

Supplemental information

MPA_{PASS} software enables stitched multiplex, multidimensional EV repertoire analysis and a standard framework for reporting bead-based assays

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Figure S1. EV and protein concentration across qEV fractions. Overlaid on the elution fraction particle and protein concentration curves is a representative diameter distribution of each of the EV containing fractions used for the downstream multiplex analysis. Related to Figure 2 & 3.

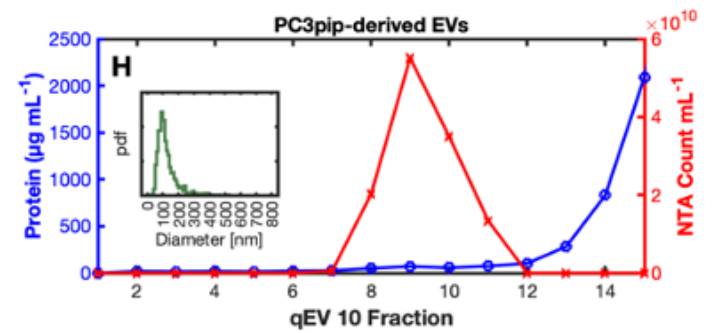
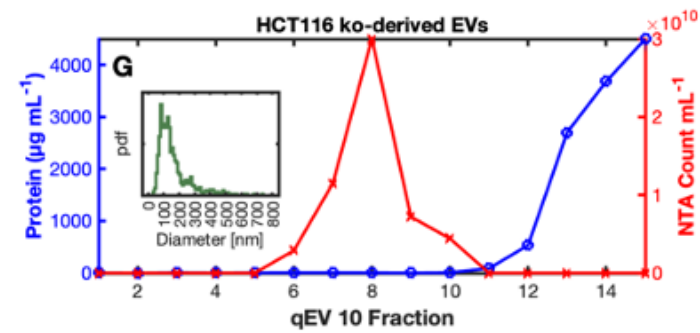
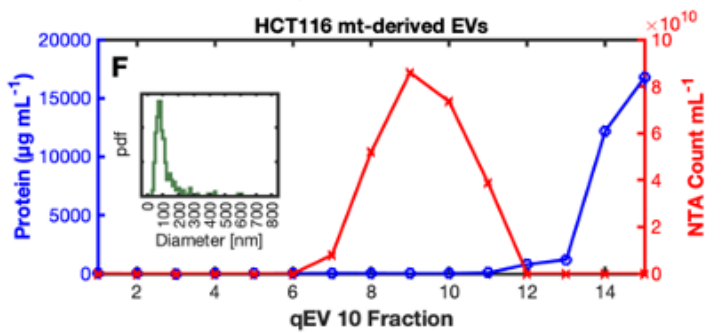
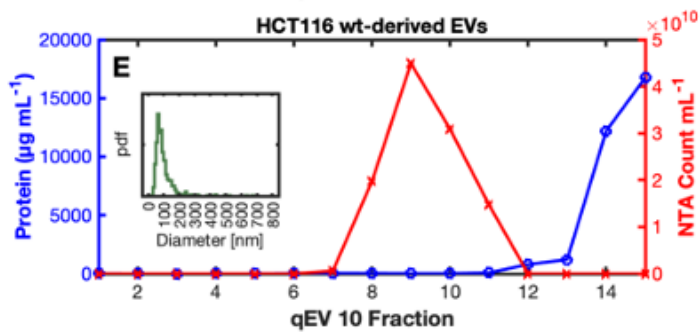
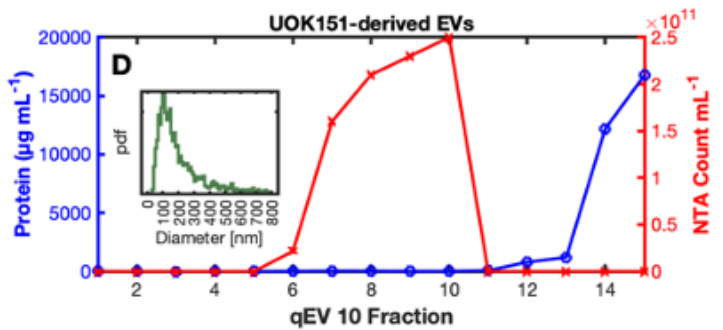
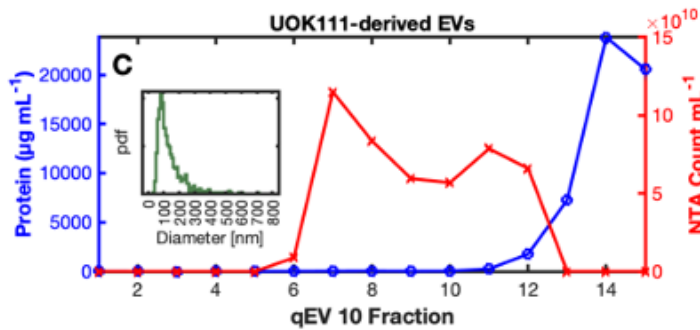
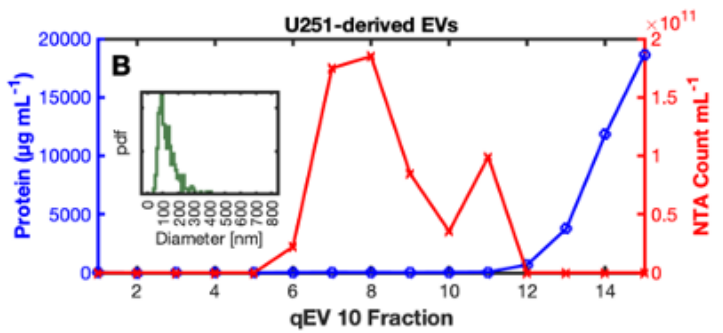
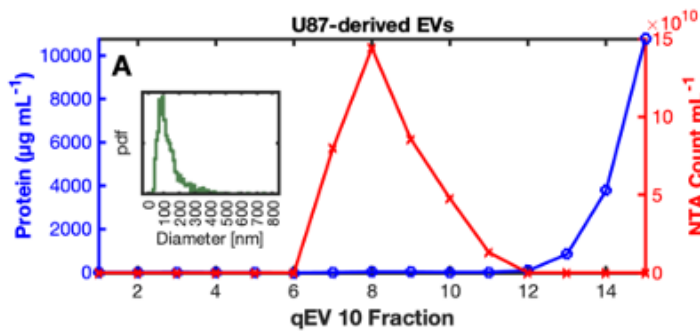
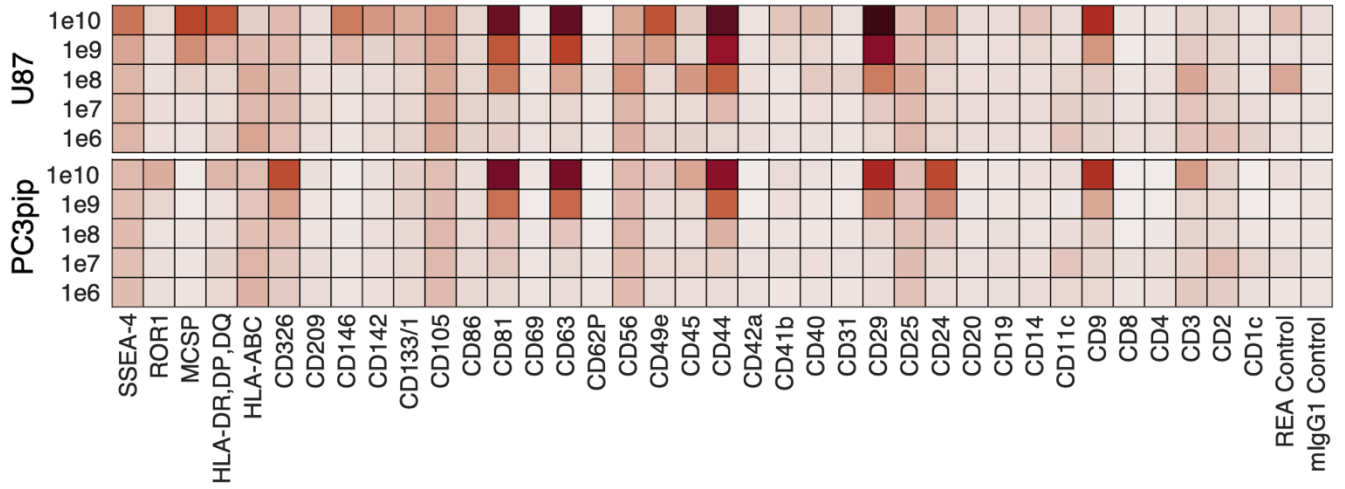


