

# Immunological methods

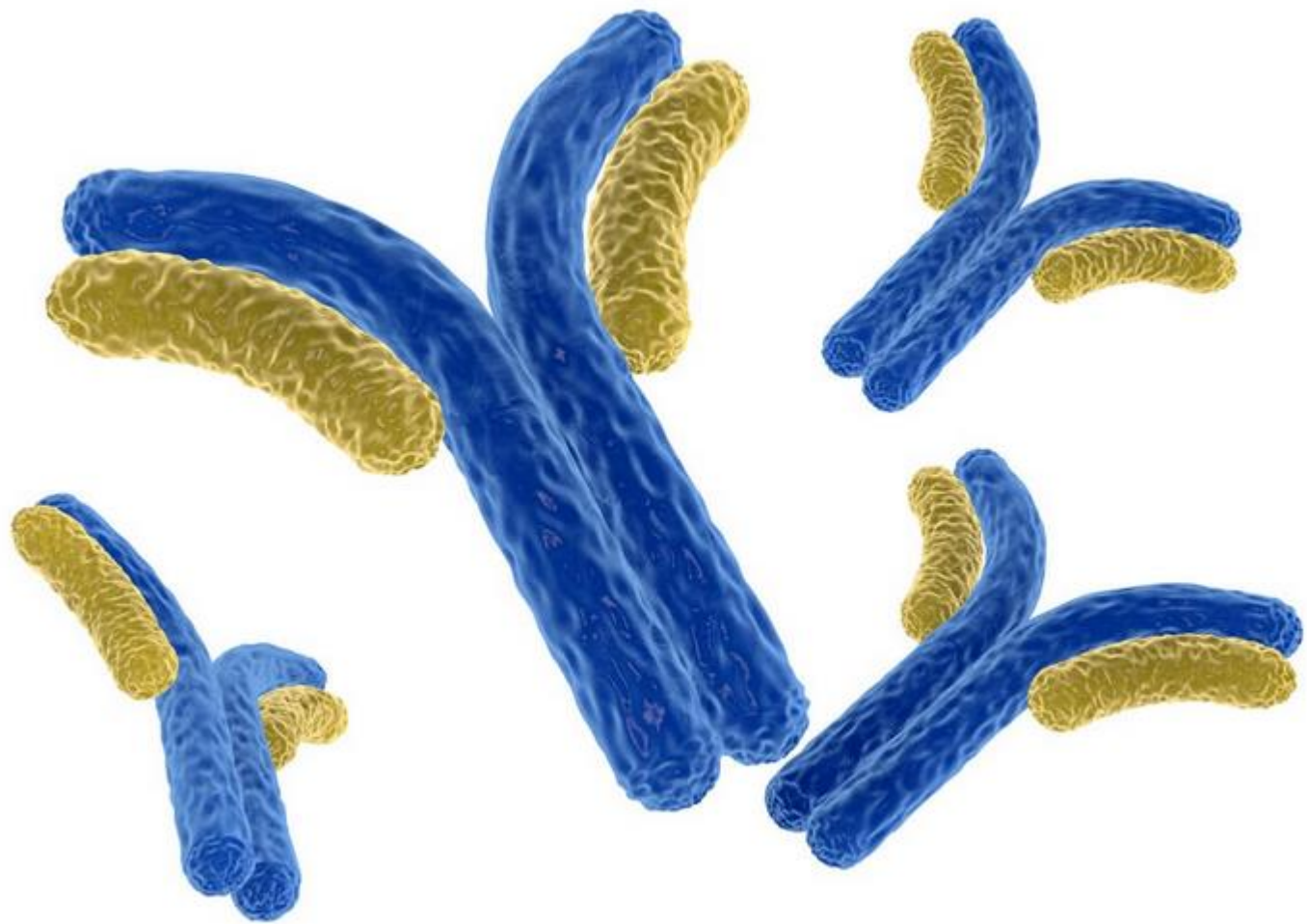
21.05.2025

Carlos Plaza Sirvent

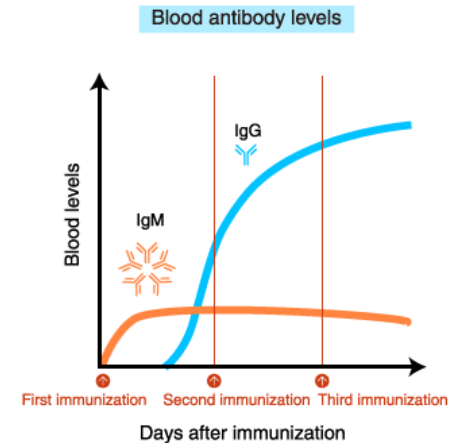
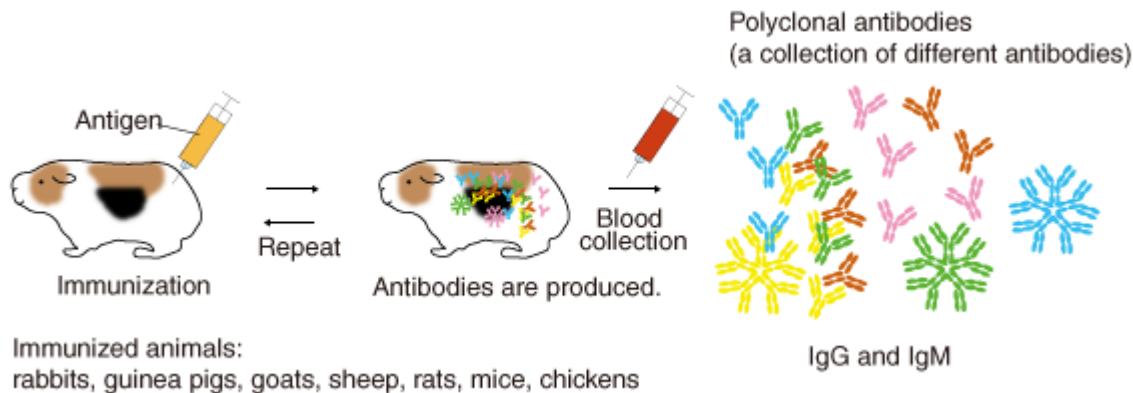
RUHR  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BOCHUM



Molecular Immunology



# Polyclonal antibody generation



Immunoglobulin classes

IgG, IgM, IgD, IgA

IgM, IgA, IgY

Mice



Rabbits



Sheep



Chickens



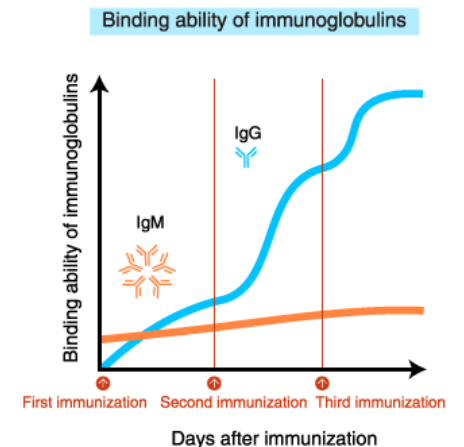
Organ in which immunoglobulin diversity is generated

Bone marrow

Appendix

Peyer's patches

Bursa of Fabricius



# Monoclonal antibodies

## The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1984



Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive.

**Niels K. Jerne**

Prize share: 1/3



Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive.

**Georges J.F. Köhler**

Prize share: 1/3



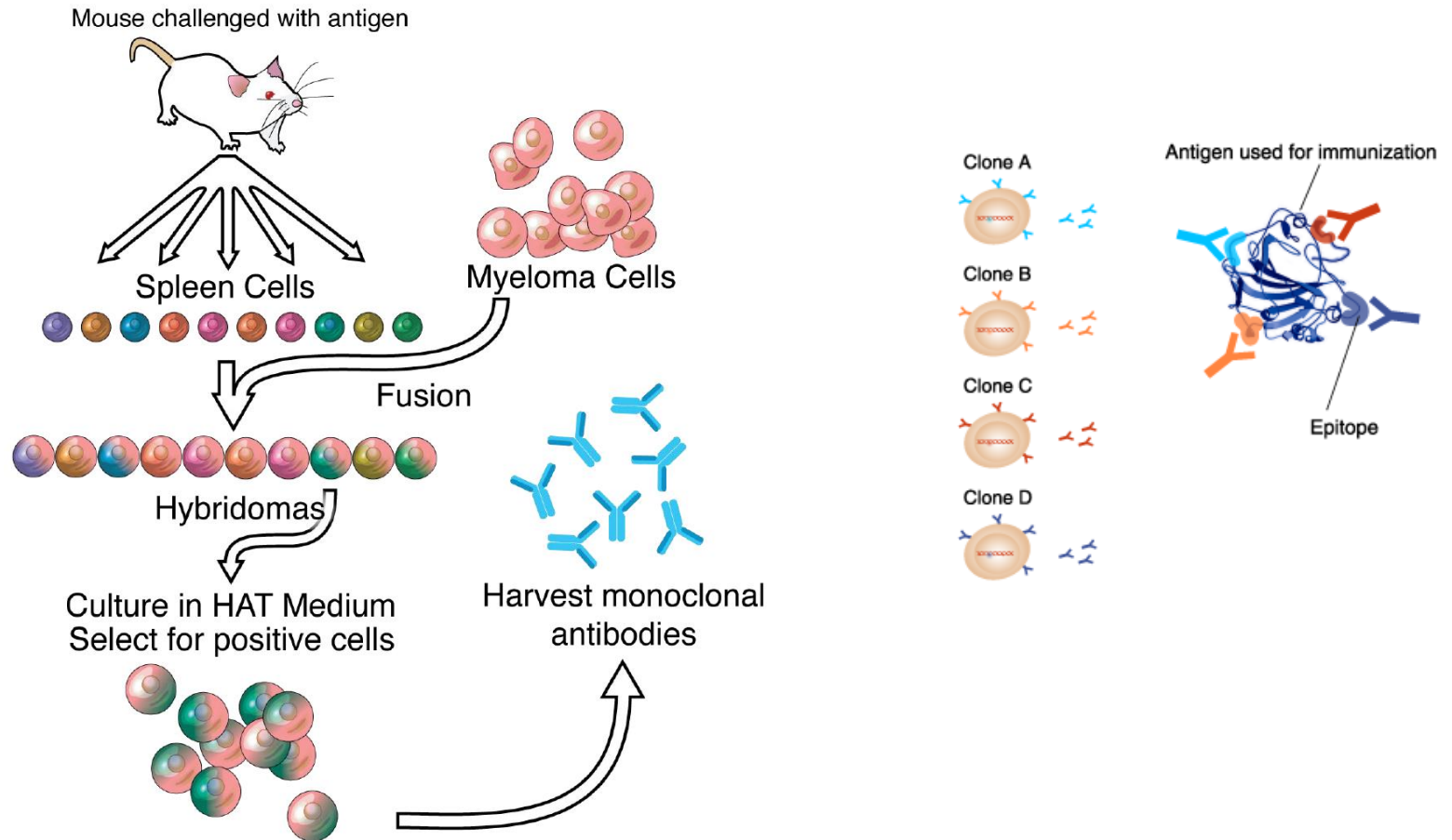
Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive.

**César Milstein**

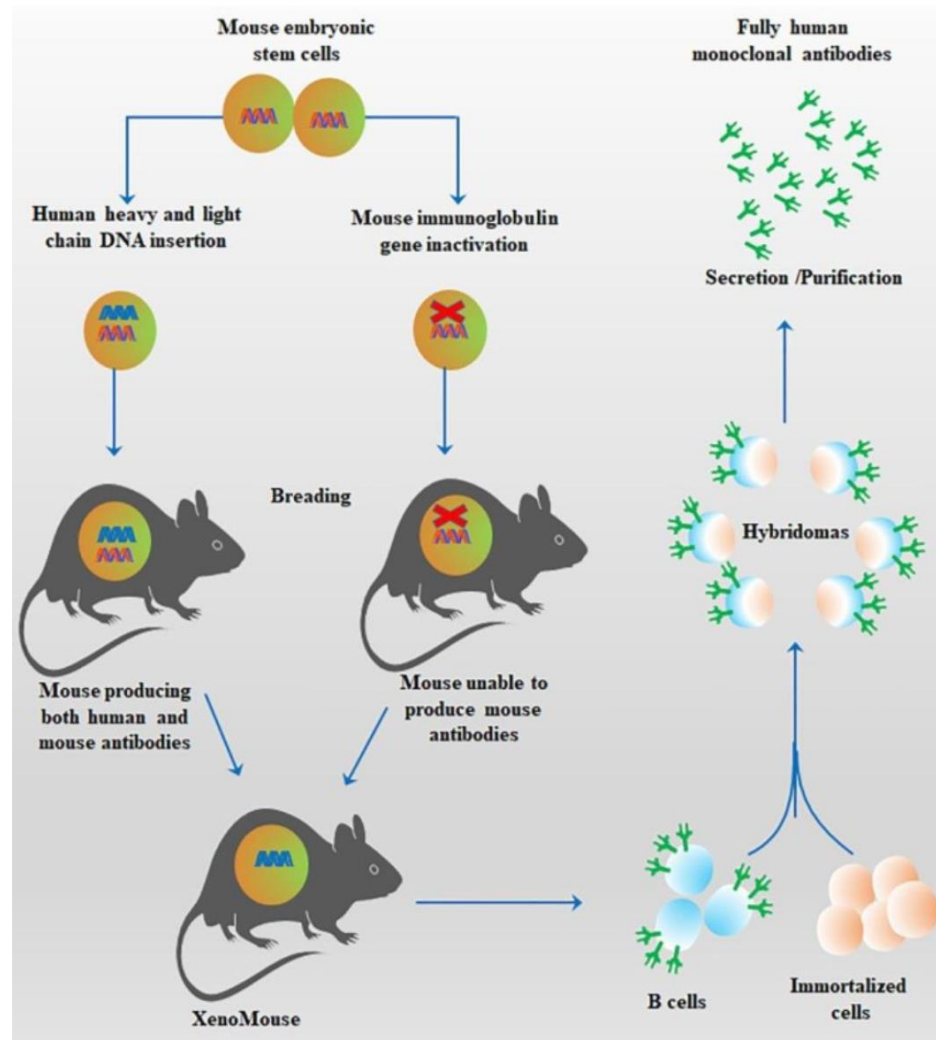
Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1984 was awarded jointly to Niels K. Jerne, Georges J.F. Köhler and César Milstein "for theories concerning the specificity in development and control of the immune system and the discovery of the principle for production of monoclonal antibodies"

