

VERSION 3  
DEC 21, 2022

OPEN ACCESS

**DOI:**  
[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.3byl4b7orvo5/v3](https://doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.3byl4b7orvo5/v3)

**Protocol Citation:** Morris Baumgardt, Maren Hülsemann, Anna Löwa, Benedikt Obermayer, Emanuel Wyler, Stefan Hippenstiel, Andreas C. Hocke, Katja Hönzke 2022. Single Cell Isolation of Human Lung Organoids. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.3byl4b7orvo5/v3> Version created by [Morris Baumgardt](#)

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**Protocol status:** Working

**Created:** Jul 26, 2022

**Last Modified:** Dec 21, 2022

**PROTOCOL integer ID:**  
67633

**Keywords:** single cell isolation, human lung organoids, single cell RNA sequencing, methanol fixation, rehydration of methanol fixed cells

## Single Cell Isolation of Human Lung Organoids V.3

✓ Peer-reviewed method

📁 In 1 collection

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### DISCLAIMER

Informed written consent was obtained from all volunteers and the study was approved by the Charité Ethics Committee (project 451, EA2/079/13).

### ABSTRACT

This protocol describes the single cell isolation of infected human alveolar-like organoids in order to perform single cell RNA sequencing or flow cytometry. The protocol focussed on the detailed preparation of samples to prepare single cells for further processing according to the protocols from 10x Genomics for single cell sequencing. The described steps also include the optional fixation of single cells with methanol. In that case, the protocol describes how to rehydrate single cell after methanol fixation to process them for single cell sequencing.

### GUIDELINES

This protocol describes the processing of human alveolar-like organoids which have been grown according to Youk et al., 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.stem.2020.10.004>

## MATERIALS TEXT

A	B	C	D
Substance	Company	Order number	Concentration
GlutaMax 100x	invitrogen	35050-038	5 mL/500 mL
Hepes	invitrogen	15630-056	5 mL/500 mL
Advanced DMEM/F12	invitrogen	12634-034	1x

### Composition of base medium

A	B	C
Substance	Company	Order number
TrypLE™ Express Enzyme (1x)	Gibco	12604013
"Sterican® G 27 x 3/4" " / ø 0,40 x 20 mm, grey" needle	Braun	4657705
Omnifix®-F syringe	Braun	9161406V
5 mL Polystyrene Round-Bottom Tube with Cell-Strainer Cap (FACS tubes)	Falcon	352235
Flowmi® cell strainer	VWR	734-5950









### Materials for single cell isolation of lung organoids

A	B	C
Substance	Company	Order number
Dulbecco's Phosphate-Buffered Saline (DPBS)	Thermo Fisher Scientific	14190144
UltraPure Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA, 50 mg/mL)	Thermo Fisher Scientific	AM2616
Methanol (for HPLC, ≥99.9%)	Millipore/Sigma	34860-100ml
Protector RNase Inhibitor (40 U/μL)	Millipore/Sigma	3335399001
SSC Buffer 20X Concentrate	Millipore/Sigma	S6639-1l
DL-Dithiothreitol Solution BioUltra, for molecular biology	Millipore/Sigma	43816

