

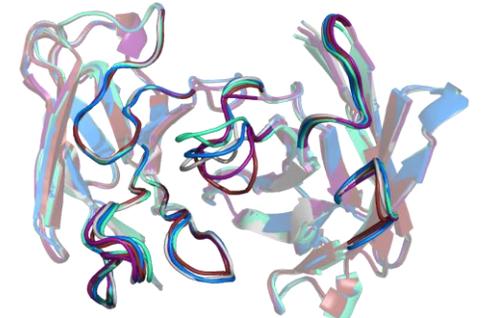
# Computationally designing therapeutic antibodies - combining immune repertoire data and structural information

Charlotte Deane

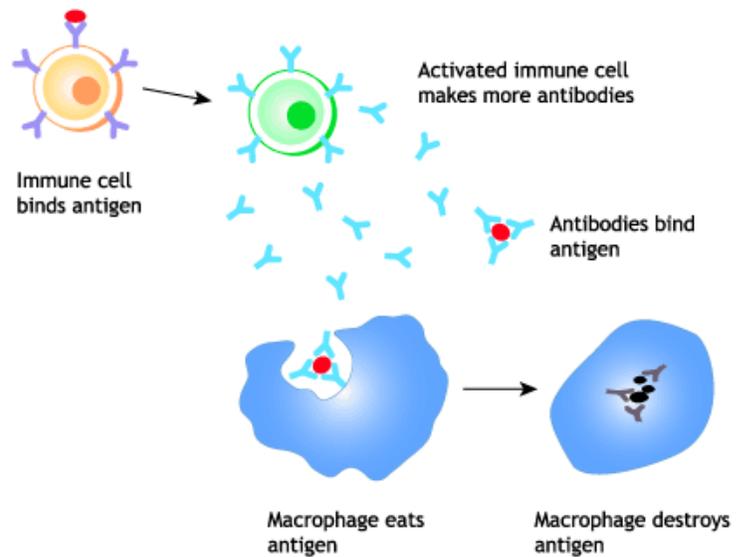
Department of Statistics

Oxford University

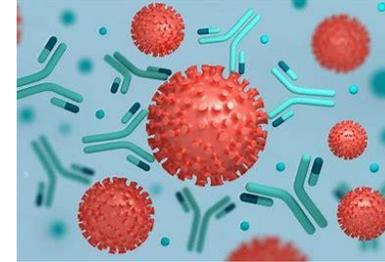
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GGTCCCTGAGACTCTCCTGTGCAGCCTCT  
GGATTCACCTTTGATGATTATGCCATGCAC  
TGGGTCCGCCAAGCTCCAGGGAAGGGCT  
GGAGTGGGTCTCAGGTAAGTTGGAGTA  
GTAGTTCCATAGGCTATGTGGACTCTGTGA  
AGGGCCGATTCACCATCTCCAGAGACAAC  
GCCAAGAAGTCCCTGTATCTGCAAATGAAC  
AGTCTGAGAGTTGAGGACACGGCCTTATAT  
TACTGTGCAAAGATGTTCTTAGCCGCAGC  
TGGCGATATCTTGACCCCTGGGGCCATGGA  
ACCCTGGTCACCGTCTCCTCAGCATCCCCG  
ACCAGCCCCAAGGTCTTCC
```



# Antibodies



- It has been estimated that a typical human is capable of producing more than  $10^{12}$  different antibodies, each capable of binding a distinct epitope
- Recognise and bind to potentially harmful molecules (antigens)
- Either inhibit the antigen themselves or recruit other parts of the immune system to deal with them



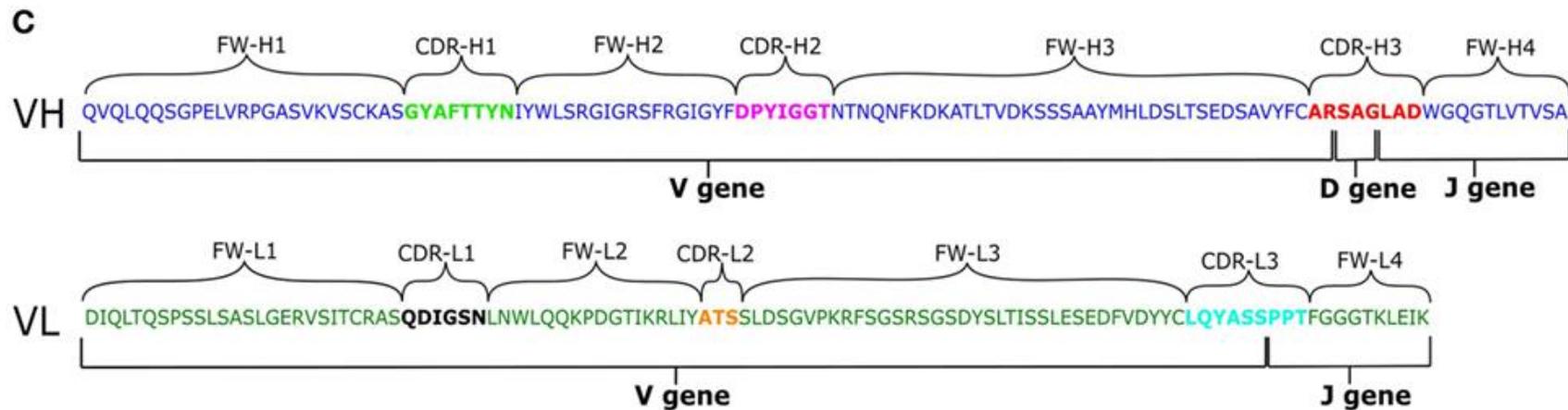
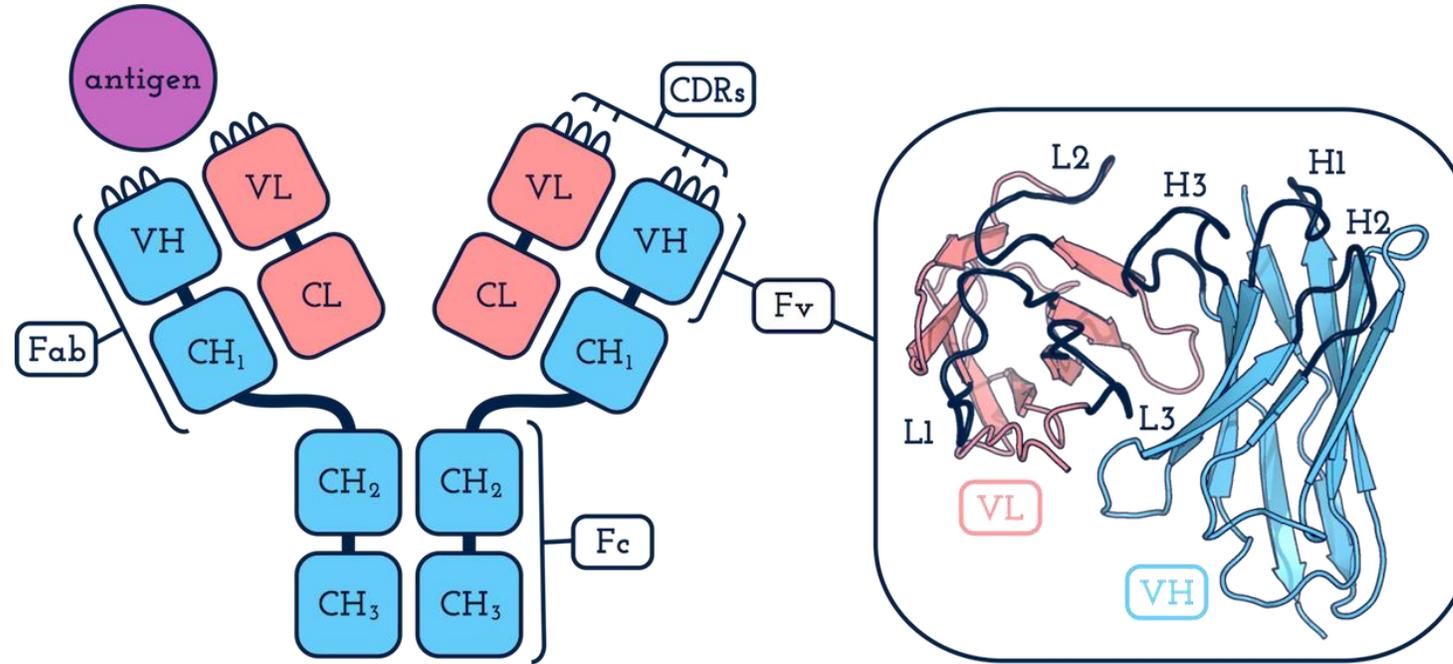
## Covid-19

Vaccine efficacy  
Diagnosing exposure  
Effective biotherapeutics

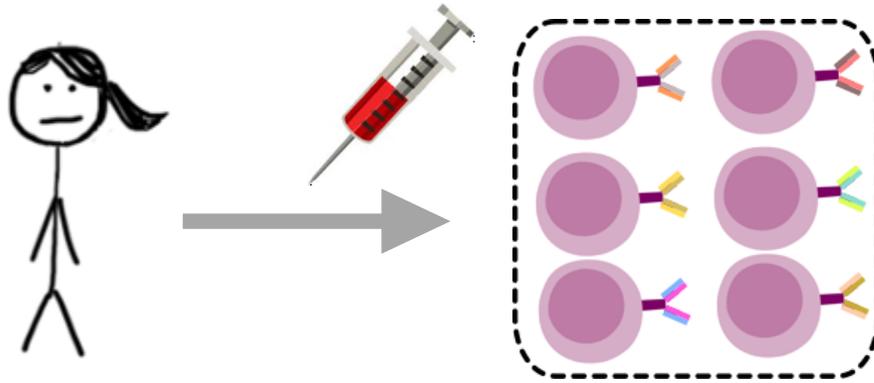


- Target specifically and with high affinity
- Can be raised against almost any antigen
- Currently >100 approved antibody “drugs”
- Antibody-based therapeutics are entering clinical study at a rapid rate

# Antibody Sequence/Structure - Orientation



# Antibody Next-Generation Sequencing (immune repertoire sequencing)



- Snapshots between  $10^4$  and  $10^7$  antibody sequences
- Theoretical antibody repertoire in humans  $>10^{12} - 10^{15}$
- Circulating diversity  $\sim 10^9$
- Naïve human antibody repertoire
- Pre and post immunisation datasets
- Sequences repertoires from different species

```
GGTCCCTGAGACTCTCCTGTGCAGCCTCT  
GGATTCACCTTTGATGATTATGCCATGCAC  
TGGGTCCGCCAAGCTCCAGGGAAGGGCT  
GGAGTGGGTCTCAGGTAAGTTGGAGTA  
GTAGTTCCATAGGCTATGTGGACTCTGTGA  
AGGGCCGATTCACCATCTCCAGAGACAAC  
GCCAAGAACTCCCTGTATCTGCAAATGAAC  
AGTCTGAGAGTTGAGGACACGGCCTTATAT  
TACTGTGCAAAAGATGTTCTTAGCCGCAGC  
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ACCCTGGTCACCGTCTCCTCAGCATCCCCG  
ACCAGCCCCAAGGTCTTCC
```

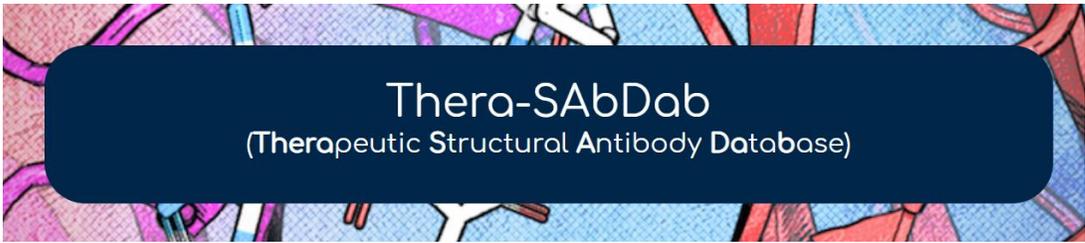




Olsen *et al* (2021), Kovaltsuk *et al.* (2018).



Schneider *et al* (2021), Dunbar *et al.* (2014)



Thera-SAbDab  
(Therapeutic Structural Antibody Database)

Raybould *et al.* (2020)

### **Observed Antibody Space**

Over 80 BCR repertoire studies covering ~ 1.5 billion antibody sequences across diverse immune states, organisms and individuals.

Contains Paired and unpaired data

Sorted, cleaned, annotated, translated and numbered

### **Structural Antibody Database**

Fully automated updating collection of all publicly available antibody structure data

As of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 contains 5534 structures

4575 antibody antigen complexes

Collect, curate and present structural data consistently.

