

A fluorescence microscopy image showing a central cell with a bright green nucleus and cytoplasm, surrounded by several other cells with red fluorescence. The background is dark, making the fluorescent cells stand out.

# Dissecting HIV cell-to-cell infection with flow cytometry

Metroflow October 18, 2016

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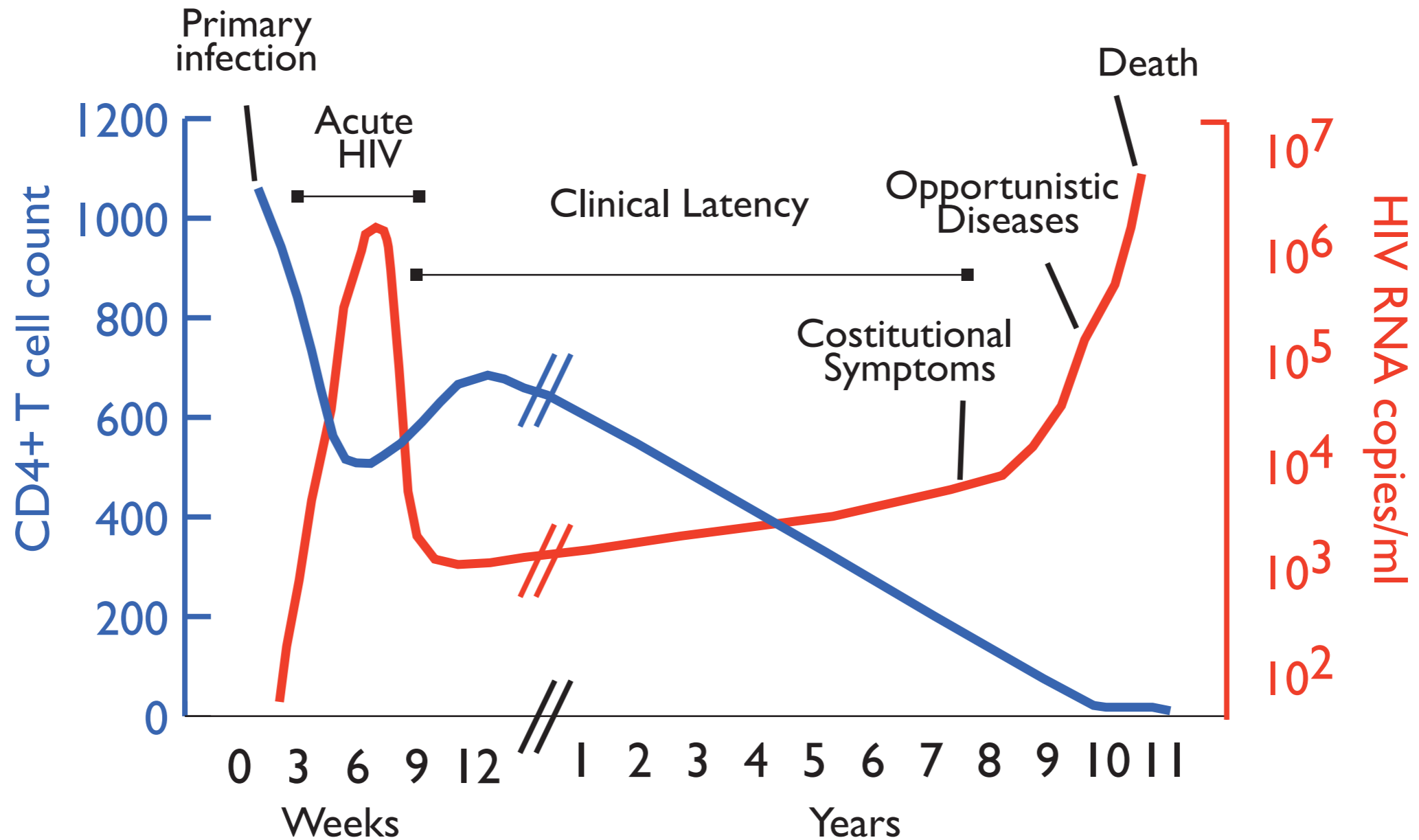
# Global HIV 2014

Adults and children estimated to be living with HIV | 2014



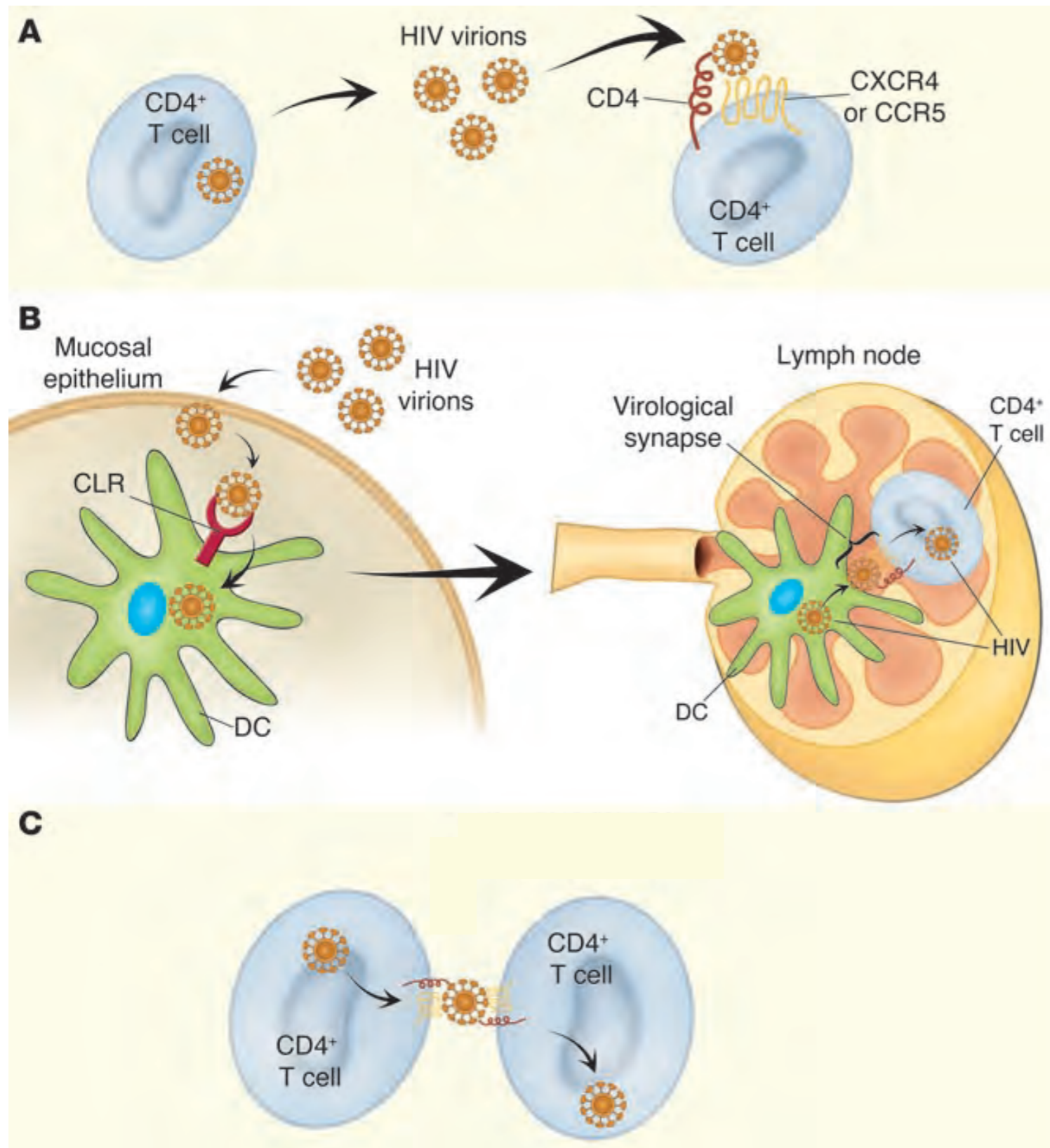
**Total: 36.9 million** [34.3 million – 41.4 million]

# Natural history of HIV infection





# Mechanisms of HIV spread



Cell free virus

Dendritic Cell to  
T cell

T cell to T cell

# T cell virological synapse: CD4, Env and Gag colocalized at contact sites



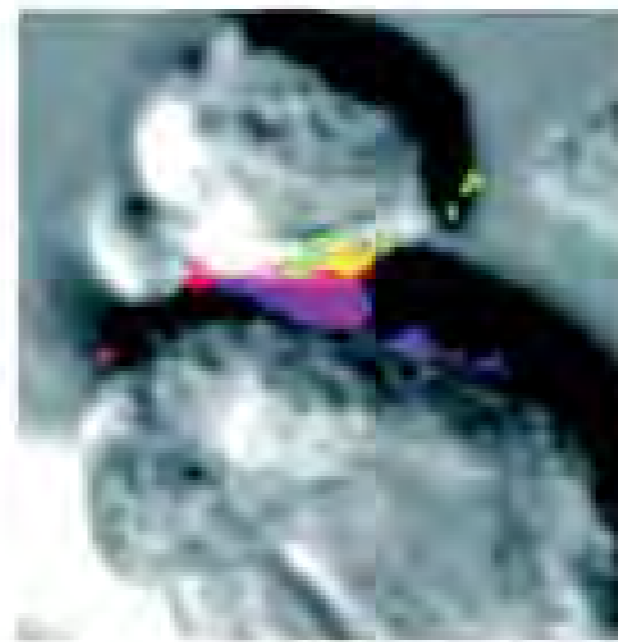
**CD4**



**Env**

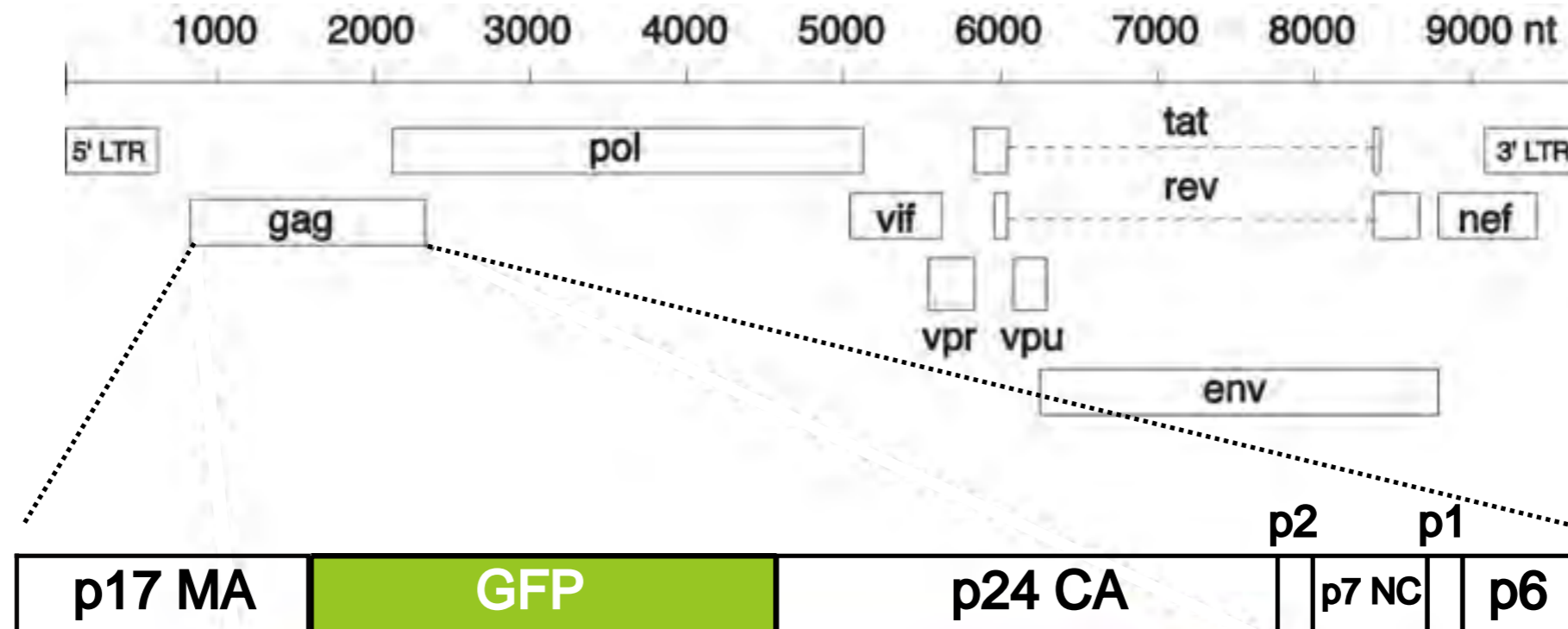


**Gag**



**Nomarski**

# HIV-1 Gag-iGFP



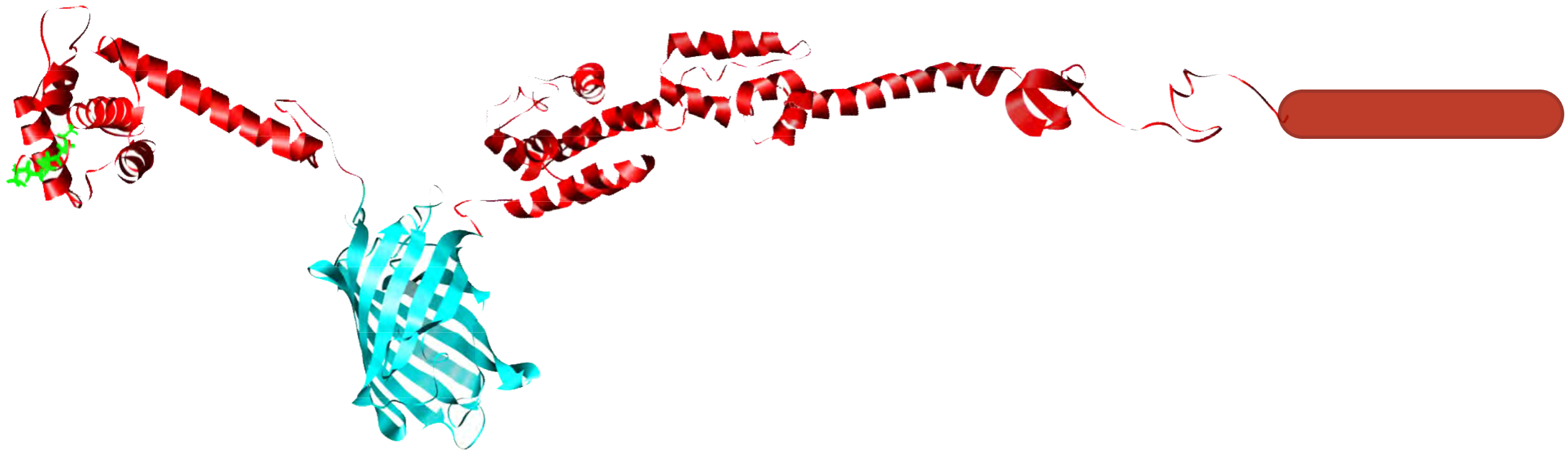
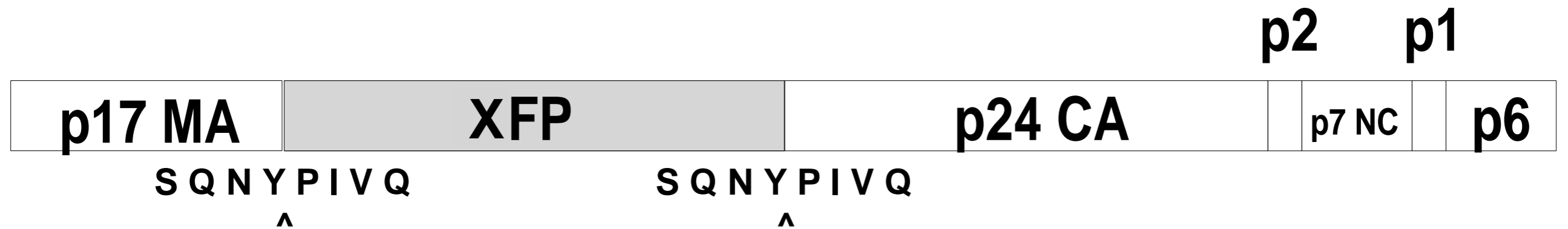
GFP internal interdomain insertion into core structural protein Gag

Maintains full genome & viral proteins

# Internal fluorescently labeled Gag

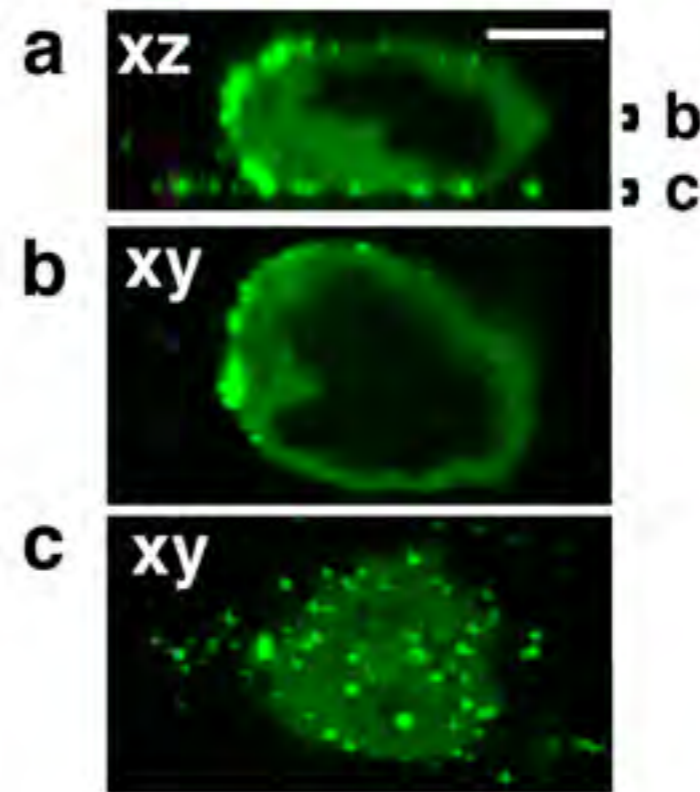
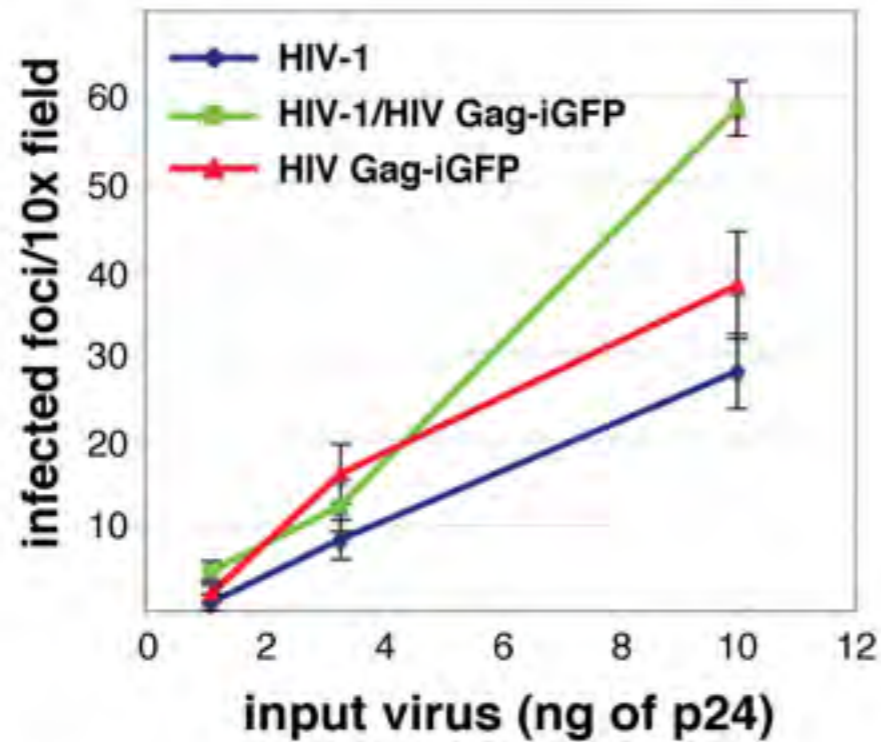


