

**Performance of the Biomark HD real-time qPCR System (Fluidigm) for the
detection of nasopharyngeal bacterial pathogens and *Streptococcus
pneumoniae* typing.**

Courtney P. Olwagen^{1, 2,*}, Peter V. Adrian^{1, 2}, and Shabir A. Madhi^{1, 2#}

¹ Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation: Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Faculty Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

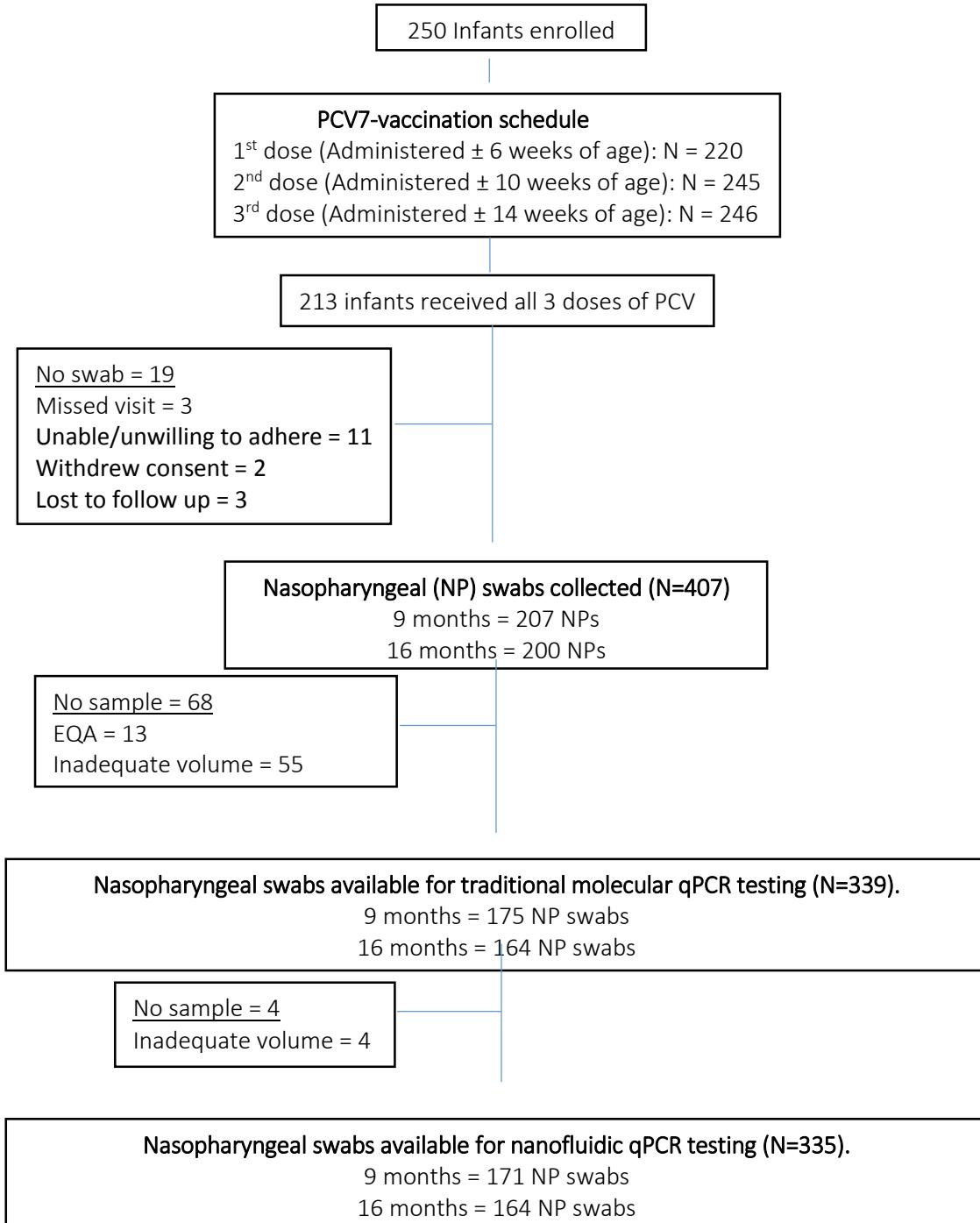
² Medical Research Council: Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit, Faculty Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

