

# **Assays to detect and identify HLA antibodies**

**An overview**

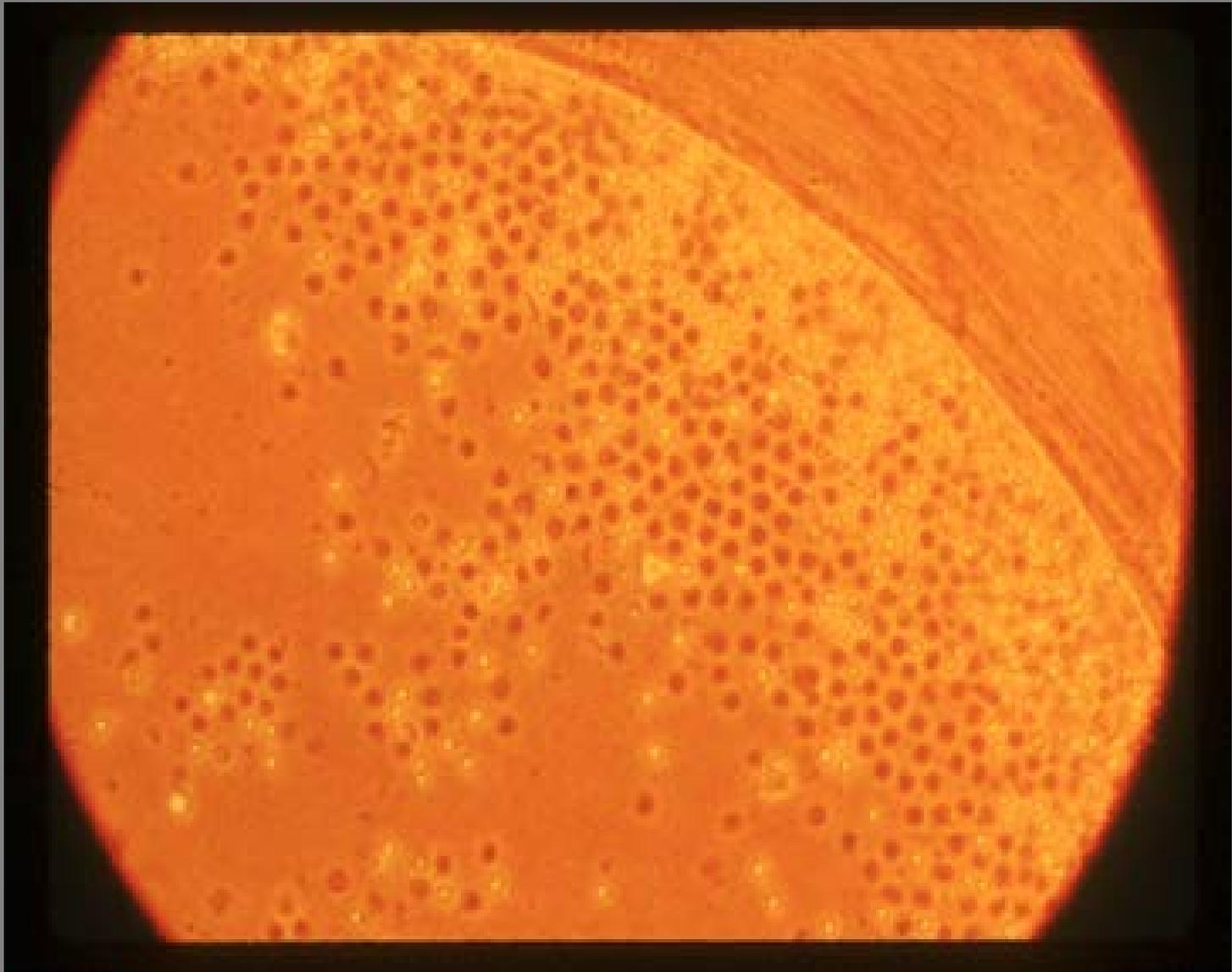
**Howard M. Gebel, Ph.D., D. (ABHI)  
Professor of Pathology  
Emory University Hospital  
Atlanta, GA**

**Howard Gebel, Ph.D., D(ABHI)**  
**Professor of Pathology**  
**Emory University Hospital**  
**Atlanta, GA.**

**No financial relationships related to this presentation**

**AND**

**The presentation does not include discussion of “off-label” or “investigational” use.**



# **Problems**

**Sensitivity not optimal (false negatives)**

**Specificity (false positives)**

**Panel composition**

**Viability**

**Typically restricted to class I antibodies**

# The evolution and clinical impact of Human Leukocyte Antigen technology

Howard M. Gebel and Robert A. Bray

Current Opinion in Nephrology and Hypertension 2010, 19:598–602

## Solid Phase Assays

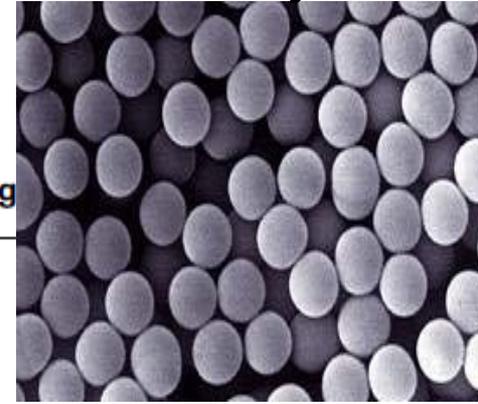
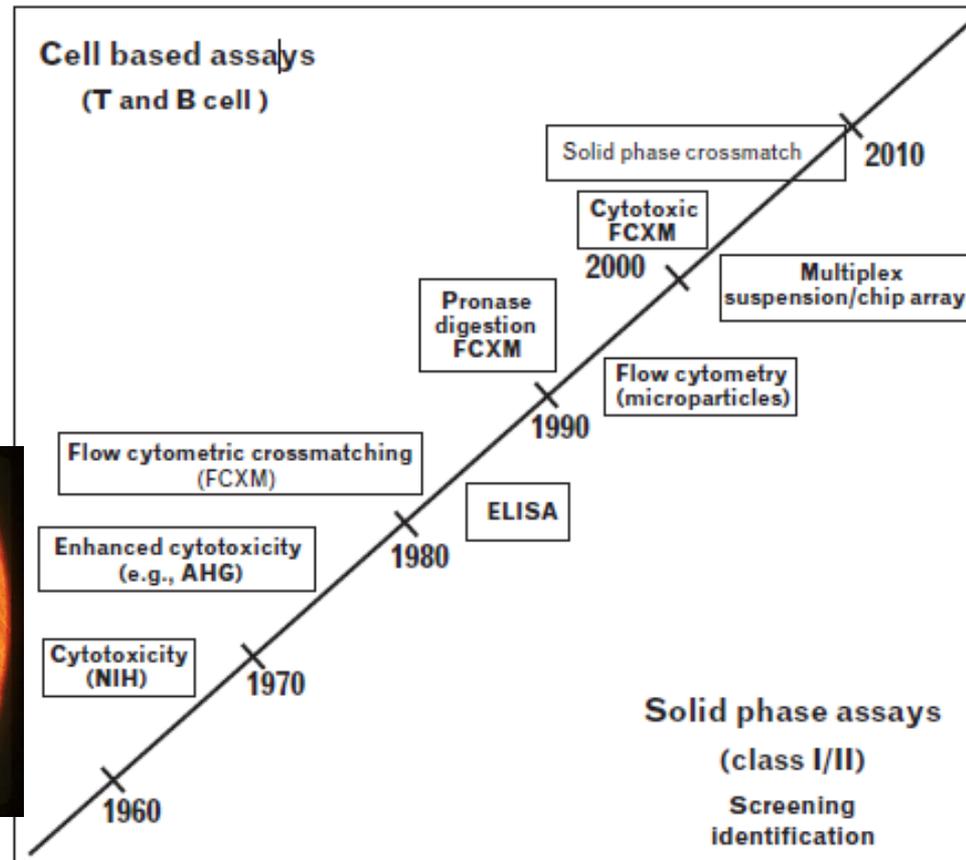
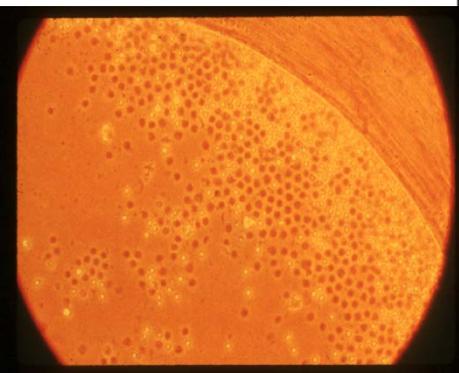


Figure 1 Evolution of human leukocyte antigen antibody testing



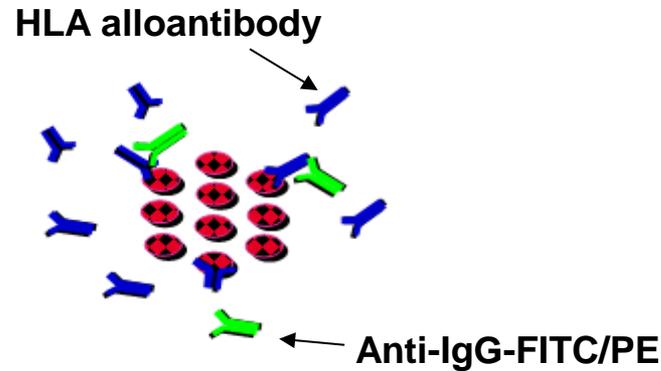
- Cumbersome cell-based assays for XM, antibody ID and HLA typing.

