



Jan 06, 2025

Proteomics Sample Preparation of Human Skin Punch Biopsies for Data-Independent Acquisition Mass Spectrometry Analysis

DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.14egn9e46l5d/v1>

Matthew Jaconelli¹, Francesca Tonelli¹, Dario Alessi¹

¹MRC-PPU, University of Dundee



Francesca Tonelli

MRC-PPU at The University of Dundee

Create & collaborate more with a free account

Edit and publish protocols, collaborate in communities, share insights through comments, and track progress with run records.

Create free account

OPEN  ACCESS



DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.14egn9e46l5d/v1>

Protocol Citation: Matthew Jaconelli, Francesca Tonelli, Dario Alessi 2025. Proteomics Sample Preparation of Human Skin Punch Biopsies for Data-Independent Acquisition Mass Spectrometry Analysis. **protocols.io**

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.14egn9e46l5d/v1>

License: This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the **Creative Commons Attribution License**, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited

Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: December 05, 2024

Last Modified: January 06, 2025

Protocol Integer ID: 117727

Keywords: ASAPCRN, proteomics sample preparation of human skin punch biopsy, human skin proteome m, proteomics sample preparation, proteomic, independent acquisition mass spectrometry analysis protocol, independent acquisition mass spectrometry, human skin punch biopsy, mass spectrometry, human skin tissue, biopsies from the c8, biospecimen, paravertebral region for data, biopsy, parkinson

Funders Acknowledgements:

Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

Disclaimer

DISCLAIMER – FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY; USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

The protocol content here is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, medical, clinical, or safety advice, or otherwise; content added to protocols.io is not peer reviewed and may not have undergone a formal approval of any kind. Information presented in this protocol should not substitute for independent professional judgment, advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Any action you take or refrain from taking using or relying upon the information presented here is strictly at your own risk. You agree that neither the Company nor any of the authors, contributors, administrators, or anyone else associated with protocols.io, can be held responsible for your use of the information contained in or linked to this protocol or any of our Sites/Apps and Services.

Abstract

Protocol for the processing of human skin tissue punch biopsies from the C8 paravertebral region for data-independent acquisition mass spectrometry (DIA-MS) proteomics, including generation of a human skin proteome MS spectral library. This protocol was generated as part of a pilot study in collaboration with the Michael J. Fox Foundation. The biospecimens were obtained from the Parkinson's Progression Marker Initiative (PPMI) (RRID:SCR_006431). For up-to-date information on the study, visit www.ppmi-info.org.

Materials

- ⊗ Acetonitrile ≥99.9% **VWR International (Avantor) Catalog #1.00030.2500**
- Formic Acid, 99.0+%, Optima™ LC/MS Grade ThermoFisherScientific Catalog#A117-50
- ⊗ LC-grade Water **Fisher Scientific Catalog #10777404**
- ⊗ Ammonium formate **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #70221-25G-F**
- ⊗ Thermo Scientific™ EPA Screw Vial Assembled Kit, Vials/Septa/Caps **Thermo Scientific Catalog #11543750**
- Precellys Lysing Kit Catalog#P000922-LYSK0-A
- ⊗ Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate (SDS), Micropellets, Fisher BioReagents **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #15450685**
- ⊗ HEPES **Formedium Catalog #HEPES10**
- ⊗ Bond-Breaker™ TCEP Solution, Neutral pH **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #77720**
- ⊗ Iodoacetamide **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #I1149-25G**
- ⊗ Trifluoroacetic acid for HPLC > 99.0% **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #302031-100ML**
- ⊗ Methanol, for HPLC-MS, Fisher Chemical™ **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #10653963**
- ⊗ Triethylammonium bicarbonate buffer **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #T7408-500ML**
- ⊗ Thermo Scientific™ Mass Spectrometry Grade Proteases **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #15956915**
- ⊗ n-Dodecyl-beta-Maltoside Detergent **Thermo Fisher Catalog #89902**
- ⊗ S-Trap™ Micro Column (≤ 100 µg) **Protifi Catalog #C02-micro-80**
- ⊗ cOmplete™ EDTA-free Protease Inhibitor Cocktail **Roche Catalog #11873580001**
- ⊗ Roche PhosSTOP™ **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #4906837001**
- ⊗ Eppendorf™ twin.tec™ PCR Plates LoBind™ - PCR Plates **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #15280735**
- ⊗ Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #23225**
- ⊗ SafeSeal reaction tube, 2 ml, PP, PCR Performance Tested, Low protein-binding **Sarstedt Catalog #72.695.600**
- ⊗ Acclaim™ PepMap™ 100 C18 LC Columns, 3µm, 20mm length, 0.075mm I.D. **Thermo Fisher Catalog #164535**
- ⊗ Thermo Scientific™ EASY-Spray™ PepMap™ Neo UHPLC Columns **Thermo Scientific Catalog #17477583**
- ⊗ XBridge BEH C18 Column 130Å 3.5 µm 4.6 mm X 250 mm 1/pk **Waters Catalog #186003943**

Note

All solvents and buffers were prepared in or aliquoted from glass amber vials, using sterile (not autoclaved) pipette tips or glass cylinders.



