

**Human
Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 1
Reporter Assay System
(EGFR1; ErbB-1; HER1)**

3x 32 Assays in 96-well Format
Product # IB13001-32

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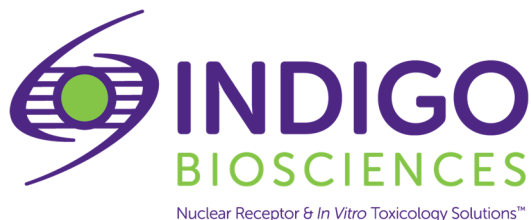
Technical Manual
(version 7.2i)

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Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 3x 32 Assays in 96-well Format

I. Description

▪ The Assay System.....	3
▪ The Assay Chemistry.....	4
▪ Preparation of Test Compounds.....	4
▪ Assay Scheme.....	4
▪ Assay Performance.....	5

II. Product Components & Storage Conditions7

III. Materials to be Supplied by the User.....7

IV. Assay Protocol

▪ A word about <i>Antagonist</i> -mode assay setup.....	8
▪ <i>DAY 1 Assay Protocol</i>	8
▪ <i>DAY 2 Assay Protocol</i>	10

V. Related Products.....11

VI. Limited Use Disclosures.....11

APPENDIX 1: Example Scheme for Serial Dilutions.....12

I. Description

▪ The Assay System ▪

This EGFR1 assay utilizes proprietary human cells that provide constitutive expression of the **Human type I Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR1; ErbB1; HER1)**,

EGFR1 is a single-pass transmembrane receptor, one of four members of the receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK) family. Binding interactions with extra-cellular signaling peptides such as epidermal growth factor (EGF), transforming growth factor alpha (TGF α), or amphiregulin lead to receptor dimerization and auto-phosphorylation by the cytoplasmic tyrosine kinase domains, followed by tyrosine phosphorylation and activation of associated intracellular signaling proteins. Interestingly, EGF Receptors demonstrate two alternative signal processing modes: one *via* the membrane bound receptor and signaling at the cell surface, and the other signaling through internalized receptors, nuclear translocation, and co-association with activated transcription factors to interact directly with target gene promoter sequences¹.

Activated EGF Receptors are known to signal through several different pathways, including those mediated by Ras, PI3K, PLC- γ and JAK, culminating in the activation of specific transcription factors and the induction of respective target genes. Phosphorylation and activation of the transcription factor STAT3 is one prominent pathway utilized by EGFR1², and it is the signaling mechanism exploited by the reporter cells included in this kit.

INDIGO's Reporter Cells contain the luciferase reporter gene functionally linked to an upstream minimal promoter and tandem STAT3 genetic response element (GRE) sequences. Activated, dimeric STAT3^P (or STAT3^P associated with nuclear EGFR1^P) bind the STAT3 GRE's to initiate the formation of a complete transcription complex that drives Luc expression. Quantifying relative changes in luciferase activity in the treated reporter cells relative to the untreated cells provides a sensitive, dose-dependent surrogate measure of drug- or antibody-induced changes in EGFR1 activity.

Considering their significant role in rapid cell proliferation, and their involvement in the progression of many types of cancers³, EGFR's continue to command much interest as a target for the development of novel, specific, and predominantly inhibitory drugs and antibodies. Accordingly, the primary application of this EGFR1 Assay is to screen test materials for any functional activity, either agonistic or inhibitory, that they may exert against the EGFR1.

INDIGO's Reporter Cells are transiently transfected and prepared as frozen stocks using a proprietary **CryoMite™** process. This cryo-preservation method allows for the immediate dispensing of healthy, division-competent reporter cells into assay plates. There is no need for intermediate treatment steps such as spin-and-rinse of cells, viability determinations or cell titer adjustments prior to assay setup.

INDIGO's EGFR1 Assay kit provides the convenience of an all-inclusive cell-based assay system. In addition to Reporter Cells, provided are two optimized media for use in recovering the cryopreserved cells and for diluting test samples, the reference agonist human EGF, Luciferase Detection Reagents, and a cell culture-ready assay plate.

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INDIGO's nuclear receptor assay kits capitalize on the extremely low background, high-sensitivity, and broad linear dynamic range of bio-luminescence reporter gene technology.

Reporter Cells incorporate the cDNA encoding beetle luciferase, a 62 kD protein originating from the North American firefly (*Photinus pyralis*). Luciferase catalyzes the mono-oxidation of D-luciferin in a Mg^{+2} -dependent reaction that consumes O_2 and ATP as co-substrates, and yields as products oxyluciferin, AMP, PP_i , CO_2 , and photon emission. Luminescence intensity of the reaction is quantified using a luminometer and is reported in terms of Relative Light Units (RLU's).

Assay kits feature a luciferase detection reagent specially formulated to provide stable light emission between 5 and 90+ minutes after initiating the luciferase reaction. Incorporating a 5-minute reaction-rest period ensures that light emission profiles attain maximal stability, thereby allowing assay plates to be processed in batch. By doing so, the signal output from all sample wells, from one plate to the next, may be directly compared within an experimental set.

▪ Preparation of Test Compounds ▪

Small molecule test compounds are typically solvated in DMSO at high concentrations; ideally 1,000x-concentrated stocks relative to the highest desired treatment concentration in the assay. Using high-concentration stocks minimizes DMSO carry-over into the assay plates.

It is recommended that test materials that are protein ligands or antibodies be solvated in aqueous buffered solutions with carrier protein (*e.g.*, PBS + 0.1% BSA) at concentrations *no less* than 10x-concentrated relative to the highest desired treatment concentration.

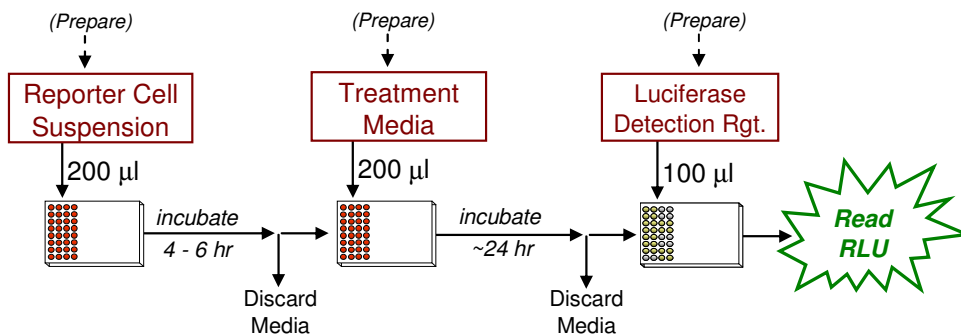
Immediately prior to setting up an assay the prepared stocks are serially diluted using **Compound Screening Medium (CSM)** to achieve the desired assay concentrations, as described in *Step 7*. Note that the final concentration of DMSO carried over into assay wells should not exceed 0.4%.

NOTE: CSM is formulated to help stabilize hydrophobic small molecule test compounds in the aqueous environment of the treatment media. Nonetheless, high concentrations of test chemicals diluted in CSM may lack long-term stability and/or solubility, especially if further stored at low temperatures. Hence, it is recommended that compound dilutions are prepared in CSM immediately prior to assay setup and are then treated as 'single-use' reagents.

▪ Assay Scheme ▪

Figure 1. Assay workflow.

In brief, 200 μ l of Reporter Cells is dispensed into wells of the assay plate and for 4-6 hours. Following the pre-incubation period, culture media are discarded and 200 μ l/well of the prepared treatment media are added. Following 22-24 hr incubation, discard the treatment media and add Luciferase Detection Reagent. The intensity of light emission (in units of 'Relative Light Units'; RLU) from each assay well is quantified using a plate-reading luminometer.



▪ Assay Performance ▪

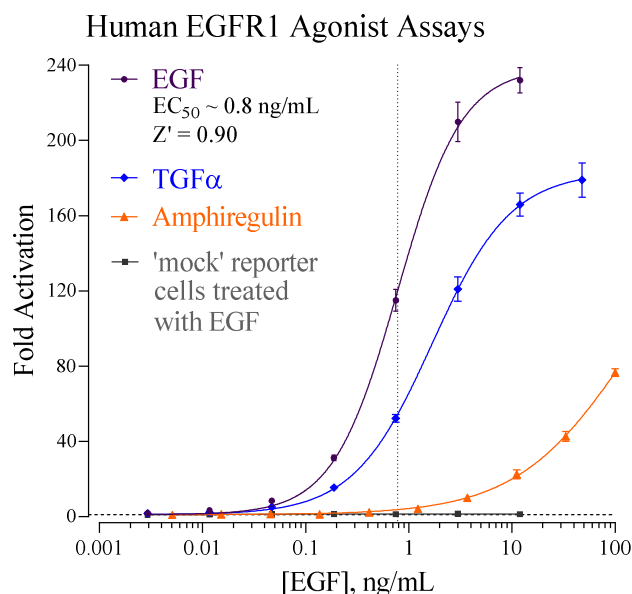


Figure 2. EGFR1 Agonist dose-response assays. EGFR1 activation assays were performed according to the protocol provided in this Technical Manual. 200 μ l / well of EGFR1 Reporter Cell suspension was dispensed into the 96-well assay plate, which was then incubated for 4 hours. Concentrated stocks of the reference peptides EGF (provided), TGF α and Amphiregulin (Sigma) were prepared in PBS + 0.1% BSA, then further diluted using CSM to produce treatment media at the desired assay concentrations. The pre-culture media were discarded from the assay wells and 200 μ l per well of respective treatment media were dispensed (n = 3/conc.), including 'vehicle only' control wells. 'Mock' reporter cells, which contain the STAT3-Luc reporter gene but lack expression of the EGFR1, were treated with EGF. Following a 22 hr incubation period treatment media were discarded, Luciferase Detection Reagent was added, and luminescence intensity per well was quantified. Values of average relative light units (RLU) and corresponding values of standard deviation (SD) and percent coefficient of variation derived from SD (%CV) were determined for each treatment condition. Non-linear regression analyses and EC₅₀ calculations were performed using GraphPad Prism software. Plots show Fold Activation vs. Log₁₀[ng/mL] for the various treatment materials; error bars depict +/- %CV.

