

# DNA Self-Activating Warheads (SAWs)

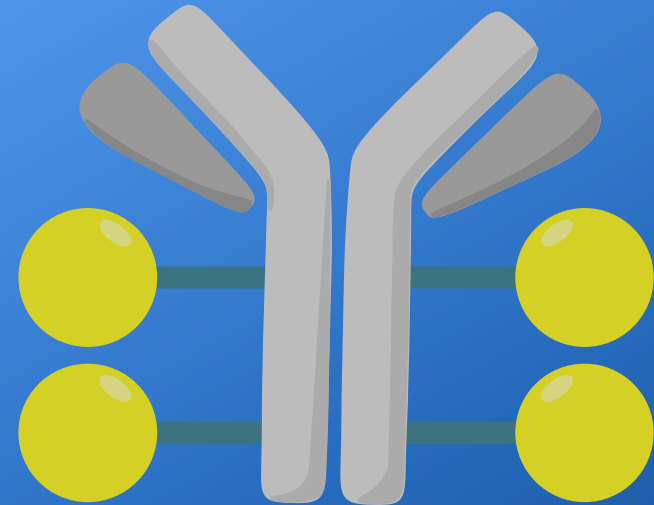
Expanding the therapeutic index  
of antibody-drug conjugates

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**Blavatnik Full Award**

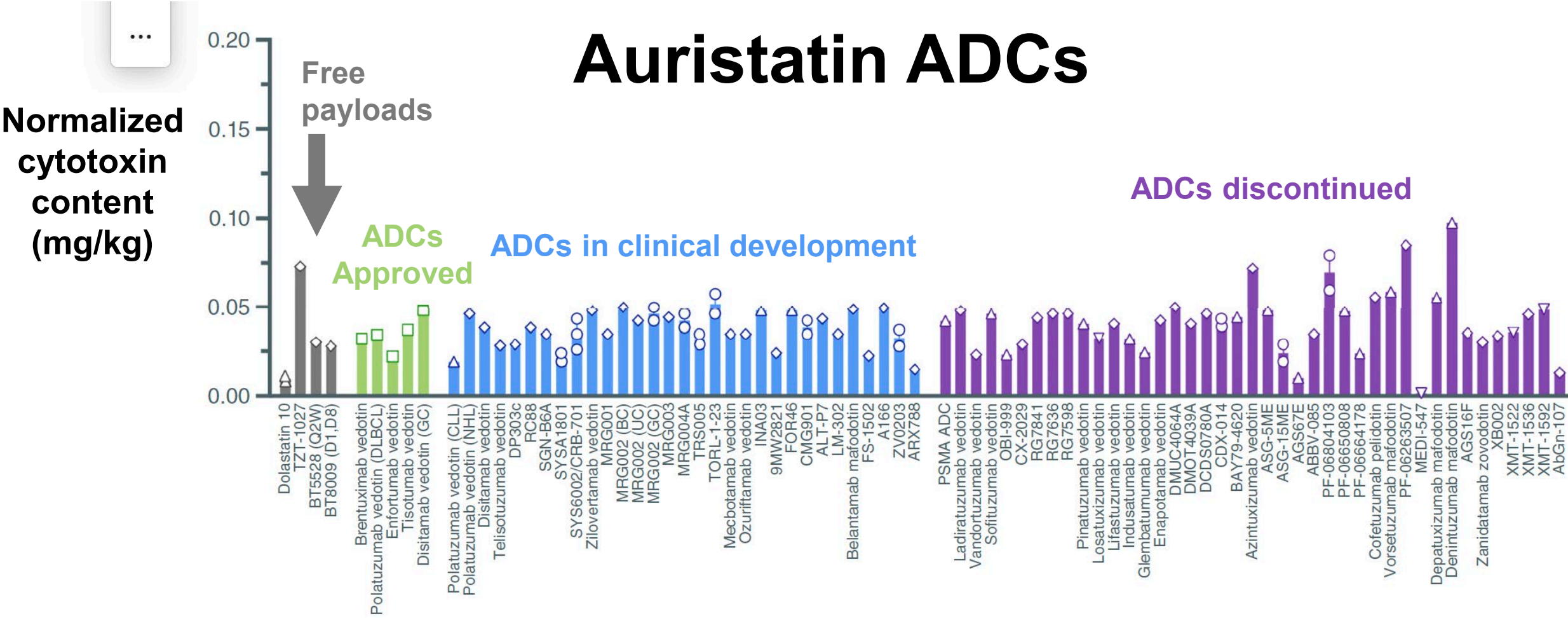
Seth Herzon, PhD

2024–2025



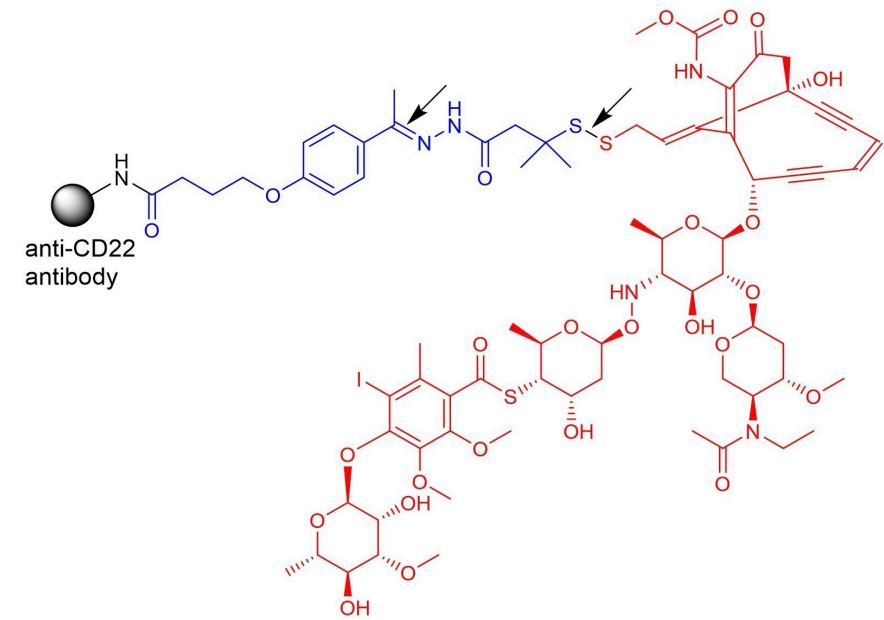
