

**BILL & MELINDA GATES  
MEDICAL RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE**

# **Patient Centric Sampling in the Therapeutic Development Programs**

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# What is the Essence of Patient Centricity in Pharmaceutical Industry

- All clinical development aims to develop treatments for patients, so what is different about patient centricity?
- Putting the patient first in all aspects
  - / Making the clinical trial experience beneficial to all participants regardless of randomization
  - / Put the needs of the patient before convenience to the sponsor

# Intersection of Patient Centricity and Bioanalytical Sciences

- Ensure all biospecimens are collected for an intended purpose
  - / Reduce the number of time points and total volume
  - / Reduce the patient burden to provide specimens
  - / Ensure quality of biospecimens to support planned analyses
- Microsampling as a tool to improve patient centricity
  - / Further reduce volume per collection
  - / Reduce need for phlebotomists and broaden physical location to collect
  - / Develop pathway for home collection and decentralized clinical trials

# Patient-Centric Blood Collection

Capillary blood rather than venous

- Capillary blood suitable for lower volume collection
  - / Standard for infants
  - / Most conservative replacement is capillary serum
- Opportunities to run entirely with dried blood
  - / Many advances in last decade



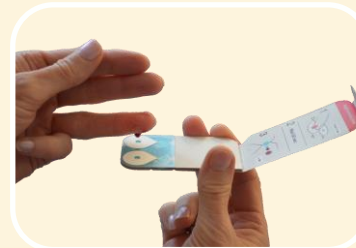
Tasso



TAP



BD  
Microtainer



Capitainer



Hemapen



Mitra

# Benefits for using microsampling

## Ethical Benefits:

- Obtaining samples from infants
- Collection of samples in a closer timeframe to a clinical event
- Freeing-up blood volume to collect additional samples

## Improved Patient Experience:

- Sample collection in settings more convenient to the patient
- Limiting disruption to normal life for clinical study subjects
- Less invasive than venipuncture

## Direct Cost Savings:

- Ambient Temperature Sample Shipments:
- Reduced Shipping Costs

## Indirect Cost Savings:

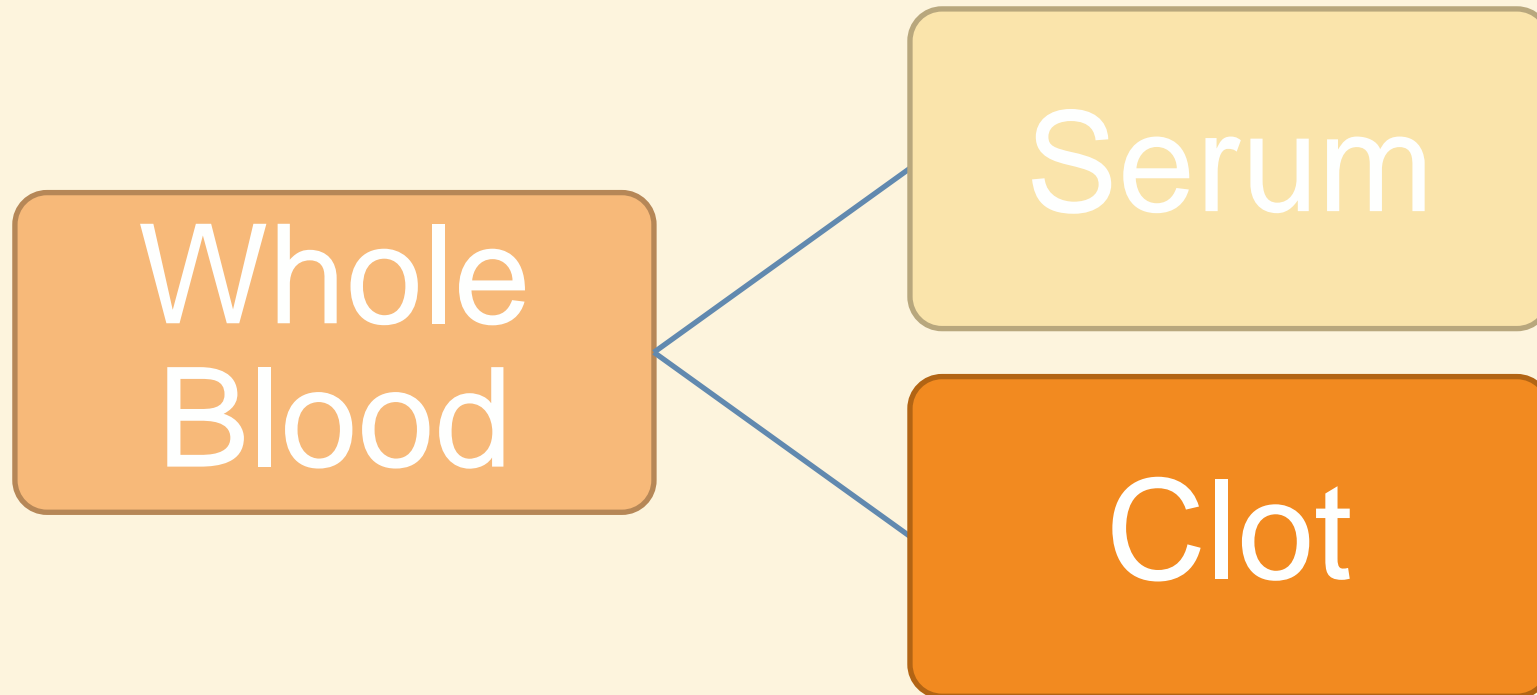
- Less Clinical Staff Needed for Blood Sample Collection
- Improved Clinical Trial Recruitment and Retention

