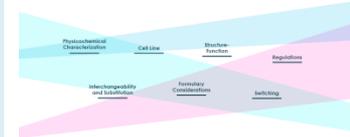


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# Challenges related to physicochemical characterization and analytical comparability of biologicals/biosimilars

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20 November 2017

## **Challenges related to physicochemical characterization and analytical comparability of biologicals and biosimilars**

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Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017



# Acknowledgments



# Overview

## Physiochemical Characterization of Biologics and Biosimilars

### Part 1

- Definitions
- Protein structure
- Protein Modifications

### Part 2

- Development of Protein-based drugs
- Role of physiochemical characterization

### Part 3

- Examples
- Conclusions

# Overview

## Part 1

- **Definitions**
- **Protein structure**
- **Protein Modifications**

## Part 2

- Development of Protein-based drugs
- Role of physiochemical characterization
- Critical Quality Attributes

## Part 3

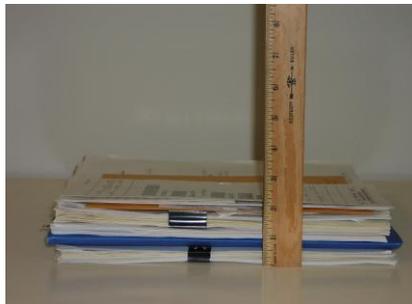
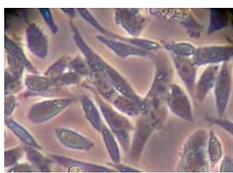
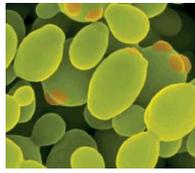
- Examples
- Conclusions

# Definition

## Definition of biological medicinal product

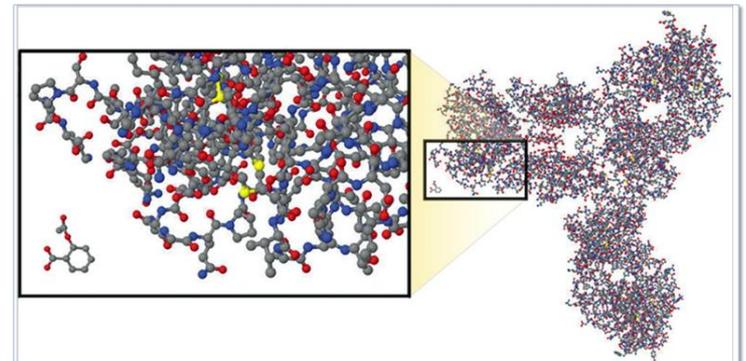
According to Part I of Annex I of Directive 2001/83/EC, it is a product that contains a biological substance. **A biological substance is a substance that is produced by or extracted from a biological source and that needs for its characterisation and the determination of its quality a combination of physico-chemical-biological testing together with the production process and its control.**

For example, recombinant proteins, monoclonal antibodies, medicinal products derived from human blood and human plasma, immunological medicinal products and advanced therapy medicinal products should be considered biological medicinal products.



## 3 Components

- From a living system.
- Challenging manufacturing process.
- Complex molecule.



# Definition: Biosimilar (EMA, FDA, HC, WHO)

## What is a biosimilar medicine?



A biosimilar medicine is a biological medicine that is developed to be similar to an existing biological medicine (the 'reference medicine'). Biosimilars are not the same as generics, which have simpler chemical structures and are considered to be identical to their reference medicines.

The active substance of a biosimilar and its reference medicine is essentially the same biological substance, though there may be minor differences due to their complex nature and production methods. Like the reference medicine, the biosimilar has a degree of natural variability. When approved, its variability and any differences between it and its reference medicine will have been shown not to affect safety or effectiveness.



Highly Similar to Ref. product  
But not Identical.

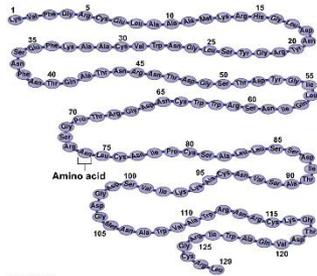
No clinically meaningful  
differences.

Regulatory Agency	Name
FDA	Biosimilar Biological Product (BBP)
EMA	Similar Biological Medicinal Product
WHO	Similar Biotherapeutic Product (SBP)
HC	Subsequent Entry Biologic (SEB)
Japan	Follow-On-Biologic

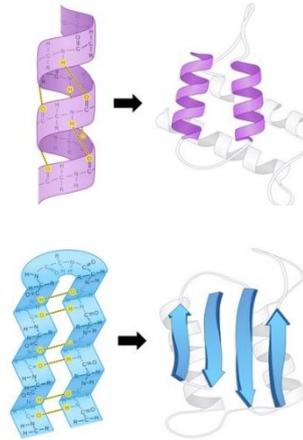
**Proteins to work ,, They have to form the correct conformation ,,  
and  
maintain their conformation throughout manufacturing and storage**

