

## Supplementary Material 2: Curve Fitting using Excel-Solver®

The equation,  $L_1(t) = L_1(\infty) \times (1 - \text{Exp}(-kt))$  can be rearranged to give  $L_1(\infty) = L_1(t) / (1 - \text{Exp}(-kt))$ . As the saturated count,  $L_1(\infty)$ , should be the same value for any  $(t, L_1(t))$ , the next equation would be  $L_1(\infty) = L_1(t_1) / (1 - \text{Exp}(-kt_1)) = L_1(t_2) / (1 - \text{Exp}(-kt_2)) = L_1(t_3) / (1 - \text{Exp}(-kt_3))$ , where  $L_1(t_1)$ ,  $L_1(t_2)$  and  $L_1(t_3)$  are the observed values of radioactivity at time  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$  and  $t_3$ , respectively. We generated this relationship for  $L_1(t)$  for  $t_{1-3}$  and for  $L_1(\infty)$  for  $t_{1-3}$  on an Excel sheet. For determining the  $k$  value that provides the best fit curve for  $L_1(t) = L_1(\infty) \times (1 - \text{Exp}(-kt))$  at the observed radioactivity requires us to find  $k$  such that  $L_1(\infty)$  for  $t_1$ ,  $L_1(\infty)$  for  $t_2$  and  $L_1(\infty)$  for  $t_3$  are all equal. Using this theoretical basis, we used a programme to find a  $k$  value that will yield minimum difference between the  $L_1(\infty)$  that fulfils the curve passing the measured point  $(t_1, L_1(t_1))$  and the  $L_1(\infty)$  that fulfils the curve passing the measured point  $(t_2, L_1(t_2))$ . As an identical operation should be established between  $L_1(\infty)$  that fulfils the curve passing the measured points  $(t_2, L_1(t_2))$  and  $(t_3, L_1(t_3))$ , and also between  $L_1(\infty)$  that fulfils the curve passing the measured points  $(t_3, L_1(t_3))$  and  $(t_1, L_1(t_1))$ , we practically developed a program that calculated the average of absolute differences between any two  $L_1(\infty)$  first, and then searched for a  $k$  value that made this average minimum. These operations were performed using the Excel-Solver® (Generalised Reduced Gradient Method) by defining  $k$  as a changing variable, by setting the average of the absolute value of difference as the objective and by finding the minimum value for the objective.

