Recombinant monoclonal antibodies: An indispensable research too Alejandra Solache VP New Product Development

Abcam

Antibody development and characterisation have a great impact on antibody specificity, performance and consistency



### Advantages and constraints of polyclonal antibodies

#### **Advantages**

- Relatively fast to produce
- Recognize multiple epitopes in a single target
- Useful for certain applications, IP

#### Constrains

- Recognize multiple epitopes in a single target
- Cross-reactivity with homologous proteins
- Low sensitivity and specificity
- Batch-to-batch variability
- Initial discovery and production is in vivo

Compared to other common antibody platforms, rabbit monoclonal antibodies have the highest affinity and specificity



# Advantages and constraints of hybridoma-derived monoclonal antibodies

Monoclonal (hybridoma) antibody

#### **Advantages**

- Recognize a single epitope
- High specificity
- No or low batch-to-batch variability

#### Constrains

- Vulnerable to stability issues and loss of epitope recognition
- Unable to produce against toxic antigens
- Antibody discovery phase is in vivo

# Recombinant antibodies produced through a recombinant DNA platform

A) Recombinant monoclonal antibody development - in vivo approach



# Advantages and constraints of immune-based recombinant antibodies



IHC batch testing of human lung NSCLC stained with anti-PD-L1 (ab205921) at 2  $\mu\text{g/mL}.$ 

A = Neg control, B - F = different batches. All batches showed consistent results.

Recombinant Monoclonal (immunederived) antibody

#### **Advantages**

- Recognize a single epitope
- Improved consistency and reproducibility
- Improved sensitivity and specificity
- No clone viability issues
- Direct access to sequence
- Fully scalable in vitro production

#### Constrains

- Limited to non-toxic antigens
- Antibody discovery phase not in vitro

# Recombinant monoclonal antibody development by phage display



# Advantages and constraints of phage display recombinant antibodies



#### Recombinant (naïve libraries) antibody Advantages

- Fast process
- Ability to screen human libraries and toxic antigens
- No immunogenicity issue
- No clone viability issues
- Direct access to sequence
- In vitro discovery and production

#### Constrains

- High cost
- Low affinities compared to immunized recombinants
- Difficult to obtain antibodies specific in multiple applications

### Performance of Polyclonal vs recombinant monoclonal antibodies to histone modifications by ChIP



#### Polyclonal H3K4me3



Variation in signal among batches

#### **RabMAb®**

#### Recombinant monoclonal H3K4me3



There is clear consistency of ChIP data between lots A and B.

### Recombinant antibody toolbox

• Three platform options available to create fit for purpose binders



Next Generation Sequencing



RabMAb<sup>®</sup> discovery



AxioMx<sup>™</sup>phage display

#### NGS antibody selection

- Full repertoire of antibody sequences to discover rare binders
- Antibody sequence library of >5000 unique IgG sequences

RabMAb rabbit monoclonal antibodies

- High overall affinity
- Broad diversity of epitope recognition

Phage display antibody discovery

- Animal-free system for generating binders to toxic antigens
- High library diversity to mitigate technical risks

### Antibody development and characterisation have a great impact on antibody specificity, performance and consistency



# Extensive antibody characterisation and validation is key to antibody specificity and performance



# Recombinant anti-BCMA RabMAb<sup>®</sup> perform in multiple applications



### Tailored approach to verify antibody specificity



## Specificity confirmed by KO validation, provides evidence of antibody selectivity for the target of interest only



### Impact of antibody format on specificity and consistency

Rabbit polyclonal Anti-beta III Tubulin antibody (ab18207)

Beta III Tubulin GAPDH Beta III Tubulin GAPDH WT KO WT KO WT KO WT KO

Recombinant Anti-beta III Tubulin antibody [EPR19591] (ab215037)



WT KO Hela HEK293

### Top cited clones do not always perform the best



## Combining recombinant antibody technologies and high validation standards to develop the best reagents



ab181560 MERGED

Immunohistochemical analysis of paraffin-embedded Human astrocytoma tissue labelling Pan Trk with ab181560 Immunofluorescent analysis of Neuro-2a (Mouse neuroblastoma cells) cells labelling Pan Trk with ab181560

#### Pan-Trk immunohistochemistry is an efficient and reliable screen for NTRK fusions

# Best-in-class antibody discovery platforms supports generation of highest performance recombinant antibodies



### Questions?