

How to Control and to Maintain the Quality of Cell Cultures

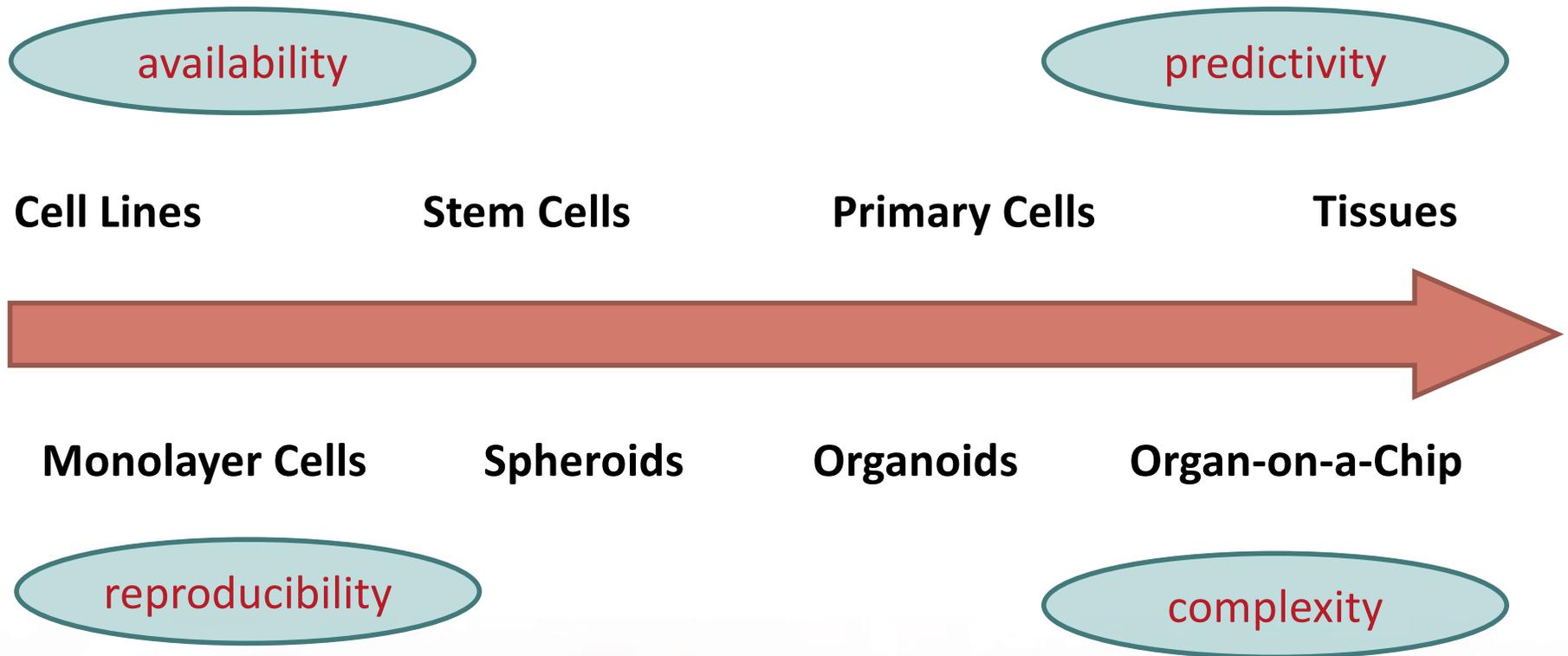
ASCCT Webinar

November 30th, 2021



cell culture models

balancing multiple plates



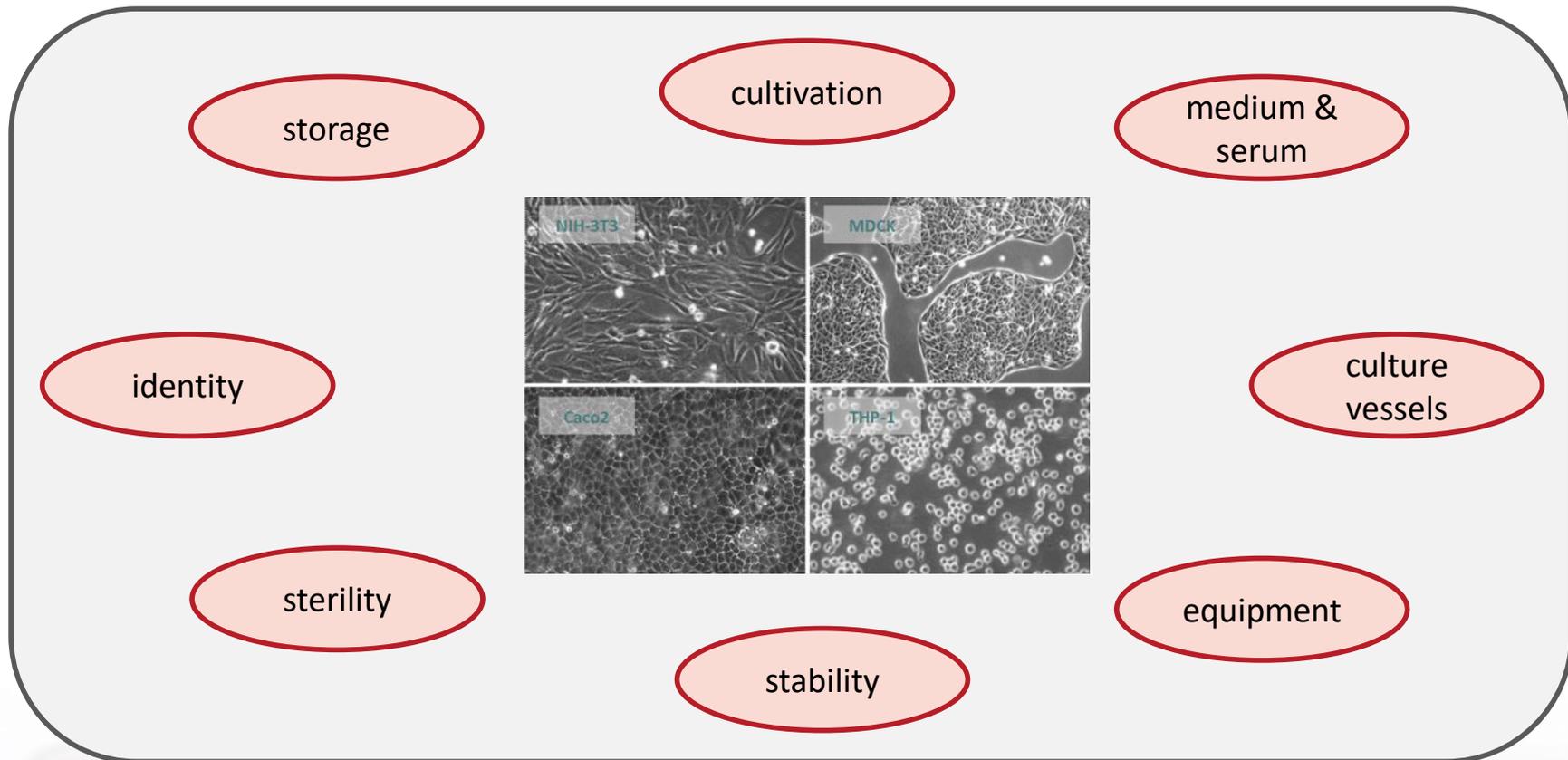
good cell culture practice

GCCP & GIVIMP

- 2002 Hartung, T. et al. **Good cell culture practice. ECVAM good cell culture practice task force report 1.** *Altern Lab Anim* 30, 407-414.
- 2005 Coecke, S. et al. **Guidance on good cell culture practice – A report of the second ECVAM task force on good cell culture practice.** *Altern Lab Anim* 33, 261-287.
- 2017 Pamies D. et al. **Good Cell Culture Practice for stem cells and stem-cell-derived models.** *ALTEX*. 34(1):95-132.
- 2018 Pamies D. et al. **Advanced Good Cell Culture Practice for human primary, stem cell-derived and organoid models as well as microphysiological systems.** *ALTEX*. 5(3):353-378
- 2018 OECD. **Guidance Document on Good In Vitro Method Practices (GIVIMP).** OECD Series on Testing and Assessment, No. 286. OECD Publishing, Paris.
