

Pharma&Biotech



# Immunogenicity Prediction

## Where are we?

European Immunogenicity Platform, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016

# Lonza

# Immunogenicity of Biopharmaceuticals

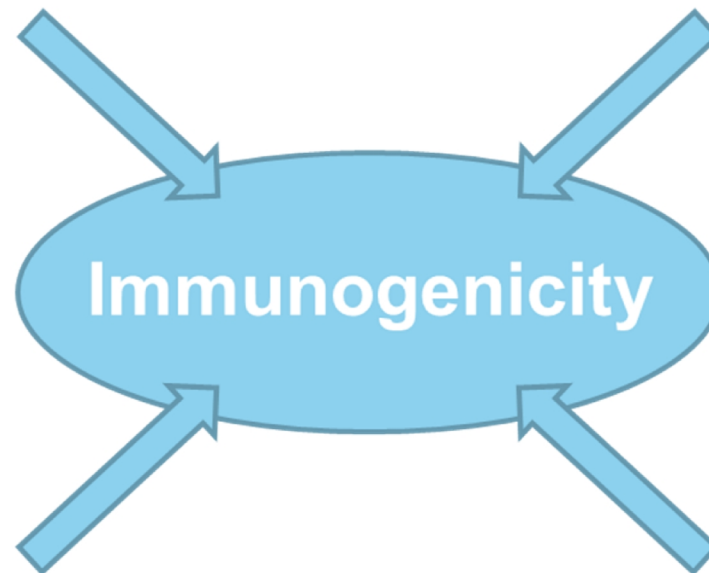
## Potential causes

### The Protein Sequence & Structure

Source/Species  
T & B cell epitopes  
Post-translational modifications

### The Product

Expression system  
Production contaminants  
Aggregates  
Formulation Excipients



### The Clinical Agent

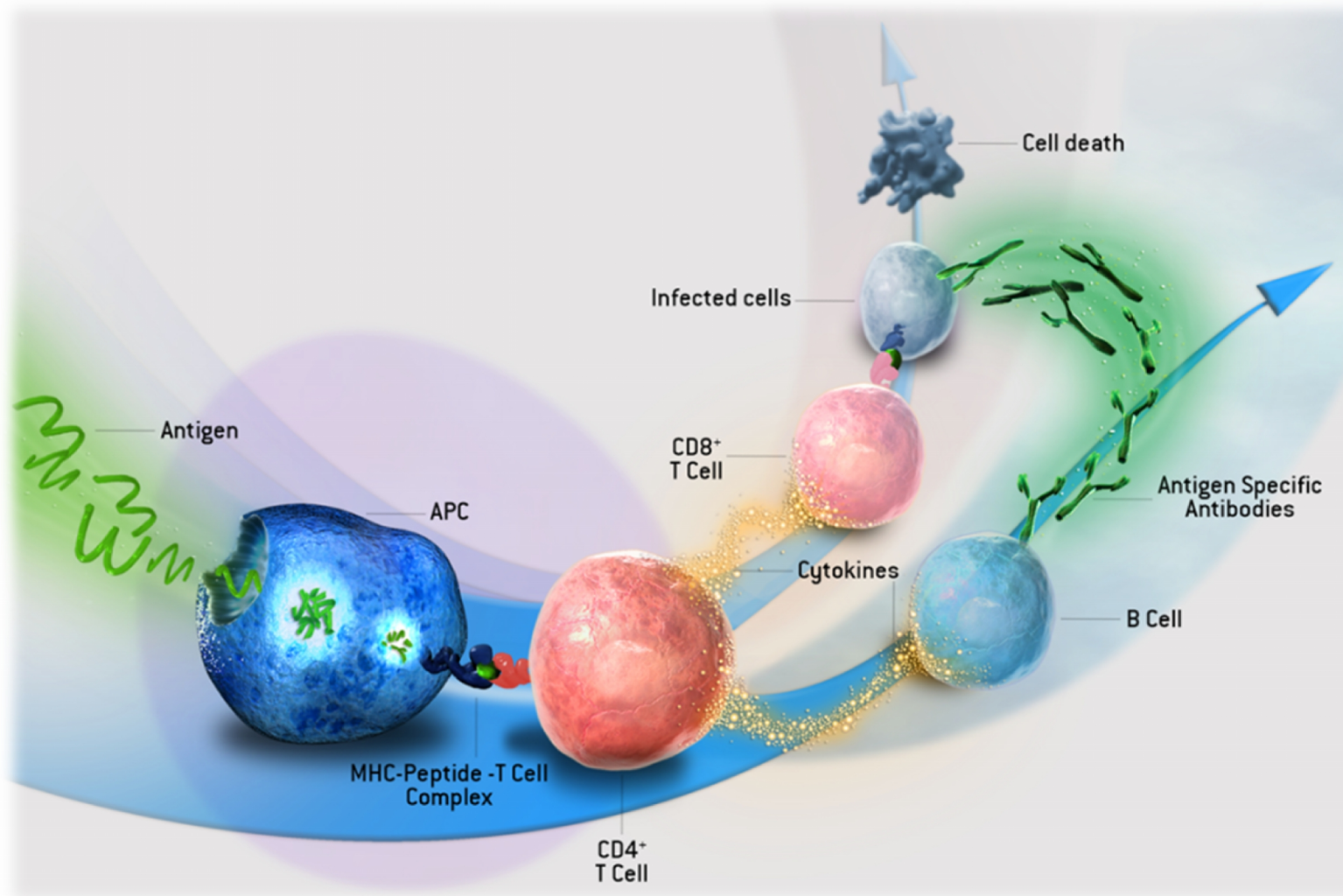
Route of application  
Dose  
Treatment regimen

