

# RNA 101: IVT Workflows for GMP Manufacturing



**Presenter:**

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**Moderator:**

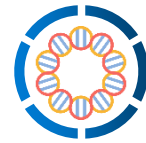
Mingjuan Liu, Ph.D.  
Director of Marketing

## Logistics:

- You will be put on mute during the webinar
- We welcome you to ask questions using the “Q&A” on the top right corner of the platform
- Your questions will be addressed after the presentation

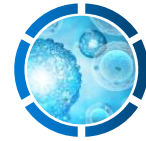


## Platforms



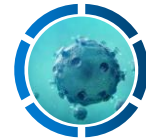
### Plasmids

- ◆ Plasmid construction
- ◆ Strain banking
- ◆ Plasmid PD & manufacturing



### Cell therapy

- ◆ CAR-T
- ◆ CAR-NK
- ◆ MSC, iPSC, cell banking



### Viral Vectors

- ◆ Adenovirus
- ◆ AAV
- ◆ LVV
- ◆ OV



### Gene Editing

- ◆ IVT-sgRNA
- ◆ Nuclease
- ◆ RNP PD



### RNA-LNP

- ◆ mRNA
- ◆ circRNA, saRNA
- ◆ sgRNA



### QC release testing

- ◆ Strength
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Identity
- ◆ Potency

# Global GMP Sites Overview



**Jinan, China  
GMP Facility**

- ✓ >50,000 sqft
- ✓ Plasmid production lines (5L-200L)
- ✓ Mammalian culture production lines (10L-200L)



**Suzhou, China  
GMP Facility**

- ✓ >90,000 sqft
- ✓ Plasmid production lines (5L-200L)
- ✓ Mammalian culture production lines (10L-200L, 2000L for AAV)



**Guangzhou, China  
GMP Facility**

- ✓ >50,000 sqft
- ✓ Cell therapy excellence center (B+A)
- ✓ Automated process
- ✓ Robust Assay dev and QC capabilities



**Maryland, USA,  
GMP Facility**

- ✓ >10,000 sqft
- ✓ Four GMP cleanrooms to support cell therapy and viral vector enabling technologies programs.
- ✓ Comprehensive QA and QC capabilities including full-scope testing of final products.

- 
- ✓ Grade C+A / B+A cleanroom standards
  - ✓ Independent HVAC systems for each suite
  - ✓ Monitoring room with BMS and EMS system

- ✓ Total of **6** plasmid, **9** viral vector, and **16** cell production lines (including cell banks).

## sgRNA

- A short RNA molecule guides a Cas9 enzyme to a specific DNA sequence.
- Consists of a 20-nucleotide sequence specific guide sequence and a scaffold sequence.
- The scaffold sequence interacts with the Cas9 enzyme, activating it.
- The activated Cas9 enzyme cuts the DNA at the target site.
- Precisely modifies genes.

## mRNA

- Synthetic mRNA is designed to encode a specific protein.
- Delivered to cells using a delivery system (e.g., lipid nanoparticles).
- Can target a wide range of diseases.
- mRNA-based therapies can be produced quickly.
- Well-tolerated with a low risk of long-term side effects.