# Monoclonal antibody generation

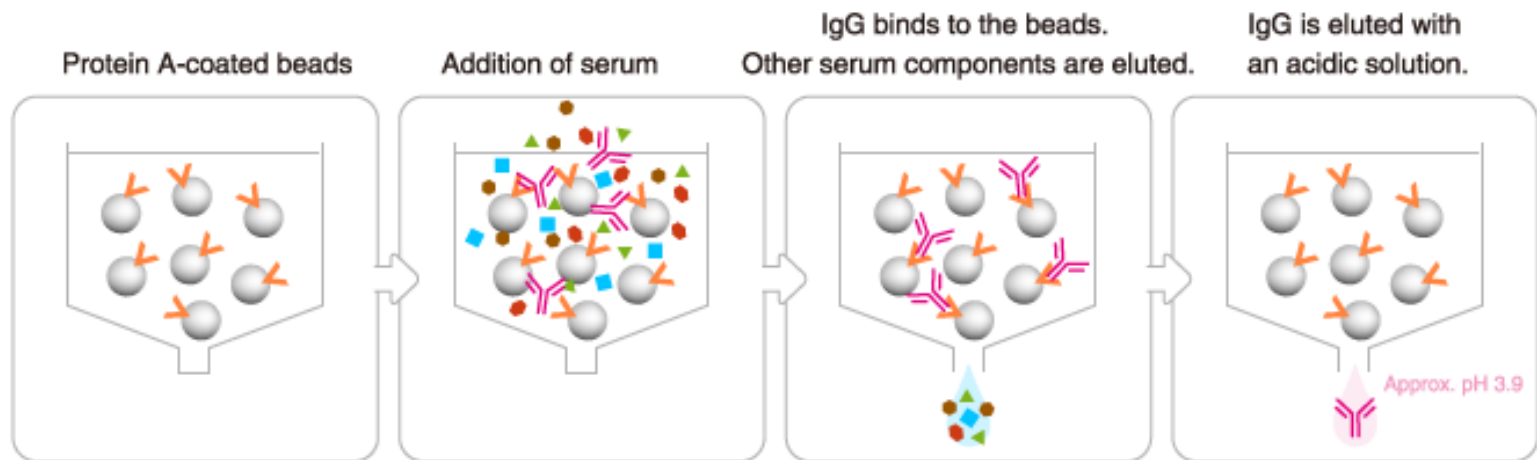


# Humanized monoclonal antibody generation



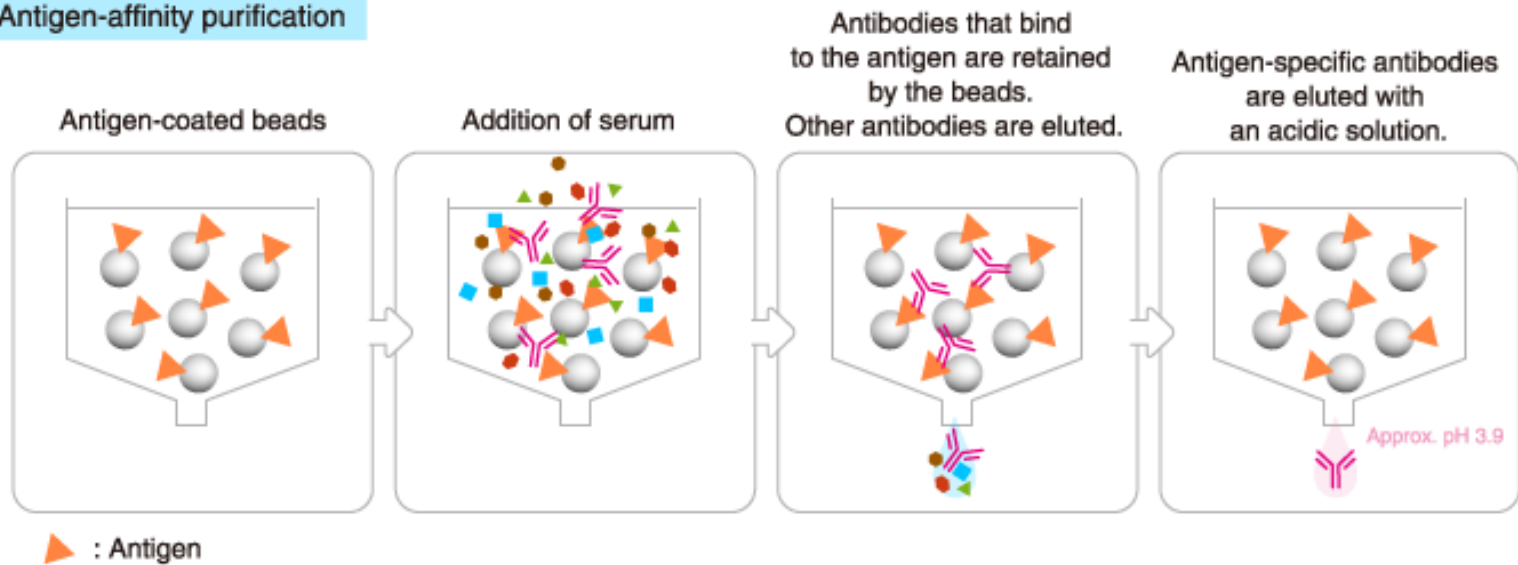
# Antibody purification

## Antibody purification with Protein A



# Antibody purification

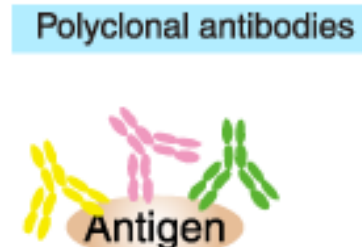
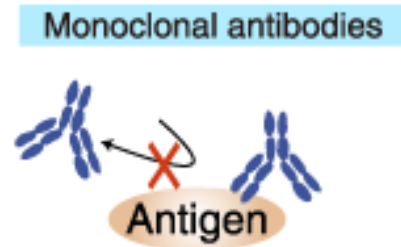
## Antigen-affinity purification



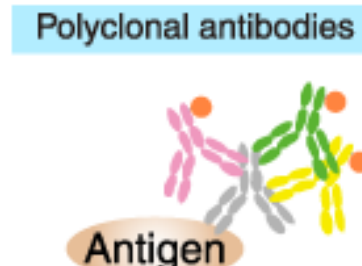
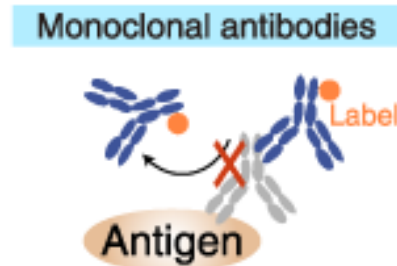


# Polyclonal vs. Monoclonal

As primary:



As secondary:

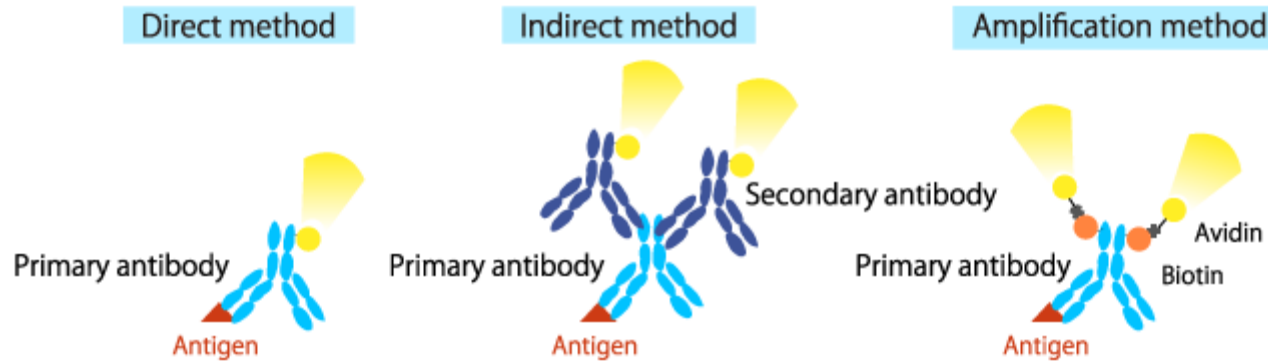


# Polyclonal vs. Monoclonal

Difference between polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies

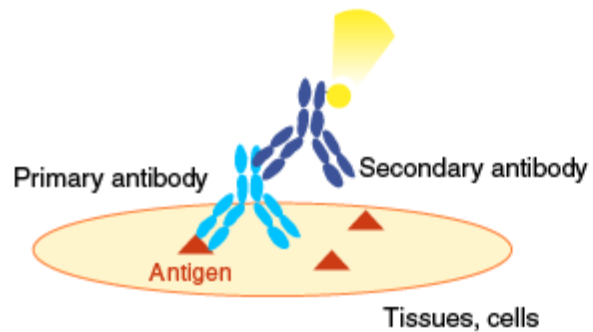
	Polyclonal antibodies	Monoclonal antibodies
Animal species	Rabbit, guinea pig, goat, sheep, rat, mouse, chicken, etc.	Rat, mouse, chicken, rabbit, human, etc.
Form	Antiserum	Hybridoma
Class, subclass	Mixed classes	Single class
Epitope	React to multiple epitopes	React to a single epitope
Specificity	Lower than monoclonal antibodies because multiple types of antibodies are present.	High if good quality antibodies are selected.
Reproducibility	Variable among lots.	The same antibodies are produced indefinitely.
Stability	Binding ability tends to be unaffected by fixation/denaturation of the antigen, because multiple different antibody molecules are present. Tolerate modifications, such as labeling and removal of the Fc region.	Binding ability may be lost if the epitope is lost by fixation/denaturation of the antigen, because monoclonal antibodies are homogeneous. Tend to be sensitive to modifications, such as labeling and removal of the Fc region.

# Labeling options

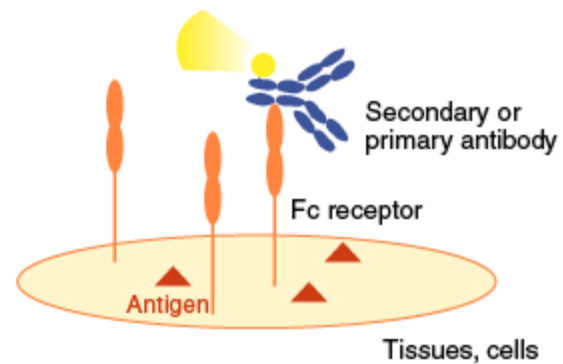


# Non-specific reactions

Normal reaction

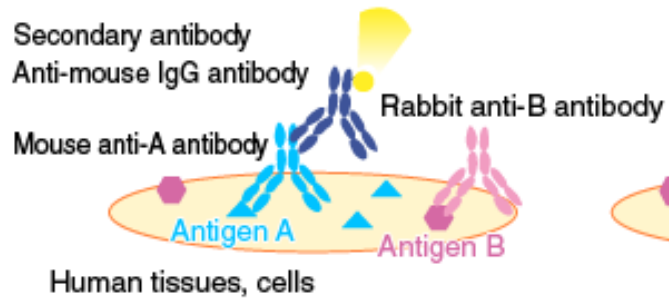


False positive

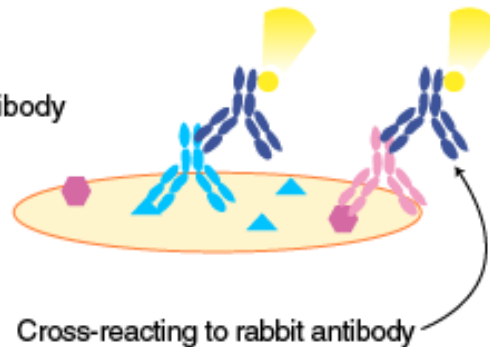


# Non-specific reactions

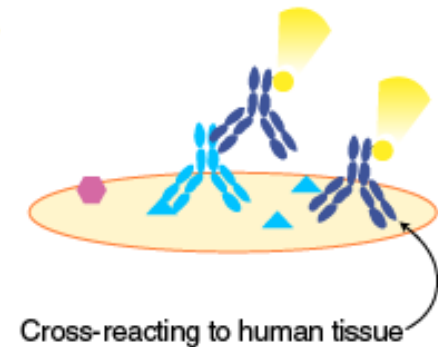
Normal reaction



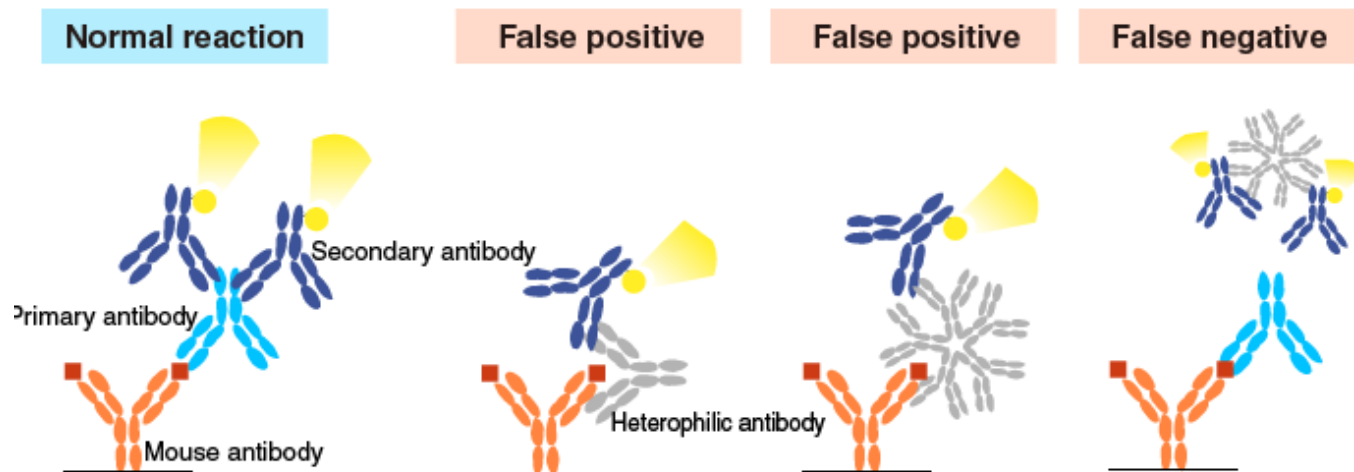
Non-specific reaction



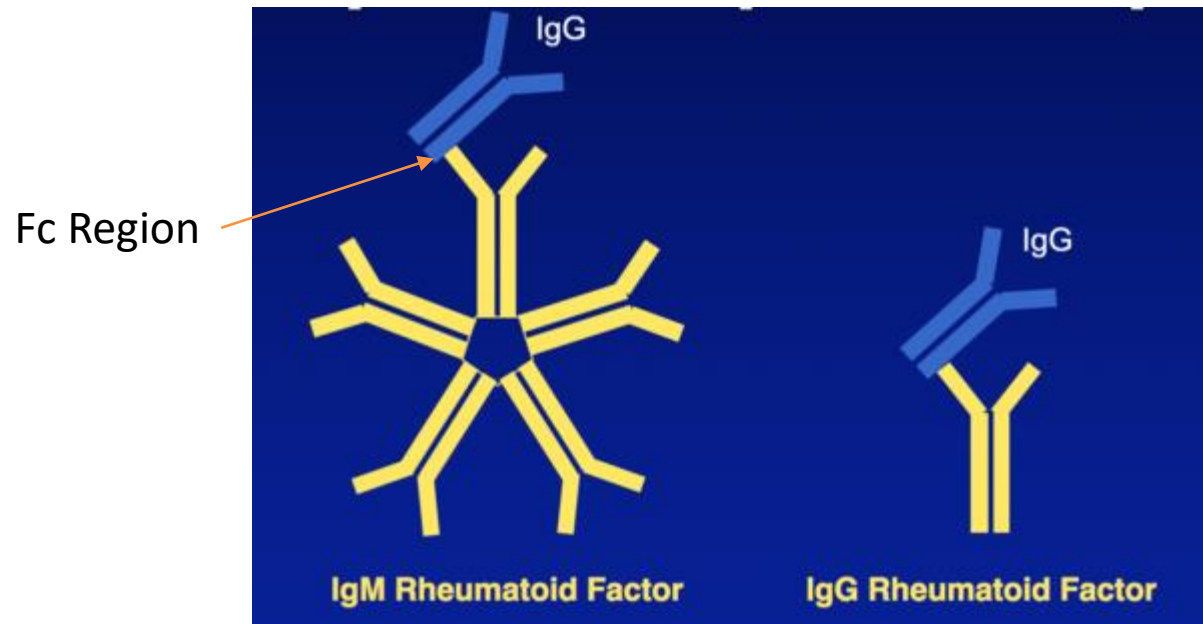
Non-specific reaction



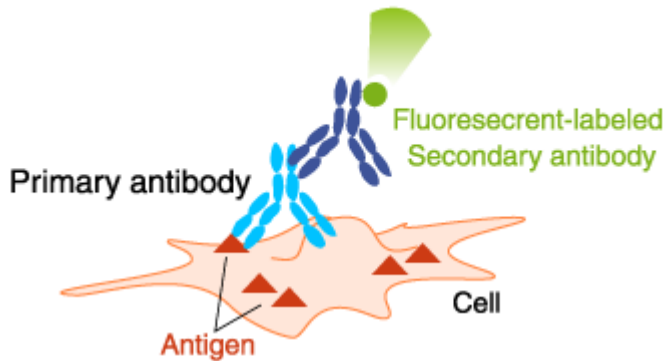
# Non-specific reactions



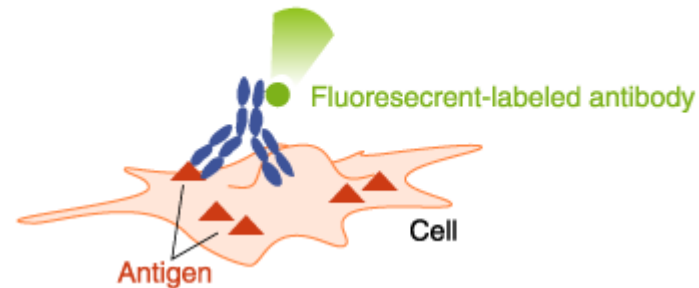
# Non-specific reactions



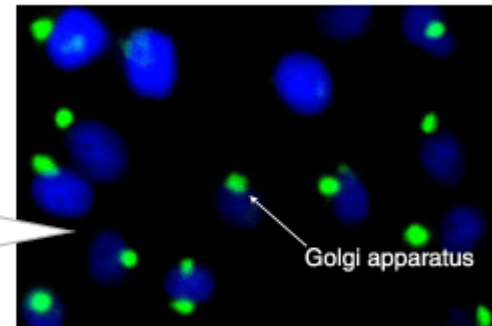
# Fluorescence-labeled antibodies: Immunofluorescence



Staining with a direct-labeled antibody



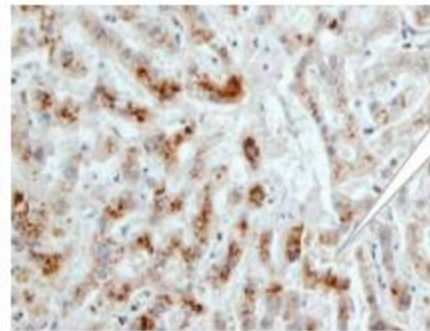
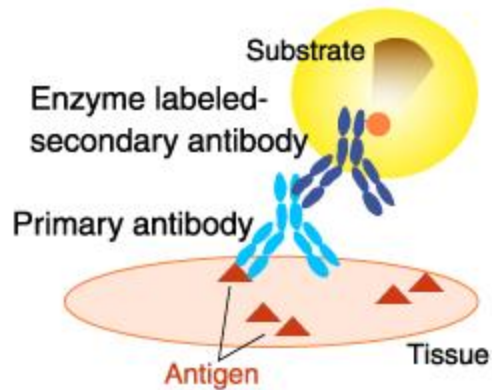
Green fluorescence of the fluorophore of the direct-labeled antibody (Alexa Fluor® 488) is observed by a fluorescence microscope.



