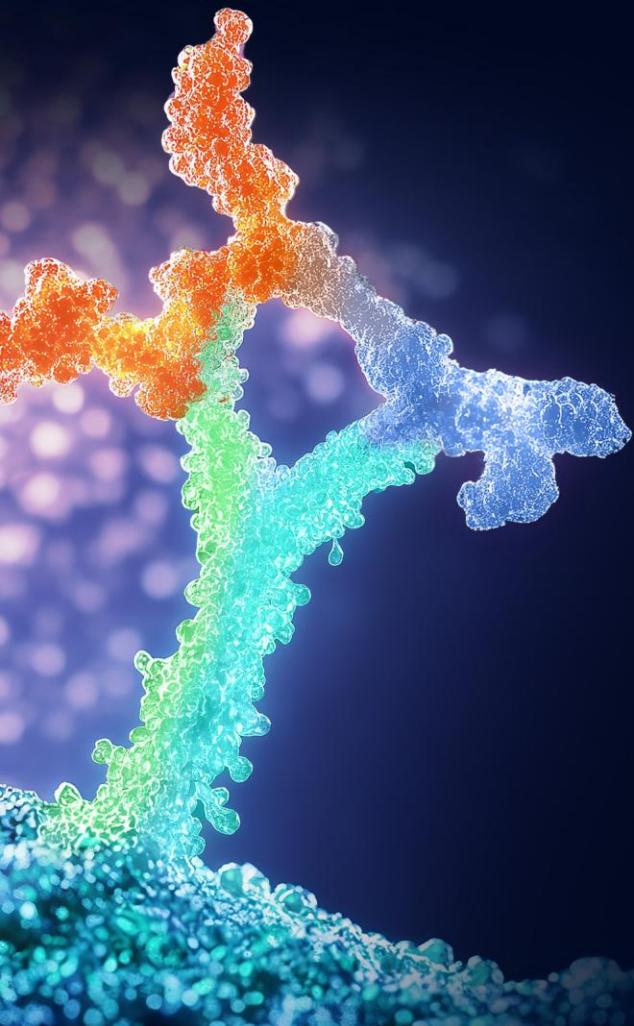




# Membrane Protein Targets Reengineered for Soluble Expression

Alex Taguchi

# The Trust Gap Between In-Silico Promise and R&D Reality



## Generative AI

In silico  
antibody &  
antigen design

## Trust Gap

## R&D Costs

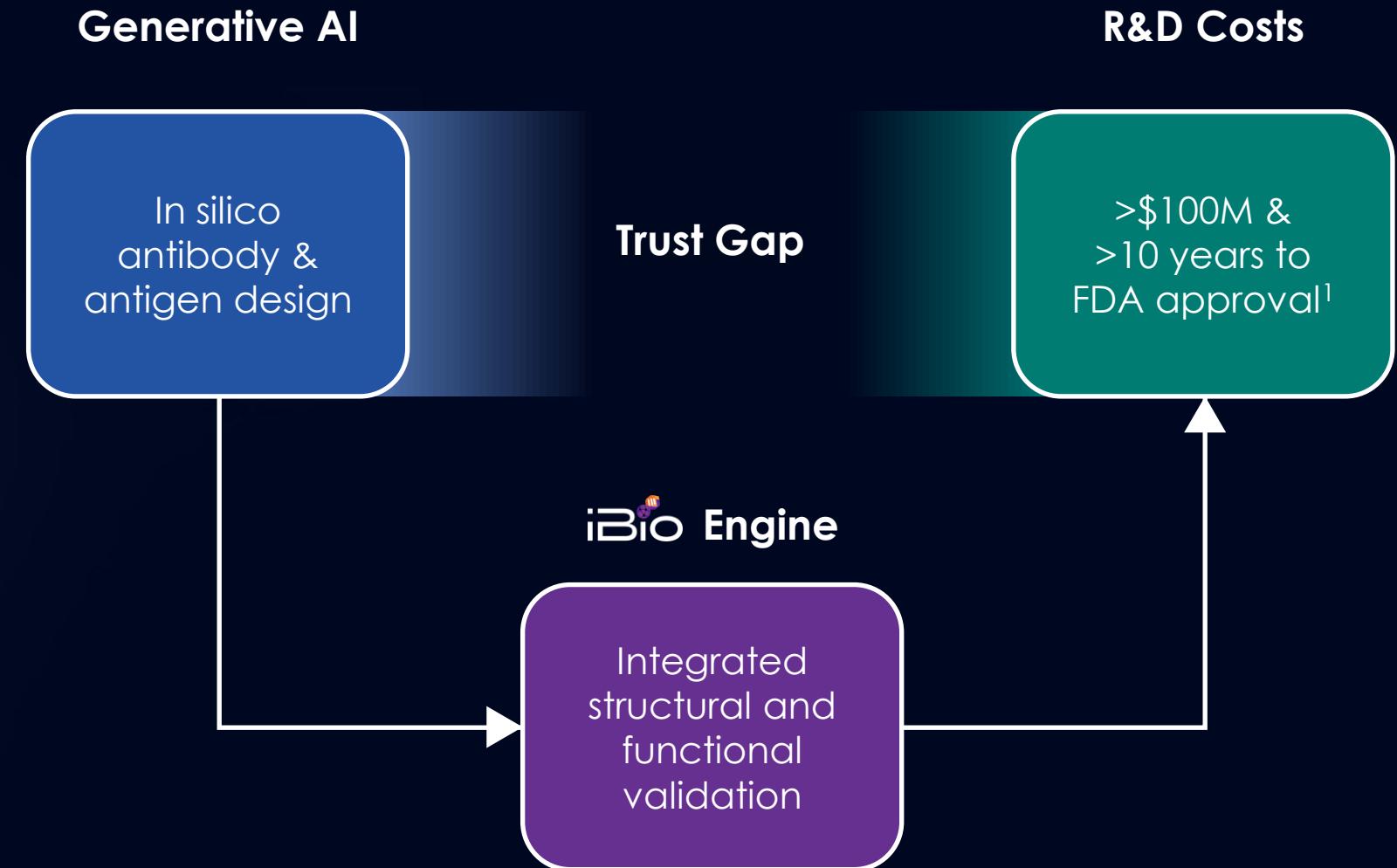
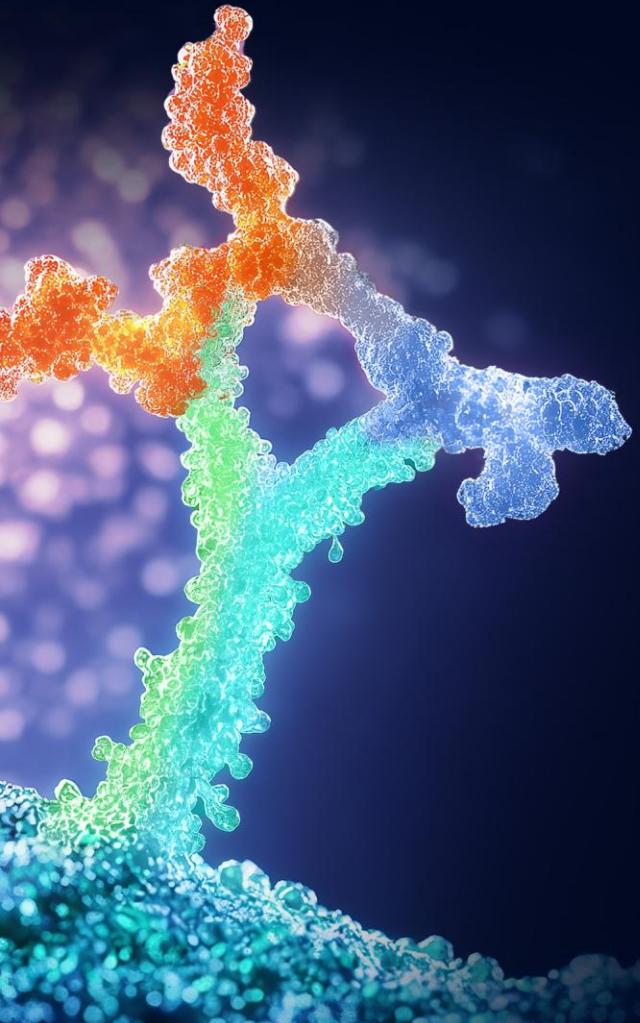
>\$100M &  
>10 years to  
FDA approval<sup>1</sup>

*Is AI the right tool for my problem?*

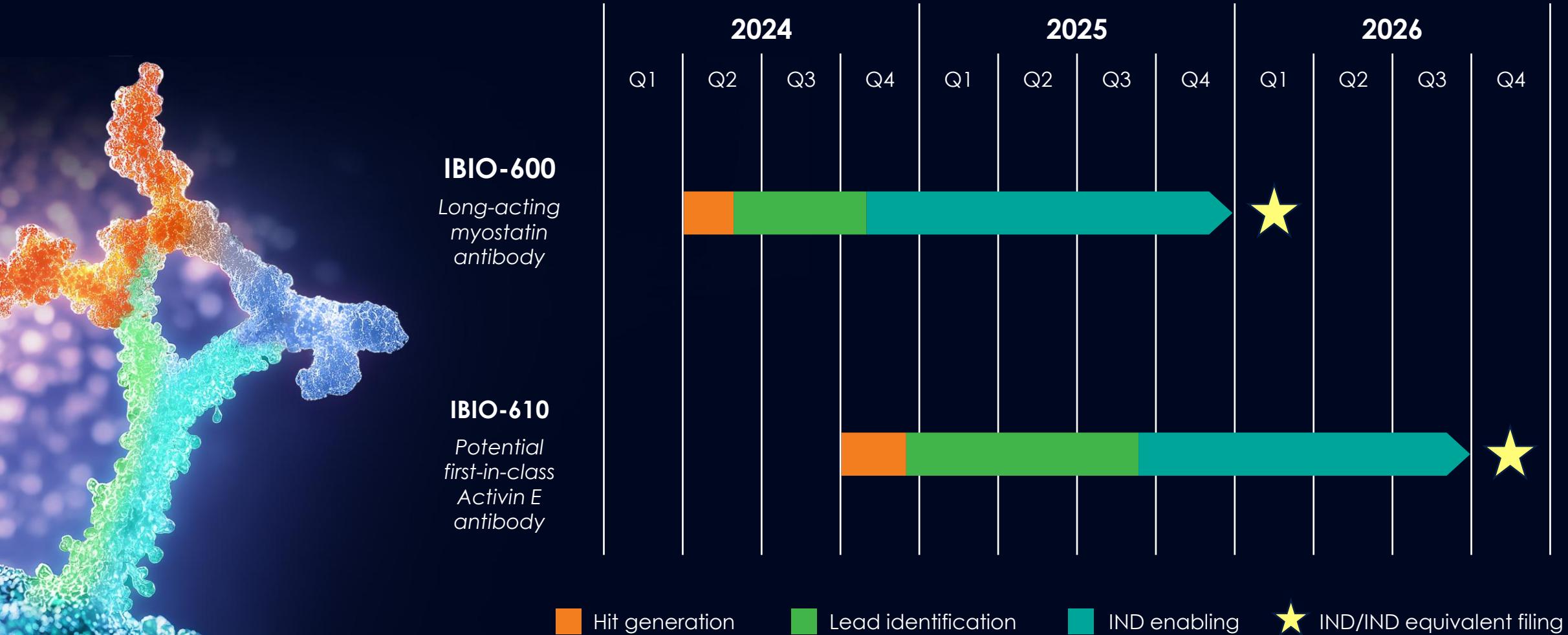
*Which model(s) should I use?*

*How do I trust the model output(s)?*

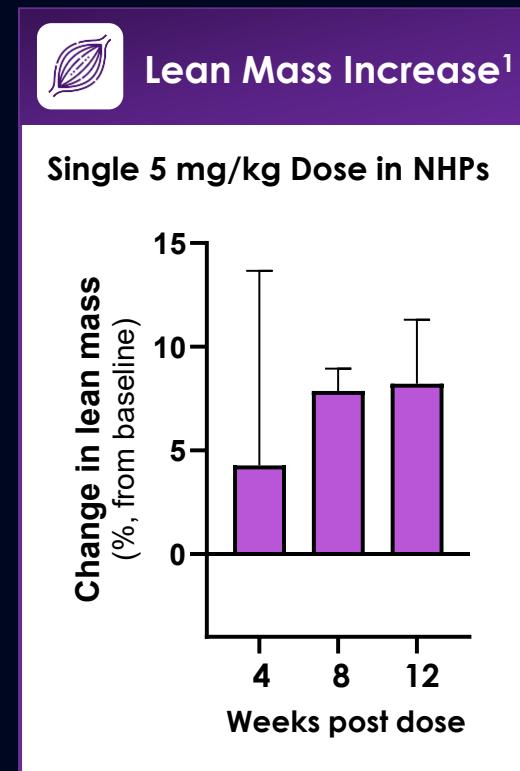
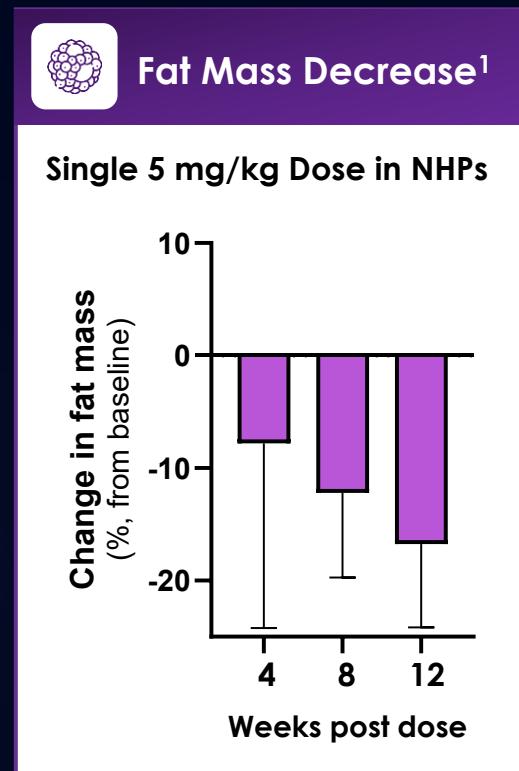
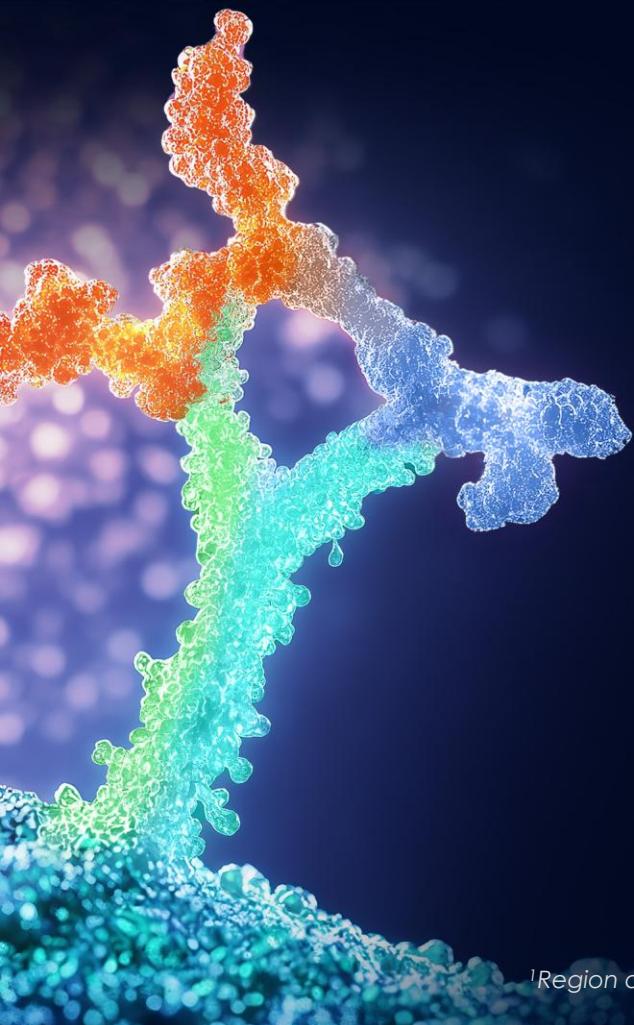
# The Trust Gap Between In-Silico Promise and R&D Reality



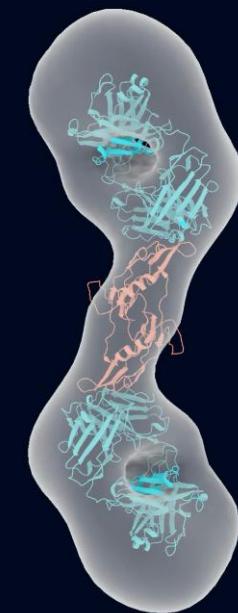
# Antibody Discovery to Development Candidate in as Little as 7 Months



