# PathHunter® Dimerization Bioassay Kit

For chemiluminescent detection of protein dimerization Simple Solutions for Complex Biology 



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Read the entire product insert before beginning the assay For additional information or Technical Support, contact support@discoverx.com or visit www.discoverx.com.



### **Overview**

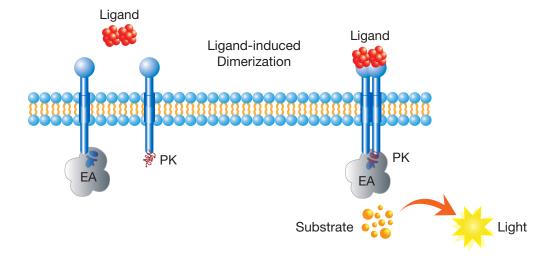
#### **Intended Use**

PathHunter® Dimerization Bioassay Kits provide a robust, highly sensitive and easy-to-use, cell-based functional assay to study receptor-receptor interactions at the cell surface. The Bioassay kits contain all the reagents needed for a complete assay including cells, detection reagents, cell plating reagent, positive control agonist, and assay plates. The pre-validated, frozen bioassay cells have been manufactured for single use and are provided in a ready-to-assay format that saves time and adds convenience. Assays have been designed for 96-well and 384-well plate formats.

#### **Technology Principle: PathHunter Dimerization Bioassay**

These assays utilize Enzyme Fragment Complementation (EFC) technology, where the  $\beta$ -galactosidase ( $\beta$ -gal) enzyme is split into two fragments, ProLink (PK) and Enzyme Acceptor (EA). Independently these fragments have no  $\beta$ -gal activity; however, when forced to complement through protein-protein interactions, they form an active  $\beta$ -gal enzyme.

The PathHunter Dimerization Bioassay detects ligand induced dimerization of two subunits of a receptor-dimer pair. The cells have been engineered to co-express one receptor subunit (target protein 1) fused to Enzyme Donor (ED), and a second dimer partner (target protein 2) fused to Enzyme Acceptor (EA). Binding of an agonist to one receptor subunit induces it to interact with its dimer partner, forcing complementation of the two enzyme fragments. This results in the formation of a functional enzyme that hydrolyzes a substrate to generate a chemiluminescent signal.





#### **Materials Provided**

List of Components	
Description	Contents
PathHunter Dimerization Bioassay Cells	10 vials
PathHunter Bioassay Detection Kit	1,000 dp
Detection Reagent 1	10 mL
Detection Reagent 2	40 mL
AssayComplete Cell Plating Reagent*	3 x 100 mL
Protein Dilution Buffer	2 x 50 mL
Control Agonist*	1 vial
96-well TC Treated, Sterile Plates w/lid	10 plates

<sup>\*</sup>Refer to the target-specific data sheet for the optimized Cell Plating Reagent and control agonist included with each kit

## **Storage Conditions**

#### **PathHunter Dimerization Bioassay Cells**

Cells are shipped on dry ice and should arrive in a frozen state. To ensure maximum cell viability, thaw the vials as soon as possible upon receipt.

If continued storage of the frozen vials is necessary, store as follows:

- Short term (2 weeks or less): Store vials at -80°C immediately upon arrival. (DO NOT store at -80°C for more than 2 weeks).
- Long term (greater than 2 weeks): Vials should ONLY be stored in the vapor phase of liquid nitrogen (LN<sub>2</sub>).

**Safety Warning:** A face shield, gloves and lab coat should be worn at all times when handling frozen vials. The manufacturer of the cryovial recommends storing the vials in the vapor phase above the LN<sub>2</sub>. Upon thawing, if LN<sub>2</sub> is present in the cryovial, it rapidly converts back to its gas phase which can result in the explosion of the vial upon its removal from the LN<sub>2</sub> tank.

#### **PathHunter Bioassay Detection Kit**

Store at -20°C. Once thawed, the detection reagents can be kept at 4°C for up to 4 days. For longer storage (up to the expiration date listed in the kit certificate of analysis), the reagent should be aliquoted and stored at -20°C until needed. Avoid multiple freeze-thaw cycles.

