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I. Introduction

Researchers are increasingly adding imaging analyses to their repertoire of experimental methods for understanding the structure and function of biological systems. New methods and instrumentation for imaging have improved resolution, signal detection, data collection and manipulation for virtually every sample type. Live-cell and in vivo imaging have benefited from the availability of reagents such as vital dyes that have minimal toxicity, the discovery of intrinsically fluorescent proteins (IFPs; Stephens and Allan, 2003; Sullivan and Kay, 1999) and the development of imaging systems that do not damage biological samples (Stephens and Allan, 2003). Techniques such as fluorescent analog chemistry have allowed scientists to study the cytoskeleton in living cells, to follow the recycling of cell-surface components, and to look at movement and distribution of cellular proteins (Wang, 1989). Additionally, techniques for culturing cells on the microscope stage and maintaining a constant focal plane continue to improve (Stephens and Allan, 2003; McKenna and Wang, 1989) so that cellular processes can be followed in real time. New technologies such as magnetic resonance imaging have allowed in vivo imaging of processes, such as brain activity, in whole organisms (Check, 2005).

Here we present a summary of reagents that researchers can use for imaging studies in virtually any field of investigation. HaloTag® technology allows researchers to image live cells, perform multicolor imaging experiments and immunocytochemistry, or potentially immunohistochemistry. We also present the Monster Green® Fluorescent Protein, an engineered intrinsically fluorescent protein (IFP) with improved signal and expression for imaging studies in mammalian cells. Additionally, we describe antibody reagents that label protein markers of specific cell types, such as the Anti-βIII Tubulin mAb. For researchers dissecting apoptosis, imaging reagents for multiple points in the pathway are also discussed, including a phosphorylation-specific antibody to caspase-3, an antibody against the p85-fragment of PARP, and an anti-cytochrome c. Finally, we present phosphorylation-specific antibodies for studying a variety of cell-signaling pathways.

II. HaloTag® Technology

A. Overview

HaloTag® Technology provides new options for rapid, site-specific labeling of HaloTag® fusion proteins in living cells and in vitro [Animation]. The technology is based on the formation of a covalent bond between the HaloTag® protein and synthetic ligands that carry a variety of functionalities, including fluorescent labels, affinity tags and attachments to solid supports. The covalent bond forms rapidly under physiological conditions, is highly specific and essentially irreversible, yielding a complex that is stable even under denaturing conditions. Therefore, using

HaloTag® requires only a single fusion construct that can be expressed, labeled with any of a variety of fluorescent moieties, and imaged in live or fixed cells.

Components of the HaloTag® Technology

The HaloTag® protein is a genetically engineered derivative of a hydrolase that efficiently forms a covalent bond with the HaloTag® Ligands (Figure 10.1). This 34kDa monomeric protein can be used to generate N- or C-terminal fusions that can be expressed in a variety of cell types. Since the HaloTag® protein is rare and of prokaryotic origin, endogenous activity is absent from *E.coli*, plant and mammalian cells. This technology has been used successfully in many systems ranging from plant to human stem cells (Eisenstein, 2006; Zhang, 2006; Lang, 2006; and Shinohara and Matsubayahshi, 2007).

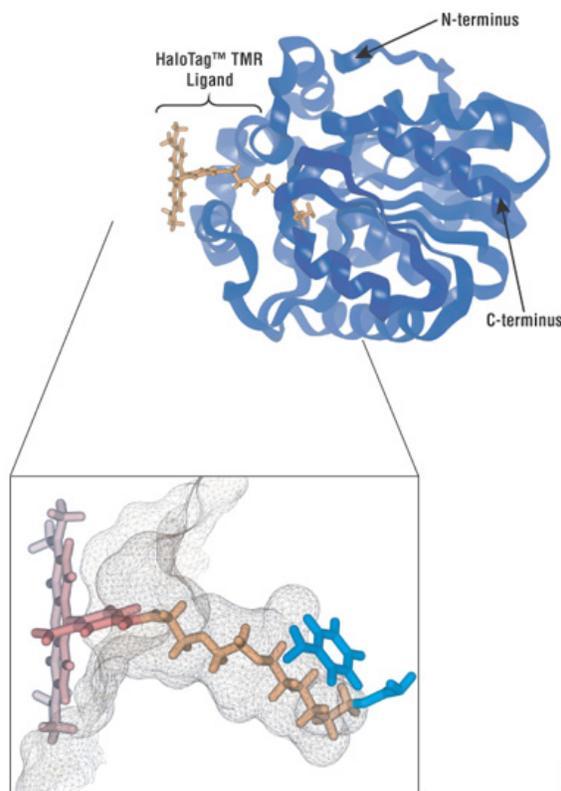


Figure 10.1. Molecular model of the HaloTag® protein with a covalently bound HaloTag® TMR Ligand. Overview of the protein structure (top right) with close-up of the ligand tunnel outlined by a mesh Connolly surface (lower left). The HaloTag® TMR Ligand (fluorescent moiety in red, reactive linker in orange) is shown covalently bound to the aspartate nucleophile (shown in blue). Replacement of the catalytic base (histidine) with a phenylalanine (also shown in blue) makes the protein incapable of hydrolyzing the formed covalent bond, leading to the formation of a stable covalent bond.

A variety of HaloTag® Flexi® Vectors for mammalian, *E. coli* and cell-free protein expression are available. These vectors are compatible with the Flexi® Vector System, a directional cloning method for protein-coding sequences.

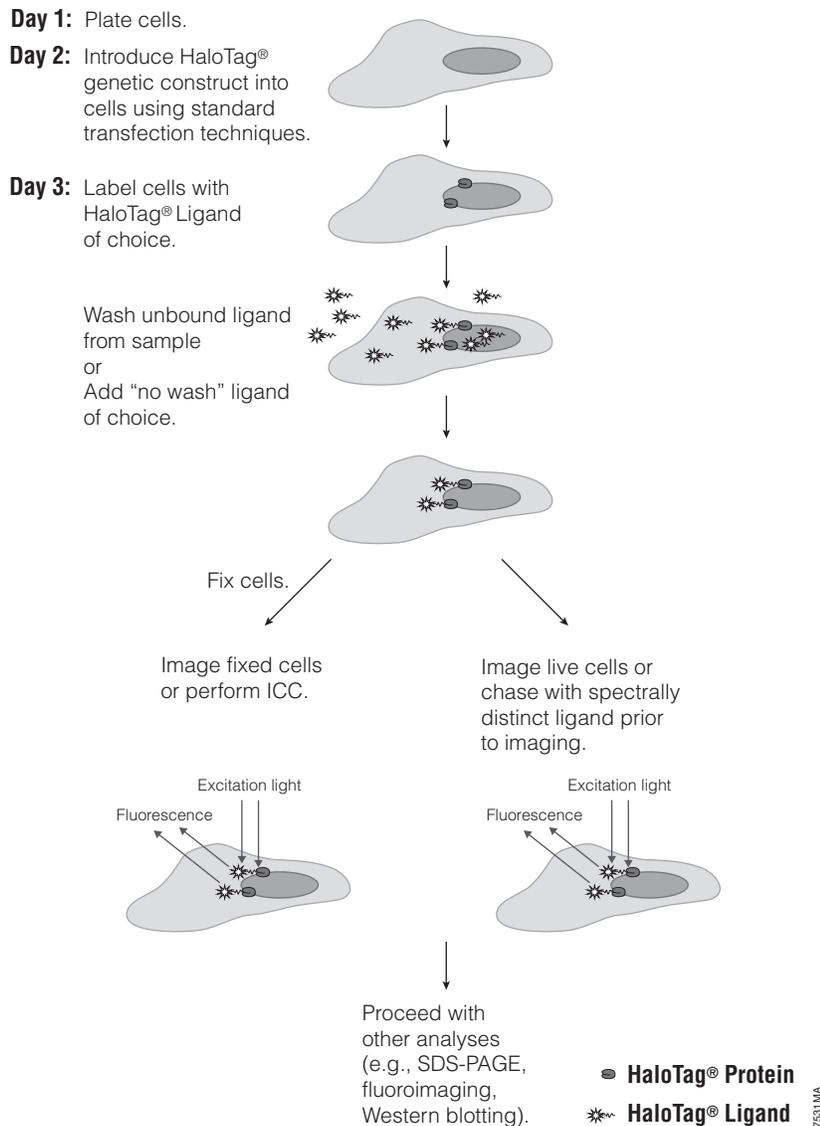


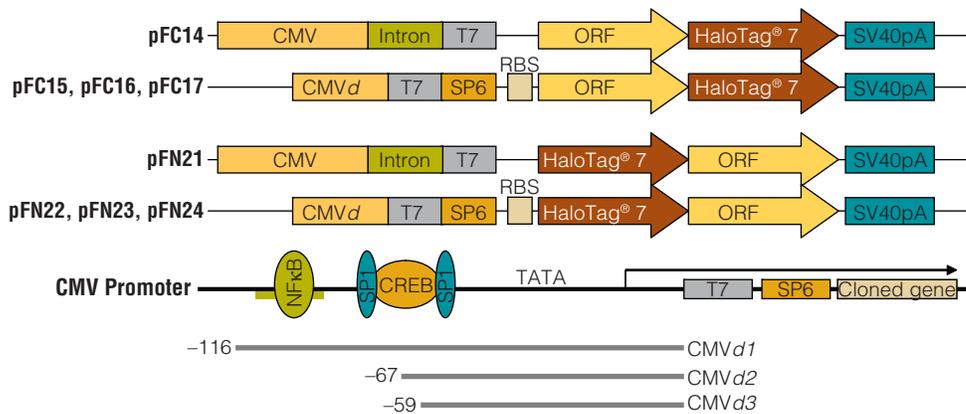
Figure 10.2. Overview of protocol for live-cell and fixed-cell imaging using the HaloTag® Technology. This technology allows labeling and analysis of HaloTag® fusion proteins by live- or fixed-cell imaging, gel-based fluoroimaging, Western blotting and capture of HaloTag® fusion proteins for proteomics applications. Note that, although this technology provides multiple alternatives to the use of antibodies, the Anti-HaloTag® pAb adds further flexibility by enabling immunocytochemistry and Western blot analysis.