Sample: HeLa cells



# Enzyme-labeled antibodies: Immunohistochemistry



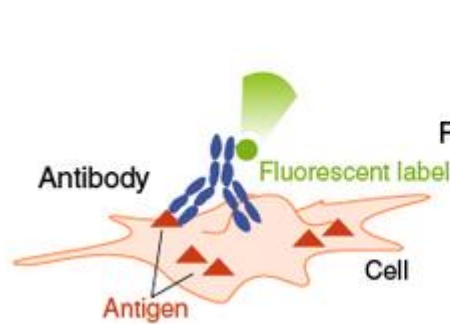
Sample: Human liver tissue section

The brown color, generated in the reaction between the substrate DAB and an HRP-labeled secondary antibody, is observed by light microscopy.

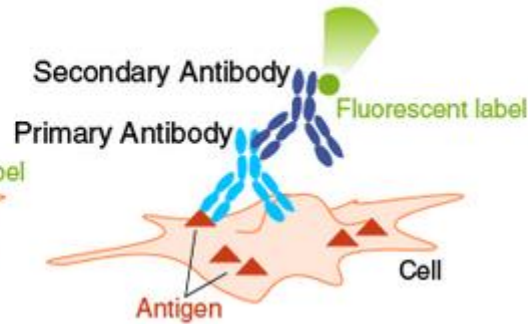
The result of immunohistochemical staining indicates that autophagy was induced in the liver tissue.

# Immunohistochemistry

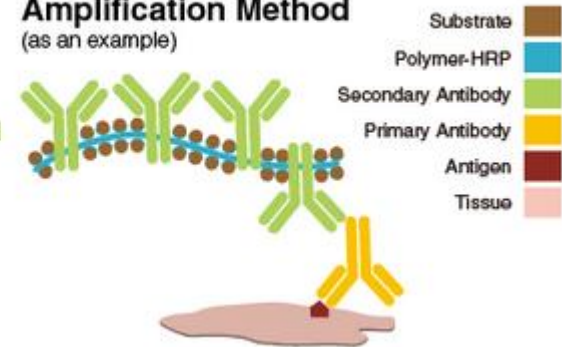
**Direct Method**



**Indirect Method**

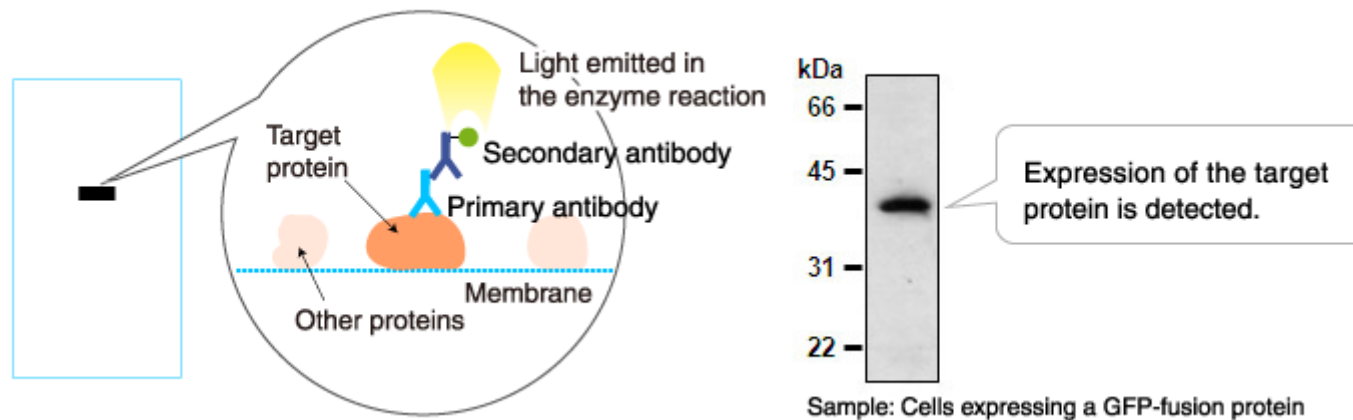


**Amplification Method**  
(as an example)



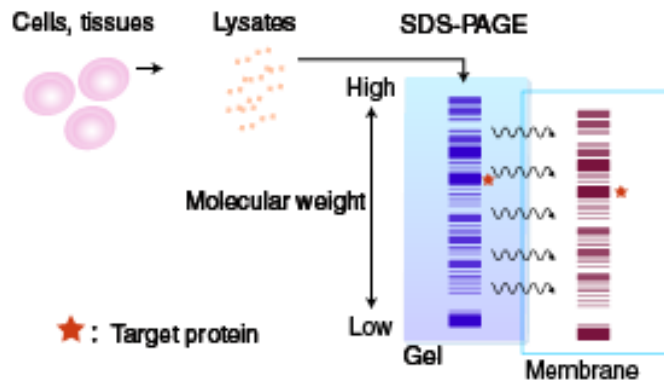
	Advantages	Disadvantages
Direct Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy for multiple staining, especially Fluorescent Staining method.</li> <li>• No non-specific staining by secondary antibodies.</li> <li>• Shorter working time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires labeled antibodies in the same quantity as the target molecules, which can be costly.</li> <li>• Commercially available primary antibodies with the desired label may be very limited.</li> <li>• Some antibodies may lose activity due to labeling.</li> </ul>
Indirect Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High versatility - the secondary antibodies can be used if they share the same host species with primary antibodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to detect multiple target molecules simultaneously - unlike the direct method, primary antibodies need to be from different host animals.</li> <li>• Longer working time required for secondary antibody reaction compared to the direct method.</li> <li>• Non-specific staining may occur due to secondary antibodies.</li> </ul>
Amplification Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very useful for molecules with low expression levels due to the amplification capability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of endogenous biotin presence is required if using the biotin-streptavidin system.</li> </ul>

# Enzyme-labeled antibodies: Western blotting

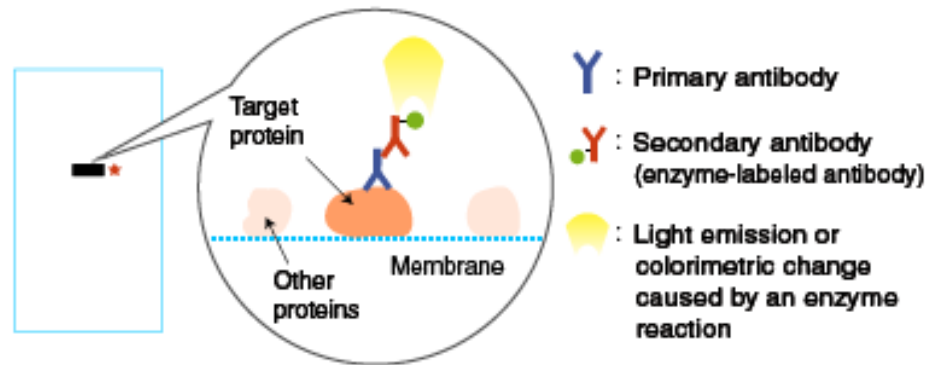


# Western blotting

Proteins are separated by electrophoresis and transferred to a membrane.



Probing with antibodies, and detection of the target protein by an enzyme reaction.



# Western blotting

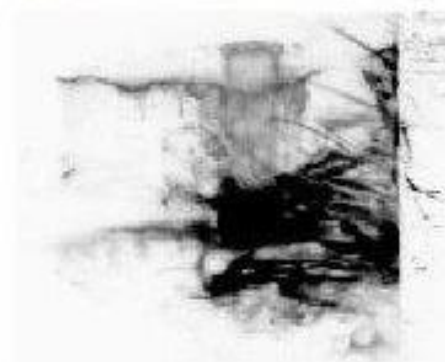
THERE ARE THREE  
KINDS OF WESTERNS...



THE GOOD

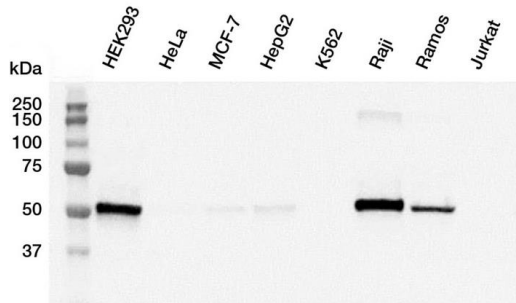


THE BAD

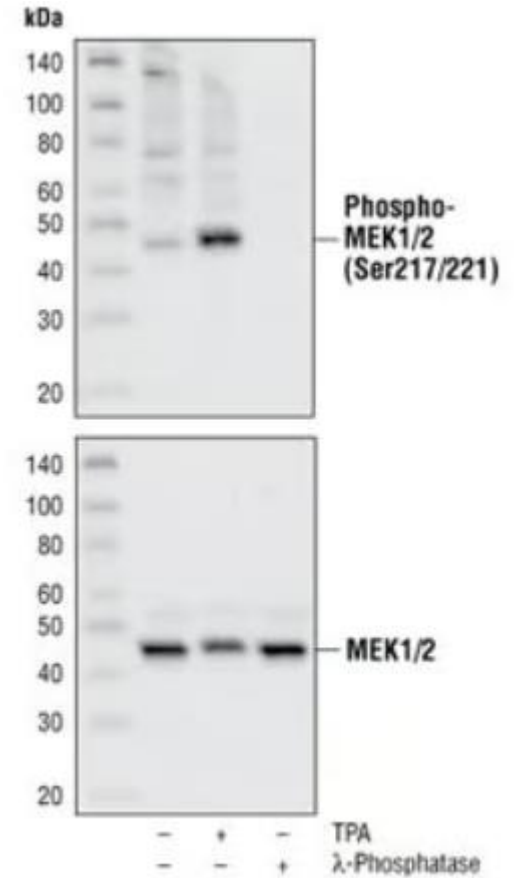
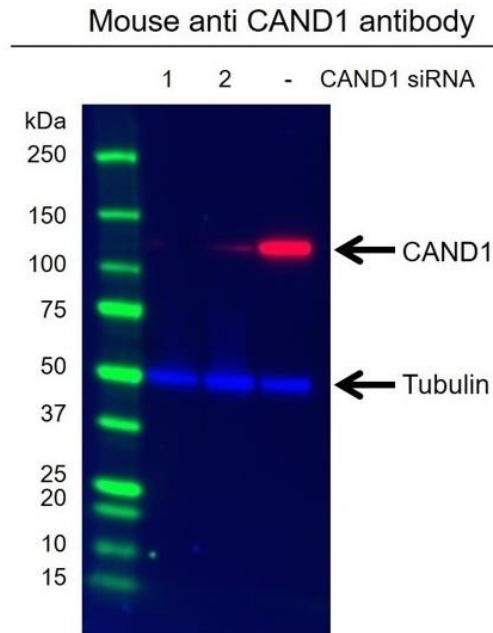


AND THE UGLY

# Western blotting

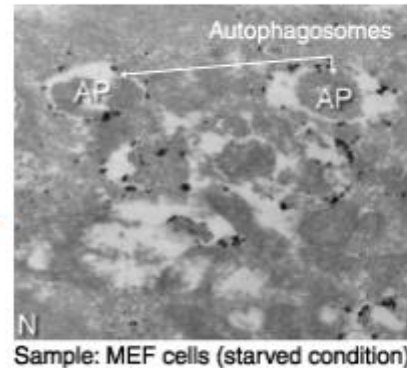
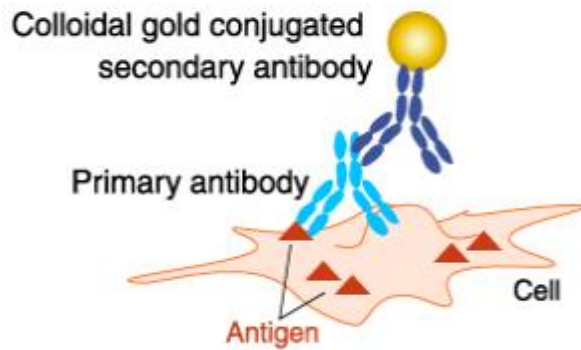


Loading control!



# Colloidal gold-labeled antibodies: Microscopy

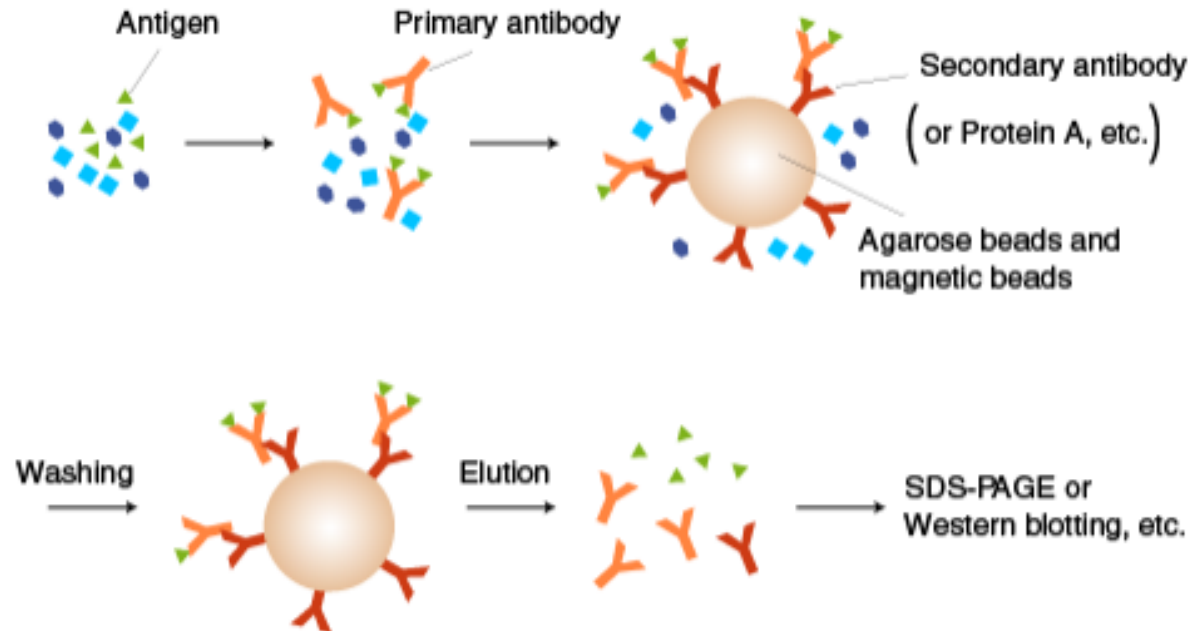
**Immunoelectron micrograph of autophagosomes detected using the marker LC3**



Colloidal gold (black dots), labeled on the secondary antibody, is observed by electron microscopy.

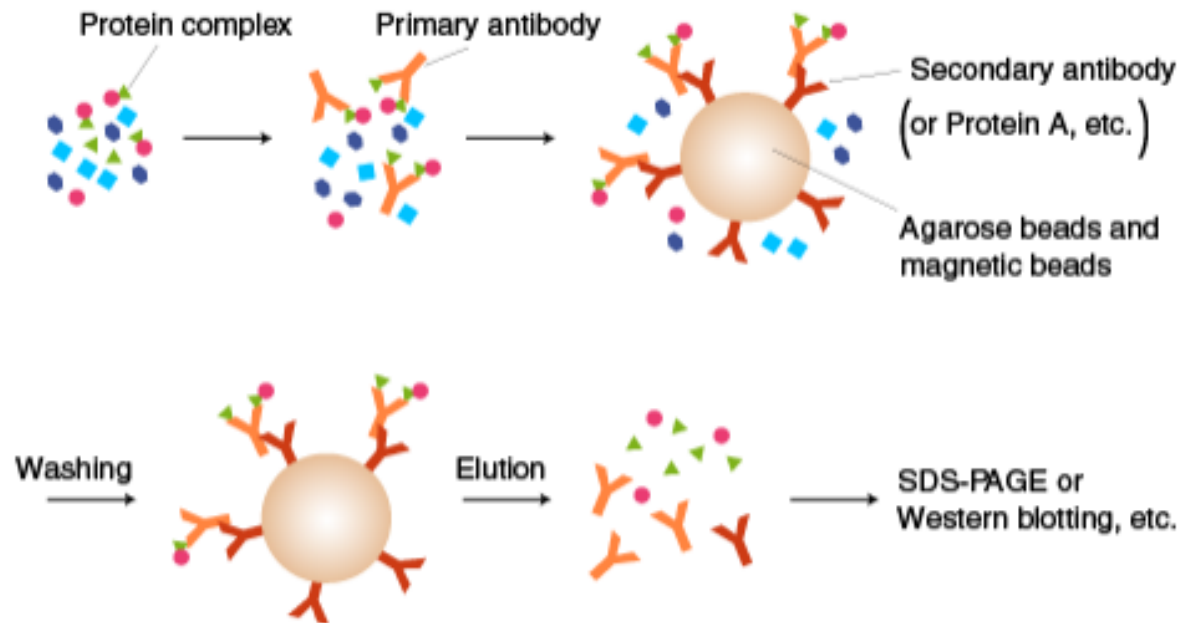
The data were kindly provided by Dr. Noboru Mizushima of the University of Tokyo.