- 2020 Pamies D. et al. **Good Cell and Tissue Culture Practice 2.0 (GCCP 2.0) - Draft for stakeholder discussion and call for action.** *ALTEX*. 2020;37(3):490-492.

cells are alive

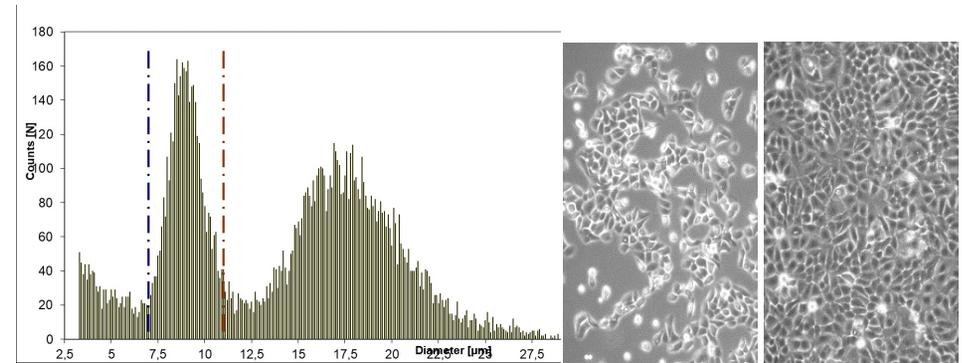
determinants of cell quality



cultivation

you'll get what you deserve

-  Viability & Debris
-  Aggregation
-  Confluence / Density
-  Growth Rate
-  Morphology



Date / Time	Growth Rate [µl]	Detachment [min.]	Culture Dish [cm ²]	Total Area [cm ²]	Harvest Density [c/cm ²]	Viable Cell Number	Viability [%]	Aggregation	Debris / Cell	Passage	Comment
09.03.21 11:44 AM						5,96E+06	97,8	1,38	0,2	57	Seeding from MCB
11.03.21 7:35 AM	0,60	5	TC75	225	7,96E+04	1,79E+07	97,8	1,23	0,1	58	
13.03.21 11:38 AM	0,44	5	TC175	700	6,69E+04	4,68E+07	97,8	1,22	0,2	59	
16.03.21 08:30	0,44	5	CS6360	3180	5,25E+04	1,67E+08	98,1	1,24	0,1	60	
19.03.21 7:28 AM	0,46	5	CS6360	9540	6,75E+04	6,44E+08	98,1	1,34	0,2		Harvest of WCB



