

Cell Invasion Assay Troubleshooting



AACR, 2009

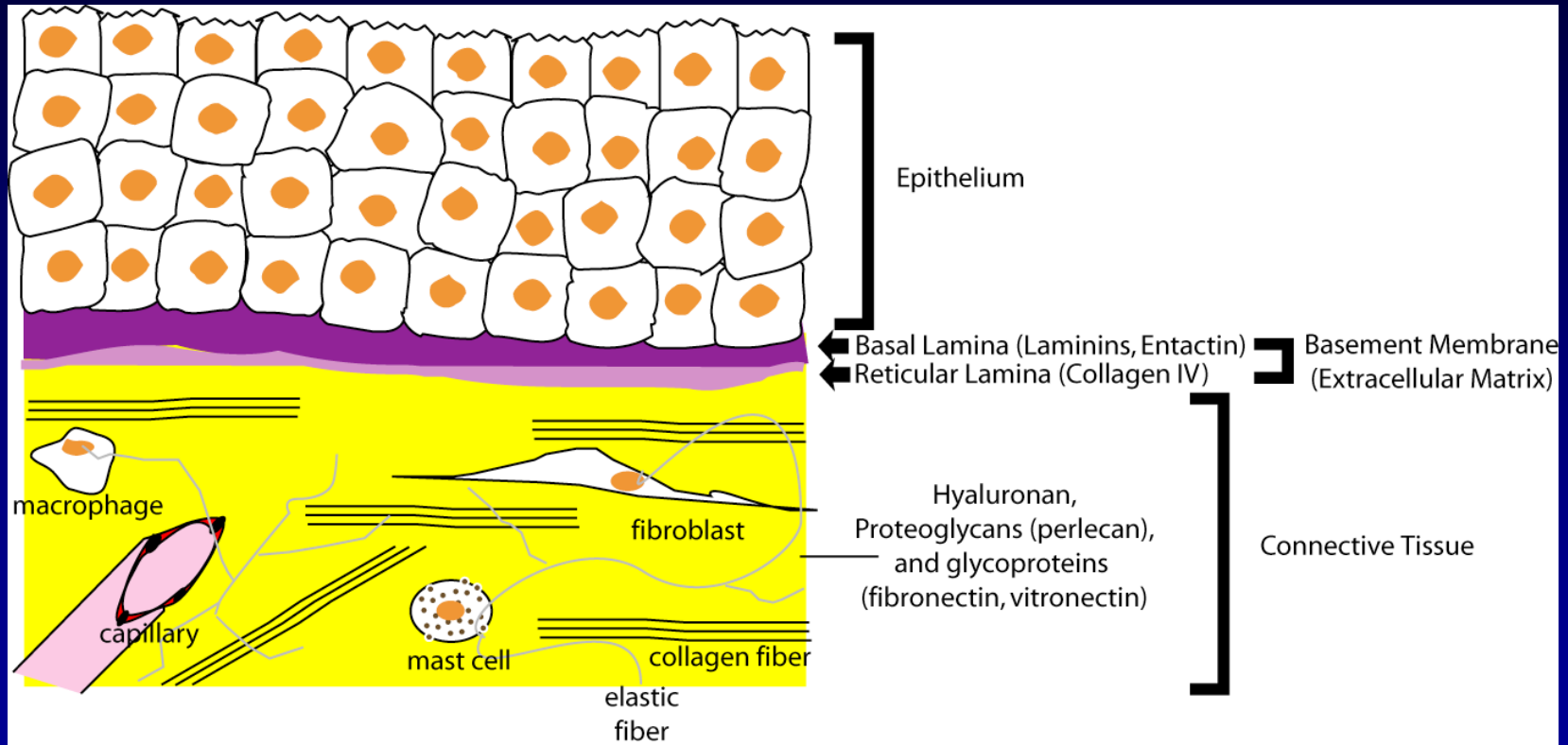
Presented by Hynda K. Kleinman, PhD

Cell Invasion Assay based on the ability of invasive and metastatic cancer cells, as well as endothelial cells to cross basement membranes and/or connective tissues in spread or to form new blood vessels.

