

# MILK PRODUCED BY CELL CULTURES

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# FOOD PROTEIN TRANSFORMATION

- ✓ Expect that alternative protein production face an exponential growth where big and research heavy companies will develop, patent, produce and deliver raw materials and ingredients.
- ✓ New start-ups will and are emerging.
- ✓ Will new technologies enable potential partly transition away from production animals?
- ✓ Transformation expected in 3 waves with breakthroughs in the following periods:

2020 - 2025 Plant based proteins

2025 - 2030 Mikrobial produced proteins (precision fermentation)

2030 - 2035 Stem cell based meat and milk

## References:

**Boston Consulting Group (2021) "Food for Thought – The Protein Transformation"**

**EU-analysis "Farmers of the Future, 2020"**

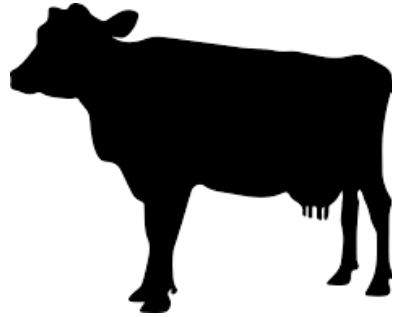
**American "think-tank" RethinkX (2019)**

# CLIMATEMILK – EFFECT OF FEED ADDITIVES ON MILK QUALITY AND FUN

Controlled feeding trials

WP

Animal feeding trials



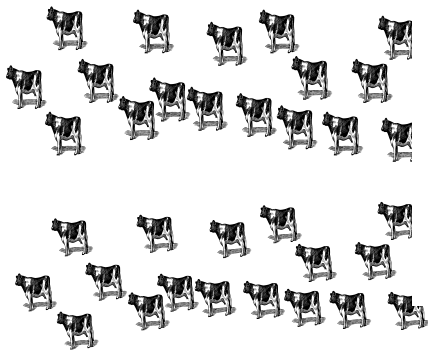
Feed additives

3-NOP

Nitrate



Farm testing



WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO  
GAYANI LOKUGE'S PHD DEFENCE:

## SUSTAINABLE DAIRY - EXPLORING THE LINK BETWEEN CLIMATE- FRIENDLY DIETS AND MILK QUALITY

TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2024 13.00-17.30

Room 5910-214, Department of Food Science  
Aarhus University, Agro Food Park 48, 8200 Aarhus N

The defence will be finishing with a reception.

If you wish to participate in the reception please register no later than  
18 June 2024. Sign up for the reception here:

<https://events.au.dk/phdreceptionegayanilokuge/signup>

### PROGRAM

13.00-13.05

Welcome by Chair of the assessment committee,  
Associate Professor Martin Krøyer Rasmussen  
and main supervisor, Associate Professor Nina Aagaard  
Poulsen

13.05-13.50

Gayani Lokuge presents the thesis entitled:  
"Sustainable dairy - Exploring the link between  
climate-friendly diets and milk quality"

13.50-14.00

Break

14.00-16.00

Defence of the thesis

16.00-16.15

The assessment committee concludes

16.30-17.30

Reception - a light snack will be served



Milk quality and composition

WP 2

Overall milk composition (Milkoscan)

Particle size (Nanoflex, mastersizer)

Vitamin B2 (HPLC), B12 (ELISA)

Amino acid profiling (LC-ESI/MS)

Fatty acid composition (GC)

Methods for N-compounds in milk

Gravimetric assay, DUMAS)

