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**Protocol status:** Working  
 I use this protocol and it's working

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# Immuno Fluorescence staining of human FFPE (formalin fixed paraffin embedded) gut mucosal biopsy

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## DISCLAIMER

This protocol is for research only.

## ABSTRACT

This protocol is to provide a detail instruction on the immuno fluorescence staining on human gut mucosal biopsy that has been preserved in FFPE and sectioned at 5 micron thickness. The fixation for the tissues was 24 hour at room temperature in 10% neutral buffered formalin. Target retrieval needs optimization is fixation, sectioning conditions change.

## GUIDELINES

The human gut mucosal tissues was retrieved by colonoscopy. The size of tissues range from 1 x 1 x 1 mm, to 2 x 4 x 4 mm.

Smaller tissues were embedded in 1% agarose gel before FFPE.

**PROTOCOL integer ID:**  
91039

**Keywords:** gut, FFPE, IF,  
fluorescence, staining

MATERIALS

1x Citrate buffer 200 ml  
20 ml 10x Citrate buffer  
180 ml distilled water


1x PBST 1000 ml  
100 ml 10x PBS  
0.5ml 10% Tween20  
900ml distilled water

Permeabilization buffer 5 ml  
125ul 10% TritonX-100  
3.3 1x PBST  
0.5ml 10% BSA

Blocking buffer 5 ml  
2.5ml 10% BSA  
2.5ml 1x PBST

Histoclear II (National diagnostics HS-202)  
Histology grade ethanol (VWR 89370-084)  
10xCitrate buffer (MillieporeSigma C9999)  
10xPBS (FisherSci BP399500)  
10%Tween20 (Teknova T0710)  
10%TritonX (MillieporeSigma 93443)  
10%BSA (Miltenyi Biotec 130-091-376)

SAFETY WARNINGS



Boiling buffer, microwave and hotplate are used in the protocol. Please proceed with caution and use thermal gloves at these steps.

ETHICS STATEMENT



The human intestinal tissue are obtained after patients' consents and approval from Institutional Review Board at the University of Chicago (IRB Number: 15573A). All the samples are processed for research use only.

BEFORE START INSTRUCTIONS

Check the tissue block quality with H&E histology.









Deparaffinization

15m

- 1 Immerse tissue sections on slides in HistoClear II in a staining dish  Room temperature  00:05:00 . 15m
- Move the slide holder up and down x 5 times. Repeat this step two more times with fresh HistoClear II. There should be no visible paraffin remaining on the slide by the end of this step.


## Rehydration








16m

- 2 Move to another staining dish. Shake off HistoClear II from former step. Immerse tissue sections on slides in histology ethanol in a staining dish  Room temperature  00:02:00 . Repeat this step one more times with fresh ethanol. 4m
- 3 Move to another staining dish. Shake off ethanol from former step. Immerse tissue sections on slides in 70% histology ethanol in a staining dish  Room temperature  00:02:00 . Repeat this step one more times with fresh 70% ethanol. 4m
- 3.1 Prepare fresh 1 x Citra buffer 200 ml in a glass beaker, and place 200 ml distilled water in the second glass beaker.
- 4 Move to another staining dish. Shake off ethanol from former step. Immerse tissue sections on slides in 50% ethanol in a staining dish  Room temperature  00:02:00 . Repeat this step one more times with fresh 50% ethanol. 4m
- 4.1 Microwave the liquid in the beakers x 1 minute. Place the beakers with liquid on the hot plate and bring the liquid to the boiling point.
- 5 Move to another staining dish. Immerse tissue sections on slides in distilled water in a staining dish  Room temperature  00:02:00 . Repeat this step one more times with fresh water. 4m

## Target retrieval






26m 30s

- 6 Place the slides to a slide basket. Immerse the tissue sections in the boiling water  100 °C . 30s


- 7 Move the slides from boiling water. Immerse the tissue sections in boiling 1 x citrate buffer  100 °C . Then  15m  
should be no agarose gel remaining on the slides.
- 8 Move the slides from citrate buffer. Cool the tissues in distilled water dish  Room temperature .  1m
- 8.1 Remove all the beakers from the hot plate.
- 9 Airdry the slides  Room temperature .  5m
- 10 Draw a hydrophobic barrier around the tissue sections on the slides.  5m
- 10.1 Prepare the humidity chamber with the heated water from step 13.






## Permeabilization

 22m

- 11 Place the slides in a humidity chamber. Add 1 x PBS to the tissues  Room temperature .  2m
- 12 Tap off water. Add permeabilization buffer to the tissues  Room temperature  00:10:00 . Repeat once  20m  
more time with fresh permeabilization buffer.





## Blocking and primary antibody incubation

 17h 30m

- 13 Tap off the buffer. Add blocking buffer to the tissues  Room temperature . 1h
- 13.1 Prepare the primary antibody dilutes in 1 x PBST.
- 14 Tap off the blocking buffer. Add antibody dilutes to the tissues  4 °C  Overnight . 16h
- 15 Tap off buffers. Immerse the slides in a staining dish with 1 x PBST  Room temperature  00:10:00 30m  
horizontal shaker. Repeat the rinse for two more times.
- 15.1 Prepare the secondary antibody dilutes in 1 x PBST.

## Secondary antibody incubation and mounting

1h 15m

- 16 Tap off PBST. Place the slides in the humidity chamber. Add antibody dilutes to the tissues  Room temperature  01:00:00 . 1h
- 17 Tap off buffers. Immerse the slides in a staining dish with 1 x PBST  Room temperature  00:05:00 15m  
horizontal shaker. Repeat the rinse for two more times.
- 17.1 If nuclei staining is need, incubate tissues with DAPI for 2 minutes at room temperature between the second and third rinses.
- 18 Tap off buffer. Add prolong Gold to the tissues and cover with cover glass.

