

**Human Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated  
Receptor Alpha  
(NR1C1, PPARA, PPAR $\alpha$ )  
Reporter Assay System**

**3x 32 Assays in 96-well Format**  
Product # IB00111-32

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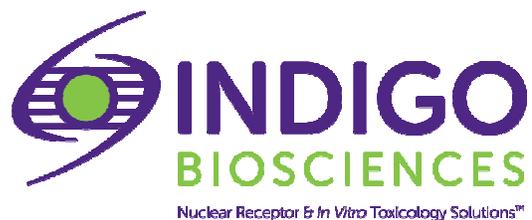
**Technical Manual**  
*(version 7.2b)*

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## Human PPAR $\alpha$ Reporter Assay System 3x 32 Assays in 96-well Format

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## I. Description

### ▪ The Assay System ▪

This nuclear receptor assay utilizes proprietary non-human cells engineered to provide constitutive, high-level expression of the **Human Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor Alpha** (NR1C1), a ligand-dependent transcription factor commonly referred to as PPARA or **PPAR $\alpha$** .

INDIGO's Reporter Cells include the luciferase reporter gene functionally linked to a PPAR $\alpha$ -responsive promoter. Thus, quantifying changes in luciferase expression in the treated reporter cells provides a sensitive surrogate measure of the changes in PPAR $\alpha$  activity. The principal application of this assay is in the screening of test samples to quantify any functional activity, either agonist or antagonist, that they may exert against human PPAR $\alpha$ .

PPAR $\alpha$  Reporter Cells are prepared using INDIGO's proprietary **CryoMite™** process. This cryo-preservation method yields exceptional cell viability post-thaw, and provides the convenience of immediately dispensing healthy, division-competent reporter cells into assay plates. There is no need for cumbersome intermediate treatment steps such as spin-and-rinse of cells or viability determinations prior to assay setup.

INDIGO's Nuclear Receptor Assays are all-inclusive cell-based assay systems. In addition to PPAR $\alpha$  Reporter Cells, this kit provides two optimized media for use during cell culture and in diluting the user's test samples, a reference agonist, Luciferase Detection Reagent, and a cell culture-ready assay plate.

### ▪ The Assay Chemistry ▪

INDIGO's nuclear receptor assay kits capitalize on the extremely low background, high-sensitivity, and broad linear dynamic range of bio-luminescence reporter gene technology.

Reporter Cells incorporate the cDNA encoding beetle luciferase, a 62 kD protein originating from the North American firefly (*Photinus pyralis*). Luciferase catalyzes the mono-oxidation of D-luciferin in a Mg<sup>+2</sup>-dependent reaction that consumes O<sub>2</sub> and ATP as co-substrates, and yields as products oxyluciferin, AMP, PP<sub>i</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, and photon emission. Luminescence intensity of the reaction is quantified using a luminometer, and is reported in terms of Relative Light Units (RLU's).

Assay kits feature a luciferase detection reagent specially formulated to provide stable light emission between 5 and 90+ minutes after initiating the luciferase reaction. Incorporating a 5 minute reaction-rest period ensures that light emission profiles attain maximal stability, thereby allowing assay plates to be processed in batch. By doing so, the signal output from all sample wells, from one plate to the next, may be directly compared within an experimental set.

### ▪ Preparation of Test Compounds ▪

Small molecule test compounds are typically solvated in DMSO at high concentrations; ideally 1,000x-concentrated stocks relative to the highest desired treatment concentration in the assay. Using high-concentration stocks minimizes DMSO carry-over into the assay plates.

Immediately prior to setting up an assay, the master stocks are serially diluted using **Compound Screening Medium (CSM)**; as described in *Step 7*) to achieve the desired assay concentrations.

*NOTE:* CSM is formulated to help stabilize hydrophobic test compounds in the aqueous environment of the assay mixture. Nonetheless, high concentrations of extremely hydrophobic test compounds diluted in CSM may lack long-term stability and/or solubility, especially if further stored at low temperatures. Hence, it is recommended that test compound dilutions are prepared in CSM immediately prior to assay setup and are regarded as 'single-use' reagents.