# IBIO-600: Long-Acting Myostatin Antibody



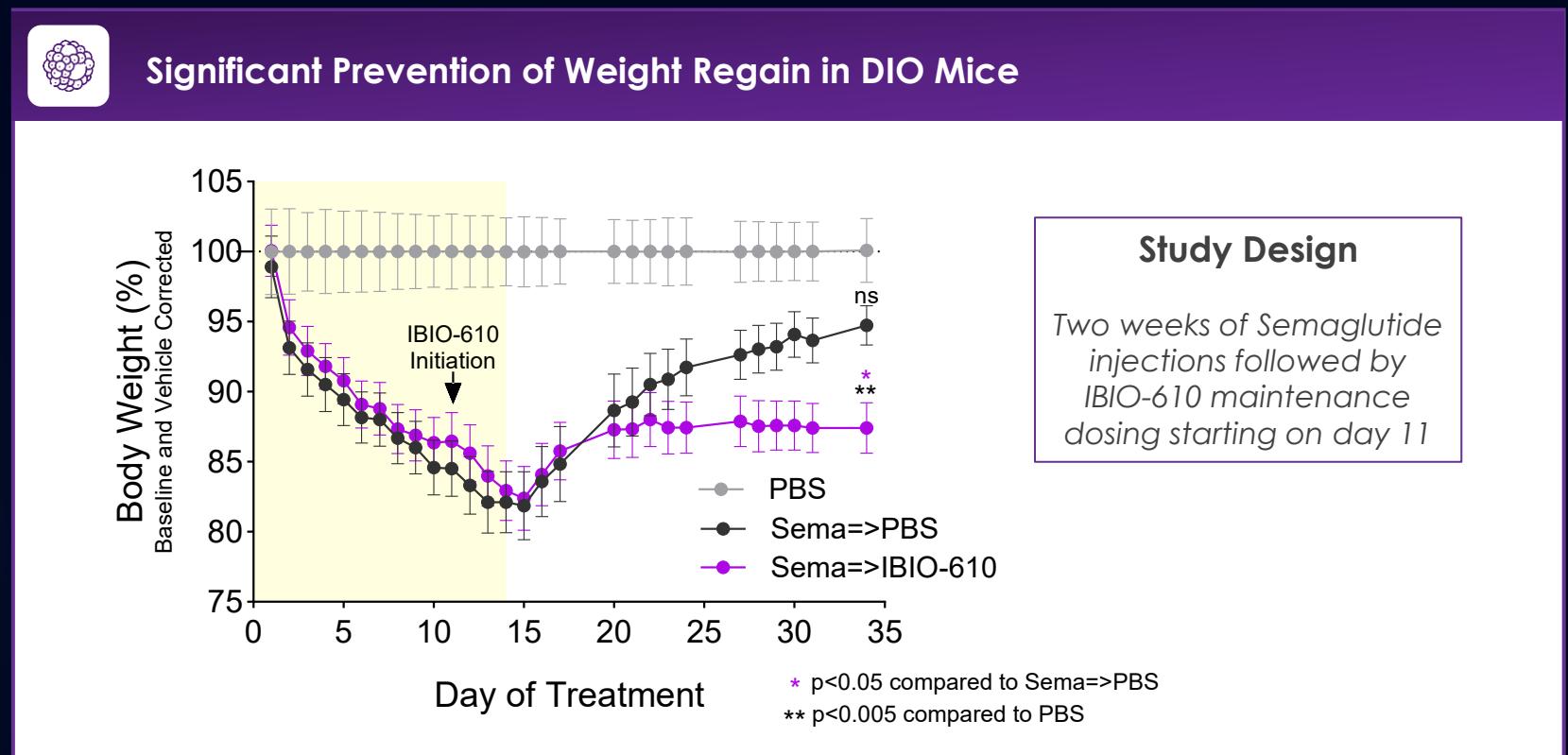
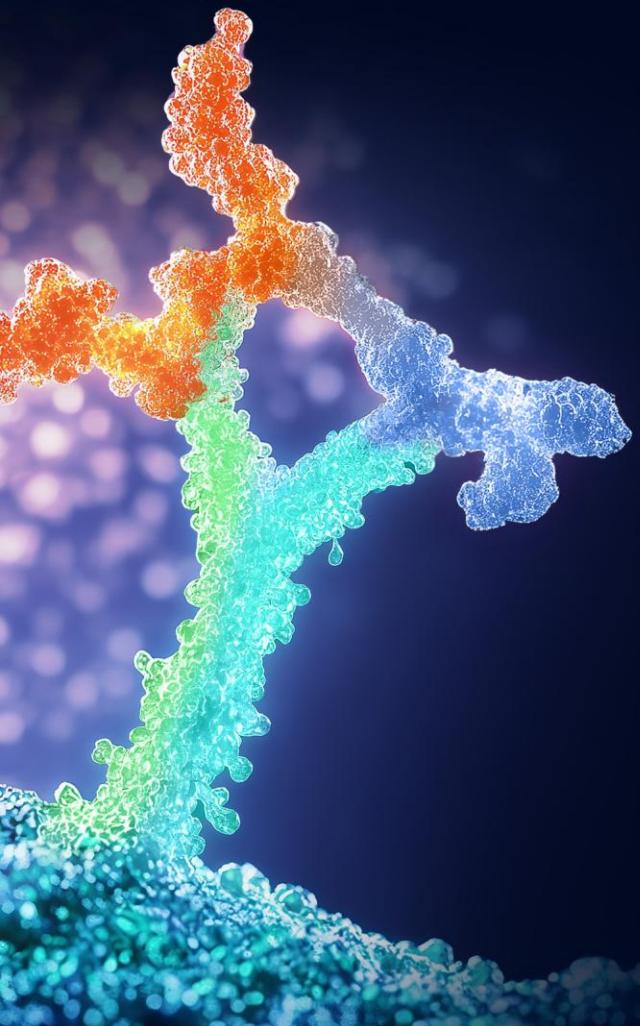
## Epitope Mapping



Dose	NHP Half-Life (measured)	Human Half-Life (predicted) <sup>2,3</sup>
5 mg/kg, I.V.	52.4 days	74-147 days

- Predicted iBio-600 Myostatin Complex
- Experimental Electron Density Map

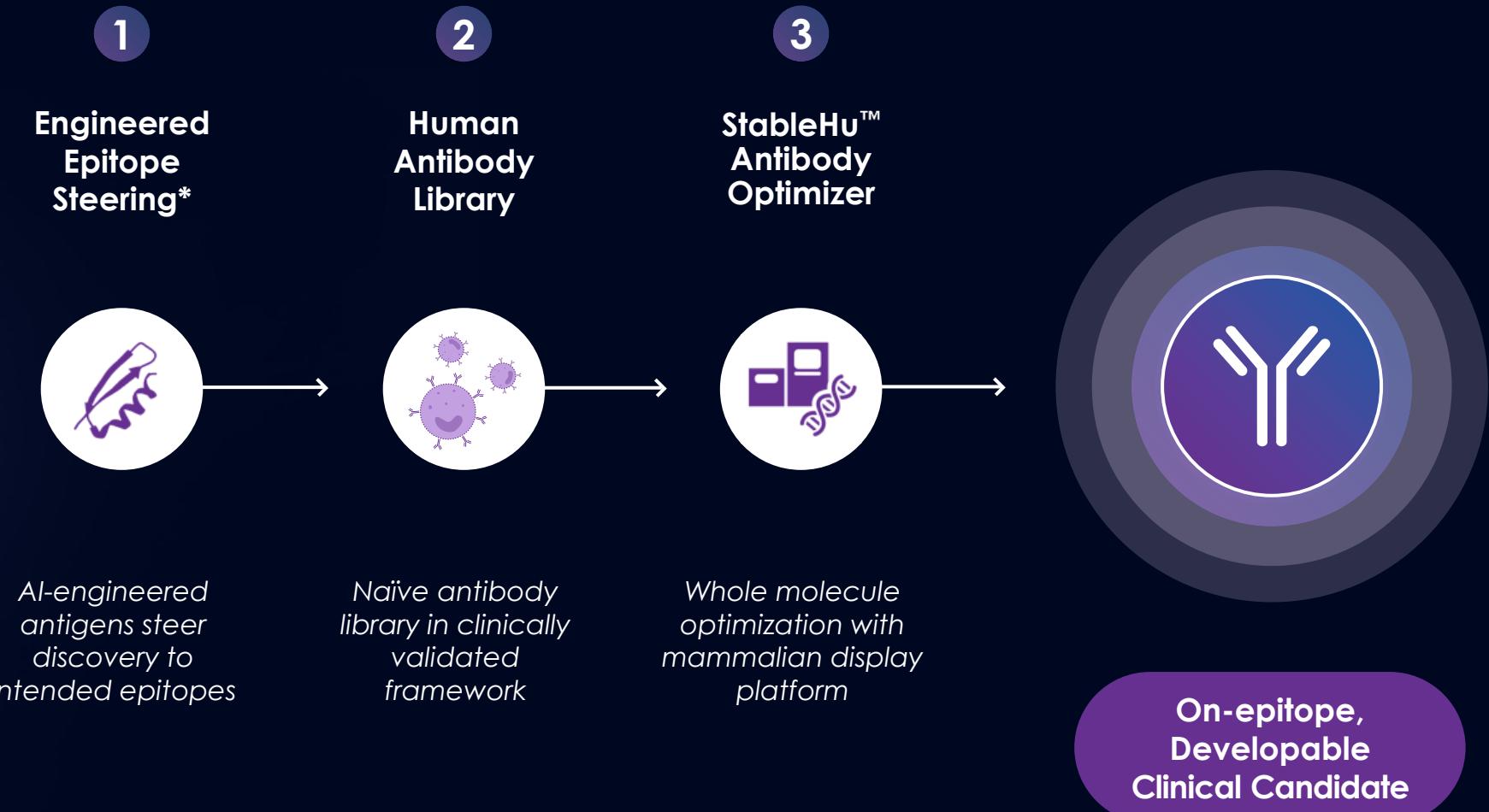
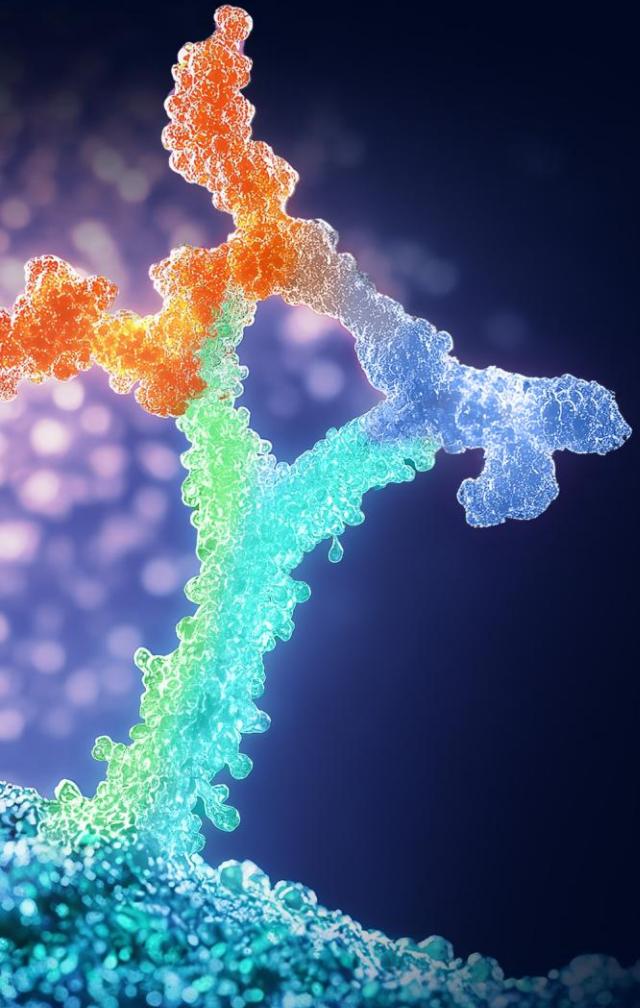
# IBIO-610: Potential First-in-Class Activin E Antibody



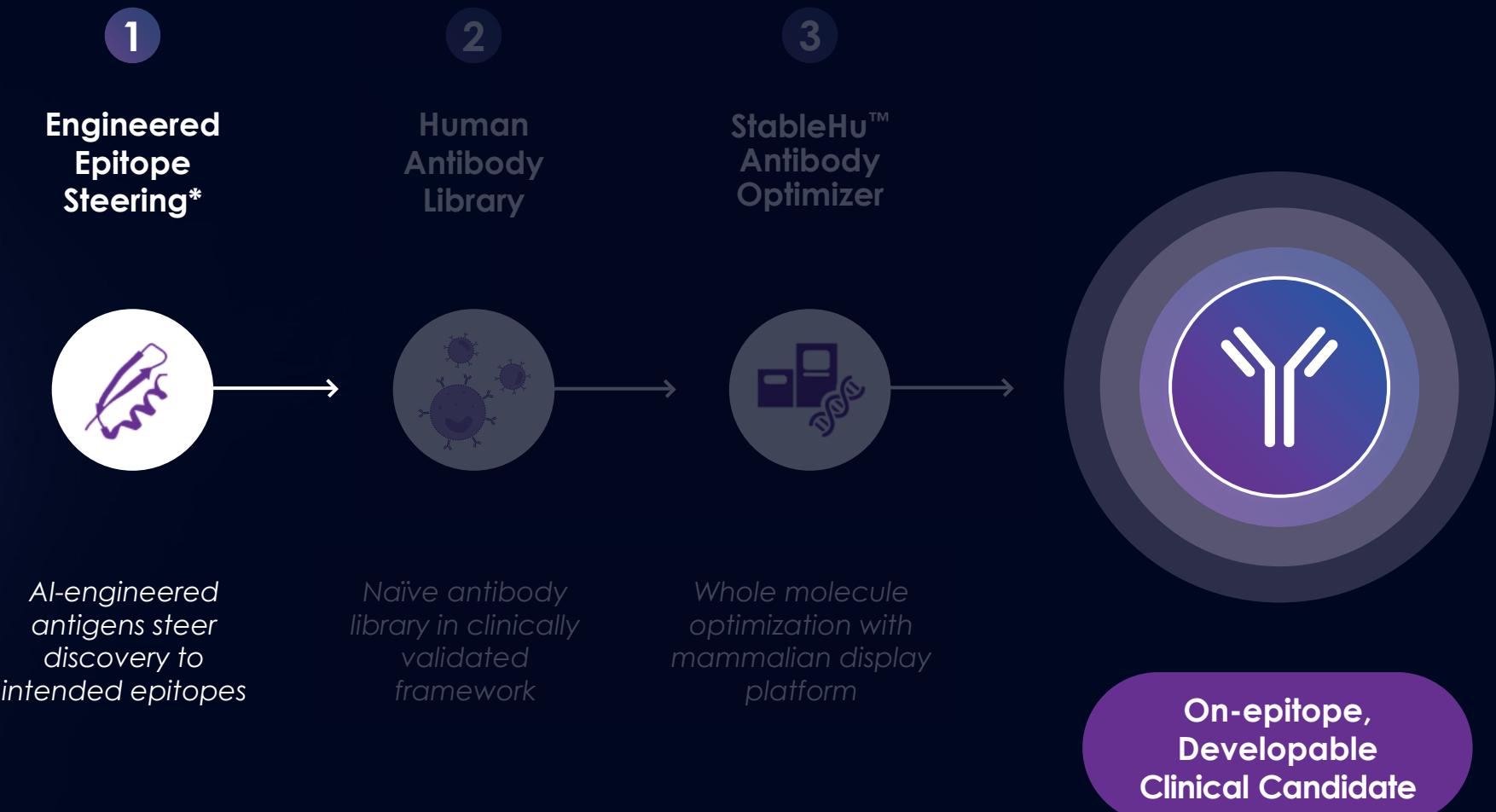
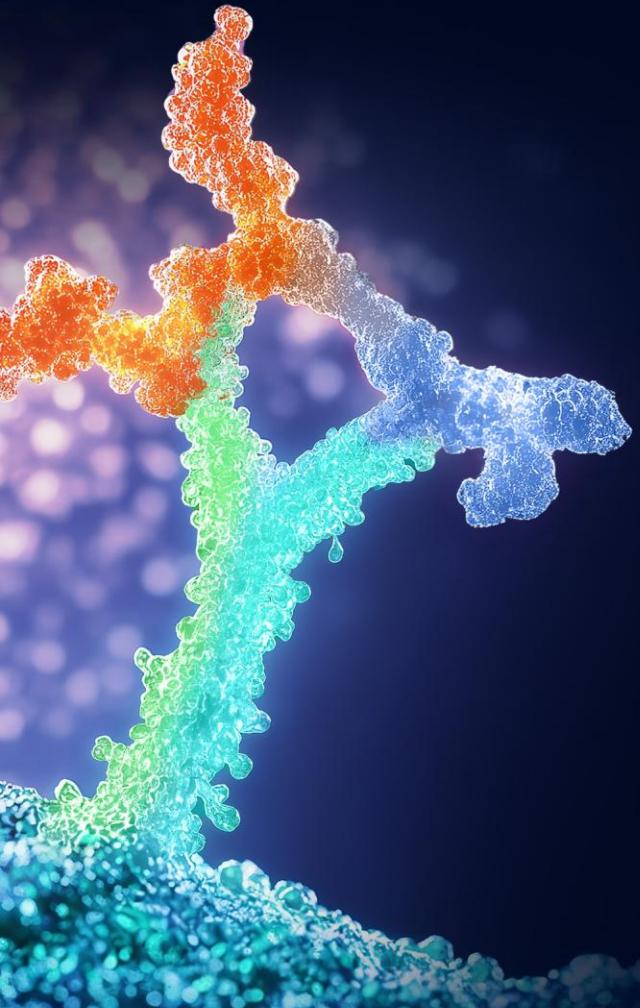
Dose	NHP Half-Life (measured)	Human Half-Life (predicted) <sup>1,2</sup>
10 mg/kg, I.V.	33.2 days	47-100 days

Epitope mapping completed; not shown for IP protection

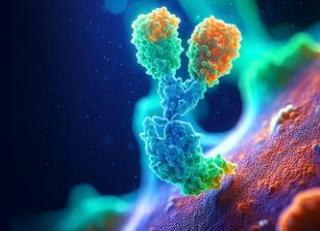
# End-to-End Antibody Discovery Platform Accelerates Path to IND