Equipment/Software:

Vanquish Neo nano-liquid chromatography system (ThermoScientific)
Orbitrap Astral Mass Spectrometer (ThermoScientific)
Vanquish liquid chromatography system inline with fraction collector module (ThermoScientific)
ThermoMixer C (Eppendorf)
Savant SpeedVac SPD140DDA Vacuum Concentrator (ThermoScientific)
Micro Star 17 microcentrifuge (VWR)
Centurion Scientific Limited centrifuge
Precellys Evolution tissue homogeniser with Cryolys Evolution (Bertin Technologies)
BioRuptor Plus with minichiller 300 (Diagenode)
Xcalibur (ThermoScientific)
DIA-NN (version 1.8.1)

Protein Extraction

27m

- 1 Transfer frozen skin tissue to a Precellys Lysing Kit (Bertin Technologies) 2ml ceramic bead tube containing 500 μ L SDS lysis buffer: 2% SDS (w/v), [M] 20 millimolar (mM) HEPES 8 , with complete EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche) and PhosSTOP phosphatase inhibitor cocktail tablets (Roche).



Note

Place samples On ice immediately following transfer.

- 2 Immediately transfer samples to the Precellys Evolution tissue homogeniser (Bertin Technologies). Lyse tissue at 0 °C for 15× 30 second cycles at 6800 rpm , with 30 second rest between each cycle.



- 3 Centrifuge samples at 2000 x g, 4°C, 00:02:00 to reduce bubbles and transfer supernatant to fresh Protein LoBind Eppendorf tubes (Sarstedt).

2m



- 4 Heat samples at 95 °C for 00:05:00 on a heat-block (Grant, QBT2).

5m



- 5 Sonicate samples using a BioRuptor Diagenode (Diagenode) at 4 °C for 15× 30 second cycles, with 30 seconds rest between each cycle.



- 6 Centrifuge samples at 17000 x g, 4°C, 00:20:00 and carefully transfer supernatant to fresh Protein LoBind Eppendorf tubes (Sarstedt), taking care not to disturb the pelleted cell debris or any visible lipids.

20m



- 7 Quantify protein concentrations using BCA assay (ThermoScientific).



Note

Samples can be stored at -80 °C at this stage.



- 8 Aliquot  20 μg protein from each sample for total proteomic analysis. 

Total Proteomics Sample Preparation

1h

- 9 Adjust total volume to  40 μL using SDS lysis buffer. 
- 10 Reduce samples with  10 millimolar (mM) TCEP (final concentration,  100 millimolar (mM) TCEP stock in  300 millimolar (mM) TEABC) for  1100 rpm, 60°C, 00:30:00 (ThermoMixer C, Eppendorf). 
- 11 Alkylate samples in the dark with  40 millimolar (mM) iodoacetamide (final concentration, 400mM stock) for  1100 rpm, 25°C, 00:30:00 (ThermoMixer C, Eppendorf). 
- 12 Add 20% SDS to achieve a final concentration of 5% SDS, then acidify samples through addition of Trifluoroacetic acid to a final concentration of 1%.

Micro S-Trap On-Column Digest

1h 22m

- 13 Add 6x sample volume of wash buffer (90% methanol, 10% 100mM TEABC).
- 14 Mix sample by pipetting up and down, then load  150 μL of sample onto micro-columns inside fresh 2ml Protein LoBind Eppendorf tubes (Sarstedt) within a centrifuge. 
- 15 Centrifuge at  1000 x g, 00:01:00 and discard flow-through. 
- 16 Repeat  go to step #15 until all sample has been loaded through micro-column. 



- 17 Wash S-Trap columns with bound protein by adding  150 μL wash buffer followed by centrifugation at  1000 x g, 00:01:00 . Discard flow-through.

1m



- 18 Repeat step 17 three times.

Note

Ensure there is no remaining wash buffer in the S-trap micro columns before proceeding to step 19, as this may impact digestion efficiency.

- 19 Digest protein by addition of  60 μL (1.5 μg) of Trypsin/Lys-C mix (MS grade, Promega, UK) in  50 millimolar (mM) TEABC solution ( 8) at  47 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for  01:20:00 , followed by incubation at  22 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  Overnight (approximately 16 hours).