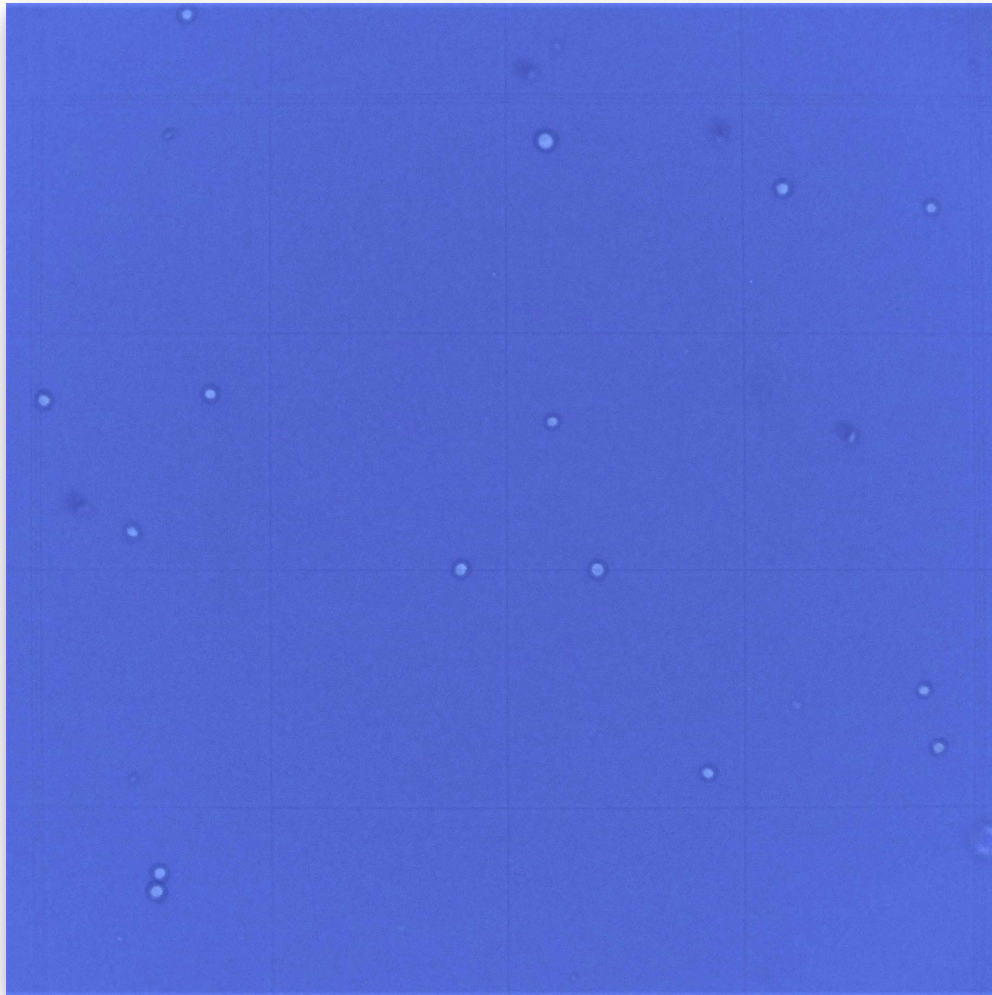
### Materials for optional methanol fixation

**Wash-Resuspension Buffer:** 0.04% BSA + 1 mM DTT + 0.2 U/μL RNase Inhibitor in 3X SSC Buffer (diluted in RNase free water)

## Single cell dissociation

- 1 Remove organoid medium from two wells and add  1 mL cold base medium per well (300,000 cells per well is a good amount to have sufficient cells even after the dissociation process).
- 2 Transfer organoids with a 1000 µL pipette to a 2 mL reagent tube and spin down at  300 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00 . 5m
- 3 Very carefully discard the supernatant with a 1000 µL pipette.
- 4 Resuspend the cell pellet in  1 mL TrypLE Express/well (initially combined).
- 5 Incubate at  37 °C for  00:15:00 carefully vortex every 5 mins, stop the reaction with  1 mL of base medium. 15m
- 6 Spin down at  300 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00 . 5m
- 7 Very carefully discard the supernatant.
- 8 Resuspend the cell pellet in  1 mL cold base medium.
- 9 Resuspend the whole supernatant 3 times with 27G needle and 1 mL syringe.
- 10 Filter cells through the cap of FACS tubes (40 µm pore size).

- 11 Count cells with the use of Trypan Blue staining. Make sure a single cell solution is provided. According to 10x Genomics recommendation a high-quality cell suspension has high cell viability (>90% ideally, >70% is acceptable), low cell debris and low cell clumping.



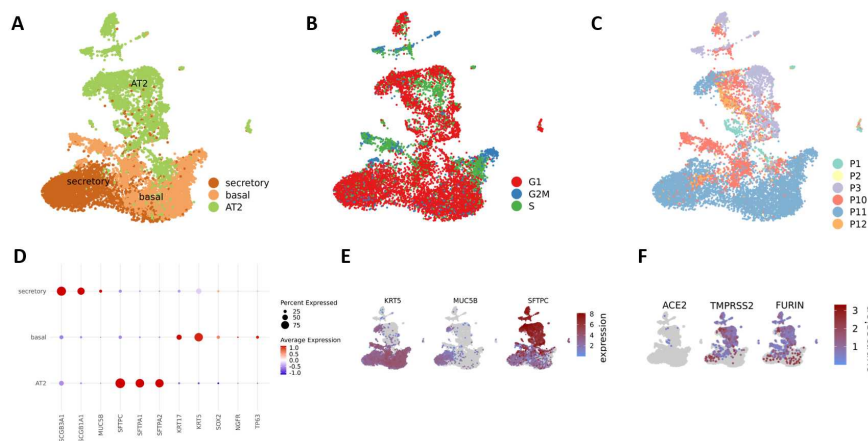
**Exemplary Single Cell solution without cell clumps and with good cell viability**

- 12 Proceed with methanol fixation **or** prepare samples immediately according to 10x Genomics protocol for RNA-Sequencing **or** flow cytometry.

