

# How to Control and to Maintain the Quality of Cell Cultures

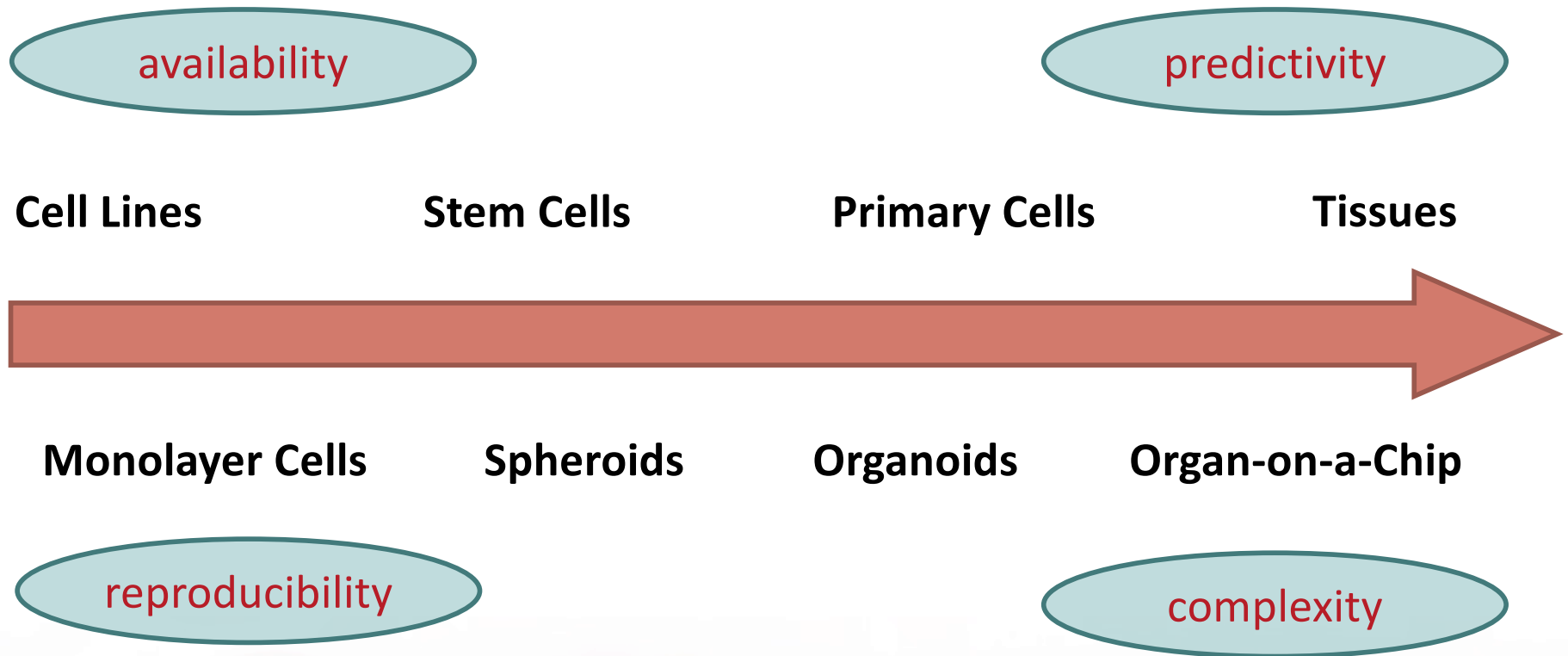
ASCCT Webinar

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021



# cell culture models

## balancing multiple plates



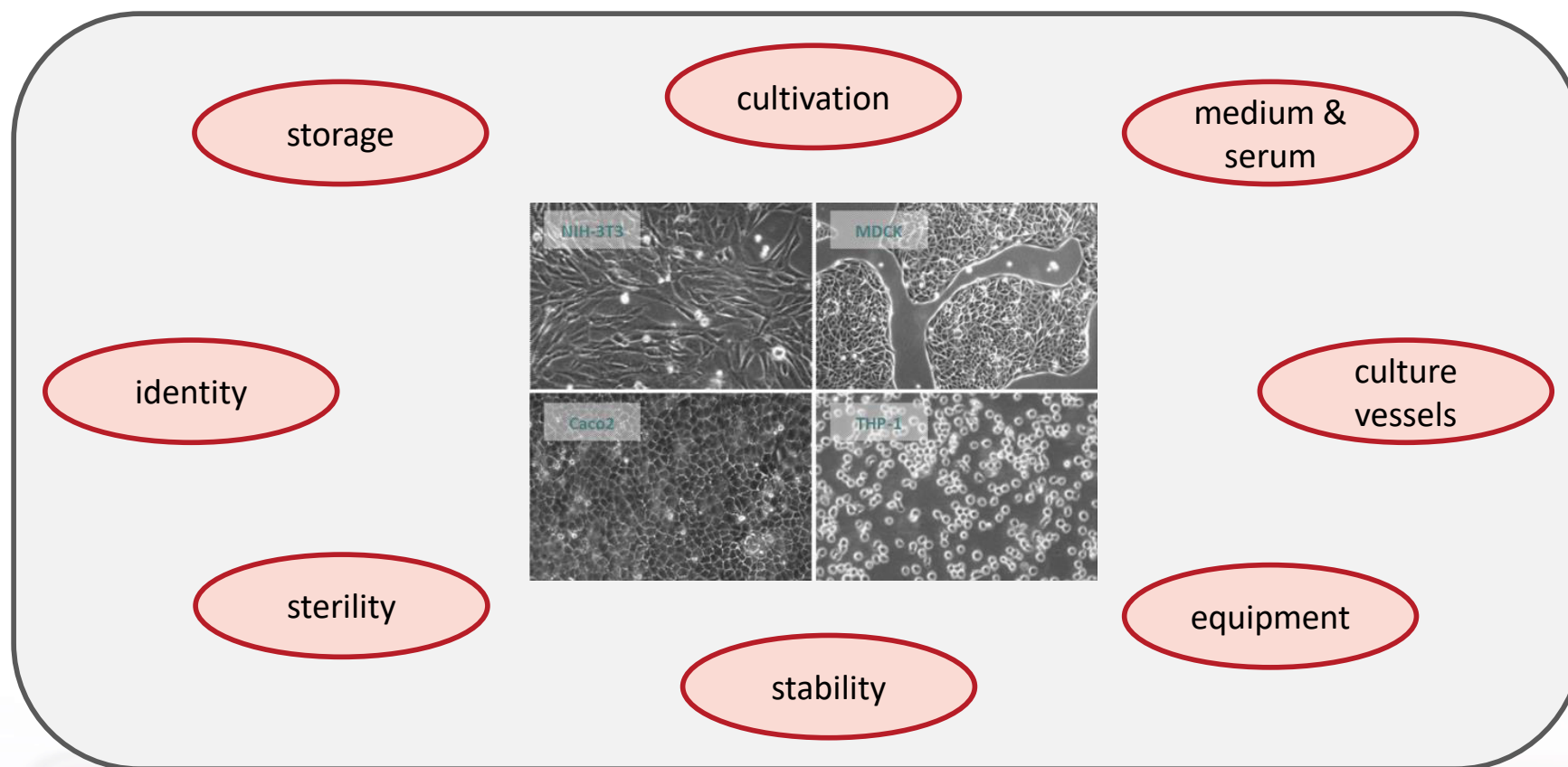
# good cell culture practice

## GCCP & GIVIMP

- 2002 Hartung, T. et al. **Good cell culture practice. ECVAM good cell culture practice task force report 1.** *Altern Lab Anim* 30, 407-414.
- 2005 Coecke, S. et al. **Guidance on good cell culture practice – A report of the second ECVAM task force on good cell culture practice.** *Altern Lab Anim* 33, 261-287.
- 2017 Pamies D. et al. **Good Cell Culture Practice for stem cells and stem-cell-derived models.** *ALTEX*. 34(1):95-132.
- 2018 Pamies D. et al. **Advanced Good Cell Culture Practice for human primary, stem cell-derived and organoid models as well as microphysiological systems.** *ALTEX*. 5(3):353-378
- 2018 OECD. **Guidance Document on Good In Vitro Method Practices (GIVIMP).** OECD Series on Testing and Assessment, No. 286. OECD Publishing, Paris.
