

The primary goal of CIBIO's HTS core facility is to enable internal and external researchers to perform small molecule/siRNA screenings.

1. Facility responsibility

The HTS facility provides the compound libraries both in 96 well plate format and in single-tube format for cherry picking. The staff advise/support researchers on assay development strategies, assay optimisation for automation, and data analysis, and perform all steps that require automation. All other stages of a screening (including reagent and cell preparation, data analysis) are the responsibility of the researcher.

2. Screening application

An application form (Application for High Throughput Screening at CIBIO's HTS facility) must be requested from the facility staff. The completed form, containing preliminary details about the screening proposal, must be sent to the Director and to the responsible for the facility.

An initial meeting will be held with the Director and the facility staff, to review the screening project and discuss scientific goals, strategy, feasibility and facility capabilities in detail. Relevant biosafety, costs coverage and human resource issues will be evaluated, as well as possible co-authorship and IP issues.

3. Written protocol

A screening protocol is required for the next stage: the protocol should include specifics such as plate format (96-384 well plate preferably), reagent type and volumes, steps involved, type of readout, etc. It should also include a description of what is considered a positive and a negative in the assay.

4. Screening schedule

Screening optimisation is a long process that requires several months of work with the facility's equipment. Analysis of the results of the primary screen and the performance of secondary assays also require significant input.

The project will be prioritised based on the facility schedule: given the facility's limited capacity, priority will be given to internal and more innovative projects.

5. Facility policy

Researchers are requested to cite CIBIO's HTS core facility in publications that include data obtained at the facility.

Co-authorship on publications may be considered appropriate when the facility staff has provided significant intellectual contribution to the design of the published experiments or substantial practical contribution to the generation, analysis and/or interpretation of experimental data. Staff members who have made an intellectual or technical contribution, but of a limited nature and not justifying authorship as defined above, should be given an appropriate acknowledgement.

In case of patent applications of methods, targets or molecules identified by the screenings performed at the facility separate discussion will be needed.