



# Reid 2022

Metallo protein quantification by LC-ICP-MSMS

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June 2022



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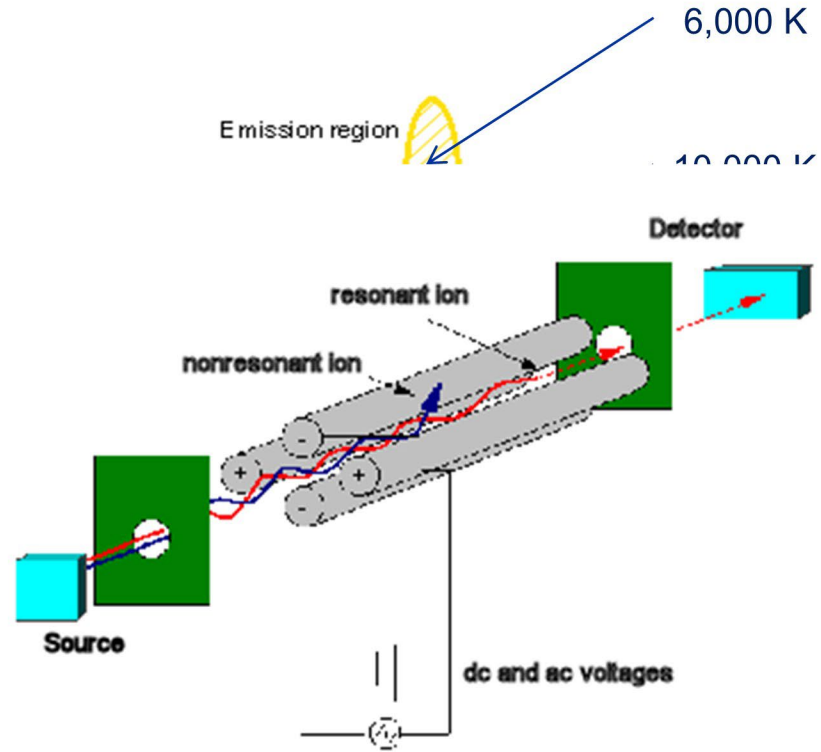
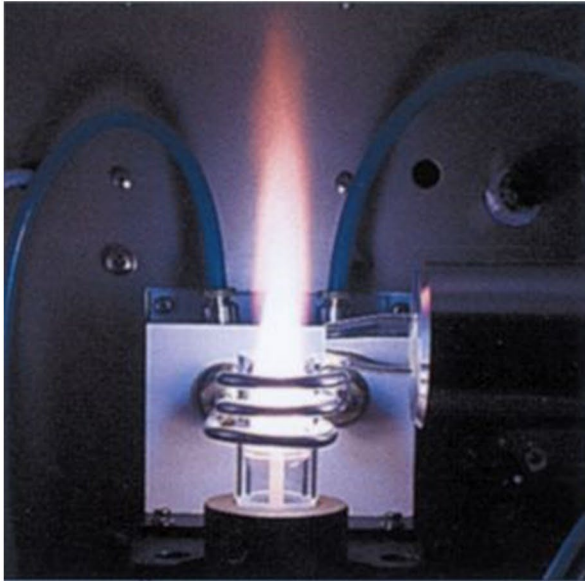
// Challenges and solutions in quantitation

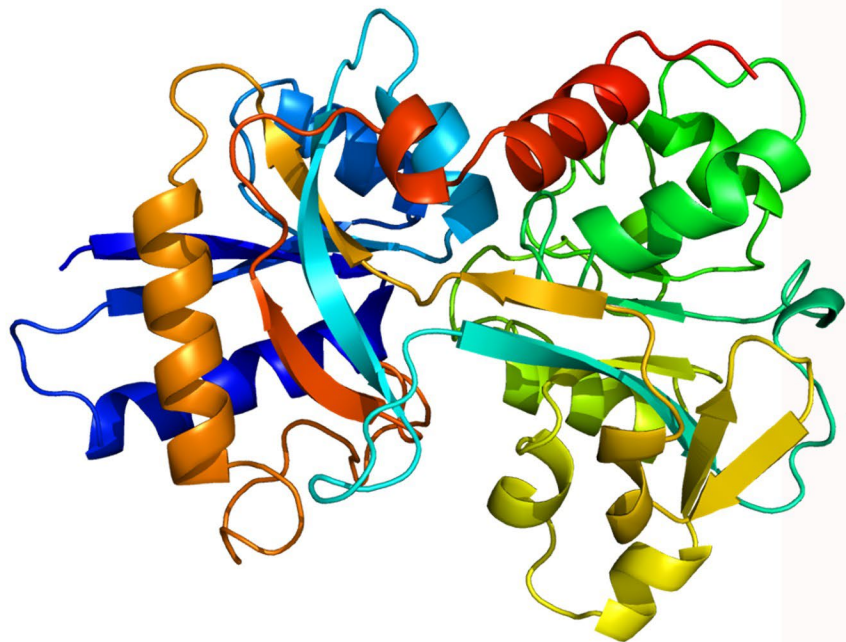
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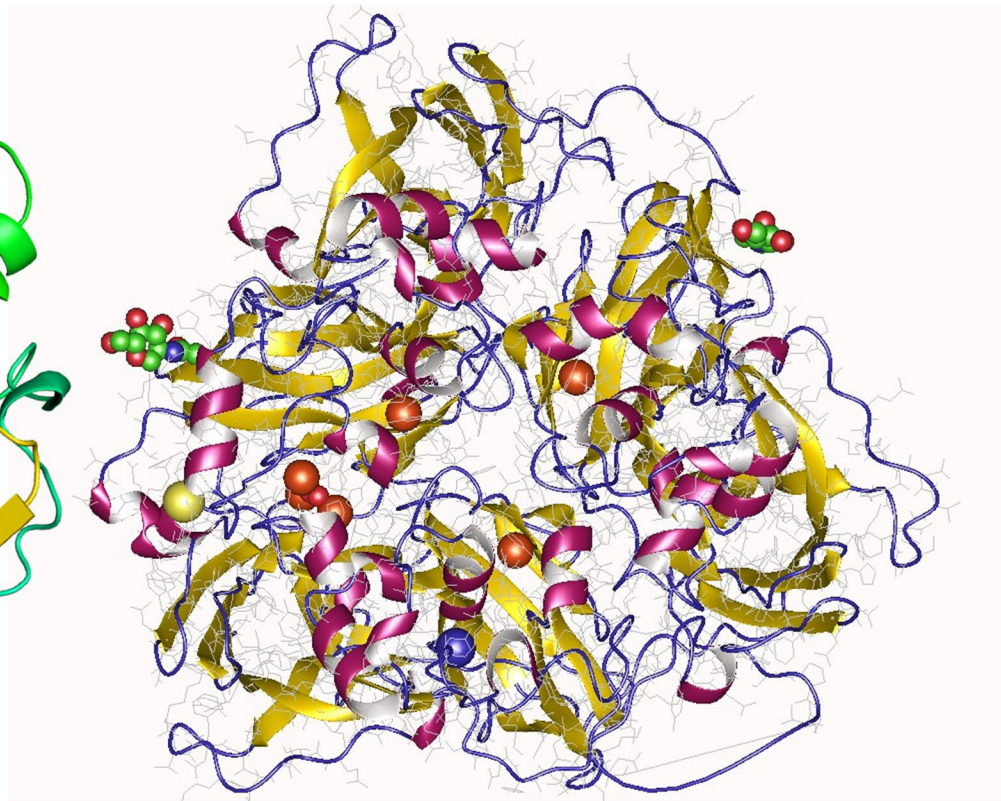
# ICP-MS

