



**Merus** *closing in on cancer*

**ADClonics™ Bispecific ADC Program**

**Peter Lowe**

14 May 2024

# Disclaimer

This presentation (including any oral commentary that accompanies this presentation) contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements contained in this presentation that do not relate to matters of historical fact should be considered forward-looking statements, including without limitation statements regarding the impact our Biclomics® and Triclomics® platforms can have on cancer, our intellectual property, our product candidates' potential to treat certain types of tumors, the timing of regulatory filings and the timing and anticipated data read-outs, updates or results from our clinical trials and our collaborations, and anticipated cash runway. These forward-looking statements are based on management's current expectations. These statements are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to, the following: we have incurred significant losses, are not currently profitable and may never become profitable; our need for additional funding, which may not be available and which may require us to restrict our operations or require us to relinquish rights to our technologies or antibody candidates; potential delays in regulatory approval and impacts of the market volatility, and global conflict in Russia, Ukraine and the Middle East, which would impact our ability to commercialize our product candidates and affect our ability to generate revenue; the unproven approach to therapeutic intervention of our Biclomics®, and Triclomics® technology; our limited operating history; economic, political, regulatory and other risks involved with international operations; the lengthy and expensive process of clinical drug development, which has an uncertain outcome; the unpredictable nature of our stage of development efforts for marketable drugs; potential adverse public reaction to the use of cancer therapies; potential delays in enrollment of patients, which could affect the receipt of necessary regulatory approvals; failure to obtain marketing approval internationally; failure to compete successfully against other drug companies; potential competition from other drug companies if we fail to obtain orphan drug designation or maintain orphan drug exclusivity for our products; our reliance on third parties to conduct our clinical trials and perform clinical development and the potential for those third parties to not perform satisfactorily; our reliance on third parties to manufacture our product candidates, which may delay, prevent or impair our development and commercialization efforts; protection of our proprietary technology; our patents being found invalid or unenforceable; potential lawsuits for infringement of third-party intellectual property; our ability to attract and retain key personnel; managing our growth could result in difficulties.

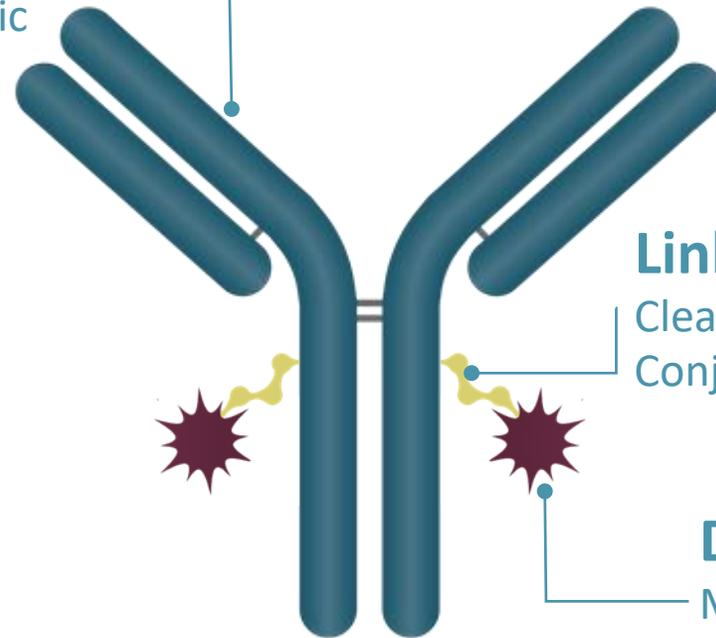
These and other important factors discussed under the caption “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2024 filed on May 8, 2024 with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, and our other reports filed with the SEC, could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements made in this presentation. Any such forward-looking statements represent management's estimates as of the date of this presentation. While we may elect to update such forward-looking statements at some point in the future, we disclaim any obligation to do so, even if subsequent events cause our views to change.

# Antibody Drug Conjugates

## *A conventional ADC*

### Monoclonal Antibody

Bivalent monospecific  
Human, humanized or chimeric



### Linker

Cleavable/uncleavable  
Conjugate to lysine or cysteine

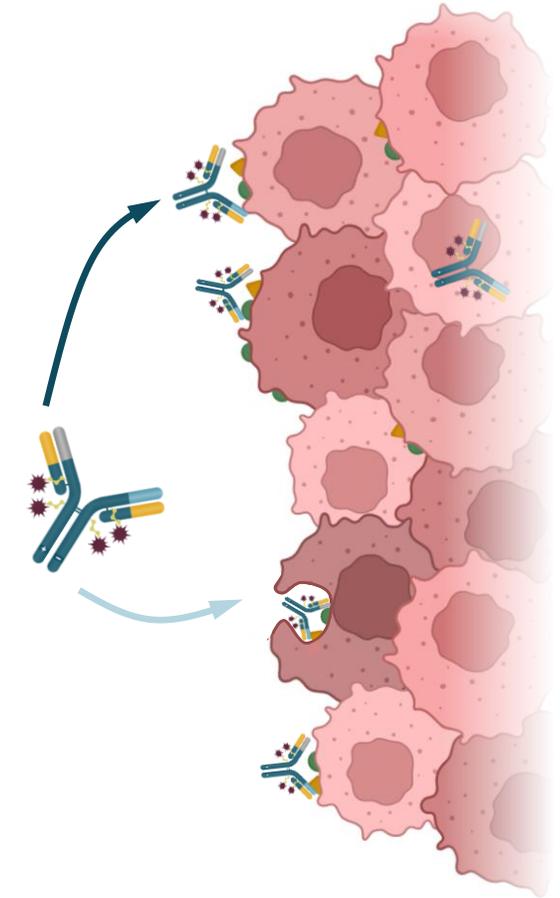
### Drug

Microtubule inhibitors or DNA  
damaging agents

# Antibody Drug Conjugates

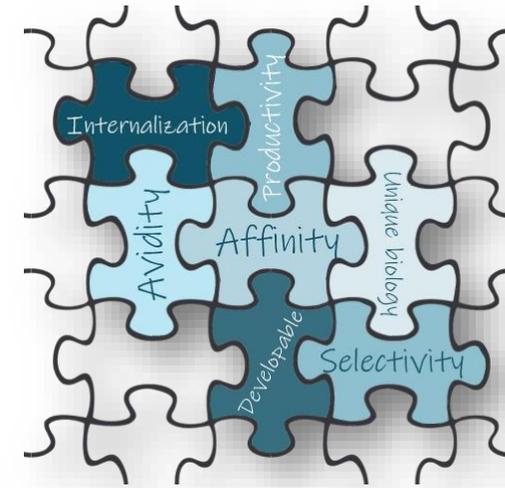
*Current monoclonal ADCs have limitations*

	<b>Limitations</b> of conventional ADCs	<b>Opportunities</b> for bispecific ADCs
Selectivity	A single target on tumor and non-cancerous cells, leading to on target, off tumor tox	Increased selectivity for tumors that express two targets
Internalization	Drug delivery may be limited by internalization rate	Engaging two targets or epitopes to increase internalization
Cell killing	Limited selective tumor cell killing	Delivering drug to tumor cells expressing both targets



