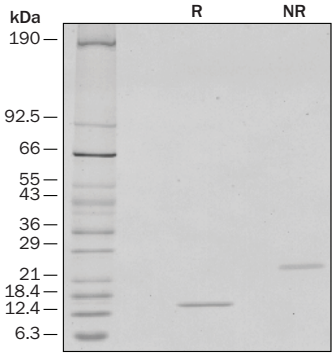
Proteins for TGF-β Superfamily Research

The R&D Systems selection of TGF-β superfamily proteins has several distinguishing features that make them the most reputable in the industry.

Ligands are Dimerized for Maximum Bioactivity

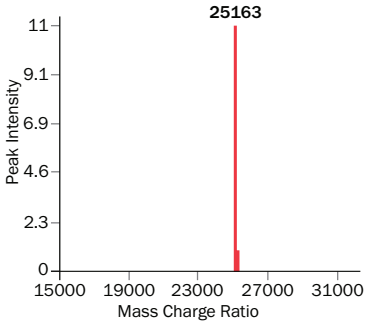
All of our ligands are produced and tested with rigorous quality standards to guarantee that they form bioactive homo- or heterodimers.



Activin A Dimerization Verified by SDS-PAGE. 1 µg/lane of Recombinant Human/Mouse/Rat Activin A (Catalog # 338-AC) was resolved with SDS-PAGE. Under reducing (**R**) conditions the Activin A monomer is shown as a 14 kDa band. Under non-reducing (**NR**) conditions the Activin A homodimer resolves as a 24 kDa band.

World Class Purity for Worry-Free Experimentation

Our proteins are highly pure and, at minimum, must meet our industry-leading endotoxin specification (< 0.1 EU/µg).



GDF-11/BMP-11 Purity Confirmed by Mass Spectrometry. ESI analysis of Recombinant Human/Mouse/Rat GDF-11/BMP-11 (Catalog # 1958-GD) shows a peak at 25163 Da, corresponding to the calculated molecular mass of the disulfide linked homodimer, 25163 kDa.

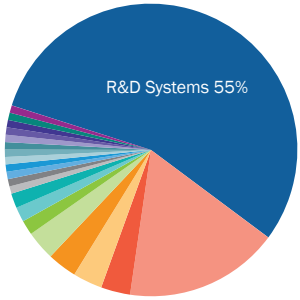
Bulk Availability

All of our proteins are available for bulk purchase. Stock up and...

- Get high quality proteins for a low price
- Maintain a reliable supply of industry standard reagents
- Have confidence in experimental consistency

Most Referenced

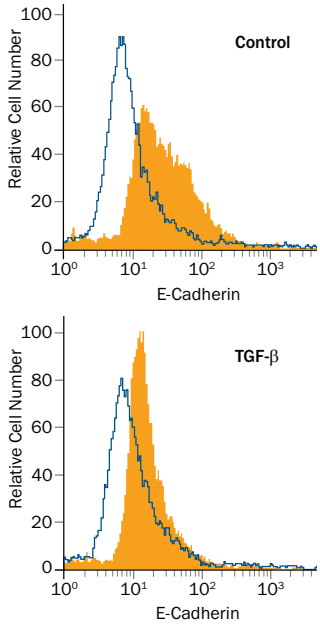
R&D Systems recombinant TGF-β superfamily proteins are the most cited in scientific literature.



A literature survey of 1,125 manuscripts containing 15,180 product citations from 16 different journals related to cancer, immunology, neuroscience, and stem cells was conducted. Within this data, 1,586 total protein citations were identified with 123 related to the TGF-β superfamily. Of those, R&D Systems was the most referenced source (55% of the total cited proteins). The remaining 45% of TGF-β protein citations were distributed across 20 other companies, with contributions ranging between 1% and 17% of the total TGF-β protein citations found during this survey.

Tested in Biologically-Relevant Systems

Each TGF-β superfamily protein is tested in an appropriate biological system to accurately determine its functional efficacy.