To make aliquots suitable for testing one assay plate each, 1 mL of Detection Reagent 1 per aliquot can be dispensed and frozen down. 4 mL of Detection Reagent 2 per aliquot can be dispensed and frozen down separately. Do not mix the two reagents during aliquoting.

#### **AssayComplete Cell Plating Reagent**

Once thawed, the Cell Plating Reagent can be stored at 4°C for up to 4 weeks. For longer storage (up to the expiration date listed in the kit certificate of analysis), the reagent should be aliquoted and stored at -20°C until needed. Avoid multiple freeze-thaw cycles.



To make aliquots suitable for testing one assay plate each, 30 mL of reagent per aliquot can be dispensed and frozen down.

#### **Protein Dilution Buffer**

Once thawed, the Protein Dilution Buffer can be stored at 4°C for up to 4 weeks. For longer storage (up to the expiration date listed in the kit certificate of analysis), the reagent should be aliquoted and stored at -20°C until needed. Avoid multiple freeze-thaw cycles.

To make aliquots suitable for testing one assay plate each, 10 mL of reagent per aliquot should be dispensed and frozen down. This amount may vary depending on your stock sample concentrations and should be adjusted accordingly.

#### **96-well Tissue Culture Treated Plates**

Store at room temperature.

## **Additional Materials Required**

The following equipment and additional materials are required to perform these assays:

#### **Equipment**

Single and multichannel micro-pipettors and pipette tips

Multimode or luminescence plate reader

V-Bottom 96-well ligand dilution plates (DiscoveRx, Cat. #92-0011 or similar)

Disposable Reagent Reservoir (Thermo Scientific, Cat. #8094 or similar)



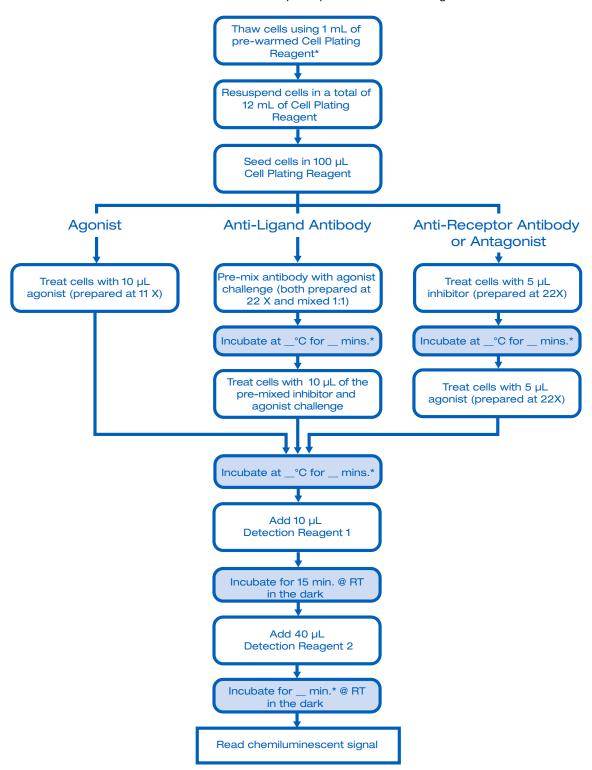
## **Protocol Schematic**

Гір:	Use this	sheet	to note	your	assay	/ spe	cific cond	ditions.	
	Post on	your be	ench to	use	as a c	uick	reference	e guide	

Assay Name:_	
-	

Product Number:

Quick-Start Procedure: In a 96-well tissue culture treated plate perform the following:



<sup>\*</sup> Refer to the target-specific datasheet for recommended CP reagent, incubation times and temperatures.



## **Detailed Protocols**

#### **PathHunter Dimerization Bioassay Cell Preparation:**

The following protocol is for thawing and plating frozen PathHunter Bioassay cells from cryovials. These assays are optimized for 96- and 384-well plates. For volumes associated with 384-well format, please refer to page 12.