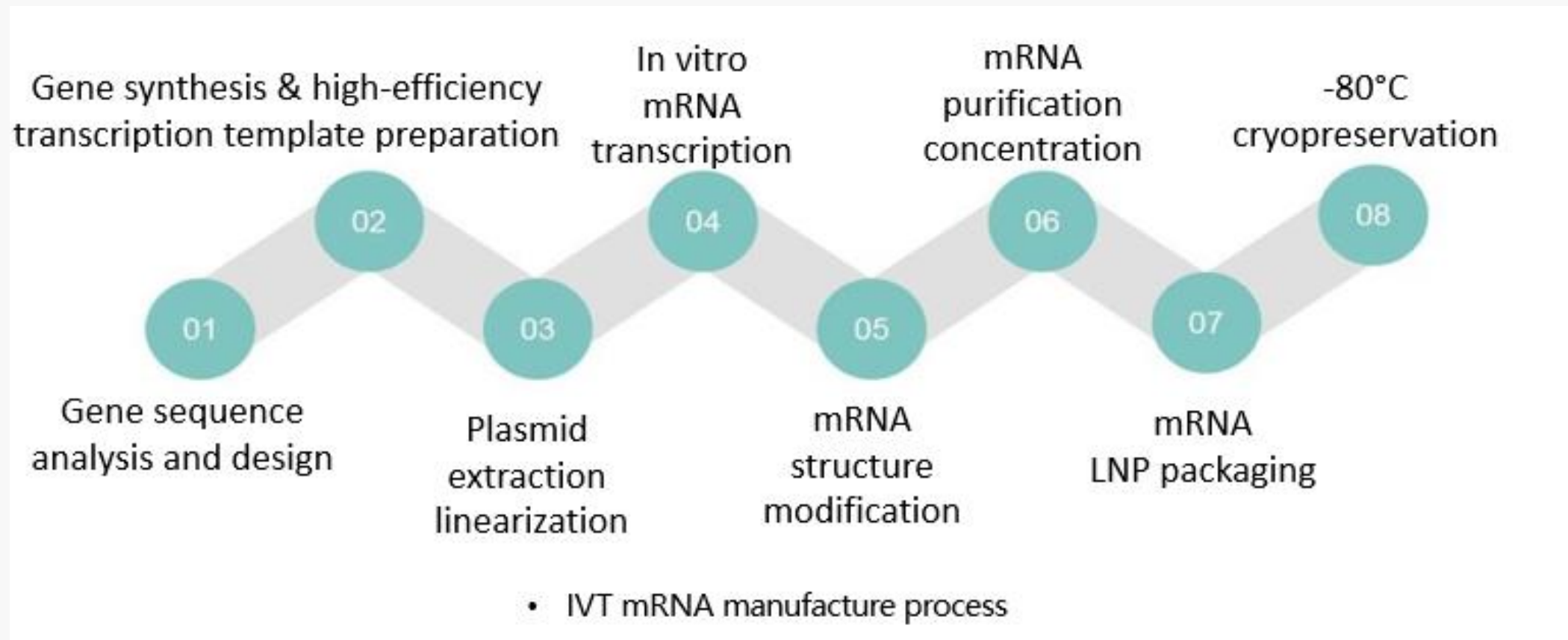
## circRNA

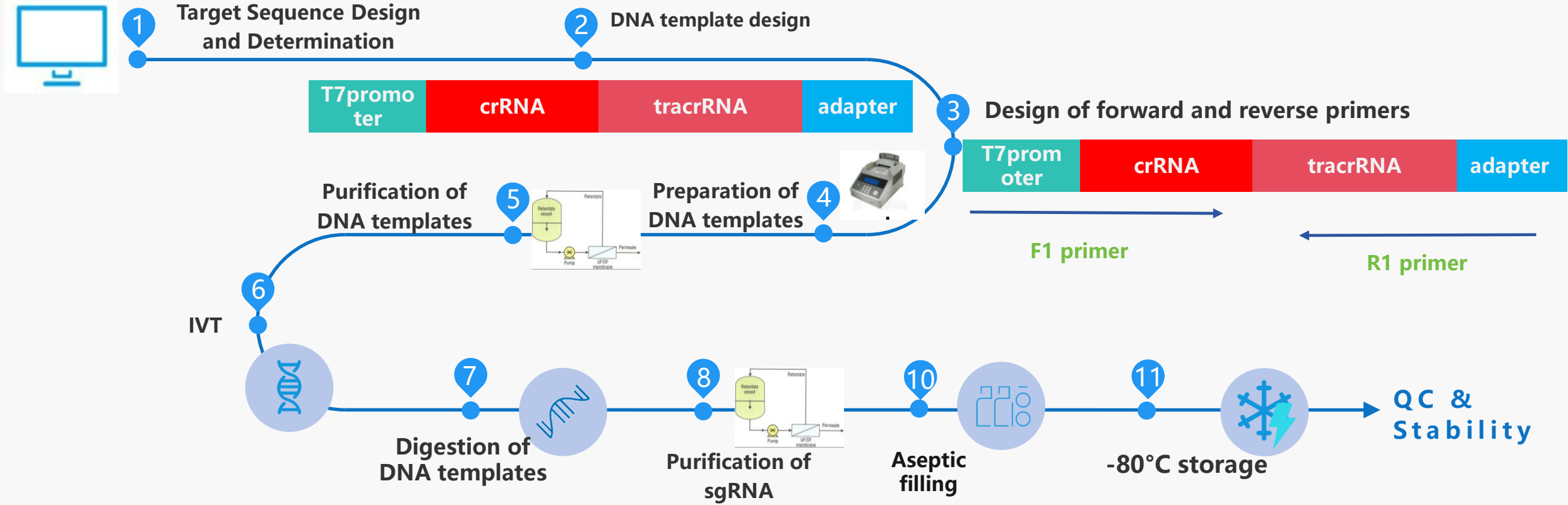
- circRNA is a class of RNA molecules that form a circular loop, lacking free 5' and 3' ends.
- Generated through alternative splicing, where mRNA is circularized before degradation.
- Acts as miRNA sponges to sequester and inhibit miRNAs.
- Serves as a scaffold platform for protein interactions.
- Modulates gene transcription and translation.
- Identifies circRNAs associated with specific diseases.
- Uses circRNAs as delivery vehicles for therapeutic molecules.

## saRNA

- saRNA contains a self-replicating element that allows it to replicate within cells, significantly increasing its abundance.
- Amplified saRNA serves as a template for producing multiple copies of the desired protein.
- Delivers therapeutic genes to cells for treating genetic disorders.
- Produces larger quantities of therapeutic proteins and vaccine antigens.
- saRNA can persist within cells for a longer duration.

We have established a comprehensive RNA process platform to provide one-stop service for RNA synthesis. This includes **gene sequence analysis and design, high-efficiency in vitro transcription template preparation, plasmid linearization, IVT RNA synthesis, purification, quality inspection and LNP packaging**, including mRNA for prefabricated and customized products, to promote the commercialization of mRNA drugs.

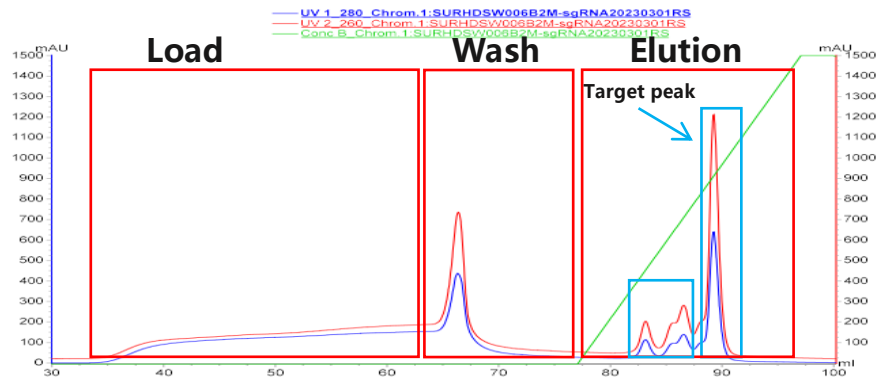




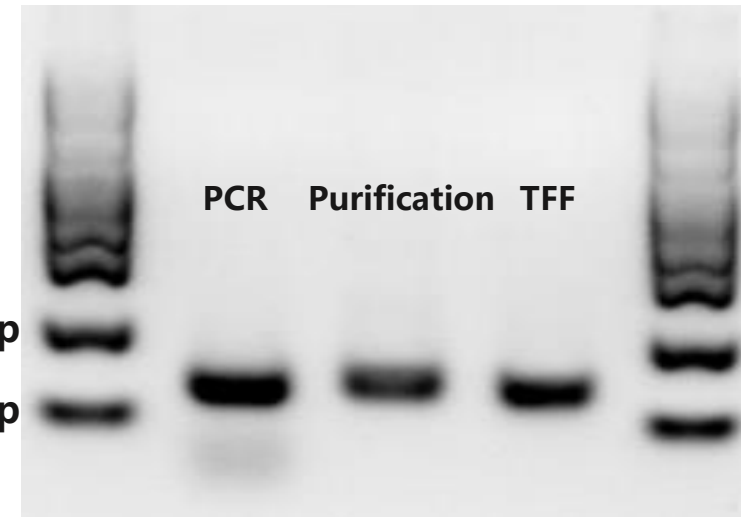
# DNA template preparation

- The template DNA turnover time is only two days
- High purity of DNA template is critical for the yield and quality of IVT sgRNA

Name`	PCR	Purification	TFF
	Reaction volumes (μl)	Quantity (μg)	Quantity (μg)
DNA template	4000	304	272