The Flexi® Vector System provides a rapid, efficient and high-fidelity way to transfer these sequences between a variety of Flexi® Vectors. These vectors contain various expression or peptide tag options to enable expression of native or fusion proteins for studies of protein structure and function or protein:protein or protein:DNA interactions.

We developed the HaloTag® 7 Flexi® Vector CMV deletion series, a series of human CMV promoter deletions that offer different constitutive expression levels for HaloTag® fusion proteins (Figure 10.2). This allows researchers to express just enough protein for their application. The vectors are available with kanamycin or ampicillin resistance markers, and vectors are available for generating either N-terminal

or C-terminal fusions to the HaloTag® 7 protein. For more information on HaloTag® Flexi® Vectors see the [Promega Notes article](#).

HaloTag® Ligands are small chemical tags that are capable of covalently binding the HaloTag® protein. These ligands contain two crucial components: 1) a common HaloTag® Reactive Linker that ensures formation of a covalent bond with the HaloTag® protein, and 2) a functional group: fluorescent or affinity tag. The HaloTag® Ligands for imaging contain fluorophores that span the visible spectrum and include cell-permeant and impermeant options.



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Figure 10.3. The HaloTag® 7 Flexi® Mammalian Vectors This series of vectors for creating N-terminal or C-terminal HaloTag® fusion proteins gives researchers the ability to choose a vector with the ideal expression levels for their experimental needs. The vectors are available with either Kanamycin or Ampicillin resistance. For more details see the [Promega Notes](#) article.

B. Live-Cell Imaging Using the HaloTag® Technology

With the HaloTag® technology, researchers clone their gene of interest into a HaloTag® Flexi® vector. When expressed this fusion protein can be labeled specifically and efficiently with a variety of spectrally distinct fluorescent tags. These small tags, called HaloTag® Ligands, are comprised of a linker that covalently binds to the HaloTag® protein and a fluorescent moiety. Importantly the HaloTag® protein and these ligands are completely nontoxic to cells. The HaloTag® protein itself has no endogenous eukaryotic equivalent and does not interfere with the proper cellular functioning of fusion partners.

The HaloTag® labeling technology for imaging offers a quick and simple way to label expressed HaloTag® fusions within live cells. Using this strategy, termed “Rapid” Labeling, the HaloTag® fusion can be labeled with any of a variety of cell-permeant ligands and/or an impermeant one. During the recommended short incubation in the presence of ligand, cell-permeant ligands freely enter cells and their subcellular compartments, covalently attaching to the HaloTag® fusion protein (Figure 10.4). A subsequent wash step allows the unbound ligand to exit cells, resulting in a highly specific signal with very low background noise (Figure 10.4).

C. Live-Cell Labeling (Rapid Protocol)

This protocol is intended for labeling live cells with the cell-permeant HaloTag® TMR, diAcFAM, Oregon Green®, or Coumarin Ligands or the cell-impermeant Alexa Fluor® 488 Ligand.

Materials Required:

- HaloTag® pHT2 Vector or HaloTag® Flexi® Vectors, desired ligands and protocol #TM260
- chambered cover glass with cells expressing HaloTag® fusion protein
- complete culture medium appropriate for your cells at 37°C
- culture medium lacking phenol red at 37°C (optional)
- 1X PBS (pH 7.5, optional for washes)
- confocal microscope or wide-field fluorescent microscope equipped with appropriate filter sets and lasers
- 37°C + CO₂ cell culture incubator

Rapid Labeling Procedure

1. Prepare a 1:200 dilution of HaloTag® TMR, diAcFAM, Oregon Green®, Coumarin or Alexa Fluor® 488 Ligand in warm culture medium just prior to addition to cells. This is a 5X working stock solution.
2. Label cells by replacing one-fifth of the existing volume of medium with the 5X HaloTag® ligand working stock solution, and mix gently. This results in the recommended final labeling concentrations of 5µM TMR; 1µM diAcFAM, Oregon Green® or Alexa Fluor® 488; and 10µM Coumarin.
3. Incubate for 15 minutes in a 37°C + CO₂ cell culture incubator.

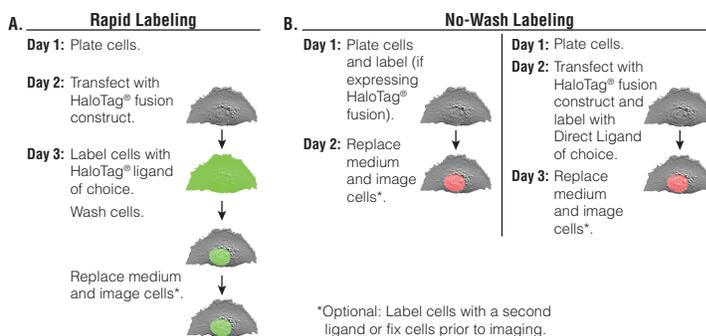


Figure 10.4. Live-cell labeling with the HaloTag® Technology. Schematics show live-cell labeling options. **Panel A.** Rapid labeling. **Panel B.** No-Wash labeling.

- Gently replace the ligand-containing medium with an equal (or greater) volume of warm fresh medium (or 1X PBS [pH 7.5]). Repeat this two times ending with warm complete medium, for a total of three complete rinses.
- Incubate cells in complete culture medium at 37°C + CO₂ in a cell culture incubator for 30 minutes to wash out unbound ligand (TMR and Alexa Fluor® 488 ligands may need only 15 minutes).
- Replace the medium with an equal volume of fresh warm culture medium (use of medium lacking phenol red may improve imaging).
- Transfer to a microscope and capture images.

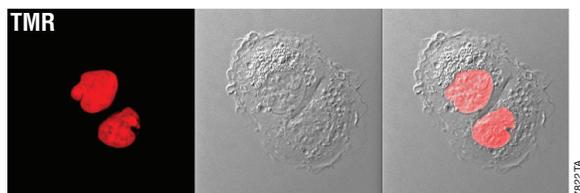


Figure 10.5. HaloTag® rapid labeling results in signal that is robust and specific. Confocal image of U2OS cells expressing HaloTag®-NLS (nuclear localization sequence) and labeled with the HaloTag® TMR Ligand using the rapid labeling protocol clearly shows a strong fluorescent signal that is restricted to the nucleus. Panels (left to right) show fluorescence, DIC image and overlay. The image was acquired on a confocal microscope equipped with fluorophore-appropriate filter sets and an environmental chamber in which the cells remained at 37°C + CO₂ throughout imaging.

D. Live-Cell Labeling (No-Wash Protocol)

This protocol is intended for labeling of live cells with the cell-permeant HaloTag® TMRDirect™ or R110Direct™ Ligand. This protocol can be used to label cells that are adherent or nonadherent, and adherent cells can already

be plated or still be in suspension. Note: We do not recommend using the HaloTag® TMR Ligand (Cat.# G8251, G8252) for this protocol.

Materials Required:

- HaloTag® TMRDirect™ (Cat.# G2991) or R110Direct™ Ligand (Cat.# G3221) and protocol #TM260
 - cells expressing HaloTag® fusion protein (in suspension or plated)
 - chambered cover glass or other cell culture device
 - complete culture medium appropriate for your cells at 37°C
 - culture medium lacking phenol red (optional) at 37°C
 - imaging device equipped with appropriate filter sets and lasers
 - 37°C + CO₂ cell culture incubator
- Prepare a 1:200 dilution of HaloTag® TMRDirect™ or R110Direct™ Ligand in warm culture medium just prior to addition to cells. This is a 5X working stock solution.
 - For adherent cells: Replace one-fifth of the existing volume of medium with the 5X HaloTag® ligand working stock solution, and mix gently. For cell suspensions: Add 5X ligand working stock to existing cell suspension, resulting in a 1X final concentration. Step 2 results in the recommended final labeling concentration of 100nM HaloTag® TMRDirect™ or R110Direct™ Ligand.
 - Plate cells (if necessary), and incubate overnight in a 37°C + CO₂ cell culture incubator.
 - Gently replace the ligand-containing medium with an equal (or greater) volume of warm fresh medium, or fix cells.
 - Transfer to an imaging device, and capture images.

