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SZABO-SCANDIC Handels GmbH

Quellenstraße 110, A-1100 Wien

T. +43(0)1 489 3961-0

F. +43(0)1 489 3961-7

mail@szabo-scandic.com

www.szabo-scandic.com

[linkedin.com/company/szaboscandic](https://www.linkedin.com/company/szaboscandic) 

Description

MRE Luciferase Reporter Lentiviruses (Heavy Metal Stress) are replication incompetent, HIV-based, VSV-G pseudotyped lentiviral particles that are ready to transduce nearly all types of mammalian cells, including primary and non-dividing cells. These viruses contain a firefly luciferase reporter driven by multiple copies of MRE (metal response elements) located upstream of the minimal TATA promoter, and a puromycin selection marker (Figure 1).

After transduction, transcription mediated by MRE can be monitored by measuring luciferase activity.

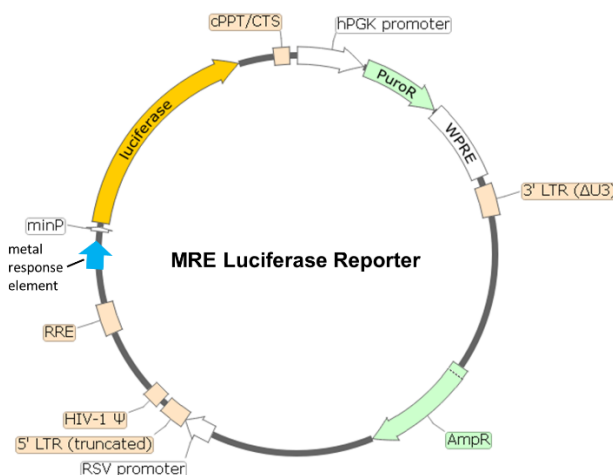


Figure 1. Schematic of the lenti-vector used to generate the MRE Luciferase Reporter Lentivirus (Heavy Metal Stress).

Background

Metal ions are important structural components of many enzymes and cofactors of enzymatic reactions. Essential metals include zinc, copper and iron. Zinc is a common co-factor of hydrolytic enzymes and a structural factor in proteins like zinc finger proteins, known to bind to more than 300 enzymes and 2000 transcription factors. It participates in responses to oxidative stress, DNA replication and repair, cell cycle, apoptosis and aging. It is crucial for the proper development of the brain, and tight control of its levels in the central neural system is essential. In vertebrates, zinc homeostasis is kept via the zinc-dependent regulation of the transcription of metallothioneins (MTs), scavengers of heavy metals that protect against oxidative stress, by the interaction of MTF-1 (MRE-binding transcription factor 1) with MREs (metal response element). MRE is the cis-acting DNA element that can be found in promoters of zinc-regulated genes, and that binds MTF-1 and other zinc-related transcription factors. Dysregulation of metal levels in the organism can lead to pathologies such as Alzheimer's disease, with excess zinc linking to hyperphosphorylated tau aggregation. An understanding of the pathways and partners involved in metal stress regulation will bring benefits to patients suffering from zinc-related diseases.

Application

Generate cell pools or stable cell lines expressing the MRE luciferase reporter following puromycin selection.

Formulation

The lentivirus particles were produced from HEK293T cells. They are supplied in cell culture medium containing 90% DMEM + 10% FBS. Virus particles can be packaged in custom formulations by special request, for an additional fee.

Size and Titer

Two vials (500 µl x 2) of lentivirus at a titer $>10^7$ TU/ml. The titer will vary with each lot; the exact value is provided with each shipment.

Storage

Lentiviruses are shipped with dry ice. For long-term storage, it is recommended to store the lentiviruses at -80°C . Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles. Titters can drop significantly with each freeze/thaw cycle.

