

Co-immunoprecipitation: Protein–RNA and Protein–DNA Interaction

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1	Co-Immunoprecipitation: protein-RNA and protein-DNA interaction
2	
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21	protein-RNA, protein-DNA interaction
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1 Summary

Transcriptional and post-transcriptional regulators play a critical role in allowing a bacterium 2 to adapt to the diverse environments and conditions it encounters. In order to characterize the 3 role of these regulators the identification of their specific interaction partners is of utmost 4 importance. Co-Immunoprecipitation (IP) is based on antigen/antibody complex formation to 5 purify a protein of interest from the rest of the samples together with its interaction partner. 6 This method allows us to study direct interaction of a regulator with its specific binding 7 8 partners like protein-RNA, protein-DNA or protein-protein interactions. IP typically requires careful optimization and troubleshooting depending on the varying physicochemical 9 characteristics of the protein of interest. In the following chapter we present a starting point 10 and the basic guidelines to obtain the best possible results from an IP experiment with 11 subsequent use of new generation sequencing (NGS) techniques to detect mRNA or ncRNA-12 targets (RIPseq) and protein-DNA interactions (ChIPseq). 13

14

15 **1. Introduction**

Bacteria have developed a variety of strategies with which they adapt their genetic expression 16 17 to meet the challenges of their ever-changing surrounding environment. These include specific sigma factors, two-component systems, peptide or chemical-based quorum sensing 18 systems, repressors, positive regulators, as well as small regulatory RNAs. Alone or in 19 20 combination, these mechanisms enable bacterial cells to communicate with their environment, their hosts, and with each other, allowing the bacteria to adopt specific responses, express 21 specific proteins (toxins, adhesins, invasins, siderophores) or develop specialized structures 22 such as biofilms or spores to ensure survival, colonization of their ecological niches and 23 dissemination. Expression profiles of Legionella lacking transcriptional regulators have been 24 used successfully to broadly define genes impacted by the deleted regulator (1-7). Although 25 providing informative data, transcriptional analysis alone cannot distinguish between direct 26 and indirect regulatory effects or identify regulated genes that may be transcriptionally silent 27 28 under the test conditions. Furthermore, in these experiments additional non-specific results like stress response or activation of subsequent regulatory cascades cannot be avoided and 29 30 sometimes these secondary effects even overwhelm and hide original regulator-specific 31 effects and only vague conclusions about primary/direct responses can be drawn from the 32 experiments.

Co-Immunoprecipitation (IP) enables the purification of a protein based on antigen/antibody
 complex formation. Therefore, isolates of the protein purified from the rest of the samples can

be achieved to study direct interaction between the protein and specific binding partners like 1 nucleotides or other proteins. The most critical factor for the success of these experiments is 2 the quality of the antibody used, but also many other factors during the different steps from 3 lysis to elution are influencing the outcome of the IP (8). ChIP coupled with next-generation 4 sequencing (ChIP-seq) has revolutionized whole-genome mapping of DNA-binding protein 5 sites. Although ChIP-seq rapidly gained support in eukaryotic systems (9), it remains 6 7 underused in the mapping of bacterial transcriptional regulator-binding sites, and only three 8 studies have been published to date (10-12). However, no study using L. pneumophila as model has been reported yet. 9

The following protocols should be seen only as starting points for conducting these 10 experiments, as protocol optimization for each protein studied and each antibody used is 11 indispensible. Here we describe two different methods i) RIPseq to characterize protein-RNA 12 13 interactions and ii) ChIPseq to characterize protein-Chromatin/DNA interactions. Both of them lead to the construction of DNA-libraries optimized for Next Generation Sequencing 14 15 (NGS) techniques. Alternatively, the library screening can be performed with hybridization to Microarrays (on Chip) for which additional steps for DNA dye labeling after PCR 16 17 amplification are necessary.

18 19

20 2. Materials

21 2.1. Strains and growth media

- 22 1. Legionella pneumophila e.g. strains Paris, JR32 or Philadelphia-1
- 23

24 2. AYE medium. For 1 liter dissolve 12 g yeast extract and 10 g ACES, adjust pH to 6.9 with
1 M KOH. Add 10 mL of cysteine 40 g/L and 10 mL of iron pyrophosphate 30 g/L. Fill

volume to 1 L with distilled water and filter sterilize.

