

# FACS Staining of phosphorylated antigens

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## Abstract

This is a protocol for the detection of phosphorylated antigens via flow cytometry without the use of commercially available kits. It is adapted from the publication linked after the description

**Citation:** Karsten Lücke FACS Staining of phosphorylated antigens. **protocols.io**

[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.q6rdzd6](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.q6rdzd6)

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## Before start

Prepare IMDM (complete):

Add to the 500 ml IMDM Bottle:

25 ml fetal bovine serum (final concentration: 5%)

5 ml L-Glutamine (final concentration 2 mM)

500 µl Gentamicin (final concentration 50 µg/ml)

500 µl 2-Mercaptoethanol (final concentration 50 µM)

Prepare PBS with 5% BSA. Dilute part of it to 0,5%.

Prepare 1mM Ionomycin stocks in DMSO.

Prepare 10 µg/ml PMA Stocks in DMSO.

Prepare 8% PFA Solution in 1xPBS.

Cool methanol to 4 °C.

Prepare ice bath under the fume hood for incubation with methanol.

Cool down the centrifuge.

## Materials

Fetal Bovine Serum 10270106 by Gibco -  
Thermo Fischer

Methanol 9093-03 by J.T. Baker

Paraformaldehyde P6148 by Sigma Aldrich

Phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate P8139 by

Sigma Aldrich
Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline D5652 by Sigma Aldrich
Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) D2650 by Sigma Aldrich
IMDM 12440053 by Gibco - Thermo Fischer
Gentamicin 15750037 by Gibco - Thermo Fischer
2-Mercaptoethanol (50 mM) 31350010 by Gibco - Thermo Fischer
L-Glutamine (200 mM) 25030081 by Gibco - Thermo Fischer
Ionomycin from Streptomyces conglobatus I9657 by Sigma Aldrich
Albumin Bovine Fraction V 11924 by Serva, Germany

## Protocol

### Incubation

#### Step 1.

Resuspend cell suspension at a concentration of  $5 \times 10^6$  cells/ml. Incubate for 2 h at 37 °C and 5 %CO<sub>2</sub>.

#### AMOUNT

10 ml Additional info:  
IMDM (complete) per  
Sample

#### TEMPERATURE

37 °C Additional info: and  
5% CO<sub>2</sub>

## Incubation

### Step 2.

Pipette 1 ml of single cell suspension in each of 6 FACS-Tubes. Label them accordingly (0 Minutes, 5 Minutes, 15 Minutes, 30 Minutes, 60 Minutes, 120 Minutes).

 [TEMPERATURE](#)

37 °C Additional info: and  
5% CO2

## Incubation

### Step 3.

Incubate the cells for the allotted time. Immediately after incubation take the samples out and add 200 µl 8% PFA (final concentration 1,5% PFA). Incubate at room temperature for 10 minutes.

 [AMOUNT](#)

200 µl Additional info: 8%  
PFA

 [TEMPERATURE](#)

20 °C Additional info:

## Permeabilization and Staining

### Step 4.

Centrifuge for 5 minutes at 520 g and 4 °C. Decant supernatant. Resuspend samples in the return flow.

 [TEMPERATURE](#)

4 °C Additional info:

## Permeabilization and Staining

### Step 5.

Add 1 ml of ice cold methanol. Incubate for 30 minutes on ice.

 [AMOUNT](#)

1 ml Additional info:  
Methanol per sample

 [TEMPERATURE](#)

4 °C Additional info: on ice

## Permeabilization and Staining


### Step 6.

Add 3 ml PBS/0,5% BSA to each sample. Centrifuge for 5 minutes at 520 g and 4 °C. Decant supernatant and Resuspend in 300 µl PBS/5% BSA.

 [AMOUNT](#)

300 µl Additional info:  
PBS/5% BSA per sample

 [AMOUNT](#)

3 ml Additional info:  
PBS/0,5% BSA per sample  
 [TEMPERATURE](#)  
4 °C Additional info:

### Permeabilization and Staining


#### Step 7.

Transfer 75 µl of sample into a new FACS-Tube. Add 25 µl antibody mastermix.

Example for 10 stainings:

Antigen	Dye	Clone	Volume/Sample	Volume in mastermix
CD8a	PerCP	53-6.7	0.5	5
CD4	APC	RM4-5	0.5	5
TCRgd	FITC	eBioGL3	0.5	5
STAT3P	v450	4/P-STAT3	20	200
			PBS/5 % BSA	40



Incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature in the dark.

 [AMOUNT](#)  
25 µl Additional info:  
Mastermix per sample  
 [TEMPERATURE](#)  
20 °C Additional info:

### Permeabilization and Staining

#### Step 8.

Add 3 ml PBS/ 0.5% BSA. Centrifuge for 5 Minutes at 520 g and 4 °C. Decant supernatant.

 [AMOUNT](#)  
3 ml Additional info:  
PBS/0,5% BSA  
 [TEMPERATURE](#)  
4 °C Additional info:

### Permeabilization and Staining

#### Step 9.

Repeat Step 8. Add 200 µl of PBS/0,5% BSA for measuring.

 [AMOUNT](#)  
200 µl Additional info:

PBS/0,5% BSA



once -> go to step #8

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## Warnings

Wear gloves and safety goggles while handling 8%PFA and methanol.  
Incubation with methanol only under a fume hood.