

---

# Overcoming the quality control barrier in ATMP development: high throughput analytics



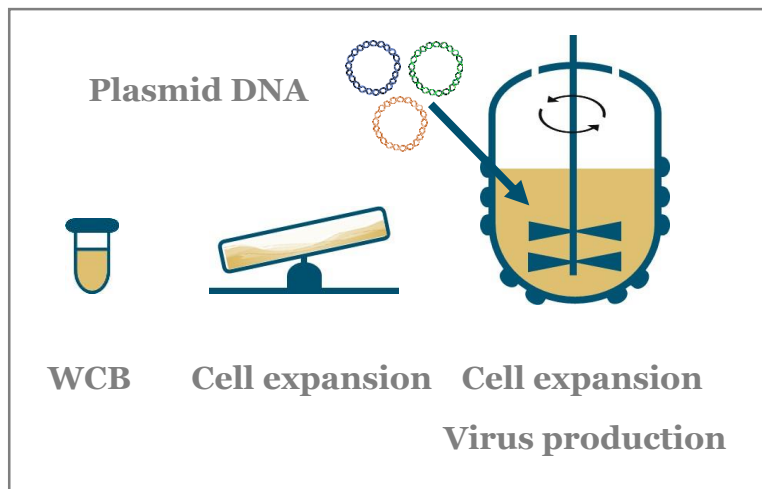
# Overcoming the quality control barrier in ATMP development: high throughput analytics

Damian Marshall

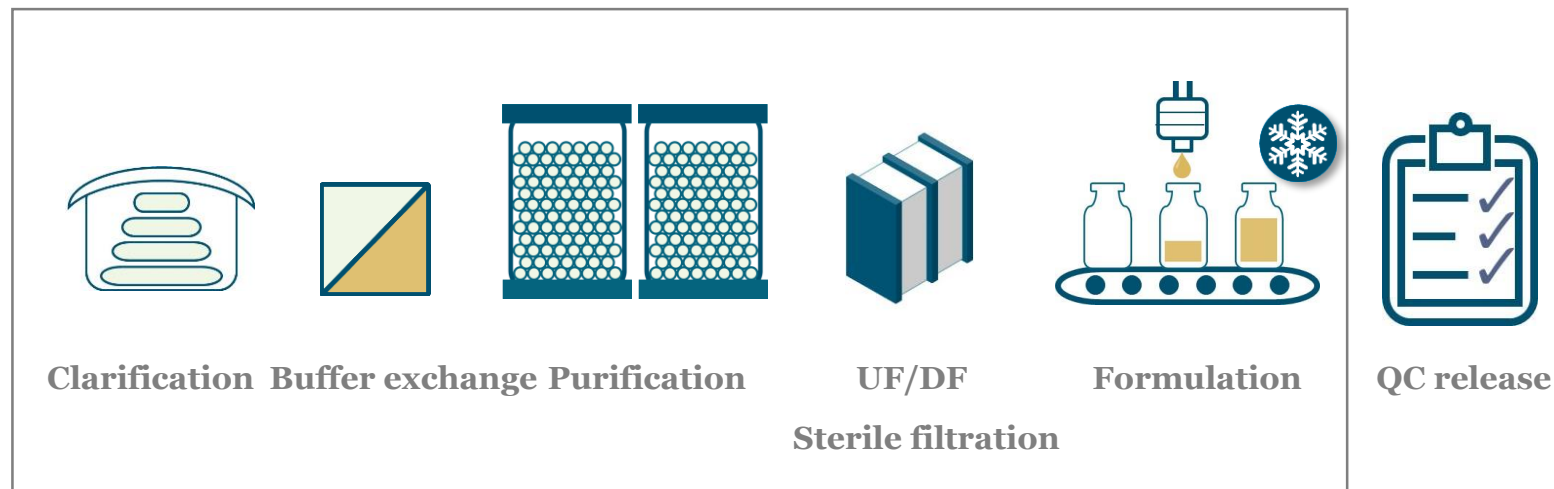
Director – New Technologies

# Gene therapy product release

## Up stream processing



## Down stream processing



### Titre and Potency

- Physical titre
- Infectious titre
- Infectivity
- Transgene function
- Stability

### Identity - Physicochemical

- Transgene sequence
- Vector proteins
- Vector integrity
- pH (EP 2.2.3)
- Osmolarity

### Impurities

- Residual HCP, HC-DNA, plasmid DNA
- Large T antigen protein / DNA
- Benzonase
- Aggregation
- Empty vector

### Safety

- Sterility (EP 2.6.1)
- Mycoplasma (EP 2.6.7)
- Endotoxin (EP 2.6.14)
- Adventitious viruses
- Replication competent viruses

# Product release

## Industry challenges:

- Large number of batches for release
- Complexity of analytical assays
- Requirement for rapid release

Total yield TU (from 200L)	Target cells	MOI	Cell Number	Transductions
1.0x10 <sup>12</sup>	T Cells	5	3.0x10 <sup>9</sup>	67
1.0x10 <sup>12</sup>	CD34 <sup>+</sup>	100	1.0x10 <sup>8</sup>	100

Gene Therapy	Condition	Serotype	~ total dose	Doses per 1000 L
RPE65	Retinal dystrophy	AAV2	2.5x10 <sup>12</sup>	2400
Factor IX	Hemophilia B	AAV5	1.4x10 <sup>15</sup>	4
SMA 1	Muscular atrophy	AAV9	1.0x10 <sup>15</sup>	6

July 16, 2019

## Kite Announces Plans to Bolster Industry-Leading Cell Therapy Manufacturing Capabilities With New Viral Vector Facility

SANTA MONICA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jul. 16, 2019-- Kite, a Gilead Company (Nasdaq: GILD), today announced plans for a new 67,000-square-foot facility in Oceanside, California, dedicated to the development and manufacturing of viral vectors, a critical starting

## Bluebird ramps up lentiviral vector production with Durham Facility

By Maggie Lynch

10-Apr-2019 - Last updated on 10-Apr-2019 at 13:06 GMT

In an indication of where the growth in the pharma industry is developing, Bluebird Bio is the latest to complete a new viral vector manufacturing facility to produce the investigational gene and cell therapies it is working on.

The biotech is in the process of qualifying the 125,000-square-foot lentiviral vector facility in Durham, North Carolina, in which it is investing \$80 million. About 50 employees work there now.

## Novartis prepped for 'unprecedented' Zolgensma demand

by Dan Stanton

Thursday, April 25, 2019 4:37 am

With over one million square-feet of manufacturing space, Novartis says it is prepared for the imminent approval of AveXis' SMA gene therapy Zolgensma.

Speaking during its Q1 2019 results, Novartis said it is set for the imminent arrival of gene therapy Zolgensma (onasemnogene APOB10 modulator), added to the firm's pipeline through the acquisition of AveXis. The one-time therapy targeting spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) Type



# High production throughput needed

The centre provides access to the expertise, skills, facilities and equipment as the stepping stone needed for organisations to develop new technologies and systems for large scale manufacturing.



Quality control



Qualified persons



Operating policies



Warehouse management



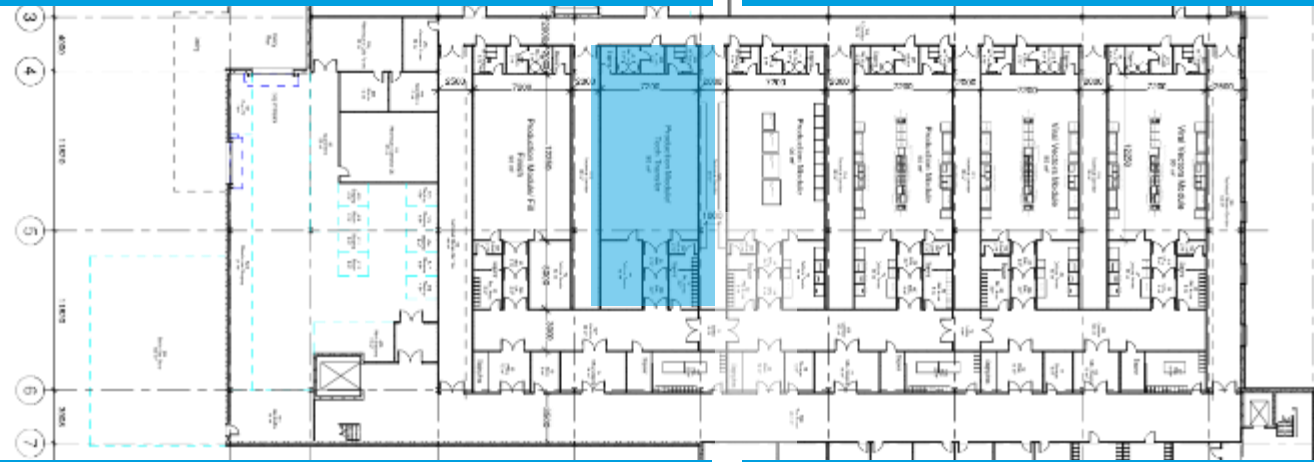
Development assistance

## Predicted Advanced Medicinal Product Output:

**528 batches per year per module**  
**5,280 batches per year for facility**

## Predicted QC sample output:

**>8,000 samples per year per module**  
**>105,000 samples per year for facility**



## Engineering maintenance:

**>3,000 Key equipment pieces for building function**

## Warehouse:

**>1.0M Material picks per year for facility**

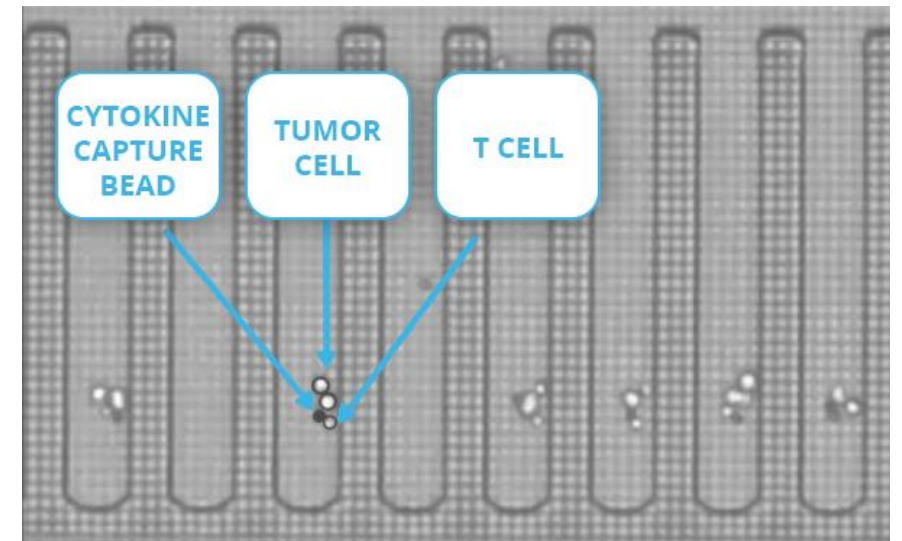
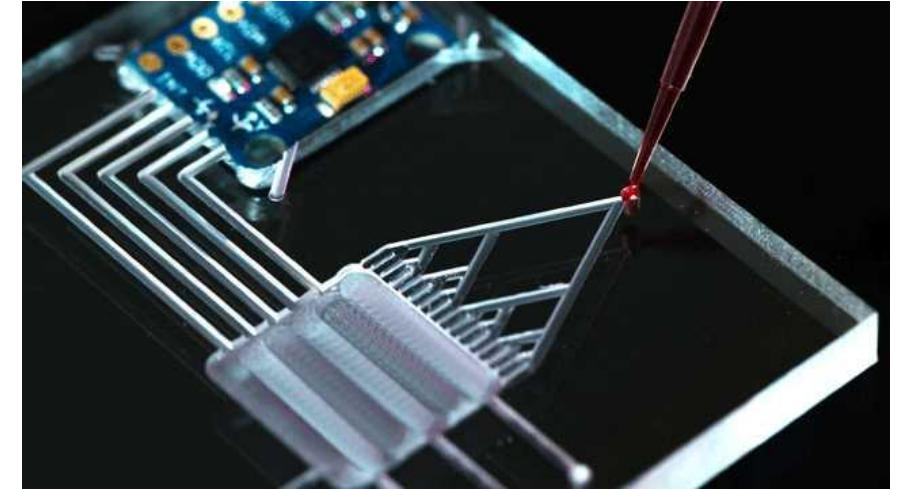
# QC lab automation

- Automation can increase facility throughput and make QC faster, more agile, more compliant, and more efficient.
- Automation technologies already exist that could be used to streamline cell and gene therapy product release
- Up to 80% of QC laboratory tasks could be automatable
- automation can also ensure better quality and compliance by reducing manual errors and variability, as well as allowing faster and effective resolution of problems.



