ScienCell™
Research Laboratories

GeneQuery™ Human Focal Adhesion Complexes qPCR Array Kit (GQH-FAC)
Catalog #GK106

Product Description

ScienCell's GeneQuery™ Human Focal Adhesion Complexes qPCR Array Kit (GQH-FAC) profiles 88 key genes involved in the regulation and formation of focal adhesions. Focal adhesions are large macromolecular complexes by which the cell interacts with its extracellular matrix (ECM) environment. They are involved in such diverse processes as interpreting mechanical force, regulating cell adhesion and motility, and contributing to intracellular signaling transduction. Integrins and focal adhesion kinase (PTK2) are the main regulatory elements of focal adhesions. Brief examples of how included genes may be categorized are shown below:

- **FAK signaling:** CCND1, FYN, PTK2, RHOA, SRC
- **Cytoskeletal elements:** ACTB, ACTN1, ACTN3, FLNA, VCL
- **ECM components:** COL1A2, COL2A1, COL4A2, FN1, LAMC3
- **ECM binding elements:** ITGA1, ITGA5, ITGAM, ITGB1, ITGB3
- **Signaling transduction genes:** ARHGAP5, ELK1, HGF, JUN, KDR

GeneQuery™ qPCR array kits are qPCR ready in a 96-well plate format, with each well containing one primer set that recognizes and efficiently amplifies a specific target gene's cDNA. The carefully designed primers ensure that: (i) the optimal annealing temperature in qPCR analysis is 65°C (with 2 mM Mg^{2+} and no DMSO); (ii) the primer set recognizes all known transcript variants of the target gene, unless otherwise noted; and (iii) only one gene is amplified. Each primer set has been validated by qPCR with melt curve analysis and gel electrophoresis.

GeneQuery™ qPCR Array Kit Controls

Each GeneQuery™ plate contains eight controls (Figure 1):
- Five target housekeeping genes (ACTB, GAPDH, LDHA, NONO, and PPIH), which enable normalization of data.
- The Genomic DNA (gDNA) Control (GDC), which detects gDNA contamination in cDNA samples. This primer set targets a non-transcribed region of the genome.
- Positive PCR Control (PPC), which tests whether samples contain inhibitors or other factors that may negatively affect gene expression results. The PPC consists of a predispensed synthetic DNA template and a primer set that can amplify it. The sequence of the DNA template is not present in the human genome and thus tests the efficiency of the polymerase chain reaction itself.
- The No Template Control (NTC), which can be used to monitor DNA contamination introduced during workflow (e.g. from such sources as reagents, tips, and the lab bench).

Kit Components

Component	Cat #	Quantity	Storage
GeneQuery™ array plate with lyophilized primers	GK106	1	4°C or -20°C
Optical PCR plate seal	N/A	1	RT
Nuclease-free H$_2$O	GQ100-1	2	4°C

Additional Materials Required (Materials Not Included in Kit)

Component	Recommended
Reverse transcriptase	First-Strand cDNA Synthesis Master Mix, 4x (ScienCell, Cat #MB6008)
cDNA template	Customers' samples
qPCR master mix	GoldNStart TaqGreen qPCR Master Mix (ScienCell, Cat #MB6018)

Quality Control

All primer sets are validated by qPCR with melt curve analysis and analyzed by gel electrophoresis. Single band amplification is confirmed for each set of primers.

Product Use

GQH-FAC is for research use only. It is not approved for human or animal use or for application in clinical or *in vitro* diagnostic procedures.

Shipping and Storage

This product is shipped at ambient temperature. Upon receipt, the plate should be stored at 4°C and is good for up to 12 months. For long-term storage (>1 year), store at -20°C in a manual defrost freezer.

Procedures

Note: The primers in each well are lyophilized.

