



Drug discovery & development possibilities  
for industry at SciLifeLab NMR unit and MAX  
IV BioMAX beamline

January 25, 2024



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Wallenberg  
Foundation*

**CBCS**   
CHEMICAL CONSORTIUM SWEDEN BIOLOGY



Vetenskapsrådet



UNIVERSITY OF  
GOTHENBURG



## SNC – main areas of activity

**Metabolomics** – large sample series and multivariate analysis

**Structural Biology** – structure, dynamics and interactions

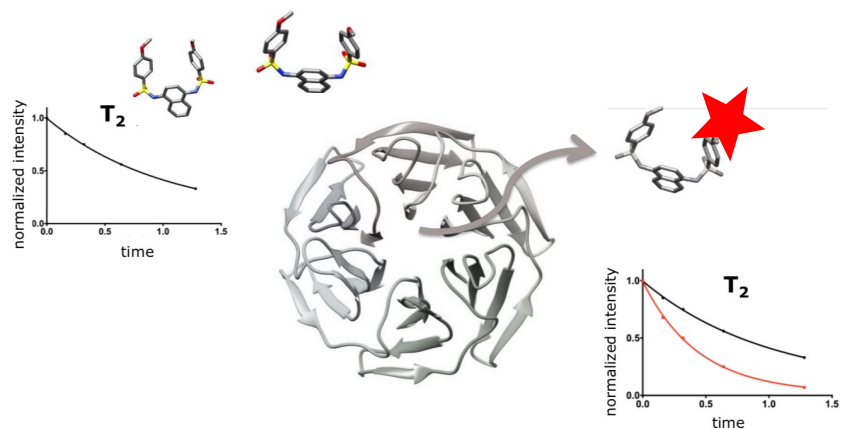
**Solid state pharmaceutical** applications with superior sensitivity (DNP-NMR)

**Small molecules** and standard NMR measurements – mostly local activities

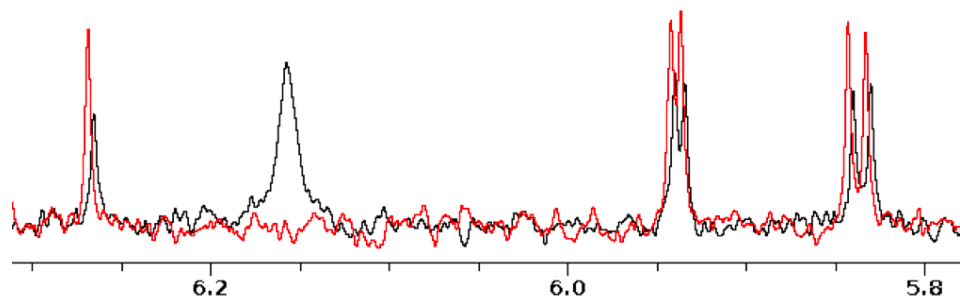
**Drug discovery** – the topic for today



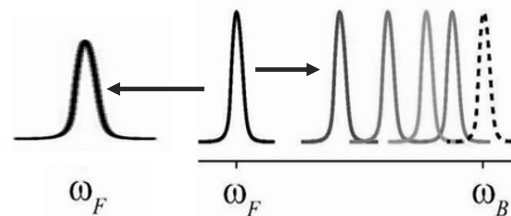
# Fragment based screen by NMR



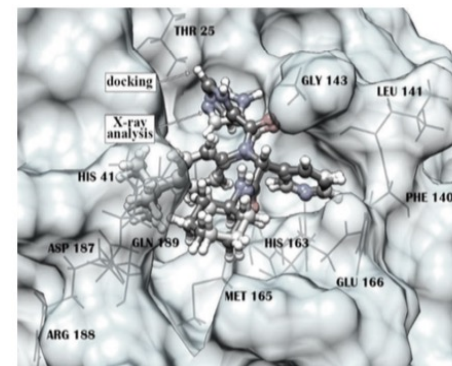
Difference in NMR relaxation properties for **free** and protein bound fragment.



