Version 7 Last updated 20 July 2021

ab235656

FirePlex®-96 Key Cytokines (Mouse) Immunoassay Panel Protocol Booklet

For the quantitative measurement of multiple mouse targets in serum, plasma, cell culture supernatant and other mouse biological samples.

This product is for research use only and is not intended for diagnostic use.

Table of Contents

1. Overview

Abcam multiplex immunoassays use the FirePlex® particle technology to quantify up to 70 mouse protein and peptide analytes in the same well, from 12.5 µL sample input.

Assay run-time is 3.5 hours, followed by particle analysis using a validated flow cytometer model and data analysis using our integrated, free-of-charge FirePlex Analysis Workbench software.

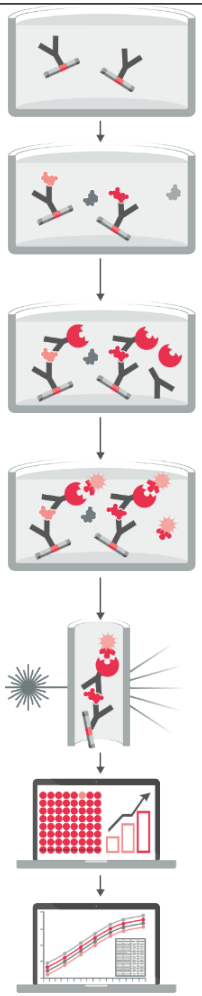
FirePlex immunoassays offer:

- Measurement of multiple analytes in the same well, thus conserving time and precious samples.
- Flexibility to select either from our catalog of research focused fixed panels or build custom panels from our large antibody pairs portfolio.
- Antibody pairs that are validated across a broad set of biological sample types, and provide sensitive and reproducible quantitation of analytes in a given sample.

Important - Use of FirePlex Immunoassays with cell extract and tissue homogenate samples requires the purchase of a FirePlex Intracellular Lysis Kit (ab239454).

FirePlex Immunoassay– Quick Guide

Prior to starting	a.	Prepare buffers, protein standard dilutions, and capture/detector antibody mixes as instructed (see Section 10 and 11).
	b.	Centrifuge samples at 2,000 x g for 15 min to clarify.
	c.	Dilute samples according to Section 12.
	d.	Seal empty wells.
Capture	a.	Resuspend **1X Capture Particle Solution** by inversion and vortex for 5 sec.
	b.	Add 150 µL **1X Capture Particle Solution** to each well.
	c.	Apply vacuum to filter plate.
Sample incubation	a.	Add 175 µL of **1X Wash Buffer** to each well and filter. Dry base of plate with a Kimwipe™.
	b.	Add 50 µL of protein standard or sample. **Cover and incubate for 1 hour at RT, or overnight at 4°C with orbital shaking at 750 rpm, then filter.**
Detect	a.	Wash twice by adding 175 µL of **1X Wash Buffer** to each well and filter. Dry base of plate with a Kimwipe™.
	b.	Add 50 µL of **1X Biotin Detector Antibody**. **Cover and incubate for 1 hour at RT, with orbital shaking at 750 rpm, then filter.**
Report	a.	Wash twice by adding 175 µL of **1X Wash Buffer** to each well and filter. Dry base of plate with a Kimwipe™.
	b.	Add 50 µL of freshly prepared 1X Reporter Solution. **Cover and incubate for 30 min at RT with orbital shaking at 750 rpm, then filter.**
Scan	a.	Wash twice by adding 175 µL of **1X Wash Buffer** to each well and filter. Dry base of plate with a Kimwipe™.
	b.	Add 175 µL of appropriate** scanning buffer. Scan on flow cytometer



***Unless otherwise indicated, all incubation steps are performed at ambient temperature.**

2. Performance Data

This FirePlex immunoassay panel contains a **Negative Control Particle**, in addition to the protein analytes listed below.

