

Antigen recognition in adaptive immunity

Native antigens are recognized by immunoglobulins or B cell receptors.

T cells can recognize exclusively in denatured (MHC presented) forms of the antigens.

Human immunoglobulins

IgG – (Mw 150 kD) blood, lymph; make up 80% of Ig; only Ig of maternal origin to pass the placenta wall, give newborns protection; neutralize toxins and viruses

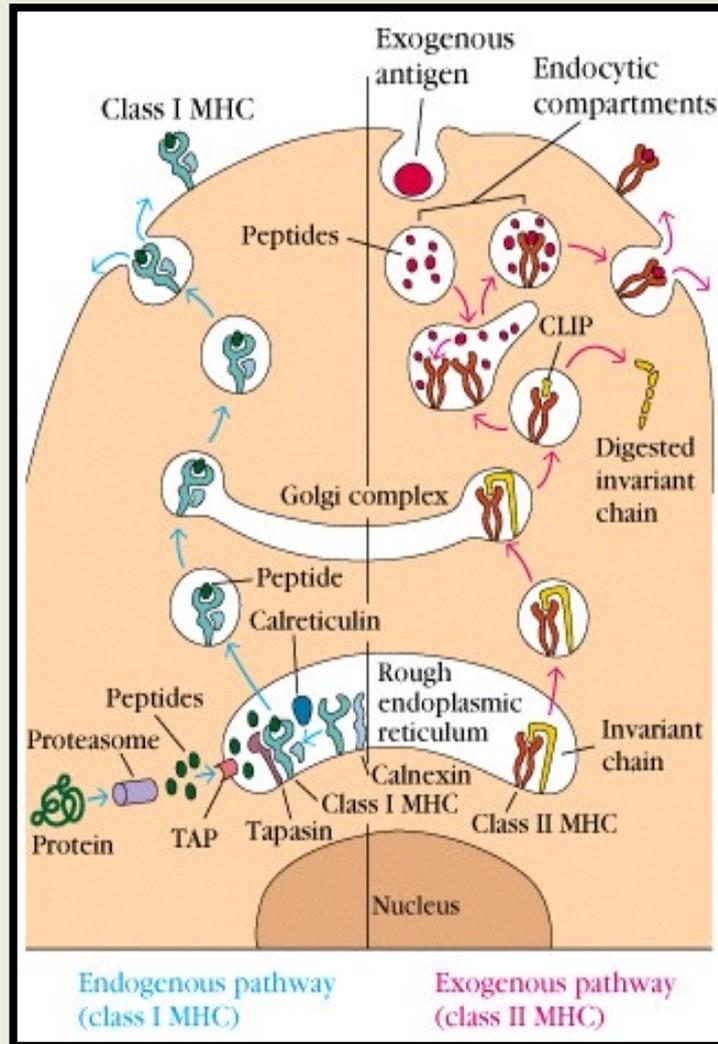
IgM – Blood, lymph (cell surface); pentamer structure (Mw 900 kD); first antibodies formed in response to initial infection.

IgA – Mucosal surfaces, blood (active in dimeric or tetrameric form)
(Mw 150-600 kD)

IgD – (Mw 150 kD) only membrane-bound form; on B-cell surfaces may function in initiation of antibody-antigen response

IgE – blood, in periphery can bind to basophiles and mast cells (Mw 190 kD) plays role in defence against parasites and initiation of allergic reactions

Presentation of intracellular antigens by MHC I for CD8 T cells: continuous in all cells and platelets



Presentation of extracellular antigens by MHC II for CD4 T cells: in APCs, after phagocytosis

Definition of Toxic Shock Syndrome (septicemia, blood-poisoning)

Toxic shock syndrome (septicemia/blood-poisoning) is a life-threatening complication of certain types of bacterial or viral infections. Often toxic shock syndrome results from toxins produced by *Staphylococcus aureus* and *group A Streptococcus* bacteria, or some viral toxins (SARS-CoV-2). First description of toxic shock syndrome has been associated primarily with the use of superabsorbent tampons, but risk factors now include skin wounds and surgery.

Physiological T cell activation is antigen-specific and well controlled, however, the T cell activation in toxic shock syndrome is none-specific and irregular. Clinical symptoms caused by irregular and mass production of cytokines („cytokine-tsunami”).



IMMUNOLÓGIAI ÉS
BIOTECHNOLÓGIAI
INTÉZET



4th practice: Monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies, hybridoma technology

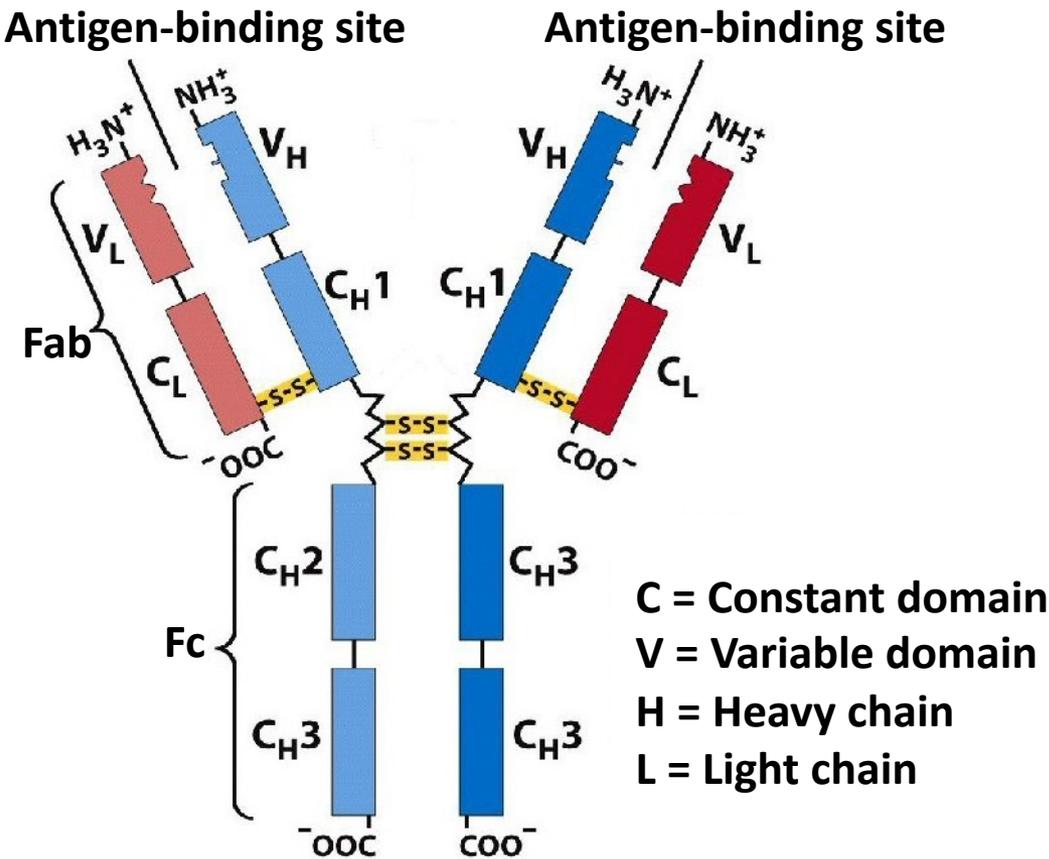
Basic Immunology

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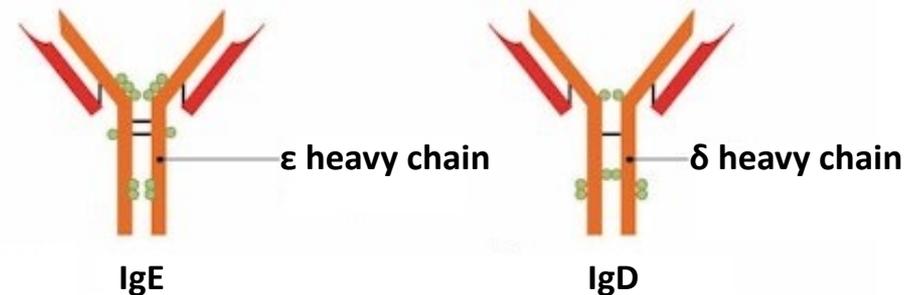
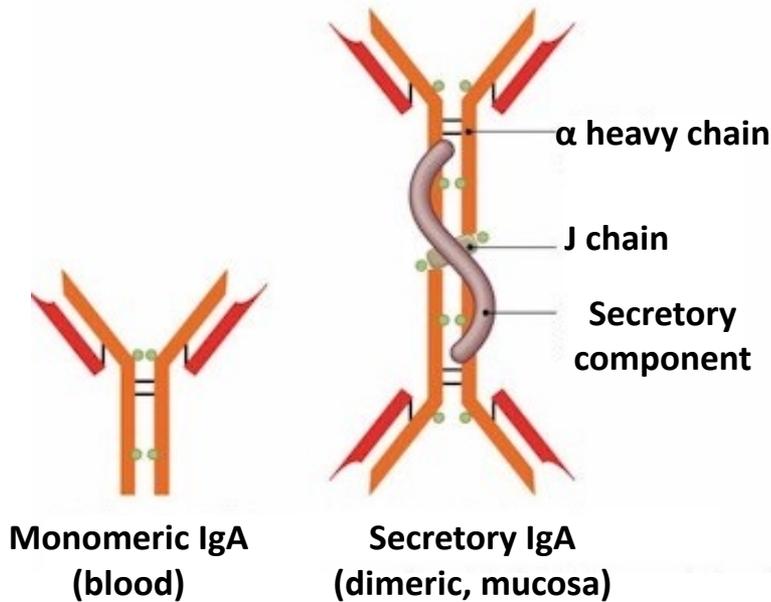
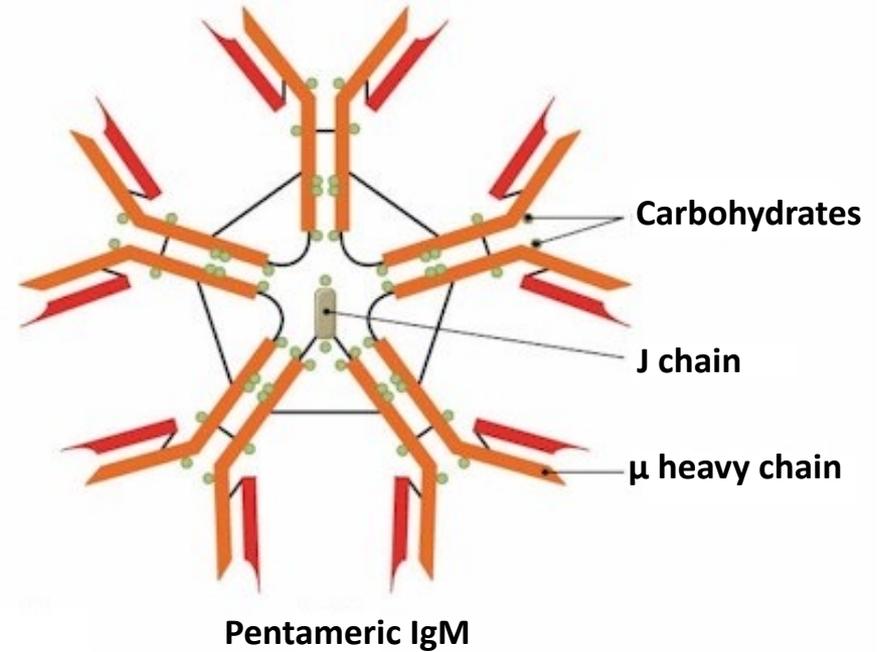
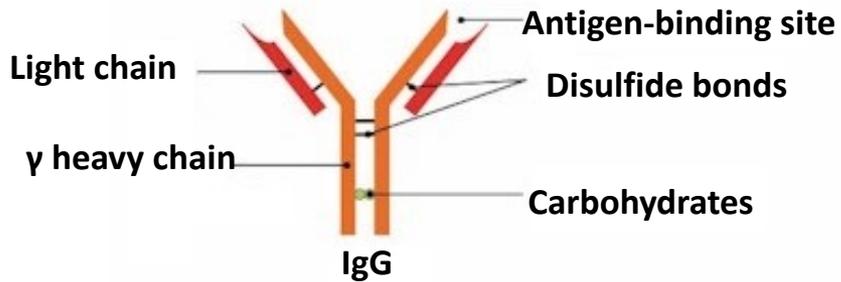
Pécs, 2024.