- 2020 Pamies D. et al. **Good Cell and Tissue Culture Practice 2.0 (GCCP 2.0) - Draft for stakeholder discussion and call for action.** *ALTEX*. 2020;37(3):490-492.

# cells are alive

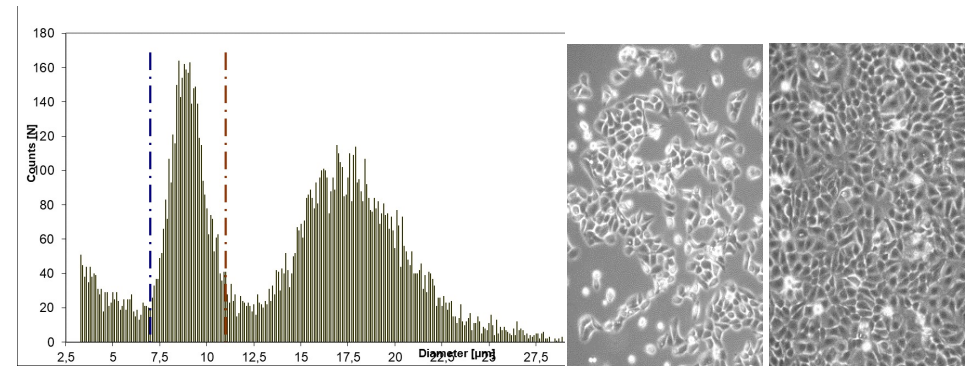
## determinants of cell quality



# cultivation

you'll get what you deserve

- Viability & Debris
- Aggregation
- Confluence / Density
- Growth Rate
- Morphology



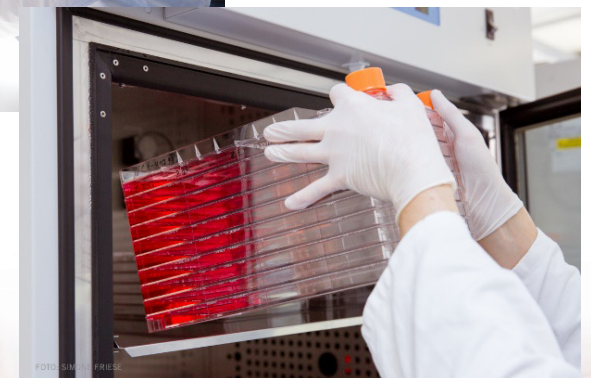
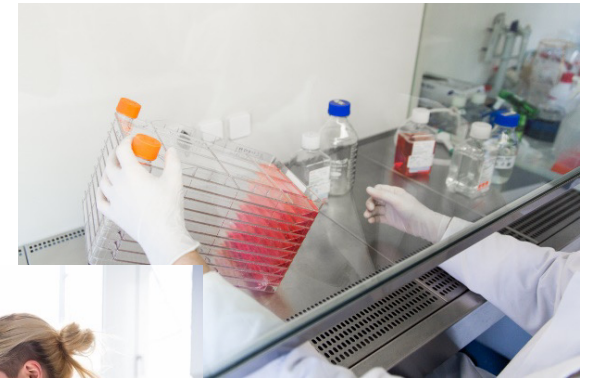
Date / Time	Growth Rate [μl]	Detachment [min.]	Culture Dish [cm <sup>2</sup> ]	Total Area [cm <sup>2</sup> ]	Harvest Density [c/cm <sup>2</sup> ]	Viable Cell Number	Viability [%]	Aggregation	Debris / Cell	Passage	Comment
09.03.21 11:44 AM						5,96E+06	97,8	1,38	0,2	57	Seeding from MCB
11.03.21 7:35 AM	0,60	5	TC75	225	7,96E+04	1,79E+07	97,8	1,23	0,1	58	
13.03.21 11:38 AM	0,44	5	TC175	700	6,69E+04	4,68E+07	97,8	1,22	0,2	59	
16.03.21 08:30	0,44	5	CS6360	3180	5,25E+04	1,67E+08	98,1	1,24	0,1	60	
19.03.21 7:28 AM	0,46	5	CS6360	9540	6,75E+04	6,44E+08	98,1	1,34	0,2		Harvest of WCB