# Bispecific Antibodies as ADCs

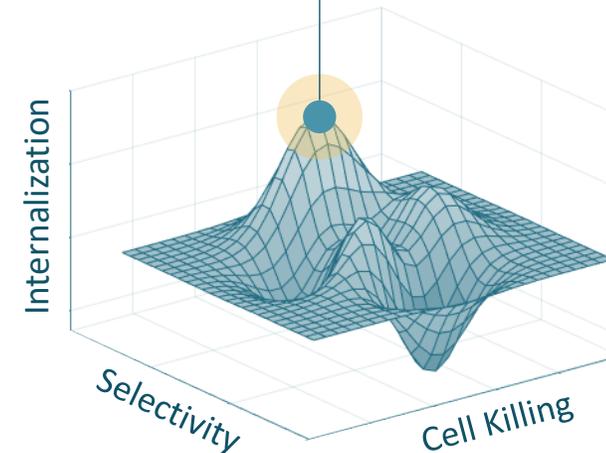
*The optimal combination is a complex puzzle to solve*



**Screening a lot of clones is required to find the optimal characteristics**

- Selectivity for target tissue
- Selective internalization
- Selective cell killing
- Ease of manufacturing

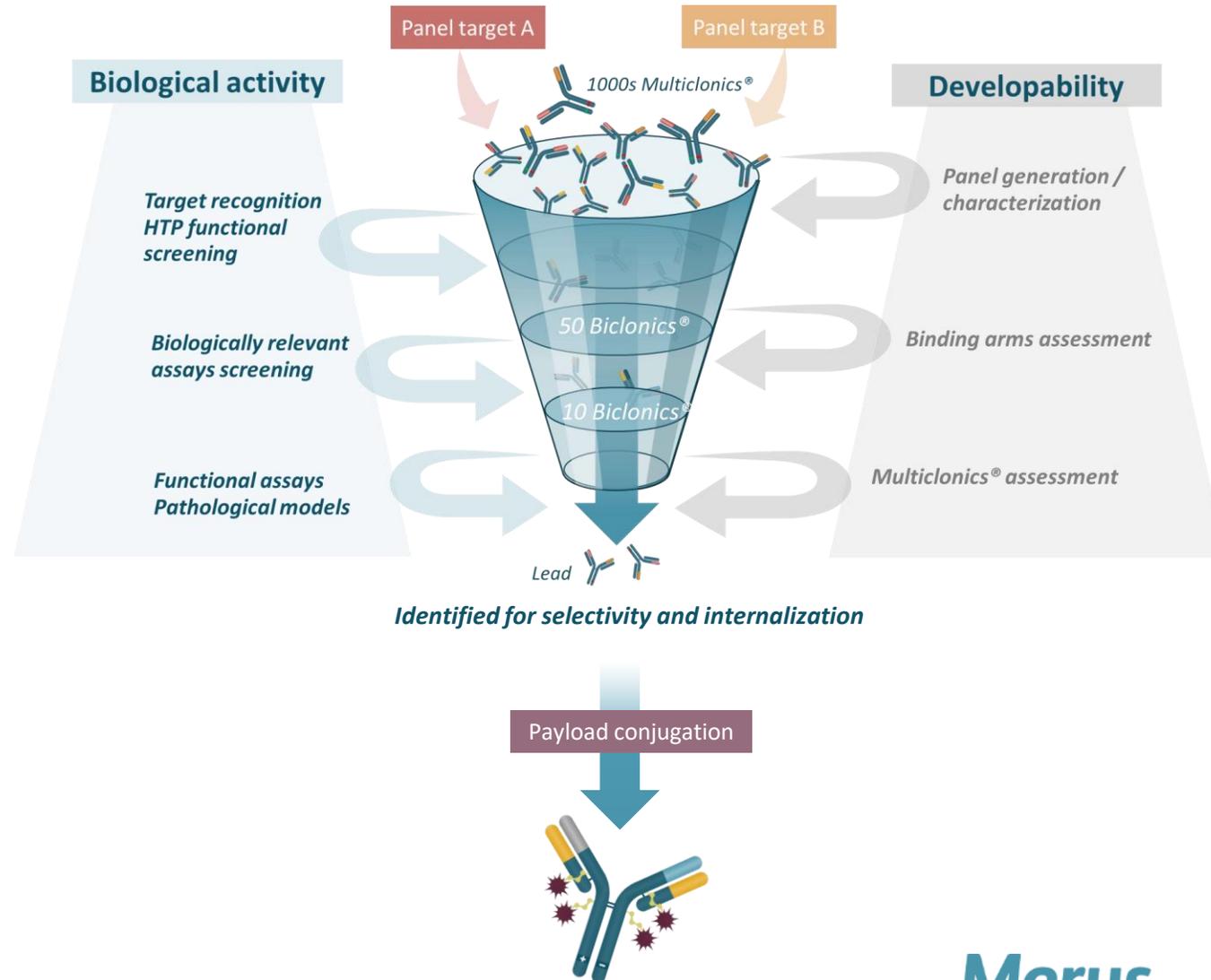
Optimal Biclomics®



# Merus Multiclonics® Platforms

## Key elements

- Stable, fully human IgG1 scaffold validated in the clinic
- Large and diverse antibody Fab panels derived *in vivo*
- Large scale screening directly in the IgG1 format
- Select unique bispecific antibodies with optimal characteristics



