

# Validation of Commercial tool Antibodies

The Antibody Society Webcast series – Antibody Validation #7

**It's a Knockout**

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The Antibody Society

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# Antibody Validation: a 9-part series

1. Andreas Pluckthun : The different antibody formats
2. Glenn Begley : Antibodies and the reproducibility crisis in biological science  
Cecilia Williams : The ErbB story – is your antibody like this?
3. Jan Voskuil : Beware the supplier OEM  
Andy Chalmers : Finding antibodies in the Antibody Databases
4. Anita Bandrowski : Which antibody are you looking for? The RRID  
Jan Voskuil : Points to note on the supplier datasheets
5. Giovanna Roncador: : Correct positive and negative controls in validation
6. Aldrin Gomes : Standard technology: “even” Western blots are non-trivial  
Jim Trimmer : IHC issues in brain sciences
7. **Travis Hardcastle** : **Cell KO technology**  
**Alejandra Solache** : **Validating Antibodies with KO technology**
8. Mike Taussig : Validating antibodies using array technologies  
Fridjhof Lund-Johansen : Mass spectroscopy for mass validation
9. Andrew Bradbury : Why publish sequences?  
Andreas Pluckthun : What are the coming alternatives ?

# It's a Knockout

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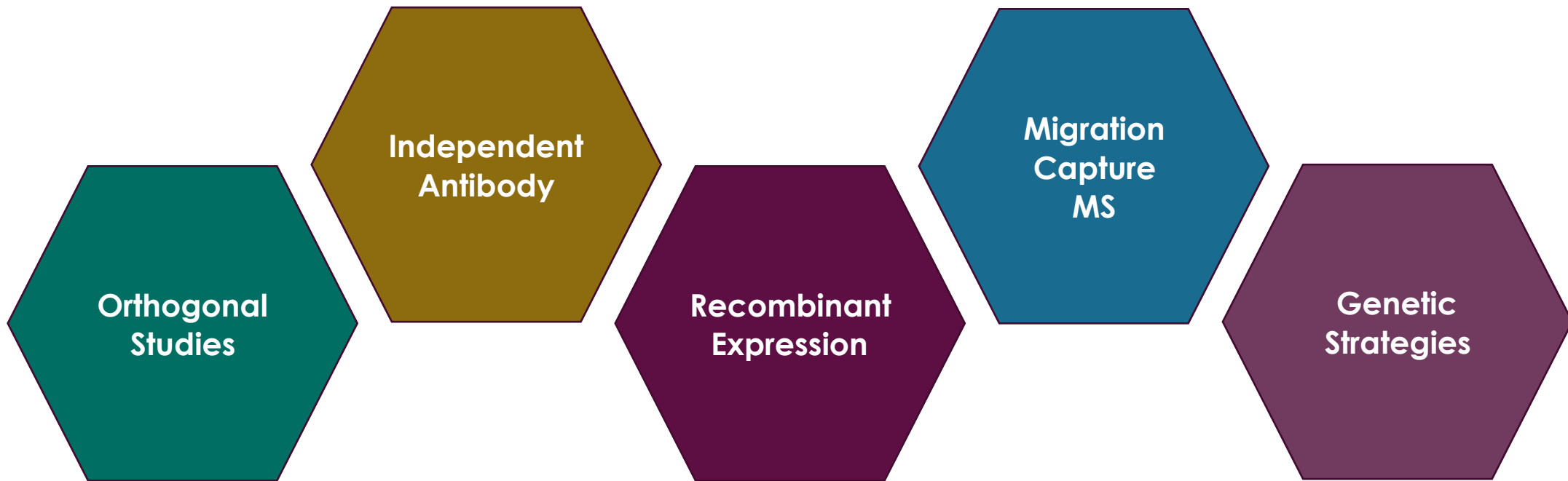
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# Cell line knock-out & knockdown technologies in antibody validation

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Travis Hardcastle – Horizon Discovery Ltd.