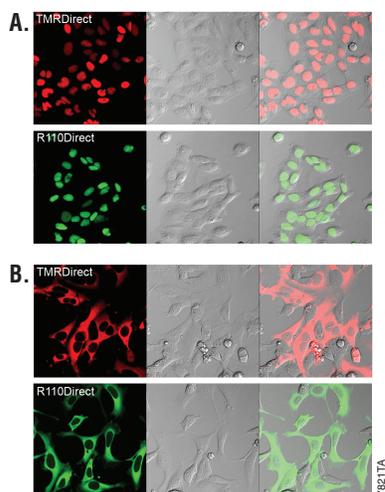


Figure 10.6. HaloTag® No-Wash Labeling results in signal that is robust and specific. Panel A. Confocal images of U2OS cells expressing HaloTag®-NLS₃ (nuclear localization sequence) and labeled with either the TMRDirect™ or R110Direct™ Ligand using the No-Wash Labeling protocol clearly show strong fluorescent signal that is restricted to the nucleus. Panel B. Confocal images of HEK 293 cells expressing HaloTag®-p65 (cytoplasmic in cells at rest) and labeled with the TMRDirect™ or R110Direct™ Ligand using the No-Wash Labeling protocol clearly show strong fluorescent signal that is restricted to the cytoplasm. All panels (left to right) show fluorescence, DIC image and overlay. Images were acquired on a confocal microscope equipped with fluorophore-appropriate filter sets and an environmental chamber in which cells remained at 37 °C + CO₂ throughout imaging.

E. Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting (FACS®)

Materials Required:

- large-well format plate of HaloTag®-expressing cells and negative control cells that do not express the HaloTag® fusion protein
 - complete culture medium appropriate for your cells at 37°C
 - For adherent cells: 1X PBS (pH 7.5) and 1X PBS containing 3mM EDTA or trypsin solution at 37 °C (see Step 2 below)
 - cell sorting machine with appropriate filter sets and lasers for ligand used
 - 37°C + CO₂ cell culture incubator
1. Label cells expressing HaloTag® protein with ligand of choice. Recommended controls: (a) Label cells that are not expressing HaloTag® protein to assess background with chosen ligand; (b) prepare unlabeled cells expressing HaloTag® protein to assess background from endogenous cell fluorescence.
 2. For adherent cells with HaloTag® fusion protein expressed on the cell surface: Rinse cells twice with an equal volume of 1X PBS, incubate in 1X PBS with 3mM EDTA at 37°C for 5 minutes, then gently scrape the cells off of the plate. For adherent cells with HaloTag® fusion

protein expressed *inside the cell*: Suspend cells using trypsin-containing solution in a manner appropriate for the cell line.

3. Collect, pellet, count and resuspend cells in medium at 37°C to a concentration of 0.5 to 1 x 10⁶ cells/ml.
4. Sort cells.
5. Place sorted cells in 37°C + CO₂ incubator, using a format appropriate for later application.
6. Transfer to a microscope and image, perform SDS-PAGE, or relabel cells (e.g., with a different ligand color) and image.

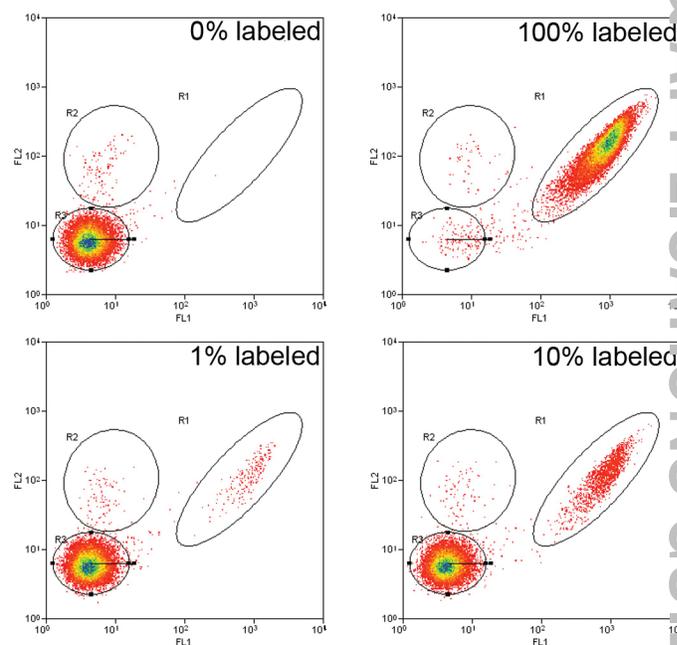


Figure 10.7. Successful FACS® of labeled HaloTag®-expressing cells. U2OS cells stably expressing HaloTag® 2 protein fused to three copies of a nuclear localization sequence were labeled with the HaloTag® R110Direct™ Ligand as described in Technical Manual #TM260, and known numbers (1%, 10% or 100% labeled) were sorted from nonlabeled cells. FACS® was performed using a MoFlo® instrument with approximately 20,000 cells represented on each graph. R1 indicates cells labeled with R110, R2 are dead cells (by propidium iodide), and R3 indicates unlabeled cells. Results show that labeled cells are successfully sorted from nonlabeled cells.

F. Fixed-Cell Labeling Protocol

This protocol is intended to serve as a guide to fix cells expressing a HaloTag® fusion protein. The covalent bond that forms between the ligand and HaloTag® protein during live-cell labeling allows you to subsequently fix, permeabilize and wash the cells under stringent conditions without significant loss of the specific fluorescent signal. We recommend the use of paraformaldehyde (PFA) as a fixative because it crosslinks proteins in cells and at the

membrane and has the added benefit of reducing cell loss from the growth surface. Fixed cells can be treated with detergents, such as Triton® X-100, to further eliminate nonspecific labeling and permeabilize cells for downstream immunocytochemical applications. The conditions here are sufficient to permeabilize the plasma membrane.

Alternative or additional detergents might be necessary to permeabilize other structures.

Materials Required:

- HaloTag® pHT2 Vector or HaloTag® Flexi® Vectors, desired ligands, and protocol #TM260
 - 4% paraformaldehyde/0.2M sucrose/1X PBS (pH 7.5)
 - 1X PBS buffer (pH 7.5)
 - 1X PBS + 0.1% Triton® X-100
 - confocal microscope or wide-field fluorescent microscope equipped with appropriate filter sets and lasers
1. Follow Steps 1–5 of Rapid Labeling or No-Wash Labeling protocol to label cells, if desired.
 2. Replace the medium with an equal volume of warm 4% paraformaldehyde/0.2M sucrose/1X PBS (pH 7.5), and incubate for 10 minutes at room temperature.
 3. Replace fixative with an equal volume of 1X PBS + 0.1% Triton®X-100, and incubate for 10 minutes at room temperature.
 4. Replace the detergent-containing solution with an equal volume of 1X PBS.
 5. Transfer to a microscope and capture images, or proceed to the next section for a immunocytochemistry protocol.

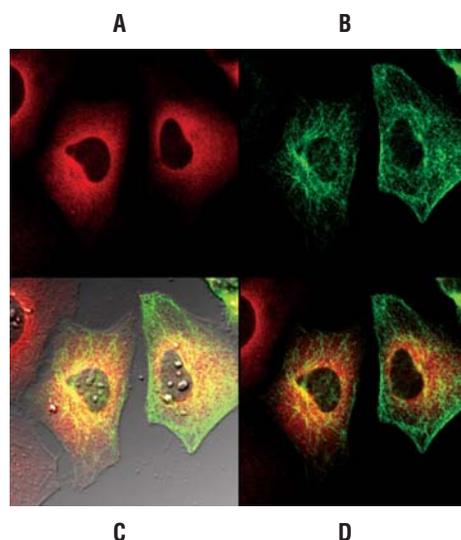


Figure 10.8. Multiplexing HaloTag® labeling with antibody staining. HeLa cells transiently transfected with the p65-HaloTag® construct and labeled with TMR Ligand were fixed and stained with mouse Anti-βIII Tubulin Antibody followed by incubation with Alexa Fluor® 488-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG (Molecular Probes). Images were generated on an Olympus FV500 confocal microscope in sequential mode using appropriate filter sets. **Panel A.** TMR fluorescence. **Panel B.** Alexa Fluor® 488 fluorescence. **Panel C.** Overlay of Alexa Fluor® 488 and TMR fluorescence and transmitted light. **Panel D.** Overlay of Alexa Fluor® 488 and TMR fluorescence.

G. Immunocytochemistry Using the Anti-HaloTag® Polyclonal Antibody

This protocol is intended to serve as a guide for immunocytochemistry using Anti-HaloTag® Polyclonal Antibody. This antibody is a purified rabbit polyclonal antibody raised against the HaloTag® protein. The antibody was purified using Protein G affinity resin and has been shown to detect HaloTag® fusion proteins in both immunocytochemistry and Western blot applications with high sensitivity and specificity. Further, this antibody labels HaloTag® fusion proteins independently of HaloTag® ligands. As these labels do not interfere with one another, it is possible to colabel HaloTag® fusion proteins with a fluorescent ligand and the anti-HaloTag® pAb in conjunction with an anti-rabbit secondary antibody bearing a spectrally distinct fluorescent tag (Figure 10.9).

Materials Required:

- 1X PBS buffer (pH 7.5)
- fluorophore-conjugated anti-rabbit secondary antibody of choice
- PBS + 2% donkey serum + 0.01% Triton® X-100
- PBS + 1% donkey serum
- confocal or wide-field fluorescent microscope equipped with appropriate filter sets and lasers
- PBS + 0.1% sodium azide (optional, for storage)

1. Cells expressing a HaloTag[®] fusion protein, whether labeled or unlabeled, should be fixed and permeabilized as described in Steps 2–5 above.
2. Replace the 1X PBS with an equal volume of PBS + 2% donkey serum + 0.01% Triton[®] X-100, and block for 1 hour at room temperature.
3. Dilute the Anti-HaloTag[®] pAb 1:500 in PBS + 1% donkey serum, to final labeling concentration of 2 μ g/ml.
4. Replace the blocking solution with the antibody solution, and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature.
5. Wash cells twice with PBS + 1% donkey serum for 10 minutes at room temperature.
6. Dilute the secondary antibody according to the manufacturer's recommendations in PBS + 1% donkey serum.
7. Replace the wash solution with the secondary antibody solution, and incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature.
8. Wash cells twice with PBS + 1% donkey serum for 10 minutes each wash at room temperature.
9. Replace wash solution with 1X PBS.
10. Transfer to a microscope, and capture images. Store cells in PBS + 0.1% sodium azide.