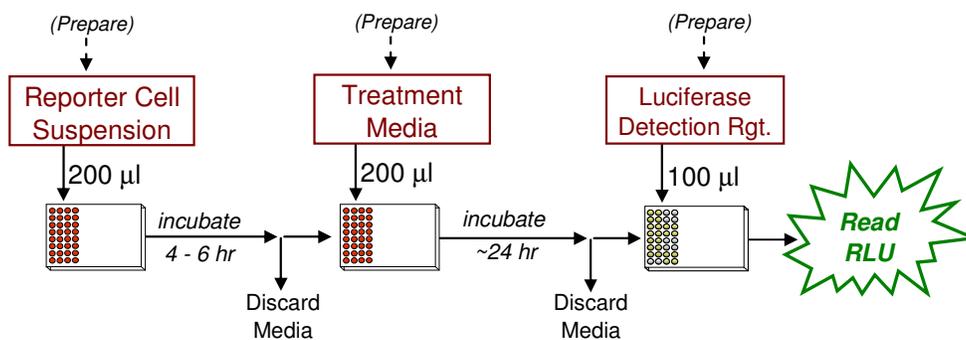
Alternatively, if test compound solubility is expected to be problematic, DMSO may be used to make serial dilutions, thereby generating 1,000x-concentrated stocks for each independent test concentration. Treatment media are then prepared using CSM to make final 1,000-fold dilutions of the prepared DMSO dilution series.

Regardless of the dilution method used, the final concentration of total DMSO carried over into assay wells should never exceed 0.4%. Significant DMSO-induced cytotoxicity can be expected above 0.4%.

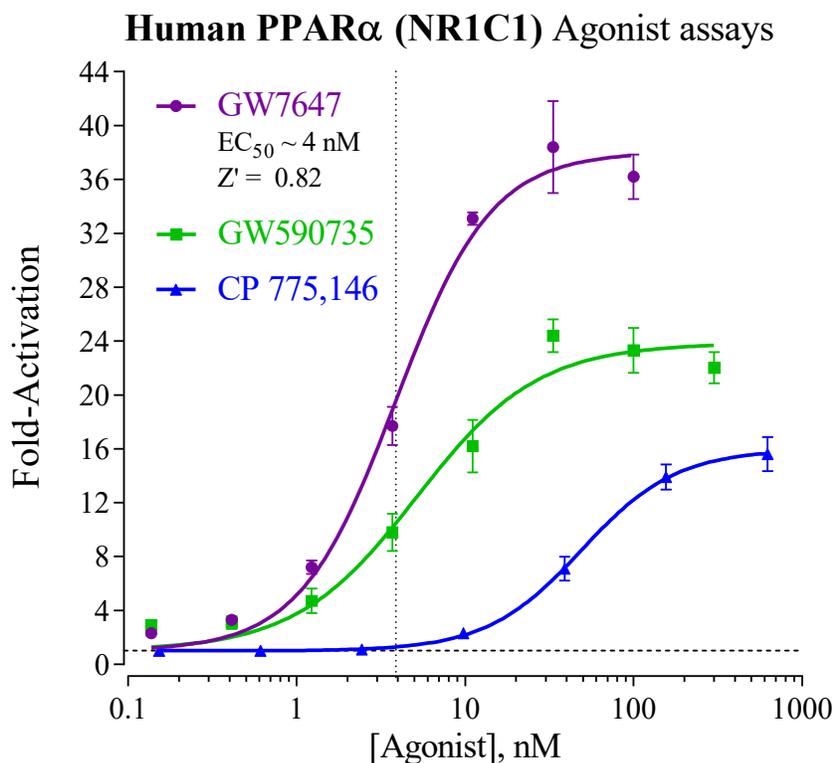
### ▪ Assay Scheme ▪

**Figure 1.** Assay workflow.

*In brief*, 200  $\mu$ l of Reporter Cells is dispensed into wells of the assay plate and pre-incubated for 4-6 hours. Following the pre-incubation period, culture media are discarded and 200  $\mu$ l/well of the prepared treatment media are added. Following 22-24 hr incubation, treatment media are discarded, and Luciferase Detection Reagent is added. The intensity of light emission (in units of 'Relative Light Units'; RLU) from each assay well is quantified using a plate-reading luminometer.



▪ Assay Performance ▪



**Figure 2. Agonist dose-response analyses of Human PPAR $\alpha$ .**

Dose-response analyses of human PPAR $\alpha$  were performed according to the protocol provided in this Technical Manual. Reporter Cells were treated with the reference agonists GW7647 (provided), GW590735 and CP 775,146 (Tocris). Luminescence was quantified and average Relative Light Units (RLU) and corresponding standard deviation (SD) values were determined for each treatment concentration ( $n \geq 3$ ). Fold-Activation and  $Z'$  values were calculated as described by Zhang, *et al.* (1999)<sup>1</sup>. Non-linear regression and EC<sub>50</sub> analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism software. High  $Z'$  for the reference agonist GW7647 confirms the robust performance of this human PPAR $\alpha$  Assay.