Structure of immunoglobulins

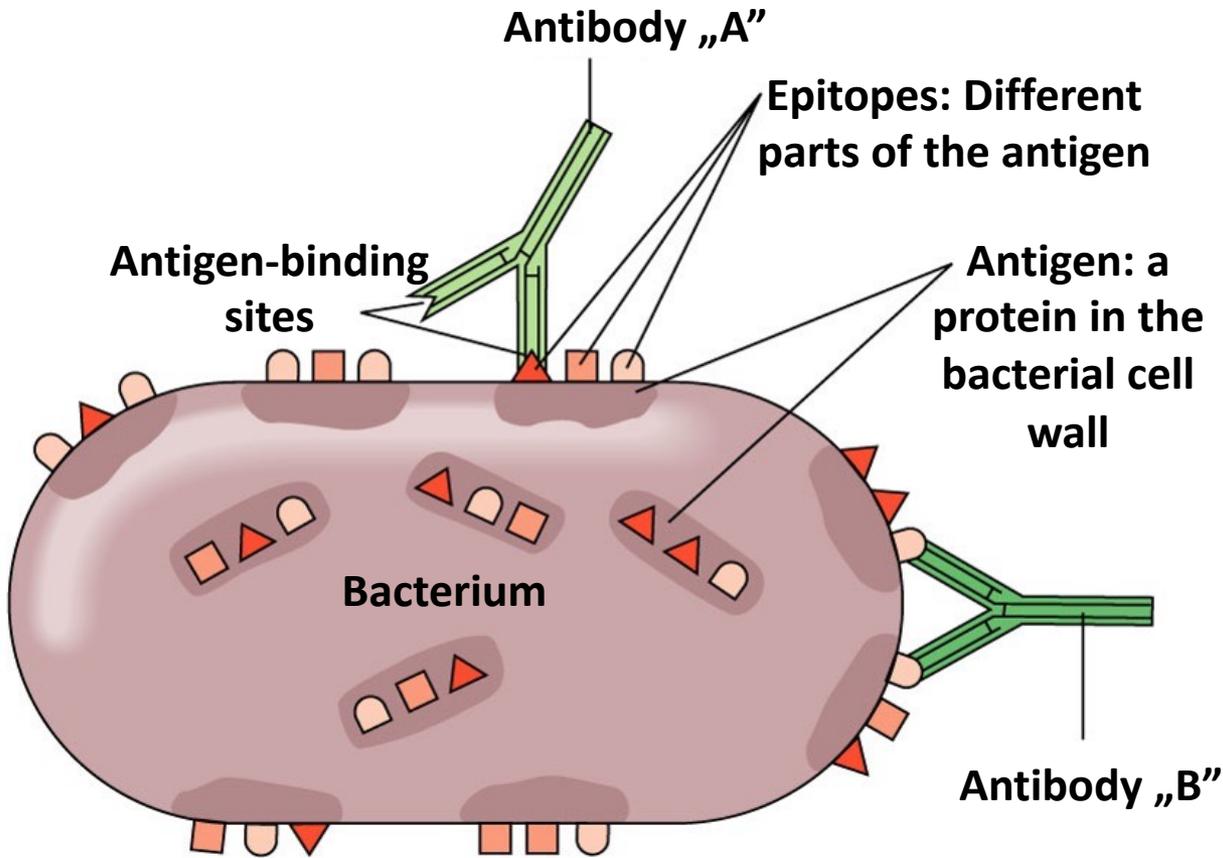


- Immunoglobulin = Antigen-binding **protein** produced by **plasma cells**.
- Made of 2 heavy and 2 light chains.
- Light chain: κ or λ
- Heavy chain: α , γ , δ , ϵ or μ
- **Isotype**: based on the heavy chain: IgA, IgG, IgD, IgE or IgM
- **Idiotype**: refers to the antigen-binding site
- Antigen defined by the antibody: The substance that is recognized by the antibody (e.g. a surface protein of a bacterium)
- **Epitope** (antigenic determinant): The specific part of the antigen recognized by the antibody. (a smaller unit within the antigen)

Immunoglobulin classes

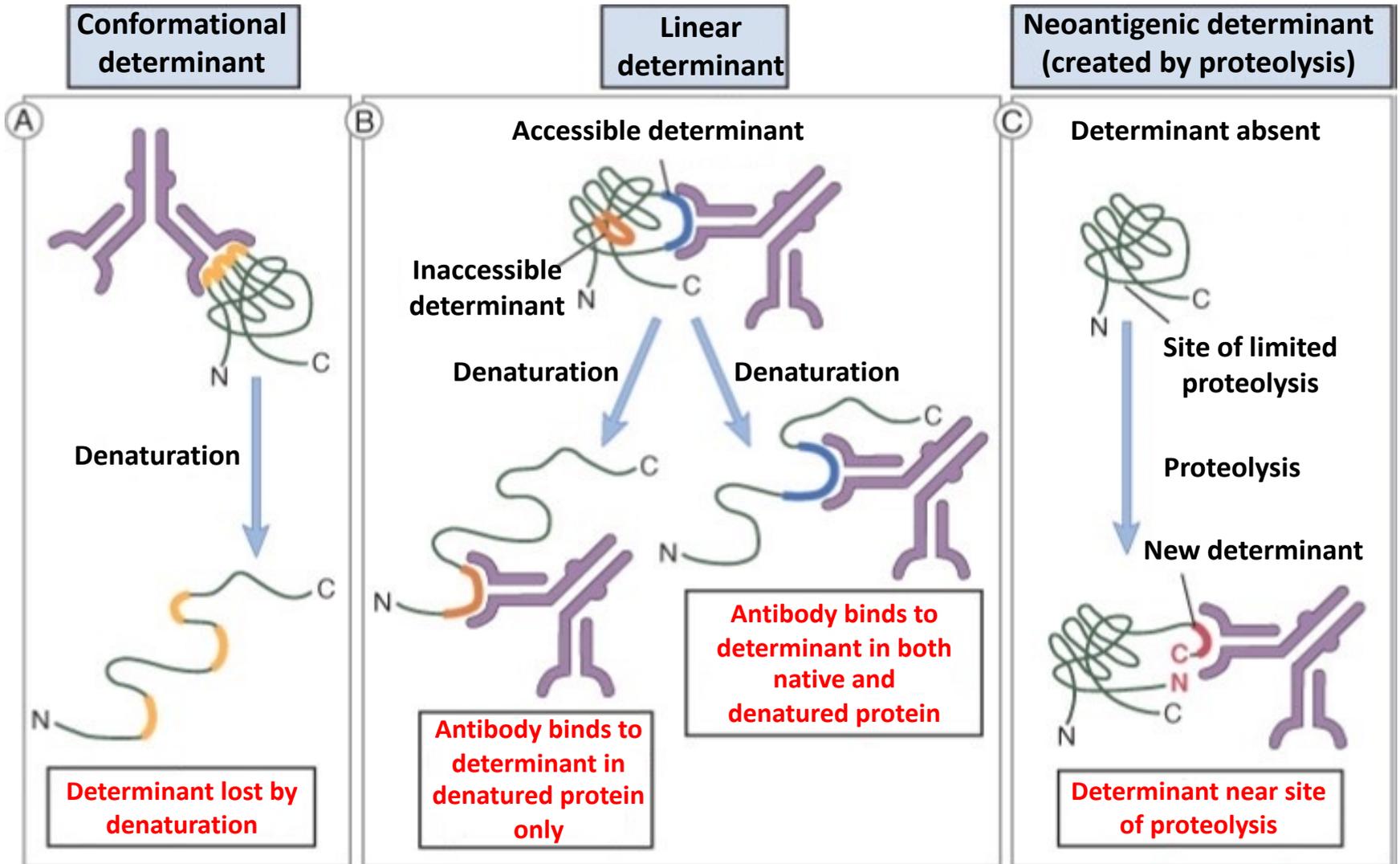


Difference between antigens and epitopes

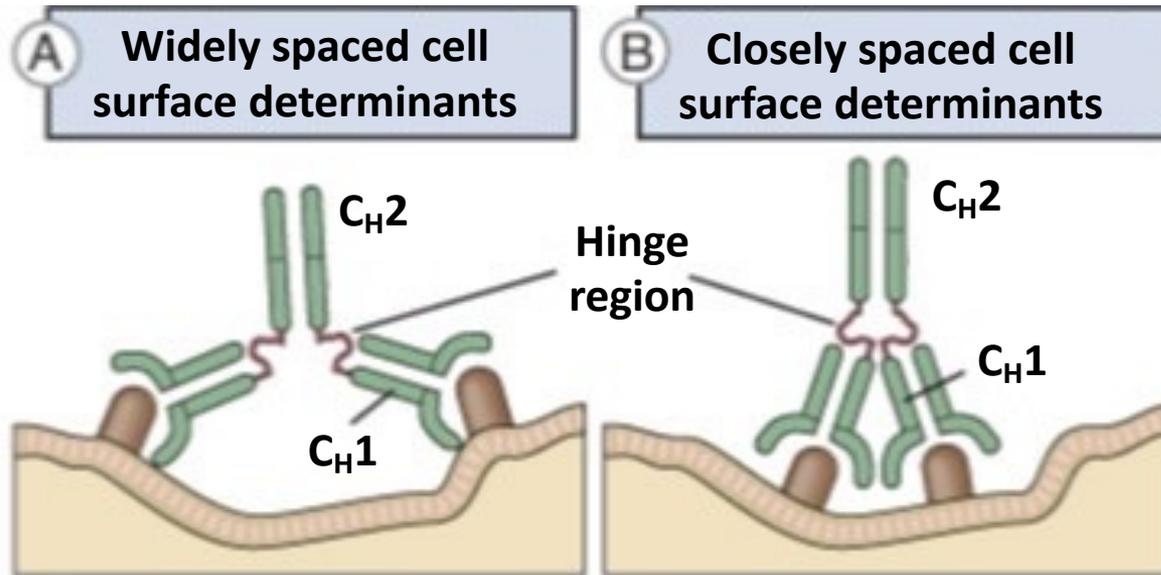


Both „A” and „B” antibodies bind the same antigen but they recognize different parts (so-called epitopes) of the target molecule.

