



# Positive Thinking

The Use Of Brain Power in  
Positive Control Selection for ADA

Matt Horsham, Ph.D  
Senior Scientist, LGC



# Intro



**Anti Drug Antibodies (ADA):**  
*unwanted* immune response to an administered drug

**This talk will focus on**

- Types of positive control (PC)
- Considerations
- Theoretical examples
- When, why and downstream impact

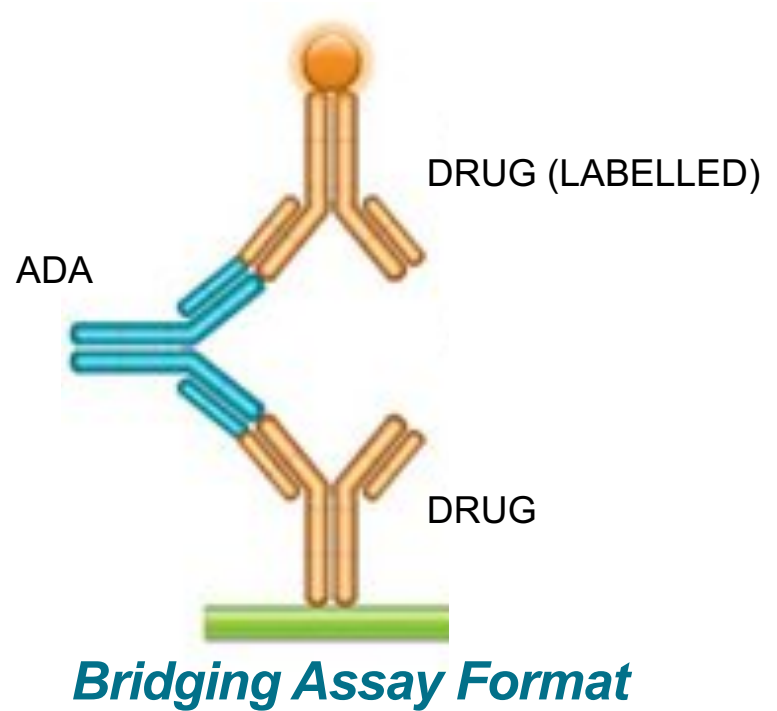
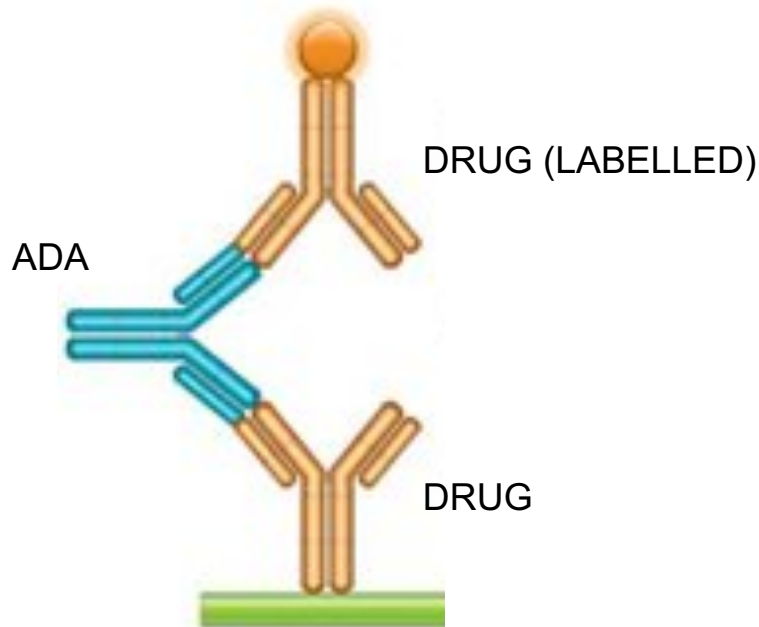


