

Directed Evolution of AAV Targeting Lung Epithelia Using Aerosol Delivery Identifies 4D-A101, a Variant Demonstrating Robust Gene Delivery in Non-Human Primates



Abstract 1336

Melissa Kotterman, Ph.D.¹, Melissa Calton, Ph.D.¹, Julie Nye¹, Ghezal Beliakoff¹, Melissa Quezada¹, Roxanne Croze, Ph.D.¹, Kevin Whittlesey, Ph.D.¹, Katherine Barglow, Ph.D.¹, Peter Francis, M.D., Ph.D.¹, David Schaffer, Ph.D.^{1,2}, David Kirn, M.D.¹

¹ 4D Molecular Therapeutics, Emeryville, CA

² University of California, Berkeley, CA



Disclosures

- Full-time employee at 4D Molecular Therapeutics, Inc.
- Co-founder and owner of shares in 4D Molecular Therapeutics, Inc.
- Inventor on patents and/or pending patent applications related to AAV capsid variants and AAV gene delivery.

Approved & Late-Stage AAV Gene Therapies are NOT Targeted; 4DMT Is Developing Precision-Guided Products

FOUR KEY CHALLENGES FOR CONVENTIONAL AAV VECTORS

Delivery: sub-optimal routes, high doses

Transduction: poor efficacy, limited tissues

Inflammation: toxicity challenges

Antibodies: limit market, efficacy



CURRENT PRODUCTS FOCUS ON “LOW-HANGING FRUIT”

Luxturna (IRD): subretinal surgery

Hemophilia: $\geq 5\%$ correction required

Zolgensma (SMA): patients < 2 years old

“NEXT-GEN” VECTORS

- Unmodified AAV discovered in nature
- Modified natural vectors: rationally designed or engineered (not evolved)
- Selection with small libraries with low diversity
- Selection in mice (not primates)

4DMT PRECISION-GUIDED VECTORS

Delivery: Optimal Route & Lower Doses

Transduction: Highly Efficient

Inflammation: Reduced

Antibody Resistance



PROPRIETARY TARGETED VECTORS FOR RARE & LARGE MARKET DISEASES

- **PRECISION-GUIDED VECTORS**
- **Original AAV directed evolution company**
- **~1 BILLION sequences**
- **37 Capsid Libraries**
- **Selection & validation in PRIMATES**
- **Characterization in human organotypic disease models**

Discovery of Next-Generation AAV Vectors

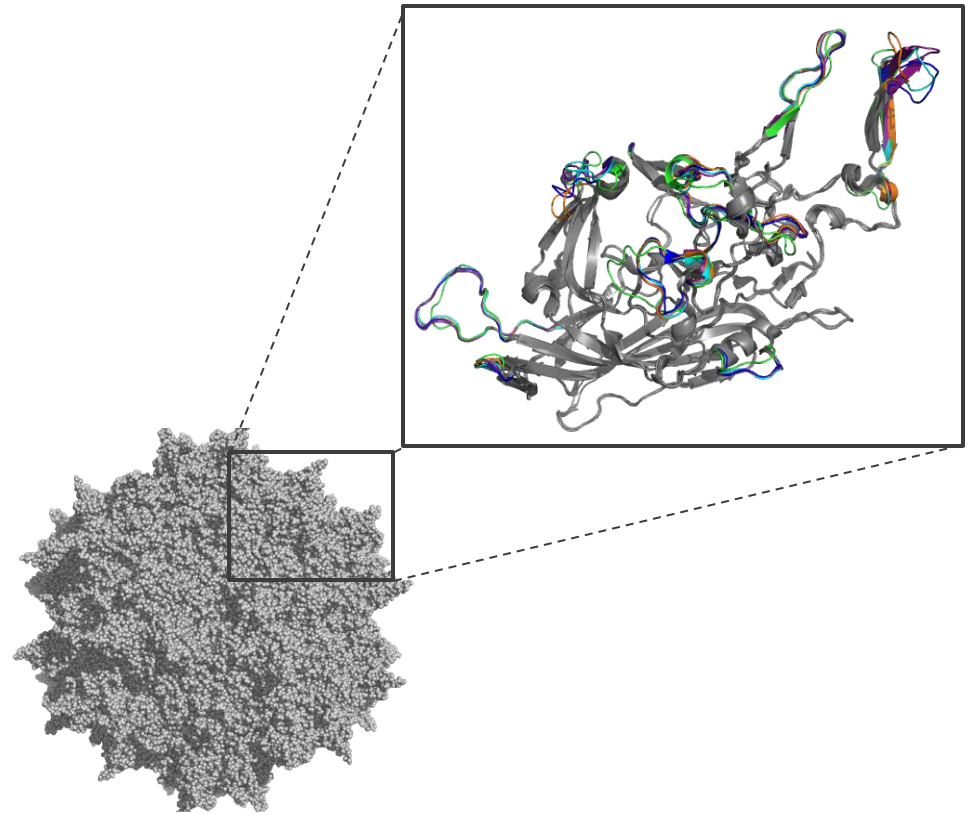
RATIONALE FOR DIRECTED EVOLUTION

- Differences in capsid protein sequences between serotypes
 - Structural differences in surface loop regions

Discovery of Next-Generation AAV Vectors

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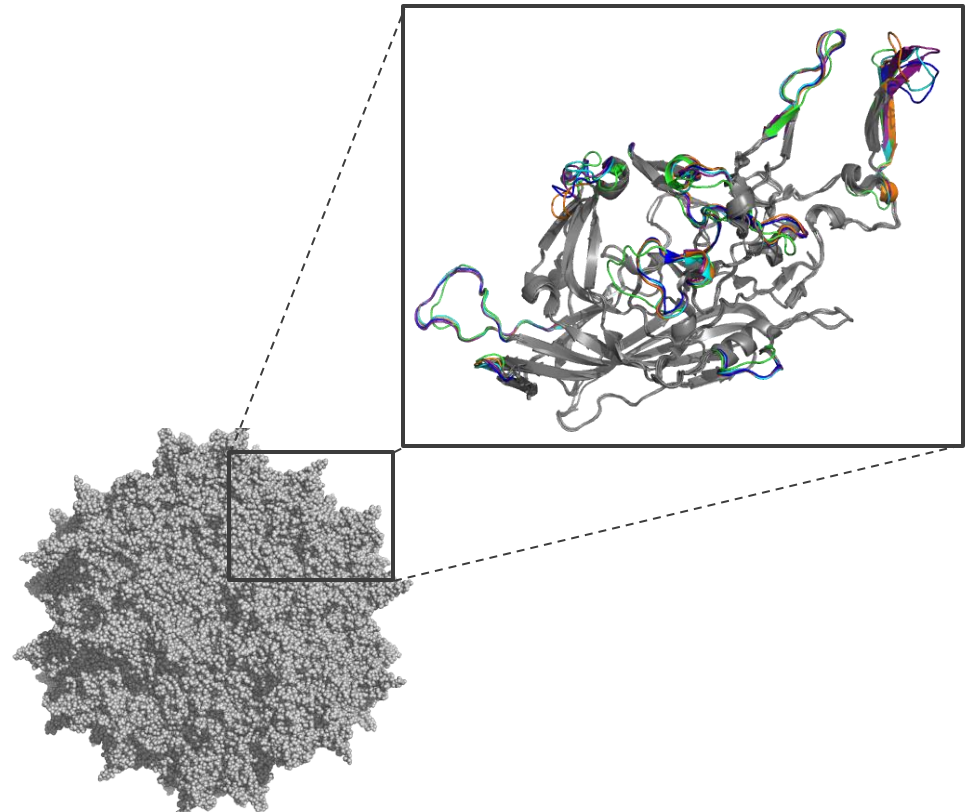
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Discovery of Next-Generation AAV Vectors