Biosafety

The lentiviruses are produced with SIN (self-inactivation) lentivector which ensures self-inactivation of the lentiviral construct after transduction and integration into the genomic DNA of the target cells. None of the HIV genes (gag, pol, rev) will be expressed in the transduced cells, as they are expressed from packaging plasmids lacking the packing signal and are not present in the lentivirus particle. Although the pseudotyped lentiviruses are replication-incompetent, they require the use of a Biosafety Level 2 facility. BPS Bioscience recommends following all local federal, state, and institutional regulations and using all appropriate safety precautions.

Materials Required but Not Supplied

These materials are not supplied with this lentivirus but are necessary to follow the protocol described in the “Validation Data” section. Media, reagents, and Luciferase assay buffers used at BPS Bioscience are all validated and optimized for use with this lentivirus and are highly recommended for best results.

Name	Ordering Information
HepG2 Cells	ATCC #HB-8065
Thaw Medium 1	BPS Bioscience #60187
Assay Medium 1C	BPS Bioscience #78674
ZnCl ₂	Sigma#Z0152
96-well tissue culture, clear-bottom, white plate	Corning #3610
One-Step™ Luciferase Assay System	BPS Bioscience #60690
Luminometer	

Media Formulations

For best results, the use of validated and optimized media from BPS Bioscience is *highly recommended*. Other preparations or formulations of media may result in suboptimal performance.

Media Required for the Proposed Assay

Thaw Medium 1 (BPS Bioscience #60187):

MEM medium supplemented with 10% FBS, 1% non-essential amino acids, 1 mM Na pyruvate, 1% Penicillin/Streptomycin.

Assay Medium 1C (BPS Bioscience #78674)

MEM medium supplemented with 0.5% charcoal stripped FBS, 1% non-essential amino acids, 1 mM Na pyruvate.

Assay Protocol

The following protocol is a general guideline for transducing HepG2 cells using MRE Luciferase Reporter Lentivirus. The optimal transduction conditions (e.g. MOI, concentration of polybrene, time of assay development) should be optimized according to the cell type and the assay requirements. In most cell types, the expression of the reporter gene can be measured approximately 72 hours after transduction. For cell types with low transduction efficacy, it may be necessary to select the cells expressing the reporter gene with puromycin, creating a cell pool or stable cell line, prior to carrying out the reporter assays.

The assay should include “Background Control” (cell-free wells), “Untreated Control” and “Stimulated” conditions.

Day 1:

1. Seed HepG2 cells at a density of 5,000-10,000 cells per well in 90 μ l of Thaw Medium 1 into a white, clear bottom 96-well microplate. Leave empty wells as “Background Control” (to determine the background luminescence).
2. To each well, add 2 μ l of MRE Luciferase Reporter Lentivirus (Heavy Metal Stress).

Optional: Add polybrene to each well to a final concentration of 5 μ g/ml.

3. Gently swirl the plate to mix.
4. Incubate the plate at 37°C with 5% CO₂ for 48 hours.

Day 3:

1. Remove the medium containing the lentivirus from the wells.
2. Add 100 μ l of Assay Medium 1C containing the agonists being tested to the “Stimulated” wells.
3. Add 100 μ l of Assay Medium 1C to the “Untreated Control” wells (to determine the unstimulated luminescence from the transduced HepG2 cells).
4. Add 100 μ l of Assay Medium 1C to the “Background Control” wells (cell-free wells).
5. Incubate the plate at 37°C with 5% CO₂ for 6 hours.
6. Add 100 μ l/well of ONE-Step™ Luciferase assay reagent.
7. Incubate the plate at Room Temperature (RT) for ~15 to 30 minutes.
8. Measure luminescence using a luminometer.

