

# High throughput SPR characterization of multi-specific antibodies

New capabilities and workflow approaches  
advancing discovery



## Outline

- ◆ The need for high throughput SPR-based biophysical characterization and how it accelerates discovery
- ◆ Carterra's HT-SPR technology
- ◆ Epitope binning and its role in bispecific antibody discovery
  - An example from a recent publication
- ◆ Assay formats for high throughput SPR characterization of bispecifics
  - Independence or non-interference of each binding site
  - Bridging assays



# Which one(s)?

- Biotherapeutic generation has made substantial leaps
- The competitive landscape is real and growing
- Analytical tools must adapt to these modern scales



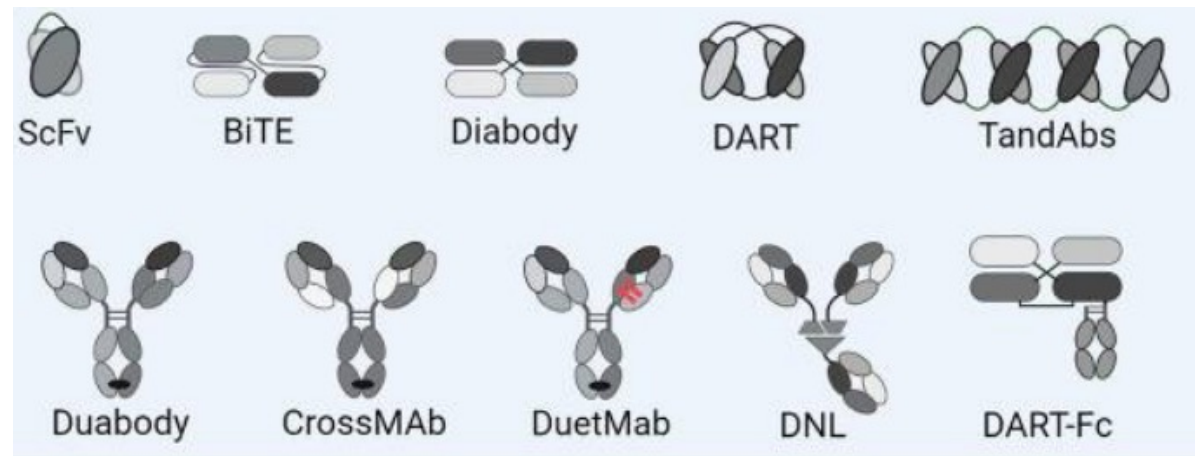


# Multispecific Biotherapeutics- A wide open frontier!

## Incomplete list of MOAs

- ◆ T-Cell engagers
  - NKs, APCs
- ◆ PROTABS
  - protein homeostasis
- ◆ Bi(+)paratopic
  - Avidity enhancement
- ◆ Half life extension
- ◆ Blood Brain Barrier

### small sample of possible formats



Current landscape and future directions of bispecific antibodies in cancer immunotherapy

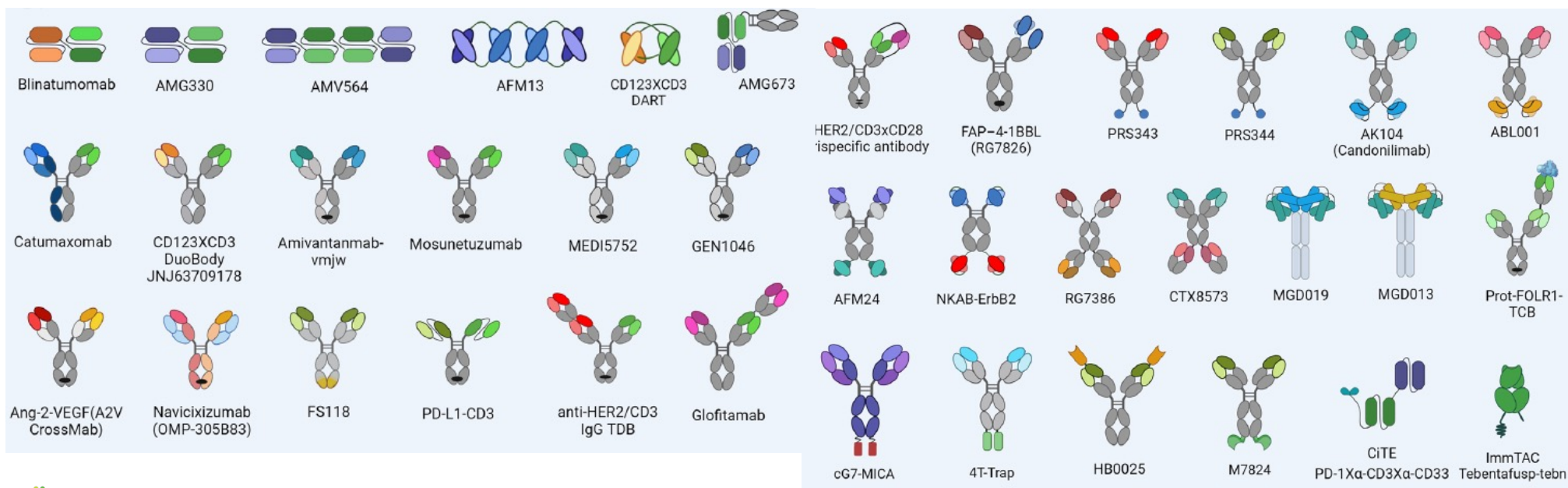
Jing Wei<sup>1</sup>, Yueyao Yang<sup>2</sup>, Gang Wang<sup>2</sup>, Ming Liu<sup>1</sup>

Front Immunol. 2022 Oct 28;13:1035276. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2022.1035276.



## A few specific examples

- Most contain some antibody or antibody like binding domain(s)
- Protein mimetic domains are common
- Evolving role for ADCs, enzymes, and pro-drugs as well



<https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2022.1035276>

## Characterization Needs for Mutlispecifics

- Multi-specific drug development requires additional characterization
- In some ways, several lead binder drug programs must converge into a single molecule, creating layers of analysis
- Each interaction has some degree of independent screening and characterization requirement plus the need to test and validate combined formats
- LSA enables key binding assay formats for multi-specifics:
  - Independent affinity and kinetics
  - Alternative site occupied binding and kinetics
  - Bridging assays

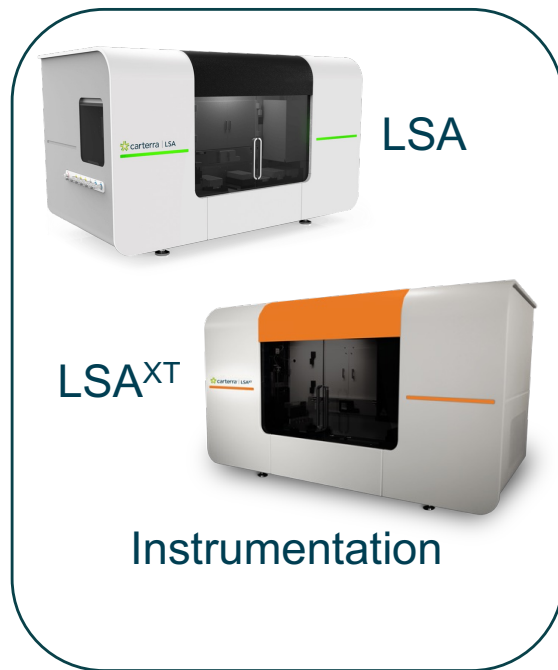


# Carterra's HT-SPR Technology





# Fully integrated HT-SPR package

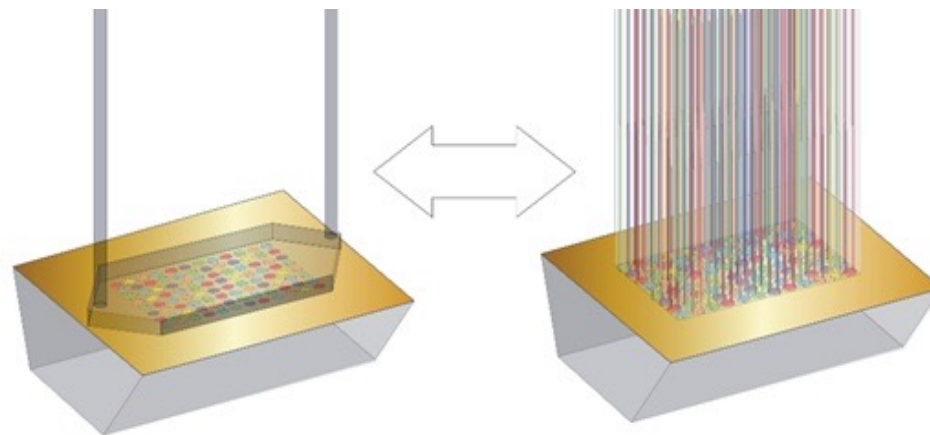


## LSA integrates flow printing & array SPR.

**Single-channel mode**  
(single flow cell)

**Multi-channel mode**  
(96-channel printhead)

*Minimal analyte  
consumption via “one-  
on-many” assay  
format*



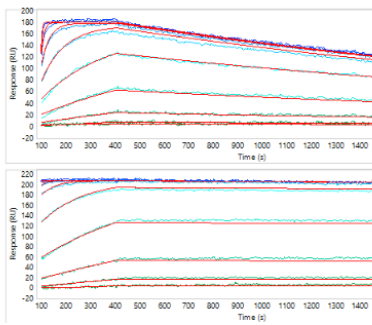
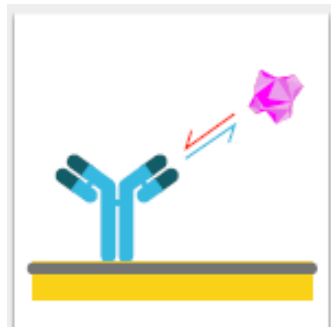
*Serially print at  
4 nested locations to  
create a 384-array*

- Automated flow cell switching between multi- and single-channel modes
- 384 reaction spots + reference interspots per array
- In-line reloading of array
- Supports capture formats and standard amine coupling

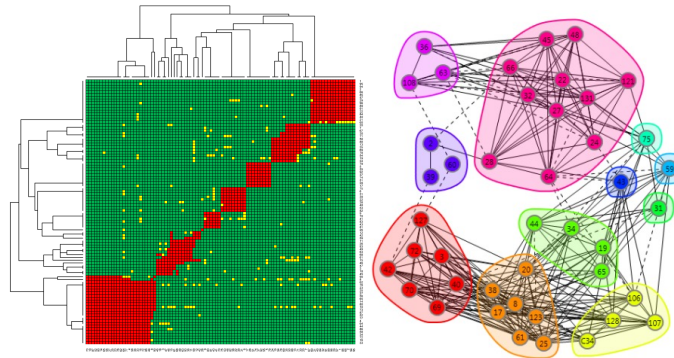
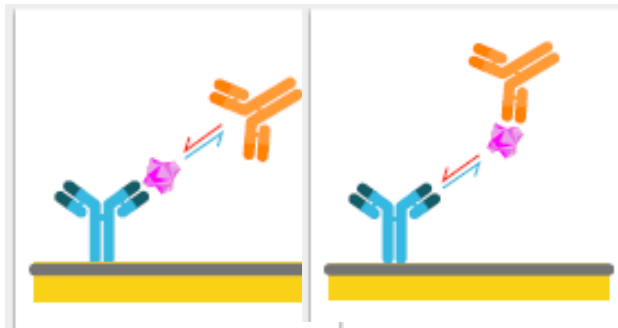


