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## Staining Protocol for Flow Cytometry

**Note:** The SenTraGor™ Protocol for Flow Cytometry Analysis is a hybrid histochemical/immunohistochemical assay. To produce a consistent and specific signal it is required to use a primary anti-biotin antibody and a secondary antibody against your primary anti-biotin antibody and follow suggested steps.

## 1. Preparation of SenTraGor™ reagent solution and biological material

#### **Materials:**

- Vial with SenTraGor™ reagent
- 100% Ethanol (EtOH)
- Parafilm
- Cells (from aspiration or cell culture)
- Ethanol solutions: 70% EtOH, 50% EtOH
- 10x Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) stock solution: 1.37 M NaCl, 27 mM KCl, 100 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 18 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, pH 7.4
- 0.1% Triton X/PBS: 0.1 ml Triton X diluted in 99.9 ml PBS
- · Centrifuge.

### **Procedure:**

- **1.1** Add 3.5-3.75 ml (20 mg SenTraGor™) or 7-7.5 ml (40 mg SenTraGor™) or 14-15 ml (80 mg SenTraGor™) 100% EtOH in the vial with the reagent and cover it with its cap and parafilm (Notes 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3)
- 1.2 Incubate at 56°C in a waterbath for 120 min until the reagent is completely dissolved. Store at RT (Note 3.4)
- 1.3 Harvest 10<sup>6</sup> cells from culture
- 1.4 Wash 2x in 5 ml PBS, centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 1.5 Incubate with 5 ml 70% EtOH for 20 min at 4°C
- 1.6 Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 1.7 Wash x1 in 5 ml PBS at RT
- **1.8** Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 1.9 Incubate in 0.1% Triton X/PBS for 15 min at RT
- 1.10 Centrifuge at 1200rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- **1.11** Wash x1 in 50% EtOH for 5 min at RT
- 1.12 Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- **1.13** Wash x1 in 70% EtOH for 5 min at RT.

## 2. SenTraGor™ staining method

## Materials:

- Primary anti-biotin antibody
- Secondary antibody against biotin, fluorescent labeled
- · Flow Cytometer.

#### **Procedure:**

- 2.1 After step 1.13, centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 2.2 Add adequate amount of SenTraGor™ reagent through a syringe attached with a 13 mm filter and membrane 0.22 µm. The pellet must be covered with the reagent. Incubate for 8 min at RT

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- 2.3 Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 2.4 Wash 1x in 50% EtOH for 5 min at RT
- **2.5** Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- **2.6** Repeat steps **2.4** and **2.5** 3x
- 2.7 Wash x1 in 5 ml PBS for 5 min at RT
- 2.8 Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 2.9 Incubate with the primary anti-biotin antibody, diluted 1/400 in PBS, for 60 min at 37°C
- 2.10 Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 2.11 Wash x1 in 5 ml PBS
- **2.12** Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 2.13 Incubate with secondary antibody, diluted 1/100 in PBS, for 20-30 min in dark and on ice
- 2.14 Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 2.15 Wash x1 in 5 ml PBS
- 2.16 Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 5 min at RT and discard supernatant
- 2.17 Dilute in PBS
- 2.18 Count senescent cells with Flow Cytometer.

### 3. Technical Notes

- 3.1 Follow accurately all safety regulations (wear gloves, mask and glasses) during manipulations and waste disposal instructions when disposing waste materials.
- **3.2** Prepare all solutions using deionized water (unless otherwise indicated).
- 3.3 The ideal concentration depends on the examined biological material and its processing and can be determined as follows: start with 3.5 ml (20 mg SenTraGor™) or 7 ml (40 mg SenTraGor™) or 14 ml (80 mg SenTraGor™) volume of 100% Ethanol. Depending on received results you can adjust final volume to 3.75 ml (20 mg SenTraGor™) or 7.5 ml (40 mg SenTraGor™) or 15 ml (80 mg SenTraGor™), respectively.
- **3.4** Store SenTraGor™ reagent in a non-light absorbing and airtight container at room temperature for up to 2 months. Upon longer intervals between experiments preferentially prepare a fresh solution of the dye. During the entire process the dye container must be air tightly sealed to prevent evaporation of ethanol, which in turn leads to precipitation of the saturated dye solution in cells.