### Three main structural levels

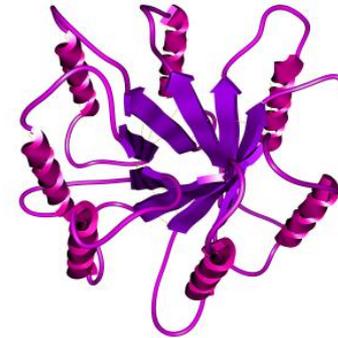
#### Primary Structure



#### Secondary Structure



#### Tertiary Structure



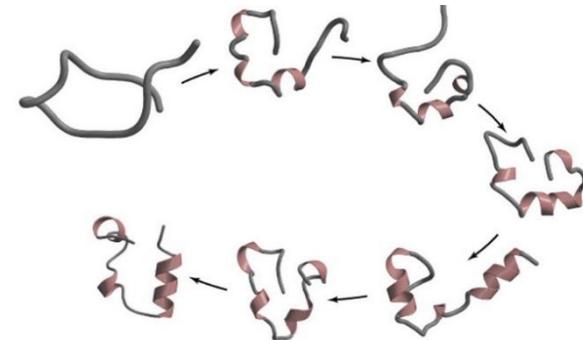
Assembly



Folding

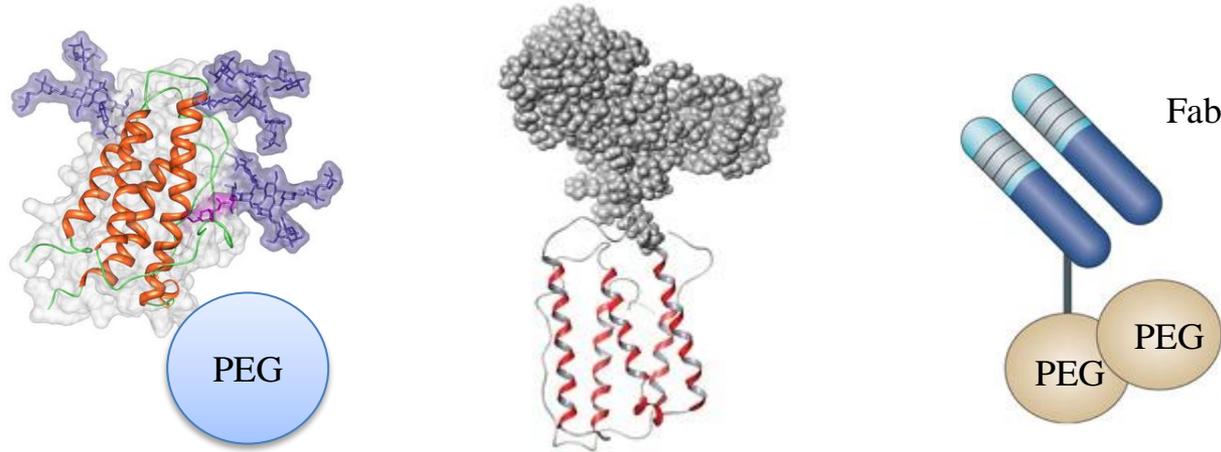


Packing



Also, in many cases, Proteins get further modifications ,,,

## 1- Chemical Modifications (e.g. Pegylation)

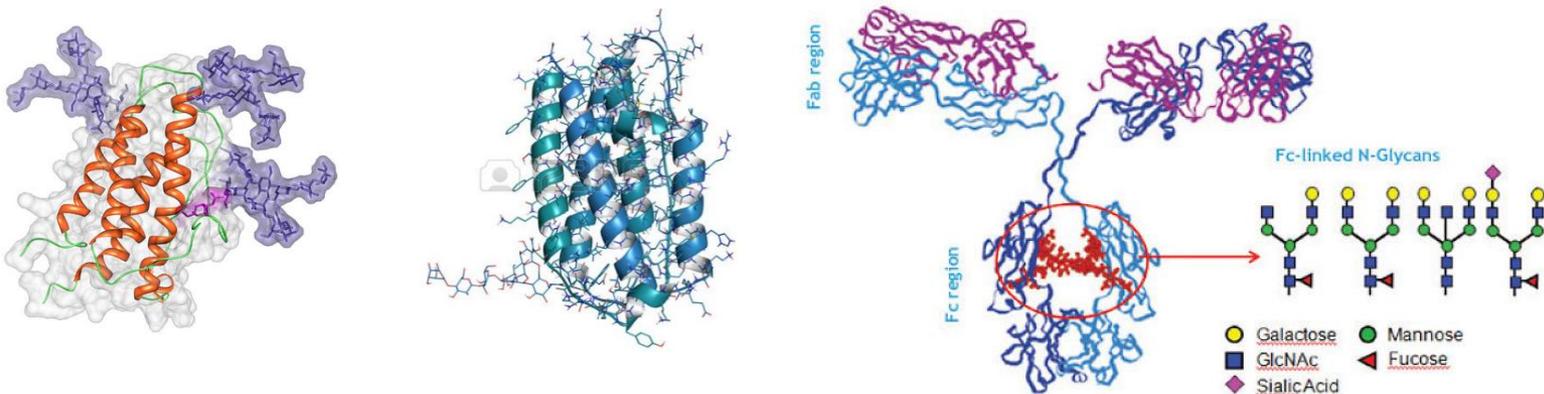


Stability

Solubility

Functionality

## 2 - Post-Translational Modifications (e.g. Glycosylation, C-terminal Lys)



PK/PD

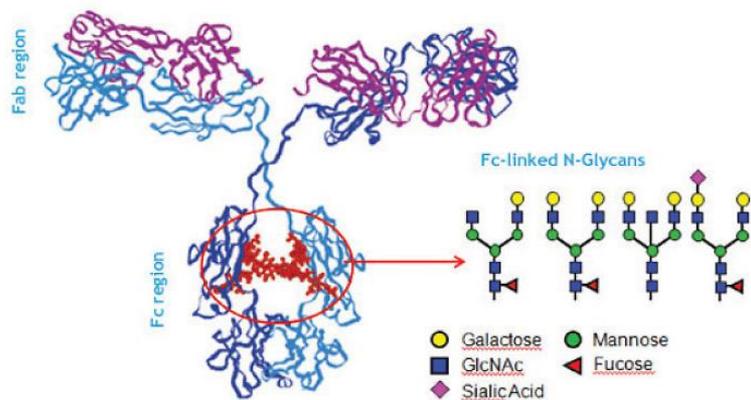
Immunogenicity

## Lack of Fucose on Human IgG1 N-Linked Oligosaccharide Improves Binding to Human Fc $\gamma$ RIII and Antibody-dependent Cellular Toxicity\*

Received for publication, March 1, 2002, and in revised form, April 19, 2002  
Published, JBC Papers in Press, May 1, 2002, DOI 10.1074/jbc.M202069200

Robert L. Shields $\ddagger$ , Jadine Lai $\ddagger$ , Rodney Keck $\S$ , Lori Y. O'Connell $\ddagger$ , Kyu Hong $\parallel$ , Y. Gloria Meng $\parallel$ , Stefanie H. A. Weikert $\parallel$ , and Leonard G. Presta $\ddagger$ \*\*

From the  $\ddagger$ Department of Immunology,  $\S$ Department of Analytical Chemistry,  $\parallel$ Department of BioAnalytical Technology, and  $\parallel$ Department of Cell Culture and Fermentation, Genentech, Inc., 1 South San Francisco, California 94080



50-fold

Immunoglobulin (IgG)

# Fact: Protein are Heterogeneous in Nature !

## Examples of some sources of product heterogeneity:

N- and C-terminal modifications

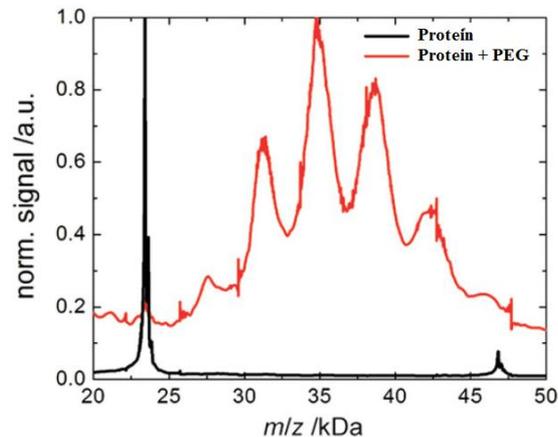
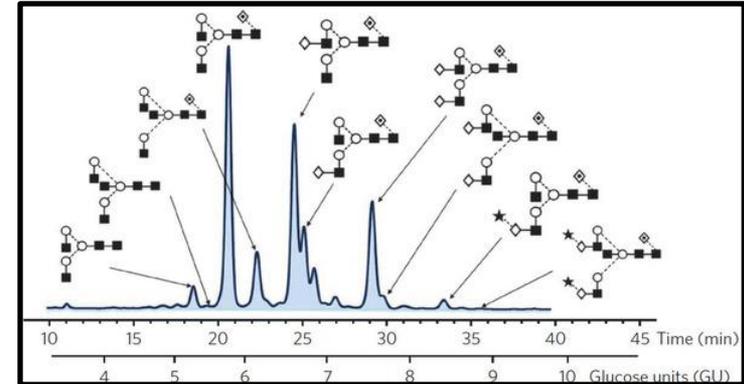
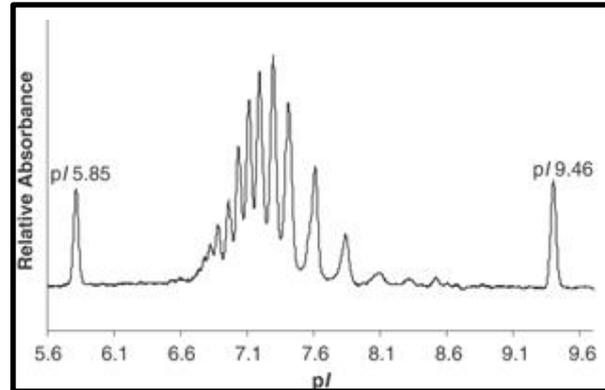
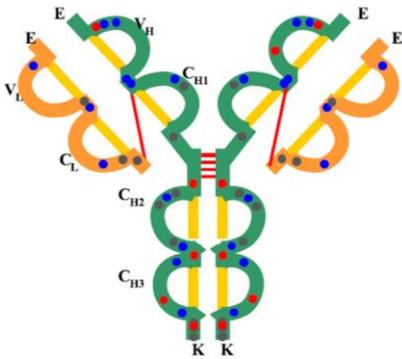
Hydrophobicity