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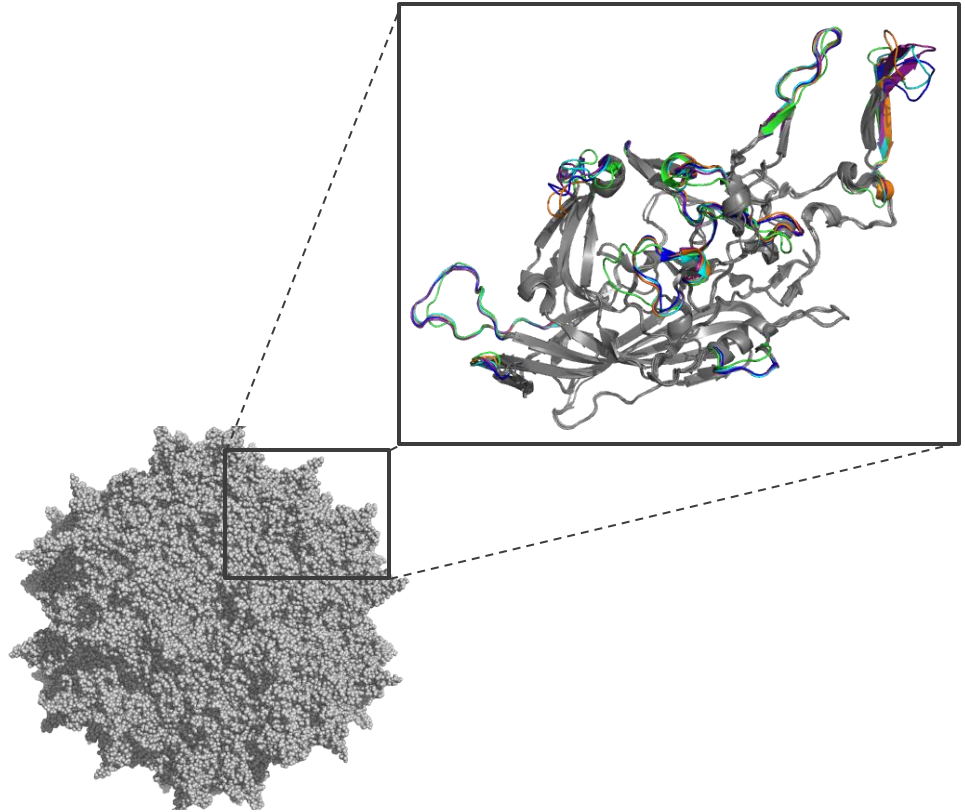
- Differences in capsid protein sequences between serotypes
 - Structural differences in surface loop regions
- Protein sequence and structure changes lead to differences in
 - Cell surface receptors utilized
 - Transduction efficiency for various cell types
 - Relative biodistribution
 - Affinity for antibodies



Discovery of Next-Generation AAV Vectors

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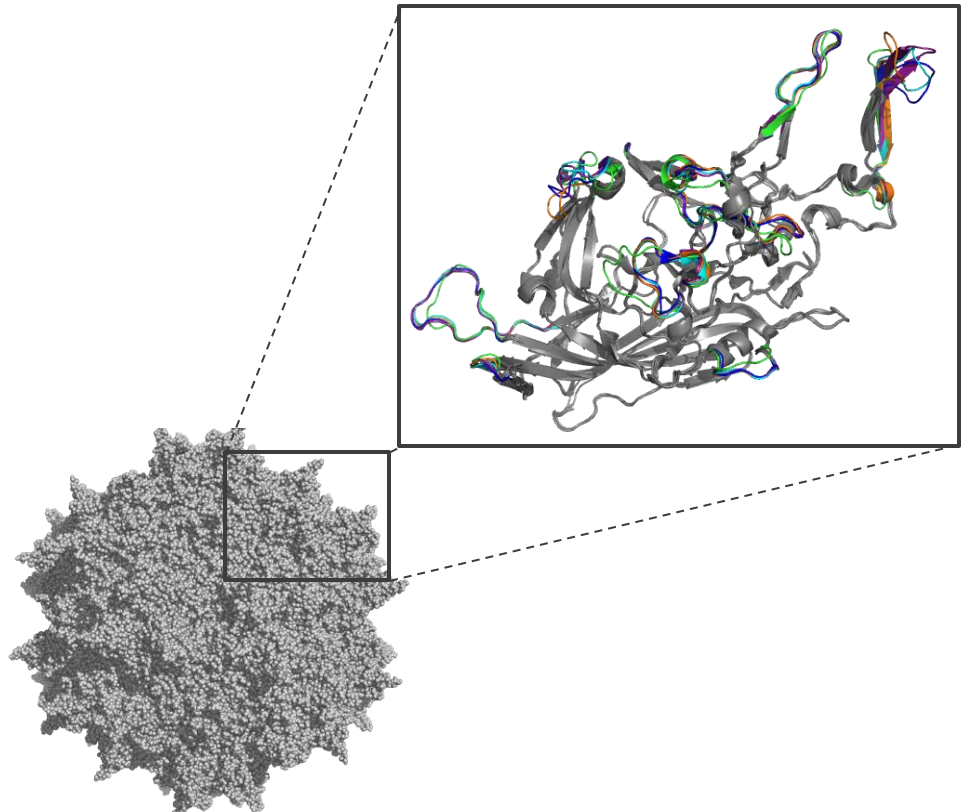
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- Additional capsid protein changes can lead to further improvements
 - *Cap* gene can be mutated to produce capsid protein changes



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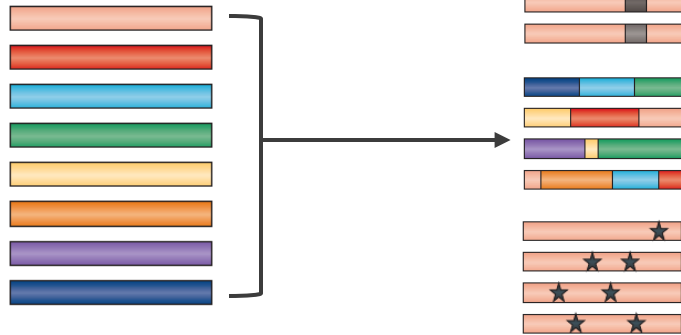
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 - Affinity for antibodies
- Additional capsid protein changes can lead to further improvements
 - *Cap* gene can be mutated to produce capsid protein changes
- Problems:
 - Knowledge of structure/sequence to function relationship is incomplete
 - Knowledge of gene delivery “bottleneck” in each situation is incomplete



4DMT AAV Capsid Discovery Platform

THERAPEUTIC VECTOR EVOLUTION

A viral library is created by mutating the *cap* gene.