# End-to-End Antibody Discovery Platform Accelerates Path to IND

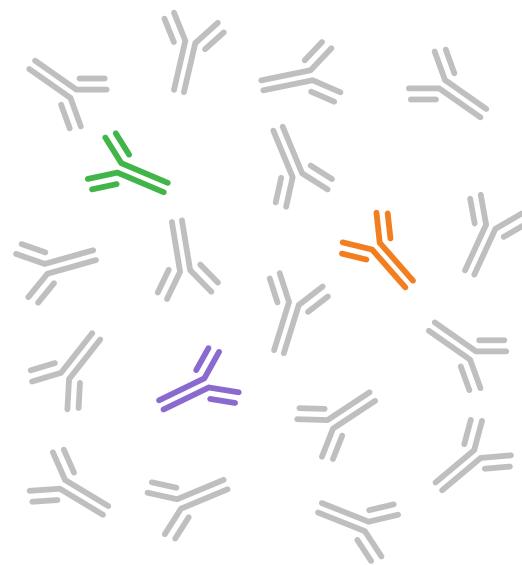


# Engineered Epitopes Enable Rapid Discovery of On-Epitope Antibodies



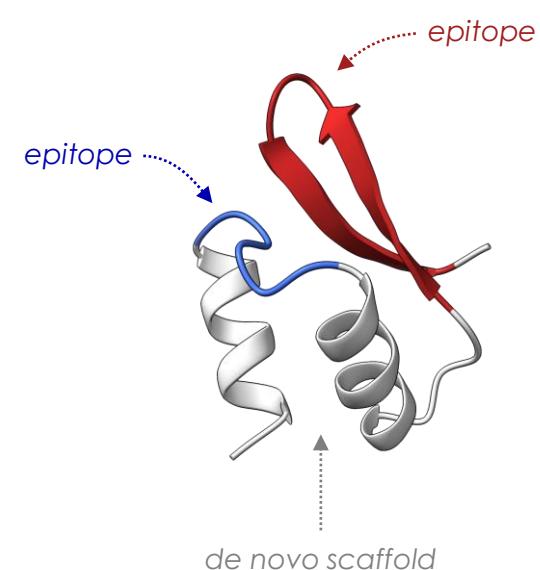
1

Naïve in vitro or in vivo antibody library



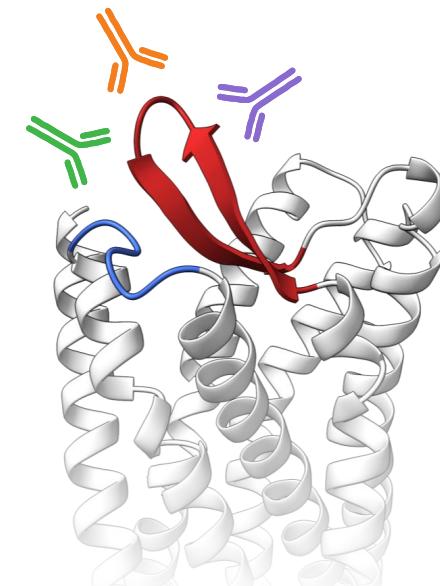
2

Focus library with engineered epitopes

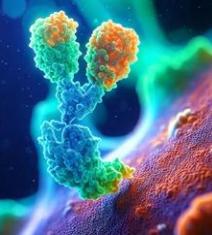


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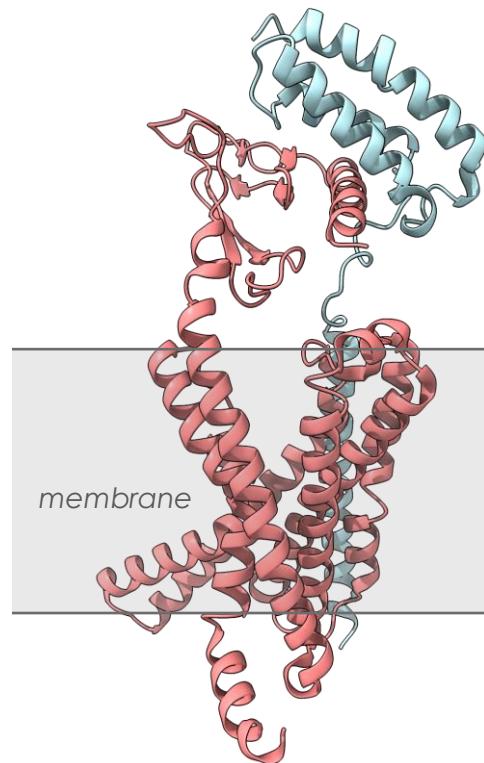
Efficient discovery of epitope-specific antibodies



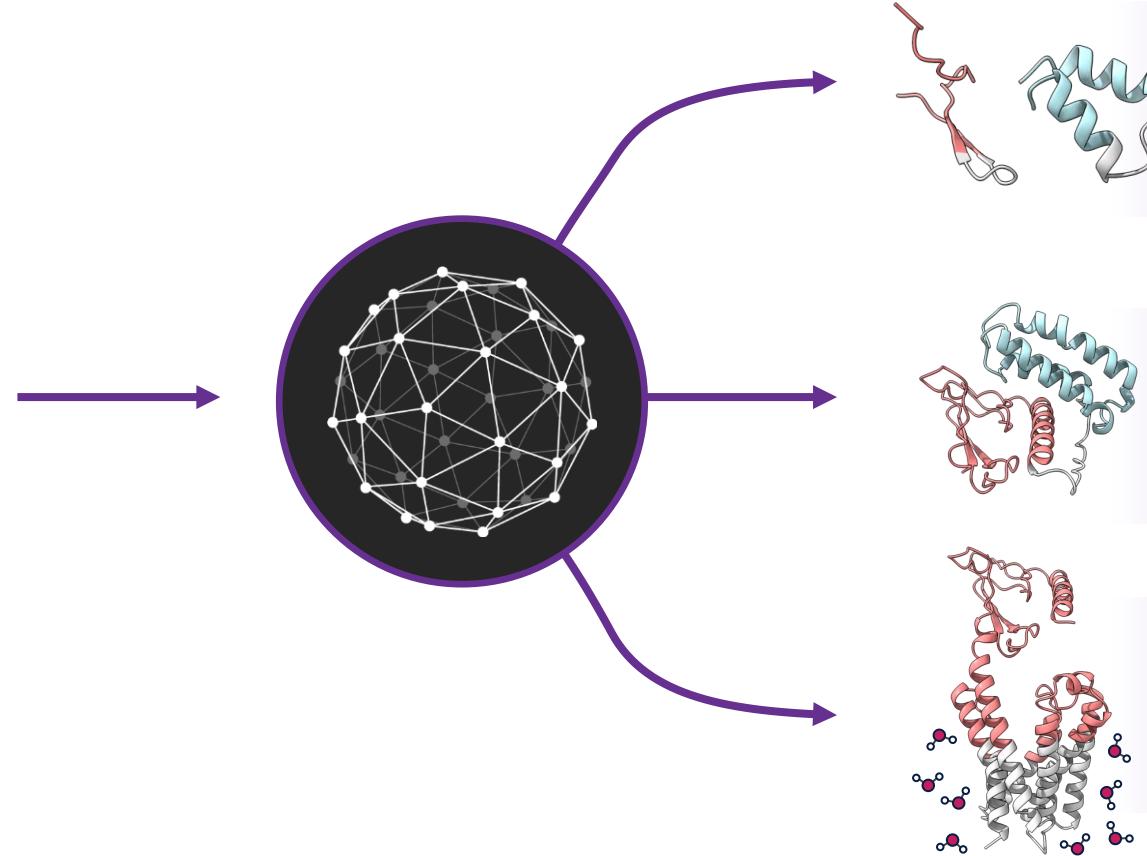
# Engineered Epitopes Are Tailor-Made Solutions for Your Target of Interest



## Target of Interest



## Generative AI



## Use Cases

### Epitopes of Interest

Design scaffold supporting native epitope structure

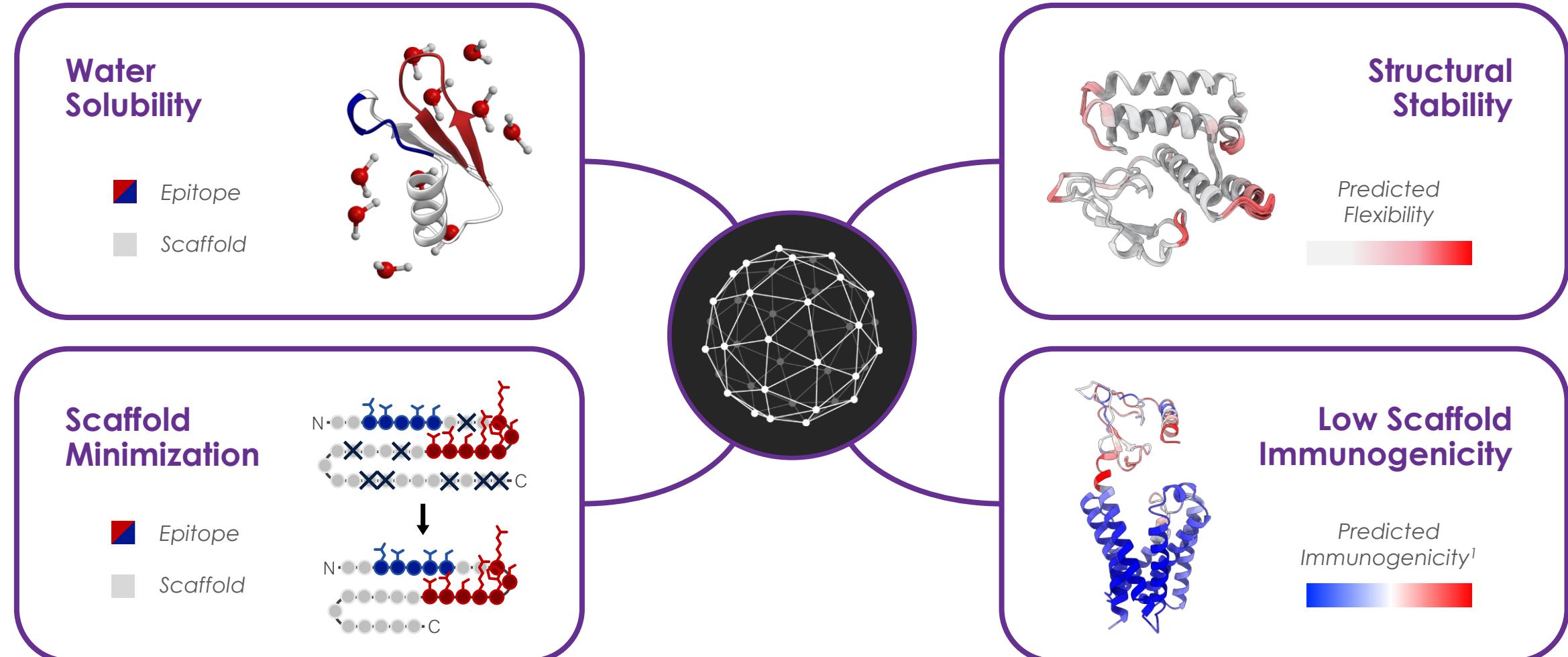
### Protein Complexes

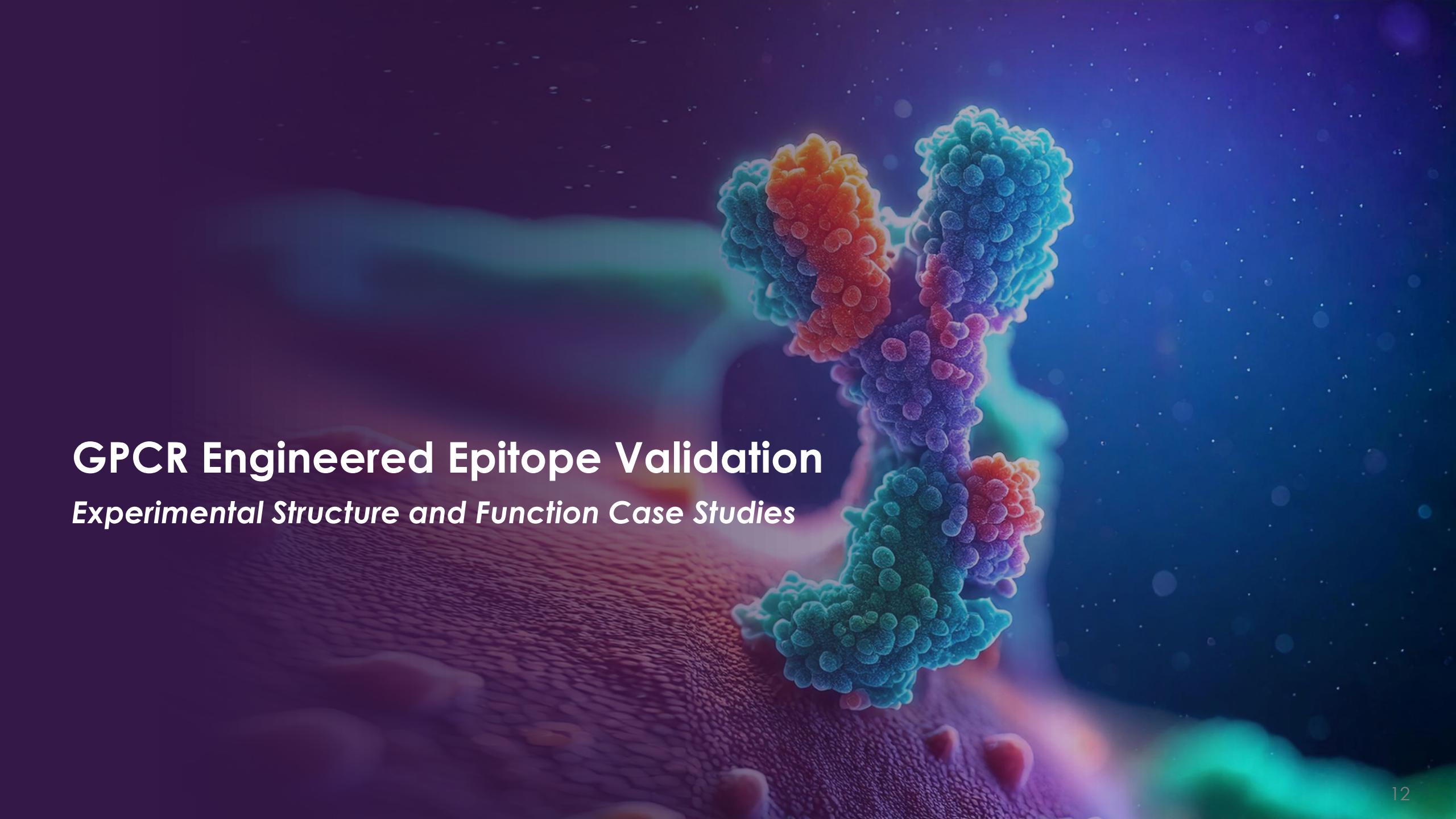
Stabilize junctional and/or discontinuous epitopes

### Membrane Proteins

Solubilize transmembrane domains

# Antigen Designs are Optimized for Antibody Drug Discovery





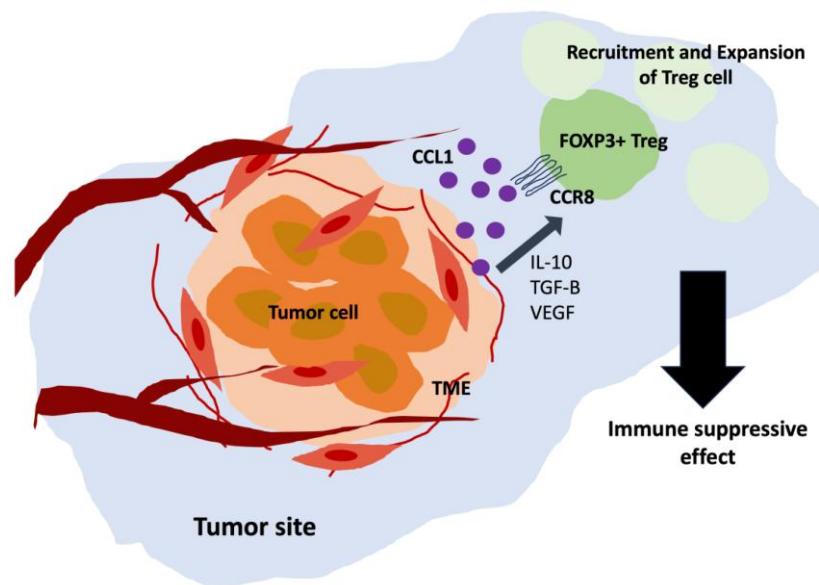
# GPCR Engineered Epitope Validation

## *Experimental Structure and Function Case Studies*

# Case Study #1: CCR8

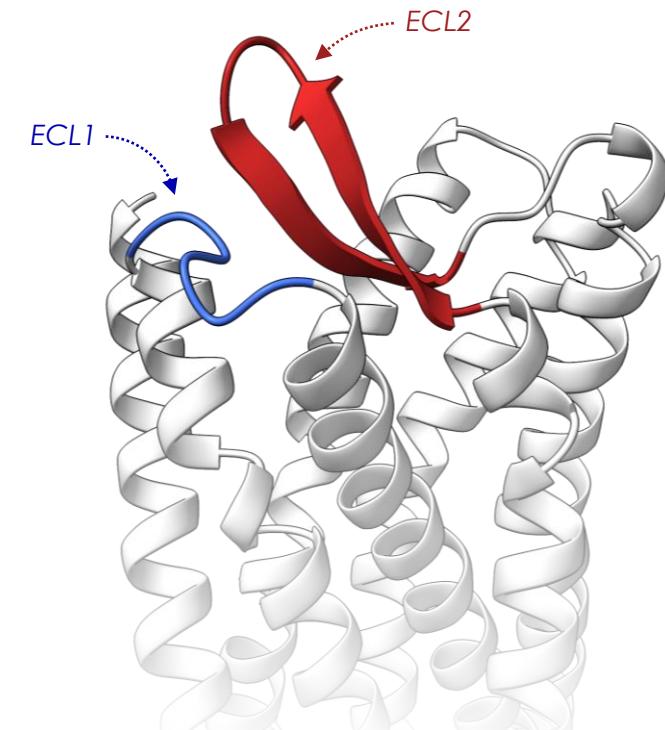


## CCR8 is an Emerging Immuno-Oncology Target



CCR8 is upregulated on regulatory T cells (Tregs) within the tumor microenvironment (TME), where it promotes Treg recruitment, expansion, and immunosuppression