- Highly sensitive and specific bead-based assays for antibody ID and Molecular-based HLA typing.

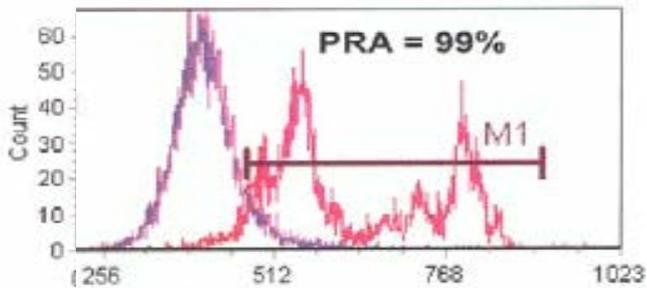


Cytotoxicity

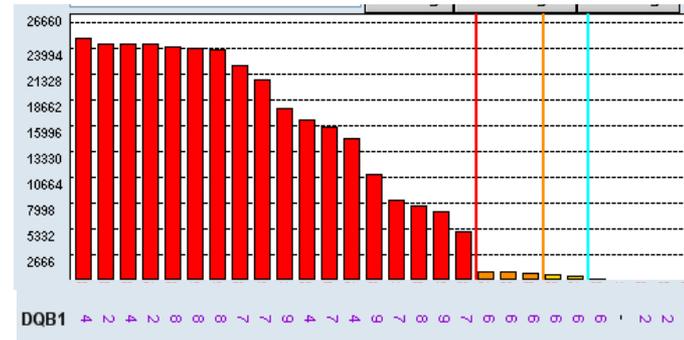
# Solid Phase HLA antibody detection



## Flow Cytometry

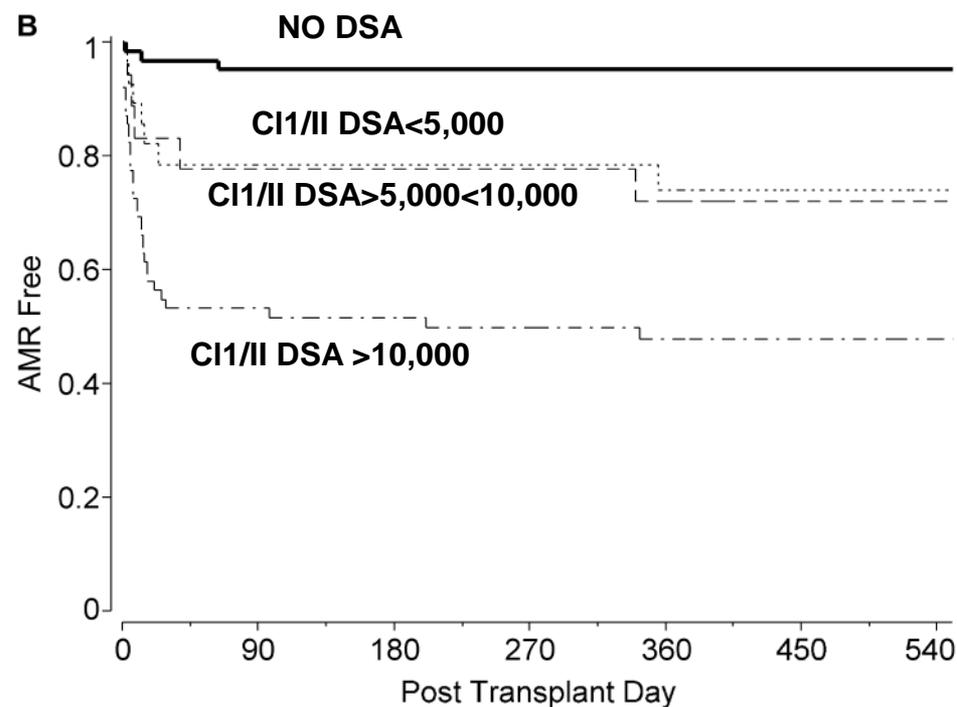
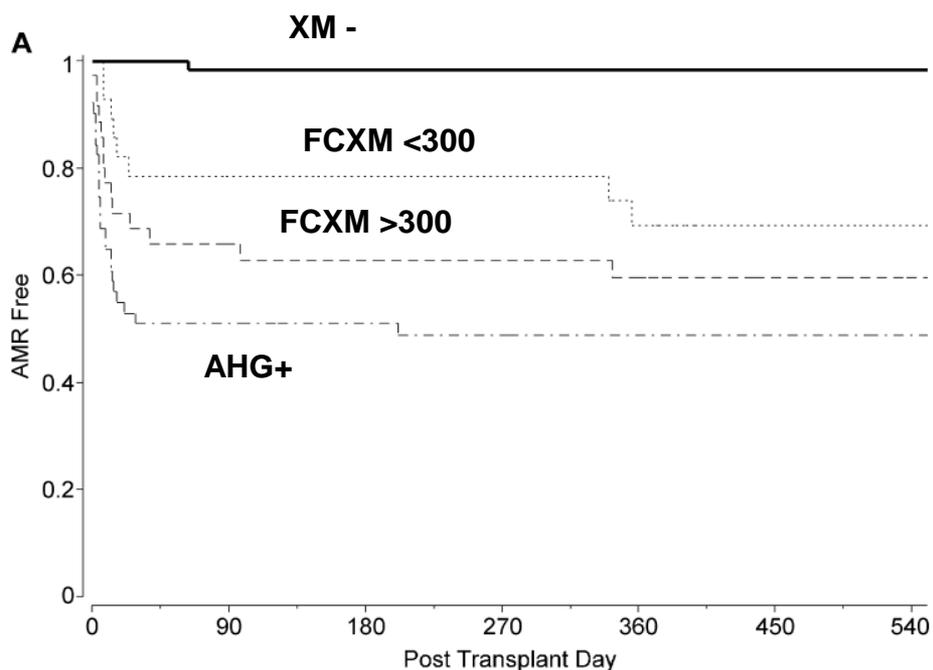


## Suspension Arrays



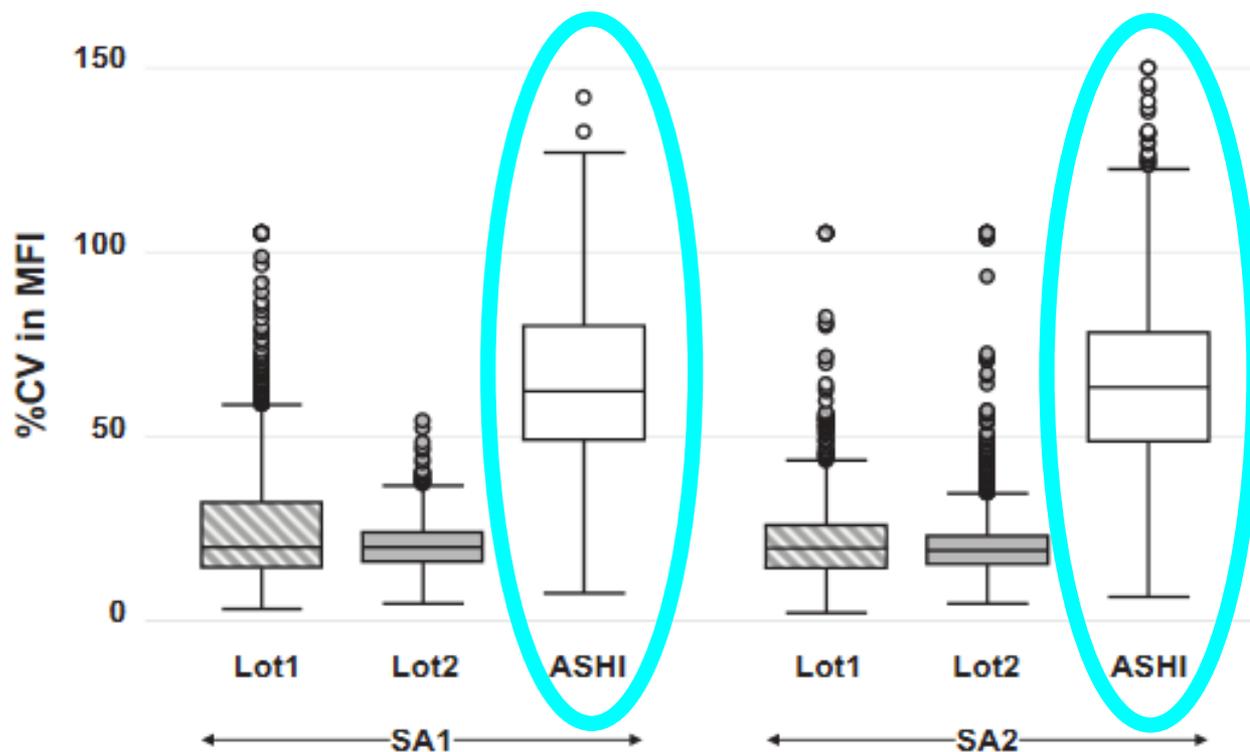
# Baseline Donor-Specific Antibody Levels and Outcomes in Positive Crossmatch Kidney Transplantation

