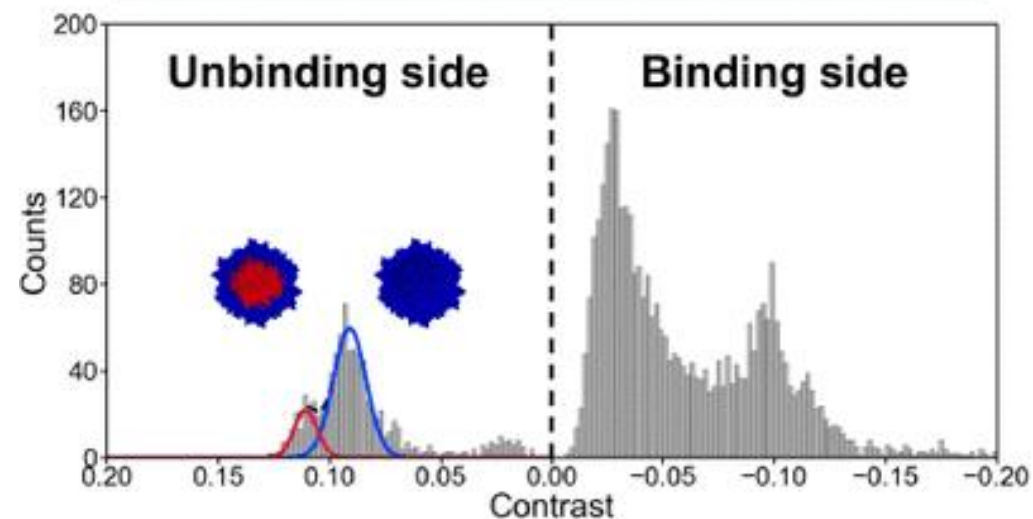
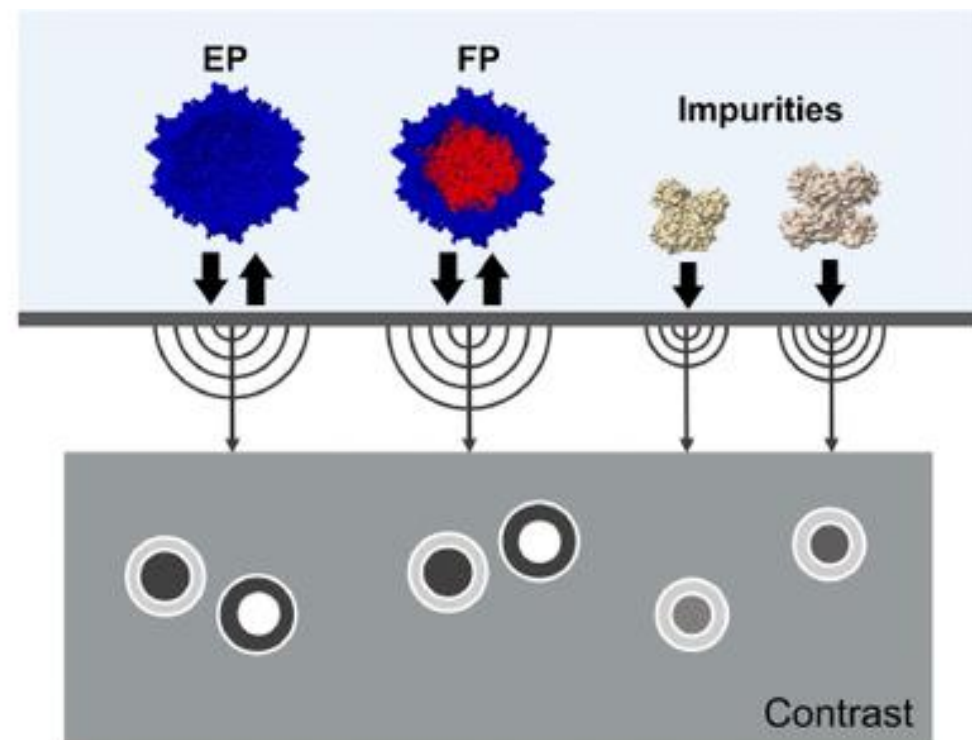
analytical
chemistry

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Direct Identification and Quantification of Recombinant Adeno-Associated Virus in Crude Cell Lysate and Conditioned Medium by Mass Photometry

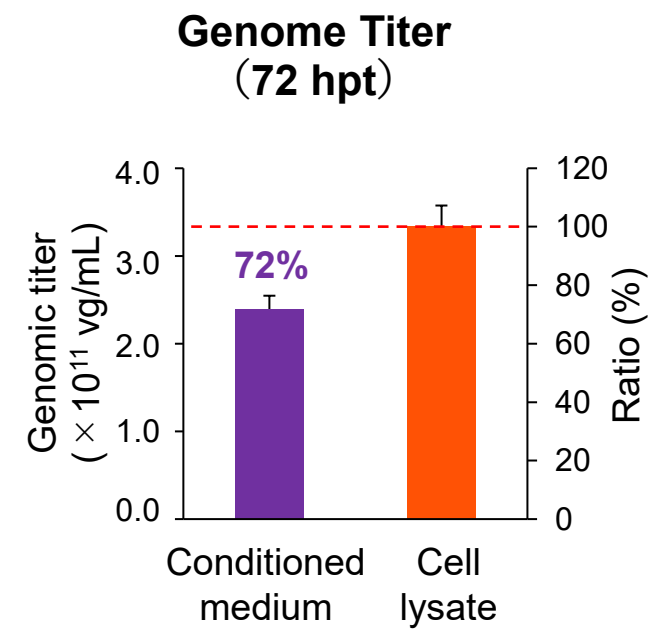
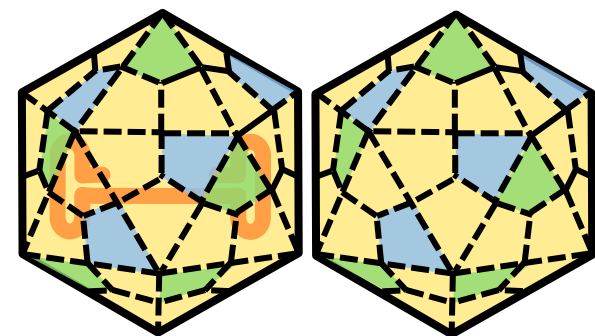
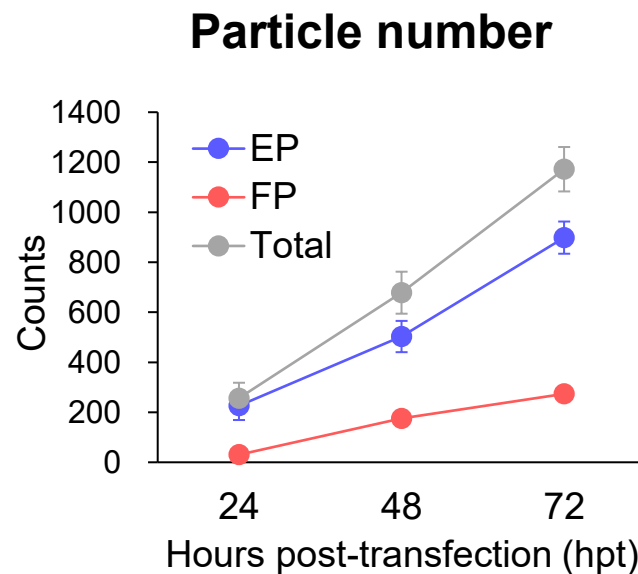
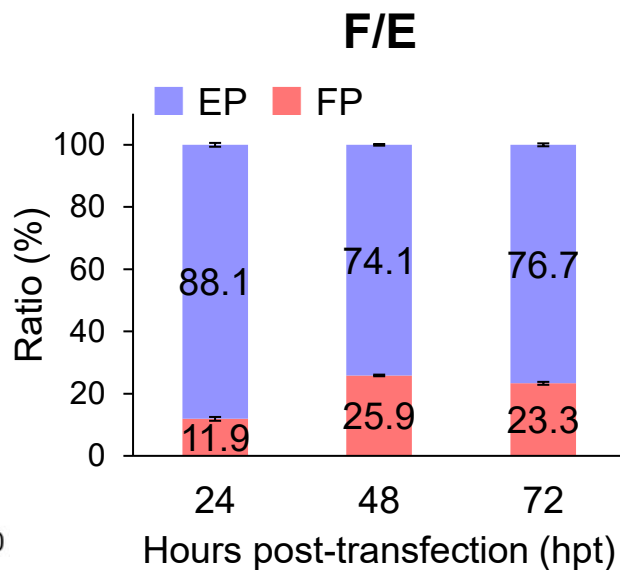
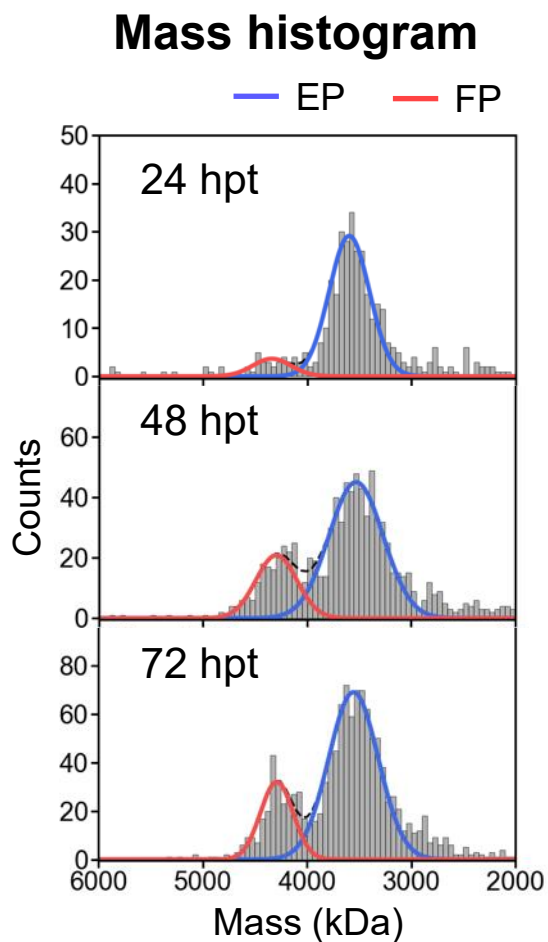
Yuki Yamaguchi,[#] Saki Shimojo,[#] Risa Shibuya, Karin Bandoh, Aoba Matsushita, Mitsuko Fukuhara, Yasuo Tsunaka, Tetsuo Torisu, and Susumu Uchiyama*