## Process Simplicity:

- Minimized On-Site Processing
- This simplification reduces labor, resources, and potential error sources.

\*Spooner, 2019, DOI: [10.4155/bio-2019-0041](https://doi.org/10.4155/bio-2019-0041)

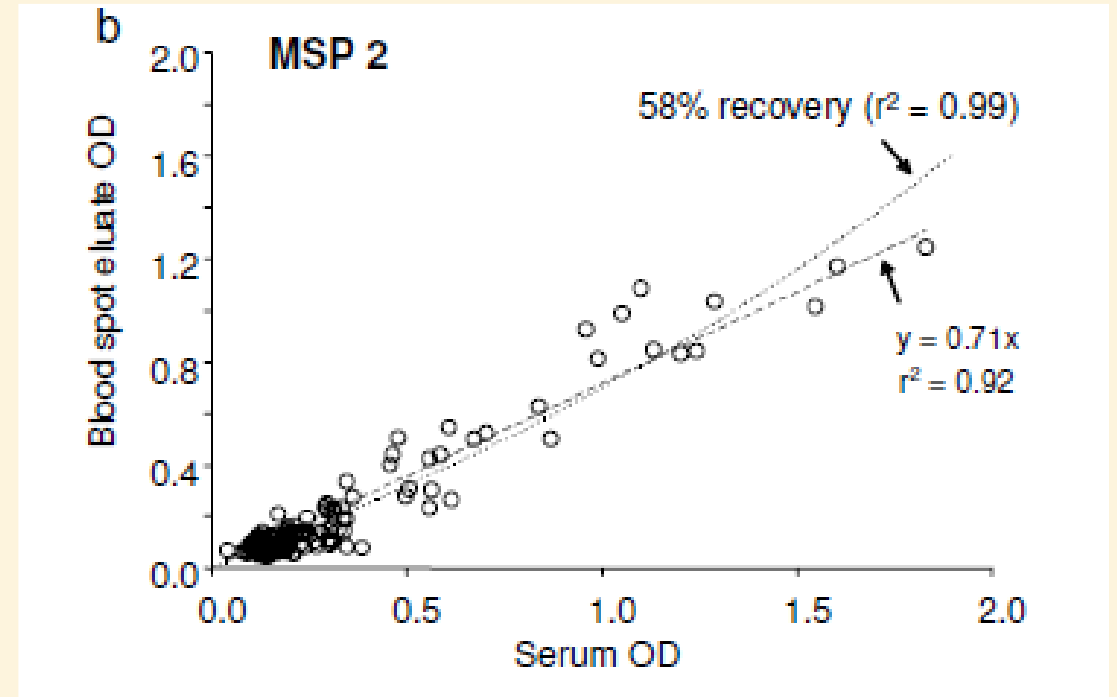
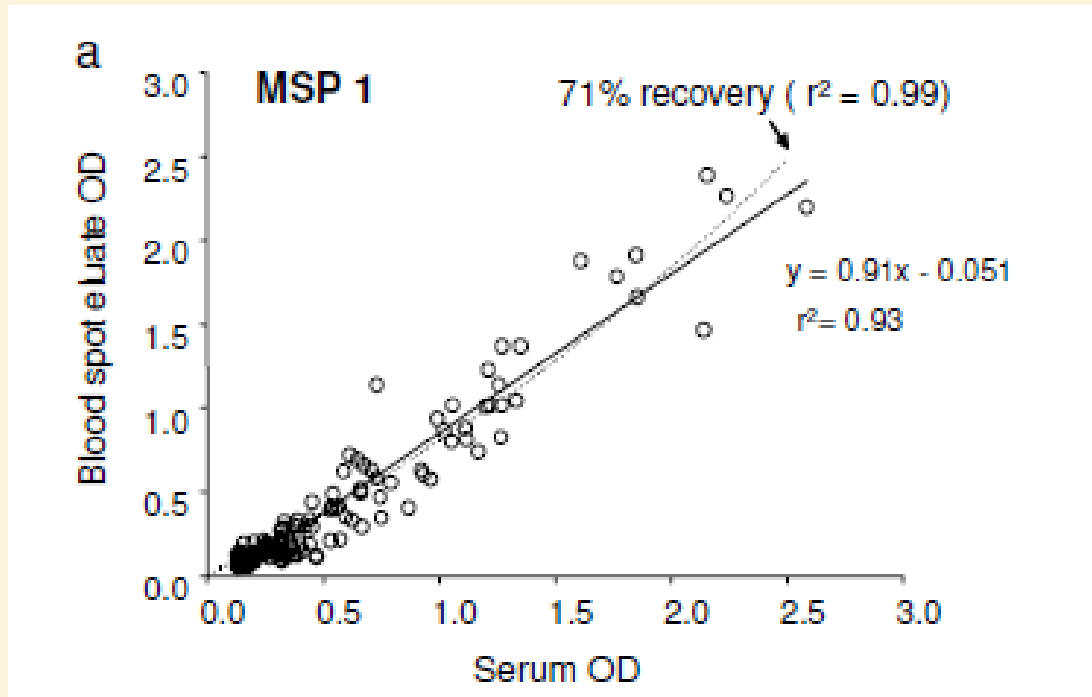
# Monoclonal Antibody Therapeutics Partition to Serum



- Serum concentrations will be higher than whole blood
  - Hematocrit can approximate the partition factor
- Calculate conversion to include serum data sets in modeling
  - Historical data sets
  - Nonclinical efficacy models

