

■ A Study of Ovation® RNA Amplification System V2 Performance

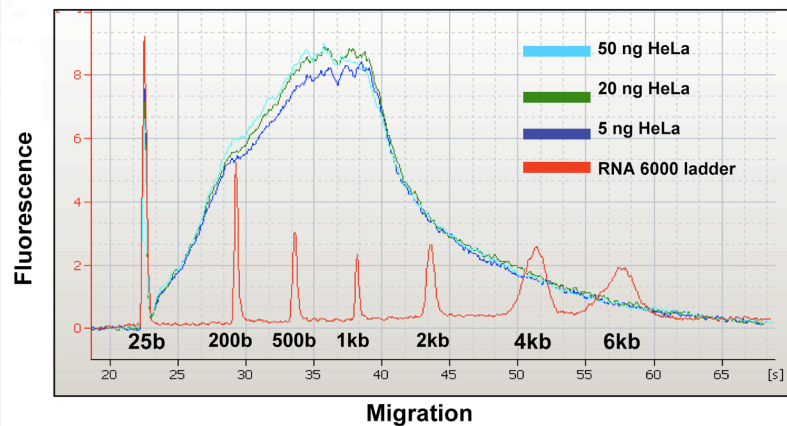
Introduction

NuGEN's RNA amplification solutions have generated excellent gene expression results from challenging samples that yield limited amounts of RNA. Many such studies have been performed using the Ovation® Biotin RNA Amplification and Labeling System (Part No. 2300, now obsolete), which included the amplification, fragmentation and labeling components to complete target preparation for Affymetrix GeneChip® arrays. Using this product, researchers have created amplified cDNA for analysis via microarrays and by qPCR for validation of array results.

The same advantages in consistency of results and reduced time and costs of preparation are now available with NuGEN's more flexible modular products. The same 3'-focused amplification reagent set is now offered in the product, Ovation RNA Amplification System V2 (Part No. 3100), without fragmentation and labeling reagents. This product generates amplified cDNA that can be used directly for qPCR, storage and archiving, and can be processed using NuGEN's Encore® Biotin Module (Part No. 4200 formerly FL-Ovation® cDNA Biotin Module V2) to fragment and label (F&L) the cDNA for GeneChip array analysis. This F&L module is a simple and robust method for target preparation in less than 2 hours and requiring no purification steps. Elimination of purification columns allows for easier, more automation-friendly sample processing and reduces both costs and hands-on time, lowering error rates.

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FIGURE 1. Size distribution of amplified cDNA across total RNA input.



Amplified cDNA using 50, 20, and 5 ng of total HeLa RNA show consistent profile and size distribution across RNA input range upon analysis of Agilent Bioanalyzer traces.

These products are examples of NuGEN's overall modular product approach that provides significant flexibility and choice for scientists who want to perform qPCR today but also want to maximize their options by storing their amplified cDNA for microarray studies at a later time on the same amplified sample. NuGEN's modular approach allows researchers to purchase only what they need today, while retaining the option of using F&L approaches on their samples in the future.

Specific study designs that will realize significant benefits from this approach include large collaborative group projects and consortia. Collaborative investigators at various sites often need to study the same sample using a variety of gene expression platforms and analytical approaches. Since maintaining the homogeneity of the originating sample is a strict technical

requirement for such studies, starting from the same Ovation-amplified cDNA ensures consistency, sample stability and input standardization. Furthermore, small and limited samples can be more readily considered for such collaborative approaches due to the Ovation System's ability to amplify limited amounts of RNA to produce the large amounts of amplified cDNA.

In this report we demonstrate the performance of the Ovation RNA Amplification System V2 (Part No. 3100) through yields, qPCR data and GeneChip array analysis using the Encore Biotin Module (Part No. 4200, formerly FL-Ovation cDNA Biotin Module V2).

Materials and Methods

The studies described here utilized purchased total HeLa cell line RNA, (Ambion, Cat. #7852) as well as purchased UHR total RNA, (Stratagene,

Cat. #740000). Spleen and placental total RNAs were also purchased for the tissue mixing experiment (Ambion, Cat. #7970 and #7950, respectively).

