

Engineering Complement Factor I as a Protease Medicine: Tuning Potency And Specificity For Complement-mediated Disorders

ASBMB Serine Proteases in Pericellular Proteolysis and Signaling 2021

October 30th 2021

Grant E. Blouse, PhD

Chief Scientific Officer



Forward looking statements



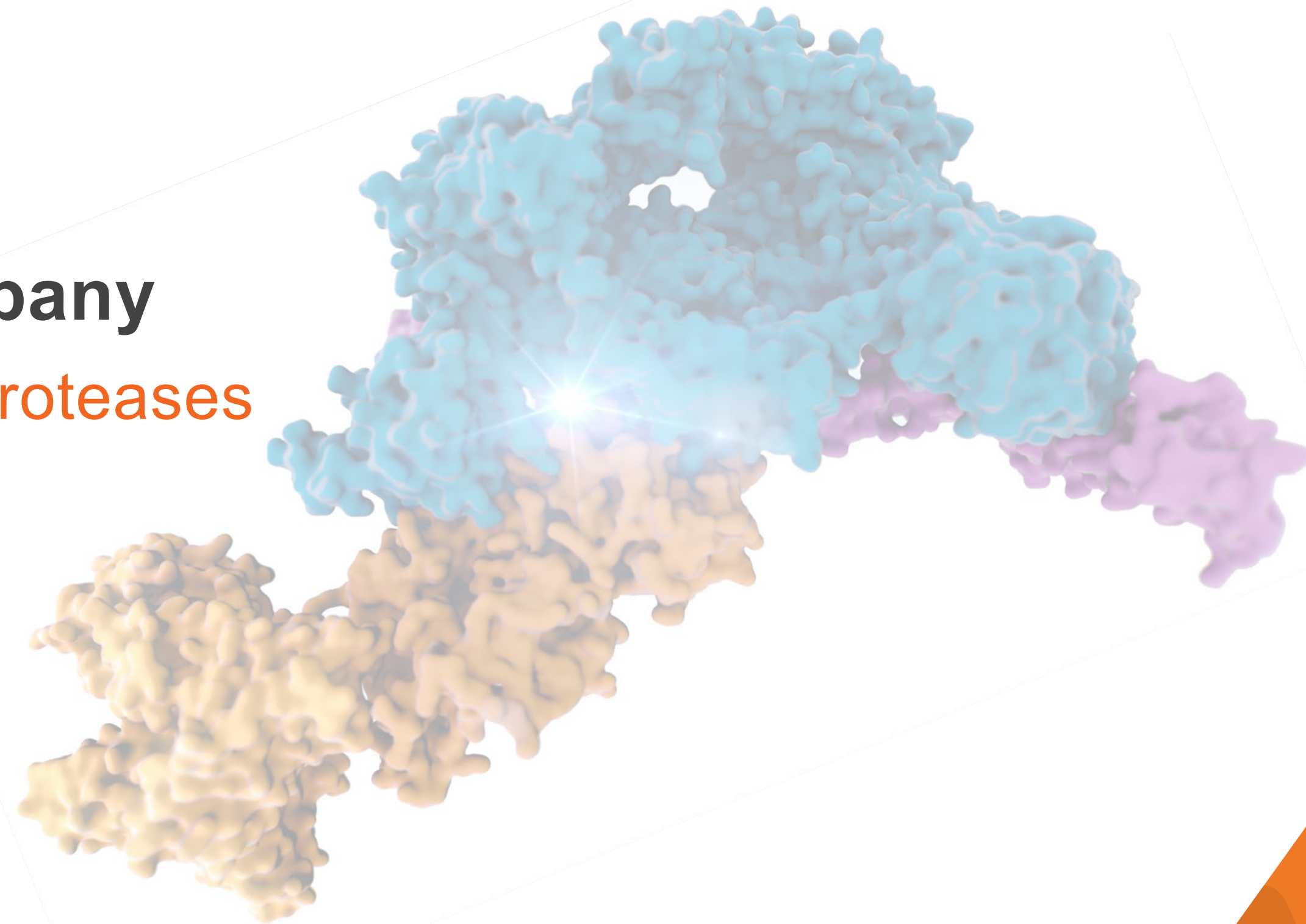
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The Protease Medicines Company

Harnessing the catalytic power of proteases

- ✓ Novel differentiated medicines
- ✓ Robust complement portfolio
- ✓ Clinical-stage assets
- ✓ Unique expertise in protease engineering



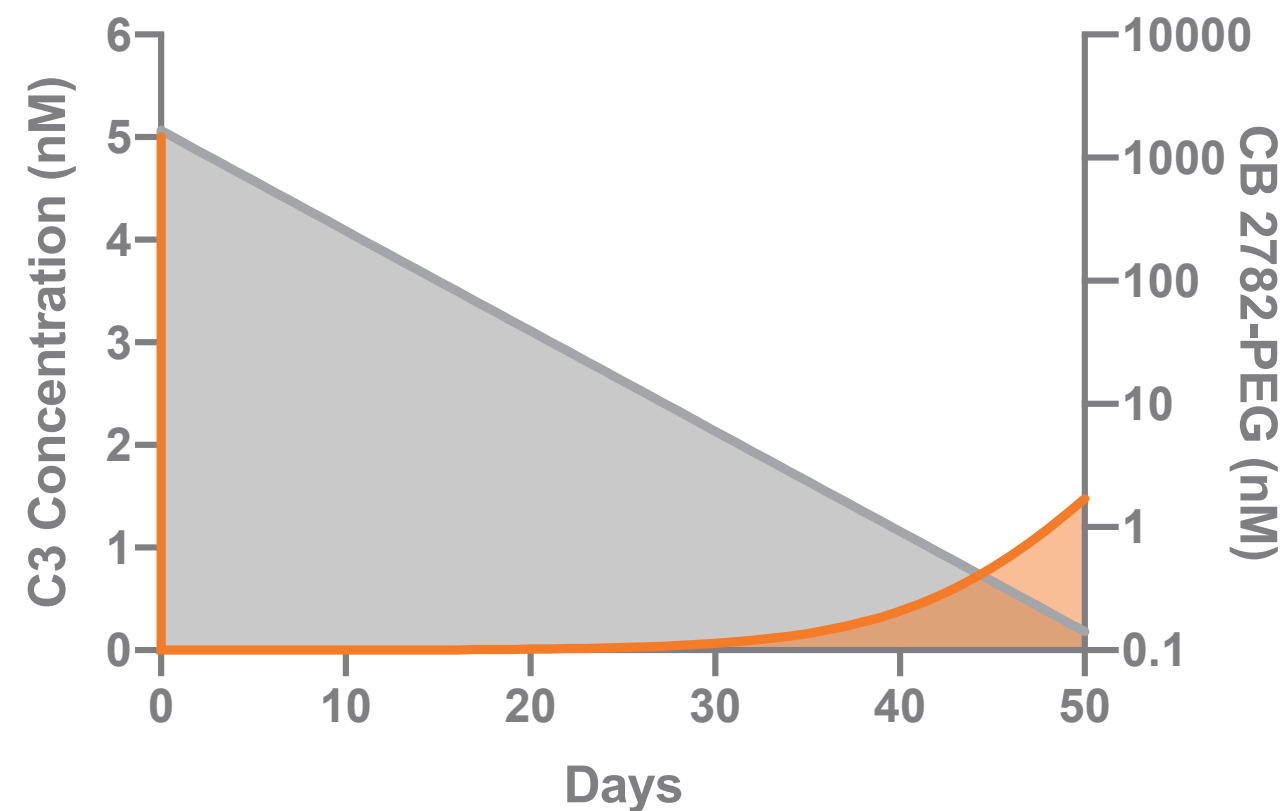


Catalyst protease platform

Validated across three programs

CB 2782-PEG Biogen

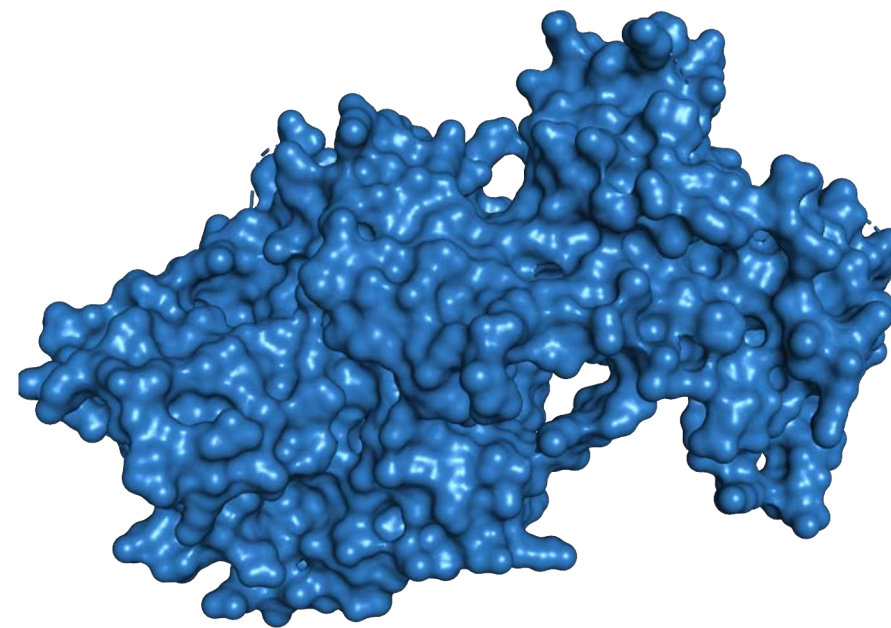
Best-in-class profile for dry AMD
Extended pharmacodynamics



✓ Novel C3-degrader
partnered to Bio for dry AMD

CB 4332 Enhanced CFI

Restoring balance to complement
in patients with dysregulated CFI



✓ Engineered CFI entering
the clinic in 2022

Engineered proteases

Protease platforms tailored to restore
function in specific indications



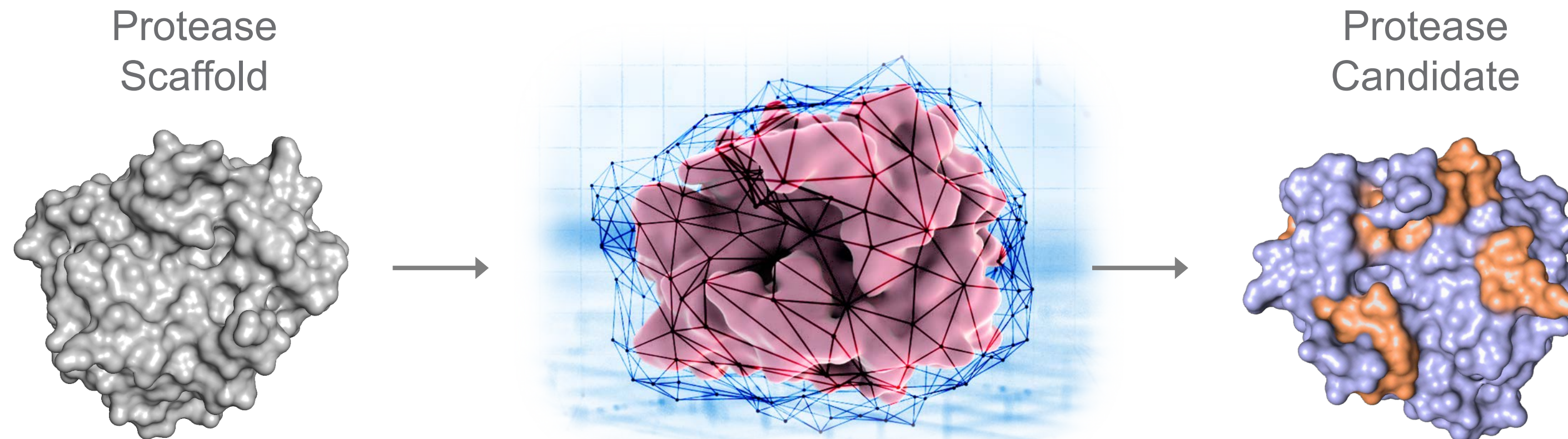
✓ C3b/C4b degrader platform
delivering candidates 2022



Catalyst protease platform

Unique expertise enables design of optimized & differentiated protease candidates

Discovery Platform



✓ **Structure Guided Design**

✓ **Molecular Evolution**

✓ **Engineered Regulation**

✓ **Pharmacokinetic Improvement**

Our Proteases

- + Functionally enhanced natural proteases in the complement & coagulation cascades
- + Engineered novel protein degraders in the complement cascade
- + Modulate or target biological activation or inactivation

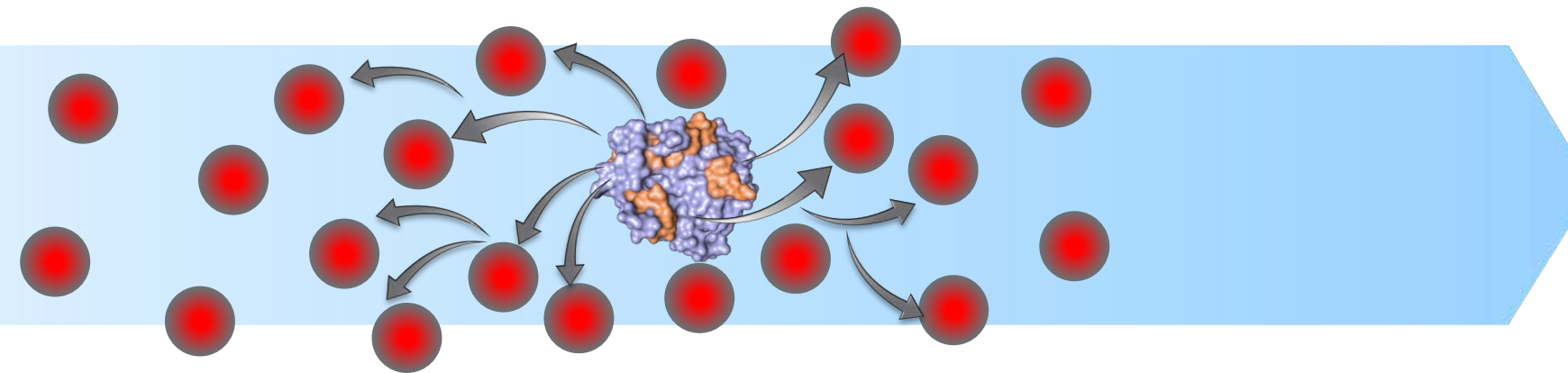
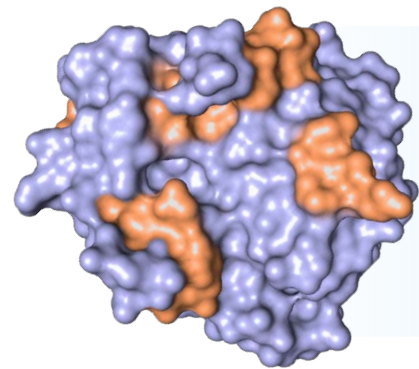


Proteases are ideal for high abundance targets & cascades

A better way to regulate biological processes compared with antibodies & small molecules

