



Recent Advancements in Analytical Methods of Drug Detection

Mario Thevis



The World Anti-Doping Code

**THE 2013
PROHIBITED LIST
INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD**



S0. NON-APPROVED SUBSTANCES

S1. ANABOLIC AGENTS

S2. PEPTIDE HORMONES, GROWTH FACTORS AND RELATED SUBSTANCES

S3. BETA-2 AGONISTS

S4. HORMONE AND METABOLIC MODULATORS

S5. DIURETICS AND OTHER MASKING AGENTS

M1. MANIPULATION OF BLOOD AND BLOOD COMPONENTS

M2. CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL MANIPULATION

M3. GENE DOPING

S6. STIMULANTS

S7. NARCOTICS

S8. CANNABINOIDS

S9. GLUCOCORTICOSTEROIDS

P1. ALCOHOL

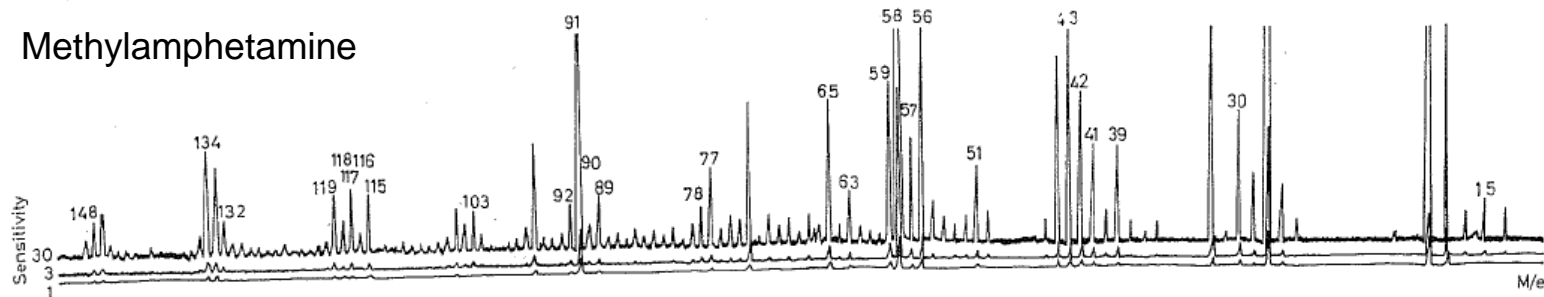
P2. BETA-BLOCKERS



Challenges at the time accepted by anti-doping authorities and sports drug testing laboratories

- use of state-of-the-art instrumentation
- steep learning curve concerning analytical methodologies