Contains antibodies and nanobodies (849)

### **Thera-SAbDab**

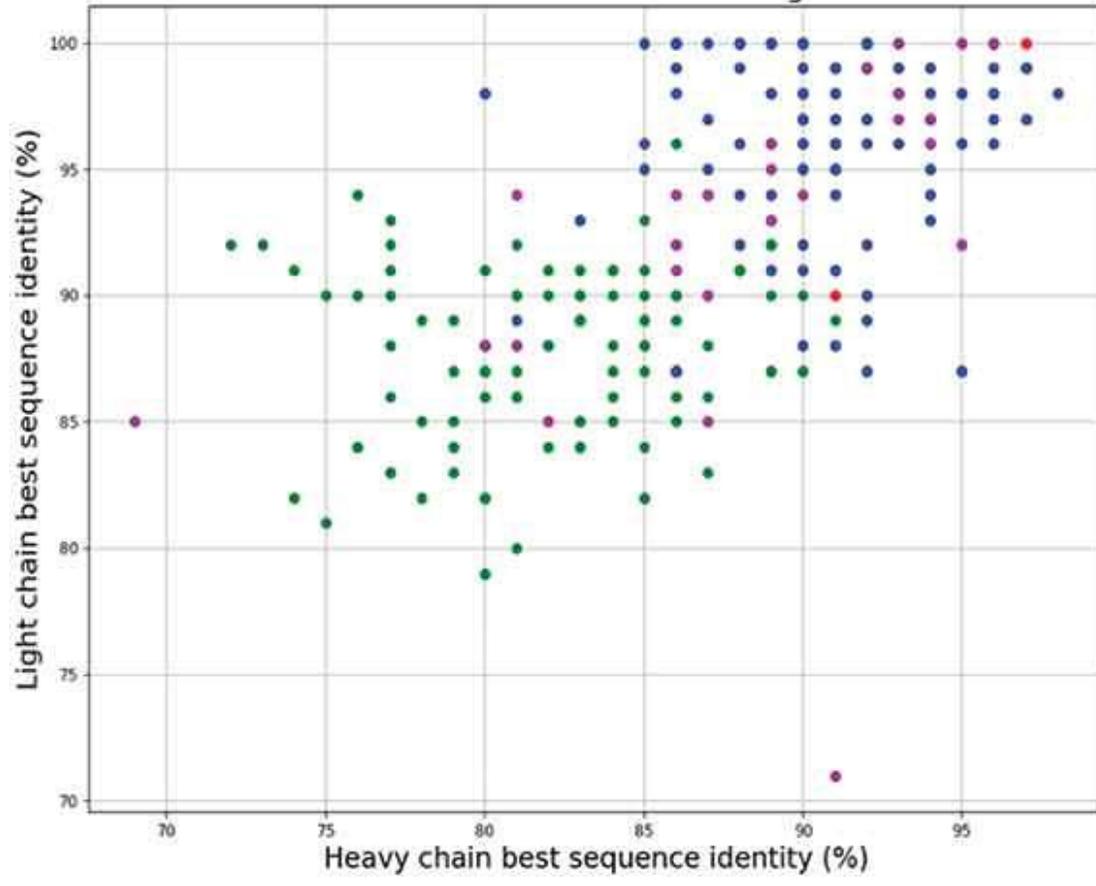
Self updating database of immunotherapeutic variable domain sequences and their corresponding structural representatives in SAbDab

Harvests therapeutic sequences as they are released by the World Health Organisation

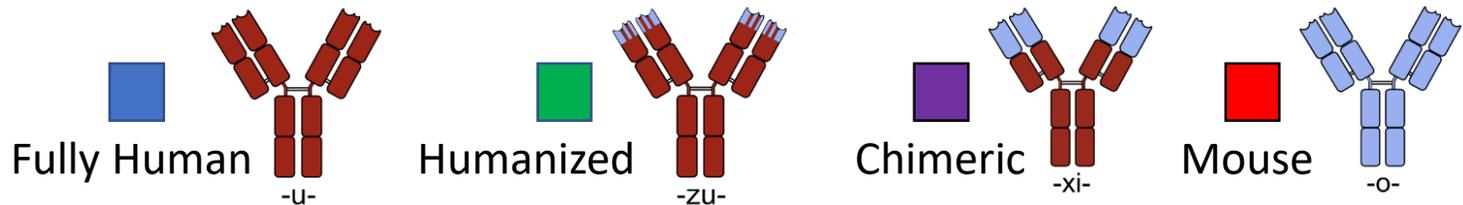
October 2021 (696 entries)

# Looking for Therapeutic Antibodies in OAS

Most similar OAS antibodies to variable regions of CSTs.

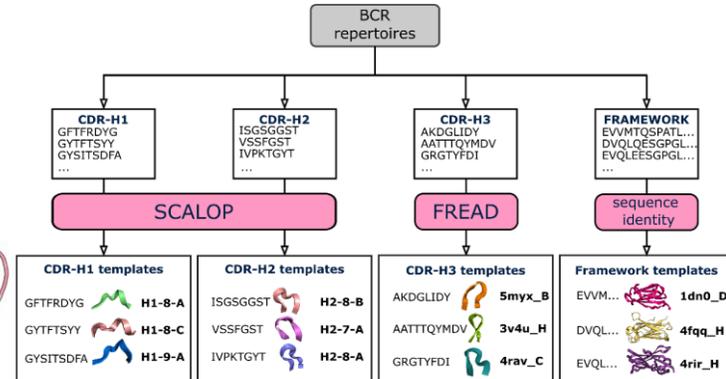
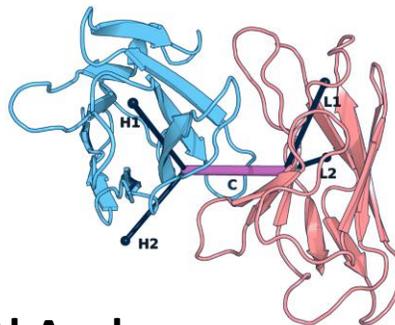
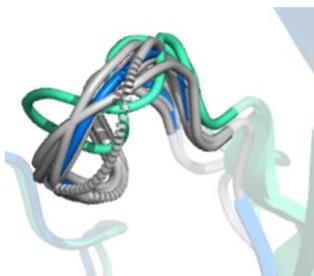
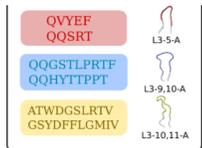
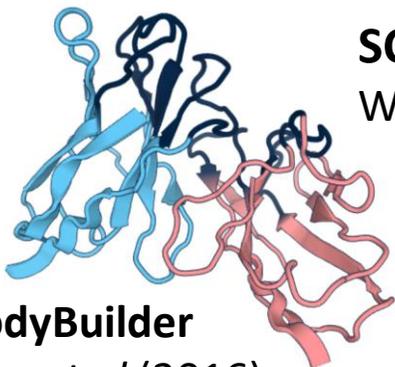


- 242 post phase-1 antibodies
- Unexpected high percentages of sequence overlap with therapeutics
- Many can be found in OAS with sequence identities >95%
- Enfortumab, heavy and light chain have 98% seqID
  - differences H38:N-S, H88:S-Y, L37:G-S, L52:F-L
- 54 have a perfect CDRH3 match
  - 22 of these found in more than one dataset



# SCALOP

Wong *et al.* (2018)



# AbodyBuilder

Leem *et al.* (2016)

# ABlooper

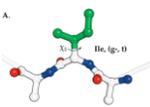
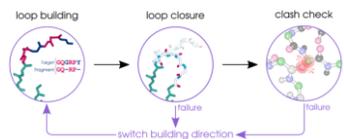
Abanades *et al.* (2021)

# AbAngle

Dunbar *et al.* (2013)

# SAAB+

Kovaltsuk *et al.* (2020)



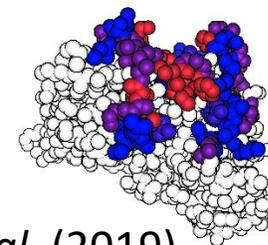
# PEARS

Leem *et al.* (2018)



# SPHINX

Marks *et al.* (2017)



# TAP

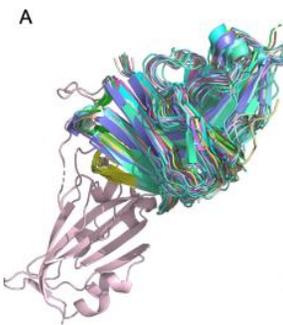
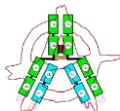
Raybould *et al.* (2019)

Domain 1, scheme = imgt

82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
-	S	G	T	D	F	T	L	T	I	S	S	L	Q

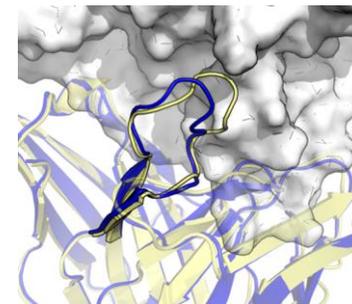
# ANARCI

Dunbar *et al.* (2016)



# Epitope Profiling - SPACE

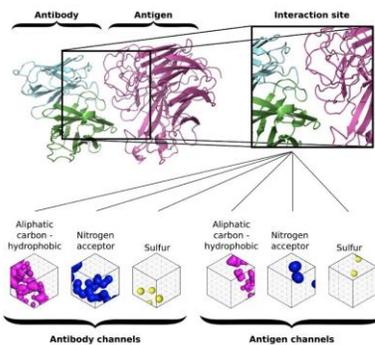
Robinson *et al.* (2021)



# Paratyping, Ab-Ligity

Richardson *et al.* (2021)

Wong *et al.* (2021)

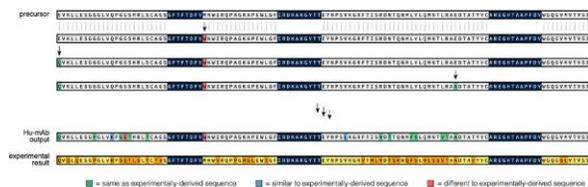


# Dlab

Schneider *et al.* (2021)

# Hu-mAb

Marks *et al.* (2021)





# Hu-mAb

## > About Hu-mAb

- Hu-mAb is an antibody humanisation tool.
- Using large-scale sequence data from OAS, we generated Random Forest models that classify antibody variable domain sequences as human/non-human.
- By making mutations that increase the 'humanness' score, we can efficiently humanise an antibody sequence, making it less likely to be immunogenic.
- Mutations are only made to framework regions; CDR residues are left alone to maintain the antibody binding properties.
- If not specified, the V-gene family to which your sequence will be compared is selected by evaluating the humanness score for the sequence compared to each V-gene type, choosing the highest-scoring.
- The Random Forests for each V-gene type have default 'threshold' scores - a humanness score above this value would mean that the sequence is classified as human, and so by default this is the score the humaniser will try to reach. However, if you would like to set your own threshold value you can.
- An example of the output produced by Hu-mAb can be seen [here](#).

# Humanization of antibodies using a machine learning approach Hu-mAb

- Many antibody therapeutics derived from non-human sources
  - ~50% of those currently in development
- ‘Non-human’ antibodies can result in a potentially harmful immune response in patients (immunogenicity)
  - Important to ‘humanize’ antibody therapeutics for safety & efficacy
- Currently, humanization is normally carried out experimentally, in a largely trial-and-error process.