# Internal fluorescently labeled Gag

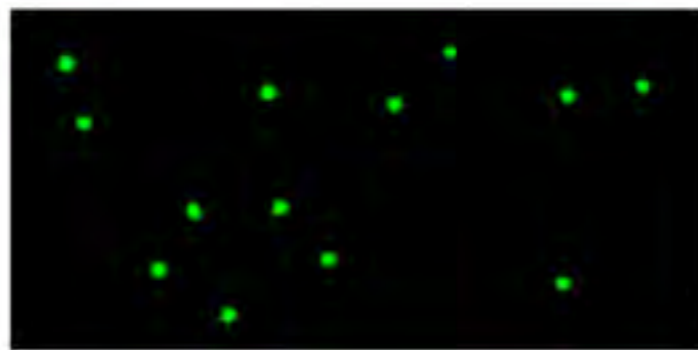




# Infectious fluorescent virus particles

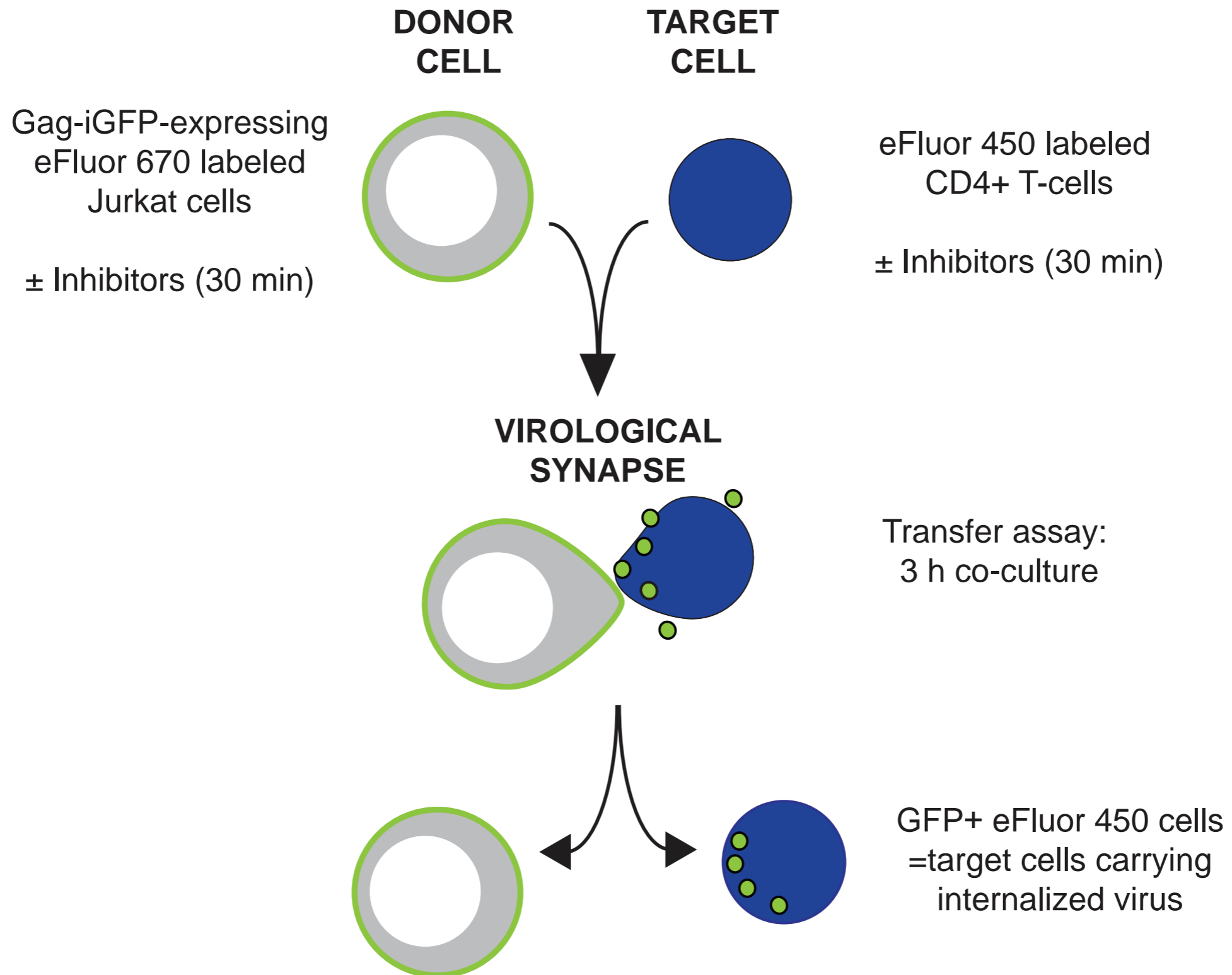


Cell-associated  
virus particles



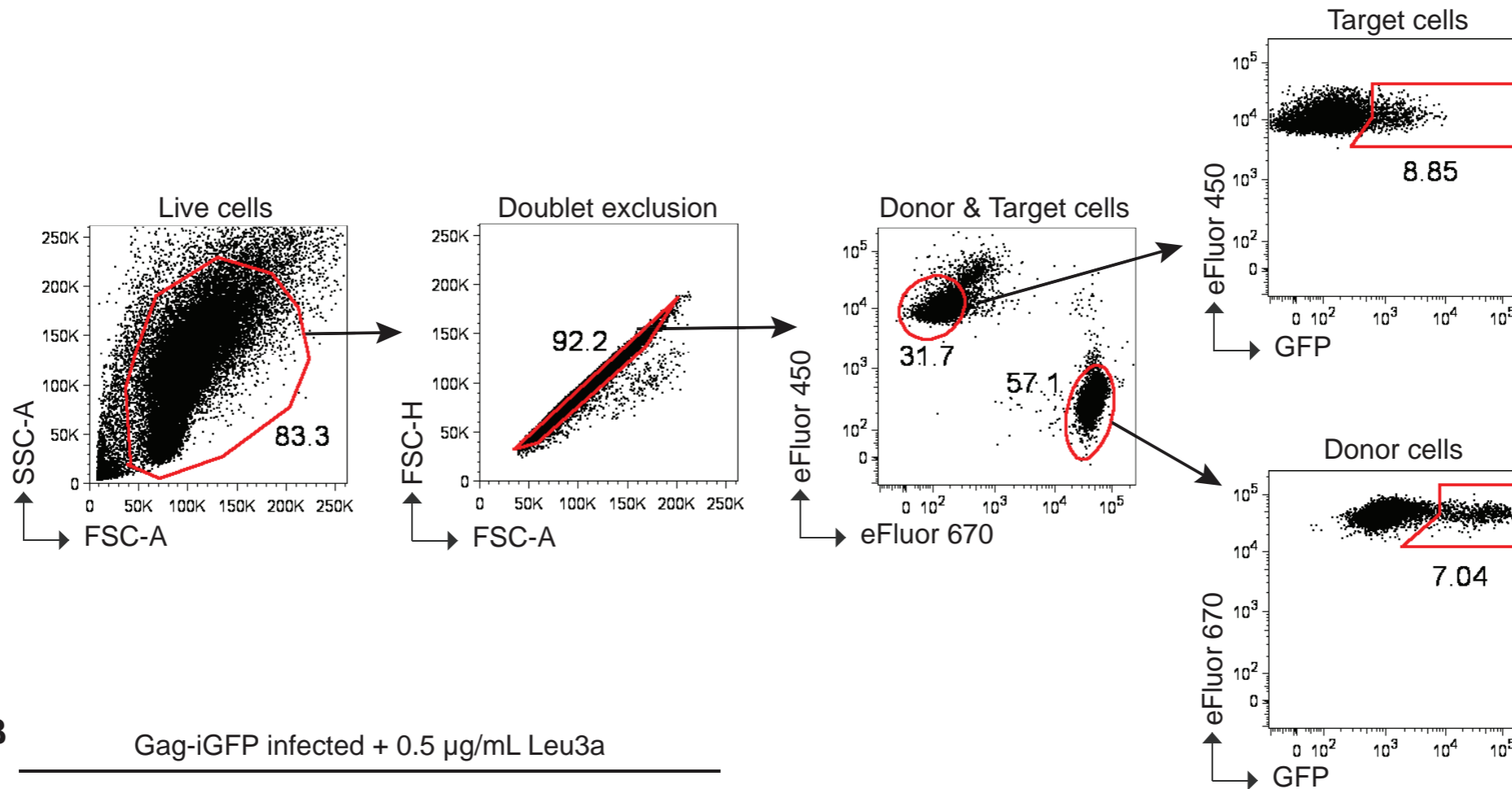
Cell-free Virus particles

# Cell-to-cell HIV transfer

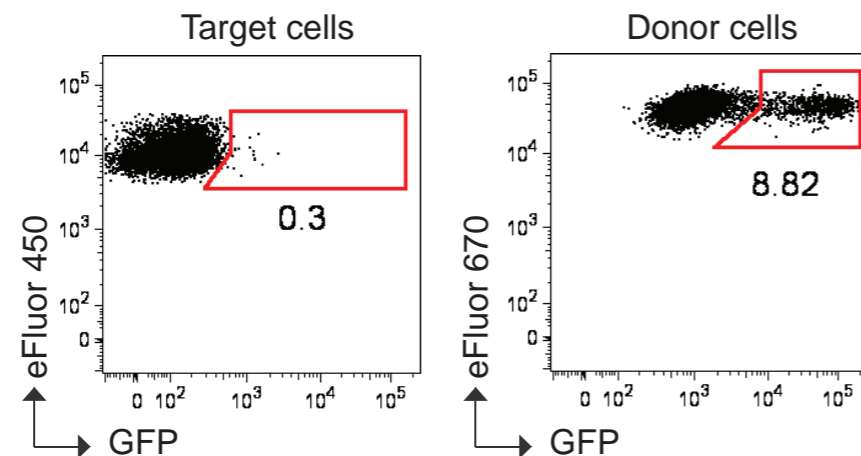


# Donor Target Discrimination

**A** Gag-iGFP infected + no inhibitor

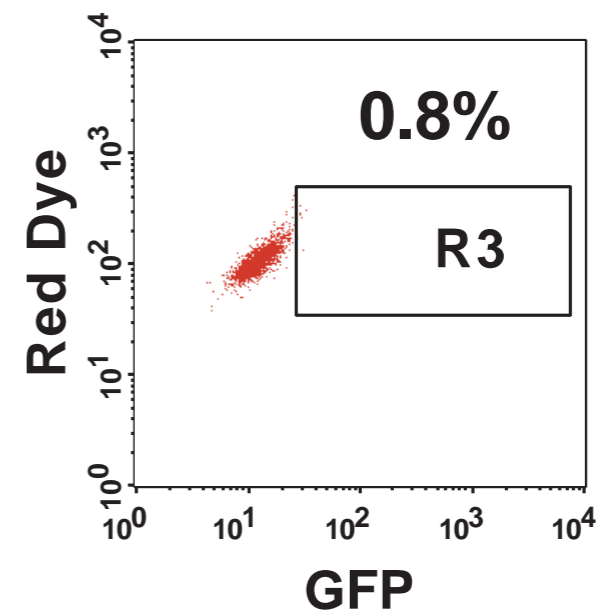
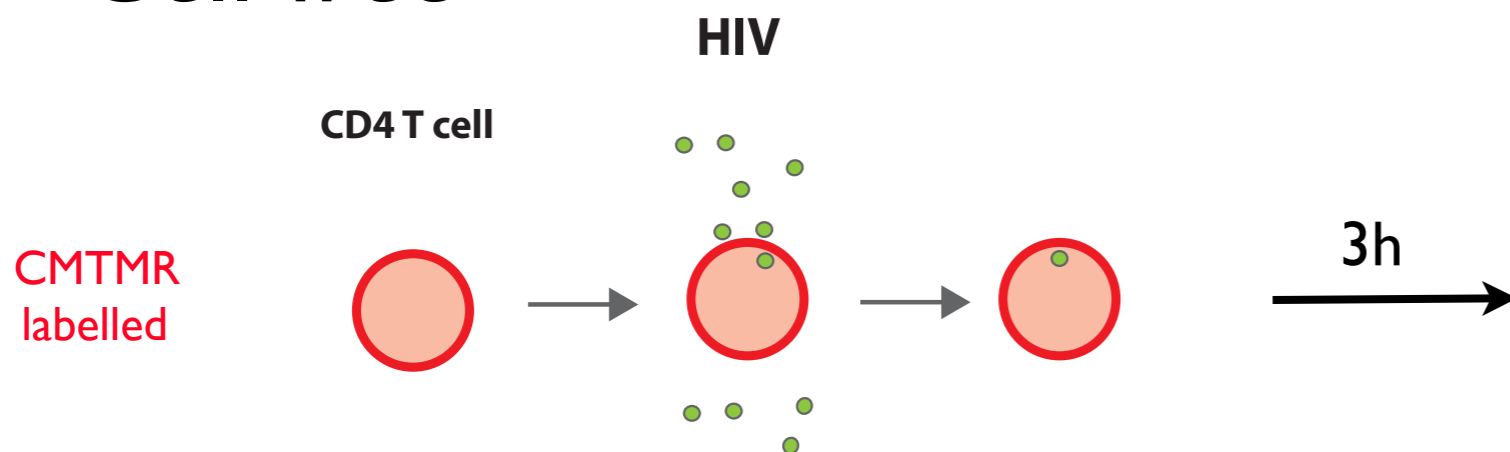


**B** Gag-iGFP infected + 0.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  Leu3a

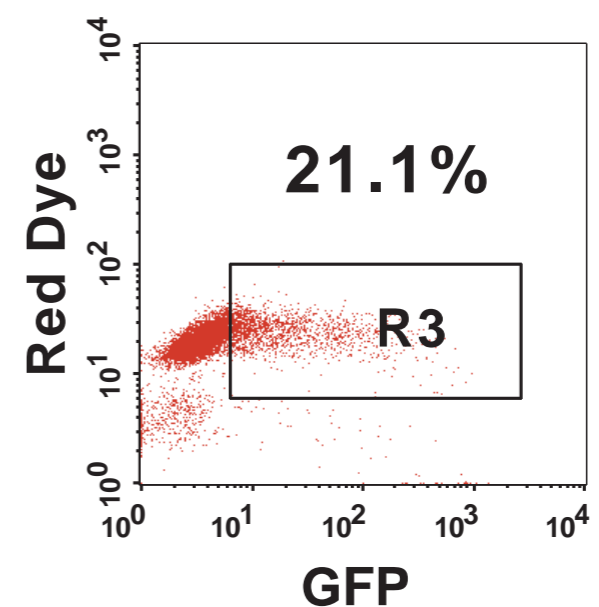
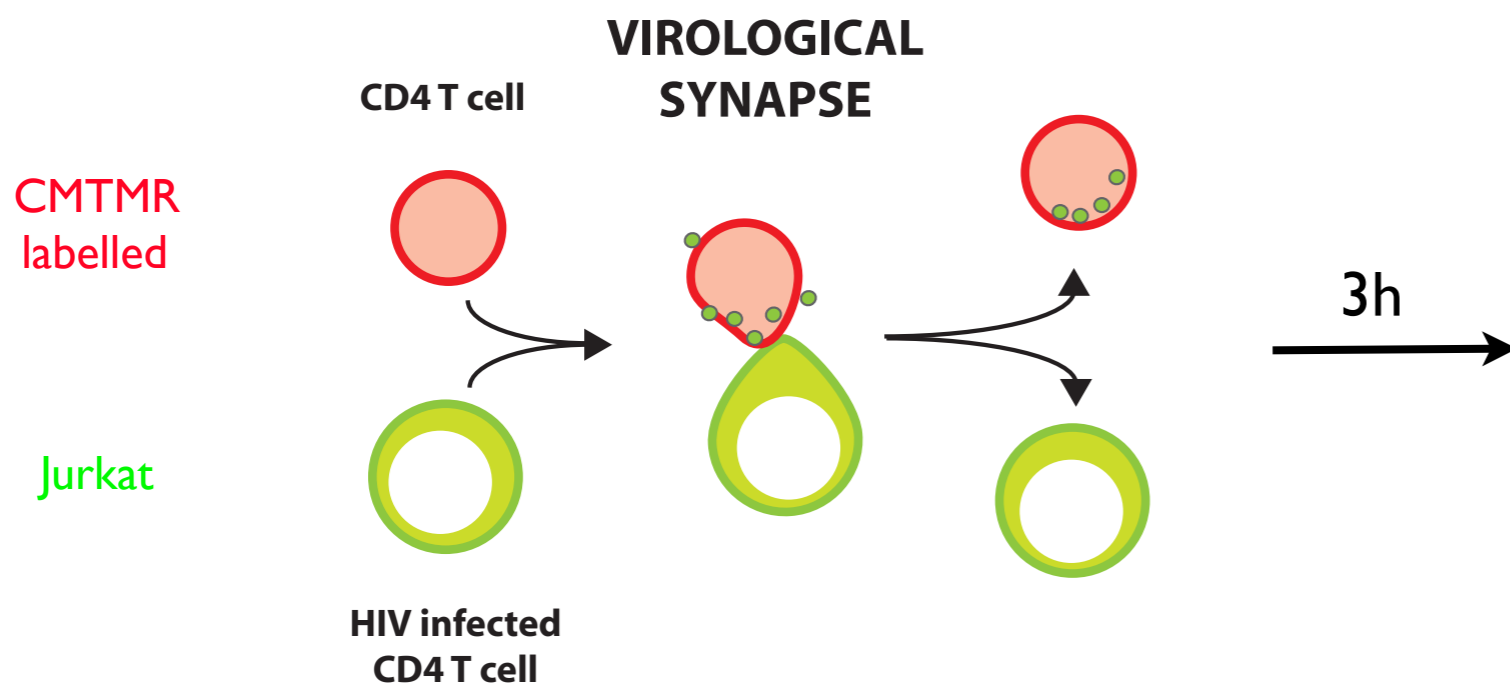


# Efficiency of cell-free vs cell-associated viral uptake

## Cell-free

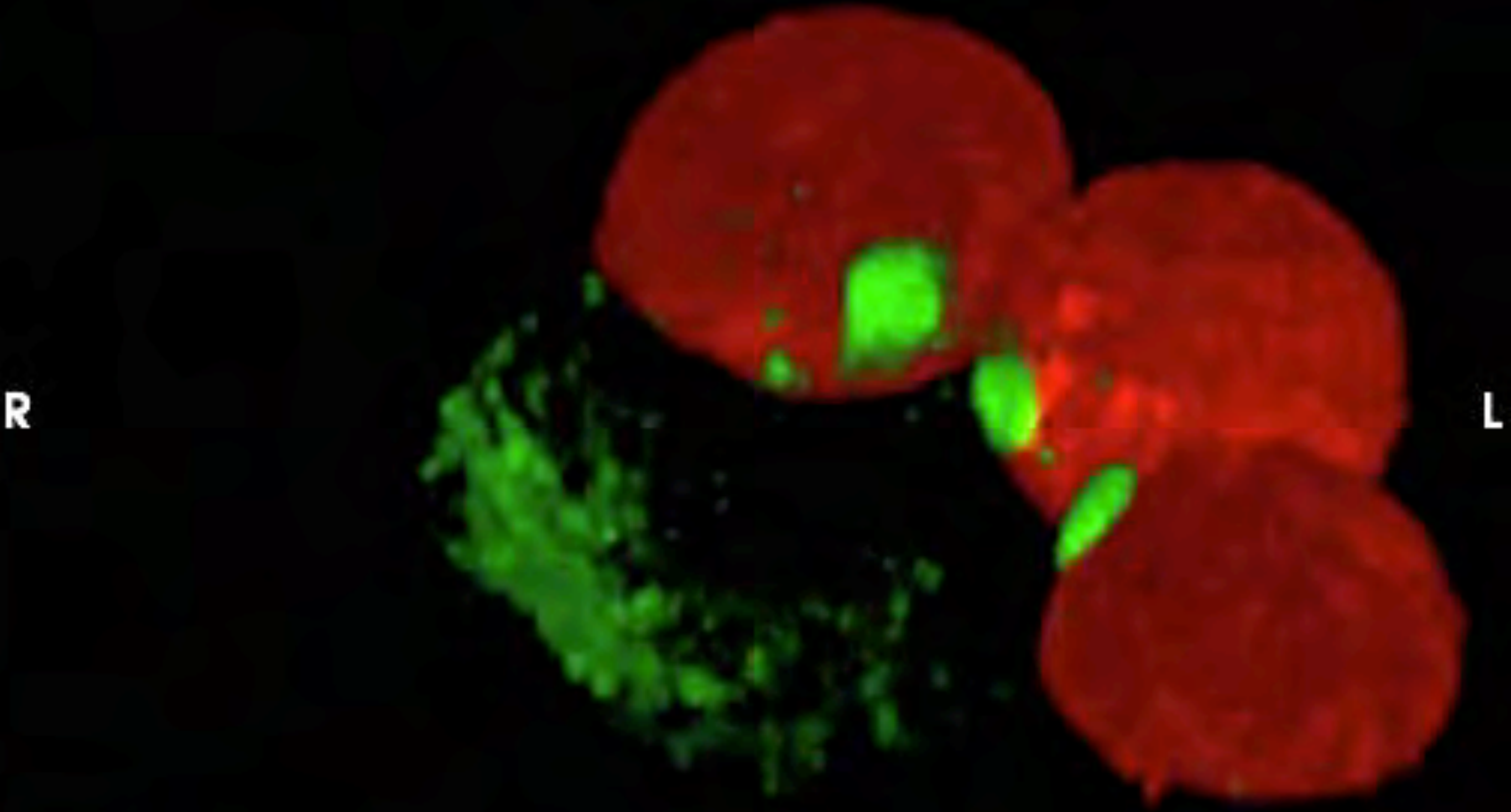


## Cell-to-cell





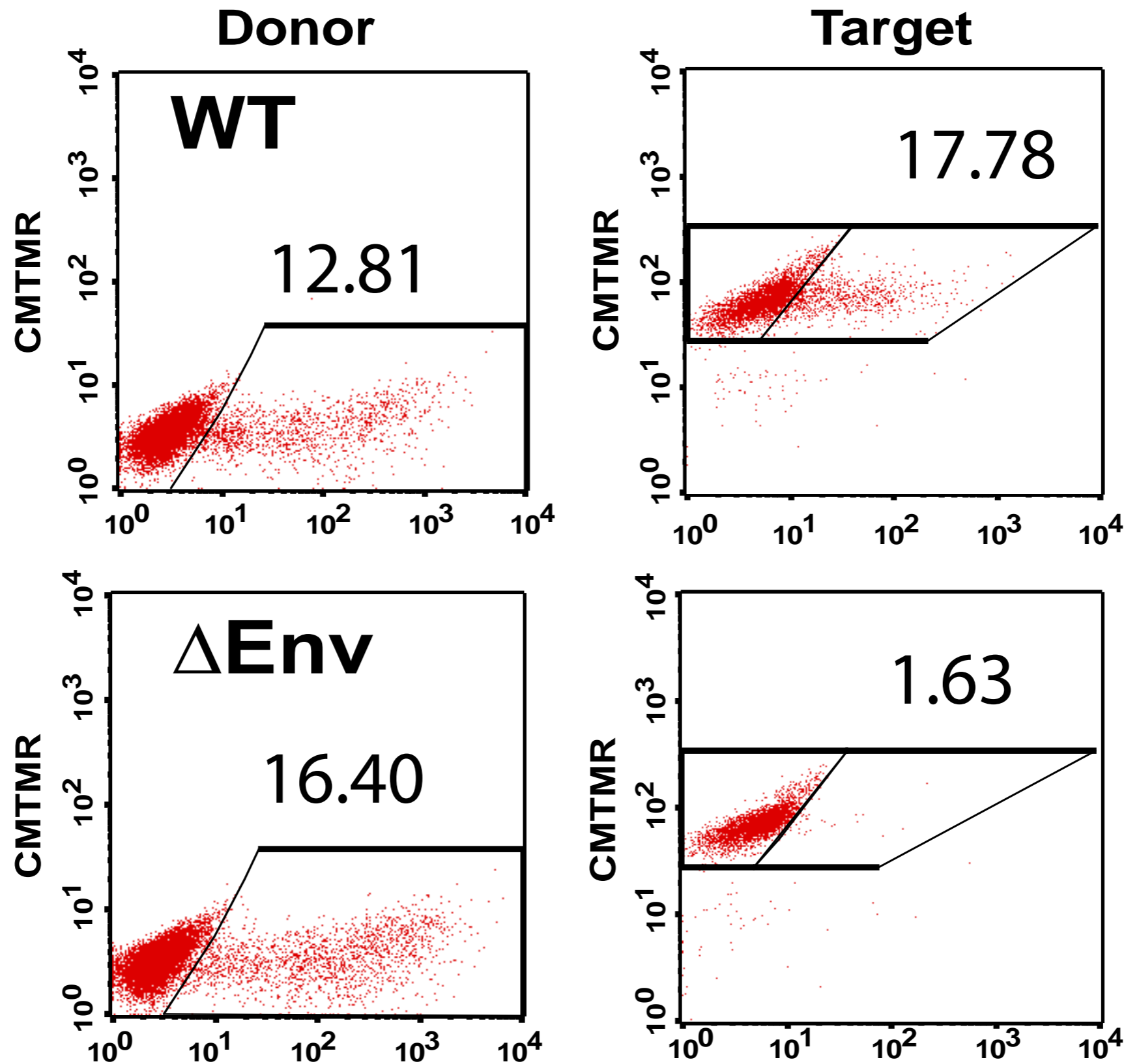
# Gag synaptic button



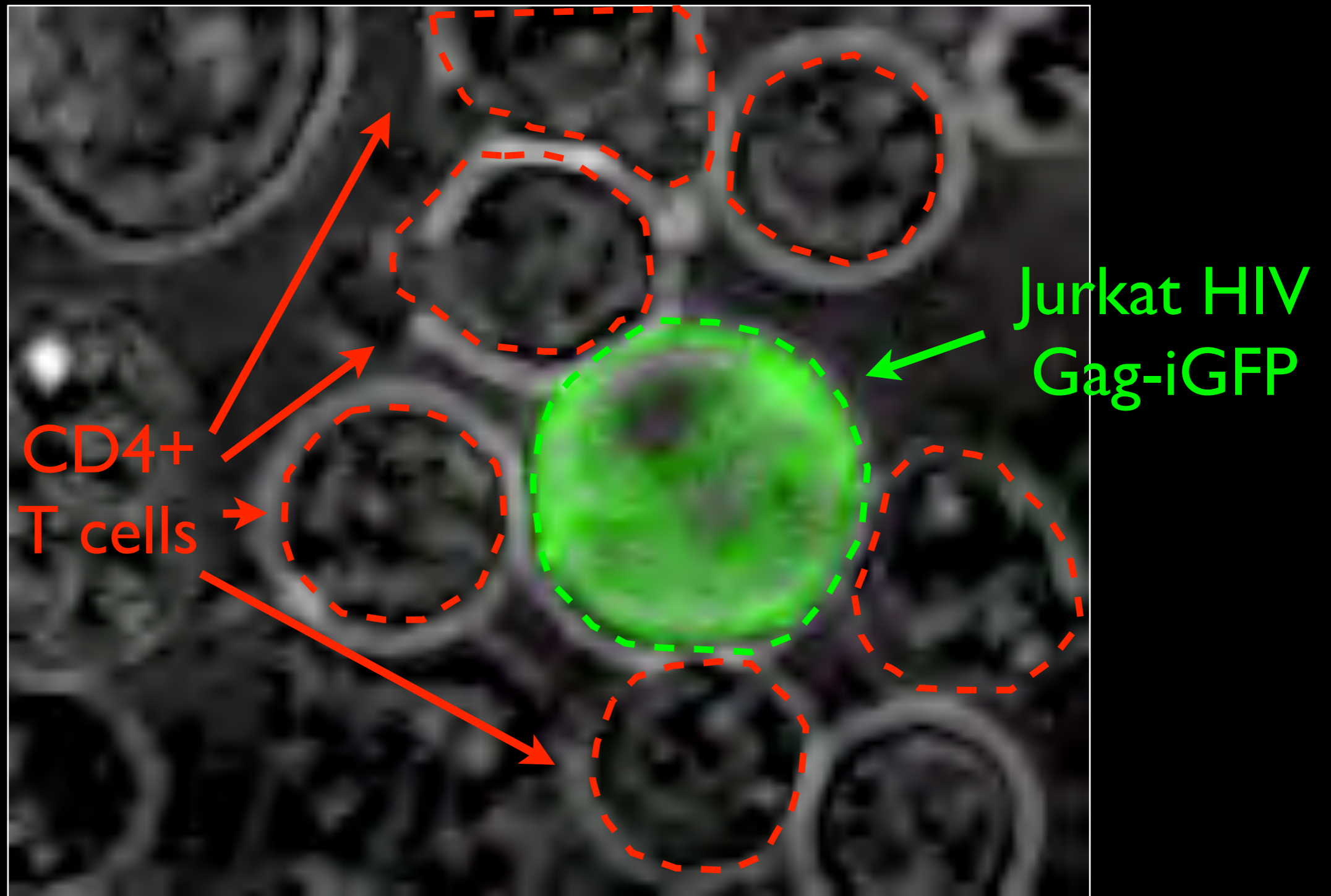
GAG  
CMRA

Jurkat HIV Gag-iGFP &  
CD4+ (CMRA)

# VS-mediated viral transfer requires HIV Env

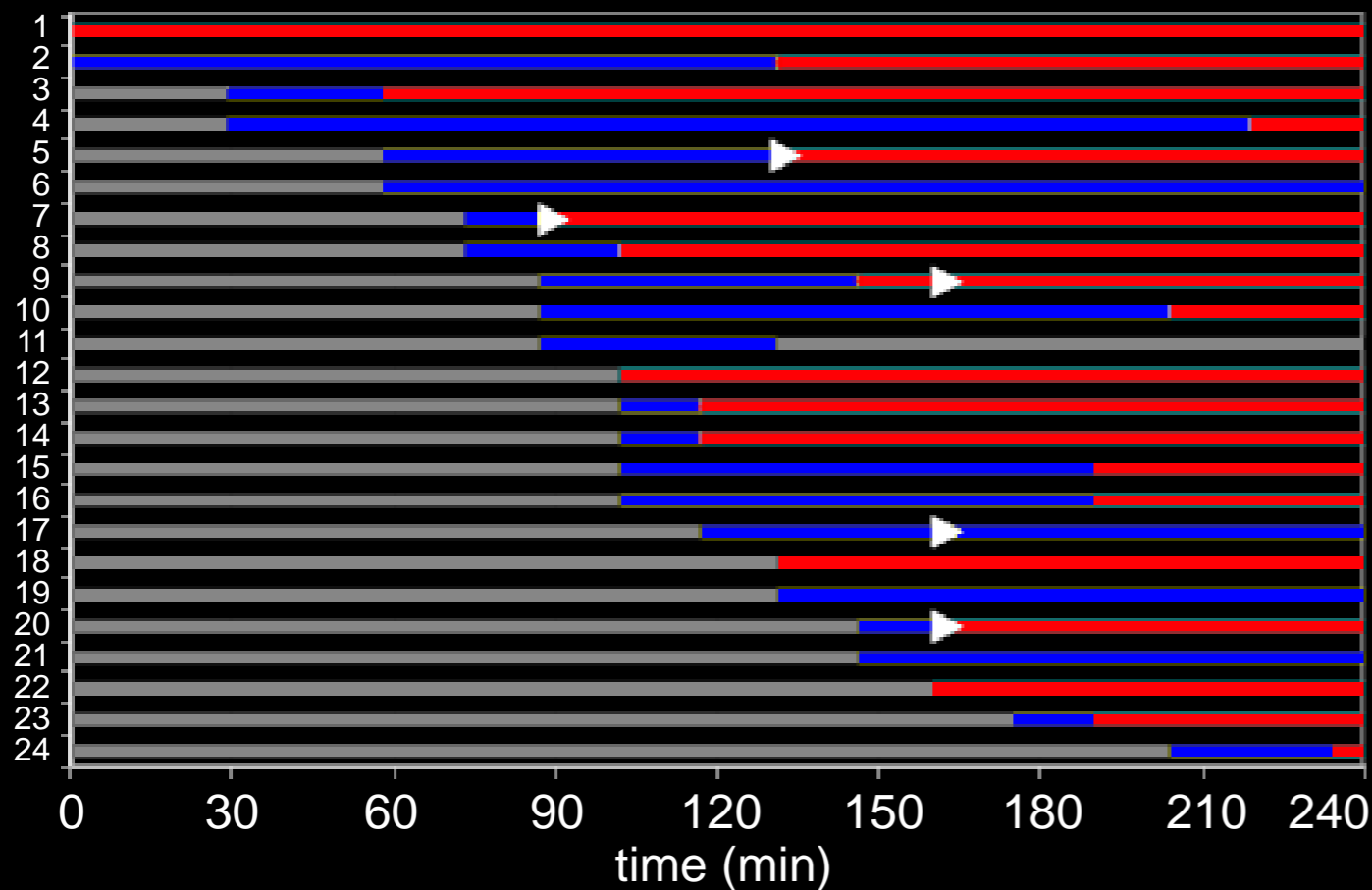
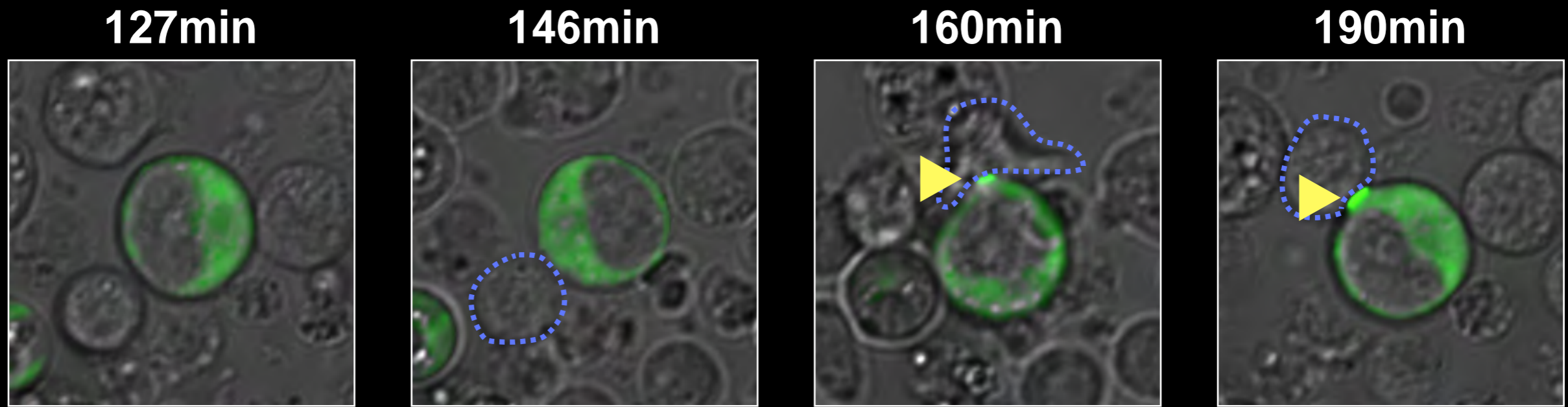