Methylamphetamine

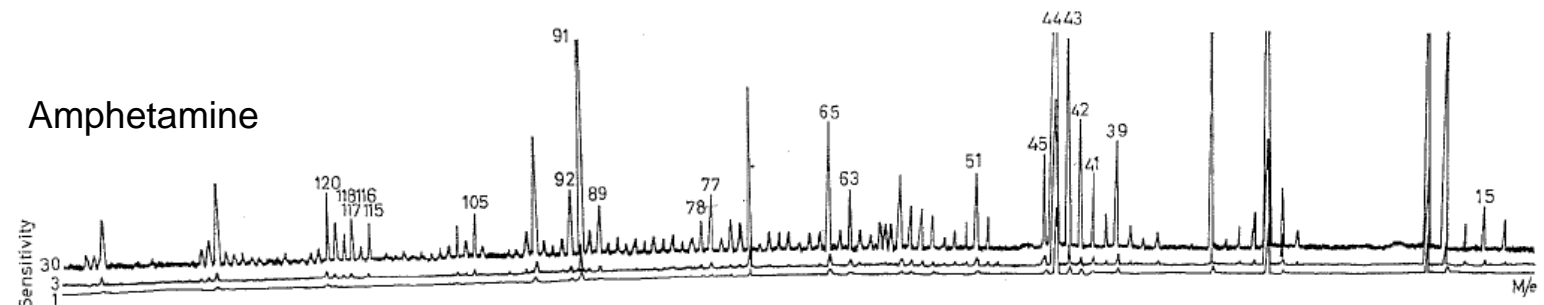


Hitachi RMU 6E

12s/scan

LOD: 4 µg/mL

Amphetamine





Main tools have always been chromatography / mass spectrometry

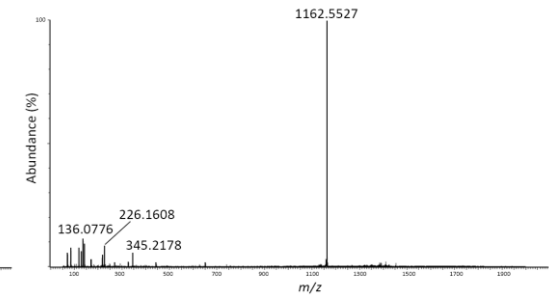
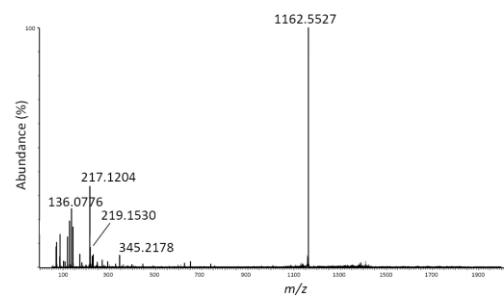
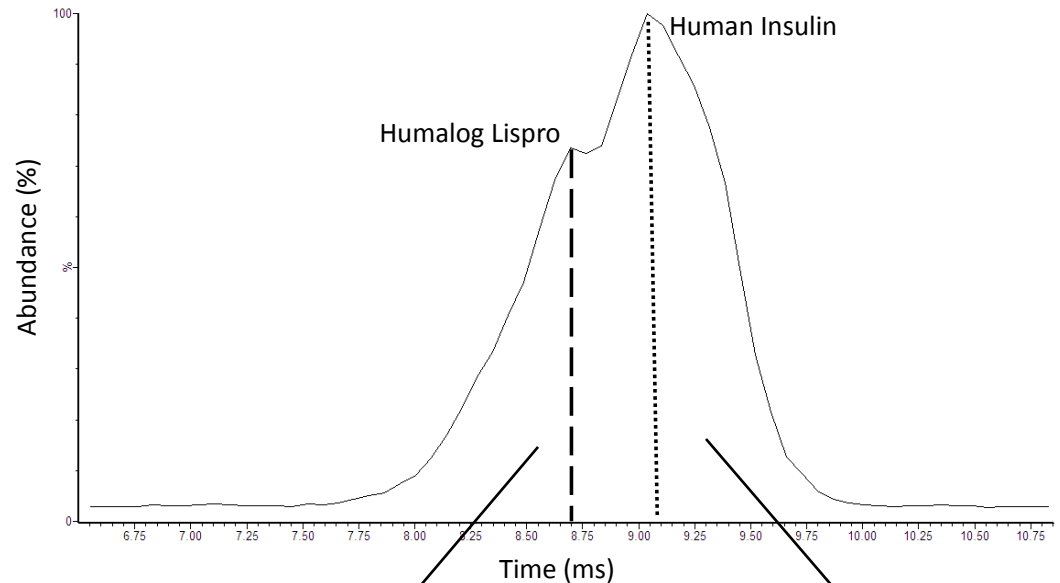
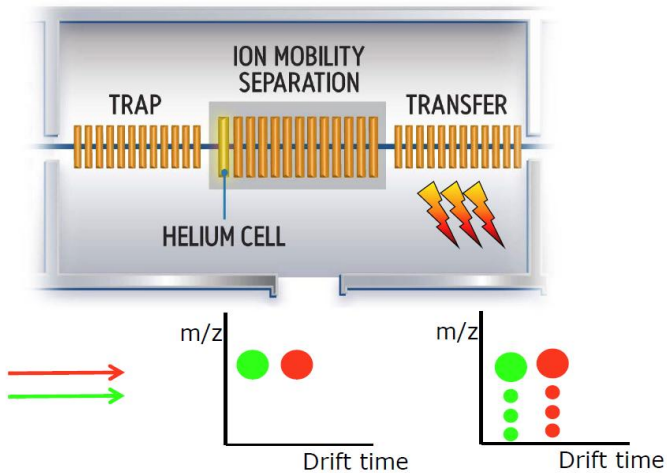
- Monopoly of gas chromatography – mass spectrometry until early 2000
 - *Limitation: only volatile substances can be measured / extensive derivatization required
 - *Advantage: robustness, reproducibility, steroid profiling, IRMS



Main tools have always been chromatography / mass spectrometry

- Availability of new generation liquid chromatography – mass spectrometry instruments
 - *Peptides, proteins, carbohydrates as well as nucleotides can be measured
 - *commonly no / little derivatization and sample preparation required
- Substantial improvements in resolution and mass accuracy

Main tools have always been chromatography / mass spectrometry



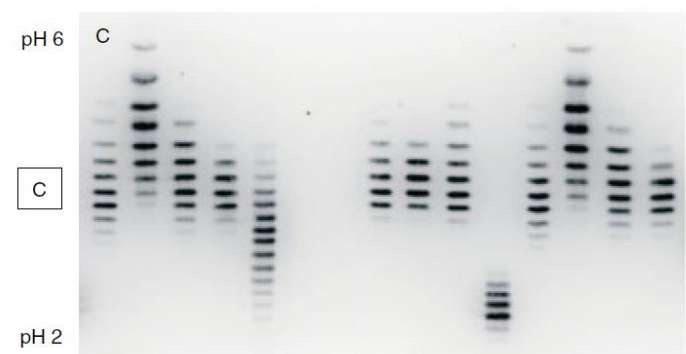
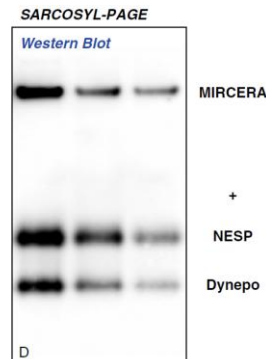
Complementary methods

- Immunological methods

(e.g. hCG, LH, hGH)

- 1- and 2-D electrophoretic/immunological methods

(e.g. EPO, proteases)





Combined methods

- Immunopurification for MS-based methodologies
(e.g. insulins, GHRH, LHRH, CRH)
- SPE for LC-MS/MS-based methodologies
(e.g. GHRPs, TB-500, AOD-9604, LHRH)
- Bottom-up targeted proteomics approaches
(e.g. IGF-1, hematide)
- Bottom-up targeted `RNomics` approaches
(e.g. siRNA)



Currently: detection assays composed by methodology

GC-MS

LC-MS(/MS)

Complementary

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M3. GENE DOPING

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**M1. MANIPULATION OF BLOOD
AND BLOOD COMPONENTS**

M3. GENE DOPING

S2. PEPTIDE HORMONES



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Drug Testing
and Analysis

Research article

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(wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI 10.1002/dta.372

High-throughput screening for various classes of doping agents using a new ‘dilute-and-shoot’ liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry multi-target approach

S. Guddat,^{a*} E. Solymos,^b A. Orlovius,^{a,c} A. Thomas,^a G. Sigmund,^a H. Geyer,^a M. Thevis^a and W. Schänzer^a

Fast analysis of doping agents in urine by ultra-high-pressure liquid chromatography–quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry
I. Screening analysis

F. Badoud^{a,b,c}, E. Grata^{a,b,c}, L. Perrenoud^{a,c}, L. Avois^{a,c}, M. Saugy^{a,c}, S. Rudaz^{b,c}, J.-L. Veuthey^{b,c,*}

^a Swiss Anti Doping Laboratory, University Center of Legal Medicine, Geneva and Lausanne, Chemin des Croisettes 22, 1066 Epalinges, Switzerland

^b School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Geneva, University of Lausanne, 20 Bd d'Yvoy, CH-1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland

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JOURNAL OF MASS SPECTROMETRY

J. Mass Spectrom. 2008; **43**: 980–992

Published online in Wiley InterScience

(www.interscience.wiley.com) DOI: 10.1002/jms.1436



A high-throughput multicomponent screening method for diuretics, masking agents, central nervous system (CNS) stimulants and opiates in human urine by UPLC–MS/MS

John-Olof Thörngren,^{*} Fredrik Östervall and Mats Garle

Doping Control Laboratory, Karolinska University Hospital, Huddinge, Sweden

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Journal of Chromatography A, 1288 (2013) 82–95



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Use of ultra-high pressure liquid chromatography coupled to high resolution mass spectrometry for fast screening in high throughput doping control

Alessandro Musenga, David A. Cowan^{*}

Drug Control Centre, King's College London, London SE1 9NH, UK





Modern mass spectrometry-based detection assay

Major advantages:

- Combined targeted AND non-targeted analyses
- Retrospective data mining
- Comprehensive coverage of most prohibited substances
- Structure-based identification of related compounds
- Determination of elemental composition

Instrumentation and methodologies principally available in all accredited doping control laboratories!

