

# RAW-ASC Cells

ASC-expressing murine macrophages

Catalog code: raw-asc

<https://www.invivogen.com/raw-asc>

For research use only

Version 20G30-NJ

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

### Contents

- 3-7 x 10<sup>6</sup> RAW-ASC cells in a cryovial or shipping flask

**IMPORTANT:** If cells provided in a cryovial are not frozen upon arrival, contact InvivoGen immediately.

- 1 ml of **Blasticidin** (10 mg/ml). Store at 4°C or -20°C.\*
- 1 ml of **Normocin™** (50 mg/ml). Normocin™ is a formulation of three antibiotics active against mycoplasmas, bacteria, and fungi. Store at -20°C.\*

\*The expiry date is specified on the product label.

*Note:* Data sheets for all components are available on our website.

### Handling of Frozen Cells Upon Arrival

Cells must be thawed immediately upon receipt and grown according to handling procedures (as described on the next page) to ensure the best cell viability and proper assay performance.

*Note:* **Avoid freezing cells upon receipt** as it may result in irreversible damage to the cell line.

*Disclaimer:* We cannot guarantee cell viability if the cells are not thawed immediately upon receipt and grown according to handling procedures.

**IMPORTANT:** For cells that arrive in a shipping flask please refer to the enclosed 'cell recovery procedure'.

### Cell Line Stability

Genetic instability is a biological phenomenon that occurs in all stably transfected cells, resulting in reduced responsiveness in normal cell culture conditions. Therefore, it is critical to prepare an adequate number of frozen stocks at early passages.

### Quality Control

- Expression of murine ASC has been verified by PCR, Western blot (WEST™), and functional assays.
- The stability for 20 passages, following thawing, has been verified.
- These cells are guaranteed mycoplasma-free.

## USE RESTRICTIONS

These cells are distributed for research purposes only.

This product is covered by a Limited Use License. For non-research use, such as screening, quality control or clinical development, please contact us at: [info@invivogen.com](mailto:info@invivogen.com).

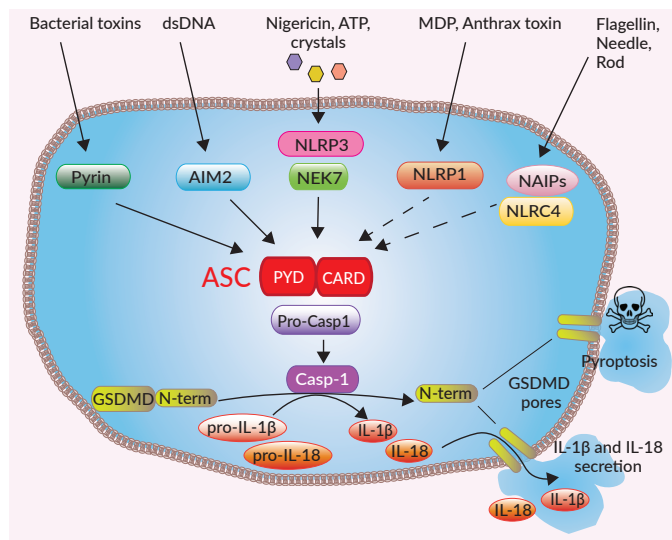
## PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

RAW-ASC cells were generated by stable transfection of the murine ASC gene into the murine RAW 264.7 macrophage cell line, which is naturally ASC-deficient<sup>1</sup>. RAW-ASC cells have been functionally validated to produce and secrete mature IL-1 $\beta$  upon activation of the canonical (NLRP3 or AIM2) and non-canonical (caspase-11) inflammasomes. These cells are resistant to Blasticidin.

## BACKGROUND

ASC (apoptosis-associated speck-like protein containing a CARD domain, also known as PYCARD) is an essential protein adaptor implicated in canonical inflammasome responses<sup>2</sup>. The canonical response is driven by aggregation of a 'sensor' with the ASC adaptor and pro-caspase-1. Activation of caspase-1 (CASP1) induces the maturation of pro-IL-1 $\beta$ /pro-IL-18 and cleavage of the pore-forming protein gasdermin D (GSDMD), leading to secretion of IL-1 $\beta$ -18 and pyroptosis<sup>2</sup>.