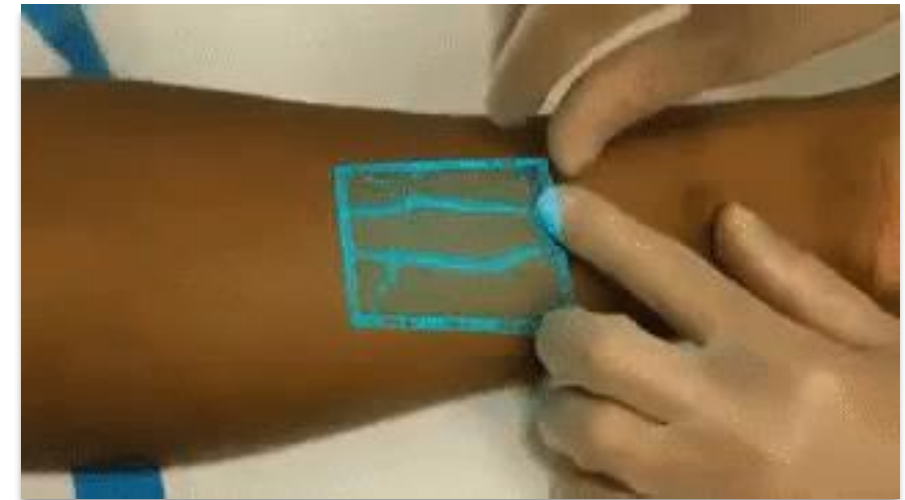
# Integrating new technologies

- Technologies for cell characterisation are advancing faster than ever before
- This presents an opportunity for technology integration to change the way product release is performed
- These include technologies for rapid analysis:
  - Rapid potency testing
  - Rapid viral characterisation
  - Rapid sterility
- Opportunities to incorporate lab-on-a-chip technologies
  - Sample miniaturisation
  - Multiparametric analysis
- High content technologies (single cell technologies)



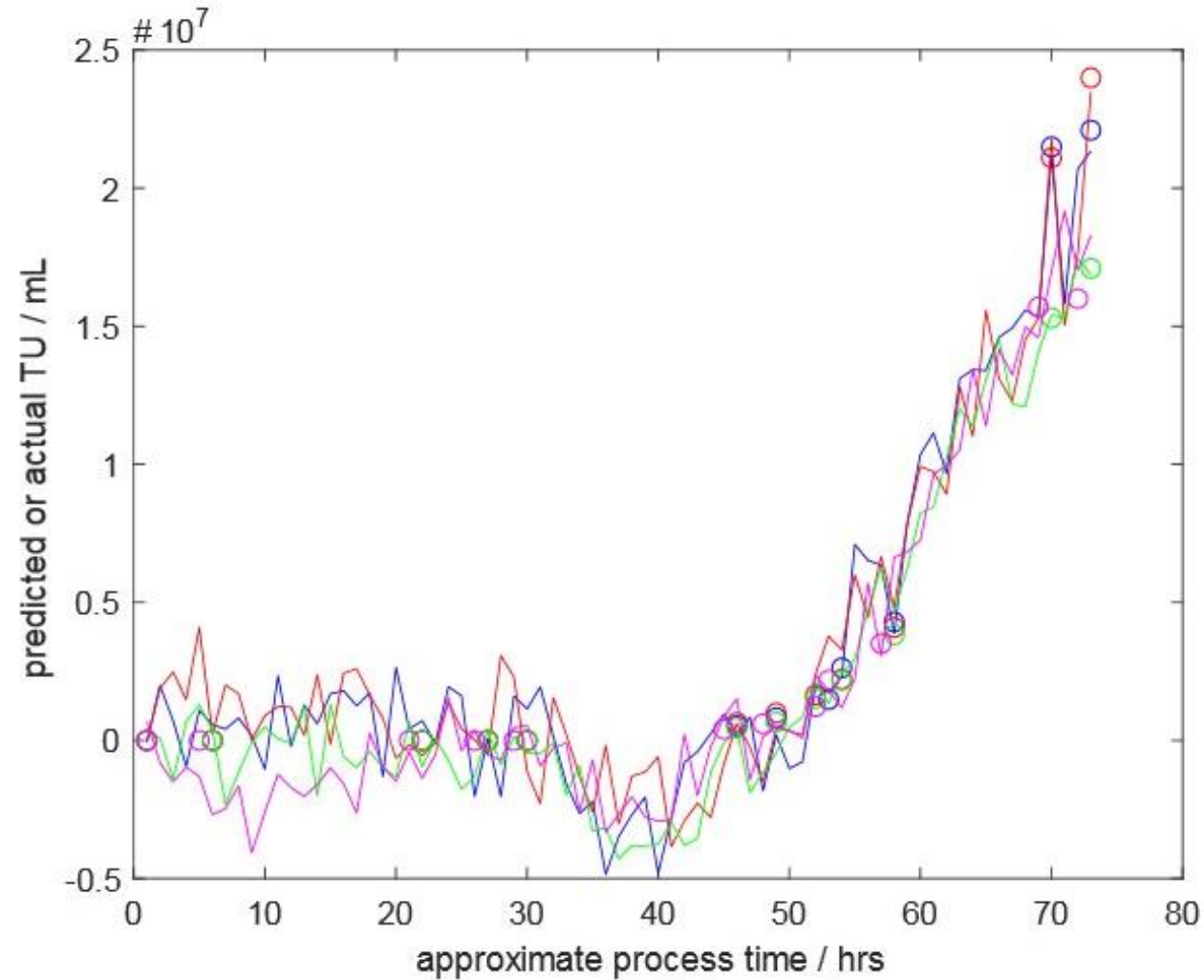
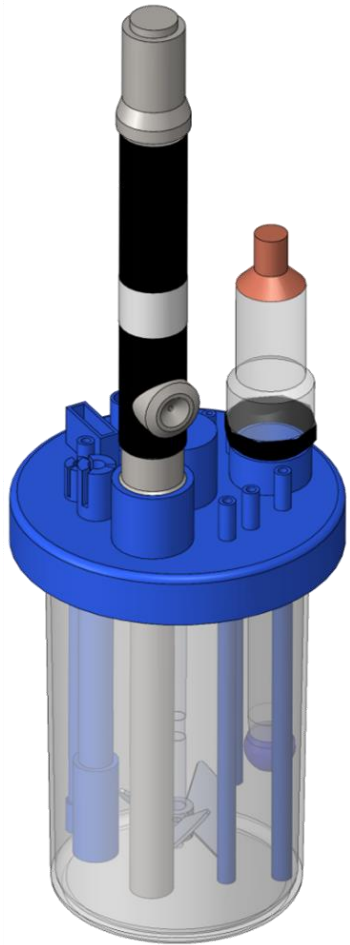
# Transformative approaches to QC

- Using state of the art technologies to support product release
- AR is increasingly being applied in the healthcare sector
  - AccuVein for visualising vasculature
  - brain tumour mapping
  - surgical training
- AR is also being investigated as a new approach to support GMP manufacturing by large pharma
- Are there opportunities for augmented reality in QC?
  - Advanced electronic data recording
  - Lowering skill barriers
  - Increasing operator output





# Sensor technology integration



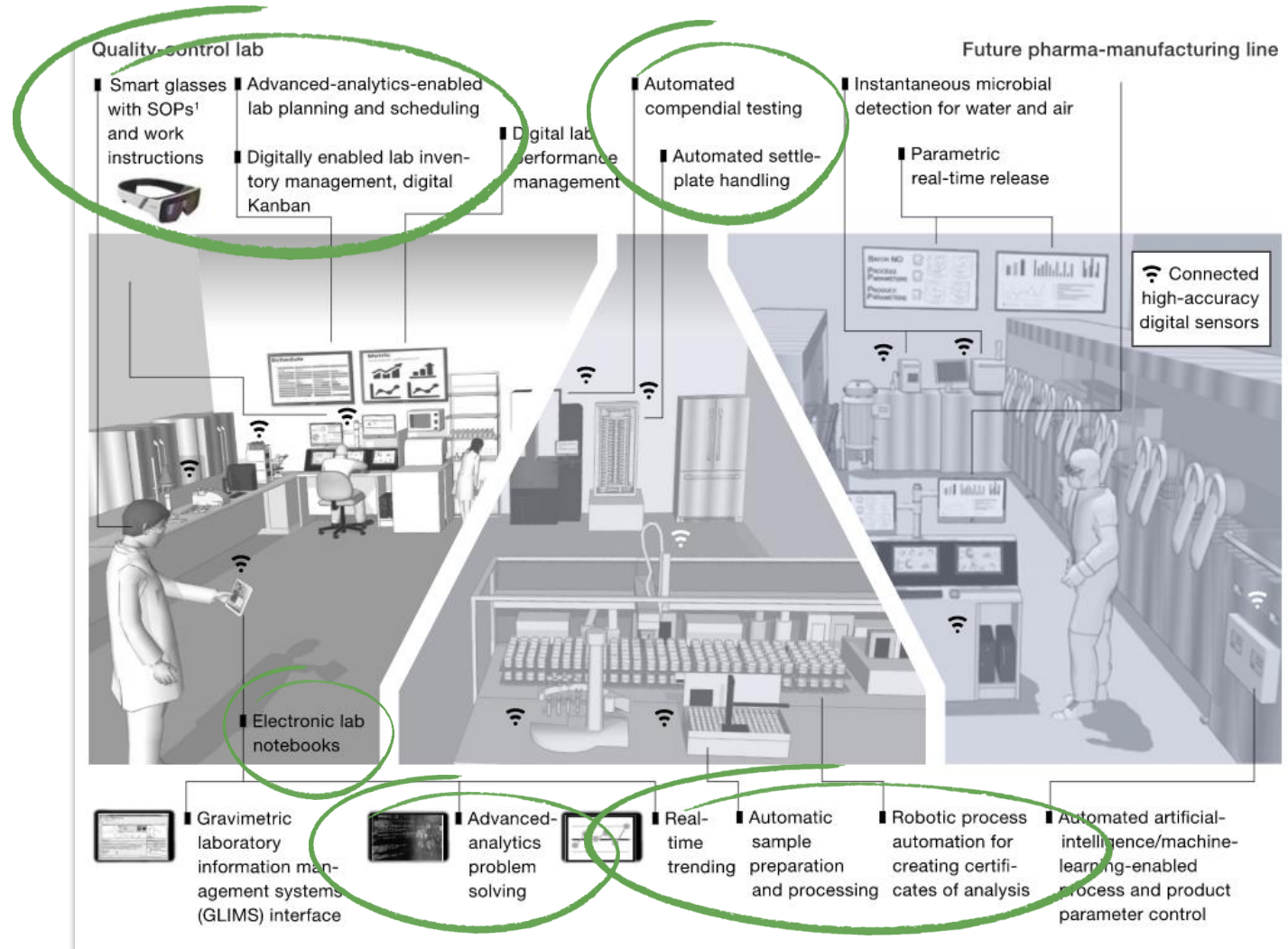
# Real Time Release Testing

---

- RTRT is a framework to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of the final drug product based on data generated during the process.
- This typically includes the measurement of CQA's during the process in combination with real-time monitoring of process parameters
- RTRT can provide a higher assurance of product quality –
  - Real-time control of process
  - Enhanced process understanding
  - Operational flexibility
  - Framework for continuous manufacturing
  - Support of continual improvement