cultivation

you'll get what you deserve

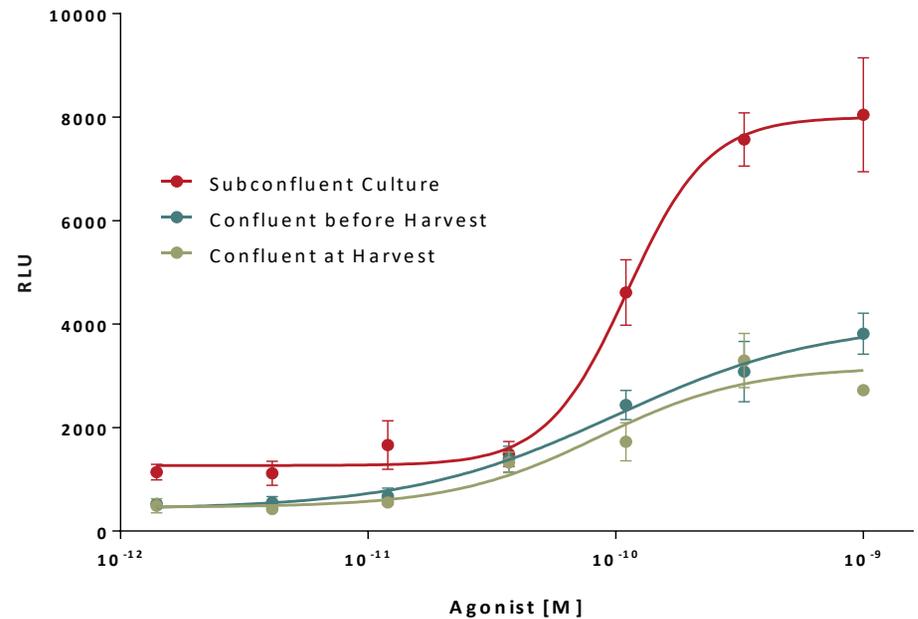
-  Follow the SOP
-  Train the Operator
-  Monitor the Cell Quality
-  Document the Process



cultivation

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- Follow the SOP
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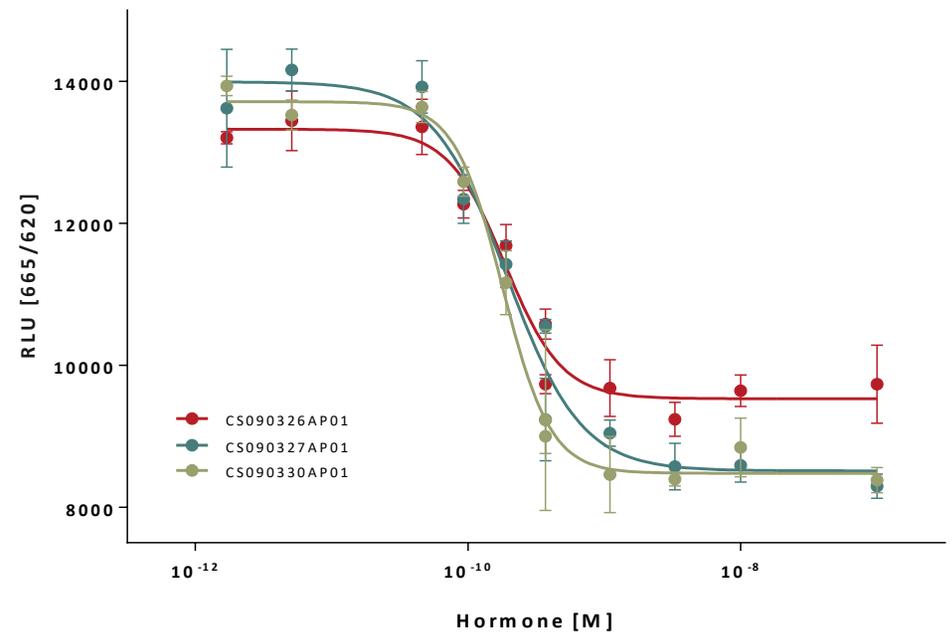


Cell Line: **PC3-NHR-Luc**
Target: **Nuclear Hormone Receptor**
Assay: **Luciferase reporter gene assay**

cultivation

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- Follow the SOP
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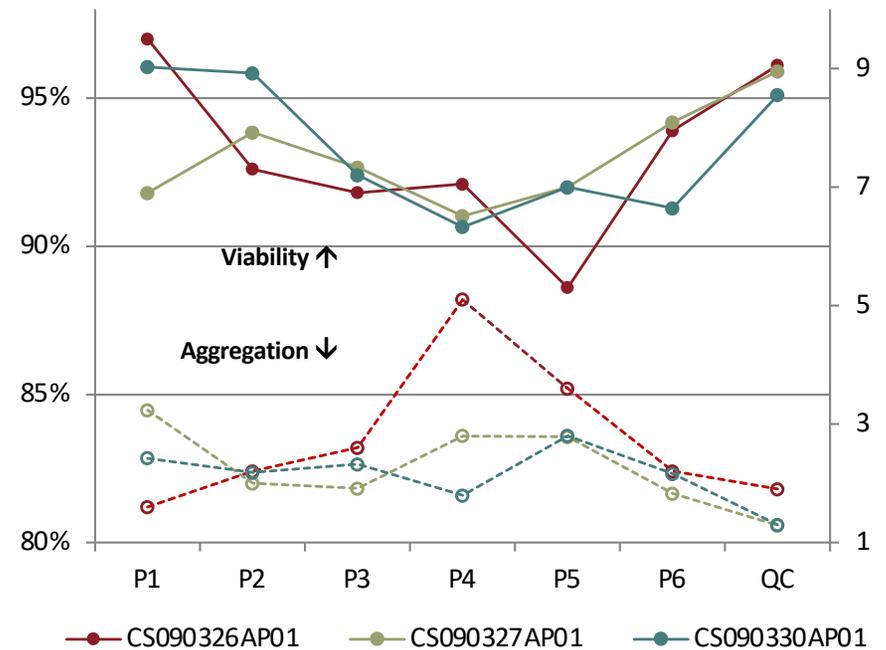


Cell Line: **assay ready CHO-GPCR**
Target: **Hormone Receptor**
Assay: **IP-One htrf Assay**

cultivation

you'll get what you deserve

-  Follow the SOP
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consumables & equipment

qualify & control

 **Culture Vessels**

 **Media**

 **Serum**

 **Incubators**

consumables & equipment

qualify & control

 Culture Vessels

 Media

 Serum

 Incubators

Serum

- Stimulates cell proliferation and cell attachment. Buffers toxic substances.
- Level of Endotoxin & Hemoglobin
- Sterility, Virus & Mycoplasma tested
- Replace serum if possible. If you cannot try to reduce serum levels.