Modern mass spectrometry-based detection assay

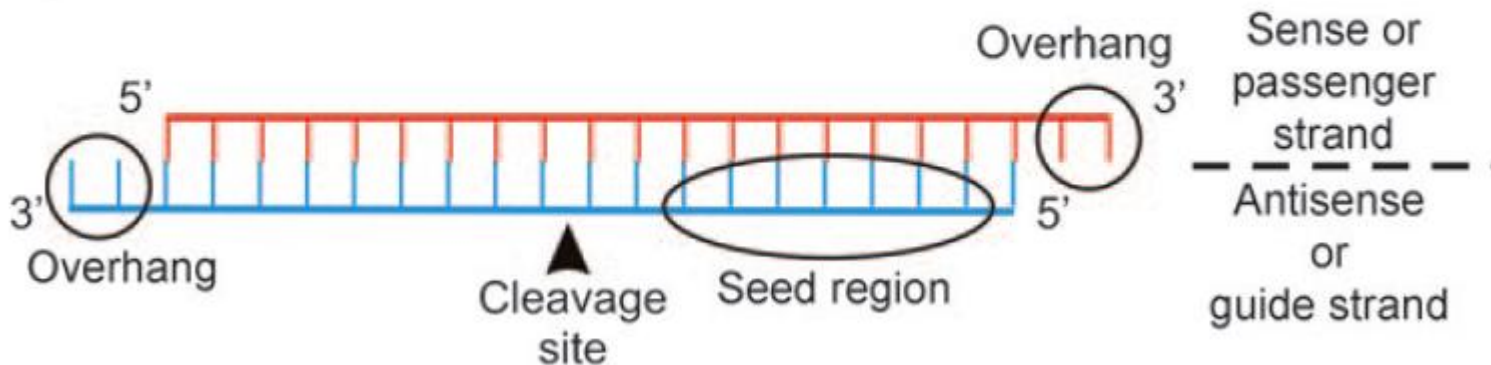
Recent advances - Example

M3. GENE DOPING

The following, with the potential to enhance sport performance, are prohibited:

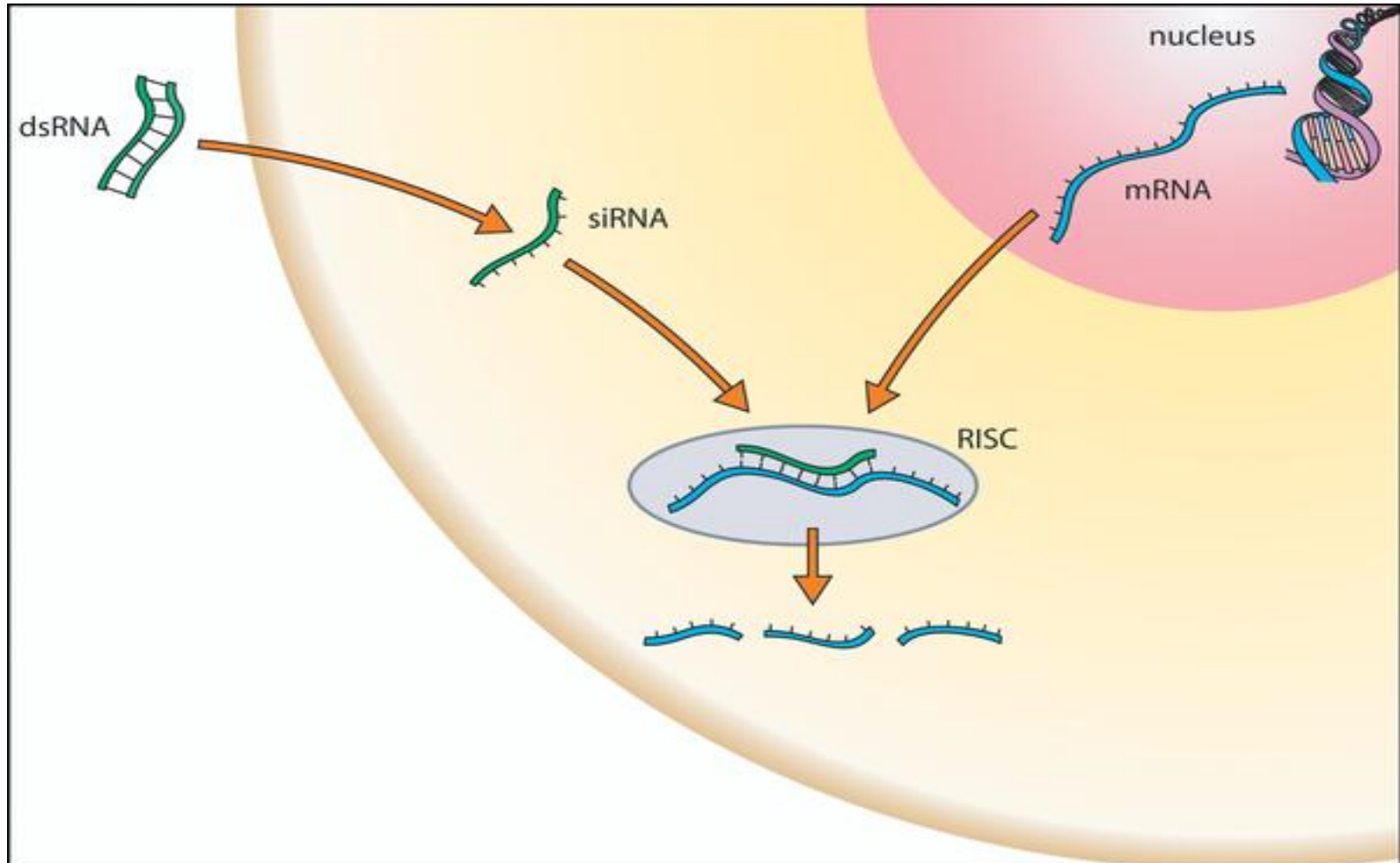
1. The transfer of polymers of nucleic acids or nucleic acid analogues;
2. The use of normal or genetically modified cells.

