

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1871-6784(18)31722-9
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbt.2018.08.002>
Reference: NBT 1128



To appear in:

Please cite this article as: Taussig MJ, Fonseca C, Trimmer JS, Antibody validation: A view from the mountains, *New BIOTECHNOLOGY* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbt.2018.08.002>

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Antibody validation: a view from the mountains

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Highlights

- Antibody validation is of utmost importance for the biotech industry and academic research.
- Discussion on this topic was highlighted at the 8th Alpbach Affinity Proteomics Workshop.
- Despite the practical challenges of defining a universal standard, consensus is emerging in the community.
- A set of 'Alpbach recommendations' was proposed to address antibody validation issues.

Abstract

Validation of antibodies and other protein binders is a subject of pressing concern for the research community and one which is uppermost in the minds of all who use antibodies as research and diagnostic reagents. Assessing an antibody's fitness for purpose includes accurate ascertainment of its target specificity and suitability for the envisaged task. Moreover, standardised procedures are essential to guarantee sample quality in testing procedures. The problem of defining precise standards for antibody validation has engendered much debate in recent publications and meetings, but gradually a consensus is emerging. At the 8th Alpbach Affinity Proteomics workshop (March 2017), a panel of leaders in the antibody field discussed suggestions which could bring this complex but essential issue a step nearer to a resolution. 'Alpbach recommendations' for best practice include tailoring binder validation processes according to the intended applications and promoting greater transparency in publications and in the information available from commercial antibody developers/providers. A single

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