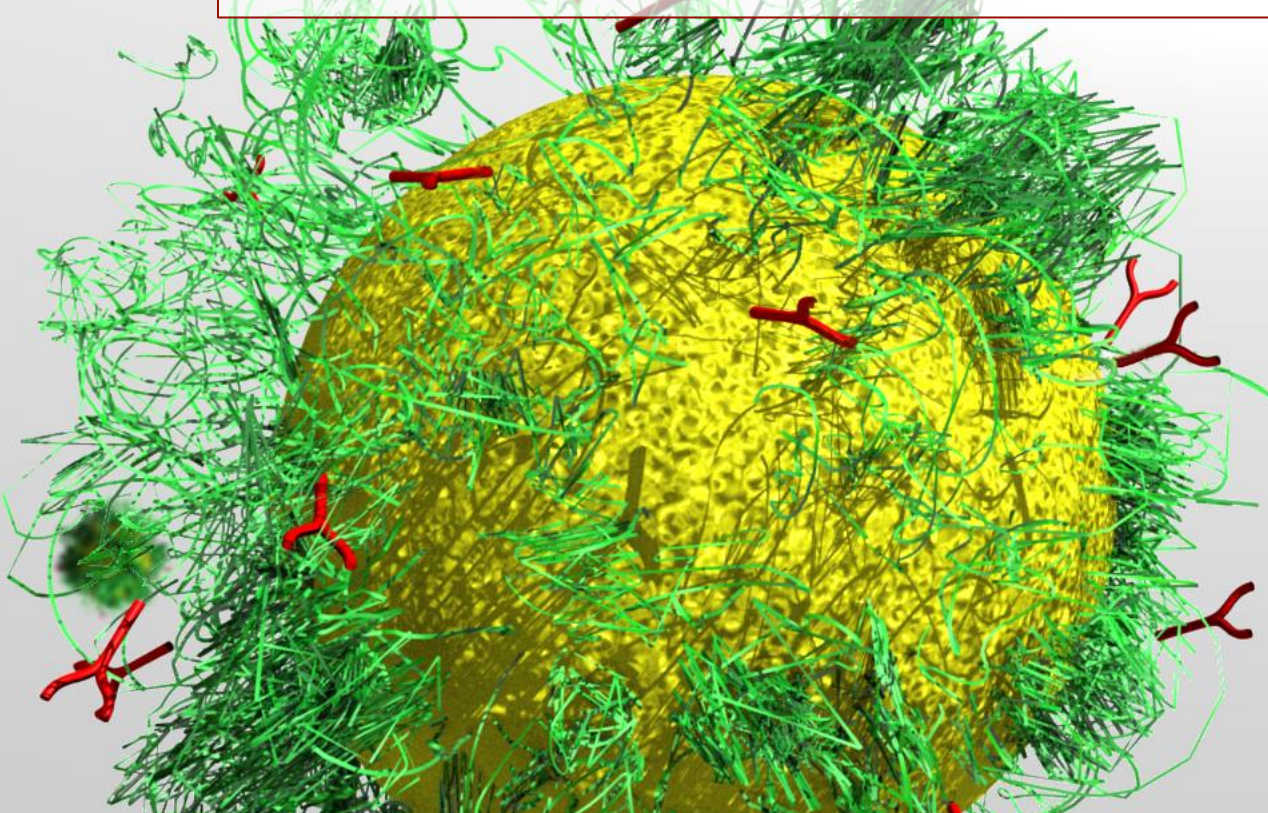


# DEVELOPMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS FOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

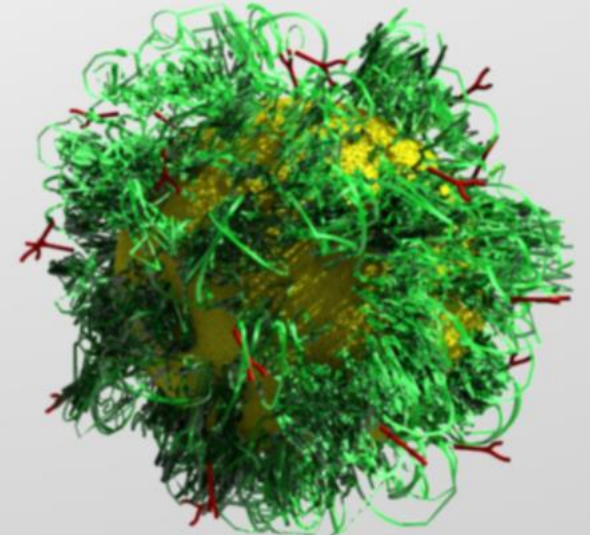


**Alice Versiani**

DVM, Ph.D.

School of Medicine of  
Sao Jose do Rio Preto

FAMERP/Brazil





# Overview

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## 1. Assay development pathway

- Definition of intended purpose
- Controls and samples
- Validation
- Types of diagnostic tools (Classic x Novelty)
- Point-of-care x Laboratory-based tests

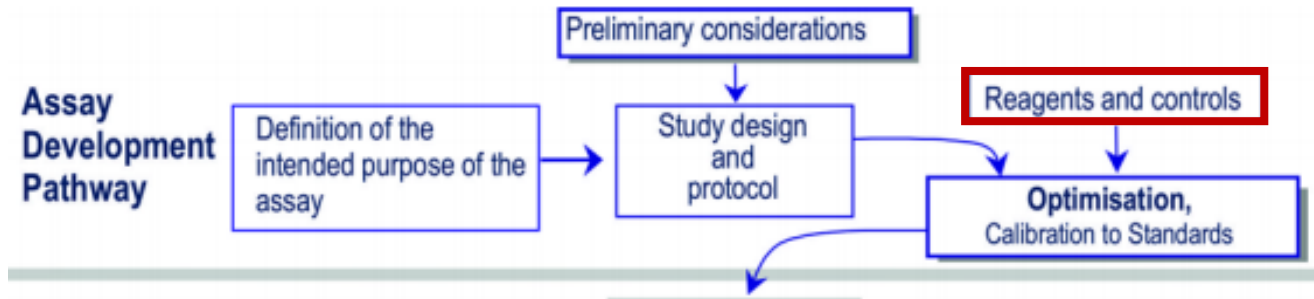
## 2. Brazilian experience

- Nanotechnology
- Classic methodologies x new biomolecules
- New methodologies x classic biomolecules
- Technologies improvements

## 3. How to deal with emerging or re-emerging pathogens

- Scientific networks

# Assay Development Pathway



- Definition of the intended purpose of the assay:
  - Quantitative x Qualitative assay
  - Biological sample
    - Individual or pooled, matrix composition, host/organism interactions affecting the target analyte...
  - Assay system
    - Physical, chemical, biological, operator-related factors affecting the capacity of the assay to detect a specific analyte in the sample.
  - Teste results interpretation
    - The capacity of a test result, derived from the assay system, to predict accurately the status of the individual or population relative to the purpose for which the assay is applied.
- Selection, collection, preparation, preservation and management of samples are critical variables in design and development of an assay to ensure valid test results.

# Validation

- Choosing samples:
  - Gold-standard assay (reference method)
  - Controls
  - Open sera bank
  - Disease epidemiology
  - Cross-reaction

Reference Samples	SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein Serological IgG ELISA Results					
	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive	Total	PPA	NPA
Positive	28	0	0	28	100%	—
Presumed Negative	2	59	1	62	—	95.2%

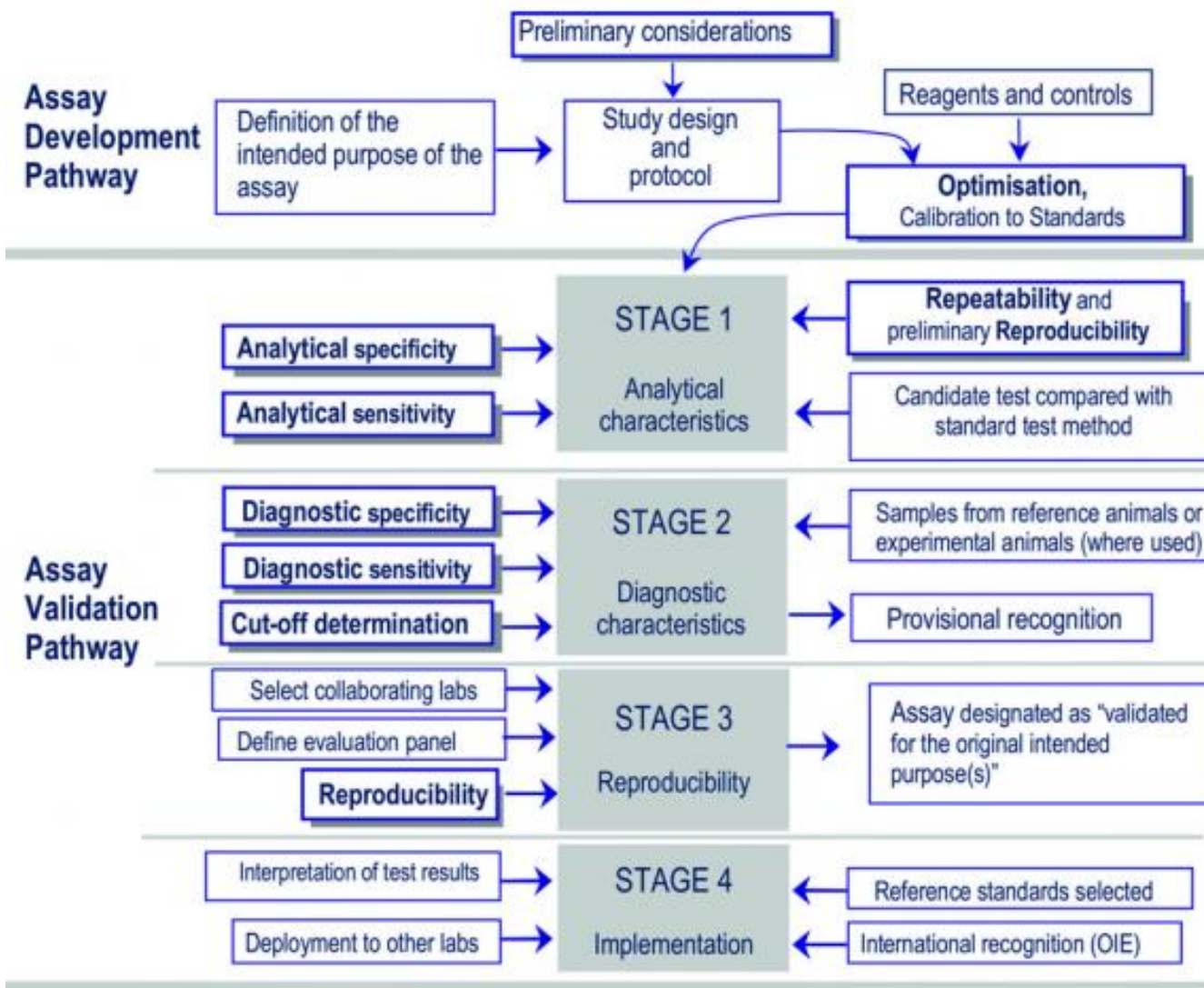


**SPECIFICATIONS**

- ✓ Serological Sensitivity - Secondary infection: 97.9% (92/94)
- ✓ Serological Sensitivity - Primary infection: 33.3% (28/84)
- ✓ Serological Specificity - Negatives: 100% (108/108)

