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BACKGROUND

Ubiquitin and Ubiquitin Like Proteins

In cells, proteins are tagged for degradation by ubiquitin and sent to the proteasome. In contrast, covalent modification of cellular proteins by the ubiquitin-like modifier SUMO (small ubiquitin-like modifier) regulates various cellular processes, such as nuclear transport and signal transduction. The ubiquitin family of proteins fall into two classes: the first class, ubiquitin-like proteins (UBLs) function as modifiers in a manner analogous to that of ubiquitin. Examples of UBLs are SUMO, Nedd8 (also called Rub1), ISG15, Apg8, Apg12, and Fat10. Proteins of the second class include parkin, RAD23 and DSK2, are designated ubiquitin-domain proteins (UDPs). These proteins contain domains that are related to ubiquitin but are otherwise unrelated.

Conjugation Machinery

The conjugation of Ub/UBLs to target proteins requires an orchestrated addition of Ub/UBLs to lysine residues in the target protein by E1 (activating enzyme), E2 (conjugating enzyme), and E3 (ligase) in an ATP dependent manner. The enzymes form an isopeptide bond between the carboxy-terminus of the UBL and the ε-amino group of the lysine residue of target proteins.

DeNEDDylating Enzymes

NEDDylation is a reversible process in which deconjugation is performed in cells by deNEDDylating enzymes, otherwise known as isopeptidases. Isopeptidases are cysteine proteases that can be divided into multiple familes. The roles of isopeptidases include recycling of fused ubiquitin/UBL and processing pro-ubiquitin/UBL by cleavage to the mature form. Removal of ubiquitin or UBL moieties can affect cellular physiology in a number of ways, and several isopeptidases have been linked to pathologies such as cancer and cardiovascular disease.

ABOUT THE ASSAY

The NEDD8-CHOP2-Reporter DeNEDDylation Assay consists of NEDD8 fused to a reporter enzyme, as well as a separate substrate for the reporter enzyme. When fused to NEDD8, the reporter is rendered catalytically inactive. Following cleavage of the NEDD8-reporter system by the isopeptidase, the free (and now active) reporter subsequently acts upon its substrate. Thus, in this coupled assay, the signal generated by cleavage of the reporter enzyme's substrate is a quantitative measure of isopeptidase activity.

BENEFITS

- 1. Rapid and robust readout for deNEDDylating activity within 60 minutes; signal to background ratio >20.
- 2. Reporter substrates are non-radioactive.
- 3 Amenable to high throughput screening (HTS) and miniaturization.
- **4.** This assay is capable of detecting deNEDDylating activity by the Cop9 Signalsome.

SUGGESTED USES

- 1. Demonstration of novel isopeptidase activity.
- 2. High throughput screening (HTS) for antagonists and agonists of isopeptidase activity.

COMPONENTS

1. NEDD8-CHOP2-Reporter (Reporter System)

Size: 1 x 375 µl (4 µM)

Buffer: 20 mM Tris (pH 8.0), 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol Storage: -80° C, avoid cycles of freezing and thawing

2. Den1 (Control Isopeptidase)

Size: 2 x 10 µl (2 µM)

Buffer: 20 mM Tris (pH 8.0), 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 200µg/ml BSA, 2 mM β-

mercaptoethanol

Storage: -80° C, avoid cycles of freezing and thawing

3. Reporter Substrate 2

Size: $1 \times 30 \mu I (25 \mu M)$

Buffer: DMSO Storage: -80° C

Misc.: light sensitive

excitation/emission wavelength maxima are 485/531 nm

4. Control Fluorophore 2 (Please refer to Fluorophore Control section, Pg 11 for information concerning the use of this reagent for plate reader validation)

Size: 1 x 20µl (1mM)

Buffer: DMSO Storage: -80° C

ADDITIONAL ITEMS REQUIRED

1. Assay Buffer (for use in Step 1 of Protocol)

20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 2 mM CaCl $_2$, 2 mM β -mercaptoethanol $_1$ 0.05% CHAPS

Prepare fresh on a daily basis

2. Fluorescence plate reader

Appropriate filters required for excitation and emission wavelengths

Excitation: 485 nm

Emission: 531 nm

- 3. Black 96 well plate (or desired template)
- 4. 15 ml tube
- 5. 1.5 ml snap cap tubes

SOLUTIONS

Den1 (Control Isopeptidase) (for use in Step 2 of Protocol)

- 1. Add 990 µl of assay buffer to one of the tubes labeled Den1.
- 2. Mix thoroughly by vortexing.
- 3. You are now ready to add 50 µl aliquots (20nM Den1) into the wells of a black 96 well plate.

Reporter Substrate Solution (For Use In Step 4 of Protocol)

- 1. Perform this step in a timely manner as to minimize exposure of the reporter substrate 2 to light.
- 2. Dilute Reporter Substrate 2 in a 1:10 ration with DMSO, e.g. 10µl in 90µl of DMSO.
- Combine 3.2 μl of diluted reporter substrate 2, and 196.8 μl of assay buffer in a 1.5 ml snap cap tube.
- 4. Mix thoroughly by vortexing
- 5. You are now ready to add 50 µl aliquots (40nM reporter substrate) into the black 96 well plate.

