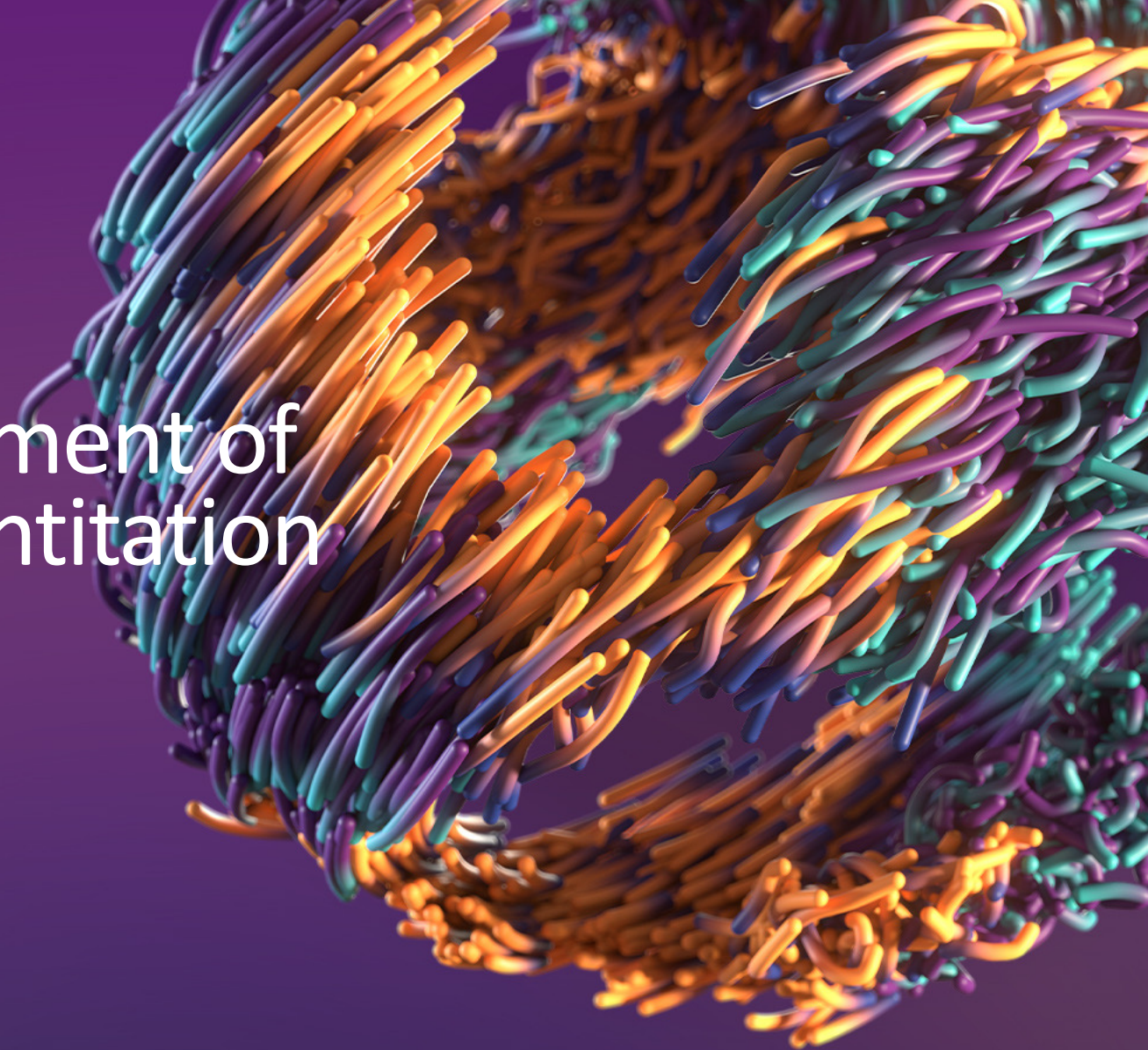


Challenges in the development of an LC-MS method for quantitation of sMET in human plasma