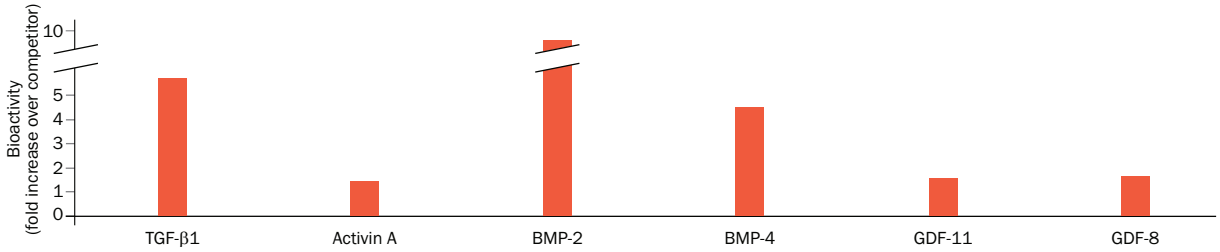
TGF-β1 Induces Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition. Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) was induced in the A549 human lung carcinoma cell line with cell culture media supplemented with Recombinant Human (rh)TGF-β1 (Catalog # 240-B). Control cells were cultured without rhTGF-β1. EMT induction was confirmed at 48 h by flow cytometric staining for E-Cadherin (filled; Catalog # FAB18381P), an epithelial cell marker, or an isotype control (open; Catalog # IC0041P). TGF-β1 decreased the expression of E-Cadherin.

Cover image depicts the secondary structure of homodimeric human TGF-β1. Graphic was generated using PyMOL molecular graphics (www.pymol.org) from RCSB Protein Data Bank file 3KFD. Referenced from Radaev *et al.* (2010) J. Biol. Chem. **285**:14806. The biological processes listed are placed for artistic purposes only and do not reflect the specific function of the associated TGF-β structure.

Superior Bioactivity

Recombinant TGF-β Superfamily Ligands

Molecule	TGF-β1	Activin A	BMP-2	BMP-4	GDF-11/BMP-11	GDF-8
Species	Human,* Mouse	Human, Mouse, Rat	Human, Mouse, Rat	Human,* Mouse	Human, Mouse, Rat	Human, Mouse, Rat
ED_{50}	0.04–0.2 ng/mL	0.2–1.2 ng/mL	40–200 ng/mL	2.5–15 ng/mL	1–4 ng/mL	2–10 ng/mL
Catalog #	240-B, 7666-MB	338-AC	355-BM	314-BP, 5020-BP	1958-GD	788-G8
Available as GMP-grade	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Coming Soon	Yes



R&D Systems Recombinant TGF-β1, Activin A, BMP-2, BMP-4, GDF-11, and GDF-8 Exhibit 1.5-fold or Higher Bioactivity Compared to the Competitor. Side-by-side bioassays were performed using R&D Systems proteins and those from another manufacturer. The fold-difference in bioactivity (Competitor ED_{50}/ R&D Systems ED_{50}) was determined and plotted.
*Data for Recombinant Human TGF-β1 and BMP-4 bioactivity are shown in this graph.

ProDots™ Proteins: Simplifying Cell Culture

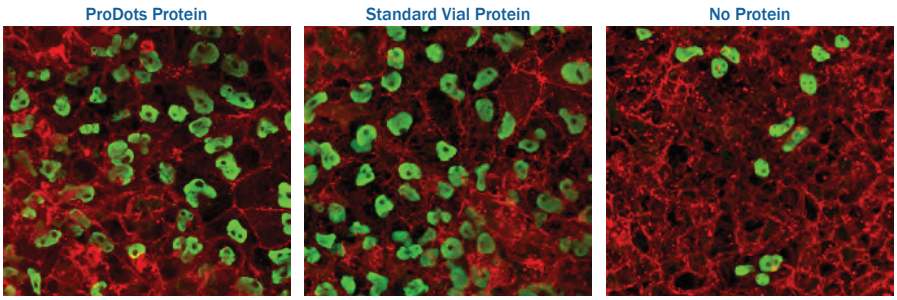
ProDots Proteins are R&D Systems industry-leading quality, highly bioactive proteins packaged into easy-to-use lyophilized "dots."

