

**Human Liver X Receptor, Alpha
(LXR α , NR1H3)
Reporter Assay System**

3x 32 Assays in 96-well Format
Product # IB00311-32

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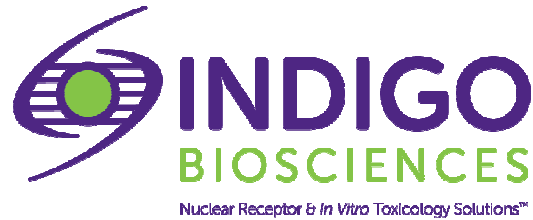
Technical Manual
(version 7.1c)

www.indigobiosciences.com

3006 Research Drive, Suite A1, State College, PA 16801, USA

Customer Service:
814-234-1919; FAX 814-272-0152
customerserv@indigobiosciences.com

Technical Service:
814-234-1919
techserv@indigobiosciences.com



Human LXR α Reporter Assay System 3x 32 Assays in 96-well Format

I. Description	
▪ The Assay System.....	3
▪ The Assay Chemistry.....	3
▪ Preparation of Test Compounds.....	4
▪ Assay Scheme.....	4
▪ Assay Performance.....	5
II. Product Components & Storage Conditions	6
III. Materials to be Supplied by the User	6
IV. Assay Protocol	
▪ A word about <i>Antagonist</i> -mode assay setup.....	7
▪ <i>DAY 1 Assay Protocol</i>	7
▪ <i>DAY 2 Assay Protocol</i>	9
V. Related Products	10
VI. Limited Use Disclosures	10
APPENDIX 1: Example Scheme for Serial Dilution	11

I. Description

▪ The Assay System ▪

This nuclear receptor assay system utilizes proprietary non-human mammalian cells engineered to provide constitutive, high-level expression of **Human Liver X Receptor Alpha (NR1H3)**, a ligand-dependent transcription factor commonly referred to as **LXR α** .

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

LXR α 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, viability determinations, cell titer adjustments, or the pre-incubation of reporter cells prior to assay setup.

INDIGO Bioscience's Nuclear Receptor Reporter Assays are all-inclusive cell-based assay systems. In addition to LXR α 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 reporter assay systems 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⁺²-dependent reaction that consumes O₂ and ATP as co-substrates, and yields as products oxyluciferin, AMP, PP_i, CO₂, and photon emission. Luminescence intensity of the reaction is quantified using a luminometer and is reported in terms of Relative Light Units (RLU's).

INDIGO's Nuclear Receptor Reporter Assay Systems 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 ▪

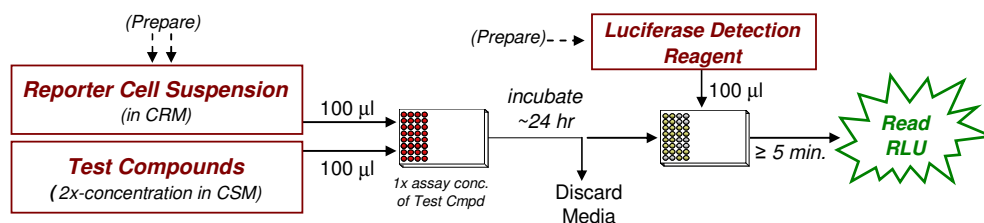
Small molecule test compounds are typically solvated in DMSO at high concentrations; ideally 1,000x-concentrated stocks relative to the highest desired treatment concentration in the assay. Using high-concentration stocks minimizes DMSO carry-over into the assay plates. NOTE: The final concentration of any organic solvent carried over into assay reactions should never exceed 0.4%.

Immediately prior to setting up the assay plate(s) master stocks are serially diluted using **Compound Screening Medium (CSM)**; as described in *Step 2 of the Assay Protocol* to generate *2x-concentrated* treatment media.

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

▪ Assay Scheme ▪

Figure 1. Assay workflow. *In brief*, Reporter Cells are dispensed into wells of the assay plate and then immediately dosed with the user's test compounds. Following 22 -24 hr incubation, treatment media are discarded and the prepared Luciferase Detection Reagent (LDR) is added. Light emission from each assay well is quantified using a plate-reading luminometer.