# Summary



Data connectivity, advanced analytics, robotics and automation have the potential to revolutionise ATMP product release

# INTRODUCTION TO ANTHA

Lab automation as the key to realising an  
integrated and flexible digital strategy

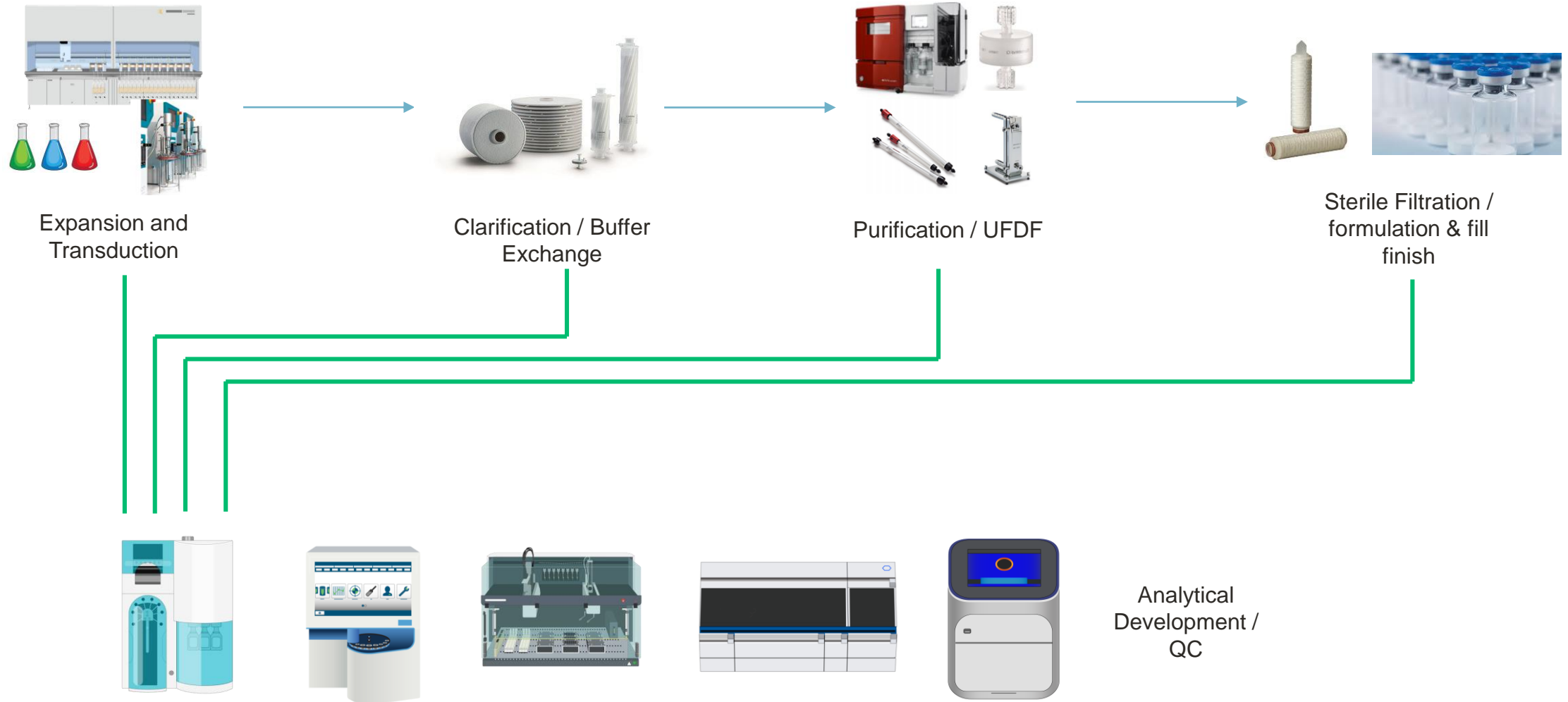
Markus Gershater, PhD  
CSO Synthace  
[m.gershater@synthace.com](mailto:m.gershater@synthace.com)