Analyte	Sensitivity (pg/mL)	Dynamic Range (pg/mL)	Intra-Assay CV (n=36)	Inter-Assay CV (n=3)	Protein Standard
CXCL1	0.07	0.51 - 1,111	3.2%	3.3%	Mix A
GM-CSF	0.29	1.52 - 3,333	5.1%	5.6%	Mix A
IFN-gamma	0.09	0.51 - 1,111	4.1%	8.5%	Mix A
IL-1 beta	0.23	1.52 - 3,333	3.5%	4.1%	Mix A
IL-10	1.59	4.57 - 10,000	4.5%	11.3%	Mix A
IL-12p70	1.28	4.57 - 10,000	3.0%	1.9%	Mix A
IL-13	0.37	1.52 - 3,333	7.9%	9.6%	Mix A
IL-17A	0.17	0.51 - 1,111	4.0%	4.0%	Mix A
IL-2	0.83	4.57 - 10,000	2.7%	2.9%	Mix A
IL-4	0.24	1.52 - 3,333	3.5%	2.7%	Mix A
IL-5	0.13	0.51 - 1,111	4.5%	3.3%	Mix A
IL-6	8.47	13.72 - 30,000	5.7%	9.3%	Mix A
IL-9	0.09	0.51 - 1,111	8.2%	8.8%	Mix A
MCP1	0.09	0.51 - 1,111	6.9%	8.5%	Mix A
MIP1a	0.49	1.52 - 3,333	4.1%	3.3%	Mix A
MIP1b	0.07	0.51 - 1,111	9.6%	9.1%	Mix A
TNF-alpha	0.37	1.52 - 3,333	3.2%	3.5%	Mix A
Negative Control Particle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

3. Precautions

Please read these instructions carefully prior to beginning the assay.

- All kit components have been formulated and quality control tested to function successfully as a kit.
- We understand that, occasionally, experimental protocols might need to be modified to meet unique experimental circumstances. However, we cannot guarantee the performance of the product outside the conditions detailed in this protocol booklet.
- Reagents should be treated as possible mutagens and should be handled with care and disposed of properly. Please review the Safety Datasheet (SDS) provided with the product for information on the specific components.
- Observe good laboratory practices. Gloves, lab coat, and protective eyewear should always be worn. Never pipet by mouth. Do not eat, drink or smoke in the laboratory areas.
- All biological materials should be treated as potentially hazardous and handled as such. They should be disposed of in accordance with established safety procedures.

4. Storage and Stability

Store FirePlex Panel immediately upon receipt. Kit has a storage time of 6 months from date of receipt.

Refer to Section 6 for storage conditions of individual components.

5. Limitations

- Assay kit intended for research use only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.
- Do not mix or substitute reagents or materials from other kit lots or vendors. Kits are QC tested as a set of components and performance cannot be guaranteed if utilized separately or substituted.

6. Materials Supplied

Item	Quantity	Storage Condition (Before prep)
10X Mouse Key Cytokines Capture Particles*	1 x 1800 uL	-20°C
15X Mouse Key Cytokines Biotin Detectors	1 x 400 uL	-20°C
Mouse Protein Standard Mix A (lyophilized)	1 unit (lyophilized)	-20°C
10X Wash Buffer	1 x 25 mL	+4°C
2X Rodent Assay Diluent	1 x 15 mL	+4°C
5X Reporter Solution*	1 x 4 mL	+4°C
Filter Plate (1 x 96 wells)	1	R/T
Plate Seals	3 units	R/T
*Reagent is light sensitive. Store in a dark place and protect from light at all times.		

7. Materials Required, Not Supplied

These materials are not included in the kit, but will be required to successfully perform this assay:

- **FirePlex Run Buffer** for data acquisition on a given flow cytometer

Item	Quantity	Storage Condition (Before prep)
Run Buffer I (ab245836)	1x96 tests	+4°C
Run Buffer II (ab234450)	1x96 tests	+4°C
Run Buffer III (ab245837)	1x96 tests	+4°C
PBS (user supplied)	-	-

  - **Note:** To determine which Run Buffer to use for your specific flow cytometer, **users must first** use the Cytometer Setup Kit V2 – ab245835.
  - **Note**: FirePlex particles are designed to be read using a blue (488 nm) laser with green, yellow, and red detectors and can only be read on validated flow cytometer models.
- Plex file for software data analysis
- Vacuum manifold for 96 well plate (ab204067 recommended)
- Test tubes for dilution of standards or samples
- Deionized water
- Multi-channel pipette (recommended)
- Vortex mixer
- Microcentrifuge
- Paper towels
- **FirePlex Immunoassay Intracellular Lysis Kit**, for use with cell extracts and tissue homogenates.
- Plate shaker
  - **Note**: Mixing rates depend upon the orbital radius of your plate shaker. Information about the recommended rate for your plate shaker can be found in the Technical Hints section.

