Qdot® Conjugates: Sensitive, Multicolor, Stable Fluorescence

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Molecular Probes Labeling and Detection Technologies
Invitrogen Corporation
Outline

- Quantum Dot Basics
  - Materials
  - Spectral Properties
- Microscopy Applications
  - Immunofluorescent Cell Biology
  - Molecular Pathology
  - Cellular Assays
- Flow Cytometry
- In-vivo imaging
- Western Blotting
What Are Quantum Dots?

Highly fluorescent, nanometer-size, single crystals of semiconductor materials

Size of the nanocrystal determines the color
Size is tunable from ~2-10 nm (±3%)
Size distribution determines the spectral width
Qdot Conjugates are Engineered

Core Nanocrystal (CdSe)
- Determines color

Inorganic Shell (ZnS)
- Improves brightness and stability

Organic Coating
- Provides water solubility and functional groups for conjugation

Biomolecule
- Covalently attached to polymer shell
  - Immunoglobulins
  - Streptavidin, Protein A
  - Receptor ligands
  - Oligonucleotides

15 - 18 nm
Size of Qdot® Nanocrystals

Images provided by Mark Ellisman, National Center for Microscopy and Imaging Research, UCSD, San Diego, CA
Quality Counts—ZStem Shows It

- Quantum Yield Above 90%
- Addition of Cd to shell material has improved shell coverage
- Contrast between core and shell has been reduced by the addition of Cd

Quantum Dot Corp Materials

Literature Methods

Data courtesy Steve Penneycook (ORNL), James McBride, and Sandy Rosenthal (Vanderbilt)
Qdot Conjugates vs. Competitors

Not Created Equal: Immunosorbent Results

- Qdot 605 Anti-Rabbit Lot 1
- Qdot 605 Anti-Rabbit Lot 2
- Competitor 600 (Fort Orange) Anti-Rabbit
- 10x competitor data

RFU on Plate Reader vs. Log (Conj Conc nM)
Spectral Properties

**Organic dye (FITC)**
- Small Stokes shift
- Multiple source excitation req’d.
- Broad emission
- Poor photostability

**Qdot® Conjugate (525)**
- Large “Stokes shift”
- Single-source excitation
- Narrow emission
- Excellent photostability
Excitation Spectra of Qdot Conjugates

High extinction >> High brightness
All colors can be excited at the same wavelength, 425DF45
Emission Spectra of Qdot Conjugates

Minimal (<5%) cross-talk using 20nm bandpass filters
Simplified signal un-mixing >> simplified multiplex labeling
High level Her 2/neu expression in SK-BR-3 Cells

Quantum dots up to 50x brighter

Low level of Her 2/neu expression in MDA-MB-231 cells

Quantum dots easy to detect but dye undetectable

Excellent Brightness Provides High Sensitivity

Quantum dot

Exp. Time: 0.019 seconds

Exp. Time: 0.44 seconds

Organic dye

1.22 seconds

8.12 seconds
Detection of More Parameters in a Single Experiment

Partial information from single color experiments

525 (Mouse) Mitochondria  
565 (Rat) Tubulin

605 (Rabbit) Ki-67  
655 (Human) Nuclear antigen  
705 (Streptavidin) Actin

More information from every sample using Qdot Conjugates
Five Color Multiplexed Cell Labeling

- 5-color labeling with dyes would be extremely difficult.
- Multiplexing gives more information from a single experiment.
- Multiplexing gives much more information than 5 single experiments.

