



# **iCell<sup>®</sup> Motor Neurons User's Guide**

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CDI does not in any way guarantee or represent that you will obtain satisfactory results from using iCell Motor Neurons as described herein. The only warranties provided to you are included in the Limited Warranty enclosed with this guide. You assume all risk in connection with your use of iCell Motor Neurons.

## Conditions of Use

iCell Motor Neurons are for life science research use only and subject to the use restrictions as contained in Appendix A. You are responsible for understanding and performing the protocols described within this guide. CDI does not guarantee any results you may achieve. These protocols are provided as CDI’s recommendations based on its use and experience with iCell Motor Neurons.

## Origin

iCell Motor Neurons are manufactured in the United States of America.

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## Before You Begin

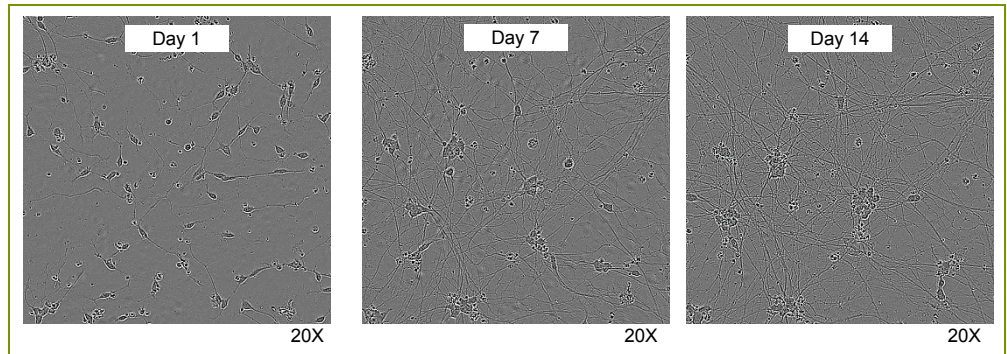
- Immediately transfer the frozen vials to liquid nitrogen storage.
- Read this entire iCell® Motor Neurons User's Guide before handling or using iCell Motor Neurons.
- iCell Motor Neurons are for life science research use only. See Appendix A for more information and other restrictions.
- A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), in which iCell Motor Neurons are frozen, is available online at [www.cellulardynamics.com/lit/](http://www.cellulardynamics.com/lit/) or on request from Cellular Dynamics International. Only technically qualified individuals experienced in handling DMSO and human biological materials should access, use, or handle iCell Motor Neurons.

Notes

## Chapter 1. Introduction

Cellular Dynamics International's (CDI) iCell Motor Neurons are a highly pure population of motor neurons expressing characteristic motor neuron markers. These cells provide a reliable source of human neurons suitable for elucidating the mechanisms of diseases, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), as well as drug development screening.

When handled and maintained as recommended in this User's Guide, iCell Motor Neurons quickly assume a typical neuronal morphology with branching neurites (Figure 1). In addition, these cells display a stable adherent single-cell morphology and remain viable for an extended culture period ( $\geq 14$  days) making them amenable to a variety of electrophysiology and mechanistic assays.



**Figure 1: iCell Motor Neurons Exhibit Typical Neuronal Morphology**

*Brightfield images of iCell Motor Neurons, 01279 at days 1, 7, and 14 post-plating. The re-animated motor neurons develop branched networks within 2 - 3 days and remain viable and adherent for an extended period in culture ( $\geq 14$  days).*

## Components Supplied by Cellular Dynamics

Notes

| Item   | Catalog Number                                 |  |
|--|--|--|
| iCell Motor Neurons Kit, 01279                   | R1049  | R1051  |
| • iCell Motor Neurons, 01279 <sup>1,2</sup>      | • C1048 ( $\geq 3.0 \times 10^6$ viable cells) | • C1050 ( $\geq 1.0 \times 10^6$ viable cells) |
| • iCell Nervous System Supplement <sup>1,2</sup> | • M1031 (1 ml)                                 | • M1031 (1 ml)                                 |
| • iCell Neural Base Medium 1 <sup>1,2</sup>      | • M1010 (100 ml)                               | • M1010 (100 ml)                               |
| • iCell Neural Supplement A <sup>1,2</sup>       | • M1032 (2 ml)                                 | • M1032 (2 ml)                                 |
| • iCell Motor Neurons User's Guide <sup>2</sup>  | • X1004  | • X1004  |