# cultivation

you'll get what you deserve

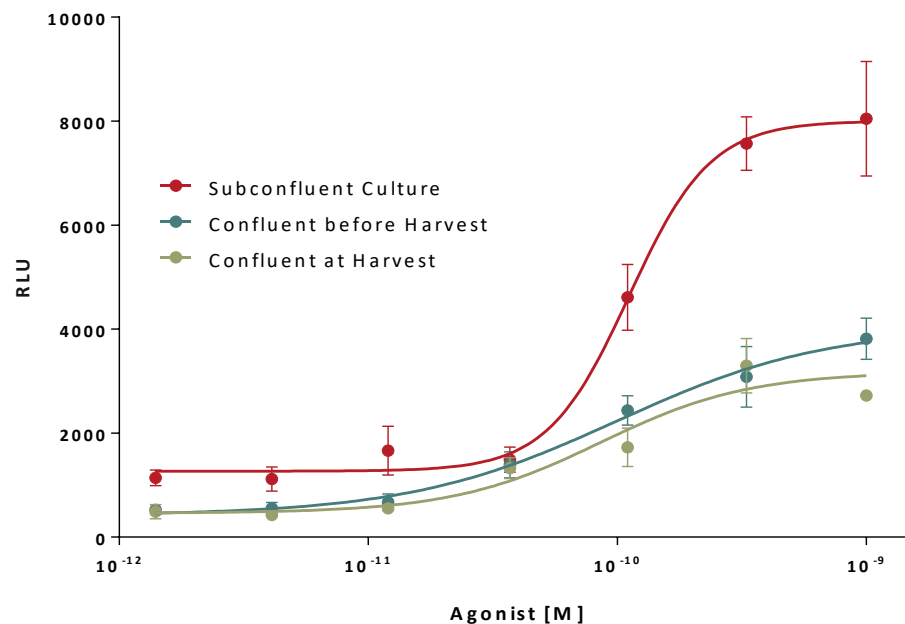
- Follow the SOP
- Train the Operator
- Monitor the Cell Quality
- Document the Process



# cultivation

you'll get what you deserve

- Follow the SOP
- Train the Operator
- Monitor the Cell Quality
- Document the Process

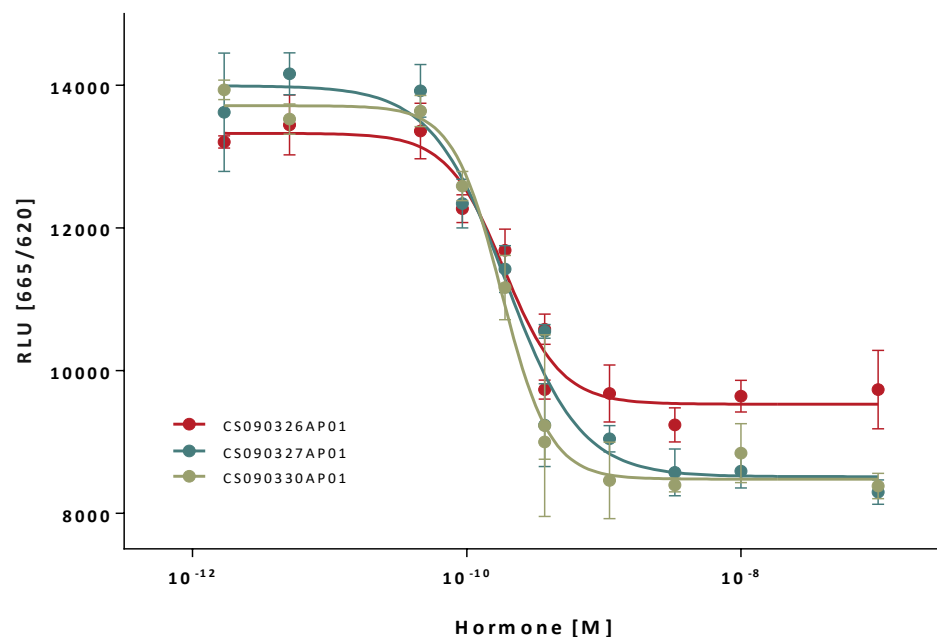


Cell Line: **PC3-NHR-Luc**  
Target: **Nuclear Hormone Receptor**  
Assay: **Luciferase reporter gene assay**

# cultivation

you'll get what you deserve

- Follow the SOP
- Train the Operator
- Monitor the Cell Quality
- Document the Process



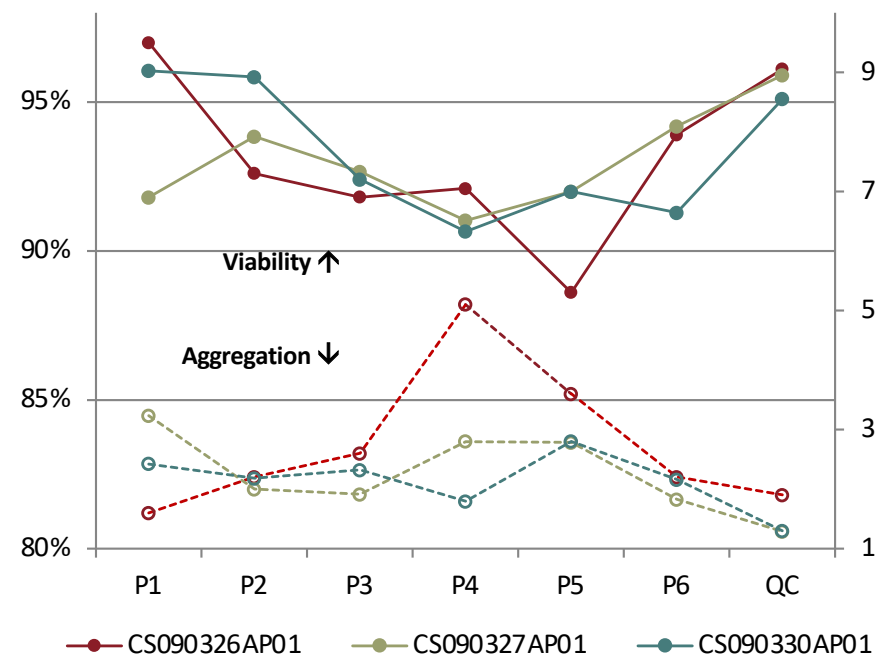
Cell Line: assay ready CHO-GPCR  
Target: Hormone Receptor  
Assay: IP-One htrf Assay



# cultivation

you'll get what you deserve

- Follow the SOP
- Train the Operator
- Monitor the Cell Quality
- Document the Process



# consumables & equipment

qualify & control

 **Culture Vessels**

 **Media**

 **Serum**

 **Incubators**

# consumables & equipment

## qualify & control

 Culture Vessels

 Media

 Serum

 Incubators

### Serum

- Stimulates cell proliferation and cell attachment. Buffers toxic substances.
- Level of Endotoxin & Hemoglobin
- Sterility, Virus & Mycoplasma tested
- Replace serum if possible. If you cannot try to reduce serum levels.

