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Oct 06, 2021

# Coverslip Functionalization SOP003.v2.2 V.1

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protocol .

Human Cell Atlas Method Development Community



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## Document Summary:

This document, SOP003 – Coverslip Functionalization, describes the process for cleaning and modifying the coverslip surface for improved adhesion of a sample. This procedure describes two methods of functionalization, silanization and poly-d-lysine (PDL) coating. Silanization is a method used to promote covalent adhesion of polyacrylamide gel-embedded tissue while poly-d-lysine (PDL) coating of silanized coverslips provides a protein anchoring system which improves adhesion of living cells to the surface of the coverslip.

## Quick Overview:

*Part 1 - Clean coverslips**Part 2 - Silanize coverslips**Part 3 - PDL coat coverslips*

Coverslip  
Functionalization  
SOP003.v2.2.pdf

Rory Kruithoff, Douglas Shepherd 2021. Coverslip Functionalization  
SOP003.v2.2. **protocols.io**  
<https://protocols.io/view/coverslip-functionalization-sop003-v2-2-byiipuce>



Coverslip, silanization, poly-d-lysine, coverslip cleaning, tissue adhesion, cell adhesion, allyltrichlorosilane

protocol ,

Sep 25, 2021

Oct 06, 2021

Sep 25, 2021



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Oct 05, 2021



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### **v2.2 revision notes**

-Added Bottiger lab and OsmFISH references.

### **References:**

Moffitt, J. R., Hao, J., Bambach-Mukku, D., Lu, T., Dulac, C., & Zhuang, X. (2016). High-performance multiplexed fluorescence in situ hybridization in culture and tissue with matrix imprinting and clearing. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113(50), 14456-14461. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1617699113>

Boettiger Lab Github:

<https://github.com/BoettigerLab/protocols/blob/master/MatrixEmbedding.md>

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

## Solution Preparation:

### Silanization Solution

- **[M]0.1 % (v/v) triethylamine** (Millipore, TX1200)
- **[M]0.2 % (v/v) allyltrimchlorosilane** (  
[Allyltrimchlorosilane Sigma](#)  
**Aldrich Catalog #107778** )  
[Chloroform Sigma](#)
- dissolved in chloroform (**Aldrich Catalog #C2432-1L** )

### PDL (Poly-D-Lysine) Solution

- **[M]0.1 mg/mL Poly-D-Lysine** (molecular weight 30,000-70,000 Da;  
[Poly-D-lysine hydrobromide \(PDL\) Sigma](#)  
**Aldrich Catalog #P7886** )
- Dissolved in nuclease-free water.

### Additional Reagents:

- [Ethanol Fisher](#)
- **Scientific Catalog #AC615090010**  
[Chloroform Sigma](#)
- **Aldrich Catalog #C2432-1L**  
[Methanol Sigma](#)
- **Aldrich Catalog #34860-1L-R**  
[Hydrochloric acid Sigma](#) –
- **Aldrich Catalog #320331-500ML**

For hazard information and safety warnings, please refer to the SDS (Safety Data Sheet).



Using 40-mm-diameter #1.5 coverslips

## Part 1 - Clean coverslips

30m

30m

1 

Wash for  **00:30:00** via immersion in 1:1 mix of **[M]37 % (v/v) HCl** and methanol at  
 **Room temperature** .

2 

Rinse 3x in DI H<sub>2</sub>O.

3 Fill beaker with Rnase-free water and autoclave coverslips to sterilize.

4 

Rinse 1x in **70 % Ethanol**.

5 Coverslips can be stored in **70 % EtoH** indefinitely.

## Part 2 - Silanize coverslips

6 Dry at **60 °C**.

7 Immerse in silanization solution in Fume-hood for **00:30:00** at **Room temperature**.<sup>30m</sup>

8 

Wash 1x with chloroform.

9 

Wash 1x with ethanol.

10 Bake in a **60 °C** oven for **02:00:00** to dehydrate the silane layer.<sup>2h</sup>



11 Remove from oven and let coverslips cool.

12 Store in a desiccated chamber for weeks.


### Part 3 - PDL coat coverslips (for cell culture on coverslips)


1h

1h

13 Immerse coverslips in PDL Solution for  **01:00:00** at  **Room temperature** .

14 

Rinse coverslips three times with nuclease-free water and then dry at  **Room temperature** .

15 Silanized, PDL-coated coverslips may be stored at  **Room temperature** in a desiccation chamber for weeks.