

pUNO1-SpikeV13

Expression vector encoding the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variants (BA.4/BA.5 lineages) Spike gene

Catalog code: p1-spike-v13

<https://www.invivogen.com/omicron-ba4ba5-spike-expression-vectors>

For research use only

Version 22G19-AK

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Contents

- 20 µg of lyophilized pUNO1-SpikeV13 (plasmid DNA)
- 2 x 1 ml of Blasticidin (10 mg/ml)

Storage and Stability

- Product is shipped at room temperature.
- Lyophilized DNA should be stored at -20°C.
- Resuspended DNA is stable for 1 year at -20°C.
- Store Blasticidin at 4°C or -20°C. The expiry date is specified on the product label.

Quality control

- Plasmid construct is confirmed by restriction analysis and full-length open reading frame (ORF) sequencing.
- After purification by ion exchange chromatography, predominant supercoiled conformation is verified by electrophoresis.

PLASMID FEATURES

Omicron Variant (BA.4/BA.5 lineages) SARS-CoV-2 Spike cassette

• **EF-1α/HTLV hybrid promoter** is a composite promoter comprised of the Elongation Factor-1α (EF-1α) core promoter¹ and the 5' untranslated region of the Human T-Cell Leukemia Virus (HTLV). EF-1α utilizes a type 2 promoter that encodes a "house-keeping" gene. It is expressed at high levels in all cell cycles and lower levels during the G0 phase. Additionally, since the promoter is not tissue-specific it is highly expressed in all cell types. The R segment and part of the U5 sequence (R-U5') of the HTLV Type 1 Long Terminal Repeat² has been coupled to the EF-1α promoter to enhance stability of DNA and RNA. This modification not only increases steady state transcription, but also significantly increases translation efficiency.

• Codon-optimized Spike ORF

pUNO1-SpikeV13 encodes the Spike protein from the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 variants, first reported in South Africa in early 2022. These variants share the same Spike protein. They are characterized by several of mutations and deletions within the Spike coding sequence (see below)^{3,4}. Additionally, to improve expression of the S protein in cell lines, the gene is codon-optimized and the last 19 amino acids, which contain an endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-retention motif (KxHxx), have been removed^{5,6}.

- **S1 domain:** T19I, deletion (Δ)L24-P26, A27S, ΔH69+V70, G142D, V213G, D614G, H655Y, N679K, P681H

- **RBD:** G339D, S371F, S373P, S375F, T376A, D405N, R408S, K417N, N440K, L452R, S477N, T478K, E484A, F486V, Q498R, N501Y, Y505H

- **S1/S2 boundary:** Functional furin cleavage site

- **S2 domain:** N764K, D796Y, Q954H, N969K

Spike (S) is a structural glycoprotein expressed on the surface of SARS-CoV-2. It mediates membrane fusion and viral entry into target cells upon binding to the host receptor ACE2 and the proteolytic activity of host proteases such as furin and TMPRSS2⁷.

For more information visit: <https://www.invivogen.com/sars2-spike>

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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- **SV40 pAn** is the Simian Virus 40 late polyadenylation (pAn) signal and it enables efficient cleavage and polyadenylation reactions resulting in high levels of steady-state mRNA⁸.

Antibiotic selection cassette

- **hCMV (human cytomegalovirus) enhancer & promoter** drive the expression of the blasticidin resistance gene (*bsr*) in mammalian cells.
- **EM7** is a bacterial promoter that enables the constitutive expression of the blasticidin resistance gene (*bsr*) in *E. coli*.
- ***bsr* (blasticidin resistance gene)** encodes a deaminase from *Bacillus cereus* that confers resistance to the antibiotic blasticidin. The expression of the *bsr* gene is driven by the CMV promoter/enhancer and the bacterial EM7 promoter. Therefore, **Blasticidin** can be used to select stable clones in mammalian cells and *E. coli* transformants.
- **Human β-Globin pAn** is a strong polyadenylation (pAn) signal placed downstream of *bsr*. The use of β-globin pAn minimizes interference and possible recombination events with the SV40 pAn signal⁹.