***Corresponding author**

Courtney Paige Olwagen
Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit
Chris Hani-Baragwanath Hospital
Phone: +27 11 983 4262
E-mail: olwagenc@rmpru.co.za

Alternative corresponding author

Shabir A. Madhi
Professor of Vaccinology, University of Witwatersrand
Medical Research Council: Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit
DST/NRF Research Chair: Vaccine Preventable Diseases
Tel no: +27-11-938-2515
Fax no: 086-582-7830
Email: madhis@rmpru.co.za



Supplementary Figure 1: Flow diagram of the study population.

Diagram indicating the number of children initially enrolled in the PCV-vaccinated cohort of HIV-uninfected children, as well as the number of nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs available for subsequent traditional molecular qPCR analysis and Biomark HD system (Fluidigm). PCV-vaccinated participants were excluded from analysis if they did not receive all three doses of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) within protocol-defined window periods. The number of NP swabs available for molecular testing was defined by whether there was an adequate volume of sample remaining. EQA, samples were used for external quality assessment.

Supplementary Table 1: Performance of Fluidigm.

Bacterial target	Efficiency (%)	Coefficient correlation (r^2)	Limit of detection (copies/PCR)	Intra-assay variation	Accuracy	Inter-assay variation
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	104	0.99	10	0.011	0.028	0.045
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	96	0.99	10	0.05	-0.062	0.09
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type A	97	0.99	10	0.031	-0.025	0.038
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B	91	0.99	10	0.008	-0.078	0.041
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type C	104	0.99	10	0.013	0.065	0.032
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type D	101	0.99	10	0.002	0.083	0.03
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type E	105	0.98	100	0.014	0.039	0.009
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type F	93	0.99	10	0.03	0.05	0.068
<i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>	97	0.99	10	0.02	-0.057	0.015
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	96	0.99	10	0.007	0.004	0.049
<i>Neisseria lactamica</i>	100	0.99	10	0.063	0.023	0.026
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	91	0.99	10	0.029	-0.049	0.13
ptxs1	99	0.99	10	0.025	-0.081	0.018
HIS1001	104	0.99	10	0.045	-0.071	0.131
PIS1001	91	0.99	10	0.009	0.068	0.021
IS481	99	0.98	100	0.042	0.013	0.12
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	105	0.99	10	0.018	-0.069	0.09
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 1	93	0.99	10	0.011	0.034	0.013
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 3	93	0.99	10	0.002	-0.049	0.05
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 4	96	0.99	10	0.002	0.06	0.023
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 5	105	0.99	100	0.012	0.055	0.041
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 6A/B/C/D	94	0.99	100	0.011	-0.059	0.029
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 6C/D	91	0.99	100	0.013	-0.026	0.047
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 7A/F	98	0.99	10	0.008	-0.054	0.034
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 7C	90	0.99	10	0.027	-0.068	0.015
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 8	101	0.99	10	0.002	0.104	0.019
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 9A/L/N/V	96	0.99	10	0.006	-0.059	0.016
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 10A	90	0.99	10	0.083	-0.001	0.005
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 11A/B/C/D/F	93	0.99	10	0.027	0.011	0.021
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 12ABF/44/46	89	0.99	10	0.003	0.045	0.029
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 13	96	0.99	100	0.011	-0.067	0.039
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 14	91	0.99	10	0.009	-0.027	0.027
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 15A/B/C/F	102	0.99	10	0.078	-0.052	0.083
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 16F	105	0.99	10	0.011	-0.033	0.025
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 17F	92	0.99	10	0.01	-0.041	0.01
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 18A/B/C	99	0.99	10	0.014	-0.016	0.09
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 19A	90	0.98	10	0.018	0.077	0.025
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 19B/F	98	0.99	10	0.004	0.009	0.021
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 20	103	0.99	10	0.014	0.069	0.003
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 21	96	0.99	100	0.111	0.083	0.122
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 22A/F	99	0.99	10	0.019	-0.067	0.046
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 23A/B/F	103	0.99	10	0.074	-0.081	0.022
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 23F	97	0.99	10	0.006	0.02	0.038
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 25A/25F/38	101	0.99	10	0.015	0.012	0.087
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 34/37/17A	101	0.99	10	0.001	-0.079	0.008
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 35B	100	0.99	10	0.013	0.005	0.029

