

# Detection of residual prions from decontaminated medical and laboratory surfaces

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# Iatrogenic & occupational prion transmission

## Iatrogenic transmission

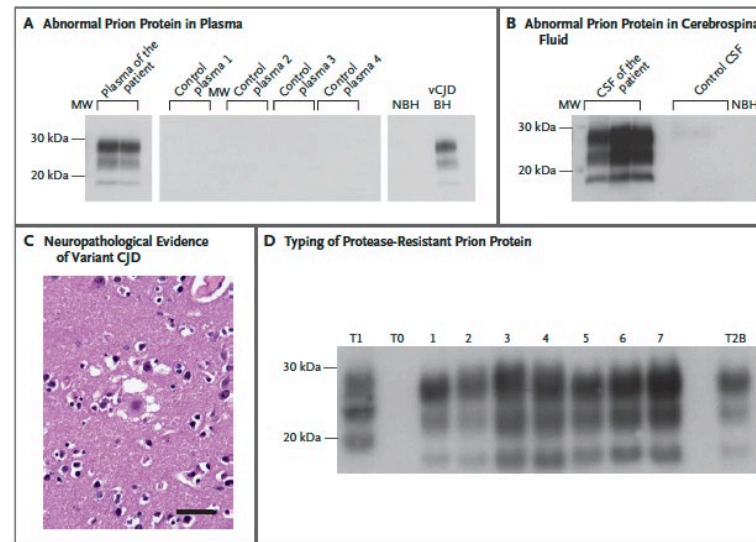
- Dura matter
- Human growth hormone
- Blood
- Surgical tools
- EEG electrodes

## Occupational transmission

- Stainless steel forceps
- Puncture wound

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

## Variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob Disease Diagnosed 7.5 Years after Occupational Exposure



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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## France halts prion research amid safety concerns

# Iatrogenic & occupational prion transmission

## Detection of surface bound prions

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages
Bioassay	Can detect wide variety of prions affecting multiple species with transgenic animals	Duration, cost
SSCA	Short duration	Limited strain recognition

- Prion contamination and decontamination of BH or stainless-steel wires assessed by either bioassay or Standard Scrapie Cell Assay (SSCA)
- Lack of amenability to surface surveillance.



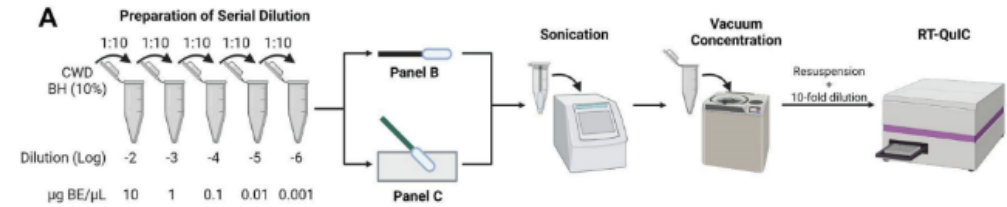
# Prion swabbing methodology



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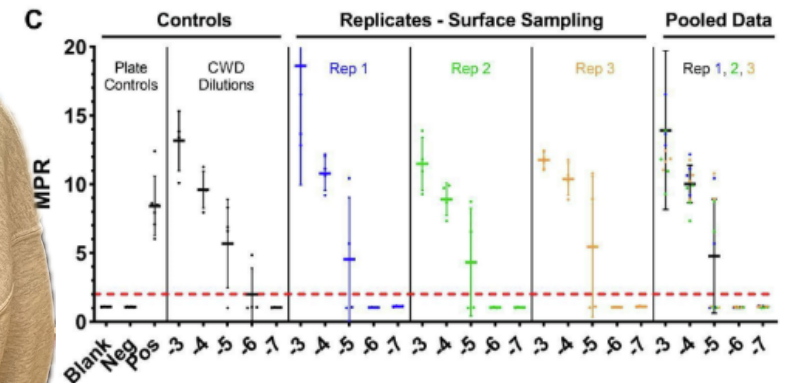
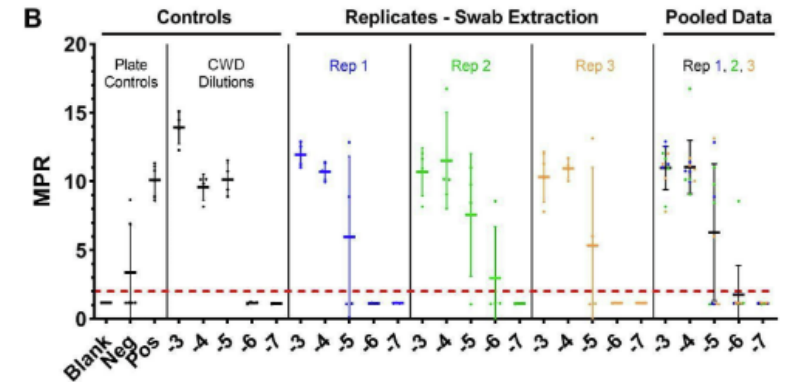


Full length article

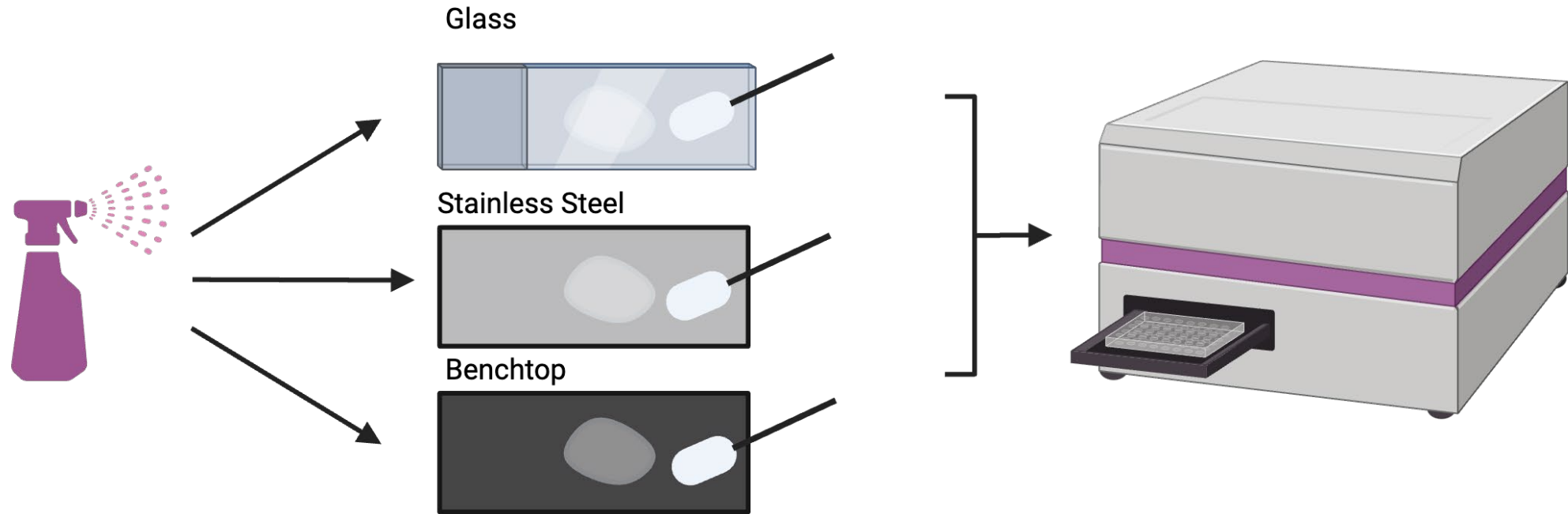
Sensitive detection of chronic wasting disease prions recovered from environmentally relevant surfaces

Qi Yuan<sup>a</sup>, Gage Rowden<sup>b</sup>, Tiffany M. Wolf<sup>c</sup>, Marc D. Schwabenlander<sup>b</sup>, Peter A. Larsen<sup>b</sup>, Shannon L. Bartelt-Hunt<sup>d</sup>, Jason C. Bartz<sup>a,\*</sup>

- Similar recovery for swab extracts obtained from CWD contaminated surfaces, contaminated swabs and CWD added directly to RT-QuIC plates.