# Immunoprecipitation



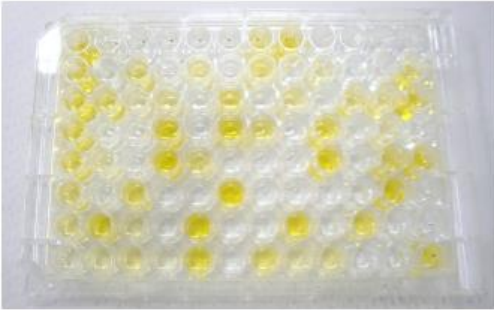


# Co-Immunoprecipitation

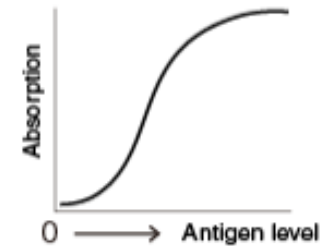
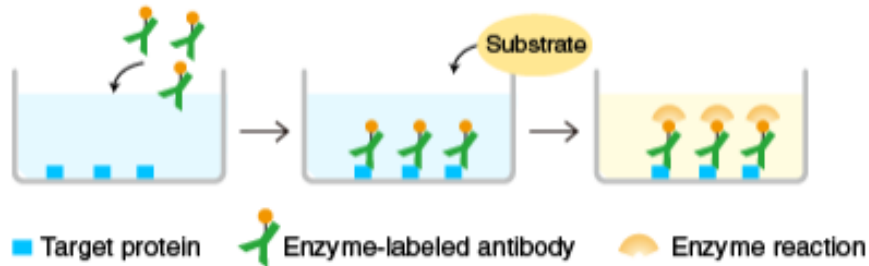


# ELISA

## (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay)



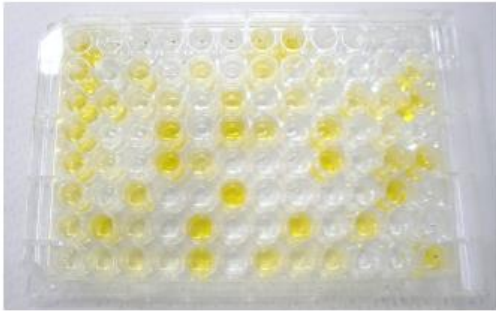
The yellow color indicates that the target protein is present.  
The higher degree of the color, the higher concentration of the target protein.



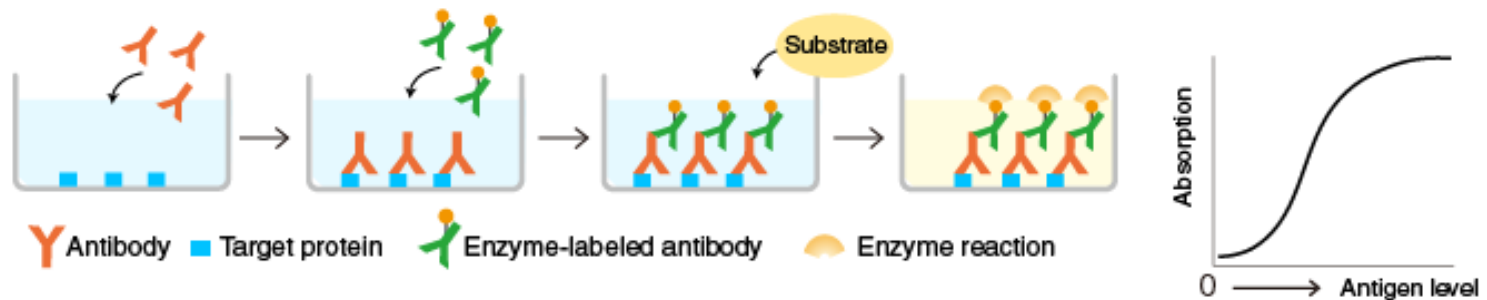
Direct ELISA

# ELISA

## (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay)



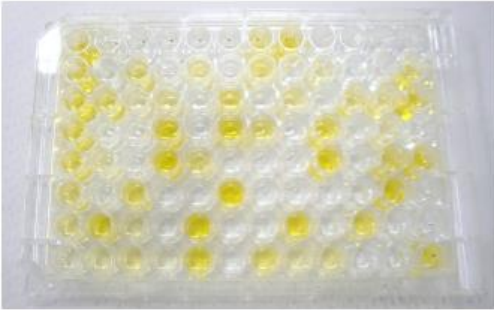
The yellow color indicates that the target protein is present.  
The higher degree of the color, the higher concentration of the target protein.



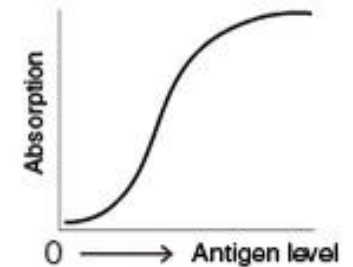
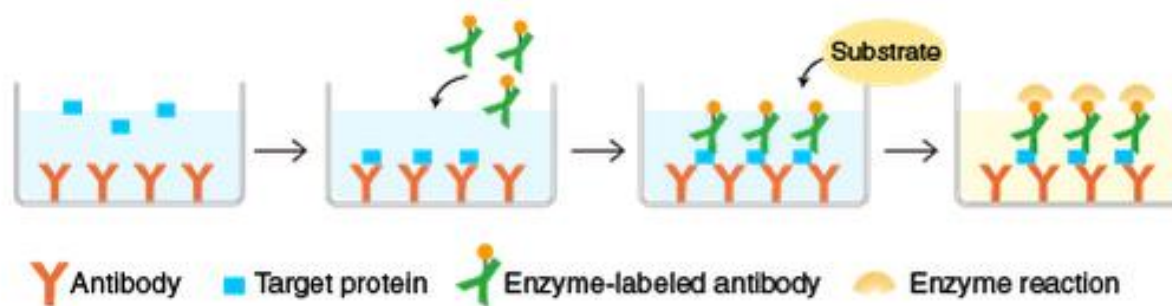
Indirect ELISA

# ELISA

## (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay)



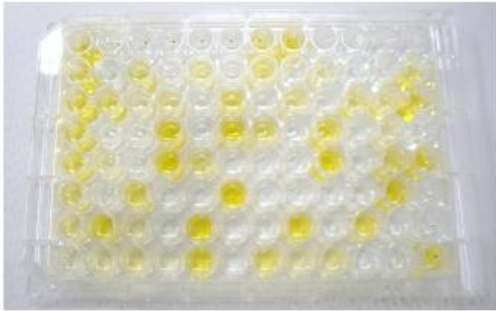
The yellow color indicates that the target protein is present.  
The higher degree of the color, the higher concentration of the target protein.



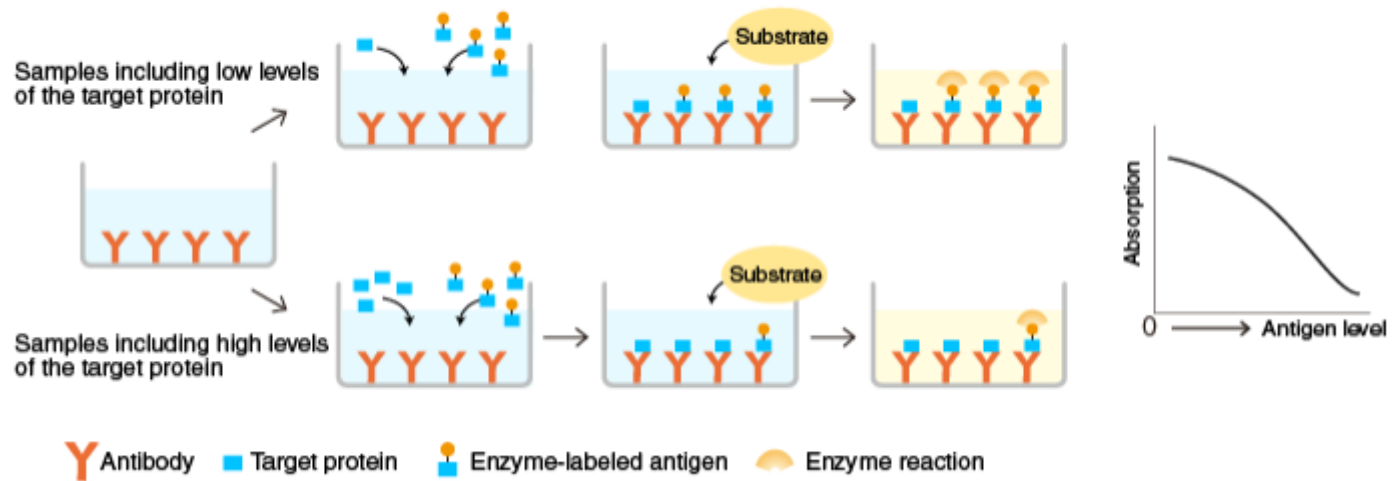
Sandwich ELISA

# ELISA

## (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay)



The yellow color indicates that the target protein is present. The higher degree of the color, the higher concentration of the target protein.



Competitive ELISA

# EliSpot

## ELISpot Assay Procedure

Day 1

Incubate antigen-secreting cells in antibody-coated well.

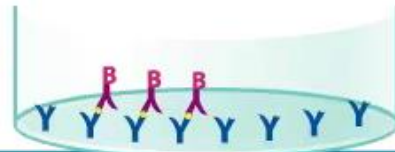


Day 2

Remove cells by washing. Secreted analyte is captured by the immobilized antibody.



Incubate with biotinylated antibody.



Day 3

Incubate with alkaline phosphatase conjugated streptavidin.

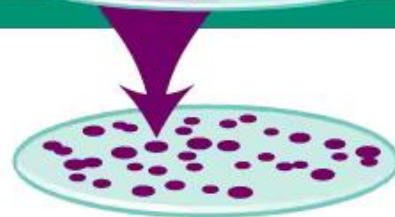


Add substrate and observe the formation of colored spots.

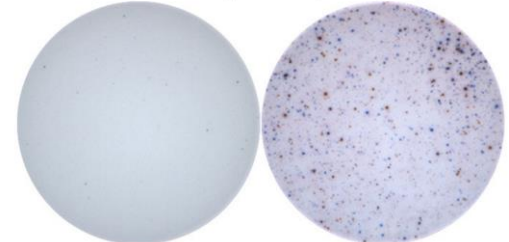


Legend

- Y Antibody
- Secreted Analyte
- P Biotinylated Antibody
- ◆ Alkaline phosphatase Conjugated Streptavidin
- Color Product
- BCIP/NBT



## Human IFN- $\gamma$ / TNF $\alpha$ ELISPOT



Human PBMC (25,000 cells/well) incubated overnight with or without PHA stimulation.

# Flow cytometry

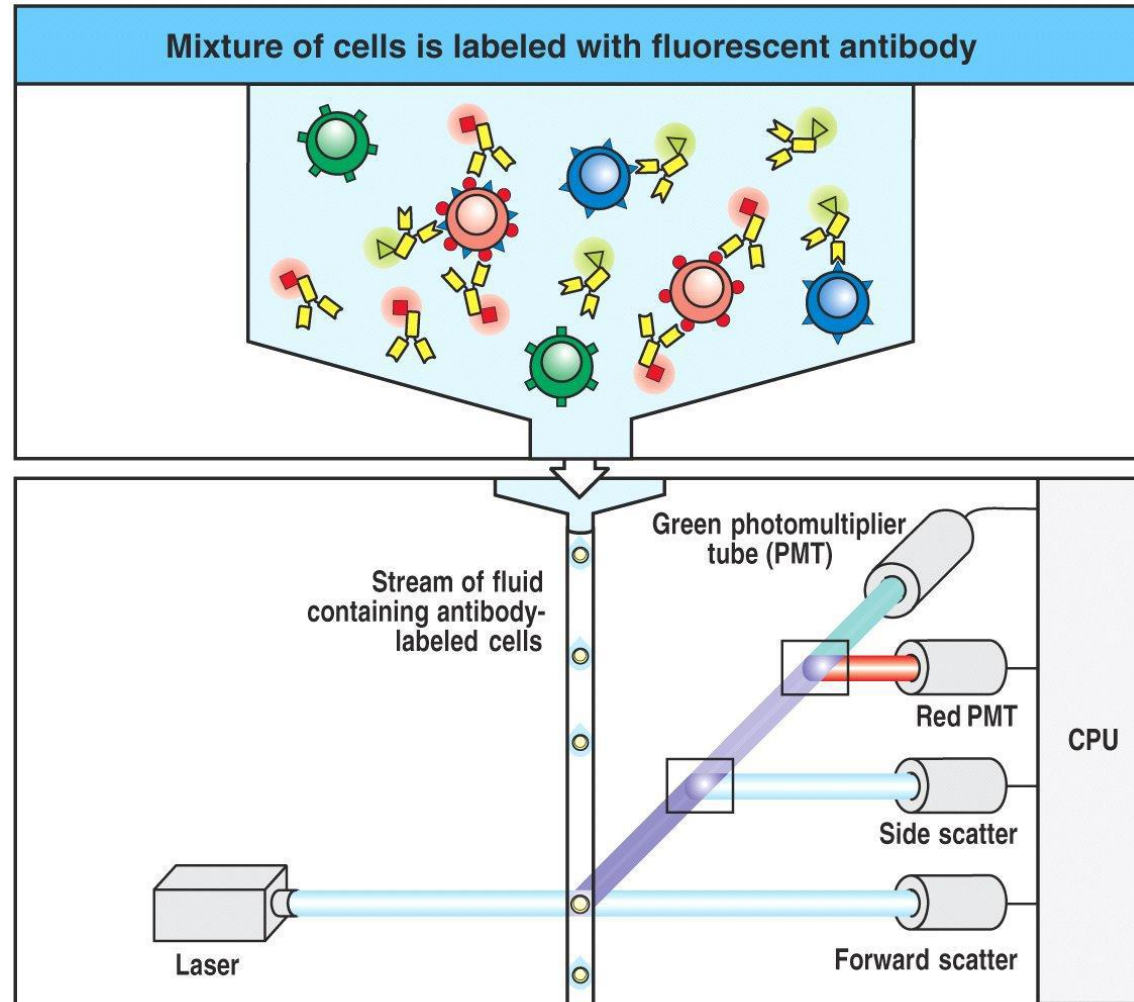
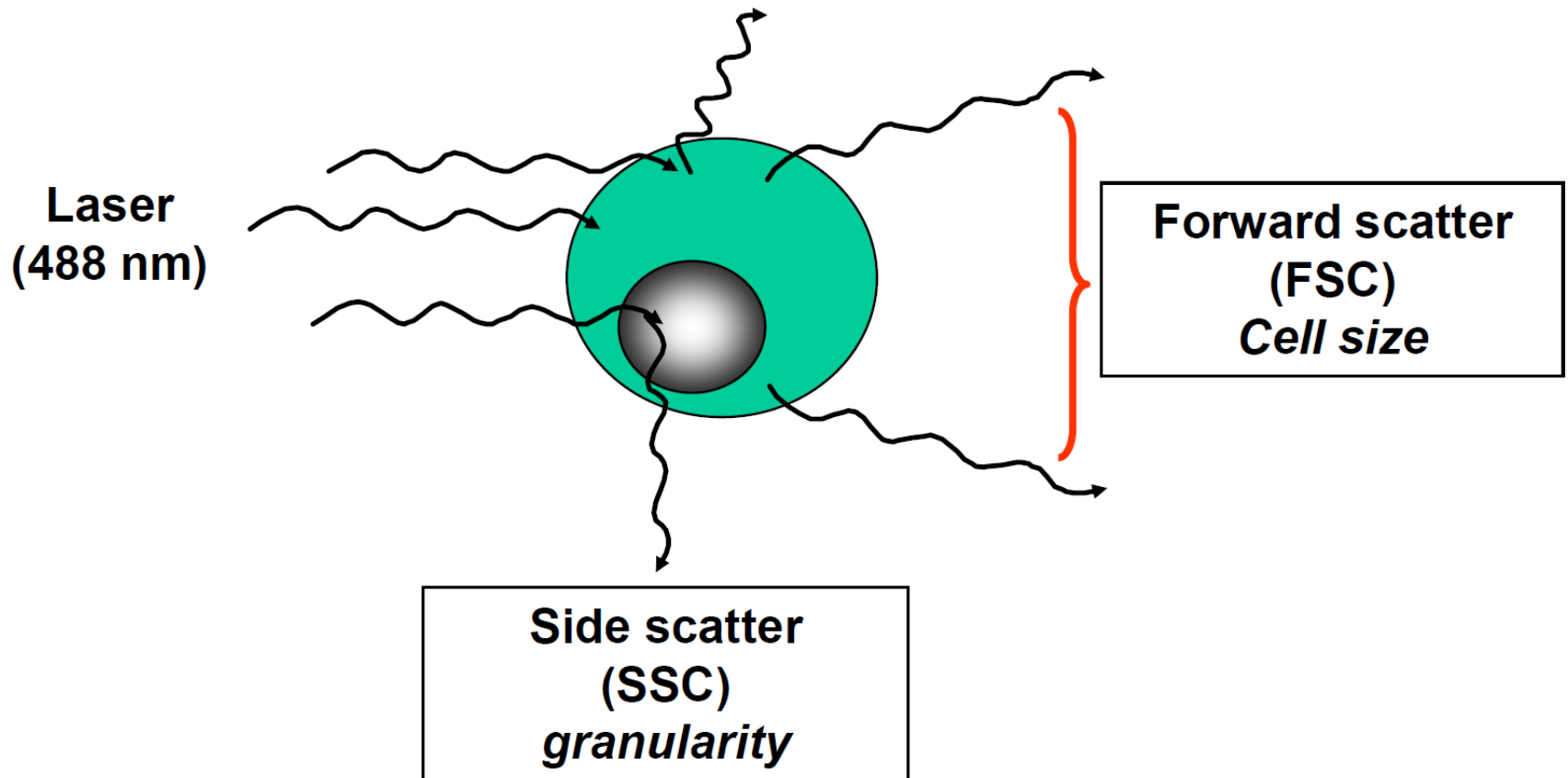


