



# CRS 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo

***Advanced Delivery Science***

July 11–15, 2022 | Montreal Congress Center, Montreal Canada

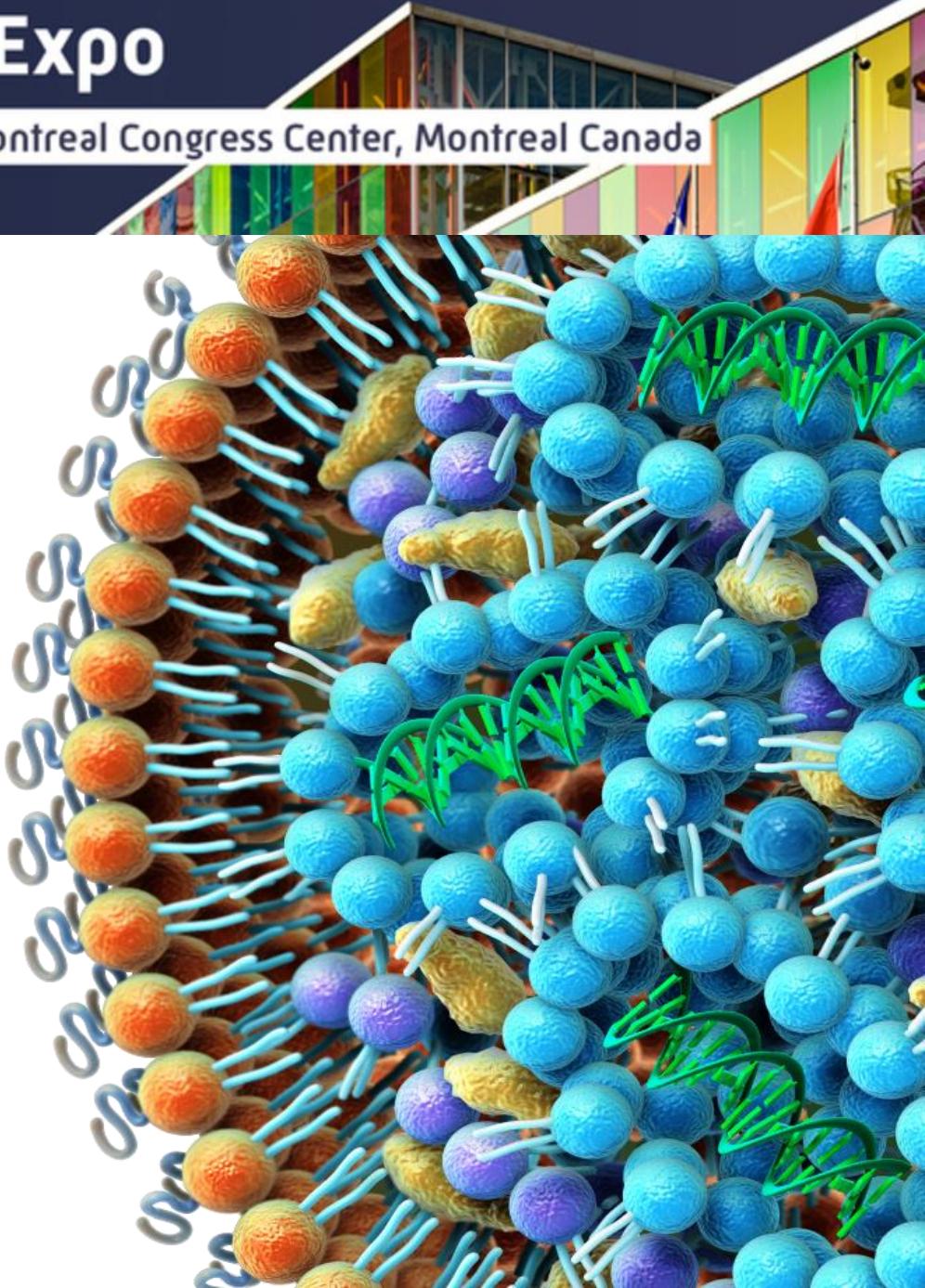
## **Accelerating the Development of RNA-Based Medicines Using the Genomic Medicine Toolkit: A Case Study on Developing a COVID-19 mRNA-LNP Vaccine**

*Serra Gürcan, PhD*  
*Martin Rabel, PhD, Pharmacist*

12<sup>th</sup> July 2022



Create Transformative Medicines™



# Our Mission

To accelerate the creation of transformative medicine that significantly impacts human well being.



We are part of the Danaher Life Sciences family



# A Global Leader in Nanoparticle Solutions



**Our Headquarters**



## Leading

End-to-End  
Nanoparticle  
Solutions  
Provider

**150+**

Contract Service  
Projects  
Supported

**700+**

Systems Placed

## Universal

Application  
Across Payloads,  
Delivery  
Technologies &  
Drug Products

**5**

Nanomedicine  
Innovation  
Network Centers

**225+**

Cumulative  
Publications in  
Peer Reviewed  
Journals

**2**

cGMP Manufacturing  
Lines Under  
Development in  
Vancouver

**~125**

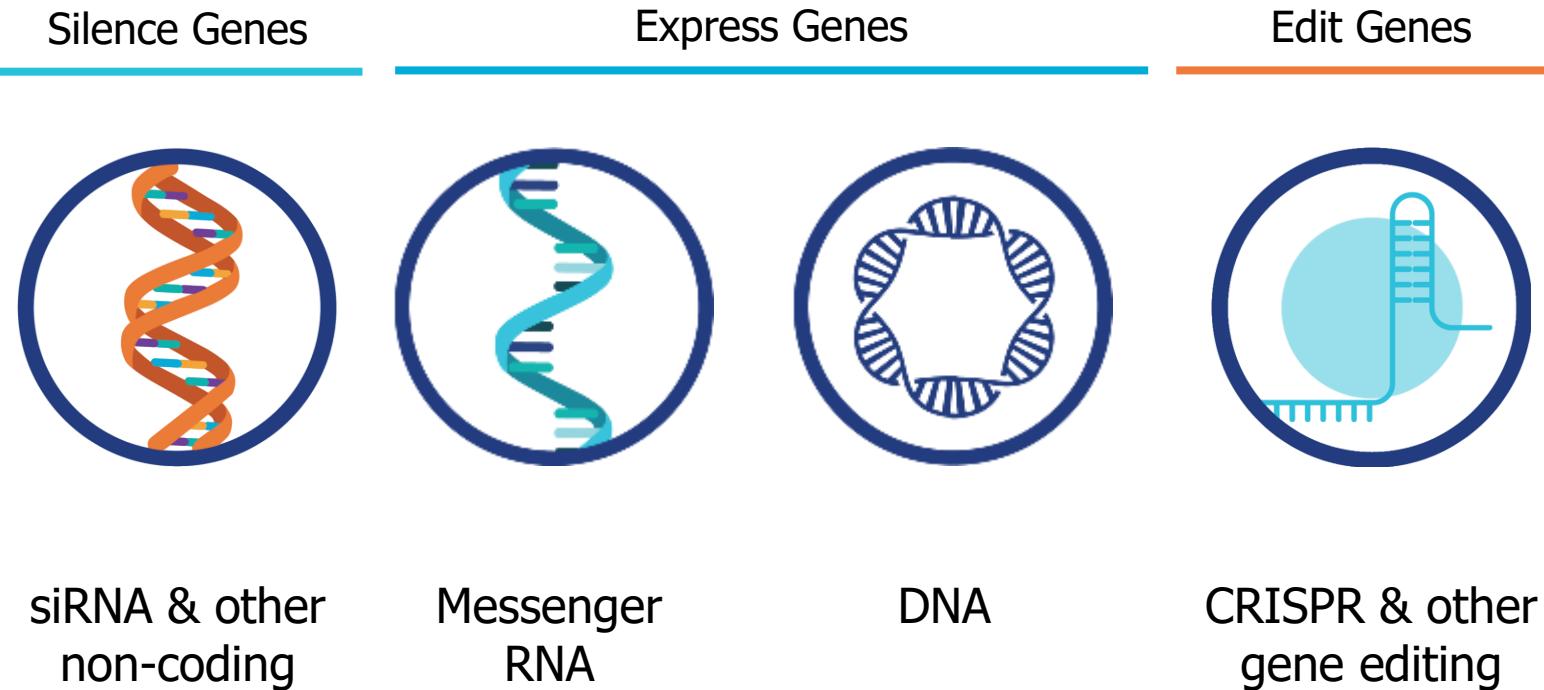
Patents Granted  
or Pending for  
Proprietary  
Technology  
Platforms

# 1

# Genomic Medicines are the Future: The Genomic Medicine Toolkit

# Genomic Medicines are the Future

## Treating Disease at Its Fundamental Level



**Target Any Gene  
Any Way**

Designed Not Discovered

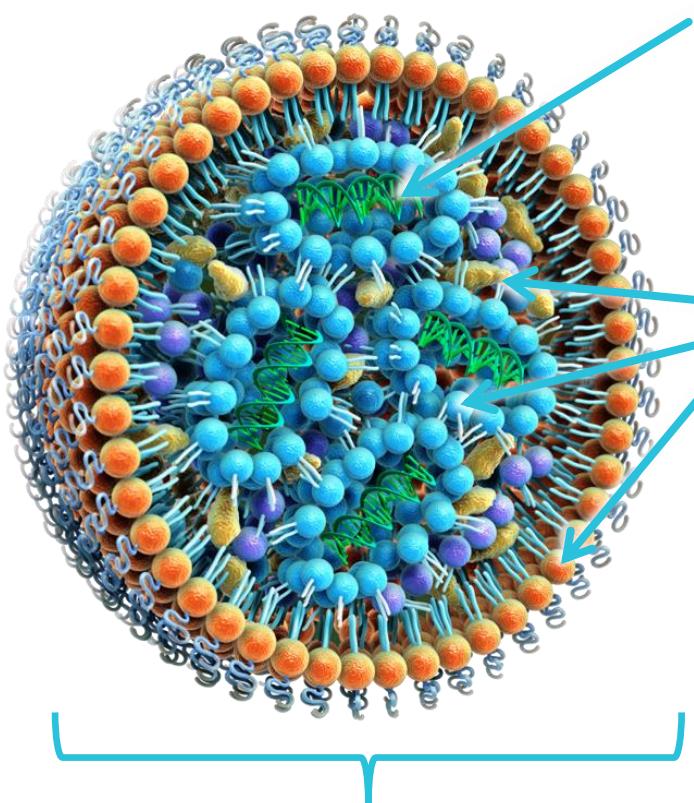
Validated & Ready for  
Mainstream

Manufacturable

Limitless Possibilities

# Genomic Medicines = Nucleic Acid + Delivery

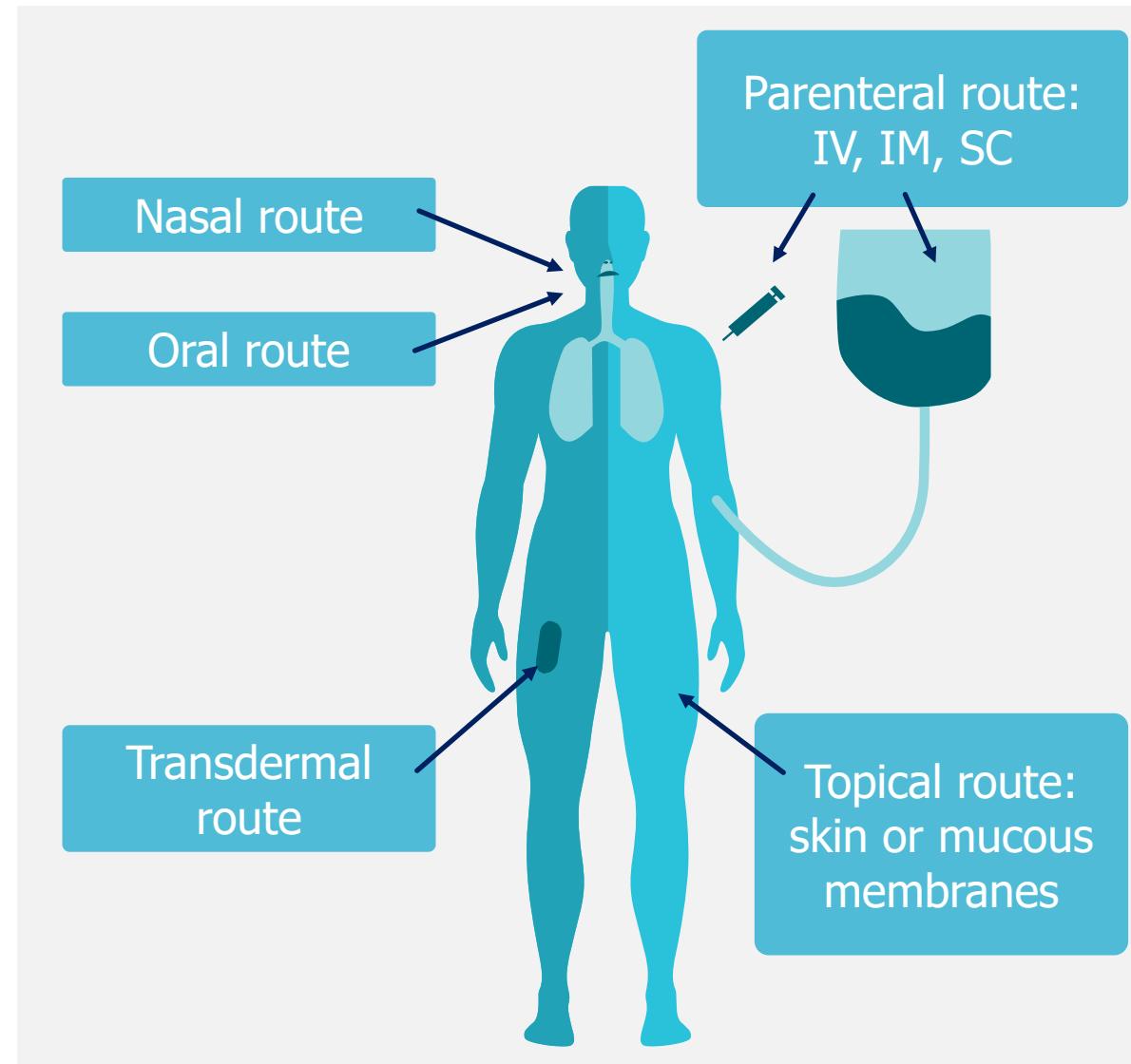
RNA & DNA are large molecules that require nanoparticle delivery technologies to get into tissues and cells.



**RNA or DNA**  
Active Pharmaceutical  
Ingredient (API)

**Synthetic Lipids or  
Polymers**  
Delivery technologies  
(excipients)

**Drug Product**  
(10 – 1000 nm)



# Pillars of a Successful Genomic Medicine

## PNI Capabilities



### Target

Identify specific gene targets and need to silence, express, or edit



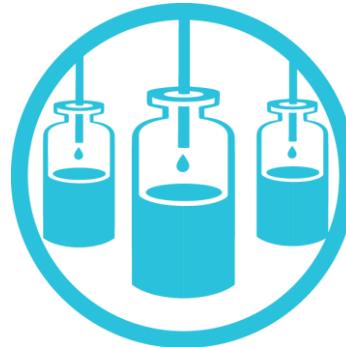
### Payload—Genetic API

Choose modality appropriate for target modulation



### Delivery—Nanoparticle

Protect, transport, and release API into target cells



### Manufacturing

Scalable production for all stages of development

# Full Stack of Technology to Enable the Genomic Medicine Revolution



## Genomic Medicine Toolkit



### Disease Target

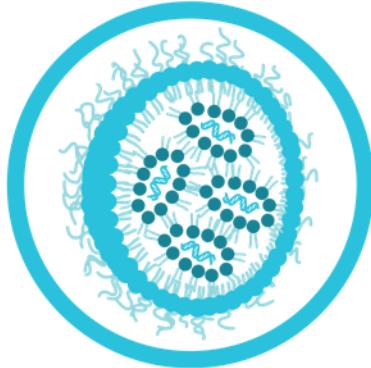
Biological insights can identify target gene(s) driving disease



### Genetic Payload Platform

Proprietary self-amplifying mRNA (SAM) to express specific proteins, including antigens used in RNA vaccines against COVID-19

RNA/DNA can also silence or edit target gene(s)



### GenVoy™ Delivery Platform

Lipid nanoparticles (LNP), derived from a proprietary lipid library, that protect and deliver nucleic acids (RNA, DNA, derivatives) to target cells

Rapidly develop at lab scale and seamless translation to the clinic



### NanoAssemblr® Manufacturing Platform

Proprietary, scalable, continuous flow, and single-use microfluidic mixing technology for controlled and precise nanoparticle encapsulated genetic medicine development & manufacturing

Produce the best drugs — faster, easier, and with the least risk possible — from  $\mu$ L lab scale to GMP scale



### Drug Development Expertise

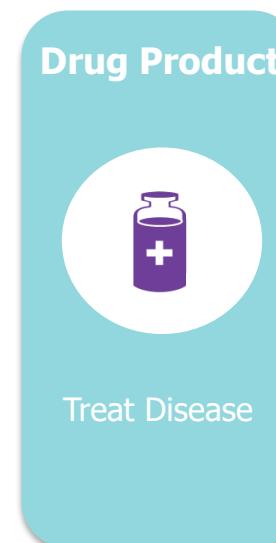
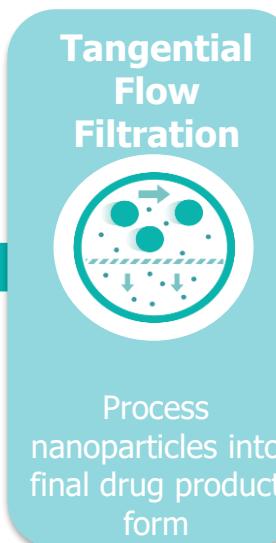
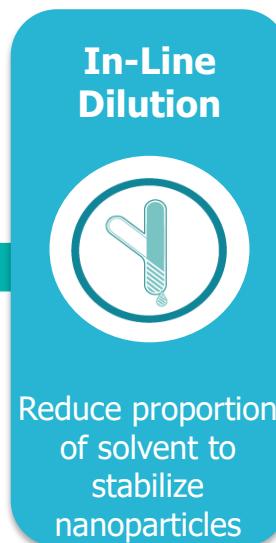
Leverage world-leading expertise in LNPs and genetic medicine development

# End-to-End Manufacturing of Genomic Medicines

Enabling (bio)pharma companies and CDMOs with no technology access fees or royalties associated with PNI instruments



## NanoAssemblr® Instruments



## Downstream Processing

ÄKTA™

ULTA™

Microcell

PNI LNP Expertise & Partner Product Portfolio

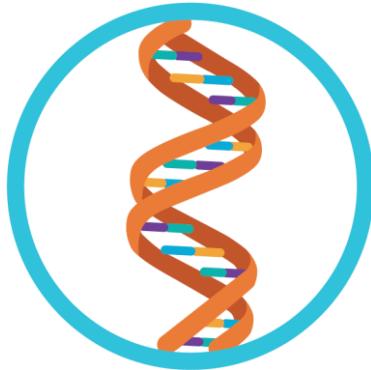
2

# Genetic Payload Platform: PNI-RNA Technology

# Full Stack of Technology to Enable the Genomic Medicine Revolution



## Genomic Medicine Toolkit



### Disease Target

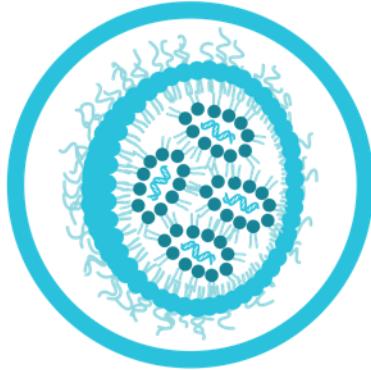
Biological insights can identify target gene(s) driving disease



### Genetic Payload Platform

**Proprietary self-amplifying mRNA (SAM) to express specific proteins, including antigens used in RNA vaccines against COVID-19**