- Easily rolls out of vial and into cell culture media
- Dissolves instantly
- Maximum protein recovery
- Guaranteed stability at 2–8 °C for 6 months

LEARN MORE
rndsystems.com/ProDots

TGF-β Superfamily ProDots Proteins

Molecule	Catalog #
TGF-β1	PRD240
Activin A	PRD338

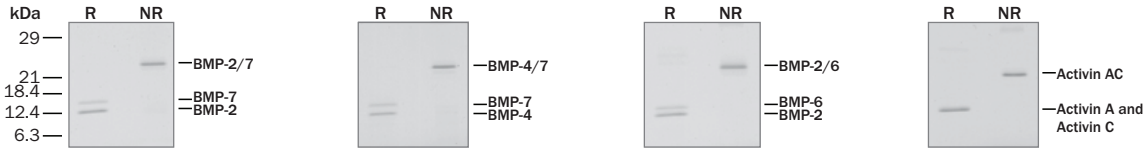


ProDots Recombinant Human/Mouse/Rat Activin A Promotes the Differentiation of Pluripotent Stem Cells into Endoderm. BG01V human embryonic stem cells were differentiated into endoderm using media supplemented with ProDots Recombinant Human/Mouse/Rat Activin A (Catalog # PRD338) or with R&D Systems standard retail Recombinant Human/Mouse/Rat Activin A (Catalog # 338-AC). Control cells were cultured in medium without recombinant Activin A. Differentiation into endoderm was confirmed by positive-staining for Claudin-6 (red) and Sox17 (green) using the Mouse Anti-Human Claudin-6 Monoclonal Antibody (Catalog # MAB3656) and the Goat Anti-Human Sox17 Polyclonal Antibody (Catalog # AF1924), respectively. BG01V human embryonic stem cells are licensed from ViaCyte, Inc.

Proteins for TGF-β Superfamily Research, continued

TGF-β Superfamily Heterodimers: Exclusive Availability

Molecule	BMP-2/7	BMP-4/7	BMP-2/6	Activin AC
Species	Human	Human	Human	Human
ED_{50}	10–40 ng/mL	15–75 ng/mL	4–20 ng/mL	0.8–4 nM
Catalog #	3229-BM	3727-BP	7145-BP	4879-AC



BMP and Activin Heterodimer Formation Confirmed with SDS-PAGE. Recombinant Human (rh)BMP-2/BMP-7, rhBMP-4/7, rhBMP-2/6, and rhActivin AC protein are manufactured and shipped as bioactive, disulfide-linked heterodimers. SDS-PAGE of each protein under non-reducing (**NR**) conditions shows the molecular weight (**kDa**) of the intact heterodimer. Under reducing (**R**) conditions the heterodimers separate into monomers as indicated on each respective SDS-PAGE. Under reducing conditions, the intensities of the silver stain for the heterodimer subunits reflect the differential staining affinity of the individual protein subunits.

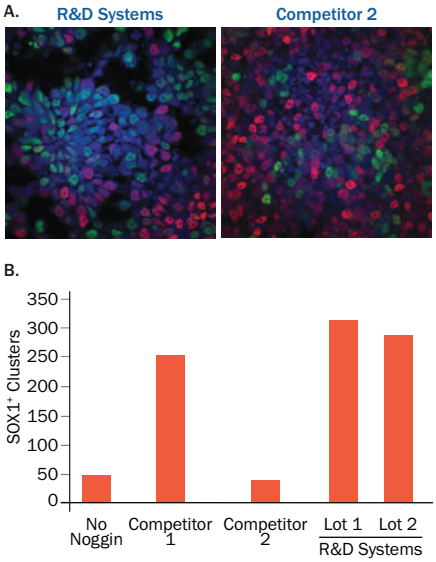
Additional Select TGF-β Superfamily Ligands, Receptors, and Regulators

