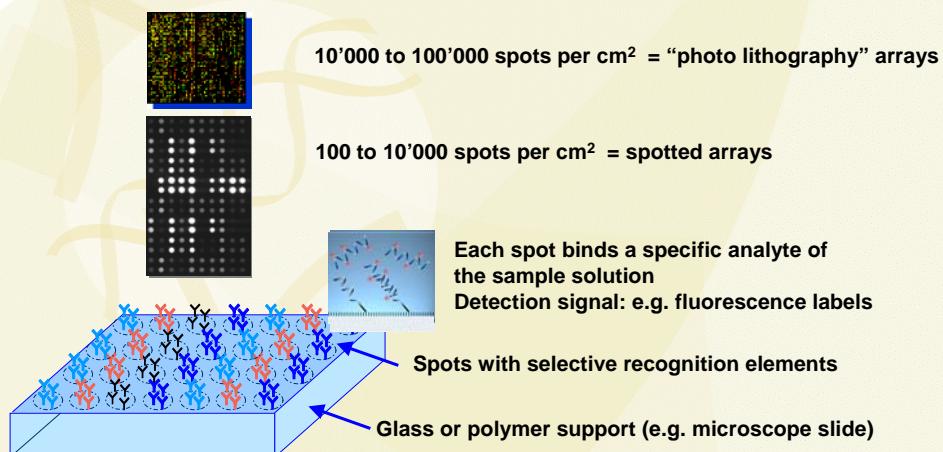


## Planar Waveguides: How Nano Layers Enable to Detect Zepto Moles of Macro Molecules in Pico Liter Spots on Micro Arrays

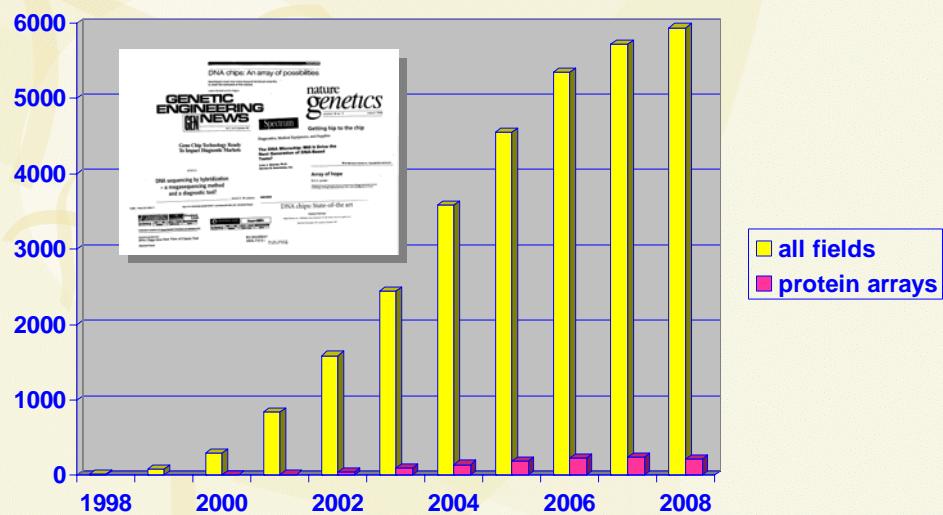
Dr. Markus Ehrat  
Zeptosens – A Division of Bayer Schweiz AG