**DENV IgG ELISA**

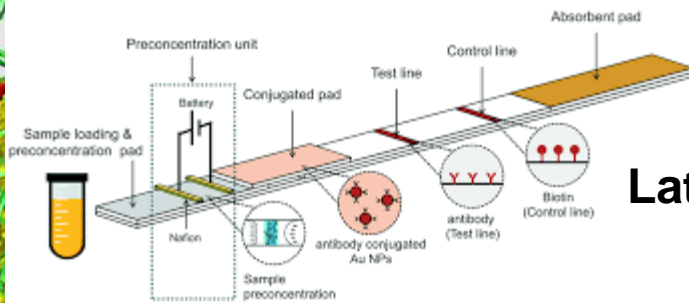
# Assay Development Pathway



# Types of diagnostic assays

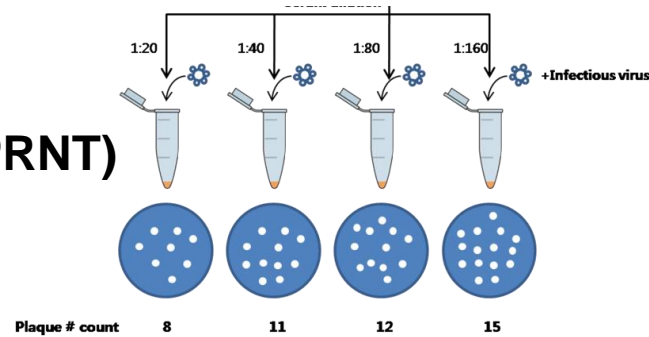
## SEROLOGICAL ASSAYS

### ELISA

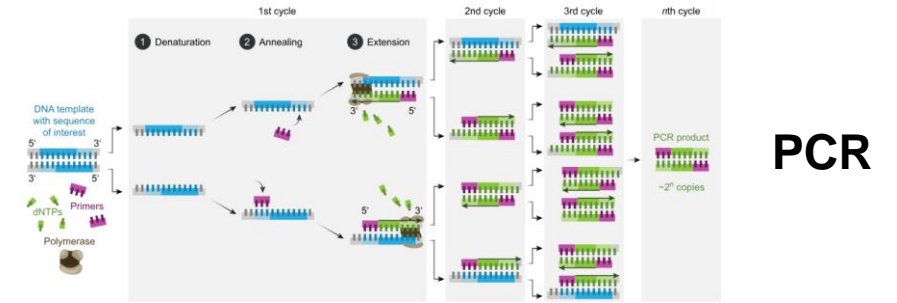


### Lateral flow (LFA)

### Neutralization (PRNT)

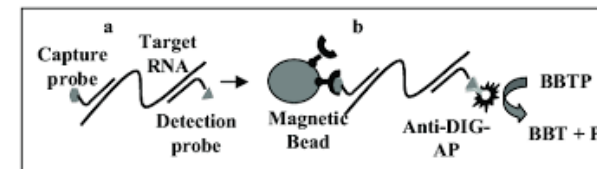
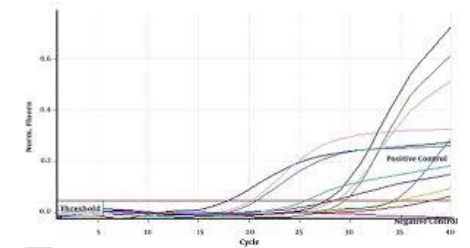


## MOLECULAR ASSAYS



### PCR

### RT-PCR

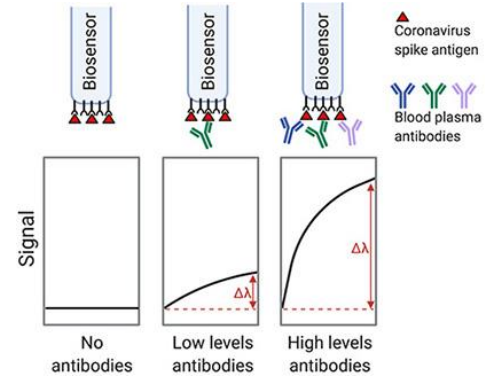


### Hybridization

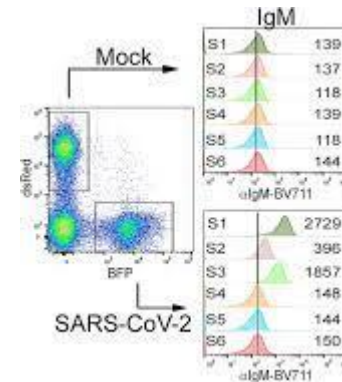
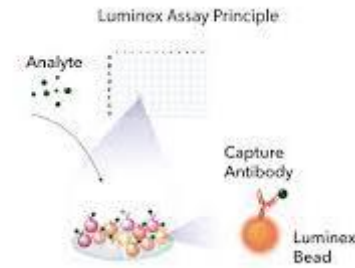
# Types of diagnostic assays

## SEROLOGICAL ASSAYS

### Biosensors



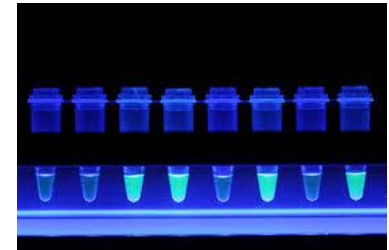
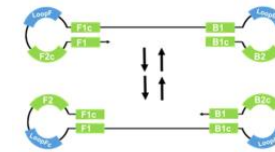
### Luminex (bead array)



### FACS

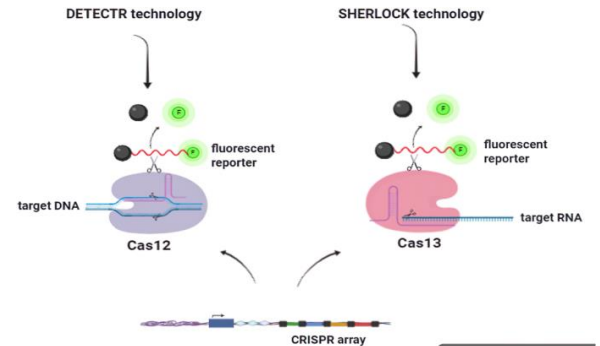
## MOLECULAR ASSAYS

### LAMP cycling



### LAMP

### CRISPR-Cas





# Types of diagnostic assays

## Point-of-care

- Can be performed near/at the point of patient care.
- Easy to use;
- Portability;
- Low cost;
- Do not require power or additional reagents;
- Results in minutes.
- Inaccuracy;
- Low sensitivity;
- Single-use device;
- Cross-reactivity.



## Lab-based tests

- Samples sent to a central laboratory for analysis.
- Accuracy;
- Multiplex assays;
- High diagnostic performance;
- Reproducibility;
- High-end technology.
- Higher costs;
- Needs specialized personal and equipment;
- Requires infrastructure.

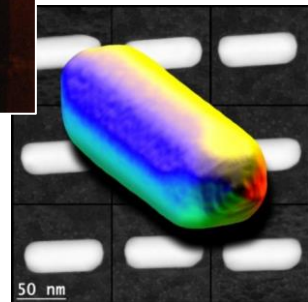


# Nanomedicine

- **Nanotechnology** → creation, manipulation and exploration of materials on a nanoscale.
  - The physical and chemical properties of matter are, to a large extent, determined by the type of motion of its electrons.

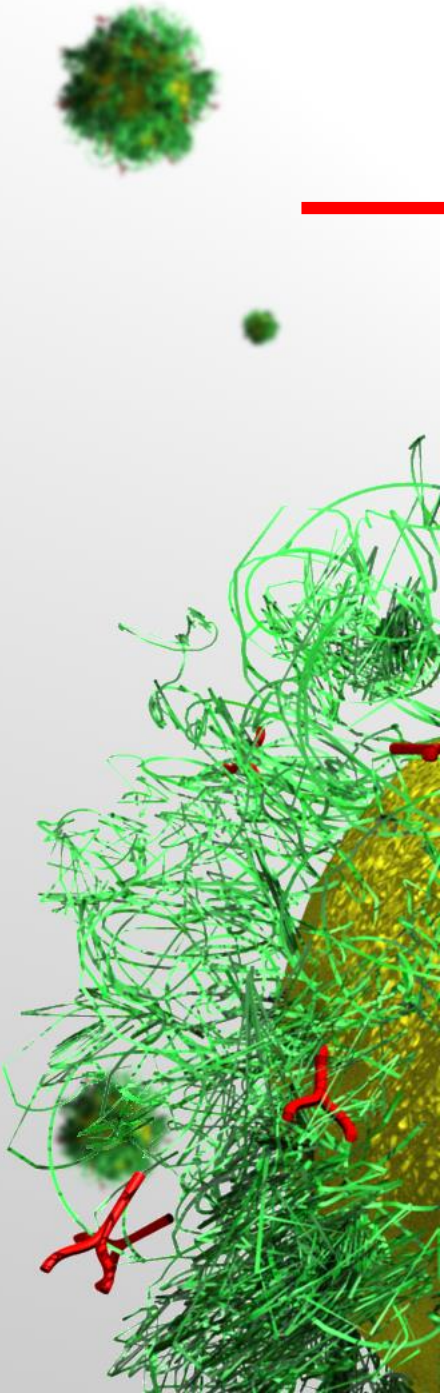


Nanomaterials special properties



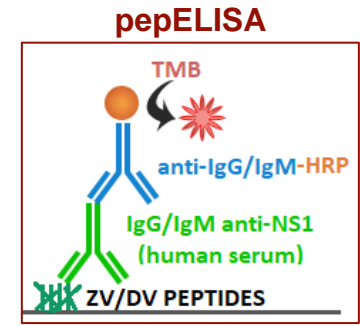
- **Gold nanoparticles**

- Strong **optical peak**, which is variable with the particle's morphology;
- Electron-dense and radiopaque;
- Its surface chemistry allows the bonding of organic molecules;
- Low toxicity when introduced into biological systems.