Sophie Roos

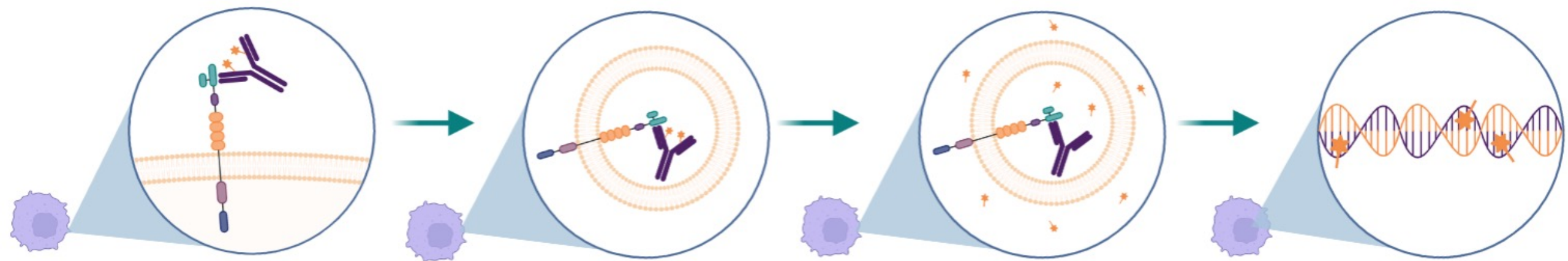
Researcher Bioanalysis & Protein Interaction



BYON3521: an anti-cancer ADC

- *c-MET* over-expressed on surface of various solid cancers
- *BYON3521* binds to *c-MET*
- Cytotoxin cleaved proteolytically after ADC internalization

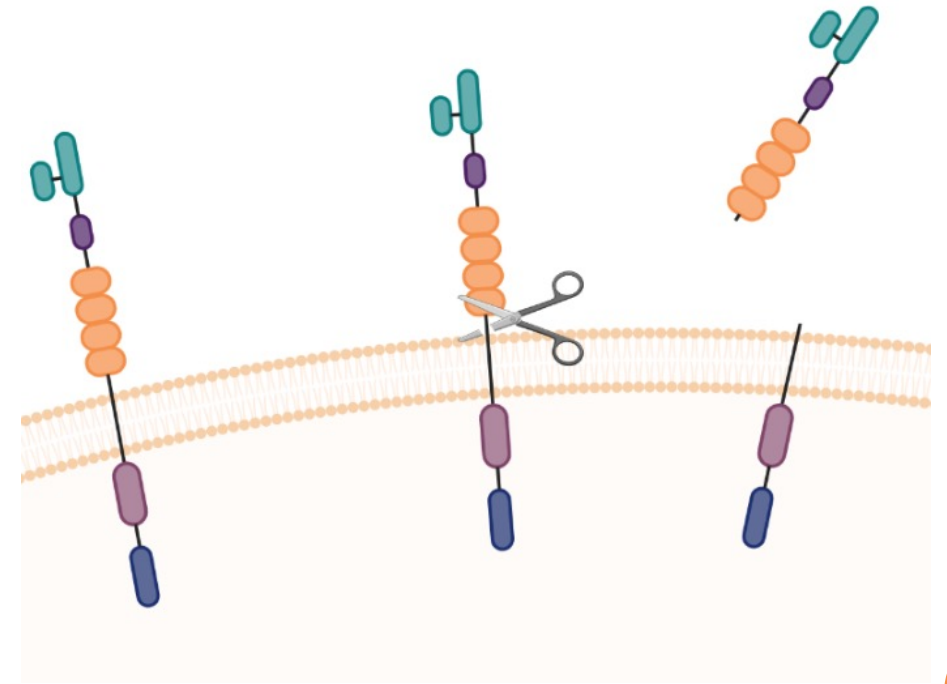
→ *Induces tumor cell death*



Soluble c-MET (sMET)