Supplementary Table 2: Concordance between culture and Fluidigm for the detection of common of nasopharyngeal pathogens in PCV-vaccinated, HIV-uninfected children.

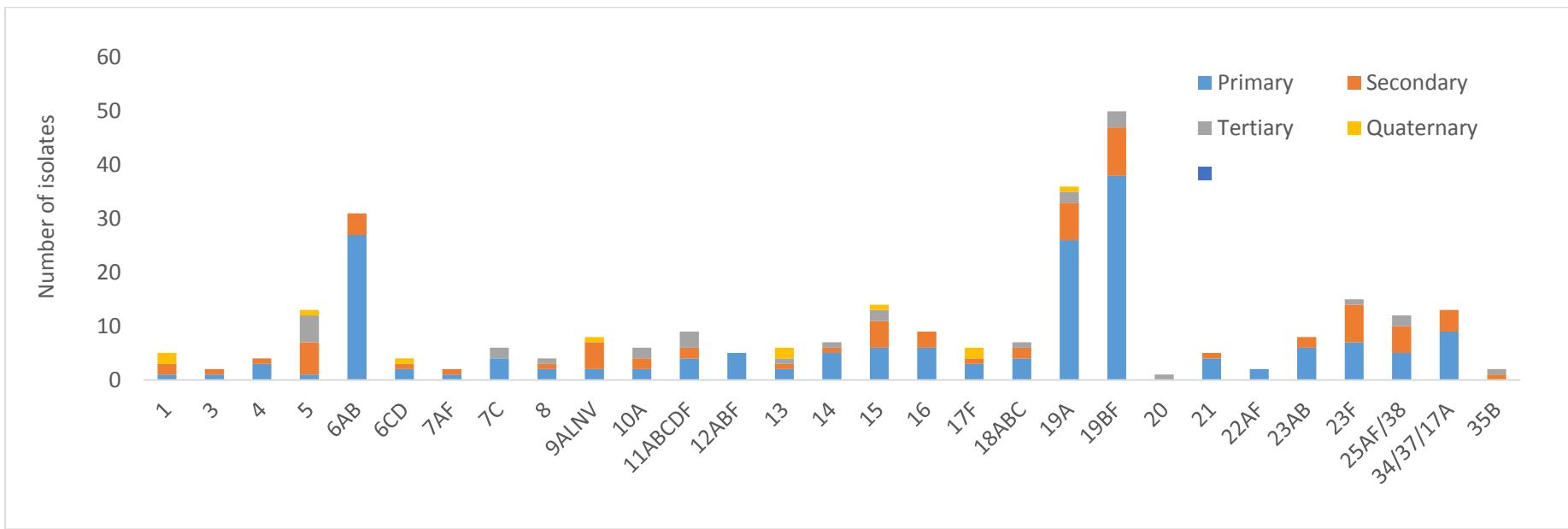
Bacteria	Culture	Fluidigm	Kappa	Sensitivity	Specificity
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	201 (60%)	246 (73.4%)	0.59	96%	60%
<i>H. influenzae</i>	183 (54.6%)	232 (69.3%)	0.63	97%	64%
<i>S. aureus</i>	56 (16.7%)	55 (16.4%)	0.86	96%	97%

Supplementary Table 3: Concordance between culture and Fluidigm for the detection of pneumococcal serotypes in PCV-vaccinated, HIV-uninfected children Serotype/serogroup