H. Multiplexing HaloTag[®] protein, other reporters and/or Antibodies in Imaging Experiments

HaloTag[®] Technology can simplify multicolor/multiplex labeling experiments. The HaloTag[®] protein is not an intrinsically fluorescent protein (IFP), and the choice of fluorescent labels can be made after creating the HaloTag[®] fusion protein. This feature allows flexibility in experimental design for multicolor labeling as well as immunocytochemistry experiments.

To demonstrate this flexibility, we labeled cells expressing HaloTag[®]- α -tubulin fusion protein with the TMR Ligand or the diAcFAM Ligand and processed the cells for ICC using Anti- β III Tubulin mAb (Cat.# G7121) and Alexa Fluor[®] 488 or Cy[®]3-conjugated secondary antibodies (Figure 10.10). All HeLa cells expressed β III-tubulin in the cytoplasm. The HaloTag[®]- α -tubulin reporter was localized to the cytoplasm in the subpopulation of successfully transfected cells.

Additional Resources for HaloTag[®] Interchangeable Labeling Technology

Technical Bulletins and Manuals

- | | |
|-------|---|
| TM260 | HaloTag[®] Technology: Focus on Imaging Technical Manual |
| TM254 | Flexi[®] Vector Systems Technical Manual |

Promega Publications

[HaloTag[®] Technology: Convenient, simple and reliable labeling from single wells to high-content screens](#)
[Expression of Fusion Proteins: How to get started with the HaloTag[®] Technology](#)

[Achieve the protein expression level you need with the mammalian HaloTag[®] 7 Flexi[®] Vectors](#)

[HaloTag[®] Interchangeable Labeling Technology for cell imaging, protein capture and immobilization](#)

[HaloTag[®] Technology: Cell imaging and protein analysis](#)

[HaloTag[®] Interchangeable Labeling Technology for cell imaging and protein capture](#)

[Perform multicolor live- and fixed-cell imaging applications with the HaloTag[®] Interchangeable Labeling Technology](#)

[HaloTag[®] Vector Maps](#)

Citations

Schröder, J. *et al.* (2009) In vivo labeling method using genetic construct for nanoscale resolution microscopy. *Biophysical J.* **96**, L1-L3.

Traditionally light microscopy resolution has been limited by the diffraction of light. However several new technologies have emerged that partially overcome that limitation. One of these, stimulated emission depletion (STED) microscopy, is now commercially available and has been integrated into confocal microscope platforms. Because STED depends on fluorescent markers that fulfill specific spectroscopic needs, its uses have been limited. The authors of this paper demonstrate successful high resolution of β 1-integrin-HaloTag[®]-fusion protein imaging using STED microscopy. This was possible because HaloTag[®] technology allows researchers to create a reporter that can be labeled with STED-optimized fluorescent tags.

PubMed Number: 19134467

Citations

Svendsen, S. *et al.* (2008) Spatial separation and bidirectional trafficking of proteins using a multi-functional reporter. *BMC Cell Biology.* **9**, 17.

This paper demonstrates use of HaloTag[®] technology to study expression and trafficking of an integrin-HaloTag[®] fusion protein. The authors fused the HaloTag[®] reporter protein to a truncated integrin. They then labeled live cells with different in a pulse-chase format using a green cell-impermeant ligand (Alexa Fluor[®] 488) followed by a cell-permeant TMR Ligand (red). This allowed direct monitoring of protein trafficking because pools of the same transmembrane protein were labeled with distinct fluorescent ligands.

PubMed Number: 18384686

Los, G.V. *et al.* (2008) HaloTag: A Novel Protein Labeling Technology for Cell Imaging and Protein Analysis *ACS Chemical Biology* **3**, 373–82.

The authors of this study describe the HaloTag[®] reporter system and use it to characterize a protein known to

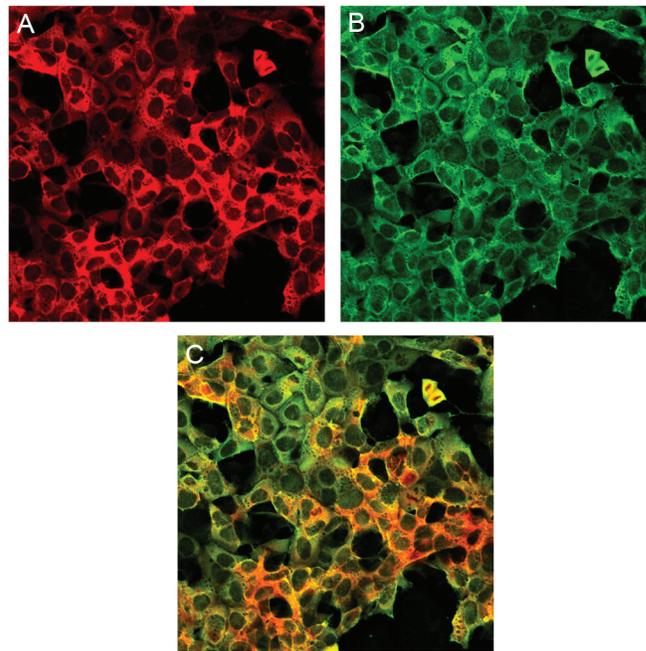


Figure 10.9. Distinct labeling of a single HaloTag® 7 fusion by a HaloTag® Ligand and Anti-HaloTag® pAb. HEK 293 cells stably transfected with a p65-HaloTag® 7 construct (p65 is a cytoplasmic signaling protein) were labeled with HaloTag® TMR Ligand, then processed for immunocytochemistry using the Anti-HaloTag® pAb. The secondary antibody used was Alexa Fluor® 488-conjugated anti-rabbit-IgG (Jackson ImmunoResearch). Distinct labeling is demonstrated by the fact that the red fluorescence associated with specific HaloTag® TMR Ligand labeling (**Panel A**) does not prevent green fluorescence associated with specific Anti-HaloTag® pAb labeling (**Panel B**). Merging the fluorescent images (**Panel C**) confirms that the HaloTag® fusion protein is labeled specifically (restricted to the cytoplasm), as expected. Images were collected on an Olympus FV500 confocal microscope in sequential mode using appropriate filter sets.

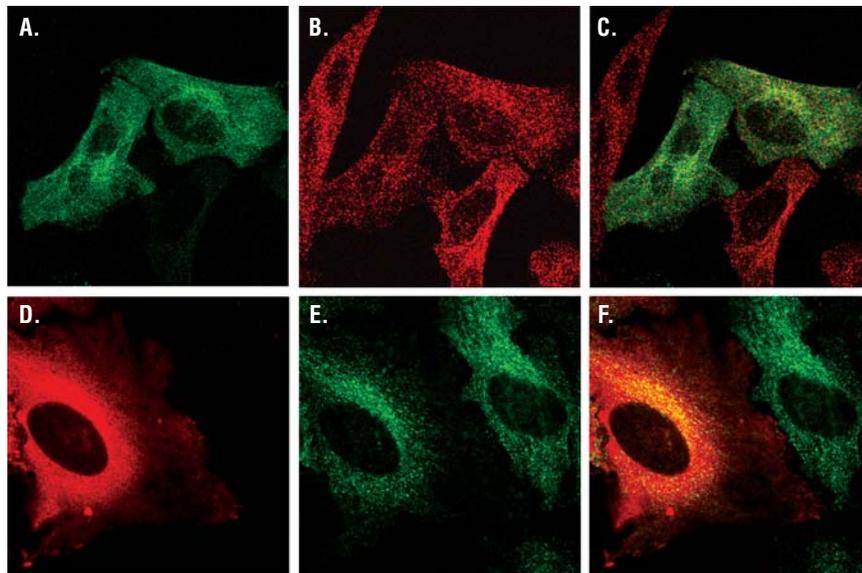


Figure 10.10. Multiplexing HaloTag® labeling and immunocytochemistry. HeLa cells were transfected with HaloTag®- α -tubulin fusion protein, labeled with HaloTag® diAcFAM (**Panels A–C**) or TMR Ligand (**Panels D–F**), washed and fixed as described in Los *et al.* 2005. Cells were immunolabeled with Anti- β III tubulin mAb (1:5,000 dilution, Cat.# G7121) followed by labeling with an Alexa Fluor® 488-conjugated secondary antibody (**Panels A–C**) or Cy®3-conjugated secondary antibody (**Panels D–F**). **Panels A and D** show cells the HaloTag® Ligands only; **Panel A**, diAcFAM Ligand; **Panel D**, TMR Ligand. **Panels B and E** show labeling for β III tubulin. **Panels C and F** show the overlay of HaloTag® protein and β III tubulin labeling.

influence DNA transcription. The researchers create one genetic construct and demonstrate its use in determining protein localization and dynamics through imaging as well as biologically relevant interactions with a protein partner and DNA promoter.

PubMed Number: 18533659

III. Monster Green® Fluorescent Protein pHMGFP Vector

With the discovery of intrinsically fluorescent proteins (IFPs) such as the green fluorescent protein (GFP) and the subsequent creation of a full-color spectrum of these IFPs, researchers can now fuse a protein of interest to IFPs with a variety of properties. IFPs are commonly used reporter molecules that can be visualized without cell lysis using standard fluorescence microscopy. They are often used to monitor gene expression but also can be used to monitor intracellular protein trafficking by creating C- and N-terminal protein fusions.