# TRACKING LAB PROCESSES

## AUTOMATED DATA STRUCTURING AND CONTEXT

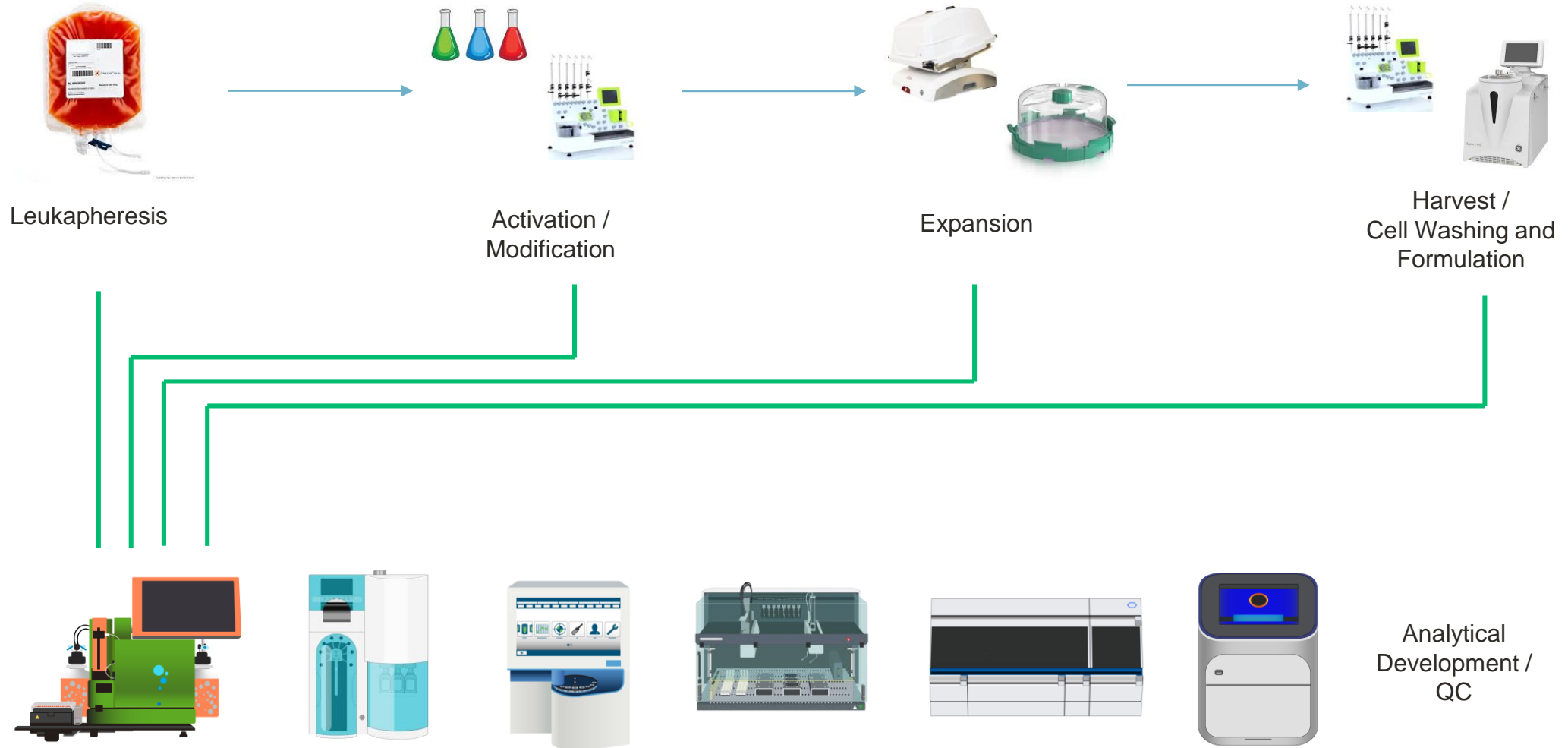
13 Synthace



# TRACKING LAB PROCESSES

## AUTOMATED DATA STRUCTURING AND CONTEXT

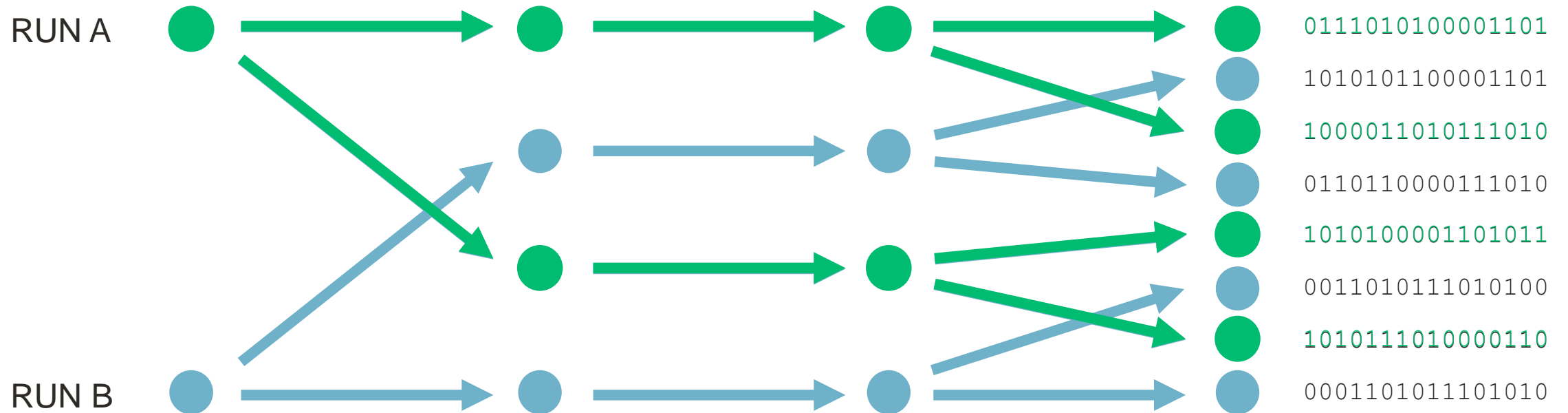
14 Synthace

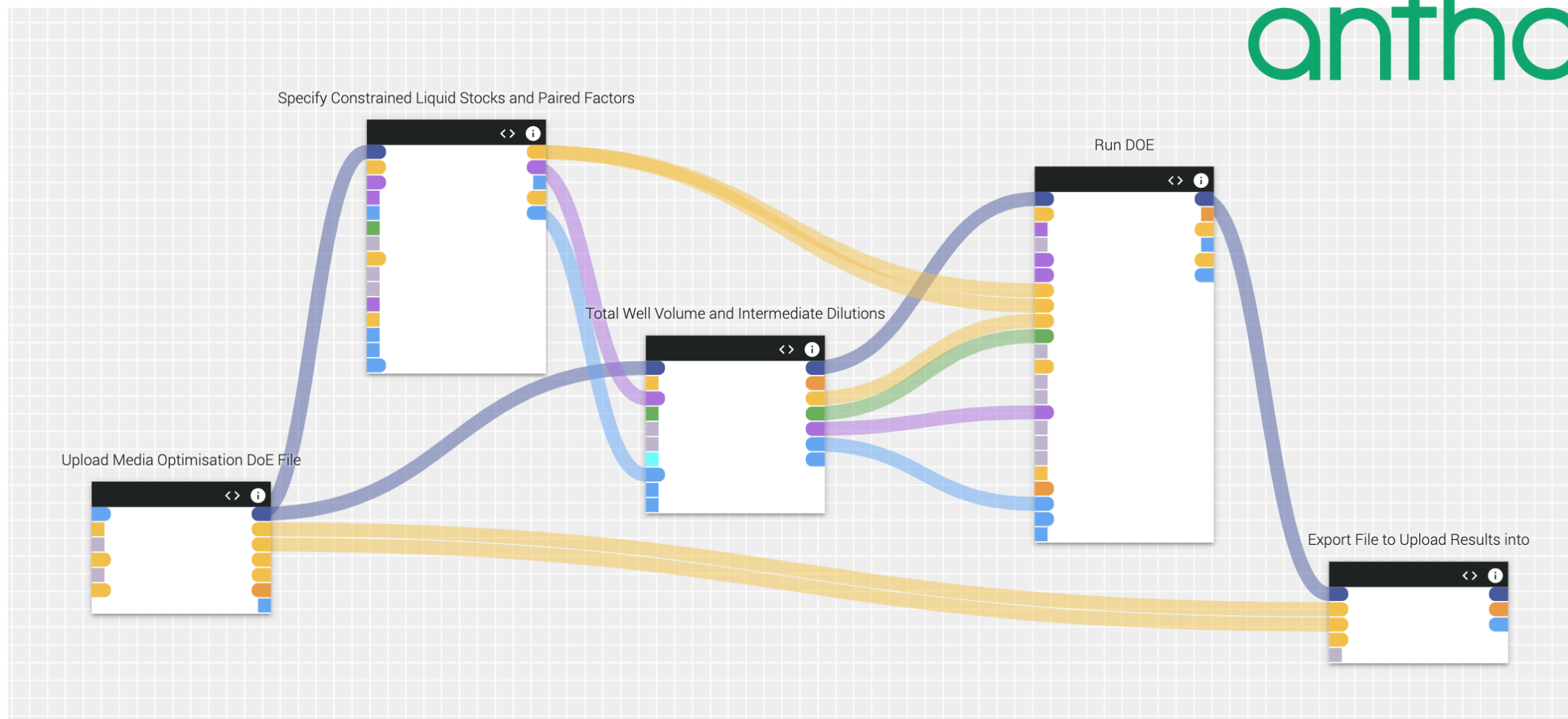


# TRACKING LAB PROCESSES

## AUTOMATED DATA STRUCTURING AND CONTEXT

15 Synthace







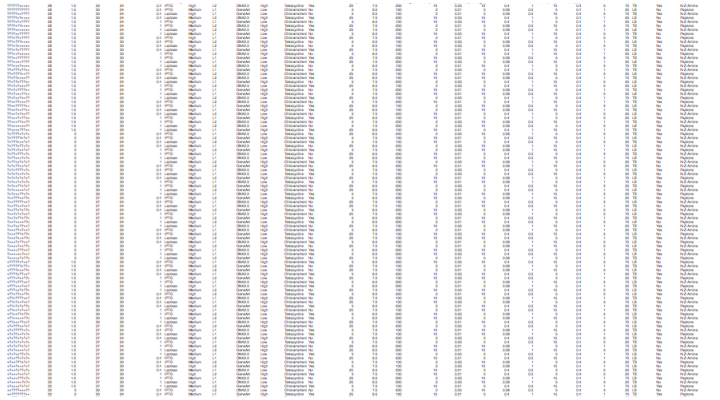
# AUTOMATED OPTIMISATION

High throughput DoE needed to rapidly explore the design space of each protocol

# OPTIMISED: AUTOMATING DOE

18 | Synthace

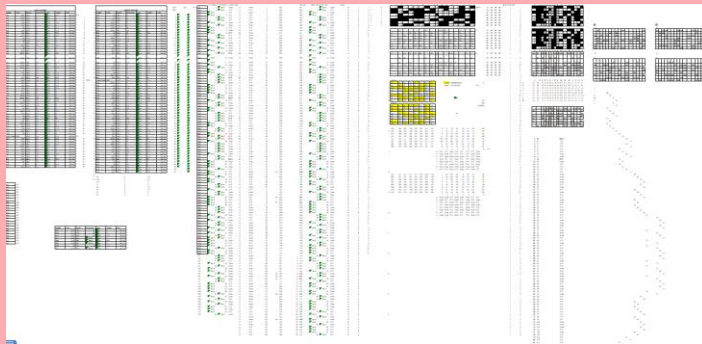
## Experimental Design File



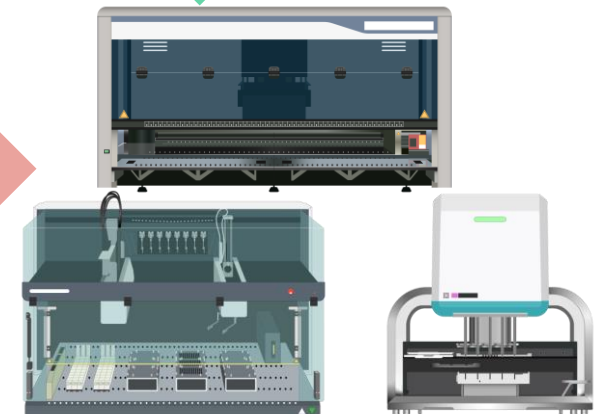
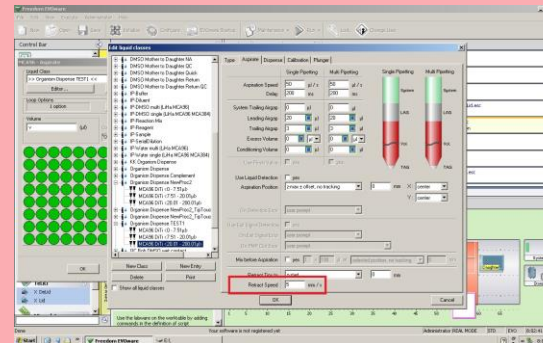
## Automated planning and programming



## Planning



## Hours of programming



# OPTIMISED: AUTOMATING DOE

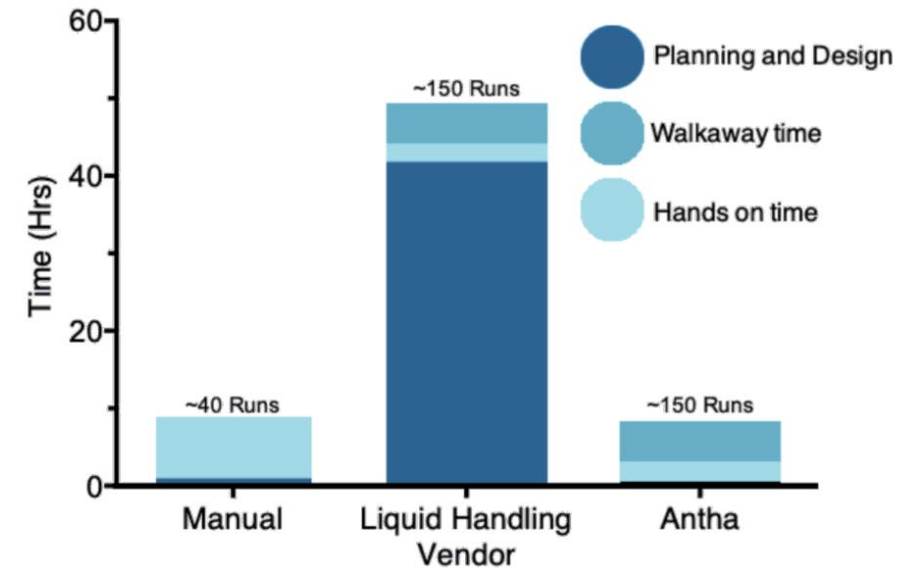
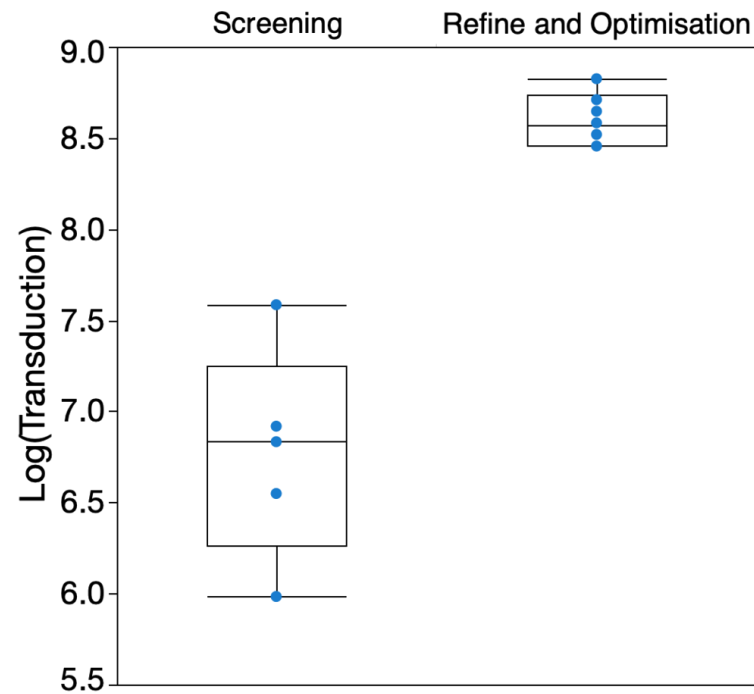
[Watch video](#)