# Brazilian experience

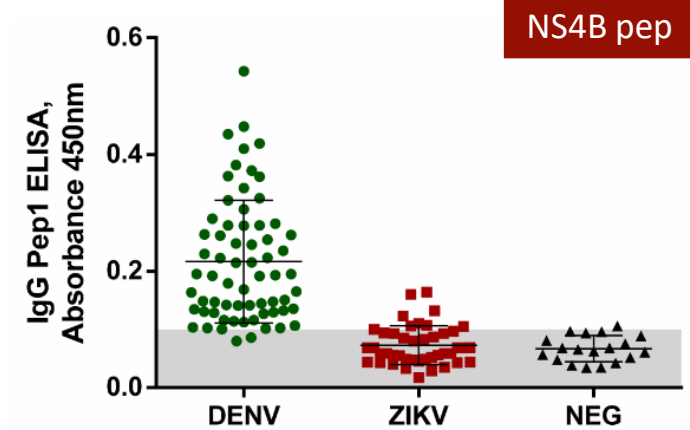
- DENV Peptides to avoid ELISA cross-reaction



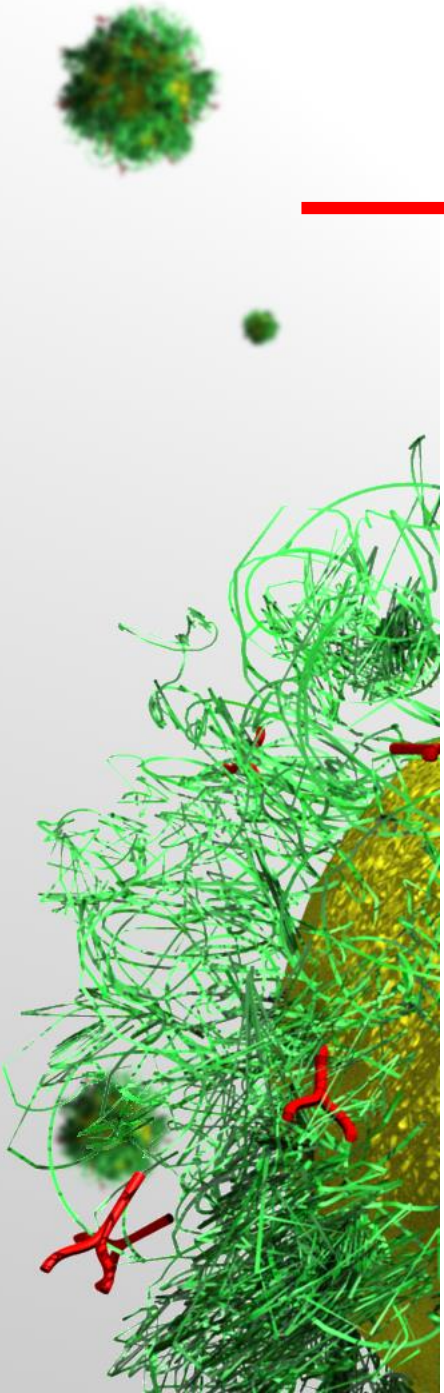
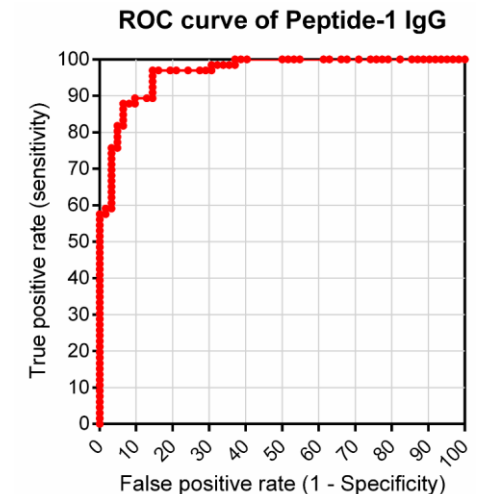
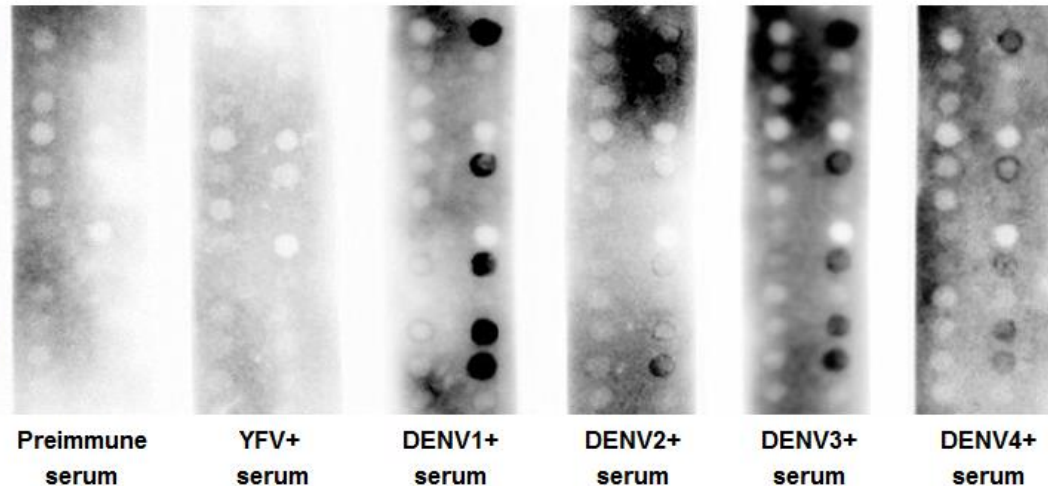
Article

## Identification of B-Cell Epitopes with Potential to Serologically Discriminate Dengue from Zika Infections

Alice F. Versiani<sup>1,2</sup>, Raissa Prado Rocha<sup>1</sup>, Tiago A. O. Mendes<sup>3</sup><sup>lb</sup>, Glauco C. Pereira<sup>4</sup>, Jordana Graziella A. Coelho dos Reis<sup>1</sup>, Daniella C. Bartholomeu<sup>3</sup> and Flávio G. da Fonseca<sup>1,\*</sup><sup>lb</sup>

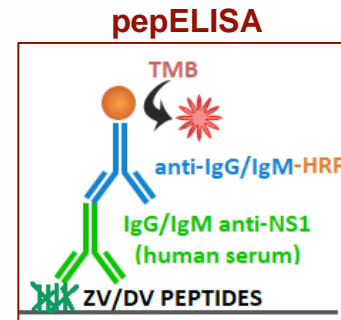
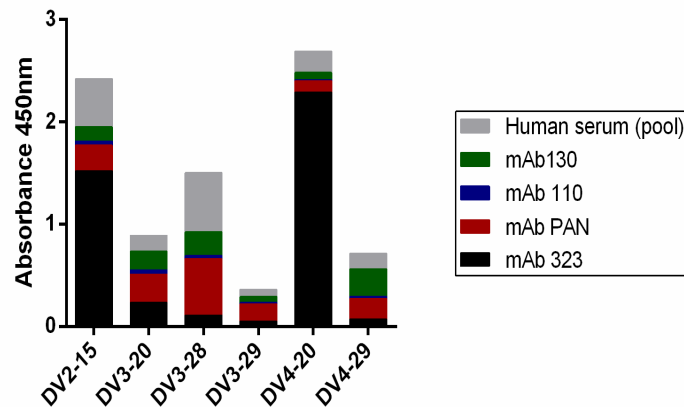
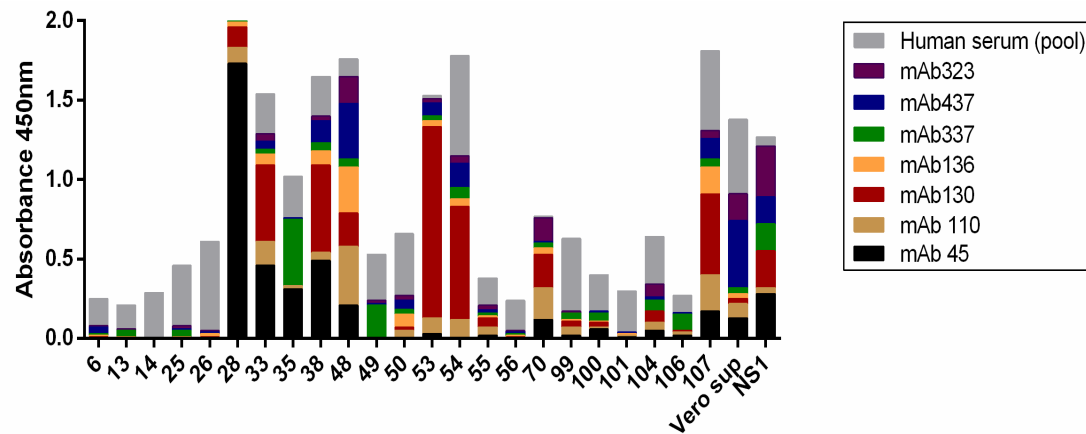


CPRI TETE	<b>SGDPLKND</b>
SSQDEKGV T	SYDPKF EK
TAPGTFKTPEGE	YHGSYEAP
SSQSTTPET	KGGPGHEE
IATQQPES	AGWDTRIT
IPYDPKFE	QRGSGQVG
QRKKTGKP	VRKDIPQW
TE DGQGKA	PEPEKQRT
NAEPDGPT	PEREKSA A
MSKEPGVV	<b>ATREAQKR</b>
PETPNMDV	<b>ISRKDQRG</b>
AGATEVDS	WFKKGS SI



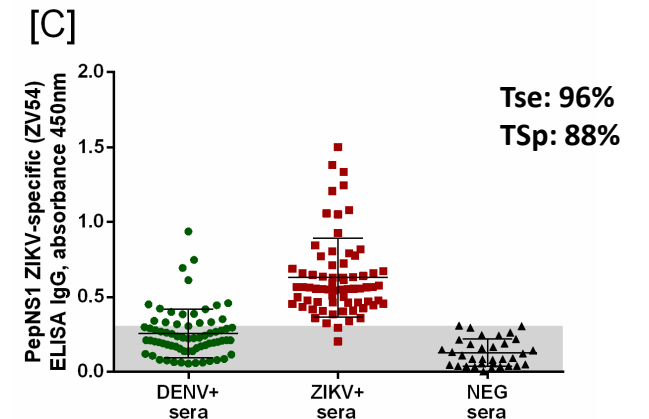
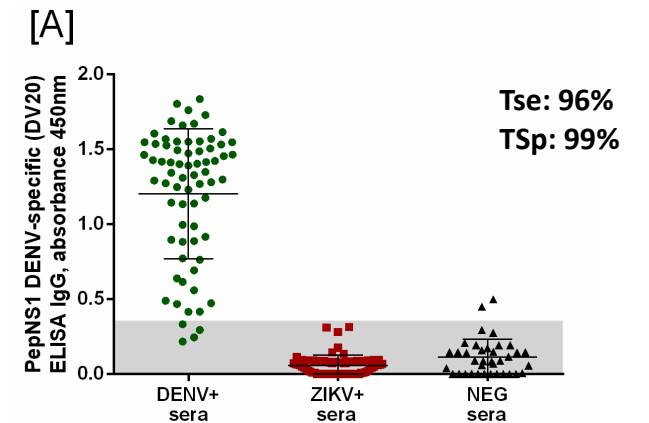
# Brazilian experience