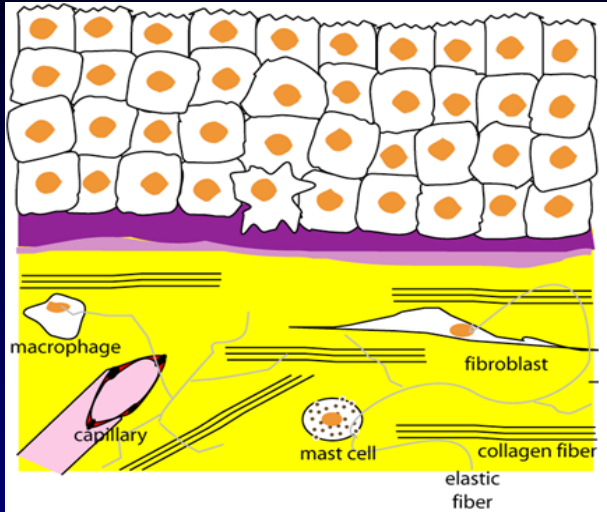
Physiological significance of cell invasion

- **Cancer**
 - **Initiation**
 - **Tumor Progression**
 - **Metastasis**
 - **Endothelial Cell Invasion**
- **Tissue Remodeling**
 - **Tissue Regeneration**
 - **Wound Healing**
 - **Endothelial Cell Invasion**

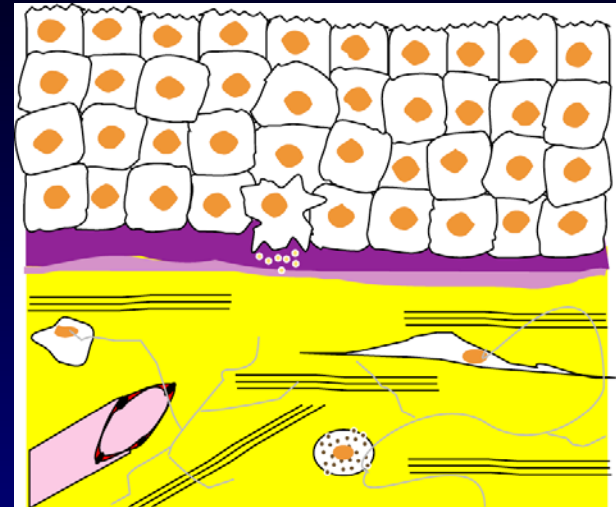
Normal Epithelium



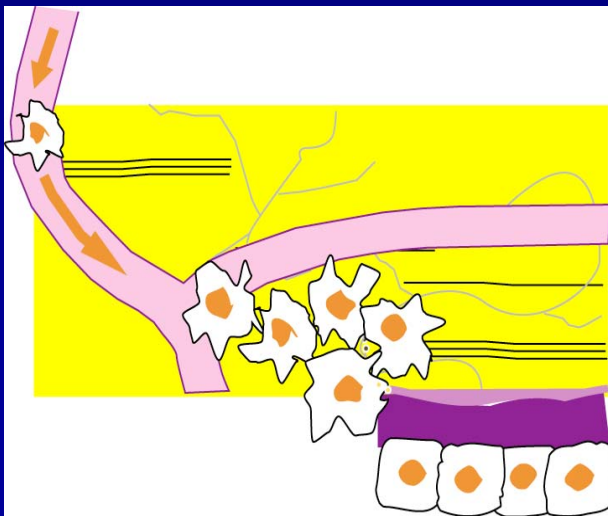
Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition



