



Introduction

17:00- 17.10

Prof. Dr. Carmen Faso, MCID Co-Chair

Prof. Dr. med. Nicola Low (Moderator)



Speaker presentation

17:15- Dr. Emma Hodcroft, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, UniBern

“What is Omicron and how do we identify it?”

17: 30- Prof. Dr. Volker Thiel, Institute for Virology and Immunology, Vetsuisse, UniBern

“How is Omicron different from other variants?”

17:45- PD Dr. Christian Althaus, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, UniBern

“How well does Omicron spread compared to other variants?”

18:00- Prof. Dr. med. Annelies Wilder-Smith, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, UniBern

“What does Omicron mean for international travel?”

18:15- Prof. Dr. Joseph Francois, World Trade Institute, UniBern

“Why and how does Omicron cause an international economic shock?”

Panel discussion

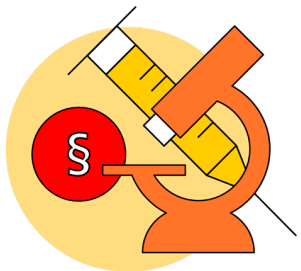
Including the speakers above, together with:

Prof. Dr. Dr. Claus Beisbart

Institute of Philosophy, UniBern

PD Dr. med. Manuela Funke-Chambour

Department for Biomedical Research, Inselspital



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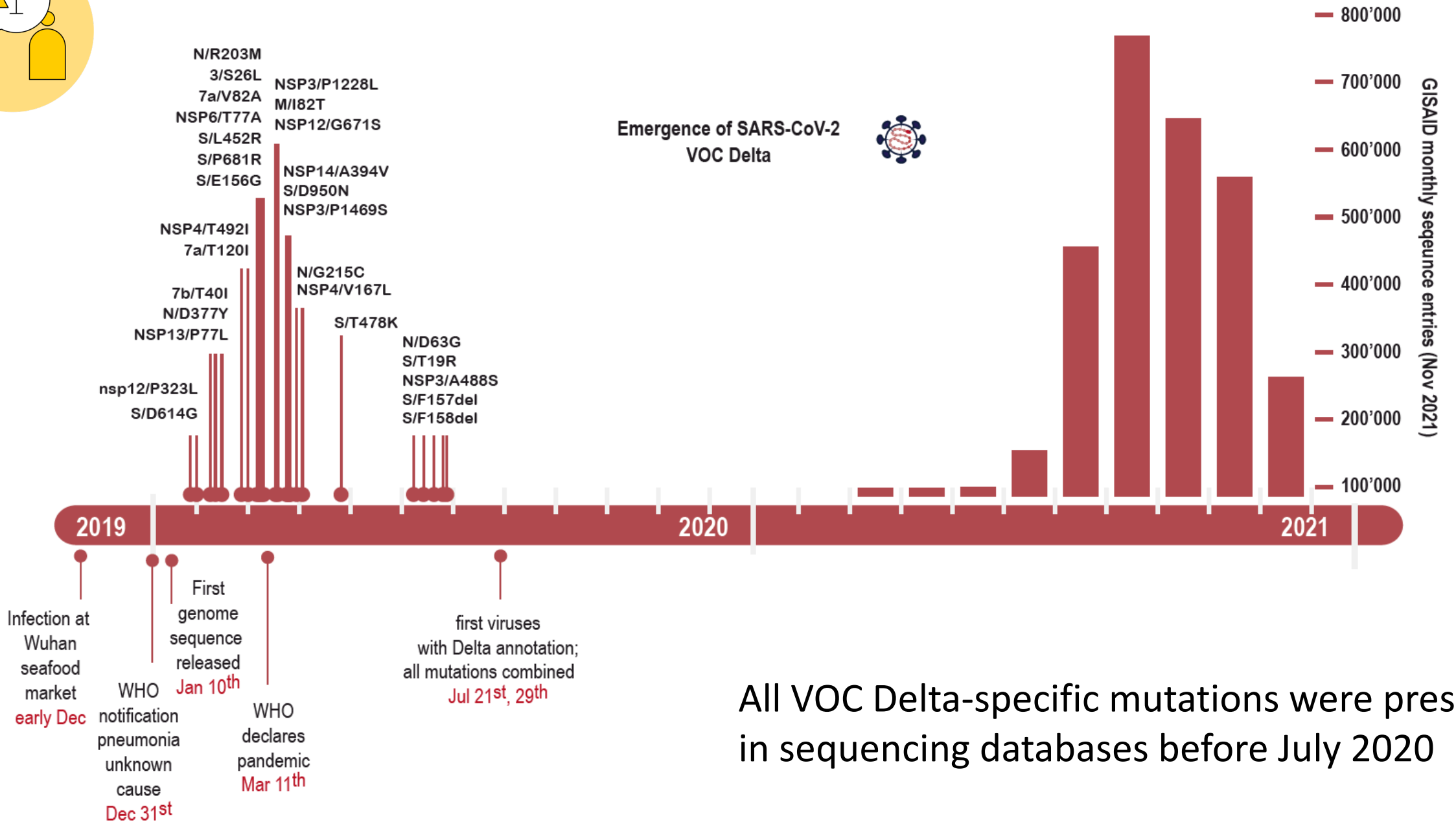
**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

**Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious
Diseases**

MCID Bern

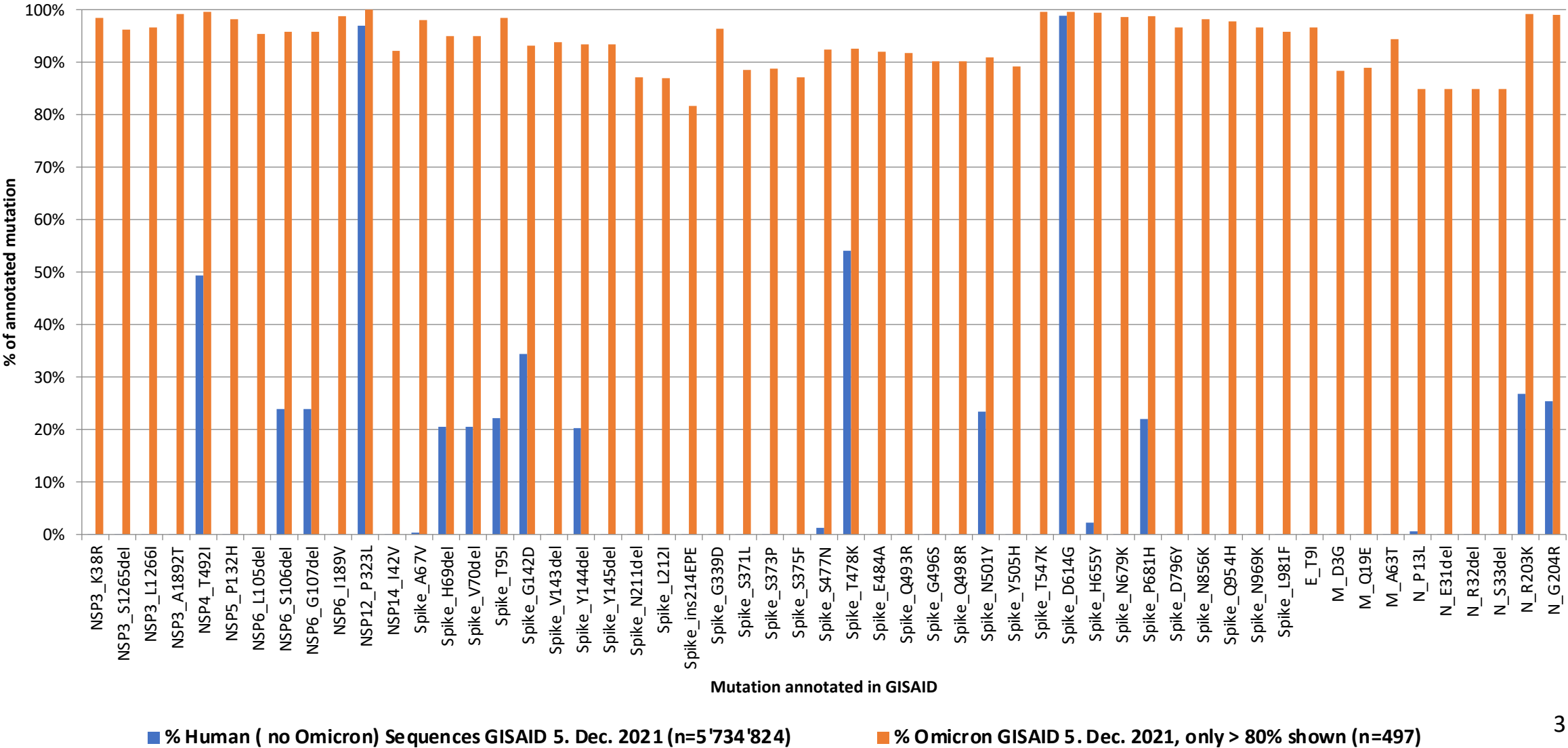
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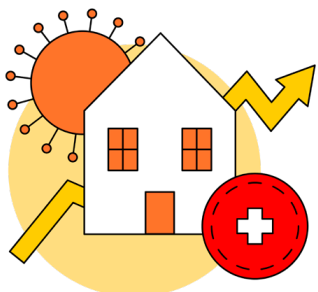




