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Description

The Chemi-Verse™ TNIK Kinase Assay Kit is designed to measure TNIK (TRAF2 and NCK interacting kinase) serine-threonine kinase activity for screening and profiling applications using ADP-Glo™ as a detection reagent. The assay kit comes in a convenient 96-well format, with enough purified TNIK, kinase substrate, ATP, and kinase assay buffer for 100 enzyme reactions.

Background

TNIK (TRAF2 and NCK interacting kinase) is a serine-threonine kinase of the GCK (germinal center kinase) family of proteins. It is characterized by an N-terminal kinase domain and a C-terminal GCK domain that serves a regulatory function. It is a specific effector of RAP2 (RAP2A, member of RAS oncogene family), which regulates the actin cytoskeleton, and can activate the JNK (c-Jun N-terminal kinase) pathways. It can also interact with TCF4 and β -catenin and activate Wnt signaling. It has been linked to cancer, and it is known that colorectal cancer is highly dependent on this protein. The development of inhibitors targeting TNIK has been ongoing for more than 10 years, focusing on the ATP-binding site. NCB-0846 has anti-Wnt signaling and anti-tumorigenesis activities and is a promising colorectal therapeutic. Recently, generative AI identified TNIK as a target for anti-fibrotic drug development, with the inhibitor INS018_55 showing selective and anti-fibrotic activity in animal models. This finding opens the possibility of using TNIK inhibitors for IPF (idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis) and CKD (chronic kidney disease).

Applications

Study enzyme kinetics and screen small molecule inhibitors for drug discovery and high throughput screening (HTS) applications.

Supplied Materials

Catalog #	Name	Amount	Storage
11708	TNIK, GST-Tag*	1.2 μ g	-80°C
79334	5x Kinase Buffer 1	1.5 ml	-20°C
79686	500 μ M ATP	50 μ l	-20°C
78514	Myelin basic protein (MBP) (5 mg/ml)	50 μ l	-20°C
82545	White 96-well plate	1	Room Temperature

*The concentration of the protein is lot-specific and will be indicated on the tube.

Materials Required but Not Supplied

Name	Ordering Information
ADP-Glo™ Kinase Assay	Promega #V6930
DTT (Dithiothreitol), 1M, optional	
Microplate reader capable of reading luminescence	
Adjustable micropipettor and sterile tips	
30°C incubator	

Storage Conditions

This assay kit will perform optimally for up to **6 months** from date of receipt when the materials are stored as directed.

Safety

This product is for research purposes only and not for human or therapeutic use. This product should be considered hazardous and is harmful by inhalation, in contact with skin, eyes, clothing, and if swallowed. If contact occurs, wash thoroughly.

Assay Principle

The **ADP-Glo™ Kinase Assay (Promega #V6930)** quantifies the amount of ADP produced by a kinase upon phosphorylation of a substrate. First, addition of the ADP-Glo™ reagent terminates the reaction and quenches the remaining ATP. Second, the addition of the Kinase Detection reagent converts the produced ADP to ATP. The newly generated ATP is quantified by a luciferase reaction. The luminescent signal correlates with the amount of ADP generated by the kinase and is linear to 1 mM ATP.

Contraindications

The final concentration of DMSO in the assay should not exceed 1%.

Assay Protocol

- All samples and controls should be tested in duplicate.
- The assay should include “Blank”, “Positive Control” and “Test Inhibitor” conditions.
- We recommend maintaining the diluted protein on ice during use.
- For detailed information on protein handling please refer to [Protein FAQs \(bpsbioscience.com\)](https://www.bpsbioscience.com/protein-faqs).
- We recommend using NCB-0846 (#82606) or Staurosporine (#27002) as internal control. If not running a dose response curve for the control inhibitor, we recommend running the control inhibitor at 0.1X, 1X and 10X the IC₅₀ value shown in the validation data below.
- For instructions on how to prepare reagent dilutions please refer to [Serial Dilution Protocol \(bpsbioscience.com\)](https://www.bpsbioscience.com/serial-dilution-protocol).

1. Thaw **5x Kinase Assay Buffer 1**, **500 μM ATP**, and **MBP (5 mg/ml)**.

Optional: If desired, make 5x Kinase Assay Buffer 1 with 10 mM DTT.

2. Prepare 3 ml of **1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1** by mixing 600 μl of **5x Kinase Assay Buffer 1** with 2,400 μl of distilled water.

Note: Three (3 ml) of 1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1 is sufficient for 100 reactions.

3. Prepare a **Master Mix** (12.5 μl/well): N wells x (6 μl of 5x Kinase Assay Buffer 1 + 0.5 μl of 500 μM ATP + 0.5 μl of MBP (5 mg/ml) + 5.5 μl of distilled water).
4. Add 12.5 μl of Master Mix to every well.

- Prepare the **Test Inhibitor** (2.5 µl/well): for a titration prepare serial dilutions at concentrations 10-fold higher than the desired final concentrations. The final volume of the reaction is 25 µl.

5.1 If the Test Inhibitor is water-soluble: Prepare serial dilutions in 1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1, 10-fold more concentrated than the desired final concentrations.

For the positive and negative controls, use 1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1 (Diluent Solution).

OR

5.2 If the Test inhibitor is soluble in DMSO: Prepare the test inhibitor at 100-fold the highest desired concentration in 100% DMSO, then dilute the inhibitor 10-fold in 1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1 to prepare the highest concentration of the 10-fold intermediate dilutions. The concentration of DMSO is now 10%.