▪ Assay Performance ▪

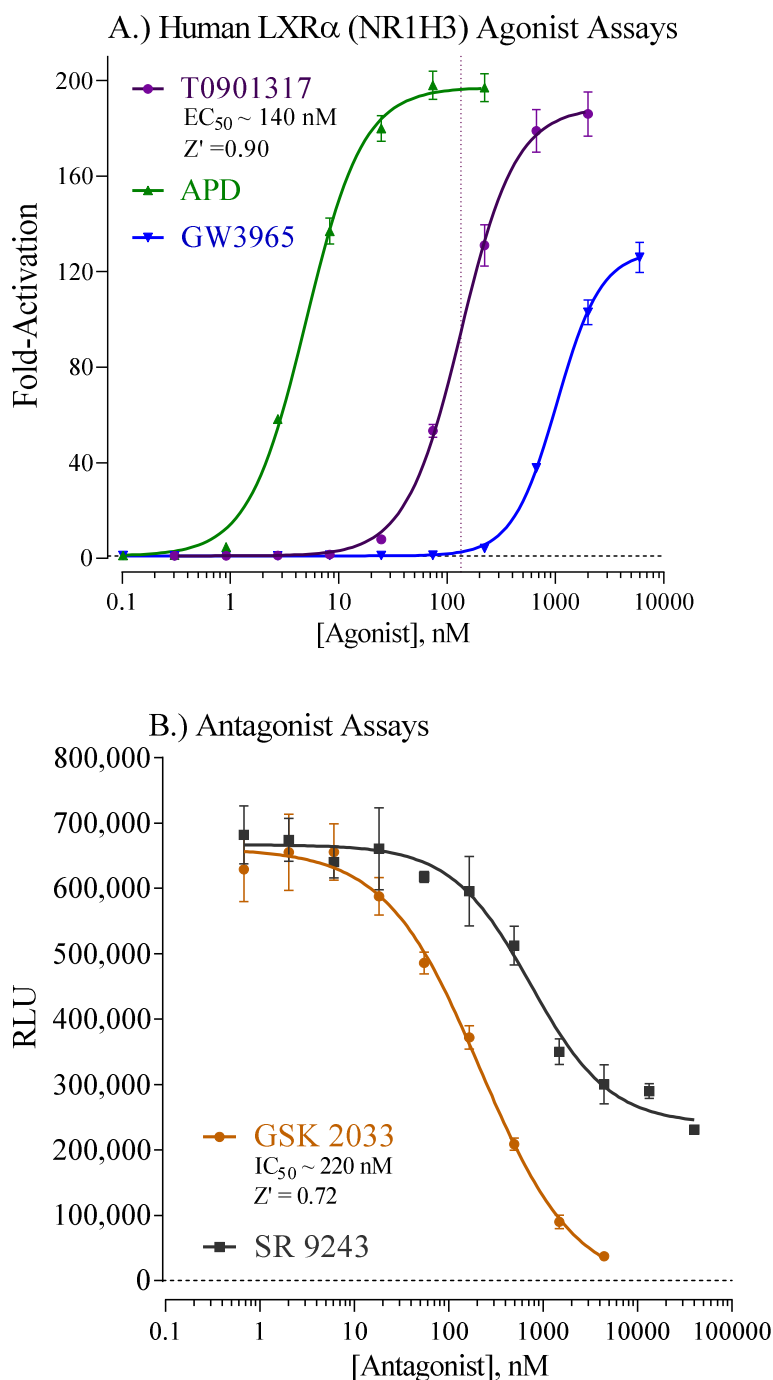


Figure 2. Human LXR α dose-response assays.

A.) Agonist assays. LXR α Reporter Cells were treated with the reference agonists T0901317 (provided), GW3965 (Tocris), or Acetyl Podocarpic Acid (ADP; Cayman Chemical). B.) Antagonist assays. Reporter Cells were treated with the reference antagonists GSK 2033 (Tocris) or SR 9243 (Cayman Chemical). Luminescence was quantified and values of Average RLU and corresponding standard deviation and percent coefficient of variation, and Fold-Activation were calculated for each treatment group (n=4). Z' values were calculated as described by Zhang, *et al.* (1999)¹. Non-linear regression and EC_{50} analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism software.

¹ 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.

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

II. Product Components & Storage Conditions

This Human LXR α Reporter Assay kit contains materials to perform three distinct groups of assays in a 96-well plate format. 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.