Validation Data

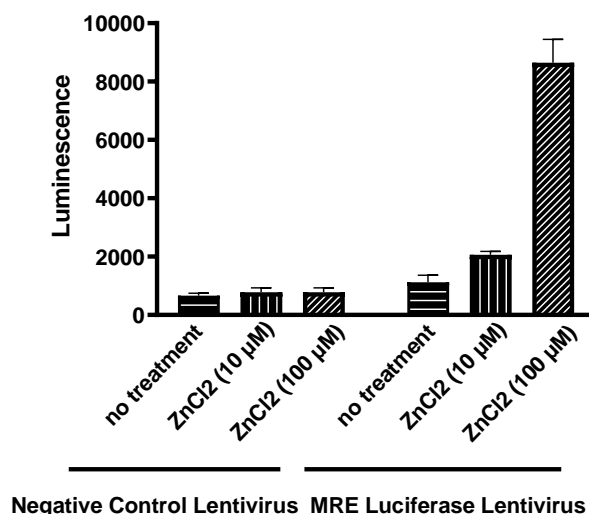


Figure 2. Activation of MRE luciferase reporter activity in HepG2 cells transduced with MRE Luciferase Reporter Lentivirus (Heavy Metal Stress).

Approximately 10,000 HepG2 cells/well were transduced with 50,000 TU/well of MRE Luciferase Reporter Lentivirus (Heavy Metal Stress). After 48 hours of transduction, cells were treated with various concentrations of ZnCl₂ for 6 hours. Luciferase activity was measured using ONE-Step™ Luciferase. Results are shown as the raw luminescence reading.

Data shown is representative. For lot-specific information, please contact BPS Bioscience, Inc. at support@bpsbioscience.com

Notes

1. To generate a MRE luciferase reporter stable cell line, remove the growth medium 48 hours after transduction and replace it with fresh growth medium containing the appropriate amount of puromycin (as pre-determined from a killing curve, [FAQs \(bpsbioscience.com\)](https://www.bpsbioscience.com/FAQs) for antibiotic selection of transduced cells, followed by clonal selection.
2. The following Lentivirus Reporter Controls are available from BPS Bioscience to meet your experimental needs:
 - a. Negative Control Luciferase Lentivirus (BPS Bioscience #79578): Ready-to-transduce lentiviral particles expressing firefly luciferase under the control of a minimal promoter. This negative control is important to establish the specificity of any treatments and to determine the background reporter activity.
 - b. Renilla Luciferase Lentivirus (BPS Bioscience #79565): Ready-to-transduce lentiviral particles expressing Renilla luciferase under the control of a CMV promoter. The Renilla luciferase lentiviruses can serve as an internal control to overcome sample-to-sample variability when performing dual-luciferase reporter assays.

- c. Firefly Luciferase Lentivirus (BPS Bioscience #79692-G, #79692-H, #79692-P): Ready-to-transduce lentiviral particles expressing firefly luciferase under the control of a CMV promoter. It serves as a positive control for transduction optimization studies.

Reading Luminescence

Luminescence is the emission of light resulting from a chemical reaction. The detection of luminescence requires no wavelength selection because the method used is emission photometry and not emission spectrophotometry.

To properly read luminescence, make sure the plate reader is set for LUMINESCENCE mode. Typical integration time is 1 second, delay after plate movement is 100 msec. Do not use a filter when measuring light emission. Typical settings for the Synergy 2 BioTek plate reader: use the “hole” position on the filter wheel; Optics position: Top; Read type: endpoint. Sensitivity may be adjusted based on the luminescence of a control assay.

References

Giedroc D., *et al.*, 2001 *Antioxidants & Redox Signaling* 3(4): 577-596.

Li Z., *et al.*, 2023 *Biomolecules* 13(1):28.

Troubleshooting Guide

Visit bpsbioscience.com/lentivirus-faq for detailed troubleshooting instructions. For all further questions, please email support@bpsbioscience.com.

Related Products

<i>Products</i>	<i>Catalog #</i>	<i>Size</i>
Negative Control Luciferase Lentivirus	79578	500 µl x 2
Firefly Luciferase Lentivirus	79692	500 µl x 2
Renilla Luciferase Lentivirus	79565	500 µl x 2