# Project overview



## Disinfectants:

- Water
- 70% Ethanol
- Undiluted bleach

## Surfaces:

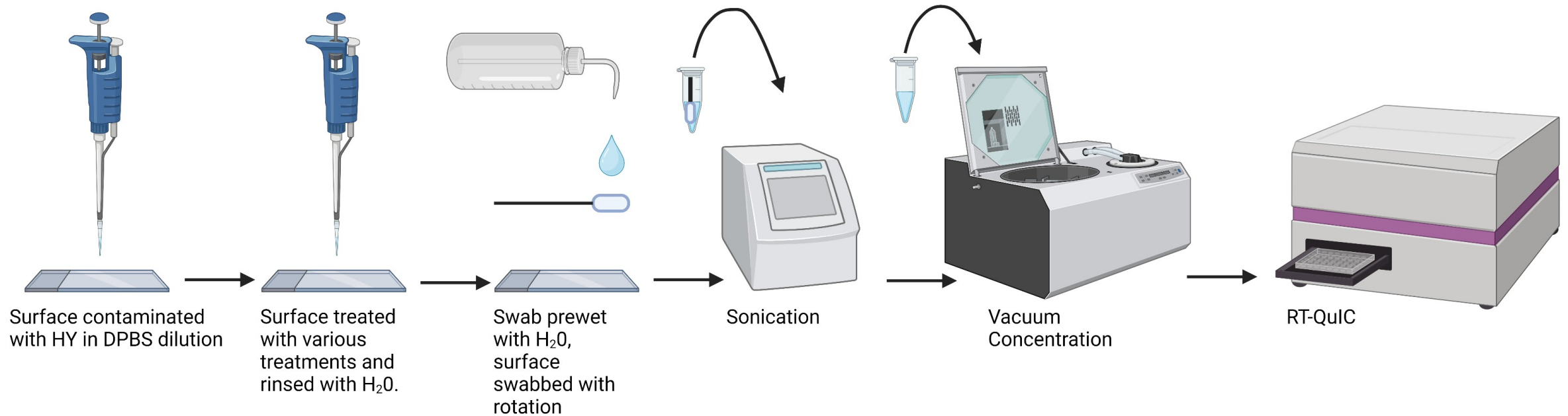
- Glass
- Stainless steel
- Benchtop

## Evaluation:

- Surface swabbing
- RT-QuIC
- Animal bioassay

# Project overview

## Methodology

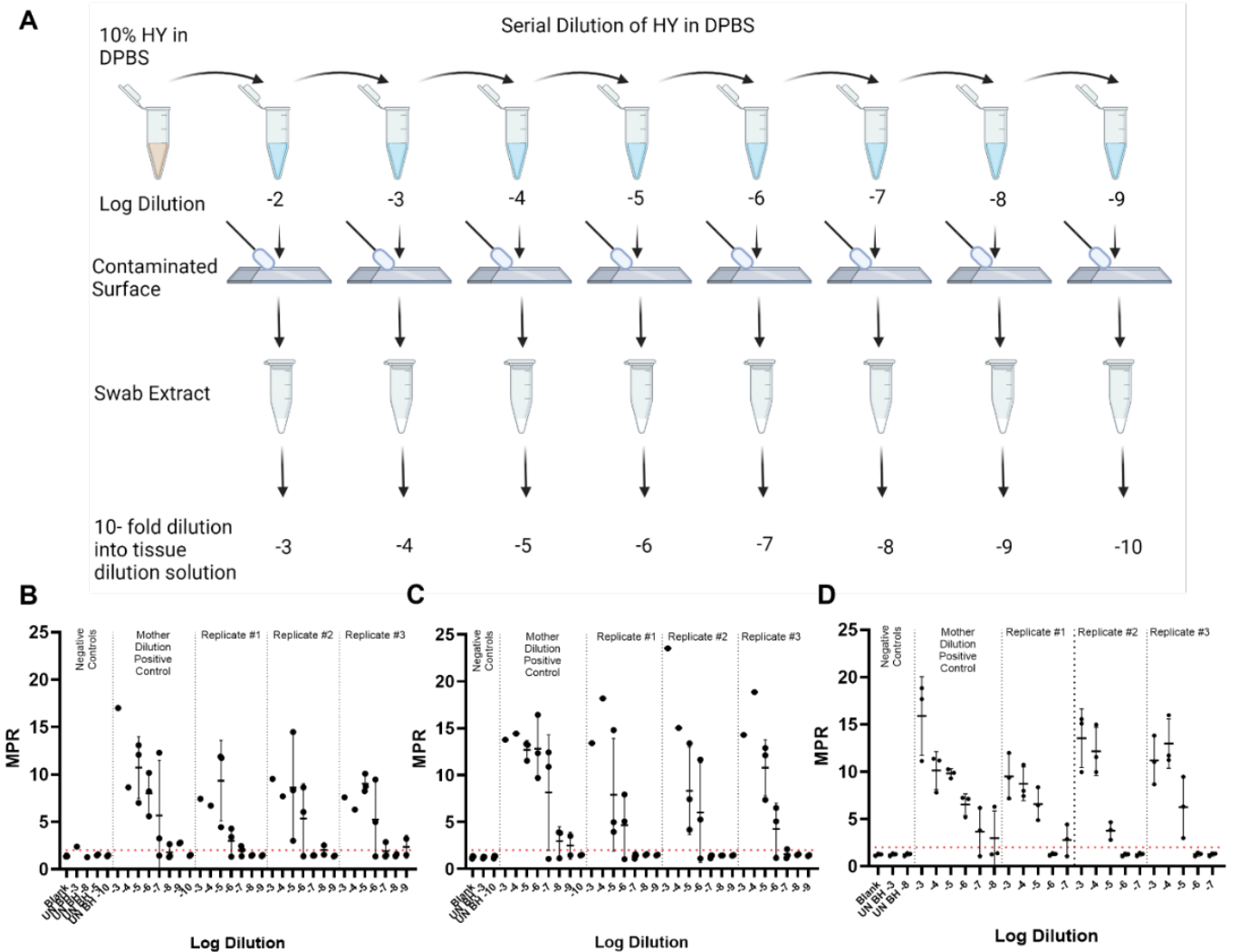


- Studies performed on HY TME
- Greater than three biological and 8 technical replicates
- RT-QuIC seeding titer ( $SD_{50}$ ) was calculated by method of Reed and Muench

# Effective swabbing recovery of prions applied to laboratory surfaces.

Sensitive detection of PrP<sup>Sc</sup> from:

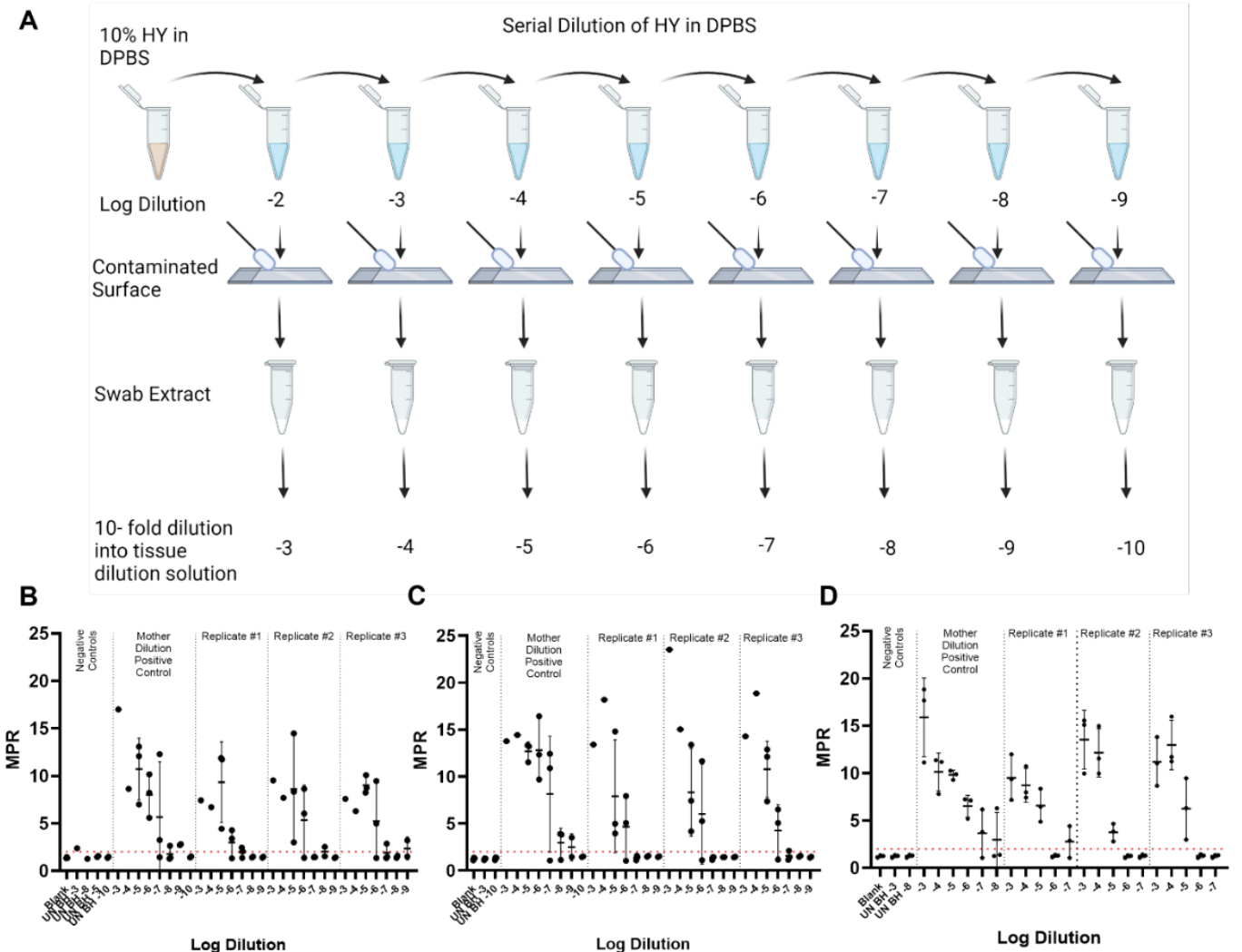
- Glass
- Stainless steel
- Laboratory benchtop