J. M. Gloor<sup>a,\*</sup>, J. L. Winters<sup>b</sup>, L. D. Cornell<sup>b</sup>  
L. A. Fix<sup>c</sup>, S. R. DeGoey<sup>b</sup>, R. M. Knauer<sup>b</sup>,  
F. G. Cosio<sup>a</sup>, M. J. Gandhi<sup>b</sup>, W. Kremers<sup>d</sup>  
and M. D. Stegall<sup>c</sup>



# Comprehensive Assessment and Standardization of Solid Phase Multiplex-Bead Array for the Detection of Antibodies to HLA

E. F. Reed<sup>1,\*</sup>, P. Rao<sup>1</sup>, Z. Zhang<sup>1</sup>, H. Gebel<sup>2</sup>,  
R. A. Bray<sup>2</sup>, I. Guleria<sup>3</sup>, J. Lunz<sup>4</sup>,  
T. Mohanakumar<sup>5</sup>, P. Nickerson<sup>6</sup>,  
A. R. Tambur<sup>7</sup>, A. Zeevi<sup>4</sup>, P. S. Heeger<sup>8</sup>  
and D. Gjertson<sup>1</sup>

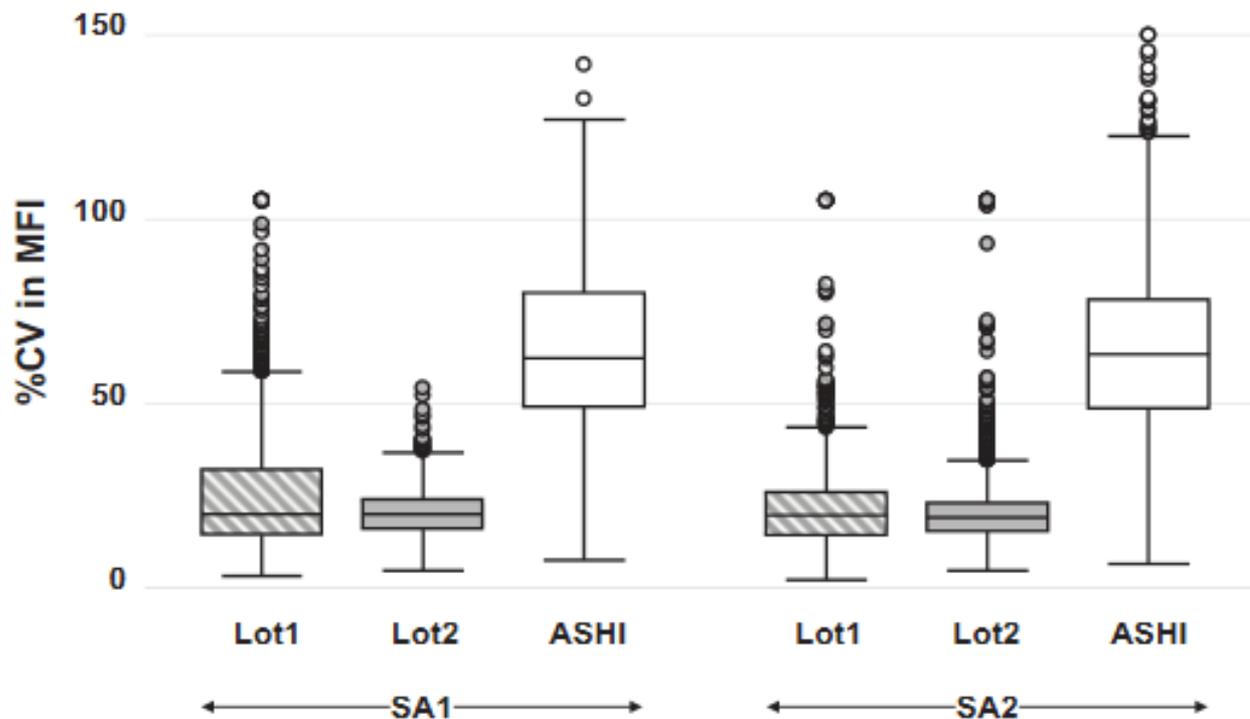


# Why laboratories don't get identical results when testing the same sample

- 1) Vendors
- 2) Antigen source/type
  - a) Native
  - b) Recombinant
- 3) Antigen expression
  - a) Conformationally correct
  - b) Amount
- 4) Interfering factors
- 5) Reagents
- 6) Tech-tech variation
- 7) Protocols
- 8) Assay conditions

# Comprehensive Assessment and Standardization of Solid Phase Multiplex-Bead Array for the Detection of Antibodies to HLA

E. F. Reed<sup>1,\*</sup>, P. Rao<sup>1</sup>, Z. Zhang<sup>1</sup>, H. Gebel<sup>2</sup>,  
R. A. Bray<sup>2</sup>, I. Guleria<sup>3</sup>, J. Lunz<sup>4</sup>,  
T. Mohanakumar<sup>5</sup>, P. Nickerson<sup>6</sup>,  
A. R. Tambur<sup>7</sup>, A. Zeevi<sup>4</sup>, P. S. Heeger<sup>8</sup>  
and D. Gjertson<sup>1</sup>



# Interfering Factors

---

## Detection of Immunoglobulin G Human Leukocyte Antigen-Specific Alloantibodies in Renal Transplant Patients Using Single-Antigen-Beads is Compromised by the Presence of Immunoglobulin M Human Leukocyte Antigen-Specific Alloantibodies

*Vasilis Kosmoliaptsis,<sup>1,2</sup> J. Andrew Bradley,<sup>2</sup> Sarah Peacock,<sup>1</sup> Afzal N. Chaudhry,<sup>3</sup> and Craig J. Taylor<sup>1,4</sup>*

**Transplantation 87:813-820; 2009.**

## Naturally occurring interference in Luminex<sup>®</sup> assays for HLA-specific antibodies: Characteristics and resolution

Andrea A. Zachary <sup>a,\*</sup>, Donna P. Lucas <sup>a</sup>, Barbara Detrick <sup>b</sup>, Mary S. Leffell <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Departments of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA*

<sup>b</sup> *Department of and Pathology, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA*

---

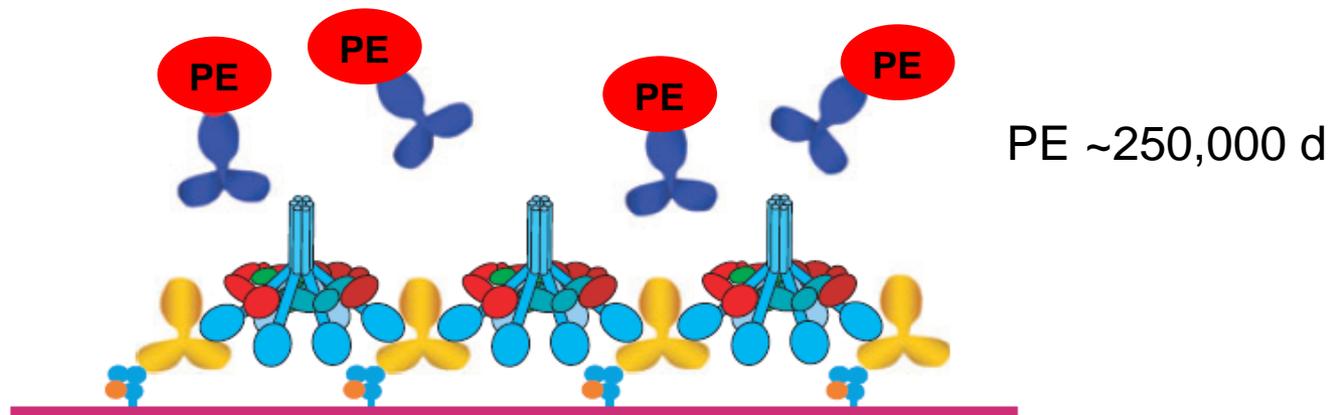
**Hu. Immunol 70:496-501, 2009.**

The complement-mediated prozone effect in the Luminex single-antigen bead assay and its impact on HLA antibody determination in patient sera