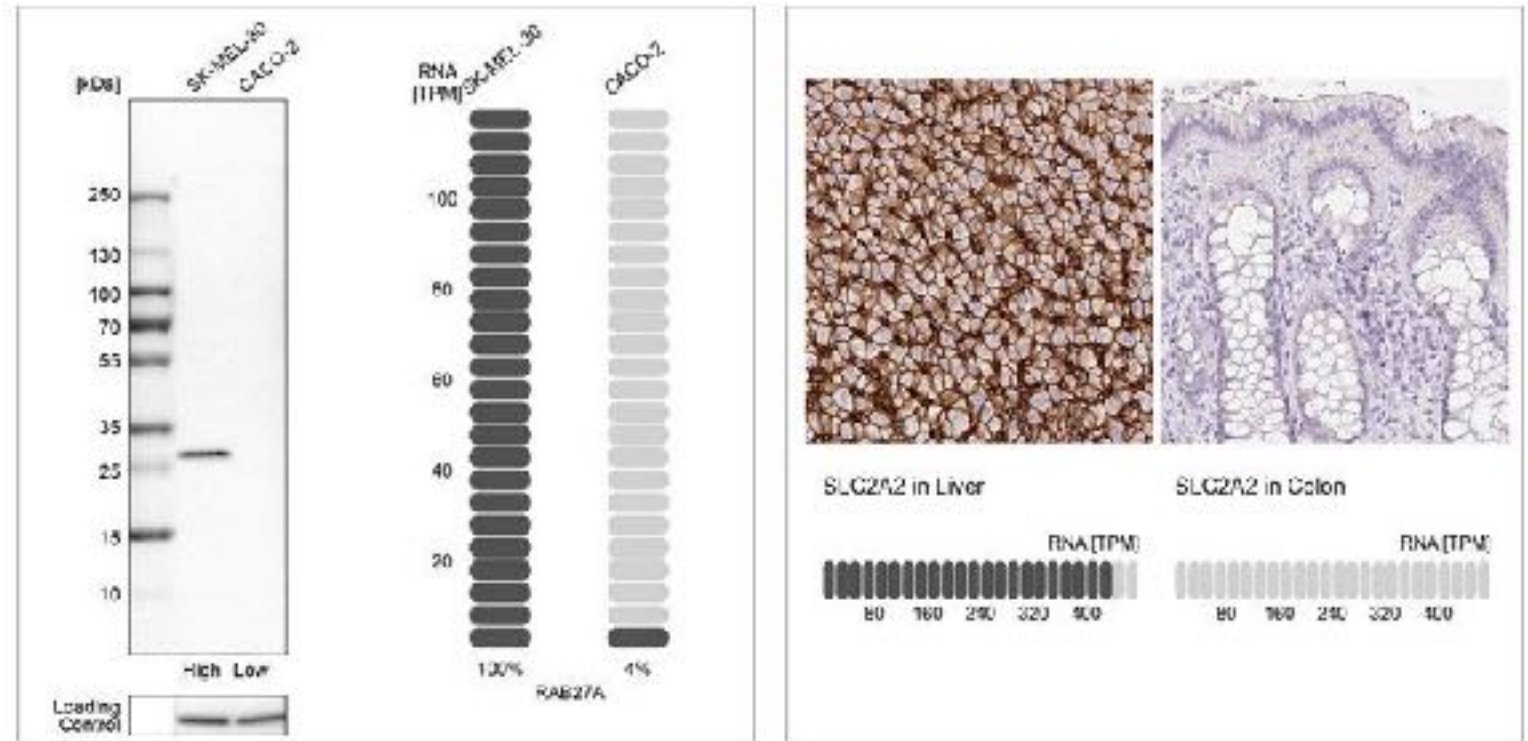
# The Five Methods of Validation



# Validation by orthogonal studies

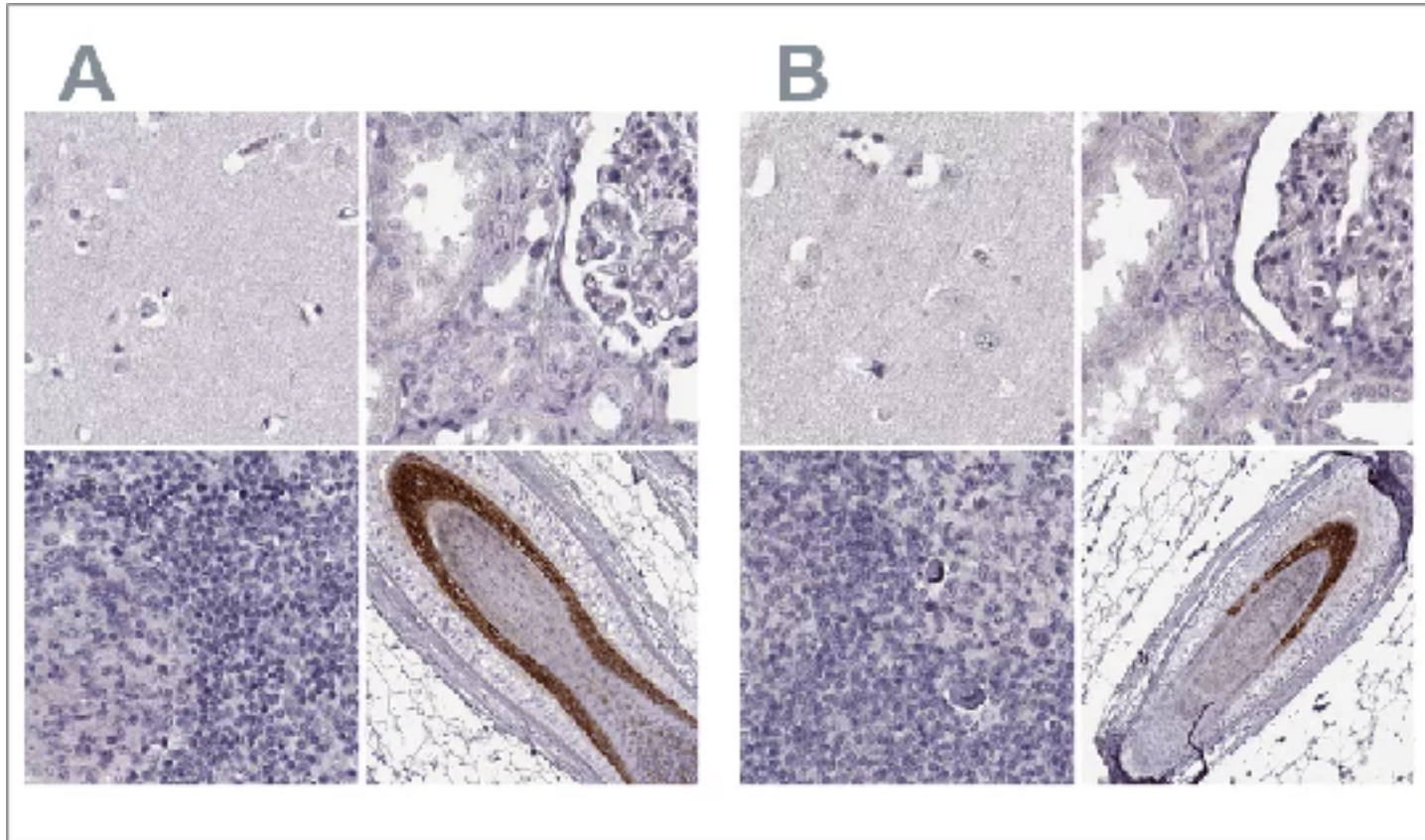
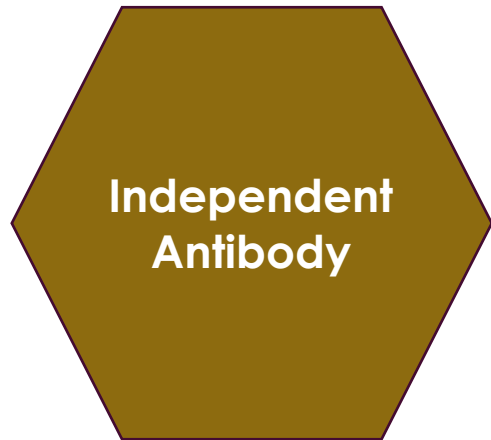
- The antibody is validated by comparing the results with a non-antibody based method across multiple samples

## Orthogonal Studies



# Validation by independent antibodies

- Antibody specificity is demonstrated by comparing two antibodies targeting different regions of the same protein