**Note**

For single cell RNA-sequencing samples can be exported to S2 level after GEM-RT incubation (see 10x Genomics protocol: Chromium Next GEM Single Cell 3' Reagent Kits v3.1 User Guide).

10x Genomics kits used: Chromium Next GEM Single Cell 3' GEM, Library & Gel Bead Kit v3.1, 16 rxns (1000121), Chromium Next GEM Chip G Single Cell Kit (1000120) and Single Index Kit T Set A (1000213).




**UMAP embedding of human alveolar-like organoids (n = 6; P1-P3 and P10-P12) shows (A) the cell types present in the organoids, which are AT2, basal, and secretory cells. (B) Cell cycle phase of each cell in either G2M, S or G1 phase and (C) individual donor composition is displayed. (D and E) The marker genes needed for cell type identification are shown at single cell resolution as well as (F) the expression of the SARS-CoV-2 host factors *ACE2*, *TMPRSS2*, and *FURIN*.**

The Cell Ranger Software Suite (Version 3.1.0) was used to process raw sequencing data with the GRCh38 reference for the control samples, and GRCh38 augmented by the SARS-CoV-2 (NC\_045512.2). Viral transcripts including 3'UTR sequences were extracted from the Genbank records and added to the Gencode v33 reference. We used CellBender to remove background RNA and scrublet to identify doublets. Single-cell RNA sequencing data analysis was performed in R (version 3.6.3) with Seurat (version 3.2.1). Cells with at least 500 and less than 5000 detected genes and less than 10% mitochondrial content were combined from each library and library depth (total number of UMIs) was regressed out when scaling data. We additionally regressed out cell cycle scores calculated with Seurat's CellCycleScoring function. After automated clustering, DoubletFinder was used to again identify likely cell doublets, and cluster annotation was performed with Seurat's 'TransferData' workflow using the Human Lung Cell Atlas reference dataset, using only epithelial cells for the organoid data.


40m

## Methanol fixation (optional)

- 13 In case of scRNA-sequencing: Ideally methanol fixation should be avoided and the samples should be immediately processed for library preparation according to the 10x Genomics protocol (Chromium Next GEM Single Cell 3' Reagent Kits v3.1 (Dual Index) with Feature Barcode technology for Cell Multiplexing User Guide).
 

\*
- 14 Centrifuge the dissociated cells at  300 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00.
 

5m
- 15 Remove the supernatant without disrupting the cell pellet.


16 Add  1 mL 1x PBS and gently resuspend pellet 10 times with 1000 µL pipette tip or until cells are resuspended. Each tube should have 1-2 x10<sup>6</sup> cells (1 well of organoids usually contains up to 0.5 x10<sup>6</sup> cells).


17 Repeat washing steps 14, 15 and 16.

18 Centrifuge at  300 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00 .

5m

19 Remove the supernatant without disrupting the cell pellet.

20 Add  200 µL chilled 1x PBS/1x10<sup>6</sup> cells and gently resuspend pellet 10x with 1000 µL pipette tip or until cells are resuspended.



21 Add  800 µL chilled 100% methanol/1x10<sup>6</sup> cells. To avoid clumping of cells, add methanol drop by drop while gently stirring the cell suspension with the pipette tip in the tubes.

#### Note

Scale up the volumes of 1x PBS and methanol if using >1 x 10<sup>6</sup> cells.

22 Incubate for  00:30:00 at  -20 °C .



30m

23 Export from the BSL3 and store fixed cells either at  -20 °C or  -80 °C (stability has been shown for both temperatures for up to 6 weeks).

#### Note

Before proceeding with the 10x Genomics protocol for RNA Sequencing the cells need to be rehydrated.

## Rehydration of methanol-fixed cells

- 24 Place the microcentrifuge tube containing the methanol-fixed cells on ice to equilibrate to  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  for  00:05:00 . 5m
- 25 Centrifuge fixed cells at  1000 x g,  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 00:05:00 . 5m
- 26 Remove the supernatant without disrupting the cell pellet.
- 27 Based on starting cell concentration and assuming ~50% cell loss, add an appropriate volume of Wash-Resuspension Buffer to obtain a concentration of 700-1,200 cells/ $\mu\text{L}$ . Gently pipette mix using a regular-bore pipette tip until a single cell suspension is achieved.
- 28 Pass the sample through a 40  $\mu\text{m}$  Flowmi Cell.
- 29 Count cells.
- 30 Proceed immediately with the 10x Genomics Single Cell protocols. Delay in proceeding may result in RNA loss.