NEDD8-CHOP2-Reporter (Reporter System) and Reporter Substrate Solution (For Use In Step 5 of Protocol)

- 1. Perform this step in a timely manner as to minimize exposure of the reporter substrate to light.
- Combine 150 μl of NEDD8-CHOP2-Reporter, 9.6 μl reporter substrate, and 5.86 ml of assay buffer in a 15 ml Falcon Tube. (Alternatively, use 300 μl of NEDD8-CHOP2-Reporter if testing Cop9 Signalsome)
- Mix thoroughly by vortexing.
- 4. You are now ready to add 50 µl aliquots into the wells of a black 96 well plate
- Each 50 μl aliquot contains 100nM of NEDD8-CHOP2-Reporter and 40nM of reporter substrate
 (Alternatively, use 200nM of NEDD8-CHOP2-Reporter if testing Cop9 Signalsome)

Test Isopeptidase (For Use In Step 3 of Protocol)

We suggest an initial dilution series of your test isopeptidase to optimize its concentration/activity. As a positive control, the kit includes the catalytic core domain of the enzyme Den1, to be used at a concentration of 20nM in the final reaction. Make the dilutions of your test isopeptidase in assay buffer such that a final volume of $50~\mu l$ is added to each well. A suggested protocol is listed below.

- Label seven 1.5 ml snap cap tubes T1 through T7.
- 2. Place 200 µl of assay buffer in tubes T2 through T7.
- 3. Dilute the test isopeptidase to a concentration of 800nM in 400µl of Assay Buffer in Tube T1.

- **4.** Vortex Tube T1 and perform a 2-fold dilution by transferring 200 μl of solution from Tube T1 into Tube T2.
- 5. Perform another 2 fold dilution by taking 200 µl from Tube T2 and placing it into Tube T3.
- **6.** Repeat for Tubes T4 through T7.

tube	Concentration of test isopeptidase in 50 µl (nM)	Concentration of test isopeptidase in 100 µl (nM)
T1	800	400
T2	400	200
Т3	200	100
T4	100	50
T5	50	25
T6	25	12.5
T7	12.5	6.25

PROTOCOL

D

Optimization of Your Test Isopeptidase, Suggested Protocol

- 1. Add 50 µl of Assay Buffer in triplicate to columns 1 and 2.
- 2. Add 50 µl of Den1 (control isopeptidase) in triplicate to column 3.
- 3. Add 50 μ l of Tubes T1-T7 of your test isopeptidase in triplicate to columns 4 through 10.
- 4. Add 50 µl of reporter substrate solution in triplicate to column 1.
- 5. Add 50 µl of reporter and reporter substrate solution in triplicate to columns 2 through 10.
- **6.** Below gives a representation of the 96 well plate layout.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	50 µl Assay Buffer	50 µl Assay Buffer +	50 µl Den1 +	50 µl Tube T1	50 µl Tube T2	50 µl Tube T3	50 µl Tube T4	50 µl Tube T5	50 µl Tube T6	50 µl Tube T7		
A	50 µl Reporter Substrate	50µl NEDD8- CHOP2-Reporter&										
	50 μl Assay Buffer	50 µl Assay Buffer +	50 μl Den1 +	50 µl Tube T1	50 µl Tube T2	50 µl Tube T3	50 µl Tube T4	50 µl Tube T5 +	50 µl Tube T6	50 µl Tube T7		
В	50 µl Reporter Substrate	50µl NEDD8- CHOP2-Reporter&										
	50 µl Assay Buffer	50 µl Assay Buffer	50 µl Den1 +	50 µl Tube T1	50 µl Tube T2	50 µl Tube T3	50 µl Tube T4	50 µl Tube T5 +	50 µl Tube T6	50 μl Tube T7 +		
С	50 µl Reporter Substrate	50µl NEDD8- CHOP2-Reporter&										
=												
-												
F												

7. There are two options for fluorescence detection. First, the plate can be incubated at room temperature for 30-60 minutes, protected from light, and a single time point reading can be measured using the appropriate excitation and emission filters, 485 and 531 nm, respectively.

Alternatively, an in-plate kinetic reading can be performed by measuring the change in fluorescence over time.

8. Determine the mean plate blank value (column 1 in the representative example) and subtract from each data point to give a true representation of the change in fluorescence intensity. It is recommended that each experimental condition is measured in triplicate.

FLUOROPHORE CONTROL

Validation of fluorometric plate reader settings with fluorophore control (if desired)

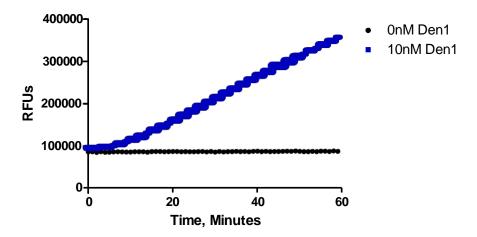
- Combine 2µI of Control Fluorophore 2 with 4mL of Assay Buffer. (Final concentration of 500nM for fluorophore solution)
- 2. Prepare a set of two-fold serial dilutions by combining 500µl of diluted fluorophore with 500µl of assay buffer. (This will result in concentrations of 250, 125, 62.5, 31.2, 15.6, 7.81, and 0nM).
- 3. Place 100µl of each dilution into the wells of 96-well plate in triplicate.
- Read plate on fluorescent plate reader with excitation and emission filters compatible with measurements of 485 nm and 531 nm, respectively.
- 5.

QUALITY CONTROL

Quality Control

In a 96 well plate, 50nM NEDD8-CHOP2-Reporter and 20nM reporter substrate were incubated in the presence and absence of 10nM Den1. Liberation of the fluorescent reporter substrate was monitored on a fluorescence plate reader using an excitation wavelength of 485 nm and an emission wavelength of 531 nm. Results are shown in the figure below.

Representative experiment. Data = mean \pm standard deviation



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