# Serology (Anti-Malaria Antibodies)

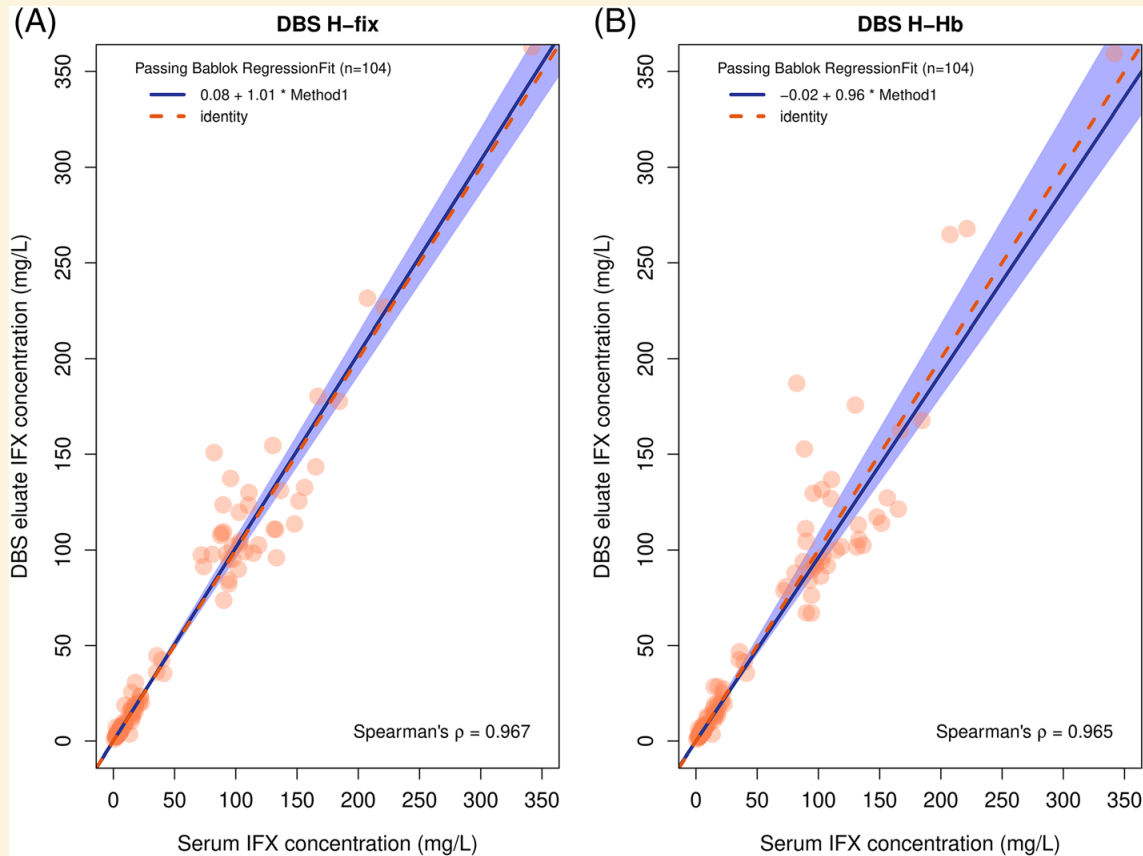
## Recovery from paper dried blood spots



Corran, P. H., Cook, J., Lynch, C., Leendertse, H., Manjurano, A., Griffin, J., . . . Riley, E. (2008). Dried blood spots as a source of anti-malarial antibodies for epidemiological studies. 7(1), 195. doi:[10.1186/1475-2875-7-195](https://doi.org/10.1186/1475-2875-7-195)

# Improved Recovery Using Plastic Substrate

Full recovery with hematocrit correction



- Influximab pharmacokinetic
  - / Linear fit
  - / Aligned with identity
  - / (Lower recovery with home collection)

Berends, S. E., D'Haens, G. R. A. M., Schaap, T., Vries, A., Rispens, T., Bloem, K., & Mathôt, R. A. A. (2019). Dried blood samples can support monitoring of infliximab concentrations in patients with inflammatory bowel disease: A clinical validation. *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, 85(7), 1544-1551. doi:[10.1111/bcp.13939](https://doi.org/10.1111/bcp.13939)



# Case Study

- Monoclonal antibody against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) fusion protein
- Prophylactic treatment in infant population at highest risk of mortality