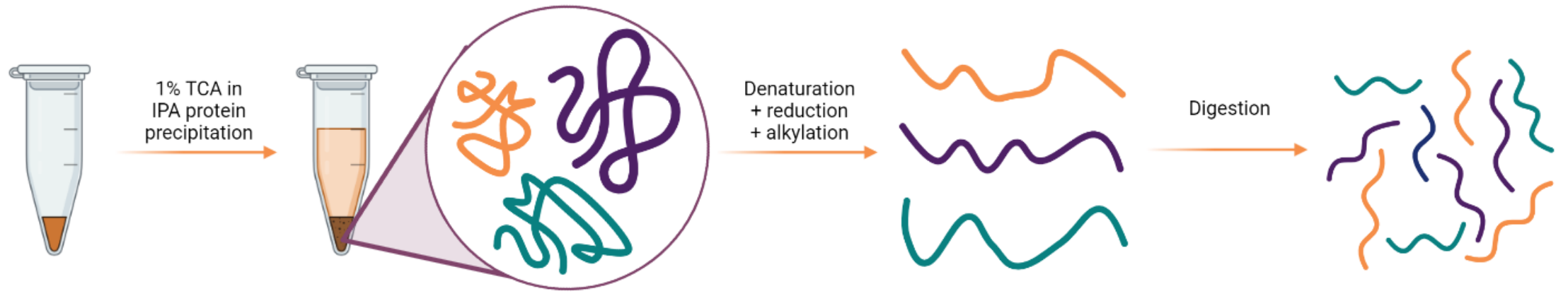
- Extracellular c-MET cleavage forms shed MET (sMET)
- Free sMET also binds BYON3521
 - Possibly reduced ADC efficiency
 - Interferes with in-house assays

→ *sMET concentration provides important information*



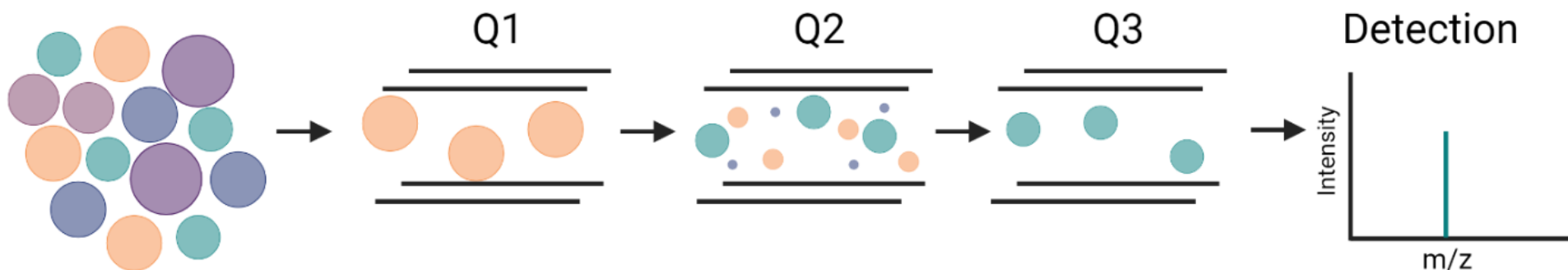
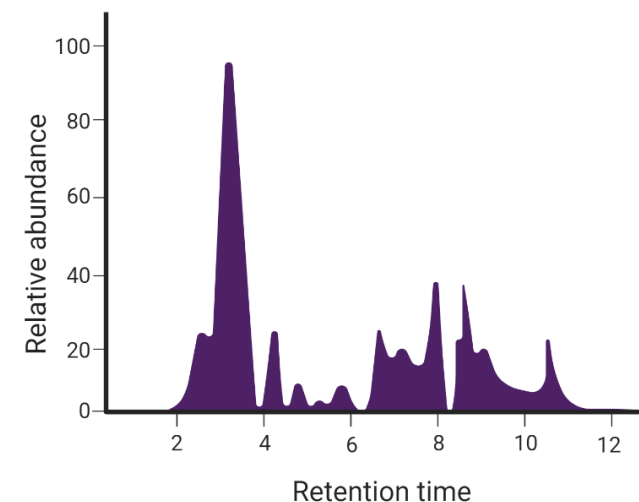
Assay set-up: bottom-up approach

- Target matrix
 - 10 μ L cynomolgus monkey (preclinical studies)
 - 10 μ L human plasma (clinical studies)