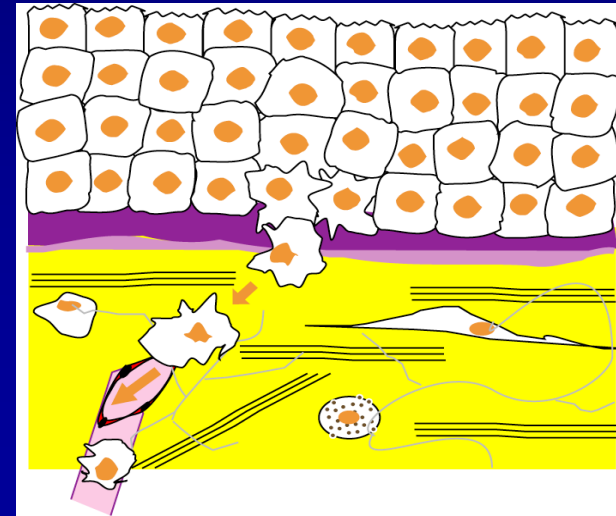
Matrix Metalloproteases Secretion



Extravasation and New Tumor Growth



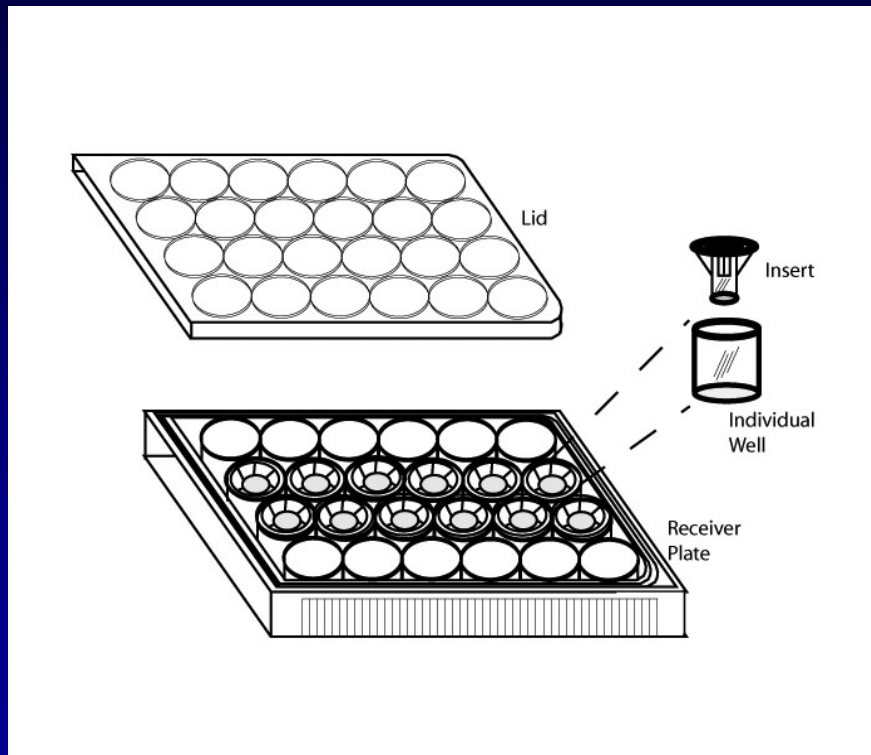
Proliferation Invasion and Intravasation



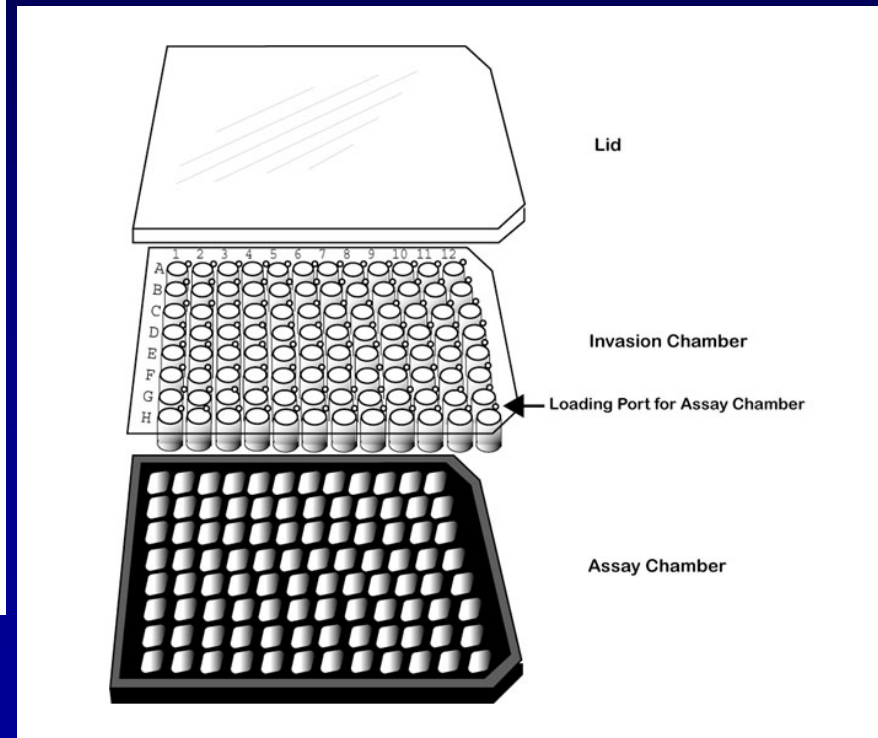
- **Matrices and substrates for evaluating invasive potential *in vitro*.**
Basement Membrane Extract (BME) (Reduced Growth Factor)
Laminin I
Collagen I
Collagen IV
- **Cell Invasion Assay employs a simplified Boyden chamber-like design with an 8 micron polyethylene terephthalate (PET) membrane.**
- **Cell Invasion Assay is flexible, easy, quantitative, rapid and reliable way to quantify the invasive capacity of many cell types.**
- **Cell Invasion Assay is used to measure tumor cell invasion and can be successfully used to study endothelial activation and angiogenesis.**

