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LCM-NanoPOTS workflow for spatial proteome mapping

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We use this protocol and it's working

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Abstract

Spatial proteomics holds great potential to transform our understanding of the role of cell populations and their spatial organizations in human tissues related to diseases. However, in-depth proteome measurement with high spatial resolution has been challenged by the low sample input and inefficient proteomics workflow.

In this protocol, we outlined the detailed procedure for high-resolution analysis of human pancreas tissue sections using a spatial proteomic platform by combining laser capture microdissection (LCM), nanoPOTS (nanodroplet processing in one pot for trace samples), and nanoflow liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS). This protocol has been applied to human pancreas specimens for HubMAP Tissue Mapping Centers.

Expected outcome:

The unbiased spatial proteome mapping of >3000 proteins at 50- μ m spatial resolution depending on sample types and LC-MS instrumentation.

Materials

1. Reagents

1.1. LCM collection

- Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)

1.2. Proteomic sample processing

- Nanopure water
- n-Dodecyl- β -D-maltoside (DDM) (e.g. Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat# 89902)
- HEPES (pH 8.5)
- TCEP (tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine)-HCL (Thermo Fisher scientific, Cat# A35349)
- Chloroacetamide (CAA) (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat# A39270)
- Lys-C, (Promega, cat. no. V1671)
- Trypsin, (Promega, cat. no. V5280)
- Formic acid

2. Equipment

- Laser Capture Microdissection System (Zeiss PALM MicroBeam)
- Home-built nanoPOTS sample preparation system
- Home-built nanoPOTS LC autosampler system
- LC-MS/MS system (Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid MS, Thermo Scientific)

3. Buffer preparation

3.1. Extraction buffer (Desired conc.: 1 mM TCEP, 0.1% DDM, 0.1 M HEPES)

- 10 μ L, 1% DDM (Aliquoted 1% DDM is stored in -20 °C)
- 88 μ L, 0.1 M HEPES (pH 8.5)
 - Prepare 0.1 M HEPES using premade 0.1 HEPES.
 - Check pH before use 0.1 M HEPES
- 2 μ L, 50 mM TCEP
 - No-Weigh, single-use TCEP, 1 mg (stored in 4 °C)
 - Dissolve TCEP with 70 μ L of 0.1 M HEPES
 - Vortex several times ~5 min to make sure it is completely dissolved

3.2. Alkylation buffer (Desired conc.: 10 mM CAA in 0.1 M HEPES)

- No-Weigh, single-use CAA, 2 mg (stored in 4 °C)
- Dissolve CAA with 214 μ L 0.1 M HEPES to obtain 0.1 M CAA
- Dilute to 10 mM CAA with 0.1 M HEPES

3.3. Digestion buffer (Desired conc.: 0.01 ng/nL Lys-C and 0.04 ng/nL Trypsin)

- 10 μ L, 0.1 ng/nL Lys-C (Aliquoted in -80 °C)
- 10 μ L, 0.4 ng/nL Trypsin (Aliquoted in -80 °C)
- 80 μ L, 0.1 M HEPES

Troubleshooting

Laser capture microdissection (LCM)

- 1 Before cut and collection: Load DMSO as capturing media on the nanoPOTS chip
 - 1.1 Set the nanoPOTS robot to be ready (Temperature, humidity).
 - 1.2 Align the nanoPOTS chip.
 - 1.3 Set 100 μ L of DMSO (Dimethyl sulfoxide) in the sample plate.
 - 1.4 Dispense 200 nL of DMSO into each well on the nanoPOTS chip
 - 1.5 Cover the chip with the glass slide and cover with aluminum foil.
- 2 Cut and tissue collection
 - 2.1 Turn on the LCM (PALM MicroBeam).
 - 2.2 Scan the tissue slide.
 - 2.3 Find the target region on scanned image
 - 2.4 Navigate to the region of interest (ROI).
 - 2.5 Draw 4×9 grid lines (1 voxel size= $2500 \mu\text{m}^2$) on ROI.



- 2.6 Load the laser setting (Speed 1, Cut energy 40, LPC Energy delta15).
- 2.7 Load the nanoPOTS chip on the collector (slide collector 48). Align A1 corner of slide collector and A2 well corner of the nanoPOTS chip.
- 2.8 Start the collection with CenterRoboLPC function.
- 2.9 After collecting all voxels, check on the microscope if every DMSO droplet contains the tissue voxel.
- 2.10 Remove the nanoPOTS chip carefully from the collector and cover it with the glass slide.
- 3 After collection: Dry and scan
 - 3.1 Set incubator temperature to 70 °C.
 - 3.2 Place chips upside down (still wrapped) into incubator for 15 min.
 - 3.3 After 15 min, unwrap the chip and place uncovered in incubator for 5 min intervals until DMSO has evaporate (~19 min).
 - 3.4 After DMSO has evaporated, scan the nanoPOTS chip and check if there is any missing well.
 - 3.5 Wrap with foil and store it in -20 °C until analysis.