Milk functionality

WP 3

Protein crystallization

Lipid peroxidation and fat oxidation

Casein coagulation



# Single cell and fermentation based protein



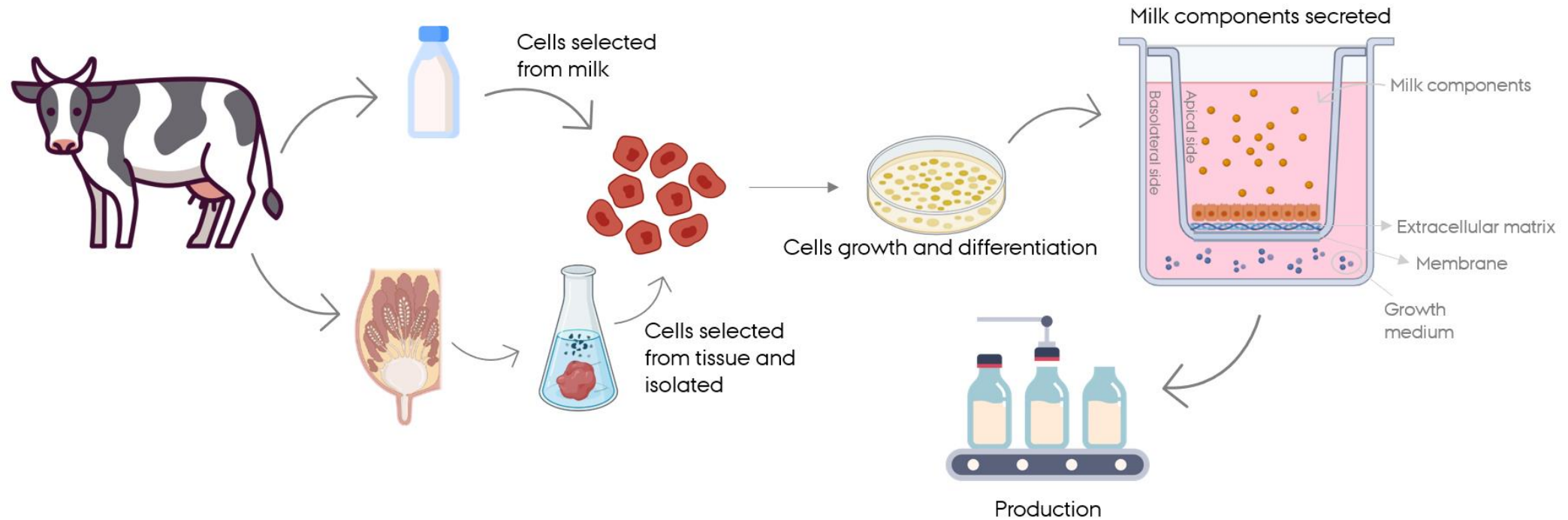
# New Culture



# Cultivated milk (human/bovine)

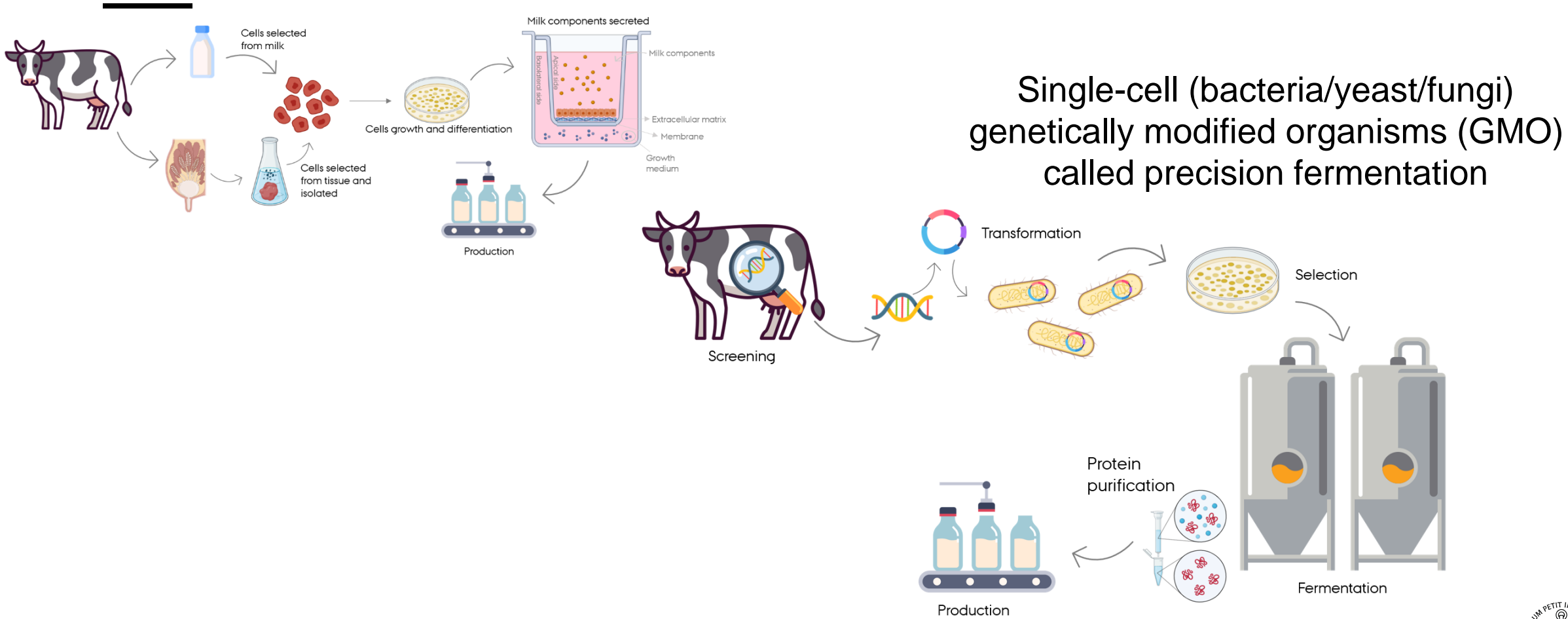


# PRINCIPLES OF THE TECHNIQUE



*In vitro* culture of bovine mammary epithelial cells (MECs) derived from tissue or milk

# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CELLULAR MILK PRODUCTION AND PRECISION FERMENTATION



Single-cell (bacteria/yeast/fungi) genetically modified organisms (GMO) called precision fermentation