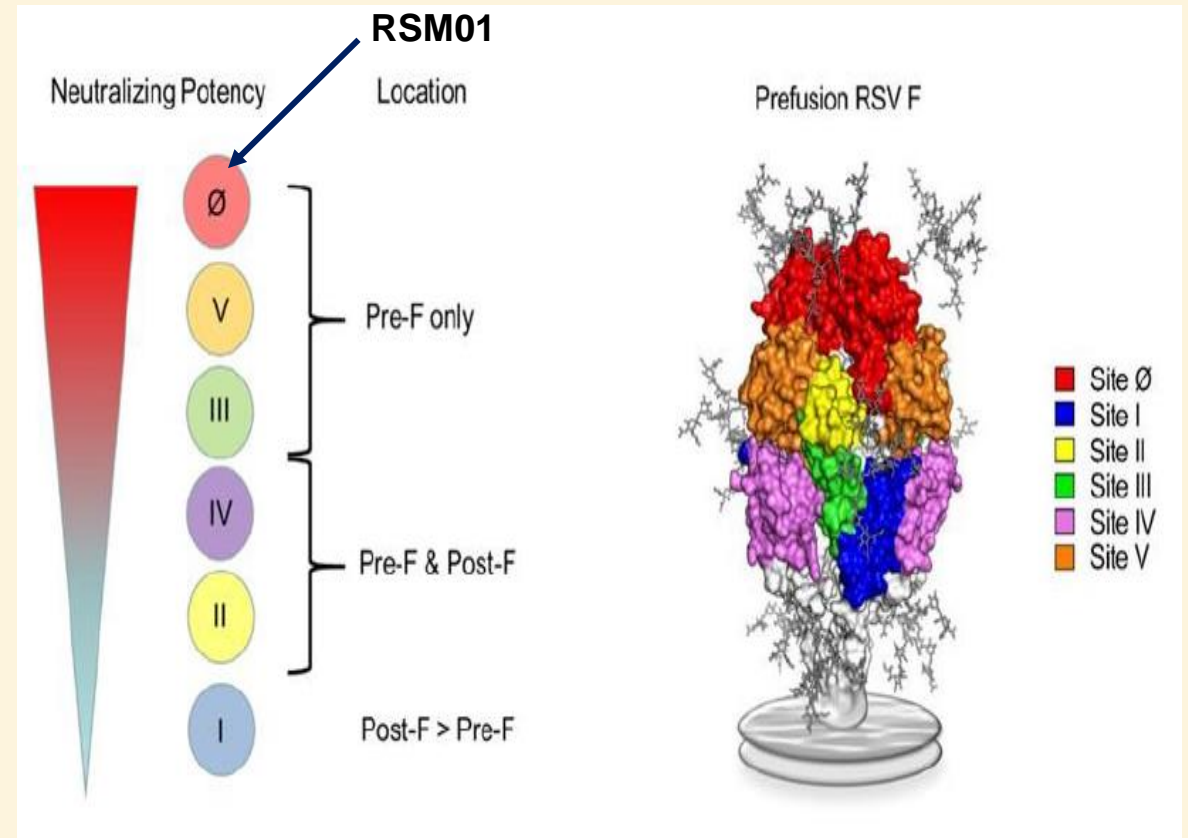
# **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a major global health concern, primarily affecting young children**

- In 2015, an estimated 1.4 million hospital admissions were due to RSV
- There were approximately 273,000 in-hospital deaths among infants less than 6 months old, and more than 99% of these deaths occurred in developing countries [Shi 2017]\*
- There is an urgent need for affordable, safe, and effective prevention against RSV, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- The goal of the RSM01 development program is to develop a safe and effective mAb to prevent RSV disease in infants, with a focus on accessibility in LMIC

\*DOI: [10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)30938-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)30938-8)

# RSM01: A long-acting, potent neutralizing RSV mAb

- Fully human IgG1 mAb
- Targets antigenic site zero of the prefusion F protein (a region considered to be highly neutralization sensitive).
- Acts by binding to and inhibiting the pre-fusion form of RSV glycoprotein F on the surface of the virus, blocking a critical step in the membrane fusion process.
- YTE mutation in Fc region increases serum  $t_{1/2}$
- Potential for a single dose for RSV season coverage