Charge

N-linked Glycosylation

O-linked Glycosylation

PEGylation



The overall heterogeneous mixture defines the product

**The process is the product**

# Overview

## Part 1

- Definitions
- Protein structure
- Protein Modifications

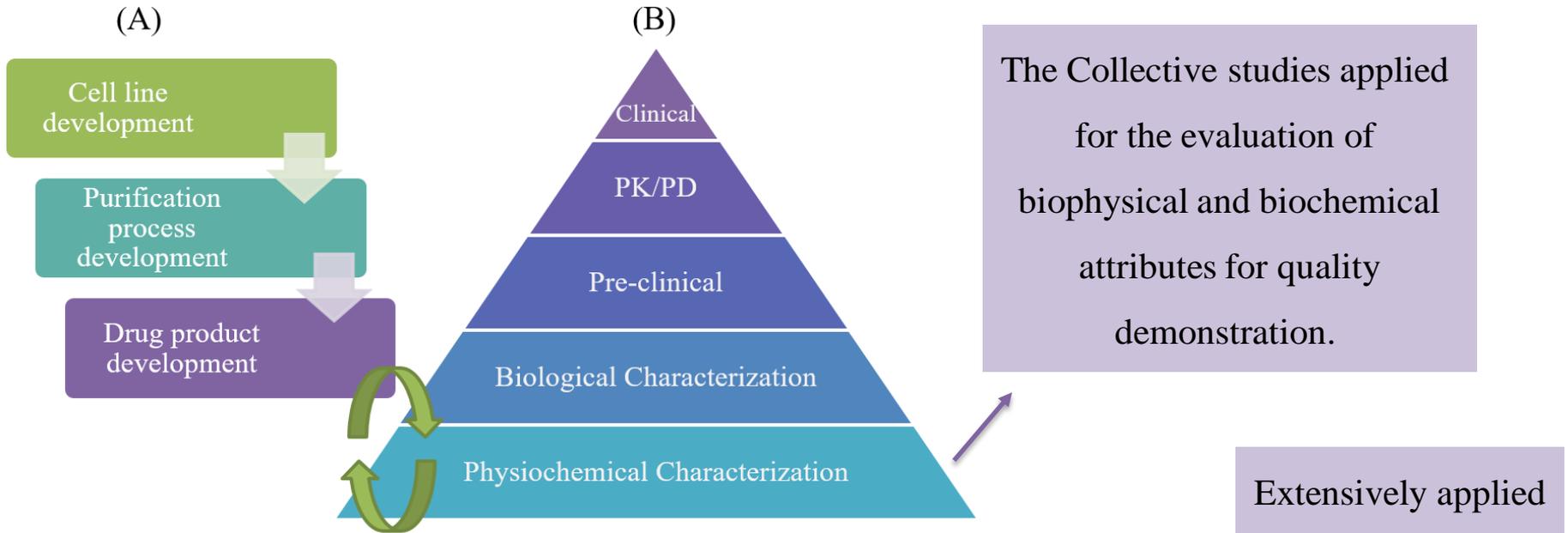
## Part 2

- **Development of Protein-based drugs**
- **Role of physiochemical characterization**

## Part 3

- Examples
- Conclusions

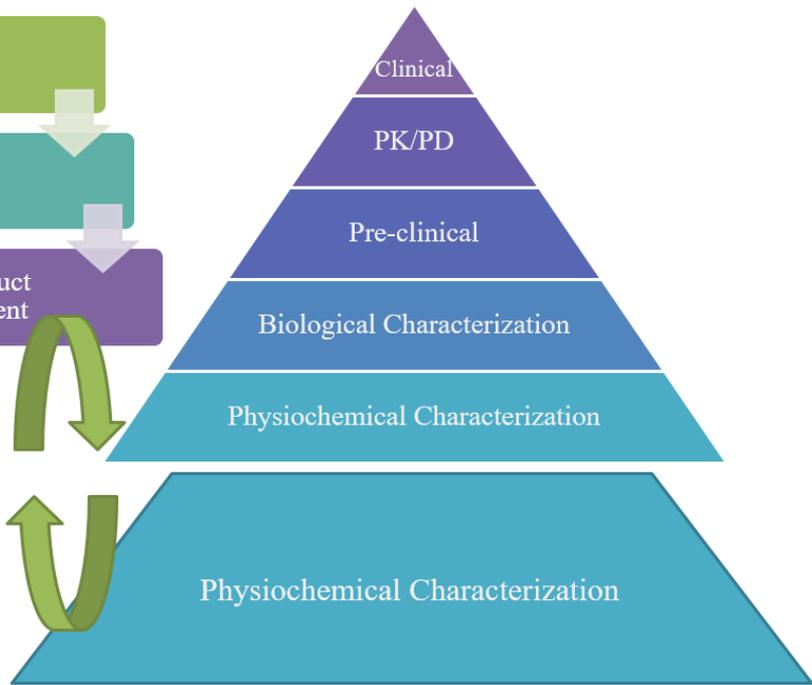
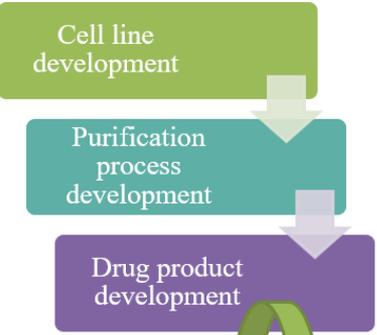
# Development of Protein-based drugs



## Attributes :

- Primary Structure
- Secondary Structure
- Tertiary Structure
- Free Sulfhydryl gps
- Disulfide bridges
- Deamidation
- Oxidation
- N- and O-glycosylation
- Charged isoforms
- Aggregation
- Fragmentation
- Glycation
- N- and C-terminals

# Development of Protein-based drugs



Innovator's Product

Biosimilar Product

Extensively applied for Phase-to-Phase And Batch-to-batch And **Innovator-to-biosimilar** variability

## Quality Considerations in Demonstrating Biosimilarity of a Therapeutic Protein Product to a Reference Product

Guidance for Industry

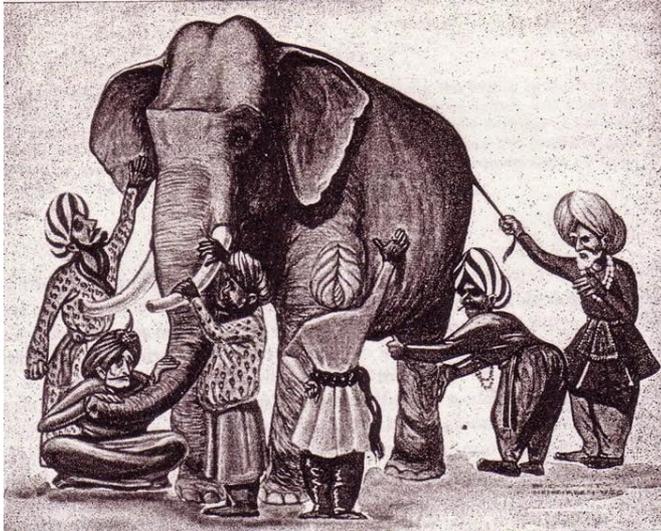
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)

April 2015  
Biosimilarity

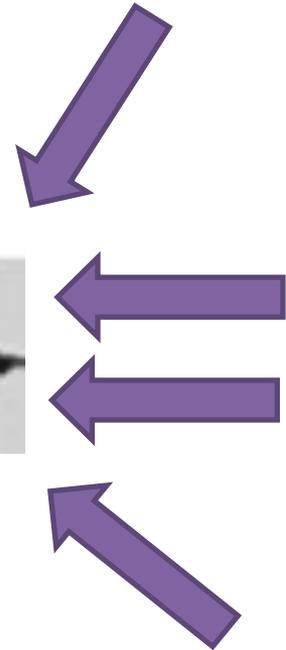
**Assessment of Physicochemical Properties:**  
“The objective of this assessment is to maximize the potential for detecting differences in quality attributes between the proposed product and the reference product.”

## Fact: The use of Orthogonal techniques is essential

Due to their complexity, biopharmaceuticals require a vast array of testing using orthogonal techniques



The Tale of the blind men and an elephant



### **That is especially true for Biosimilars development:**

*“Methods that use different physicochemical or biological principles to assess the same attribute are especially valuable because they provide independent data to support the quality of that attribute (e.g., orthogonal methods to assess aggregation). In addition, the use of complementary analytical techniques in series, such as peptide mapping or capillary electrophoresis combined with mass spectrometry of the separated molecules, should provide a meaningful and sensitive method for comparing products.”*

### **Quality Considerations in Demonstrating Biosimilarity of a Therapeutic Protein Product to a Reference Product**

Guidance for Industry

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)

April 2015  
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# Overview

## Part 1

- Definitions
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- Protein Modifications