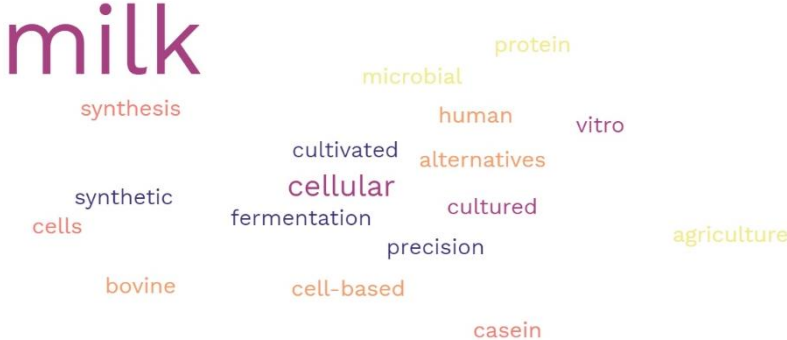
# TERMINOLOGIES



Cell-based milk alternative? – no

Cell based protein alternative – yes

According to Codex not ok to use the word milk protein or whey protein in connection with products not coming from a cow, but ok to use the specific protein terminologies, like casein or albumin for example



# Cell composition of milk from healthy cows (the cell count)

- Macrophages
- Neutrophils (PMN leucocytes)
- Lymphocytes
- Small amount of epithelial cells (mammary epithelial cells=MECs)



