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# Intracellular Cytokine Staining

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## ABSTRACT

This protocol outlines the steps used for Intracellular cytokine staining.

In brief: Cells were treated with protein transport inhibitor containing Brefeldin A (GolgiPlug; cat: 555029, BD) and plated at 1e6 cells per well in a 96-well flat bottom plate. Cells were stimulated for 5 hours at 37°C with either T cell media, Phorbol 12-Myristate 13-Acetate (Sigma, cat: P8139) (used at 20ng/mL) and Ionomycin (Sigma, cat: I0634) (used at 1 mg/mL), or 1 mg/mL of peptide (as indicated). Msl<sub>406-414</sub> (GQKMNAQAI), OTI (SIINFEKL), LCMV<sub>gp33-41</sub> (KAVYNFATM), MSLN<sub>20-28</sub> (SLLFLLFSL), and MSLN<sub>530-538</sub> (VLPLTVAEV) peptides were ordered from ELIM peptide (>80% purity). The BD Fix/Perm kit (cat: 554714) was used for intracellular staining. Cells were fixed in 0.5% paraformaldehyde until data acquisition.

## DOI

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## MATERIALS TEXT

### MATERIALS

☒ [Phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate \(PMA\)](#) **Sigma****Aldrich Catalog #P8139**☒ [Ionomycin calcium salt from Streptomyces conglobatus](#) **Sigma****Aldrich Catalog #I0634**☒ [96-well Cell Culture Plate, Flat-Bottom with Lid,](#)[polystyrene](#) **Corning Catalog #3599**☒ [96-well Cell Culture Plate, round-bottom with lid](#) **greiner bio-****one Catalog #650 180**

- 1 Prepare a flat bottom 96 well plate. Resuspend cells at 10e6 cells/ml in T cell media. Transfer at least 350ul of cells per condition into a fresh tube (you want at least 3 replicate wells at 100ul/well for each condition).
- 2 Dilute Golgi Plug to 1:50 (2mg/ml) in cells for the experiment. (Once the treatment condition is added the final concentration will be 1:100 = 1mg/ml)
- 3 Plate 100ul of cells per well.
- 4 Dilute the PMA (prepare at 40ng/mL PMA so that the final concentration in the assay will be 20ng/mL) and Ionomycin (prepare at 2mg/mL Ionomycin so that the final concentration in the assay will be 1mg/mL) in one tube of media. Resuspend peptide at 2ug/100ul.
- 5 Add 100ul of media or PMA/I or peptide to each well. Incubate 4-6 hours in 37°C incubator.
- 6 Transfer cells to U-bottom 96 well plate.
  - at this step, you can combine the replicate wells if you were low on cells.
- 7 Centrifuge (Cfg) plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $\times g$  (with high brake) + dump supernatant.
- 8 Add 50ul Live/Dead stain per well (dilute 5ul of dye in 2.5ml 1x DPBS).
- 9 Incubate for 20-30 minutes in fridge at 4°C (dark).
- 10 Add 100 ul of FACS Buffer per well to wash. Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $\times g$  (with high brake) + dump supernatant.
- 11 Prepare cocktail of antibodies for cell surface stain. Add 50-75uL of surface stain mix per well. Resuspend pellet by pipetting up + down at least 5x.
- 12 Incubate plates 30 min in fridge at 4°C (dark).
- 13 Add 100 ul of FACS Buffer per well to wash. Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $\times g$  (with high brake) + dump supernatant.

- 14 Add 150 ul of FACS Buffer per well to wash a second time. Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $xg$  (with high brake) + dump supernatant.
- 15 Add 150 ul of FACS Buffer per well to wash a third time. Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $xg$  (with high brake) + dump supernatant.
- 16 Add 100 ul of Fixation/Permeabilization solution per well. Resuspend pellet by pipetting up + down at least 5x. Incubate plate 20 minutes at 4°C in fridge (dark).
- 17 Add 100 ul of Perm/Wash Buffer (PWB) per well to wash. CHANGE BREAK to SETTING 2 for all remaining centrifugation steps.
- 18 Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $xg$  (with brake = 2) + dump supernatant.
- 19 Add 150 ul of Perm/Wash Buffer per well to wash a second time. Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $xg$  (with brake = 2) + dump supernatant.
- 20 Add 150 ul of Perm/Wash Buffer per well to wash a third time. Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $xg$  (with brake = 2) + dump supernatant.
- 21 Prepare cocktail of antibodies in PWB buffer for Intracellular stain. Add 50-75uL of intracellular stain mix per well. Resuspend pellet by pipetting up + down at least 5x.
- 22 Incubate plate 30 minutes at 4°C in fridge (dark).
- 23 Add 100 ul of Perm/Wash Buffer (PWB) per well to wash. Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $xg$  (with brake = 2) + dump supernatant.
- 24 Add 150 ul of Perm/Wash Buffer per well to wash a second time. Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $xg$  (with brake = 2) + dump supernatant.
- 25 Add 150 ul of Perm/Wash Buffer per well to wash a third time. Cfg plate at 4°C for 2 min @809 $xg$  (with brake = 2) + dump supernatant.
- 26 Resuspend in 200 ul of 0.5% PFA (can leave overnight at this step). Store in fridge at 4°C until acquisition. Run samples on the flow cytometer within 24 hours for best results.