Supplier Lot	Endotoxin [EU/ml]	Hemoglobin [mg/dl]	Jurkat Growth	Jurkat Debris	Raji Viability	Caco2 (TEER)	THP-1 MAT
03275	0,73	25,2	0,42	0,1	89%	fail	pass
38754	5,43	11,1	0,37	0,3	94%	pass	fail
87232	3,10	11,4	0,33	0,3	94%	pass	pass
28745	0,10	8,4	0,43	0,1	93%	pass	pass
04985	0,50	9,8	0,38	0,1	83%	fail	pass
20200	0,40	13,7	0,42	0,1	90%	pass	pass

### Serum Qualification

# consumables & equipment

## qualify & control

 Culture Vessels

 Media

 Serum

 Incubators

### 5 % CO<sub>2</sub> is always set ...?

- CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere of the incubator influences the pH of the medium.
- The optimal concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> depends on the buffer capacity of the medium, i.e. the concentration of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>.

#### pH at 5% CO<sub>2</sub>:

- |                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| • RPMI 1640 (2.0 g/L)   | pH 7.43 |
| • DMEM (3.7 g/L)        | pH 7,69 |
| • Ham's F12 (1,176 g/L) | pH 7,19 |

<https://www.cellseeker.org/cellcalc/co2-calculator/>

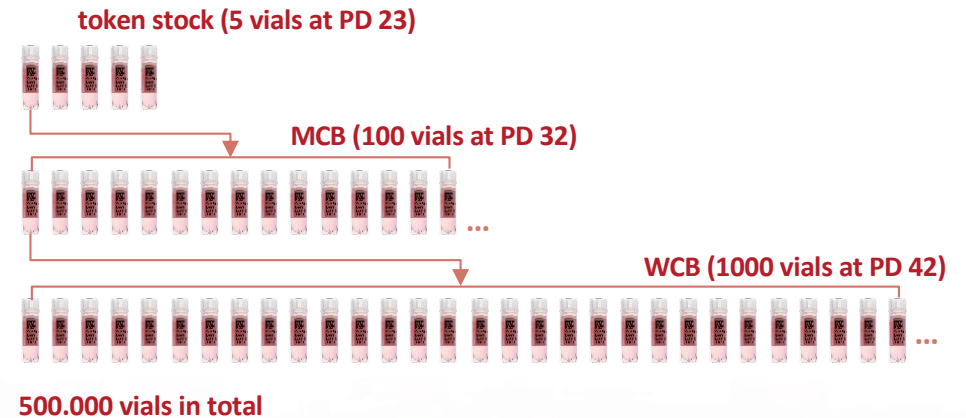
# stability

## face that final curtain

- Aging of Cell Cultures
- Marker Expression
- Pluripotency of stem cells

### Aging of Cells

- Finite vs. infinite (immortal) cell lines
- Passage vs. Population Doubling
- Establish a cell banking system

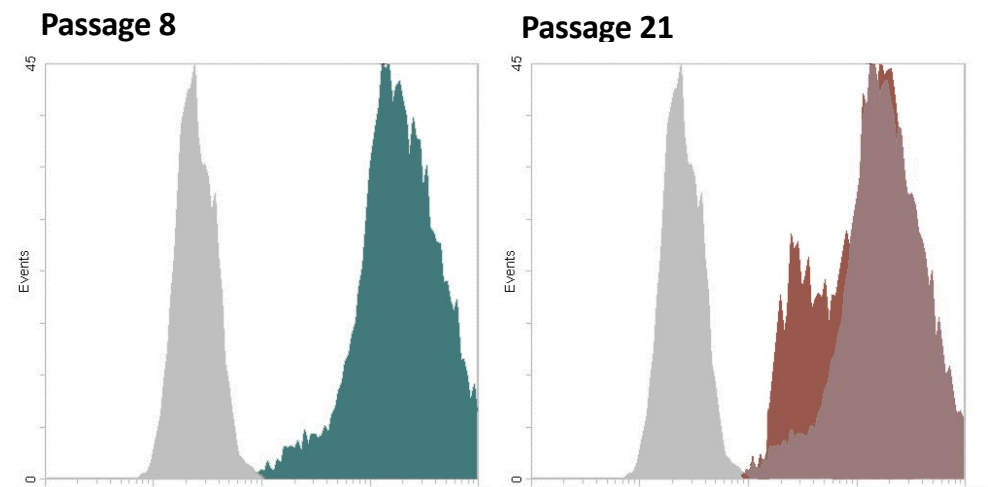


# stability

## face that final curtain

- Aging of Cell Cultures
- **Marker Expression**
- Pluripotency of stem cells

### Control of Marker Expression



Expression of a recombinant surface marker expressed in HK293 cells at passage 8 (green) and at passage 21 (red). Isotype control (grey)



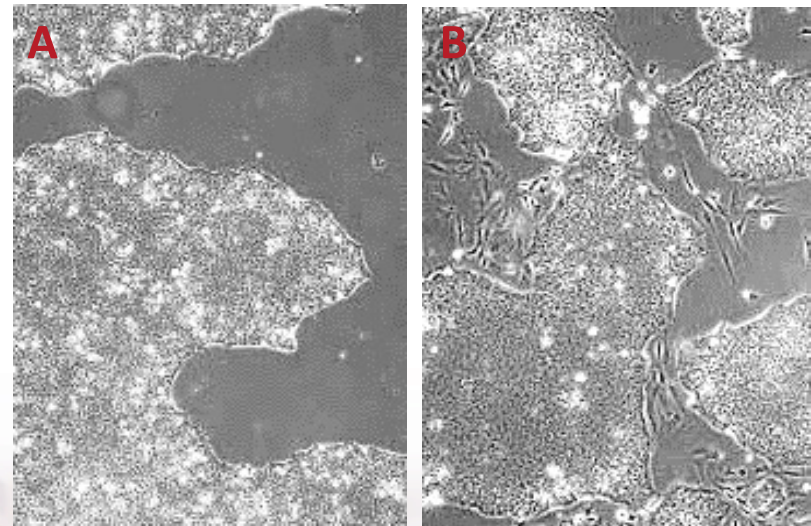
# stability

## face that final curtain

- Aging of cell cultures
- Marker Expression
- **Pluripotency of stem cells**

### Scoring of iPSC colonies

- A: compacted iPSC colonies with defined edges; uniform morphology.
- B: iPSC colonies with some differentiation around the edges, cells more loosely packed.



