




Alzheimer's Research 2023

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Introduction

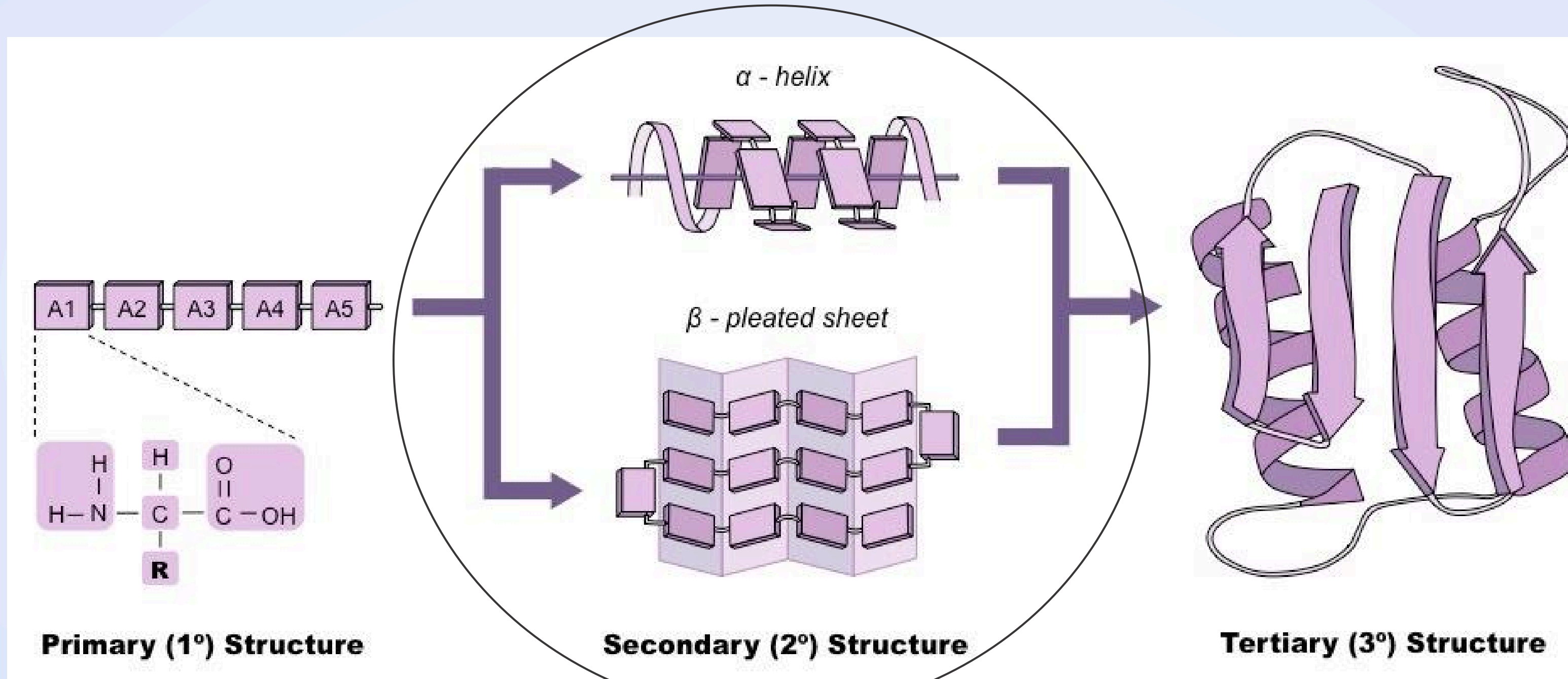


**As of 2020, 5.8 million
Americans were living with
Alzheimer's Disease¹**

This number is expected to nearly
triple to 14 million by 2060¹

Protein Summary...

DNA → RNA → **PROTEINS**



What is Alzheimer's Disease?

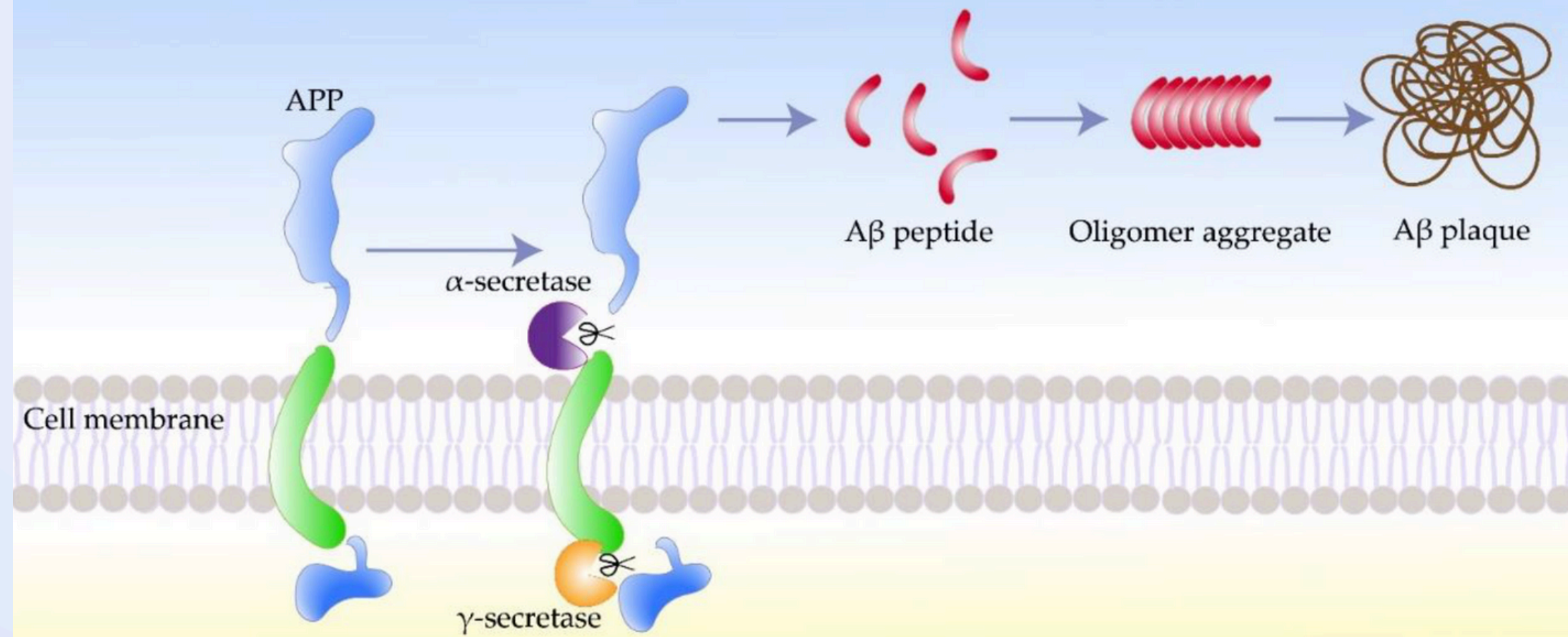
Amyloid Cascade Hypothesis¹

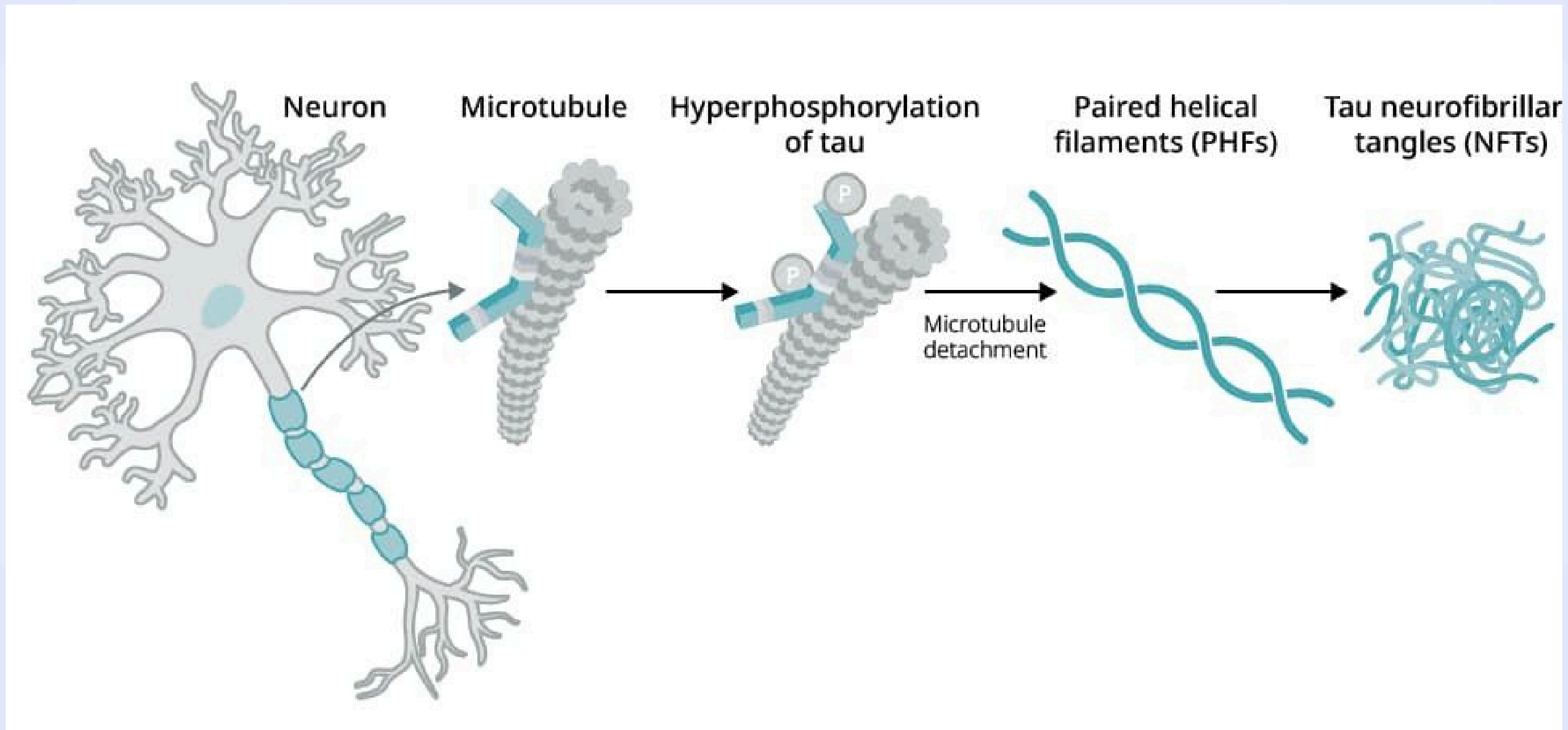
$A\beta$ 42 → High Order Oligomers → Amyloid Plaques

