

**Case Study:**  
**Establishing a Singlicate Assay  
Detecting Cross-Reactive Anti-  
Drug Antibodies Supporting  
Clinical Development of a  
Peptide Hormone Therapeutic**

Catrina Friedrich

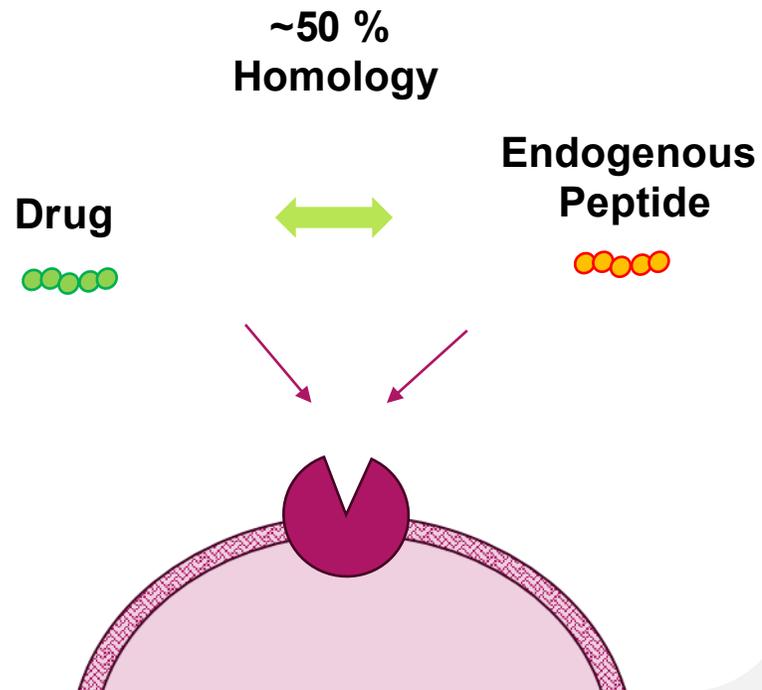
18<sup>th</sup> EBF Open Symposium

18-Nov-2025

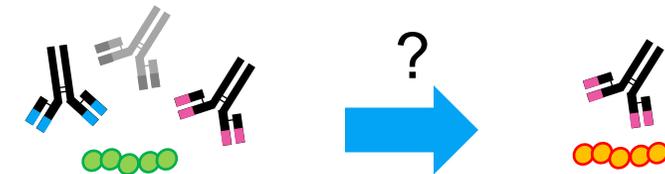


# Cross-Reactivity Assessment: A Critical Component of Immunogenicity Testing Strategy

## Drug Candidate



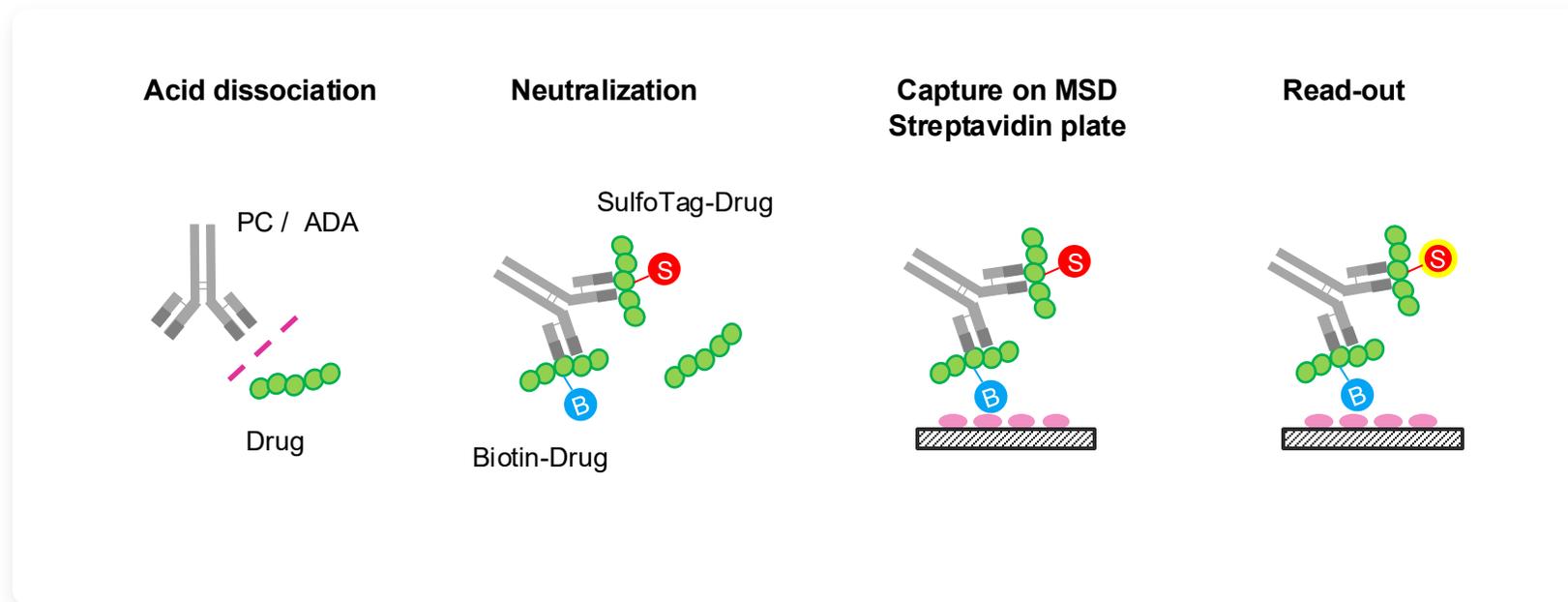
