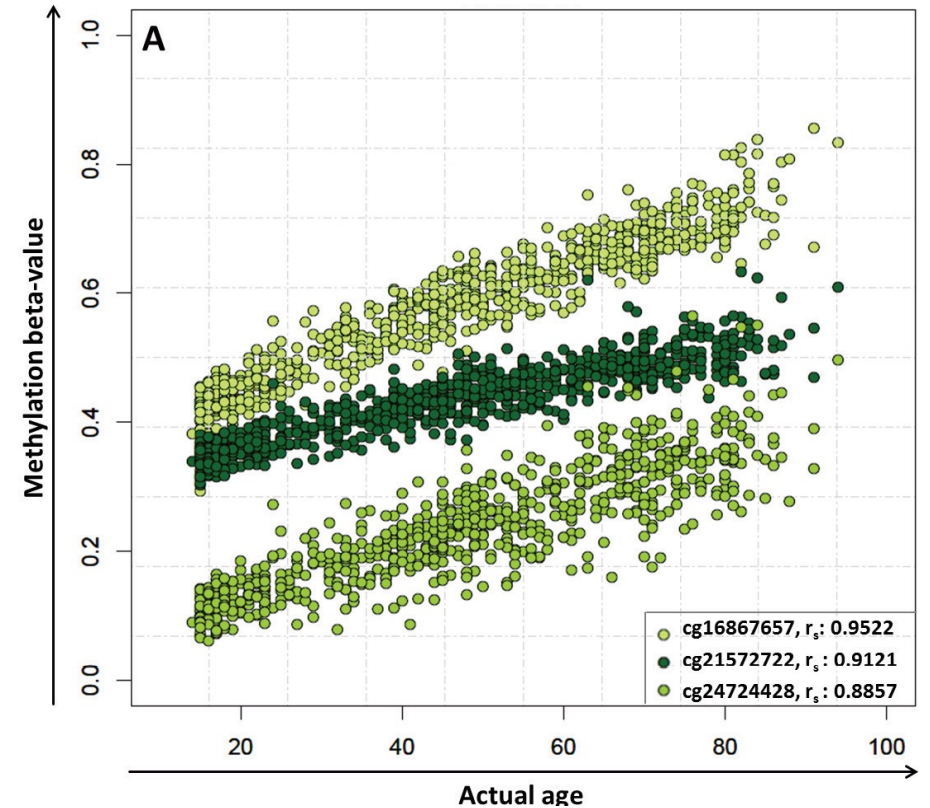
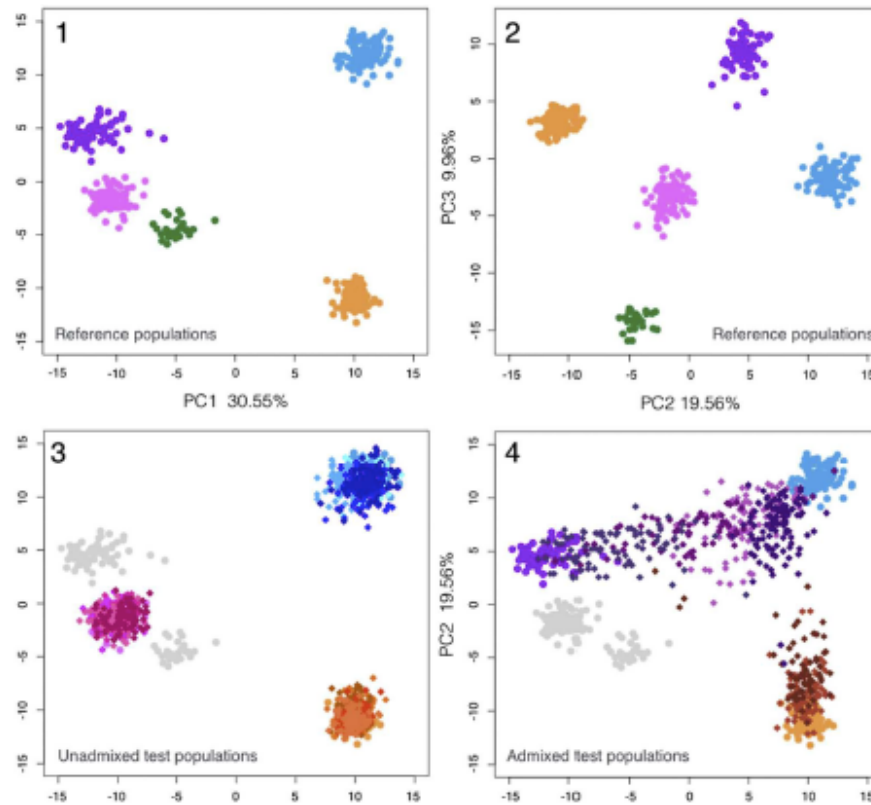
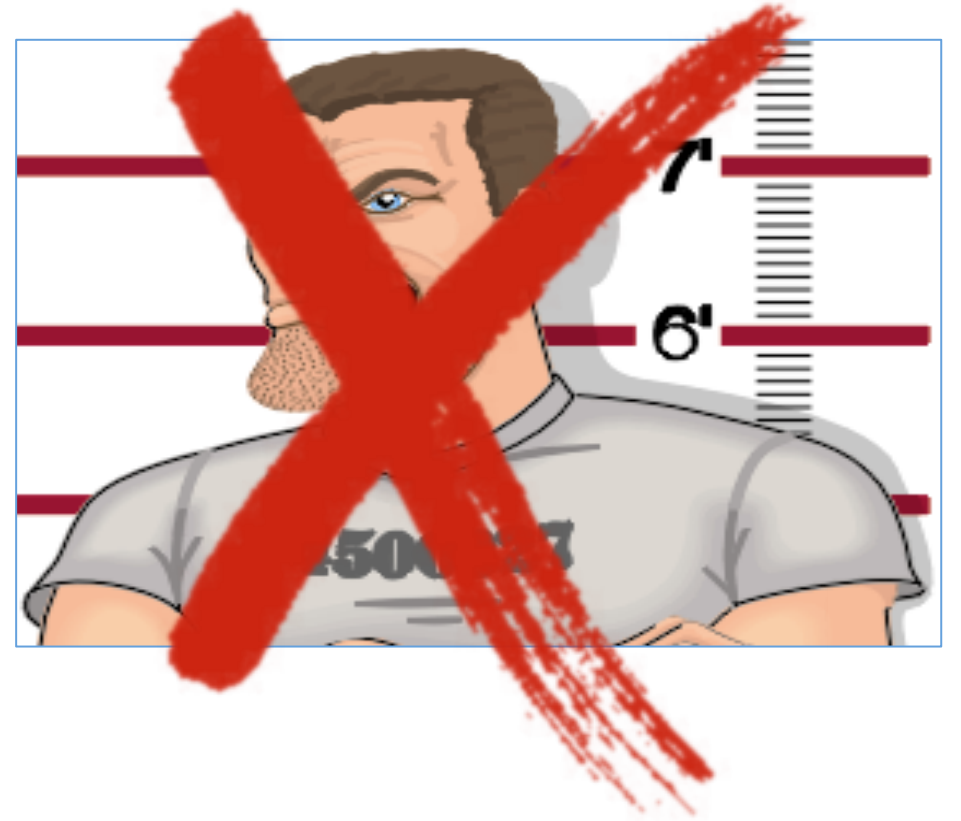
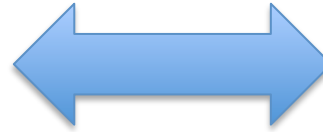


# VISAGE - Visual Attributes through Genomics



Catarina Xavier<sup>1</sup>, Antonia Heidegger<sup>1</sup>, Harald Niederstätter<sup>1</sup>, Maria de la Puente<sup>1,2</sup>, The VISAGE Consortium<sup>3</sup>, Christopher Phillips<sup>2</sup>, Wojciech Branicki<sup>4</sup>, Manfred Kayser<sup>5</sup>, Walther Parson<sup>1,6</sup>

