

pUNO1-SpikeV14-dfur

Expression vector encoding the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant (BQ.1.1 lineage) Spike (delta furin) gene

Catalog code: p1-spike-v14-df

<https://www.invivogen.com/omicron-bq11-spike-expression-vectors>

For research use only

Version 24G30-AK

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Contents

- 20 µg of lyophilized pUNO1-SpikeV14-dfur (plasmid DNA)
- 2 x 1 ml of **Blasticidin** (10 mg/ml)

Storage and Stability

- Product is shipped at room temperature.
- Store lyophilized DNA 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 (BQ.1.1 lineage) 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-SpikeV14-dfur contains the Spike (S) coding sequence from the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant (BQ.1.1 lineage), first identified in Nigeria in June 2022. This variant is characterized by several mutations and deletions within the Spike coding sequence (see below)^{3,4}. The furin cleavage site in pUNO1-SpikeV14-dfur has been inactivated (dfur) by the inclusion of two mutations (R683/5A). Furthermore, to improve expression of the S protein in cell lines, the gene is codon-optimized and the last 19 amino acids, which contain an ER-retention motif (KxHxx), have been removed^{5,6}.

pUNO1-SpikeV14-dfur includes the following sequence features:

- **S1 domain:** T19I, deletion (Δ)L24-P26, A27S, ΔH69-70, G142D, V213G, D614G, H655Y, N679K, P681H
- **RBD:** G339D, R346T, S371F, S373P, S375F, T376A, D405N, R408S, K417N, N440K, K444T, L452R, N460K, S477N, T478K, E484A, F486V, Q498R, N501Y, Y505H
- **S1/S2 boundary:** R683A, R685A
- **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.

- **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-SpikeV14-dfur

- **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.

Antibody screening by flow cytometry

pUNO1-SpikeV14-dfur has been specifically designed for mammalian cell expression of the SARS-CoV-2 S protein. Notably, due to the inactivated furin cleavage site, when this plasmid is expressed by a host cell (e.g. 293T cells) there is high surface expression of the full-length S protein^{5,10}. Ideal for SARS-CoV-2 S-specific antibody screening by flow cytometry (*in-house data*).

METHODS

Plasmid resuspension

- Quickly spin the tube containing the lyophilized plasmid to pellet it.
- 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* GT115 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.

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

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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RELATED PRODUCTS

Product	Description	Cat. Code
Blasticidin	Selection antibiotic	ant-bl-1
ChemiComp GT115	Competent <i>E. coli</i>	gt115-11
COVID-19 Product Range		
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	srbd3-mab1

For a complete list of InvivoGen's COVID-19 related products visit: <https://www.invivogen.com/covid-19>

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