# RSM01 VAMS<sup>®</sup> Implementation



- Support microsampling as the **primary** matrix for mAb pharmacokinetics (PK) in **clinical** development
- Analytical Method Development
  - / Use volume absorptive microsampling (VAMS) with plastic substrate
  - / 100% recovery versus whole blood spike
- Clinical bridging study
  - / Enable modeling to include nonclinical and nirsevimab serum data
  - / Fully matched profiles for venous serum vs capillary blood VAMS
    - Far exceeds the requirements for a bridging study
    - Enables comparison of PK parameters in addition to raw drug concentration from samples

Selected references to small molecule matched plasma and blood:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jchromb.2021.122556>; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpba.2023.115688>

# Method Validation Highlights

Parameter	Blood	Serum
MRD	1:200 (including extraction)	1:200
Precision	≤ 13.6%	≤ 18.9%
Accuracy	≤ 6.5%	≤ 4.2%
Total Error	≤ 20.1%	≤ 22.2%
Selectivity	100% Unspiked 90% LLOQ 100% HQC	100% Unspiked 100% LLOQ 100% HQC
In-study Precision	≤ 7.6%	≤ 11.4%
In-study Accuracy	≤ 5.7%	≤ 7.7%

# Gates MRI-RSM01-101 Study Design

Phase 1 Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, and PK of Single Ascending Doses of RSM01 in Healthy Adults ([NCT05118386](#))

## Dose Escalation Phase

### Cohort 1

300 mg IV

RSM01, n = 6;

PBO, n = 1

### Cohort 2

300 mg IM

RSM01, n = 6;

PBO, n = 1

### Cohort 3

1000 mg IV

RSM01, n = 6;

PBO, n = 1

### Cohort 4

3000 mg IV

RSM01, n = 6;

PBO, n = 1

## Dose Expansion

### Cohort 5

600 mg IM

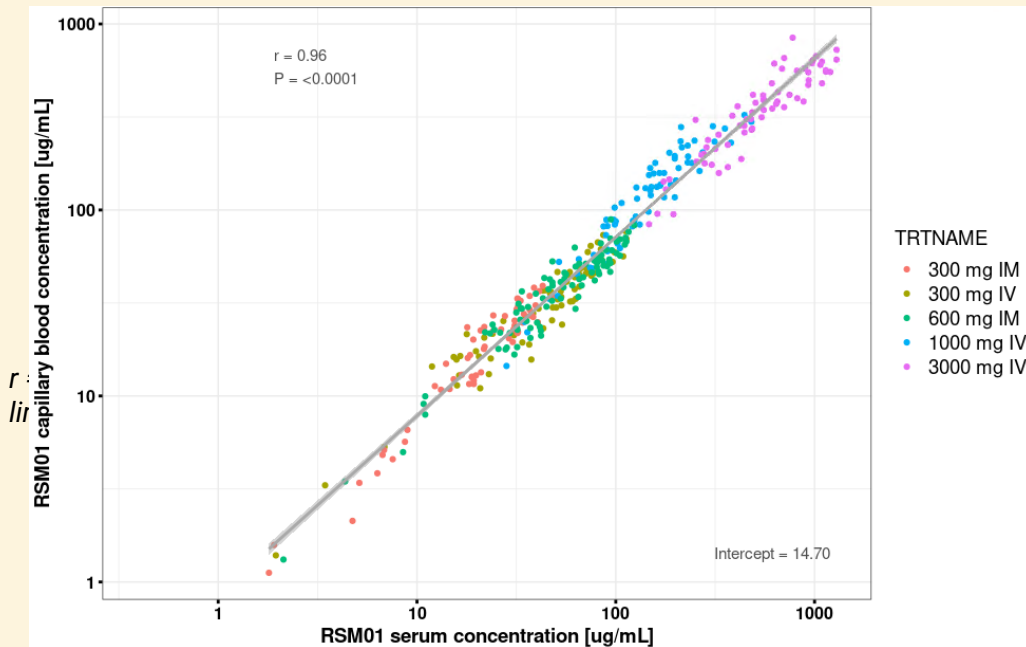
RSM01, n = 24;