In resting cells, ASC is present in a soluble and diffuse form both in the cytoplasm and nucleus<sup>3</sup>. ASC is essential to inflammasome sensors that do not contain a CARD domain, such as Pypin, NLRP3, and AIM2<sup>2</sup>. This is due to the bipartite composition of ASC, consisting of one PYD and one CARD domain, allowing the recruitment of the CARD-containing pro-caspase-1 to these sensors. The inflammasome sensors NLRP1 and NLRC4 have a CARD domain, and therefore, can recruit pro-caspase-1 either directly or through ASC. However, upon activation of these sensors, it has been shown that in the absence of ASC, the secretion of mature IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-18 is reduced<sup>2</sup>.



1. Pelerin P. et al., 2008. P2X7 receptor differentially couples to distinct release pathways for IL-1 $\beta$  in mouse macrophage. *J. Immunol.* 180:7147.
2. Mathur A. et al., 2017. Molecular mechanisms of inflammasome signaling. *J. Leuk. Biol.* 103:233.
3. Hoss F. et al., 2017. Assembly and regulation of ASC specks. *Cell. Mol. Life Sci.* 74:1211.

## SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Biosafety Level 2

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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Visit our FAQ page.

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## HANDLING PROCEDURES

### Required Cell Culture Medium

• **Growth Medium:** DMEM, 4.5 g/l glucose, 4 mM L-glutamine, 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 µg/ml streptomycin, 100 µg/ml **Normocin™**

*Note: The use of Normocin™ together with Pen-Strep is required to keep the cells free of microbial contaminants. Contamination of this cell line may activate PRRs, such as TLRs, resulting in activation of PRR signaling pathways.*

• **Test Medium:** DMEM **without phenol red**, 4.5 g/l glucose, 4 mM L-glutamine, 10% heat-inactivated FBS, 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 µg/ml streptomycin, **without Normocin™ and Blasticidin**

*Note: Phenol red causes high background signal in the LDH (lactate dehydrogenase) assay used to monitor inflammasome-induced cell death.*

• **Freezing Medium:** DMEM, 20% FBS and 10% DMSO

• **Required Selective Antibiotic:** **Blasticidin**

### Initial Culture Procedure

The first propagation of cells should be for generating stocks for future use. This ensures the stability and performance of the cells for subsequent experiments.

1. Thaw the vial by gentle agitation in a 37 °C water bath. To reduce the possibility of contamination, keep the O-ring and cap out of the water. Thawing should be rapid.

2. Remove the vial from the water bath as soon as the contents are thawed, and decontaminate by dipping in or spraying with 70% ethanol.

*Note: From this point strict aseptic conditions must be used.*

3. Transfer cells to a larger tube containing 15 ml of pre-warmed growth medium. **Do not add selective antibiotics until the cells have been passaged twice.**

4. Centrifuge at 1000-1200 RPM (RCF 200-300 g) for 5 minutes.

5. Remove supernatant containing the cryoprotective agent and resuspend cells with 1 ml of growth medium without selective antibiotic.

6. Transfer cells to a T-25 culture flask containing 5 ml of growth medium and place the culture at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Cell Maintenance

1. RAW-ASC cells are adherent cells. Gently use a cell scraper to detach the cells. Do **not** use trypsin.

2. After cells have recovered, subculture the cells in growth medium with an initial seeding density of 1.5 x 10<sup>4</sup> cells/cm<sup>2</sup> (e.g. ~ 1 x 10<sup>6</sup> cells in a T-75 culture flask). To maintain selection pressure, add 10 µg/ml of **Blasticidin** to the growth medium.