A) Structure of an siRNA





Small Interfering RNA (siRNA)





Small Interfering RNA (siRNA)

Gene Therapy (2008) 15, 155–160
© 2008 Nature Publishing Group All rights reserved 0969-7128/08 \$30.00
www.nature.com/gt



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Myostatin antisense RNA-mediated muscle growth in normal and cancer cachexia mice

C-M Liu^{1,3}, Z Yang^{1,3}, C-W Liu¹, R Wang¹, P Tien¹, R Dale² and L-Q Sun²

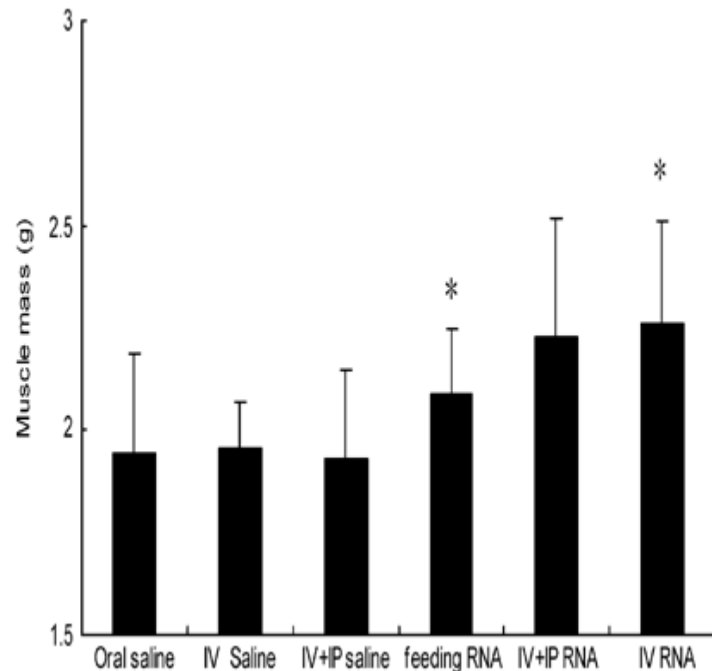
¹Molecular Virology Research Center, Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China and ²Oligos Etc Inc., Wilsonville, OR, USA

Myostatin is a negative regulator of myogenesis, and inactivation of myostatin leads to muscle growth. Here we have used modified RNA oligonucleotides targeting the myostatin mRNA and examined the therapeutic potential in normal and cancer cachexia mouse models. We found that the RNA oligonucleotides could suppress the myostatin expression in vivo, leading to the increase in muscle growth both in normal and cachectic mice. We also established that

the effect of myostatin inhibition caused by the RNA oligonucleotides may be through the MyoD pathway, as evidenced by a significant upregulation of MyoD expression. Taken together, these results demonstrate the feasibility using antisense strategy for the treatment of muscle wasting conditions.

Gene Therapy (2008) 15, 155–160; doi:10.1038/sj.gt.3303016; published online 22 November 2007

Keywords: *myostatin; antisense; muscle wasting; cancer cachexia*



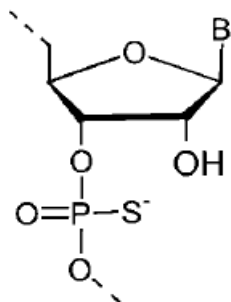


WADA-supported project

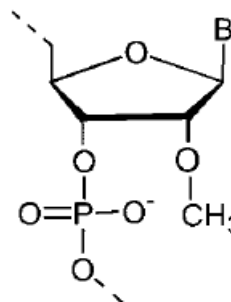
Model siRNA designed from the myostatin mRNA of *Rattus norvegicus*

ATGATTCAAAAACCGCAAATGTATGTTTATATTACCTGTTTGTGCTGATTGCTGCTGGCCCAG
TGGATCTAAATGAGGACAGTGTAGAGAGAGGCGAATGTGGAAAAGAGGGGCTGTGTAATGCG
TGTGCGTGGAGACAAAACACAAGGTACTIONCAGAAATAGAAGCCATAAAAATTCAAATCCTCAGT
AAACTCCGCCTGGAAACAGCGCCTAACATCAGCAAAGATGCTATAAGACAACCTTCTGCCCAGA
GCGCCTCCACTCCGGGAACTGATCGATCAGTACGACGTCCAGAGGGATGACAGCAGTGACG
GCTCTTTGGAAGATGACGATTATCACGCTACCACGGAAACAATCATTACCATGCCTACCGAGT
CTGACTTTCTAATGCAAGCGGATGGAAAGCCCAAATGTTGCTTTTTTAAATTTAGCTCTAAAAT
ACAGTACAACAAAGTGGTAAAGGCCAGCTGTGGATATATCTGAGAGCCGTCAAGACTCCTAC
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AATCCGATCTCTGAAACTTGACATGAGCCCAGGCACTGGTATTTGGCAGAGTATTGATGTGAA
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GGATGAGAATGGGCATGATCTTGCTGTAACCTTCCCAGGACCAGGAGAAGATGGGCTGAATC
CCTTTTTAGAAGTCAAAGTAACAGACACACCCAAGAGGTCCCGGAGAGACTTTGGGCTTGACT
GTGATGAACACTCCACGGAATCGCGGTGCTGTGCTACCCCCTCACGGTTCGATTTTGAAGCC
TTTGGATGGGACTGGATTATTGCACCCAAAAGATATAAGGCTAATTACTGCTCTGGAGAGTGT
GAATTTGTGTTCTTACAAAATATCCGCATACTCATCTTGTGCACCAAGCAAACCCCAGAGGCT
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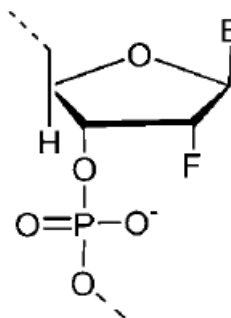
Selection of RNA nucleotide modifications



