

# Scalable and flexible rAAV production using a fully characterized novel HEK293 suspension cell line



Hinz SC, Kolcak Yasli P, Vona M, Bodenmann I, Perrenoud MA, Buchs R, Chollet B, Nanni L, Hov AK, Daveau R, Guzman E, Ley D, Schuepbach T, Fisch I and Mermod N. NewBiologix SA. Switzerland  
contact@newbiologix.com

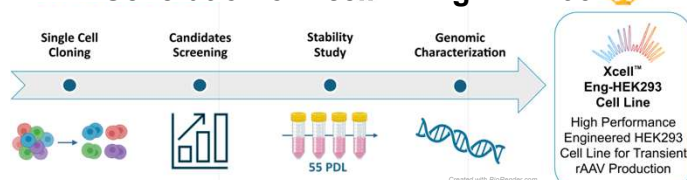
## Introduction

- HEK293 cells are the most commonly used rAAV production cell type.
- NewBiologix has developed its proprietary Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 cell line optimized for efficient plasmid transfection and rAAV production.
- Extensive genomic and phenotypic characterization have previously demonstrated the stability of Xcell™ Eng-HEK293.
- Previous results have also demonstrated the performance of Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 in rAAV in a variety of capsids and transgenes compared with other commercially available cell lines.

## Objective

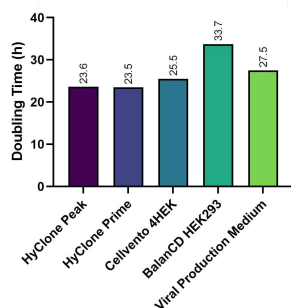
To demonstrate the scalability and flexibility of the Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 cell line for rAAV manufacturing in various commercial media formulations, culture volumes and bioreactor systems.

## Generation of Xcell™ Eng-HEK293



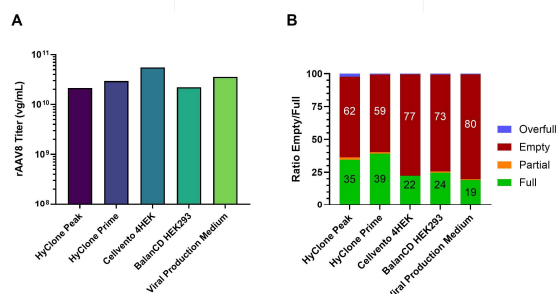
**Figure 1.** NewBiologix Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 cells were obtained following clonal selection and deep genotypic and phenotypic characterization.

## Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 is adaptable to various commercial media formulations



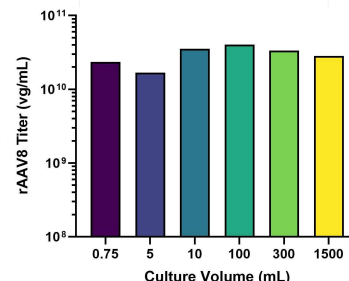
**Figure 2.** Doubling time of Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 cells in various commercial media formulations: HyClone Peak and Prime expression media (Cytiva), Cellvento 4HEK (Sigma-Aldrich), BalanCD HEK293 (Irvine Scientific) and Viral Production Medium (VPM, Gibco).

## Consistent rAAV8 production in Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 cultured in various commercial media



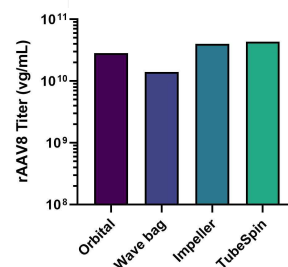
**Figure 3.** Consistent production of rAAV8 in Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 cultivated in various commercial media formulations. **A)** Crude rAAV8-GFP vector titers were determined by dPCR and expressed as the viral genome copy number per milliliter of cell culture and **B)** empty/full ratios of concentrated vectors produced in various media formulations assessed by mass photometry.

## Scalable rAAV production in Xcell™ Eng-HEK293



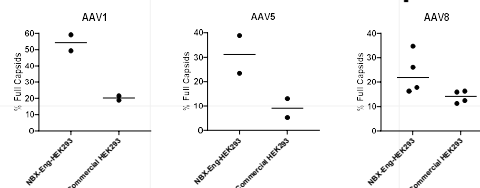
**Figure 4.** Consistent production of rAAV8-GFP production in Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 cells in various culture volumes. Cells were cultured in 24-well plates (0.75 mL), TubeSpins (5 and 10 mL) or shaker flasks (100, 300 and 1500 mL) using VPM (Gibco) and rAAV8-GFP was produced by the triple-plasmid transfection method. Vectors were harvested three days post-transfection and crude viral genome titers were quantified by dPCR.

## rAAV production in Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 is adaptable to various bioreactor formats



**Figure 5.** Consistent production of rAAV8-GFP production in Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 grown in Gibco's VPM using different bioreactor systems. Kuhner Orbital Shaker, Cytiva rocker/wave and Applikon stirred-tank systems were used to culture Eng-HEK293 cells in 1.5 L volumes and compared with 10 mL cultures. Transfections and vector productions were carried out in the same vessels. Vectors were harvested three days post-transfection and crude titers were quantified by dPCR.

## Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 consistently produce high amounts of full rAAV capsids



**Figure 6.** Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 consistently produced more full capsids compared to a leading commercial HEK293 cell line. Full capsids in affinity elutions were quantified by mass photometry.

## Conclusions

- NewBiologix has generated Xcell™ Eng-HEK293, a fully-characterized, clonal HEK293 cell line specifically for the production of viral vectors.
- We demonstrate that Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 is adaptable for growth in various commercial media formulations.
- rAAV production was evaluated in various media and bioreactor systems, demonstrating the flexibility of the cells.
- Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 consistently produced more full capsids compared with a leading commercial HEK293 cell line.
- Xcell™ Eng-HEK293 is available in both research-grade and GMP Master Cell Bank formats.