Direct Conjugates Provide Ultimate Flexibility
HeLa cells fixed in paraformaldehyde and permeablized with Triton

Qdot 655 Conjugate
Alexa 594 conjugate

No significant differences in cytoskeletal protein labeling
• Molecular Pathology
  – Patient diagnosis and prognosis
  – Patient stratification for "best" treatment regimen
  – Biomarkers for preclinical/clinical drug evaluation
• Traditional pathology loses all cellular/molecular correlations
  – Morphological correlation rather than molecular correlation
• Multiple markers are becoming the norm
  – Gene expression data → Protein analysis
• Qdot conjugate stability, brightness and multiplex capability are ideal.
Obtain More Information From Each Specimen

- Typical pathology: Single color, no relative measurements.
- Slices have no relative orientation.
- Marker information available is based on morphological correlations.
Estrogen Receptor: monoclonal Rb clone SP1 RM-9101-S

Conventional IHC vs Fluorescence

RGB images acquired a single gray scale images at 655/20, 565/20, and 450/58 nm and merged

Images courtesy of LAB VISION CORPORATION
Qdot Primary Conjugates

WGA Qdot 655 Conjugate
Phalloidin Qdot 525 Conjugate

Ki-67 Qdot 585 Conjugate
Vimentin Qdot 525 Conjugate (Clone V9)
Images provided by Mark Ellisman, National Center for Microscopy and Imaging Research, UCSD, San Diego, CA

Glial fibrillar acidic protein - Qdot 655
Inositol triphosphate Receptor – Qdot 525

Better EM labels than colloidal gold because of superior penetration

Glial fibrillar acidic protein - Qdot 655
Inositol triphosphate Receptor – Qdot 525
Qdot Conjugates and Spectral Imaging

Standard color image (500-720 nm)

Unmixed composite Nuance image

655 nm QD

565 nm QD

DAPI

Autofluorescence

Data Courtesy of CRI-Inc on a Nuance Camera System

You can see clearly now.
Top panel (a-e): Nucleus labeled with Qdot conjugates and microtubules labeled with Alexa Fluor 488

Bottom panel (f-j): Nucleus labeled with Alexa Fluor 488 and microtubules labeled with Qdot conjugates

Left: quantitative data showing effect of antifade medium

Qdot® Conjugates for Fluorescent Labeling

- Extremely bright for sensitive detection
- High photostability provides:
  - Ability to monitor signal over long periods of time
  - Ease of use (time for focusing and image collection)
  - Enables pathology and live cell imaging applications
- Narrow emission peaks for simple multiplexing
- Easily illuminated by many excitation sources
- Easily conjugated to a variety of biomolecules

Key issues: Fixation Protocol, Filter Selection, PAP Pen Quenching, Photobrightening

More data faster
Nuclear expression of phosphorylated Erk in starved HeLa cells following EGF stimulation
Plate-based Cellular Immunoassays Benefits

- High information content in high throughput
- Lower cost and simpler instrumentation requirements
  - Plate readers are readily available in all target labs
- More valid biology
  - More flexibility in assay configuration
  - More controls or reference markers may be included
- Lower level of expertise required
- Instant data reduction
  - Image analysis and storage not required
- Label reagents can be transferred to tissue characterization in preclinical models
Serum starved cells were stimulated with 50 ng/ml PDGF for the times indicated. Cell (left) were stimulated for 25 min for fixation.
At left: Images of the same set of wells acquired at two colors assaying pan Erk and phospho Erk. The red circle represents the area used for measuring mean intensity in each well.

At right: Results plotted showing time course of PDGF induced phosphorylation of Erk. Z’ values at 20 through 80 minutes are 0.63-0.77
• p42/44 MAPK phosphorylation was indexed to tubulin but can be normalized to pan protein expression or wheat germ agglutinin (Qdot WGA Conjugate) expression.
• Multiplexing with Qdot Conjugates allows extensive information and referencing in a single well readout.
Respiratory Syncitial Virus Progression

Cellular infection

1 hour after infection

1 day after infection

2 days after infection

3 days after infection

Data collected on a Bio-Tek Synergy HT

Ex:250 nm
Em:598+/-18 nm

Qdot 605 Streptavidin Conjugate
Biotinylated anti-RSV F-Protein

Detection limit of 35-50 PFU in 24 hours

Whole well F-Protein cell intensity vs initial infection load

Progression can be monitored by image analysis or by quantitative analysis of the cell population.