Yamaguchi et al., *Anal. Chem.* 2025



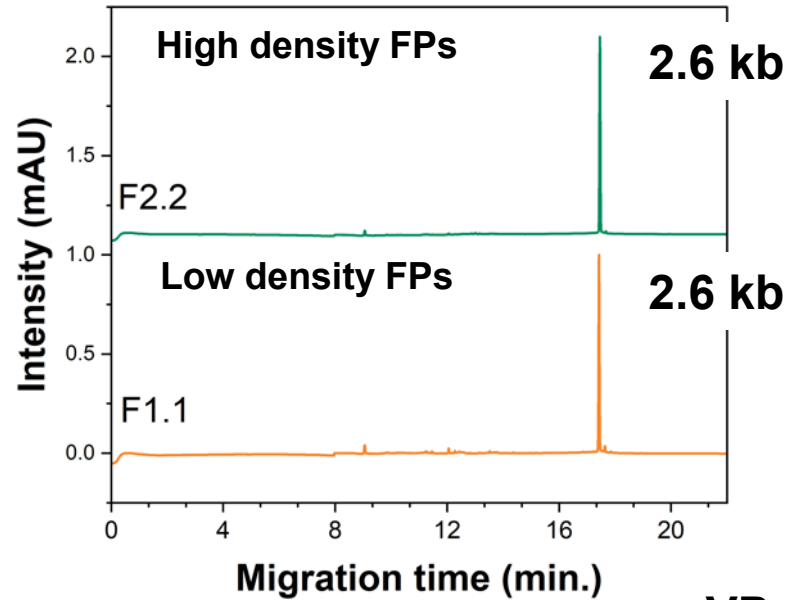
DirectMP F/E determination in Cell Lysate

Process development

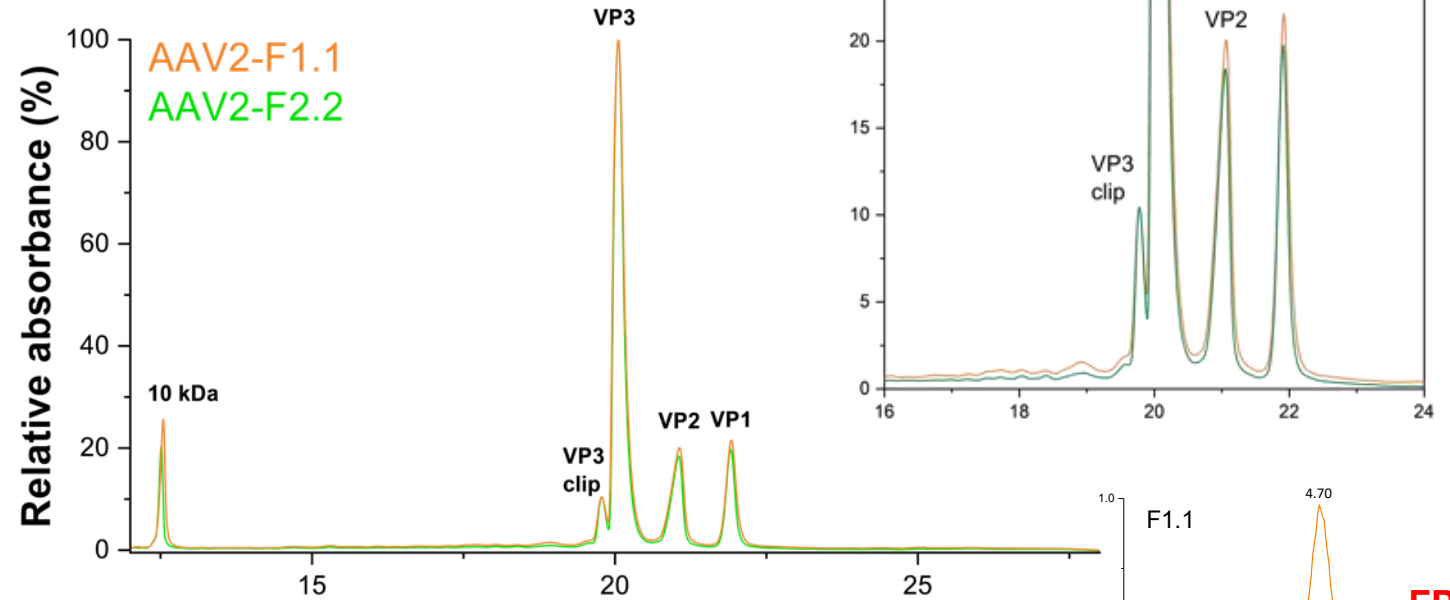


Physicochemical characterization of F1.1 and F2.2 particles

Evaluation of encapsulated DNA

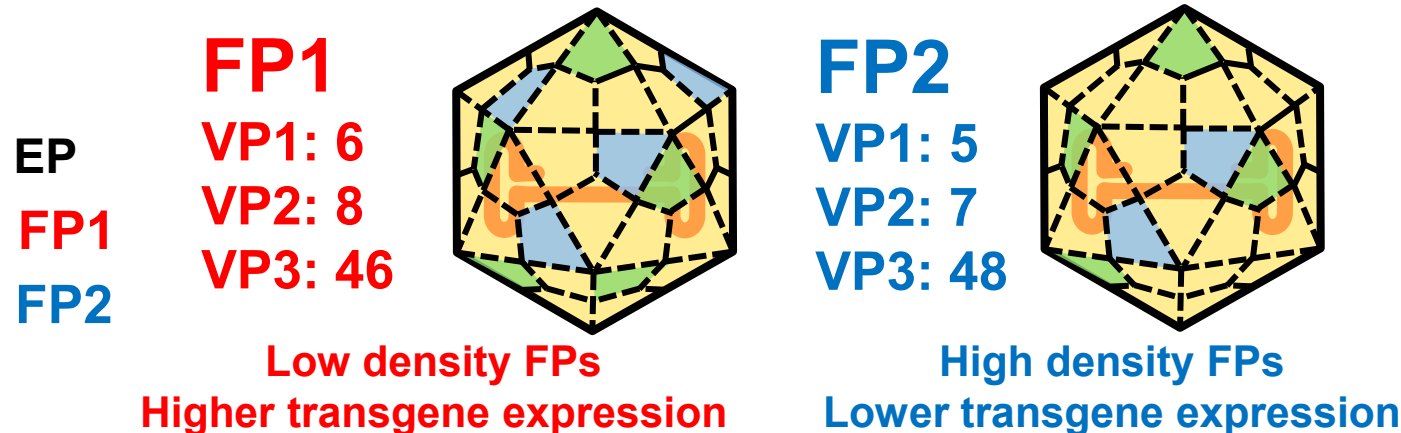


CE-SDS of capsid protein

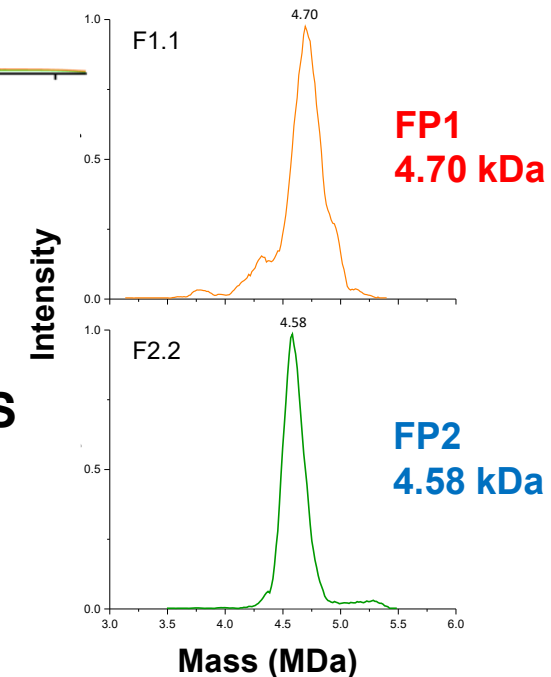


VP stoichiometric ratio

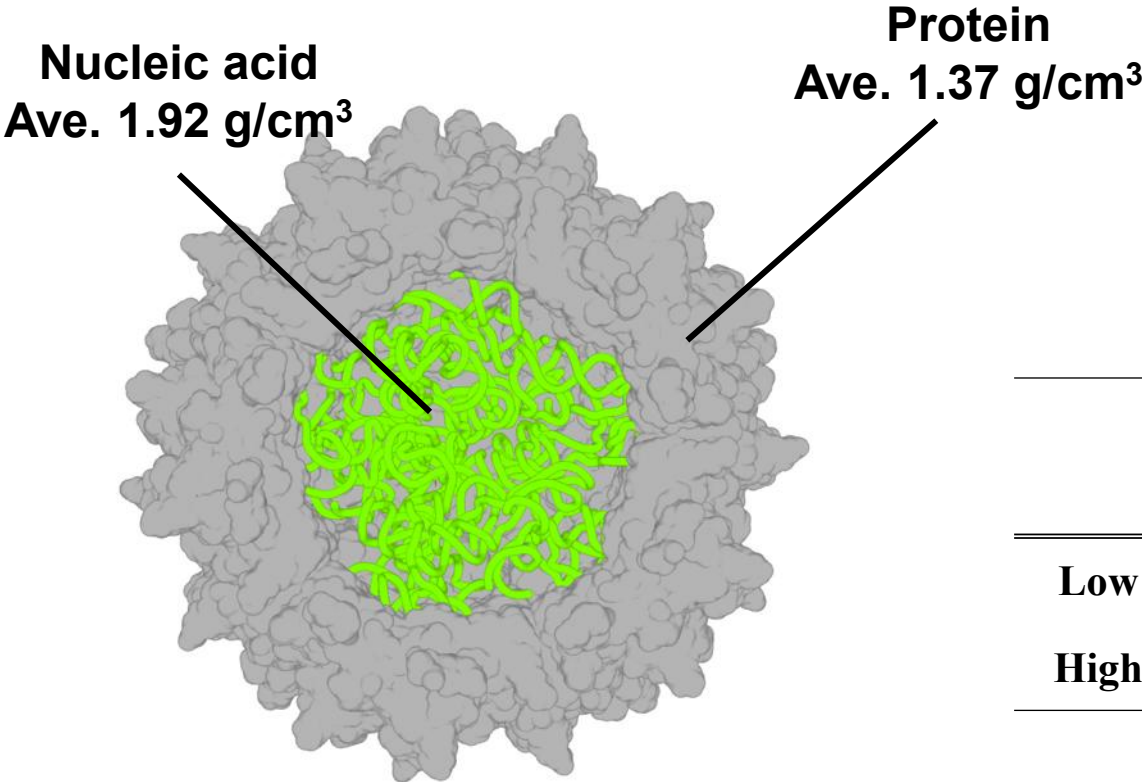
Migration time (min.)