Certificate of Analysis<sup>3</sup>

Certificate of Origin

If required for shipping purposes

1 These products were formerly known by these names and/or catalog numbers:

iCell Motor Neurons, 01279 = iCell Motor Neurons (Cat. No. MNC-301-010-001-PT)

iCell Nervous System Supplement = iCell Nervous System Supplement (Cat. No. NSS-301-031-001)

iCell Neural Base Medium 1 = iCell Neurons Maintenance Medium (Cat. No. NRM-100-121-001)

iCell Neural Supplement A = iCell Neurons Medium Supplement (Cat. No. NRM-100-031-001)

**Note:** You may receive product labeled with the former name and/or catalog number until current stock is depleted. There were no changes in the manufacture of these cells, media, and supplements.

2 Safety Data Sheets and User's Guide available online at [www.cellulardynamics.com/lit/](http://www.cellulardynamics.com/lit/)

3 Available online at [www.cellulardynamics.com/coa/](http://www.cellulardynamics.com/coa/)

## Required Equipment and Consumables

| Item   | Vendor                   | Catalog Number |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Equipment</b>   |                          |                |
| 37°C Water Bath  | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| Biological Safety Cabinet  | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| Cell Culture Incubator   | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| Hemocytometer or Automated Cell Counter <sup>1</sup>                 | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| Liquid Nitrogen Storage Unit   | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| Pipettors  | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| Tabletop Centrifuge  | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| <b>Consumables</b>   |                          |                |
| 0.22 µm Sterile Filter Unit  | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| 12-well Cell Culture Plates, Poly-D-lysine (PDL) Coated <sup>2</sup> | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| 6-well Cell Culture Plates, Poly-D-lysine (PDL) Coated <sup>2</sup>  | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| 96-well Cell Culture Plates, Poly-D-lysine (PDL) Coated <sup>2</sup> | Multiple Vendors         |                |
| Conical Tubes, 15 ml, Falcon (Centrifuge Tubes) <sup>3</sup>         | STEMCELL Technologies    | 38009          |
| Conical Tubes, 50 ml, Falcon (Centrifuge Tubes) <sup>3</sup>         | STEMCELL Technologies    | 38010          |
| DAPT, $\geq 98\%$ , Solid  | MilliporeSigma           | D5942          |
| DMSO, Hybri-Max  | MilliporeSigma           | D2650          |
| Geltrex Basement Membrane Matrix (Geltrex Matrix)                    | Thermo Fisher Scientific | A15696-01      |

## Notes

| Item  | Vendor                | Catalog Number                    |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Serological Pipettes, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25 ml <sup>3</sup> | STEMCELL Technologies | 38001, 38002, 38003, 38004, 38005 |
| Trypan Blue <sup>3</sup>                              | STEMCELL Technologies | 07050                             |

- 1 Ensure the automated cell counter is appropriately calibrated before use.
- 2 Order the format (6-, 12-, or 96-well cell culture plate) required for your experiment.
- 3 Similar products are available from multiple vendors.

