**Miltenyi Biotec** 

# **Regulatory T cell research**

Unique kits for cell isolation

Harmonized cell culture and expansion tools

**Convenient functional assay tools** 

Reliable flow cytometry analysis

## Introduction

# The complete workflow for regulatory T cell research

Regulatory T (Treg) cells are a subpopulation of T cells, which are characterized by their immune suppressive function. They are essential to maintain tolerance to self-antigens and to suppress overwhelming reactions against pathogens. Due to their outstanding role within the immune system, Treg cells are of paramount interest for immunology research and with our broad portfolio of products we aim to provide a complete workflow solution for the investigation of Treg cells. We support you during all steps of your experiments.

- Broad Treg cell product portfolio to fit your research needs
- Optimized tools for your Treg cell separation, expansion and suppression assays
- Standardized cell culture medium and cytokines up to GMP grade for optimal Treg culture conditions



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# **Regulatory T cell workflow**



### RUO=Research Use Only

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## Start smart

The secret to success lies in your starting material

### gentleMACS<sup>™</sup> Dissociators

Experience the gentleMACS<sup>™</sup> Portfolio of versatile benchtop tissue dissociators that can process up to eight samples in parallel. They come with programmable protocol settings and optional temperature regulation to ensure standardized tissue dissociation.

- Gentle: viable single-cell suspensions with preserved epitopes
- **Reproducible:** pre-defined programs for standardized tissue processing
- **Fast:** processing of up to eight samples in parallel with the gentleMACS<sup>™</sup> Octo Dissociator
- Safe: sample processing in a closed and sterile system

Various Dissociation Kits and instrument settings as well as comprehensive technical support are available for many tissue types. However, please note that to preserve CD25 expression on Treg cells, some dissociation kit protocols have to be modified. Please contact your local sales respresentative or our technical support team for more information.



Figure 1: The gentleMACS Dissociators for efficient tissue dissociation. Our versatile and reliable benchtop dissociators allow processing of up to 8 tissue samples in parallel.

### gentleMACS<sup>™</sup> Tubes

Tubes for the gentleMACS<sup>™</sup> Dissociators, precision engineered to guarantee highest quality tissue dissociation or homogenization.

- gentleMACS C Tubes: use the purple C Tubes for high yields of viable single cells
- gentleMACS M Tubes: choose the orange M Tubes to thoroughly homogenize cells for, e.g., molecular analyses



**Figure 2: Let the tubes do the work for you.** gentleMACS C and M Tubes provide effective dissociation or homogenization of any tissue sample.

## **Select the best**

Choose the optimal solution for your experiment

### **MACS®** Technology

One portfolio for all your T cell isolation needs: With the MACS<sup>®</sup> Cell Separation portfolio, you enjoy the freedom to choose the cell isolation option that's best for your specific requirements. Our proven magnetic cell separation technology is continuously expanding to offer new and innovative options across basic and clinical research.

### Unsurpassed possibilities for the isolation of T cells:

- Nano-sized beads (column-based technology with MACS MicroBeads, Cell Isolation Kits, and Whole Blood MicroBeads) for highest purity and recovery
- Micro-sized beads (column-free MACSxpress<sup>®</sup> Technology) for maximum convenience and fastest isolations



## MACS<sup>®</sup> Columns

The most gentle way to isolate your target cells

## The MACS® Column advantage

At the heart of MACS<sup>®</sup> MicroBead Technology is the MACS Column (fig. 3), the vessel for our patented ferromagnetic matrix for cell separation. Designed and manufactured to deliver maximum purity and yield of viable cells, the MACS Column and matrix provide the solution for any sample type or volume.

- **Minimal cell labeling** with nano-sized MicroBeads is sufficient to isolate cells effectively.
- Gentle to cells as they can freely flow through the column.



**Figure 3: The MACS MicroBead Technology.** The column matrix consists of spheres that are between 250 and 500  $\mu$ m in size, depending on the column type. Within the matrix, the space between the spheres is 20 times the size of lymphocytes, allowing unhindered flow of cells through the column.

## **Explore the possibilities**

We have matrix-based separation strategies for all sample sizes and types. We offer a variety of options, ranging from manual systems for low throughput experiments to fully automated systems that can process an increased number of samples (fig. 4).

Discuss your specific application with a local representative for a customized recommendation.