# Hu-mAb

Random Forest (RF) machine learning models built with >65 million human and non-human sequences from the OAS database



## IgG sequences

Remove redundant sequences

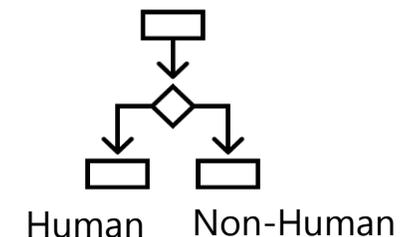
Remove sequences missing Cys or FR1

>65 million sequences total

Separate into human (by V gene) & non-human

One-hot encode

Train, Validate and Test Random Forest Models



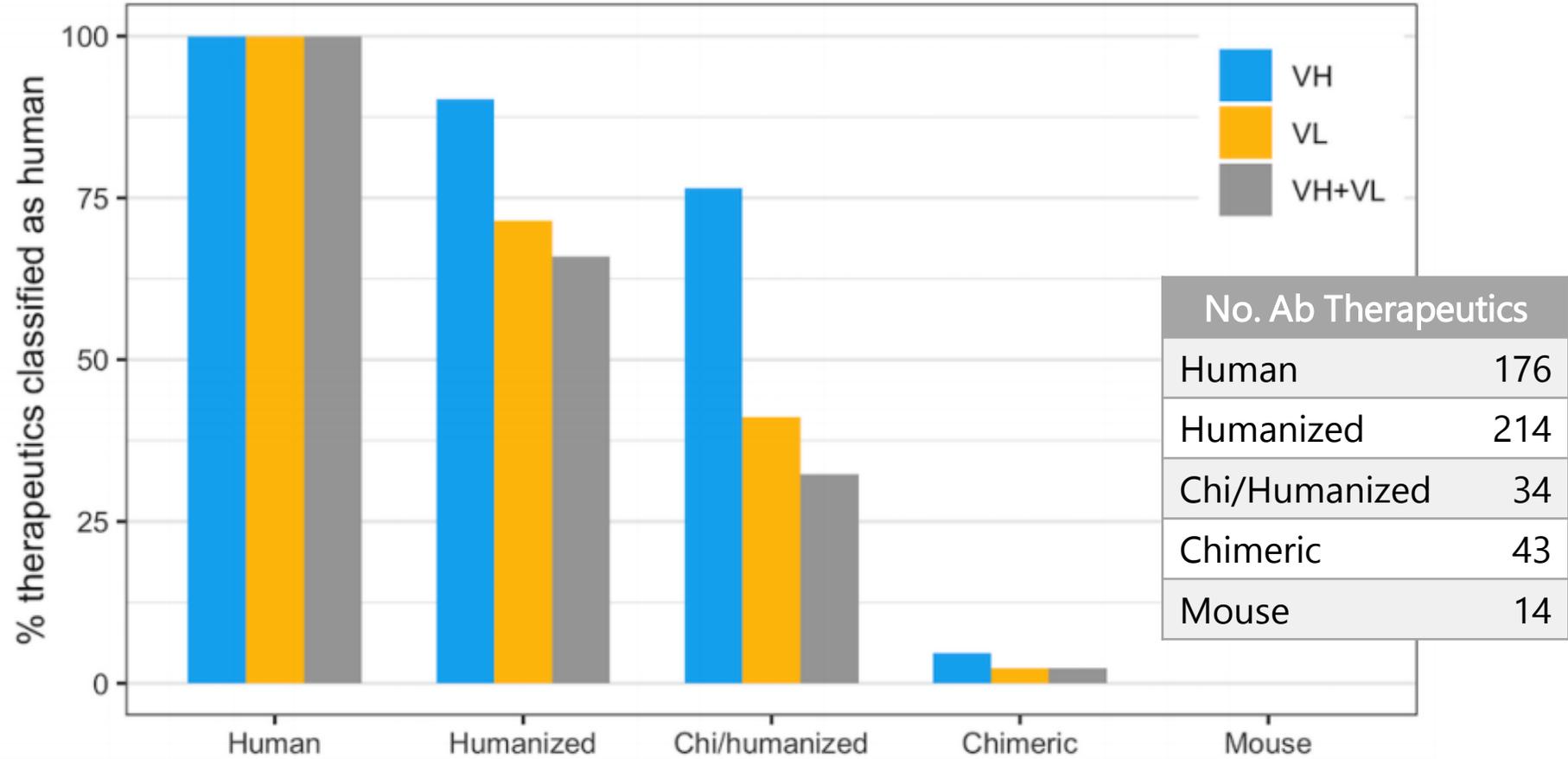
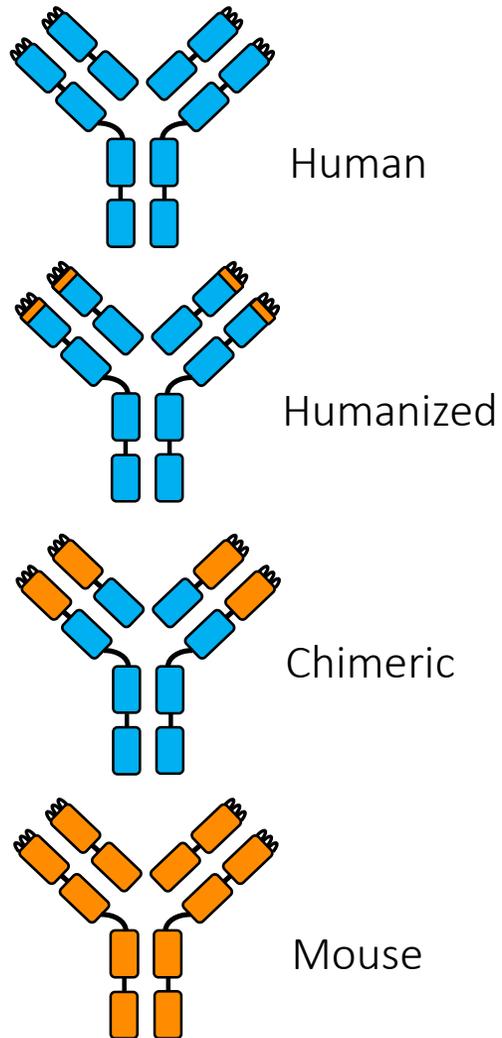
- Separate models for each human V gene type
- Human / non-human classification threshold set to maximize Youden's J statistic (model performance)

# Classification performance on OAS held out sets

Hu-mab			LSTM	
VH	ROCAUC	YJS	ROCAUC	YJS
V1	1.000000000	1.000000	0.999772	0.9960
V2	1.000000000	1.000000	0.999996	0.9970
V3	1.000000000	1.000000	0.994383	0.9418
V4	1.000000000	1.000000	0.991764	0.9917
V5	1.000000000	1.000000	0.999954	0.9981
V6	1.000000000	1.000000	0.999999	0.9997
V7	1.000000000	1.000000	0.999991	0.9991
VL			LSTM	
Kappa	ROCAUC	YJS	ROCAUC	YJS
V1	0.999999853	0.999796	0.939153	0.6790
V2	0.999999998	0.999958	0.997548	0.9481
V3	0.999999998	0.999956	0.993947	0.9156
V4	1.000000000	0.999997	0.998431	0.9746
V5	1.000000000	1.000000	0.999992	0.9993
V6	1.000000000	1.000000	0.999683	0.9930
VL			LSTM	
Lambda	ROCAUC	YJS	ROCAUC	YJS
V1	0.99999999994	0.999996	0.998347	0.9702
V2	0.99999999998	0.999997	0.995076	0.9191
V3	0.99999998860	0.999950	0.999284	0.9740
V4	1.00000000000	0.999987	0.999989	0.9989
V5	0.99999999941	0.999954	0.999981	0.9959
V6	1.00000000000	1.000000	0.999962	0.9939
V7	1.00000000000	1.000000	0.999802	0.9919
V8	1.00000000000	1.000000	0.999999	0.9996
V10	1.00000000000	0.999692	0.999732	0.9933

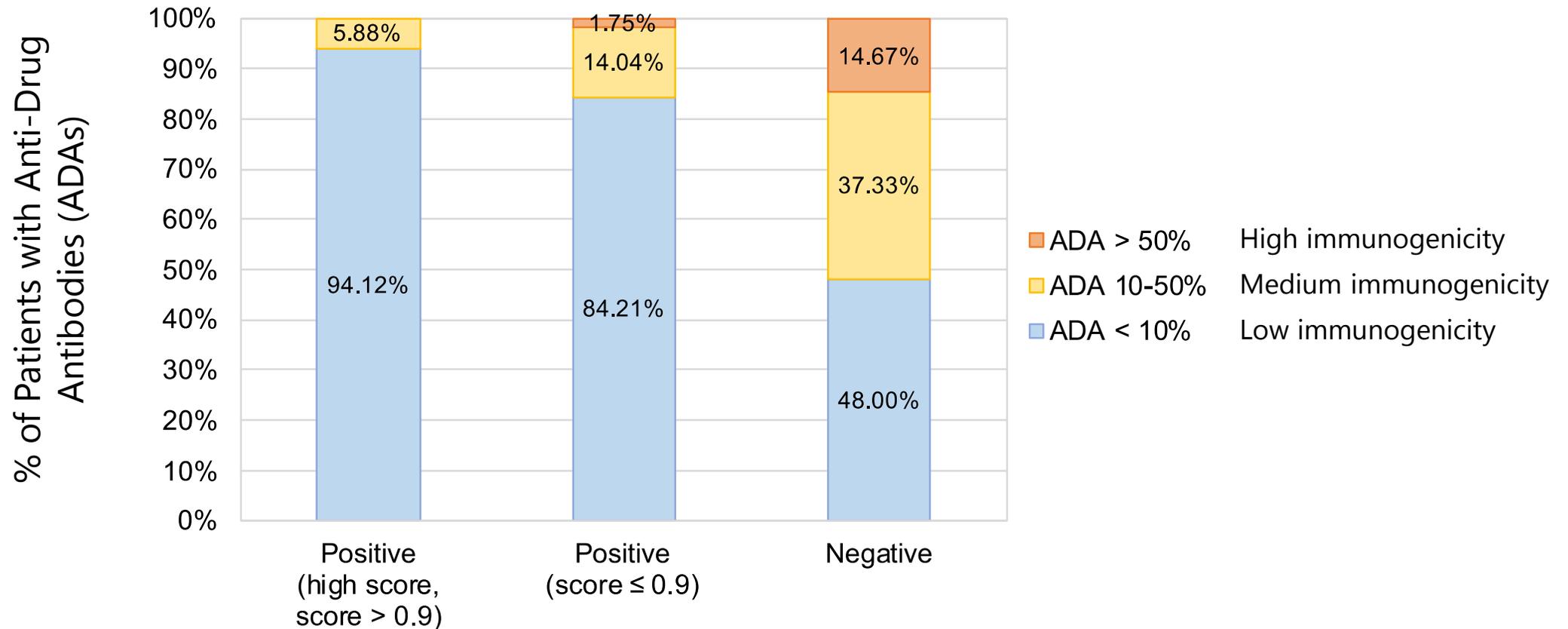
- Separate models for each HV, KV, LV genes
- Achieve very high ROC AUCs all over 0.99
- Hu-mAb outperforms previous LSTM in both AUC and YJS scores (Wollacott et al 2019)
- Also outperforms more recent humanness scorer BioPhi OASis (Prihoda et al 2021)

# Testing Hu-mAb on known therapeutics



Tested on known therapeutics (Phase1-3 & Approved) from Thera-SabDab

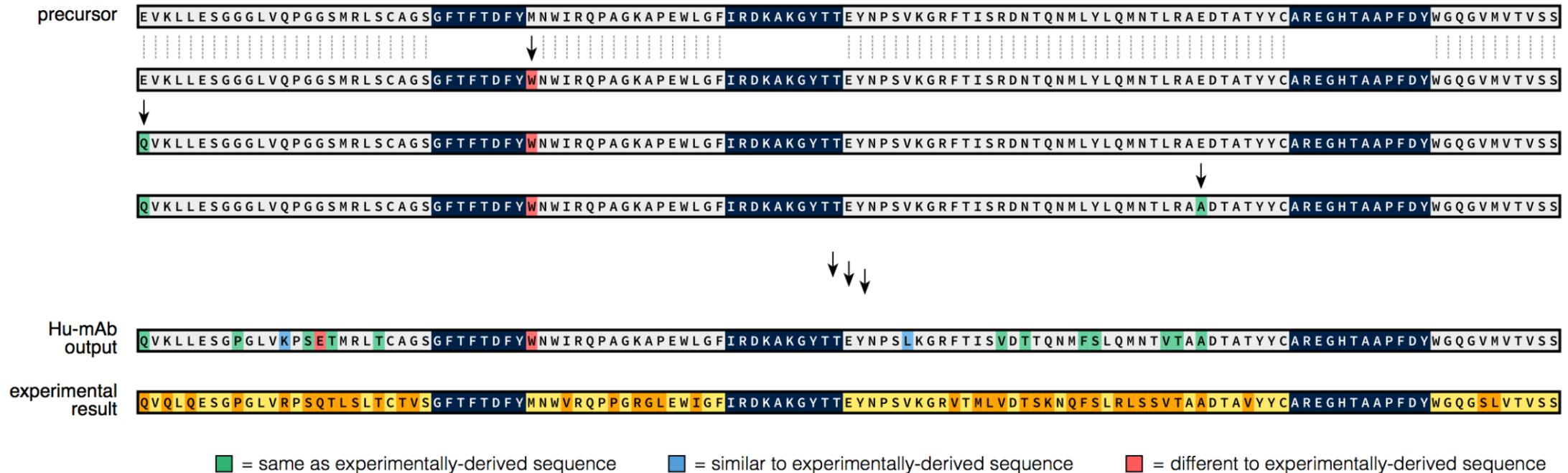
# Relationship between Hu-mAb scores and experimental immunogenicity.



Therapeutic sequences classified as human by our model tend to have low immunogenicity levels, while sequences classified as not human are more immunogenic

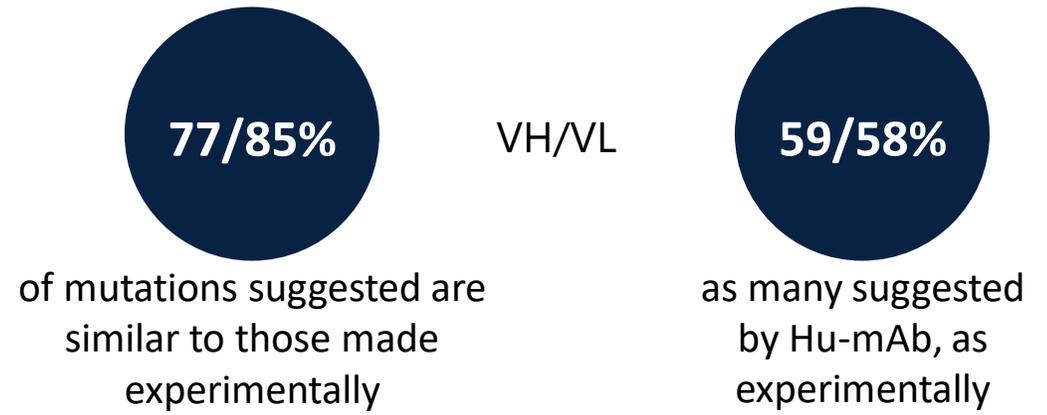
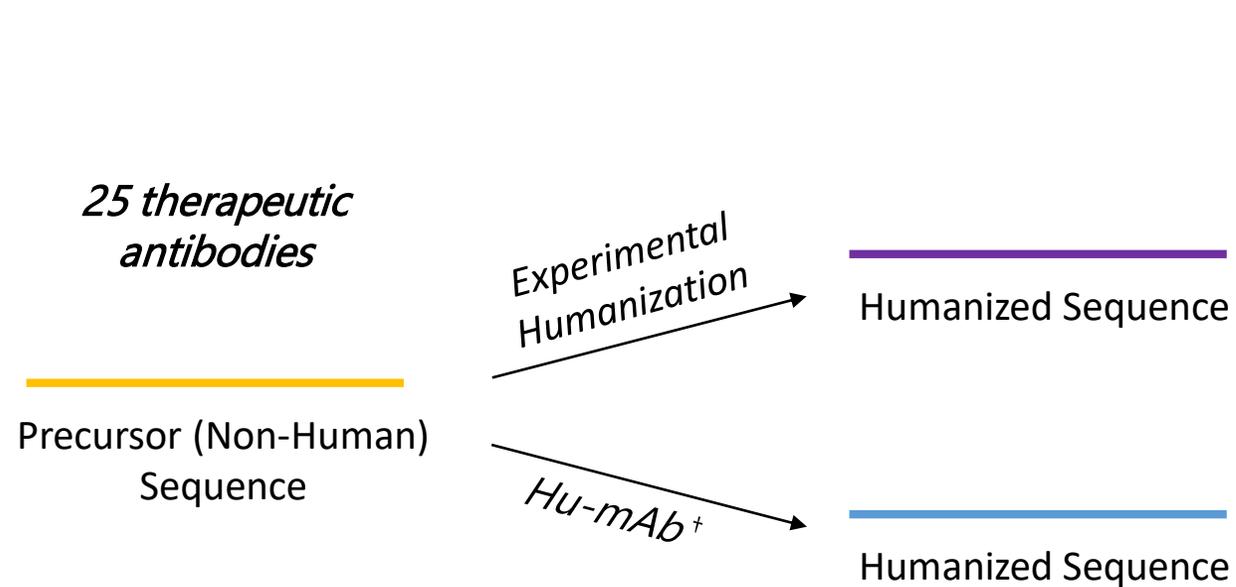
# The Hu-mAb humanization procedure

- Computationally suggest the optimal mutations that would lower immunogenicity.