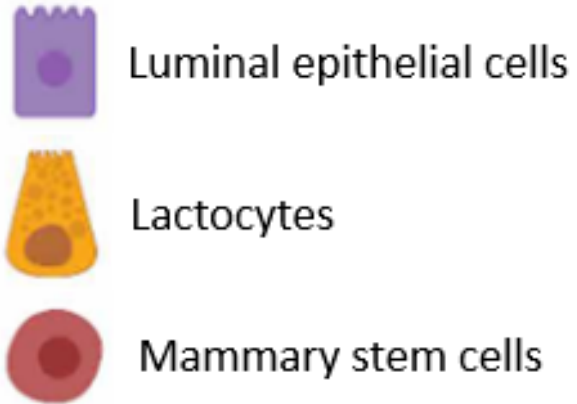
Centrifuge to  
isolate cells



# CELL TYPES



1. TISSUE OR MILK COLLECTION



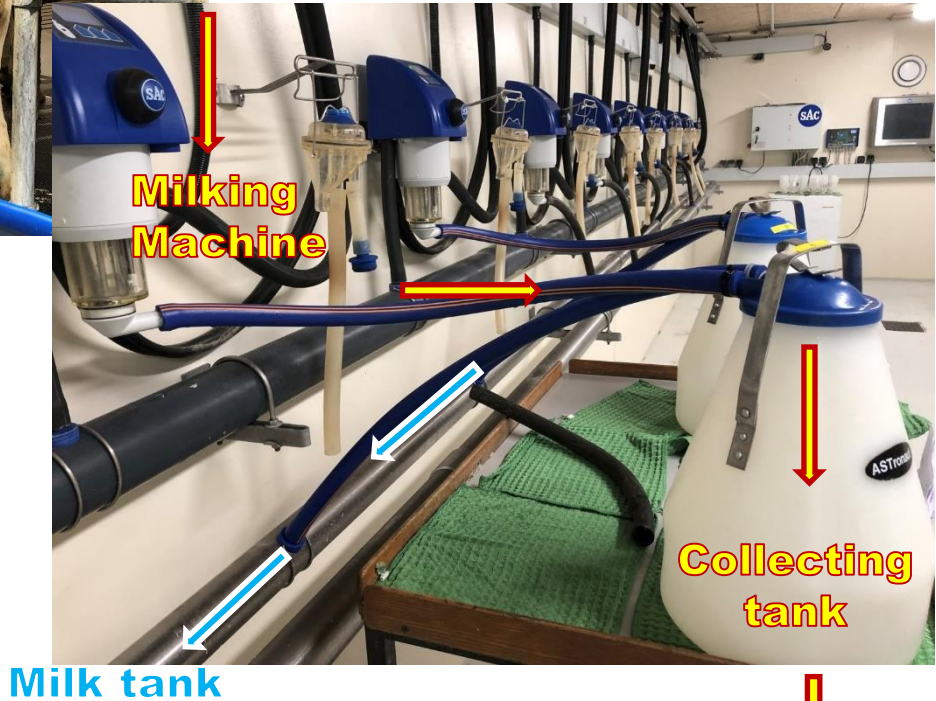
## 2. CELL ISOLATION

Use marker for luminal epithelial cells but move on with a pool of mixed populations

# Milk cell isolation – milk collection in barn



Max. 10 L of milk collected  
Extra milk goes to the big tank



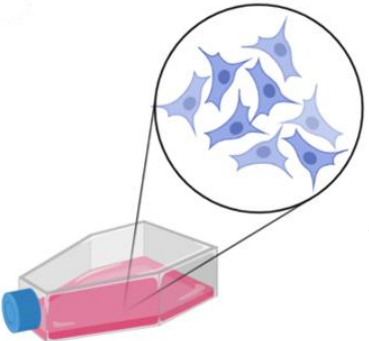
# Isolation of mammary epithelial cells from milk