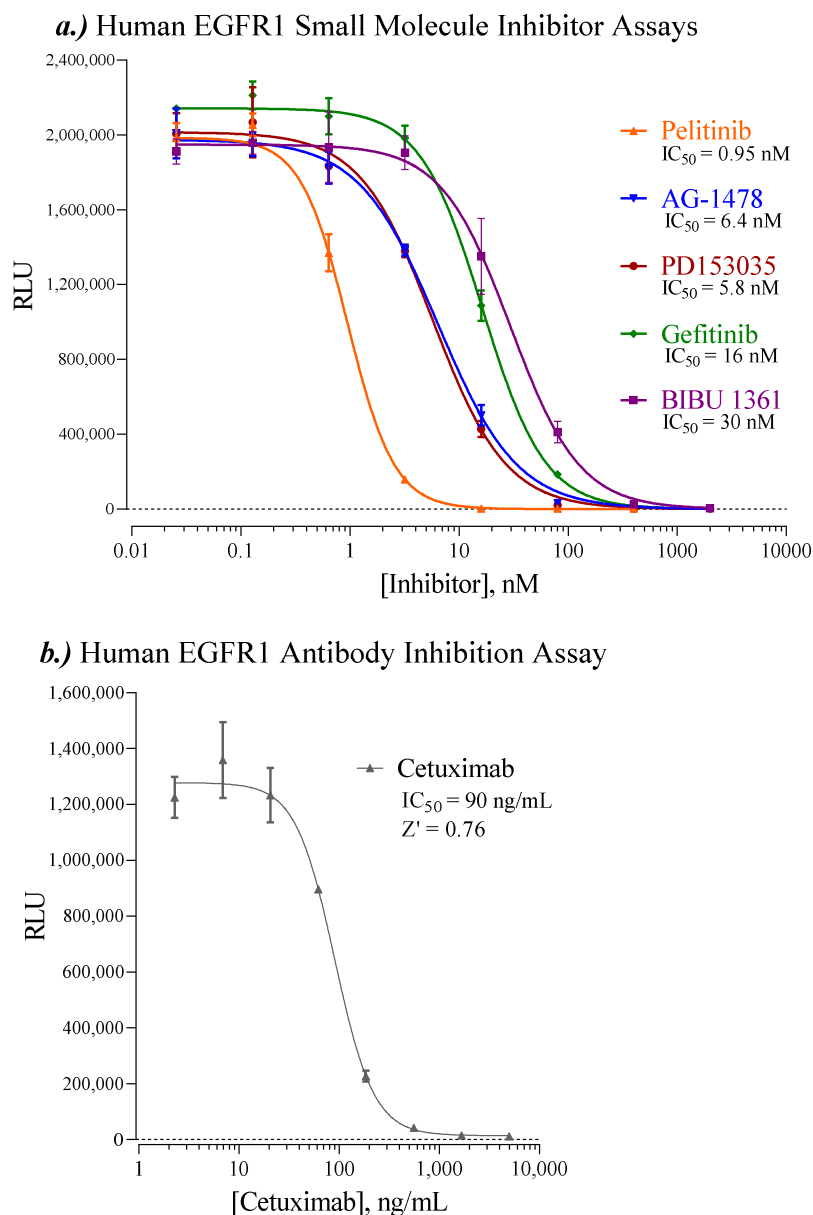


Figure 3. EGFR1 Inhibition assays. 200 μl / well of EGFR1 Reporter Cell suspension was dispensed into 96-well assay plates, which was then incubated for 4 hours. For inhibition-mode assays, prior to the end of the pre-culture period, CSM was supplemented with 1.4 ng EGF/ml (an approximate EC_{80} concentration). The EGF-supplemented CSM was then used to prepare the various treatment media. **a.)** The small molecule inhibitors Pelitinib and Gefitinib (Cayman Chem.), AG-1478, PD153035, and BIBU1361 (Tocris) were initially prepared in DMSO as 2 mM stock solutions that were further diluted using the EGF-supplemented CSM. Final assay concentrations began at 2 μM and proceeded with serial 5-fold decrements. Z' values⁴ ranged between 0.77 and 0.84. **b.)** The anti-EGFR antibody Cetuximab (MedChem Express; 5 mg/mL) was diluted using EGF-supplemented CSM to produce final assay concentrations beginning at 5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and proceeding with serial 3-fold decrements. Pre-culture media were discarded and 200 μl /well of the prepared treatment media were dispensed ($n = 3/\text{conc.}$), including ‘vehicle only’ control wells. After 22 hr incubation treatment media were discarded, Luciferase Detection Reagent was added, and RLU/well were quantified. Plots are **a.)** RLU vs. $\text{Log}_{10}[\text{nM}]$, and **b.)** RLU vs. $\text{Log}_{10}[\text{ng/mL}]$ for the various test materials. Error bars depict $\pm$ SD.

⁴ Zhang JH, *et al.* (1999) A Simple Statistical Parameter for Use in Evaluation and Validation of High Throughput Screening Assays. *J Biomol Screen.*:4(2), 67-73.

$$Z' = 1 - [3 * (SD^{\text{Reference}} + SD^{\text{Vehicle Bkg}}) / (RLU^{\text{Reference}} - RLU^{\text{Vehicle Bkg}})]$$

II. Product Components & Storage Conditions

This Human EGFR1 Assay kit contains materials to perform three distinct groups of assays in the format of a 96-well plate. Reagents are configured so that each group will comprise 32 assays. If desired, however, reagents may be combined to perform either 64 or 96 assays.

Reporter cells are temperature sensitive! To ensure maximal viability the tube of cells must be maintained at -80°C until immediately prior to the rapid-thaw procedure described in Step 2 of this protocol.

Assay kits are shipped on dry ice. Upon receipt of the kit transfer it to -80°C storage. If you wish to first inventory the individual kit components be sure to first transfer and submerge the tube of reporter cells in dry ice.

The aliquots of Reporter Cells are provided as single-use reagents. Once thawed, reporter cells can NOT be refrozen or maintained in extended culture with any hope of retaining downstream assay performance. Therefore, extra volumes of these reagents should be discarded after assay setup.

The date of product expiration is printed on the Product Qualification Insert (PQI) enclosed with each kit.

<u>Kit Components</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Storage Temp.</u>
▪ EGFR1 Reporter Cells	3 x 0.6 mL	-80°C
▪ Cell Recovery Medium (CRM)	2 x 10.5 mL	-20°C
▪ Compound Screening Medium (CSM)	1 x 45 mL	-20°C
▪ EGF, 12 µg/mL (in PBS/0.1%BSA) (reference activator of EGFR1)	1 x 20 µL	-20°C
▪ Detection Substrate	3 x 2.0 mL	-80°C
▪ Detection Buffer	3 x 2.0 mL	-20°C
▪ Plate Frame	1	ambient
▪ Snap-in 8-well strips (white, sterile, collagen-coated wells)	12	-20°C

NOTE: This Assay kit contains 8-well strips that have been collagen-coated and dried; these strip wells should be stored frozen (-20°C or colder) until use.

III. Materials to be Supplied by the User

The following materials must be provided by the user, and should be made ready prior to initiating the assay procedure:

DAY 1

- container of dry ice (see Step 2)
- cell culture-rated laminar flow hood.
- 37°C, humidified 5% CO₂ incubator for mammalian cell culture.
- 37°C water bath.
- 70% alcohol wipes
- 8-channel electronic, repeat-dispensing pipettes & sterile tips
- disposable media basins, sterile.
- sterile multi-channel media basins (such as the Heathrow Scientific "Dual-Function Solution Basin"), or sterilized 96 deep-well blocks (e.g., Axygen Scientific, #P-2ML-SQ-C-S), or appropriate similar vessel for generating dilution series of reference and test compound(s).
- *Optional:* clear 96-well assay plate, cell culture treated, for viewing cells on Day 2.

DAY 2 plate-reading luminometer.

IV. Assay Protocol

The assay protocol begins on the next page. Please review the entire Assay Protocol before starting. Completing the assay requires an overnight incubation. *Steps 1-11* are performed on **Day 1**, requiring less than 2 hours of bench work and a 4-hour incubation step to complete. *Steps 12-17* are performed on **Day 2** and require less than 1 hour to complete.

▪ A word about Inhibition-mode assay setups ▪

Receptor inhibition assays expose the Reporter Cells to a fixed, sub-maximal concentration (typically between EC_{50} – EC_{85}) of a known agonist AND varying concentrations of the test compound(s) to be evaluated for chemical inhibition or neutralizing antibody activities. This EGFR1 Assay kit includes a 12 µg/mL stock solution of **EGF**, a potent physiological agonist of EGFR1, that may be used to setup inhibition-mode assays. 1.4 ng EGF/ml typically approximates EC_{80} in this assay. Hence, it presents a suitable concentration of agonist to use when screening test materials for inhibitory activities.

Add EGF to a bulk volume of **CSM**, as described above. This agonist-supplemented medium is then used to prepare serial dilutions of test material stocks to achieve the desired respective final assay concentrations. This is an efficient and precise method of setting up EGFR1 inhibition assays, and it is the method presented in *Step 7b* of this protocol.

DAY 1 Assay Protocol: All steps must be performed using aseptic technique.

1.) Remove the **2 tubes** of **Cell Recovery Medium (CRM)** from freezer storage, thaw and equilibrate to 37°C using a water bath.

2.) Rapid Thaw of the Reporter Cells: *First*, retrieve the two tubes of **CRM** from the 37°C water bath and sanitize their outside surfaces with a 70% ethanol swab.

Second, retrieve **Reporter Cells** from -80°C storage and place them directly into dry ice to transport them to the laminar flow hood: 1 tube for 32 assay wells, 2 tubes for 64 assay wells, or 3 tubes for 96 assay wells. When ready to begin, transfer the tube(s) of reporter cells into a rack and, *without delay*, perform a rapid thaw of the frozen cells by transferring **6.4 ml** of pre-warmed CRM into each tube of frozen cells. Recap the tube of Reporter Cells and immediately place it in a 37°C water bath for 5 - 10 minutes. The resulting volume of cell suspension will be **7.0 ml** per tube.

Third, during the 5 - 10 minutes incubation period, work in the cell culture hood to *carefully* mount four sterile 8-well strips into the blank assay plate frame. Strip-wells are fragile. Note that they have keyed ends (square and round), hence, they will fit into the plate frame in only one orientation.

3.) Retrieve the tube(s) of Reporter Cell Suspension from the water bath and sanitize the outside surface with a 70% alcohol swab.

4.) If more than one tube of Reporter cells was thawed, combine them and gently invert several times to disperse cell aggregates and gain a homogenous cell suspension. Dispense **200 µl / well** of cell suspension into the assay plate.

NOTE 4.1: If INDIGO's Live Cell Multiplex Assay is to be incorporated, a minimum of 3 'blank' wells (meaning cell-free, but containing 'CSM') must be included in the assay plate to allow quantification of fluorescence background (refer to the LCMA Technical Manual).

NOTE 4.2: Increased well-to-well variation will occur if care is not taken to prevent cells from settling in the reservoir during the dispensing period. Likewise, take care to ensure precision in dispensing exact volumes across the assay plate.

NOTE 4.3: Users sometimes wish to examine the reporter cells using a microscope. If so, the extra volume of cell suspension provided with each kit may be dispensed into a clear, collagen-coated 96-well assay plate. Continue to process the assay plate in identical manner to the white assay plate.

5.) Pre-incubate reporter cells: Place the assay plate into a cell culture incubator (37°C, ≥ 70% humidity, 5% CO₂) for 4 - 6 hours.

6.) Near the end of the pre-culture period: Remove Compound Screening Medium (CSM) from freezer storage and thaw in a 37°C water bath.

7.) Prepare the Test Compound(s) and Reference Compound treatment media:

Use CSM to prepare an appropriate dilution series of the reference and test compound stocks. Prepare all treatment media at the desired final assay concentrations. In *Step 9*, the prepared treatment media will be dispensed at 200 µl / well into the strip wells. Manage dilution volumes carefully; this assay kit provides **45 ml** of CSM.

NOTE: Total DMSO carried over into assay reactions should not exceed 0.4%.

a. Agonist-mode assays. This TGFβR Assay kit includes a concentrated stock of TGF-β1, 3.0 µg/mL prepared in PBS/0.1%BSA. The following 7-point treatment series, with concentrations generated using serial 3-fold decrements, provides a complete dose-response: 3.0, 1.0, .33, .11, .037, .012 and 0.0041 ng/mL. **APPENDIX 1** provides guidance for generating such a dilution series. Always include 'no treatment' (or 'vehicle') controls.