Image Credit: Bio-Rad.com

# What are PCs and why do we need them?



- PCs play the role of ADA in development & control of our assays
- They are the **most Critical Reagent** in our ADA assays
- They are there to show that an immune response can be raised against our drug
- PCs give us confidence in our assay performance



***Bridging Assay Format***

Image Credit: Bio-Rad.com

# The world we live in



- **In reality there is no IDEAL positive control**
  - Gold Std: a human pAb against whole drug
  - pAbs contain all subtypes, but every person is unique
- **Whatever we choose it is a SURROGATE for true ADA response**
  - Monitors assay performance
  - Regulatory requirement



“Considering the scope of this guideline is wide, the recommendations will have to be adapted on a case-by-case basis to fit into an individual development program.”

*-EMA Guidance on Immunogenicity 2017*

# Considerations



- **What is the current field of play?**
  - Changes in latest guidance
- **What do we know about our drug?**
  - Multi-domain?
  - How complex: Fusion protein?
  - Modifications?
- **What knowledge do we need to gain from our data?**
  - Preclinical vs clinical study?

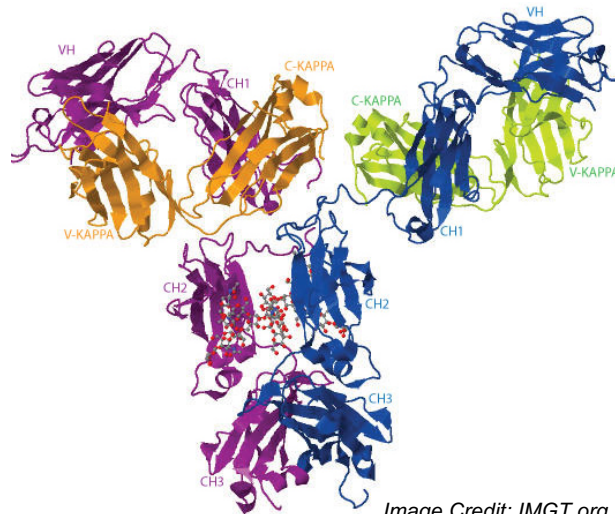


Image Credit: IMGT.org  
<http://www.imgt.org/IMGTeducation/IMGTlexique/G/Glycosylation.html>

Whichever PC we choose, it is a **SURROGATE** for a true ADA response 5

# PC options - lets go shopping

- Polyclonal Antibody (pAb)
- Pre-existing Abs from Samples
- Monoclonal antibody (mAb)
- Anti-idiotypes



# PC options - lets go shopping



	GOOD	BAD	UGLY
pAb	Closest to true ADA Contains multiple subtypes Can bind to multiple epitopes	Lower specificity	Critical Reagent Control = DIFFICULT
Pre-existing Abs		Whole matrix - impurities	Uncharacterised
mAb	High Specificity Critical Reagent Control = GOOD	Single Sub-type	Can miss the full immunogenicity picture
			FDA states mAb should bind to the variable region
Anti-Id		Needs to be at least F(ab') <sub>2</sub> to work in bridging assay	Sometimes the subtype is unknown





# More shopping.....



## Off The Peg



## Bespoke



V

Lets look at some hypothetical examples of why we might make different choices.....



# 1. We choose a pAb

- **Why?**

- The closest we can get to REAL ADA response
- We were able to elicit a response in our assay & achieve the required critical parameters

- **What if I can't get purified pAb - what do I do?**

- **Does it provoke a response in your assay?**

- Use the unpurified pAb in matrix
- Assess target interference to evaluate if there are any issues arising from using the matrix

# 1. We choose a pAb

- We have had experiences with complex molecules:
  - Bispecific drugs
- A pAb has proved ideal for this situation
  - Able to bind both parent molecules and the drug product
- Allows us to employ a multi-arm approach for screening and confirmatory analysis.