- Before thawing the cells, ensure that all the necessary materials required are set up in the tissue culture hood. This
  includes:
  - a. One 25 mL reagent reservoir.
  - b. One 15 mL conical tube.
  - c. A micropipettor (P1000) set to dispense 1 mL.
  - d. A multichannel pipette and tips set to dispense 100  $\mu$ L.
  - e. A bottle of Cell Plating Reagent (pre-warmed in a 37°C water bath for 15 minutes). Refer to the target-specific datasheet for the recommended Cell Plating Reagent.
  - f. A white-walled 96-well assay plate.
- Dispense 12 mL of Cell Plating Reagent into the 15 mL conical tube
- 3. Remove the cryovial from liquid nitrogen and immediately place in dry ice.

**DO NOT** use heated water bath to thaw the vial. Wait at least one minute for any liquid N<sub>2</sub> inside the vial to evaporate, then remove the cryovial from dry ice, wipe down quickly with 70% EtOH, and immediately bring it into the tissue culture hood. **DO NOT** touch the sides or bottom of the vial to avoid thawing of the cell pellet through body heat.

- 4. Thaw the pellet by immediately adding 1 mL (using P1000) of pre-warmed Cell Plating Reagent from the 15 mL conical tube to the cryovial. The medium should be added slowly along the side of the wall of cryovial tube. Mix the cells gently by pipetting up and down several times to break up any clumps. Transfer the cell suspension to the conical tube containing the remaining 11 mL of Cell Plating Reagent. Remove any medium/suspension left in the tube to ensure complete recovery of all the cells from the vial.
- 5. Mix the tube by inversion to ensure the cells are properly mixed in the medium without creating any froth in the suspension and immediately pour the suspension into the reagent reservoir.
- 6. Add 100 µL of cells to each well of the 96-well assay plate using the multichannel pipette.
- Let the assay plate sit for 15 minutes at room temperature, then gently place the assay plate in a tissue culture incubator set to 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 0-48 hours prior to testing (refer to target-specific datasheet for recommended incubation time).

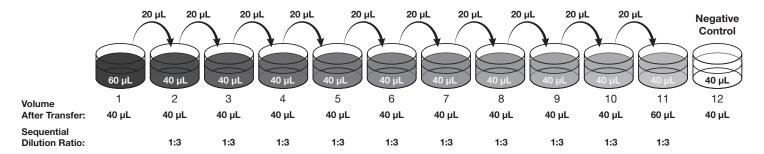


#### **Ligand Preparation**

The following protocol is designed for testing purified biologics. The PathHunter assays can also be run in the presence of high levels of serum or plasma without significantly impacting assay performance. Therefore, standard curves of control can typically be prepared in neat serum or plasma and added directly to cells without further dilution. For the best results, the optimized minimum required dilution (MRD) of crude samples should be empirically determined.

#### Method 1

A 1:3 serial dilution. This method is simple to run and covers a broad concentration range, making it ideal for initial assay optimization. The volumes listed below are designed for running samples from one dose response curve in triplicate on the assay plate (as pictured in the assay plate map on page 11).



- 1. Sample Preparation Samples are prepared differently based on their primary mode of action: agonists that activate the pathway, anti-receptor antibodies or antagonists that bind to the receptor and block agonist activity, or antiligand antibodies that bind to and prevent agonist ligands from binding to the receptor.
  - a. Agonists Prepare the reference agonist or sample agonist dose response curve(s). Agonists are prepared at 11X the desired final concentration. For each agonist:
    - i. Add 60 μL of 11X agonist to column 1 of a master dilution plate (e.g. a V-bottom polypropylene 96-well dilution plate, DiscoveRx Cat. #92-0011 or similar).
    - ii. Add 40 µL of Protein Dilution Buffer (PDB) to columns 2-12 of the same row on the master dilution plate.
    - iii. Using a clean tip, transfer 20 μL from column 1 into column 2 and mix by pipetting up and down several times. Replace the pipette tip, and transfer 20 μL from column 2 into column 3. Mix by pipetting up and down several times. Repeat this process until column 11 is reached, resulting in an eleven point, 1:3 dilution series. No ligand is transferred to column 12 as this will serve as a negative control.
  - b. Anti-receptor antibodies or antagonists These samples are prepared at 22X the desired final concentration, and are typically pre-incubated with the cells prior to adding a challenge dose of the reference agonist.
    - i. Add 60µL of 22X sample to column 1 on a new row of the master dilution plate.
    - ii. Add 40 μL of Protein Dilution Buffer (PDB) to columns 2 through 12 of this row of the master dilution plate.
    - iii. Using a clean tip, transfer 20 μL from column 1 into column 2 and mix by pipetting up and down several times. Replace the pipette tip, and transfer 20 μL from column 2 into column 3. Mix by pipetting up and down several times. Repeat this process until column 11 is reached, resulting in an eleven point, 1:3 dilution series. No ligand is transferred to column 12 as this will serve as a negative control.