Workshop Photonic Sensors  
September 17, 2009

## What are Biochemical Microarrays?



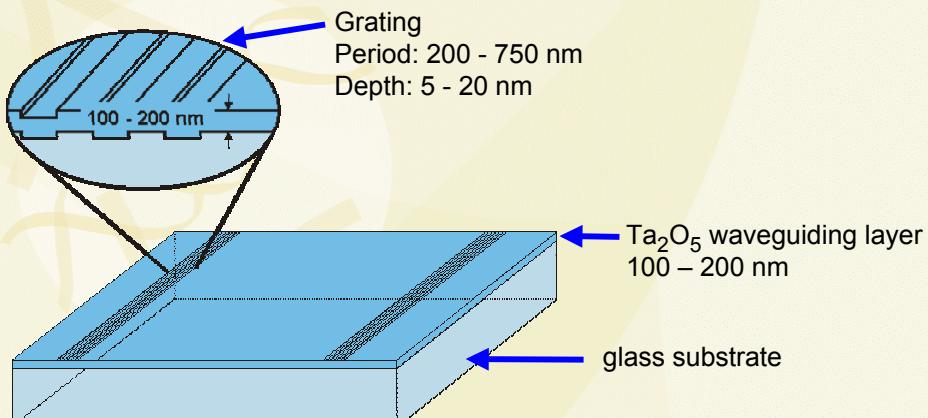
### Entries in PubMed Database, Search Term „Microarray“



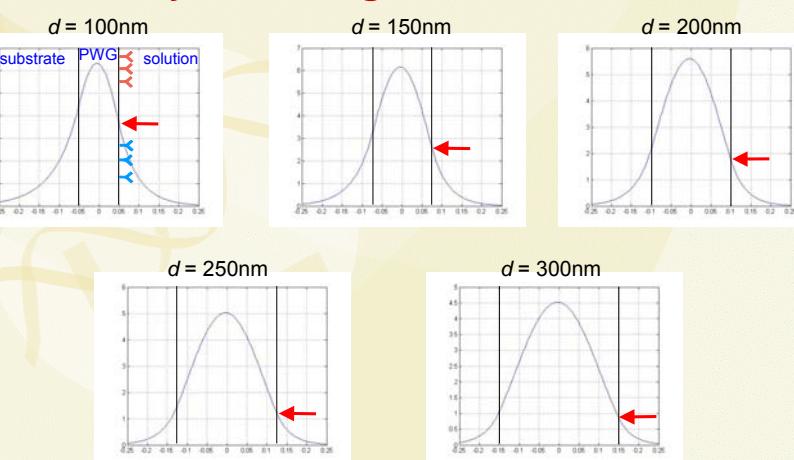
**Microarrays -  
Small detection areas  
Nanoliters of sample volumes:**

**Require high detection sensitivity**

## Thin Film Planar Waveguide (PWG) Chip Design



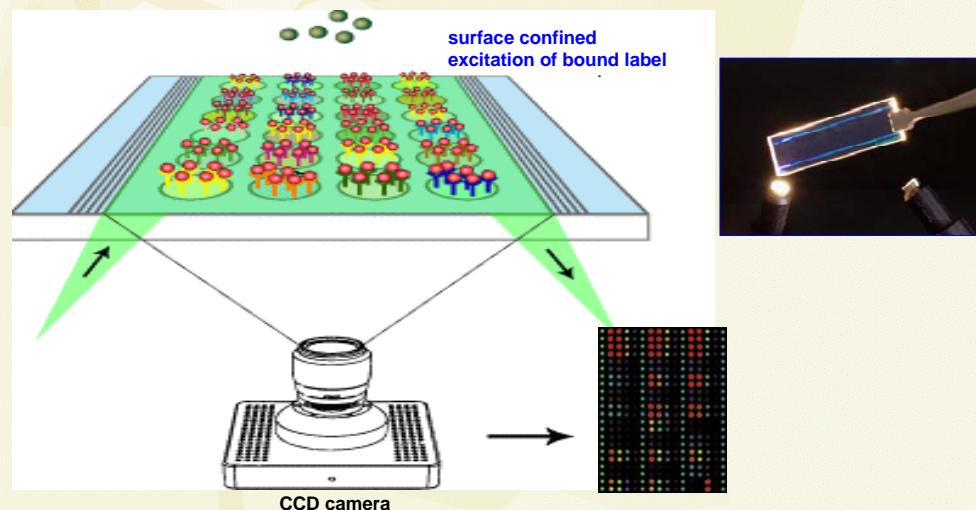
## Light Intensity vs. Waveguide Thickness