# Virological Synapse formation



00:00 (min:sec)

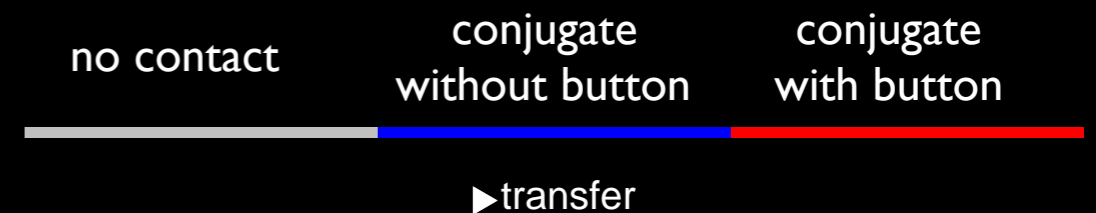
# Live tracking of HIV-infected cell conjugates over 4h



110 Jurkat HIV Gag-iGFP

22% form conjugates

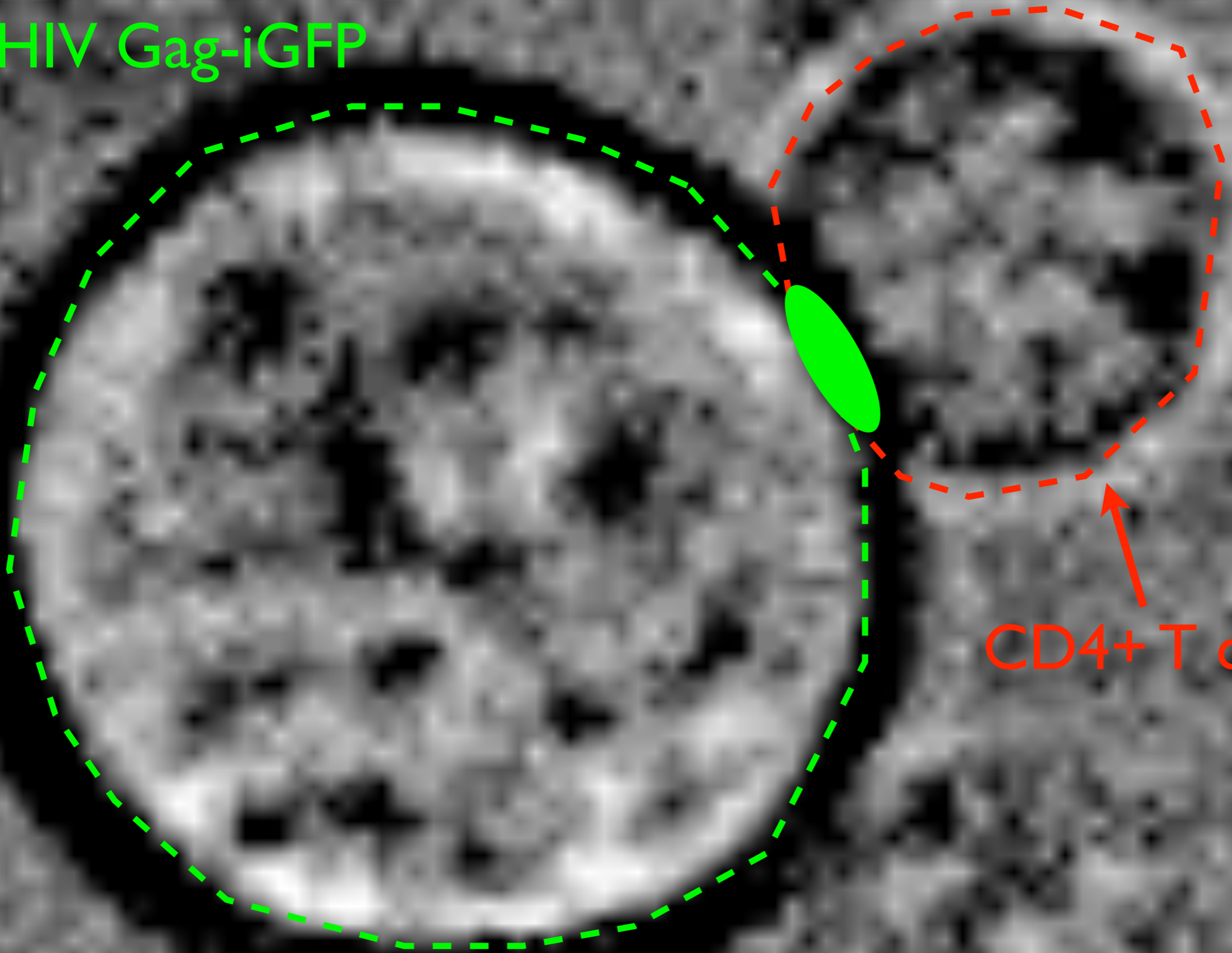
83% Gag accumulates at synapse





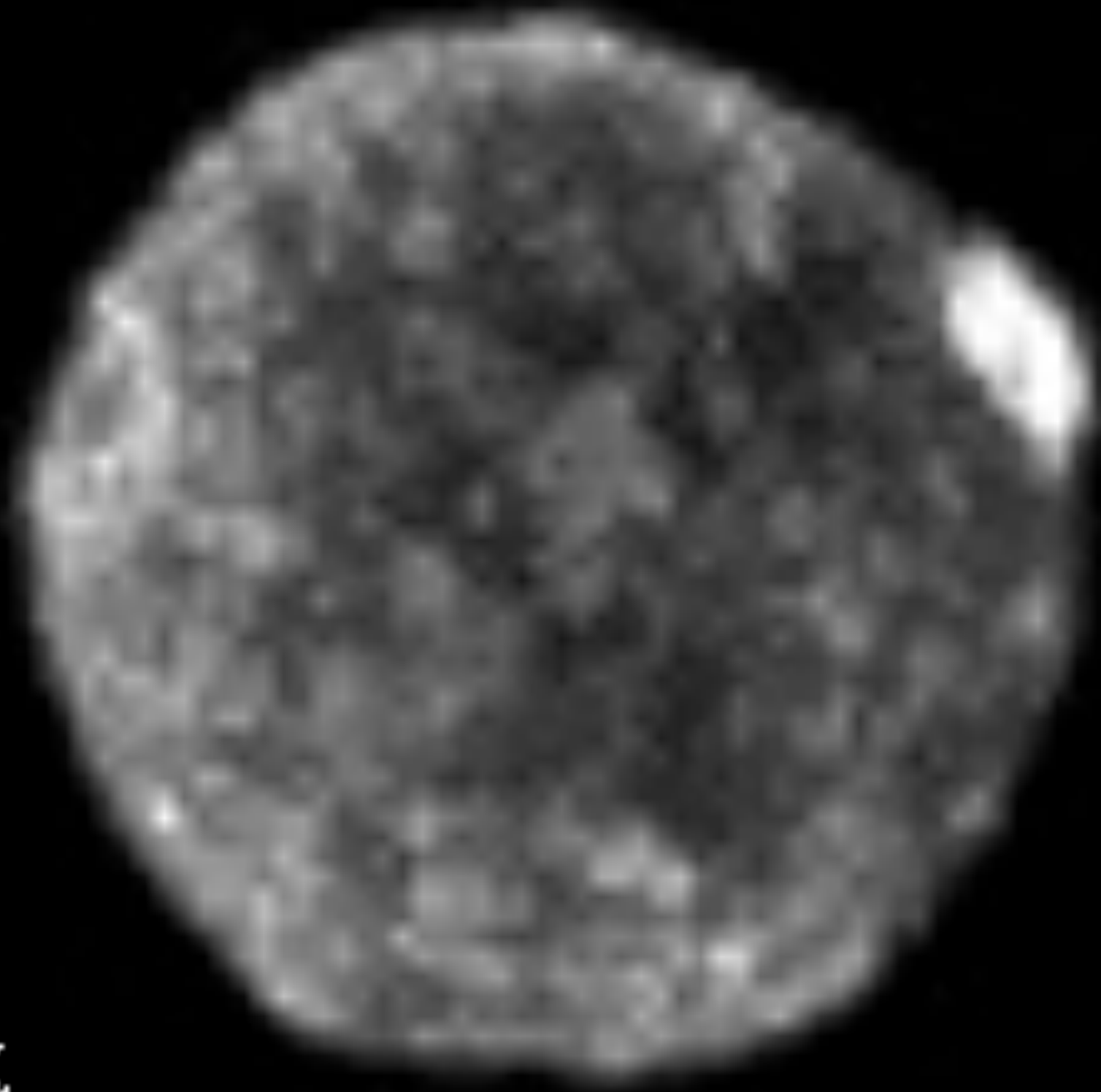
# Gag-iGFP recruitment to the VS and transfer

Jurkat HIV Gag-iGFP



CD4+ T cells

# Gag-iGFP recruitment to the VS and transfer



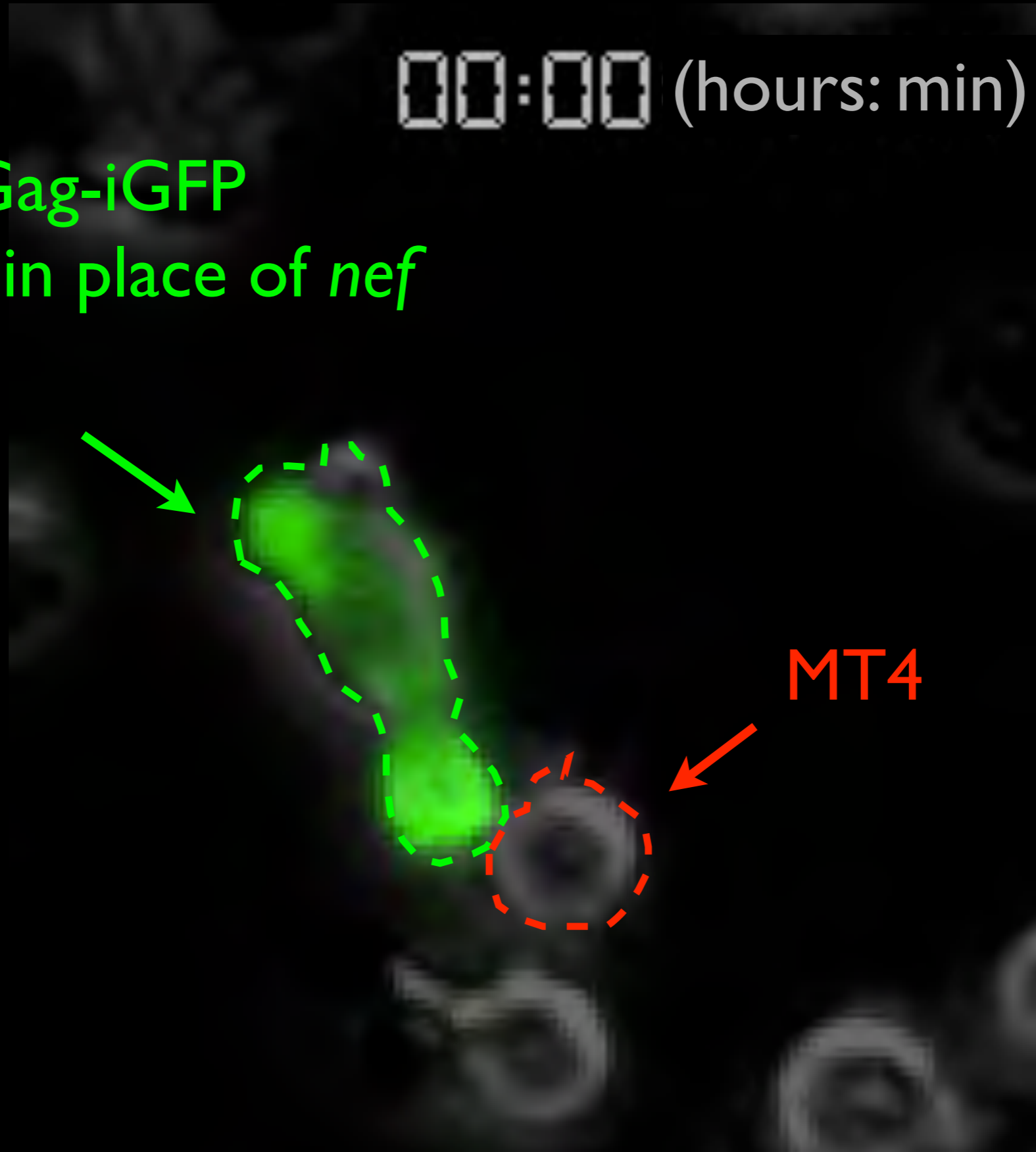
02:35  
min:sec

Hubner et al Science 2009

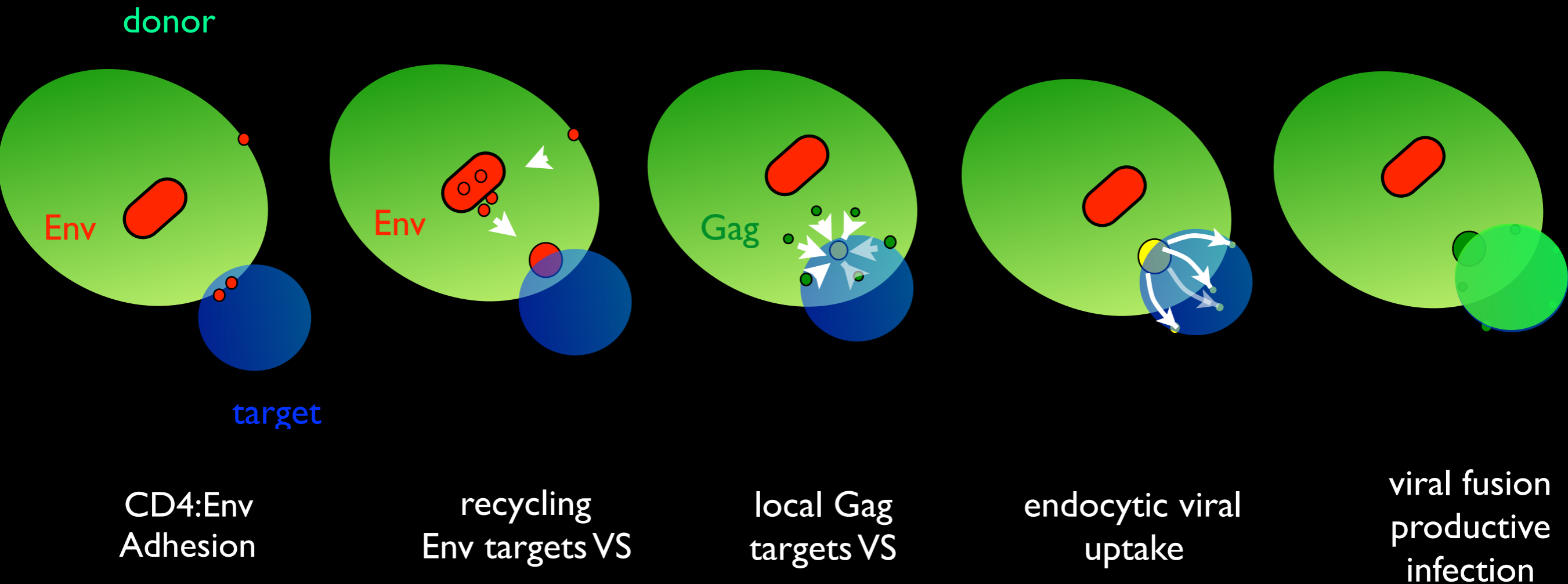
# VS transfer leads to productive infection

Gag-iGFP  
+ GFP in place of *nef*

00:00 (hours: min)



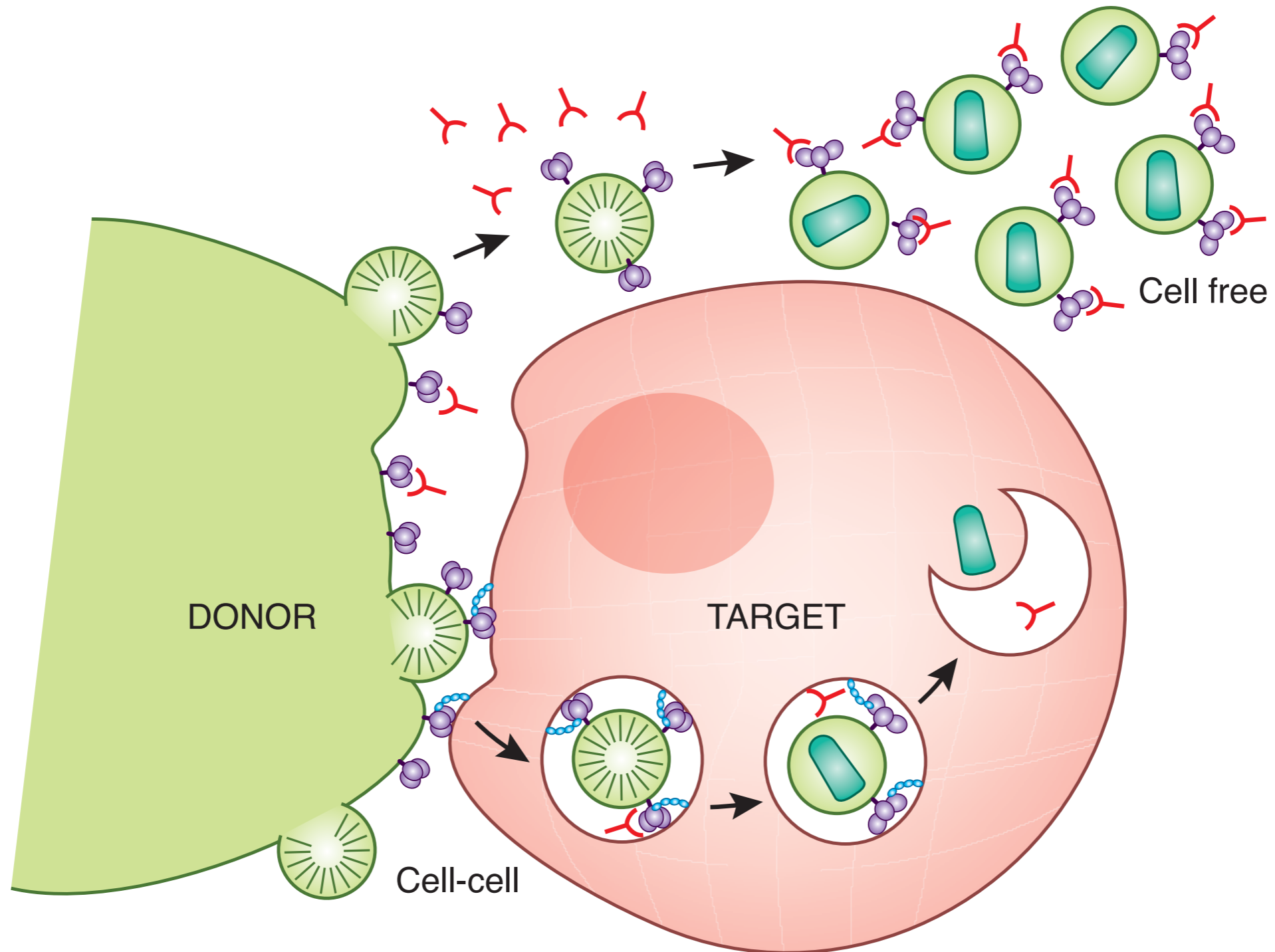
# Stepwise model for VS formation and viral transfer



Signaling in donor cell coordinates assembly:  
Signaling in target cell triggers endocytosis

