
Supplementary information

**The NCATS Assay Guidance Manual
programme: advancing the practice and
rigour of preclinical translation**

In the format provided by the authors

Supplementary Table 1 | Table of contents of the Assay Guidance Manual electronic book, including specific sections and distribution of chapters within each section

Table of Contents	Number of Chapters
Preface	N/A
Considerations for Early Phase Drug Discovery	1
<i>In Vitro</i> Biochemical Assays	11
<i>In Vitro</i> Cell Based Assays	24
<i>In Vivo</i> Assay Guidelines	2
Assay Artifacts and Interferences	5
Assay Validation, Operations and Quality Control	6
Assay Technologies	2
Instrumentation	3
Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism	1
Glossary	1
Total Number of Chapters	56

*Note: The AGM is a dynamic ebook which is updated regularly. This data is as of September 2022.

Supplementary Table 2 | Dates, locations, number of sessions/lectures, and organizing institutions of the multiple assay guidance workshops for high-throughput screening and lead discovery that were held since 2015

Date(s)	Location	Sessions	Organizer(s)
October 18-19, 2022	Bethesda, MD	16	NCATS
Feb 5, 2022	Boston, MA	9	SLAS, NCATS
Nov 18-19, 2020	Virtual*	24	NCATS
Jan 25, 2020	San Diego, CA	10	SLAS, NCATS
Sep 11-12, 2019	Cambridge, MA	19	NCATS, Pfizer
Feb 2, 2019	Washington, DC	9	SLAS, NCATS
Sep 10-11, 2018	Potomac, MD	17	NCATS
Mar 26-27, 2018	Potomac, MD	17	NCATS
Feb 3, 2018	San Diego, CA	9	SLAS, NCATS
Oct 23, 2017	Chapel Hill, NC	12	UNC Catalyst for Rare Diseases, Promega, NCATS
Aug 7, 2017	Potomac, MD	10	NCATS
Feb 4, 2017	Washington, DC	9	SLAS, NCATS
Oct 27, 2016	Madison, WI	9	Promega, ICBS, NCATS
Apr 5-6, 2016	College Park, MD	10	US FDA, NCATS
Jan 23, 2016	San Diego, CA	9	SLAS, NCATS
Jul 17, 2015	College Park, MD	7	US FDA, NCATS
Feb 6, 2015	Rockville, MD	5	NCATS

Abbreviations:

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS)

University of North Carolina (UNC)

International Chemical Biology Society (ICBS)

US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA)

*Event information and video recordings from November 18-19, 2020:

<https://ncats.nih.gov/events/Assay-Guidance-Workshop-for-High-Throughput-Screening-and-Lead-Discovery>

Supplementary Table 3 | Information on various topic-focused workshops conducted by the AGM programme

Event name	Summary/goal	Dates	Location	Organizers	Related links
Assay Guidance Workshop on 3D Tissue Models for Antiviral Drug Development	This workshop aimed to provide participants with a roadmap for developing robust and reproducible tissue models to study pandemic threat viruses	June 7-8, 2022	Virtual	NCATS, NIAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Event information: https://ncats.corsizio.com/c/62153215b176e58b1884dfc5 Day 1 on June 7, 2022: https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=45399 Day 2 on June 8, 2022: https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=45401
Assay Guidance Workshop for Cell-Based Assays and Lead Discovery	This workshop aimed to inform the translational science community on the fundamentals and applications of image-based and 3D cellular assay technologies and to provide a future perspective on the utility of complex cellular models in drug discovery	November 16-17, 2021	Virtual	NCATS, Promega, PerkinElmer	Event information: https://ncats.corsizio.com/c/610be47733a68a57165e9db7 Day 1 on November 16, 2021: https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=44132 Day 2 on November 17, 2021: https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=44130
Assay Guidance Workshop on DNA-Encoded Libraries (DEL) for Lead Discovery	This workshop aimed to inform the translational science community on the fundamentals and applications of DEL technology and to bring together those practicing the art to share insights and perspectives in an open forum	September 1-2, 2021	Virtual	NCATS, Pfizer, Nurix Therapeutics, HitGen Inc., GlaxoSmithKline	Event information: https://ncats.corsizio.com/c/608b1547ba86ce418b3c2b5b Day 1 on September 1, 2021: https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=42626 Day 2 on September 2, 2021: https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=42628