TAU Hyperphosphorylation

TAU → Hyperphosphorylation → NFTs

Abnormal cleavage of amyloid precursor protein

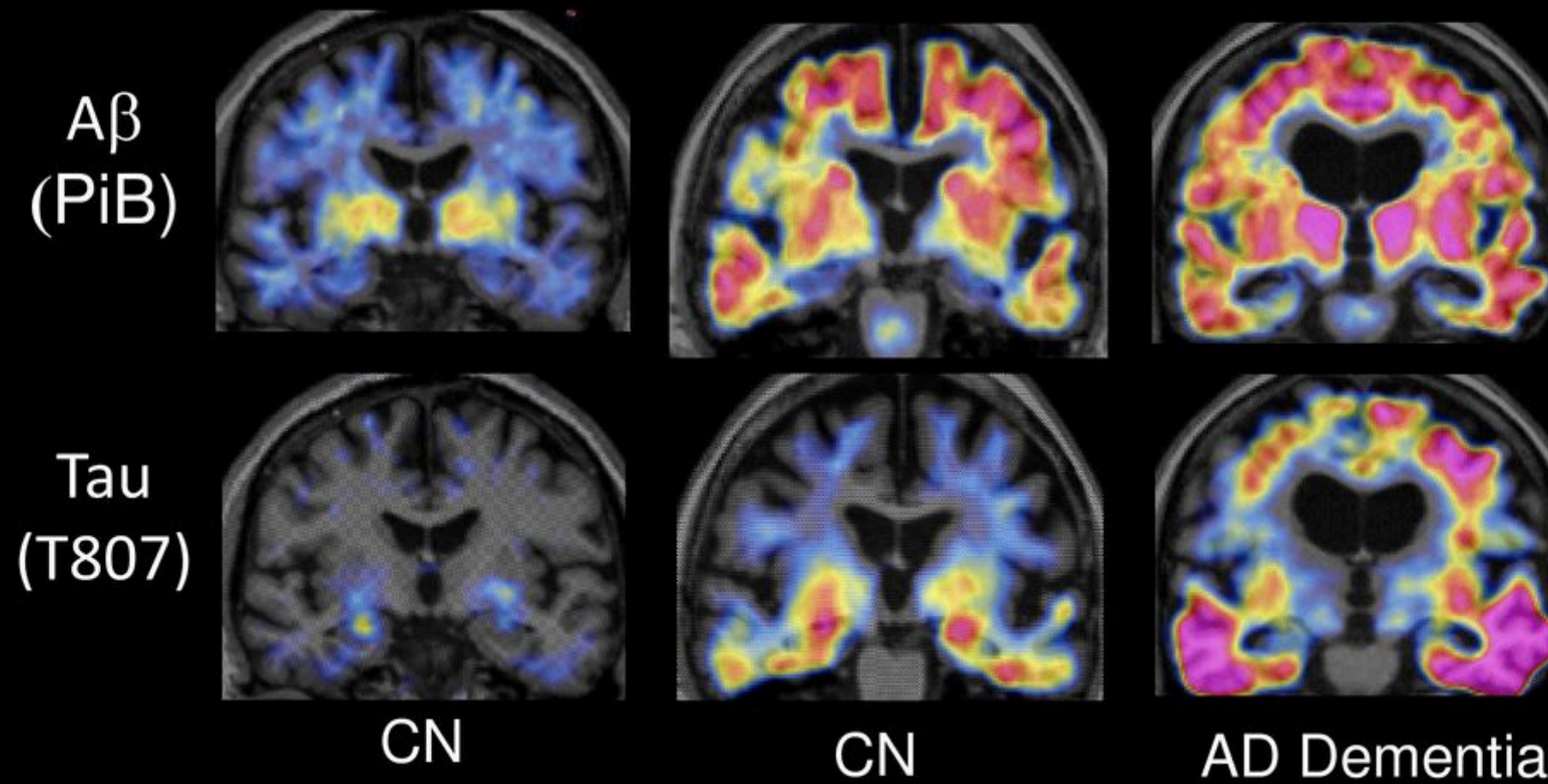




Tau protein aggregation assay relevance to alzheimer's disease and Tauopathies Research. Neuroscience from Technology Networks. (n.d.).

<https://www.technologynetworks.com/neuroscience/application-notes/tau-protein-aggregation-assay-relevance-to-alzheimers-disease-and-tauopathies-research-326535>

PET Amyloid and Tau Imaging



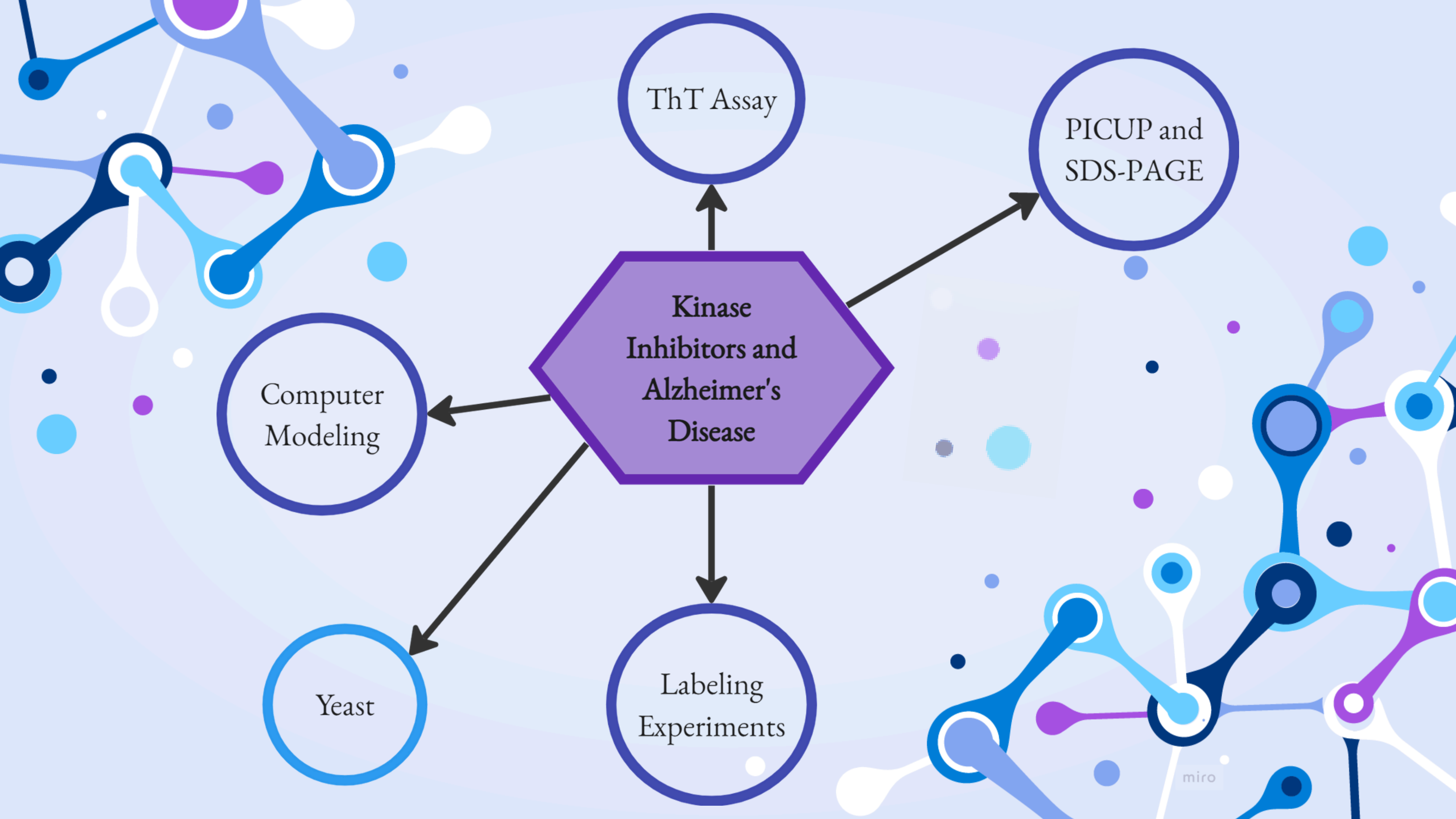
Sperling, Mormino, Johnson *Neuron* 2014



Hypothesis:

FDA approved kinase inhibitors can inhibit both the aggregation of A β 42 and the hyperphosphorylation of Tau.

