

General Immunostaining Protocol: (Good for membrane bound proteins)

1. Fix in 4% PFA at Room Temperature for 20 minutes
2. Wash in 1X PBS 3x's 5 min each
3. Quench in 50 mM NH₄Cl (ammonium chloride; Fisher cat. A661-500) at Room Temperature for 10 min
4. Repeat step 2
5. 0.1% TX-100 for 4 min at Room Temperature (make a 20% filter sterilized stock)
6. Repeat step 2
7. Block in 2% Donkey serum (Jackson ImmunoResearch, cat. 017-000-121) or 2% other serum depending on the secondary used (dilute in 1X PBS) for 30 min at RT
8. Wash in 1X PBS for 5 min
9. Incubate in primary antibody at Room Temperature for 1 hour (dilution Buffer: 0.2% Donkey Serum, 0.1% Tween20 in PBS)
 - a. Typically use 80-100 μ l (can use as little as 30 to 50 depending on coverslip size) and place coverslip cell side up, on top of parafilm in a chamber (pictured on right) with a moist kimwipe to prevent coverslips from drying. Keep chamber covered.
 - b. After incubation antibodies can be removed and stored to use again (depending on antibody).
10. Repeat step 2.
11. Incubate secondary antibody at Room Temperature for 1 hour.
 - a. Dilute secondaries 1:500-1:1000 depending on how secondary is stored (if it's diluted in glycerol, use 1:500). Use same dilution buffer as in 9.
12. Repeat step 2.
13. Gently Wash coverslips in water
14. Mount slides using vectashield (Vector Labs cat. H-1000-10) (~3ul) with nail polish or Prolong (Fisher Scientific cat. P36934) (~3ul). If using prolong let sit in the dark at room temp overnight or for 1 hour in 37°C.