Ligands	
Activin B	Human, Mouse[New!]
Activin AB	Human
Activin C	Human, Mouse
BMP-3	Human
BMP-5	Human, Mouse
BMP-6	Human, Mouse
BMP-7	Human,[New!] Mouse
BMP-9	Human, Mouse
BMP-10	Human, Mouse
BMP-15	Human
GDF-1	Human
GDF-3	Human, Mouse
GDF-5	Human,[New!] Mouse
GDF-6	Mouse
GDF-7	Human, Mouse
GDF-9	Human, Mouse
GDF-15	Human[New!]
GDNF	Human, Rat
LAP (TGF-β1)	Human
Inhibin A	Human,[New!] Mouse[New!]
Nodal	Human, Mouse
TGF-β2	Human,[New!] Mouse
TGF-β3	Human*[New!]

*A new version expressed in mammalian cells (Catalog # 8420-B3)

Receptors	
Activin RIA	Human, Mouse
Activin RIB	Human, Mouse
Activin RIIA	Human, Mouse
Activin RIIB	Human, Mouse
ALK-1	Human, Mouse
BMPR-IA/ALK-3	Human, Mouse
BMPR-IB/ALK-6	Human, Mouse
BMPR-II	Human, Mouse
Endoglin	Human, Mouse, Rat
TGF-β RI/ALK-5	Human, Mouse
TGF-β RII	Human,[New!] Mouse[New!]
TGF-β RIII	Human, Mouse

Regulators	
BAMBI/NMA	Human, Mouse[New!]
Chordin	Mouse
Chordin-like 1	Human
Chordin-like 2	Mouse
COCO	Human, Mouse
Cripto	Human, Mouse
Decorin	Human, Mouse
Follistatin	Human, Mouse
GASP-1, 2	Human
Gremlin	Human, Mouse
Noggin	Human, Mouse
PRDC/GREM2	Human,[New!] Mouse[New!]
SOST/Sclerostin	Human, Mouse
TSG	Human, Mouse



Superior and Consistent Pluripotent Stem Cell Differentiation with R&D Systems Recombinant Human Noggin. BG01V human embryonic stem cells were cultured in Mouse Embryonic Fibroblast Conditioned Media supplemented with FGF basic (5 ng/mL). Stem cells were driven into early cells of the neuroectoderm using a 3 day incubation in recombinant human Noggin (25 µg/mL) from either R&D Systems (Lot 1, Lot 2; Catalog # 6057-NG) or from two separate competitors (Competitor 1, Competitor 2). Control cells were not incubated in Noggin (No Noggin). The cells were stained for the early ectoderm marker, Otx2, and the neuroectoderm marker, SOX1. (**A**) Representative images of SOX1 (green), Otx2 (red), and DAPI (blue) staining in embryonic stem cells differentiated with Noggin from R&D Systems or Noggin from Competitor 2. (**B**) $SOX1^+$ clusters were quantified under each of the indicated culture conditions. Cells treated with R&D Systems Noggin showed an increase in $SOX1^+$ cells compared to both untreated and competitor-treated cells. R&D Systems Noggin showed consistent differentiation across the lots tested. BG01V human embryonic stem cells are licensed from ViaCyte, Inc.

TGF-β Superfamily Signaling

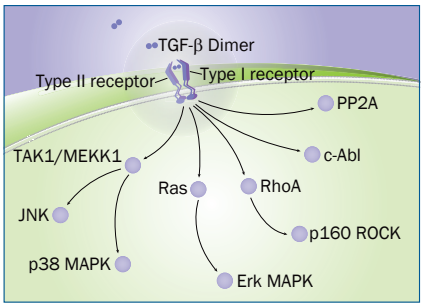
TGF-β ligands activate SMAD-dependent pathways to regulate tissue development and homeostasis, including cell proliferation, differentiation, inflammation, angiogenesis, and epithelial to mesenchymal transition. The diverse actions of the TGF-β superfamily are also due, in part, to the recruitment of SMAD-independent signaling pathways.