Waters ELIT CDMS



Cause of difference in buoyant density

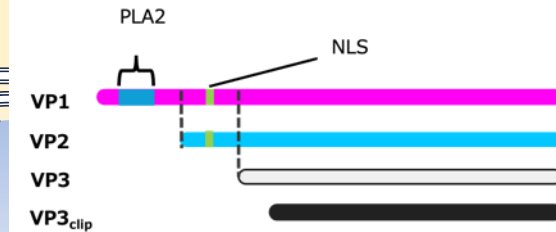
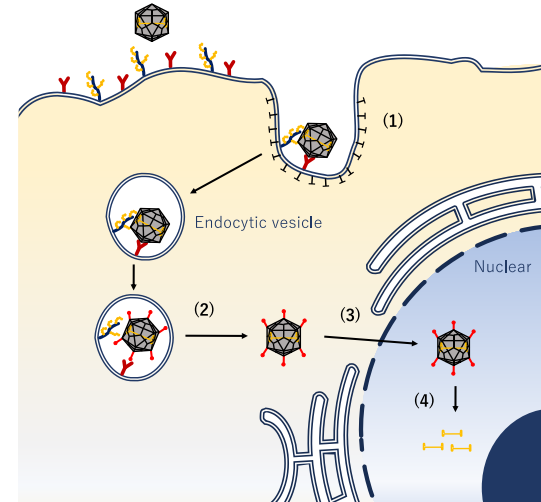
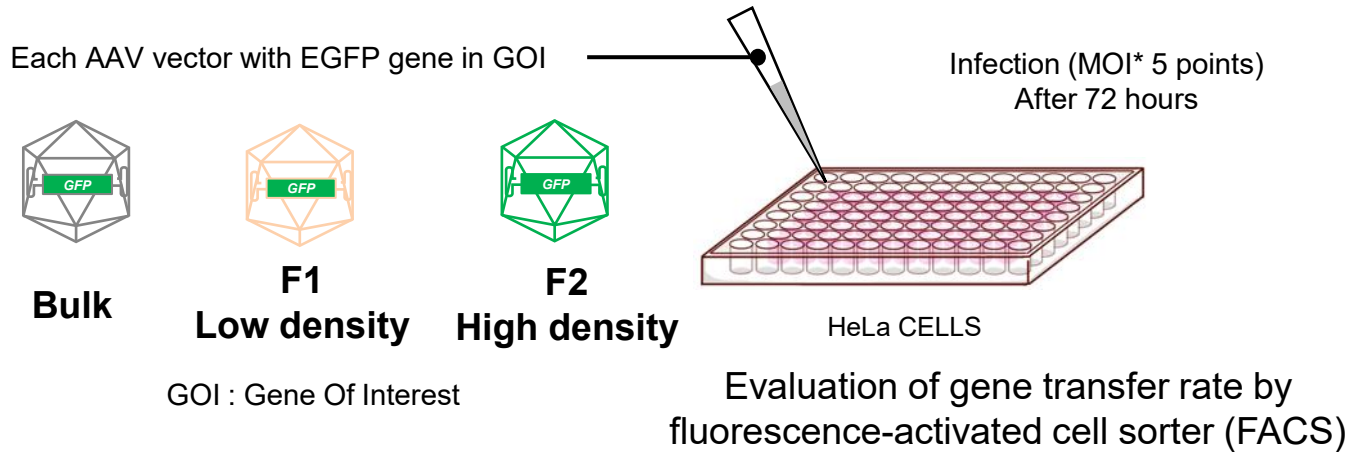


$$\rho_{rAAV} = \frac{(\rho_{protein}V_{capsid} + \rho_{nucleic\ acid}V_{DNA})}{V_{capsid} + V_{DNA}}$$

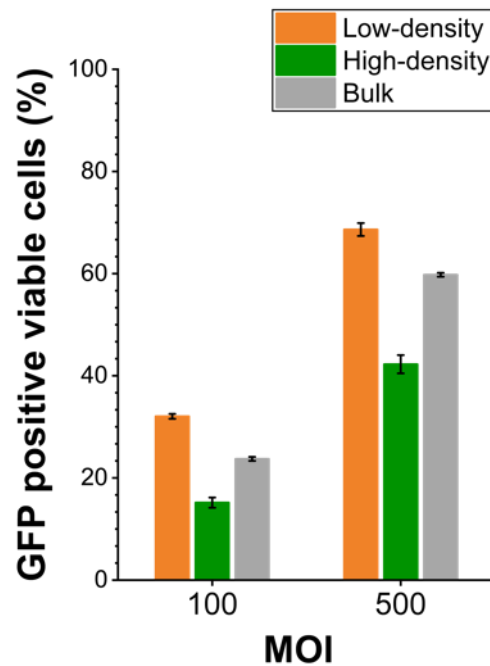
	Calculated density from VP ratio by CGE (g/cm ³)	Experimental buoyant density (g/cm ³)
Low density (F1.1)	1.462	1.352
High density (F2.2)	1.463	1.361

Hydration change/ion
binding may enhance the
difference

Elucidation of the correlation between VP stoichiometry and transduction efficacy



*MOI (Multiplicity of infection) = virus / cells

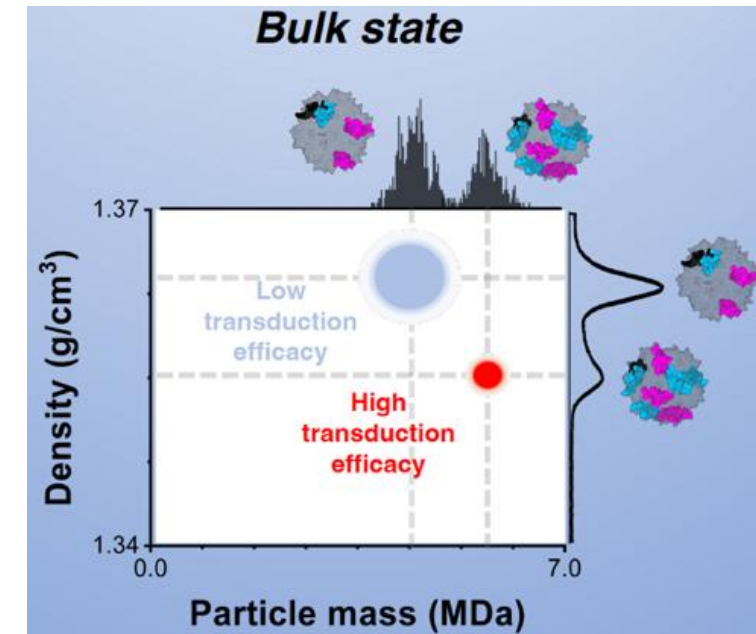


The infectivity of Low density AAV is 23.9% ~26.4% higher than that of High density AAV

Molecular Therapy
Methods & Clinical Development
 Original Article

Enhancement of recombinant adeno-associated virus activity by improved stoichiometry and homogeneity of capsid protein assembly

Takayuki Onishi,¹ Michika Nonaka,¹ Takahiro Maruno,^{1,2} Yuki Yamaguchi,¹ Mitsuko Fukuhara,^{1,2} Tetsuo Torisu,¹ Masaharu Maeda,³ Susan Abbatiello,⁴ Anisha Haris,⁴ Keith Richardson,⁵ Kevin Giles,⁴ Steve Preece,⁵ Noriko Yamano-Adachi,¹ Takeshi Omasa,¹ and Susumu Uchiyama¹

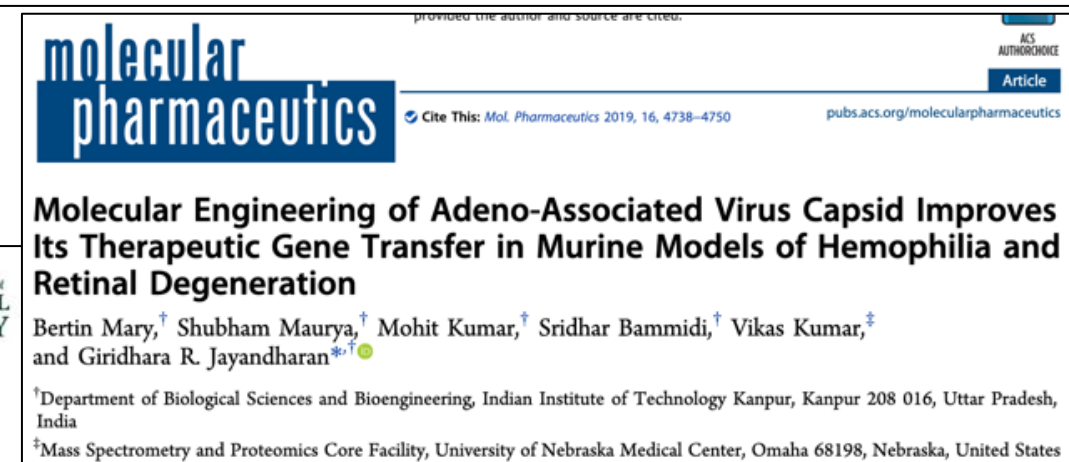
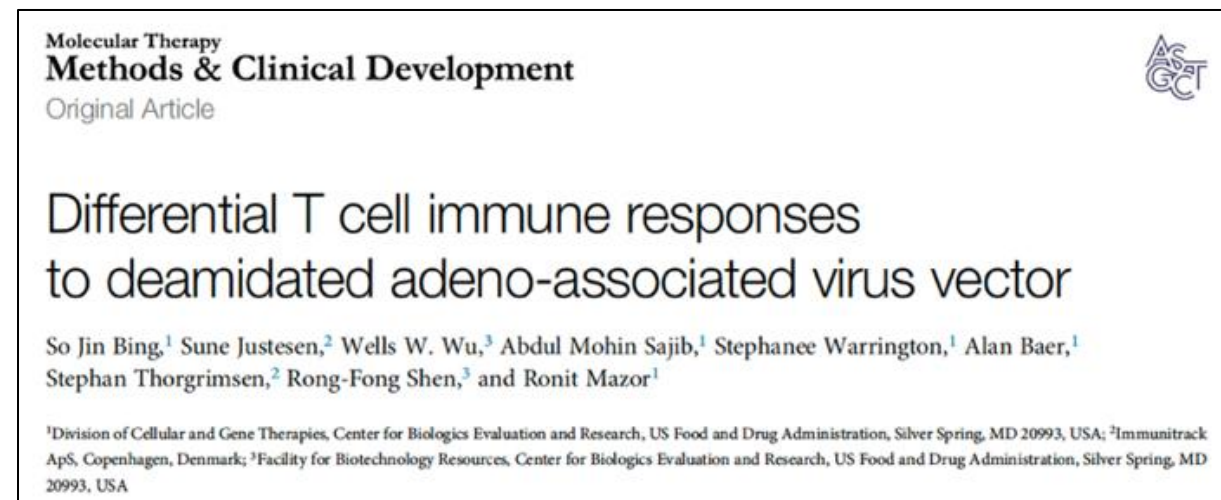
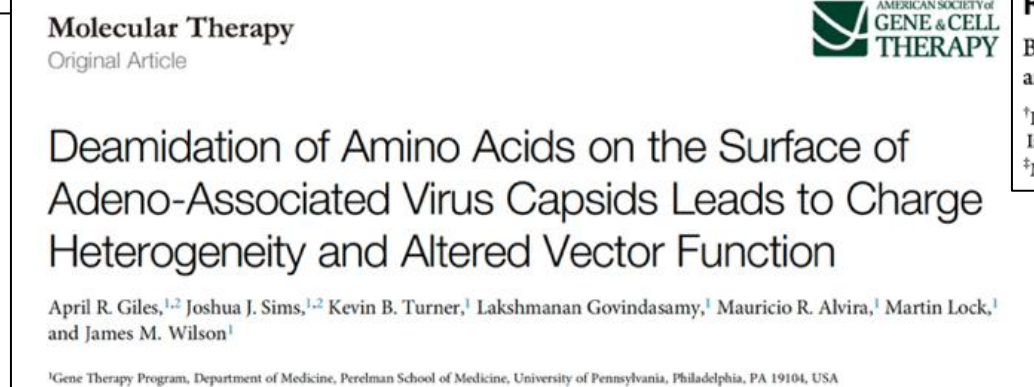
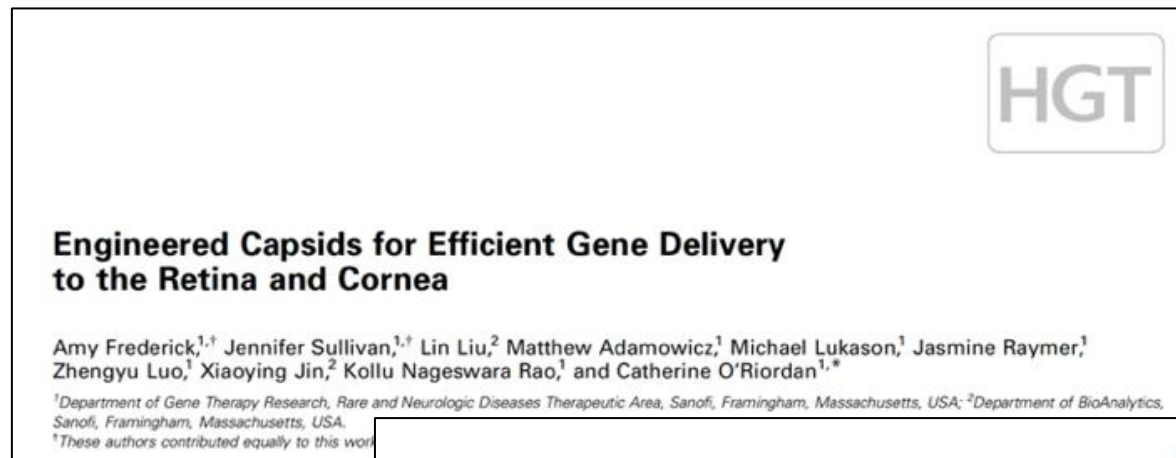


