



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**PURIFICATION OF HUMAN INTERFERON ALPHA-2b FROM  
*ESCHERICHIA COLI* USING AQUEOUS TWO-PHASE SYSTEMS**

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**By**

**LIN YU KIAT**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in  
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**Chairman : Professor Arbakariya bin Ariff, PhD**

**Faculty : Institute of Bioscience**

Interferon-alpha2b (IFN- $\alpha$ 2b) has very high market value since it can be used in treating many diseases. Nevertheless, the development of an efficient and cost-effective purification process has been referred as the important part of IFN production since the biopharmaceutical product cost relies much on the purification process. Aqueous two-phase systems (ATPSs) require simply low investment cost and capable to integrate the numerous conventional downstream processes into a single step. Thus, this experimental project focused on the design of different ATPSs to reduce the steps in purification, thereby increasing the yield and reducing the cost and time of production.

Purification of intracellular human recombinant IFN- $\alpha$ 2b from *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) using polyethylene glycol (PEG)/potassium phosphate ATPS was investigated. The influences of system parameters including PEG molecular weight, tie-line length (TLL), volume ratio ( $V_R$ ), biomass loading, pH system and sodium chloride (NaCl) concentration (%w/w) were studied. The results showed that the optimum condition for purification of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b was achieved at 4.0% (w/w) PEG-8000, 13.0% (w/w) potassium phosphate, 0.5% (w/w) NaCl,  $V_R$  of 0.2, pH 6.5 and 10% (w/w) crude load. A purification factor ( $P_{FT}$ ) of 26.3 and 40.7% recovery yield were achieved in the optimized process.

Furthermore, an alcohol/salt-based ATPS for the purification of intracellular human recombinant IFN- $\alpha$ 2b was studied. The influences of 9 biphasic systems comprising alcohol-based top phase (ethanol, 2-propanol and 1-propanol) and salt-based bottom phase (ammonium sulfate, potassium phosphate and sodium citrate) were investigated in IFN purification. The results showed that the optimum condition for purification of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b was achieved in ATPS of 2-propanol 18% (w/w) with ammonium sulfate 22% (w/w) system in the presence of 1.0% (w/w) NaCl. The purified IFN- $\alpha$ 2b recorded a  $P_{FT}$  of 16.24 with the yield of 74.64%.

The effectiveness of ATPS for the purification of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b was proven in this study. These ATPS purification methods provided alternative methods for IFN- $\alpha$ 2b purification. The  $P_{FT}$  result of PEG/ potassium phosphate ATPS is higher than the  $P_{FT}$  result recorded in alcohol/salts ATPS. Therefore, suggesting that the PEG/ potassium phosphate ATPS is the prominent method for IFN- $\alpha$ 2b purification.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENULENAN INTERFERON ALPHA-2b MANUSIA DARIPADA  
*ESCHERICHIA COLI* DENGAN SISTEM DUA-FASA AKUEUS**

Oleh

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Interferon-alpha2b (IFN- $\alpha$ 2b) mempunyai nilai pasaran sangat tinggi kerana ia boleh digunakan untuk mengubati banyak penyakit. Namun, pembangunan proses penulenan yang cekap dan kos rendah merupakan bahagian penting bagi pengeluaran produk IFN kerana kos pengeluaran produk biofarmaseutikal amat bergantung kepada proses penulenan. Penggunaan sistem dua-fasa akueus (SDFA) hanya memerlukan kos pelaburan yang rendah dan mampu mengintegrasikan pelbagai proses konvensional menjadi sebagai satu langkah. Maka, fokus projek ini ialah untuk mencipta pelbagai SDFA yang dapat mengurangkan langkah-langkah dalam penulenan, meningkatkan hasil dan mengurangkan kos.

Penulenan IFN- $\alpha$ 2b intraseluler manusia rekombinan dari *E. coli* menguna SDFA polietilena glikol (PEG)-kalium fosfat telah dikaji. Pengaruh parameter sistem termasuk berat molekul PEG, kepanjangan garis pakatan (KGP), nisbah isipadu, biojisim dimasuk, sistem pH dan konsentrasi natrium klorida (NaCl) (% b/b) telah diuji. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa keadaan optimum untuk penulenan IFN- $\alpha$ 2b dicapai pada 4.0% (b/b) PEG-8000, 13.0% (b/b) fosfat kalium, 0.5% (b/b) NaCl, 0.2V<sub>R</sub>, dan 10% (b/b) biojisim dalam pH 6.5. Faktor penulenan (P<sub>FT</sub>) sebanyak 26.3 dan 40.7% hasil pemulihan telah dicapai dalam keadaan optimum.

Selain itu, penulenan intraselular manusia rekombinan IFN- $\alpha$ 2b oleh SDFA alkohol/garam telah dikaji. Penulenan IFN telah diuji dengan 9 sistem terdiri daripada fasa atas yang berasaskan alkohol (etanol, 2-propanol dan 1-propanol) dan fasa bawah yang berasaskan garam (amonium sulfat, fosfat kalium dan natrium sitrat). Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa keadaan optimum untuk penulenan IFN- $\alpha$ 2b dicapai dalam sistem SDFA yang terdiri daripada 18% (b/b) 2-propanol dengan 22% (b/b) amonium sulfat, dan 1.0% (b/b) NaCl. Keputusan P<sub>FT</sub> sebanyak 16.24 dengan penghasilan setinggi 74.64% telah dicapai.