- Tested Hu-Mab on 25 humanized sequences that demonstrated low immunogenicity and for which the precursor sequences were available.
  - Precursors were of murine, rat or rabbit origin

# Evaluation of Humanization by Hu-mAb



Comparison of Hu-mAb results with experimental humanization demonstrates **good agreement** but **greater efficiency** –

Hu-mAb proposes fewer mutations to the VH-VL interface making the orientation and therefore binding properties more likely to be preserved.

-> greater likelihood of preserving antibody structure & function

<sup>†</sup> Humanness threshold set to Hu-mAb humanness score of the experimentally humanized sequence



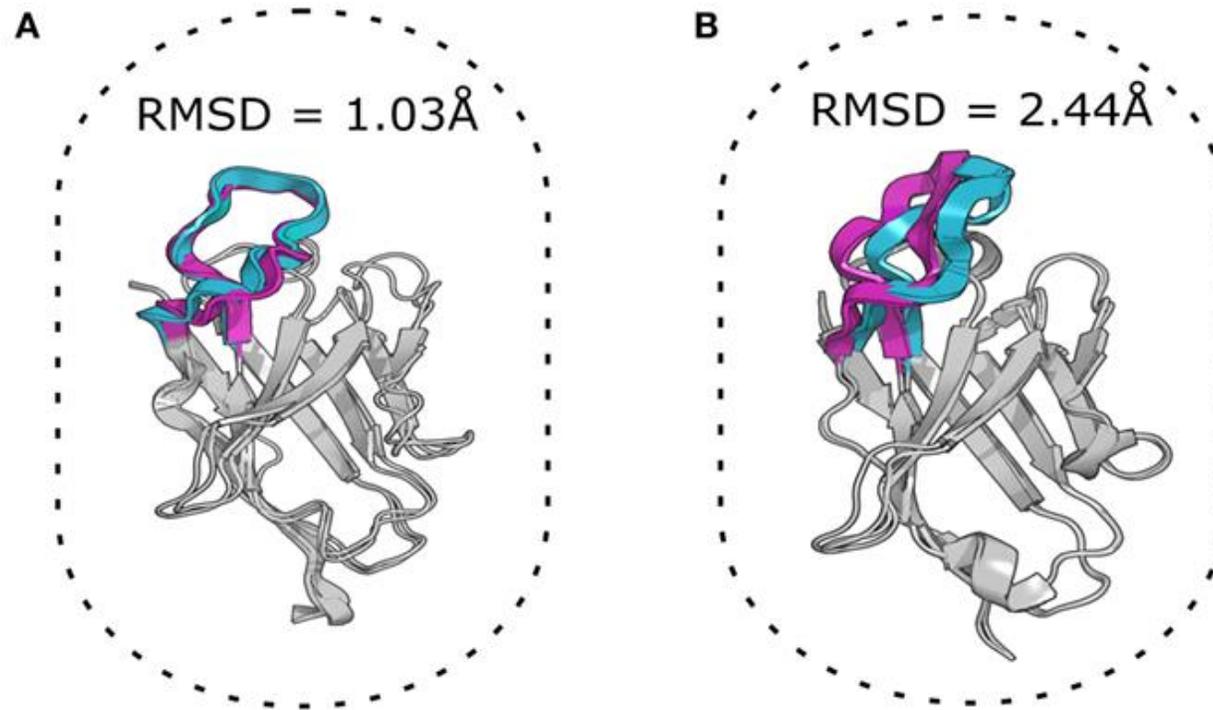
# Hu-mAb

- Accurately evaluate whether an antibody is 'human' or not (humanness)
- Predict whether an antibody is immunogenic
- Be used to improve the humanness of a sequence

**Available as a webserver at: [opig.stats.ox.ac.uk/webapps/humab](http://opig.stats.ox.ac.uk/webapps/humab)**

Structurally annotating Immune  
repertoire data

# Similar structure/similar sequence



Pair	PDB	V gene	J gene	CDRH3	Sequence identity	RMSD
A	4NZU	IGHV3-30*11	IGHJ4*01	ARAPDCADADCHKGAFGY	27.7%	1.03Å
	4S1S	IGHV1-2*04	IGHJ1*01	VRTADCERDPCKGWVFPH		
B	3U7W	IGHV1-2*02	IGHJ1*01	TRGKYCTARDYYNWDFEH	88%	2.44Å
	4JDV	IGHV1-2*02	IGHJ1*01	ARGKYCTARDYYNWDFQH		

# Structural information on BCR repertoire antigen specificity

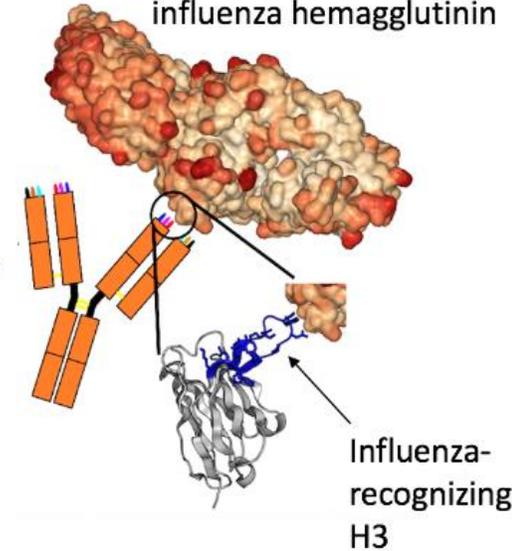
H3 sequences from the FLU dataset

LVRGSYPDPLYFFDY
HASVTAVDTFNWIDP
LSASSYGRAQYYTDF
LVRGSYPDPLYFFDS
GIRGRQPDRTYHFDF
.....

SAAB  
structural  
mapping



4m5z – antibody bound to influenza hemagglutinin



Influenza-  
recognizing  
H3

Example: Post FLU challenge Ig-seq

Many H3 sequences (>7000) are structurally the same as those in 4m5z – complex of an antibody with influenza hemagglutinin

The similarity of these H3s could not be identified by sequence alone

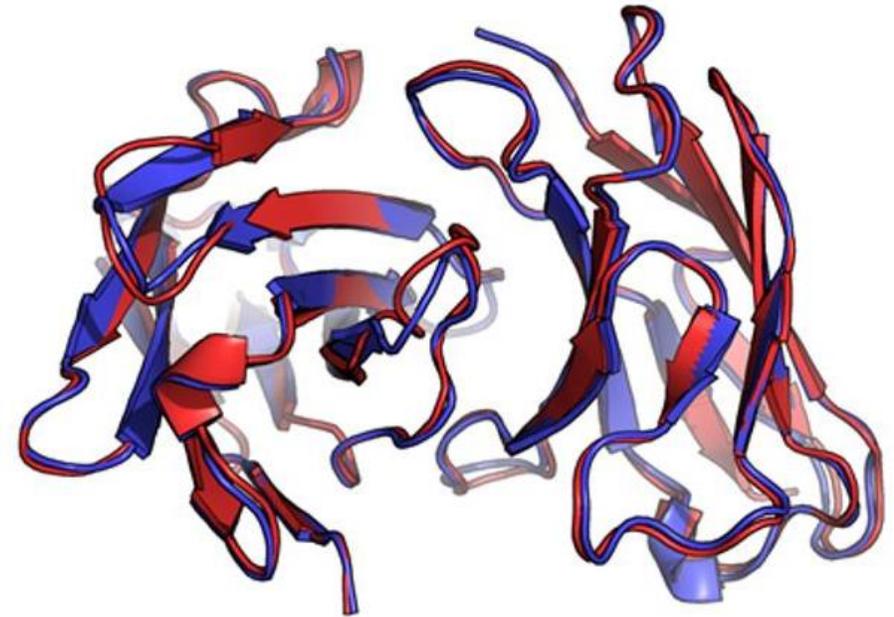
# The Therapeutic Antibody Profiler (TAP)

## Five Computational Developability Guidelines

- Therapeutic antibodies must not only bind to their target but must also be free from 'developability issues' such as poor stability or high levels of aggregation.
- TAP is an *in-silico* antibody design analog of the Lipinski's rule of five for small molecules
  - to guide the selection of antibodies with appropriate biophysical properties
- Derive distributions of metrics for clinical stage therapeutics and assume that these indicate the allowed values of these properties.
  - Calculate these metrics on models so can run against potential therapeutics where crystal structures are unavailable
- These metrics don't have to correlate with a particular experiment that tests for developability rather they indicate that a potential therapeutic has outlying values.

# Datasets – structural models

- Models of the variable domain structures of 137 post-Phase I clinical-stage antibody therapeutics (CSTs)\*
  - Models are accurate enough for our metrics (tested with the 56 CSTs with known structure)
  - Average RMSD of framework < 1Å
  - Less than 4% of residues are wrongly annotated exposed/buried



## Five properties:

1. CDRH3 or Total CDR length [aggregation, flexibility, topology]
2. Patches of Surface Hydrophobicity (PSH) across the CDR Vicinity [aggregation, viscosity]
3. Patches of Surface Positive Charge (PPC) across the CDR Vicinity [poor expression, aggregation, viscosity, polyspecificity]
4. Patches of Surface Negative Charge (PNC) across the CDR Vicinity [poor expression, aggregation, viscosity, polyspecificity]
5. Structural Fv Charge Symmetry Parameter [aggregation, viscosity]

## Datasets:

137 Post-Phase I  
Therapeutic Models

Sets the **acceptable bounds**  
of the five properties

14k Representative  
Human Antibody Models<sup>2,3</sup>

Provides a  
“**natural antibody comparison**”

2 Datasets of MedImmune  
Developability Failures

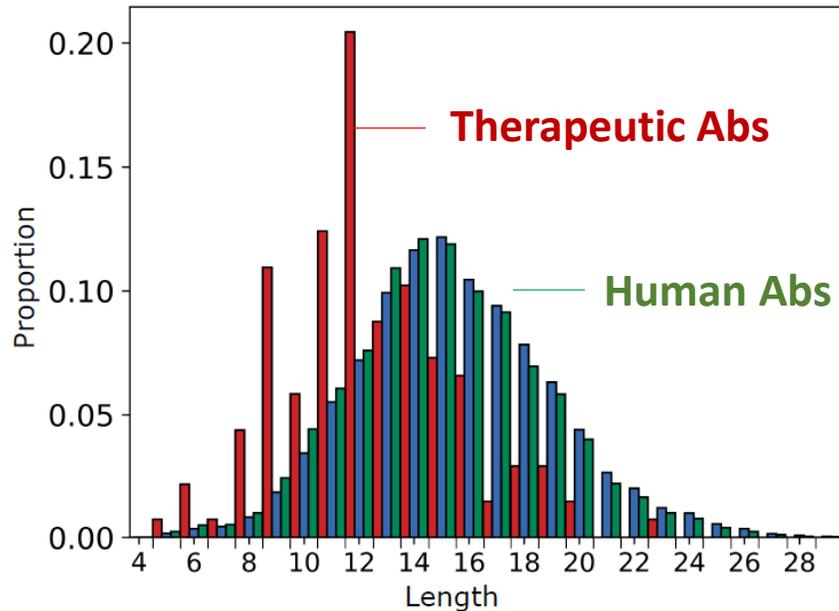
Used to **validate** that we can  
selectively highlight mAbs with  
developability issues

<sup>2</sup>Vander Heiden JA, *et al.* (2017) Dysregulation of B cell repertoire formation in myasthenia gravis patients revealed through deep sequencing. *J. Immunol.* 198:1460–1473.