Faster and easier to look at the whole population.
Three Color Qtracker® Cell Labeling

- 3T3(green), HeLa(red), and U188(white) cells labeled with Qtracker 565, 655, and 705 respectively.

- Co-cultured in 8-well chambers for 24 hrs. Images captured with a Leica Confocal microscope (ex. = 488nm).
Multiplexed Cellular Assays

- TTP Acumen® Explorer for single-excitation, multiplexed cellular analysis.
- Real-time proliferation readouts from multiple cell-lines within a single well.
- Other multiplexed cellular readouts possible (Internalization, Calcium, etc.)
Endothelial Progenitor Cells
Qtracker 565

H9C2 Cells (Cardiac Lineage)
Qtracker 655

Cell Fusion Rate:
Both colors, one cell
0.50 +/- 0.23%

EPC committed to Cardiac Lineage
30-50% Transdifferentiation

Conclusion: Cell Fusion cannot account for differentiation behavior

• Qtracker Cell Labeling Kits are non-toxic
  – Analysis of phenotype, metabolism, proliferation, differentiation
• Qtracker Reagents do not transfer between cells
• Qtracker Reagents are passed to daughter cells for 6-8 generations typically

• Ideal tools for studying cell-cell interactions
• Ideal tools for tracking cell fate in living systems
Qdot Conjugates in Cytometry

- Flexible excitation
  - Usable with all common platforms
  - Perfect for single laser, multicolor systems
- High brightness
  - Comparable to or better than best dye molecules
- Very low cross-talk
  - No or minimal compensation required from single laser.
- Improving platform
  - QDC R&D producing ongoing improvements to brightness, width, and NSB.
- Unlimited colors available
  - 6 colors from 525-800 nm with < 5% cross-talk
- Photostability allows for imaging and resorting
Flow Cytometry: Qdot Streptavidin Sampler Kit

CD4-biotin + Streptavidin Sampler Kit on human PBMCs, 405 nm excitation

- Qdot 525 streptavidin 525/20
- Qdot 565 streptavidin 565/20
- Qdot 585 streptavidin 585/20
- Qdot 605 streptavidin 605/20
- Qdot 655 streptavidin 655/20
- Qdot 705 streptavidin 695/40
**Single Laser, Multicolor Flow Without Compensation**

**Reagent** | **Intensity off 488 nm** | **Spectral Overlap**
--- | --- | ---
Qdot 525 crystal | ~ Fluorescein | 2% into FL2
Qdot 585 crystal | ~ 50% RPE | 11% into FL3 (>620 nm)
Qdot 655 | ~ RPE/Cy5 | 0.2% into FL2

PBMCs + direct conjugate cocktail

Modified BD FACScan:
- FL1: 530/30
- FL2: 585/42
- FL3: 620 LP

Run without compensation
Clean Spectral Signals from Qdot Conjugates

17 colors with manageable compensation

Other dyes don’t cross-over into Qdot Conjugate channels

Qdot Conjugates don’t cross-over into other dye channels substantially (in spite of broad excitation)

Peretto, S.P., Chattopadhyay, P. K., Roederer, M.; Nature Reviews Immunology; V.4 (2004); 648-655.
4 Qdot Tetramer Reagents

More information per sample possible

Phenotyping & Activation in a single sample context

Streptavidin Conjugates used with Biotin-MHC-Peptide complexes to elucidate T-cell specificity

Data courtesy Stephen DeRosa (FHCRC) and Mario Roederer (NIH-VRC)
LSR II: Trigon / Octagon Configurations