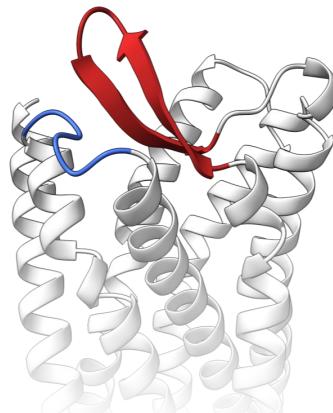
## Epitope Targeted for Treg Depletion



# NMR Structure Validates Engineered Epitope Design

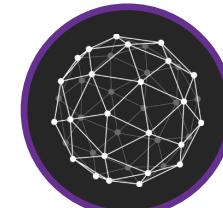
## Input Target

CCR8



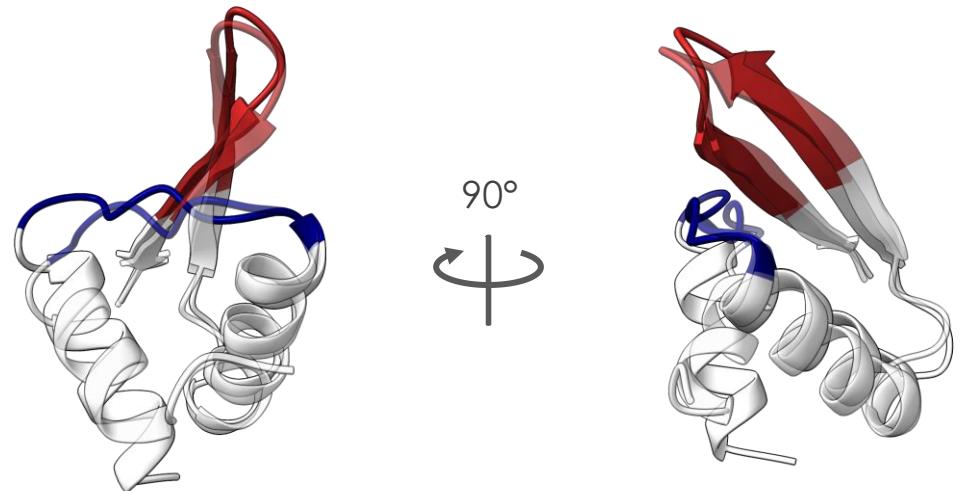
## AI Protein Design

Discontinuous Epitope  
Scaffold Design



## Engineered Epitope

Experimental NMR structure (transparent overlay)\* aligns well with generative AI design

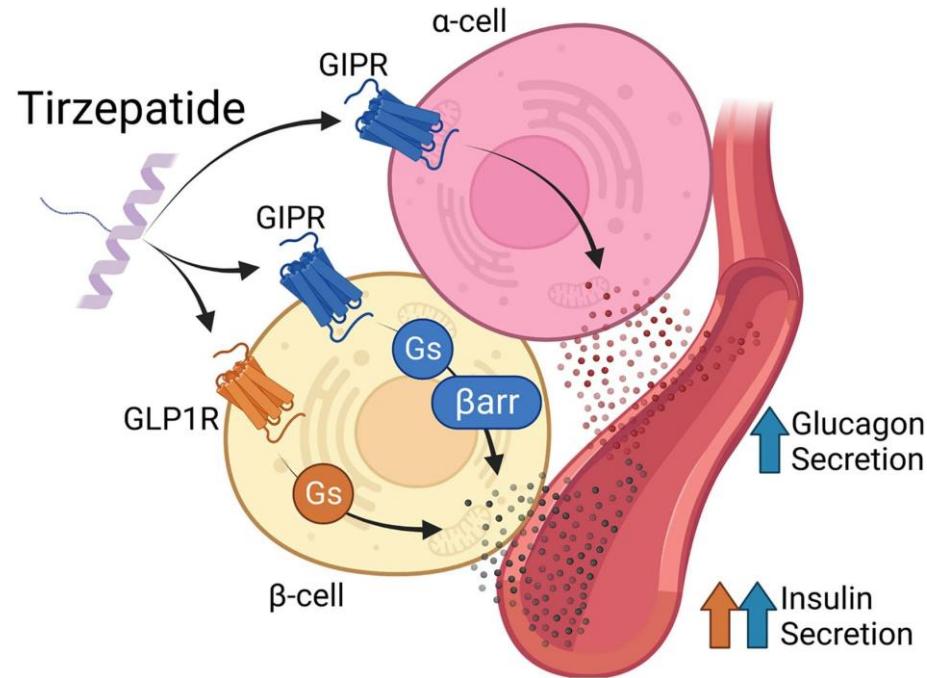


Backbone RMSD = 1.6 Å for epitope residues

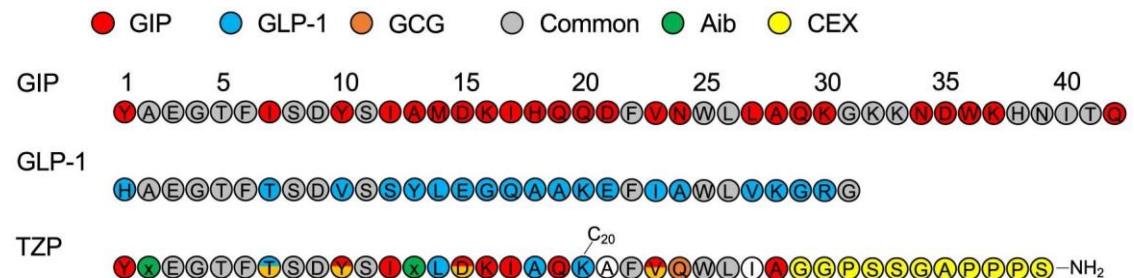
## Case Study #2: GIPR



### GIPR is a Target of Weight Loss Drug Zepbound® (Tirzepatide)

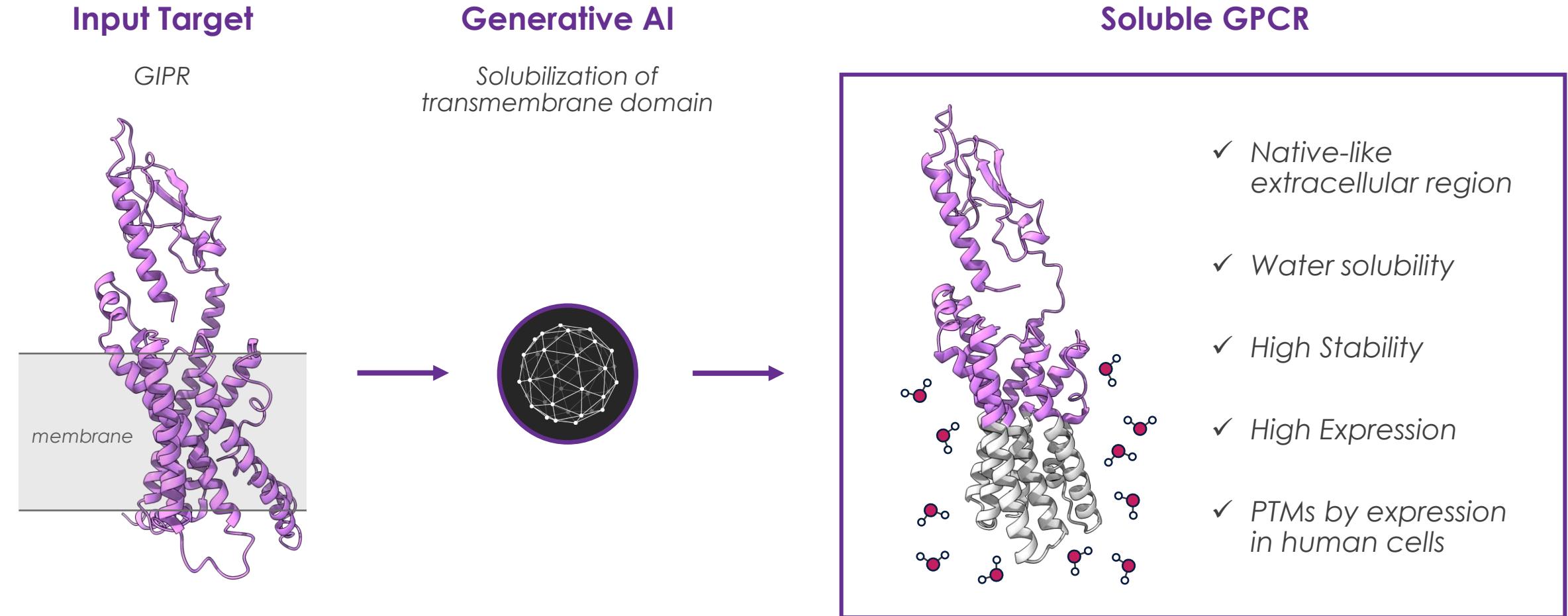
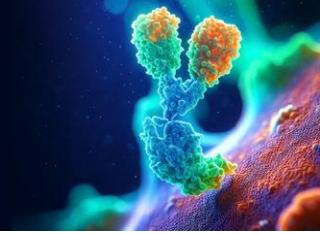


### Challenge: Design Soluble GIPR that Specifically Binds GIP and not GLP-1



GIPR and GLP-1R are structural homologs whose natural ligands GIP and GLP-1, respectively, share high sequence identity at the N-terminus

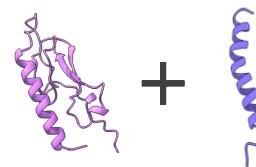
# GIPR is Solubilized by Reengineering the Transmembrane Domain



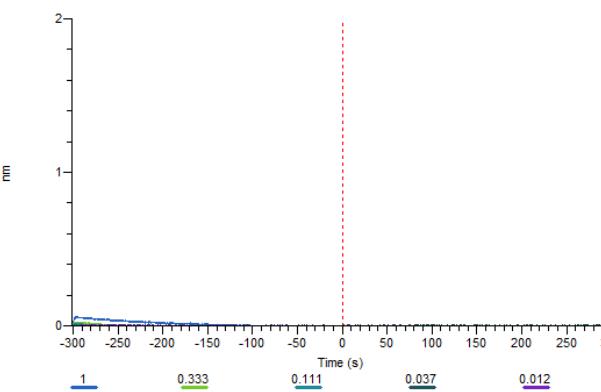
# Both Extracellular and Transmembrane Domains are Required for GIP Binding



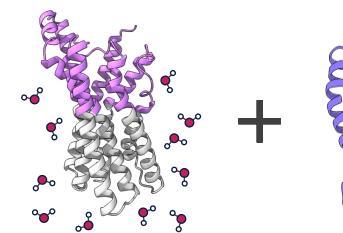
## Extracellular Domain (ECD) Binding to GIP



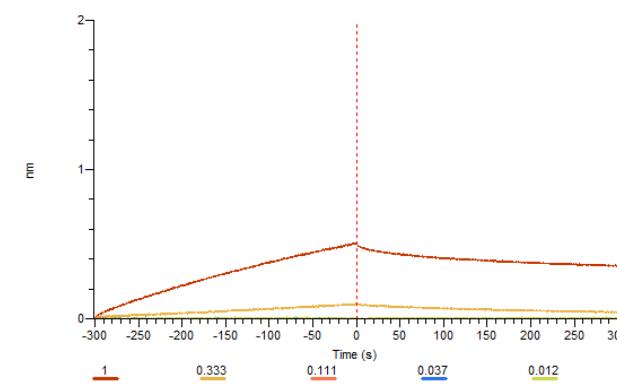
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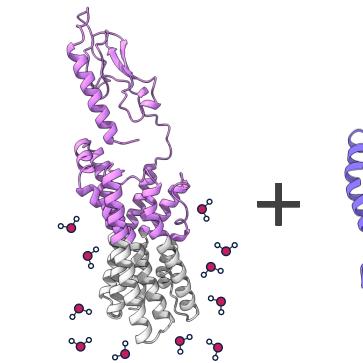
## Transmembrane Domain (TMD) Binding to GIP



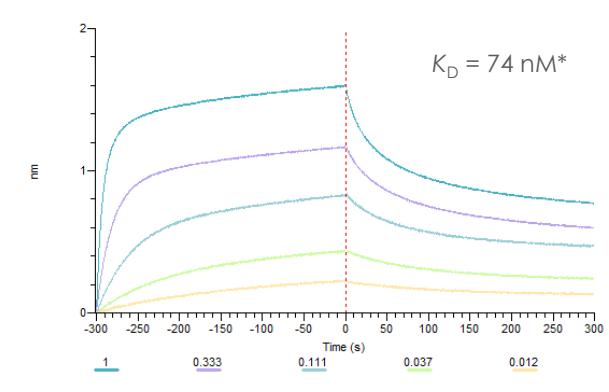
+



## ECD + TMD Binding to GIP

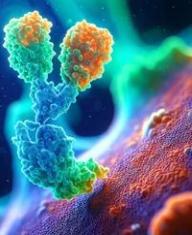


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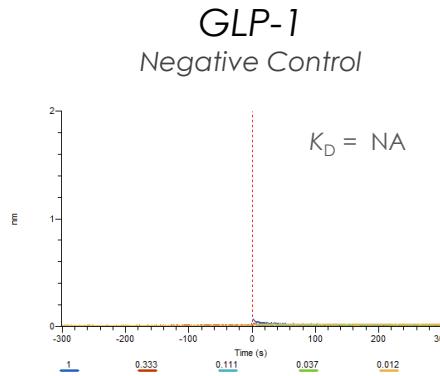
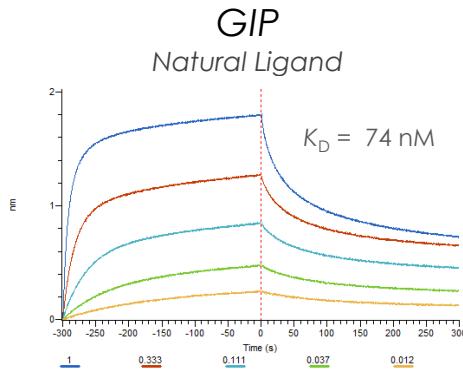
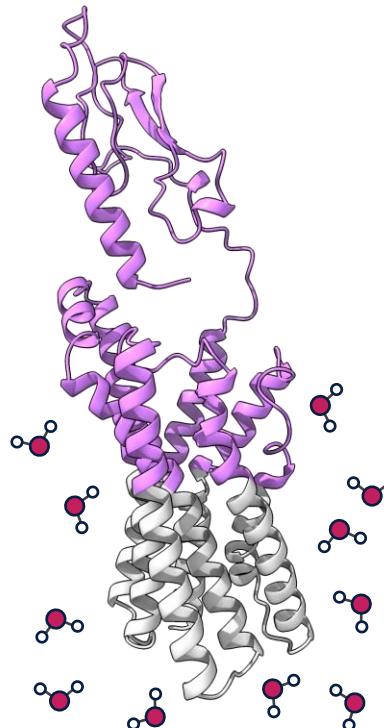


\* $K_D$  calculated from avidity binding kinetics

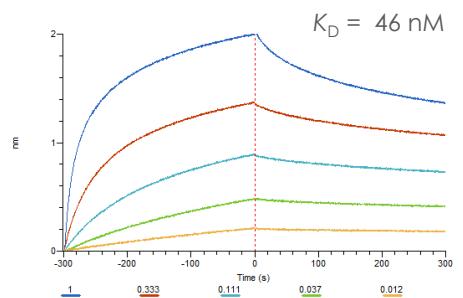
# Soluble GIPR Binding is Specific to its Natural Ligand and Therapeutic Drugs



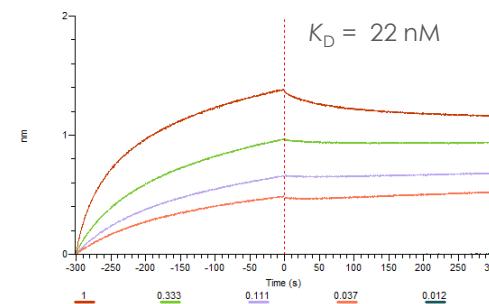
## Avidity Ligand Binding Kinetics



**Zepbound®**  
Dual Agonist Therapeutic Drug



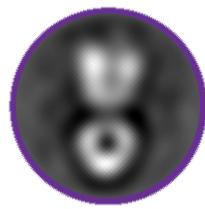
**Retatrutide**  
Triple agonist



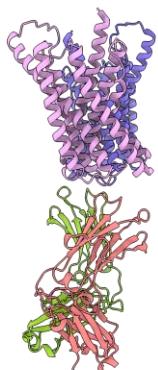
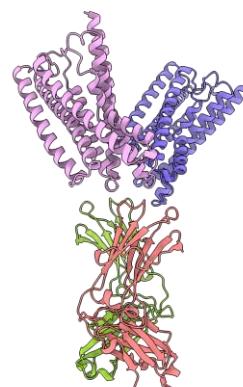
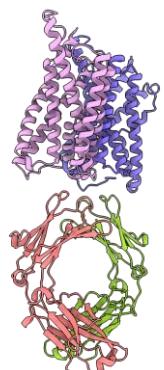
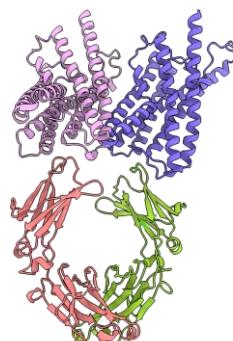
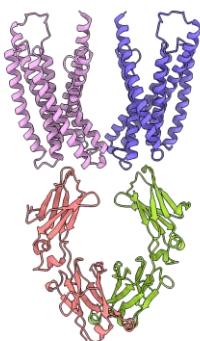
# Negative Stain Electron Microscopy Supports Soluble Transmembrane Design



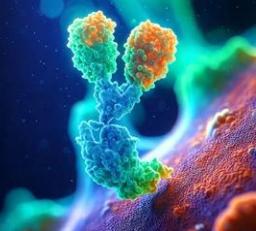
## Negative Stain Electron Microscopy



- Soluble GIPR expressed as Fc fusion
- 2D class averages agree with soluble transmembrane design
- Flexibility observed at the Fc hinge region