Original LC-MS settings

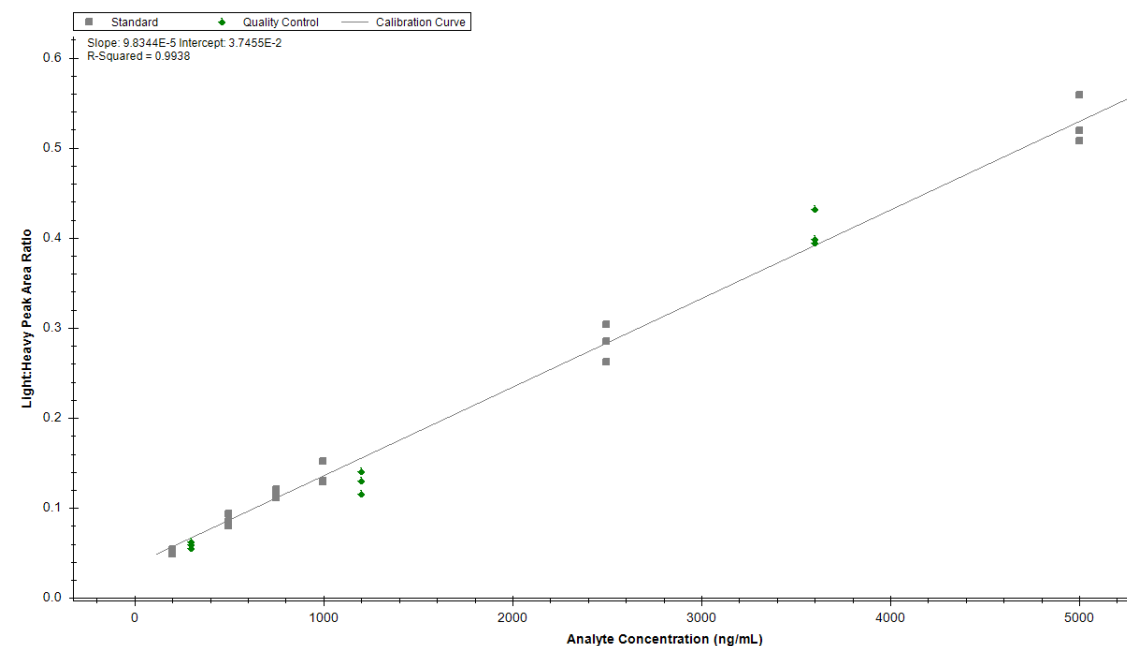
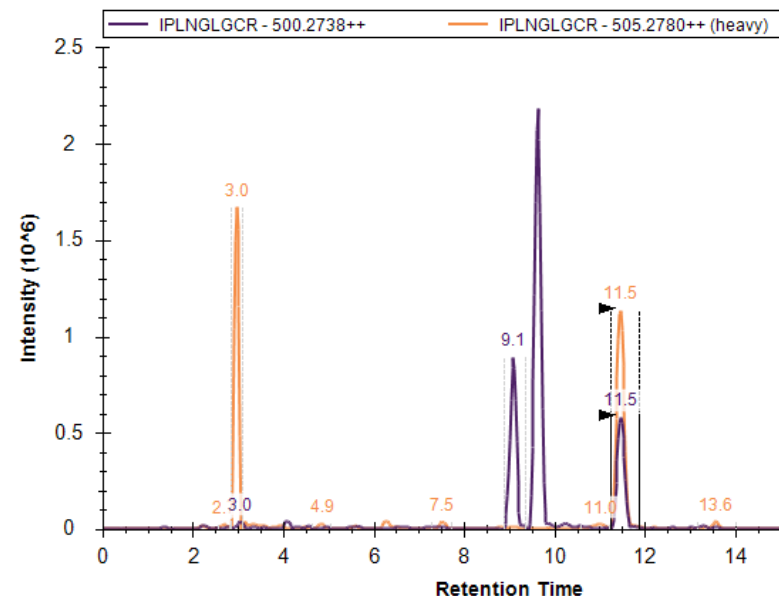
- LC system: Shimadzu Exion LC
 - Reverse phase peptide separation
 - Waters BEH peptide C18 300Å, 50x2.1mm, 1.7µm
 - Eluent A: 0.1% FA in MilliQ
 - Eluent B: 0.1% FA in ACN
- MS system: Sciex TripleQuad 7500
 - MRM mode