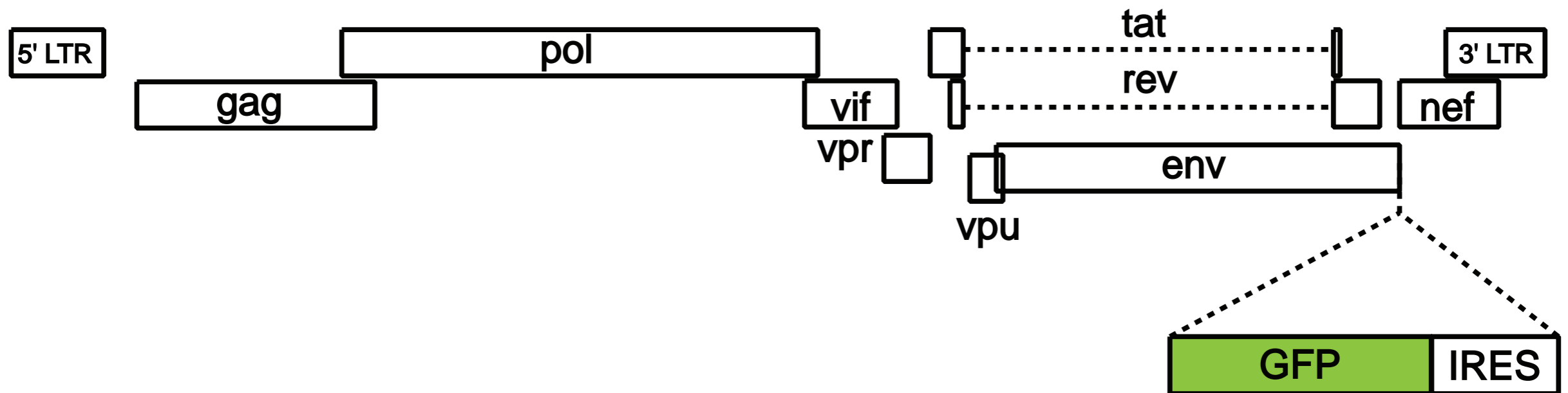


# VS Neutralization Resistance

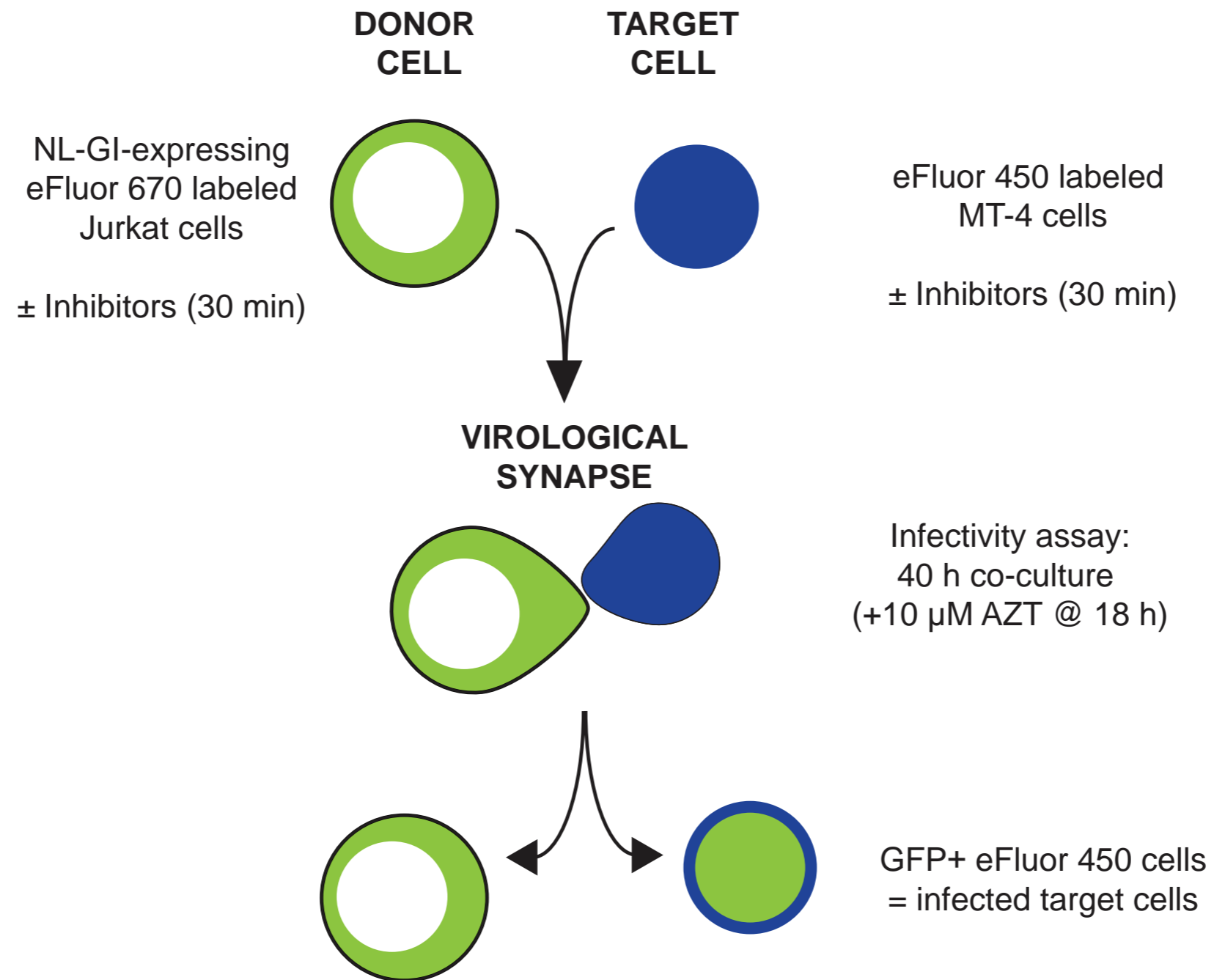


# Infectious GFP-expressing HIV

**NL-GI** (*for infectivity assay*)

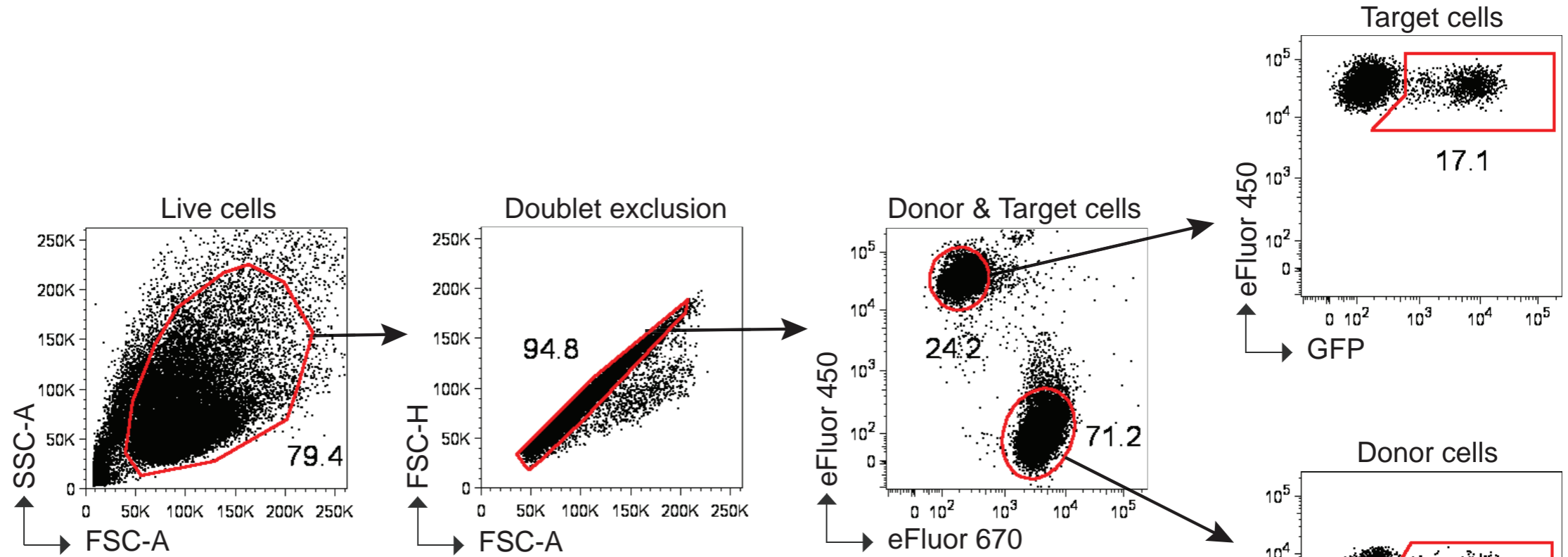


# Cell-to-cell HIV infection

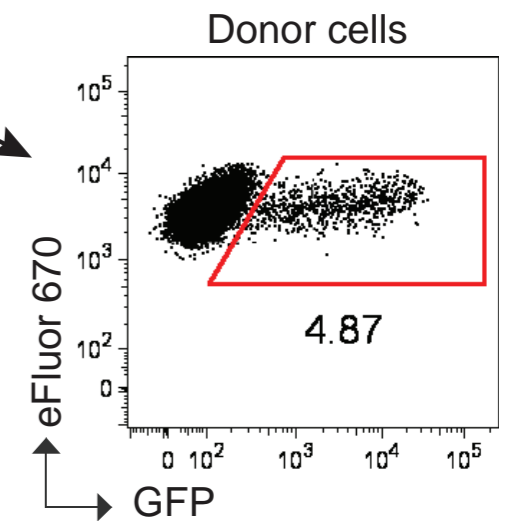
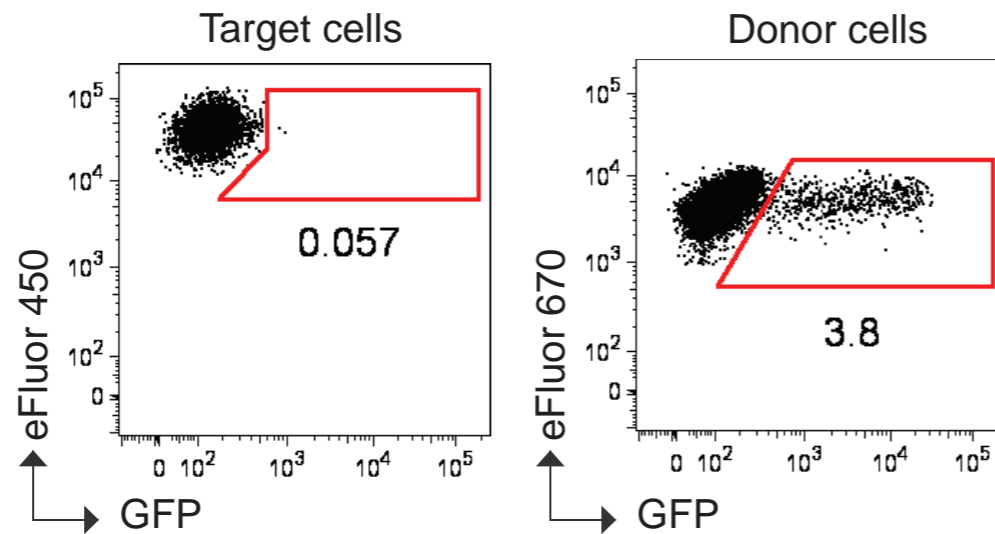


# Donor Target Discrimination

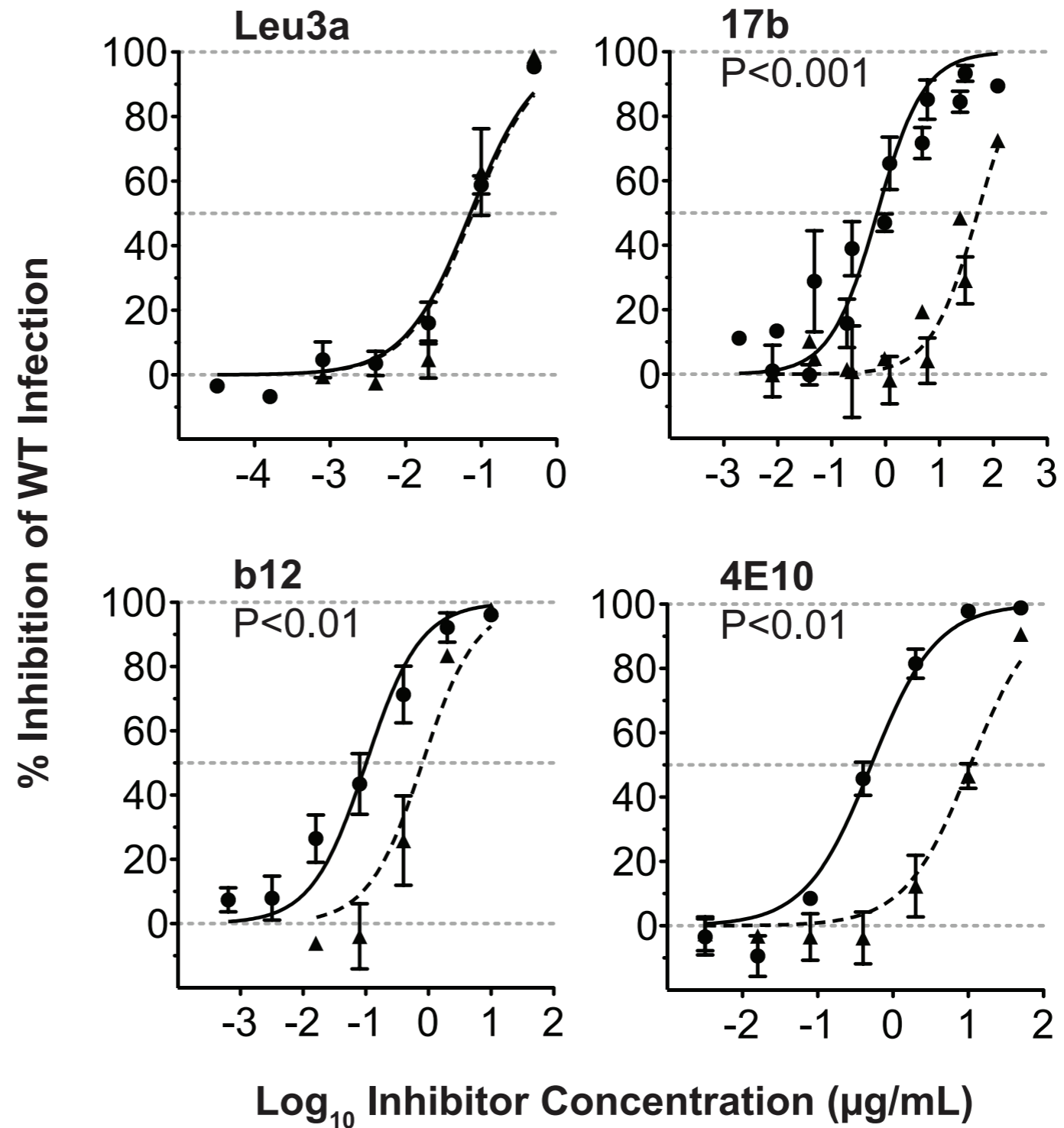
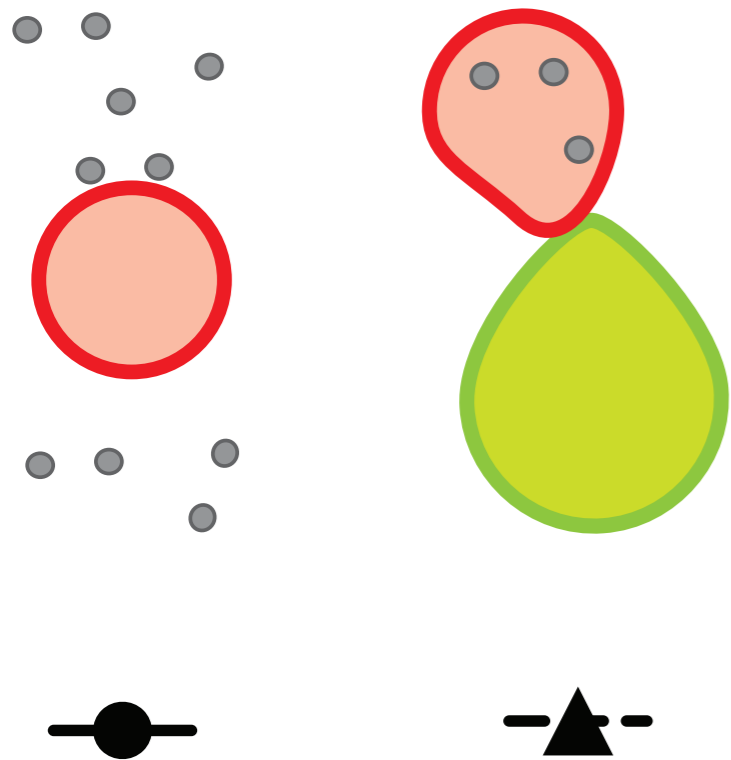
A NL-GI infected + no inhibitor



B NL-GI infected + 0.5 µg/mL Leu3a



# Resistance of VS infection to neutralizing antibodies

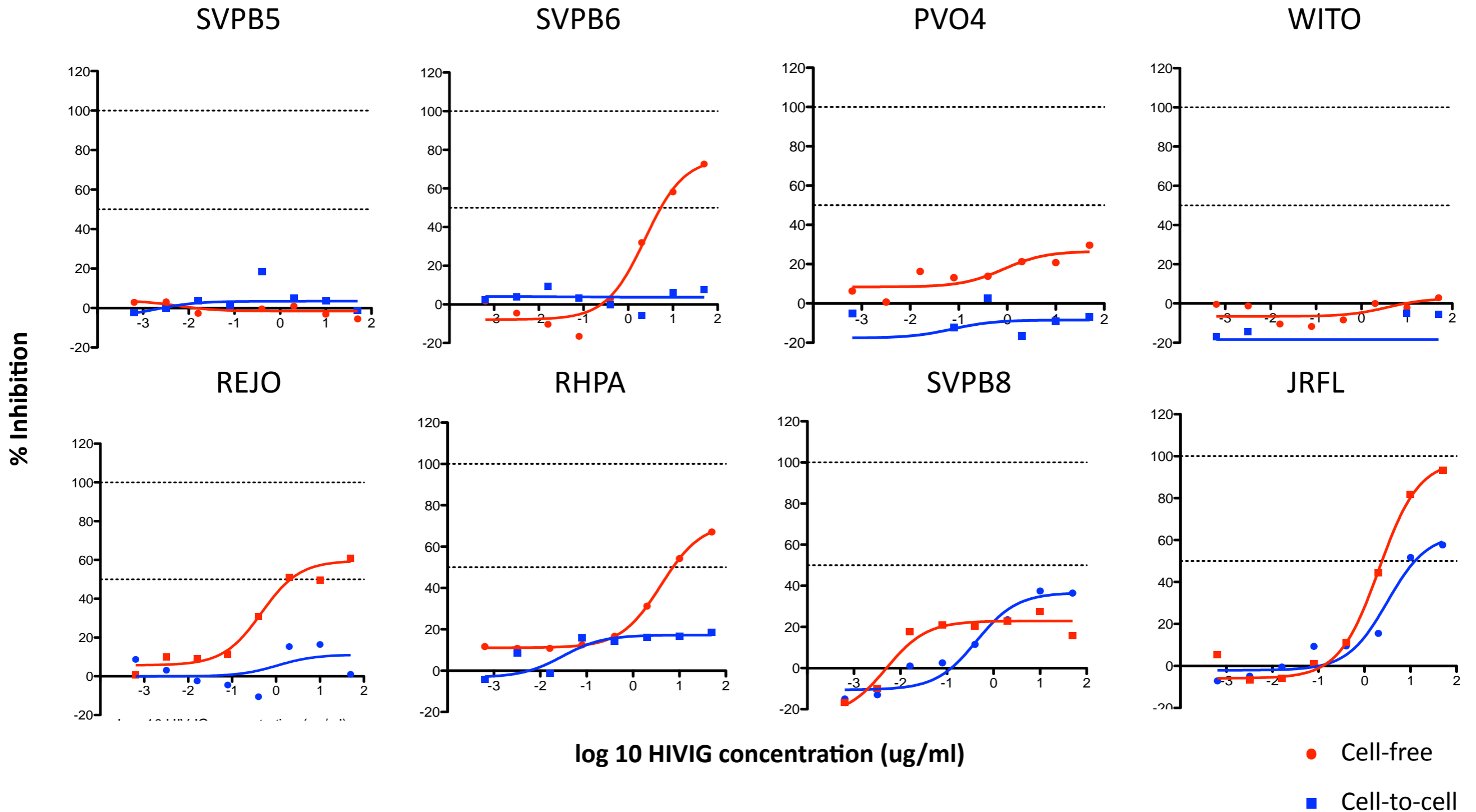




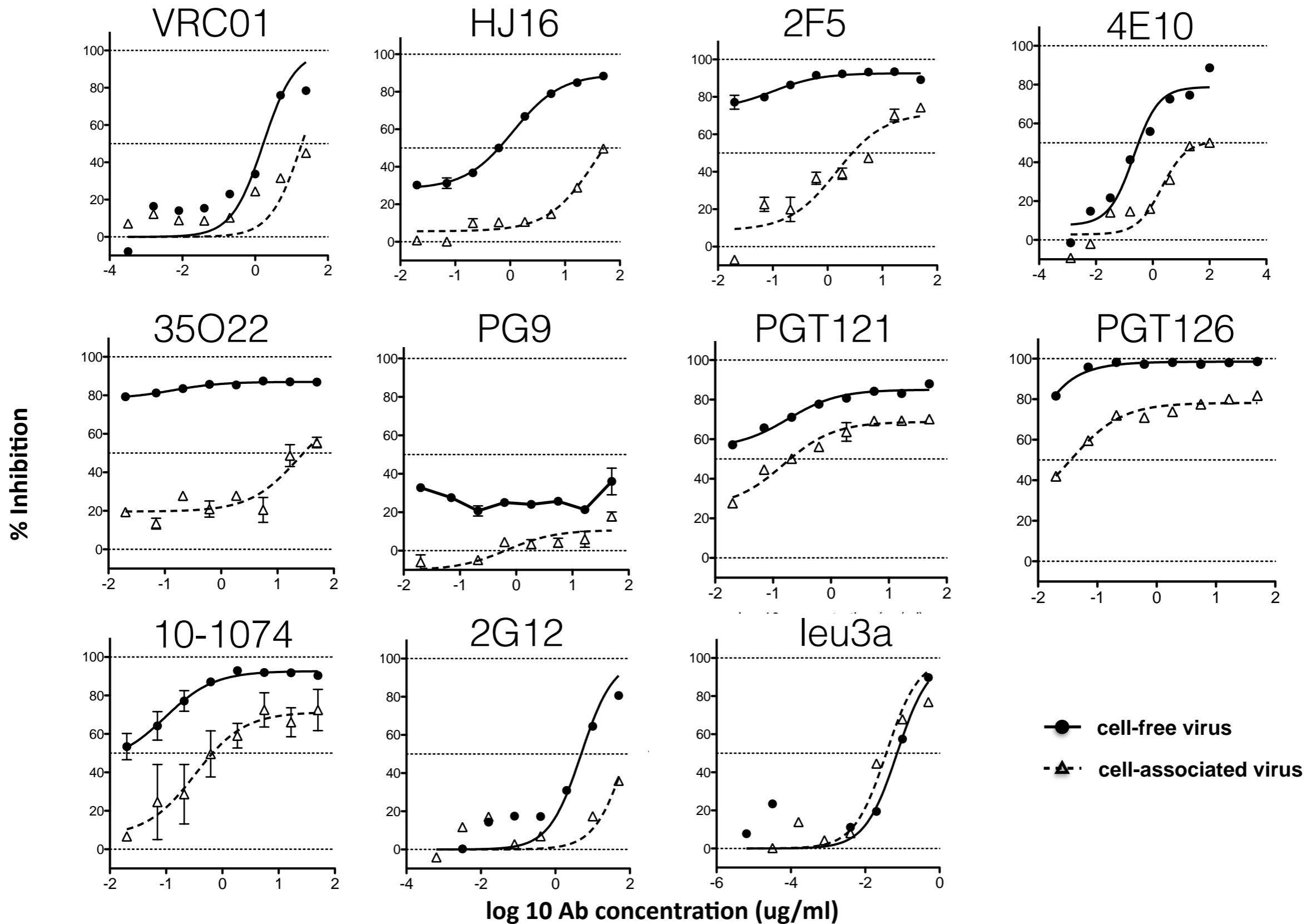
# Primary isolate transmitted founder HIV Env clones

Env clone name	Origin	Tier	Subtype	Fiebig
SVPB5	Washington DC	1B	B	V
SVPB6	Trinidad	2	B	V
PVO, clone 4	Italy	3	B	III
WITO 4160	Alabama	2	B	II
REJO 4541	Alabama	2	B	II
RHPA 4259	Tennessee	2	B	<V
SVPB 8	Trinidad	2	B	IV

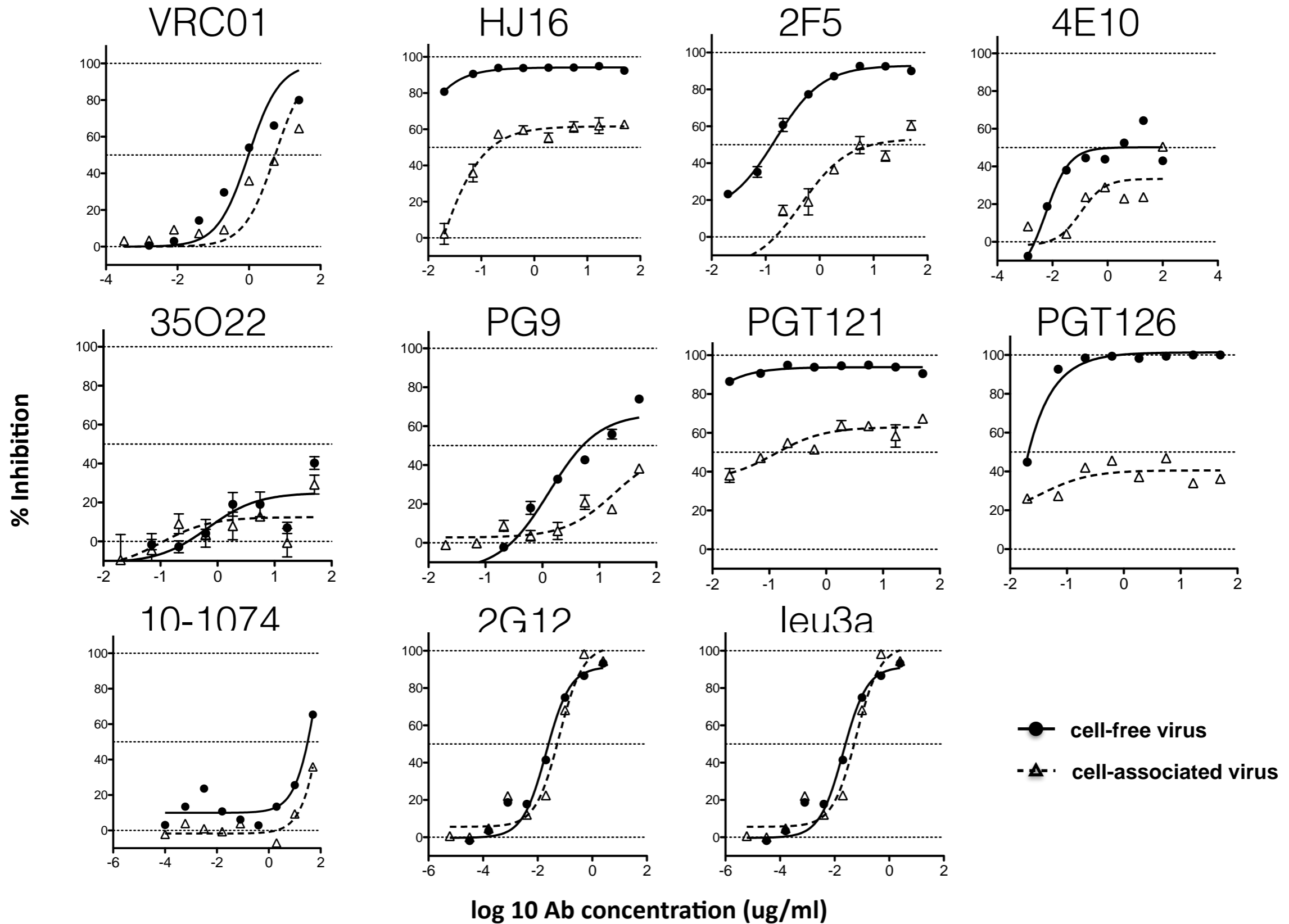
# Clade B primary isolates cell-free vs cell-to-cell neutralization by HIVIG