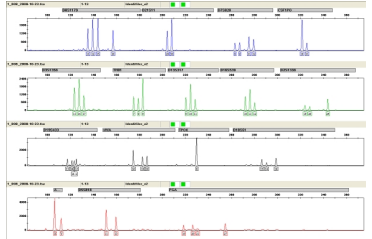
# Cases without suspects



# Forensic DNA Phenotyping



DNA  
profiling



Database



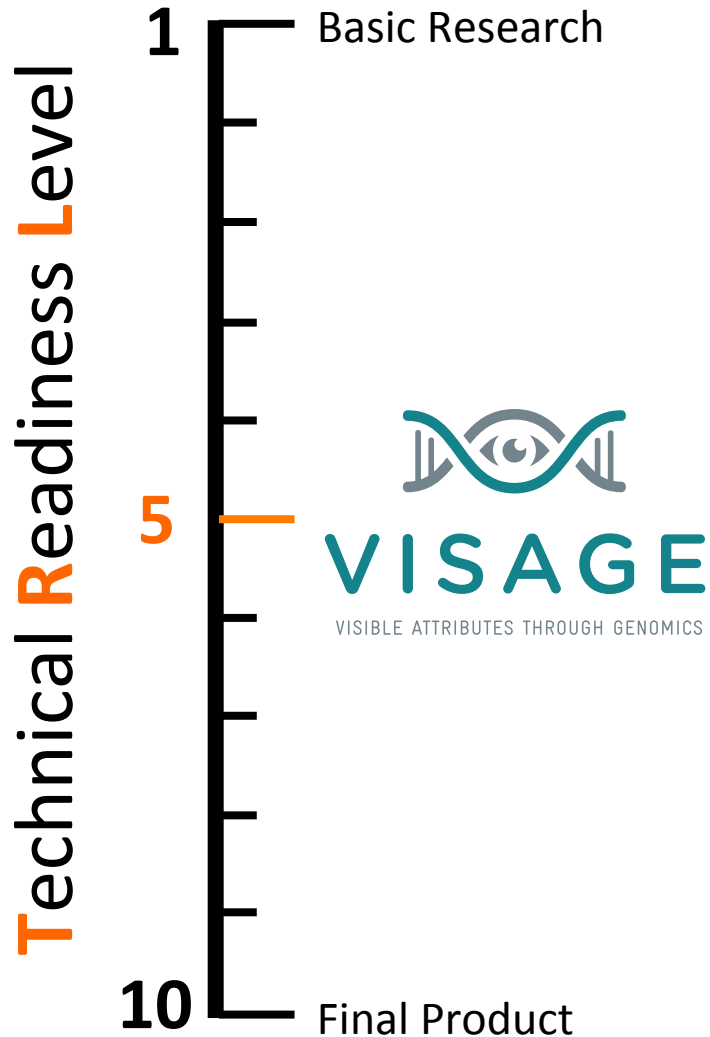
**NO MATCH**

DNA  
intelligence

- appearance
- ancestry
- age



# VISAGE OBJECTIVES



The **VISAGE** - Consortium is developing genotyping and statistical prototype tools, forensically validate and implement them into forensic practice for predicting **appearance**, **age**, and **ancestry** from DNA traces and study its ethical, societal & regulatory dimensions (period: 05/2017-04/2021).

Tool 1: Appearance & Ancestry (SNP multiplex)

Tool 2: Age (quantitative methylation)





# VISAGE - Visual Attributes Through Genomics



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[www.visage-h2020.eu](http://www.visage-h2020.eu)



# VISAGE PROGRESS

WP1 MANAGEMENT (EMC)

WP2 MARKER DISCOVERY (EMC, JU, USC)

WP3 PROTOTYPE ANALYSIS TOOL DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION (MUI)

WP4 STATISTICAL PREDICTION MODELLING AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT (UoK)

WP5 ETHICAL, SOCIETAL AND REGULATORY DIMENSION MAPPING (KCL)

WP6 IMPLEMENTATION OF PROTOTYPE TOOLS IN RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT (BKA)

WP7 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

# WP2 MARKER DISCOVERY

## D2.1 Markers for **Basic** Prototype Tool (M3)

Appearance - 41 SNPs (EMC)  
 Ancestry - 116 SNPs (USC)  
 Age (blood/saliva) - 5 genes / 32 CpG sites (JU)

} 154 SNPs

**Appearance**  
 Hair  
 Eye  
 Skin

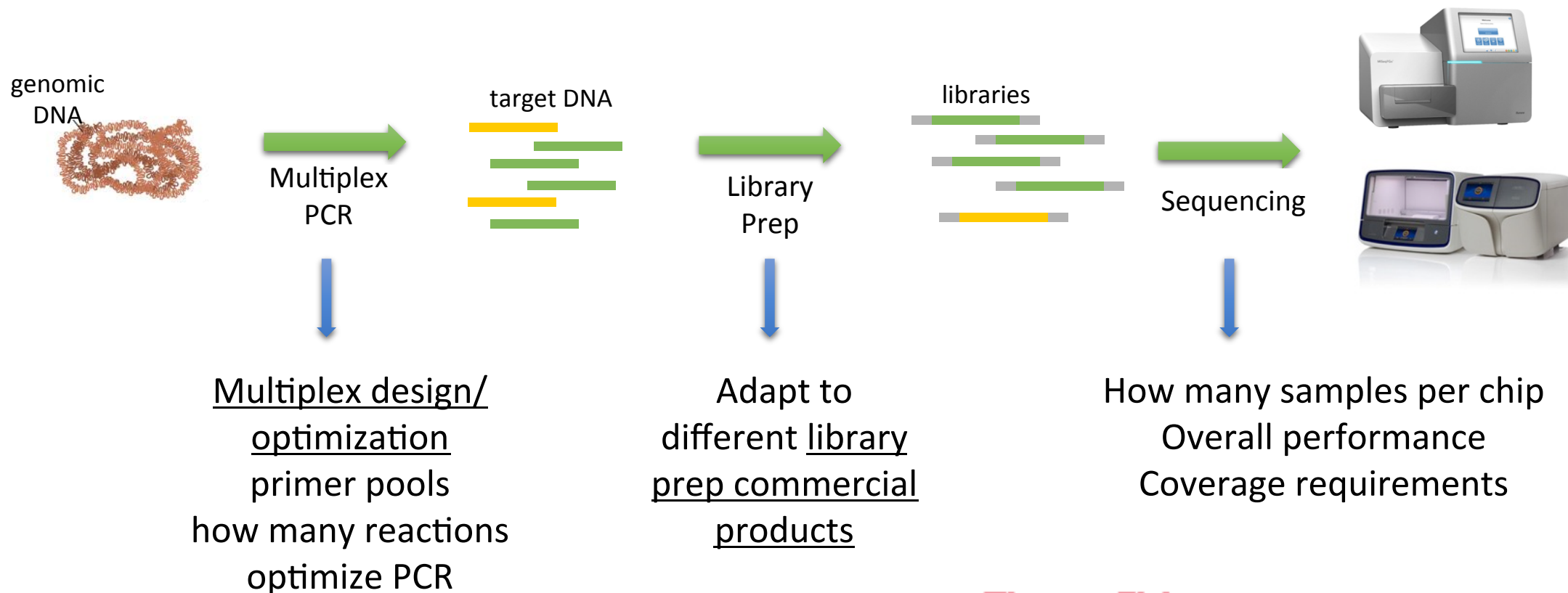
**Ancestry**  
 Continental

	Validation Test	EMC	MPS	UKK	USC	CLKP	MUI
Phase I	Reproducibility	X	X	X	X		X
	Sensitivity	X	X	X	X		X
	Casework mock	X	X	X	X		X
	Concordance	X				X	X
Phase II	Mixtures						X
	Artificial degraded	X					X
	PCR cycles	X				X	
	Stability/inhibitor	X				X	X
	Specificity						X

## Tool 1: Appearance & Ancestry (SNP multiplex)



### Design, develop and validate prototype tools



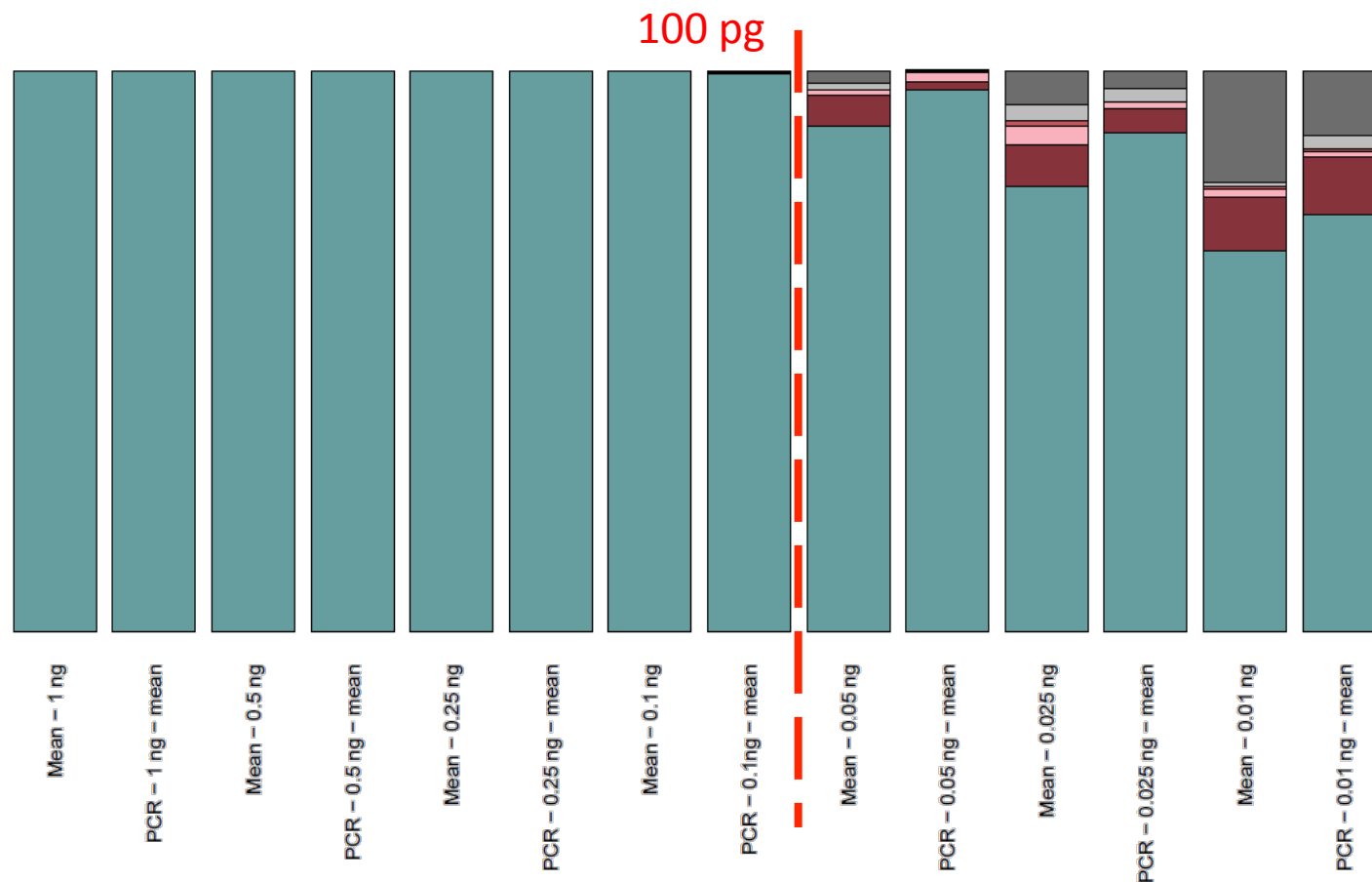
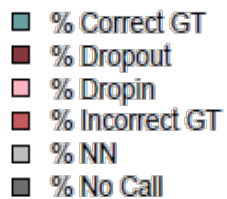