## Cross-Reactivity Assessment



→ need to assess ADA cross-reactivity to endogenous peptide

# Maintaining Preclinical ADA Assay Format in Clinical Studies

## Bridging ADA Assay with Acidification to Mitigate Drug Interference



### *Drug Tolerance*

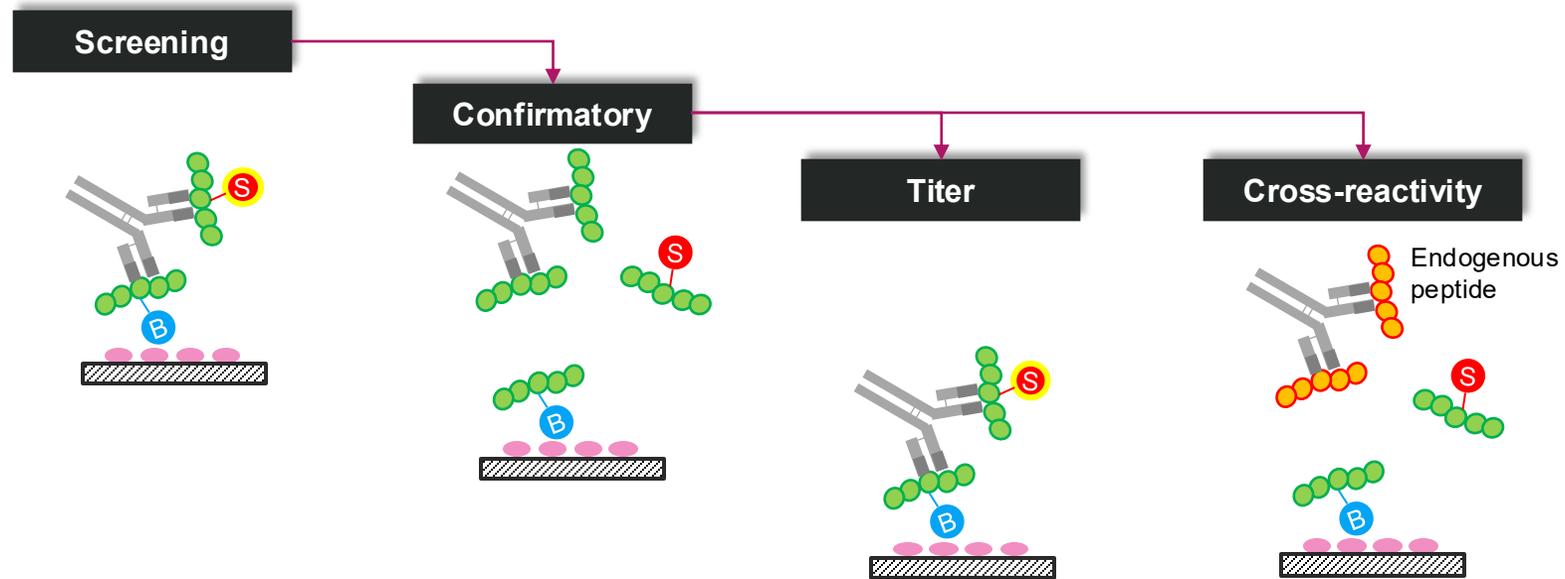
Pre-clinical

580 nM at 1000 ng/mL pAb PC

Clinical Requirement

200 nM at 100 ng/mL PC

# Program-Tailored Multi-tiered Testing Strategy



	Assay	PC: Preferred Option	PC: Alternative Option
1	Screening	PC1	PC1
2	Confirmatory		
3a	Titer		PC 2
3b	Cross-reactivity		