Methodology/Results



ThT Assay

PICUP and
SDS-PAGE

Kinase
Inhibitors and
Alzheimer's
Disease

Computer
Modeling

Yeast

Labeling
Experiments

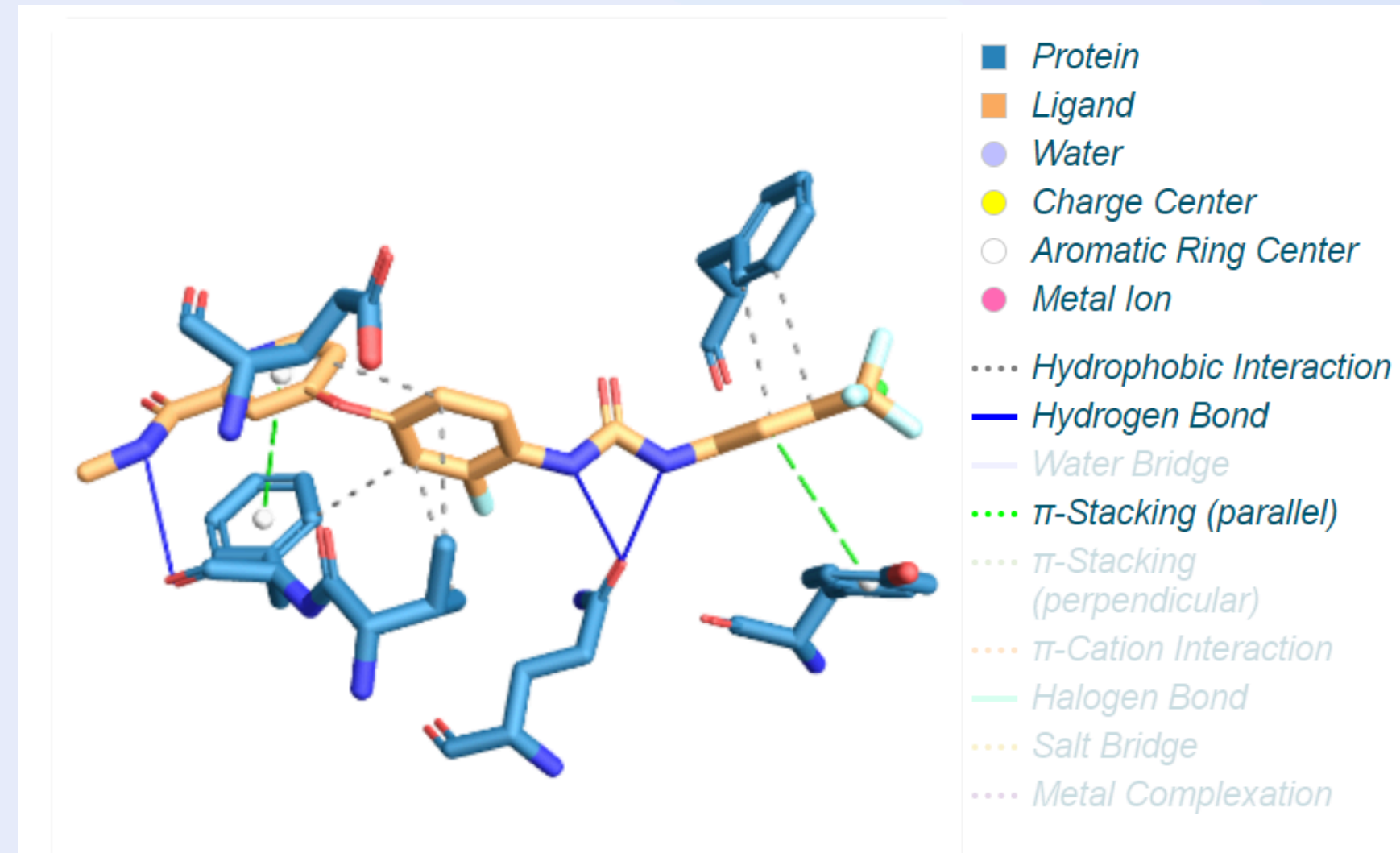
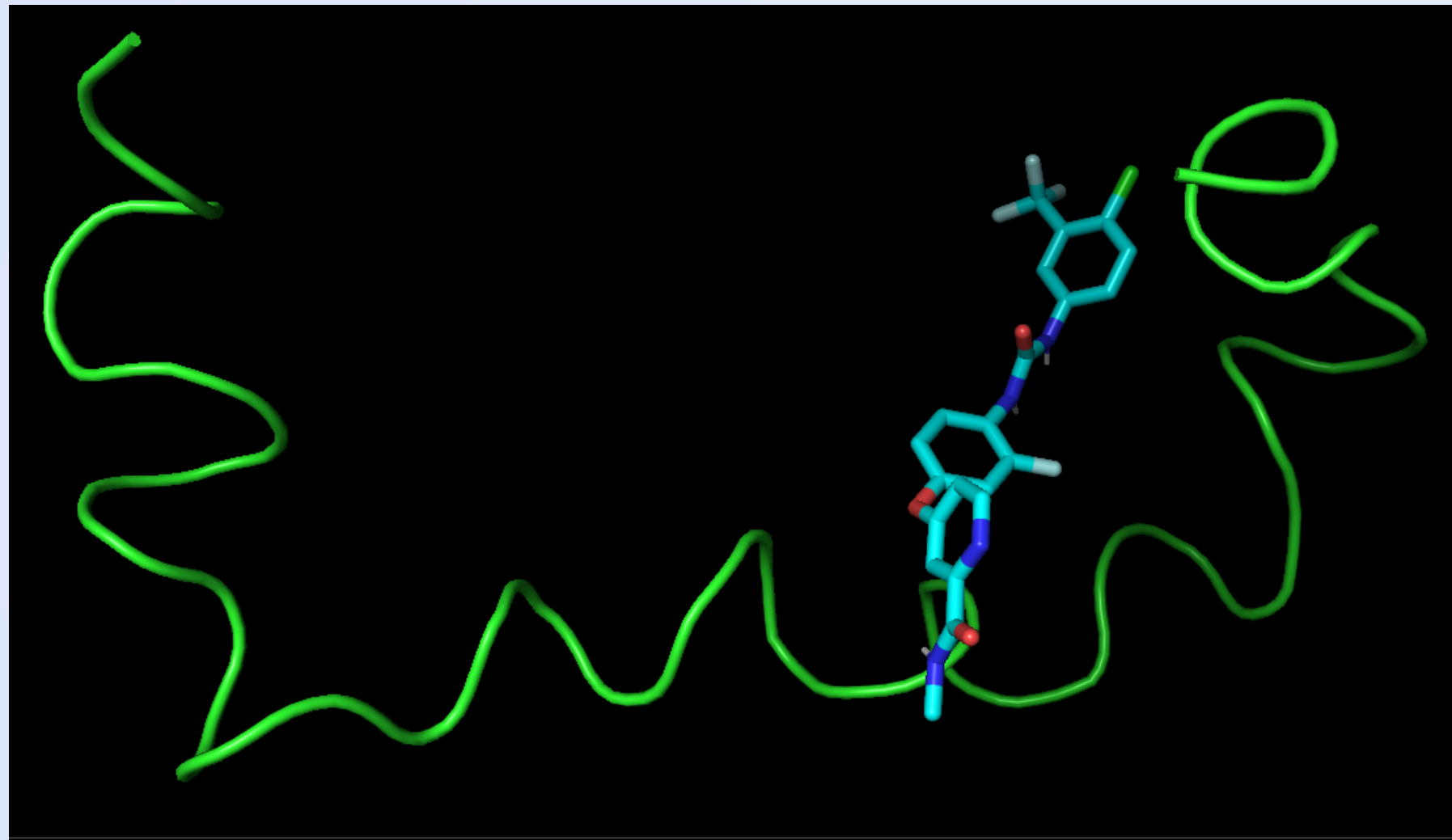
Autodock Vina

- Models Protein-ligand binding patterns
- Preliminary search for kinase inhibitors



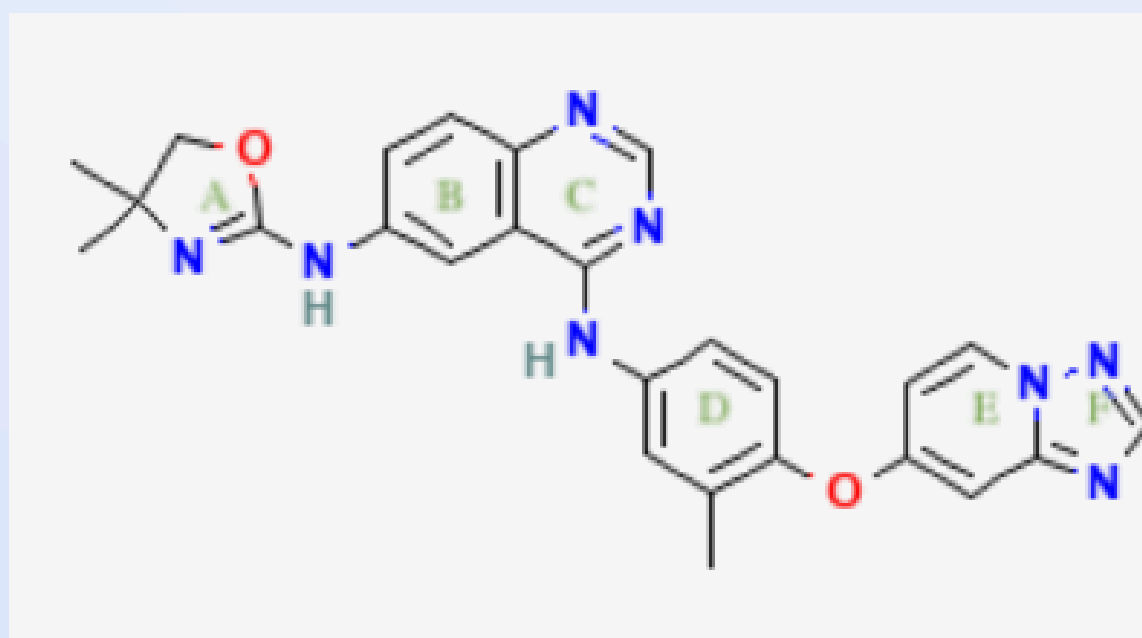
Ligand	Average(kcal/mol)
tepotinib	-7.78375
ponatinib	-7.59325
belumosudil	-7.5445
capmatinib	-7.528
nilotinib	-7.516
umbralisib	-7.4755
imatinib	-7.469
avapritinib	-7.44675
tucatinib	-7.3985
regorafenib	-7.37825
pazopanib	-7.366

Autodock Vina



Autodock Vina

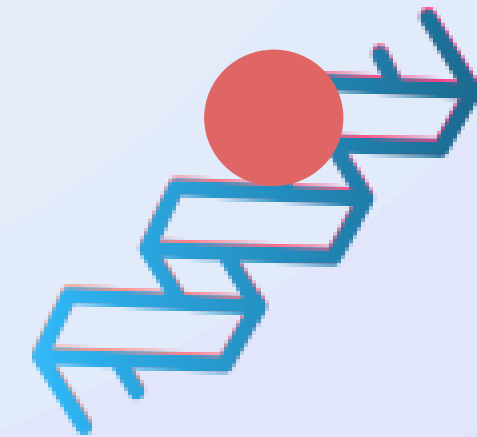
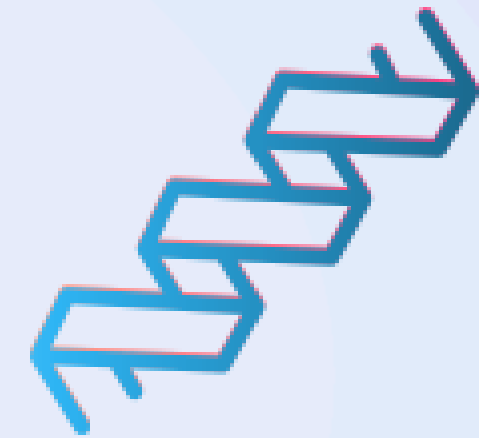
Ring A Methyl	Ring A	Ring B	Ring C	Ring D Methyl	Ring D	Ring E	Ring F
	Val18	TYR10		GLU22	ARG5	PHE19	
					PHE19		
TYR2	ASP7	TYR10	PHE4	GLU11	TYR10	PHE4	ARG5
					PHE4		ARG5
LEU17		VAL18	ARG5		ARG5	PHE19	
VAL18					PHE19	GLU22	
					GLU22		
TYR10	ASP7	TYR10	PHE4	GLU 11	PHE4	PHE4	ARG5
					TYR10	ARG5	



Blue	H bonds
Green	Pi stacking
Grey	Hydrophobic interations
Light Orange	Pi Cation Interactions
Green also	Pi Stacking (perpendicular)