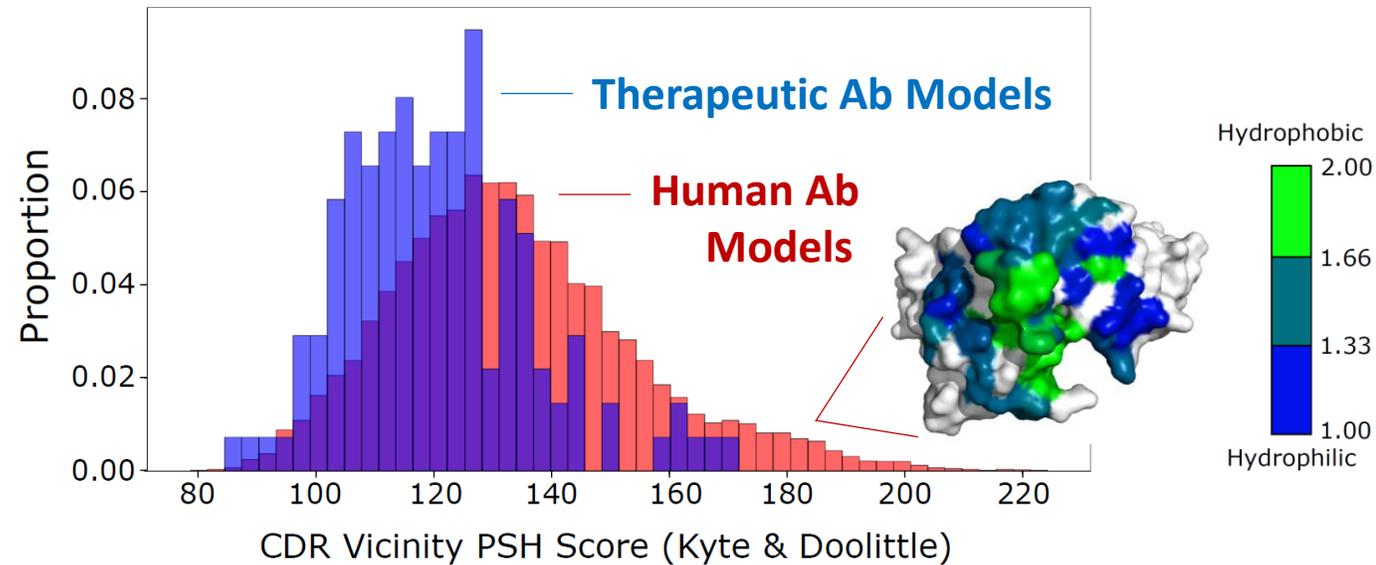
<sup>3</sup>Raybould, MIJ *et al.* (2019) Five computational developability guidelines for therapeutic antibody profiling. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 116(10):4025-4030.

# Comparisons: Therapeutics vs. Human Antibodies

## CDRH3 Length



## Patches of Surface Hydrophobicity (PSH)

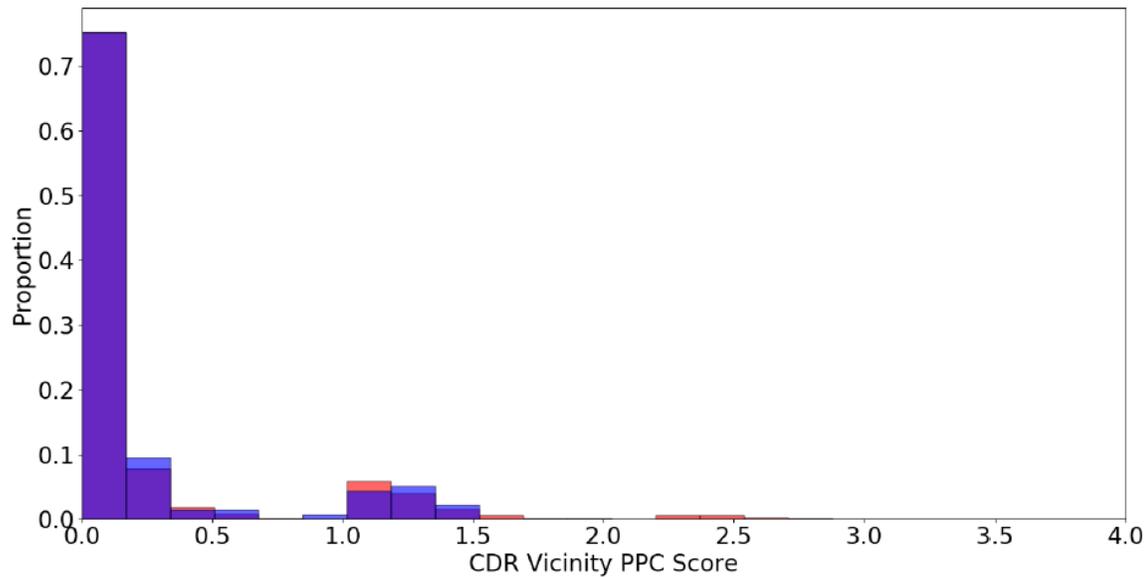


$$\sum_{R1 R2} \frac{H(R1, S) H(R2, S)}{r_{12}^2}$$

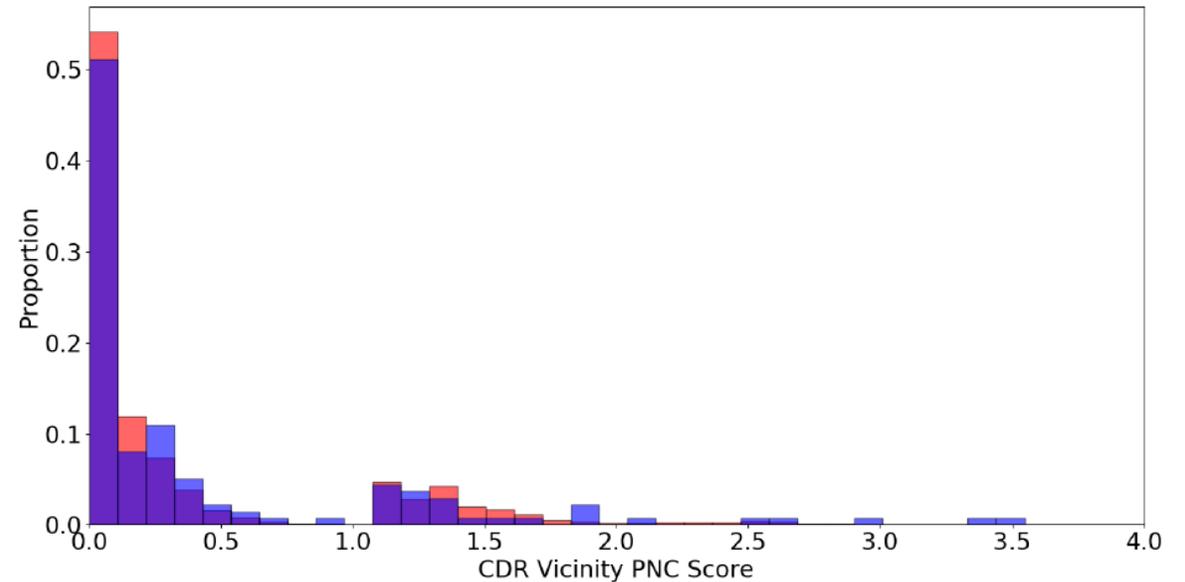
- Therapeutics tend to have shorter CDRH3s and smaller patches of surface hydrophobicity than human antibodies

# Comparisons: Therapeutics vs. Human Antibodies

## Patches of Surface Positive Charge (PPC)



## Patches of Surface Negative Charge (PNC)



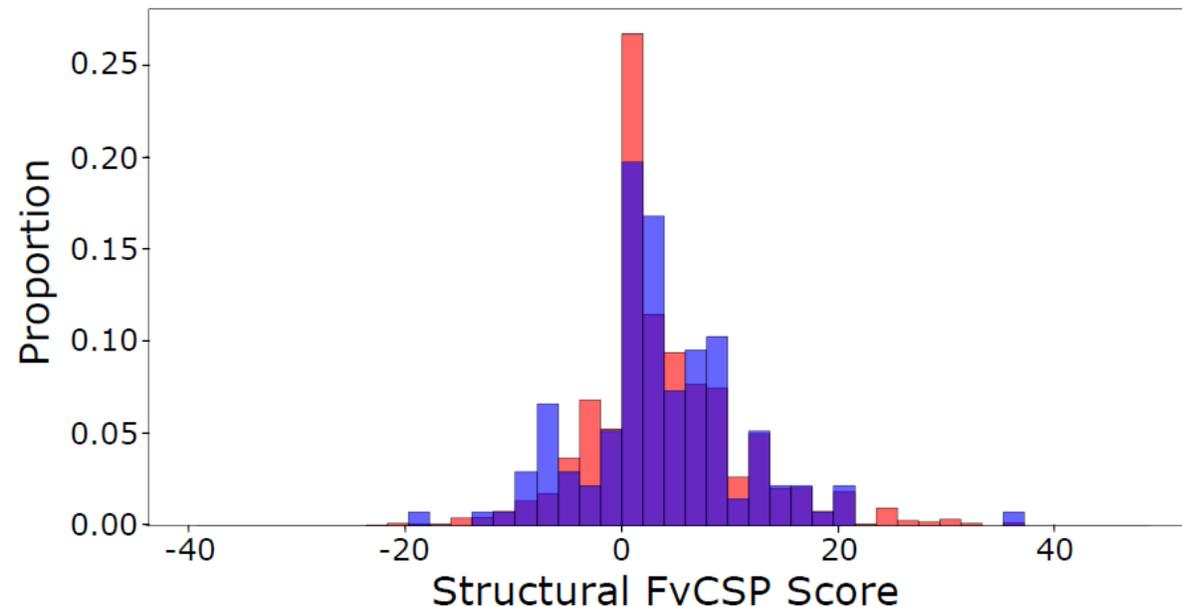
$$\sum_{R1 R2} \frac{|Q(R1)| |Q(R2)|}{r_{12}^2}$$

**Blue:** Therapeutic Antibody Models  
**Red:** Human Antibody Models

- Therapeutics and human Abs have similar sizes of positive charge and negative charge patches

# Comparisons: Therapeutics vs. Human Antibodies

## Structural Fv Charge Symmetry Parameter (SFvCSP)



$$\left[ \sum_{R_H} Q(R_H) \right] \left[ \sum_{R_L} Q(R_L) \right]$$

**Blue:** Therapeutic Antibody Models

**Red:** Human Antibody Models

- Both therapeutic and human antibodies have an aversion to strongly oppositely-charged VH and VL chains

# Validation: Things TAP shouldn't flag

- Tested against 105 extra post-Phase I therapeutics

Metric	137 CST Amber Flag Region	Number Amber Flagged	137 CST Red Flag Region	Number Red Flagged
Total CDR Length (L)	$54 < L \leq 59$	6	$L > 59$	2*
PSH, CDR Vicinity (Kyte)	$85.65 \leq \text{PSH} < 98.74$	2	$\text{PSH} < 85.65$	1
	$155.76 < \text{PSH} \leq 171.91$	5	$\text{PSH} < 171.91$	1*
PPC, CDR Vicinity	$1.23 \leq \text{PPC} < 1.51$	1	$(> 1.51)$	5*
PNC, CDR Vicinity	$1.90 \leq \text{PNC} < 3.50$	4	$(> 3.50)$	0
SFvCSP	$-39.00 \leq \text{SFvCSP} < -18.00$	1	$(< -39.00)$	1

\*Erenumab flagged for each of these properties

- Low red-flagging rate (8 of 105), implies won't pick out genuine therapeutics as having issues very often.

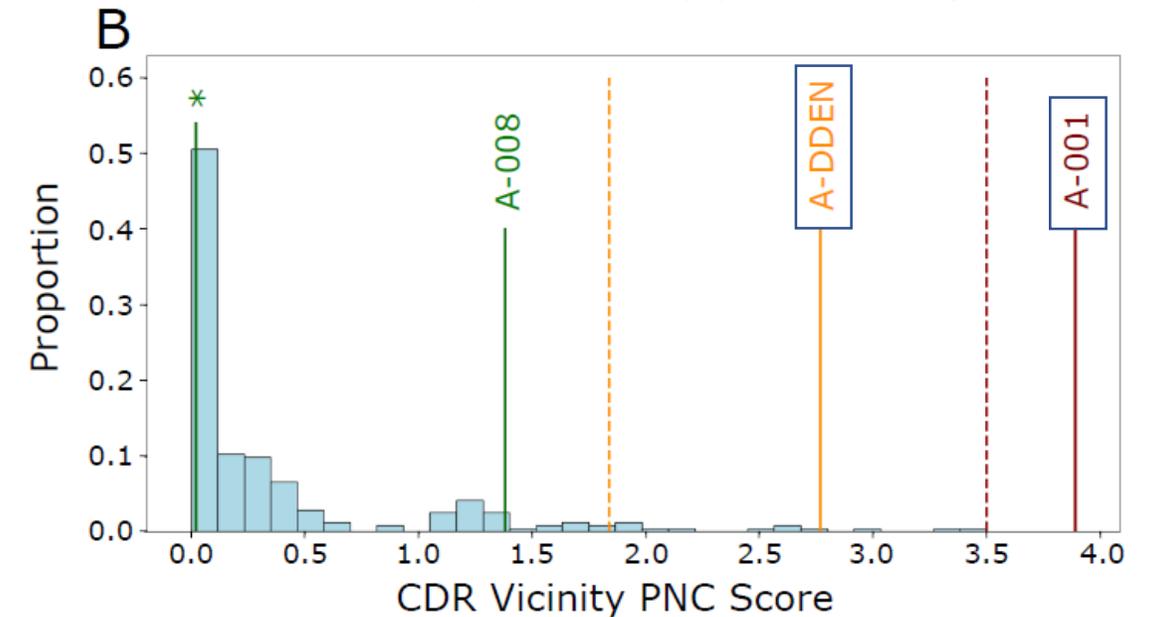
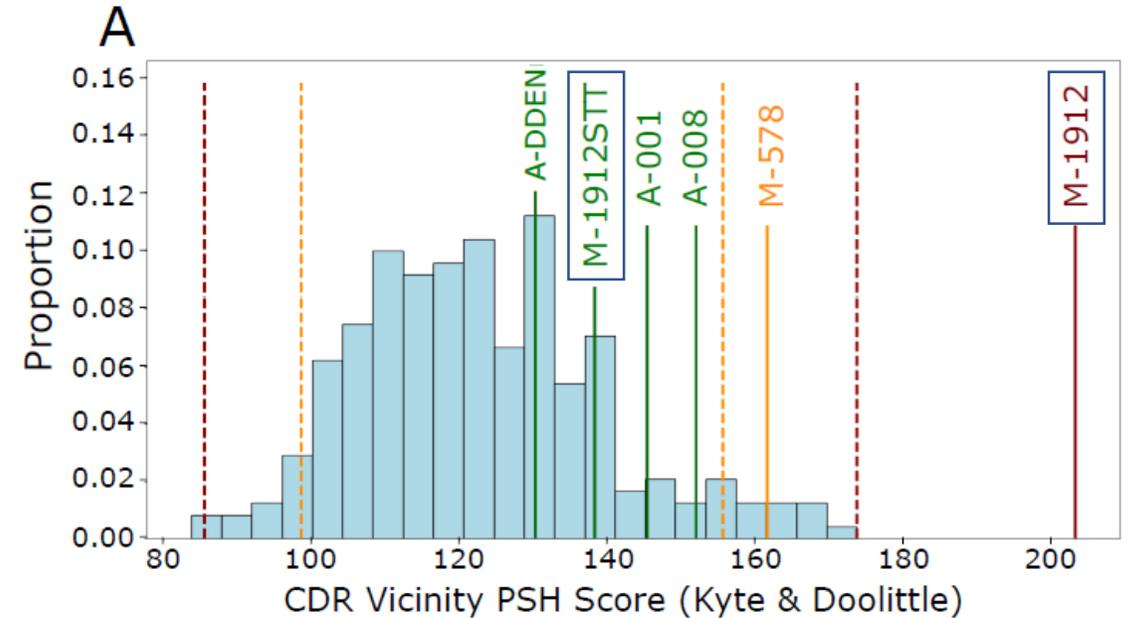
# Validation

**M-1912** aggregated uncontrollably during development, and exhibited extremely high values in our CDR Vicinity PSH metric.