# LSA's Core Applications

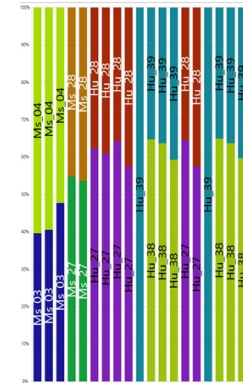
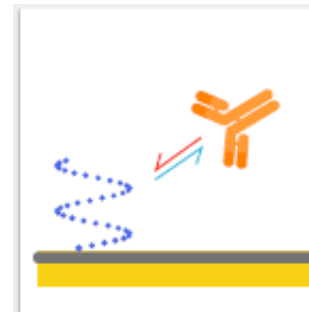
## Kinetics/Affinity



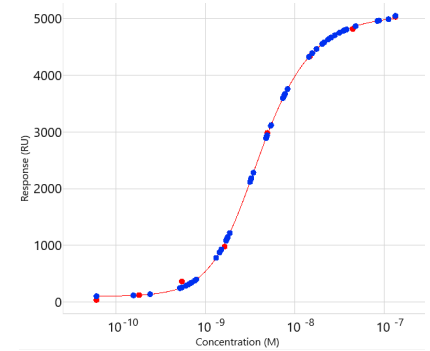
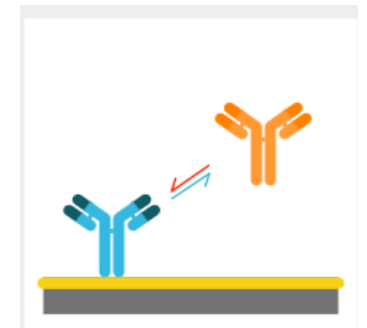
## Epitope Binning



## Mapping

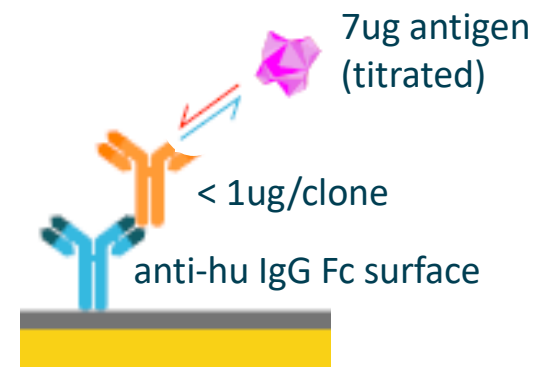


## Quantitation



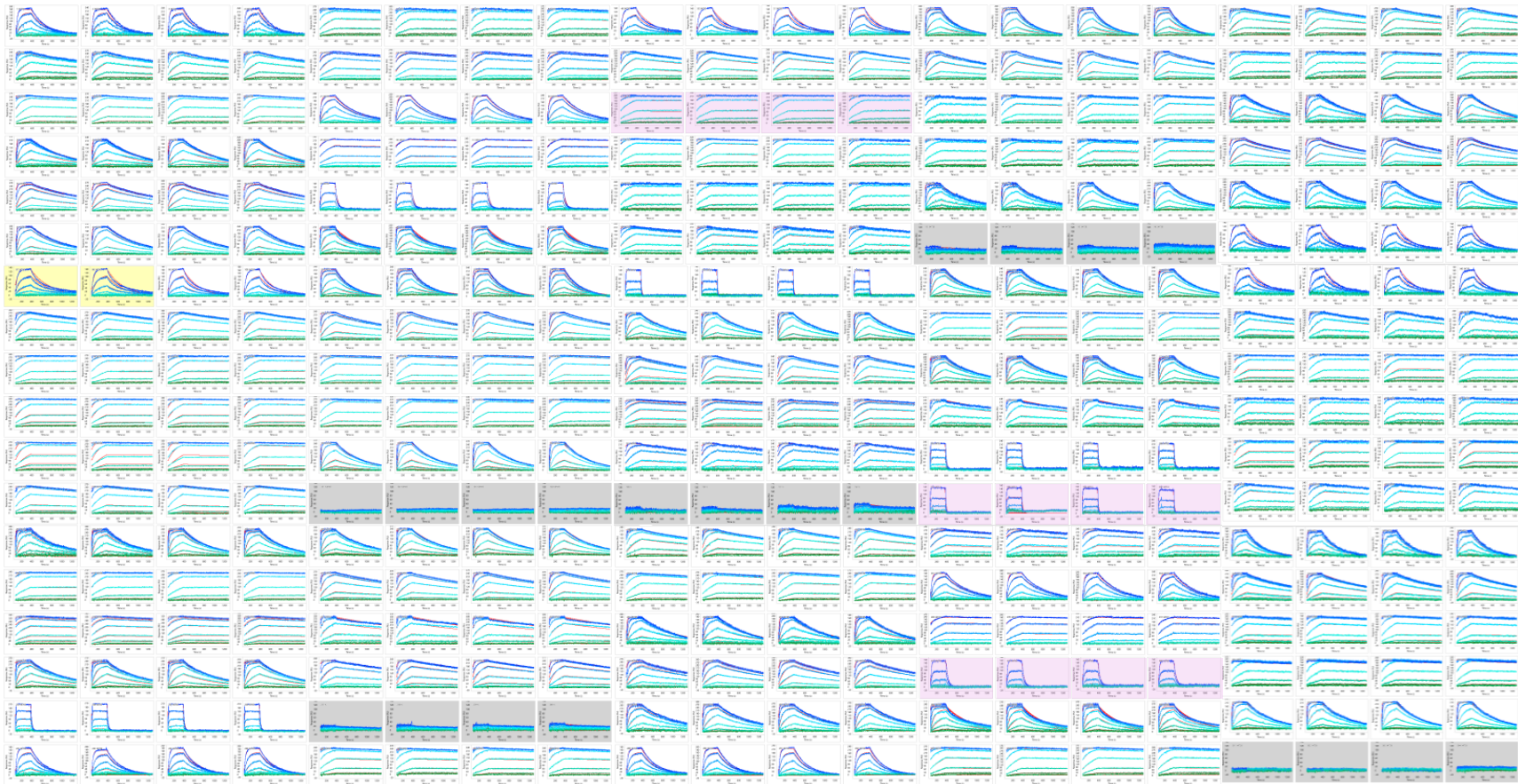
# Unmatched assay throughput

- Up to 1152 clones in a single experiment
  - 3 x 384 well plates
  - One or multiple forms of antigen
  - Crude or purified
- Highly parallel – simultaneous binding to same antigen by all 384 clones
- Leverage array capacity
  - Capturing each clone on multiple spots to provide replicates
  - Titrate ligands to optimize density on the fly



# Experience true HT-SPR kinetic analysis with the LSA

384 ligand kinetics | Single run | 7  $\mu\text{g}$  Antigen | 8 Concentrations



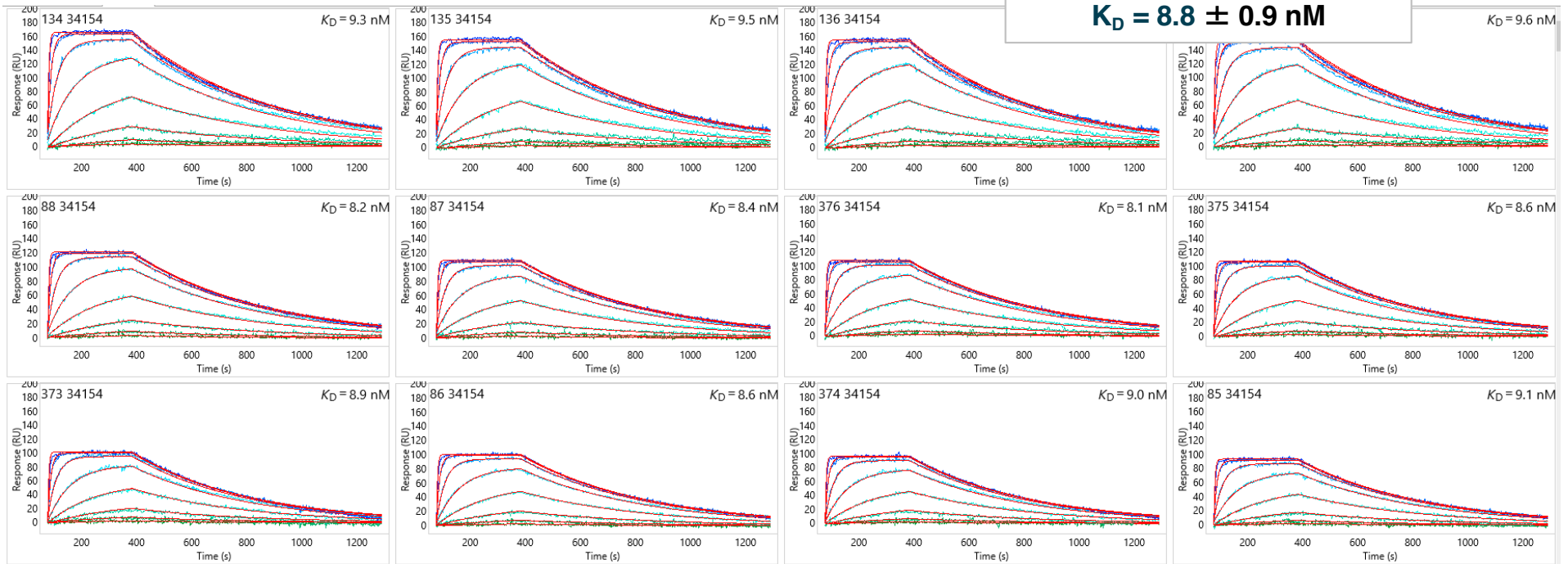
Software automatically flags the data needing more investigation



# Screen Many or Increase Your N

- Reproducibility across the array allows you to screen with confidence
- If <384 unique mAbs, why not increase your n
  - Allows statistical analysis of the reported kinetic parameters

**mAb 34154**  
Mean  $\pm$  StDev of 12 spots  
 $k_a = (2.4 \pm 0.2) \times 10^5$  (1/Ms)  
 $k_d = (2.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$  (1/s)  
 $K_D = 8.8 \pm 0.9$  nM





# Epitope Binning



## High-throughput/high-resolution epitope binning enables better selection of clones for bispecifics

- Numerous high impact publications have emphasized epitope analysis and early epitope characterization as key elements in rapid mAb drug discovery workflows
- Epitopic diversity is a surrogate for functional diversity
- The binding epitope is fundamental for the activity and MOA of antibodies
  - Different binding epitopes and geometries can have a profound impact on activities of bi and multispecifics
  - Different arrangements are useful for cis and trans activation or neutralization
- Understanding the competition profiles between clones is essential for the creation of cocktails or biparatopic binders