Ohnishi et al., *Mol. Ther. Meth. Clin. Dev.* (2023)

Glycosylation of rAAV

Recent Publications of Glycosylation of AAV

- (1) 2019 Mary et al, *Mol. Pharm.*
- (2) 2019 Mary et al, *FEBS*
- (3) 2018 Aloor et al, *Viruses*
- (4) 2020 Rumachik et al, *Mol. Ther. Meth. Clin. Dev.*
- (5) 2024 Xie et al, *Glycobiology*



Glycosylation of rAAV: Lectin trap + LC-MS/MS

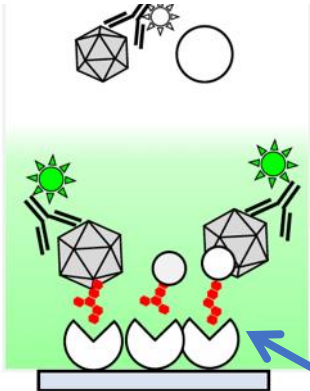
Molecular Therapy
Methods & Clinical Development
Original Article



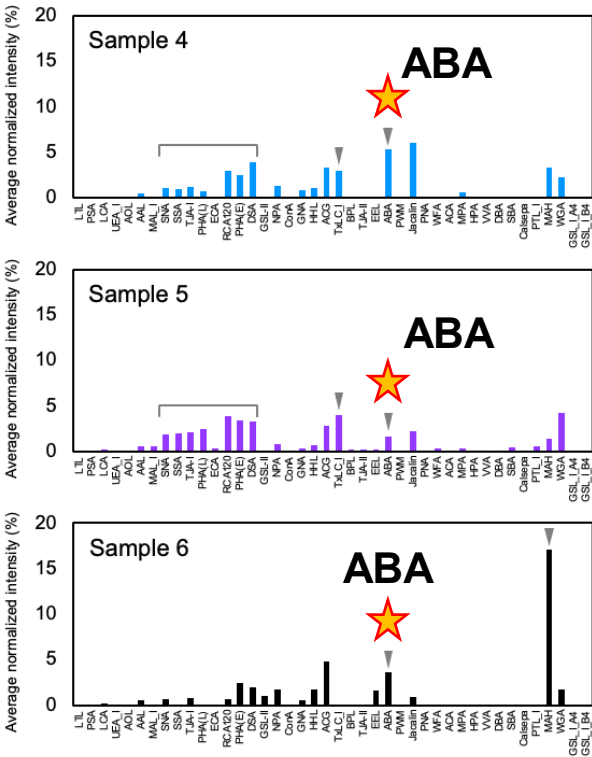
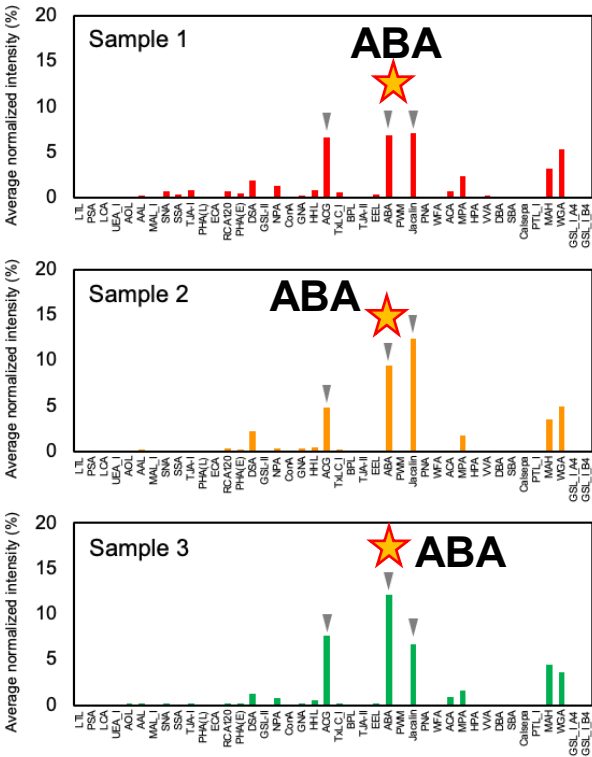
Glycosylation of recombinant adeno-associated virus serotype 6

Yuki Yamaguchi,¹ Kentaro Ishii,¹ Sachiko Koizumi,^{2,3} Hiroaki Sakaue,⁴ Takahiro Maruno,^{1,5} Mitsuko Fukuhara,^{1,5} Risa Shibuya,¹ Yasuo Tsunaka,¹ Aoba Matsushita,¹ Karin Bandoh,¹ Tetsuo Torisu,¹ Chie Murata-Kishimoto,² Azusa Tomioka,⁴ Saho Mizukado,⁴ Hiroyuki Kaji,⁶ Yuji Kashiwakura,^{7,8} Tsukasa Ohmori,^{7,8} Atsushi Kuno,⁴ and Susumu Uchiyama¹

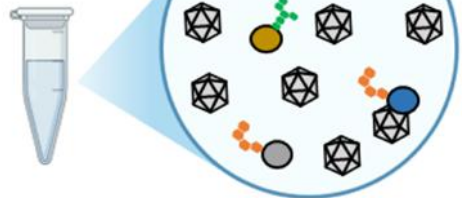
Name	Cell type	Affinity
Sample 1	Adherent	Yes
Sample 2	Adherent	Yes
Sample 3	Adherent	Yes
Sample 4	Adherent	No
Sample 5	Adherent	No
Sample 6	Suspension	Yes



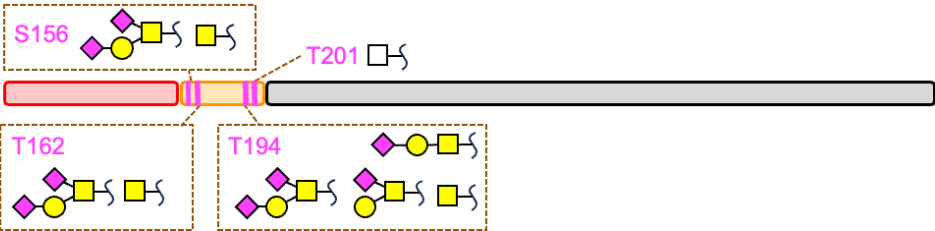
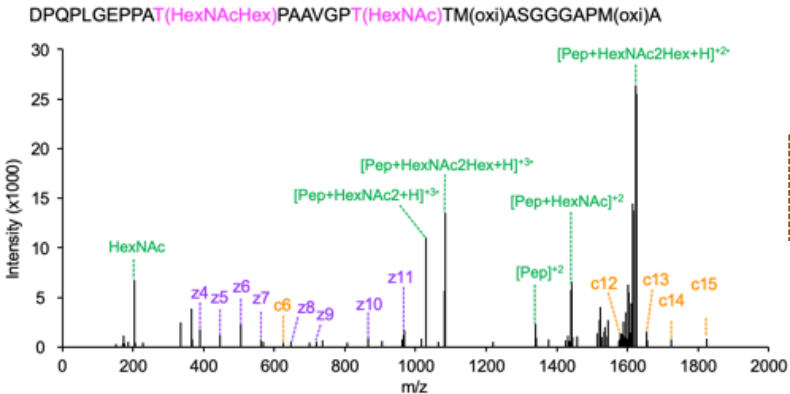
Lectin array
detection
Lectin



ABA-lectin
beads

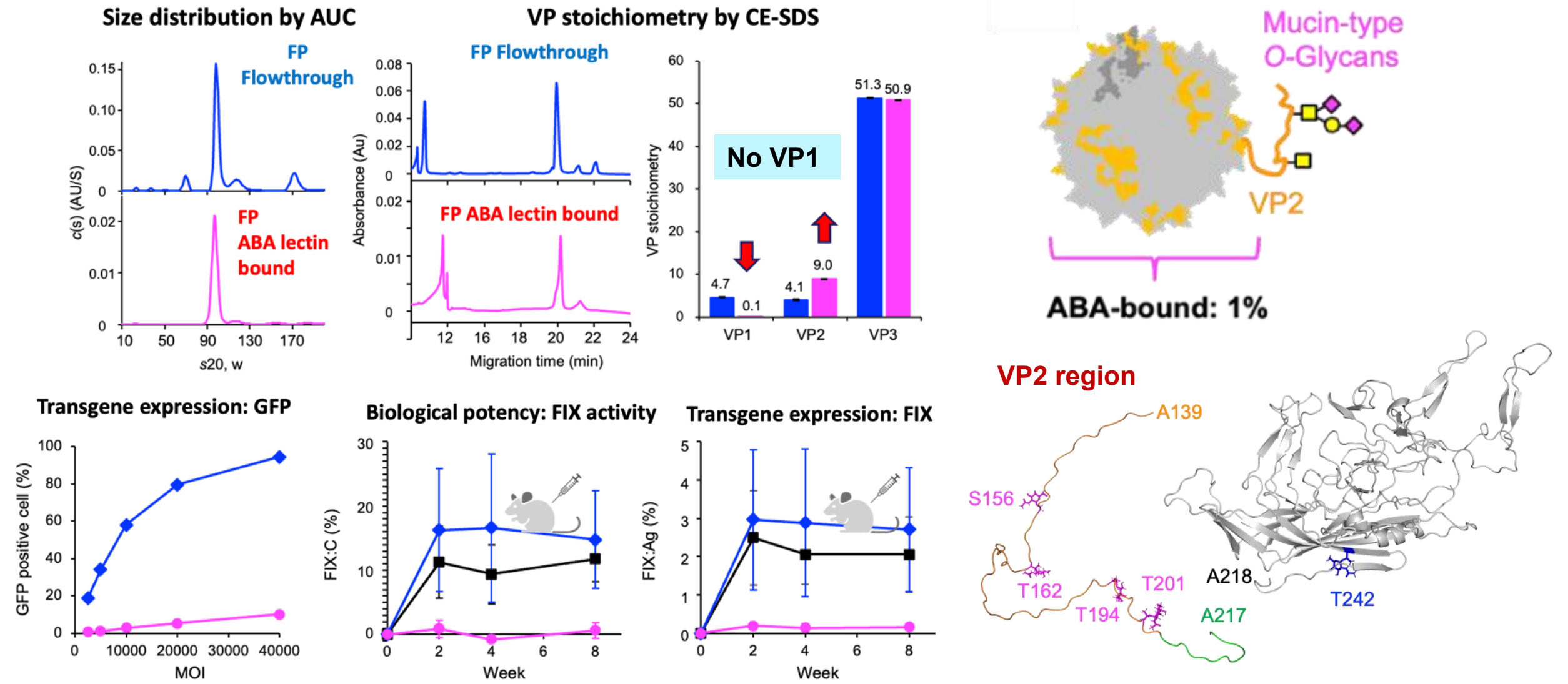


Capture
+
LC-MS/MS



S and T at VP2 is O-glycosylated

Characterization of O-Glycosylated rAAV



Glycosylation of VP2 region → No VP1 → Loss of function

Photo-degradation (DNA and capsid protein)