Parameters:

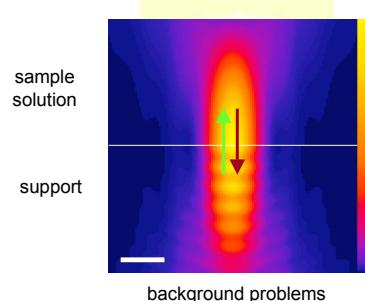
$$n_{\text{sub}} = 1.52, n_{\text{sup}} = 1.335, n_{\text{PWG}} = 2.15, m = 0, \lambda = 635\text{nm}$$

## Planar Waveguide Principle - High Sensitivity Fluorescence Microarray Detection

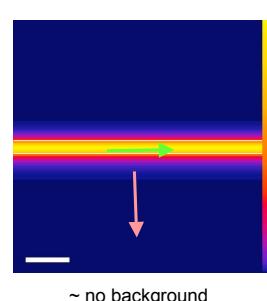


## Advantages of Fluorescence Excitation on PWG

### Conventional excitation



### ZeptoREADER™ - Evanescence excitation



Confocal excitation:  
Focus depth ~ 2µm

Evanescence excitation:  
Depth ~ 100nm

- Separation of excitation and detection directions
- Ultimate sensitivity
- Fast time to result
- Less sample preparation
- Direct measurement in blood or serum

## ZeptoREADER - Current “PWG Inside” Product



96-well plate format based system

- 32 samples per array (Reverse Protein Array format)
- Extended walk-away time using 360 array autoloader
- 120'000 data points in 6 hrs

