

A FISTFUL OF ANTIBODIES

"MORE BINDERS. MORE HITS.
MORE DISCOVERIES"

Rough-and-tumble antibody discovery group rides into town with a game-changing enrichment strategy, outgunning traditional CD138 isolation.

>100%
INCREASE
IN HITS



The Problem

Certain targets in antibody discovery present challenges because they produce few hits. This can be due to several reasons: immunogenicity of the target, immunomodulatory effects of the target during immunization, the immunization conditions used, and/or the discovery methods used. Even still, some programs demand differentiated activity for their antibody drugs, making it difficult to discover the target profile. Exploring a large set of hits helps start a campaign with the most options.

The Solution

CD138 is a marker for plasma cells, and commercial CD138+ cell isolation kits work well to isolate antibody-secreting cells (ASCs) from mouse. The expression profile of CD138 in immunized mouse lymphocytes consistently shows a large negative cell population, a low-mid positive shoulder, and a positive population with higher SSC.

We used a microfluidic-based cell sorter (Miltenyi MACSQuant Tyto) to sort 3 populations of CD138+ cells from immunized wild-type mice (Fig. 1). All 3 populations show a majority express IgG (Fig. 1, right plot). We further enriched the CD138-hi population for CD138-hi and the antigen, Human Serum Albumin (HSA) in a 4th population.

The secretion rate of all 4 sorted populations was confirmed using AbTheneum's antibody capture & screen workflow (Fig. 2). The results confirm that CD138-hi has the highest hit rate (HSA-positive/all IgGs). We also confirmed that most CD138-hi cells also express IgG on the surface, and further enriching for antigen increases the hit rate.

We used the CD138 experiment to develop a two step cell sorting workflow to enrich antigen-specific antibody-secreting cells. The workflow, called FACS antigen+, was applied in head-to-head comparisons with commercial CD138+ cell isolation for several therapeutic targets (Table 1).

All trials using Single Cell's FACS antigen+ cell isolation delivered more hits (antibody sequences of screened antigen-positive antibodies), even in frozen or low titer samples, compared to traditional CD138 cell isolation kits. Three of the 6 trials delivered >100% hits compared to magnetic CD138+ cell isolation, highlighting the power of FACS antigen+ workflow with AbTheneum antibody discovery.

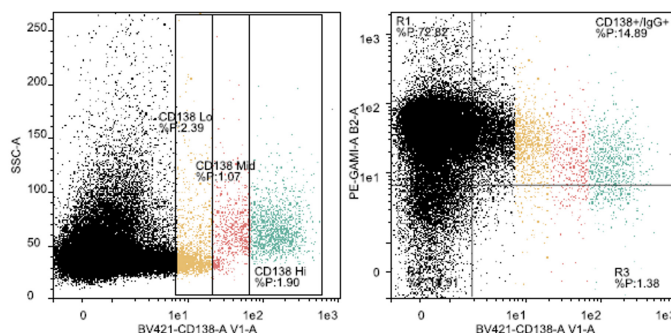


Figure 1. CD138 cell sorting experiment in mouse lymphocytes. CD138+ vs. SSC (left) and CD138+ vs. IgG (right) showing 3 sorted populations: CD138-lo (yellow), CD138-mid (pink), and CD138-hi (green).

	CD138 ^{lo}	CD138 ^{mid}	CD138 ^{hi}	CD138 ^{hi} /HSA+
HSA Count	75	476	467	1,072
IgG Count	425	1,740	1,905	1,656
Hit rate	17.6%	27.4%	24.5%	64.7%

Figure 2. Sorted CD138 cells screened for IgG secretion and hit rate of antigen-specific antibodies (HSA hits).

Table 1. Six diverse IO targets were tested in head-to-head comparisons of commercial CD138+ cell isolation kits vs. FACS antigen+ workflow. Hit rate are number of screened antibody sequences delivered for each campaign.

Antibody Campaign	Cell Isolation	Immunization Duration	Fresh/Frozen	Hits Delivered	% increase in hits
IO Target 1 Transgenic	MACS CD138+	35 Days	Fresh	351	40% ↑
	FACS antigen+	56 Days	Fresh	491	
IO Target 2 Transgenic	MACS CD138+	35 Days	Fresh	456	109% ↑
	FACS antigen+	35 Days	Frozen	954	
IO Target 3 Transgenic	MACS CD138+	49 Days	Fresh	201	50% ↑
	FACS antigen+	63 Days	Frozen	302	
IO Target 4 Transgenic	MACS CD138+	63 Days	Fresh	265	102% ↑
	FACS antigen+	91 Days	Frozen	535	
IO Target 5 WT	MACS CD138+	35 Days	Fresh	456	165% ↑
	FACS antigen+	35 days	Frozen	1,210	
IO Target 6 Transgenic	MACS CD138+	49 Days	Fresh	364	54% ↑
	FACS antigen+	49 days	Fresh	562	

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