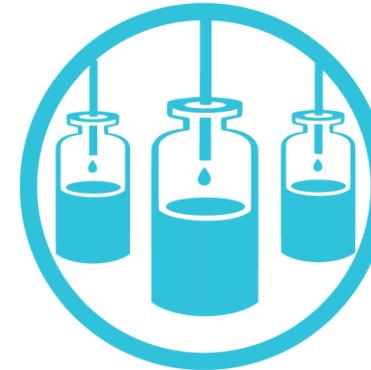
**RNA/DNA can also silence or edit target gene(s)**



### GenVoy™ Delivery Platform

Lipid nanoparticles (LNP), derived from a proprietary lipid library, that protect and deliver nucleic acids (RNA, DNA, derivatives) to target cells

Rapidly develop at lab scale and seamless translation to the clinic



### NanoAssemblr® Manufacturing Platform

Proprietary, scalable, continuous flow, and single-use microfluidic mixing technology for controlled and precise nanoparticle encapsulated genetic medicine development & manufacturing

Produce the best drugs — faster, easier, and with the least risk possible — from  $\mu$ L lab scale to GMP scale



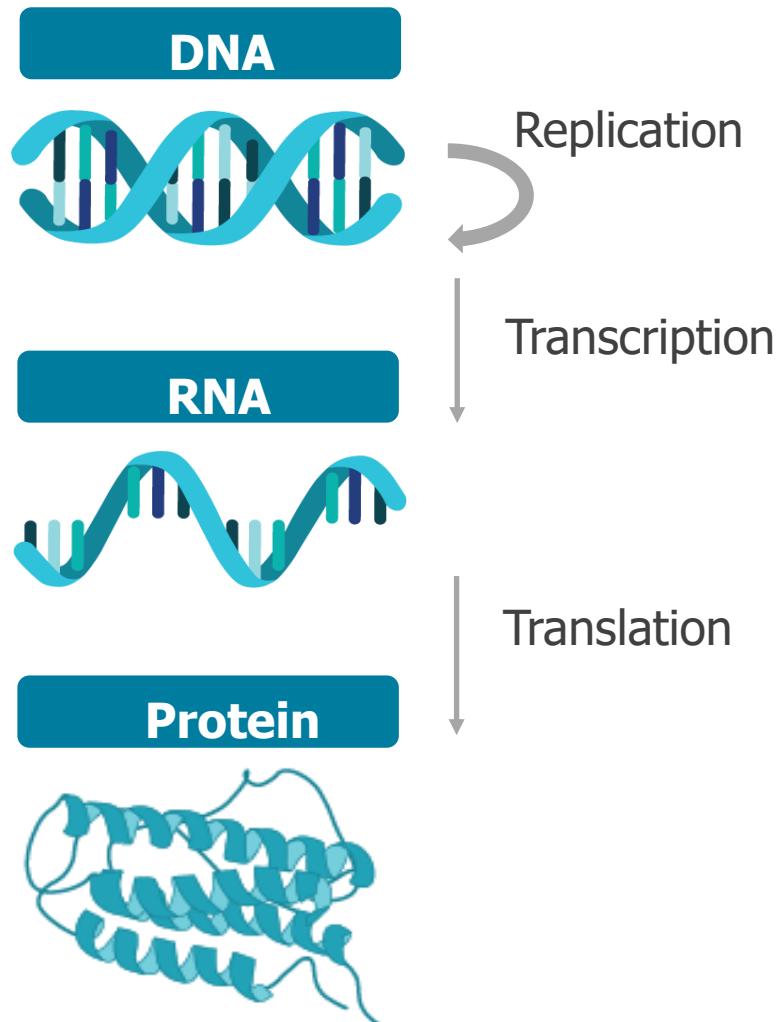
### Drug Development Expertise

Leverage world-leading expertise in LNPs and genetic medicine development

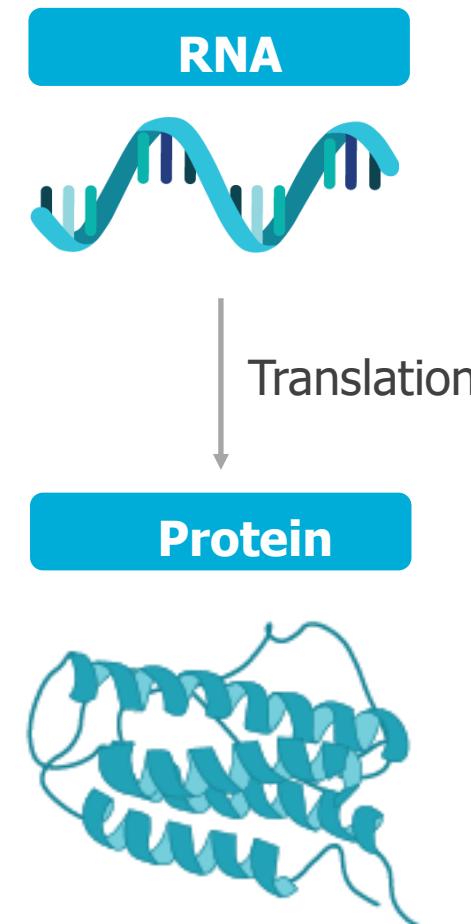
# DNA or RNA?



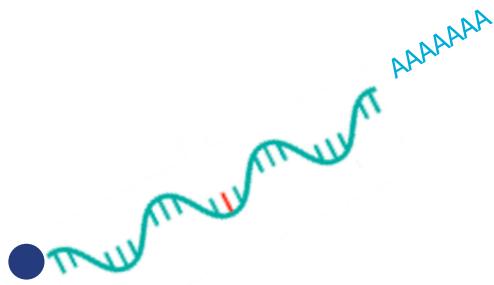
## DNA Vaccine



## RNA Vaccine

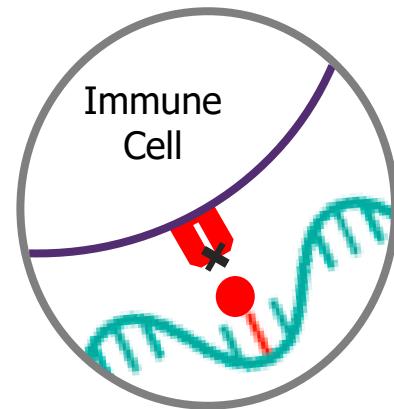


# Not All mRNA is Created Equal



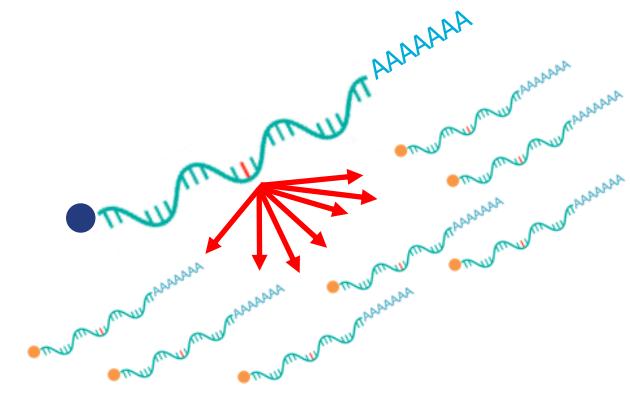
## Unmodified mRNA

Enhanced stability and translation by adding structural motifs at 3' and 5' locations



## Base-Modified mRNA

Drives RNA translation, base modification leading to reduced innate immune response



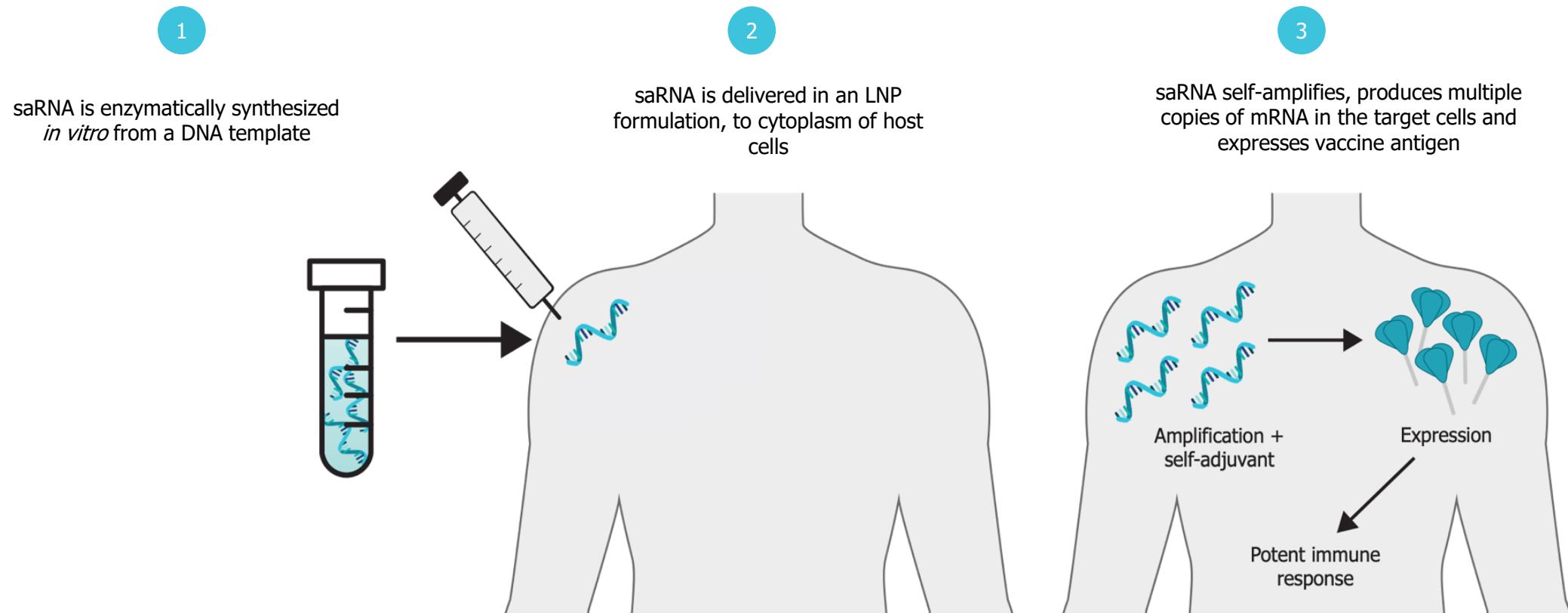
## Self-Amplifying mRNA (saRNA)

Contains genes of alphavirus that encode the non-structural proteins that replicate RNA and act as "adjuvant"



# Why saRNA?

*Potential to be 10x – 100x more potent than mRNA vaccines*



- Self-amplifying RNA encodes nonstructural proteins of the alpha virus that are translated into replicases that make many more copies
- saRNA can reduce doses by a factor of 100 thus reducing manufacturing burden

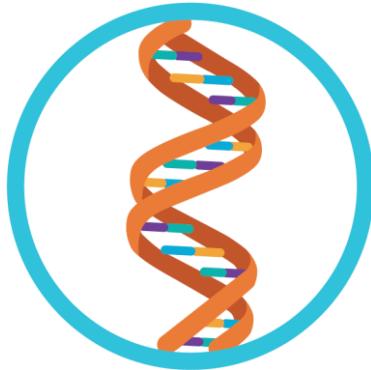
# 3

## Lipid Nanoparticles for RNA delivery: GenVoy™ Delivery Platform

# Full Stack of Technology to Enable the Genomic Medicine Revolution



## Genomic Medicine Toolkit



### Disease Target

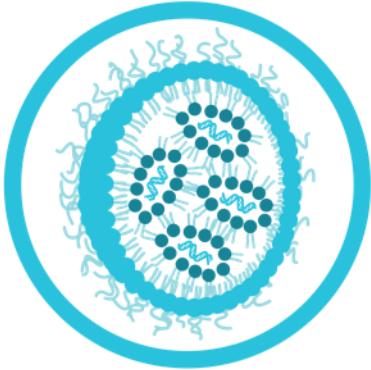
Biological insights can identify target gene(s) driving disease



### Genetic Payload Platform

Proprietary self-amplifying mRNA (SAM) to express specific proteins, including antigens used in RNA vaccines against COVID-19

RNA/DNA can also silence or edit target gene(s)



### GenVoy™ Delivery Platform

**Lipid nanoparticles (LNP), derived from a proprietary lipid library, that protect and deliver nucleic acids (RNA, DNA, derivatives) to target cells**

**Rapidly develop at lab scale and seamless translation to the clinic**



### NanoAssemblr® Manufacturing Platform

Proprietary, scalable, continuous flow, and single-use microfluidic mixing technology for controlled and precise nanoparticle encapsulated genetic medicine development & manufacturing

Produce the best drugs — faster, easier, and with the least risk possible — from  $\mu$ L lab scale to GMP scale

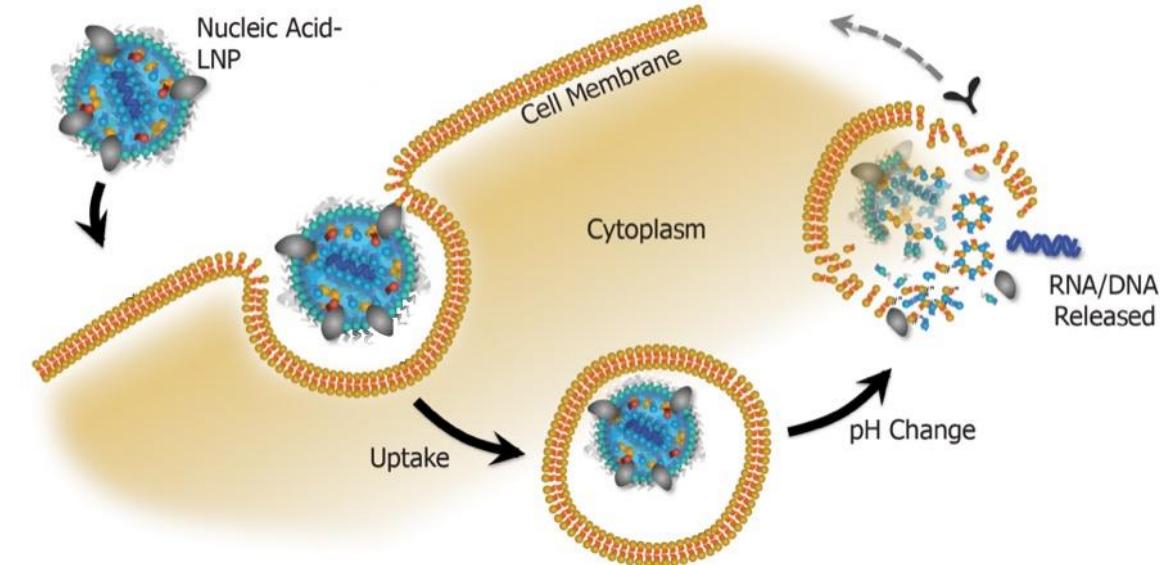
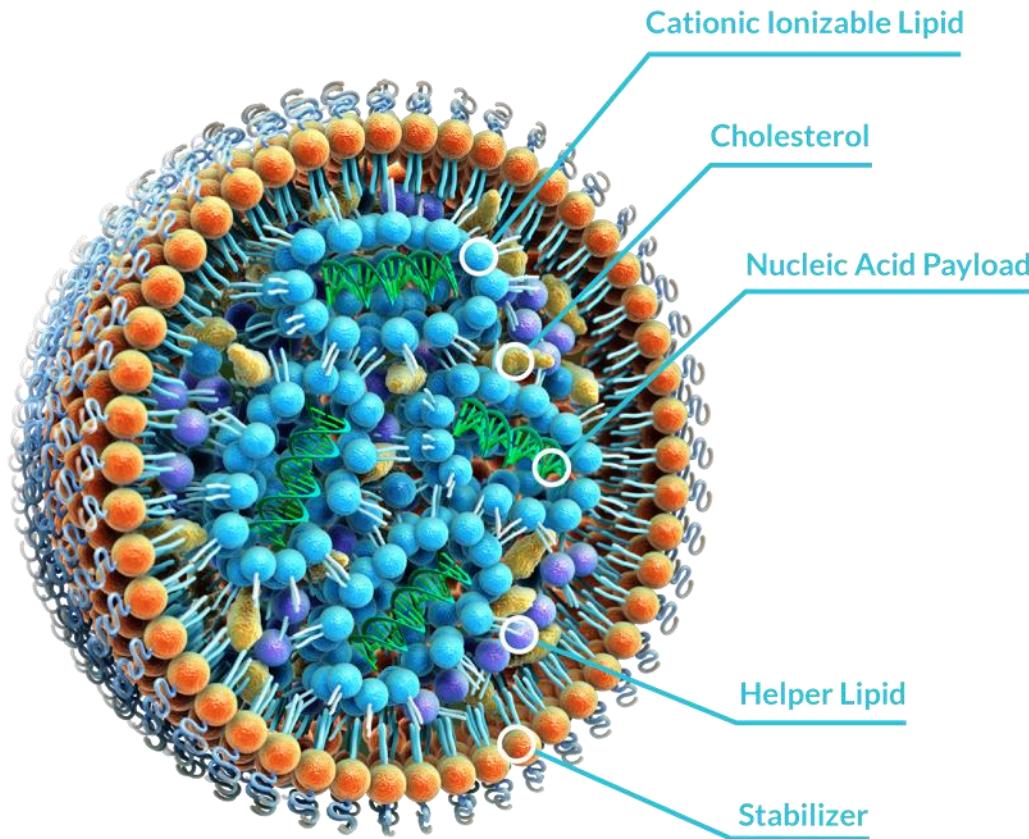


### Drug Development Expertise

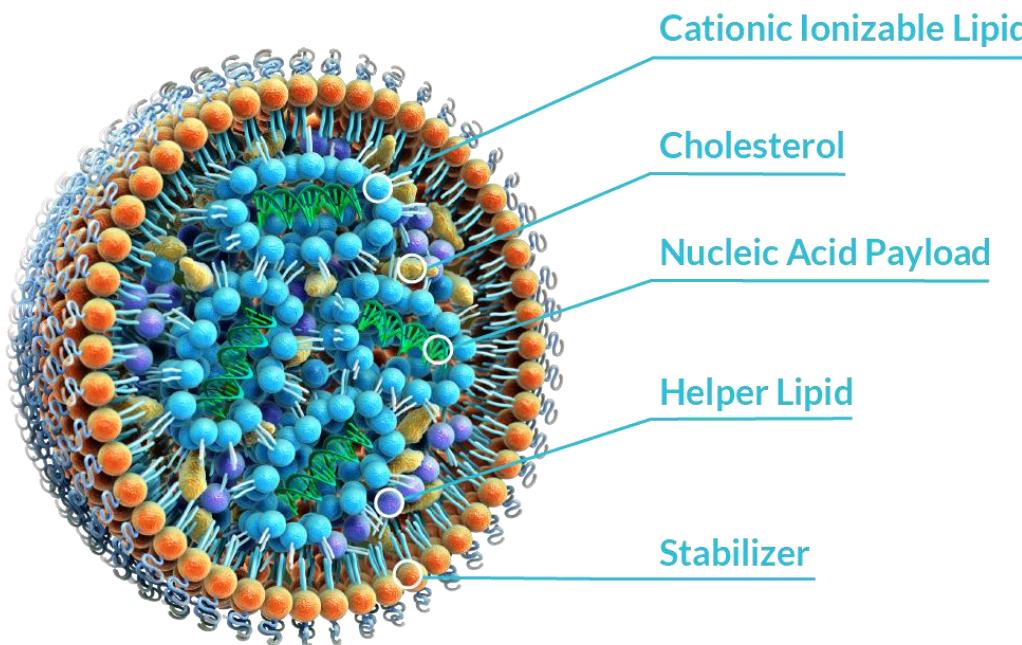
Leverage world-leading expertise in LNPs and genetic medicine development

# How is RNA Delivered?

**Lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) are the most clinically advanced  
non-viral gene delivery system.**



# Why PNI's GenVoy™ LNP Delivery Platform?



**Lipid Nanoparticle (LNP) with genetic payload in green**

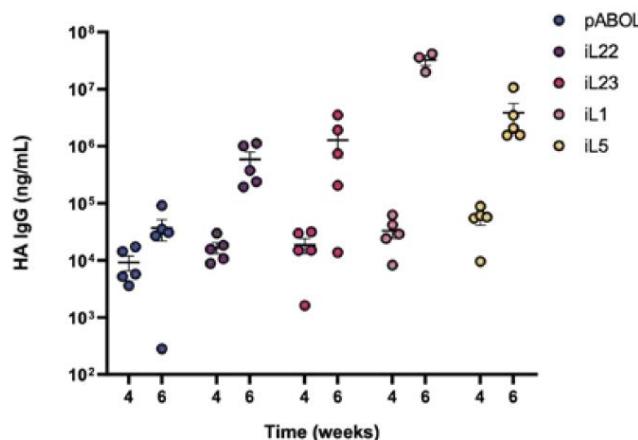
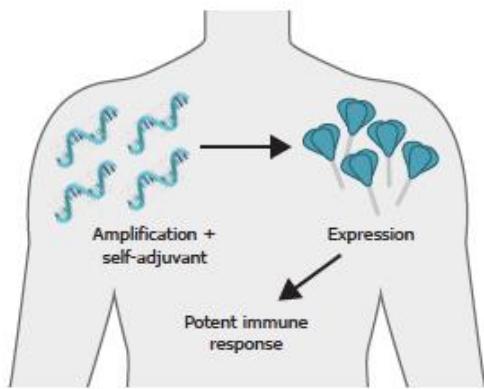
PNI has developed a diverse structural and functional Ionizable lipid library for LNP development:

- PNI engineers LNP specifically for the intended use:
  - Vaccine LNP are engineered to be immunogenic and for intramuscular administration
  - Cell Therapy LNP are engineered for ex vivo applications and optimized for culture media
  - Gene Therapy LNP are engineered to mitigate immune response & for intravenous administration
- **POC data sets available for proprietary lipids enabling Cell Therapy, Protein Replacement therapy, and Vaccine applications**

- PNI proprietary lipids are covered by PNI lipid patents/patent applications.

