

**SOP:** Propagation of skeletal muscle cells (SkMC; Lonza Biosciences)  
**Date modified:** 4/20/09  
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### **Ordering Information**

Skeletal muscle cells (SkMCs) may be ordered either as frozen ampules or as starter cultures. The former contain  $\sim 0.5-1 \times 10^5$  cells; the latter are initiated at Lonza and sent in a T225 flask containing  $6-7 \times 10^6$  cells.

To order frozen ampules + media:

Name: SkMC – Skeletal Muscle Cells  
Item #: CC-2561 (SKMC in SkGM® - Cryopreserved ampule)  
CC-3160 (SkGM BulletKit = CC-3161 + CC-4139)

To order starter cultures:

Name: SkMC – Skeletal Muscle Cells  
Item #: CC2561T225 (SkMC in SkGM® T225 Flask)  
CC-3160 (SkGM BulletKit = CC-3161 + CC-4139)

### **Notes:**

The number of BulletKits purchased depends on the target number of cells to be generated. A rule of thumb is 10 BulletKits for every initial T225 flask of cells. It is strongly recommended to purchase all of the media that will be required for a complete expansion series, since media supply may be erratic.

### **Materials List**

1. Cell-type specific medium (BulletKits – Lonza Biosciences)
2. T225 culture flasks
3. Graduated pipets (1, 5, 25mL)
4. Pen-strep solution (if required; Lonza typically supplies antibiotics)
5. Hemocytometer
6. Micropipet w/ P20 tips
7. Microscope

### **Procedure**

#### **A. Receipt of proliferating cells**

- 1) Equilibrate for 3-4 hours in 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> humidified incubator.
- 2) Remove shipping medium. Replace with fresh medium and return to incubator.

## B. Sub-culture

- 1) Propagate cells until density reaches 70-90% confluence.
- 2) Decant medium.
- 3) Wash cells with warm 1X PBS.
- 4) Add 8mLs of Accutase and return to incubator for 10-15 minutes.
- 5) Immediately remove cells and pellet at 500 xg for 3 minutes (4°C)
- 6) Wash cells 2X with 1X PBS.
- 7) Gently re-suspend cell pellet in warm medium.
- 8) Count cells with hemocytometer.
- 9) Add warmed medium to flasks.
- 10) Seed flasks at **3,500 cells/cm<sup>2</sup>**
- 11) Record each subculture event as a passage

## C. Maintenance

- 1) Change media the day after seeding and every OTHER day thereafter.
- 2) Increase media volume as confluency increases (volumes assume the use of
- 3) T225 flasks):
  - a. 25 % = 1mL/5 cm<sup>2</sup>
  - b. 25-45% = 1.5mL/ 5 cm<sup>2</sup>
  - c. 45%+ = 2mL/ 5 cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 4) Per the above an exemplary schedule might be:
  - a. day 1, plate into T225: use 50 mls of media.
  - b. day 2, change media, use 50 mls of media
  - c. day 4, change media, use 100 mls of media (if confluency is >50%)
  - d. day 6, change media, use 100 mls of media (or harvest if ready)
  - e. day 7 or 8 (harvest when cells reach  $6 \times 10^6$  cells/flask)

## D. Harvest

- 1) Pass cells 3-4 times until the desired cell number is achieved (primary cells will senesce after 4-5 passages).
- 2) Remove cells from flasks according to protocol described above under 'subculturing'
- 3) Examine viability using trypan blue staining (SOP TP-7)