- **FirePlex Immunoassay Intracellular Lysis Kit**, for use with cell extracts and tissue homogenates.

8. Technical Hints

- Before running this assay on a given flow cytometer for the first time, we **strongly recommend** performing a test run with your flow cytometer to confirm that the settings are accurate, and it is functional.
- When generating the protein standard samples, or performing serial dilutions of samples, pipette tips **must** be changed after each dilution step.
- After each wash step, dry the base of the filter plate by pressing down on a thick cushion of paper towels to ensure the base is **completely** dry.
- When applying vacuum to samples in the filter plate, press down firmly on all four corners of the filter plate and turn off the vacuum as soon as the liquid is cleared from each well to prevent over-drying. **Vacuum manifold pressure should be set at ~5 psi**.
- All samples should be mixed thoroughly and gently. **Avoid foaming** or bubbles when mixing or reconstituting components.
- Avoid cross contamination of samples or reagents by changing tips between sample, standard and reagent additions.
- Ensure unused wells are properly sealed with provided plate seals during all incubation steps.
- Complete removal of all solutions and buffers during wash steps is necessary to minimize background.
- Protect FirePlex Mouse Key Cytokines Capture Particles and 5X Reporter Solution from light at all times.
- Avoid multiple freeze/thaw of protein standard and biological samples.
- Do not combine and mix component lots from multiple kits.

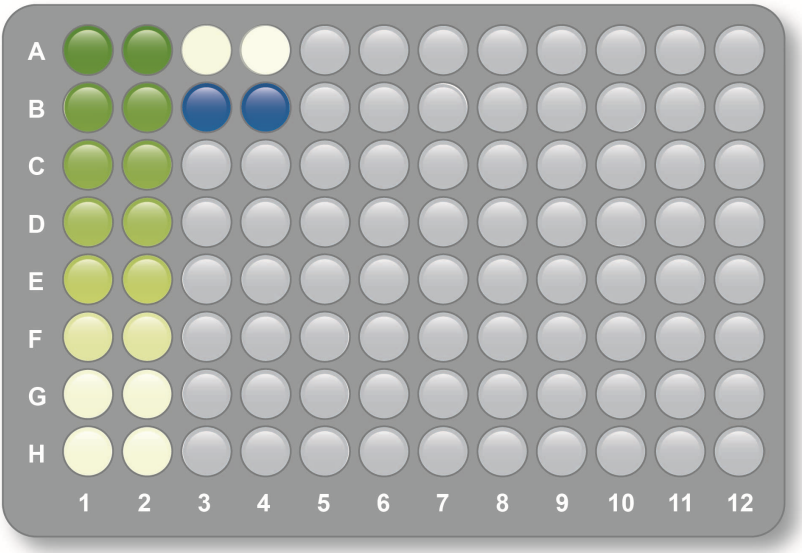
– For optimal assay performance, adequate mixing during incubation steps is critical and depends upon both speed and orbital diameter. The mixing speed of 750 RPM recommended in this manual is for a shaking incubator with an orbital diameter of 3 mm. Customers should determine the orbital diameter of their shaking incubator prior to use. For shakers with a different orbital diameter, adjust the rpm according to the formula:

$$\text{Orbital shaker speed (in RPM)} = \sqrt{\frac{1687500}{orbital\ diameter\ (in\ mm) of\ your\ shaker}}$$

– This kit is sold based on the number of tests. A 'test' simply refers to a single assay well. The number of wells that contain sample, control or standard will vary by product. Review the protocol completely to confirm this kit meets your requirements. Please contact our Technical Support staff with any questions.

9. Plate Preparation

- For each assay performed, we recommend:
  - Designing your plate layout before starting the assay.
  - Each sample should be assayed with a minimum of two replicates.
- A minimum of four wells must be used as the blank control.
- For first time experiments, two wells are required for optimizing flow cytometer target channel gain settings (see schematic below) after the assay procedure is complete. These two wells are separate from Flow Cytometer Set Up/Verification.
- The 96 well plate included with this kit is supplied ready to use. It is not necessary to rinse the plate prior to adding reagents.
- Recommended plate layout is below:



A 1-2 - Standard #1
B 1-2 - Standard #2
C 1-2 - Standard #3
D 1-2 - Standard #4
E 1-2 - Standard #5
F 1-2 - Standard #6
G 1-2 - Standard #7
H 1-2 - Standard #8

A 3-4 - Standard #9 (Blank)
B 3-4 - Standard #9 (Target channel gain optimization)

10. Reagent Preparation

- Equilibrate all reagents to room temperature (18-25°C) prior to use. The kit contains enough reagents for assaying 96 wells.
- Prepare only as much reagent as is needed on the day of the experiment. Diluted reagents should not be stored for later use. The instructions below for preparation of 1X Wash Buffer, 1X Mouse Assay Diluent, 1X Reporter Solution and 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent provide sufficient reagent to run one full 96 well plate.