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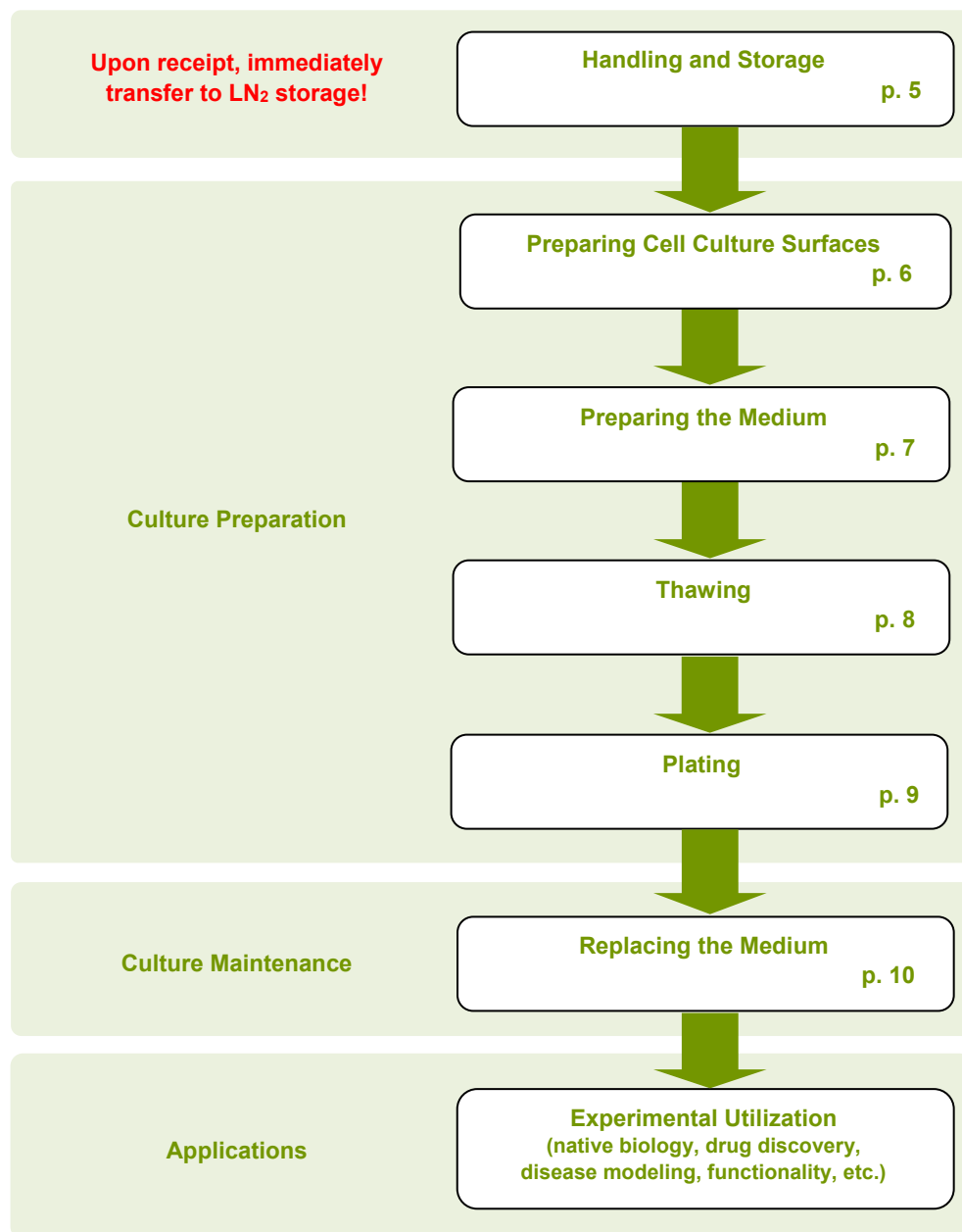
## Technical Support, Knowledge Base, and Training

CDI's Technical Support Scientists have the necessary laboratory and analytical experience to respond to your inquiries. Our web-based Knowledge Base provides solutions for iCell related questions about plating and media, cell culture, general assay methods, and more. In addition, in-lab training may be available upon request.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Telephone</b>      | (877) 320-6688 (US toll-free) / (608) 310-5100 x3<br>Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm US Central Time |
| <b>Fax</b>            | (608) 310-5101  |
| <b>Email</b>          | support@cellulardynamics.com  |
| <b>Knowledge Base</b> | <a href="http://www.cellulardynamics.com/knowledgebase/">www.cellulardynamics.com/knowledgebase/</a>    |

## Workflow Diagram

Notes





## Chapter 2. Handling and Storage

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### Handling iCell Motor Neurons

iCell Motor Neurons are provided as cryopreserved single-cell suspensions in 1.5 ml cryovials. Upon receipt, directly transfer iCell Motor Neurons to the vapor phase of a liquid nitrogen storage dewar.