Figure S2. Multiplex input titration. Titration of two different cell line derived EVs from 1×10^6 to 1×10^{10} total EVs. Scatter plots (bottom) showing the titration of total U87- and PC3pip-derived EVs when incubated with multiplex array. Intensities are of EV mix (CD9, CD63, CD81) and shown for a subset of capture beads (CD81, CD63, CD44, and CD29). Data was normalized using fold change. Related to Figure 2.



● U87 EVs ● PC3pip EVs

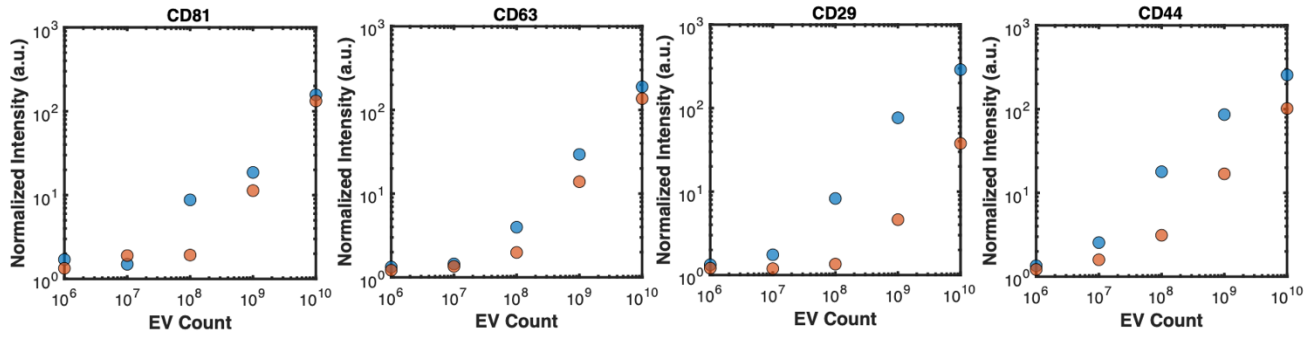
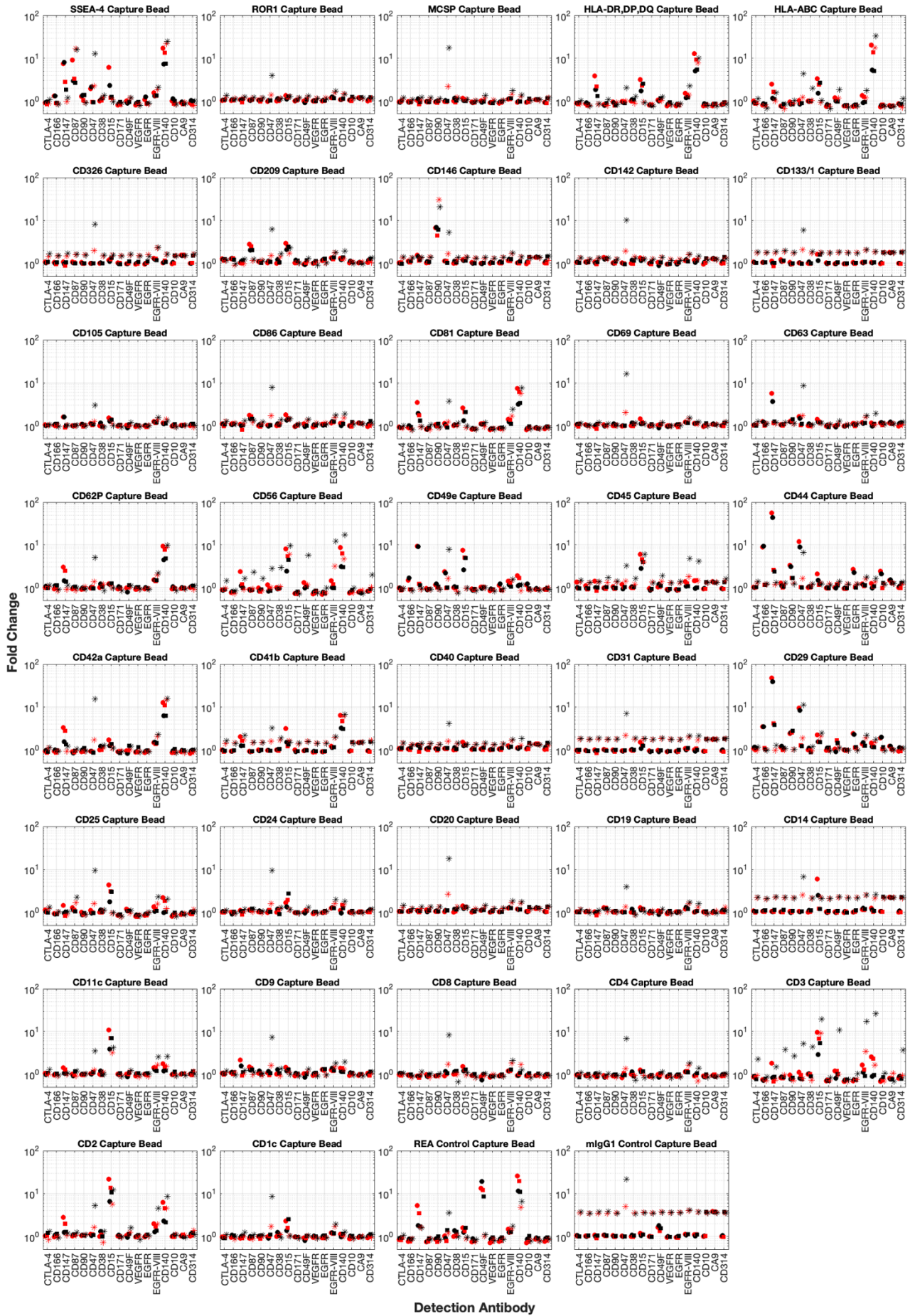


Figure S3. Screening antibodies for non-specific binding. All capture beads when incubated with 0.5 µg of detection antibody with buffer (asterixis markers) were incubated as negative controls. EV samples derived from U87 (circle marker) and U251 (square marker) cell lines were used as positive controls. The included Miltenyi buffer (red markers) and 2% EV-depleted FBS (black markers) were also compared. Related to Figure 3.