10.1 1X Wash Buffer

Prepare 1X Wash Buffer by diluting 10X Wash Buffer with deionized water. To prepare 200 mL 1X Wash Buffer, combine 20 mL 10X Wash Buffer with 180 mL deionized water. Mix thoroughly and gently.

10.2 1X Mouse Assay Diluent (for use with biological fluids such as serum, plasma, cell culture supernatant)

Prepare 1X Mouse Assay Diluent by diluting the 2X Rodent Assay Diluent with 1X Wash Buffer. To prepare 20 mL 1X Mouse Assay Diluent, combine 10 mL 2X Rodent Assay Diluent with 10 mL 1X Wash Buffer. Mix thoroughly and gently.

10.3 1X Reporter Solution

Immediately prior to use: Prepare sufficient volume of 1X Reporter Solution (50 µL per well) by diluting 5X Reporter Solution in 1X Wash Buffer. Prepare only enough 1X Reporter Solution as required.

To prepare 5 mL 1X Reporter Solution combine 1 mL 5X Reporter Solution with 4 mL 1X Wash Buffer. Mix thoroughly and gently.

10.4 Run Buffer

Supplied ready to use.

10.5 1X Capture Particle Solution

10.5.1 Vortex the vial of **10X Capture Particle** solution for 10 seconds to thoroughly resuspend the particles.

10.5.2 Dilute the vial of **10X Capture Particle solution** to 1X in a new tube by adding the corresponding volume of **1X Wash Buffer**, using the table below.

Number of assay wells	10X Capture article solution	1X Wash Buffer
96	1.63 mL	14.67 mL
72	1.23 mL	11.07 mL
48	0.81 mL	7.29 mL
24	0.42 mL	3.78 mL

Δ **Note**: Particles should be protected from light during handling. We recommend a minimum of 4 extra wells to account for pipetting dead volume and to use in the set-up of your flow cytometer. Listed values include these.

10.6 1X Biotin Detector Antibody Solution

10.6.1 Centrifuge the vial of 15X Biotin Detector Solution for 1 minute at 1,000 x g.

10.6.2 Dilute the vial of 15X Biotin Detector solution to 1X in a new tube by adding 1X Mouse Assay Diluent, using the table below.

Number of assay wells	15X Biotin Detector solution	1X Mouse Assay Diluent
96	0.363 mL	5.087 mL
72	0.273 mL	3.827 mL
48	0.180 mL	2.520 mL
24	0.093 mL	1.307 mL

Δ **Note**: We recommend a minimum of 4 extra wells to account for pipetting dead volume and to use in the set-up of your flow cytometer. Listed values include these.

11. Standard Preparation

General sample information:

- The following section describes the preparation of a standard curve for duplicate measurements (recommended).
- Prepare serially diluted standards immediately prior to use. Always prepare a fresh set of positive controls for every use.
- Each vial of Protein Standard contains a mixture of proteins. To ensure all of the proteins in your multiplex panel are included, please refer to the Protein Standard Mix datasheet for a complete protein listing.

11.1 Centrifuge the Mouse Protein Standard Mix A vial for 1 minute at 1,000 x g to pellet the lyophilized contents.

11.1.1 For serum, plasma, cell culture supernatants and other biological fluid measurements, reconstitute the Mouse Protein Standard Mix A vial by adding 200 µL of 1X Mouse Assay Diluent. If there are more than one vial of protein standard mix, the combined total volume should make 200 µL. If there is vial A and B, add 100 µL 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent to each vial and then combine to make the 5X stock solution.

11.1.2 For cell extract and tissue homogenate measurements, reconstitute the Mouse Protein Standard Mix A vial by adding 200 µL of 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent. If there are more than one vial of protein standard mix, the combined total volume should make 200 µL. If there is vial A and B, add 100 µL 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent to each vial and then combine to make the 5X stock solution.

