

# APIS Assay Technologies

Company Overview and Capabilities

# Overview

## Precision medicine is the future of disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment

The application of **genomic analysis** and **system biology** are used to study the cause of disease at a **molecular level**, so that **targeted therapies** can be applied to cure the patient's health-related problems.



### Predictive

Genetic risks for diseases are identified, signs of illness are recognised, the effects of disease are anticipated.



### Preventative

Patients are given tools to recognise early signs of disease when it is most reversible.



### Participatory

Patients are empowered to manage their own health and wellbeing.



### Personalised

Care is focussed on the individual and how to optimise wellness by predicting disease and tailoring treatment.



# APIS Headquarters are in Manchester (UK)

- The symbol of Manchester is the Worker Bee
- City of industry that is rightly proud of its link with the hard-working insect
- *Apis* is the Latin name for the genus of the Bee (*Apis mellifera* = Honey Bee)



# APIS Global Locations



## Manchester, UK

Company HQ  
IVD development laboratories,  
Manufacturing & Compliance  
teams



## Belgrade, RS

Bioinformatics, AI/ML & Software  
Development

## Bonn, DE

Clickmer Systems GmbH  
Synthetic Antibodies

# APIS Management Team



**Ian Kavanagh**  
Chief Executive Officer

- PhD in Molecular Biology
- APIS - COO, 12/2018 - 07/2023
- QIAGEN - R&D Director
- Roche Diagnostics - R&D Manager
- Thermo Fisher Scientific - R&D Manager



**Helen Fielder**  
Head of Technology

- DPhil Biochemistry
- QIAGEN - R&D Manager
- QIAGEN - Technical Writer & Applications Specialist



**Richard Heath**  
Head of Marketing

- PhD in Viral Immunology
- Leica Biosystems - Global Product Manager
- Primerdesign, part of Novacyt Group - Head of Marketing
- QIAGEN - Associate Director



**Joachim Schorr**  
Executive Chair of the Board

- PhD in Virology and Immunology
- APIS - CEO, 09/2018 - 07/2023
- QIAGEN - Managing Director
- Caris Life Sciences - CSO
- JS Consulting



**Aleksandar Mihajlović**  
Head of Operations  
(Bioinformatics)

- MS in Bioinformatics
- Beogenomics - Managing Director
- Seven Bridges - Internal Education Coordinator

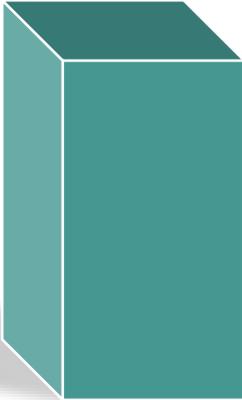


**Nora Karnowski**  
Head of Operations  
(Clickmer Systems GmbH)

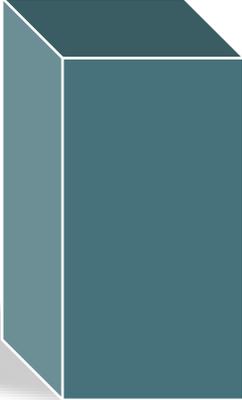
- PhD in Molecular Biomedicine
- MBA in Pharma Business Administration
- Co-founder of Clickmer Systems

# APIS Business Segments

Products



Services



Business Segments

Biomarker Discovery & Translation

ISO 13485 Diagnostic Device Development

ISO 13485 Diagnostic Device Manufacturing

Bioinformatics, AI/ML & Software Development

Clickmer Systems (Synthetic Antibodies)

