



# IndEx-2 system

A dual inducible, customisable cell line platform

W: <https://rouken.bio/>

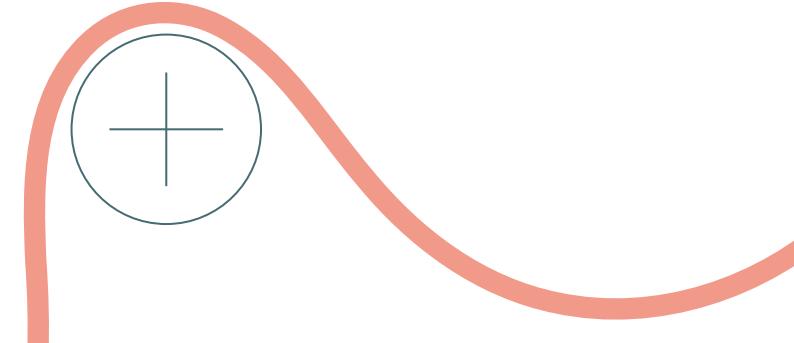
E: [hello@rouken.bio](mailto:hello@rouken.bio)

LI: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/roukenbio/>





# The importance of target antigen density



1. Immune cell therapies
2. Immune cell engagers
3. Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADCs)
4. Conventional mAbs

## B. Preclinical Considerations for the Vector Component of CAR T Cells

The design of the CAR vector and the process by which the transgene is delivered to the T cells are critical in determining product safety and activity. Genetic material encoding the CAR has been delivered to T cells using multiple vector types, including gammaretroviral and lentiviral vectors, transposons, and naked mRNA (Ref. 10).

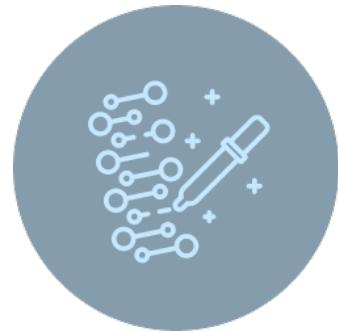
A major determinant of CAR T cell safety and efficacy is the antigen recognition domain used to confer target specificity. The antigen recognition domain may originate from monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), endogenous ligand/receptor pairs, or from other sources. Preclinical evaluation of the antigen recognition domain should include assessment of the specificity and affinity for the target antigen to evaluate the potential for on-target/off-tumor and off-target toxicities. Undesired targeting of healthy/normal tissue that express the intended target antigen (on-target/off-tumor), as well as unintended targeting of other antigens expressed on healthy/normal tissue is a safety concern that may be evaluated using both in vitro and in vivo studies. Examples include: (1) tissue



## What would be the ideal system?



Common genetic background



Large dynamic range of expression  
~100s to 100,000s of receptors



Finely titratable

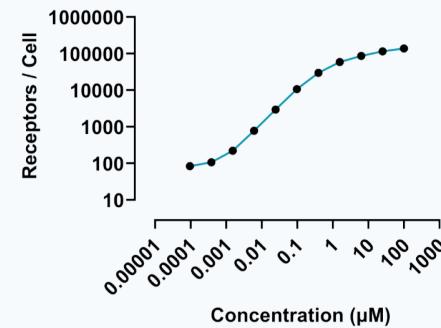
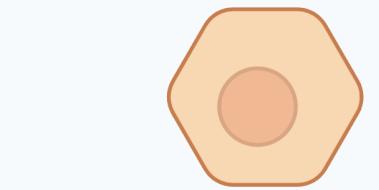


Availability of negative control

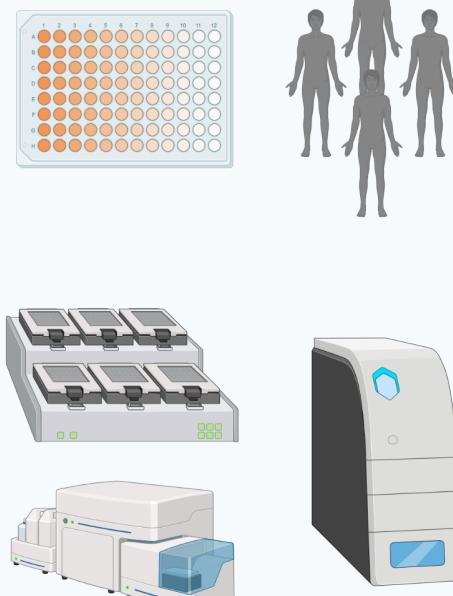


# RoukenBio's solution: The IndEx-2 Assay Platform

## Inducible expression of antigens



## Functional assays



## Threshold determination

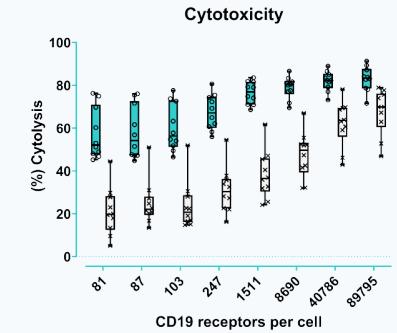
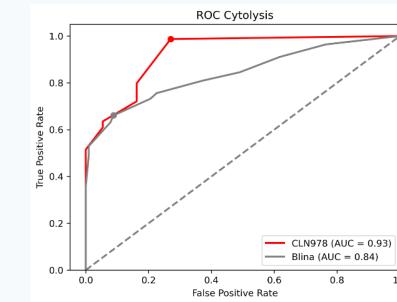
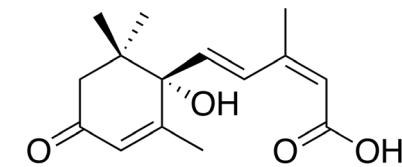
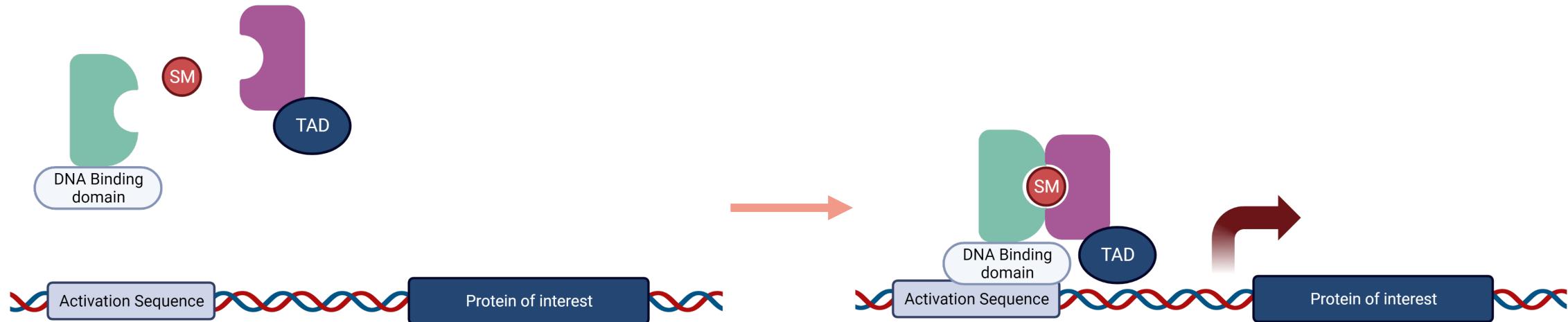


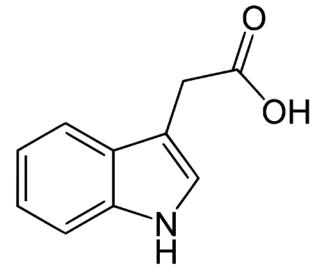
Figure generated with Biorender

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# IndEx-2, a CiP-based system for inducible titratable expression