Chromatographic purification of DNA templates

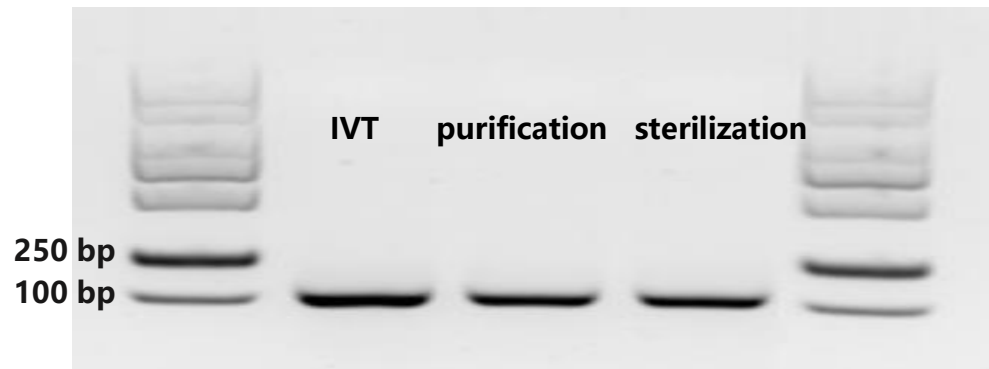


Detection of DNA templates purity by gel electrophoresis

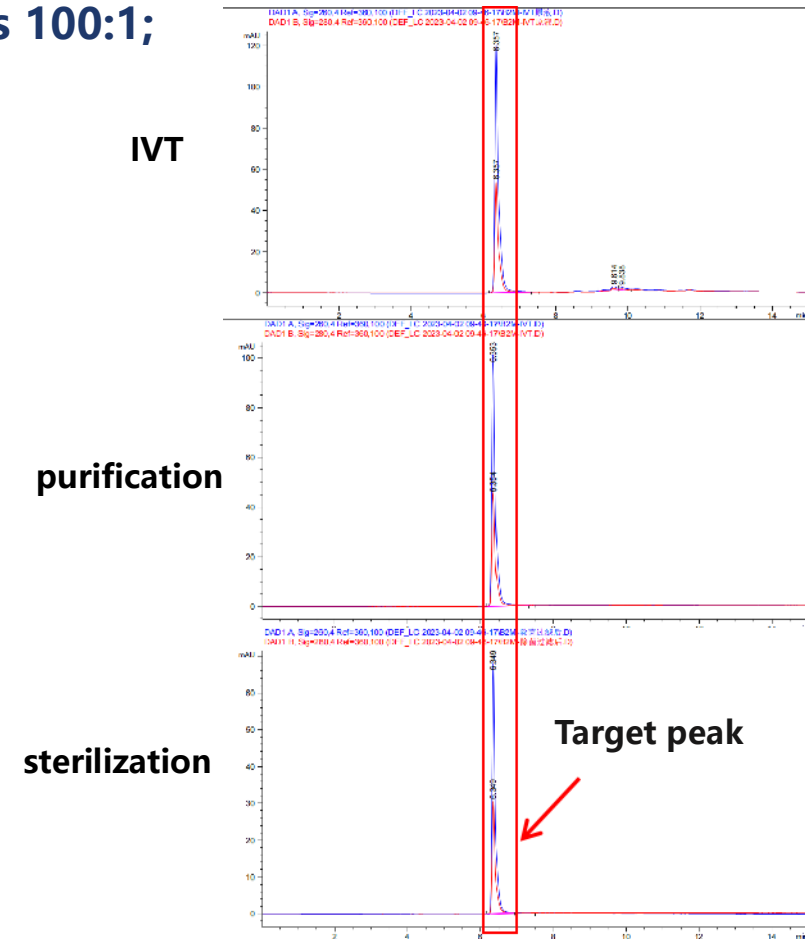
# sgRNA IVT and purification

- The sgRNA:DNA mass ratio in the IVT reaction system reaches 100:1;
- sgRNA purity in DS is 98.8%

IVT	purification	sterilization
Reaction volume (μl)	Quality (μg)	Quality (μg)
2000	10880.26	9383.87



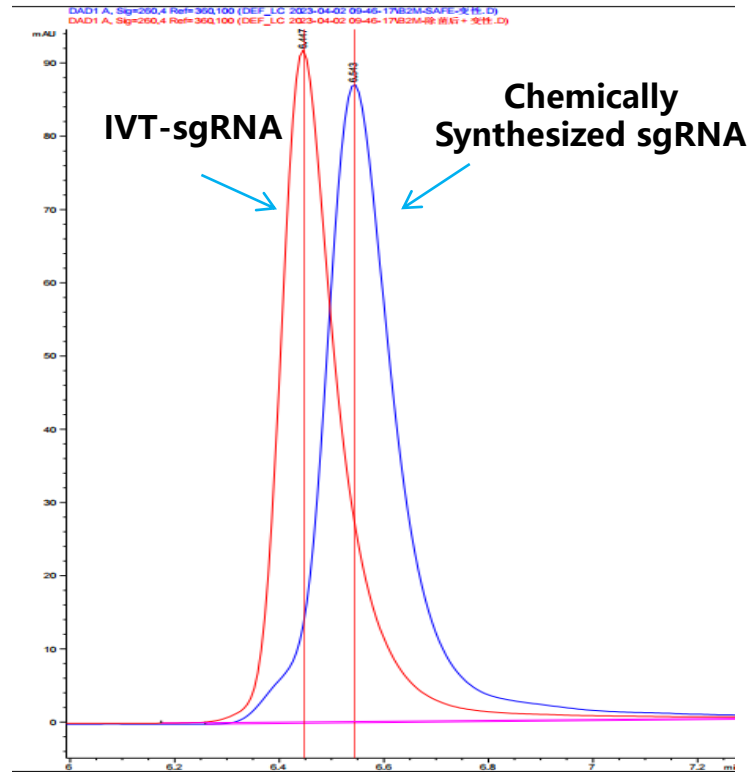
Detection of sgRNA purity by gel electrophoresis



In process Purity testing of sgRNA by HPLC

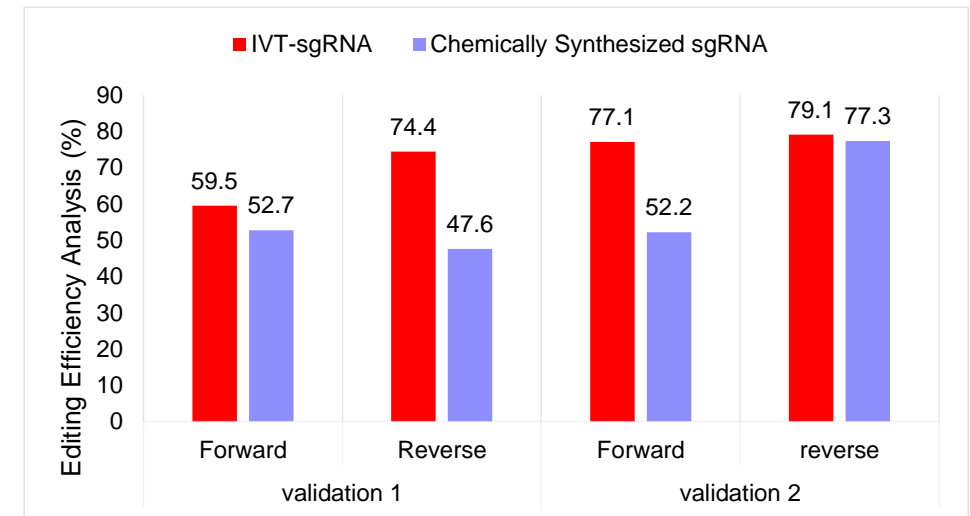


# Purity and potency comparison



**Purity of sgRNA by HPLC**

Group	sgRNA	IVT-sgRNA		Chemically Synthesized sgRNA	
		Forward	Reverse	Forward	reverse
Editing Efficiency Analysis Tide (%)	Sequencing Direction				
	validation 1	59.5	74.4	52.7	47.6
	validation 2	77.1	79.1	52.2	77.3