Plasma: Gas stream passes through plasma maintained by a strong RF field (1-2 kWatt, 27 - 41 MHz) and Argon





Transferrin (76kDa)



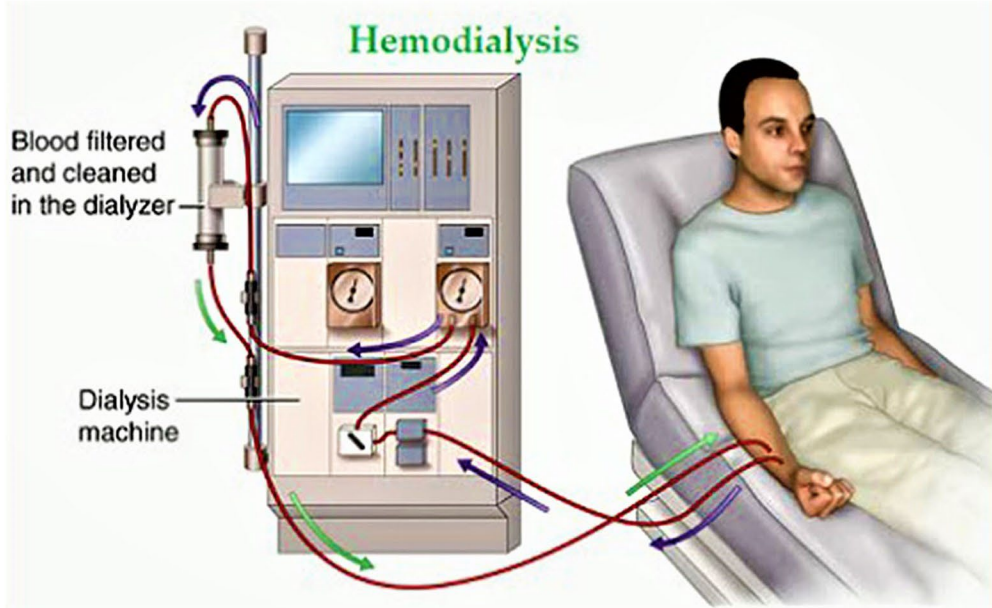
Ceruloplasmin (151 kDa)





# Anaemia due to hemodialysis in Chronic Kidney Disease

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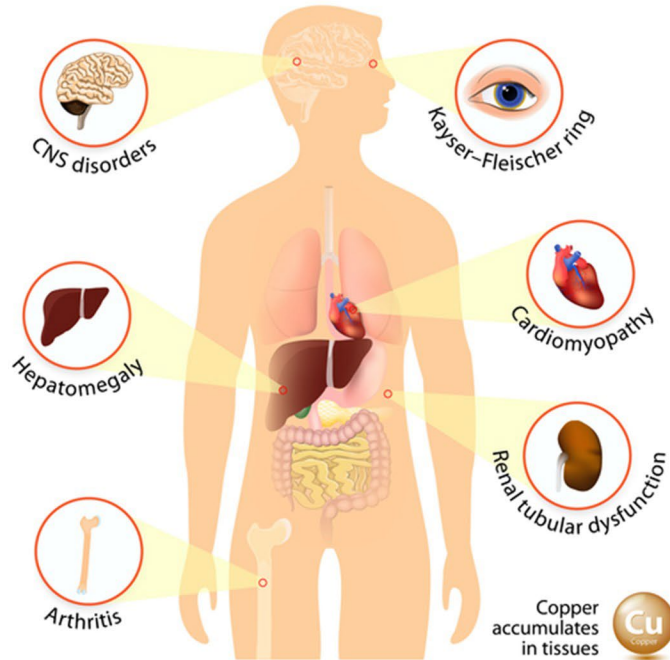
## Key analytical parameters