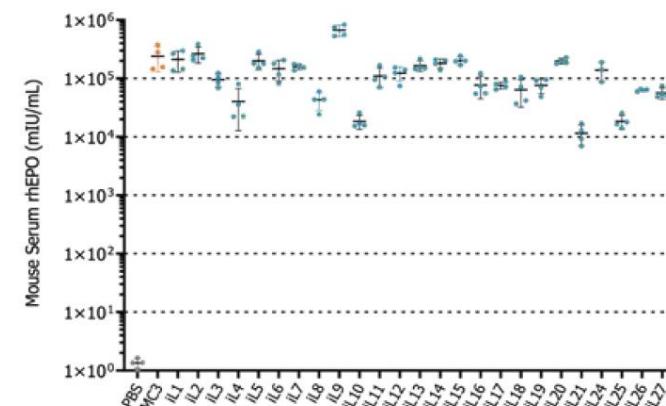
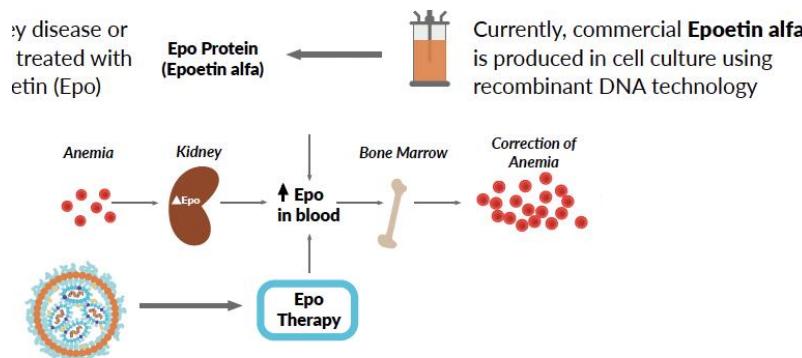
# PNI GenVoy™ LNPs Enable Delivery for Key Applications in Genomic Medicine

## Vaccines



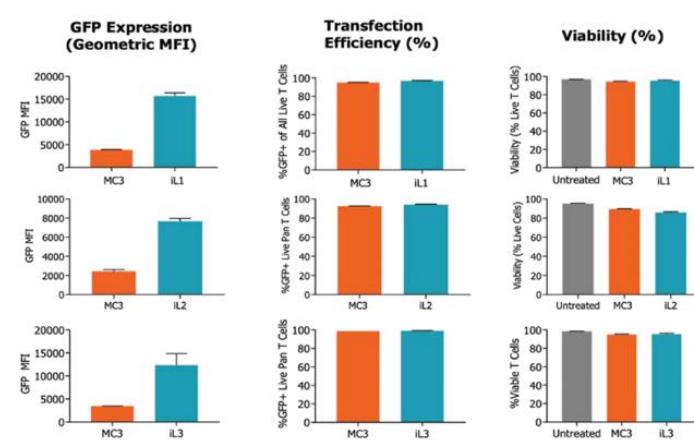
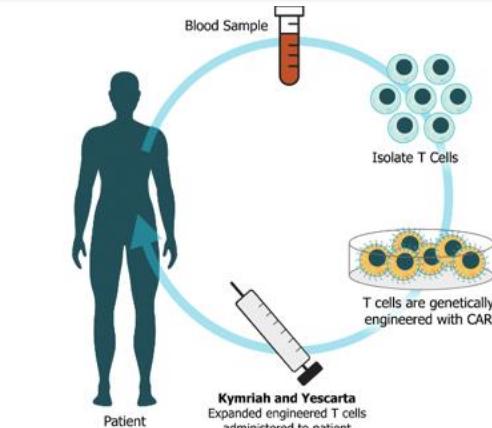
HA IgG Generation in Mice

## Gene Therapy



Epo Production in Mice

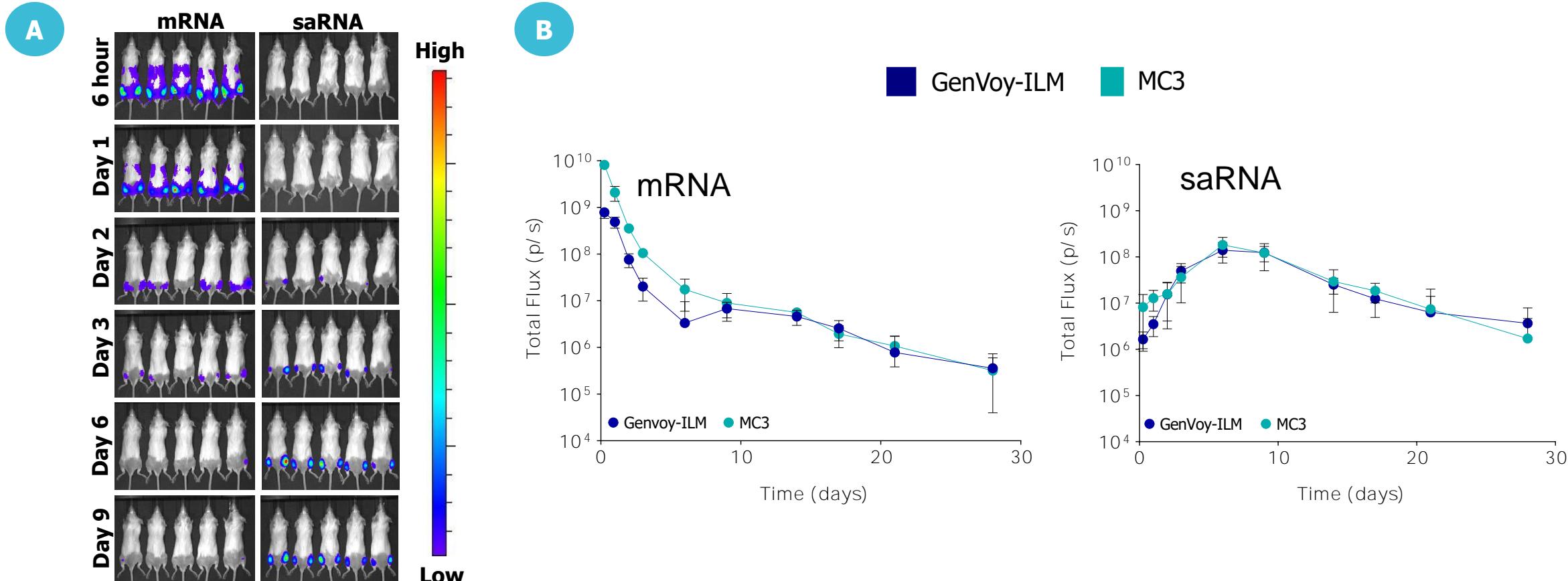
## Cell Therapy (ex vivo)



GFP Expression in Primary Human T Cells

# PNI GenVoy™ LNPs for Vaccine Development

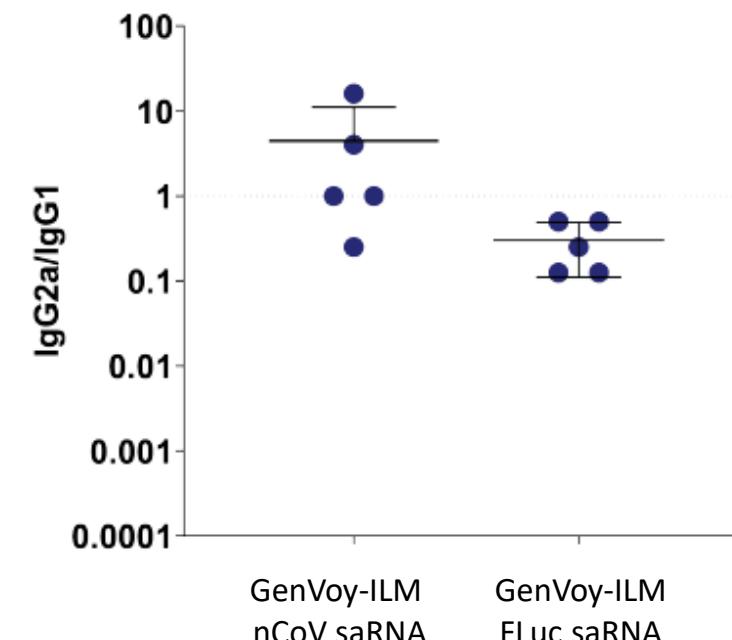
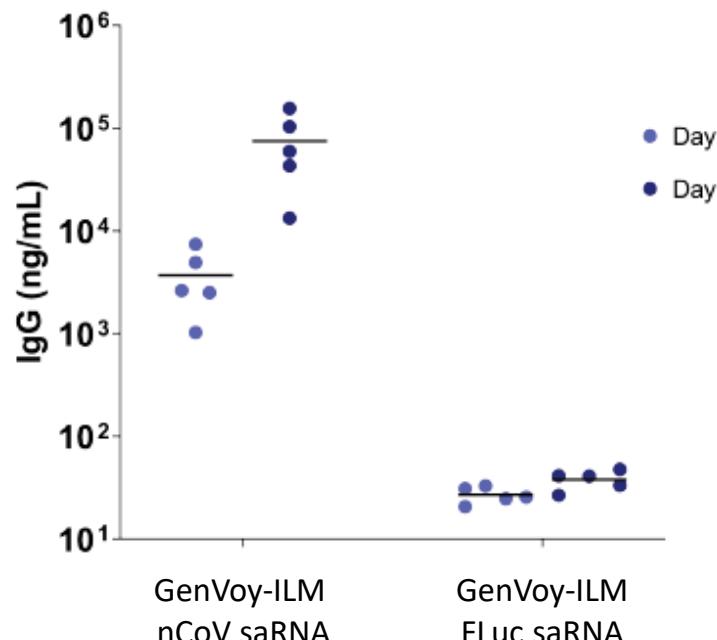
## GenVoy-ILM™ LNPs are an Effective *In Vivo* Delivery Vehicle for Both mRNA and saRNA



GenVoy-ILM and MC3 LNPs were prepared with 0.1 mol% DiD, encapsulating mRNA (5  $\mu$ g/leg) or saRNA (1  $\mu$ g/leg) encoding for FLuc. Female BALB/c mice (n=5) were injected IM with LNPs, and protein expression was determined using luminescence imaging (IVIS® Spectrum) over 28 days. Mice were injected IP with D-luciferin (150mg/kg) 15 minutes before imaging. (A) shows representative luminescence images of mice injected with GenVoy-ILM LNPs over 9 days. (B) shows the change in luminescence (total flux p/s) over 28 days post-IM injection with LNPs containing mRNA (left) and saRNA (right). Results are shown as the mean  $\pm$  SD.

# PNI GenVoy™ LNPs for Vaccine Development

**GenVoy-ILM LNPs elicited IgG response against SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in mice with a skew towards IgG2a indicative of Th1 response.**



## Also studied:

- GFP saRNA vs mRNA dose response in HEK293 cells
- FLuc saRNA vs mRNA expression and clearance in mice following IM injection

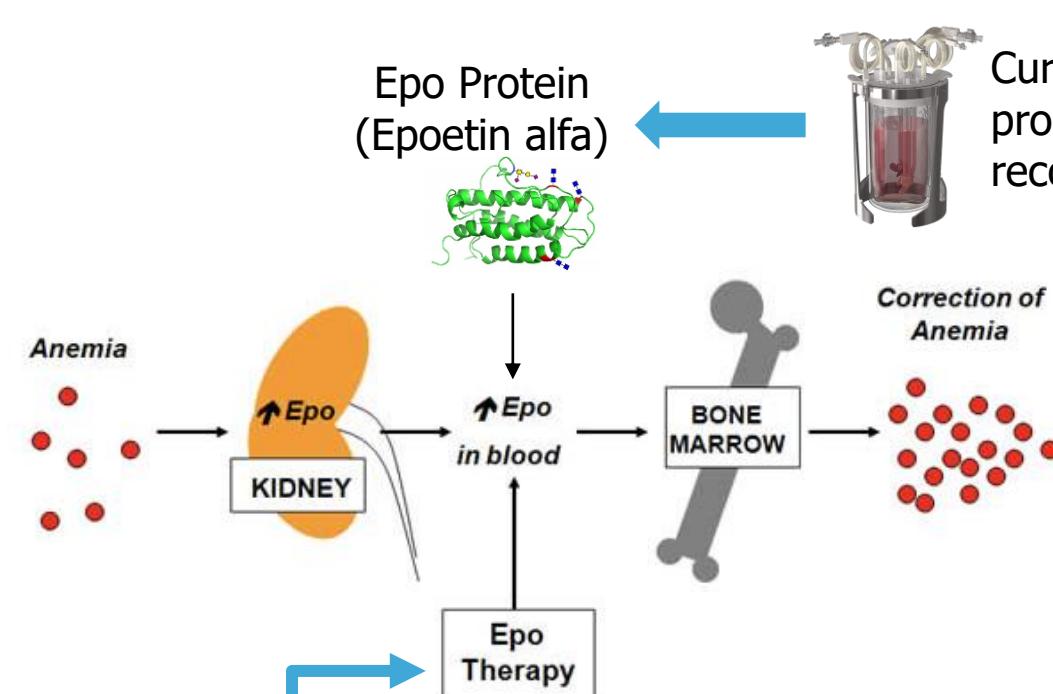
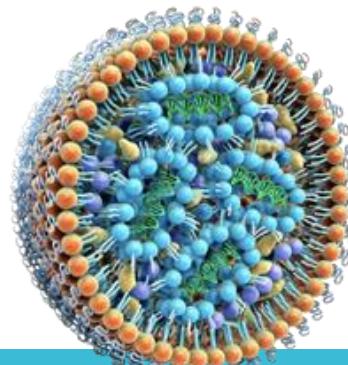
# PNI GenVoy™ LNPs for Gene Therapy Applications



## We developed, formulated and scaled up a model messenger RNA therapeutic

Anemia caused by kidney disease or cancer chemotherapy is treated with recombinant erythropoietin (Epo)

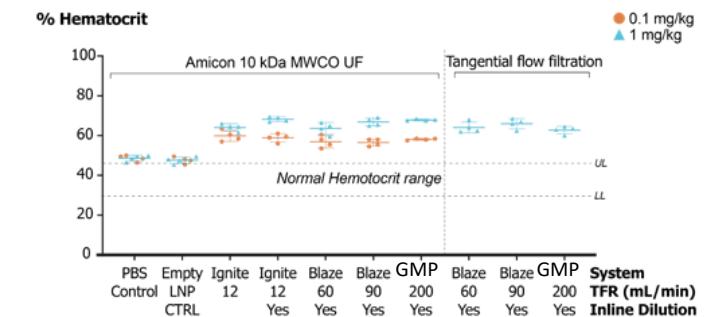
1. We encoded human Epo in mRNA (850 bp), packaged it in a non-viral carrier using NxGen Technology



2. The LNP delivers the mRNA to liver cells which express EPO protein, which stimulates red blood cell production

Currently, commercial **Epoetin alfa** is produced in cell culture using recombinant DNA technology

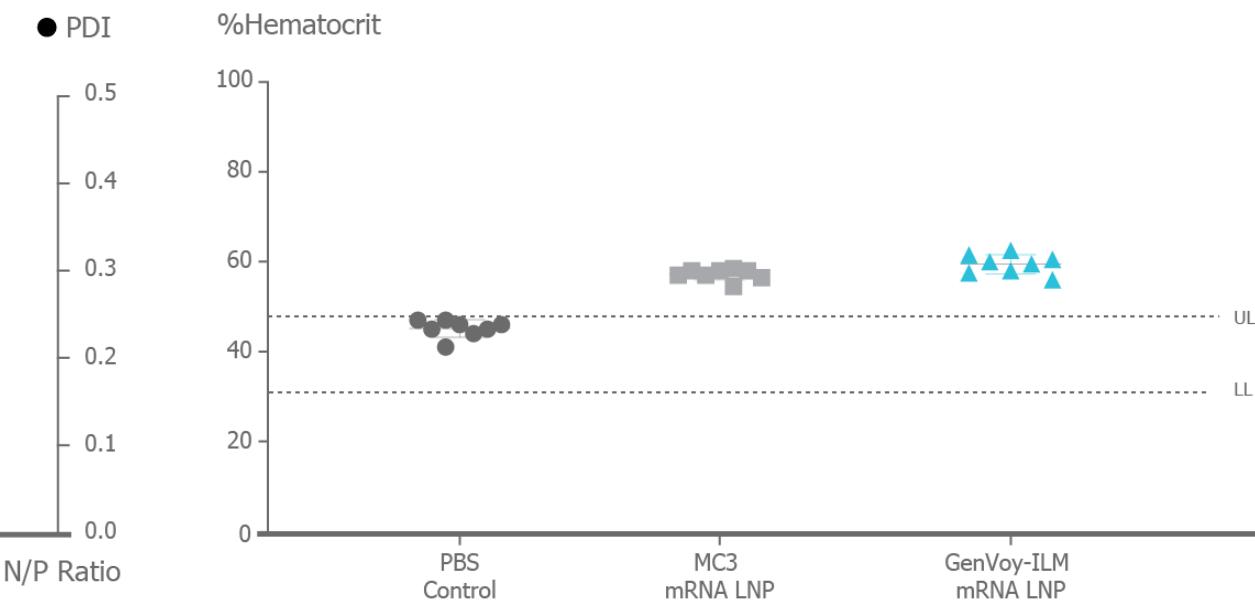
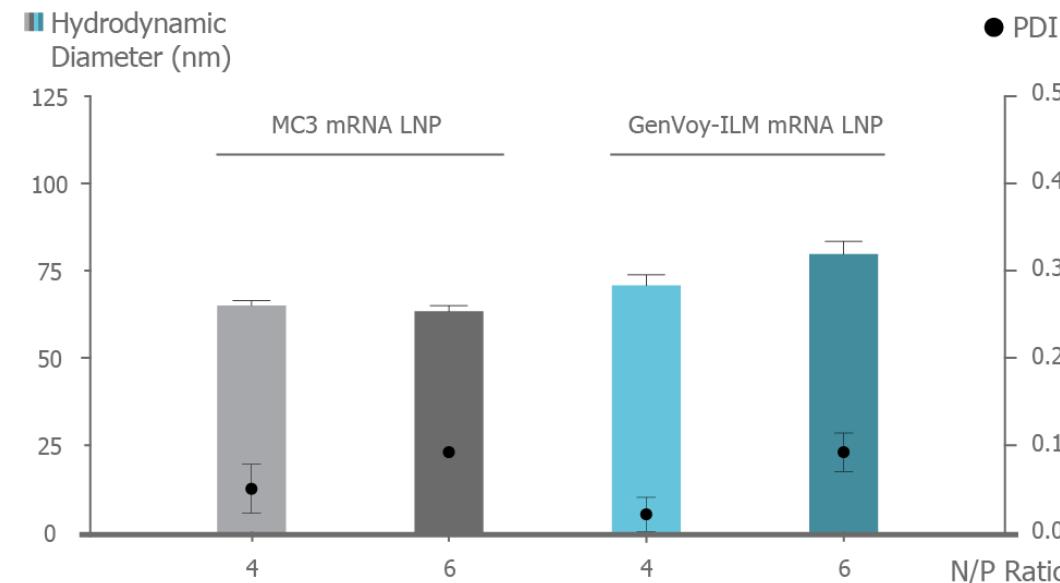
3. We observed an increase in red blood cell production in mice with consistent results across scales and NanoAssemblr instruments