Assay parameters

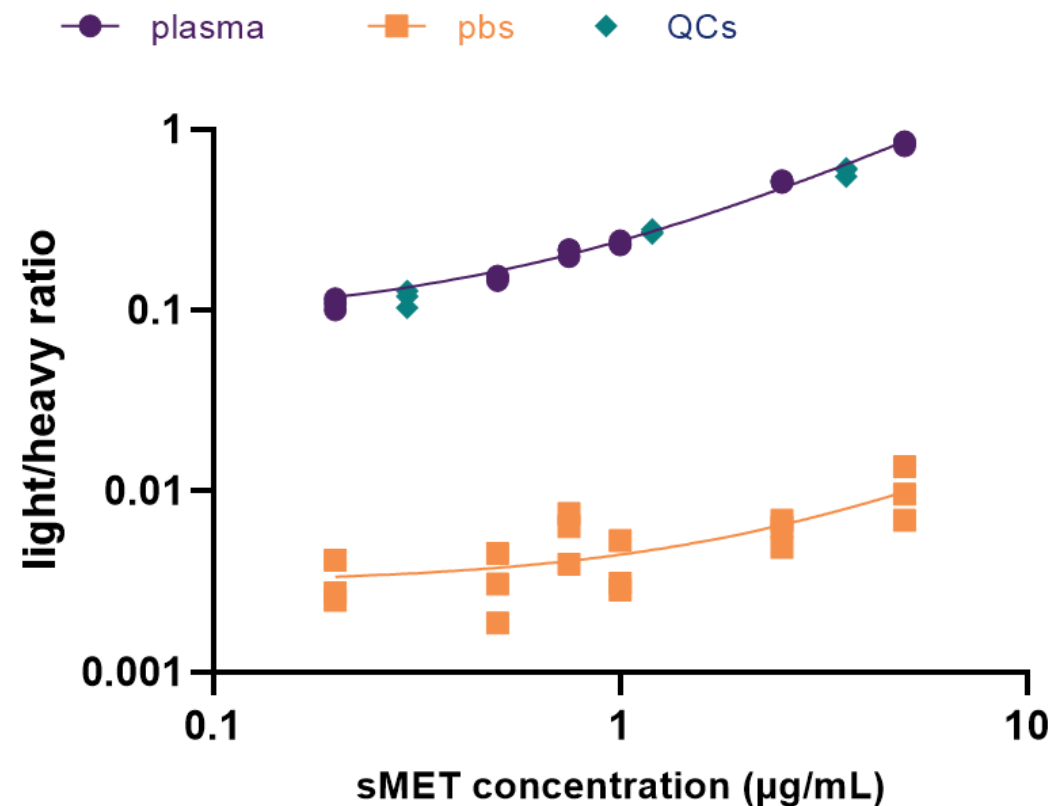
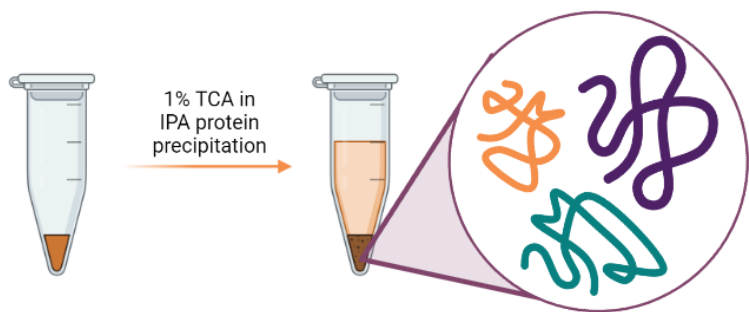
- Peptide *IPLNGLGCR* (500.2738++ *m/z*) selected as surrogate peptide
- Winged peptide *TKIPLNGLGCRHFQ* as internal Standard
 - *R* contains $^{13}\text{C}_6$ $^{15}\text{N}_4$ isotope
 - Digestion sequence: *IPLNGLGCR* (505.2780++ *m/z*)
- Range: 0.200-5.00 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ in cyno plasma
 - Linear regression
 - 1/x weighting
 - $R^2=0.9938$