Supplier Lot	Endotoxin [EU/ml]	Hemoglobin [mg/dl]	Jurkat Growth	Jurkat Debris	Raji Viability	Caco2 (TEER)	THP-1 MAT
03275	0,73	25,2	0,42	0,1	89%	fail	pass
38754	5,43	11,1	0,37	0,3	94%	pass	fail
87232	3,10	11,4	0,33	0,3	94%	pass	pass
28745	0,10	8,4	0,43	0,1	93%	pass	pass
04985	0,50	9,8	0,38	0,1	83%	fail	pass
20200	0,40	13,7	0,42	0,1	90%	pass	pass

Serum Qualification

consumables & equipment

qualify & control

 Culture Vessels

 Media

 Serum

 Incubators

5 % CO₂ is always set ...?

- CO₂ in the atmosphere of the incubator influences the pH of the medium.
- The optimal concentration of CO₂ depends on the buffer capacity of the medium, i.e. the concentration of NaHCO₃.

pH at 5% CO₂:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| • RPMI 1640 (2.0 g/L) | pH 7.43 |
| • DMEM (3.7 g/L) | pH 7,69 |
| • Ham's F12 (1,176 g/L) | pH 7,19 |

<https://www.cellseeker.org/cellcalc/co2-calculator/>

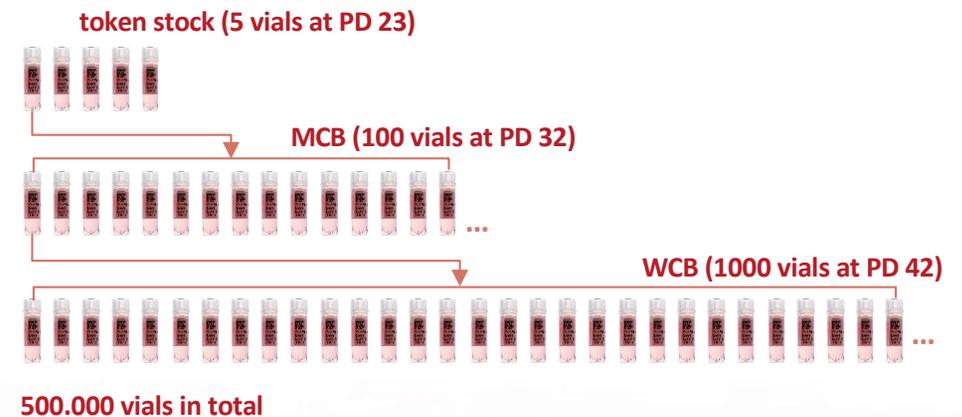
stability

face that final curtain

- Aging of Cell Cultures
- Marker Expression
- Pluripotency of stem cells

Aging of Cells

- Finite vs. infinite (immortal) cell lines
- Passage vs. Population Doubling
- Establish a cell banking system

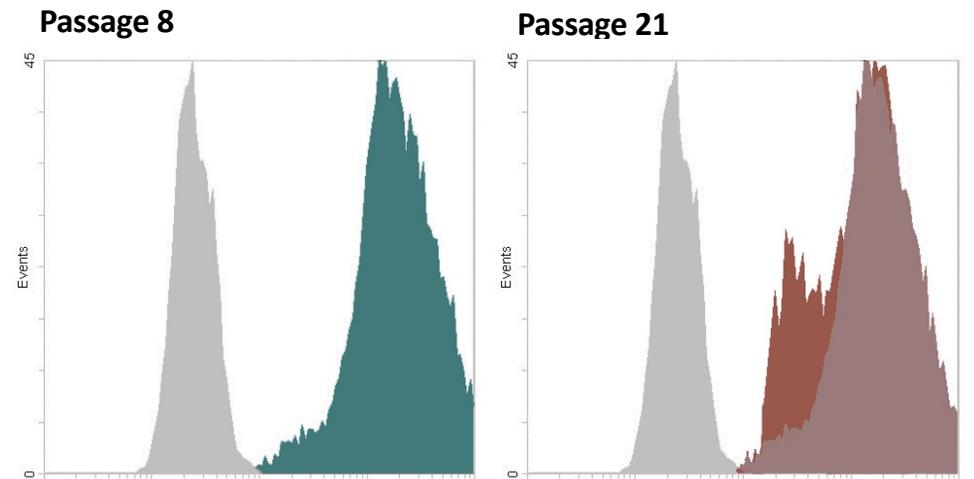


stability

face that final curtain

-  Aging of Cell Cultures
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-  Pluripotency of stem cells

Control of Marker Expression



Expression of a recombinant surface marker expressed in HK293 cells at passage 8 (green) and at passage 21 (red). Isotype control (grey)



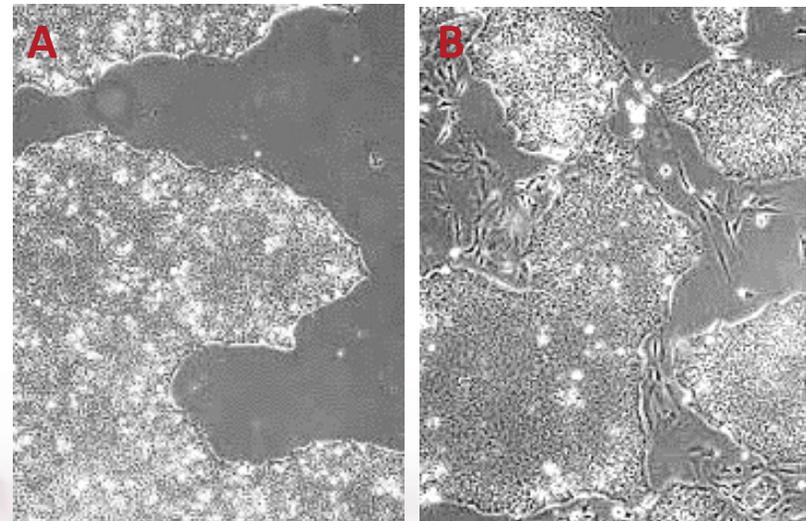
stability

face that final curtain

- Aging of cell cultures
- Marker Expression
- **Pluripotency of stem cells**

Scoring of iPSC colonies

- A: compacted iPSC colonies with defined edges; uniform morphology.
- B: iPSC colonies with some differentiation around the edges, cells more loosely packed.