	Culture	Fluidigm	Kappa	Sensitivity	Specificity
1	0	5(1.5%)	0	ND	98%
3	1(0.3%)	1(0.3%)	1	100%	100%
4	1(0.3%)	4(1.2%)	0.4	ND	100%
5	0	13(3.9%)	0	ND	98%
6A/B	31(8.2%)	31(8.2%)	0.93	94%	99%
6C/D	0	2(0.6%)	0	0%	99%
7A/F	0	1(0.3%)	0	0%	99%
7C	4(1.2%)	6(1.8%)	0.8	100%	99%
8	2(0.6%)	4(1.2%)	0.66	100%	99%
9A/L/N/V	8(2.4%)	8(2.4%)	1	100%	100%
10A	5(1.5%)	6(1.8%)	0.54	60%	99%
11A/B/C/D/F	5(1.5%)	9(2.7%)	0.56	80%	98%
12AB/44/46	2(0.6%)	5(1.5%)	0.57	100%	99%
13	6(1.8%)	6(1.8%)	1	100%	100%
14	4(1.2%)	7(2.1%)	0.72	100%	99%
15	13(3.9%)	14(4.2%)	0.96	100%	99%
16	5(1.5%)	9(2.7%)	0.71	100%	98%
17F	3(0.9%)	6(1.8%)	0.66	100%	99%
18A/B/C	3(0.9%)	7(2.1%)	0.59	100%	99%
18F	1(0.3%)	0	0	0%	100%
19A	29(8.7%)	36(10.8%)	0.78	90%	97%
19B/F	37(11%)	50(14.9%)	0.77	95%	95%
20	1(0.3%)	1(0.3%)	-	0%	99%
21	3(0.9%)	5(1.5%)	0.75	100%	99%
22A/F	1(0.3%)	2(0.6%)	0.67	100%	99%
23A/B	7(2.1%)	8(2.4%)	0.66	71%	99%
23F	9(2.7%)	15(4.5%)	0.66	89%	98%
25AF/38	0	12(3.6%)	0	ND	96%
34/37/17A	11(3.3%)	13(3.9%)	0.83	91%	99%
33B	1(0.3%)	0	0	0%	100%
35F	1(0.3%)	0	0	0%	100%
35B	0	1(0.3%)	-	ND	99%

Supplementary Table 4: Yield of additional serotypes detected by Fluidigm in relation to being co-carriage with other pneumococcal serotypes

serotype	Number of serotypes co-carried/additional serotypes detected by Fluidigm (%)	Number of dominating colonizing serotype/number of serotypes co-carried (%)
1	4/5(80)	1/4(25)
3	0	0
4	1/3(33)	0/1
5	12/13(92)	0/12
6A/B	1/2(50)	0/1
6C/D	3/4(75)	0/3
7A/F	1/1(100)	0/1
7C	2/2(100)	0/2
8	2/2(100)	0/2
9A/L/N/V	0	0
10A	3/3(100)	1/3(33)
11A/B/C/F	5/5(100)	0/5
12A/12B/12F/44/46	2/3(67)	2/2(100)
13	0	0
14	2/3(67)	0/1
15A/B/C/F	1/1(100)	0/1
16F	3/4(75)	0/3
17F	3/3(100)	0/3
18A/B/C	4/4(100)	1/4(25)
19A	7/10(70)	0/7
19B/F	11/15(73)	1/11(9)
20	1/1(100)	0/1
21	2/2(100)	1/20(50)
22A/F	1/1(100)	0/1
23A/B	2/2(100)	1/2(50)
23F	6/7(86)	1/6(16.7)
25A/25F/38	8/12(67)	1/8(12.5)
34/37/17A	2/3(67)	0/2
35B	1/1(100)	0/1
Total	92/113(81)	10/92(11)



Supplementary Figure 2: Serotype/group specific ranking of multiple pneumococcal carriage

Each isolate of *S. pneumoniae* was ranked according to its carriage density as determined by Fluidigm to other isolates present in the same sample. Single colonizers were included in the analysis as primary colonizing serotypes.