# PNI GenVoy™ LNPs for Gene Therapy Applications



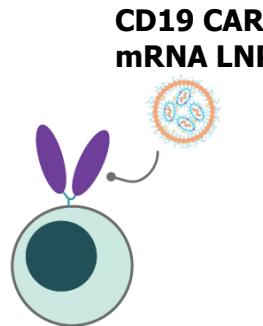
**GenVoy-ILM mRNA-LNP showed similar biophysical and biological behaviour when compared to mRNA-LNP containing the ionizable cationic lipid, MC3, which is used in the FDA approved RNA-LNP Onpattro®.**



# PNI GenVoy™ LNPs for Cell Therapy Development



Enable Gene Editing and Delivery in Human Primary T Cells using Lipid Nanoparticles:  
Seamlessly Scalable from Discovery to Preclinical



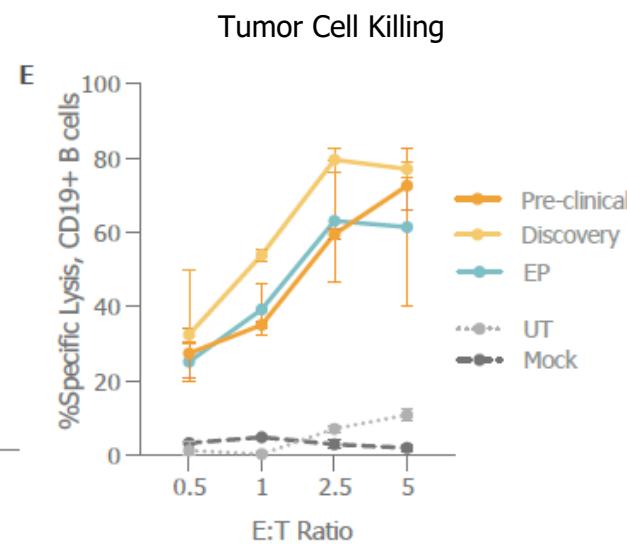
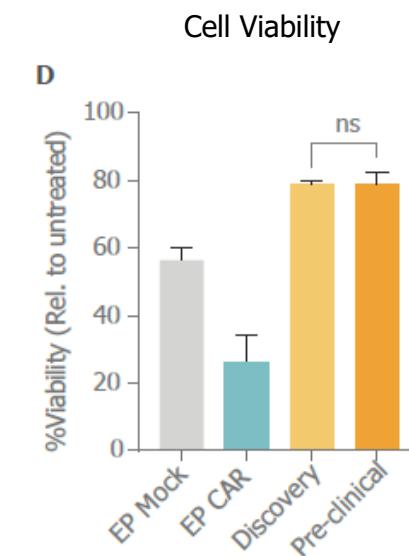
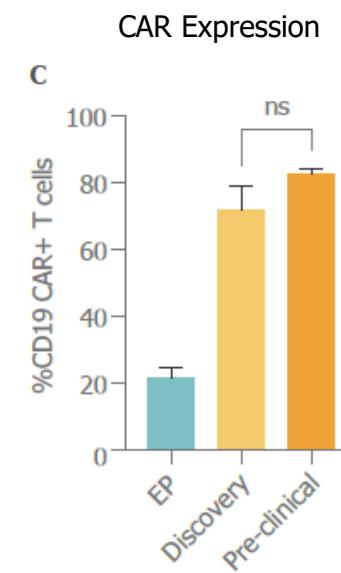
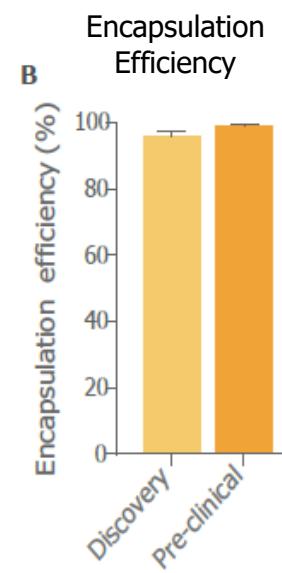
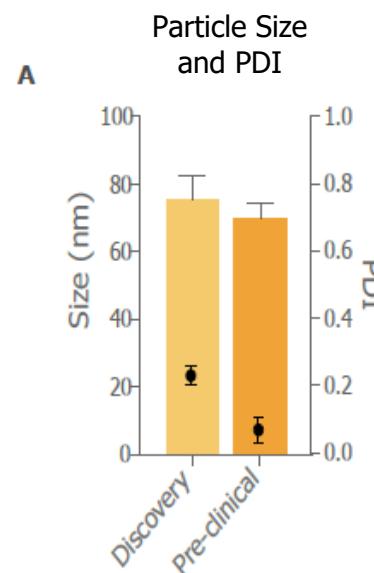
**Discovery**  
Sufficient RNA-LNP  
for ~10 million CAR T



New



**Preclinical**  
Sufficient RNA-LNP for  
~700 million CAR T

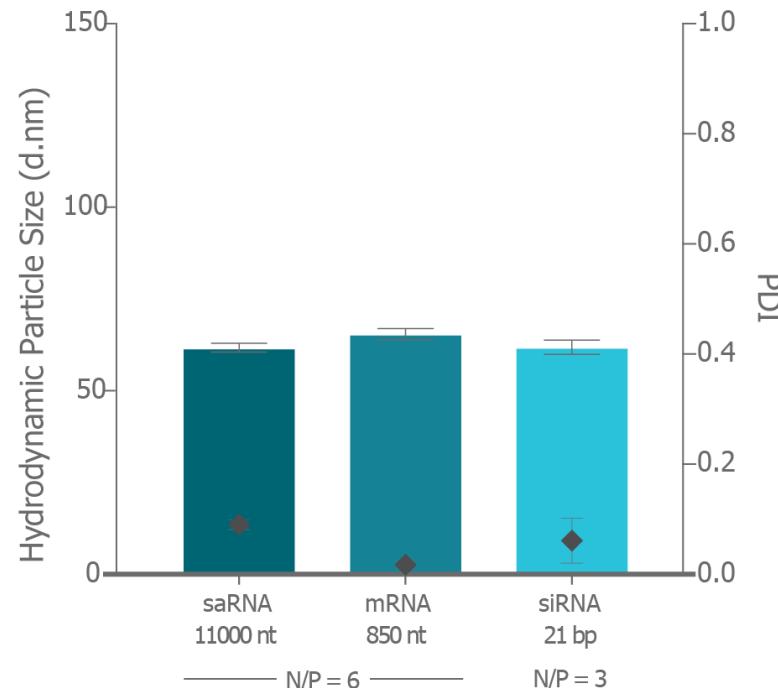


# PNI GenVoy™ LNPs Can Encapsulate a Variety of Payloads

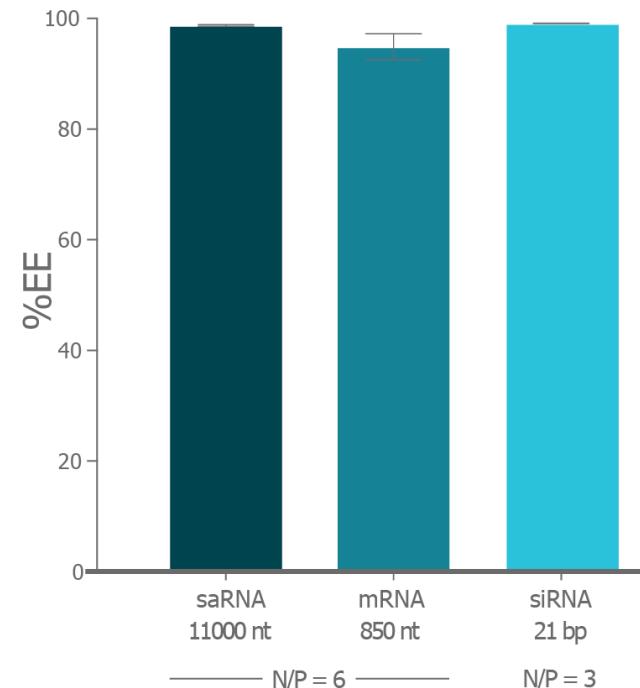


**GenVoy-ILM allows encapsulation, delivery, and manufacturing of nearly any encoded antigen including large sequences over 10 kb.**

**LNP size unaffected by RNA payload size**



**Encapsulation efficiency unaffected by RNA payload size**



Formulations were made using GenVoy-ILM™ reagent on the NanoAssemblr™ Ignite® (Total Flow Rate = 12 mL/min). Particles were then diluted, concentrated and had buffer exchanged. The subsequent particles were sterile filtered using 0.2  $\mu$ m filters. The particle size and polydispersity (PDI) were determined by DLS (Malvern ZetaSizer). Encapsulation efficiency was measured using a Ribogreen-based RNA assay.

# 4

## RNA - Lipid Nanoparticle Assembly using Microfluidics

# Full Stack of Technology to Enable the Genomic Medicine Revolution



## Genomic Medicine Toolkit



### Disease Target

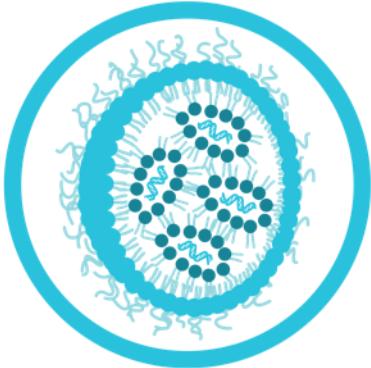
Biological insights can identify target gene(s) driving disease



### Genetic Payload Platform

Proprietary self-amplifying mRNA (SAM) to express specific proteins, including antigens used in RNA vaccines against COVID-19

RNA/DNA can also silence or edit target gene(s)



### GenVoy™ Delivery Platform

Lipid nanoparticles (LNP), derived from a proprietary lipid library, that protect and deliver nucleic acids (RNA, DNA, derivatives) to target cells

Rapidly develop at lab scale and seamless translation to the clinic



### NanoAssemblr® Manufacturing Platform

Proprietary, scalable, continuous flow, and single-use microfluidic mixing technology for controlled and precise nanoparticle encapsulated genetic medicine development & manufacturing

Produce the best drugs — faster, easier, and with the least risk possible — from  $\mu$ L lab scale to GMP scale

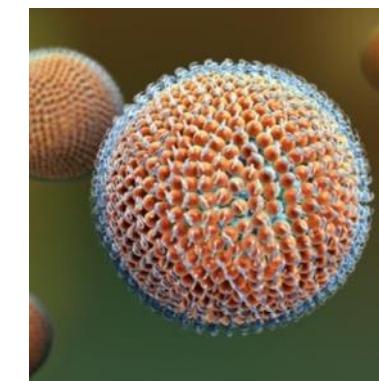
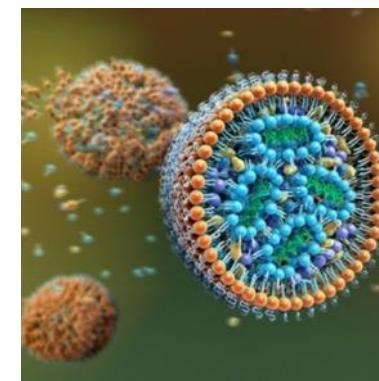
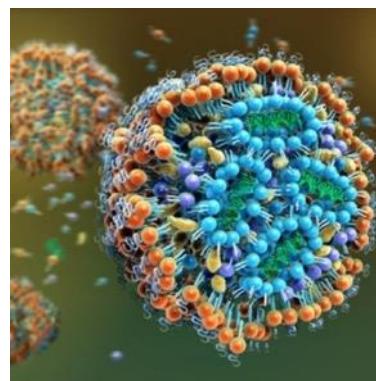
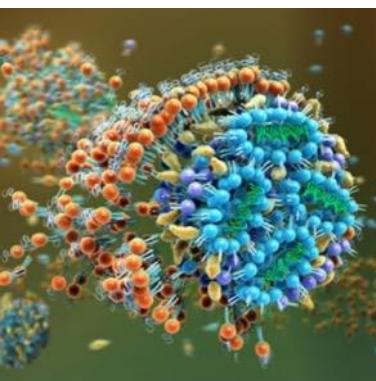
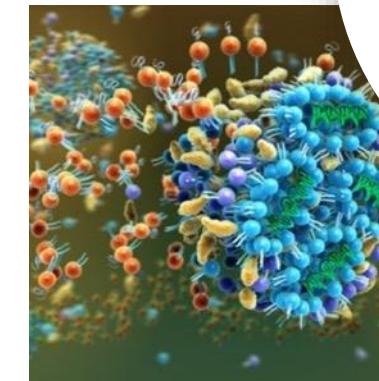
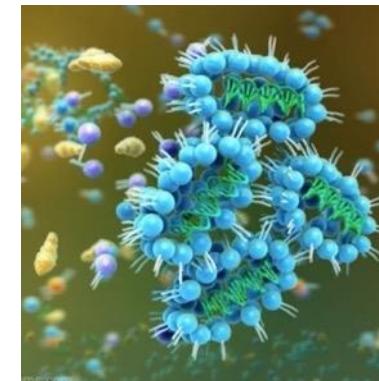
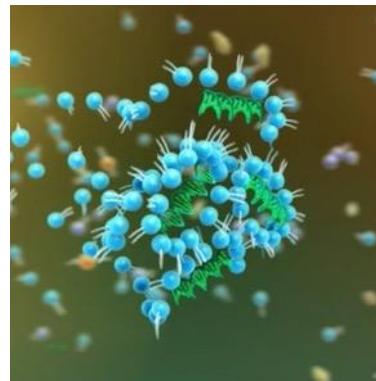


### Drug Development Expertise

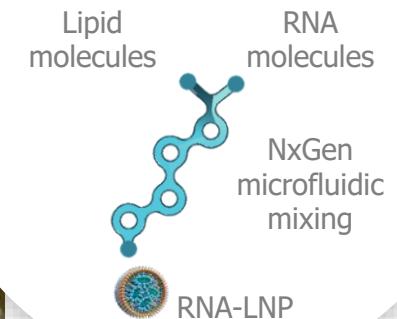
Leverage world-leading expertise in LNPs and genetic medicine development

# Bottom-Up Assembly Using Microfluidics

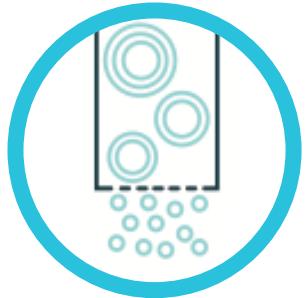
**Optimal Nanoparticles are Achieved by Controlling the Self-Assembly Process**



**NxGen™**



# Unprecedented Performance and Capabilities That Are Uniquely Addressing Key Manufacturing Pain Points and Bottlenecks



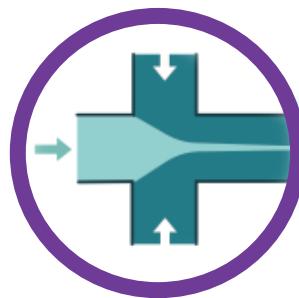
## Sonication/Extrusion

- Limited applications
- Difficult to reproduce
- Harsh process conditions
- Difficult to scale



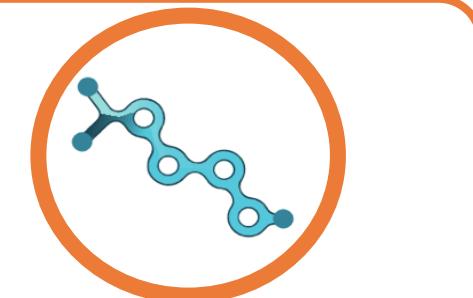
## T-tube and Impingement Jet Macromixing

- Limited applications
- Difficult to reproduce
- Not suited for rapid development
- + Gentler process conditions
- + Demonstrated scale-up for limited applications



## Other Microfluidic Approaches

- Challenges scaling up
- Not designed for specific nanoparticle manufacturing
- + Expanded applications
- + Reproducible
- + Non-turbulent process conditions
- + Suited to small volume formulations



## NxGen Microfluidics

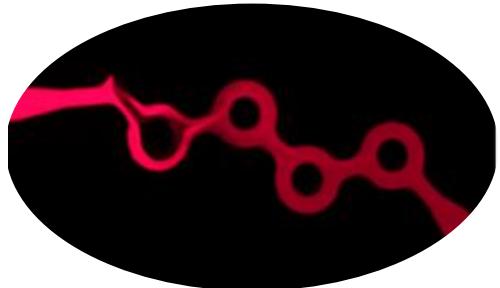
- + Easy to scale
- + Broad range of applications
- + Potential multi-mixer integration opens possibilities
- + Reproducible
- + Non-turbulent process conditions
- + Compatible with series mixing and other complex architectures

**PNI/Pall NxGen technology comes with freedom of usage (IP protected)**

# Uniform Scalable Nanoparticle Manufacture Using NxGen

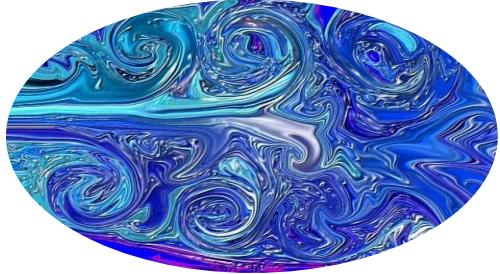


**PNI's NxGen Time-Invariant Mixing**

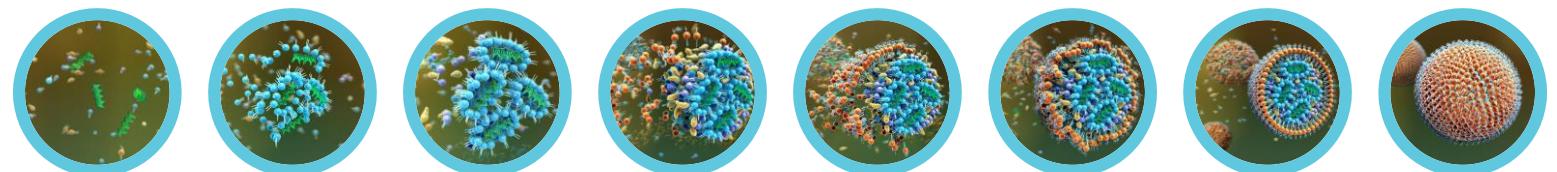
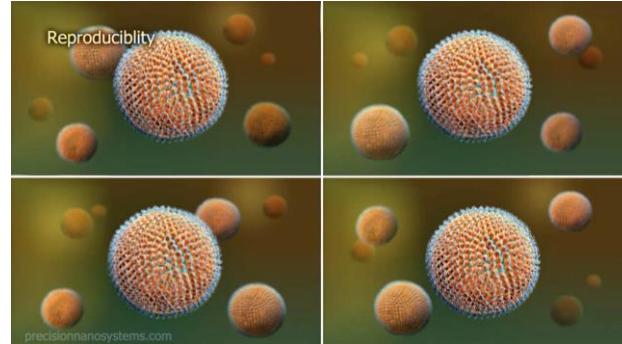


*Mixing and particle formation consistent over time*

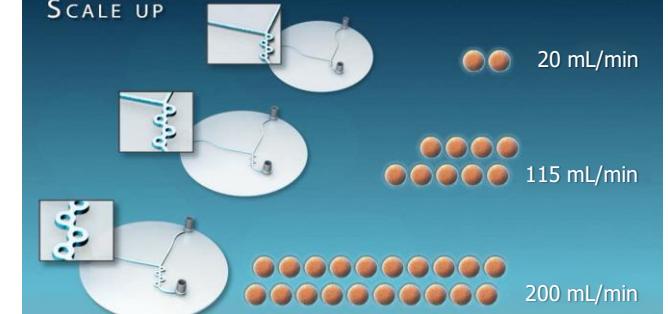
**Unsteady Turbulent Mixing  
(Non-PNI Mixing Method)**



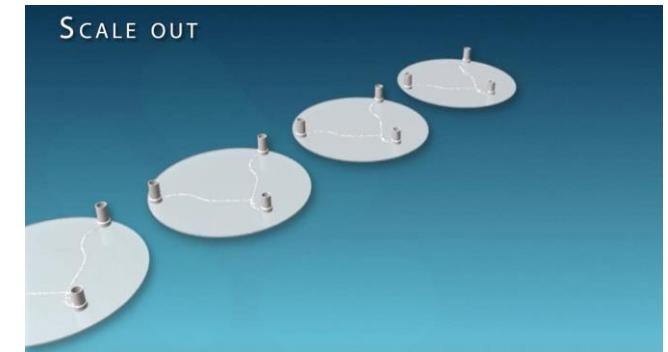
*Mixing conditions constantly changing over time*



**SCALE UP**

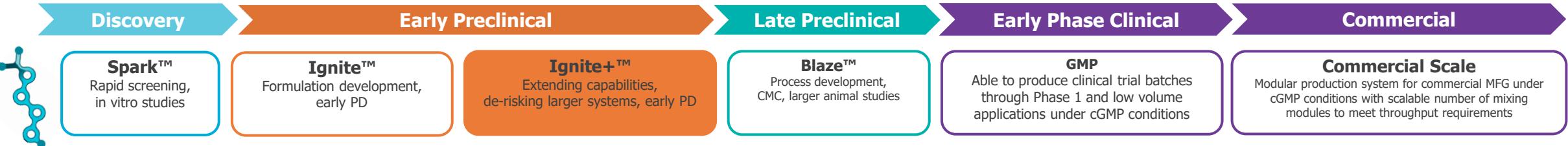


**SCALE OUT**



# The NanoAssemblr Manufacturing Platform

## Scalable Solutions from Research Through to Commercial



Existing preclinical systems to accelerate drug development through de-risking MFG runs at bench scale

NanoAssemblr® Systems



Spark NxGen



NxGen



NxGen  
NxGen 500



NxGen 500



NxGen 500

Meets all safety and controlled space requirements when working with solvents including 21 CFR part 11 compliance.