*It is critical to maintain cryopreserved iCell Motor Neurons at a stable temperature. Minimize exposure of cryopreserved iCell Motor Neurons to ambient temperature when transferring vials to liquid nitrogen storage.*

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### Handling iCell Neuronal Medium and Supplements

iCell Motor Neurons are shipped with three additional components: iCell Neural Base Medium 1 (formerly known as iCell Neurons Maintenance Medium), iCell Neural Supplement A (formerly known as iCell Neurons Medium Supplement), and iCell Nervous System Supplement. iCell Neural Base Medium 1 is shipped at ambient temperature while iCell Neural Supplement A and iCell Nervous System Supplement are shipped frozen on dry ice. Upon receipt, store iCell Base Medium 1 at 4°C and iCell Neural Supplement A and iCell Nervous System Supplement at -20°C until ready for use.

## Chapter 3. Preparing Cell Culture Surfaces

iCell Motor Neurons will plate and function on poly-D-lysine (PDL) coated plates supplemented with a top coating of Geltrex matrix, which are recommended to promote iCell Motor Neurons attachment, long term viability, and function.

Prepare plating surfaces before thawing iCell Motor Neurons.

1. Select the PDL-coated cell culture vessel appropriate for your experimental use.
2. Use the volumes specified in the table below in the following coating procedure. Scale volumes appropriately for other vessel formats.

| Culture Vessel             | Volume of Geltrex (ml) |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 6-well Cell Culture Plate  | 1                      |
| 12-well Cell Culture Plate | 0.8                    |
| 96-well Cell Culture Plate | 0.1                    |

**Table 1: Summary of Useful Volumes**

*All volumes are per well.*

3. Add an appropriate volume of the Geltrex matrix, as specified above, to each well of the vessel(s).
4. Incubate the vessel(s) at room temperature for at least 1 hour.
5. Aspirate the Geltrex matrix immediately before the addition of the cell suspension.



*Do not allow the Geltrex matrix-coated surface to dry. Drying of the culture surface can lead to cell clumping and migration.*

## Chapter 4. Preparing the Medium

iCell Motor Neurons medium (Complete Maintenance Medium) is comprised of three components: iCell Neural Base Medium 1, iCell Neural Supplement A, and iCell Nervous System Supplement. DAPT should be added to the Complete Maintenance Medium for the first week of culture to prevent outgrowth of proliferative cells. iCell Motor Neurons can be maintained in culture for at least 2 weeks in this medium without appreciable loss of viability or purity.

| Complete Maintenance Medium Components | Volume | Final Concentration |
|--|--------|---------------------|
| iCell Neural Base Medium 1             | 100 ml | Not Applicable      |
| iCell Neural Supplement A              | 2 ml   | Not Applicable      |
| iCell Nervous System Supplement        | 1 ml   | Not Applicable      |

**Table 2: Volumes for Complete Maintenance Medium Preparation**

1. Thaw iCell Neural Supplement A and iCell Nervous System Supplement at room temperature on the day of medium preparation.



*Do not thaw the supplements in a 37°C water bath.*

2. Spray all medium components with 70% ethanol and place in a biological safety cabinet.
3. Dissolve DAPT in DMSO to achieve a concentration of 20 mM (8.6 mg/ml).
4. Using sterile technique, add iCell Neural Supplement A (~2 ml) and iCell Nervous System Supplement (~1 ml) to iCell Neural Base Medium 1 (~100 ml) to make the Complete Maintenance Medium.
5. Add the Complete Maintenance Medium (50 ml) to two 50 ml centrifuge tubes.
6. Store one tube at 4°C, protected from light, for use during the second week of culture.