Supplementary Table 5: Primer pools for Specific Target Amplification (STA) to be used in an initial step (pre-amplification of DNA) for the Fluidigm

Pool A	Pool B
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> (<i>lytA</i>)	GAPDH
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type D
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type A	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type F
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B	BexA
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type C	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type E	<i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>
<i>Bordetella holmesii</i>	<i>Neisseria lactamica</i>
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 1	<i>Bordetella pertussis</i> and <i>Bordetella holmesii</i>
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 4	<i>Bordetella parapertussis</i>
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 5	<i>Bordetella pertussis</i> , <i>Bordetella parapertussis</i> , sp and <i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i>
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 6A/B/C/D	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 3
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 7C	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 6C/D
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 8	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 7A/F
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 9A/L/N/V	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 11A/B/C/D/F
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 10A	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 12A/12B/12F/44/46
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 14	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 13
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 19A	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 15A/B/C/F
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 19B/F	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 16F
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 21	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 17F
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 23A/B/F	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 18A/B/C
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 23F	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 20
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 25A/25F/38	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 22A/F
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serogroup 34/37/17A	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotype 35B

Make up 20X TaqMan assays for 1) Specific target amplification and 2) Real-time qPCR using the Biomark HD System (Fluidigm), for each of the 48 reactions listed in Table 4.

1: 18 μ L Forward primer (100 μ M stock) + 18 μ L reverse primer (100 μ M stock) + 64 μ L dilution reagent*.

2: 18 μ L Forward primer (100 μ M stock) + 18 μ L reverse primer (100 μ M stock) + 5 μ L probe (100 μ M stock) + 59 μ L dilution reagent*.

*Dilution Reagent (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.1 mM EDTA)

1. SPECIFIC TARGET AMPLIFICATION (STA)

Pool TaqMan Gene Expression Assays

Combine equal volumes of each 20X TaqMan Gene expression Assays into two separate pools, of 24 assays each, as described in Supplementary table 5. Each assay is at a final concentration of 0.2X (180nM).

Pool A

2 μ L X 24 TaqMan assays (48ul total)
62 μ L dilution reagent *
Total volume = 200ul pool A

Pool B

2 μ L X 24 TaqMan assays (48ul total)
62 μ L dilution reagent *
Total volume = 200ul pool B

Prepare Sample Pre-Mix

In a DNA-free hood, prepare the sample pre-mix for the reactions for each respective primer pool.

Pool A

1 μ L Preamp Master Mix (Fluidigm PN 100-5744)
1.25 μ L Pooled A TaqMan assay mix (0.2X)
1.5 μ L Water
cDNA 1.25 μ L
Total volume 5 μ L

Pool B

1 μ L Preamp Master Mix (Fluidigm PN 100-5744)
1.25 μ L Pooled B TaqMan assay mix (0.2X)
1.5 μ L Water
cDNA 1.25 μ L
Total volume 5 μ L

Preform specific target amplification reactions for each sample, for both pools A and B, in a standard thermo-cycler

Cycling conditions include an initial activation at 95°C for 10 minutes followed by 14 two-step cycles (denaturation at 95°C for 15 seconds and annealing/extension at 60°C for 4 minutes).

Combine STA products from pool A and pool B and dilute 1:5 with dilution reagent*

After cycling, dilute the reaction 1:5 by adding 15 μ L Dilution Reagent to the final 10 μ L (5 μ L pool A product + 5 μ L pool B product) reaction volume for a total volume of 25 μ L. Assay immediately or store at -20 degrees.

2. REAL-TIME QPCR USING THE BIOMARK HD SYSTEM (FLUIDIGM)

Prime the 96.96 IFC

Inject control line fluid into each accumulator on the IFC and then place the IFC into the Juno. Run script: Prime 96.96 GE.