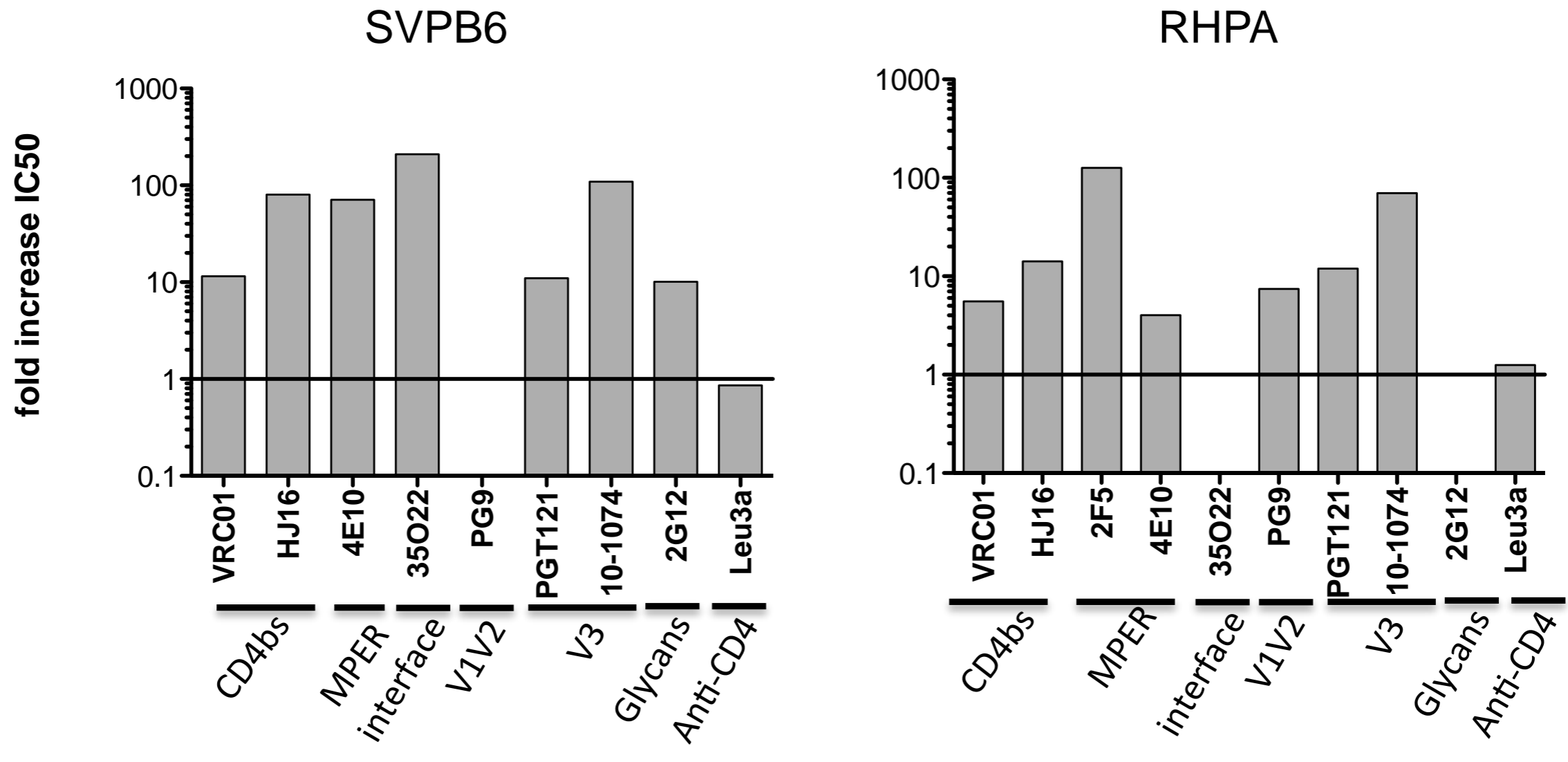
# Neutralization of T/F HIV SVPB6



# Neutralization of T/F HIV RHPA

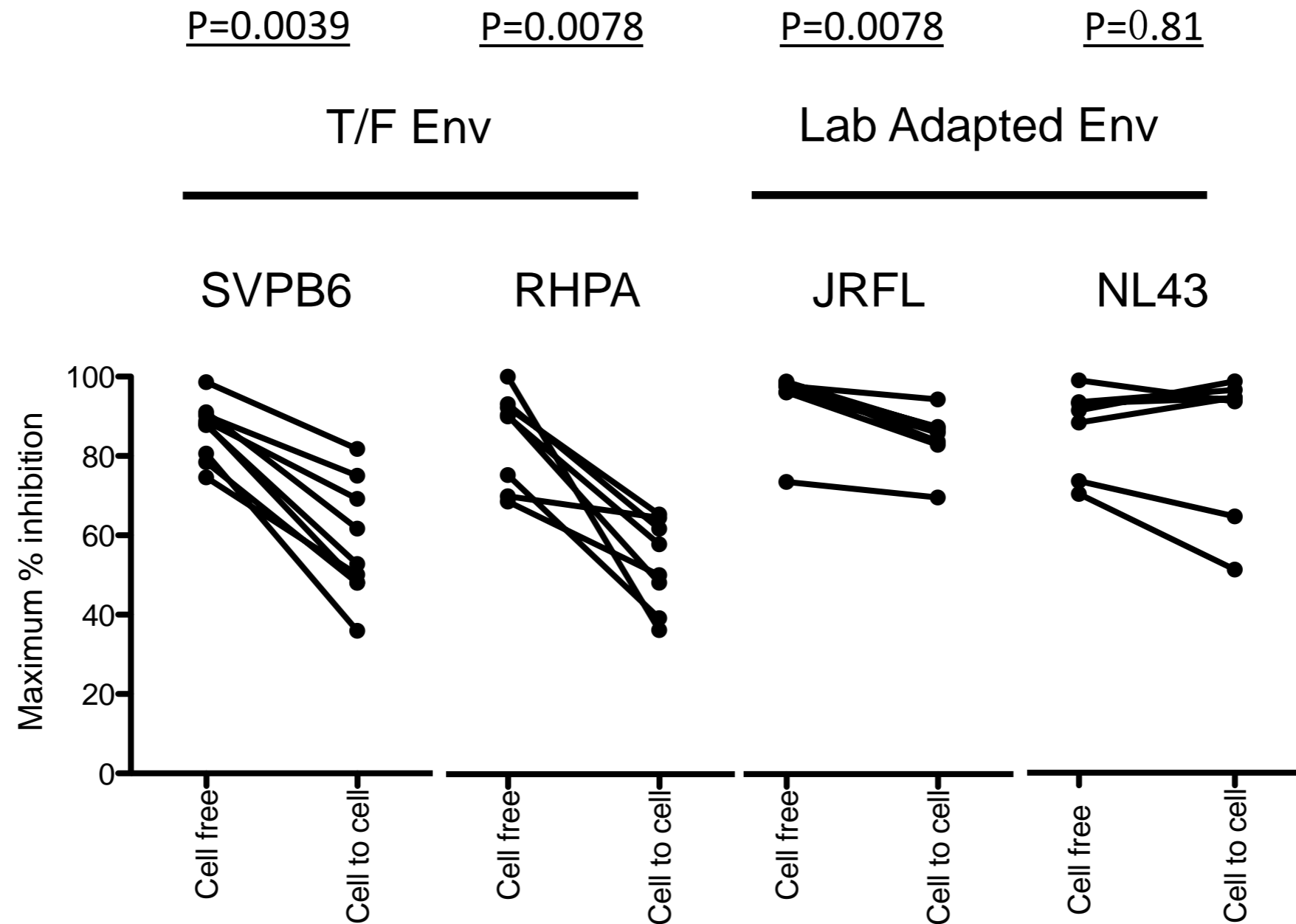


# Fold Increase in IC50 in cell-to-cell infection over cell-free infection





# Incomplete neutralization of T/F Env by potent bnAb



Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed rank test

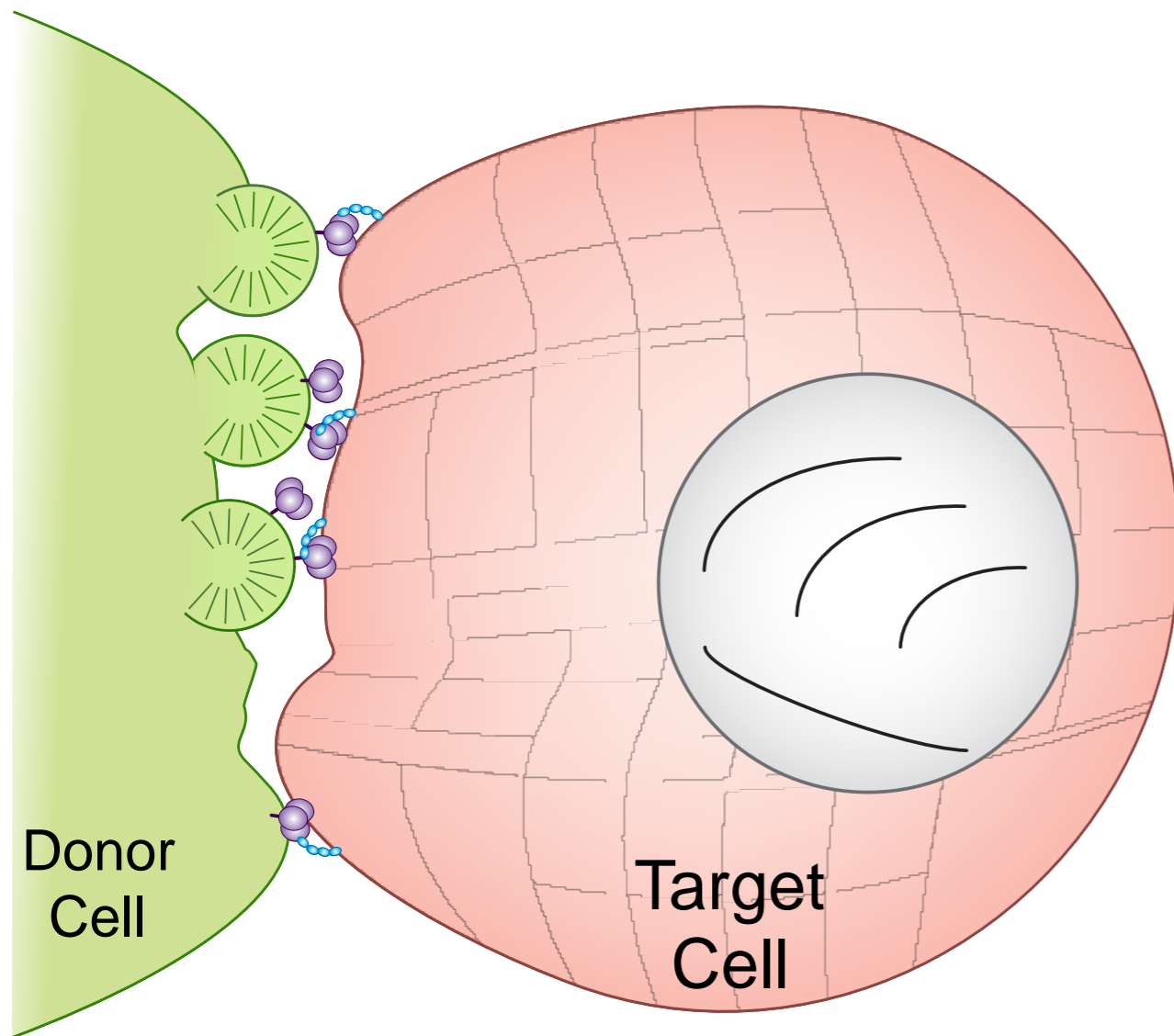
# Neutralization of TF Env viruses engaged in VS

- TF Env -- more difficult to neutralize than lab strains -- especially by cell-cell infection
- Increases in IC50 and decreases in Max neutralizing activity are observed
- Low background of the flow based assay is critical for accurately assessing the maximum neutralizing capacity

Does cell-to-cell  
infection occur during  
infection in vivo?

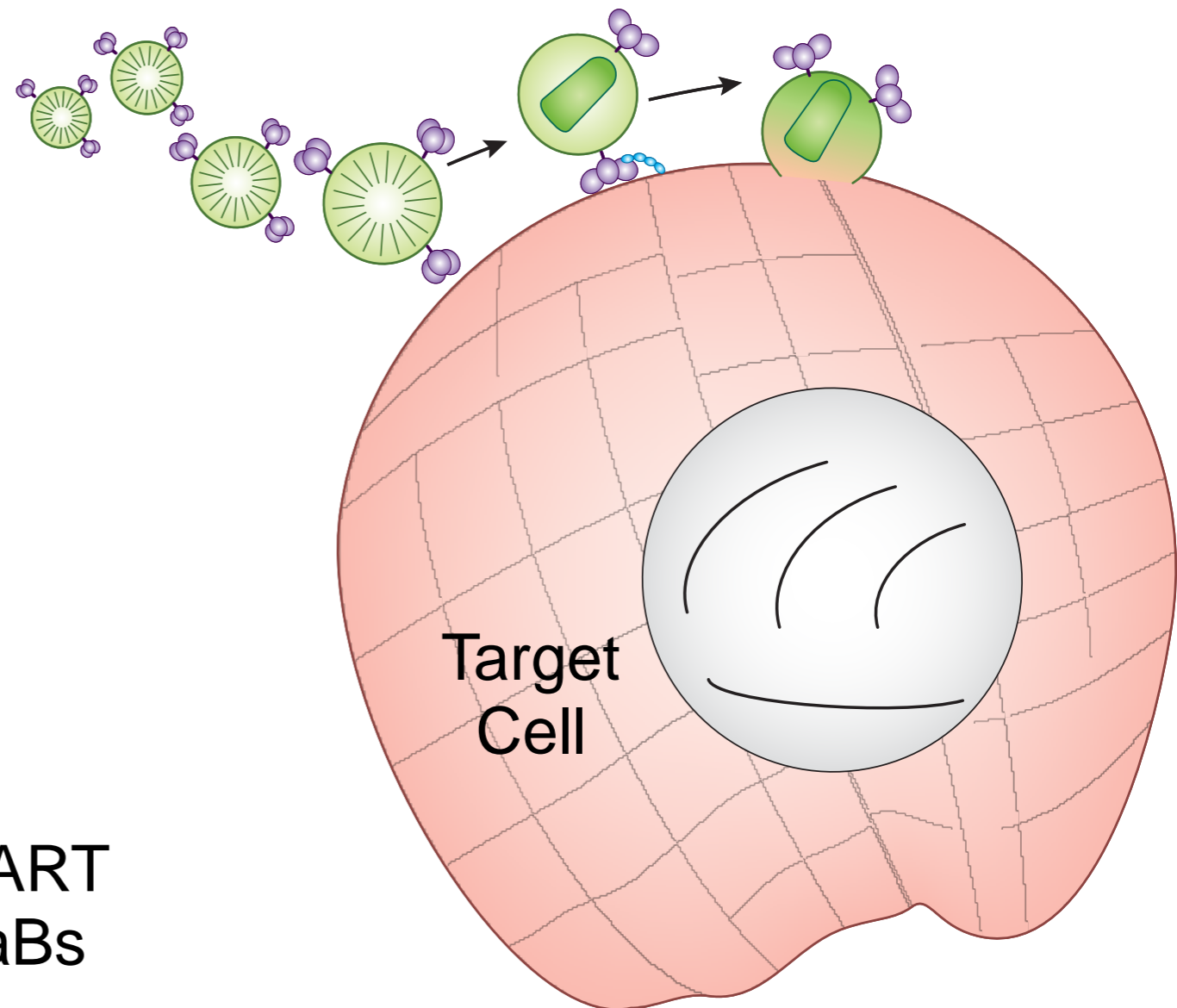
# Multicopy HIV infection during cell-cell infection

## Cell-to-cell Transmission



- Reduced sensitivity to certain ART
- Reduced neutralization by bNaBs

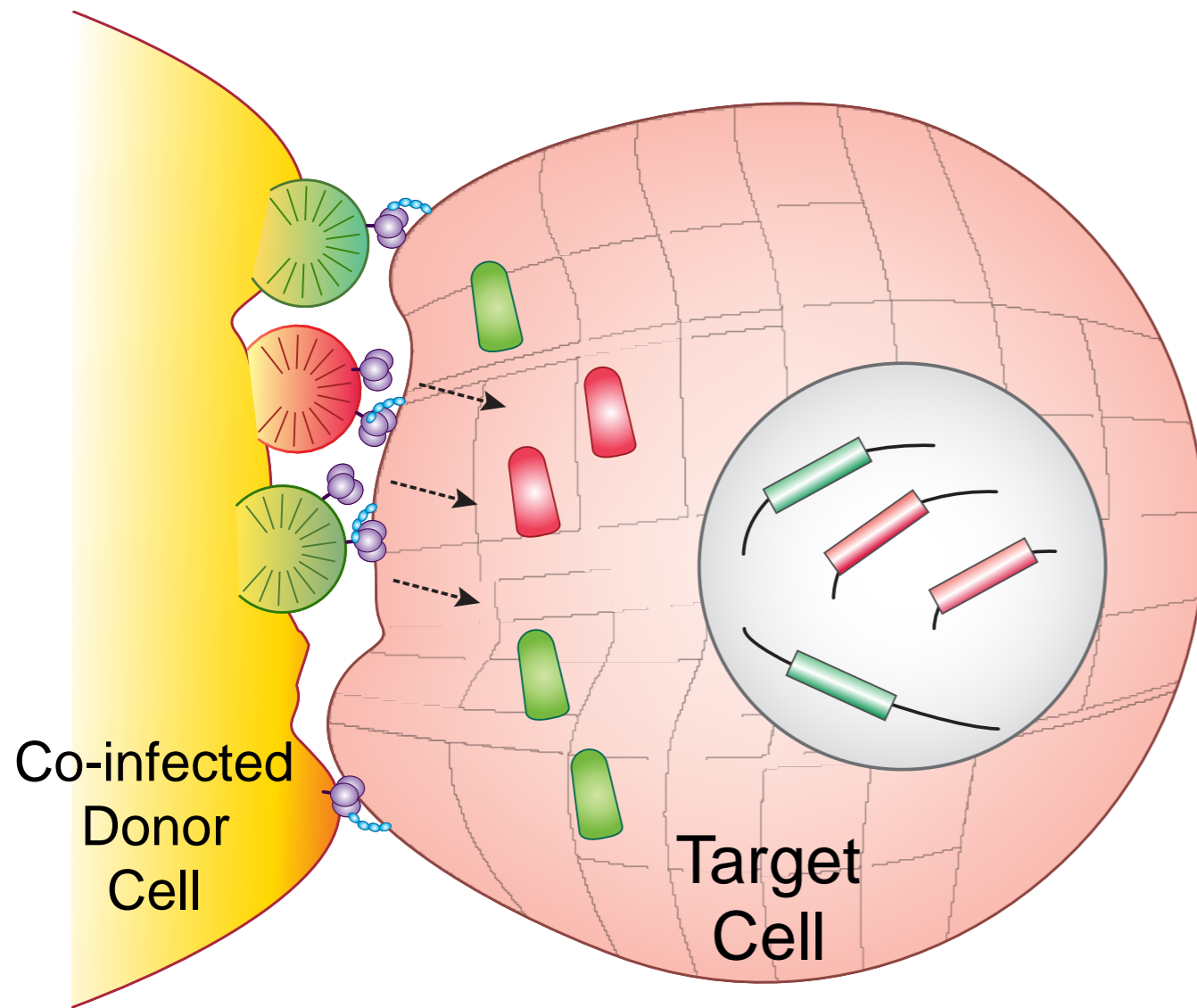
## Cell-Free Transmission



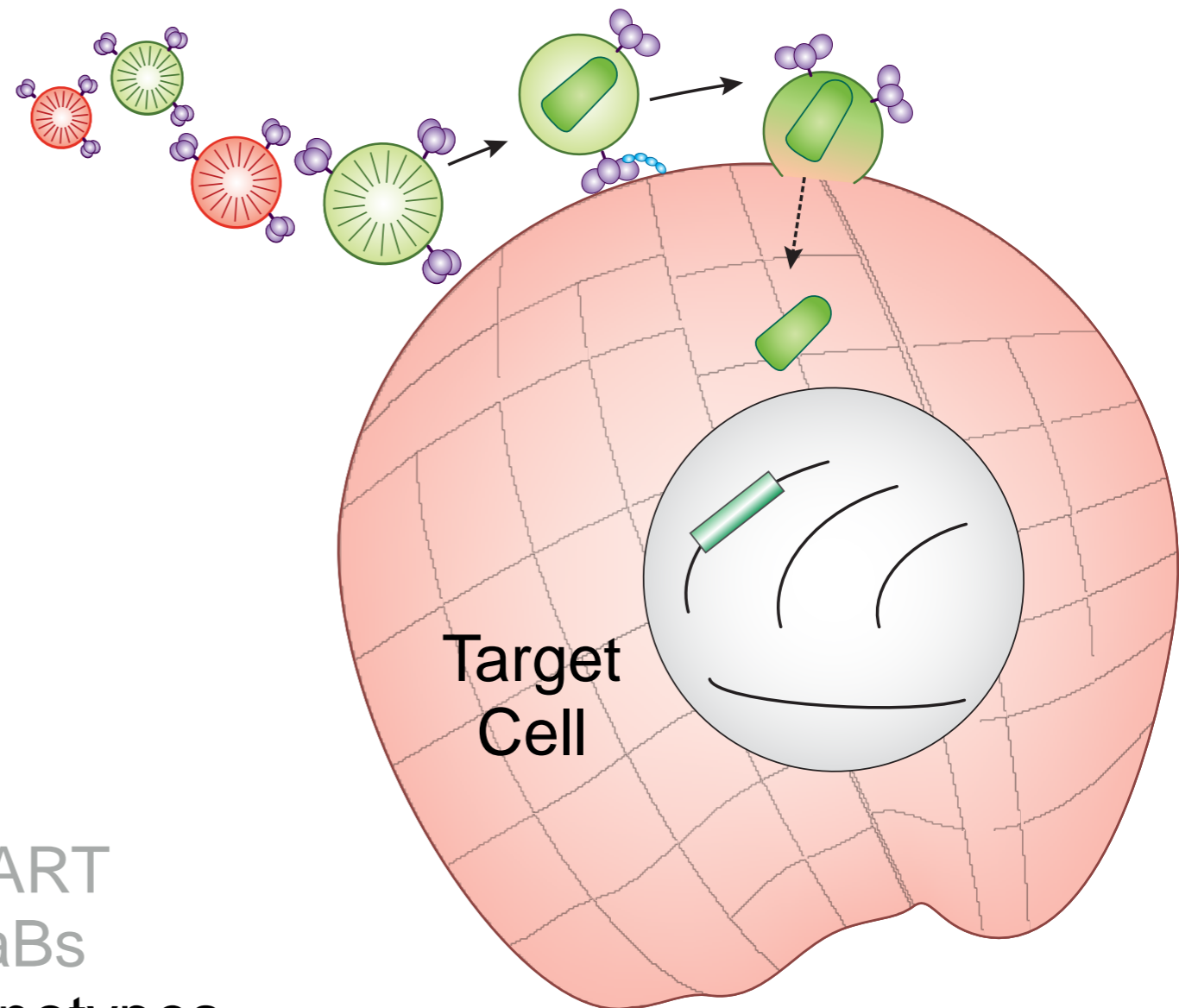
Del Portillo et al. J Virol 2011  
Sigal et al. Nature 2011  
Agosto et al. PPath 2014

# Multicopy HIV infection during cell-cell infection

## Cell-to-cell Transmission



## Cell-Free Transmission

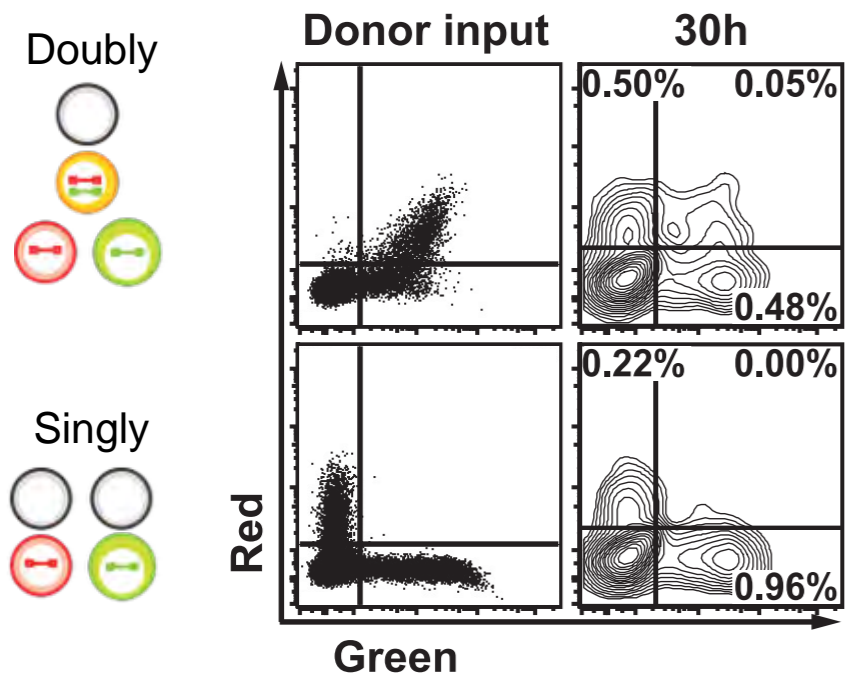


- Reduced sensitivity to certain ART
- Reduced neutralization by bNaBs
- **Co-transmission of multiple genotypes**

Del Portillo et al. J Virol 2011  
Sigal et al. Nature 2011  
Agosto et al. PPath 2014



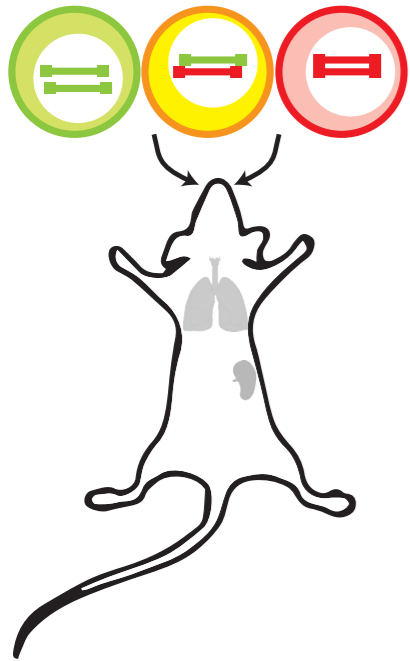
# VS promote the co-transmission of multiple HIV-1 copies



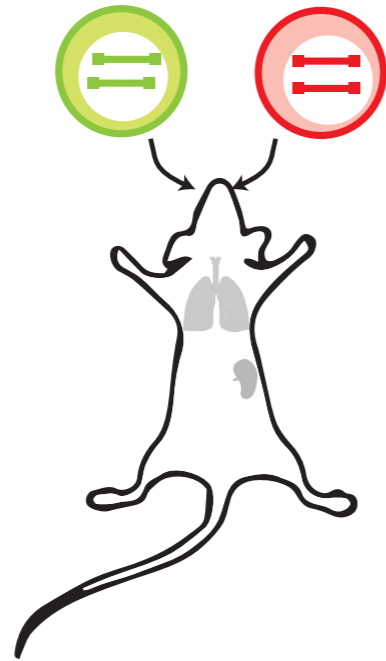
# Experimental design to detect multi copy infection in vivo

## Cell-associated inocula

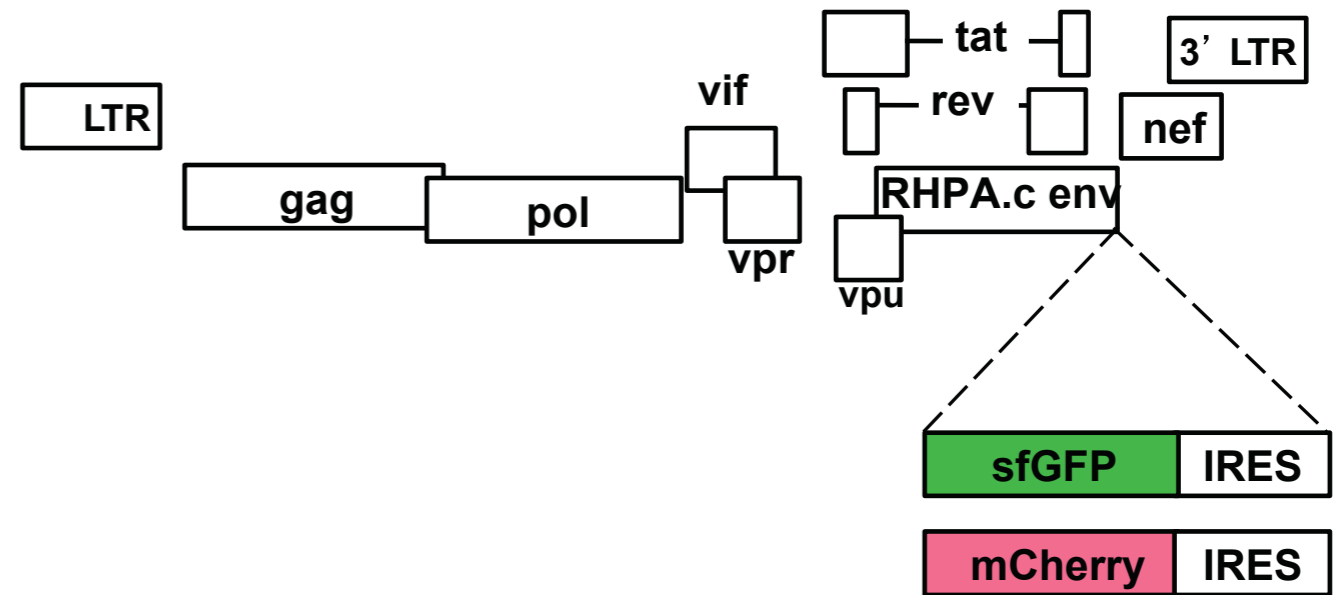
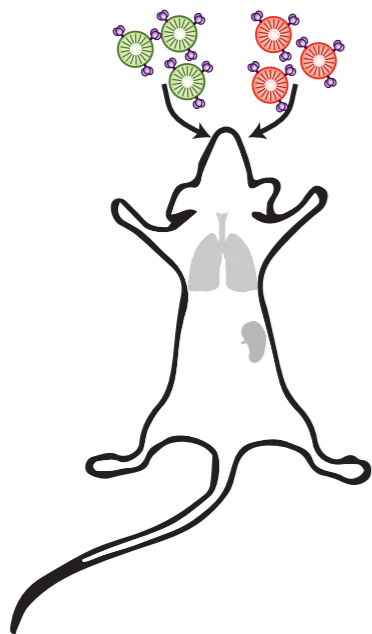
Doubly infected