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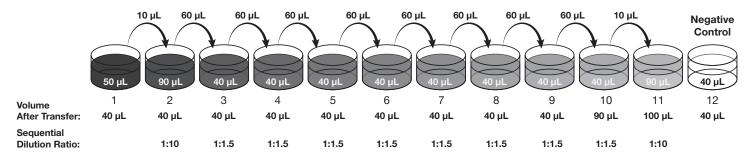
- iv. Prepare the agonist challenge. Determine the EC<sub>80</sub> of the reference agonist and prepare the agonist challenge at 22x this desired final concentration.
- v. Remove the assay plate from the 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator.
- vi. Add 5 µL of 22x inhibitor to the appropriate wells of the assay plate. Pre-incubating the inhibitor on the cells prior to the addition of the agonist may decrease background signal and improve the assay window. The optimal pre-incubation time can be determined empirically. A typical incubation time is 15-30 min.
- vii. Once the pre-incubation is complete, add 5 µL of 22x agonist challenge to the appropriate wells of the assay plate.
- c. Anti-ligand antibody These samples are prepared at 22X the desired final concentration, and are typically preincubated with their target antigen prior to adding to the assay plate.
  - Add 60 µL of 22X anti-ligand antibody sample to column 1 on a new row of the master dilution plate.
  - Add 40 µL of Protein Dilution Buffer (PDB) to columns 2 through 12 of this row of the master dilution plate.
  - iii. Using a clean tip, transfer 20 μL from column 1 into column 2 and mix by pipetting up and down several times. Replace the pipette tip, and transfer 20 µL from column 2 into column 3. Mix by pipetting up and down several times. Repeat this process until column 11 is reached, resulting in an eleven point, 1:3 dilution series. No ligand is transferred to column 12 as this will serve as a negative control.
  - iv. Prepare the agonist challenge. Determine the EC<sub>80</sub> of the reference agonist and prepare the agonist challenge at 22x the desired final concentration.
  - v. Add 20 µL of 22x agonist challenge and 20 µL of the 22x inhibitor dilution series to columns 1-11 of a premixing plate (e.g. a V-bottom polypropylene 96-well dilution plate, DiscoveRx Cat. #92-0011 or similar). 40 μL of PDB can be added to the negative control well of column 12 to maintain equal volumes in all wells. Mix the contents of the pre-mixing plate wells thouroughly by pipetting up and down. Pre-incubating the antibody with the agonist challenge before continuing may decrease background signal and improve the assay window. The optimal pre-incubation time can be determined empirically. A typical incubation time is 15-30 min.
  - vi. After the pre-incubation, remove the assay plate from the 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator and add 10 μL from each well of the pre-incubation plate to the appropriate wells of the assay plate.
- 2. Add 10 µL from the agonist reference curve and any agonist samples on the master dilution plate to the appropriate wells of the assay plate.
- 3. Return the assay plate to the 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator and incubate at the temperature and time indicated on the product insert.



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#### Method 2

This method covers a smaller concentration range in order to generate more data points within the linear range of the dose response curve, and is suitable for testing ligands with known pharmacology in this assay platform. The volumes listed below are designed for running samples from one dose response curve in triplicate on the assay plate (as pictured in the example assay plate map on page 11).