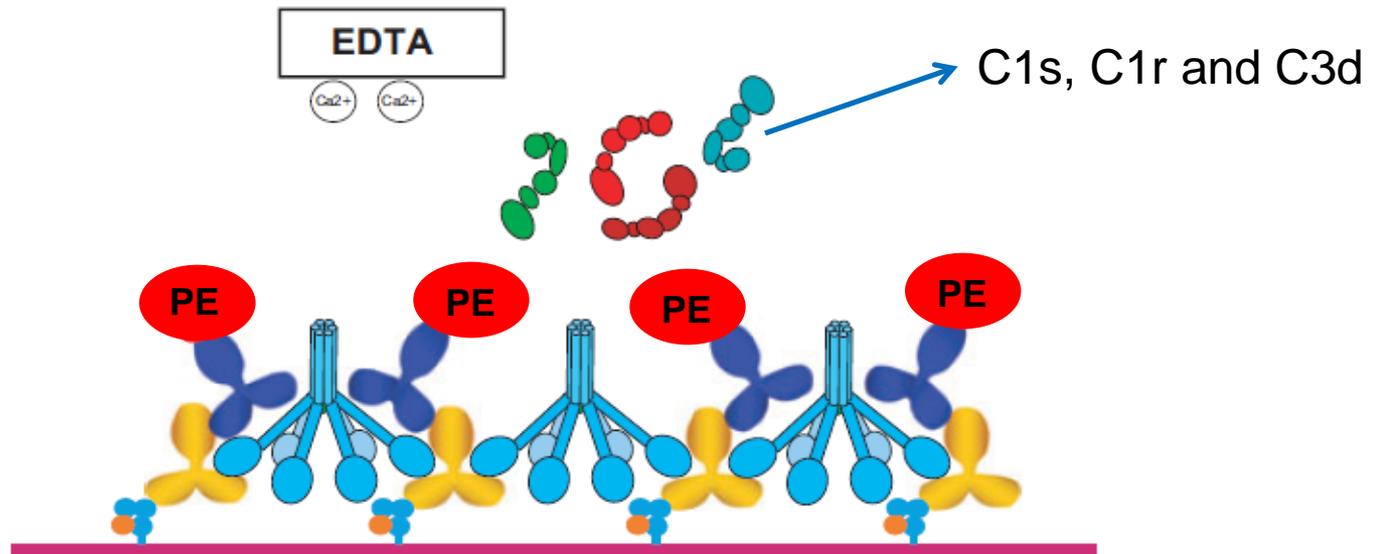
C. Weinstock\* & M. Schnaidt†

© 2012 Blackwell Publishing Ltd

*International Journal of Immunogenetics*, 2013, **40**, 171–177



**Figure 2.** The complement-mediated prozone effect: C1 is thought to bind between the HLA antibodies and to interfere with binding of the anti-HgG detection antibodies.

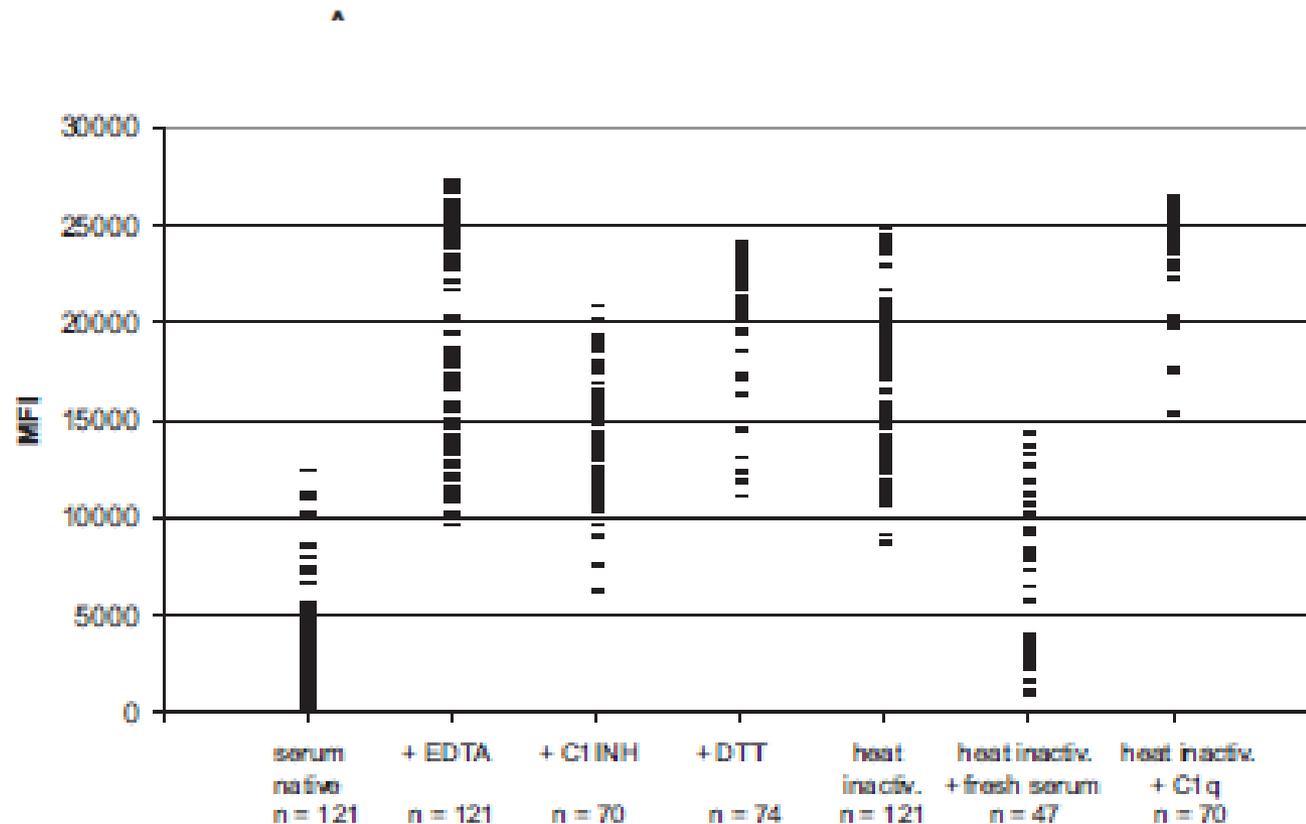


**Figure 3.** The complement-mediated prozone effect: EDTA binds  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions, resulting in the dissociation and cleavage of the C1s-C1r-C1r-C1s tetramer. PE-conjugated anti-IgG antibodies can now bind to the HLA antibodies.

# HLA Antibody Specification Using Single-Antigen Beads—A Technical Solution for the Prozone Effect

Martina Schnaidt,<sup>1,4</sup> Christof Weinstock,<sup>2</sup> Marija Jurisic,<sup>1</sup> Barbara Schmid-Horch,<sup>1</sup> Andrea Ender,<sup>3</sup> and Dorothee Wernet<sup>1</sup>

*Transplantation* 2011;92: 510–515)



serum from one patient containing antibodies against HLA class II (B) were tested after 1:10 dilution, confirming the presence of a prozone effect for some specificities. In parallel, EDTA plasma from the same venipuncture was tested. MFI, mean fluorescence intensity; EDTA, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid.

# Complement-Binding Anti-HLA Antibodies and Kidney-Allograft Survival

Alexandre Loupy, M.D., Ph.D., Carmen Lefaucheur, M.D., Ph.D.,  
 Dewi Vernerey, M.P.H., Christof Prugger, M.D.,  
 Jean-Paul Duong van Huyen, M.D., Ph.D., Nuala Mooney, Ph.D.,  
 Caroline Suberbielle, M.D., Ph.D., Véronique Frémeaux-Bacchi, M.D., Ph.D.,  
 Arnaud Méjean, M.D., François Desgrandchamps, M.D.,  
 Dany Anglicheau, M.D., Ph.D., Dominique Nochy, M.D.,  
 Dominique Charron, M.D., Ph.D., Jean-Philippe Empana, M.D., Ph.D.,  
 Michel Delahousse, M.D., Christophe Legendre, M.D., Denis Glotz, M.D., Ph.D.,  
 Gary S. Hill, M.D.,\* Adriana Zeevi, Ph.D., and Xavier Jouven, M.D., Ph.D.