# Merus Biclomics<sup>®</sup>: Fully Human IgG1 Bispecific Antibodies

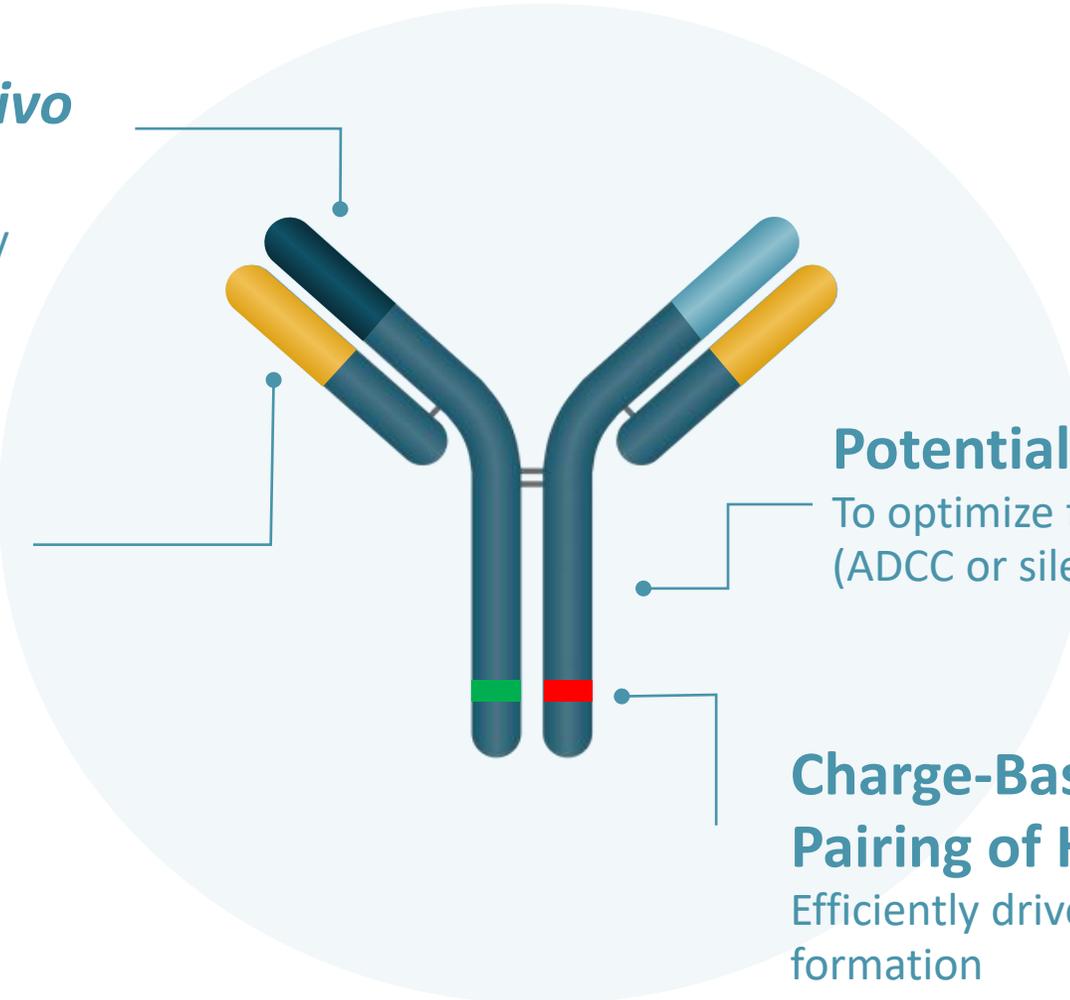
*Made essentially like monoclonal antibodies to facilitate discovery and development*

## Antibody Fab from *in-vivo* Discovery

For high diversity and specificity

## Common Light Chain

To solve the light chain mispairing problem



## Potential Fc Modification

To optimize functionality (ADCC or silencing)

## Charge-Based (DEKK) Pairing of Heavy Chains

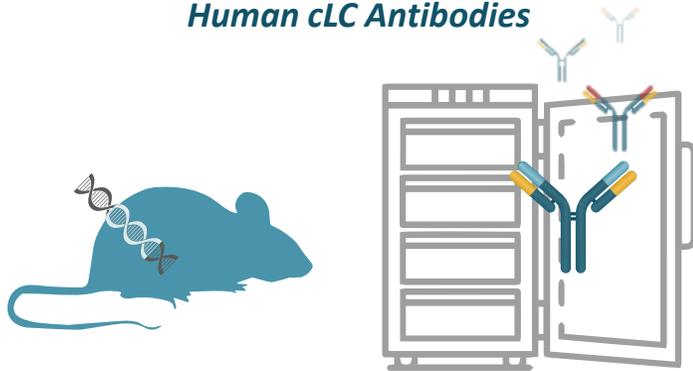
Efficiently drive heterodimer formation

# Screening for Optimal Capabilities in Multispecific Antibodies

*Finding multispecifics at the speed and scale others find monoclonals*

## Generate

Human cLC Antibodies



### Patented Mouse Technology

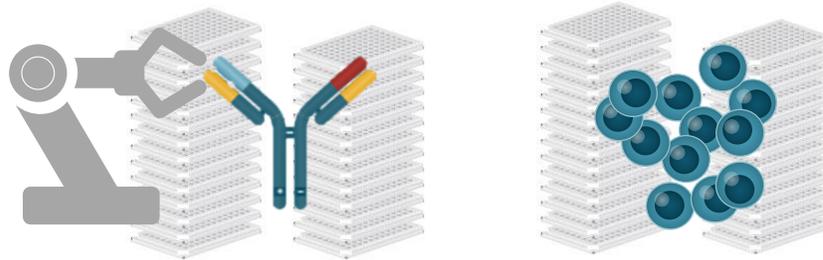
“Merus Mouse” (MeMo®) to generate diverse, high quality common light chain (cLC) antibody panels

### Established Inventory

Diverse panels of cLC antibodies against numerous targets

## Evaluate

Thousands of Multispecific Abs



### Multiclronics® Libraries

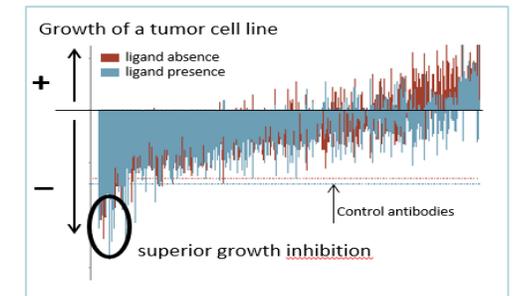
Robotics generate thousands of Multiclronics® by combining cLC antibody panels and our patented “DEKK” IgG heterodimerization technology

### Unbiased Screening

In-format, unbiased functional screening in relevant cellular assays

## Identify

Best Candidates



Identification of best candidates from thousands of different Biclonics® and Triclonics® against multiple different targets

# Biclomics<sup>®</sup> Manufacturing

*Biclomics<sup>®</sup> can be manufactured similarly to normal IgGs*

## Leveraging standard mAb approaches:

- Single producer cell lines with up to in 1 - 4.5 g/L production
- Purified according to standard IgG1 procedures
- Stable liquid formulations to support clinical administration
- Drug product stability confirmed for up to 36 months