- U87 EVs + Ab (Miltenyi)
- U87 EVs + Ab (2% EVD FBS)
- U251 EVs + Ab (Miltenyi)
- U251 EVs + Ab (2% EVD FBS)
- * Bead + Ab (Miltenyi)
- * Bead + Ab (2% EVD FBS)



Detection Antibody

Figure S4. Screening antibodies for non-specific binding using hierarchal clustering. A) Boxplot comparing the top 75 average bead intensities combinations across U87-derived EVs, U251-derived EVs, and bead + antibody controls. Phenotypes are order by detection antibody followed by capture antibody e.g. CD140 detection, SSEA-4 capture. **B)** heatmap showing hierarchically clustered raw data of U87-derived EVs, U251-derived EVs, and bead + antibody controls intensities. Related to Figure 3.

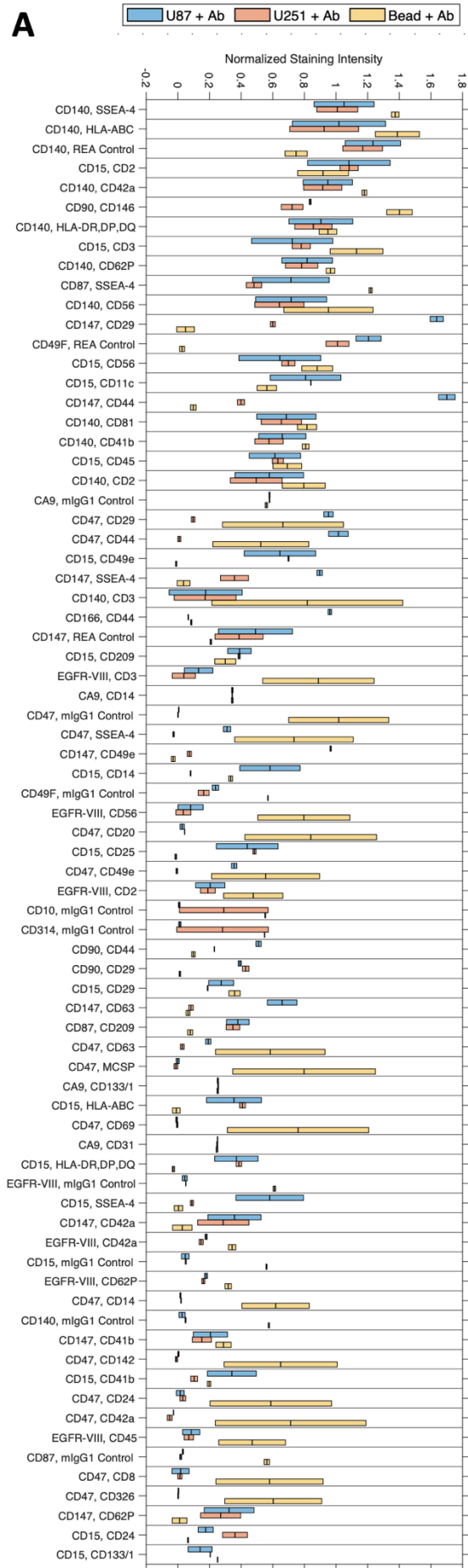
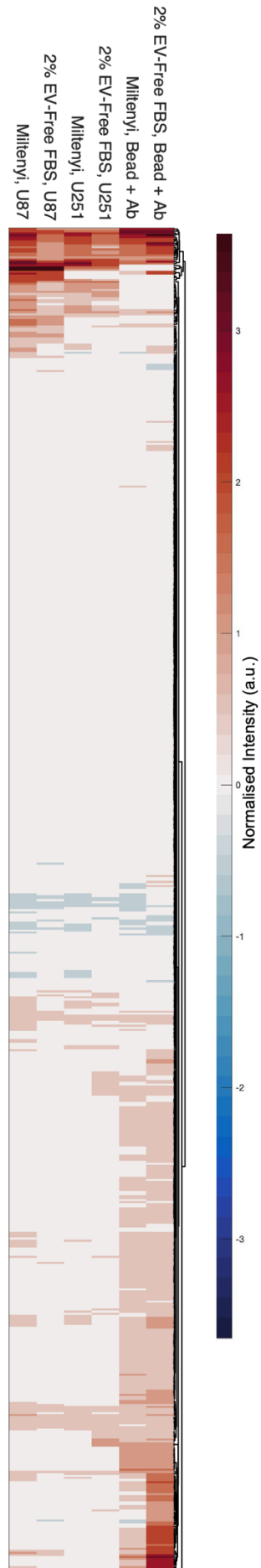
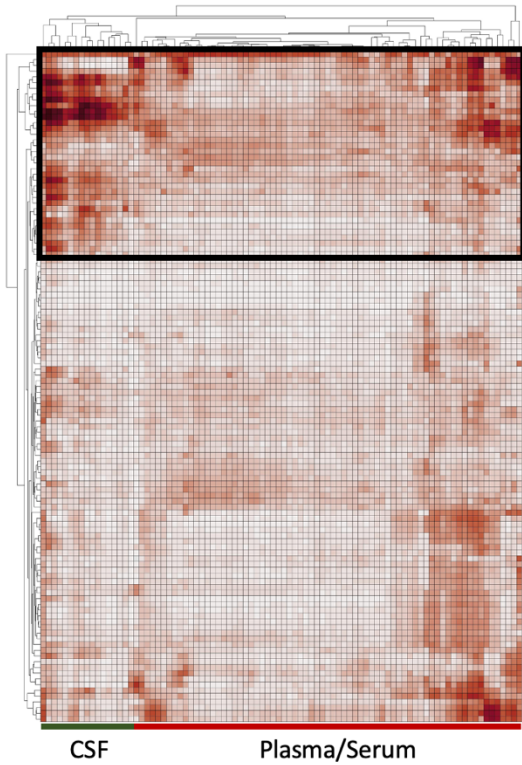
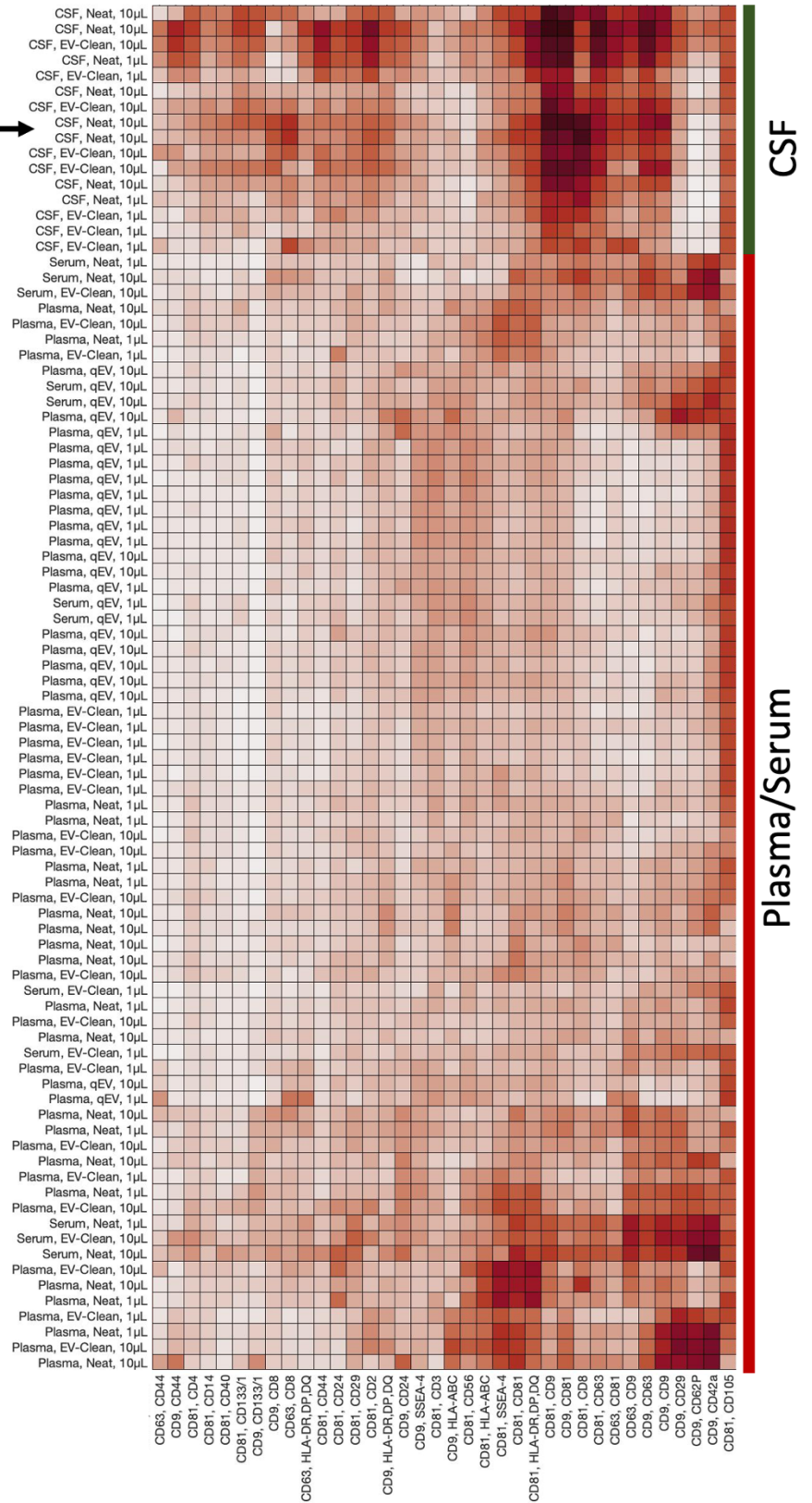
A**B**