### The Patient

Immune status  
HLA allotype  
Medical history  
Pre-existing antibodies

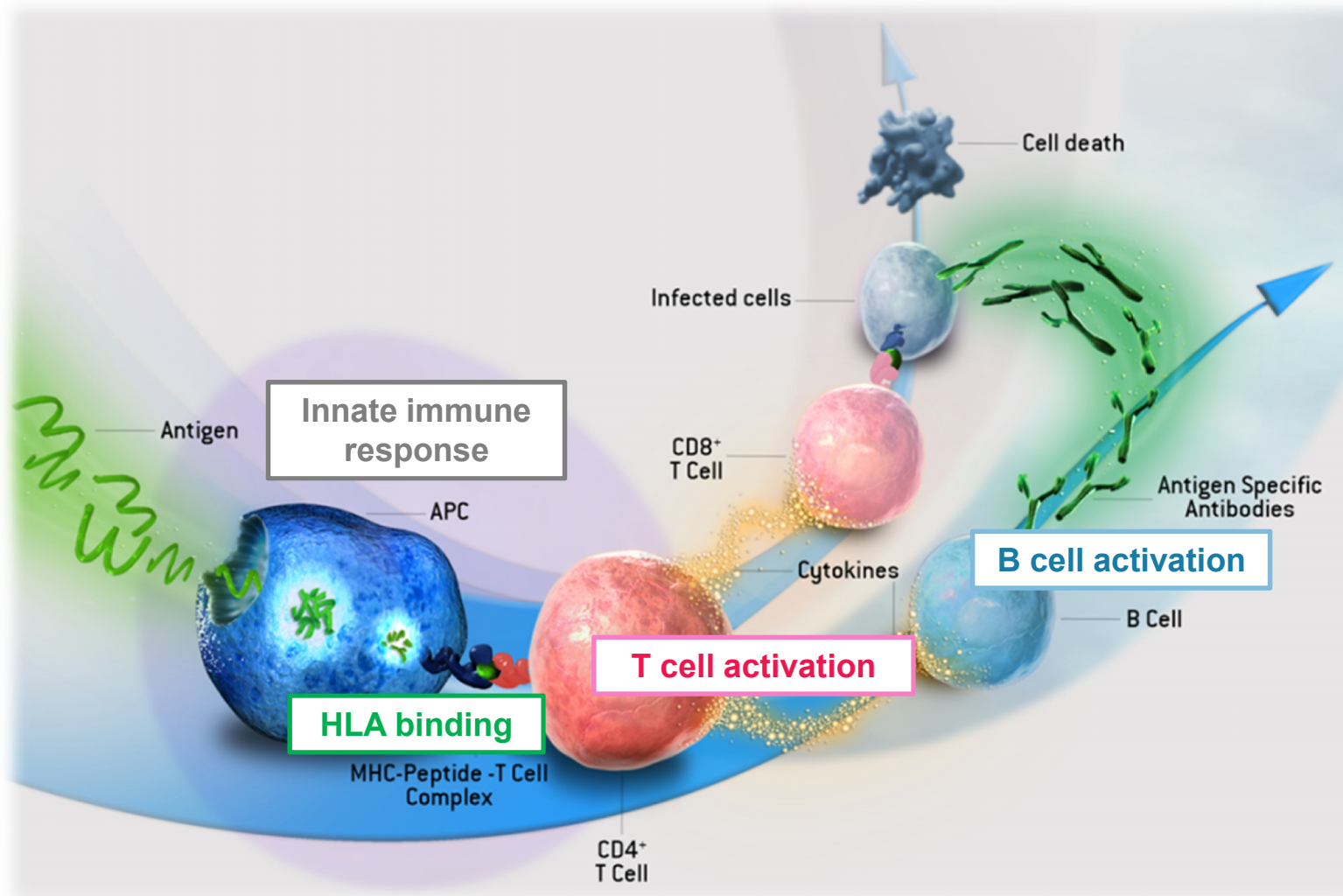
# Pre-clinical Immunogenicity Prediction

## Overview





# Pre-clinical Immunogenicity Prediction Overview



# Immunogenicity Prediction

## Pre-clinical Screening Tools

- Mentioned in the regulatory guidelines but are not currently a requirement
- *In silico* tools
  - Computer-based tools
  - Uses the protein sequence/structure
- *In vitro* tools
  - Use human immune cells to assess the immune response to a therapeutic protein
- Humanized mouse models
  - Mice with parts of their immune system replaced with human cells
- Artificial Lymph node
  - Human *in vitro* system to mimic a lymph node

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## ***In Silico* Screening Tools**

- Manufacturability assessment
  - Aggregation & PTMs
- T cell and B cell epitope prediction
  - Predicts the likelihood of regions of the protein binding to HLA or BCR
  - Algorithms built on published *in vitro* data
- Rapid, high throughput, cost effective
- Wide HLA coverage
- Used to aid lead selection or to identify hot spots for engineering
- Overpredictive
  - Aggregation & PTMs influenced by other factors
  - Does not take into account the processing and presentation of the protein
  - HLA binding does not mean TCR activation

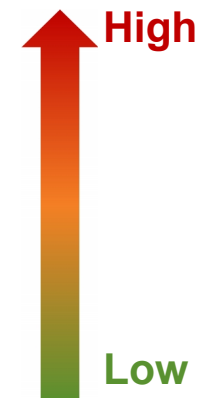
# *In Silico* Screening Tools

## Whole protein screening

- Ranking of protein leads
- Cumulative score of all the potential T cell epitopes within a protein sequence

Type	DRB Score	Epitope count			
		DRB1 strong	DRB1 medium	DRB3/4/5 strong	DRB3/4/5 medium
Chimeric	1940	15	38	5	24
Humanized A	1530	14	28	2	26
Humanized B	1040	7	25	3	14
Human C	890	6	17	0	12
Human D	680	5	20	2	14
Human E	280	0	15	0	10