Abscisic acid



Indole-3-acetic acid

Figure generated with Biorender

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# Titratable expression with large dynamic range

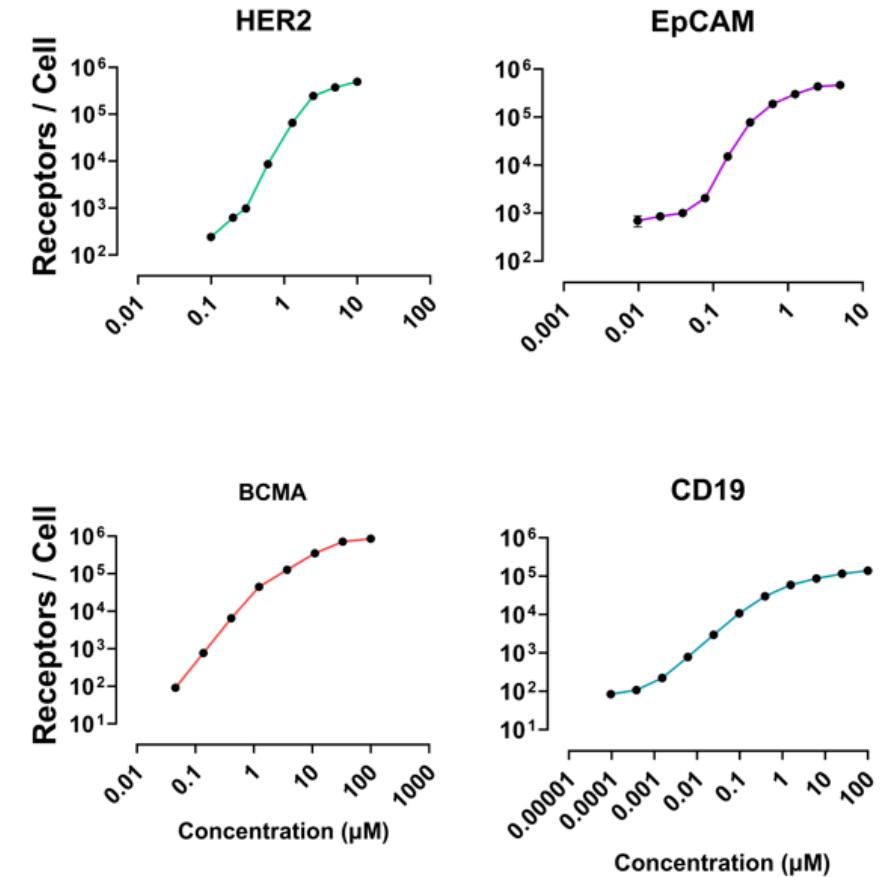
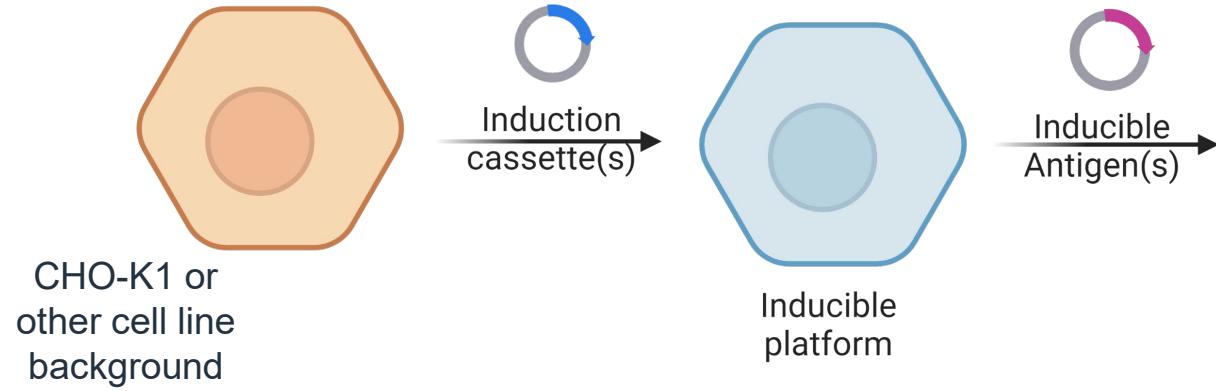
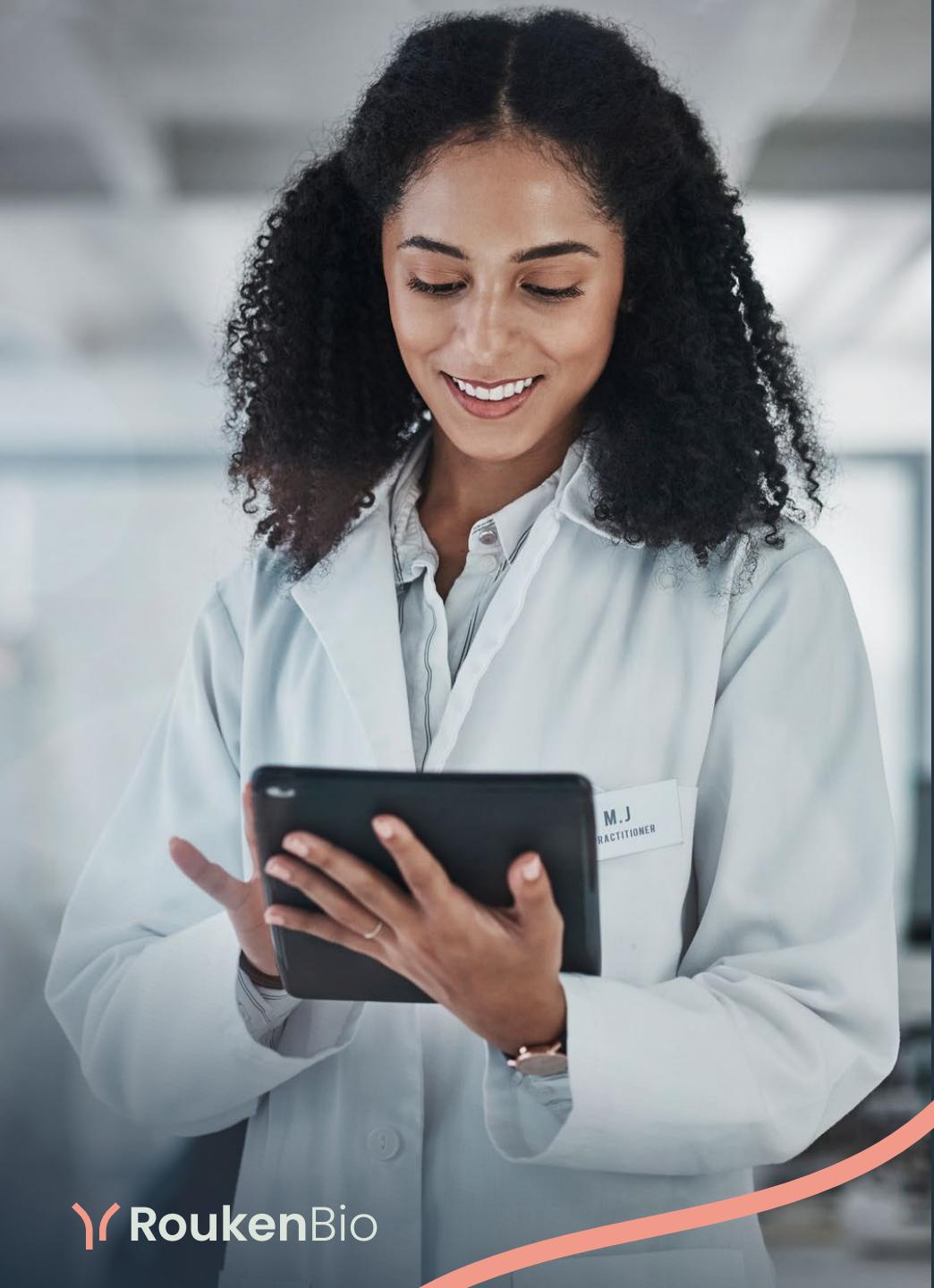