Source: EBiPC

# sterility

better safe than sorry

- Bacteria, fungi & yeast
- Mycoplasma
- Viruses
- How to maintain sterility

## Steri Broth Inoculation (7-10 days)

**TSB - Tryptic Soy Broth**  
facultative aerob bacteria

**THIO Thioglycollate Broth**  
facultative anaerob bacteria & yeast



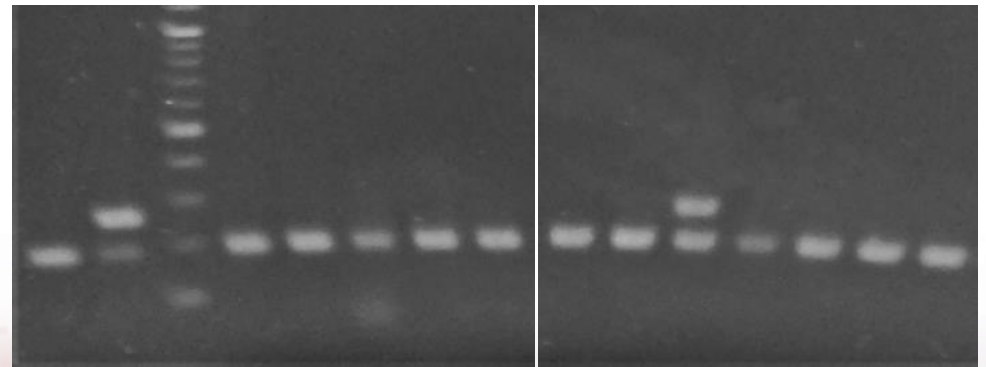
# sterility

better safe than sorry

- Bacteria, fungi & yeast
- **Mycoplasma**
- Viruses
- How to maintain sterility

## Mycoplasma Detection by PCR

- Amplification of 16S rRNA coding region of the mycoplasma genome.
- limit of detection: 20 copies
- detection of *M. orale*, *M. hyorhinitis*, *M. arginini*, *M. fermentans*, *M. salivarium*, *M. hominis*, ...  
+85



# sterility

better safe than sorry

- Bacteria, fungi & yeast
- Mycoplasma
- **Viruses**
- How to maintain sterility

## Virus Contamination

- Safety concern: Primary material may contain human pathogenic viruses.
- Adventitious human, bovine, porcine, rodent, and insect viruses
- Viruses from the molecular tools box. Beware of cross contamination.

# sterility

## better safe than sorry

- Bacteria, fungi & yeast
- Mycoplasma
- Viruses
- **How to maintain sterility**

### Hygiene Measures

- Wear lab coats, gloves and clean shoes.
- Disinfect your hands and instruments. Don't touch your face.
- Do not use prophylactic antibiotics.
- Ban new or suspicious cultures into a quarantine incubator.
- Discard contaminated cultures immediately.
- Apply a regular hygiene monitoring in the lab.




# identity

## what the heck is the HEK

### Misidentified Cell Lines

 STR analysis

 Species specific PCR

 How to avoid cross contamination

### ICLAC Register of Misidentified Cell Lines

<https://iclac.org/databases/cross-contaminations/>

- 531 cell lines are misidentified with no known authentic stock. 45 could be retrieved.
- 67 cell lines come from a different species (interspecies contamination)
- 73 cell lines do not correspond to the original donor, but the contaminant is unknown.
- 144 different contaminants are listed. 140 of these are HeLa

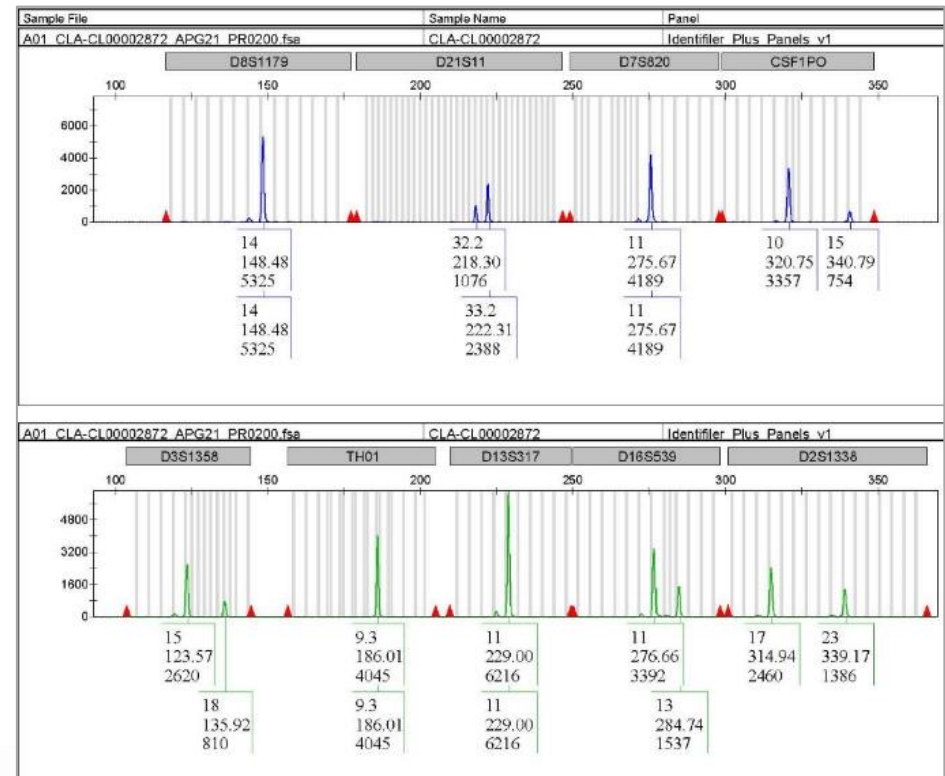
Capes-Davis A, Theodosopoulos G, Atkin I, Drexler HG, Kohara A, Macleod RA, Masters JR, Nakamura Y, Reid YA, Reddel RR, Freshney RI (2010) Check your cultures! A list of cross-contaminated or misidentified cell lines. *Int J Cancer* 127: 1-8.