<sup>1</sup> Zhang JH, Chung TD, Oldenburg KR. (1999) A Simple Statistical Parameter for Use in Evaluation and Validation of High Throughput Screening Assays. *J Biomol Screen.*:4(2), 67-73.

$$Z' = 1 - [3 * (SD^{\text{Reference}} + SD^{\text{Untreated}}) / (RLU^{\text{Reference}} - RLU^{\text{Untreated}})]$$

## II. Product Components & Storage Conditions

This PPAR $\alpha$  Assay kit contains materials to perform three distinct groups of assays in the format of a 96-well plate. Reagents are configured so that each group will comprise 32 assays. If desired, however, reagents may be combined to perform either 64 or 96 assays.

**Reporter cells are temperature sensitive! To ensure maximal viability the tube of cells must be maintained at -80°C until immediately prior to the rapid-thaw procedure described in Step 3 of this protocol.**

Assay kits are shipped on dry ice. Upon receipt of the kit transfer it to -80°C storage. If you wish to first inspect and inventory the individual kit components be sure to first transfer and submerge the tube of reporter cells in dry ice.

The aliquot of Reporter Cells is provided as a single-use reagent. Once thawed, reporter cells can NOT be refrozen, nor can they be maintained in extended culture with any hope of retaining downstream assay performance. Therefore, extra volumes of these reagents should be discarded after assay setup.

The date of product expiration is printed on the Product Qualification Insert (PQI) enclosed with each kit.

<u>Kit Components</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Storage Temp.</u>
▪ PPAR $\alpha$ Reporter Cells	3 x 0.6 mL	<b>-80°C</b>
▪ Cell Recovery Medium (CRM)	2 x 10.5 mL	-20°C
▪ Compound Screening Medium (CSM)	1 x <b>45</b> mL	-20°C
▪ GW7647, 300 $\mu$ M (in DMSO) (reference agonist for PPAR $\alpha$ )	1 x 30 $\mu$ L	-20°C
▪ Detection Substrate	3 x 2.0 mL	<b>-80°C</b>
▪ Detection Buffer	3 x 2.0 mL	-20°C
▪ Plate frame	1	ambient
▪ 96-well assay plate (white, sterile, cell-culture ready)	1	ambient

## III. Materials to be Supplied by the User

The following materials must be provided by the user, and should be made ready prior to initiating the assay procedure:

### DAY 1

- dry ice bucket (*Step 2*)
- cell culture-rated laminar flow hood.
- 37°C, humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for mammalian cell culture.
- 37°C water bath.
- 70% alcohol wipes
- 8-channel electronic, repeat-dispensing pipettes & sterile tips
- disposable media basins, sterile.
- sterile multi-channel media basins (such as the Heathrow Scientific "Dual-Function Solution Basin"), *or* sterilized 96 deep-well blocks (*e.g.*, Axygen Scientific, #P-2ML-SQ-C-S), *or* appropriate similar vessel for generating dilution series of reference and test compound(s).
- *Optional*: clear 96-well assay plate, sterile, cell culture treated, for viewing cells on Day 2

**DAY 2** plate-reading luminometer.

#### IV. Assay Protocol

Review the entire Assay Protocol before starting. Completing the assay requires an overnight incubation. *Steps 1-11* are performed on **Day 1**, requiring a 4-6 hr pre-incubation step. *Steps 12-17* are performed on **Day 2**, and require less than 1 hour to complete.

##### ▪ A word about Antagonist-mode assay setup ▪

Receptor inhibition assays expose the Reporter Cells to a constant, sub-maximal concentration (typically between EC<sub>50</sub> – EC<sub>85</sub>) of a known agonist AND the test compound(s) to be evaluated for antagonist activity. This PPAR $\alpha$  Assay kit includes a 10 mM stock solution of **GW7647**, an agonist of PPAR $\alpha$  that may be used to setup antagonist-mode assays. 10 nM GW7647 typically approximates EC<sub>60-70</sub> in this cell-based reporter assay. Hence, it presents a suitable assay concentration of agonist to be used when screening test compounds for inhibitory activity.

Add the challenge agonist (GW7647) to a bulk volume of **CSM** at an EC<sub>50</sub> – EC<sub>85</sub> concentration. This medium is then used to prepare serial dilutions of test compounds to achieve the desired respective final assay concentrations. This is an efficient and precise method of setting up antagonist assays, and it is the method presented in *Step 7b* of this protocol.