SMAD-Dependent Signaling

Receptor and SMAD Preference

Ligand	Type II Receptor	Type I Receptor	R-Smad	Co-Receptor	**Regulating Molecules** (Sharing interaction with ligand)
TGF-β	TGF-β RII	ALK-5	Smad2/3	Betaglycan (TGF-β2✦) Endoglin (ALK-1 specific) CD109	α_2-Macroglobulin, BAMBI/NMA✶, Biglycan, BMP-1, Cripto✶, Decorin, Dermatopontin, KCP/Crim2, LAP, LTBPs, Soluble Betaglycan, Soluble TGF-β RII, Tolloid, Vasorin
		ALK-2	Smad1/5/8		
		ALK-1			
Activin	Act RII/IIB	ALK-4	Smad2/3		Activin AB/BC/AE/CE, BAMBI/NMA✶, Coco, Cripto, DAN, Endoglin, FLRG, Follistatin, Inhibin-Betaglycan✶, KCP/Crim2
		ALK-2	Smad1/5/8		
Inhibin	Act RII/IIB			Betaglycan✦	
	BMP RII/IIB				
BMP	BMP RII	ALK-1 ALK-2 ALK-3 ALK-6	Smad1/5/8	RGM-A/-B/-C	BAMBI/NMA✶, BMP-1, Caronte, Cerebrus, Chordin-Tsg, Chordin-like 1, Chordin-like 2, Coco, CRIM1, Endoglin, FLRG, Follistatin, FSTL4, Gremlin, Inhibin-Betaglycan✶, KCP/Crim2, Nodal-BMP-7, Noggin, Noggin-SOST, PRDC, Soluble ALK-3, SOST, USAG-1
	Act RII/IIB	ALK-4 ALK-5 ALK-7	Smad2/3		
		ALK-2	Smad1/5/8		
GDF	BMP RII	ALK-5	Smad2/3	Cripto (GDF-1/3)✦	Cryptic, DAN, Follistatin, GASP-1, GASP-2, Pro-peptide (GDF-8,-11)
		ALK-6	Smad1/5/8		
	Act RIIB	ALK-4 ALK-5	Smad2/3		
		ALK-6	Smad1/5/8		
Nodal	Act RI/IIB	ALK-4 ALK-7	Smad2/3	Cripto✦	BMP7-Nodal, Cerebrus, DAN, Lefty, TMEFF1
Lefty	Act RI/IIB			Cripto (+Nodal)✦	
MIS	MIS RII	ALK-2 ALK-3 ALK-6	Smad1/5/8	**Abbreviations:** ALK - Activin-like kinase, BAMBI - BMP and activin membrane-bound inhibitor, CV-2 - Crossveinless-2, FLRG - Follistatin-related gene, FSTL4 - Follistatin-like 4, GASP - Growth and differentiation factor-associated serum protein, IGSF1 - Immunoglobulin superfamily member 1, KCP - Kielin/chordin-like protein, LTBPs - Latent TGF-β binding proteins, MIS - Müllerian inhibiting substance, Tsg - Twisted gastrulation, PRDC - Protein related to DAN and cerberus, SOST - Sclerostin, TMEFF1 - Tomoregulin-1, TSK - Tsukushi, USAG-1 - Uterine sensitization-associated gene-1. **Note:** The GDNF family utilizes a Receptor Tyorosine Kinase (RET) for signal transduction and is not included in the chart above.	
Key: ✦ Required ✶ Membrane-based					

SMAD-Independent Signaling



TGF-β superfamily ligands can activate a number of Smad-independent signaling pathways, including Ras/MAPK, PI 3-K/Akt, p38, JNK, and RhoA/ROCK in a cell type-specific and context-dependent manner. Activation of these pathways contributes to the variety of cellular responses induced by TGF-β superfamily members.

bio-techne®
Global info@bio-techne.com techsupport@bio-techne.com
North America TEL 800 343 7475
Europe | Middle East | Africa TEL +44 (0)1235 529449
China info.cn@bio-techne.com TEL +86 (21) 52380373
Rest of World bio-techne.com/find-us/distributors TEL +1 612 379 2956
bio-techne.com