~ or ~

b. Inhibition-mode assays. When setting up antagonist assays, first supplement a bulk volume of CSM with the challenge agonist **TGF-β1** to achieve an EC₅₀ – EC₈₀ concentration (refer to "*A word about inhibition-mode assay setup*", pg. 8). The supplemented CSM is then used to generate dilutions of test compound stocks to achieve the desired series of treatment concentrations.

8.) At the end of the cell pre-culture period: Discard the culture media.

Because the assay plate is composed of a frame with snap-in strip-wells, the practice of physically ejecting media is NOT advised. Complete removal of the media is efficiently performed by tilting the plate on edge and aspirating media using an 8-pin manifold (*e.g.*, Wheaton Science Microtest Syringe Manifold, # 851381) affixed to a vacuum-trap apparatus. Do *not* touch the well bottom or run the tip of the aspiration device around the bottom circumference of the assay well. Such practices will result in destruction of the cells and greatly increased well-to-well variability.

9.) Dispense **200 µl** of each treatment media into appropriate wells of the assay plate.

10.) Transfer the assay plate into a cell culture incubator for 22 - 24 hours.

NOTE: Ensure a high-humidity (≥70%) environment within the cell culture incubator. This is critical to prevent the onset of deleterious "edge-effects" in the assay plate.

11.) For greater convenience on *Day 2*, retrieve the appropriate number of vials of **Detection Substrate and Detection Buffer** from freezer storage and place them in a dark refrigerator (4°C) to thaw overnight.

DAY 2 Assay Protocol: Subsequent manipulations do *not* require special regard for aseptic technique and may be performed on a bench top.

12.) 30 minutes before intending to quantify receptor activity: Remove **Detection Substrate** and **Detection Buffer** from the refrigerator and place them in a low-light area so that they may equilibrate to room temperature.

NOTE: Do NOT actively warm Detection Substrate above room temperature. If these solutions were not allowed to thaw overnight at 4°C, a room temperature water bath may be used to expedite thawing.

13.) Set the plate-reader to "luminescence" mode. Set the instrument to perform a single 5 second "plate shake" prior to reading the first assay well. Read time may be set to 0.5 second (500 mSec) per well, *or less*.

14.) Immediately before proceeding to Step 15: To read 32 assay wells, transfer the entire volume of 1 vial of Detection Buffer into 1 vial of Detection Substrate, thereby generating a 4 ml volume of **Luciferase Detection Reagent (LDR)**. Mix gently to avoid foaming.

15.) Following 22 - 24 hours incubation in treatment media, remove media contents from each well of the assay plate (as before in *Step 8*).

16.) Add 100 µl of **LDR** to each well of the assay plate. Allow the assay plate to rest at room temperature for at least 5 minutes following the addition of LDR. Do not shake the assay plate during this period.

17.) Quantify luminescence.

V. Related Products

<i>Product No.</i>	<i>Product Descriptions</i>
Human EGFR1 Assay Products	
IB13001-32	Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 3x 32 assays in 8-well strips (96-well plate format)
IB13001	Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 1x 96-well format assay
IB13002	Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 1x 384-well format assays
Bulk volumes of assay reagents may be custom manufactured to accommodate any scale of HTS. Please Inquire.	
LIVE Cell Multiplex (LCM) Assay	
LCM-01	Reagent volumes sufficient to perform 96 Live Cell Assays in 1x96-well, or 2x48-well, or 3x32-well assay plate formats
LCM-05	Reagent in 5x bulk volume to perform 480 Live Cell Assays contained in 5 x 96-well assay plates
LCM-10	Reagent in 10x bulk volume to perform 960 Live Cell Assays contained in 10 x 96-well assay plates
INDIGlo Luciferase Detection Reagent	
LDR-10, -25, -50, -500	INDIGlo Luciferase Detection Reagents in 10 mL, 25 mL, 50 mL, and 500 mL volumes

Please refer to INDIGO Biosciences website for updated product offerings.

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VI. Limited Use Disclosures

Products commercialized by INDIGO Biosciences, Inc. are for RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY – not for therapeutic, diagnostic, or contact use in humans or animals.

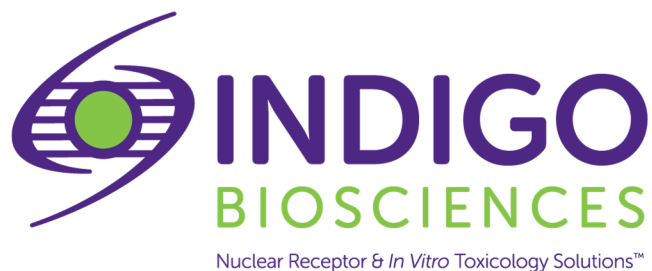
“CryoMite” is a Trademark TM of INDIGO Biosciences, Inc. (State College, PA, USA).

Product prices, availability, specifications, claims and technical protocols are subject to change without prior notice. The printed Technical Manual provided in the kit box will always be the most currently updated version.

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Example scheme for the serial dilution of the reference agonist EGF, and the setup of a EGFR1 dose-response assay.





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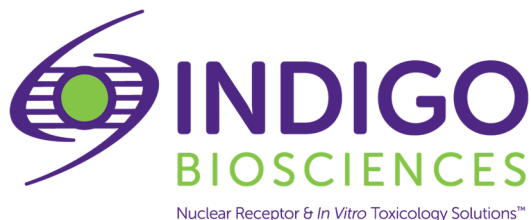
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▪ The Assay System.....	3
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▪ Preparation of Test Compounds ▪

Small molecule test samples: Chemical test compounds are typically solvated in DMSO at high concentrations; ideally 1,000x-concentrated stocks relative to the highest desired treatment concentration in the assay. Using high-concentration stocks minimizes DMSO carry-over into the assay plates. Immediately prior to setting up an assay, the master stocks are serially diluted using one of two alternative strategies:

1.) As described in *Step 7* and depicted in Appendix 1 for the reference activator, **Compound Screening Medium (CSM)** may be used as the diluent to make serial dilutions of test compounds to achieve the desired final assay concentration series.

Alternatively, if test compound solubility is expected to be problematic,

2.) DMSO may be used to make serial dilutions, thereby generating 1,000x-concentrated stocks for each independent test concentration. Treatment media are then prepared using CSM to make final 1,000-fold dilutions of the prepared DMSO dilution series.

Regardless of the dilution method used, the final concentration of total DMSO carried over into assay wells should not exceed 0.4%. Significant DMSO-induced cytotoxicity can be expected above 0.4%.

Protein test samples: It is recommended that protein or antibody test samples are solvated in aqueous buffered solutions with carrier protein (*e.g.*, PBS + 0.1% BSA) at concentrations *no less* than 10x-concentrated relative to the highest desired treatment concentration. CSM is then used as the diluent to prepare treatment media.

NOTE: CSM is formulated to help stabilize hydrophobic test compounds in the aqueous environment of the assay mixture. Nonetheless, high concentrations of extremely hydrophobic test compounds diluted in CSM may lack long-term stability and/or solubility, especially if further stored at low temperatures. Hence, it is recommended that test compound dilutions are prepared in CSM immediately prior to assay setup and are considered to be 'single-use' reagents.

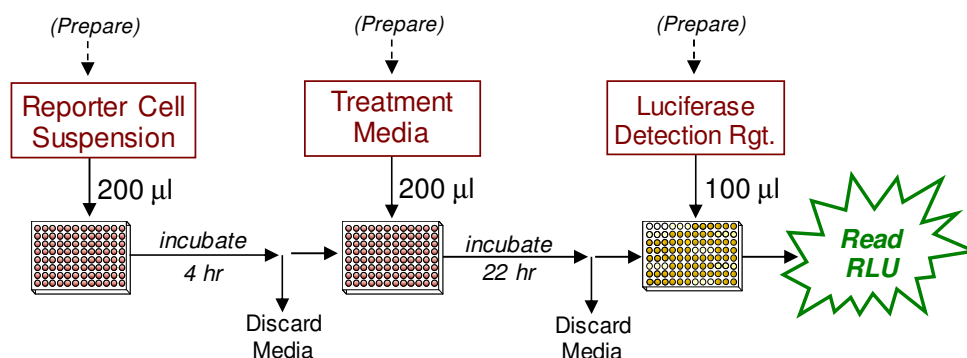
▪ **Considerations for Automated Dispensing** ▪

When using an automated dispensing instrument to process a small number of assay plates, first carefully consider the dead volume requirement of your instrument before committing assay reagents to its setup. In essence, "dead volume" is the volume of reagent that is dedicated to the instrument; it will *not* be available for final dispensing into assay wells. The following Table provides information on reagent volume requirements, and available excesses.

Stock Reagent & Volume provided	Volume to be Dispensed (96-well plate)	Excess rgt. volume available for instrument dead volume
Reporter Cell Suspension 21 ml (prepared from kit components)	200 µl / well 19.2 ml / plate	~ 1.8 ml
LDR 12 ml (prepared from kit components)	100 µl / well 9.6 ml / plate	~ 2.4 ml

▪ **Assay Scheme** ▪

Figure 1. Assay workflow. *In brief*, 200 µl/well of Reporter Cells are dispensed into the assay plate and incubated for 4-6 hours. Following the pre-incubation period, culture media are discarded and 200 µl/well of the prepared treatment media are added. Following 22-24 hour incubation discard treatment media and add Luciferase Detection Reagent. The intensity of light emission (in units of 'Relative Light Units'; RLU) from each assay well is quantified using a plate-reading luminometer.



▪ Assay Performance ▪

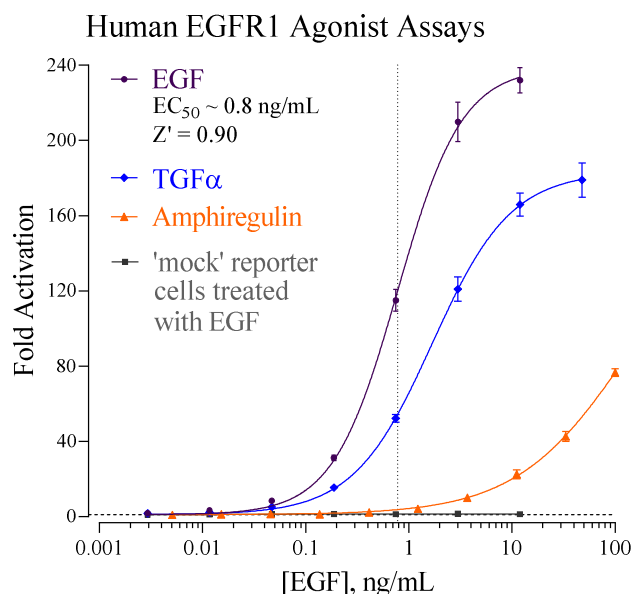


Figure 2. EGFR1 Agonist dose-response assays. EGFR1 activation assays were performed according to the protocol provided in this Technical Manual. 200 μ l / well of EGFR1 Reporter Cell suspension was dispensed into the 96-well assay plate, which was then incubated for 4 hours. Concentrated stocks of the reference peptides EGF (provided), TGF α and Amphiregulin (Sigma) were prepared in PBS + 0.1% BSA, then further diluted using CSM to produce treatment media at the desired assay concentrations. The pre-culture media were discarded from the assay wells and 200 μ l per well of respective treatment media were dispensed (n = 3/conc.), including 'vehicle only' control wells. 'Mock' reporter cells, which contain the STAT3-Luc reporter gene but lack expression of the EGFR1, were treated with EGF. Following a 22-hour incubation period treatment media were discarded, Luciferase Detection Reagent was added, and luminescence intensity per well was quantified. Values of average relative light units (RLU) and corresponding values of standard deviation (SD) and percent coefficient of variation derived from SD (%CV) were determined for each treatment condition. Non-linear regression analyses and EC₅₀ calculations were performed using GraphPad Prism software. Plots show Fold Activation vs. Log₁₀[ng/mL] for the various treatment materials; error bars depict +/- %CV.