Figure S5. Identifying marker differences between biological fluids. A) Heatmap shows a high-level overview of hierarchically clustered samples and markers from samples of plasma, serum, and CSF stained when incubated with CD9, CD63, and CD81 independently across 39 unique capture beads and stitched analysis is applied. **B)** shows a selection of the heatmap where markers within CSF appear to be enriched when compared to plasma and serum. Related to Figure 4.

A**B**

Normalised Intensity (a.u.)

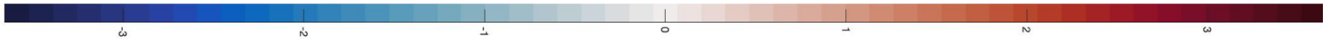
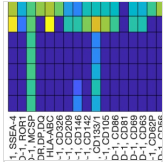


Figure S6 – Matched timepoint comparison of samples obtained from single individual with Streck, EDTA, Serum, Serum-Activated blood isolation tubes. Samples were incubated with a total count of 1×10^9 or 1×10^{10} EVs either neat or post-qEV column. Due to it not being possible to count EVs from neat biological fluids without counting other particles, concentrations were assumed to be ~5-fold diluted by using the qEV column. Related to Figure 4.

Supplementary Methods 1. Provides a detailed protocol and template for applying the multiplex samples to cell culture EVs that was used to generate data for Figure 1-3.



Sep 19, 2020

Multiplexed assay for detection of cell culture EV surface membrane proteins

In 2 collections

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dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.be7yjhpw

Translational Nanobiology Section

Jennifer Jones

DISCLAIMER

This protocol summarizes key steps for a specific type of assay, which is one of a collection of assays used for EV analysis in the NCI Translational Nanobiology Section at the time of submission of this protocol. Appropriate use of this protocol requires careful, cohesive integration with other methods for EV production, isolation, and characterization.

ABSTRACT

Protocol for using Miltenyi Biotec's human MACSplex Exosome Kit to assay one cell-line derived EV sample with up to 3 additional detection antibodies, at two EV count titration points (1E9 and 1E8 per LM10, NanoSight, NTA.). The optimisation of this protocol was done using bead kits released between 2017-2020.

DOI

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.be7yjhpw

PROTOCOL CITATION

Joshua A Welsh, Bryce Killingsworth, Julia Kepley, Tim Traynor, Alexis Barfield, Jennifer Jones 2020. Multiplexed assay for detection of cell culture EV surface membrane proteins . **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.be7yjhpw>

COLLECTIONS ⓘ

Stitched multiplexed assays allow multi-dimensional data analyses of EV repertoires.

2020 Featured Protocols

KEYWORDS

multiplex, flow cytometry, EVs

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PROTOCOL INTEGER ID

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PARENT PROTOCOLS

Part of collection

[Stitched multiplexed assays allow multi-dimensional data analyses of EV repertoires.](#)

[2020 Featured Protocols](#)

MATERIALS TEXT

MATERIALS

 [Low Protein Binding Collection Tubes \(2.0 mL\) Thermo](#)

Fisher Catalog #88379

 [MACSPlex Exosome Kit human Miltenyi Biotec](#)

 [AcroPrep Advance Filter Plates for Aqueous Filtration - 350 µL 0.2 µm Supor membrane \(10/pkg\) Contributed by users](#)

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BEFORE STARTING

- The protocol and attached planning template spreadsheet have been designed for an experiment assaying one cell-line derived EV sample with up to 3 additional detection antibodies, at two EV count titration points (1E9 and 1E8 per LM10, NanoSight, NTA.) Modifications of the spreadsheet and protocol may be necessary to use as a guide to assay multiple samples, human sample-derived EVs, or use additional numbers of detection antibodies.

Experiment planning

- 1 Determine which antibodies to use to detect EV surface membrane proteins in addition to the included CD9, CD63 and CD81 antibodies. All additional antibodies must be either APC or AF647 conjugated. Ensure you know the concentration of the antibodies, and if you are using an antibody conjugated in-lab, avoid preparations that have unbound dye.
- 2 Calculate the particle concentration of your EV sample, and the total particle count.
- 3 Use this template document to input your sample information and generate a plate map to visualize your experiment

and the wells you will fill in the 96-well plate to be analyzed by the flow cytometer. Check the "How much volume of your sample is needed for this assay (μL)" section of the sheet to ensure your selections for EV count titration points are reasonable. If you have a very concentrated sample ($\sim 5 \times 10^{11}$ part./mL or greater) you should increase the upper EV titration point to increase the fluorescent signal of the assay. If your sample is so dilute that you cannot incubate 1×10^9 EVs with each detection antibody consider methods to concentrate your sample as the fluorescent signal may be very weak and lower titration points not possible.

[2020-07-30 - MACSplex Protocol Template.xlsx](#)

Additionally, this template was designed so that the user is directed to transfer a volume of EVs directly from the stock EV preparation into a tube with MACSplex capture beads and MACSplex buffer. However, for the lower titration point(s) the user may wish to prepare dilutions of their EV stocks in PBS and use equal volumes of EV dilutions for all mixes. For example Tube 1 contains $10 \mu\text{L}$ of a 1×10^{11} part./mL EV dilution and Tube 2 contains $10 \mu\text{L}$ of a 1×10^{10} part./mL EV dilution.

This template specifically applies to cell culture supernatant derived EVs. It is not recommended to use $10 \mu\text{L}$ ($\sim 15,000$ beads) of beads with EVs derived from human fluids, such as plasma or serum as the bead recovery tends to be lower with biofluid samples than for cell culture supernatant EV preparations. A higher volume of beads would therefore be required.