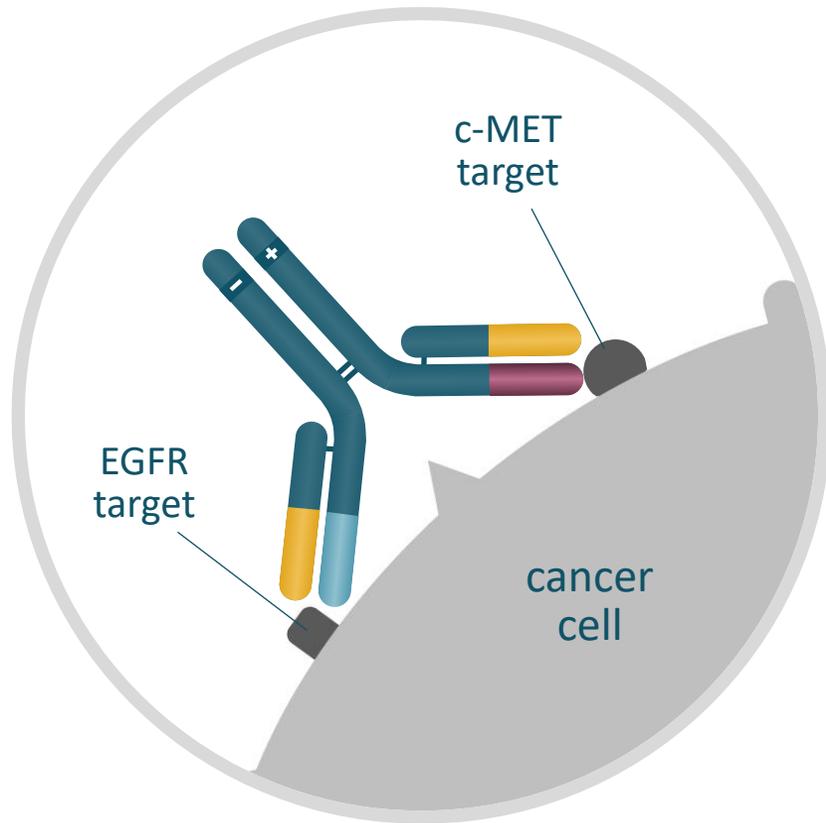


# Clinically Validated Biclomics<sup>®</sup> Tested for ADC Compatibility

*Clinical stage assets used to assess platform compatibility for ADClonics<sup>™</sup>*

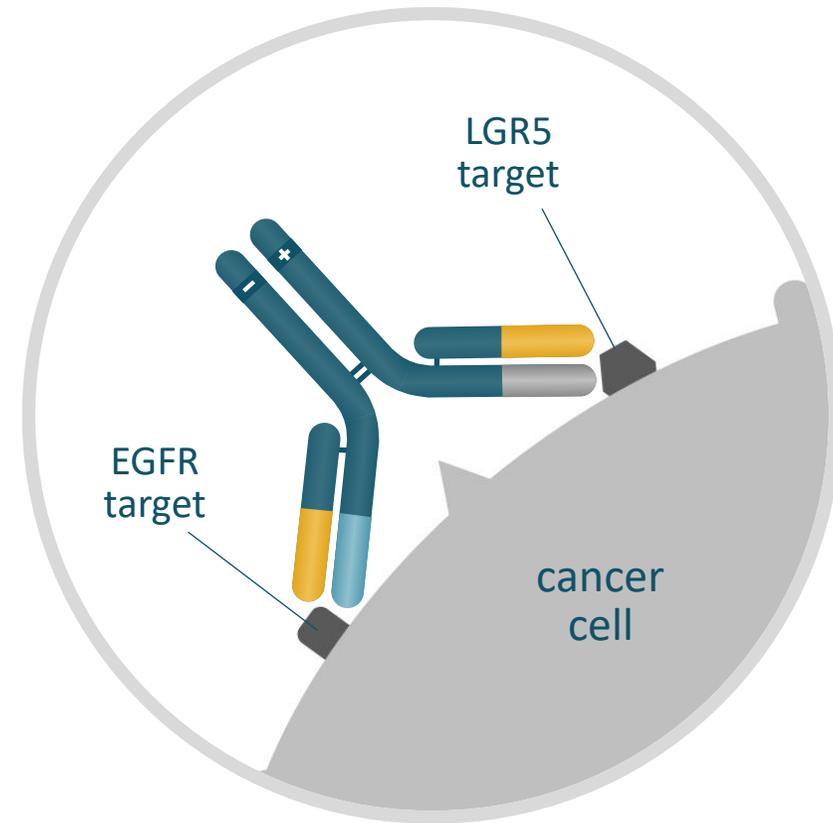
## **MCLA-129**

*EGFR x c-MET bispecific*



## **Petosemtamab (MCLA-158)**

*EGFR x LGR5 bispecific*

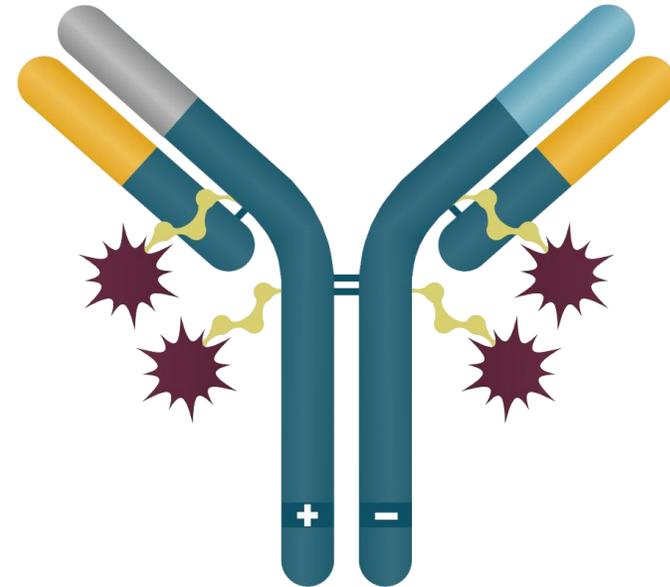


# Evaluating MCLA-129 and MCLA-158 as ADClonics™

*Fully human IgG1 bispecific antibodies*

## Can clinically validated drug-linkers be conjugated to Biclonics®?

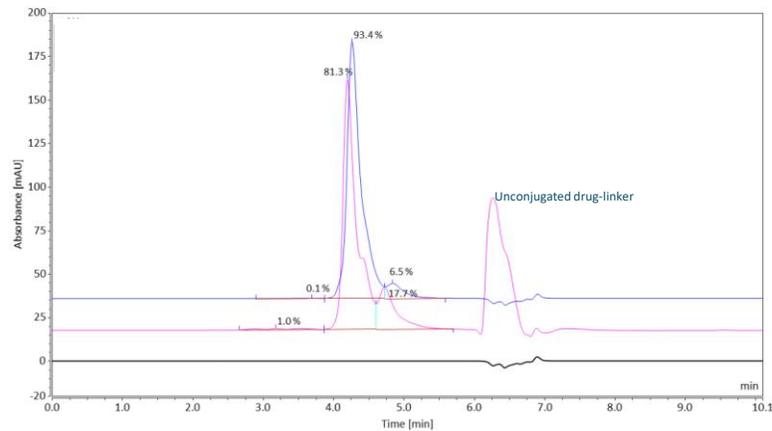
- Are Biclonics® compatible with standard conjugation methods to make ADClonics™?
- Do ADClonics™ demonstrate favorable biophysical properties?
- Do they preferentially bind and internalize on dual target expressing cells?
- Do they selectively kill dual target-expressing cells?