To the other tube, add 12.5 µl of DAPT to achieve a 5 µM final concentration. Filter the Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT through a 0.22 µm sterile filter unit. Store this medium at 4°C, protected from light, for use during thawing, plating, and the first week of culture.

**Note:** Do not refreeze the individual components of the Complete Maintenance Medium. Complete Maintenance Medium is stable for 2 weeks when stored at 4°C.

## Chapter 5. Thawing iCell Motor Neurons

Maintain iCell Motor Neurons in liquid nitrogen until immediately before thawing to ensure maximal performance of the cells. Complete the following steps of the thawing procedure in a time-efficient manner to facilitate optimal iCell Motor Neurons viability and performance.

**Note:** Thaw no more than 1 vial of iCell Motor Neurons at one time.

1. Equilibrate the Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT at room temperature before thawing iCell Motor Neurons.
2. Remove the iCell Motor Neurons cryovial from the liquid nitrogen storage tank.

**Note:** If necessary, place the cryovial on dry ice for up to 10 minutes before thawing.

3. Immerse the cryovial in a 37°C water bath for 2 minutes and 30 seconds (avoid submerging the cap), holding the tube stationary (no swirling). Use of a floating microcentrifuge tube rack is recommended.



Precise timing is critical to maximizing viable cell recovery.

4. Immediately remove the cryovial from the water bath, spray with 70% ethanol, and place in a biological safety cabinet.
5. Gently transfer the iCell Motor Neurons cryovial contents to a sterile 50 ml centrifuge tube using a 1 ml pipettor.

**Note:** Use of a 50 ml centrifuge tube facilitates suitable mixing to minimize osmotic shock and increase neuron viability.



Avoid repeated pipetting of the thawed iCell Motor Neurons cell suspension.

6. Rinse the empty iCell Motor Neurons cryovial with 1 ml of room temperature Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT to recover any residual cells from the vial. Transfer the 1 ml of Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT rinse from the cryovial drop-wise (~1 drop/sec) to the 50 ml centrifuge tube containing the iCell Motor Neurons cell suspension. Gently swirl the tube while adding the medium to mix the solution completely and minimize osmotic shock on the thawed cells.



Drop-wise addition of the Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT to the cell suspension is critical to minimize osmotic shock and ensure maximum viability and attachment.

7. Slowly add 8 ml of room temperature Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT to the 50 ml centrifuge tube drop-wise (~2 - 3 drops/sec) while gently swirling.



It is critical to add the 8 ml of Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT slowly to ensure maximum viability and attachment of the cells once plated. Avoid vigorous shaking or vortexing of the cell suspension.

## Chapter 6. Plating iCell Motor Neurons

The recommended plating density for iCell Motor Neurons is  $1 \times 10^5$  viable cells/cm<sup>2</sup> ( $3.2 \times 10^4$  cells/well for a 96-well cell culture plate).

1. Transfer the ~10 ml iCell Motor Neurons cell suspension to a 15 ml centrifuge tube.
2. Centrifuge the cell suspension at 400 x g at room temperature for 5 minutes.
3. Carefully aspirate the supernatant, leaving  $\geq 0.5$  ml in the centrifuge tube and determine the remaining volume by pipetting.



*Leaving <0.5 ml of medium risks aspirating a portion of the cell pellet.*

4. Gently resuspend the cell pellet in 5 ml of room temperature Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT by flicking the tube and then pipetting up and down 2 - 3 times.



