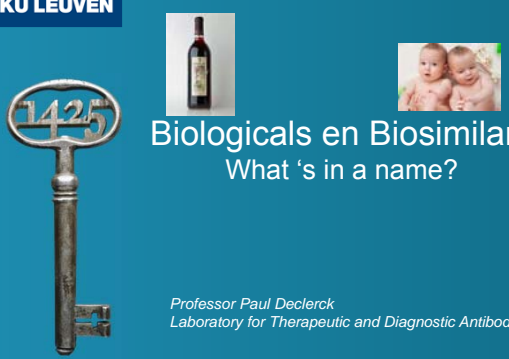


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## Biologicals en Biosimilars

What 's in a name?

*Professor Paul Declerck*  
*Laboratory for Therapeutic and Diagnostic Antibodies*

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## Biologisch geneesmiddel

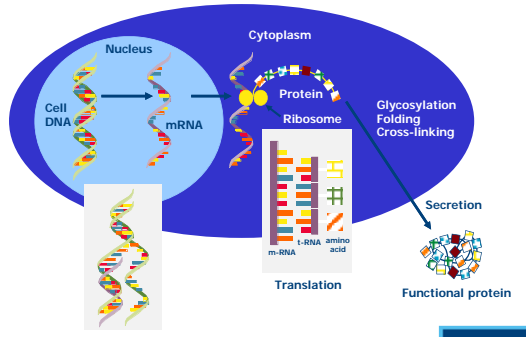


Een wel-gedefinieerd **biologisch** product  
 aangemaakt door middel van **levende systemen**



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## Van gen tot eiwit



**Nucleus**: Cell DNA → mRNA (Transcription)

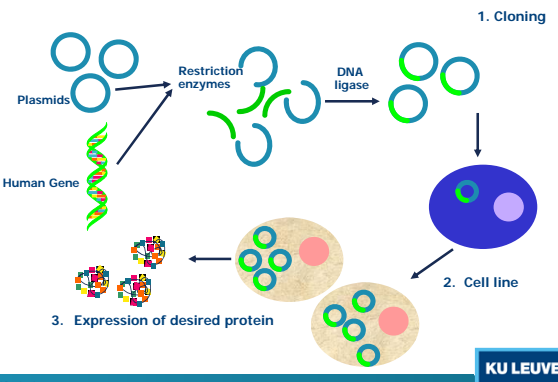
**Cytoplasm**: mRNA → Protein (Translation) → Functional protein

Processes: Glycosylation, Folding, Cross-linking, Secretion

Components: Ribosome, t-RNA, amino acid

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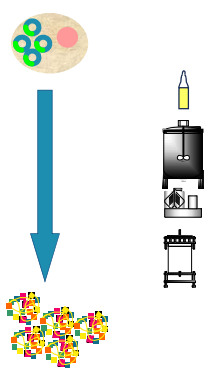
## Recombinante eiwit productie



1. Cloning: Plasmids + Human Gene → Restriction enzymes → DNA ligase → Recombinant plasmid
2. Cell line: Recombinant plasmid → Cell
3. Expression of desired protein: Cell → Protein

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### Recombinante eiwit productie



Diverse stappen
Opschaling aantal cellen
Productie in bioreactor
Collecteren van biomassa
Opzuivering van specifiek eiwit
Gedetailleerde karakterisering

Wulf Declercq, 2013 10 12

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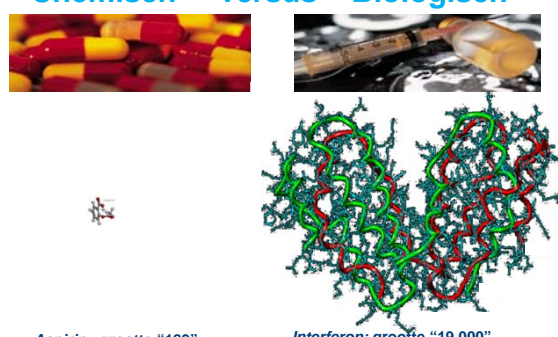
### Kwaliteitscontrole: produkt en proces