Immunogenicity risk





## ***In Vitro* Tools**

- Human primary immune cells (PBMC) stimulated *in vitro* with the test protein (or peptides/peptide pools)
- Select your HLA coverage
- Takes into account formulation, aggregates, contaminants etc.
- Can be used to aid lead selection or to identify individual epitopes for deimmunization
- More costly & time consuming compared to *in silico* tools
- Naïve B cell responses *in vitro* difficult

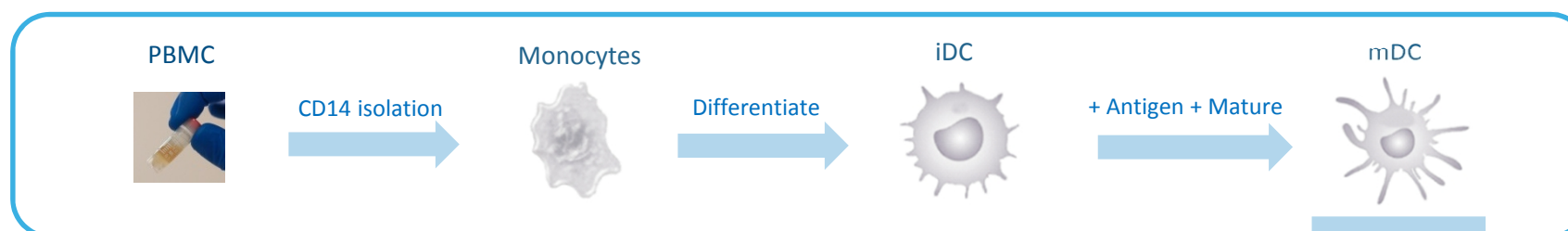
## ***In Vitro* Tools**

- Activation of innate immune response
  - DC activation (cell surface markers, cytokine profiles)
- *In vitro* HLA binding
- Naturally processed HLA binding peptides
  - MHC-Associated Peptide Proteomics (MAPPs)
- T cell activation
  - DC:T cell assays
- B cell activation
  - Activation of memory B cell responses
- Cytokine release assays
  - Not traditional immunogenicity but also very important

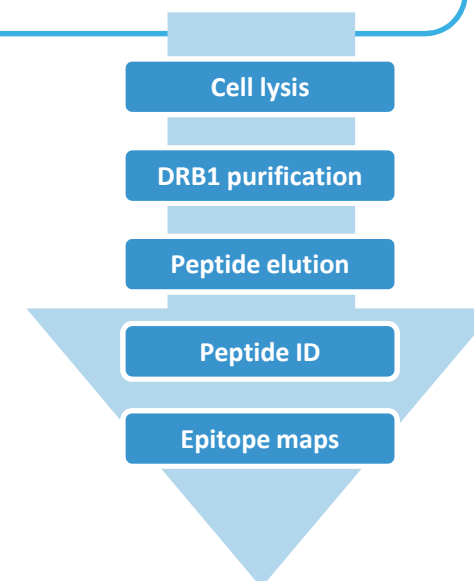
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# MHC-Associated Peptide Proteomics (MAPPs)



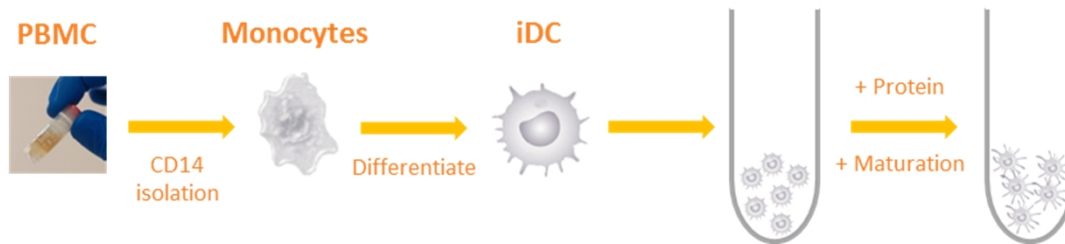
- Accurate identification of potential T cell epitopes
- Takes into account protein uptake, cleavage and processing within the dendritic cells
- Identifies naturally processed HLA binding peptides from therapeutic proteins
- Can select HLA-DRB donors that represent major allotypes concentrate on specific HLA-DRB allotypes of interest
- Assay process
  - PBMC preparation
  - DC generation
  - anti-DR antibody production
  - DRB1 purification
  - MS analysis