- DENV/ZIKV NS1 Peptides to avoid ELISA cross-reaction



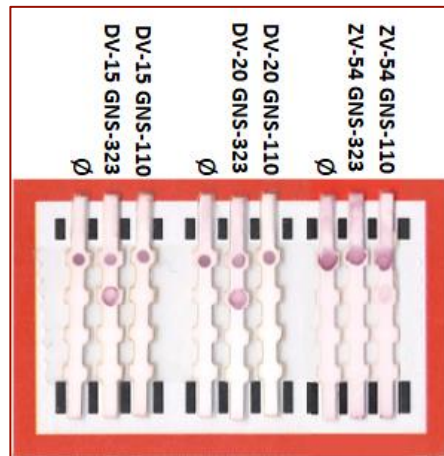
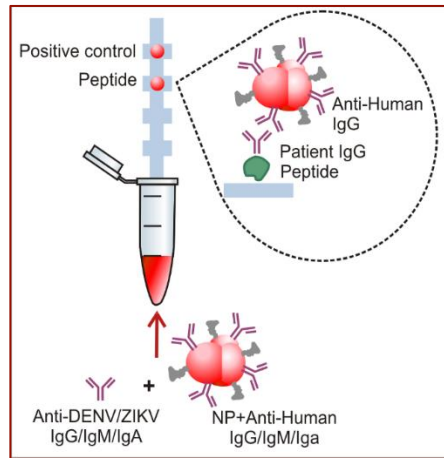
Screening with monoclonal ab's

## Endemic area samples for validation



# Brazilian experience

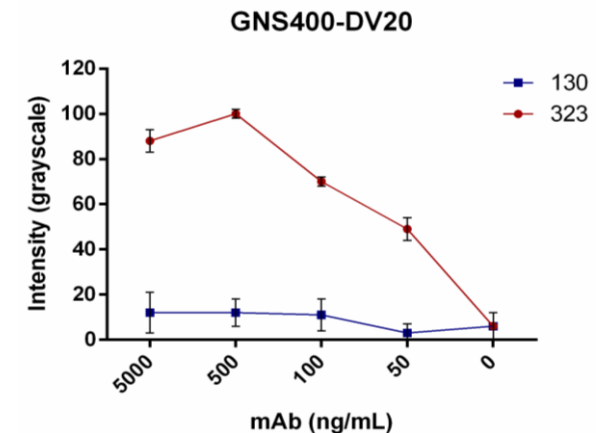
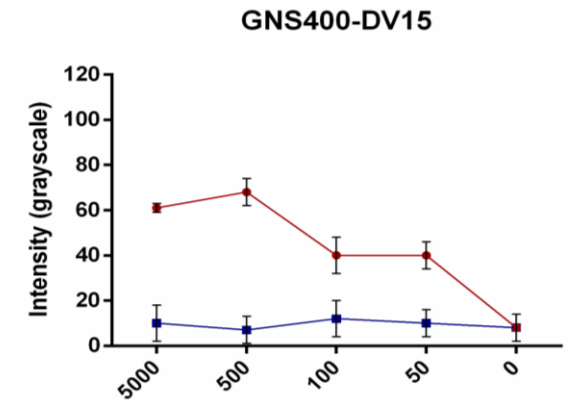
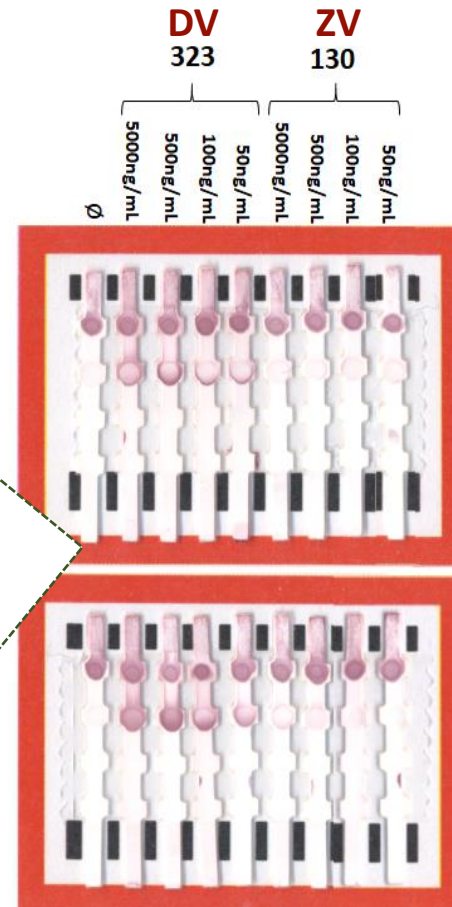
- DENV/ZIKV NS1 Peptides in a multiplex LFA + image processing



Capture and processing data



Paper DV-20:

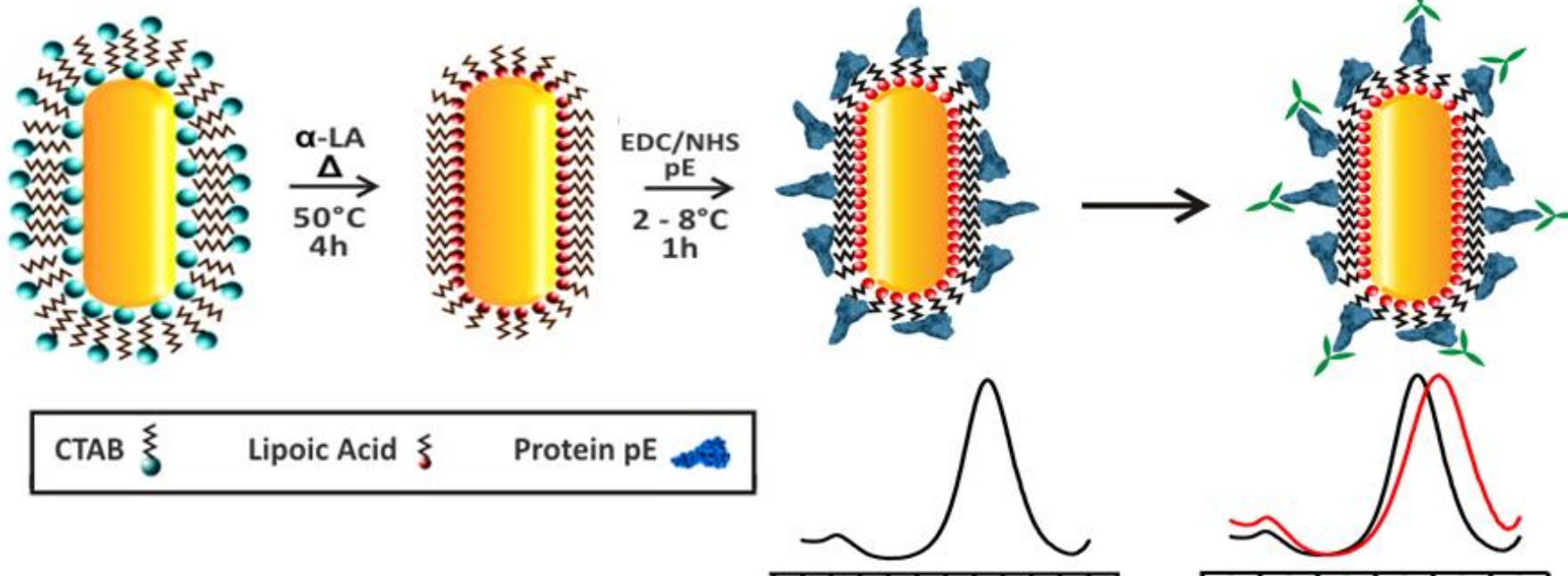
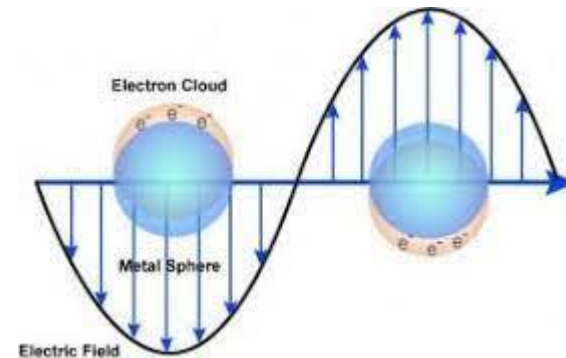




# Brazilian experience

- LSPR Nanosensors

- *Localized surface plasmon resonance*: when the plasmon frequency is of the same as the incident light, a resonance phenomenon occurs and results in a noticeable optical absorption and generates a sharp electric field on the surface of the metallic nanoparticles. Therefore, any modifications around the nanoparticle, including alterations in their surface, the solvent and particle aggregation, will determine changes in the electronic properties of the nanoparticle's surface, resulting in alterations in the patterns of the absorption spectrum.



# Brazilian experience

- DENV LSPR Nanosensors:

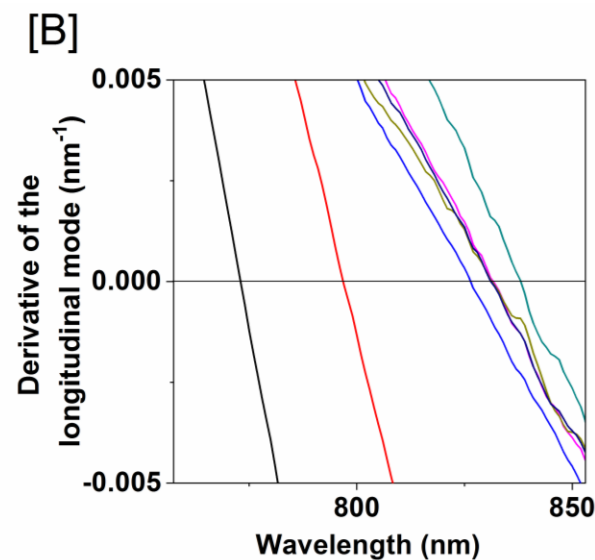
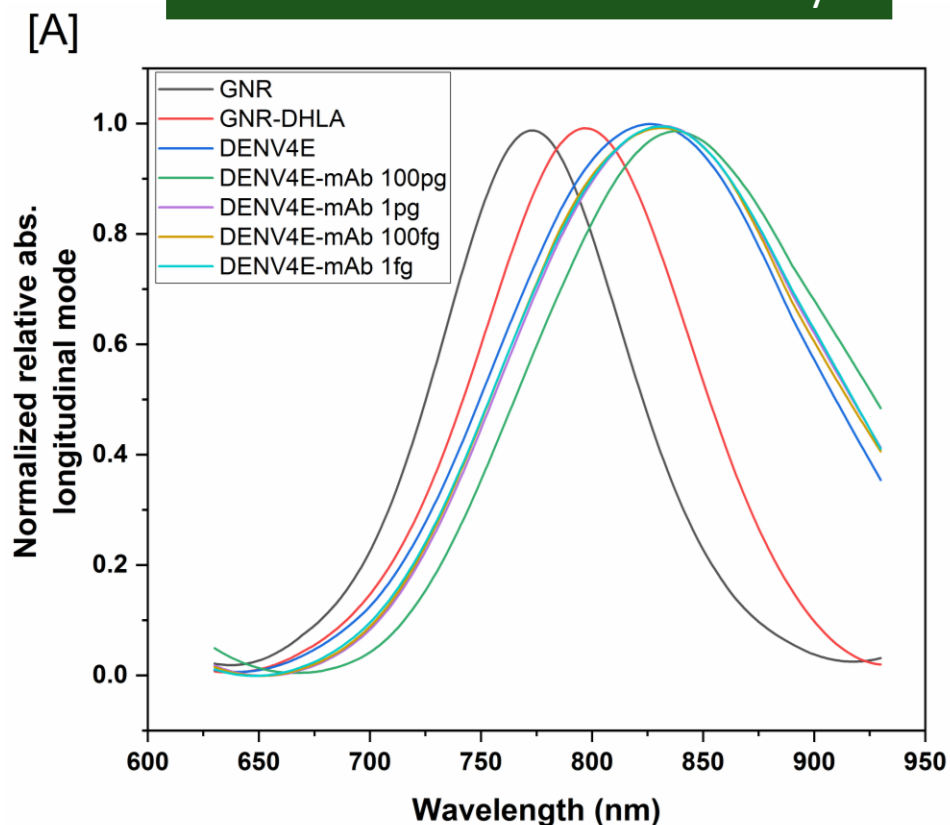
**SCIENTIFIC REPORTS**  
nature research