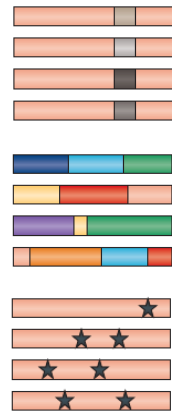
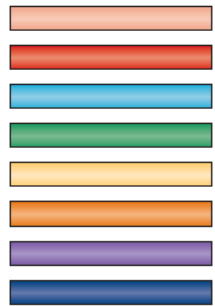


Diversity: **>1 BILLION** Vector Variants in
4DMT Libraries (n>35)

4DMT AAV Capsid Discovery Platform

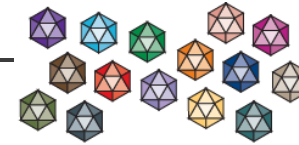
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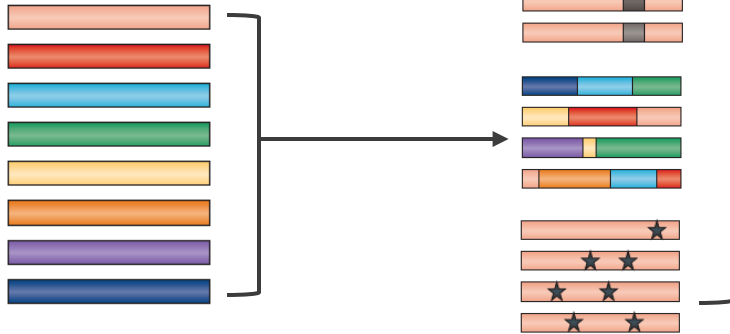
Each virus is composed of a mutant capsid surrounding the *cap* gene encoding that capsid.



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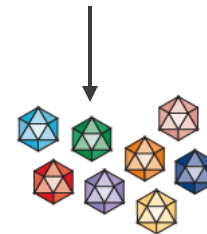
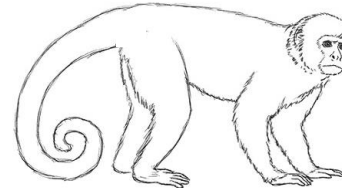


Diversity: **>1 BILLION** Vector Variants in 4DMT Libraries ($n > 35$)

Each virus is composed of a mutant capsid surrounding the *cap* gene encoding that capsid.



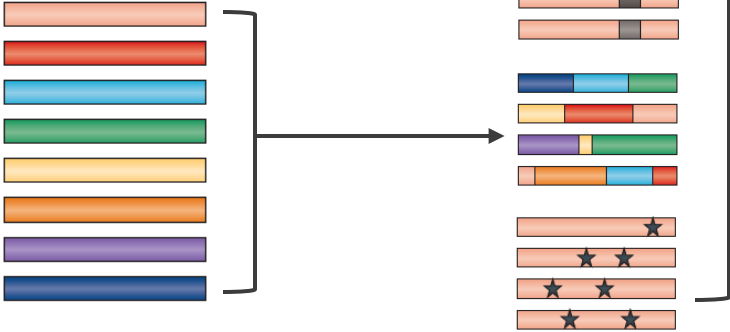
The capsid library is placed under selective pressure.



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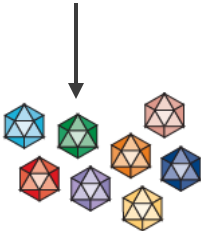
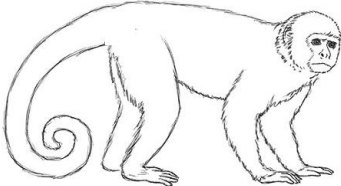
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TARGET VECTOR PROFILE
Primates *in vivo*
Human antibodies & organotypic models *ex vivo*

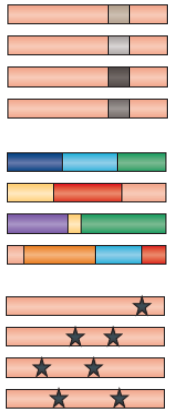
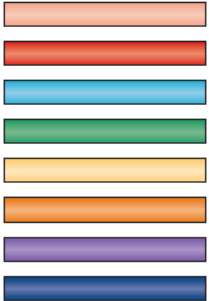
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4DMT AAV Capsid Discovery Platform

THERAPEUTIC VECTOR EVOLUTION

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Diversity: >1 **BILLION** Vector Variants in 4DMT Libraries (n>35)

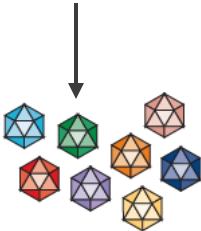
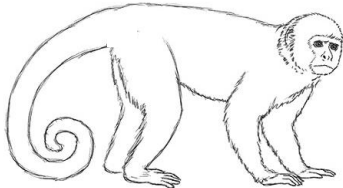
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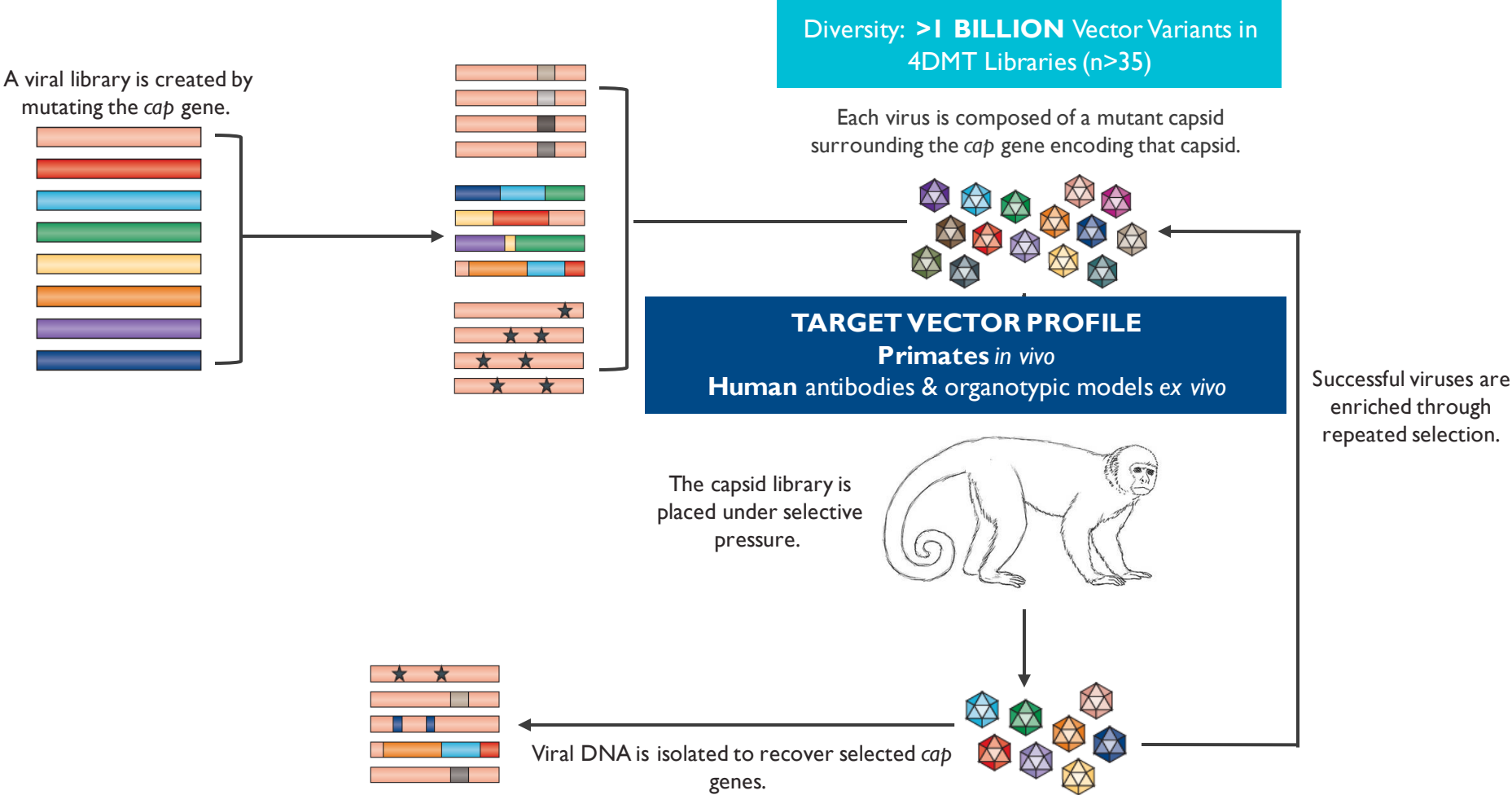
Successful viruses are enriched through repeated selection.