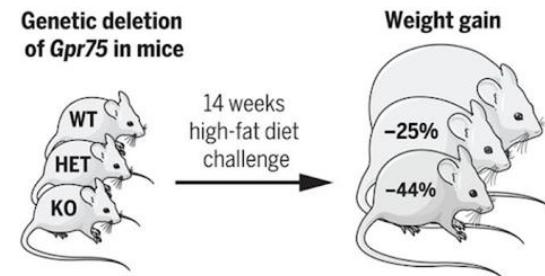
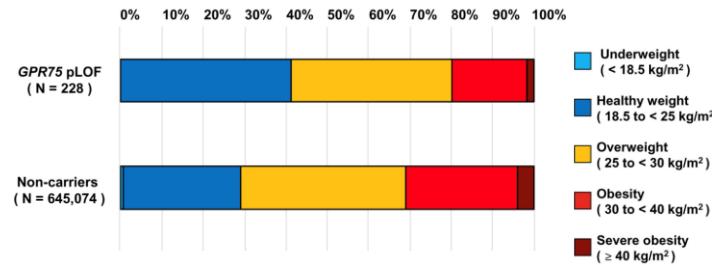
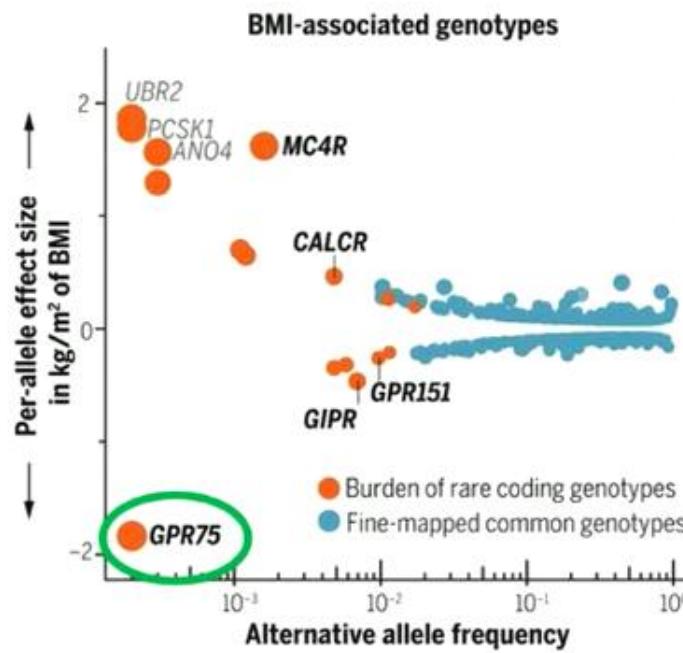


# Case Study #3: GPR75



## GPR75 is a Genetically Validated Obesity Target

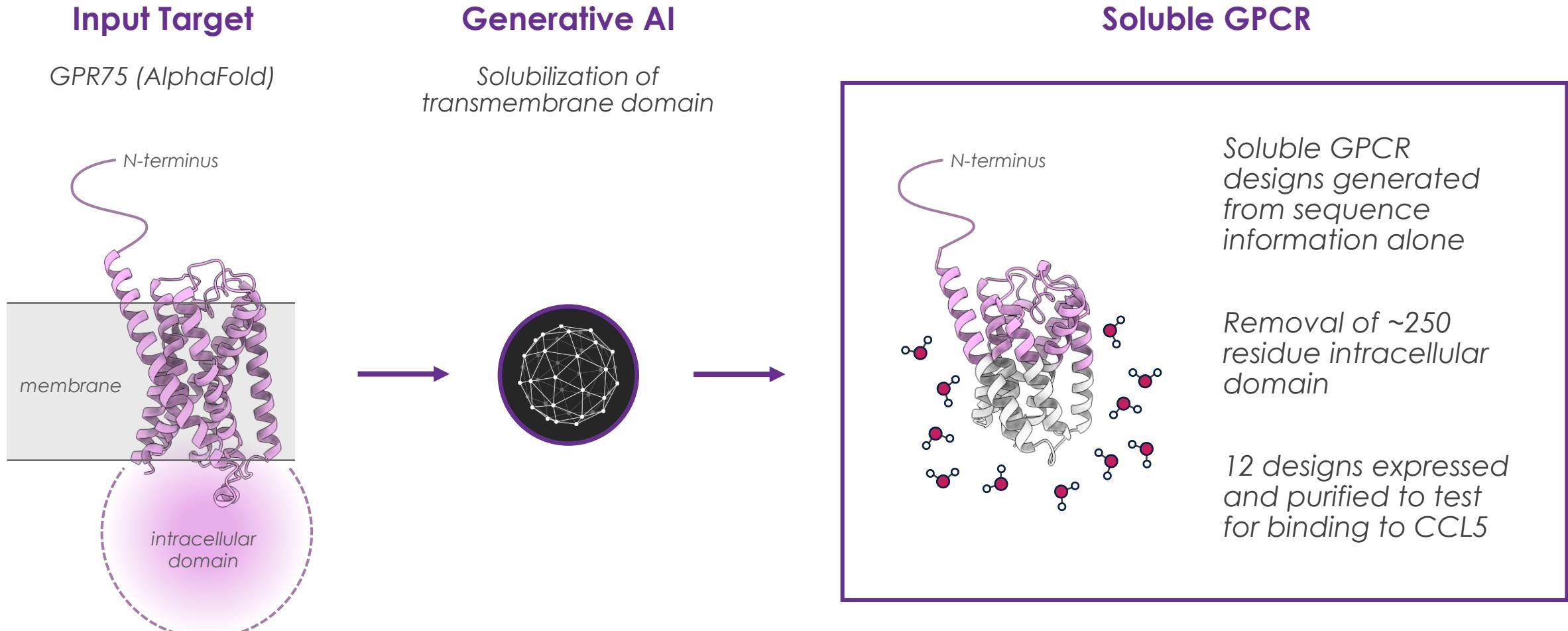
## Challenges



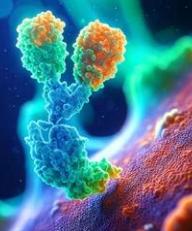
- No experimental structures available at the time of this study
- 20-HETE binds the transmembrane domain
- CCL5 binds extracellularly, but the binding site is unknown



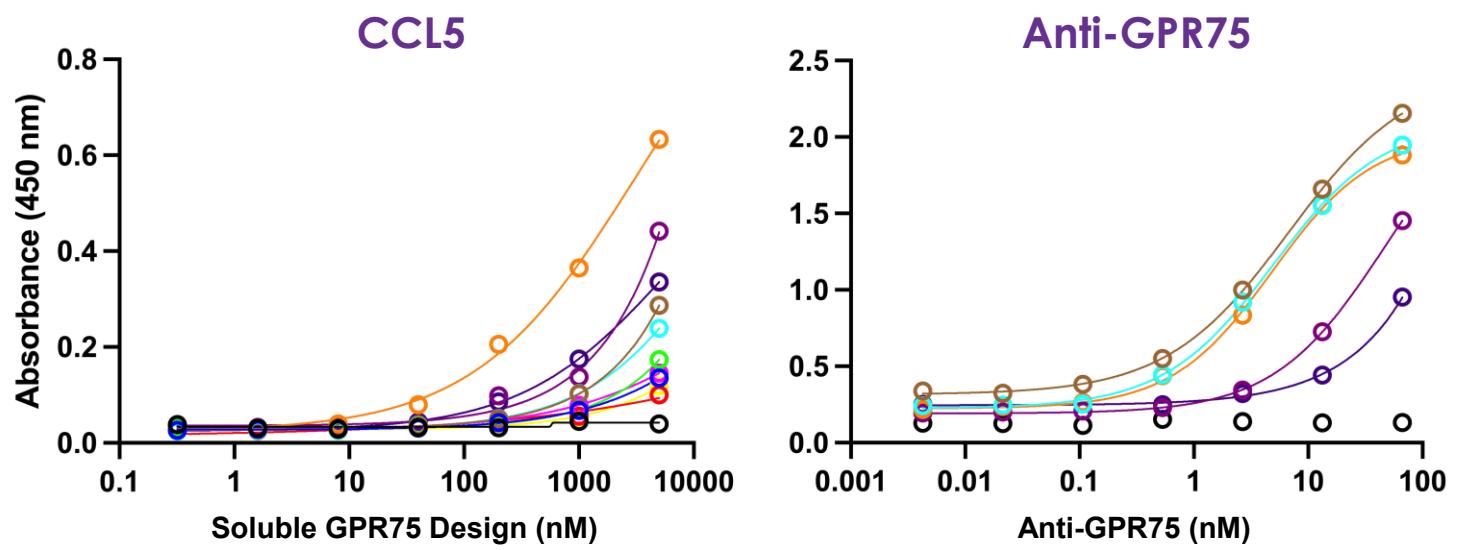
# Soluble GPCR Designed from Sequence Alone



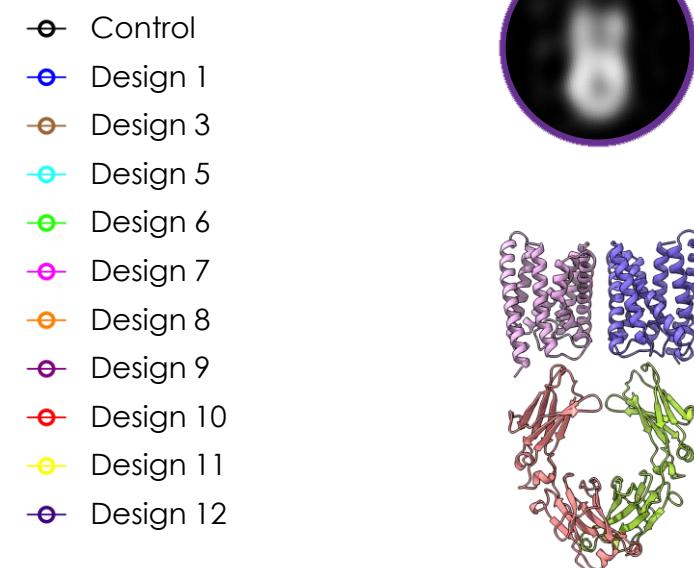
# Solubilized GPR75 Binds CCL5 and Commercial Antibody

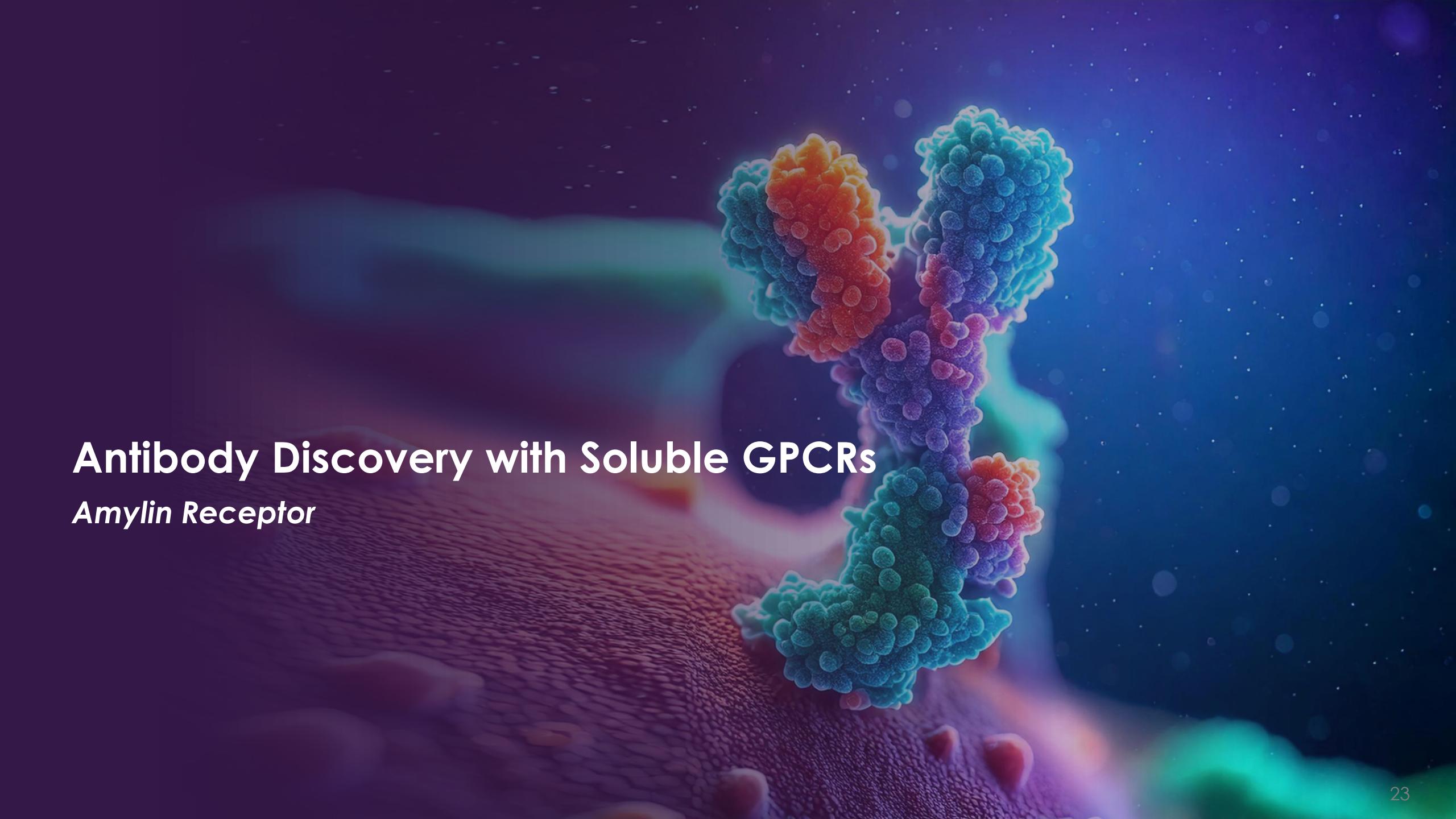


ELISA Binding



Negative Stain EM





# Antibody Discovery with Soluble GPCRs

*Amylin Receptor*

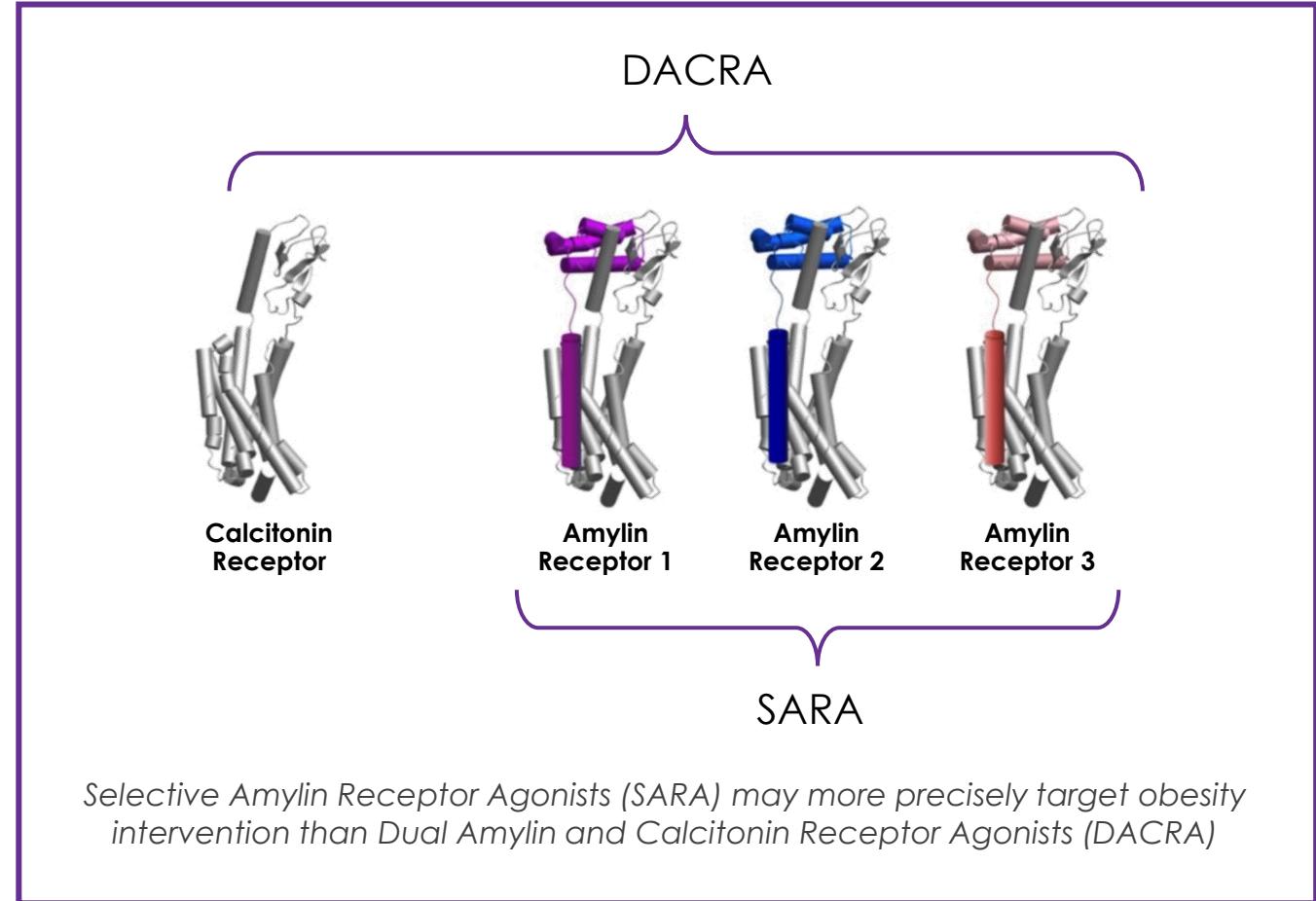
# Amylin Receptor Agonism

## A Complementary Pathway to GLP-1-Based Obesity Treatments



### Why Target Amylin?

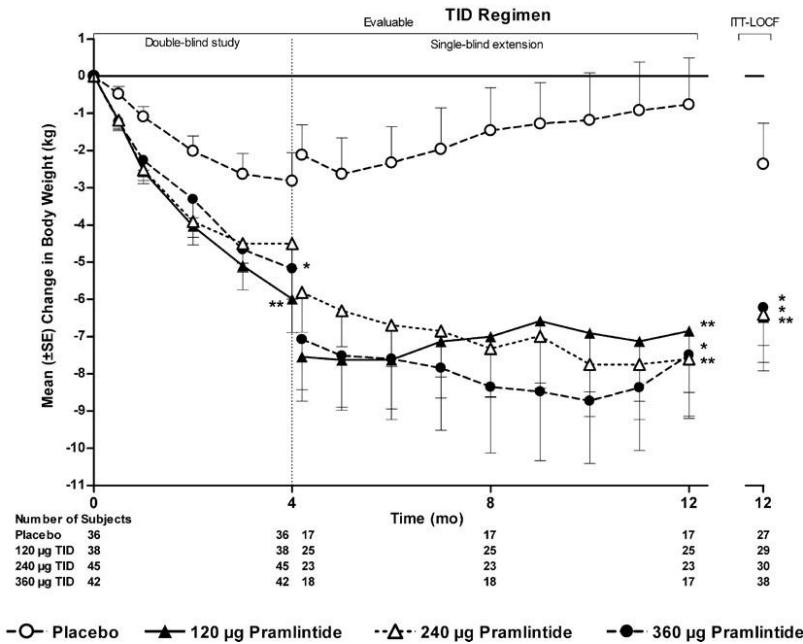
- **Validated metabolic hormone** that promotes satiety and slows gastric emptying
- Clinical studies with amylin analogs confirm efficacy in weight loss, but **peptide-based approaches may be sub-optimal** (dosing, tolerability, manufacturability)
- Antibody therapeutics could provide a differentiated profile, with **potential for longer duration of action, greater receptor specificity, and reduced side effects**