ISO 15189/CAP/CLIA testing – *available in 2023*

Underpinning Expertise

Strategic Growth



# Biomarker Products

# APIS Workstream

## Biomarker Products

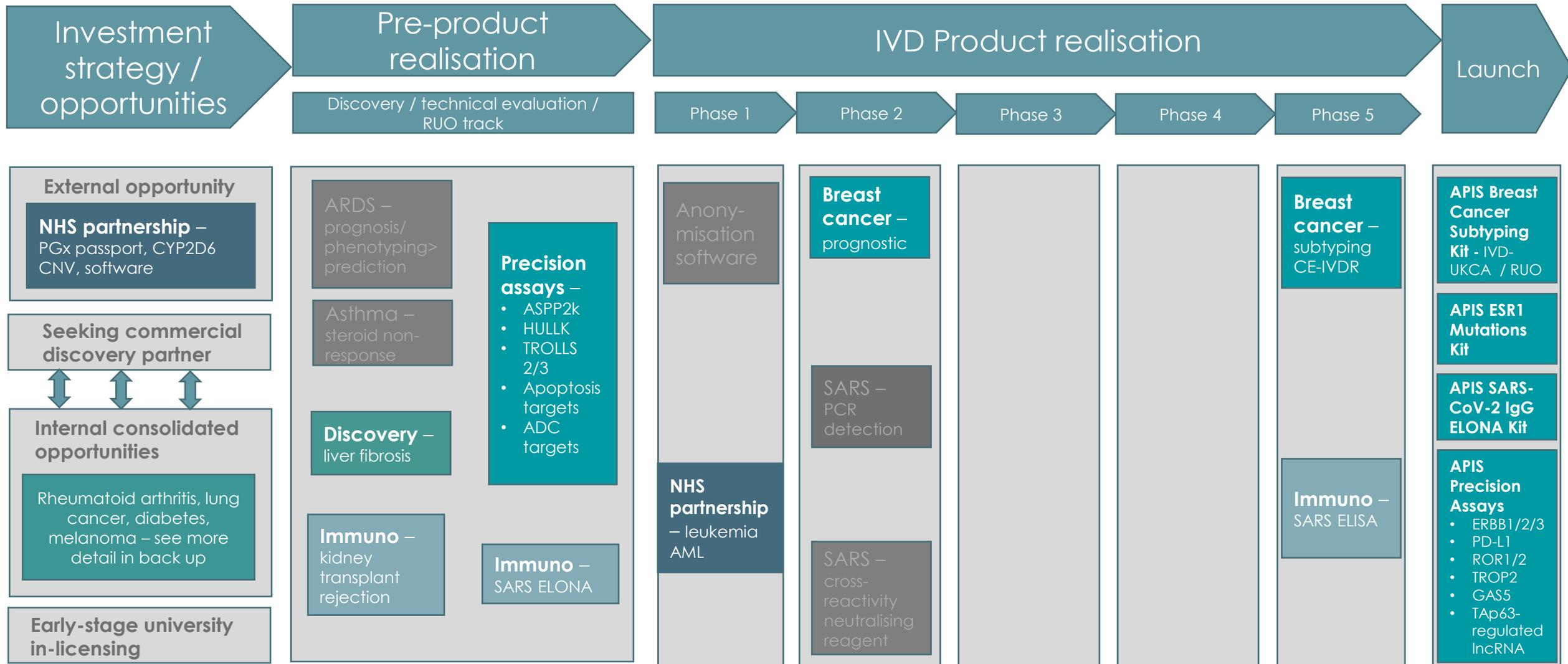


### Biomarker Research and Development

- Internally funded R&D that is technology and disease area agnostic
- Our biomarker roadmap strategy is generated using our proprietary internal assessment procedure
- In-licensing of IP from academic and other research institutes
- Internal development towards commercial stage, applying our expertise in product development and realization
- Revenues recognized via out-licensing of biomarker assets emerging from Industrial Feasibility
- Potential clients for this workstream will include diagnostic and pharmaceutical companies



# Biomarker Development Pipeline



# APIS Breast Cancer Subtyping Kit

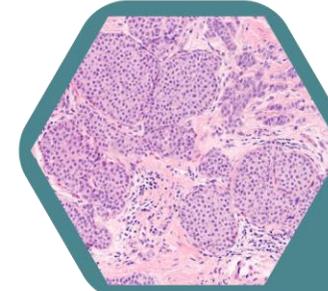
The APIS Breast Cancer Subtyping Kit is a highly reproducible, RNA-based diagnostic workflow for detecting mRNA expression of standard biomarkers (ER, PR, HER2, Ki67) and novel proliferative biomarkers from pre-operative CNB or resected FFPE breast tumour tissue.

## APIS Solution

### APIS Breast Cancer Subtyping Kit

The APIS Breast Cancer Subtyping Kit:

- 1 Delivers highly repeatable and reproducible results for the same patient sample, tested in different laboratories
- 2 Provides a single high-resolution method for determining HER2 amplification
- 3 Utilises a novel four-gene proliferative signature to improve the use of Ki67 alone for measuring proliferation
- 4 Is accompanied by validated software that enables automatic results interpretation



CNB or resected breast tissue FFPE sections



Nucleic acid extraction



Apis Breast Cancer Subtyping Kit



Real-time PCR



Apis Reporting Software

# APIS Breast Cancer Subtyping Kit

## Commercialisation



Driving access to ground-breaking products that support improved patient care

**APIS**

**LINK Medical**  
Focus on UK

- Early adopters
- NICE approval

**Biocartis**  
Global Partnership

- Global Distribution of manual kit
- Develop assay on their automated platform (Idylla)



An innovative molecular diagnostics company committed to revolutionize molecular testing with its unique proprietary Idylla™ platform.

# APIS ESR1 Mutations Kit



- ◆ An advanced qPCR assay for the sensitive and precise detection of mutations within the oestrogen receptor gene
- ◆ A qualitative test, detecting eleven ESR1 mutations across three exons: exon 5 (E380Q), exon 7 (S463P) and exon 8 (P535H, L536R, L536Q, L536H, L536P, Y537C, Y537S, Y537N and D538G)
- ◆ Mutation-specific probes to enable highly sensitive detection of the target mutations
- ◆ Utilises PCR clamp and blocker technology, which ensures specific amplification of the mutant sequence, even in the presence of a high wild-type background

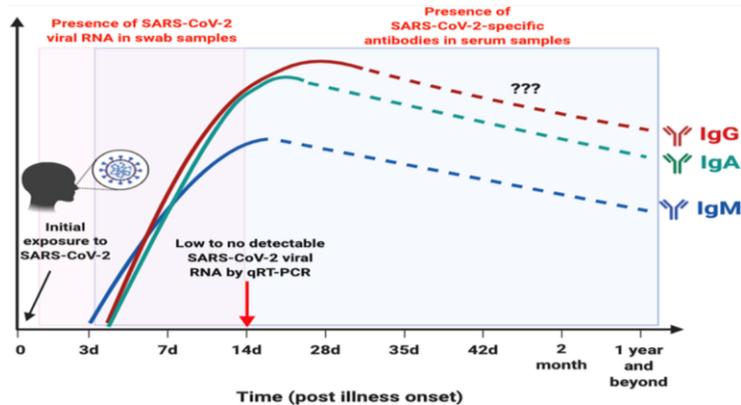
# APIS ESR1 Mutations Kit - Key Benefits

- Wide target coverage - the kit has been designed to cover 11 different ESR1 mutations
- High specificity - includes clamp and blocking technology to ensure no wild-type detection
- High sensitivity - all mutations are detected at  $\leq 1\%$  MAF (Mutant Allele Frequency)
- Easy to use - our assays are designed to be user-friendly, with a simple protocol. The reagents have been optimised for precise and sensitive detection in human DNA.

# SARS-CoV2 Immunity

## Background

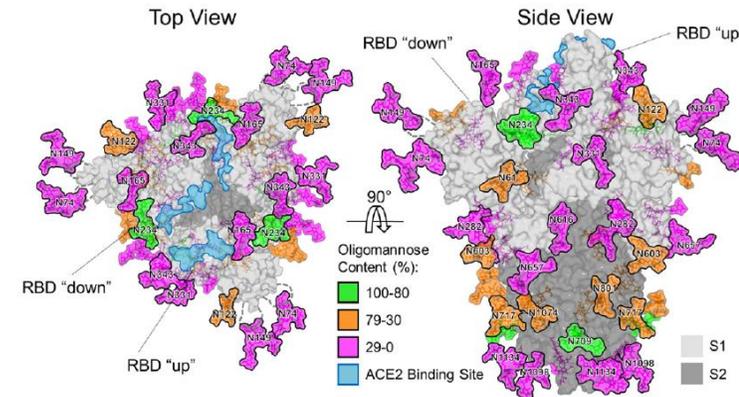
- A highly accurate, quantitative immunoassay is needed for evaluation of immunity status (post-infection and post-vaccination) to aid vaccine development/booster dosing, disease prevention, and research studies
- For maximum impact on clinical decision making, there is a need to link antibody levels to level of protection against infection