- 4 Below is an example of how you might modify the template spreadsheet plate map to analyze more than one EV sample. Organize the plate so that the multichannel pipette can be used to transfer one antibody solution to a column or row. The "EV - bead capture" section of the spreadsheet will need to be duplicated and modified to help calculate needed volumes for each EV sample.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	CD9	CD63	CD81	mAb 4	mAb 5	mAb 6	Setup beads
	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	
	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	
	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	
B	CD9	CD63	CD81	mAb 4	mAb 5	mAb 6	$5 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads
	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	
	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	Cell line 1	
	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	
C	CD9	CD63	CD81	mAb 4	mAb 5	mAb 6	
	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	1×10^9 EVs	
	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	
	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	
D	CD9	CD63	CD81	mAb 4	mAb 5	mAb 6	
	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	1×10^8 EVs	
	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	Cell line 2	
	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	
E	CD9	CD63	CD81	mAb 4	mAb 5	TGF-B1	
	PBS control	PBS control	PBS control	PBS control	PBS control	PBS control	
	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	$10 \mu\text{L}$ capture beads	

Day 1: Incubating EVs with capture beads

- 5 Using the "EV - capture bead mix preparation" section of the template as a guide, determine the volumes of MACSplex buffer, MACSplex capture beads, and EVs that will be mixed together for the overnight bead capture incubation.

The spreadsheet has been designed so that the combined volume of MACSplex buffer and EVs in PBS is 65 μ L for every 10 μ L of MACSplex capture beads, or 75 μ L of volume per detection antibody "test."

- 6 Prepare an Eppendorf 2.0 mL LoBind collection tube for each EV sample being assayed, but before use ensure that the planned volume to be transferred to the tube is able to invert when the tube is rotated, otherwise the capture beads may sediment at the bottom of the tube during the overnight incubation and prevent proper interaction of EV proteins with their capture antibodies.

Other high quality low-protein binding tubes can be used if necessary.

- 7 

Using our shared digital inventory, identify which capture bead tube you will use for this experiment and write down the lot number.

CRITICAL STEP: The lot number is important for potential quality control issues that may arise with any of the 39 different bead populations.

- 8 Transfer the calculated amount of MACSplex buffer to each EV sample collection tube.
- 9 Spin down and vortex very thoroughly on the highest setting a tube of human MACSplex Exosome Capture Beads and aliquot the calculated volumes into each prepared EV sample collection tube.

- 10 Vortex and then add the calculated volume of undiluted or diluted EVs to each labeled tube containing MACSplex buffer and capture beads.

- 11 

Vortex each tube well, then place in a tube rotator, covered with foil, and rotate overnight at RT.

CRITICAL STEP: make sure the volume inside each tube is inverting and falling down the side of the tube when it is rotated so that the large capture beads remain in suspension throughout the night to allow for adequate mixing.

Day 2: Staining captured EVs with detection antibodies

- 12 Use the "Antibody preparation table" section of the template to calculate the volumes of antibodies and buffer you will need to prepare for the detection antibody staining step of the assay.

13 Get 1 new Pall 0.2 µm PES filter plate.

14 Using a multichannel pipet, add 150 µL of MACSplex buffer to all sample and control wells.

It is recommended to use the top portion of the vacuum manifold as a plate holder to aid pipetting.

Screen Shot 2020-07-30 at 10.29.13 PM.png

Figure 1: Pall Vacuum Manifold (ID: 5017.) The silver metal top is removable and rests on the blue metal bottom component. The blue pressure valve can be opened slowly to prevent sudden pressure changes disturbing fluid. Vacuum should only be applied until sufficient to empty wells of fluid. The silver metal top can be used as a temporary plate rack for pipetting and mixing samples during washing steps. Figure from Pall's website.

15 Subject the plate to vacuum just until all wells are emptied of buffer.

(release the vacuum pressure gently by pressing the vacuum release rapidly)

Quickly and gently blot the bottom of the filter plate against a clean paper towel.

16 As quickly as possible, add 50 µL of MACSplex buffer to previously wetted wells.

17 Vortex each EV sample tube very thoroughly and add 75 µL to each test well.

75 µL should contain 10 µL of capture beads with EVs bound to them.

Based on the template spreadsheet you should have 10% excess volume so there should be no concern with running out of sample for the last detection well on the filter plate.

(To aspirate all volume at the bottom of the collection tube, the tube may need to be spun down using a bench-top centrifuge and then quickly vortexed or pipetted again.)

18 Add 10 µL of vortexed MACSplex capture beads to the indicated detection antibody control wells (1 per detection antibody.)

19 All detection antibodies should be vortexed gently and spun quickly in a table top centrifuge if possible.

20 Prepare all antibody solutions according to the template spreadsheet. If doing a large experiment make sure to only prepare the antibody solutions immediately before use.

21 Once antibody solutions are prepared, vacuum the plate until the wells are just empty of liquid. Very quickly and gently blot the bottom of the filter plate against a clean paper towel to remove any drops of buffer on the bottom of the plate.



22 

Using a multichannel pipette and reagent well if possible, and dispensing quickly to prevent filter plate membranes from drying out, dispense antibody solutions onto their indicated wells, 200 μL of antibody solution per well. Avoid bubble formation and do not mix initially.

CRITICAL STEP: when using the multichannel pipette it is easy to accidentally draw up unequal volumes of solution. Rock the pipette very firmly on the tips to ensure a strong connection, ensure all tips are level by visual inspection before use, when drawing up fluid ensure all tips are fully placed below the top level of the reagent, and **visually confirm** that each tip has a similar amount of fluid. All the fluid should remain at the bottom of the pipette tip and not drift higher up in the tip, otherwise it will not be dispensed equally and bubbles will form in an attempt to eject residual fluid.

23 Using a multichannel pipet set to 100 μL , mix the volumes in the wells up and down, without contacting the filter membranes at the bottom of the wells to avoid puncturing them. The tip should initially be placed exactly in the middle of the fluid in the wells, then rotated slightly toward the sides of the well to mix beads which may be on the side of the well.

Screen Shot 2020-07-30 at 10.48.28 PM.png

Figure 2: Three ~ 400 μL wells with a 0.2 μm membrane at the bottom. The triangle represents the optimal placement of the pipette tip during mixing. One scrape of the membrane does not mean the experiment is ruined, but hard scrapes can either puncture a hole in the membrane, allowing bead-captured EVs to spill out, or introduce membrane debris into the sample mixture.

24 Cover the plate with a foil plate sealer and incubate for 2 hours at RT, shaking.

25 After 2 hours, vacuum the plate until fluid just empty, and then add 150 μL of MACSplex buffer to all used wells immediately.

26 Using the 75 μL setting, with the plate positioned on top of the silver metal part of the manifold, reverse pipette all wells with careful tip positioning to avoid bubbles but also not scrape filter membrane.

27 Clear all wells with the vacuum.

28 Immediately added 150 μL buffer to all wells

29 Using the 75 μL setting, with plate positioned on top of manifold, reverse pipette all wells with careful tip positioning to avoid bubbles but also not scrape filter membrane

30 Place on vacuum manifold until all wells are cleared

31 Immediately add 200 μ L of buffer to all wells.

This final resuspension volume can be adjusted to produce more or less concentrated final suspensions of the capture beads, depending on the optimal concentration to run samples on the flow cytometer.