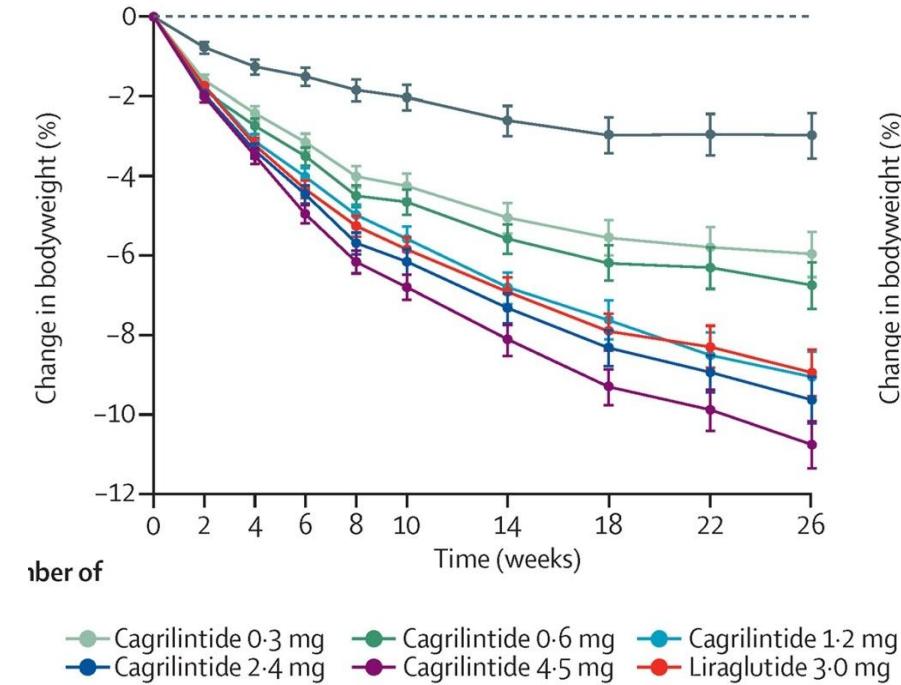
# Peptide Drugs are Efficacious but Require Frequent Dosing



## Weight Loss on FDA Approved Pramlintide



## Weight Loss on Long-Acting Cagrilintide

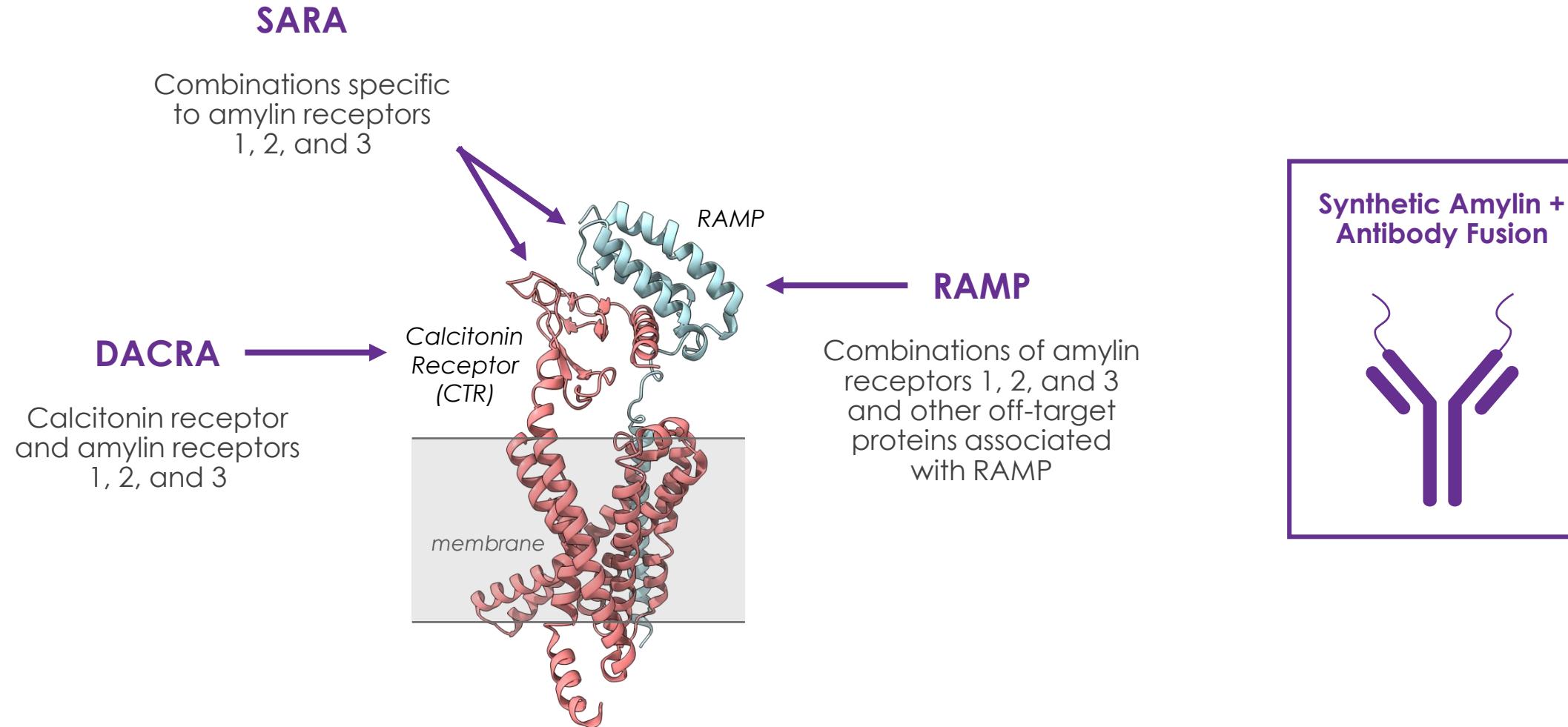


**Limitation** – requires multiple doses per day

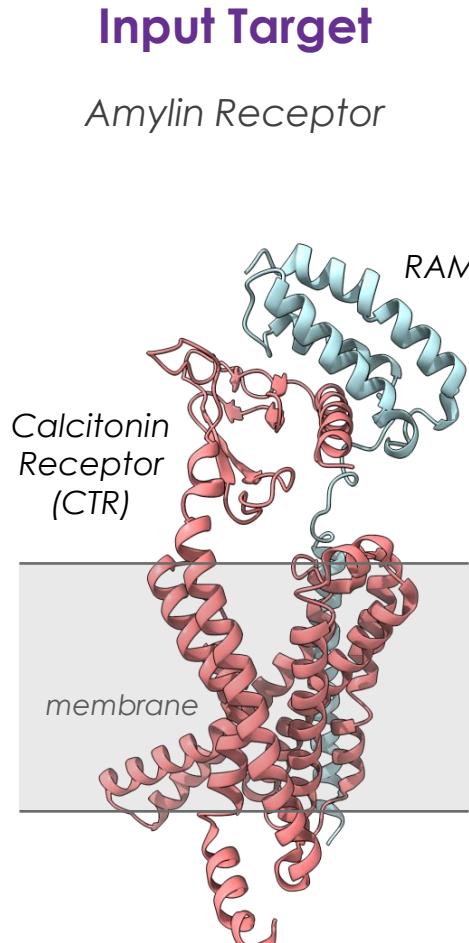
**Limitation** – still requires weekly dosing



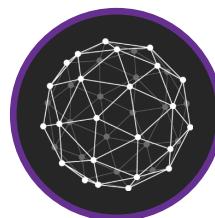
# Goal: Improve Therapeutic Specificity and Longevity with Antibody Fusion



# Full Spectrum of Epitopes Designed for Amylin Receptor

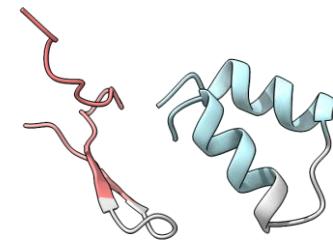


## Generative AI

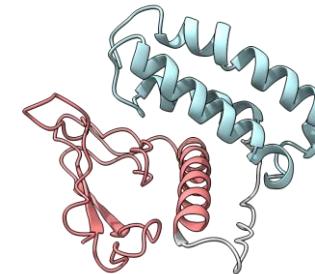


## Epitope Designs

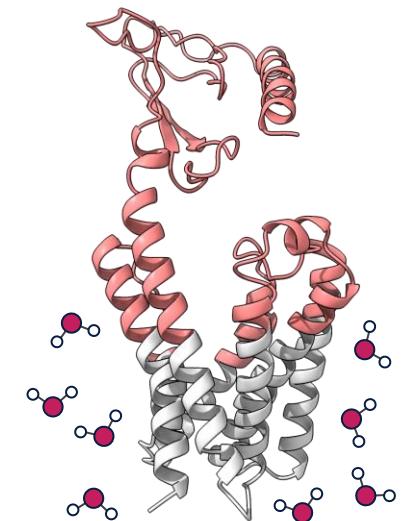
### Individual Epitopes



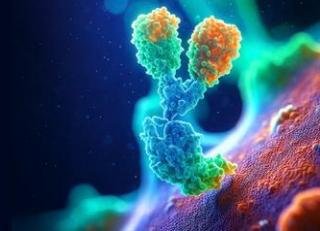
### CTR-RAMP Junction



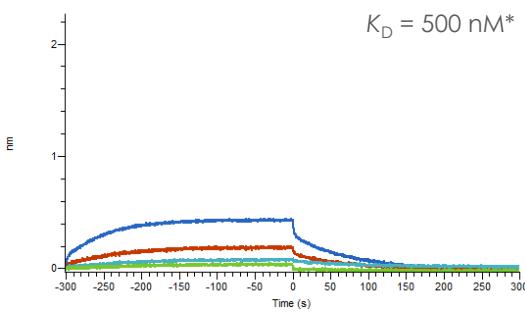
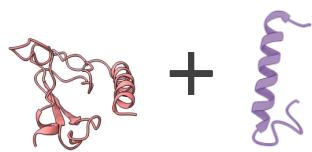
### Soluble CTR



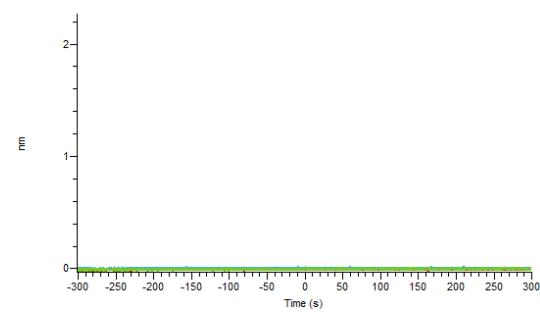
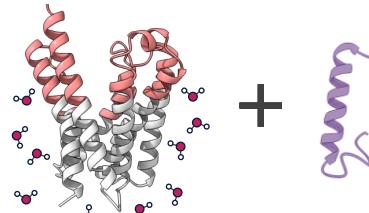
# CTR Solubilization Validated by Salmon Calcitonin Binding



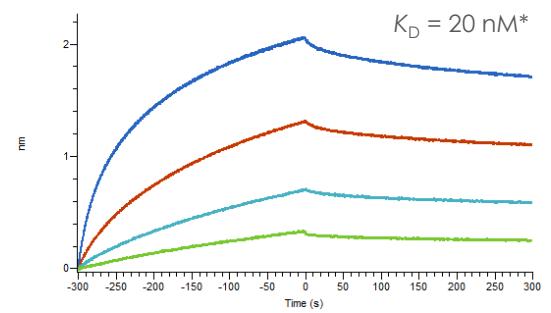
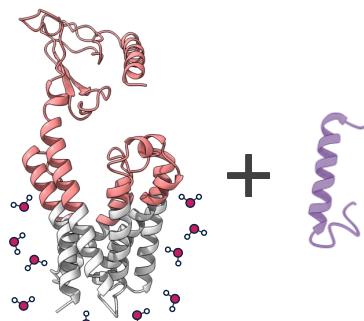
Extracellular Domain (ECD)  
Binding to Salmon Calcitonin



Transmembrane Domain (TMD)  
Binding to Salmon Calcitonin

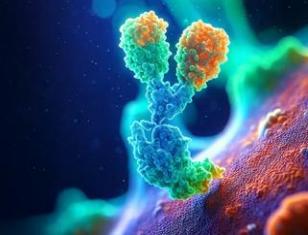


ECD + TMD  
Binding to Salmon Calcitonin

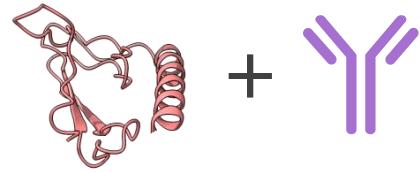


\* $K_D$  calculated from avidity binding kinetics

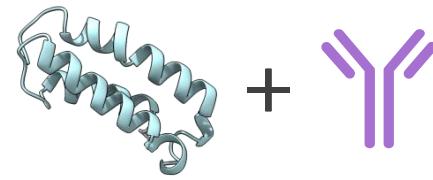
# Amylin Junctional Epitope Design Retains Anti-CTR Antibody Binding