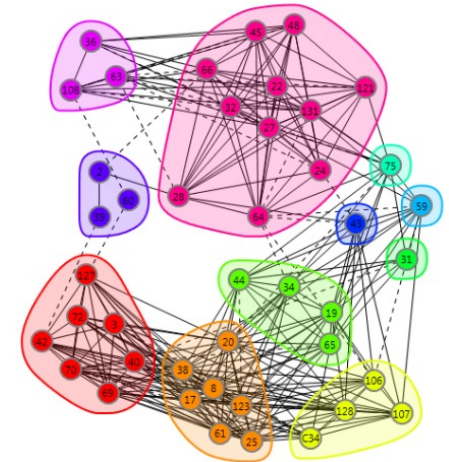
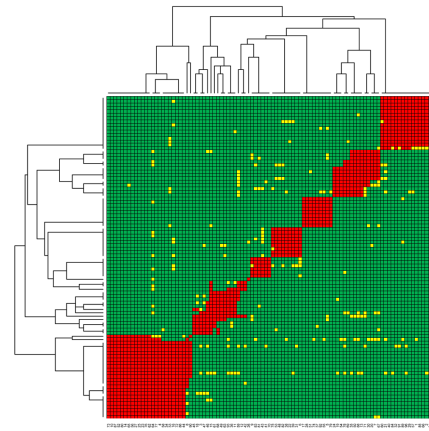
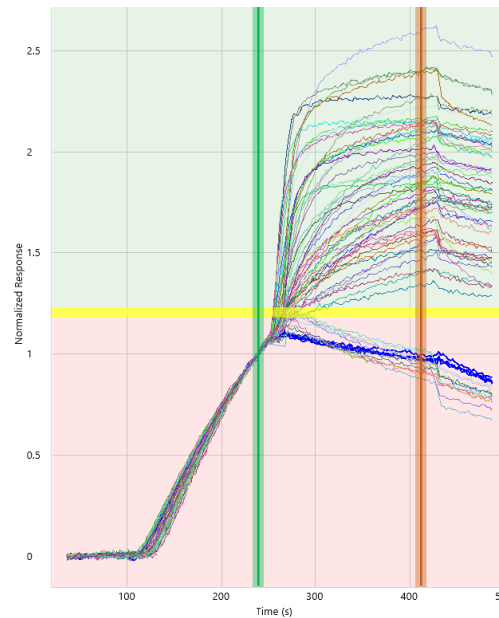
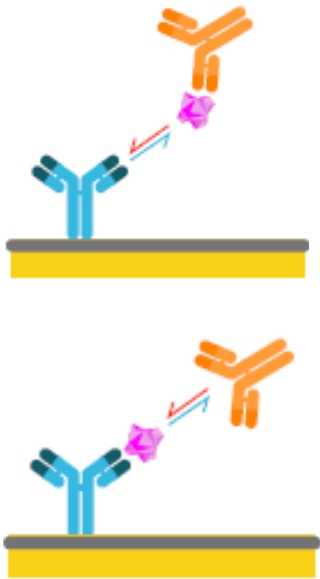


# LSA Epitope binning workflow

Compete Clones

Define Competitive Thresholds

Represent Epitope Relationships using Heat Maps, Network Plots, etc.



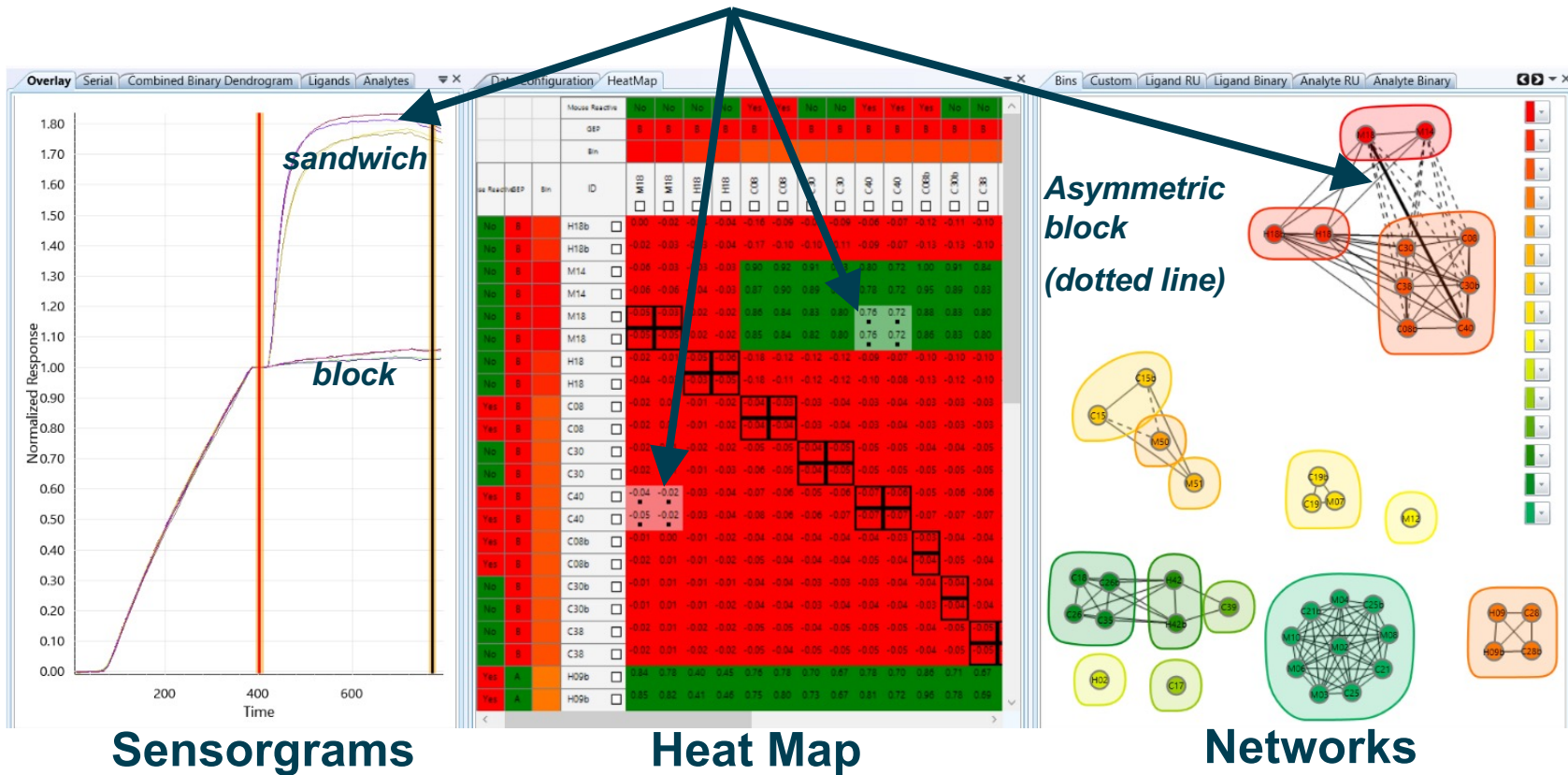
## Larger and more diverse binning sets add resolution

- ◆ Assay set up complexity on LSA scales linearly
- ◆ Large heat maps provide many pair-wise interactions
  - $96 \times 96 = 9,216$  interactions
  - $192 \times 192 = 36,824$  interactions
  - $384 \times 384 = 147,456$  interactions
- ◆ Each unique interaction can be thought of as a probe
  - Each unique sample has the potential to elucidate new behaviors or subtle differences present in the epitope
  - The more diverse set you have, the more resolution you get!
- ◆ The LSA is the only platform to allow epitope binning assays to scale efficiently

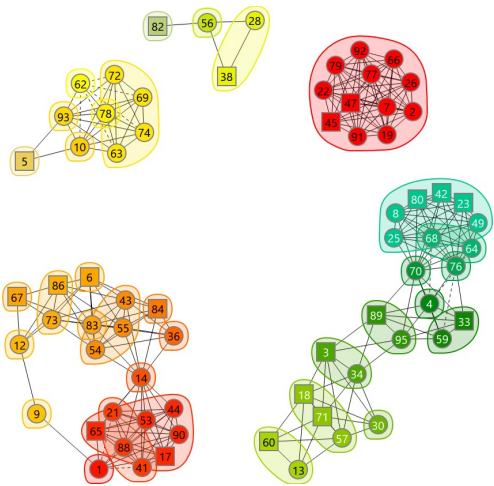


# Epitope binning software user interface

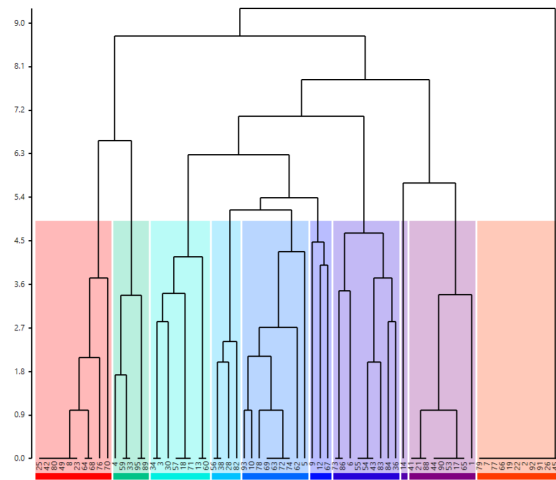
## Data Linked Across Three Visualization Panels



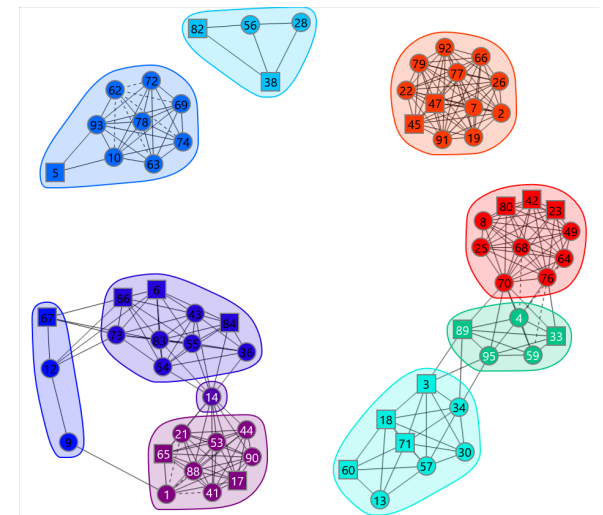
# Three informative views to interpret epitope binning results.