<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2020.00879/full>

## Product Description

- Quantitative ELISA to detect IgG antibodies against SARS-CoV2 Spike protein in human venous serum/capillary fingerprick serum
- Report correlation to neutralizing antibodies
- Option to protect against human common coronavirus cross-reactivity that may emerge using cross-reactivity neutralizing reagent (UKRI grant)



Structure-based mapping of S protein glycan shield – stabilized prefusion trimer (HEK 293-expressed)

## Technical Challenges

- Demonstrating accuracy of quantitation for significant variants of concern pre- and post-launch
- Finalising a control/cut-off concept, with large-scale vaccine roll out negative serum/plasma will become increasingly rare

## Collaborations

- Clickmer Systems, Bonn
- University of Virginia

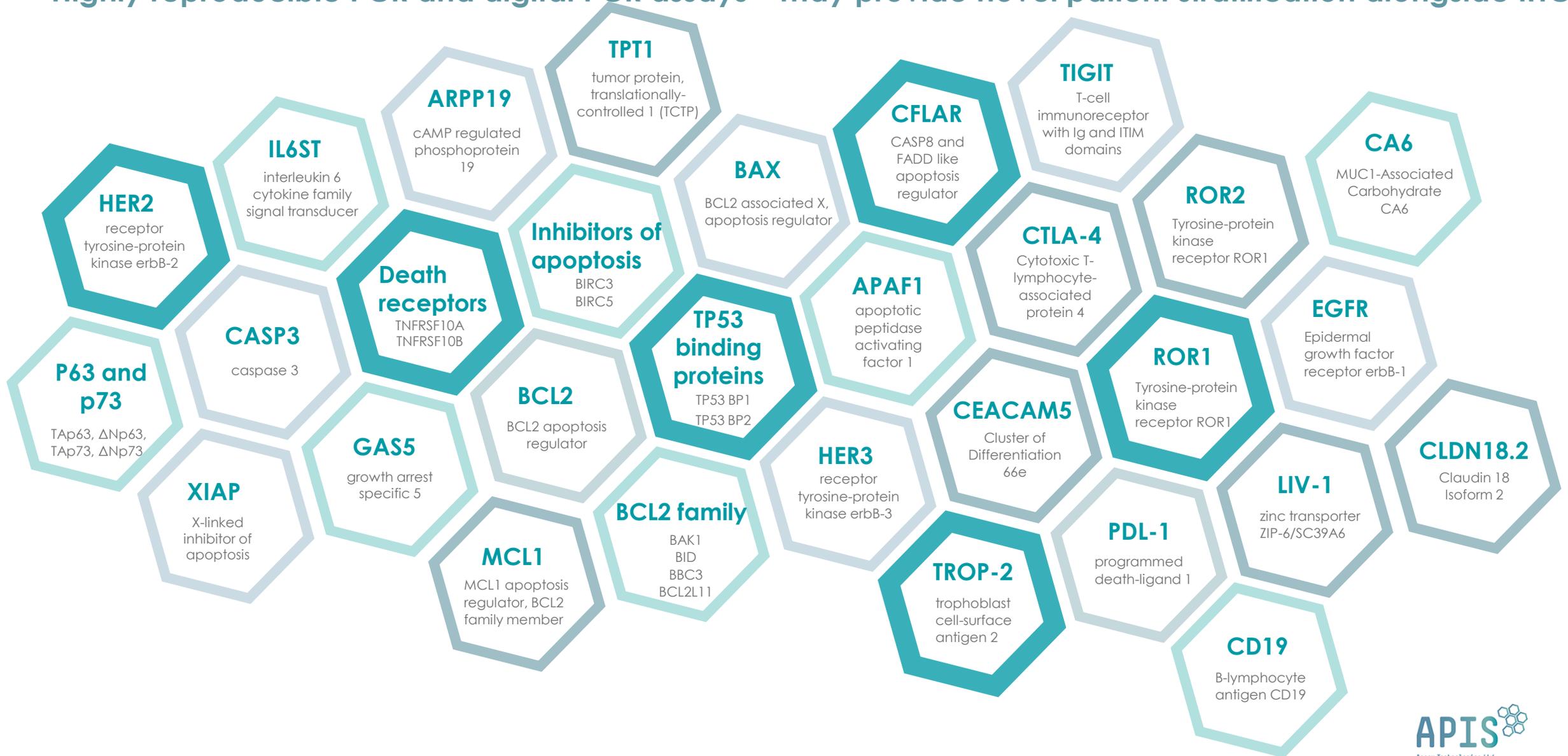
# APIS SARS-CoV-2 IgG ELONA Kit

- An *in vitro* enzyme-linked oligonucleotide assay (ELONA) intended for the quantitative detection of IgG antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in human serum
- This kit demonstrates the capabilities and advantages of Clickmer 'modified aptamers' and offers improvements over the traditional ELISA antibody-only based approaches
- Key Benefits
  - Delivers highly repeatable and reproducible results
  - Clickmers synthetic synthesis ensures batch-to-batch continuity, reproducibility and reliability
  - High throughput testing, up to 88 individual samples per plate
  - Reports SARS-CoV-2 IgG levels according to NIBSC working reagent (21/234)
  - Accompanied by a validated APIS analysis template that enables automated results calling



