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PSMtag - Anhydrous Labeling Protocol (50 µg Labeling) V.1

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Protocol status: Working
We use this protocol and it's working

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Abstract

A water-free (anhydrous) method labeling peptides with PSMtag. Similar methods enable the use of PSMtag as low as 1 to 1 (wt/wt) peptide to tag ratios. What follows is a general protocol for labeling of an 50ug peptide sample using 75ug of PSMtag (1.5X wt/wt), allowing robust labeling efficiency of >98%. Labeling input can be scaled accordingly.

Guidelines

Key points while scaling up or down:
- Maintain Peptide concentrations > 1 mg/mL
- Maintain PSMtag concentrations > 28.4 mM
- DIPEA is calculated to be a 30eq peptide molarity
- All uses of "DMSO" refer to using fresh, anhydrous DMSO

Key points while scaling down:
- This protocol has been demonstrated to easily scale down to 8µg peptide input
- Recommendations for scaling down further to be determined soon

Materials

1. **PSMtag** – 56.7 mM in DMSO (24 µg/µL).
2. **N,N-Diisopropylethylamine** (DIPEA) – 5740 M pure (Sigma cat: D125806)
3. **Anhydrous DMSO** (Sigma cat: 276855)
4. **1M Triethylammonium Bicarbonate**, TEAB (Sigma cat: T7408)
5. **0.2 mL PCR tubes** (Thermo Fisher cat: E0030124286)
6. **Hydroxylamine**, HA - 50% in water (Sigma cat: 8.14441)

Before start

Material Preparation:
- Use fresh, anhydrous DMSO to dissolve PSMtag and peptides, as traces of water can create undesirable hydrolysis products during the labeling reaction.
- Freeze PSMtag in aliquots at -80ºC to avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
- Solubilizing desalted peptides in TEAB and re-drying helps basify the reaction if previously dried from a formic acid solution.

PSMtag Anhydrous Labeling Protocol (50µg of Digest)

5h

1 An aliquot of 50 µg of desalted peptide digest is resuspended in 100 µL of 100 mM TEAB and dried to completeness in a 0.2 mL tube for 1 hr under vacuo using a speed-vac. 1h

2 Dissolve sample in 3.25 µL of a 436.6 mM DIPEA in DMSO (~30 eq).

3 Labeling by PSMtag is initiated by the addition of 3.25 µL of 56.7 mM PSMtag in DMSO (4 eq).

4 Pipette and Spin 0.2 mL tube to mix - ensuring all peptide sample is completely dissolved from the tube walls.

5 Labeling reaction is incubated at 25 ºC for 3 hrs. 2h

6 Reaction is quenched with 1 µL of a 1.8% HA solution in water (v/v) and incubated 25 ºC for 2 hrs. 2h

7 Sample is either stored at -20 ºC or further diluted for LC-MS/MS analysis.