Source: EBiPC

sterility

better safe than sorry

-  **Bacteria, fungi & yeast**
-  **Mycoplasma**
-  **Viruses**
-  **How to maintain sterility**

Steri Broth Inoculation (7-10 days)

TSB - Tryptic Soy Broth
facultative aerob bacteria

THIO Thioglycollate Broth
facultative anaerob bacteria & yeast



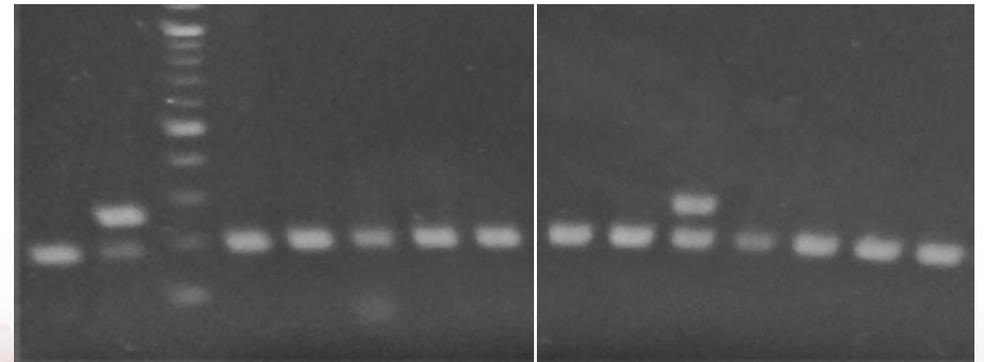
sterility

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Mycoplasma Detection by PCR

- Amplification of 16S rRNA coding region of the mycoplasma genome.
- limit of detection: 20 copies
- detection of *M. orale*, *M. hyorhinitis*, *M. arginini*, *M. fermentans*, *M. salivarium*, *M. hominis*, ...
+85



sterility

better safe than sorry

- Bacteria, fungi & yeast
- Mycoplasma
- **Viruses**
- How to maintain sterility

Virus Contamination

- Safety concern: Primary material may contain human pathogenic viruses.
- Adventitious human, bovine, porcine, rodent, and insect viruses
- Viruses from the molecular tools box. Beware of cross contamination.

sterility

better safe than sorry

- Bacteria, fungi & yeast
- Mycoplasma
- Viruses
- **How to maintain sterility**

Hygiene Measures

- Wear lab coats, gloves and clean shoes.
- Disinfect your hands and instruments. Don't touch your face.
- Do not use prophylactic antibiotics.
- Ban new or suspicious cultures into a quarantine incubator.
- Discard contaminated cultures immediately.
- Apply a regular hygiene monitoring in the lab.

identity

what the heck is the HEK

● Misidentified Cell Lines

● STR analysis

● Species specific PCR

● How to avoid cross contamination

ICLAC Register of Misidentified Cell Lines

<https://iclac.org/databases/cross-contaminations/>

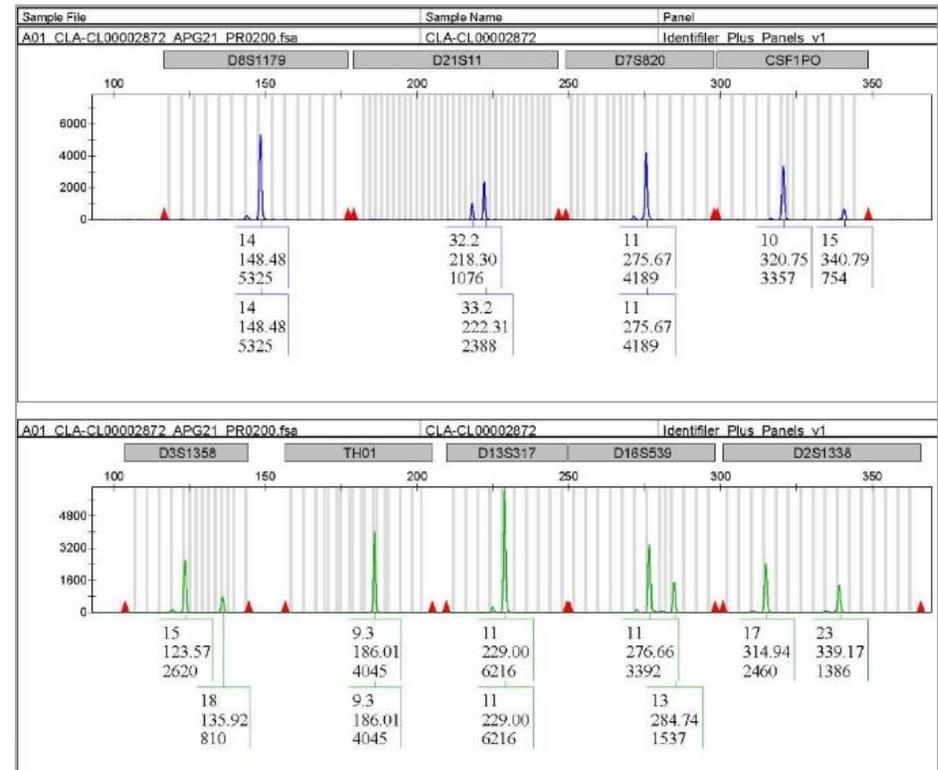
- 531 cell lines are misidentified with no known authentic stock. 45 could be retrieved.
- 67 cell lines come from a different species (interspecies contamination)
- 73 cell lines do not correspond to the original donor, but the contaminant is unknown.
- 144 different contaminants are listed. 140 of these are HeLa