Check for updates

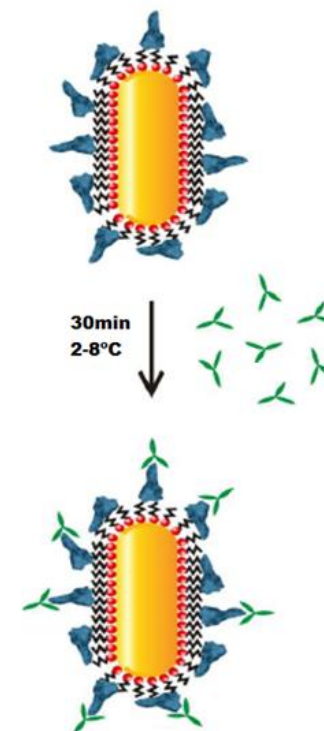
**OPEN** **Nanosensors based on LSPR are able to serologically differentiate dengue from Zika infections**

Alice F. Versiani<sup>1,5,8</sup>, Estefânia M. N. Martins<sup>2,6</sup>, Lidia M. Andrade<sup>3,6</sup>, Laura Cox<sup>1</sup>, Glauco C. Pereira<sup>4</sup>, Edel F. Barbosa-Stancioli<sup>1</sup>, Maurício L. Nogueira<sup>5</sup>, Luiz O. Ladeira<sup>3,6</sup> & Flávio G. da Fonseca<sup>1,7,8</sup>

**DENV1-4 monoclonal antibody**



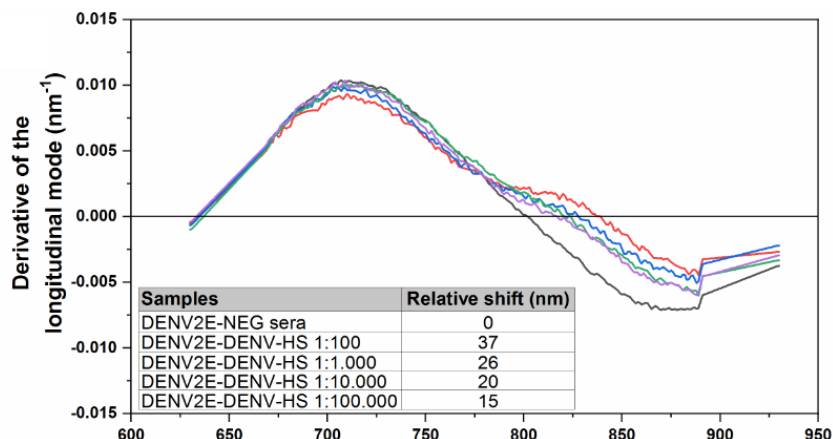
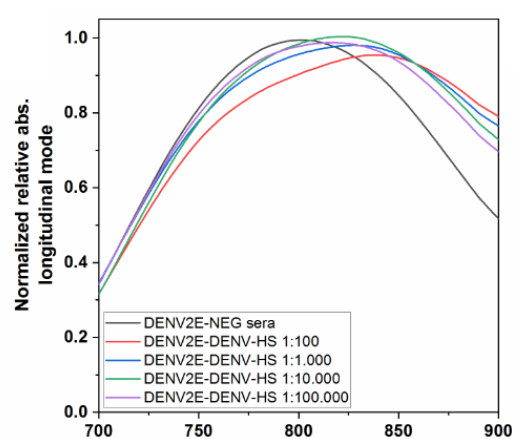
Sample	Relative shift (nm)
GNR	-54
GNR-DHLA	-30
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DENV4E-mAb 100pg	11
DENV4E-mAb 1pg	5
DENV4E-mAb 100fg	4
DENV4E-mAb 1fg	4



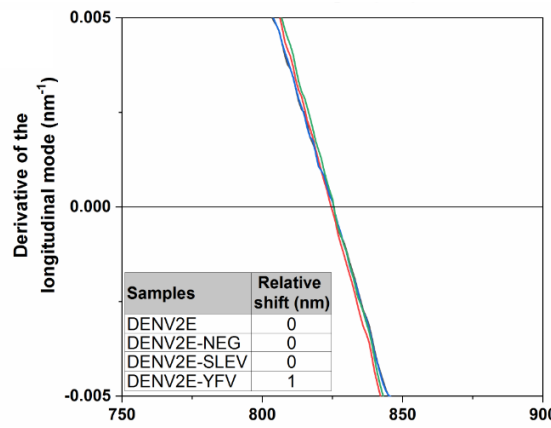
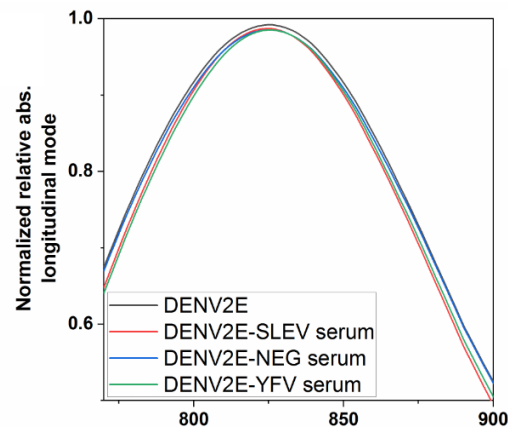
# Brazilian experience

- DENV LSPR Nanosensors:

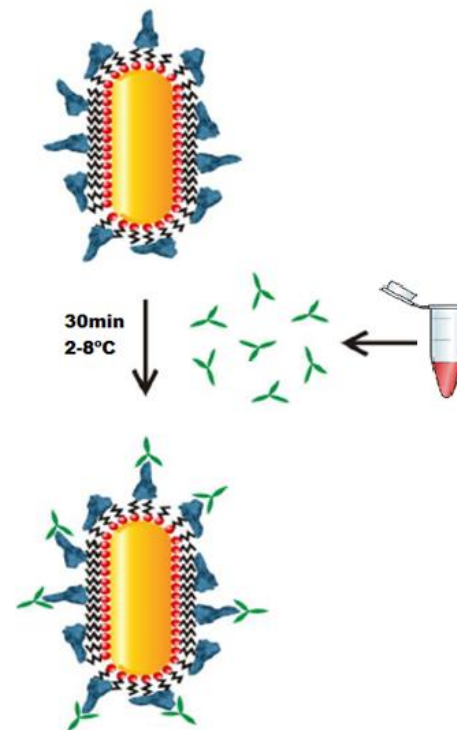
## DENV+ HUMAN POOL SERA



## CONTROLS HUMAN POOL SERA



**Controls:**  
YFV  
SLEV  
TN

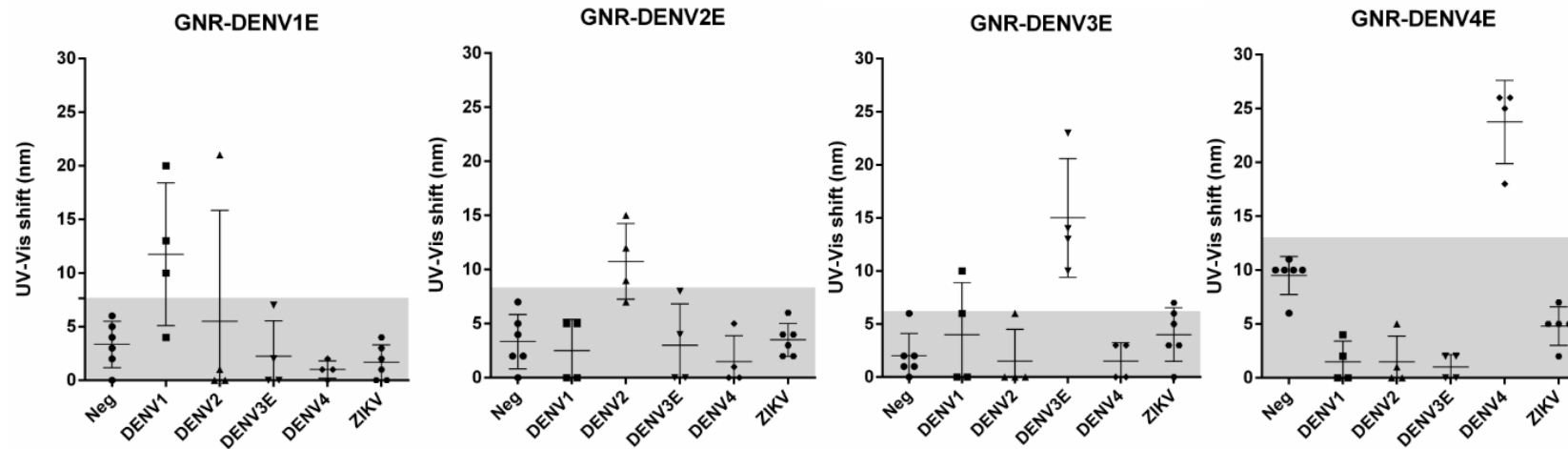
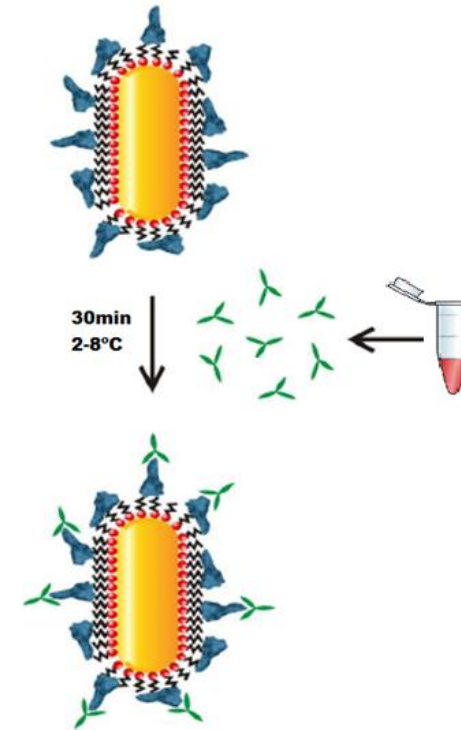
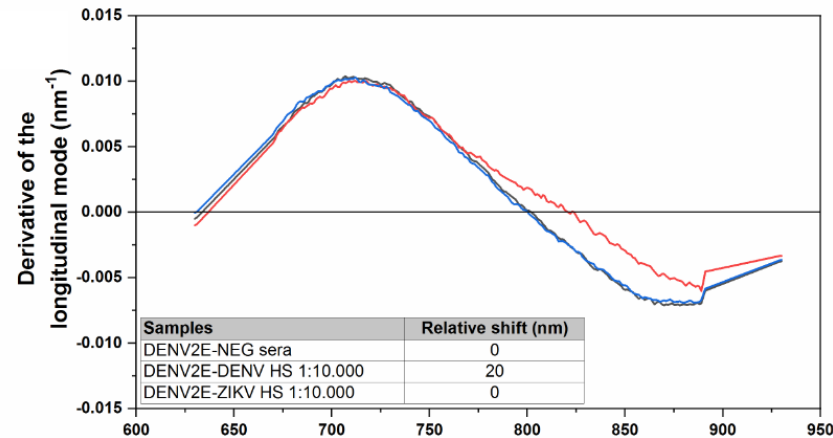
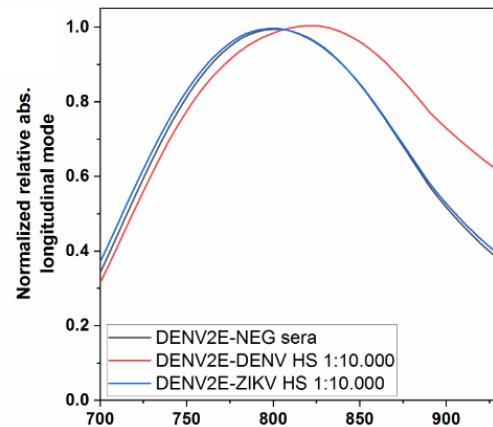