**Comparison of intracellular gene editing efficiency**

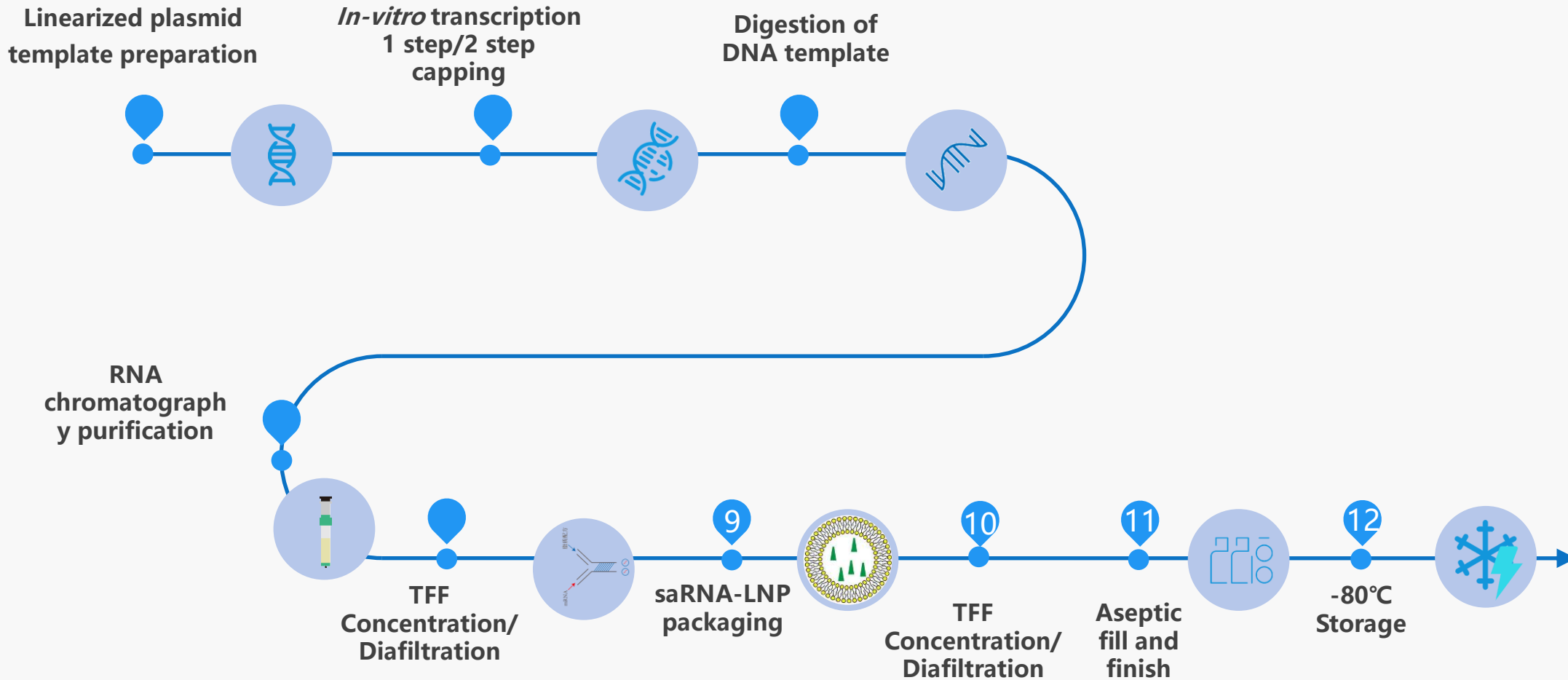
## Gene editing summary:

- IVT-sgRNA and chemically synthesized sgRNA have high purity;
- IVT-sgRNA has higher gene editing efficiency than chemically synthesized sgRNA.

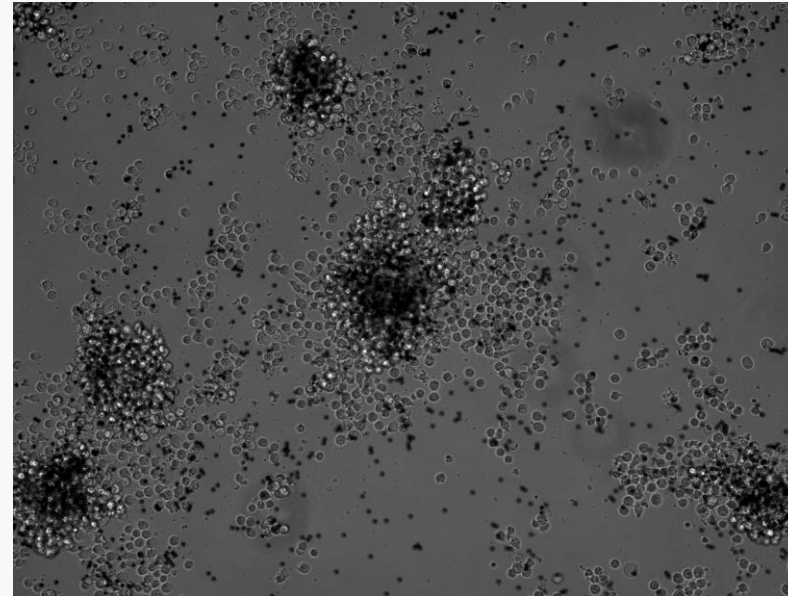
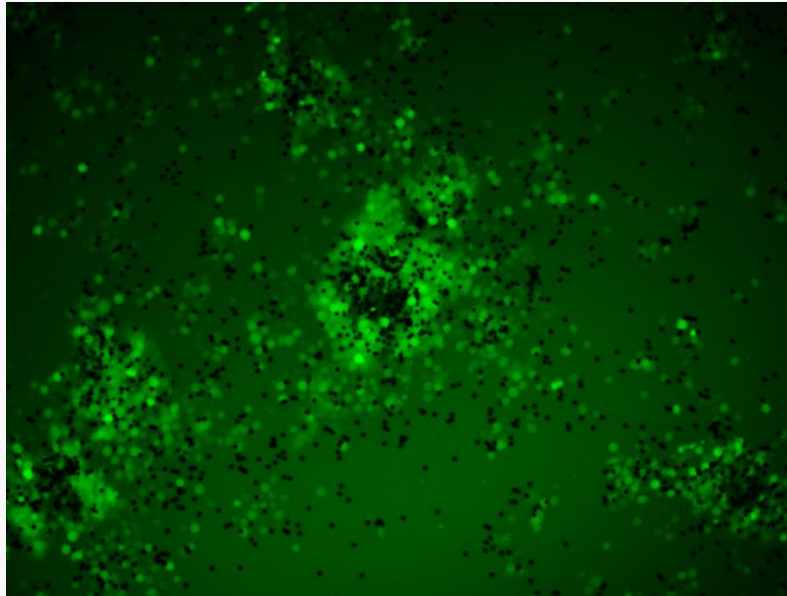
# QC release testing for sgRNA

Testing items	Test Methods
Appearance	Visual method
RNA Concentration	UV absorbance
Purity	HPLC
Purity	A260/A280
Molecular Weight	Mass spectrometry
Identifying Sequence	High-throughput sequencing
Endotoxin Detection	BDBU GEL-CLOT Method
Mycoplasma	Colorimetric assay
Sterility	Culture method
Total Protein Residue	Qubit / MicroBCA
pH	Multi-Parameter Tester
Template Residue	qPCR
dsRNA	Elisa

