

## **IPI - Recombinant Antibodies for the Advancement of Science**

## Deborah Moshinsky, PhD Director of Antibody Characterization and Validation May 6, 2025



## **Outline of Presentation**

- Introduction to IPI
- IPI's Monoclonal Antibody Generation Program
  - Yeast Display Technology and Library
- Antibody Characterization and Validation
  - Antigen binding
    - Importance of High-Throughput Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR)
    - Cell Display
  - Application Testing —
    - External Collaborator and Internal
    - Immunofluorescence (IF), ELISA, Western Blot, Immunoprecipitation (IP) Mass Spec., Immunohistochemistry (IHC)
  - **Cross-Reactivity Analysis**
- Distribution through Addgene





# The Institute for Protein Innovation (IPI)

IPI is a non-profit hybrid organization focused on protein science

- Co-founded in 2017 by Timothy Springer, PhD & Andrew Kruse, PhD
- Developing protein tools and knowledge about their use for the biomedical research community
- Dedicated to sharing science broadly and openly
- Located in Boston's Longwood Medical Area







# **Enabling New Biology Through Protein Innovation**

High-Throughput Reagent Antibody Discovery using Display Technology **Goal:** >1,000 recombinant mAbs for 200 targets per year

Axon Guidance

### Campaigns against **Protein Families**

- Collaborate
- **Build communities**
- Disseminate reagents & knowledge

Focus in specific areas of **Neuroscience** 

• Future expansion into other underserved research areas



Zhang et al. Current Topics in Developmental Biology



### Synaptic Cleft



Chowdury et al Current Topics in Developmental Biology 2021



## **Recombinant Monoclonal Antibody Platform Overview**





# IPI Utilizes Yeast Display for Ab Discovery





Display

Yeast

### Antigen Interaction



# IPI Library 3.1 – Design Features

- 5 VH and 4 VL germlines
- HCDR3 is the only region containing diversity (>2x10<sup>10</sup> transformants)
  - 8 x10<sup>9</sup> sequences
- Amino acid frequencies mimic human naive HCDR3
- Sequence liabilities removed
- HCDR3 length: 11 to 17 amino acids
- Rational design enables AI/ML approach for Ab selection

Working on other formats (VHH, biparatopics)

VH





## The Reproducibility Crisis

- Reproducibility of scientific research questioned •
  - E.g. 47 of 53 landmark cancer research papers not reproducible\*
- Poorly characterized antibodies a major driver
  - ~\$1 billion each year is wasted on antibodies that don't work
  - Many anecdotal stories
    - David Rimm ended a \$2M program in melanoma
      - New batch of antibody could not reproduce original results
- Ab characterization efforts have increased •
  - Ab providers' application testing
  - YCharOS Ab Characterization through Open Science
    - Commercial Ab testing in WB, IP, IF
      - Remove inactive Abs from market

# **BLAME IT ON THE** ANTIBODIES

Antibodies are the workhorses of biological experiments, but they are littering the field with false findings. A few evangelists are pushing for change.

BY MONYA BAKER

274 | NATURE | VOL 521 | 21 MAY 2015

\* Begley, C. G. & Ellis, L. M. Nature 483, 531–533 (2012)







## IPI's Quality Standards

- Antigens and antibodies are produced in-house
- Antibodies undergo QC and application testing
  - Size exclusion chromatography (SEC) for aggregation status
  - Mass Spec MW analysis for sequence verification \_\_\_\_
  - Stability analysis
  - Antigen binding
    - Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) using purified antigen  $\succ$
    - Flow cytometry on cells expressing exogenous antigen ectodomain (cell display)  $\succ$
  - Collaborator application testing
    - Immunohistochemistry (IHC), Immunofluorescence (IF), ELISA  $\succ$
    - Specialized testing (e.g. knockouts, primary neurons)  $\succ$
    - Leaders in the field  $\succ$
  - Internal IPI application testing ongoing initiative
    - IF  $\succ$
    - ELISA, Western Blot, Immunoprecipitation (IP) Mass Spec., and IHC to be implemented







## **Antibody Characterization and Validation Testing Funnel**

~24 antibodies per target; hundreds of targets



- High-throughput assays and cell systems
- Medium-throughput assays (more physiological relevant)

Antibodies with activity in several applications, validated at multiple levels and commercialized through Addgene



# **SPR Testing Workflow**





- 5 [Ag] (400-3.1nM) flowed
- 3 Ab densities (4-0.25ug/mL) spotted
- $K_D$  and off-rate determinations



Throughput 384 antibodies/week for up to 16 antigens



## **SPR Data for Selected Targets**





## SPR Characterization for Glypican (GPC) Antibodies

#### Human and Mouse GPC1-6



**Isoaffinity Plot** 





Crystal structure of N-glycosylated, C-terminally truncated human glypican-1

•PDB DOI: https://doi.org/10.2210/pdb4ACR/pdb

Antibodies bind glypican targets with high affinity and suitable off-rate Do they bind antigen with high affinity when expressed on cells?