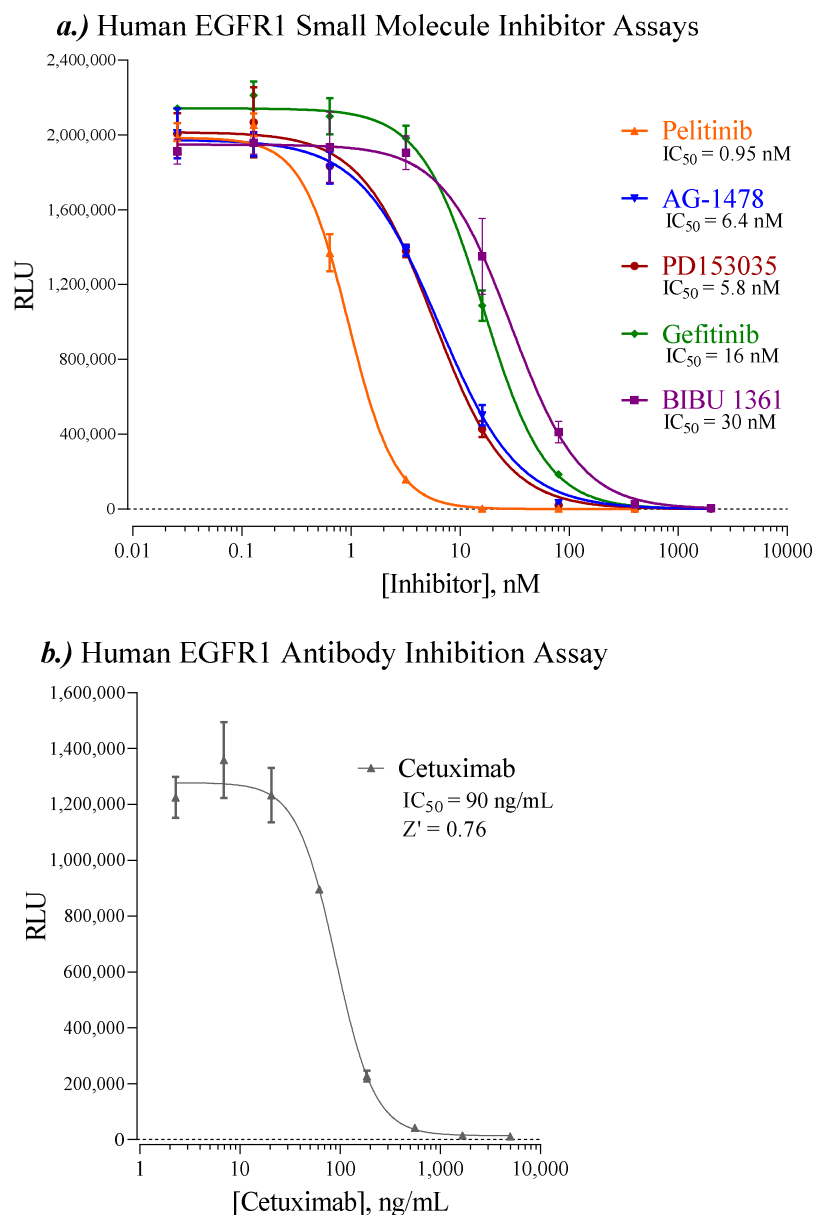


Figure 3. EGFR1 Inhibition assays. 200 μl / well of EGFR1 Reporter Cell suspension was dispensed into 96-well assay plates, which was then incubated for 4 hours. For inhibition-mode assays, prior to the end of the pre-culture period, CSM was supplemented with 1.4 ng EGF/ml (an approximate EC_{80} concentration). The EGF-supplemented CSM was then used to prepare the various treatment media. **a.)** The small molecule inhibitors Pelitinib and Gefitinib (Cayman Chem.), AG-1478, PD153035, and BIBU1361 (Tocris) were initially prepared in DMSO as 2 mM stock solutions that were further diluted using the EGF-supplemented CSM. Final assay concentrations began at 2 μM and proceeded with serial 5-fold decrements. Z' values⁴ ranged between 0.77 and 0.84. **b.)** The anti-EGFR antibody Cetuximab (MedChem Express; 5 mg/mL) was diluted using EGF-supplemented CSM to produce final assay concentrations beginning at 5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and proceeding with serial 3-fold decrements. Pre-culture media were discarded and 200 μl /well of the prepared treatment media were dispensed ($n = 3/\text{conc.}$), including ‘vehicle only’ control wells. After 22 hr incubation treatment media were discarded, Luciferase Detection Reagent was added, and RLU/well were quantified. Plots are **a.)** RLU vs. $\text{Log}_{10}[\text{nM}]$, and **b.)** RLU vs. $\text{Log}_{10}[\text{ng/mL}]$ for the various test materials. Error bars depict $\pm$ SD.

⁴ Zhang JH, *et al.* (1999) A Simple Statistical Parameter for Use in Evaluation and Validation of High Throughput Screening Assays. *J Biomol Screen.*:4(2), 67-73.

$$Z' = 1 - [3 * (SD^{\text{Reference}} + SD^{\text{Vehicle Bkg}}) / (RLU^{\text{Reference}} - RLU^{\text{Vehicle Bkg}})]$$

II. Product Components & Storage Conditions

This Human EGFR1 Assay kit contains materials to perform assays in a single collagen-coated 96-well assay plate.

Reporter cells are temperature sensitive! To ensure maximal viability the tube of Cells must be maintained at -80°C until immediately prior to the rapid-thaw procedure described in Step 2 of this protocol.

Assay kits are shipped on dry ice. Upon receipt of the kit transfer it to -80°C storage. If you wish to first inspect and inventory the individual kit components be sure to first transfer and submerge the tube of reporter cells in dry ice.

The aliquot of Reporter Cells is provided as a single-use reagent. Once thawed, reporter cells can NOT be refrozen, nor can they be maintained in extended culture with any hope of retaining downstream assay performance. Therefore, extra volumes of these reagents should be discarded after assay setup.

The date of product expiration is printed on the Product Qualification Insert (PQI) enclosed with each kit.

<u>Kit Components</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Storage Temp.</u>
▪ EGFR1 Reporter Cells	1 x 2.0 mL	-80°C
▪ Cell Recovery Medium (CRM)	2 x 10.5 mL	-20°C
▪ Compound Screening Medium (CSM)	1 x 45 mL	-20°C
▪ EGF, 12 µg/mL (in PBS/0.1%BSA) (reference activator of EGFR1)	1 x 20 µL	-20°C
▪ Detection Substrate	1 x 6.0 mL	-80°C
▪ Detection Buffer	1 x 6.0 mL	-20°C
▪ 96-well, <i>collagen-coated</i> assay plate (white, sterile, cell-culture ready)	1	-20°C

NOTE: This Assay kit contains one 96-well assay plate in which the assay wells have been collagen-coated and dried; the assay plate should be stored frozen (-20°C or colder) until use.

III. Materials to be Supplied by the User

The following materials must be provided by the user, and should be made ready prior to initiating the assay procedure:

DAY 1

- container of dry ice (see Step 2)
- cell culture-rated laminar flow hood.
- 37°C, humidified 5% CO₂ incubator for mammalian cell culture.
- 37°C water bath.
- 70% alcohol wipes
- 8-channel electronic, repeat-dispensing pipettes & sterile tips
- disposable media basins, sterile.
- sterile multi-channel media basins (such as the Heathrow Scientific "Dual-Function Solution Basin"), *or* deep-well plates, *or* appropriate similar vessel for generating dilution series of reference compound(s) and test compound(s).
- *Optional:* antagonist reference compound / antibody (*e.g.*, Fig. 3a, b.)
- *Optional:* clear 96-well assay plate, cell culture treated, for viewing cells on Day 2.

DAY 2 plate-reading luminometer.

IV. Assay Protocol

The Day 1 Assay protocol begins on the next page. Please review the entire Assay Protocol before starting. Completing the assay requires an overnight incubation. *Steps 1-11* are performed on **Day 1**, requiring less than 2 hours of bench work and a 4 hr incubation step to complete. *Steps 12-17* are performed on **Day 2** and require less than 1 hour to complete.

▪ A word about Inhibition-mode assay setups ▪

Receptor inhibition assays expose the Reporter Cells to a fixed, sub-maximal concentration (typically between EC₅₀ – EC₈₅) of a known agonist AND varying concentrations of the test compound(s) to be evaluated for chemical inhibition or neutralizing antibody activities. This EGFR1 Assay kit includes a 12 µg/mL stock solution of **EGF**, a potent physiological agonist of EGFR1, that may be used to setup inhibition-mode assays. 1.4 ng EGF/ml typically approximates EC₈₀ in this assay. Hence, it presents a suitable concentration of agonist to use when screening test materials for inhibitory activities.

Add EGF to a bulk volume of **CSM**, as described above. This agonist-supplemented medium is then used to prepare serial dilutions of test material stocks to achieve the desired respective final assay concentrations. This is an efficient and precise method of setting up EGFR1 inhibition assays, and it is the method presented in *Step 7b* of this protocol.

DAY 1 Assay Protocol: All steps should be performed using aseptic technique.

1.) Remove the **2 tubes** of **Cell Recovery Medium (CRM)** from freezer storage, thaw and equilibrate to 37°C using a water bath.

2.) Rapid Thaw of the Reporter Cells: *First*, retrieve the two tubes of **CRM** from the 37°C water bath and sanitize their outside surfaces with a 70% ethanol swab.

Second, retrieve the tube of **EGFR1 Reporter Cells** from -80°C storage, place it directly into dry ice for transport to the laminar flow hood. When ready to begin, transfer the tube of reporter cells into a rack and, *without delay*, perform a rapid thaw of the cells by transferring 9.5 ml from *each of the 2 tubes* of 37°C CRM into the tube of frozen cells. Place the tube of Reporter Cells in a 37°C water bath for 5 minutes. The resulting volume of cell suspension will be **21 ml**.

3.) Retrieve the tube of Reporter Cell Suspension from the water bath and sanitize the outside surface with a 70% alcohol swab.

4.) *Gently* invert the tube of Reporter Cells several times to gain a homogenous cell suspension. Transfer the cell suspension into a reservoir. Using an electronic, repeat-dispensing 8-channel pipette, dispense **200 µl / well** of cell suspension into wells of the assay plate.

NOTE 4.1: If INDIGO's Live Cell Multiplex Assay is to be incorporated, a minimum of 3 'cell blank' wells (meaning cell-free, but containing 'Compound Screening Media') must be included in the assay plate to allow quantification of plate-specific fluorescence background (refer to the LCMA Technical Manual).

NOTE 4.2: Increased well-to-well variation (= increased standard deviation!) will occur if care is not taken to prevent cells from settling in the reservoir during the dispensing period. Likewise, take care to ensure precision in dispensing exact volumes across the assay plate.

NOTE 4.3: Users sometimes wish to examine the reporter cells using a microscope. If so, the extra volume of cell suspension provided with each kit may be dispensed into a clear, preferably collagen-coated, 96-well assay plate. Continue to process this plate in identical manner to the white assay plate.