## Part 2

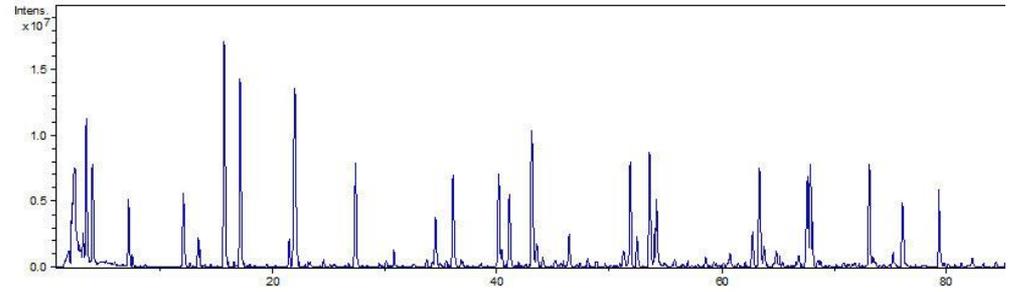
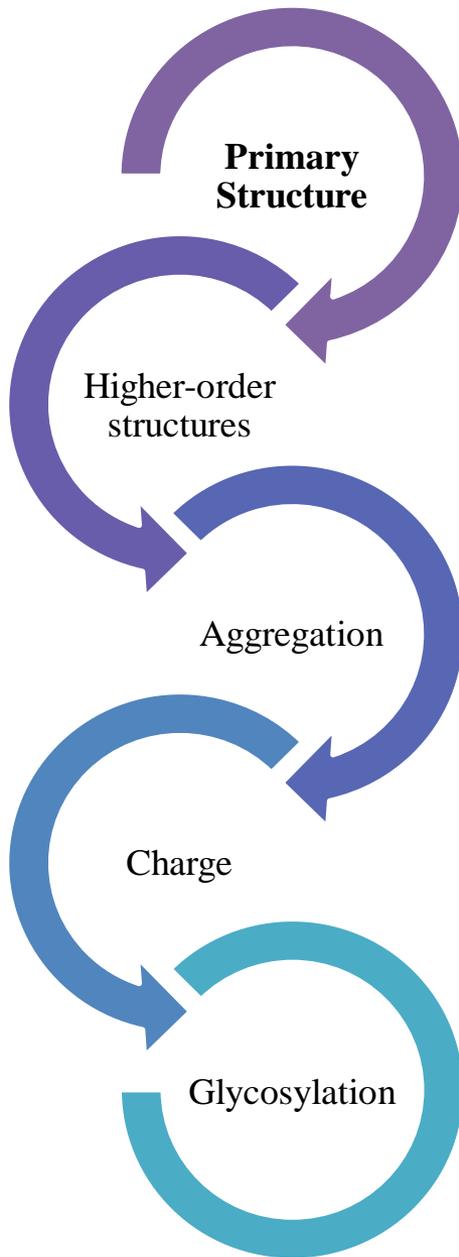
- Development of Protein-based drugs
- Role of physiochemical characterization

## Part 3

- **Examples**
- **Conclusions**

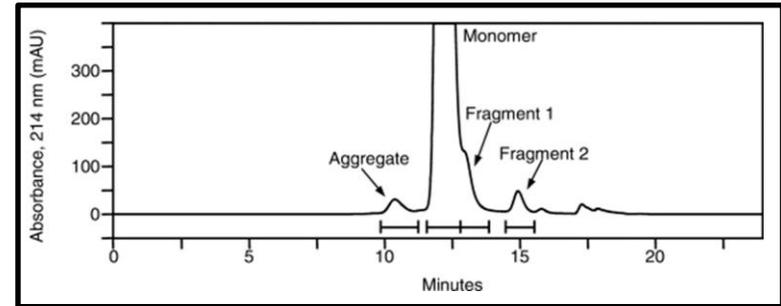
# Physiochemical Characterization

Compare to a reference standard

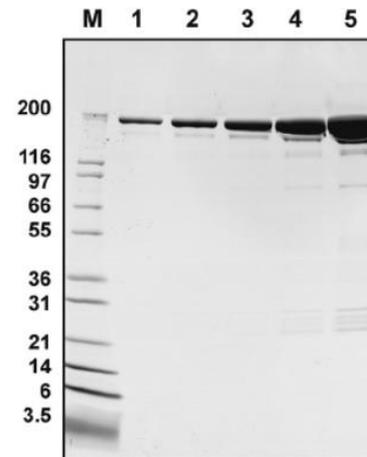


Mass spectrometry (Peptide mapping)