Singly infected

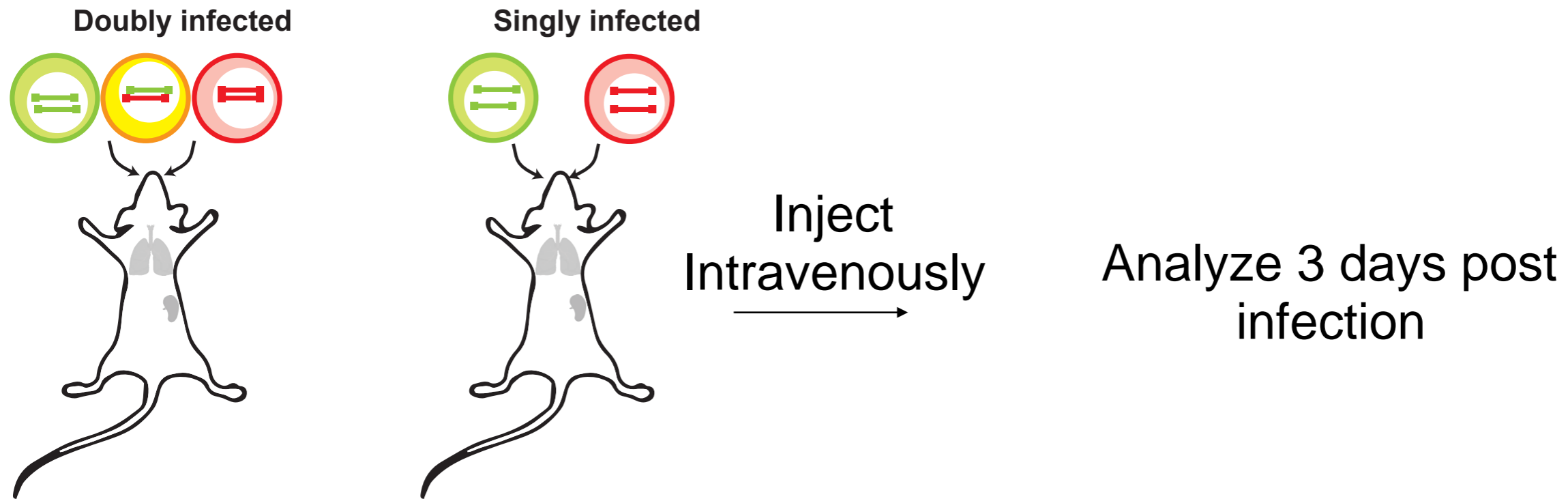


## Cell-free inocula

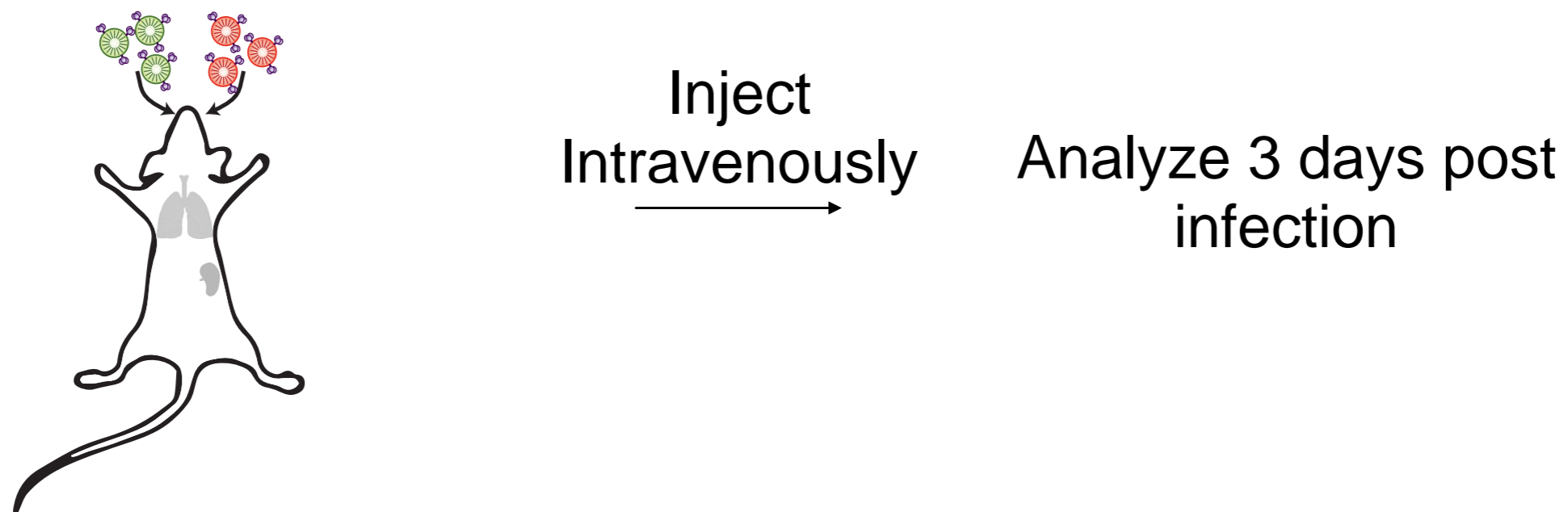


# Experimental design to detect multi copy infection in vivo

## Cell-associated inocula

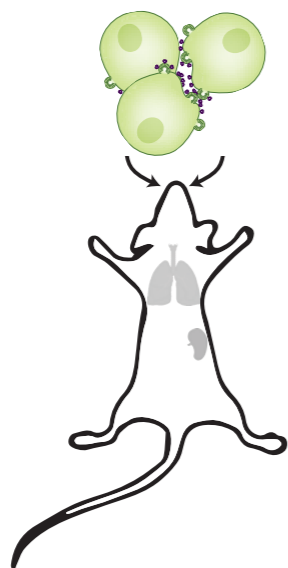


## Cell-free inocula

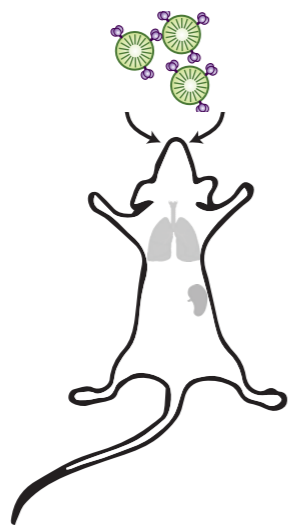


# Robust acute infection in humanized mice, with fluorescent HIV using T/F Env

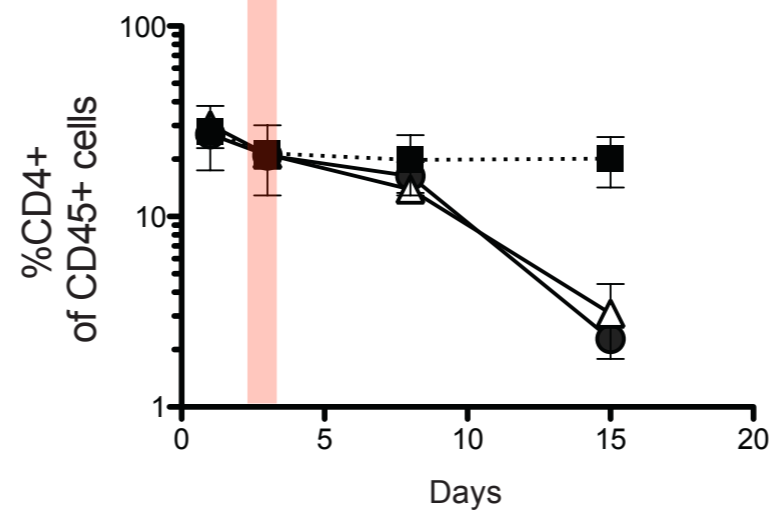
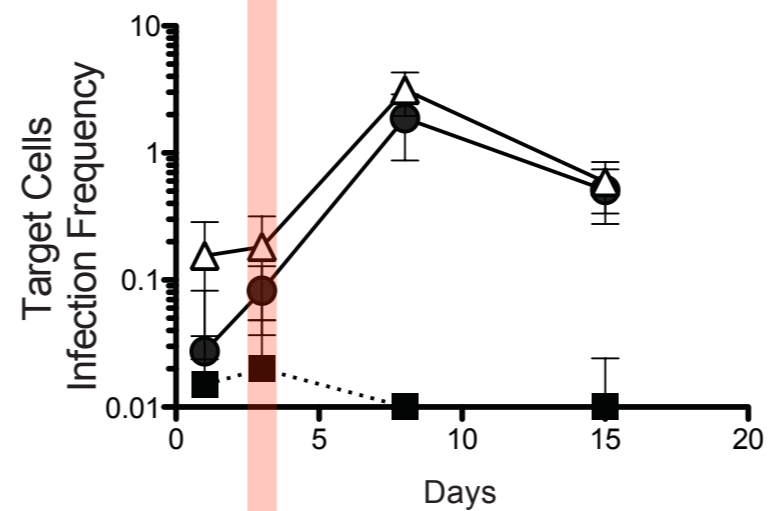
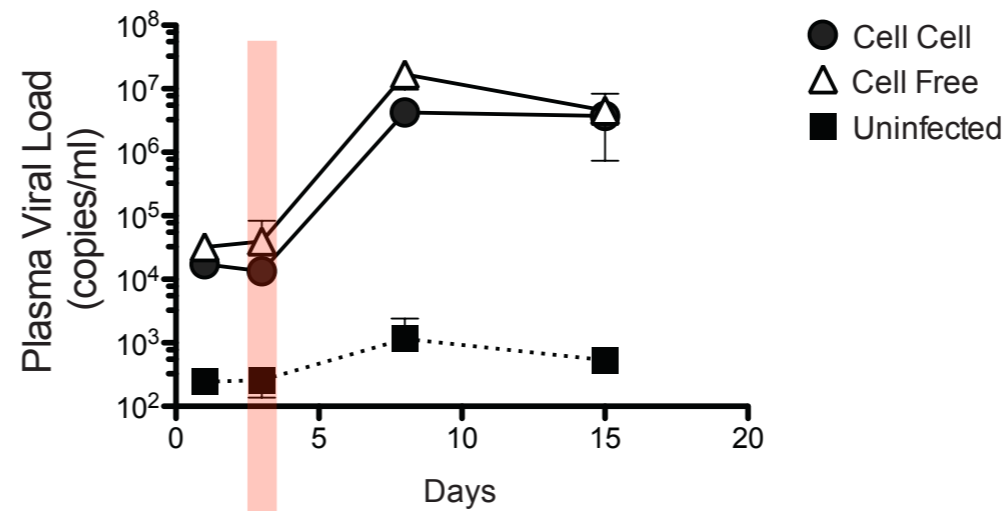
## Cell-cell infection



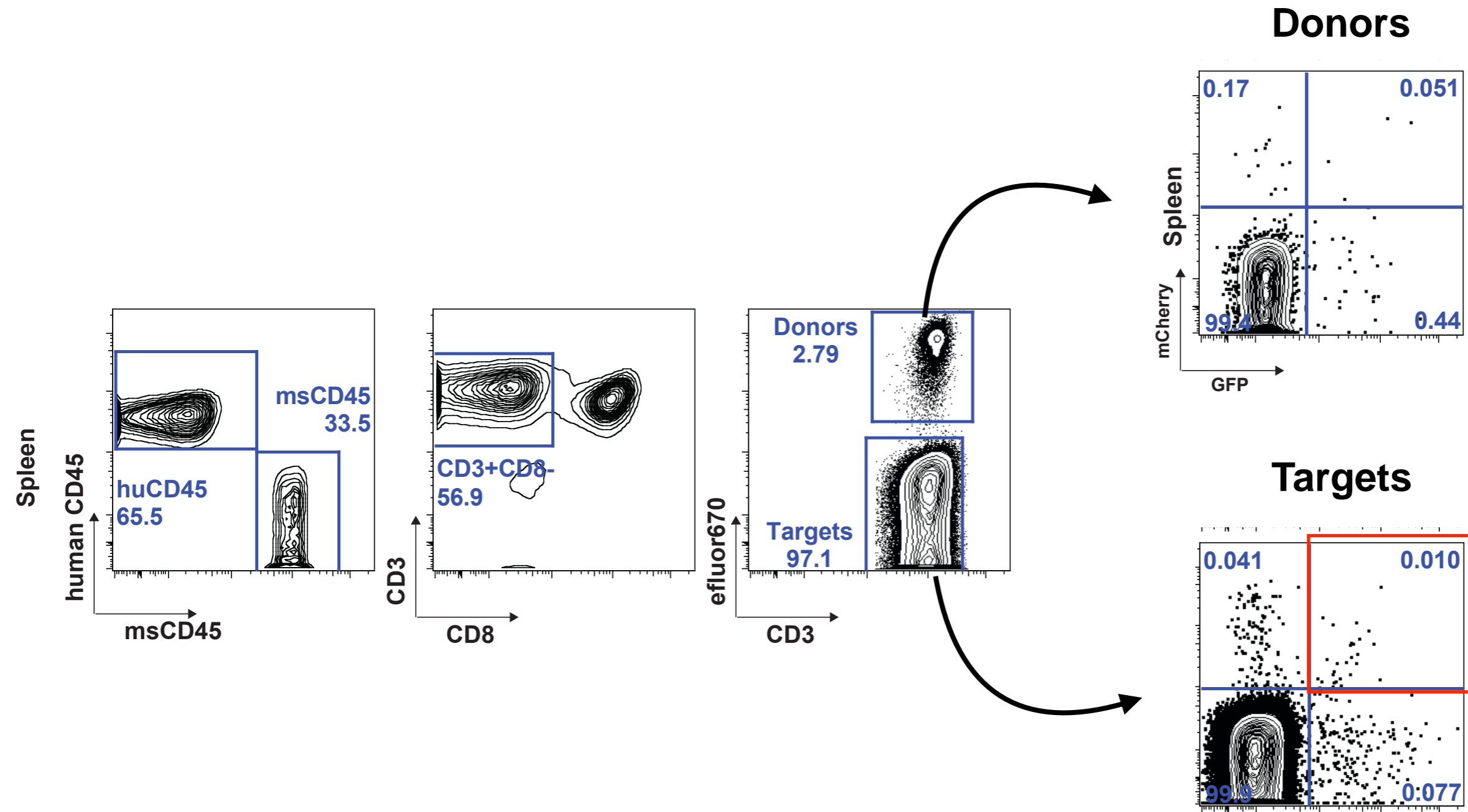
## Cell free infection



(40xTCID50)



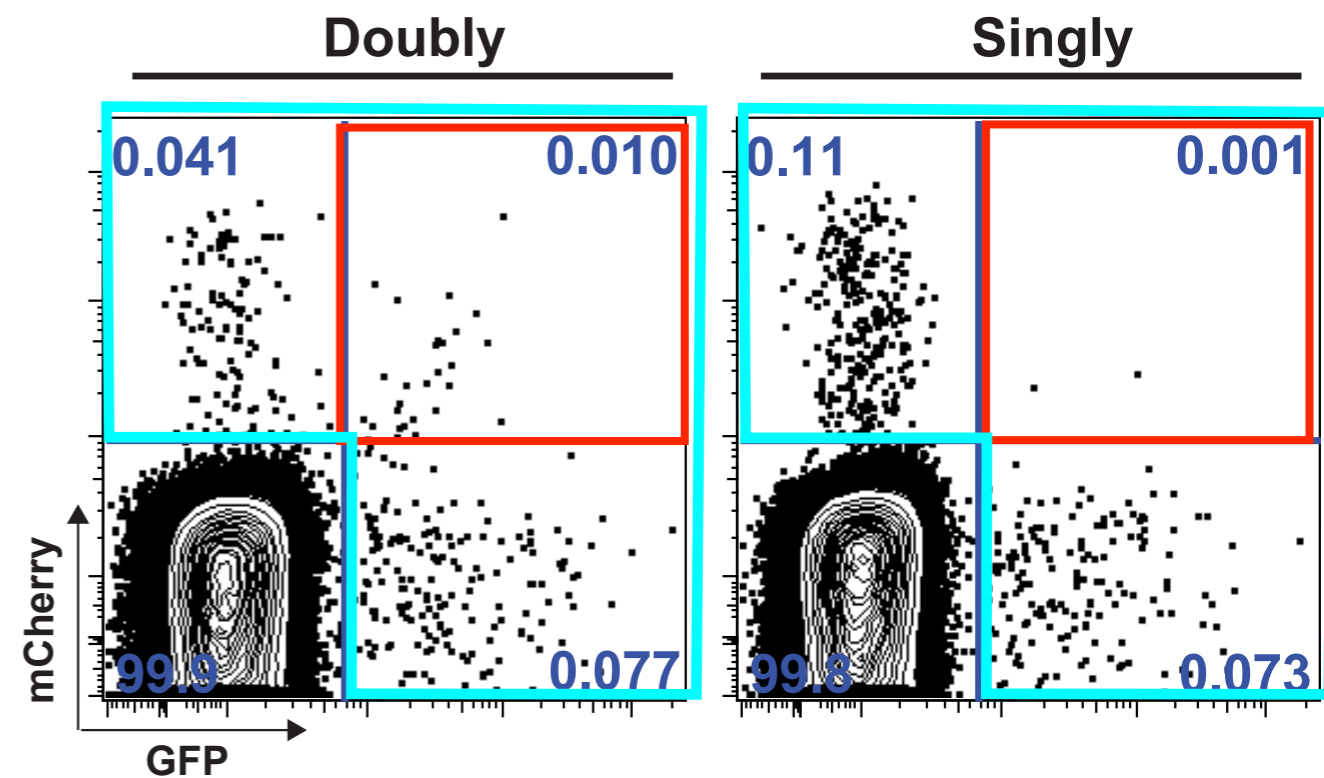
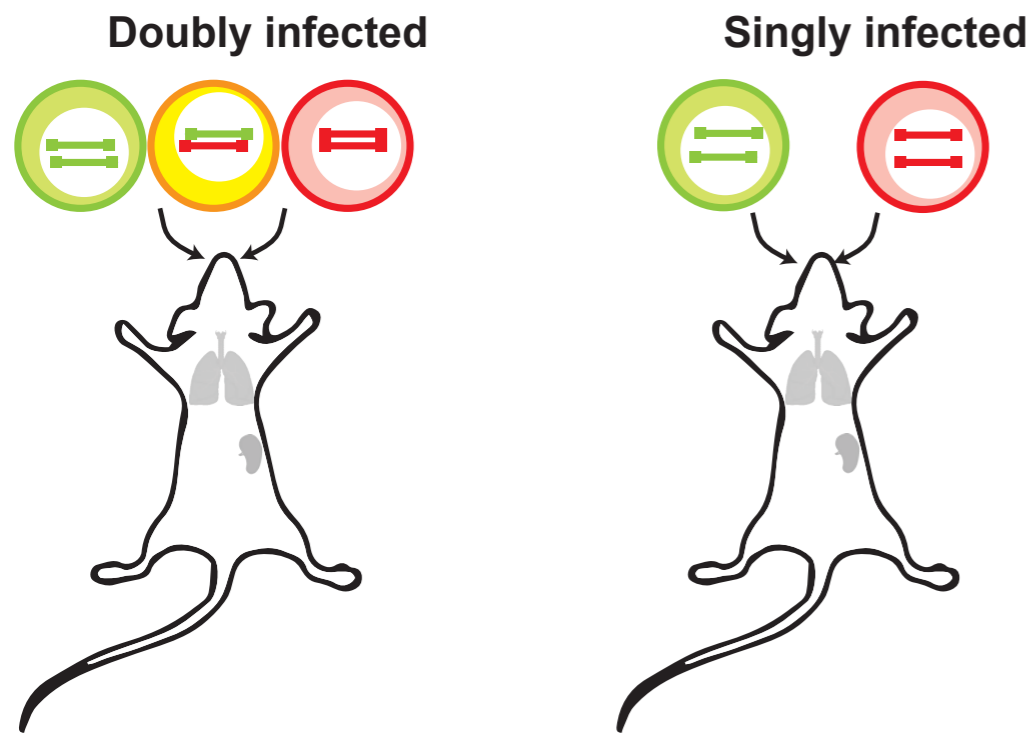
# Examining multicopy infection *in vivo* mediated by cell-associated virus



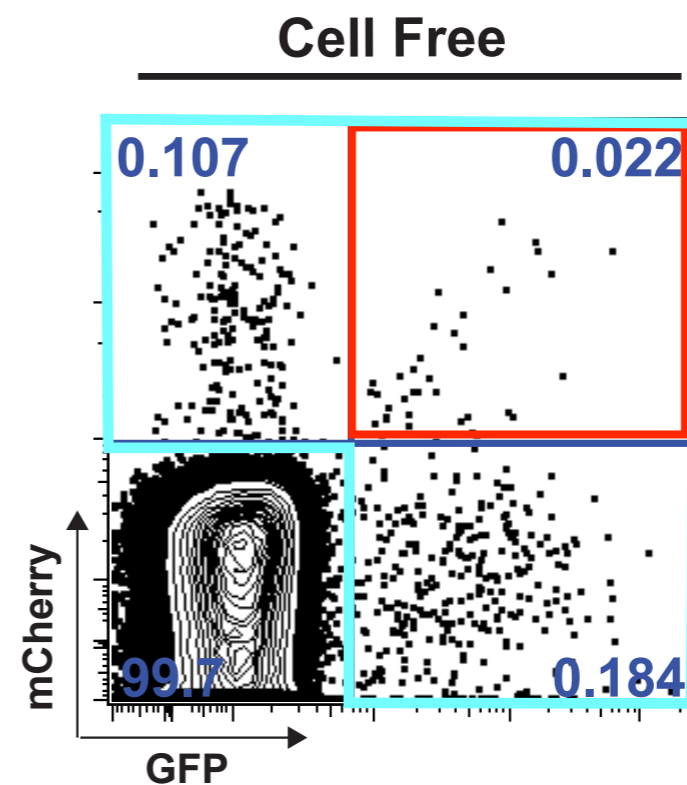
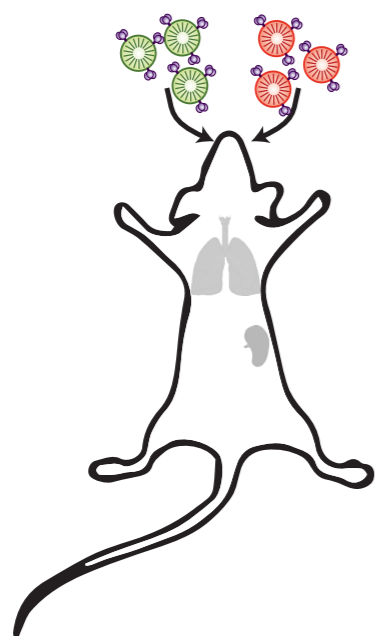


# Experimental design to detect multiply infected cells

## Cell-associated inocula

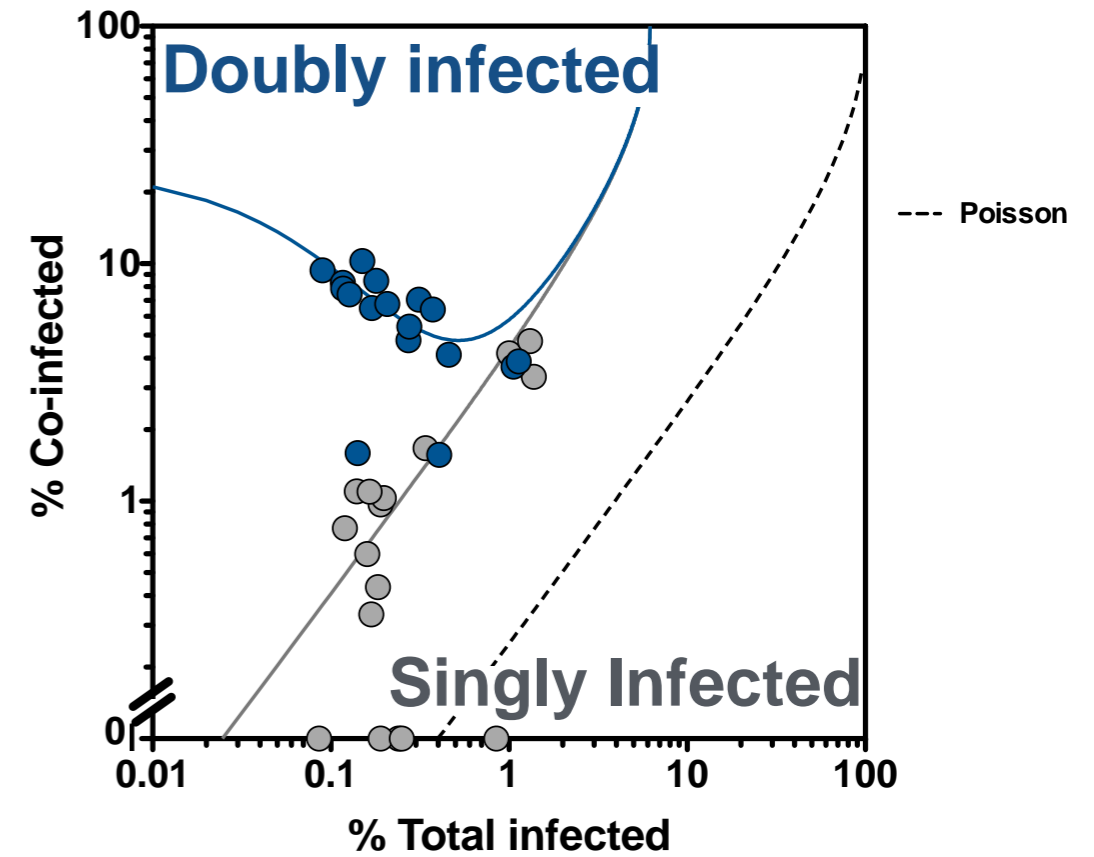
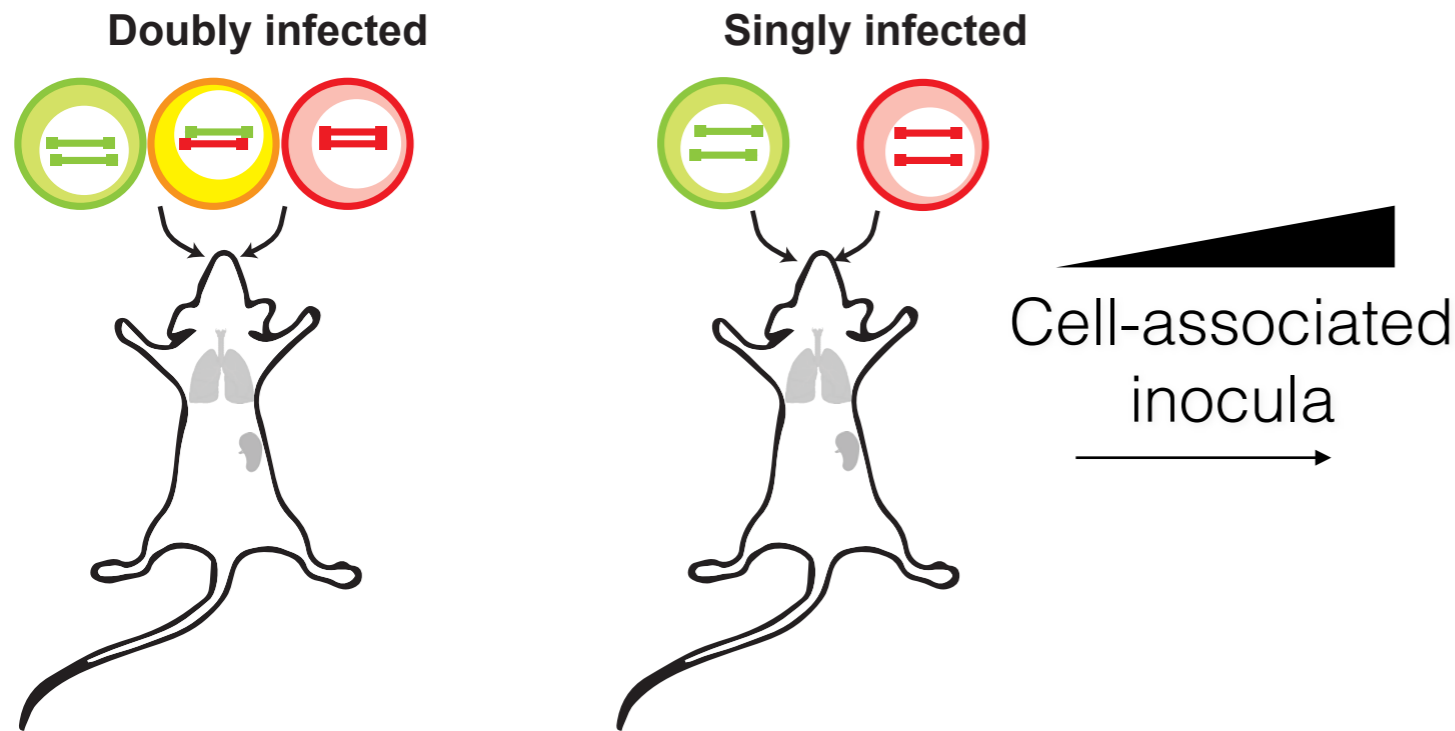


