

# **Application Note**

# Feeder-free Maintenance & Expansion of hPSCs using StemBeads® FGF2

## INTRODUCTION

This application will focus on using StemBeads® FGF2 with commercially available defined media for the feeder-free expansion and maintenance of human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs). StemBeads® FGF2 are microparticles composed of a FDA approved, biodegradable polymer that is loaded with recombinant human fibroblast growth factor 2 (FGF2). StemBeads® FGF2 can be readily adapted to use with a defined pluripotent stem cell media of choice.

# PRODUCT HANDLING / DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Reconstitution & Use: StemBeads® FGF2 are provided as a ready-to-use 3mL solution in DMEM/F12.

Storage & Stability: Upon arrival store at 4°C. StemBeads® FGF2 are stable for up to 6 months without loss of activity when

stored at 4°C.

Release Profile: 8 µL/mL StemBeads® FGF2 = 10 ng/mL release of soluble FGF2.

*Physical Characteristics:* StemBeads® FGF2 are  $15 \pm 2 \mu m$  in diameter.

For further details concerning StemBeads® FGF2, please refer to StemBeads® FGF2 Product Specification and Information Sheet.

#### SUGGESTED PROTOCOL

The following protocol describes a procedure that entails splitting once a week and feeding 2-3 times a week for the maintenance and/or expansion of hPSCs. Please note, there may be a slight adjustment period for the first two passages as the cells transition. Additional optimization may be required due to variability between hPSC lines.

## Preparation of Media with StemBeads® FGF2

- 1) Aliquot desired volume of defined hPSC media.
- 2) Mix vial of StemBeads® FGF2 thoroughly by vortexing or pipetting prior to use as the beads will settle quickly.
- 3) Add StemBeads® FGF2 into aliquot of defined media at a concentration of 8µL StemBeads® FGF2 per 1mL of media for a 10ng/ml release.

# Culturing hPSCs with StemBeads® FGF2

Day -3: Remove media and replace with freshly prepared

StemBeads® FGF2 supplemented media.

Day 0: Dissociate and split hPSCs using preferred enzymatic

treatment, then re-plate the hPSCs in defined media supplemented with StemBeads® FGF2 onto a pre-coated

vessel.

Day 1 (Optional): If a large amount of unattached/dead cells are observed,

wash 2x with DMEM/F12\* and replace with freshly prepared

StemBeads® FGF2 supplemented media.

Day 4: Remove media, wash 2x with DMEM/F12\* and replace with

freshly prepared StemBeads® FGF2 supplemented media.

Day 7: Repeat splitting and feeding as described above.

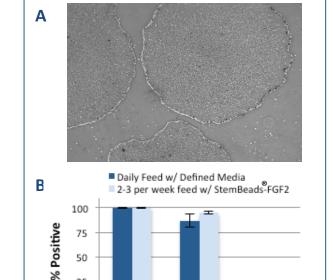


Figure 1. hPSC morphology and pluripotency expression is maintained using StemBeads® FGF2 over long term culture. hPSCs that were cultured for over 3 months in defined media supplemented with StemBeads® FGF2 exhibit typical hPSC morphology (A) and express pluripotency markers SSEA-4/Tra-1-60 while lacking expression of the differentiation marker SSEA-1 when analyzed using FACs (B).

Tra-1-60

SSEA-4

25

0

FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY. NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN OR ANIMAL DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC USES.!

SSEA-1

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Washing is highly recommended prior to every feed to remove cell debris and excess beads.