M2D2: Perform protein purification protocol

1. Prelab discussion

2. Protein purification

3. Assess RE digest



"Don't pick it up," I say, and he says, "It's just a *plasmid*, what harm could it do?" Well just look at him now...who knows *what* protein he's expressing!

Overview of M2: drug discovery

Research goal: Test small molecules for binding to the *Plasmodium falciparum* FKBP35 protein using a functional assay.



PfFKBP35

- Pf = Plasmodium falciparum
- Essential to parasite survival
- Known drug target for:
 - Rapamycin
 - FK506
- Problem: Has a human ortholog in FKBP12
- How can we target the parasite protein and not the human?



Very Brief Outline of Induction

- 1) Addition of rhamnose causes Genomic Rhamnose Operon to make T7 RNA Polymerase
- 2) T7 RNA Polymerase binds T7 promoter and makes our protein



















Less Brief Outline of Induction

- 1) Rhamnose binds RharR protein that recruits RNA poly to the RharSR promoter **in the genome**
- 2) RharR & RharS get made
- 3) Rhamnose binds RharS that recruits RNA poly to the RhaBAD promoter
- 4) RhaBad promoter makes T7 RNA Poly
- 5) T7 RNA Polymerase binds T7 promoter **on our plasmid** and makes our protein

How do we induce protein expression?



Why do we add kanamycin to our culture? Why do we induce protein expression at $OD_{600} = 0.6$?

Addition of Rhamnose to induce protein expression occurs during the Exponential/log phase of growth

(Or Log Phase)



How will you purify PfFKBP35?

First, need to lyse cells to release proteins:

- B-PER bacterial extraction reagent
 - Detergents & Buffers
- Lysozyme + DNasel
 - Breaks down cell walls, digests DNA
- Protease Inhibitor Cocktail
 - Why?

Preserves our protein



6xHis tag binds to Ni²⁺ resin / column to allow purification of protein of interest via affinity purification





- Ni²⁺ chelated onto agarose resin via nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA) ligand
- His tag chelates to Ni²⁺ causing protein to 'stick' to resin / column

Non-specific binders washed from Ni²⁺ resin / column using a low concentration of imidazole



- Low concentration of imidazole included in wash buffer
- Imidazole competes for binding to Ni²⁺ resin
 - Low affinity binders / non-specific binders are outcompeted and released from the resin

High concentration of imidazole is used to elute the protein from the Ni²⁺ resin / column



- Similar concept to wash
 - Wash uses 50mM imidazole
 - Elution used 250mM imidazole
- Instead of competing away non-specific binding, we can now out-compete the His Tag

Purification process (and where you will save samples)



DNA electrophoresis review



How do you visualize the migration through the gel? Tracking dye / Dye front – Bromophenol blue How do you visualize DNA bands in the gel? SYBR Safe DNA Stain

For today...

- 1. Purify your protein for validation assay
- 2. During a centrifugation step, electrophorese your RE digest

For M2D3...

1. Answer question prompts on the wiki homework to think about how you will create a story from figures in the paper