Capes-Davis A, Theodosopoulos G, Atkin I, Drexler HG, Kohara A, Macleod RA, Masters JR, Nakamura Y, Reid YA, Reddel RR, Freshney RI (2010) Check your cultures! A list of cross-contaminated or misidentified cell lines. *Int J Cancer* 127: 1-8.

identity

what the heck is the HEK

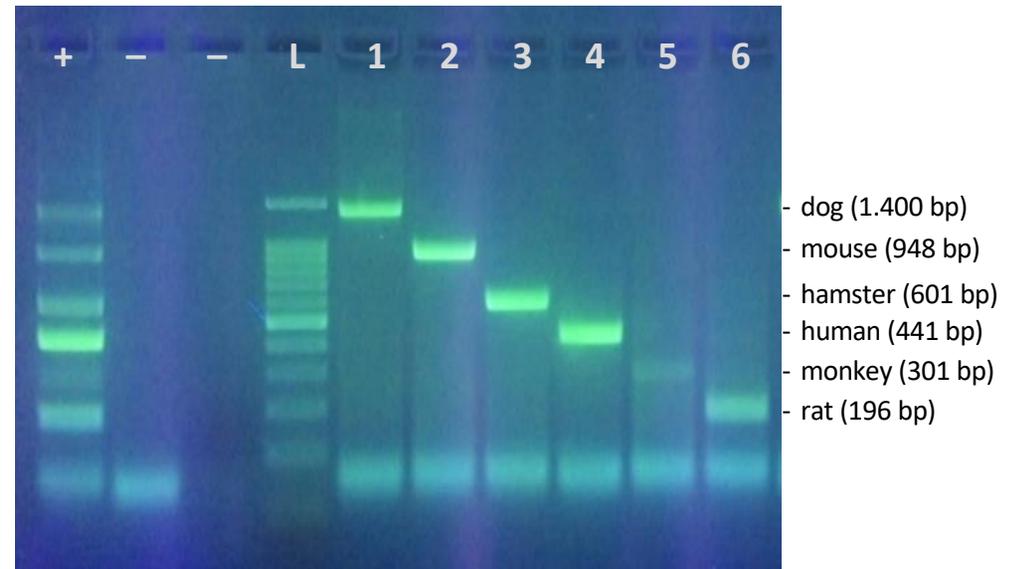
-  Misidentified Cell Lines
-  STR analysis
-  Species specific PCR
-  How to avoid cross contamination



identity

what the heck is the HEK

-  Misidentified Cell Lines
-  STR analysis
-  **Species specific PCR**
-  How to avoid cross contamination



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1: MDCK (Madin-Darby Canine Kidney) | 4: HEK293 (Human Embryonic Kidney) |
| 2: L-929 (Mouse Fibroblasts) | 5: Vero (African Green Monkey Kidney) |
| 3: CHO-1 (Chinees Hamster Ovary) | 6: H4IIE (Rat Hepatoma Cells) |

Ono, K. et al. (2007): Species identification of animal cells by nested PCR targeting to mitochondrial DNA. *In Vitro Cell. Dev. Biol. – Animal* 43: 168-175

identity

what the heck is the HEK

- Misidentified Cell Lines
- STR analysis
- Species specific PCR
- **How to avoid cross contamination**

Avoid Cross Contamination

- Apply hygiene measures.
- Don't handle multiple cell lines at the same time.
- Separate cell lines from each other. Use filter caps.
- Know where your cells are coming from.
- Define the initial status of new cell lines.

Cell
Depository

Self
Generated

Befriended
Laboratory

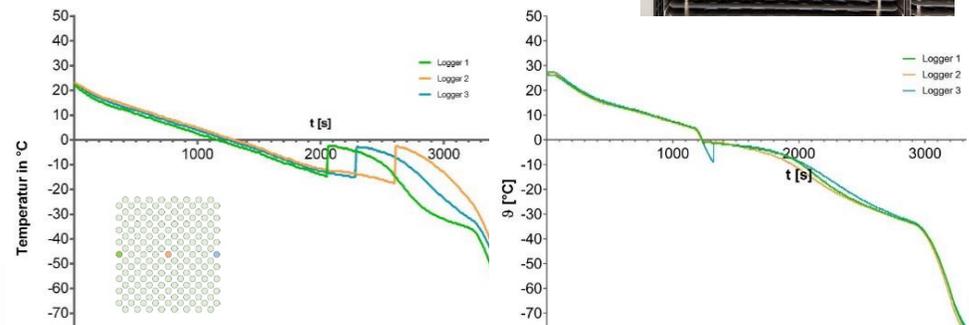
cryopreservation

survival of the fittest

- Freezing
- Assay Ready Cells
- Storage

Controlled Rate Freezing

Slow cooling and the presence of cryoprotectants (DMSO) prevents the formation of crystals and water becomes an amorphous (non-crystalline) glass.