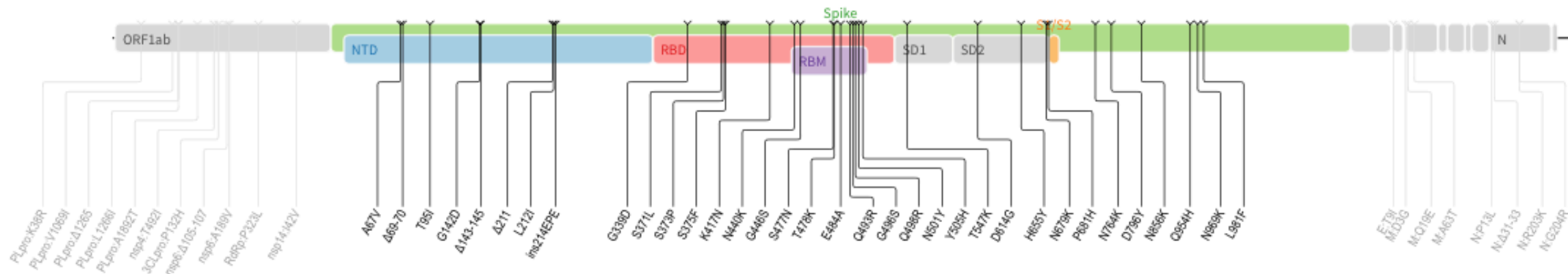


GISAID annotated mutations in Human sequences in % of all sequences compared to Omicron