The capsid library is placed under selective pressure.



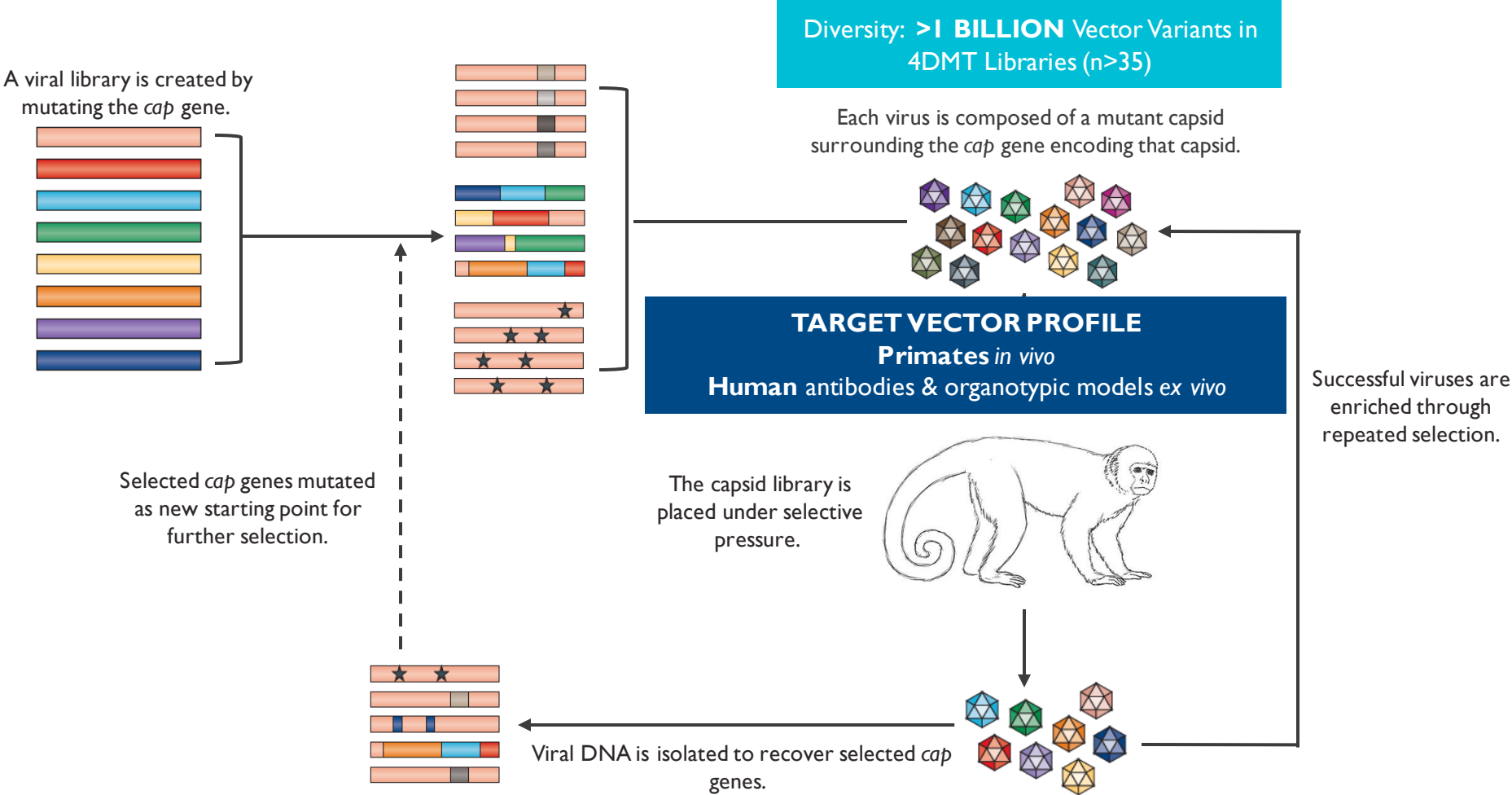
4DMT AAV Capsid Discovery Platform

THERAPEUTIC VECTOR EVOLUTION



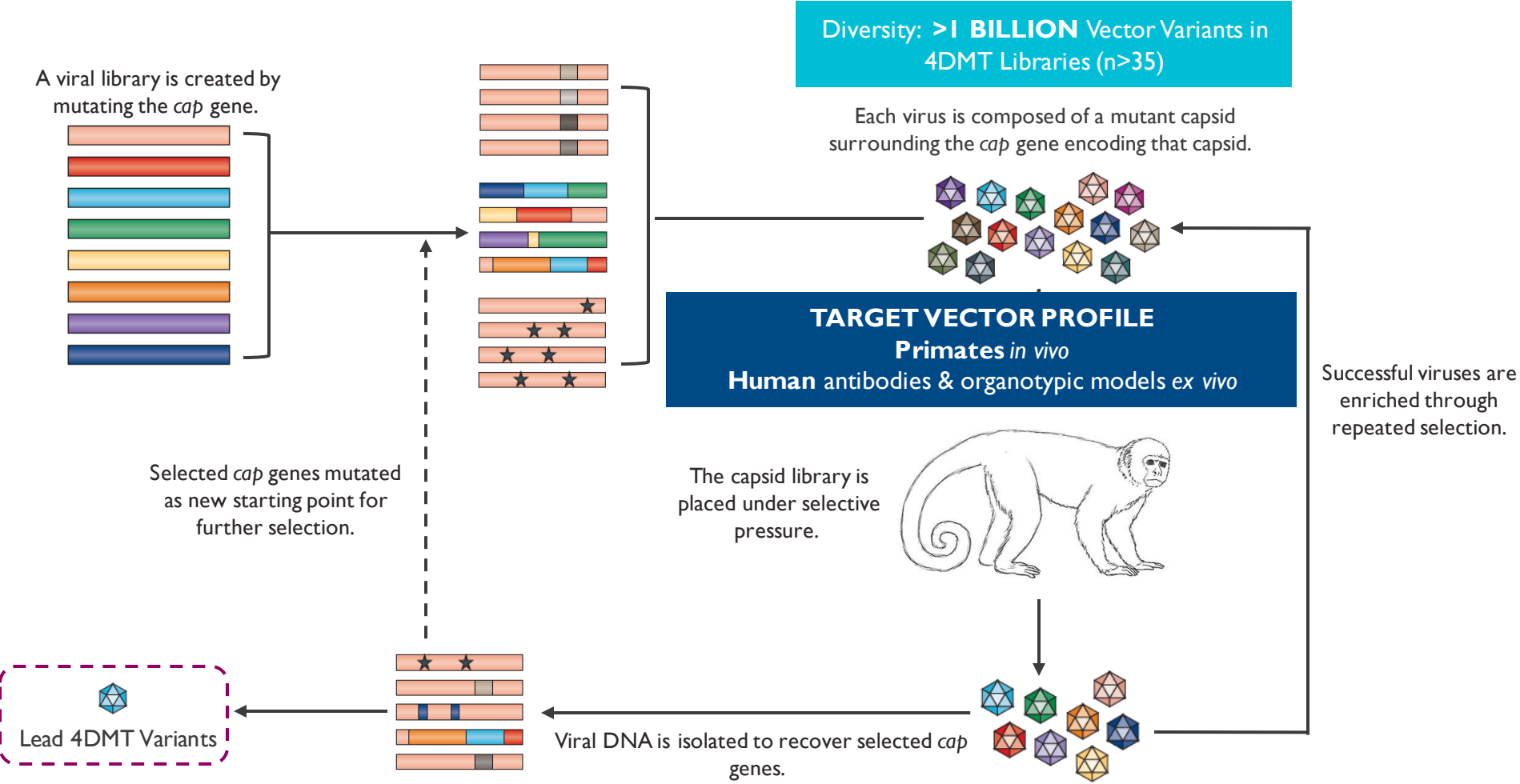
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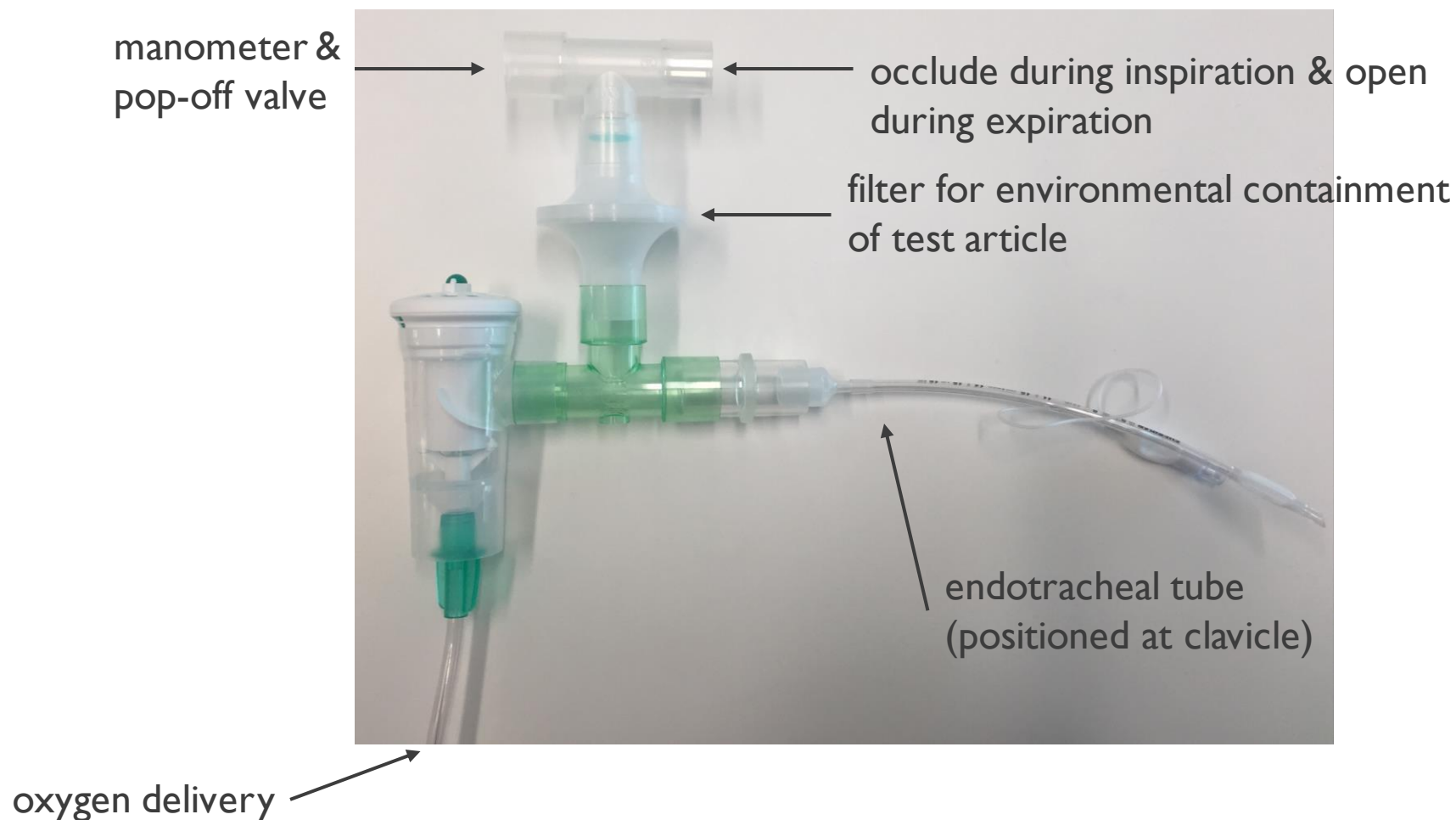
4DMT AAV Capsid Discovery Platform

THERAPEUTIC VECTOR EVOLUTION



Aeroclipse II NHP-Adapted Delivery Device

CLINICAL DELIVERY DEVICE ADAPTED FOR USE IN ANETHESIZED NHP



Aeroeclipse II Aerosol Dye Distribution Study

ROBUST DYE DELIVERY THROUGHOUT ALL LUNG LOBES

- Dye distribution after exposure to 5 mL 2% Evans Blue dye in 4DMT formulation buffer
- Dye distribution similar between n = 2 NHPs and throughout all lung lobes
- No dye detected in the esophageal or stomach tissue for either NHP