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# Case Studies

## Case Study 1 - HER2-CAR-T

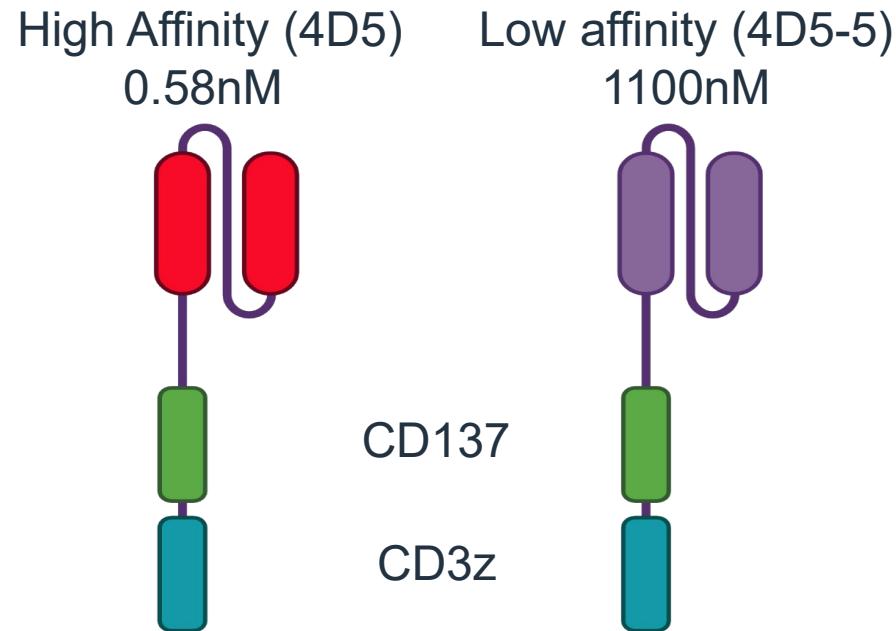
- Main consideration:
  - On-target/Off-tumour toxicity

## Case Study 2 – CD19 T cell engager

- Main consideration:
  - Immune escape



# Case Study 1 – Comparing high and low affinity CARs



Therapeutics, Targets, and Chemical Biology

Cancer Research

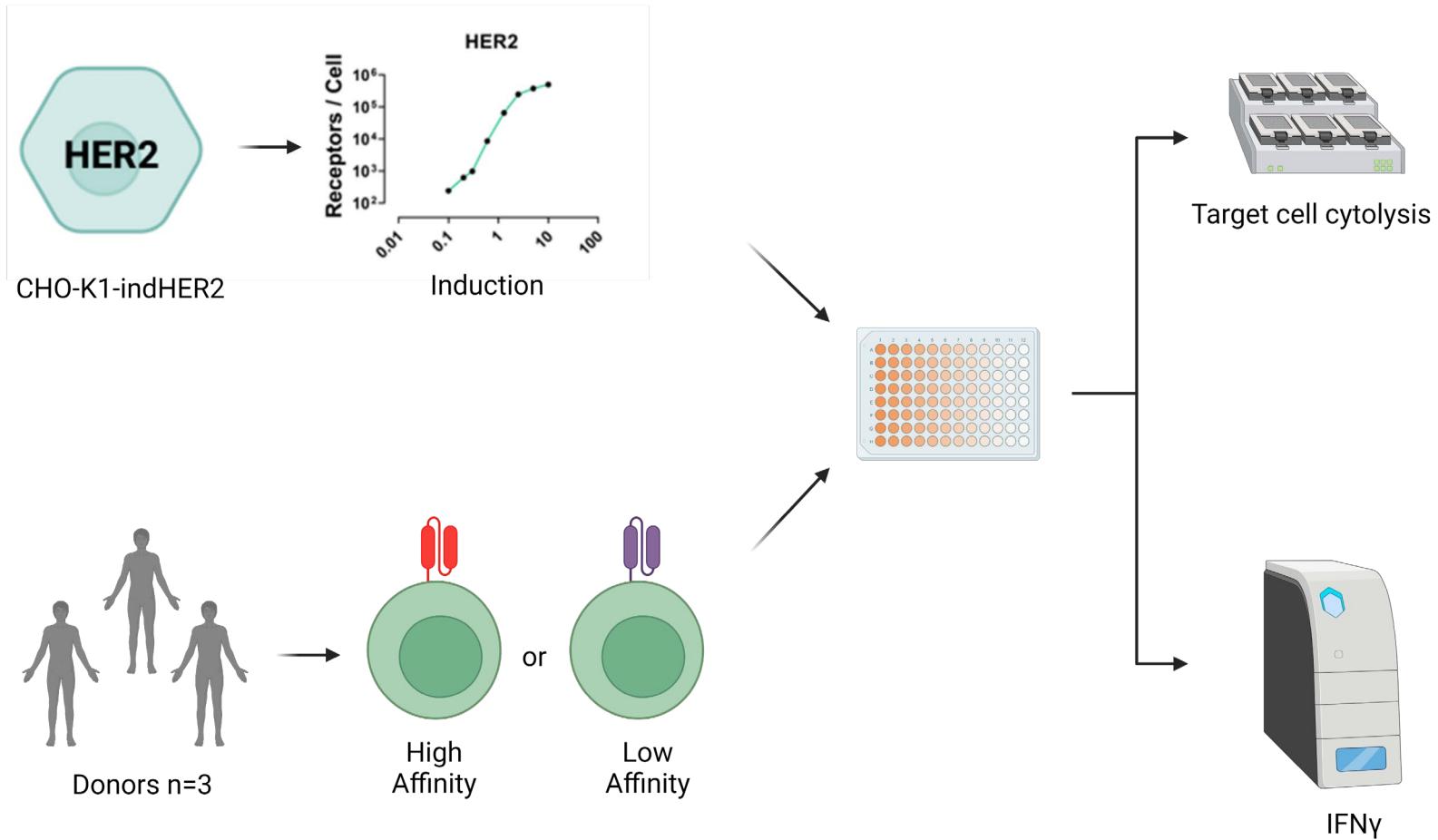
## Affinity-Tuned ErbB2 or EGFR Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cells Exhibit an Increased Therapeutic Index against Tumors in Mice

Xiaojun Liu<sup>1</sup>, Shuguang Jiang<sup>1</sup>, Chongyun Fang<sup>1</sup>, Shiyu Yang<sup>1</sup>, Devvora Olalere<sup>1</sup>, Edward C. Pequignot<sup>1</sup>, Alexandria P. Cogdill<sup>1</sup>, Na Li<sup>2</sup>, Melissa Ramones<sup>2</sup>, Brian Granda<sup>2</sup>, Li Zhou<sup>2</sup>, Andreas Loew<sup>2</sup>, Regina M. Young<sup>1,3</sup>, Carl H. June<sup>1,3,4</sup>, and Yangbing Zhao<sup>1,3,4</sup>

