Preparation of *E. coli* competent cells

A single colony was used to inoculate 2ml of LB medium. These cultures were grown at 37 ^{o}C overnight. This 2 ml culture was then diluted 1:100 into 200ml of LB and incubated for two hours at 37^{o}C and 225 revolutions per minute (rpm). This culture was centrifuged in 50 ml conical polyethylene tubes (Corning) at 4^{o}C(6500 x g, 10 minutes) and washed with 1 X, 1/2 X, and 1/100 X volumes of ice cold 10% glycerol, where X is the original culture volume. The cells were then resuspended in a 1/500 X volume of ice cold 10% glycerol and 50 μl aliquots were used immediately for electroporation or stored at -80 ^{o}C.