

## OVERVIEW OF THE X-CLARITY TISSUE CLEARING PROCESS

### *STEP 1* Tissue Preparation

The sample is fixed in paraformaldehyde. Samples fixed in formalin may also be used. Blood must be removed prior to fixation to prevent autofluorescence.



### *STEP 2* Hydrogel Infusion & Polymerization

The sample is infused with hydrogel monomers and then heated to initiate radical polymerization, covalently linking the biomolecules in the tissue sample to a sturdy hydrogel network. This step preserves molecular information and structural integrity.



### *STEP 3* Tissue Clearing

Lipids are broken up through electrophoresis in the presence of ionic detergents, resulting in a transparent tissue-hydrogel hybrid that is chemically accessible for molecular phenotyping.



### *STEP 4* Antibody Labeling & Imaging

The sample is immunolabeled and placed in an RI matching solution prior to imaging to optimize transparency. The sample may be imaged with confocal or light sheet microscopes.



**Researcher Provided Steps**Step 1

- See sample preparation recommendations below.
- Samples should be provided to the AMCF in PBS.

Step 4 (antibody labeling)

- Post-tissue clearing, samples will be returned to researchers (in PBS) for antibody labeling (if needed).
- See antibody labeling reference materials below.
- The AMCF may assist with antibody labeling. Discuss individual needs with the AMCF Director.

**AMCF Provided Steps**Step 2

- Hydrogel infusion and polymerization will be performed following Logo's SOPs (tissue specific recommendations)

Step 3

- Tissue clearing will be performed following Logo's SOPs (tissue specific recommendations)
- If antibody labeling is needed, this should be performed by the researcher post-clearing. The AMCF may provide labeling of samples if researchers provide reagents and verify labeling strategy.
- Samples will be returned to researchers (in PBS) if performing their own labeling.

Step 4 (RIM, Imaging)

- The AMCF will provide researchers performing their own labeling with RIM media, if so desired.
- The AMCF will RIM incubate samples prior to imaging (> 12h).
- Samples should not be maintained in RIM for long periods of time as this may reduce fluorescence. Samples may be returned to PBS but may appear cloudy afterwards. Cloudiness can be reduced by returning to RIM with incubation at 37 °C for 12 – 24h. Cloudiness should not impact additional labeling or imaging (subsequent sectioning and re-imaging).
- Imaging is performed with assistance from AMCF staff. Researchers with high light sheet microscope usage needs may request training for independent use of this instrumentation. Discuss individual needs with the AMCF Director.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TISSUE FIXATION/PREPARATION FOR TISSUE CLEARING (STEP 1)**

## 1) Fix samples in 4% PFA.

A) Small/Thin Tissue Samples: Immerse in 4% PFA for 8 to 16 h.

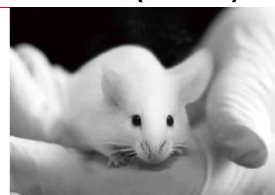
B) Large Tissues (Organs): Perfusion followed by 4% PFA immersion (24 h).  
Perfusion: Initial perfusion with 1X PBS followed by perfusion with 4% PFA.

C) Freshly Frozen

Thaw sample in ice cold 4% PFA and keep immersed for 24 – 36 h.

D) Fixed Samples in PFA or formalin, e.g. FFPE samples (no need for additional fixation)

## 2) Wash Samples in 1X PBS several times.

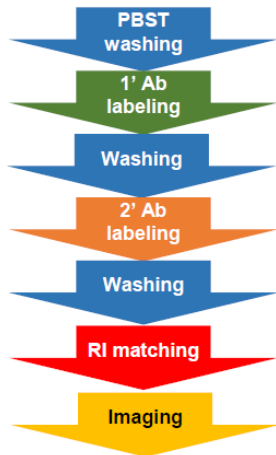
**Notes:**

Perfusion with b-acrylamide not necessary.

Larger samples may be sliced at this point.

Recommended to prepare fresh 4% PFA each time.

After fixation, may store in 1X PBS (4°C) for up to 3 mths.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TISSUE LABELING POST-TISSUE CLEARING (STEP 4)****Note:**

When post-labeling, best with  $\leq 2 - 3$  mm thick sections, for brain.

For denser tissues, recommended 1 – 2 mm thick sections.

1° Ab, work with 1:100 to 1:500 dilution from (1 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> stock).

2° Ab, 1:250 dilution from (1 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> stock).

Incubate at least ~ 48 h per 1 mm of tissue thickness per Ab. Whole brain may require  $\geq 2$  weeks. Lower concentrations (1:500) may require 3 – 7 days per mm.