**M-1912STT** resolved the issue.

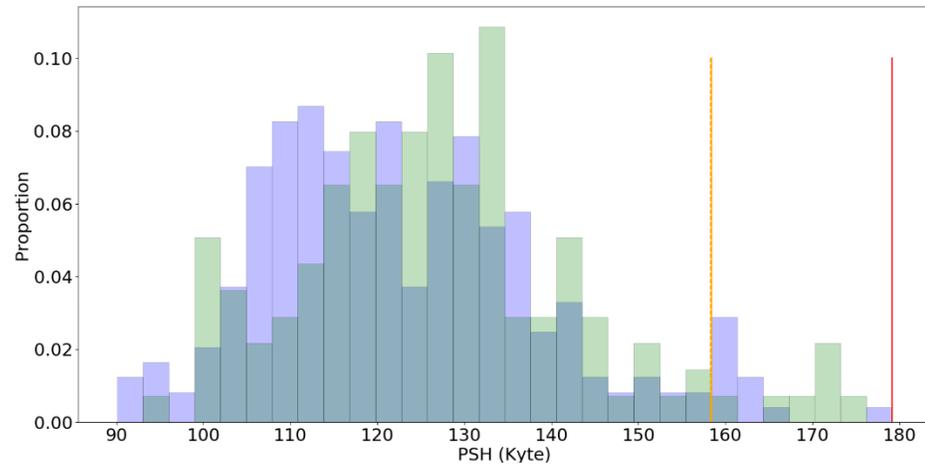
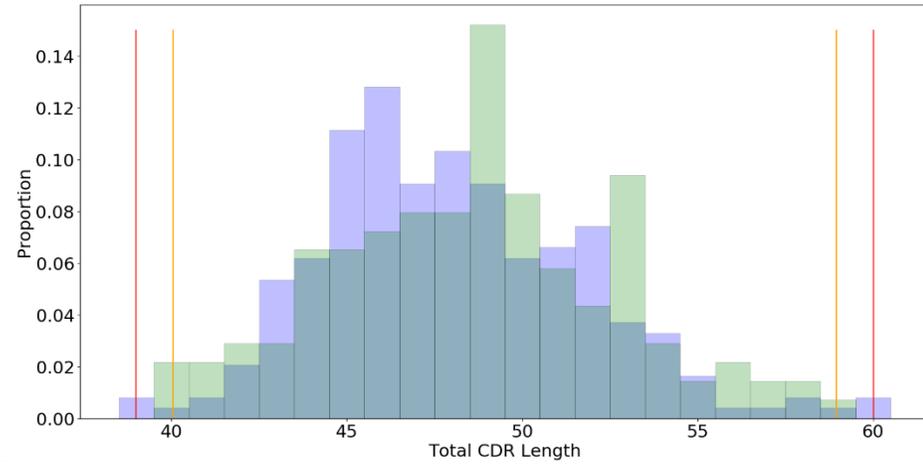
**A001** had prohibitively poor expression levels, and exhibited extremely high values in our CDR Vicinity PNC metric.

**A-DDEN** fixed the issue (backbone engineering)



# TAP guidelines auto-updating

242CSTs    New 138CSTs    242 Guideline    380 Guideline





## Coronavirus-Binding Antibody Sequences & Structures

The [Oxford Protein Informatics Group](#) (Dept. of Statistics, University of Oxford) is collaborating in efforts to understand the immune response to SARS-CoV2 infection and vaccination. As part of our investigations, we are releasing and maintaining this public database to [document all published/patented binding antibodies and nanobodies to coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV2, SARS-CoV1, and MERS-CoV.](#)

Explanations and a preliminary analysis of the database contents can be found in our [Applications Note](#) in Bioinformatics. Please consider citing it if you are making use of our database in your research. [BibTex Reference](#).

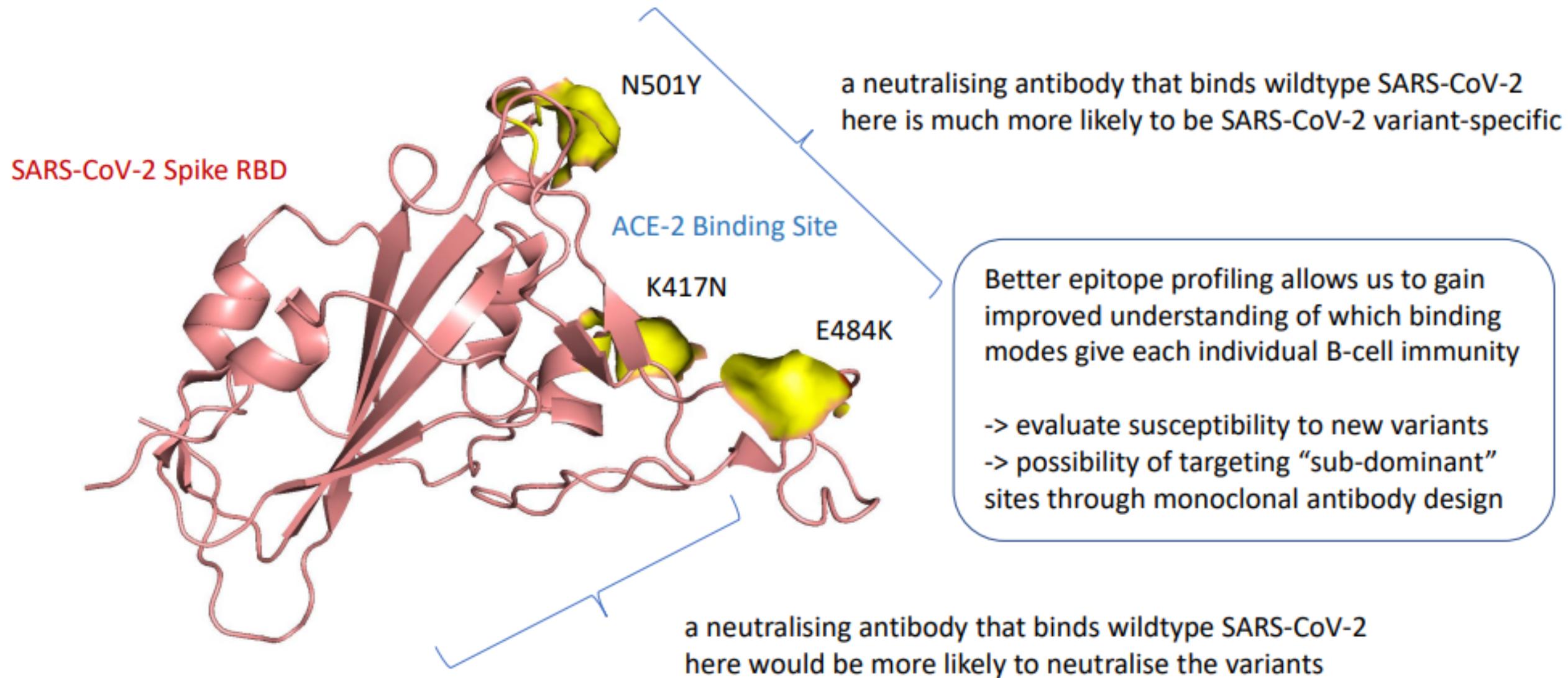
If you have recently released a preprint, paper, or publication with SARS-CoV-2 binding antibodies, please let us know by emailing [opig@stats.ox.ac.uk](mailto:opig@stats.ox.ac.uk).

> [Downloads](#)

> [Search Database by Attribute](#)

To view all entries, leave all search fields as 'All' and click 'Search'.