- Duration of exposure and number of breaths similar between animals
 - NHP #1 (Male) – Exposure: 36 mins, 405 breaths
 - NHP #2 (Female) – Exposure: 32 mins, 406 breaths

Discovery of Lead 4DMT Lung Vector: 4D-A101

8 NOVEL VARIANTS IDENTIFIED, INCLUDING 1 LEAD

~1 billion variants (in library)

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1 Total Motif

1 Chimera

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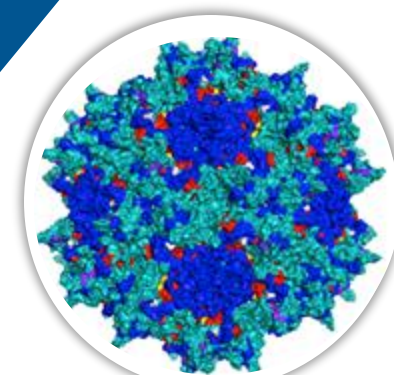
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4D-A101



4D-A101

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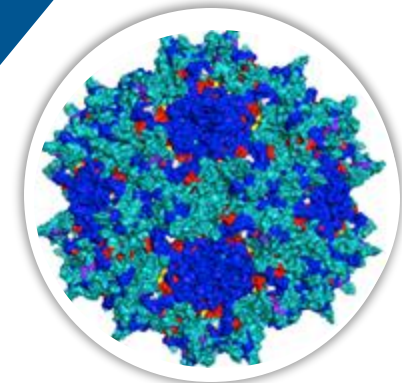
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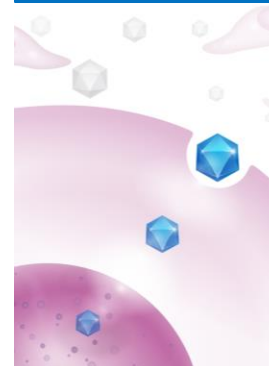
1 Lead Vector

