

Cytokines for hematopoietic and immune cell research



Discount

Qk074	Recombinant human G-CSF protein	80%
Qk075	Recombinant human M-CSF protein	70%
Qk076	Recombinant human GM-CSF protein	45%
Qk077	Recombinant mouse SCF protein	45%
Qk078	Recombinant human SCF protein	40%
Qk083	Recombinant human TNF-α protein	50%
Qk087	Recombinant human Flt3L protein	50%
Qk089	Recombinant human IL-2 protein	40%
Qk090	Recombinant human IL-3 protein	60%
Qk092	Recombinant human IL-4 protein	45%
Qk093	Recombinant human IL-6 protein	35%
Qk095	Recombinant human IL-7 protein	60%
Qk097	Recombinant human IL-15 protein	40%
Qk098	Recombinant human TPO protein	50%
Qk099	Recombinant human EPO protein	50%
Qk100	Recombinant human IL-18 protein	60%
Qk101	Recombinant human IL-1β protein	50%
Qk119	Recombinant human IL-8 protein	70%

*until 31st March 2026, excludes Qk091 Recombinant human IL-34 PLUS™ protein

Qkine Limited and Akron Bio announce strategic partnership

Collaboration to Deliver High-Quality Cytokines and Growth Factors to Enable the Advancement of Stem Cell-Based Therapeutics

We're excited to announce our new partnership with [Akron Bio](#), a leading supplier of critical materials and services to the cell and gene therapy industry.

This strategic partnership will focus on the joint development and global supply of ancillary materials to enable the development of stem cell-based therapeutics.

Combining Qkine's proprietary growth factor and cytokine technologies with Akron's established GMP manufacturing capabilities and long-standing focus on providing solutions to cell and gene therapy developers. Together, we will accelerate the development and delivery of innovative, high-performance recombinant proteins essential for stem cell expansion, differentiation, and maturation, addressing the need for reliable, consistent, and scalable solutions in the rapidly evolving field of regenerative medicine.

Qkine's hematopoietic growth factors and cytokines critical for the manufacture of stem cell-based therapeutics will be made available globally and exclusively through Akron's commercial channels, thereby providing security of supply to innovators. Moreover, the two companies will partner to develop next-generation products aimed at supporting the automated production of cell therapies, thereby enabling greater access to these life-saving treatments.



Did you miss?

[Refined and benchmarked homemade media for cost-effective, weekend-free human pluripotent stem cell culture](#)

In this recently revised and expanded paper from our collaborators in the [Bertero lab](#), Truszkowski et al. have described a cost-effective homemade media recipe for the culture of human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs), taken with our recent application note [\[Commercial versus in-house media: a comparative study of human induced pluripotent stem cell maintenance\]](#) this adds to the evidence that homemade media using Qkine growth factors can be a suitable replacement for, or improvement on, commercially available media. The high cost of commercially available proprietary media and lack of transparency and flexibility can be a problem for academic labs and translational labs looking at scaling iPSC protocols.

[Application note: Commercial versus in-house media: A comparative study of human induced pluripotent stem cell maintenance](#)

Since their initial description, human iPSCs have transformed biomedical research by enabling patient-specific disease modeling and providing a renewable source of cells for drug screening and regenerative therapies. The maintenance of iPSCs in an undifferentiated and genetically stable state demands culture conditions that accurately replicate essential signaling environments while minimizing the use of undefined components. Early feeder-dependent systems relying on mouse embryonic fibroblasts have largely been replaced by feeder-free, chemically defined media, reducing variability and enhancing clinical applicability.

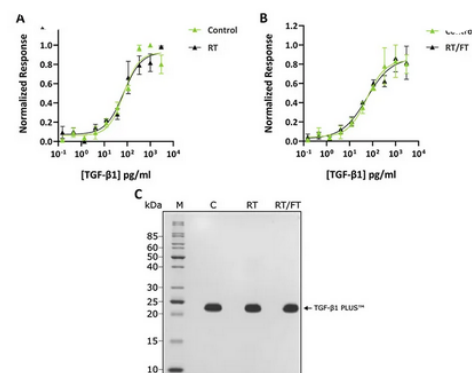
This [application note](#) directly compares the performance of selected commercially available iPSC media with in-house formulations. Key parameters assessed include cell morphology and proliferation rate. By systematically evaluating both types of media, we aim to provide practical insights for laboratories seeking to balance cost, performance, and experimental reproducibility in human iPSC culture systems.

New application note series: Stability of Qkine growth factors

Qkine manufactures high-purity, animal origin-free growth factors, cytokines and other complex proteins for life science applications including stem cell and organoid culture. Qkine is committed to sustainability in science and as part of this commitment we ship our proteins lyophilized and at ambient temperature. With shipping around the world becoming more complex, we've performed a series of tests to reassure our customers of the stability of our growth factors over an extended period.

In addition, recombinant growth factors and cytokines are essential components in the successful culture of stem cells and organoids for translational research. To preserve pluripotency, stem cells require exposure to consistent levels of specific growth factors and cytokines. The instability of recombinant protein media components can increase the need for frequent media changes to preserve cell conditions and this is costly.

We have developed a series of application notes to determine the stability of Qkine growth factors both in their lyophilized forms at various temperatures and storage times and once reconstituted in buffer or media at various temperatures.



Lyophilized TGF-β1 PLUS™ bioactivity remained stable for 14 days. Bioactivity was determined using a TGF-β1-responsive (CAGA) firefly luciferase reporter in transiently transfected HEK293T cells. Cells were treated in triplicate for 6 hours with a serial dilution of TGF-β1 PLUS™ (Qk010). (A) Stored at room temperature (RT, EC50 66.20 pg/ml) or -80 °C (control, EC50 72.59 pg/ml). (B) Stored at room temperature with freeze thaws (RT/FT, EC50 53.27 pg/ml) or -80°C (control, EC50 57.29 pg/ml). Firefly luciferase activity was measured and normalized. Data from Qk010 lot #204762.

Read more: <https://qkine.com/2026/01/28/pep-talk-jan-2026/>