- 1. Sample Preparation Samples are prepared differently based on their primary mode of action: agonists that activate the pathway, anti-receptor antibodies or antagonists that bind to the receptor and block agonist activity, or antiligand antibodies that bind to and prevent agonist ligands from binding to the receptor.
  - a. Agonists Prepare the reference agonist or sample agonist dose response curve(s). Agonists are prepared at 11X the desired final concentration. For each agonist:
    - i. Add 50 μL of 11X agonist to column 1 of a master dilution plate (e.g. a V-bottom 96-well dilution plate, DiscoveRx 92-0011 or similar).
    - ii. Add 90  $\mu$ L of PDB to columns 2 and 11. Then add 40  $\mu$ L of PDB to the remaining nine empty wells in the same row.
    - iii. Using a clean tip, transfer 10  $\mu$ L from column 1 into column 2 and mix by pipetting up and down several times with a pipettor set to 60  $\mu$ L.
    - iv. Replace the pipette tip, and transfer 60 µL from column 2 into column 3. Mix by pipetting up and down several times. Repeat this process until column 10 is reached.
    - v. Using a clean tip, transfer 10  $\mu$ L from column 10 into column 11 and mix by pipetting up and down several times with a pipettor set to 60  $\mu$ L.
  - b. Anti-receptor antibodies or antagonists These samples are prepared at 22X the desired final concentration, and are typically pre-incubated with the cells prior to adding a challenge dose of the reference agonist.
    - i. Add 50 μL of 22X sample to column 1 on a new row of the master dilution plate.
    - ii. Add 90  $\mu$ L of PDB to columns 2 and 11. Then add 40  $\mu$ L of PDB to the remaining nine empty wells in the same row.
    - iii. Using a clean tip, transfer 10  $\mu$ L from column 1 into column 2 and mix by pipetting up and down several times with a pipettor set to 60  $\mu$ L.
    - iv. Replace the pipette tip, and transfer 60 µL from column 2 into column 3. Mix by pipetting up and down several times. Repeat this process until column 10 is reached.



- v. Using a clean tip, transfer 10  $\mu$ L from column 10 into column 11 and mix by pipetting up and down several times with a pipettor set to 60  $\mu$ L.
- vi. Prepare the agonist challenge. Determine the EC<sub>80</sub> of the reference agonist and prepare the agonist challenge at 22x this desired final concentration.
- vii. Remove the assay plate from the 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator.
- viii. Add 5 µL of 22x inhibitor to the appropriate wells of the assay plate. Pre-incubating the inhibitor on the cells prior to the addition of the agonist may decrease background signal and improve the assay window. The optimal pre-incubation time can be determined empirically. A typical incubation time is 15-30 minutes.
- ix. Once the pre-incubation is complete, add 5  $\mu$ L of 22x agonist challenge to the appropriate wells of the assay plate.
- c. Anti-ligand antibody These samples are prepared at 22X the desired final concentration, and are typically preincubated with their target antigen prior to adding to the assay plate.
  - i. Add 50  $\mu$ L of 22X anti-ligand antibody sample to column 1 on a new row of the master dilution plate.
  - ii. Add 90  $\mu$ L of PDB to columns 2 and 11. Then add 40  $\mu$ L of PDB to the remaining nine empty wells in the same row.
  - iii. Using a clean tip, transfer 10  $\mu$ L from column 1 into column 2 and mix by pipetting up and down several times with a pipettor set to 60  $\mu$ L.
  - iv. Replace the pipette tip, and transfer 60 μL from column 2 into column 3. Mix by pipetting up and down several times. Repeat this process until column 10 is reached.
  - v. Using a clean tip, transfer 10  $\mu$ L from column 10 into column 11 and mix by pipetting up and down several times with a pipettor set to 60  $\mu$ L.
  - vi. Prepare the agonist challenge. Determine the EC<sub>80</sub> of the reference agonist and prepare the agonist challenge at 22x this desired final concentration.
  - vii. Add 20 μL of the 22x inhibitor dilution series and 20 μL of the 22x agonist challenge to columns 1-11 of a pre-mixing plate (e.g. a V-bottom polypropylene 96-well dilution plate, DiscoveRx Cat. #92-0011 or similar). 40 μL of PDB can be added to the negative control well of column 12 to maintain equal volumes in all wells. Mix the contents of this pre-mixing plate wells thouroughly by pipetting up and down. Pre-incubating the antibody with the agonist challenge before continuing may decrease background signal and improve the assay window. The optimal pre-incubation time can be determined empirically. A typical incubation time is 15-30 minutes.
  - viii. After the pre-incubation, add 10 μL from each well of the pre-incubation plate to the appropriate wells of the assay plate.
- 2. Add 10  $\mu$ L from the agonist reference curve and any agonist samples on the master dilution plate to the appropriate wells of the assay plate.
- 3. Return the assay plate to the 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator and incubate at the temperature and time indicated on the product insert.