NanoAssemblr® Consumables



Up to 250 µl



Up to 20 mL  
Up to 20 mL/min\*



Up to 60 mL  
Up to 200 mL/min\*



Up to 10 L  
Up to 115 mL/min\*



Up to 200 mL/min\*

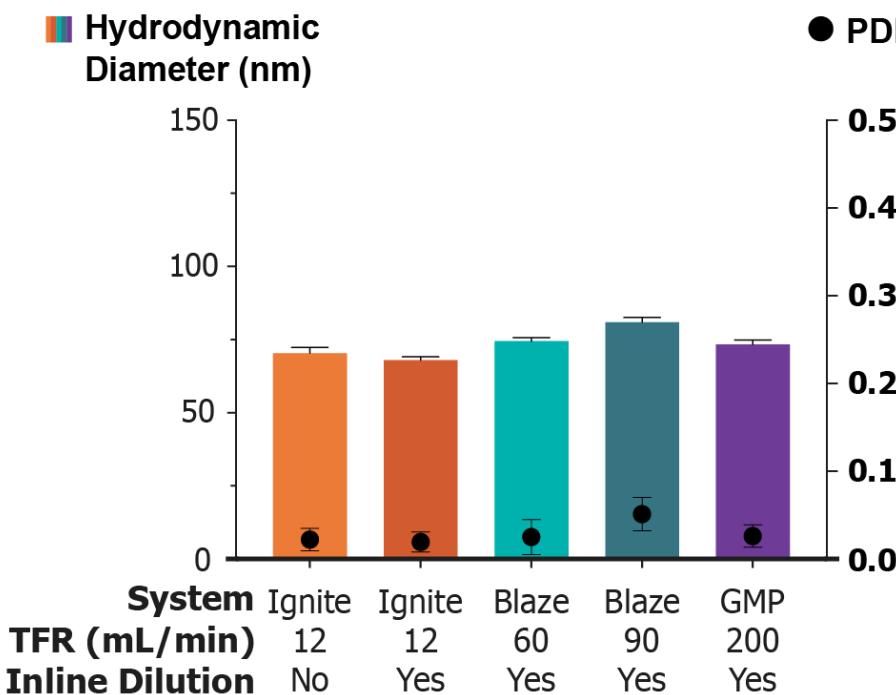


Up to 1.6 L/min\*

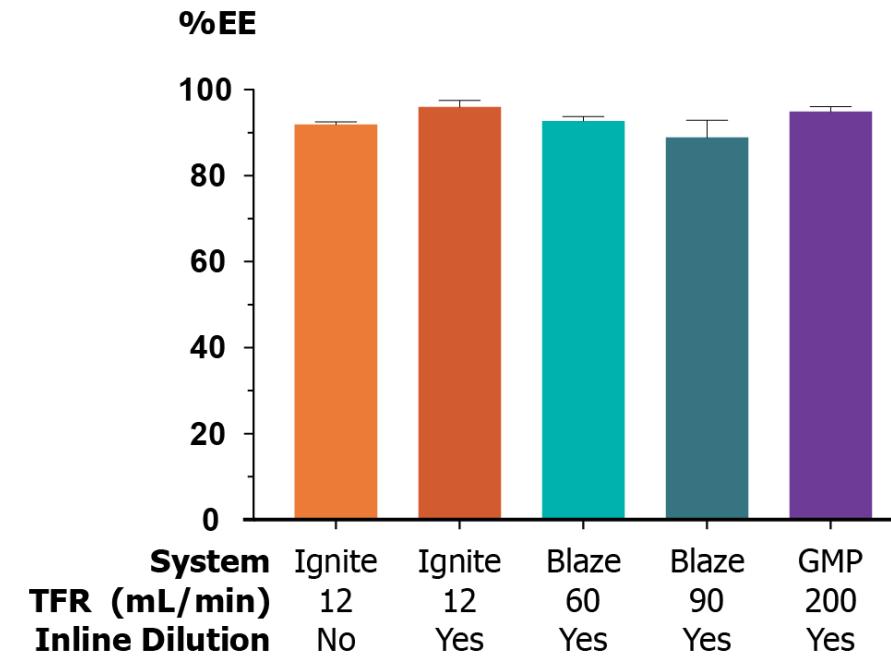
\*Pre-dilution flow rates

# Scale from Preclinical to Commercial Manufacture with Consistent Quality

**PNI's NanoAssemblr® technology allows LNP formulations to be scaled from pre-clinical volumes through to GMP manufacture**



● PDI



The mRNA-LNPs were prepared from the GenVoy-ILM reagent and Epo-encoded mRNA using NanoAssemblr® Ignite, Blaze and GMP systems. The Epo mRNA-LNP were diluted, purified and concentrated. The final Epo mRNA-LNPs were sterile-filtered using 0.2 µm filters. Size and polydispersity (PDI) were determined by DLS. Encapsulation efficiency was measured using a RiboGreen-based RNA assay.

# 5

# Analytical Requirements to Assess RNA-LNPs

# Full Stack of Technology to Enable the Genomic Medicine Revolution



## Disease Target

Biological insights can identify target gene(s) driving disease

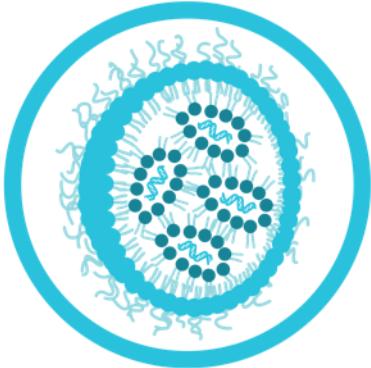


## Genetic Payload Platform

Proprietary self-amplifying mRNA (SAM) to express specific proteins, including antigens used in RNA vaccines against COVID-19

RNA/DNA can also silence or edit target gene(s)

## Genomic Medicine Toolkit



## GenVoy™ Delivery Platform

Lipid nanoparticles (LNP), derived from a proprietary lipid library, that protect and deliver nucleic acids (RNA, DNA, derivatives) to target cells

Rapidly develop at lab scale and seamless translation to the clinic



## NanoAssemblr® Manufacturing Platform

Proprietary, scalable, continuous flow, and single-use microfluidic mixing technology for controlled and precise nanoparticle encapsulated genetic medicine development & manufacturing

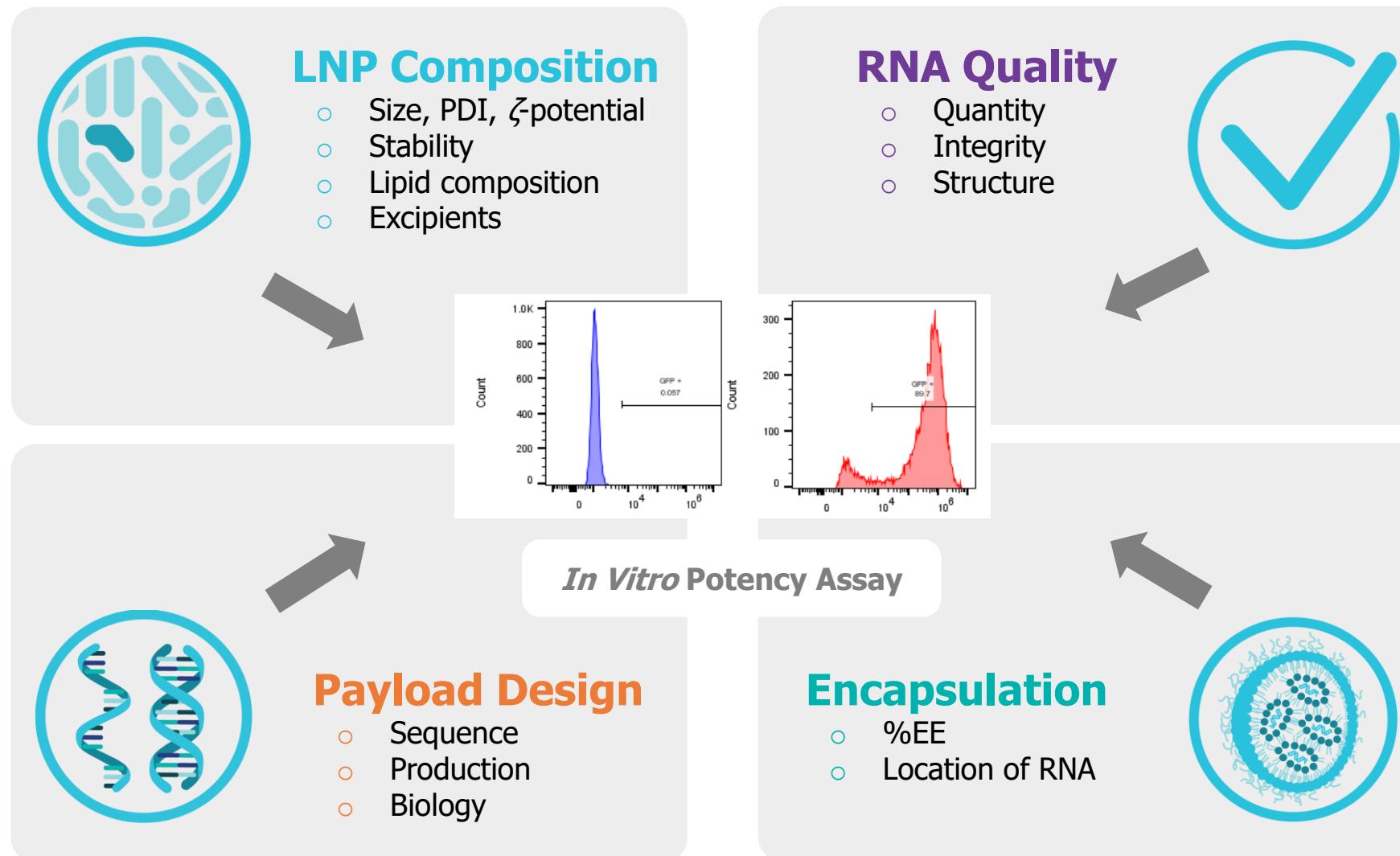
Produce the best drugs — faster, easier, and with the least risk possible — from  $\mu$ L lab scale to GMP scale



## Drug Development Expertise

**Leverage world-leading expertise in LNPs and genetic medicine development**

# mRNA-LNP Vaccines Are Analytically Complex Drugs



 **phenomenex**®

 **BECKMAN  
COULTER**

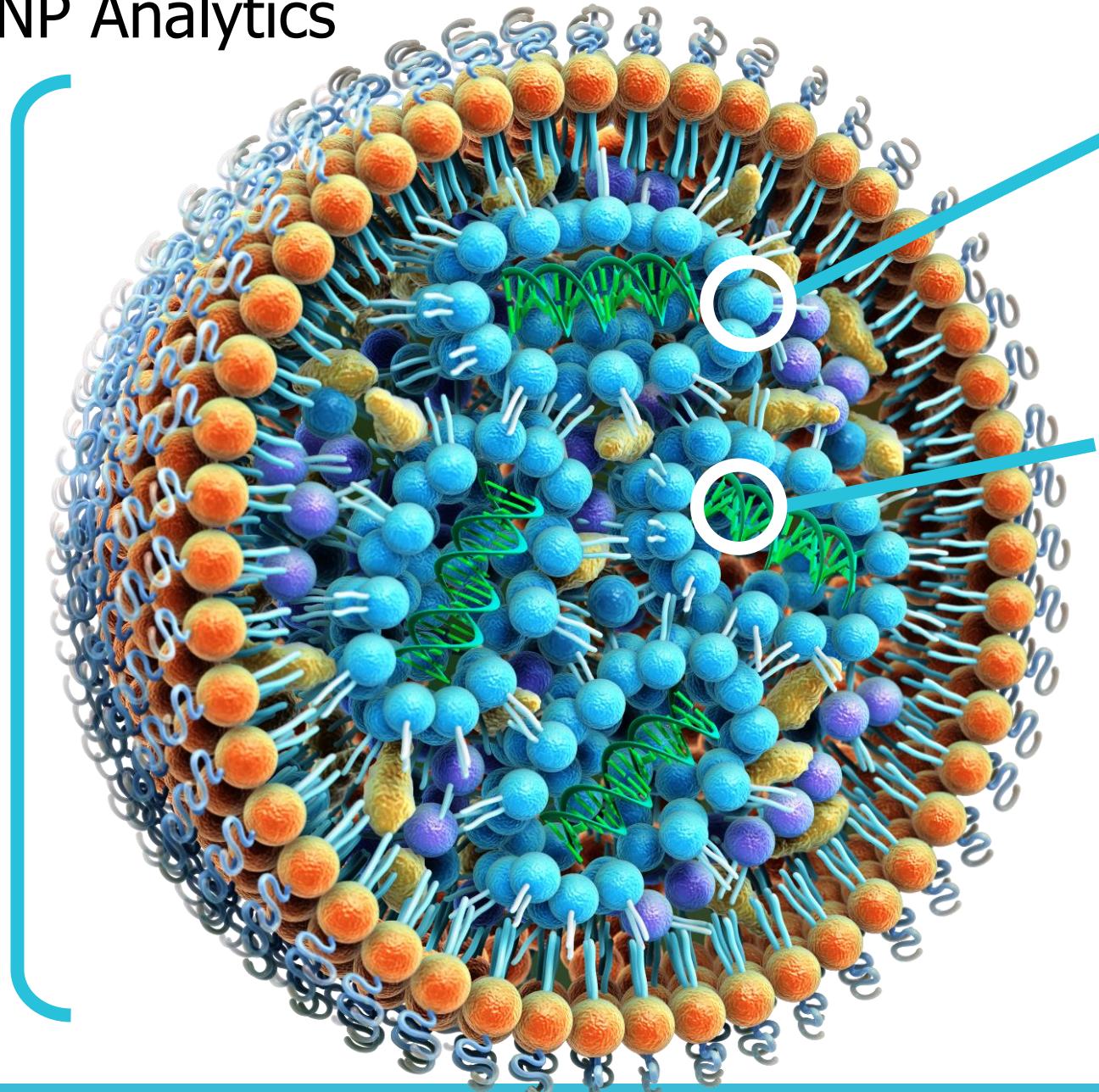
 **SCIEX**

 **MOLECULAR  
DEVICES**

# Common LNP Analytics

## Whole Particle:

- Dynamic Light Scattering
- NTA
- Electron microscopy (cryo-TEM)
- Zeta potential



## Lipid Components

- LC-MS
- UPLC-ELSD
- UHPLC-CAD

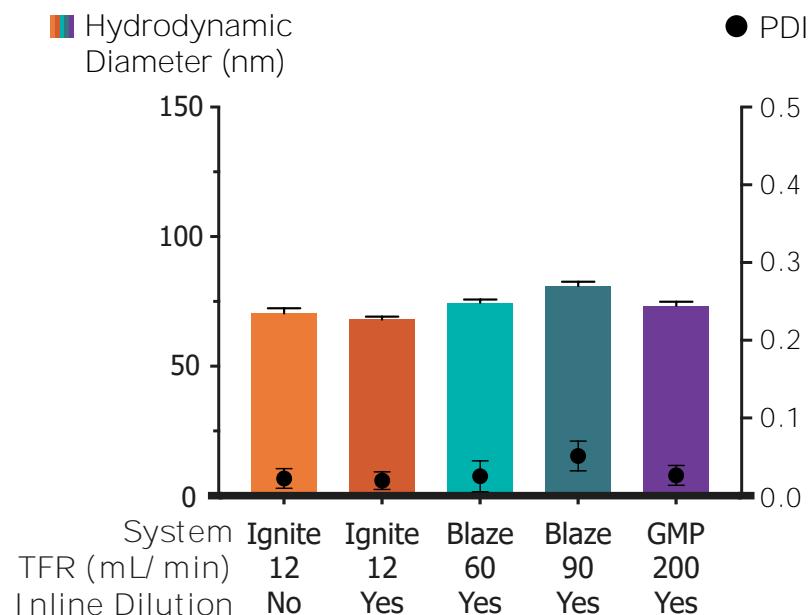
## Nucleic Acid

- RiboGreen/PicoGreen
- BioAnalyzer
- IPRP-UPLC-UV
- LC-MS

# Analytics: Particle size, Distribution, Zeta Potential

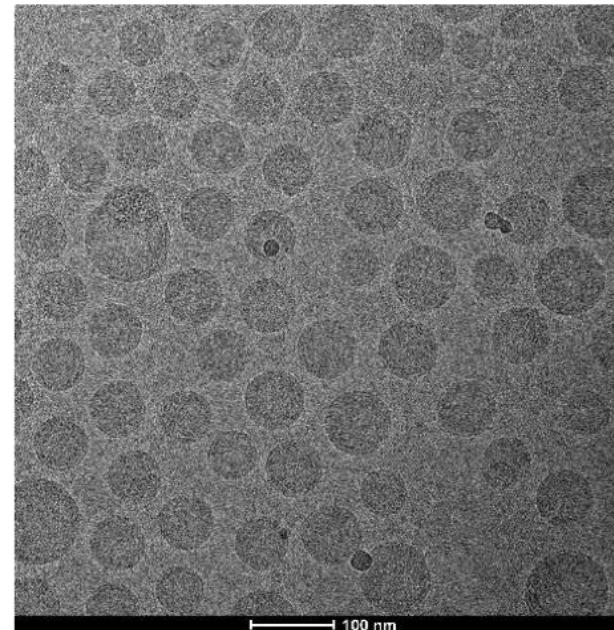
## Dynamic Light Scattering

- Study size distribution
- Calculates hydrodynamic radius based on scattering intensity