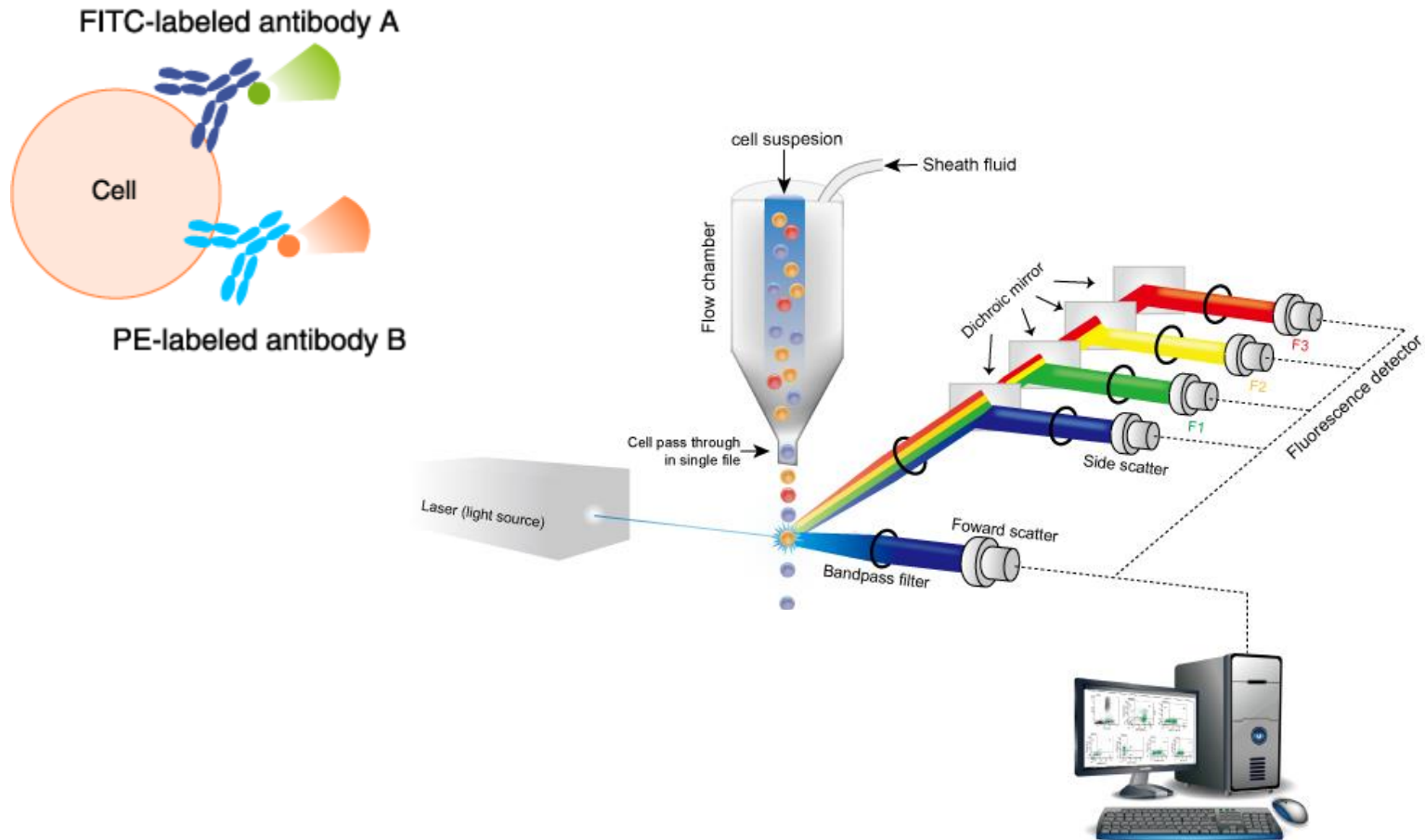
Figure A-25 part 1 of 2 Immunobiology, 6/e. (© Garland Science 2005)

# Flow cytometry





# Flow cytometry



# Flow cytometry

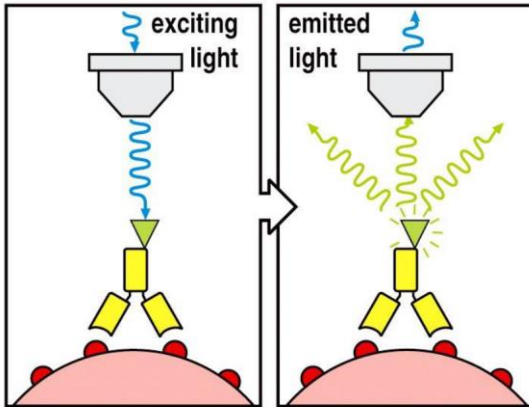
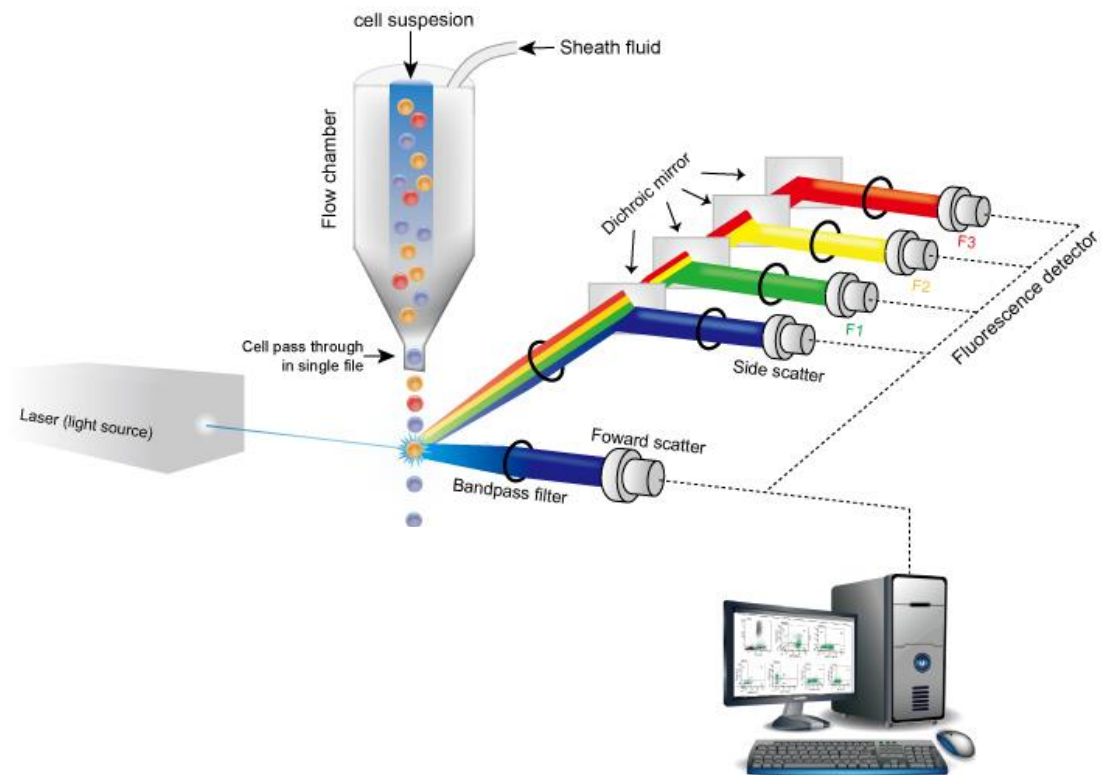
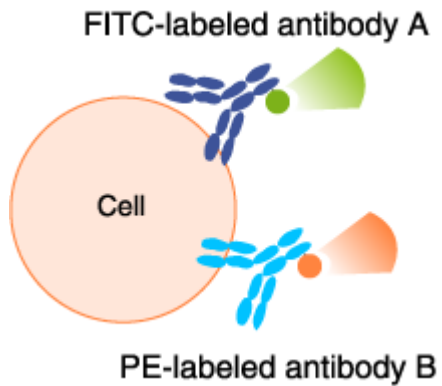
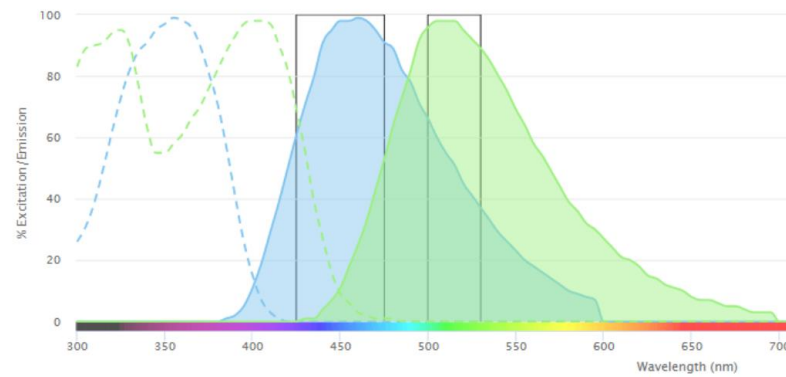


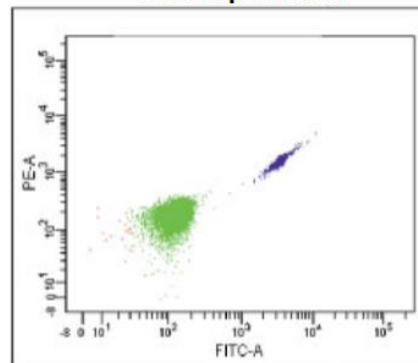
Figure A-17 Immunobiology, 6/e. (© Garland Science 2005)



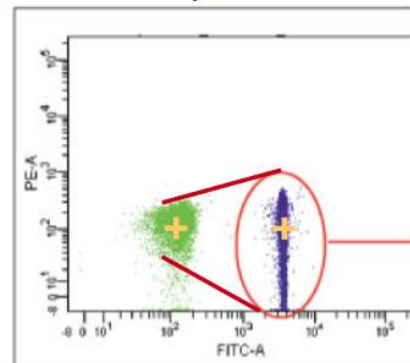
# Flow cytometry

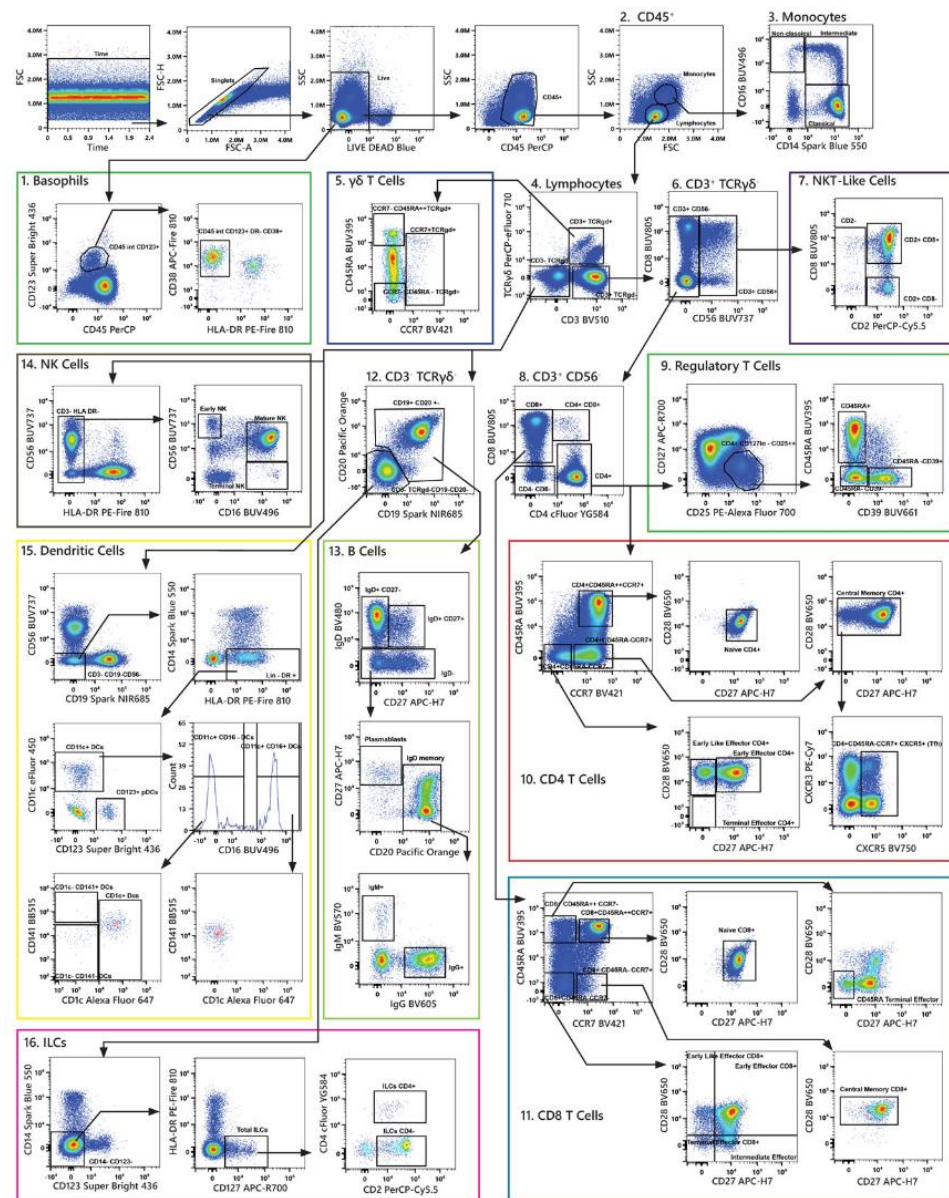
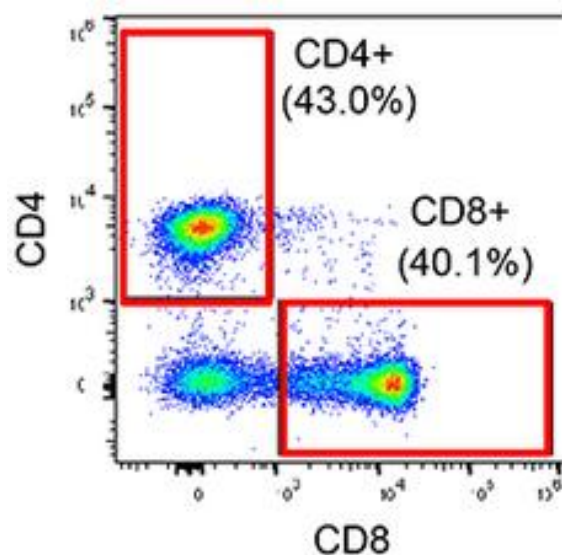


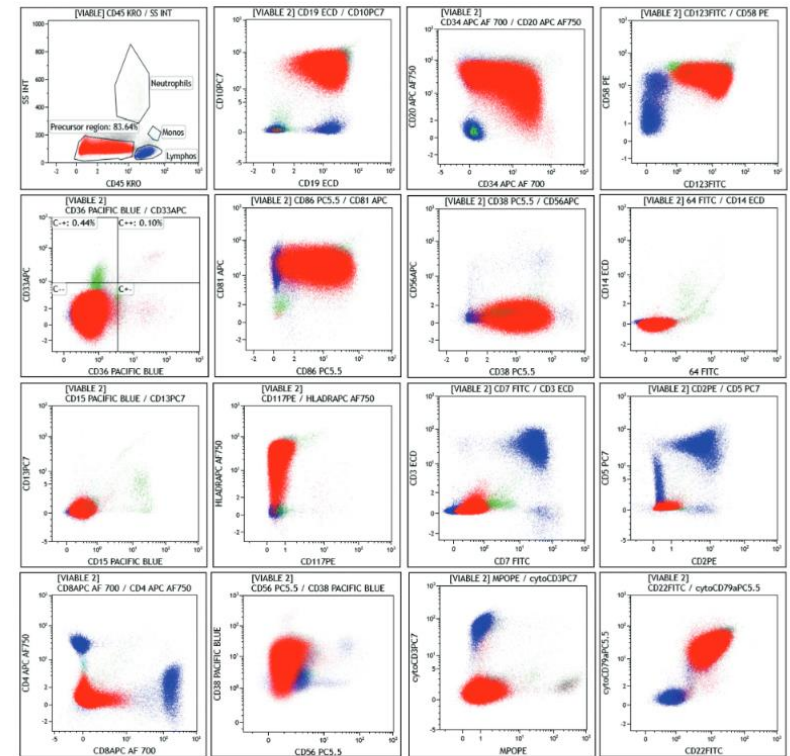
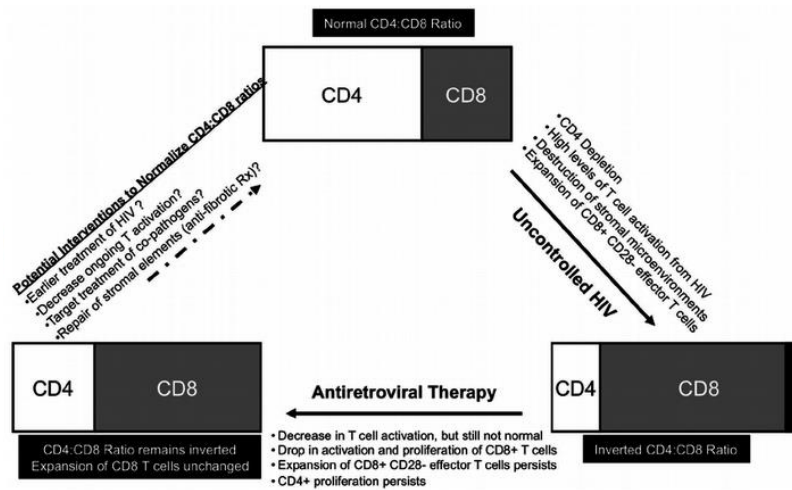
**Uncompensated**