Cancer Res; 75(17) September 1, 2015

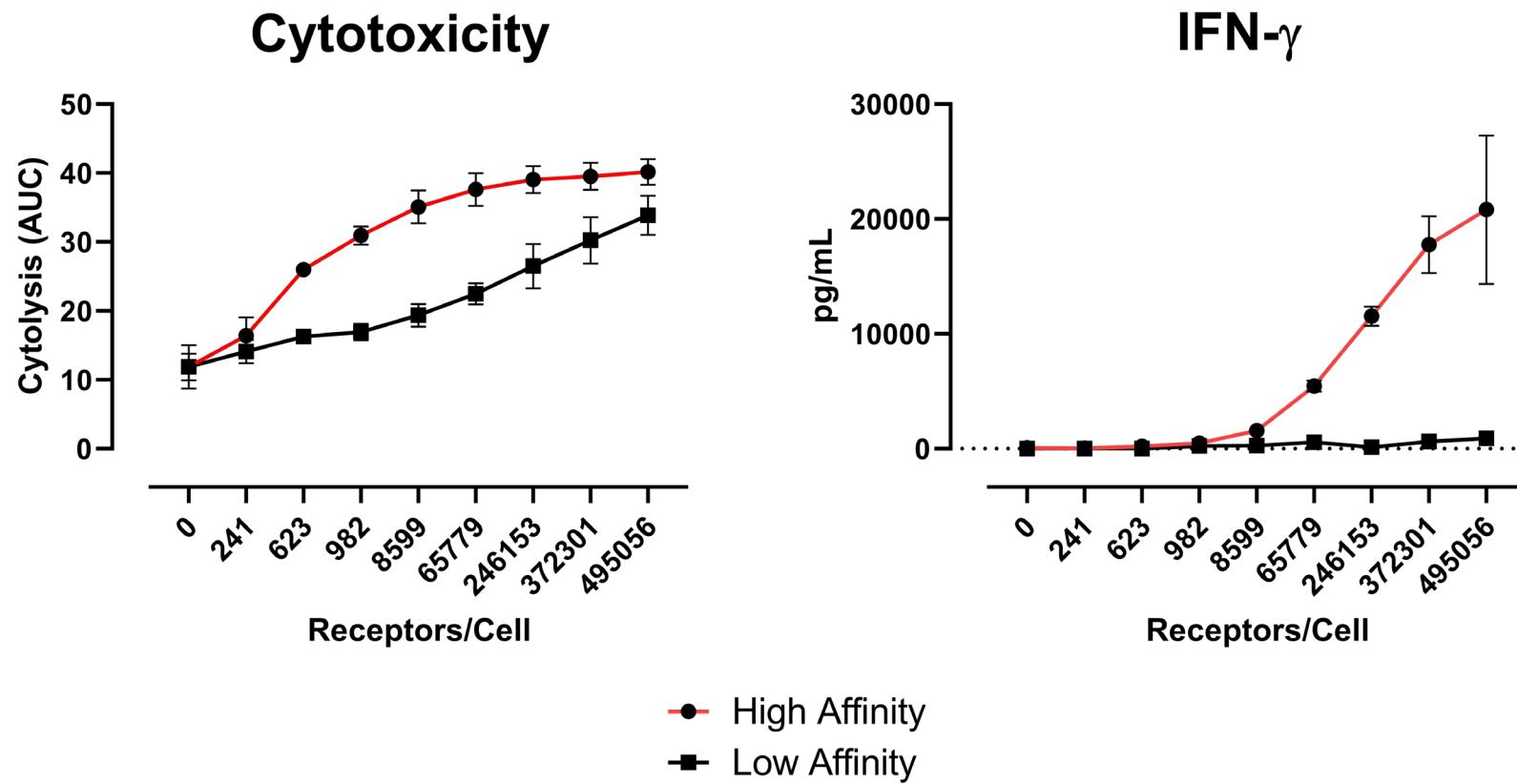
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# Experimental set-up



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# High affinity CAR-T have higher efficacy at lower levels of HER2 expression



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## Case Study 2 – Using the system to assess TCE receptor activation thresholds