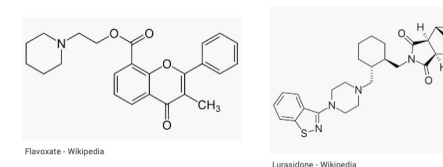
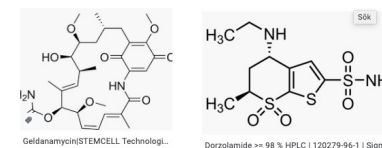
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra fragment with and **without** protein.



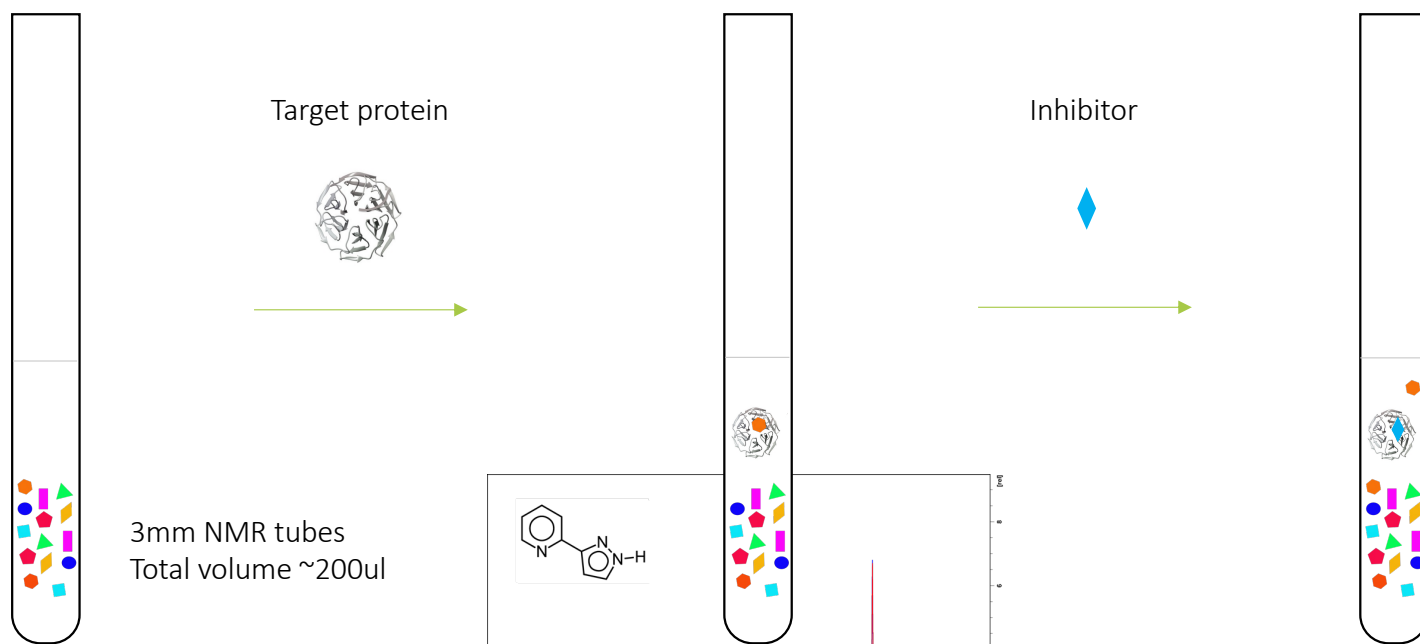
Change in chemical shift or in peak intensity.



Protein target + control



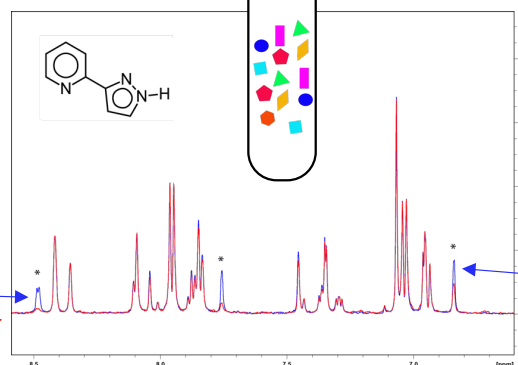
## Principle for ligand detected FBS



### Follow up

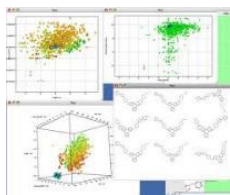
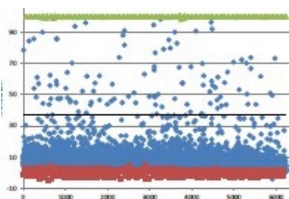
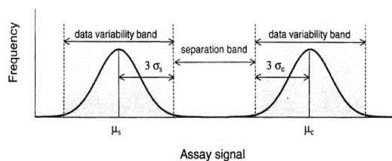
Rerun of found hits to confirm  
Redesign of fragments – CBCS