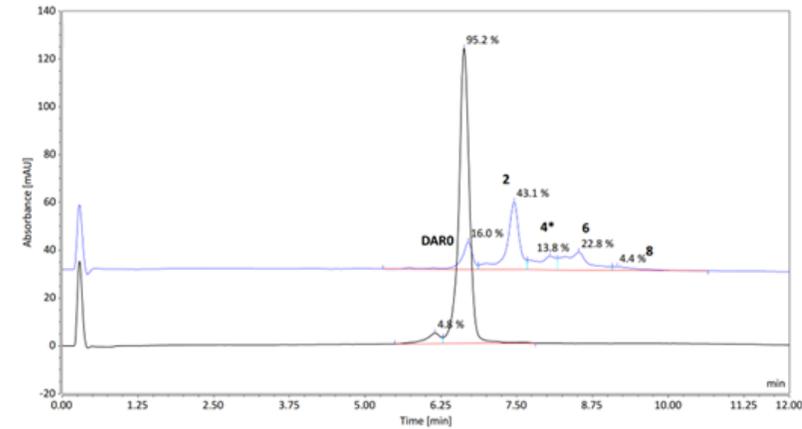
# ADClonics™: Assessing Conjugation Efficiency

- High degree of protein monomer by SEC;
- Target DAR of ~4 demonstrated by HIC

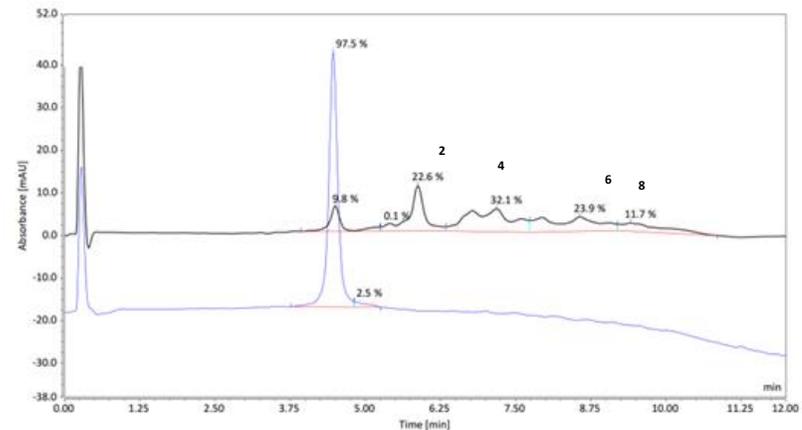
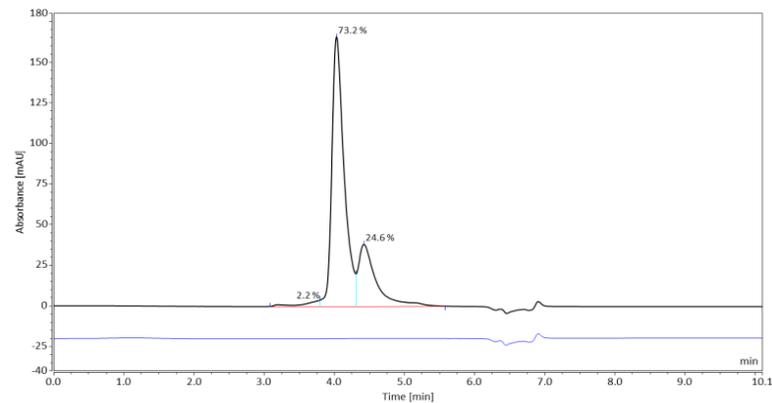
Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC)



Hydrophobic Interaction Chromatography (HIC)



MCLA-129-MMAE

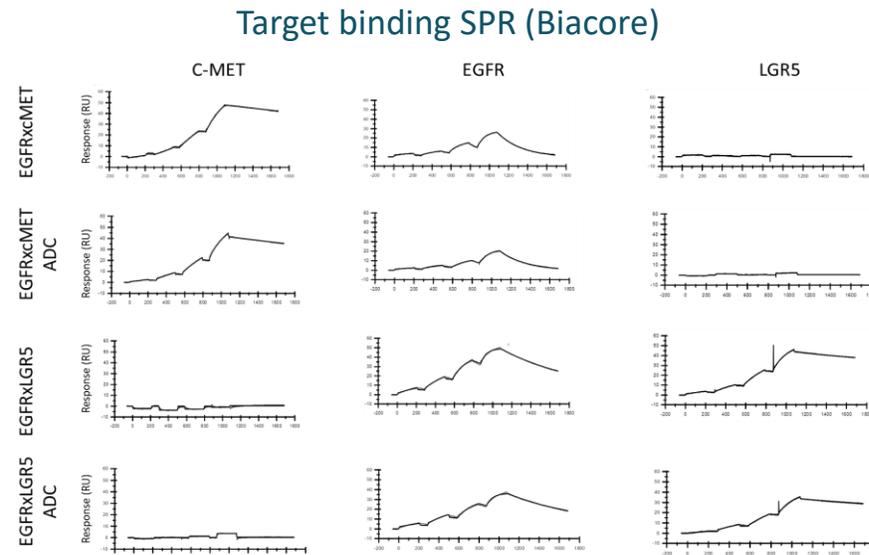
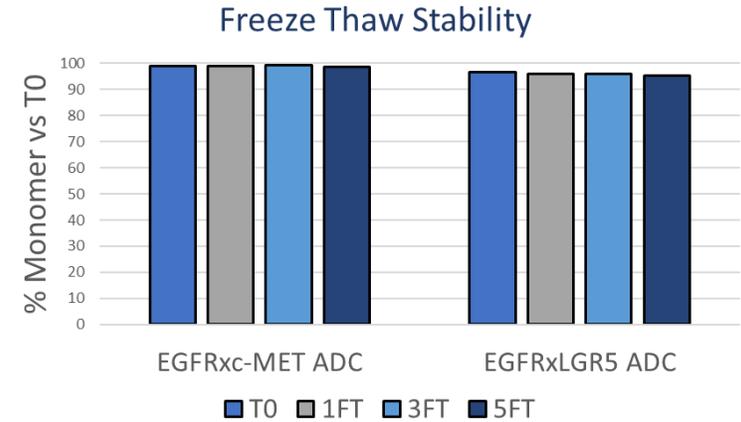
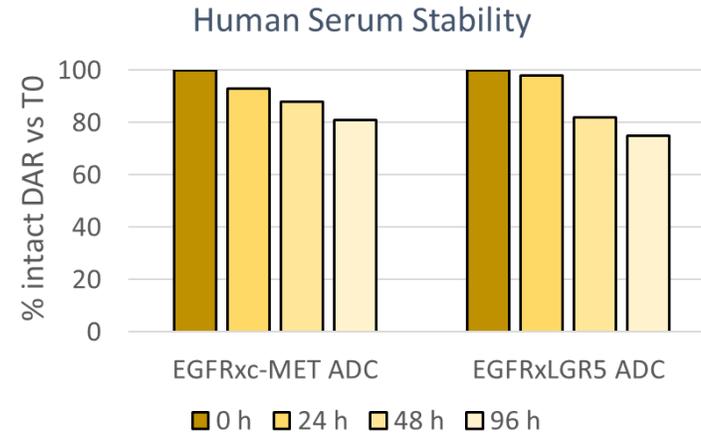


MCLA-158-MMAE

# ADClonics™: Favorable Biophysical Properties

## Stability and binding maintained

- Average intact DAR >75% after incubation in human serum over 96 hours at 37 °C
- Repeated freeze thaw cycles > 95% ADC monomer
- Target antigen binding retained in ADC format

