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PRODUCT LIFECYCLE



## Bioprocessing Challenges: High-Titer Mammalian-Based Cell Systems

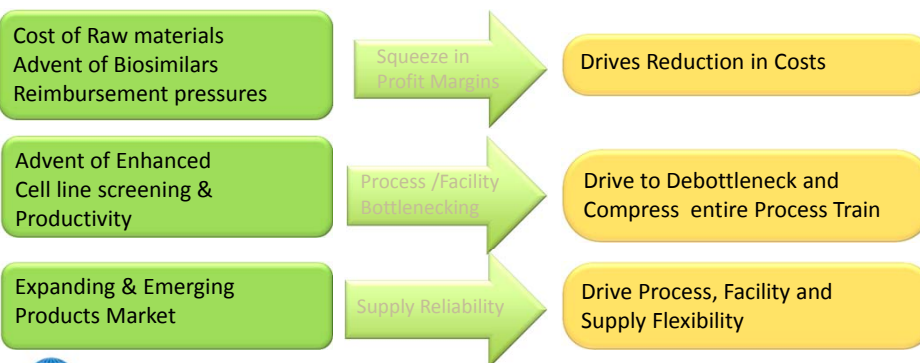
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Pharmaceutical Operations & Technology

2015 ISPE  
PRODUCT SHOW



## Business Drivers

- Elements influencing the way Biologics may be manufactured /supplied in the future



## Cost Impacts

### Profit Margins for new and existing drugs will be squeezed

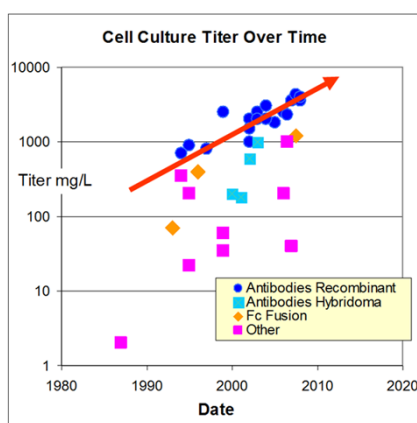
- Increasing Costs of Operations, Raw materials
- Competition between Innovator and Biosimilar products
- Drive for reduction in Healthcare costs
  - Reimbursement pressures
  - Consolidation of Health providers

#### Mandates for Bio manufacturing Operational Changes

- Reduce Cost per unit mass of product produced



## Future state of Biologics processing



\* Data from Thomas Ryll, IBC 2009



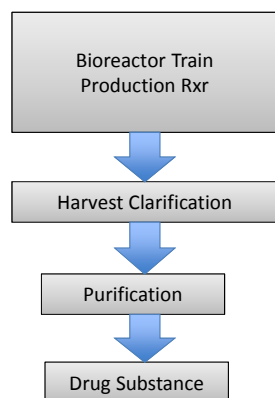
#### Current/Future state of Cell Culture:

- technology has evolved and high titer processes (>5 g/L) are norm

#### Current state of biologics process:

- Increased time in Production Reactor
- bottlenecks in processing at >5 g/L
- buffer volumes too large
- excessive column cycling
- column capacity exceeded
- filtration Areas & Processing time Increase

## Impact of Production Reactor titer on Throughput



### Assumptions:

- 2 Bioreactor production trains
- 1 Purification train
- 7 day thaw rate
- No operational, Facility, Equipment bottlenecks



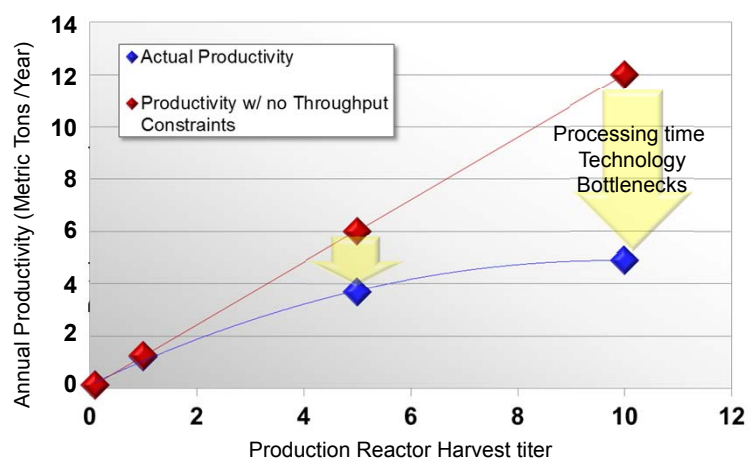
### Production Scale

Production reactor Titer (g/L)	15K Liters	2K Liters
	Amount Produced annually (Kg)	Amount Produced annually (Kg)
0.1	41.6	5.2
1	416	52
5	2080	260
10	4160	520