PBO, n = 4

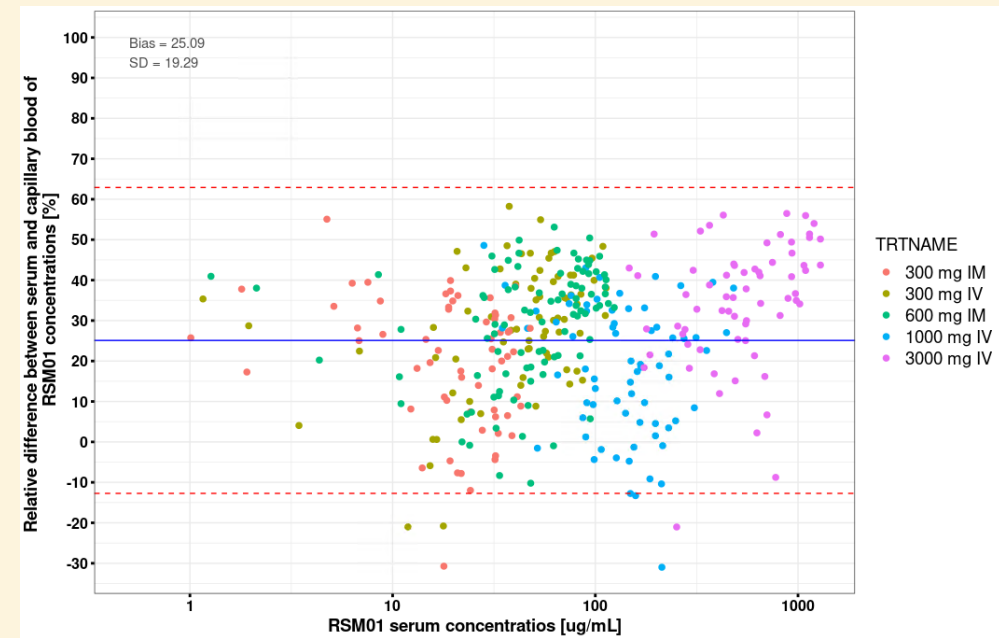
# Gates MRI-RSM01-101:

## High correlation and agreement between serum and blood concentrations

- All subjects show high correlations between the blood and plasma



- Generally, no discernable pattern emerges even when controlling for sex, race, or ethnicity

