

THE INSTITUTE FOR GENOMIC RESEARCH  
*Standard Operating Procedure*

TITLE: **RNA EXTRACTION FROM HUMAN/MOUSE CELL LINES**

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SOP #: M010

REVISION LEVEL: .2

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/17/04

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## 1. PURPOSE

This protocol describes the extraction of total RNA from human and mouse cell lines.

## 2. SCOPE

This procedural format is utilized by Human Colon Cancer and Mouse microarray projects under the supervision of John Quackenbush within the Mammalian Genomics Dept.

## 3. MATERIALS

- 3.1 TRIzol<sup>®</sup> Reagent (Invitrogen; Cat# 15596018)
- 3.2 Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline (D-PBS) (Invitrogen; Cat# 14190144)
- 3.3 Ethanol (200 proof) (Pharmco; Cat# 111000200)
- 3.4 Isopropanol (2-Propanol) (Fisher Scientific; Cat# A451-1)
- 3.5 Chloroform (Fisher Scientific; Cat# C298-500)
- 3.6 RNase-free water (DEPC treated) (ResGen; Cat# 750023)
- 3.7 RNase ZAP<sup>™</sup> (Invitrogen; Cat# 46-0434)
- 3.8 50 mL Centrifuge Tube (VWR; Cat# 21008-242)
- 3.9 Disposable Cell Scraper (Fisher Scientific; Cat# 08-773-2)
- 3.10 10CC syringe (Becton Dickinson; Cat# 301604)
- 3.11 18G syringe needles (Becton Dickinson; Cat# 305196)

## 4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1 Avoiding RNase contamination
  - 4.1.1 To prevent microbial contamination (and subsequent RNase contamination), always wear disposable gloves and practice good sterile technique when handling samples and reagents.
  - 4.1.2 Always use sterile, disposable plasticware and use pipettes which are dedicated only to RNA handling.

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- 4.1.3 Before starting wipe down the work surface and pipettes with RNase ZAP™ to promote an RNase-free environment.

4.2 RNA Extraction

**NOTE:** This procedure is optimized for extracting total RNA from cell lines that have been grown in large cell culture plates (150 mm diameter) with coverage greater than 80%. Therefore, the amount of TRIzol® used herein is based on the estimated combined quantity of cells grown in two large plates. If isolating RNA from a different number of cells, consult Form No. 18057N (which accompanies TRIzol® Reagent) to make adjustments.

**NOTE:** TRIzol® Reagent is very toxic and should only be used with caution. Work only in a fume hood with proper personal protective equipment (gloves, eye protection, etc.). TRIzol® waste is hazardous and should be handled and disposed of according to institutional hazardous waste protocols.

- 4.2.1 Carefully aspirate into bleach the media from the large cell culture plates.
- 4.2.2 Add 5mL of Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline (D-PBS) to each large plate, swirl to wash and aspirate.
- 4.2.3 Add another 5mL D-PBS to each large plate.
- 4.2.4 With a cell scraper loosen the cells from the plate surface and transfer cell suspension to a 50mL conical tube (add 2 plates per tube).
- 4.2.5 To each plate add another 5mL of D-PBS, swirl to rinse and transfer to the 50mL tube.
- 4.2.6 Centrifuge at 2300 RPM for 3 minutes to pellet the cells.
- 4.2.7 Aspirate off supernatant being careful not to lose the pellet.
- 4.2.8 Add 10mL of TRIzol® to the cell pellet and pass through a syringe (10CC w/ 18 gauge needle) to break up the pellet.

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- 4.2.9 Incubate at room temperature for 5 minutes.
- 4.2.10 Add 2mL chloroform (1/5 of TRIzol<sup>®</sup> volume), shake vigorously for 30 seconds, and let set for 2-3 minutes at room temperature.
- NOTE:** The VWR 50mL centrifuge tube (from **Materials**) can withstand high centrifugal speeds and is therefore recommended for the following centrifugation step. The Falcon<sup>®</sup> Blue Max<sup>™</sup> 50mL polypropylene conical tubes (Becton Dickinson; Cat# 352070) are not recommended for the following centrifugation because they have been known to break.
- 4.2.11 Centrifuge at 10,000g for 20 minutes at 4<sup>0</sup>C (Beckman Avanti J-25 Centrifuge with 16.250 rotor or comparable unit).
- 4.2.12 Transfer the top, aqueous layer (clear) to a clean 50mL conical tube (DO NOT TOUCH THE INTERPHASE).
- 4.2.13 To the aqueous solution add an equal volume of isopropanol, mix well, and let sit at room temperature for 10 minutes.
- 4.2.14 Centrifuge at 10,000g for 20 minutes at 4<sup>0</sup>C to pellet the RNA.
- 4.2.15 Aspirate off the majority of the supernatant and then pipette off the remaining supernatant to avoid losing the pellet.
- 4.2.16 Wash the pellet with 2mL 75% ethanol (in DEPC-treated water). Pipette off ethanol.
- 4.2.17 Add 1mL ethanol, crush up the pellet, and transfer to an RNase-free 1.5mL tube.
- 4.2.18 Store at -80<sup>0</sup>C until later use.