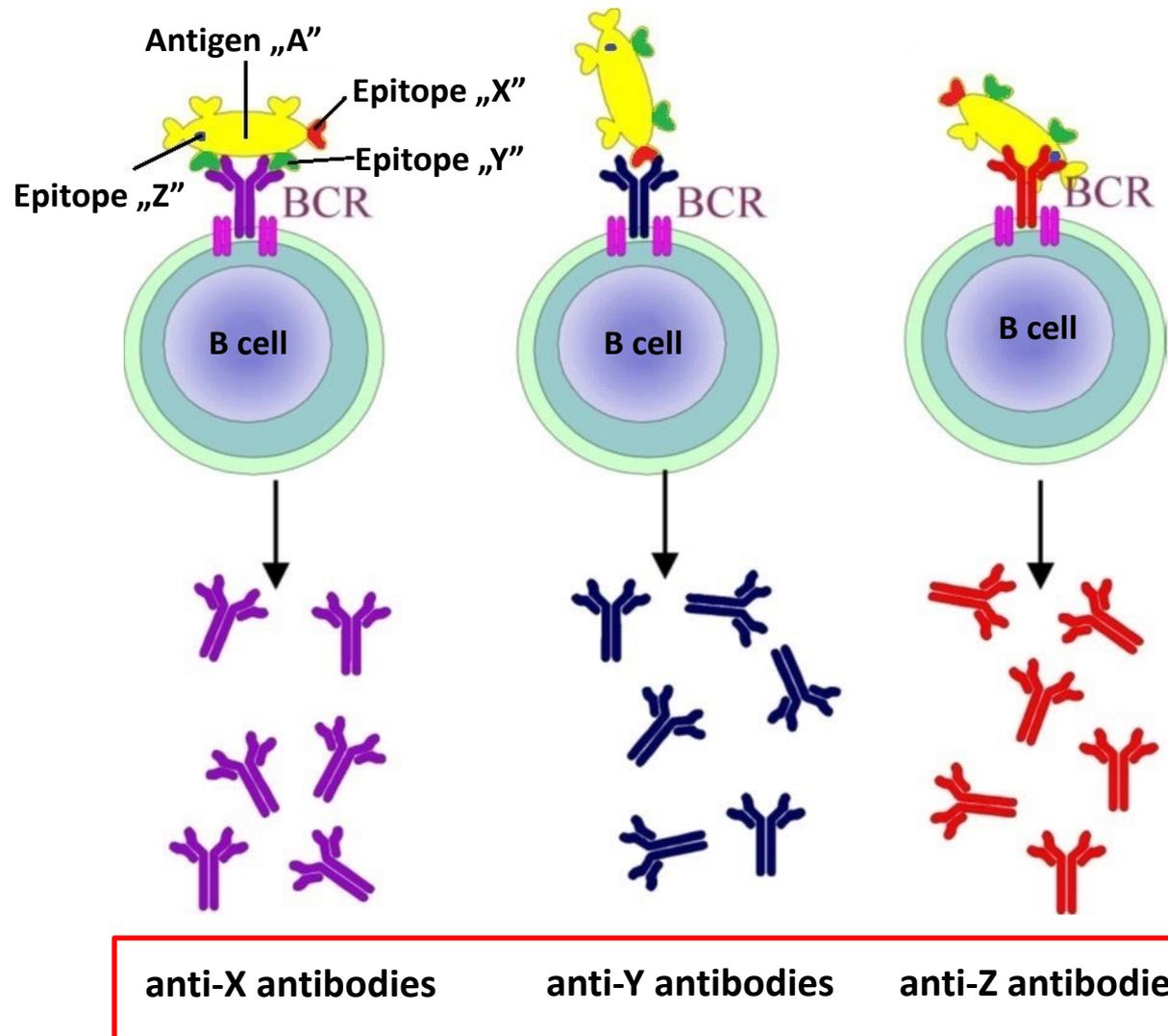
Types of antigenic determinants



Function of the hinge region



Polyclonal antibodies



Antigens cause **polyclonal cell activation** in living organisms, which always leads to the production of **polyclonal antibodies** during an immune response!

POLYCLONAL anti-A antibody

anti-X antibodies

anti-Y antibodies

anti-Z antibodies

Immunization

- Immunization: Administration of an antigen to a living organism so that the organism will develop an immune response and produce antibodies against the antigen.
- Immunization to prevent infectious diseases = Vaccination (see later)
- Production of polyclonal antibodies:
 - Immunization of an animal with the antigen
 - **Polyclonal antibodies** that **recognize the antigen** can be isolated and purified **from the blood serum** of the immunized animal after the immune response.^[1.]
- Problem: Monoclonal antibodies cannot be produced this way
- Solution: hybridoma technology (see later)

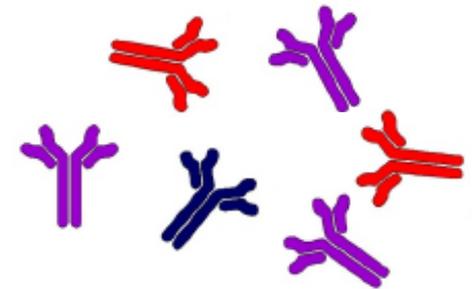
E.g.: Polyclonal rabbit anti-A IgG



1. Administration of antigen „A”



2. Blood serum of immunized animal with the polyclonal antibodies



3. Purification of antibodies

Administration of the antigen

- The following should be considered in order to choose the most suitable animal:^[2.]
 - The amount of polyclonal antibody we need to produce
 - The ease of obtaining blood samples
 - The phylogenetic relationship between the antigen and the animal species
 - The intended use of the polyclonal antibody
- Rabbits, goats, sheep or chickens are frequently used for the production of polyclonal antibodies, whereas mice and rats are preferred for the production of monoclonal antibodies. (see later)
- The features of the administered antigen are also important:
 - Purity: In case of contamination antibodies recognizing the contaminants are also produced.
 - The form of the antigen: It is possible to give entire cells, purified antigen or fragments of the antigen. The antigen can also be attached to a carrier. (e.g. hapten)
- Route of administration: oral (per os), intracutaneous (ic.), subcutaneous (sc.) or intramuscular (im.)

Frequently used animals

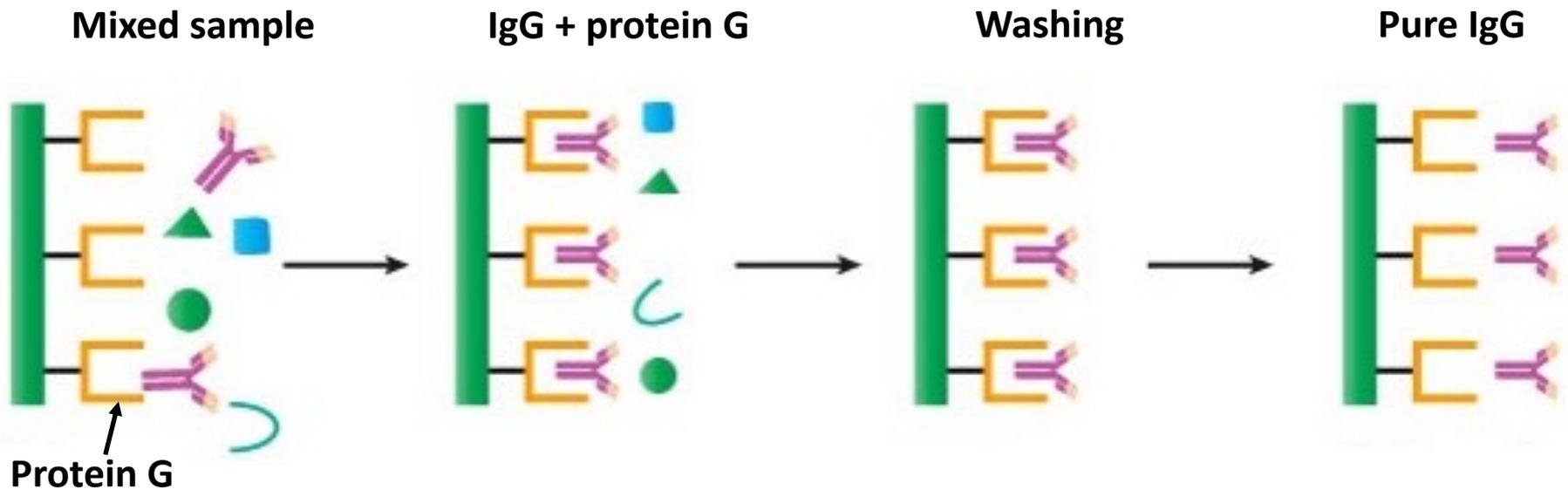


Adjuvants

- Substances that delay and **enhance the immune response** against the administered antigen resulting in increased antibody production.
- Adjuvants are also used in human vaccines. (see later)^[3,4.]
- Their mechanism of action include:
 - They increase the antigen uptake
 - They activate the innate immune cells (e.g. macrophages) via PRRs
 - They enhance antigen presentation via MHC II
- Some examples of adjuvants:
 - **Aluminium salts** (e.g. aluminium phosphate, aluminium hydroxide oxide, these are the most common adjuvants in human vaccines)
 - Lipid A analogues (e.g. Cervarix[®] = HPV vaccine)
 - **Freund's adjuvant**: the antigen is emulsified in mineral oil
 - Complete (CFA): contains dead *Mycobacterium* bacteria (e.g. *M tuberculosis*)^[5.]
 - Incomplete (IFA): contains no *Mycobacterium*
 - **Liposomes** containing viral proteins^[6.]