# Positive Control Design and Implementation Strategy

Positive Control Antibody	Description		Binding to endogenous peptide 
pAb	pAb against therapeutic		Not determined
mAb1	mAb against therapeutic		Poor
mAb2	mAb against therapeutic		Good

**One** positive control

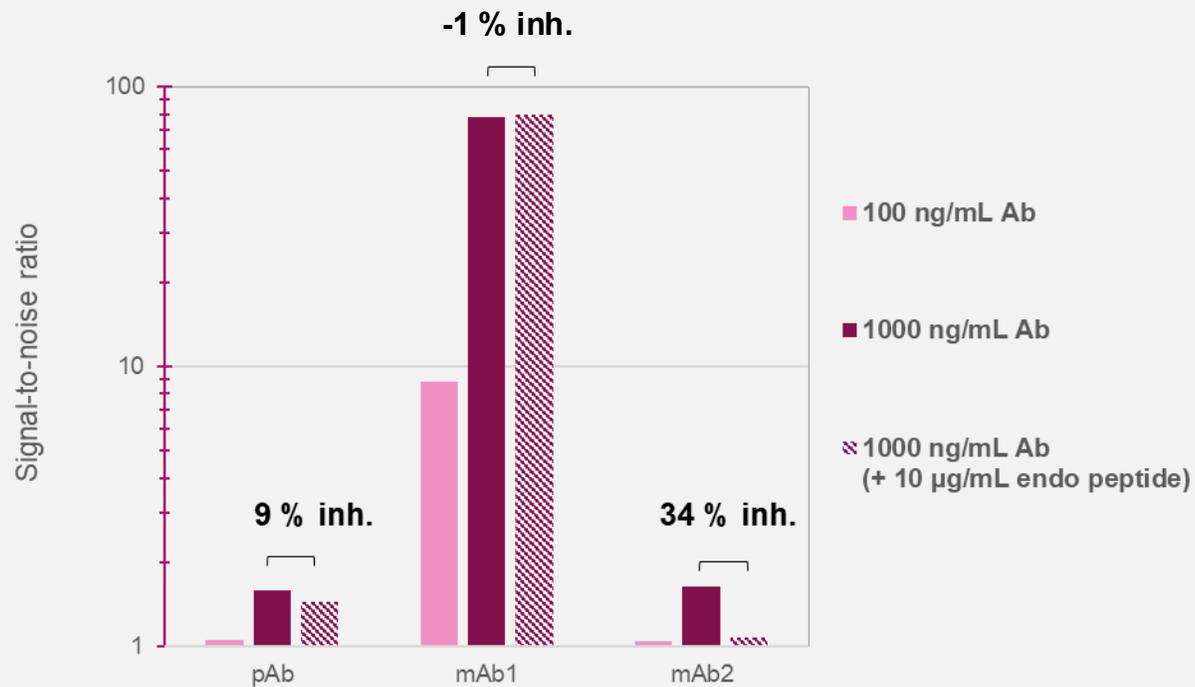


**Two** positive controls



Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
pAb: all tiers	mAb2: all tiers	Mix of mAb1 + mAb2: all tiers	mAb1: screening / confirmatory / titer mAb2: cross-reactivity