### Product Demands

- Shift to smaller production reactors
- Process redesign to fit existing facility infrastructure

## Impact of Harvest Titer on Facility Throughput



Single Product in three Large-scale Biomanufacturing Trains and Two Purification Suites

## Presentation Overview

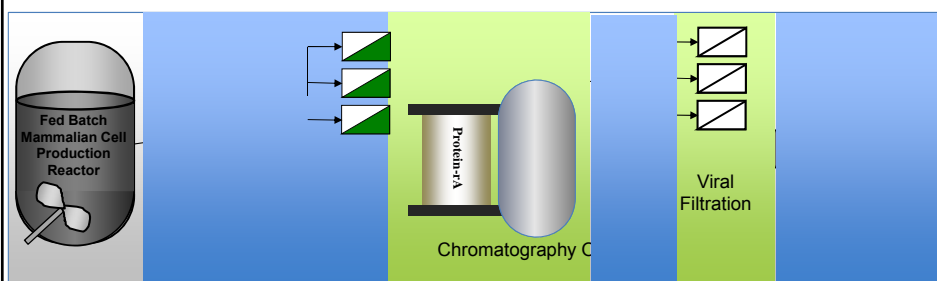
- Reshape Conventional Biologic Manufacturing processing steps to address
  1. Bottlenecks associated with increased Production time and Downstream operations constraints
  2. Process Space Compression to address increased titers
  3. Increase Throughput Capacity
  4. Cost Pressures

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- Review Technologies / Capabilities that address the above drivers
  - Production Reactor throughput
  - Downstream Capacity and Process Compression