The Monster Green® Fluorescent Protein (Cat.# E6421) is an improved synthetic version of the green fluorescent protein gene originally cloned from *Montastrea cavernosa* (Great Star Coral). The synthetic gene (hMGFP) expresses a 26kDa protein that shows improved fluorescence intensity compared to the native gene. Peak excitation occurs at 505nm, and peak emission occurs at 515nm. Standard FITC filters may be used to visualize hMGFP fluorescence. The hMGFP gene is codon optimized and cleared of most consensus sequence transcription factor binding sites to ensure reliability and high levels of expression.

The Monster Green® Fluorescent Protein encoded by the hMGFP gene is an ideal fluorescent reporter, providing high-level fluorescence and reduced cytotoxicity. Monster Green® Protein generally fluoresces at least 20% brighter than other commercially available green fluorescent proteins (GFPs) and also reduces cytotoxicity, offering flexibility when working with transient and stable expression assays (Figure 10.11).

Additional Resources for the Monster Green® Fluorescent Protein

Technical Bulletins and Manuals

TB320 [Monster Green® Fluorescent Protein pHMGFP Vector Technical Bulletin](#)

Promega Publications

[Transfecting a human neuroblastoma cell line with Monster Green® Fluorescent Protein](#)

[Monster Green® Protein: a brighter, longer-expressing green fluorescent protein](#)

Citations

Inman, M. *et al.* (2004) Identification of a novel bovine herpesvirus 1 transcript containing a small open reading frame that is expressed in trigeminal ganglia of latently infected cattle. *J. Virol.* 78, 5438–47.

A fusion protein construct was made using the Monster Green® Fluorescent Protein pHMGFP Vector and the PCR-amplified Open Reading Frame E (ORF-E) from Bovine herpesvirus 1. Transfected human neuroblastoma (SK-N-SH) cells, rabbit skin cells and bovine kidney cells were visualized using an Olympus FV500/BX60 confocal microscope with 488nm excitation laser and 522nm emission filter set. The ORF-E-MGFP protein was localized in discrete domains within the nucleus of Neuro-2A and SK-N-SH cells. In rabbit skin cells and bovine kidney cells the ORF-E-MGFP protein was detected in the cytoplasm and nucleus.

PubMed Number: 15113922

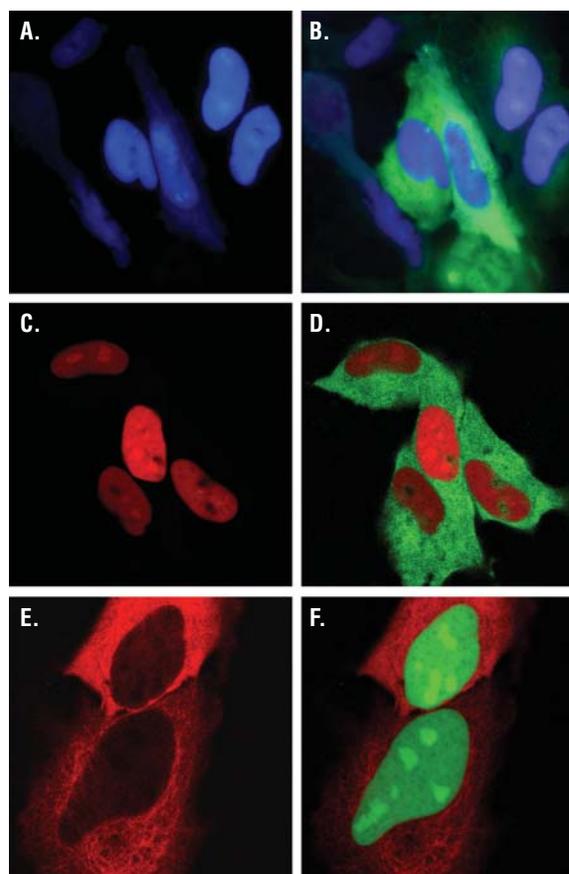


Figure 10.11. Expression of Monster Green® Fluorescent Protein in HeLa Cells. HeLa cells were transiently co-transfected with either HaloTag®-(NLS)₃ plus hMGFP- α -tubulin (**Panels A–D**) or HaloTag®- α -tubulin plus hMGFP-(NLS)₃ (**Panels E and F**).

Twenty-four hours later, cells expressing HaloTag®-(NLS)₃ were incubated with either 25 μ M Coumarin Ligand (Cat.# G8581, **Panels A and B**) or 5 μ M HaloTag® TMR Ligand

(Panels C and D) for 15 minutes; cells expressing HaloTag[®]- α -tubulin were incubated with 5 μ M TMR Ligand for 15 minutes at 37°/5%CO₂ (Panels E and F). Cells were washed and incubated for 30 minutes. In Panels A and B, cells were imaged with an Olympus IX81 epifluorescent microscope equipped with Chroma filter sets (#31000 DAPI for the Coumarin Ligand and #41001 FITC for hMGFP), a Hamamatsu Orca CCD camera and environmental controls. Images in Panels C–F were captured with an Olympus FV500 confocal attachment with sequential two-laser scanning and filters appropriate for TMR and FITC fluorescence.

IV. Antibodies and Other Cellular Markers

Promega offers a variety of antibodies for detecting markers of apoptosis, assessing activation of cellular signaling pathways, and monitoring indicators of cell type. These antibodies include antibodies raised against phosphorylated proteins including kinases as well as antibodies against growth factors and growth-factor receptors.

A. Antibodies and Markers of Apoptosis

In Situ Marker for Caspase-3: FITC-VAD-FMK
CaspACE[™] FITC-VAD-FMK In Situ Marker (Cat.# G7461) is a fluorescent analog of the pan caspase inhibitor Z-VAD-FMK (carbobenzoxy-valyl-alanyl-aspartyl-[O-methyl]-fluoromethylketone). The fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC) group has been substituted for the carbobenzoxy (Z) N-terminal blocking group to create the fluorescent apoptosis marker. This structure allows delivery of the inhibitor into the cell where it irreversibly binds to activated caspases. The FITC label allows for a single-reagent addition to assay for caspase activity in situ. The FITC-VAD-FMK Marker is supplied as a 5mM solution in DMSO and is intended for in situ monitoring of caspase activity by fluorescence detection. The suggested concentration for use in anti-Fas-treated Jurkat cell culture is 10 μ M.

Method for Detecting Apoptosis in Jurkat Cells

Materials Required:

- CaspACE[™] FITC-VAD-FMK In Situ Marker (Cat.# G7461, G7462)
 - poly-L-lysine-coated slides
 - anti-Fas mAb (Clone CH-11 MBL International Cat.# SY-100)
 - PBS
 - formalin
 - mounting medium
 - fluorescence microscope
1. Seed Jurkat cells at 1 \times 10⁵ cells/ml and grow in RPMI-1640 + 10% FBS in a 37°C, 5% CO₂ incubator for 2–3 days until they reach a density of 5 \times 10⁵ cells/ml.
 2. Prepare poly-L-lysine-coated slides. Coat each chamber of multichamber slides with 0.01% poly-L-lysine solution. When partially dry, rinse the slides in NANOpure[®] water and then air-dry. Poly-L-lysine-coated slides can be prepared in advance and stored at 4°C for up to 7 days before use.

3. To induce apoptosis, add anti-Fas mAb (Clone CH-11, MBL International Cat.# SY-100) to a final concentration of 0.1 μ g/ml. Do not add to controls. Incubate for 3–4 hours at 37°C.
4. Add CaspACE[™] FITC-VAD-FMK In Situ Marker to the Jurkat cells at a final concentration of 10 μ M. Protect cells from light and incubate for 20 minutes in the incubator. Keep cells protected from light for the remaining steps.
5. Centrifuge at 300 \times g for 5 minutes.
6. Wash cells with PBS, then centrifuge at 300 \times g for 5 minutes.
7. Suspend cells in PBS to 1.5 \times 10⁶ cells/ml.
8. Add cells to poly-L-lysine-coated slides and incubate at room temperature for 5 minutes to allow the cells to adhere to the poly-L-lysine.
9. Fix in 10% buffered formalin for 30 minutes at room temperature (protected from light).
10. Rinse 3 times for 5 minutes each time in PBS.
11. Add mounting medium and coverslips to the slides. Analyze under a fluorescence microscope.

Additional Resources for the CaspACE[™] FITC-VAD-FMK In Situ Marker

Technical Bulletins and Manuals

9PIG746 [CaspACE[™] FITC-VAD-FMK In Situ Marker Product Information](#)

Promega Publications

[CaspACE[™] FITC-VAD-FMK In Situ Marker as a probe for flow cytometry detection of apoptotic cells](#)

[CaspACE[™] FITC-VAD-FMK In Situ Marker for Apoptosis: Applications for flow cytometry](#)

Online Tools

[Apoptosis Assistant](#)

Citations

Rouet-Benzineb, P. *et al.* (2004) TOrexins acting at native OX1 receptor in colon cancer and neuroblastoma cells or at recombinant OX1 receptor suppress cell growth by inducing apoptosis. *J. Biol. Chem.* **279**, 45875–86.

Human colon cancer (HT29-D4) cells were analyzed for activated caspases using the CaspACE[™] FITC-VAD-FMK In Situ Marker. HT29-D4 cells (7 \times 10⁵) were cultured in the presence or absence of 1 μ M orexins, peptide growth inhibitors. Cells were washed, and bound CaspACE[™] FITC-VAD-FMK In Situ Marker was visualized by confocal microscopy.