Networks  
(most granular bins)



Dendrogram



Communities  
(user-defined cut-height)



# Coronavirus Immunotherapy Consortium- CoVIC

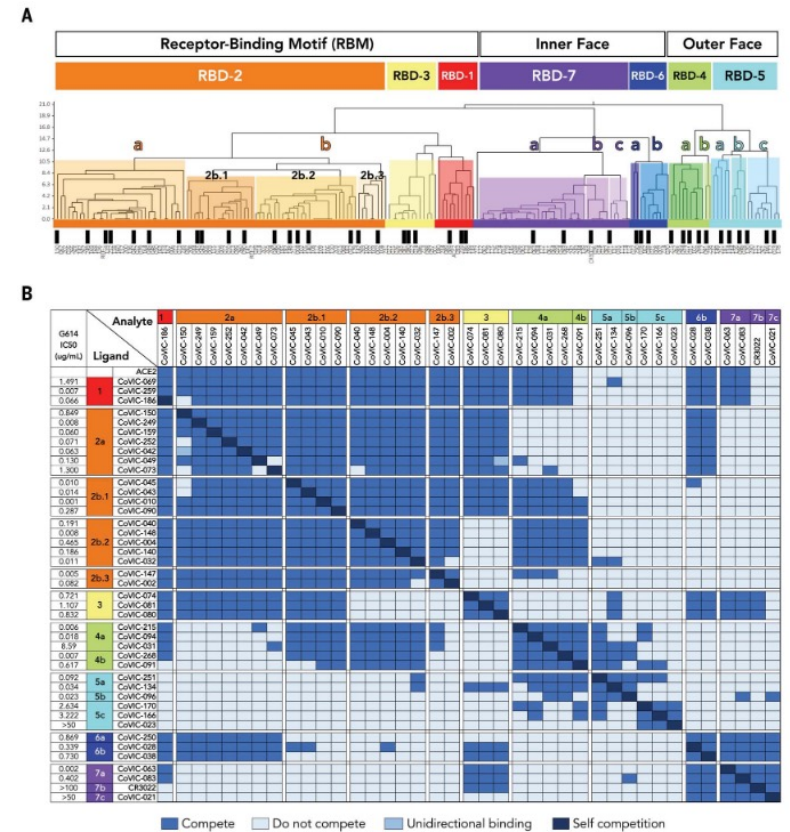
# Science

CORONAVIRUS

## Defining variant-resistant epitopes targeted by SARS-CoV-2 antibodies: A global consortium study

Kathryn M. Hastie<sup>1,†</sup>, Haoyang Li<sup>1,†</sup>, Daniel Bedinger<sup>2</sup>, Sharon L. Schendel<sup>1</sup>, S. Moses Dennison<sup>3</sup>, Kan Li<sup>3</sup>, Vamseedhar Rayaprolu<sup>1</sup>, Xiaoying Yu<sup>1</sup>, Colin Mann<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Zandonatti<sup>1</sup>, Ruben Diaz Avalos<sup>1</sup>, Dawid Zyla<sup>1</sup>, Tierra Buck<sup>1</sup>, Sean Hui<sup>1</sup>, Kelly Shaffer<sup>1</sup>, Chitra Hariharan<sup>1</sup>, Jieyun Yin<sup>1</sup>, Eduardo Olmedillas<sup>1</sup>, Adrian Enriquez<sup>1</sup>, Diptiben Parekh<sup>1</sup>, Milite Abraha<sup>3</sup>, Elizabeth Feeney<sup>3</sup>, Gillian Q. Horn<sup>3</sup>, CoVIC-DB team<sup>1</sup>, Yoann Aldon<sup>4</sup>, Hanif Ali<sup>5</sup>, Sanja Aracic<sup>6</sup>, Ronald R. Cobb<sup>7</sup>, Ross S. Federman<sup>8</sup>, Joseph M. Fernandez<sup>9</sup>, Jacob Glanville<sup>10</sup>, Robin Green<sup>8</sup>, Gevorg Grigoryan<sup>8</sup>, Ana G. Lujan Hernandez<sup>11</sup>, David D. Ho<sup>12</sup>, Kuan-Ying A. Huang<sup>13</sup>, John Ingraham<sup>8</sup>, Weidong Jiang<sup>14</sup>, Paul Kellam<sup>15,16</sup>, Cheolmin Kim<sup>17</sup>, Minsoo Kim<sup>17</sup>, Hyeong Mi Kim<sup>17</sup>, Chao Kong<sup>18</sup>, Shelly J. Krebs<sup>19</sup>, Fei Lan<sup>9,20</sup>, Guojun Lang<sup>18</sup>, Sooyoung Lee<sup>17</sup>, Cheuk Lun Leung<sup>8</sup>, Junli Liu<sup>14</sup>, Yanan Lu<sup>9,21</sup>, Anna MacCamy<sup>22</sup>, Andrew T. McGuire<sup>22</sup>, Anne L. Palser<sup>15</sup>, Terence H. Rabbitts<sup>5,23</sup>, Zahra Rikhtegaran Tehrani<sup>24</sup>, Mohammad M. Sajadi<sup>24</sup>, Rogier W. Sanders<sup>4</sup>, Aaron K. Sato<sup>11</sup>, Liang Schweizer<sup>25</sup>, Jimin Seo<sup>17</sup>, Bingqing Shen<sup>25</sup>, Jonne L. Snitselaar<sup>4</sup>, Leonidas Stamatatos<sup>22</sup>, Yongcong Tan<sup>18</sup>, Milan T. Tomić<sup>26</sup>, Marit J. van Gils<sup>4</sup>, Sawsan Youssef<sup>10</sup>, Jian Yu<sup>12</sup>, Tom Z. Yuan<sup>11</sup>, Qian Zhang<sup>25</sup>, Bjoern Peters<sup>1,27</sup>, Georgia D. Tomaras<sup>3</sup>, Timothy Germann<sup>2</sup>, Erica Ollmann Saphire<sup>1,27\*</sup>

<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abh2315>

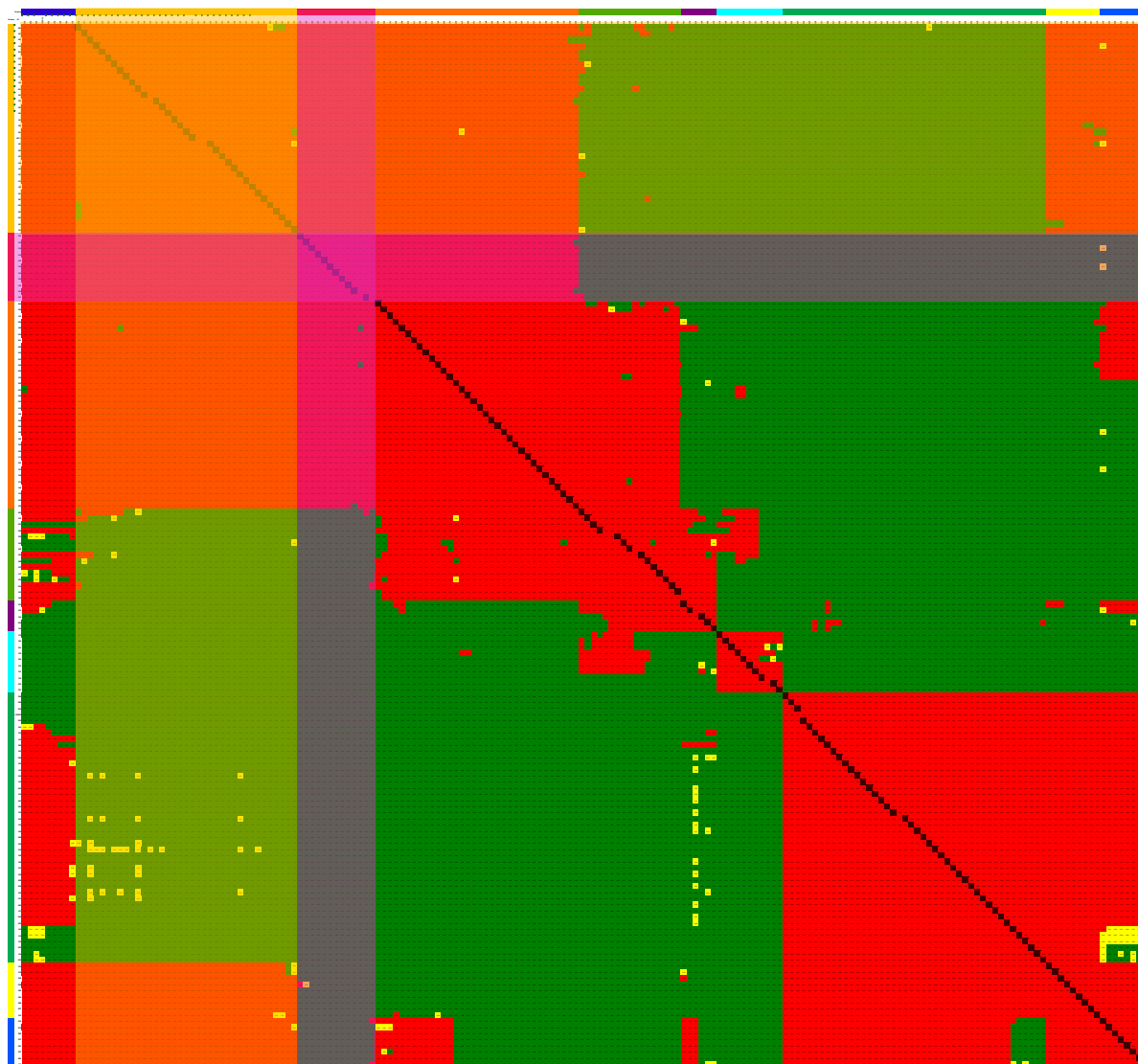


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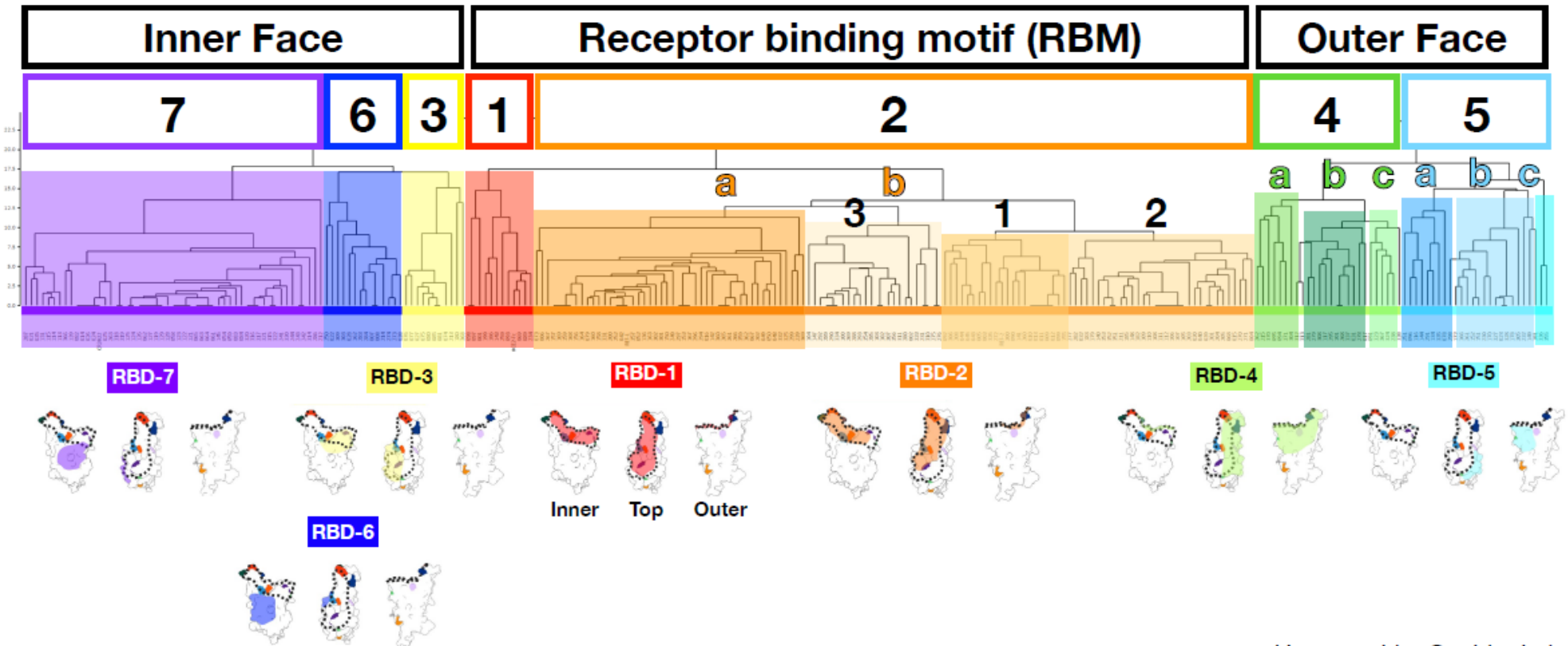


