

Feb 12, 2019

# HPA Cell Atlas Standard Immunostaining Protocol

 Molecular Biology Reports

DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.x2dfqa6>

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Human Protein Atlas

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**DOI:** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.x2dfqa6>

**External link:** <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19896565>



**Protocol Citation:** Peter Thul, Ulrika Axelsson 2019. HPA Cell Atlas Standard Immunostaining Protocol. **protocols.io**  
<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.x2dfqa6>

**Manuscript citation:**

Fu J, Zhou B, Zhang L, Balaji KS, Wei C, Liu X, Chen H, Peng J, Fu J, Expressions and significances of the gene, the receptor of SARS-CoV-2 for COVID-19. Molecular Biology Reports doi: [10.1007/s11033-020-05478-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11033-020-05478-4)

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**Protocol status:** Working

**We use this protocol and it's working**

**Created:** February 12, 2019

**Last Modified:** February 12, 2019

**Protocol Integer ID:** 20261

**Keywords:** IF, ICC, immunofluorescence, cell atlas, part of the human protein atlas project, human protein atlas project, spatiotemporal subcellular distribution of human protein, standard protocol for indirect immunostaining, indirect immunostaining, cell, human protein, spatiotemporal subcellular distribution, protein

## Abstract

The Cell Atlas, part of the Human Protein Atlas project, systematically investigate the spatiotemporal subcellular distribution of human proteins. This is our standard protocol for indirect immunostaining of cells cultured in 96-well glass bottom plates.

## Guidelines

All volumes in the protocol refer to volume per well in a 96-well microplate. Unspecified incubation temperatures are at room temperature. Immunostaining can be performed manually or with the help of a liquid handling robot.



## Materials

### MATERIALS

⊗ Disodium phosphate Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #S7907

⊗ Monopotassium phosphate Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #P9791

Buffers are prepared using MilliQ water

### 10X PBS

160 g NaCl

4 g KCl

28.8g Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>

4.8 g KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>

Dissolve in 1600 ml Milli-Q. Adjust pH to 7.2 and add Milli-Q up to two liters. Filter and autoclave the buffer.

### 4% PFA/1X PBS

*Use lab coat, eye protection and gloves and work in a fume hood.*

1. Pre-heat 150 ml 10% FBS/1X PBS in a 250 ml beaker to 60°C on a hot plate with magnetic stirrer.
2. Add 50 ml 16% paraformaldehyde to the warm PBS and leave stirring for 20 min at 60°C.
3. Add concentrated NaOH until the solution reaches pH ~11.
4. Allow the solution too cool down to room temperature.
5. Set pH to 7.2-7.3 using first concentrated HCl, and then diluted HCl for fine adjustment.
6. Aliquot and store at -20°C. Thaw at room temperature right before use.

### DAPI

1. Dissolve 10 mg of DAPI powder in 2 ml MilliQ water to a 5 mg/ml (14.3 mM) concentrated stock solution. Store at -20°C.
2. Mix 80 µl 5 mg/ml DAPI stock solution with 920 µl MilliQ water to a pre-diluted 400 µg/ml DAPI solution. Aliquot and store at -20°C.

### Glycerol/10X PBS

1. Add 5 ml 10X PBS to 45 ml of glycerol. Mix.
2. Autoclave or filter sterilize.



## Safety warnings

⚠ Paraformaldehyde (PFA) is harmful in contact with skin or if inhaled, causes severe skin burns and eye damage, may cause an allergic skin reaction, may cause respiratory irritation, is suspected of causing genetic defects and may cause cancer.

## Before start

Cells are grown over night in 80 ul cell culture media (according to providers specifications) in 96-well glass bottom microplates coated with fibronectin (12.5 ug/ml). Optimal seeding concentration/confluency upon staining varies between cell lines and need to be tested in each setting.

Prior to immunostaining, primary antibodies generated within the Human Protein Atlas (HPA) project are diluted to 2 ug/ml in blocking buffer (4% FBS/1XPBS) together with 1 ug/ml tubulin marker (mouse anti-alpha tubulin, Ab7291, Abcam) and 1.25 ug/ml ER marker (chicken anti-calreticulin, Ab2908, Abcam).



## Fixation

- 1 Remove the growth medium (i.e. aspirate ~  80  $\mu$ L from all wells).

## Fixation

- 2 Wash the cells once with  40  $\mu$ L 1X PBS.

## Fixation

- 3 Fix the cells by incubating in  40  $\mu$ L 4% PFA/1XPBS for 15 minutes.  00:15:00

## Permeabilization

- 4 Remove the PFA and permeabilize the cells by incubating with  40  $\mu$ L 0.1 % Triton X-100/1X PBS for 3  $\times$  5 minutes.  00:05:00  00:05:00  05:00:00
- 5 Remove the Triton X-100 and wash the cells once with  40  $\mu$ L 1XPBS.

## Primary Antibody Incubation

- 6 Add  40  $\mu$ L blocking buffer with diluted primary antibodies; 2 ug/ml HPA antibody, 1 ug/ml anti-alpha tubulin (Abcam, Ab7291), and 1.25 ug/ml anti-calreticulin (Abcam, Ab2908). Incubate over night at 4°C or for two hours at room temperature.  
 4 °C  16:00:00 overnight  
or  
 20 °C (RT)  02:00:00

## Secondary Antibody Incubation



- 7 Remove the blocking buffer with primary antibodies and wash the cells with  40  $\mu\text{L}$  1X PBS for 4  $\times$  10 minutes.  00:10:00  00:10:00  00:10:00  00:10:00
- 8 Add  40  $\mu\text{L}$  blocking buffer with diluted secondary antibodies; 2.5 ug/ml anti-rabbit Alexa Fluor 488 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A11034), 2.5 ug/ml anti-mouse Alexa Fluor 555 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A21424), and 2.5 ug/ml anti-chicken Alexa Fluor 647 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A21449). Incubate at room temperature for 90 minutes while keeping dark.  01:30:00

## DAPI Nuclear Staining and Mounting

- 9 Remove the blocking buffer and incubate with  40  $\mu\text{L}$  0.2 ug/ml DAPI/1X PBS for 10 minutes.  00:10:00
- 10 Wash the cells with  40  $\mu\text{L}$  1X PBS for 4  $\times$  10 minutes.  00:10:00  00:10:00  00:10:00  00:10:00
- 11 Fill the wells with glycerol/10X PBS and seal the plate with an adhesive aluminium PCR plate seal. Plates can be stored at 4°C for at least two weeks.