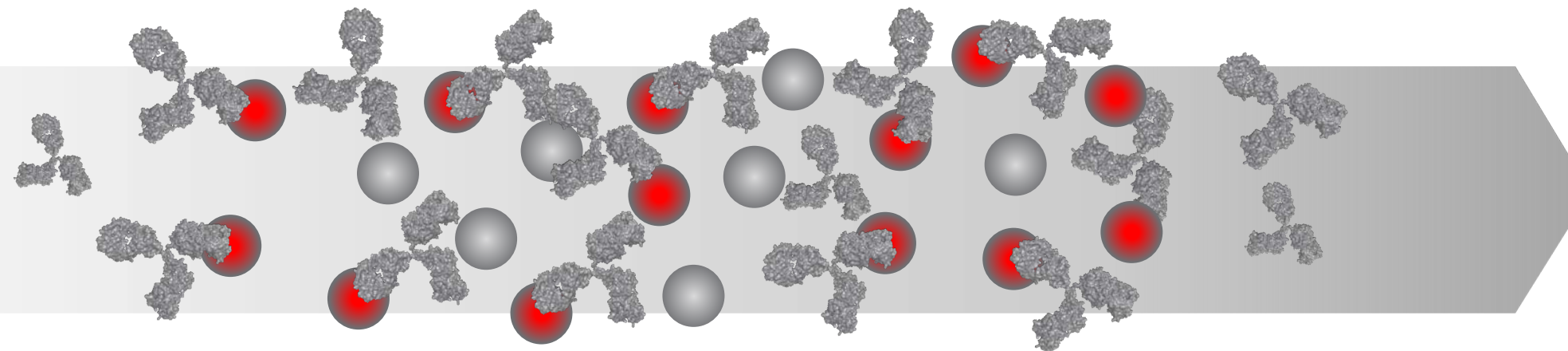
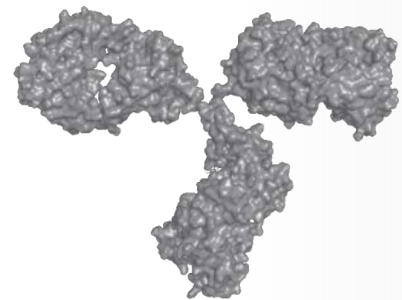
Therapeutic target neutralization

Protease



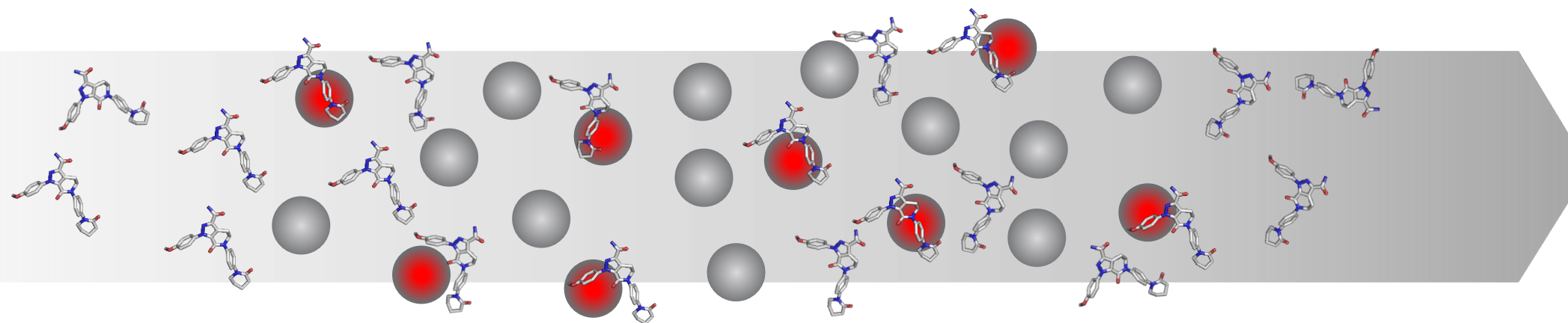
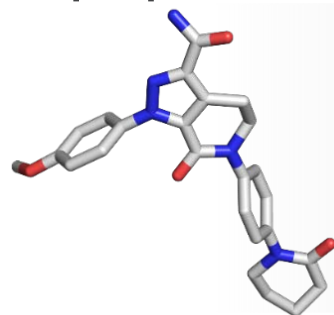
Efficient regulation at low concentrations of therapeutic protease

Antibodies



Requires high concentrations in excess of the target

Small molecules / peptides

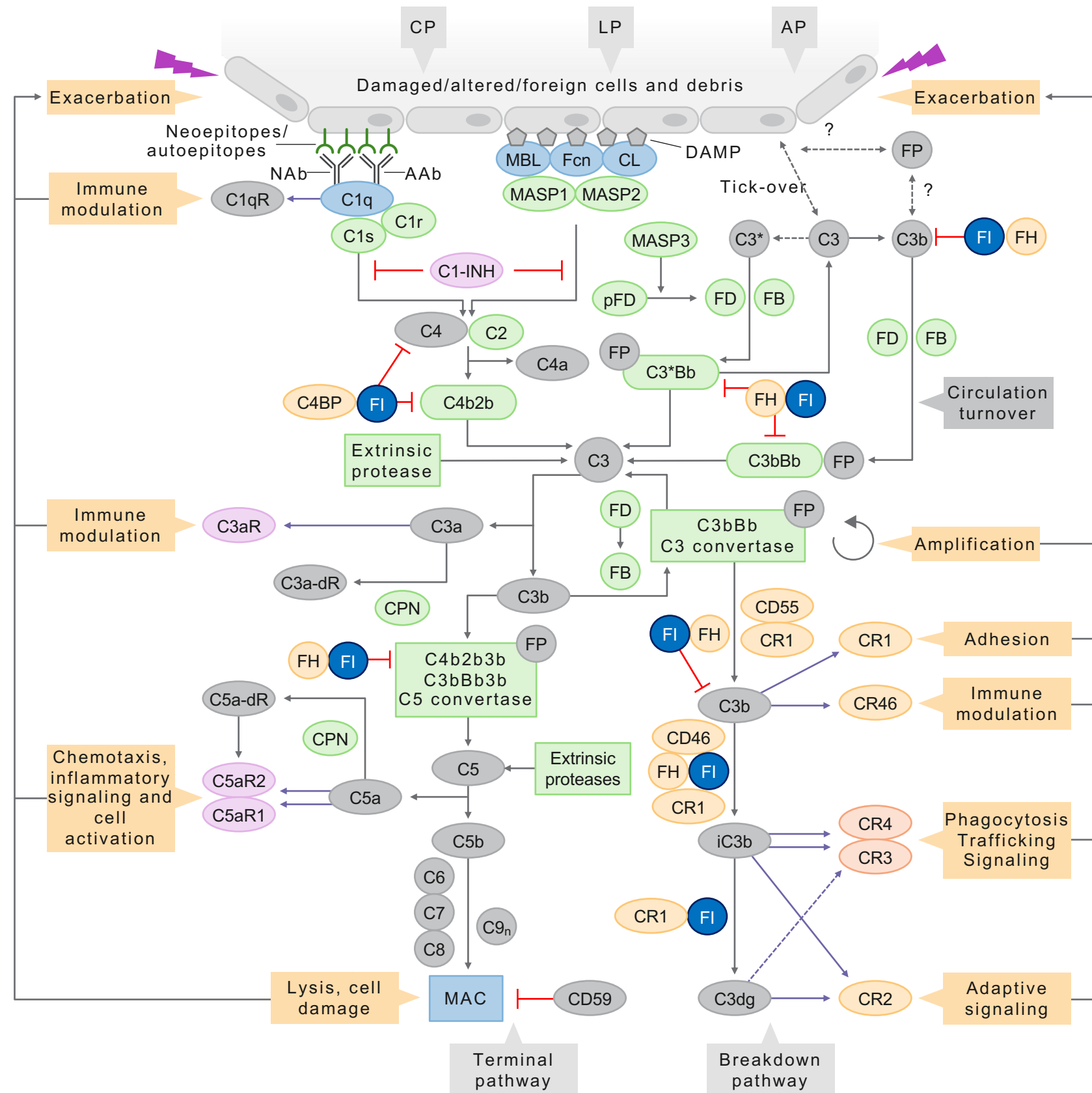


Requires high concentrations & frequent dosing



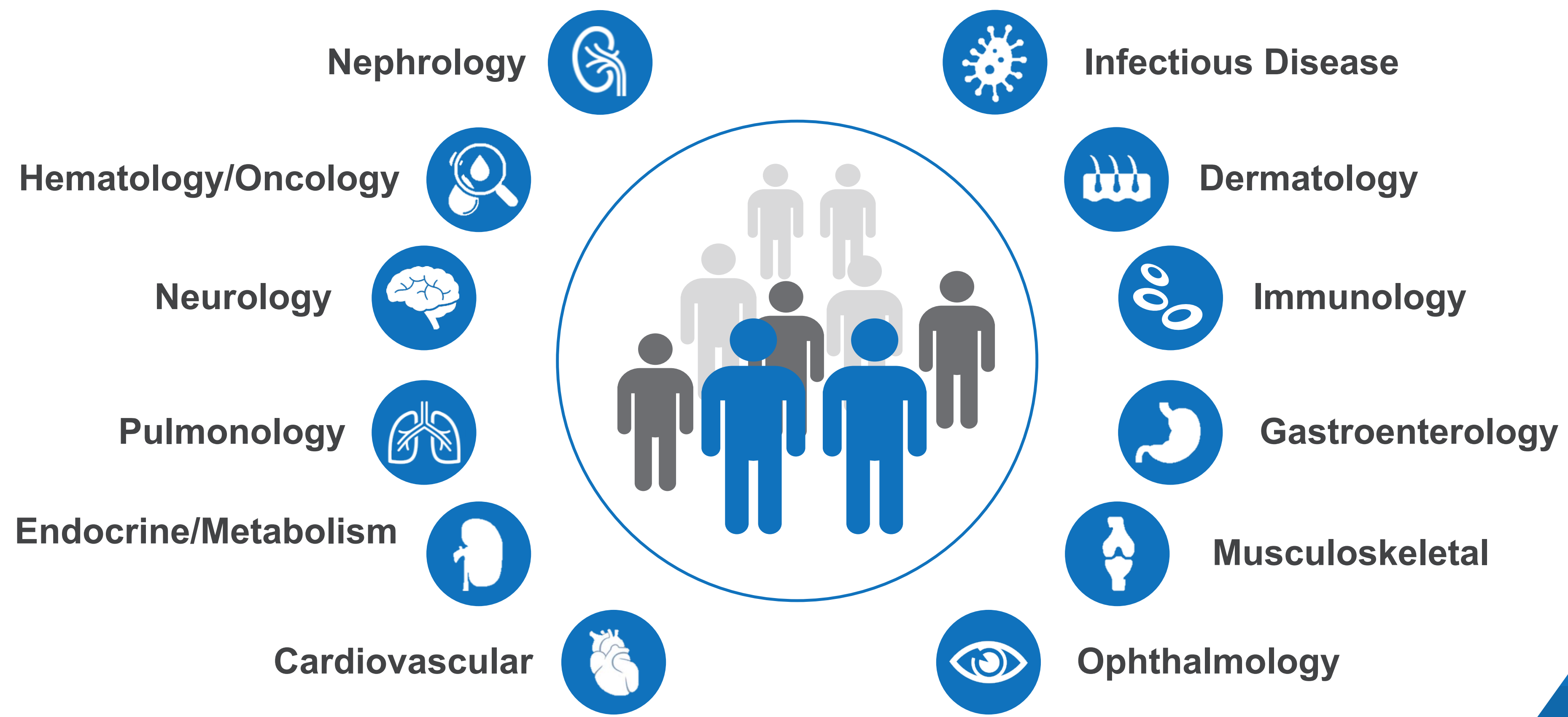
Complement is a perfect fit to develop protease therapeutics

The complement pathway is driven by a protease cascade



80%
of the complement
cascade is regulated
by proteases

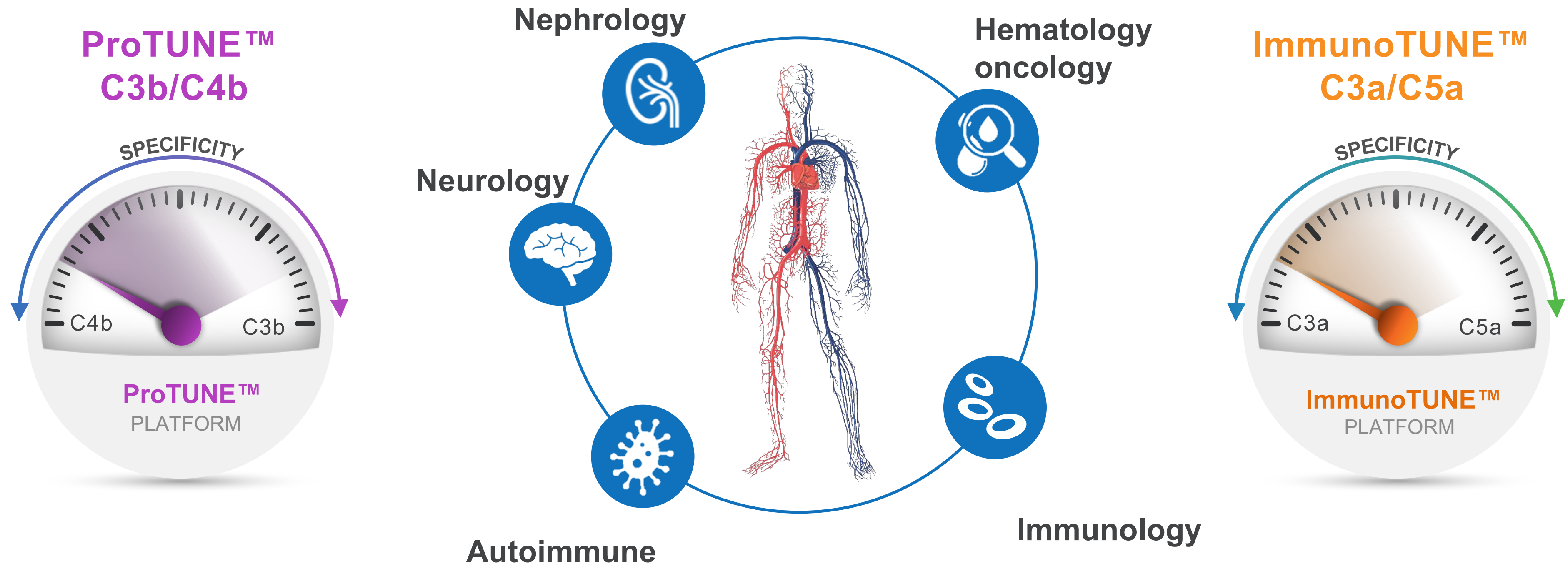
Complement plays a critical role in many diseases





Our protease platforms are tailored to specific indications

Tuning functionality to restore complement homeostasis & immunoregulation



Specific inhibition of complement components at different sites of the complement cascade allows a personalized approach to treating complement disorders



C3b/C4b degraders – unique approach to complement regulation

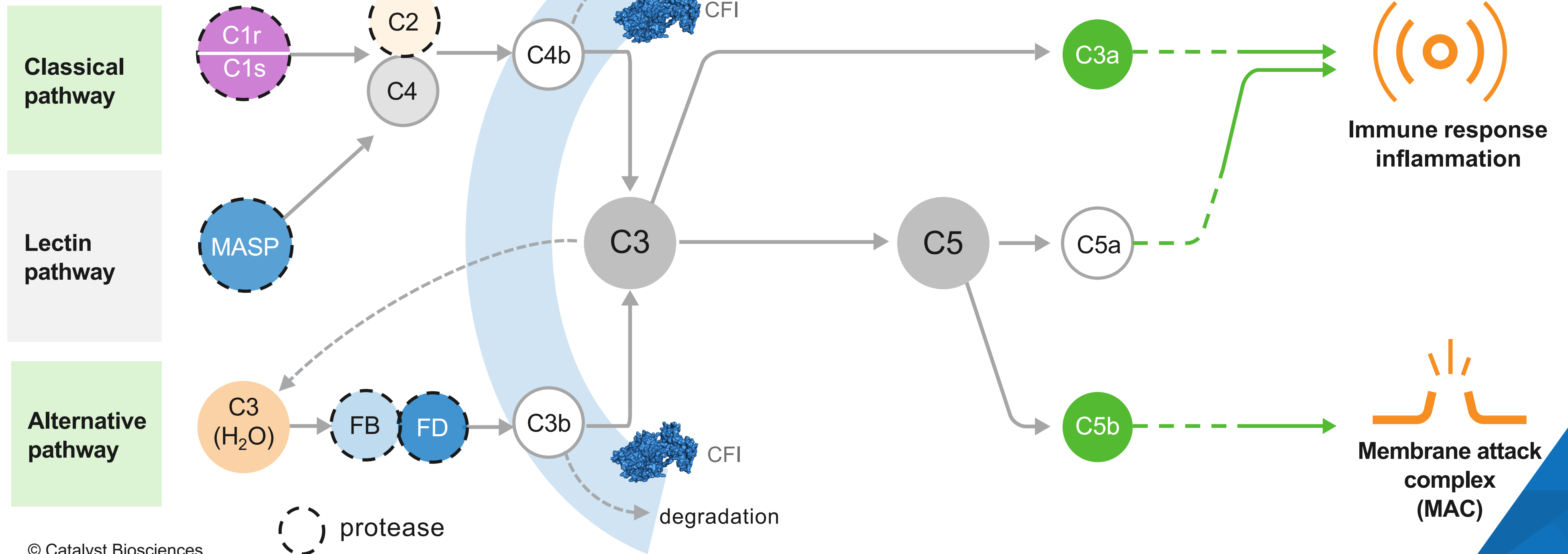
Diseases of classical, lectin and/or alternative pathway driven pathogenesis