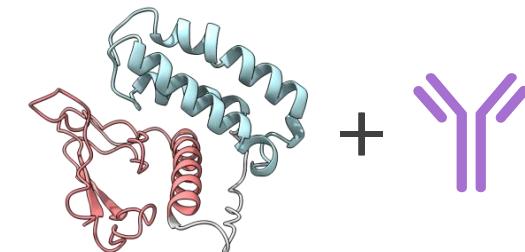
CTR ECD



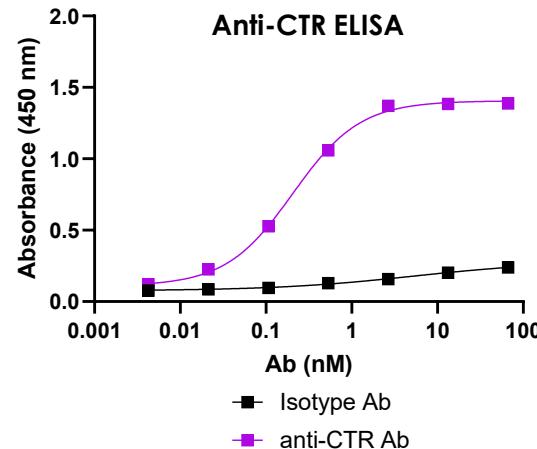
RAMP



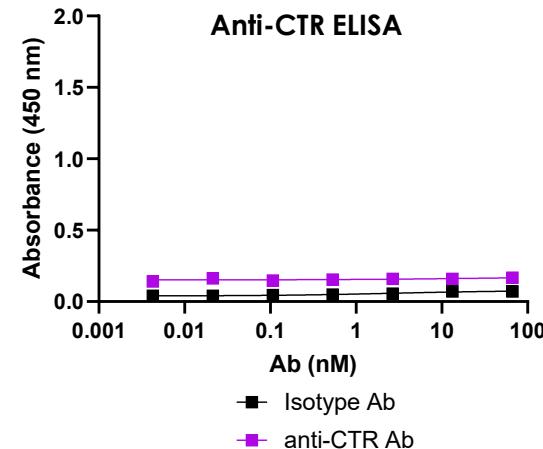
Amylin ECD



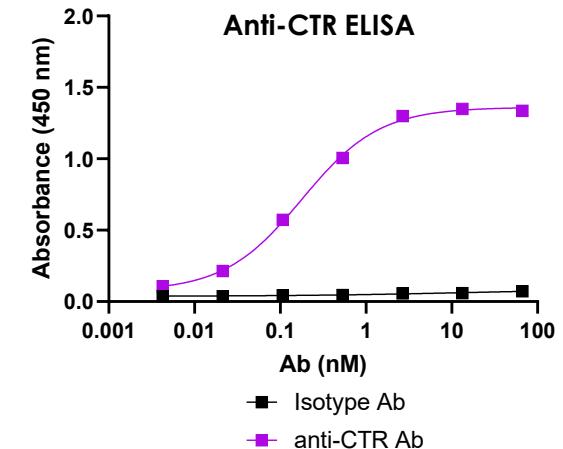
Anti-CTR ELISA



Anti-CTR ELISA



Anti-CTR ELISA

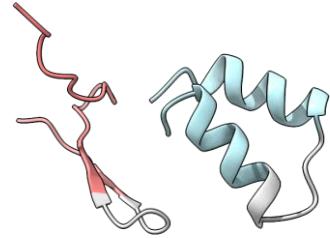


# Epitope Designs are used for In Vivo and In Vitro Discovery

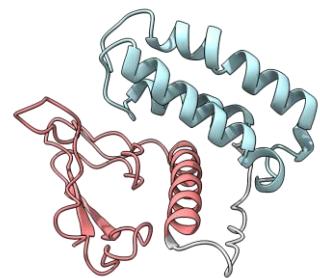


## Epitope Designs

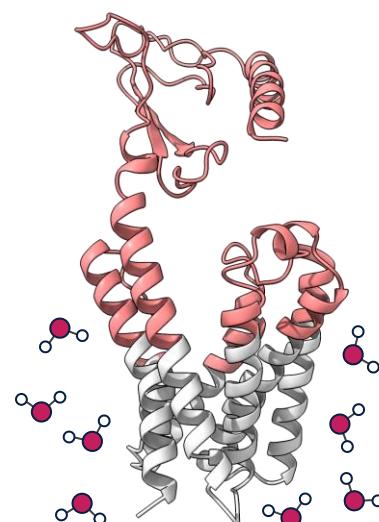
Individual Epitopes



CTR-RAMP Junction



Soluble CTR

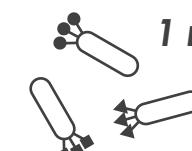


## In Vivo/In Vitro Selection

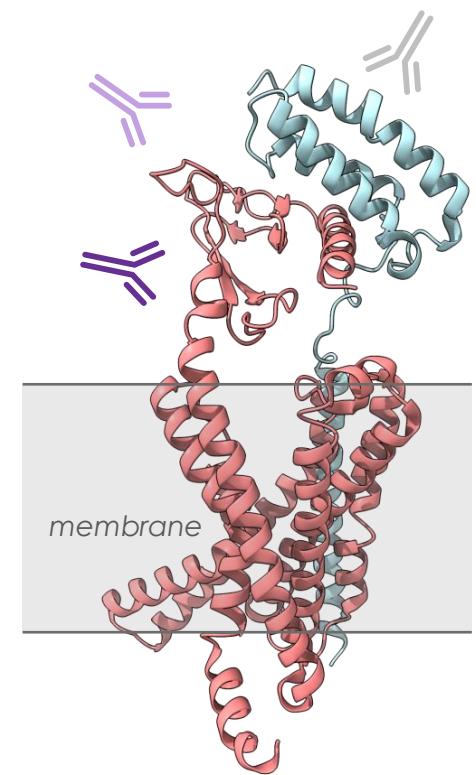
Immunizations  
4 months



Phage panning  
1 month



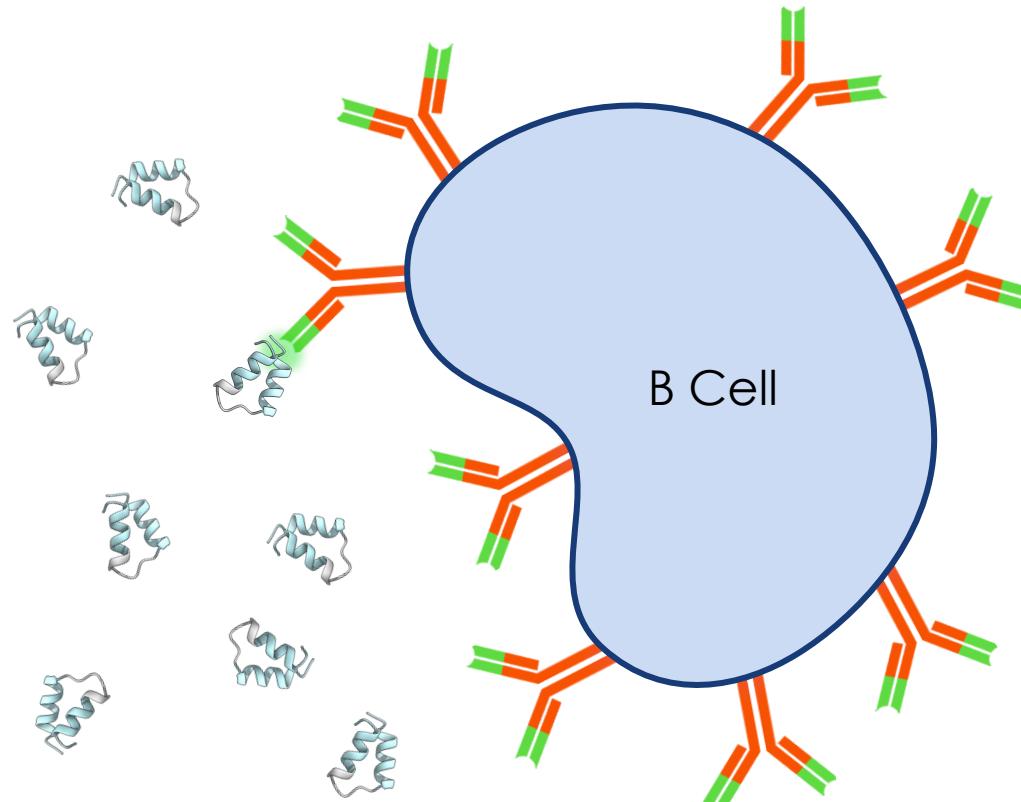
## Antibody Discovery



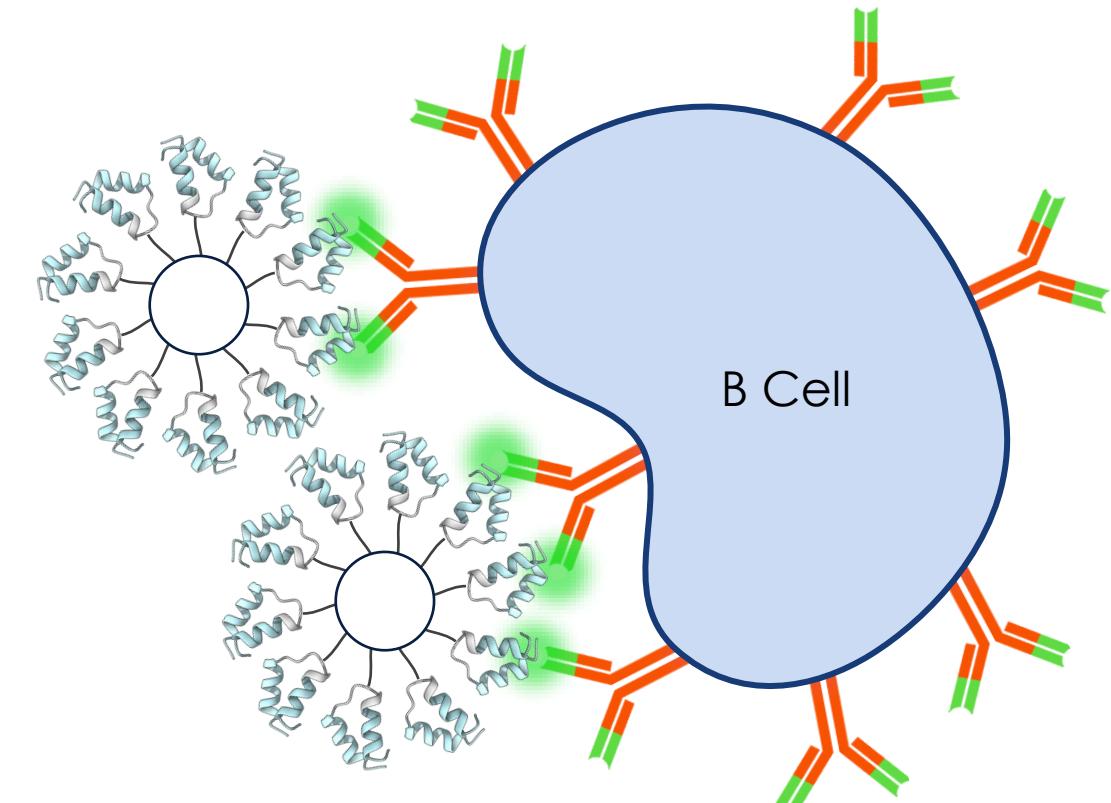
# Nanoparticle Display System Enhances Immune Response for Immunizations



Engineered Epitope Immunization  
*Weak B cell activation*



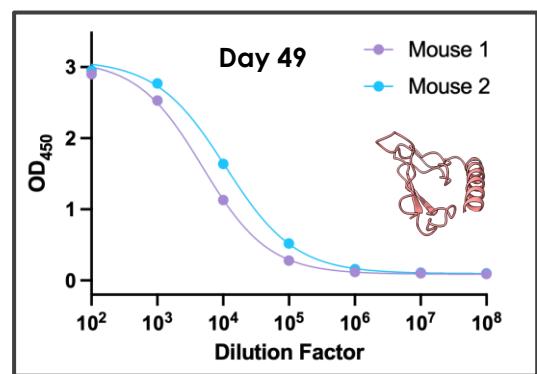
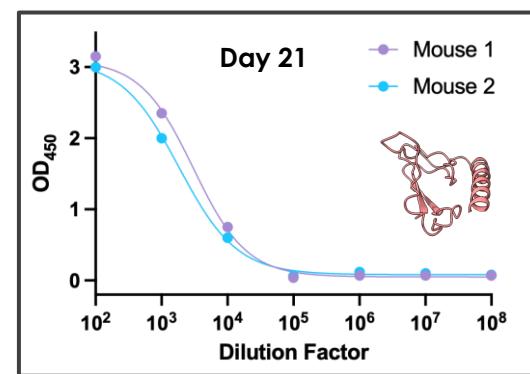
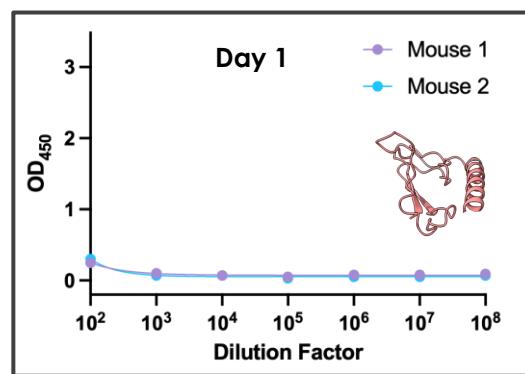
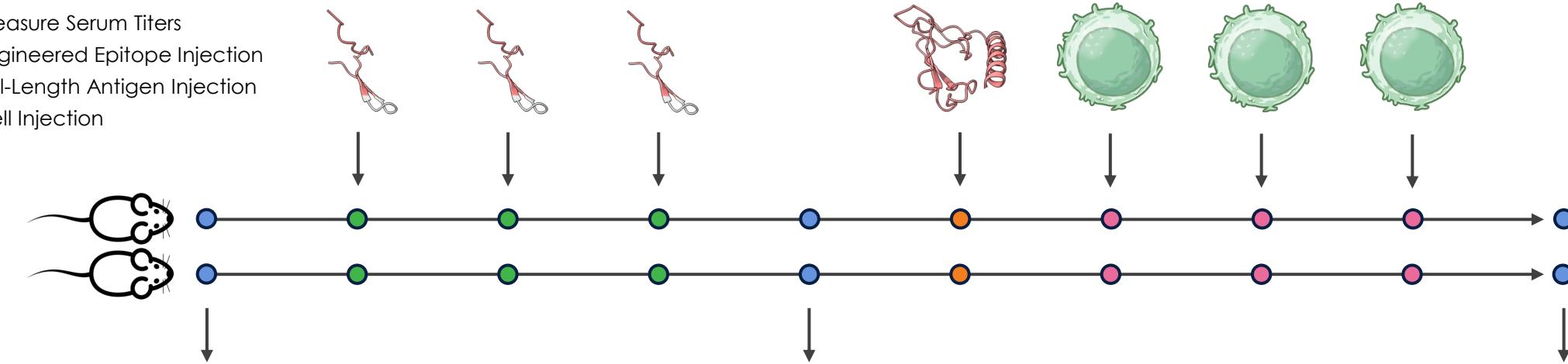
Nanoparticle Immunization  
*Strong B cell activation*



# Engineered Epitopes Prime the Immune System for an Epitope-Focused Response



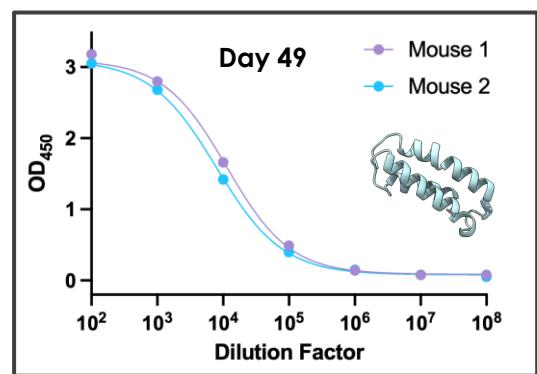
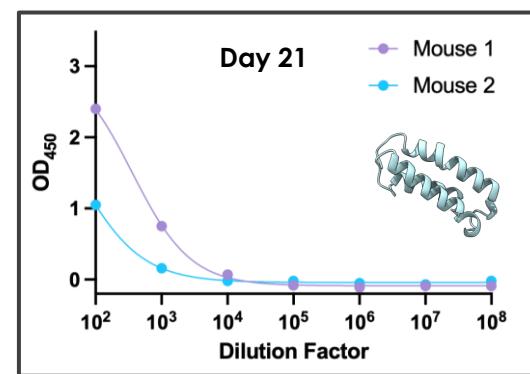
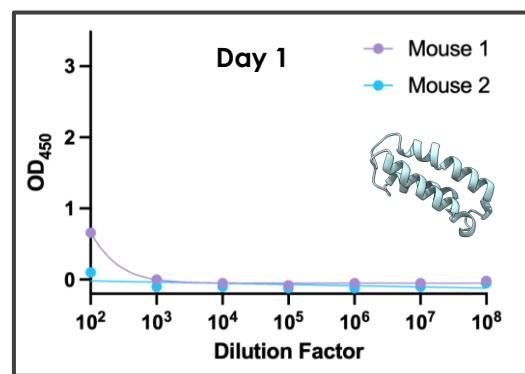
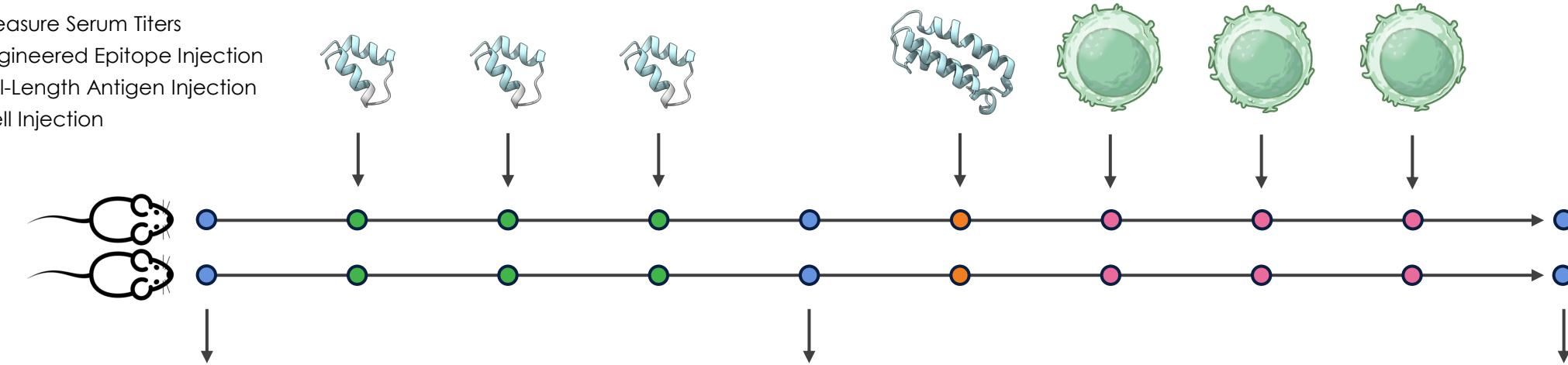
- Measure Serum Titers
- Engineered Epitope Injection
- Full-Length Antigen Injection
- Cell Injection



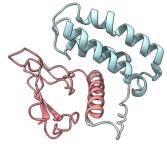
# Engineered Epitopes Prime the Immune System for an Epitope-Focused Response



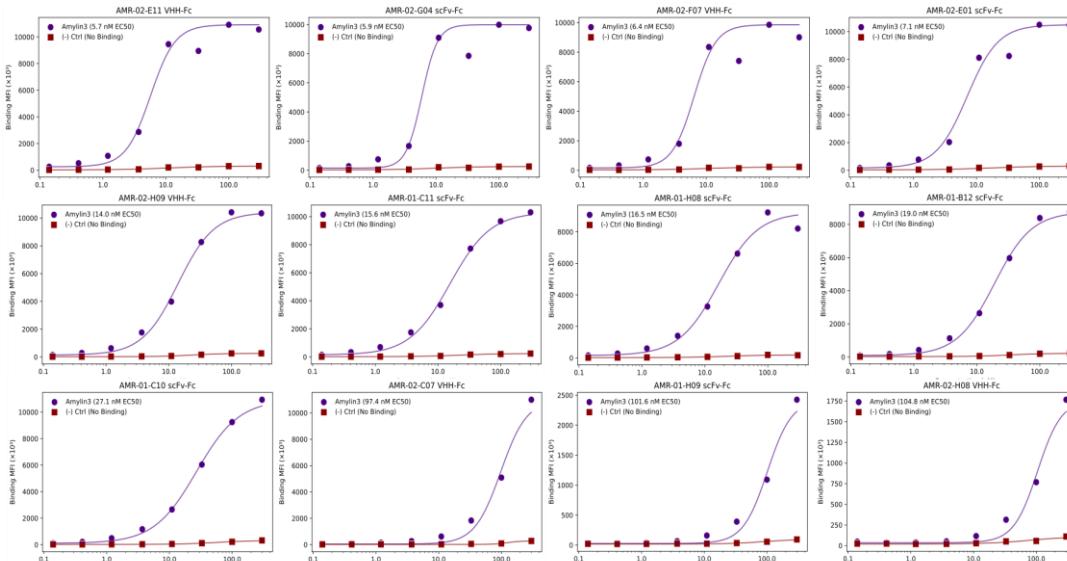
- Measure Serum Titers
- Engineered Epitope Injection
- Full-Length Antigen Injection
- Cell Injection