5.) Pre-culture reporter cells: Place the assay plate into a 37°C, ≥ 70% humidity, 5% CO₂ incubator for 4 - 6 hours.

NOTE: Ensure a high-humidity environment within the cell culture incubator. This is critical to prevent the onset of deleterious edge-effects in the assay plate.

6.) Near the end of the pre-culture period: Remove Compound Screening Medium (CSM) from freezer storage and thaw in a 37°C water bath.

7.) Prepare the Test Compound(s) and Reference Compound treatment media:

Use CSM to prepare an appropriate dilution series of the reference and test compound stocks. Prepare all treatment media at the desired final assay concentrations. In *Step 9*, the prepared treatment media will be dispensed at 200 µl/well into the assay plate. Manage dilution volumes carefully; this assay kit provides **45 ml** of CSM.

NOTE: Total DMSO carried over into assay reactions should not exceed 0.4%.

a. Agonist-mode assays. This EGFR1 Assay kit includes a concentrated (1,000x) stock of EGF, 12 µg/mL prepared in PBS/0.1%BSA. The following 7-point treatment series, with concentrations generated using serial 4-fold dilutions, provides a complete dose-response: 12, 3.0, 0.75, 0.188, 0.0469, 0.0117 and 0.00293 ng/mL. **APPENDIX 1** provides guidance for generating such a dilution series. Always include 'no treatment' (or 'vehicle') controls.

~ or ~

b. Antagonist-mode assays. When setting up antagonist assays, first supplement a bulk volume of CSM with the challenge agonist **EGF** to achieve an EC₅₀ – EC₈₀ concentration (refer to "*A word about antagonist-mode assay setup*", pg. 8). The agonist-supplemented CSM is then used to generate dilutions of test compound stocks to achieve the desired series of treatment concentrations.

8.) At the end of the pre-culture period, discard the media by ejecting it into an appropriate waste container. *Gently* tap the inverted plate onto a clean absorbent paper towel to remove residual droplets. Cells will remain tightly adhered to well bottoms.

9.) Dispense **200 µl / well** of each prepared treatment media into the assay plate.

NOTE: If well-to-well variation due to 'edge-effects' is a concern this problem *may* be mitigated by dispensing sterile liquid into the *inter-well* spaces of the assay plate. Simply remove 1 tip from the 8-chanel dispenser and dispense 100 µl of sterile water into each of the seven inter-well spaces per column of wells.

10.) Transfer the assay plate into a 37°C, humidified 5% CO₂ incubator for 22 - 24 hours.

NOTE: Ensure a high-humidity (≥ 70%) environment within the cell culture incubator. This is critical to prevent the onset of deleterious "edge-effects" in the assay plate.

11.) For greater convenience on *Day 2*, retrieve **Detection Substrate and Detection Buffer** from freezer storage and place them in a dark refrigerator (4°C) to thaw overnight.

DAY 2 Assay Protocol: Subsequent manipulations do *not* require special regard for aseptic technique and may be performed on a bench top.

12.) 30 minutes before intending to quantify receptor activity: Remove **Detection Substrate** and **Detection Buffer** from the refrigerator and place them in a low-light area so that they may equilibrate to room temperature.

NOTE: Do NOT actively warm Detection Substrate above room temperature. If these solutions were not allowed to thaw overnight at 4°C, a room temperature water bath may be used to expedite thawing.

13.) Set the plate-reader to "luminescence" mode. Set the instrument to perform a single 5 second "plate shake" prior to reading the first assay well. Read time may be set to 0.5 second (500 mSec) per well, *or less*.

14.) *Immediately before proceeding to Step 15*, transfer the entire volume of Detection Buffer into the vial of Detection Substrate, thereby generating a 12 ml volume of room temperature **Luciferase Detection Reagent (LDR)**. Mix gently to avoid foaming.

15.) Following 22 - 24 hours incubation in treatment media, discard the media by ejecting it into an appropriate waste container. *Gently* tap the inverted plate onto a clean absorbent paper towel to remove residual droplets.

16.) Add 100 µl of the prepared **LDR** into all wells of the assay plate. Allow the assay plate to rest at room temperature for at least 5 minutes following the addition of LDR. Do not shake the assay plate during this period.

17.) Quantify luminescence.

V. Related Products

<i>Product No.</i>	<i>Product Descriptions</i>
Human EGFR1 Assay Products	
IB13001-32	Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 3x 32 assays in 8-well strips (96-well plate format)
IB13001	Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 1x 96-well format assay
IB13002	Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 1x 384-well format assays
Bulk volumes of assay reagents may be custom manufactured to accommodate any scale of HTS. Please Inquire.	
LIVE Cell Multiplex (LCM) Assay	
LCM-01	Reagent volumes sufficient to perform 96 Live Cell Assays in 1x96-well, or 2x48-well, or 3x32-well assay plate formats
LCM-05	Reagent in 5x bulk volume to perform 480 Live Cell Assays contained in 5 x 96-well assay plates
LCM-10	Reagent in 10x bulk volume to perform 960 Live Cell Assays contained in 10 x 96-well assay plates
INDIGlo Luciferase Detection Reagent	
LDR-10, -25, -50, -500	INDIGlo Luciferase Detection Reagents in 10 mL, 25 mL, 50 mL, and 500 mL volumes

Please refer to INDIGO Biosciences website for updated product offerings.

www.indigobiosciences.com

VI. Limited Use Disclosures

Products commercialized by INDIGO Biosciences, Inc. are for RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY – not for therapeutic, diagnostic, or contact use in humans or animals.

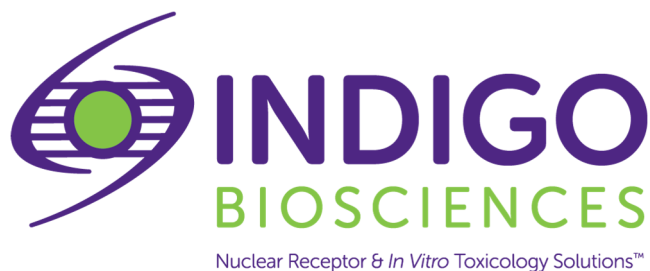
“CryoMite” is a Trademark TM of INDIGO Biosciences, Inc. (State College, PA, USA).

Product prices, availability, specifications, claims and technical protocols are subject to change without prior notice. The printed Technical Manual provided in the kit box will always be the most currently updated version.

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Example scheme for the serial dilution of the reference agonist EGF, and the setup of a EGFR1 dose-response assay.





**Human
Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 1
Reporter Assay System
(EGFR1; ErbB-1; HER1)**

384-well Format Assays
Product # IB13002

■

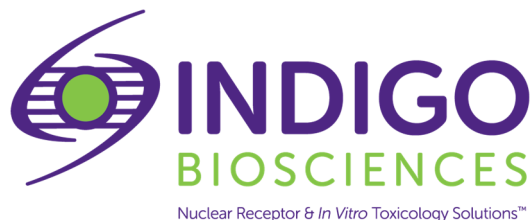
Technical Manual
(version 8.0i)

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Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 384-well Format Assays

I. Description	
▪ The Assay System.....	3
▪ The Assay Chemistry.....	4
▪ Considerations for the Preparation and Automated Dispensing of Test Compounds.....	4
▪ Considerations for Automated Dispensing of Other Assay Reagents.....	5
▪ Assay Scheme.....	5
▪ Assay Performance.....	6
II. Product Components & Storage Conditions	8
III. Materials to be Supplied by the User	8
IV. Assay Protocol	
▪ A word about <i>Inhibition</i> -mode assay setup.....	9
▪ <i>DAY 1 Assay Protocol</i>	9
▪ <i>DAY 2 Assay Protocol</i>	11
V. Related Products	12
VI. Limited Use Disclosures	12
APPENDIX 1a: Example Scheme for Serial Dilution when using tip-based dispensing of test compounds.....	13
APPENDIX 1b: Example Scheme for Serial Dilutions when using acoustic dispensing of test compounds.....	14

I. Description

▪ The Assay System ▪

This EGFR1 assay utilizes proprietary human cells that provide constitutive expression of the **Human type I Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR1; ErbB1; HER1)**,

EGFR1 is a single-pass transmembrane receptor, one of four members of the receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK) family. Binding interactions with extra-cellular signaling peptides such as epidermal growth factor (EGF), transforming growth factor alpha (TGF α), or amphiregulin lead to receptor dimerization and auto-phosphorylation by the cytoplasmic tyrosine kinase domains, followed by tyrosine phosphorylation and activation of associated intracellular signaling proteins. Interestingly, EGF Receptors demonstrate two alternative signal processing modes: one *via* the membrane bound receptor and signaling at the cell surface, and the other signaling through internalized receptors, nuclear translocation, and co-association with activated transcription factors to interact directly with target gene promoter sequences¹.

Activated EGF Receptors are known to signal through several different pathways, including those mediated by Ras, PI3K, PLC- γ and JAK, culminating in the activation of specific transcription factors and the induction of respective target genes. Phosphorylation and activation of the transcription factor STAT3 is one prominent pathway utilized by EGFR1², and it is the signaling mechanism exploited by the reporter cells included in this kit.

INDIGO's Reporter Cells contain the luciferase reporter gene functionally linked to an upstream minimal promoter and tandem STAT3 genetic response element (GRE) sequences. Activated, dimeric STAT3^P (or STAT3^P associated with nuclear EGFR1^P) bind the STAT3 GRE's to initiate the formation of a complete transcription complex that drives Luc expression. Quantifying relative changes in luciferase activity in the treated reporter cells relative to the untreated cells provides a sensitive, dose-dependent surrogate measure of drug- or antibody-induced changes in EGFR1 activity.

Considering their significant role in rapid cell proliferation, and their involvement in the progression of many types of cancers³, EGFR's continue to command much interest as a target for the development of novel, specific, and predominantly inhibitory drugs and antibodies. Accordingly, the primary application of this EGFR1 Reporter Assay is to screen test materials for any functional activity, either agonistic or inhibitory, that they may exert against the EGFR1.

INDIGO's Reporter Cells are transiently transfected and prepared as frozen stocks using a proprietary **CryoMite™** process. This cryo-preservation method allows for the immediate dispensing of healthy, division-competent reporter cells into assay plates. There is no need for intermediate treatment steps such as spin-and-rinse of cells, viability determinations or cell titer adjustments prior to assay setup.

INDIGO's EGFR1 Assay kit provides the convenience of an all-inclusive cell-based assay system. In addition to Reporter Cells, provided are two optimized media for use in recovering the cryopreserved cells and for diluting test samples, the reference agonist human EGF, Luciferase Detection Reagent, and a cell culture-ready assay plate.

¹ Carpenter G, Liao HJ. Trafficking of receptor tyrosine kinases to the nucleus. (2009) *Exp Cell Res*:**315**, 1556-1566.

² Lo H, *et al.* Nuclear interaction of EGFR and STAT3 in the activation of iNOS/NO pathway. (2005) *Cancer Cell*:**7**, 575-589.

³ Lo H, Hung MC. Nuclear EGFR signaling network in cancers: linking EGFR pathways to cell cycle progression, nitric oxide pathway and patient survival. (2006) *Br J Cancer*: **94**, 184-188.

▪ The Assay Chemistry ▪

INDIGO's nuclear receptor reporter assays capitalize on the extremely low background, high-sensitivity, and broad linear dynamic range of bio-luminescence reporter gene technology.