# identity





## what the heck is the HEK

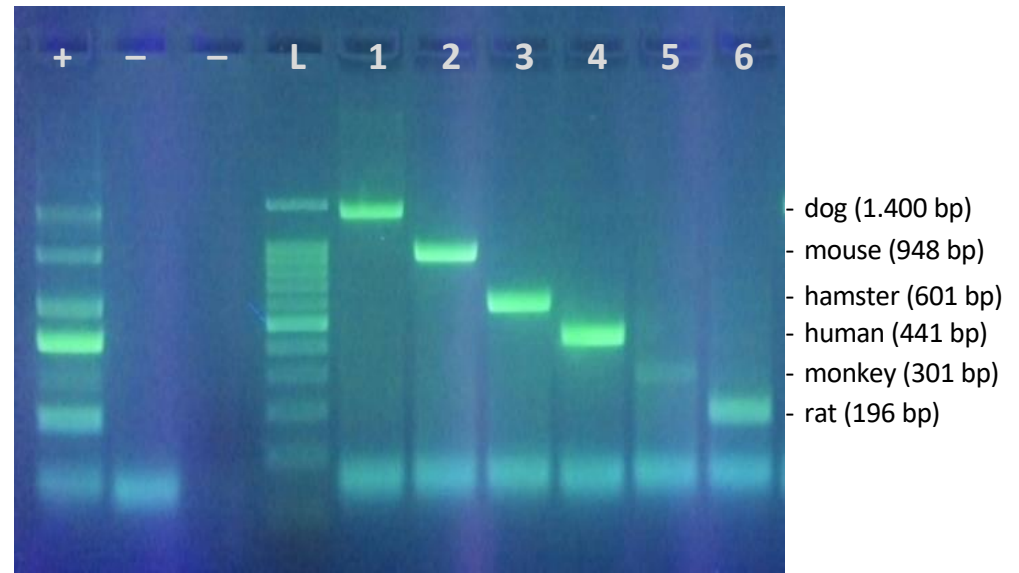
- Misidentified Cell Lines
- STR analysis
- Species specific PCR
- How to avoid cross contamination



# identity

## what the heck is the HEK

-  Misidentified Cell Lines
-  STR analysis
-  **Species specific PCR**
-  How to avoid cross contamination



- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1: MDCK (Madin-Darby Canine Kidney) | 4: HEK293 (Human Embryonic Kidney)    |
| 2: L-929 (Mouse Fibroblasts)        | 5: Vero (African Green Monkey Kidney) |
| 3: CHO-1 (Chinese Hamster Ovary)    | 6: H4IIE (Rat Hepatoma Cells)         |

Ono. K. et al. (2007): Species identification of animal cells by nested PCR targeting to mitochondrial DNA. In Vitro Cell. Dev. Biol. – Animal 43: 168-175

# identity

## what the heck is the HEK

- Misidentified Cell Lines
- STR analysis
- Species specific PCR
- **How to avoid cross contamination**

### Avoid Cross Contamination

- Apply hygiene measures.
- Don't handle multiple cell lines at the same time.
- Separate cell lines from each other. Use filter caps.
- Know where your cells are coming from.
- Define the initial status of new cell lines.




Cell  
Depository

Self  
Generated

Befriended  
Laboratory

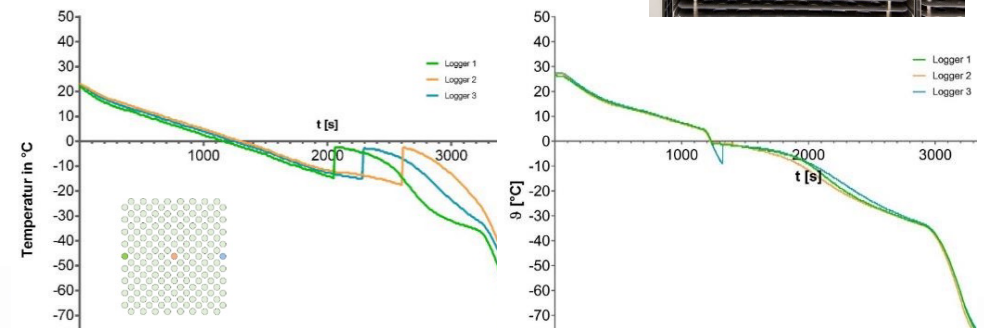
# cryopreservation

## survival of the fittest

-  Freezing
-  Assay Ready Cells
-  Storage

### Controlled Rate Freezing

Slow cooling and the presence of cryoprotectants (DMSO) prevents the formation of crystals and water becomes an amorphous (non-crystalline) glass.