# Effective swabbing recovery of prions applied to laboratory surfaces.

Sensitive detection of PrP<sup>Sc</sup> from:

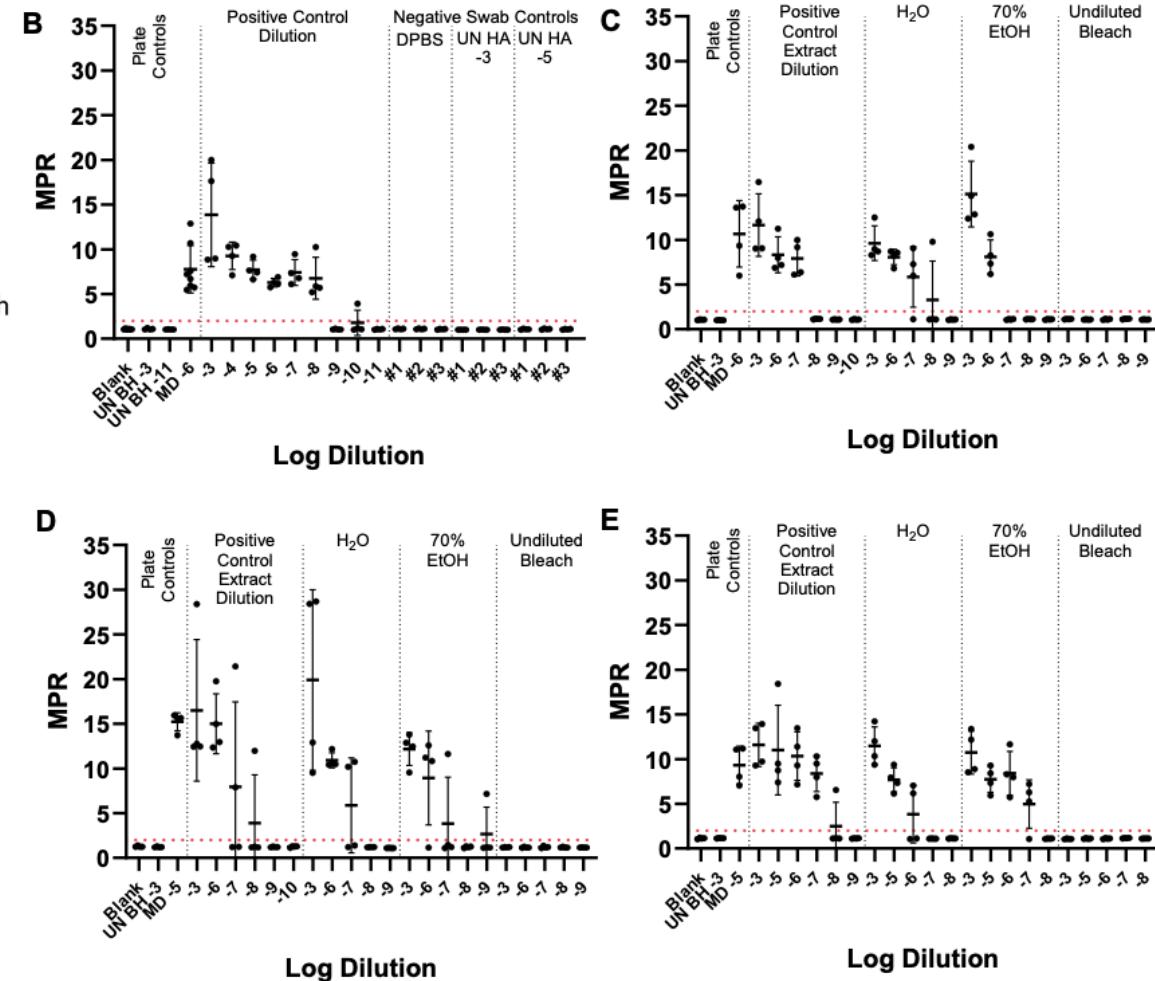
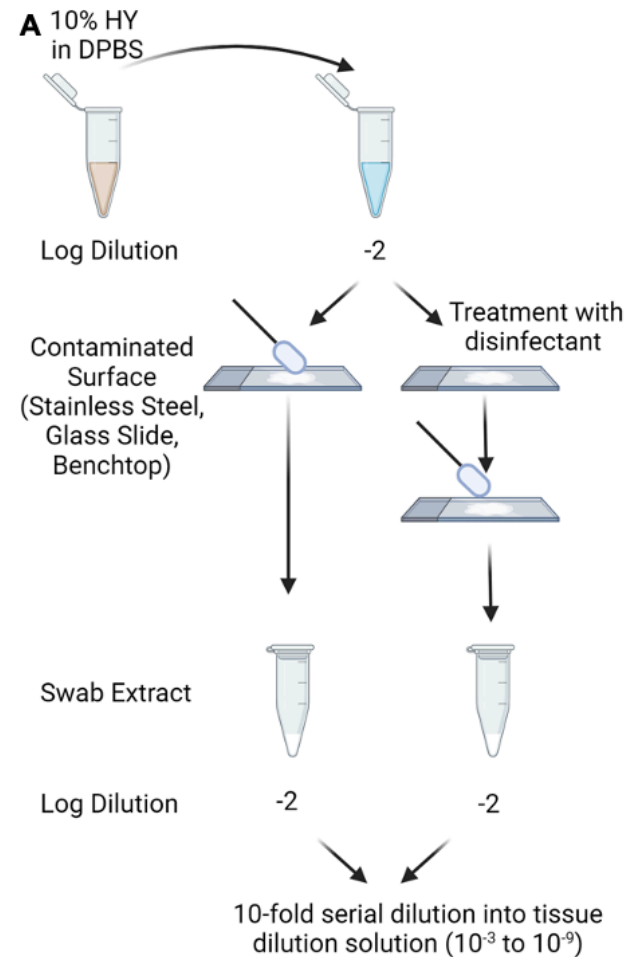
- Glass
- Stainless steel
- Laboratory benchtop
- **Disinfection of surface**
  - Water (negative control)
  - 70% EtOH
  - Bleach (positive control)