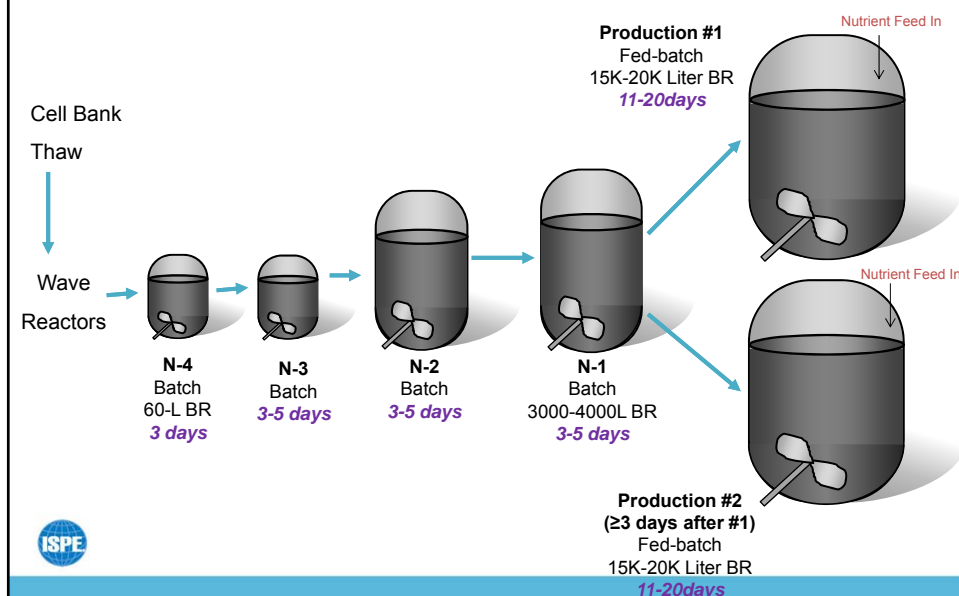
## Fed-Batch Mammalian Process



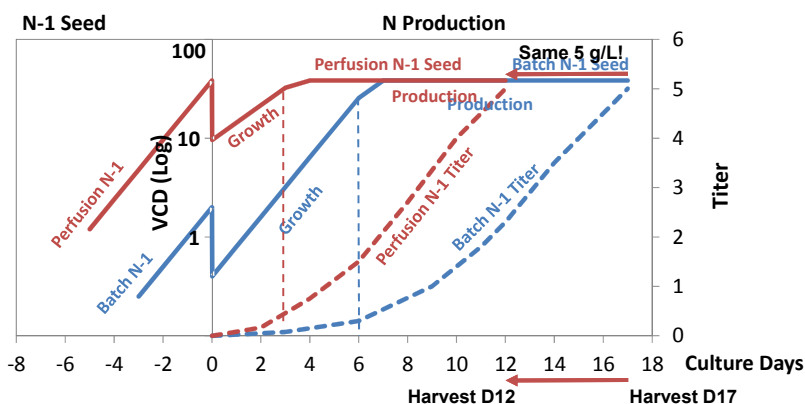
- Typical mammalian cell culture process including inoculum train, fed-batch production reactor
- Cell clarification via centrifugation, microfiltration and/or depth filtration
- Initial Capture Chromatography (Bind-Elute) for majority of Purification
- Secondary Chromatography – Polishing step for product variant, aggregate removal
- Viral Filtration – Robust Virus removal
- Ultrafiltration/Diafiltration - Buffer exchange - Formulation



## Typical Large Scale Fed-batch Cell Culture MFG Process



## N-1 Cell Retention Debottlenecking

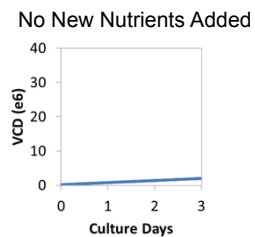
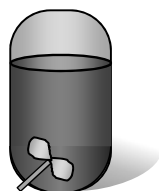


- **Shift growth phase to N-1 stage**
  - Very high-seed production cultures to **shorten culture duration**
  - **More batches** in the same amount of time
  - Increase production capacity by more efficiently utilizing the ratio between N-1/N stage bioreactors
  - **No changes in production (N) media or volumetric capacity**

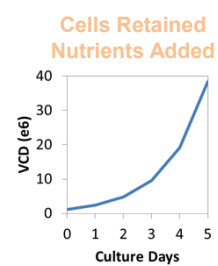
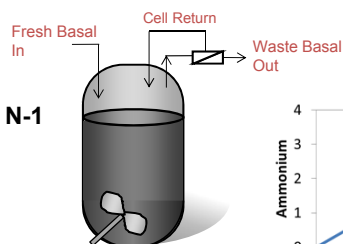


## N-1 Bioreactor Modes of Operation

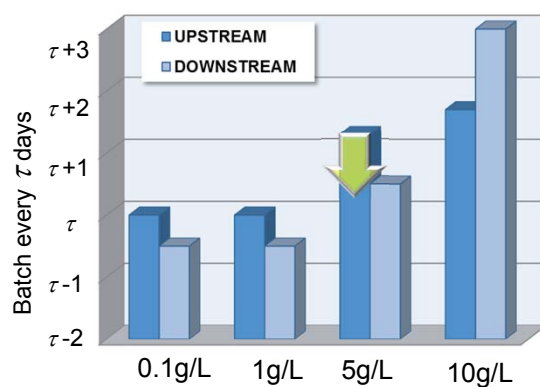
**Batch N-1**



**Perfusion N-1**



## Big Impact on Manufacturing Capacity



- Assumptions

- Campaign length is 1 year, maximum number of batches per 365-day campaign slot, 2-day turnaround time per bioreactor



## Limitations of Current Purification Platform

Capacity: process volumes limit throughput for titers > 4-5 g/L

- Resin binding capacity
  - Large columns x multiple cycles = large volumes
- Protein A most concerning
  - 30- 40 g/L capacity
  - Polishing steps flow-through mode

### ~5 g/L at 20,000L Scale

1.6 m Protein A column (400L resin, 6 cycles, 45,000 L buffer)

- Protein A eluate volume ~ 7100 L
- Polishing Chrom eluate volume ~ 10,500L

Buffer Volume Constraints

Process Intermediate Volume Constraints



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## High Titer Processing: Strategies Capture

New Capture Resins that provide improved capacity and/or Productivity

Alternative non ProA Capture resins  
eg IEX, HyperCel

Factors that drive one technology over another:

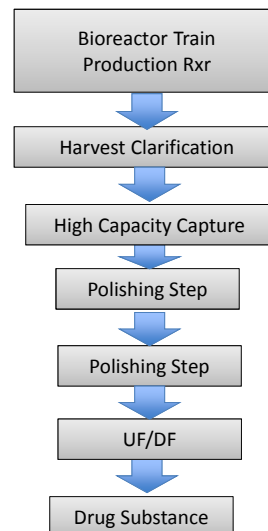
- (1) COGs
- (2) Platformability,
- (3) Scalability,
- (4) Facility/Engr Retrofit,
- (5) Validation-complexity,