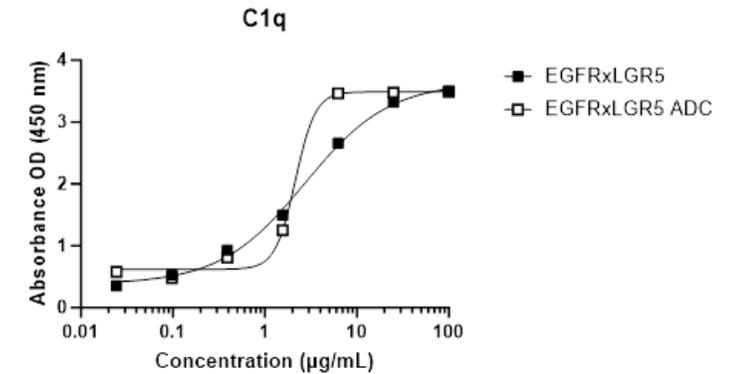
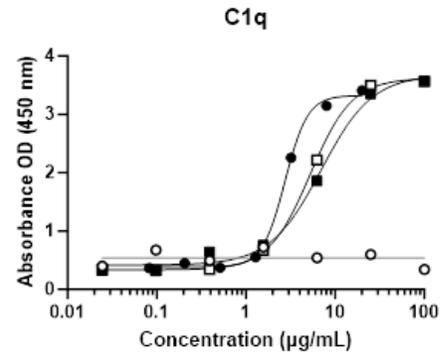


# ADClonics™: Favorable biophysical properties

## IgG Fc domain function maintained

- C1q binding retained in ADC format
- FcRn binding retained in ADC format
- FcγR binding retained in ADC format

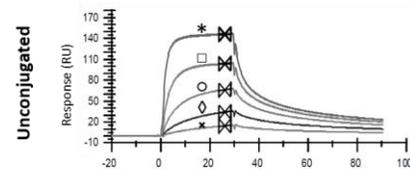
### C1q binding ELISA



### FcRn binding SPR (Biacore)

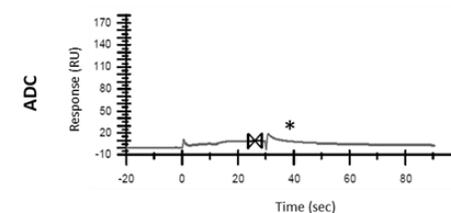
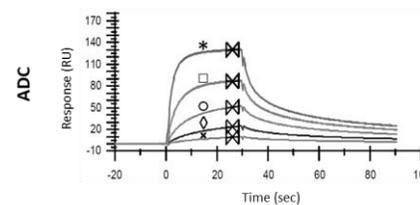
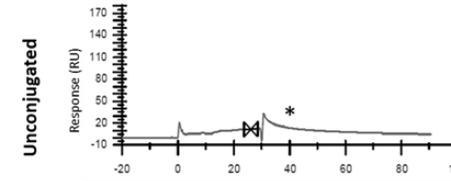
pH 6.0

EGFRxLGR5



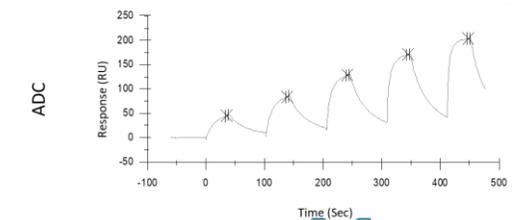
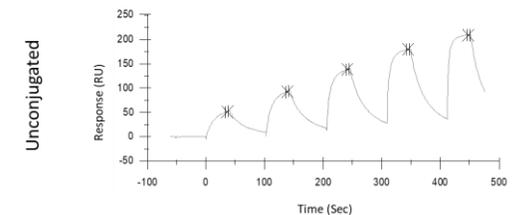
pH 7.4

EGFRxLGR5



### FcγR binding SPR (Biacore)

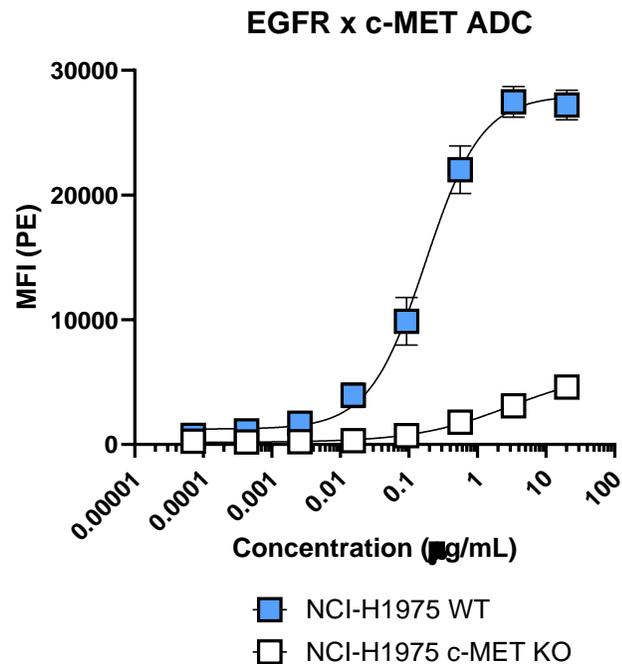
EGFRxLGR5



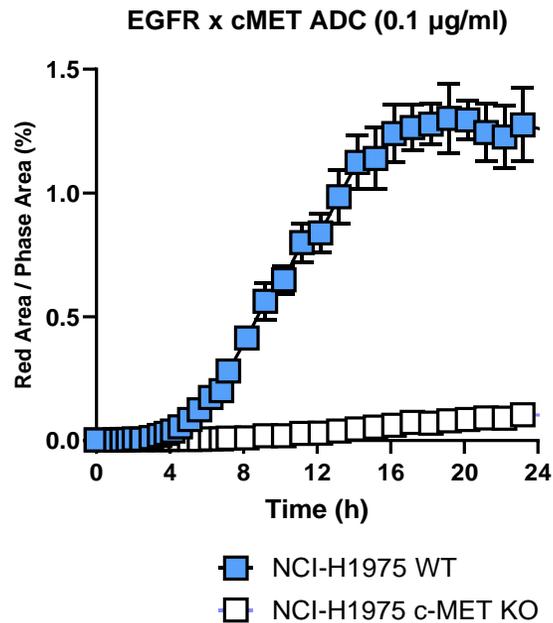
# ADClonics™: Preferentially Bind, Internalize & Kill Dual-Target Expressing Cells

*Selective cell binding, internalization and cell killing with EGFR x c-MET (MCLA-129) ADC*