# Brazilian experience

- DENV LSPR Nanosensors:

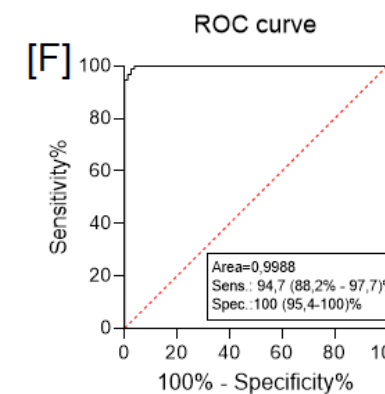
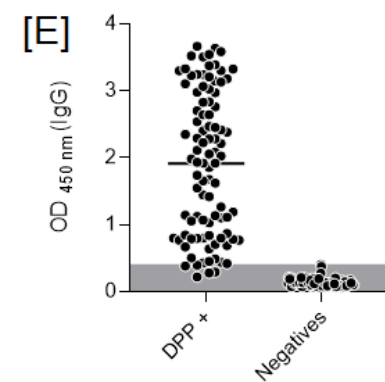
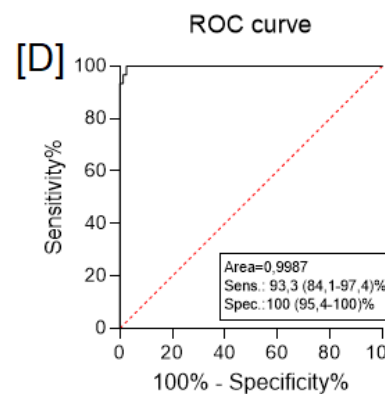
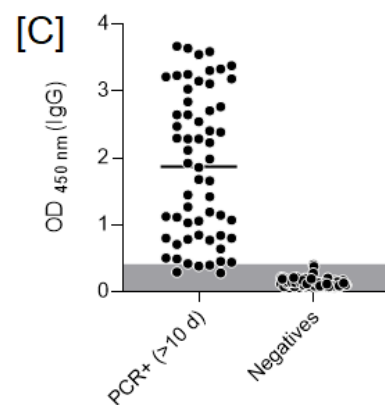
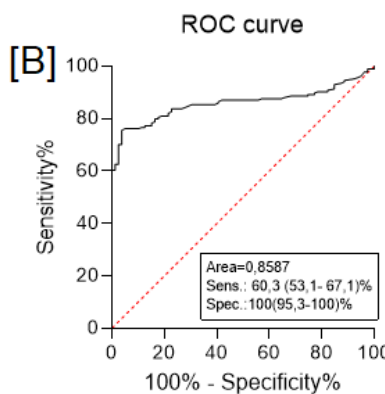
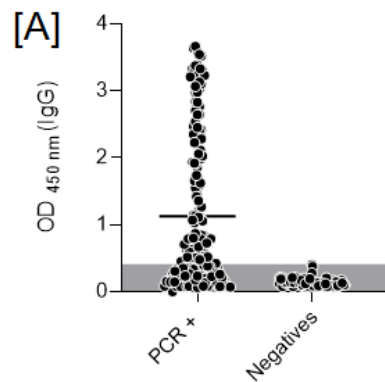
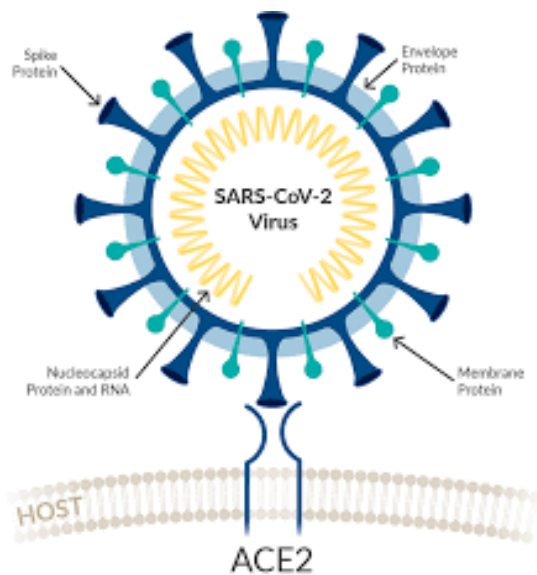
DENV+ HUMAN SERA x ZIKV+ HUMAN SERA



# Brazilian experience

- COVID-19 ELISA and LSPR Nanosensor:

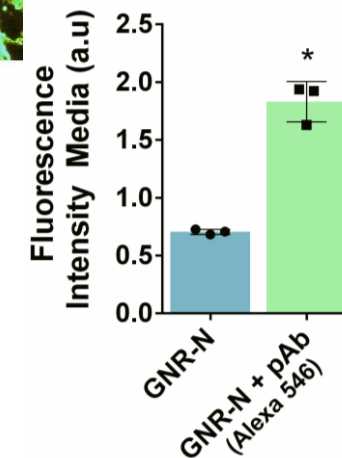
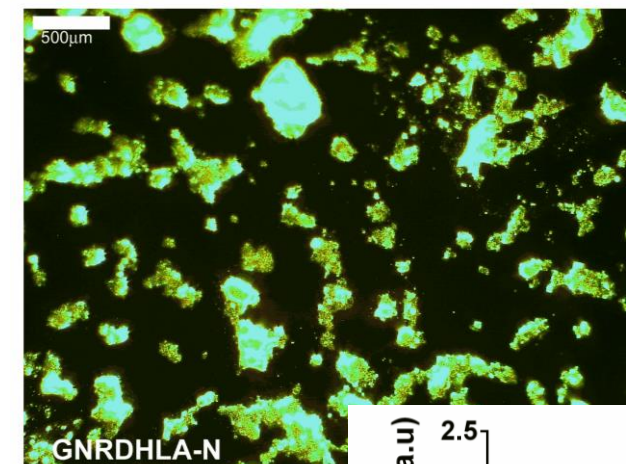
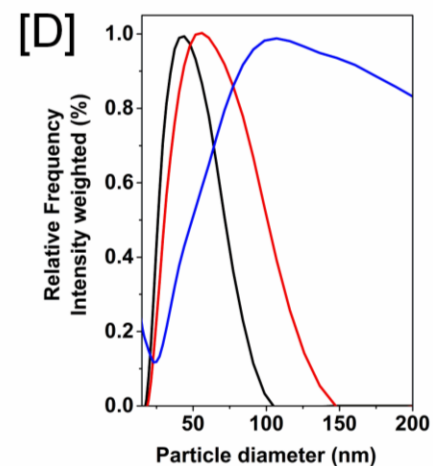
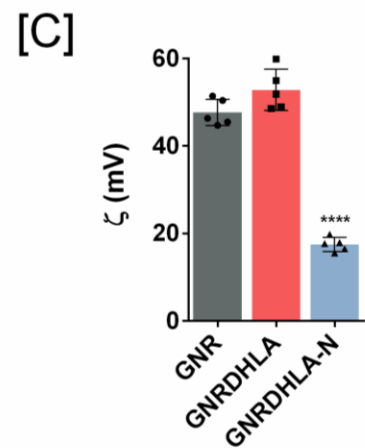
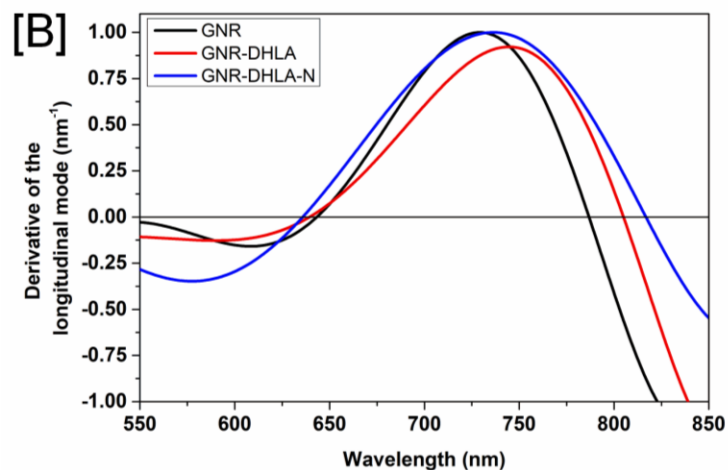
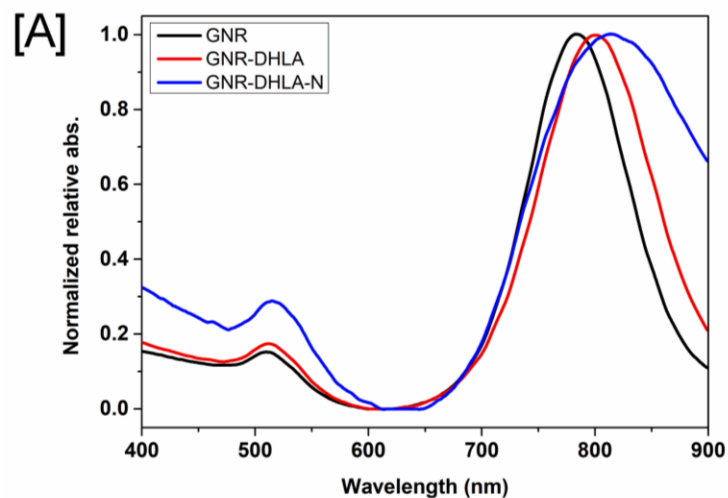
IgG ELISA anti-N validation