32 Using 200 μ L setting, with plate on top of metal manifold piece, all wells should be reverse pipetted with tip positioning careful to avoid bubbles but also not scrape filter membrane and then transferred to Axygen racked mini 1.1 mL tubes, or a 96-well plate compatible with the plate reader for the particular flow cytometer being used.

When preparing this final resuspension press the multichannel plunger half-way to its stopping point to use a volume of \sim 100 μ L to fully resuspend all capture beads sitting on top of the filter plate membrane.

33 Add 5 μ L of capture beads in 200 μ L of PBS to a free well on the plate or tube rack for the cytometer, as well as 20 μ L of setup beads with 20 μ L of PBS (varies largely depending on setup bead concentration) to another free well.

Day 2: running plate on cytometer

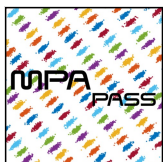
34 Run setup beads on the flow cytometer to adjust cytometer settings and gate around a single bead population.

35 Analyze the full volume of each 200 μ L stained EV sample, including the non-EV containing capture bead + detection antibody controls to check for nonspecific binding of detection antibody to capture beads.

Data analysis

36 Use MPAPASS software to analyze the multiplexed EV protein expression data. Protocol under development.

Supplementary Methods 2. Provides a detailed protocol for bead gating strategies using FlowJo Software that was used to generate data for Figure 1-5.



MPAPASS - Gating flow cytometry multiplex data V.

(bu3mnyk6)

Joshua A Welsh¹, Sean M Cook¹, Jennifer Jones¹

¹Translational Nanobiology Section, Laboratory of Pathology, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health

bu3mnyk6

1 *Works for me*



Joshua Welsh

DISCLAIMER

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ABSTRACT

This collection contains the protocols required for each step in the mpapass software pipeline for performing stitched multiplex analysis. This is one of a number of protocols in the pipeline for using the mpapass software package and is applicable to the latest release of the software.

PROTOCOL INFO

Joshua A Welsh, Sean M Cook, Jennifer Jones . MPAPASS - Gating flow cytometry multiplex data.

protocols.io

<https://protocols.io/view/mpapass-gating-flow-cytometry-multiplex-data-bu3mnyk6>

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MATERIALS TEXT

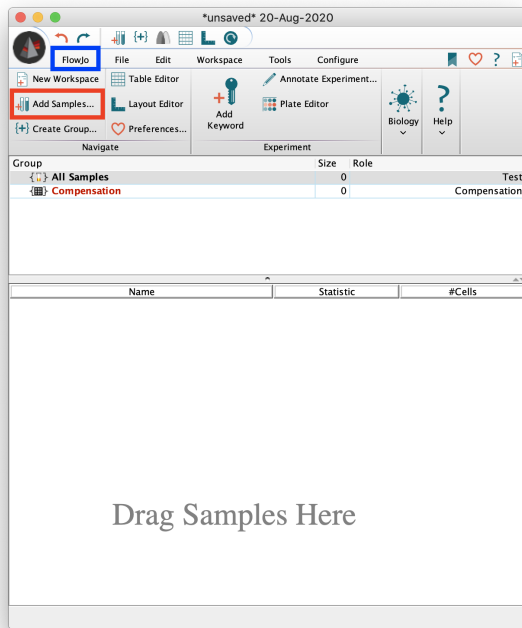
FlowJo

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Importing the Files into FlowJo

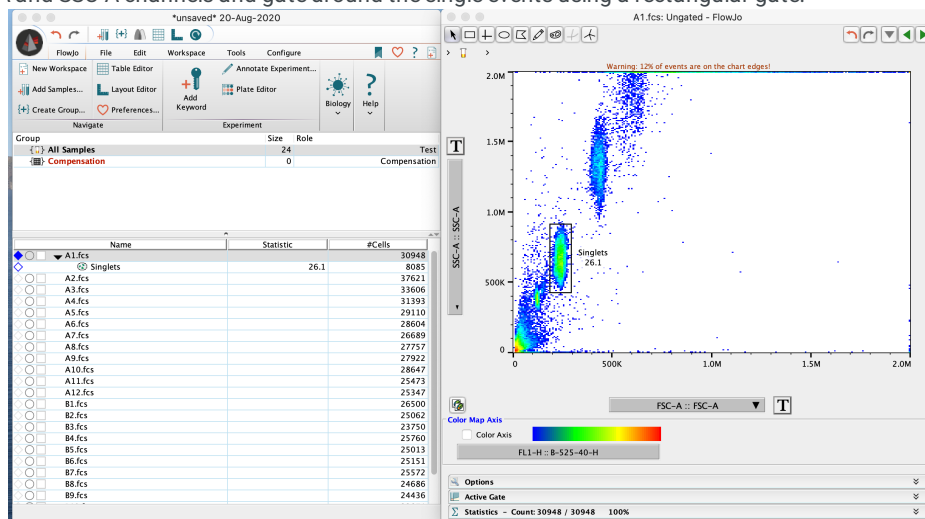
- 1 Import the desired files into the FlowJo workspace using either the Add Samples (red box) button under the FlowJo tab (blue box), or simply drag the desired files into FlowJo.



It is recommended that the fluorescence parameters be calibrated into standard units of 'molecules of equivalent soluble fluorophore' (MESF) to aid in reproducibility of data. This can be done using FCMPASS software in combination with commercially available MESF beads. See the FCMPASS software for further information at <https://nano.ccr.cancer.gov/fcypass>

Gating the Bead Populations

- 2 Double-click on any of the samples in order to bring up a scatter plot. Change the parameters of the scatter plot to FSC-A and SSC-A channels and gate around the single events using a rectangular gate.



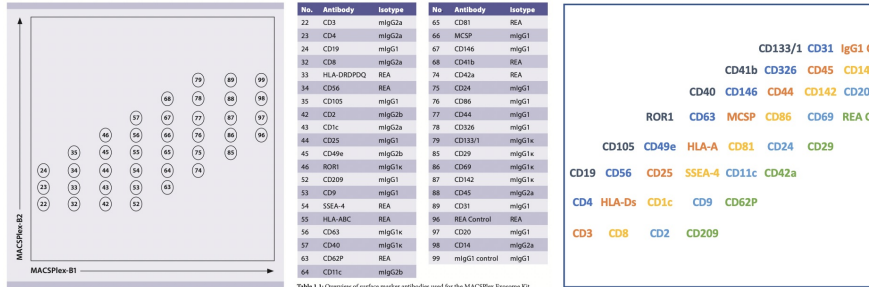
In this example, the A1.fcs sample was used to gate for singlets.

- 3 Double-click on the newly gated Singlets population to open a new scatter plot. Change the parameters to the FITC-A and PE-A channels, and a pattern similar to the figure below should be seen.