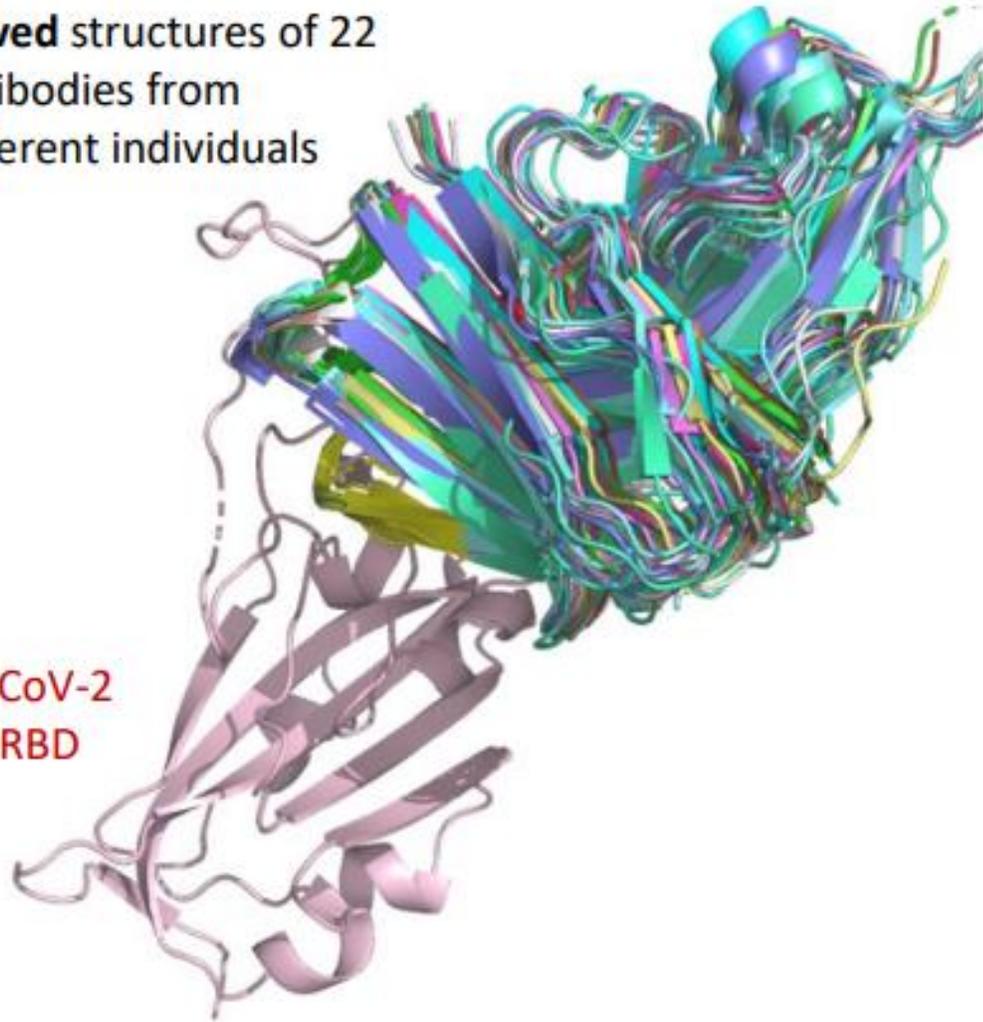
# Epitope profiling: it's really important to know **where** pathogen response antibodies bind...



# Computational Epitope Profiling using **solved** structures

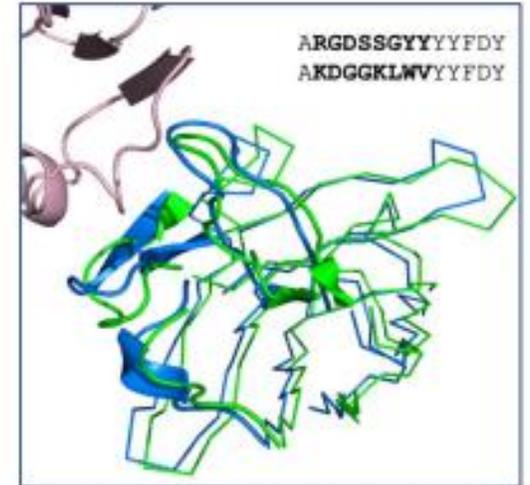
**solved** structures of 22 antibodies from different individuals

SARS-CoV-2  
Spike RBD



CDRH3 Sequences

**AREAYGMDV**  
**ARSPYGGNS**  
**AREVAGTYDY**  
**ARDVADAFDI**  
**ARDFYEGSFDI**  
**ARDLGPYGMDV**  
**ARDFGDFYFDY**  
ARDYGDYYFDY  
ARDYGDYYFDY  
**ARDLDVYGLDV**  
ARDLMVYGIDV  
**ARDLGSGDMDV**  
**ARDLVVYGMDV**  
**ARDLERAGGMDV**  
ARDLGEAGGMDV  
**ARDLDVSGGMDV**  
**ARDLQELGSLDY**  
**ARVLPMYGDYLDY**  
**ARGDVSGYRYGLDY**  
ARGDVSGYRYGLDY  
ARGDVSGYRYGLDY  
ARGDVSGYRYGLDY



Antibody response to SARS-CoV-2 can be **functionally public** even if the sequences are dissimilar

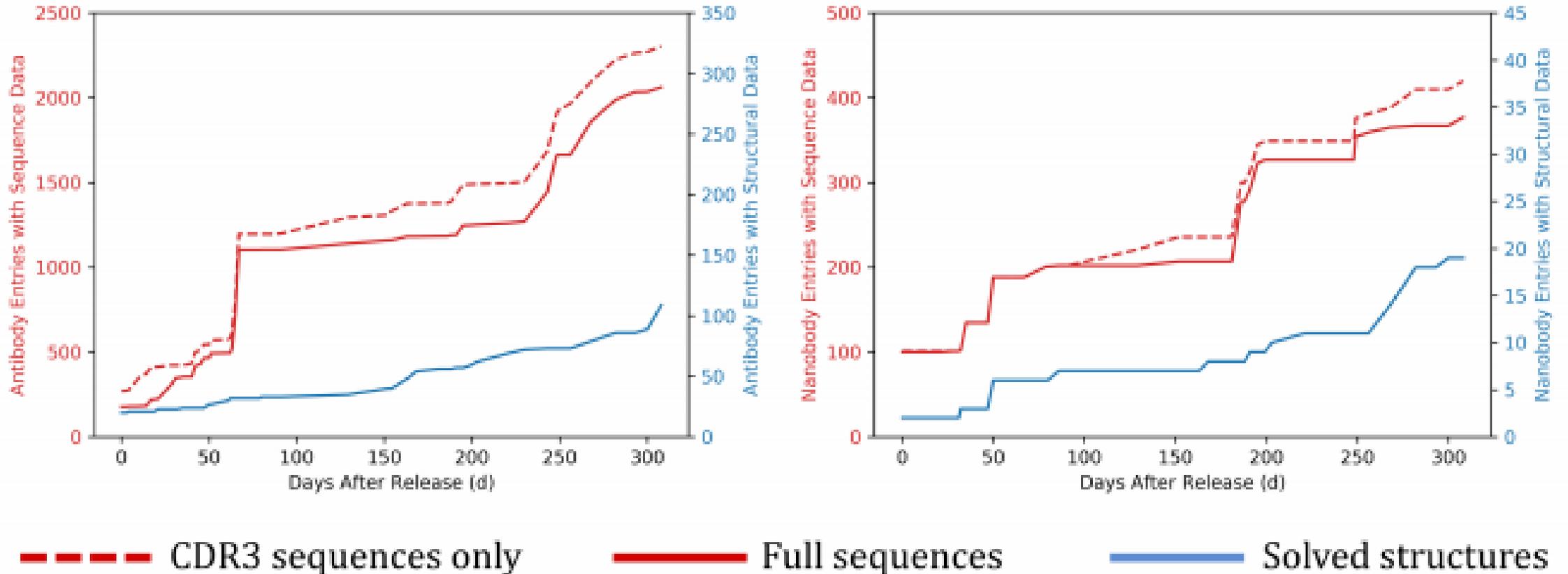
We can use the structures of the antibodies as another way to functionally group them as binding the same epitope

**But most antibodies don't have solved structures...**

# Epitope profiling of coronavirus-binding antibodies using computational structural modelling

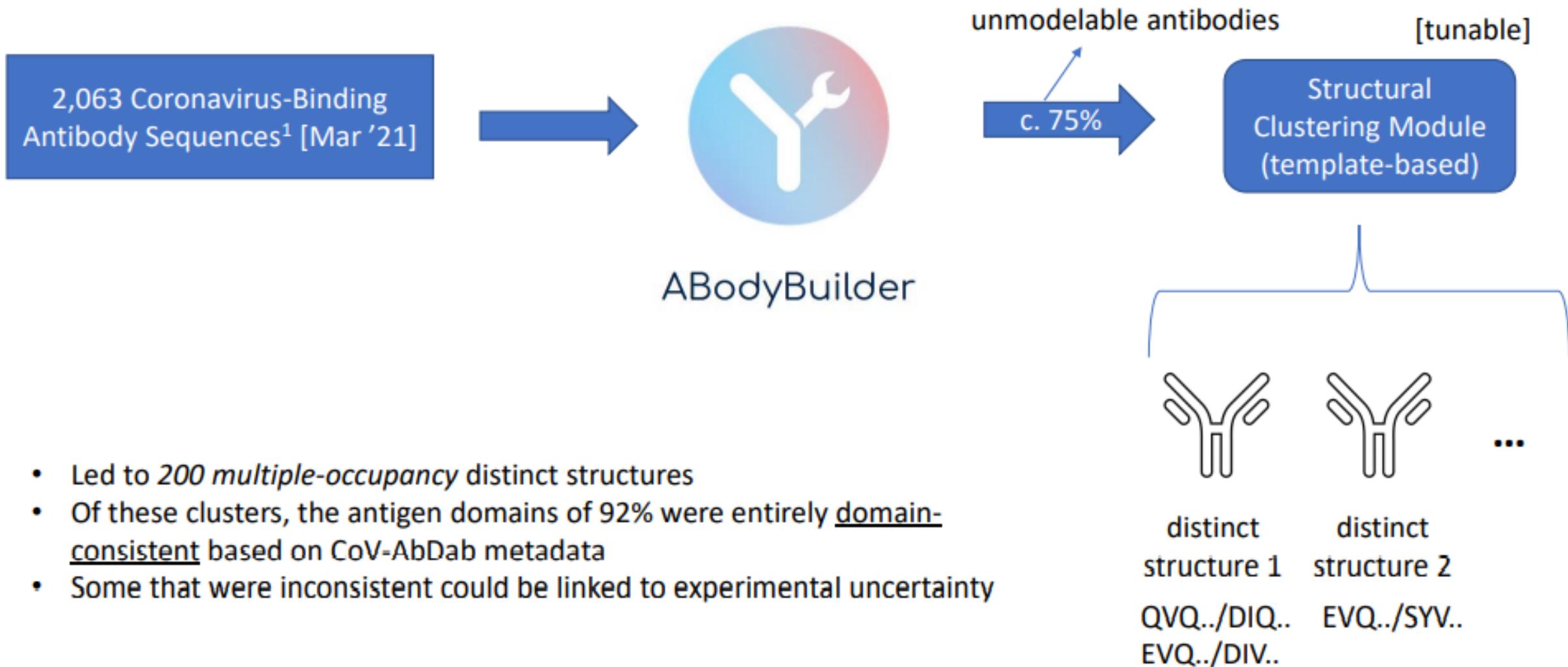
- Antibodies from markedly different lineages but with similar structures can engage the same epitope with near-identical binding modes.
- Identify sequence-dissimilar antibodies that engage the same epitope
  - Input a large dataset of antibodies known to bind to a single antigen some with known epitopes
  - Use a novel computational method to epitope profile the dataset based on structural modelling and clustering
- Show this on CovAbDab

# CoVAbDab in sequences and structures



As of 11 March, just ~5% (113/2,304) of the antibodies in CoV-AbDab had at least one solved X-ray or cryo-EM structure, while ~90% (2,063/2,304) of the antibodies had full Fv amino acid sequences

# Computational Epitope Profiling using **predicted structures**

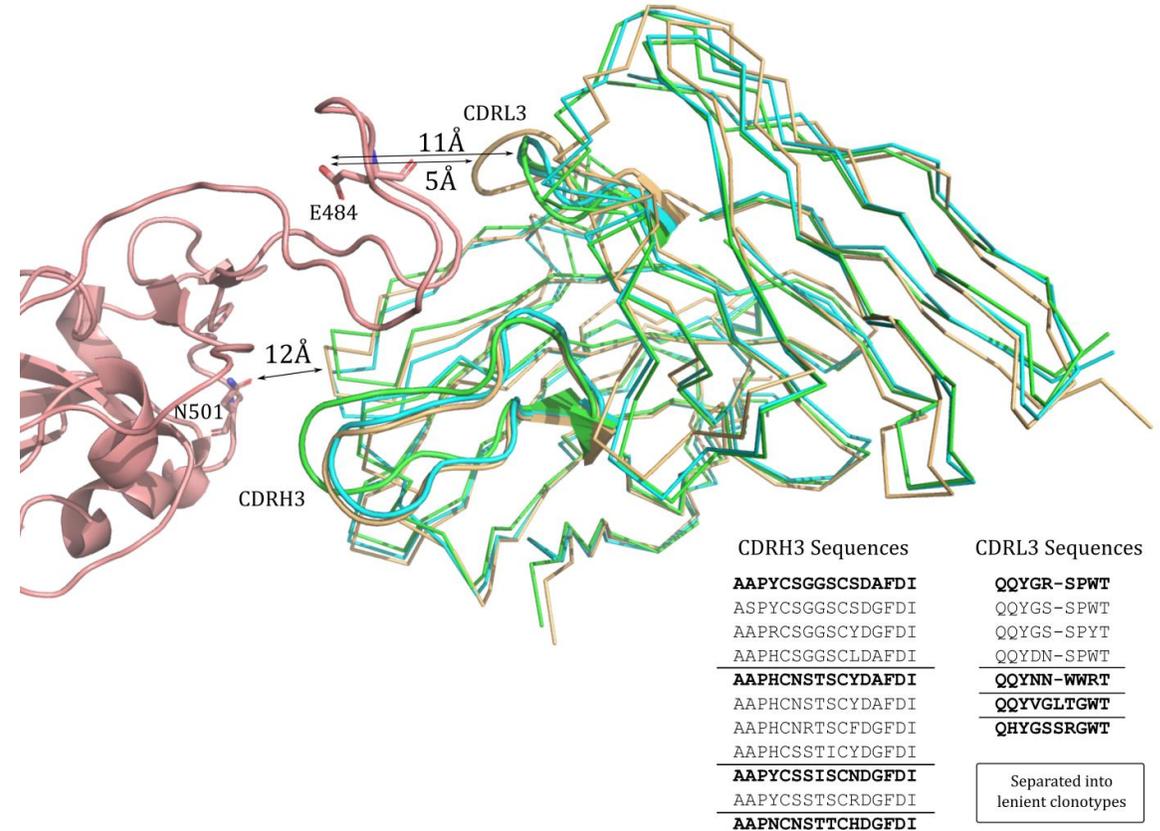


# Predicting structure to predict epitopes

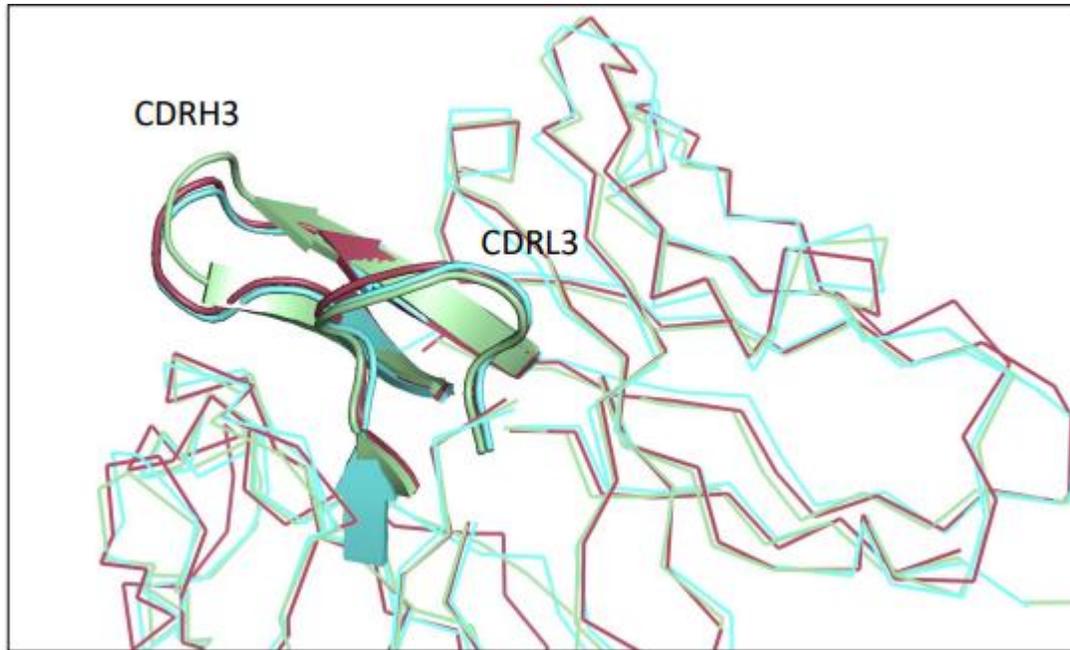
- Use Abodybuilder to model the 2063 sequences
  - “accurate models for 1500”
- Structurally cluster the models
  - 1,159 clusters
  - 541 sequences belonged to the 200 clusters that had > 1 sequence in
- For 184 of the 200 clusters the antibodies engage the same epitope based on available data. → 92% accuracy
- The 16 false positives
  - poor expt labelling
  - poor modelling
- Structural clusters frequently span multiple clonal lineages.