27

28 3. CYE plates. For 1 liter dissolve 10 g yeast extract and 10 g ACES, adjust pH to 6.9 with

29 1M KOH, add 15 g of agar, 2 g of activated charcoal and autoclave. Add 10mL of filter

- sterilized cysteine 40 g/L and 10 mL of filter sterilized ferric nitrate 25 g/L. Poor plates.
- 31

32 **2.2 RIP library construction**

- 33
- 34 1. Formaldehyde 37%

1	
2	2. Disposable 50 mL polypropylene tubes
3	
4	3. Rotating wheel
5	
6	4. Protease inhibitor cocktail (e.g. SigmaFast, Sigma, S8830-20TAB)
7	
8	5. Lysis buffer: 50 mM HEPES-KOH pH7.5, 150mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100,
9	0.1% Na-deoxycholate, protease inhibitor
10	
11	6. Sonicator
12	
13	7. Specific antibody against protein of interest or alternatively antibody against Tag (e.g.
14	Flag- or Strep-Tag)
15	9 Demaharda Brotain A an C (Invites and 100.01D an 100.02D)
16	8. Dynabeads® Protein A or G (Invitrogen, 100-01D or 100-03D),
17 18	9. Magnet for separation
18	y. Magnet for separation
20	10. Wash buffer RIPseq: 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 250 mM NaCl , 0.5% NP40, 0.5% Na-
21	deoxycholate, 1 mM EDTA
22	
23	11. TE buffer : 10mM Tris, 1mM EDTA, pH 7.5
24	
25	12. Elution buffer: 50mM Tris, 1mM EDTA, 1% SDS, pH8.0
26	
27	13. Proteinase K 20µg/µl
28	14. DNase I recombinant, RNase free (10U/µl)
29	
30	15. RNA fragmentation kit (Ambion, AM8740)
31	
32	16. Alkaline Phosphatase
33	
34	17. 3'-RNA adapter P-UCGUAUGCCGUCUUCYGCUUGUidT (idT = inverted deoxyT)

1	
2	18. T4 Polynucleotide Kinase
3	
4	19. 5'-RNA adapter GUUCAGAGUUCUACAGUCCGACGAU
5	
6	20. Reverse Transcription Specific primer CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGA
7	
8	21. Phenol solution, pH4.3
9	
10	22. Chloroform:Isoamyl alcohol 24:1
11	
12	23. RNase inhibitor
13	
14	24. 3M Sodium Acetate, pH5.2
15	
16	25. Ethanol p.a.; Etanol 75%
17	$2(-C_{1}) = (20 + 1)$
18 19	26. Glycogen (20mg/ml)
20	27. Tobacco acid pyrophosphatase 10U/µl, TAP
20	27. Tobacco acia pyrophosphatase Too/µi, Tra
22	28. 5'-RNA adapter (25µM) GUUCAGAGUUCUACAGUCCGACGAU
23	
24	29. T4 RNA Ligase 5U/μl
25	Survey Press
26	30. Superscript II Reverse Transcriptase Kit (Invitrogen, 18064014)
27	
28	31. 10mM dNTP mix
29	
30	32. Certified Low Range Ultra Agarose
31	
32	33. Agarose gel electrophoresis equipment
33	
34	34. 0.5M EDTA pH8.0

1	
2	35. Distilled water DNase/RNase free
3	
4	36. Thermocycler
5	
6	37. High Fidelity DNA Polymerase
7	
8	38. Primer 1 (25µM) CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGA
9	
10	39. Primer 2 (25µM) AATGATACGGCGACCACCGACAGGTTCAG
11	AGTTCTACAGTCCGA
12	
13	40. PCR Clean-up kit
14	
15	41. Bionalyzer 2100 (Agilent);
16	
17	42. DNA 1000 Chips (Agilent, 5067-1504)
18	
19	43. Bradford reagent
20	
21	2.2 ChIPseq library construction
22	
23	1. Formaldehyde 37%
24	
25	2. Disposable 50 mL polypropylene tubes
26	
27	3. Protease inhibitor cocktail
28	
29	4. Lysis buffer: 50 mM HEPES-KOH pH7.5, 150mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100,
30	0.1% Na-deoxycholate, protease inhibitor
31	
32	5. Sonicator
33	