BUT: sMET is endogenously present



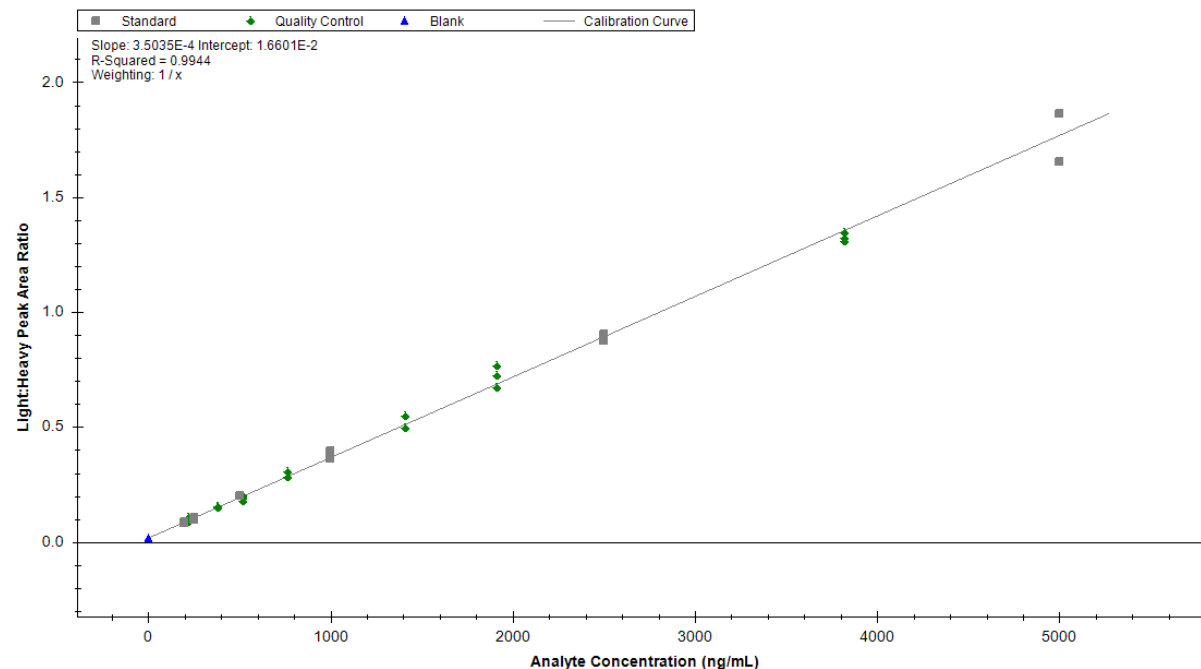
Surrogate matrix for endogenously present sMET

- 4% BSA in PBS standard surrogate matrix
- Problem: 1% TCA in IPA precipitates all proteins but albumin
- Other sample prep needed, or different surrogate matrix



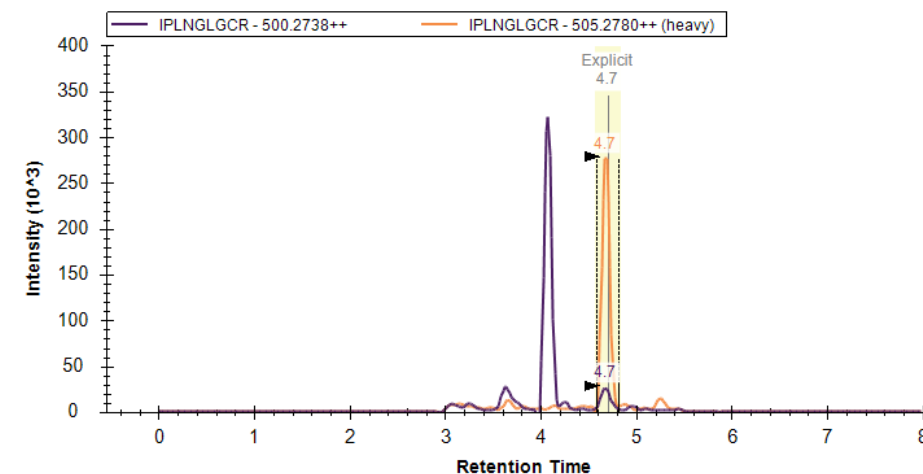
Surrogate matrix for endogenously present sMET

- Several plasma matrices tested in-house
- Chicken plasma shows no sMET response
- Endogenous concentration in cyno plasma:
 - 0.223 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$
- Assay for cynomolgus monkey validated
 - 0.200-5.00 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$
 - +/- 20% Bias and CV
 - Parallelism successfully evaluated
 - 2 F/T cycles + 16 hrs benchtop stability successfully evaluated

