



isolation, identification and characterization



Molecular and Cell Biology Technologies –
Strategy to characterize a gene of interest (goi)
rain <b>tissue</b> > brain <b>cells</b> > <b>t</b> otal <b>RNA</b> > <b>mRNA</b> >
By Reverse Transcriptase (RT) enzyme: > complementary DNA (cDNA; single strand) synthesis>
By polymerase chain reaction (PCR): generation of double strand DNA: > dsDNA (goi) (and amplified dsDNA)
loning: sub-cloning: > goi in p <sub>1</sub> DNA> goi in p <sub>2</sub> DNA> sequencing (plasmid DNA)
> followed by other tests





Traditional cDNA synthesis Each mRNA molecule in the mixture with a poly(A) tail can be a template and will produce a cDNA in the form of a single stranded molecule bound to the mRNA (cDNA:mRNA hybrid). The cDNA requires to be converted into a double stranded DNA before it can be manipulated and cloned. This is carried out using another DNA polymerase - DNA Pol I (Klenow fragment). This is the large fragment (75kDa) of DNA polymerase I following its proteolysis with subtilisin; the resulting enzyme has 5'-3' polymerase activity and 3'-5' exonuclease activity but has lost the 5'-3' exonuclease activity associated with the whole enzyme. Commercial sources of the Klenow enzyme use a truncated pol A gene cloned and expressed in E.coli. Klenow polymerase is used to avoid degradation of the newly synthesised cDNAs. To produce the template for the polymerase the mRNA must be removed from the ss cDNA:mRNA hybrid. This is achieved either by boiling or by alkaline treatment. The resulting ss cDNA is used as the template to produce the second DNA strand. As with other polymerases a double stranded primer sequence is needed and this is fortuitously provided during the reverse transcriptase synthesis which produces a short complementary tail at the 5' end of the cDNA. This tail loops back onto the ss cDNA template ( the so-called hairpin loop ) and provides the primer for the polymerase to start the synthesis of the new DNA strand producing a double stranded cDNA (ds cDNA). A consequence of this method of cDNA synthesis is that the two complementary cDNA strands are covalently joined through the hairpin loop ie. the ds cDNA is essentially a single molecule ( shown by electrophoresis on denaturing gels ). The hairpin loop is removed by use of a single strand specific nuclease ( S1 nuclease from Aspergillus oryzae).









Synthetic cohesive ends can be attached (ligated) to cDNA's with blunt ends. Commonly an oligonucleotide containing a specific restriction site (usually for an enzyme producing a sticky or cohesive end) is made; since most restriction sites are palindromic the synthetic oligonucleotide immediately hybridises to itself ( becomes doublestranded ). These oligos or 'linkers' are then attached to the ends of the cDNA's using T4 ligase (+ATP); chemically synthesised DNA does not have 5' phosphate groups (5' hydroxyl groups only) essential for this ligation and so oligonucleotides are treated with T4 polynucleotide kinase (+ATP) which phosphorylates the 5' ends. Following ligation to the cDNA's they are then treated with the corresponding restriction enzyme to produce cDNA's with cohesive termini suitable for efficient ligation to a vector with compatible cohesive ends. Ligation of synthetic ends to DNA is efficient because high concentrations of oligonucleotides can be used.



A drawback when using the oligonucleotide linker approach is that any cDNA's containing a restriction site for the same enzyme whose site is incorporated into the oligonucleotide will be cleaved internally when the ends are cleaved, to produce two truncated cDNA molecules. One way to avoid this is to protect any internal restriction sites in the cDNA's by pre-treatment with the methylase enzyme (also known as a methyltransferase) specific for the restriction site being used in the oligos. For example if Hind III oligos are being used the cDNA's can be methylated using Hind III methylase and Sadenosyl methionine (methyl group donor) which protects any internal Hind III sites from subsequent restriction with Hind III. After protection the methylase enzyme is removed and the oligos attached as before.







The development of the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) using the thermostable DNA polymerase Taq polymerase has seen several applications developed for the production and cloning of cDNA's particularly in situations where only very small quantities of mRNA is available (small amounts of tissue; low abundance of mRNA). The example shown in the figures is only one of many techniques which combine the activities of reverse transcriptase and Taq polymerase in what has become known as RT-PCR. The objective in most of these approaches is to provide sequences at both ends of the cDNA's to which complementary primers can be hybridised to allow amplification of the sequence between. In the strategy shown here, the poly-A tail of the mRNA is used initially (as in the traditional cDNA synthesis) to provide the start point for the reverse transcriptase using oligo-dT as the primer. Note the modified oligo-dT primer contains additionally a restriction site sequence ( here e.g. for the Bam HI enzyme ). The initial synthesis of cDNA is otherwise exactly the same as in the traditional method. Following the synthesis of the first strand of cDNA and removal of the mRNA (see earlier), the 3' end of the cDNA is homo-polymer tailed using dGTP and terminal transferase - this produces a poly-G tail at the 3' end. The poly-G end can then be used in a similar fashion to the poly A end in the original mRNA.



PAGCTT-





































































Purification of 6xHis-tag-p60TRP protein from Ecoli by NiNTAcolumns

p60TRP from E.coli supernatant after lysis in HEPES-buffer / 500 mM NaCl : total cell lysate loaded on SDS-gel matrix for SDS-PAGE analysis



Western Blotting Transfer buffer Cathode (-) Anode (+) Membrane (with transferred proteins) \*If proteins are hydrophobic, use PVDF membrane instead. Horseradish peroxidase conjugated secondary antibodies Primary antib Membrane (with transferred proteins) Incubate blots overnight at 4°C Incubate blots 2 hours at room temperature Membrane (ready to be visualized)

Purification of p60TRP-6xHistidin-tag protein from E.coli by Ni-NTAcolumns. Total cell lysates (HEPES buffer) were purified using the Ni-NTA-columns and different 1.5ml fractions collected and analyzed by SDS-PAGE.









---> (if not possible: expression of goi in eukaryotic cell system: add signal peptide to goi to express extracellular ---> transfection using electroporation system or lipofectamine solution or e.g. lentivirus system

---> check goi in cell culture supernatant (native folding?!?)

---> check by SDS-PAGE / Western blot

---> purification by Affinity-/Ion-Exchange-Chromatography

---> (if possible: crystallization ---> X-ray analysis ---> 3D-structure ---> drug development













































































## **Molecular and Cellular Biology**

5b. Visualizing, Fractionating, and Isolation of Cells



Prof. Dr. Klaus Heese

































## Microscopy

- a) Immunecytochemistry using human -labeled (red / green) antibodies directed specifically to proteins of the cell
- a) Genes expressing fusion proteins with e.g. green fluorescence proteins (GFP)



## The Cell and its Major Systems & Compartments Microscopy a) Immunecytochemistry using increase -labeled (red / green) antibodies directed specifically to proteins of the cell a) Genes expressing fusion proteins with e.g. green fluorescence proteins (GFP)