**Compensated**



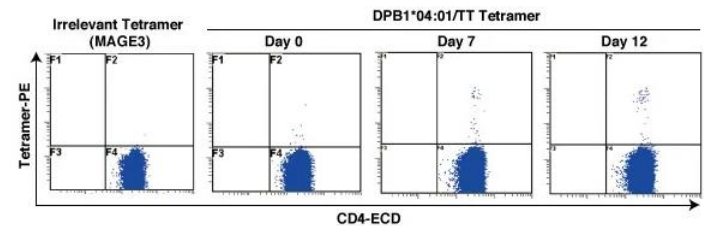
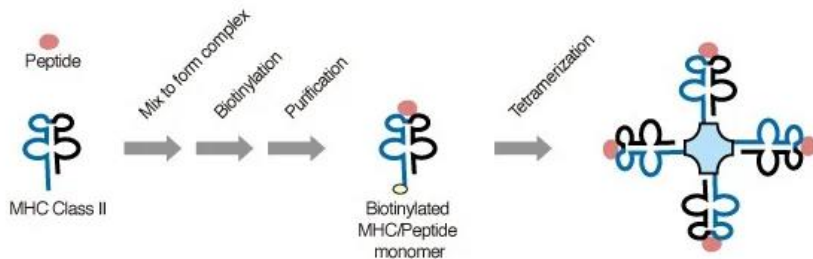
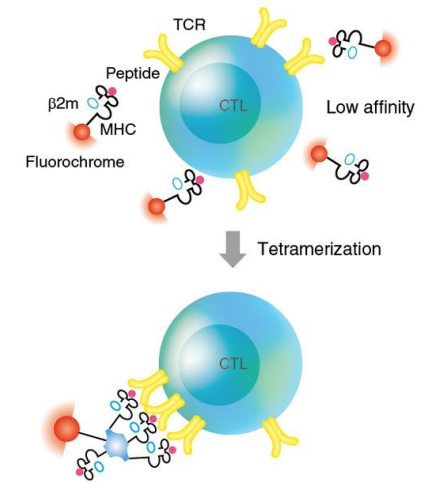
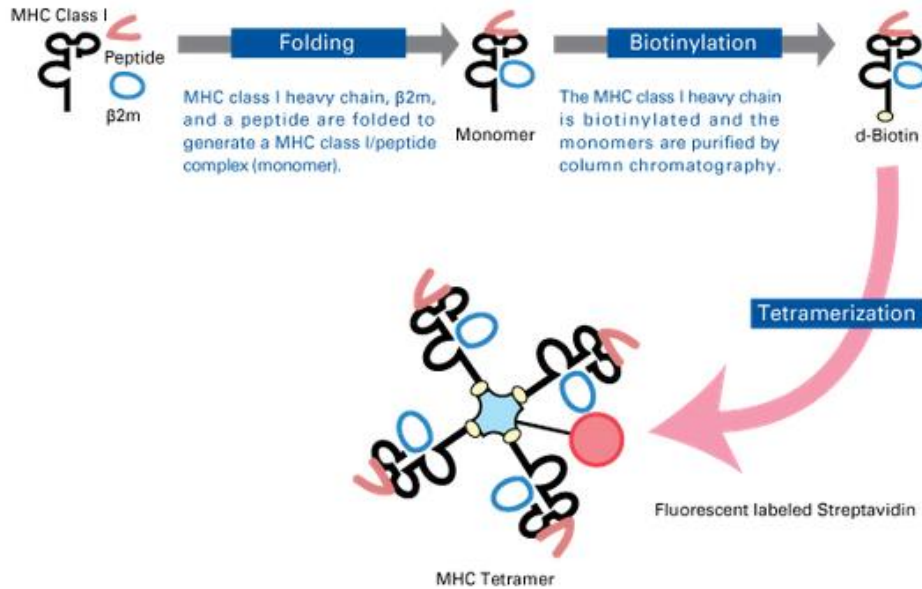




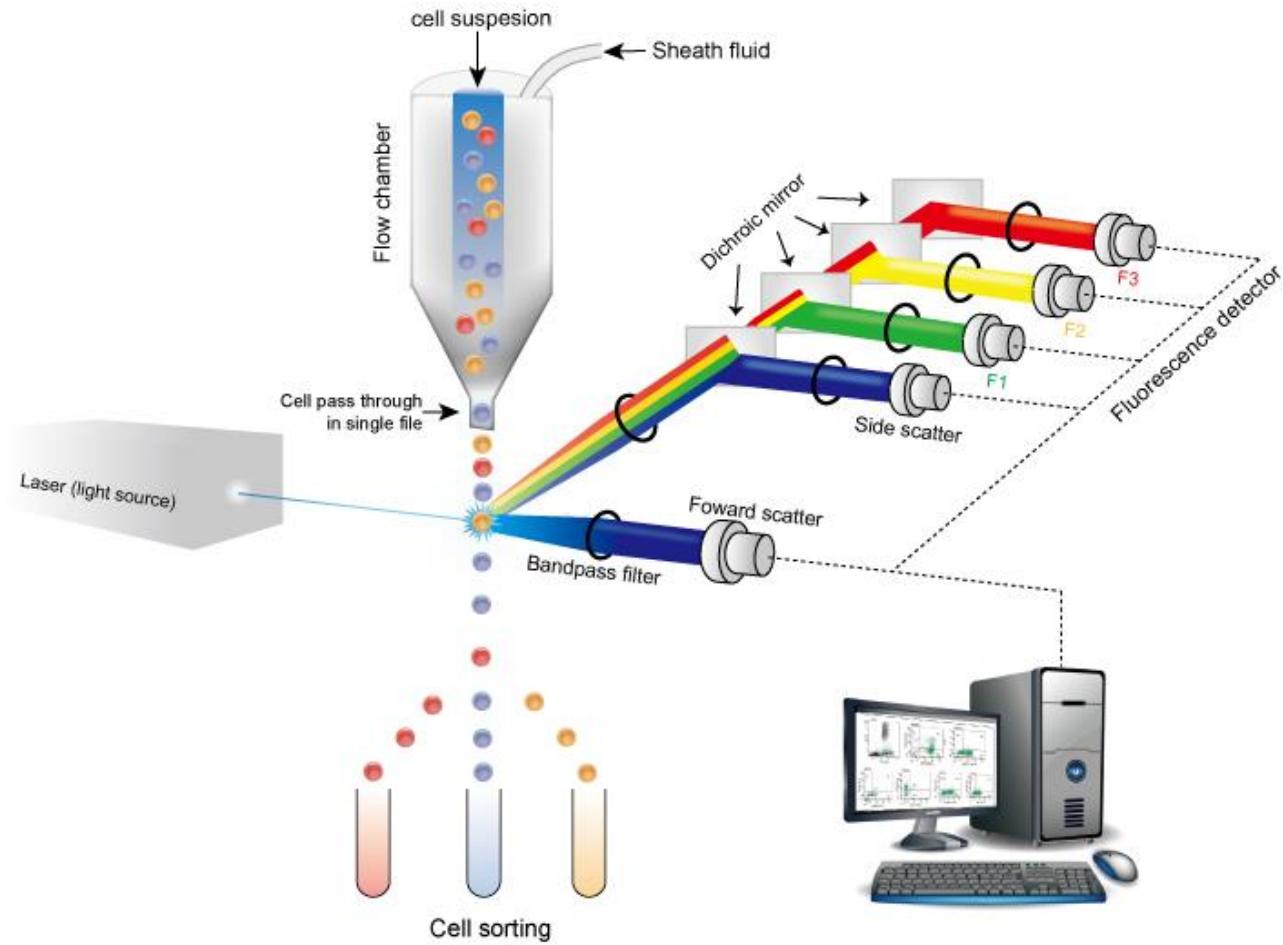
**Fig. 1** Flow cytometric dot plots of a case of BCP-ALL. The blasts (red population) are SSC low, CD45 dim to negative, positive for CD19, CD10, CD34, CD20, CD58, CD123, CD81, CD86, CD38, HLA-DR, CD22, and CytoCD79a. T-cell markers like CD3, CD7, CD5, CD2, CD4, CD8 and NK cell marker like CD56, and, myeloid markers like CD13, CD15, CD33, CD26, CD117, CD14, CD64 and MPO are negative.



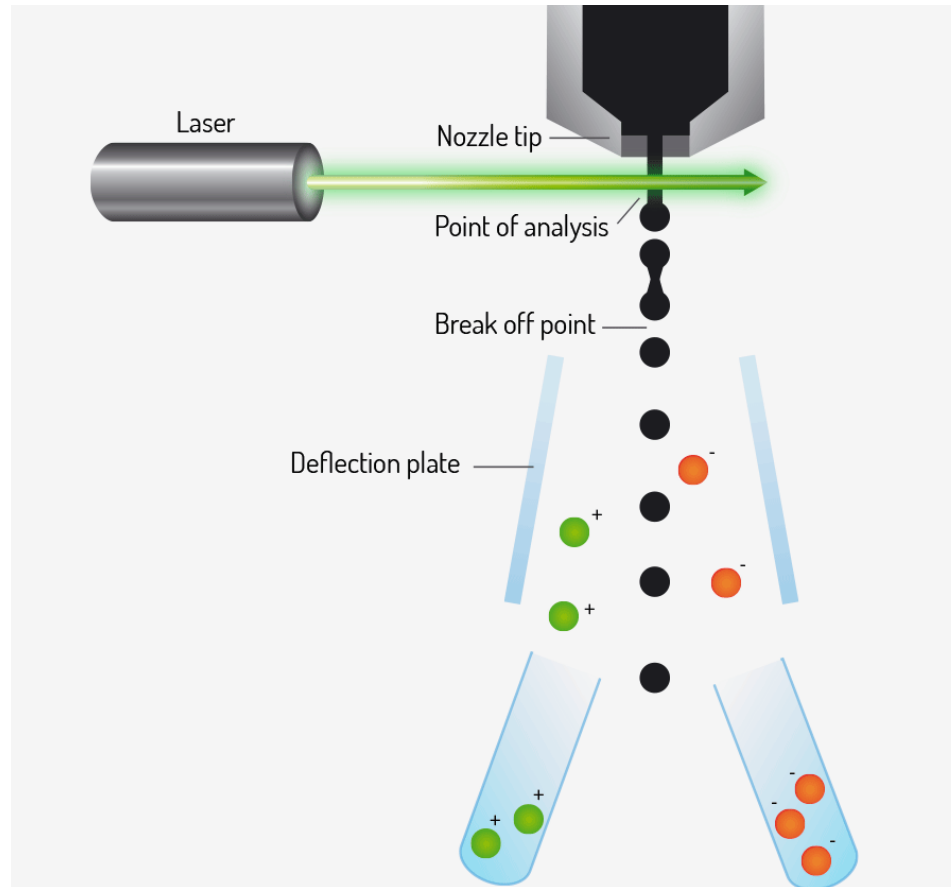
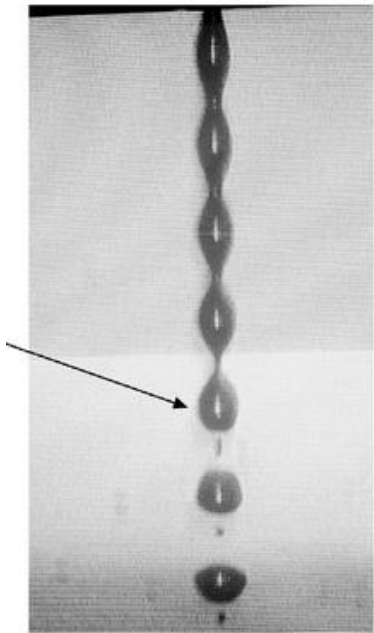
# MHC Tetramers



# Cell Sorting



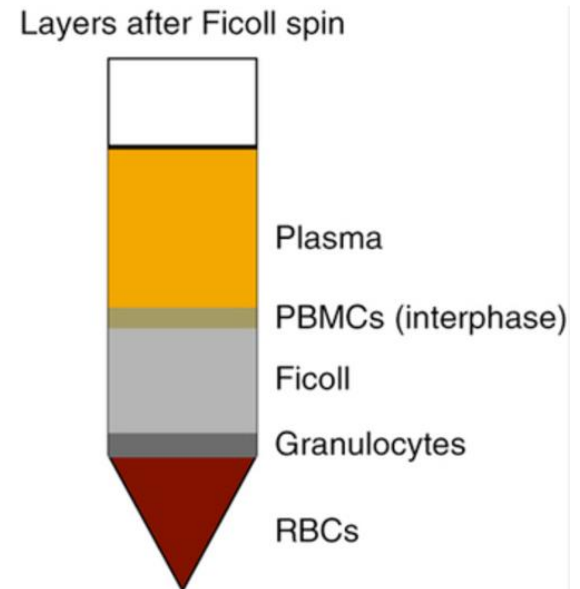
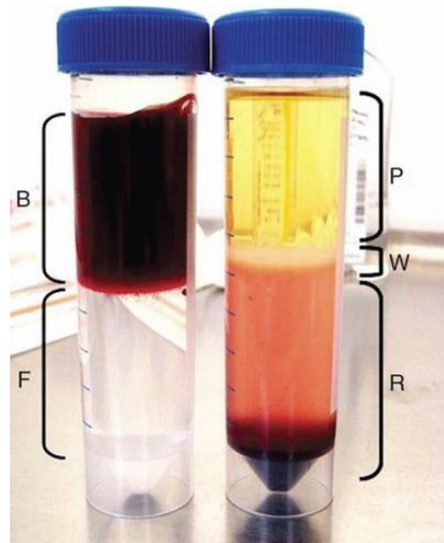
# Cell Sorting





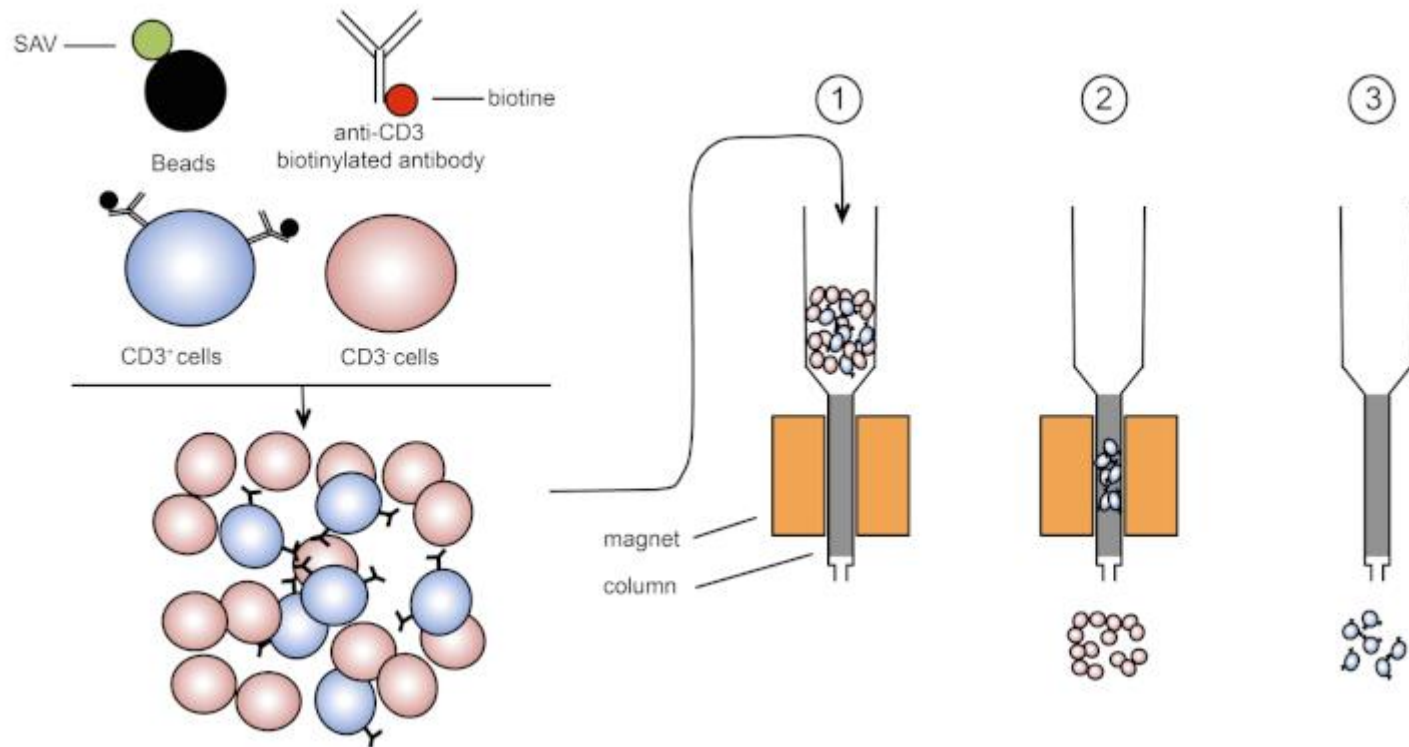
# Cell isolation: Ficoll-paque gradient centrifugation