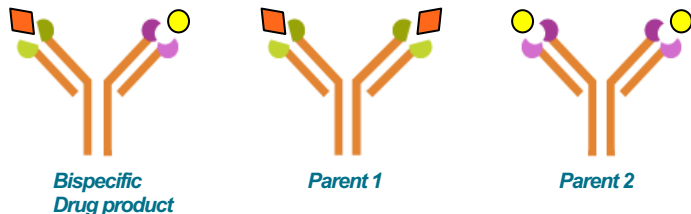
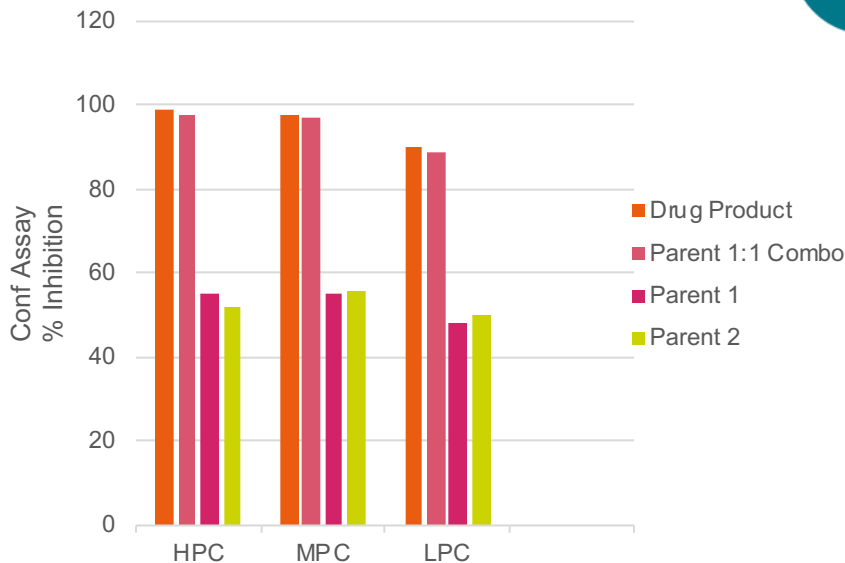


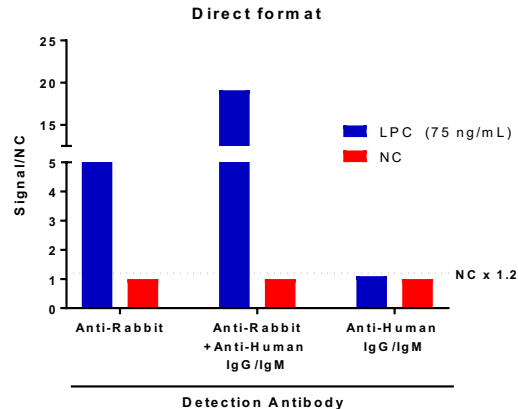
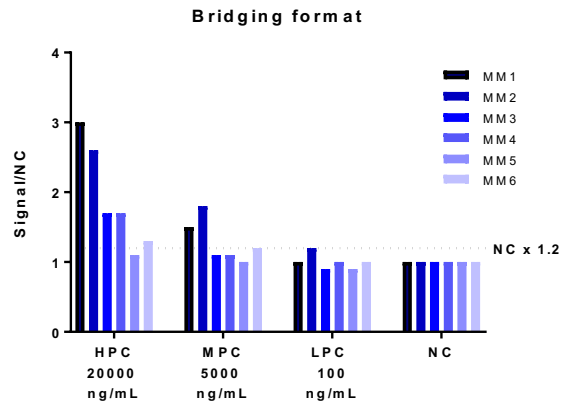
Image credit: Abbvie Oncology

Data on presented on this slide are mock data intended for illustration only

# 1. We choose a pAb

- **We have had experiences where factors have been limiting:**
  - Budget
  - Time
- **And drug molecules challenging:**
  - Smaller drug molecules
  - Advised to boost immunogenicity by conjugation to a carrier protein
  - Resulting assays have provided challenges in meeting sensitivity
- **A mAb with higher specificity would have been easier to work with and provided the information needed**