1	6. Specific antibody against protein of interest or alternatively antibody against Tag (e.g.
2	Flag- or Strep-Tag)
3	
4	7. Dynabeads® Protein A or G (Invitrogen, 100-01D or 100-03D),
5	
6	8. Magnet for separation
7	
8	9. Wash buffer ChIPseq: 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 250 mM LiCl, 0.5% NP40, 0.5% Na-
9	deoxycholate, 1 mM EDTA
10	
11	10. TE buffer : 10mM Tris, 1mM EDTA, pH 7.5
12	
13	
14	11. Elution buffer: 50mM Tris, 1mM EDTA, 1% SDS, pH8.0
15	
16	12. Proteinase K 20μg/μl
17	
18	13. RNase A, DNase free (0.35µg/µl in PBS)
19	
20	14. Genomic DNA Sample Prep Kit (Illumina, FC-102-1001)
21	
22	3. RIPseq and ChIp-seq library construction (common steps; Note 1)
23	1. Inoculate 50 mL fresh AYE media to $OD_{600} = 0.1$ from an overnight culture and allow
24	bacteria to grow to an optimal OD (depending on the expression of desired protein).
25	2. Transfer each culture to separate disposable 50 mL polypropylene tubes and add 1.4 mL
26	of 37% Formaldehyde (Note 2).
27	3. Incubate the formaldehyde-treated cells for 20 minutes at room temperature on a
28	rotating platform, and transfer to a rotating platform overnight at 4°C.
29	4. Spin the 50 mL polypropylene tubes containing the formaldehyde-treated cells for 5min
30	at 5000g (4°C), pour off the supernatant and wash the cells 3 times in cold 1X PBS (if
31	not using the cells immediately, store cell pellet at -80°C).
32	5. Resuspend the cell pellets using 1ml Lysis Buffer + protease inhibitor
33	And pulse-sonicate them with around 60 watt five times for 20sec
34	For ChIP-seq additional DNA fragmentation:

1	sonication on ice for 15 min 30sec ON/ 30sec OFF (avoid raising temperature!!) or
2	nebulization necessary
3	6. Centrifuge at max speed for 20min and transfer supernatant in a new tube, quantify the
4	total protein with Bradford and adjust it to 1mg protein/ml (Note 3)
5	7. Preparation of magnetic beads
6	- Aliquot 100µL of Dynabeads ProteinG for each sample to be immunoprecipitated
7	and wash them 3 times in $1XPBS + 1\%BSA$ solution, resuspend them in 250μ l
8	PBS/BSA + add 5-10 μ g of antibody and incubate them over night at 4°C on a
9	rotating platform (Note 4)
10	- do the same with $200\mu l$ of beads, but incubate them over night without antibody or
11	with an <u>unspecific</u> antibody)
12	- Wash the beads 3 times in cold PBS/BSA and resuspend them in 100µl PBS/BSA
13	per sample
14	8. Co-Immunoprecipitation
15	- Add 100µl of magnetic beads (without antibody or with an <u>unspecific</u> antibody)
16	to the protein solution (prepared in step 6) and incubate for 4h at 4°C on a rotating
17	platform (pre-clearing of solution from unspecific protein-beads interaction); place
18	them on a magnet and transfer the supernatant into a fresh tube
19	- Divide the fraction in two equal aliquots.
20	Add in one 100µl of magnetic beads with <u>specific</u> antibody. For the second part,
21	add 100µl of magnetic beads without antibody or with an <u>unspecific</u> antibody
22	(negative control). Incubate samples over night at 4°C on a rotating platform
23	9. Place samples on a magnet and wash the beads twice with cold Lysis buffer containing
24	additional 350mM NaCl
25	10. Wash the beads five times in cold Wash buffer (important for RIPseq use NaCl
26	instead of LiCl!!!)
27	11. Wash once with cold TE buffer
28	12. Resuspend beads in 150 μ l Elution buffer and incubate them for 15min at 65°C with
29	brief vortexing every 2min
30	13. Place the solution on a magnet and transfer supernant into a new tube (discard the
31	beads!)
32	14. Reverse cross-linking (by incubation over night at 65°C)
33	15. P/C/I extraction and NaAc precipitation (Note 5 and 6), resuspend pellet in 50μ l
34	distilled water

