Melanin Determination

1. Pellet melanocytes (approximately $10^5$ cells) in eppendorf tube

2. Solubilize cells in 1 ml of 1N NaOH / 10% DMSO for 2 hours at 80°C

3. Similarly prepare tubes for standard curve using synthetic melanin (Sigma) covering concentration range of 0-20 ug/ml

4. Centrifuge at 12000 g for 10 min at RT, and transfer supernatants to fresh tubes

5. The absorbance of the supernatants is measured at 470 nm

6. Determine melanin content using standard curve generated for synthetic melanin

7. The melanin content is expressed as pg per cell