# Phage Panning Against Engineered Epitopes Translates to Cell Binder Hits

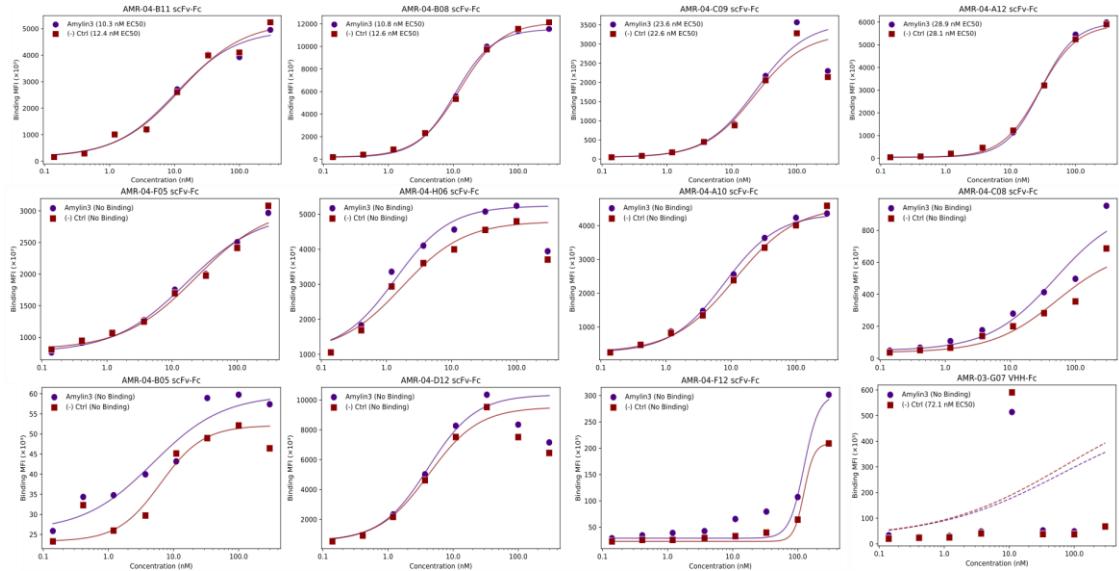


## Engineered Epitope Steered Strategies



## Amylin Receptor Cell-Only Strategies

(No Specific Binders Found)



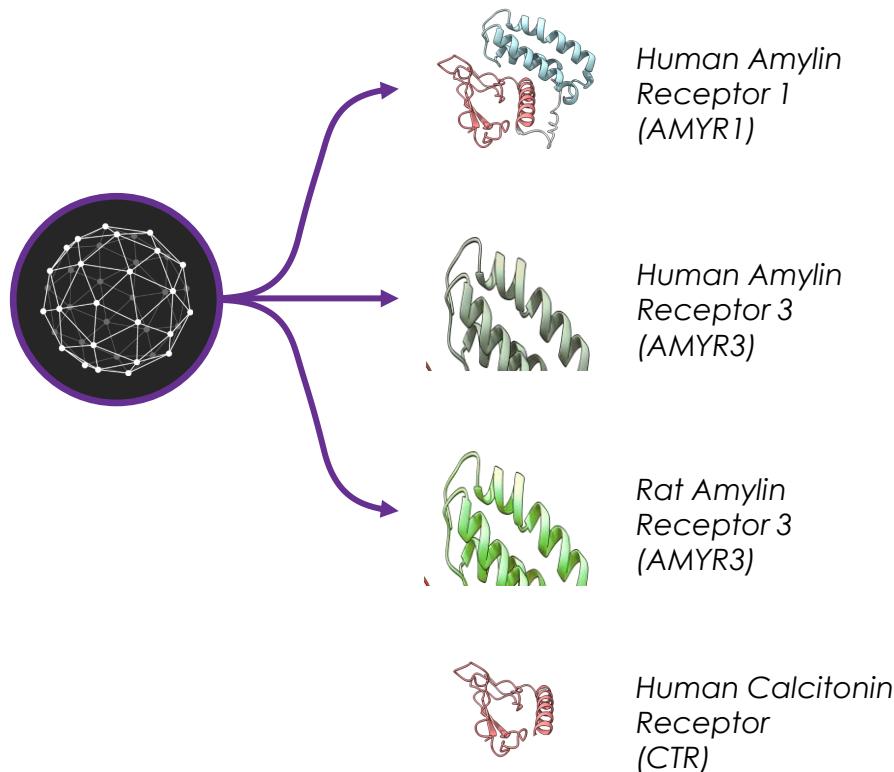
- Amylin3 Receptor Cell Binding
- Negative Control Cell Binding



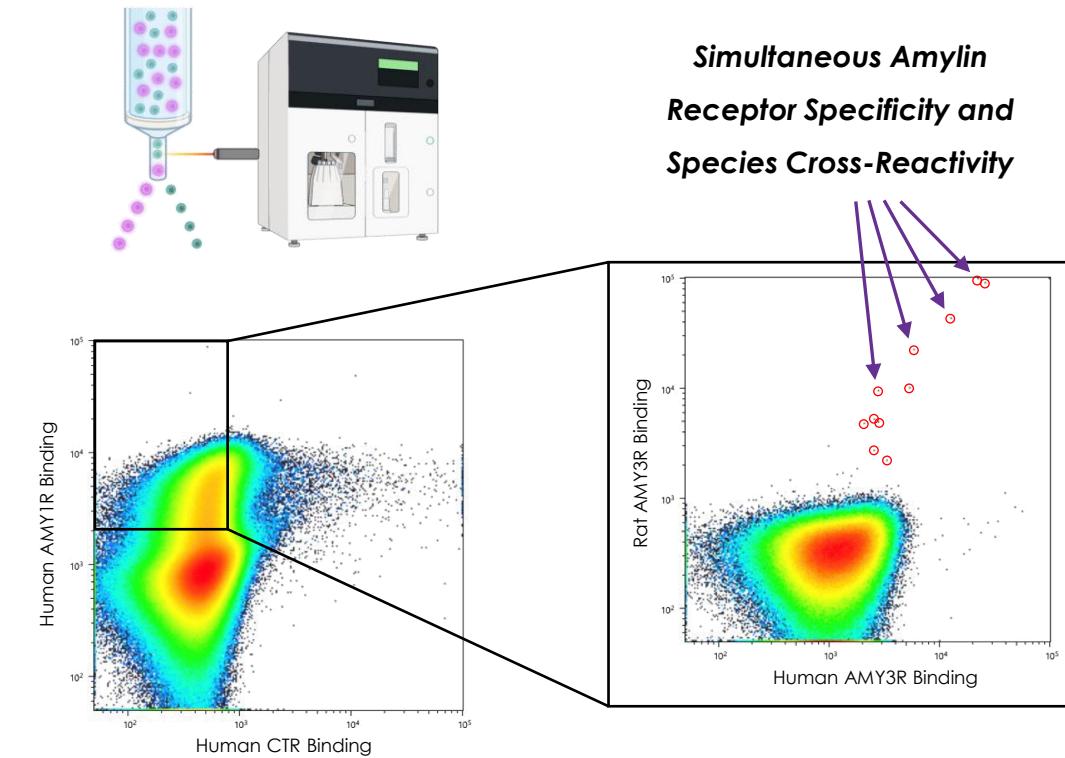
# Specificity and Cross-Reactivity in a Single Experiment



## Species Cross-Reactive Designs



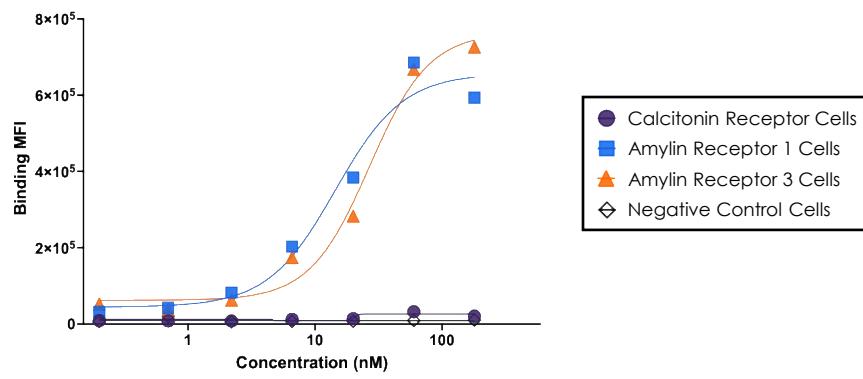
## 4-Dimensional Mammalian Display Sorting



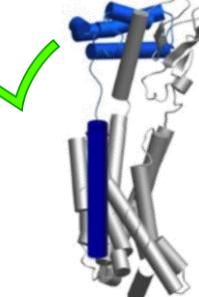
# Cell Binding and Agonism is Exquisitely Selective for Amylin Receptor



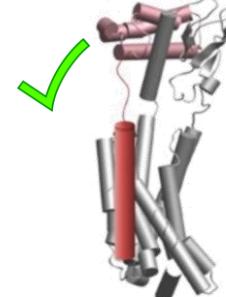
## Cell Binding



Calcitonin Receptor

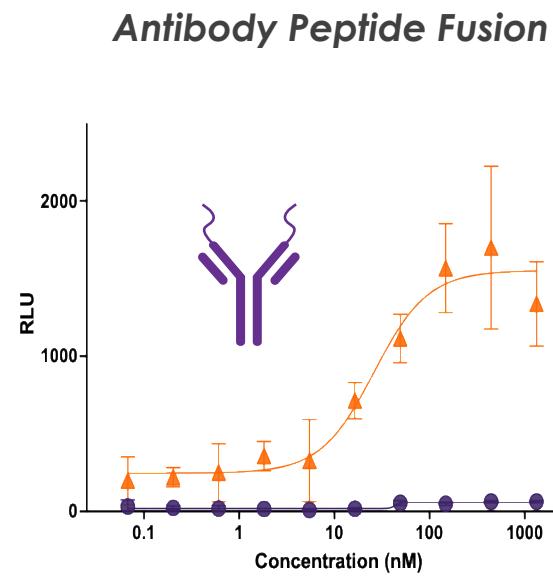


Amylin Receptor 1

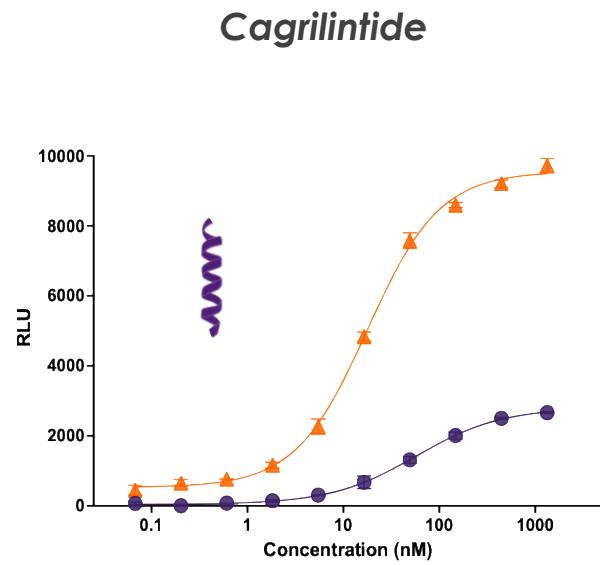


Amylin Receptor 3

## Agonism Assay

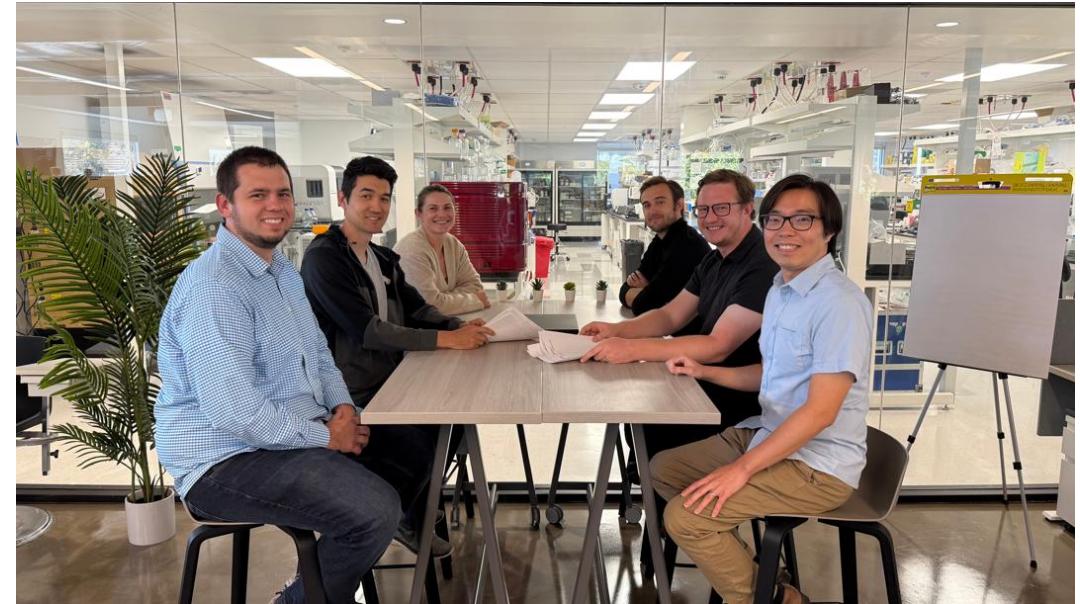
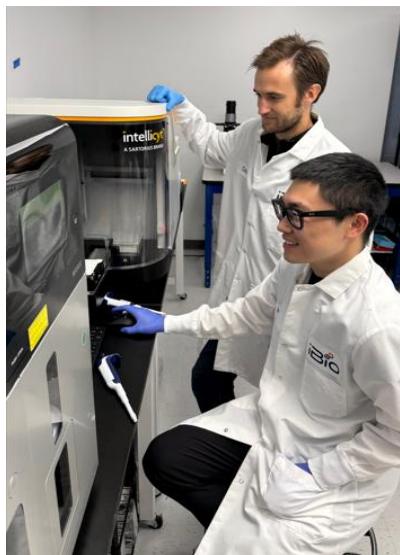
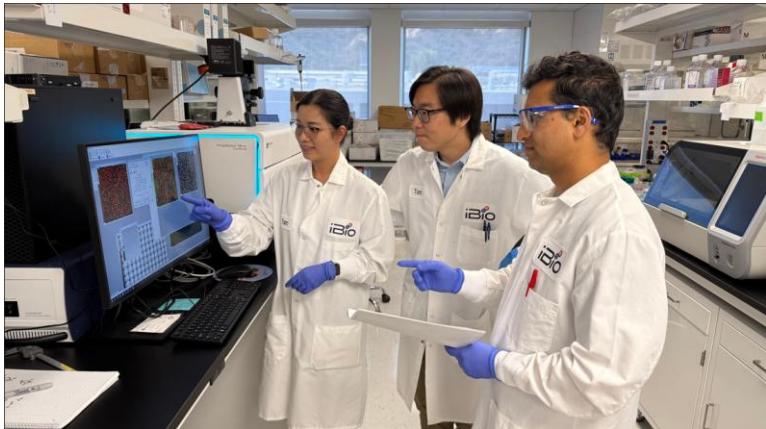


### Antibody Peptide Fusion



### Cagrilintide

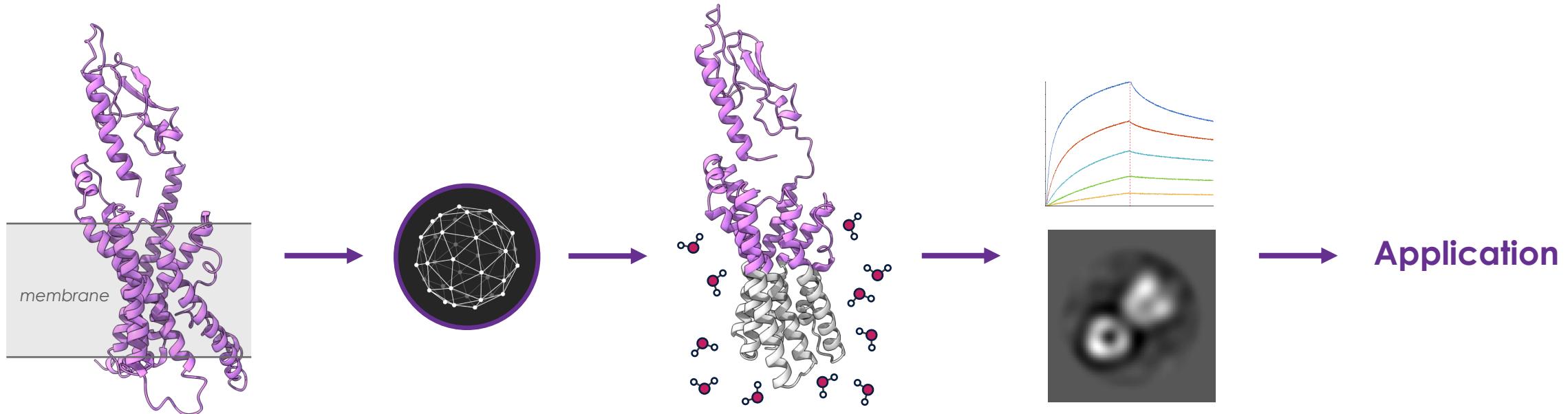
# Acknowledgements



# We Love Hard Problems



Have a problem you think could be addressed with GPCR solubilization?



We are open to collaboration! [alex.taguchi@ibioinc.com](mailto:alex.taguchi@ibioinc.com)