## ZeptoREADER Setup

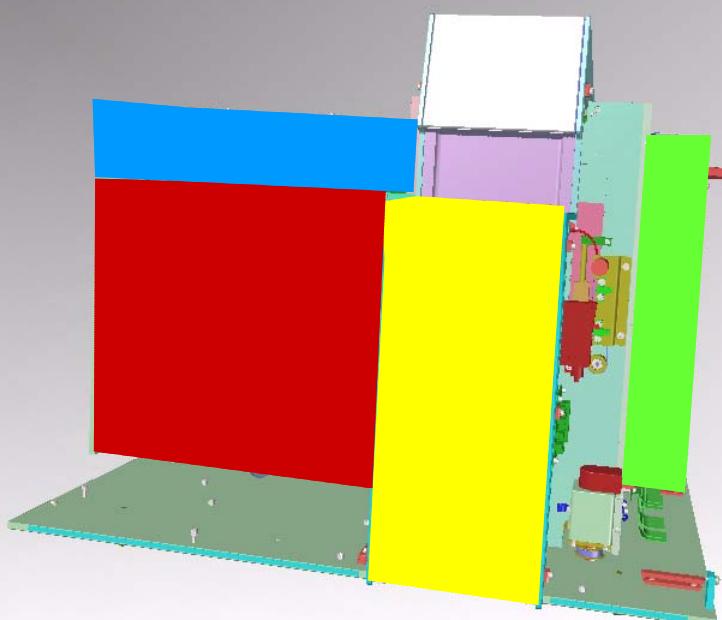
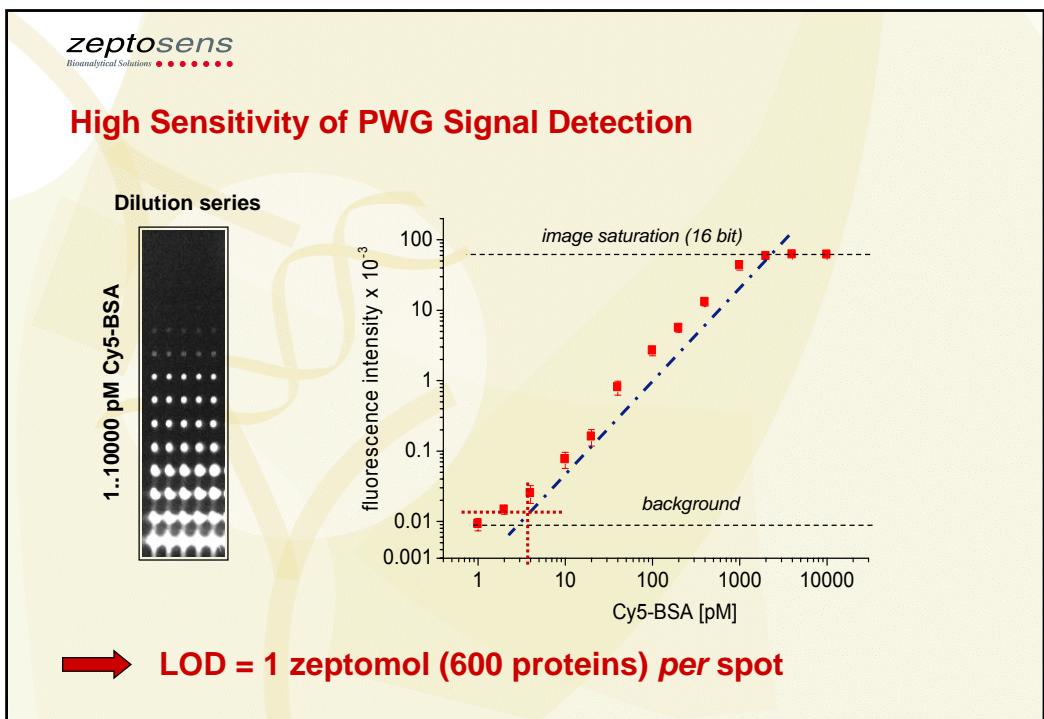
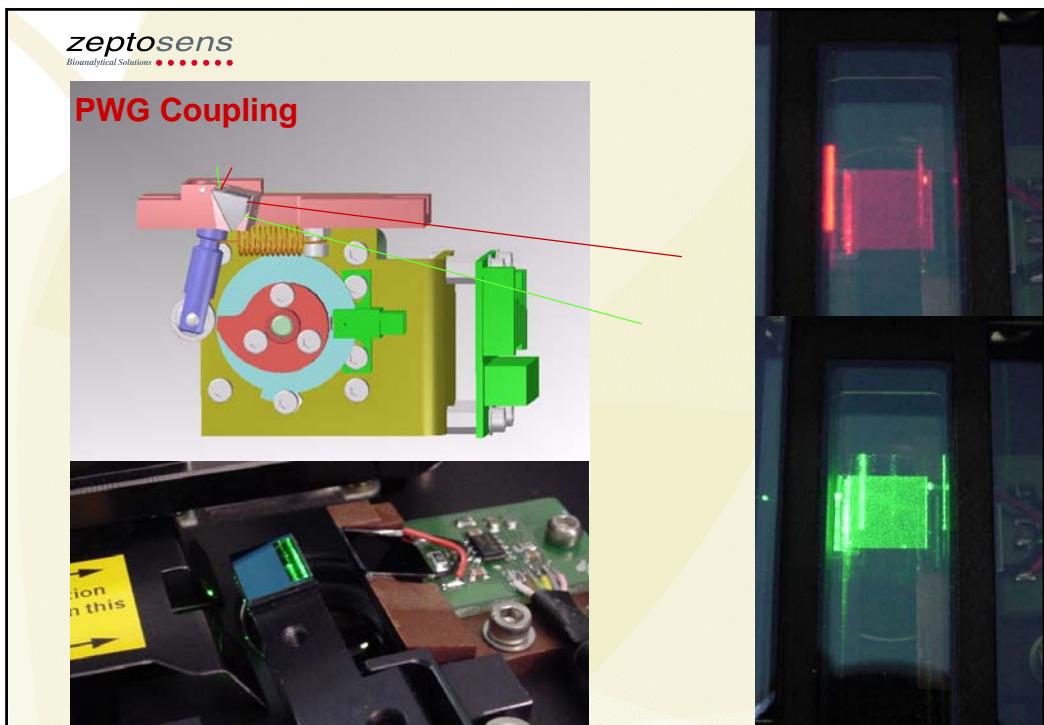