3. Renew growth medium twice a week.

4. Cells should be passaged when a 70-80% confluency is reached. Do not let the cells grow to 100% confluency.

*Note: The average doubling time for the RAW-ASC cells is ~26 hours using the conditions described above.*

### Frozen Stock Preparation

1. Resuspend cells at a density of 5-7 x 10<sup>6</sup> cells/ml in freshly prepared freezing medium with cold DMEM.

*Note: A T-75 culture flask typically yields enough cells for 3-4 frozen vials.*

2. Dispense 1 ml of the cell suspension into cryogenic vials.

3. Place vials in a freezing container and store at -80 °C overnight.

4. Transfer vials to liquid nitrogen for long term storage.

*Note: If properly stored, cells should remain stable for years.*

### Cell Handling Recommendations

To ensure the best results:

• Use RAW-ASC cells with less than 20 passages.

• Handling of cells should be as short as possible to prevent any damage resulting from a prolonged stay at room temperature without 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

RAW-ASC cells are designed to study the signals involved in inflammasome activation. Below is an example protocol to induce canonical and non-canonical inflammasome responses.

### Cell preparation

1. Five days prior to the assay, seed cells at 5 x 10<sup>3</sup> cells/cm<sup>2</sup> (corresponding to 2.5 x 10<sup>4</sup> cells in 15ml in a T-75 culture flask) in growth medium.

2. On the day of the assay, gently detach cells using a cell scraper.

3. Centrifuge at 1000-1200 RPM (RCF 200-300 g) for 5 minutes.

4. Remove supernatant and resuspend cells in freshly prepared, pre-warmed **test medium** at 1.1 x 10<sup>6</sup> cells/ml.

### Pre-priming (for non-canonical inflammasome induction only)

1. Dispense 20 µl of recombinant murine (m)IFN-γ at 100 ng/ml (final concentration: 10 ng/ml) per well of a flat-bottom 96-well plate.

2. Add 180 µl of cell suspension (~200,000 cells) per well.

3. Incubate the plate for 18-24h at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Priming

1. Dispense 20 µl of **Pam3CSK4** at 1 µg/ml (final conc: 100 ng/ml) per well of a flat-bottom 96-well plate.

*Note: For non-canonical inflammasome induction, add Pam3CSK4 directly to pre-primed cells (20 µl at 1 µg/ml per well).*

2. Add 180 µl of cell suspension (~200,000 cells) per well.

3. Incubate the plate for 3h at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Activation

1. Carefully remove culture supernatant. Add 180 µl of test medium.

2. Add 20 µl of inflammasome inducer per well.

*Note: We recommend to perform a dilution series for each inducer (e.g. 1:2 dilution series of **Nigericin** starting at 10 µM).*

3. Include a negative control (no inducer).

4. Incubate the plate for 6h at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

5. Take 100 µl of culture supernatant for analysis of murine (m)IL-1β secretion and/or cell death.

*Optional: These samples can be stored at -80 °C until required.*

6. Add 100 µl of test medium to each well of the original culture plate and continue to incubate for an additional 18h at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

7. Take 100 µl of culture supernatant for analysis of mIL-1β secretion and/or cell death.

*Optional: These samples can be stored at -80 °C until required.*

### Detection of mature mIL-1β and cell death in supernatant

• Inflammasome-induced secretion of bioactive mIL-1β in the RAW-ASC cell culture supernatant can be monitored using a murine IL-1β ELISA kit

• Cell death can be monitored using classical assays such as the lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) assay, following the manufacturer's instructions.

## RELATED PRODUCTS

Product	Description	Cat. Code
Blasticidin	Selective antibiotic	ant-bl-05
<i>E. coli</i> OMVs	Inflammasome inducer	tlrl-omv-1
Nigericin	Inflammasome inducer	tlrl-nig
Poly(dA:dT)	Inflammasome inducer	tlrl-patn
LPS-EB ( <i>E. coli</i> 0111:B4)	TLR4 agonist	tlrl-3pelps
Pam3CSK4	TLR1/2 agonist	tlrl-pms
RAW-ASC KO-GSDMD cells	Inflammasome test cells	raw-kogsdmd
RAW-ASC KO-CASP1 cells	Inflammasome test cells	raw-kocasp11

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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