There are supposed to be 39 distinct bead populations, however in kits manufactured between 2018-2019, only 38 can be seen due to the merging of the 89 and 99 bead populations.

image.png

- 4 Each of the distinct populations corresponds to a antibody coated bead that can be determined from the bead legend below:



- 5 Gate each of the bead populations using a elliptical gate and label the populations according to the bead legend in step 4. For the merged population, gate around the entire population--later the population will be separated.

image.png

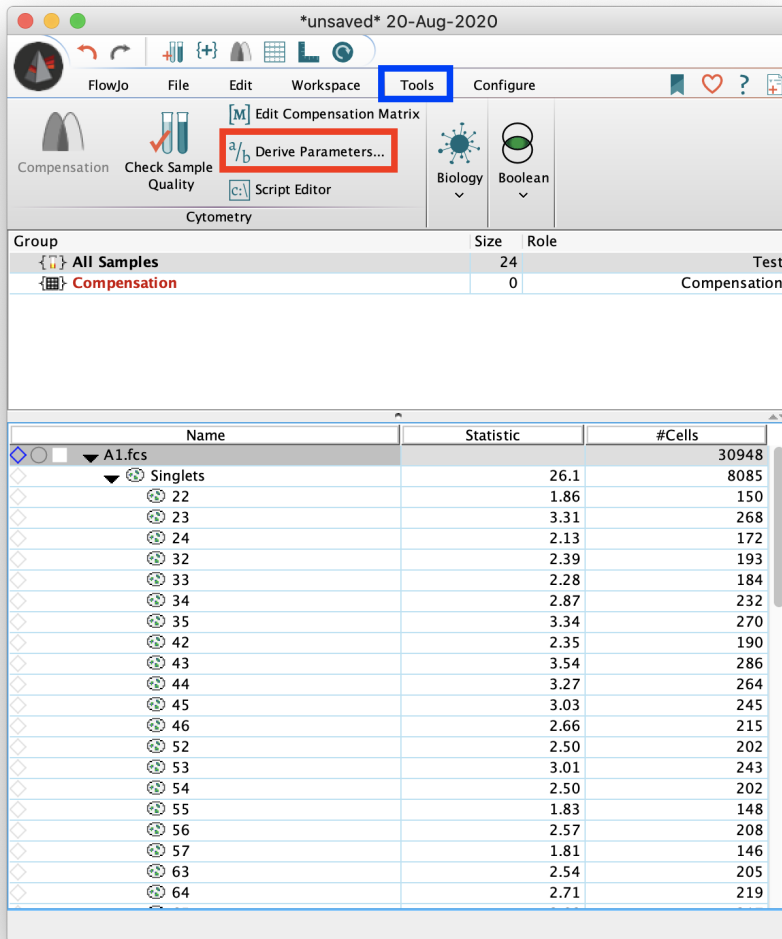
Separating the Merged Population

- 6 On select cytometers it has been found that some lots of Miltenyi exosome multiplex beads do not adequately separate populations 89 and 99. If this is not the case proceed to the next section.

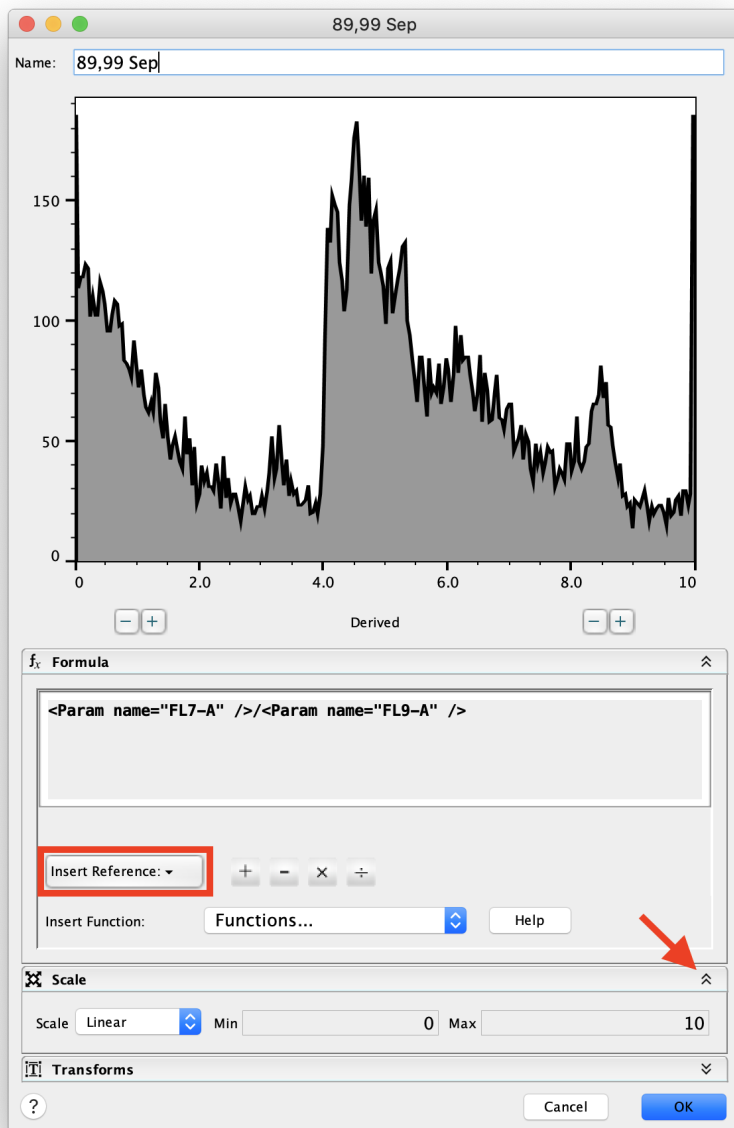
The FlowJo workspace should now have subpopulations under the Singlet population for each bead population as well as the merged population.

Click on the sample used to gate the bead populations (the highlighted A1.fcs sample in the figure below) and then navigate to the tools tab (blue box).

Click on Derive Parameters (red box) which will bring up a new window.



7 Creating the Derived Parameter:



7.1 In this new window, at the top, name the derived parameter 89,99 Sep.

7.2 Using the Insert Reference button (red box), choose the V-525-A channel. A string of characters will appear in the text box above.

Click on the division button next to the Insert Reference button.

Once again using the Insert Reference button (red box), now choose the V-660-A channel.

A plot similar to the figure above should be now be seen

7.3 Click on the collapse/open arrows for the Scale tab (denoted by a red arrow).

Choose the Linear scale and set the Min to 0 and the Max to 10.

Now click OK, and the derived parameter should appear beneath the chosen sample.

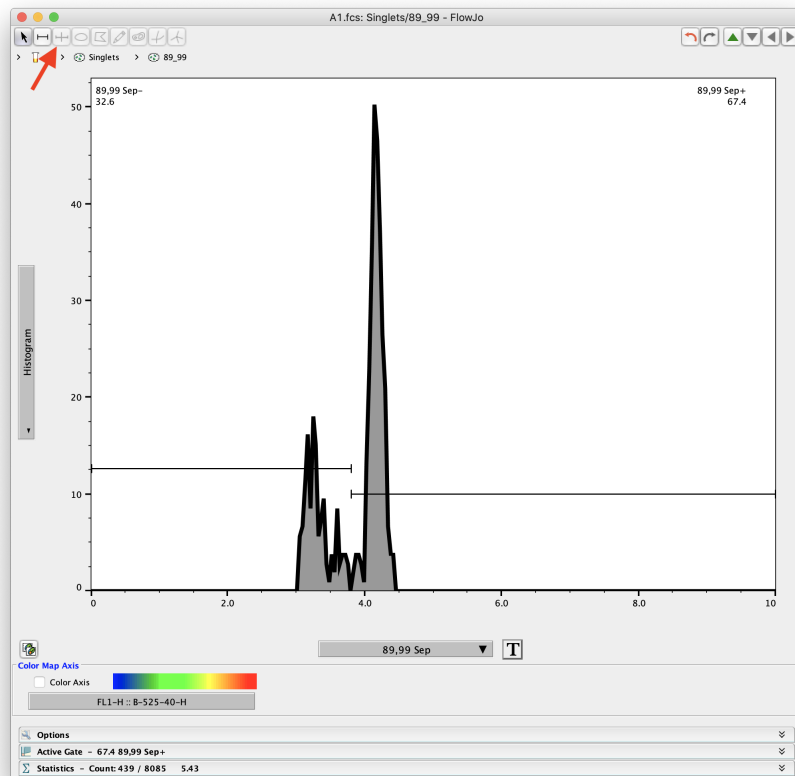
8 Gating the Merged Population:

8.1 Click on the 89_99 subpopulation to open a new scatter plot.

Choose 89,99 Sep derived parameter from the dropdown menu on the X-axis and the histogram option on the Y-axis.