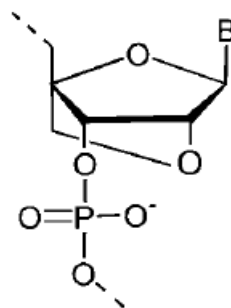
Phosphorothioate-RNA
(PS)



2'-O-Methyl-RNA
(OMe)



2'-Fluoro-
nucleotide



Locked nucleic
acid (LNA)



In vivo experiments

- Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*, WISTAR) treated with 1 mg/kg of siRNA (0.33mg/rat)
- Three rats per siRNA, control group treated with water
- Treatment by a single *i.v.* administration
- Sample collection of urine and plasma after 4, 9, 24, 33 and 48 hours
- Free access to food and water



Workflow

100-200 μ L of urine (DEPC treated)



add ethanol



load sample column 1



add ethanol



load sample column 2



wash



elute with water

miRNA purification
spin columns from Invitrogen
(Karlsruhe, Germany)

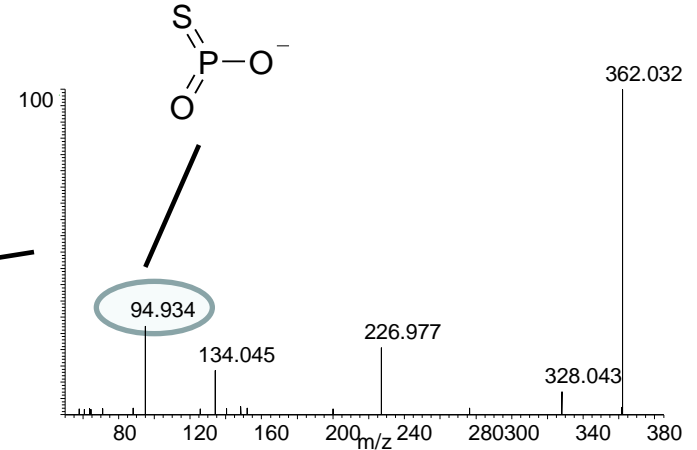
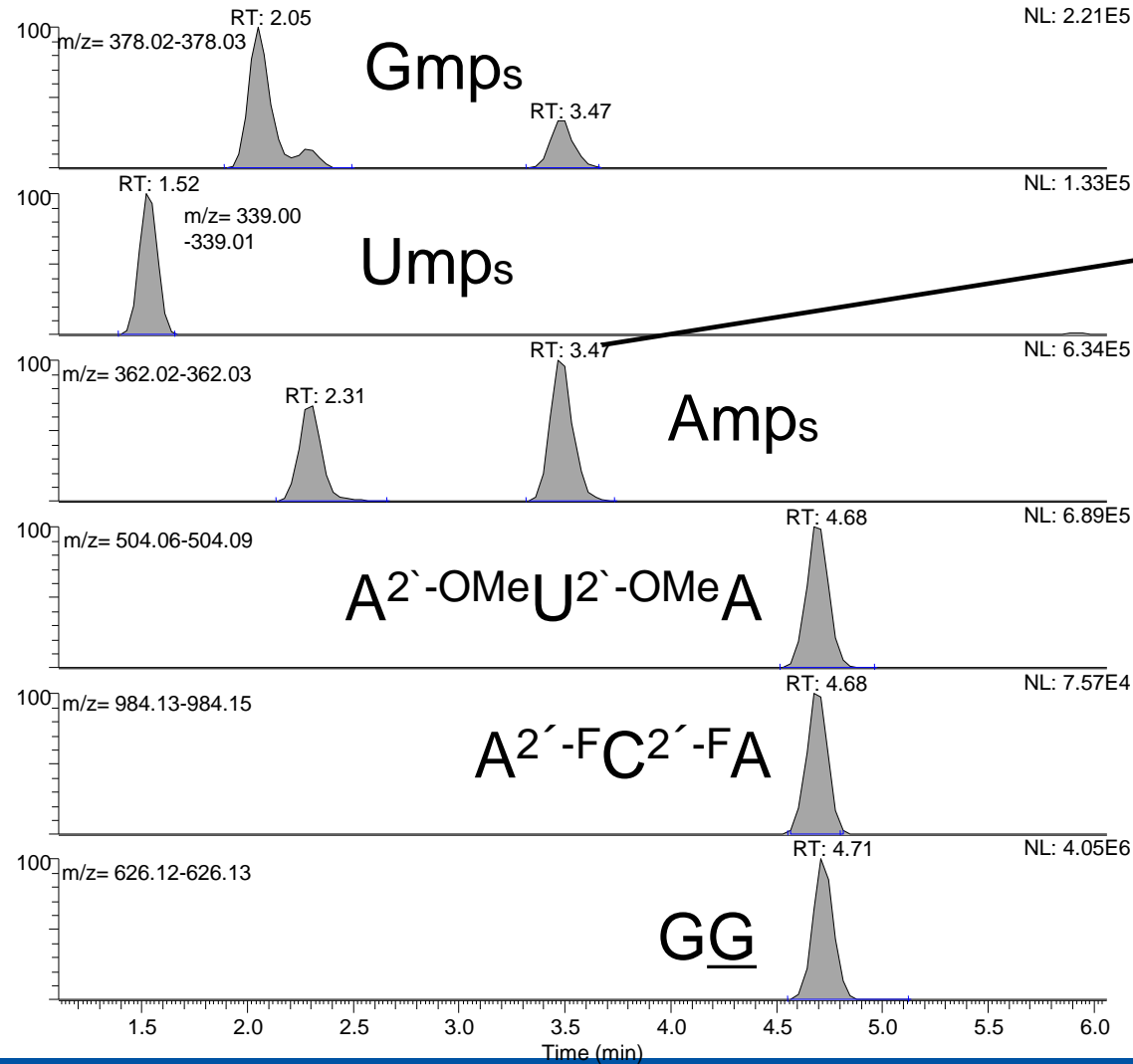
Hydrolysis with 0.1 M NaOH