# Assessing Positive Controls: Cross-reactivity



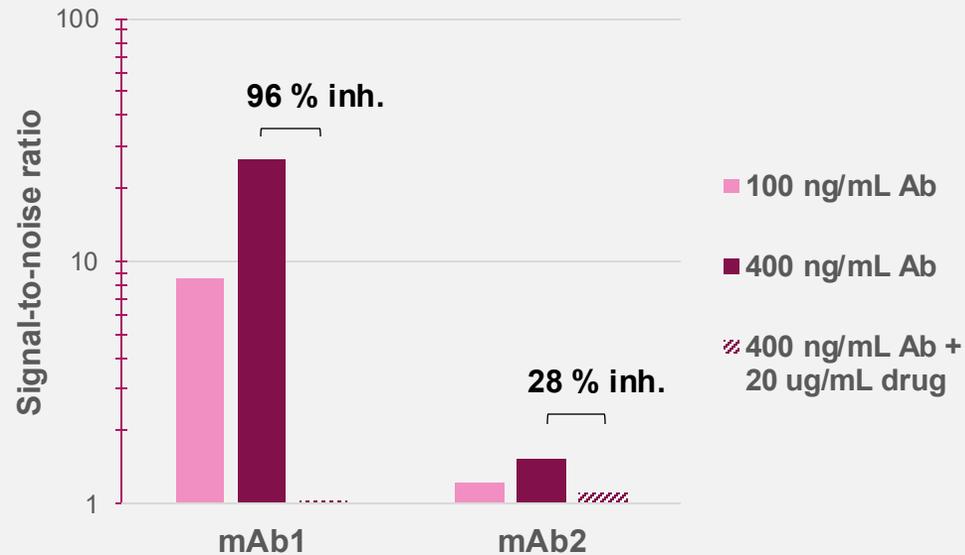
## pAb as Positive Control

- Poor cross-reactivity to endogenous peptide
- Limited pAb supply

→ Excluded from further testing

<del>Option 1</del>	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<del>pAb: all tiers</del>	mAb2: all tiers	Mix of mAb1 + mAb2: all tiers	mAb1: screening / confirmatory / titer mAb2: cross-reactivity

# Assessing Positive Controls: Drug Inhibition



## mAb as Positive Control

- mAb1 and mAb2 are sensitive to drug inhibition
- mAb2 affinity to drug is low
- **Estimated sensitivity close to 100 ng/mL**

## Next Steps

- Improve sensitivity
- Test mix of mAbs

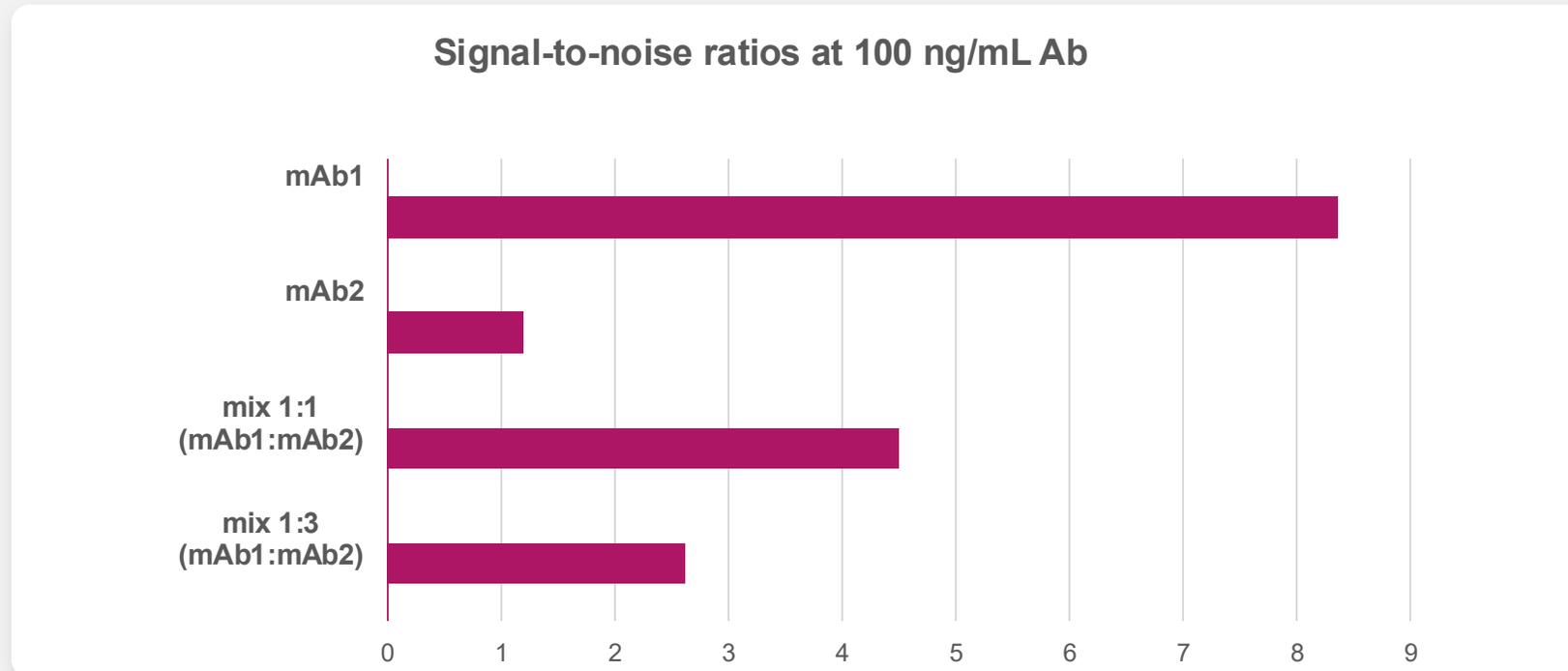
<del>Option 1</del>	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<del>pAb: all tiers</del>	mAb2: all tiers	Mix of mAb1 + mAb2: all tiers	mAb1: screening / confirmatory / titer mAb2: cross-reactivity