1h 20m



Peptide Elution

4m

- 20 Elute samples by addition of  40 μL  50 millimolar (mM) TEABC ( 8) and centrifuge at  1000 x g, 00:01:00 .

1m



Note

Do NOT discard flow-through containing peptides at any step of elution.

- 21 Add  40 μL 0.15% (v/v) formic acid (FA) and centrifuge at  1000 x g, 00:01:00 .

1m



- 22 Add  40 μL 80% acetonitrile (ACN), 0.15% FA and centrifuge at  1000 x g, 00:01:00 . Repeat twice (3x total).

1m



- 23 Dry peptides at  Room temperature using a vacuum centrifuge and store dried peptides at  -20 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ until mass spectrometry analysis.





Peptide Resuspension

30m

- 24 Resuspend samples by addition of  100 μL 0.1% formic acid supplemented with 0.015% N-Dodecyl-B-D-Maltoside (DDM) and mix at  1800 rpm, Room temperature , 00:30:00 (ThermoMixer C, Eppendorf).
- 25 If analysing immediately, transfer  20 μL of each sample to a 96-well plate or LC-MS vials and inject  200 ng peptides per sample for MS analysis.



Offline HPLC Fractionation of Pooled Sample Peptides for Spectral Library Generation

- 26 Aliquot  20 μL from each sample and pool in a  2 mL Protein LoBind Eppendorf tube (Sarstedt).



Note

Depending on sample numbers, this volume may need to be increased or decreased.

- 27 Transfer to an LC-MS vial/plate and inject 50% of pooled peptides (approximately  44 μg) into a Vanquish HPLC system inline with a Fraction Collector using system settings.



Time	Flow [ml/min]	%B
0	Equilibration	
0	Run	
0	0.275	3.000
19	0.275	3.000
20	0.400	10.000
50	0.400	40.000
55	0.400	60.000
57	0.400	95.000
60	0.400	95.000
61	0.400	3.000
70	0.400	3.000
70.1	0.010	3.000

Solvent A – 10mM Ammonium Formate ( 10)

Solvent B – 10mM Ammonium Formate ( 10), 80% Acetonitrile

All changes are linear: Curve = 5

New fraction collected every 30 seconds starting at 21 minutes, directly into a LoBind twintec 96-well plate (Eppendorf).

- 28 Following fraction collection, vacuum centrifuge samples at  Room temperature until dry and store at  -20 °C until mass spectrometry analysis.

Note

Samples are dried and later resuspended in the original 96-well LoBind collection plate to minimise peptide losses through sample transfer, and all fractions are additionally subsequently injected directly from each well for MS analysis. Ensure plate is tightly sealed before storing at  -20 °C .



Spectral Library Generation using Narrow-Window Data-Independent Acquisition Mass Spectrometry

32m

- 29 Centrifuge dried peptides (contained within LoBind 96-well plate) for

 54 rcf, 00:01:00 (Centurion Scientific).

1m



- 30 Add  20 μL of 0.1% formic acid supplemented with 0.015% N-Dodecyl-B-D-Maltoside (DDM) and mix at  500 rpm, Room temperature , 00:30:00 (ThermoMixer C, Eppendorf).

30m



Note

To prevent potential sample loss, following addition of resuspension buffer, reseal the LoBind plate prior to shaking.

- 31 Centrifuge resuspended peptides for  54 rcf, 00:01:00 (Centurion Scientific).
Remove plate seal.

1m



- 32 Inject  10 μL of each fraction into a Vanquish Neo UHPLC system inline with an Orbitrap Astral mass spectrometer for DIA-MS analysis.

- 33 Trap and elute peptides using an Acclaim™ PepMap™ 100 C18 HPLC column (3 μm particle size, 75 μm diameter, 150 mm length) and separate using an EASY-Spray™ PepMap™ Neo UHPLC column (2 μm C18 particle, 75 μm diameter, 150 mm length) with LC conditions.