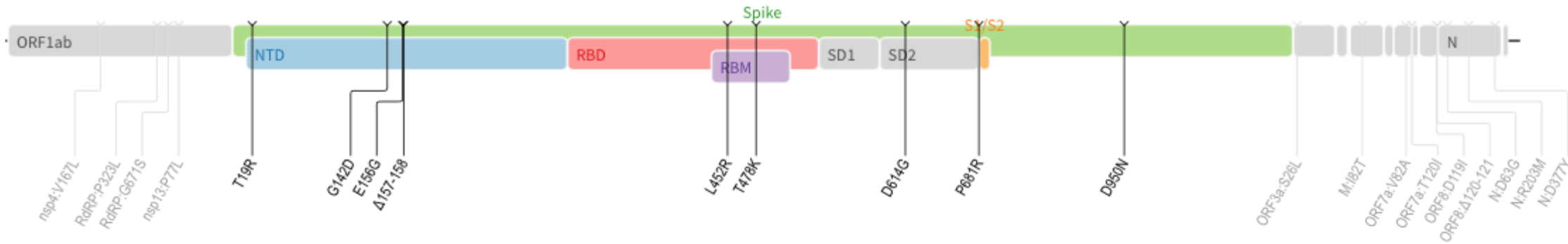


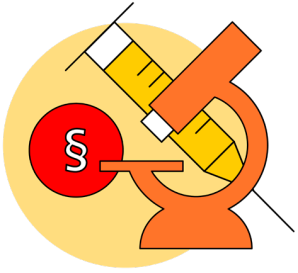


Omicron

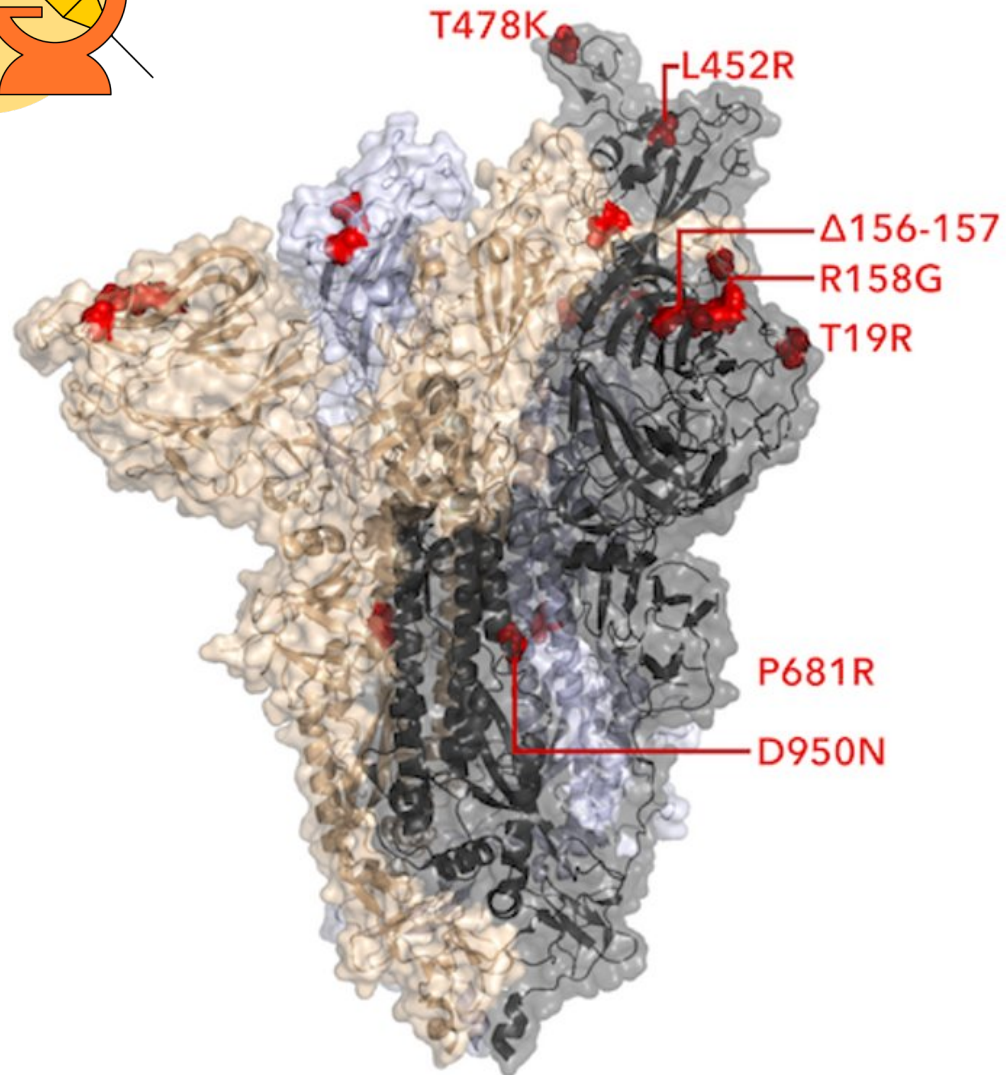


