# **COVID-19 diagnosis and SARS-CoV-2 strain identification by a rapid, multiplexed, point-of-care antibody microarray**

Authors: Jacob T. Heggestad,<sup>1†</sup> Rhett J. Britton,<sup>1†</sup> David S. Kinnamon,<sup>1†</sup> Jason Liu,<sup>1</sup> Jack G. Anderson,<sup>2</sup> Daniel Y. Joh,<sup>1</sup> Zachary Quinn,<sup>1</sup> Cassio M. Fontes,<sup>1</sup> Angus M. Hucknall,<sup>1</sup> Robert Parks,<sup>3</sup> Gregory D. Sempowski,<sup>3,4</sup> Thomas N. Denny,<sup>3</sup> Thomas W. Burke,<sup>3</sup> Barton F. Haynes,<sup>3,4,5</sup> Christopher W. Woods,<sup>2,3,4</sup> Ashutosh Chilkoti<sup>1\*</sup>

# **Affiliations:**

<sup>1</sup> Department of Biomedical Engineering, Pratt School of Engineering, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708, USA.

<sup>2</sup> Center for Applied Genomics and Precision Medicine, Department of Medicine, Duke University, Durham, NC 27710, USA.

<sup>3</sup> Duke Human Vaccine Institute, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC 27710, USA.

4 Department of Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC 27710, USA.

5 Department of Immunology, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC, USA

\*To whom correspondence should be addressed: Ashutosh Chilkoti [\(chilkoti@duke.edu\)](mailto:chilkoti@duke.edu). †These authors contributed equally to this work.

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### **Experimental methods**

## CoVariant-SPOT fabrication

CoVariant-SPOT employs the technology of the D4 assay, described previously.<sup>1</sup> In brief, glass microscope slides were functionalized with a poly(oligo(ethylene glycol) methyl ether methacrylate (POEGMA) non-fouling brush with a thickness of ~50 nm via surface-initiated atom transfer radical polymerization (SI-ATRP).<sup>2</sup> Next, anti-SARS-CoV-2 N protein monoclonal antibody (mouse IgG, DHVI, 1B2) and anti-SARS-CoV-2 S protein monoclonal antibodies (Acro Biosystems, catalog #S1N-M130; Sino Biological, catalog #40591-MM43; Sino Biological, catalog #40591-MM48) were inkjet printed onto the slides using a Scienion sciFLEXARRAYER S12 (Scienion AG). Rows of five ~180 μm diameter capture spots for each anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody were printed at a concentration of 1.0 mg/mL. Surrounding the capture spots, twelve 1 mm-diameter trehalose spots were printed using a BioDot AD1520 printer (BioDot Inc.) loaded with a 10% (w/v) trehalose solution (~100 nL drop volume). Next, Alexa Fluor 647 labeled anti-N antibody (human IgG, DHVI, DH1218) and anti-S antibody (Acro Biosystems, catalog # S1N-M122) were mixed and deposited on top of the excipient pads using the BioDot printer at a concentration of 0.02 mg/mL for each antibody. Twenty-four assays with this configuration were printed on each 75.6 x 25.0 x 1.0 mm glass slide in a 3 x 8 array. CoVariant-SPOT assays were stored under vacuum for at least 24 h before use. For testing with clinical samples, Trublock Ultra (Meridian Life Sciences) was also inkjet printed onto CoVariant-SPOT slides at 6.0 mg/mL in 1x PBS with 0.05% sodium azide in order to prevent any potential interference from human anti-mouse antibodies (HAMA), as described elsewhere.<sup>3</sup>

To identify antibodies for CoVariant-SPOT, we conducted high throughput screens to determine optimal cAb/dAb pairs that bound to SARS-CoV-2 variants differentially. For antibodies targeting S protein, we screened 29 potential cAbs and 13 potential dAbs against WT, Delta, and Omicron S1 proteins, resulting in 1131 different dose-response curves. We also screened the antibodies against Beta S1, leading to a total of 1508 doseresponse curves (Figure S1). All antibodies tested are listed in **Table S2**. In this screening process, all 29 candidate cAbs are inkjet printed onto POEGMA coated slides in a microarray. Next, recombinant S1 proteins for each variant are individually spiked into fetal bovine serum at multiple concentrations and added to the arrays containing all 29 cAbs. After a 30-minute incubation, slides are washed, and then a dAb is added to complete the sandwich formation process, resulting in 29 dose-response curves per dAb per S1 protein. After repeating this process for each dAb and S1 protein variant, we identified three potential cAbs for S1 (for a given dAb) that could potentially be used to differentiate between WT, Delta, and Omicron, depending on the fluorescence output at each cAb spot. The anti-S1 antibody pairs we identified also bind to the S trimers for WT, Delta, and Omicron variants similarly compared to S1 (Figure S2). For detection of N, we incorporated an antibody pair identified by the Duke Human Vaccine Institute (DHVI). Therefore, the final version of the CoVariant-SPOT featured four cAbs (three targeting S protein and one targeting N protein) and a dAb cocktail consisting of one dAb targeting S protein and one dAb targeting N protein. Of note, we can perform these high throughput antibody screens rapidly—on the order of a couple of days—which enables us to rapidly incorporate more antibodies into CoVariant-SPOT if new variants emerge or to better discriminate between variants.