1	16. Add 140µl TE buffer + 3µl Glycogen + 7µl Proteinase K ($20\mu g/\mu l$) and incubate 2h at
2	37°C
3	17. Extract again with P/C/I and resuspend after NaAc precipitation in 44μ l distilled H ₂ O.
4	Continue with step 3.1 for RNA-Immunoprecipitation or with 3.2 for DNA/Chromatin-
5	IP
6	
7	3.1. RIPseq (continuation)
8	1. DNase I digestion: add 5μ l of DNase 10xbuffer and 1μ l of DNase I and incubate
9	reaction for 30min at 25°C. Exract with P/C/I and precipitate samples with NaAc.
10	Resuspend the dry pellet in 10µl distilled RNase-free water
11	2. Fragmentation: the RNA was metal-catalyzed heat fragmented to sizes of around 100-
12	200nt using the RNA fragmentation kit
13	1.1µl 10x fragmentation reagent (buffered zinc solution)
14	10µl RNA
15	Incubation at 70°C for 5min
16	Terminate reaction by putting on ice and add 1.1µl stop solution
17	After NaAc precipitation, resuspend the dry pellet in 26μ l RNase-free distilled H ₂ O
18	
19	3. RNA dephosphorylation:
20	a)TAP treatment
21	Denature the RNA from step 2 for 10min at 65°C
22	After 1min on ice, add 3µl TAP buffer and 1µl TAP (10U) and incubate for 1h at 37°C
23	b)Alkaline Phosphatase treatment
24	Add 14µl distilled H2O, 5µl 10x Dephosphorylation buffer and 1µl Alkaline
25	Phosphatase (10U) and incubate for 30min at 37°C
26	
27	Phenol/Chloroform/IAA extraction, NaAc precipitation; resuspend the dry pellet in 5.9
28	μl distilled water
29	
30	4. 3'-RNA adapter ligation
31	5.9µl RNA
32	0.6µl 3'adapter (100µM)
33	Incubate mix for 10min at 65°C, put on ice for 1min and add
34	1µl T4 RNA ligase buffer

1	1µl ATP solution
2	0.5µl RNase inhibitor
3	1µl RNA ligase
4	Incubate for 6h at 20°C, following 4°C over night, purify with columns (e.g.
5	NucleoSpin) and resuspend RNA after NaAc precipitation in 10µl distilled water
6	
7	5. Re-phosphorylation of 5' end
8	10µl RNA
9	2µl PK buffer
10	1µl ATP solution
11	0.5µl RNase inhibitor
12	1µl Polynucleotide Kinase
13	5.5µl RNase free H2O
14	
15	P/C/I extraction and precipitation with NaAc; resuspend pellet in 5.3µl distilled H ₂ O
16	
17	6. 5'-RNA adapter ligation:
18	5.3µl RNA
19	1.2µl 5'-RNAadapter (25µM)
20	Incubate 10min at 65°C, on ice for 1min and add
21	1µl T4 RNA ligase buffer
22	1µl ATP solution
23	0.5µl RNase inhibitor
24	1µl RNA ligase
25	And incubate for 6h at 20°C, following 4°C over night
26	
27	7. Reverse Transcription using RT Specific primer
28	10μl RNA +0.5μl RT <u>Specific</u> primer (100μM)
29	Denature at 65°C for 10min, on ice 1min and add
30	6μl first strand buffer
31	1.5µl DTT (100mM)
32	1.5µl dNTP
33	1µl RNase inhibitor
34	8µl RNase-free H2O

1	1.5µl Superscript II RT
2	Incubate 1h at 42°C and purify on columns (e.g. NucleoSpin), recover with 30µl of
3	distilled water
4	
5	8. PCR amplification (see also Note 7)
6	30µl template cDNA
7	10µl Phusion HF buffer
8	8µ1 H2O
9	0.5µl Primer 1 (25µM)
10	0.5µl Primer 2 (25µM)
11	0.5µl dNTP (25mM)
12	0.5µl Phusion DNA Polymerase
13	
14	98°C 1min
15	
16	98°C 10sec
17	60°C 30sec
18	72°C 30sec
19	15 cycles
20	
21	72°C 10min
22	4°C
23	
24	9. Size fractionation
25	Run samples of step 8 on a low range ultra 2% agarose gel. Cut the zones between 100-
26	170nt and 170-250nt and purify independently with columns (e.g. Nucleospin).
27	Combine the samples of the two "zones", precipitate and resuspend pellet in 30µl-
28	distilled water
29	Purify with columns (e.g. Nucleospin), precipitate and resuspend pellets in 10µl-
30	distilled water
31	
32	10. Check quality and quantity with the Bioanalyzer (DNA 1000) (Note 8)
33	11. Ready for Sequencing with Illumina
34	