4D-A101



4D-A101

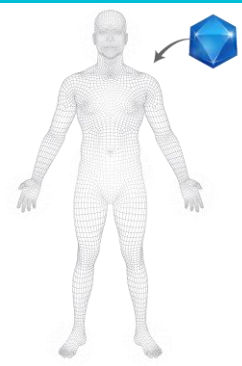
ENHANCED
TRANSDUCTION



ENHANCED
AB RESISTANCE



ENHANCED
DELIVERY



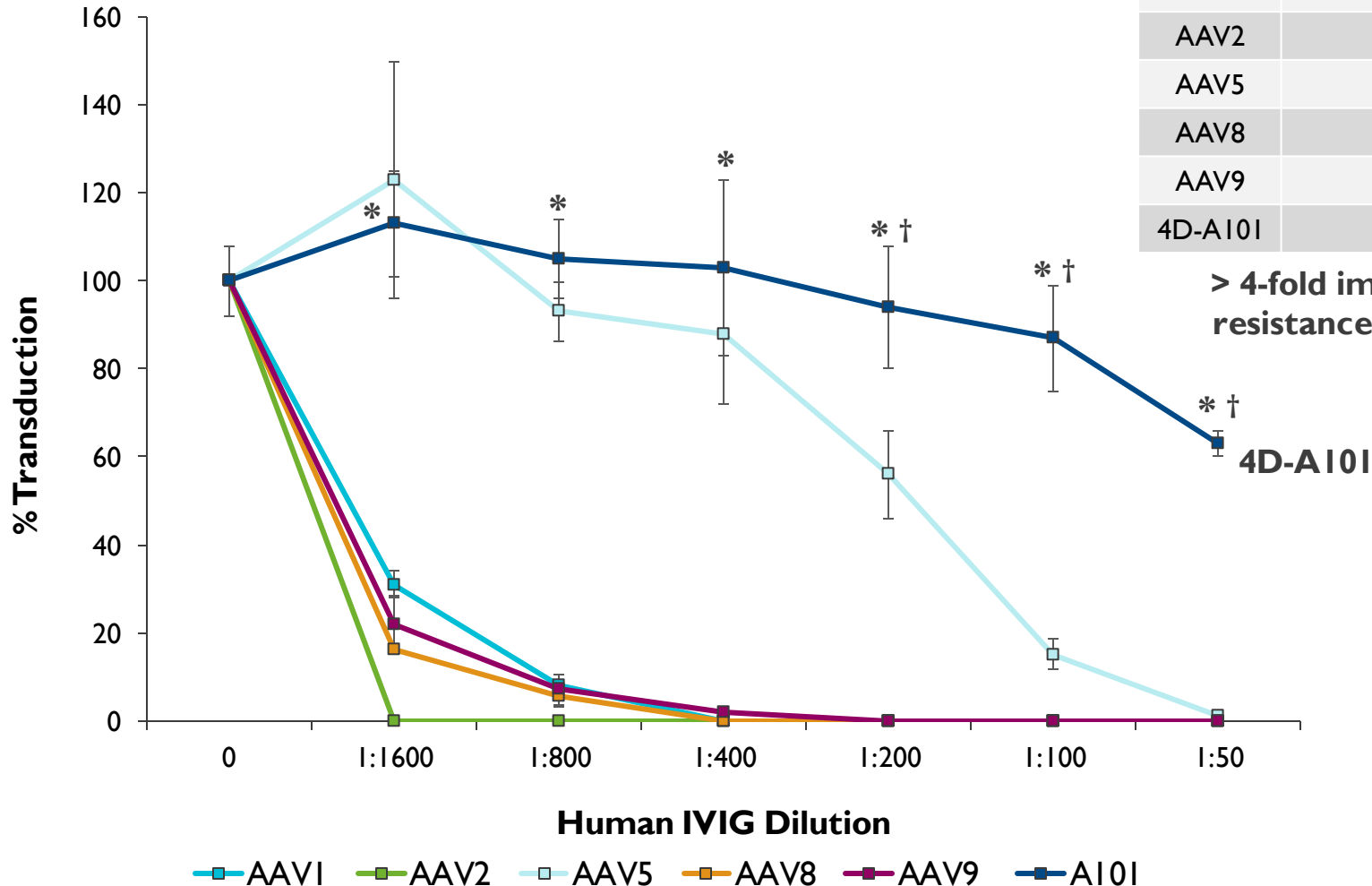
4D-A101 Resists Pre-Existing Human Anti-AAV Antibodies

RESISTANCE AT HIGH (1:50) TITERS COMPARED TO WILD-TYPE SEROTYPES

* $p < 0.05$ for 4D-A101 vs AAV1, AAV2, AAV8, and AAV9

† $p < 0.05$ for 4D-A101 vs AAV5

AAV	Neutralizing IVIG Dilution
AAV1	> 1:1600
AAV2	> 1:1600
AAV5	1:200
AAV8	> 1:1600
AAV9	> 1:1600
4D-A101	< 1:50

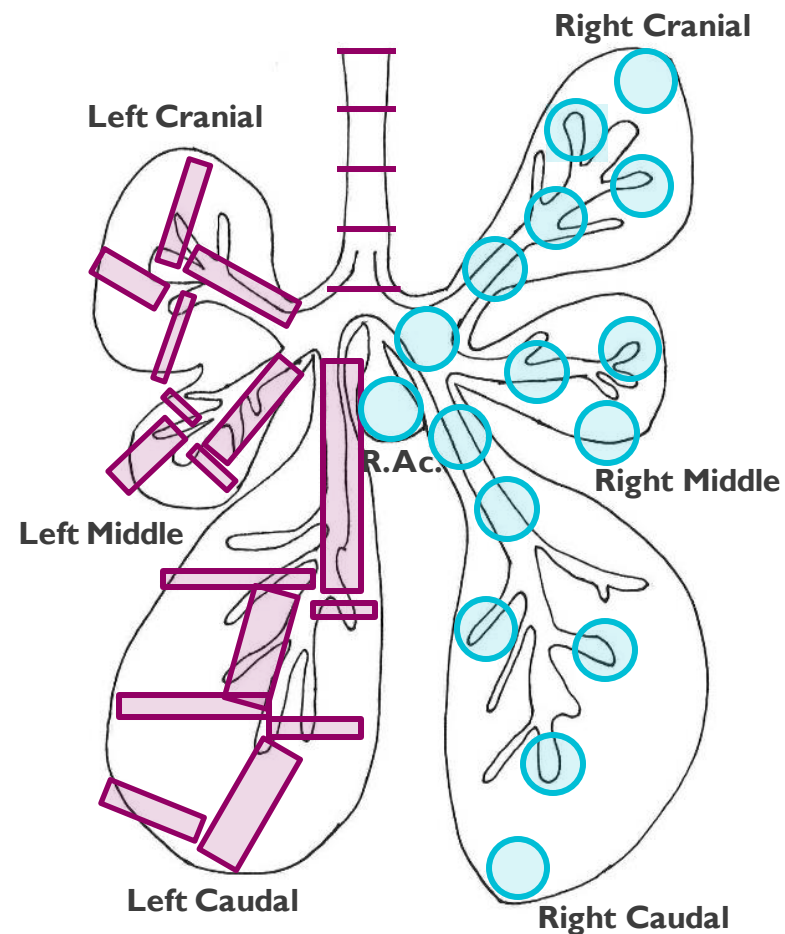


4D-A101.CAG-EGFP In Vivo Characterization

AEROSOLIZED DELIVERY TO NHP LUNG

DOSE	# OF NHP	ROUTE	IN-LIFE
2.8×10^{12} vg/kg (~ 1×10^{13} vg)	3	Aerosolized (AeroEclipse II)	8 weeks

