**MC4R (alomone) and MOR (Abcam) double immunostaining**

**with Fluoro Nissl counter** (Floating) **XD**

Animals

1. If needed, transduce some reporter proteins (eg. tdTomato) in the rat brain via Cre-lox system or virus vector.

Perfusion, Agarose-embedding, Sectioning

2. Transcardially perfuse with saline followed by 4% paraformaldehyde and 0.2% picric acid with 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.2–7.3). Postfix overnight with the same fixative.

3. Remove the dura. If possible, the arachnoid membrane, the pia also.

4. Embed the brain into the 4% electrophoresis quality agarose.

5. Section the brain with vibrating blade microtome into 40-µm-thick slices and harvest them in 12 well plates containing PBS

Antibody application (Room temperature, Light shielding)

6. 10% NDS in PBS-X, 30 min on shaker

7. 1st antibody mixture in PBS-XD, 2 overnights on shaker.

8. PBS-X wash (quick × 1, 10 min × 2)

9. 2nd antibody mixture in PBS-XD, 2 h on shaker

10. PBS-X wash (quick × 1, 10 min × 2)

11. PBS wash

Counterstaining with fluorescent Nissl

12. Diluted NeuroTrace (Blue), 40-60 min.

13. PBS wash (quick × 1, 10 min × 2)

Mounting

14. Mount on gelatin-coated glass slides and Air-dry (30 min)

Coverslipping

15. Coverslip with 50% (v/v) glycerol/2.5% (w/v) DABCO in PBS.

Observation

16. Observe with epifluorescence or confocal microscopy.

**Solutions**

**PBS-X** (total 550 ml)

20% Triton X-100 8.25 ml final 0.3%

in PBS 541.75 ml

**PBS-XD** (150 ml)

normal donkey serum 1.5 ml (final 1%)

sodium azide 30 mg (final 0.02%)

in PBS-X 148.5 ml

**10% NDS in PBS-X** (5 ml)

normal donkey serum 0.45 ml (final 10%)

in PBS-XD 4.55ml

**1st antibody mix solution**

GP anti-MOR (Abcam Cat# ab64746, RRID:AB\_1141103) 1:500 dil. (1:1000?)

Rb anti-MC4R (Alomone Labs Cat# AMR-024, RRID:AB\_2039980) 1:500 dil.

in PBS-XD

**2nd antibody mix solution**

Do anti-GP IgG Alexa 647 (AP193SA6) (1:500 dilution, 3 µg/ml final)

and

Do anti-Rb IgG Alexa 488 (A-21206): (1:1000 dilution, 2 µg/ml final), or

Do anti-Rb IgG Alexa 555 (A-31572) (1:1000 dilution, 2 µg/ml final)

in PBS-XD

**Diluted NeuroTrace Solution** ( NeuroTrace Blue, N-21479)

Confocal microscopy (1:150 dilution with PBS)

Epifluorescence microscopy (1:300 dilution with PBS)

**Reagents**

AMR-024 (Almone):

ab64746 (Abcam): 50 µl, 429 Euro

AP193SA6 (EMD Millipore): 0.5 mg

A-21206 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) 0.5 ml, 79,400 HUF

A-31572 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) 0.5 ml, 79,400 HUF

N-21479 (Thermo Fisher Scientific): 1 ml, 320 USD

Normal donkey Serum IHR-8135 (ImmunoBioScience): 20 ml, $60,00

MOR: CPu, SpC, Spinal cord

MC4R: Cortex, Thalamus, Ventromedial hypothalamus, Hippocampus CA1, CA2, Brain stem (PAG, LC, NRM), Spinal cord