General features of pUNO1-SpikeV13

- **pMB1 ori** is a minimal *E. coli* origin of replication.

APPLICATIONS

Stable gene expression in mammalian cells.

pUNO1 plasmids are designed for both transient and stable transfection in mammalian cell lines by selection with **Blasticidin**. Furthermore, they facilitate high levels of expression of the gene of interest.

Cell fusion assays

pUNO1-SpikeV13 has been specifically designed for mammalian cell expression of the SARS-CoV-2 S protein. This plasmid features a functional furin cleavage site, and therefore when expressed by a host cell (e.g. 293T cells) it facilitates cell-cell fusion assays with ACE2-expressing cells (e.g. **HEK-Blue™ hACE2 Cells**)¹⁰.

METHODS

• Plasmid resuspension

- Quickly spin the tube containing the lyophilized plasmid to pellet the DNA.

- To obtain a plasmid solution at 1 µg/µl, resuspend the DNA in 20 µl of sterile water.

- Store the resuspended plasmid at -20°C.

• Plasmid amplification and cloning

Plasmid amplification and cloning can be performed in *E. coli* **GT116** or other commonly used laboratory *E. coli* strains, such as DH5α.

• Blasticidin usage

Blasticidin should be used at 25-100 µg/ml in bacteria and 1-30 µg/ml in mammalian cells. Blasticidin is supplied as a 10 mg/ml colorless solution in HEPES buffer.

REFERENCES

1. Kim D. *et al.*, 1990. Use of the human elongation factor 1 α promoter as a versatile and efficient expression system. *Gene* 91(2):217-23 2. Takebe Y. *et al.*, 1988. SR alpha promoter: an efficient and versatile mammalian cDNA expression system composed of the simian virus 40 early promoter and the R-U5 segment of human T-cell leukemia virus type 1 long terminal repeat. *Mol Cell Biol.* 8(1):466-72. 3. <https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants>. 4. <https://outbreak.info/situation-reports>. 5. Johnson, M.C. *et al.* 2020. Optimized Pseudotyping Conditions for the SARS-COV-2 Spike Glycoprotein. *J Virol* 94. 6. Ou, X. *et al.* 2020. Characterization of spike glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2 on virus entry and its immune cross-reactivity with SARS-CoV. *Nat Commun* 11, 1620. 7. Hoffmann M. *et al.*, 2020. SARS-CoV-2 cell entry depends on ACE2 and TMPRSS2 and is blocked by a clinically proven protease inhibitor. *Cell.* 181:1-16. 8. Carswell S. & Alwine J., 1989. Efficiency of utilization of the simian virus 40 late polyadenylation site: effects of upstream sequences. *Mol Cell Biol.* 9(10):4248-58. 9. Yu J. & Russell J., 2001. Structural and functional analysis of an mRNP complex that mediates the high stability of human β -globin mRNA. *Mol Cell Biol.* 21(17):5879-88. 10. Papa, G. *et al.* 2021. Furin cleavage of SARS-CoV-2 Spike promotes but is not essential for infection and cell-cell fusion. *PLoS Pathog* 17, e1009246.

RELATED PRODUCTS

Product	Description	Cat. Code
Blasticidin	Selection antibiotic	ant-bl-1
ChemiComp GT116	Competent <i>E. coli</i>	gt116-11
COVID-19 Product Range		
293-hMyD88 Cells	Cell line	293-hmyd
HEK-Blue™ hACE2 Cells	Cell line	hkb-hace2
A549-hACE2-TMPRSS2 Cells	Cell Line	a549-hace2-tpsa
pUNO1-hACE2	Expression vector	puno1-hace2
pUNO1-hTMPRSS2a	Expression vector	puno1-htp2a
Anti-CoV2RBD-cas-hlgG1	Recombinant Antibody	srbdc3-mab1

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