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Electron microscopy (EM) analysis of LRRK2-Nanotube assemblies

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

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Abstract

This protocol details methods for the analysis of LRRK2-Nanotube assemblies by negative stained EM and Cryo-EM.

Attachments



[iuugbvk9p.docx](#)

21KB

Materials

Solutions to prepare:

Low salt buffer:

	A	B
	HEPES (7.4)	20 mM
	NaCl	90 mM
	MgCl ₂	2.5 mM
	Glycerol	7%
	DTT	2 mM
	GDP	20 µM



Negative stained EM analysis

- 1 Prepare samples in a PCR tube with [IM] 300 nanomolar (nM) LRRK2, [IM] 20 micromolar (μ M) lipid nanotubes and [IM] 1 millimolar (mM) GMPPNP. 
- 2 Incubate samples at  37 °C for  00:30:00 . 

- 3 Glow-discharge carbon-coated grids (25 mA,  00:00:45) during the sample incubation time. 
- 4 Place the discharged grids on a piece of parafilm.
- 5 After incubation, apply  6 μ L of the samples to the grid and adsorbed on the grid for  00:05:00 at  Room temperature . 
- 6 Blot the grid with filter paper and stained with 2% uranyl acetate for  00:00:40 . 
- 7 Dry the grid with filter paper.
- 8 Collect images using a Talos L 120C TEM microscope at 80 kV with Velox software and a 4k $\times$ 4K Ceta CMOS camera (Thermo Fisher Scientific). 

Cryo-EM analysis

1h 14m 14s

- 9 Dialyze freshly purified LRRK2 into the Low salt buffer.
- 10 After dialysis, incubate LRRK2 ([IM] 2 micromolar (μ M)) with the kinase inhibitor MLi-2 ([IM] 5 micromolar (μ M)) for  00:10:00  On ice . 

- 11 Add [IM] 20 micromolar (μ M) lipid nanotubes into the mixture above and further incubate for  01:00:00 at  Room temperature in the presence of 
[IM] 1 millimolar (mM) GTP. 



Note

Note: The total volume of the mixture is  12 μL .

12 Glow-discharge C-flat™ holey carbon gold grids (CF-1.2/1.3-3Au) (15mA,  00:00:45) during the sample incubation time, then place the discharged grids on a piece of parafilm.

45s

13 After incubation, apply  4 μL of the samples to the grid.



14 Plunge-freeze sample-loaded grids in liquid ethane-propane mixture using a Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI) with the following parameters: blot force, 0; blot time,  00:00:01 ; wait time,  00:00:30 ; drain time,  00:00:00 ; humidity, 100%.

31s

15 Collect cryo-EM micrographs on a Titan Krios transmission electron microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific) operating at 300 kV, equipped with a post column GIF quantum energy filter and a Gatan K3 Summit DED camera (Gatan, Pleasanton, CA, USA).



16 Perform the data collection with the SerialEM software. Record movies in super-resolution mode with a physical pixel size of 1.098 $\text{\AA}$ (super-resolution pixel size is 0.549 $\text{\AA}$) and a defocus range of -  1 μm to -  3 μm .



Note

The total dose of $\sim 60.6 \text{ e}^- \text{\AA}^{-2}$ was attained by using a dose rate of $\sim 23.5 \text{ e}^- \text{ pixel}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ across 43 frames for  00:02:00  00:00:58 total exposure time. The initial drift and beam-induced motions was corrected using MotionCor2.