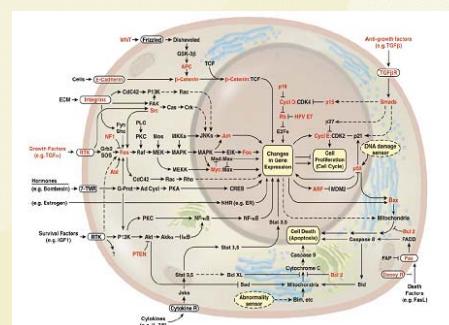
Plate Storage  
Electronics  
Optics  
Measurement  
Chamber



## Why is it important to capture the action of a pharmaceutical compound in a cell?

## Diseases as a Consequence of Malfunctioning Pathways

- About 350 genes repeatedly encountered in mutant forms in cancer
- Mutations impact cellular signaling pathways
- Malfunctioning pathways cause diseases



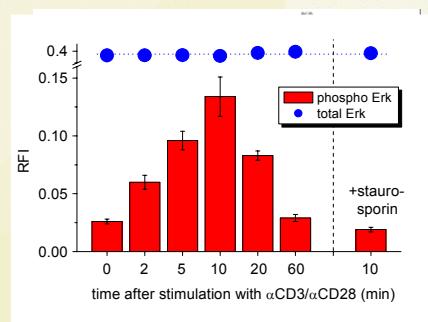
From D. Hanahan and R. A. Weinberg Cell (2000), 100, 57–70.

- ➔ Cure disease by influencing pathway activities
- ➔ Select compounds based on pathway activity profiles

## Multidimensional Pathways Require Multidimensional Assays

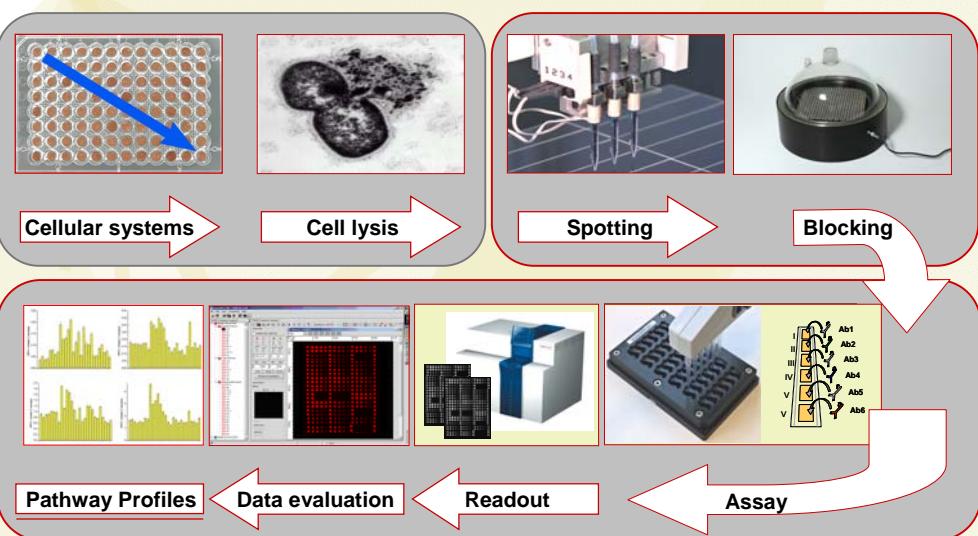
Signaling pathways are multi-dimensional

- Pathway branching
- Pathway crosstalk
- Feedback loops
- Activations occur in minutes
- Expression changes occur in days