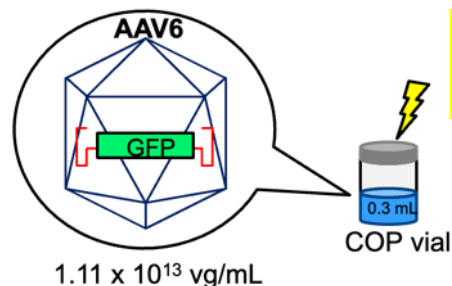
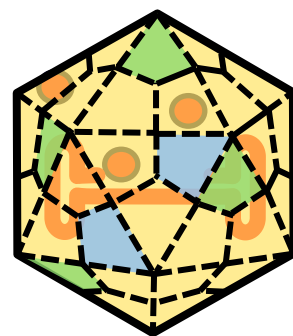
Modification (DNA degradation) by Light irradiation (Photostability test (ICH))

Molecular Therapy
Methods & Clinical Development
Original Article

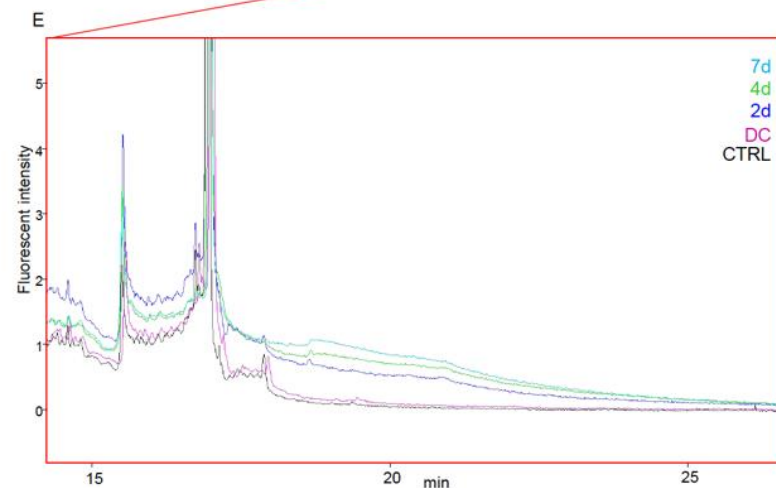
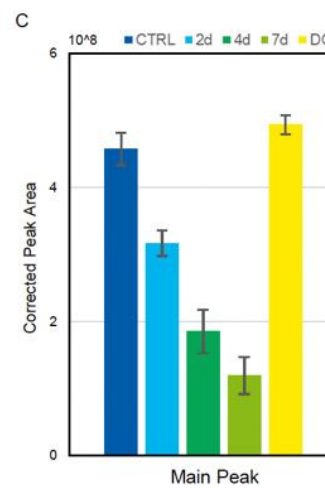
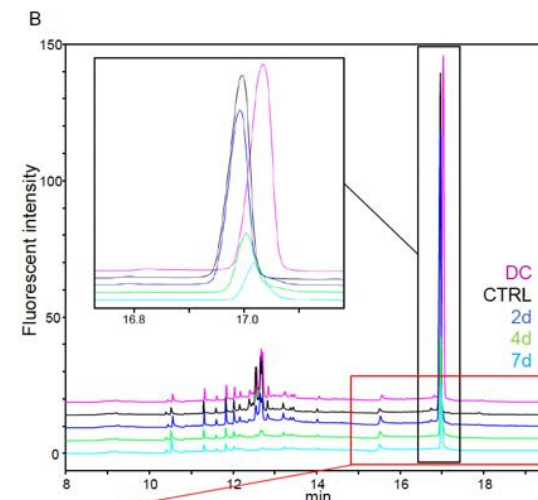
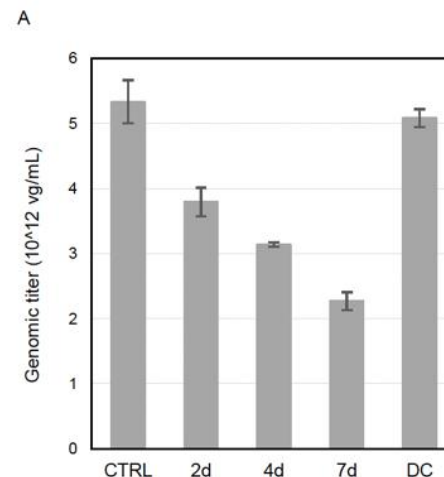


Physicochemical and biological impacts of light stress on adeno-associated virus serotype 6

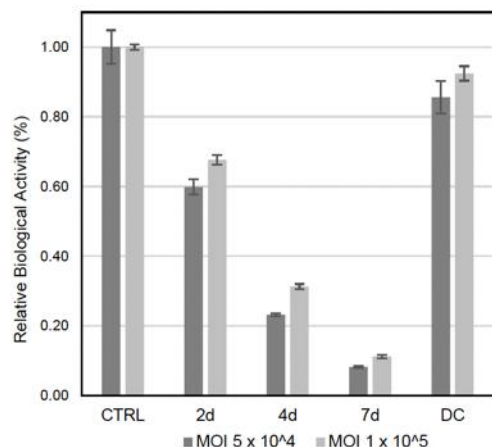
Rie Takino,^{1,2} Yuki Yamaguchi,² Takahiro Maruno,² Ekaputra Ramadhani,² Misaki Furukawa,² Tetsuo Torisu,² and Susumu Uchiyama^{2,3}



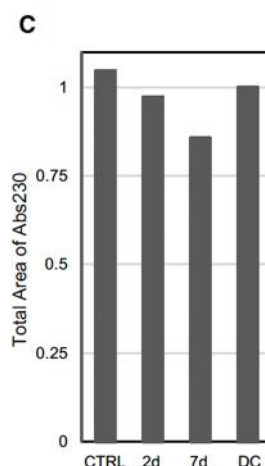
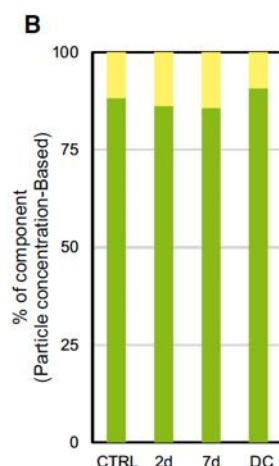
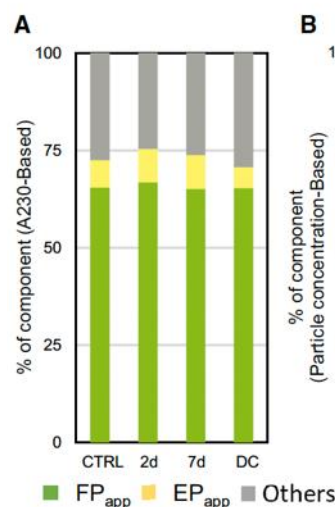
ICH Option 1 conditions using D65



80% main DNA loss



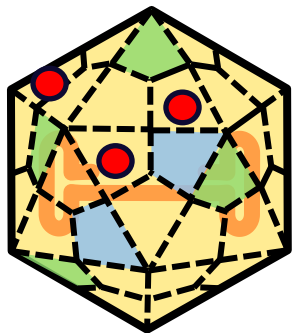
90% activity loss after 7 days



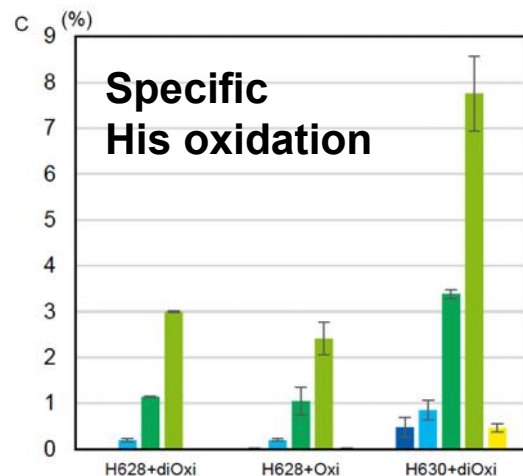
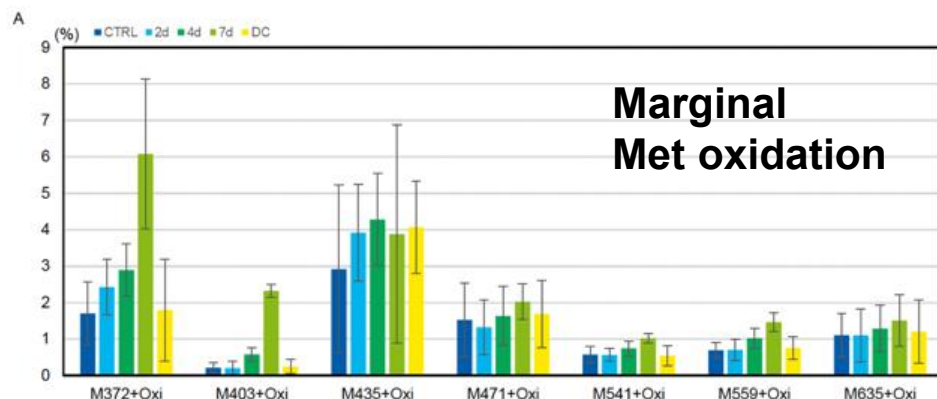
F/E ratio unchanged, 20% FP loss

Takino et al., Mol. Ther. Meth. Clin. Dev. (2024)

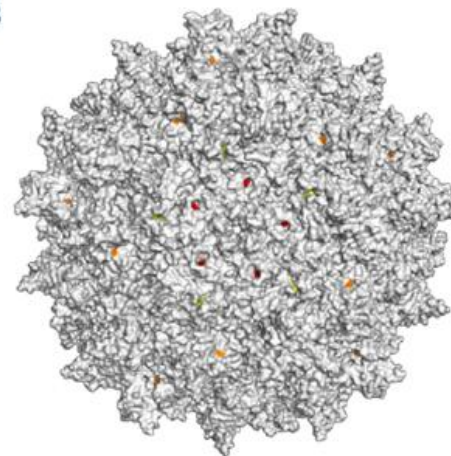
Photo-degradation (DNA and capsid protein)