Cascade initiation

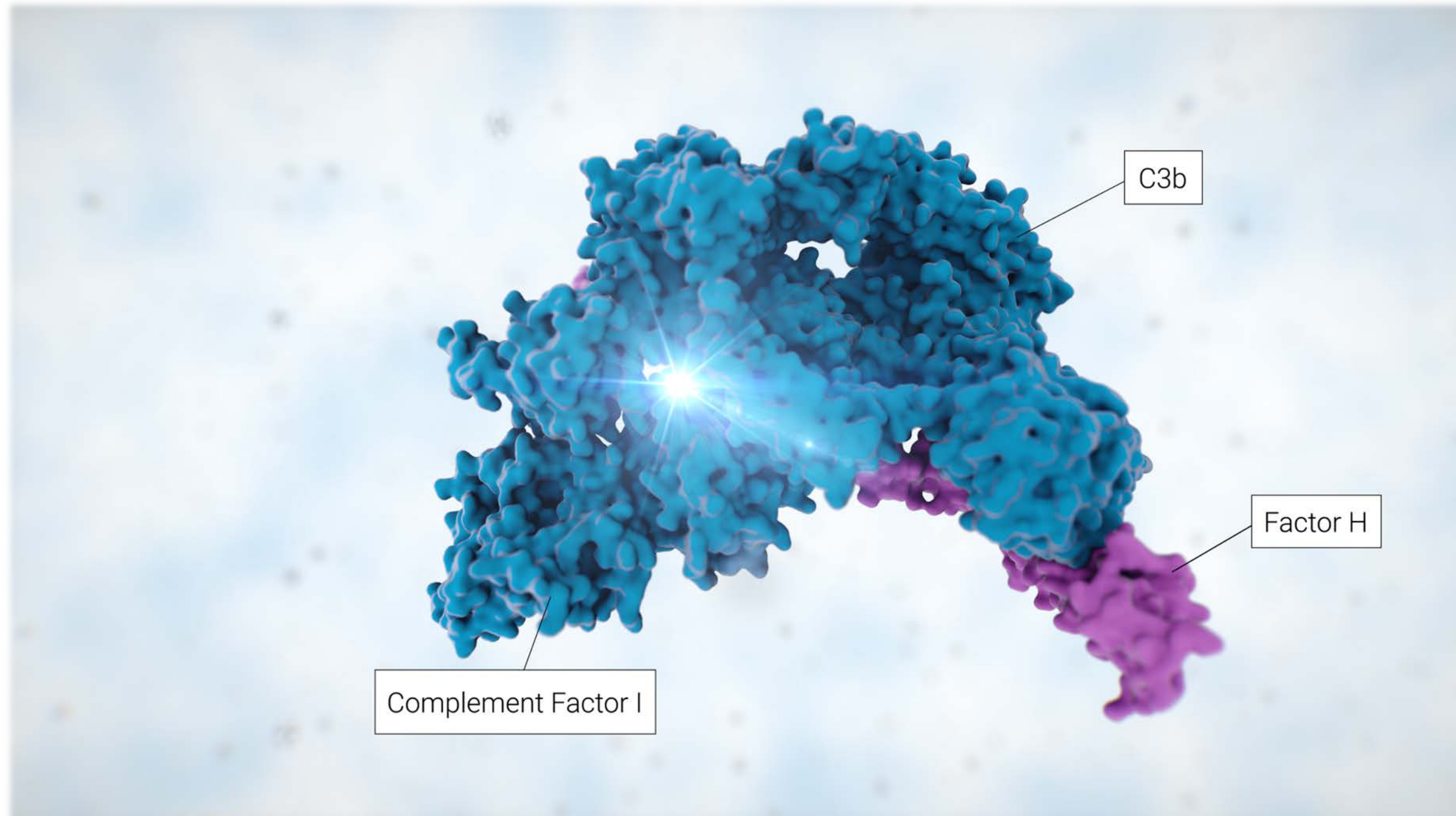
Cascade regulation

Terminal complement

C4b Degradors
C3b Degradors

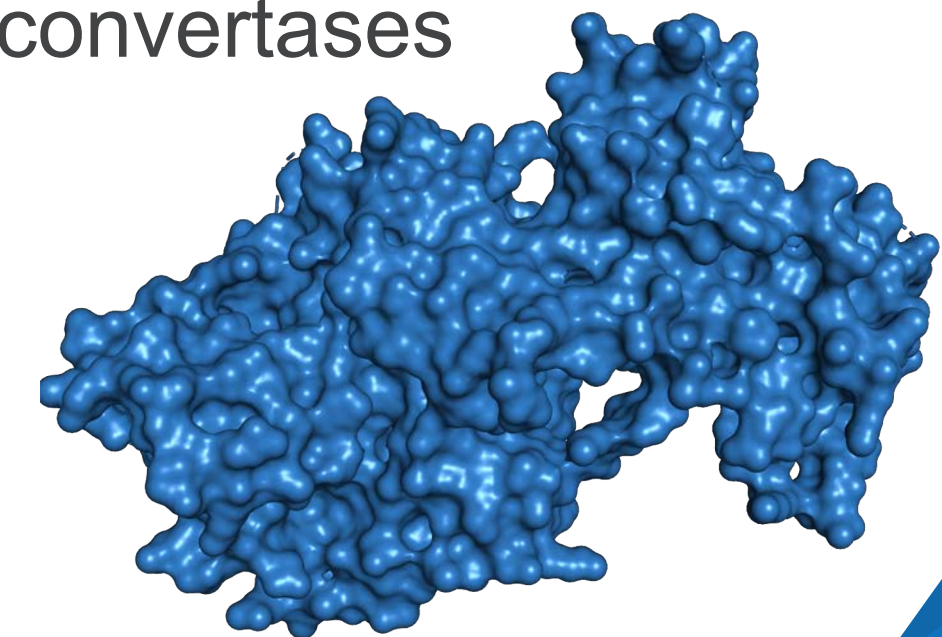


Complement Factor I (CFI) – The negative regulator of complement



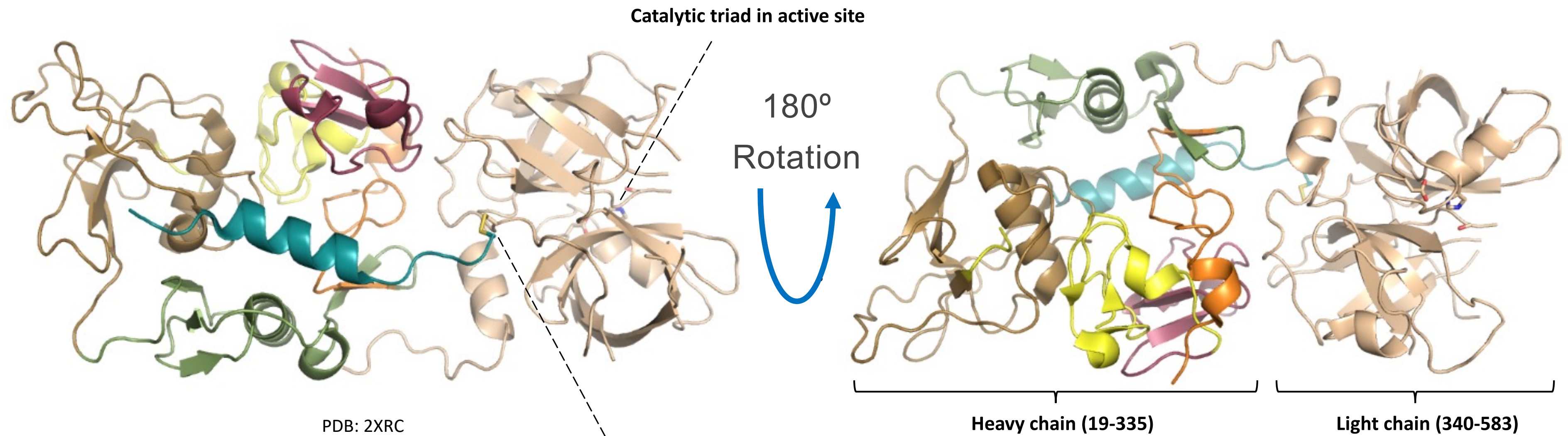
Complement Factor I

- + Negative regulator of complement at the C3 axis
- + Maintains balance in the complement cascade
 - Dysregulated CFI has clinical implications and unchecked complement activation
- + Dual specificity to regulate both the C4b2b3b & C3bBb convertases



Complement Factor I (CFI)

Domain structure



N-terminal region

FI membrane attack complex domain (FIMAC)

Scavenger receptor cysteine-rich domain (SRCR)

Low-density lipoprotein domain 1 (LDLRA1)

Low-density lipoprotein domain 2 (LDLRA2)

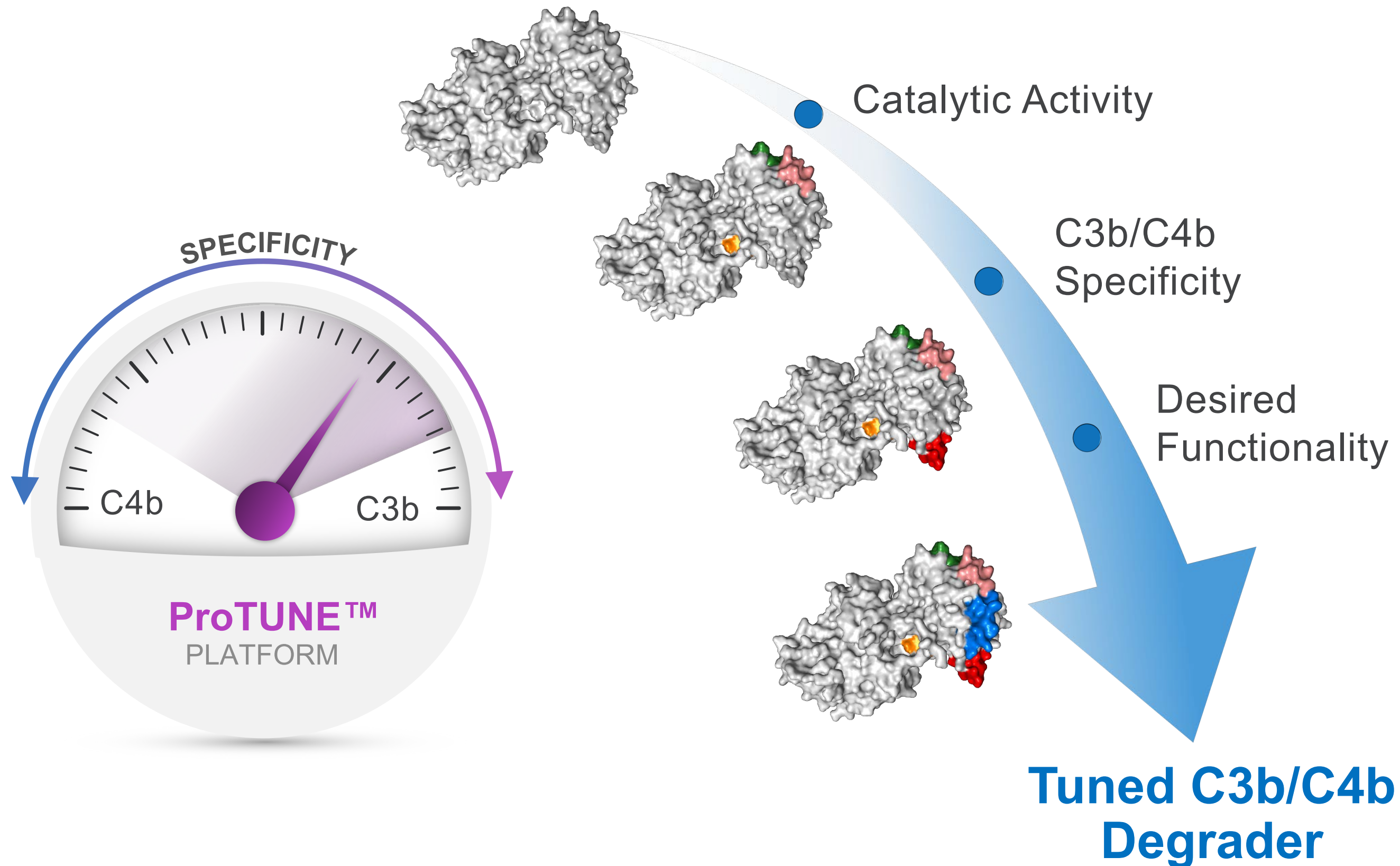
Interchain segment

Serine protease domain (SPD)



