



Proficiency Testing

For Hematopoietic Progenitor Assays Using Fresh Cord Blood

Recommended For

The standardization of human hematopoietic colony assays using fresh cord blood (CB) samples. This program will help to reduce the variability associated with human CB colony assays by assisting individuals in identifying areas that might benefit from continued education and training.

Description of Program

The fresh cord blood Proficiency Testing (PT) Program will focus on standardization of the following areas:

1. Cell Counting, Preparing Cell Dilutions and Cell Inoculation

Provided: Fresh human cord blood cells* (shipped separately from other kit components), Iscove's MDM containing 2% fetal bovine serum for cell counts and dilutions, MethoCult™ methylcellulose-based medium containing recombinant cytokines, syringes and blunt-end needles, pre-tested culture dishes, and additional plasticware for performing the colony assays.

Assay: Participants will set up the CFC assay by inoculating MethoCult™ medium with a pre-determined volume of cells from the fresh CB sample. This volume will be based on the initial TNC count and will be provided to the participants at the time of shipment of the CB sample. Participants will perform a cell count on their samples and report this along with the rest of their data. Cultures will be incubated for 14 days at 37°C, 5% CO₂.

Note: Fresh cord blood cells will be shipped to participants at room temperature and must be plated immediately upon receipt.

***POTENTIALLY BIOHAZARDOUS.** Cord blood samples are obtained from normal deliveries, but cannot be guaranteed free of pathogenic agents, and should therefore be considered potentially infectious and handled accordingly.

2. CD34⁺ Analysis (optional for non-NMDP member banks)

Assay: Participants will perform CD34 enumeration of the CB sample and report the method used and results.

3. Colony Enumeration

Provided: A gridded scoring dish for colony enumeration. A worksheet for recording and submitting of assay results will also be provided.

Assay: Following 14 days in culture, participants will enumerate colonies derived from BFU-E, CFU-GM and CFU-GEMM. Data can be recorded on the worksheet for submission by fax or submitted electronically.

4. Colony Identification

Provided: Photographs of cultured normal human cord blood will be posted on our website for identification purposes.

Assay: Participants will be tested for their ability to identify granulocyte/ macrophage, erythroid and multi-lineage colonies from the photographs displayed.

Submission of Results

Prior to a specified deadline, participants will send their data back to STEMCELL Technologies Inc. for compilation and statistical analysis. The worksheet provided should be used for direct entry of assay results, and completed forms can be submitted to STEMCELL Technologies by fax transmission. Data can also be submitted electronically via our website.

Analysis of Data

STEMCELL Technologies will compile and statistically analyze all valid data received by the submission deadline. A comprehensive report including graphs and tables will be generated and returned to each participant. Participants will be able to determine their individual data points by their individual, anonymous participant ID numbers.

The PT package will contain a worksheet and protocol providing detailed protocols for all steps of the assay.

For further information, please visit our Proficiency Testing website at www.proficiencytesting.com, or contact us at our dedicated e-mail address, proficiency@stemcell.com.



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FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY. NOT FOR THERAPEUTIC OR DIAGNOSTIC USE.

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Fresh Cord Blood Proficiency Testing Program

For prompt confirmation, please fax your completed form to 1 800 567 2899 or 1 604 877 0704

January 2012

Please note that pre-payment is required for the Proficiency Testing Program.

For registration in our January 2012 Fresh Cord Blood Proficiency Testing Program, completed forms must be received no later than **January 13, 2012**. Contact STEMCELL Technologies for pricing.

Confirmation of registration will be e-mailed to you upon receipt of your completed registration form with payment.

PARTICIPANT FIRST AND LAST NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

NOTE: An e-mail address is required for each participant. All correspondence with participants, including cell plating concentration information and final reports, is done via e-mail.

Billing Information

Institution: _____

Department: _____

Principal Investigator: _____ Email: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Shipping Address: _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature: _____

Are you a member of the NMDP? Yes No

Payment

Visa® Mastercard® Card Number: _____ Cardholder's Name: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Cardholder's Signature: _____

P.O. Number: _____

Money Order (US funds) payable to STEMCELL Technologies Inc.

This program is available for customers in North America only.

Fee

Single participants will be charged a standard fee (Catalog #00606) and each additional participant from the same laboratory listed on the registration form will be charged a separate fee (Catalog #00607). Please contact us or visit our website at www.proficiencytesting.com for pricing. **Note:** Additional shipping charges and taxes will apply to posted prices.