11.2 Incubate at room temperature for 5 minutes and mix thoroughly and gently. Each vial contains a 5X Protein Standard Stock Solution. After resuspension, the protein standard should be placed on ice. Any remaining 5X Standard Stock Solution should be aliquoted and stored at -80°C.

11.3 Label nine tubes, Standards #1 – 9.

11.3.1 For serum, plasma, cell culture supernatants and other biological fluid measurements, add 240 µL of 1X Mouse Assay Diluent to the tube labeled Standard #1. Add 200 µL of 1X Mouse Assay Diluent to tubes labeled Standards #2 – 8. Add 250 µL of 1X Mouse Assay Diluent to Standard #9.

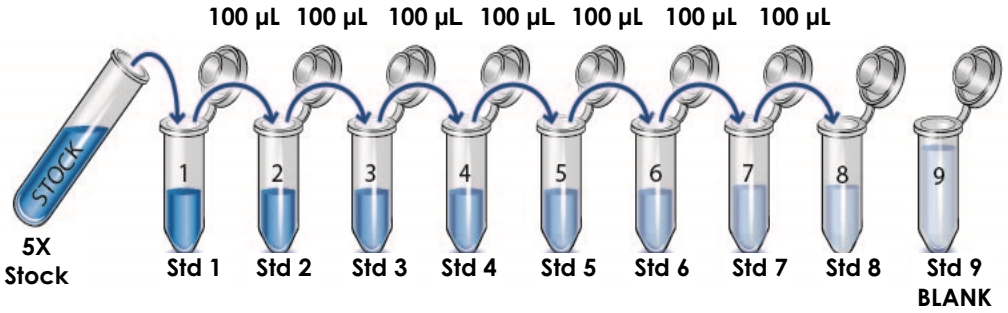
11.3.2 For cell extract and tissue homogenate measurements, add 240 µL of 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent to the tube labeled Standard #1. Add 200 µL of 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent to tubes labeled Standards #2 – 8. Add 250 µL of 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent to Standard #9.

11.4 Add 60 µL of each 5X Protein Standard Stock Solution listed in the table below to the tube labelled Standard #1. Mix by pipetting up and down.

Protein Standard(s)
Mouse Protein Standard Mix A

11.5 Transfer 100 µL of Standard #1 to Standard #2 which corresponds to preparing the 3-fold dilution series until Standard #8. Standard #9 contains no protein and is the Blank control.

Δ Note: Pipette tips need to be changed after each dilution step to avoid contamination between standards.



12. Sample Preparation

- Recommended sample dilutions for each sample type can be found below. Optimal sample dilutions should however be determined by the end user.
- **For optimal assay performance, samples must always be used either at the recommended dilution or further diluted.**
- **To prevent clogging of the filter plate it is important that samples are clarified via centrifugation as stated below.**
- Samples generating values higher than the highest standard should be further diluted in the **1X Assay Diluent**.

Recommended Sample Dilutions	
Sample Type	**Starting Dilution**
Cell Culture Supernatant	1:4
Serum	1:4
Plasma – Citrate	1:4
Plasma – EDTA	1:4
Plasma – Heparin	1:4
Cell Extract	50 – 500 µg/mL
Tissue Homogenate	50 – 500 µg/mL

12.1 Cell Culture Supernatants

Centrifuge cell culture media at 2,000 x g for 15 minutes to remove debris. Collect supernatants and assay. Or dilute samples into 1X Mouse Assay Diluent and assay. Store un-diluted samples at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

12.2 Serum

Samples should be collected into a serum separator tube. After clot formation, centrifuge samples at 2,000 x g for 15 minutes and collect serum. Dilute samples into 1X Mouse Assay Diluent and assay. Store un-diluted serum at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

12.3 Plasma

Collect plasma using citrate, EDTA or heparin. Centrifuge samples at 2,000 x g for 15 minutes. Dilute samples into 1X Mouse Assay Diluent and assay. Store un-diluted plasma samples at -20°C or below for up to 3 months. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

12.4 Preparation of extracts from cell pellets:

12.4.1 Collect non-adherent cells by centrifugation or scrape to collect adherent cells from the culture flask. Typical centrifugation conditions for cells are 500 x g for 5 minutes at 4°C.