## Cryo-TEM

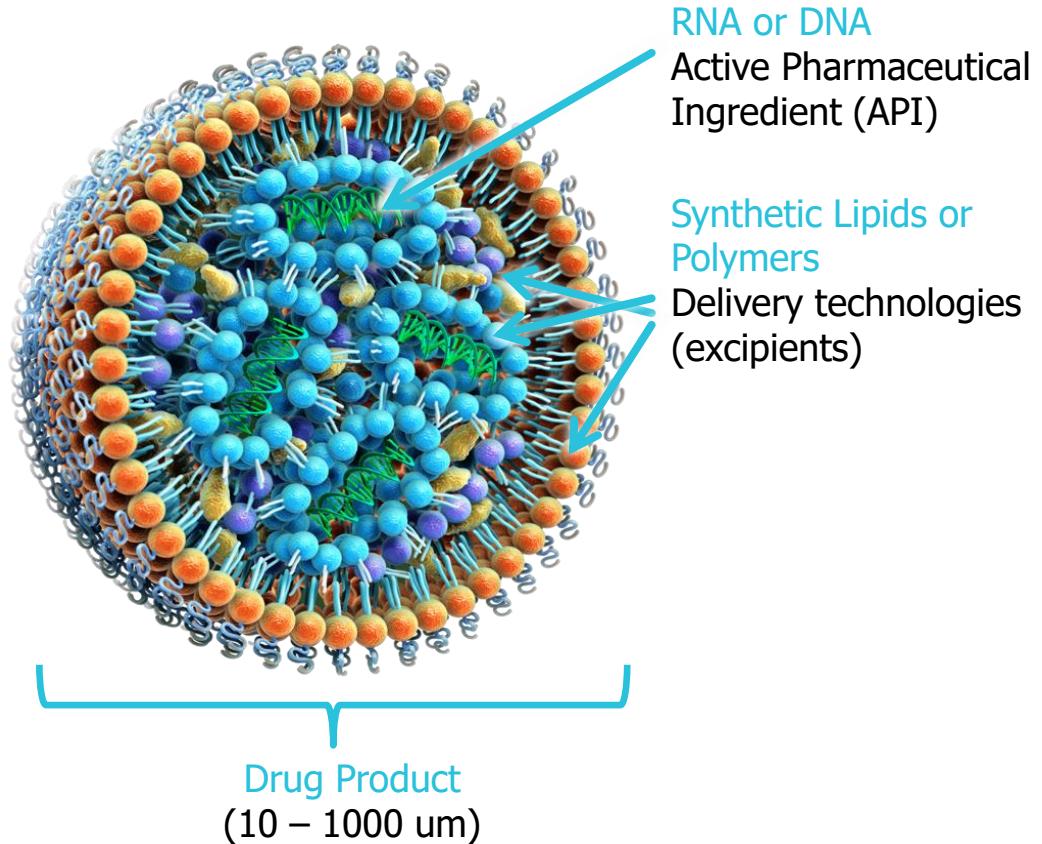
- Particle morphology
- Electron beam on flash-frozen samples



# LNPs Pose a Challenge for RNA Characterization

**mRNA-LNPs** contain a highly ordered structure of lipids, RNA and excipients resulting in **unique analytical challenges**:

- Drug product is not in solution but is a suspension prone to aggregation, precipitation and sample losses when transferred
- High lipid/excipient concentration greatly impacts RNA assays (matrix effects, sample handling, light scattering, fluorescence quenching, etc.)
- Particle physical characteristics (size, PDI) impact assay efficacy
- Drug product may contain populations of encapsulated and free RNA
  - Extraction of RNA is often required
- mRNA is highly structured and prone to degradation



# Analysis of mRNA Encapsulation

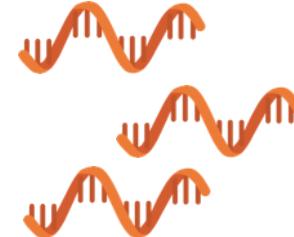
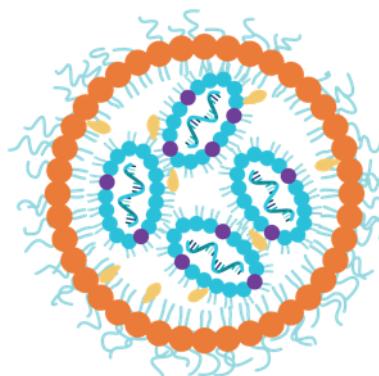
Therapeutic dose of drug product is largely defined by **concentration** of **encapsulated** nucleic acid API



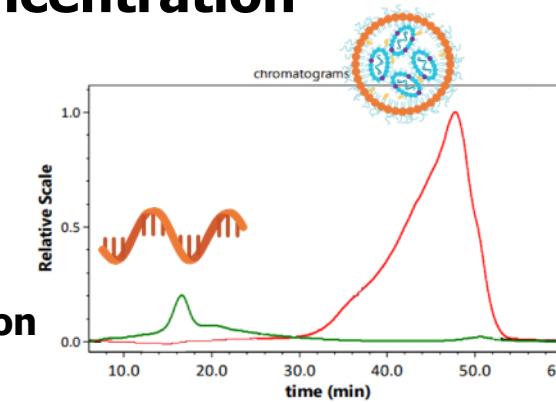
- Encapsulated mRNA:
  - Low immunogenicity
  - Protected from Nucleases
  - High transfectability



- Free mRNA:
  - Immunogenic
  - Unstable
  - Poor Cellular Uptake



**Separation**



Size exclusion chromatography (SEC)  
Field-Flow Fractionation (FFF)  
Capillary Electrophoresis (CE)  
Analytical Ultracentrifugation (AUC)

**Disruption**



'Total mRNA'

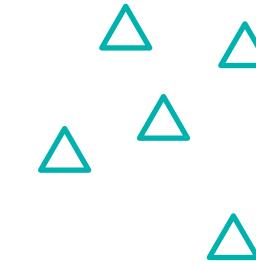
Fluorescent assays (E.g. Ribogreen™)

In general, therapeutic efficacy of LNP formulations improves with increased mRNA % encapsulation efficiency (%EE)

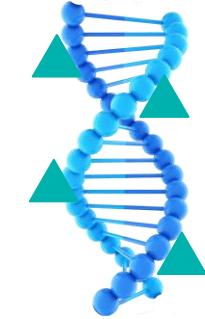
$$\%EE = \frac{\text{Encapsulated mRNA}}{\text{Total mRNA}} \times 100\%$$

# Analytics: Encapsulation Efficiency

- RiboGreen is a dye that fluoresces when bound to RNA
- UV quantification is prone to interference from proteins and lipids
- Relatively standard assay that is readily available
- Linear over a wide concentration range

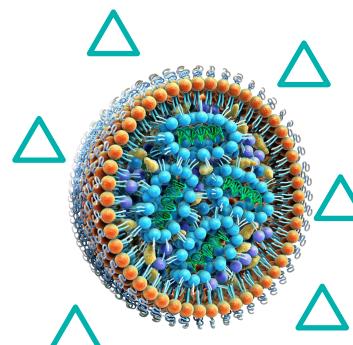


Unbound RiboGreen  
(low fluorescence)



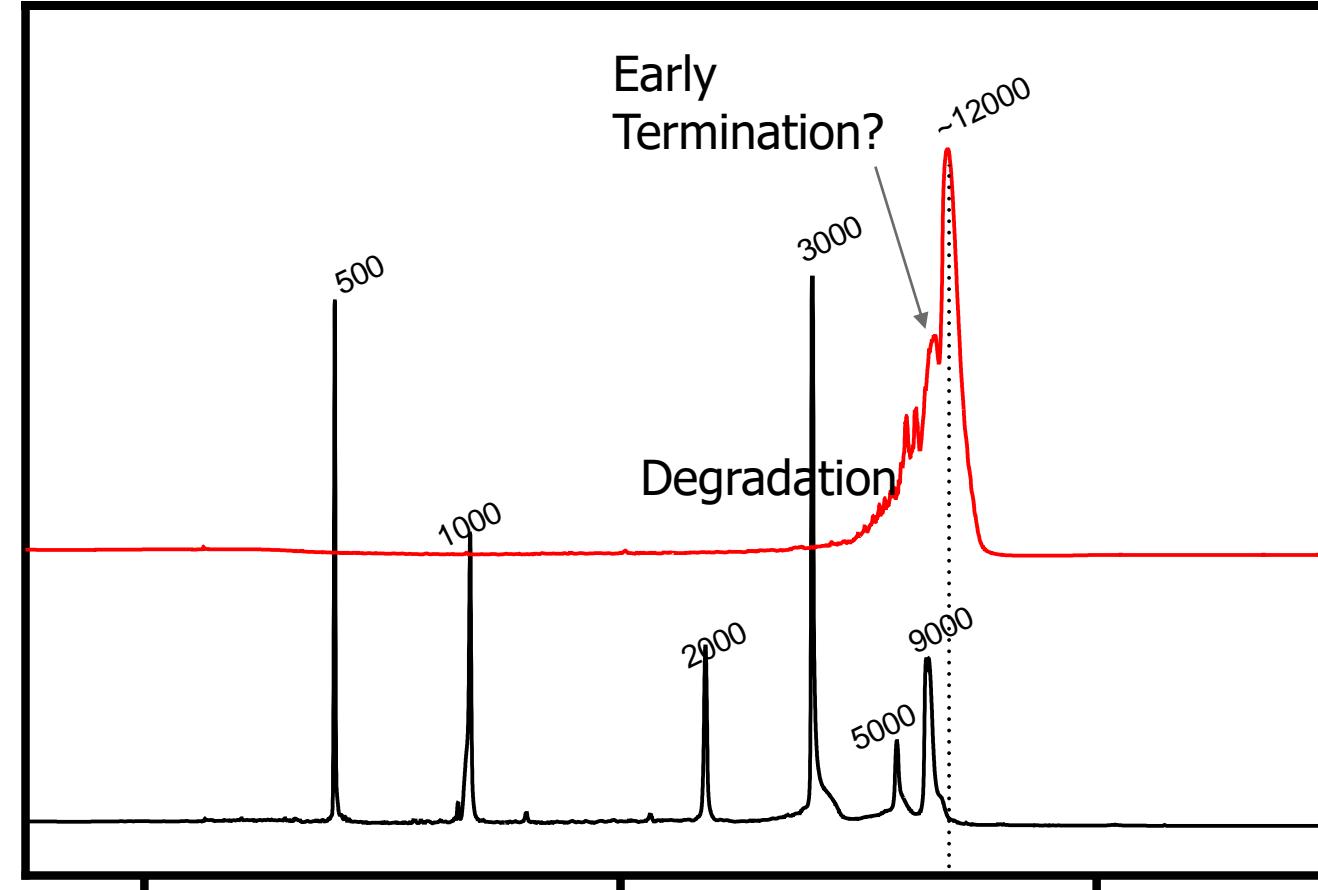
RiboGreen bound to  
RNA (high fluorescence)

RiboGreen cannot  
bind to RNA  
encapsulated in LNP



A modified protocol  
to release the RNA  
is required

# Characterization of RNA: Integrity using Capillary Electrophoresis

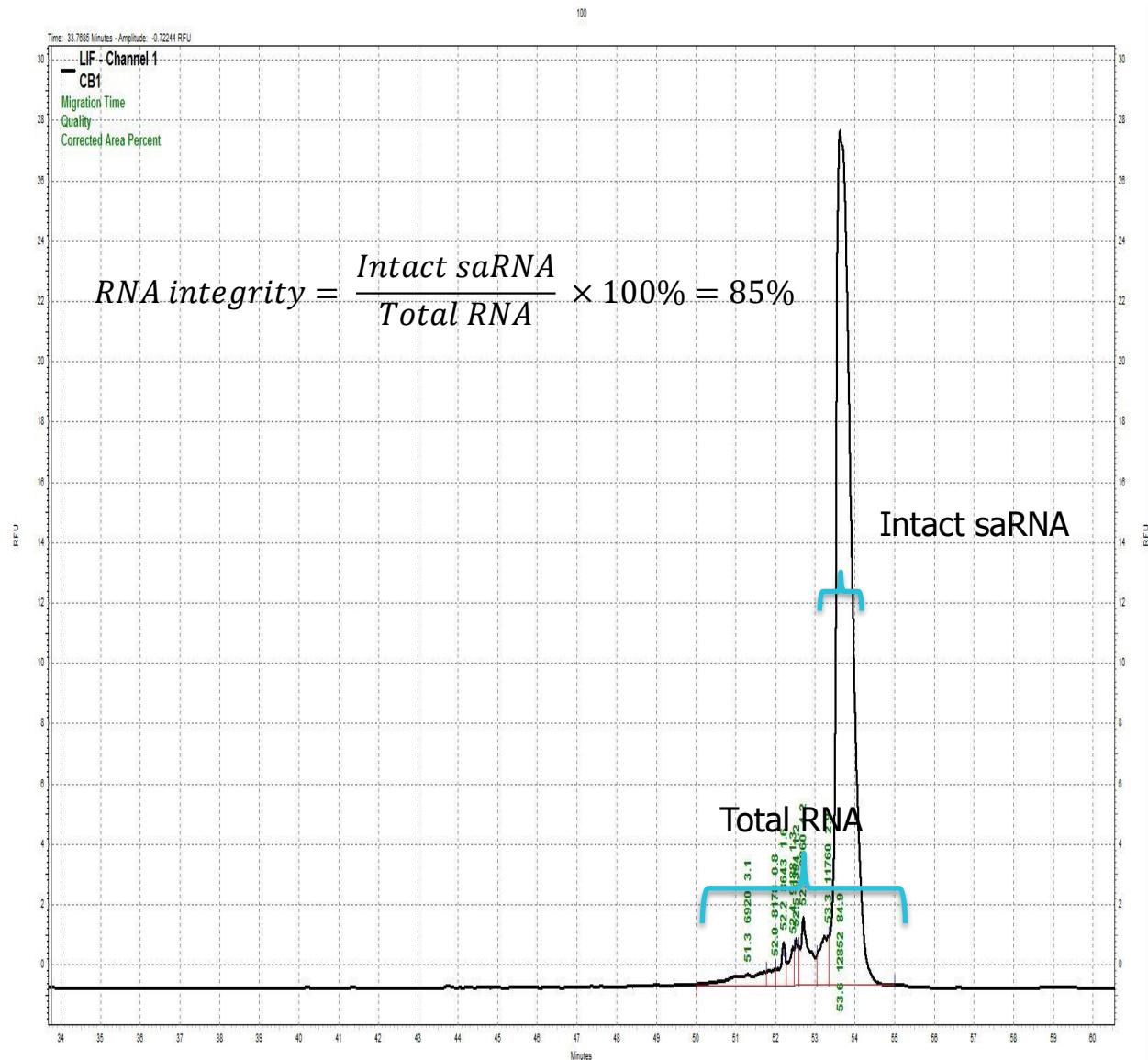


- RNA-LNP production can involve high shear forces, low pH and high temperatures resulting in degradation of mRNA

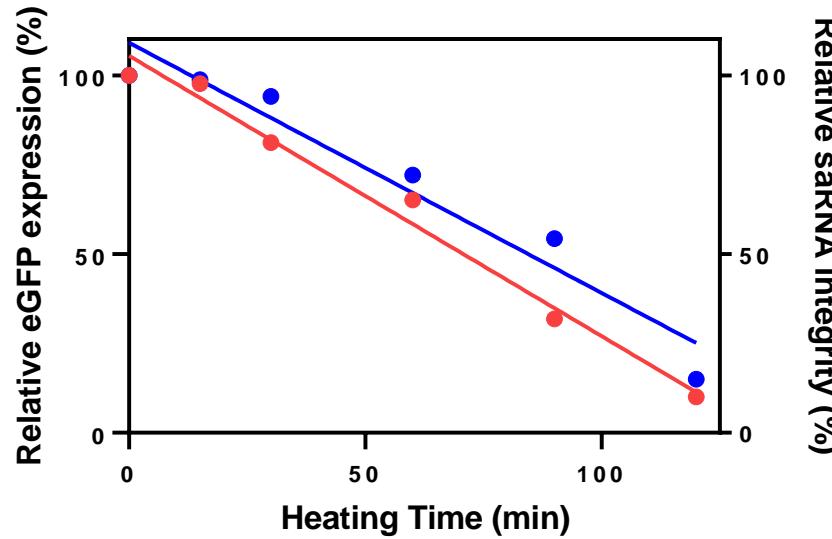
# Characterization of RNA: Integrity using Capillary Electrophoresis

## Resulting method provides:

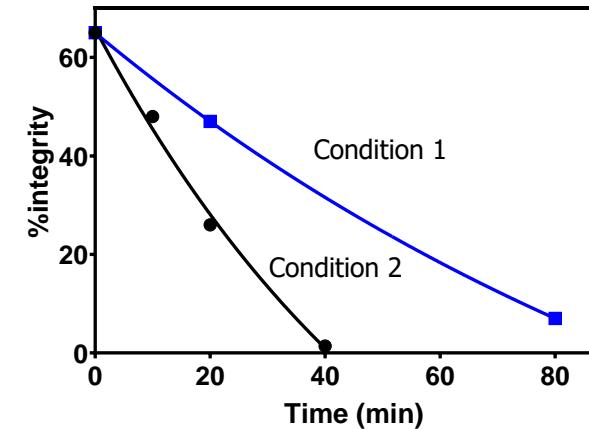
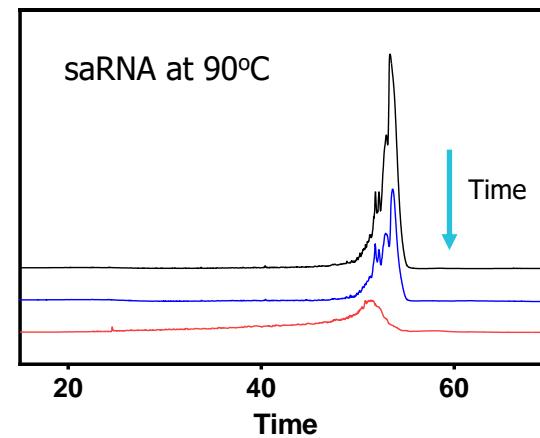
- Identity via sizing
- Concentration
- Resolution of impurities
- RNA integrity
- Stability profiling