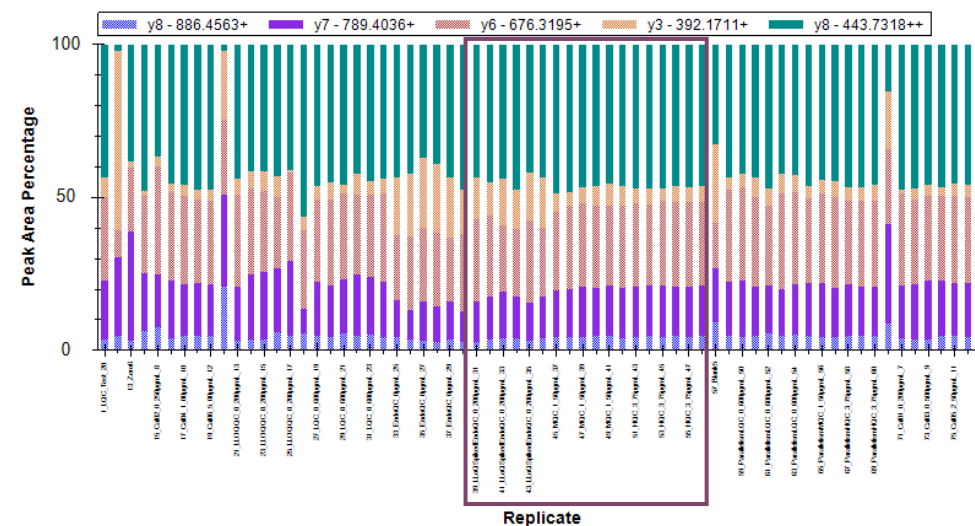


Validation in human assay: unexpected interferences

- No abnormalities observed in chromatograms
- But: increase endogenous sMET concentration observed ($\sim 0.4 \mu\text{g/mL}$ instead of $\sim 0.2 \mu\text{g/mL}$)

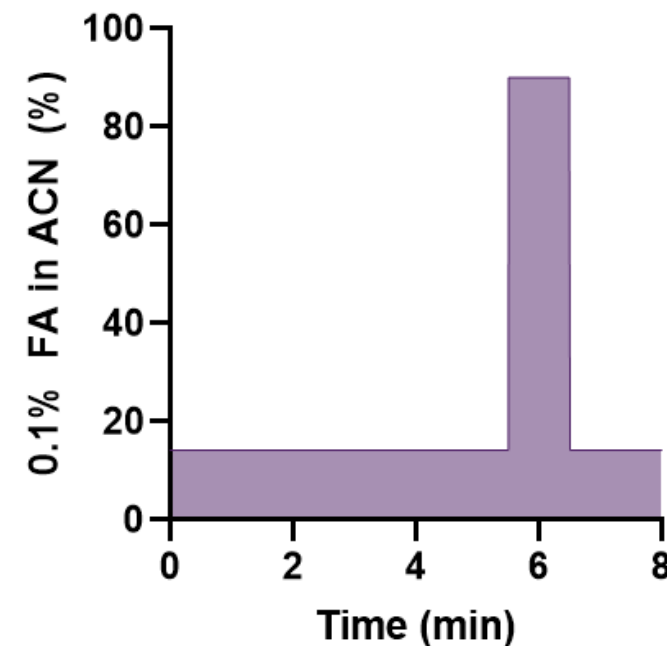
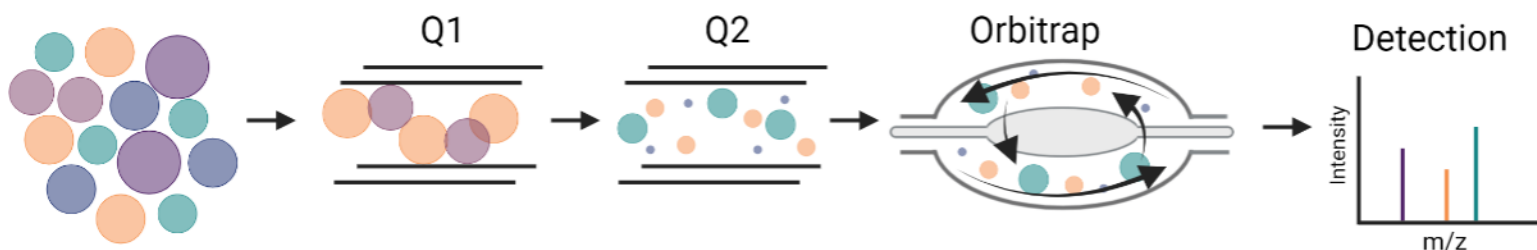