Modification
(Oxidation)
by
Light irradiation
(Photostability test)

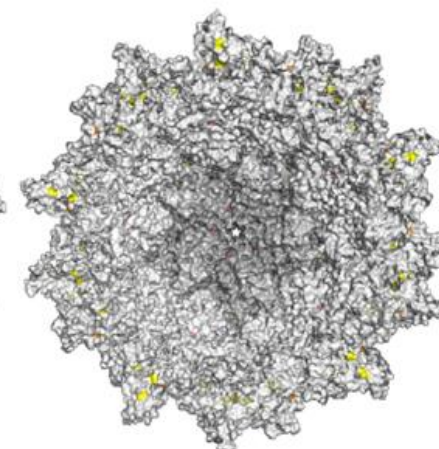


B



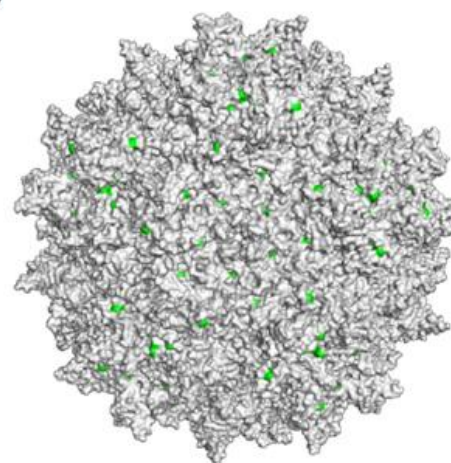
Whole

C

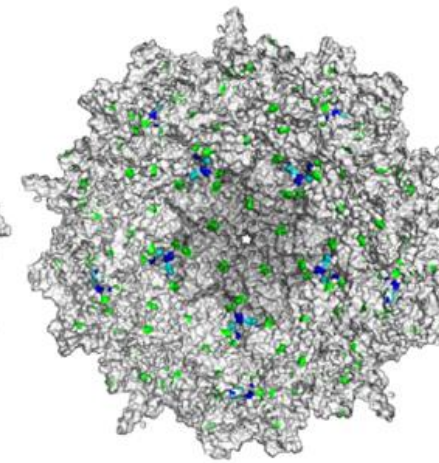


Slice

D



Whole

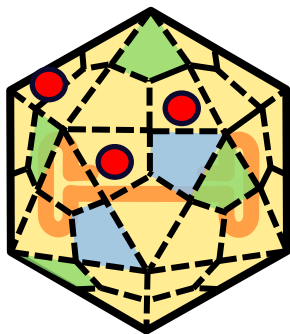


Slice

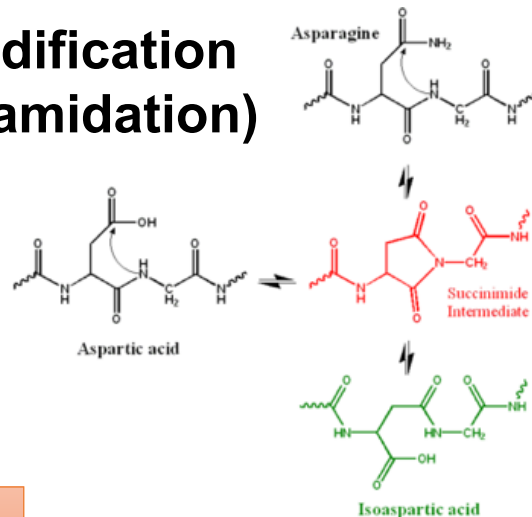
Oxidation of His628 and His630 close to ssDNA

Takino et al., *Mol. Ther. Meth. Clin. Dev.* (2024)

Deamidation of VPs



Modification (Deamidation)



Relation to potency

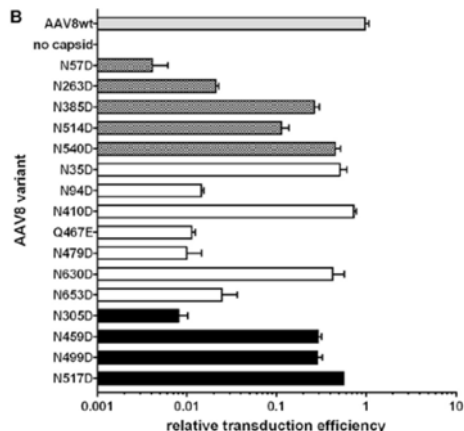
Molecular Therapy
Original Article



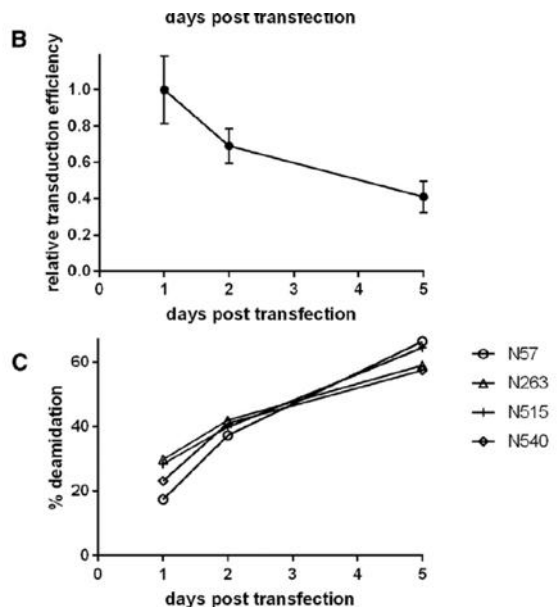
Deamidation of Amino Acids on the Surface of Adeno-Associated Virus Capsids Leads to Charge Heterogeneity and Altered Vector Function

April R. Giles,^{1,2} Joshua I. Sims,^{1,2} Kevin B. Turner,¹ Lakshmanan Govindasamy,¹ Mauricio R. Alvira,¹ Martin Lock,¹ and James M. Wilson¹

¹Gene Therapy Program, Department of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA



Molecular Therapy Vol. 26 No 12 December 2018



T Cell mediated immune response



Identification and elimination of helper and cytotoxic T cell epitopes in AAV9

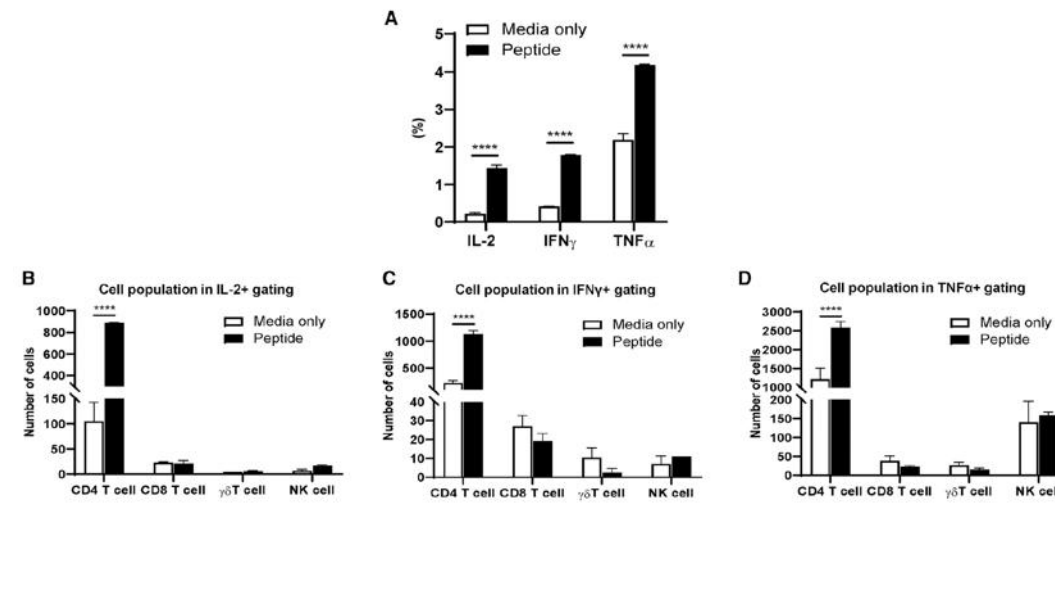
Molecular Therapy
Methods & Clinical Development
Original Article



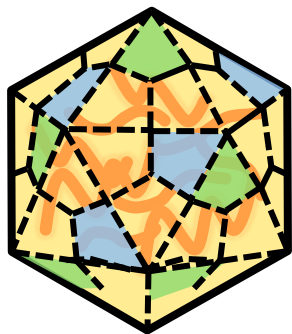
Differential T cell immune responses to deamidated adeno-associated virus vector

So Jin Bing,¹ Sune Justesen,² Wells W. Wu,³ Abdul Mohin Sajib,¹ Stephanie Warrington,¹ Alan Baer,¹ Stephan Thorgrimsen,² Rong-Fong Shen,³ and Ronit Mazor¹

¹Division of Cellular and Gene Therapies, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, US Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD 20993, USA; ²Immunotrack ApS, Copenhagen, Denmark; ³Facility for Biotechnology Resources, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, US Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD 20993, USA

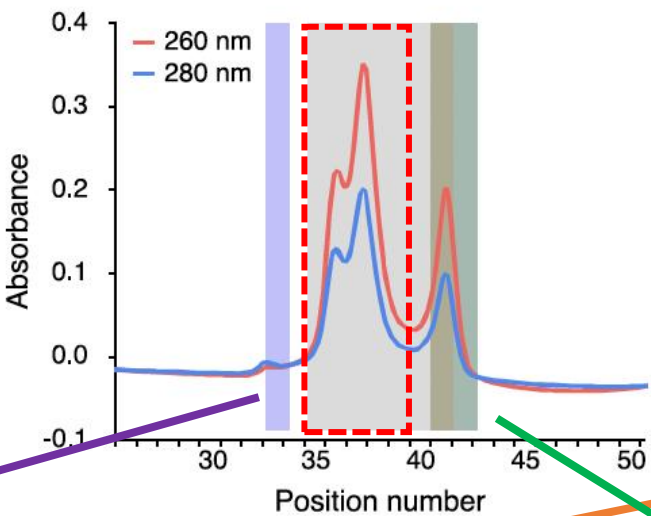


DNA size variation

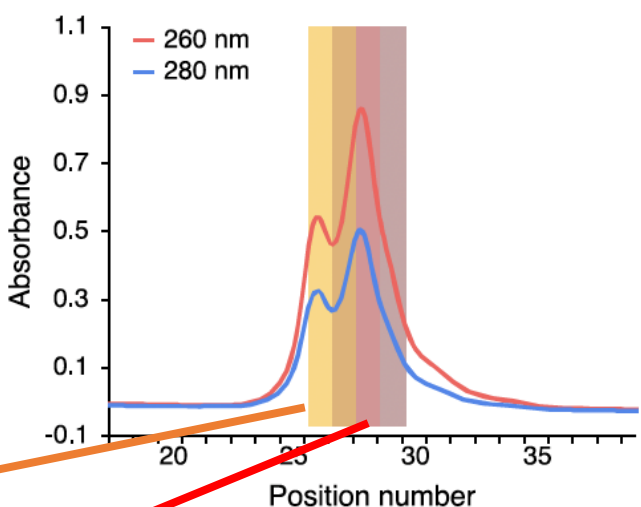


Over-packaged
(OP)