<p><b>10+ tests</b></p> <p>eg, •Karyotype •Infectious/ oncogenic screen •Gene stability</p>	<p><b>20+ tests</b></p> <p>eg, •Endotoxin spiking •Protein challenges •Protein yield •Adventitious agents</p>	<p><b>20+ tests</b></p> <p>eg, •Amino acid sequence •Peptide maps •IEF •HPLC •SDS-PAGE •RIA •Receptor binding •Bioassays</p>	<p><b>30+ tests</b></p> <p>eg, •Peptide maps •IEF •HPLC •SDS-PAGE •Purity •ELISA •Potency •Stability tests</p>
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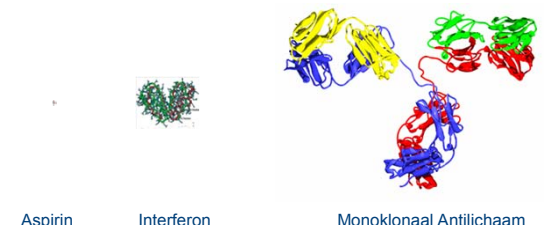
### Chemisch versus Biologisch



*Aspirin: grootte "180"*

*Interferon: grootte "19.000"*

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Aspirin      Interferon      Monoklonaal Antilichaam

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### Chemisch versus Biologisch

Klein chemisch molekule	Groot , complex biomolecule
Chemische synthese	Levende productiesystemen
Homogeen	Heterogeen
Weinig impact van proceswijzigingen	Heel gevoelig aan proceswijzigingen
Stabiel	Gevoelig voor externe factoren
Niet immunogeen	Immunogeen

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## Heterogeniteit is proces-afhankelijk

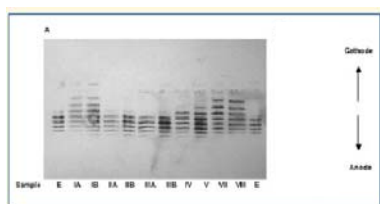


Figure 1  
Isoelectric Focusing / Western Blot. Isoform distribution of each sample is shown.

Schellekens H. Nephrol Dial Transplant 2005

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## Moleculaire bron van heterogeniteit

- Glycosylering
- Phosphorylering
- Sulfatering
- Methylering
- N-acylation
- S-Nitrosylation
- ....
- cel type en omstandigheden
- Deamidation (e.g. Asn to Asp)
- Racemization (L to D)
- Oxidation (Met, Tyr, His, Trp)
- Disulfide exchange
- .....
- omstandigheden

>  $10^8$  varianten van eenzelfde molecule

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## Produkt varianten

- **Steeds** aanwezig
- **Groot aantal** mogelijke varianten
- Onmogelijk om ze ondubbelzinnig te identificeren
- Afhankelijk van het **volledige proces**
- Reproduceerbaarheid wordt verzekerd door de **consistentheid** van het productieproces

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Paul Declercq, 2013 10 12

## Biologisch geneesmiddel

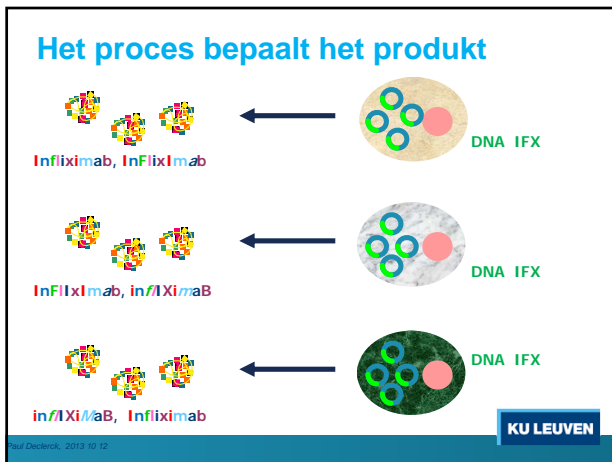
- **Groot; complexe** structuur
- **Levend** productiesysteem
- **Heterogene** verzameling
- Heel gevoelig aan **proceswijzigingen**
- **Onstabiel**
- **Immunogeen**



The **process** determines the **product**

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### European Medicines Agency (EMA) (Europees geneesmiddelenagentschap)