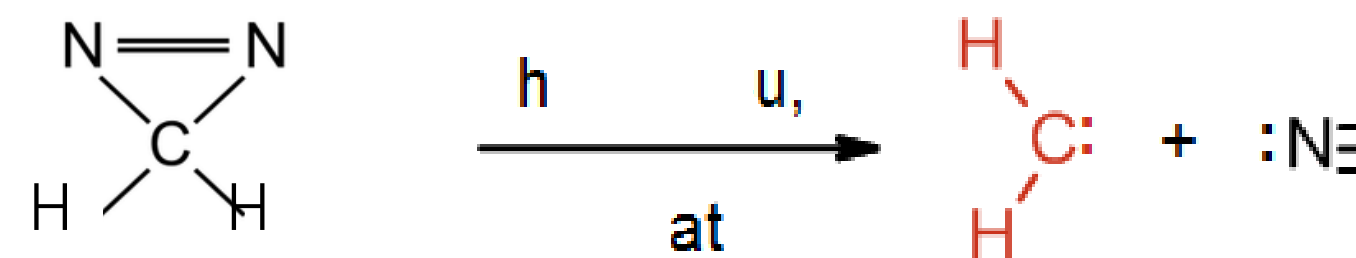
MS Labeling Experiments

1. A way to “paint” proteins
2. Also called footprinting
3. Visualize binding interactions and protein shape





- Labeling performed in the gas phase through nanospray device

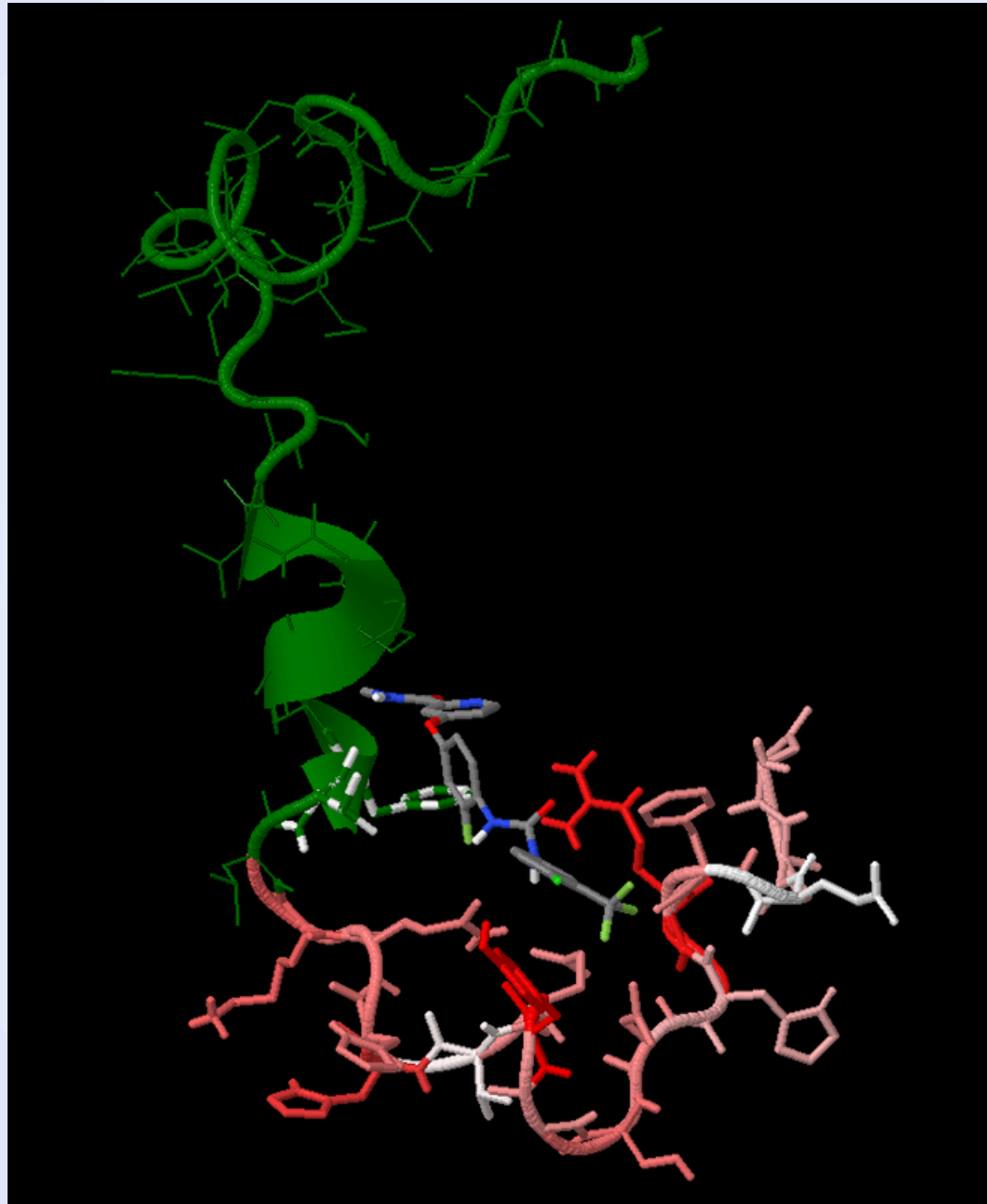


- Carbenic paints protein

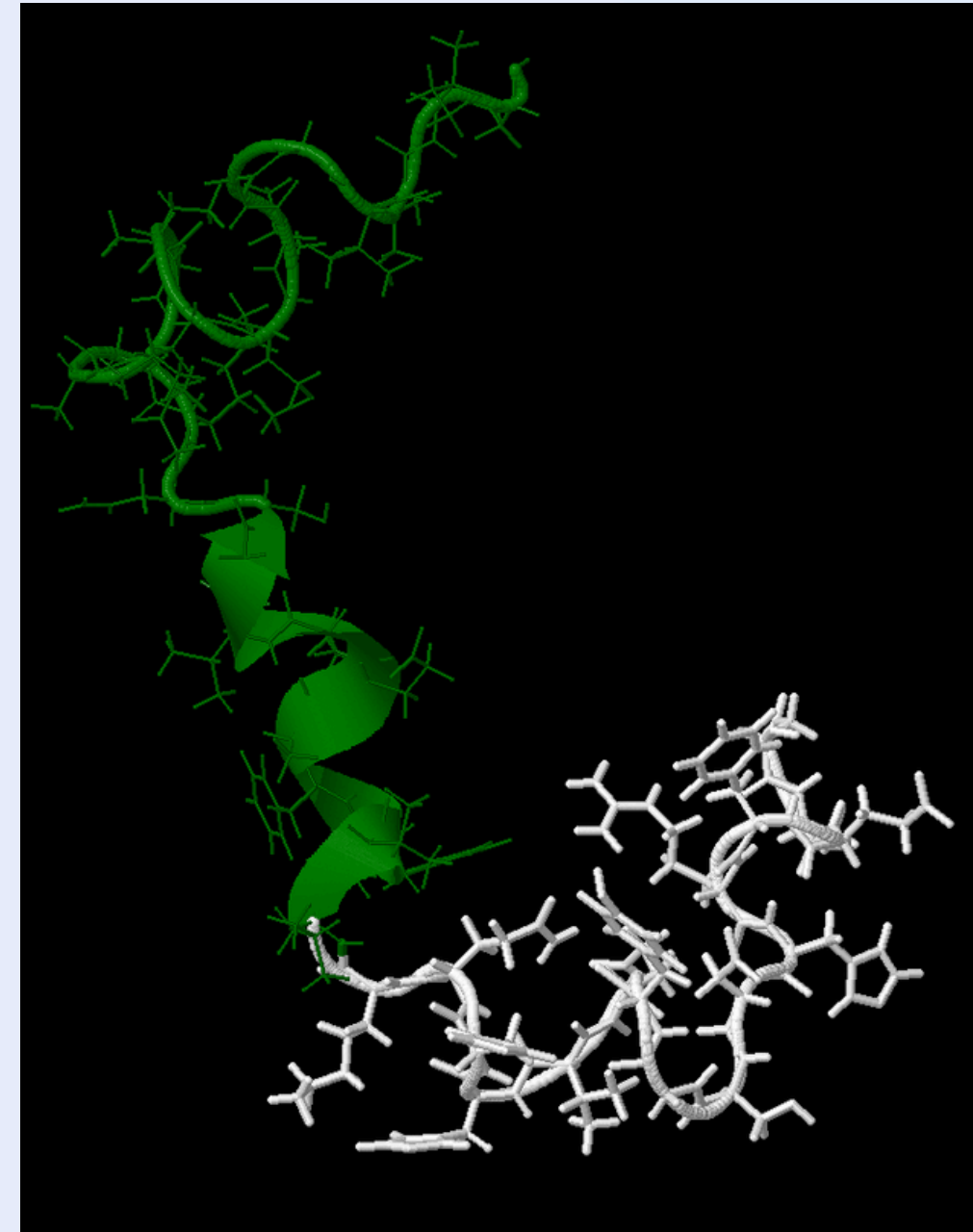
Labeling Experiments



Labeled Results

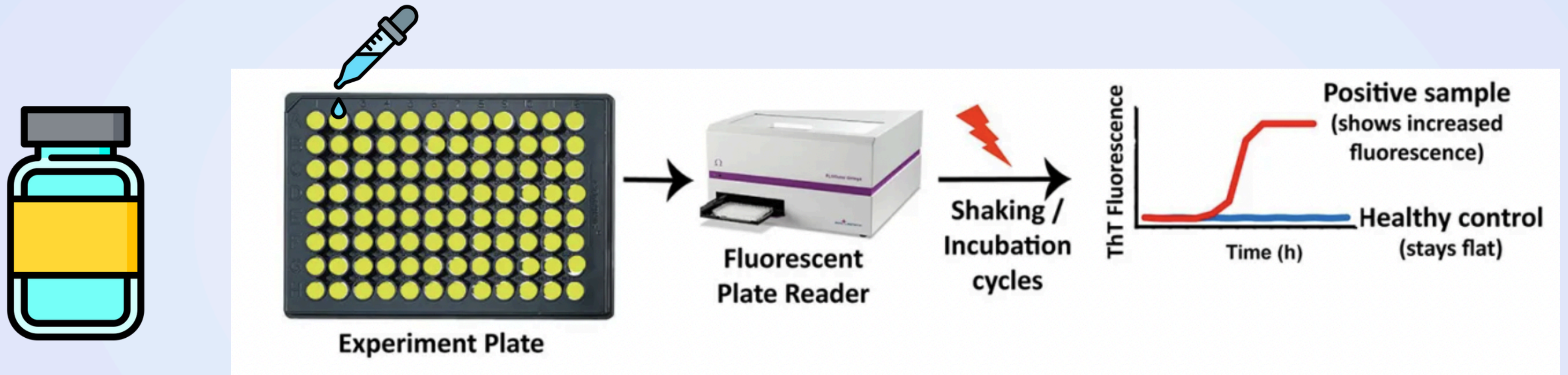


With Regorafenib

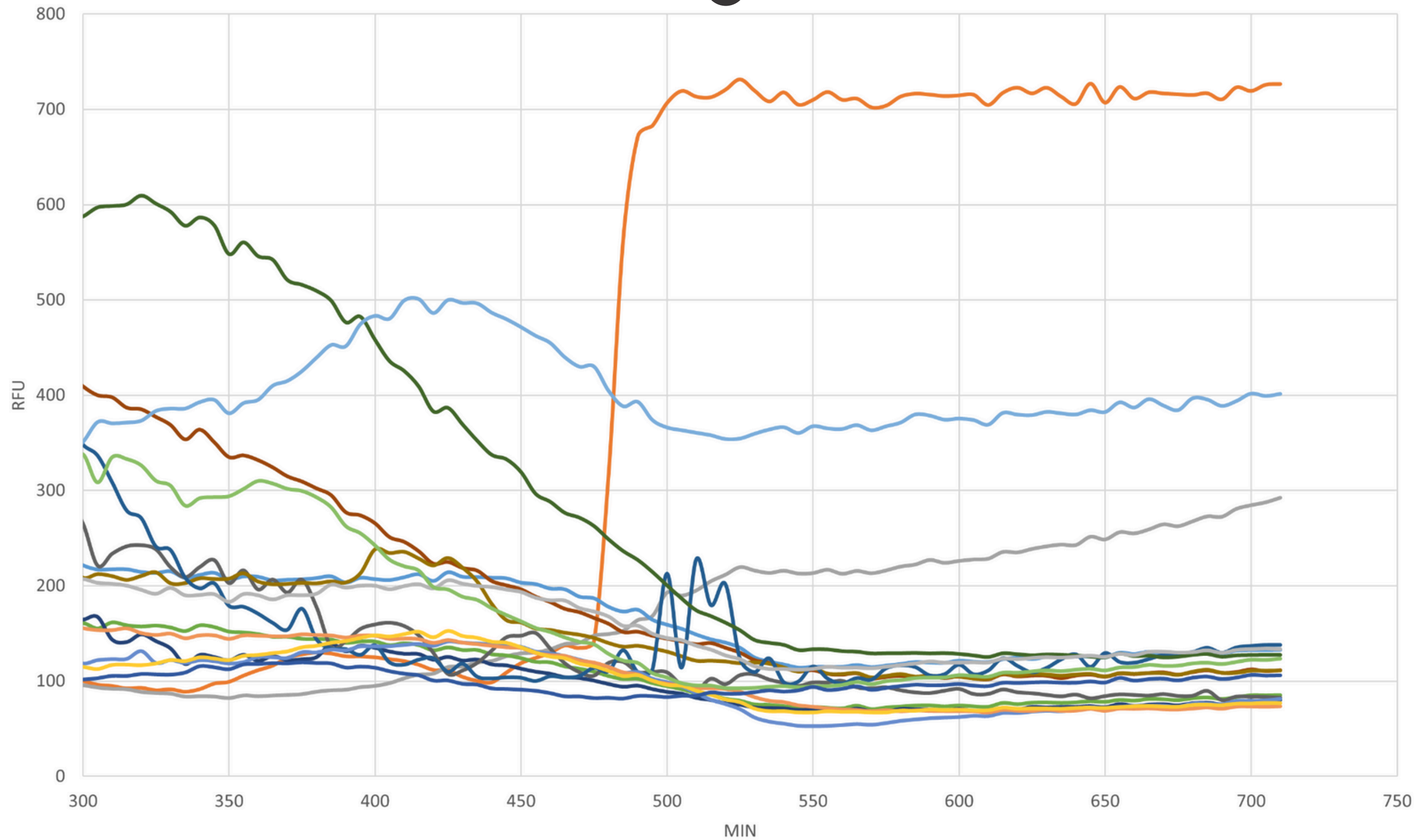


