Graveley Lab shRNA knockdown followed by RNA-seq Biosample Preparation and Characterization Document

Wet Lab: Sara Olson and Lijun Zhan
Computational Lab: Xintao Wei
PI: Brenton Graveley

Department of Genetics and Genome Sciences
UConn Institute for Systems Genomics
UConn Health
400 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06030 USA

October 17, 2018

Project: ENCORE
Grant: U41HG009889
Sample Description: shRNA Knockdown of AQR in HepG2 cells
Cell Line: HepG2
RNA ID: AQR-BGHLV37-12C
ENCODE BIOSAMPLE ACCESSION: ENCBS775JOM

This document contains the protocols used to generate shRNA expressing lentiviral particles, transduction of HepG2 cells, harvesting of RNA, characterization of the RNA integrity and measurement of target knockdown efficiency by both qRT-PCR and Western blotting.

Protocol for producing shRNA lentiviral particles

In this portion of the protocol we will generate lentiviral particles expressing either an shRNA targeting an RNA binding protein mRNA or a non-target control shRNA.

Item	Info
Target	AQR-human
shRNA Source	The RNAi Consortium
Product ID	TRCN0000074870
Target sequence	CCTGTCACTATGGACAAAGTT
Vector backbone	pLKO.1

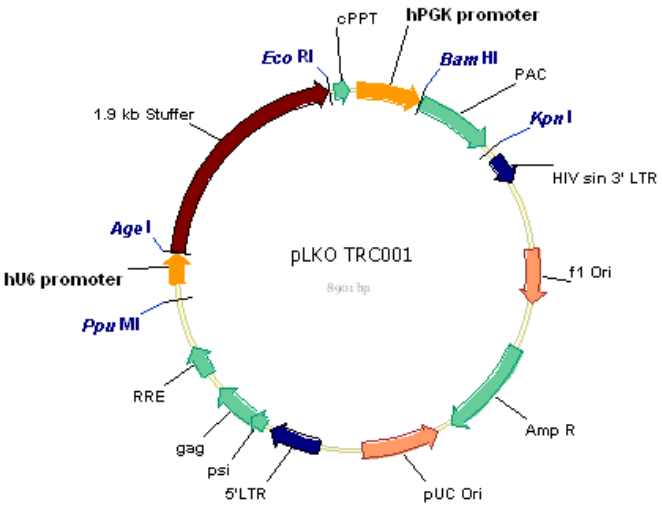


Figure 1: Schematic depiction of backbone of the pLKO.1 plasmid encoding the shRNA.

Day 1

1. Plate 0.8-1x10^6 293 T cells (catalog number: CRL-11268, ATCC) in each well of 6-well plate with 10 % FBS (catalog number: 30-2020, ATCC) DMEM (catalog number: 11995-065, Life technologies) medium without penicillin and streptomycin.

2. Incubate overnight. Cells should be 70-80% confluent.

Day 2

1. In polypropylene tubes, make a cocktail for each transfection as follows:

Reagent	Quantity
pLKO-shRNA	500 ng
psPAX2 Packaging DNA	500 ng
PMD2.G Envelope DNA	50 ng
serum-free OPTI-MEM	to 100 μl

2. Add 3.1 μl of FuGENE HD Transfection reagent (Catalog number: E2311, Promega) to the tube (FuGENE:DNA=3:1)
3. Incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature.
4. Gently add the DNA mix dropwise to cells.
5. Incubate the cells at 37 °C for 12-15 hr.

Day 3

1. In the morning, change the media to remove the transfection reagent, wash with PBS once and add 1.5 ml fresh media +10% FBS + penicillin/streptomycin.

Day 4

1. Harvest media from cells, store at 4 °C.
2. Add 1.5 ml fresh media.

Day 5

1. Harvest the media from the cells and pool with the media collected on Day 4.
2. Spin the media at 1250 rpm for 5 min to remove cells.
3. Freeze the virus stock at −40 °C.

qPCR Lentivirus Titration Assay

Lentiviral titrations are performed using the qPCR Lentivirus Titration kit from Applied Biological Materals Inc. (Catalog Number LV900).