*Avoid excessive pipetting of the cell suspension.*

5. Remove a sample of cells to perform a cell count using a hemocytometer (using trypan blue exclusion to identify cells) or an automated cell counter.
6. Dilute the cell suspension with Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT to obtain a desired cell plating density.
7. Aspirate the Geltrex matrix from the pre-coated cell culture plates and immediately dispense the cell suspension.
8. Culture iCell Motor Neurons in a cell culture incubator at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Expected Cell Density

iCell Motor Neurons can be plated at various densities to accommodate different applications. However,  $1 \times 10^5$  viable cells/cm<sup>2</sup> is the recommended density for most applications. The following table provides the desired cell number and plating volume for several common cell culture vessels when plating at a density of  $1 \times 10^5$  viable cells/cm<sup>2</sup>.

| Culture Vessel             | Surface Area (cm <sup>2</sup> ) | Plating Volume (ml) | Cell Number ( $1 \times 10^5$ cells/cm <sup>2</sup> ) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 6-well Cell Culture Plate  | 9.6                             | 2                   | $9.6 \times 10^5$                                     |
| 12-well Cell Culture Plate | 3.8                             | 1                   | $3.8 \times 10^5$                                     |
| 96-well Cell Culture Plate | 0.32                            | 0.2                 | $3.2 \times 10^4$                                     |

**Table 3: Summary of Recommended Volumes and Measures**

*All volumes and measures are per well.*

## Chapter 7. Maintaining iCell Motor Neurons

When plated and maintained in Complete Maintenance Medium, iCell Motor Neurons are able to persist in culture while retaining a high level of purity for an extended culture period ( $\geq 14$  days).



*Complete Maintenance Medium is stable for 2 weeks when stored at 4°C.*

1. Immediately before use, equilibrate the Complete Maintenance Medium to room temperature for at least 30 minutes.

**Note:** *During the first week in culture, exchange spent medium with Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT. After the first week, exchange spent medium with only Complete Maintenance Medium.*

**Note:** *Do not equilibrate the medium to 37°C.*



*Repeated warming of the Complete Maintenance Medium may decrease stability.*

2. Perform a 75% medium exchange on day 2 post-plating with Complete Maintenance Medium + DAPT and then every 2 - 3 days in this manner.



*It is critical to gently dispense the Complete Maintenance Medium to the side of the well to avoid cell detachment.*

3. After 1 week in culture, perform a 50% medium exchange with only Complete Maintenance Medium and then every 2 - 3 days in this manner.
4. Culture iCell Motor Neurons in a cell culture incubator at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Appendices

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### Appendix A. Intellectual Property Rights, Use Restrictions, and Limited License

A. **OWNERSHIP.** The Products are covered by pending patents and patents: [cellulardynamics.com/about-us/patents/](http://cellulardynamics.com/about-us/patents/). Customer has a limited license to use the Products for internal research purposes for the sole benefit of the Customer, subject to the use restrictions included in subsection B of this Appendix A. Customer acknowledges and agrees that the receipt or purchase of the Products by Customer shall not be construed as a transfer of any title or the grant of any rights in or to the intellectual property embodied in the Products owned or licensed by Cellular Dynamics. In particular, no right or license to make, have made, offer to sell, or sell the Products, to modify or reproduce the Product or any part thereof, or to use the Products in combination with any other product(s), except product(s) provided or expressly licensed to Customer by Cellular Dynamics for such use, is implied or conveyed by the sale or transfer of Products to Customer.

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### Appendix B. Limited Warranty

A. During the Warranty Period (as defined below) and subject to subsection F of this Appendix B. Cellular Dynamics warrants that its Products conform to the specifications contained in the Certificate of Analysis for the Product shipped to Customer. Customer's sole and exclusive remedy (and Cellular Dynamics' sole and exclusive liability) with respect to any defective Products shall be replacement of the defective Products by Cellular Dynamics pursuant to this Appendix B.