# Brazilian experience

COVID Nanosensor  
characterization

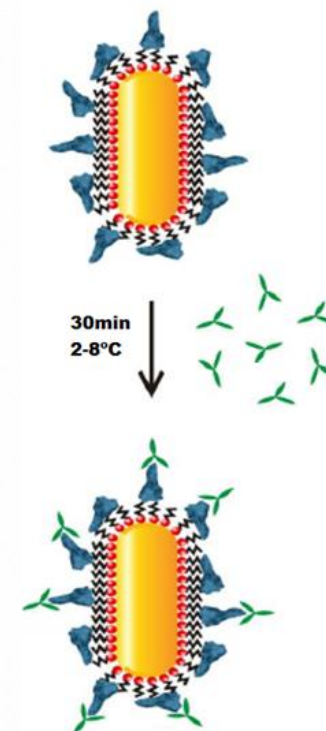
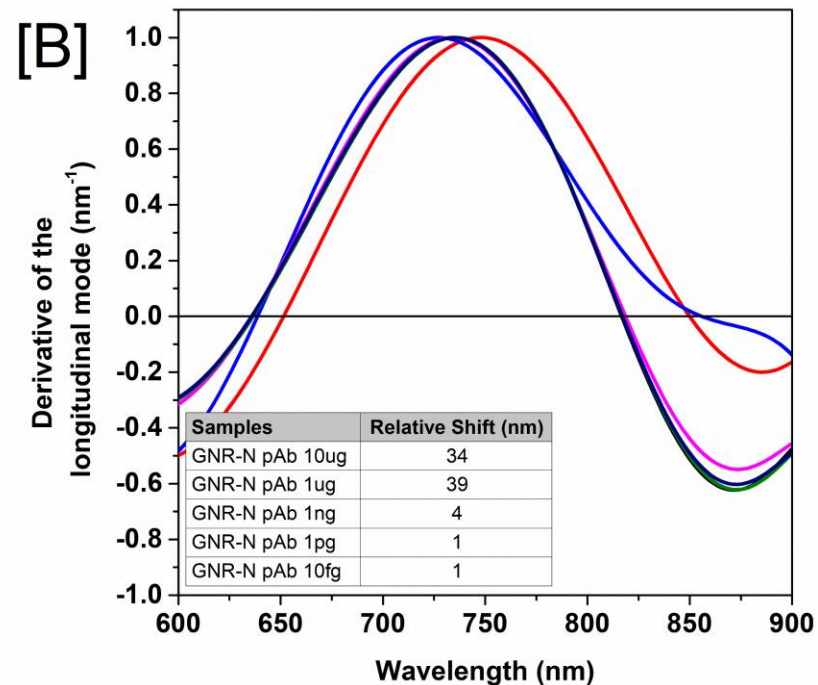
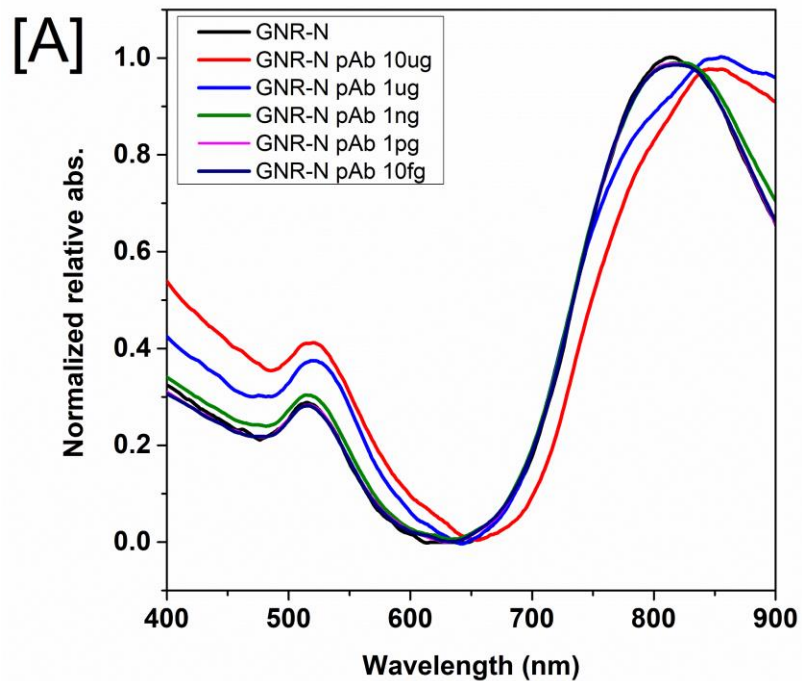
- COVID-19 ELISA and LSPR Nanosensor:



# Brazilian experience

- COVID-19 ELISA and LSPR Nanosensor:

Anti-N polyclonal antibody

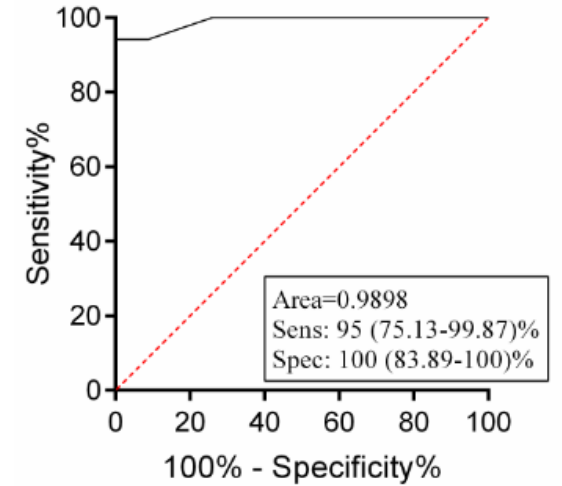
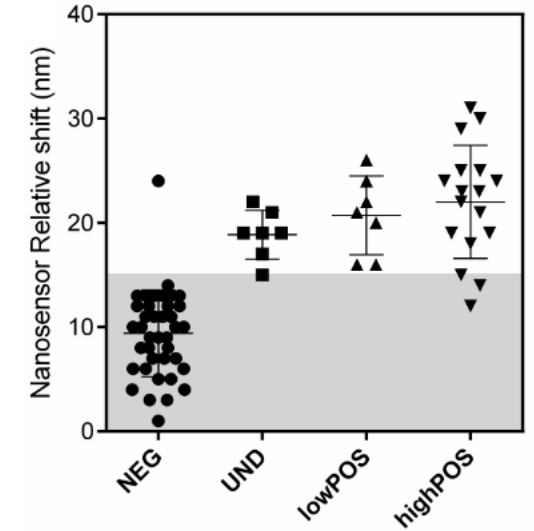
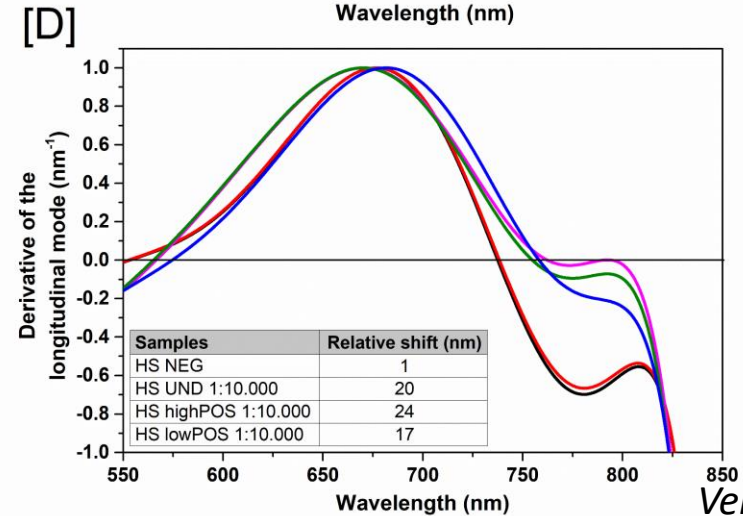
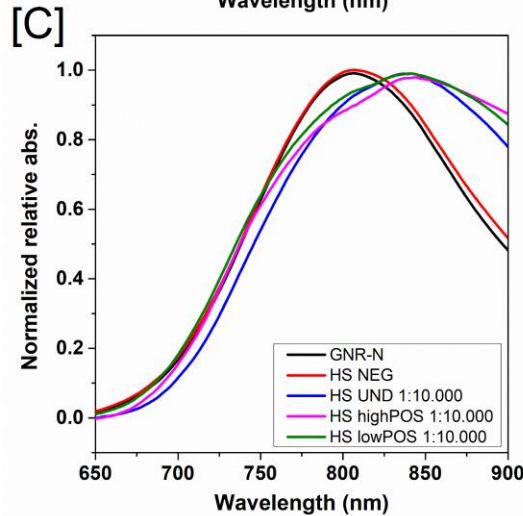
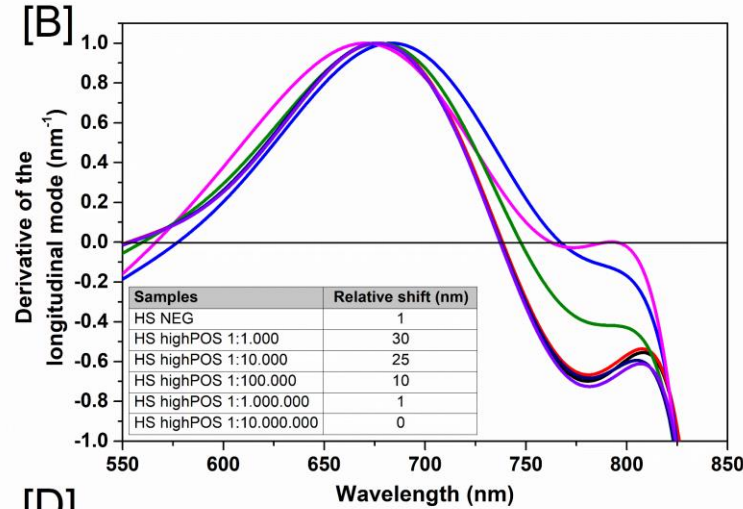
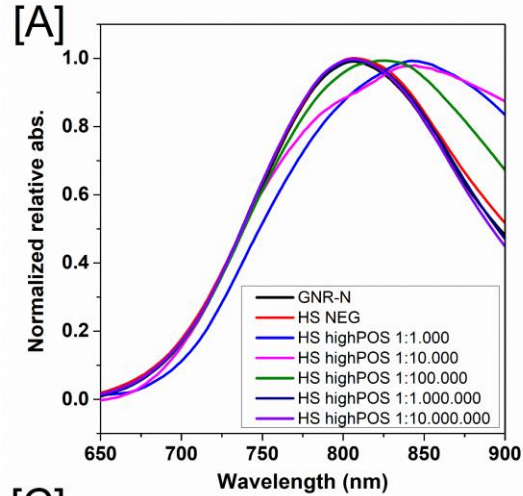