1. Add 2 μl of the viral supernatant to 18 μl of Virus Lysis buffer and incubate at RT for 3 mins. This is now referred to as viral lysate.
2. qRT-PCR set up:

Component	Viral lysate	Positive Control (STD1)	Positive Control (STD2)	Negative control (NTC)
2x qPCR Mastermix	12.5 μl	12.5 μl	12.5 μl	12.5 μl
Viral Lysate	2.5 μl			
STD1		2.5 μl		
STD2			2.5 μl	
Reagent-mix	10 μl	10 μl	10 μl	10 μl
Final vol.	25 μl	25 μl	25 μl	25 μl

3. qRT-PCR program:

STEP	TEMP	TIME
Reverse Transcription	42 °C	20 minutes
Enzyme Activation	95 °C	10 minutes
40 Cycles	95 °C	15 seconds
	60 °C	1 minute

4. Calculate the titer from Ct values by using abm's on-line lentiviral titer calculator at http://www.abmgood.com/High-Titer-Lentivirus-Calculation.html or by using the formula: IU/ml=Dilution factor x 5x10ˆ7/2ˆ3(Ct sample-Ct STD1)/(CtSTD2-CtSTD1)

Lentiviral Transduction Protocol

For HepG2 cells

Source: ATCC HBâĂŘ8065 (lot 59635738)

Growth Media for HepG2

500 ml DMEM (HyClone, SH30022.01)
50 ml Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) (10% Final Concentration) (Hyclone, SH30071.03)
5 ml Pen-Strep (1% Final Concentration) (Life Technologies,15140122)

Culturing

1. Thaw a frozen stock vial of HepG2 cells by gentle agitation in a 37 °C water bath.
2. Remove the vial from the water bath as soon as the contents are thawed.
3. Transfer the cells into the growth medium and centrifuge at 1000rpm for 5 minutes.
4. Resuspend the cell pellet in an appropriate amount of fresh growth medium.
5. Incubate the cells at 37ÂřC in a 5% CO_2 in air atmosphere incubator.
6. Change the fresh growth medium every 2 to 3 days.
7. Cells are ready to split when the cell density reaches 70−80% confluence.

8. Remove culture medium.
9. Wash cells with 1X PBS.
10. Add 2 to 3 ml of 0.25% TrysinâĂŘEDTA and return to incubator for 5 minutes.
11. Add 4.0 to 6.0 mL of complete growth medium and aspirate cells by gently pipetting.
12. Remove cells and pellet at 1000 rpm for 5 min.
13. Gently reâĂŘsuspend cell pellet in warm fresh growth medium.
14. Perform 1:8 to 1:16 cell split as needed.

Prepare cells for transduction

1. Plate 5x10ˆ5 cells in each well of 6-well plates.
2. Incubate for overnight, cells should be $50-60\%$ confluent.

Day 0

1. Change the fresh media with 8 μg/ml of polybrene (Catalog Number H9268, Sigma-Aldrich) to the cells.
2. Add lentiviral particles (MOI $\sim$ 10) to appropriate wells.

Day 1

1. After 24 hrs, change to fresh media (2 ml) with 3 μg/ml of puromycin.

Day 3

1. Change to fresh media with 3 μg/ml of puromycin.

Day 5

1. Change to fresh media with 3 μg/ml of puromycin.

Day 6

1. Detach the cells, harvest half of the cells to prepare RNA and half of the cells to prepare a protein lysate for western blotting.

RNA Isolation

RNA isolation is performed using a Promega Maxwell®16 Instrument and the Maxwell®16 LEV simplyRNA Cells Kits (Catlog Number AS1270).

