The Impact of Mycoplasma Contamination in Research Collaboration

Challenge

A biotech client was producing their research cell banks in-house and supplying them to an academic collaborator for in-vivo work. However, their internal QC standards did not include mycoplasma or sterility checks. This oversight led to a mycoplasma outbreak at the collaborator's lab, causing significant rework, delays, and a breakdown in trust.

Details

The client faced several critical challenges:

- A mycoplasma outbreak caused by contaminated cell banks.
- Major rework and time delays in their collaborator's research.
- Erosion of trust between the client and their academic collaborator.
- A realization of the need for stringent QC standards to prevent future incidents.

Solution

Recognizing the need for improved QC standards, the client turned to ABS, whose standard cell bank production includes:

- Mycoplasma and sterility checks to ensure contamination-free cell banks.
- Post-thaw viability and cell count checks to confirm the integrity of the cells.
- Comprehensive documentation and audit trails to provide transparency and reliability.

Benefits

Partnering with ABS resulted in several positive outcomes for the client:

- Implementation of robust QC standards.
- Assurance of clean and viable starting material for research.
- Restoration of trust with the academic collaborator due to improved QC protocols.
- Prevention of future contamination issues, ensuring smooth collaborations.

ABS' comprehensive QC protocols enabled the biotech client to overcome a significant contamination issue, restoring trust and ensuring the reliability of their research cell banks. This case study demonstrates the value of robust QC measures and expert partnerships in maintaining the quality and integrity of scientific research.