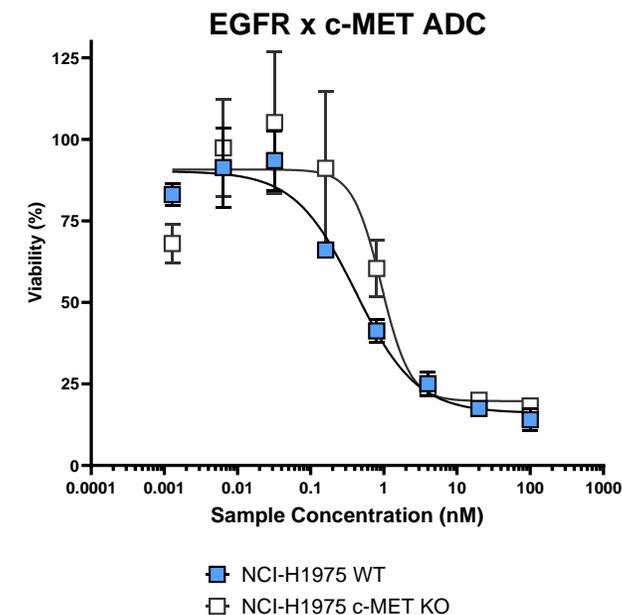
## Cell binding



## Internalization



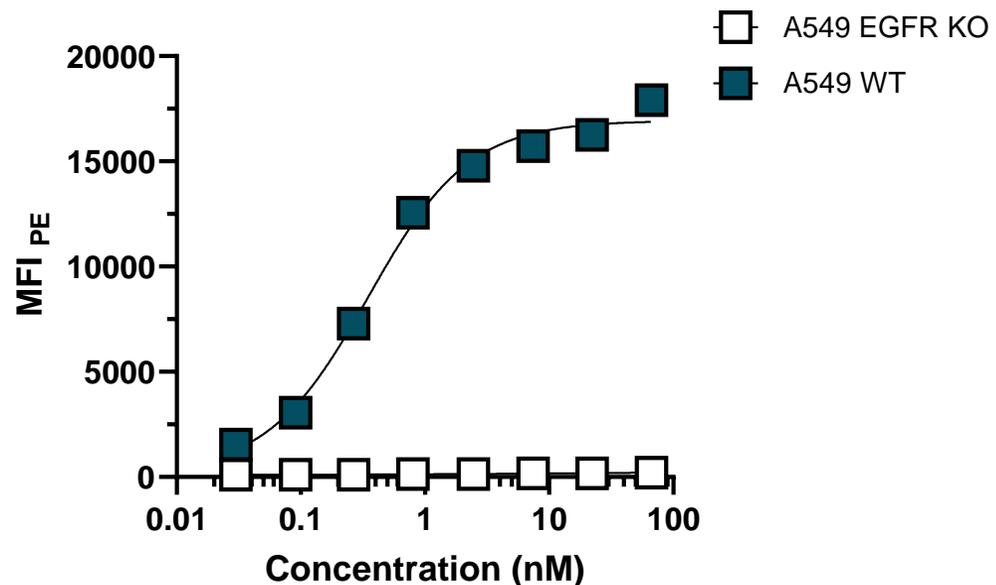
## Cell killing



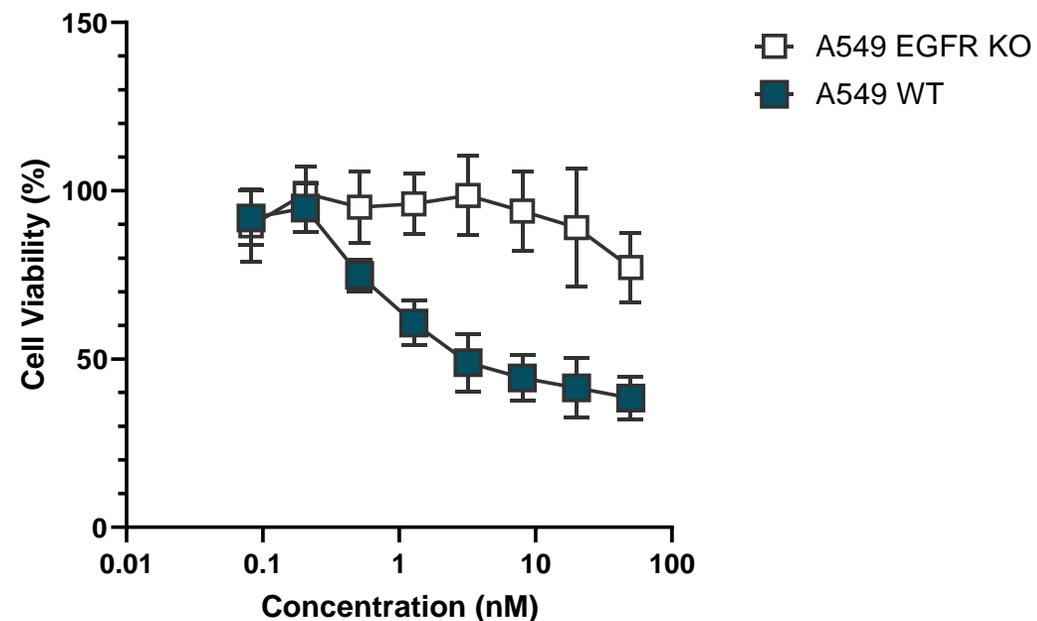
# ADClonics™ Preferentially Kill Target Expressing Cells

## Selective cell binding and cell killing with EGFR x LGR5 (MCLA-158) ADC

### Cell binding



### Cell killing

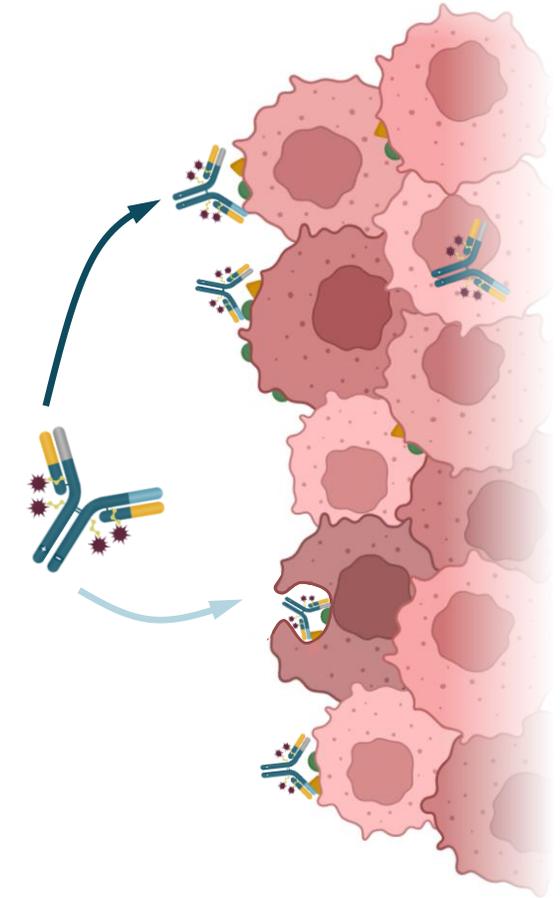


The A549 cell line is not known to express LGR5

# Antibody Drug Conjugates

*Merus' Biclomics<sup>®</sup> ADCs may solve current limitations*

	Limitations of conventional ADCs	Opportunity for bispecific ADC
Selectivity	A single target on tumor and non-cancerous cells, leading to on target, off tumor tox	Increased selectivity for tumors that express two targets
Internalization	Drug delivery may be limited by internalization rate	Engaging two targets or epitopes to increase internalization
Cell killing	Limited selective tumor cell killing	Delivering drug to tumor cells expressing both targets