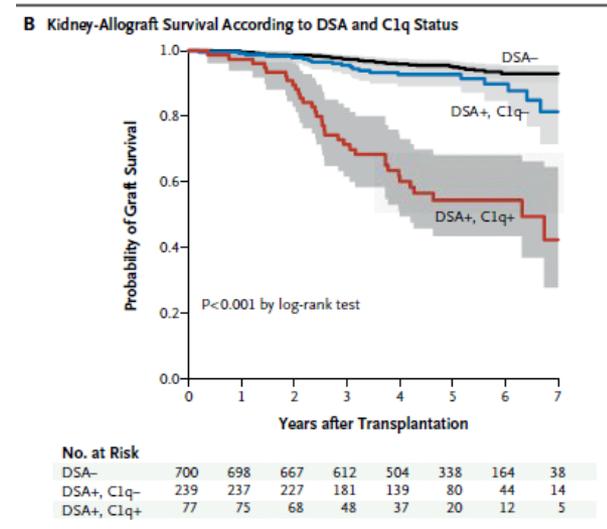
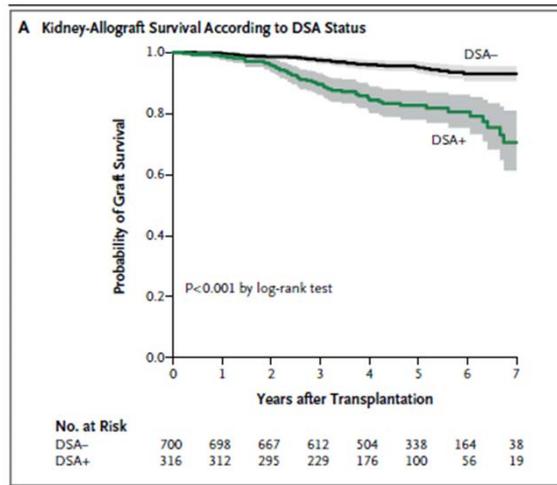


Figure S2: Kaplan Meier Analysis of graft outcome according to post-transplant DSA-MFI and complement-binding status

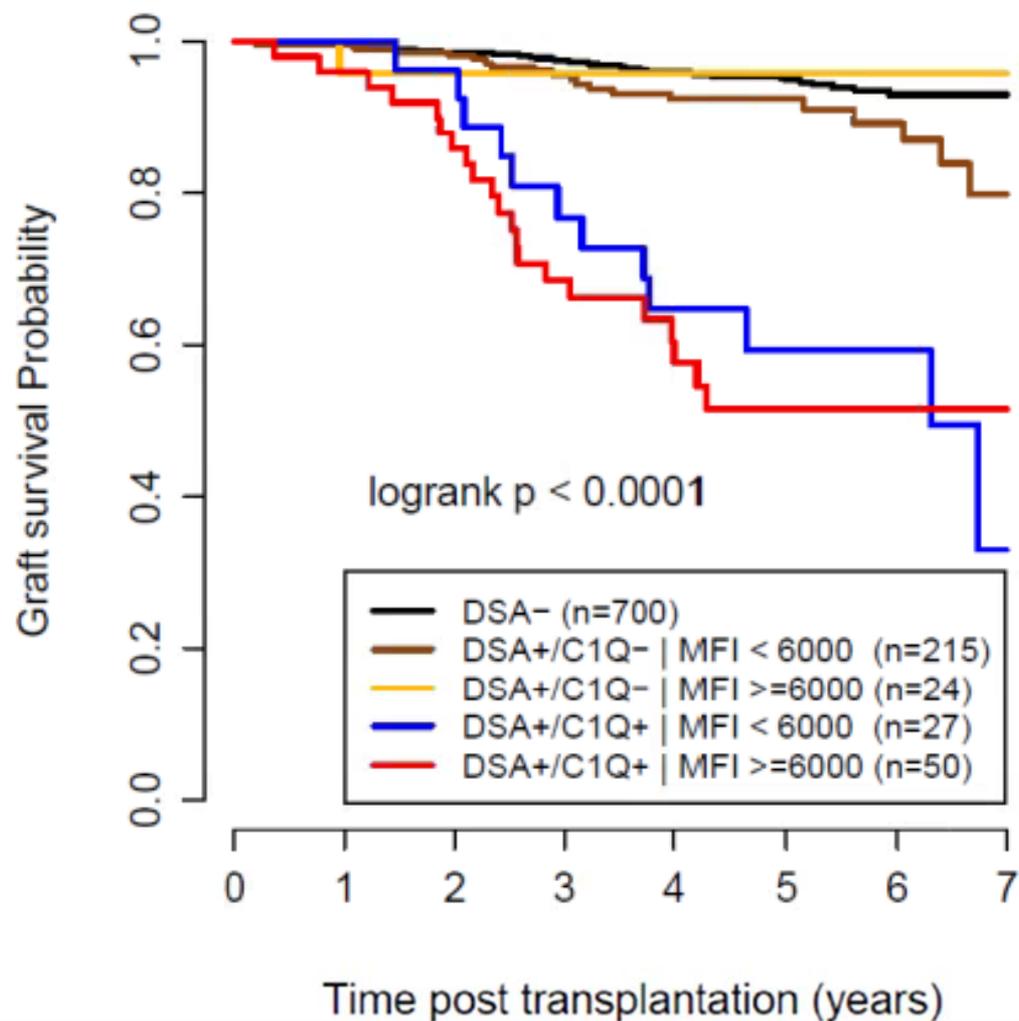
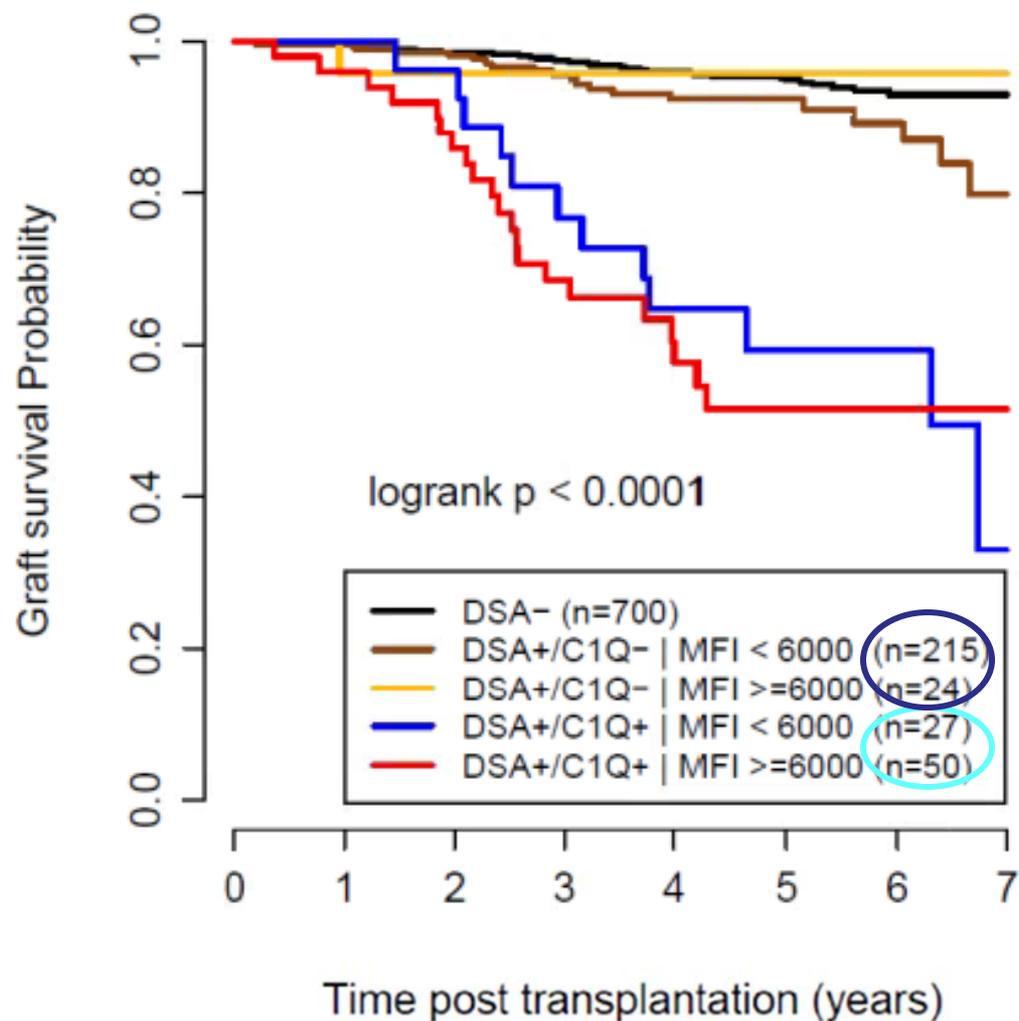


Figure S2: Kaplan Meier Analysis of graft outcome according to post-transplant DSA-MFI and complement-binding status



# C1q Binding Activity of De Novo Donor-specific HLA Antibodies in Renal Transplant Recipients With and Without Antibody-mediated Rejection

Maggie Yell, MD,<sup>1</sup> Brenda L. Muth, RN, MS,<sup>2</sup> Dixon B. Kaufman, MD, PhD,<sup>3</sup> Arjang Djamali, MD,<sup>2</sup> and Thomas M. Ellis, PhD<sup>1</sup>

**TABLE 5.**

Effects of normalization of C1q + DSA MFI values to levels comparable C1q – on Luminex-C1q activity

	N	MFI	Luminex-C1q
C1q + DSA	12	18,233 + 4268	+
C1q + DSA-diluted	12	6784 + 3386	–
C1q – DSA	22	5864 + 2686	–