**DAY 1 Assay Protocol:** All steps must be performed using aseptic technique.

1.) Remove the **2 tubes** of **Cell Recovery Medium (CRM)** from freezer storage, thaw and equilibrate to 37°C using a water bath.

2.) **Rapid Thaw of the Reporter Cells:** *First*, retrieve the two tubes of **CRM** from the 37°C water bath and sanitize their outside surfaces with a 70% ethanol swab.

*Second*, retrieve **Reporter Cells** from -80°C storage and place them directly into dry ice to transport them to the laminar flow hood: 1 tube for 32 assay wells, 2 tubes for 64 assay wells, or 3 tubes for 96 assay wells. When ready, transfer the tube(s) of reporter cells into a rack and, *without delay*, perform a rapid thaw of the frozen cells by transferring **6.4 ml** of pre-warmed CRM into each tube of frozen cells. Recap the tube of Reporter Cells and immediately place it in a 37°C water bath for 5 - 10 minutes. The resulting volume of cell suspension will be **7.0 ml** per tube.

*Third*, during the 5 - 10 minutes incubation period, work in the cell culture hood to *carefully* mount four sterile 8-well strips into the blank assay plate frame. Strip-wells are fragile. Note that they have keyed ends (square and round), hence, they will fit into the plate frame in only one orientation.

3.) Retrieve the tube of Reporter Cell Suspension from the water bath and sanitize the outside surface with a 70% alcohol swab.

4.) If more than one tube of Reporter cells was thawed, combine them and gently invert several times to disperse cell aggregates and gain a homogenous cell suspension. Dispense **200  $\mu$ l / well** of cell suspension into the assay plate.

*NOTE 4.1:* If INDIGO's Live Cell Multiplex Assay is to be incorporated, a minimum of 3 'blank' wells (meaning cell-free, but containing 'CSM') must be included in the assay plate to allow quantification of fluorescence background (refer to the LCMA Technical Manual).

*NOTE 4.2:* Increased well-to-well variation (= increased standard deviation!) will occur if care is not taken to prevent cells from settling in the reservoir during the dispensing period. Likewise, take care to ensure precision in dispensing exact volumes across the assay plate.

*NOTE 4.3:* Users sometimes wish to examine the reporter cells using a microscope. If so, the extra volume of cell suspension provided with each kit may be dispensed into a clear 96-well assay plate. Continue to process the assay plate in identical manner to the white assay plate.

**5.) Pre-incubate reporter cells:** Place the assay plate into a mammalian cell incubator (37°C, ≥ 70% humidity, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>) for 4 - 6 hours.

**6.) Near the end of the pre-incubation period:** Remove **Compound Screening Medium (CSM)** from freezer storage and thaw in a 37°C water bath.

**7.) Prepare the Test Compound and Reference Compound treatment media at the desired final assay concentrations:** Use CSM to prepare an appropriate dilution series of the reference and test compound stocks. Prepare all treatment media at the desired final assay concentrations. In *Step 9*, the prepared treatment media will be dispensed at 200 µl / well into the assay plate. Manage dilution volumes carefully; this assay kit provides **45 ml** of CSM.

NOTE: Total DMSO carried over into assay reactions should never exceed 0.4%.

**a. Agonist-mode assays.** This PPAR $\alpha$  Assay kit includes a 300 µM stock solution of the reference agonist **GW7647**. The following 7-point treatment series, with concentrations presented in 3-fold decrements, provides a suitable dose-response: 300, 100, 33.3, 11.1, 3.70, 1.23, 0.412, and 0.137 nM. Always include a 'no treatment' (or 'Vehicle only') control. **APPENDIX 1** provides an example for generating such a dilution series.

~ or ~

**b. Antagonist-mode assays.** When setting antagonist assays, first supplement a bulk volume of CSM with the challenge agonist GW7647 to achieve the desired final assay-concentration (refer to "*A word about antagonist-mode assay setup*", pg. 7). The agonist-supplemented CSM is then used to generate dilutions of test compound samples to achieve their final assay concentrations.

**8.) At the end of the cell pre-incubation period:** Discard the culture media.

Because the assay plate is composed of a frame with snap-in strip-wells, the practice of physically ejecting media is NOT advised. Complete removal of the media is efficiently performed by tilting the plate on edge and aspirating media using an 8-pin manifold (*e.g.*, Wheaton Science Microtest Syringe Manifold, # 851381) affixed to a vacuum-trap apparatus. Do *not* touch the well bottom or run the tip of the aspiration device around the bottom circumference of the assay well. Such practices will result in destruction of the cells and greatly increased well-to-well variability.