- Fragments are pooled 10 and 10, spectra recorded
- Target protein added and spectra repeated



- Spectra are repeated after addition of inhibitor, should be identical to first spectrum

*2 or 3 (if <sup>19</sup>F in fragment) different spectra needed*



- Assay design and development

PI & CBCS

Pre-project /  
Assay  
development  
project

- Screen

CBCS (PI)

Screening  
project

- Data analysis
- Hit confirmation
- In silico profiling
- etc

CBCS (PI)

- Medicinal chemistry
- Compound profiling
- Biological profiling
- Target ID /MoA

CBCS & PI

Chemistry  
based project

## Ligand detected – practical considerations

### Cost examples for industrial users

#### Bionet <sup>19</sup>F library – Screening 420 fragments excluding analysis of results

3 NMR-experiments (STD, T1rho, <sup>19</sup>F), 50 minutes run per sample => 70 h spectrometer time á 540 SEK (38000 SEK)  
 NMR tube cost: ~ 3000 SEK  
 Library cost: 5-10000 SEK  
 Control runs: ~5000 SEK  
 ~130 SEK per fragment, running mixes of 10 per tube  
 Inhibitor experiments adds ~35 h in spectrometer = 19000  
 Including inhibitor experiment ~170 sek per sample  
 Additional 20% cost for 2 % hit rates, individual runs  
 Project management and laboratory work, ~20h of personnel time

150-210 SEK/fragment

#### Maybridge library, 800 fragments 2 NMR experiments (STD, T1rho)

Price reduces to ~130SEK per fragment (running mixes of 10) and including inhibitor experiments

- ▶ 2 mg (unlabeled) protein @ 30 kDa > 0.1mM
- ▶ 4 ul of fragment @ 10 mM (In DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)
- ▶ 5- 10 uM protein : 50- 100 uM fragment
- ▶ 8 – 12 fragments per mix

- ▶ Spectrometer time
- ▶ NMR tubes
- ▶ Fragment library
- ▶ Control experiments
- ▶ Personell time for sample preparation and data recording
- ▶ Analysis of data upon request

### Time frame and time line

Spectrometer waiting time - ~4 weeks

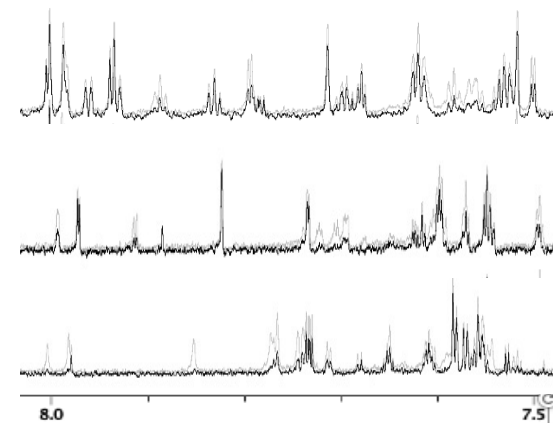
Sample preparation - protein production

Planning of project – ~10 hours

Library preparation – 10-15 hours

Data recording – 3 days (scales with library size)