# Improving Sensitivity: Optimization Efforts

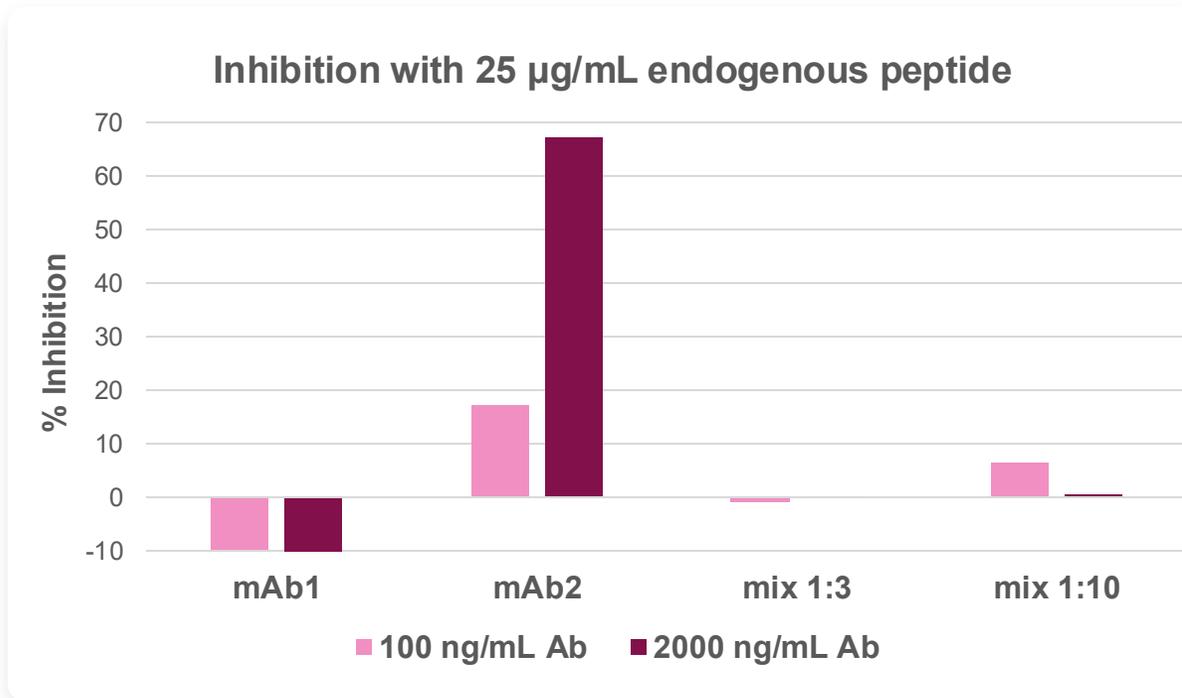
<b>Critical Reagents</b>	<b>Titration of Critical Reagents</b>	
<b>Incubation Time</b>	<b>Increase sample incubation with master mix</b>	
<b>Acid Sensitivity</b>	<b>Is mAb2 sensitive to acid treatment?</b>	
<b>Buffer</b>	<b>Testing different block and sample diluent</b>	
<b>MRD</b>	<b>Testing Different MRD</b>	<b>Estimated sensitivity ~100 ng/mL for mAb2</b> 

# Evaluation of Mixed Ab Positive Control

<del>Option 1</del>	<del>Option 2</del>	Option 3	Option 4
<del>pAb: all tiers</del>	<del>mAb2: all tiers</del>	Mix of mAb1 and mAb2: all tiers	mAb1: screening / confirmatory / titer mAb2: cross-reactivity