# Brazilian experience

COVID-19+ HUMAN SERA

- COVID-19 ELISA and LSPR Nanosensor:



# Brazilian experience

- FACS signal enhancement:

Journal of  
Materials Chemistry B



PAPER

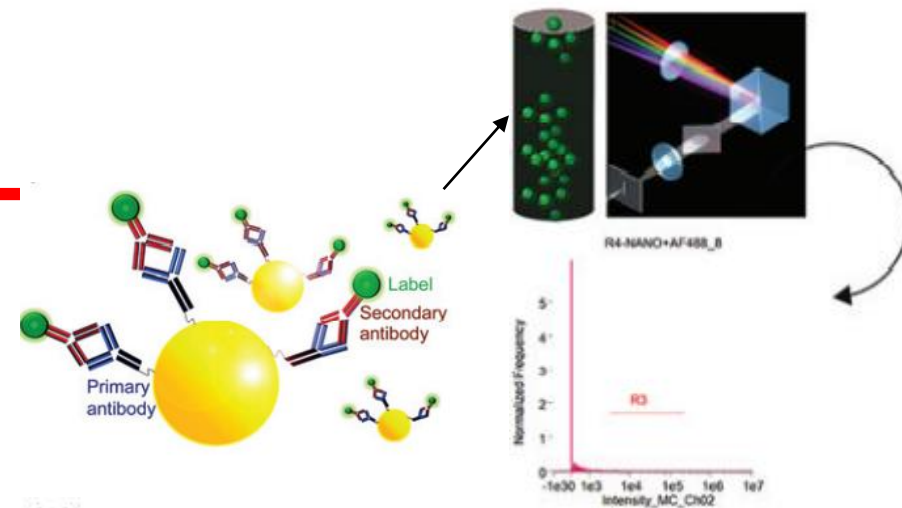
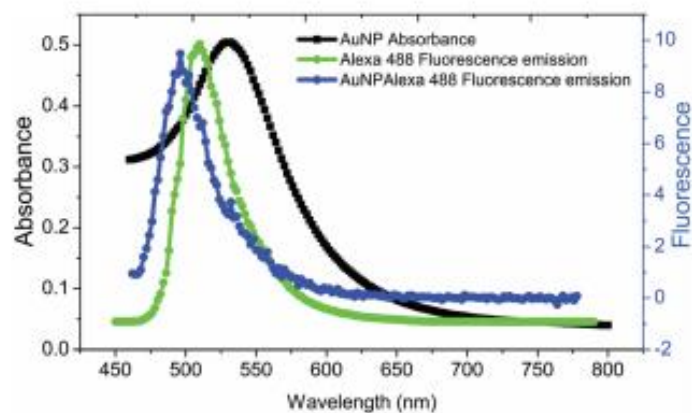
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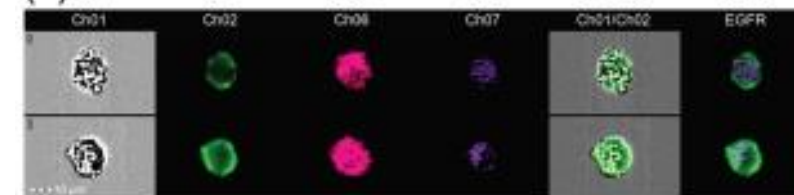
Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/d0tb02309d

## Gold nanoparticles enhance fluorescence signals by flow cytometry at low antibody concentrations†

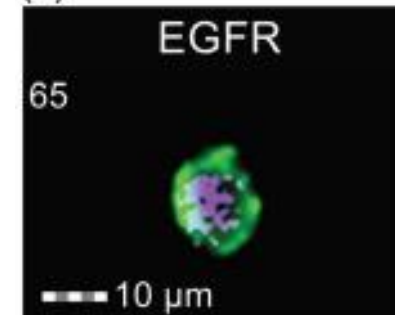
Daniela S. Reis,<sup>a</sup> Vivian L. de Oliveira,<sup>b</sup> Misael L. Silva,<sup>c</sup>  
Roberto M. Paniago,<sup>b</sup> Luiz O. Ladeira,<sup>d</sup> and Lidia M. Andrade<sup>b,d</sup>



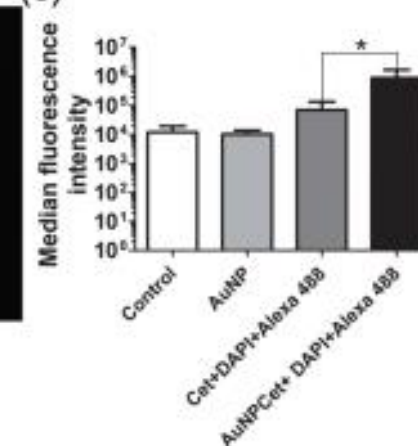
(a)



(b)



(c)



Sinergic effect of AuNP+Fluorophore



# Diagnostic technologies

- How to choose your assay technology?
  - Lab infrastructure x Affected population
    - Cost
    - Time
    - Disease outcome: impact of false-negatives or false-positives results.
    - Co-circulation of similar pathogens that affects diagnosis
  - Interdisciplinary research group:
    - Allies technology and biological/medical background
  - New diseases
    - Opportunity to well-established academic techniques to gain market place



# Emerging or re-emerging pathogens

- How to deal with emerging or re-emerging pathogens?
  - Rapidly develop and deploy diagnostic testing methods;
  - Development of case definitions and testing criteria;
  - Engage public health partners to optimize response capacity and coordination;
  - Establish information sharing processes, procedures, and samples that supports surveillance of new pathogens;
  - Establish genomics and other omics approaches to further enhance infectious disease response capacity.



**Establishment of an interdisciplinary research network**





# Emerging or re-emerging pathogens



- ZikaPLAN brings together 25 leading research and public health organizations in Latin America, North America, Africa, Asia, and Europe, taking a comprehensive approach to tackle the Zika threat



- CADDE brings together multidisciplinary teams across Brazil and the UK to address critical questions in arbovirus epidemiology and public health in Brazil.



- Brazilian committee that brings together specialists, government representatives, funding agencies, research centers and universities with the aim of integrating initiatives to combat emerging viruses.



RedeVirus  
MCTI

## COVID-19 INITIATIVES

Genome  
sequencing



10 granted vaccine  
projects



Protocols / Confirmed  
samples / virus distribution



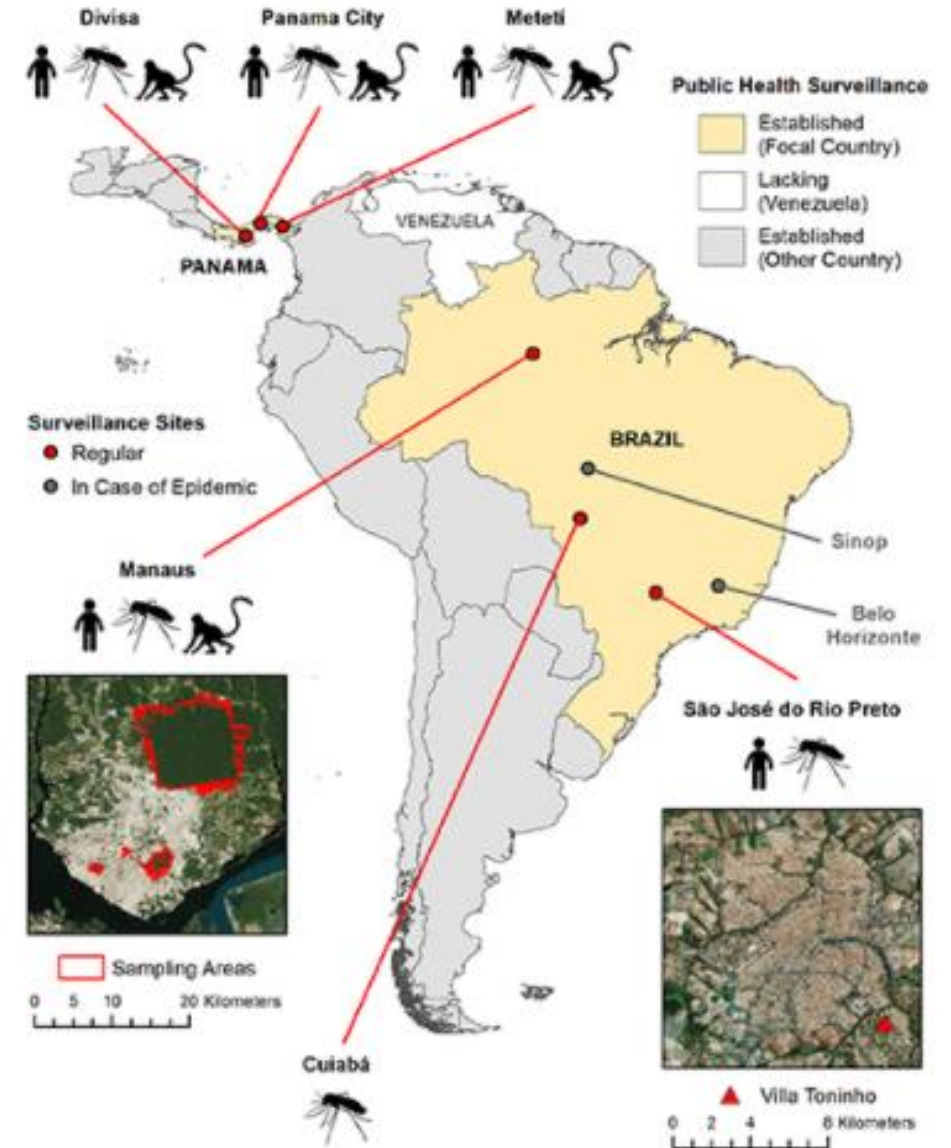
100% national  
serologic assays



Cross-validation

# CREATE-NEO

- The **C**oordinating **R**esearch on **E**merging **A**rvoviral **T**hreats **E**ncompassing the **N**eotropics (CREATE-NEO) project will provide a nimble and flexible network of surveillance sites in Central and South America coupled to cutting-edge modeling approaches in order to anticipate and counter emerging arboviruses. Importantly, CREATE-NEO can quickly redirect its mission to address any emerging zoonotic or vector-borne disease





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