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# Intranuclear CITE-seq (inCITE-seq): joint single-cell measurements of multiplexed nuclear proteins and RNA

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protocol .

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This protocol allows for intranuclear antibody staining of fixed nuclei in suspension. Nuclei suspensions are suitable for CITE-seq and 10X Genomic applications.

Hattie Chung, Emma Magee 2022. Intranuclear CITE-seq (inCITE-seq): joint single-cell measurements of multiplexed nuclear proteins and RNA . **protocols.io**

<https://protocols.io/view/intranuclear-cite-seq-incite-seq-joint-single-cell-bt7mnrk6>



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## STOCK BUFFERS

- All buffers should be fresh each time, except 0.2% PBST which can be made in advance, until ready for use.
- Prepare all buffers prior to starting the protocol .
- All buffer volumes below are for calculated for one sample + dead volume, except PBST which can be made in stock
- Pre-chill and store all buffers **On ice** .

## 0.2% PBST

A	B	C	D
Stock Conc.	Name	Final Conc.	Volume (mL)
10%	Tween-20	0.2%	10
-	PBS	-	500
		Total Volume (mL)	510

## EZ Lysis Buffer

A	B	C	D
Stock Conc.	Name	Final Conc.	Volume (mL)
5,000U	Recombinant RNase Inhibitor (RRI)	~1 U/μL	0.011
	EZ Lysis Buffer	-	11
		Total Volume (mL)	11.011

#### Resuspension Buffer (RSB)

A	B	C	D
Stock Conc.	Name	Final Conc.	Volume (μL)
1M	MgCl <sub>2</sub>	3mM	3.3
5,000U	Recombinant RNase Inhibitor (RRI)	~1 U/μL	1.1
-	PBS	-	1,095.6
		Total Volume (μL)	1,100.00

#### FA-NT Buffer

A	B	C	D
Stock Conc.	Name	Final Conc.	Volume (μL)
16%	Formaldehyde	1.33%	257.69
10%	Tween-20	0.1%	31
10%	NP-40	0.2%	62
1M	MgCl <sub>2</sub>	3mM	9.3
-	PBS	-	2,740.01

#### Blocking Buffer

A	B	C	D
Stock Conc.	Name	Final Conc.	Volume (μL)
1,000U	TruStain FcX™ PLUS Blocking Reagent	1:100	10
5%	UltraPure BSA	1%	200
10%	Dextran Sulfate (10% stock solution)	0.05%	5
1M	MgCl <sub>2</sub>	3mM	3
5,000U	Recombinant RNase Inhibitor (RRI)	~1 U/μL	1
-	PBST	-	781
		Total Volume (μL)	1,000.00

#### Reagents used in this protocol:

- [☒ Dounce homogenizers](#)
- [Sigma Catalog #D8938-1SET](#)
- [☒ Falcon™ 15mL Conical Centrifuge Tubes Fisher](#)
- [Scientific Catalog #14-959-53A](#)
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[Falcon® 5 mL Round Bottom Polystyrene Test Tube with Cell Strainer Snap](#)

Cap **Falcon Catalog # 352235**

[Eppendorf tubes 1.5 mL uncolored](#) **Eppendorf**

- **Centrifuge Catalog #022363204**

[pluriStrainer® 20](#)

- [µm pluriSelect](#) **Catalog #43-50020-03**

[C-Chip disposable](#)

- [hemacytometer INCYTO](#) **Catalog #DHC-N01**

[RNase Zap](#) **Sigma**

- **Aldrich Catalog #R2020-250ML**

[Nuclei EZ Lysis](#)

- [Buffer](#) **Sigma Catalog #N-3408**

[Recombinant RNase](#)

- [Inhibitor](#) **Takarabio Catalog #2313A**

- [1X PBS, cell culture grade](#) **Thermo Fisher Scientific**

[1 M Magnesium Chloride \(MgCl<sub>2</sub>\)](#) **Sigma**

- **Aldrich Catalog #M8266**

[10% Tween-20](#)

- [Solution](#) **Teknova Catalog #T0710**

[NP-40 Surfact-Amps™ Detergent Solution](#) **Thermo**

- **Fisher Catalog #28324**

[Pierce™ 16% Formaldehyde \(w/v\) Methanol-free](#) **Thermo Fisher**

- **Scientific Catalog #28906**

[TruStain FcX™ PLUS \(anti-mouse CD16/32\)](#)

- [Antibody](#) **BioLegend Catalog #156603**

[UltraPure™ BSA \(50 mg/mL\)](#) **Thermo**

- **Fisher Catalog #AM2618**

Formaldehyde and glacial acetic acid should be used in the chemical fume hood

Before you start the protocol

20m

1 All steps should be performed ⚡ **On ice** or at ⚡ **4 °C** . Cool a swinging bucket centrifuge to ⚡ **4 °C** . Prepare all reagents and chill ⚡ **On ice** .

2 Clean one set of douncers (mortar, pestle A and pestle B) for every sample as follows. Make sure to thoroughly<sup>2m</sup> wash inside the mortar and at the end of each pestle where the sample will come in contact:

- Rinse with distilled water.
- Spray with 70% ethanol. Let sit for ~ ⌚ **00:01:00**
- Rinse with distilled water
- Spray with RNase Zap. Let sit for ⌚ **00:01:00**
- Rinse with distilled water
- Rinse with DNase and RNase free double distilled water
- Let air dry on kimewipe

Once dry, pre-chill on ⚡ **On ice** .