Prepare serial dilutions of the Test Inhibitor at 10-fold the desired final concentrations using 10% DMSO in 1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1 to keep the concentration of DMSO constant.

For positive and negative controls, prepare 10% DMSO in 1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1 (vol/vol) so that all wells contain the same amount of DMSO (Diluent Solution).

Note: The final concentration of DMSO should not exceed 1%.

- Add 2.5 µl of Test Inhibitor to each well labeled "Test Inhibitor".
- Add 2.5 µl of Diluent Solution to the "Positive Control" and "Blank" wells.
- Add 10 µl of 1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1 to the "Blank" wells.
- Thaw **TNIK Kinase** on ice. Briefly spin the tube to recover its full content.
- Dilute the protein kinase (10 µl/well) to 1.2 ng/µl with **1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1**.
- Initiate the reaction by adding 10 µl of diluted kinase to the wells designated "Positive Control" and "Test Inhibitor".

Component	Blank	Positive Control	Test Inhibitor
Master Mix	12.5 µl	12.5 µl	12.5 µl
Test Inhibitor	-	-	2.5 µl
Diluent Solution	2.5 µl	2.5 µl	-
1x Kinase Assay Buffer 1	10 µl	-	-
Diluted TNIK (1.2 ng/µl)	-	10 µl	10 µl
Total	25 µl	25 µl	25 µl

12. Incubate at 30°C for 45 minutes.
13. Thaw the ADP-Glo™ reagent.
14. At the end of the 45-minute reaction, add 25 µl of ADP-Glo™ reagent to each well.
15. Cover the plate with aluminum foil and incubate at Room Temperature (RT) for 45 minutes.
16. Thaw the Kinase Detection Reagent.
17. Add 50 µl of Kinase Detection reagent to each well.
18. Cover the plate with aluminum foil and incubate at RT for another 45 minutes.
19. Immediately read in a luminometer or a microplate reader capable of reading luminescence.
20. The “Blank” value is subtracted from all other readings.

Reading Luminescence

Luminescence is the emission of light resulting from a chemical reaction. The detection of luminescence requires no wavelength selection because the method used is emission photometry and not emission spectrophotometry.

To properly read luminescence, make sure the plate reader is set for LUMINESCENCE mode. Typical integration time is 1 second, delay after plate movement is 100 msec. Do not use a filter when measuring light emission. Typical settings for the Synergy 2 BioTek plate reader: use the “hole” position on the filter wheel; Optics position: Top; Read type: endpoint. Sensitivity may be adjusted based on the luminescence of a control assay without enzyme (typically we set this value as 100).

Example Results

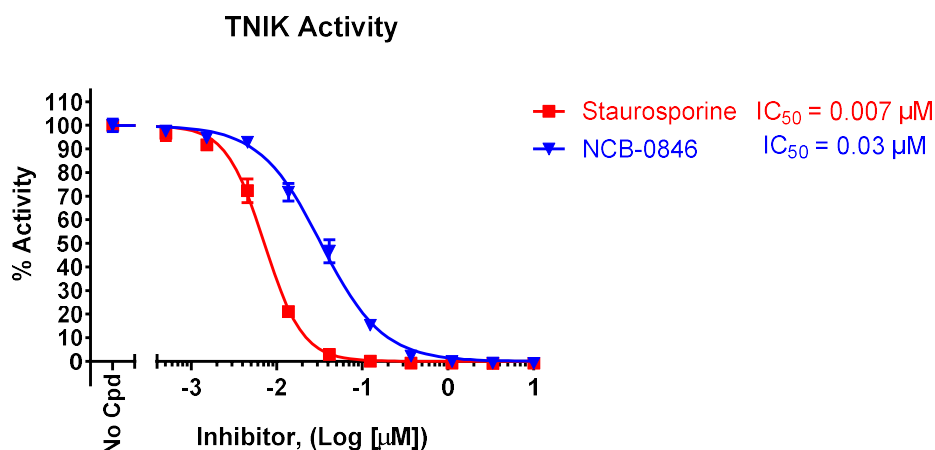


Figure 1: Inhibition of TNIK kinase activity by the inhibitors NCB-0846 and Staurosporine. TNIK kinase activity was measured in the presence of increasing concentrations of NCB-0846 (#82606) or Staurosporine (#27002). The “Blank” value was subtracted from all other values. Results are expressed as the percent of control (kinase activity in the absence of inhibitor, set at 100%).

Data shown is representative. For lot-specific information, please contact BPS Bioscience, Inc. at support@bpsbioscience.com.

Troubleshooting Guide

Visit bpsbioscience.com/assay-kits-faq for detailed troubleshooting instructions. For all further questions, please email support@bpsbioscience.com

References

Kukimoto-Niino M., *et al.*, 2022 *Int J Mol Sci* 23(21):13010.
 Ren F., *et al.*, 2024 *Nat Biotechnol*: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41587-024-02143-0>.

Related Products

Products	Catalog #	Size
GCK (MAP4K2), GST-Tag Recombinant	40107	10 µg
TCF/LEF Reporter Kit (Wnt Signaling Pathway)	60500	500 reactions
TCF/LEF Reporter – HEK293 Cell Line (Wnt Signaling Pathway)	60501	2 vials
TCF/LEF Luciferase Reporter Lentivirus (Wnt/β-catenin Signaling Pathway)	79787	500 µl x 2

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