

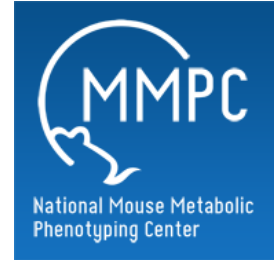


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## UC Davis - Metabolomics: Sample preparation for GCTOF analysis

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

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## Abstract

### Summary:



















This SOP describes sample extraction and sample preparation for primary metabolism profiling by gas chromatography / time of flight mass spectrometry (GCTOF)

### References:

Fiehn O, Kind T (2006) Metabolite profiling in blood plasma. In: Metabolomics: Methods and Protocols. Weckwerth W (ed.), Humana Press, Totowa NJ

## Materials

### MATERIALS

-  Centrifuge **Eppendorf Catalog #5415D**
-  Calibrated pipettes 1-200 ul and 100-1000 ul
-  Eppendorf tubes 1.5 mL uncolored **Eppendorf Catalog #022363204**
-  ThermoElectron Neslab RTE 740 cooling bath **Catalog #RTE 740 cooling bath**
-  MiniVortexer **VWR International (Avantor) Catalog #58816-121**
-  Orbital Mixing Chilling/Heating Plate **Torrey Pines Scientific Instruments**
-  Speed vacuum concentration system **Labconco Centrivap cold trap**
-  Precision balance with accuracy  $\pm 0.1\text{mg}$
-  2mL crimp vials with Target Micro-Serts
-  Agilent Electronic crimper and decapper **Agilent Technologies**
-  Acetonitrile LCMS quality **JT Baker Catalog #9829-02**
-  Isopropanol HPLC solvent **JT Baker Catalog #9095-02**
-  pH paper 5-10 **Merck Millipore (EMD Millipore) Catalog #108027**
-  Nitrogen line with pipette tip
-  Methoxyamine hydrochloride [MeOX] **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog # 226904**
-  Pyridine **Acros Organics Catalog #270970-4X25ML**
-  N-methyl-N-(trimethylsilyl)-trifluoroacetamide [MSTFA] **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #394866**
-  FAME markers (refer to FAME marker SOP for preparation)

### Note:

**Eppendorf, RRID:SCR\_000786**

**Sigma-Aldrich, RRID:SCR\_008988**

## Troubleshooting

### Before start

#### Starting material:

Plasma/serum: 30  $\mu\text{L}$  sample volume or aliquot

## 1 **Preparation of extraction mix before experiment:**

- (1). Check pH of acetonitrile and isopropanol (pH7) using wetted pH paper
- (2). Acetonitrile, isopropanol and water are mixed in volumes in proportion 3 : 3 : 2
- (3). Rinse the extraction solution mix for 5 min with nitrogen with small bubbles. Make sure that the nitrogen line was flushed out of air before using it for degassing the extraction solvent solution

## 2 **Sample Preparation:**

- (1). Switch on bath to pre-cool at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  validity temperature range)
- (2). Gently rotate or aspirate the blood samples for about 10s to obtain a homogenised sample.
- (3). Aliquot 30 $\mu\text{L}$  of plasma sample to a 1.0 mL extraction solution. The extraction solution has to be pre-chilled using the ThermoElectron Neslab RTE 740 cooling bath set to  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- (4). Vortex the sample for about 10s and shake for 5 min at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  using the Orbital Mixing Chilling/Heating Plate. If you are using more than one sample, keep the rest of the sample on ice (chilled at  $<0^{\circ}\text{C}$  with sodium chloride).
- (5). Centrifuge samples for 2min at 14000 rcf using the centrifuge Eppendorf 5415 D.
- (6). Aliquot two 450 $\mu\text{L}$  portions of the supernatant. One for analysis and one for a backup sample. Store the backup aliquot in  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  freezer.
- (7). Evaporate one 450 $\mu\text{L}$  aliquots of the sample in the Labconco Centrивap cold trap concentrator to complete dryness.
- (8). The dried aliquot is then re-suspended with 450  $\mu\text{L}$  50% acetonitrile (degassed as given above).
- (9). Centrifuged for 2 min at 14000 rcf using the centrifuge Eppendorf 5415.
- (10). Remove supernatant to a new Eppendorf tube.

(11). Evaporate the supernatant to dryness in the Labconco Centrivap cold trap concentrator.

(12). Submit to derivatization.

### 3 **Derivatization**

- Prepare 40mg/mL MeOX solution in pyridine. Weigh out methoxyamine hydrochloride in 1.5mL Eppendorf tube on balance and add appropriate amount of pyridine.
- Vortex MeOX solution and sonicate at 60°C for 15 minutes to dissolve.
- Add 10 µL of 40mg/mL Methoxyamine hydrochloride [MeOX] solution to each dried sample and standard
- Shake at maximum speed at 30°C for 1.5 hours.
- To 1mL of MSTFA and add 10 µL of FAME marker. Vortex for 10sec.
- Add 91 µL of MSTFA + FAME mixture to each sample and standard. Cap immediately.
- Shake at maximum speed at 37 °C
- Transfer contents to glass vials with micro-serts inserted and cap immediately.
- Submit to GCTOF MS analysis

### 4 **Quality assurance**

- For each sequence of sample extractions, perform one blank negative control extraction by applying the total procedure (i.e. all materials and plastic ware) without biological sample.
- Use one commercial plasma/serum pool sample per 10 authentic subject samples as control. If no suitable commercial blood sample is available, prepare a large pool sample during the thawing/mixing step by aliquoting 100 ul per 1 ml plasma sample, and aliquot such pool sample for 1 pool extract per 10 authentic subject samples.
- Prepare at least one NIST plasma extract in the same manner



*DISPOSAL OF WASTE: Collect all chemicals in appropriate bottles and follow the disposal rules.  
Collect residual plasma / serum samples in specifically designed red 'biohazard' waste bags.*