UV nm Laser

532 nm Laser

633 nm Laser

488 nm Laser

532 nm Laser

405 nm Laser

488/10

660/20

760LP

780LP

585/42

555/42

633 nm Laser

532 nm Laser

488 nm Laser

585/42

555/42

633 nm Laser

532 nm Laser
• Current Qdot nanocrystals are comparable to best organic dyes in intensity.
• Narrow emission spectra of the Qdot nanocrystals result in very low cross-talk.
• Selected Qdot reagents exhibit minimal spectral overlap
• Qdot reagents can be multiplexed for multicolor analysis in single- and multi-laser systems
• Current solutions available:
  – Streptavidin and anti-immunoglobulin conjugates
  – Conjugation kits
  – Reactive Qdot nanocrystals
  – Custom conjugation services
Direct Conjugates Give Excellent Results


At the right titration level...
Importance of Optimal Titration and Clone

PBMC stained with Qdot 655 Leu3a/RPA-T4 Conjugate
Washed 2x with HBSS. 100 ul staining with 10^6 cells.
High affinity clones give high quality products.
Direct Antibody Conjugate Comparison
Qdot 655 vs PE-Cy5 Antibody Conjugates

Qdot 655 Antibody Conjugate

PE-Cy5 Antibody Conjugate
## Current (488 based) and Future Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Intensity</th>
<th>Crosstalk</th>
<th>Potential Crosstalk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>655</td>
<td>Equal to PE-Cy5</td>
<td>0.2% into FL2</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1% PE-Cy5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>585</td>
<td>~1/2 PE signal</td>
<td>11% into FL3 (620 LP)</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>52% PE</td>
<td>(on standard 650 LP FL3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>525</td>
<td>Equal to FITC</td>
<td>2% into FL2</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14% A488</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23% FITC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Single Laser, Multicolor Flow Without Compensation

Buffy coat stained
Direct Qdot Conjugate reagent cocktail
Lysed/Washed 2x

488 ex FACScan
530/30 FL1
585/42 FL2
620 LP FL3
UNCOMPENSATED

Stock 650 LP would have substantially lower FL2/3 cross-talk
• Current Qdot materials are comparable to best dyes in intensity.
• The narrow emission spectra of the Qdot materials result in very low cross-talk.
• The Qdot channels off the violet laser are free of compensation.
• There are significant benefits to using Qdot materials in multicolor single-laser analysis.
• Current solutions available:
  – Conjugation Kits
  – Streptavidin Conjugates
  – Reactive Qdot Nanocrystals
  – Custom Conjugation Services
Qdot nanocrystal materials can be imaged at scales from centimeters to nanometers.

EGF Receptor Internalization

Qdot 605-EGF conjugate (erbB1) erbB3-Citrine

- EGF-Qdot Conjugate co-internalizes with ErbB2
- Novel retrograde transport mechanism via filopodia
- EGFR homodimerizes with erbB2 but erbB3

Photostability allows unprecedented real-time continuous monitoring of receptor-molecule (ligand, drug) dynamics

Lidke, D. et al. Nature Biotechnology 22 (20), 2004

4.5 sec/frame; 100 frames
Sequential confocal scans
Multiphoton Imaging – Vascular Imaging in Ovary

FITC - Dextran
Qdot ITK Carboxyl QD’s
Single MP slice
Qdot ITK Carboxyl QD’s
250 µm image stack


Bright
- Very high S/B
- Excellent discrimination from auto-fluorescence
- Fine structural and dynamic information can be obtained

Noninvasive
- Imaging through skin
- High contrast angiography
Stable
- No toxicity observed after venous injection
• Chick embryo venous injection at increasing resolution
• Bright signal allows highly detailed vascular analysis
• Red colors allow deeper, higher resolution imaging than dyes

Courtesy of Greg Fisher, Byron Ballou and Alan Waggoner, Carnegie Mellon University

• Long circulation time allows detailed vascular imaging.
• Also useful for marking vascular structures in tissue sections.
Zebrafish with Qdot Conjugates

Whole Mount IHC from in-vivo Acetylated Tubulin axons Qdot 605 SAv Conj. vascular

Tracking cells by fluorescence and luminescence

Dorsal Images

Pre Injection 0.33h 0.75h 2.75h 18h 25h
Fluorescent Images (BIN: HR(4); FOV: 12.6cm; f/2; 5sec; Ex: Cy5.5; Em: Cy5.5

C57B1/6 Mice
B16F10 luc cells
Loaded with Qttracker
705 Cell Labeling Kit
2x10⁶ cells injected via tail vein
Cell fate monitored for 24 hours.