Reporter Cells incorporate the cDNA encoding beetle luciferase, a 62 kD protein originating from the North American firefly (*Photinus pyralis*). Luciferase catalyzes the mono-oxidation of D-luciferin in a Mg^{+2} -dependent reaction that consumes O_2 and ATP as co-substrates, and yields as products oxyluciferin, AMP, PP_i , CO_2 , and photon emission. Luminescence intensity of the reaction is quantified using a luminometer and is reported in terms of Relative Light Units (RLU's).

INDIGO's Nuclear Receptor Assays feature a luciferase detection reagent specially formulated to provide stable light emission between 30 and 100+ minutes after initiating the luciferase reaction. Incorporating a 30-minute reaction-rest period ensures that light emission profiles attain maximal stability, thereby allowing assay plates to be processed in batch. By doing so, the signal output from all sample wells, from one plate to the next, may be directly compared within an experimental set.

▪ Considerations for the Preparation and Automated Dispensing of Test compounds ▪

It is recommended that test materials that are **protein ligands** or **antibodies** be solvated in aqueous buffered solutions with carrier protein (*e.g.*, PBS + 0.1% BSA) at concentrations *no less* than 10x-concentrated relative to the highest desired treatment concentration.

Small molecule compounds are typically solvated at high concentration (ideally 1,000x-concentrated) in DMSO and stored frozen as master stocks. For **384-well format assays** these master stocks will be diluted by one of two alternative methods, the selection of which will be dictated by the type of dispensing instrument that is to be used. This Technical Manual provides detailed protocols for each of these two alternative methods:

- a.) Assay setups in which a conventional **tip-based** instrument is used to dispense test compounds into assay wells (in black text). Use **Compound Screening Medium (CSM)** to generate a series of **2x-concentration** test compound treatment media, as described in *Step 2a* of the Assay Protocol, and as depicted in Appendix 1a.
- b.) The final concentration of DMSO carried over into assay reactions should not exceed 0.4%; strive to use 1,000x-concentrated stocks when they are prepared in DMSO.

NOTE: CSM is formulated to help stabilize hydrophobic test compounds in the aqueous environment of the assay mixture. Nonetheless, high concentrations of extremely hydrophobic test compounds diluted in CSM may lack long-term stability and/or solubility, especially if further stored at low temperatures. Hence, it is recommended that test compound dilutions are prepared in CSM immediately prior to assay setup and are then considered to be 'single-use' reagents.

and,

- c.) Assay setups in which an **acoustic transfer** device is used to dispense test compounds into assay wells (text highlighted in blue). Use DMSO to make a series of **1,000x-concentrated** test compound stocks that correspond to each desired final assay concentrations, as described in *Step 2b* of the Assay Protocol, and as depicted in Appendix 1b.

▪ **Considerations for Automated Dispensing of Other Assay Reagents** ▪

When dispensing into a small number of assay plates, first carefully consider the dead volume requirement of your tip-based dispensing instrument before committing assay reagents to its setup. In essence, "dead volume" is the volume of reagent that is dedicated to the instrument; it will *not* be available for final dispensing into assay wells. The following Table provides information on reagent volume requirements, and available excesses on a *per kit* basis. Always pool the individual reporter cell suspensions and all other respective assay kit reagents before processing multiple 384-well assay plates.

Stock Reagent & Volume provided	Volume to be Dispensed (384-well plate)	Excess reagent available for instrument dead vol.
<i>when using tip dispensing of test cmpds</i> Reporter Cell Suspension 7.5 ml	15 µl / well 5.8 ml / plate	~ 1.7 ml
<i>when using acoustic dispensing of test cmpds</i> Reporter Cell Suspension 15 ml	30 µl / well 11.5 ml / plate	~ 3.4 ml
Detection Substrate 7.8 ml	15 µl / well 5.8 ml / plate	~ 2 ml

▪ **Assay Scheme** ▪

The *Day 1* preparation, volumes, and chronology of dispensed cells and test compounds are different between assay setups using a *tip-based dispenser* (**1a**) and those using an *acoustic transfer device* (**1b**). Following 22 -24 hours incubation Detection Substrate is added. Light emission from each assay well is quantified using a plate-reading luminometer.

Figure 1a. Assay workflow if using conventional **tip-based** dispensing of test compounds.

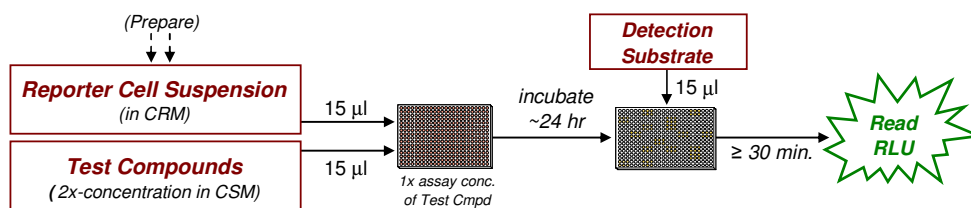
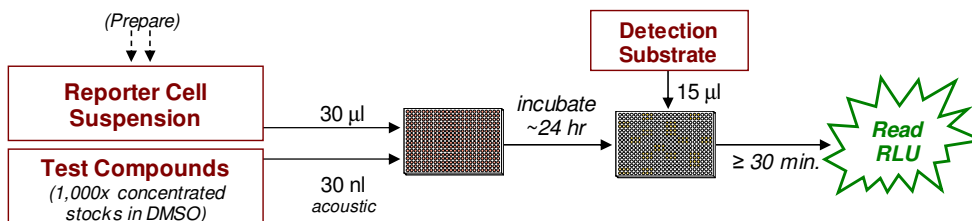


Figure 1b. Assay workflow if using **acoustic** dispensing of test compounds.



▪ Assay Performance ▪

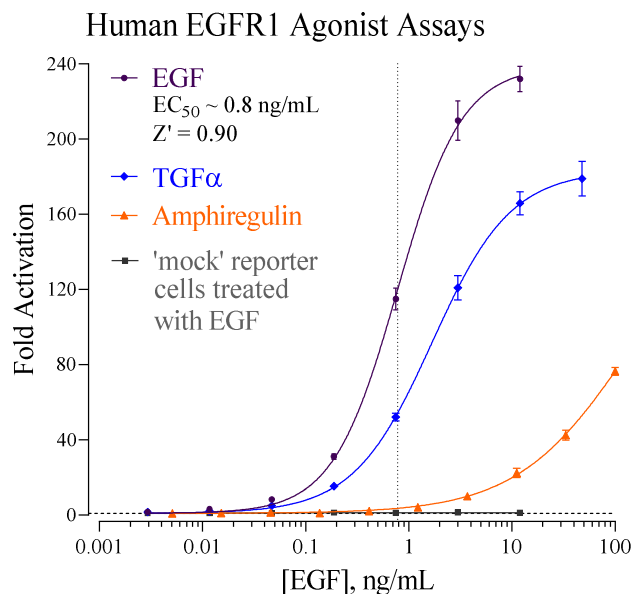


Figure 2. EGFR1 Agonist dose-response assays. EGFR1 activation assays were performed according to the protocol provided in this Technical Manual. 200 μ l / well of EGFR1 Reporter Cell suspension was dispensed into the 96-well assay plate, which was then incubated for 4 hours. Concentrated stocks of the reference peptides EGF (provided), TGF α and Amphiregulin (Sigma) were prepared in PBS + 0.1% BSA, then further diluted using CSM to produce treatment media at the desired assay concentrations. The pre-culture media were discarded from the assay wells and 200 μ l per well of respective treatment media were dispensed ($n = 3/\text{conc.}$), including 'vehicle only' control wells. 'Mock' reporter cells, which contain the STAT3-Luc reporter gene but lack expression of the EGFR1, were treated with EGF. Following a 22-hour incubation period treatment media were discarded, Luciferase Detection Reagent was added, and luminescence intensity per well was quantified. Values of average relative light units (RLU) and corresponding values of standard deviation (SD) and percent coefficient of variation derived from SD (%CV) were determined for each treatment condition. Non-linear regression analyses and EC_{50} calculations were performed using GraphPad Prism software. Plots show Fold Activation vs. $\text{Log}_{10}[\text{ng/mL}]$ for the various treatment materials; error bars depict $\pm$ %CV.

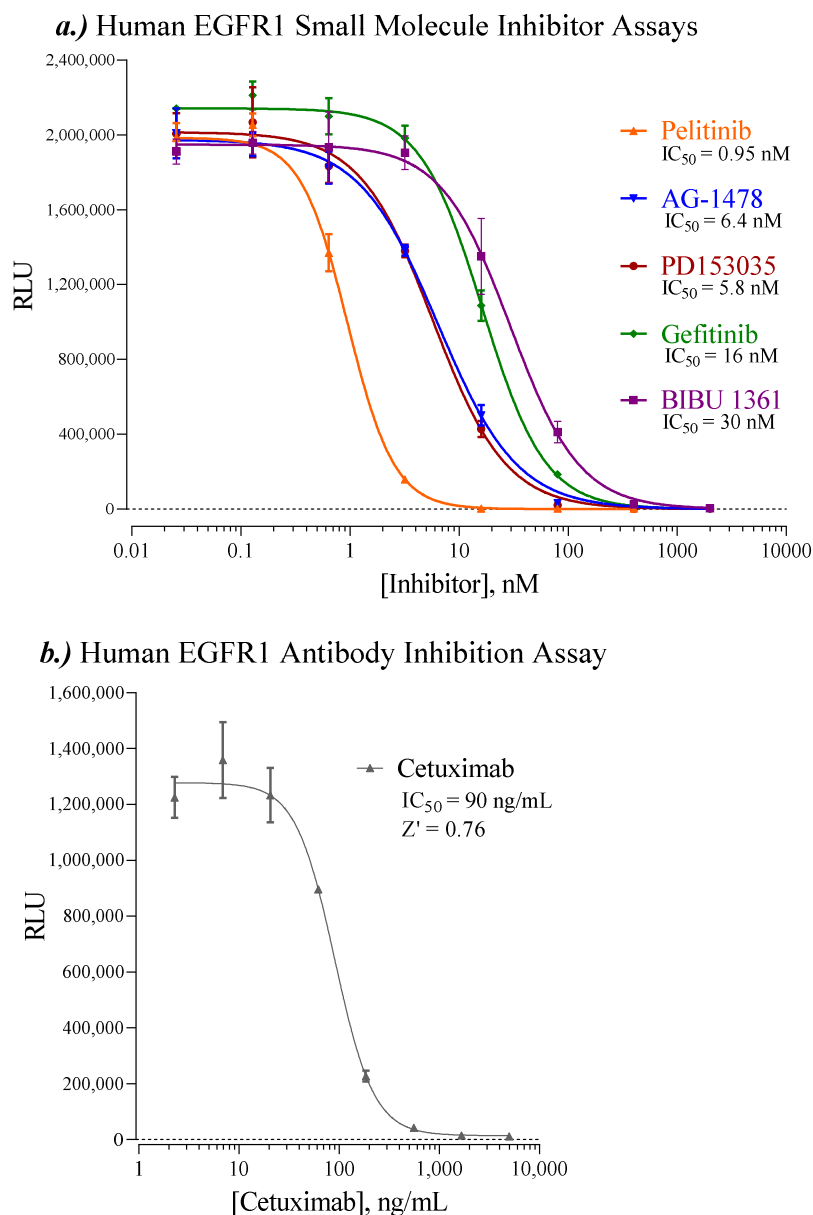


Figure 3. EGFR1 Inhibition assays. 200 μl / well of EGFR1 Reporter Cell suspension was dispensed into 96-well assay plates, which was then incubated for 4 hours. For inhibition-mode assays, prior to the end of the pre-culture period, CSM was supplemented with 1.4 ng EGF/ml (an approximate EC_{80} concentration). The EGF-supplemented CSM was then used to prepare the various treatment media. **a.)** The small molecule inhibitors Pelitinib and Gefitinib (Cayman Chem.), AG-1478, PD153035, and BIBU1361 (Tocris) were initially prepared in DMSO as 2 mM stock solutions that were further diluted using the EGF-supplemented CSM. Final assay concentrations began at 2 μM and proceeded with serial 5-fold decrements. Z' values⁴ ranged between 0.77 and 0.84. **b.)** The anti-EGFR antibody Cetuximab (MedChem Express; 5 mg/mL) was diluted using EGF-supplemented CSM to produce final assay concentrations beginning at 5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and proceeding with serial 3-fold decrements. Pre-culture media were discarded and 200 μl /well of the prepared treatment media were dispensed ($n = 3/\text{conc.}$), including ‘vehicle only’ control wells. After 22 hours incubation treatment media were discarded, Luciferase Detection Reagent was added, and RLU/well were quantified. Plots are **a.)** RLU vs. $\text{Log}_{10}[\text{nM}]$, and **b.)** RLU vs. $\text{Log}_{10}[\text{ng/mL}]$ for the various test materials. Error bars depict $\pm$ SD.