Without Regorafenib

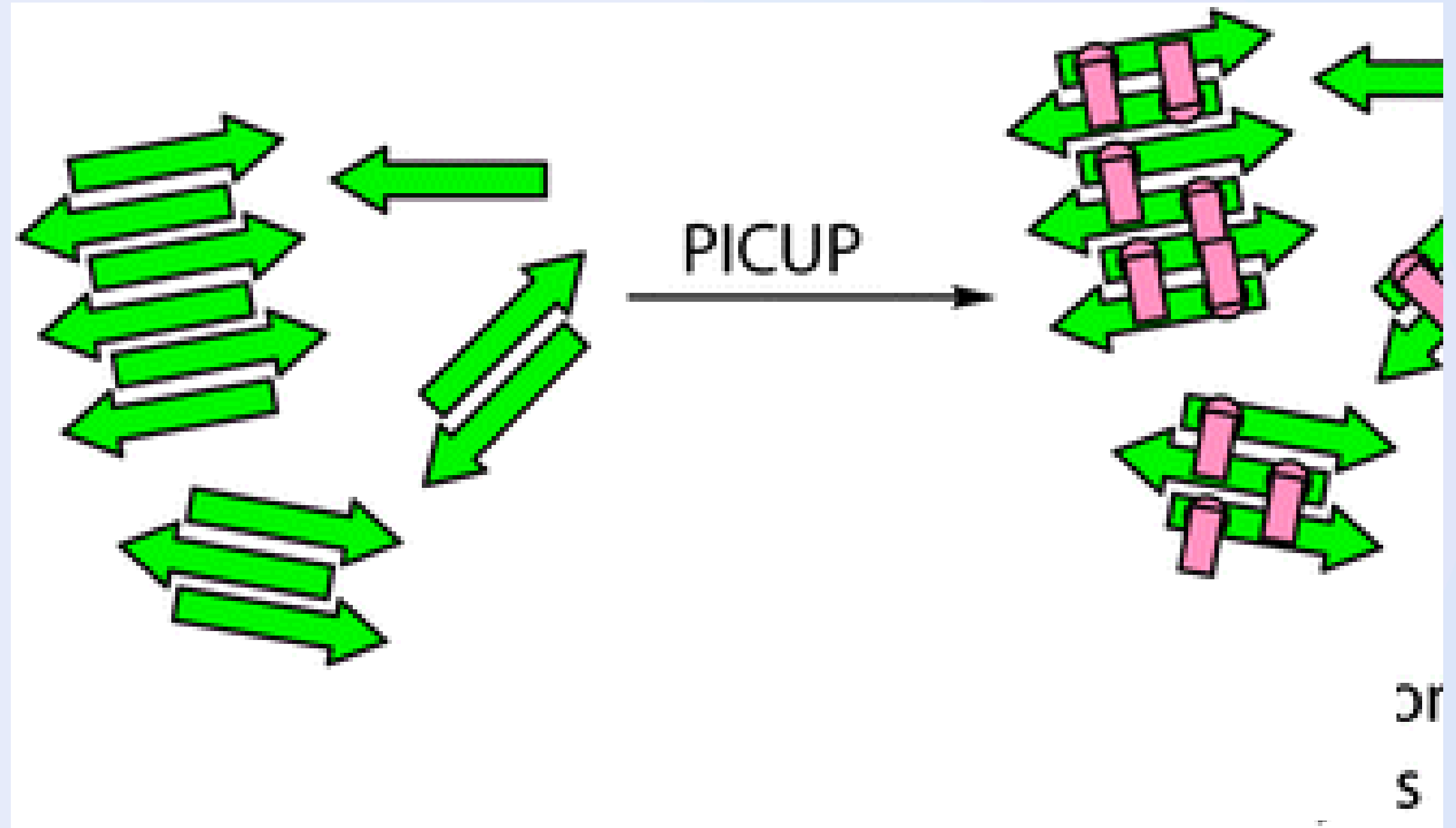
ThT Explanation



THIOFLAVIN T ASSAY OF KINASE INHIBITORS



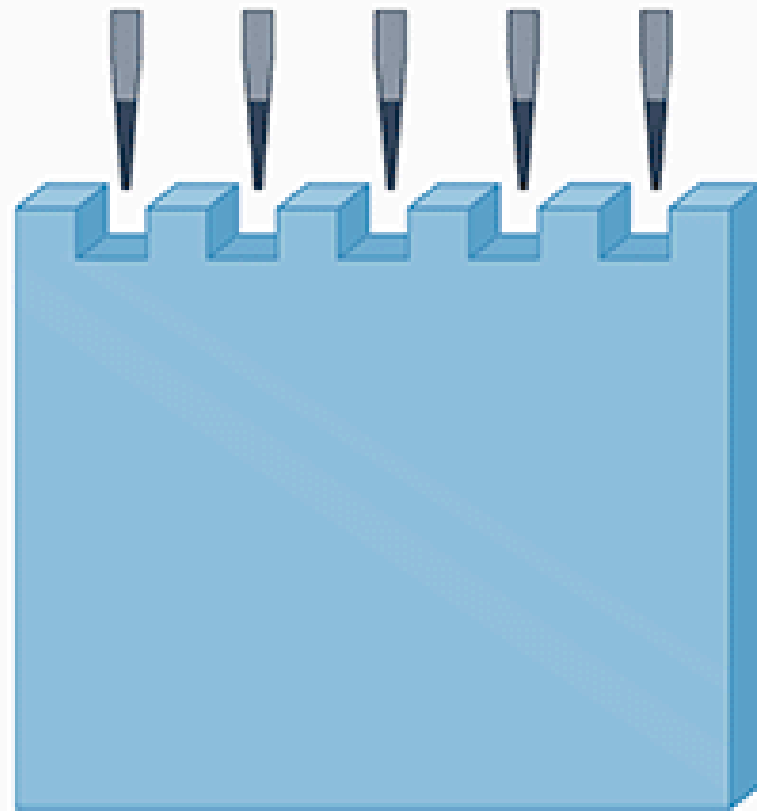
PICUP Procedure



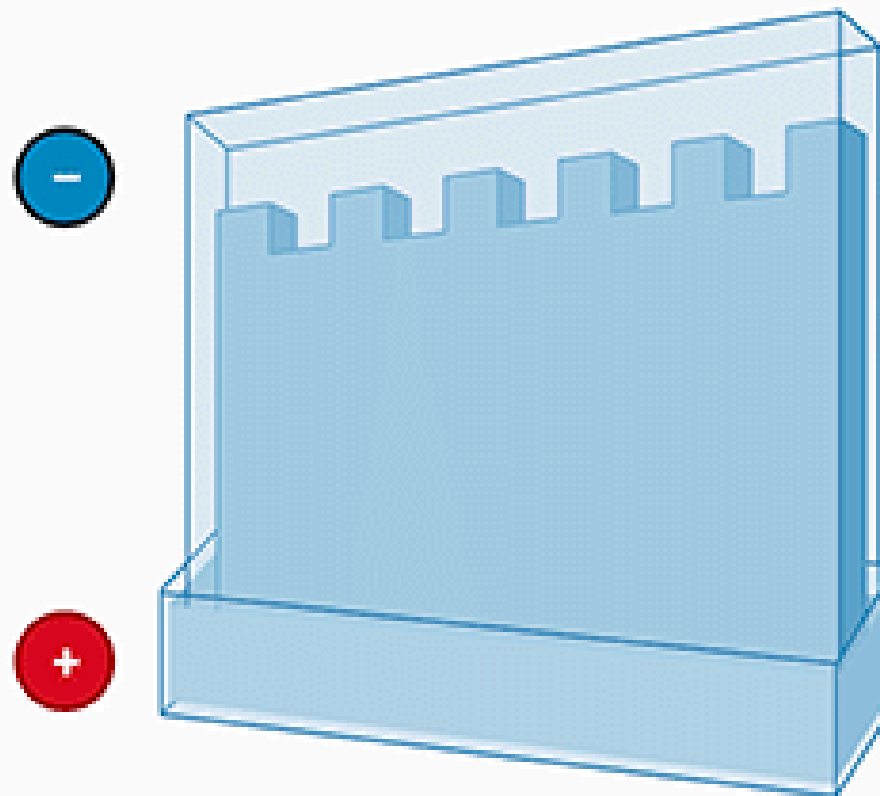
George W. Prestonab & Andrew J. Wilson (2013, February 13th) Photo-induced covalent cross-linking for the analysis of biomolecular interactions. Retrieved July 3rd, 2023, from <https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlehtml/2013/cs/c3cs35459h>