**TABLE 6.**

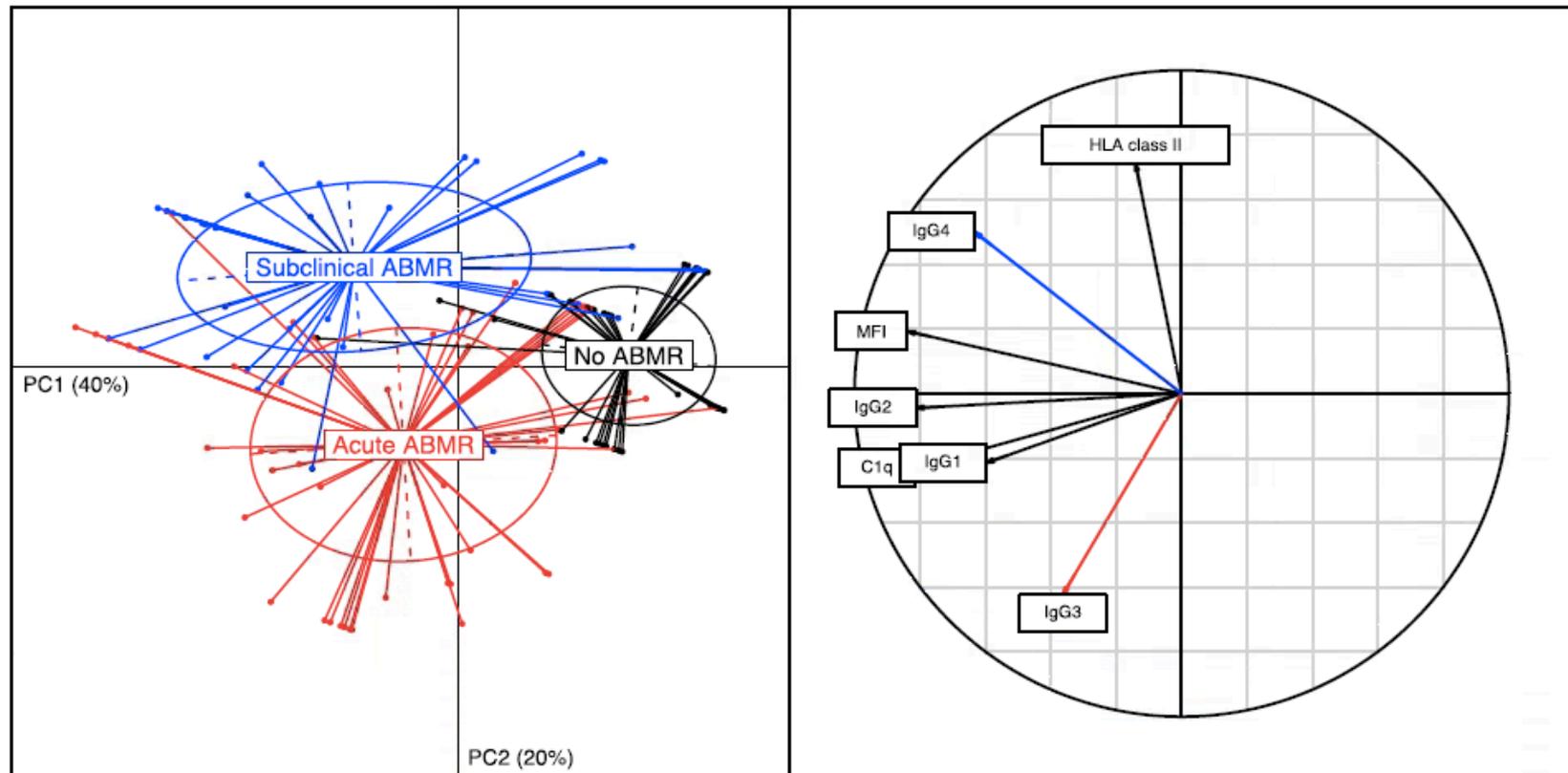
Effects of serum concentration on C1q-binding activity of C1q – DSA

Sample	Neat		Concentrated	
	MFI	Luminex-C1q	MFI	Luminex-C1q
1	5489	Neg	12,243	Pos
2	4924	Neg	10,125	Pos
3	6985	Neg	13,112	Pos
4	5573	Neg	11,832	Pos
5	6323	Neg	7125	Neg
6	3794	Neg	5793	Neg

Transplantation 2015; 99:1151-1155

# IgG Donor-Specific Anti-Human HLA Antibody Subclasses and Kidney Allograft Antibody-Mediated Injury

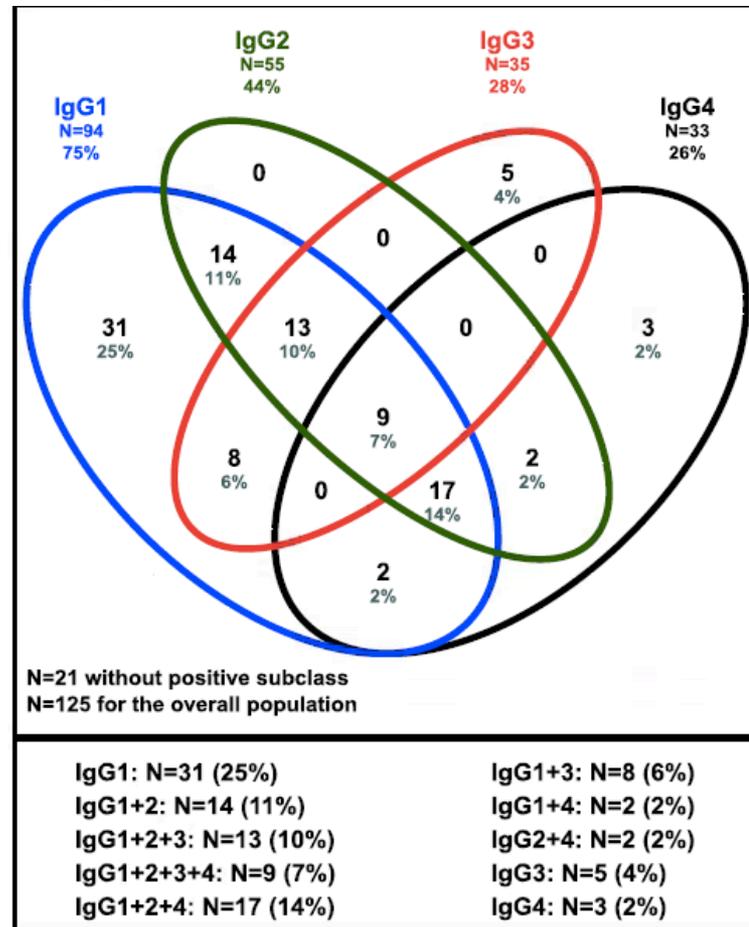
Carmen Lefaucheur,<sup>\*†</sup> Denis Viglietti,<sup>\*†</sup> Carol Bentelejewski,<sup>‡</sup> Jean-Paul Duong van Huyen,<sup>†§</sup> Dewi Vernerey,<sup>||</sup> Olivier Aubert,<sup>†</sup> Jérôme Verine,<sup>||</sup> Xavier Jouven,<sup>†</sup> Christophe Legendre,<sup>\*\*</sup> Denis Glotz,<sup>\*</sup> Alexandre Loup,<sup>†\*\*</sup> and Adriana Zeevi<sup>‡</sup>



**Figure 2.** Identification of the three distinct rejection phenotypes according to the characteristics of the dominant donor-specific anti-HLA antibody (MFI, HLA class specificity, C1q-binding capacity, and IgG1–4).

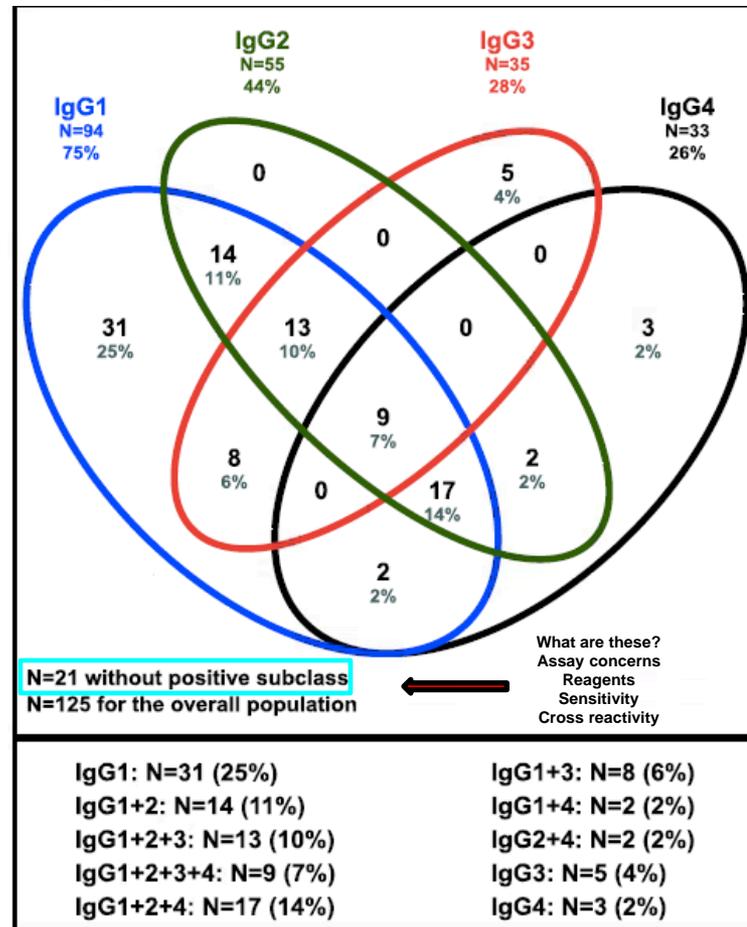
# IgG Donor-Specific Anti-Human HLA Antibody Subclasses and Kidney Allograft Antibody-Mediated Injury