12.4.2 Rinse cells twice with PBS.

12.4.3 Solubilize pellet at $2x10^7$ cell/mL in chilled 1X Intracellular Extraction Buffer.

12.4.4 Incubate on ice for 20 minutes.

12.4.5 Centrifuge at 18,000 x g for 20 minutes at 4°C.

12.4.6 Transfer the supernatants into clean tubes and discard the pellets.

12.4.7 The sample total protein concentration in the extract should be quantified using a BCA assay or alternative protein assay. Aliquot and store extracts at -80°C until ready for use.

12.4.8 Dilute samples to desired concentration in 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent and assay samples immediately.

12.5 Preparation of extracts from adherent cells by direct lysis (alternative protocol):

12.5.1 Remove growth media and rinse adherent cells 2 times in PBS.

12.5.2 Solubilize the cells by addition of chilled 1X Intracellular Extraction Buffer directly to the plate. Use 0.75 mL - 1.5 mL 1X Intracellular Extraction Buffer per confluent 15 cm diameter plate.

12.5.3 Scrape the cells into a microfuge tube and incubate the lysate on ice for 15 minutes.

12.5.4 Centrifuge at 18,000 x g for 20 minutes at 4°C.

12.5.5 Transfer the supernatants into clean tubes and discard the pellets.

12.5.6 The sample total protein concentration in the extract should be quantified using a BCA assay or alternative protein assay. Aliquot and store extracts at -80°C until ready for use.

12.5.7 Dilute samples to desired concentration in 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent and assay samples immediately.

12.6 Preparation of extracts from tissue homogenates:

12.6.1 Tissue lysates are typically prepared by homogenization of tissue that is first minced and thoroughly rinsed in PBS to remove blood (dounce homogenizer is recommended).

12.6.2 Homogenize 100 to 200 mg of wet tissue in 0.5 mL – 1 mL of chilled 1X Intracellular Extraction Buffer. For lower amounts of tissue adjust volumes accordingly.

12.6.3 Incubate on ice for 20 minutes.

12.6.4 Centrifuge at 18,000 x g for 20 minutes at 4°C.

12.6.5 Transfer the supernatants into clean tubes and discard the pellets.

12.6.1 The sample total protein concentration in the extract should be quantified using a BCA assay or alternative protein assay. Aliquot and store extracts at -80°C until ready for use.

Dilute samples to desired concentration in 1X Intracellular Lysis Assay Diluent and assay samples immediately.

13. Assay Procedure

- Equilibrate all materials and prepared reagents to room temperature prior to use.
- It is recommended to assay all standards, controls and samples in duplicate.

13.1 Cover unused and previously used wells with the provided plate seal during all incubation and vacuum filtration steps.

13.2 Invert the **1X Capture Particle Solution** end-over-end for 2 minutes and vortex for 10 seconds to fully resuspend the particles. Add 150 µL of **1X Capture Particle Solution** to each well.

Mixing is vital to ensure that each well receives an equal number of particles. To prevent the particles from falling out of suspension, the 1X Capture Particle Solution should be remixed every 4 wells.

If using a multi-channel pipette, add 1X Capture Particle Solution to a reservoir and mix thoroughly by pipetting. The 1X Capture Particle Solution should be mixed after each addition to the plate wells. If needed, use a single channel pipette to transfer the last few wells as total volume is limiting.

13.3 Remove the buffer by applying vacuum to the filter plate. Then add 175 µL of **1X Wash Buffer** to each well and remove the buffer by applying vacuum to the filter plate. After removing the buffer, dry the base of the plate by pressing down on tissue paper to ensure the bottom of each filter well is dry and prevent wicking.

13.4 Add 50 µL of standard or sample (diluted according to instructions in Section 11 and 12) to each well.

13.5 Cover with plate lid and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature with shaking at 750 rpm in the dark.

- Δ **Note**: If measuring low abundance targets, it is recommended to incubate overnight at 4°C with shaking at 750 rpm in the dark.

13.6 Remove the plate lid and apply vacuum to the filter plate to remove the buffer. Wash each well twice by adding 175 µL of **1X Wash Buffer** and then remove the buffer by applying vacuum to the filter plate. After the final removal of buffer, dry the base of the plate by pressing down on tissue paper to ensure the bottom of each filter well is dry and prevent wicking.

13.7 Add 50 µL **1X Biotin Detector Antibody Mix** to each well. Cover with plate lid and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature with shaking at 750 rpm in the dark.

