

From Immune Surveillance to Therapeutic Development

How the ZE5 Cell Analyzer Is Involved in COVID-19 Studies



1. Screening for Antiviral Drug Candidates and Antibody-Based Therapeutics

Why it is important

Epitope mapping, drug library screening, ligand/receptor binding, antibody screening, dose response, and target killing... Therapeutic development in modern laboratories demands maximal productivity and reliability.

How the ZE5 Cell Analyzer can help

The high-throughput and automation-ready ZE5 Cell Analyzer greatly shortens time to results and helps scientists get high quality and reliable results quicker.

Customer publications and how the ZE5 Cell Analyzer was used

Scientists at Humabs Biomed SA identified and characterized potent SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies isolated from a 2003 SARS survivor, and mapped neutralizing and immunodominant sites on the spike receptor-binding domain. Recombinant SARS-CoV-2 proteins were expressed on CHO cell surfaces, monoclonal antibodies isolated from SARS patients were tested for binding to cell surface SARS-CoV2 antigens using high-throughput flow analysis on the ZE5 Cell Analyzer.

Related publications

Pinto D et al. (2020). Cross-neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 by a human monoclonal SARS-CoV2 antibody. Nature. 583(7815), 290-295.



Piccoli L et al. (2020). Mapping neutralizing and immunodominant sites on the SARS-CoV-2 spike receptor-binding domain by structure-guided high-resolution serology. Cell. 183(4), 1024-1042.



2. Profiling Cellular Immunity against SARS-CoV2

Why it is important

Characterizing cell-mediated immune responses to SARS-CoV2 provides critical insights into COVID-19 pathogenesis and immune correlates of protection and disease progression, which paves the way for the development of effective diagnostics and therapeutics.

How the ZE5 Cell Analyzer can help

The high parameter ZE5 Cell Analyzer, with up to 27 colors and a dozen configurations, enables high-dimensional analysis of both phenotypic and functional targets in a single sample at unparalleled speed and throughput.

Customer publications and how the ZE5 Cell Analyzer was used

Scientists at La Jolla Institute for Immunology documented potent SARS-CoV-2-specific T cell immunity in COVID-19 convalescent patients, and observed prevalent T cell cross-reactivity in unexposed individuals.





A follow-up study provided further evidence that preexisting T cell reactivity against SARS-CoV-2 may come from the memory T cell response to common cold coronaviruses. In both studies, the ZE5 Cell Analyzer was used to detect activation-induced markers and intracellular cytokines.

Related publications

Grifoni A et al. (2020). Targets of T cell responses to SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus in humans with COVID-19 disease and unexposed individuals. Cell 181(7), 1489-1501.



Mateus J et al. (2020). Selective and cross-reactive SARS-CoV-2 T cell epitopes in unexposed humans. Science 370(6512), 89-94.



3. Characterizing Cross-Reactive Humoral Immunity against SARS-CoV2

Why it is important

Detecting antibody cross-reactivity between seasonal human coronaviruses and SARS-CoV-2 provides deep insights into the natural course of COVID-19 and cross-protection mediated by preexisting humanity. Developing a robust serological testing pipeline is important for regular surveillance and better protection of frontline healthcare workers.

How the ZE5 Cell Analyzer can help

The high-speed, high-throughput, and automation-capable ZE5 Cell Analyzer enables fast and unattended serological screening for actionable results.

Customer publications and how the ZE5 Cell Analyzer was used

The Francis Crick Institute established a robust serology pipeline to facilitate screening of serum antibodies reactive to SARS-CoV-2 antigens. HEK293T cells expressing SARS-CoV-2 spike protein subunits were incubated with participant serum, stained with fluorescence-conjugated anti-IgG, IgM, and IgA antibodies, before high-throughput screening was performed on the ZE5 Cell Analyzer. Using this serology pipeline, researchers at The Francis Crick Institute demonstrated the prevalence of preexisting antibodies cross-reactive to SARS-CoV-2 in uninfected individuals, and identified conserved epitopes in S2 targeted by SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies.

Related publications

Ng KW et al. (2020). Preexisting and de novo humoral immunity to SARS-CoV-2 in humans. Science. Nov 6; eabe1107.



Emma R et al. (2020). Adapting to the coronavirus pandemic: building and incorporating a diagnostic pipeline in a shared resource laboratory. Cytometry A. Oct 29.



Houlihan CF et al. (2020). Pandemic peak SARS-CoV-2 infection and seroconversion rates in London frontline health-care workers. Lancet. 396(10246), e6–e7.



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Bulletin 7424 Ver A US/EG 12-2020 0000 Sig 0220