# Impact of RNA Quality on Potency

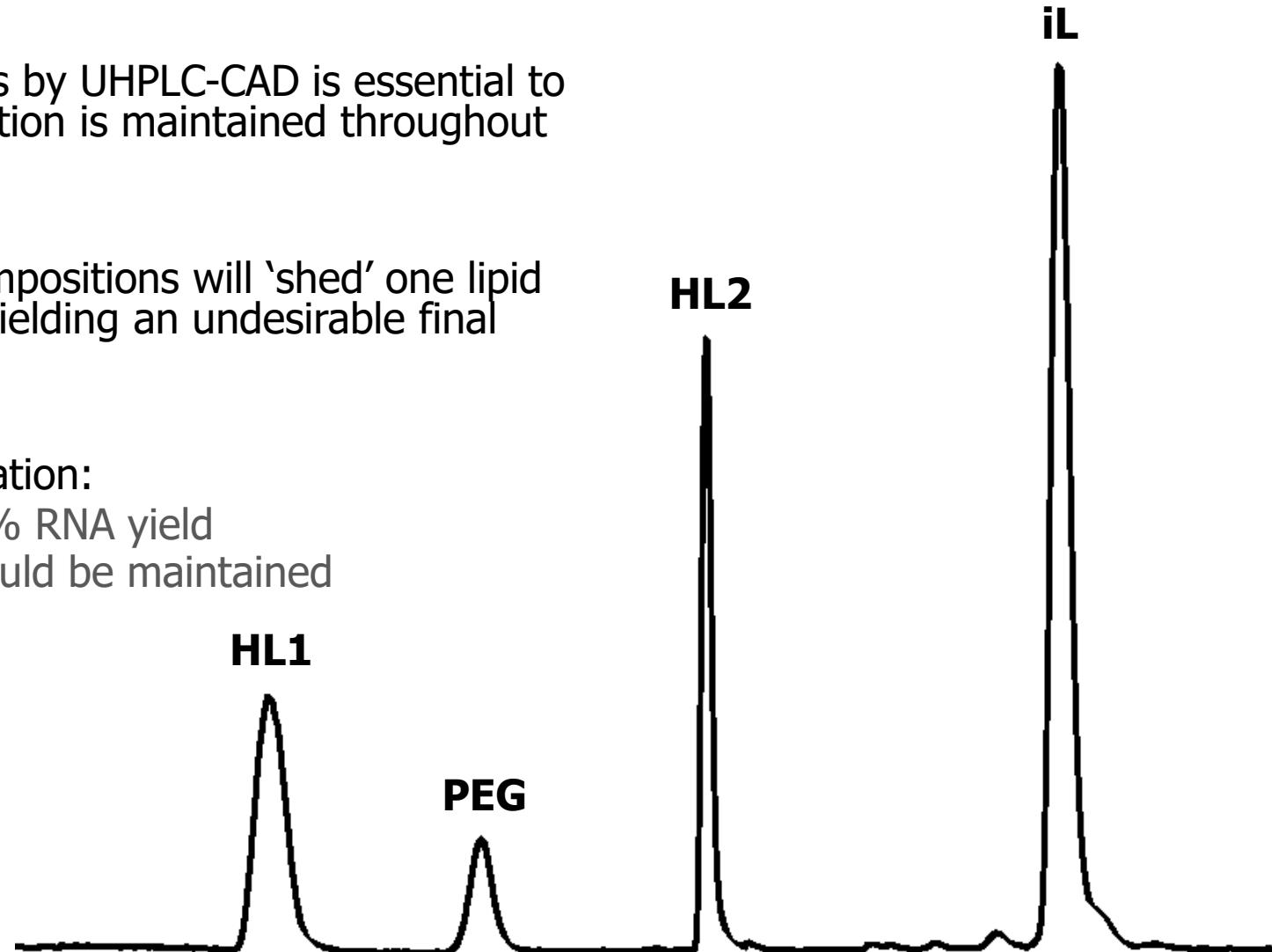


- eGFP sa-mRNA employed as a model to assess impact of sa-mRNA integrity on potency
- Integrity by CE correlates ( $r=0.92$ ) very well with *in vitro* potency
- CE enables screening formulation conditions to optimize saRNA stability



# Lipid Analysis Can Identify Process Issues

- Routine lipid analysis by UHPLC-CAD is essential to ensure LNP composition is maintained throughout formulation process
- Why? Some LNP compositions will 'shed' one lipid during formulation yielding an undesirable final composition
- Formulation optimization:
  - Target high % RNA yield
  - N:P ratio should be maintained



iL: ionizable lipid  
HL1: helper lipid 1  
HL2: helper lipid 2

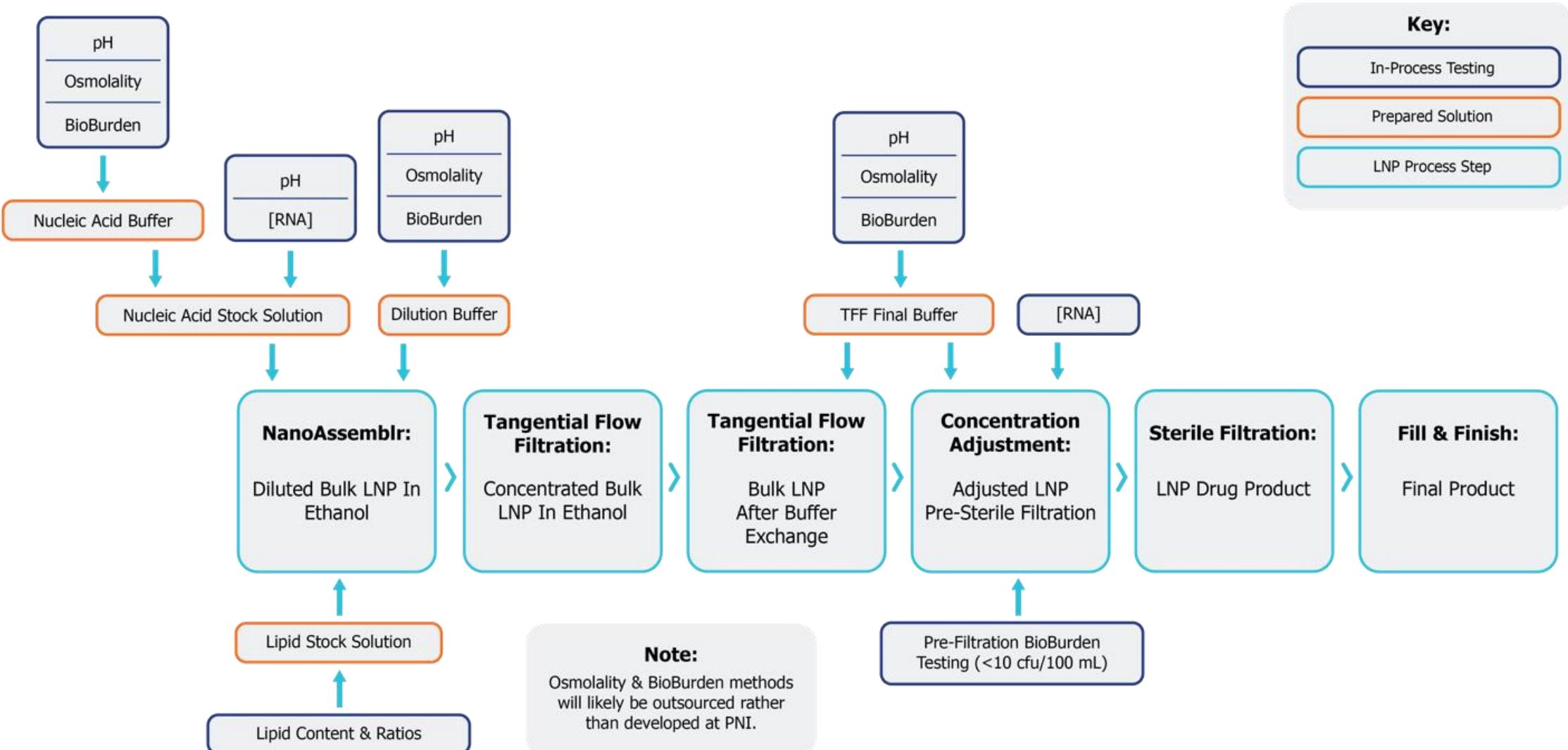
# Analytical Methods Overview



	Test	Method	Release Testing	In Process Testing
Analytical Requirements for Injectable Drugs (USP/Ph.Eur. methods available)	Appearance	Visual Inspection: USP <790> / Ph.Eur. 2.9.20	X	
	pH	Potentiometric: USP <791> / Ph.Eur 2.2.3	X	(X)*
	Osmolality	Freezing Point Depression: USP <785> / Ph.Eur. 2.2.35	X	(X)*
	Bacterial Endotoxins	USP<85> / Ph.Eur 2.6.14.	X	
	Sterility/BioBurden	USP<71> / Ph.Eur 2.6.1.	X	(X)*
	Particulate Matter	USP<788> / Ph.Eur 2.9.19.	X	
	Elemental Impurities	USP<233> / Ph.Eur 2.4.20	X	
LNP Specific Analytics (not available)	RNA Identity/Integrity	Capillary Electrophoresis or Bioanalyzer	X	X**
	Particle Size/PDI	Dynamic Light Scattering	X	X**
	RNA Content/Encapsulation	Ribogreen Assay	X	X**
	Lipid Content	UPLC-CAD	X	X**
	Lipid:RNA Ratio	Calculation	X	
	Potency Bioassay	In Vitro Assay	X	

\*applied for all aqueous buffer systems \*\*applied for all LNP processing steps

# RNA-LNP Production: In-Process Testing



# 6

## Case Study: Using the Genomic Medicine Toolkit to Develop Novel RNA-based Vaccines

# Full Stack of Technology to Enable the Genomic Medicine Revolution



## Genomic Medicine Toolkit



### Disease Target

Biological insights can identify target gene(s) driving disease



### Genetic Payload Platform

Proprietary self-amplifying mRNA (SAM) to express specific proteins, including antigens used in RNA vaccines against COVID-19

RNA/DNA can also silence or edit target gene(s)



### GenVoy™ Delivery Platform

Lipid nanoparticles (LNP), derived from a proprietary lipid library, that protect and deliver nucleic acids (RNA, DNA, derivatives) to target cells

Rapidly develop at lab scale and seamless translation to the clinic



### NanoAssemblr® Manufacturing Platform

Proprietary, scalable, continuous flow, and single-use microfluidic mixing technology for controlled and precise nanoparticle encapsulated genetic medicine development & manufacturing

Produce the best drugs — faster, easier, and with the least risk possible — from  $\mu$ L lab scale to GMP scale



### Drug Development Expertise

Leverage world-leading expertise in LNPs and genetic medicine development

# Key Pre-Clinical and Process Development Requirements for RNA-LNP Drug Product



## RNA LNP Formulation

Lipid composition  
Molar ratio  
N/P ratio  
Drug substance

## Downstream Processing

Buffers  
Buffer exchange (TFF)  
Sterile filtration

## Biological Assay\*

*In vitro/in vivo* activity  
Toxicity  
PK/BD

## Particle Formation

(microfluidic parameters)

Flow rate ratio  
Total flow rates  
Dilution rates

## Analytics

Analytical methods for lipids,  
RNA, LNP, endotoxin,  
osmolality, etc.  
Target spec's—materials & DP

## Initial Stability

In-process  
Long-term storage

\*consider adding a benchmark formulation

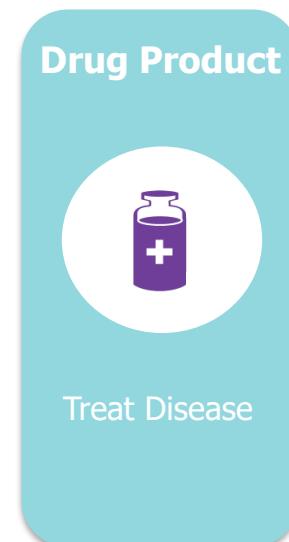
# End-to-End Manufacturing of Genomic Medicines



Enabling (bio)pharma companies and CDMOs with no technology access fees or royalties associated with PNI instruments



## NanoAssemblr® Instruments



## Downstream Processing

ÄKTA™

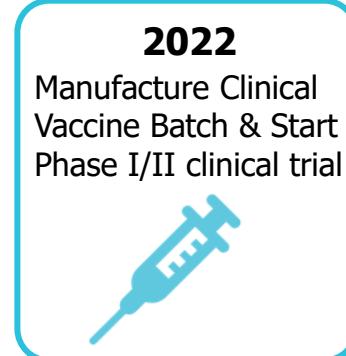
ULTA™

Microcell

PNI LNP Expertise & Partner Product Portfolio

# PNI's Covid-19 saRNA-LNP Program

- In October 2020, PNI received \$18.2 million from Canadian Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) to develop cost-effective made-in-Canada COVID-19 self-amplifying RNA (saRNA) vaccine
- PNI also received a contribution of CAD \$25.1 million through SIF to build a Genomic Medicine Biomanufacturing Centre with the goal of producing vaccines and other genetic medicines in Canada



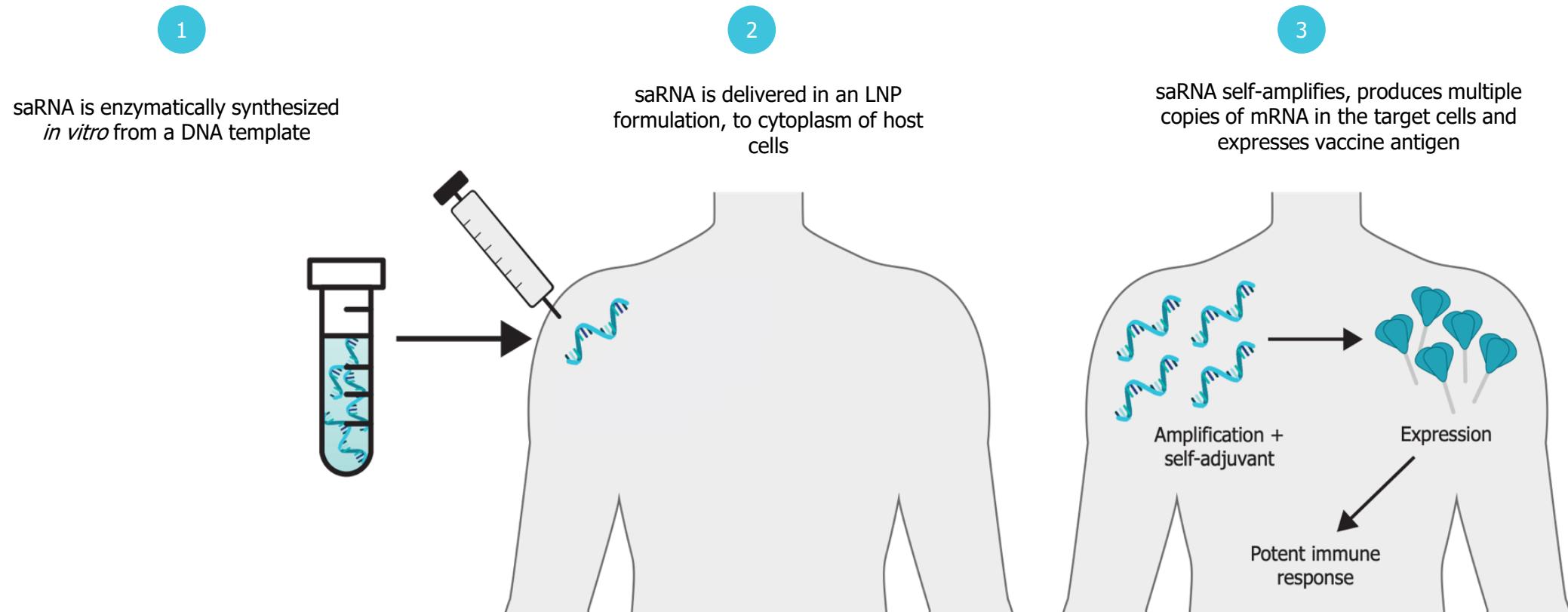
Genomic Medicine Biomanufacturing Centre  
Vancouver, Canada – Opening 2023

# Process Development Objectives

- To scale up SARS-CoV-2 self-amplifying RNA-Lipid nanoparticle using PNI developed ionizable lipid and formulation from 0.2, to 50 mg scale using PNI's Manufacturing Platform ( NanoAssemblr® Ignite™, Blaze™, GMP)
  - A phase I vaccine trial with saRNA-LNP requires 50 – 100 mg scale
- To optimize the down-stream processing (TFF/Sterile filtration)
  - TFF type, Material, MWCO
  - Processing buffers
  - TFF shear rate
  - TFF scalability
- To select a lead saRNA-LNP formulation and define a manufacturing process based on formulation activity, stability, scalability, repeatability and critical process parameters

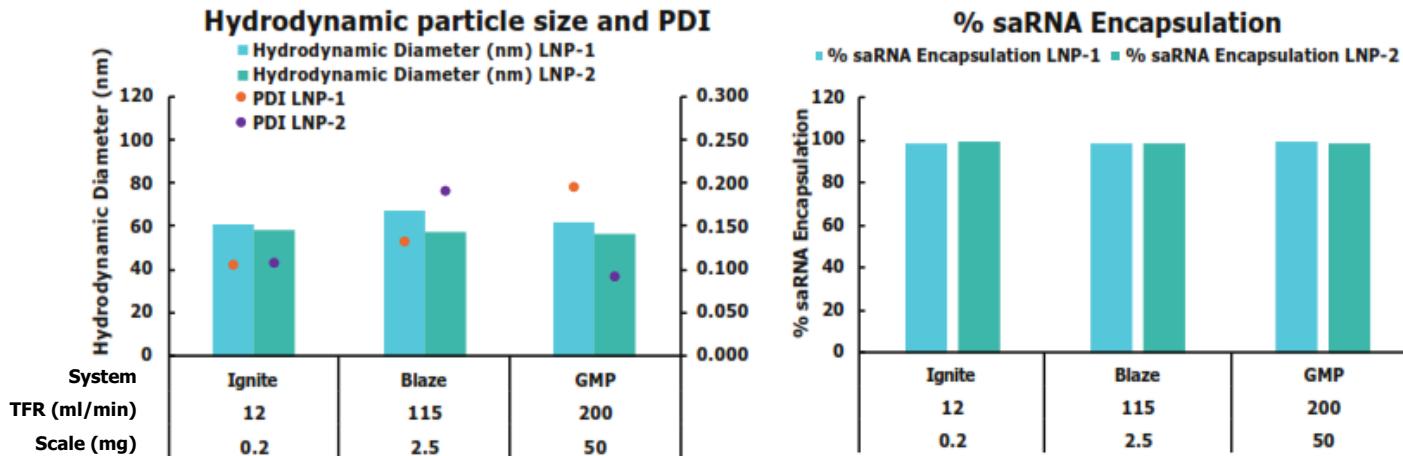
# Why saRNA?

*Potential to be 10x – 100x more potent than mRNA vaccines*



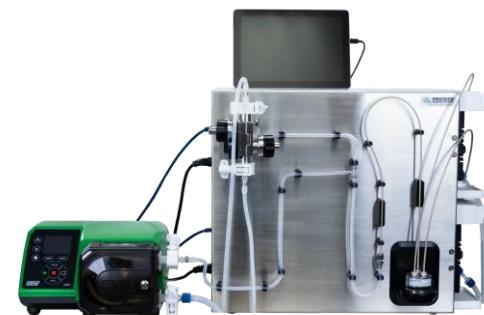
- Self-amplifying RNA encodes nonstructural proteins of the alpha virus that are translated into replicases that make many more copies
- saRNA can reduce doses by a factor of 100 thus reducing manufacturing burden

# Self-Amplifying RNA-LNPs Have Equivalent Size, PDI and Encapsulation Across Scales (Ignite-Blaze-GMP)



- SARS-CoV-2 self-amplifying RNA-LNP made with PNI proprietary ionizable lipid had similar Critical Quality Attributes (CQAs) such as size (~60 nm), polydispersity (<0.2) and encapsulation efficiency (>90%) across all scales tested with two different LNP compositions.