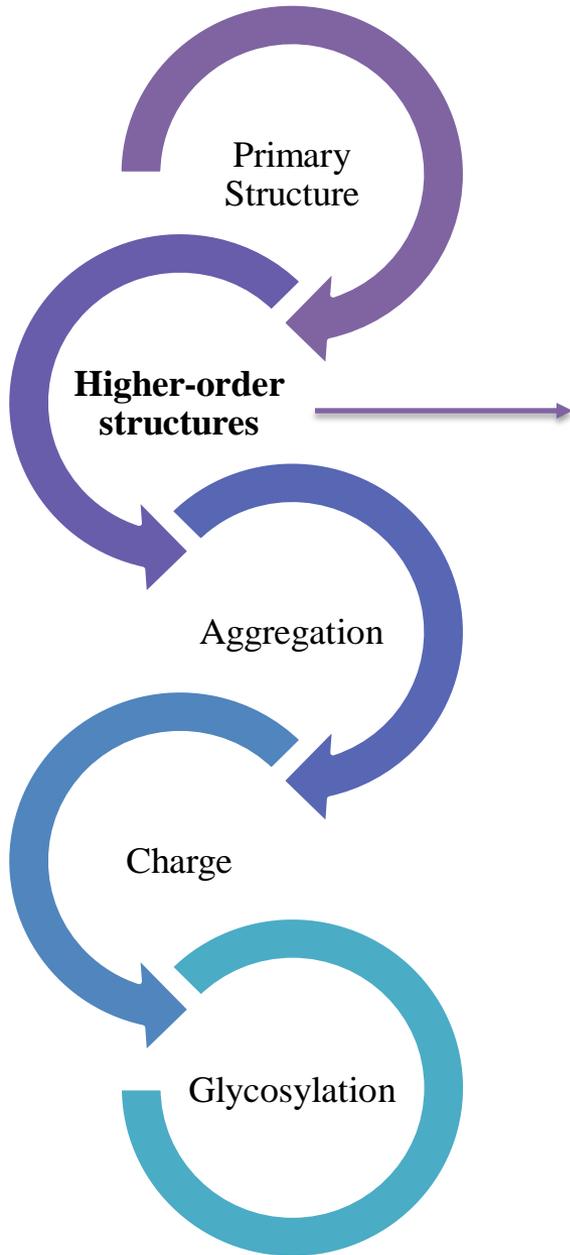
SEC



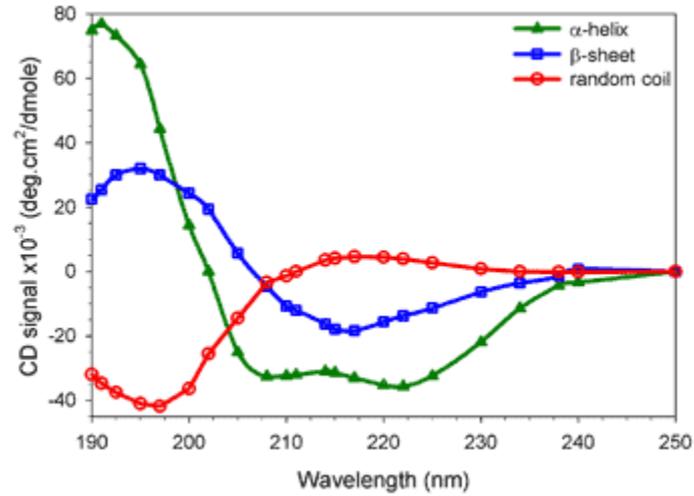
SDS-PAGE



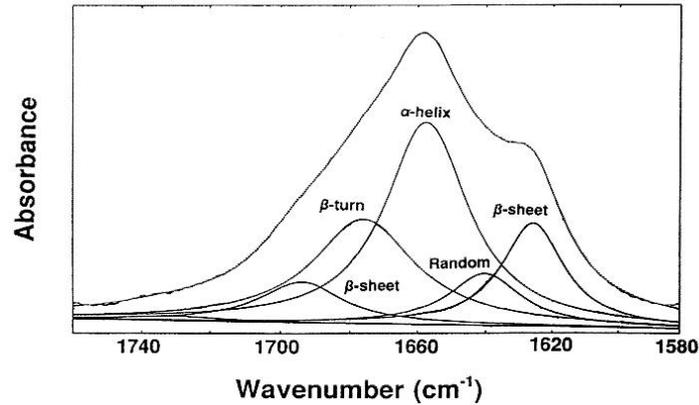
Compare to a reference standard



## Secondary Structure

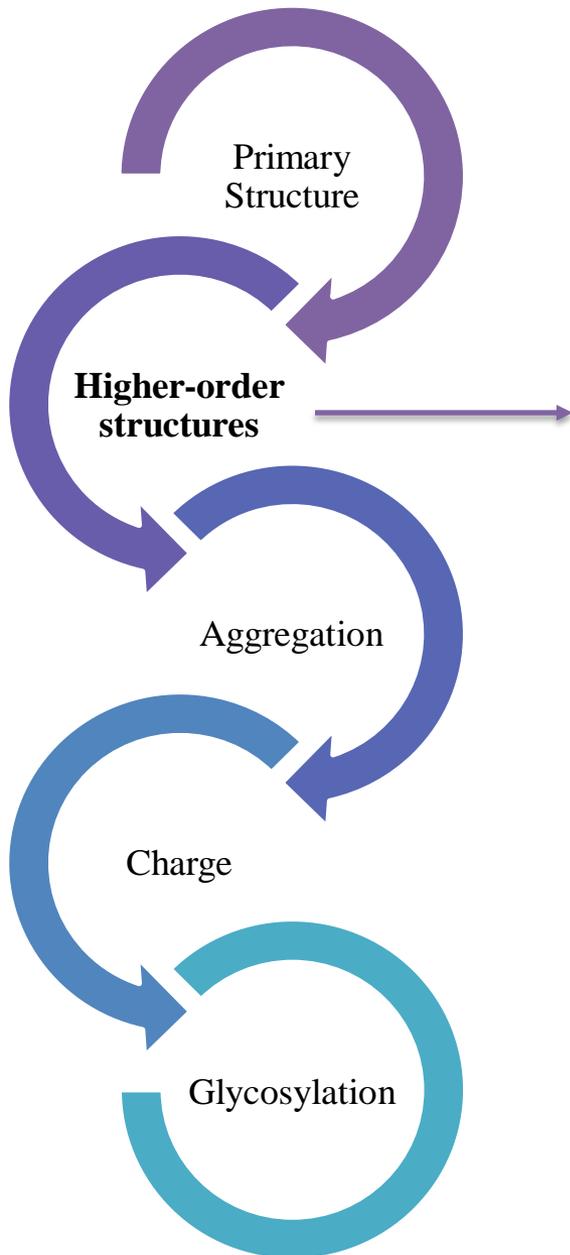


Circular Dichroism (CD)

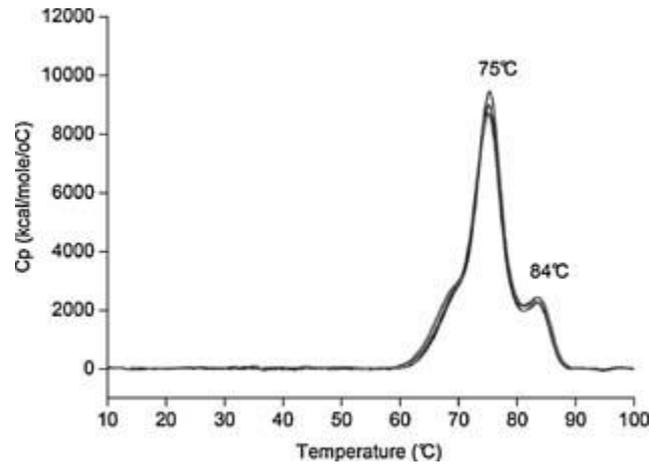
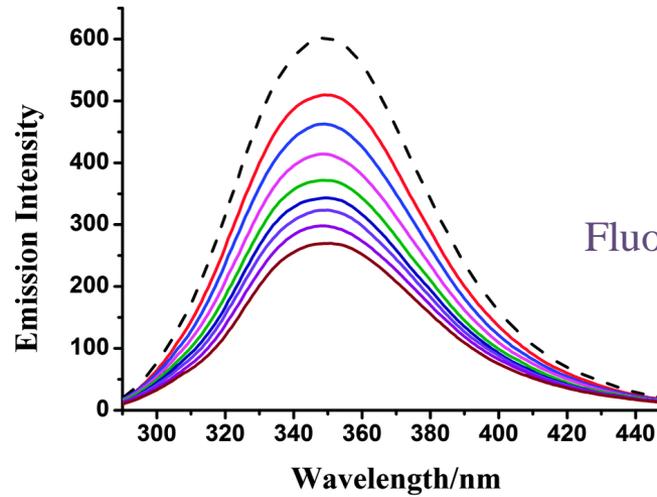


Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)

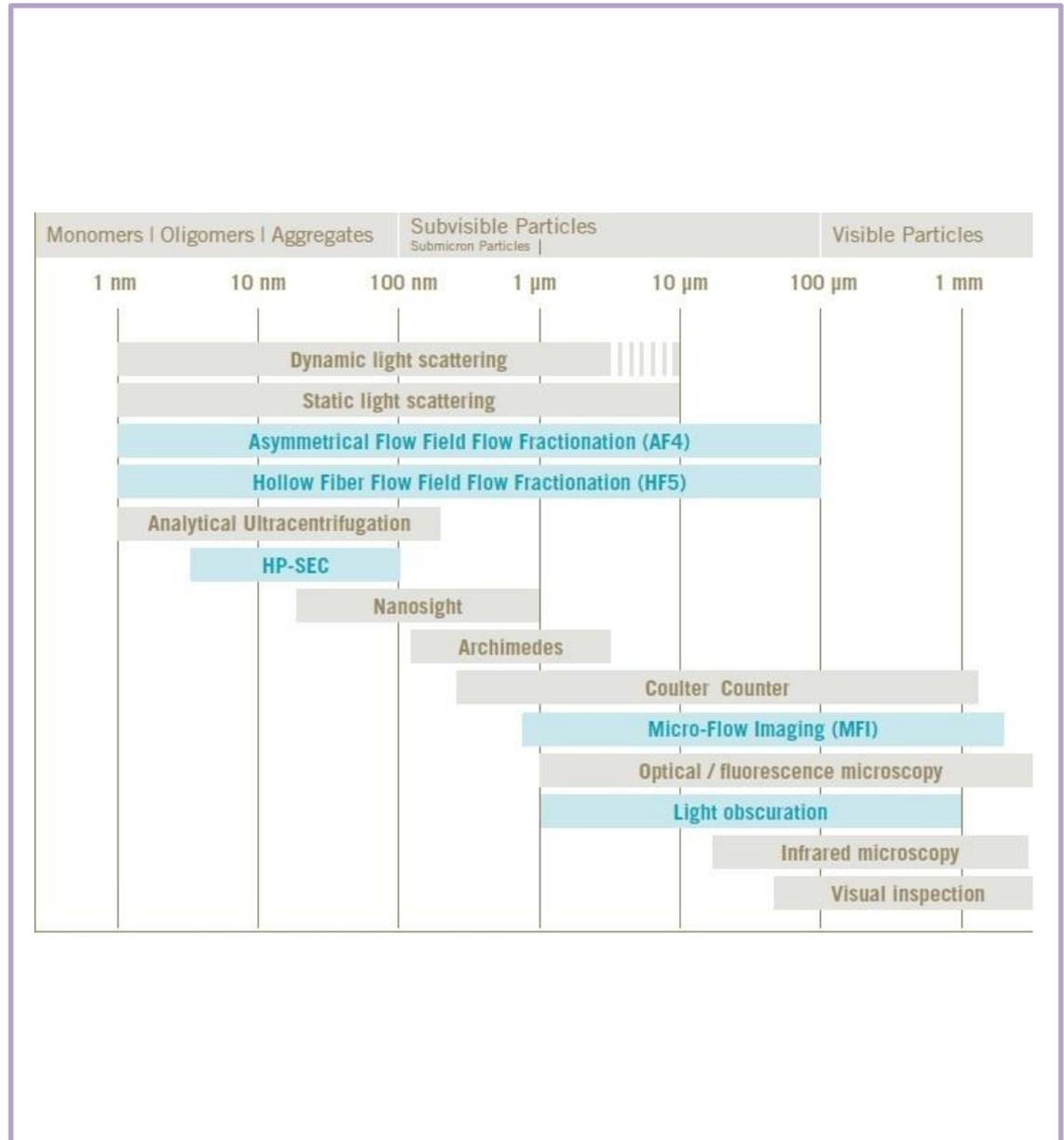
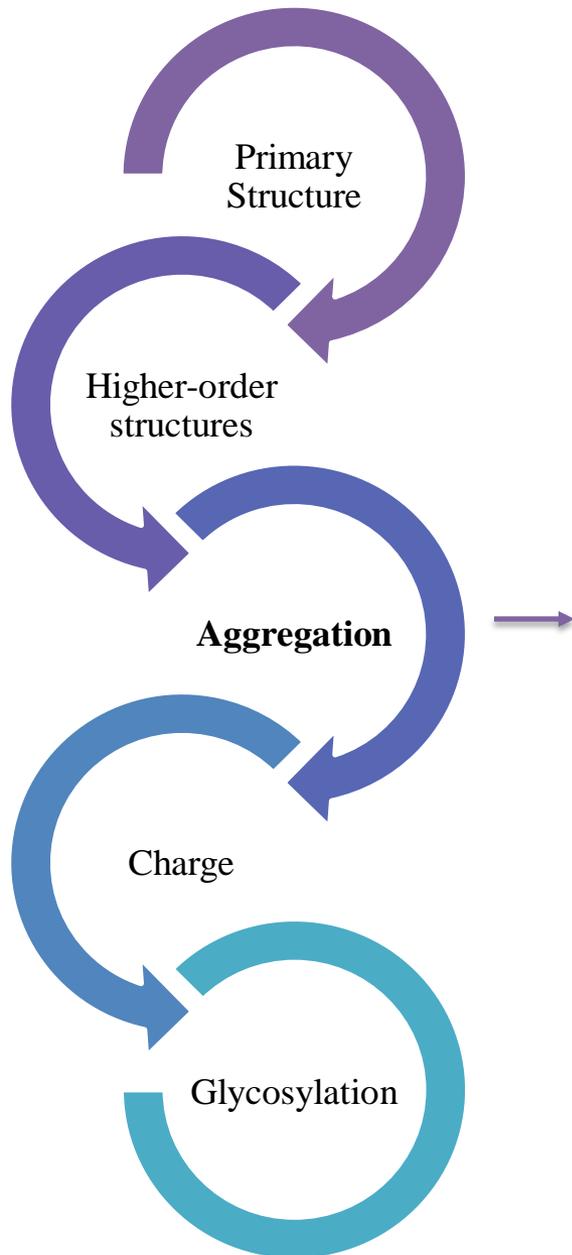
Compare to a reference standard