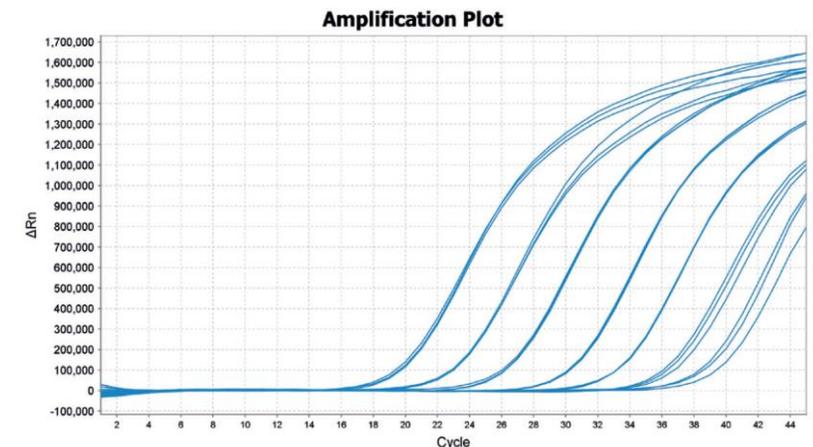
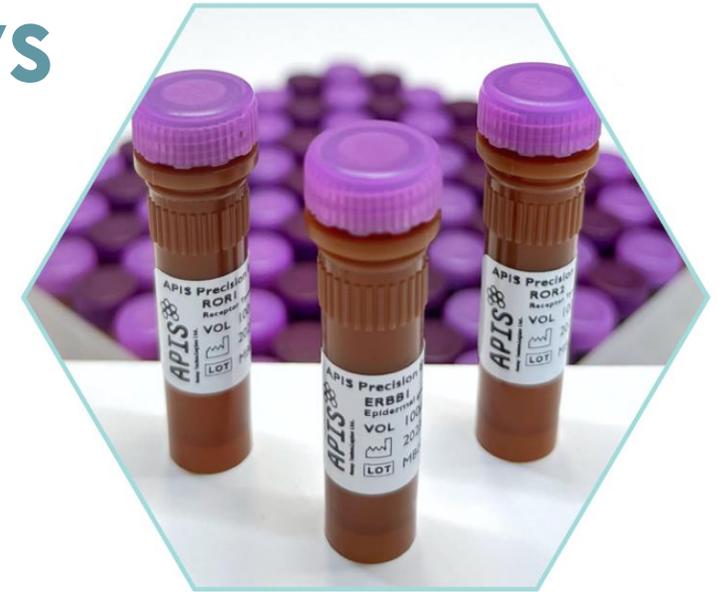
# APIS Precision Assays for CDx Development

Highly reproducible PCR and digital PCR assays – may provide novel patient stratification alongside IHC



# APIS Precision Expression Assays

- For the quantitative expression analysis of human biomarkers using one-step RT-qPCR
- Key Benefits
  - High specificity - extensive in silico analysis and wet-lab testing
  - High efficiency - assays have >90% PCR efficiency guaranteed
  - Easy to use - no requirement for melt curve analysis post-run
  - Reagent flexibility - tested with a variety of PCR master mixes
- New kits available for
  - ERBB1
  - ERBB2
  - ERBB3
  - GAS5
  - PD-L1
  - ROR1
  - ROR2
  - TROP2
  - TAp63-regulated lncRNAs



Demonstrated assay performance and linearity down to a low copy number. HULLK Precision Expression Assay: Efficiency: 104%; R2: >0.99.

# Contract IVD Development and Manufacturing

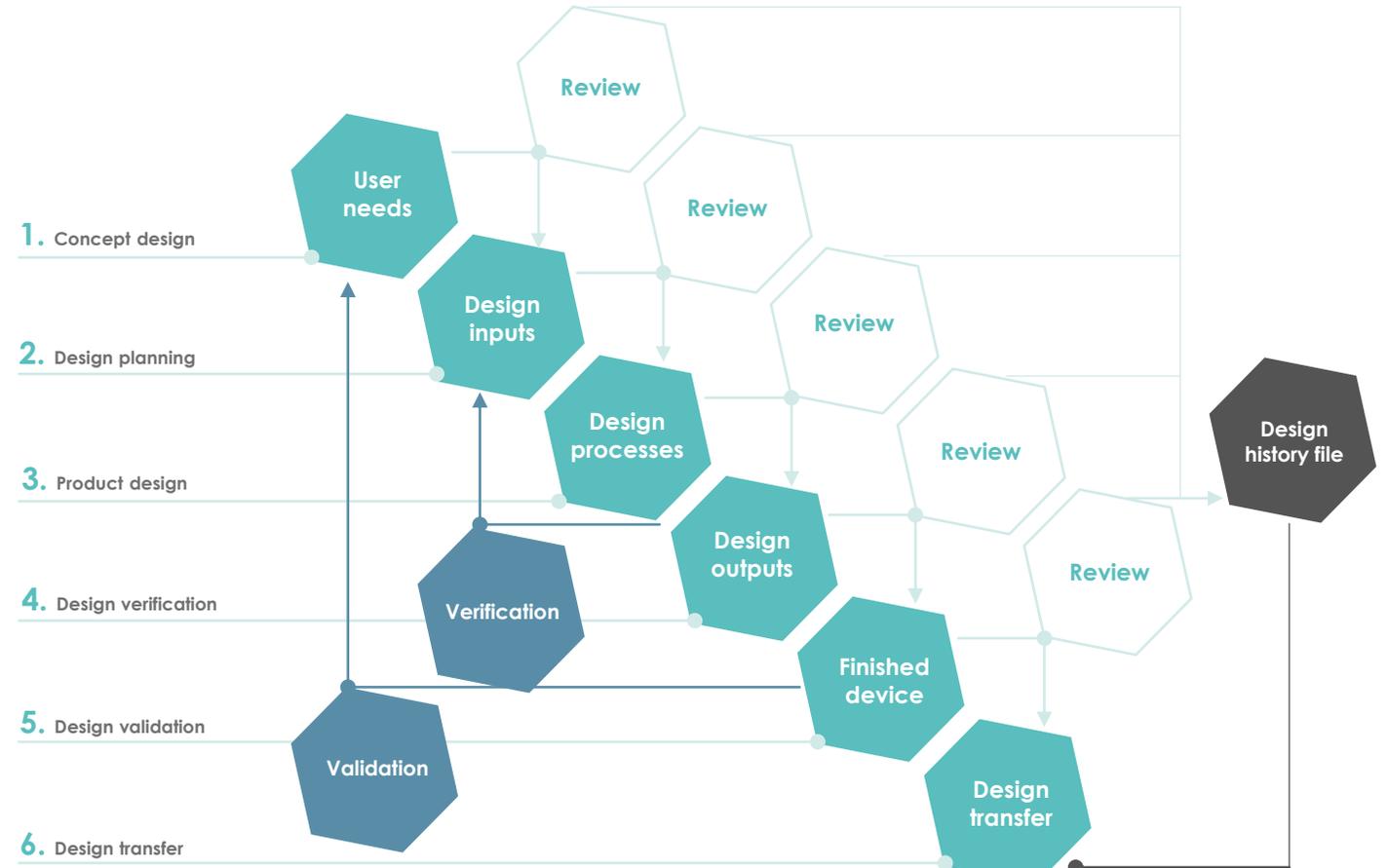
# APIS Workstream - Services

## Contract IVD Development



### IVD Research and Development

- Externally funded service provision for molecular diagnostics product development
- Fully ISO 13485 Quality Management System
- Revenues generated via milestone payments defined in underpinning Contract Development agreements
- 3-year master development agreement in place with major MDx Company