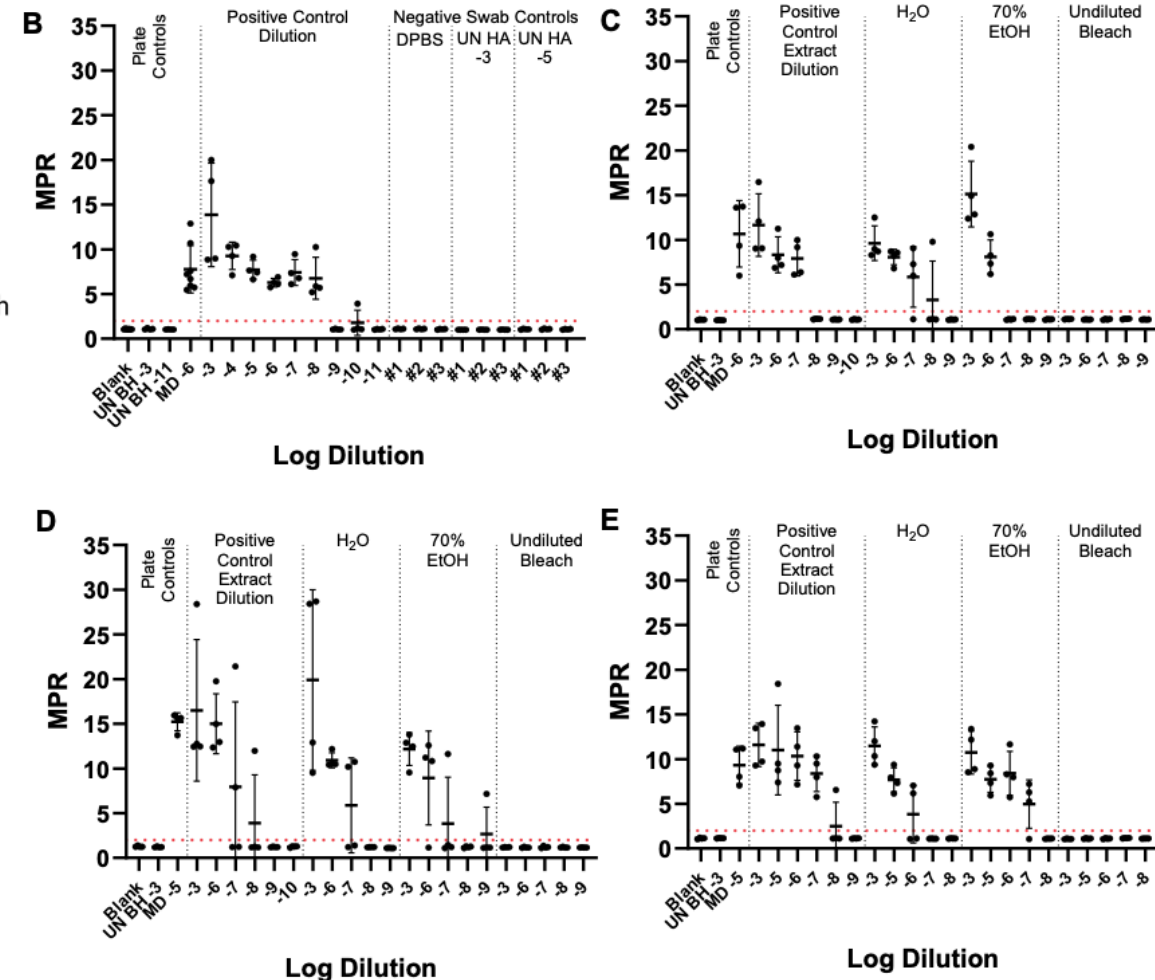
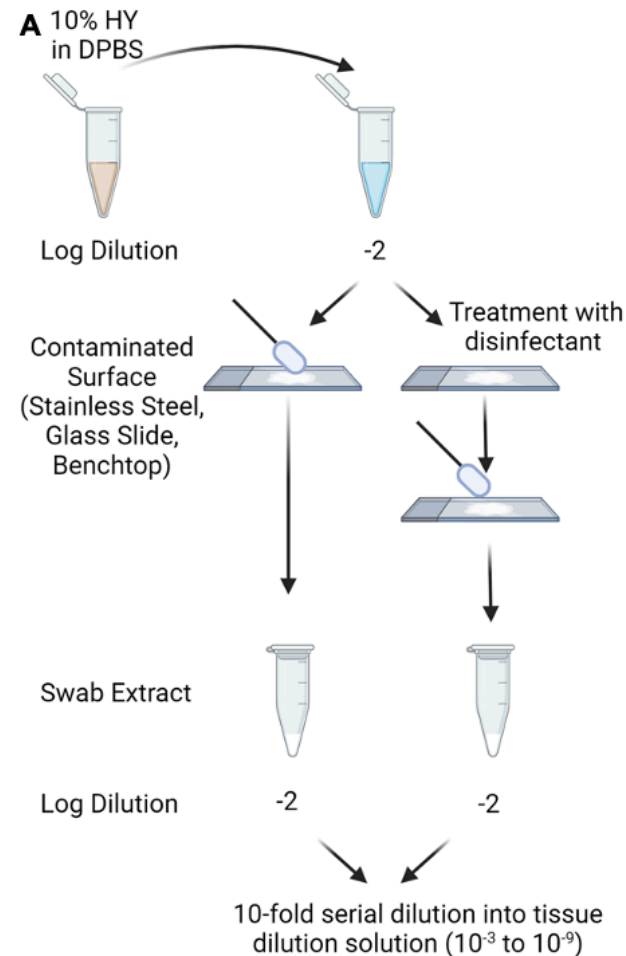
# Bleach is an effective disinfectant laboratory surfaces, while 70% EtOH and H<sub>2</sub>O are ineffective

- Disinfection of surface
  - Water (negative control)
    - No effect
  - 70% EtOH
    - No effect
  - Bleach
    - Complete elimination of RT-QuIC seeding activity



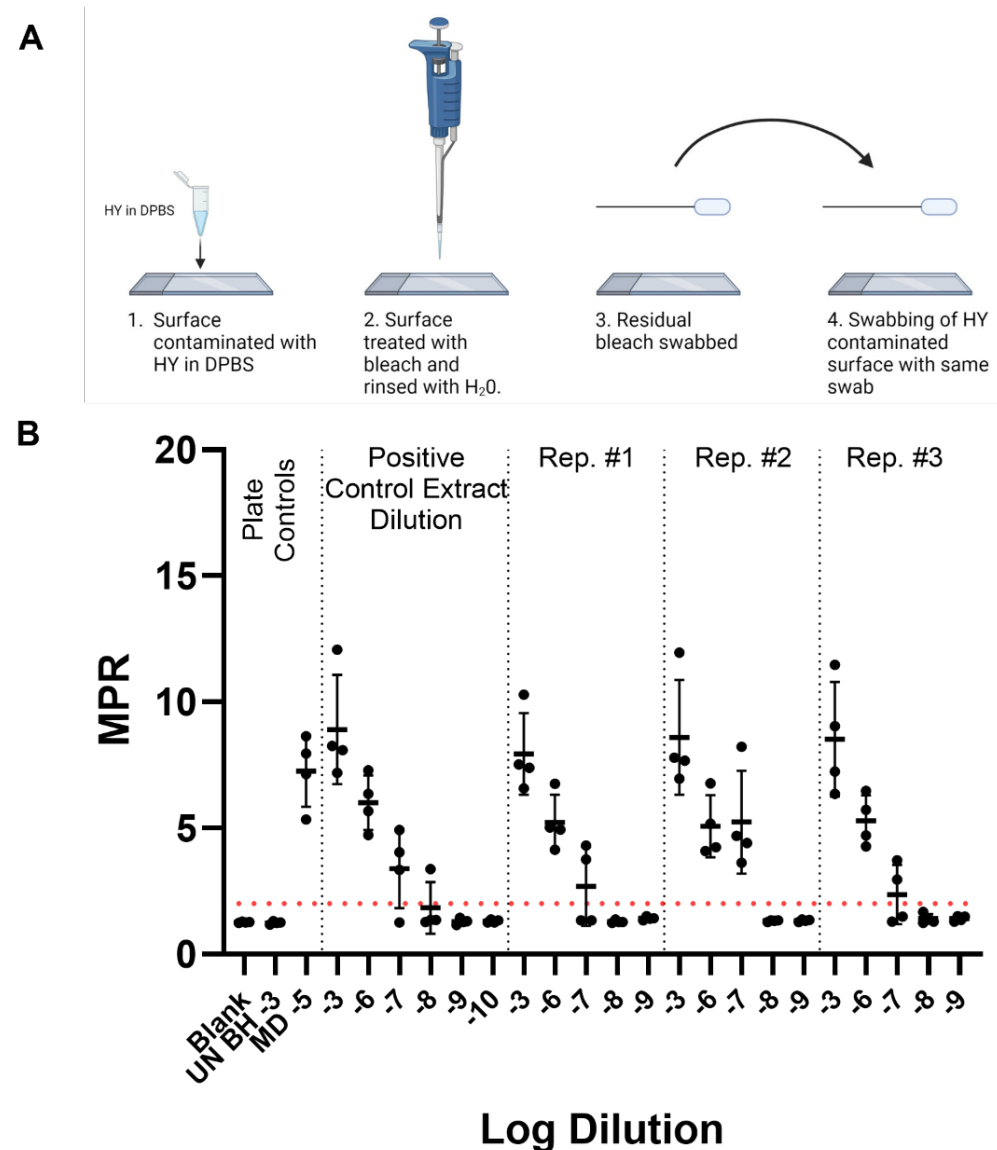
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- Disinfection of surface
  - Water (negative control)
    - No effect
  - 70% EtOH
    - No effect
  - Bleach
    - Complete elimination of RT-QuIC seeding activity
    - What if bleach is just inhibiting the RT-QuIC reaction?



