

Supplementary Materials and Methods

Fluorescence plate reader assay

DsRNA was labeled with Alexafluor 488 using the Ulysis nucleic acid labeling kit (Invitrogen). Excess labeling reagent was removed using Micro Biospin P-30 columns (BioRad, Hercules, CA). Cells were seeded into 96 well plates and treated the next day with fluorescently labeled dsRNA for indicated lengths of time as described in the figure legends. Total fluorescence was measured prior to removal of unbound dsRNA. Following incubations, unbound dsRNA was removed, cells were washed with PBS, and read for fluorescence (cell-associated fluorescence) or 0.025% trypan blue was added to the wells to quench extracellular, cell-associated fluorescence to measure only intracellular fluorescence. Results were reported as a % of total fluorescence, or as a % of untreated cells.