# APIS MDx Capabilities

## Expertise



### Technology:

- PCR: (qPCR, RT-qPCR, dPCR)
- NGS
- Immunoassay: ELISA/ELONA, IHC
- Antibody analogue selection (Clickmers)
- Sample preparation RNA, DNA, protein & direct
- Sample matrix FFPE, blood, swab, stool, sputum, saliva, urine, BAL, CSF
- Microbiology Culture, blood culture
- Cell culture



### Bioinformatics and Software:

- Customised pipeline development
- Data analysis & software development
- AI/ML algorithms
- Biostatistics



### Manufacturing:

- Design Transfer Capabilities
- Prototyping – Early phase kit configurations
- Pilot line – Final configuration for V&V
- Commercial



### Clinical Affairs:

- Clinical study strategy & design
- Set up & management of clinical sites
- Clinical site monitoring
- Study report writing



### Quality Management:

- ISO 13485 certification
- FDA 21 CFR 820 compliant
- Product Realisation SOP to CE-IVDR 2017/746



### Regulatory Affairs:

- Preparation of regulatory strategies
- Pre-submission and communication Notified Bodies (BSI), Competent Authorities (FDA, MHRA, etc)
- Preparation of technical files

Over 250 years of combined IVD development experience



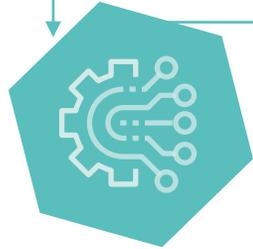
# APIS MDx Capabilities

End-to-End Competency: Assay Definition to Product Registration



## Assay Definition

- Selection of the technology and the biomarker(s)



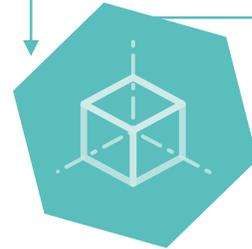
## Assay Design

- Assay component selection & development



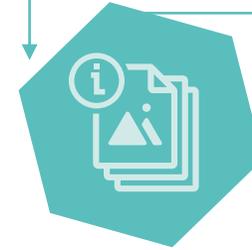
## IVD Common Technical Specification

- Assay verification & validation



## Customised Development and Production

- Assay fabrication



## Commercial Presentation

- Packaging & documentation



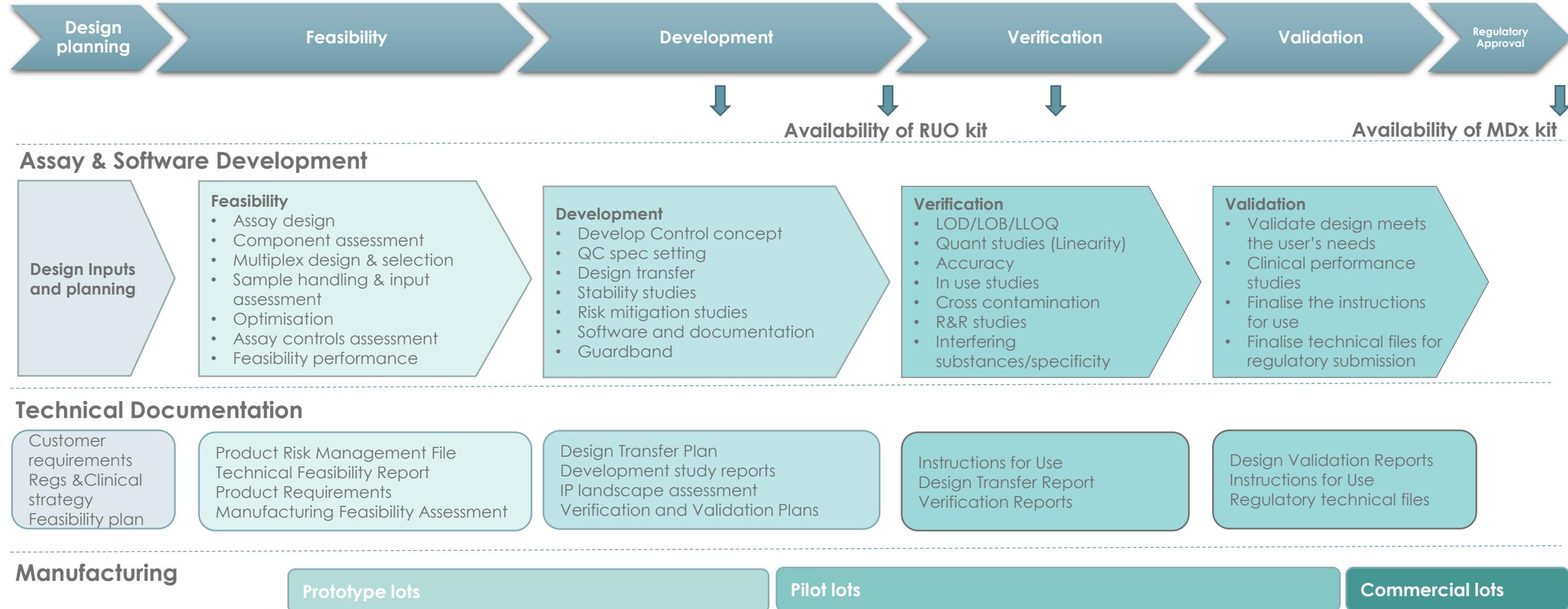
## Registration

- Registration of the product for its use as an IVD



# APIS MDx Capabilities

## ISO 13485 MDx Development & Manufacturing



# APIS CDx Capabilities

## Biomarker Discovery to Assay Development

Therapeutic Development



Biomarker Assay Development



Assay Development



Manufacturing



Clinical testing (e.g. ISO 15189/CLIA)