**9.)** Dispense **200 µl / well** of each prepared treatment media into the assay plate.

**10.)** Transfer the assay plate into a cell culture incubator for 22 - 24 hours.

NOTE: Ensure a high-humidity (≥ 70%) environment within the cell culture incubator. This is critical to prevent the onset of deleterious "edge-effects" in the assay plate.

**11.)** For greater convenience on *Day 2*, retrieve the appropriate number of tubes of **Detection Substrate and Detection Buffer** from freezer storage and place them in a dark refrigerator (4°C) to thaw overnight.

**DAY 2 Assay Protocol:** Subsequent manipulations do *not* require special regard for aseptic technique and may be performed on an open bench top.

**12.)** Approximately 30 minutes before intending to quantify receptor activity, remove **Detection Substrate** and **Detection Buffer** from the refrigerator and place them in a low-light area so that they may equilibrate to room temperature.

*NOTE:* Do NOT actively warm Detection Substrate above room temperature. If these solutions were not allowed to thaw overnight at 4°C, a room temperature water bath may be used to expedite thawing.

**13.)** Set the plate-reader to "luminescence" mode. Set the instrument to perform a single 5 second "plate shake" prior to reading the first assay well. Read time may be set to 0.5 second (500 mSec) per well, *or less*.

**14.)** *Immediately before proceeding to Step 15:* To read 32 assay wells, transfer the entire volume of 1 vial of Detection Buffer into 1 vial of Detection Substrate, thereby generating a 4 ml volume of **Luciferase Detection Reagent (LDR)**. Mix gently to avoid foaming.

**15.)** Following 22 - 24 hours incubation in treatment media, remove media contents from each well of the assay plate (as before in *Step 8*).

**16.)** Add 100 µl of **LDR** to each well of the assay plate. Allow the assay plate to rest at room temperature for at least 5 minutes following the addition of LDR. Do not shake the assay plate during this period.

**17.)** Quantify luminescence.

## V. Related Products

<b>Human PPAR<math>\alpha</math> Assay Products</b>	
<b>Product No.</b>	<b>Product Descriptions</b>
IB00111-32	Human PPAR $\alpha$ Reporter Assay 3x 32 assays in 8-well strips (96-well plate format)
IB00111	Human PPAR $\alpha$ Reporter Assay, 1x 96-well format assay
IB00112	Human PPAR $\alpha$ assays, 1x 384-well format
Bulk volumes of Assay Reagents may be custom manufactured to accommodate any scale of HTS. Please Inquire.	
<b>Panel of Human PPAR Assays</b>	
IB00131-32P	Human PPAR $\gamma$ , PPAR $\alpha$ and PPAR $\delta$ Reporter Assay PANEL 32 assays each, 3x 32 assays in 8-well strips (96-well plate format)
<b>MOUSE PPAR<math>\alpha</math> Assay Products</b>	
M00111-32	Mouse PPAR $\alpha$ assays 3x 32 assays in 8-well strips (96-well plate format)
M00111	1x 96-well format Mouse PPAR $\alpha$ assays
<b>RAT PPAR<math>\alpha</math> Assay Products</b>	
R00111-32	Rat PPAR $\alpha$ assays 3x 32 assays in 8-well strips (96-well plate format)
R00111	Rat PPAR $\alpha$ assays, 1x 96-well format
<b>LIVE Cell Multiplex (LCM) Assay</b>	
LCM-01	Reagent volumes sufficient to perform <b>96</b> Live Cell Assays in 1x96-well, or 2x48-well, or 3x32-well assay plate formats
LCM-05	Reagent in <b>5x bulk volume</b> to perform <b>480</b> Live Cell Assays contained in 5 x 96-well assay plates
LCM-10	Reagent in <b>10x bulk volume</b> to perform <b>960</b> Live Cell Assays contained in 10 x 96-well assay plates

Please refer to INDIGO Biosciences website for updated product offerings.

[www.indigobiosciences.com](http://www.indigobiosciences.com)

## VI. Limited Use Disclosures

Products commercialized by INDIGO Biosciences, Inc. are for RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY – not for therapeutic, diagnostic, or contact use in humans.

“CryoMite” is a Trademark <sup>TM</sup> of INDIGO Biosciences, Inc. (State College, PA, USA).

Product prices, availability, specifications, claims and technical protocols are subject to change without prior notice. The Technical Manual accompanying assay kit box will always be the most currently updated version.

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