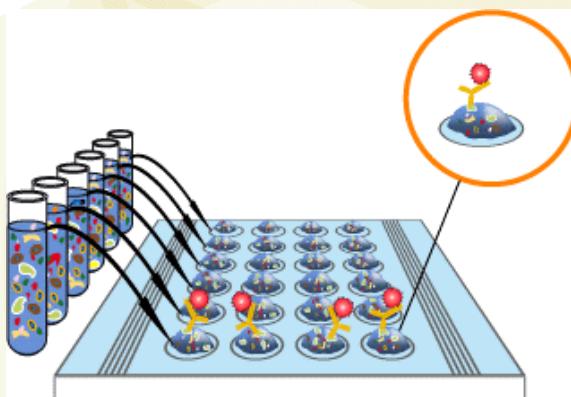


- Extensive mapping of pathway markers at different time points
- An array-based solution provides the scalability and throughput

## ZeptoMARK Reverse Arrays – From Cells to Protein Profiles



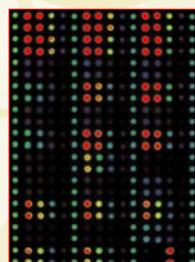
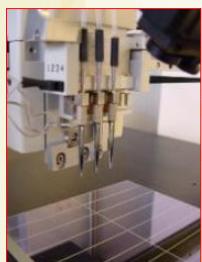
## Reverse Protein Microarrays



### Array of samples

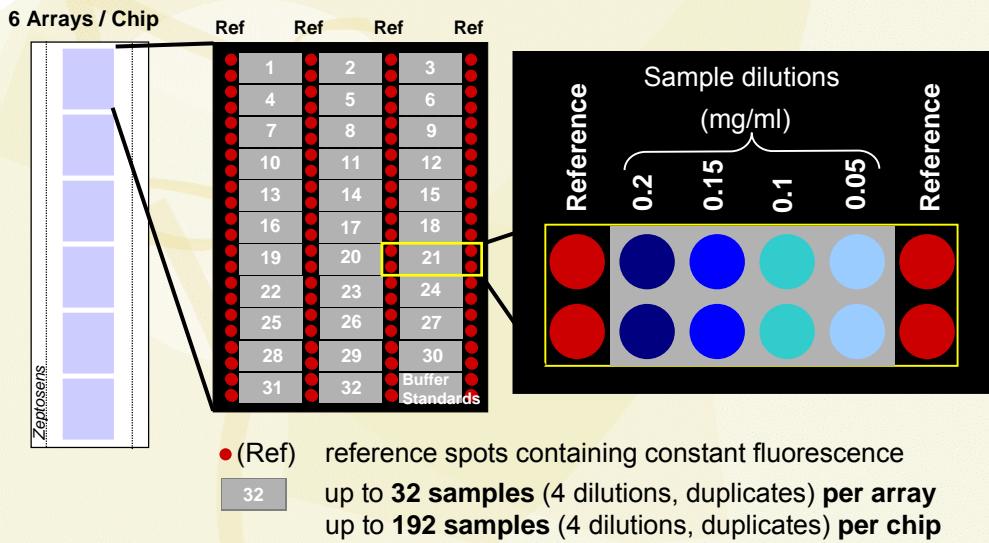
- Samples are denatured
- Sample volume 400 pL
- Sample concentration is ~ 0.2 mg/ml
- Spot = ~1 cell (protein content)
- Specific detection with target-specific antibodies