# Evaluation of Mixed Ab Positive Control – Cross-reactivity



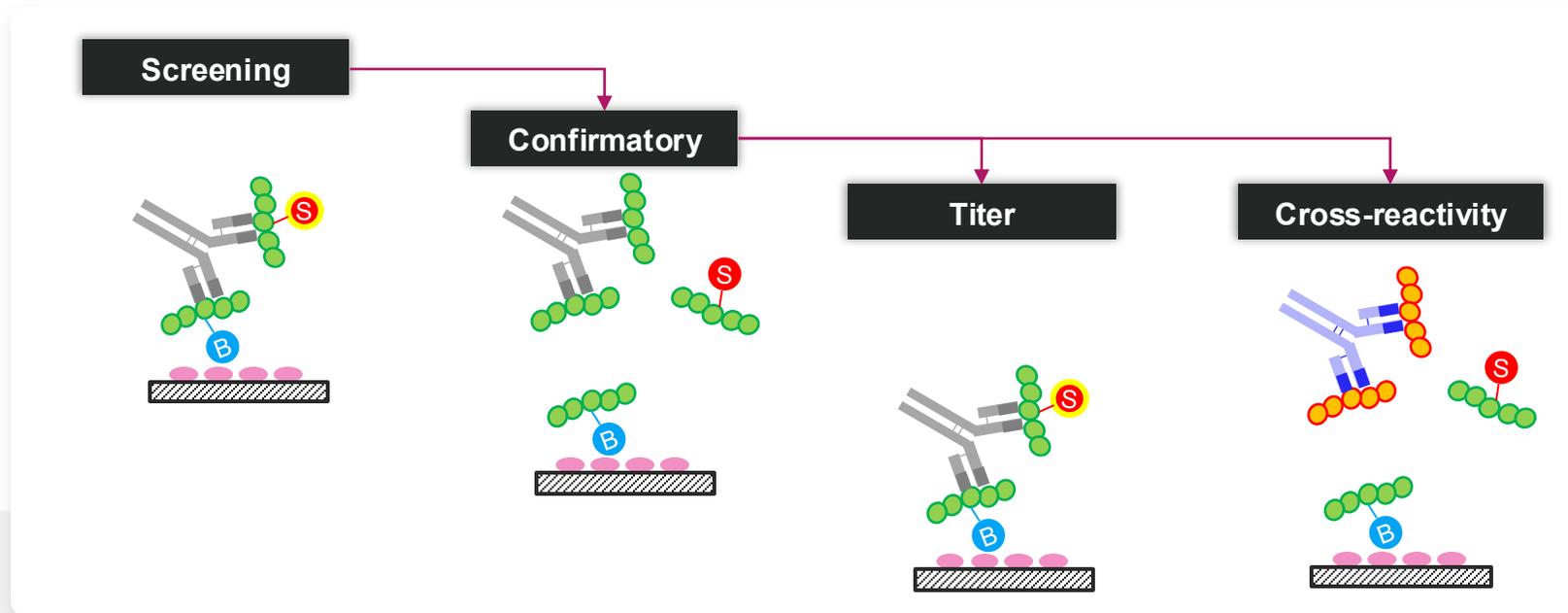
## mAb mix

- Mix of mAb1 + mAb2 is not sensitive to inhibition

→ mAb1 + mAb2 is not a viable option

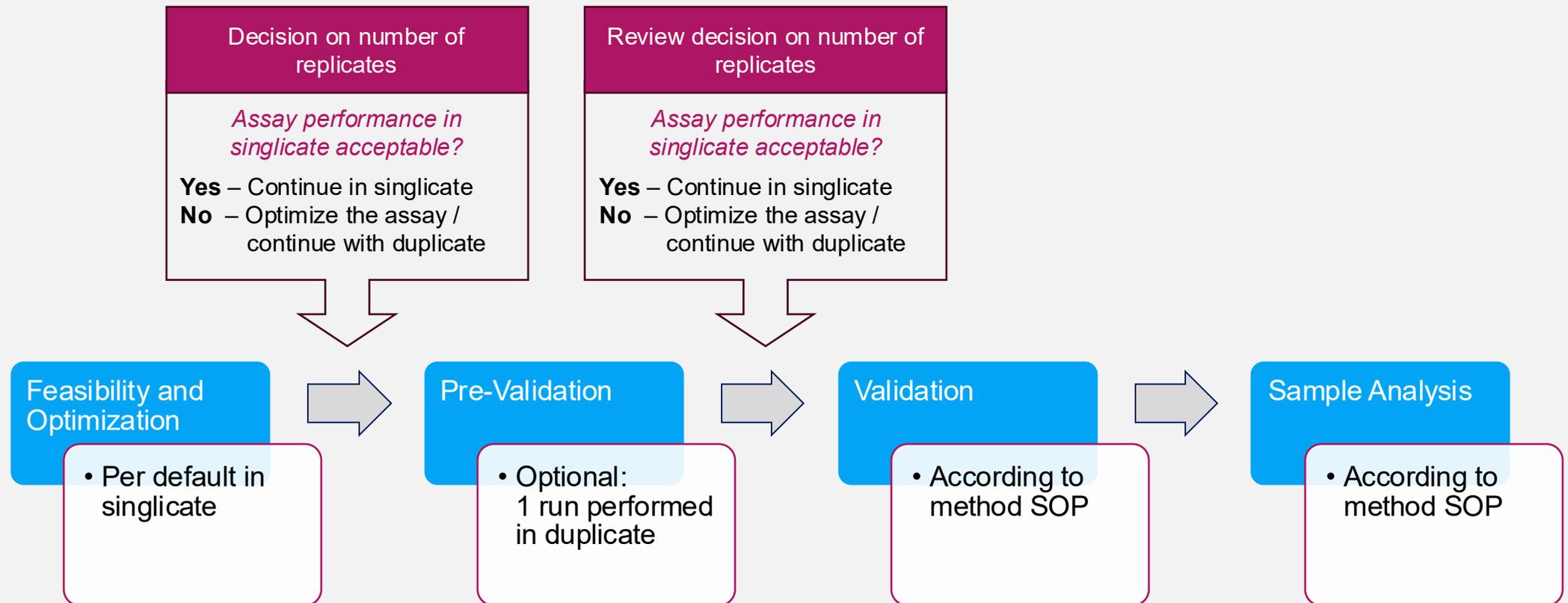
<del>Option 1</del>	<del>Option 2</del>	<del>Option 3</del>	Option 4
<del>pAb: all</del>	<del>mAb2: all</del>	<del>Mix of mAb1 and mAb2: all</del>	mAb1: screening / confirmatory / titer mAb2: cross-reactivity

# Program-Tailored Multi-tiered Testing Strategy



- ✓ Assay format could be maintained for all tiers
- ✓ Suitable positive controls selected
- ✓ Confirmatory assay with excess drug (10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ )
- ✓ Cross-reactivity assay with excess of endogenous peptide (25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) and a separate positive control

# Standard ADA Testing Strategy: Singlicate?



# Pre-Validation Results Support Singlicate Use

## Selectivity in diseased population

pLPC mAb1: 5 ng/mL  