Carmen Lefaucheur,<sup>\*†</sup> Denis Viglietti,<sup>\*†</sup> Carol Bentelejewski,<sup>‡</sup> Jean-Paul Duong van Huyen,<sup>†§</sup> Dewi Vernerey,<sup>||</sup> Olivier Aubert,<sup>†</sup> Jérôme Verine,<sup>||</sup> Xavier Jouven,<sup>†</sup> Christophe Legendre,<sup>\*\*</sup> Denis Glotz,<sup>\*</sup> Alexandre Loupy,<sup>†\*\*</sup> and Adriana Zeevi<sup>‡</sup>



# IgG Donor-Specific Anti-Human HLA Antibody Subclasses and Kidney Allograft Antibody-Mediated Injury

Carmen Lefaucheur,<sup>\*†</sup> Denis Viglietti,<sup>\*†</sup> Carol Bentelejewski,<sup>‡</sup> Jean-Paul Duong van Huyen,<sup>†§</sup> Dewi Vernerey,<sup>||</sup> Olivier Aubert,<sup>†</sup> Jérôme Verine,<sup>||</sup> Xavier Jouven,<sup>†</sup> Christophe Legendre,<sup>\*\*</sup> Denis Glotz,<sup>\*</sup> Alexandre Loupy,<sup>†\*\*</sup> and Adriana Zeevi<sup>‡</sup>



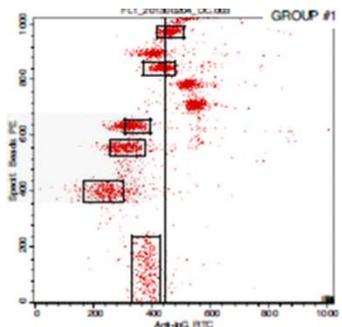
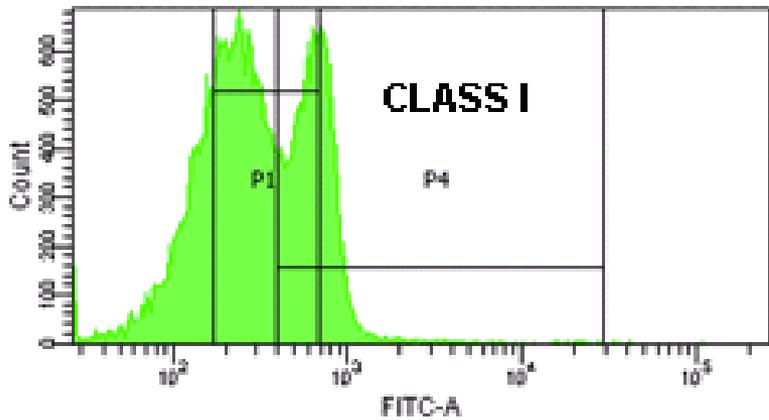
Personal Viewpoint

# The Road to HLA Antibody Evaluation: Do Not Rely on MFI

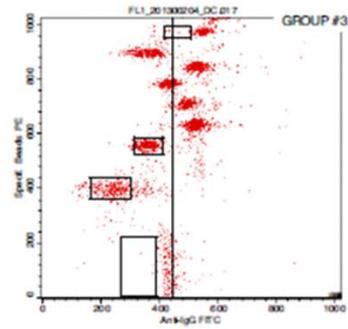
H. C. Sullivan<sup>1</sup>, R. S. Liwski<sup>2</sup>, R. A. Bray<sup>1</sup> and  
H. M. Gebel<sup>1,\*</sup>

## ***Hard Hats Required: Controversies in HLA Antibody Assessment***

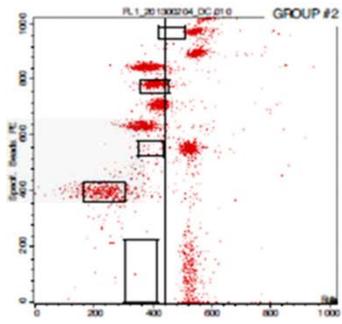
While multiplex Luminex technology (Luminex Corporation, Austin, TX) has provided a specific and sensitive platform to identify HLA antibodies, it is not flawless. A major point of contention revolves around results from SAB testing being reported as a numerical value referred to as mean fluorescence intensity (MFI). It is natural to think of a number as a quantitative assessment, but MFI values were never intended to quantify antibodies, nor was the Luminex-based test approved as a quantitative assay by the US Food and Drug Administration (2). Instead, MFI values reflect a given bead's relative fluorescence without reference to a standard. It is important to recognize that relative fluorescence can be affected by many variables. Nevertheless, MFI values have consistently been used as a quasiquantitative assessment of antibody strength by both laboratorians and clinicians. The tendency is to correlate MFI values with clinical outcomes and to serially monitor their fluctuations as a measure of clinical status. Decreas-



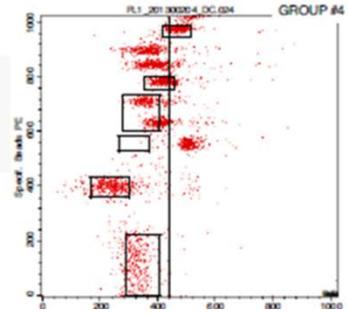
LOCI			
A	B	C	BW
1,11	46,57	6,8	6,4
11,29	18,38	12,XX	6,4
29,68	52,78	16,XX	6,4
1,29	13,81	6,18	4,8
1,30	71,82	10,17	6,6
1,69	35,49	7,12	6,4
1,80	18,50	2,6	6,6
-CONTROL BEADS			
23,80	8,18	2,10	6,6



LOCI			
A	B	C	BW
3,32	21,80	2,10	4,6
3,32	61,47	2,6	6,4
3,66	1,81	15,18	6,6
33,36	53,63	4,14	4,4
3,XX	21,56	1,4	6,6
25,36	7,56	5,7	4,6
23,32	4,84	4,17	6
-CONTROL BEADS			
25,68	65,58	7,8	4,6

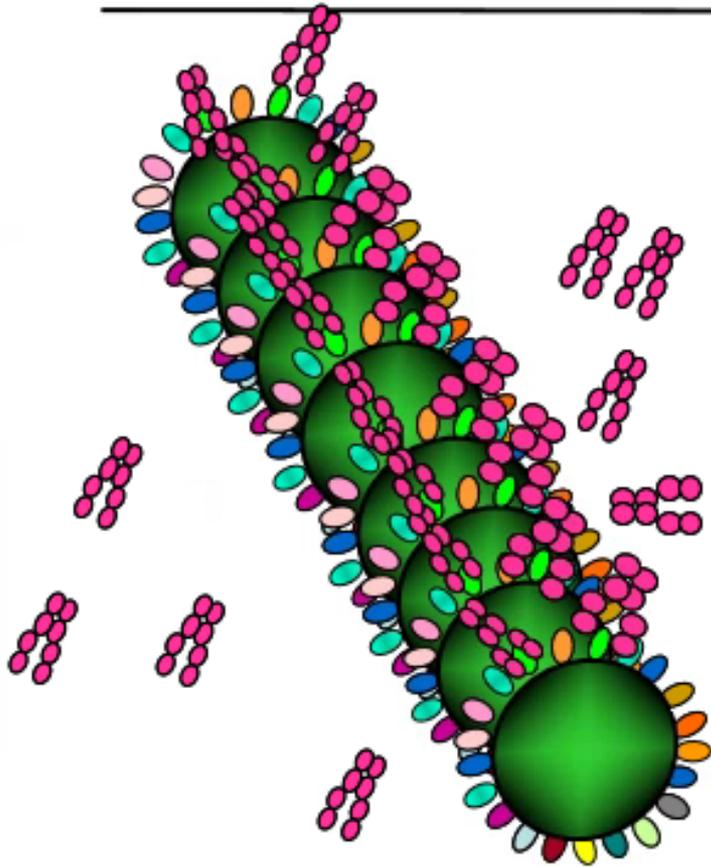


LOCI			
A	B	C	BW
2,11	27,49	7,10	4,4
2,24	23,67	1,7	6,6
2,24	8,62	9,7	6,6
2,29	64,57	8,18	6,4
2,31	39,48	7,8	6,6
2,31	27,51	6,14	4,4
23,XX	7,41	7,8	6,6
-CONTROL BEADS			
29,69	3,55	1,7	6,6

