

# Product News

## Compact confocal microscopy system



The **PCM 2000** from **Nikon** is a powerful high resolution laser scanning confocal microscope system that provides an alternative to multi-user systems. The PCM 2000 is small and compact, with the scanner module attaching directly to the microscope. The modular system can thus fit on any laboratory bench. The

PCM 2000 scanner module can be adapted for upright or inverted microscopes. It has all the performance of a fully integrated confocal system. It provides high resolution images, and the menu driven software provides scanning, image manipulation and analysis. Confocal applications include cell morphology, size, shape, intensity, colour and position, and quantitative densitometry. In the PCM 2000, images are obtained by raster scanning through a microscope with a focused point of laser light. This restricted illumination results in an image with excellent contrast and signal-to-noise ratio.

Circle number 1 on reader response card.

## Toxic impact database

**Chemical Information System (CIS)**, as part of Oxford Molecular Group PLC, is now offering clients access to the on-line database **TERRETOX**. This database details the toxic effects on terrestrial animals of chemical substances that are released into the environment and complements CIS's existing suite of databases on their service. CIS offers more than 30 databases covering chemistry, hazardous materials, toxicology and environmental issues. The database, created by the Environmental Protection Agency, contains nearly 40,000 records covering the toxic effects of almost 1,300 chemical substances on more than 200 species. The species are primarily birds and mammals, but also include amphibians and insects. **TERRETOX** is part of a suite of databases called **ECOTOX**, which includes **AQUIRE** and **PHYTOTOX**, the aquatic and terrestrial plant databases, respectively.

Circle number 2 on reader response card.

## Oligonucleotide synthesis

Since 1986 **Oswel** has provided a quality **custom oligonucleotide synthesis service**. Recent expansion has allowed **Oswel** to offer a wider range of standard and modified oligonucleotides of improved quality, from a pair of PCR primers to several hundred oligonucleotides. Some of the modifications available include: RNA and 2'-O methyl RNA; modified bases such as inosine, deoxyuridine, nitropryrolo, 5-methyl cytosine, iodo and bromo U and C, propyne U and C, abasic sites; fluorescently labelled oligonucleotides; molecular beacons; single and multiple biotin and DNP labelling; single and multiple digoxigenin labelling; hydrophilic spacers between reporter groups to increase the efficiency of non-radioactive detection; phosphorothioates and other antisense oligonucleotides; and HPLC and FPLC purification. Free technical support is also provided.

Circle number 3 on reader response card.

## Customized assay service

Two new assay services — **customized formats** and **custom assay development** — are now offered by **Amersham Life Science**. Customized assay formats provide bulk or unusual quantities of a particular **Biotrak™** assay or its components, which can be formulated to suit specific needs. Examples include bulk kit reagents for large numbers of microplates or tubes to ease automation; specific combinations of individual kit components; and liquid rather than lyophilised components. Custom assay development is aimed at companies who wish to develop an assay to meet specific needs but do not have the time or available resources in-house.

Circle number 4 on reader response card.

## Gel blotting papers



A new range of **gel blotting papers** that meet the needs of most blotting techniques such as Southern, northern and western, are now available from **Schleicher & Schuell**. These papers are developed from chromatography paper so a smooth surface combined with a high degree of uniform absorbency is assured, which is particularly important for capillary blots. GB 002 is the 'universal' blotting paper; high wet strength makes it ideal for denaturing and neutralising transfer membranes during preparation of colony/plaque lifts. GB 003 is a general purpose blotting paper with higher absorbency, and GB 004 is the thickest with highest absorbency.

Circle number 5 on reader response card.

## Digital burette



The **digital burette** from **Eppendorf** makes manual titration quicker and easier. This bottle-top burette has a brand new dispensing technique for continuous, pulse-free operation. Volumes between 0.01 ml and 999.9 ml can be dispensed without having to aspirate liquid each time. The burette can be set to zero using one finger, then liquid immediately dispensed by simply rotating the hand dial. There is also a charging display for long-life batteries and an autoclavable electronics section that can be removed as a unit. The burette can be adapted to meet a wide range of different requirements thanks to a discharge tube that can be rotated 360° and a telescopic aspirating tube for automatic adjustment to any lengths between 210–370 mm.

Circle number 6 on reader response card.

