Novel Mechanism to Increase AAV Yield through Blocking AAV Transduction of Manufacturing HEK293 Cells During AAV Production

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### Disclosures

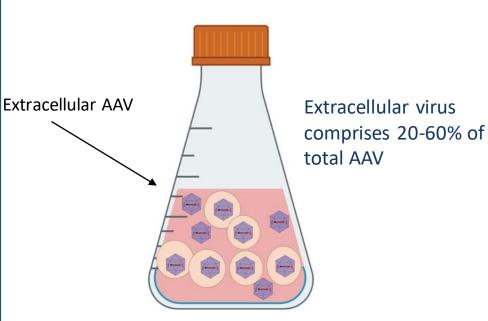
I am a full-time employee of Solid Biosciences





### During AAV Production a Significant Proportion of AAV is Extracellular

AAV Manufacture by Transfection pGOI pHelper pRC **Example:** pRC = AAV-SLB101 pGOI =  $\mu$ Dys5 or GFP pHelper



\*Created using Biorender.com

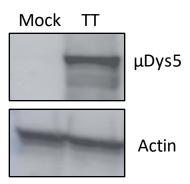


### Transgene Protein is Expressed in HEK293 Cells During Manufacture

**AAV Transduction of Cells** Recycling Endosome Macropinocytosis CLIC/ GEEC 0 Cytoplasm Nucleus Berry & Asokan Curr Opin Virol. 2016 December; 21: 54–60

- 1. Multiple mechanisms of AAV endocytosis
- 2. Endosome trafficking
- 3. Nuclear uptake & transcription of transgene

#### **Example:**



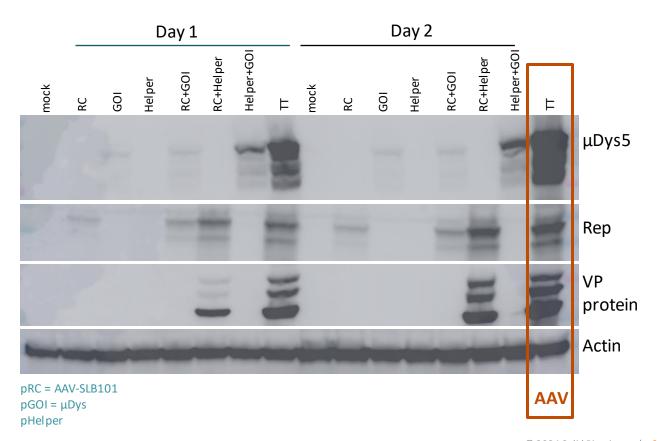
μDys5 protein expression in HEK293 lysate at 3 days posttransfection

pRC= AAV-SLB101  $pGOI = \mu Dys5$ pHelper



# Significant Transgene (µDys5) Expression in HEK293 Cells Due to AAV **Transduction**

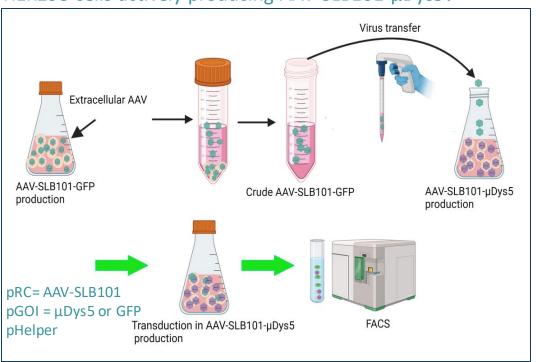
- Control studies with 1 or 2 plasmid transfections results in no or low μDys expression
- Transfection with 3 plasmids (TT) produces AAV and high μDys5 expression in HEK293 cells

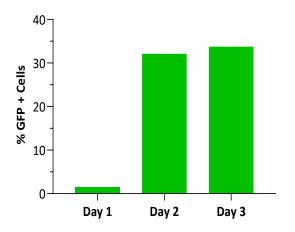




## Virus Transfer Study Demonstrates Transduction of HEK293 Cells During AAV Production

Does added extracellular AAV-SLB101-GFP virus transduce HEK293 cells actively producing AAV-SLB101-μDys5?