# 1. We choose a pAb



	Bridging	Direct
Sensitivity at 100 ng/mL	✗	✓
Drug Tolerance	✓	✓
Species reactivity	✓	✗
IgG/IgM reactivity	✓	✗

*Data on presented on this slide are mock data intended for illustration only*

## 2. we choose a mAb

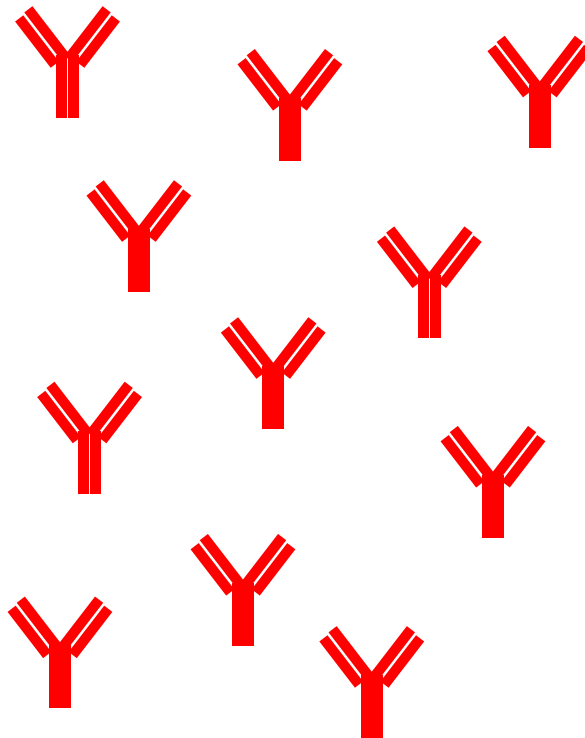


### Why?

- Suitable pAb not available
- We were able to get an adequate method with a stock mAb

### For Consideration:

- Are we capturing the complete immunogenicity picture?



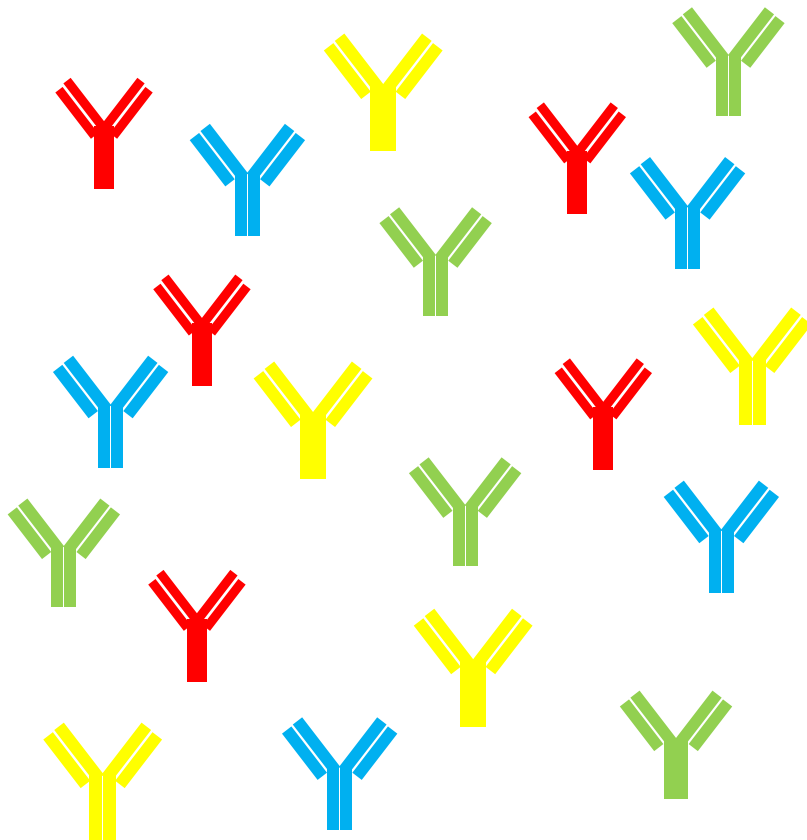
## 2. we choose a mAb



**For Consideration:**

**Would a mAb *mixture* have been a better option?**

- Cost
- Complexity
- Critical Reagent impact



## 2. we choose a mAb

- **We have had experience where factors have been limiting:**
  - PC availability
  - Time
  - Legacy methods
- **Generally historic assays which were needing brought in line with current guidelines**
- **Employing pAb PCs in assays originally developed with mAb PCs has generally led to different drug tolerance and sensitivity levels for the two PCs**



