

Four assays and a fusion

Microarrays for the novice, expressive messengers and a breaking story.

ResGen GeneFilters

Invitrogen www.resgen.com

All-in-one microarray kit

This starter pack for microarray screening analysis contains two microarrays for experimentation, a test filter to optimize hybridization, a probe labelling kit to radiolabel and purify 10 high-quality cDNA probes, hybridization buffer and Pathways software for comprehensive differential gene expression analysis. Invitrogen says that buying the kit in place of individual components provides significant cost savings.

Microgenomics system

Arcturus www.arctur.com

mRNA for gene expression studies

An optimized, experimentally validated instrument and reagent system for studying gene expression in small, pure cell populations is now available. The system consists of a HistoGene LCM frozen section staining kit, a PixCell II laser capture microdissection system, a PicoPure RNA isolation kit and a RiboAmp RNA amplification kit to procure and amplify high-quality mRNA for cell-specific gene expression studies.

Human Ku 70/80

Trevigen www.trevigen.com

Complex repair for DNA breaks

Human Ku 70/80 complex binds at double-stranded DNA breaks and recruits DNA-PK, RAD50-Mre11-Xrs2, and XRCC4/DNA ligase IV to the damaged site to facilitate non-homologous end joining (NHEJ). It also participates in NHEJ during the V(D)J recombination of immunoglobulin genes needed to generate the large antibody repertoire. In addition, the complex restores activity to an immunodepleted cell free DNA repair assay, binds to the natural ends of chromosomes within telomeres and may play a role in the regulation of telomere length. Auto-antibodies to Ku have been found in the sera of patients with systemic lupus mixed connective tissue disease, scleroderma, polymyositis and Grave's disease. Applications include studies of double-stranded break repair and non-homologous end joining of DNA.



Screen test: Pierce's new kit for assay and purification of *E. coli* 6 × His fusion proteins.

Lyse-N-Assay

Pierce www.piercenet.com

Versatile system for 6 × His fusion proteins

Many or just a few 6 × His fusion proteins from *E. coli* can be screened at the same time with this kit. It includes either clear or white 96-well HisGrab high binding capacity plates for automation and B-PER II bacterial protein extraction reagent for cell lysis. Screening, purification and further downstream applications can be performed in the same plate.

Mouse IFN-α ELISA

PBL Biomedical Laboratories

www.interferonsource.com

A must for detection of mouse interferon

Created specifically for measuring mouse interferon alpha (Mu-IFN-α), this kit detects Mu-IFN-αA, α1, α4, α5, α6 and α9 in serum or media using a sandwich immunoassay. It shows no cross-sensitivity with mouse IFN-β, mouse IFN-γ or human IFN-α. The kit includes all required reagents plus a pre-coated, 96-well microtitre breakaway strip plate.

NEFA C

Wako Diagnostics www.wakousa.com

In vitro colorimetric assay

Extraction procedures are unnecessary with this kit for quantitative determination of non-esterified (or free) fatty acids in serum or plasma (non-heparinized). The kit uses *in vitro* enzymatic colorimetric methodology that can be automated with existing clinical chemistry instrumentation. The method relies on acylation of co-enzyme A (CoA) by fatty acids in the presence of added acyl-CoA synthetase (ACS). Linear range of the assay is 0–2.0 mmol per litre

Inoculating turntable

Bel-Art Products www.bel-art.com

Even distribution of bacterial colonies

This instrument produces nearly concentric circles of evenly distributed bacterial colonies

on 60, 95 and 100 mm diameter Petri dishes. The turntable is built for simplicity and low weight, and is chemical-resistant and portable. It is hand-operated with ball-bearings ensuring a smooth, even motion for consistent distribution of cultures. Extended spin time speeds completion of the inoculation.

Versalinx

Prolinx www.prolinxinc.com

High-capacity beads and protein release

Versalinx chemistry is based on two small synthetic molecules, phenylboronic acid (PBA) and salicylhydroxamic acid (SHA). SHA-modified SPM-HC Beads bind PBA-modified proteins with low nonspecific binding, while the Versalinx Protein Releasing Reagent allows recovery of PBA-protein under mild conditions, if desired. Attributes allow for the incorporation into traditional or high-throughput proteomics methods, including affinity purification and analytical assays.

These notes are compiled in the Nature office from information provided by the manufacturers.

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