1	3.2. ChIP-seq library construction (continuation)
2	
3	1. RNase digestion: add add 56 μ l of RNase A (final concentration 0.2 μ g/ μ l) and incubate
4	reaction for 2h at 37°C. Extract with P/C/I and precipitate samples with NaAc.
5	Resuspend the dry pellet in 30µl distilled RNase-free water
6	2. blunt end-DNA by incubation with T4 DNA Polymerase
7	30µl DNA sample
8	45µl water
9	10µl T4 DNA Ligase Buffer (with 10mM ATP)
10	4µl dNTP (10mM)
11	5µl T4 DNA Polymerase
12	1µl Klenow Enzyme
13	5µl T4 Polynuleotide Kinase
14	Incubate 30min at 20°C and purify with columns (e.g. NucleoSpin)
15	
16	3. Adenylation of 3' ends
17	32µl DNA sample
18	5µl Klenow buffer
19	10µl dATP (1mM)
20	3μl Klenow Exo-
21	Incubate 30min at 37°C, purification with columns (e.g. NucleoSpin)
22	
23	4. Adapter Ligation
24	18µl DNA sample
25	25µl Ligase Buffer
26	2µl PE Adapter Oligo Mix (Illumina)
27	5µl DNA Ligase
28	Incubate 15min at 20°C, purification and resuspend in 30µl distilled water
29	
30	5. PCR amplification (as decribed in 3.1. step 8)
31	6. Size fractionation on a low range ultra 2% agarose gel (see also 3.1. step 9)
32	7. Check quality and quantity with the Bioanalyzer (DNA 1000) (Note 8)
33	
34	4. Notes

1		
2	1.	Keep aliquots of the different stages and test them by western blot to monitor the
3		efficiency of your lysis, binding, washing and eluation steps.
4	2.	Formaldehyde step is optional, but usually necessary as the protein-nucleotide
5		interactions are weak and unstable resulting in too small quantities. Alternative to wild
6		type cultures, cultures overexpressing the protein of interest can be used to increase
7		quantity.
8	3.	For IP experiments an amount of at least 3-5mg of total protein is recommended
9		(depending on abundance of the protein of interest).
10	4.	Specific antibodies or antibodies against Tags can be used similarly; test quality of
11		antibodies in western blot experiments before use.
12	5.	Phenol/Chloroform/IAA (P/C/I) extraction: Add 50% of Phenol to the sample and mix
13		vigorously by vortexing. Add the same amount of Chloroform/Isoamyl alcohol and mix
14		well. Centrifuge at max speed for 5 min, transfer the supernatant to a new tube and add
15		1 vol of Chloroform/Isoamyl alcohol, mix vigorously, centrifuge and transfer
16		supernatant into a new tube.
17	6.	NaAc precipitation: Add 10% 3M sodium acetate (pH5.2), 2% glycogen and 2.5vol of
18		ethanol p.a. to the sample and store it min 2h (better over night) at-20°C. Centrifuge at
19		$4^{\circ}C$ for 15min at max speed and discard supernatant. Wash RNA pellet with 500 μl ice-
20		cold 75% ethanol centrifuge again for 5min, discard supernatant and let the pellet dry
21		for 10min at RT. Resuspend the dry pellet RNase-free distilled H ₂ O.
22	7.	Number of cycles during PCR amplification can differ between experiments depending
23		on the amount of cDNA obtained in previous step. Typically are 12 to maximal 17
24		cycles. More cycles are not recommended as additional PCR steps may introduce a
25		significant amplification bias in cDNA representation.
26	8.	DNA amounts are typically in nM range; anyhow, for the hybridization on the Cluster
27		Station concentrations of 1-10 pM are recommended.

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