#### Viral RNA Extraction and Sequencing Library Preparation

Viral RNA was extracted from nasopharyngeal swabs in VTM using QIAamp Viral RNA Mini Kit (QIAGEN). Sequencing libraries were prepared using the Illumina COVIDSeq Test SARS-CoV-2 kit at a reduced quarter volume reaction on liquid handlers. Libraries were pooled at equal volume, and the pool's concentration and library size were quantified with the Invitrogen Qubit 4 Fluorometer and Agilent Tapestation. The final pool was sequenced on the Illumina NextSeq500 instrument using a 75 cycle High Output flow cell with 72 base pair single reads, 1.5pM loading concentration, and 5% PhiX v3 control spike-in.

# Variant Analysis Pipeline

To classify COVID-19 variants, it is necessary to identify the mutations along each genome. To do this, we used a custom analytical pipeline based on the best practices workflow from GATK.<sup>4</sup> The custom scripts and tools with instructions for installation and execution of the pipeline are not currently available for public access but will be shared upon request. Briefly, our analysis starts with trimming Nextera adapters from each sequence, then individual reads with low quality scores (<q20) are eliminated. Next, the trimmed reads are aligned to the SARS-CoV-2 reference genome using BWA.<sup>5</sup> In this study, we used the isolate Wuhan-Hu-1 obtained from GenBank (Accession Number: NC\_045512.2). Next, our customized GATK Workflow<sup>4</sup> is automatically run to identify single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), insertions and deletions (INDELS) along the 29 kb of the SARS-CoV-2 genome. We used one pass of base quality score recalibration to generate high quality SNPs and INDELS, an important step for correcting errors produced during the alignment process and improves accuracy of variant calls. Next, a package called HaplotypeCaller was used to identify variants assuming a ploidy of "1". Generating a VCF file that undergoes hard filtering using the VariantFiltration command, and a summary statistics table that allows assessing the quality of each of the resulting genotypes. Finally, the VCF tables are used to generate consensus genomes in FASTA format using BCFtools v1.15.1.<sup>6</sup> Next, each genome is concatenated into a larger file and processed with Pangolin v.4.1.2 to identify and classify the variant identity of each genome.<sup>7</sup>

## Quantitative RT-PCR

*Method 1: SARS-CoV-2 PCR viral load – nasopharyngeal swab:* Nasal swab VTM was aliquoted and cryopreserved from study subjects to determine SARS-CoV-2 N1 gene copy number by RT-PCR to stratify subjects as COVID PCR positive or negative. Viral RNA was extracted from 140 µL of VTM according to manufacturer's instructions (QiaAmp Viral RNA minikit). SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid (N1) and human RNase P (RPP30) RNA copies were determined using 5 µL of isolated RNA in the CDC-designed kit (CDC-006-00019, Revision: 03, Integrated DNA Technologies 2019-nCoV kit). Standard quantitative RT-PCR (TaqPath 1-step RT qPCR Master Mix, Thermofisher) was run with NP1 RNA standard (Integrated DNA Technologies) and genespecific standard curves (2e5 copy/mL – 20 copy/mL). Regression analysis was used to determine NP1 gene copy number and corrected to report copies/mL of VTM. Samples with a Ct value >35 are called as COVID PCR NEGATIVE and samples ≤35 are called COVID PCR POSITIVE.