Delta

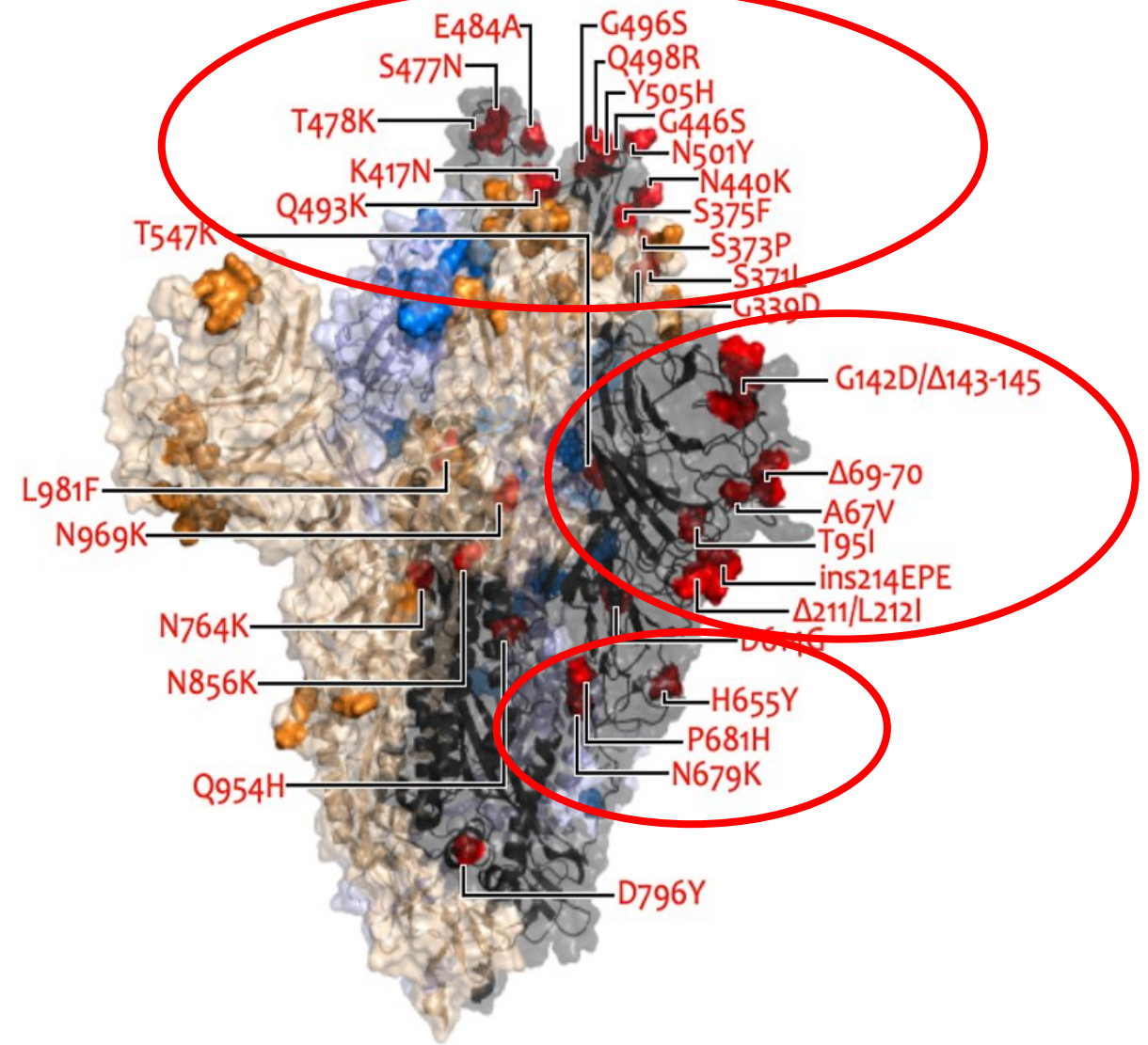


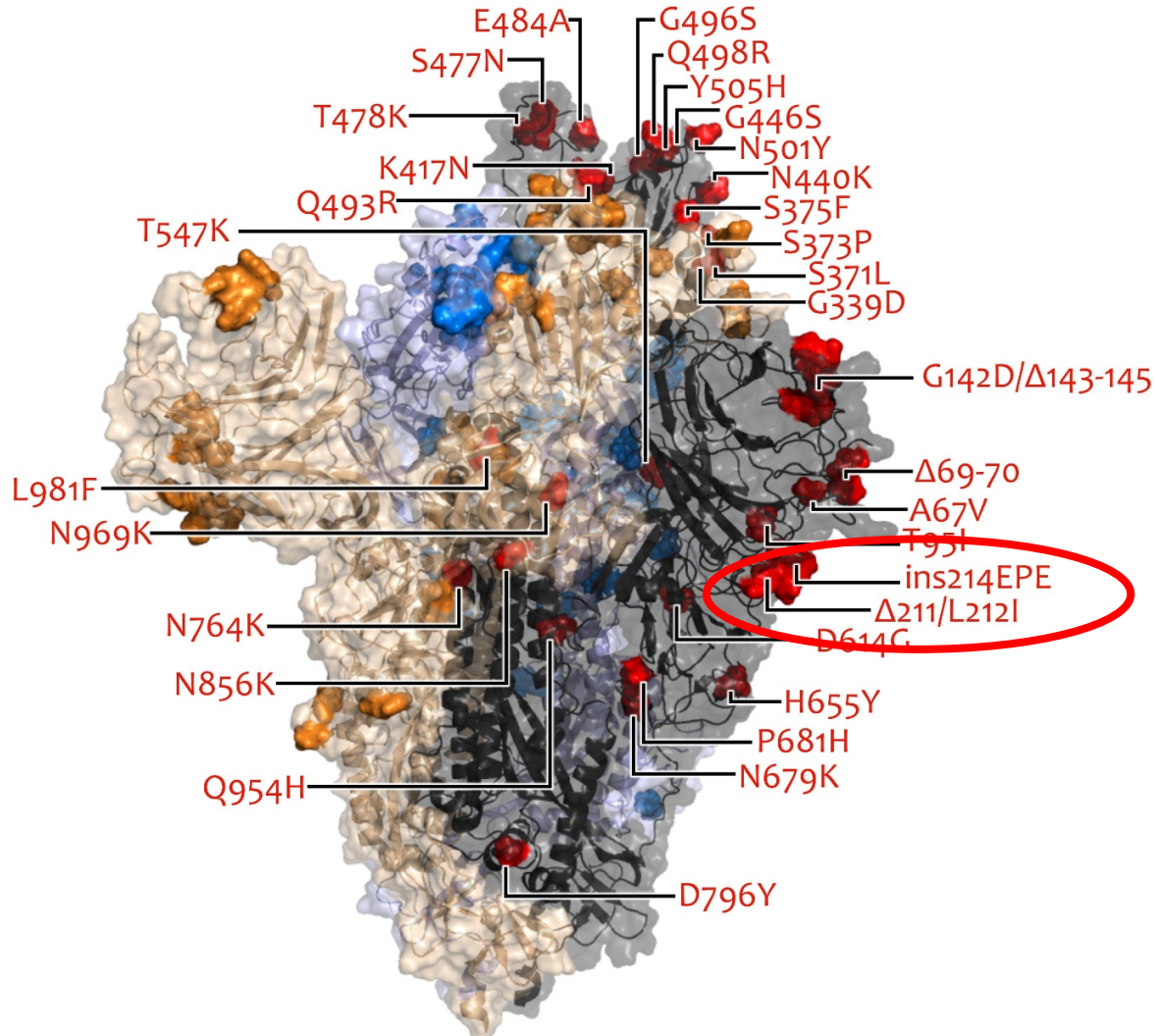
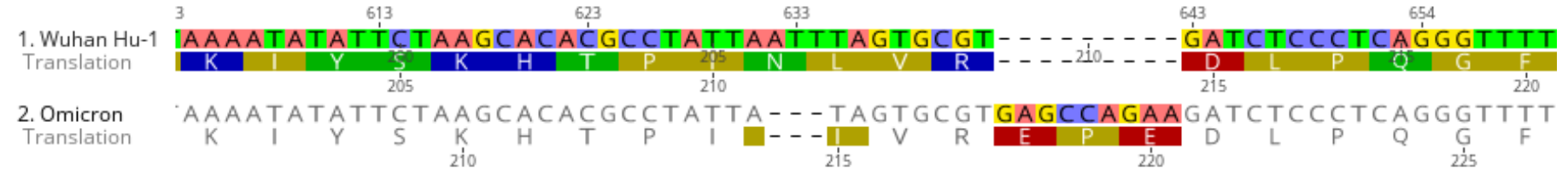