## Developmental validation BASIC Tools

### BASIC A&A Tool – sensitivity



### SENSITIVITY:

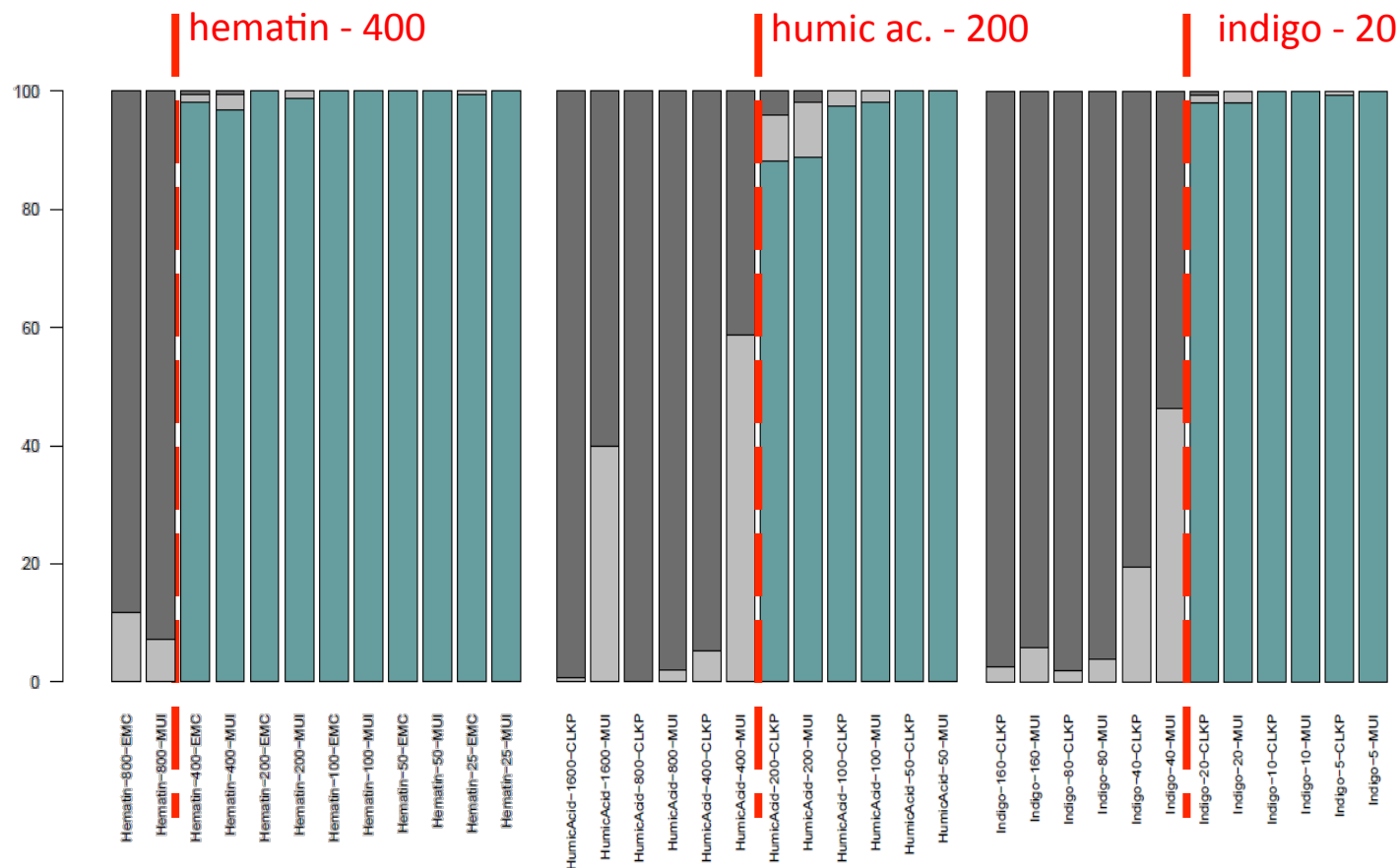
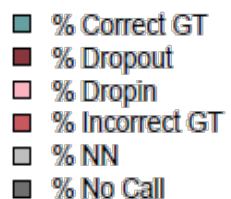
- ✓ full profiles down to 0.1 ng
- ✓ increased PCR cycles → good solution for challenging samples

5 labs; DNA input 1 - 0.01 ng; 10 replicates per dilution; 16 samples/530 chip; Ion S5



## Developmental validation BASIC Tools

### BASIC A&A Tool – inhibition



### INHIBITOR TOLERANCE/ STABILITY:

approx. 15 times more sensitive to inhibitors compared to STR kits

5 labs; DNA input 1ng; duplicates, 16 samples/530 chip; Ion S5



Developmental validation BASIC Tools

BASIC A&A Tool – results

## CONCORDANCE - CORIELLS:

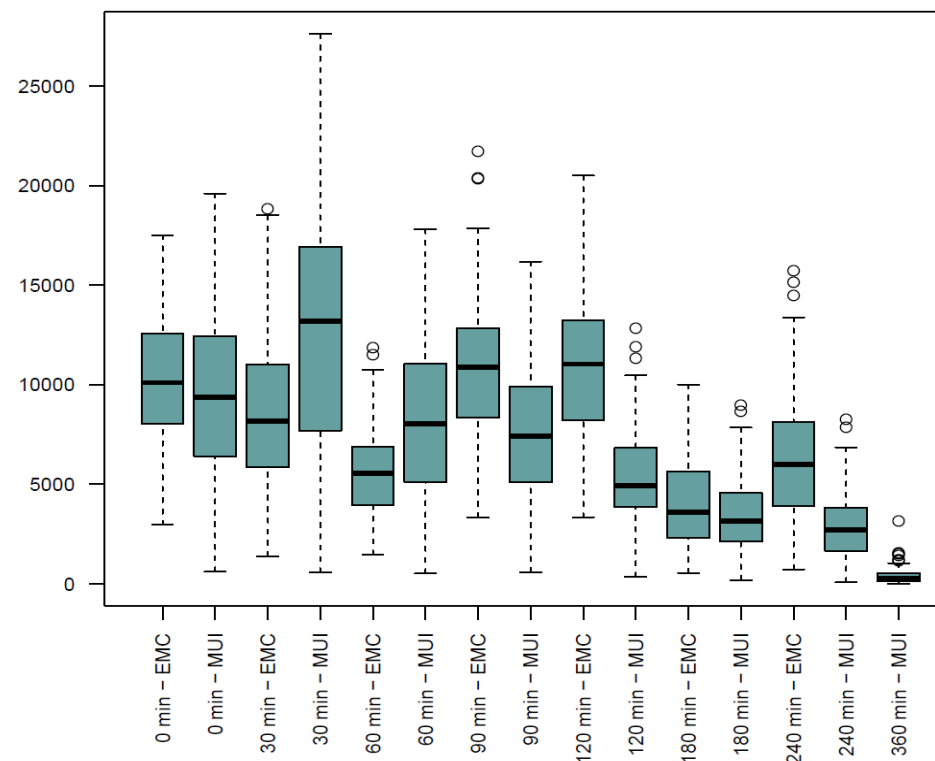
- ✓ 99.83% concordant
  - ✓ SGDP and 1K genomes data

## „MOCK“ CASEWORK - GEDNAP:

- ✓ 5,355 genotype comparisons
  - 11 disparities
    - 9 no calls
    - 2 allele dropouts