Cell Invasion Assay Chambers

24-well plate



96-well plate



Assay originally described by Albini et al, Cancer Research, 1987 for tumor cells but now also adapted for endothelial cells

Cell Invasion Assay (in 96-well format)

Add 50 μ l of coating protein solution per well to the top chamber



Incubate cell invasion chamber overnight at 37°C in a cell culture incubator



Add 150 μ l of medium \pm chemoattractants and/or inhibitors to the bottom chamber wells



Incubate cell invasion chamber for 6-24 hours in a cell culture incubator



Wash wells, add 150 μ l per well of Cell Dissociation solution with 2 μ M Calcein AM into bottom chamber, and incubate invasion chamber 1 hour at 37°C



Read fluorescence using Plate Reader



Add 100 μ l of diluted cells per well to the top chamber



Dilute cells in serum-free medium \pm inhibitors



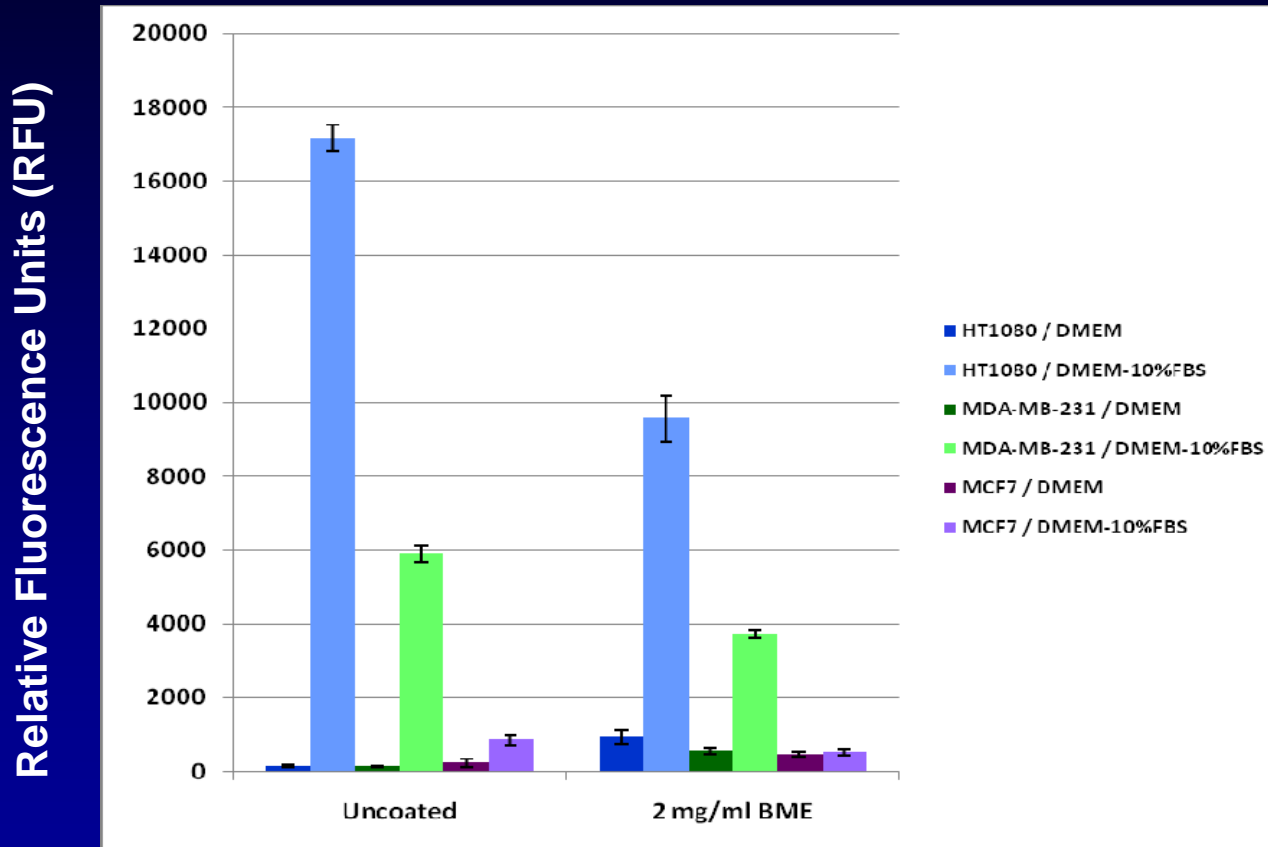
Trypsinize, harvest and count cells



Variables Affecting Cell Invasion Assay

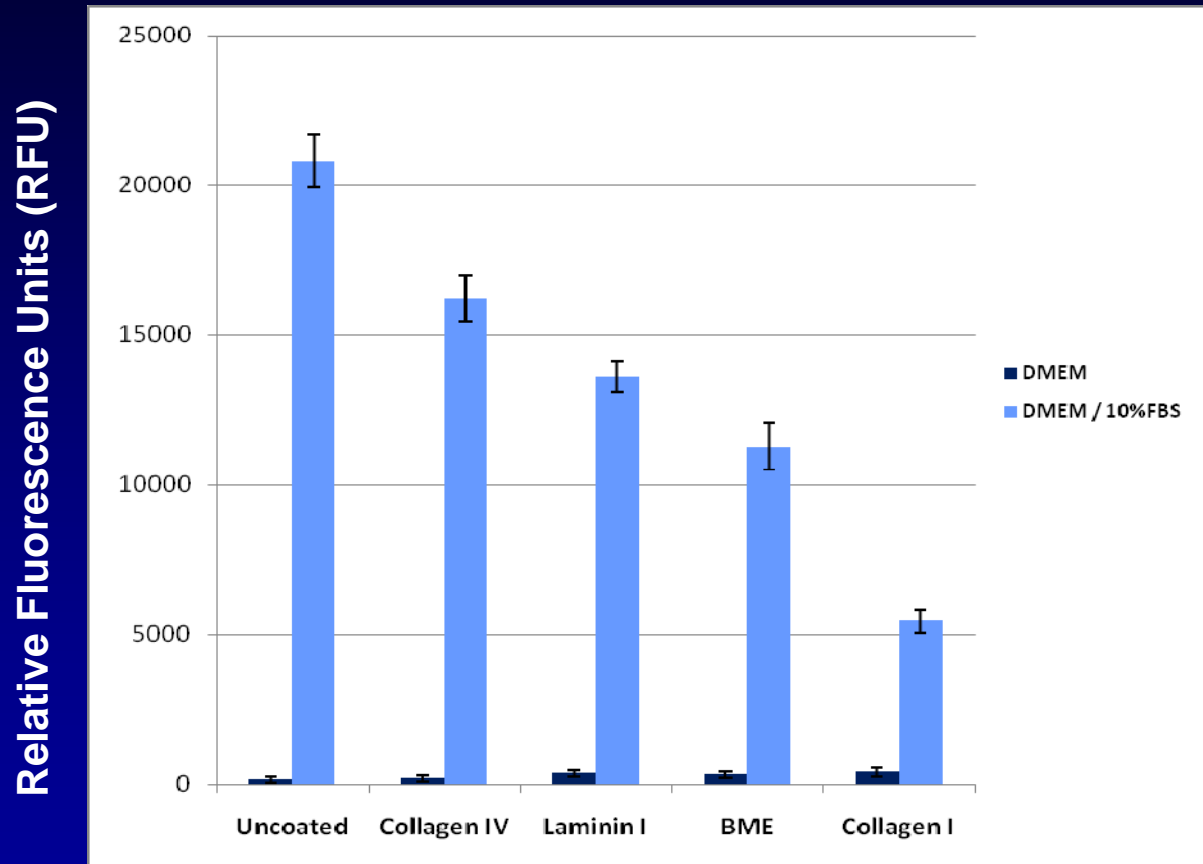
- **Type of the cells (tumor, cancer metastatic, endothelial, etc.)**
- **Extracellular matrix environment:**
 - **Type of the extracellular matrix proteins (Collagen IV, Laminin I, BME or Collagen I)**
 - **Thickness/density of the extracellular matrix barrier**
- **Type of the chemoattractants or angiogenic factors**
- **Length of the assay (hours)**
- **Cell seeding density (cells/well)**

Various cell lines have different invasive potential which correlates with their malignant potential