1. Pellet cells at 300 x g for 3 minutes and remove medium.

2. Add 200 μl of chilled 1-Thioglycerol/Homogenization solution to the cell pellet and vortex until the pellet is dispersed.
3. Add 200 μl of lysis buffer and votex vigorously for 15 sec to mix.
4. Transfer all 400 μl lysate to well 1 of the Maxwell 16 LEV cartridge.
5. Add 5 μl of DNase I solution to well 4 of the cartridge.
6. Put elution tubes with 40-50 μl of nuclease-free water and LEV plungers in the cartridge.
7. Transfer the Maxwell 16 LEV cartridge rack containing prepared cartridges on the Maxwell 16 Instrument.
8. Push Run/Stop button to start run.

RNA Quality Control

The quality of the RNA is measured using an Agilent TapeStation Instrument with the RNA screen tape (Catlog Number 5067-5576).

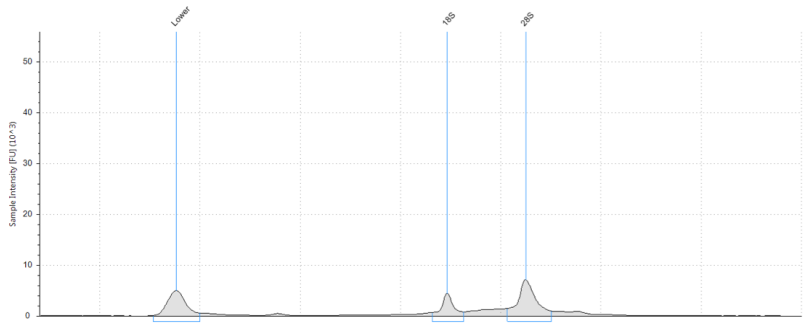


Figure 2: Agilent TapeStation image of 1 μl of total RNA sample.

qRT-PCR Assay to Monitor mRNA Target Knockdown Efficiency

cDNA Synthesis

This assay uses the iScript cDNA Synthsis Kit from BIO-RAD (Catalog number: 170-8891)

1. Reaction Setup:

Reagent	Quantity
5x iScript reaction mix	2 μl
iScript reverse transcriptase	0.5 μl
Nuclease-free water	x μl
RNA template (200 ng)	x μl
Total volume	10 μl

2. Reaction Protocol:

Time	Temperature
5 minutes	25 °C
30 minutes	42 °C
5 minutes	85 °C
Hold	4 °C

qPCR Assay

This assay uses Phusion High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase from NEB (Catalog number: M0530L) and SYBR Green from Invitrogen (Catalog number: S7563)

1. Reaction setup:

Reagent	Quantity
5X Phusion HF Buffer	4 μl
10 mM dNTPs	0.4 μl
10 μM Forward Primer	1 μl
10 μM Reverse Primer	1 μl
Template (1:20 of cDNA reaction)	1 μl
Phusion DNA Polymerase	0.2 μl
SYBR Green (10,000 X)	0.1 μl
Nuclease-free water	to 20 μl
Total volume	20 μl

2. Reaction Protocol:

STEP	TEMP	TIME
Initial Denaturation	98 °C	30 seconds
35 Cycles	98 °C	10 seconds
	58 – 66 °C	15 seconds
	72 °C	10 seconds

3. Data Analysis:

Data analysis is perfomed using the $2 - \Delta\Delta$Ct Method.