Bioinformatics



Clickmers



# Services - Contract IVD Development

## Case Study

- Master Service Agreement signed with large Global Diagnostic company. >£30 million volume of work over 5 years
- APIS are responsible for the technical assay development and Clinical Performance Assessment for CE-IVDR and FDA 510 (k), bringing new content onto the client's Syndromic Sample-to-result MDx platform
- Highly complex assay development involving detection of between 30-60 bacteria, virus or fungal targets and associated resistance markers on the different panels
- Project activities
  - Panel A: US Claim extension verification campaign (currently under review by FDA)
  - Panel B: full assay development – in Verification and Validation phase
  - Panel C: CE-IVD panel verification campaign complete (launched Q1 2022)
  - Panel D: full assay development – in Development phase
  - Panel E: full assay development – in Development phase

# Manufacturing at APIS

- Production of prototype, pilot lots and commercial batches within APIS Manchester under ISO 13485:2016 to provide kits to internal and external projects throughout phases of development and commercialisation
- Priorities managed in-house to enable fast turnaround for projects. Not relying on a CMO that may have other priorities
- Expertise
  - Design Transfer Capabilities
  - Prototyping – Early phase kit configurations
  - Pilot/Commercial manufacturing
  - Process validation
  - Raw material sourcing
  - Commercial manufacturing
  - Distribution
  - Stability studies
  - APIS has manufacture 2x IVD kits in 2022



Cold Storage

# Clinical Services

# Clinical Capabilities



## Clinical Performance Study strategy, design and planning:

- Devise strategy to meet device-specific regulatory and product requirements
- Advise on schedule and budget
- Provide Clinical Strategy Document



## Clinical site selection, management, and monitoring:

- Strong relationships with testing sites (EU, UK and US)
- Identify sites based on population, facilities, expertise, etc.
- Project management, oversight and monitoring



## Submissions and notifications:

- Ethics committee submissions/renewals
- Notifications to regulatory bodies
- Annex XIV applications



## Sample procurement and logistics:

- Import permits
- Sample and material transport
- Sample randomisation/anonymisation



## Study protocol and report writing:

- Clinical Performance Study Plan
- Statistical analysis/ data management/ monitoring plans
- Clinical Performance Study Report



## Performance evaluation plan and report writing:

- Performance Evaluation Plan
- Performance Evaluation Report
  - Scientific Validity Report
  - Analytical Performance Report
  - Clinical Performance Report



## Post-market surveillance and post-market performance follow-up:

- Post-market surveillance planning and reporting
- Post-market performance and claim extension study design, execution and documentation

# Quality, Regulatory & Clinical Compliance Services

- To help navigate the IVD regulatory environment across different regions (including CE-IVDR, UKCA and FDA)
- Our dedicated Quality, Regulatory and Clinical Affairs teams will work closely with you to ensure compliance, providing cost effective and efficient support wherever necessary
- Key Benefits
  - Clinical Performance Study design and management (ISO 20916:2019 and ICH E6)
  - Clinical site selection, management, and monitoring, including sample procurement
  - Clinical Evidence documentation (e.g. Performance Evaluation Plans/Reports and Scientific Validity)
  - Technical file generation for submission to regulatory bodies (e.g. CE-IVDR)
  - Supporting the IVDD to IVDR CE-marking transition



# Bioinformatics

Competencies & expertise in bioinformatics, AI/ML & software development

# *in silico* Solutions

## Bioinformatics NGS Pipeline Development



- Bespoke NGS & multi-OMICs data analysis
- Pipeline development & deployment for internal and/or customer use
- WGS, WES, RNAseq, scRNAseq, proteomic & metagenomic data
- Nextflow expertise
- Visualisation tools & software
- Novel tool development
- Scalable cloud- & HPC- infrastructure setup



## Discovery Research



- *in silico* genomic biomarker discovery
- *in silico* Molecular Diagnostics (MDx)
- Protein interaction network discovery
- Aptamer and small molecule drug analog discovery
- Neoantigen discovery
- *in-silico* applied machine learning and artificial intelligence

## Real-World Data/Evidence Exploration



- *in silico* retrospective Clinical Trial simulations
- Longitudinal data analysis
- Novel biomarker signature discovery
- Clinical phenotype-genotype associations
- Novel cohort identification & stratification

## Gene & Cell Therapy: Vector Integration Site Analysis



- CAR T-cell Discovery Pipelines
- Post-therapy efficacy WGS/WES diagnostic tool
- WGS Lentiviral integration identification
- *in silico* CRISPR applications

## Pharmacogenomics



- NGS-based PGx pipeline development
- Bespoke PGx-driven patient solutions based on PharmGKB and CPIC dosing guidelines
- *in silico* longitudinal studies on therapeutic efficacy and unmet patient needs

# *in silico* Solutions



## Clinical Genetic Variant Diagnostics

- Pipeline development for Whole Genome/Exome Sequencing (WGS/WES) alignment, annotation, re-annotation and data analysis services
- Consensus output of multiple variant and copy number variant callers
- Clinical genotype-phenotype associations
- Bespoke visualisation tool development
- GCP/CLIA/FDA/IVDR Variant Report generating software
- Diagnostic genomics panel/assay design



## Drug/Enzyme Discovery & Optimisation

- Molecular docking and binding affinity studies
- *in silico* molecular evolution of proteins/enzymes
- Protein-Protein interaction networks and 3D molecular interaction modelling



## Software Development & Data Stewardship

- Data modelling
  - Augmentation of clinical and multi-OMICS data
- Platform development
- *in silico* applied ML/AI
- The development of cloud, on-prem and HPC-based solutions
- Clinical data storage, management and curation solutions
- *in silico* clinical diagnostics/decision support tools
- Visualization and reporting tools
- Distributed, and secure web applications for health industry
- ISO 27001 accredited
- Best practice Software Architecture



## Consultancy Support

- Bioinformatics training & on-boarding
- Project initialisation, planning & design
- Project management & reporting
  - Agile & SCRUM methodologies
- Technical documentation writing