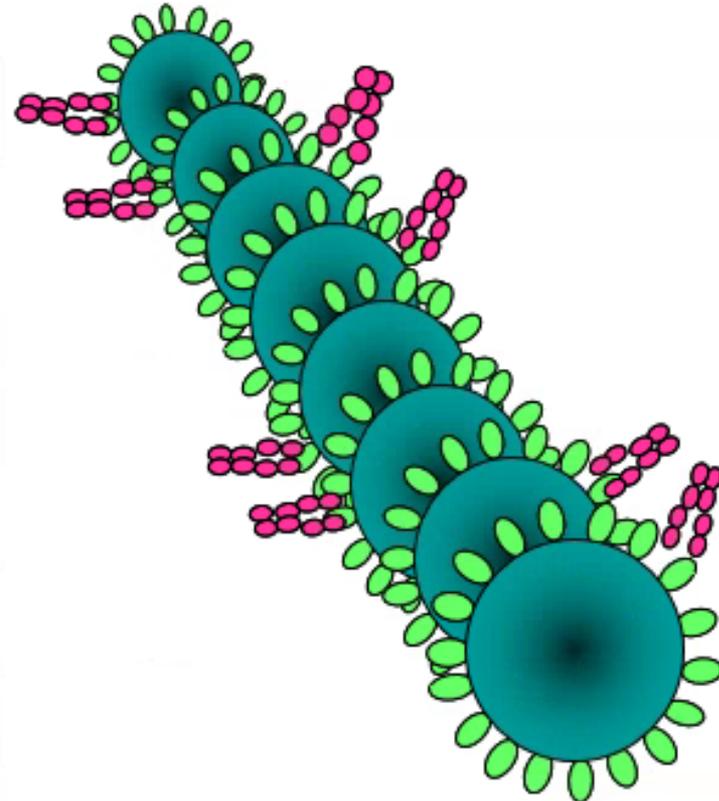


LOCI			
A	B	C	BW
24,30	37,48	6,8	4,6
11,24	59,60	1,10	4,6
11,30	13,75	6,8	4,6
26,34	38,75	4,7	4,6
68,74	72,4	2,16	6,6
32,66	1,73	1,15	4,6
26,XX	50,4	9,XX	6,6
-CONTROL BEADS			
33,74	72,78	2,16	6,6

**Native Antigen  
Screening**



**Recombinant Antigen  
Single Antigen**



6

**Adapted from Gebel and Bray, Am J Transplant 14:1964-1975, 2014**

# Interpretation of HLA single antigen bead assays

Thomas M. Ellis\*

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53792-0428

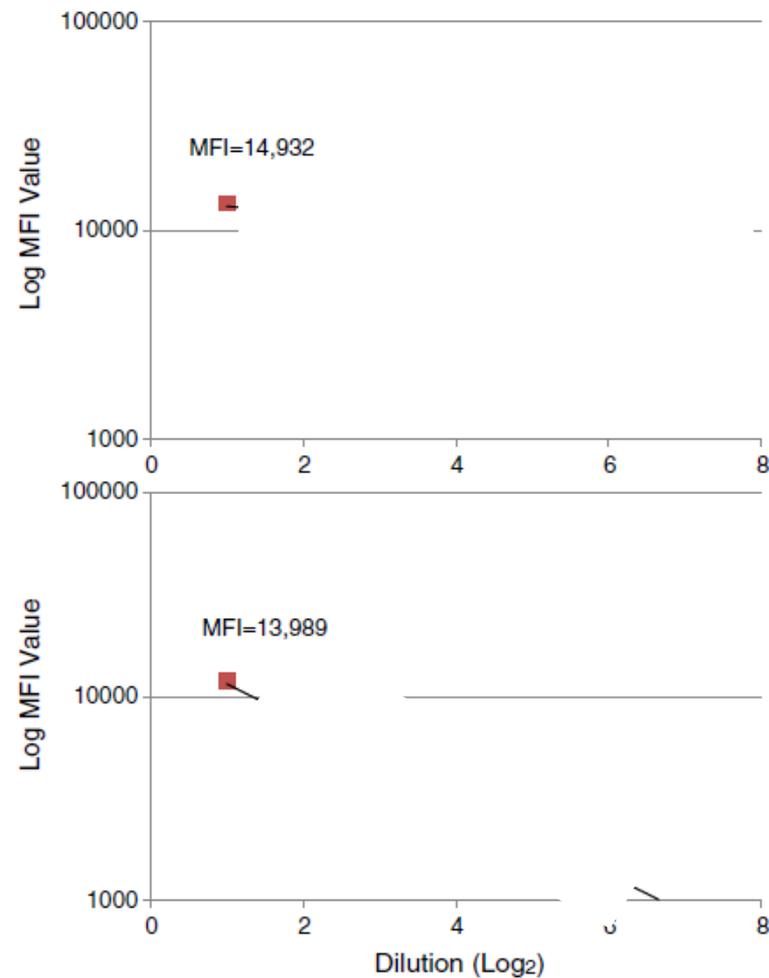
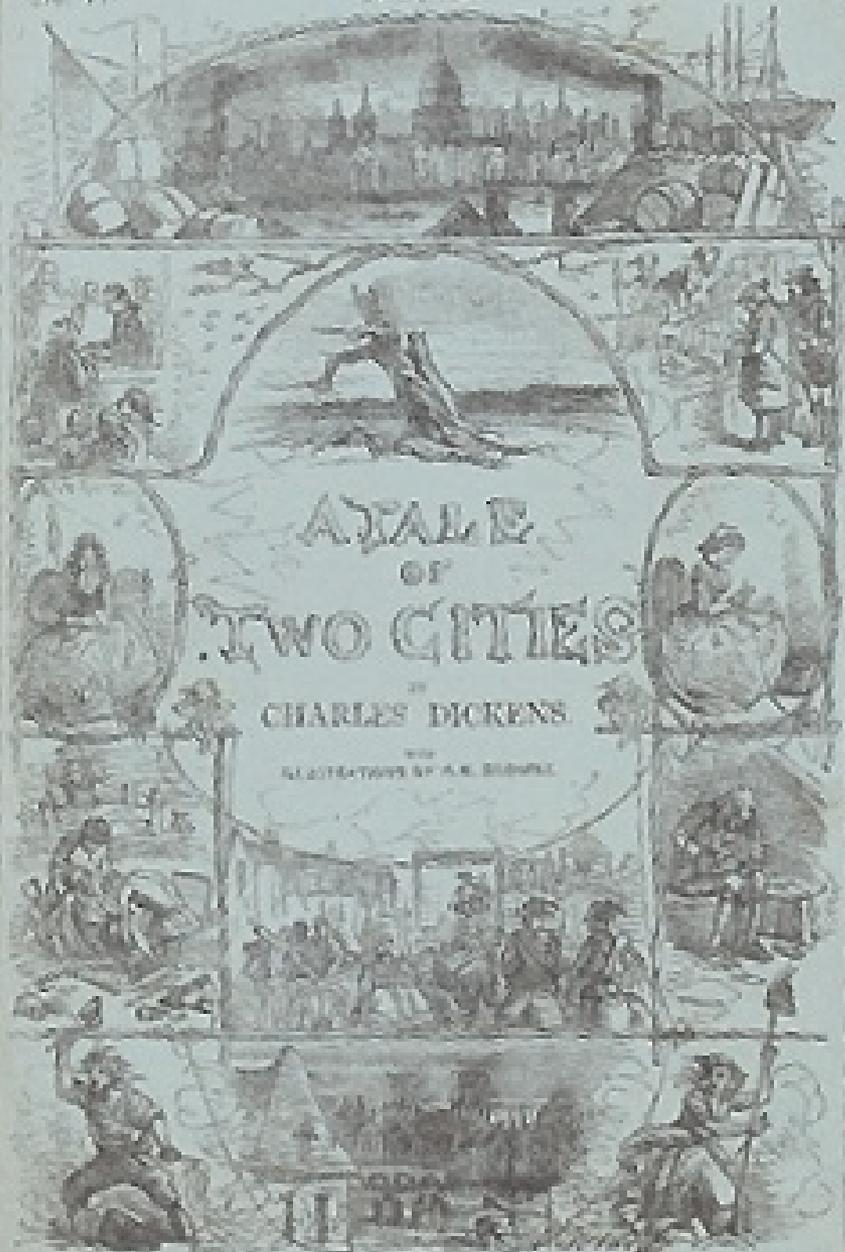


Fig. 2. Titration of 2 anti-HLA-A2 alloantisera with comparable MFI values when run undiluted in the standard SAB assay.



LONDON: CHAPMAN AND HALL, 100, PICCADILLY;

AND "44 THE GREAT BRIDGE" OFFICE, 15, WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON, W.1.

© The Author reserves the right of Translation.

**"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going the other way."**

**-- Charles Dickens**

**"It was the best of tests, it was the worst of tests; it was the test of wisdom, it was the test of foolishness; it was the test of belief, it was the test of incredulity; it was the test of Light, it was the test of Darkness; it was the test of hope, it was the test of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going the other way."**

**-- with apologies to Charles Dickens**