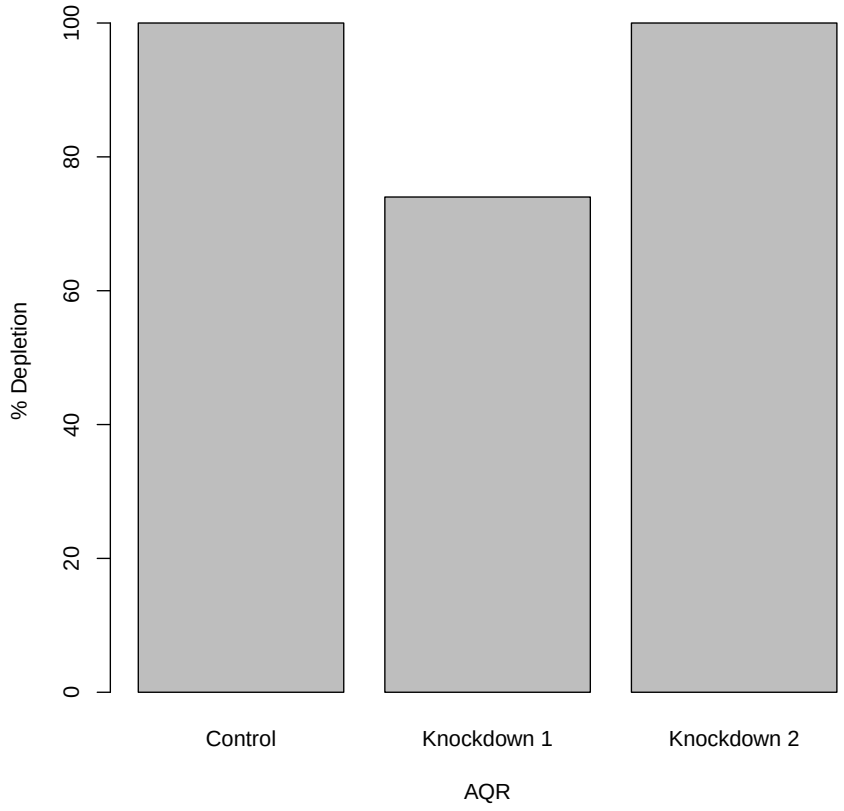


Figure 3: qRT-PCR analysis of depletion level of the target RNA binding protein in control and knockdown cells. The percent depletion was calculated in the RNA sample isolated from HepG2s transduced with an shRNA targeting AQR (ENCODE Biosample ENCBS775JOM) in comparison to HepG2 cells transduced with a control non-target shRNA (ENCODE Biosample ENCBS496TVI). The efficiency of depletion is normalized using GAPDH as a control.

Western Blot Assay to Monitor Protein Target Knockdown Efficiency

A western blot is performed to determine the knockdown efficiency of the target RNA binding protein. For this biosample, the following antibodies were used:

RNA binding protein primary antibody: AQR

Loading control primary antibody: GAPDH

Wes Protocol

12-230 kDa Master kit with split Running Buffer from Proteinsimple

A. PREPARE STANDARD PACK REAGENTS

1. Add 40 μL deionized water to make a 400 mM solution of the DTT.
2. Add 20 μL 10X Sample buffer and 20 μL prepared 400 mM DTT to make 5X Fluorescent Master Mix.
3. Add 16 μL deionized water, 2 μL 10X Sample Buffer and 2 μL prepared 400 mM DTT solution to make Biotinylated Ladder.

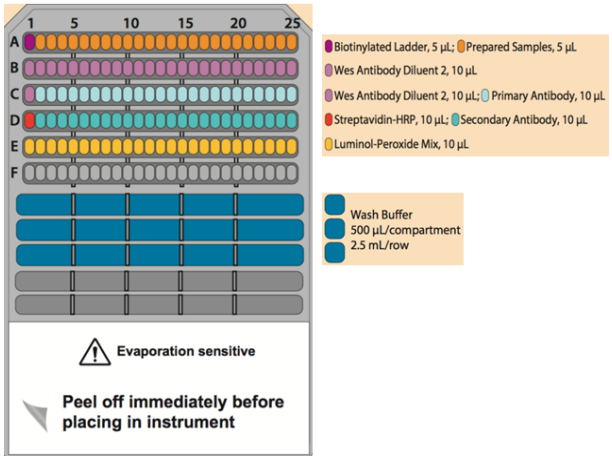
B. PREPARE YOUR SAMPLES

1. Combine 1 part 5X Fluorescent Master Mix with 4 parts lysate in a microcentrifuge tube (If needed, dilute the lysate with 0.1X Sample Buffer).
2. Denature the samples and biotinylated ladder at 70 °C for 10 min.