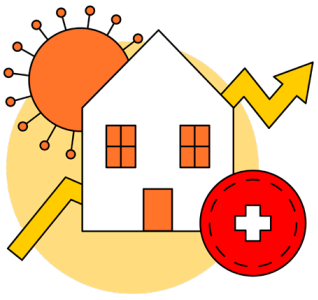
Delta



Omicron

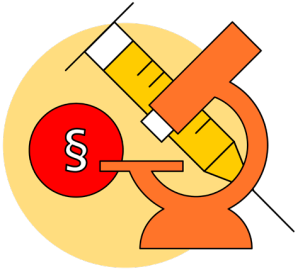






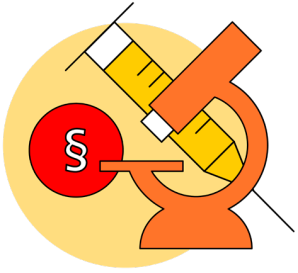
On Friday Nov 26th 2021, WHO declared B.1.1.529 VOC Omicron

- >30 mutations in the spike gene
- rapid spread in some regions in South Africa
- increased frequency of re-infections with omicron compared to previous VOCs



What do we need to know? What is happening right now?

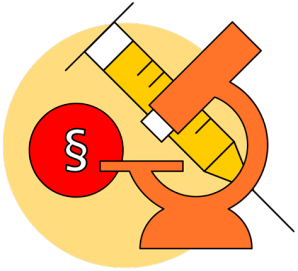
- will omicron replace Delta?
- is there immune evasion?
- will severity of disease change?
- will vaccines still protect?
- will antivirals and therapeutic antibodies still work?