- ▶ Total Iron (CI on ICP-MS)
- ▶ Transferrin bound iron (LC-ICP-MS)
- ▶ Total Iron binding capacity (LC-ICP-MS)



# Wilson disease (copper metabolism disorder)

## WILSON'S DISEASE



## Key analytical parameters

- ▶ Total copper (FIA on ICP-MS)
- ▶ Ceruloplasmin bound copper (LC-ICP-MS)
- ▶ Free / exchangeable copper (LC-ICP-MS)



# Total Iron / Copper by Continuous Infusion or Flow Injection Analysis

- ▶ “Dilute and shoot”, no sample preparation, no chromatography
- ▶ Proxy matrices for the calibration curve for absolute quantitation
- ▶ Low level plasma/serum and standard addition for QC-levels (LLOQ often in proxy matrix)
- ▶ Fast
- ▶ Fe suffers from interference from Argon ( $\text{ArO}^+$  is  $m/z$  56, same as Fe) → remedy is addition of  $\text{H}_2$

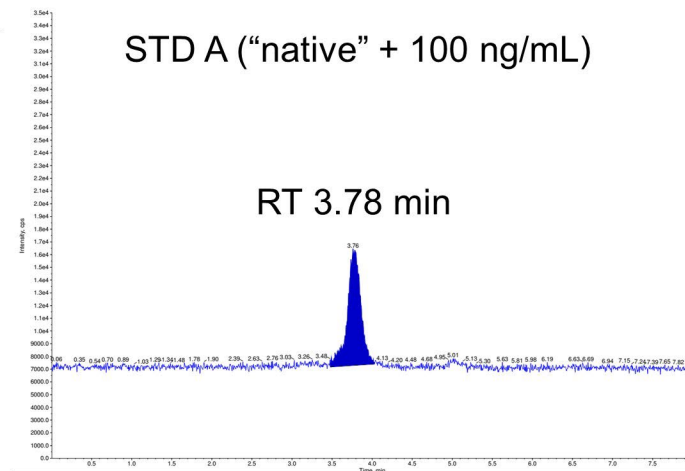




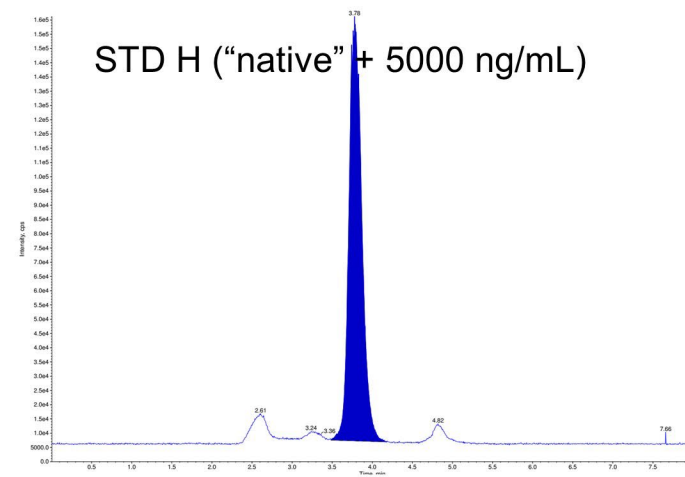
## Transferrin bound iron in heparin plasma

- ▶ Separation on a Waters BEH200Å SEC 7.8 x 150 mm column, isocratic elution
- ▶ Due to addition: study samples within normal reference ranges
- ▶ Proxy matrix for calibration samples in a PBS HSA / transferrin solution (Fe spiked)
  - Not homogenous at this scale -> native concentration based on standard addition of the calibration curve
- ▶ Low QC: low concentration matrix, higher QC's: standard addition of Fe solution

STD A ("native" + 100 ng/mL)



STD H ("native" + 5000 ng/mL)







# Challenges for transferrin bound iron detection

- ▶ In general concentrations within (or above) normal reference ranges
- ▶ Lyophilized transferrin behaves similar to native transferrin
- ▶ Added Iron ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) readily binds to transferrin, no equilibrium or volume effect
- ▶ Human serum albumin and lyophilized transferrin pose a small challenge
  - Material is not homogeneous in the scale (low mg) used
  - Different batches have different iron contents (same as different matrices)
- ▶ Solution: determine native concentration per calibration curve and for each batch of prepared QC's