DGUC 1st Cycle

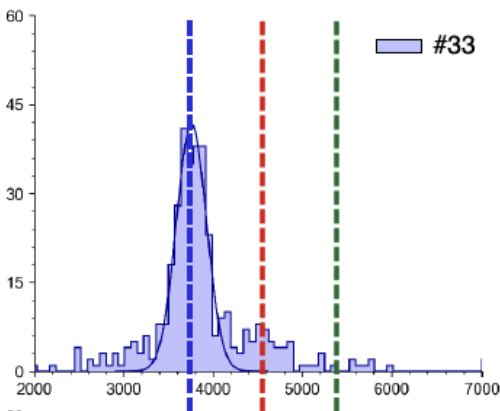


DGUC 2nd Cycle



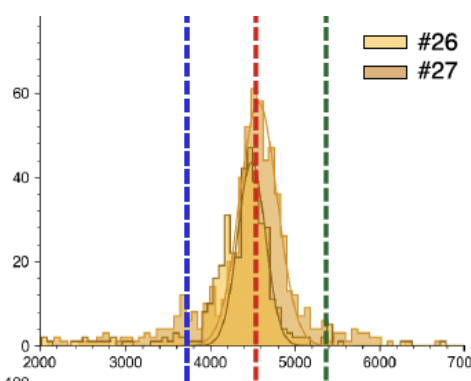
EP

3.7 kDa



4.5 kDa

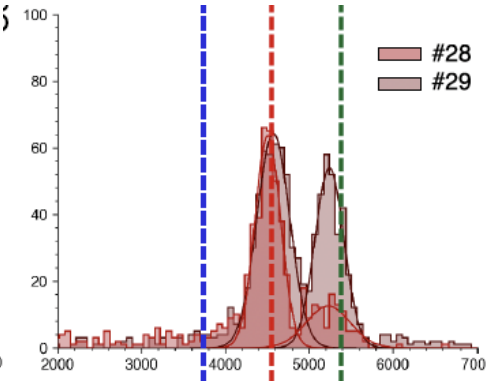
FP



FP

4.5 kDa

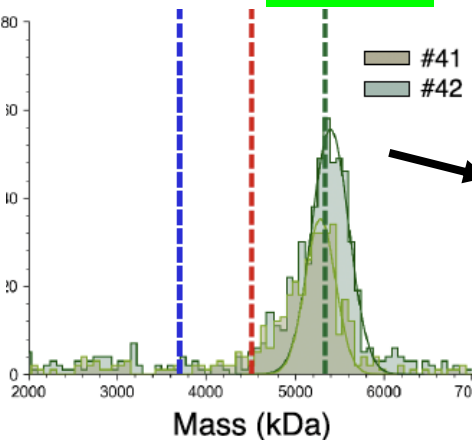
5.4 kDa



OP

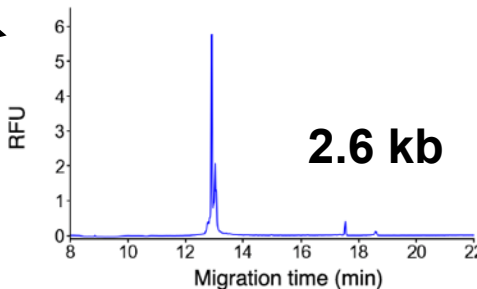
5.4 kDa

OP



0.4-0.5 kb

2.6 kb



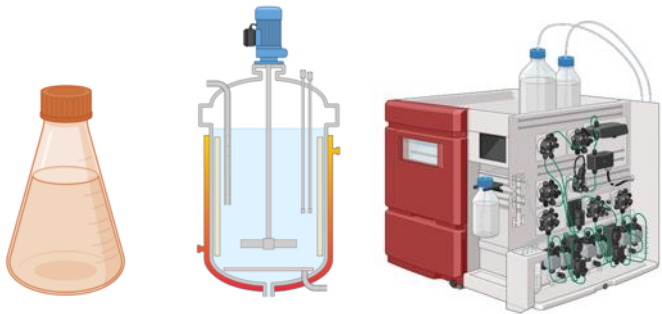
Variation of QAs among Lots/Batch

Variation of VP2 stoichiometry and deamidation of VP1 during production and their impacts on the transduction efficiency of AAV vectors

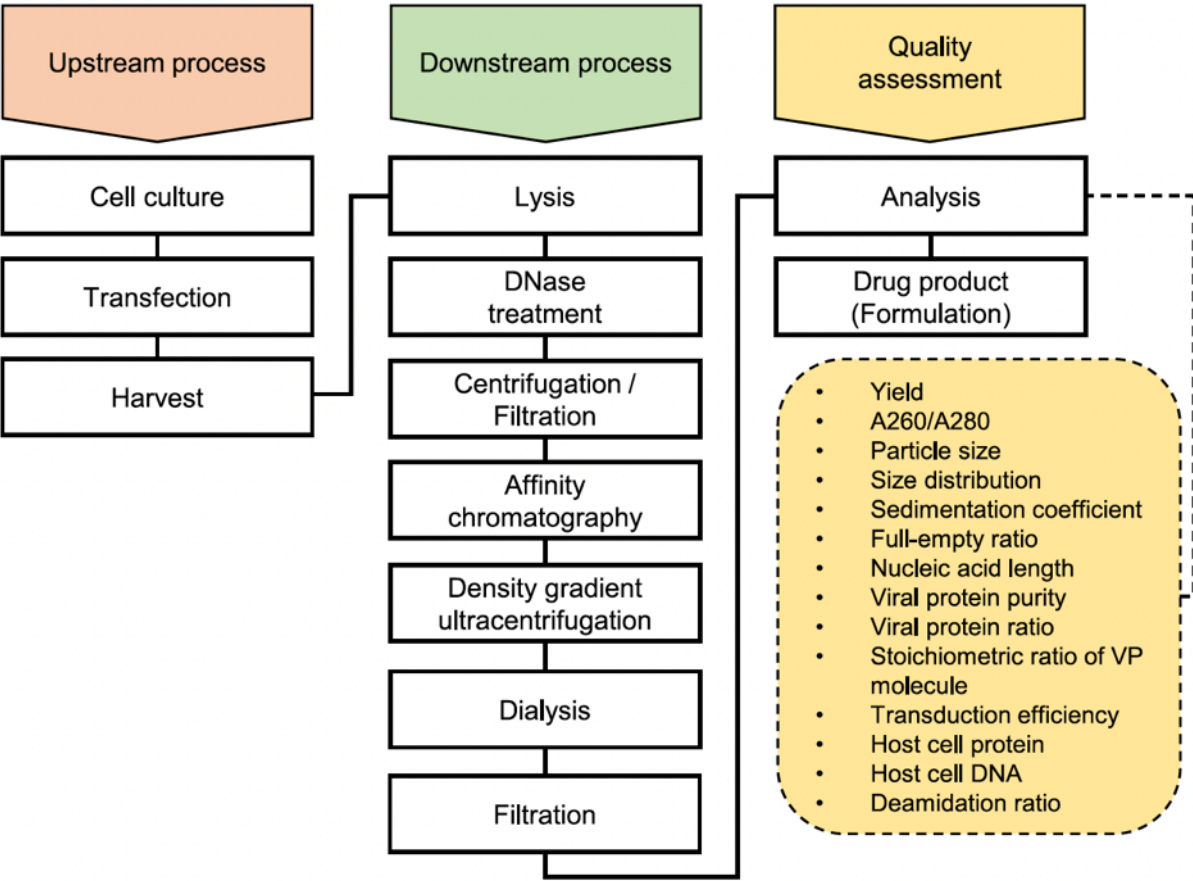
Takahiro Maruno,^{1,2} Mitsuko Fukuhara,^{1,2} Yasuo Tsunaka,² Aoba Matsushita,² Kiichi Hirohata,² Karin Bandoh,² Megumi Onaka,¹ Risa Shibuya,² Yuki Yamaguchi,² Haruka Nishiumi,² Yoshiki Nagashima,³ Daisuke Higo,³ Toshie Kuwahara,² Tomoko Ueno,² Masaharu Maeda,⁴ Guirong Kanai-Bai,² Noriko Yamano-Adachi,² Tetsuo Torisu,² Takeshi Omasa,² and Susumu Uchiyama²

Table 1. Summary of conditions in the upstream process

Product No.	Batch	Culture	Culture volume (L)	Transfection reagent	Harvest after transfection (days)	Purified volume (L)
1	A	1 L flask	0.2	FectoVIR-AAV	4	0.2
2						
3						
4						
5	B	2 L flask	1			
6						
7						
8						
9	C	2 L bioreactor				
10						