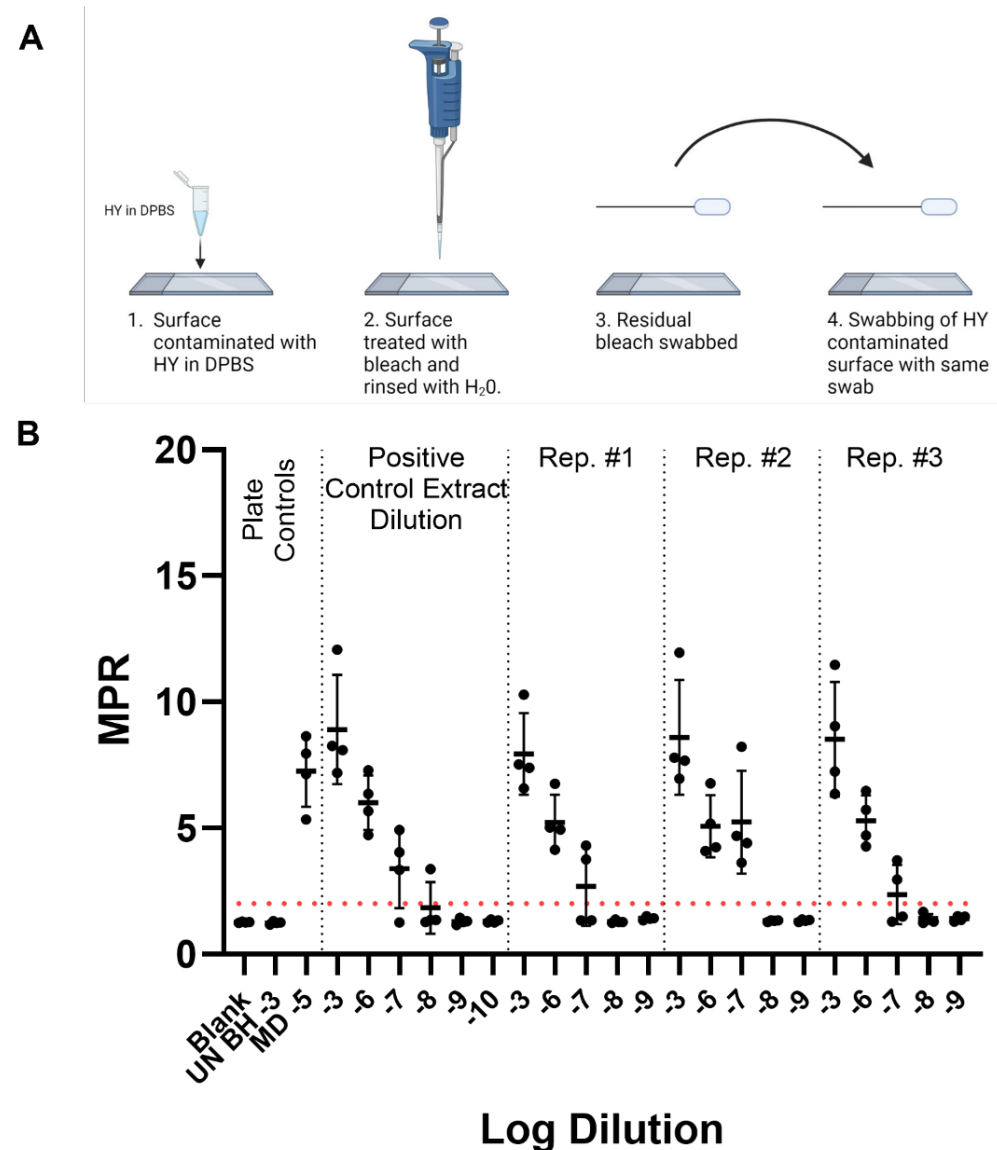
# Residual bleach does not interfere with RT-QuIC detection of surface recovered prions.

- Swabbing of bleached surfaces
  - We did not observe a change in the sensitivity of detection of prions from the surface.
  - We conclude that the elimination of RT-QuIC seeding activity is from inactivation of prion, not from bleach inhibition of RT-QuIC.



# Residual bleach does not interfere with RT-QuIC detection of surface recovered prions.

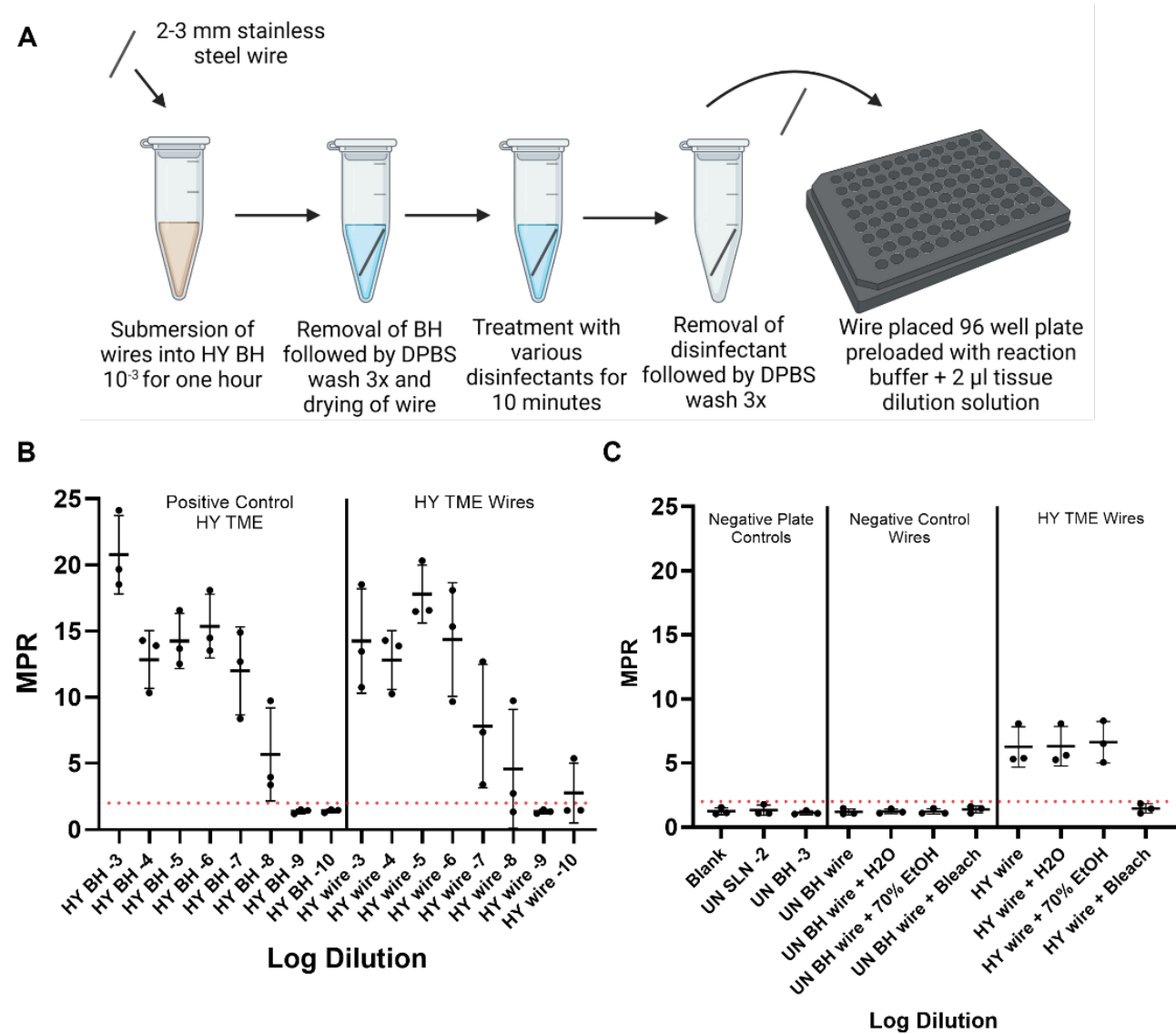
- Swabbing of bleached surfaces
  - We did not observe a change in the sensitivity of detection of prions from the surface.
  - We conclude that the elimination of RT-QuIC seeding activity is from inactivation of prion, not from bleach inhibition of RT-QuIC.
- What if prions are still on the surface that swabbing is not recovering?