## Cell-free inocula

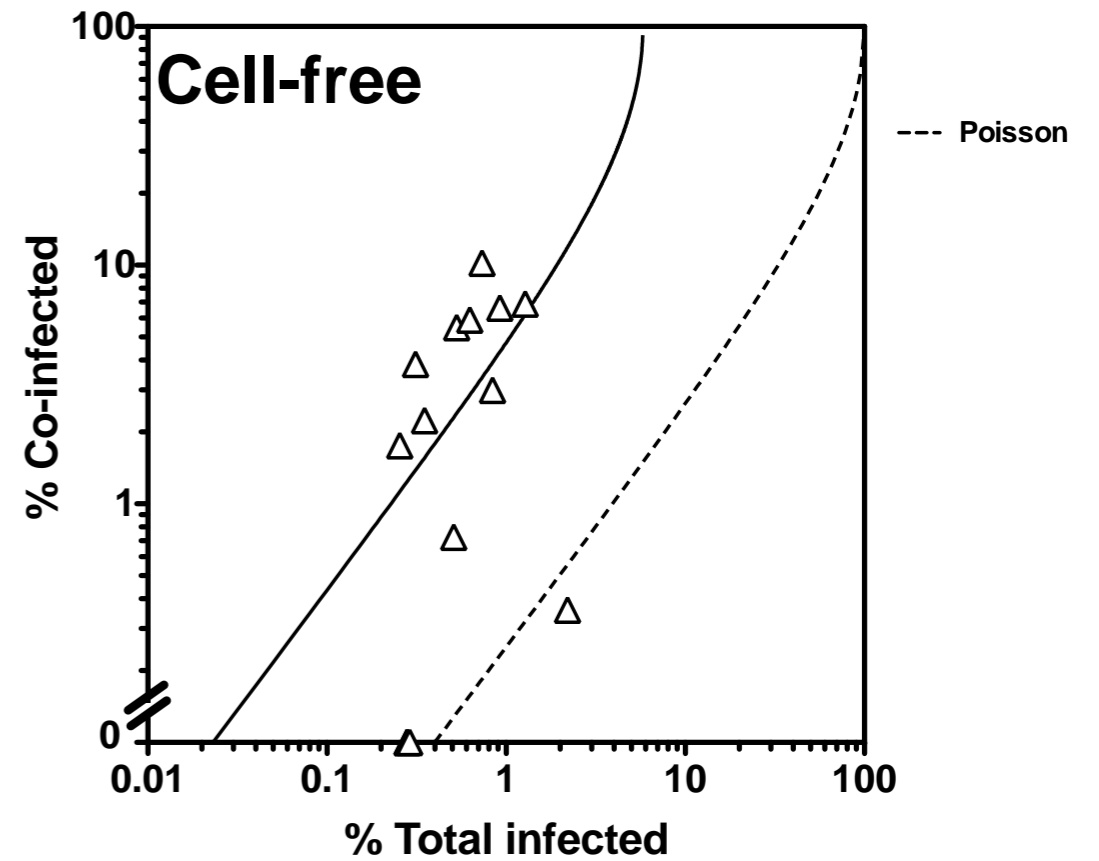
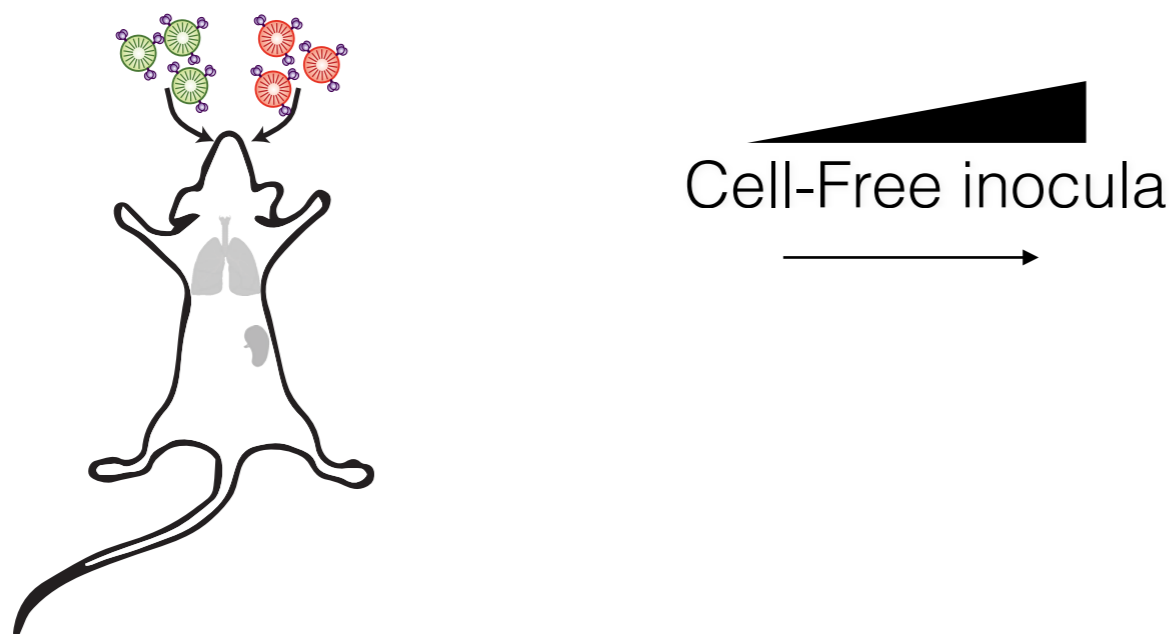


# Cell-to-cell HIV-1 transmission promotes multicopy infection *in vivo*

## Cell-associated inocula



## Cell-free inocula

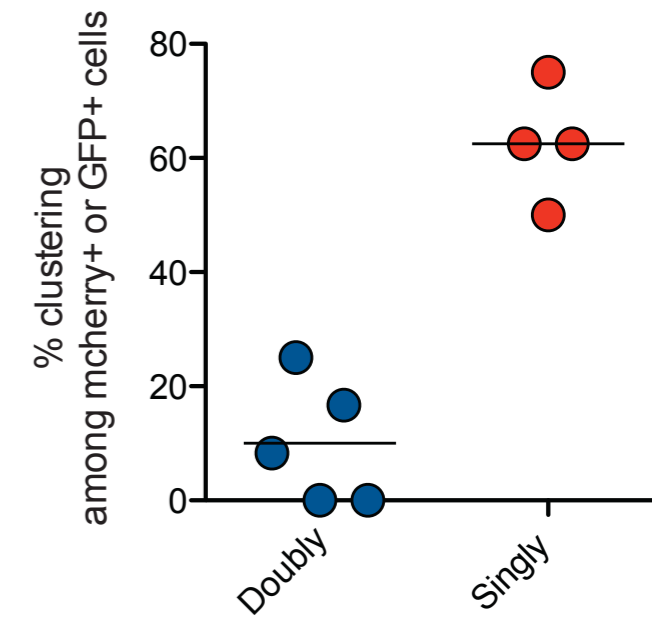
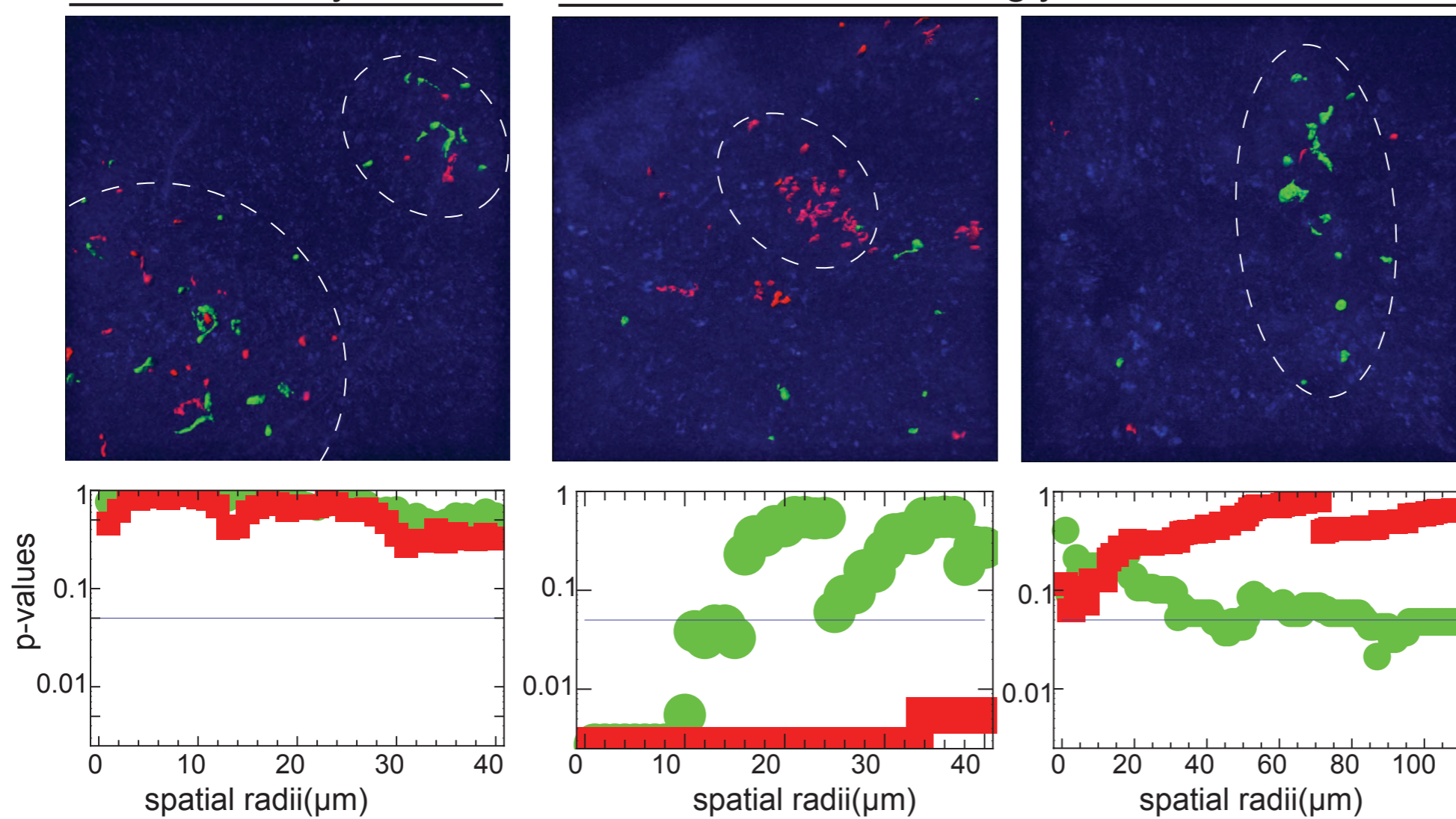


*Law, K Cell Reports*

# Singly infected mice show presence of clustering of single color populations

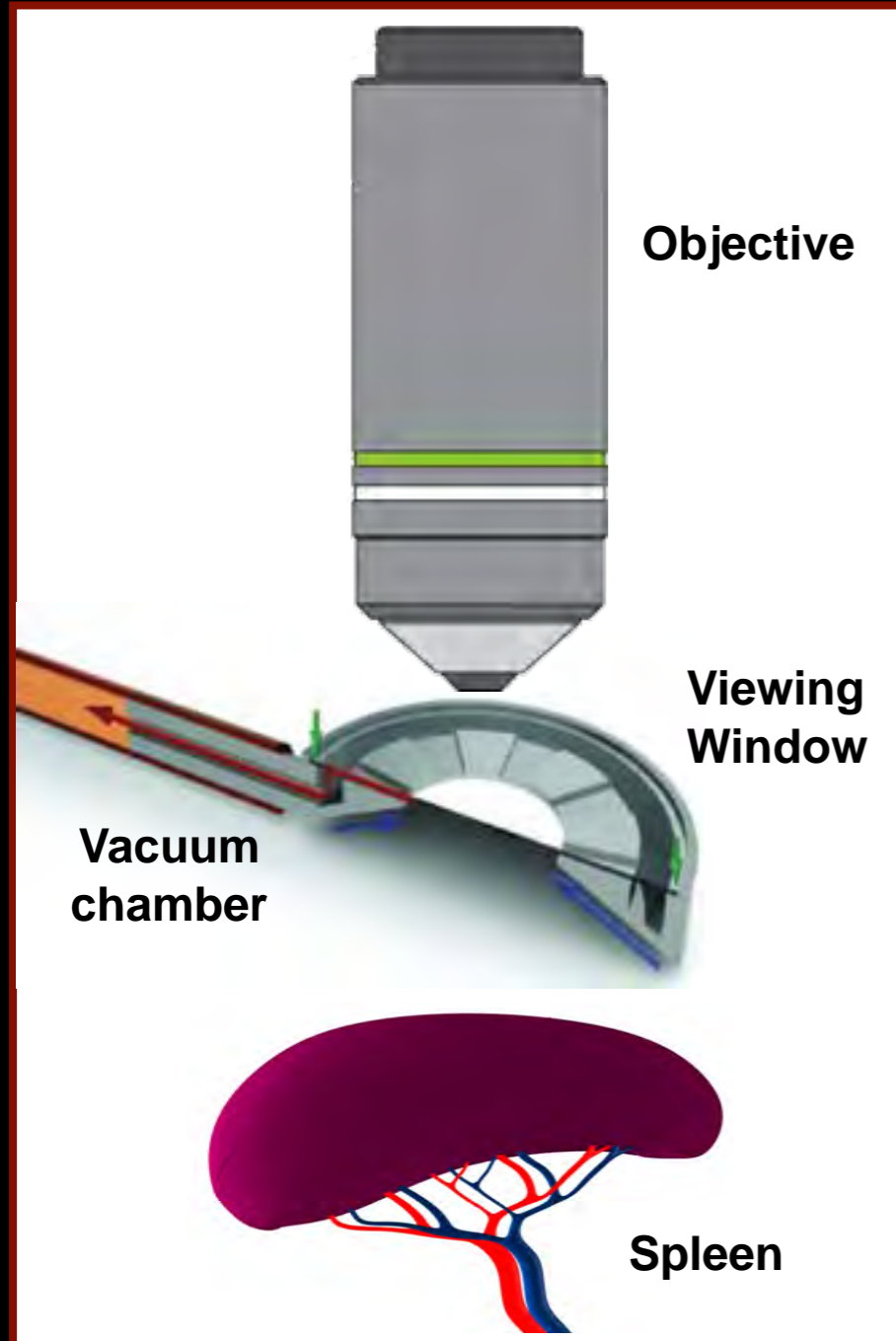
Doubly

Singly

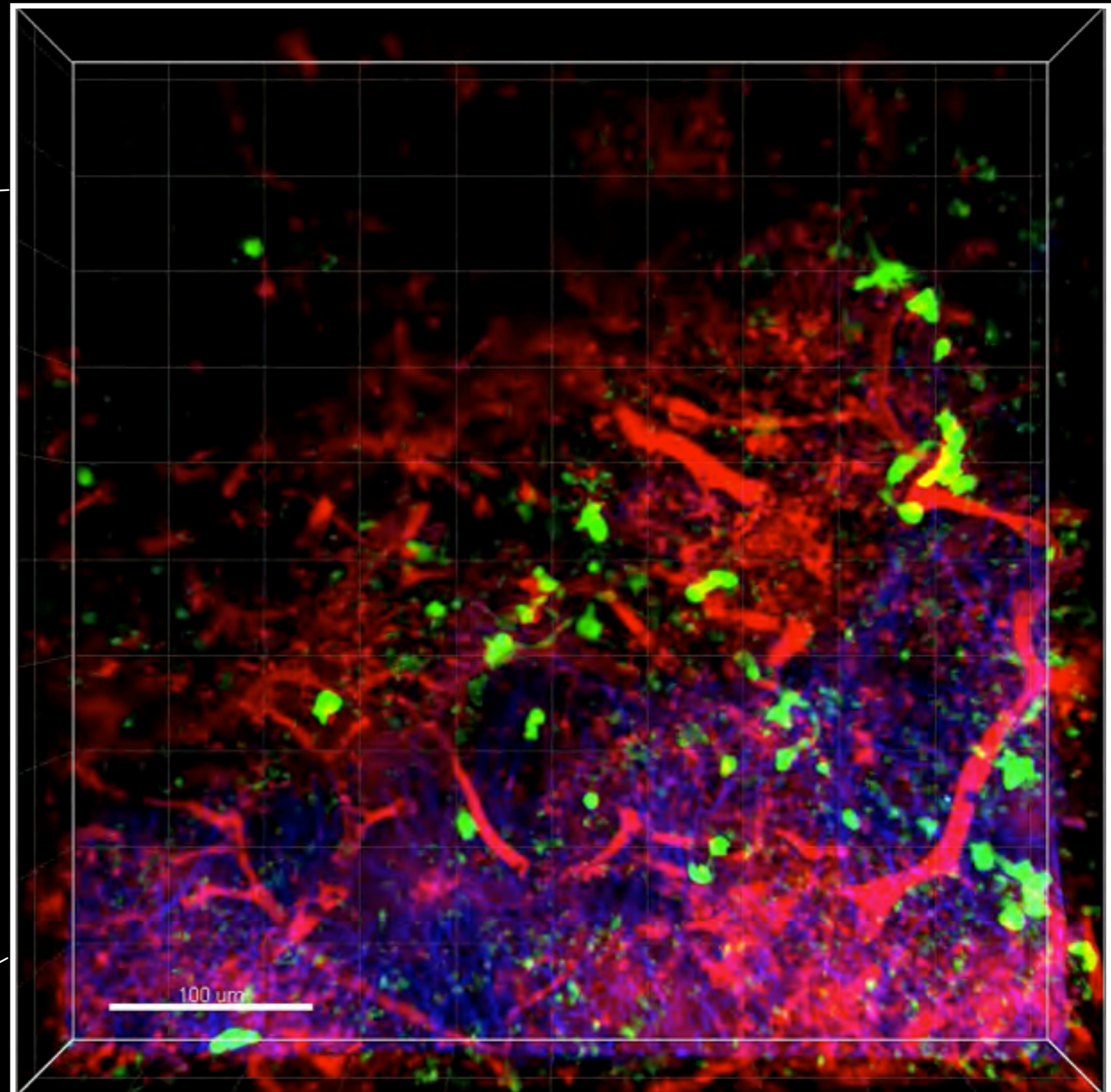




# Intravital imaging: Imaging HIV-1 infected cells



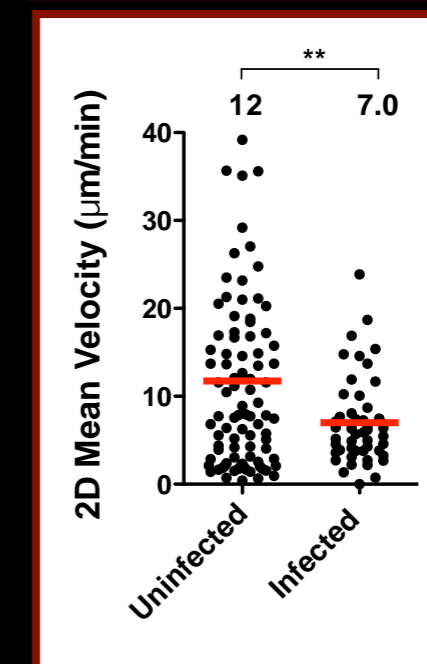
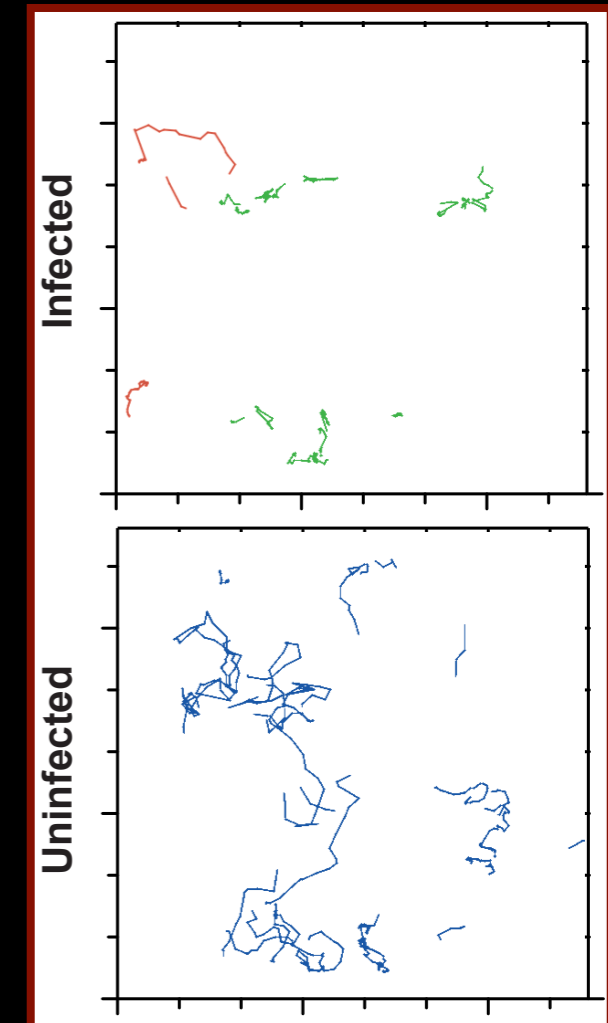
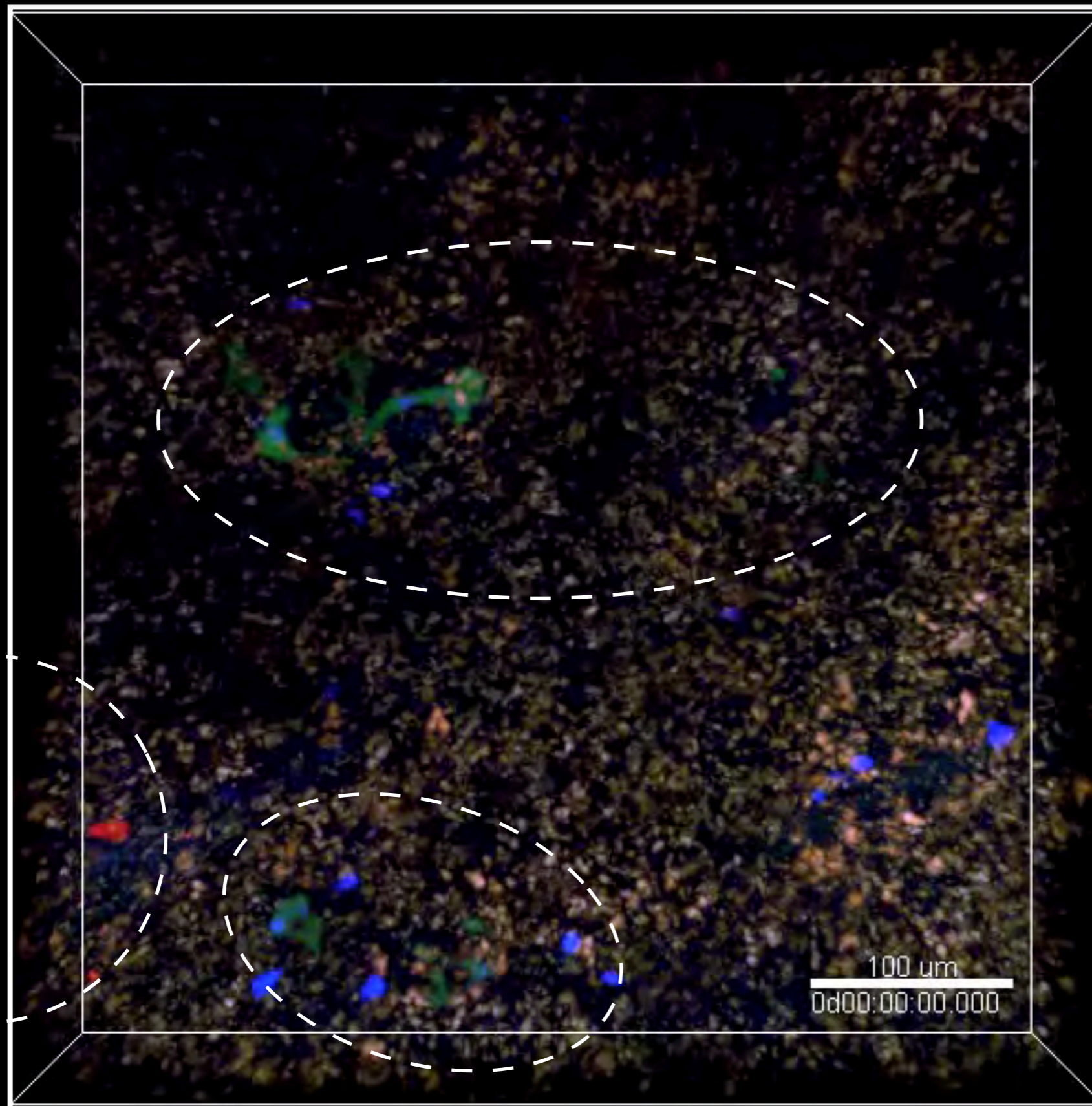
HIV-GFP Vessels Collagen