## DEGRADED DNA:

- ✓ full profiles down to 240 min sonication
- ✓ 360 min – one replicate failed



2 labs; DNA input ~1 ng degraded; duplicates; 16 samples/530 chip; Ion S5





## Developmental validation BASIC Tools

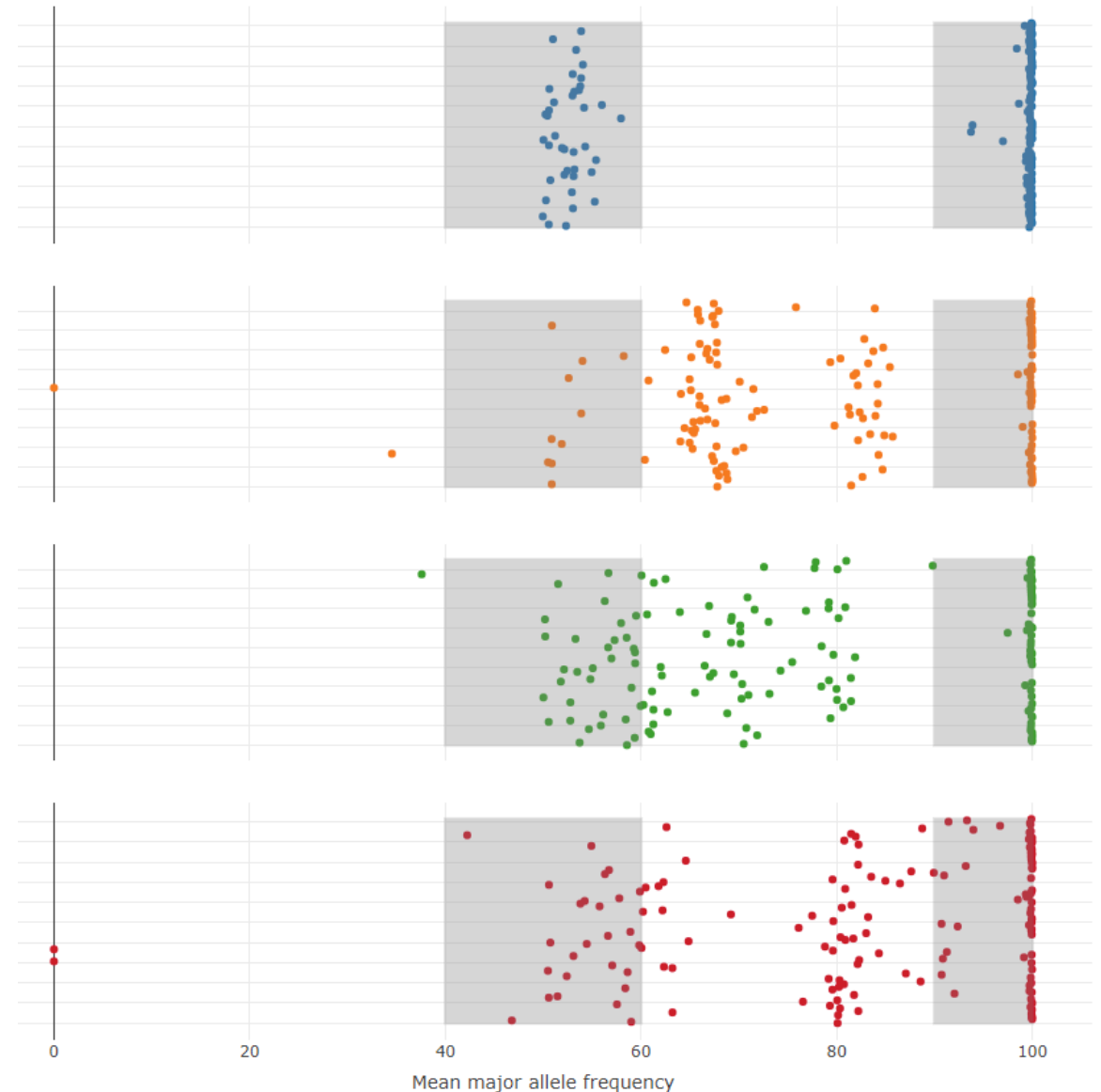
### BASIC A&A Tool – mixtures

#### MIXTURES:

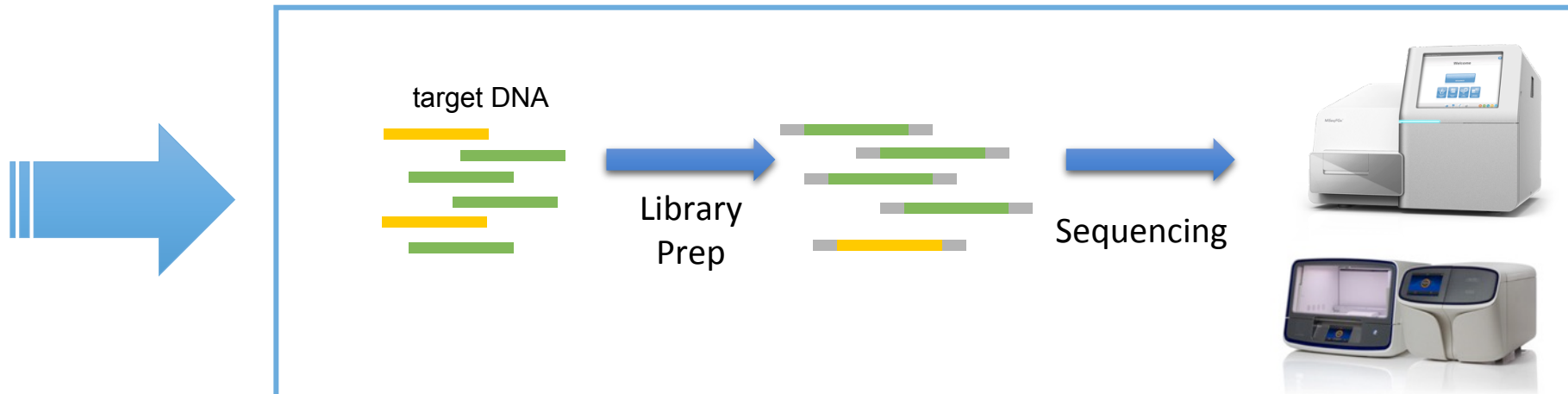
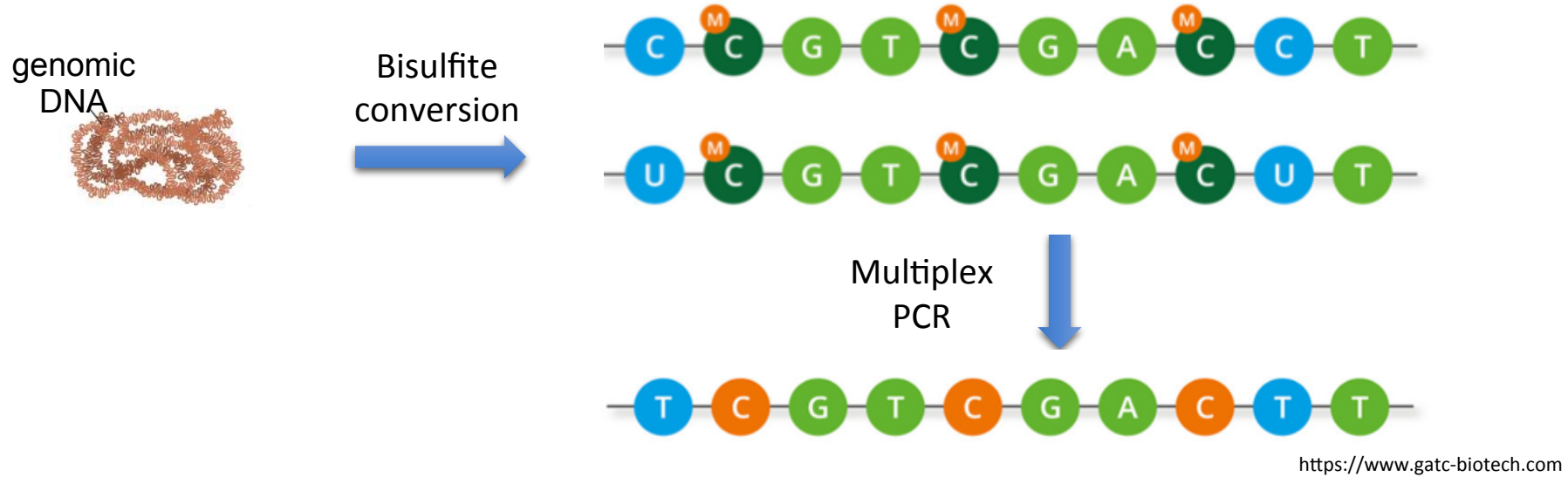
MAF flags → outside of normal intervals:

40-60% for heterozygous GT  
90-100% for homozygous GT

- Single Source
- Mix 1-1
- Mix 1-3
- Mix 1-4



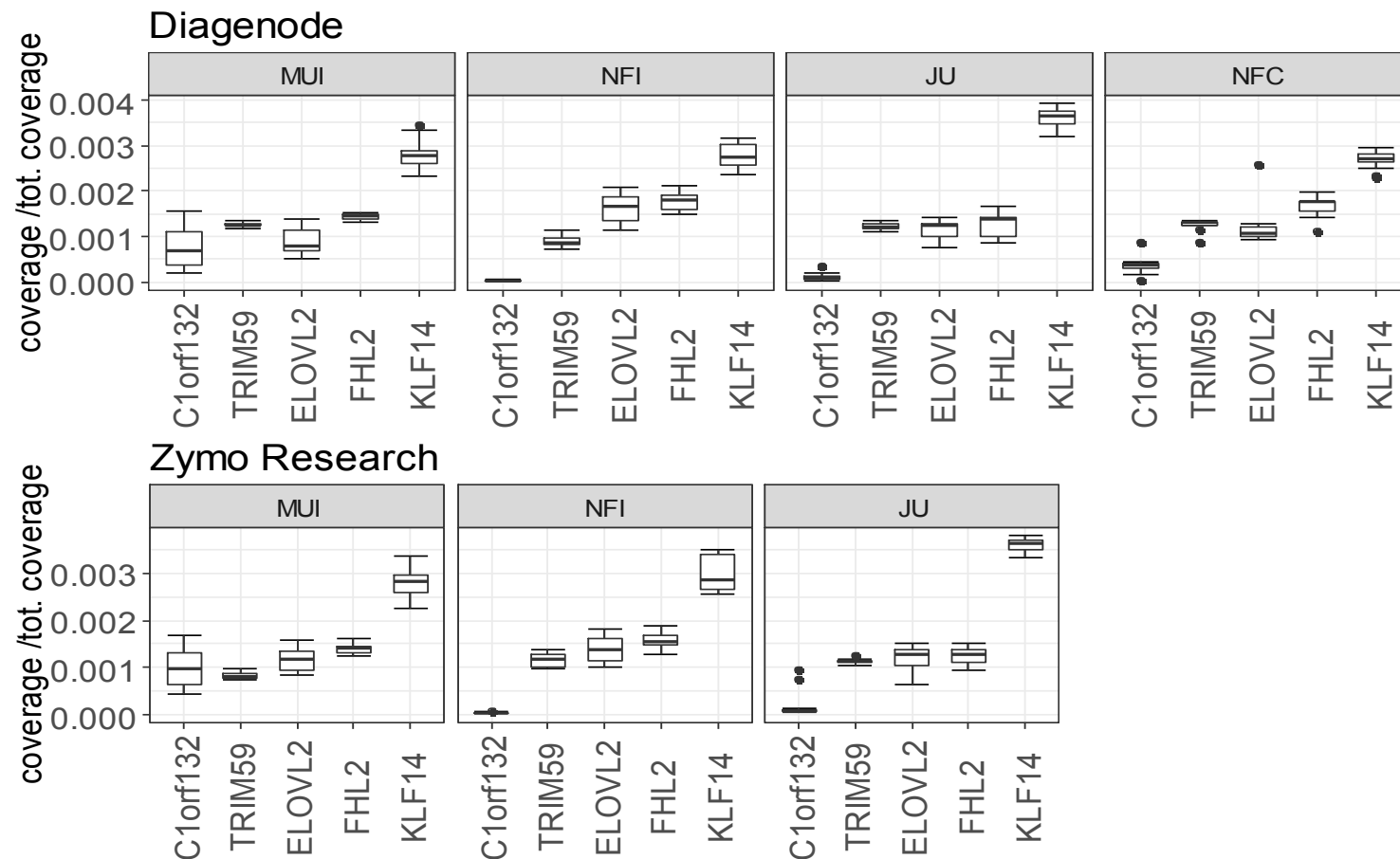
# Age estimation by quantitative methylation





## Developmental validation BASIC Tools

### BASIC AGE Tool – results



Reproducibility, normalized coverage; 200 ng; MiSeq FGx; Contributing labs: JU, MUI, NFC, NFI

# WP2 MARKER DISCOVERY

## D2.1 Markers for **Basic** Prototype Tool (M3)

Appearance - 41 SNPs (EMC)  
Ancestry - 116 SNPs (USC)  
Age (blood/saliva) - 5 genes / 32 CpG sites (JU)

} 154 SNPs

**Appearance**  
Hair  
Eye  
Skin

**Ancestry**  
Continental

## D2.2 Markers for **Enhanced** Prototype Tool (M18)

Appearance - 211 SNPs (EMC)  
Ancestry - 206 SNPs + 22MHTs (USC)  
Age (blood/saliva) - 8 genes / 42 CpG sites (JU)  
Age (semen) - 13 genes / 13 CpG sites (JU)