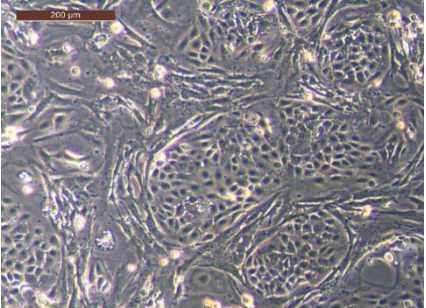
Milk collection



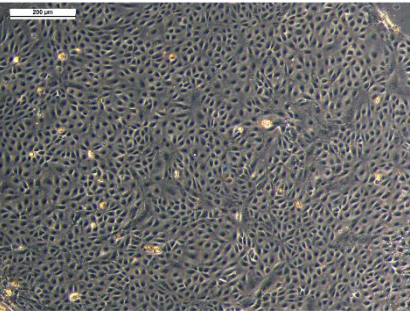
Centrifugation



Isolated cells



Purification & Characterization



Cell culture

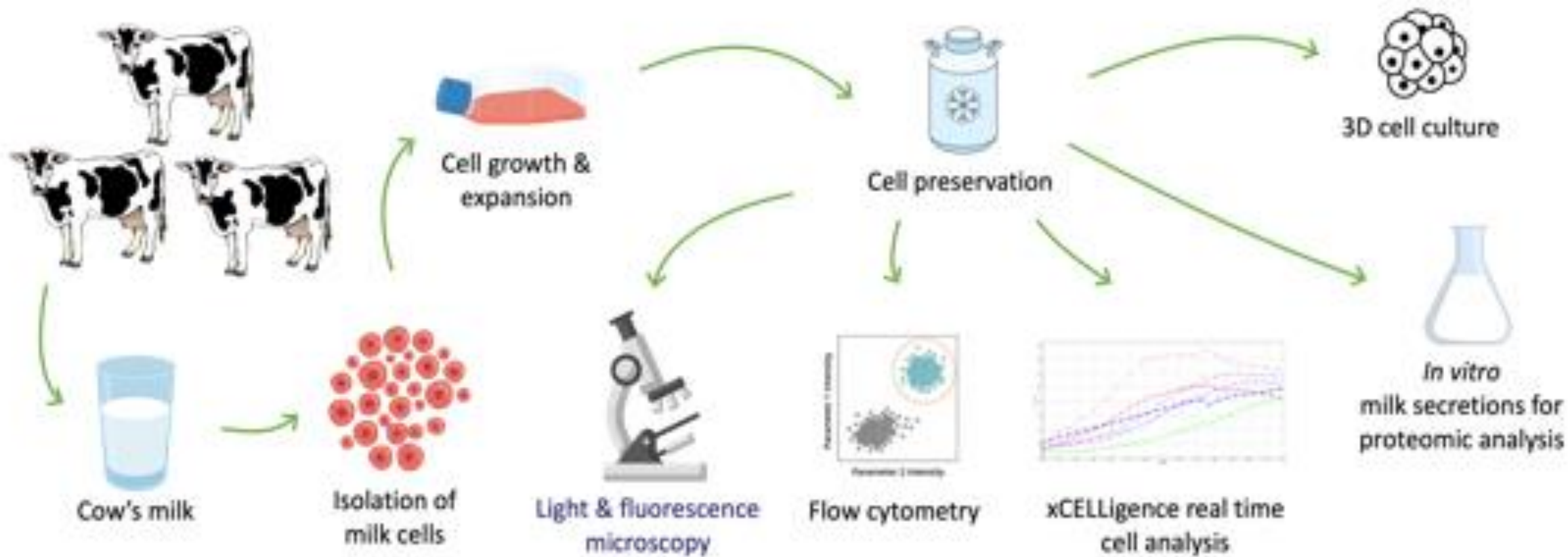
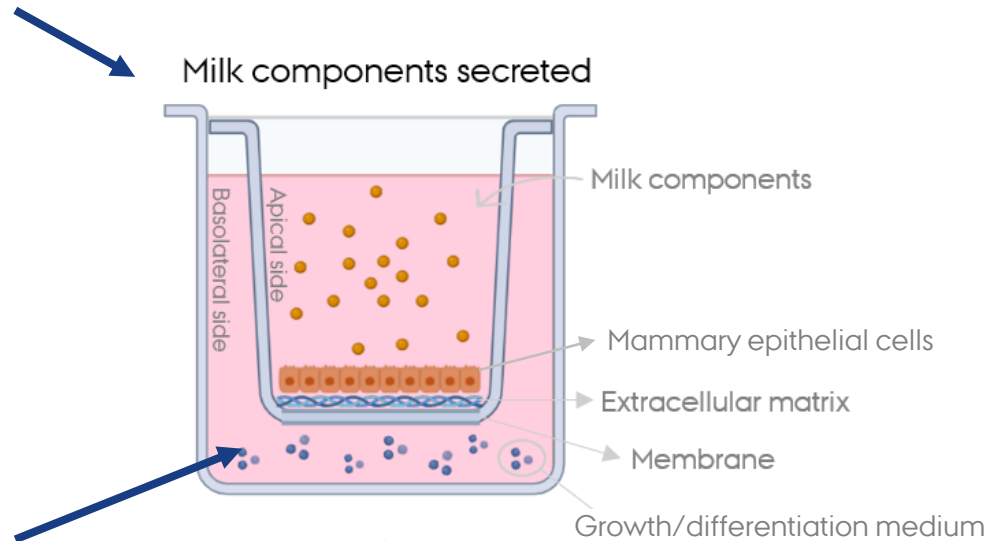