Dialing catalytic power & specificity into CFI

Using ProTUNE™ engineering platform to tune C3b & C4b degraders

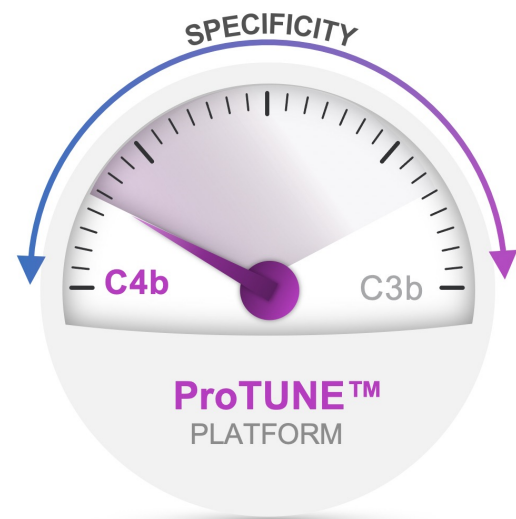


Precision CFI Therapeutics

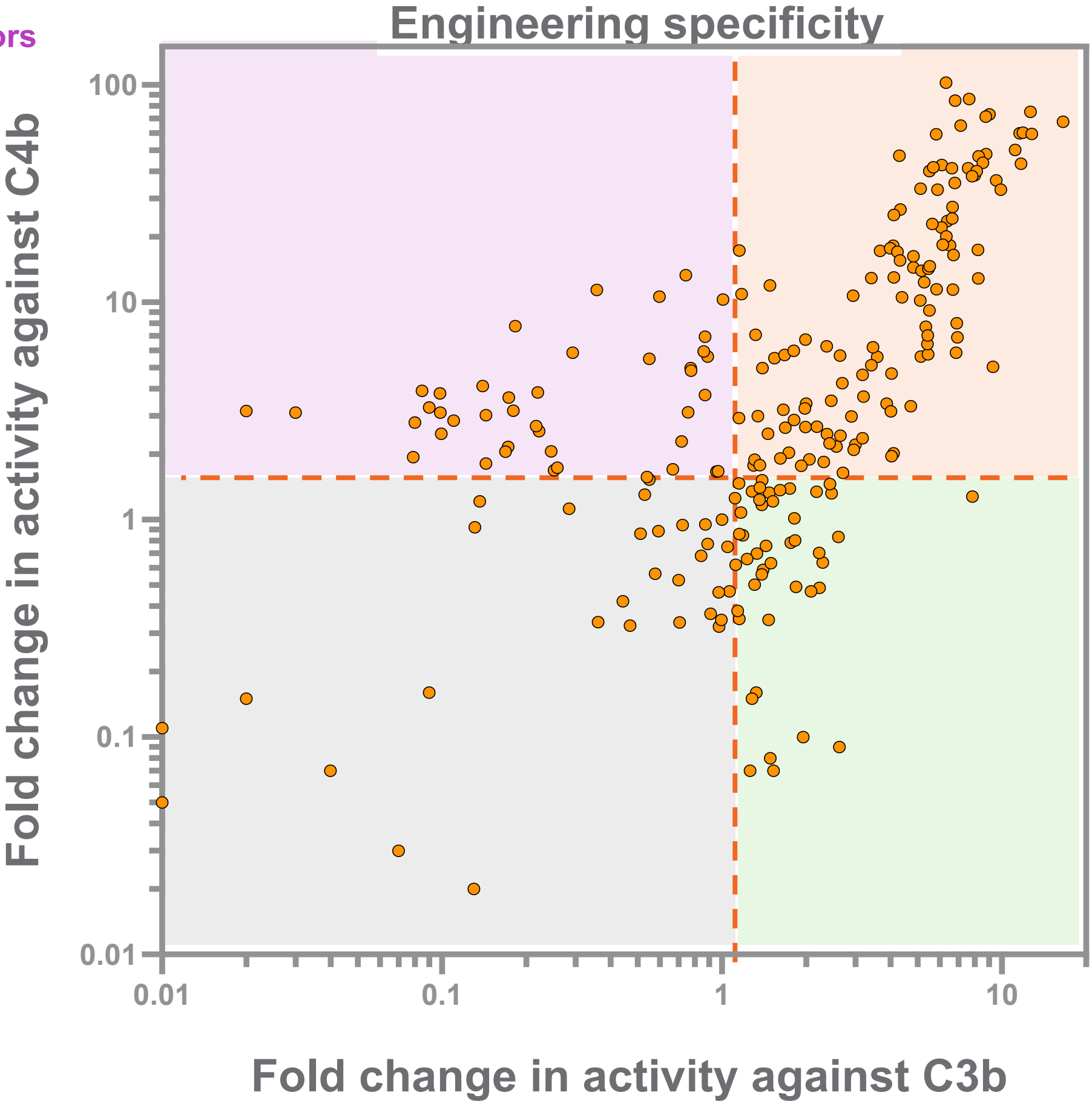
- ✓ Tunable **potency** to control dysregulated complement
- ✓ Tunable **specificity** toward C3b & C4b to restore the **right** balance to complement

Using ProTUNE™ engineering platform to tune C3b & C4b degraders

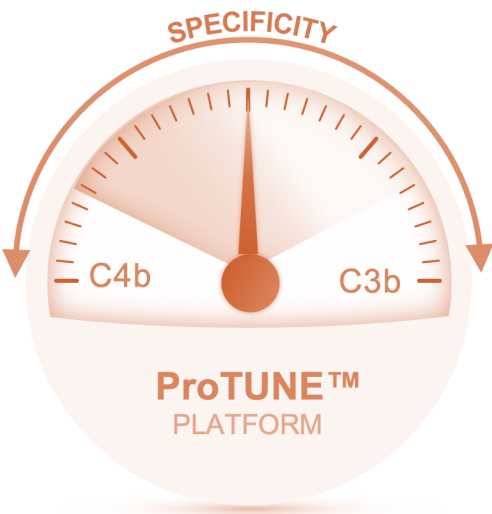
Classical-Lectin pathway specific regulators



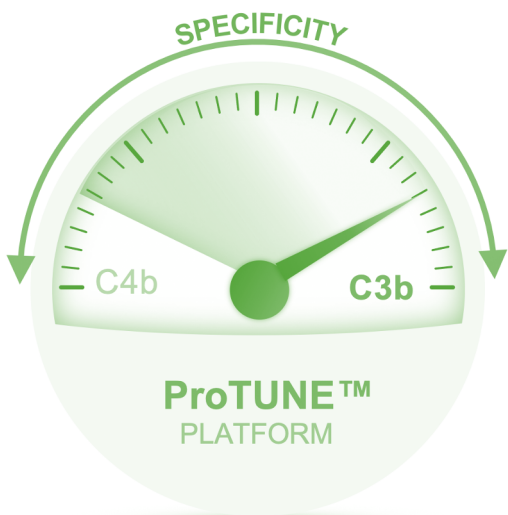
ProTUNE™ Platform allows precision medicine



Dual regulators



Alternative pathway specific regulators





Screening strategy for complement therapeutics

In vitro assays and *in vivo* models are used to evaluate C3b & C4b degraders

~1200 variants

~30 variants

~10 variants

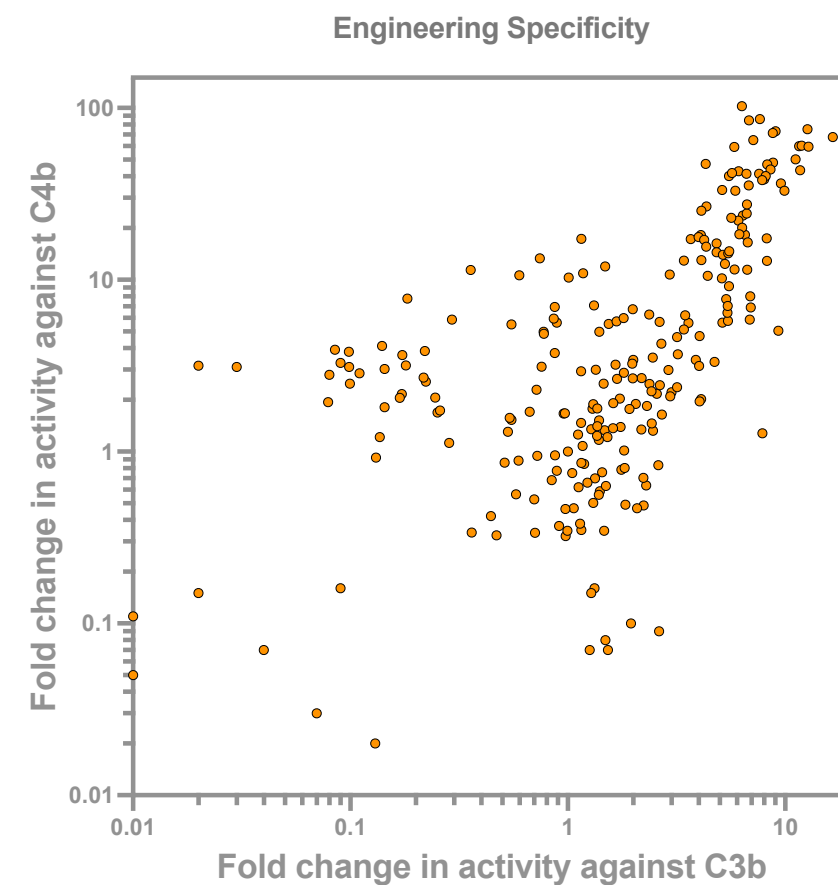
ongoing

+ In vitro cleavage of C3b & C4b fragments by ELISA

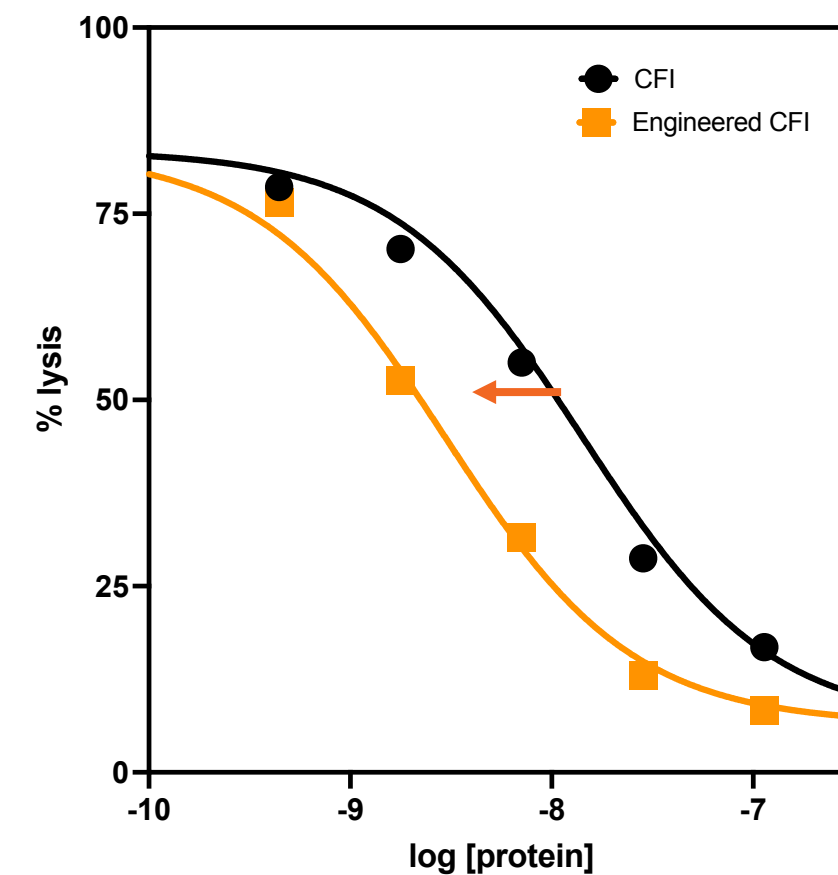
+ Hemolysis inhibition

+ In vivo activity in **acute** rodent models

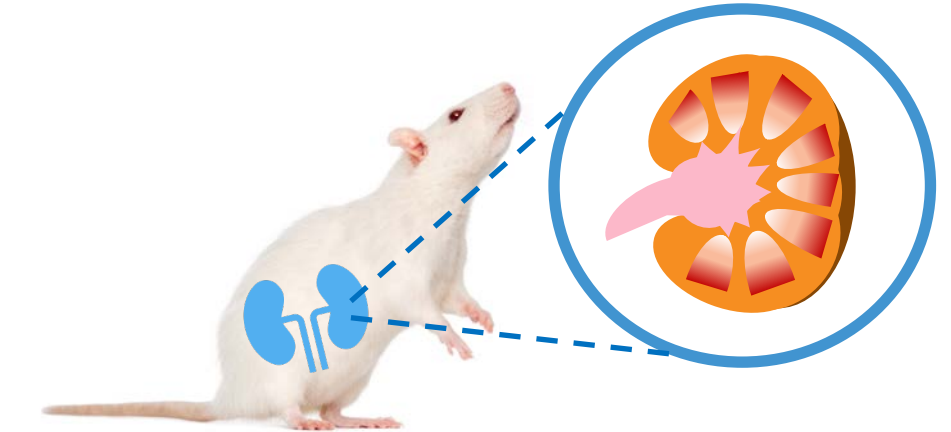
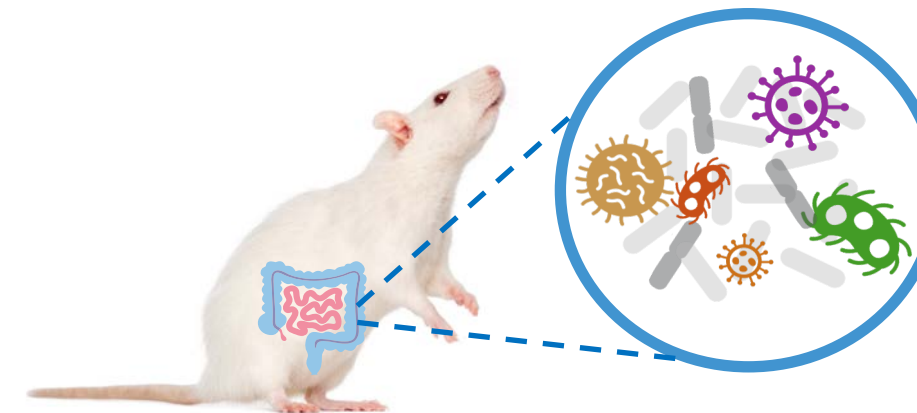
+ In vivo activity in **chronic** rodent models



Measure cleavage fragments of C3b (iC3b) and C4b (C4c)



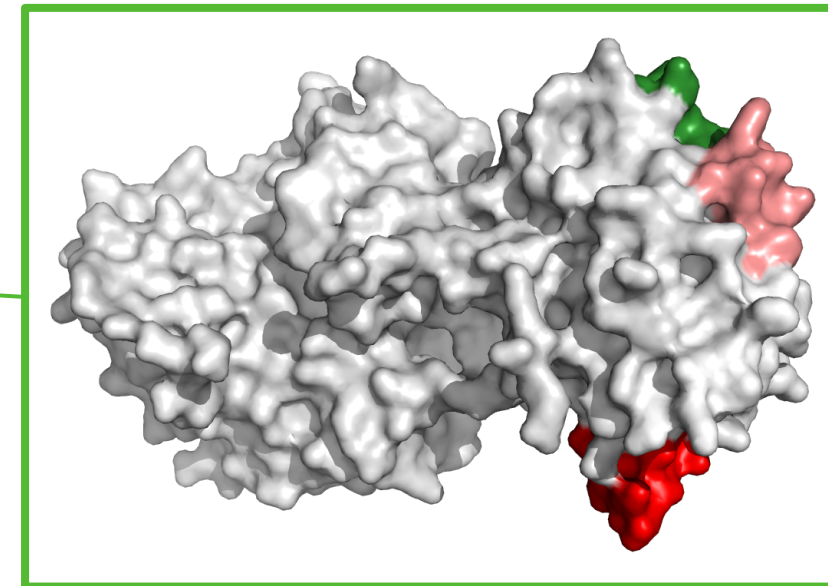
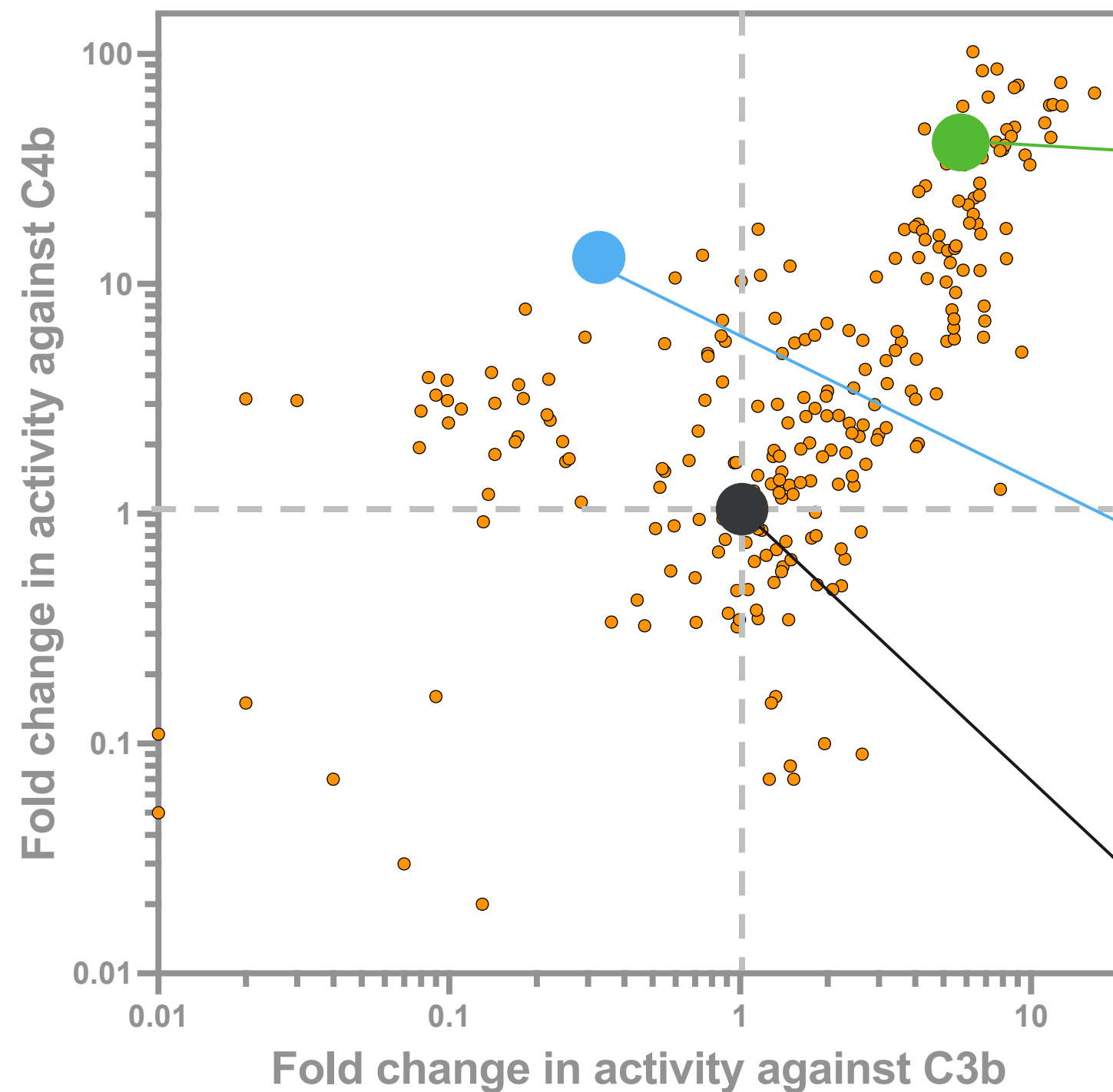
Measure inhibition of red blood cell lysis