## Tertiary Structure

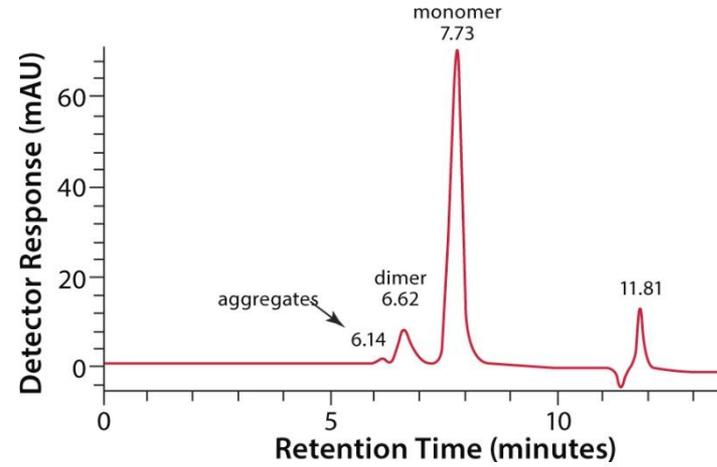
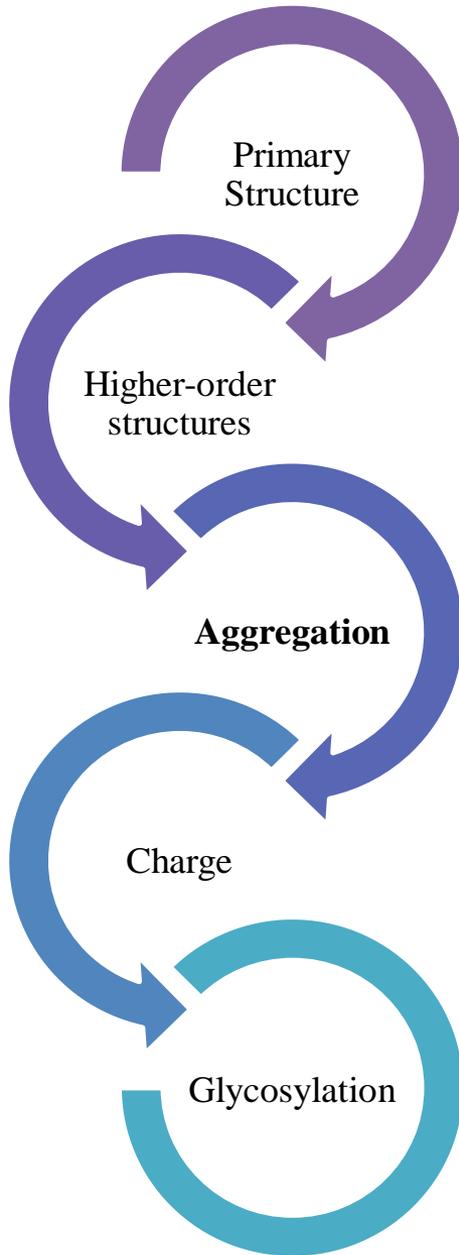


