



## Rat Pulmonary Fibroblasts (RPF)

Catalog #R3300

### Cell Specification

The most abundant cell type in the lung interstitium is the fibroblast. These fibroblasts resemble ordinary fibroblasts, but also possess some distinguishing features such as long, branching processes and gap junctions. Pulmonary fibroblasts function to produce type III collagen, elastin, and proteoglycans of the extracellular matrix of the alveolar septa. They play an important role in the repair and remodeling processes following tissue damage. The controlled accumulation of fibroblasts to sites of inflammation is crucial to effective tissue repair after injury [1]. An inadequate or an excessive accumulation of fibroblasts can result in abnormal tissue function. For example, excess proliferation of fibroblasts contributes to adventitial thickening observed during the development of hypoxia-induced pulmonary hypertension [2].

RPF from ScienCell Research Laboratories are isolated from postnatal day 2 rat lung. RPF are cryopreserved at P0 and delivered frozen. Each vial contains  $>5 \times 10^5$  cells in 1 ml volume. RPF are characterized by fibroblast morphology. RPF are negative for mycoplasma, bacteria, yeast, and fungi. RPF are guaranteed to further expand for 5 population doublings under the conditions provided by ScienCell Research Laboratories.

### Recommended Medium

It is recommended to use Fibroblast Medium (FM, Cat. #2301) for culturing RPF *in vitro*.

### Product Use

RPF are for research use only. They are not approved for human or animal use, or for application in *in vitro* diagnostic procedures.

### Storage

Upon receiving, directly and immediately transfer the cells from dry ice to liquid nitrogen and keep the cells in liquid nitrogen until they are needed for experiments.

### Shipping

Dry ice.

### References

- [1] Kuwano K, Hagimoto N, Hara N. (2001) "Molecular mechanisms of pulmonary fibrosis and current treatment." *Curr Mol Med.* 1: 551-73.
- [2] Das M, Dempsey EC, Reeves JT, Stenmark KR. (2002) "Selective expansion of fibroblast subpopulations from pulmonary artery adventitia in response to hypoxia." *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol.* 282: L976-86.

## Instructions for culturing cells

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Caution: Cryopreserved cells are very delicate. Thaw the vial in a 37°C water bath and return the cells to culture as quickly as possible with minimal handling!

### Initiating the culture:

1. Prepare a poly-L-lysine-coated culture vessel (2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ , T-75 flask is recommended). Add 10 ml of sterile water to a T-75 flask and then add 15  $\mu\text{l}$  of poly-L-lysine stock solution (10 mg/ml, Cat. #0413). Leave the vessel in a 37°C incubator overnight (or for a minimum of one hour).
2. Prepare complete medium. Decontaminate the external surfaces of medium bottle and medium supplement tubes with 70% ethanol and transfer them to a sterile field. Aseptically transfer supplement to the basal medium with a pipette. Rinse the supplement tube with medium to recover the entire volume.
3. Rinse the poly-L-lysine-coated vessel twice with sterile water and then add 15 ml of complete medium. Leave the vessel in the sterile field and proceed to thaw the cryopreserved cells.
4. Place the frozen vial in a 37°C water bath. Hold and rotate the vial gently until the contents completely thaw. Promptly remove the vial from the water bath, wipe it down with 70% ethanol, and transfer it to the sterile field.
5. Carefully remove the cap without touching the interior threads. Gently resuspend and dispense the contents of the vial into the equilibrated, poly-L-lysine-coated culture vessel. A seeding density of 5,000 cells/ $\text{cm}^2$  is recommended.

*Note: Dilution and centrifugation of cells after thawing are not recommended since these actions are more harmful to the cells than the effect of residual DMSO in the culture. It is also important that cells are plated in poly-L-lysine-coated culture vessels to promote cell attachment.*

6. Replace the cap or lid of the culture vessel and gently rock the vessel to distribute the cells evenly. Loosen cap, if necessary, to allow gas exchange.
7. Return the culture vessel to the incubator.
8. For best results, do not disturb the culture for at least 16 hours after the culture has been initiated. Refresh culture medium the next day to remove residual DMSO and unattached cells, then every other day thereafter.

### Maintaining the culture:

1. Refresh supplemented culture medium the next morning after establishing a culture from cryopreserved cells.
2. Change the medium every three days thereafter, until the culture is approximately 70% confluent.
3. Once the culture reaches 70% confluency, change medium every other day until the culture is approximately 90% confluent.

### **Subculturing:**

1. Subculture when the culture reaches 90% confluency or above.
  2. Prepare poly-L-lysine-coated culture vessels ( $2 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ ) one day before subculture.
  3. Warm complete medium, trypsin/EDTA solution (T/E, Cat. #0103), T/E neutralization solution (TNS, Cat. #0113), and DPBS ( $\text{Ca}^{++}$ - and  $\text{Mg}^{++}$ -free, Cat. #0303) to **room temperature**. We do not recommend warming reagents and medium in a  $37^\circ\text{C}$  water bath prior to use.
  4. Rinse the cells with DPBS.
  5. Add 8 ml of DPBS and then 2 ml of T/E solution into flask (in the case of a T-75 flask). Gently rock the flask to ensure complete coverage of cells by T/E solution. Incubate the flask in a  $37^\circ\text{C}$  incubator for 1 to 2 minutes or until cells completely round up. Use a microscope to monitor the change in cell morphology.
  6. During incubation, prepare a 50 ml conical centrifuge tube with 5 ml of fetal bovine serum (FBS, Cat. #0500).
  7. Transfer T/E solution from the flask to the 50 ml centrifuge tube (a small percent of cells may detach) and continue to incubate the flask at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  for another 1 to 2 minutes (no solution in the flask at this moment).
  8. At the end of incubation, gently tap the side of the flask to dislodge cells from the surface. Check under a microscope to make sure that all cells detach.
  9. Add 5 ml of TNS solution to the flask and transfer detached cells to the 50 ml centrifuge tube. Rinse the flask with another 5 ml of TNS to collect the residual cells.
  10. Examine the flask under a microscope for a successful cell harvest by looking at the number of cells being left behind; there should be less than 5%.
- Note: Use ScienCell T/E solution that is optimized to minimize cell damages due to over trypsinization.*
11. Centrifuge the 50 ml centrifuge tube at 1000 rpm for 5 minutes. Resuspend cells in culture medium.
  12. Count and plate cells in a new poly-L-lysine-coated culture vessel with the recommended cell density.

*Caution: Handling animal-derived products is potentially biohazardous. Always wear gloves and safety glasses when working with these materials. Never mouth pipette. We recommend following the universal procedures for handling products of human origin as the minimum precaution against contamination [1].*

[1] Grizzle WE, Polt S. (1988) "Guidelines to avoid personal contamination by infective agents in research laboratories that use human tissues." *J Tissue Cult Methods*. 11: 191-9.