Fig 1. Illustration of the workflow

# CULTIVATED "MILK" SECRETOMES

Mammary epithelial cells from udder or from milk

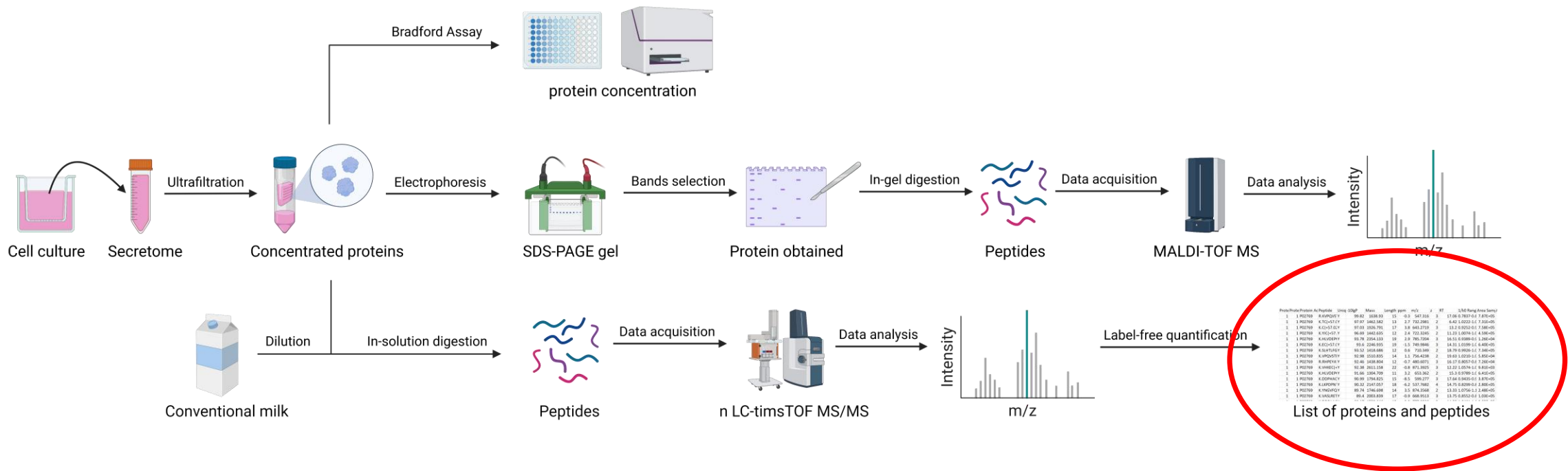
Harvest = secretome = milk secretions + basal medium



<https://jetbiofil.eu>

Lactogenic hormones:  
Bovine pituitary extract or recombinant prolactin

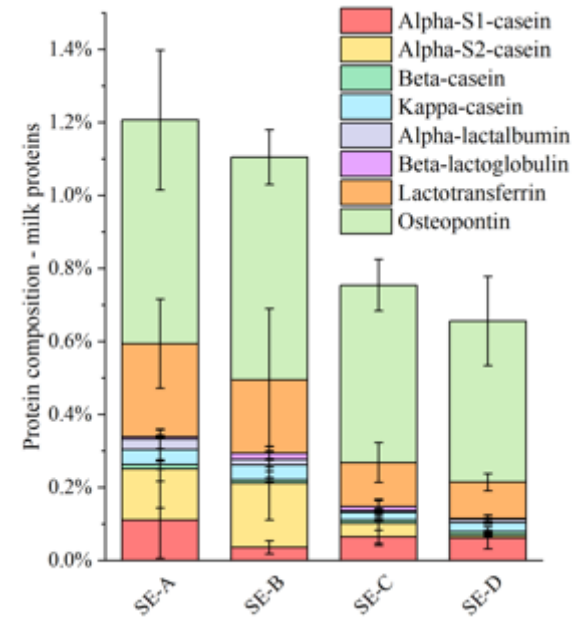
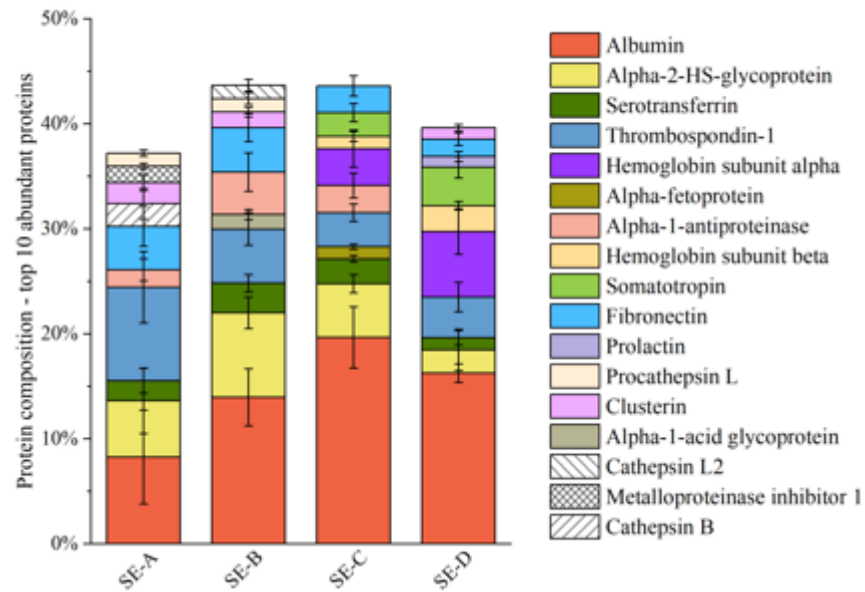
# PROTEOMICS OF SECRETOMES FROM CULTIVATED CELLS FROM UDDER TISSUE