} 524 SNPs

**Appearance**  
Hair  
Eye  
Skin  
Eyebrow  
Hair shape  
Freckles  
MPB

**Ancestry**  
Continental  
Middle East  
North Africa  
X and Y-SNPs





## Design and optimization ENHANCED Tools

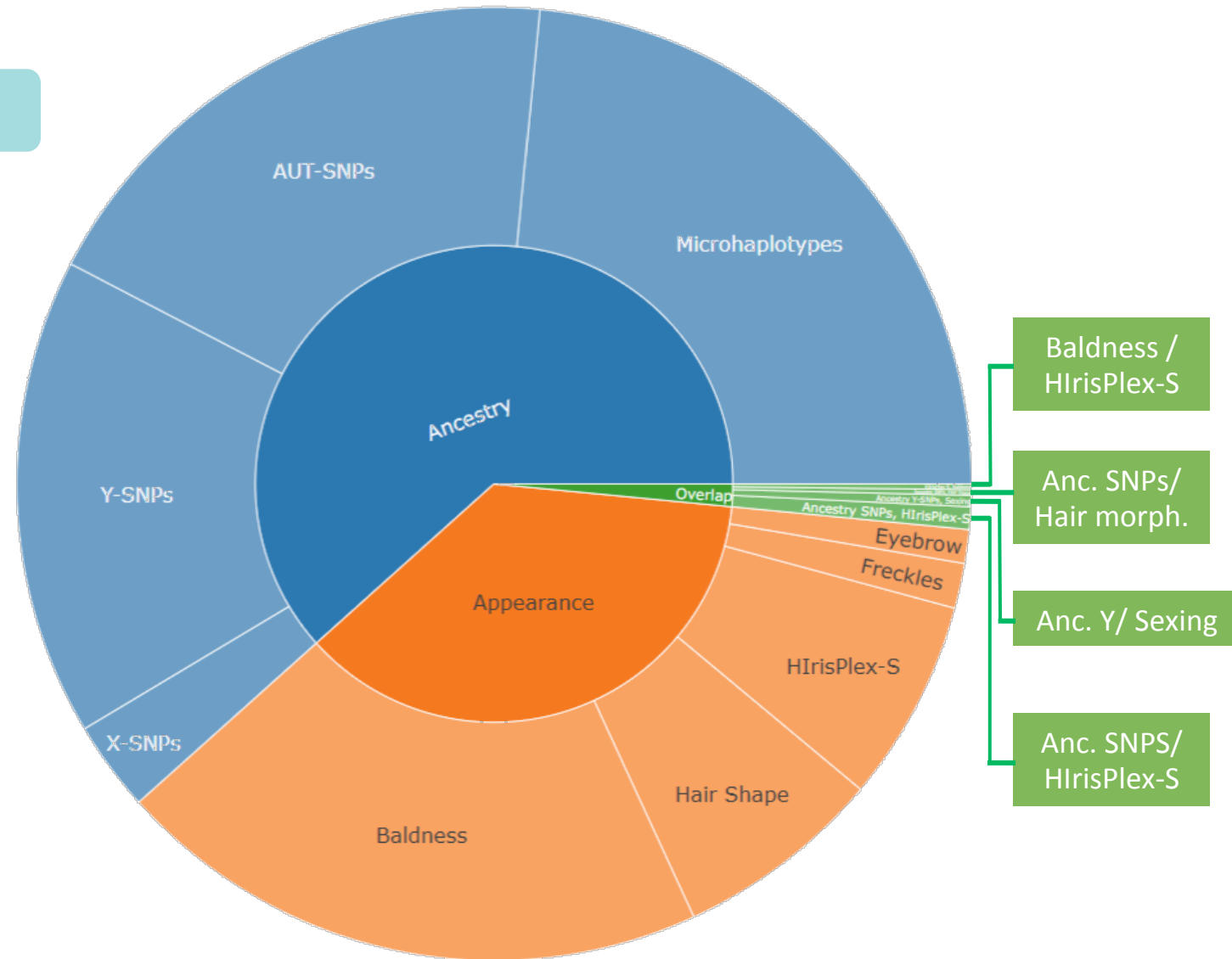
### VISAGE En. A&A Tool

**524 MARKERS** successfully designed:

- ✓ 323 ancestry
- ✓ 193 appearance
- ✓ 8 overlap

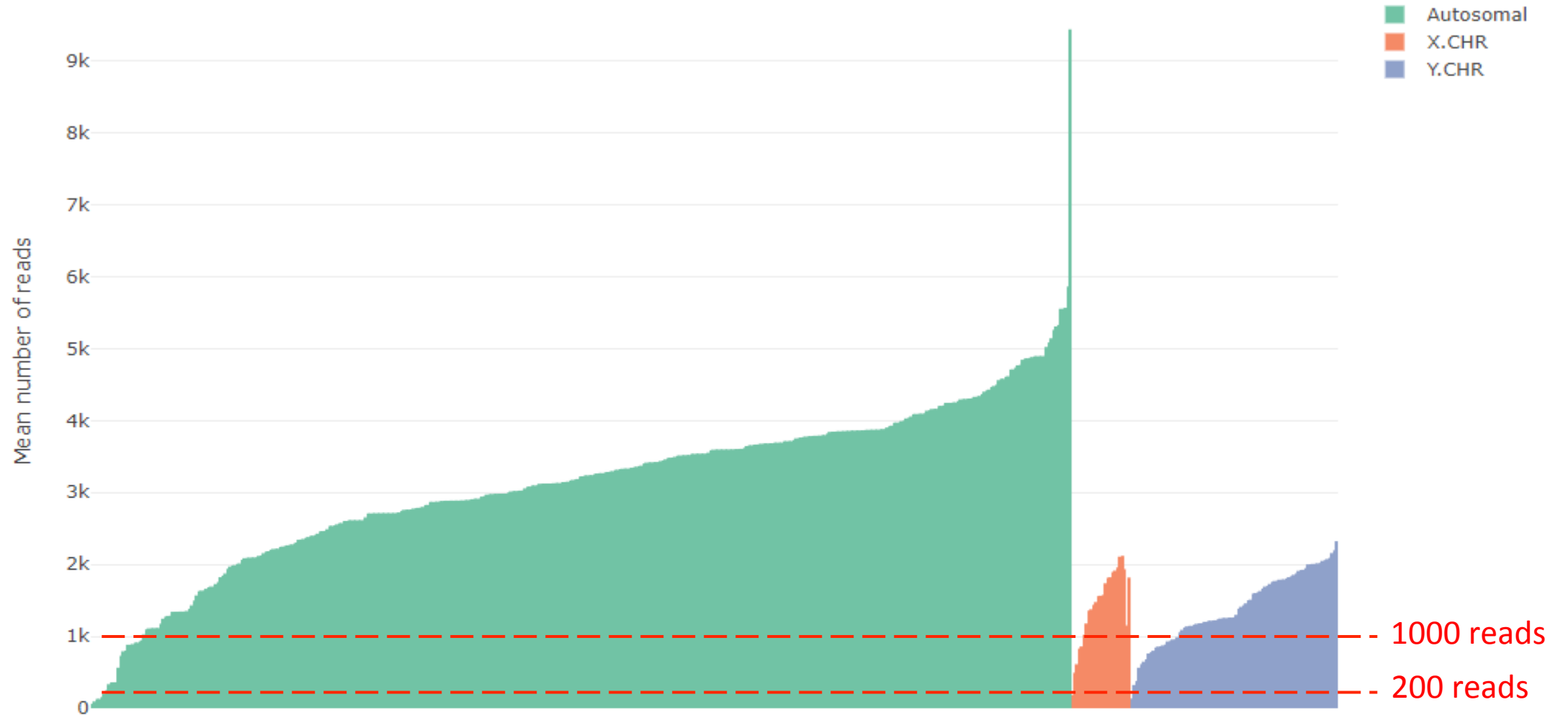
INTERNAL TESTS so far:

- ✓ reproducibility
- ✓ sensitivity
- ✓ casework „mock“ samples





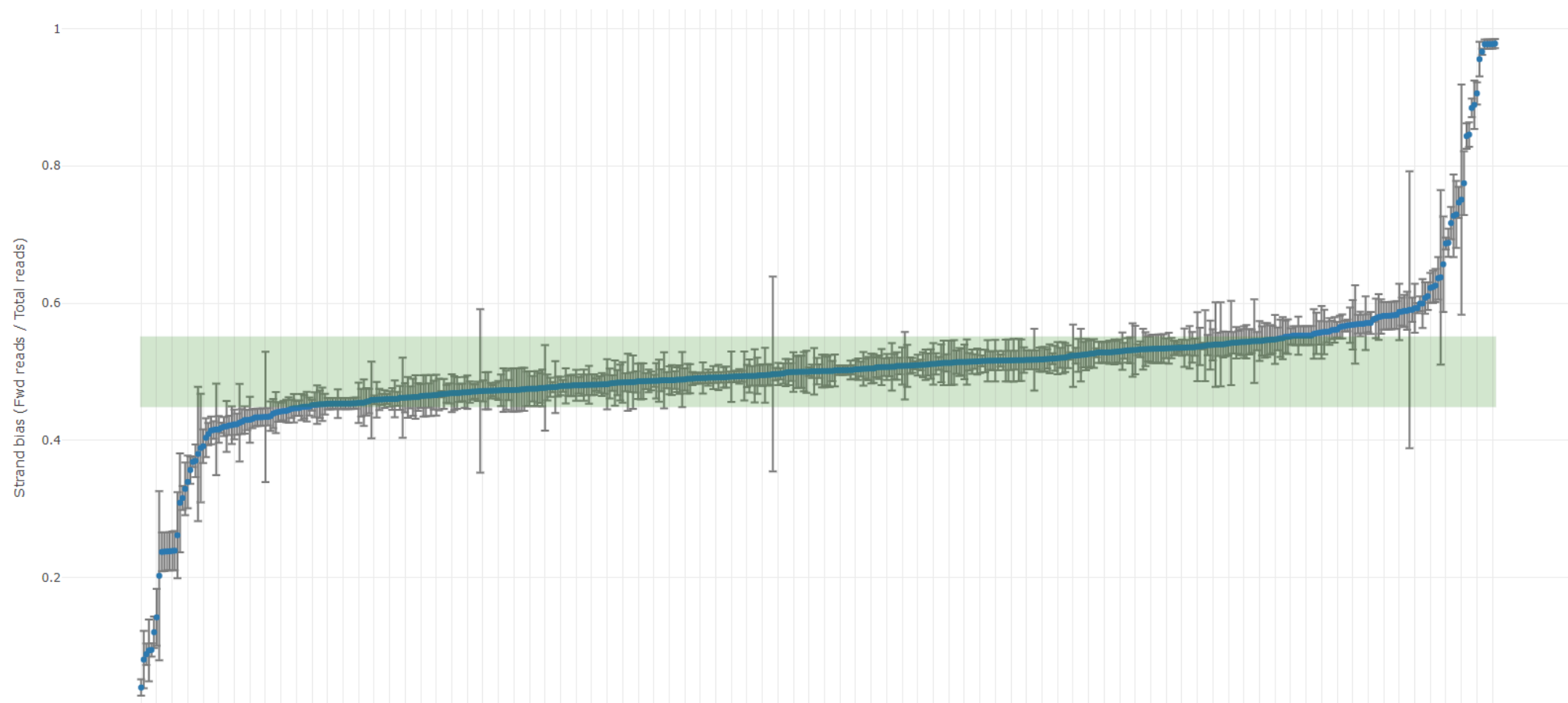
## Design and optimization ENHANCED Tools



DNA input 1 ng; 5 replicates; 16 samples/530 chip; Ion S5



## Design and optimization ENHANCED Tools



DNA input 1 ng; 5 replicates; 16 samples/530 chip; Ion S5

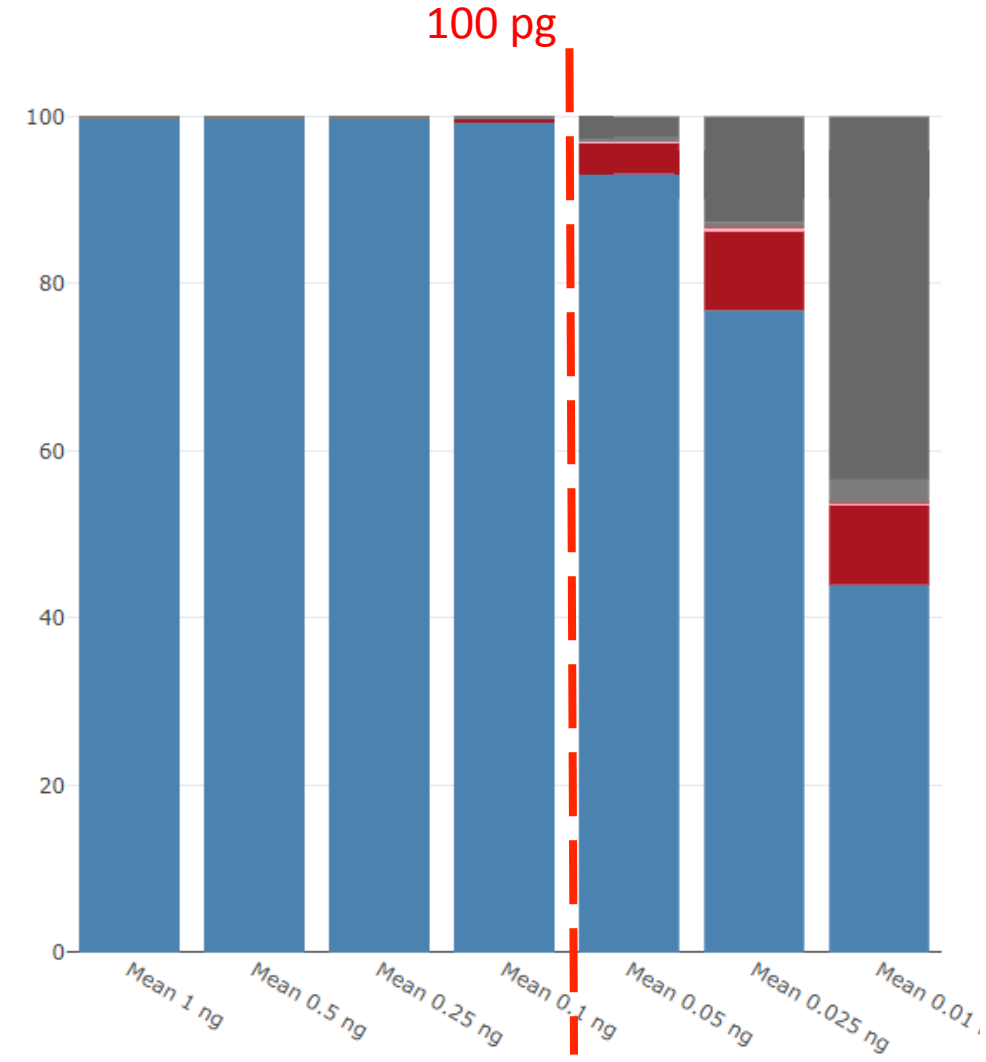
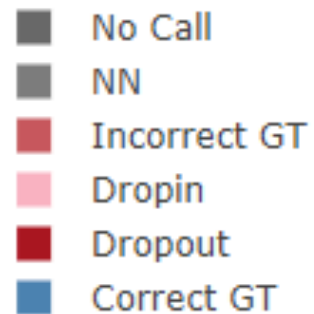