Using ProTUNE™ Platform to tune C3b & C4b cleaving capabilities

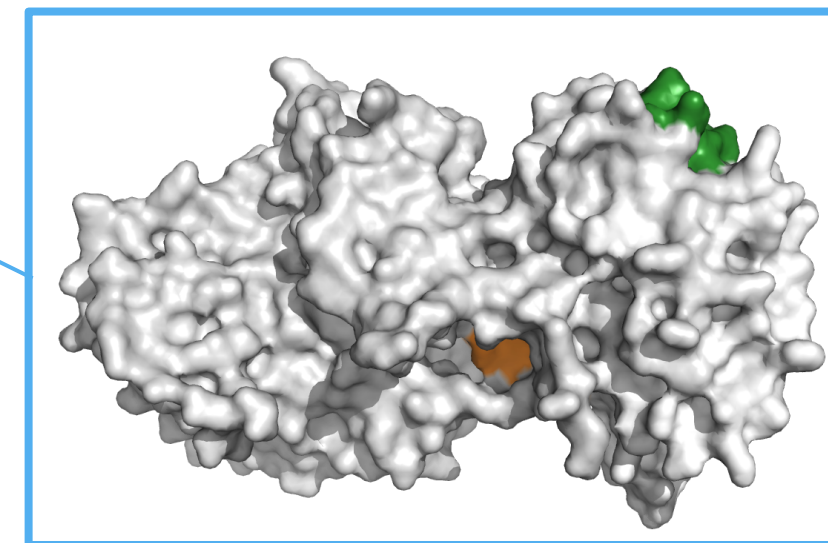


Rational Design



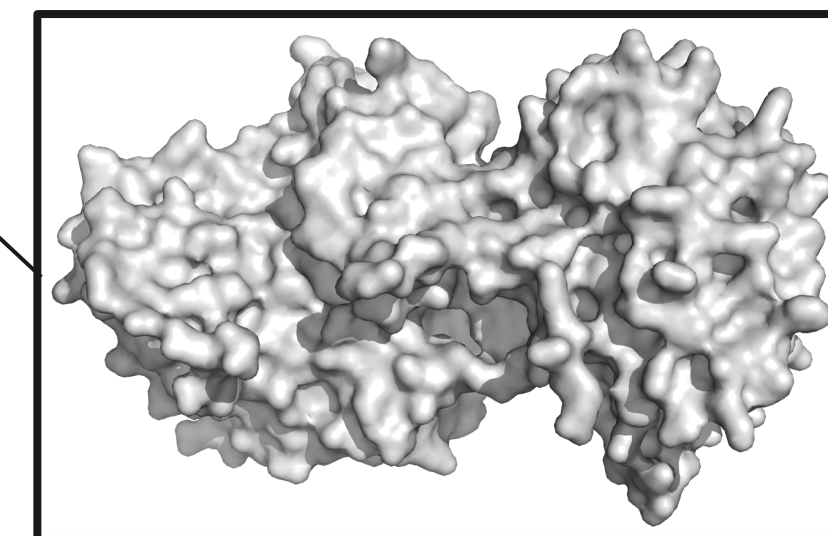
Dual degrader:

High cleavage activity of C3b
High cleavage activity of C4b



Exclusive degrader:

High cleavage activity of C4b

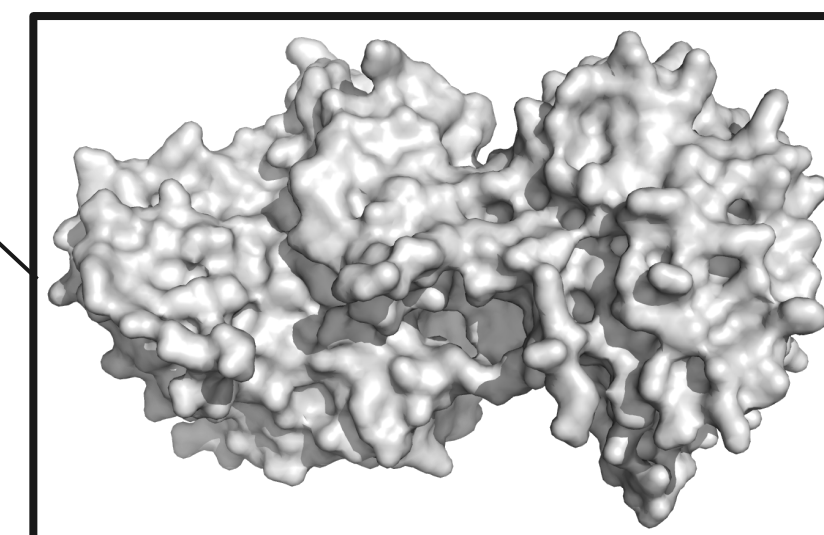
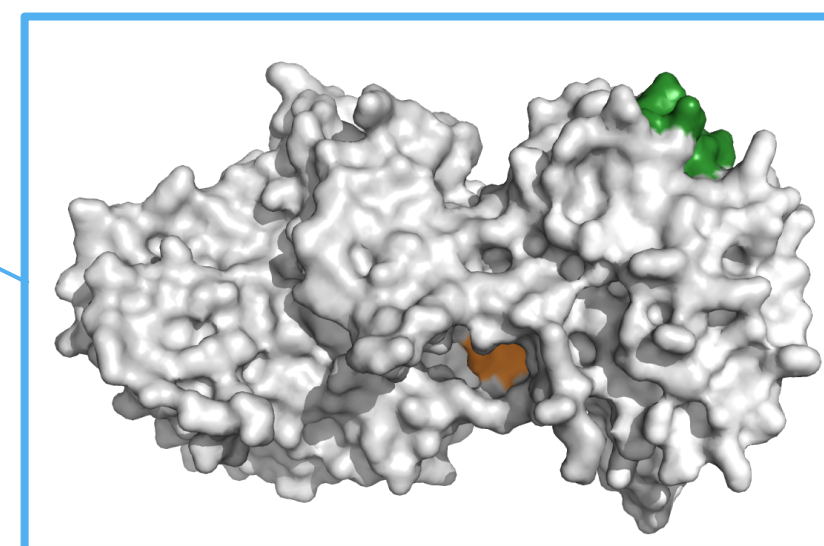
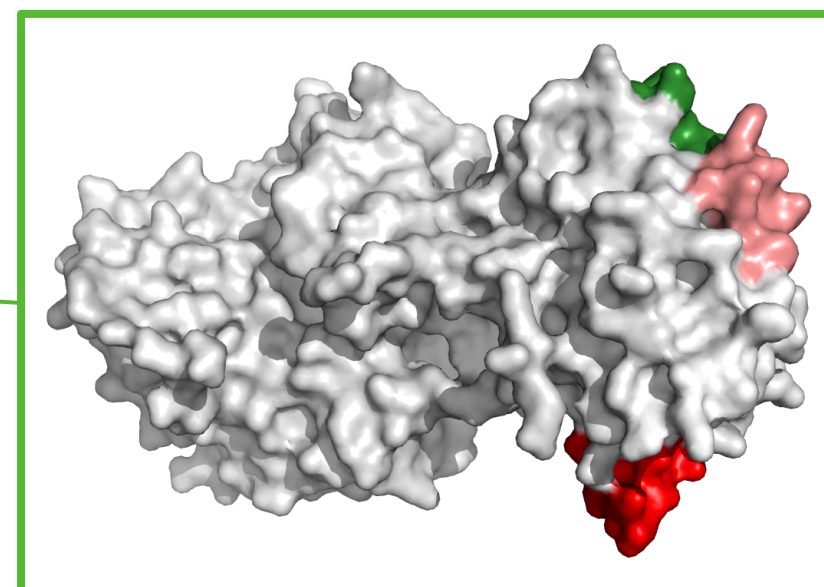
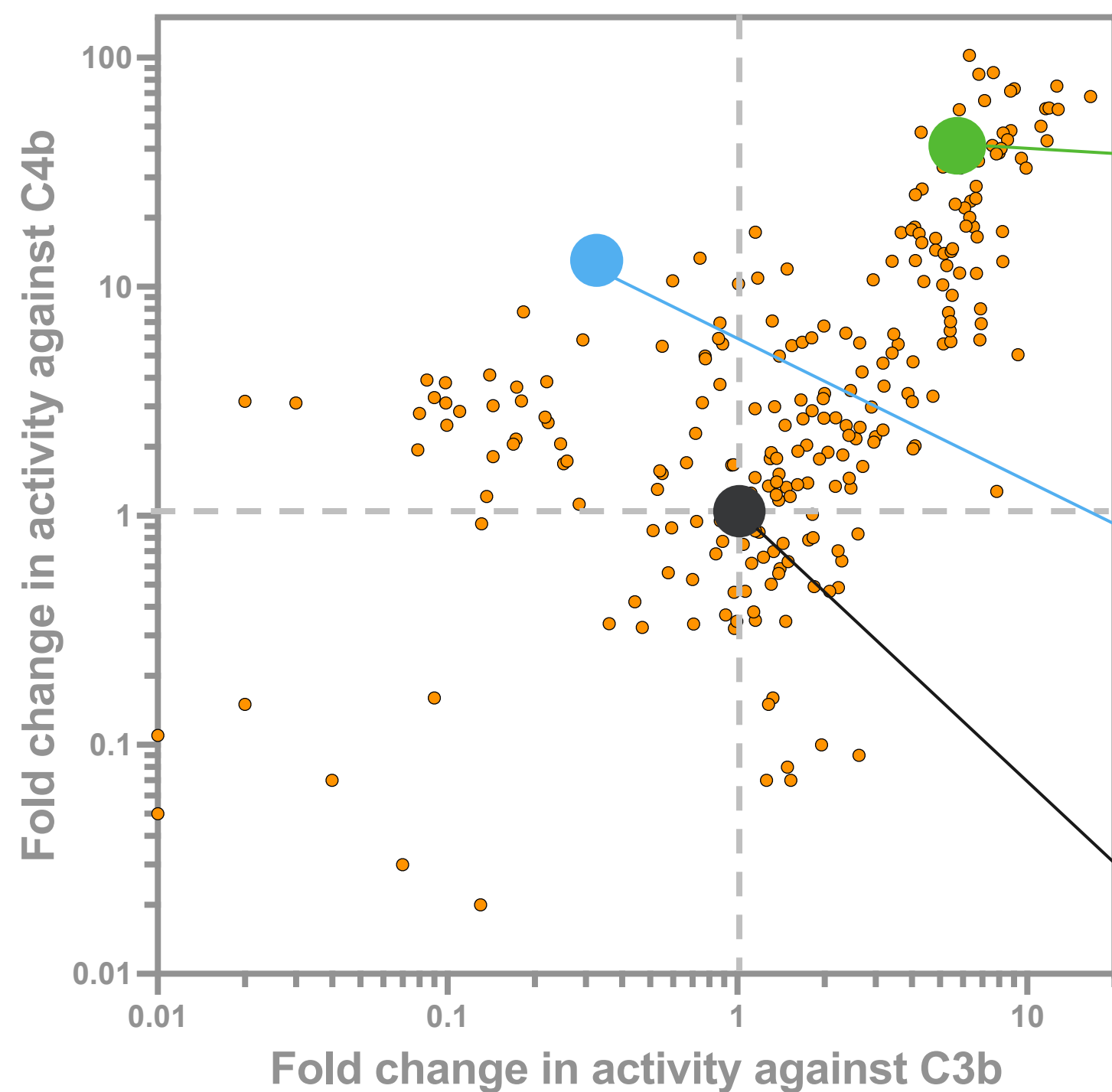