# OPTIMISED: SCIENTIFIC AND OPERATIONAL BENEFITS

20 | Synthace

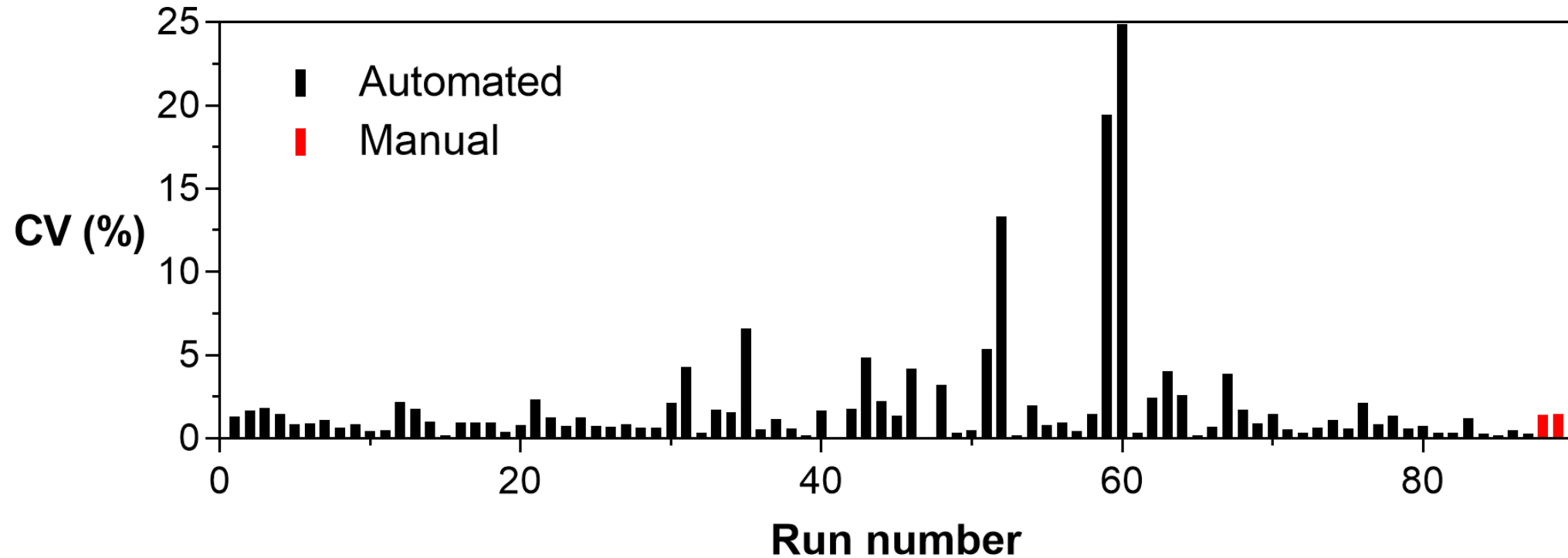


Anthology optimization of transfection gave **3-10 fold** increase in viral titre, whilst providing **83% time** and **32% resource** savings.



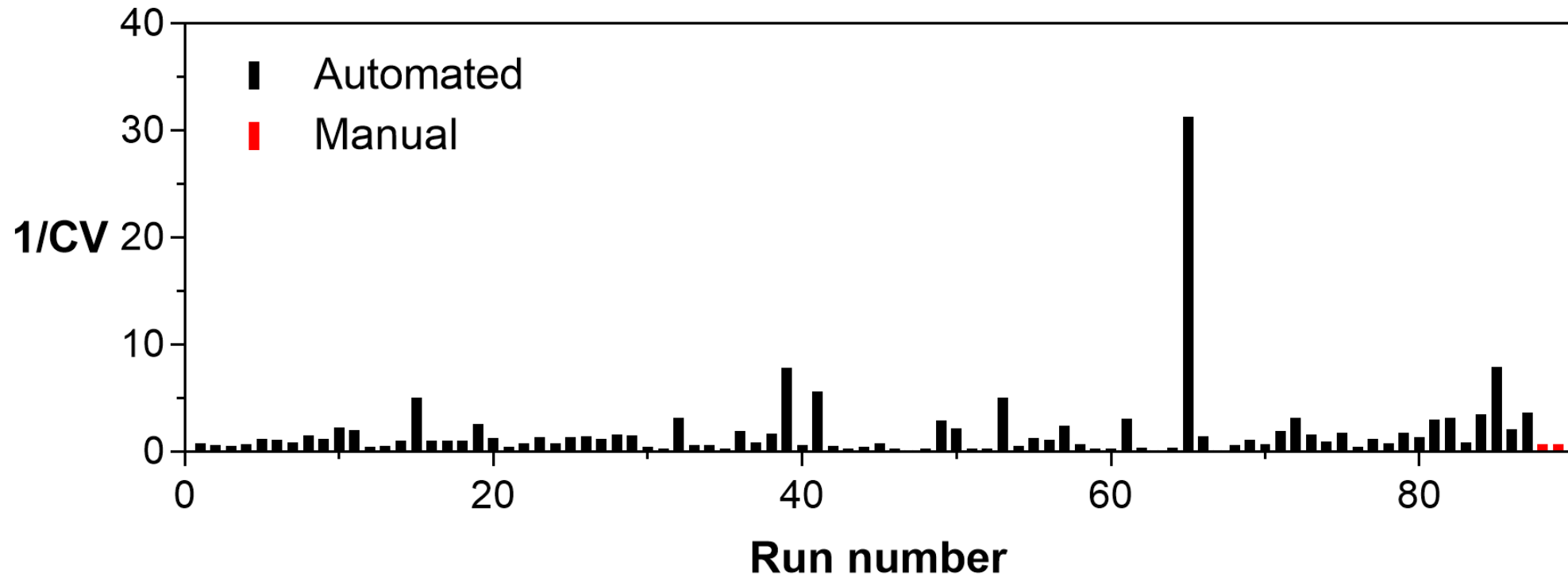


# OPTIMISED: DOE FOR AUTOMATION DEVELOPMENT



Automatically generated array of liquid handling strategies for qPCR, tested over 4 replicates

# OPTIMISED: DOE FOR AUTOMATION DEVELOPMENT



Automatically generated array of liquid handling strategies for qPCR, tested over 4 replicates

# AUTOMATED ANALYTICS

Robust protocols are automated flexibly to adapt any workflow without extensive reprogramming

[Watch video](#)