Ficoll:  
hydrophylic polysaccharide



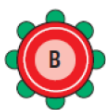






Separation of Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells  
(PBMCs) based on density after centrifugation




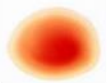



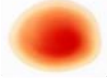





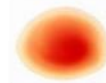


# Cell isolation: Magnetic separation



# Blood group

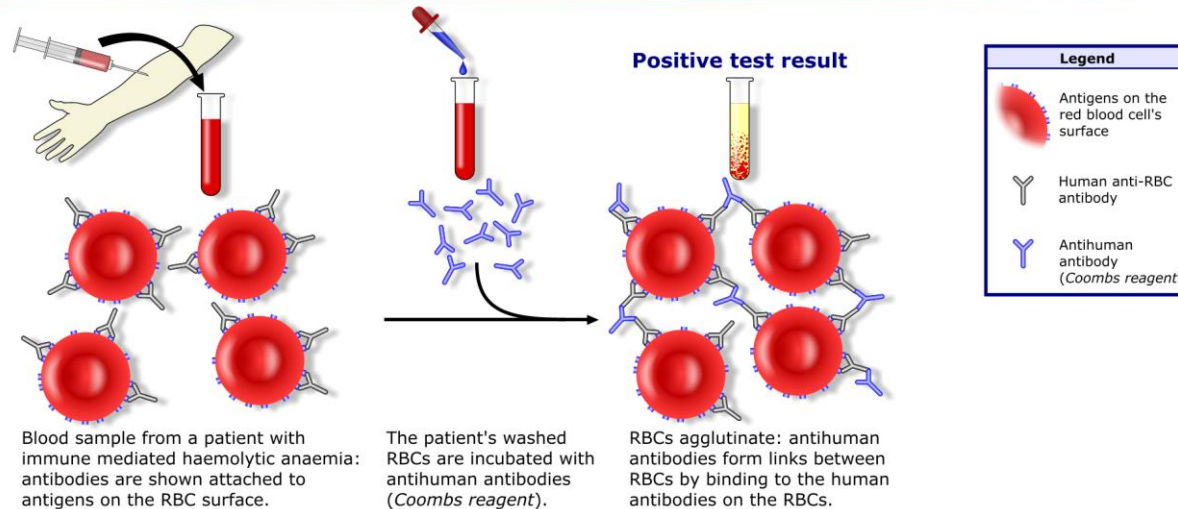
Serum from individuals of type	Red blood cells from individuals of type			
				
	Express the carbohydrate structures			
	R – GlcNAc – Gal Fuc	R – GlcNAc – Gal – GalNAc Fuc	R – GlcNAc – Gal – Gal Fuc	R – GlcNAc – Gal – GalNAc Fuc + R – GlcNAc – Gal – Gal Fuc
 Anti-A and anti-B antibodies	no agglutination	agglutination	agglutination	agglutination
 Anti-B antibodies	no agglutination	no agglutination	agglutination	agglutination
 Anti-A antibodies	no agglutination	agglutination	no agglutination	agglutination
<b>AB</b> No antibodies to A or B	no agglutination	no agglutination	no agglutination	no agglutination

# Determination of blood group

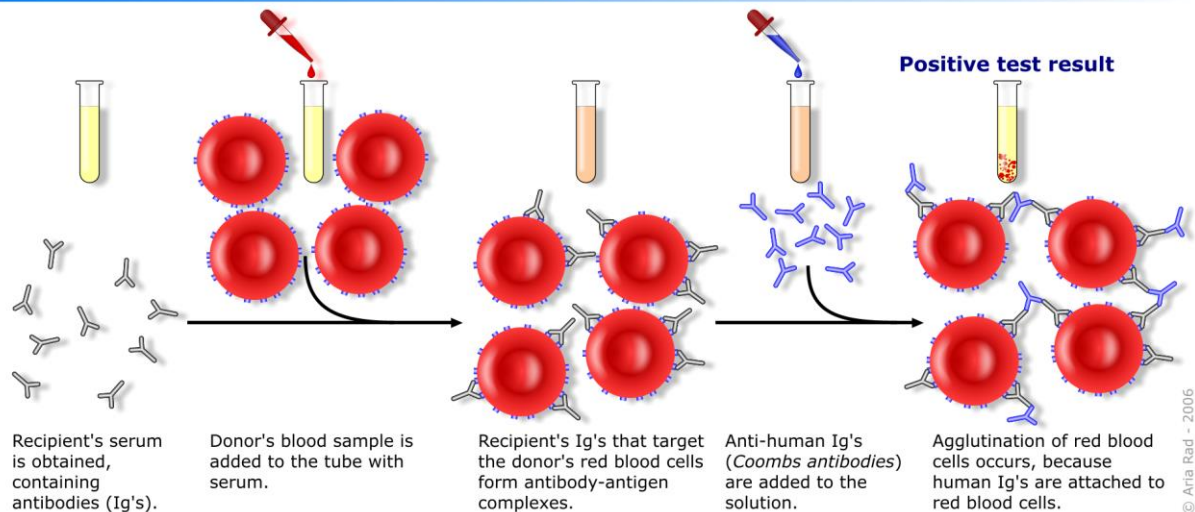
		Blood					
		A	B	AB	O	Rh+	Rh-
Serum containing:	Anti-A						
	Anti-B						
	Anti-A y Anti- B						
	Anti-Rh						
			Agglutination			No agglutination	

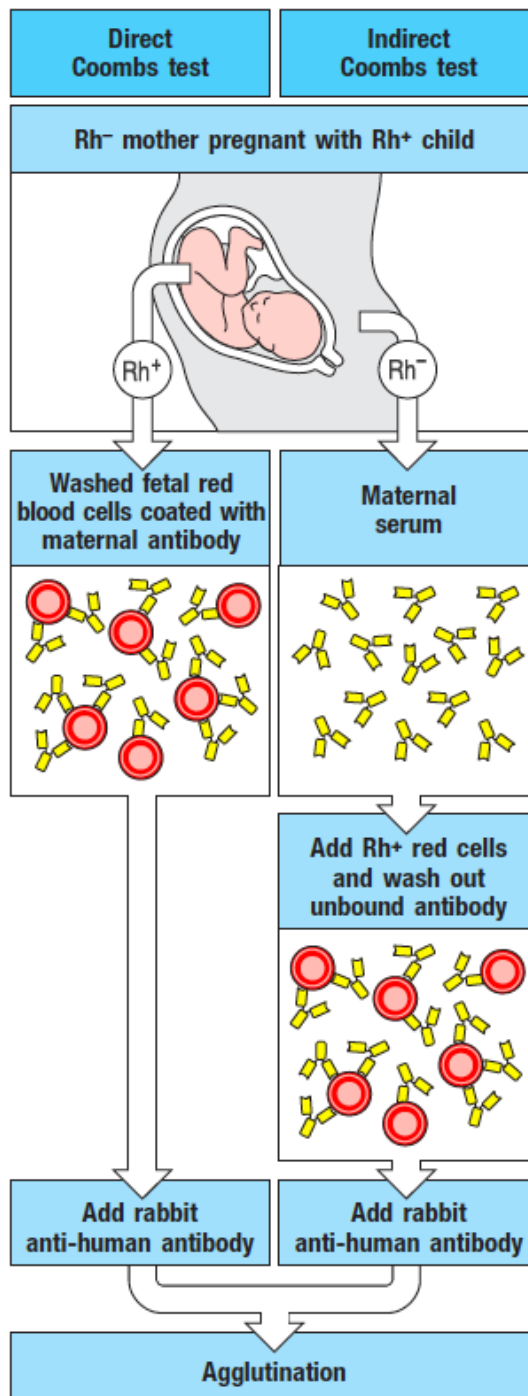
# Determination of the donor/recipient compatibility for blood transfusion by agglutination of Erythrocytes with a specific antiserum: Indirect Coombs-Test.

## Direct Coombs test / Direct antiglobulin test

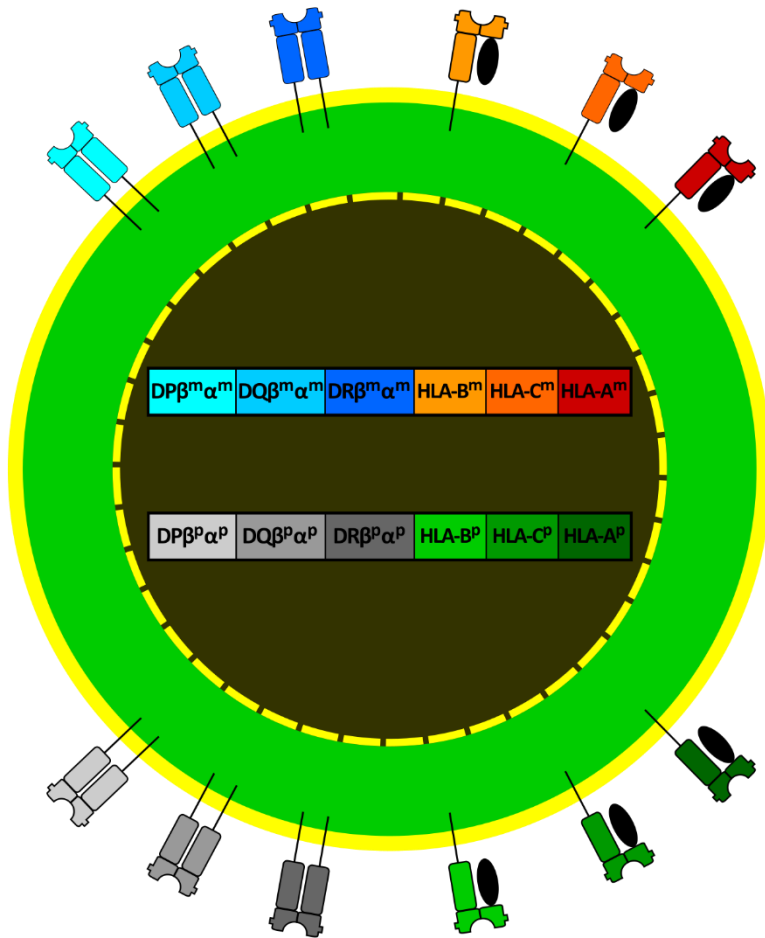


## Indirect Coombs test / Indirect antiglobulin test

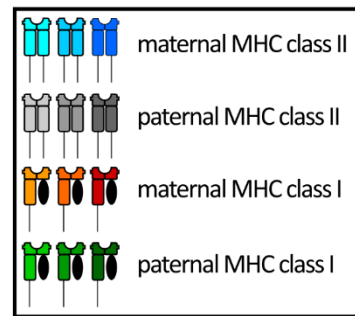
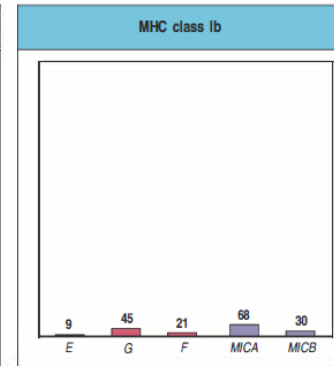
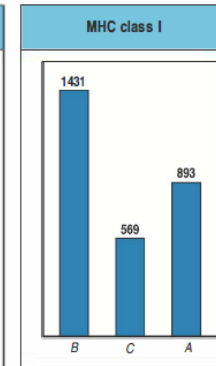
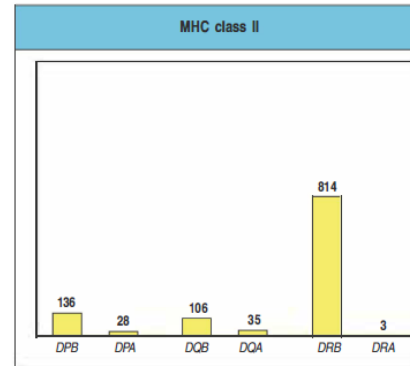




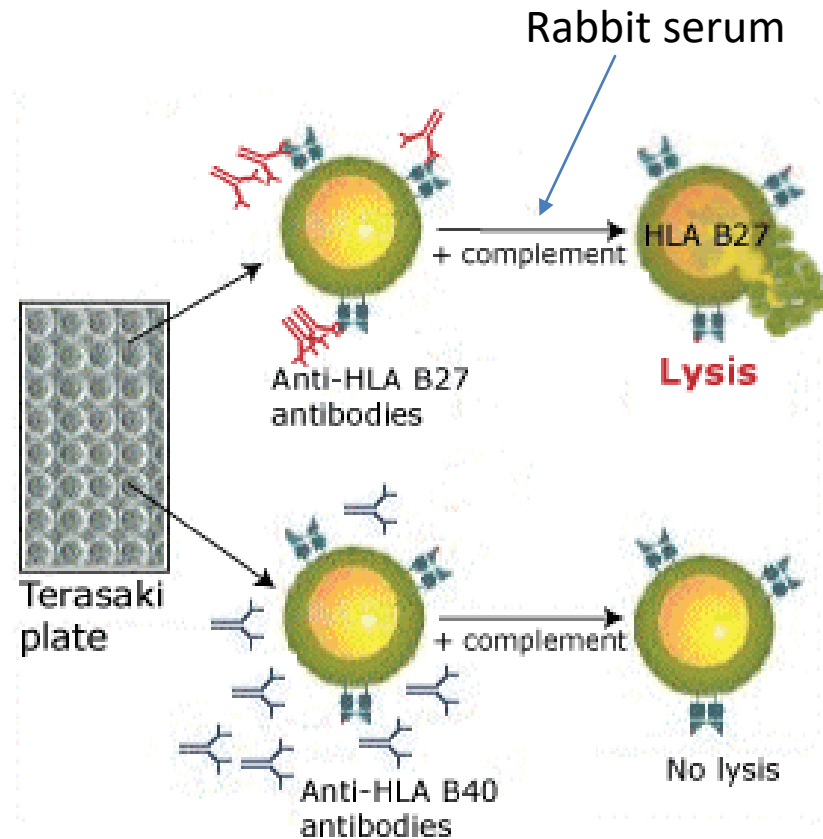
# HLA typing by serology



## High polymorphic genes



# HLA typing by serology

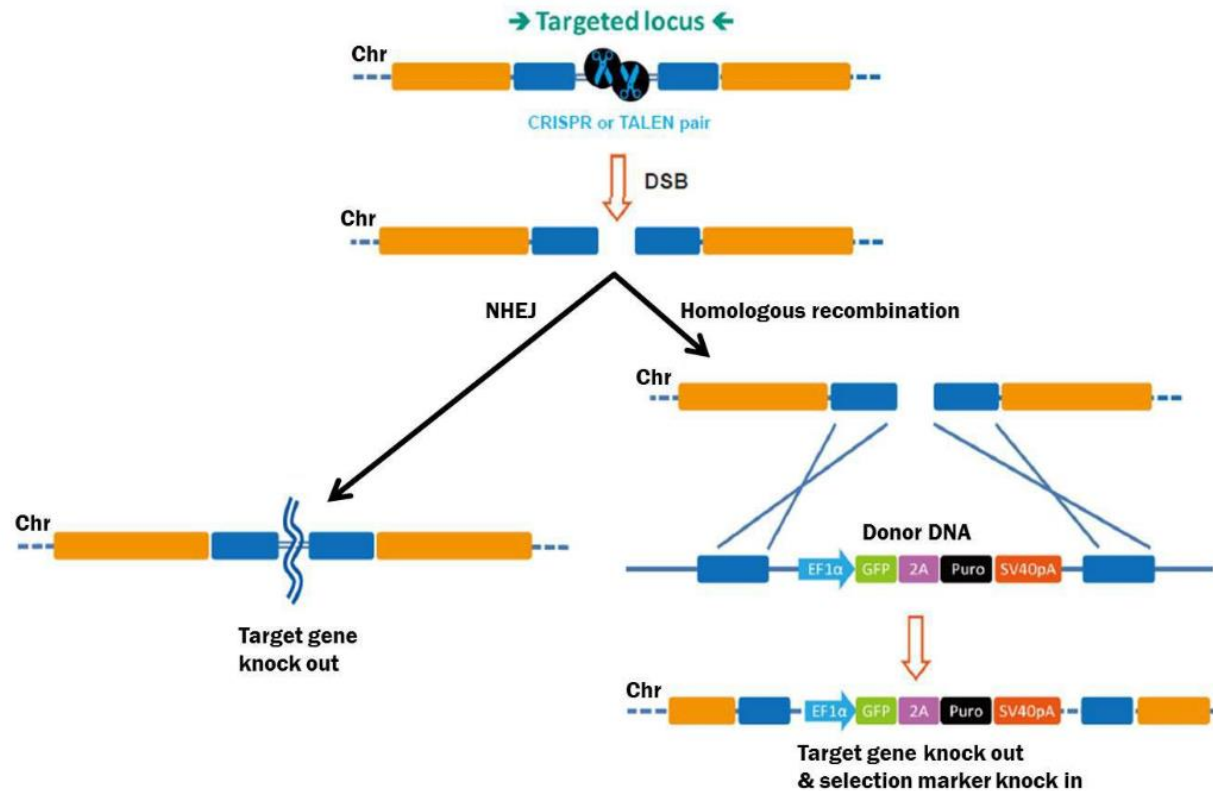






# Genomic edition

Knockouts (KO) and knockins (KI)