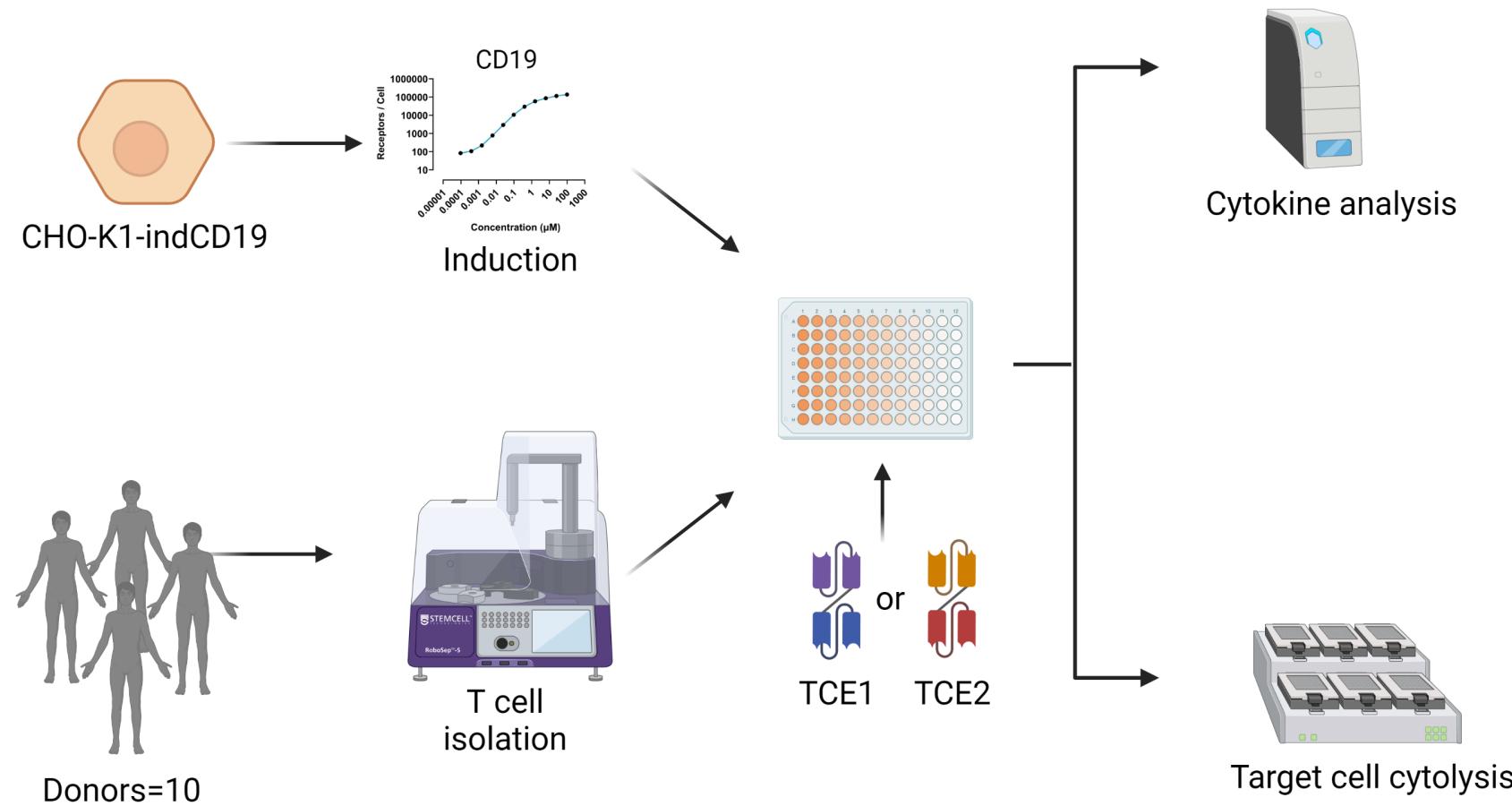
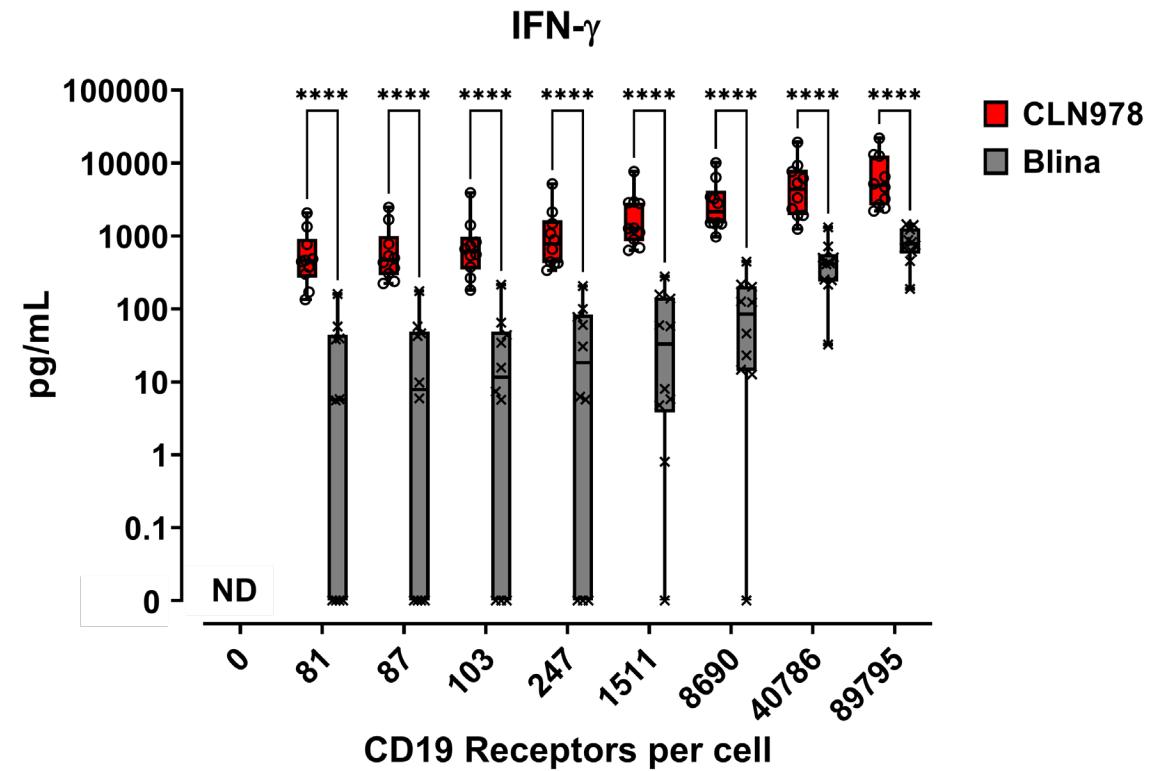
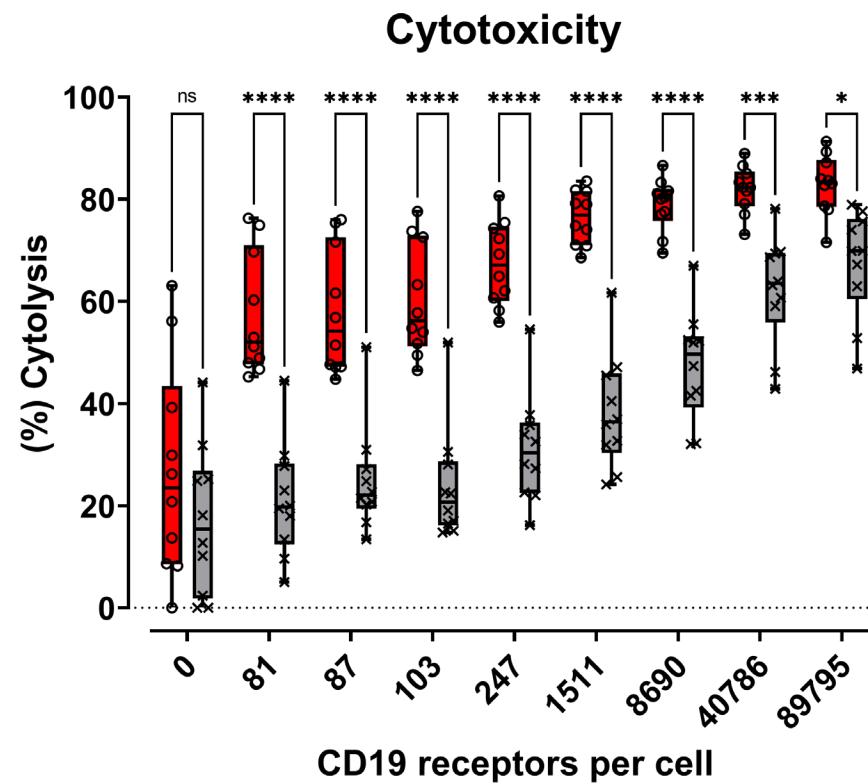


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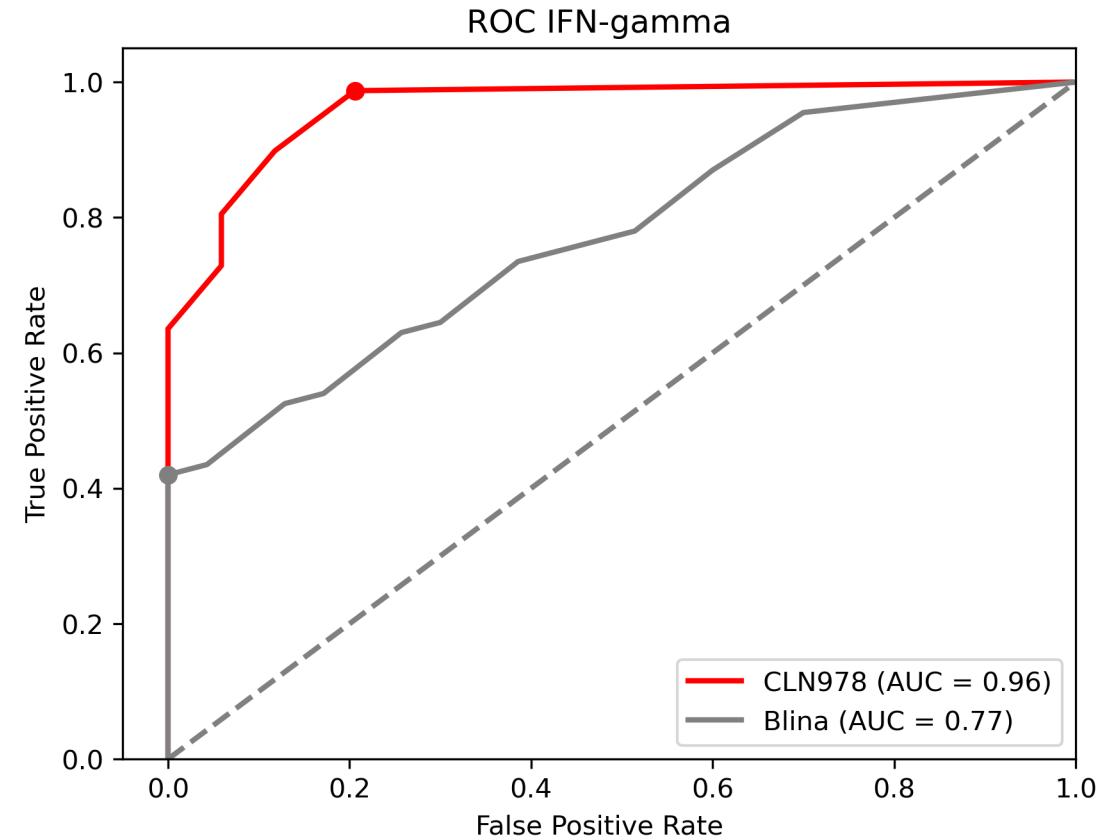
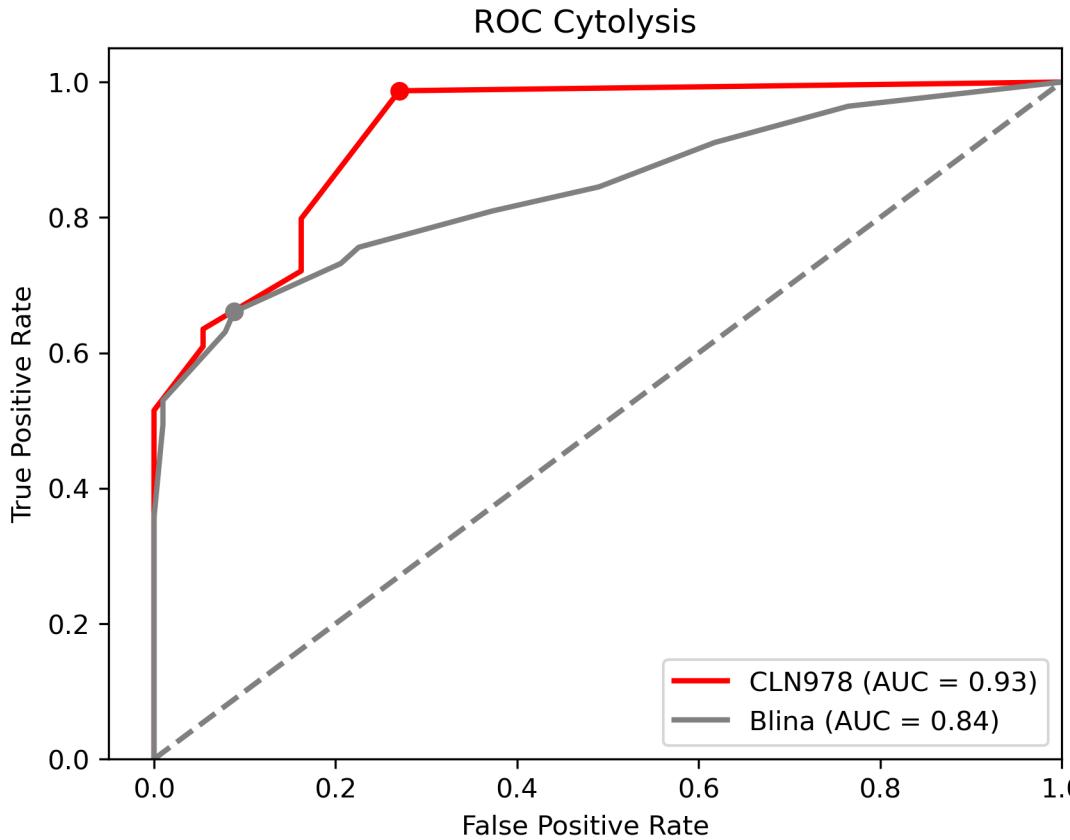
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# CLN-978 demonstrates efficacy at lower levels of CD19 relative to blinatumomab