1. Prior to use, allow plates to warm to room temperature.
2. Briefly centrifuge at 1,500x g for 1 minute before slowly peeling off the seal.
3. Prepare 20 µl PCR reactions for one well as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

cDNA template	0.2 – 250 ng
2x qPCR master mix	10 µl
Nuclease-free H$_2$O	variable
Total volume	*20 µl*

*Important: **Only** use polymerases with hot-start capability to prevent possible primer-dimer formation. **Only** use nuclease-free reagents in PCR amplification.*

4. Add the mixture of 2x qPCR master mix, cDNA template, and nuclease-free H$_2$O to each well containing the lyophilized primers. Seal the plate with the provided optical PCR plate seal.

   Important: In NTC control well, do NOT add cDNA template. Add 2x qPCR master mix and nuclease-free H2O only.

5. Briefly centrifuge the plates at 1,500x g for 1 minute at room temperature. For maximum reliability, replicates are strongly recommended (minimum of 3).

6. For PCR program setup, please refer to the instructions of the master mix of the user's choice. We recommend a typical 3-step qPCR protocol for a 200nt amplicon:

Three-step cycling protocol

Step	Temperature	Time	Number of cycles
Initial denaturation	95°C	10 min	1
Denaturation	95°C	20 sec	
Annealing	65°C	20 sec	40
Extension	72°C	20 sec	
Data acquisition	Plate read		
Recommended	*Melting curve analysis*		1
Hold	4°C	Indefinite	1

7. (Optional) Load the PCR products on 1.5% agarose gel and perform electrophoresis to confirm the single band amplification in each well.

Figure 1. Layout of GeneQuery™ qPCR array kit controls.

Table 2. Interpretation of control results:

Controls	Results	Interpretation	Suggestions
Housekeeping gene controls	Variability of a housekeeping gene's Cq value	The expression of the housekeeping gene is variable in samples; cycling program is incorrect	Choose a constantly expressed target, or analyze expression levels of multiple housekeeping genes; use correct cycling program and make sure that all cycle parameters have been correctly entered
gDNA Control (GDC)	$Cq \geq 35$	No gDNA detected	N/A
	$Cq < 35$	The sample is contaminated with gDNA	Perform DNase digestion during RNA purification step
Positive PCR Control (PPC)	$Cq > 30$; or The Cq variations > 2 between qPCR Arrays.	Poor PCR performance; possible PCR inhibitor in reactions; cycling program incorrect	Eliminate inhibitor by purifying samples; use correct cycling program and make sure that all cycle parameters have been correctly entered
No Template Control (NTC)	Positive	DNA contamination in workflow	Eliminate sources of DNA contamination (reagents, plastics, etc.)

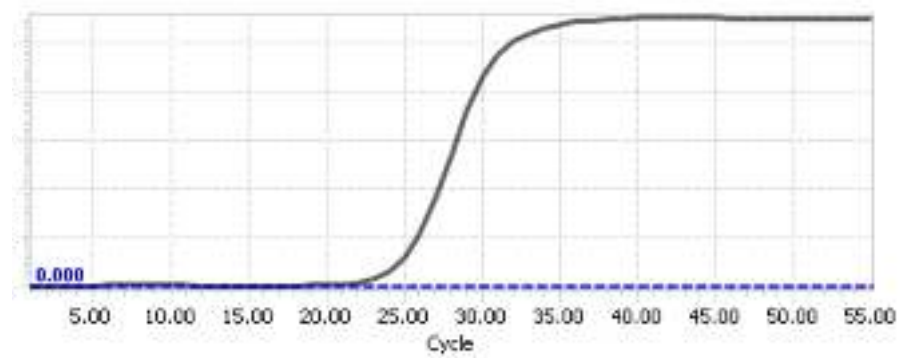Figure 2. A typical amplification curve showing the amplification of a qPCR product.
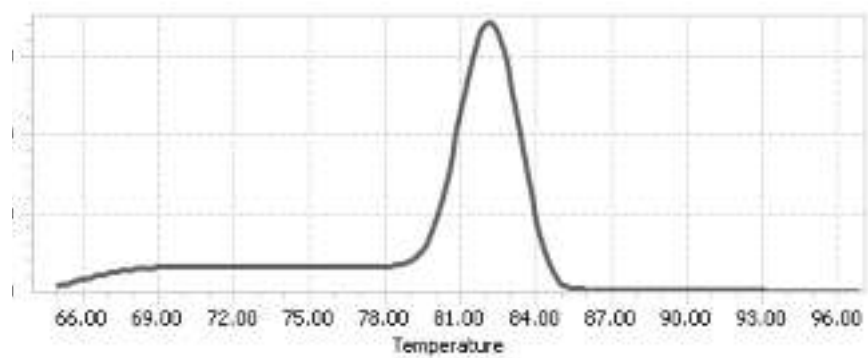