LC-HRMS

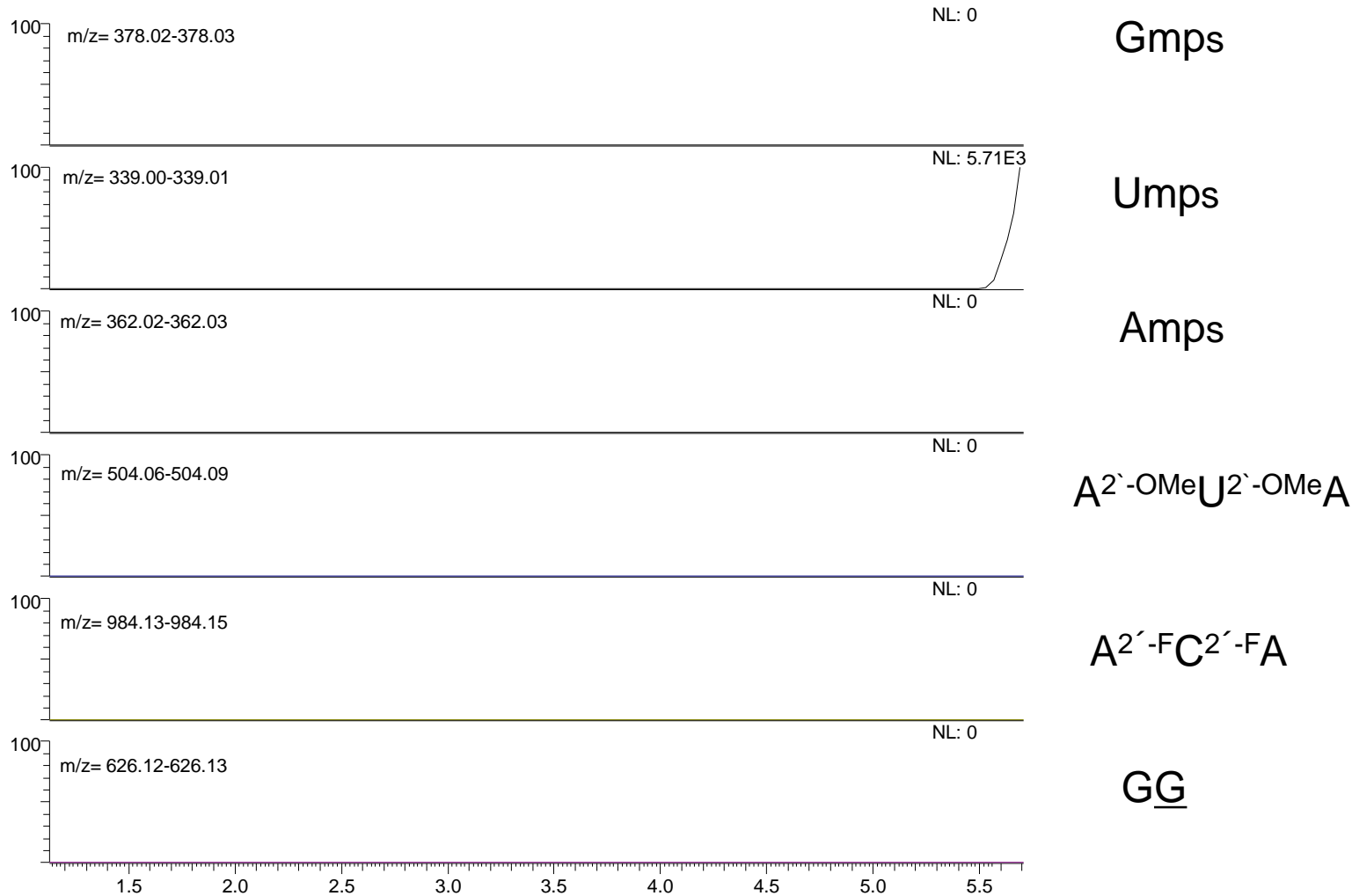


Hydrolysed rat urine sample (treated with siRNA 1 (4h))





Hydrolysed rat urine sample (control group (4h))





Workflow

100-200 μ L of urine (DEPC treated)



add ethanol



load sample column 1



add ethanol



load sample column 2



wash



elute with water

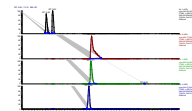


miRNA purification
spin columns from Invitrogen
(Karlsruhe, Germany)