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# Estimation of Activation Threshold





# Dual IndEx-2

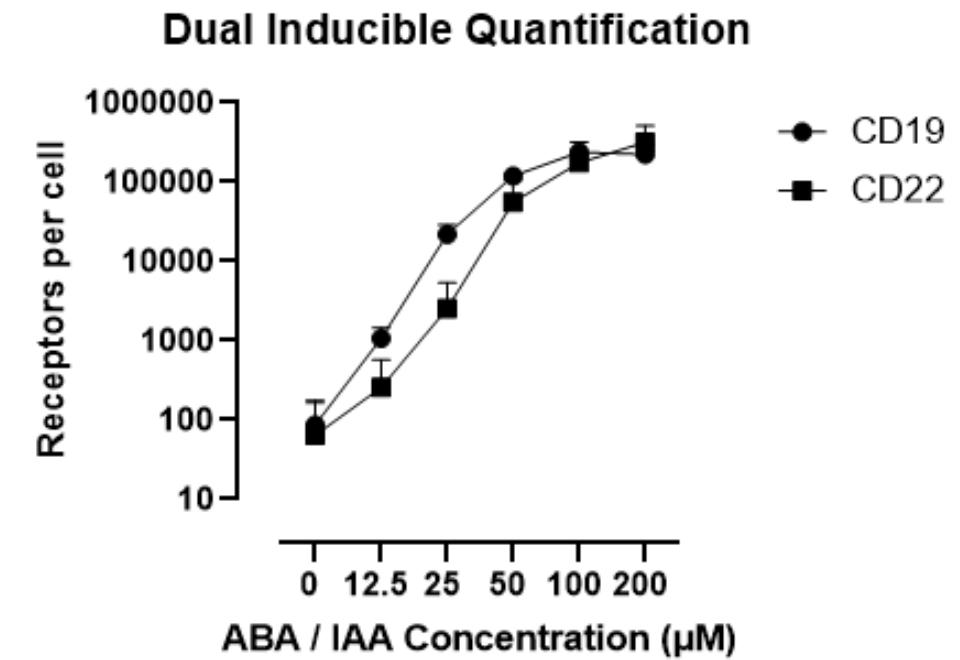
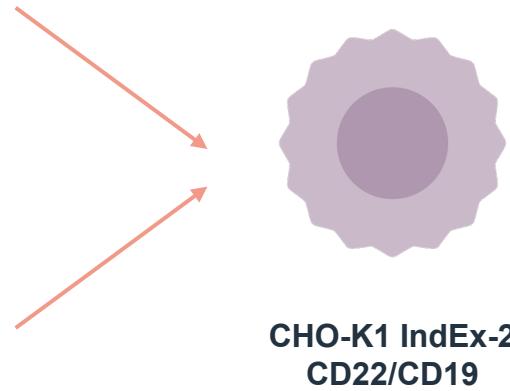
CD19 + CD22 dual inducible expression

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## Dual expression IndEx-2 – CD22 & CD19