Assay Development Principles and Good Research Practices for Rigor and Reproducibility in <i>In Vitro</i> Toxicology	This course aimed to provide participants with guidelines and principles for rigor and reproducibility in high throughput <i>in vitro</i> toxicological assays	March 10, 2019	Baltimore, MD	Society of Toxicology, NCATS	Event Information and booklet: https://www.toxicology.org/education/ce/docs/SOT-AM19_CE_AM03_v7.pdf
The Opioid Crisis and the Future of Addiction and Pain Therapeutics: Opportunities, Tools, and Technologies Symposium	This symposium highlighted challenges and opportunities in the pre-competitive, preclinical stage of development for addiction- and pain-related medications and provided a framework for more focused efforts within the research community	February 7-8, 2019	NIH Campus, Bethesda, MD	NCATS, NIDA, NINDS	Event information and related publications: https://ncats.nih.gov/pubs/features/heal-symposium https://events-support.com/events/NCATS-Pain-Addiction-Symposium https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31481516/ Day 1 on February 7, 2019: https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=31404 Day 2 on February 8, 2019: https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=31408

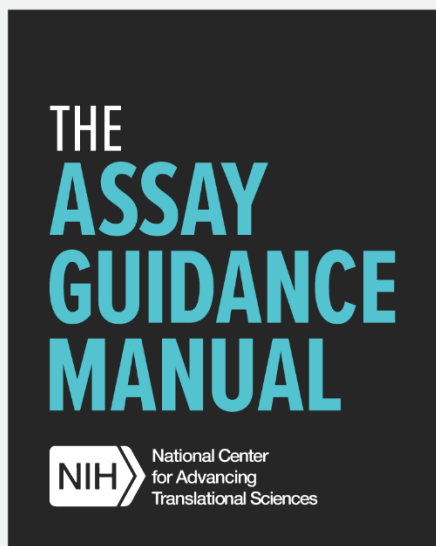
Abbreviations:

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)



Assay Guidance Manual

Editors: Sarine Markosian, Editor-in-Chief; Abigail Grossman, Managing Editor, and Kylie Brimcombe, Associate Scientific Editor; Associate Editors: Michelle Arkin, Douglas Auld, Chris Austin, Jonathan Baell, Thomas D.Y. Chung, Nathan P. Coussens, Jayme L. Dahlin, Viswanath Devaranarayana, Timothy L. Foley, Marcio Gluckman, Joseph V. Haas, Matthew D. Hall, Samuel Hoare, James Ingles, Philip W. Iversen, Stephen C. Kales, Madhu Lal-Nag, Zhuyin Li, James McGee, Owen McManus, Terry Riss, Peter Saradjan, G. Sita Sittampalam, Mike Tarselli, O. Joseph Tink, Jr., Yaming Wang, Jeffrey R. Weidner, Mary Jo Wiley, Kelli Wilson, Menghang Xia, and Xu Xu.

Editor Information

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Search this book

This eBook is a comprehensive, crucial resource for investigators optimizing assays to evaluate collections of molecules with the overall goal of developing probes that modulate the activity of biological targets, pathways or cellular phenotypes. Such probes might be candidates for further optimization and investigation in drug discovery and development.

Originally written as a guide for therapeutic project teams within a major pharmaceutical company, this manual has been adapted to provide guidelines for scientists in academic, non-profit, government and industrial research laboratories to develop assay formats compatible with High Throughput Screening (HTS) and Structure Activity Relationship (SAR) measurements of new and known molecular entities. Topics addressed in this manual include:

- Descriptions of assay formats that are compatible with HTS and determination of SAR
- Selection and development of optimal assay reagents

Cell Viability Assays

Terry L. Riss, PhD^{1,2}, Richard A. Moravec, BS¹, Andrew L. Niles, MS¹, Sarah Duallman, PhD¹, Heléna A. Benink, PhD¹, Tracy J. Worrelle, MS¹, and Lisa Minor^{1,2}

Updated May 1, 2013; updated July 1, 2016.