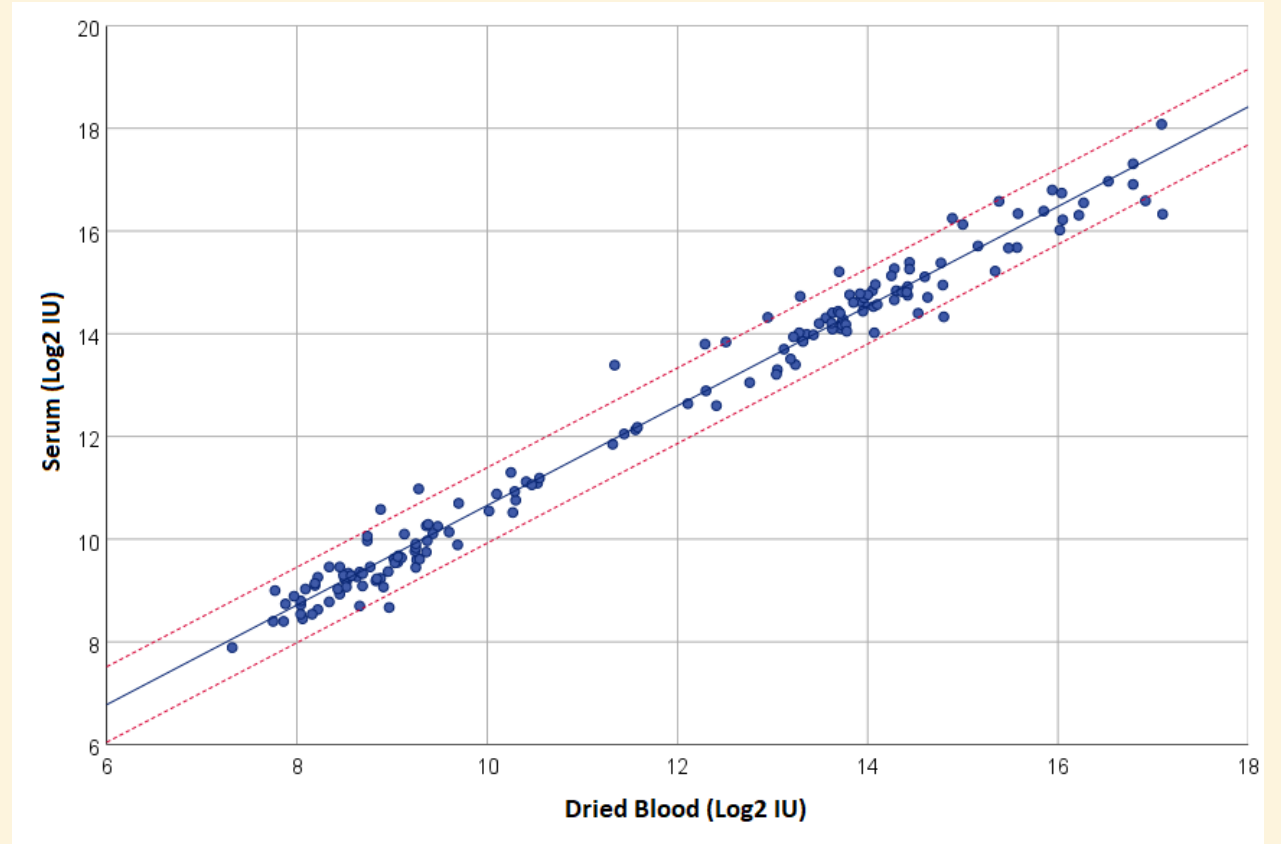


Bias (mean of  $(\text{Serum} - \text{Blood})/\text{Serum} \times 100\%$ ) as a solid blue line and the lower and upper limits of agreement (LOA) as dashed red lines

# Gates MRI-RSM01-101 RSV Neutralizing Ab

## Beyond binding to functional activity

- Simple methodology
  - / PBS extraction overnight
  - / Cell based assay with live viral stock
  - / International Units based on WHO standard
- Correlation established
  - / Extracted antibodies retained function
  - / Spiked samples (not shown)
  - / Study samples (D1, D91, D151)



Submitted manuscript pre-print: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.08.10.23293875v1>



# Conclusions

- A patient-centric sampling strategy using dried blood collected on VAMS technology was successfully implemented for RSM01 in a first-in-human trial with adult participants
- The PK results in capillary blood from VAMS and serum samples were linearly correlated
- This approach is valuable in advancing global clinical drug development and is planned for use in future pediatric RSM01 trials in infants

# Aspirational Advances



Which safety labs can be converted to microsampling?

Collaborate with central lab and non-interventional study  
Other nonprofit organizations focused on increasing diagnostic access  
PCSIG Diagnostics Working Group



Which exploratory biomarkers can be converted to microsampling?

Serology already on DBS for some infectious diseases  
Published sequencing, genomics, proteomics  
Long shot to miniaturize deep sequencing (extractions currently use 2 mL)



Feasibility of other matrices even less invasive than capillary blood?

Interstitial fluid  
Saliva  
Tears

# Acknowledgments

- Patient Centric Sampling Interest Group  
/ <http://www.pcsig.org>
- AAPS Bioanalytical Community Patient-Centric Sampling Working Group
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/ Micha Levi, Clinical Pharmacology  
/ Jonne Terstappen, UMC Utrecht
- RSM01-101 trial participants

**Thank you!**

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