#### **Detection**

- 1. Using a multichannel pipette, add 10 µL of Detection Reagent 1 to each well of the assay plate.
- 2. Incubate the plate at room temperature for 15 minutes in the dark.
- 3. Using a multichannel pipette add 40 µL of Detection Reagent 2 to each well of the assay plate.
- 4. Incubate the plate at the temperature and time indicated on the product insert in the dark.
- 5. Read sample on a standard luminescence plate reader at 0.1 to 1 second/well for photomultiplier tube (PMT) readers of 5-10 seconds for imager.

Note: For crude biologic samples, gently removing the liquid from all wells and replacing with 100 µL of Cell Plating Reagent before the addition of the detection reagents can result in higher signal. Additional Cell Plating Reagent is necessary for this method.



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#### Representative Plate Maps for Agonist/Inhibitor Curves

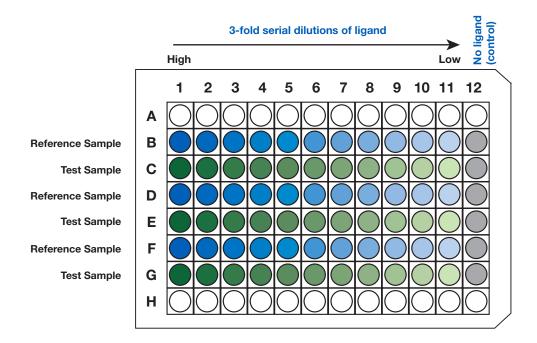


Figure 1. Serial dilution method 1. This plate map shows 11-point dose curves with 3 data points at each concentration for one reference and one test sample per plate, with a 1:3 serial dilution scheme.

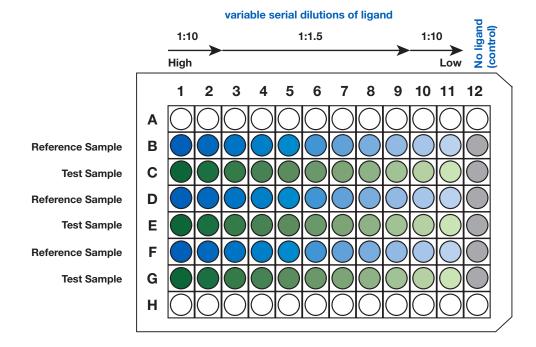


Figure 2. Serial dilution method 2. This plate map shows an 11 point dose curve with 3 data points at each concentration for one reference and one test sample per plate, with a variable serial dilution scheme.



#### **Assay Formats Table**

PathHunter Certified Assay Format			
Plate Format	96-well	384-well	
Total Volume	160 μL	37.5 μL	
Cell Numbers	10,000	5,000	
AssayComplete Cell Plating Reagents*	100 μL	20 μL	
Test Sample	10 μL	5 μL	
Bioassay Detection Reagents	50 μL	12.5 μL	

<sup>\*</sup>AssayComplete Cell Plating Reagent volume used to resuspend cells for assay plates

Related Products	
Description	Ordering Information
PathHunter Bioassay Detection Reagents	www.discoverx.com/detectionreagents
Cell Culture Kits, Reagents & Consumables	www.discoverx.com/cell-culture-kits-reagents-consumables
Control Ligands	www.discoverx.com/controlligands

Instrument Compa	atibility Chart	
Assay	Instrument	Read-Out
All PathHunter® assays	COMPATIBLE WITH ANY LUMINOMETER BMG: PheraStar, Cytostar, LumiStar	Luminescence
HitHunter® cAMP HitHunter® cGMP	Perkin Elmer: TopCount, Victor 2 or V, Fusion, LumiCount, Envision, Micro-beta (Trilux), Viewlux, Northstar	
	GE: LEAD seeker, Farcyte	
	<b>Molecular Devices:</b> FLIPR, SpectraMax M3/M4/M5/M5e, FlexStation 3, SpectraMax L	
	Tecan: Ultra, Evolution	
	Turner BioSystems: Modulus Microplate	
	Caliper LabChip 3000 & EZ Reader	
	Berthold Technologies: Mithras LB940, CentroLIApc	
	Hamamatsu: FDS6000, FDSS/RayCatcher	
	Thermo Scientific: Luminoskan Ascent	
	Biotek: Synergy 2	

<sup>\*</sup>For other instruments not listed here, please contact technical support at support@discoverx.com to ensure compatibility.