 pLPC mAb2: 75 ng/mL  
 Blue: RLU > rCP

	Duplicate Result (RLU)			First Well Result (RLU)			Second Well Result (RLU)			%CV Between Wells		
	blank	pLPC mAb1	pLPC mAb2	blank	pLPC mAb1	pLPC mAb2	blank	pLPC mAb1	pLPC mAb2	blank	pLPC mAb1	pLPC mAb2
Buffer	56	110	70	54	111	66	57	108	73	3.82	1.94	<b>7.12</b>
Pool	57	108	66	58	110	67	56	106	65	2.48	2.62	2.14
Ind 1	56	103	63	55	102	63	56	103	63	1.27	0.69	0.00
Ind 2	59	110	92	59	108	91	59	111	93	0.00	1.94	1.54
Ind 3	63	113	69	63	112	68	63	113	69	0.00	0.63	1.03
Ind 4	59	113	68	59	113	68	58	113	68	1.21	0.00	0.00
Ind 5	56	108	65	55	107	65	56	108	64	1.27	0.66	1.10
Ind 6	67	117	75	66	118	75	67	115	74	1.06	1.82	0.95
Ind 7	55	104	64	53	104	62	56	104	66	3.89	0.00	4.42
Ind 8	57	105	64	58	105	62	56	105	66	2.48	0.00	4.42
Ind 9	56	103	63	55	101	63	56	104	63	1.27	2.07	0.00
Ind 10	56	105	64	57	106	64	55	103	64	2.53	2.03	0.00