## Flow Cytometry (Cell Display) Testing



**IPI-mGPC3.13 Results** 







### Antibodies bind antigen with high affinity when expressed on cells



## **Overlap between SPR and Cell Display Results**



- 64 total antibodies bind glypican targets in SPR and on cells
- ۲ What is the significance? •
  - Do they work in common research applications? \_
    - Internal IF testing
    - External collaborator IHC and IF testing



### Immunofluorescence Testing of Glypican Antibodies – Exogenous Antigen Expression

GFP DAPI

GFP DAPI

- Transfect CHO cells with antigen construct + GFP
- Affix cells to 96-well glass bottom plates
- Fix cells with 4% PFA
- Permeabilize and block cells
- Incubate with Ab then Alexa 647-labeled secondary
- Incubate with DAPI •
- Image using Molecular Devices ImageXpress confocal HT
  - Positives Abs where green cells have far-red staining on the membrane
  - Negatives Abs lacking far-red staining on the membrane







#### mGPC1 + IPI-GPC1.25



**Representative Images (40X Magnification)** 



### Antibodies work in IF using a transfected CHO cell system Do they work for IF on cells expressing endogenous antigen?



## 'Omics Data-Mining Identifies Cell Lines with Endogenous Antigen



David P. Nusinow and Steven P. Gygi "A Guide to the Quantitative Proteomic Profiles of the Cancer Cell Line Encyclopedia" bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.02.03.932384 Publication doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2019.12.023

### 12,755 proteins 4.7 million peptides

ne	Tissue type	IPI antigens
	SoftTissue	FZD4; FZD7; GPC1; GPC3; GPC4; LTBP3; NBL1; NLGN2; NRP1; ROBO1; SLIT1; TGFB1; TGFB2
9	CNS/Brain	FZD7; GPC1; GPC4; LTBP3; NBL1; NLGN1; NRP1; NTN1; ROBO1; SLIT1; TGFB1; TGFB2
	Bone	FZD4; FZD7; LTBP3; NBL1; NLGN1; NLGN2; NRP1; ROBO1; ROBO2; TGFB1; TGFB2; TGFB3
0	Esophagus/Stomach	FZD7; GPC1; GPC3; GPC4; LTBP3; NRP1; ROBO1; SLIT1; TGFB1; TGFB3
6	Lung	FZD7; GPC1; GPC4; LTBP3; NBL1; NLGN2; NRP1; ROBO1; TGFB1; TGFB2



### IF and IHC Testing of Glypican Antibodies – Endogenous Antigen Expression





## **Cross-Reactivity Testing and Path Forward**



- Cross-reactivity analysis
  - Enabled by the focus on protein families
  - Flow cytometry data on GPC1, 3, and 4 antibodies against all family members (Hu, Mo)
  - Can be assessed by Flow, SPR, or IF \_
- Further application testing (Future) •
  - ELISA, IP/MS, Western Blotting, internal IHC
  - **Epitope Binning**
  - Cells and tissues
  - Knockdown and Knockout \_
- Validated antibodies distributed through Addgene •



## Antibody Selection Workflow for Commercialization

- IPI IF Data • Positives progress
- External Evaluator Data
- Preference for positive Abs
- Applications of interest to Biology of target

H/M crossreactivity assessment

 Preference for H/M, but Hu or Mo only acceptable

### IPI SPR/Cell Display Data

- Positive in SPR and/or cell display
- Ab panel compilation
- Send to Collaborators

Family Cross-Reactivity test

Specificity of Ab

~2 Abs per target nominated for commercialization



## **Distributing Antibodies Through Addgene**

Browse / Institute for Protein Innovation (IPI) / Anti-V5 [IPI-SV5-Pk1]

### Anti-V5 [IPI-SV5-Pk1]

(Antibody #218107)

#### Purpose

Anti-V5 tag chimeric recombinant antibody with fused human variable and rabbit constant domains; binds to GKPIPNPLLGLDST sequence.