Abstract

This chapter is an introductory overview of the most commonly used assay methods to estimate the number of viable cells in multi-well plates. This chapter describes assays where data are recorded using a plate reader. It does not cover assay methods designed for low cytotoxicity or high content imaging. The assay methods covered include the use of different classes of colorimetric tetrazolium reagents, resazurin reduction and protease substrates generating a fluorescent signal, the homogeneous ATP assay and a novel real-time assay to measure live cells for days in culture. The assays described are based on measurement of a marker activity associated with viable cell number. These assays are used for measuring the results of cell proliferation, testing for cytotoxic effects of compounds, and for multiplexing as an internal control to determine viable cell number during other cell-based assays.

Introduction

Cell based assays are often used for screening collections of compounds to determine if the test molecules have effects on cell proliferation or show direct cytotoxic effects that eventually lead to cell death. Cell-based assays also are widely used for measuring receptor binding and a variety of signal transduction events that may involve the expression of genetic reporters, trafficking of cellular components, or monitoring organelle function. Regardless of the type of cell-based assay being used, it is important to know how many viable cells are remaining at the end of the experiment. There are a variety of assay methods that can be used to estimate the number of viable eukaryotic cells. This chapter will provide an overview of some of the major methods used in multi-well formats where data are recorded using a plate reader. The methods described include tetrazolium reduction, resazurin reduction, protease markers, and ATP detection. Methods for flow cytometry and high content imaging may be covered in different chapters in the future.

The tetrazolium reduction, resazurin reduction, and protease activity assays measure some aspect of general metabolism or an enzymatic activity as a marker of viable cells. All of these assays require inoculation of a

Author Affiliations: 1 Promega Corporation; Email: Terry.riss@promega.com; Email: Rich.moraved@promega.com; Email: Andrew.duall@promega.com; Email: Helena.benink@promega.com; Email: Tracy.j.worrelle@promega.com; 2 In Vivo Screening, LLC; Email: lisa.minor@ivso.com

Corresponding author

Supplementary Figure 1 | A screenshot of the cover and landing page of the *Assay Guidance Manual* electronic book on the National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Bookshelf. Also shown is an example of a highly cited and accessed chapter on cell viability assays that can be downloaded in a PDF format.

The screenshot shows the official website of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) for the Assay Guidance Manual (AGM). The page features a navigation bar with links for Research, Funding & Notices, News & Media, About Translation, and About NCATS. The main heading reads "ASSAY GUIDANCE WORKSHOP FOR HIGH-THROUGHPUT SCREENING AND LEAD DISCOVERY" held from November 18-19, 2020. Below this, it identifies the "ASSAY GUIDANCE MANUAL" and provides a "Precinical Research Toolbox" with links to the manual and training workshops for both days. A brief description states that the two-day virtual workshop covered critical concepts in assay development and implementation for high-throughput screening and lead discovery projects.

The screenshot displays a video player interface showing a presentation slide titled "Non-Imino Sugar Chaperones with Disparate Behavior in Screening Assays". The slide contains two graphs: "Non-inhibitory Chaperone" and "Inhibitory Chaperone", both plotting % activity against concentration. A legend below the graphs defines the data series: Black (Purified wt enzyme, natural-like substrate), Blue (Purified wt enzyme, real substrate), Green (Purified wt enzyme, blue substrate), and Red (Spleen homogenate wt, blue substrate). The video player includes a list of other workshop videos on the right, such as "Welcome to the AGM Workshop" and "Robust or Go Bust: An Introduction to the Assay Guidance Manual". The video title at the bottom is "Lead Selection and Optimization by Medicinal Chemistry".

Supplementary Figure 2 | A screenshot of the landing page of the virtual *Assay Guidance Workshop for High-throughput Screening and Lead Discovery* that was conducted in 2020. Also highlighted is an example of a highly viewed video recording from the workshop on lead selection and optimization by medicinal chemistry.