SDS-PAGE Gels

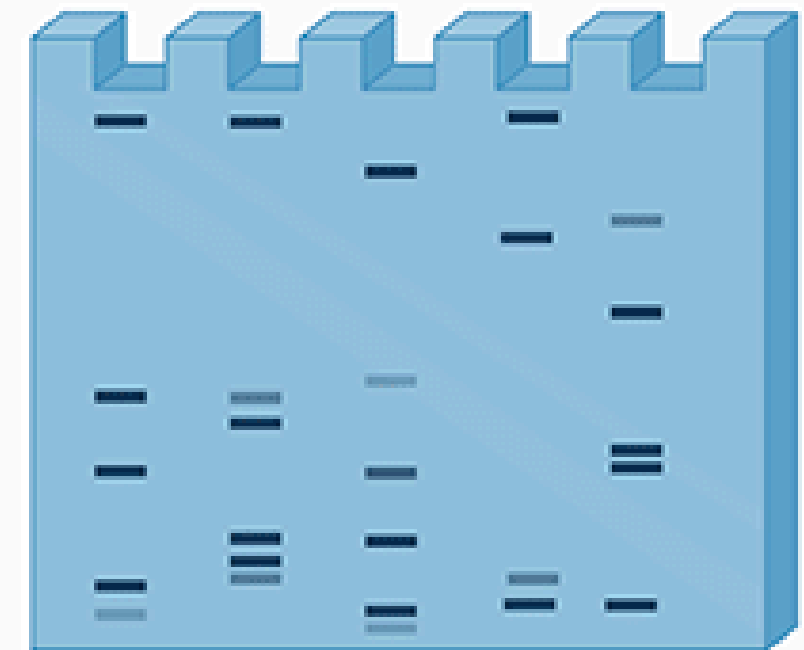
1 Load protein sample



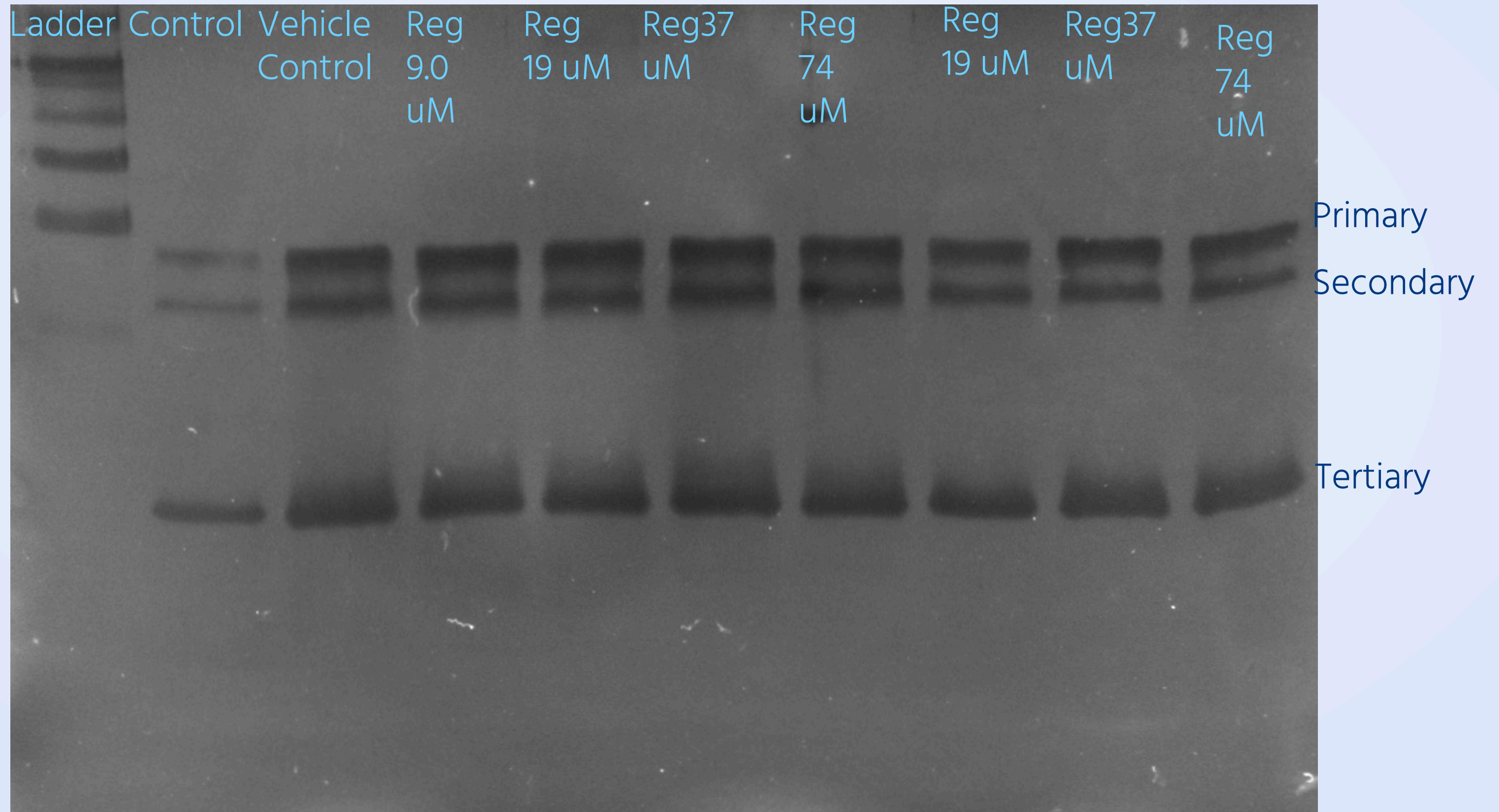
2 Apply current



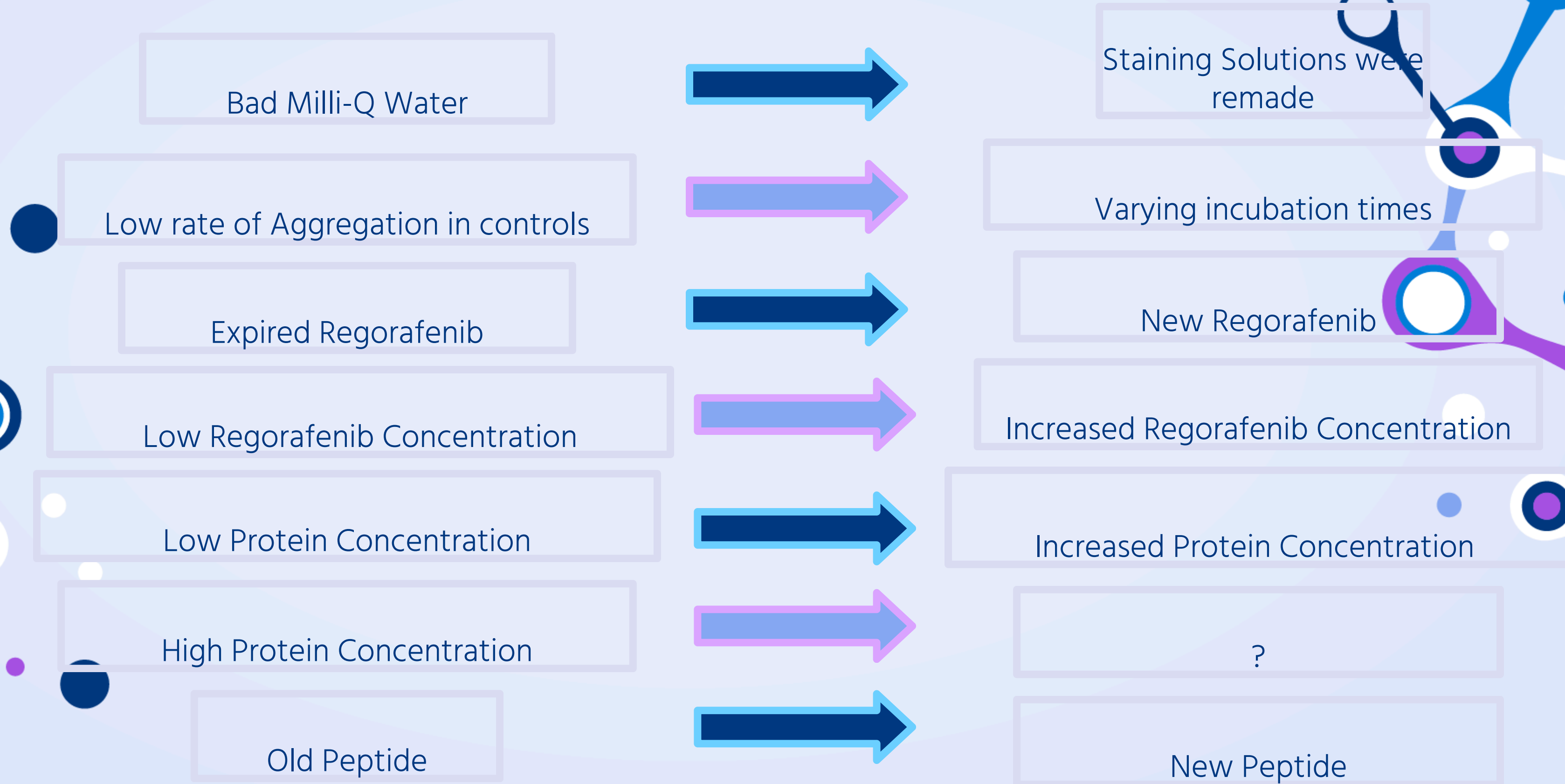
3 Analyze gel

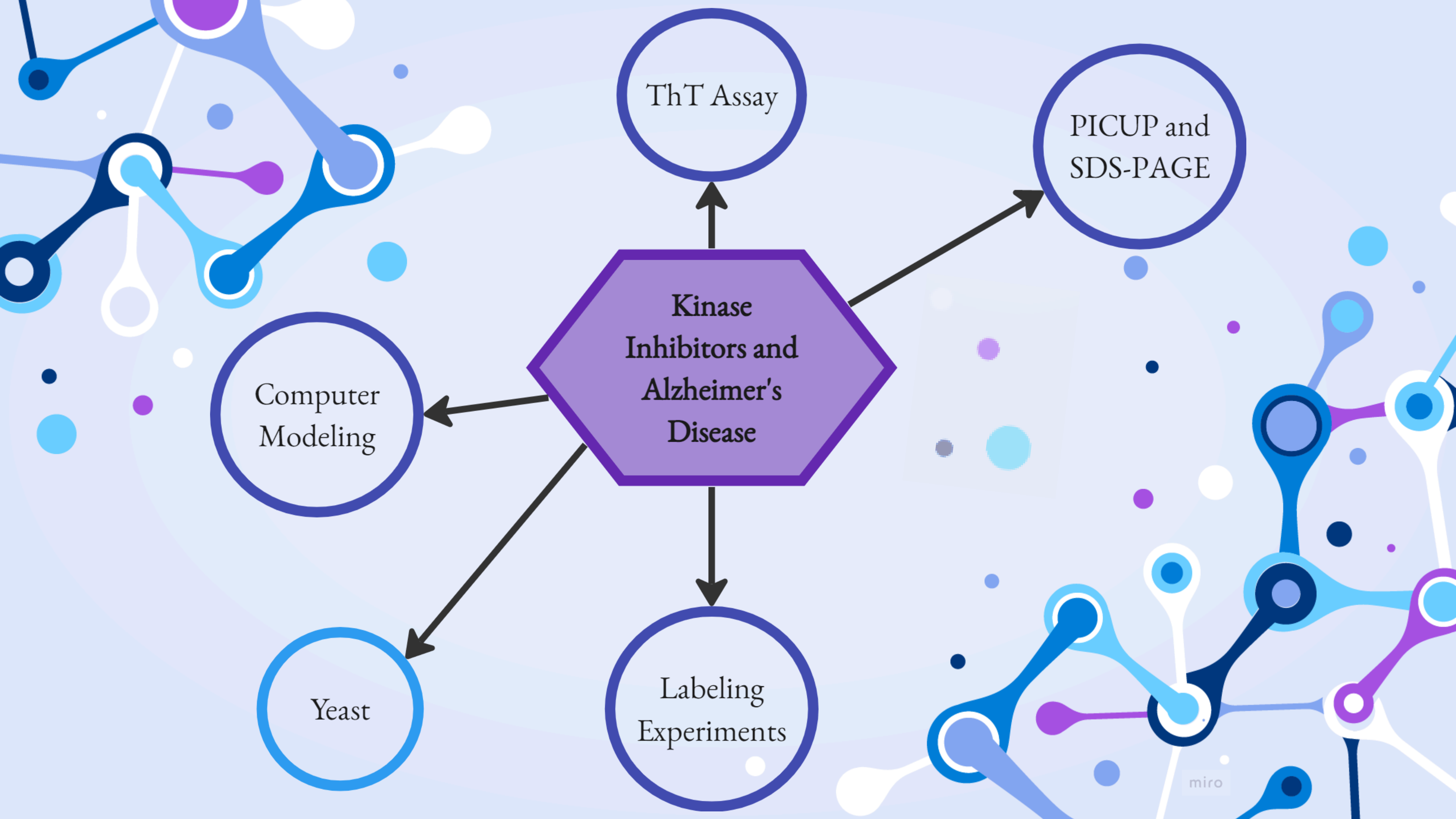


PICUP Results



Adaptations to PICUP





ThT Assay

PICUP and
SDS-PAGE

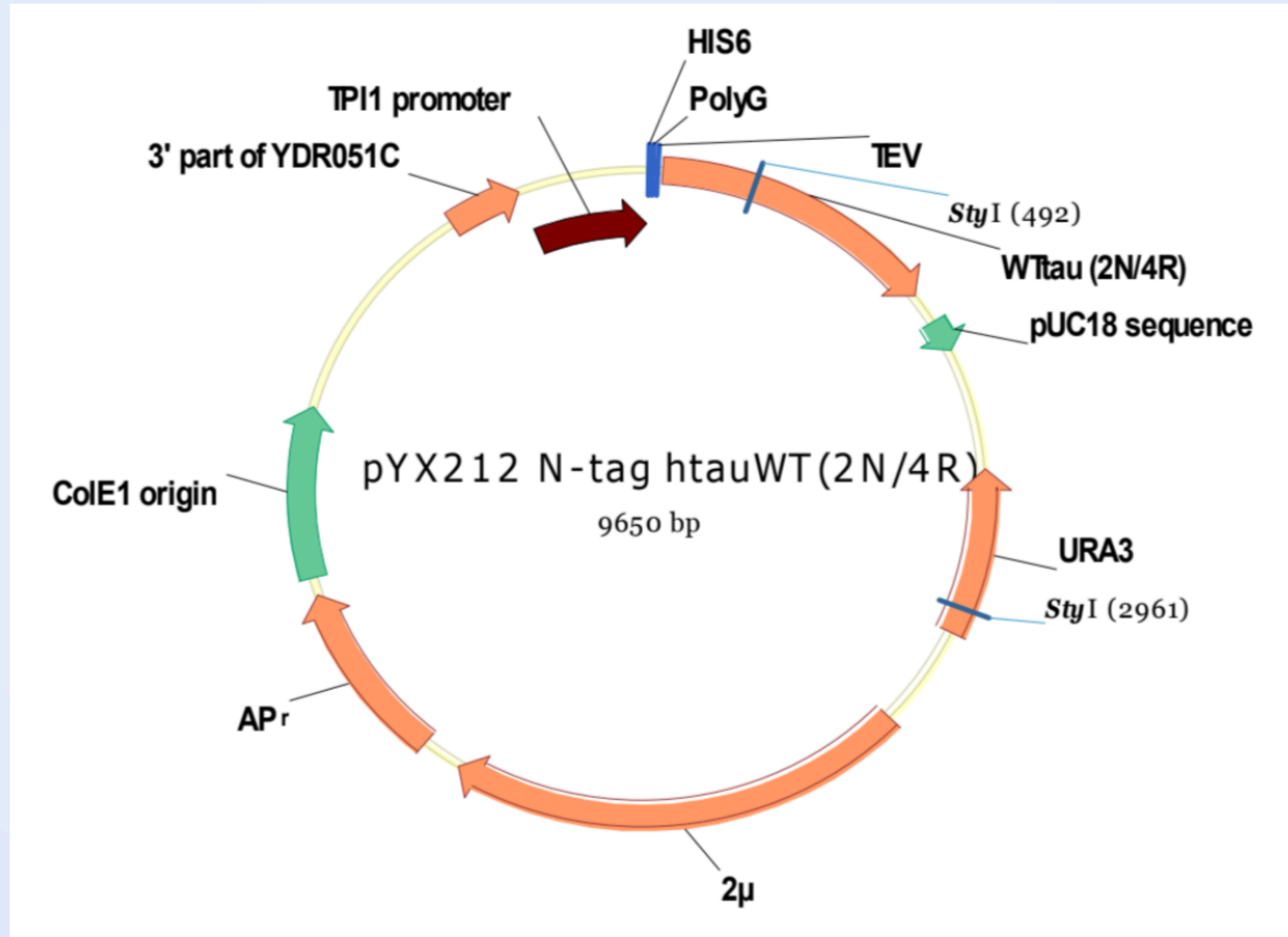
Kinase
Inhibitors and
Alzheimer's
Disease

Computer
Modeling

Yeast

Labeling
Experiments

Engineered Yeast Model



Graphic courtesy of Winderickx lab

Kinase Cascades

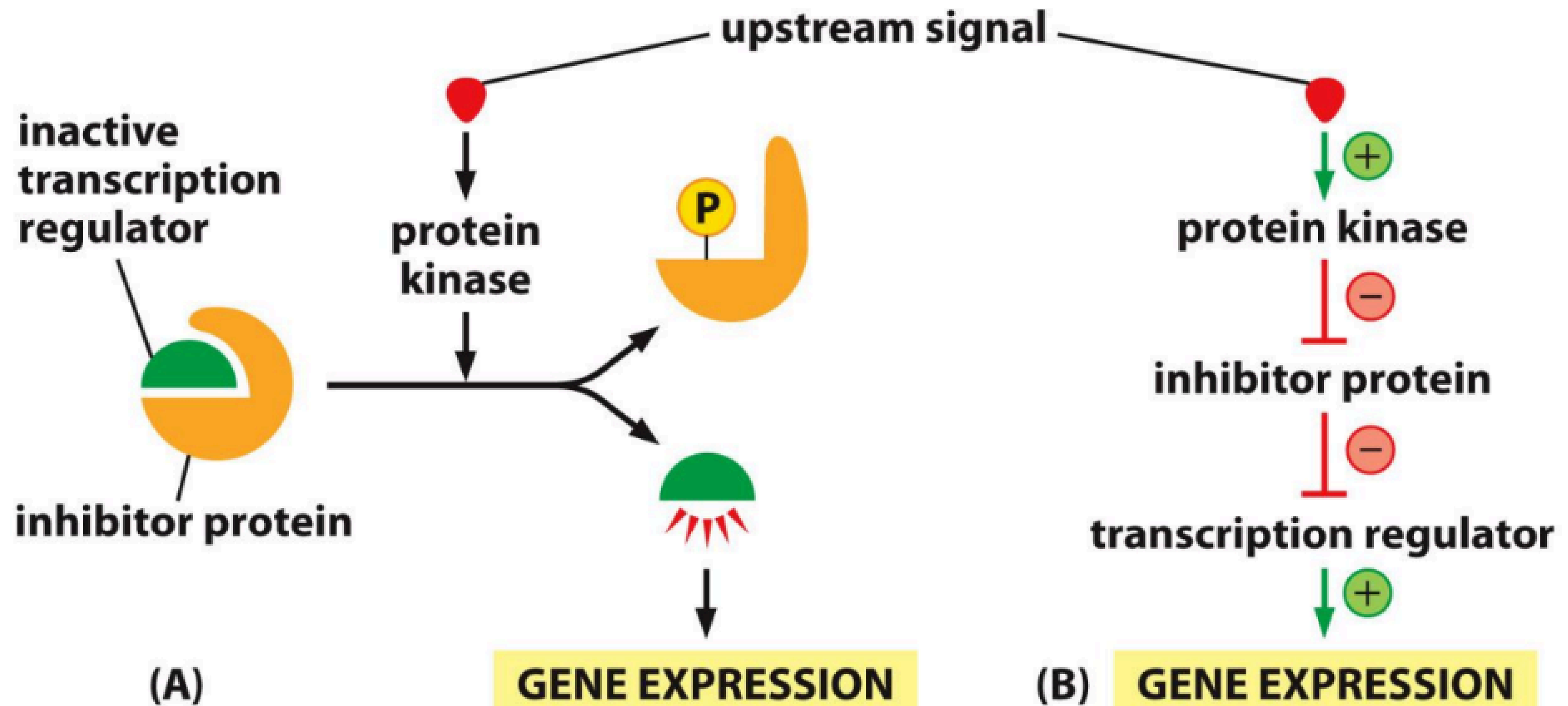


Figure 15-9 Molecular Biology of the Cell 6e (© Garland Science 2015)



Prospective Human Kinase Orthologs

Yeast has 173 kinases with a total of 282 unique phosphorylation sites¹

HOG-1 → potential ortholog to MAPK-p38

- Protein BLAST e value = $1e-129$
- 4 phosphorylation sites²

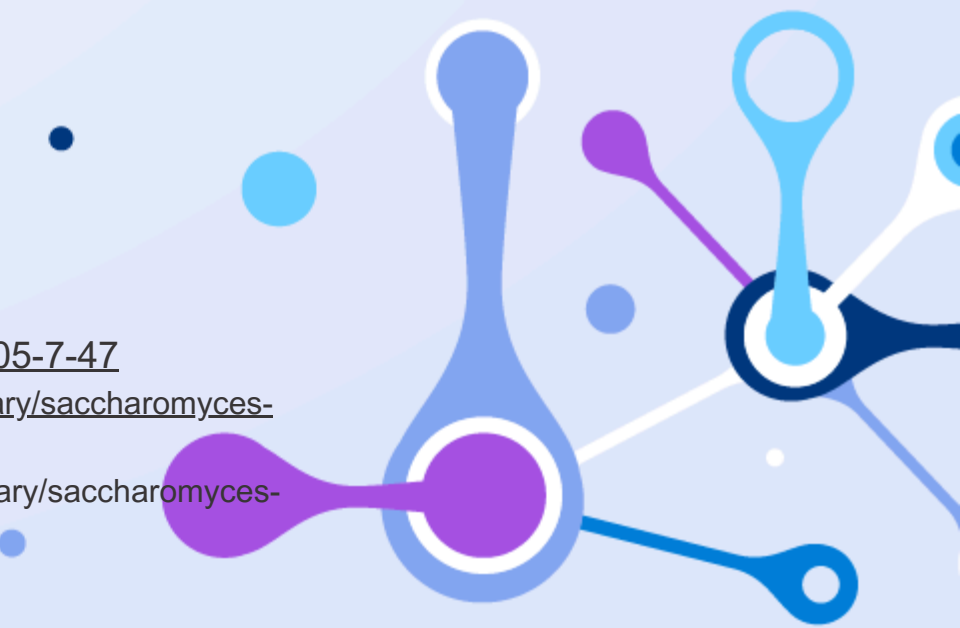
STE-20 → potential ortholog to PAK-1

- Protein BLAST e value = $2e-147$
- 62 phosphorylation sites³

¹Brinkworth, R. I., Munn, A. L., & Kobe, B. (2006). Protein kinases associated with the yeast phosphoproteome. *BMC Bioinformatics*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2105-7-47>

²Tyers Lab. (2023). *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae HOG1 Result Summary*. BioGRID Search for Protein Interactions, Chemical Interactions, and Genetic Interactions. <https://thebiogrid.org/31384/summary/saccharomyces-cerevisiae/hog1.html>

³Tyers Lab. (2023). *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae STE20 Result Summary*. BioGRID Search for Protein Interactions, Chemical Interactions, and Genetic Interactions. <https://thebiogrid.org/36419/summary/saccharomyces-cerevisiae/ste20.html>



Human Tau Kinase Orthologs

PHO-85 → ortholog to Gsk-3b¹

- No phosphorylation sites²
- Deletion results in serine hyperphosphorylation at other kinases¹