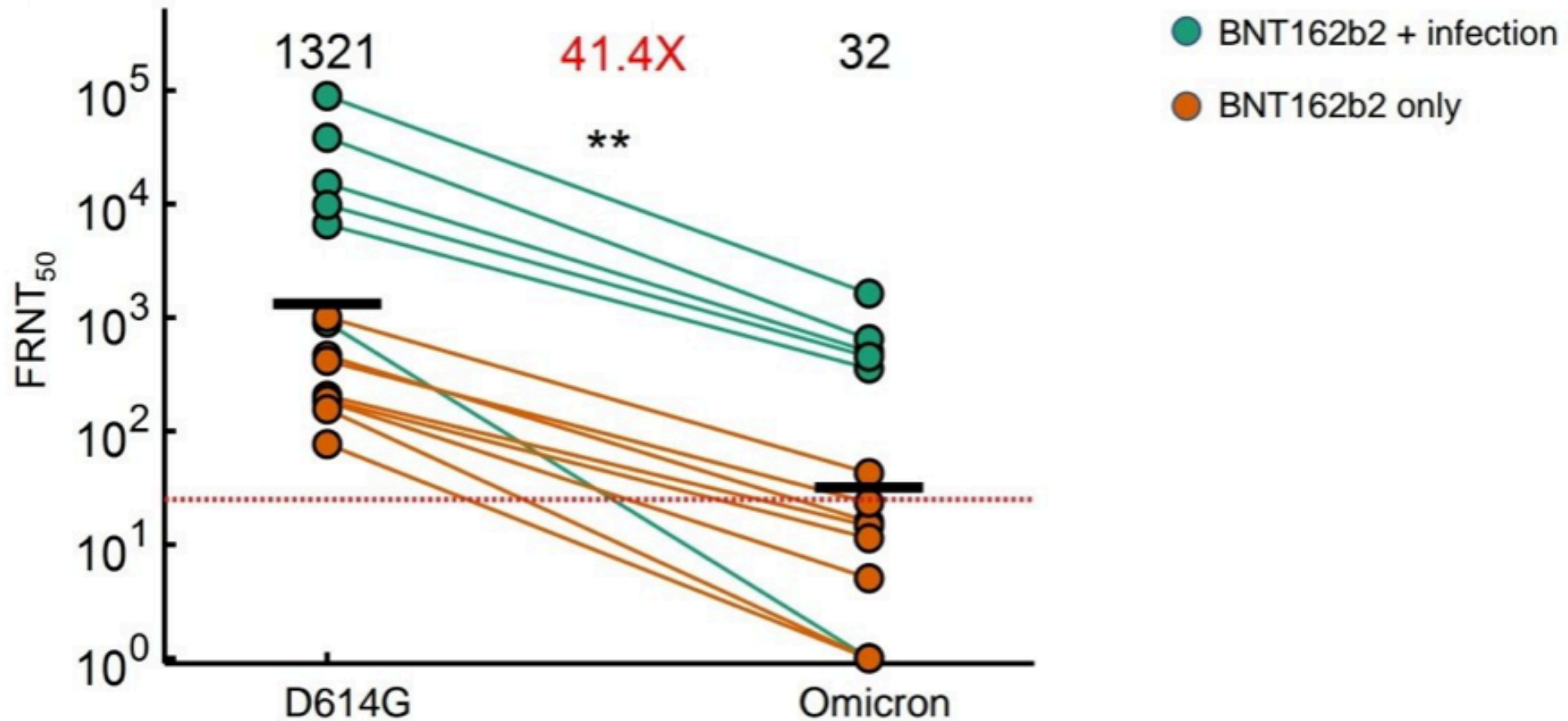
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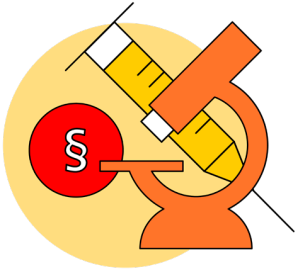
- will omicron replace Delta?
- is there immune evasion?
- will severity of disease change?

epidemiology soon; lab
experiments will take time
neutralization data soon
T-cell data will take time
epidemiology (weeks -
months)