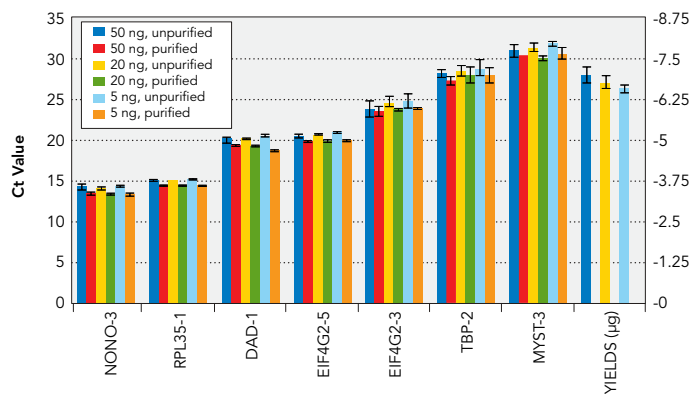
All RNAs were amplified using the Ovation RNA Amplification System V2 (Part No. 3100), at various RNA inputs, as indicated, following the procedure outlined in the product user guides.

Real time qPCR assays were designed using the Universal ProbeLibrary™ and primer design software. Primers were ordered from Integrated DNA Technologies (Coralville, IA). Multiple assays were designed for each gene spanning the 5', middle and the 3' end. Assays were screened for good efficiency as close to 100% as possible with a slope of 1 +0.1. Further primer and probe information and accession numbers are provided upon request.

The qPCR reactions were set up using unpurified amplified cDNA diluted 1/10 into 1X TE (pH 8.0) or 20 ng of purified cDNA into TaqMan® Fast Universal PCR master mix with 5 nM each of the forward and reverse primers and 100 nM Probelibrary probe or with ABI's Assays-on-Demand™ primer and probe mix following vendor's instructions in 20 µL final volume. The assays were analyzed using the ABI 7500 with the Fast block installation using the default settings. For GeneChip array analysis of the amplified cDNA, fragmentation and labeling was performed using the Encore Biotin Module (Part No. 4200), with 3.75 µg of cDNA in 25 µL. Array analysis was performed on GeneChip HG-U133A 2.0 Arrays (Affymetrix, Cat. # 900469), with a final cDNA target concentration of 17 ng/µL. Array data were analyzed by Affymetrix GCOS software (GeneChip Operating System, 1.4.0.036).

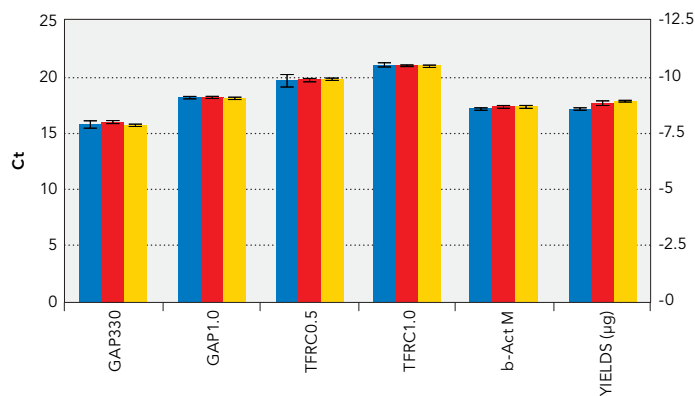
The quantity of total RNA was assessed using the Nanodrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer (Wilmington, DE). Agilent Bioanalyzer was used to obtain traces for the amplified cDNA with an

FIGURE 2. qPCR and yields reproducibility across total RNA input and transcript abundance.



50, 20 and 5 ng of HeLa total RNA were amplified in triplicate. qPCR results for 7 transcripts show reproducible and consistent results with and without purification of amplified cDNA. Yields, shown on the left axis of the graph, also show highly reproducible degrees of amplification across inputs.

FIGURE 3. qPCR and yields reproducibility across multiple product lots.



5 ng of UHR total RNA was amplified in triplicate for 3 different lots of the Ovation RNA Amplification System V2. qPCR results for 5 genes show reproducible and consistent amplification. Amplified cDNA yields, shown on the left axis of the graph, also show very consistent amplification across multiple lots.