3 Pre-chill all tubes ⚡ **On ice** . For each sample, you will need:

- 3 x 15mL Falcon Tubes
- 1 x 1.5mL Eppendorf tube
- 2 x 35µm filter-cap FACS tubes
- 2 x 20µm filters

#### Nuclei Extraction

20m

4 Remove frozen tissue sample from ⚡ **-80 °C** storage and place on dry ice until ready.

5 Place sample into a clean, pre-chilled mortar filled with 📏 **2 mL** of EZ Lysis Buffer.

6 Dounce with pestle "A" until resistance subsides (~40 strokes) ⚡ **On ice** .

7 Place pestle "A" in 50mL Falcon tube to hold until ready for cleaning.

8 Dounce with pestle "B" until resistance subsides (~40 strokes) ⚡ **On ice** .

9 Place pestle "B" in 50mL Falcon tube to hold until ready for cleaning.

- 10 Transfer the **2 mL** homogenate to a pre-chilled 15mL Falcon Tube.
- 11 Add **3 mL** of EZ Lysis Buffer to raise the sample volume to **5 mL** total -- volumes can be added to wash out the mortar before being added, to maximize nuclei transfer.
- 12 Incubate for **00:05:00** **On ice** . 5m
- 12.1 During this incubation, spray mortars and pestles with 10% bleach, let sit, and rinse with distilled water in order to clean off remaining tissue. After rinsing, soak mortars and pestles in 10% bleach and store until next use.
- 13 Spin down nuclei at **500 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00** in pre-cooled swinging bucket centrifuge. 5m
- 14 Carefully remove and discard supernatant.
- 15 Resuspend pellet in **1 mL** of EZ Lysis Buffer using a P1000 pipette. Mix carefully and thoroughly. Add another **4 mL** of EZ Lysis Buffer. Mix carefully and thoroughly. The total volume should be **5 mL** .
- 16 Incubate for **00:05:00** **On ice** . 5m
- 17 Spin down nuclei at **500 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00** in pre-cooled swinging bucket centrifuge. 5m
- 18 Carefully remove and discard supernatant.
- 19 Resuspend pellet in **1 mL** of RSB Buffer.
- 20 Filter **1 mL** of nuclei suspension through a pre-chilled **35 µm** filter cap FACS tubes.


## Fixation and Permeabilization



- 21 Transfer **1 mL** of nuclei suspension from the filter tube into a pre-chilled 15mL Falcon tube.
- 22 Add **1 mL** of FA-NT solution using a P1000 pipette, mixing the first **1 mL** carefully and thoroughly with the nuclei suspension. Add **2 mL** more of FA-NT solution. The total volume in the tube should be **4 mL**.
- 23 Immediately spike **3 µL** of glacial acetic acid to nuclei suspension.
- 24 Incubate for **00:10:00** at **4 °C** while rocking. 10m
- 25 Immediately after, quench the fixation reaction by adding **3 µL** of **1 M** Glycine. Use P1000 pipette to mix sample thoroughly to ensure equal distribution of glycine throughout solution.
- 26 Filter through a **20 µm** filter into new, pre-chilled 15mL Falcon Tube.
- 27 Spin down nuclei at **850 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00**. 5m
- 28 Remove and discard supernatant.

## Primary Antibody Stain

- 29 Resuspend pellet in **500 µL** of Blocking Buffer. Pipette up and down multiple times using a P200 pipette to ensure the sample is mixed thoroughly.
  - 30 Incubate for **00:15:00** at **4 °C** while rocking. 15m
  - 31 Spin down nuclei at **850 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00**. 5m
- Remove and discard supernatant.


32

33 Resuspend pellet in  **200 µL** of primary antibody diluted to the appropriate concentration in Blocking Buffer.

34 Incubate for  **01:00:00** at  **4 °C** while rocking. 1h

35 Spin down nuclei at  **850 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00** . 5m

36 Carefully remove and discard supernatant.

37 Resuspend pellet in  **500 µL** of PBST.

38 Incubate  **00:05:00**  **On ice** . 5m



39 Repeat wash steps 34-37 to ensure removal of any excess antibodies. 10m

40 Spin down nuclei at  **850 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00** . 5m

41 Remove and discard supernatant. If performing a secondary antibody stain, proceed to step 42. If loading onto 10x, proceed to step 50.

#### [OPTIONAL] Secondary Antibody Staining

42 Resuspend pellet in  **200 µL** of secondary antibody diluted 1:1000 in Blocking Buffer.

43 Incubate for  **00:20:00** at  **4 °C** while rocking. 20m

- 44 After incubation, spike in **2  $\mu$ L** of 100x DAPI into each sample. Mix carefully and thoroughly using a P200 pipette.
- 45 Repeat wash steps 34-37 two times to ensure removal of any excess antibodies in solution. 10m
- 46 Spin down nuclei at **850 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00** . 5m
- 47 Resuspend pellet in **500  $\mu$ L** of PBST.
- 48 filter through a **20  $\mu$ m** filter into a pre-chilled FACS tube.
- 49 Keep samples in dark **On ice** until processing via flow cytometry.

#### preparation for 10x loading

- 50 Resuspend pellet in **100  $\mu$ L** of pre-chilled RSB Buffer (ensure that there is no Tween-20 in this solution!) using a P200 pipette. Mix carefully and thoroughly. Add **200  $\mu$ L** more of RSB using a P1000 pipette. Mix carefully and thoroughly. Total volume should be **300  $\mu$ L** .
- 51 Filter through a **20  $\mu$ m** filter into a pre-chilled FACS tube.
- 52 Count nuclei using hemocytometer chamber. Keep nuclei **On ice** until ready for 10X loading.