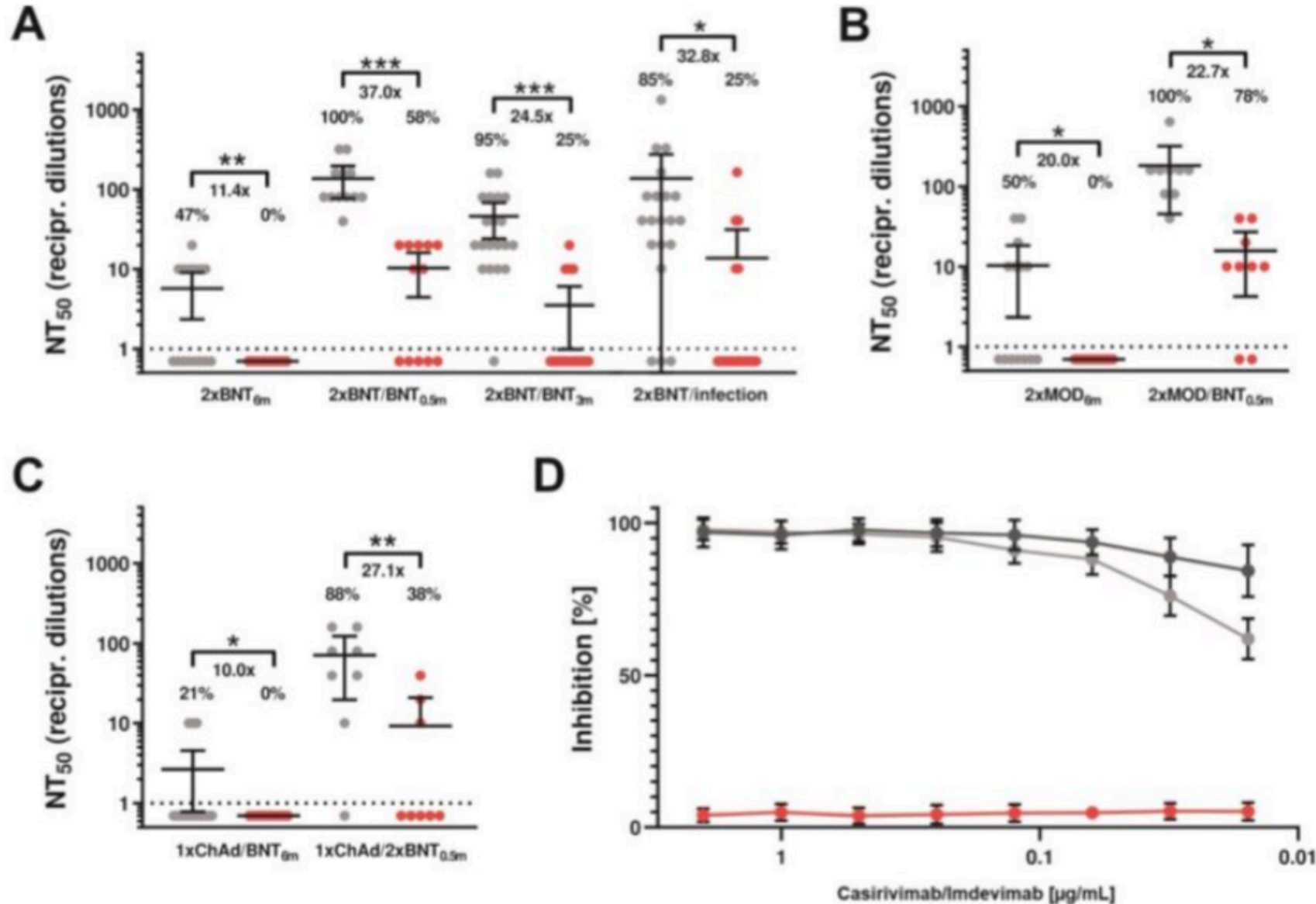


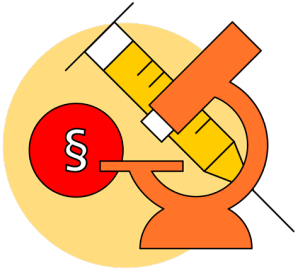
Is there immune evasion?





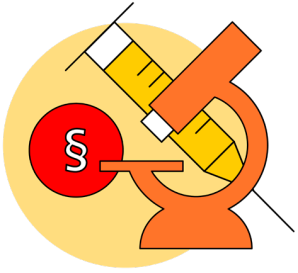
Is there immune evasion?





What do we need to know? **What is happening right now?**

- will omicron replace Delta? **epidemiology soon; lab experiments will take time**
- is there immune evasion? **first neutralization data available**
T-cell data will take time
- will severity of disease change? **epidemiology (weeks - months)**



What do we need to know? **What is happening right now?**

- will vaccines still protect?
 - epidemiology (weeks – months)
 - lab experiments will take time
- will antivirals and therapeutic antibodies still work?
 - some antibodies may not work anymore (data expected soon)
 - polymerase and protease inhibitors very likely still active



A word on travel bans:

- Thanks to our colleagues in South Africa for their great work!
- Since almost two weeks scientists are trying to distribute and share virus isolates – urgently needed to perform lab experiments
- Many flights are canceled – no isolate shipped so far!



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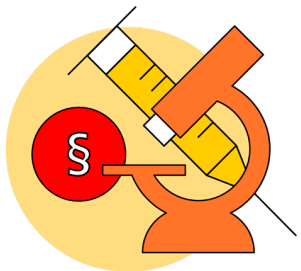
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