MDS-1 → ortholog to Cdk-5¹

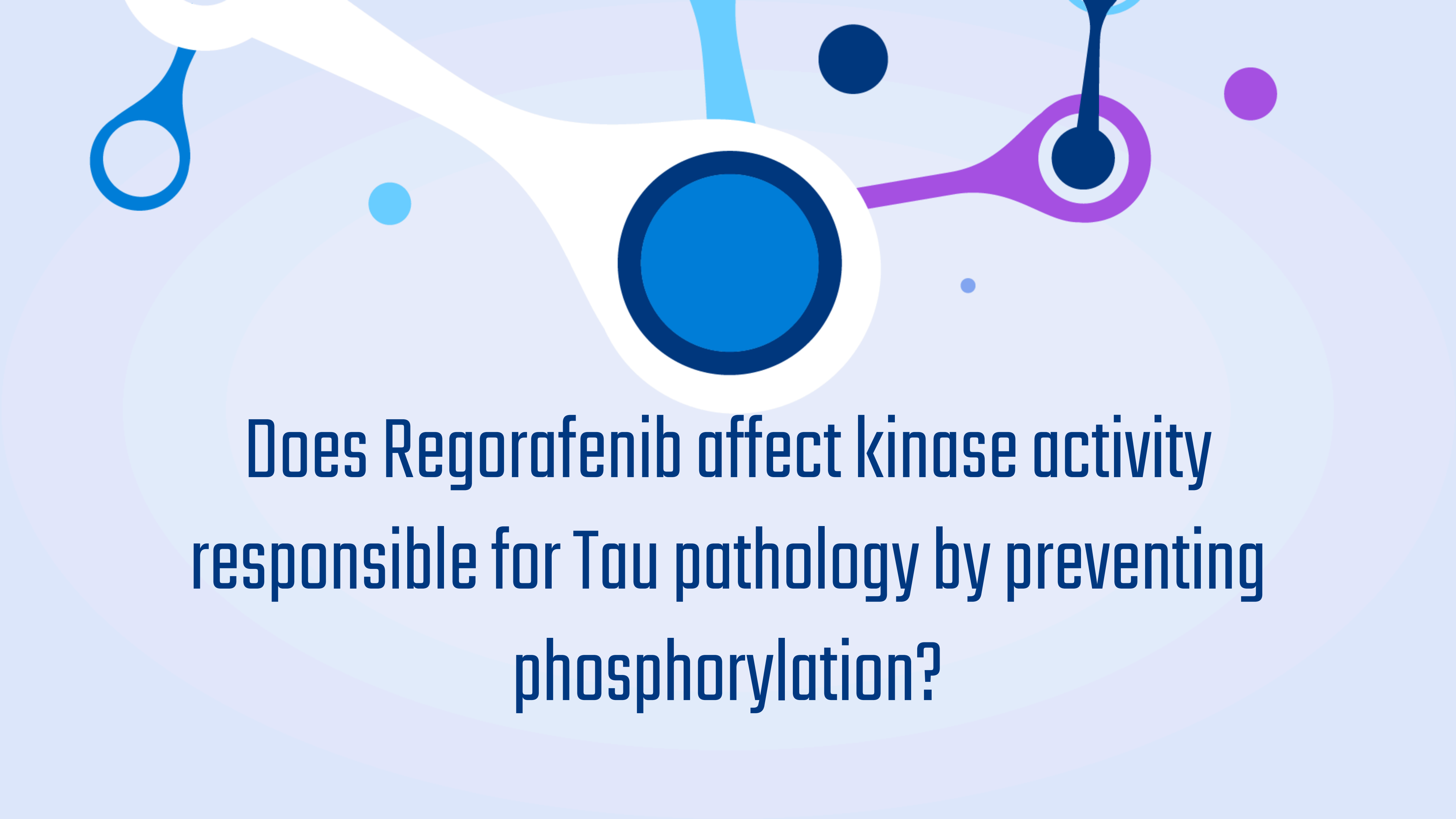
- 4 phosphorylation sites³

```
1  MNIQSNNSPN  LSNNIVSKQV  YYAHPPPTID  PNDPVQISFP  TTEVVGHGSF
51  GVVFATVIQE  TNEKVAIKKV  LQDKRFKNRE  LEIMKMLSHI  NIIDLKYYFFY
101 ERDSQDEIYL  NLILEYMPQS  LYQRLRHVH  QRTPMSRLEI  KYVMFQLFKS
151 LNYLHHFANV  CHRDIKPQNL  LVDPETWSLK  LCDFGSAKQL  KPTEPNVSYI
201 CSRYYRAPEL  IFGATNYTNQ  IDIWSSGCVM  AELLGQPMF  PGESGIDQLV
251 EIIKILGTPS  KQEICSMNP  YMEHKFPQIK  PIPLSRVFKK  EDDQTVEFLA
301 DVLKYDPLER  FNALQCLCSP  YFDELKLDG  KINQITDLK  LLEFDENVEL
351 GHLSPDELSS  VKKKLYPKSK
```

¹Vandebroek, T., Vanhelmont, T., Terwel, D., Borghgraef, P., Lemaire, K., Snauwaert, J., Wera, S., Van Leuven, F., & Winderickx, J. (2005). Identification and isolation of a hyperphosphorylated, conformationally changed intermediate of human protein tau expressed in yeast. *Biochemistry*, 44(34), 11466–11475. <https://doi.org/10.1021/bi0506775>

²Tyers Lab. (2023). *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae PHO85 Result Summary*. BioGRID Search for Protein Interactions, Chemical Interactions, and Genetic Interactions. <https://thebiogrid.org/36147/summary/saccharomyces-cerevisiae/pho85.html>

³Tyers Lab. (2023). *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae Rim11 Result Summary*. BioGRID Search for Protein Interactions, Chemical Interactions, and Genetic Interactions. <https://thebiogrid.org/35316/summary/saccharomyces-cerevisiae/rim11.html>



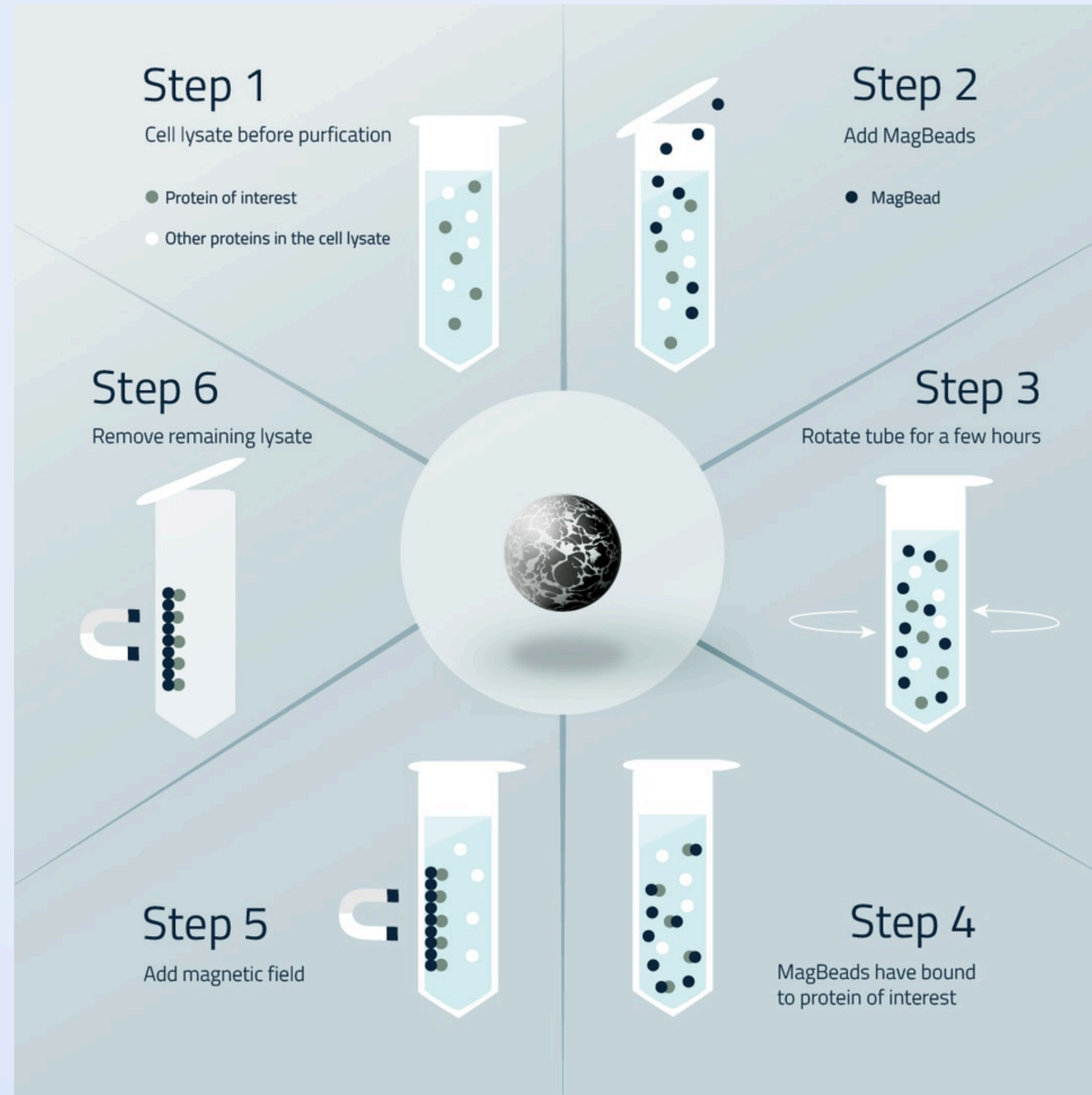
**Does Regorafenib affect kinase activity
responsible for Tau pathology by preventing
phosphorylation?**

Tau phosphorylation

1. Determine if engineered yeast can grow in the presence of Regorafenib
2. Purify Tau from yeast grown in drug and control conditions¹
3. Develop method for phosphopeptide enrichment
4. Conduct relative quantification of phosphorylated Tau



Phosphopeptide Enrichment

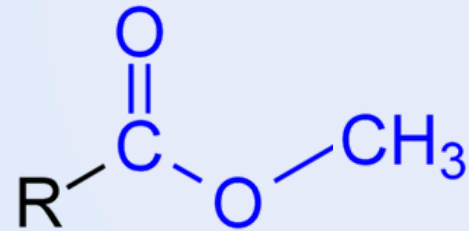


Method Development

Trypsin Digest



Convert acidic tails to methyl esters



Phosphopeptide enrichment



Measure on mass spec

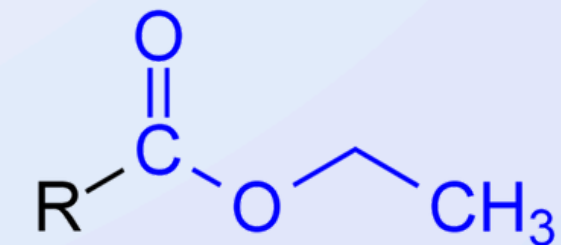
Trypsin Digest



Phosphopeptide enrichment



Convert acidic tails to ethyl esters





20%

Method Development Results

Conducting ethyl esterification after phosphopeptide enrichment improved yield by approximately **20%**

Discussion

Relevance

- Developing new Methods
 - And Refining others
- Repurposing Medications
 - Saves Time and Money
- Address both Camp's Problems
 - Kinase Inhibitors address Tau
 - Drug that stop aggregation



The Next Step...

- Further analysis of high scoring kinase inhibitors
 - Circular Dichroism
 - PICUP/SDS-Page
- Continue work with TAU isolation and characterization
- Assess the role of methionine oxidation on kinase activation



Acknowledgments

1. Robert Van Dyk and Family
2. Shannon Summer Research Institute
3. Biology Department
 - a. Dr. Potter
4. Brandon Bate
5. Joris Winderickx