

# A Fully-Validated 10-analyte Multiplex for Quantitation of Human Cytokines

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## Background

Eurofins Bioanalytical Services is a biologics-focused, global leader in bioanalytical solutions providing over 20 years of industry-leading scientific expertise in comprehensive PK/TK, ADA, NAb and Biomarker assays development, validation, and analysis for pharmaceutical and biotech companies around the world.

## Background

Cytokines are a broad category of small proteins that are generally associated with the immune system and can have a major impact on autoimmune diseases, cancer and other inflammatory conditions in humans. The role of cytokines in the drug development process is ever expanding as they may be the target of a new drug within a specific condition or conversely, can influence the efficacy of the drug in a positive or negative manner.

Pharmaceutical researchers are routinely using these cytokine measurements as biomarkers of drug efficacy. The ability to measure multiple cytokines within a single sample, single well, is quite advantageous to the researcher. The drug development process requires years of preclinical and clinical studies for drug approval. As part of this process, well characterized analytical assays are needed for those biomarkers and in many cases, are expected to be validated to ensure data reproducibility and integrity to support drug submission.

V-PLEX validated assays deliver reproducibility and reliability to support the most demanding long-term studies. Developed under design control and according to the FDA's analytical validation guidelines, V-PLEX represents the highest quality assay available from MesoScale Discovery (MSD). Comprehensive testing of all raw materials and kit components combined with rigorous manufacturing and QC specifications ensure reproducible results time after time.

## ANALYTES

IFN- $\gamma$   
 IL-1 $\beta$   
 IL-2  
 IL-4  
 IL-6  
 IL-8  
 IL-10  
 IL-12p70  
 IL-13 TNF- $\alpha$

## Results

### ACCURACY & PRECISION

Validation samples were created by spiking cytokines into Assay Diluent at Lower Limit of Quantitation (LLOQ), Low, Mid, High and Upper Limit of Quantitation (ULOQ) levels, the concentrations of which varied per analyte. These samples were assayed in seven runs, with three reportable results for each level, to assess Accuracy and Precision.

Analyte	LLOQ (pg/mL)	Inter- Assay Precision (%CV)	Inter- Assay Accuracy (%RE)	ULOQ (pg/mL)	Inter- Assay Precision (%CV)	Inter- Assay Accuracy (%RE)
IFN- $\gamma$	10.6	5.8	-8.4	1058.3	5.1	-0.3
IL-1 $\beta$	4.1	4.5	-7.6	406.7	3.4	0.6
IL-2	10.2	4.4	-4.2	1016.7	5.8	-0.5
IL-4	2.0	5.3	-5.4	200.0	5.3	-0.3
IL-6	5.2	5.0	-7.4	517.5	5.3	0.0
IL-8	4.2	8.1	-6.3	420.0	5.3	1.0
IL-10	2.6	6.1	-8.4	255.8	7.1	-0.1
IL-12p70	3.2	7.0	-6.7	324.2	7.2	-2.0
IL-13	4.3	6.0	-22.8	426.7	3.6	1.3
TNF- $\alpha$	2.6	8.6	-23.7	260.8	5.4	-5.7

**TABLE I.** Accuracy and Precision at Lower (LLOQ) and Upper (ULOQ) Limits of Quantitation

## SELECTIVITY

Selectivity was determined by spiking analytes at or near the MQC level into 10 different samples of human serum, and assaying those along with unspiked samples in two separate runs. The recovery was calculated after accounting for endogenous analyte.

Analyte	Lowest recovery (%RE)	Highest recovery (%RE)	Proportion of lots < +/- 25% RE (number)
IFN- $\gamma$	-26.4	-5.4	8 of 10
IL-1 $\beta$	-18.1	-5.4	10 of 10
IL-2	-33.1	15.9	9 of 10
IL-4	-38.4	-5.7	7 of 10
IL-6	-26.3	-11.4	9 of 10
IL-8	-10.6	5.7	9 of 9
IL-10	-24.8	1.1	10 of 10
IL-12p70	-9.0	16.7	10 of 10
IL-13	-48.5	15.9	9 of 10
TNF- $\alpha$	-13.2	14.8	10 of 10

**TABLE 2.** Selectivity in human serum.

## ENDOGENOUS PRECISION

To test endogenous precision, 5 serum samples from healthy individuals and 5 samples from diseased individuals were tested over 6 assay runs.