# Predicting structure to predict epitopes

- The functional properties of the less well-characterised antibodies can be inferred from other antibodies predicted to adopt the same structure.
- One experiment could reveal the binding side of whole un-annotated clusters



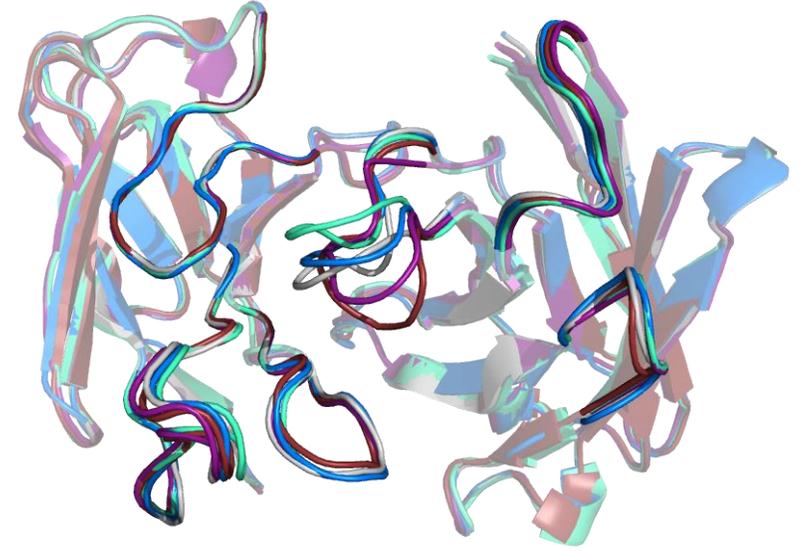
# Clustering by predicted structure functionally links coronavirus-binding antibodies across the species barrier



- Mice (maroon and green) and humans (cyan) create sequence dissimilar since they have distinct germlines
- Example of a human and two murine RBD binders with very high structural similarity
- Allows us to understand which coronavirus binding sites are targetable by different gene loci
- **Compare immune functions of different organisms**

# Structural Profiling of Antibodies to Cluster by Epitope, “SPACE”

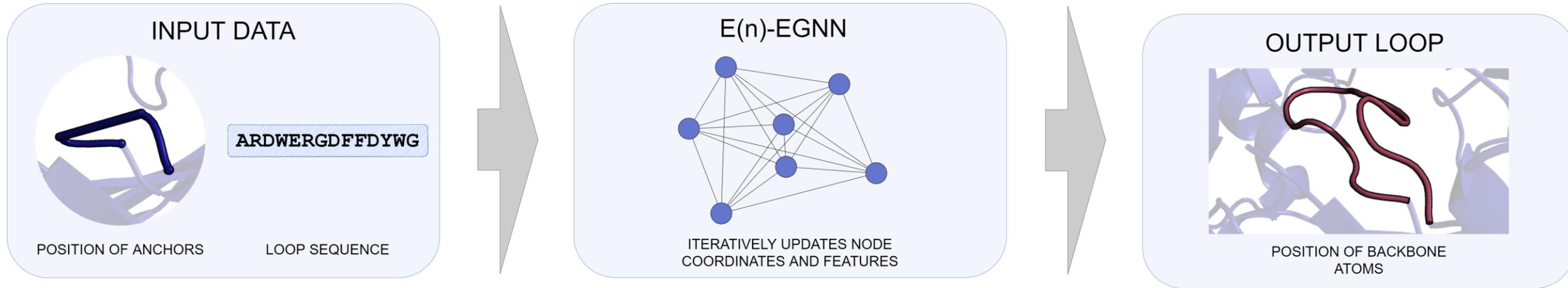
- 92% prediction accuracy
- Functionally links antibodies with distinct genetic lineages, species origins, and coronavirus specificities
- Greater convergence exists in the immune responses to coronaviruses than would be suggested by sequence-based approaches.
- Applying structural analytics to large class-specific antibody databases will enable high confidence structure-function relationships to be drawn
- Will not only be useful for early-stage drug discovery but also for understanding epitope immunodominance, and therefore vaccine design.



# ABlooper

Improving the speed and quality of structural models of antibodies

# ABlooper pipeline



- Use 5 E(n)-Equivariant Graph Neural Networks (E(n)-EGNN) to give 5 predictions of all of the CDRs
  - Average the 5 to create the final prediction
- End to end predictor – small energy minimisation useful.
- Gives an estimate of the accuracy of prediction.

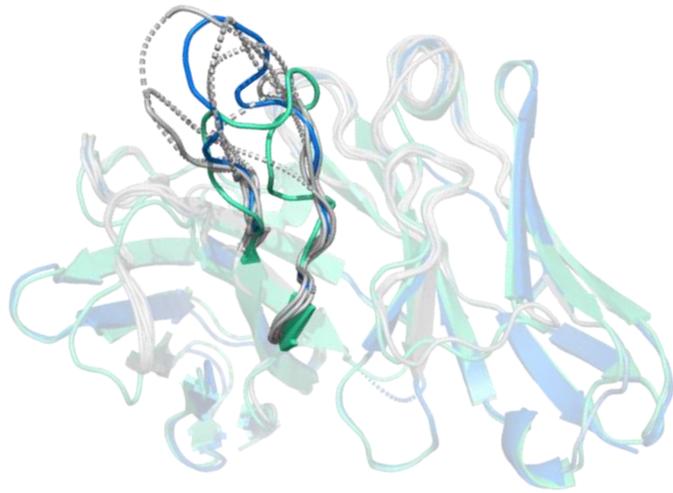
# Predicting CDR-H3 on modelled structures

	<b>Rosetta Antibody Benchmark</b>	<b>SABDab Latest Structures</b>
AlphaFold2	2.87*	
ABodyBuilder	2.77	3.25
DeepAb	2.44	2.49*
ABlooper	2.49	2.72
Ablooper Unrelaxed	2.45	2.66

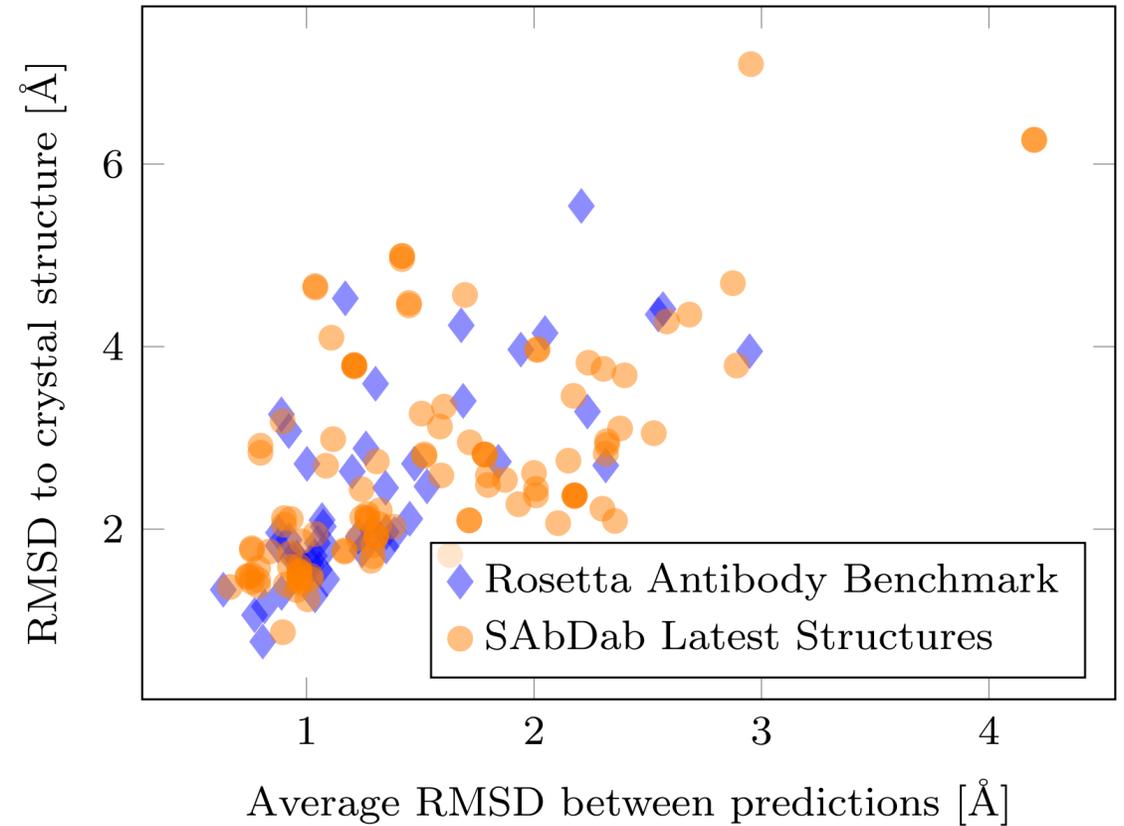
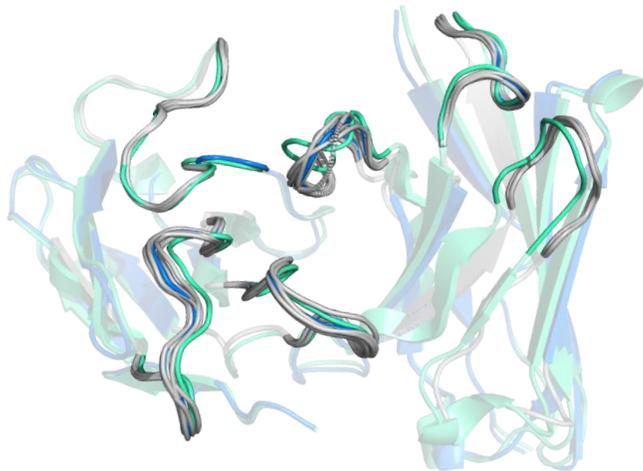
RMSD across backbone atoms to the correct structure

\*potentially these structures were contained in the training of these methods

# Prediction diversity reveals prediction quality



- **Crystal**
- Decoys
- **Prediction**



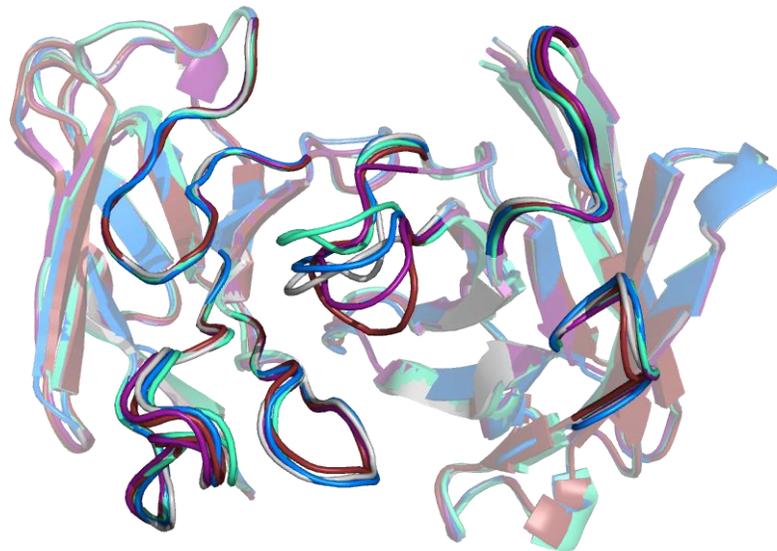
# ABlooper – rapid accurate structure prediction for antibodies.

Overall similar levels of accuracy to other deep learning methods

ABlooper is faster

- Can predict the CDRs for one hundred structures in under five seconds.

ABlooper contains an accuracy estimate



- **Crystal**
- ABodyBuilder
- **ABlooper**
- **AlphaFold**
- DeepAb

# Acknowledgements

Kymab  
Jacob Galson  
Paul Kellam

Astra Zeneca  
Maria Flocco  
Andrew Buchanan

GSK  
Alan Lewis  
Matthew Bottomley  
Newton Wahome  
Ian Wall

All the ex members of  
OPIG

Particularly  
Claire Marks

Wing Ki Wong  
Aleksander Kovaltsuk  
Mark Chin  
Jinwoo Leem  
Konrad Krawczyk

UCB  
Jiye Shi  
James Snowden

Roche  
Guy Georges  
Alexander Bujotzek

All the current  
members of OPIG

Particularly  
Matthew Raybould  
Eve Richardson  
Sarah Robinson  
Brennan Abanades  
Kenyon

Constantin Schneider



# Software Availability

- Free OPIG Webserver and GitHub.

<http://opig.stats.ox.ac.uk/webapps/newsabdab/sabpred/>



If data is IP-sensitive or as an academic you want to run large batches

- Vagrant VirtualBox
- Singularity Virtual Machine



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