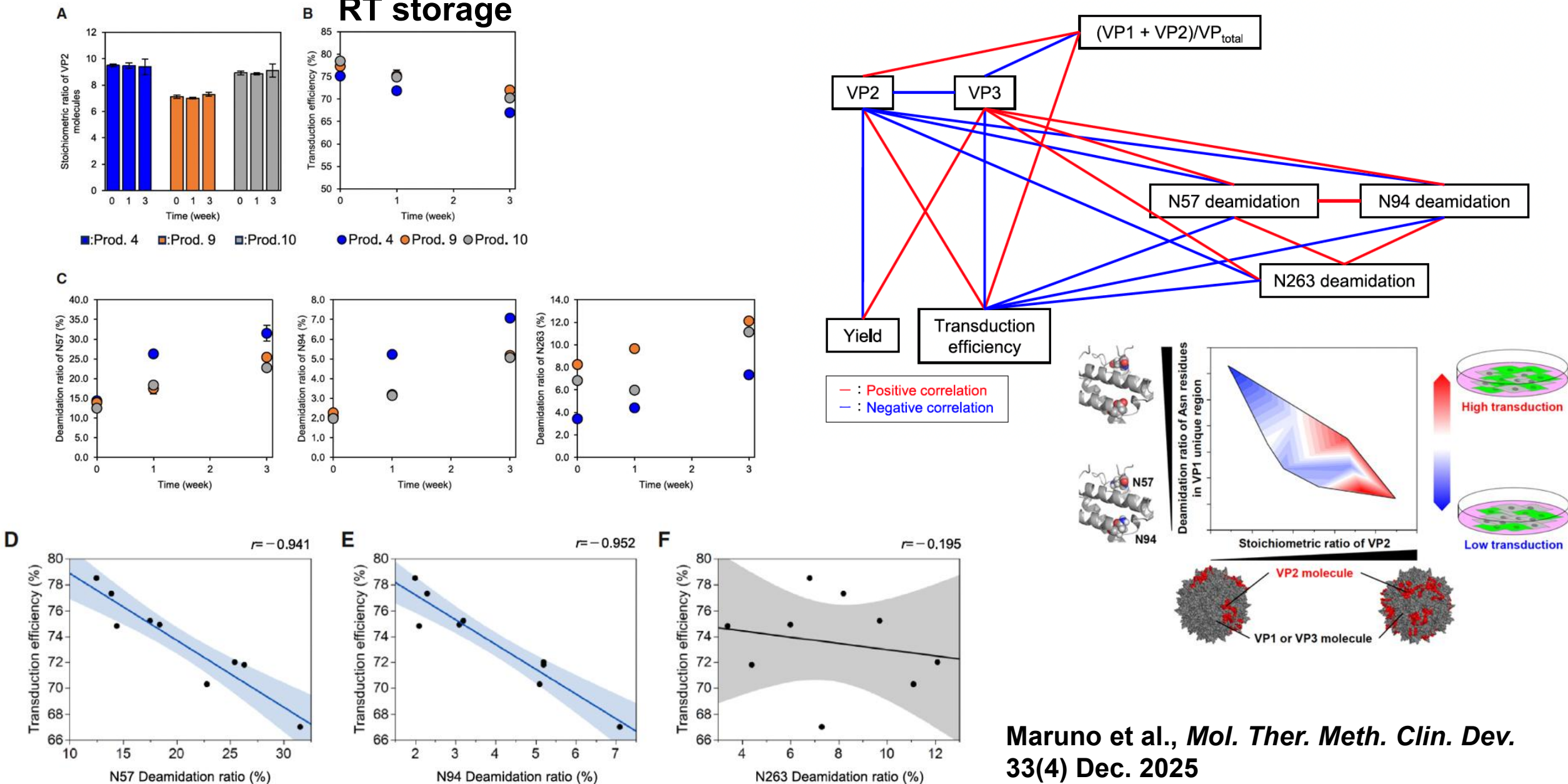


10 Products (Culture + Purification)

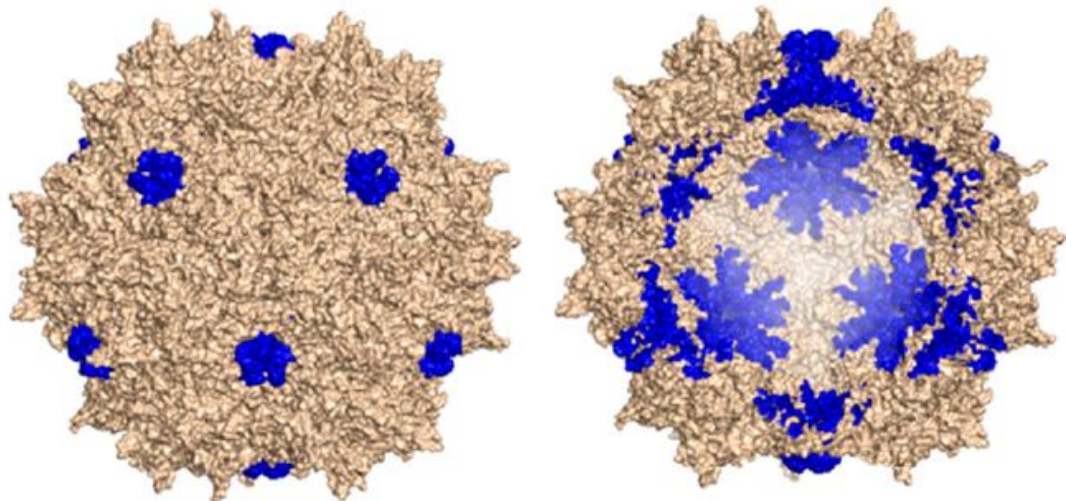
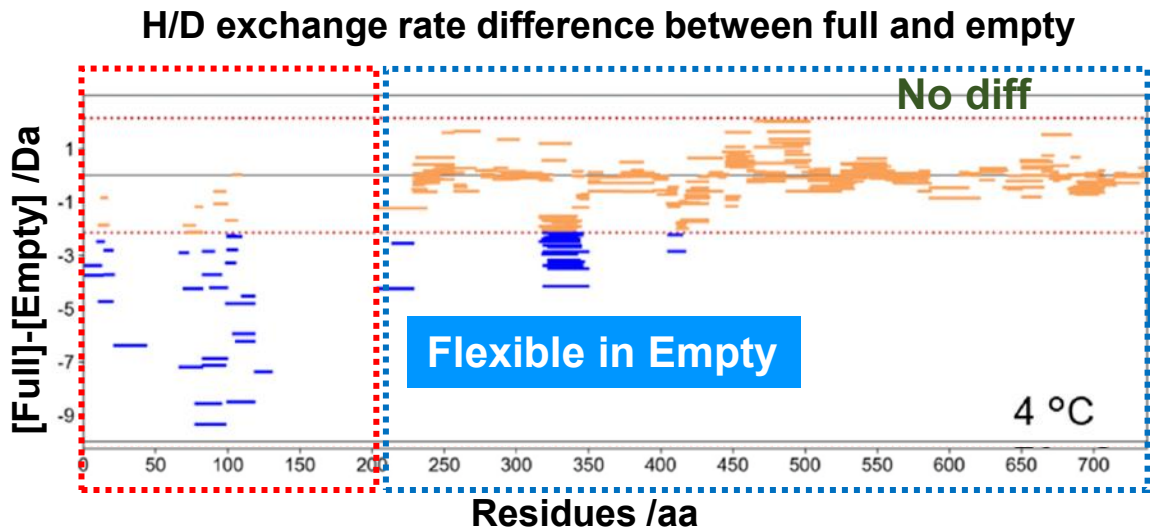


Variation in 14 QAs

Deamidation of VP1 (N57 and N94) and VP2 level is related to biological activities



Capsid structure of FP and EP is different



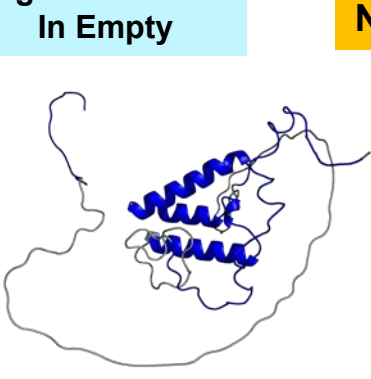
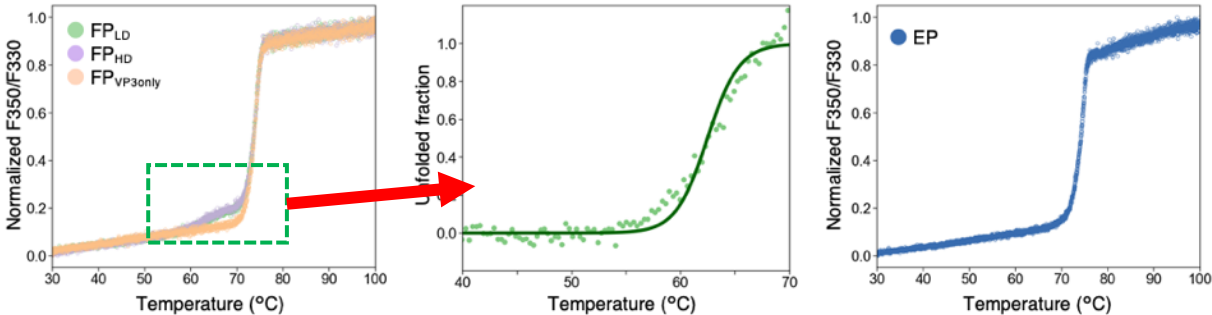
Outside surface

Inner surface

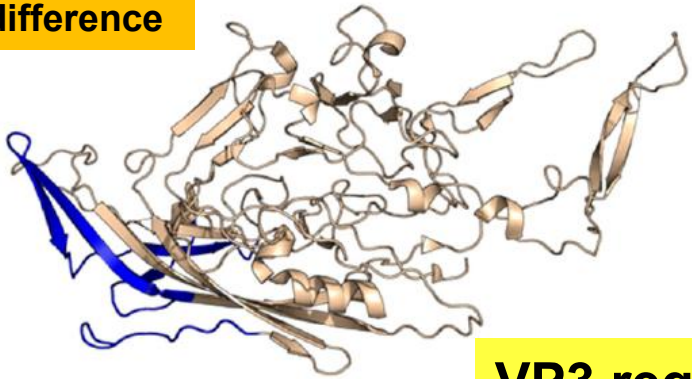
Higher H/D ratio
In Empty

No difference

Temperature dependence of F350/F330 Ex. 280nm

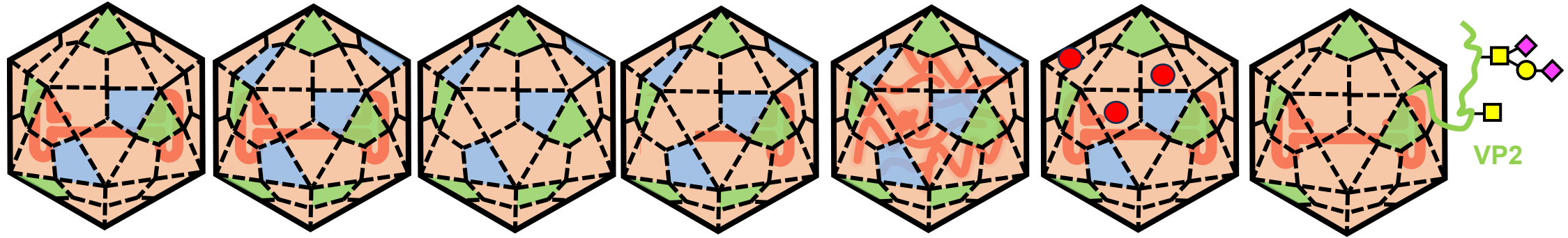


VP1/2 region



VP3 region

rAAV as a Heterogeneous Particle Ensemble



Species

Full particle (FP)

Empty (EP)

Partial (PP)

**Over-packaged
(OP)**

Modification

Sub-species

VP variation

VP variation

**DNA length
variation**

Chemical

Glycosylation

VP2

Acknowledgements

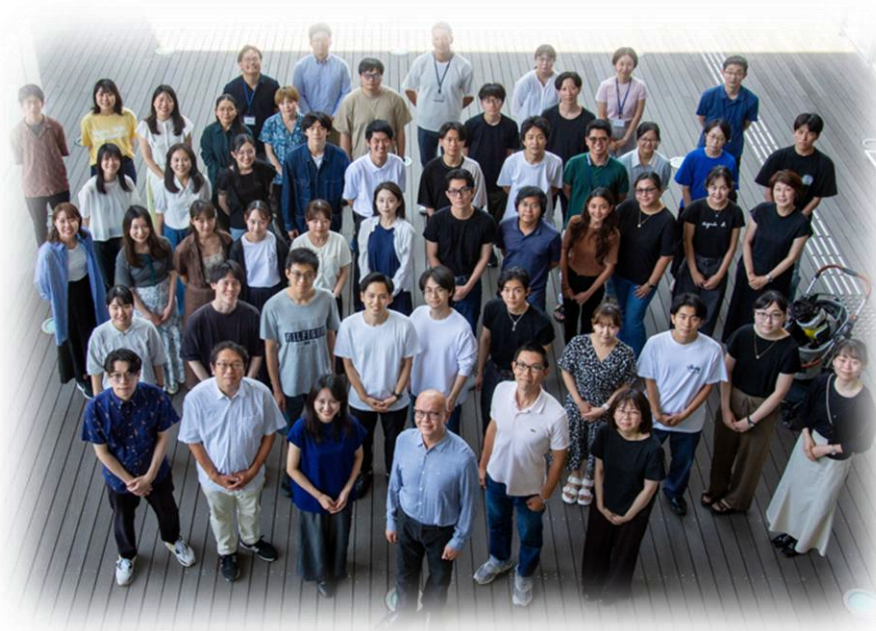
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