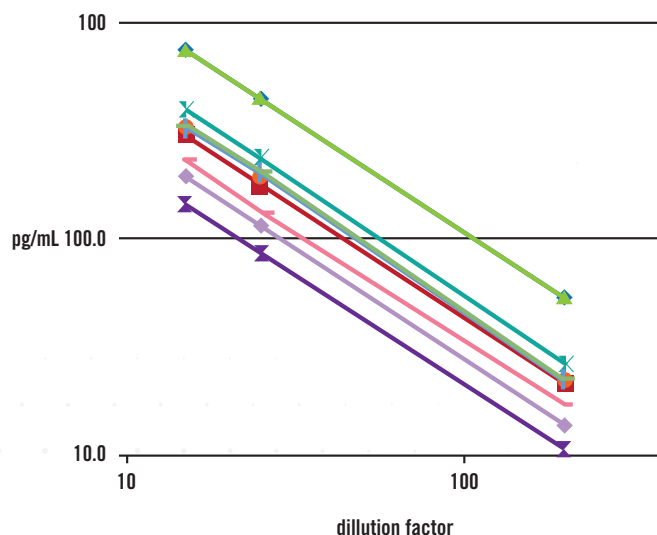
Analyte	Inter-Assay Precision (%CV)*
IFN- $\gamma$	7.4
IL-6	7.1
IL-8	5.9
TNF- $\alpha$	13.9

**TABLE 3.** Endogenous Precision. \* Average %CV of 10 samples over 6 assays. Majority of samples for IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-10, IL-12p70 and IL-13 were <LLOQ.

## Background

### DILUTIONAL LINEARITY

Linearity of dilution was evaluated by testing each analyte at two concentrations above the standard curve range, to evaluate hook effect, and at three dilutions within the curve range, to test linearity.



**FIGURE 1.** Dilutional Linearity

## Validation Conclusions

The Proinflammatory I V-Plex panel from Mesoscale Discovery was successfully validated to a regulatory-compliant level. Inter-assay accuracy and precision were evaluated, with relative error (RE) within +/- 25% and CVs less than 25%, for all 10 analytes. Selectivity was acceptable, with at least 8 of 10 samples yielding >75% spike recovery for all analytes except IL-4, for which 7 of 10 samples were acceptable. Dilutional linearity was also demonstrated for all 10 analytes.

## Pharmacokinetics

- Clinical and Pre-clinical PK/TK studies
- Therapeutic modality examples:
  - ADC
  - MAB and biosimilar
  - bispecific and other multi domain therapeutics
  - Cell therapy products
  - Gene Therapy products
  - PEG products

## Immunogenicity

- Tiered approach: Screen, Confirm, Titer and Characterization.
- Cut-point calculation for all tiers.
- Advanced methodologies to address drug and target interference
- Dedicated laboratory for cell based NAb assays.

## Biomarkers

- Tailored approach for context of use
- Exploratory kit verification and fit-for-purpose validation
- Global flow cytometry capabilities to support multi-center studies
- Single and Multi-plex capabilities

## qPCR

- Viral shedding
- Bio-distribution
- Various tissue processing/extraction methodologies
- Pharmacokinetics of drug (e.g. CAR-T)

## Platforms

- Luminox, ELISA, MSD, Gyrolab, Elispot, Ella
- Flow Cytometry: BD FACSCanto (8 colors), Agilent Quanteon (25 colors)
- qPCR: Kingfisher, QuantStudio 7 flex

**Contact us today to discover how we can make the difference in your projects.**

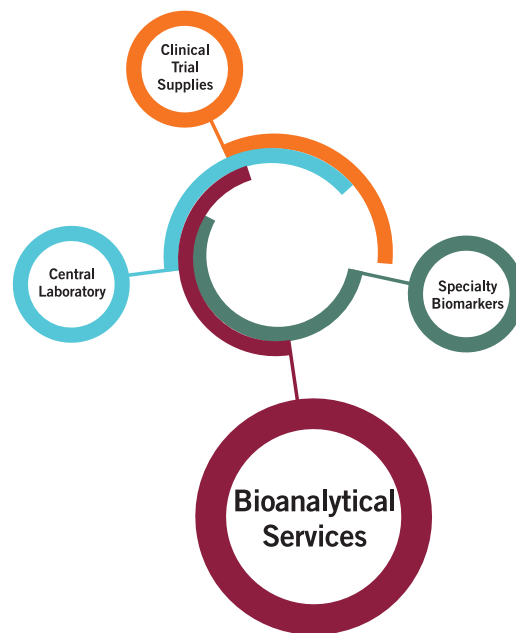
BioanalyticalServices@bcl.eurofins.com  
US +1 636 362 7000



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### About Eurofins Bioanalytical Services

Over 20 years of industry-leading global **Scientific Expertise** supporting the widest breadth of Biologics' clinical trials with PK/TK, ADA, Nab and Biomarker assays and sample analyses.

**Versatile Performance and Project Management Excellence** to adapt to a client's specific needs. Clinical or preclinical, regulated or non-regulated, assay development, qualification or validation; we custom design our support to match the client's program.

State-of-the art laboratory facilities in St. Charles, MO, USA providing **Global Reach and Capacity** to address clients' needs while simultaneously offering regionally-based solutions.

BioanalyticalServices@bcl.eurofins.com  
eurofins.com/bioanalyticalservices