CFI base scaffold

Using ProTUNE™ Platform to tune C3b & C4b cleaving capabilities

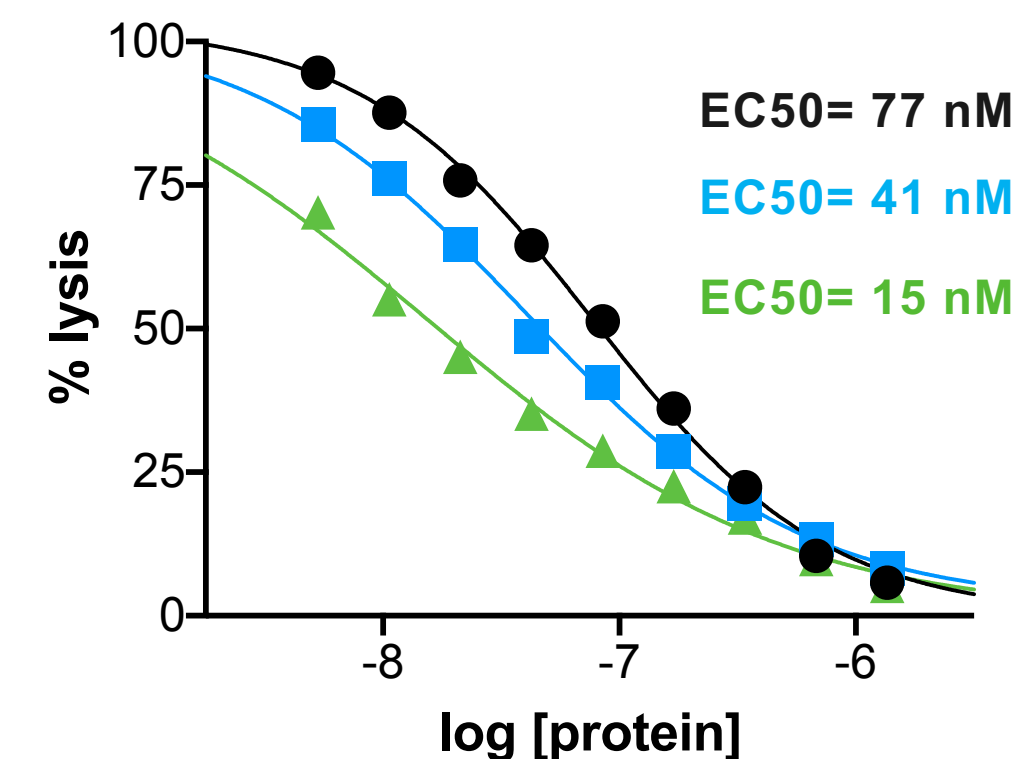


Rational Design

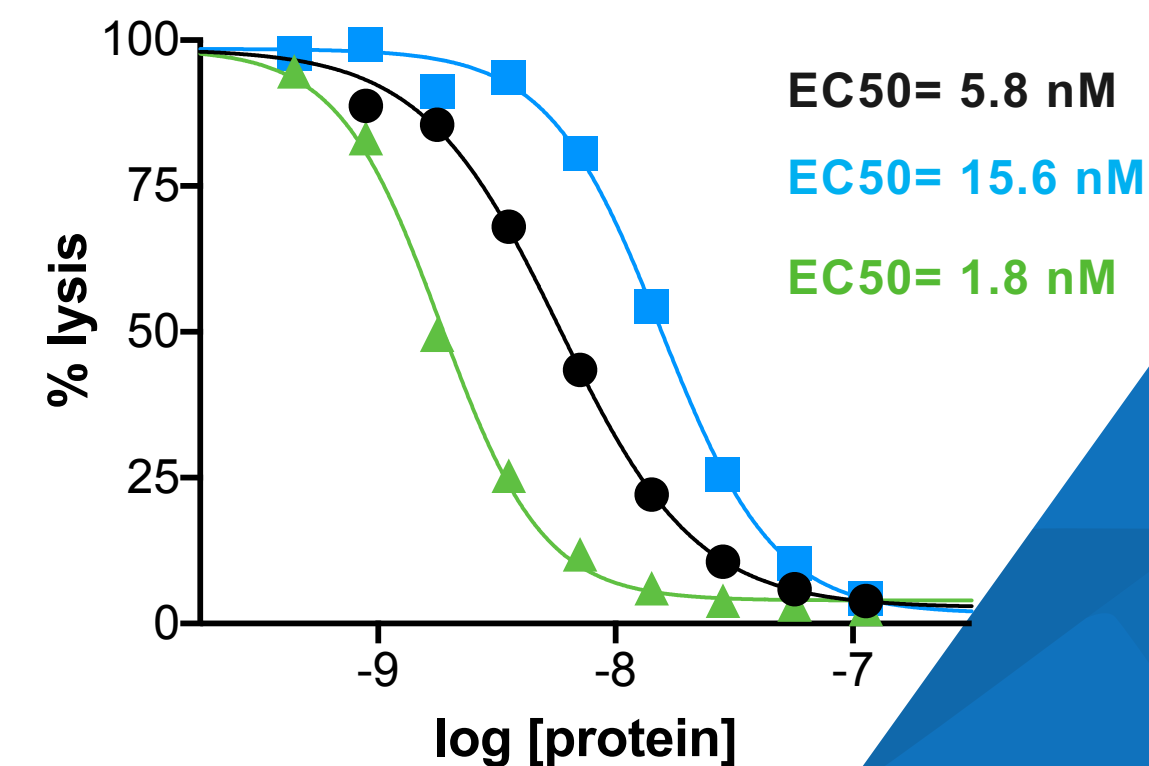


Reduction of Hemolysis

Classical Pathway Hemolysis



Alternative Pathway Hemolysis





Gold standard assay to evaluate complement therapeutics

Hemolysis assay principle

1 Serum pre-incubation

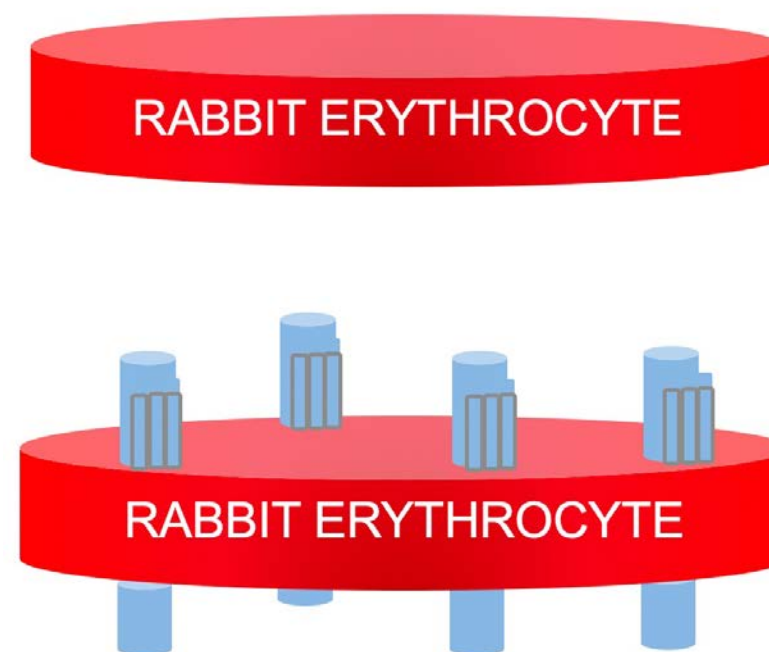
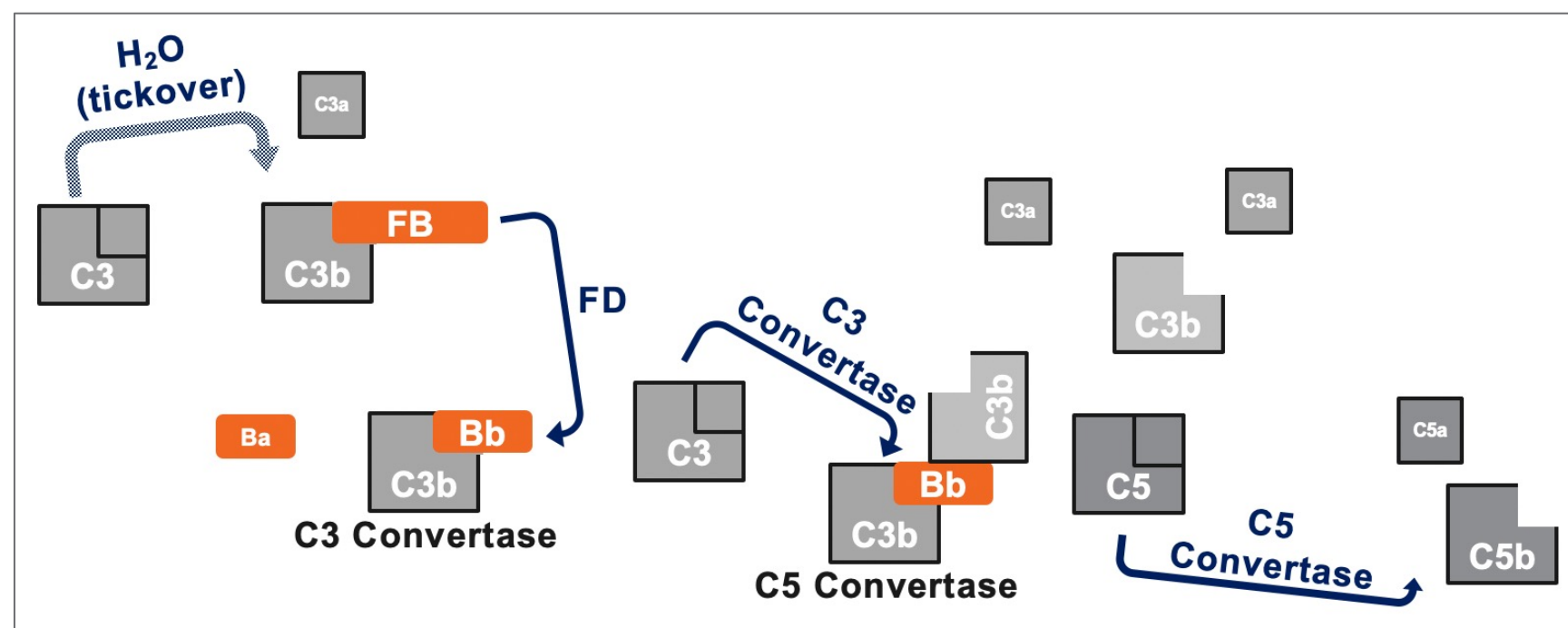
C3 and C5 convertase formation drives C5b accumulation

2 Add serum to RBC

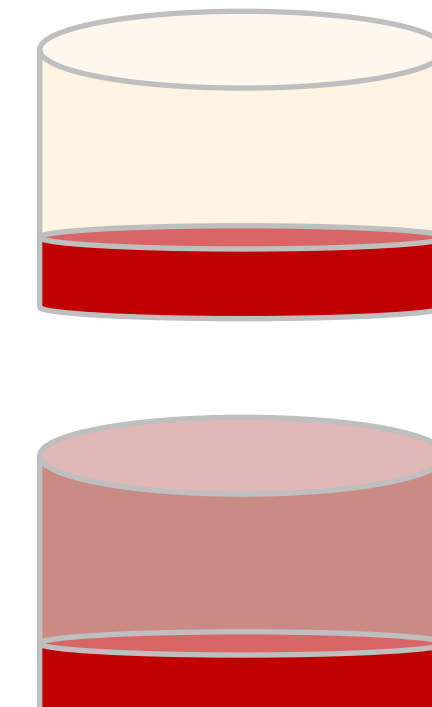
Accumulated components drive C5b-C9 membrane attack complex (MAC) formation

3 RBC lysis

Measure released hemoglobin



Rabbit red blood cells express rabbit complement cofactors and receptors

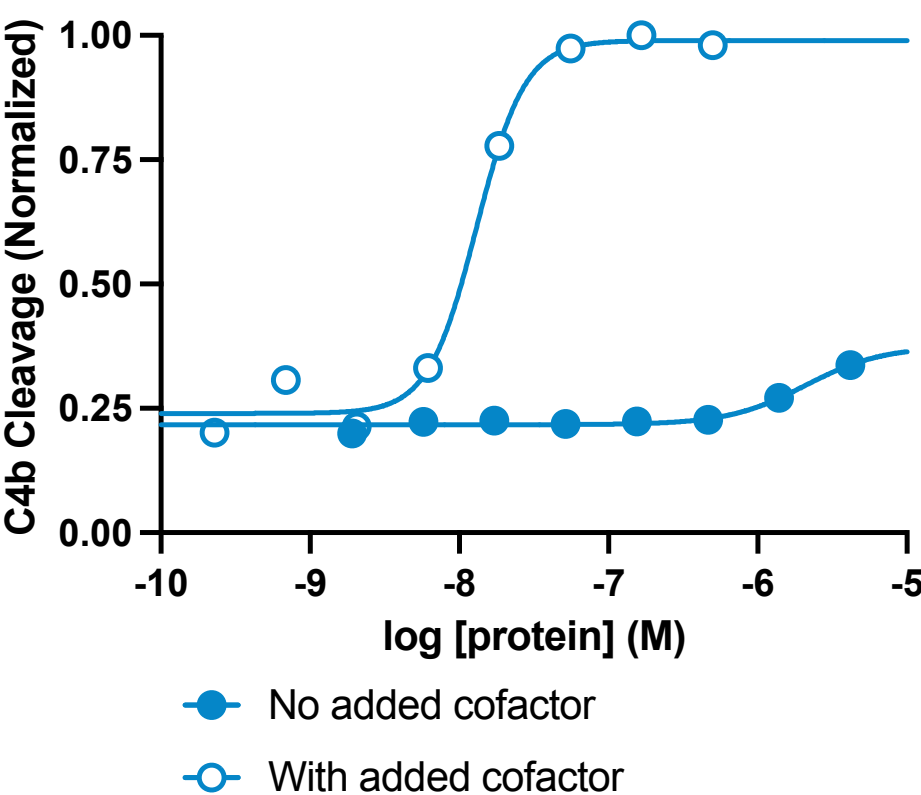
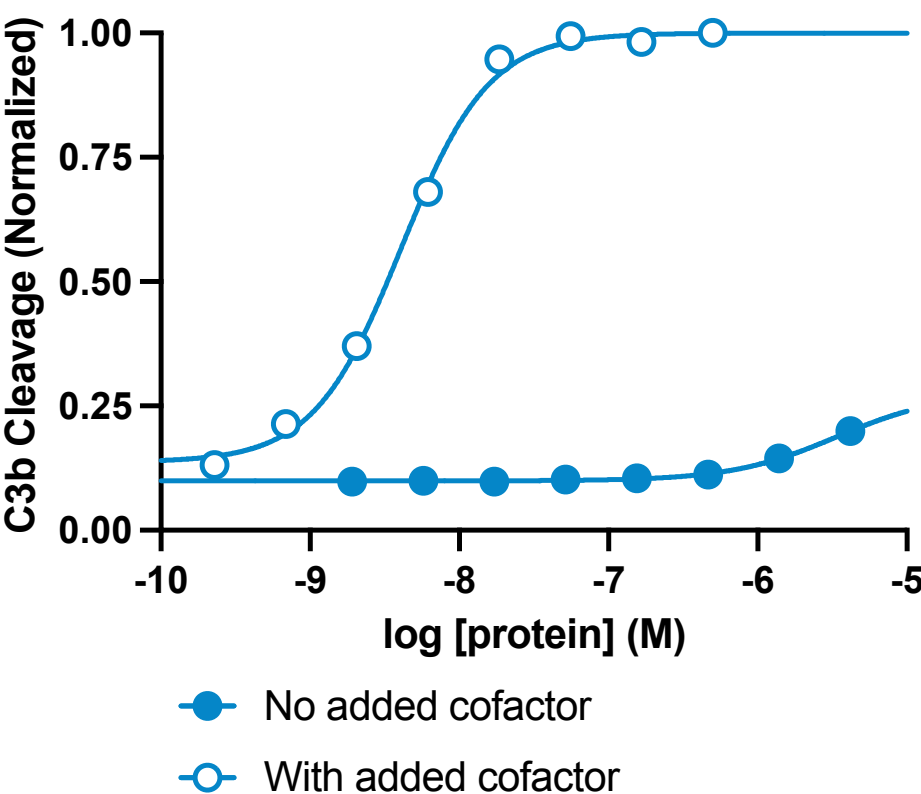