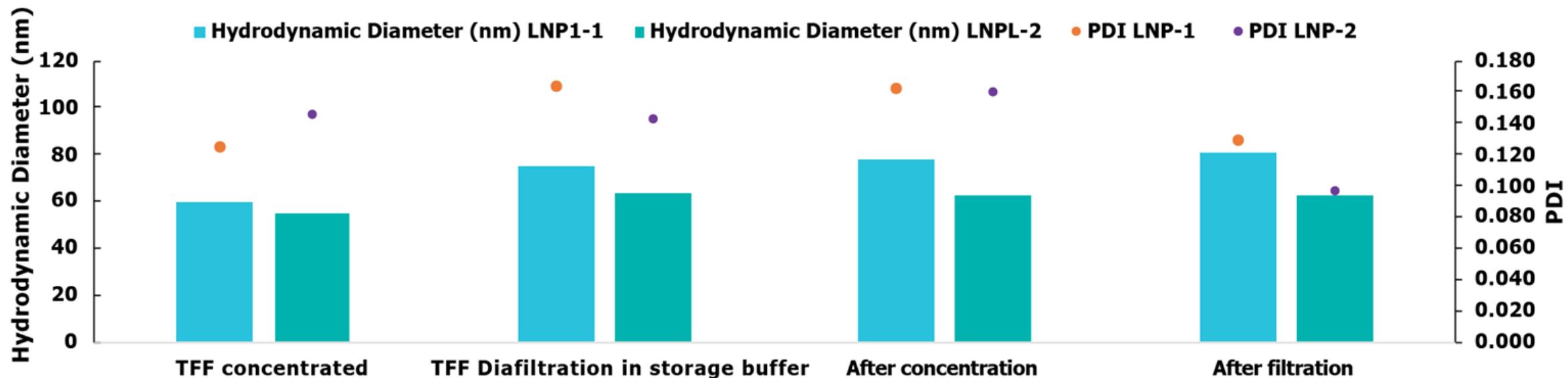
Scalability Across Platform was achieved for LNP-1 and LNP-2



Simplified Scale-up of mRNA-LNP Using NxGen™

# In Process Data for saRNA-LNP Using Blaze (2.5 mg scale)

## Hydrodynamic Particle Size and PDI

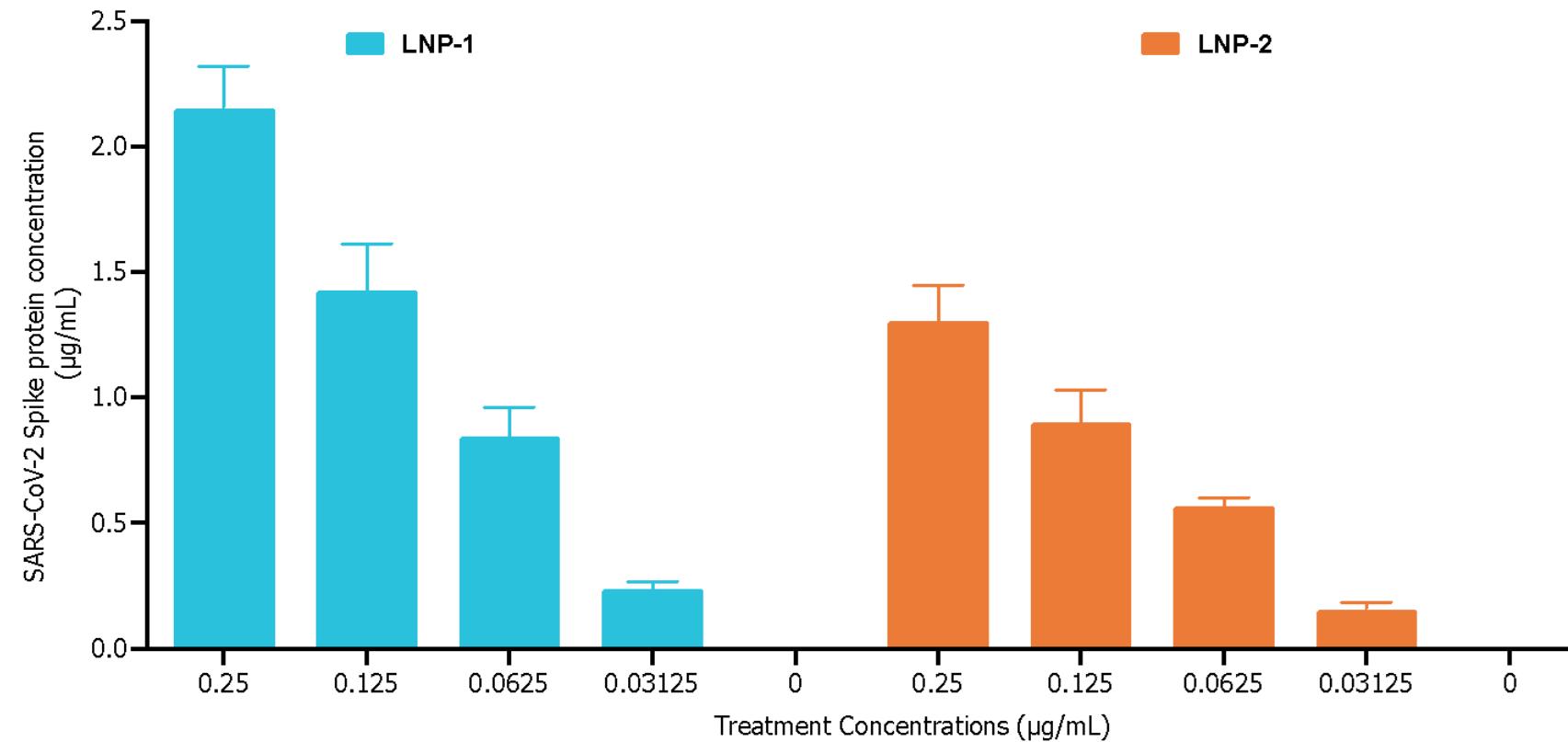


- At the 2.5 mg scale LNP-1 showed a slight particle size increase during the TFF process

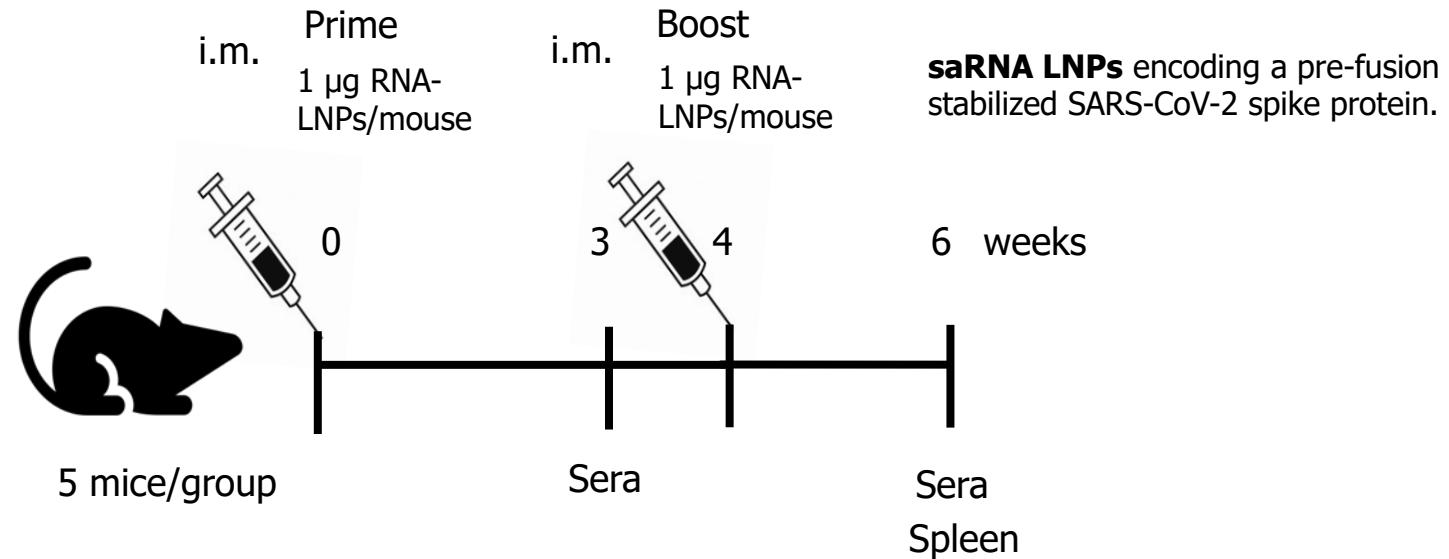
# *In Vitro* Activity saRNA LNPs Using Two Novel Lipid Compositions

ELISA quantification of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein expression in HEK-293 cells after transfection with saRNA LNPs

- Both LNPs showed an activity dose response *in vitro*
- LNP-1 is more active *in-vitro* than LNP-2



# *In Vivo* Testing of saRNA LNPs



Sera

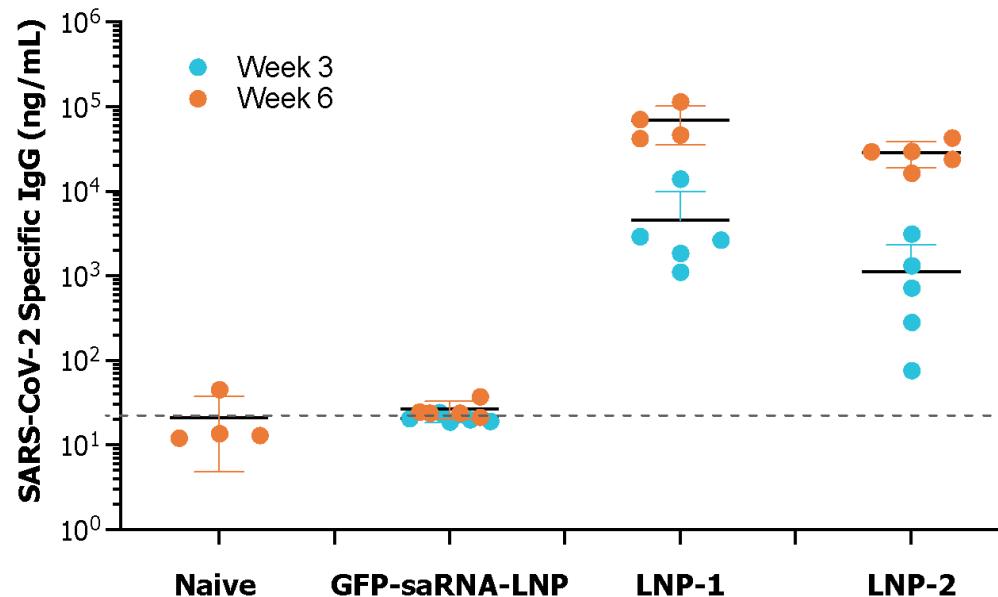
- SARS CoV2 specific IgG ELISA
- Cytokine measurements/Neutralization assays
- Isolation of splenocytes

Spleen

- *Ex vivo* restimulation with SARS-CoV-2 peptides
- Intracellular cytokine staining/Cytokine measurements

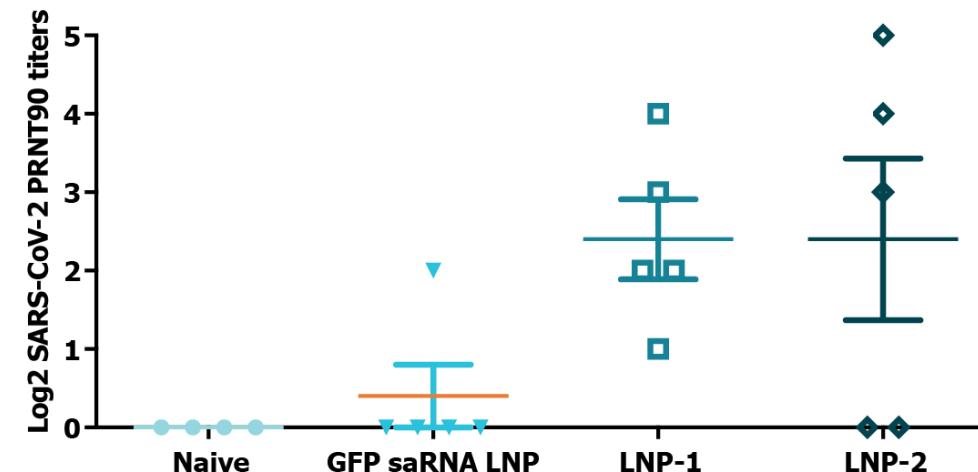
# *In Vivo* Activity of saRNA LNPs Using Novel Lipid Compositions

## SARS-CoV-2 Specific Serum IgG Measurements at Week 3 & 6



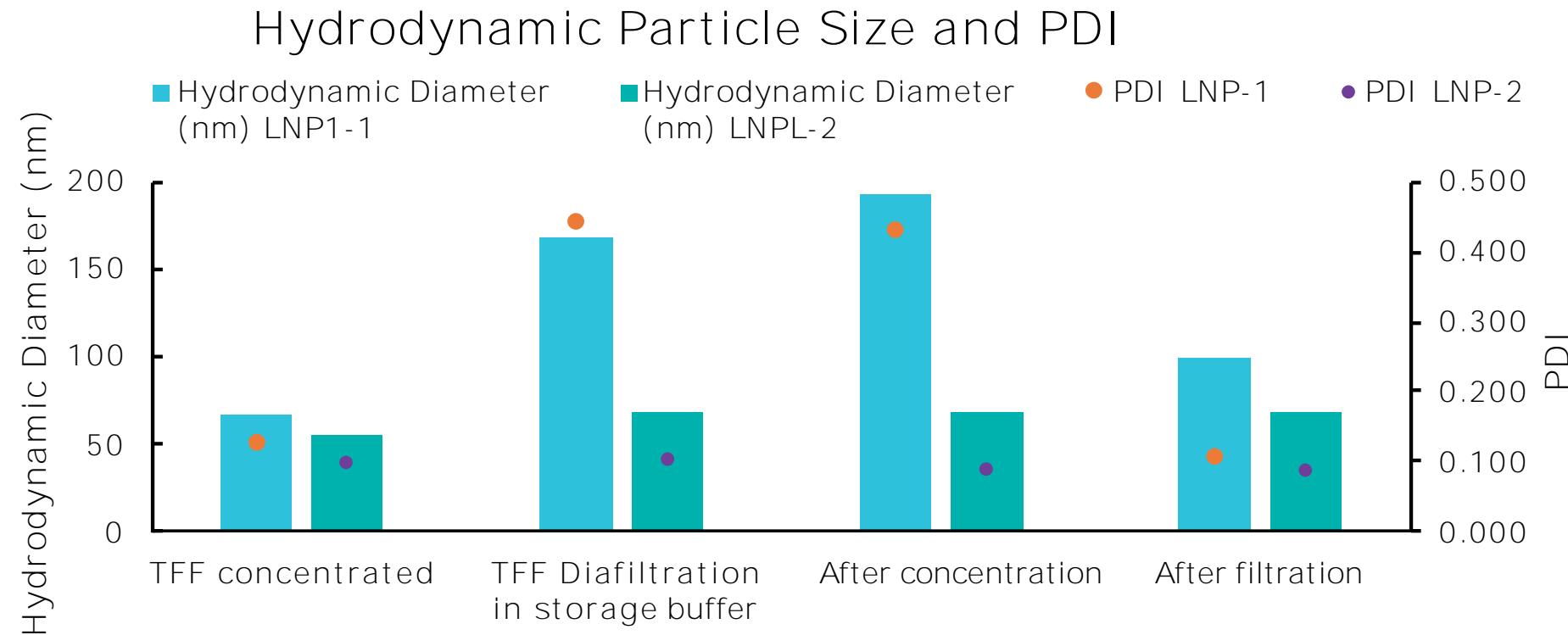
## Neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2

### pRNT90 Values (SARS-CoV-2 real virus particles)



- Both LNP-1 and LNP-2 efficiently induced SARS CoV2 specific IgG response in mice
- As observed *in vitro*, LNP-1 showed slightly higher activity as compared to LNP-2
- Both LNP-1 and LNP-2 generated neutralizing antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- Both LNP-1 and LNP-2 also showed effective cellular and humoral immune responses (data not shown)

# LNP Composition Was Selected Based on Stability and Robustness During TFF Process



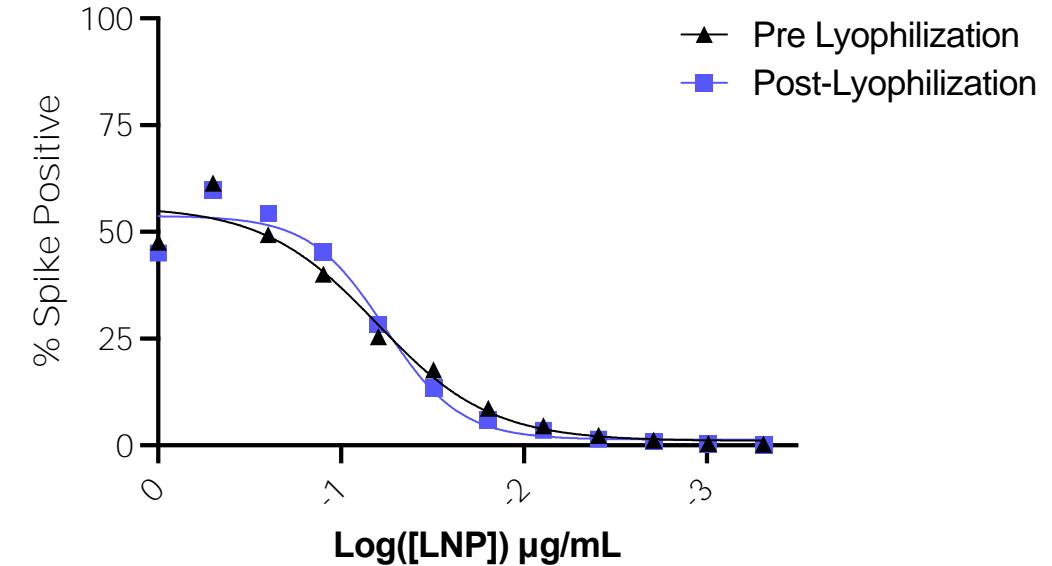
- At the 50 mg scale LNP-1 showed particle size increase during down-stream processing (TFF)
- RNA encapsulation > 90% for both formulations for all processing steps
- LNP-2 particle size stable throughout TFF and was selected as the lead clinical formulation

# PNI's Lyophilized saRNA-LNP Vaccine Candidate Retains Activity

	<b>Before Lyophilization</b>	<b>After Lyophilization</b>
Size (d.nm)	71	89
PDI	0.074	0.09
% saRNA encapsulation	97	95
EC50 (ug/mL)	0.063	0.057



Percentage of cells expressing COVID-19 Spike protein as a function of LNP dosage



BHK 570 cells transfected in a 96-well plate with SARsCov-2-SARNA LNP in a dose response manner from 1 to 0.00049  $\mu\text{g/mL}$

- Similar particle characteristics and in vitro potency following lyophilization cycle

# Acknowledgements

## **Funding:**

- Government of Canada Strategic Innovation Fund

## **Collaborators:**

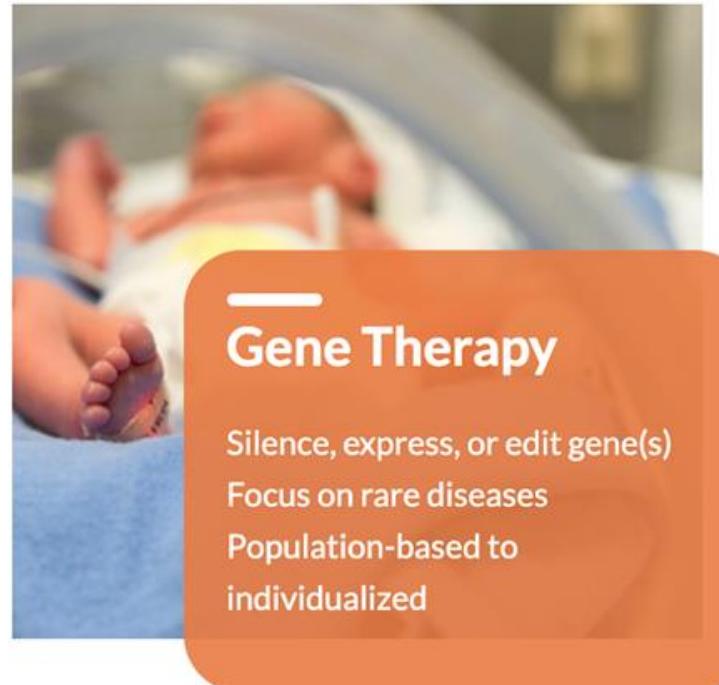
- Dr. Robin Shattock & Team at Imperial College London
- Dr. Yvonne Perrie & Team at University of Strathclyde

## **PNI departments:**

- Clinical Manufacturing
- Research
- Engineering & Operations
- Preclinical
- Process Development
- Analytical Development
- Quality Control
- Quality Assurance
- Project Management
- RNA Development Services
- Sales and Marketing

# Accelerating Tomorrow's Genomic Medicines

From idea to approved medicine.



These therapeutic modalities have broad application in the prevention and treatment of diseases including infectious diseases, rare diseases and cancer

 [linkedin.com/company/precision-nanosystems-inc-](https://www.linkedin.com/company/precision-nanosystems-inc-)

 [twitter.com/precisionnano](https://twitter.com/precisionnano)

 [youtube.com/PrecisionNanoSystems](https://youtube.com/PrecisionNanoSystems)

# Thank you for listening!

*Questions?*



Create Transformative Medicines™

