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# micro scoop



## Influenza Research Materials

Respiratory diseases are among the most common medical conditions worldwide. Of these, major disease outbreaks associated with the circulation of influenza virus types A and B have resulted in high incidences of morbidity and mortality, particularly among immunologically compromised individuals. To support the field of influenza research, ATCC offers many virus types from a variety of sources, including several strains that were adapted for use in tissue culture.

We are also pleased to announce the addition of several new influenza strains and reagents to the ATCC collection that were implicated recent outbreaks:

ATCC® No.	Material	Strain	Status
<a href="#">VR-1804™</a>	Influenza B	B/Florida/4/2006	Available
VR-1813™	Influenza B	B/Massachusetts/2/2012	Coming soon
VR-1813D	RNA	B/Massachusetts/2/2012	Coming soon

Browse our complete collection of [influenza research materials](#) today! For additional information on ATCC microorganisms, cell lines, and associated reagents that support respiratory disease research, please visit us online at [www.atcc.org/respiratory](http://www.atcc.org/respiratory).



## Alternaria Species for Allergy & Asthma Research

*Alternaria* is a genus of ascomycete fungi known to cause disease in plants. In humans, *Alternaria* species are frequently associated with respiratory allergies and asthma, and can result in severe lung infections in immunologically compromised individuals. Currently, the best treatment for mold-induced allergies and asthma is through immunotherapy and avoiding exposure to the allergen.

To aid in the development of novel detection methods and therapeutic treatments, ATCC offers an expansive array

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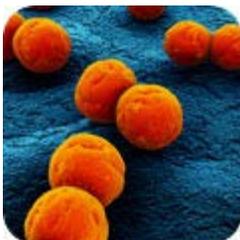
[Human Respiratory Strains Brochure](#)

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of *Alternaria* strains representing over 100 known species -- including *Alternaria alternata*, which is commonly associated with asthma.

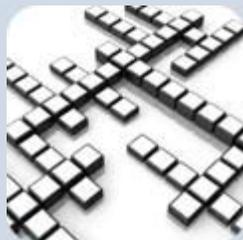
Each of these strains has been extensively characterized and authenticated using a polyphasic approach that combines genotypic, phenotypic, and functional testing. To view a full listing of our available *Alternaria* strains, please visit us online at [www.atcc.org](http://www.atcc.org).



### Pneumococcal Polysaccharides

Diseases caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae* are a major global health concern. To aid in the analysis and prevention of pneumococcal disease, ATCC offers 24 types of purified pneumococcal polysaccharides in 3 convenient package sizes.

[Search for polysaccharides](#)

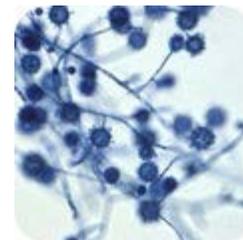


### ATCC® Crossword Puzzle

Test your microbial expertise with the ATCC crossword puzzle!

[Download the Puzzle](#)

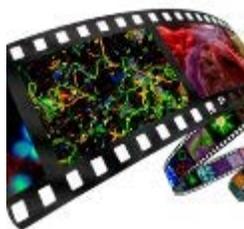
Still puzzled? [View the answers to last month's puzzle](#)



### Quiz The Scientist

I am a thermal dimorphic fungus known to cause respiratory disease. Can you guess what I am?

[Click here for more clues](#)



### ATCC Photo Contest

ATCC would like to congratulate the winners of the ATCC Photo Contest who submitted their most beautiful, graphically striking, and scientifically exciting images featuring the use of ATCC microbial cultures. The winner of the Most Popular Photograph Award was selected by "voting" on the ATCC website, and the ATCC Excellence Photograph Awards were chosen by a select panel of ATCC Scientists.

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you everyone for your participation! To view the winning submissions, [click here](#).



**Q: What is a hemadsorption assay?**

**A:** The phenomenon of hemadsorption is dependent on the attachment of red blood cells to the surface of cell monolayers infected with enveloped, hemagglutinin-producing viruses, such as influenza, measles, mumps, and parainfluenza. This natural process can be adapted as a general procedure to determine viral

potency. In a hemadsorption assay, a red blood cell suspension is incubated with an infected cell culture. If the cell monolayer is infected with a hemagglutinin-producing virus, hemagglutinin is inserted into the cell plasma membrane during viral reproduction in preparation for viral maturation. It is at these modified areas of the cell surface that red blood cells will specifically bind. Thus, hemadsorption is indicative of the presence of viruses that produce hemagglutinin.

[Have more questions?](#)

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Image of Histoplasma Capsulatum courtesy of Dr. Libero Ajello, CDC

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