PubMed Number: 15310763

Detecting Active Caspase-3 Using an Antibody

Anti-ACTIVE® Caspase-3 pAb (Cat.# G7481) is intended for use as a marker of apoptosis; it specifically stains apoptotic human cells without staining nonapoptotic cells. All known caspases are synthesized as pro-enzymes activated by proteolytic cleavage. Anti-ACTIVE® Caspase-3 pAb is an affinity-purified rabbit polyclonal antibody directed against a peptide from the p18 fragment of human caspase-3. The antibody is affinity purified using a peptide corresponding to the cleaved region of caspase-3.

General Immunochemical Staining Protocol**Materials Required:**

- Anti-ACTIVE® Caspase-3 pAb (Cat.# G7481)
 - prepared, fixed samples on slides
 - Triton® X-100
 - PBS
 - blocking buffer (PBS/0.1% Tween® 20 + 5% horse serum)
 - donkey anti-rabbit Cy®3 conjugate secondary antibody (Jackson Laboratories Cat.# 711-165-152)
 - mounting medium
 - humidified chamber
1. Permeabilize the fixed cells by incubating in PBS/0.2% Triton® X-100 for 5 minutes at room temperature. Wash three times in PBS, in Coplin jars, for 5 minutes at room temperature.
 2. Drain the slide and add 200µl of blocking buffer (PBS/0.1% Tween® 20 + 5% horse serum). Use of serum from the host species of the conjugate antibody (or closely related species) is suggested. Lay the slides flat in a humidified chamber and incubate for 2 hours at room temperature. Rinse once in PBS.
 3. Add 100µl of the Anti-ACTIVE® Caspase-3 pAb diluted 1:250 in blocking buffer. Prepare a slide with no Anti-ACTIVE® Caspase-3 pAb as a negative control. Incubate slides in a humidified chamber overnight at 4°C.
 4. The following day, wash the slides twice for 10 minutes in PBS, twice for 10 minutes in PBS/0.1% Tween® 20 and twice for 10 minutes in PBS at room temperature.
 5. Drain slides and add 100µl of donkey anti-rabbit Cy®3 conjugate diluted 1:500 in PBS. (We recommend Jackson ImmunoResearch Cat.# 711-165-152.) Lay the slides flat in a humidified chamber, protected from light, and incubate for 2 hours at room temperature. Wash twice in PBS for 5 minutes, once in PBS/0.1% Tween® 20 for 5 minutes and once in PBS for 5 minutes, protected from light.
 6. Drain the liquid, mount the slides in a permanent or aqueous mounting medium and observe with a fluorescence microscope.

Additional Resources for the Anti-ACTIVE® Caspase-3 pAb**Technical Bulletins and Manuals**

9PIG748 [Anti-ACTIVE® Caspase-3 pAb Product Information](#)

Promega Publications

[Immunohistochemical staining using Promega](#)

[Anti-ACTIVE® and apoptosis antibodies](#)

[Anti-ACTIVE® Caspase-3 pAb for the detection of apoptosis](#)

Online Tools

[Apoptosis Assistant](#)

Citations

Debacq-Chainiaux, F. *et al.* (2005) Repeated exposure of human skin fibroblasts to UVB at subcytotoxic level triggers premature senescence through the TGF-β1 signaling pathway. *J. Cell Science* **118**, 743–58.

The authors of this study developed a model for UVB-induced premature senescence of skin human diploid fibroblasts. Markers of senescence were expressed in the system, and the authors were able to detect a common mitochondrial DNA 4,977-bp deletion that is associated with oxidative damage. After a series of ten UVB stresses, total RNA was prepared from the cells using the RNAagents® Total RNA Isolation System and used for RT-PCR to detect differentially expressed genes. Forty-four stress or senescence-associated genes were identified that were differentially expressed between UVB irradiated and untreated cells including c-fos, c-jun, insulin-like growth factor binding protein 3, several HSPs, genes involved in protection from oxidative stress, and the type II receptor of TGF-β. The Anti-ACTIVE® Caspase-3 pAb was used to assess whether the UVB treatment or incubation with TGF-β1 led to apoptosis in this system.

PubMed Number: 15671065

Using an Antibody Against a Cleaved Caspase-3 Substrate (Anti-PARP p85 Fragment pAb)

Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP), a nuclear enzyme involved in DNA repair, is a well-known substrate for caspase-3 cleavage during apoptosis. Anti-PARP p85 Fragment pAb (Cat.# G7341) is a rabbit polyclonal antibody specific for the p85 fragment of PARP that results from caspase cleavage of the 116kDa intact molecule and thus provides an in situ marker for apoptosis. Each batch of antibody is tested for use in immunostaining applications and contains sufficient antibody for 50 immunocytochemical reactions at a working dilution of 1:100.

General Immunocytochemistry Protocol**Materials Required:**

- Anti-PARP p85 Fragment pAb (Cat.# G7341)
- cells fixed on slides
- PBS
- blocking buffer (PBS/0.1% Tween® 20 + 5% horse serum)

- donkey anti-rabbit biotin conjugate (Jackson Cat.# 711-065-152) **or** donkey anti-rabbit Cy[®]3 conjugate (Jackson Cat.# 711-165-152)
 - H₂O₂ (if using biotin conjugate)
 - DAB solution (if using biotin conjugate)
 - ultrapure water
 - humidified chamber
 - peroxidase-labeled streptavidin (eg., KPL Cat.# 14-300-00, diluted 1µg/ml in PBS)
1. Permeabilize cells fixed on slides in 0.2% Triton[®] X-100/PBS for 5 minutes at room temperature.
 2. Wash in 1X PBS in coplin jars for 5 minutes at room temperature. Repeat twice for a total of 3 washes.
 3. Drain the slides and add blocking buffer (PBS/0.1% Tween[®] 20 + 5% normal serum). Cover cells with blocking buffer (200µl per slide). Lay the slides flat in a humidified chamber and incubate for 2 hours at room temperature.
 4. Rinse once in PBS.
 5. Add 100µl of the Anti-PARP p85 Fragment pAb diluted in blocking buffer. We recommend a starting dilution of 1:100. Include a slide with no Anti-PARP p85 Fragment pAb as a negative control. Incubate slides in a humidified chamber overnight at 4°C.
 6. The following day, wash the slides twice for 10 minutes in 1X PBS, twice for 10 minutes in PBS/0.1% Tween[®] 20, and twice for 10 minutes in 1X PBS at room temperature.
 7. If the secondary antibody is a horseradish peroxidase (HRP) conjugate, block endogenous peroxidases by incubating with 0.3% hydrogen peroxide for 4–5 minutes at room temperature. If you are using a different method of detection with a secondary antibody, proceed to Step 9.
 8. Wash in 1X PBS in Coplin jars for 5 minutes. Repeat twice for a total of 3 washes.
 9. Drain slides and add 100–200µl of diluted secondary antibody to each slide. We recommend donkey anti-rabbit biotin conjugate (Jackson Cat.# 711-065-152) or donkey anti-rabbit Cy[®]3 conjugate (Jackson Cat.# 711-165-152) diluted 1:500 in PBS/0.1% Tween[®] 20. Lay the slides flat in a humidified chamber and incubate for 2 hours at room temperature.
 10. Wash several times in 1X PBS.
 11. For the biotin conjugate, drain the slides and add 100–200µl of Streptavidin-HRP solution to each slide. Lay the slides flat in a humidified chamber and incubate for 45 minutes at room temperature. For HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies, proceed to Step 13. For other secondary antibodies, proceed to Step 15.
 12. Wash in 1X PBS in Coplin jars for 5 minutes. Repeat twice for a total of 3 washes.
 13. Add 100–200µl of freshly made diaminobenzidine (DAB) solution to each slide. Lay the slides flat and incubate for ~10 minutes at room temperature.
 14. Rinse the slides in NANOpure[®] water. Bleach is frequently used to inactivate the DAB before disposal; however, local requirements for hazardous waste should be followed.
 15. Drain the liquid and mount the slides in a permanent or aqueous mounting medium (slides mounted in 70% glycerol can be stored for several weeks at 4°C or –20°C).

Method for Staining Postnatal Day 0 Mouse Brain, Paraffin-Embedded Sections. (All steps are performed at room temperature.)

Materials Required:

- Anti-PARP p85 Fragment, pAb (Cat.# G7341)
 - paraffin-embedded, fixed sample
 - Hemo-De[®] (Fisher Scientific) or xylene
 - ethanol (100, 95 and 70%)
 - PBS
 - Triton[®] X-100
 - H₂O₂
 - biotin-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit pAb
 - RTU ABC reagent (Vector Laboratories)
 - DAB substrate kit (Vector Laboratories)
 - VECTASHIELD[®] DAPI anti-fade Reagent (Vector Laboratories)
1. Embed tissue in paraffin after fixation in 4% paraformaldehyde. Six micron sections are used for this protocol.
Note: Best results will be obtained if the animal is perfused with fix and postfixed after dissection.
 2. Deparaffinize by washing tissue 3 times for 5 minutes each in Hemo-De[®] (Fisher Scientific) or xylene. Rinse tissue sections for 2 minutes in 100% ethanol. Transfer

sections to 95% ethanol for 2 minutes, then transfer them to 70% ethanol for 2 minutes. Finally, rinse tissue sections 2 times for 2 minutes each in PBS.