Abscisic acid  
(ABA) → CD19  
induction

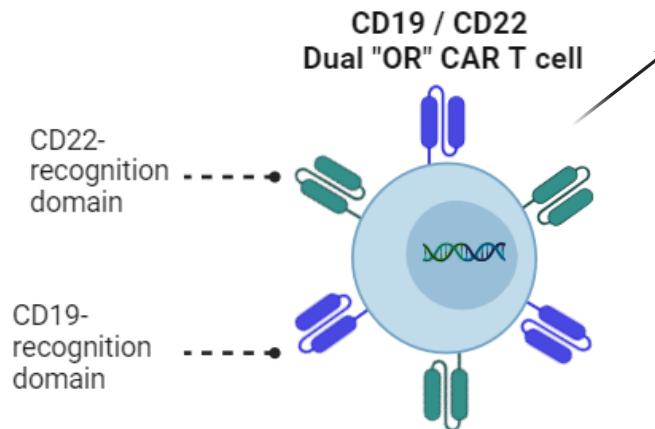
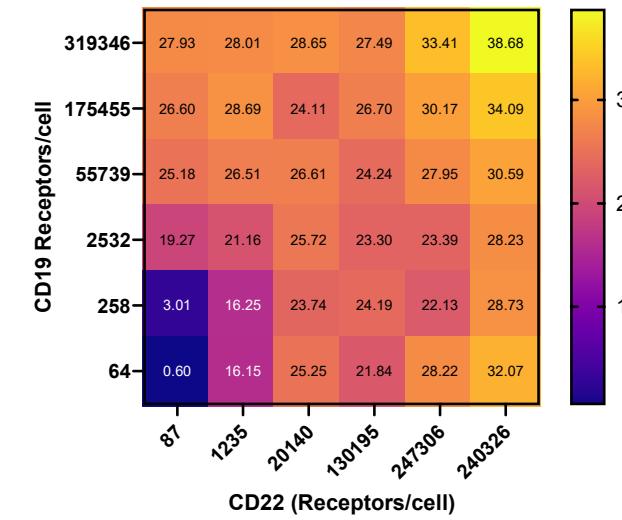
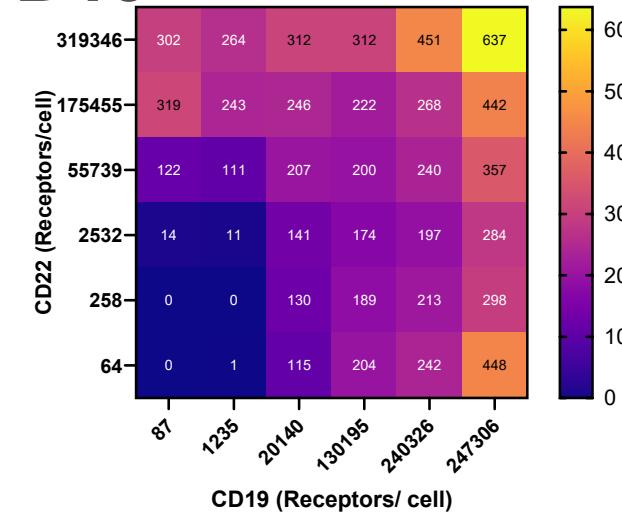
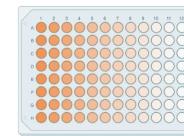
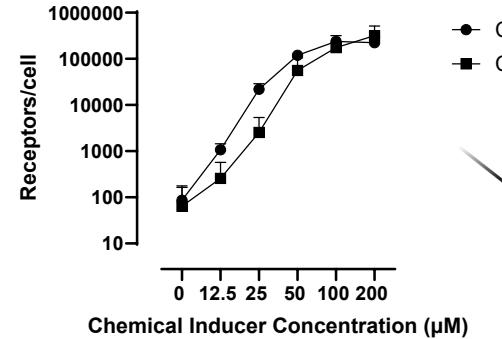
Indole-3-acetic acid  
(IAA) → CD22  
induction



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# Dual expression 'OR' CAR-T – CD22 & CD19

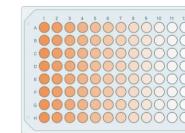
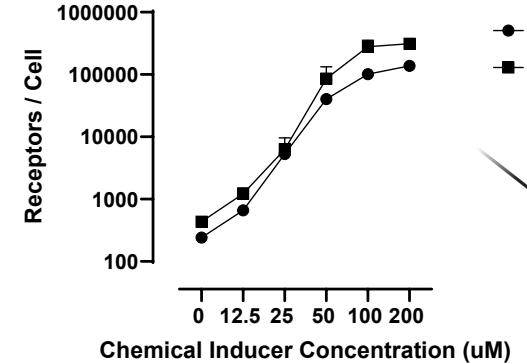
CHO-K1 IndEx-2  
CD22/CD19



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# Dual expression ‘AND’ CAR-T – CD22 & CD19

**CHO-K1 IndEx-2  
CD22/CD19**



**CD19 / CD22 Dual  
“AND” CAR T cell**

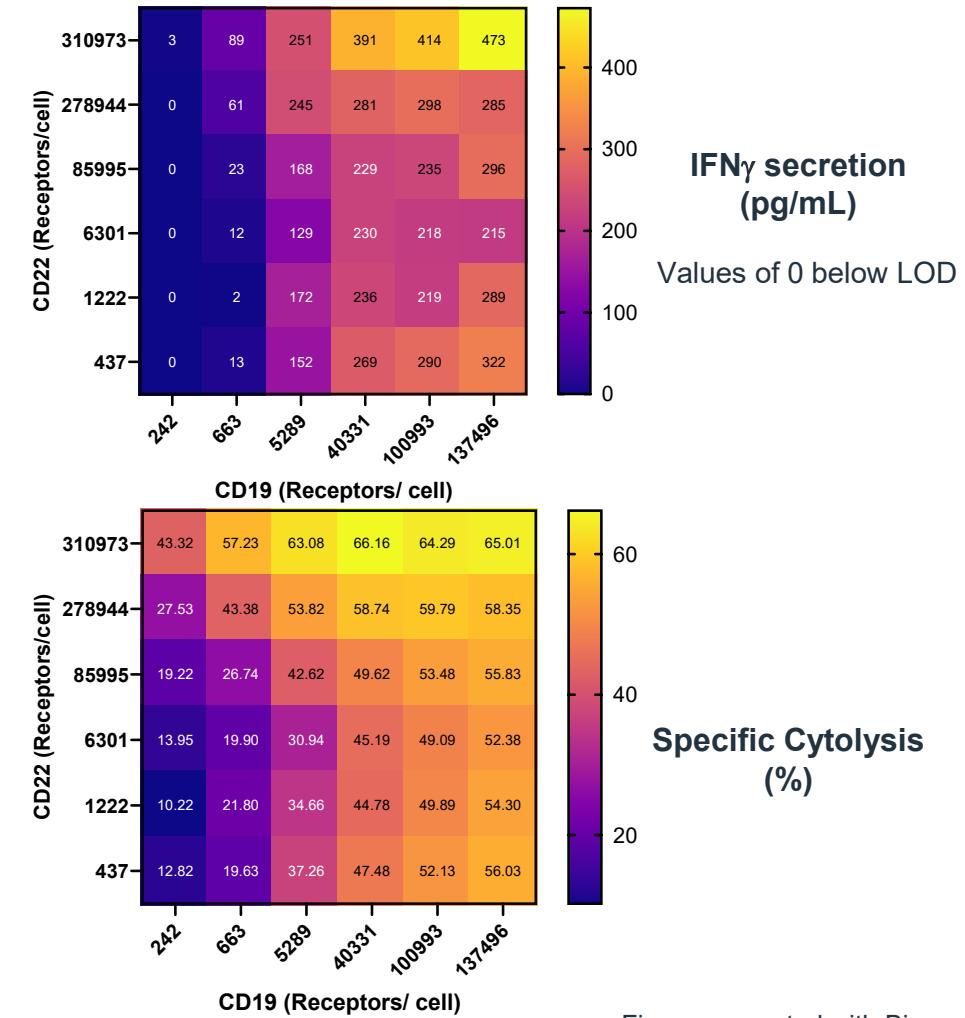
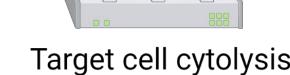
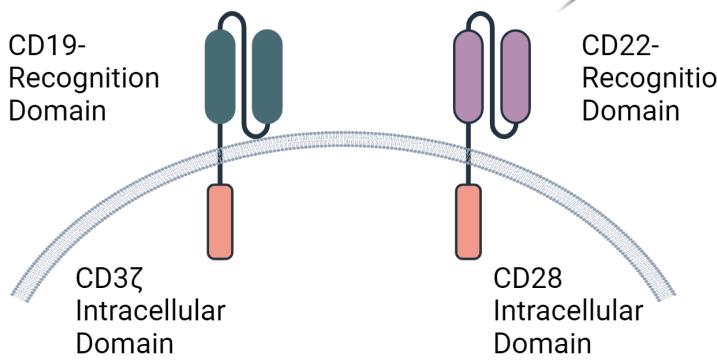


Figure generated with Biorender



# Summary

The IndEx-2 System is:

- A cell line system that allows fine titratable expression of antigens
- An assay system that allows the estimation of antigen thresholds for initiation of effector functions
- Applicable for multiple types of therapeutics;
  - mAbs, TCEs, ADCs and CAR-T