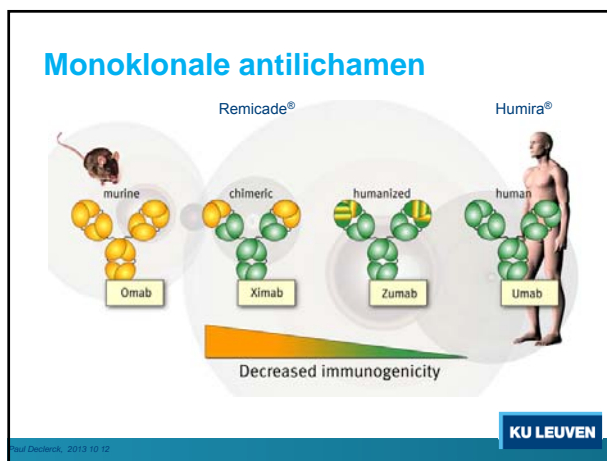
- Ontwikkeling van een nieuw concept: "biosimilar"
- Similar biological medicinal product:
  - '... biological medicinal product claimed to be "similar" to an approved reference biological medicinal product...'
- Kwaliteit, veiligheid en efficaciteit
- Vergelijkende studies
- Richtlijnen
- Goedgekeurd referentiegeneesmiddel

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### EMA richtlijnen voor biosimilars

TOPIC	TITLE	APPLICATION
Overarching	Guideline on Similar Biological Medicinal Products	General: Applies to all Biosimilars
Quality	Guideline on Similar Biological Medicinal Products Containing Biotechnology-Derived Proteins as Active Substance: Quality Issues	
Nonclinical & Clinical	Guideline on Similar Biological Medicinal Products Containing Biotechnology-Derived Proteins as Active Substance: Nonclinical & Clinical Issues	
Annexes Nonclinical & Clinical	Recombinant Human Erythropoietin	Specific: Product data requirements
	Recombinant Human G-CSF	
	Recombinant Human Insulin	
	Recombinant Human Growth Hormone	
	LMWH	
	Interferon alfa	
	Monoclonal antibodies	
	Interferon beta	
	Follicle-stimulating hormone	

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### Biologische geneesmiddelen voor auto-immuun en auto-inflammatoire ziekten

Actief bestanddeel	Merknaam	Type	Doelwit	Eerste EU registratie
Rituximab	MabThera®	Chimeric IgG1	CD20	1998
Infliximab	Remicade®	Chimeric IgG1	TNFa	1999
Adalimumab	Humira®	Human IgG1	TNFa	2003
Certolizumab pegol	Cimzia®	Humanized Fab, pegylated	TNFa	2009
Golimumab	Simponi®	Human IgG1	TNFa	2009
Tocilizumab	RoActemra®	Humanized IgG1	IL6R	2009
Infliximab	Infectra®	Chimeric IgG1	TNFa	2013
Infliximab	Remsima®	Chimeric IgG1	TNFa	2013
Etanercept	Enbrel®	Fusie-proteïne	TNFa	2000
Abatacept	Orencia®	Fusie-proteïne	CD80 en CD 86	2007
Anakinra	Kineret®	IL-1RA	IL-1R	2002

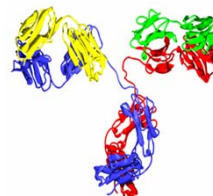
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(Europa, 2013)

### Biosimilar monoklonale antilichamen

- Binding aan het doelwit
- Binding aan receptoren
  - FcγRI, FcγRII, FcγRIII
  - FcRn
  - C1q
- Fab-geassocieerde functies (neutralization, activation, ...)
- Fc-geassocieerde functies (ADCC, CDC, complement activation, ...)



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### Registratie vereisten (Origineel)

Quality	Nonclinical	Clinical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug substance                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacture</li> <li>• Characterisation</li> <li>• Control</li> <li>• Reference standard</li> <li>• Container</li> <li>• Stability</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drug product                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description</li> <li>• Development</li> <li>• Manufacture</li> <li>• Control</li> <li>• Reference standard</li> <li>• Container</li> <li>• Stability</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmacology                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary pharm.</li> <li>• Secondary pharm.</li> <li>• Safety pharm.</li> <li>• Interactions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pharmacokinetics                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADME</li> <li>• Interactions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Toxicology                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single dose</li> <li>• Repeat dose</li> <li>• Genotoxicity</li> <li>• Carcinogenicity</li> <li>• Reproduction</li> <li>• Local tolerance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmacology</li> <li>• Pharmacokinetics                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single dose</li> <li>• Repeat dose</li> <li>• Special populations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Efficacy and safety                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dose finding</li> <li>• Schedule finding</li> <li>• Pivotal                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indication 1</li> <li>• Indication 2</li> <li>• Indication 3</li> <li>• Indication 4</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Post-marketing studies</li> </ul>

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### Registratie vereisten (Biosimilar)