## Clinical Trial Management Software

- GCP & CLIA software validation
- Experimental study design & biostatistics

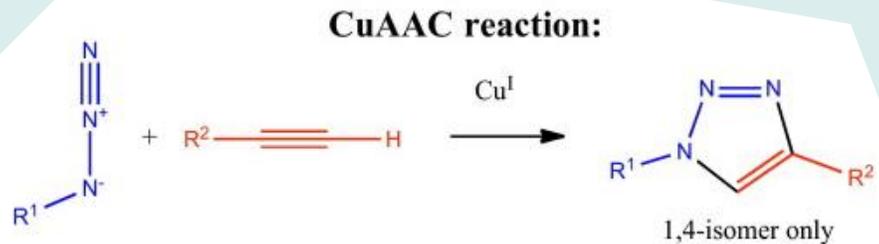
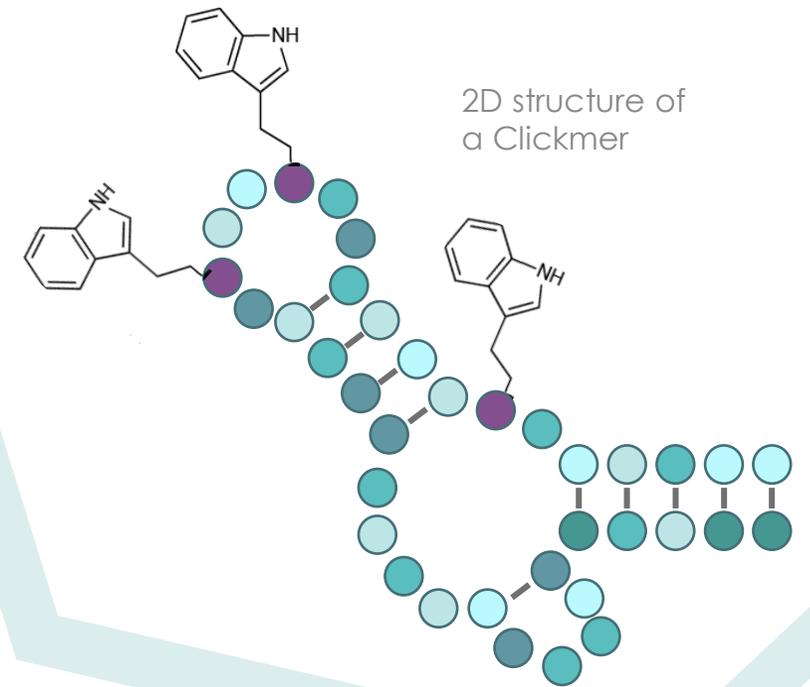
# Clickmers

APIS Assay Technologies proprietary technology as alternative detection reagents

Utilises Nobel Prize winning 'Click' chemistry – October 2022

# What are Clickmers?

- Chemically modified ssDNA oligonucleotides
- They adaptively bind targets based on variations in sequence and modifications
- Three dimensional structures bind to targets with high affinity and specificity



R1 = chemical structure that is used as the modification

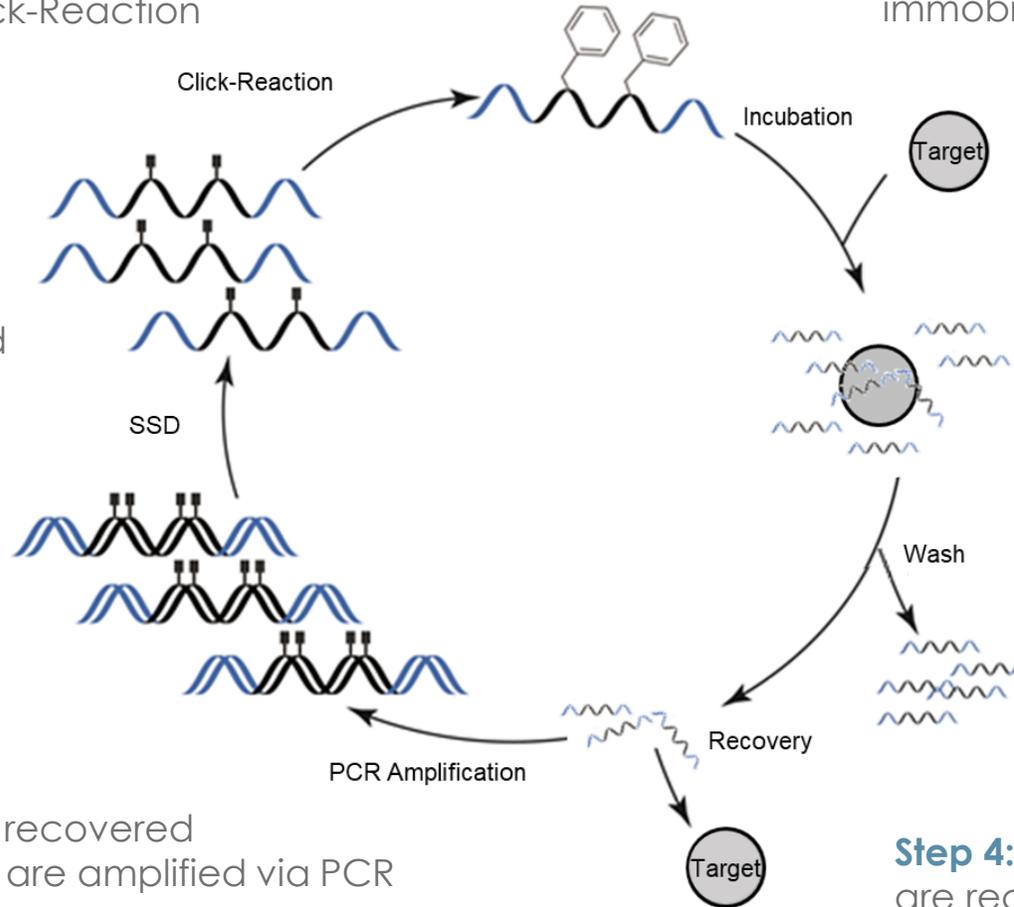
R2 = deoxyuridine inside the DNA strand

- Naïve DNA contains 4 nucleobases
  - Limits target interaction possibilities
- Nobel Prize winning Click chemistry for introduction of side-chains / modifications increases probability of developing excellent binders