A plot similar to the figure below should be seen.

8.2 Click on the Bisector Tool (red arrow) to gate the two bead populations. Make sure to choose a point where the two populations are distinctly separated.



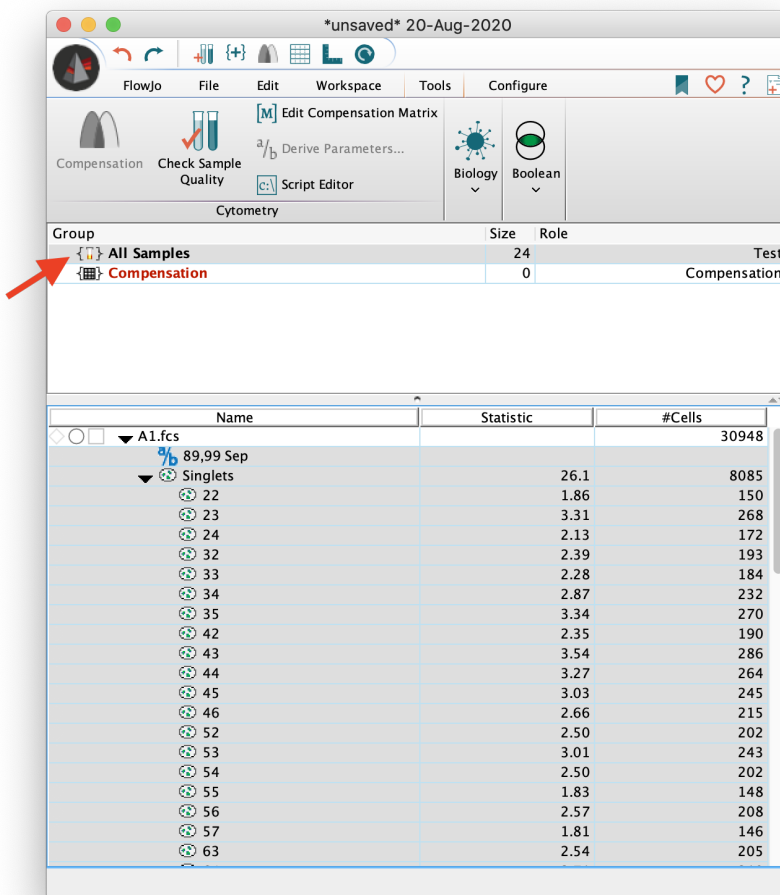
8.3 The populations should be relabeled by right clicking the populations in the FlowJo workspace. The upper population should be labeled 99 while the lower population should be labeled 89.

Applying the Gates to Each Sample

9 In the FlowJo workspace, highlight all the gated populations and the derived parameter.

Now drag them into All Samples Group above (red arrow).

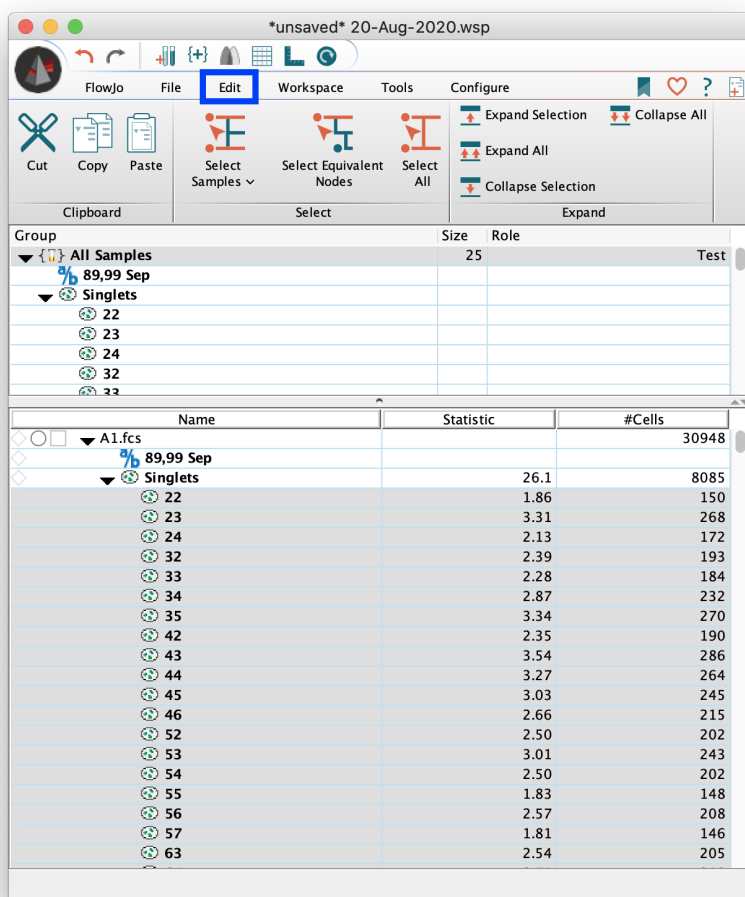
All files in the FlowJo workspace should now be gated exactly how we gated our chosen sample. This will be reflected in the FlowJo workspace as all samples should now have the same populations.



Exporting the Files

10 Now that all our samples have been gated, it is time to export the data from FlowJo into .csv files.

For any of the samples select all the bead populations to export, then under the Edit tab (blue box), click the Select Equivalent Nodes button to select all bead populations from every sample to export.



11 Navigate to the file tab and click on the Export/Concatenate Populations button.

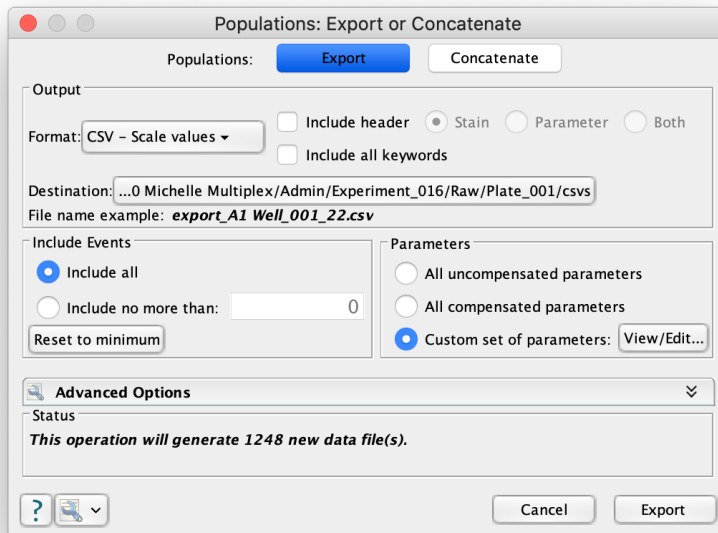
12 Change the format to CSV - Scale Values.

Uncheck 'Include Header'

Change the Destination to desired folder.

Click on Custom Set of Parameters and then the View/Edit button directly next to it. Choose the APC parameter from the pop-up list.

Finally click Export to generate the .csv files in the destination folder.



- 13 In preparation for the MPAPASS software, you will have to manually rename the 99 bead population from the export suffix of 89_99_99.csv to simply _99.csv

Repeat if this occurs with the 89 bead population.