Alternative technologies  
(eg Precipitation,  
Expanded Bed)



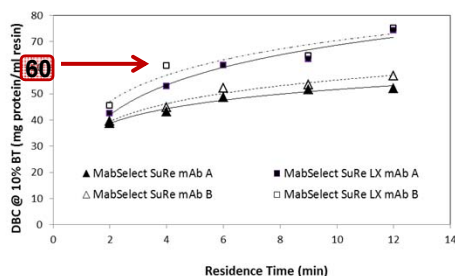
## High Capacity Process Alternative Capture Step

- Protein A improvements
  - New suppliers offering lower cost
  - New higher binding capacity resins
  - New modes of operation
- Protein A Replacement
  - B/E mode followed by one or two polishing F/T steps
  - $\geq 70$  g/L dynamic binding capacity to reduce process volumes by  $\geq 2X$
  - Better resin cleaning and lifetime
  - Eliminate high cost of protein A



## High Capacity Resins: Protein A

- For a high titer, shorter duration production bioreactor, the Protein A capture step with  $\sim 35$ -40 g/L loading capacity has been identified as a potential throughput bottleneck
  - Many column cycles
  - Large buffer requirements
  - Large intermediate process volumes
- Process modeling has shown that increasing capture column binding capacity to 60 g/L combined with buffer concentrates will alleviate potential bottleneck



Leverage higher capacity resins:

MabSelect SuRe LX  
VS  
MabSelect SuRe

Ghose et al., Biotech Progress, 20(3), 2004



## Maximizing Capacity on Protein A

### MABSuRe LX

New higher capacity version of resin

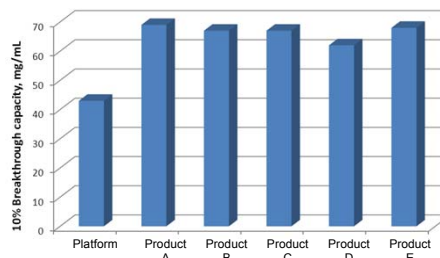
### Dual flow rate operation

Stepping down flowrate during load optimizes for mass transport

DBC (10 % BT) of 60-70 g/L

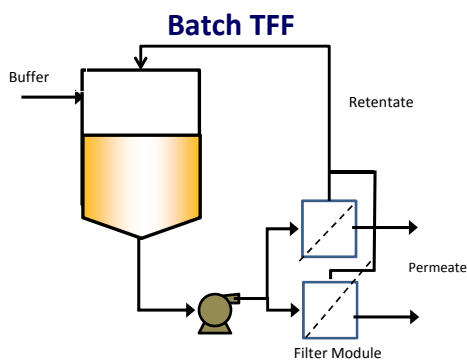


Comparable performance with a ~50% increase in binding capacity



Product	Resin	Load g/L	Yield %	HCP ppm	Pr A ppm
A	CONTROL	35	> 95	500	2.1
	SuRe LX	55	> 95	488	3.2
B	CONTROL	35	> 95	300	2.5
	SuRe LX	55	> 95	690	4.6

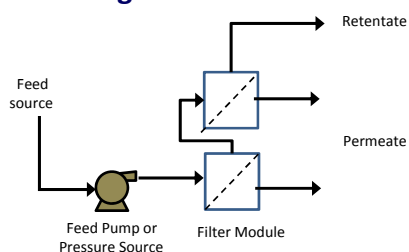
## Tangential Flow Filtration Solution



- Membrane modules in-parallel
- Concentration over time; requires several membrane passes
- Product held in recirculation vessel