Plate average % CV	1.66
Max % CV	7.12

→ Good precision between wells

→ Singlicate analysis is suitable

# Assay Pre-Validation Summary

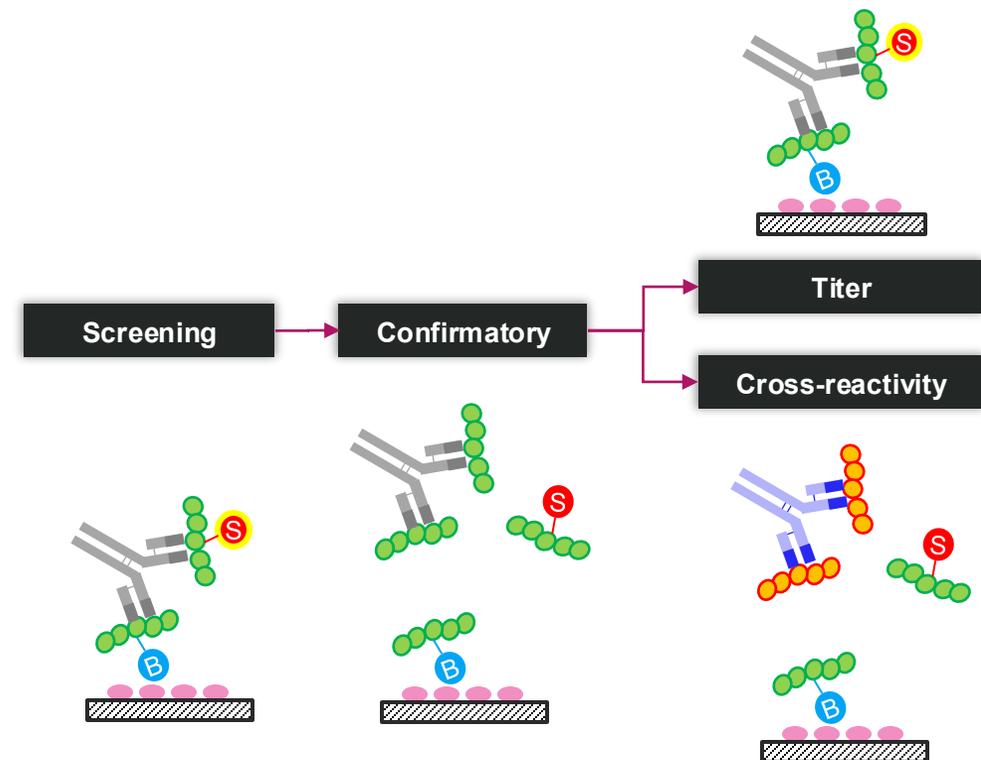
Assay Parameters	Screening, Confirmatory, Titer Assays		Cross-Reactivity Assay
<b>PC</b>	mAb1: pLPC: 5.00 ng/mL; MPC: 100 ng/mL; HPC: 1000 ng/mL		mAb2: pLPC: 75 ng/mL; HPC: 2000 ng/mL
<b>Cut Point</b>	Screening: Confirmatory:	1.07 (Robust parametric approach) 11.9 %	6.3 %
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Screening: Confirmatory:	1.04 ng/mL 1.28 ng/mL	184 ng/mL
<b>Precision</b>	Intra- and Inter-assay precision: < 20 % CV Intra-assay precision: max. 3.8 % CV		
<b>Hook Effect</b>	No hook effect (tested up to 42 µg/mL mAb1)		No hook effect (tested up to 6.6 µg/mL mAb2)
<b>Drug Tolerance</b>	> 200 nM at 100 ng/mL mAb1		> 200 nM at 100 ng/mL mAb2
<b>Selectivity, healthy</b>	10/10 negative 10/10 positive at pLPC and HPC		10/10 positive at pLPC and HPC
<b>Selectivity, diseased</b>	8/10 negative 10/10 positive at pLPC		10/10 positive at pLPC

Grey: only tested in screening assay (non-inhibited)

# Conclusion

- ✓ Robust, program-tailored, multi-tiered ADA testing strategy meeting both clinical and regulatory requirements
- ✓ Careful selection and evaluation of positive controls for reliable detection of ADAs including cross-reactive assessment
- ✓ Sustained supply for positive controls
- ✓ Demonstrated suitability of singlicate analysis enabling high throughput:

	Singlicate	Duplicate
Screening	88	42
Confirmatory / Cross-reactivity	40	16
Titer	16	8



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**THANK YOU**