# mRNA/saRNA Production and LNP Packaging Workflow

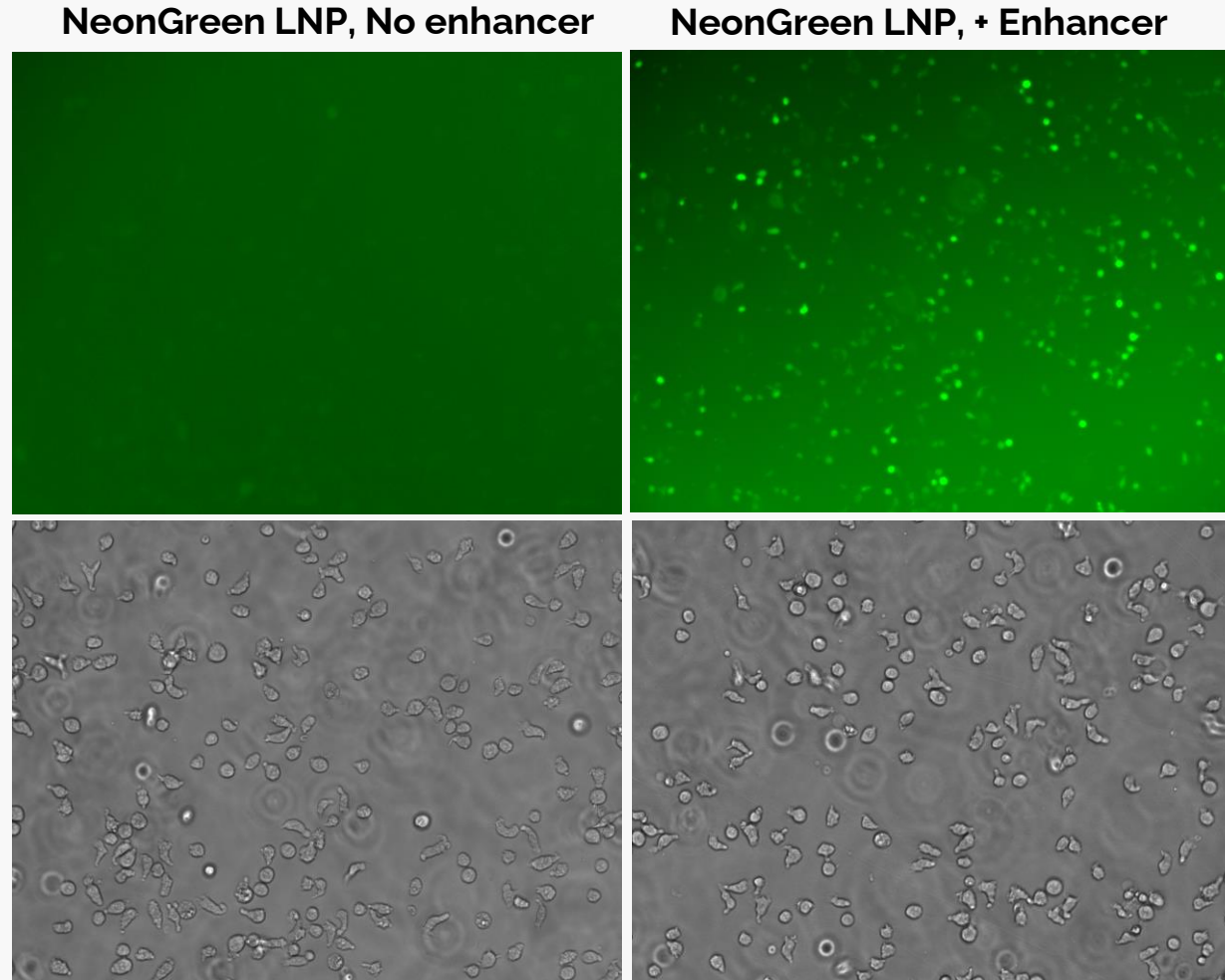


# mRNA-LNP Efficient Delivery into Primary T cells



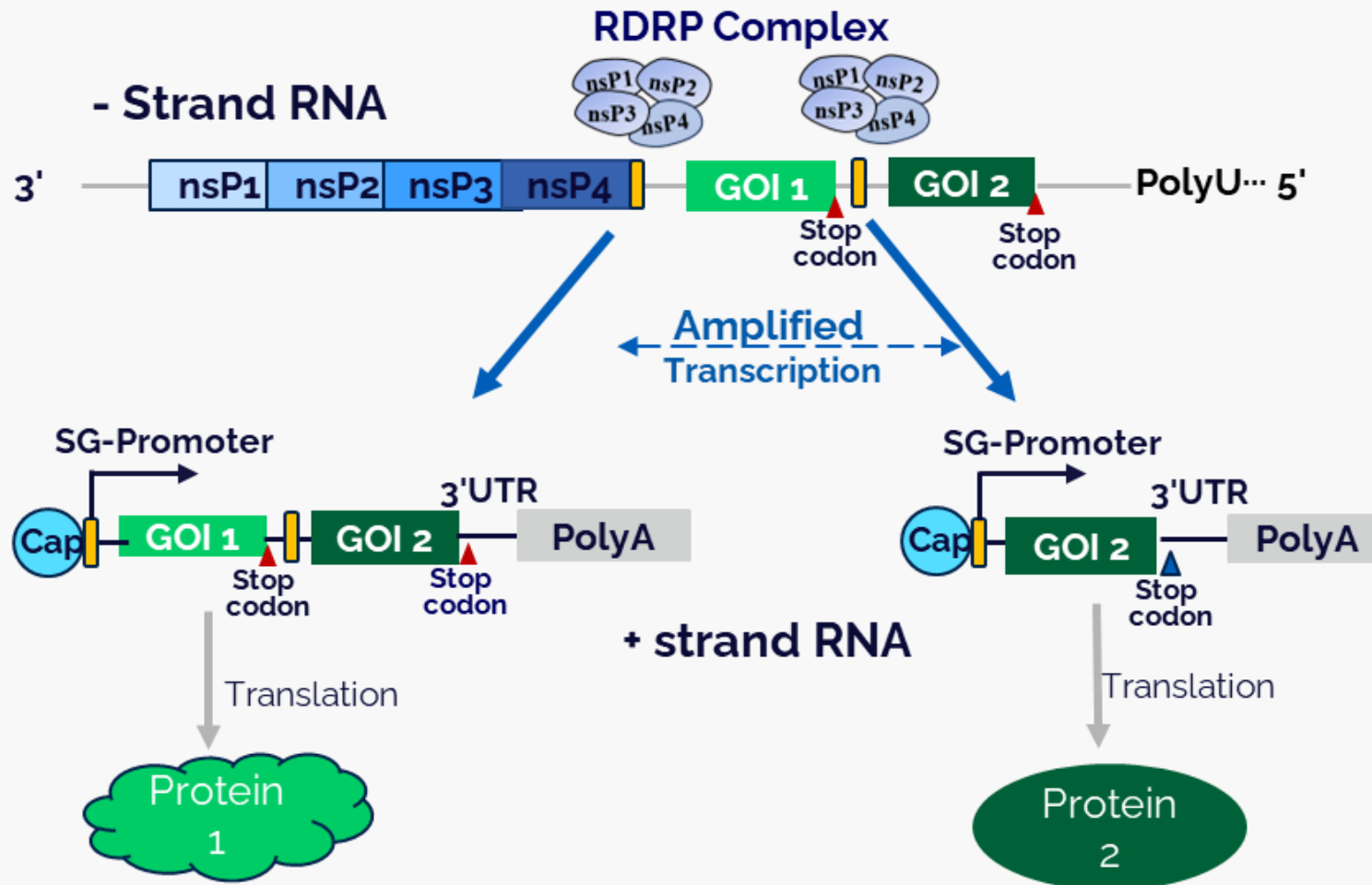
NeonGreen mRNA lipid nanoparticles were added to activated human primary T cells, in the presence of 1X serum-free enhancer A (uBriGene). Fluorescence images were captured 24 hours after treatment. The left image shows fluorescence, while the right image shows the phase contrast.

# mRNA-LNP Efficient Delivery to HSC cells

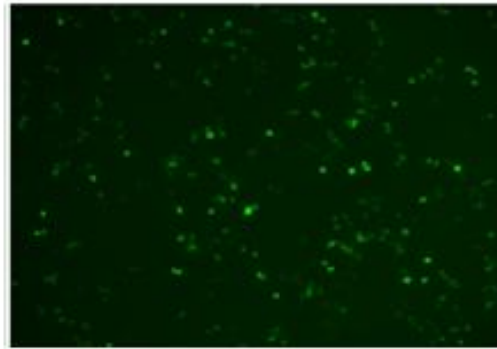


NeonGreen mRNA lipid nanoparticles manufactured by uBriGene were added to HSC cells in the absence (left) or presence (right) of 1X serum-free enhancer A. Fluorescence images (top) were captured 24 hours post-treatment, with phase contrast images shown in the lower panels.