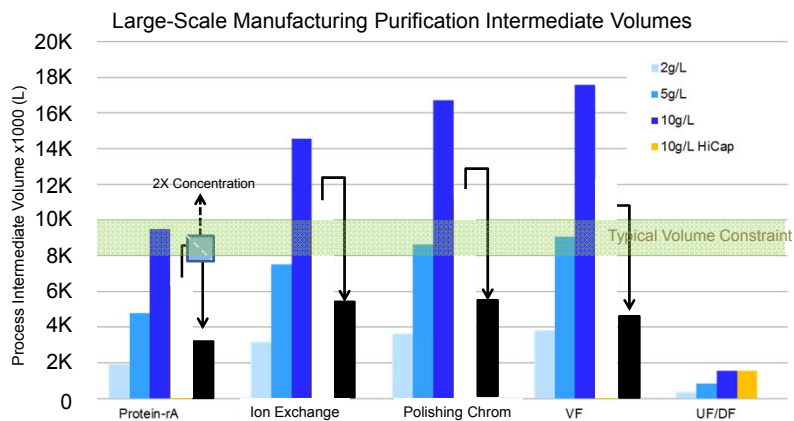


### Single-Pass TFF



- Membrane modules in-series
  - Concentration over membrane length in a single pass
  - No recirculation vessel or feed pump required
- Lower cost, smaller footprint
  - Uses conventional UF modules and could be fully disposable
  - Higher recovery, lower shear
  - Allows in-line operation

## Downstream Process Intermediate Volumetric Constraints



- Chromatography Improvements and SPTFF enable HT Processing
  - Reduces downstream volumes in a platform process (FT columns)
  - Facilitate high titer MFG processes (> 5g/L) within existing MFG constraints



## Effect of Using Buffer Concentrates

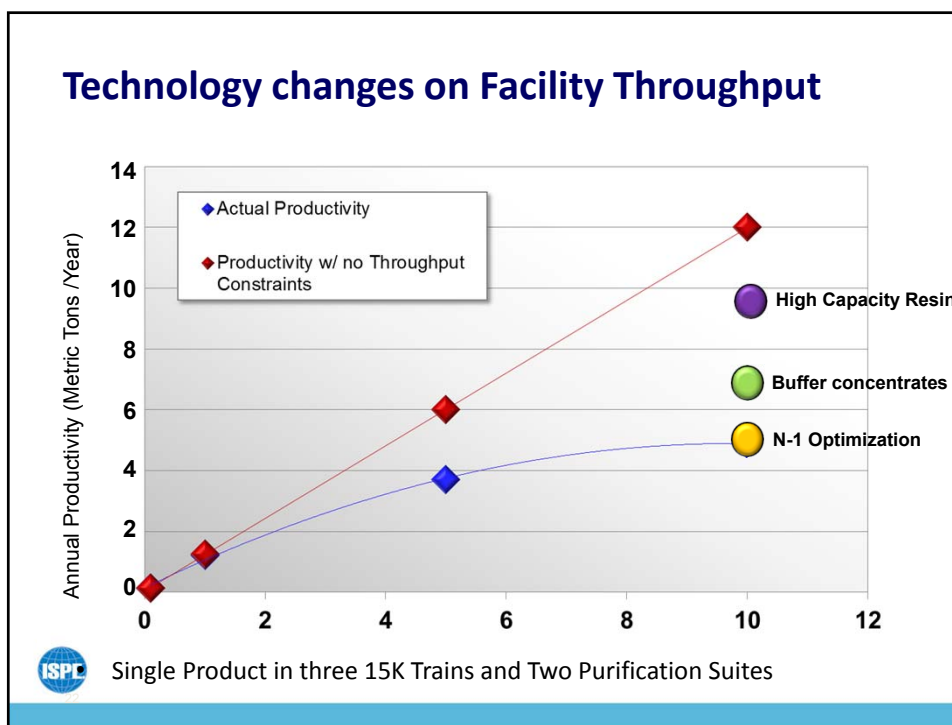
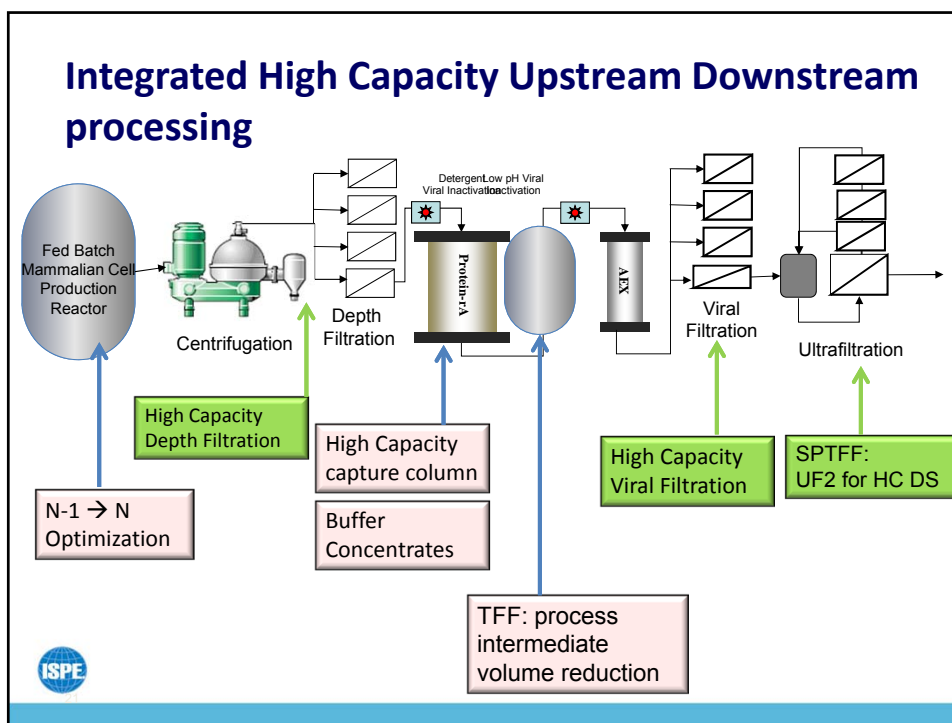
### 10g/L Harvest Conditions