***ADC companies raised >\$3B since 2022***

# Despite >\$3B investment since 1/2022, ADCs do not consistently exceed the MTD of conventional chemotherapies

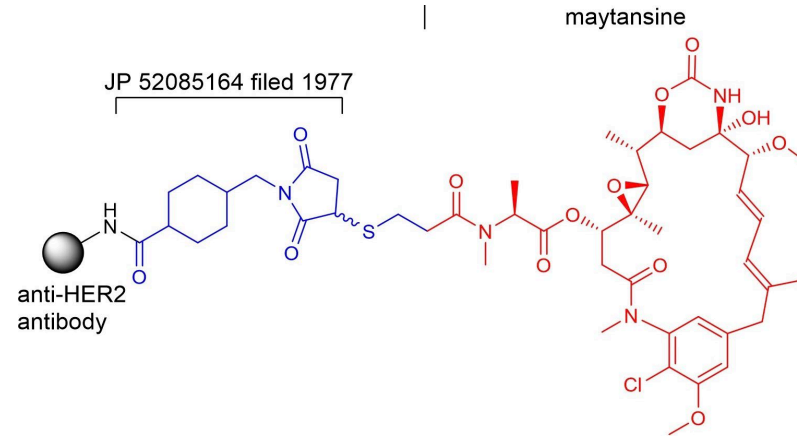


Identical trends observed for maytansinoid and PBD ADCs: *Cancer Discov.* **2024**, DOI: 10.1158/2159-8290.Cd-24-0708

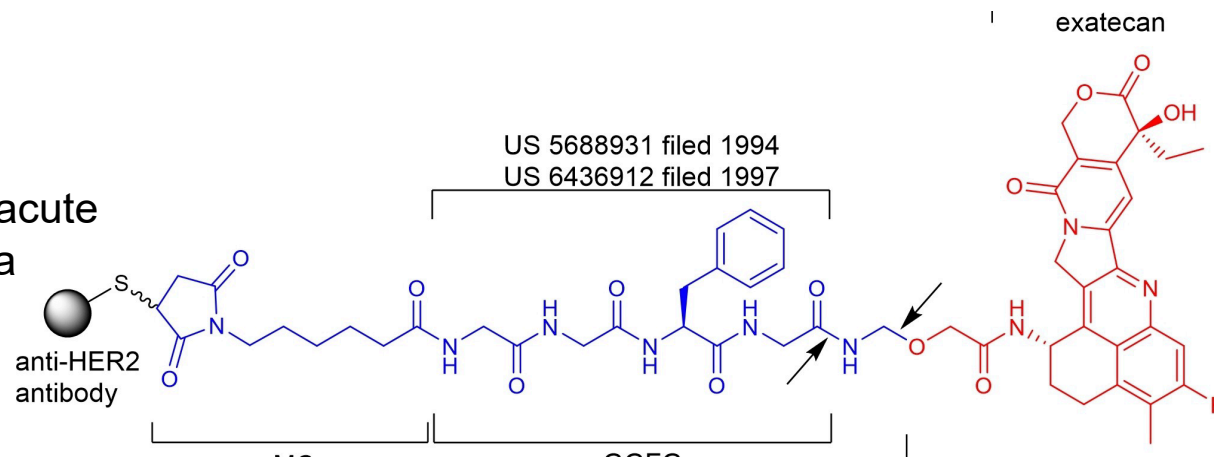
# Existing payloads are complex, difficult to manipulate, and pan-cytotoxic