NanoPOTS Proteomic Sample Processing for LCM tissue

2d

- 4 Extraction
 - 4.1 Set the nanoPOTS robot to be ready (Temperature, humidity).

- 4.2 Align the nanoPOTS chip.
- 4.3 Place 100 μ L of extraction buffer (1 mM TCEP (tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine), 0.1% DDM (n-Dodecy- β -D-maltoside), 0.1 M HEPES (pH 8.5)) in the sample plate.
- 4.4 Dispense 200 nL of the extraction buffer into each well on the nanoPOTS chip.
- 4.5 Cover chip with the glass slide and cover with aluminum foil.
- 4.6 Place the chip upside down in the humidity box in a zipper bag at 70 °C for 60 min.
- 5 Alkylation
 - 5.1 Set chip at RT and put it into nanoPOTS robot.
 - 5.2 Place 100 μ L of alkylation buffer in the sample plate.
 - 5.3 Dispense 50 nL of alkylation buffer (10 mM CAA (2-chloroacetamide) in 0.1 M HEPES) into each well.
 - 5.4 Cover chip with glass slide and wrap with foil.
 - 5.5 Place the chip upside down in the dark for 30 min at RT.
- 6 Digestion
 - 6.1 Set chip into nanoPOTS robot.

- 6.2 Place 100 μ L of digestion buffer in the sample plate.
- 6.3 Dispense 50 nL of digestion buffer (0.01 ng/nL LysC, 0.04 ng/nL trypsin in 0.1 M HEPES) into each well.
- 6.4 Cover chip with a glass slide and cover with foil.
- 6.5 Place the chip upside down in the humidity box for 10 h at 37 °C.
- 7 Acid Quenching
 - 7.1 Remove chips from incubator and place into nanoPOTS robot.
 - 7.2 Dispense 50 nL of 5% formic acid in water into each well.
 - 7.3 Remove the chip from the nanoPOTS robot and place it into the desiccator until the droplets have evaporated.
 - 7.4 Cover with a sterile glass slide, wrap with foil and store at -20 °C until analysis.

NanoPOTS-LC-MS/MS for spatial proteome mapping

- 8 In-house assembled nanoPOTS autosampler with an in-house packed SPE column (100 μ m i.d., 4 cm, 5 μ m, 300 Å C18 material, Phenomenex) and an LC column (50 μ m i.d., 25 cm, 1.7 μ m, 190 Å C18 material, Waters) heated to 50 using AgileSleeve column heater (Analytical Sales and services, Inc., Flanders, NJ) was used for sample analysis.
- 9 Samples were dissolved with Buffer A (0.1% formic acid in water) on the chip, then trapped on the SPE column for 5 min. After washing the peptides, samples were eluted at 100 nL/min and separated using a 60-min gradient from 8% to 35% Buffer B (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile).
- 10 An Orbitrap Eclipse Tribrid mass spectrometer (Thermo scientific) with FAIMS-pro interface operated in data-dependent acquisition mode was used for all analyses.



Peptides were ionized by applying a voltage of 2,400 V.

- 11 The ionized peptides were fractionated by the FAIMSpro interface using a 3-CV (-45, -60, -75 V) method. Fractionated ions with a mass range 350-1600 m/z were scanned at 120,000 resolution with an IT of 118 ms and an AGC target of 1E6.
- 12 For the pooled tissue samples for generating a spectral library, a single CV was used for each LC-MS run. Precursor ions with intensities > 1E4 were selected for fragmentation by 30% HCD and scanned in an Ion trap with an AGC of 2E5 and an IT of 86 ms.

Data analysis

- 13 Use FragPipe (v 17.1, MSFragger v3.4, Philosopher v 4.1.0) for processing (feature detection, database searching and protein/peptide quantification) of all raw files.
- 14 For database search, use the latest Uniprot human database.
- 15 Fixed modification: carbamidomethylation of cysteine / Variable modification: Protein N-terminal acetylation, oxidation of methionine.
- 16 Cleavage enzyme: strict trypsin, peptide length: 7-50, max missed cleavage: 2, FDR 0.01
- 17 For quantifications, use match between runs (MBR) and MaxLFQ embedded in the FragPipe (minimum ions:1; minimum scans: 3; m/z tolerance 10 ppm; RT tolerance 0.4 min; MBR FDR at ion level 0.05).