### 3. We choose a mAb / pAb dual approach



- **Why?**

- mAbs give us
  - Higher sensitivity
  - Greater critical reagent control
- pAbs give us
  - Lower sensitivity
  - Greater physiological relevance
- Use the pAb for critical assessments
- Use the mAb to control the assay during sample analysis



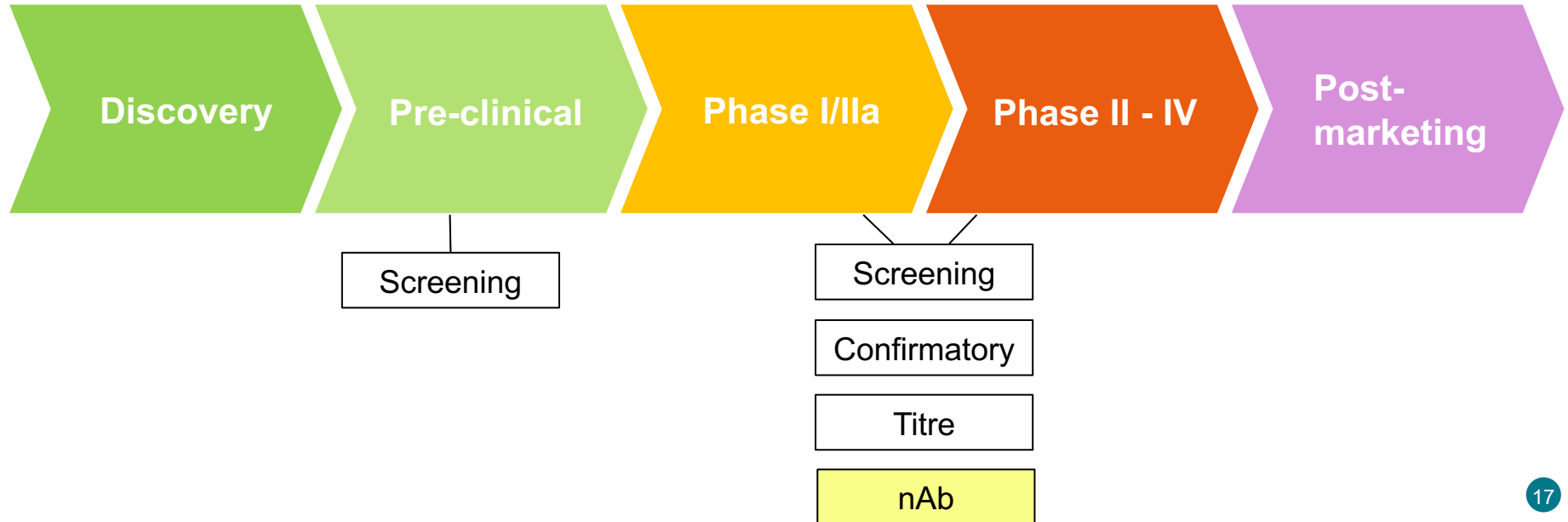
#### **For Consideration:**

- Takes time and extensive planning to set up
- Costly to implement

# Choice and downstream impact



- We adopt a tiered approach as we progress through the drug development timeline



# From tick box to brain power



- We know there is a general preference for PC choice
- Case by case basis
- Strike a balance between interpretation of the guidelines, physiological relevance and the assay requirements
- Show that it is scientifically justifiable and fit for purpose





The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the One that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' but 'That's funny...'

*Isaac Asimov*

## **Acknowledgements**

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