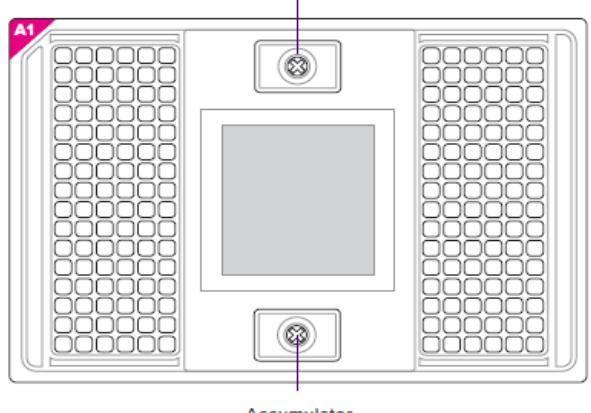
Prepare 10X Assays

Prepare aliquots of 10X assays (for each of the 48 assays listed in table 4) using volumes described below. Prepare each assay in duplicate to make a total of 96 assays.

Component	Vol. per inlet (μ L)	Vol. per inlet with overage (μ L)	Vol. for 50 μ L stock
20X TaqMan Gene Expression assays	2.5	3	25
2X Assay Loading Reagent (Fluidigm PN 100-7611)	2.5	3	25
Total	5	6	50

Final concentration (at 10X): primers, 9 μ M; probe, 2 μ M

Accumulator

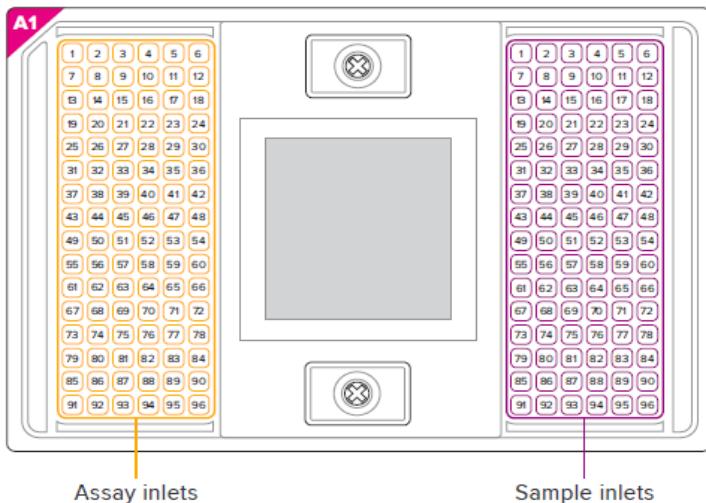


Prepare Sample Pre-Mix and Samples

Component	Vol. per inlet (μ L)	Vol. per inlet with overage (μ L)	Sample pre-mix for 96.96 (μ L)
TaqMan Universal PCR Master Mix (2X) (Life Technologies PN 4304437)	2.5	3.0	360
20X GE Sample Loading Reagent(Fluidigm PN 100-7610)	0.25	0.3	36.0
Pre-amplified cDNA (diluted product from step 1)	2.25	2.7	
Total	5.0	6.0	

In a DNA-free hood, combine the master mix with the 20X GE Sample Loading Reagent in a 1.5 mL sterile tube - enough volume to fill an entire IFC. Vortex to mix and centrifuge briefly. Aliquot 3.3 μ L of this sample pre-mix for each sample. Remove the aliquots of sample pre-mix from the DNA-free hood and in a DNA sample hood add 2.7 μ L of sample to each, making a total volume of 6 μ L in each aliquot. Vortex to mix and centrifuge.

96.96 IFC Pipetting Map



Load the IFC

Vortex thoroughly and centrifuge all assay and sample solutions before pipetting into the IFC inlets. When the prime script has finished, remove the primed IFC from the instrument and pipet 5 μ L of each assay and each sample into their respective inlets on the IFC as shown in IFC pipetting map. Return the IFC to the instrument and run the load script: Load Mix 96.96 GE.

NOTE: Start IFC run within 1 hour of loading samples.

Collect Real-Time PCR Data

Once load script is finished, remove IFC from the Juno and place in the Biomark HD system for Real-time qPCR.

Supplementary Figure 3: flow diagram illustrating the workflow of the Fluidigm assay