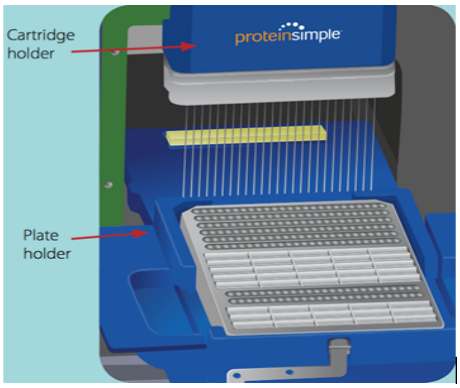
C. PREPARE REAGENTS FROM DETECTION MODULE

1. Dilute primary antibody with antibody diluent 2.
2. The supplied secondary antibody is ready to use without dilution.
3. Combine 150 μL Luminol-S and 150 μL Peroxid in a microcentrifuge tube. Gently pipette up and down to mix and store on ice.

D. PIPETTE YOUR PLATE (IMMUNOASSAY)



For more consistent results, keep the lid on between reagent additions. Centrifuge the plate for 5 minutes at 2500 rpm at room tempereature.



E. START WES

1. Load the desired assay in Compass software v2.7 or higher.
2. Open Wes' door.
3. Insert a capillary cartridge into the cartridge holder. The interior light will change from orange to blue.
4. Remove the assay plate lid. Hold plate firmly on bench and carefully peel off evaporation seal. Pop any bubbles observed in the Separation Matrix wells with a pipette tip.
5. Place the assay plate on the plate holder
6. Close Wes' door.
7. Click the Start button in compass.
8. When the run is complete, discard the plate and cartridge.

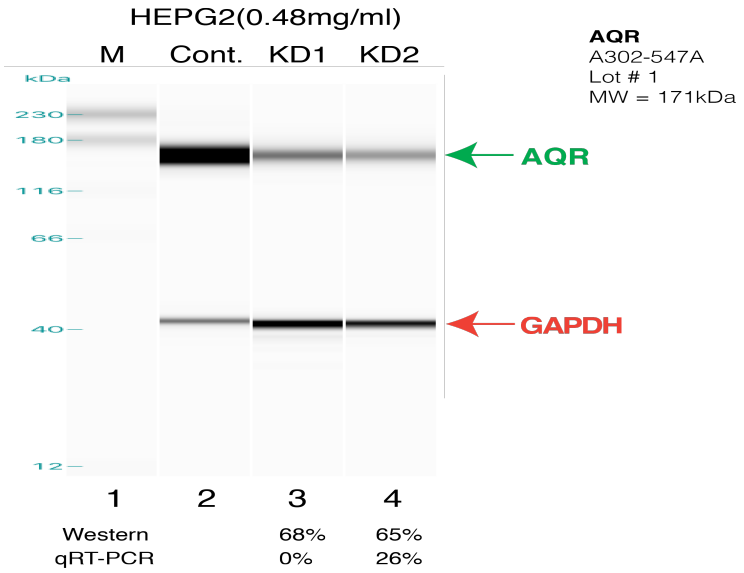


Figure 4: Western Blot Analysis of depletion level of the target RNA binding protein in control and knockdown cells. Lane 1: Molecular weight marker. Lane 2: 30 μg of protein from HepG2 transduced with a control, non-target shRNA (ENCODE Biosample ENCBS496TVI and ENCBS135CDE). Lane 3: 30 μg of protein from HepG2 transduced with an shRNA targeting AQR (ENCODE Biosample ENCBS246WPL). Lane 4: 30 μg of protein from HepG2 transduced with an shRNA targeting AQR (ENCODE Biosample ENCBS775JOM). Samples were separated by SDS-PAGE, transferred to a membrane and blotted using antibodies against AQR (ENCODE Antibody ENCAB609IGM) and GAPDH as controls.