Manual cell separation Fully automated of up to eight samples cell separation for in parallel that is easy increased sample to use and simple to throughput and incorporate into any lab. reproducibility. **Manual MACS® Separators** autoMACS® Pro Separator Semi-automated Integrated cell separation of up to separation solutions to simplify complex 24 samples in parallel for fast, high-quality workflows with cell separations robotic assistance. compatible with your lultiMACS<sup>\*</sup> Cell24 **Robotic integration** cell separation strategy. **Separator Plus** 

Figure 4: MACS Cell Separation options at a glance. From MACS Manual Separators to fully robotic integration of MACS Instruments into your liquid handling system, the MACS Column and matrix enable fast and effective cell separation to support your research.

## The convenient route to separation

Isolate Treg cells with high purity and excellent recovery

### What's your starting material?

Our Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kits offer a convenient way to isolate functional CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> cells as well as other Treg subpopulations (fig. 5). The isolation of Treg cells by MACS<sup>®</sup> Technology yields positive and negative fractions of outstanding purity that are directly available for downstream applications, e.g., *in vitro* suppression assays.



Figure 5: Pick your kit! Depending on your starting material and your Treg cell subset of interest, we provide a broad range of different Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kits to fulfill your needs.

# Isolation of human Treg cells directly from whole blood

### MACSxpress® Treg Isolation Kit, human

Our MACSxpress® Treg Isolation Kit has been developed for the isolation of CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Treg cells from up to 30 mL of freshly drawn anticoagulated whole blood and offers several advantages:

- Fast: from whole blood to Treg cells in 30 minutes (fig. 6)
- **Convenient:** five simple steps without density gradient centrifugation (fig. 7)
- · Effective: maximum recovery of Treg cells



Figure 6: Save time with the MACSxpress Technology. Comparison of the MACSxpress cell separation strategy to another commercially available kit using magnetic cell separation to isolate Treg cells from whole blood shows that the handling time when using the MACSxpress Treg isolation Kit, human is greatly reduced. Only 30 min after starting the cell separation process the enriched Treg cells are ready for functional downstream assays without any further washing/ preparation steps.



Figure 7: Fast and easy isolation of Treg cells. Isolation of CD4+CD25+ Treg cells straight from whole blood.

# Often copied but never matched

Isolation of Treg cells and subsets with our Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kits

# Isolation of human Treg subsets from PBMCs

We provide several Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kits for the isolation of different Treg cell subsets from PBMCs. The isolation is generally performed in a two-step procedure:



### CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, human

- · For high purity, high recovery, and high quality
- Simultaneous isolation of CD4+CD25+ and CD4+CD25-, perfectly suited for *in vitro* suppression assays using the Treg Suppression Inspector, for example
- Isolation of ~6x10<sup>5</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup>Treg cells/10<sup>8</sup> PBMCs

### CD4+CD25+CD127<sup>dim/-</sup> Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit II, human

- For highest purity of FoxP3-positive cells
- Purity of up to 96% among WBC
- Isolation of 4x10<sup>5</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup>CD127<sup>dim/-</sup> Treg cells/ 10<sup>8</sup> PBMCs

### CD25<sup>+</sup>CD49d<sup>-</sup> Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, human

- For isolation of Treg cells, depleted of CD25<sup>+</sup>CD49<sup>+</sup> effector T cells
- Treg cell populations with the highest suppressive activity
- Isolation of ~5x10<sup>5</sup> CD25<sup>+</sup>CD49d<sup>-</sup> Treg cells/10<sup>8</sup> PBMCs

### CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup>CD45RA Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, human

- · For isolation of naive Treg cells
- Optimal Treg cell population for long-term *in vitro* expansion
- Isolation of ~1.5x10<sup>5</sup> naive Treg cells/10<sup>8</sup> PBMCs

## Isolation of mouse CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Treg cells

Isolate CD4+CD25+ Treg cells from single-cell suspensions of mouse spleen and lymph nodes now even faster. The isolation is performed in a two-step procedure which allows downstream application of both, CD4+CD25+ Treg cells and CD4+CD25<sup>-</sup> responder T cells. *In vitro* suppression assays and adoptive transfer, respectively, are just two possible examples for downstream applications.

### CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, mouse

- Simultaneous isolation of CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Treg and CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>-</sup> cells for, e.g., *in vitro* suppression assays
- Purity of up to 95%
- Isolation of 1.6×10<sup>6</sup> Treg cells per 1×10<sup>8</sup> splenocytes



### **Figure 8: Isolation of mouse Treg cells using the CD4+CD25+ Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, mouse.** Treg cells were isolated from mouse splenocytes using the CD4+CD25+ Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, mouse. The cells were fluorescently stained with CD4-FITC (A) or Anti-FoxP3-APC (B) and analyzed by flow cytometry. (Please note that the cells have already been labeled with CD25-PE during isolation).

## Isolation of non-human primate CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Treg cells

Isolate CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Treg cells from rhesus monkey PBMCs with excellent purity and recovery. The isolated cells are the perfect starting material for your downstream applications including phenotypic and functional analyses.

### CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, non-human primate

- Purity of up to 92%
- Isolation of up to 9x10<sup>3</sup> Treg cells per 1x10<sup>7</sup> PBMCs
- Designed for isolation of Treg cells from rhesus monkey (Macaca mulatta)
- Cross-reactivity with cynomolgus monkey (Macaca fascicularis)

## Special protocol: Isolation of CD4+CD25+CD127<sup>dim/-</sup> Tregs from non-human primate PBMCs

With 2 simple modifications, you can use our human CD4+CD25+CD127<sup>dim/-</sup> Regulatory T cell Isolation Kit II for the isolation of highly pure and functional non-human primate CD4+CD25+CD127<sup>dim/-</sup> Treg cells.

Download this special protocol from our website at www.miltenyibiotec.com/SP-Treg or contact your local sales representative for further information.

### Products for the isolation of Treg cells

Product	Capacity	Order no.
MACSxpress® Treg Isolation Kit, human	3×30 mL whole blood	130-109-557
MACSxpress CD4 T Cell Isolation Kit, human	3x30mL whole blood	130-098-195
Whole Blood CD4 MicroBeads, human	40mL whole blood	130-090-877
MACSxpress Starting Kit with MACSxpress Separator, MACSmix™ Tube Rotator, and one MACSxpress Isolation Kit of choice		130-101-319
MACSxpress <sup>®</sup> Separator		130-098-308
CD4+CD25+ Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, human	1×10 <sup>9</sup> total cells	130-091-301
CD4+CD25+CD127 <sup>dim/-</sup> Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit II, human	1×10 <sup>9</sup> total cells	130-094-775
CD4+CD25+CD45RA+ Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, human	2×10 <sup>9</sup> total cells	130-093-631
CD25⁺CD49d⁻ Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, human	1×10 <sup>9</sup> total cells	130-094-551
MACS MultiStand		130-042-303
MidiMACS separator		130-042-302
LS Columns	25 pieces	130-042-401
LD Columns	25 pieces	130-042-901
MS Columns	25 pieces	130-042-201
CD25 MicroBeads II, human	1×10 <sup>9</sup> total cells	130-092-983
CD127 MicroBead Kit, human	1×10 <sup>9</sup> total cells	130-094-945
CD4+CD25+ Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, mouse	1×10 <sup>9</sup> total cells	130-091-041
CD4+CD25+ Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, non-human primate	1×10 <sup>9</sup> total cells	130-092-984

### Skip the Ficoll gradient step and be fast and efficient:

Use our Whole Blood CD4 MicroBeads, human (positive isolation) or our MACSxpress CD4 T Cell Isolation Kit, human (untouched isolation) for pre-enrichment before flow sorting.

# Ideal culture conditions give ideal results

Treg cell culture and expansion tools

# The smart way to cultivate, expand, and analyze your Treg cells

Activation, expansion, and stimulation of Treg cells can be challenging. However, now you can trust our cell culture tools that are optimized for Treg cell culture. The combination of TexMACS<sup>™</sup> Medium, MACS<sup>®</sup> Cytokines, Treg cell expansion tools, and the Treg Suppression Inspector are perfectly suited for *in vitro* culture and characterization of Treg cells.

### TexMACS<sup>™</sup> Medium, research grade

TexMACS<sup>™</sup> Medium, research grade, is an optimized animal component-free cell culture medium. It was developed for the cultivation and expansion of T and Treg cells, enabling reproducible application in human and mouse cell culture.

### Treg Suppression Inspector, human

The Treg Suppression Inspector, human has been developed for the functional characterization of human Treg cells by means of an *in vitro* suppression assay. It is based on MACSiBead Particles coupled to anti-CD2, anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 antibodies, which provide polyclonal stimuli to T cells. The Treg Suppression Inspector maintains an ideal stimulative environment for suppression assays: Responder T (Tresp) cells are stimulated while remaining susceptible to the suppression by Treg cells. Tregs cells remain hypoproliferative during the assay, which can be analyzed by <sup>3</sup>H-Thymidine incorporation or by determining the dilution of a cell tracker reagent (fig. 9).