## Design and optimization ENHANCED Tools

→ 1 marker **dropout** in all reps:

✓ 100 pg – 99.43% correct GT

✓ 10 pg – 43.99 % correct GT



DNA input 1 - 0.01 ng; duplicates; 16 samples/530 chip; Ion S5



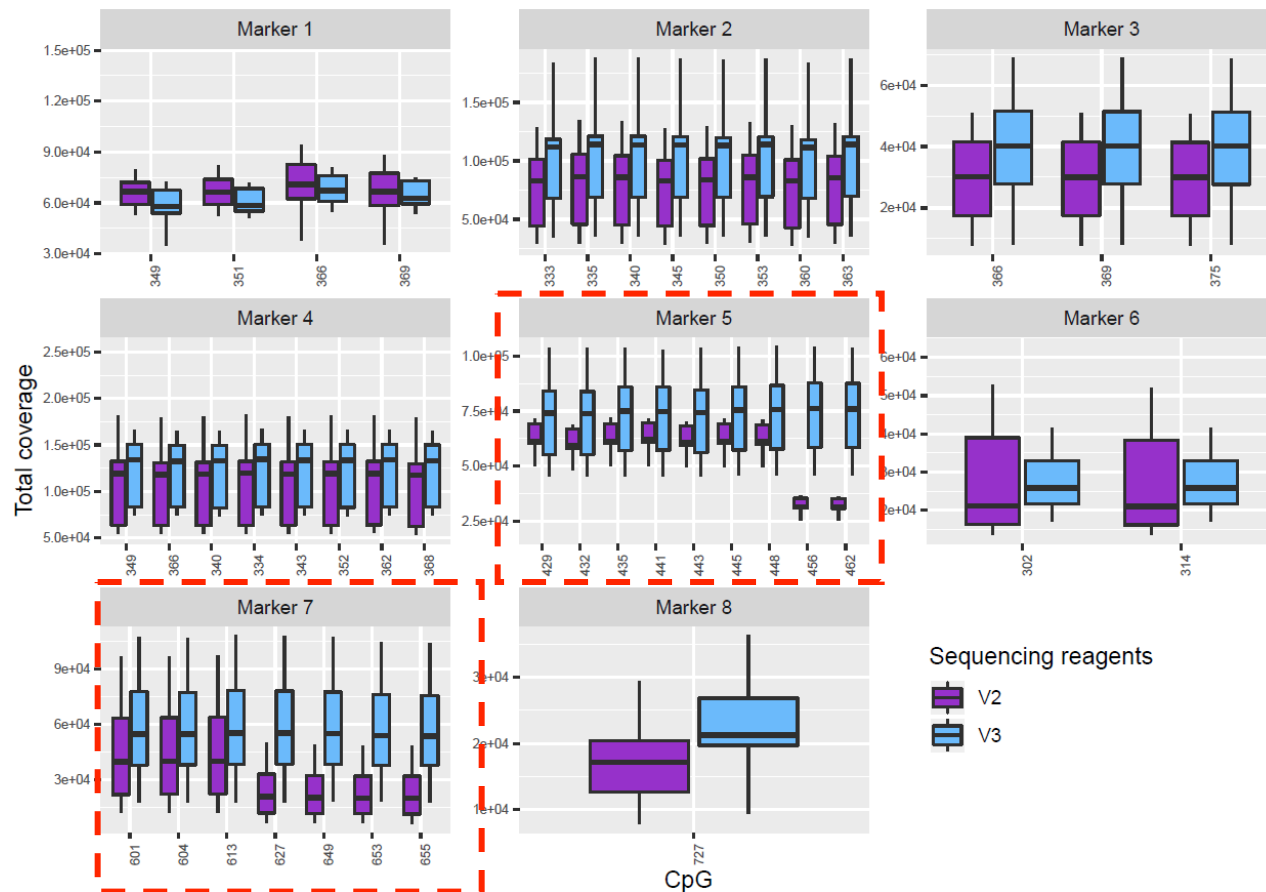


## Design and optimization ENHANCED Tools

Blood/Saliva

V2 vs. ForenSeq V3:

✓ Uniform coverage throughout amplicon



DNA input 200 ng; 24 samples/flow cell; MiSeq FGx



## Design and optimization ENHANCED Tools

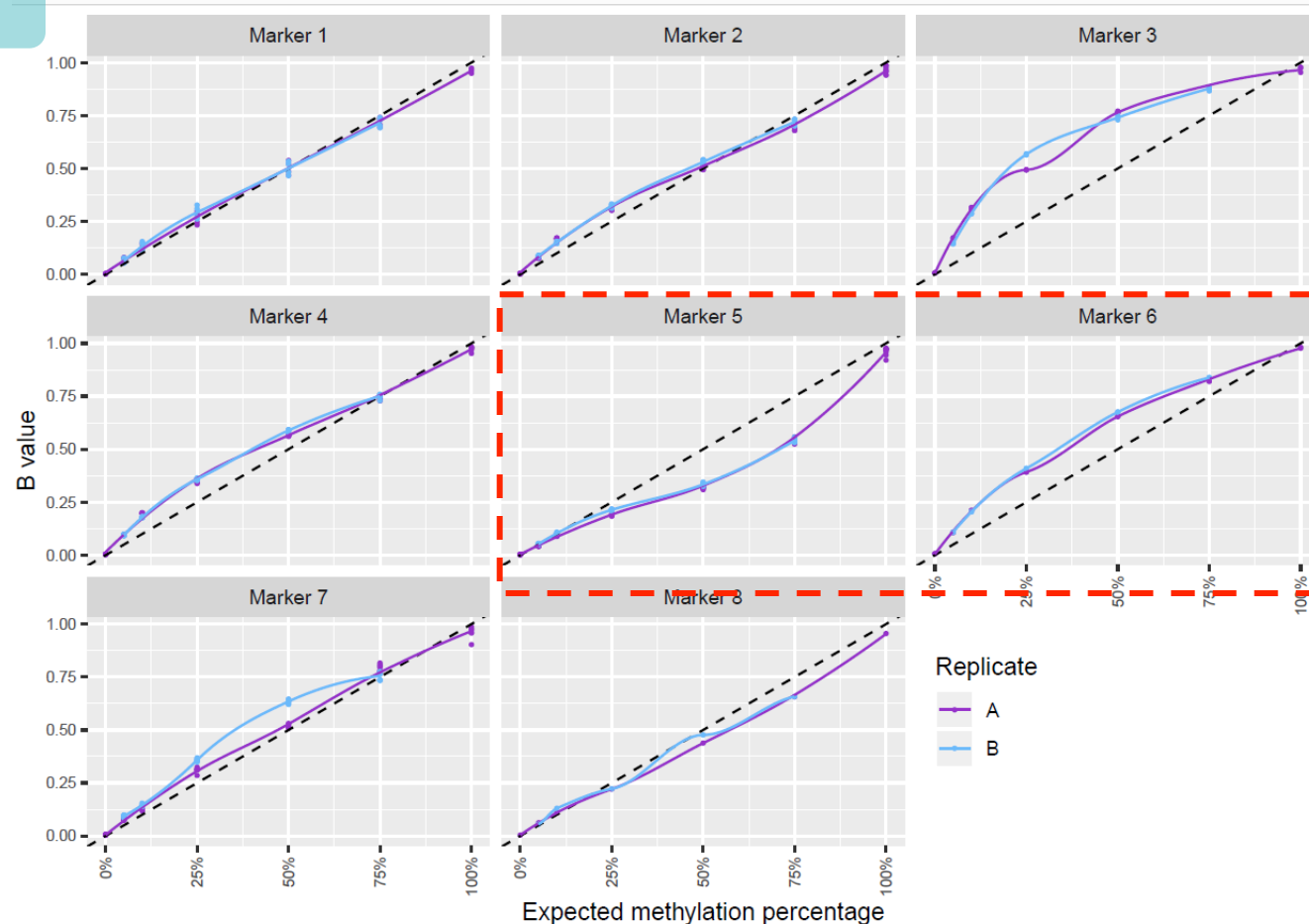
Blood/Saliva

### METH. quantitation @ optimum input:

- ✓ good performance from most markers
- ✓ 3 and 6 meth is overrepresented
- ✓ 5 is under represented.