# Physiochemical Characterization

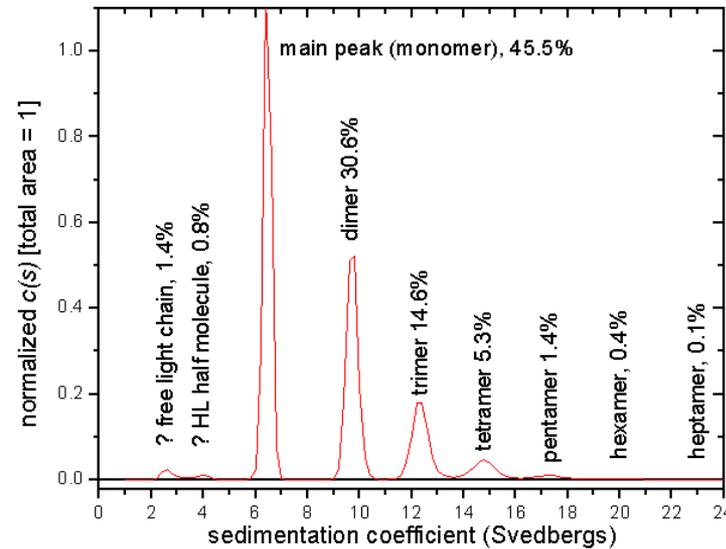


# Physiochemical Characterization

Compare to a reference standard



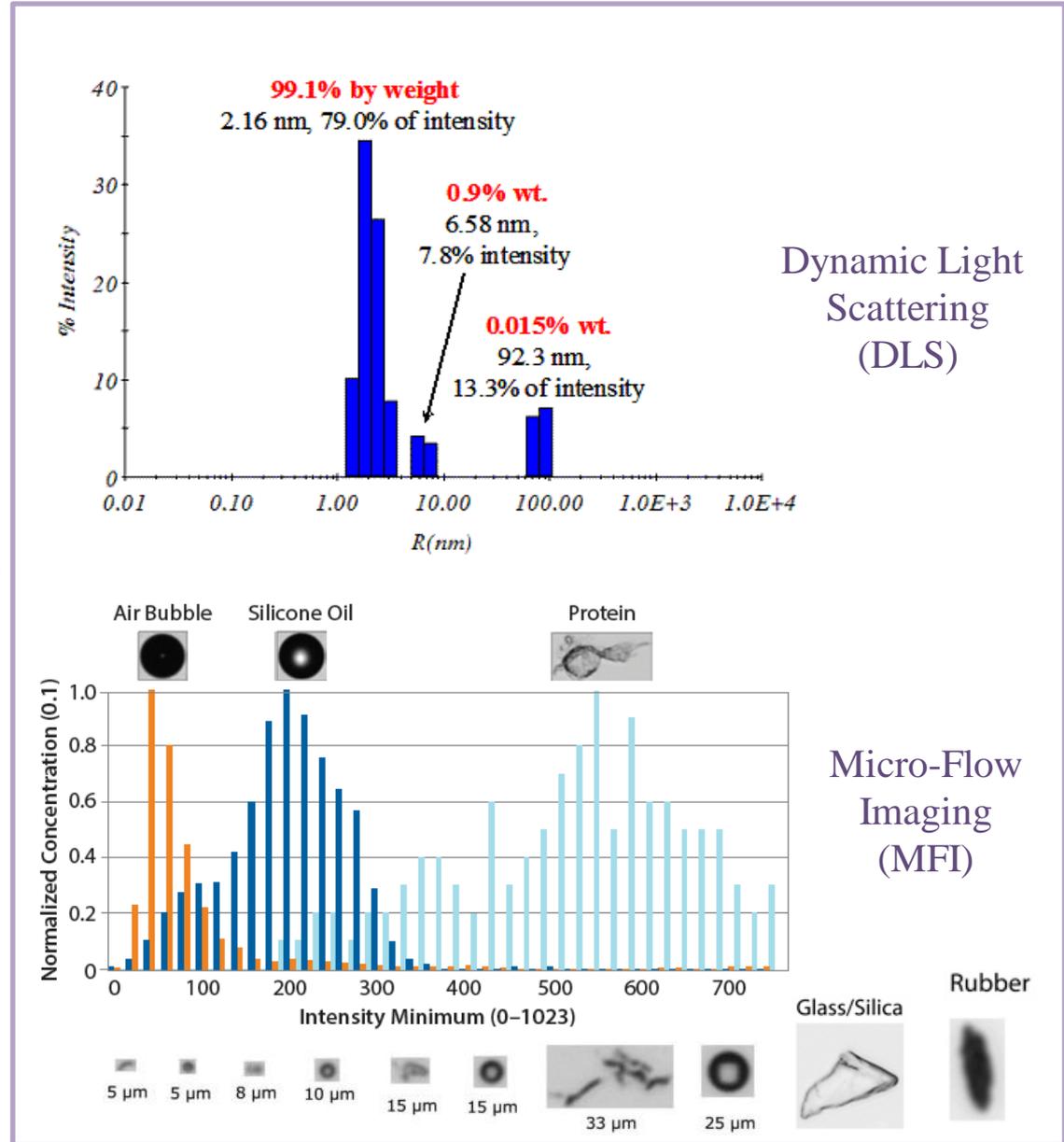
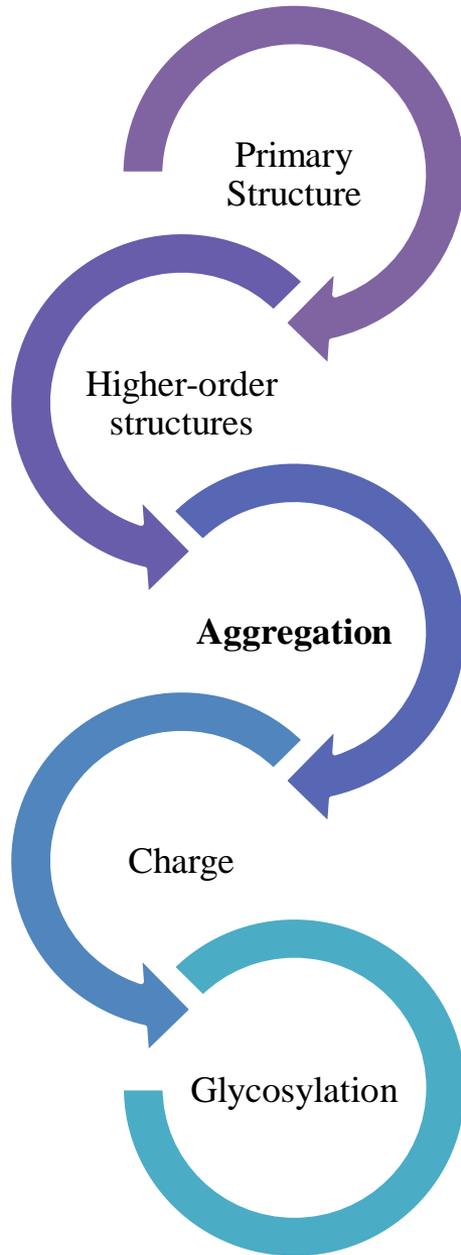
Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC)



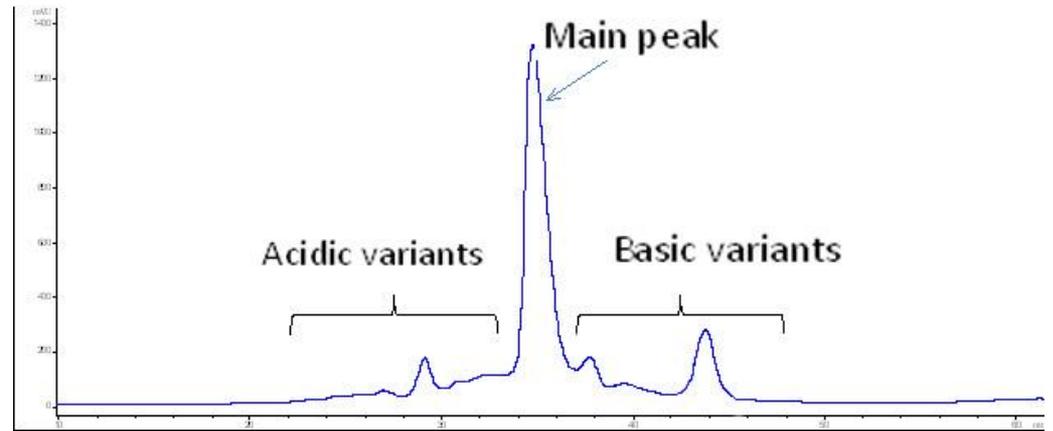
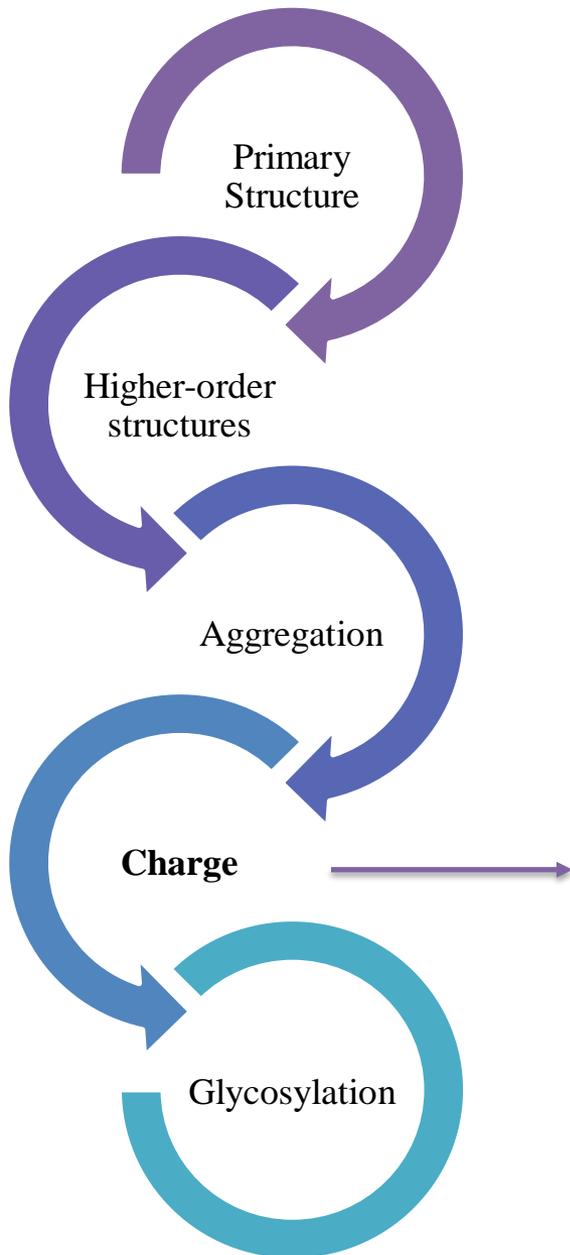
Analytical Ultra-Centrifugation (AUC)