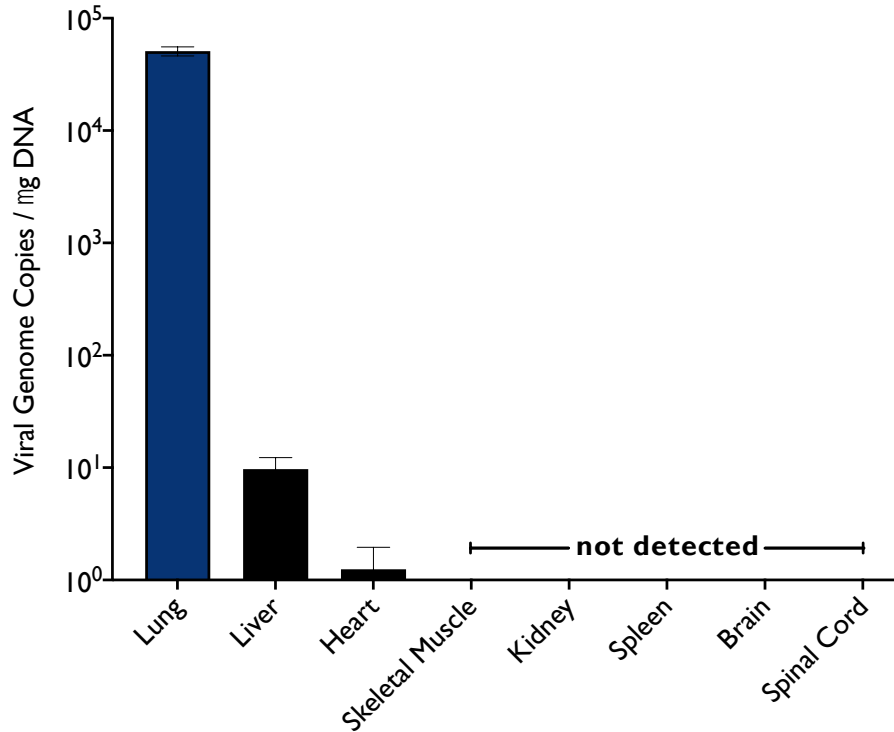
TISSUE COLLECTION	ANALYSIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lung ▪ Heart ▪ Liver ▪ Skeletal Muscle (triceps, quadriceps, diaphragm) ▪ Kidney ▪ Spleen ▪ CNS (brain, spinal cord) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ qPCR ▪ ELISA (lung & qPCR+ tissues) ▪ Immunofluorescence & H&E (lung & ELISA+ tissues)



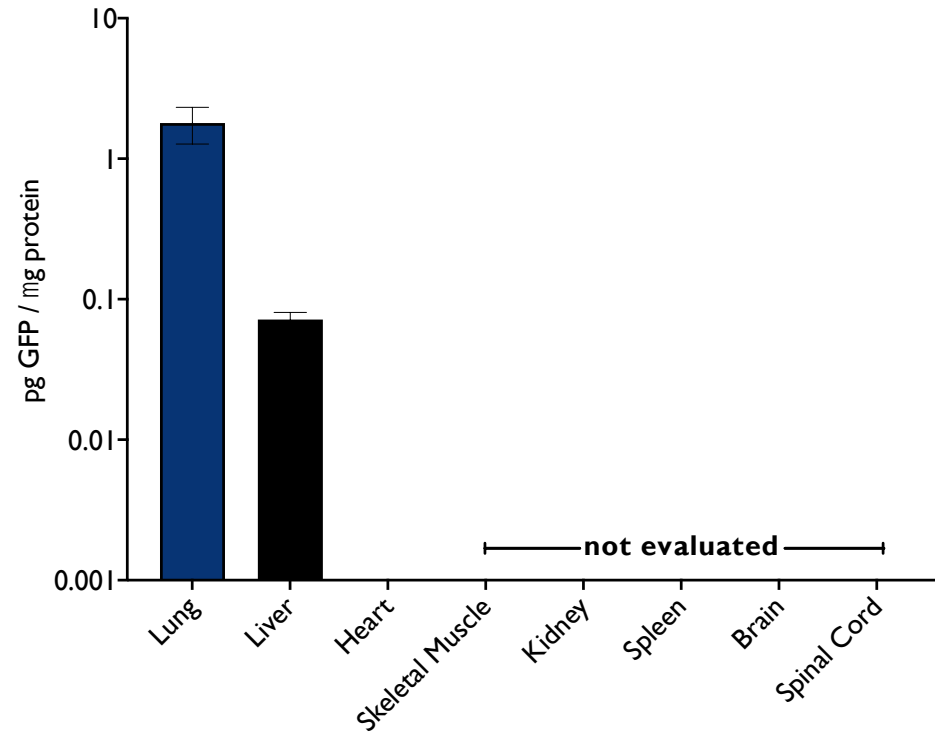
4D-A101 Delivers Payload & Expresses Protein in Lungs

GENOME LOCALIZATION & PROTEIN EXPRESSION IN 100% OF LUNG SAMPLES

GENOME LOCALIZATION (QPCR)



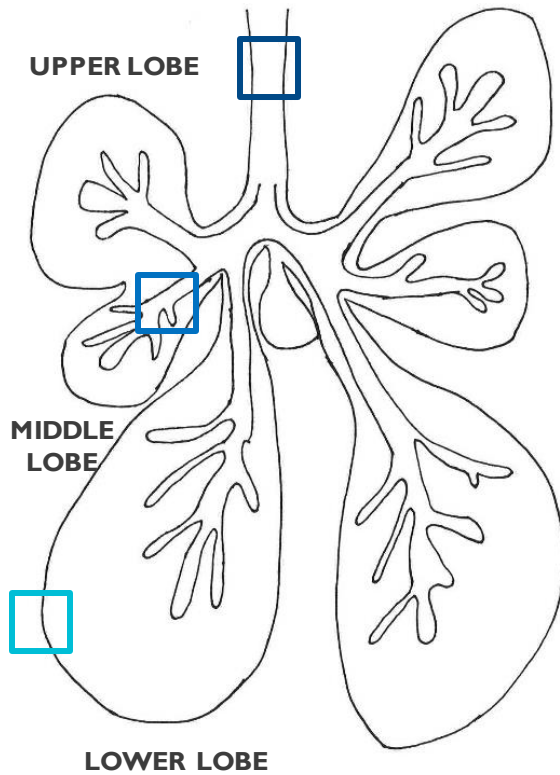
PROTEIN EXPRESSION IN QPCR+ SAMPLES (ELISA)



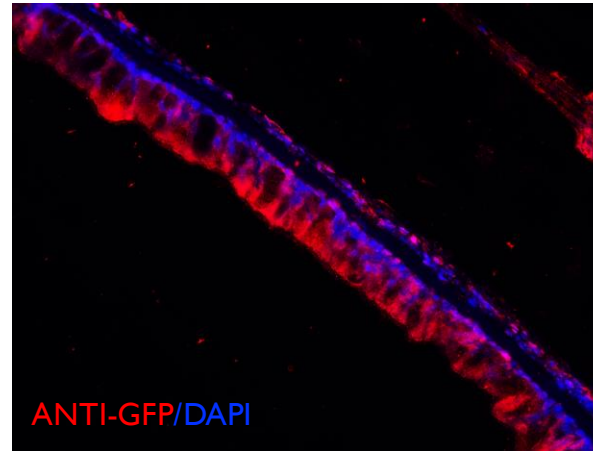
- Consistent delivery between animals
- 4D-A101 viral genomes & protein expression present in all lung samples
 - Evenly distributed across multiple bronchial levels and alveoli
 - Evenly distributed across cranial, middle, and caudal sections

