

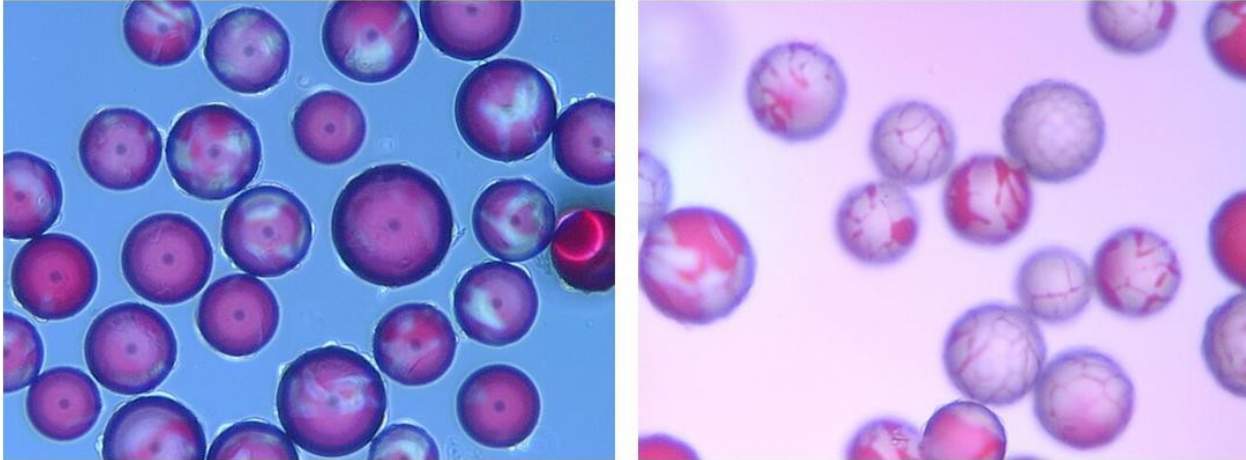


## Method to Enhance Visualization of Cells Attached to Hillex<sup>®</sup> II Microcarriers in Phenol Red-free Media Using *Cell Tracker*

Hillex<sup>®</sup> II microcarriers absorb phenol red from cell culture media. Therefore, this absorptive property can be exploited to enhance visualization of cells attached to Hillex<sup>®</sup> II microcarriers in phenol red-free media.

### Visualization of cells on Hillex<sup>®</sup> II

1. Prepare *Cell Tracker* solution containing 1 mg/mL of phenol red in deionized water.
2. Transfer a 1 mL sample from a phenol red-free microcarrier culture to a well of a 24-well tissue culture plate.
3. Add 10  $\mu$ L of *Cell Tracker* solution to the well, swirl gently to mix and immediately observe under light microscopy.
4. Images of cell-laden microcarriers can be taken when cell outlines become more defined.
5. Cells appear white and microcarriers are red. Capture images when highest level of contrast is observed because phenol red will continue to be absorbed, thereby diminishing the effect.



Images were captured using standard bright field microscopy. White spots on microcarriers indicate adherent cells.