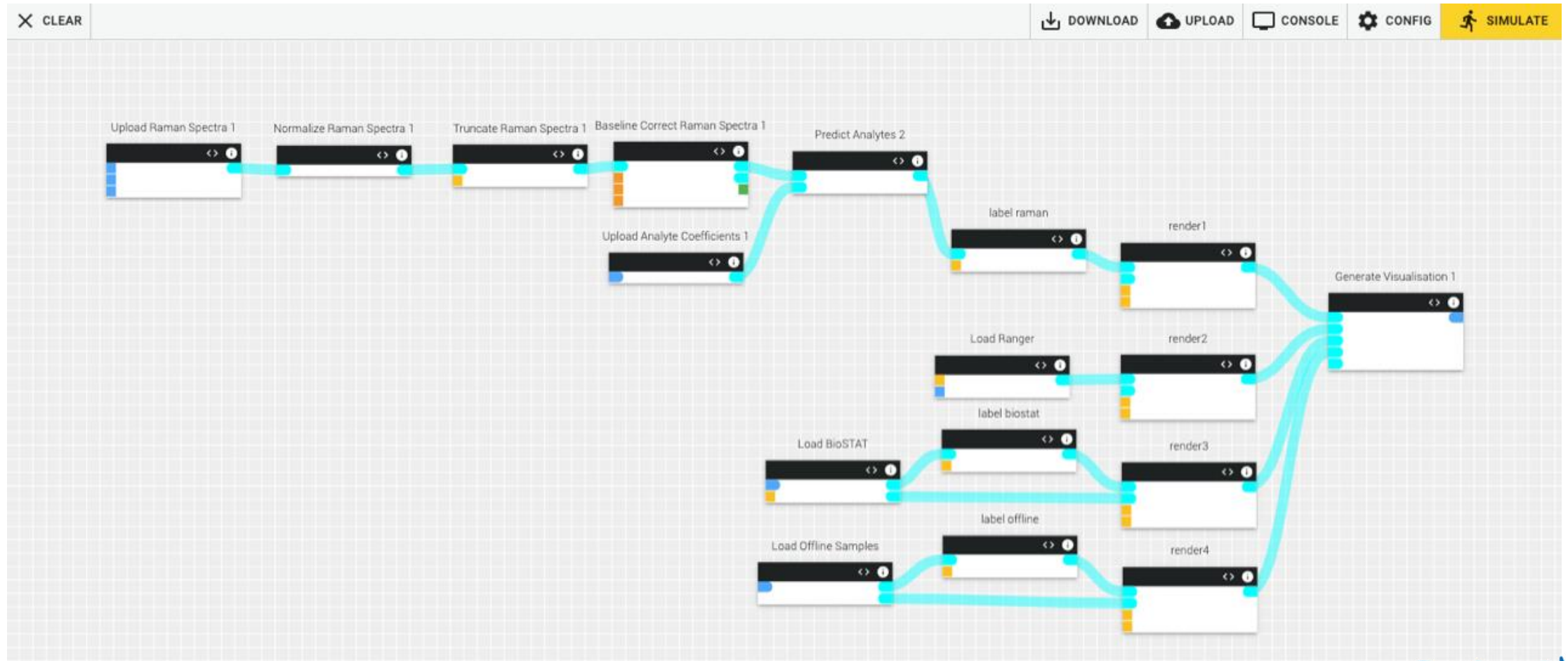
# AUTOMATED DATA STRUCTURING

Automated integration of bioreactor, analytical and  
sample data



# CONNECTED: CASE STUDY: IN-LINE RAMAN

25 | Synthace

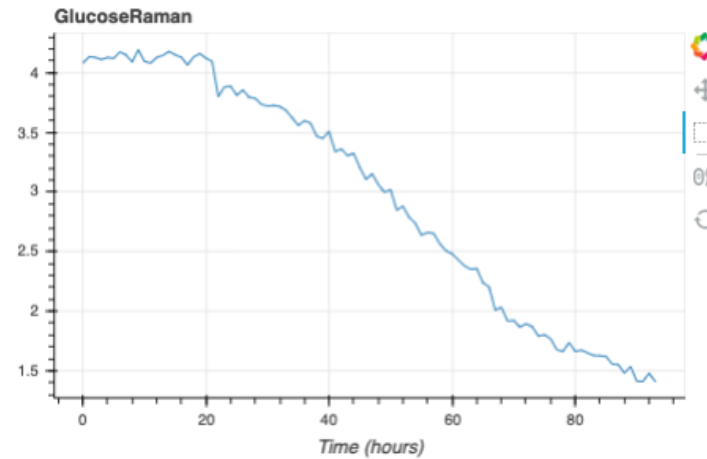


# CONNECTED: CASE STUDY: IN-LINE RAMAN

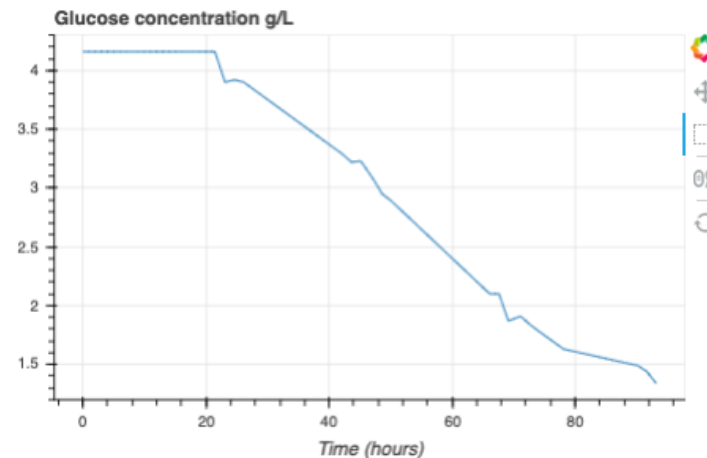
26 | Synthace

reactor17

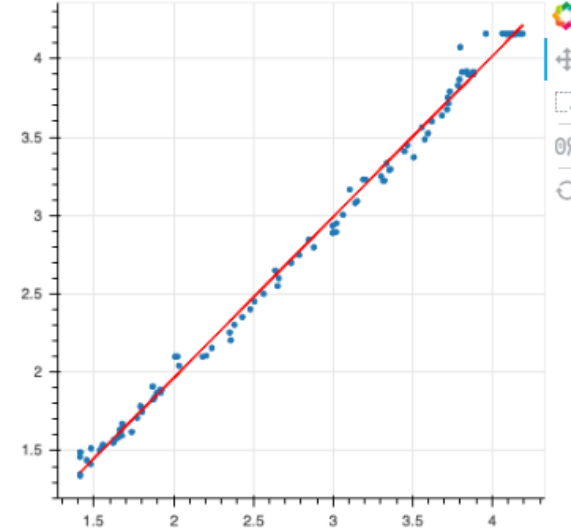
GlucoseRaman



Glucose concentration g/L



GlucoseRaman vs. Glucose concentration g/L



#	Statistic	Sensor 1	Sensor 2
0	count	114.00	114.00
1	mean	2.91	2.89
2	std	0.97	1.00
3	min	1.41	1.34
4	25%	1.88	1.87
5	50%	3.04	2.98
6	75%	3.83	3.90
7	max	4.19	4.16

#	Linear Regression Fit	Values
0	Regression Coefficient	1.0258
1	Intercept	-0.0877

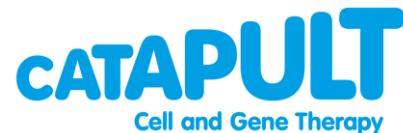
## Automation of lab and data processes

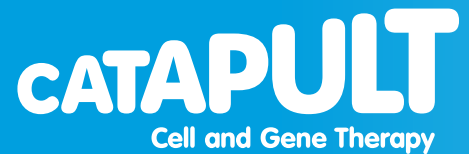
Rapid, comprehensive optimisation of automated analytics

Run automated analytics flexibly

Automatically structure data

Thanks:





---

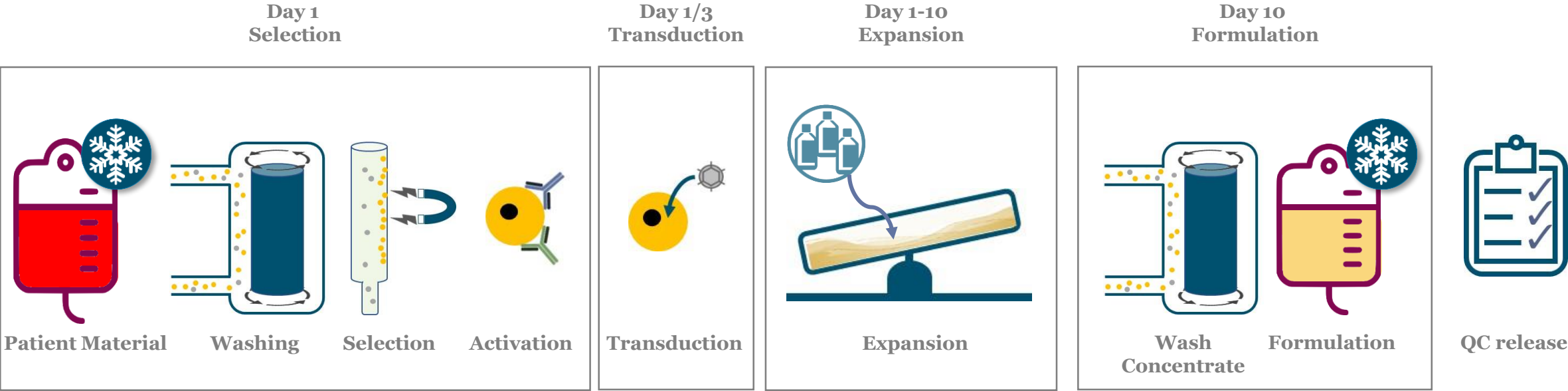
# Rapid Analytics

**Shortening time for complex  
product release assays**

**Juan Miguel Sánchez-Nieto**  
**Analytical Development Scientist**



# Challenge: reduce time between product formulation and patient administration



Identity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transduction efficiency</li><li>• Immunophenotype</li><li>• Appearance</li></ul>

Impurities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Percentage non-CD3<sup>+</sup> cells</li><li>• Large T antigen protein/DNA</li></ul>

Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Genome viral copy number</li><li>• Sterility (EP 2.6.1)</li><li>• Mycoplasma (EP 2.6.7)</li><li>• Endotoxin (EP 2.6.14)</li><li>• Replication competent viruses</li></ul>

Potency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Viable cell count</li><li>• CAR/TCR expression</li><li>• Cell killing activity</li><li>• Cytokine stimulation</li></ul>

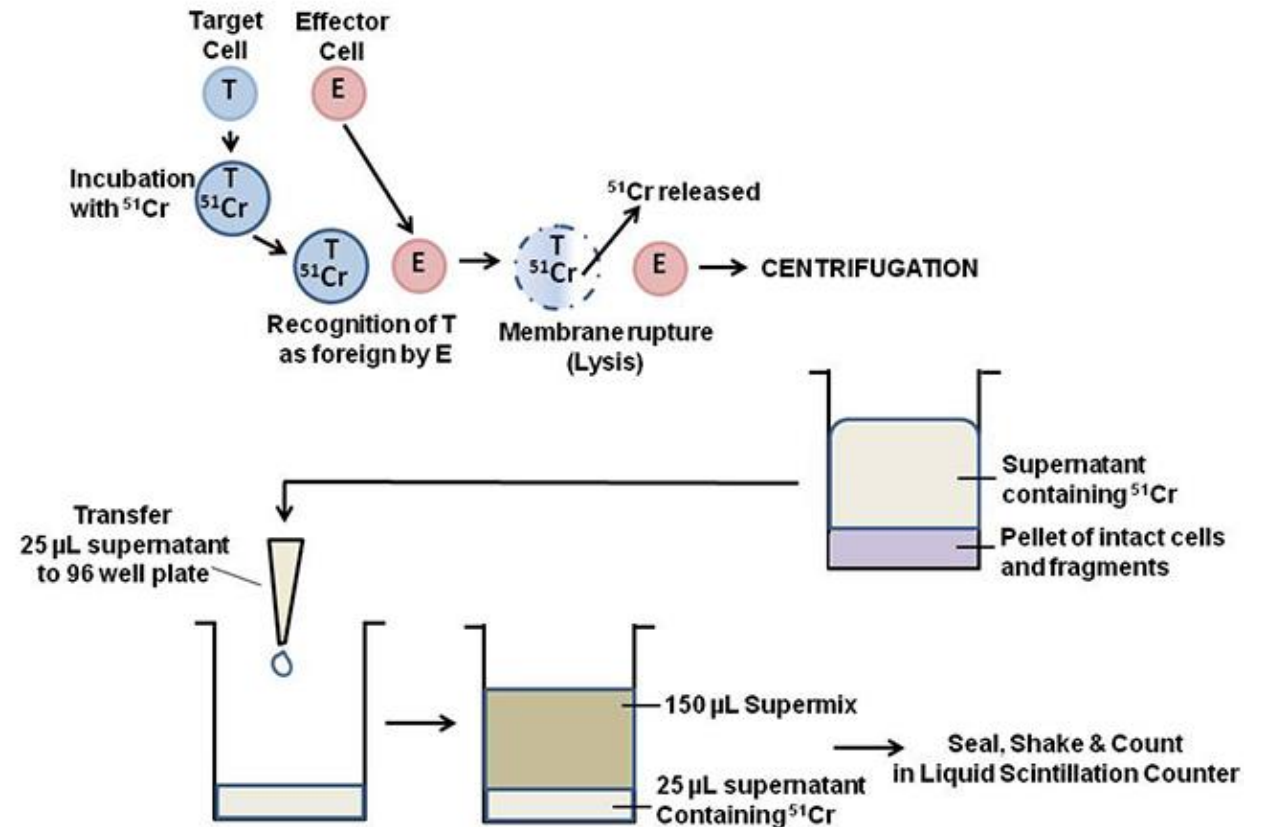


# Potency assays for immunotherapies



## Chromium release

- Gold standard
- Limitations:
  - Time – leakage
  - Safety – use of radioactive material
  - Cell requirements – high effector to target ratios | physiological relevance



Assay	Measure	Readout
CytoTox-96	LDH	Absorbance
Cell Titer-Glo	ATP	Luminescence
Calcein-AM	Dye release	Fluorescence
Delfia EuTDA	BATDA release	Fluorescence
Flow cytometry	Cytokine/cell death	Fluorescence