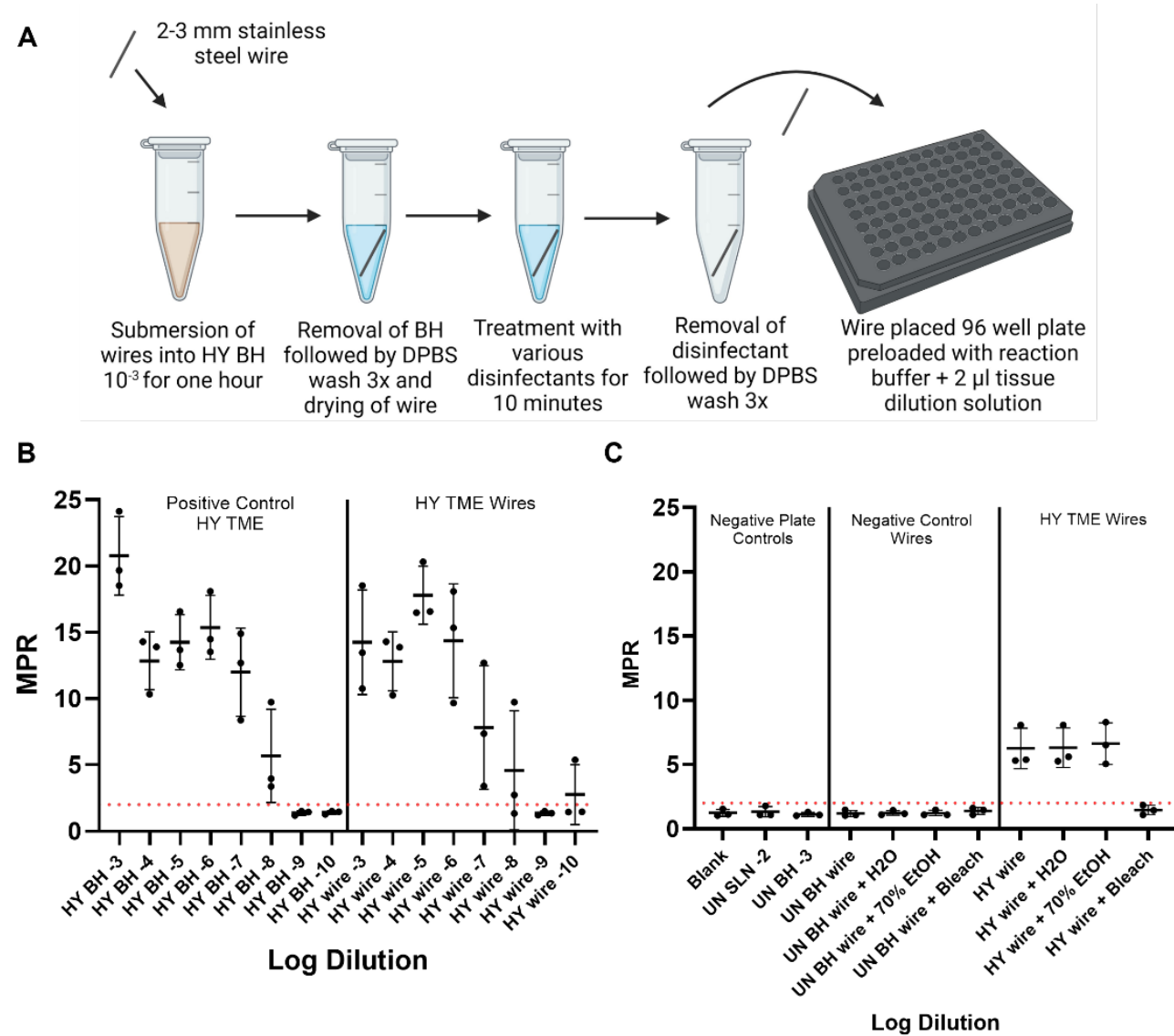
# Direct surface measurement of prion seeding activity mirrors the results of surface recovered prions

- Wire RT-QuIC
  - We found a similar sensitivity of detection of prions on wires vs. prions added to RT-QuIC.
- Treatment of wires with water, 70% EtOH and bleach has similar results to swabbing studies.
  - We conclude that the swabbing result are predictive of what remains on the surface.