Data analysis – 15-20 hours



## Ligand detected – practical considerations

- 2 mg (unlabeled) protein @ 30 kDa > 0.1mM
- 4 ul of fragment @ 10 mM (In DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)
- 5 - 10 uM protein : 50 - 100 uM fragment
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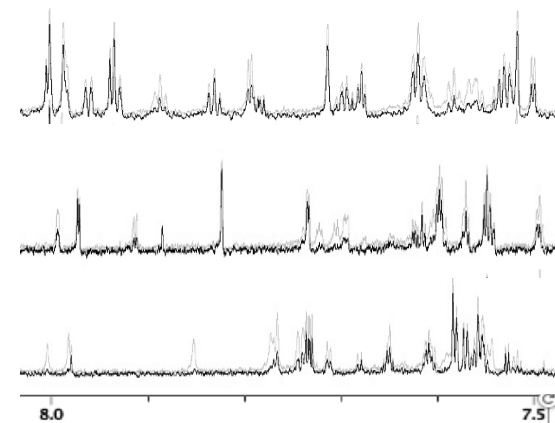
- Spectrometer time
- NMR tubes
- Fragment library
- Control experiments
- Personell time for sample preparation and data recording
- Analysis of data upon request

150-210 SEK/fragment

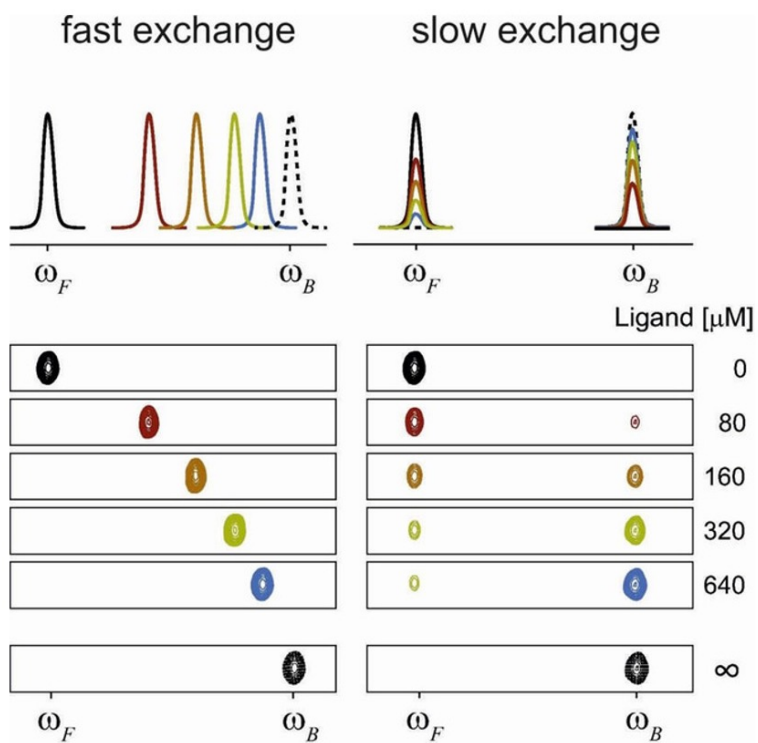
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Spectrometer waiting time - ~4 weeks  
 Sample preparation - protein production

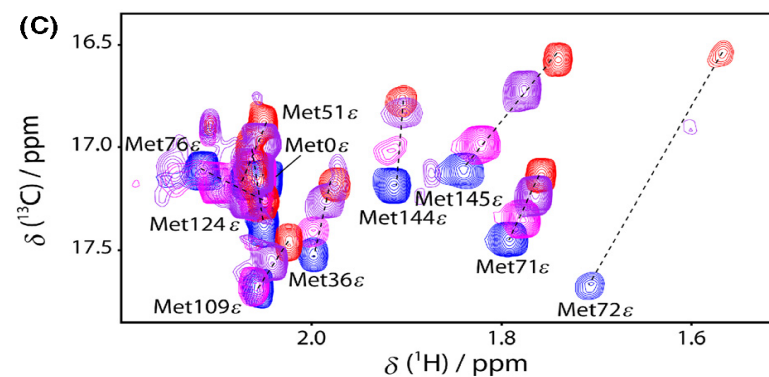
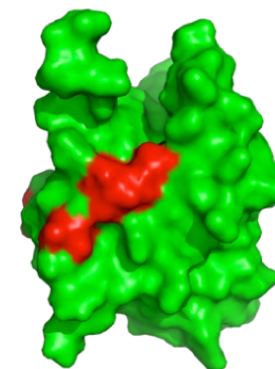
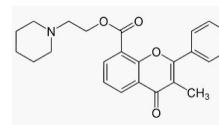
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Protein detected fragment interaction