No lysis ✓

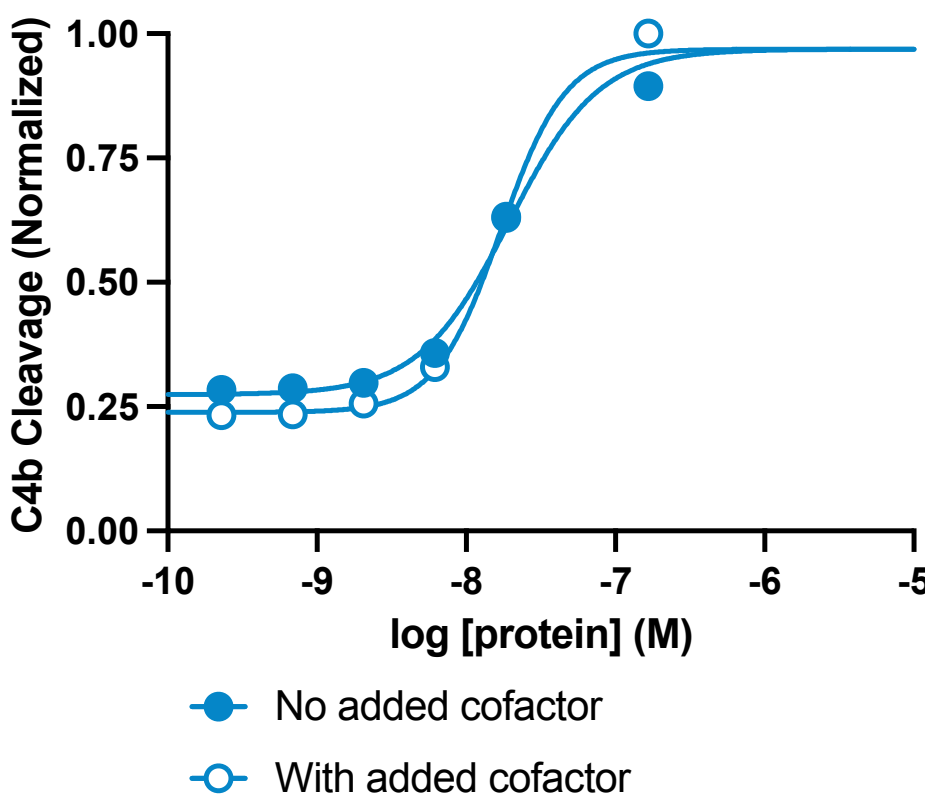
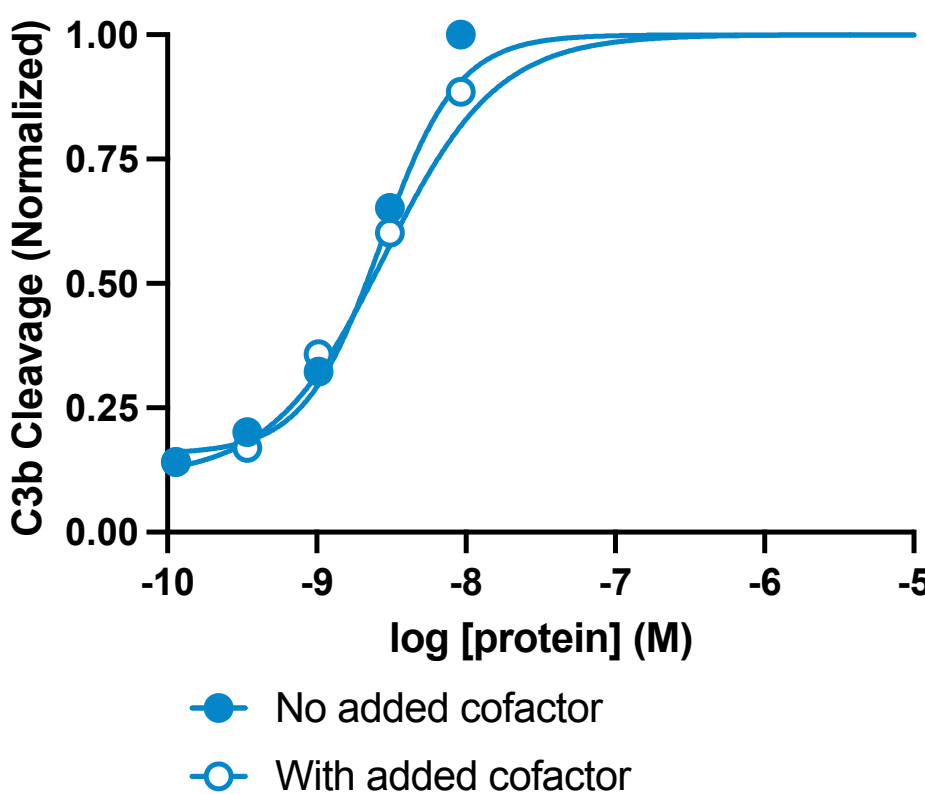
Engineered C3b & C4b cofactor independence



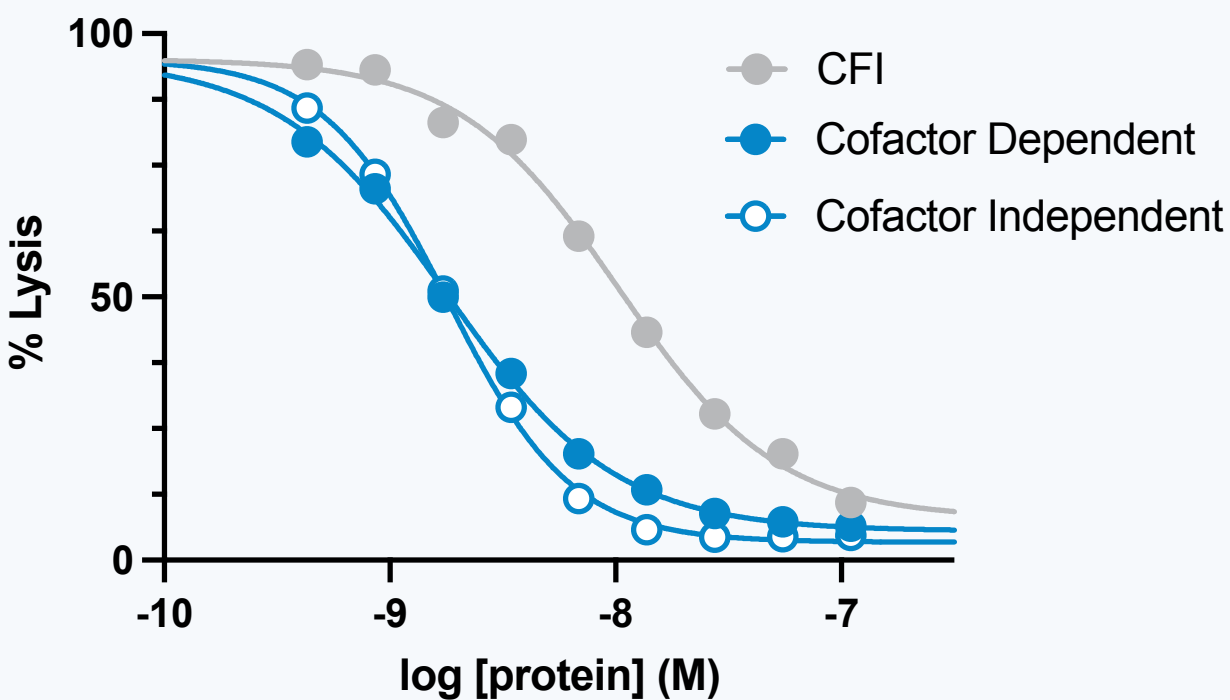
Cofactor Dependent



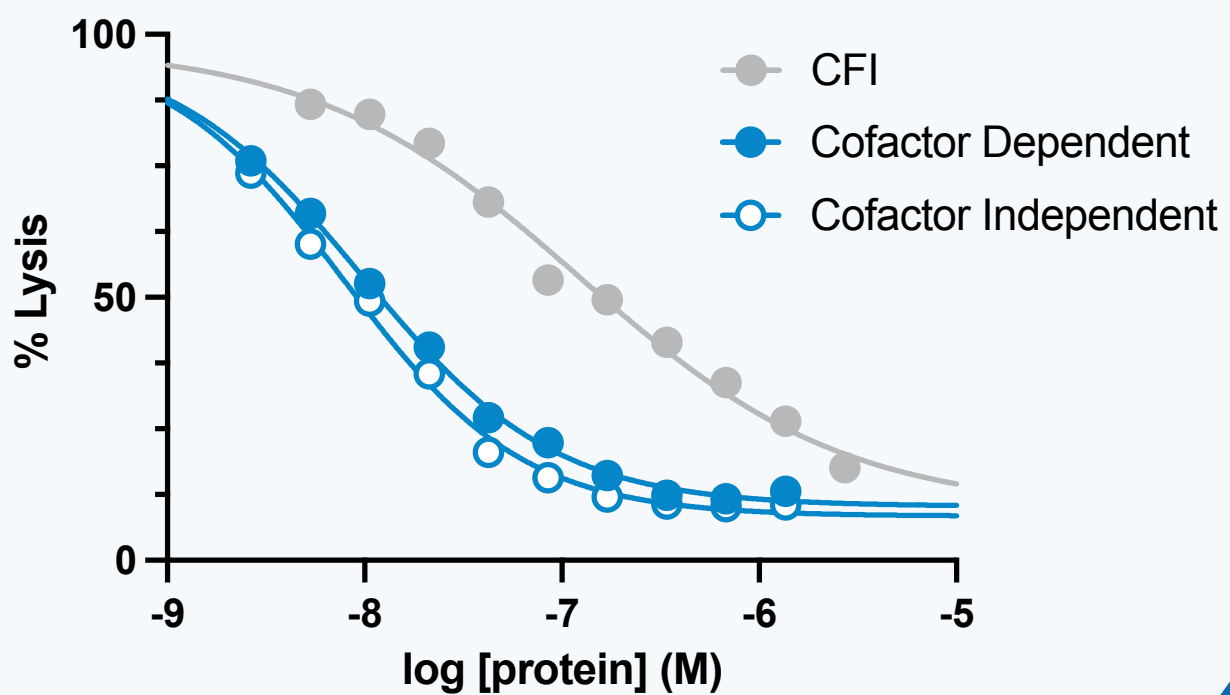
Cofactor Independent



Alternative Pathway Hemolysis



Classical Pathway Hemolysis

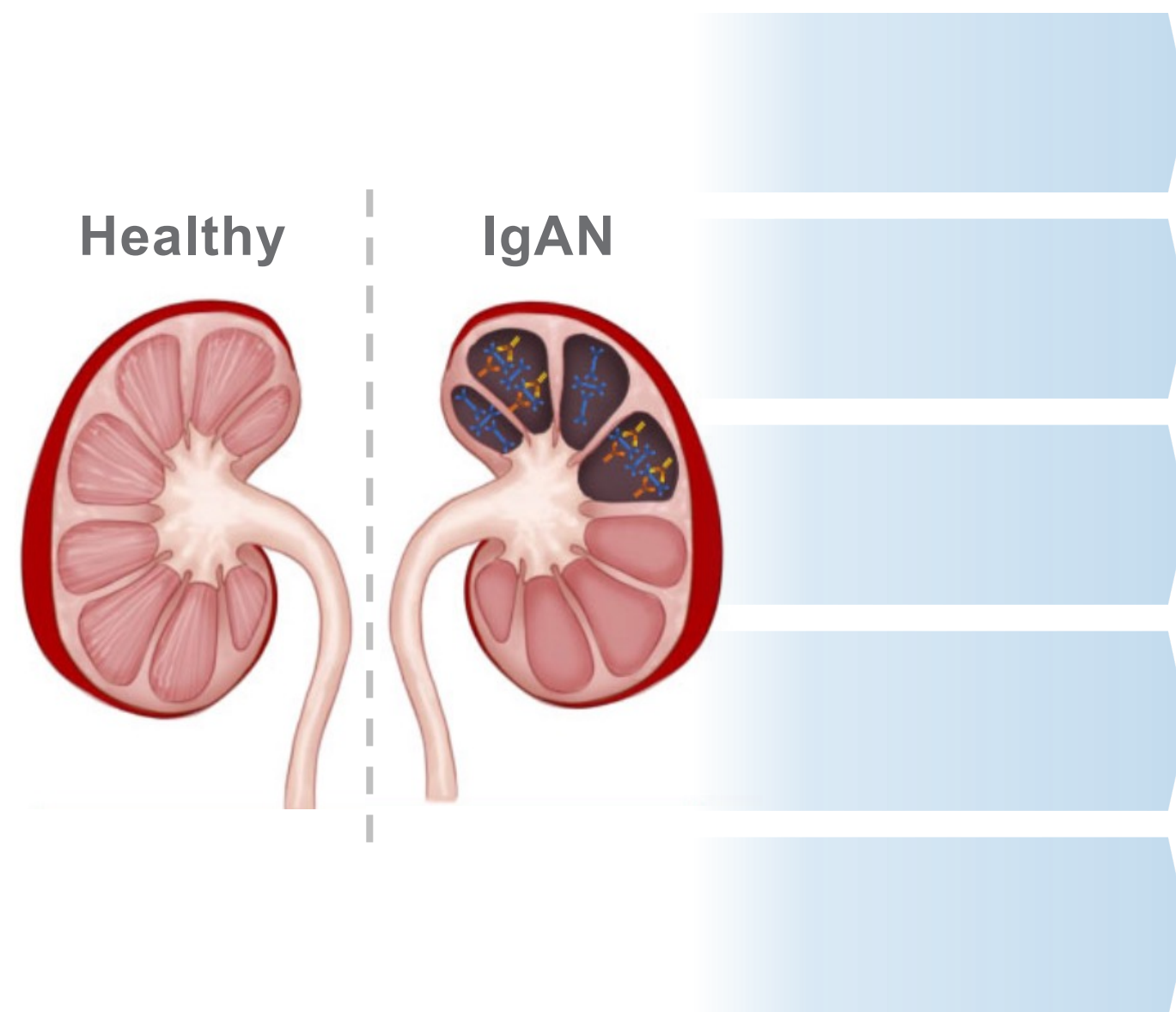




C3b/C4b degraders for IgA nephropathy patients

Disease in which both lectin & alternative pathways drive pathogenesis

High unmet need – current treatments only addressing symptoms

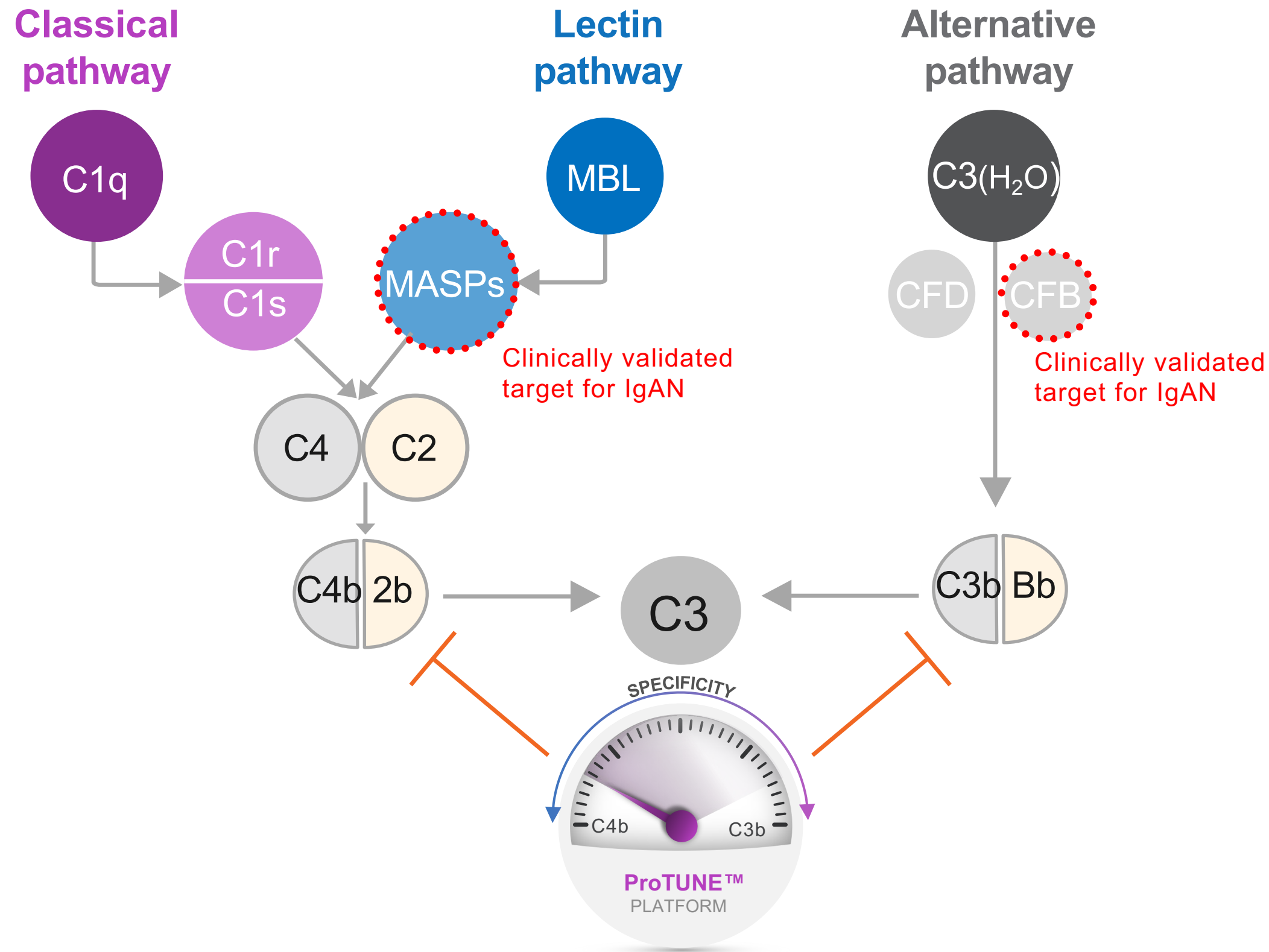


- + Most common form of glomerulopathies worldwide
- + Accumulation & deposition of IgA immune complexes leading to deterioration of renal function
- + **10%** patients with rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
- + **40%** of IgAN patients develop end stage renal disease over 20 years & need dialysis/renal transplant in order to survive
- + Significant burden on healthcare resources with an estimated cost of **\$49.2 billion** in 2020 in the US