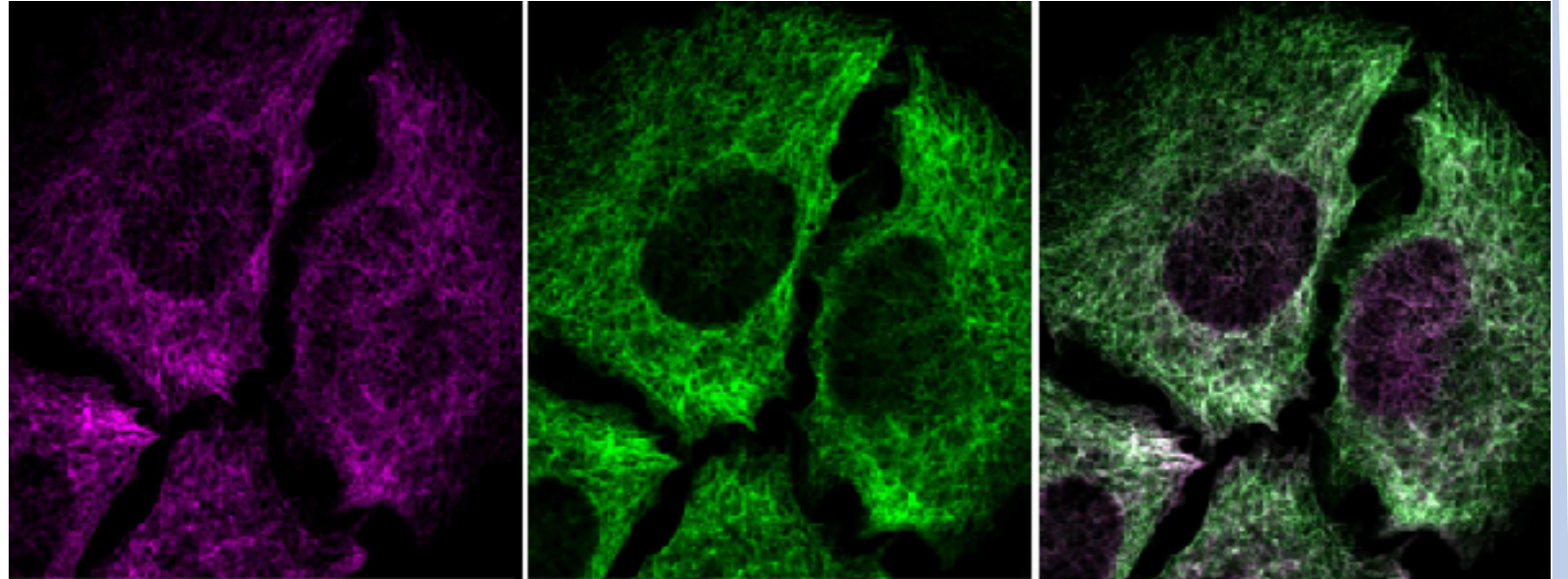


*Two anti-TCHHL1 antibodies staining cerebral cortex, kidney, lymph node, & skin*

# Validation by recombinant expression

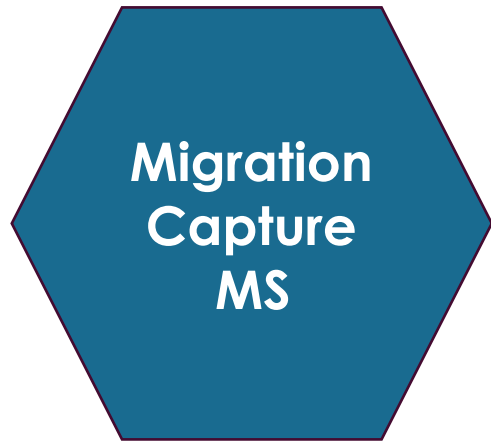
- The antibody binding is verified using an over-expressed or tagged version of the target protein

