# METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY™

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# The Myc Gene

### **Methods and Protocols**

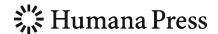
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### **Preface**

Many brilliant scientists have been working on Myc since its discovery 30 years ago, providing tremendous and invaluable insights into its mechanism of action. However, after a quarter of a century, this infamous pleiotropic transcription factor still represents a challenging but rewarding area of research. Myc controls multiple cellular functions, including cell proliferation, growth, differentiation, and death, both directly and indirectly, through its modulation of downstream transcriptional programs. Such secondary programs not only ramify into all aspects of cell and tissue biology but they also feed back in a context and cell-type specific way to modulate how Myc acts. Despite its wide variety of physiological functions, Myc is mostly known for the role it plays in the development of cancer. Indeed, Myc over-expression or deregulation is associated with more than half of human cancers—a number that is possibly an underestimation. Because of its crucial role in governing intracellular and extracellular aspects of tumorigenesis, Myc represents an obvious and provocative candidate for targeted cancer therapy.

In this book *Myc: Methods and Protocols*, experts in the field summarize the standard and novel techniques that allow the studying of Myc mechanism of action in normal and cancer cells, in vitro and in vivo, in one succinct manual. It also offers a glance at therapeutic approaches for targeting Myc, which will potentially translate soon into clinical applications. This book is directed to biochemists, cell biologists, molecular biologists, medical doctors, and any researcher who is interested in exploring the Myc world. Chapters include introductions to their respective topics, lists of the necessary materials and reagents, step-by-step readily reproducible laboratory protocols, and tips on troubleshooting and avoiding known pitfalls.

This book has been made possible by the wonderful contribution of several colleagues in the Myc field, whose work has been invaluable. To them goes our deepest gratitude for making this project so enjoyable. We would also like to thank our day-to-day laboratory colleagues and friends for their encouragement and moral support. Finally, our warmest welcome goes to those readers who, thanks to this book, will start the fascinating trip into the Myc world. The adventure has just begun!

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# **Contents**

	face	
Cor	ntributors	13
1	The Myc World Within Reach	]
2	Methods for the Expression, Purification, Preparation, and Biophysical Characterization of Constructs of the c-Myc and Max b-HLH-LZs	7
3	Analyzing Myc in Cell Transformation and Evolution	2]
4	Identifying Myc Interactors	5]
5	Detection of c-Myc Protein–Protein Interactions and Phosphorylation Status by Immunoprecipitation	65
6	An Efficient Way of Studying Protein–Protein Interactions Involving HIF-α, c-Myc, and Sp1  Kenneth KW. To and L. Eric Huang	77
7	Methods for Determining Myc-Induced Apoptosis	85
8	Methods to Study Myc-Regulated Cellular Senescence	99
9	Chromatin Immunoprecipitation Assays for Myc and N-Myc	117
10	Methods to Quantify microRNAs in the Myc Gene Network for Posttranscriptional Gene Repression	135
11	Genome-Wide Analysis of c-MYC-Regulated mRNAs and miRNAs, and c-MYC DNA Binding by Next-Generation Sequencing	145
12	A High-Throughput siRNA Screening Platform to Identify MYC-Synthetic Lethal Genes as Candidate Therapeutic Targets	187

13	Investigating Myc-Dependent Translational Regulation in Normal and Cancer Cells	201
	John T. Cunningham, Michael Pourdehnad, Craig R. Stumpf, and Davide Ruggero	
14	Studying Myc's Role in Metabolism Regulation	213
15	Generation of a Tetracycline Regulated Mouse Model of MYC-Induced T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	221
16	Methods to Assess Myc Function in Intestinal Homeostasis, Regeneration, and Tumorigenesis	237
17	Detection of <i>c-myc</i> Amplification in Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Tumor Tissue by Chromogenic In Situ Hybridization (CISH)	249
18	Cell-Based Methods for the Identification of MYC-Inhibitory Small Molecules  Catherine A. Burkhart, Michelle Haber, Murray D. Norris, Andrei V. Gudkov, and Mikhail A. Nikiforov	255
Ina	dex	265

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