Fluorescence tracks bioluminescence results until colony formation.

Xenogen IVIS
Expt Courtesy
Steve Smith

Results like bioluminescence without transformed cells...
**In-vivo imaging across the continuum**

**Molecular Targeting**

- Non-targeted
- Intravascular
- Cell Surface
- Interstitial
- Intracellular
- Metabolic
  - Quantum Dots
  - Alexa Fluors
  - Quantum Dots
  - Alexa Fluors

**Cellular Tracking**

- Passive
- Proliferation
- Uptake
- Metabolism
- Reporter Systems
  - Quantum Dots
  - Alexa Fluors

**Post-mortem analysis**

- Physiology
- Molecular
  - Quantum Dots
  - Alexa Fluors
• Image noninvasively, then follow up at higher resolution
• Compatible with GFP imaging
• Imaging at greater depth and resolution
• Infrared materials can be imaged through skin and other tissues effectively
• Repeated imaging without repeated dosing.
• Longitudinal imaging from in-vivo to intravital to post-mortem to electron microscopy.
Qdot Western Blotting products

Actin
Vimentin
GAPDH

Rat Tissue Lysate Blot
Western Analysis with Qdot Conjugates

- Sensitivities comparable or better than reported chemiluminescence levels.
- NO FILM, NO DARKROOM, NO RUSH.
- Simple multicolor detection without dedicated instrument
  - Chemiluminescence imaging systems
  - Gel Documentation systems
  - Trans-illuminator and color camera with anti-haze filter
- No stripping and reprobing required
  - Faster experiments
  - More reliable data
- More reliable quantitative analysis
  - 2-3 orders of magnitude linear dynamic range with single exposure
  - Extended exposures extend dynamic range to 4-5 orders of magnitude
More Sensitive than the “Gold Standard” ECL

- Purified protein dilution series with identical antibodies
- Qdot Conjugates deliver sensitivity dramatically higher than ECL Reagents even under the optimal film-based detection.
- Combination with Millipore Immobilon-FL Transfer Membrane provides highest sensitivity.
Qdot Western Blots Can be Stored for Months

Day 2: 40 pg detection

3 months later: 150 pg detection
Stored in TBS

• Stored in TBS, the Qdot Western Blots retain signal for months.
• Stored dry, they may retain signal even longer.
• Plenty of time to get imaging conditions optimized for publication.
Sensitive Quantitative Western Analysis

Pure GST—Goat anti-GST—Qdot® 655 anti-Goat Conjugate

- Detection limit 4-8 pg GST
- Fluorescence detection with chemiluminescent sensitivity
- Stability for repeated analysis

Images acquired with a KODAK Image Station 2000MM Multimodal Imaging System

- Broad linear range
- Progressive exposures extend range
- 100 fold linear range for each exposure
HA detected with a primary antibody followed with Qdot® 605 anti-Rabbit conjugate.

GST detected with Qdot® 565 anti-GST conjugate

c-Myc detected with a primary antibody followed with Qdot® 705 anti-Mouse conjugate.