3. Permeabilize for 10 minutes in PBS + 0.1% Triton® X-100.
4. Wash sections 2 times for 5 minutes each in PBS.
5. Block endogenous peroxidase activity by incubating sections in 0.3% H₂O₂ in PBS for 30 minutes.
6. Wash sections 2 times for 5 minutes each in PBS.
7. Block for 45 minutes in PBS + 5% donkey serum
8. Incubate with Anti-PARP p85 Fragment pAb diluted 1:50 in PBS + 1.0 % donkey serum for 60 minutes.
9. Wash sections 3 times for 5 minutes each in PBS.
10. Incubate with biotin-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit pAb (Jackson ImmunoResearch) diluted 1:500 in PBS for 60 minutes.
11. Wash sections 3 times for 5 minutes each in PBS.
12. Incubate in R.T.U. (Ready-To-Use) ABC reagent (Vector Laboratories) for 60 minutes.
13. Wash sections 3 times for 5 minutes each in PBS.
14. Develop with DAB substrate kit (Vector Laboratories) for 10 minutes.
15. Wash 3 times for 5 minutes each in water.
16. Mount in VECTASHIELD® + DAPI anti-fade reagent (Vector Laboratories).
17. Analyze samples immediately using a fluorescence microscope.

Additional Resources for the Anti-PARP p85 Fragment pAb

Technical Bulletins and Manuals

TB273 [Anti-PARP p85 Fragment pAb Technical Bulletin](#)

Promega Publications

[Cleaved PARP as a marker for apoptosis in tissue sections](#)
[Immunohistochemical staining using Promega Anti-ACTIVE® and apoptosis antibodies](#)

Online Tools

[Apoptosis Assistant](#)

Citations

Davidson, B. *et al.* (2003) Expression and activation of the nerve growth factor receptor TrkA in serous ovarian carcinoma. *Clin. Cancer Res.* **9**, 2248–59.

Anti-PARP p85 Fragment pAb was used to stain human peritoneal and pleural effusions.

PubMed Number: 12796393

O'Brien, M.A., Moravec, R.A. and Riss, T. (2001) Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase cleavage monitored in situ in apoptotic cells. *Biotechniques.* **30**, 886–91.

The authors demonstrate specificity of an affinity-purified polyclonal antibody to the p85 fragment of PARP with Western blots that show that the antibody recognizes the 85kDa (p85) fragment of PARP but not full-length PARP.

PubMed Number: 11314271

B. Antibodies and Cellular Markers for Studying Cell Signaling Pathways

Promega provides a variety of phosphorylation-specific antibodies for studying cell signaling pathways. These antibodies and example protocols are discussed in detail in the *Protocols and Applications Guide* chapter on Cell Signaling. Brief descriptions of these products are provided below.

Anti-ACTIVE® Phosphorylation-Specific Antibodies

The Anti-ACTIVE® phosphorylation-specific antibodies were developed to provide an accurate measure of enzyme activation. These antibodies specifically recognize the active, phosphorylated form of a given kinase. The Anti-ACTIVE® Antibodies are raised against phosphorylated peptide sequences present in the activating loop of a number of protein kinases. Whether used in Western analysis, immunocytochemistry or immunohistochemical staining, the Anti-ACTIVE® MAPK, JNK, p38 and CaM KII Antibodies will recognize only the active form of the enzyme.

Anti-ACTIVE® MAPK, pAb, Rabbit, (pTEpY)

This antibody is an affinity-purified polyclonal antibody that specifically recognizes the dually phosphorylated, active form of MAPK. The antibody is raised against a dually phosphorylated peptide sequence representing the catalytic core of the active ERK enzyme and recognizes the active forms of ERK1, ERK2 and ERK7.

Anti-ACTIVE® JNK pAb, Rabbit, (pTPpY)

Anti-ACTIVE® JNK pAb is an affinity-purified polyclonal antibody that recognizes the dually phosphorylated, active form of cJun N-terminal protein Kinase (JNK).

Anti-ACTIVE® JNK pAb is raised against a dually phosphorylated peptide sequence representing the catalytic core of the active JNK enzyme. The antibody recognizes the active forms of JNK1, JNK2, and JNK3 isoforms.

Anti-ACTIVE® p38 pAb, Rabbit, (pTGpY)

Anti-ACTIVE® p38 Ab, Rabbit, is an affinity-purified polyclonal antibody that recognizes the active form of p38 kinase. The Anti-ACTIVE® p38 pAb is raised against the dually phosphorylated peptide sequence representing the catalytic core of the active p38 enzyme. The Anti-ACTIVE® p38 pAb recognizes the active forms of p38 α , γ , and δ isoforms.

Additional Resources for the Anti-ACTIVE® Antibodies**Technical Bulletins and Manuals**

TB262 *Anti-ACTIVE® MAPK, p38 and JNK Polyclonal Antibodies and Anti-ACTIVE® Qualified Secondary Antibody Conjugates Technical Bulletin*

Promega Publications

New Anti-ACTIVE® MAPK and 'pan ERK 1/2' antibodies for Western analysis

Technically speaking: Anti-ACTIVE® Antibodies and MAPK signaling pathways

Demonstration of immunohistochemical staining using Promega's Anti-ACTIVE® and apoptosis Antibodies

Citations

Hsu, C.Y. *et al.* (2004) Characterization of active mitogen-activated protein kinase in ovarian serous carcinomas *Clin. Can. Res.* **10**, 6432–6.

The Anti-ACTIVE® MAPK polyclonal antibody was used to immunohistochemically stain and type patient ovarian serous carcinomas using paraffin-fixed tissue sections on tissue microarrays. Western blots were also performed on tissue lysates using a 1:3,000 dilution of the antibody.

PubMed Number: 15475429

Le'Negrate, G. *et al.* (2003) Downregulation of caspases and Fas ligand expression, and increased lifespan of neutrophils after transmigration across intestinal epithelium *Cell Death Differ.* **10**, 153–62.

Anti-ACTIVE® JNK pAb was used in immunoblot analysis of human polymorphonuclear leukocyte protein lysates.

PubMed Number: 12700643

Aballay, A. *et al.* (2003) *Caenorhabditis elegans* innate immune response triggered by *Salmonella enterica* requires intact LPS and is mediated by a MAPK signaling pathway *Curr. Biol.* **13**, 47–52.

Activation of the p38 homolog in the worm was monitored by Western analysis using the Anti-ACTIVE® p38 pAb.

PubMed Number: 12526744

Phosphorylation-Specific CaM KII Antibody

This antibody recognizes calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase, CaM KII, that is phosphorylated on threonine 286. The Anti-ACTIVE® CaM KII pAb (Cat.# V1111) was raised against the phosphothreonine-containing peptide derived from this region.

Additional Information for the Anti-ACTIVE® CaM KII pAb**Technical Bulletins and Manuals**

TB264 *Anti-ACTIVE® CaM KII pAb, (pT286) and Anti-ACTIVE® Qualified Secondary Antibody Conjugates Technical Bulletin*

Promega Publications

Anti-ACTIVE® Antibody for specific detection of phosphorylated CaM KII protein kinase

Citations

Matsumoto, Y. and Maller, J.L. (2002) Calcium, calmodulin and CaM KII requirement for initiation of centrosome duplication in *Xenopus* egg extracts *Science* **295**, 499–502.

CaM KII (281-309) was added to metaphase-arrested extracts. After adding calcium, the extracts were incubated at room temperature. Anti-ACTIVE® CaM KII pAb and Anti-ACTIVE® Qualified HRP secondary antibodies were used to probe immunoblots for phospho-T286 CaM KII α .

PubMed Number: 11799245

C. Marker Antibodies**Anti- β III Tubulin mAb**

Anti- β III Tubulin mAb (Cat.# G7121) is a protein G-purified IgG₁ monoclonal antibody (from clone 5G8) raised in mice against a peptide (EAQGPK) corresponding to the C-terminus of β III tubulin. It is directed against β III tubulin, a specific marker for neurons. The major use of this antibody is for labeling neurons in tissue sections and cell culture. The antibody performs in frozen and paraffin-embedded sections of rat brain, cerebellum and spinal cord, human and rat fetal CNS progenitor cell cultures and adult human paraffin-embedded brain (Figure 10.12).

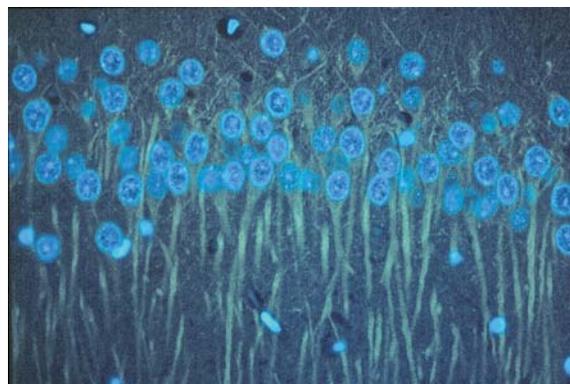


Figure 10.12. Immunostaining for β III tubulin in rat cerebellum using Anti- β III Tubulin mAb. Paraffin-embedded rat brain section double-immunofluorescence- labeled with the primary antibody and detected using an anti-mouse Cy[®]3-conjugated secondary antibody (yellow-green). Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Protocols developed and performed at Promega.

- **Immunogen:** Peptide corresponding to the C-terminus (EAQGPK) of β III tubulin.

- **Antibody Form:** Mouse monoclonal IgG1 (clone 5G8), 1mg/ml in PBS containing no preservatives.
- **Specificity:** Cross-reacts with most mammalian species. Does not label nonneuronal cells (e.g., astrocytes).
- **Suggested Working Dilutions:** Immunocytochemistry (1:2,000), Immunohistochemistry (1:2,000), Western blotting (1:1,000 dilution).