#### **Depositing Lab**

Institute for Protein Innovation (IPI)

#### **Publication**

Randall et al J Gen Virol. 1987 Nov;68 (Pt 11):2769-80. doi: 10.1099/0022-1317-68-11-2769. (How to cite  $\downarrow$ )

#### **Recommended Applications** Western Blot



#### Image 1 (of 1): Western Blot

Expi293 cells were transfected with Fab containing Cterminal V5 tag (+V5 tag) or Fab alo... View details Credit: Institute for Protein Innovation (IPI)



## Summary

- IPI Produces High Quality Recombinant Antibodies to Further Scientific Research
  - Extensive Antibody Characterization and Validation —
    - High-Throughput Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR)
    - Cell Display
    - Application Testing
  - **Glypican Antibody Validation** —
    - > IPI IF data
      - Exogenous and Endogenous Expression •
    - Collaborator IHC data
    - Cross-Reactivity Analysis
- Antibody Distribution through Addgene
- Contact us if you'd like to collaborate on an antibody discovery project!



# IPI@PEGS2025

### **Difficult-to-Express Proteins**

Mastering the Expression, Purification, and Production of Challenging Proteins Tools and protocols for improving functional protein production

9:05 am High-Throughput Protein Expression Screening and Production of Cell-Surface Protein Ectodomains



Rob Meijers, PhD, Head, Biological Discovery, Institute for Protein Innovation Cell-surface receptors pose challenges in expression and purification due to low levels, misfolding, and instability.

We introduce a high-throughput ELISA fluorescence approach to rapidly assess multiple recombinant constructs. Utilizing small-scale expression, enzymatic biotinylation, and C-terminal His-tag capture, this approach efficiently prioritizes constructs for large-scale production. We also tested several codon optimization schemes using a minimally designed expression vector. Testing truncation constructs across various protein families

demonstrated its effectiveness, significantly saving time in identifying optimal candidates for downstream applications

Cambridge Healthtech Institute's 4th Annual

### Maximizing Protein Production Workflows

Accelerating Delivery of High-Quality Recombinant Proteins to Support R&D

### Developing optimized protein-process roadmaps (Friday May16th)

#### 8:30 am Strategies for High-Throughput Protein Production



Anita Ghosh, PhD, Senior Scientist, Antigen Production, Institute for Protein Innovation The production and purification of recombinant native mammalian proteins in microgram to milligram quantities is a complex and time-consuming process, often presenting a significant bottleneck in protein-based applications. Despite these challenges, the Antigen Engineering and Production Group at IPI effectively supports both the highthroughput antibody discovery and validation platforms. This presentation highlights the key strategies we employ to overcome large-scale antigen production challenges while achieving "high-throughput-like" efficiency.

Cambridge Healthtech Institute's 4th Annual

### **Machine Learning Approaches for Protein Engineering**

Putting Theory into Practice and Streamlining Biologic Development

### Benchmarking & Automation (Friday May 16th)

#### 11:00 am Harnessing Language Models for Antibody Prioritization



André A. R. Teixeira, PhD, Senior Director, Antibody Platform, Institution for Protein Innovation We are leveraging protein language models to prioritize antibody candidates with superior biophysical properties, streamlining the path from discovery to functional reagents. By applying these models to high-throughput data from our integrated antibody platform—including antigen design, yeast display, sequencing, and characterization—we can rapidly select leads with enhanced developability. This talk will highlight examples and comparisons between different models and languages. Monday/TuesdayA047: High-Throughput Discovery of Recombinant Antibodies Against the Semaphorin Family, Presented by Rebecca Hershman, Institute for Protein Innovation

**Tuesday/Wednesday B047: A Flexible Automated Workstation for our Antibody Discovery Pipeline**, *Presented by Curtis Walton, Institute for Protein Innovation* 

**Tuesday/Wednesday B046: High Throughput Development of High-Affinity Fabs and VHH Using Minimalistic Libraries**, *Presented by Deepash Kothiwal, Institute for Protein Innovation* 

Thursday/Friday C050: High-Throughput Characterization and Validation of Reagent Antibody Tools for Neurexin-Neuroligin Receptor Families, Presented by Murali Anuganti, Institute for Protein Innovation



### Posters:



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# **Back-up Slides**



## Antibody library design