RNA 6000 Nano LabChip® (Agilent Cat. #5065-4476) and the Eukaryotic Total RNA Nano program (Nano assay in the Expert 2100 software) were used, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Results

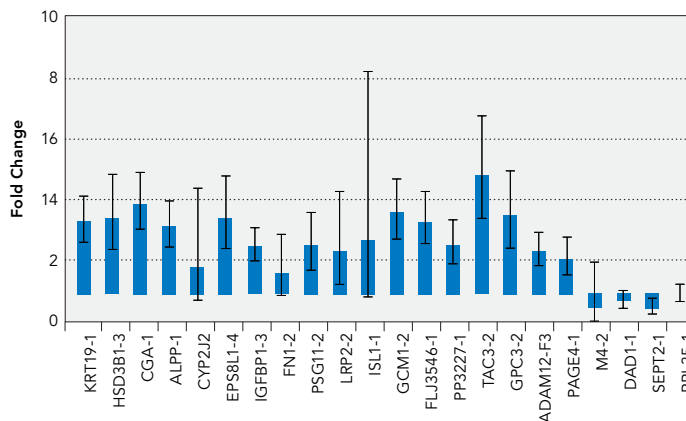
Reproducible and robust amplification across RNA input range and transcript abundance: HeLa RNA was amplified with 50, 20 and 5 ng total RNA input, the superimposed Bioanalyzer

traces shown in **Figure 1** are highly similar across inputs. Using both purified and unpurified cDNA for qPCR input the qPCR Ct results for a set of 7 transcripts also show that amplification is highly sensitive and reproducible across a wide range of transcript abundance as well as input RNA. In **Figure 2** cDNA yield data from UHR and HeLa RNAs are shown; in addition a panel of RNA isolated from other tissues consistently results in amplification yields of 4–8 µg. Even for difficult tissue sources of RNA such as Placenta and whole blood, minimum yields of 4–5 µg of amplified cDNA are generated.

Reproducible and robust amplification across multiple product lots: Three lots of the Ovation RNA Amplification System were compared for consistency in performance by amplifying 5 ng of UHR RNA in duplicates and performing qPCR assays for 5 transcripts. In a comparison of yields and qPCR data the 3 lots were highly consistent and reproducible in performance, shown in **Figure 3**.

Amplified cDNA generates expected and consistent fold change results: Using a placenta/spleen tissue mixing model, described in detail in the Ovation RNA Amplification System Technical Report #2, multiple mixed RNAs were prepared. Amplifications were performed with 5 ng of a 100% Placenta RNA as well as a mix of 50%:50% Placenta/Spleen RNA. The cDNA was interrogated with a panel of qPCR assays for 18 Placenta-specific transcripts to determine fold change after amplification. A 2-fold change is expected when comparing a sample containing only Placenta RNA to one with equal amounts of Spleen and Placenta RNA. The qPCR Ct results show that approximately a 2-fold change is observed across the different transcripts, as shown in **Figure 4**. The high and low confidence shown as error bars demonstrates extremely consistent and accurate

FIGURE 4. qPCR data show expected and consistent fold change.



Using a tissue mixing model, amplification of 5 ng of a 100% Placenta RNA sample vs. a 50% mix of Placental and Spleen RNA and consequent qPCR assays of a panel of 18 Placenta-specific genes showed that the expected 2 fold change is observed and maintained across the different transcripts. The right-most 4 genes in the graph are house-keeping genes, and the very right-most gene, RPL35-1 was used as a normalization gene.

fold change detection in amplified samples. RPL35-1 was used as a normalizer gene for the Ct data and M4-2, DAD1-1, and SEPT2-1 were all included as housekeeping genes, which showed consistent expression at a slightly higher level in Spleen.

Duplicate samples show high quality array metrics and high signal correlation and call concordance: Duplicate amplifications of 5 ng of HeLa RNA were performed, cDNAs were fragmented and labeled and hybridized to GeneChip arrays as described in the Methods section. **Table 1** shows the high quality array performance metrics obtained, with scaling factors, % present calls, background and 3'/5' ratios well within acceptable ranges. **Figure 5** shows the signal correlation of 0.994 and call concordance of 93.2% obtained from a set of duplicate amplifications from 5 ng of HeLa total RNA and analyzed on GeneChip arrays, demonstrating the high level of reproducibility and consistency in results obtained from amplified cDNA targets.