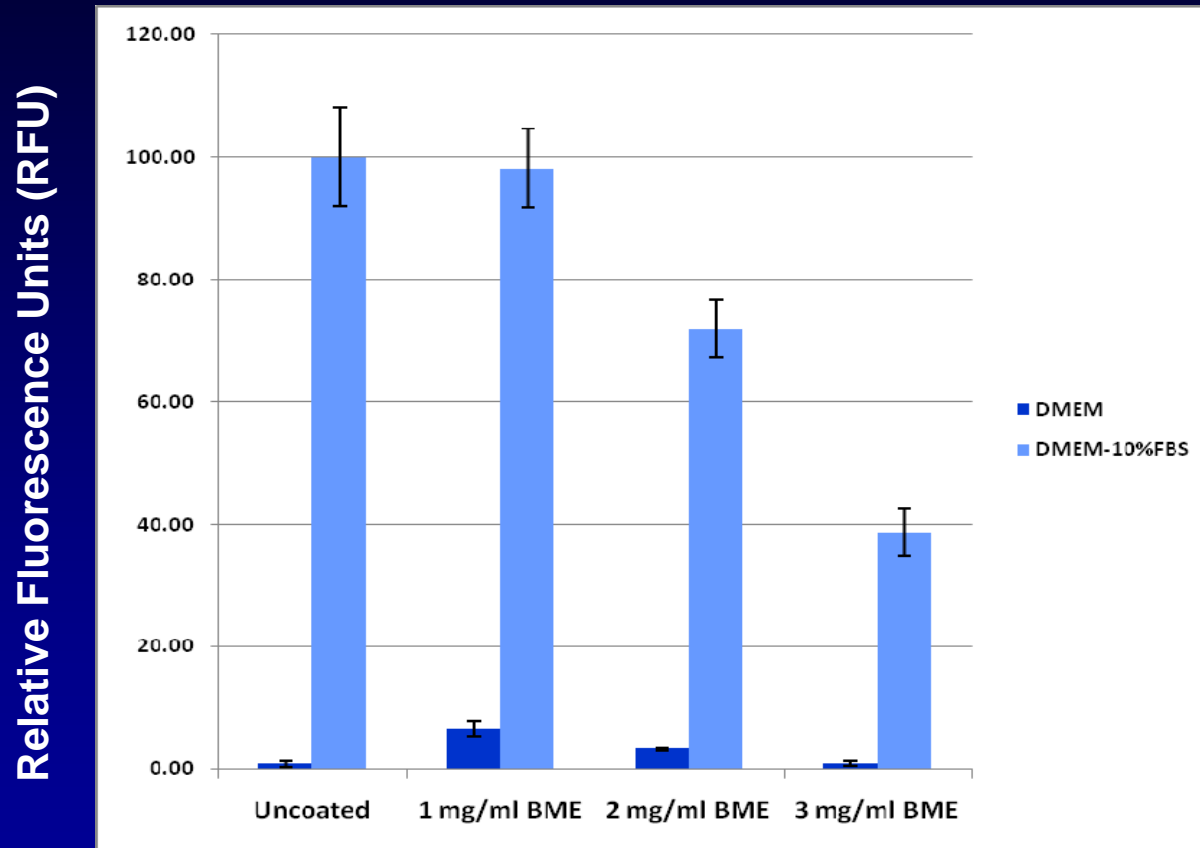
Quantification of the ability of HT1080 cells, MDA-MB-231 cells and MCF7 cells to cross a barrier 8 micron polyester filter uncoated or coated with 2 mg/ml Basement Membrane Extract (BME) in response to FBS. Cells were plated at 20,000 cells/well in a 96-well cell invasion chamber and incubated for 24 hours.
NOTE: Cells require a chemoattractant to migrate and to invade.

