

Product News

High speed PCR reactions and analysis



Introducing a range of innovative features, the new **LightCycler™** from **Roche Diagnostics** offers high speed PCR reactions and analysis. This compact and efficient instrument provides real-time amplification of results and allows users to enjoy a new

level of flexibility and performance. Combining precise thermal transfer with rapid measurement, the LightCycler completes thirty amplification cycles (including PCR product analysis) in less than 20 minutes. Rapid fluorescence readings are taken from each sample providing real-time information on the PCR reaction as it proceeds. User friendly software displays continuous on-line detection information throughout the entire process which permits easy and accurate kinetic quantification with the data clearly displayed in graph formats. Melting characteristics can also be analysed for each sample allowing amplicons to be verified and mutations detected. Flexible software programming even allows melting curves to be performed between cycles.

Circle number 1 on reader response card.

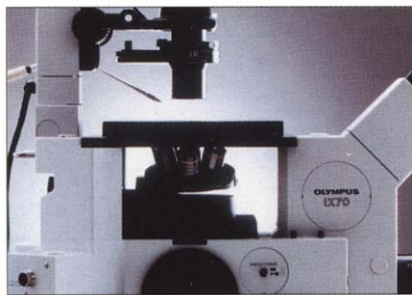
Protease detection



Caspase-1 (ICE) and Caspase-3 (CPP32), cysteine aspartic acid specific proteases, have been shown to play key roles in inflammation and apoptosis in mammalian cells. **Turner Designs' TD-700 Laboratory Fluorometer** combined with **Promega Corporation's CasPACE™ Assay System** provide a highly sensitive, quantitative measurement of both ICE and CPP32 protease activities. The TD-700 Fluorometer provides sensitivity down to nM concentrations of AMC (7-amino-4-methylcoumarin) standard and has at least 4 decades of range.

Circle number 2 on reader response card.

Meniscus problem remedied



Many researchers working with cell and tissue cultures prepare their specimens in multiwell plates using semi-automated procedures. Observation at the edge of a well in such multiwell plates can be impaired by surface tension. Unless the cell or sample is centrally positioned, good phase contrast viewing is difficult to achieve. **Olympus** have remedied this meniscus effect with the **IX Series** microscope, which includes a new phase annulus designed to give optimal phase contrast images with multiwell plates.

Circle number 3 on reader response card.

In Brief

Extended range of spectrometers

The specialist Spectroscopy Division of Fisher Scientific – **Ormer Technologies** – has added the new **Unicam UV-Series** of research grade instruments to complement its highly successful range of Helios UV-Vis spectrometers. The UV-Series consists of 9 models that allow laboratories to match a system to their extract requirements by choosing the configuration to suit their needs. All models are true double beam and use a single detector for the best accuracy, precision and long term stability.

Circle number 4 on reader response card.

Enhanced flexibility of SEMs

To further enhance the flexibility of the LEO 400 series of scanning electron microscopes, **LEO** has announced **Expanded Desktop** – a new option that adds a second monitor to the SEM. Expanded Desktop allows the area of both monitors to act as a single Windows™ desktop, controlled from a single keyboard and mouse. The single Windows™ desktop allows applications to be located on either of the monitors separately, or even across both, all running and sharing single data on a single PC.

Circle number 5 on reader response card.

Numerical library launched

The **Numerical Algorithms Group (NAG)** has released the **NAG Fortran 77 Library**, **NAG #90** (the Fortran 90 library) and **NAG FL90plus** for Windows using the Lahey/Fujitsu Fortran 95 (LF95). These products extend the range of numerical and statistical libraries for PC users. The NAG Fortran 77 Library, now at Mark 18, contains over 1,000 user-callable routines for mathematical and statistical computation. NAG #90 is the world's first numerical procedure library written in Fortran 90/95. The current release contains over 210 generic user-callable procedures. NAG FL90plus combines both of the above.

Circle number 6 on reader response card.

Clean air and containment equipment

Specialists in clean air and containment equipment, **Envair** manufacture a comprehensive range of products for laboratory and manufacturing applications. Ongoing investment in research and development has maintained a steady programme of new product introduction and Envair now offers a comprehensive and expanding catalogue. The current range of standard products includes laminar air flow units, microbiological safety cabinets, isolators, powder control booths, air showers and fume cupboards.

Circle number 7 on reader response card.