What is viability? What do you measure?

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What is a viability assay

- A viability assay provides evidence a cell is "alive".
 - Membrane is intact
 - Active enzymes are present
 - Cell function observed
 - RNA levels not indicative of stress
- Viability is an interpretation of a measurand value
- Measurement assurance is only related to the measurand value.

List of viability assays

- ATP assay
- MTS/MTT/XTP/Resazurin
- Calcein AM/fluorescein diacetate
- Ethidium Br/Propidium Iodide/Trypan blue/Evans Blue/Neutral Red
- Lactate dehydrogenase
- Flow cytometry/apoptosis
- Cell size and mass

What do you measure for viability?



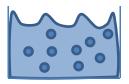
1. Sample



2. Rinse

Example Measurands

- 1. Fluorescence intensity from a cell or nuclei
- 2. Fluorescence intensity from well solution
- 3. Absorbance in a cell
- 4. Absorbance from a well solution
- 5. Photon intensity from a well solution
- 6. Light scattering and fluorescence intensity per cell
- 7. others



- 3. Add reagents
- 4. measure

Question: What else could we measure to provide evidence that our measurand value is correct?