Cells have different ability to invade through various type of barrier



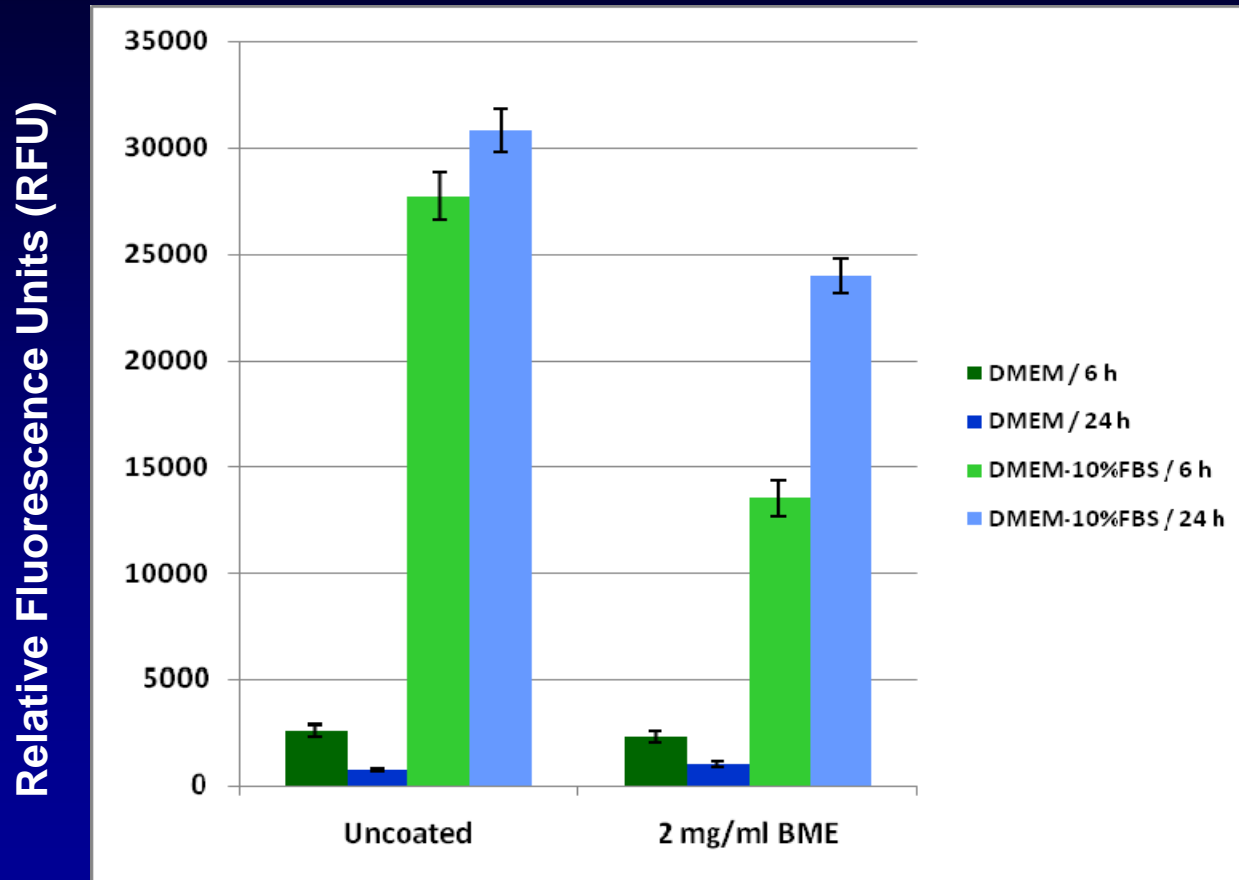
Quantification of the ability of HT1080 cells to cross a barrier 8 micron polyester filter uncoated or coated with various extracellular matrix proteins in response to Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS). Cells were plated at 20,000 cells/well of 96-well cell invasion chamber and incubated for 24 hours.

Level of invasion depends on the thickness of the barrier (protein concentration of the coating solution)