Additional Resources for β -III Tubulin mAb

Promega Publications

Perform multicolor live- and fixed-cell imaging applications with the HaloTag® Interchangeable Labeling Technology

Citations

Brunelli, G. *et al.* (2005) Glutamatergic reinnervation through peripheral nerve graft dictates assembly of glutamatergic synapses at rat skeletal muscle *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **102**, 8152–7.

PubMed Number: 15937120

Walker, K. *et al.* (2001) mGlu5 receptors and nociceptive function II. mGlu5 receptors functionally expressed on peripheral sensory neurons mediate inflammatory hyperalgesia *Neuropharmacology* **40**, 10–19.

Rat skin sections were subjected to immunohistochemistry with the Anti- β III Tubulin mAb to detect metabolic glutamate receptor expressing neurons. Twenty micron sections were fixed in acetone, permeabilized with 0.1% Triton® X-100, and incubated with the Anti- β III Tubulin mAb at a final concentration of 1 μ g/ml.

PubMed Number: 11077066

Anti-GFAP pAb

Anti-GFAP pAb (Cat.# G5601) is a polyclonal antibody against glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP), a specific marker of astrocytes in the central nervous system and is qualified for immunostaining applications (Figure 10.13)

- **Immunogen:** Purified glial fibrillary acidic protein from bovine spinal cord.
- **Antibody Form:** Purified rabbit IgG; supplied at 1mg/ml in PBS containing 50 μ g/ml gentamicin.
- **Specificity:** Human, bovine and rat GFAP; not recommended for mouse.
- **Suggested Dilutions:** 1:1,000 for Western blotting, immunocytochemistry and immunohistochemistry.

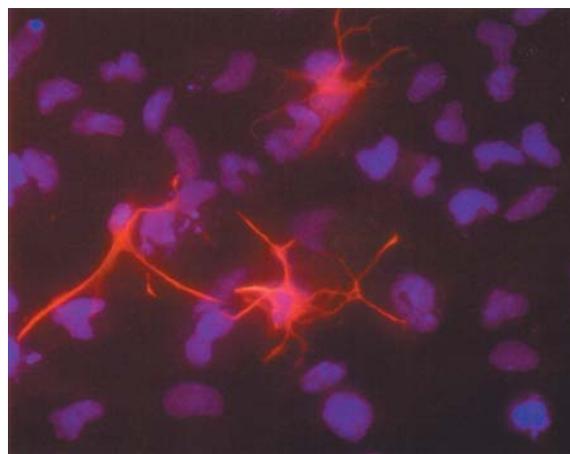


Figure 10.13. Anti-GFAP-labeled astrocytes in mixed-rate neural progenitor cultures. DAPI staining (blue) and Anti-GFAP pAb with Cy[®]-3-conjugated secondary (red) were used. Protocols developed and performed at Promega.

Additional Resources for Anti-GFAP pAb

Promega Publications

Immunohistochemical staining using Promega Anti-ACTIVE® and apoptosis antibodies

Citations

Moreno-Flores, M.T. *et al.* (2003) Immortalized olfactory ensheathing glia promote axonal regeneration of rat retinal ganglion neurons. *J. Neurochem.* **85**, 861–71.

This paper describes the development of an immortalized line of olfactory bulb ensheathing glia (OEG) from rat olfactory bulbs. Immortalized lines were established by transfection of primary OEG with the plasmid pEF321-T, which expressed the viral oncogene SV40 large T antigen. The starting primary cell culture was characterized by immunocytochemistry for OEG-specific markers such as p75-NGFr, S100, neuroligin, vimentin and GFAP. Western blotting of p75-NGFr and GFAP was performed on the established cell lines to determine levels of these markers. The Anti-GFAP pAb was used at a concentration of 1:200 for immunocytochemistry and at 1:1,000 for Western blotting.

PubMed Number: 12716418

Anti-VAcHT pAb

The purified Anti-VAcHT (Vesicular Acetylcholine Transporter) pAb (Cat.# G4481) is raised in goats against a peptide (CSPPGPFDCEDDYNYSRS) corresponding to amino acids 511–530 of the carboxy terminus of the cloned rat VAcHT. It is a novel tool to identify functional cholinergic neurons in the central and peripheral nervous system where the antibody stains fibers and neuronal cell bodies. This antibody has application for the study of the

pathophysiology of neurodegenerative diseases involving the cholinergic system and for mapping cholinergic neurons in the nervous system.

- **Immunogen:** Carboxy-terminal peptide sequence 511–530 corresponding to cloned rat VACHT protein.
- **Antibody Form:** Purified goat polyclonal IgG; 0.5mg/ml in PBS containing no preservatives.
- **Specificity:** Cross-reacts with VACHT in rat and mouse, but not in human, guinea pig, rabbit or cat.
- **Suggested Dilution:** 1:500 for immunohistochemistry.

D. Other Antibodies

Promega offers a variety of antibodies against growth factors, neurotrophic factor receptors and other molecules. Usage information for these antibodies is summarized in Table 10.1.

V. References

Check, E. (2005) Ethicists urge caution over emotive power of brain scans. *Nature* **435**, 254–5.

Eisenstein, M. (2006) Helping cells to tell a colorful tale. *Nature Methods* **3** 647–55.

Lang, C. *et al.* (2006) HaloTag®: A new versatile reporter gene system in plant cells. *J. Exp. Bot* **57** 2985–92.

Los, G.V. *et al.* (2005) HaloTag™ Interchangeable Labeling Technology for cell imaging and protein capture. *Cell Notes* **11**, 2–6.

McKenna, N.M. and Wang, Y.-I. (1989) Culturing cells on the microscope stage. *Methods in Cell Biol.* **29**, 1–12. San Diego, CA: Academic Press.

Owen, R.M. *et al.* (2002) Synthesis and applications of end-labeled neoglycopolymers. *Org. Lett.* **4** 2293–6.

Shinohara, H. and Matsubayashi, Y. (2007) Functional immobilization of plant receptor-like kinase onto microbeads toward receptor array construction and receptor-based ligand fishing. *Plant J.* **52** 175–84.

Stephens, D.J. and Allan, V.J. (2003) Light microscopy techniques for live cell imaging. *Science* **300**, 82–86.

Sullivan, K.F. and Kay, S.A. (1999) Preface. *Methods in Cell Biol.* **58**, xv–xvi.

Wang, Y.-I. (1989) Fluorescent analog cytochemistry: Tracing functional protein components in living cells. *Methods in Cell Biol.* **29**, 1–12.

Zhang, Y. *et al.* (2006) HaloTag® protein-mediated site-specific conjugation of bioluminescent proteins to quantum dots. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **45** 4936–40.

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registered trademark of ICI Americas, Inc. VECTASHIELD is a registered trademark of Vector Laboratories, Inc.

Products may be covered by pending or issued patents or may have certain limitations. Please visit our Web site for more information.

All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice.

Product claims are subject to change. Please contact Promega Technical Services or access the Promega online catalog for the most up-to-date information on Promega products.

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Table 10.1. Additional Antibodies Available From Promega.

Antibody	Species (subclass)	Application and Recommended Dilution ¹	Known Species Cross-Reactivity	Catalog Number
Anti-Human BDNF pAb	Chicken (IgY)	Western 1µg/ml; ELISA 1µg/ml; ICC 1–10µg/ml; IHC 10–15µg/ml; BN 10µg/ml	Human, mouse, rat, rabbit ² and quail ²	Cat.# G1641
Anti-Rat CNTF pAb	Chicken (IgY)	Western 1µg/ml; ELISA 1µg/ml; ICC 1–10µg/ml	Rat, mouse, human and cow ²	Cat.# G1631
Anti-Human GDNF pAb	Chicken (IgY)	Western 1µg/ml; ICC ² 1µg/ml; ICC ²	Human, mouse, rat and Rhesus monkey	Cat.# G2791
Anti-NGF mAb	Rat (IgG)	Western 1µg/ml; ELISA 10.5µg/ml; ICC, IHC 0.5–1.0µg/ml; BN not recommended	Human, mouse, guinea pig, rat, rabbit, goat, sheep, cow, pig, horse, cat ²	Cat.# G1132; Cat.# G1131
Anti-Human NT-3 pAb	Chicken (IgY)	Western 1µg/ml; ELISA 1µg/ml; ICC 1–10µg/ml; IHC ² ; BN 1–10µg/ml	Human, mouse, rat and cat ²	Cat.# G1651
Anti-TBFB β 1 pAb	Rabbit (IgG)	Western 1:1,000 dilution; ELISA not recommended; IHC 1:50 dilution; BN ²	Human, mouse, rat and cat ²	Cat.# G1221
Anti-Human p75 pAb	Rabbit (IgG)	Western not recommended; IP 1–10µg/ml; ICC, IHC 1–10µg/ml; BN 1–10µg/ml	Human, mouse, rat and chicken (species cross-reactivity due to high conservation of cytoplasmic domain)	Cat.# G3231
Anti-TrkB In pAb	Chicken (IgY)	ICC, IHC 1–10µg/ml; BN not recommended	Human, rat and mouse ²	Cat.# G1561

¹Investigators should optimize concentrations for their specific applications and conditions.

²This information was not generated by Promega scientists but has been published in the scientific literature. Please contact Promega Technical Services for additional information.

³Key: ICC = immunocytochemistry; IHC = immunohistochemistry; BN = biological neutralization; IP = immunoprecipitation