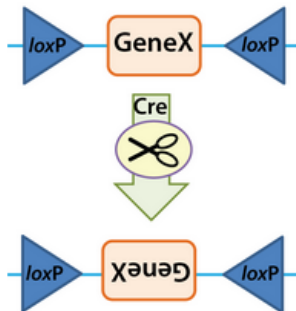
# Genomic edition

Conditional or inducible systems

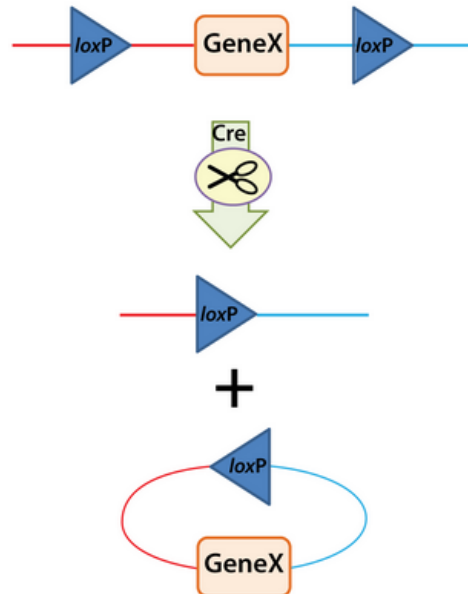
Cre-Lox system: components derived from the P1 bacteriophage:

- 34-base-pair long recognition sequences (loxP)
- Cre recombinase

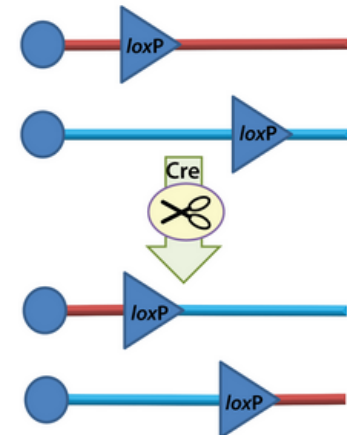
## Inversion



## Deletion



## Translocation



# Immunotherapy

# Immunotherapy

## **Immune System Modulators**

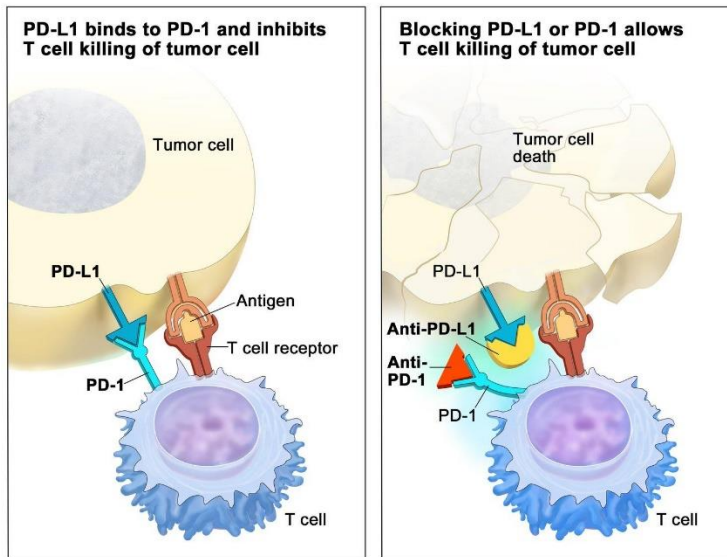
Cytokines: IFN $\alpha$ , Interleukins

Immunomodulatory drugs

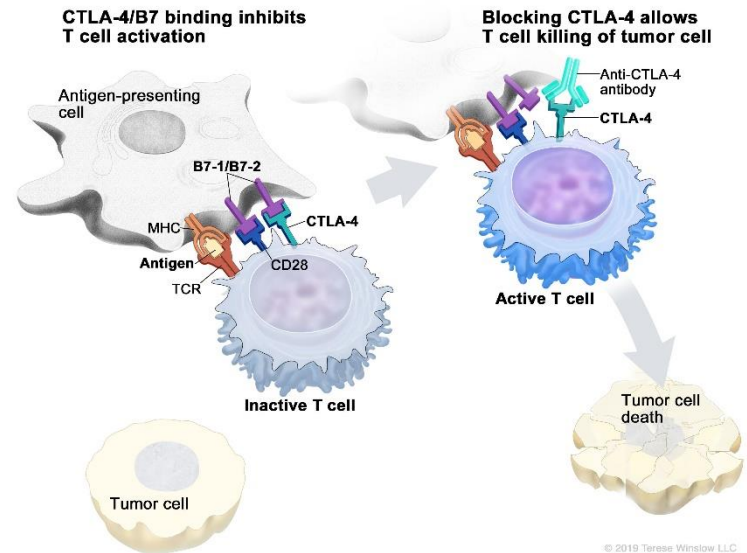
Monoclonal antibodies

# Immunotherapy

## Immuncheck inhibitors



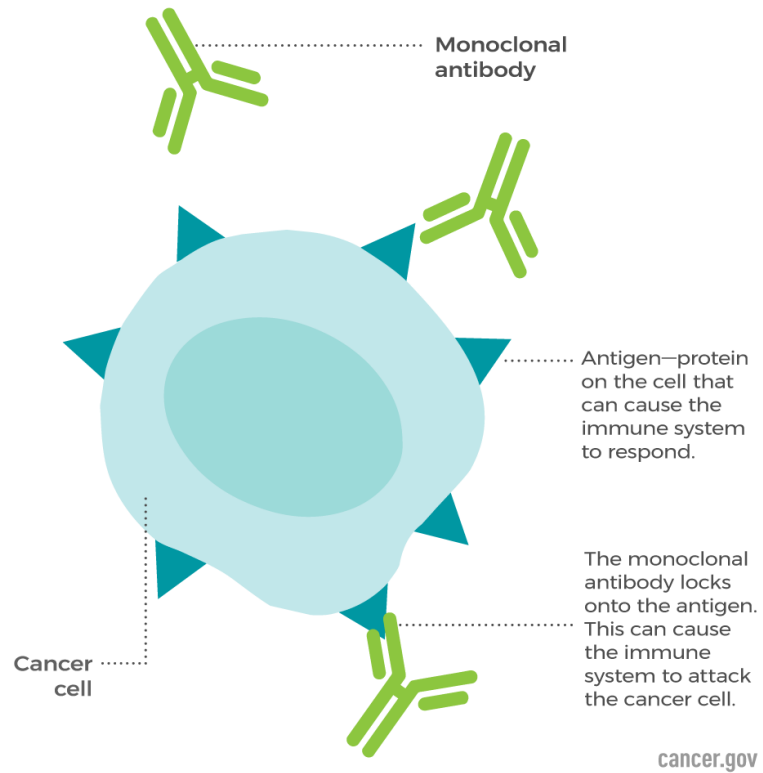
PD-1



CTLA-4

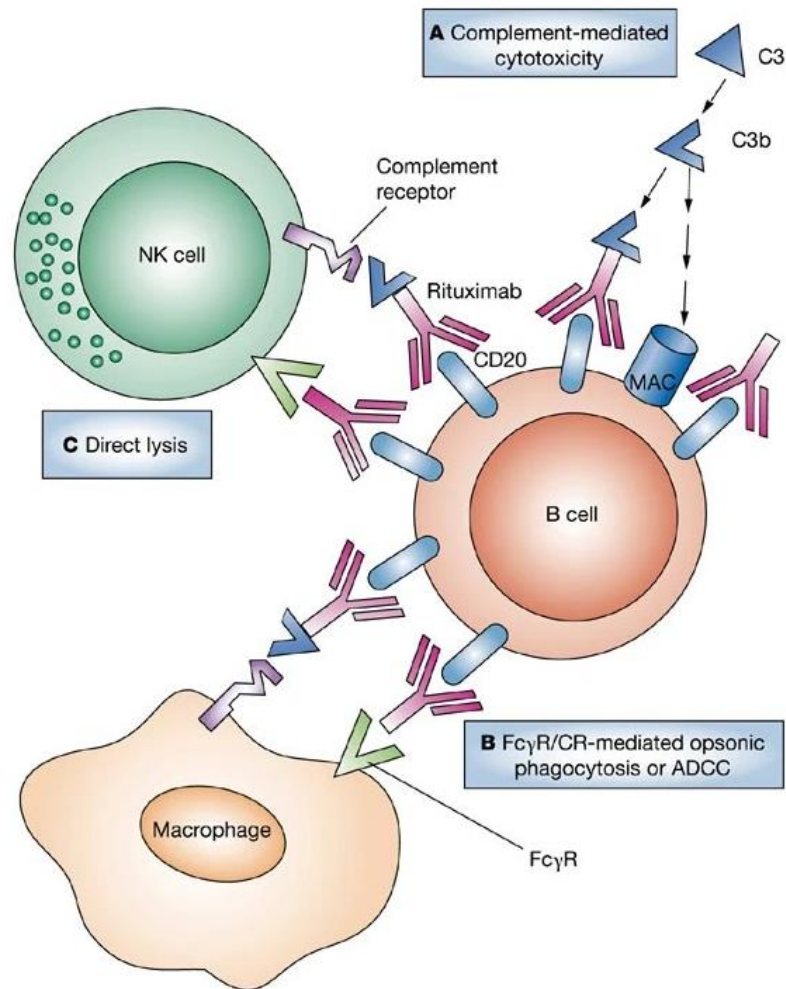
# Immunotherapy

## Monoclonal antibodies



# Immunotherapy

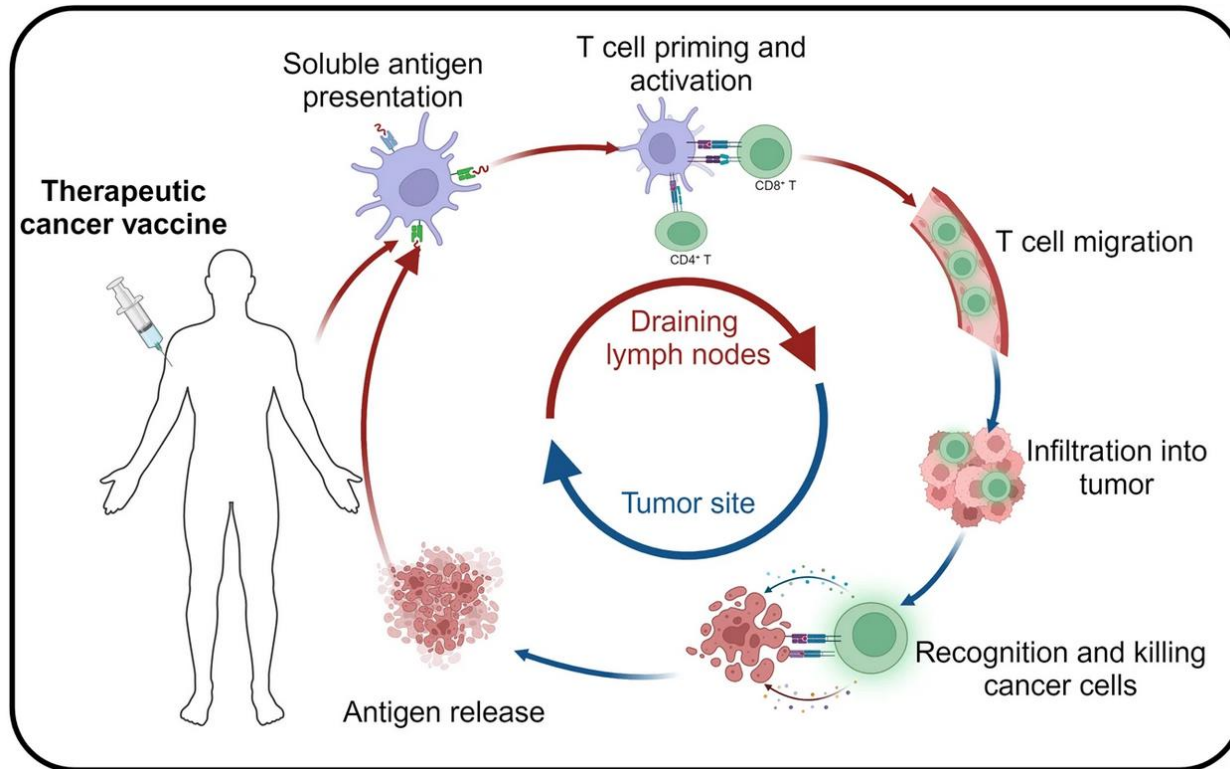
## Monoclonal antibodies



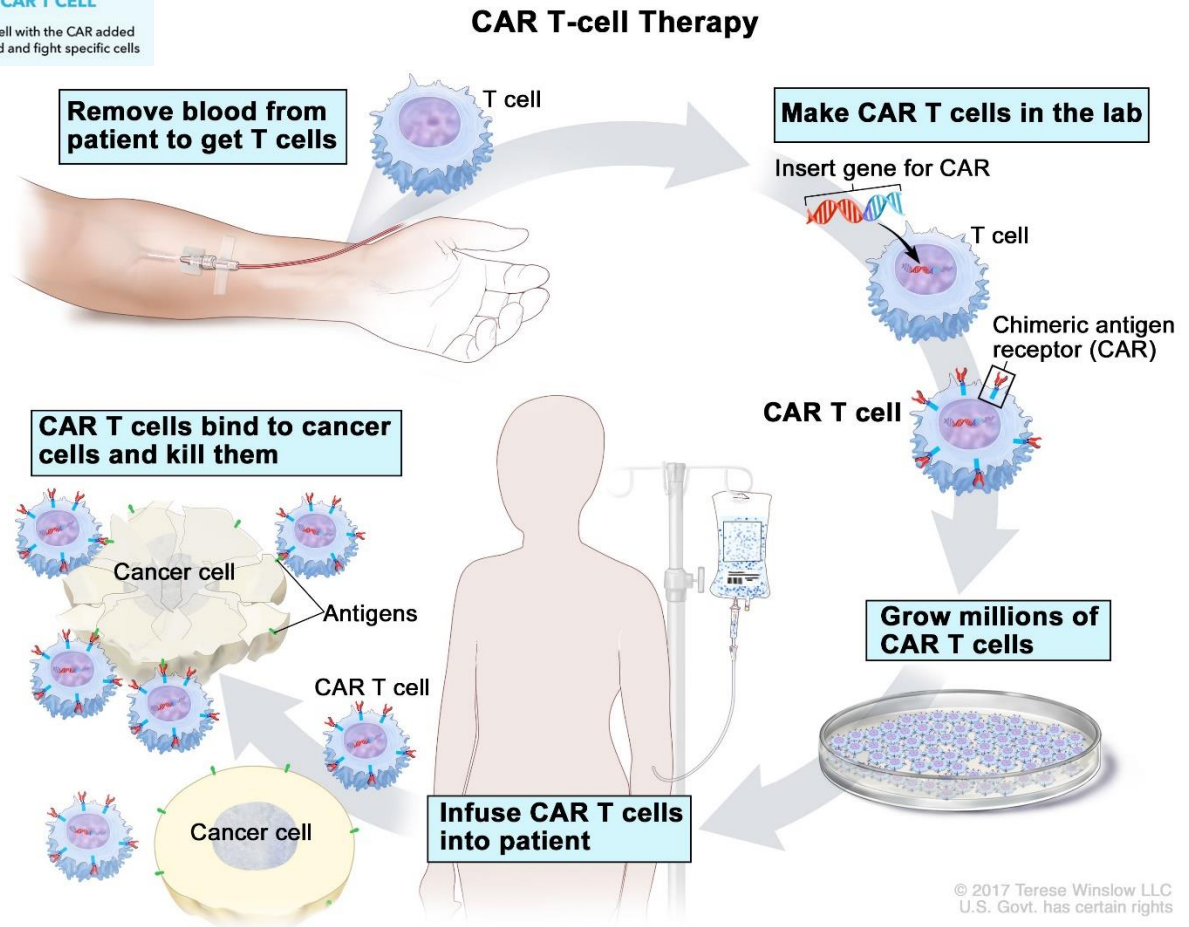
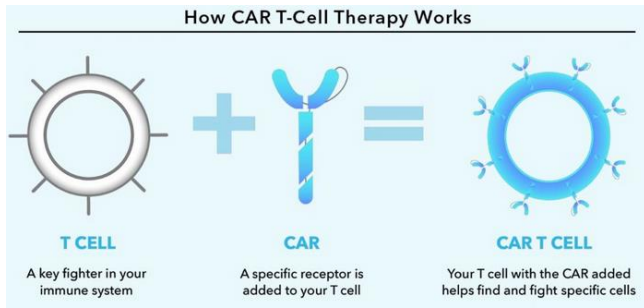


# Immunotherapy

## Cancer treatment vaccines



# Immunotherapy



Thank you for your attention!

*Questions?*

*Please write to [carlos.plazasirvent@rub.de](mailto:carlos.plazasirvent@rub.de)*