

Abstract 128 — Poster Presentation: Session II-13 “Endocrine Disruption”

Performance of the BG1Luc and ER β -Lactamase Estrogen Receptor Transactivation Assays in Tox21 Compound Screening

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Abstract

The BG1Luc and ER- β -Lactamase (ER-Bla) estrogen receptor transactivation (ER TA) assays were adapted for use in the U.S. Tox21 program. Each assay was used to screen ~10,000 chemicals for ER agonist and antagonist activity. Concentration–response data (N=15) were analyzed to evaluate assay performance. Data quality was high for both assays as indicated by acceptable signal to background ratio (2.5 to 8), coefficient of variation (<10.5%), reproducibility (outcome mismatches across triplicate runs \leq 0.5%), and Z' factor (\geq 0.4). Results for both assays were compared to the ICCVAM ER TA performance standards (42 agonist, 25 antagonist compounds) (1). Agonist assay accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity were 97%, 96%, and 100% for BG1Luc assay and 90%, 87%, 100% for ER-Bla assay. Antagonist accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity were 100% for both assays. EC50 reference standard values for estradiol were 30 pM (BG1Luc) and 275 pM (ER-Bla), and IC50 reference standard values for hydroxytamoxifen were 71 nM (BG1Luc) and 6 nM (ER-Bla). Understanding the differences in performance of these assays is critical to their acceptance and utilization by both regulators and industry. This project was funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the NIEHS, NIH under Contract Nos. N01-ES-35504 and HHSN27320140003C.

References

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