Linearity demonstrated up to +5000 ng/mL

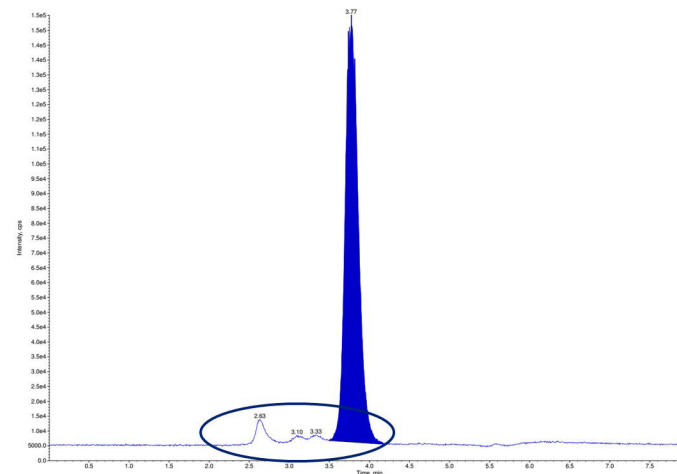
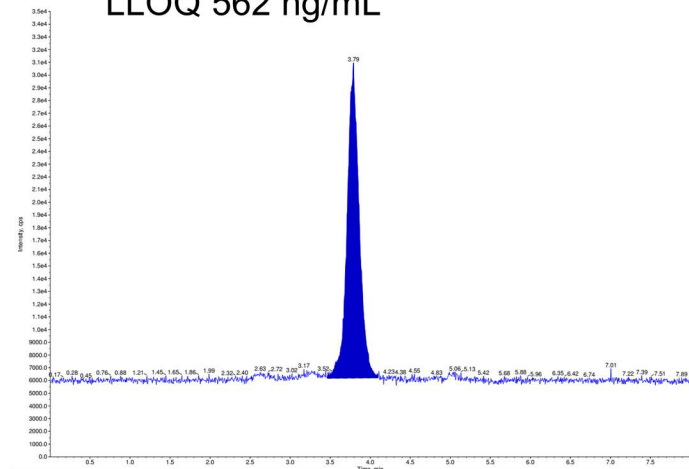
Sample description	Nominal conc (ng/mL)	Ratio	(Y2-Y1)	(X2-X1)	d(x/y)	Native conc (ng/mL)	Corr nom. conc (ng/ml)
Blank_artificial_matrix+_IS	0.00	0.171	N.Ap.	0.00	N.Ap.	522	N.Ap.
Blank_artificial_matrix+_IS	0.00	0.171	N.Ap.	0.00	N.Ap.	522	N.Ap.
STD_A_(Y+_100_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	100	0.212	0.0405	100	0.000352	488	622
STD_B_(Y+_200_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	200	0.242	0.0703	200	0.000339	505	722
STD_C_(Y+_500_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	500	0.341	0.170	500	0.000327	524	1022
STD_D_(Y+_1000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	1000	0.499	0.327	1000	0.000313	548	1522
STD_E_(Y+_2000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	2000	0.797	0.625	2000	0.000297	577	2522
STD_F_(Y+_3000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	3000	1.06	0.892	3000	0.000296	580	3522
STD_G_(Y+_4000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	4000	1.35	1.18	4000	0.000295	580	4522
STD_H_(Y+_5000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	5000	1.65	1.48	5000	0.000295	580	5522
STD_A_(Y+_100_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	100	0.206	0.0344	100	0.000393	436	622
STD_B_(Y+_200_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	200	0.250	0.0786	200	0.000335	511	722
STD_C_(Y+_500_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	500	0.339	0.168	500	0.000352	486	1022
STD_D_(Y+_1000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	1000	0.524	0.352	1000	0.000348	493	1522
STD_E_(Y+_2000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	2000	0.867	0.696	2000	0.000325	528	2522
STD_F_(Y+_3000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	3000	1.14	0.974	3000	0.000320	535	3522
STD_G_(Y+_4000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	4000	1.45	1.28	4000	0.000328	523	4522
STD_H_(Y+_5000_ng/mL_07_Mar_2019)	5000	1.81	1.64	5000			5522



Run Date	Run Name	LLOQ 562 (ng/mL)	QC-blanc 916 (ng/mL)	QC-Low 762 (ng/mL)	QC-Med 1320 (ng/mL)	QC-High 2920 (ng/mL)
23 Nov 2017	FE-ICP2-001	556	693 <sup>a</sup>	730	1300	2760
		559	885	744	1290	2390 <sup>a</sup>
		570	976	767	1280	2980
		571	908	739	1310	2680
		558	913	769	1340	2780
		555	900	706	1260	2780
Intra-run Mean		562	879	743	1297	2728
Intra-run SD		7	96	24	27	193
Intra-run %CV		1.3	11.0	3.2	2.1	7.1
Intra-run %RE		-0.1	-4.0	-2.6	-1.8	-6.6
n		6	6	6	6	6
28 Nov 2017	FE-ICP2-002	615	1030	867	1360	3120
		632	1030	827	1350	2890
		653	983	850	1470	2980
		634	966	817	1370	2900
		654	994	851	1420	2970
		635	1010	880 <sup>a</sup>	1360	3000
Intra-run Mean		637	1002	849	1388	2977
Intra-run SD		15	26	24	47	83
Intra-run %CV		2.3	2.6	2.8	3.4	2.8
Intra-run %RE		13.4	9.4	11.4	5.2	1.9
n		6	6	6	6	6
02 Dec 2017	FE-ICP2-004	618	903	755	1270	2790
		575	885	843	1260	2760
		621	892	832	1250	2810
		607	902	818	1230	2780
		604	923	820	1280	2750
		585	911	798	1270	2780
Intra-run Mean		602	903	811	1260	2778
Intra-run SD		18	13	31	18	21
Intra-run %CV		3.0	1.5	3.9	1.4	0.8
Intra-run %RE		7.1	-1.5	6.4	-4.5	-4.9
n		6	6	6	6	6
Mean Concentration Found: (ng/mL)		600	928	801	1315	2828
Inter-run SD		34	77	52	64	159
Inter-run %CV		5.7	8.3	6.4	4.8	5.6
Inter-run %RE		6.8	1.3	5.1	-0.4	-3.2
n		18	18	18	18	18