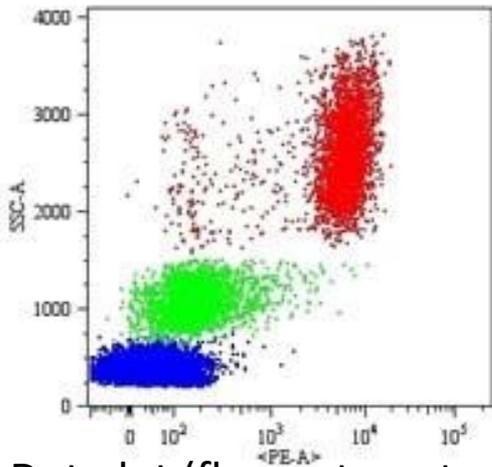
Purification of antibodies

- Antibodies are extracted from the **blood sera** of immunized animals.
- Different methods exist for the purification of antibodies of different isotypes
- IgG^[7.]
 - Precipitation (e.g. with the use of ammonium sulfate)
 - **Chromatography**, especially affinity chromatography with the use of **protein A** (*Staphylococcus*) or **protein G** (*Streptococcus*) or ion-exchange chromatography

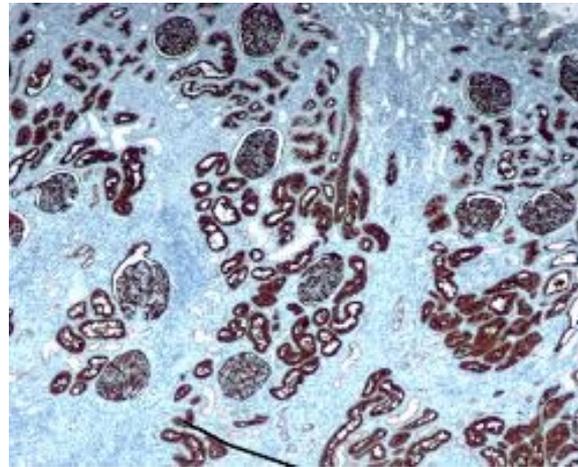


Antibody testing

- The **specificity** and **titer** (=quantity) of the purified antibody must be tested with the antigen in the very same system in which the antibody will be applied. Examples (will be discussed in more detail later):
 - Flow cytometry
 - ELISA
 - Immunohistochemistry



Dot plot (flow cytometry)



Immunohistochemistry
(CD10 staining in a healthy
human kidney)



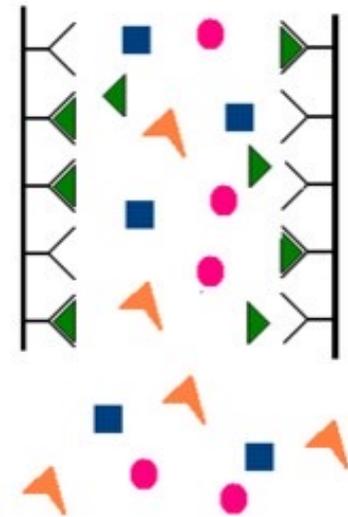
ELISA plate

Significance of monoclonal antibodies

- **Polyclonal** antibodies have **varying specificity** and **affinity** which limits their applications. (e.g. cross-reactivity, a different set of antibodies can be obtained from each immunized animal)
- The ability to produce **monoclonal** antibodies that can recognize a **single specific epitope** with **constant specificity** and **affinity** is of great importance.

APPLICATIONS OF MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES

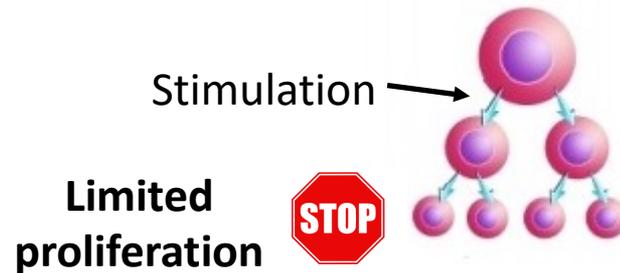
- Preparative methods:
 - **Specific purification of proteins** (e.g. immunoaffinity chromatography)
- **Analytical methods** (diagnostics and research):
 - **Serological tests** (see later)
 - **Identification and isolation of different cell populations** (e.g. identification of CD markers)
- **Therapeutic uses:**
 - Inhibiting or enhancing specific target molecules or cells (see later)



The proteins to be purified in the mixed sample **will bind to the immunoglobulins** in the column and can be obtained afterwards.

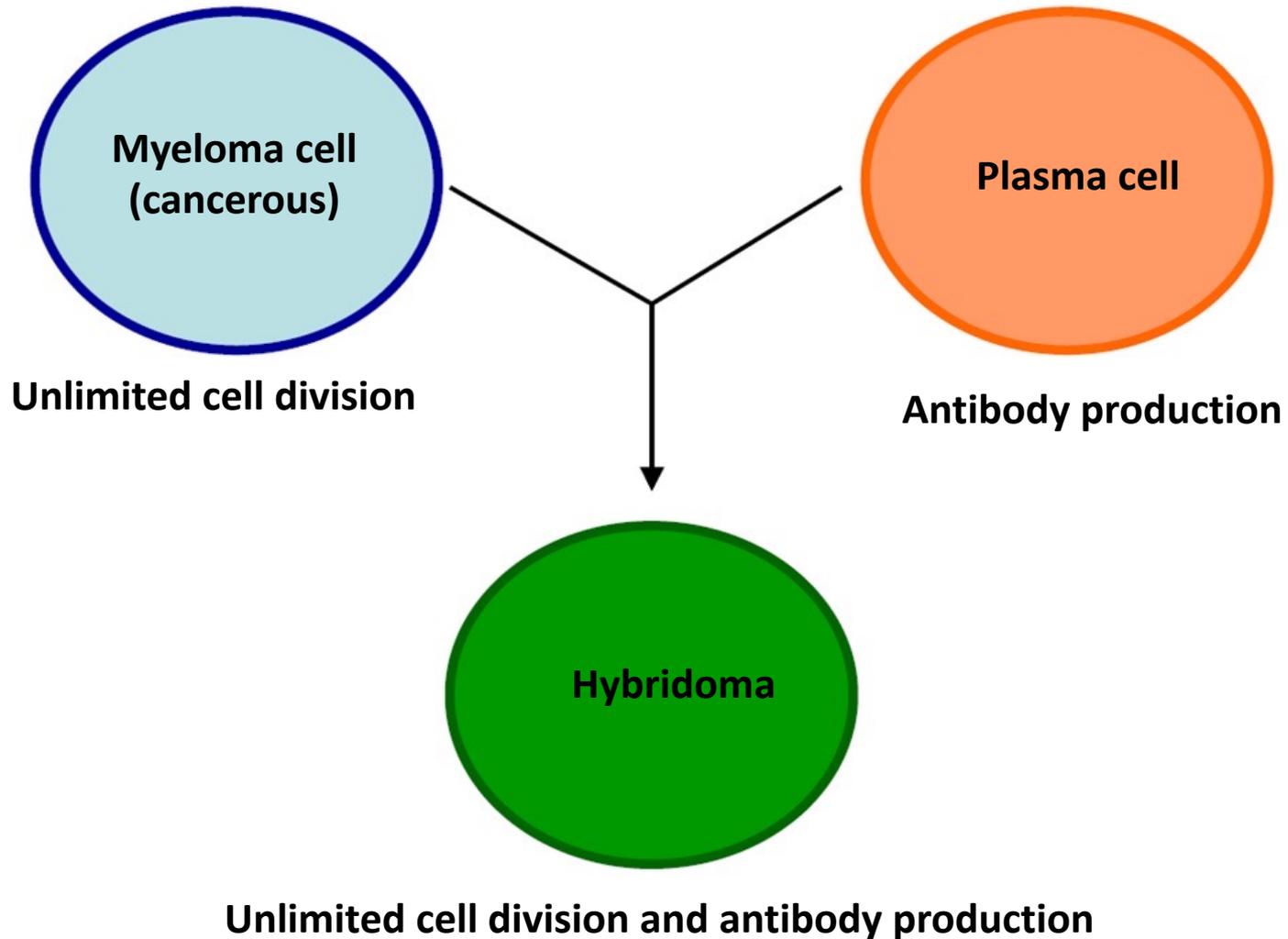
Production of monoclonal antibodies

- What is the problem?
 - One needs to produce antibodies derived from a single B cell clone. → Even if the clone is isolated and stimulated, **cell division will eventually stop** and the **cells will die**.

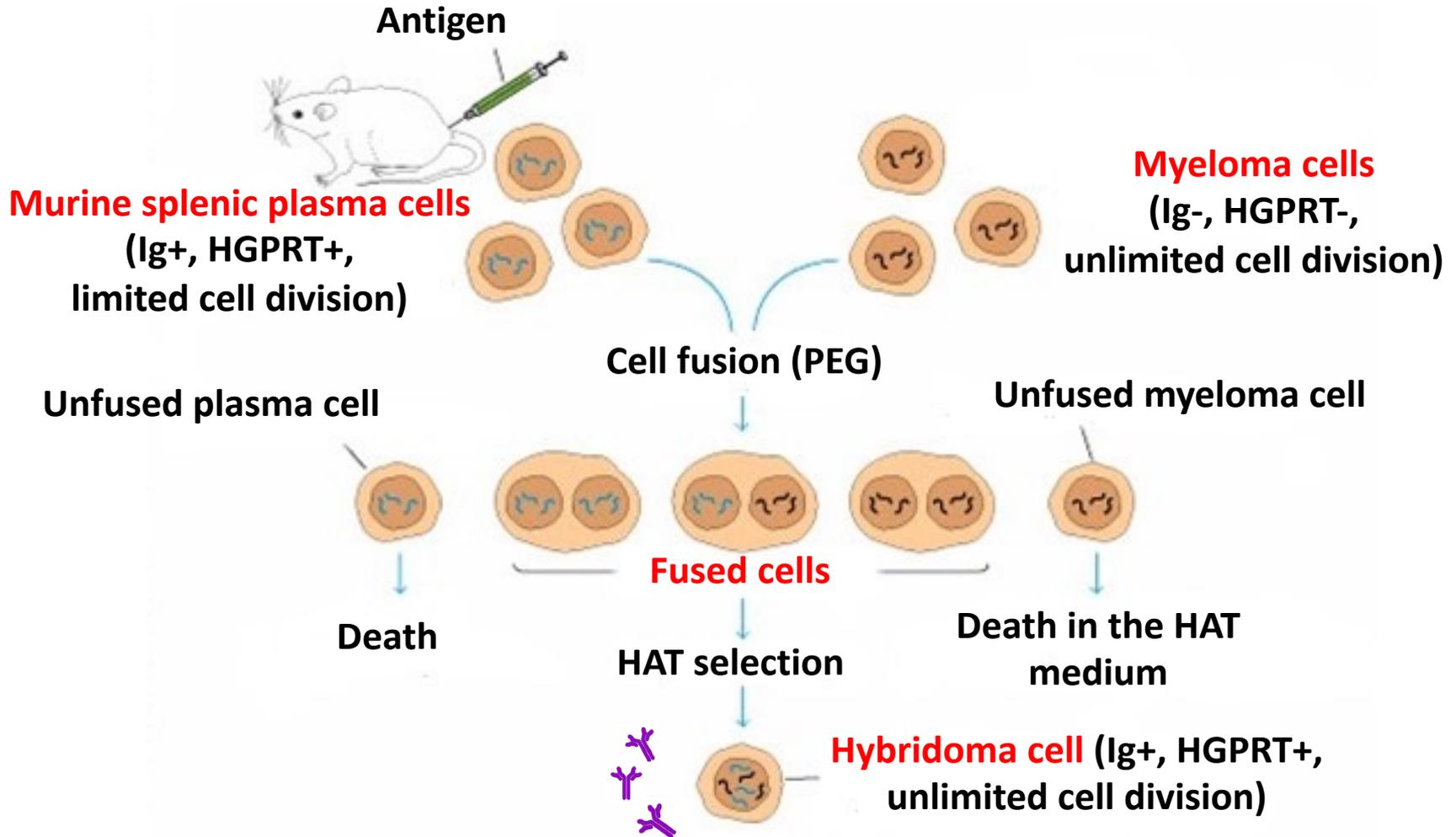


- Solution: **Immortalization of plasma cells**
 - How? → They are fused with cancerous cells
 - Why? → Cancer cells are immortal and have unlimited potential to replicate.
- Result: **Hybridoma technology**^[8,9.]
 - The artificial, in vitro **fusion of plasma cells and cancer cells**
 - The resulting **hybrid cells** (=hybridoma) have the beneficial features of both cell types, namely they produce antibodies identical to those of the original B cell clones and can proliferate without limitations.