QC	Spiked concentration ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)	Concentration sMET ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)	Average bias (%)	CV (%)
LLoQ	0.200	0.200	23%	3%
L	0.600	0.600	-1%	12%
Endo	0.000	0%	5%	
LLoQ Spiked	0.200	0.584	13%	2%
M	1.50	1.88	20%	2%
H	3.75	4.13	21%	2%



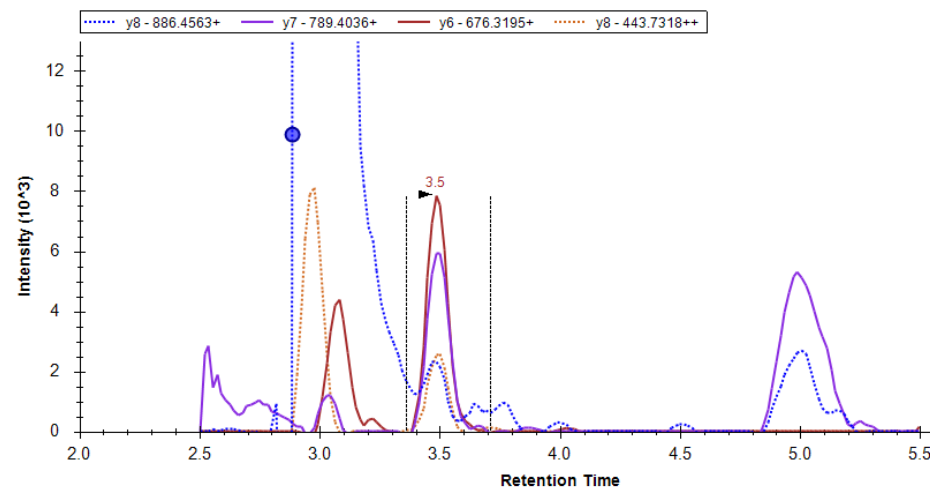
Validation in human assay: QExactive+ set-up

- Vanquish Flex:
 - Reverse phase peptide separation
 - Waters BEH peptide C18 300Å, 150x2.1mm, 1.7µm
 - Eluent A: 0.1% FA in MilliQ
 - Eluent B: 0.1% FA in ACN
- QExactive+ MS system:
 - Data-Independent Acquisition (DIA) mode
 - 140,000Da resolution
 - Isolation window: 1.2 m/z
 - Isolation offset: 0.2 m/z



Validation in human assay: QExactive+ assay performance

- Sensitivity increased to 0.100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$
- Endogenous concentration of 0.160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ observed
- Assay qualifications:
 - 0.100-5.00 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, linear regression, 1/x weighting
 - Parallelism, dilution integrity, selectivity, specificity, stability (sample, reinjection, bench-top, F/T, long-term) all successfully evaluated



QC	Spiked concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$)	Concentration sMET ($\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$)	Average bias (%)	CV (%)
VLLoQ	0.100	0.100	16%	8%
LLoQ	0.200	0.200	15%	5%
L	0.300	0.300	15%	8%
Endo	0.000	0.159	0%	8%
VLLoQ Spiked	0.100	0.259	9%	8%
LLoQ Spiked	0.200	0.359	6%	5%
M	1.50	1.66	-7%	9%
H	3.75	3.91	-13%	6%

Conclusion

- 4% BSA in PBS is **not** suited as surrogate matrix when precipitating with 1% TCA in IPA
- Animal plasma may be better surrogate matrix than 4% BSA in PBS
- Switch to high resolution LC-MS system may be necessary to remove interfering signals
- Assay qualifications:
 - Suited for quantitation of sMET in cyno and human plasma
 - Chicken plasma as surrogate matrix
 - 0.100-5.00µg/mL
 - Currently in use in our BYON3521.001 clinical study