### VALIDATION:

- ✓ more replicates
- ✓ deeper performance analysis
- ✓ modelling



DNA input 200 ng; duplicates; 24 samples/flow cell; MiSeq FGx

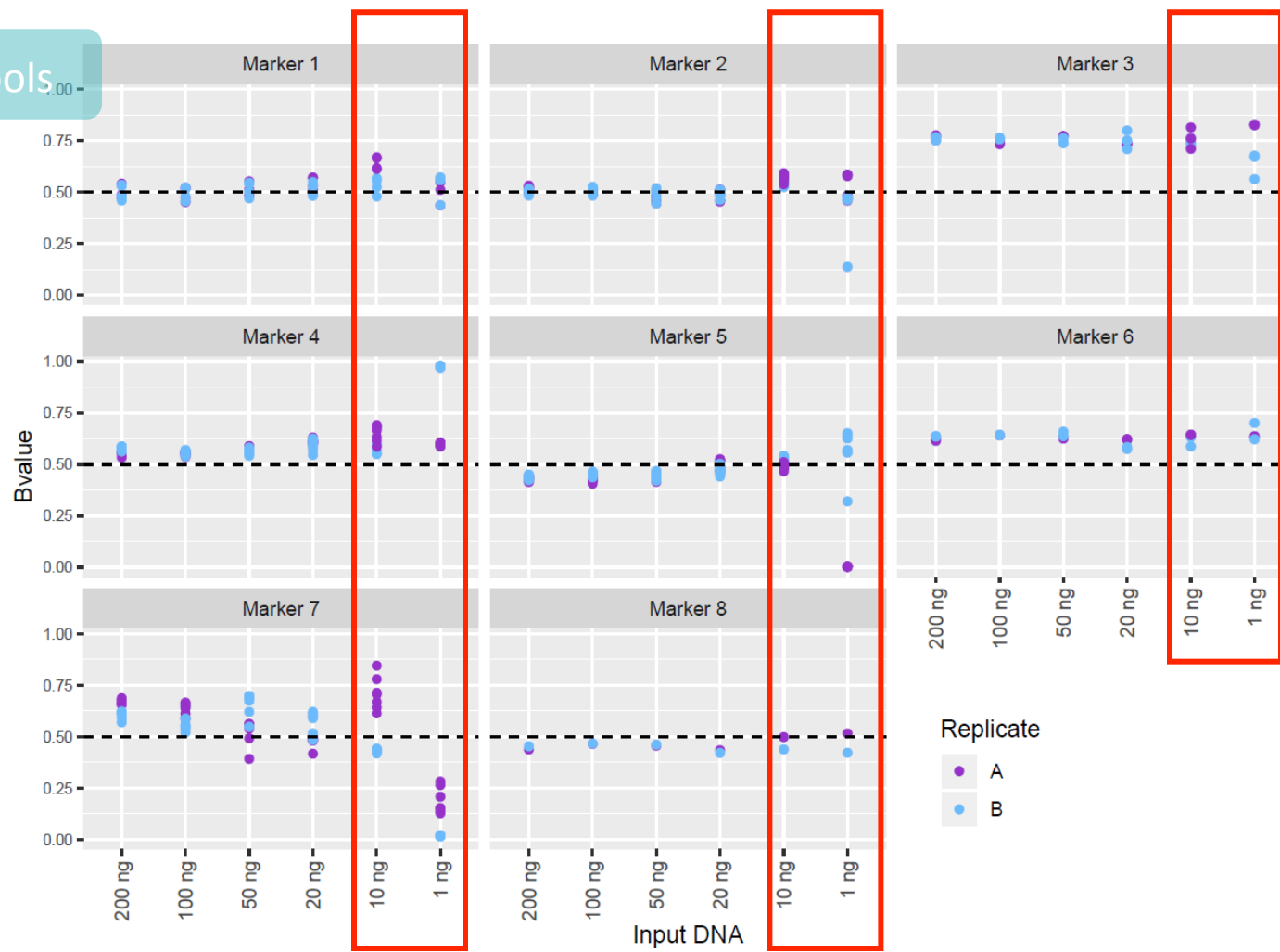


## Design and optimization ENHANCED Tools

Blood/Saliva

### METH. quantitation @ lower inputs:

- ✓ 50% only tested so far
- ✓ variation among replicates increases
  - ✓ below 20 ng



DNA input 200 - 1 ng; duplicates; 24 samples/flow cell; MiSeq FGx



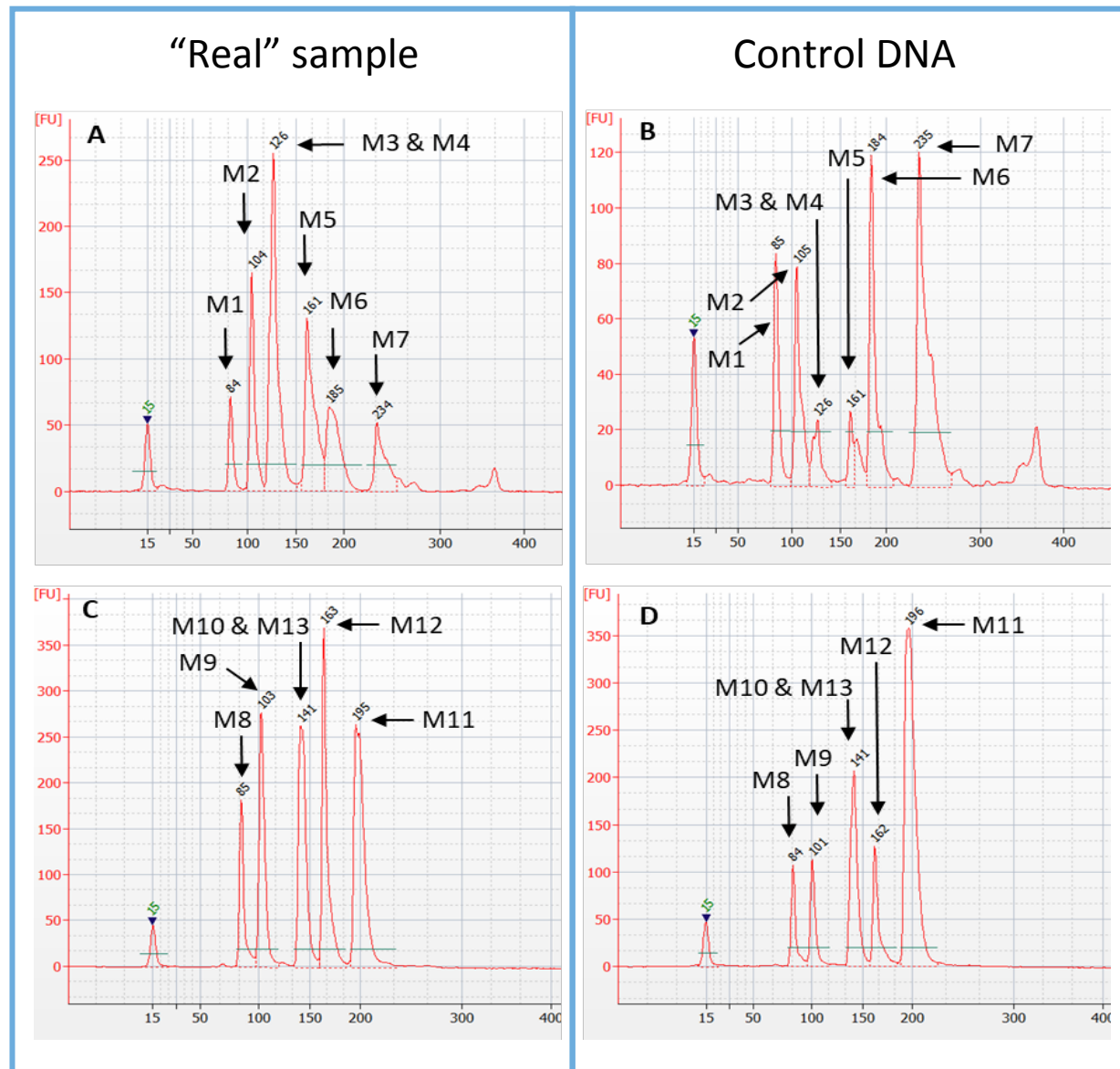
## Design and optimization ENHANCED Tools

Semen

### OPTIMIZATION:

- ✓ 2 multiplex assay
- ✓ **no extra sample needed** → use half eluate from BC for each rxn.
- ✓ assay was optimized **for real samples**

DNA input 200 ng; 24 samples/flow cell; MiSeq FGx



## Our Team

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Leire Palencia (MUI)  
Georg Ausserer Staubmann (MUI)  
Walther Parson (MUI)



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Ewelina Pośpiech (JU)  
Aleksandra Pisarek (JU)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 740580.



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Nathalie Schury  
Martina Unterländer



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Catarina Xavier<sup>1</sup>, Antonia Heidegger<sup>1</sup>, Harald Niederstätter<sup>1</sup>, Maria de la Puente<sup>1,2</sup>, The VISAGE Consortium<sup>3</sup>, Christopher Phillips<sup>2</sup>, Wojciech Branicki<sup>4</sup>, Manfred Kayser<sup>5</sup>, Walther Parson<sup>1,6</sup>

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