## Solution: impedance – based potency assay

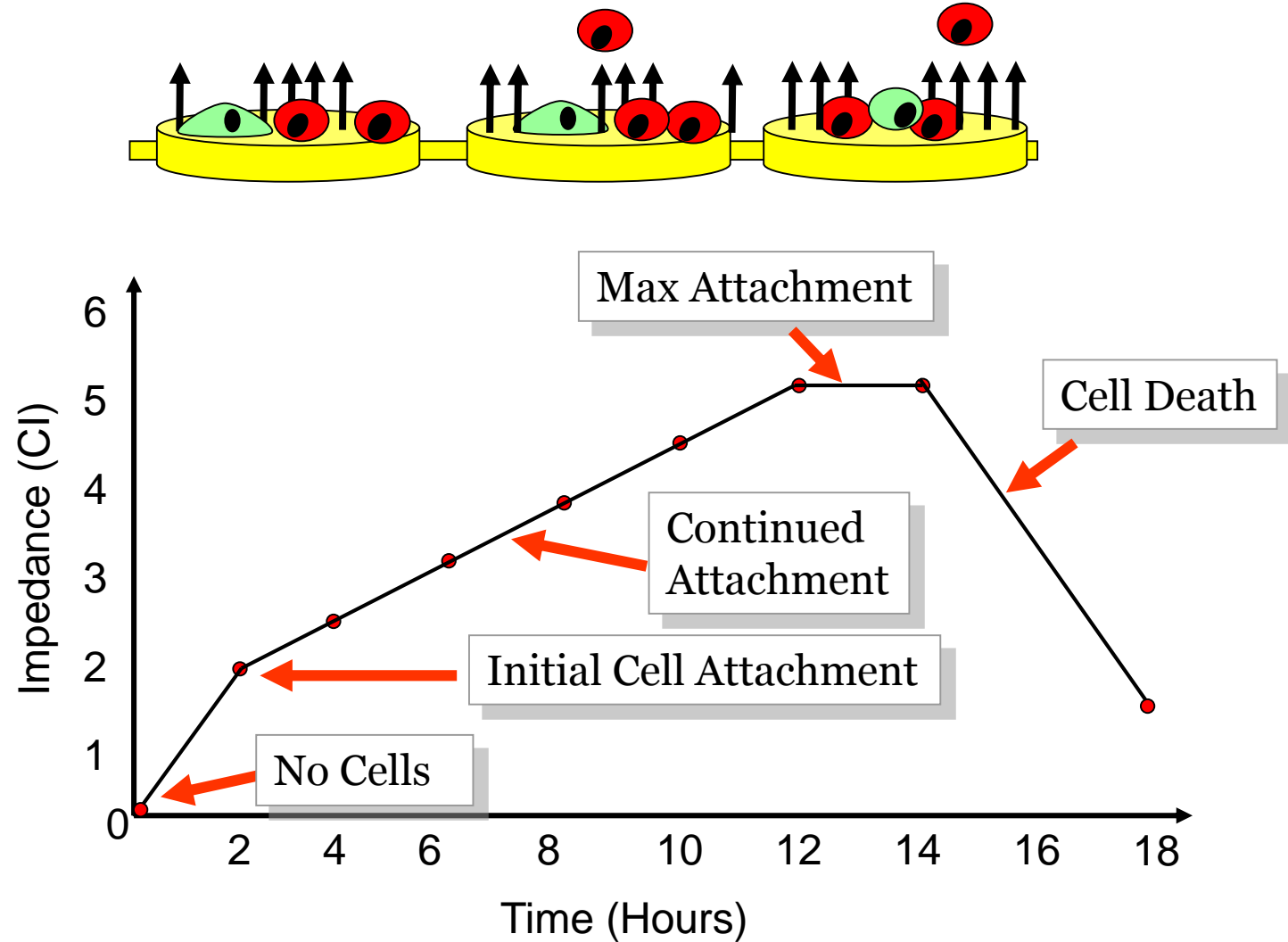
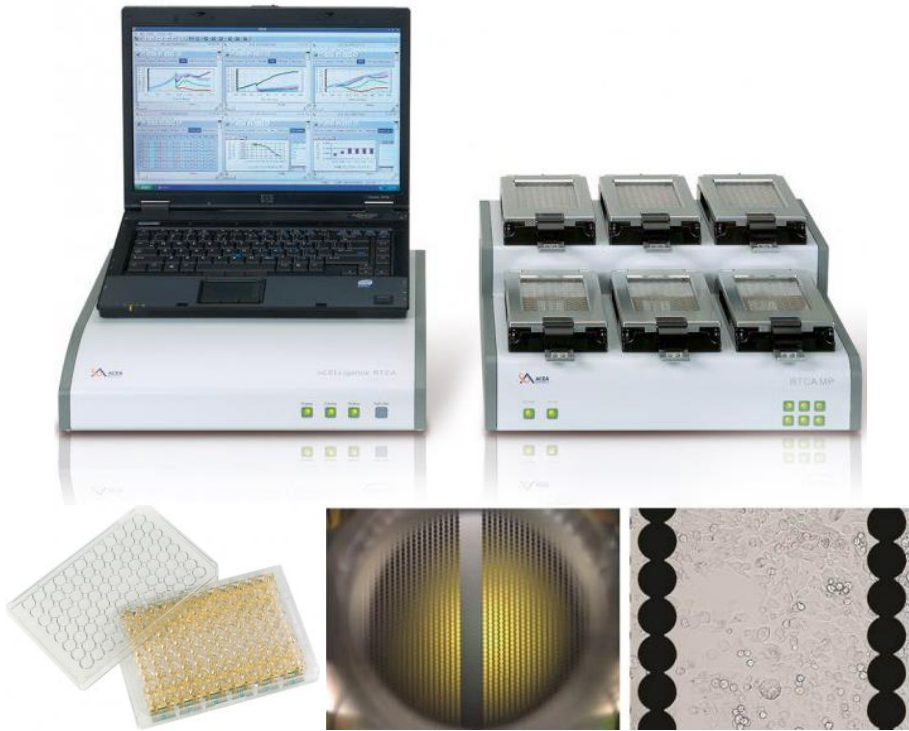
---

### Real Time Cell Analysis system:

- Non-invasive system – electrical impedance
- Label free
- High throughput – 6x 96-well plates
- Flexible
- Limitation:
  - Optimisation required for each target cell line



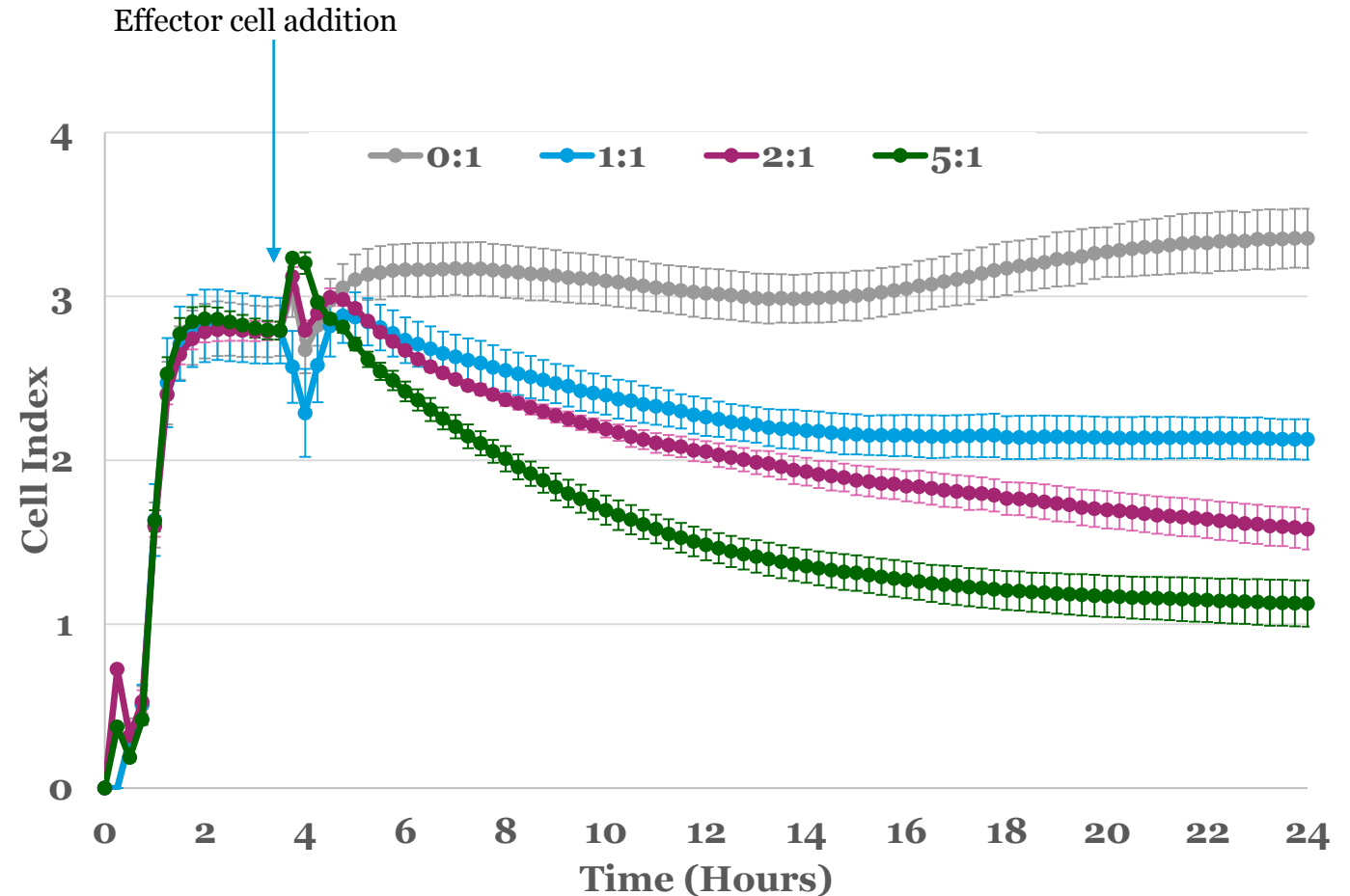
# How does the impedance-based potency assay work?



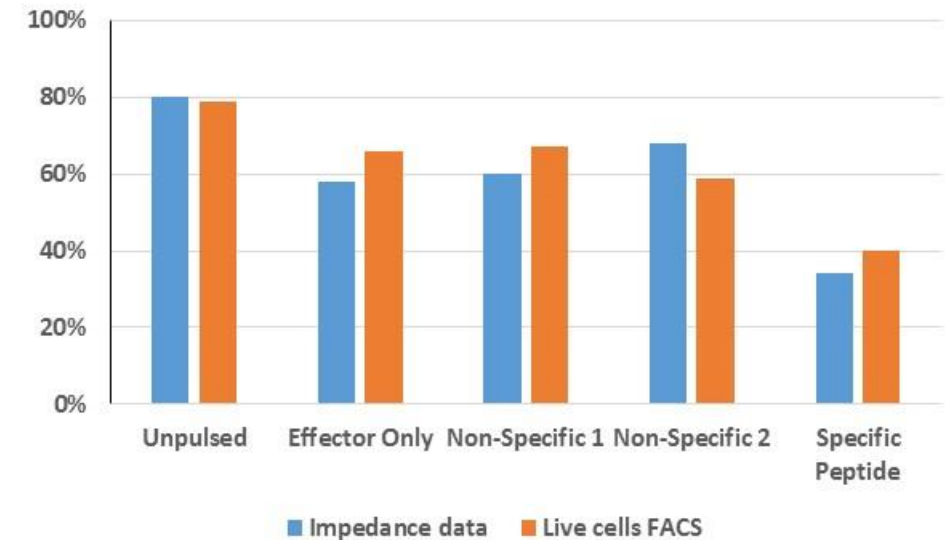
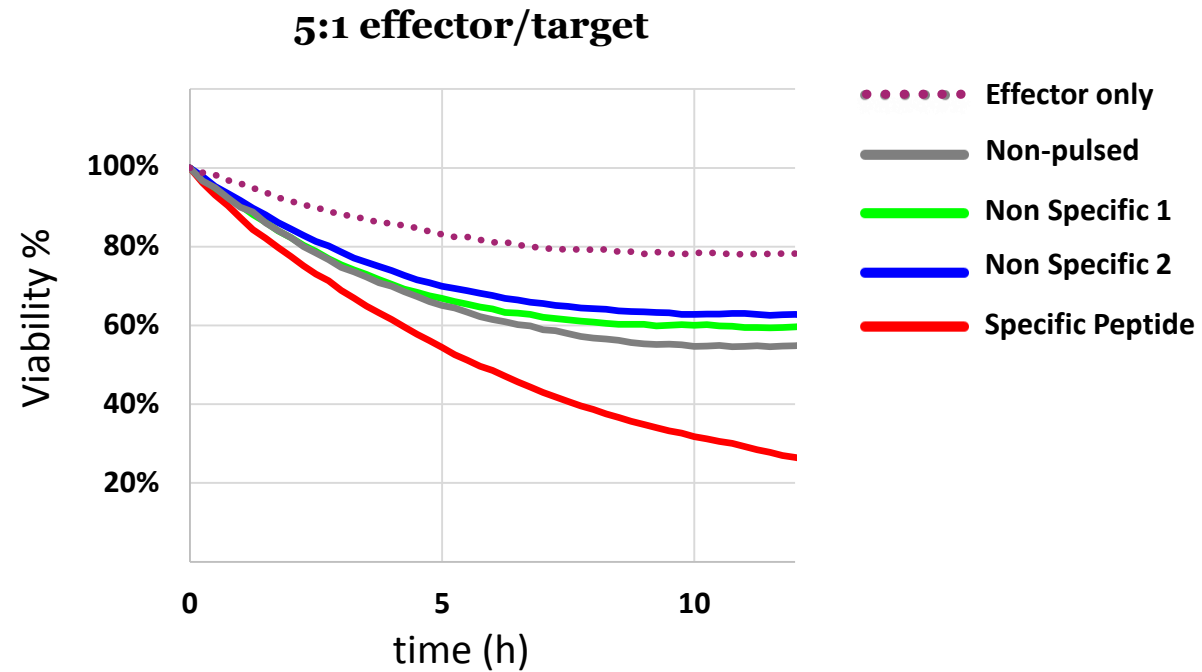
# Optimisation of Effector:Target cell ratios for a TCR therapy