**Figure 9: Treg suppression assay using the Treg Suppression Inspector, human.** Treg and Tresp cells were co-cultured at different ratios in the presence or absence (no stimulation) of the Treg Suppression Inspector. Tresp cell proliferation was assessed by <sup>3</sup>H-thymidin incorporation (left) added for 16 hours after 5 days of culture or by a cell tracker dilution (right) of the prior stained responder T cells after 5 days of co-culture.

## Optimal expansion of your isolated Treg cells

Our Treg Expansion Kits are based on cell-sized MACSiBead<sup>™</sup> Particles loaded with CD3 and CD28 antibodies. Optimized to perfection, a careful balance of the stimuli enables reliable Treg cell expansion with sustained FoxP3 expression. The MACSiMAG<sup>™</sup> Separator ensures removal of MACSiBead Particles after expansion so your downstream experiments will not be affected.

### Treg Expansion Kit, human

This kit preserves FoxP3 expression on expanded Treg cells that were previously isolated from human blood or PBMCs with one of our Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kits, human (fig. 10).

#### Α В Day 0 Day 14 CD4-APC-Vio 770 CD4-APC-Vio 770 74% 10<sup>3</sup> 102 10<sup>1</sup> 10 0 10<sup>1</sup> 10 10 10<sup>1</sup> 10 0 Anti-FoxP3-APC Anti-FoxP3-APC

**Figure 10: Expansion of Treg cells using the Treg Expansion Kit, human.** Treg cells were isolated from whole blood using the MACSxpress Treg Isolation Kit, human and expanded with the Treg Expansion Kit, human according to the protocol for 14 days. Treg cells were analyzed for their expression of FoxP3 before (A) and after (B) expansion.

### Treg Expansion Kit, mouse

This kit was especially developed for the efficient expansion of murine Treg cells. The kit sustains FoxP3 expression on expanded Treg cells that were previously isolated with the CD4+CD25+ Regulatory T Cell Isolation Kit, mouse.

### Products for cultivation and functional analysis of Treg cells

Product	Capacity	Order no.
TexMACS <sup>™</sup> Medium, research grade	3×30 mL whole blood	130-097-196
Treg Suppression Inspector, human	2.5 mL	130-092-909
Treg Expansion Kit, human	2 mL	130-095-345
	2 x 2 mL	130-095-353
Treg Expansion Kit, mouse	2 mL	130-095-925
MACSiMAG <sup>™</sup> Separator	Components: MACSiMAG Separator Tube rack for tubes from 0.5 mL to 5 mL in size	130-092-168
Human IL-2 IS, research grade	10µg	130-097-742
Source: E. coli	50µg	130-097-743
Human IL-2 IS, premium grade	10µg	130-097-744
Source: E. coli	50μg	130-097-745
	200µg	130-097-746
	1000µg	130-097-748
Mouse IL-2, research grade	5µg	130-094-054
Source: E. coli	20µg	130-094-055
	100µg	130-098-221
	1000µg	130-108-953

# **Identify your Treg subset of interest**

Flow cytometry analysis of Treg cells

### Solutions to power your cell analysis

When optimizing an experiment from beginning to end, complementary flow analysis tools lead you one step closer to reliable and reproducible results. The analysis tools of Miltenyi Biotec's Treg cell portfolio consist of a huge variety of MACS Antibodies for Treg-specific markers (fig. 11 and 12) as well as optimized ready-to-use Treg Detection Kits (mouse and human).

### **Treg Detection Kits**

The Treg Detection Kits are optimized antibody kits with pre-titrated antibodies that ensure a reliable flow cytometric analysis of Treg cells. The Detection Kits have been developed as a simple one-reagent solution for the identification of human or mouse Treg cells.

### **REAfinity™ Antibodies**

Most of our flow cytometry antibodies for Treg subset analysis are recombinantly generated antibodies that are engineered to lack any background binding. These recombinant antibodies, called REAfinity<sup>™</sup> Antibodies, are available as conjugates to a variety of fluorochromes to address your multicolor flow needs – FITC, VioBright<sup>™</sup> FITC, PE, APC, VioBlue<sup>®</sup>, VioGreen<sup>™</sup>, PE-Vio<sup>®</sup> 770, APC-Vio 770, PerCP-Vio 700.