⁴ Zhang JH, *et al.* (1999) A Simple Statistical Parameter for Use in Evaluation and Validation of High Throughput Screening Assays. *J Biomol Screen.*:4(2), 67-73.

$$Z' = 1 - [3 * (\text{SD}^{\text{Reference}} + \text{SD}^{\text{Vehicle Bkg}}) / (\text{RLU}^{\text{Reference}} - \text{RLU}^{\text{Vehicle Bkg}})]$$

II. Product Components & Storage Conditions

This assay kit contains materials to perform assays in a single 384-well assay plate.

Cryopreserved mammalian cells are temperature sensitive! To ensure maximal viability the tube of Reporter Cells must be maintained at -80°C until immediately prior to the rapid-thaw procedure described in this protocol.

Assay kits are shipped on dry ice. Upon receipt of the kit transfer it to -80°C storage. If you wish to first inventory the individual kit components be sure to first transfer and submerge the tube of cells in dry ice.

The aliquot of Reporter Cells is provided as a single-use reagent. Once thawed, the cells can NOT be refrozen. Nor can they be maintained in extended culture with any hope of retaining downstream assay performance. Therefore, extra volumes of these reagents should be discarded after assay setup.

The date of product expiration is printed on the Product Qualification Insert (PQI) enclosed with each kit.

<u>Kit Components</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Storage Temp.</u>
▪ EGFR1 Reporter Cells	1 x 1.0 mL	-80°C
▪ Cell Recovery Medium (CRM)	1 x 7 mL	-20°C
▪ Compound Screening Medium (CSM)	1 x 35 mL	-20°C
▪ EGF, 12 µg/mL (in PBS/0.1% BSA) (reference agonist)	1 x 80 µL	-20°C
▪ Detection Substrate	1 x 7.8 mL	-80°C
▪ 384-well assay plate (white, sterile, cell-culture ready)	1	ambient

III. Materials to be Supplied by the User

The following materials must be provided by the user, and should be made ready prior to initiating the assay procedure:

DAY 1

- dry ice container
- cell culture-rated laminar flow hood.
- 37°C, humidified 5% CO₂ incubator for mammalian cell culture.
- 37°C water bath.
- 70% alcohol wipes
- Instrumentation suitable for dispensing 15 µl volumes.
- disposable media basins, sterile.
- sterile multi-channel media basins *or* deep-well plates, *or* appropriate similar vessel for generating dilution series of reference compound(s) and test compound(s).
- *Optional*: antagonist reference compound / antibody (*e.g.*, Fig. 3a, b.)
- *Optional*: clear 384-well assay plate, cell culture treated, for viewing cells on Day 2.

DAY 2 plate-reading luminometer.

IV. Assay Protocol

Review the entire Assay Protocol before starting. Completing the assay requires an overnight incubation. *Steps 1-8* are performed on **Day 1**, requiring less than 2 hours to complete. *Steps 9-13* are performed on **Day 2** and require less than 1 hour to complete.

▪ A word about Inhibition-mode assay setups ▪

Receptor inhibition assays expose the Reporter Cells to a constant, sub-maximal concentration (typically between EC₅₀ – EC₈₅) of a known agonist AND varying concentrations of the test compound(s) to be evaluated for antagonist activity. This assay kit includes a 12 µg/mL stock solution of **EGF**, a potent physiological agonist of EGFR1, that may be used to setup inhibition-mode assays. 1.4 ng EGF / mL typically approximates EC₈₀ in this assay, and therefore is a suitable *final assay concentration* of activator to be used when screening test compounds for inhibitory activity.

Adding the reference activator EGF to the bulk suspension of Reporter Cells (*i.e.*, prior to dispensing into assay wells) is the most efficient and precise method of setting up antagonist assays, and it is the method presented in *Step 5b* of the protocol when performing tip-based dispensing, and *Step 6b of the protocol when using an acoustic transfer device to dispense test compounds*.

Note that when using a *tip-based instrument* for the dispensing of 2x-concentrated test compounds the cell suspension must also be supplemented with a **2x**-concentration (2.8 ng / mL) of the challenge activator EGF.

When using an *acoustic transfer device* for the dispensing of 1,000x-concentrated test compounds the cell suspension should be supplemented with a **1x**-concentration of the challenge activator.

DAY 1 Assay Protocol:

All steps should be performed using proper aseptic technique.

1.) Remove Cell Recovery Medium (CRM) and Compound Screening Medium (CSM) from freezer storage and thaw in a 37°C water bath.

2.) Prepare dilutions of treatment compounds: Prepare Test Compound treatment media for *Agonist*- or *Antagonist-mode* screens. NOTE that test and reference compounds will be prepared differently when using tip-dispensing vs. *acoustic dispensing*. Regardless of the method, the total DMSO carried over into assay reactions should not exceed 0.4%.

a. *Tip dispensing method:* In *Step 6*, 15 µl / well of the prepared treatment media is added to the assay that has been pre-dispensed with 15 µl /well of Reporter Cells. Hence, to achieve the desired *final* assay concentrations one must prepare treatment media with a **2x**-concentration of the test and reference material(s). Use **CSM** to prepare the appropriate dilution series. Plan dilution volumes carefully; this assay kit provides 35 ml of CSM.

b. *Acoustic dispensing method:* In *Step 6*, 30 nl / well of **1,000x**-concentrated test compound solutions are added to the assay plate using an acoustic transfer device.

**NOTE:* Stocks of test samples that are small-molecules chemicals / drugs are typically prepared in DMSO and, for acoustic transfer dispensing, we recommend that DMSO (not CSM) is used as the diluent to generate the desired series of 1,000x-treatment concentrations. However, stocks of test samples that are solvated in aqueous solution, such as protein ligands and antibodies, should be further diluted using CSM (not DMSO).

Preparing the positive control: This EGFR1 Assay kit includes a concentrated (1,000x) stock of EGF, 12 µg/mL prepared in PBS/0.1%BSA. The following 7-point treatment series, with concentrations generated using serial 4-fold dilutions, provides a complete dose-response: 12, 3.0, 0.75, 0.188, 0.0469, 0.0117 and 0.00293 ng/mL. **APPENDIX 1** provides guidance for generating such a dilution series. Always include 'no treatment' (or 'vehicle') controls.

APPENDIX 1a provides an example for generating such a dilution series to be used when *tip-dispensing* compound solutions prepared in CSM (15 µl / well).

(continued ...)

APPENDIX 1b provides an example for generating such a series of 1,000x-concentrated solutions of compounds to be used when performing *acoustic dispensing* (30 nl / well). As noted in *Step 2b*, use CSM to dilute sample and reference stocks that have been prepared in aqueous solutions (*e.g.*, protein ligands, antibodies, *etc.*), or use DMSO to further dilute sample stocks that were initially solvated in DMSO (*e.g.* small molecule chemicals).

When using *tip-based* instrumentation for dispensing test compounds ...

3.) *First*, retrieve the tube of **CRM** from the 37°C water bath, sanitize the outside with a 70% ethanol swab;

Second, retrieve **Reporter Cells** from -80°C storage and immerse in dry ice to transport the tube to a laminar flow hood. Perform a *rapid thaw* of the frozen cells by transferring a **6.5 ml** volume of 37°C CRM into the tube of frozen cells. Recap the tube of Reporter Cells and place it in a 37°C water bath for 5 - 10 minutes. The resulting volume of cell suspension will be 7.5 ml.

4.) Retrieve the tube of Reporter Cell Suspension from the water bath. Sanitize the outside surface of the tube with a 70% alcohol swab, then transfer it into the cell culture hood.

5.) Gently invert the tube of cell suspension several times to gain a homogenous suspension.

a. for Agonist-mode assays: Dispense **15 µl / well** of cell suspension into the assay plate.

~ or ~

b. for Inhibition-mode assays: Supplement the bulk volume of Reporter Cells suspension with a 2x-concentration of the challenge agonist (refer to "A word about *Inhibition-mode assay setup*", pg. 9). Dispense **15 µl / well** of cell suspension into the assay plate.

6.) Dispense **15 µl / well** of 2x-concentrated treatment media (from *Step 2a*) into the assay plate.

When using an *acoustic transfer* device for dispensing test compounds ...

3.) Dispense **30 nl / well** of the 1,000x-concentrated compounds (from *Step 2b*) into the assay plate.

4.) *First*, retrieve the tube of **CRM** from the 37°C water bath, sanitize the outside with a 70% ethanol swab;

Second, retrieve **Reporter Cells** from -80°C storage and immerse in dry ice to transport the tube to a laminar flow hood. Perform a *rapid thaw* of the frozen cells by transferring a **5.5 ml** volume of 37°C CRM into the tube of frozen cells. Recap the tube of cells and place it in a 37°C water bath for 5 - 10 minutes.

5.) Retrieve the tube of cell suspension from the water bath. Sanitize the outside surface of the tube with a 70% alcohol swab. Add an additional **7.5 ml** of **CSM** to the tube. The resulting volume of cell suspension will be 15 ml.

6.) Gently invert the tube of cells several times to gain a homogenous cell suspension.

a. for Agonist-mode assays: Dispense **30 µl / well** of cell suspension into the assay plate that has been pre-dispensed with test compounds.

~ or ~

b. for Inhibition-mode assays: First supplement the bulk volume of EGFR1 Reporter Cells suspension with the challenge activator **EGF** to achieve an EC₅₀ – EC₈₀ concentration (refer to "A word about *inhibition-mode assay setups*", pg. 9). Then dispense **30 µl / well** of the supplemented cell suspension into the assay plate that has been pre-dispensed with test compounds.

(continued ...)

NOTE: Take special care to prevent cells from settling during the dispensing period. Allowing cells to settle during the transfer process, and/or lack of precision in dispensing uniform volumes across the assay plate *will* cause well-to-well variation (= increased Standard Deviation) in the assay.

NOTE: Following the dispensing of Reporter Cells and test compounds INDIGO recommends performing a *low-speed* spin of the assay plate (with lid) for 1 minute using a room temperature centrifuge fitted with counter-balanced plate carriers.