00.00



# Timelapse imaging show limited mixing of HIV variants in the spleen

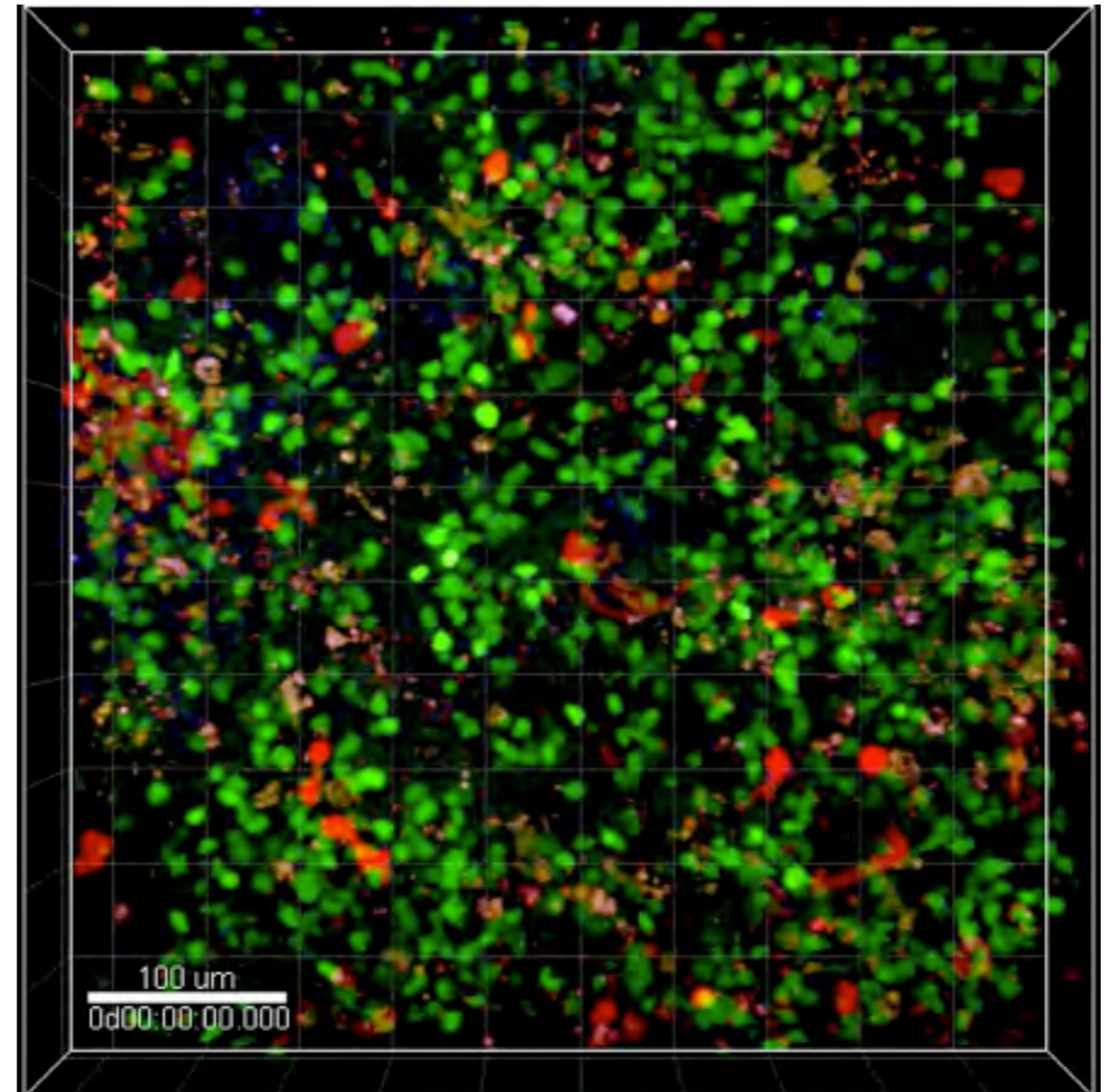
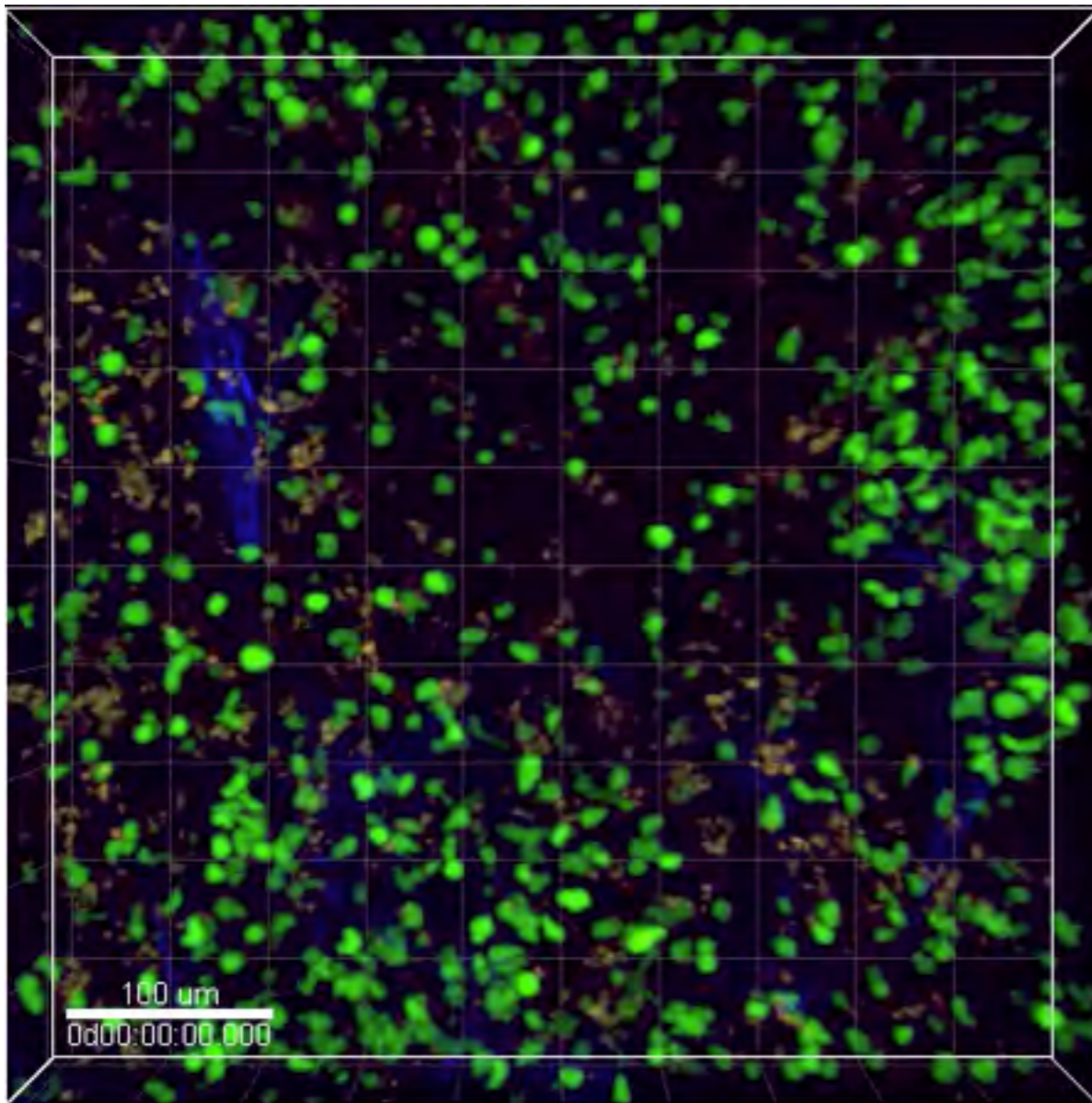
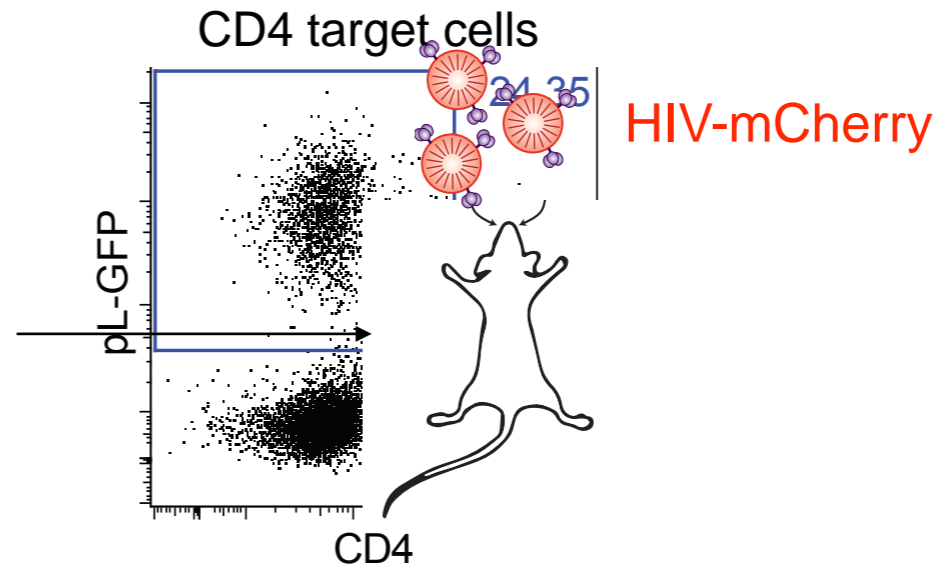
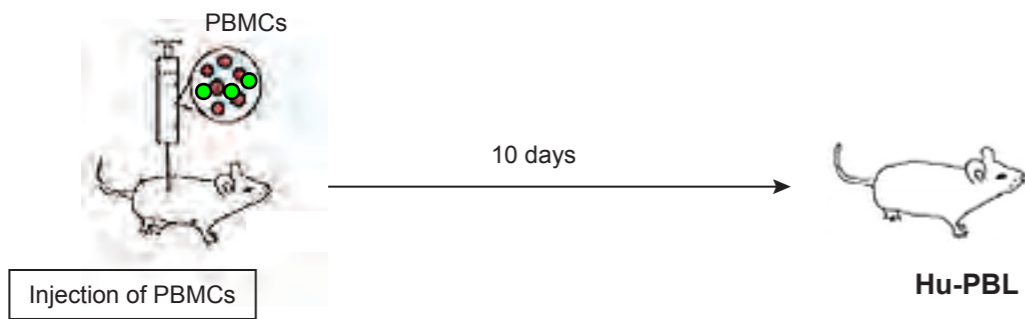


HIV-GFP HIV-mCherry Donor Cells Autofluorescence



# Tracking movement of uninfected target cells

GFP-transduced target cells



HIV-mCherry

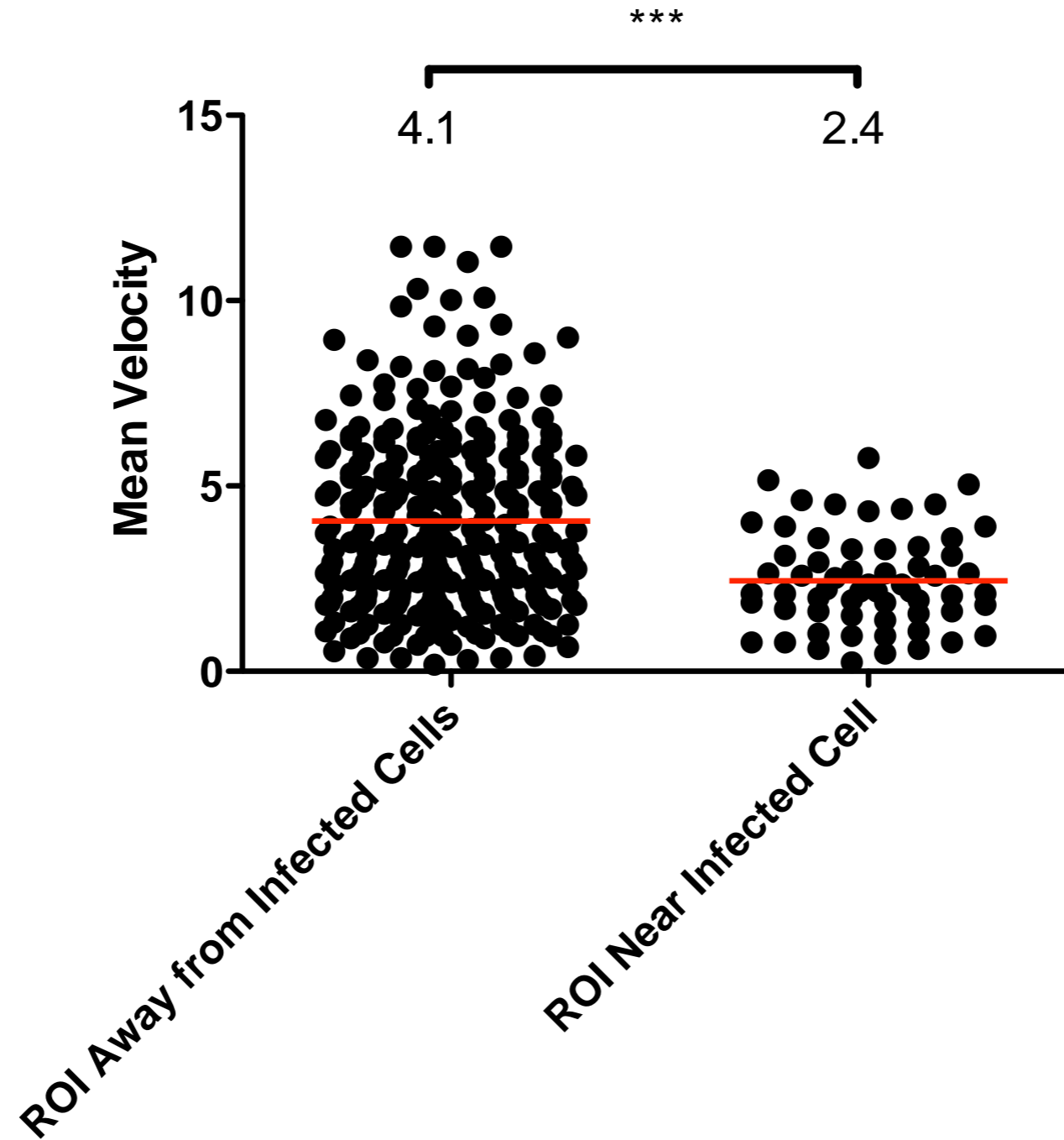
CD4 Target Cells

SHM

Autofluorescence

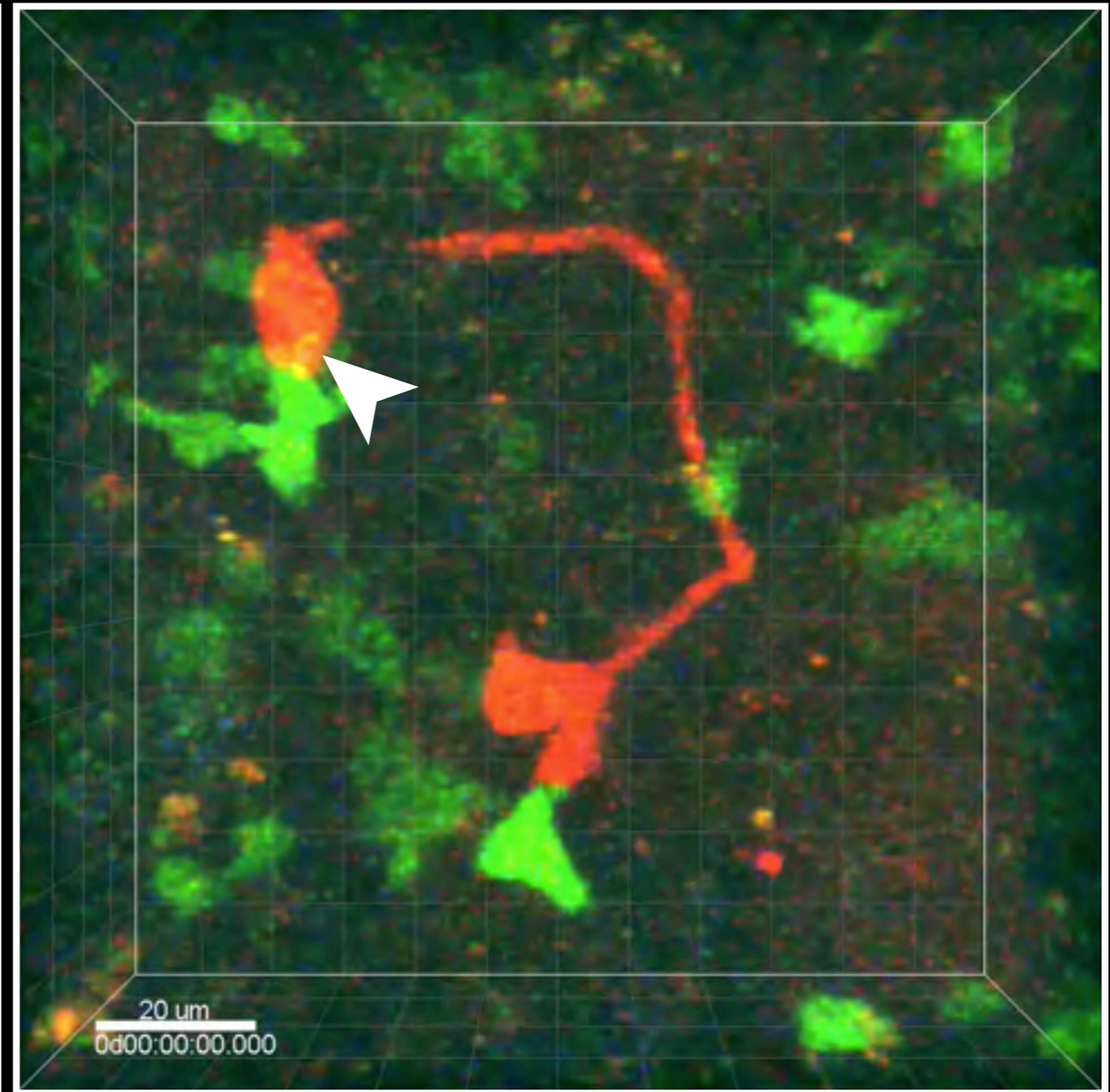
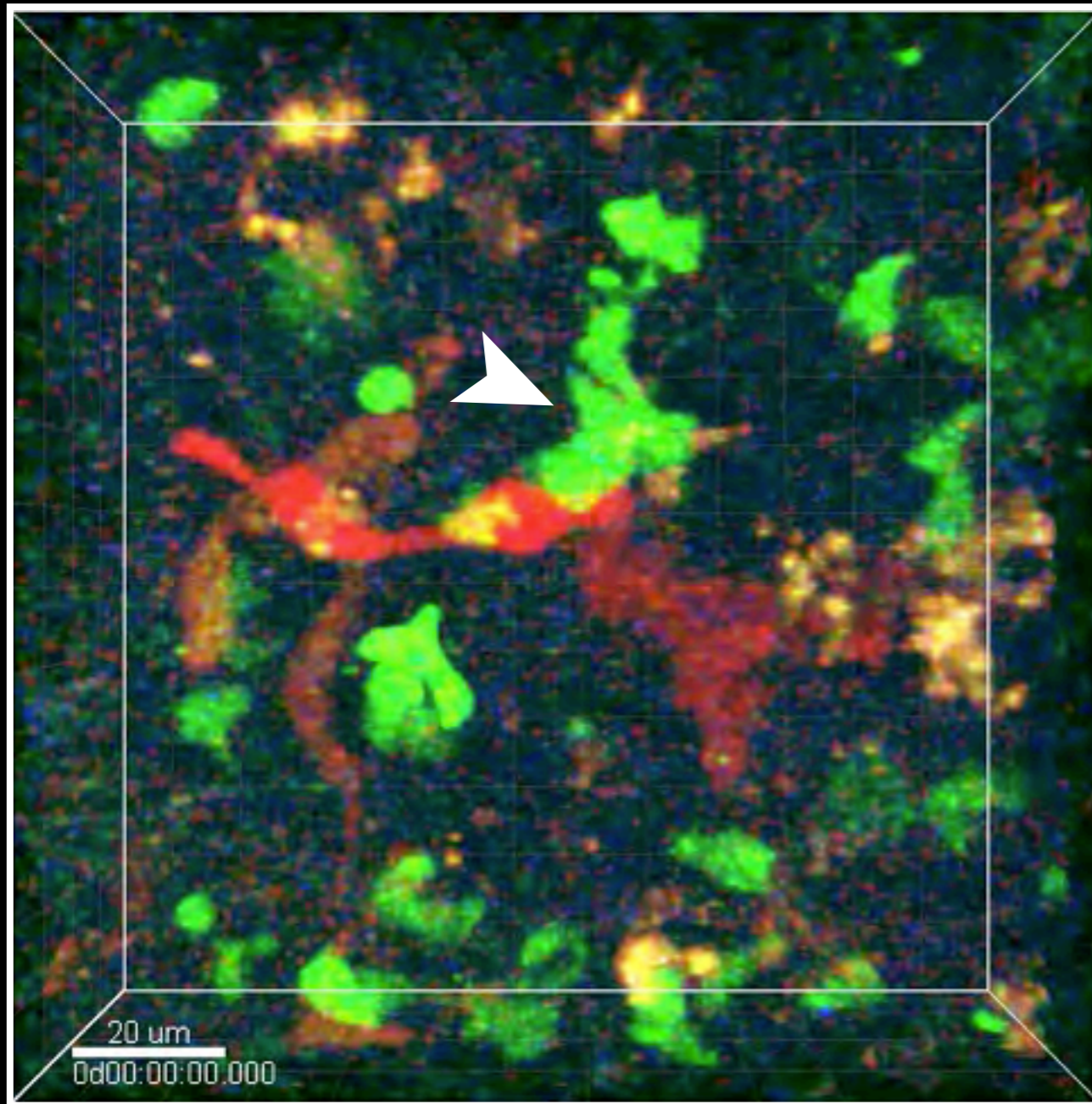


# Target cells slow down in the vicinity of HIV infected cells



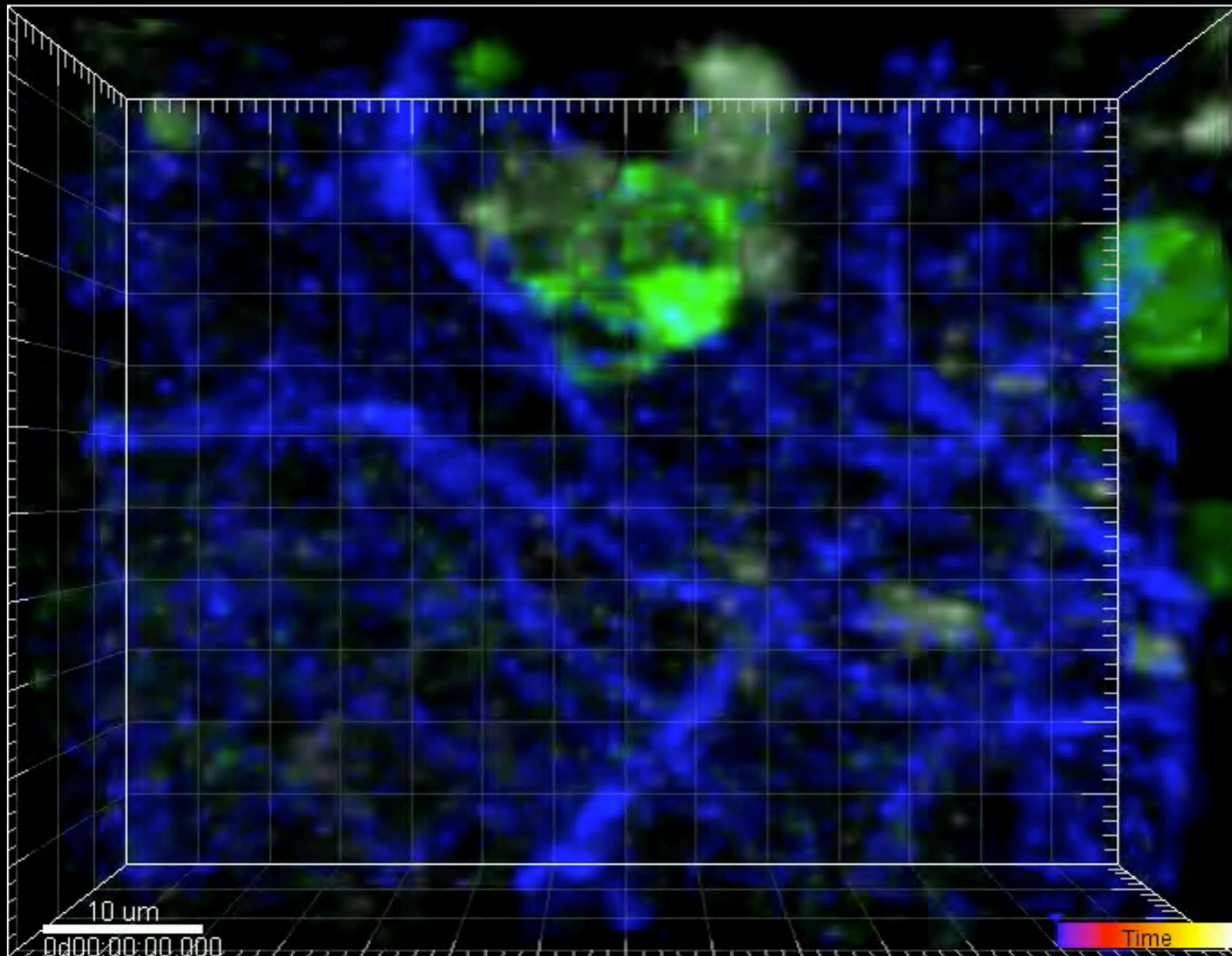
# Elongated infected cells form long-lived contacts with target CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells

HIV-mCherry CD4 Target Cells SHM Autofluorescence





# Putative polarized HIV Gag-iGFP button in live humanized mouse in vivo



# Evidence for cell-cell HIV infection in vivo

- Flow based inheritance assay shows infection of humanized mice with cell-associated HIV transmits multiple HIV copies
- At low infected cell density, genetic clustering is apparent--suggesting spread is local
- Genetic compartmentalization--tethered cells, diminished displacement of infected cells
- Target cells cluster around infected cells.

# Cell cell spread and HIV pathogenesis

- Acute HIV spread in huMice maintains multicopy infection—Quasispecies
- Cell-cell interactions spread HIV
- Cell-cell spread promotes escape from antibodies—vaccines should target infected cells



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