Protein/Peptide	Accession	Length	Score	Rank	Label-free quantification						
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	97.87	3462.562	13	2.7	732.2961	2	6.42	1.0222E-11	7.11E-05
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	97.83	3376.751	17	3.8	661.2719	3	11.1	9.923E-01	7.18E-05
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	96.89	3402.420	12	2.4	722.5245	2	13.21	1.0076E-11	4.19E-05
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	95.79	3254.123	19	2.9	782.2094	3	16.51	1.988E-01	2.29E-04
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	93.8	3246.935	19	1.5	749.9846	3	14.31	1.9199E-11	6.49E-05
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	89.22	3434.866	12	0.6	722.1499	2	18.79	1.999E-01	2.29E-04
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	82.38	3232.835	14	1.1	756.4238	2	19.01	1.0210E-11	5.85E-04
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	82.05	3438.804	12	0.7	680.0711	2	19.17	8.979E-01	7.26E-04
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	82.38	3411.258	22	0.8	871.2623	3	13.23	1.0276E-11	6.81E-04
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	82.05	3438.804	11	3.2	651.2622	2	25.15	8.979E-01	7.26E-04
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	80.89	3294.825	15	0.5	599.277	3	17.68	1.9410E-01	3.87E-05
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	80.32	3247.817	18	4.2	537.9662	4	14.78	1.8410E-01	4.14E-04
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	80.74	3246.698	14	3.5	874.2568	2	13.81	1.0716E-11	2.48E-05
1	1 P02789	K:K14517	81.4	3403.819	17	0.9	666.9113	3	13.78	1.8101E-01	1.00E-04