## Representative heat map of a CoVIC panel assay

- ◆ 170 ligands x 188 analytes  
31,960 interactions
- ◆ Single experiment
- ◆ Binning map is highly symmetric
- ◆ All ligands show self-versus self blockade
- ◆ Clear shared relationships and complex overlapping, but differentiated competition profiles



# 7 core RBD-directed communities and 10 sub communities



Haoyang Li + Sapphire Lab

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Adapted from K. M. Hastie et al., *Science* 10.1126/science.abh2315 (2021)

# Bispecific and Multi-specific Antibody Characterization





# NIAID developed potent and broadly neutralizing bi-specifics

## Science Translational Medicine

### CORONAVIRUS

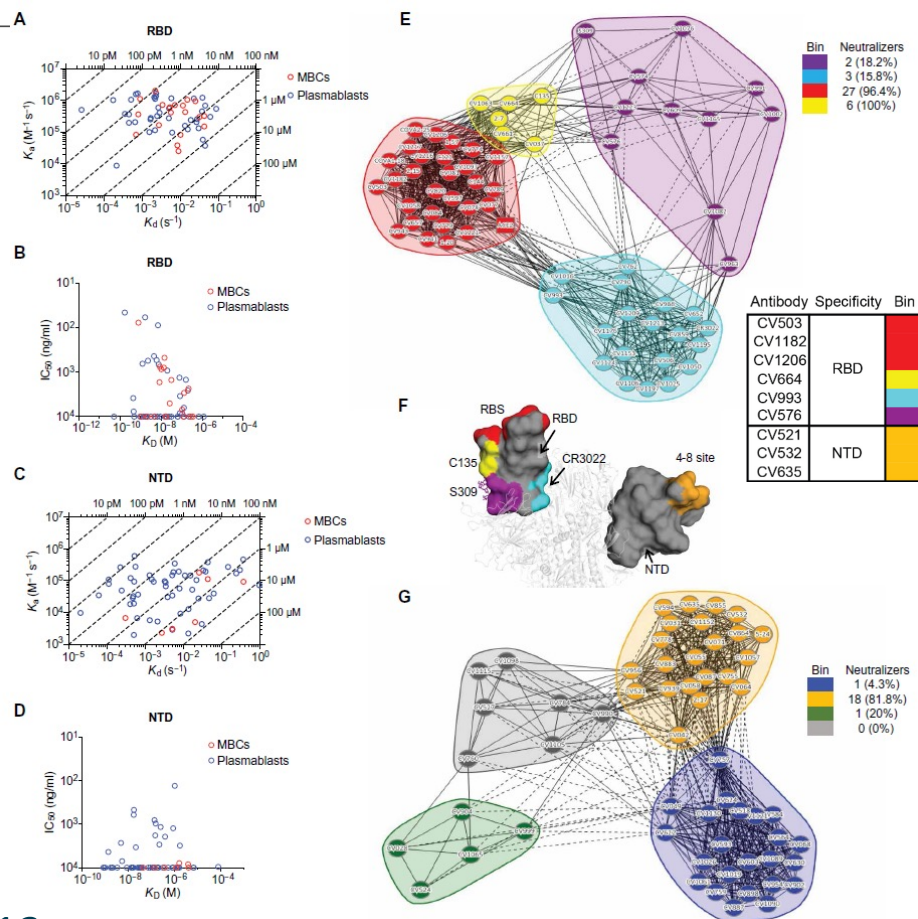
## Bispecific antibodies targeting distinct regions of the spike protein potentially neutralize SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern

Hyeseon Cho<sup>1†</sup>, Kristina Kay Gonzales-Wartz<sup>2†‡</sup>, Deli Huang<sup>3†</sup>, Meng Yuan<sup>4†</sup>, Mary Peterson<sup>1†</sup>, Janie Liang<sup>5</sup>, Nathan Beutler<sup>3</sup>, Jonathan L. Torres<sup>4</sup>, Yu Cong<sup>5</sup>, Elena Postnikova<sup>5</sup>, Sandhya Bangaru<sup>4</sup>, Chloe Adrienna Talana<sup>6</sup>, Wei Shi<sup>6</sup>, Eun Sung Yang<sup>6</sup>, Yi Zhang<sup>6</sup>, Kwanyee Leung<sup>6</sup>, Lingshu Wang<sup>6</sup>, Linghang Peng<sup>3</sup>, Jeff Skinner<sup>1</sup>, Shanping Li<sup>1</sup>, Nicholas C. Wu<sup>4†§</sup>, Hejun Liu<sup>4</sup>, Cherrelle Dacon<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Moyer<sup>7</sup>, Melanie Cohen<sup>7</sup>, Ming Zhao<sup>8</sup>, Frances Eun-Hyung Lee<sup>9</sup>, Rona S. Weinberg<sup>10</sup>, Iyadh Douagi<sup>7</sup>, Robin Gross<sup>5</sup>, Connie Schmaljohn<sup>5</sup>, Amarendra Pegu<sup>6</sup>, John R. Mascola<sup>6</sup>, Michael Holbrook<sup>5</sup>, David Nemazee<sup>3</sup>, Thomas F. Rogers<sup>3,11</sup>, Andrew B. Ward<sup>4</sup>, Ian A. Wilson<sup>4,12||</sup>, Peter D. Crompton<sup>1\*||</sup>, Joshua Tan<sup>2\*||</sup>

- Generated neutralizing monoclonals from patient PBMCs
- Evaluated for potency, affinity, and epitope diversity
- Used epitope binning to design likely synergistic RBD bispecific DVD-Ig
- Found highly potent, broadly neutralizing bispecific mAbs

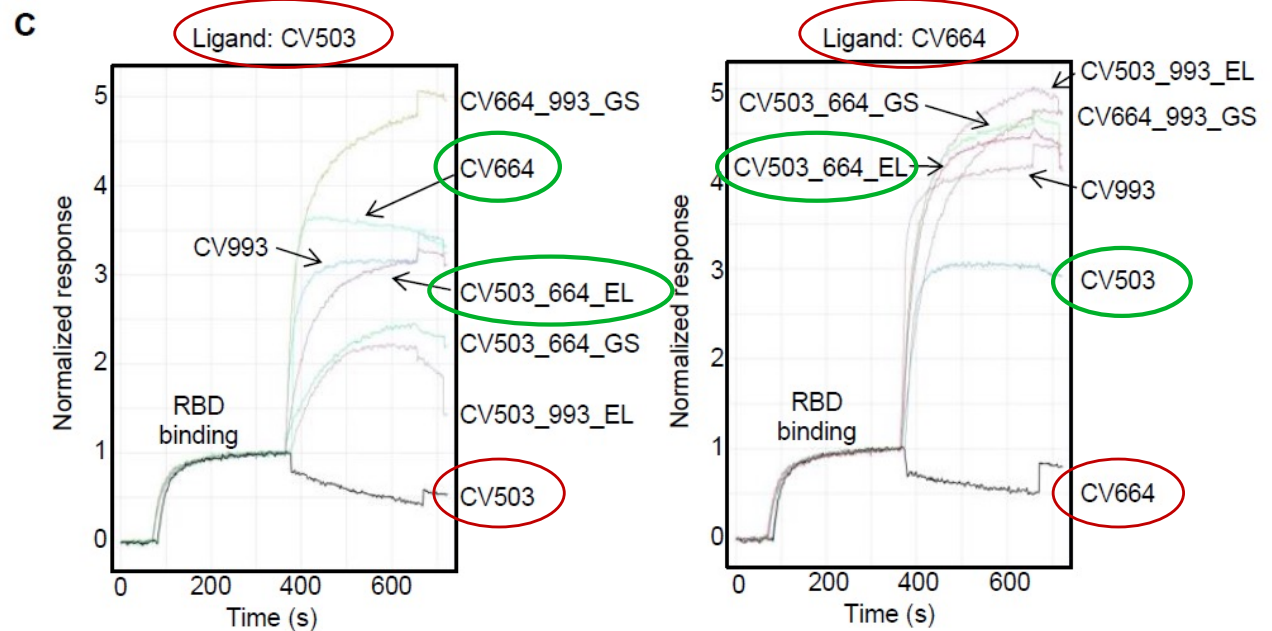
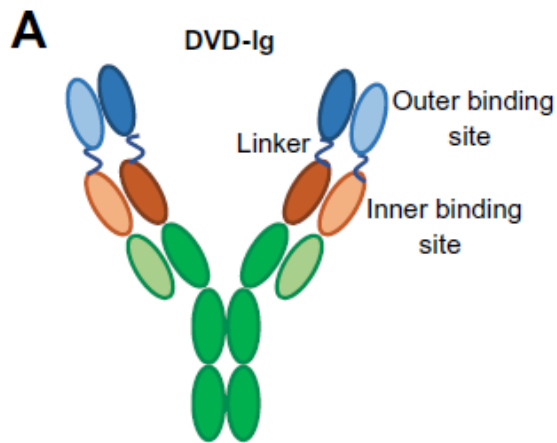


<https://doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.abj5413>



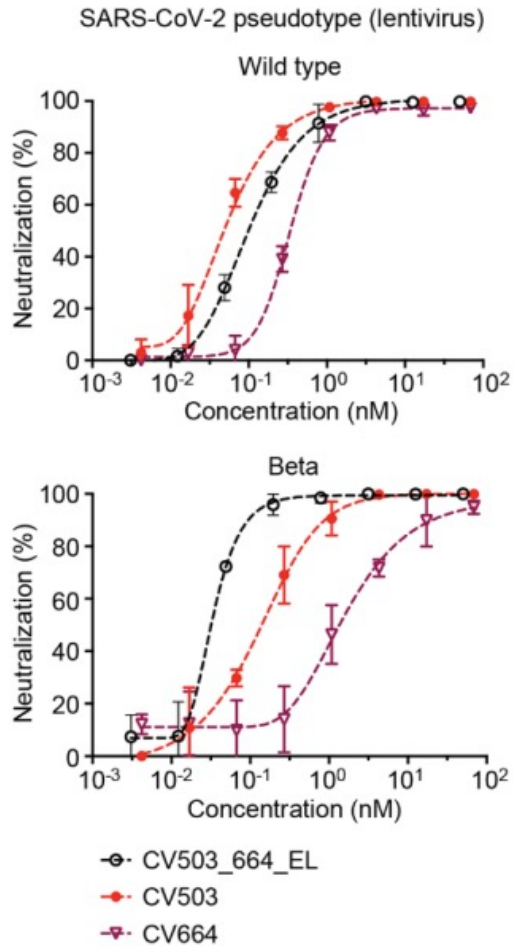
# Bispecifics retained both binding specificities as DVD-Ig

- Using classical sandwich binning format, DVD-Ig bispecifics sandwiched as expected against monospecific parent clones