- Case 1 – All chromatography buffers at 1x
- Case 2 – All chromatography buffers at 5x

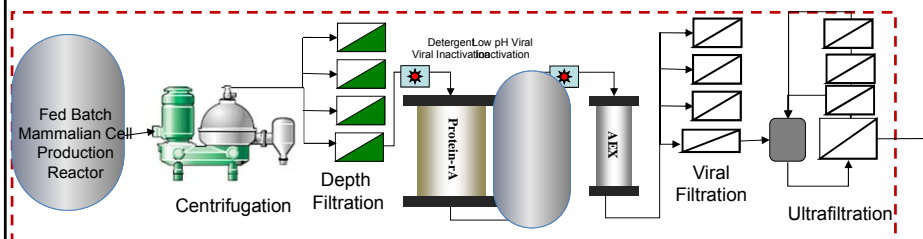
Case	Total # of Buffer Preps	Purification Cycle Time (days)	Upstream Cycle Time (1 train) (days)
1	50-60	$\tau$	$\tau - 1.5$ days

*Without concentrates, Purification becomes the bottleneck*





## Economic Analysis



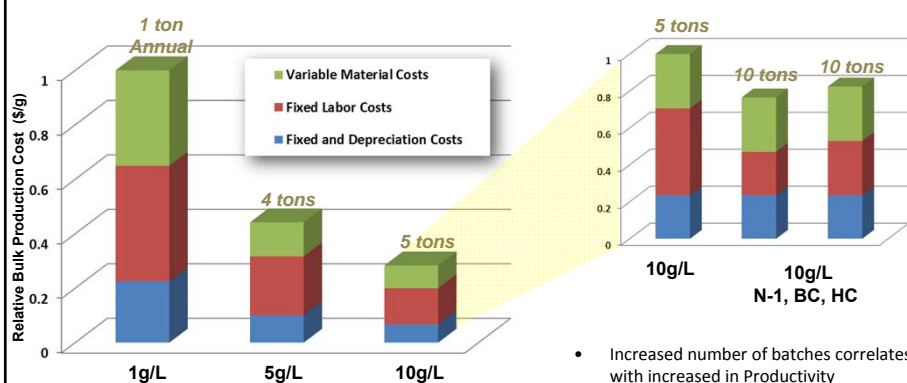
### Scope:

Includes processes between the LSM Bioreactor and the Final Bottling Step



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## Production Cost Contributions



#### Assumptions:

- Model current Purification technology
- Same facility Fit
- Enhanced bioreactor turnaround
- All analysis assumed no labor or utility constraints



- Increased number of batches correlates with increased in Productivity
- Allow for Resource utilization optimization reduce COGs by 23%

## Summary

- Facility bottleneck for 1-5g/L Fed batch processes at large scale is production bioreactor (with three trains). Shift in Bottlenecks occur at Downstream as one approached 10g/L
- Integration of advances in N-1 Perfusion, High capacity resins, Buffer concentrates, and intermediate volume reduction allows for throughput increase by 2x as compared to no change in technology
  - Allow the avoidance of expanding facility Footprint
- As annual output and scale increase with titer increase, the relative importance of different cost categories are expected to change
  - Overall cost of goods/ gram product decreases by >70%



## Acknowledgements

- N-1 Perfusion:
  - William Yang
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- SPTFF:
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  - Alex Brinkmann (SPTFF)
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  - Chris Antoniou
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