



NIH AIDS Reagent Program

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DATA SHEET

Reagent:	U38 Cells
Catalog Number:	1297
Lot Number:	95082
Release Category:	C
Provided:	6.3 x 10 ⁶ cells/vial.
Propagation Medium:	RPMI 1640, 90%; fetal bovine serum, 10%.
Freeze Medium:	RPMI 1640, 70%; fetal bovine serum, 20%; DMSO, 10%.
Growth Characteristics:	Split twice weekly 1:10. U38 cells are stable and do not need to be maintained in selection medium. If growth in selection medium is desired, propagation medium containing 700 µg/ml G418 should be used. Wash the thawed cells in propagation medium and centrifuge for 10 minutes at 1000 rpm before seeding the cells in a culture flask.
Sterility:	Negative for bacteria, fungi, and mycoplasma.
Description:	U38 cells are a U937 derivative that contains stably integrated, silent copies of the HIV-1 LTR promoter linked to the CAT gene.
Special Characteristics:	This cell line was generated by infection of U937 cells with a helper-free recombinant retroviral vector containing the HIV-1 LTR-CAT gene construct. U38 was selected in geneticin (G418) under limiting dilution and is a sensitive indicator cell line for HIV-1 Tat. When infected by HIV-1, U38 produces high levels of chloramphenicol acetyl transferase (CAT) ^{1,2} . Morphology is monocyte-like. Contains LTR sequences to +80 in the R region. Contains the entire U3 region, but lacks U5 sequences.
Recommended Storage:	Liquid nitrogen.

ALL RECIPIENTS OF THIS MATERIAL MUST COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL, AND/OR RADIOCHEMICAL SAFETY STANDARDS INCLUDING SPECIAL PRACTICES, EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES, AND REGULATIONS. NOT FOR USE IN HUMANS.

Contributor: Dr. Barbara K. Felber and Dr. George N. Pavlakis.

References: ¹Felber BK, Pavlakis GN. A quantitative bioassay for HIV-1 based on trans-activation. *Science* **239**:184-187, 1988.

²Schwartz S, Felber BK, Fenyo EM, Pavlakis GN. Rapidly and slowly replicating human immunodeficiency virus type 1 isolates can be distinguished according to target-cell tropism in T-cell and monocyte cell lines. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* **86**:7200-7203, 1989.

NOTE: Acknowledgment for publications should read "The following reagent was obtained through the NIH AIDS Reagent Program, Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH: U38 Cells from Dr. Barbara K. Felber and Dr. George N. Pavlakis." Also include the references cited above in any publications.

An NCI patent application has been filed on the use of the cell line U38. Corporate requests should be directed in writing to: B.K. Felber or G.N. Pavlakis, National Cancer Institute, FCRDC, ABL-Basic Research Program, P.O. Box B/Building 539, Room 121, Frederick, Maryland 21702-1201. Phone: (301) 846-1474, FAX (301) 846-5991.

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