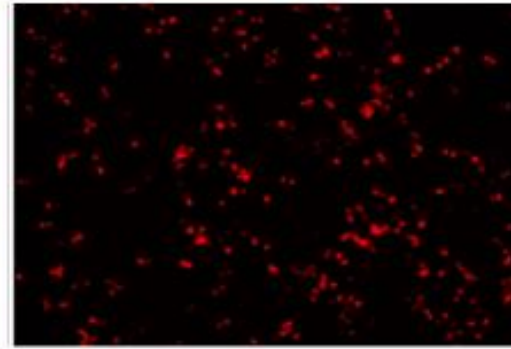
# Polycistronic saRNA Design



1ug Polycistronic saRNA

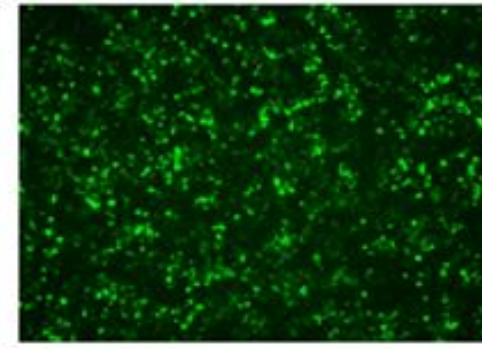


1<sup>st</sup> GOI: NeonGreen



2<sup>nd</sup> GOI: RFP

1ug Linear mRNA



GFP

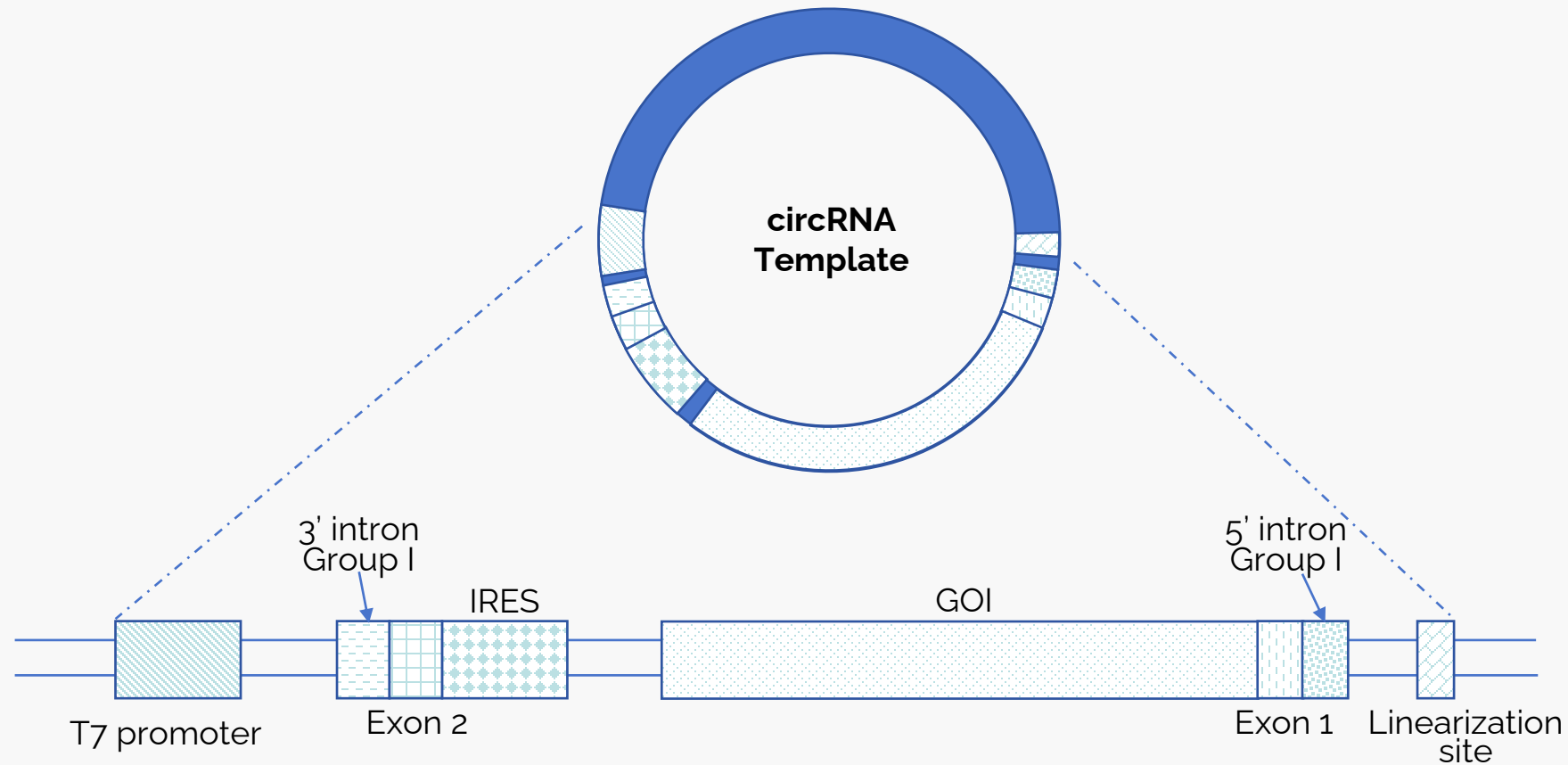
Note: The same amount of saRNA and mRNA were used in this experiment. Due to its larger size, the molar concentration of saRNA is significantly lower compared to linear mRNA.

# Quality control testing for mRNA/saRNA

Classification	Test Item	Method
<b>Identity</b>	mRNA sequence identity	RT-PCR+Sanger Sequencing
<b>Content</b>	Concentration	UV absorbance
<b>Purity</b>	5' capping efficiency	CE/LC-MS
	3' polyA tail length	CE/LC-MS
	A260/A280	UV absorbance
	RNA integrity	HPLC
	mRNA fragments	
	Aggregate quantitation	
	Residual protein	Qubit / MicroBCA
	dsRNA	ELISA
	Residual DNA template	qPCR
	Residual solvents	Residual ethanol (GC-MS)
<b>Potency</b>	Expression of target protein	Cell-based assay
<b>Safety</b>	Sterility	Culture method
	Endotoxin	GEL-CLOT Method
<b>Physical/chemical Properties</b>	Appearance	Visual method
	pH	pH