- 7.) Transfer the assay plate into a 37°C, humidified, 5% CO₂ incubator for 22 - 24 hours.

NOTE: Ensure a high-humidity ($\geq 70\%$) environment within the cell culture incubator. This is critical to prevent the onset of deleterious "edge-effects" in the assay plate.

- 8.) For greater convenience on *Day 2*, retrieve **Detection Substrate** from freezer storage and place in a dark refrigerator (4°C) to thaw overnight.

DAY 2 Assay Protocol:

Subsequent manipulations do *not* require special regard for aseptic technique and may be performed on a bench top.

- 9.) Approximately 30 minutes before intending to quantify receptor activity remove **Detection Substrate** from the refrigerator and place it in a low-light area so that it may equilibrate to room temperature.

NOTE: Do NOT actively warm Detection Substrate above room temperature. If this solution was not allowed to thaw overnight at 4°C, a room temperature water bath may be used to expedite thawing.

- 10.) Set the plate-reader to "luminescence" mode. Program the instrument to perform a single 5 second "plate shake" prior to reading the first assay well. Set the read time to 0.5 second (500 mSec) per well, *or less*.

- 11.) Following 22 - 24 hours of incubation dispense **15 µl / well** of **Detection Substrate** into all wells of the assay plate.

NOTE: Scattered micro-bubbles in the assay wells will not pose a problem. However, bubbles covering the surface of the reaction mix, or large bubbles clinging to the side walls of the well, will cause lens-effects that will degrade the accuracy and precision of the assay data. It is advised to perform a final *low-speed* spin of the assay plate (with lid) for 1 minute using a room temperature centrifuge fitted with counter-balanced plate carriers.

- 12.) Allow the plate(s) to rest at room temperature for 30 minutes. Do not shake the assay plate(s) during this period.

NOTE: the luminescent signal is somewhat unstable during the first 30 minutes of the luciferase reaction, however, after the initial 30-minute reaction period the luminescence signal achieves a stable emission output.

- 13.) Quantify luminescence.

V. Related Products

Human EGFR1 Assay Products	
<i>Product No.</i>	<i>Product Descriptions</i>
IB13001-32	Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 3x 32 assays in 8-well strips (96-well plate format)
IB13001	Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 1x 96-well format assay
IB13002	Human EGFR1 Reporter Assay System 1x 384-well format assays
Bulk volumes of EGFR1 Assay Reagents may be custom manufactured to accommodate any scale of HTS. Please Inquire.	

INDIGlo Luciferase Detection Reagent	
LDR-10, -25, -50, -500	INDIGlo Luciferase Detection Reagents in 10 mL, 25 mL, 50 mL, and 500 mL volumes

Please refer to INDIGO Biosciences website for updated product offerings.

www.indigobiosciences.com

VI. Limited Use Disclosures

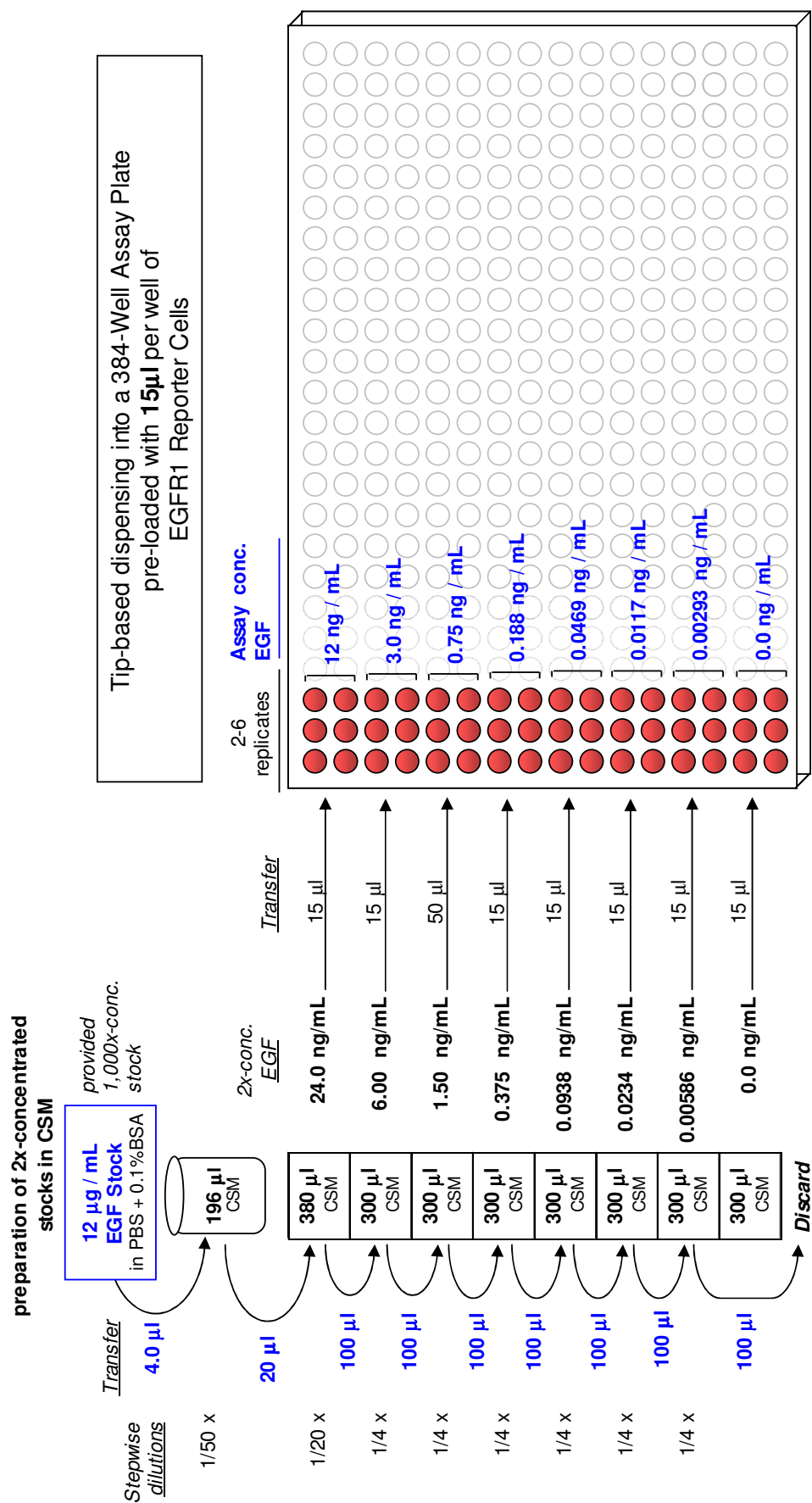
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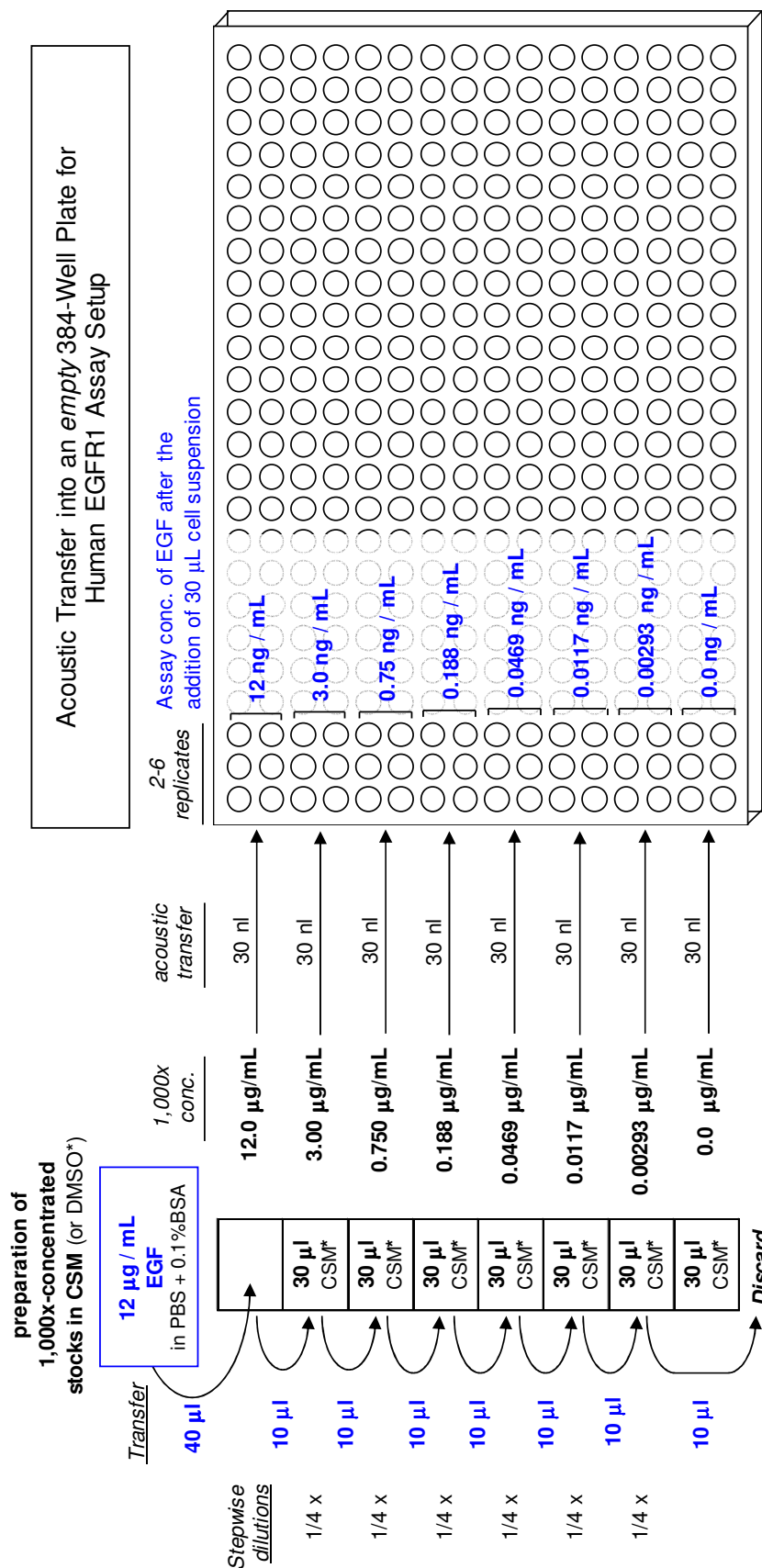
Product prices, availability, specifications, claims and technical protocols are subject to change without prior notice. The printed Technical Manual provided in the kit box will always be the most current version available.

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APPENDIX 1a for tip-based dispensing. Example scheme for the serial dilution of the reference agonist EGF into CSM to generate **2x-concentrated** treatment media. 15 μl / well are dispensed into assay plates using a *tip-based* instrument.



APPENDIX 1b for acoustic dispensing. Example scheme for the serial dilution of the reference agonist EGF (a protein) into CSM to generate **1,000x-concentrated** stocks. 30 nl / well are pre-dispensed into assay plates using an acoustic transfer device. **NOTE:* Stocks of small-molecule test drugs are typically prepared in DMSO, and **DMSO** (*not* CSM) should be further used to generate the desired series of 1,000x-treatment concentrations.



* Stocks of protein ligands, such as EGF in the above example, or other test materials that are solvated in aqueous solution should be further diluted using CSM. However, any stocks of test materials that are solvated in DMSO, as is typical for small molecule chemicals, should be further diluted using DMSO.