## Assay outline:

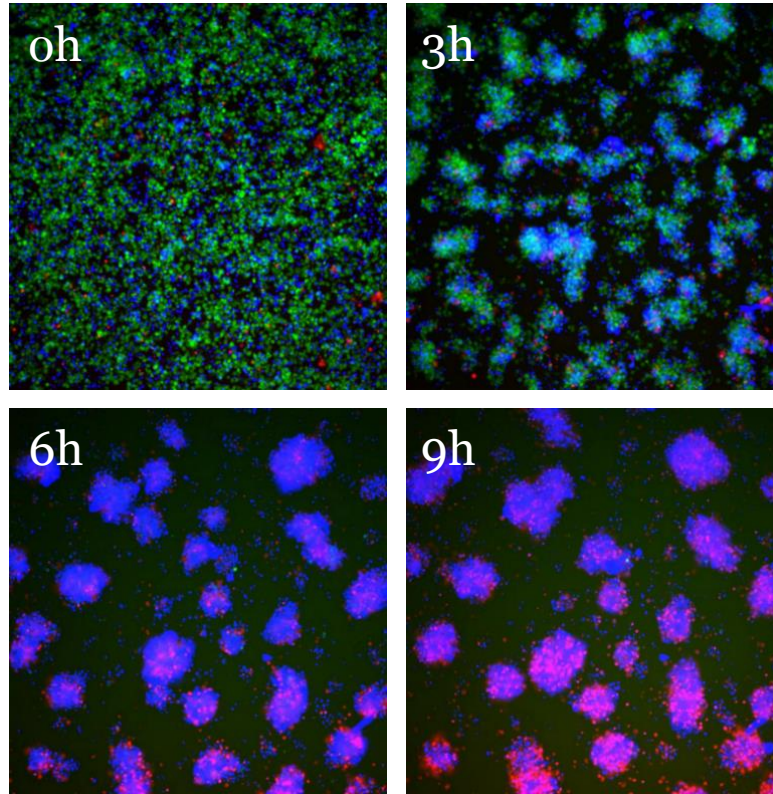
1. Target cells are pulsed for 2 hours with peptide prior to plating
2. Target cells are plated and allowed to attach for 4 hours – impedance readings are initiated
3. Cells are washed prior to killing assay
4. Transduced T cells are added
5. Killing response is measured every 15 minutes for up to 24 hours



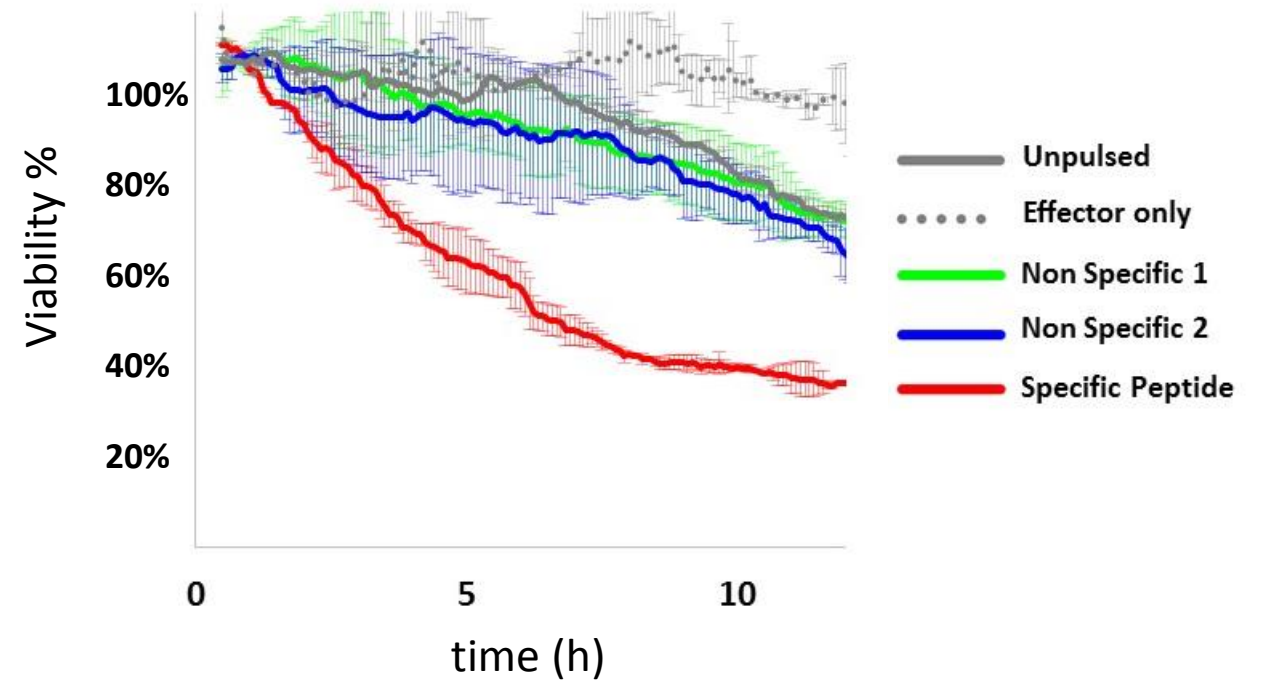
# Comparability between impedance and flow cytometry – TCR therapy



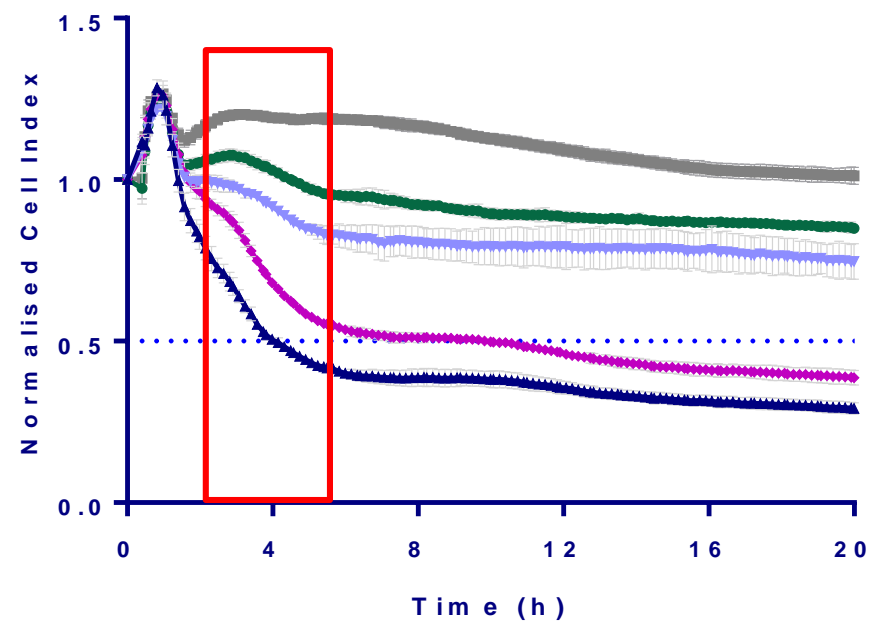




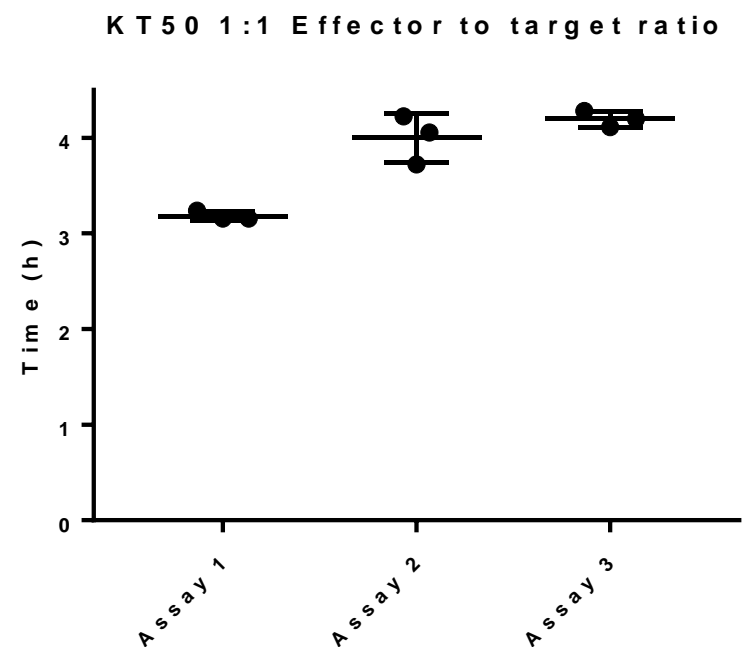
Target cells | Effector Cells | Dead cells



# Real time detection of product's potency within 4h - CAR-T cell based therapy



1:1 Transduced      0.5:1 Transduced  
1:1 Untransduced      0.5:1 Untransduced  
Target cells only



- TCR and CAR-T immunotherapy potency can be reliably measured using impedance spectroscopy
  - We have shown specificity of the assay independently of the therapy used
  - Assay readout correlates with FACS analysis and image analysis
  - The impedance assay is label free and provides **kinetic data** of cell killing
    - KT50
  - This assay provides a **fast** and **high-throughput** alternative to current methodologies
-

# CATAPULT

## Cell and Gene Therapy

Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult is committed to ensuring high standards of research integrity and research best practice in the activities we carry out. We subscribe to the principles described in the UK concordat to support research integrity.

Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult is a trading name of Cell Therapy Catapult Limited, registered in England and Wales under company number 07964711, with registered office at 12th Floor Tower Wing, Guy's Hospital, Great Maze Pond, London, SE1 9RT. VAT number 154 4214 33.

12th Floor Tower Wing  
Guy's Hospital  
Great Maze Pond  
London SE1 9RT

[info@ct.catapult.org.uk](mailto:info@ct.catapult.org.uk)  
[ct.catapult.org.uk](http://ct.catapult.org.uk)  
Twitter: @CGTCatapult

We work with  
**Innovate UK**