## Spotting: Reproducibility & Quality

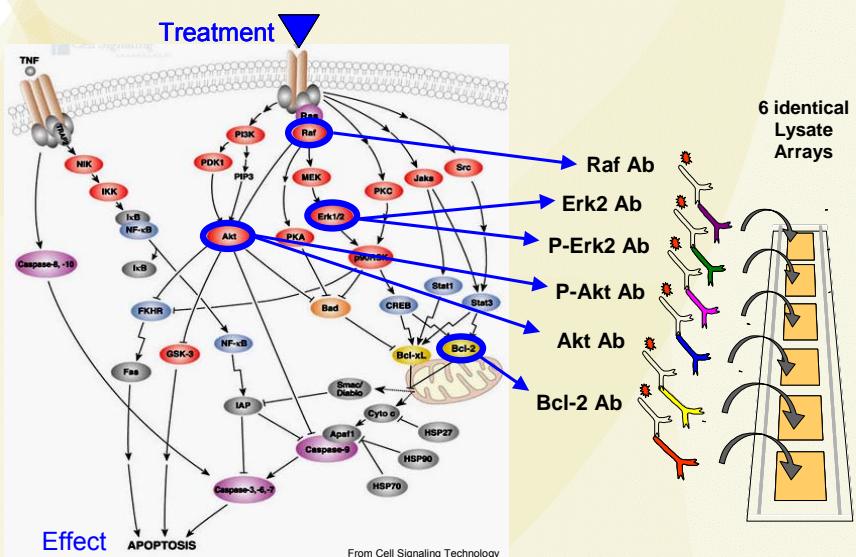


- 400pL sample volume
- Non-contact ink-jet spotting technology
- Up to 256 lysates/array or 1536 lysates/chip
- Reproducibilities of mean spot signals: CV's ≤ 2%

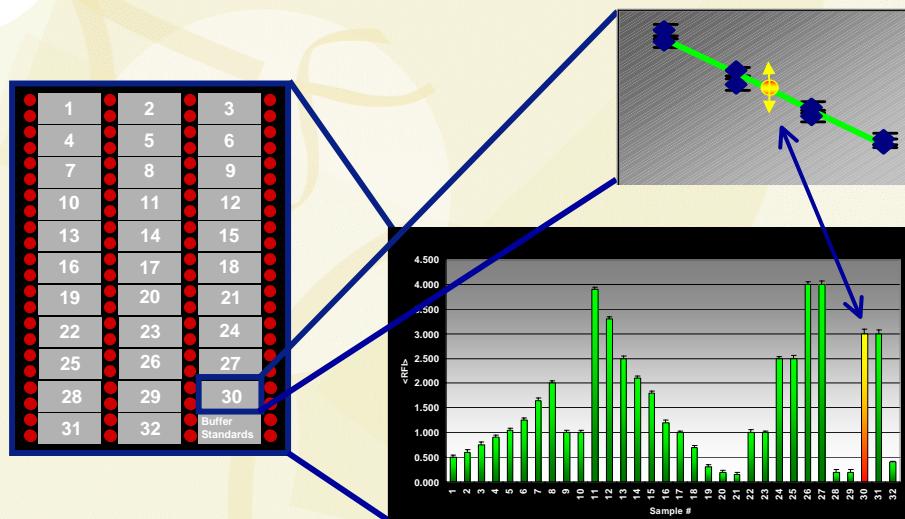
## Chip and Array Layout



## Highly Parallel Monitoring of Signaling Events



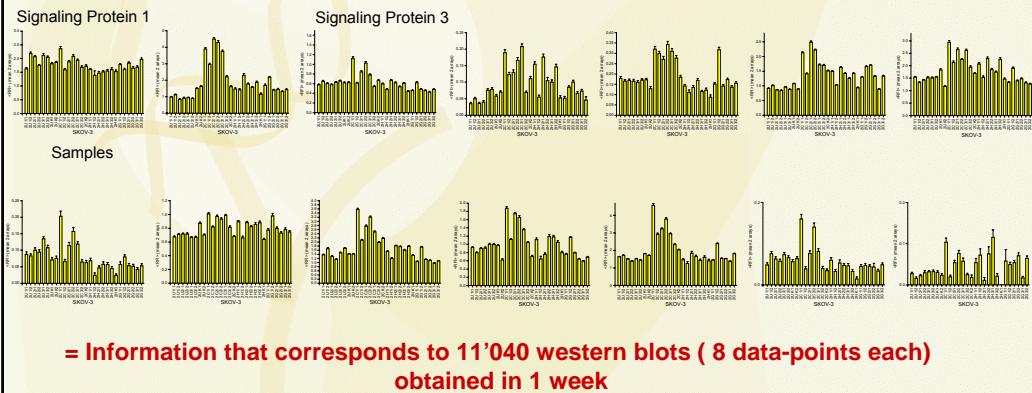
### Reliable Data from the on-Array Dose Response Profile