Figure 3. A typical melting peak of a qPCR product.

Quantification Method: Comparative ΔΔCq (Quantification Cycle Value) Method

1. **Note:** Please refer to your qPCR instrument's data analysis software for data analysis. The method provided here serves as guidance for quick manual calculations.

   You can use one or more housekeeping genes as a reference to normalize samples.

   Important: We highly recommend using all 5 housekeeping genes included in this kit: ACTB, GAPDH, LDHA, NONO, and PPIH.

2. For a single housekeeping gene, ΔCq (ref) is the quantification cycle number change for that housekeeping gene (HKG) between an experimental sample and control sample.

   $$\Delta Cq \text{ (ref)} = Cq \text{ (HKG, experimental sample)} - Cq \text{ (HKG, control sample)}$$

   When using multiple housekeeping genes as a reference, we recommend normalizing using the geometric mean [1] of the expression level change, which is the same as normalizing using the arithmetic mean of ΔCq of the selected housekeeping genes.

   $$\Delta Cq \text{ (ref)} = average \text{ } (\Delta Cq \text{ (HKG1)}, \Delta Cq \text{ (HKG2)},......., \Delta Cq \text{ (HKG n)}) \quad \text{(n is the number of housekeeping genes selected)}$$

   If using all 5 housekeeping genes included in this kit (ACTB, GAPDH, LDHA, NONO, and PPIH) use the following formula:

   $$\Delta Cq \text{ (ref)} = (\Delta Cq(ACTB)+\Delta Cq(GAPDH)+\Delta Cq(LDHA)+\Delta Cq(NONO)+\Delta Cq(PPIH)) \text{ }/5$$

   Note: ΔCq (HKG) = Cq (HKG, experimental sample) - Cq (HKG, control sample), and ΔCq (HKG) value can be positive, 0, or negative.

3. For any of your genes of interest (GOI),

   $$\Delta Cq \text{ (GOI)} = Cq \text{ (GOI, experimental sample)} - Cq \text{ (GOI, control sample)}$$

   $$\Delta\Delta Cq = \Delta Cq \text{ (GOI)} - \Delta Cq \text{ (ref)}$$

   $$\text{Normalized GOI expression level fold change} = 2^{-\Delta\Delta Cq}$$

References

[1] Vandesompele J, De Preter K, Pattyn F, Poppe B, Van Roy N, De Paepe A, Speleman F. (2002) "Accurate normalization of real-time quantitative RT-PCR data by geometric averaging of multiple internal control genes." *Genome Biol.* 3(7): 1-12.

Example: Comparative ΔΔCq (Quantification Cycle Value) Method

Table 3. Cq (Quantification Cycle) values of 2 genes-of-interest and 5 housekeeping genes obtained for experimental and control samples.

	Genes of Interest		Housekeeping Genes				
Samples	GOI1	GOI2	*ACTB*	*GAPDH*	*LDHA*	*NONO*	*PPIH*
Experimental	21.61	22.19	17.16	17.84	20.12	19.64	26.40
Control	33.13	26.47	18.20	18.48	20.57	19.50	26.55

ΔCq (ref) = (ΔCq(ACTB)+ΔCq(GAPDH)+ΔCq(LDHA)+ΔCq(NONO)+ΔCq(PPIH)) /5
    = ((17.16-18.20)+(17.84-18.48)+(20.12-20.57)+(19.64-19.50)+(26.40-26.55))/5
    = -0.43