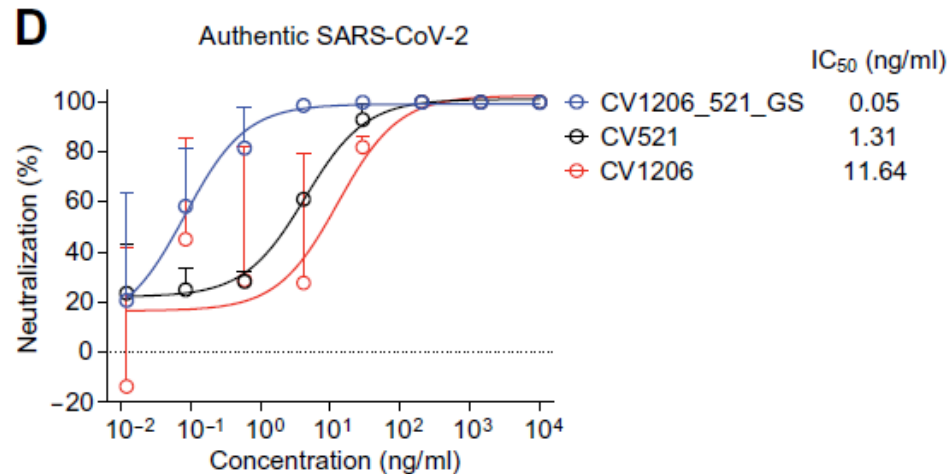


<https://doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.abj5413>

# DVD-Ig Bispecifics are highly potent



- Most bispecific clones demonstrated much higher potency than monospecific constructs
- Retain potency against variants

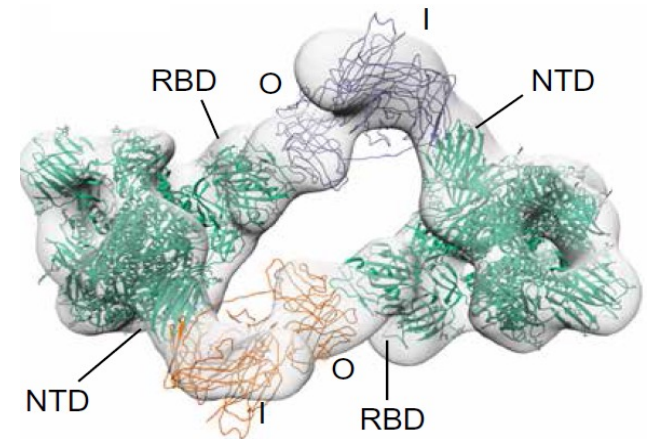
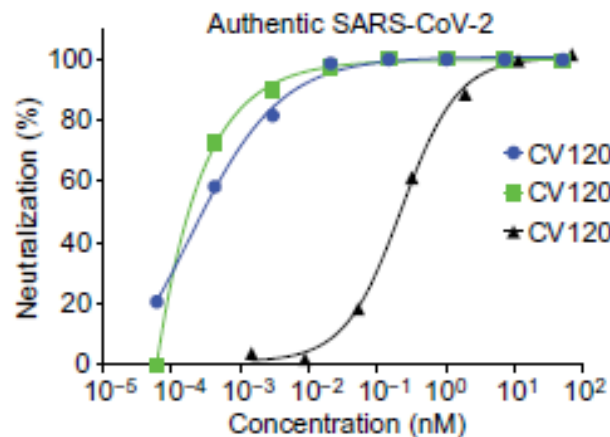


<https://doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.abj5413>



## Additive or Synergistic?

- Potency of mixed monospecific clone cocktails was generally more additive than synergistic
- In some cases the bispecific improved the potency of the clones more than 100-fold versus the cocktail of the two IgGs
- Synergy of CV1206\_521 was likely due to a spike protein cross-linking mechanism
- Additional mechanism of enhanced apparent affinity/avidity also for the dual RBD binders



<https://doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.abj5413>

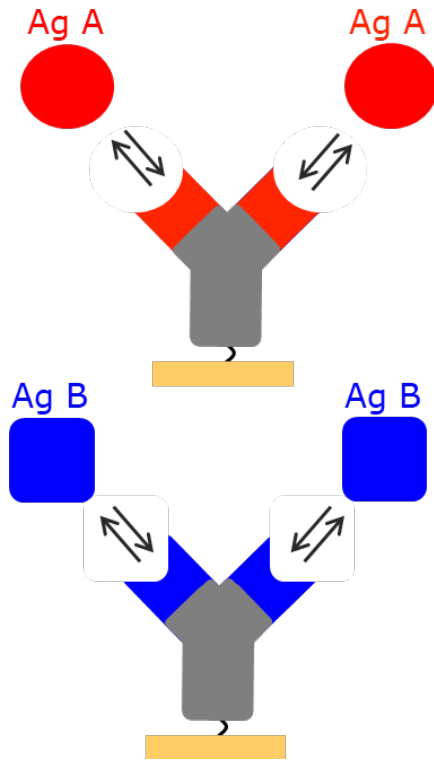
# Bispecific Assay Methods



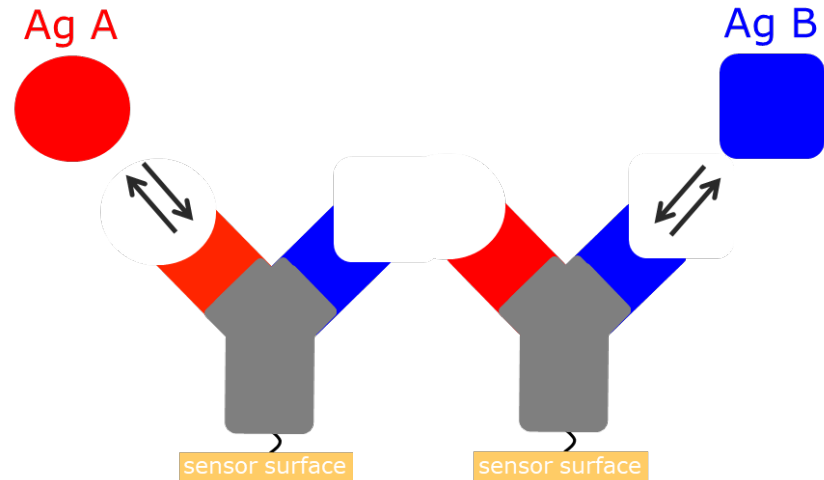
# Assay Type 1: Bispecific kinetic screen of each target

- Do antigens bind the same to bispecifics as monospecific control Abs?

## Monospecific Controls

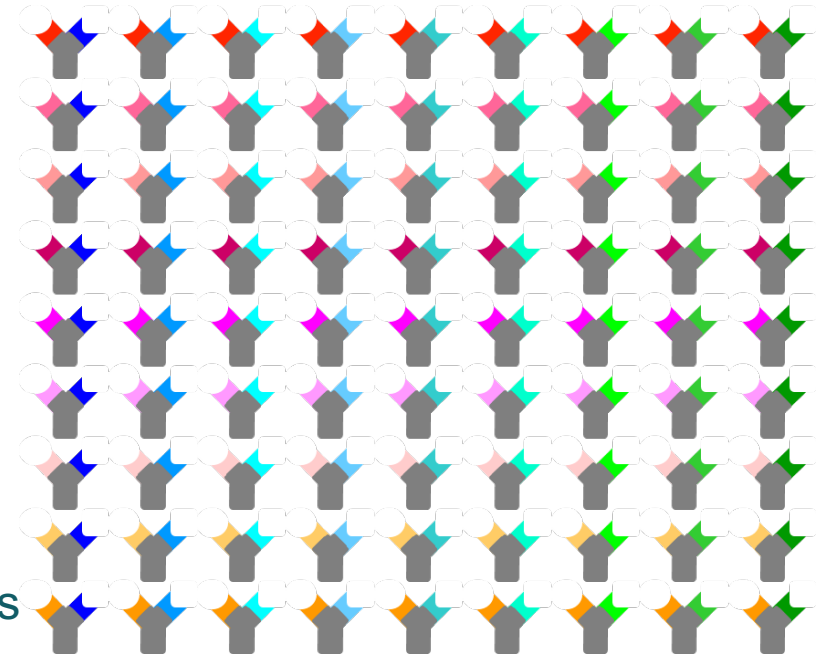


## Bispecific Compounds



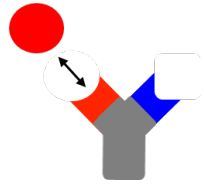
## Binding kinetics and affinity to each target of a Bispecific

- The LSA is ideally suited for routine kinetic characterizations of large panels of ligands versus multiple antigens.
  - 1152 ligands x 2 Analytes is an unattended 48 hour run- full kinetic profiles
- Example is a matrix of ligands with mixed specificities to two targets.
  - 12 unique sequences targeting Ag A and 12 sequences targeting Ag B
  - Samples are prepared in a matrix creating 144 unique combinations plus monospecific controls
  - A single capture kinetics assay was run overnight to assess the kinetics of all 144 ligands to each target.

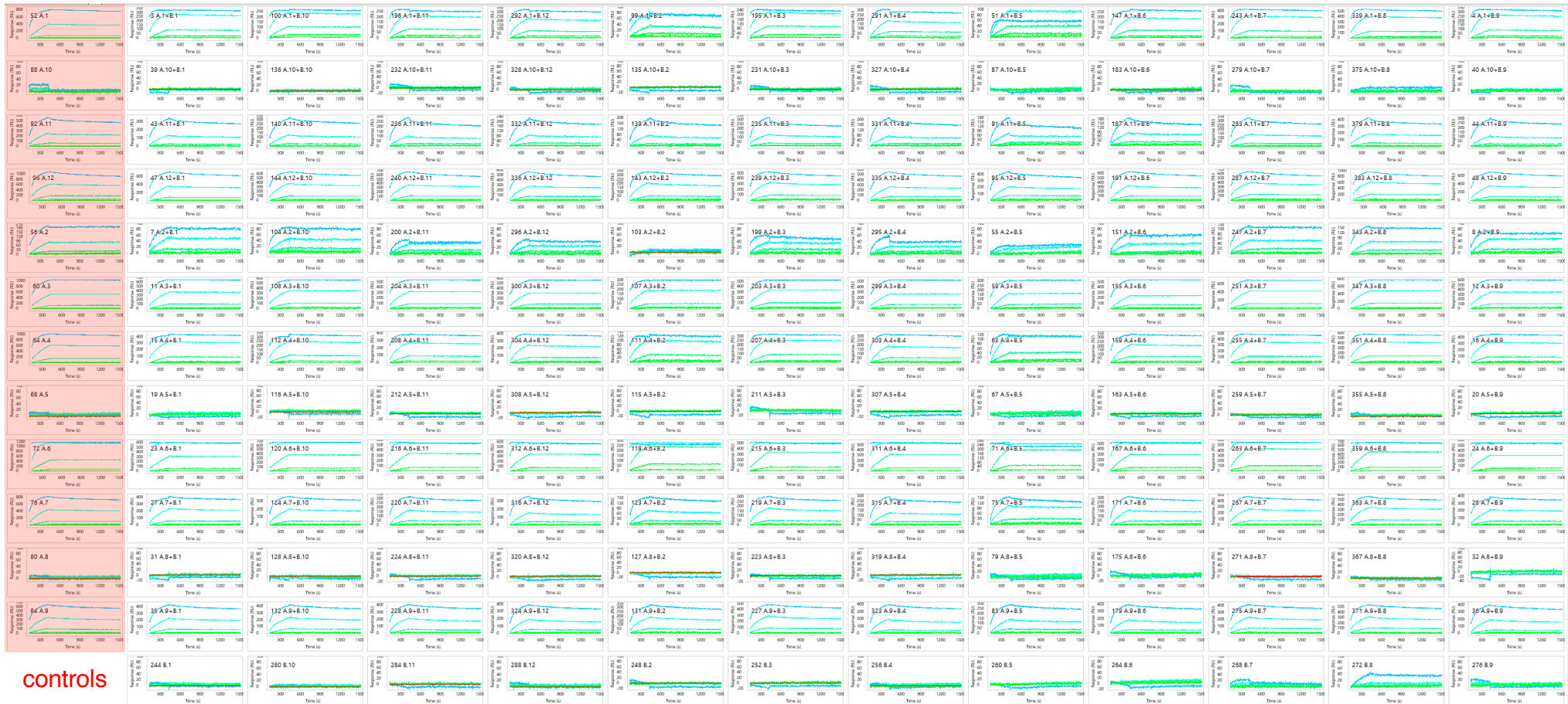




# Ag A binding

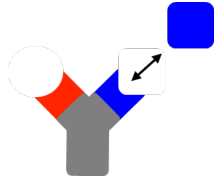


- 144 combinations of A and B binders
- All combinations appear to retain binding activity of A analyte