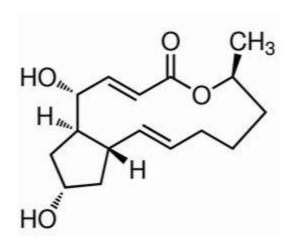


Transferred AAV-SLB101-GFP virus transduces HEK293 cells which express GFP while actively producing AAV-SLB101-µDys5



## Can Transduction of HEK293 Cells During AAV Production Be Prevented?

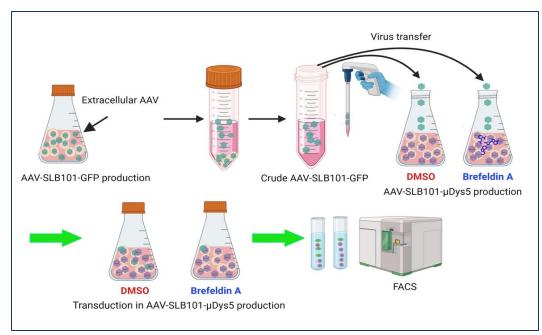
#### Brefeldin A is an Inhibitor of Endocytosis



- Brefeldin A inhibits clathrindependent endocytosis
- Causes Golgi disassembly
- Prevents AAV endocytosis

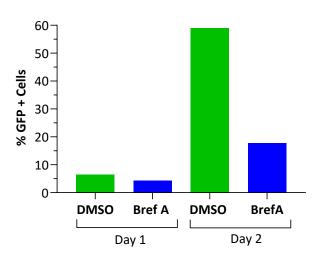


# Brefeldin A Unexpectedly Reduced AAV-SLB101-GFP Transduction of HEK293 cells **Actively Producing AAV**



<sup>\*</sup>Created using Biorender.com

pRC= AAV-SLB101  $pGOI = \mu Dys5$ pHelper

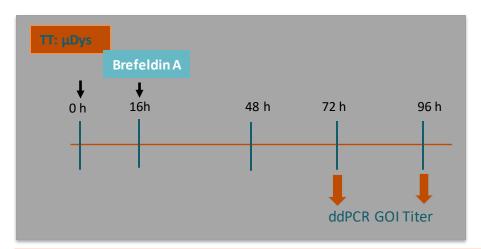


Brefeldin A (Bref A) significantly reduced AAV-SLB101-GFP transduction of HEK293 cells during AAV production

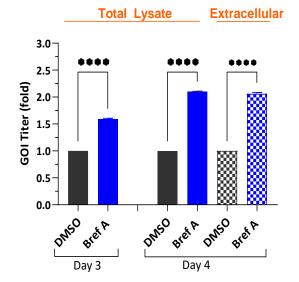


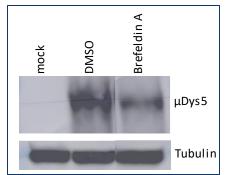
#### Addition of Brefeldin A Increased AAV Yield in HEK293 Cells

Scale: 50 mL Shake Flask



- Brefeldin A significantly increased AAV yield ~ 2-fold
- Addition of Brefeldin A reduced μDys expression, i.e. self-transduction of manufacturing HEK293 cells by AAV-SLB101-µDys5



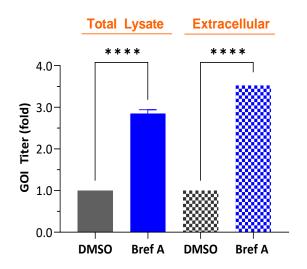


pRC= AAV-SLB101  $pGOI = \mu Dys5$ pHelper

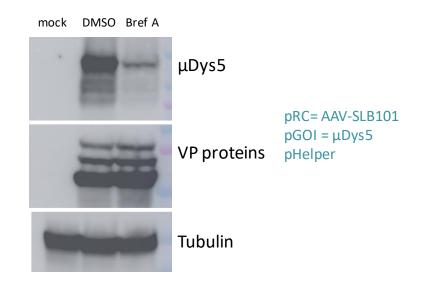


#### Addition of Brefeldin A Increased AAV Yield in HEK293 Cells

Scale: 500 mL Shake Flask



- Bref A significantly increased AAV yield 2-3 fold
  - Media Supernatant
  - Total lysate

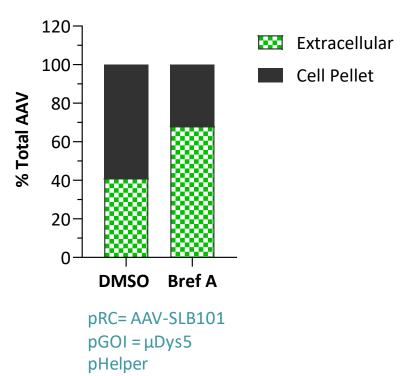


• Bref A reduced μDys5 expression, i.e. self-transduction of manufacturing HEK293 cells by AAV-SLB101-µDys5



### Addition of Brefeldin A Changed Distribution of AAV During Production

Scale: 500 mL Shake Flask



Brefeldin A resulted in higher proportion of extracellular AAV in media through inhibition of AAV endocytosis and transduction of HEK293 cells