ΔCq (GOI1) = 21.61 - 33.13
        = -11.52

ΔCq (GOI2) = 22.19 - 26.47
        = -4.28

ΔΔCq (GOI1) = ΔCq (GOI1) - ΔCq (ref)
        = -11.52 - (-0.43)
        = -11.09

ΔΔCq (GOI2) = ΔCq (GOI2) - ΔCq (ref)
        = -4.28 - (-0.43)
        = -3.85

Normalized GOI1 expression level fold change = $2^{-\Delta\Delta Cq\ (GOI1)}$
$$= 2^{11.09}$$
$$= 2180$$

Normalized GOI2 expression level fold change = $2^{-\Delta\Delta Cq\ (GOI2)}$
$$= 2^{3.85}$$
$$= 14.4$$

Conclusion: Upon treatment, expression level of GOI1 increased 2,180 fold, and expression level of GOI2 increased 14.4 fold.

GeneQuery™ Human Focal Adhesion Complexes qPCR Array (GQH-FAC)
Catalog #GK106

GeneQuery™ Human Focal Adhesion Complexes qPCR Array Plate Layout* (*8 controls* in Bold and Italic)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	ACTB	BRAF	COL4A2	FYN	ITGA3	ITGAL	ITGB5	MAP2K1	PAK2	PXN	SHC1	*ACTB*
B	ACTN1	CAV1	CRK	GRB2	ITGA4	ITGAM	ITGB6	MAPK1	PAK4	RAC1	SHC3	*GAPDH*
C	ACTN3	CAV2	DOCK1	HGF	ITGA5	ITGAV	ITGB7	MAPK10	PDGFRA	RAF1	SOS1	*LDHA*
D	AKT1	CAV3	EGFR	HRAS	ITGA6	ITGAX	JUN	MAPK8	PDGFRB	RAP1A	SRC	*NONO*
E	AKT2	CCND1	ELK1	ILK	ITGA7	ITGB1	KDR	MAPK9	PDPK1	RAPGEF1	TLN1	*PPIH*
F	AKT3	CDC42	FLNA	ITGA1	ITGA8	ITGB2	LAMA1	MET	PIK3R1	RHOA	VAV3	*GDC*
G	ARHGAP5	COL1A2	FLT1	ITGA2	ITGAD	ITGB3	LAMB1	MYLK2	PIK3R2	ROCK1	VCL	*PPC*
H	BCAR1	COL2A1	FN1	ITGA2B	ITGAE	ITGB4	LAMC3	PAK1	PTK2	ROCK2	VTN	*NTC*

* gene selection may be updated based on new research and development

Appendix. Plate type choice chart.

Plate type A

Brand	Model	kit catalog #
ABI / Life Tech	ABI 5700	GK106-A
	ABI 7000	GK106-A
	ABI 7300	GK106-A
	ABI 7500	GK106-A
	ABI 7700	GK106-A
	ABI 7900 HT	GK106-A
	QuantStudio	GK106-A
	ViiA 7	GK106-A
Bio-Rad	Chromo4	GK106-A
	iCycler	GK106-A
	iQ5	GK106-A
	MyiQ	GK106-A
	MyiQ2	GK106-A
Eppendorf / Life Tech	Matercycler ep realplex 2	GK106-A
	Matercycler ep realplex 4	GK106-A
Stratagene	MX3000P	GK106-A
	MX3005P	GK106-A

Plate type B

Brand	Model	kit catalog #
ABI / Life Tech	ABI 7500 Fast	GK106-B
	ABI 7900 HT Fast	GK106-B
	QuantStudio Fast	GK106-B
	StepOnePlus	GK106-B
	ViiA 7 Fast	GK106-B
Bio-Rad	CFX Connect	GK106-B
	CFX96	GK106-B
	DNA Engine Opticon 2	GK106-B
Stratagene	MX4000	GK106-B

Plate type C

Brand	Model	kit catalog #
Roche	Lightcycler 96	GK106-C
	Lightcycler 480 (96-well)	GK106-C