

microFAST Single Cell Complete Solution for Single Cell ICPMS Applications

Automated sample introduction systems for ICPMS



Biological Size Scale





The ability to introduce single cells into an ICPMS and measure the elemental content in each cell, or tagged to each cell, accurately takes a dedicated, well-designed sample introduction system. Having this ability allows for investigators to better understand how much of a specific nanoparticle, metallodrug, or metal-based compound enters the cell. These cells or nanoparticles will vary in size from a few nm's up to a few 100 μ m's. The typical cell types of interest will vary and with that the stability of the cell-line also varies, such that a gentle, controlled nebulization must be employed in order to not disrupt or lyse the cell.

Single Cell ICPMS Requirements

- Flexible sample volumes μL to mL of sample
- Ensure cells stay intact, no cell lysing
- Low pressure sample introduction
- High transport efficiency

Elemental Scientific has developed a complete sample introduction system designed specifically for single cell and nanoparticle applications. This system consists of:

- microFAST Single Cell Autosampler
- CytoNeb single cell nebulizer
- CytoSpray single cell spray chamber



microFAST Single Cell



microFAST Single Cell Automated Sample Introduction System

CytoNeb and CytoSpray

CytoNeb

- · Meinhard high efficiency nebulizer
- · Designed to efficiently nebulize single cells without cell rupturing
- Low internal volume
- Low backpressure (1 50 μL/min = < 50 psi)
- Low dead volume
- Patented inert PFA quick connects for nebulizer gas and samples lines



CytoSpray

- Spray chamber designed specifically for single cell and nanoparticle applications
- High-transport efficiency
- Separate make-up gas for better transport efficiency
- Includes one-piece ICPMS torch for simple and direct connection to the CytoSpray



microFAST Single Cell System



microFAST Single Cell system comes in two different orientations:



Left-handed

Right-handed



microFAST Single Cell flow path with syringe carrier and sample loading.

The micro*FAST* Single Cell system has been built for performance by optimizing the inner diameter (ID) and line lengths to ensure a quick sample transfer from vial to ICP torch.

- Fast sample-to-sample times. For example, at 20 uL/min flow rate:
 - < 3 min, when utilizing a 30 s ICPMS measurement time
 - < 4 min, when utilizing a 100 s ICPMS measurement time
- High-flow sample loop washout
- Simple conversion for total metal analysis using FAST system
 - Vacuum or syringe sample loading
 - Micro or large sample volume capabilities

Nanoparticle Performance



Backpressure was recorded for each sample flow rate using DI water, 1X PBS, or 50 mM Tris buffer as the carrier solution. Larger ID tubing can be substituted to achieve lower backpressures.

Single Cell Performance



Backpressure was recorded for varying nebulizer gas flow rates using 10 and 50 μ L/min sample flow (DI water as the carrier solution).

50 nm Au NPs

Typical Transport Efficiency for 50 nm Au NPs = ~ 90%



Ten 50 nm Au NPs were prepared under the same conditions and analyzed over an 8-day period. Samples were sonicated before each day's analysis. Data points represent the average response for each sample over the 8-days. Error bars represent \pm 1 standard deviation (SD) over the 8 days. The plot above shows the average response for all data points and the \pm 2 SD.

Ta-Tagged PBMC



PBMC = peripheral blood mononuclear cell

Ta-Tagged cells were prepared in PBS buffer. The plot above demonstrates replicate measurements from a single sample. Cell transport efficiency will vary depending on cell type and cell stability.

microFAST Single Cell Features

Optional ULPA Filter or Air Shower











© Elemental Scientific | 7277 World Communications Drive | Omaha, NE 68122 Tel: 1- 402-991-7800 | sales@icpms.com | www.icpms.com