Recombinant  
Expression



*Anti-NES antibody (green), GFP tagged nestin protein (in purple)*

# Validation by migration capture MS



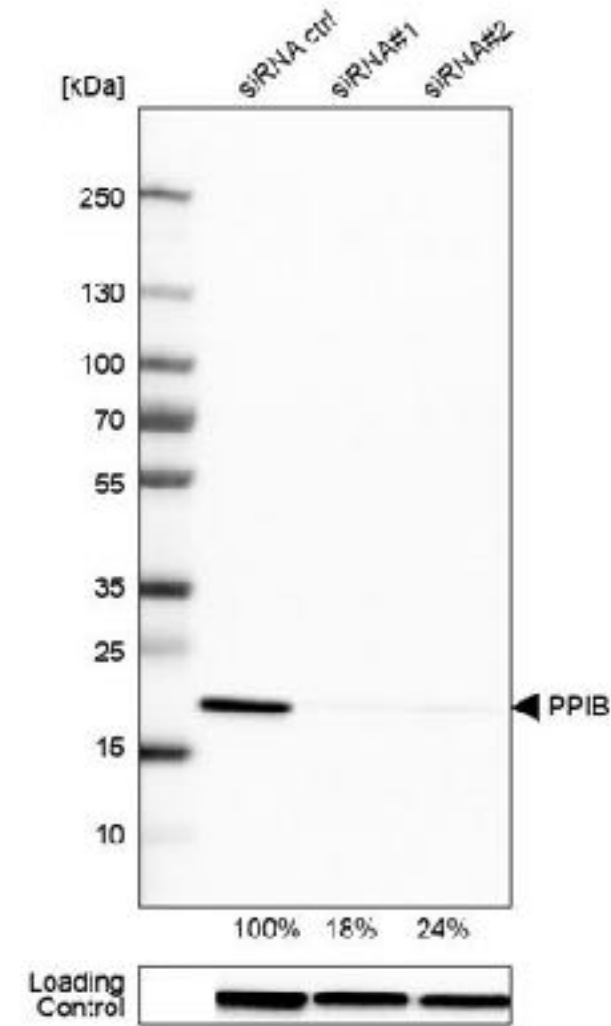
The staining pattern and the protein size detected by the antibody is compared with results obtained by a capture Mass Spectrometry (MS) method.

Presence of target protein verified by Mass Spectrometry

Limitation: When target can not be detected in Mass Spectrometry

# Validation by genetic strategies

## Genetic Strategies



- The antibody specificity is confirmed by downregulating the target protein on a genetic level using siRNA or CRISPR-Cas9

# Genetic strategy: Tools to decrease gene expression

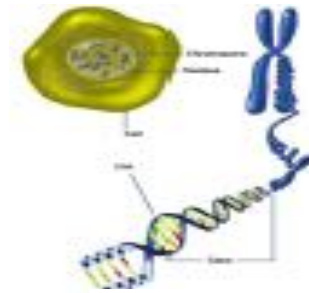
## RNAi

(siRNA, shRNA, microRNA)



## Gene Editing

(CRISPR-Cas9)