cryopreservation

survival of the fittest

 Freezing

 **Assay Ready Cells**

 Storage

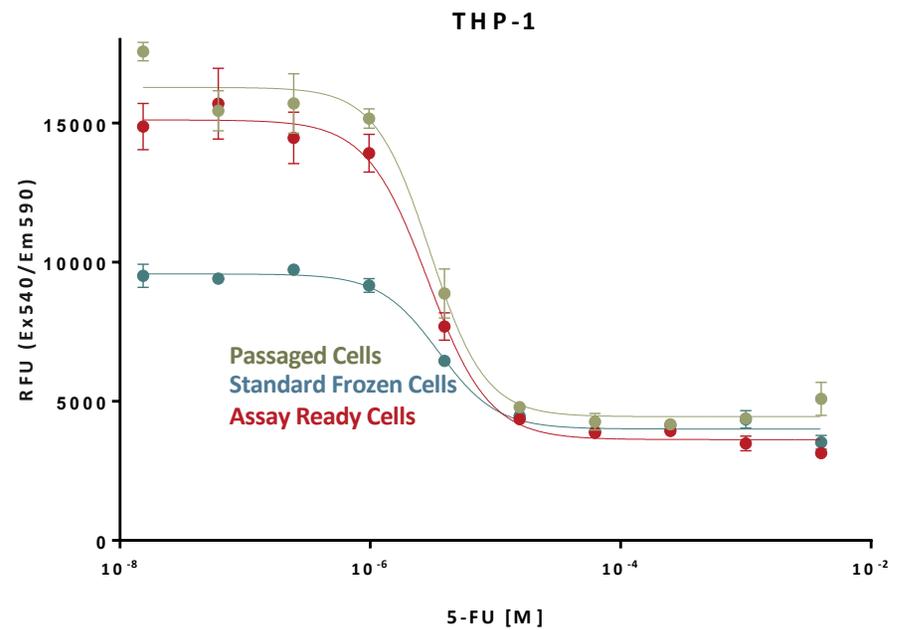
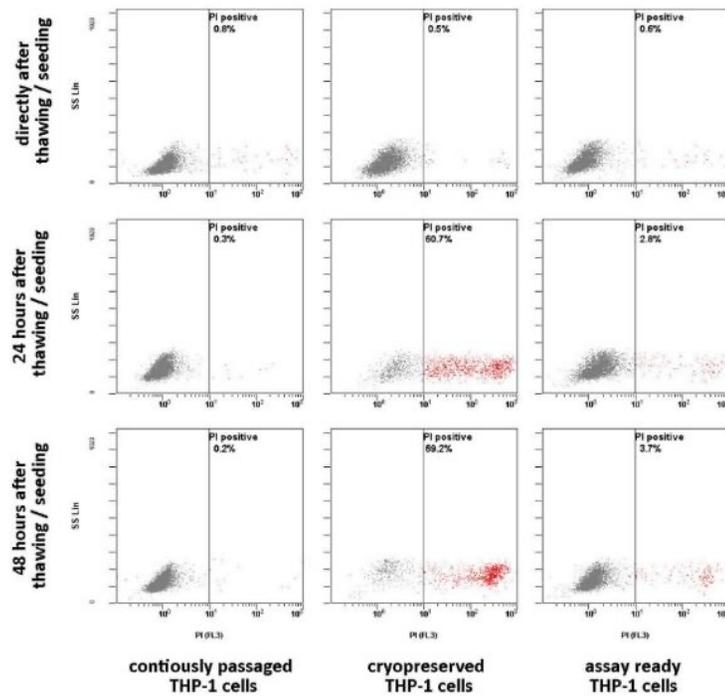
Assay Ready Cells

- Cryopreservation should be more than just freezing cells for later recovery; it should preserve the full functionality of cells.
- Optimized freezing media
- Improved cryopreservation protocols
- Turn cells into reagents