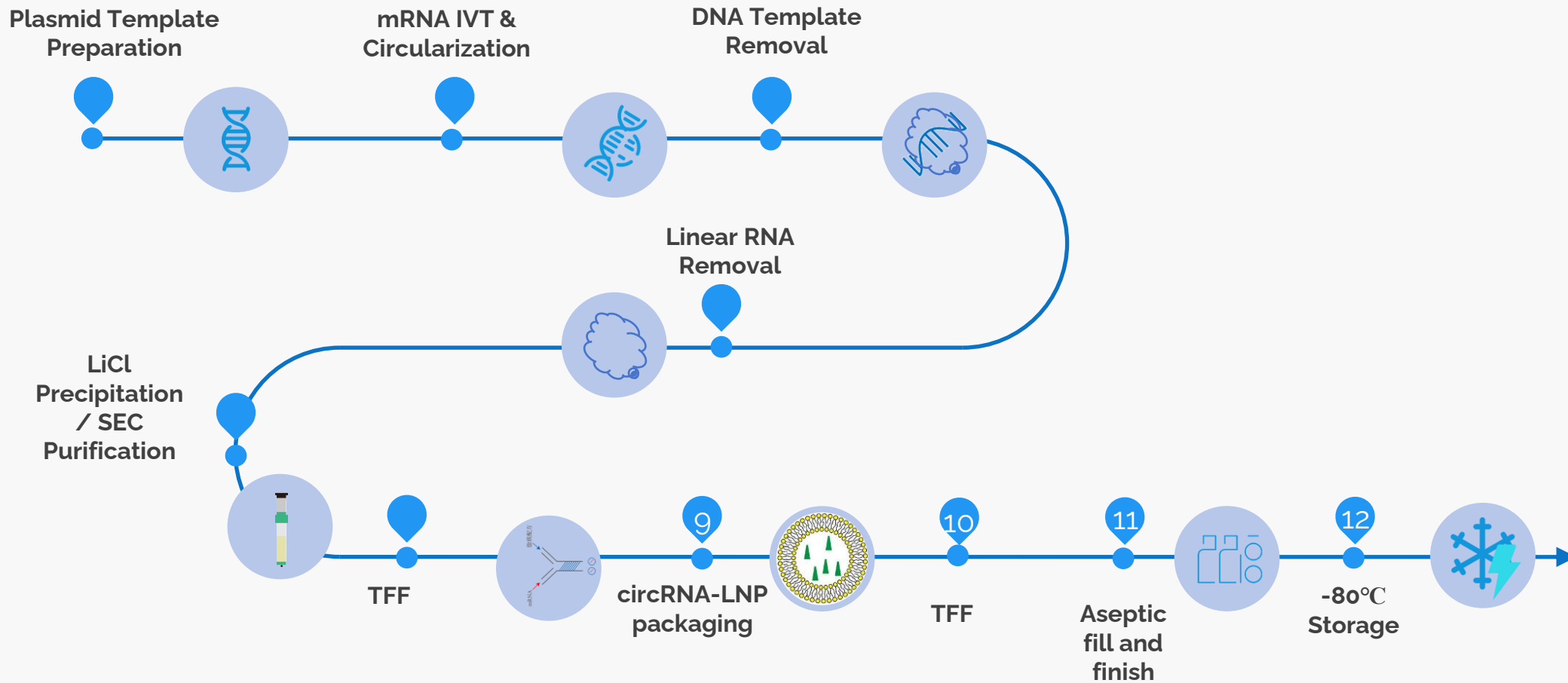


# circRNA Design Based on PIE Method

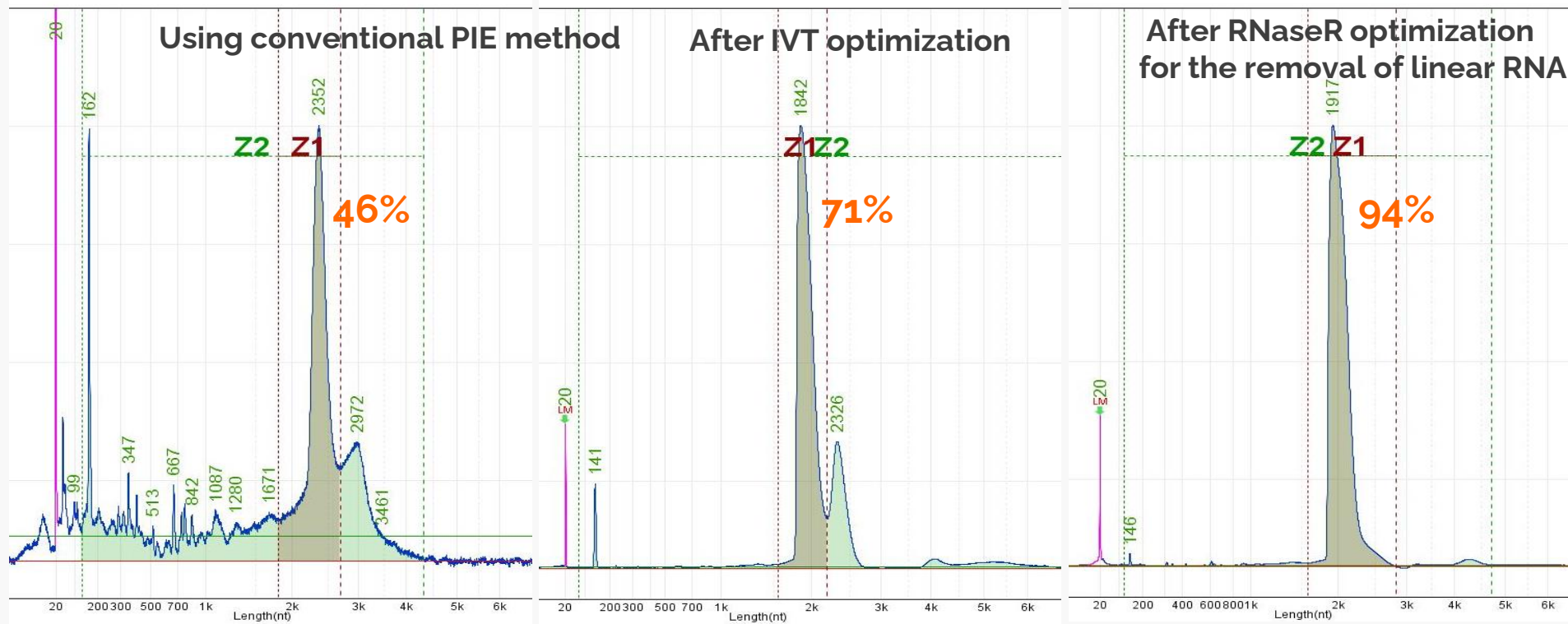


circRNA design based on PIE method (Group I intron)