Buffer A: 0.1% formic acid

Buffer B: 80%ACN, 0.1% formic acid

Time	Duration (Min)	Flow [μ L/min]	%B	Volume [μ L]	No. of Column Volumes
0	Run				
0	0	1.3	4	0	0
0.5	0.5	1.3	4	0.65	0.37
0.6	0.1	0.8	8	0.11	0.06
0.9	0.3	0.8		0.24	0.14
13.9	13	0.8	22.5	10.4	5.86
20.8	6.9	0.8	35	5.52	3.11
21.2	0.4	2	55	0.56	0.32
21.2	Column Wash				
21.7	0.5	2	99	1	0.56
22.6	0.9	2	99	1.8	1.01
22.6	Stop Run				
22.6	Column Equilibration				

34 Acquire data using MS settings.

A	B
Global Parameters	
Application Mode	Peptide
Method Duration (min)	22.6
Settings	
Infusion Mode	Liquid Chromatography
Expected LC Peak Width (s)	10
Advanced Peak Determination	☒
Default Charge State	2
Orbitrap Lock Mass Correction	Off
Ion Source Properties	



A	B
Ion Source Type	NSI
Spray Voltage	Static
Positive Ion (V)	1900
Negative Ion (V)	600
Ion Transfer Tube Temp (°C)	290
Use Ion Source Settings from Tune	☐
FAIMS Mode	Not Installed
Full Scan Properties	
Orbitrap Resolution	240000
Scan Range (m/z)	380-980
RF Lens (%)	40
AGC Target	Custom
Normalised AGC Target (%)	500
Maximum Injection Time (ms)	5
Microscans	1
Data Type	Profile
Polarity	Positive
Source Fragmentation	☐
DIA MS Settings	



A	B
Start Time (min)	0
End Time (min)	22.6
Precursor Mass Range (m/z)	380-980
DIA Window Type	Auto
Isolation Window (m/z)	4
Window Overlap (m/z)	0
Window Placement Optimisation	On
Number of Scan Events	149
DIA Window Mode	m/z Range
Collision Energy Type	Normalised
HCD Collision Energy (%)	25
Detector Type	Astral
TMT	Off
Scan Range (m/z)	150-2000
RF Lens (%)	40
AGC Target	Custom
Normalized AGC Target (%)	500
Absolute AGC Value	5.000e4
Maximum Injection Time (ms)	3

A	B
Microscans	1
Data Type	Centroid
Polarity	Positive
Source Fragmentation	Disabled
Loop Control	Time
Time (sec)	0.6

Spectral Library Generation using DIA-NN Software (version 1.8.1)

- 35 Generate a predicted spectral library in DIA-NN by providing the downloaded reviewed (SwissProt) human UniProt FASTA file, searched with the following parameters:

Command

new command name

```
diann.exe --lib --threads 24 --verbose 1 --out C:\Database\20230102-
Libraries\20230102_UniprotSwissProt_Human_Cano+Iso - 0x+Ac --qvalue
0.01 --matrices --out-lib C:\ Database\20230102-
Libraries\20230102_UniprotSwissProt_Human_Cano+Iso - 0x+Ac --gen-spec-
lib --predictor --fasta
C:\Database\20230102_UniprotSwissProt_Human_Cano+Iso.fasta --fasta-
search --min-fr-mz 200 --max-fr-mz 1800 --met-excision --cut K*,R* --
missed-cleavages 1 --min-pep-len 7 --max-pep-len 30 --min-pr-mz 300 --
max-pr-mz 1800 --min-pr-charge 1 --max-pr-charge 4 --unimod4 --var-
mods 1 --var-mod UniMod:35,15.994915,M --var-mod
UniMod:1,42.010565,*n --monitor-mod UniMod:1 --reanalyse --relaxed-
prot-inf --smart-profiling --peak-center --no-ifs-removal
```



- 36 Use this newly created spectral library to search the 96 peptide fractions, enabling the generation of a new spectral library from the search output:



Command

new command name

```
diann.exe --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F96.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F95.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F94.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F93.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F92.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F91.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F90.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F89.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F88.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F87.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F86.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F85.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F84.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F83.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F82.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F81.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F80.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F79.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F78.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F77.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F76.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F75.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F74.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F73.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F72.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F71.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F70.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F69.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F68.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F67.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F66.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F65.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F64.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F63.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F62.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F61.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F60.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F59.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F58.raw --f \\MRC-
```

[illegible]



```
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F11.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F10.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F9.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F8.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F7.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F6.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F5.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F4.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F3.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F2.raw --f \\MRC-
ASTRAL\DataSSD\2024\July\20240711\20240713_MJ_Skin_F1.raw --lib
\\Mrc-astral\d\Share\Matthew\20230102_UniprotSwissProt_Human_Cano+Iso
- 0x+Ac.predicted.speclib --threads 64 --verbose 1 --out
D:\Users\Matt\Skin_PPMI\SpecLib\report.tsv --qvalue 0.01 --matrices --
temp D:\Users\Matt\Skin_PPMI\SpecLib --out-lib
D:\Users\Matt\Skin_PPMI\SpecLib\Skin_pilot_speclib.tsv --gen-spec-lib
--var-mods 1 --var-mod UniMod:35,15.994915,M --individual-mass-acc --
individual-windows --smart-profiling --peak-center --no-ifs-removal
```