Hydrolysis with 0.1 M NaOH

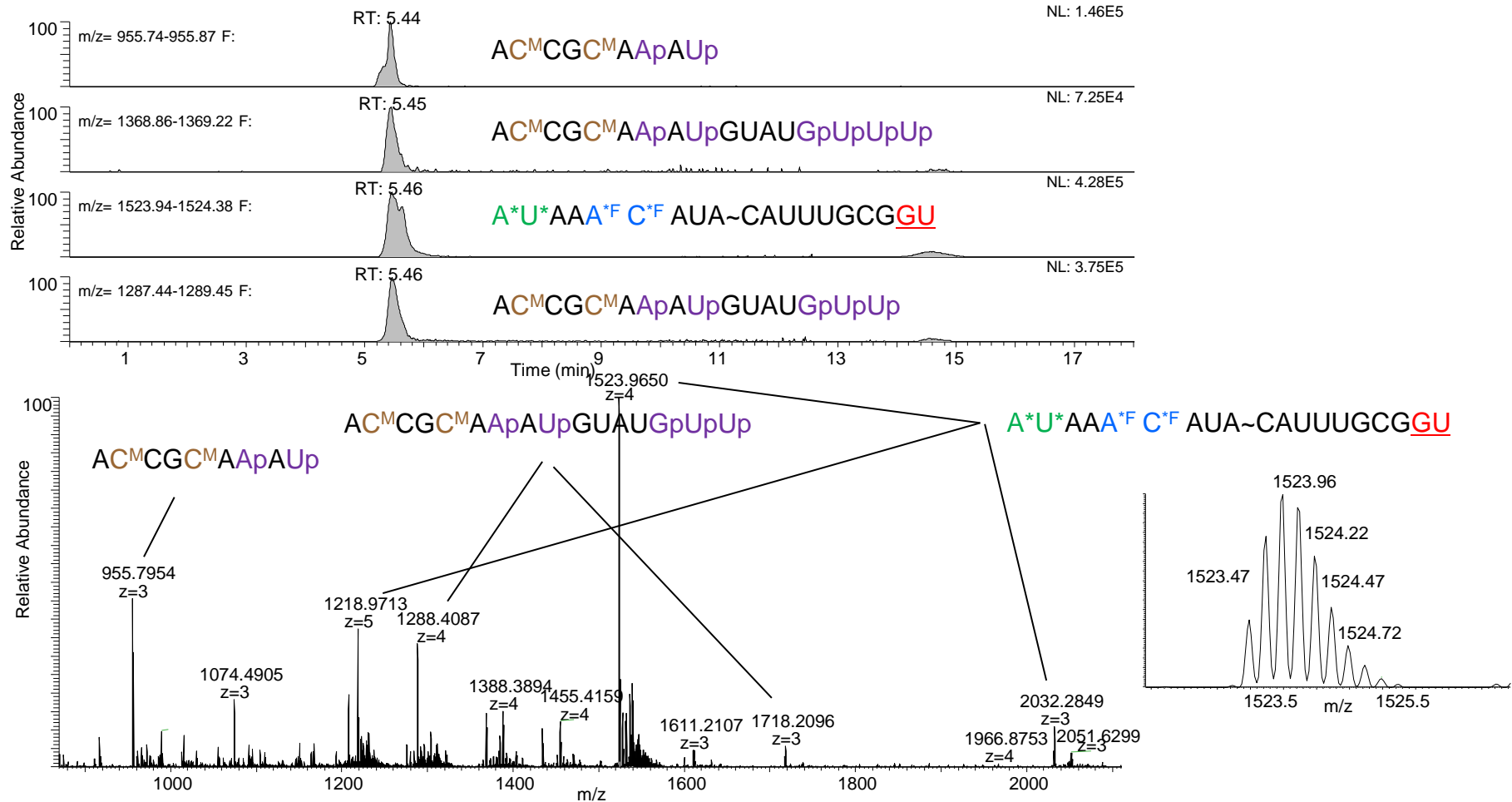
LC-HRMS

LC-HRMS





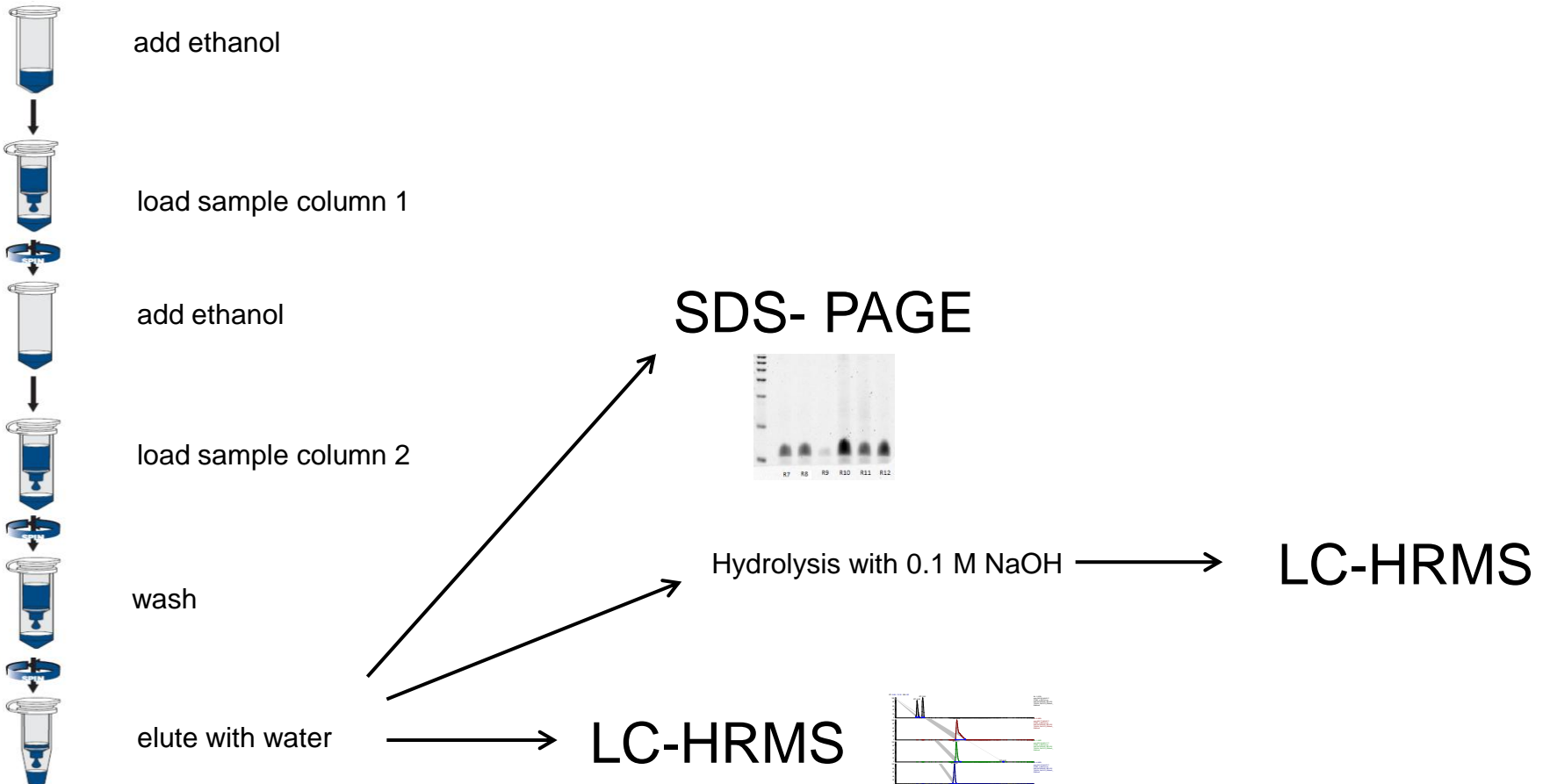
LC-HRMS analysis of intact siRNA from rat urine (treated with siRNA 1 (4h))