# Conclusions

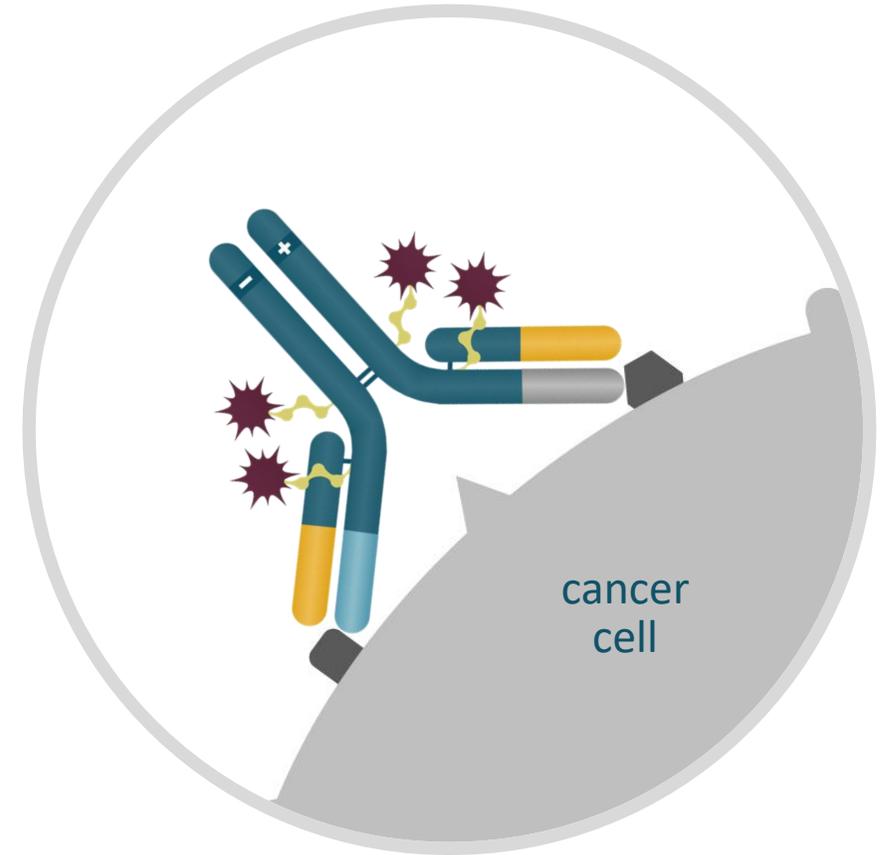
Merus ADClonics™ can address limitations of conventional monoclonal antibody-based ADC:

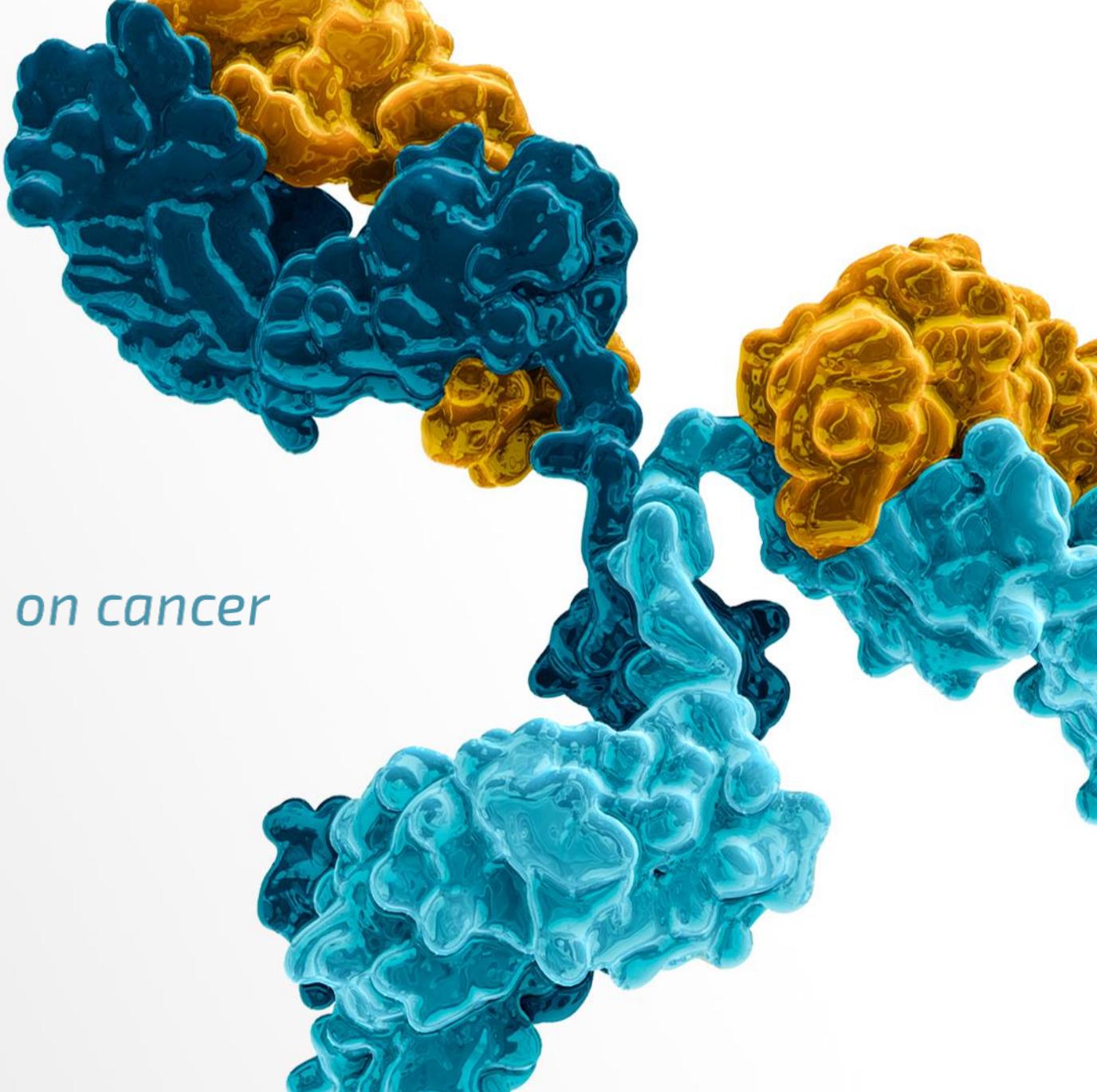
- Selectivity from binding two targets
- Selective internalization
- Selective cell killing

The Merus Multiclomics® platforms are ideally suited to generate ADClonics™- bispecific ADC with the Biclomics® format and platform

- Large, diverse panels and high throughput screening
- Robust and developable as ADC

**MCLA clinical candidates as ADClonics™ offer potential advantages to monospecific ADCs**





# **Merus** *closing in on cancer*

[www.merus.nl](http://www.merus.nl)