# Physiochemical Characterization

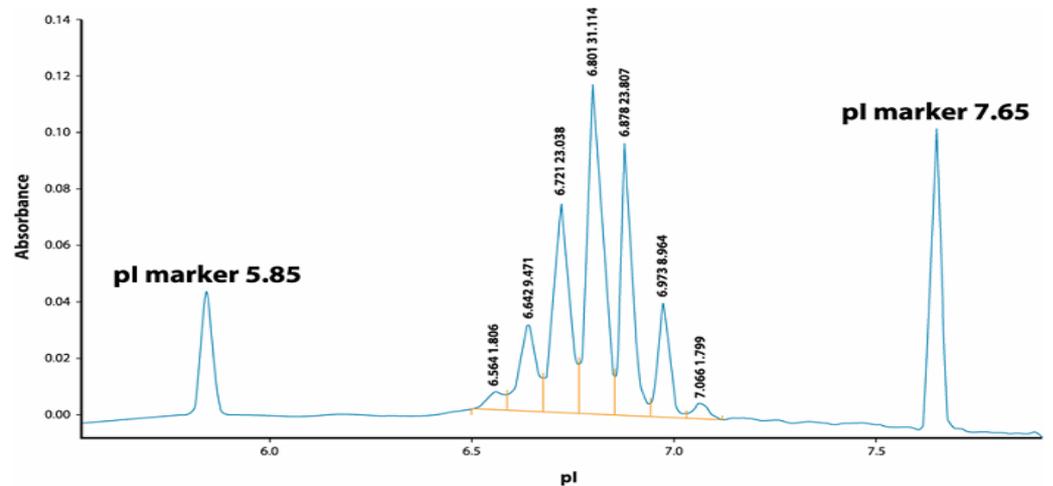
Compare to a reference standard



Compare to a reference standard

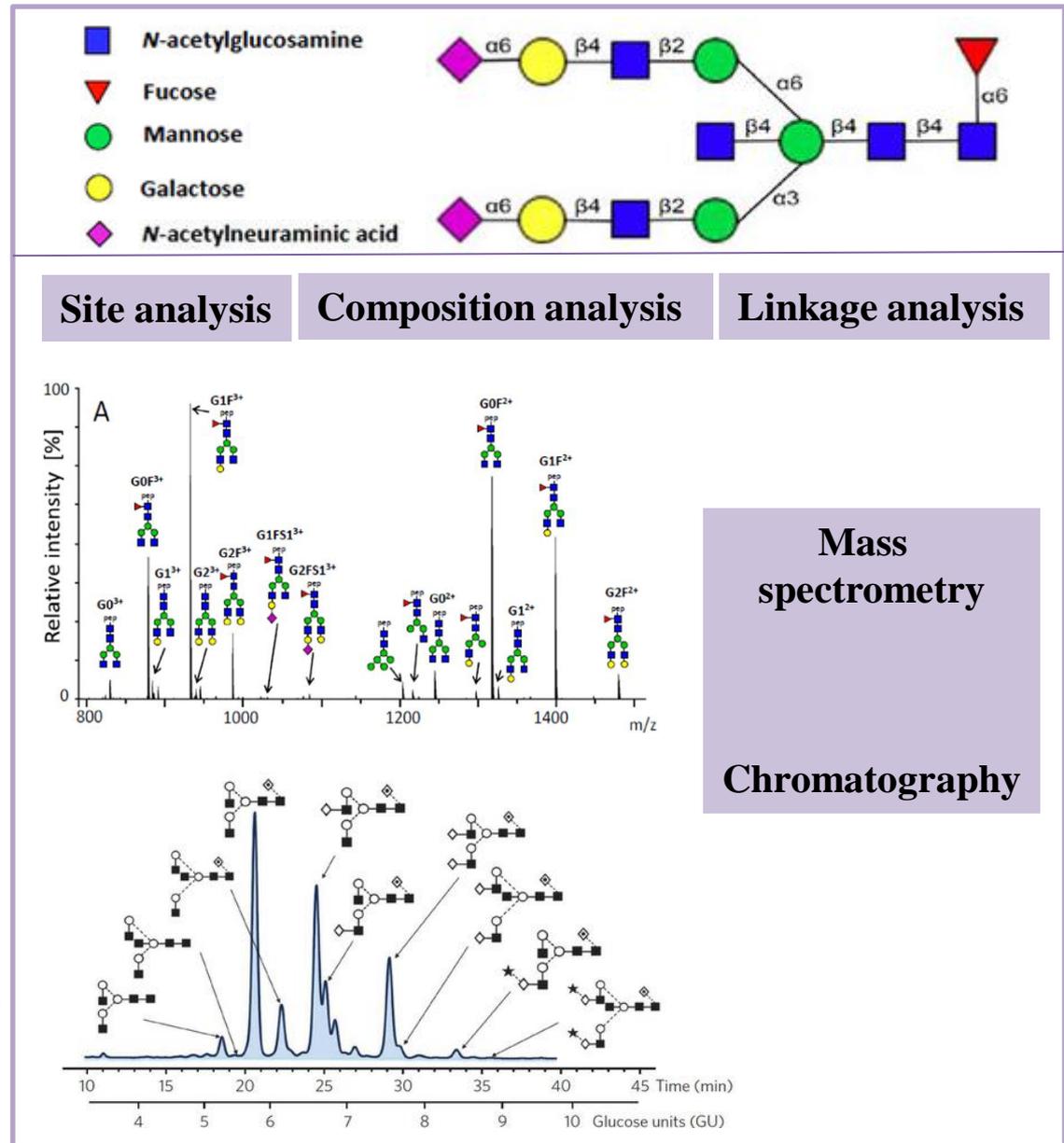
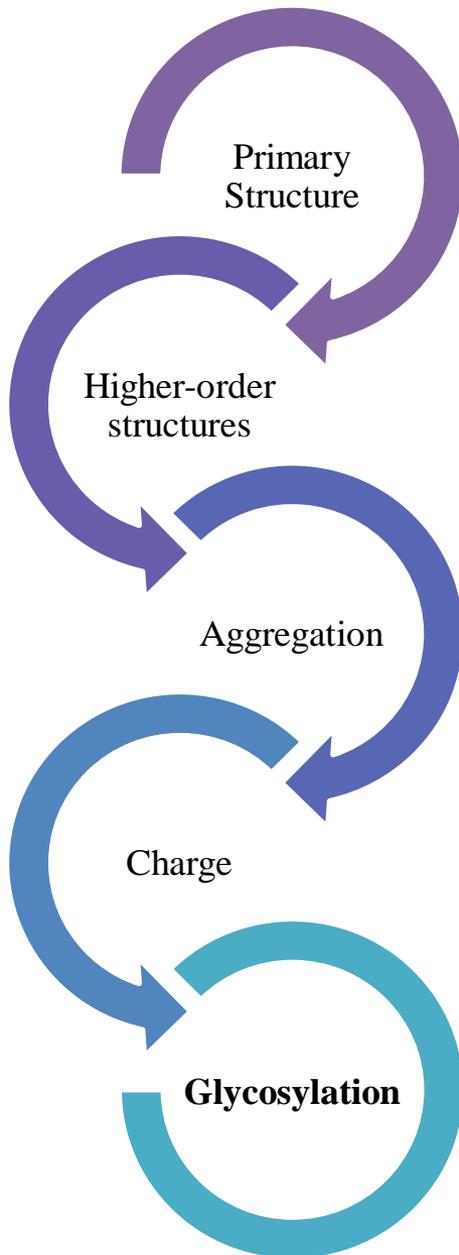


Cation exchange chromatography  
(CEX-HPLC)



Imaged isoelectric focusing  
(cIEF)

Compare to a reference standard

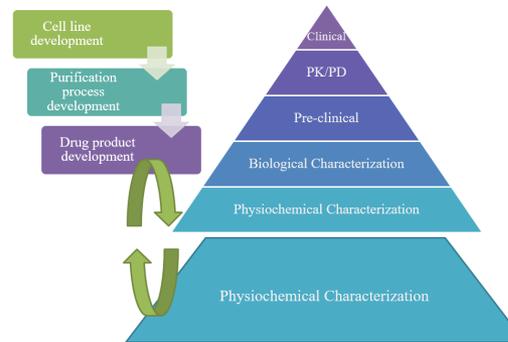


# Concluding Remarks

- The process of making proteins yields a **heterogeneous** protein product

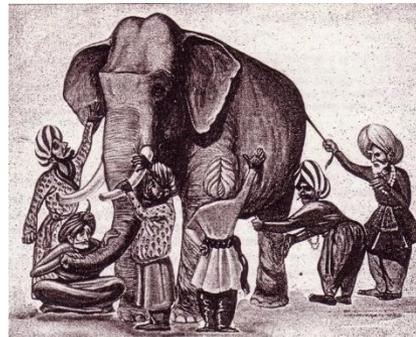
**“The process is The product”**

- **Physiochemical characterization** studies are **corner stone** for the development of biologics and are especially important for determination of biosimilarity



- Due to their complexity, biopharmaceuticals require a vast array of testing using

**orthogonal techniques**





Thank you for Your attention

Questions?