## **Troubleshooting Guide**

Problem	Cause	Solution		
No Response	Improper thawing procedure	Refer to thawing instructions on page 5 of this user manual		
	Improper ligand used or improper ligand incubation time	See datasheet for recommended ligand and assay conditions		
	Improper preparation of ligand (agonist or antagonist)	Refer to vendor specific datasheet to ensure proper handling, dilution and storage of ligand		
	Improper time course for induction	Optimize time course of induction with agonist and antagonist		
Decreased Response	Cells are not adherent and exhibit incorrect morphology	Confirm adherence of cells using microscope		
Low or No Signal	Improper preparation of detection reagents	Detection reagents should ideally be prepared just prior to use and are sensitive to light		
	Problem with microplate reader	Microplate reader should be in luminescence mode. Read at 0.1-1 sec/well		
Experimental S:B does not	Incorrect incubation temperature	Confirm assay conditions		
match datasheet value		Check and repeat assay at correct incubation temperature as indicated on the assay datasheet		
	Improper preparation of ligand (agonist or antagonist)	Some ligands are difficult to handle. Confirm the final concentration of ligands		
EC <sub>50</sub> is right-shifted	Improper ligand handling or storage	Check ligand handling requirements		
	Difference in agonist binding affinity	Confirm that the ligand used is comparable to the ligand in the Product Insert		
	Problems with plate type and compound stability	Hydrophobic compounds should be tested for solubility and may be diluted in Protein Dilution Buffer		
		Non-binding surface plates may be necessary for hydrophobic compounds		

 $For additional \ information \ or \ technical \ support \ at \ support \ @discoverx.com.$ 



## **Limited Use License Agreement**

**A.** This product and/or its use is covered by U.S. patents #8,541,175 and #8,679,832 and/or related foreign patents and pending applications and trade secrets that are either owned by or licensed to DiscoveRx Corporation ("DiscoveRx"). The cells and detection reagents (collectively "Materials") purchased from DiscoveRx are expressly restricted in their use. DiscoveRx has developed a Cell-Based Dimerization assay ("Assay") that employs genetically modified cells and vectors (collectively, the "Cells"), and related detection reagents (the "Reagents") (collectively referred to as "Materials"). By purchasing and using the Materials, the Purchaser agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions of this label license and recognizes and agrees to such restrictions:

- 1. Purchaser will not further propagate the Cells included in the Assay kit.
- 2. Purchaser is permitted to use the Cells only for use in the Assay and in connection with Reagents purchased from DiscoveRx or its authorized distributor.
- 3. The Materials are not transferable and will be used only at the site for which they were purchased. Transfer to another site owned by Purchaser will be permitted only upon written request by Purchaser followed by subsequent written approval by DiscoveRx.
- 4. The Reagents contain or are based upon the proprietary and valuable know-how developed by DiscoveRx, and the Reagents have been optimized by DiscoveRx to function more effectively with the Cells in performing the Assay. Purchaser will not analyze or reverse engineer the Materials nor have them analyzed on Purchaser's behalf.
- 5. In performing the Assay, Purchaser will use only Reagents supplied by DiscoveRx or an authorized DiscoveRx distributor for the Materials.
- 6. Purchaser will not use the Cells with any other reagents or substrates, other than the Reagents that are provided by or purchased from DiscoveRx or an authorized DiscoveRx distributor, in connection with the Materials.
- 7. The number of Assays performed will not exceed the authorized number for which Materials were purchased.
- **B.** The use of this cell line may require third party licenses. Purchaser shall have the sole responsibility for obtaining any such licenses prior to use of the cell lines.

If the purchaser has any further questions regarding the rights conferred with purchase of the Materials, please contact:

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Fremont, CA 94538 USA
t | 1.510.979.1415 x 104
e | info@discoverx.com