Conclusions

The data presented here demonstrate the robust, reproducible amplification obtained using the Ovation RNA Amplification System V2, using as little as 5 ng of total RNA input. These low input RNA requirements enable utilization of only a fraction of a minute and irreplaceable specimens, allowing researchers to conserve large portions of their original RNA samples. Robust cDNA yields from very small amounts of total RNA are critical for analysis of limiting clinical samples which are difficult to obtain, costly and often irreplaceable.

The Ovation RNA Amplification System V2's simple, fast and easy to automate process is ideal for high throughput discovery and clinical research applications, while the high level of sensitivity and specificity offered by the cDNA target yields excellent array results.

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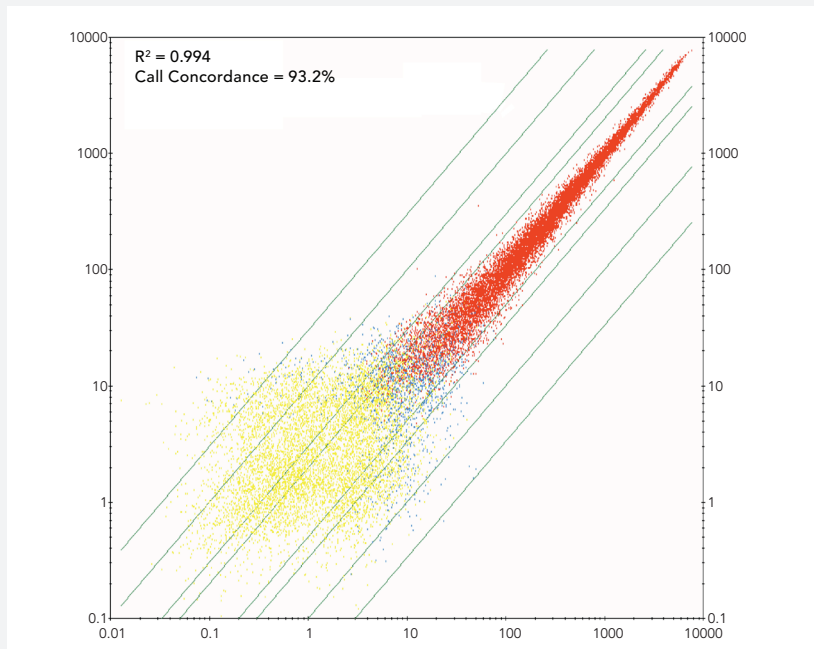
Tissue RNA	Ambion Catalog Number
Adipose	7956
Brain	7962
Breast	7952
Colon	7986
Heart	7966
Kidney	7976
Liver	7960
Lung	7968
Prostate	7988
Skeletal Muscle	7982

TABLE 1. Array metrics for duplicate samples.

Raw Q	Scaling Factor	Background	% Present	(3'/5') GAPDH	(3'/5') Actin
0.97	0.69	34.5	64.1	1.30	4.1
0.98	0.59	34.4	65.6	1.21	3.8

5 ng of HeLa RNA, amplified, fragmented and labeled in duplicate, and hybridized to GeneChip HG-U133A 2.0 Arrays, show robust and reproducible array metrics.

FIGURE 5. High reproducibility demonstrated by signal correlation and call concordance.



5 ng of HeLa RNA, amplified, fragmented and labeled in duplicate, as previously described show high signal correlations of R^2 of 0.994 and call concordance of 93.2% demonstrating very high level of reproducibility between independently processed samples.

Tecan Genomics, Inc.

Headquarters USA
 900 Chesapeake Drive
 Redwood City, CA 94063 USA
 Toll Free Tel: 888.654.6544
 Toll Free Fax: 888.296.6544
 cservice-gn@tecan.com
 techserv-gn@tecan.com

Europe
 P.O. Box 109
 9350 AC Leek
 The Netherlands
 Tel: +31-13-5780215
 Fax: +31-13-5780216
 europe-gn@tecan.com

Worldwide
 For our international distributors contact information, visit our website
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