**CytoTell™ Multi-Color Cell Proliferation Assay Panel**

**Introduction**
It is widely recognized that fluorescent labeling of cells is an effective method for detecting the presence of viable cells in a sample. Flow cytometry combined with fluorescent staining is a powerful tool to analyze heterogeneous cell populations. Among all the existing fluorescent dyes, CFSE is frequently used. The non-fluorescent CFSE molecule diffuses into cells and is hydrolyzed by intracellular non-specific esterases to give the highly fluorescent fluorescein product. The fluorescent product is generated and accumulated only in the cells that have intact cell membranes and active esterase activities while dead cells are not stained. The precise kinetics of membrane transport and intracellular hydrolysis of CFSE are related to cellular functions. However, it is impossible to use CFSE and its fluorescein analogs for GFP-transfected cells or for the applications where a FITC-labeled antibody is used since CFSE and its fluorescein analogs have the excitation and emission spectra almost identical to GFP or FITC. Our CytoTell™ dyes are functionally similar to CFSE and can be used for the multicolor applications where either GFP or FITC-labeled antibody is used since the CytoTell™ dyes have either excitation or emission spectra distinct from CFSE and its fluorescein analogs. Moreover, our CytoTell™ dyes not only eliminates the dye efflux drawback associated with CFSE, but also is compatible with cell culture medium in the staining cells prior to imaging or flow cytometric analysis.

**Spectral Properties of CytoTell™ Cell Proliferation Dyes**
AAT Bioquest offers CytoTell™ dyes that enable the multicolor labeling and functional analysis of live cells in combination with CFSE. They are optimized for the excitation wavelengths of a variety of flow cytometers, providing additional colors for flow cytometric analysis of live cells.

**Table 1.** Fluorescence spectra properties and suggested excitation laser for flow cytometry analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Number</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Ex/Em (nm)</th>
<th>Excitation Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22240</td>
<td>CytoTell™ UltraGreen</td>
<td>500 tests</td>
<td>Powder (1 vial)</td>
<td>492/519</td>
<td>488 nm (Blue Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22241</td>
<td>CytoTell™ UltraGreen</td>
<td>1000 tests</td>
<td>Powder (2 vials)</td>
<td>492/519</td>
<td>488 nm (Blue Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22251</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Blue</td>
<td>500 tests</td>
<td>Powder (1 vial)</td>
<td>403/454</td>
<td>405 nm (Violet Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22252</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Blue</td>
<td>1000 tests</td>
<td>Powder (2 vials)</td>
<td>403/454</td>
<td>405 nm (Violet Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22253</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Green</td>
<td>500 tests</td>
<td>Powder (1 vial)</td>
<td>511/525</td>
<td>488 nm (Blue Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22254</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Green</td>
<td>1000 tests</td>
<td>Powder (2 vials)</td>
<td>511/525</td>
<td>488 nm (Blue Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22255</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Red 650</td>
<td>500 tests</td>
<td>Powder (1 vial)</td>
<td>628/643</td>
<td>633 nm (Red Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22256</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Red 650</td>
<td>1000 tests</td>
<td>Powder (2 vials)</td>
<td>628/643</td>
<td>633 nm (Red Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22257</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Orange</td>
<td>500 tests</td>
<td>Powder (1 vial)</td>
<td>542/556</td>
<td>488 nm (Blue Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22258</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Orange</td>
<td>1000 tests</td>
<td>Powder (2 vials)</td>
<td>542/556</td>
<td>488 nm (Blue Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22261</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Red 590</td>
<td>500 tests</td>
<td>Powder (1 vial)</td>
<td>560/574</td>
<td>488 nm (Blue Laser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22262</td>
<td>CytoTell™ Red 590</td>
<td>1000 tests</td>
<td>Powder (2 vials)</td>
<td>560/574</td>
<td>488 nm (Blue Laser)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Storage and Handling Conditions**
The CytoTell™ dyes are lyophilized powders. They should be stable for at least 6 months if store at -20 °C, protecting from light, and avoiding freeze/thaw cycles.

**Assay Protocol**

**Brief Summary**
Prepare cells with test compounds → Add 1X dye working solution → Incubate dyes with cells at RT or 37 °C for 10 to 30 min → Remove the dye working solution → Analyze with a flow cytometer.
Note: Following is our recommended protocol for live cells. It only provides a guideline, and should be modified according to your specific needs.

1. Prepare 500X DMSO stock solution
   Add 500 µL DMSO into the dye powder vial, mix it well by vortexing to have a 500X DMSO stock solution
   Note: The stock solution should be used promptly; any remaining solution should be aliquoted and frozen at ≤ -20 °C. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles, and protect from light.

2. Prepare 1X dye working solution
   Prepare a 1X dye working solution by diluting the 500X DMSO stock solution at 1 to 500 in Hanks and 20 mM Hepes buffer (HHBS) or the buffer of your choice, pH 7 (such as 1 µL of 500X DMSO stock solution to 500 µL buffer) right before use. Mix them well by vortexing.
   Note: The final concentration of the dye working solution should be empirically determined for different cell types and/or experimental conditions. It is recommended to test at the concentrations that are at least over a tenfold range. Such as CytoTell™ Red might use much less amount in some cell types than the recommend concentrations.

3. Analyze cells with a flow cytometer or a fluorescence microscope:
   3.1 Treat cells with test compounds for a desired period of time.
   3.2 Centrifuge the cells to get 1-5 × 10^5 cells per tube.
   3.3 Resuspend cells in 500 µL of the dye working solution (from Step 2).
      Optional: One can add the 500X DMSO stock solution into the cells directly without medium removing
      (such as, add 1 µL 500X DMSO stock solution into 500 µL cells)
   3.4 Incubate cells with a dye solution at room temperature or 37 °C for 10 to 30 min, protected from light.
   3.5 Remove the dye working solution from the cells, wash the cells with HHBS or buffer of your choice.
      Resuspend cells in 500 µL of pre-warmed HHBS or medium to get 1-5 × 10^5 cells per tube.
   3.6 Monitor the fluorescence change at respected Ex/Em (see Table 1) with a flow cytometer or a fluorescence microscope.

Disclaimer: These products are for research use only and are not intended for therapeutic or diagnostic applications. Please contact our technical service representative for more information.