C3b/C4b degraders for IgA nephropathy patients

Dual targeting of alternate & lectin pathways



Differentiation

- + Dual targeting mode of action: **lectin & alternative** pathways

Rationale for IgA nephropathy

- + Both **lectin & alternative** pathways are involved in IgA nephropathy & correlate with severe clinical manifestation ^{1, 2, 3}

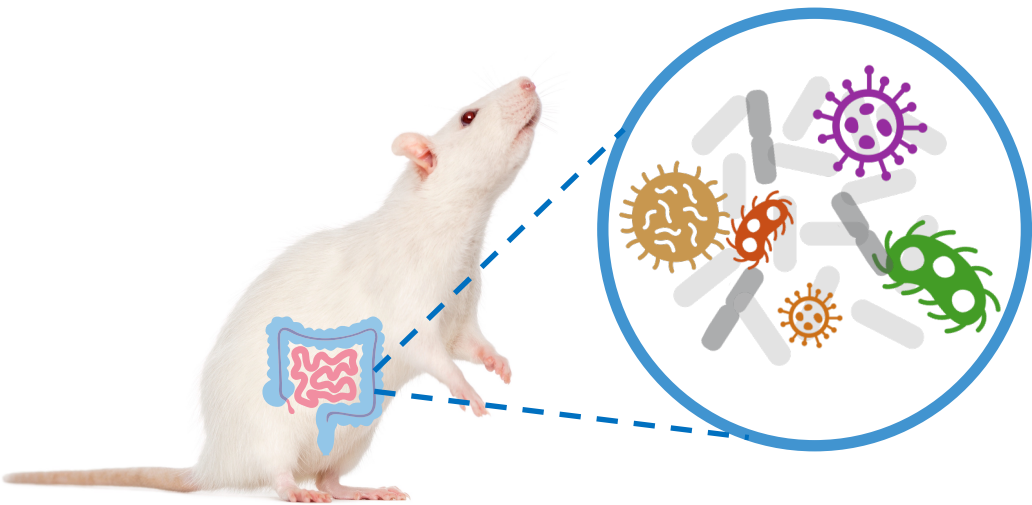
Clinically validated targets

- + Inhibition of only MASP2 or Factor B **may be insufficient** to reduce proteinuria in IgA nephropathy patients

C3b/C4b degraders significantly reduce inflammation *in vivo*

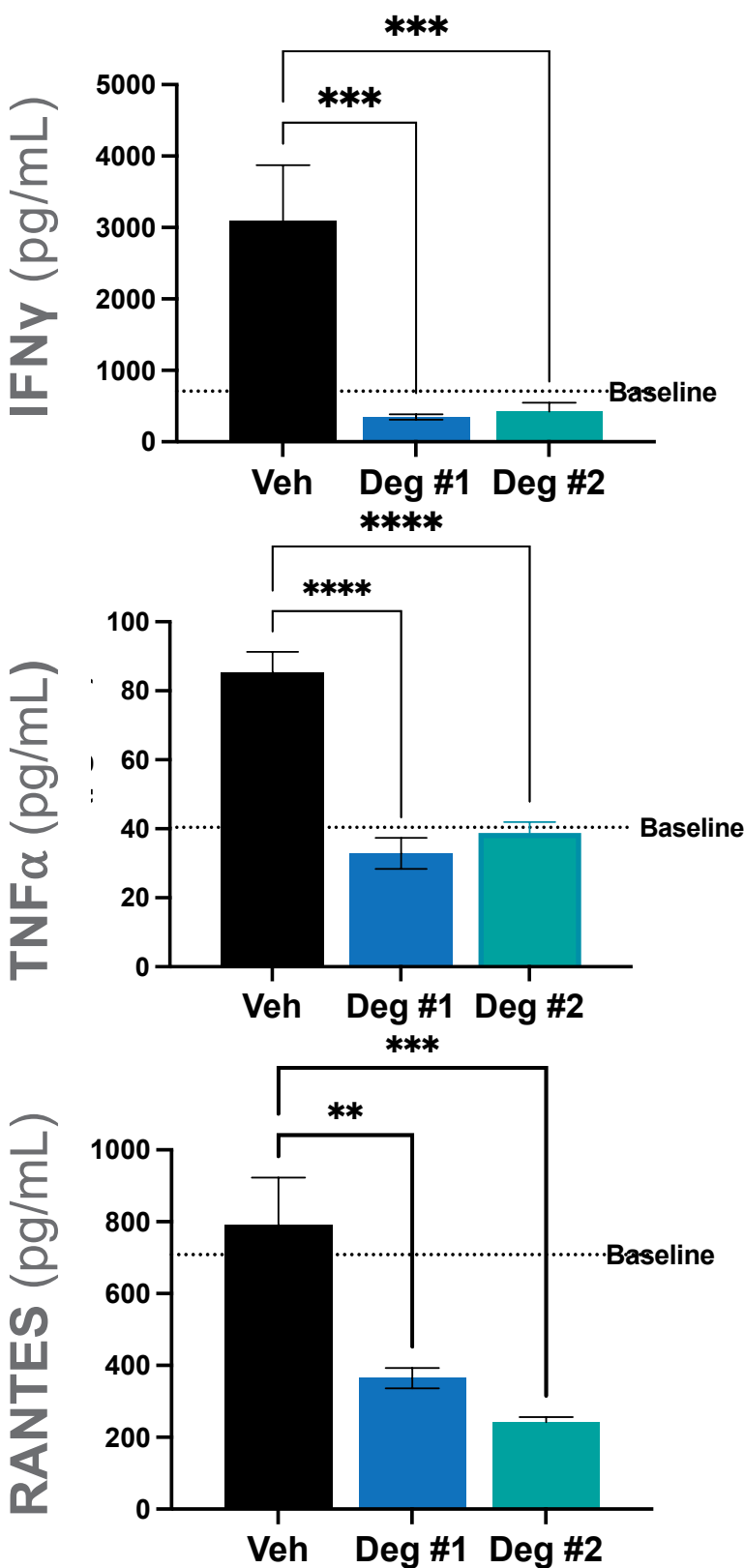


Rat model of complement activation

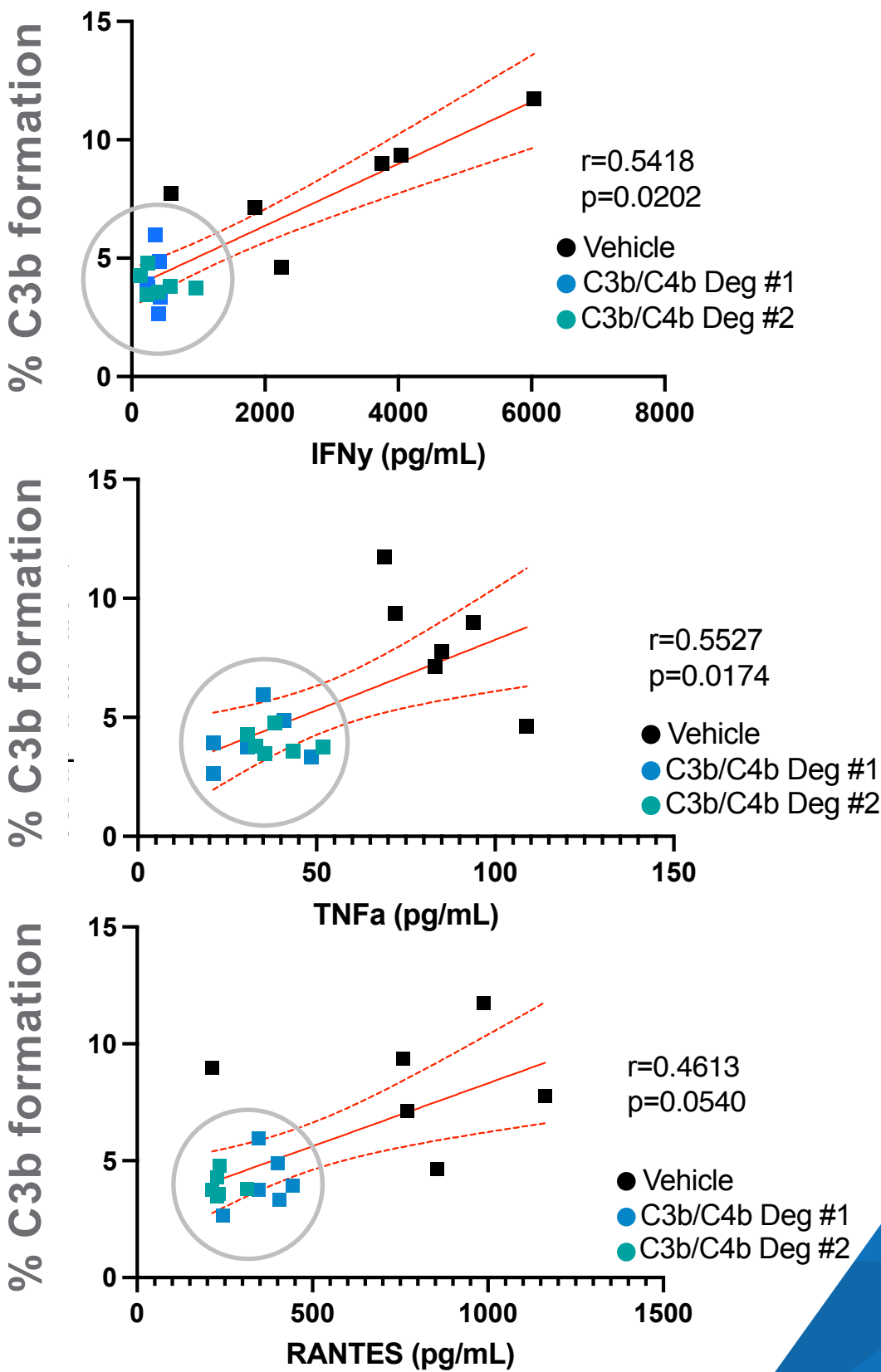


Reduction of **IFN γ** , **TNF α** , & **RANTES** involved in kidney damage & proteinuria in IgA nephropathy patients^{1, 2, 3}

Inflammatory markers in IgA nephropathy



Concomitant reduction of inflammatory markers and complement C3 cleavage

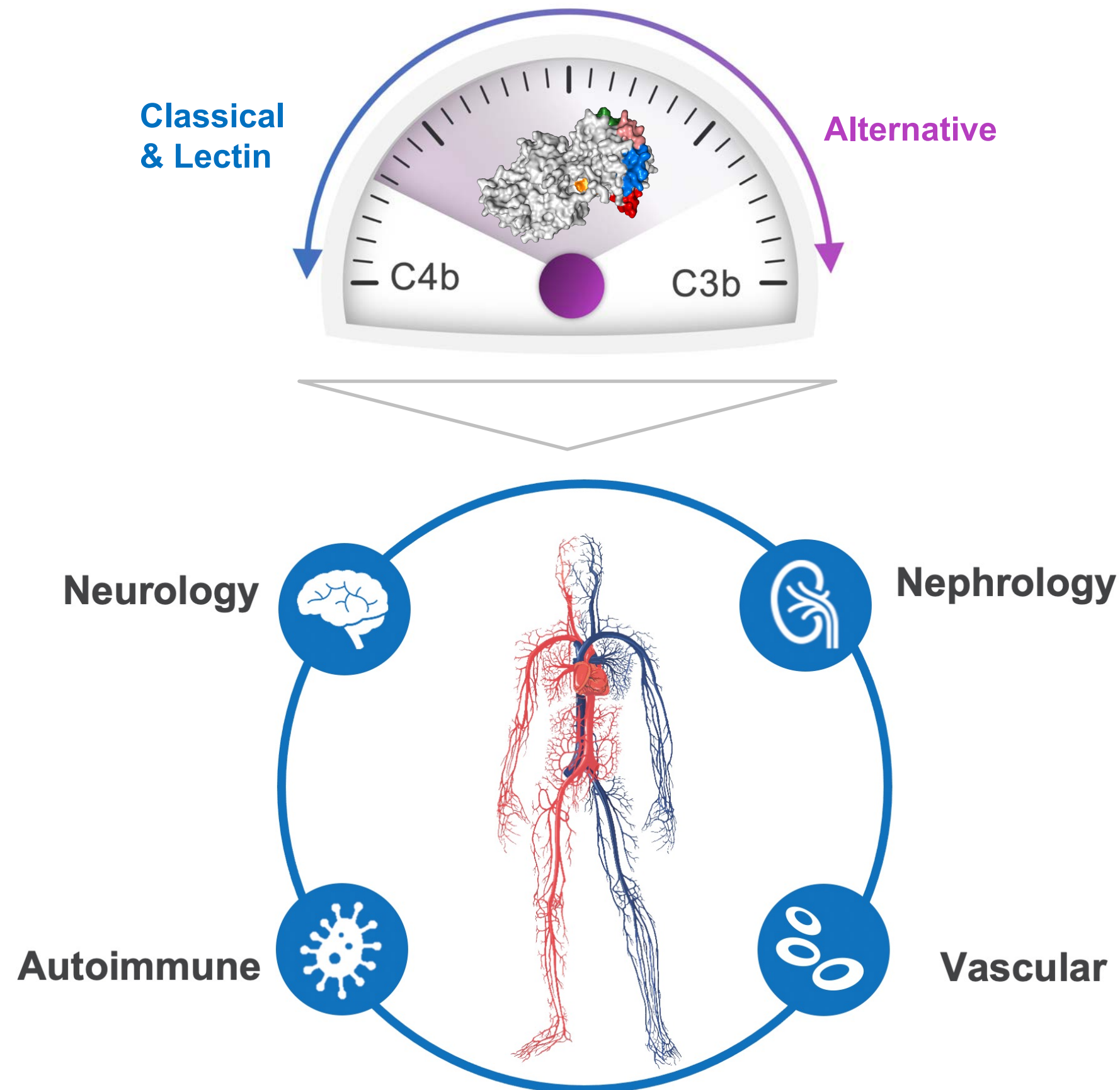


1. Yano, N. *et al.* Phenotypic Characterization of Cytokine Expression in Patients With IgA Nephropathy. *J Clin Immunol* 17, 396–402 (1997).
2. Lim, C. S. *et al.* Th1/Th2 predominance and proinflammatory cytokines determine the clinicopathological severity of IgA nephropathy. *Nephrol Dial Transpl* 16, 269–275 (2001).
3. Brabcová, I. *et al.* Intrarenal gene expression of proinflammatory chemokines and cytokines in chronic proteinuric glomerulopathies. *Physiol Res* 221–226 (2007).
Values are mean \pm SEM, **p<0.01 ***p<0.001 p<0.0001 using One Way or Two-way ANOVA.



C3b/C4b degraders for precision medicine

Diseases in which classical, lectin and/or alternative pathways drive pathogenesis



Specific inhibition of complement components at different sites of the complement cascade allows a personalized approach to treating complement disorders

Acknowledgements

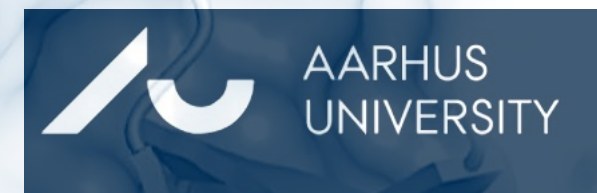


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Newcastle University



Thomas Hallam
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Camille Simard
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