**Figure 11: Flow cytometric analysis of human Treg cell activation marker expression.** Human Treg cells were isolated from PBMCs by MACS using the CD4+CD25+CD127<sup>dim/-</sup> Treg cell Isolation Kit II, human and either left unstimulated or stimulated with PMA/Ionomycin. After 16 hours, cells were stained with Viobility 405/520 Fixable Dye, CD4-APC-Vio 770, Anti-FoxP3-APC, CD154-VioBlue and CD137-VioBright FITC. Data shown are gated on viable CD4+FoxP3+ lymphocytes.

### Treg Detection Kits for the flow cytometric analysis of mouse and human Treg cells

Product	Capacity	Order no.
Anti-FoxP3-PE, human and mouse (Clone Isotype: 3G3)	30 tests	130-098-119
	100 tests	130-093-014
Anti-FoxP3-APC, human and mouse (Clone Isotype: 3G3)	30 tests	130-098-121
	100 tests	130-093-013
Treg Detection Kit (CD4/CD25/CD127), human	25 tests	130-096-076
	100 tests	130-096-082
Treg Detection Kit (CD4/CD25/FoxP3) (APC), human	100 tests	130-094-158
Treg Detection Kit (CD4/CD25/FoxP3) (PE), human	100 tests	130-094-163
Treg Detection Kit (CD4/CD25/FoxP3) (PE), mouse	100 tests	130-094-165
Treg Detection Kit (CD4/CD25/FoxP3) (APC), mouse	100 tests	130-094-164

# Exemplary Treg flow analysis using our REAfinity<sup>™</sup> Antibodies

Marker expression of Treg cell subsets. The combination of surface and intracellular markers enables the discrimination of different human Treg subsets

Treg subset	Surface marker	Intracellular marker	Population
Freshly isolated Tregs	CD4+CD25+CD127 <sup>dim/-</sup>	FoxP3, Helios	P1
Naive Tregs	CD4+CD25+CD127 <sup>dim/-</sup> CD45RA+	FoxP3, Helios	P2
Memory Tregs	CD4+CD25+CD127 <sup>dim/-</sup> CD45RO+	FoxP3, Helios, Ki-67 (partially)	P3



**Figure 12: Gating strategy for identification of different Treg cells subsets.** Human Treg cells were isolated from PBMCs by MACS<sup>®</sup> using the CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup>CD127<sup>dim/-</sup> Regulatory T cell Isolation Kit II, human. Viable CD4 cells were identified using the Viobility 405/520 Fixable Dye and CD4-APC-Vio 770. Treg cells were stained with CD25-VioBright FITC, CD127-PE-Vio 770, Anti-FoxP3-APC, Anti-Helios-PE, CD45RA-PE-Vio 615, CD45RO-VioBlue, and Anti-Ki-67-PE. The gating strategy depicted identifies the different Treg populations P1, P2 and P3.



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In the EU, the CliniMACS System components are available as CE-marked medical devices for their respective intended use, unless otherwise stated. The CliniMACS Reagents in combination with the CliniMACS System are intended to separate human cells. Miltenyi Biotec as the manufacturer of the CliniMACS System does not give any recommendations regarding the use of separated cells for therapeutic purposes and does not make any claims regarding a clinical benefit. For the manufacturing and use of target cells in humans the national legislation and regulations - e.g. for the I the Directive 2004/23/EC ("human tissues and cells"), or the Directive 2002/98/EC ("human blood components") - must be followed. Thus, any clinical application of the target cells is exclusively within the responsibility of the user of a CliniMACS System, including the CliniMACS Plus Instrument, CliniMACS CD34 Reagent, CliniMACS Tubing Sets TS and LS, and the CliniMACS PBS/EDTA Buffer, is FDA approved; all other products of the CliniMACS Product Line are available for use only under an approved Investigational New Drug (IND) application or Investigational Device Exemption (IDE). CliniMACS MicroBeads are for research use only and not for human therapeutic or diagnostic use. CliniMACS, CliniMACS, CliniMACS, GentleMACS, MACSima, MACSiBead, MACSiMAG, REAfinity, VioBlue, VioBright, VioGreen, Vio, MACS, and the MACS logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of Miltenyi Biotec GmbH and/or its affiliates in countries worldwide. Copyright © 2016 Miltenyi Biotec GmbH and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.