The basic principle



Hybridoma technology 1.



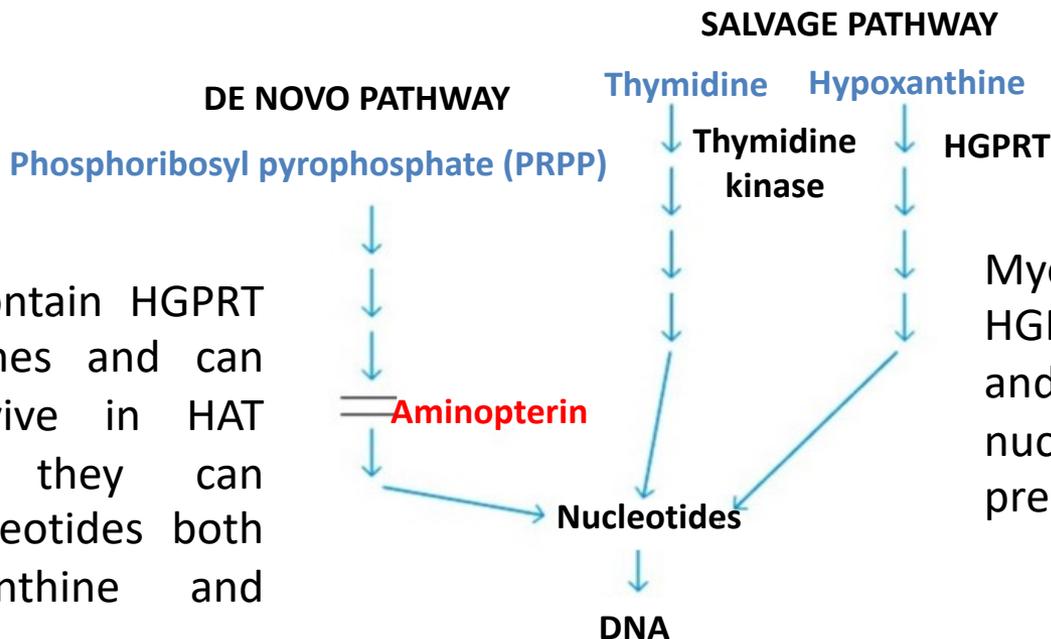
HGPRT: Hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (see on next slide)

PEG: Polyethylene glycol

HAT: Hypoxanthine-aminopterin-thymidine medium (see on next slide)

Hybridoma technology 2.

1. **Immunization** of the animals (usually mice or rats)
2. **Isolation of plasma cells** from the spleen
3. **Cell fusion**: murine plasma cell + **non-secretory myeloma cell** (cancerous myeloma cell lines, e.g. Sp2): With the use of **polyethylene glycol** (PEG) or **electric current** (electrofusion)
4. **Selection**: Desired plasma cell-myeloma hybrids are selected with the use of **HAT medium** (contains hypoxanthine, aminopterin and thymidine). Unfused cells or fused cancer cells will die.

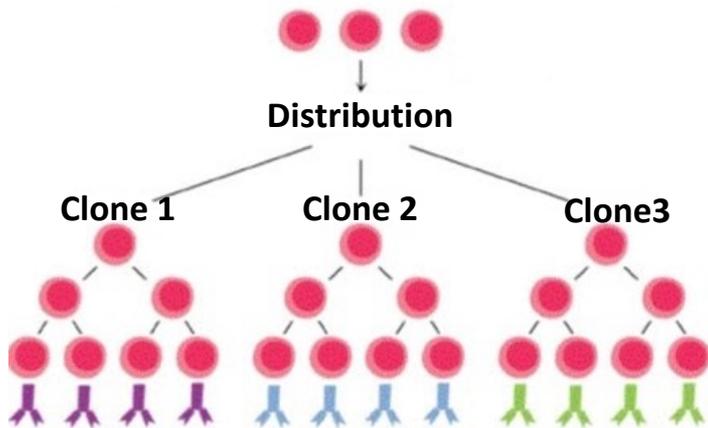


Hybrid cells contain HGPRT and TK enzymes and can therefore survive in HAT medium as they can synthesize nucleotides both from hypoxanthine and thymidine.

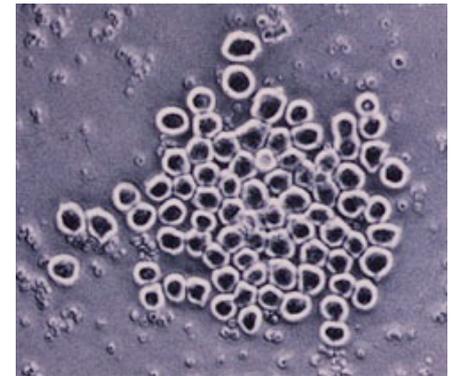
Myeloma cells lack HGPRT and TK enzymes and cannot synthesize nucleotides in the presence of aminopterin.

Hybridoma technology 3.

- **Selection of monoclones:** The cells surviving HAT selection are **transferred to a 96-well plate** with each well containing a **single cell**. Cells in the wells will proliferate creating clones that each produce the very same antibody. → Monoclonal antibody production
- **Testing** of the produced antibodies with the use of the original antigen
- Selection of the most ideal clone



96-well plate



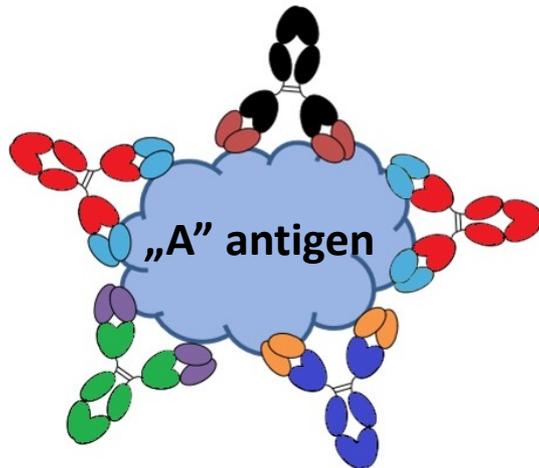
Hybridoma cells in a cell culture medium

Comparison of monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies



„You wanna play a little game?“

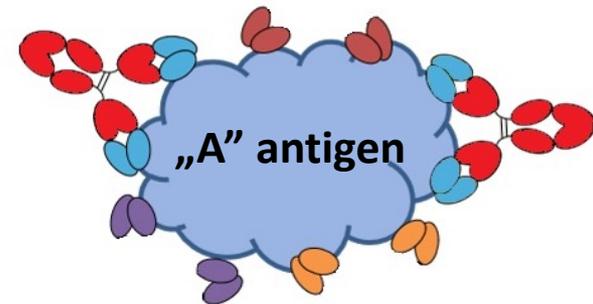
Polyclonal anti-„A“ antibody



Polyclonal:

- Product of **several B cell clones**
- Recognize **different epitopes** of the target antigen
- **Varying specificity** and **affinity**
- (Consider them mixtures of different monoclonal antibodies)

Monoclonal anti-„A“ antibody

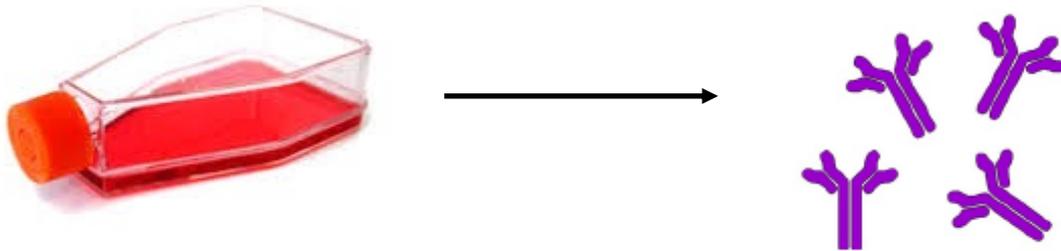


Monoclonal:

- Product of **a single B cell clone**
- Recognize a **single specific epitope** of the antigen
- Antibodies have the **same specificity** and **affinity**

Continuous antibody production

- Hybridoma cells secrete the antibodies into the medium. → They can be obtained from the **supernatant** of the cell culturing medium.

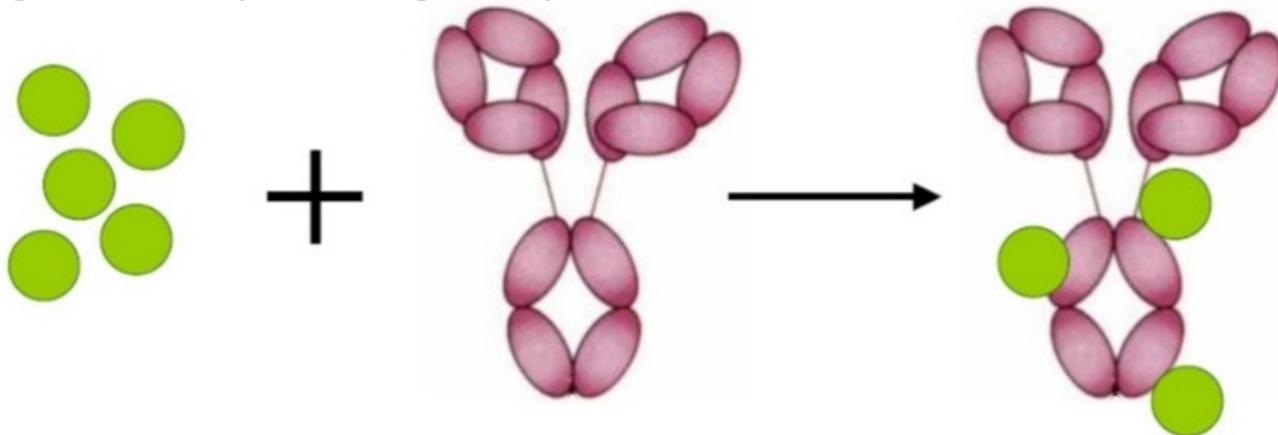


- Industrial (mass) production: With the use of **fermenters**.