### Investigation of compound MODE OF ACTION

## Pathway Screen – Detect Compound MOA

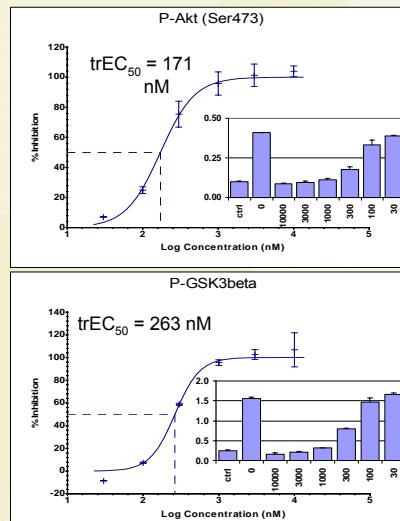
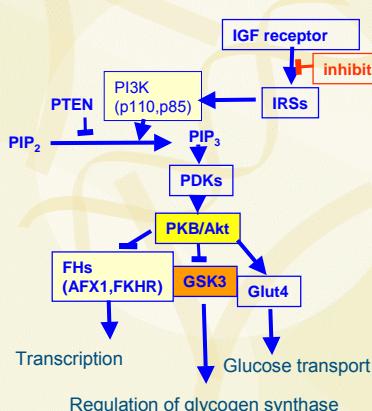
- Effect of 6 drugs at 3 to 5 concentrations on
- 60 signaling pathway markers tested in
- 7 different cell lines



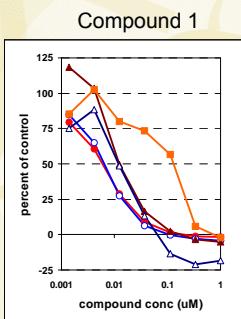
**Selection of most effective and selective compounds**

## Compound Selection based on Pathway Profiles

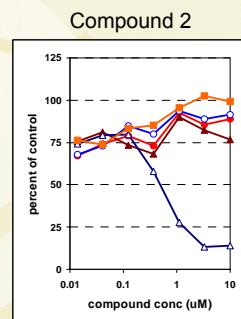
"trEC<sub>50</sub>" (transduced EC50) curves of an IGFR inhibitor at different pathway nodes



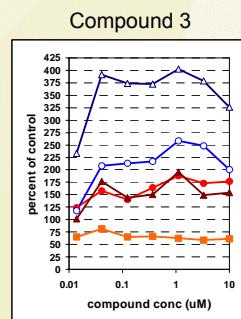
## Identification of Leads Based on Pathway Selectivity



Broad Spectrum Inhibitor



Specific Inhibitor



Activator instead of Inhibitor

## Summary Reverse Protein Array Technology

- ⇒ Robust and well-established process
- ⇒ Time course of stimulants on activation and expression of pathway proteins
- ⇒ Flexible application: free selection of protein profiling targets
- ⇒ Straight forward assay development
- ⇒ Economic technology
  - minimal amount of samples and antibodies (<1µL for 2 arrays) needed
  - short time to result: information corresponding to 100'000 Western blot lanes within 3 weeks
- ⇒ Sensitive
- ⇒ Results corroborated by well established technologies as e.g. WB, ELISA

## Why Higher Sensitivity is Required to Detect Markers in Blood

	PSA	Interleukin 10
Molecular weight	33'000 Dalton	18'000 Dalton
LOD of diagnostic test	1 ng/mL 30 pMolar	0.6 pg/mL 33 fMolar
Molecules per mL	$1.8 \times 10^{10}$	$2.0 \times 10^7$
Molecules per nL	18'000	20
Molecules per pL	18	0.02

ZeptoMARK - The Powerful Reconnaissance Platform for  
Complex Signaling Pathway Elucidation