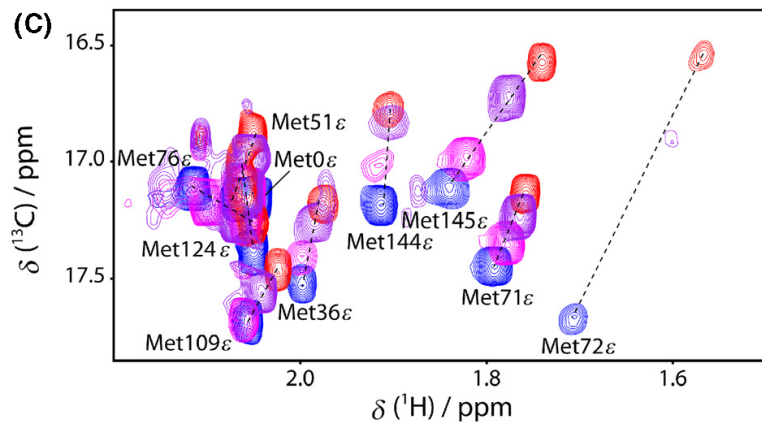
ChemPhysChem 2018, 19, 895 – 906



Calmodulin protein  $^1\text{H} - ^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC with increasing sevoflurane



## Protein detected fragment interaction - practical considerations



Single fragment : protein-detected

- ▶ >30  $\mu\text{M}$   $^{15}\text{N}(^{13}\text{C})$  protein
- ▶ 1 fragment per mix (1mM concentration, total volume 200  $\mu\text{l}$ )
- ▶ >0.2 mg  $^{15}\text{N}(^{13}\text{C})$ -labeled protein @ 30 kDa
- ▶ spectrometer time: 2- 8 hours
- ▶ spectrometer cost: 1- 4000 per sample
  
- ▶ Requires known backbone assignment to interpret data

### Time frame and time line

Spectrometer waiting time - ~1-2 weeks

Sample preparation - protein production is usually time limiting

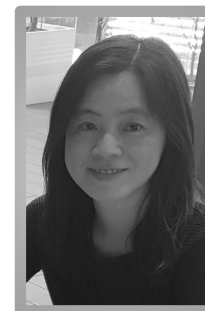
Planning of project – 2-4 hours

Sample preparation and data recording – 1-4 hours

Data analysis – 4-8 hours

### NMR Fragment based screens

- ▶ Spectrometers 400 – 900 MHz, *automation and cryo probes*
- ▶  $^{19}\text{F}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  detection optimized
- ▶ Bruker SamplePro Tube L.
- ▶ Agilent Bravo, *96 channels*
- ▶ Opentrons OT-2, *multiple dispense*



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Gothenburg



Mattias Hedenström  
Umeå

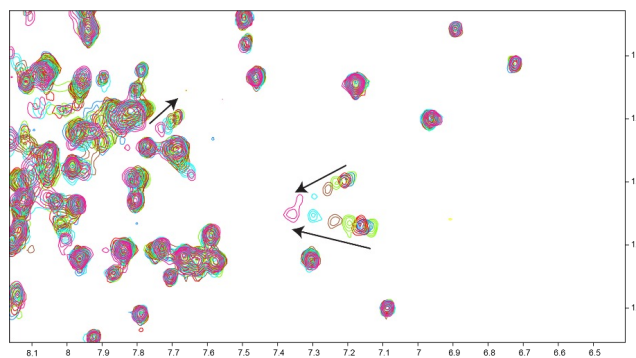
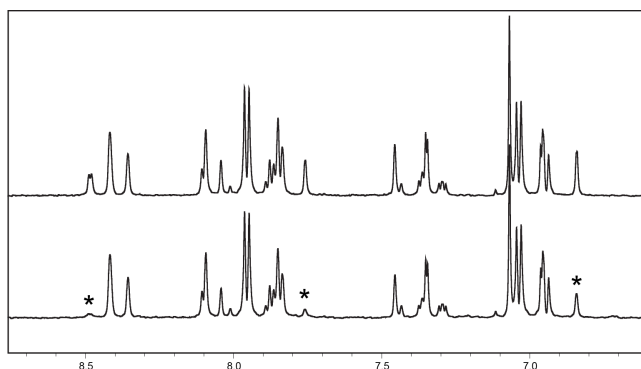