*Method 2: SARS-CoV-2 "High Sensitivity" qPCR viral load:* Lab Developed Test (LDT) qPCR for SARS-CoV-2 Total RNA E-gene (envelope). Method: QIAGEN QIAsymphony DSP Virus/Pathogen Midi Kit (96)/QIAgility was used for isolation and purification of nucleic acids. PCR was run on Applied Biosystems QuantStudio 3 Real-Time PCR System. For each batch, a standard curve was run to extrapolate RNA copies/mL. NP/VTM (0.5ml) was diluted 1:1 with PBS and 0.8 mL input for RNA extractions (0.4 mL equivalent VTM). Assays were run in singlicate. Any positive VL detected is considered "Positive". Not detected is considered "Negative". The lower limit of quantification (LLOQ) for this assay was 128 RNA cp/mL for 0.4ml 1:1 diluted input. Values below the LOQ may be outside of the 95% confidence interval for reproducibility.

# Microfluidic CoVariant-SPOT

The cassette is based on designs previously published.<sup>8</sup> To perform a test, ~72 µL of sample is added by dropper to the sample inlet, followed by addition of wash buffer to the second well. All assay reagents are inkjet printed within the reaction chamber. After sample addition, the four steps of the D4 assay take place in the reaction chamber, resulting in the formation of antibody sandwiches with the analyte. Simultaneously, a small volume of sample traverses the snaking timing channels, which govern the incubation time. Once the sample reaches the outlet of the timing channel, the sample is absorbed into a wicking pad that is situated at the outlet of the timing channel. This removes sample and unbound reagent from the reaction chamber, while also flushing the chamber with wash buffer. Once the wash buffer is also absorbed, a clean and dry surface is ready for imaging on the D4Scope.

The cassettes were fabricated using a laser ablation manufacturing process. Complementary layers of patterned acrylic (1mm Clarex, Astra Products) and double-sided adhesive (9474LE, 3M company) were fabricated using an LS900 Gravograph  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  laser cutter (Gravotech, Inc.) based on template files created in AutoCAD 2022 (Autodesk, Inc.). Layers were precisely assembled using a custom designed 3D-printed alignment device

(**Figure S9**). Final assembly included affixing the sample inlet and wash buffer reservoir to the top of the cassette and adding the wicking pads to the outlet of the timing channel (Whatman CF7 100% cotton liner). The inlet reservoir and alignment device were designed in Solidworks 2019 and 3D printed using a Form 3 SLA printer (Form Labs, Inc.).

The cassette features an upper and a lower section of its reaction chamber with the same CoVariant-SPOT reagents as described before. Alexa Fluor 647 labeled anti-N antibody and anti-S antibody were mixed and deposited in the upper reaction chamber as three 100 nL spots at a concentration of 0.10 mg/mL for each antibody in 10% (w/v) trehalose 1x PBS. To aid in dissolution during testing, the detection antibodies were printed on top of three 10% (w/v) trehalose excipient pads in 1x PBS. In the lower chamber, one anti-N and three anti-S antibodies were inject printed in spatially distinct 360 pL spots diluted in 0.05% (w/v) trehalose in 1x PBS. To normalize for any gradient effect in the reaction chamber or for uneven excitation of the D4Scope laser, the four printed cAbs were randomly addressed in the reaction chamber (**Figure 5A**). Additionally, four fiducial spots of anti-Cy5 antibody (Millipore Sigma, catalog number: C1117) at 0.33 mg/mL were printed adjacent to the cAbs. These spots were used for D4Scope alignment and as an assay control.

An objective outlier removal algorithm was used on the resulting calculated fluorescence intensities using Microsoft Excel. First, a minimum fluorescence threshold of 100 a.u. was assigned to any spot that fell below the threshold after background subtraction. Next, outliers were removed using two passes of a 1.5 times interquartile range removal criteria. If greater than 50% of capture spots for a single cAb on a cassette were flagged as outliers, they would be removed from analysis (this did not occur in this study).

#### D4Scope

The D4Scope is composed of a Basler Ace CMOS Camera module (AcA3088-57um, Basler AG), 676/37-25 nm bandpass filter (Semrock), MC100X lens (Optoengineering), and an obliquely angled (30°) 638nm red laser module (Sharp). Mounts and housings for the optical components and holder for the microfluidic cassette holder were 3D printed via selective laser sintering with a Formlabs Fuse 1 (Formlabs Inc.). The D4Scope can be controlled either from a built-in Raspberry Pi 4B 2GB (Raspberry Pi Foundation) with accompanying 3.5" TFT LCD display (UCTRONCIS) or directly from a personal computer via a USB 3.0 connection.





