- Multicolor analysis allows simultaneous measurement of protein and fusion domains.
- Single blot analysis eliminates questions of band alignment between multiple blots.
- Qdot conjugates allow 3 or 4 color analysis of overlapping bands with simple filters.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECL on Film</th>
<th>Qdot Conjugate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer (1 hr)</td>
<td>Transfer (1 hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block (1 hr)</td>
<td>Block (1 hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary (1 hr)</td>
<td>Primary (1 hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rinse (0.25 hr)</td>
<td>Rinse (0.25 hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (1 hr)</td>
<td>Secondary (1 hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rinse (0.25 hr)</td>
<td>Rinse and Image 3x (0.25 hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substrate, Film, Develop (1 hr)</td>
<td>Save hours in the darkroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substrate, Film, Develop (1 hr)</td>
<td>with Qdot Western Blotting detection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substrate, Film, Develop (1 hr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Simple, Fast and Cost Effective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detection Method</th>
<th>Product Number</th>
<th>Antibody Dilution</th>
<th>Cost per blot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECL Advance</td>
<td>RPN2138 (GE-Amersham)</td>
<td>1:25000</td>
<td>$35.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECL Plus</td>
<td>RPN2132 (GE-Amersham)</td>
<td>1:5000</td>
<td>$37.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECL</td>
<td>RPN2108 (GE-Amersham)</td>
<td>1:5000</td>
<td>$31.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qdot Conjugate</td>
<td>1100-2</td>
<td>1:1000</td>
<td>$28.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qdot Conjugate</td>
<td>1100-2</td>
<td>1:2000</td>
<td>$19.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Useful in Cell Signaling Research

Phosphorylation of Akt and Erk in A431 Cells Stimulated by EGF (25ng/mL)
This is a typical cell-signalling model system.

- Color value indicates ratio of modified to total protein
- This is a typical class of experiment in cell-signalling research.
- Analysis of multiple bands allows single experiment with rich content.
- The alternative experiment would take several days with standard methods.

Qdot Western Blotting Benefits

- **Simple**
  - Fluorescence imaged directly, no substrate addition
  - No dependence on time (CL) or photostability issues (dyes)
  - Robust, stable signals allow repeated imaging
  - Imaging can be done on gel imagers, CCD imagers, and laser scanners—very flexible

- **Quantitative**
  - Linear quantitative range over 2.5 orders of magnitude
  - Stable signal ensures reliable measurements
  - Sensitivity as good as best reported chemiluminescence methods

- **Multiplexed**
  - No stripping and reprobing to detect multiple bands
  - Single source excitation with emission filters ensures reliable signal ratios
Conclusions

• Qdot® Conjugates provide substantial benefits in detection
  – Ultimate in photostability
  – Sensitivity rivals or exceeds the best methods
  – Multiplexing capability dramatically simplified
  – Wide variety of available products ensures application needs are met

• Distinct product lines appropriate for many applications
  – Microscopy
  – Flow Cytometry
  – Live cell/live animal imaging
  – Western Blotting
  – Immunoassays

• Reactive Qdot nanocrystal materials available for your chemistry
  (Innovator’s Tool Kit Quantum Dots)
  – Organic
  – Carboxyl
  – Amino(PEG)
Science magazine’s Top 10 Scientific Breakthroughs of 2003. “[Quantum dot bio-imaging is]...the most exciting new technique to emerge from the collaboration of physicists and biologists.”

Forbes/Wolfe Nanotech Report’s Top 5 Breakthroughs of 2003. Number 1: In vivo labeling with quantum dots


Small Times magazine’s 2003 Researcher of the Year. Quantum Dot founder Paul Alivisatos.

2004 Fortune Cool Companies winner.
Publications—Invitrogen Materials Are the Standard

- ~230 peer reviewed publications (Biological Apps since 1998)
    - Pathology—Fluorescence/EM/FISH
    - Live Cell Microscopy (dynamics)
    - Single Molecule Analysis
    - FRET
    - Arrays
    - Microfluidics/Patterning
    - Pathogen Detection
    - And many more
  - 2 used competitor materials (reporting quenching)
  - Others used self-fabricated materials (great ideas)
  - Large number of review articles

- Quantum Dot—Invitrogen Nanocrystal Technologies materials ensure consistency, support, and optimal performance every time.
Collaborators

- Mark Ellisman  NCMIR-UCSD
- Alan Waggoner  Carnegie Mellon University
- Paul Wylie  TTP Labtech
- Watt Webb  Cornell University
- Mario Roederer  NIH-Vaccine Research Center