assay ready cells

turning cells into reagents

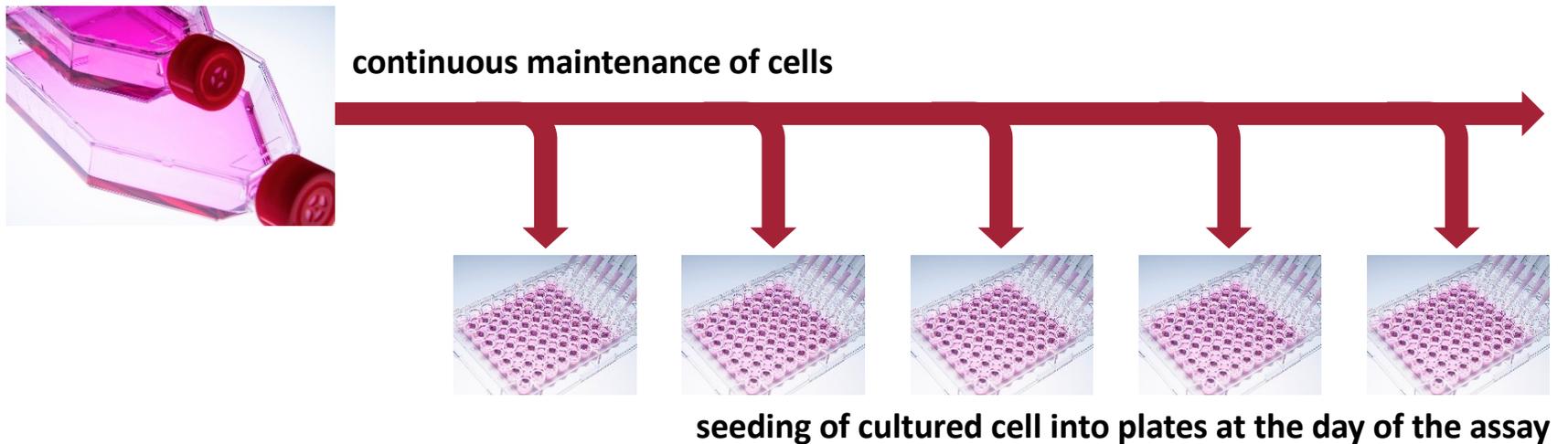
Recovery of THP-1 Cells



assay ready cells

turning cells into reagents

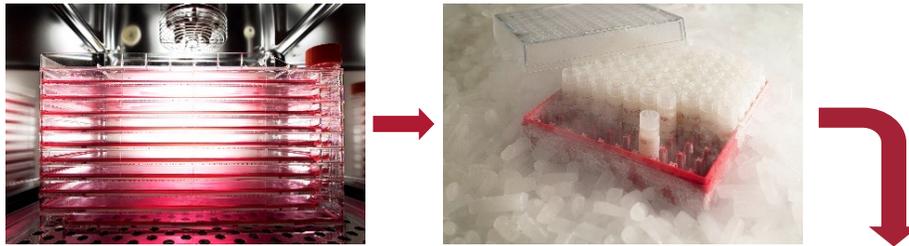
Classic Way of Cell Supply



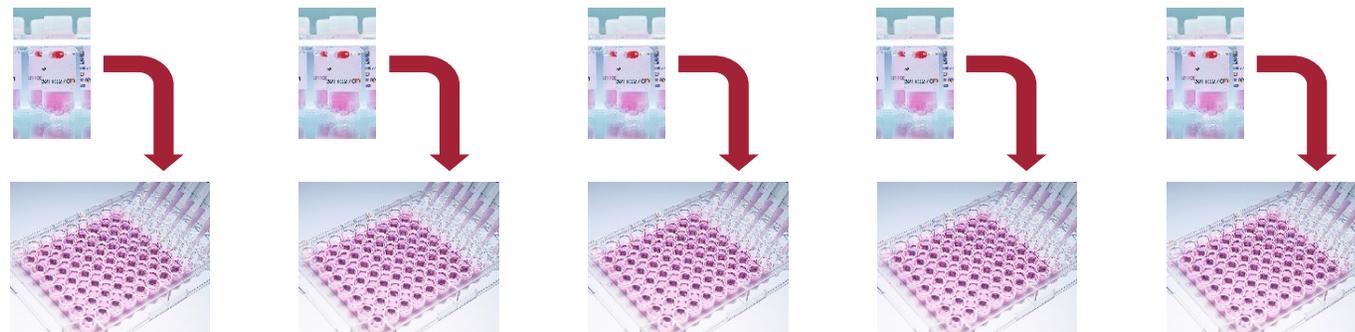
- variability through different handling and lots
- passage drift of cells
- risk of contamination

assay ready cells turning cells into reagents

Smart Way of Cell Supply



prequalified aliquots of assay ready cells



thawing of assay ready cells and instant dispensing into assay plates at the day of use



assay ready cells

turning cells into reagents

- Ready to use like a reagent. No cultivation required.
- Harmonizes the impact of cell cultivation, media, and cell age.
- Homogeneous prequalified cell banks increase assay precision.
- Instantly available at any time and at consistent quality.
- Convenient to use even from inexperienced operators.



cryopreservation

survival of the fittest

- Freezing
- Assay Ready Cells
- Storage

Lost in the Ice

- **-80°C Deep Freezers** for very short-term storage only.
- **-150°C Ultra Low Freezers.** Beware of Power Failure. liN2 back-up required.
- **Liquid Nitrogen.** Best for long-term storage. Avoid temperature fluctuation above the glass transition point at approx. 137 °C.



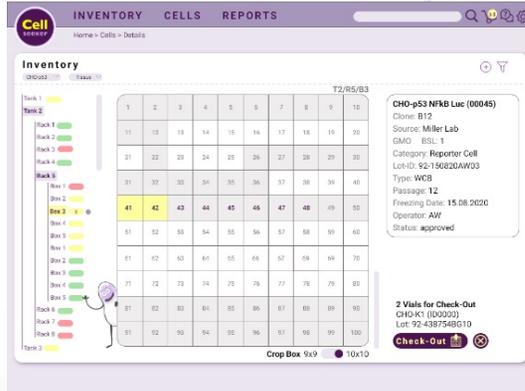
cryopreservation

survival of the fittest

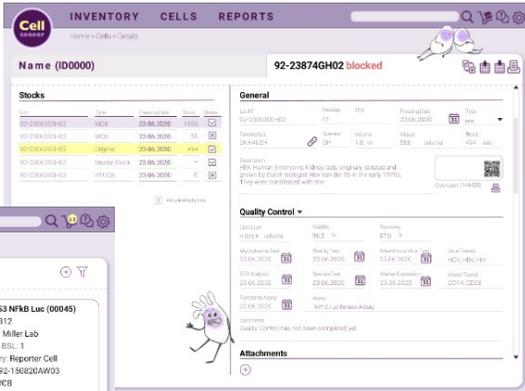
-  Freezing
-  Assay Ready Cells
-  Storage

Cellseeker Inventory

- Free Inventory Software
- Organizes cells and stocks
- Web based cloud application



The screenshot shows the Cellseeker Inventory interface. On the left, there is a grid of cell stocks organized by racks and boxes. The grid has columns labeled 1 through 10 and rows labeled Rack 1 through Rack 6. A specific cell is highlighted in yellow at Rack 4, Box 4, Column 4. To the right of the grid, there is a detailed view for the selected cell, 'CHO-p53 NFKB Luc (00045)'. The details include: Clone B12, Source: Miller Lab, GMD: BSL-1, Category: Reporter Cell, Lot-ID: 92-190820AW03, Type: WCB, Passage: 12, Freezing Date: 15.08.2020, Operator: AW, and Status: approved. At the bottom right, there is a 'Check-Out' button and a note: '2 Vials for Check-Out CHO-K1 (00000) Lot: 92-4387548610'.



This screenshot shows a detailed view of a specific cell stock, '92-23874GH02 blocked'. The interface includes a 'Stocks' table with columns for Name, Date, Quantity, and Status. The 'General' section provides information about the stock, including its name, date, and status. The 'Quality Control' section lists various tests and their results, such as 'Mycoplasma Test' and 'Viral Test'. The 'Attachments' section shows a QR code and a note: 'QC: QC Control has not been completed yet'.

www.cellseeker.org
inventory.cellseeker.org/demo

conclusion

the rule of 5D

Develop acceptance criteria for your cell cultures

Define the limits of acceptance

Detect changes by close observation

Document all cell parameters during cultivation

Discard cells that miss the acceptance criteria