The individual aliquots of Reporter Cells are provided as single-use reagents. Once thawed, reporter cells can NOT be refrozen or maintained in extended culture with any hope of retaining downstream assay performance. Therefore, extra volumes of these reagents should be discarded after assay setup.

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, individual kit components may be stored at the temperatures indicated on their respective labels. Alternatively, the entire kit may be further stored at -80°C.

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>
▪ LXR α Reporter Cells	3 x 0.60 mL	-80°C
▪ Cell Recovery Medium (CRM)	1 x 10.5 mL	-20°C
▪ Compound Screening Medium (CSM)	1 x 35 mL	-20°C
▪ TO901317, 10 mM (in DMSO) (reference agonist for LXR α)	1 x 30 μ L	-20°C
▪ Detection Substrate	3 x 2.0 mL	-80°C
▪ Detection Buffer	3 x 2.0 mL	-20°C
▪ Plate frame	1	ambient
▪ Snap-in, 8-well strips (white, sterile, cell-culture ready)	12	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 3*)
- cell culture-rated laminar flow hood.
- 37°C, humidified 5% CO₂ 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*: antagonist reference compound.
- *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 1-8* are performed on **Day 1**, requiring less than 2 hours to complete. *Steps 9-14* 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 EC₅₀ – EC₈₅) of a known agonist AND the test compound(s) to be evaluated for antagonist activity. This LXR α Reporter Assay System kit includes a 10 mM stock solution of **TO901317**, an agonist of LXR α that may be used to setup antagonist-mode assays. 200 nM TO901317 typically approximates EC₇₀₋₈₀ in this reporter assay. Hence, it presents a reasonable assay concentration of agonist to be used when screening test compounds for inhibitory activity.

Adding a 2x-EC₈₀ concentration of challenge agonist to the bulk suspension of Reporter Cells (*i.e.*, prior to dispensing into assay wells) is the most efficient and precise method of setting up antagonist assays, and it is the method presented in *Step 5b* of the following protocol. Note that, in *Step 6*, 100 μ l of treatment media is combined with 100 μ l of pre-dispensed [Reporter Cells + agonist]. Consequently, one must prepare the bulk suspension of Reporter Cells to contain a 2x-EC₈₀ concentration of TO901317 (~ 400 nM).

APPENDIX 1 provides a dilution scheme that may be used as a guide when preparing cell suspension supplemented with a 2x-concentration of TO901317.

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

1.) Remove Cell Recovery Medium (CRM) and Compound Screening Medium (CSM) from freezer storage and thaw in a 37°C water bath.

2.) Prepare dilutions of treatment compounds (first see *Note 5.4*): Prepare Test Compound treatment media for *Agonist-* or *Antagonist-mode* screens.

The final concentration of total DMSO, or any organic solvent, carried over into assay reactions should never exceed 0.4%.

Note that, in *Step 6*, 100 μ l of the prepared treatment media is added into assay wells that have been pre-dispensed with 100 μ l of Reporter Cells. Hence, to achieve the desired *final* assay concentrations one must prepare treatment media with a 2x-concentration of the test and reference material(s). Use **CSM** to prepare the appropriate dilution series. Manage dilution volumes carefully. This assay kit provides 35 ml of CSM.

Preparing the positive control: This LXR α Reporter Assay System kit includes a 10 mM stock solution of **TO901317**, a reference agonist of LXR α . The following 7-point treatment series, with concentrations presented in 3-fold decrements, provides a suitable dose-response: 6000, 2000, 667, 222, 74.1, 24.7, 8.23 nM, and including a 'no treatment' control. **APPENDIX 1** provides an example for generating such a dilution series.

3.) Rapid Thaw of the Reporter Cells: *First*, retrieve the tube of **CRM** from the 37°C water bath and sanitize the outside surface with a 70% ethanol swab.

Second, retrieve **Reporter Cells** from -80°C storage and immerse them in dry ice for transport to the laminar-flow hood: retrieve 1 tube for 32 assay wells, 2 tubes for 64 assay wells, and 3 tubes for 96 assay wells. When ready, transfer the tube(s) of frozen cells into a rack and, *without delay*, perform a rapid thaw of the frozen cells by transferring a 3.0 ml volume of 37°C CRM into each tube of frozen cells. Recap the tube(s) of cells and immediately place them in a 37°C water bath for 5 - 10 minutes. If only one tube of reporter cells is thawed (32 assays), the resulting volume of cell suspension will be 3.6 ml.