## Quality Attributes of AAV Produced in Presence of Brefeldin A

Analytics on AAV purified by Iodixanol purification from 500 mL Shake Flask

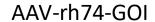
Assay	DMSO	Brefeldin A	Quality Trend
Relative Expression	93%	145%	<b>↑</b>
Genomic Integrity	52%	61%	<b>↑</b>
% Mispackaged Plasmid DNA/GOI	0.3%	0.17%	<b>↑</b>
Mispackaged Host Cell DNA/GOI	1.4E3ng/1E13vg	7E2ng/1E13vg	<b>↑</b>

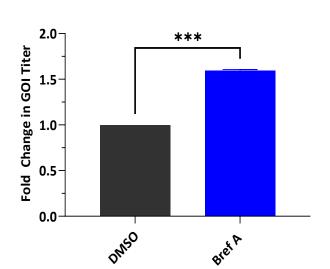
Addition of Brefeldin A resulted in equivalent or improved AAV quality attributes



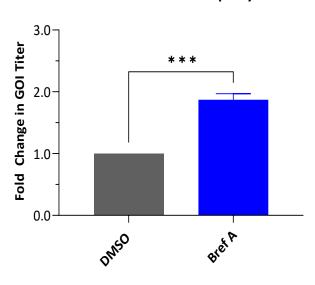
### Brefeldin A Increased AAV Yield Across Capsid Serotypes & Transgenes

Scale: 50 mL Shake Flask





#### AAV-SLB101-µDys5



Addition of Brefeldin A resulted in increased AAV yield for all AAV serotypes and transgenes tested



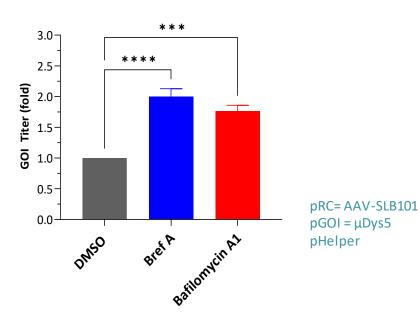
# Bafilomycin A1 Also Inhibits Endocytosis

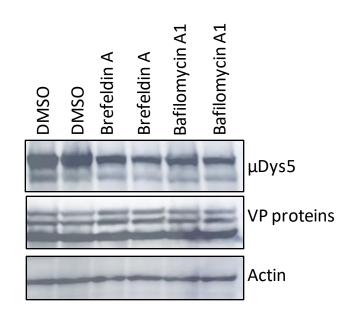
- Bafilomycin A1 inhibits endocytosis (different MoA to Brefeldin A)
- Inhibitor of v-ATPase; impacts lysosomal trafficking
- Prevents AAV endocytosis



### Addition of Bafilomycin A1 Increased AAV Yield in HEK293 Cells

Scale: 50 mL Shake Flask



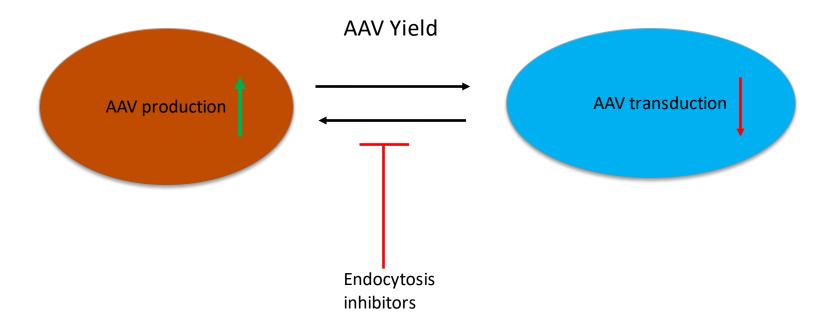


Brefeldin A or Bafilomycin A1 treatment significantly increased AAV yield

Brefeldin A or Bafilomycin A1 reduced µDys expression, i.e. self-transduction of HEK293 cells actively producing AAV-SLB101-µDys5



# Summary





#### **Summary & Conclusions**

- Extracellular AAV can transduce HEK293 manufacturing cells
- Transduction can result in GOI protein expression in the HEK293 lysates and reduce yield
- Small molecule endocytosis inhibitors (Brefeldin A and Bafilomycin A1) reduced transduction
  - Reduced transduction can translate into 2-3 fold increases in AAV yield with similar or improved quality attributes

#### **Conclusion**

- Loss of AAV to transduction during manufacture is significant
- Endocytosis inhibitors limit transduction and consequently improve AAV yield



# Acknowledgments

- Sharon McGonigle
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