***In a hydrogel-like matrix, the diffusion coefficient of intact IgG is reported to be  $1.1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ . Antibody incubation time will depend on various factors such as antibody size, concentration, quality, tissue type, and sample thickness.***

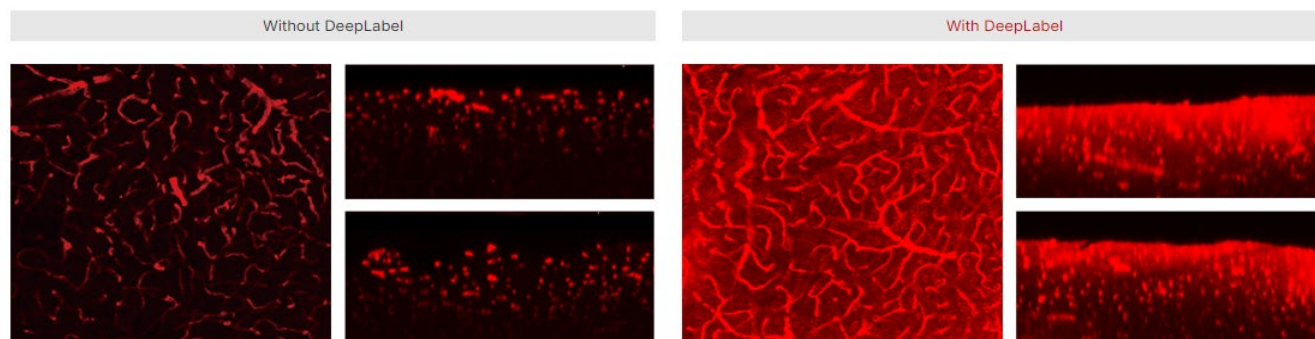
***Below is a general guideline.***

1. Incubate in a primary antibody solution (1:100 or higher in antibody dilution solution) at 37°C with gentle shaking.
2. Anti-collagen type IV is recommended as a positive control. Incubation time will depend on various factors and must be optimized.  
NOTE: For a 1 mm mouse brain slice, incubation will take at least two days with most antibodies. For a whole mouse brain, at least four weeks is required.
3. Rinse the sample several times with PBST at RT with gentle shaking. Replace with fresh PBST and wash for 2 hours/mm tissue thickness at RT with gentle shaking. Increase washing time if high background signal is observed.
4. Incubate the sample in a secondary antibody solution (1:100 or higher) for the same amount of time as the primary antibody in the dark at 37°C with gentle shaking.
5. Rinse the sample several times with PBST in the dark at RT with gentle shaking. Replace with fresh PBST and wash for 2 hours/mm tissue thickness in the dark at RT with gentle shaking.
6. Wash the sample three times with distilled water for 5 minutes each in the dark at RT with gentle shaking.
7. Incubate the sample in X-CLARITY™ Mounting Solution (RIM) for 1 hour in the dark at RT with gentle shaking. Replace with fresh X-CLARITY™ Mounting Solution and incubate for an additional 1-2 hours in the dark at RT with gentle shaking.

NOTE: Incubating samples in RI matching media (e.g. X-CLARITY<sup>™</sup> Mounting Solution) reduces the RI variations within cleared tissue and increases the level of transparency. It also helps with the RI alignment of the tissue samples, objective immersion media, and objectives, which is crucial for high resolution subcellular imaging.

#### Additional Notes:

- Directly conjugated antibodies may reduce non-specific binding but may also reduce fluorescence requirements for sufficient signal amplification for downstream imaging and analysis goals.
- [LOGOS/X-Clarity does offer a deep-label antibody staining kit](#) that may facilitate labeling of volumetric samples.



Adult mouse brain tissue stained with anti-Collagen IV (red) and imaged with a confocal microscope.

#### Antibodies Verified (LOGOS) to Label X-Clarity Cleared Tissues

Antigen	Species	Type/Clone	Antigen localization	Supplier	Cat #	Dilution
Acetylated tubulin	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Sigma	T7451	1:500
β-catenin	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	BD Biosciences	610153	1:500
β-Tubulin III (TUBB3)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	BioLegend	801201	1:350
β-Tubulin III (TUBB3)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Sigma	T8660	1:300
β-Tubulin III (TUBB3)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Sigma	T2200	1:300
Bcl-2	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm/Mitochondria	Santa Cruz	SC7382	1:250
Calbindin D-28k	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Swant	300	1:500
Calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP)	Goat	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Abcam	ab36001	1:300
Calretinin	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Swant	7697	1:500
Caveolin	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Membrane	Abcam	ab18199	1:300
CD133	Rat	Monoclonal	Membrane	Millipore	MAB4310	1:500
CD31	Rat	Monoclonal	Membrane	BD Biosciences	557355	1:500
c-Fos	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Nuclei	Santa Cruz	SC253	1:500
Choline acetyltransferase (ChAT)	Goat	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Millipore	AB144P	1:100
Cleaved caspase-3	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Cell Signaling	9661	1:500
2',3'-cyclic nucleotide 3'-phosphodiesterase (CNPase)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Membrane	Millipore	MAB326	1:300
2',3'-cyclic nucleotide 3'-phosphodiesterase (CNPase)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Membrane	Sigma	C5922	1:300
Collagen type IV	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Extracellular matrix	Abcam	AB6586	1:300
Collagen type III	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Extracellular matrix	Abcam	AB7778	1:300
Ctip2	Rat	Monoclonal	Nuclei	Abcam	AB18465	1:800
Doublecortin (DCX)	Goat	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Santa Cruz	SC8066	1:500
Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Membrane	Abcam	AB2430	1:500
γ-Aminobutyric acid (GABA)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Secretion	Sigma	A2052	1:500



Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Abcam	AB7260	1:800
Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Cell Signaling	3670	1:500
Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Dako	Z0334	1:500
Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)	Rat	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Thermo Fisher	130330	1:500
Glucose transporter 1 (GLUT1)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Membrane	Abcam	AB15309	1:800
Glutamic acid decarboxylase 67 (GAD67)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Millipore	MAB5406	1:500
GFP	Chicken	Polyclonal	-	Abcam	AB13970	1:500
GFP	Rabbit	Polyclonal	-	Abcam	AB290	1:300
Growth associated protein 43 (GAP43)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Abcam	AB16053	1:500
Heme oxygenase 1 (HO-1)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Endoplasmic reticulum	Abcam	AB13248	1:250
Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate 3-kinase A (IP3KA)	Goat	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Santa Cruz	SC11206	1:500
Ionized calcium binding adapter molecule 1 (Iba1)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Wako Chemicals	019-19741	1:500
Laminin	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Extracellular matrix	Sigma	L9393	1:500
Microtubule-associated protein 2 (MAP2)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Millipore	MAB3418	1:500
Microtubule-associated protein 2B (MAP2B)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	BD Biosciences	610460	1:500
Myelin basic protein (MBP)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Membrane	Abcam	AB40390	1:500
Myelin basic protein (MBP)	Chicken	Polyclonal	Membrane	Aves Labs	MBP	1:300
Nestin	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Millipore	MAB353	1:500
Neural cell adhesion molecule (NCAM)	Rabbit	Monoclonal	Membrane	Millipore	AB5032	1:250
Neurofilament H, non-phosphorylated (NFH)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	BioLegend	801701	1:500
Neurofilament H (NFH)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Cell Signaling	2836	1:300
Neurofilament M (NFM)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Santa Cruz	SC51683	1:500
Neuronal nuclear antigen (NeuN)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Nuclei	Millipore	MAB377	1:500
Neuron-glia antigen 2 (NG2)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Membrane	Millipore	AB5320	1:500
Nitric oxide synthase 1 (NOS1)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Membrane	Santa Cruz	SC648	1:250
Olfactory marker protein (OMP)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Thermo Fisher	OSP00001W	1:250
Oligodendrocyte lineage transcription factor 2 (Olig2)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Nuclei	IBL International	JP-18953	1:250
Oligodendrocyte lineage transcription factor 2 (Olig2)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Nuclei	Millipore	AB9610	1:300
O4	Mouse	Monoclonal	Membrane	Millipore	MAB345	1:250
Parvalbumin	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Millipore	MAB1572	1:500
Platelet-derived growth factor receptor (CD140a)	Rat	Monoclonal	Membrane	BD Biosciences	558774	1:500
Polysialic acid neural cell adhesion molecule (PSA-NCAM)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Membrane	Millipore	MAB5324	1:500
Postsynaptic density protein 95 (PSD95)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Membrane	Thermo Fisher	51-6900	1:500
Proliferating cell nuclear antigen (PCNA)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Nuclei	Santa Cruz	SC56	1:250
Regulated in development and DNA damage responses 1 (REDD1)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Membrane	Proteintech	10638-1-AP	1:250
RFP	Rabbit	Polyclonal	-	Abcam	AB62341	1:300
S100	Mouse	Monoclonal	Membrane	Sigma	S2532	1:500
Smooth muscle protein 22-alpha (SM22a)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Membrane	Abcam	AB14106	1:300
Special AT-rich sequence-binding protein 2 (SATB2)	Rabbit	Monoclonal	Nuclei	Abcam	AB34735	1:500

Trombospondin 1	Goat	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	R&D Systems	AF3074	1:500
Tropomyosin receptor kinase A (TrkA)	Goat	Polyclonal	Membrane	R&D Systems	AF1056	1:500
Tyrosine hydroxylase (TH)	Rabbit	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Millipore	AB152	1:300
Tyrosine hydroxylase (TH)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Cytoplasm	Santa Cruz	SC14007	1:250
Vesicular glutamate transporter 1 (VGLUT1)	Mouse	Monoclonal	Membrane	Synaptic Systems	135311	1:500
Vimentin	Goat	Polyclonal	Cytoplasm	Millipore	AB1620	1:300