# cryopreservation

## survival of the fittest

- Freezing
- Assay Ready Cells**
- Storage

### Assay Ready Cells

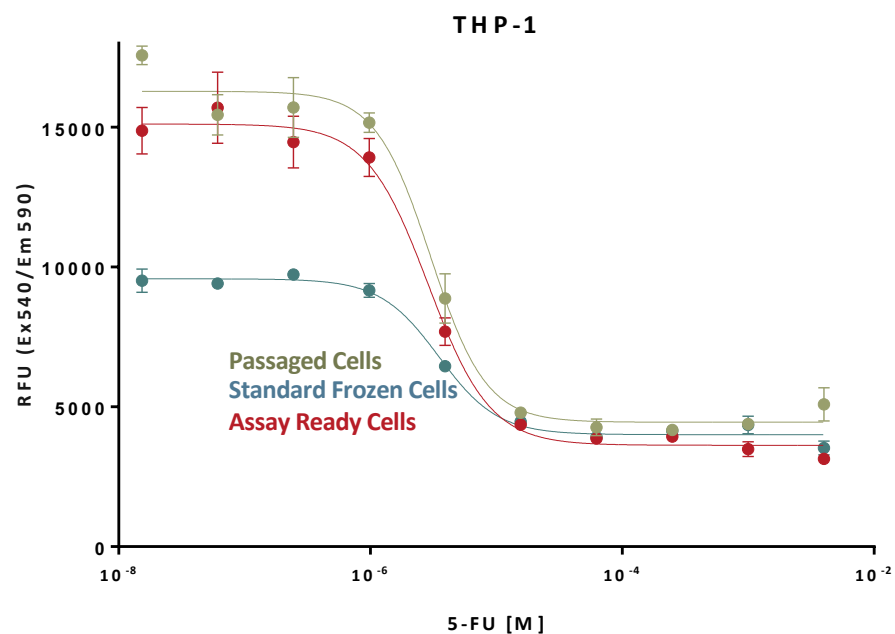
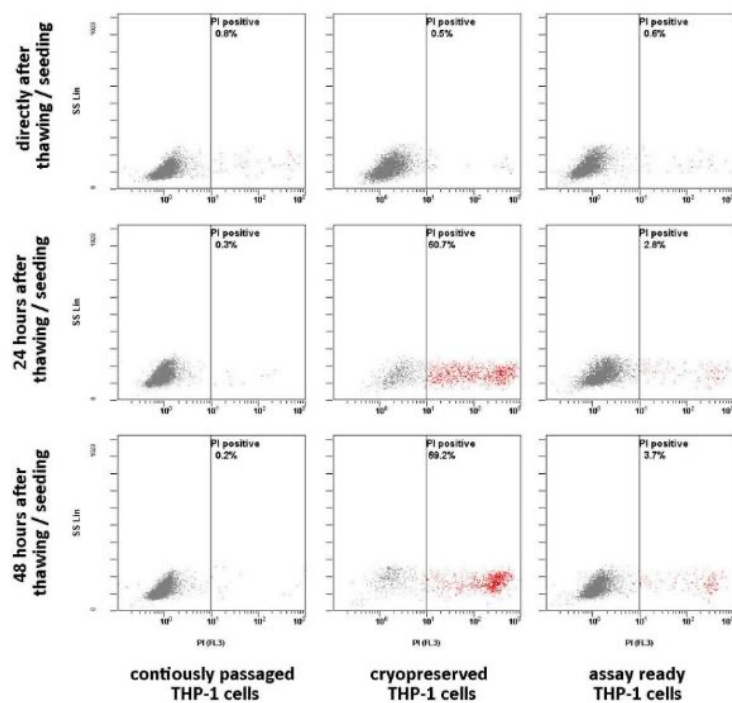
- Cryopreservation should be more than just freezing cells for later recovery; it should preserve the full functionality of cells.
- Optimized freezing media
- Improved cryopreservation protocols
- Turn cells into reagents