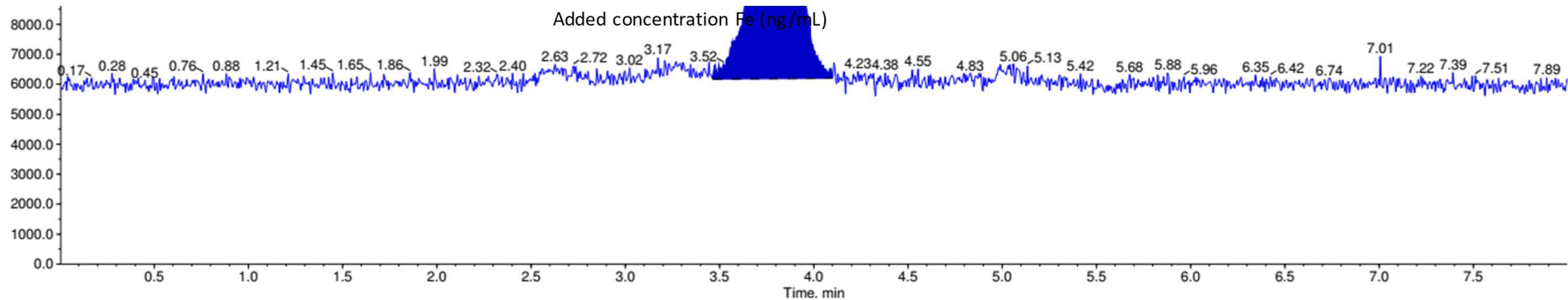
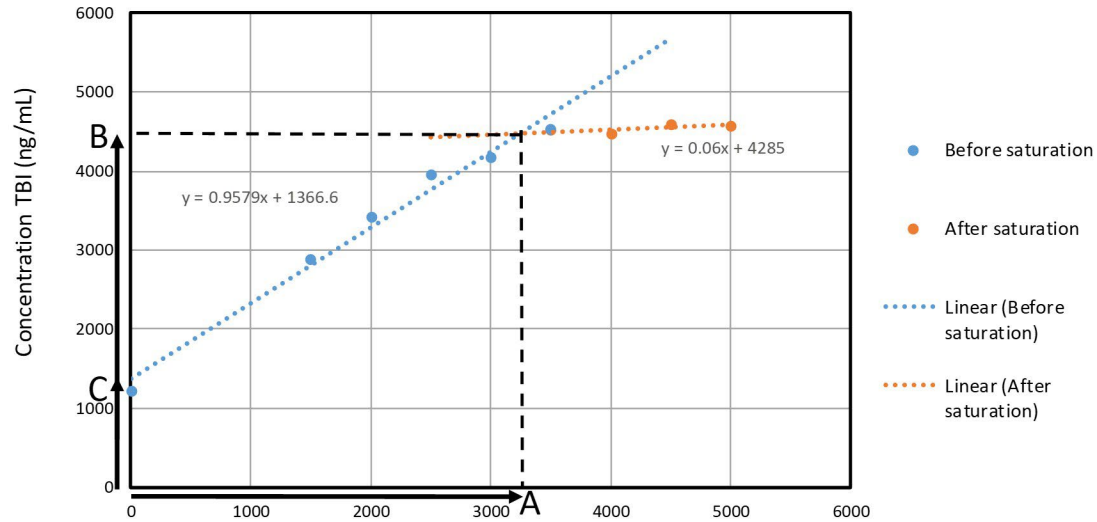
a) >15|%RE| from nominal (>20|%RE| at LLOQ); value used in statistical calculations

LLOQ 562 ng/mL





# Iron binding capacity (linearity truncated due to saturation)





# Precision and accuracy

Run Date	Run Name	Serum 1 (ng/mL)	Serum 2 (ng/mL)	Serum 3 (ng/mL)	Serum 4 (ng/mL)
...	...	2898	3277	4286	3641
		3060	3497	4552	3368
		3346	3627	4378	3635
Intra-run Mean		3101	3467	4405	3548
Intra-run SD		227	177	135	156
Intra-run %CV		7.3	5.1	3.1	4.4

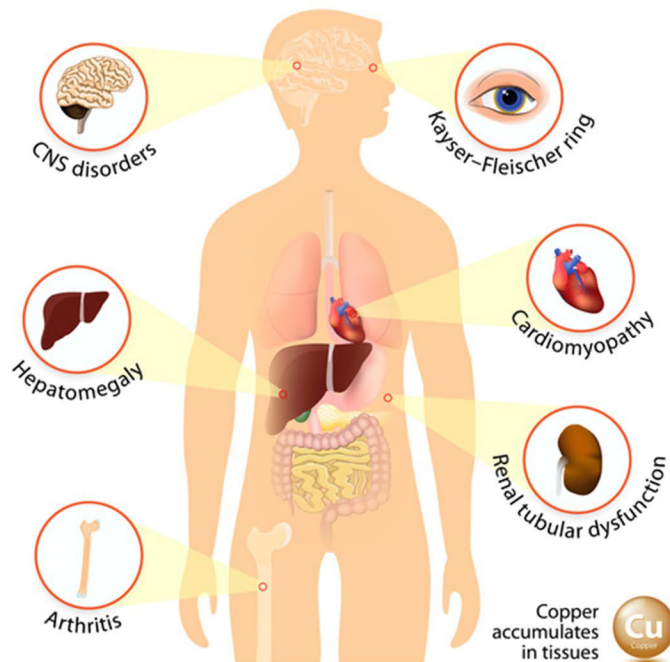
- ▶ “Normal” precision and accuracy met
  - Method validation for Transferrin bound iron was validated already
- ▶ “Subjective” method, but differences between technicians are acceptable
- ▶ Normal stability program completed successfully