S14



S15





**Figure S1**. High-throughput anti-SARS-CoV-2 S protein antibody screen on the D4, where 29 cAbs were tested against 13 Alexa Fluor 647 labeled dAbs. For each combination, an 8-point dose-response was tested for S1 proteins from 4 SARS-CoV-2 variants: WT, Beta, Delta, and Omicron. In total, 1508 dose-response curves were generated and analyzed.



**Figure S2.** CoVariant-SCAN performance against S trimer. **(A)** Antibodies selected by screening against the S1 domain bind similarly to the S trimer. Like the S1 monomers, an attenuation of signal is observed with MM43 binding to Omicron trimer and MM48 binding to Delta trimer. **(B)** Calculated LODs show that CoVariant-SPOT is slightly less sensitive to S timer as compared to S1 monomer, but the trends between variants remain unchanged.



**Figure S3.** Impact of incubation time. An 8-point dose-response for WT SARS-CoV-2 N and S1 protein was tested at various incubation times. Sensitivity to both N and S1 proteins increased with incubation time for all antibodies, justifying the recommended 60-minute incubation time for CoVariant-SPOT.



Antigen concentration (ng/mL)

**Figure S4.** Omicron BA.2 subvariant dose-response on CoVariant-SPOT. CoVariant-SPOT maintains a similar sensitivity to the BA.2 subvariant as compared to the standard sublineage (BA.1). Attenuation of MM43 doseresponse is observed.



**Figure S5.** Anti-S cAb ratios to differentiate between WT, Delta, and Omicron variants in UV inactivated viruses. Numbers in the graph represent the concentration of the isolates (TCID<sub>50</sub>/mL). Differentiation improves at higher virus concentrations.



**Figure S6.** Comparison of VTM (Redoxica, VTM-500mL) and Acro Biosystems extraction/lysis buffer (catalog number: LY14) to detect N protein and S protein from WT SARS-CoV-2 isolates (ZeptoMetrix). Each data point represents the average of two replicates, with SD shown. Furthest left data point is a blank. Legend 1B2: cAb used for N protein detection; AM130, MM43 and MM48 are the three different cAb's used for VOC discrimination based on S protein detection.



**Figure S7.** Anti-S cAb ratios to differentiate between WT-like, Delta, and Omicron for all positive COVID-19 samples with 1B2 intensity greater than 2.72 arbitrary units. Samples with an "x" have not been sequenced but are presumed to be a given variant based on sample collection date. WT sample lineages are defined in Table S1.



**Figure S8.** Schematic of workflow for POC testing, where a nasal swab is added to lysis/extraction buffer, sample is added by dropper to the microfluidic cassette which automates the assay. Finally, the cassette is imaged on the D4Scope detector.



**Figure S9.** Exploded view of the microfluidic CoVariant-SPOT cassette. (i) Base POEGMA coated glass with inkjet printed reagents. (ii) First adhesive layer that creates the (TC) side walls and includes the profile of the (RC) and (WP). (iii) First acrylic layer that seals the (TC) and gives the (RC) it's depth to accommodate the sample volume. (iv) Second adhesive layer that creates the delay channel for the (WB) that ensures sample has settled into the (RC) prior to wash buffer introduction into the (RC). It also maintains the (RC) profile to ensure an optically transparent line-of-sight for D4Scope imaging. (v) Second acrylic layer that seals off the (RC) and wash delay channel while maintaining access for the (SI) and (WB). (vi) Adhesive backing that attaches the inlet reservoir. (vii) 3D printed inlet reservoir where sample and wash buffer are added. (viii) (WP).

**Table S1.** Clinical sample summary.









**Table S2.** Antibodies tested in the S high-throughput screen (Figure S1) which includes 29 anti-S antibodies. Antibodies highlighted in blue were included in CoVariant-SPOT.

	<b>Antibody</b>	Limit of detection (ng/mL)		
		WT	Delta	Omicron
CoV-SPOT	1B <sub>2</sub>	0.07	0.05	0.07
	AM130	0.12	0.23	1.97
	<b>MM43</b>	0.12	0.06	14.40
	<b>MM48</b>	0.06	28.00	0.43
Microfluidic CoV-SPOT	1B <sub>2</sub>	0.02	0.02	0.08
	<b>AM130</b>	0.20	0.62	2.23
	<b>MM43</b>	0.12	1.48	X
	<b>MM48</b>	0.05	12.13	1.88

**Table S3.** Limit of detection comparison for CoVariant-SPOT and the microfluidic CoVariant-SPOT.

x – indicates could not be calculated using the resulting fit

**Data S1.** Source data (separate file).

**Data S2.** Source data for Figure S1 (separate file).

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