# assay ready cells

## turning cells into reagents

### Recovery of THP-1 Cells

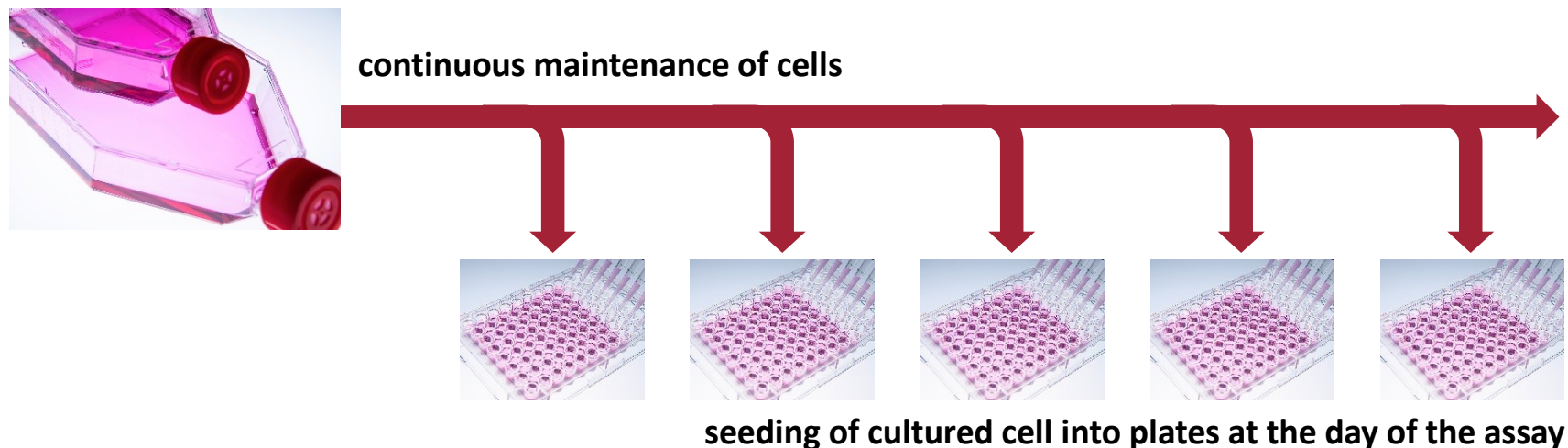




# assay ready cells

## turning cells into reagents

### Classic Way of Cell Supply

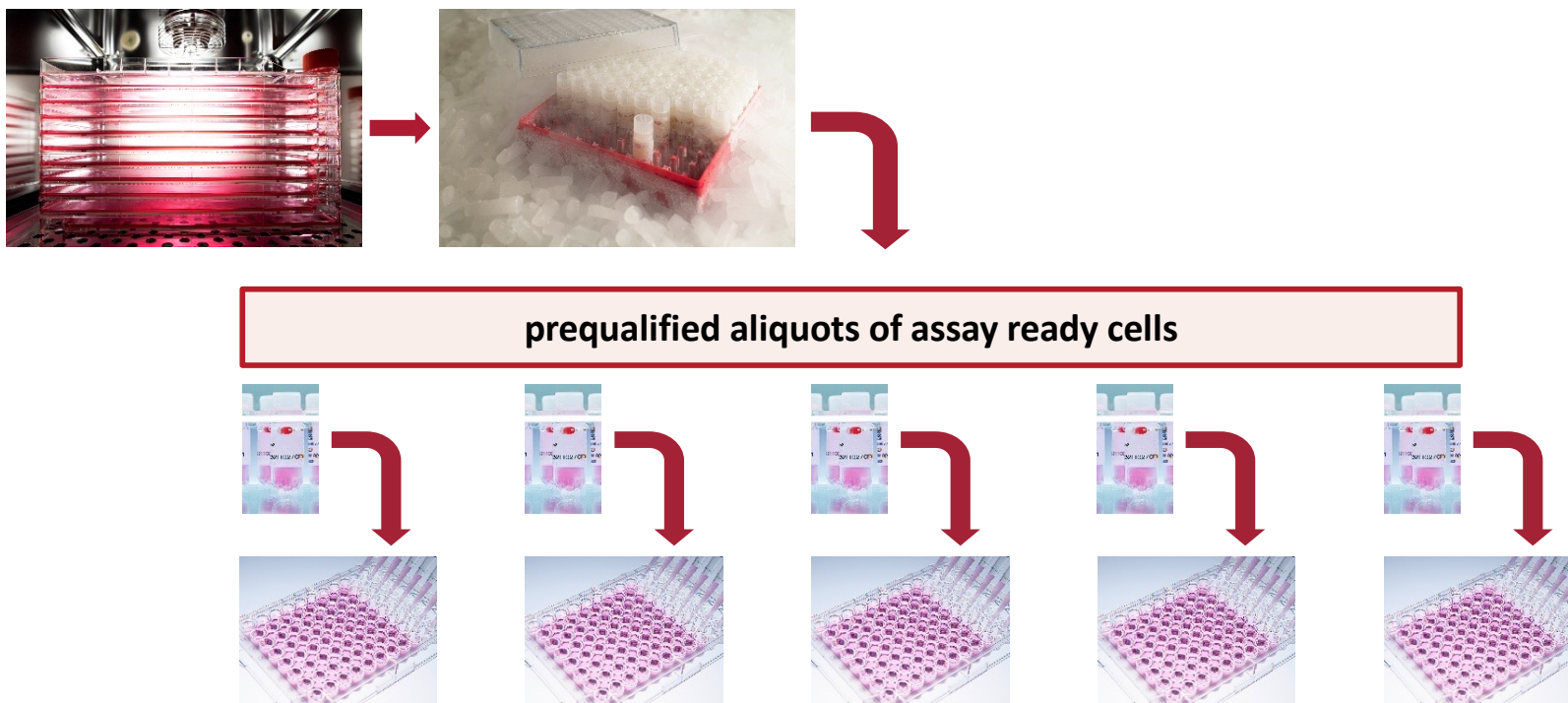


- variability through different handling and lots
- passage drift of cells
- risk of contamination

# assay ready cells

## turning cells into reagents

### Smart Way of Cell Supply



thawing of assay ready cells and instant dispensing into assay plates at the day of use



# assay ready cells

## turning cells into reagents

- Ready to use like a reagent. No cultivation required.
- Harmonizes the impact of cell cultivation, media, and cell age.
- Homogeneous prequalified cell banks increase assay precision.
- Instantly available at any time and at consistent quality.
- Convenient to use even from inexperienced operators.



# cryopreservation

## survival of the fittest

- Freezing
- Assay Ready Cells
- Storage**

### Lost in the Ice

- **-80°C Deep Freezers** for very short-term storage only.
- **-150°C Ultra Low Freezers.** Beware of Power Failure. liN2 back-up required.
- **Liquid Nitrogen.** Best for long-term storage. Avoid temperature fluctuation above the glass transition point at approx. 137 °C.



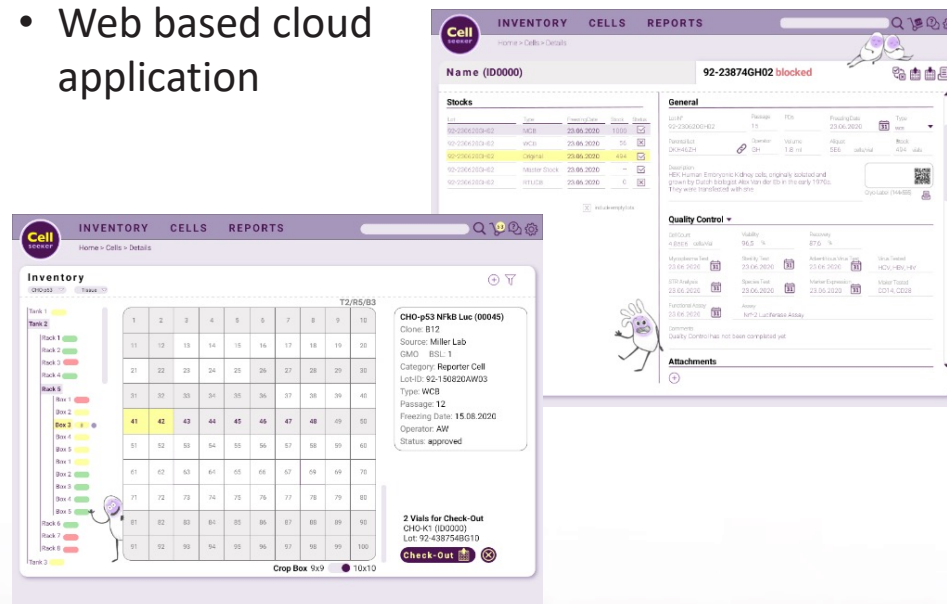
# cryopreservation

## survival of the fittest

- Freezing
- Assay Ready Cells
- Storage

### Cellseeker Inventory

- Free Inventory Software
- Organizes cells and stocks
- Web based cloud application



The screenshots display the Cellseeker Inventory web application interface. The top screenshot shows the 'INVENTORY' tab with a table of stocks and a 'General' section. The bottom screenshot shows the 'CELLS' tab with a grid of cell counts and a 'Quality Control' section.

**Stocks Table:**

ID	Cell Line	Quantity	Unit	Status
92-23874GH02	WCB	25.00.2020	1000	Blocked
92-23874GH02	WCB	25.00.2020	50	Blocked
92-23874GH02	Original	25.00.2020	400	Blocked
92-23874GH02	Master Stock	25.00.2020	-	Blocked
92-23874GH02	HT108	25.00.2020	0	Blocked

**General Section:**

Name (ID0000): 92-23874GH02 blocked

General:

- Source: 92-23874GH02
- Stock: 92-23874GH02
- Passage: 12
- Freezing Date: 25.00.2020
- Operator: AW
- Status: approved

**Quality Control:**

Cell Count: 92-23874GH02

Passage: 12

Freezing Date: 25.00.2020

Operator: AW

Status: approved

**Attachments:**

2 Vials for Check-Out

CHO-K1 (ID0000)

Lot: 92-4387548G10

Check-Out

[www.cellseeker.org](http://www.cellseeker.org)  
[inventory.cellseeker.org/demo](http://inventory.cellseeker.org/demo)



# conclusion

## the rule of 5D

**Develop** acceptance criteria for your cell cultures

**Define** the limits of acceptance

**Detect** changes by close observation

**Document** all cell parameters during cultivation

**Discard** cells that miss the acceptance criteria