TIBC MIN	TIBC MAX	MAX/MIN*100%
2898	2898	100.0%
3277	3235	98.7%
4286	4286	100.0%
3641	3641	100.0%
3060	3201	104.6%
3497	3938	112.6%
4552	4586	100.8%
3368	3481	103.3%
3346	3281	98.1%
3627	3047	84.0%
4378	4833	110.4%
3635	3765	103.6%
4033	3933	97.5%
5117	5425	106.0%
3891	4340	111.5%
4467	4174	93.4%
3195	3302	103.3%
3311	3344	101.0%
4318	4305	99.7%
4144	4427	106.8%
3789	4274	112.8%
4442	4257	95.8%
4457	4387	98.4%
4546	4243	93.3%
3570	3570	100.0%
4358	4492	103.1%
4017	4205	104.7%
4051	3860	95.3%
4290	3966	92.5%
3214	3361	104.6%
2955	2874	97.2%
3329	3153	94.7%
4166	4089	98.1%
3195	3344	104.7%
4202	4173	99.3%
3133	3345	106.8%





## WILSON'S DISEASE



Important to realize

- ▶ All known patients are under treatment
- ▶ Typical treatment is administration of a chelating agent
- ▶ Resulting in low, to very low, copper concentrations (both total and ceruloplasmin bound)
- ▶ Control of NCC is key in the treatment



## Three approaches to determine NCC

- ▶ Total copper and available kits for ceruloplasmin content
  - The golden standard
- ▶ Ultra centrifugation after EDTA addition and total copper measurement
- ▶ EDTA addition and ion exchange chromatography





## “Golden” standard: Substraction of Cu-Ceruloplasmin of total Copper

### Cons

- ▶ Subtraction of two relatively large numbers with match uncertainties can lead to negative values for NCC
- ▶ Cumbersome: 2 analysis required
- ▶ Approximation on the number of Cu bound to each ceruloplasmin peptide
- ▶ Stability data between ceruloplasmin and other techniques does not match

### Pro

- ▶ Esthablished method
- ▶ Characteristics are well known
- ▶ Technically least critical

To convert the ceruloplasmin activity in **mU/mL** to a concentration in **mg/L**:

[Ceruloplasmin] in **mg/L** = (Response in **mU/mL** / 3.33) \* 10

To convert the copper concentration from ng/mL to µg/L:

[Copper] in **µg/L** = concentration in **ng/mL** x 1000 **ml/L** / 1000 **ng** / **µg/L**

To calculate the NCC concentration in **µg/L**:

[NCC] in **µg/L** = [Copper] in **µg/L** – 3 in **µg** / **mg** X [Ceruloplasmin] in **mg/**



# Ultra filtration

- ▶ Samples are treated with EDTA (3 g/L) and incubated for 60 minutes
- ▶ Centrifuged over a 10kDa MWCO filter (4000g, 60 minutes) with WIS in collection tube (Yttrium)
- ▶ Take an aliquot of the eluate and dilute in 1 ml nitric acid solution
- ▶ Analyse by continuous infusion in ICP-MS
- ▶ Calculate the actual NCC concentration
  - Internal standard response compared to standards: to calculate the filtrate volume
  - Response ratio internal standard and analyte: to calculate the concentration
  - Both: to calculate the amount of "exchangeable" copper in the filtration sample
  - Correct for the dilution by EDTA to come to the actual  $\text{Cu}_{\text{ex}}$  concentration







# Results

- ▶ Total measurements, so proxy matrices can be used for copper response.
- ▶ Accuracy and precision very good (not in PBS, due to the instability in PBS)
- ▶ Fresh plasma/serum stored directly after collection at -80°C yields lowest NCC results

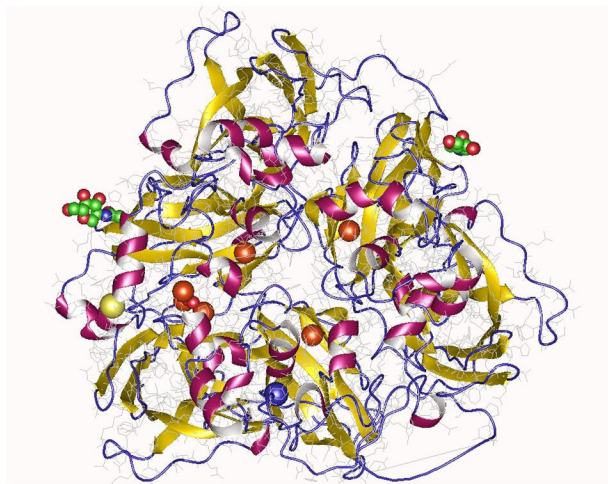
Run Date	Run Name	LLOQ	QC-blanc	QC-Low	QC-Med	QC-High
		25.0 (ng/mL)	28.1 (ng/mL)	75.0 (ng/mL)	178 (ng/mL)	628 (ng/mL)
06 Apr 2017	CU-ICP3-001	28.0	27.4	78.2	195	639
		28.4	28.9	79.3	190	671
		28.9	28.0	79.2	200	657
		29.2	27.6	79.3	192	683
		29.8	27.6	78.2	193	662
		29.6	29.0	78.4	195	646
Intra-run Mean		29.0	28.1	78.8	194	660
Intra-run SD		0.7	0.7	0.6	3	16
Intra-run %CV		2.4	2.5	0.7	1.8	2.4
Intra-run %RE		15.9	-0.1	5.0	9.1	5.0
n		6	6	6	6	6
10 Apr 2017	CU-ICP3-002	30.0	26.8	80.9	192	606
		30.5 <sup>a</sup>	26.5	78.3	195	595
		30.6 <sup>a</sup>	28.0	80.6	197	603
		29.7	28.9	80.6	190	601
		29.8	28.3	77.9	191	606
		30.6 <sup>a</sup>	30.5	82.0	194	605
Intra-run Mean		30.2	28.2	80.1	193	603
Intra-run SD		0.4	1.5	1.6	3	4
Intra-run %CV		1.4	5.2	2.0	1.4	0.7
Intra-run %RE		20.8	0.2	6.7	8.5	-4.0
n		6	6	6	6	6
11 Apr 2017	CU-ICP3-003	32.7 <sup>a</sup>	30.0	80.7	193	510 <sup>a</sup>
		32.2 <sup>a</sup>	29.6	101 <sup>a</sup>	192	620
		32.4 <sup>a</sup>	29.7	80.1	195	632
		32.3 <sup>a</sup>	28.3	68.7	188	611
		31.3 <sup>a</sup>	30.7	82.7	191	612
		34.4 <sup>a</sup>	30.1	79.8	247 <sup>a</sup>	607
Intra-run Mean		32.6	29.7	82.2	201	599
Intra-run SD		1.0	0.8	10.6	23	44
Intra-run %CV		3.1	2.7	12.9	11.3	7.4
Intra-run %RE		30.2	5.8	9.6	12.9	-4.7
n		6	6	6	6	6
Mean Concentration Found: (ng/mL)		30.6	28.7	80.4	196	620
Inter-run SD		1.7	1.3	6.0	13	38
Inter-run %CV		5.5	4.4	7.5	6.6	6.2
Inter-run %RE		22.3	2.0	7.1	10.2	-1.2
n		18	18	18	18	18