Quality	Nonclinical	Clinical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug substance                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacture</li> <li>• Characterisation</li> <li>• Control</li> <li>• Reference standard</li> <li>• Container</li> <li>• Stability</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drug product                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description</li> <li>• Development</li> <li>• Manufacture</li> <li>• Control</li> <li>• Reference standard</li> <li>• Container</li> <li>• Stability</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Comparability data                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analytical comparison with reference product</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmacology                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary pharm.</li> <li>• Secondary pharm.</li> <li>• Safety pharm.</li> <li>• Interactions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pharmacokinetics                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADME</li> <li>• Interactions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Toxicology                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single dose</li> <li>• Repeat dose</li> <li>• Genotoxicity</li> <li>• Carcinogenicity</li> <li>• Reproduction</li> <li>• Local tolerance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmacology</li> <li>• Pharmacokinetics                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single dose</li> <li>• Repeat dose</li> <li>• Special populations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Efficacy and safety                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dose finding</li> <li>• Schedule finding</li> <li>• Pivotal                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indication 1</li> <li>• Indication 2</li> <li>• Indication 3</li> <li>• Indication 4</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Post-marketing studies                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety in larger population</li> <li>• Efficacy in other indications</li> <li>• Immunogenicity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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## Registratie van biosimilars (Europe)

- 2 geweigerd
  - Interferon alpha-2a (2006)
  - Interferon beta-1a (2009)
- 6 teruggetrokken:
  - Insulin (2008)
    - Insulin Rapid
    - Insulin Long
    - Insulin 30/70 Mix
  - Insulin (2012)
    - Solumarv
    - Isomav medium
    - Combimarv

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## Registratie van biosimilars (Europe)

- 18 goedgekeurd in Europa
  - 2 Human growth hormone (2006)
  - 3 Epoietin alfa (2007)
  - 2 Epoietin zeta (2007)
  - 4 Filgrastim (2008)
  - 2 Filgrastim (2009)
  - 1 Filgrastim (2010)
  - 2 Infliximab (2013)
  - 1 Filgrastim (2013)
  - 1 Follitropin alfa (2013)

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## How similar is similar?

### Biosimilar ESA<sup>1</sup>

- "Differences were observed at the **glycosylation level**"
- "Phosphorylated high mannose type structures were detected at **higher levels** than in Reference ESA"
- "**Lower values** on N-glycolyl-neuramic acid and diacetylated neuramic acids as compared to Reference ESA"
- "Peptide map showed differences ... in **O-linked glycan** due to a **higher sialylation** and **lower content** of the **oxidized variant**"

### Biosimilar hGH<sup>2</sup>

- "The results of this study ... demonstrate that Biosimilar rhGH produced at full scale is **comparable** to Reference Product"
- "The **impurity profile** of Biosimilar hGH shares some similarity with Reference hGH; however the profiles are **not identical**"
- "... impurities, ... , are present in the Biosimilar hGH batches and are not in any Reference hGH batches"
- "Additionally, there appears to be a **higher level of deamidated variants** in the Biosimilar hGH samples"

Similar, niet identiek – zoals verwacht worden er verschillen vastgesteld

<sup>1</sup> European Public Assessment Report on a particular biosimilar ESA.  
<sup>2</sup> Summary Basis of Approval of a particular biosimilar hGH

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## Biosimilariteit ≠ uitwisselbaarheid

- Niet identiek aan referentie
- Uitwisselbaarheid **vereist studies** (in beide richtingen!) en is enkel geldig voor de twee bestudeerde producten
- **Divergentie** na verloop van tijd
- Twee of meerdere biosimilars van eenzelfde referentie produkt zijn **nooit vergeleken met elkaar**

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## Chemical drugs

## Biological drugs



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## Biologische geneesmiddelen

- Substitutie/switching is contraindicated
- Behandelende geneesheer dient volledige controle over het voorschrift te behouden
- (Merk)naam is nog een discussiepunt
- Internationale pharmacovigilantie systemen moeten een ondubbelzinnige link kunnen leggen tussen nevenwerking en het verantwoordelijke product

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## Besluit

- **Complexe** molecules
- Eigenschappen zijn **proces-afhankelijk**
- Biosimilars zijn **similair maar niet identiek** aan het referentiegeneesmiddel
- Geregistreerd: farmaceutische **kwaliteit** aangetoond
- Geregistreerd: **beperkte klinische** ervaring
- **Niet-substutueerbaar**
- **Follow-up**

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