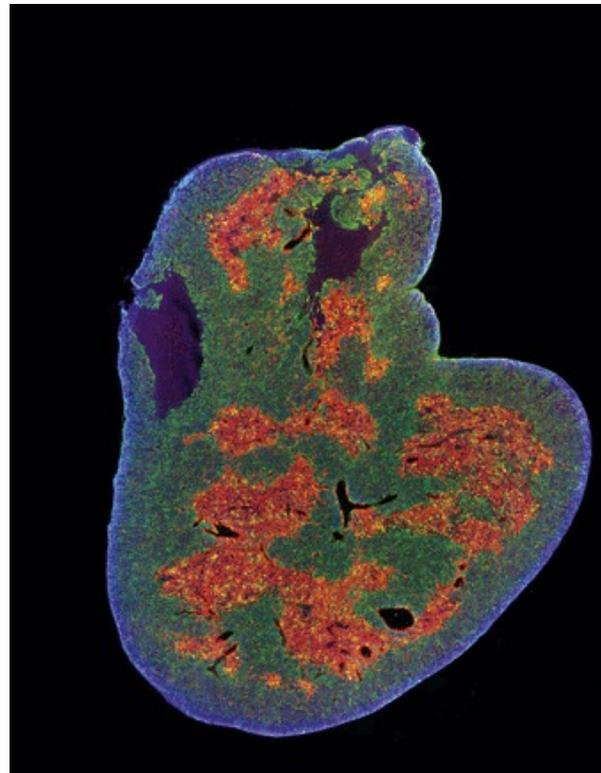
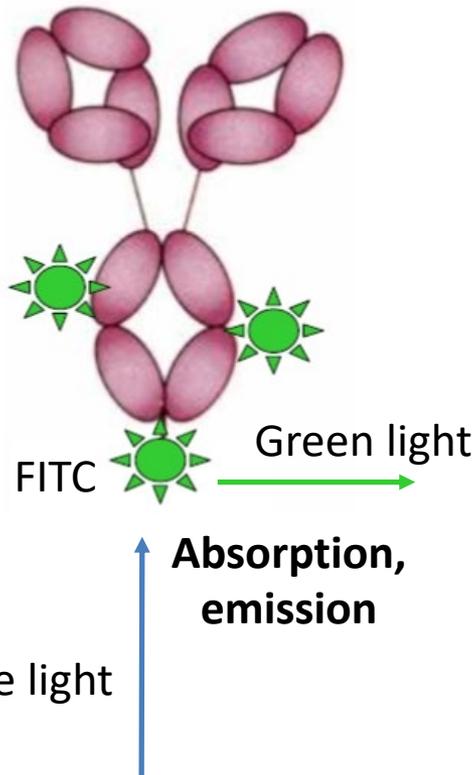
Conjugation

- The antigen-antibody reaction is not detectable on its own, but if the used antibody is conjugated with a labeling molecule then it can be detected by various methods depending on the conjugate.
- Conjugates:
 - **Fluorescent molecules** (fluorophores or fluorochromes, the are synonyms), e.g. FITC, PE, etc. (see later) → **flow cytometry, fluorescent microscopy**
 - **Enzymes** (they convert chromogens into dyes in the presence of a substrate), e.g. HRP, ALP (see later) → **immunohistochemistry, ELISA, Western blot**
 - **Radioactive isotopes:**
 - Diagnostics → γ -emitting isotopes



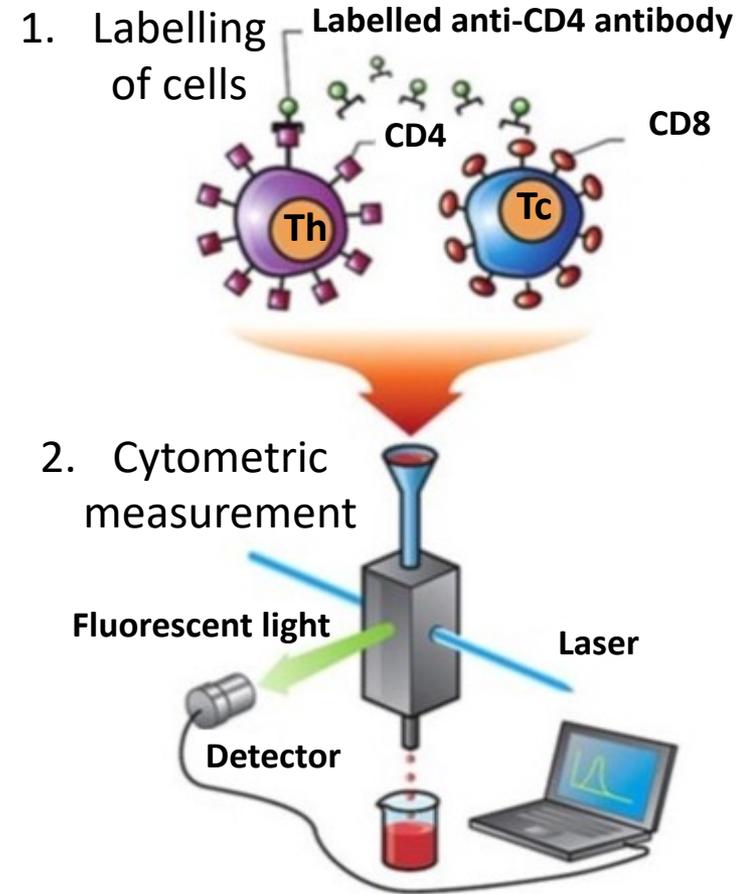
Fluorescent conjugates

Fluorescence microscopy

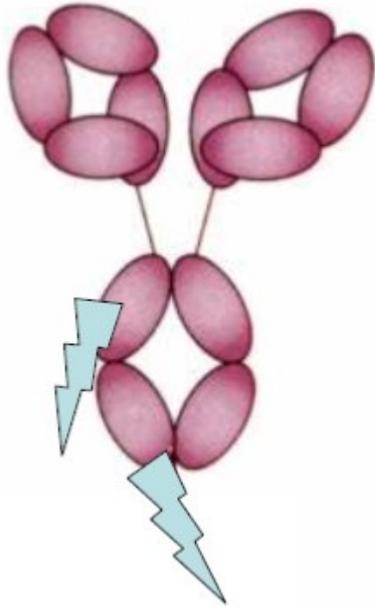


Murine thymus IF^[10.]:
Red: Medullary epithelial cells
Green: Cortical epithelial cells
Blue (DAPI): Cell nuclei

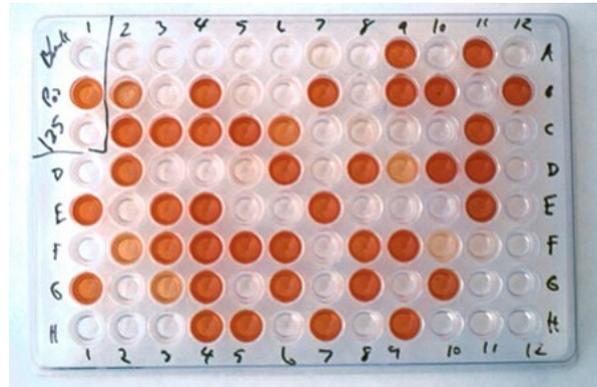
Flow cytometry



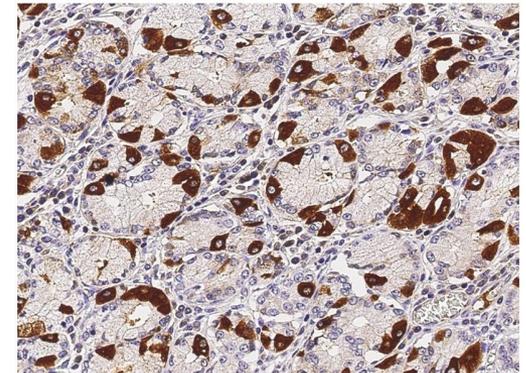
Enzyme conjugates



ELISA



Immunohistochemistry



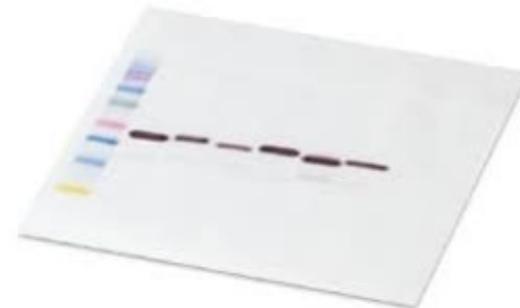
(detection of intrinsic factor in a human stomach)

Enzyme conjugated to the antibody
+ chromogen and substrate



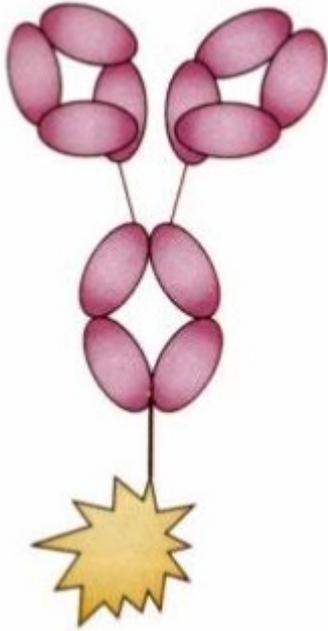
Color reaction

Western blot



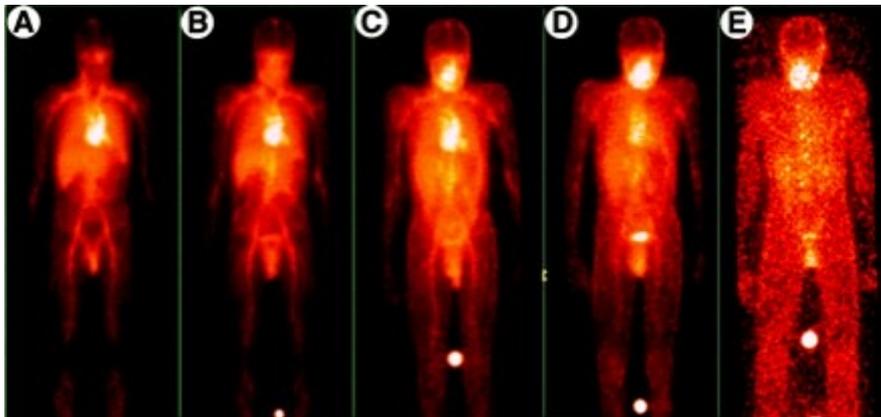
Some frequently used enzymes: **HRP** (horseradish peroxidase), **ALP** (alkaline phosphatase)

Radioactive conjugates



Antibody + radioisotope

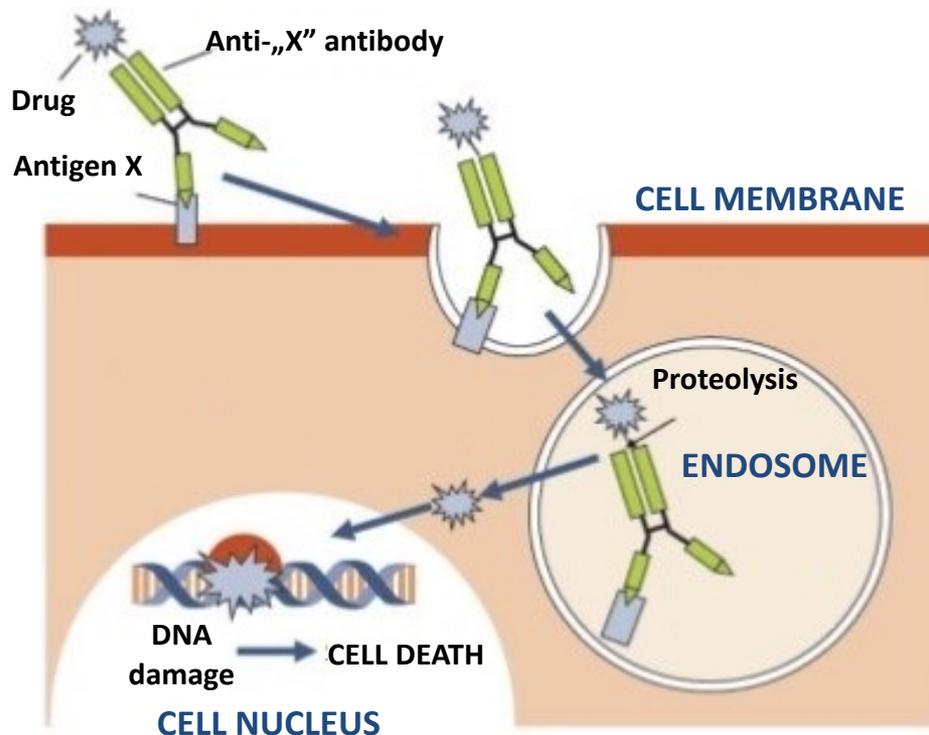
- **Diagnostic uses** (radioimmune imaging):^[13.]
 - γ -emitting isotopes or positron-emitting isotopes are conjugated to the antibodies
 - The antibody will bind the target cell (e.g. cancer cell)
 - The signal can be detected with gamma cameras or PET (Positron emission tomography) which are capable of detecting even micrometastases
- **Therapeutic uses:**
 - α - or β -emitting isotopes are used \rightarrow The tumor receives large doses of radiation locally



Immuno-PET images from a patient with oropharyngeal cancer, images were taken after 1 (A), 24 (B), 72 (C), 144 (D) and 312 hours (E) of the administration of labelled antibodies.^[14.]