4D-A101 Protein Expression Distributed Across Lung Regions

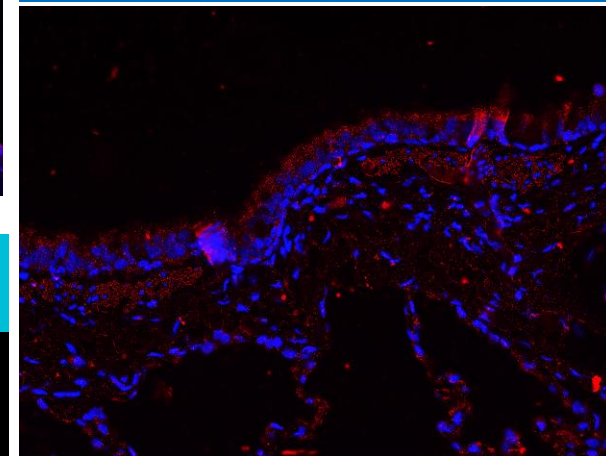
REPRESENTATIVE GFP EXPRESSION IN TRACHEA, BRONCHI, & ALVEOLI



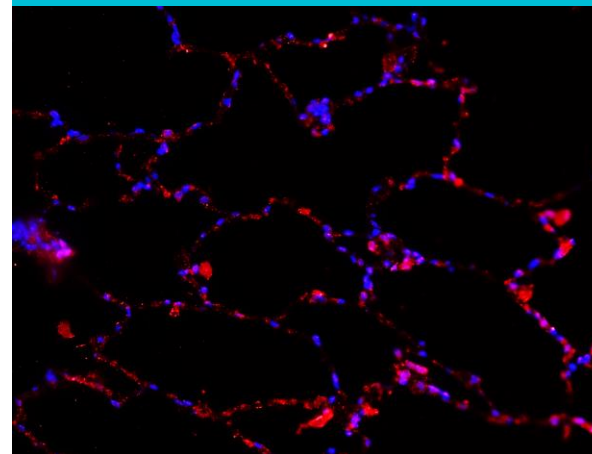
TRACHEA



BRONCHI



ALVEOLI



4D-A101 Administration is Safe in NHP

NO 4D-A101-RELATED ADVERSE HISTOPATHOLOGY OR CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

4D-A101.CAG-EGFP
V002969

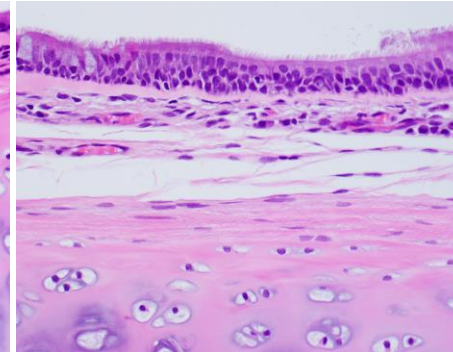
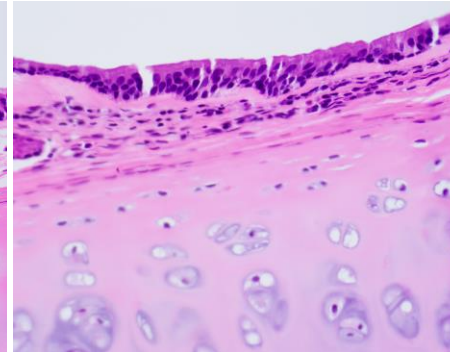
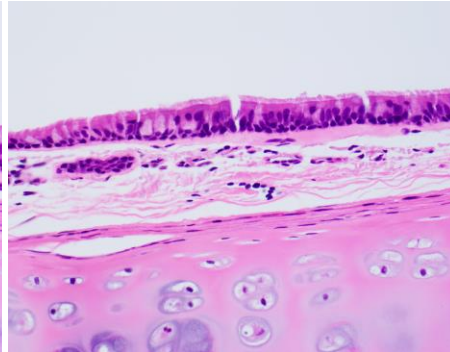
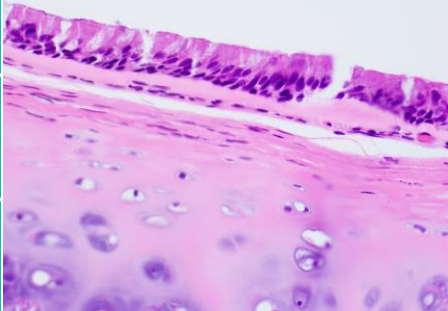
4D-A101.CAG-EGFP
V003062

4D-A101.CAG-EGFP
V003424

NON-TREATED CONTROL
V002230

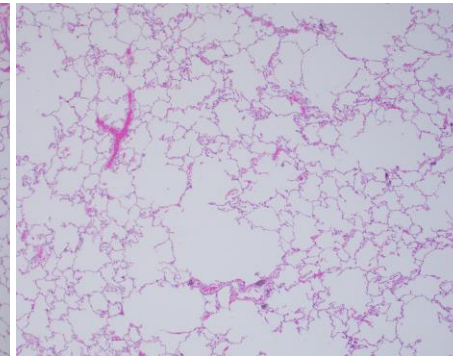
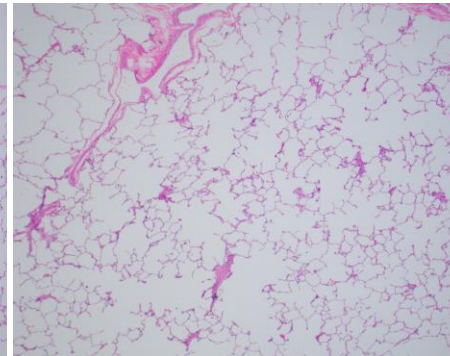
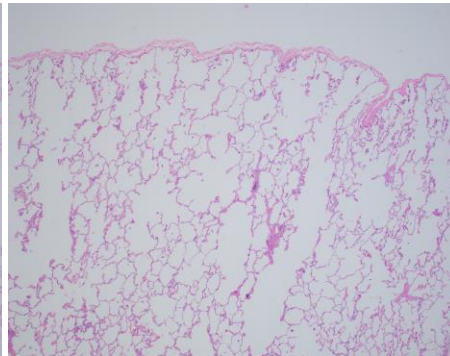
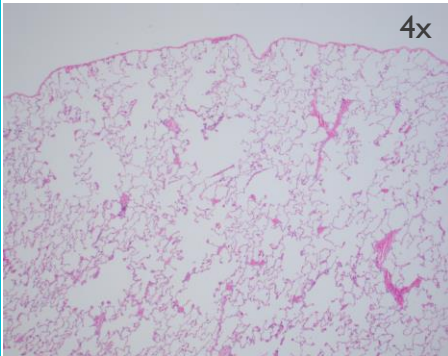
No Inflammation
(Trachea)

40x



Minimal Infiltrate (Alveoli)

4x



- 4D-A101 delivery well-tolerated
- No abnormal hematology or clinical chemistry findings
- No test-article-related adverse histopathology in lungs

Conclusions

- 4D-A101 represents first use of directed evolution in NHP to identify a vector engineered for lung tropism.
- 4D-A101 capsid is significantly more resistant to neutralization by anti-AAV antibodies *in vitro*.
- Delivery by aerosolization results in robust and widespread transduction and transgene expression throughout NHP lung.
- Localized delivery to lung results in minimal systemic exposure.
- Novel 4D-A101 vector represents advantage over existing AAV serotypes for lung gene therapy.

Acknowledgments

- 4DMT Process & Analytical Development
- 4DMT Project Management
- Laurie Tatalick, D.V.M., Ph.D. (Histopathology)