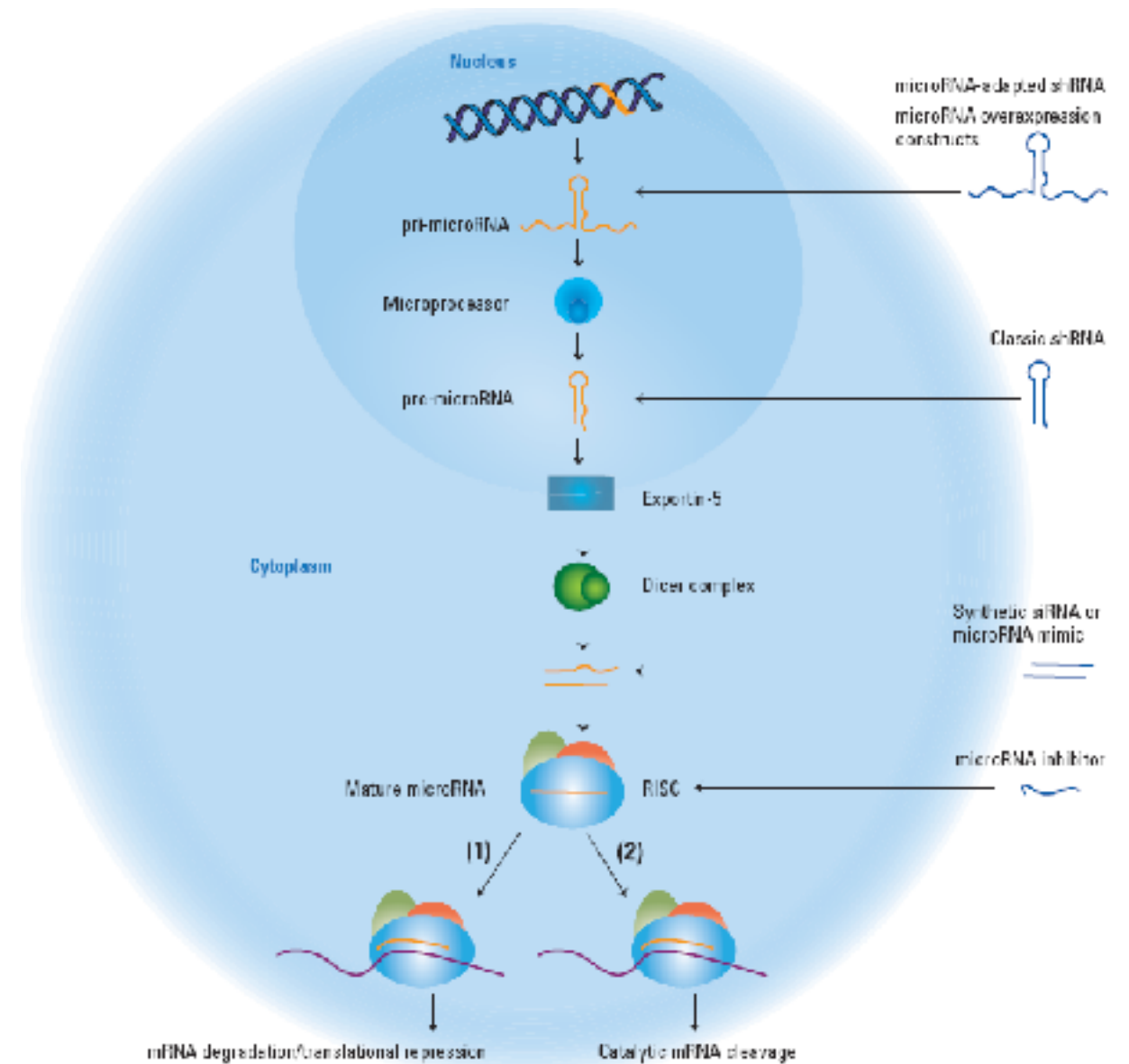


Gene



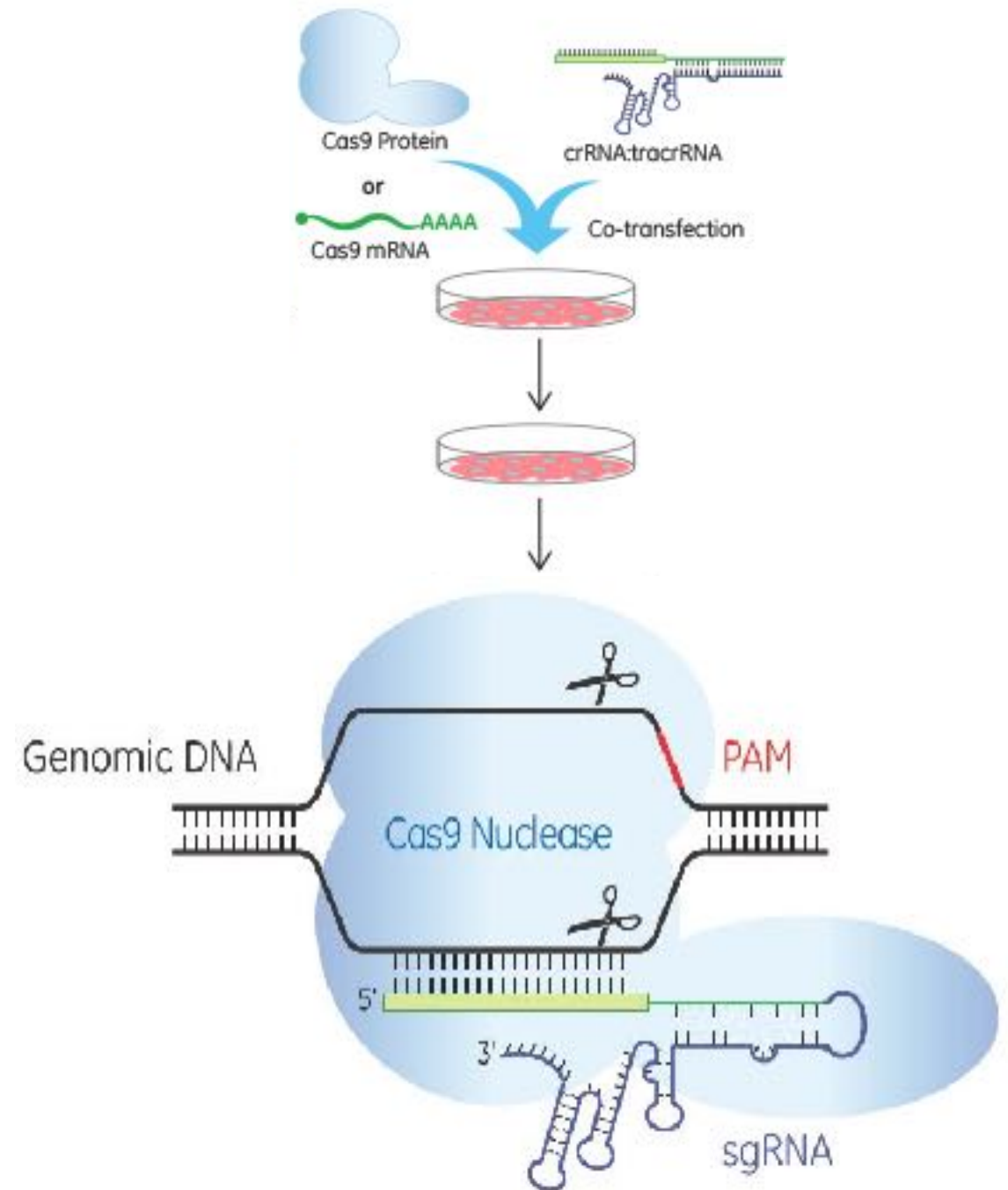
# siRNA advantages

- Fast, as knockdowns can often be performed in 72-96h, antibodies can be tested in a relatively quick fashion.
- Easy to test multiple cell backgrounds unlikely to have the same protein composition leading to unspecificities.