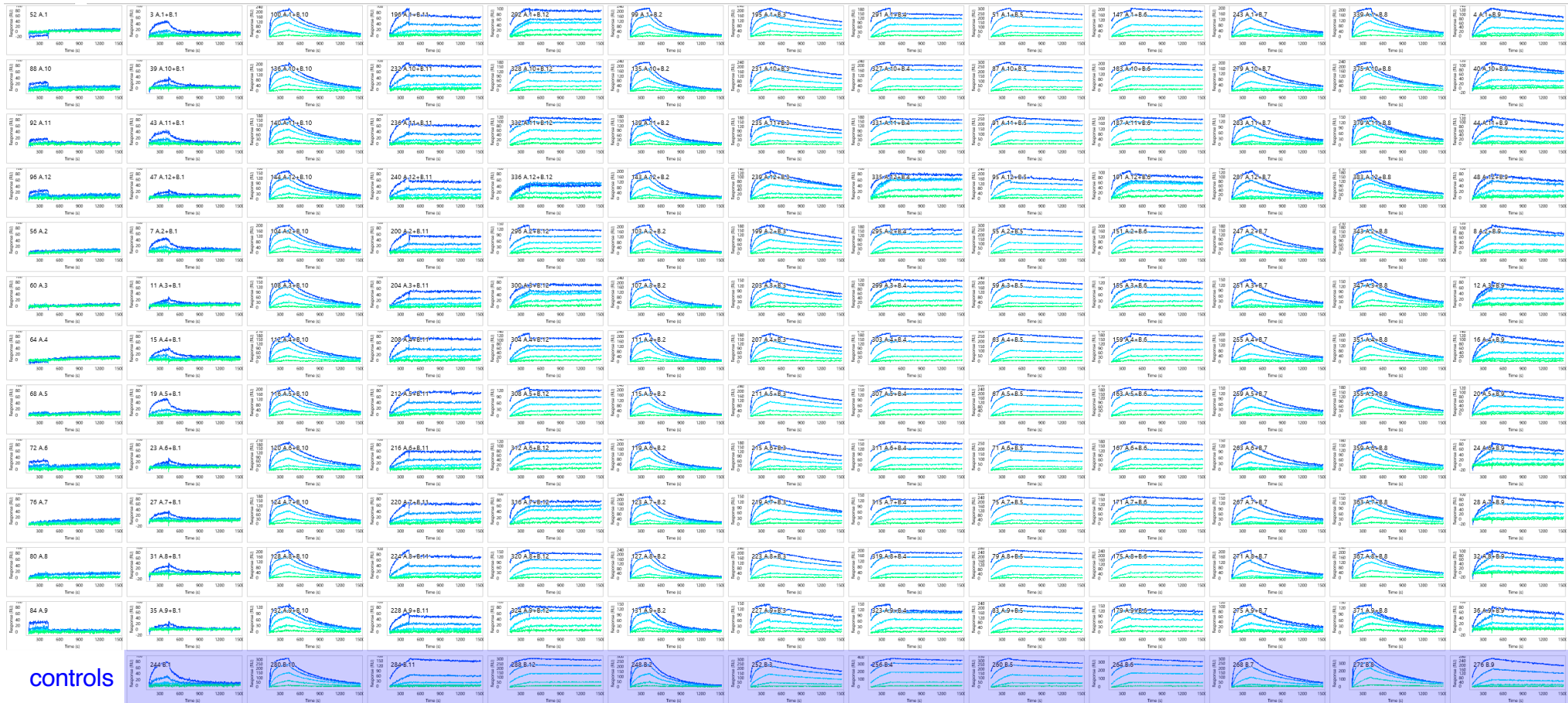




# Ag B binding



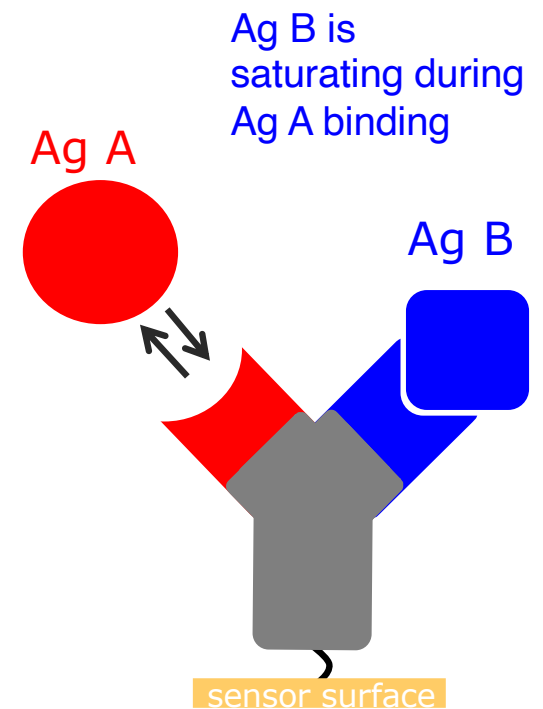
- 144 combinations of A and B binders
- All combinations appear to retain binding activity of B analyte



controls

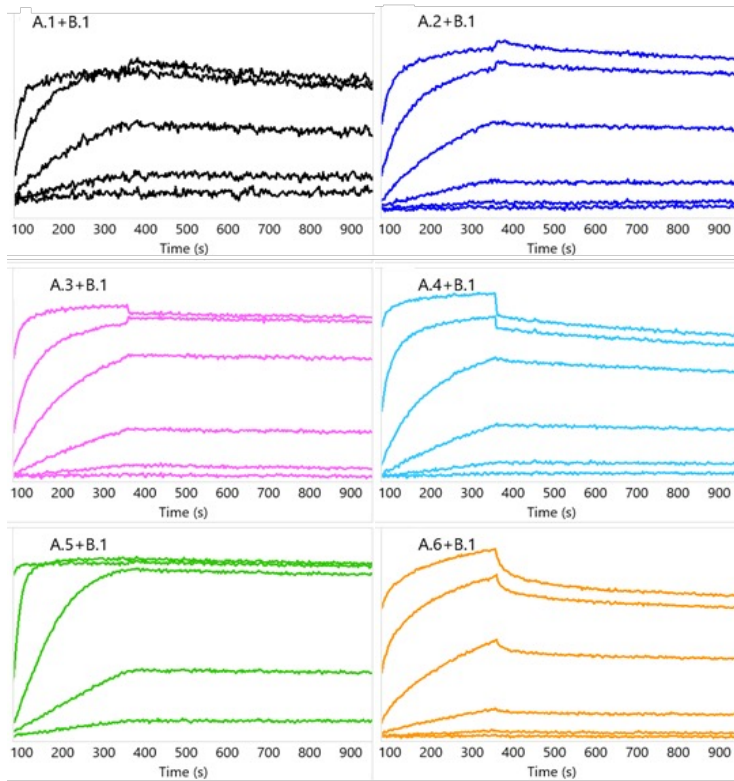
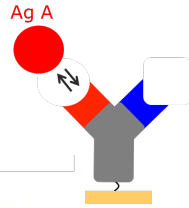
# Assay Type 2: Alternate Site Saturation Kinetics

- Establish independence (non-interference) of target binding
- Assay procedure
  - Immobilize or capture array of mAbs
  - If interaction B is high affinity:
    - Inject saturating conc. of Ag B then inject kinetic series of Ag A
  - If interaction B is lower affinity:
    - Inject saturating concentration of Ag B as blanks
    - Inject a titration series of Ag A diluted into a background of the same saturating concentration of Ag B.
    - Blank can be used for double referencing to extrapolate specific binding curves
- Double referenced data allows for comparison to original independent affinity measurements

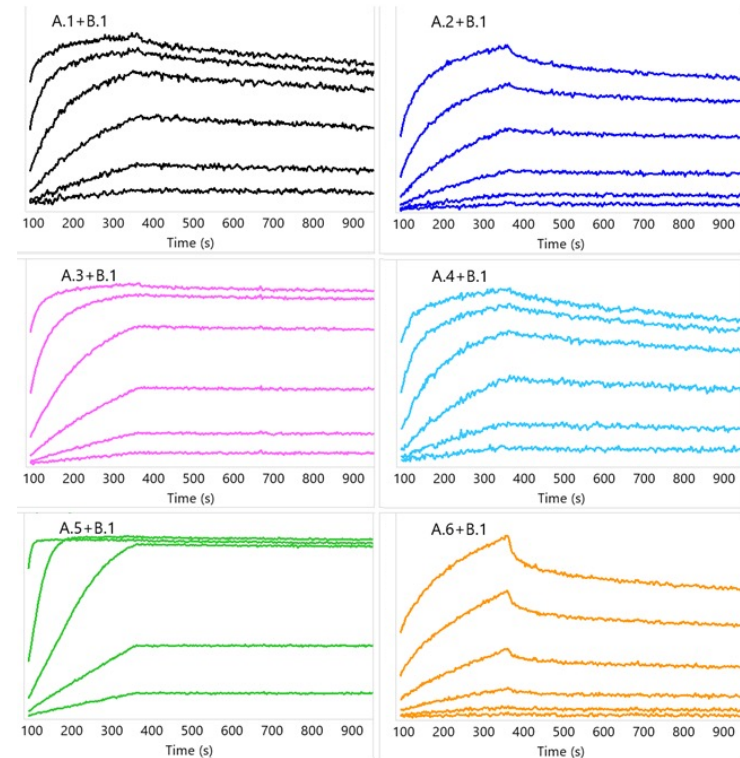
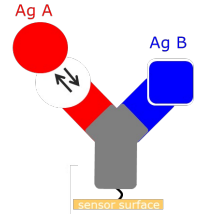