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.

4.) Retrieve the tube of Reporter Cell Suspension from the water bath. Sanitize the outside surface of the tube(s) with a 70% alcohol swab, then transfer it into the cell culture hood. If more than one tube cells were thawed, pool the individual tubes into a common reservoir.

5.) *a. Agonist-mode assays.* Gently invert the tube of Reporter Cells several times to disperse cell aggregates and gain a homogenous cell suspension. Without delay, dispense 100 μ l of cell suspension into each well of the assay plate.

~ or ~

b. Antagonist-mode assays. Gently invert the tube of Reporter Cells several times to disperse any cell aggregates, and to gain a homogenous cell suspension. Supplement the bulk suspension of Reporter Cells with the desired 2x-concentration of TO901317 (refer to "A word about antagonist-mode assay setup", pg. 7). Dispense 100 μ l of cell suspension into each well of the assay plate.

NOTE 5.1: If INDIGO's Live Cell Multiplex Assay is to be incorporated, a minimum of 3 'cell blank' wells (meaning cell-free, but containing 'Compound Screening Media') must be included in the assay plate to allow quantification of plate-specific fluorescence background (refer to the LCMA Technical Manual).

NOTE 5.2: Take special care to prevent cells from settling during the dispensing period. Allowing cells to settle during the transfer process, and/or lack of precision in dispensing uniform volumes across the assay plate *will* cause well-to-well variation (= increased Standard Deviation) in the assay.

NOTE 5.3: 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 (100 μ l/well) into a clear 96-well cell culture treated assay plate, followed by 100 μ l/well of CSM. Incubated overnight in identical manner to those reporter cells contained in the white assay plate.

NOTE 5.4: For logistical reasons, some users find it more convenient to first plate the reporter cells and then prepare their test compound dilutions. That strategy works equally well. Once plated, cells may be placed in an incubator for up to 3 hours before proceeding to *Step 6*.

6.) Dispense 100 μ l of 2x-concentration treatment media into appropriate assay wells.

7.) Transfer the assay plate into a cell culture incubator (37°C, humidified 5% CO₂) for 22 - 24 hours.

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

8.) For greater convenience on *Day 2*, retrieve **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 a bench top.

9.) 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.

10.) 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*.

11.) *Immediately before proceeding to Step 12:* 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.

12.) After the 22-24 hours treatment period, remove media contents from each well of the assay plate.

NOTE: Because the assay plate is composed of a frame with snap-in strip-wells, the practice of physically ejecting media is NOT advised. 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 reporter cells and greatly increased well-to-well variability. 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.

13.) 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. Do not shake the assay plate during this period.

14.) Quantify luminescence.

V. Related Products

<i>Product No.</i>	<i>Product Descriptions</i>
LXRα Family of Assay Products	
IB00311-32	Human LXR α Reporter Assay System 3x 32 assays in 96-well format
IB00311	Human LXR α Reporter Assay System 1x 96-well format assay
IB00312	Human LXR α Reporter Assay System 1x 384-well format assays
Bulk volumes of Assay Reagents may be custom manufactured to accommodate any scale of HTS. Please Inquire.	
PANEL of LXR Assays	
IB00321-48P	Human LXR α and LXR β Reporter Assay PANEL 48 assays each performed in 8-well strips (96-well plate format)
LIVE Cell Multiplex (LCM) Assay	
LCM-01	Reagent volumes sufficient to perform 96 Live Cell Assays in 1x96-well, or 2x48-well, or 3x32-well assay plate formats
LCM-05	Reagent in 5x bulk volume to perform 480 Live Cell Assays contained in 5 x 96-well assay plates
LCM-10	Reagent in 10x bulk volume to perform 960 Live Cell Assays contained in 10 x 96-well assay plates

Please refer to INDIGO Biosciences website for updated product offerings.

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VI. Limited Use Disclosures

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

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Product prices, availability, specifications, claims and technical protocols are subject to change without prior notice. The printed Technical Manual provided in the kit box will always be the most current version available.

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APPENDIX 1

Example scheme for the serial dilution of TO901317 reference agonist and the setup of an LXR α dose-response assay.