Ulrika Brath  
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**CBCS** CHEMICAL  
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SWEDEN



Ligand-observed experiments    Protein-observed experiments

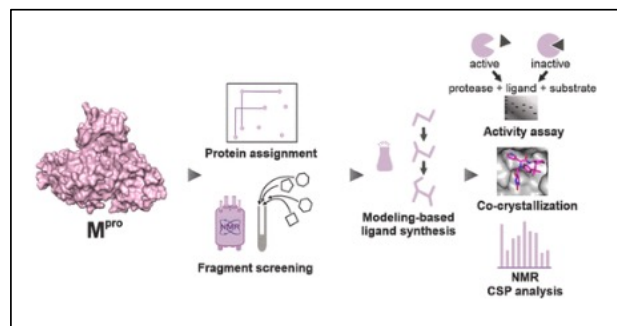


## Targeting the Main Protease (Mpro, nsp5) by Growth of Fragment Scaffolds Exploiting Structure-Based Methodologies

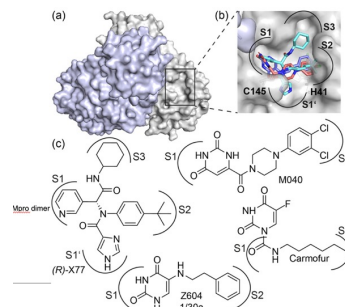
ASC Chemical Biology 2024

<https://doi.org/10.1021/acscchembio.3c00720>

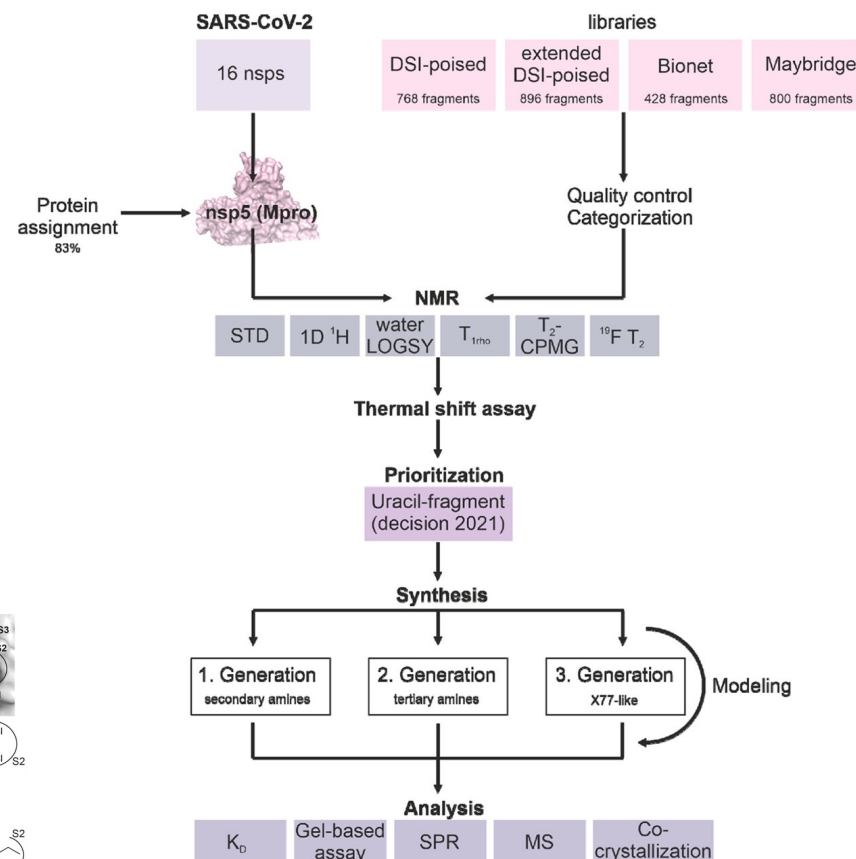
- Swedish NMR Centre, NMR, FBS
- CBCS fragments
- PPS, protein