a) >15| %RE| from nominal (>20| %RE| at LLOQ); value used in statistical calculations



## Very low stability (Days)

- ▶ Very low stability in plasma and serum at -20°C (ultrafiltrates are OK) in freeze/thaw and storage
- ▶ More exchangeable copper: released from proteins (albumin, ceruloplasmin etc...)



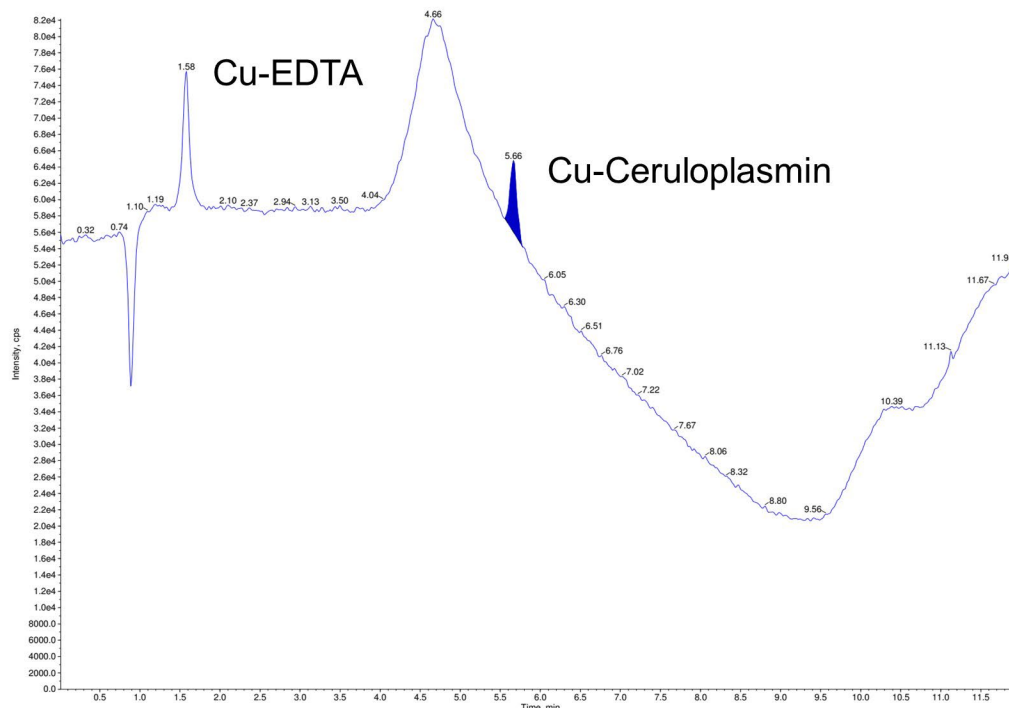
Run Date	Run Name	QC-blanc 64.1 (ng/mL)	QC-Low 130 (ng/mL)	QC-Med 583 (ng/mL)	QC-High 856 (ng/mL)
10 Apr 2017	CU-ICP3-002 (FT1)	69.3 65.6 66.9 64.1 64.2	123 120 123 121 133	480 <sup>a</sup> 524 560 512 548	723 <sup>a</sup> 774 774 788 794
Intra-run Mean		66.0	124	525	771
Intra-run SD		2.2	5	31	28
Intra-run %CV		3.3	4.2	6.0	3.6
Intra-run %RE		3.0	-4.6	-10.0	-10.0
n		5	5	5	5
20 Apr 2017	CU-ICP3-006 (FT2)	79.6 <sup>a</sup> 87.1 <sup>a</sup> 88.7 <sup>a</sup> 86.1 <sup>a</sup> 81.4 <sup>a</sup>	148 150 <sup>a</sup> 141 155 <sup>a</sup> 126	546 550 537 558 538	837 789 848 792 848
Intra-run Mean		84.6	144	546	823
Intra-run SD		3.9	11	9	30
Intra-run %CV		4.6	7.8	1.6	3.6
Intra-run %RE		32.0	10.8	-6.4	-3.9
n		5	5	5	5
20 Apr 2017	CU-ICP3-006 (FT3)	88.1 <sup>a</sup> 82.4 <sup>a</sup> 88.9 <sup>a</sup> 89.8 <sup>a</sup> 95.5 <sup>a</sup>	139 150 <sup>a</sup> 159 <sup>a</sup> 137 151 <sup>a</sup>	518 539 576 562 520	872 851 880 853 858
Intra-run Mean		88.9	147	543	863
Intra-run SD		4.7	9	26	13
Intra-run %CV		5.3	6.2	4.7	1.5
Intra-run %RE		38.8	13.2	-6.9	0.8
n		5	5	5	5

a) >15| %RE| from nominal (>20| %RE| at LLOQ); value used in statistical calculations