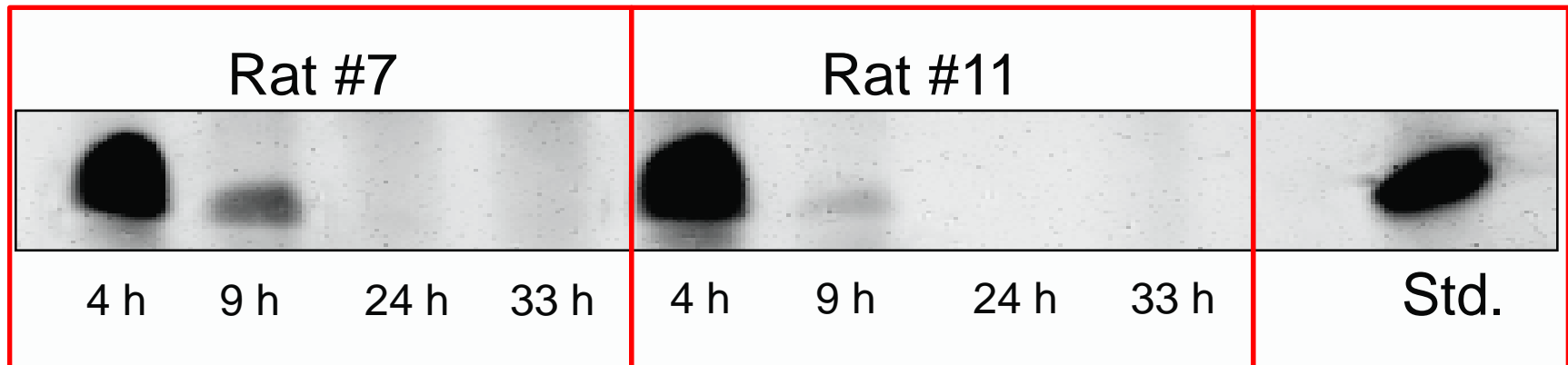
Workflow

100-200 μ L of urine (DEPC treated)



SDS-Page analysis

- Denaturing polyacrylamide TBE-Urea Gels (15%)
- 5 μ l of sample + 5 μ L of sample buffer
- Heat for 3 min at 70° C
- 180 V const, 75 min
- Stain with SyBr-Safe
- Scan with a Typhoon fluorescence scanner (GE, 488 nm, Filter 520 nm BP 40)





Workflow

100-200 µL of urine (DEPC treated)



add ethanol



load sample column 1



add ethanol



load sample column 2



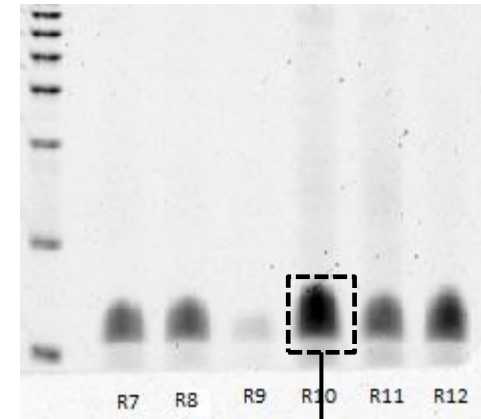
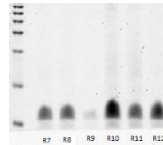
wash



elute with water



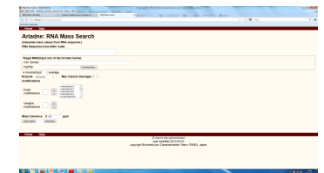
SDS- PAGE



Digest
(RNase T1, A)

LC-HR-MS/MS

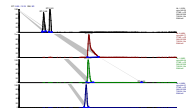
Database
search



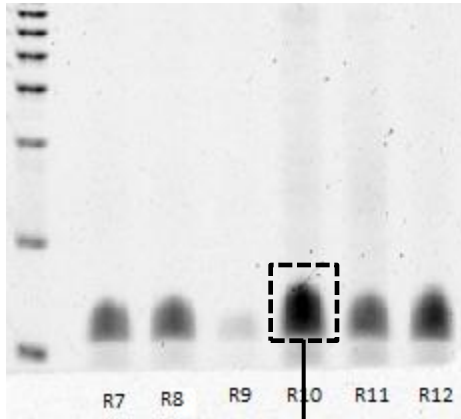
Hydrolysis with 0.1 M NaOH

LC-HRMS

LC-HRMS



Experimental „RNomics“



Digest
(RNAse T1, A)

LC-HR-MS/MS

Database Search
<http://ariadne.riken.jp/index.html>



Not for modified siRNA

Digestion conditions:

- RNA bands were excised
- Cut into small pieces
- Digested with RNAse (T1 or A) for 1 h at 37° C
- Centrifugation
- Supernatant into fresh tube

MS conditions

- Full scan analysis in negative mode (Res 70 000 FWHM)
- Data dependent MS/MS triggering, if charge state (m/z) is < -1
- File converting

Identification of anti-Myostatin RNA



Validation results:

	Sense 1	Antisense 1
Specificity	No interfering signals (n = 10)	
Precision (n=6)	20 %	18 %
Recovery (n=6)	18 %	17 %
Limit of detection	~25 pmol/ml of urine	~25 pmol/ml of urine
Linearity	$y = 0.3655x - 0.1374,$ $R = 0.992$	$y = 0.1264x + 0.0002,$ $R = 0.992$



Conclusion

- Modern doping control analytical assays include GC-MS(/MS), LC-MS(/MS), electrophoretic, immunological, and combined approaches
- Comprehensive coverage of doping agents given – loopholes still present
- State-of-the-art equipment allows today detecting the administration of siRNA as one of the prohibited gene doping strategies
- Continuous improvement of analytical methods and their implementation in routine doping controls essential