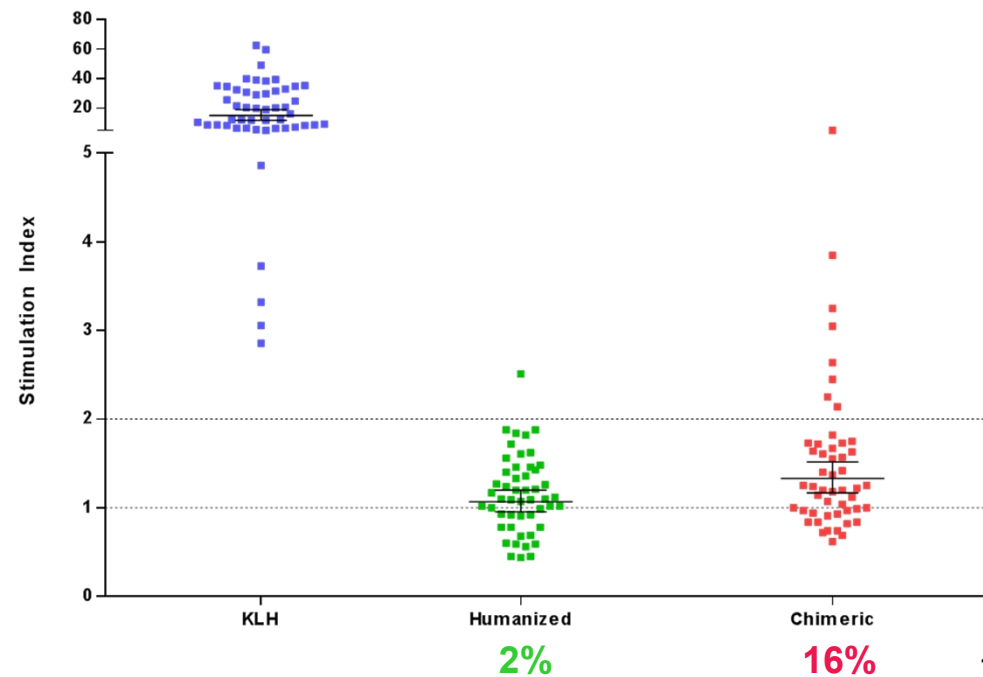
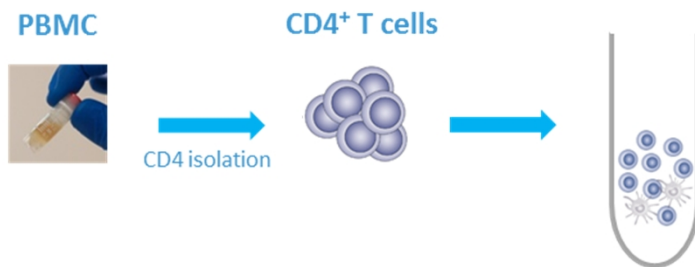
# In Vitro T Cell Assay Platforms

## DC:T cell assay

### DC Generation & loading



### CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell isolation & co-culture





# Immunogenicity Prediction

## Where are we?

- Technology has moved on in the past few years with lots of different platforms available to assess different stages of the immune response
- Now being more widely used during lead selection
- Currently focused on T cell responses
- May become more important for immunomodulators?
- Assay standardization?