# GMP circRNA-LNP Workflow

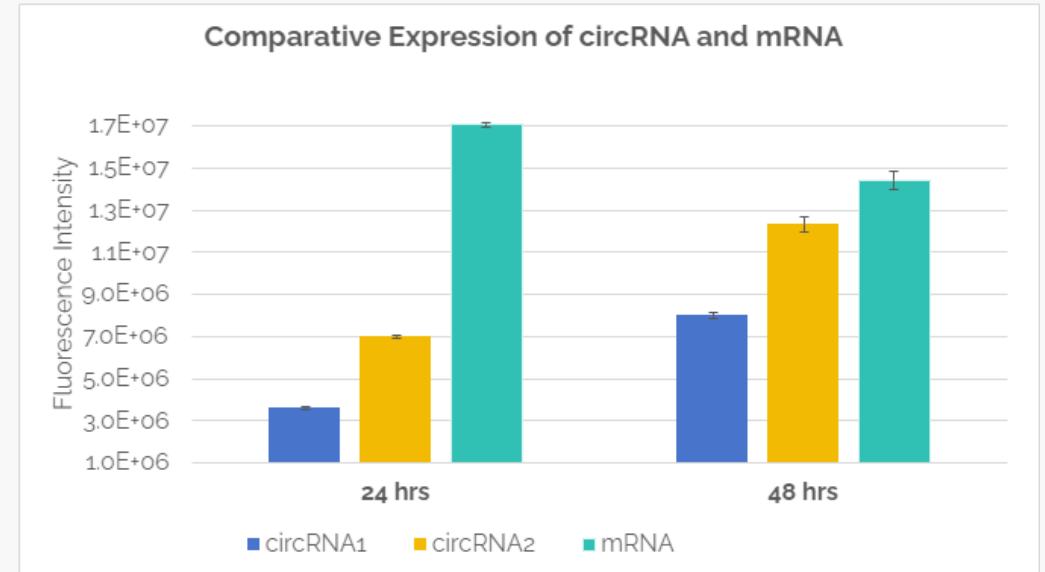
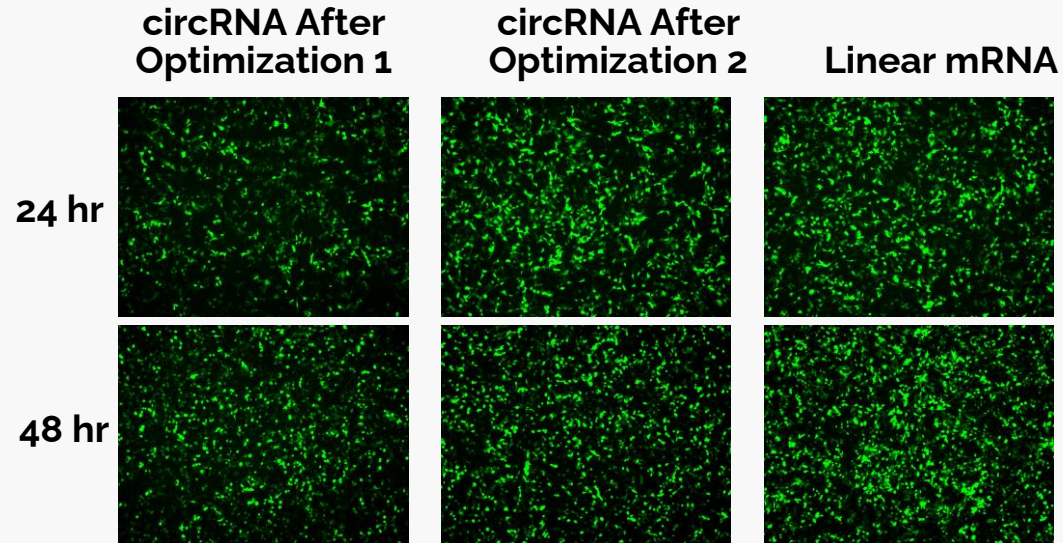


# circRNA Purity up to 94%



Using the conventional PIE strategy, circRNA purity is 46%. After optimizing mRNA in vitro transcription and RNaseR efficiency to remove linear RNA, circRNA purity exceeds 90%.

# Comparative Expression of circRNA and mRNA

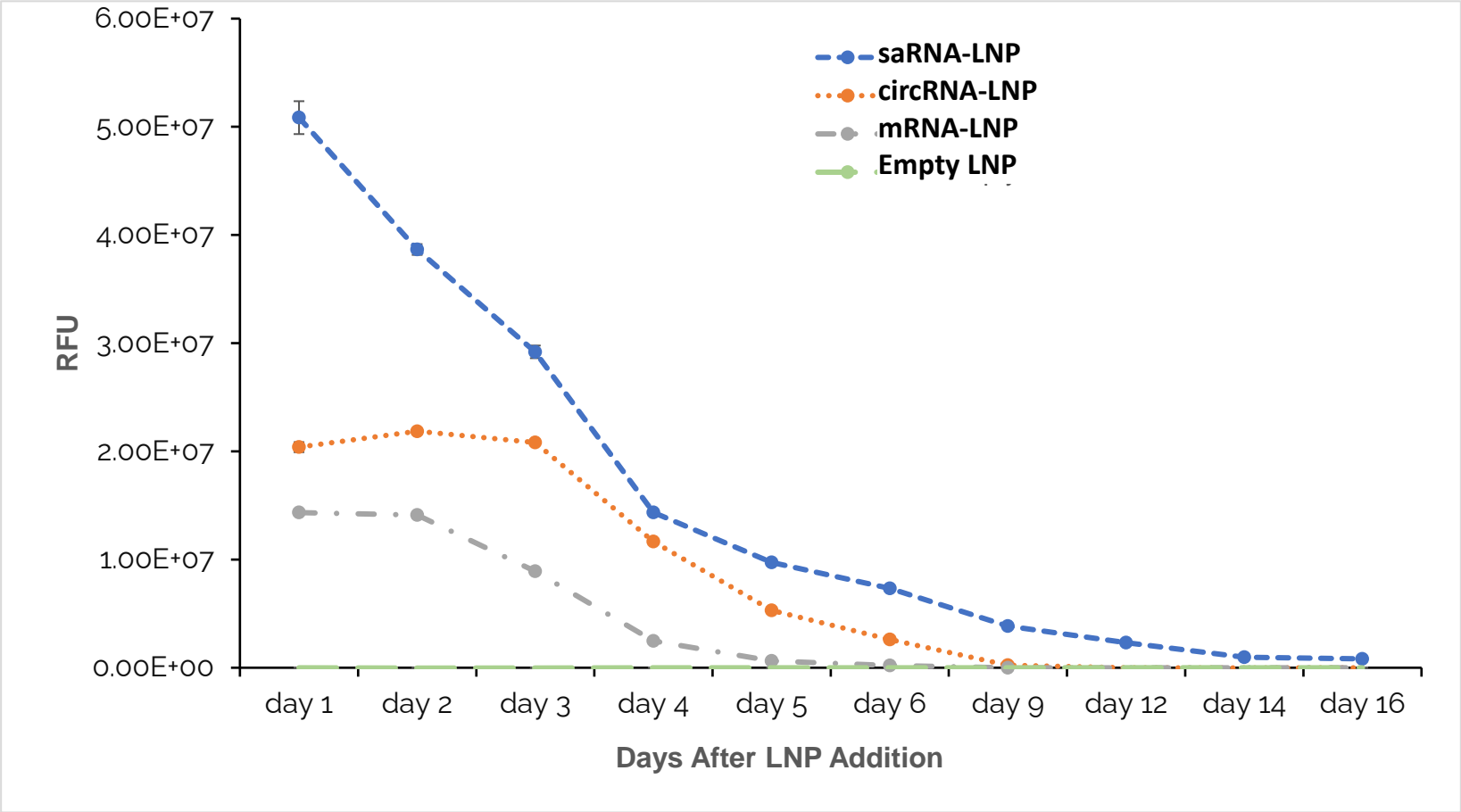


Same amount of RNA-LNPs (circRNA-LNP, mRNA-LNP respectively) were added to HEK293 cells. Fluorescent images were taken 24 hours and 48 hours post the treatment.

# Quality control testing for circRNA

	Test Item	Method
<b>Identity</b>	mRNA sequence identity	NGS/ NanoporeSequencing
<b>Content</b>	Concentration	UV absorbance
<b>Purity</b>	A260/A280	UV absorbance
	RNA circularization efficiency	HPLC/ CE
	Residual RNase R	Fluorescent probe method
	dsRNA	ELISA
	Residual DNA template	qPCR
	Residual solvents	Residual ethanol (GC-MS)
<b>Potency</b>	Expression of target protein	Cell-based assay
<b>Safety</b>	Sterility	Culture method
	Endotoxin	GEL-CLOT Method
<b>Physical/Chemical Properties</b>	Appearance	Visual method
	pH	pH

# Protein Expression over Time for mRNA, circRNA and saRNA



293 Cells

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