

ABSOLUTE CARVED IN STONE REQUIREMENTS FOR LABELING TUBES OF DNA IN THE BJORKLAB

(Why?...Regrettable absence of psychic ability among the Bjorkpeople... Weeks (literally weeks, I'm not kidding) spent trying to decipher the mystic markings on tubes of DNA left by previous lab members and/or redoing things due to incorrect decoding... Grouchiness induced by this waste of time... Additional grouchiness induced by comments such as "well, I knew what things were by where they were in the rack" and "if you want to know the concentration you can just run it on a gel"... If you don't do this we will forcibly eject you from the lab and throw your notebook on a bonfire....)

So, write on EVERY tube:

1. The date.

2. Your initials.

The page to refer to in your notebook would actually also be extremely helpful, but the truth is nobody has ever done this so far (except Pamela). (Pamela made me put that in.) However, please make sure that the date can lead some one simply and directly to a part of your notebook containing interpretable information about the DNA in the tube.

3. The name of the DNA AND the vector it's in.

Please be as specific as space allows, i.e. for the name of the insert "FcRn 184" is better than just "184", and "FcRn mut 184" is better still.

It's also vitally important to include the name of the vector, and to be specific. E.g. if it's pBluescript, there are four versions, so write "BSKS+", "BSKS-", "BSSK+" or "BSSK-". Not having this clearly labeled has caused countless hours of confusion (you have to know this to do mutagenesis or decide which restriction enzymes to use). If you were handed a tube of something to start working with and you're not sure which it is, and/or you find the whole Bluescript thing hopelessly confusing, don't be embarrassed to ask! It is **NOT** intuitively obvious (postdocs have been known to simply refuse to figure it out). Also, if you think what you have is in BSKS+, for example, because some one told you so, go ahead and write in your notebook who told you - why take the fall when they turn out to be wrong?

Pamela's Law: SAVE all constructs in Bluescript as well as constructs in expression vectors.

4. DNA concentration. If it's miniprep DNA, write "m.p" instead.

5. Label the side of the tube and also write as much of this info on the top as will fit (at least DNA name and vector). Put Scotch tape over the label on the side to prevent it getting rubbed off. If it's easier, we have both side and top stick-on labels you can write on with a ball-point pen.

Bless you my child, and may good karma follow you through many lifetimes.