## Stem cell growth medium

**Boehringer Ingelheim Bioproducts** have released a new serum-free medium for the optimal growth of human haematopoietic progenitor cells. **CellGro® SCGM** is a serum free formulation containing only human derived or human recombinant proteins and makes the medium ideal for *ex-vivo* studies of haematopoietic progenitor cells under defined and reproducible conditions. The new medium is manufactured in the ISO9002 certified Verviers facility using selected reagents and water for injection grade distilled water. The addition of cytokines is required to achieve optimal growth. The full flexibility in the use of cytokines and/or growth factors is possible.

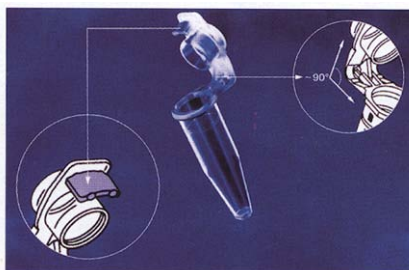
Circle number 7 on reader response card.

## Fluorescence imaging system

The **ChemiImager™ 4000** from **Alpha Innotech Corporation** is designed to document, archive and analyze gels, films, membranes, chemiluminescent samples and plates in minutes. The CCD camera is thermoelectrically cooled to -40°C, which minimizes thermal noise in the **ChemiImager™** in exposures from one thirtieth of a second to two hours. Optics designed for real time display make the **ChemiImager™ 4000** ideal for white light applications, as well as for low light samples such as chemiluminescence and fluorescence. The **ChemiImager™** includes a completely light-tight cabinet with up to four illumination sources. The cabinet also includes a built-in wheel to hold filters for optimal imaging of ethidium bromide, SYBR® Green, chemiluminescence, blue dyes, Texas Red and other fluorescent probes.

Circle number 8 on reader response card.

## PCR test tubes



The new **0.2ml PCR test tube** from **Eppendorf** has an innovative contamination shield on the lid to prevent accidental contact with the inner surface of the lid during opening and closing. This eliminates any contamination problems during the handling of this miniature test tube. The test tubes also have a special hinge, which allows the lid to click into a set position of approximately 90°, thus preventing it from covering adjacent tubes in the thermoblock. These thin-walled PCR test tubes are available individually or in 5-strips and 8-strips. Accessories include work trays in the microtiter plate format, which can be used to position the test tubes in the 96-well thermoblock.

Circle number 9 on reader response card.

## In Brief

### Photoanalyst



A new gel documentation and analysis system – the **Photoanalyst** – has just been released by **Ultra Violet Products**. This system allows researchers to view and document all types of gel media under UV or white light. Researchers can also keep a permanent record of images thanks to the thermal printer. Images are captured into the computer where they may be enhanced and stored before being analysed.

Circle number 10 on reader response card.

### New monoclonal antibody

**AC133**, from **Miltenyi Biotec** is a monoclonal antibody to a novel glycoprotein antigen selectively expressed on the surface of immature hematopoietic progenitor cells. **AC133** provides an alternative to **CD34** for the selection and characterization of cells necessary for transplant situations, for studies of *ex-vivo* expansion strategies and gene therapy studies.

Circle number 11 on reader response card.

### Inducible expression system

The **Ecdysone-inducible expression system** by **Invitrogen** allows controlled expression of genes in mammalian tissue culture cell lines. The **pIND** and **pIND(SP1)** vectors allow 200-fold and 1000-fold induction of expression, respectively, along with selection using neomycin. **pIND/Hygro** and **pIND(SP1)/Hygro** both contain the hygromycin resistance gene so that hygromycin can be used for selection in mammalian cells. **pIND/V5-His** and **pIND(SP1)/V5-His** are also available for simple detection and purification of recombinant proteins.

Circle number 12 on reader response card.

### Plastic scintillators

**Zinsser Analytic** have announced a new process for polymerization that allows the manufacture of **scintillator sheets**. 50 x 50 cm with 5 cm thickness; up to 50 cm in length and 13 cm in diameter; or thin sheets down to 0.25 mm thickness are available. High counting efficiency and excellent light transmission is possible due to the new chemical handling facilities used. A special coating technique using inorganic scintillators has been developed for  $\alpha/\beta$ -detectors and low  $\beta$ -energy detectors.

Circle number 13 on reader response card.