## Direct NCC (both Cu-Ceruloplasmin and Cu-EDTA in 1 assay)

- ▶ Plasma samples are treated with EDTA (3 g/L) incubate for three hours
- ▶ Analyze over a TSK-GEL Q-STAT 7  $\mu$ m 4.6 mm x 10 cm Column (ammonium acetate gradient)





## Direct NCC (both Cu-Ceruloplasmin and Cu-EDTA in 1 assay)

### Challenges

- ▶ Low concentrations in study samples due to medication, far outside of the range of healthy volunteers
- ▶ Ethical obstacle to obtain matrix from patients (+ medication) *or* expensive
- ▶ Lyophilized Cu-Ceruloplasmin shows different stability profile than “native” Cu-Ceruloplasmin
- ▶ “Depletion” of the matrix using selective Ceruloplasmin antibodies leads to a non-representative matrix
  - Efficiency was limited





- ▶ Use “low” and “High” native concentration plasma samples for the calibration curve and QC's
- ▶ Prepare Cu-EDTA concentration by addition of Cu to (diluted) plasma samples
- ▶ Prepare Cu-Ceruloplasmin concentrations by dilution of a high concentration plasma pool
  
- ▶ Things to consider with this approach:
  - Matrix effect
  - Effect of dilution on equilibrium values
  - No direct information on Cu-ceruloplasmin concentration
    - *Lyophilized Ceruloplasmin insufficiently homogeneous, stated concentration too wide to be of use*
  
- ▶ 1) Determine total copper
- ▶ 2) Calibration curve in proxy matrix to determine Cu-EDTA concentration (in the chromatography assay)
- ▶ 3) the subtraction yields the starting Cu-Ceruloplasmin concentration



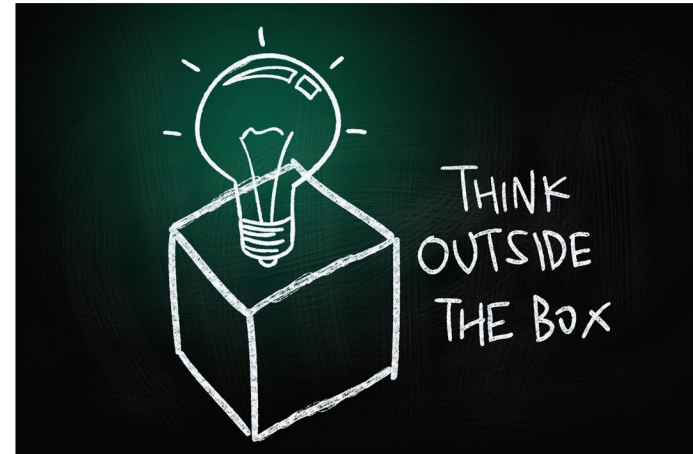
# Performance

Run ID:	Analysis date:	Concentration (ng/mL)				
		LLOQ	LQC	MQC	HQC	
QCB2111-00447	23 Nov 2021	17.1	42.7	427	854	
		18.9	44.6	465	868	
		18.1	44.2	478	880	
		17.4	43.1	441	846	
		17.8	42.6	448	893	
		18.0	43.6	442	862	
		18.9	44.1	443	811	
		Intra-run Mean	18.2	43.7	453	860
		Intra-run SD	0.6	0.7	15	29
		Intra-run %RE	6.3	2.3	6.0	0.7
		Intra-run %CV	3.3	1.7	3.4	3.4
		n	6	6	6	6
QCB2111-00566	30 Nov 2021	17.7	46.7	461	883	
		18.9	44.6	440	817	
		17.5	44.3	422	795	
		17.3	44.6	419	845	
		19.3	44.0	417	747	
		19.2	44.1	423	765	
		18.3	44.7	430	809	
		Intra-run Mean	0.9	1.0	17	51
		Intra-run SD	7.1	4.7	0.8	-5.3
		Intra-run %RE	5.0	2.2	4.0	6.3
		Intra-run %CV	6	6	6	6
		n	6	6	6	6
QCB2201-00447	26 Jan 2022	20.5	46.6	469	835	
		20.9	46.5	448	827	
		20.9	48.8	465	845	
		21.2	46.8	456	844	
		20.5	47.0	443	809	
		20.3	46.9	437	815	
		20.7	47.1	453	829	
		Intra-run Mean	0.3	0.9	13	15
		Intra-run SD	21.2	10.3	6.1	-2.9
		Intra-run %RE	1.6	1.8	2.8	1.8
		Intra-run %CV	6	6	6	6
		n	6	6	6	6
		19.1	45.2	445	833	
		Intra-run Mean	1.4	1.7	18	39
		Intra-run SD	11.5	5.8	4.3	-2.5
		Intra-run %RE	7.1	3.7	4.0	4.7
		Intra-run %CV	18	18	18	18
		n	18	18	18	18



## Take home messages

- ▶ ICP-MS can be a valuable tool to measure metallo-proteins
- ▶ Proxy matrices can be useful, depending on the relative stability of the protein of interest in
- ▶ Working at – or above – normal references ranges is easier than below
- ▶ Be prepared to work outside of the guidelines: what is the goal, rather than trying to follow them
- ▶ With creativity most problems can be solved





Thank You