

~Lentivirus production~

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RNAi core R&D group member

- Is it health threatening to lab technician?
- > What's so good about this RNAi library?
- > How to produce VSV-G pseudotyped lentivirus?
- > Trouble shooting the causes of low titer.
- Efficient way to set up lentivirus production system in your lab.

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Self-inactivated Lentiviral Vector

- Replication incompetent.
- Wild-type HIV and SIN-Lentiviral vector in comparison.
- Inserted sequence can only express drug resistant gene and shRNA, none of wild-type HIV protein would be expressed.
- The risks are
 - Recombinant virus that is replication competent.
 - > shRNA can target tumor-suppressor gene.
 - Random insertion could damage tumorsuppressor gene.

The SIN-HIV vector



The remaining indispensable genes were than separated into three plasmids to prevent formation of infectious virus.







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<u>Gag</u>

Encodes structure proteins needed to form virus particle (CA caspid protein and NC nucleocapsid protein) and preintergration complex (MA matrix protein)

Pol

Encodes **RT reverse transcriptase** which reverse transcribe the transfer vector into cDNA, then the **IN intergrase** form **preintegration complex** with the cDNA and **matrix protein**, subsequently enter the nucleus and integrate the transfer vector cDNA into host genome.





VSV-G

Encodes vesicular stomatitis virus glycoprotein, a viral membrane protein from vesicular stomatitis virus which has a broad spectrum of host and is able to infect almost all cell types.

Tat (transactivator)

Tat accelerate the virus production by binding to the first 59 nucleotide TAR (Transactivator Acitve Region) of the virus genome thus encouraging the transcription of the remainder of the genetic code.

The SIN-HIV Vector Carrying shRNA



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Advantages of TRC Lentivirus-based shRNA library

- Broad host range from insect, fish to mammal.
- Being able to transduce non-dividing cells.
 Integrate into host genome.
- Bearing drug selection marker, exclude the interference of non-transduced cells.
- Provide at least 5 different shRNA constructs for each gene.
- Much more economic than commercially available ones.

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VSV-G psuedotyped Lentivirus Production



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VSV-G psuedotyped Lentivirus Production







< pDNA quality >

- 1. Salt and phenol contamination would decrease transfection efficiency.
- 2. Endotoxin can lead to decreased virus titer.



- 1. Transfection efficiency control
 - ~ pAS2.EGFP.puro ~
- 2. Successful virus production control
 - ~ pLKO.1 (shLuc) & pAS2.EGFP.puro ~

pDNA



< Storage >

Mirus LT-1 should be frozen in -20 $^{\circ}$ C, while *Fugen* 6 should be store at 4° C.



< Mix before use >

Make sure the reagent is homogeneous, otherwise this will result in low transfection efficiency.

< OPTI-MEM >

Use reduced serum OPTI-MEM in complex formation step to minimize interference.

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< Two-step mix of DNA and transfection reagent >



< Cell passage number >



Use low-antibiotic medium : 0.1XP/S, 10% FBS, DMEM.

< Cell health condition >

No overgrow, most cell show good adherent condition.

< Seeding Cell >

Cell confluence should be around 50~70% at transfection day.

pDNA

Transfection

Reagent

< 1% BSA containing medium >

1) Empirically, virus titer is positively correlated with BSA concentration.



< Virus soup collection time point >

1) Change to 1% BSA medium 16 hrs post transfection.

2) Collect virus soup 40 & 64 hrs post transfection.

< Monitor transfection efficiency & Cell viability >

1) Monitor <u>EGFP</u> well, make sure there is no problem in transfection procedure.

2) shRNA targeting gene might be important survival factor for 293T cell

< Virus storage >



< Virus titering using A549 following RNAi Core titering protocol>

- 1) If shLuc virus is successfully produced, then the whole process is no problem.
- 2) Low virus titer trouble shooting.

Virus Production in Different Scale average titer ~ 1 × 10⁷RIU/mL

2 × 10 ⁴	Seeding number	8 × 10 ⁵
96-well	Well format	6 cm dish
100 ng	pCMV-∆8.91	2.25 ug
10 ng	pMD.G	0.25 ug
100 ng	pLKO	2.25 ug
7 uL	OPTI-MEM	250 uL
0.6 uL	LT-1	15 uL
14.4 uL	OPTI-MEM	250 uL
340 uL	Virus soup volume	10 mL

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Causes of Low Virus Titer

Technical Causes

① 293T cell

- ① Cell confluence
- **2** Cell health condition
- **3** Passage number

2 Transfection process

- ① Wrong pDNA ratio
- **Wrong DNA-LT1 ratio**

③ pDNA quality

- ① Salt / organic solvant incomplete removal
- **2** Endotoxin contamination
- **3** Nicked pDNA
- Transfection media contain antibiotics
- S Viral supernatant harvested too early or too dilute
- 6 Fail in Virus titering

Intrinsic Causes

- shRNA knockdowned gene is crucial in the following process during virus production:
 - ① 293T survival
 - ② Virus packaging process
- ② shRNA knockdowned gene is crucial in the following process during virus titering:
 - ① A549 survival

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Materials:

- 1) Packaging plasmids from NRC (pDNA)→ competent cell
- 2) shRNA clones from NRC (glycerol stock)
- 3) Transfection grade plasmid DNA preparation gear
- 4) 293T cell for virus packaging
- 5) Transfection reagent
 - 1) Mirus LT-1
 - 2) OPTI-MEM
- 6) Cell-culture grade BSA
- 7) 293T culture medium ($1 \times P/S$, 10% FBS, DMEM)
- 8) 293T culture medium (0.1× P/S, 10% FBS,DMEM)
- 9) 293T culture medium (1% BSA, 1× P/S, 10% FBS, DMEM)



Test Transduction Condition in Parallel

Search literature for

- infection condition
- 2 gene expression level

Transduction condition setup:

- Cell seeding number
- Puromycin killing curve determination
- Polybrene toxicity / transduction efficient con.
 determination
- Centrifugation or incubation overnight
- Standard curve construction using A549 and your experimental cell line → get converting factor
- use fine-tuned condition for your experiment
 - RNAi machinery competition control shLuc or shLacZ (choose from CTR01 plate)
 - Use the same MOI while end-points are going to be compared in parallele.

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Thank you for your attention





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User workflow

Biosafety poster session

Understanding how to operate lentiviral vectors safely.

RNAi core workflow poster session

Genes of interest ↓ Search database for shRNA clones targeting those genes ↓ Sent application form ↓ Get shRNA clones in the form of bacteria glycerol stock ↓ Get shRNA clones in the form of bacteria glycerol stock

Amplify bacteria ↓ pDNA extraction ↓

Virus production session

Virus production

Virus titer determination session

Virus titering on A549

Converting virus titer to your cell line

Lentiviral-based shRNA knockdown experiment (Candidate subset screening)

shRNA experiment design session

Confirm study by rescue experiment using lentiviral-based cDNA expression

Customized shRNA sequence design

LTR: Long terminal repeat



(cell-type specificity, leukemogenic potential, expression of endogenous proviruses)