ADC (Antibody-drug conjugate)

- The antibody will **selectively** deliver the drug to the target cells then both the drug and the antibody are internalized into the cytoplasm. This therapeutic approach is mainly used against **cancers**, mostly chemotherapeutic agents are conjugated to antibodies.^[11.]



Some examples of antibody-drug conjugates		
Drug	Target molecule	Disease
Brentuximab vedotin	CD30	Hodgkin lymphoma
Gemtuzumab ozogamicin*	CD33	Acute myeloid leukemia
Trastuzumab emtansine	HER2	Breast cancer

*Was withdrawn by Pfizer® in 2010.^[12.]

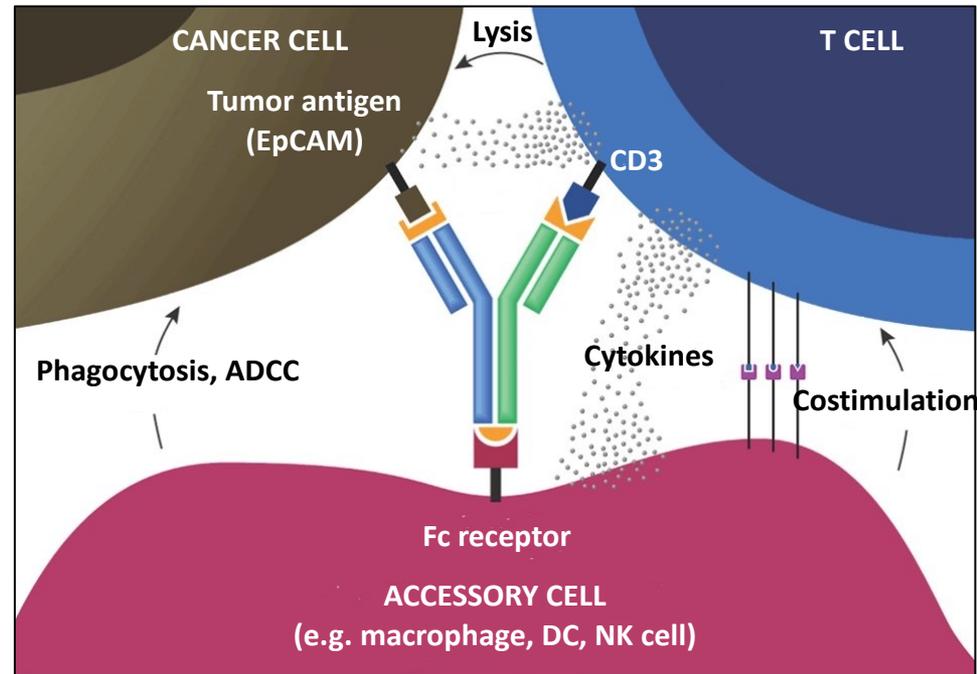
The mechanism of action of anticancer ADCs

Other modifications

- **Bispecific antibodies:**^[15.]
 - Recombinant antibodies capable of binding two different antigens simultaneously.
 - Application: They are used in the treatment of **cancers** by cross-binding immune cells and cancer cells.

- **Fusion proteins:**^[17.]
 - Recombinant proteins usually attached to the Fc fragment of IgG. Some examples (see later):

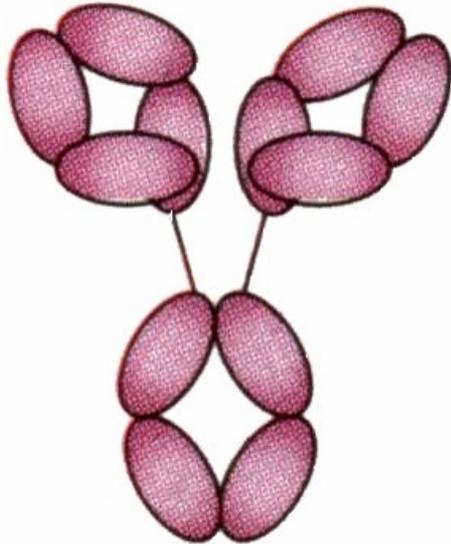
- Abatacept (CTLA-4 + IgG1)
- Etanercept (TNF α R + IgG1)
- Romiplostim (TPO + IgG1)



Mechanism of action of a bispecific antibody (catumaxomab)^[16.]

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP)

Murine antibodies



- The first therapeutic monoclonal antibody (muromonab) was a murine immunoglobulin.
- It was used after solid organ transplantations to prevent and treat rejection. (see later)
- Disadvantage: This is a **foreign protein** for the human immune system!



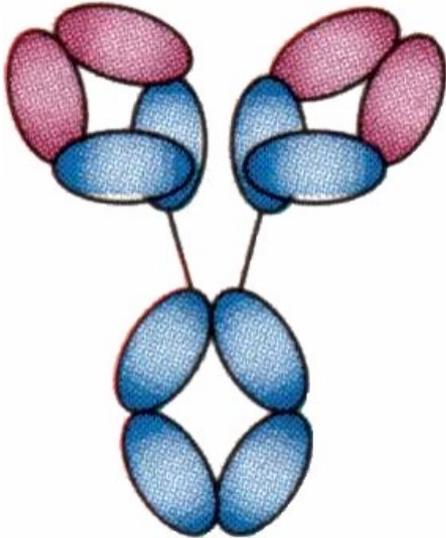
Many patients produced antibodies against the drug and some developed severe anaphylaxis (see later):^[18.]

HAMA (human anti-mouse antibody)

Although the constant domains are evolutionary conserved structures, they are not identical in different species.

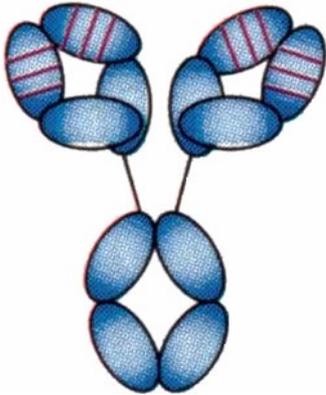
Muromonab is the only murine therapeutic monoclonal antibody. It is still used in otherwise untreatable acute rejections but it is no longer administered for prophylaxis.^[19.]

Chimeric antibodies



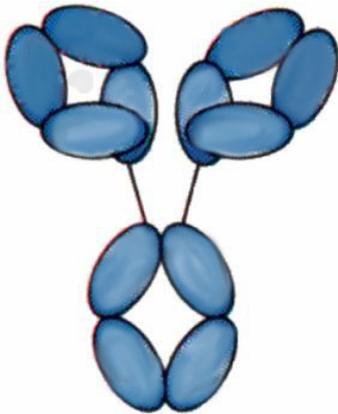
- The gene segment coding the variable region (Fv) of the chosen murine antibody is fused with the segment encoding the human constant region (Fc).
- The resulting chimeric immunoglobulin will have the **same specificity** as the original murine antibody but the constant region will be identical to human immunoglobulins.
- Roughly 75% of the molecule is of human origin.
- Advantage compared to murine antibodies: Contains less murine-derived sequences therefore it has **lower risk of being recognized as foreign** by the human immune system. The human Fc region also increases the **half-life** and the **effector functions**.
- Disadvantage: Some patients produce antibodies against these drugs.^[20.] → **HACA: human anti-chimeric antibody**
- Chimeric antibodies are still widely used to treat diseases (see in table at the of the presentation)

Humanized and human antibodies



HUMANIZED:

- The gene segments encoding the hypervariable regions (CDRs) of the murine antibody are implanted to the genes of human immunoglobulins.
- > 90 % of the molecule is of human origin.
- The specificity of the antibody is similar to the original murine antibody while the half-life and effector functions are similar to human immunoglobulins.



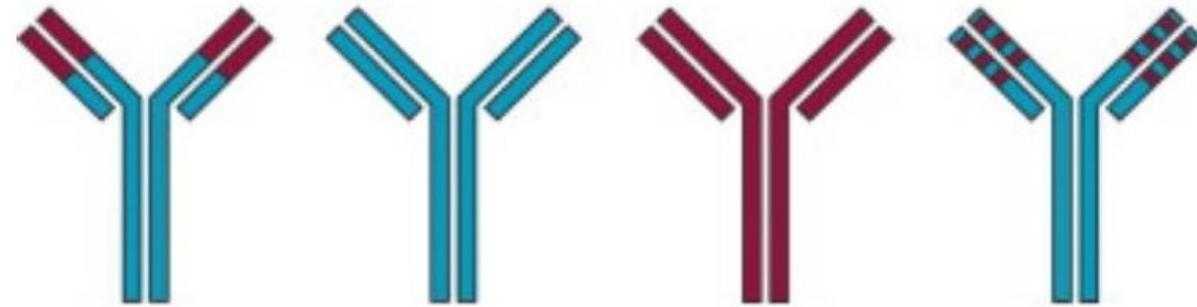
HUMAN:

- Genes of the human immunoglobulins are inserted to mice, then hybridomas producing human immunoglobulins are created after immunization.^[21.]



Fully human immunoglobulin

Nomenclature



Infliximab
Rituximab
Abciximab

Adalimumab
Ipilimumab

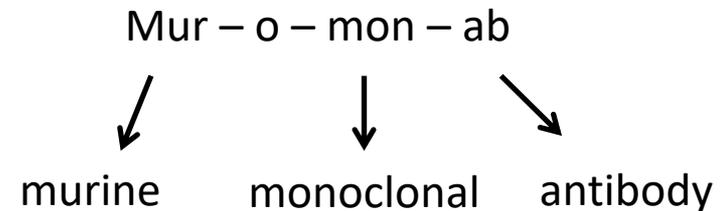
Muromonab

Daclizumab
Trastuzumab

- mab** = monoclonal antibody
- xi** = chimeric antibody
- zu** = humanized antibody
- mu** = fully human antibody
- li** = has immunomodulatory effect
- tu** = has antitumor effect
- ci** = can be used to treat cardiovascular diseases

The WHO developed a **standardized nomenclature** for monoclonal therapeutic antibodies.^[22.]