# Alternate Site Saturation Kinetics

## Binding site B not occupied

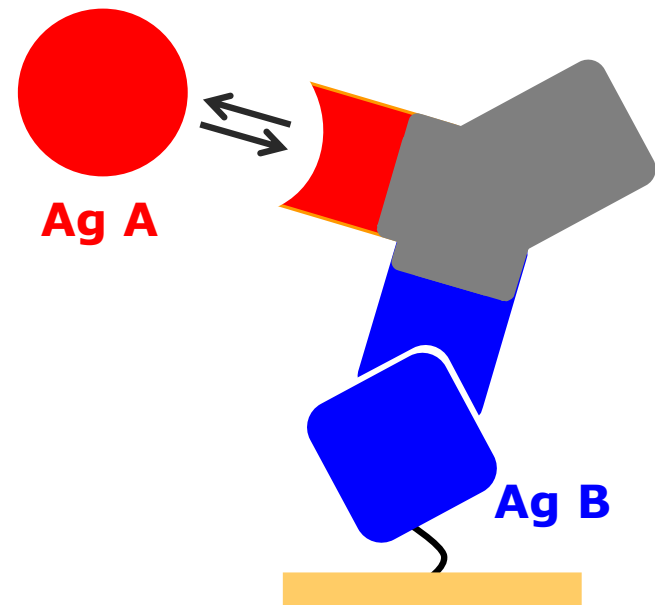


## Binding site B fully occupied



## Assay Type 3: Bispecific Bridging Assay Format

- In addition to the saturation method, the bridging assay format isolates the analyte binding to only antibody molecules which are already bound to the other target
  - For systems where the binder is high affinity this can enable kinetics evaluation of the analyte
  - For low affinity systems bridging assay may be more of a qualitative assessment, validating results from the saturation method
- Assay Steps:
  - Immobilize or capture Ag B on the surface
  - Use 96 Channel flow cell to load bispecifics
  - Use SFC to inject concentration series of analyte A



## Summary

- Bispecific antibody discovery can be supported at an early stage by HT-SPR
- Epitope binning and high throughput kinetics add significant value to bispecific discovery workflows
- The LSA enables several workflows to address the special needs for binding characterization of bispecific molecule panels
  - Saturation binding and bridging assay formats
- Carterra is interested in collaborators with projects aimed at near term publication and presentation of these methods



# Acknowledgements

## **Carterra**

- ◆ Rebecca Rich
- ◆ Noah Ditto
- ◆ Judicaël Parisot
- ◆ Dan Bedinger
- ◆ Tim Germann

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- ◆ Kathryn Hastie
- ◆ Sharon Schendel
- ◆ Hoayang Li
- ◆ Erica Ollman Sapphire

## **NIAID, NIH**

- ◆ Joshua Tan

[www.carterra-bio.com](http://www.carterra-bio.com)

**Contact:** [questions@carterra-bio.com](mailto:questions@carterra-bio.com)



# Appendix





# Coronavirus Immunotherapy Consortium- CoVIC

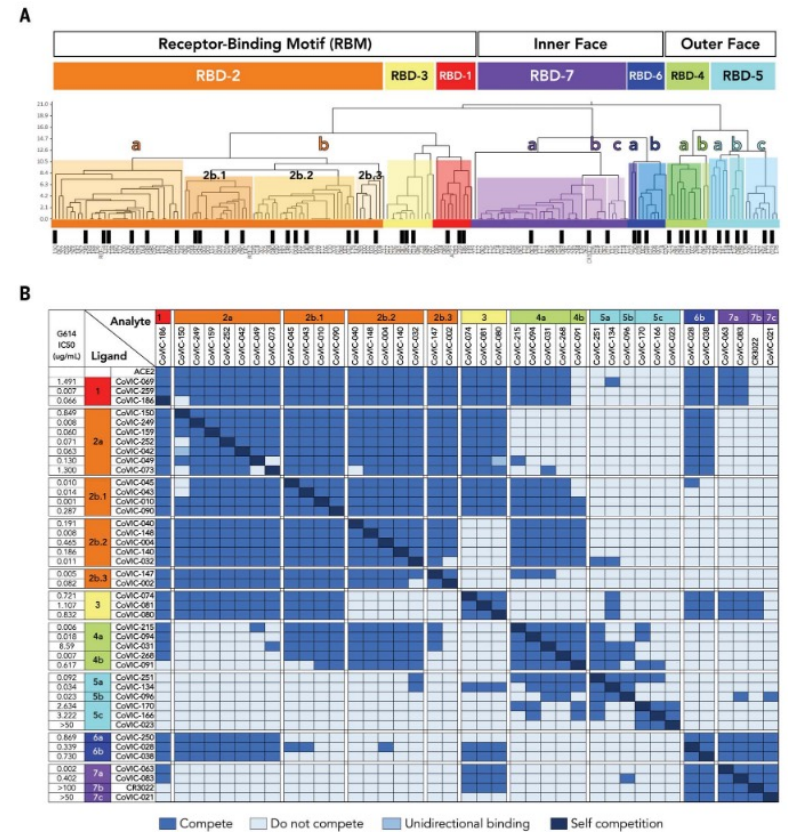
Science

CORONAVIRUS

## Defining variant-resistant epitopes targeted by SARS-CoV-2 antibodies: A global consortium study

Kathryn M. Hastie<sup>1</sup>†, Haoyang Li<sup>1</sup>†, Daniel Bedinger<sup>2</sup>, Sharon L. Schendel<sup>1</sup>, S. Moses Dennison<sup>3</sup>, Kan Li<sup>3</sup>, Vamseedhar Rayaprolu<sup>1</sup>, Xiaoying Yu<sup>1</sup>, Colin Mann<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Zandonatti<sup>1</sup>, Ruben Diaz Avalos<sup>1</sup>, Dawid Zyla<sup>1</sup>, Tierra Buck<sup>1</sup>, Sean Hui<sup>1</sup>, Kelly Shaffer<sup>1</sup>, Chitra Hariharan<sup>1</sup>, Jiyeun Yin<sup>1</sup>, Eduardo Olmedillas<sup>1</sup>, Adrian Enriquez<sup>1</sup>, Diptiben Parekh<sup>1</sup>, Milite Abraha<sup>3</sup>, Elizabeth Feeney<sup>3</sup>, Gillian Q. Horn<sup>3</sup>, CoVIC-DB team<sup>1</sup>, Yoann Aldon<sup>4</sup>, Hanif Ali<sup>5</sup>, Sanja Aracic<sup>6</sup>, Ronald R. Cobb<sup>7</sup>, Ross S. Federman<sup>8</sup>, Joseph M. Fernandez<sup>9</sup>, Jacob Glanville<sup>10</sup>, Robin Green<sup>8</sup>, Gevorg Grigoryan<sup>8</sup>, Ana G. Lujan Hernandez<sup>11</sup>, David D. Ho<sup>12</sup>, Kuan-Ying A. Huang<sup>13</sup>, John Ingraham<sup>8</sup>, Weidong Jiang<sup>14</sup>, Paul Kellam<sup>15,16</sup>, Cheolmin Kim<sup>17</sup>, Minsoo Kim<sup>17</sup>, Hyeong Mi Kim<sup>17</sup>, Chao Kong<sup>18</sup>, Shelly J. Krebs<sup>19</sup>, Fei Lan<sup>9,20</sup>, Guojun Lang<sup>18</sup>, Sooyoung Lee<sup>17</sup>, Cheuk Lun Leung<sup>8</sup>, Junli Liu<sup>14</sup>, Yanan Lu<sup>9,21</sup>, Anna MacCamy<sup>22</sup>, Andrew T. McGuire<sup>22</sup>, Anne L. Palser<sup>15</sup>, Terence H. Rabbitts<sup>5,23</sup>, Zahra Rikhtegaran Tehrani<sup>24</sup>, Mohammad M. Sajadi<sup>24</sup>, Rogier W. Sanders<sup>4</sup>, Aaron K. Sato<sup>11</sup>, Liang Schweizer<sup>25</sup>, Jimin Seo<sup>17</sup>, Bingqing Shen<sup>25</sup>, Jonne L. Snitselaar<sup>4</sup>, Leonidas Stamatatos<sup>22</sup>, Yongcong Tan<sup>18</sup>, Milan T. Tomić<sup>26</sup>, Marit J. van Gils<sup>4</sup>, Sawsan Youssef<sup>10</sup>, Jian Yu<sup>12</sup>, Tom Z. Yuan<sup>11</sup>, Qian Zhang<sup>25</sup>, Bjoern Peters<sup>1,27</sup>, Georgia D. Tomaras<sup>3</sup>, Timothy Germann<sup>2</sup>, Erica Ollmann Saphire<sup>1,27\*</sup>

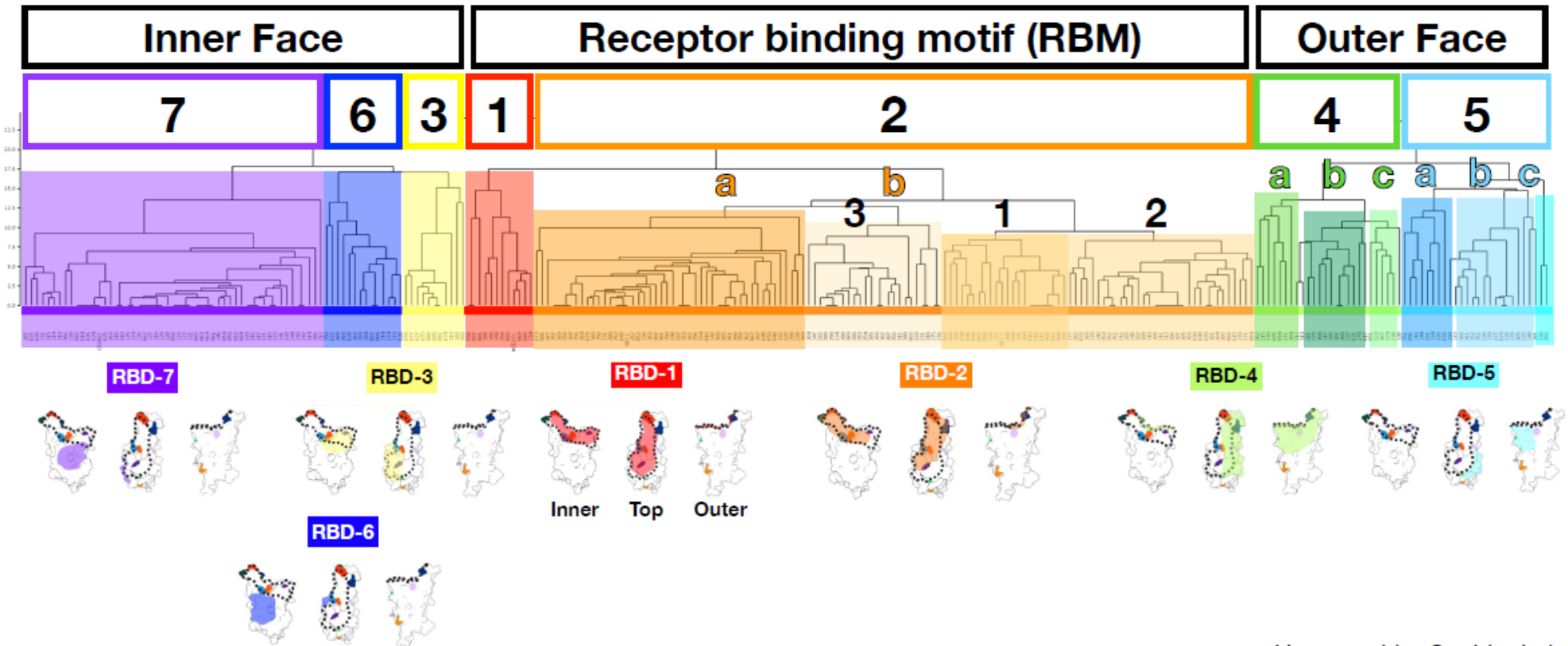
<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abh2315>



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# 7 core RBD-directed communities and 10 sub communities



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