- Test sensitivity due to changes in expression
- Compare the expression between treated cells, mock transfected and NTC transfected cells



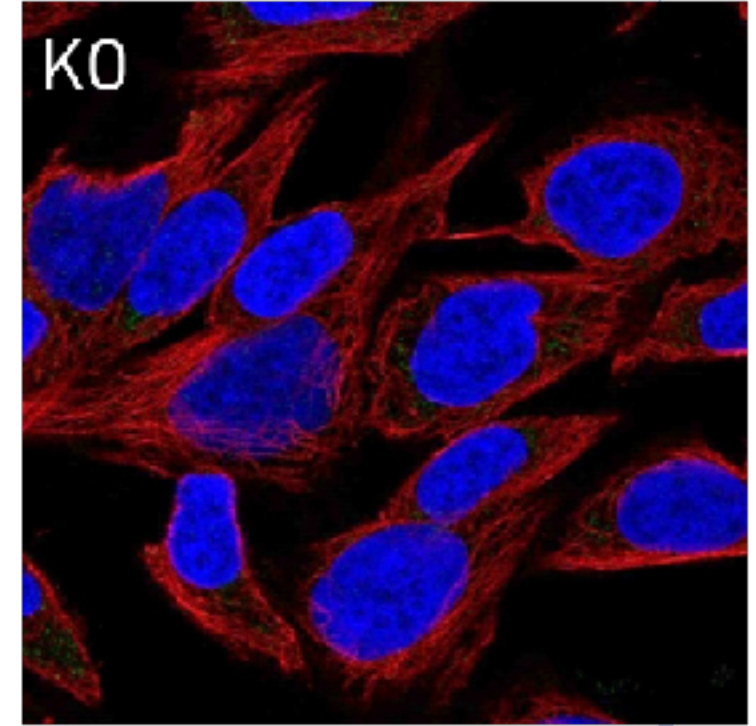
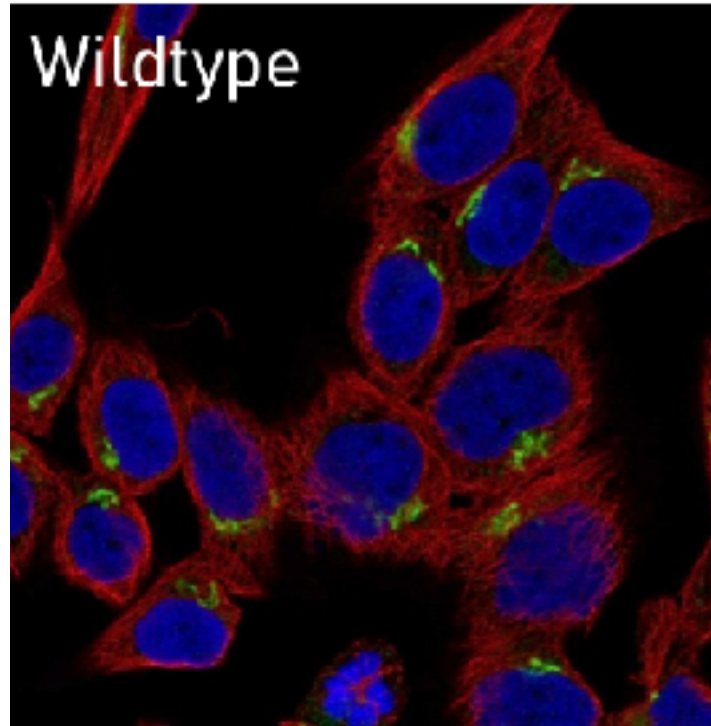
# What is a CRISPR-Cas system?