# How are Clickmers Developed?

**Step 1:** An ssDNA library with a diversity of up to  $10^{16}$  is chemically modified with the Click-Reaction

**Step 2:** The modified ssDNA library is incubated with the immobilized target of interest



**Step 6:** The double-stranded PCR product is digested by  $\lambda$ -Exonuclease => ready for Step 1 cycle 2

**Step 3:** The non-binding sequences are removed from the target with increasing stringency

**Step 5:** The recovered sequences are amplified via PCR

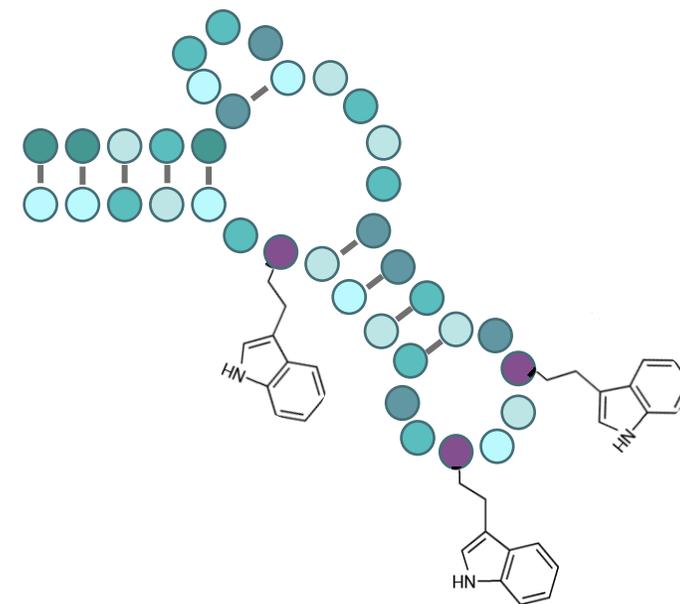
**Step 4:** The binding sequences are recovered from the target



Click-SELEX is an *in vitro* evolutionary process of iterative cycles

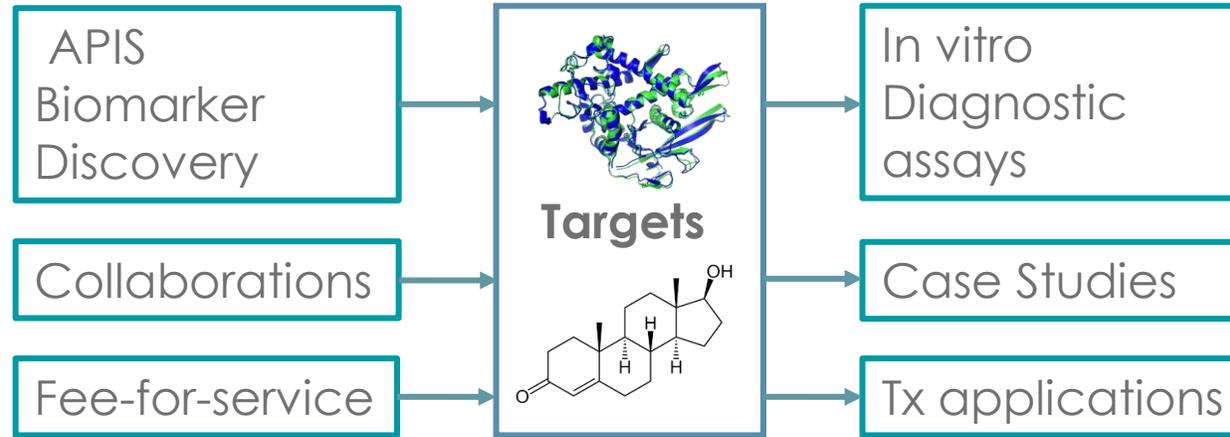
# Why choose Clickmers?

- **Variable modifications** expand the chemical space and interaction properties
- **Mode of action is similar to Antibodies, with alternative physiological properties, such as:**
  - Low immunogenicity
  - Biodistribution and tumor penetration
  - Different clearance pathway from the body
- **Wide range of conditional activation properties** (e.g. salt/ion/pH responsiveness)
- **Versatile application throughout assay formats** (direct/indirect ELONA, LFA, determination of antibody titers) and indications
- Superb **batch-to-batch reproducibility**



# SELEX pipeline

The value of the SELEX output depends on the quality of the biomarker pipeline



## IVD

Epcam  
Ebola s-GP  
Steroids  
Liver Fibrosis signature  
Complement components

## Therapeutic applications

Neuroblastoma TME targets  
Rare renal disease targets  
Insulin-like growth factor receptor  
Calcitonin Gene Related Peptide  
CD79-b  
CD22

## Case Studies

$\alpha$ -synuclein oligomers  
 $\beta$ -amyloid oligomers  
Staph Aureus oligopeptide autoinducer  
Strep pneum oligopeptide autoinducer  
Staph Aureus secreted protease  
4,5-dihydroxy-2,3-pentanedione

# Portfolio

| Target               | Clickmer selection/characterization = assay component development |                       |                             |                       | Assay development |             |             |                           |                              |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|                      | SELEX   | Modification analysis | Specificity and Sensitivity | Sequence Optimization | Tech evaluation   | Feasibility | Development | Validation & Verification | Regulatory approval / launch |
| Assay requirements   | →   |                       |                             |                       | →                 |             |             |                           |                              |
| SARS CoV2 Spike hIgG | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| TBEV* NS1            | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| CXCL9                | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| West Nile Virus NS1  | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| Yellow Fever NS1     | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| Mouse IgG            | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| Annexin A1           | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| Trop2                | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| Her2                 | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| IL4-receptor α       | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |
| Streptavidin         | ▶   |                       |                             |                       |                   |             |             |                           |                              |

\* Tickborne encephalitis Virus

# Custom Clickmer Development

Clickmer development is available to integrate into our customer's platform, or to integrate as part of our Contract Assay Development service

- ◆ **Clickmers provide next-generation antibody-analog tools** that are enabling researchers and diagnostic developers to overcome the limitations of antibody-based technology and batch-to-batch variability.
- ◆ Our **Clickmer Systems Development Service** offers a structured milestone-defined development pipeline that is focused on understanding customer requirements and project aims.
- ◆ **Contact one of our experts today**, to start the conversation of how we are using Nobel Prize winning chemistry in our proprietary technology.



# Thanks!



Second Floor, Citylabs 1.0  
Nelson Street  
Manchester  
M13 9NQ



[www.apisassay.com](http://www.apisassay.com)  
[info@apisassay.com](mailto:info@apisassay.com)  
+44 (0)161 938 8179



Assay Technologies Ltd.