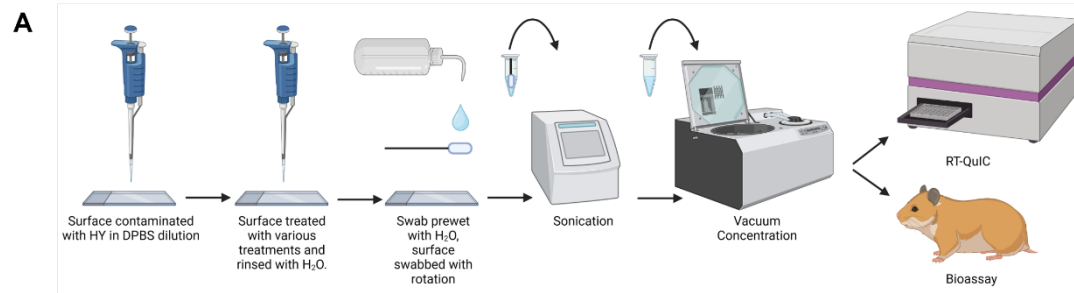


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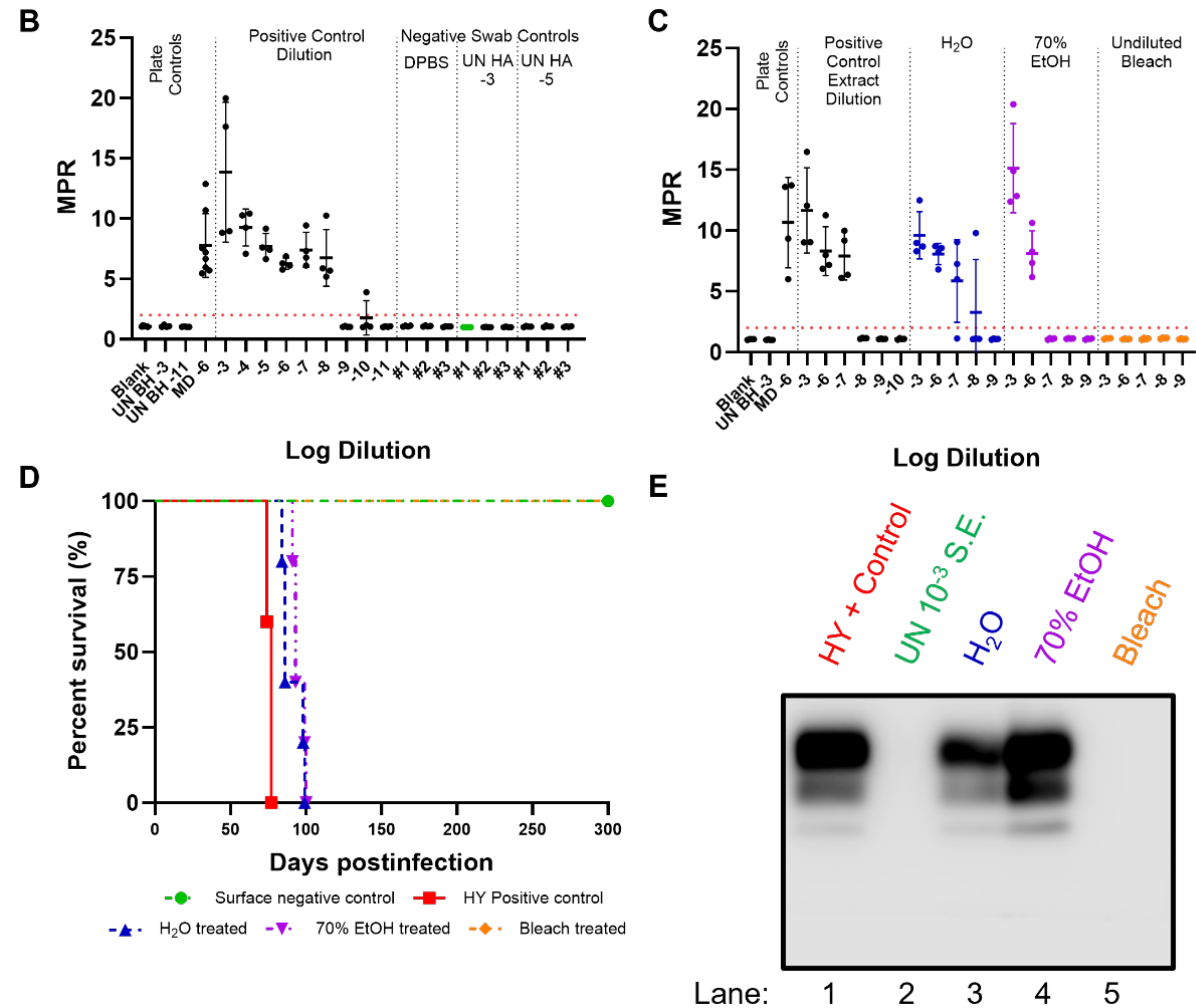
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- **Is RT-QuIC seeding activity predictive of infectivity?**



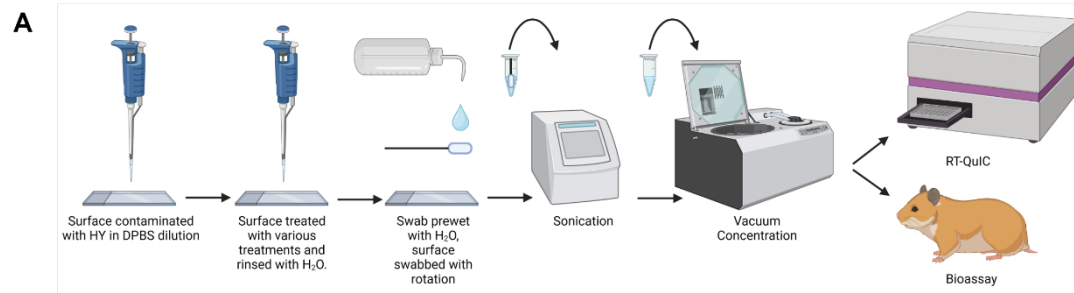
# RT-QuIC and animal bioassay of swab extracts produced similar results



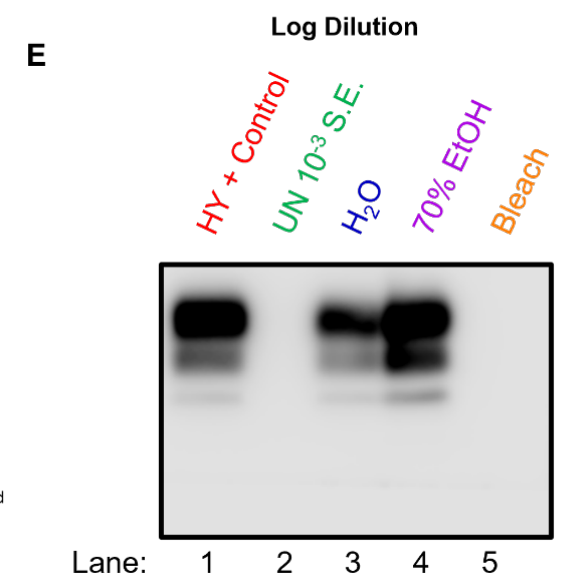
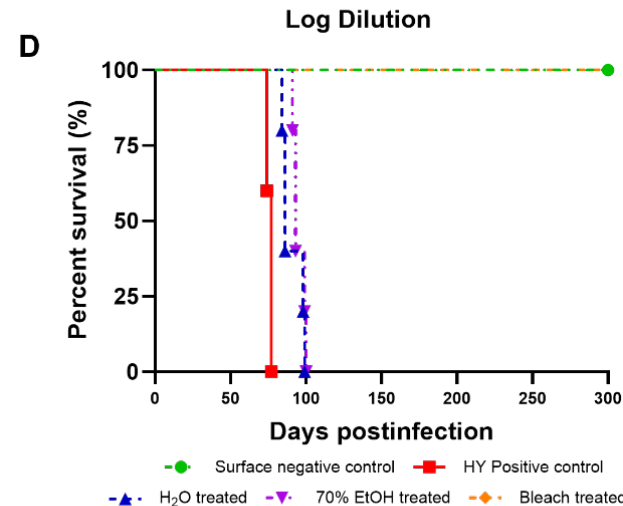
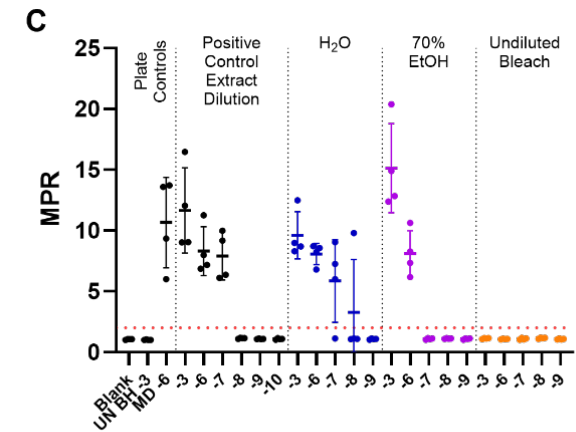
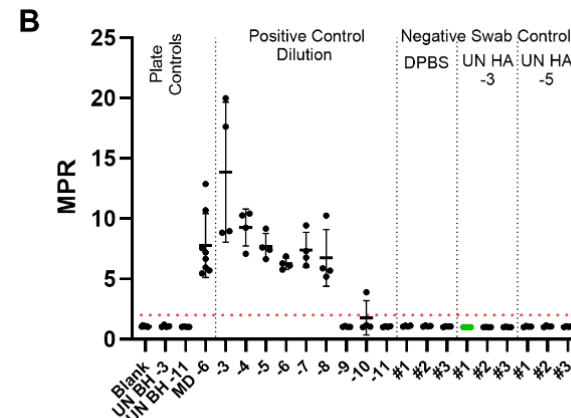
- Animal bioassay and RT-QuIC analysis of the same samples
  - Animal bioassay and RT-QuIC results matched.



# RT-QuIC and animal bioassay of swab extracts produced similar results



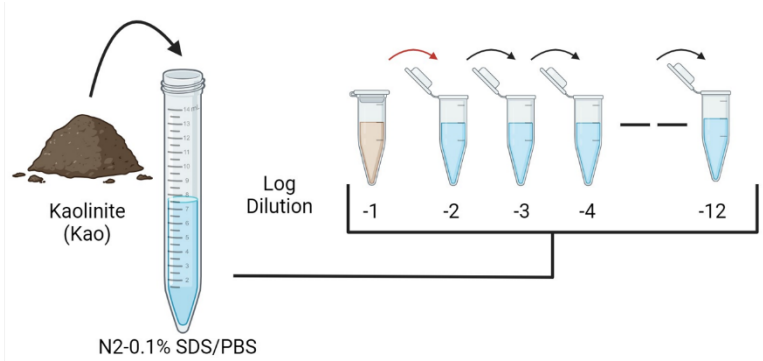
- Animal bioassay and RT-QuIC analysis of the same samples
  - Animal bioassay and RT-QuIC results matched.
- What effect does dust have on the RT-QuIC assay?