Besponsa, B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukaemia



Kadcyla, HER2-positive breast cancer



Enhertu, HER2-positive breast and gastric cancer

# SawCo Objective: Develop ADCs with expanded therapeutic index



## Seth Herzon, PhD

- Milton Harris '29 PhD Professor of Chemistry, Yale University
- Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutic Radiology, Yale School of Medicine.
- Co-Founder, Modifi Biosciences (oncology)



## Ranjit Bindra, MD, PhD

- Serial Entrepreneur, Radiation Oncologist
- Harvey and Kate Cushing Professor, Yale
- Co-Founder, Modifi Biosciences (oncology)



## Alan R. Healy, PhD

- Assistant Professor of Chemistry, NYU
- Formerly Charles Revson Fellow, Chemistry and Chemical Biology Institute, Yale University

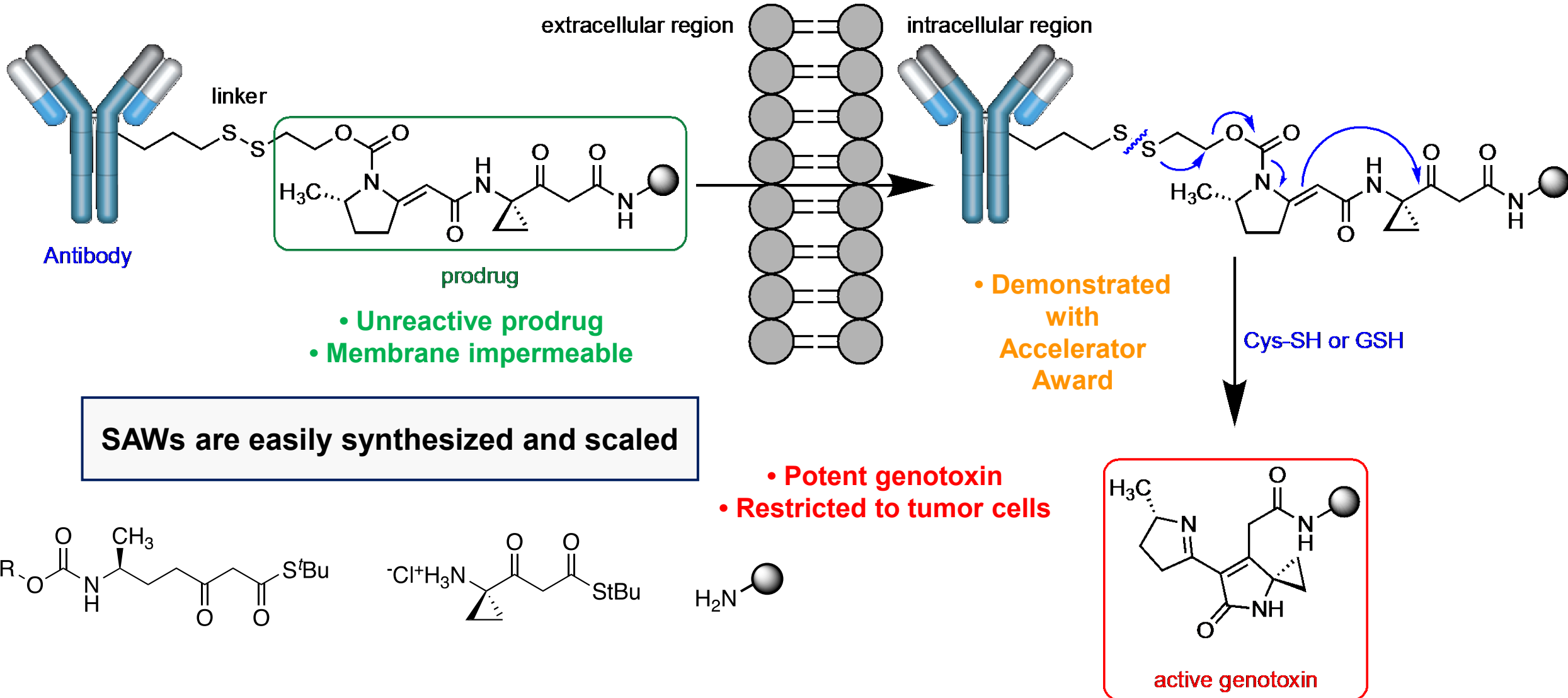


## Robert Williams, PhD

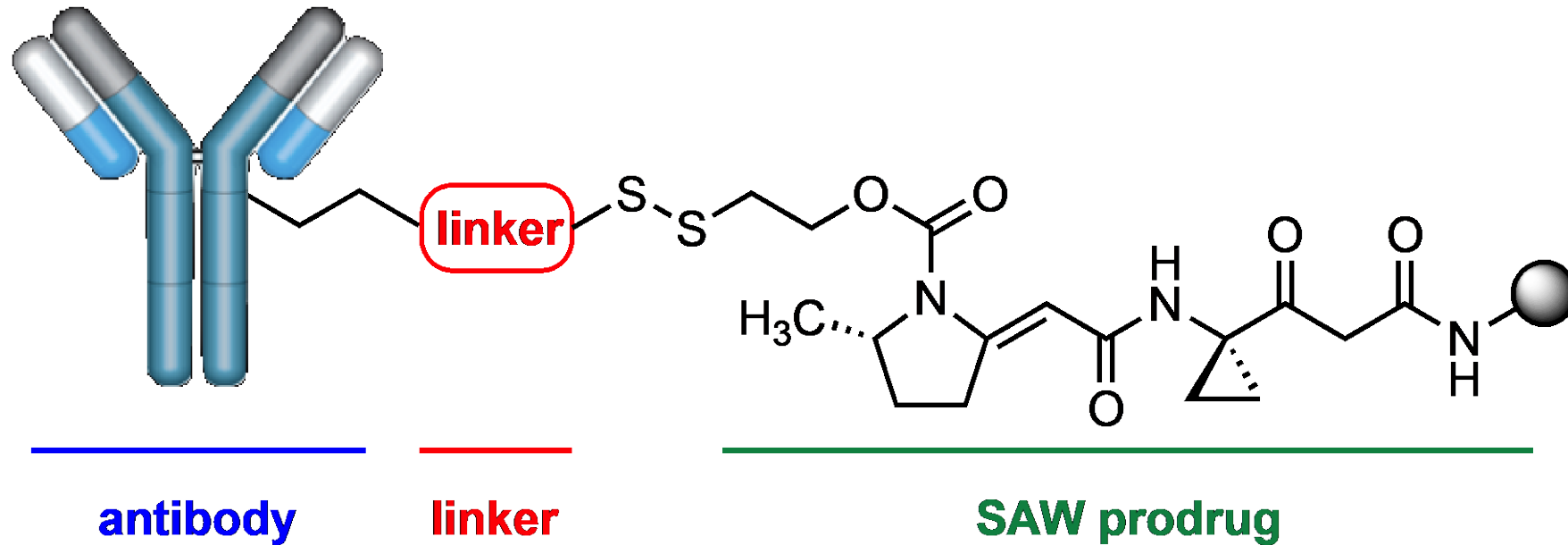
- Blavatnik Fellow, Yale Ventures
- Biotech Startup Operator



# SawCo is designing bespoke payloads for ADCs.



SAW modularity enables development of a pipeline of payloads with controllable physical properties and mechanisms of action.



**Phys. props readily optimized**

*DNA binding affinity*

*Polarity, drug-like properties*

*Permeability*

**Controllable MOAs:  
Pair with tumor-associated DNA repair defects**

*DNA monoalkylation agents*

*DNA cleavage agents (DSBs)*

*Cross-linking agents (ICLs)*

# Blavatnik + External Funding Strategy

De-risking the platform and bolstering IP position  
with Blavatnik Funding

\$75k - CRO



\$125k – Herzon Lab



\$100k - CRO



**Value inflection Point:**  
De-risked proprietary scaffolds with  
confirmed safety, selectivity, + efficacy

External Funding

\$5-10M

NewCo  
Launch



*Have optionality to develop novel ADCs, partner with a larger company, and/or develop payload platform to out license.*