- Mechanism of adaptive immunity in bacteria and archaea
- Evolved to adapt and defend against foreign genetic material (i.e., phage, horizontal gene transfer, etc.)
- Requires:
  - *Cas9 Nuclease* – creates double-strand break
  - *Guide RNA* – recruits *Cas9* and directs target cleavage



# Knock out cell line advantages

- Validated at the genetic level. Functional protein expression can be ablated by introduction of frameshift mutations into the coding sequence, or the epitope can be excised completely
- Many KO cell lines have already been used to validate antibodies by commercial suppliers



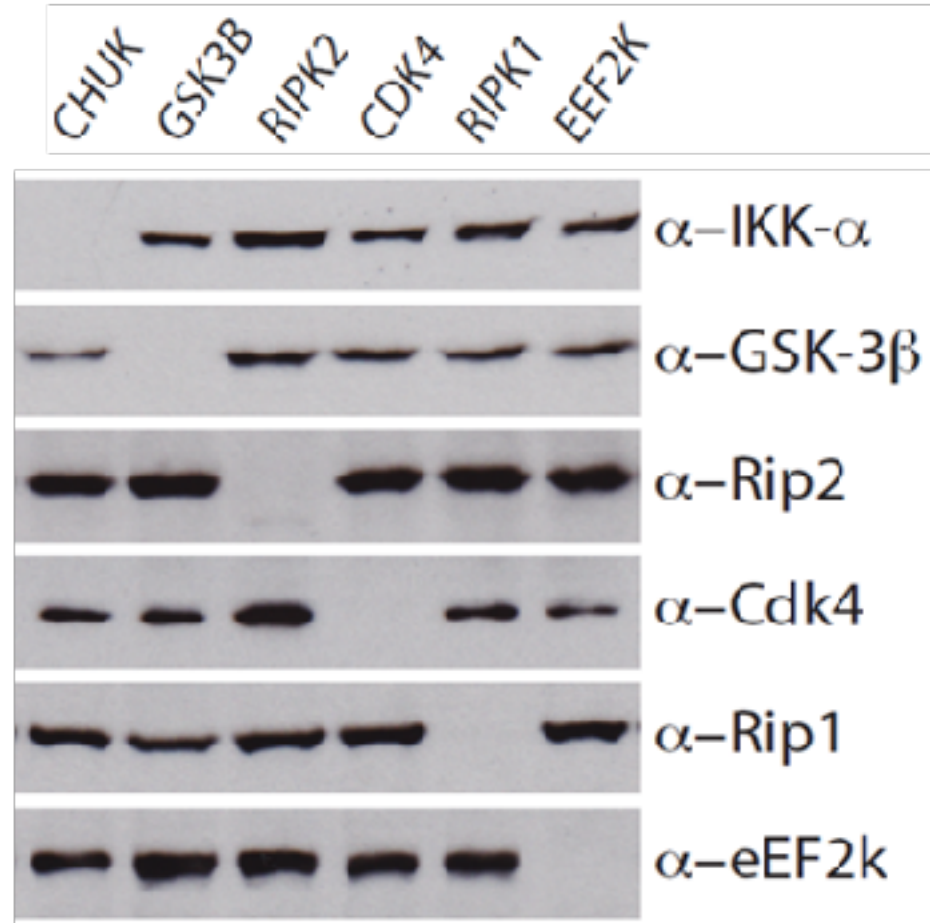
The parallel use of wildtype and KO cell lines provides a valuable tool to control for research reagents quality

Images courtesy of Dr Emma Lundberg, Cell Profiling facility.  
KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Green	SLC30A6
Blue	Nucleus
Red	Microtubules

# Ready-to-go™ knockout cell lines

- CRISPR knock out cell lines without risking your resources
- Generate multiple clones to control for off-target effects
- Pair KO cells with matched parental cells
- 9,000 gene targets available
- 3,000 gene targets ready to ship
  - 7,500+ off-the-shelf clones
- Custom projects capability



**A selection of gene edited KO cell lines. Western blot data confirms absence of protein, and so validates the antibody used.**

Thank you

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