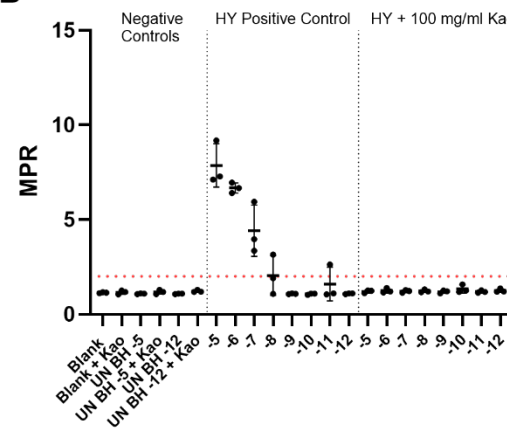
# Impact of soil on RT-QuIC detection is dependent on soil concentration

A

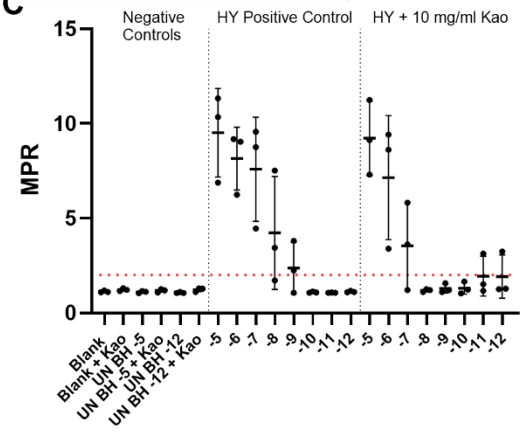


- Added soil to RT-QuIC
  - Kaolinite
  - Montmorillonite
  - Hectorite
- Identified concentrations that inhibited RT-QuIC reactions.

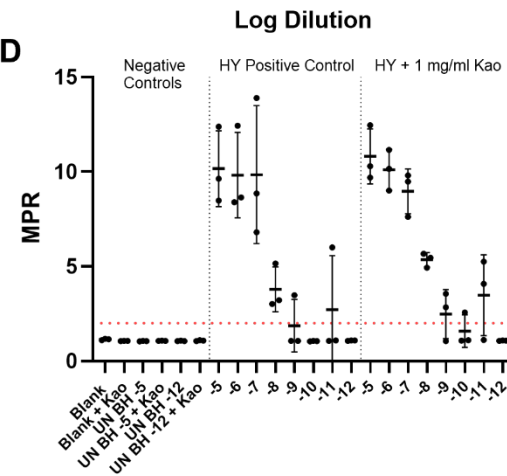
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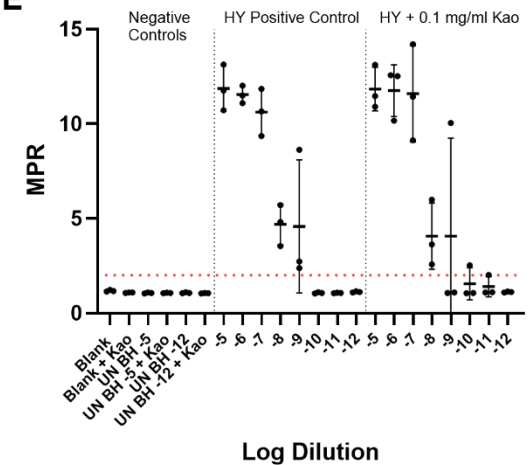
C



D

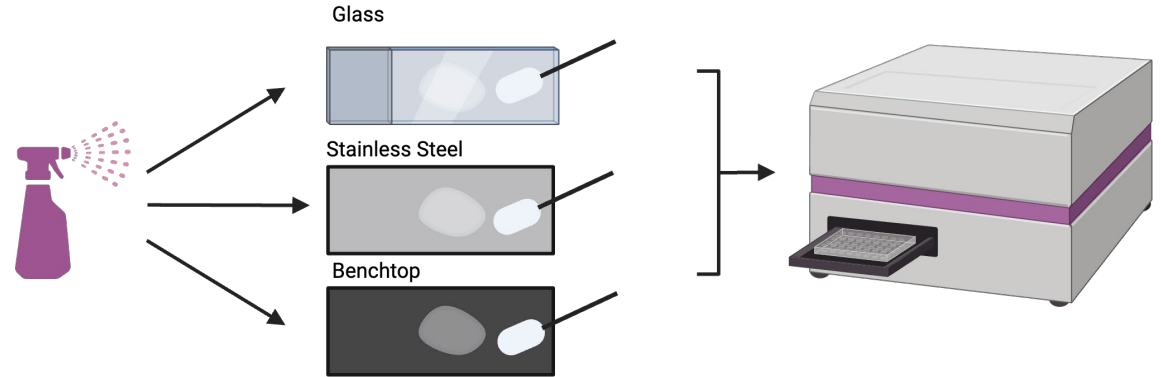


E



# Project outcomes

- Sensitive detection of prions from laboratory and clinical surfaces
- Prion inactivation status of surfaces can be determined from surface swabbing
- RT-QuIC seeding activity corresponds with prion infectivity
- Environmental contaminants can interfere with prion detection.



## PLOS PATHOGENS

Sensitive detection of pathological seeds of  $\alpha$ -synuclein, tau and prion protein on solid surfaces

Christina D. Orrú<sup>1</sup>\*, Bradley R. Groveman<sup>1</sup>, Andrew G. Hughson<sup>1</sup>, Tomás Barrio<sup>2</sup>, Kachi Isiofia<sup>1</sup>, Brent Race<sup>1</sup>, Natalia C. Ferreira<sup>1</sup>, Pierluigi Gambetti<sup>3</sup>, David A. Schneider<sup>4</sup>, Kentaro Masujin<sup>5</sup>, Kohtaro Miyazawa<sup>5</sup>, Bernardino Ghetti<sup>6</sup>, Gianluigi Zanusso<sup>7</sup>, Byron Caughey<sup>1</sup>\*

# Project outcomes / Future directions

- Training
- Master's student who has transitioned to a Ph.D. program
- Investigate the mechanisms of prion interactions with surfaces and the requirements for establishing infection of prions bound to surfaces



CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE  
FOUNDATION, INC.

*Supporting Families Affected by Prion Disease*



Sara M. Simmons

# Acknowledgements

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**Sara Simmons**  
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Sarah Stein  
Taylor York  
**Qi Yuan**  
Johsette Witt

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**Contributed by:** The Families of the CJD Foundation  
Funds donated by supporters of the CJD Foundation have been applied to research grants awarded since 2009.

## The Tom Stivison Memorial Research Grant

**Contributed by:** Sandra (Cookie) Stivison  
**Established in 2015.**

## The Strides for CJD Research Grant

**Contributed by:** The Families of the CJD Foundation  
Funds raised by the annual Strides for CJD run/walk have been applied to research grants awarded since 2016.

## The Peggy J. Black Memorial Grant

**Contributed by:** Jim Black and Family  
**Established in 2022.**

## The Rudy Wolter Memorial Grant

**Contributed by:** Jan Wolter, Family, and Friends  
**Established in 2023.**



CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE  
FOUNDATION, INC.

*Supporting Families Affected by Prion Disease*



North American interdisciplinary chronic  
wasting disease research consortium

- United States Department of Agriculture NC1209 -





# Project overview

Horizontal Dilutions Summary: Log SD <sub>50</sub> /g of brain homogenate (Reed and Muench)										
	Biological Replicate #1			Biological Replicate #2			Biological Replicate #3			
Treatment:	Rep. 1	Rep. 2	Rep. 3	Rep. 1	Rep. 2	Rep. 3	Rep. 1	Rep. 2	Rep. 3	Avg ± Std Dev
Swab Extract -2 (No treatment)	10.2	10.7	11.33	11.87	11.03	11.2	10.20	11.03	10.2	10.86±0.55
Swab Extract -2 (H2O)	10.2	10.37	10.37	10.02	10.53	9.2	10.2	9.47	8.70	9.90±0.59
Swab Extract -2 (70 % Ethanol)	9.7	10.03	10.03	10.2	10.7	10.19	8.93	9.33	9.2	9.81±0.53
Swab Extract -2 (Undiluted Bleach)	MPR <2	MPR <2	MPR <2	MPR <2	MPR <2	MPR <2	MPR <2	MPR <2	MPR <2	MPR <2
Swab Extract -2 (Bleach Control)	11.37	10.93	10.37	10.2	10.53	10.53	10.03	11.7	10.33	10.67±0.53