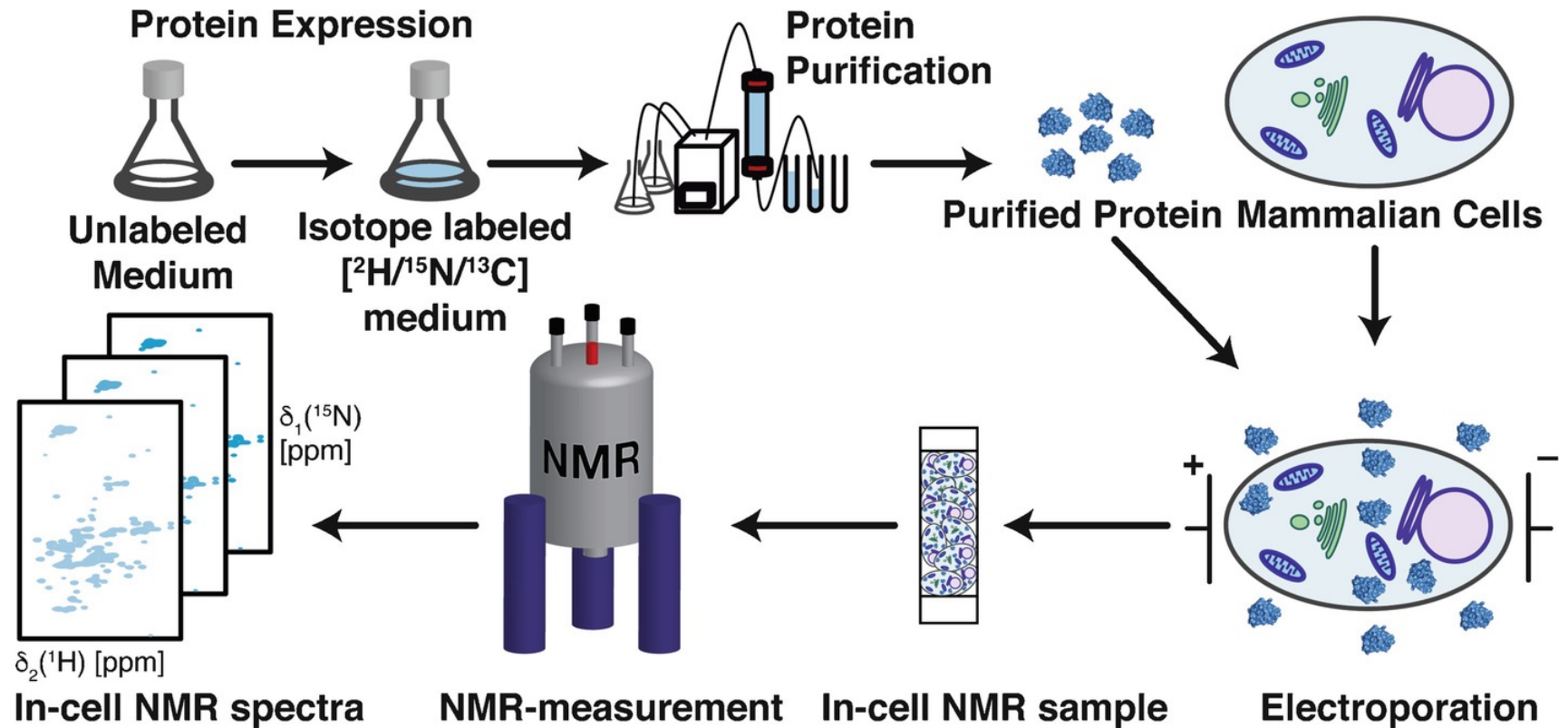
- Frankfurt, protein, NMR, FBS, modelling, chemistry
- Zurich, - modelling
- Vienna, NMR, FBS
- Florence, assay
- NKI Amsterdam, SPR
- NIH, NMR, FBS
- Saverna Therapeutics – modelling



## Scientific example



In-cell NMR





## Contact information

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Swedish NMR Centre SciLifeLab <https://www.scilifelab.se/units/swedish-nmr-centre/>

CBCS SciLifeLab <https://www.scilifelab.se/units/cbcs/>



Questions?



SciLifeLab