Keberkesanan SDFA untuk penulenan IFN- $\alpha$ 2b telah terbukti dalam kajian ini. Kaedah-kaedah SDFA ini telah memberi kaedah alternatif penulenan IFN- $\alpha$ 2b. Keputusan P<sub>FT</sub> sistem SDFA PEG / kalium fosfat adalah lebih tinggi daripada keputusan yang dicatat dalam sistem SDFA alkohol/ garam. Maka, sistem SDFA PEG / kalium fosfat dipercayai cara yang menonjol untuk penulenan IFN- $\alpha$ 2b dalam kajian ini.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 16.12.2011 to conduct the final examination of Lin Yu Kiat on his thesis entitled “Purification of Human Interferon Alpha-2b from *Escherichia coli* using Aqueous Two-Phase Systems” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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## DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.



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**LIN YU KIAT**

Date: 16 December 2011

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	ii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iv
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	vi
<b>APPROVAL</b>	viii
<b>DECLARATION</b>	ix
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xiii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	xv
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xvi
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
1 <b>INTRODUCTION</b>	1
2 <b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	4
2.1 Interferons	4
2.1.1 History of IFN	4
2.1.2 Classification of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b	4
2.1.3 The mechanism of IFN against viruses	5
2.1.4 Uses of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b	6
2.1.5 Cloning of recombinant IFN- $\alpha$ 2b	7
2.2 Cell disruption technique - osmotic shock	8
2.3 Quantification of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b	10
2.4 Purification of IFNs by ATPS	11
2.5 Aqueous two-phase system	12
2.5.1 Advantages of ATPS	14
2.5.2 Preparation of ATPS	15
2.5.3 Phase diagram	15
2.6 Types of ATPS	17
2.6.1 Polymer/salt ATPS	17
2.6.2 Alcohol/salt ATPS	19
2.7 Applications of ATPS	19
2.8 Concluding remarks	20
3 <b>USE OF POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL/PHOSPHATE AQUEOUS TWO-PHASE SYSTEM TO PURIFY HUMAN INTERFEON ALPHA-2b FROM RECOMBINANT ESCHERICHIA COLI</b>	22
3.1 Introduction	22
3.2 Materials and methods	23
3.2.1 Materials	23

	3.2.2	Fermentation of recombinant <i>E. coli</i>	23
	3.2.3	Cell disruption	23
	3.2.4	ATPS	24
	3.2.5	Quantification of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b	25
	3.2.6	Protein analysis	26
	3.2.7	Sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)	26
	3.3	Results and discussion	28
	3.3.1	Effects of PEG Molecular weight and TLL on $P_{FT}$	28
	3.3.2	Effect of $V_R$ on $P_{FT}$	32
	3.3.3	Effect of pH on $P_{FT}$	33
	3.3.4	Effect of biomass loading on $P_{FT}$	35
	3.3.5	Effect of NaCl on $P_{FT}$	36
	3.3.6	Purification of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b from recombinant <i>E. coli</i> cell culture	37
	3.3.7	Purity of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b (SDS-PAGE analysis)	38
	3.4	Conclusion	39
4		<b>USE OF ALCOHOL/SALT-BASED AQUEOUS TWO-PHASE SYSTEM TO PURIFY HUMAN INTERFEON ALPHA-2b FROM RECOMBINANT <i>ESCHERICHIA COLI</i></b>	40
	4.1	Introduction	40
	4.2	Materials and methods	41
	4.2.1	Materials	41
	4.2.2	Fermentation of recombinant <i>E. coli</i>	41
	4.2.3	Cell disruption	41
	4.2.4	ATPS	41
	4.2.5	Analytical procedures	42
	4.2.6	SDS-PAGE	42
	4.3	Results and discussion	42
	4.3.1	Phase diagram of alcohol/salt ATPS	42
	4.3.2	Selection of alcohol/salt ATPS	42
	4.3.3	Optimization of 2-propanol/ammonium sulphate ATPS	44
	4.3.4	The effect of NaCl on $P_{FT}$ of IFN- $\alpha$ 2b	46
	4.3.5	SDS-PAGE analysis of purified IFN- $\alpha$ 2b from ATPS extraction	47
	4.4	Conclusion	48
5		<b>GENERAL DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH</b>	50
	5.1	General discussion	50
	5.2	General conclusions	54
	5.3	Recommendations for future research	55

<b>REFERENCES</b>	57
<b>APPENDIX A: DATA</b>	66
<b>APPENDIX B: CALCULATION</b>	68
<b>APPENDIX C: PROTOCOLS</b>	69
<b>APPENDIX D: SPSS STATISTICAL ANALYSIS</b>	70
<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	72
<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	73

