
Preface

In 1995, *Signal Transduction Protocols*, edited by David A. Kendall and Stephen J. Hill, was published in the *Methods in Molecular Biology* series. This second edition represents an update to that previous work with an emphasis on new methodologies that have developed in the last few years. The goal, then and now, is to provide procedures written by experts with first-hand experience in a detail that goes far beyond what is generally encountered in the “methods” section of most journals and thus actually permits a particular procedure to be replicated. In addition, we have had as a secondary goal the identification of protocols for the assay of general classes of signal transduction components that, ideally, can be adapted to the assay of any member of that class. The ability to do this has resulted in large part from the use of affinity-based assays, the ease with which specific proteins can be specifically tagged, and an explosion in the availability of highly specific antibodies from commercial sources, especially antibodies raised against signaling proteins of human origin. The number of available approaches is, fortunately for those working in signaling research, far too great to fit within the confines of this volume, so hard choices as to what to include had to be made. We have attempted to avoid those procedures for which detailed instructions are readily available (such as those associated with commercial kits), or which require highly specialized, expensive, or generally unavailable apparatus. This has still left us with a rich variety of approaches from which to choose and, in many cases, these choices necessarily reflect the editors’ interests.

We hope that we have met our goals with the protocols in this second edition of *Signal Transduction Protocol* and that postdocs, graduate students, technicians, and researchers will find them useful in their work.

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