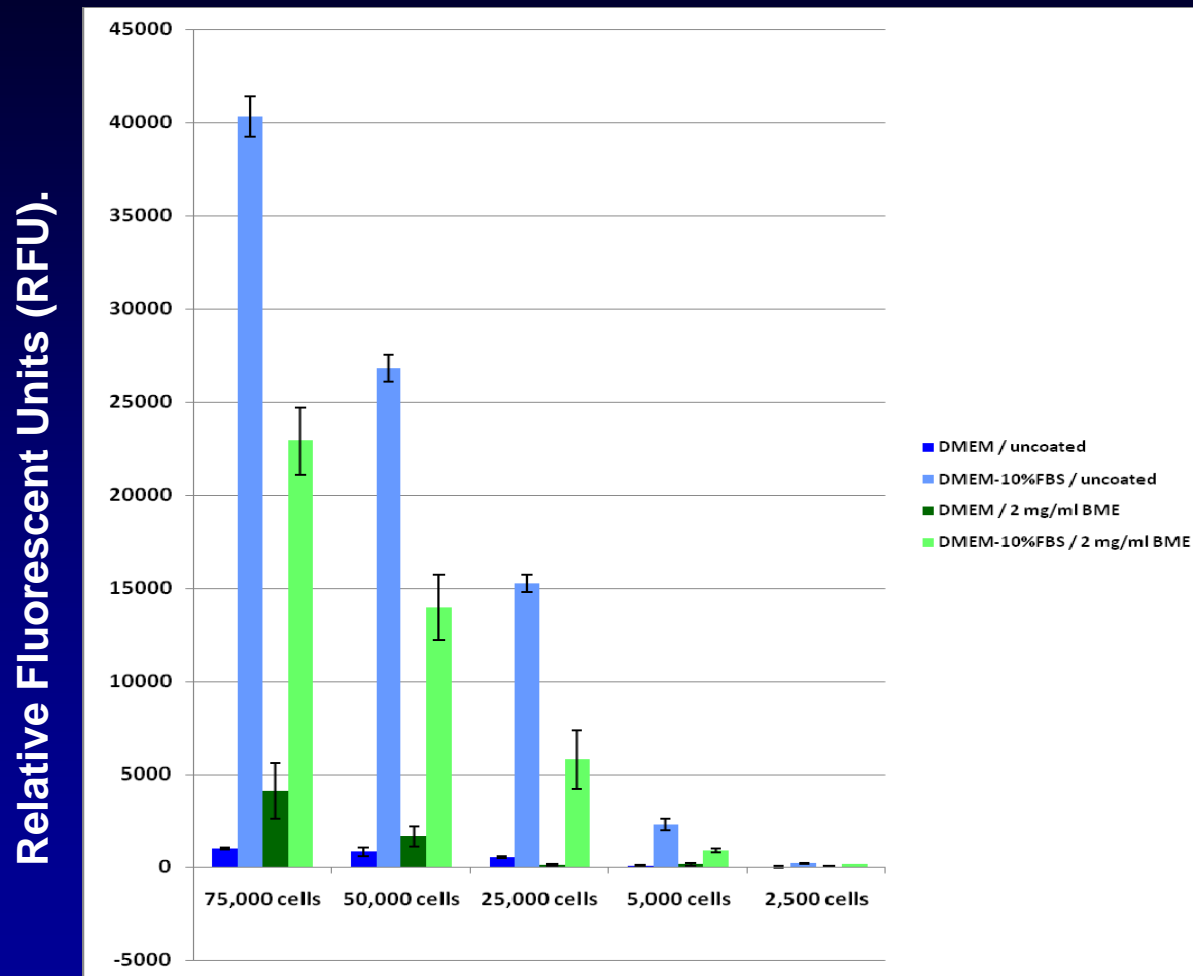
Relative quantification (as a percent of the control) of HT1080 cells to cross a barrier 8 micron polyester filter uncoated or coated with BME solution at various concentration in response to FBS. Cells were plated at 20,000 cells/well. Cell invasion chamber was incubated for 24 hours in the cell culture incubator. **Note the more BME, the less invasion.**

Invasion level is time-dependent



Quantification of HT1080 cells (40,000 cells/well of 96-well) to cross an 8 micron polyester filter, uncoated or coated with 2 mg/ml BME solution in response to FBS during 6 hours or 24 hours period.

Cell density affects the invasion assay



HT1080 cells were seeded at the various concentration onto 8 micron polyester filter, uncoated or coated with 2 mg/ml BME solution. 96-well cell invasion chamber was incubated for 24 hours in the cell culture incubator. **NOTE Recommended cell number is 20,000 - 40,000 cells.**

Summary

The success of your invasion assay involves attention to variables:

Chemoattractant used

Cell type

Type of barrier

Thickness of the barrier

Cell density

Time of the assay

Each assay should be customized by the investigator based on these variables. The conditions for many tumor cells have generally already been published.

Ordering Information:

Cultrex 24 Well BME Cell Invasion Assay	3455-024-K
Cultrex 24 Well Collagen I Cell Invasion Assay	3457-024-K
Cultrex 24 Well Collagen IV Cell Invasion Assay	3458-024-K
Cultrex 24 Well Laminin I Cell Invasion Assay	3456-024-K
Cultrex 96 Well BME Cell Invasion Assay	3455-096-K
Cultrex 96 Well Collagen I Cell Invasion Assay	3457-096-K
Cultrex 96 Well Collagen IV Cell Invasion Assay	3458-096-K
Cultrex 96 Well Laminin I Cell Invasion Assay	3456-096-K
Cultrex Endothelial Cell Invasion Assay	3471-096-K

Precoated Invasion Assay Kit

CultreCoat® 24 Well BME Cell Invasion Assay	3460-024-K
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Cell Migration:

Cultrex 24 Well Cell Migration Assay	3465-024-K
Cultrex 96 Well Cell Migration Assay	3465-096-K