B. Under no circumstances shall Cellular Dynamics' liability to Customer exceed the amount paid by Customer for the Products to Cellular Dynamics. Cellular Dynamics will bear all reasonable shipping costs if the Products are replaced pursuant to this warranty. For clarity, this warranty automatically shall be void, and any claims under it invalid, (i) if Customer's use of the Products is other than solely in accordance with this User's Guide and Cellular Dynamics' Terms and Conditions (or such other written agreement between Cellular Dynamics and Customer under which the Products are sold or transferred to Customer) or for a purpose or in a manner other than that for which the Products were designed; or (ii) if Customer fails to follow this User's Guide for the use, storage, and handling of the Products

however such failure is caused; or (iii) if Customer fails to comply with any of the provisions of Appendix A in this User's Guide; or (iv) if there is any abuse, other misuse or neglect of the Products by Customer or to the extent of any damage or loss of the Products by events or occurrences beyond a person's (e.g., Cellular Dynamics') control including without limitation, accident, fire, vandalism and natural disasters (acts of God). This warranty applies only to Customer and not to third parties. This warranty is not assignable.

C. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, CELLULAR DYNAMICS DISCLAIMS ALL REPRESENTATIONS, AND WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE PRODUCTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT, AND CUSTOMER WAIVES ALL RIGHTS AND REMEDIES, WITH RESPECT TO ANY DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS OTHER THAN THE EXPRESS WARRANTY AND REMEDY THEREFOR STATED ABOVE IN THIS APPENDIX B.

D. Within five (5) business days of thawing the Product but prior to the expiration date of the Product as listed on the Certificate of Analysis and/or Product's label (the "Warranty Period"), Customer must notify Cellular Dynamics in writing of any nonconformity of the Products, describing the nonconformity in detail. Customer's failure to properly notify Cellular Dynamics in the Warranty Period voids the limited warranty set forth above in this Appendix B.

E. Customers who believe they have a warranty claim should call Cellular Dynamics' Technical Support line at (608) 310-5100 ext. 5 or email at [support@cellulardynamics.com](mailto:support@cellulardynamics.com) to request a replacement Product based on a breach of the limited warranty set forth above in this Appendix B. Any action by Customer for Cellular Dynamics' breach of this limited warranty, for which Customer has given timely and proper notice of such breach during the Warranty Period and otherwise in accordance with this Appendix B, must be commenced by Customer within 18 months following the date of such breach.

F. Cellular Dynamics makes no warranty of any kind or nature, neither express nor implied, for any product sold together with, or as a part of, the Products (e.g., an accessory accompanying a Product or a discrete component part of a Product that is a kit) that is not manufactured by Cellular Dynamics. Any such accessory to or part of the Products shall have the warranty, if any, that is offered and granted (and, for clarity, extended by its terms to Customer) by the manufacturer of such other accessory or component product accessories.

G. Customer acknowledges and agrees that Cellular Dynamics may fill Customer's order with any number of units of Products. Such units may be more units than Customer ordered. Customer will not be charged extra for any adjustments made by Cellular Dynamics. The number of cells in a unit is determined by the Product's Certificate of Analysis. The number of cells that are contained in a unit accounts for both viability and plating efficiency percentages. Because this may vary from lot to lot, Cellular Dynamics reserves the right to fill the order with that number of units which is sufficient to fill Customer's order and such adjustments shall not constitute a breach of the limited warranty set forth herein.



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## Appendix C. Limited Liability

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED UNDER APPLICABLE LAW, CELLULAR DYNAMICS SHALL NOT HAVE ANY LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL, COMPENSATORY, PUNITIVE, CONSEQUENTIAL, INDIRECT, SPECIAL OR OTHER SIMILAR DAMAGES, HOWEVER CAUSED AND REGARDLESS OF FORM OF ACTION WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE), STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY OR OTHERWISE, EVEN IF CELLULAR DYNAMICS HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER TERM OR IMPLICATION TO THE CONTRARY, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL CELLULAR DYNAMICS' LIABILITY TO CUSTOMER EXCEED THE AMOUNT PAID BY CUSTOMER FOR THE PRODUCTS TO CELLULAR DYNAMICS.

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