Muromonab is an exception as it was the first therapeutic monoclonal antibody:



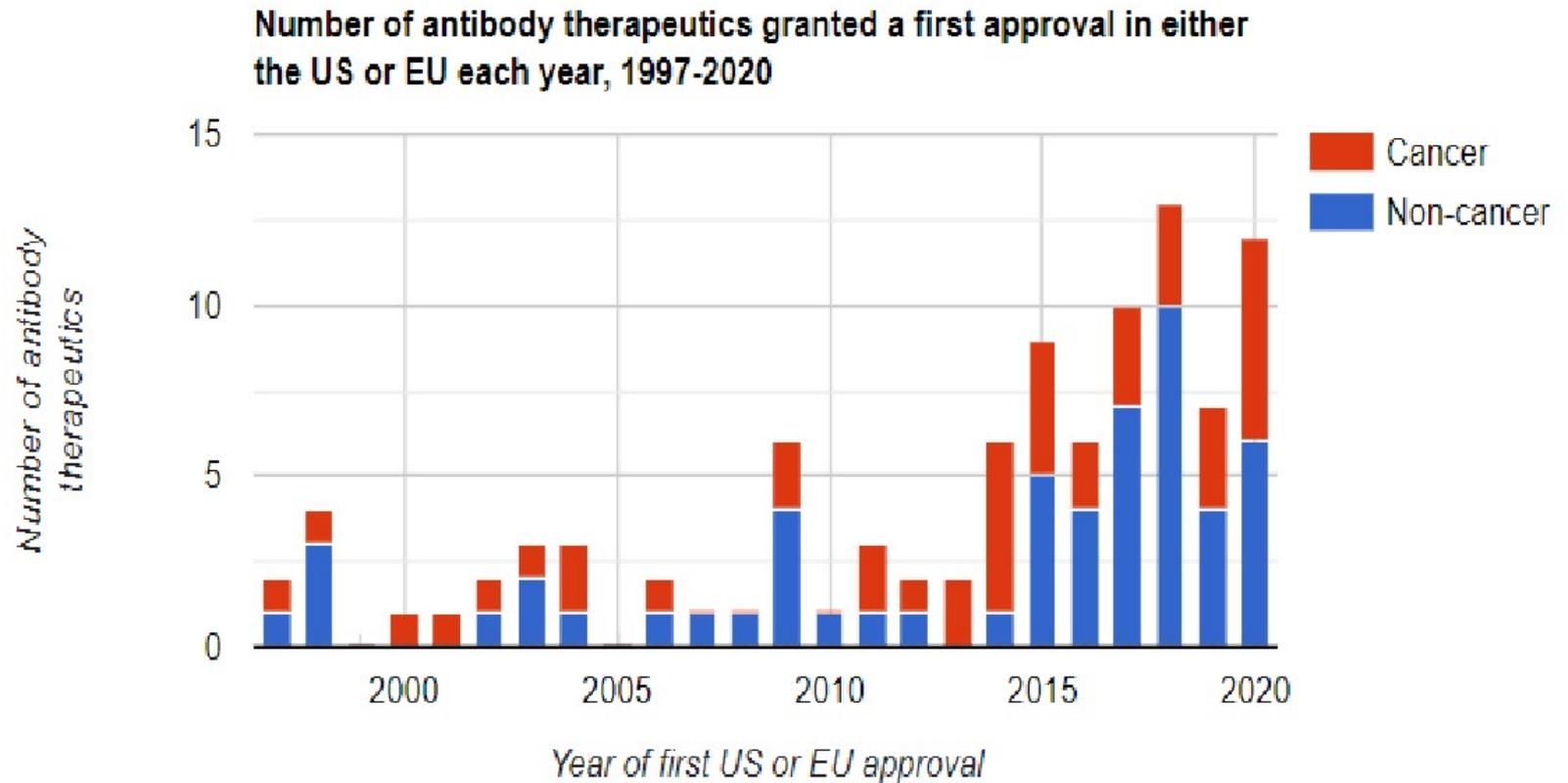
Some FDA-approved antibodies 1.

Year	Drug	Type	Trade name	Target	Application
1986	muromonab	murine	Orthoclone-OKT-3	CD3	Rejection
1994	abciximab	chimeric	ReoPro	Gp IIb/IIIa	PCI
1997	daclizumab	humanized	Zenapax	CD25	Rejection
1997	rituximab	chimeric	Rituxan, Mabthera	CD20	B cell NHL
1998	infliximab	chimeric	Remicade	TNF α	RA, Crohn's disease, Psoriasis
1998	trastuzumab	humanized	Herceptin	HER2	Breast cancer
1998	basiliximab	chimeric	Simulect	CD25	Rejection
2001	alemtuzumab	humanized	Campath	CD52	CLL
2002	adalimumab	human	Humira	TNF α	RA
2004	bevacizumab	humanized	Avastin	VEGF-A	Colorectal cancer

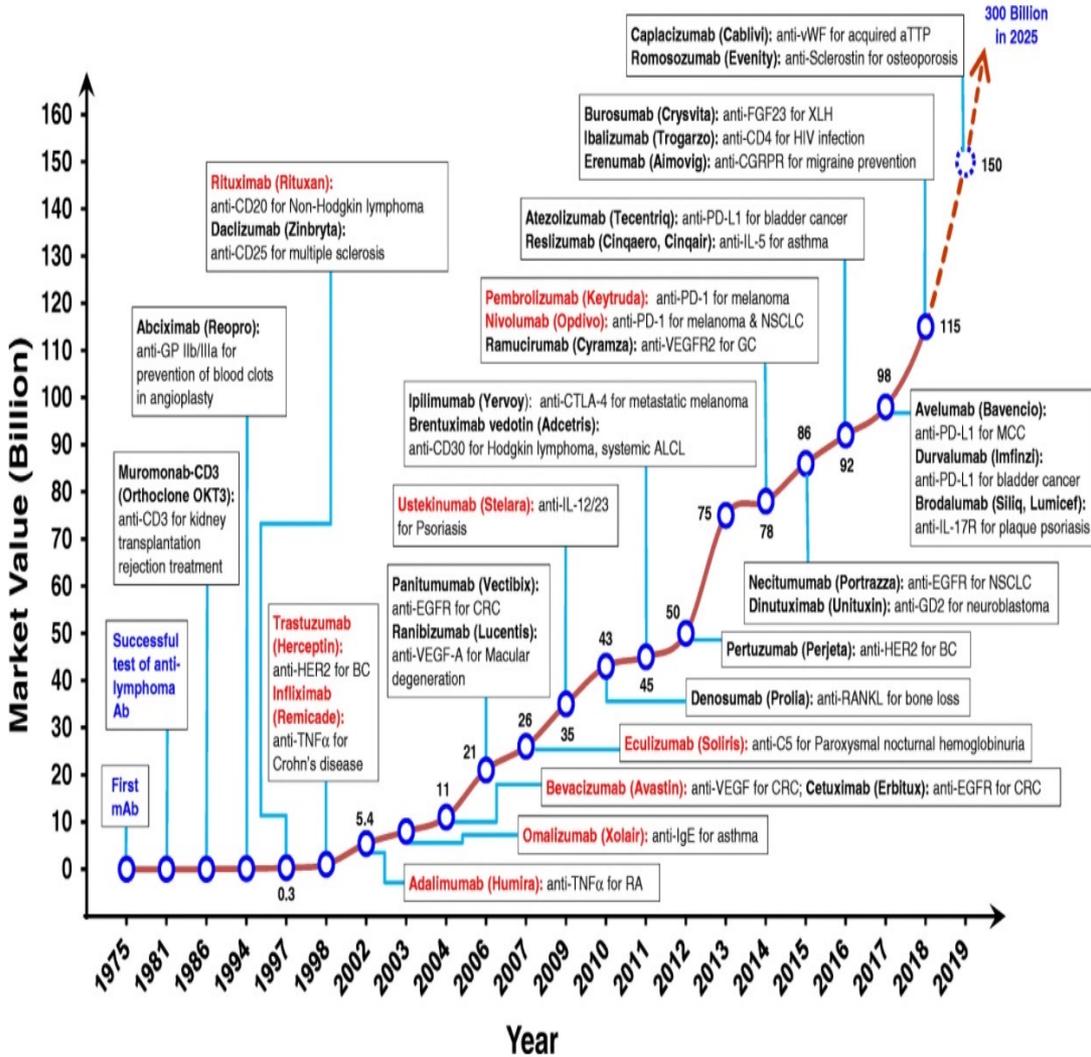
Some FDA-approved antibodies 2.

Year	Drug	Type	Trade name	Target	Application
2004	cetuximab	chimeric	Erbitux	EGF-R	Colorectal cancer
2006	natalizumab	humanized	Tysabri	α 4 integrin	SM, Crohn's disease
2006	panitumumab	human	Vectibix	EGF-R	Colorectal cancer
2006	ranibizumab	humanized	Lucentis	VEGF-A	Macular degeneration
2009	golimumab	human	Simponi	TNF α	RA
2010	denosumab	human	Amgen	RANK-L	Osteoporosis
2010	tocilizumab	humanized	Actemra	IL-6 R	RA
2011	ipilimumab	human	Yervoy	CTLA-4	Melanoma
2014	nivolumab	human	Opdivo	PD-1	Melanoma, non-small cell lung cancer
2015	secukinumab	human	Cosentyx	IL-17A	Psoriasis

FDA-approved antibodies



\$ Market of therapeutic antibodies [23, 26.]



1 g gold vs 100 mg infliximab
 57.55 \$ vs 517.8 \$ (in Hungary)
 (2021.02.24.)

- Recombinant proteins produced in mammalian cell cultures (133 Kg in 2013)
- Monoclonal antibodies produced in mammalian cell cultures (8182 Kg in 2013)
- Monoclonal antibody fragments, conjugates or fusion proteins produced in mammalian cell cultures (1677 Kg in 2013)
- Recombinant proteins (insulin too) produced in microbial fermentation (8497 Kg in 2013)
- Monoclonal antibodies produced in microbial fermentation (102 Kg in 2013)
- Products produced in plant cell cultures (189 g in 2013)

Thank you for your attention!

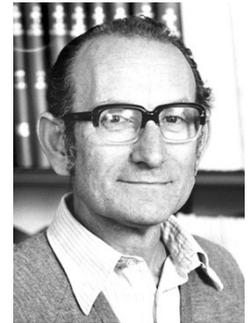


Gerald M. Edelman Rodney R. Porter



Were awarded the 1972 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine:

„For their discoveries concerning the chemical structure of antibodies”.[24.]



Niels K. Jerne Georges J.F. Köhler César Milstein



Were awarded the 1984 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine:

„For theories concerning the specificity in development and control of the immune system and the discovery of the principle for production of monoclonal antibodies”.[25.]

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