13.8 Remove the plate lid and apply vacuum to the filter plate to remove the buffer. Wash each well twice by adding 175 µL of **1X Wash Buffer** and then remove the buffer by applying vacuum to the filter plate. After the final removal of buffer, dry the base of the plate by pressing down on tissue paper to ensure the bottom of each filter well is dry and prevent wicking.

13.9 Add 50 µL of **freshly prepared 1X Reporter Solution** to each well.

13.10 Cover with plate lid and incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature with shaking at 750 rpm in the dark.

13.11 Remove the plate lid and apply vacuum to the filter plate to remove the buffer. Wash each well twice by adding 175 µL of 1X Wash Buffer and then remove the buffer by applying vacuum to the filter plate. After the final removal of buffer, dry the base of the plate by pressing down on tissue paper to ensure the bottom of each filter well is dry and prevent wicking.

13.12 Add 175 µL of Run Buffer to each well. Place plate on orbital shaker to mix.

- **Note**: The appropriate Run Buffer for your cytometer (i.e. Run Buffer I, II, III, or PBS) should be determined prior to starting the assay by using the FirePlex Cytometer Setup Kit V2 – ab245835.

13.13 To acquire data, proceed to Section 15 or cover the plate and store overnight (up to 18 hours) at 4°C.

- **Note**: Overnight storage is not recommended for targets that are expected to generate values <20 pg/mL, as prolonged storage of the sample at 4°C may lead to reduced sensitivity of the assay.

14. Flow Cytometer Acquisition

14.1 Flow Cytometer with plate handler

14.1.1 Prior to acquiring your multiplex immunoassay kit, use the Cytometer Setup Kit (ab211043) and complete flow cytometer set up according to the instructions and confirm that your cytometer accurately resolves the FirePlex particles and can decode the Setup particles in the FirePlex Analysis Workbench.

14.1.2 On the day of your actual multiplex immunoassay acquisition, two blank wells (i.e. wells B3 and B4) should be used to optimize your flow cytometer target channel gain settings. Complete flow cytometer target channel gain optimization according to the instructions for your validated flow cytometer model.

15. Data Analysis

For detailed instructions of how to use the FirePlex Analysis Workbench software, please review the User Guide which can be found at:

Help Menu > Help Front Page.

Specific help on features can be obtained by right-clicking a GUI element, for instance a button, a chart or a table and selecting "Help".

16. Troubleshooting

Problem	Reason	Solution
Poor standard curve	Inaccurate pipetting	Prewet pipette tips and be sure to change tips after each dilution step
	Improper standard dilution	Prior to opening, briefly spin each stock standard tube and dissolve the powder thoroughly by gentle mixing
Low Signal or Sensitivity	Improper storage of the FirePlex protein standards	Store your reconstituted standards at -80°C, all other assay components at +4°C.
	Inadequate reagent volumes or improper dilution	Ensure sufficient incubation times; Check pipettes and ensure correct calibration
Large CV	Plate is insufficiently washed	Review manual for proper wash technique. Check vacuum manifold seal for air leaks
	Contaminated wash buffer	Prepare fresh wash buffer
Low Particle or Event Count	Particle settling or aggregation	Invert and vortex 30X stock and 1X Capture Particle Solution thoroughly before assay use
	Vacuum too weak	Adjust the vacuum pressure to be ~5 psi
	Incorrect flow cytometer settings	Check for correct Flow Cytometer settings.
Leaky Filter Plate	Failure to blot filter plate wells	Blot the filter plate on dry tissue paper by holding down firmly for 5 seconds
Clogged Filter Plate	High lipid content in biological fluid samples	Centrifuge the samples at 10,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C. Re-collect the soluble fraction of the sample.
Uneven buffer removal from wells	Variable particle counts per well	Repeat assay set up. Ensure thorough mixing of 1X Capture Particle Solution before addition to plate
Precipitate in Diluent	Precipitation and/or coagulation of components within the Assay Diluent.	Precipitate can be dissolved by gently warming the Assay Diluent to 37°C.

Technical Support

FirePlex® is a registered trademark in the United States and is an unregistered trademark elsewhere.

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Guava EasyCyte™ is a trademark of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

BD Biosciences Accuri™ is a trademark of Becton, Dickinson and Company.

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For all FirePlex-related technical support inquiries, please contact FirePlex@abcam.com