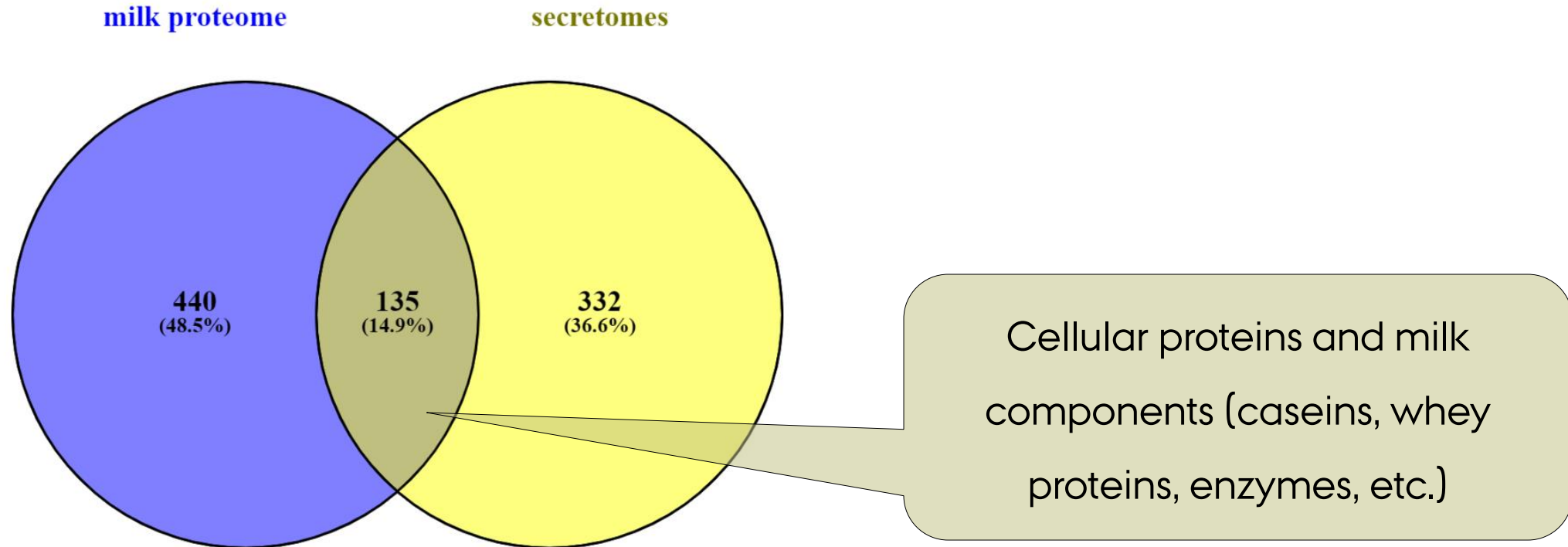
# PROTEOMICS OF SECRETOMES



Caseins and whey proteins were also detected, but in low amounts

- The top 10 abundant proteins constituted ~40% of the total proteins.
- Despite the identification of interesting proteins, the total protein contents of the secretomes (approximately 0.05 mg/mL) were much lower than regular milk, with interested milk proteins taking less than 1.5% of the total protein abundance.

# SECRETOMES VS. MILK PROTEOME



Venn diagram of milk proteomes (D'Alessandro et al., 2011) compared to common secretomes

Che et al. (2024). Proteomic study of secretomes from cellular agriculture for milk production. Discover Food, in review.



# CHALLENGES

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- Cell growth and viability
- Induction of lactation and secretion of milk proteins
- Continuous growth and secretion
- Sustainable media with growth factors for the cells
- Low protein secretion (currently 0,05 mg/ml)
- Upscaling in bioreactors
- ....

# PUBLICATIONS




Received: 6 August 2023 | Revised: 10 October 2023 | Accepted: 17 December 2023

DOI: 10.1002/cbin.12116

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Cell Biology  
International WILEY

## Bovine mammary epithelial cells can grow and express milk protein synthesis genes at reduced fetal bovine serum concentration

Zahra Sattari<sup>1</sup>  | Rikke Brødsgaard Kjærup<sup>2</sup> | Martin Krøyer Rasmussen<sup>1</sup>  | Yuan Yue<sup>2</sup>  | Nina Aagaard Poulsen<sup>1</sup> | Lotte Bach Larsen<sup>1</sup> | Stig Purup<sup>2</sup>

Future Foods 9 (2024) 100340

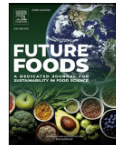


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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fufo](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fufo)



Assessing cellular agriculture potential: Population homogeneity and gene expression in cultured bovine mammary epithelial cells



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<sup>b</sup> Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Aarhus University, Blichers Alle 20, DK-8830, Tjele

Utilising cultured primary bovine mammary epithelial cells for milk components production

PhD thesis  
by  
Zahra Sattari  
November 2023

Department of Food Science  
Aarhus University, Denmark



AARHUS UNIVERSITET

Sattari et al. (2024) Lactogenic treatment effects on milk synthesis genes and protein secretion in cultured bovine mammary epithelial cells. Future Foods, accepted.

Che et al. (2024). Proteomic study of secretomes from cellular agriculture for milk production. Discover Food, submitted.

# THANKS TO

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**NOVO  
nordisk  
fonden**

**Danish Dairy  
Research Foundation**