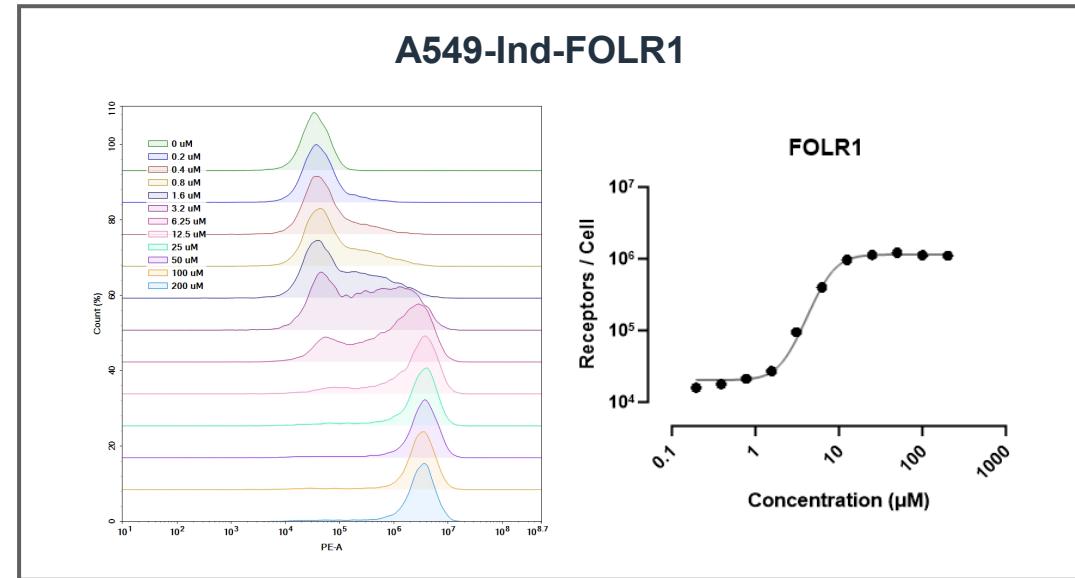
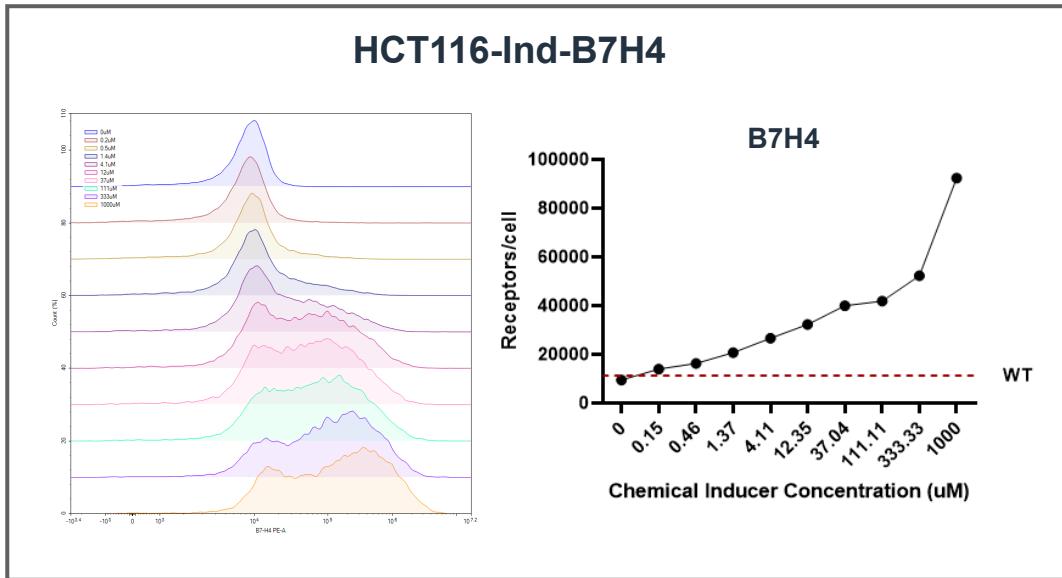




# Appendices

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# IndEx-2 in cancer cell backgrounds





# Pre-developed IndEx-2 cell lines

Cell Line	Target	Inducer	Derivation
<b>IndEx-2; CHO-K1-IndCD19</b>	CD19	ABA	CHO-K1, ovary, epithelial-like
<b>IndEx-2; CHO-K1-IndCD22</b>	CD22	ABA	CHO-K1, ovary, epithelial-like
<b>IndEx-2; CHO-K1-IndBCMA</b>	BCMA	ABA	CHO-K1, ovary, epithelial-like
<b>IndEx-2; CHO-K1-IndPD-L1</b>	PD-L1	ABA	CHO-K1, ovary, epithelial-like
<b>IndEx-2; CHO-K1-IndFOLR1</b>	FOLR1	ABA	CHO-K1, ovary, epithelial-like
<b>IndEx-2; CHO-K1-IndEpCAM</b>	EpCAM	ABA	CHO-K1, ovary, epithelial-like
<b>IndEx-2; CHO-K1-IndCEACAM5</b>	CEACAM5	ABA	CHO-K1, ovary, epithelial-like
<b>IndEx-2; CHO-K1-IndB7H3</b>	B7-H3	ABA	CHO-K1, ovary, epithelial-like
<b>IndEx-2; CHO-K1-IndPSMA</b>	PSMA	ABA	CHO-K1, ovary, epithelial-like
<b>IndEx-2; A549-IndFOLR1</b>	FOLR1	ABA	A549, epithelial carcinoma; lung
<b>IndEx-2; HCT116-IndB7H4</b>	B7-H4	ABA	HCT116, epithelial carcinoma; colorectal



# Standard assay list / capability overview

Antibody characterisation	Immune cell biology	Tool generation	Safety assays
<b>Antigen binding</b> (SPR / Flow Cytometry / ELISA)	<b>TDCC; T cell directed cytotoxicity</b> (Flow Cytometry / luminometer / xCELLigence / ELISA / Luminex)	<b>Target cell line development;</b> Protein or receptor over-expression or attenuation	<b>Cytokine release assay</b> (Luminex/ELISA)
<b>Fc Receptor and C1q binding</b> (SPR / Flow Cytometry /ELISA)	<b>Phenotyping and lineage characterisation</b> (Flow cytometry / ELISA / Luminex)	<b>Reporter cell line development;</b> conditional promoter-linked luciferase expression	<b>On-target, off-tumour assessment</b> (flow cytometry / xCELLigence /ELISA / Luminex)
<b>ADCC</b> (Cell-based; Flow Cytometry / Luminometer)	<b>Mixed lymphocyte reactions; one-way and two-way</b> (Flow Cytometry / ELISA / Luminex)	<b>Inducible cell line development;</b> finely titratable protein/receptor expression	
<b>CDC</b> (Flow Cytometry / Luminometer)	<b>Antigen recall assays</b> (Flow Cytometry / ELISA / Luminex)	<b>Protein expression &amp; purification;</b> e.g. Fc receptors	
<b>ADCP</b> (Flow Cytometry)	<b>T cell suppression assays</b> (Flow Cytometry / ELISA / Luminex)	<b>Primary cell engineering;</b> e.g. chimeric antigen receptors, reporters	
<b>Epitope binning</b> (SPR)	<b>T cell activation</b> (Flow Cytometry /ELISA / Luminex)	<b>Cell banking;</b> immune cell banks, immortalised cell banks	
<b>Reporter cell assays</b> (Luminometer)	<b>T cell exhaustion model</b> (Flow Cytometry / ELISA / Luminex)	<b>Potency assay method development;</b> GMP-ready lot release assays (Cell or ELISA-based)	
<b>Trogocytosis</b> (Flow Cytometry)	<b>Cell activation, phenotype and function;</b> T cells, dendritic cells, macrophages, NK cells, $\gamma\delta$ T cells, PBMCs, B cells, regulatory T cells, monocytes, primary tumour material, TILs (Flow Cytometry /ELISA/Luminex)		

