

says that 'advances in capillary columns have been part of this revolution. The separation efficiency of a column is inversely proportional to its internal diameter. Markedly shorter columns are now leading to dramatic reductions in analysis time without any loss of resolution.'

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### Supporting drug development

Primedica claims to provide biological sample analyses to support all phases of drug development, from discovery through to clinical trials.

The company highlights that the flexibility of their facilities enables any size of project to be undertaken, from less than 100 to 1000s of samples, while offering research grade assays for drug discovery efforts and standardized assays supporting GLP submission for definitive preclinical and clinical programmes. The research assays, coupled with the company's in-house animal colonies and surgical

expertise, are claimed to provide complete and efficient lead optimization capabilities at one facility, and thus minimize potential logistical difficulties and costly delays.

The company's capabilities are reported to encompass method feasibility, development and validation programmes, as well as study sample analysis, and areas of expertise include LC, GC, GC/MS, LC/MS/MS and immunochemistry. The company believes that their experienced scientists can supply flexible analytical support that fully satisfies study objectives while reducing costs associated with method development. The company also offers technical bulletins that detail the company's bio-analytical chemistry capabilities.

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### Flexible sample storage

Porvair Sciences offers a range of cost effective, flexible solutions to allow sample storage, tracking and identifi-

cation in a convenient 96-well plate format for applications within the biotechnology, clinical and pharmaceutical industries.

The company's 96-well tube racks are constructed in medical grade polypropylene and polystyrene to provide very low protein binding qualities. It is claimed that the racks can be autoclaved more than 100 times and that they are certified for clean room production class 10,000. The racks are reported to economize freezer space, they are stackable, can be refilled and have top-cover ID labels to enable easy identification of samples from storage down to  $-150^{\circ}\text{C}$ . By using the extendable storage holder the location and recovery of 96-well tube racks from freezer storage is said to become rapid and routine. As the racks use the standard 96-well plate footprint, they may be accommodated in most robotic liquid-handling systems, which enhances automation of sample storage and recovery.

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## Erratum

In the February issue of *Drug Discovery Today*, the conference report entitled *Nitric oxide: from basic research to clinical applications* by Irene C. Green and Pierre-Etienne Chabrier (1999; 4, 47-49) contained an error in Fig. 2. The descriptions of the two molecules in the figure were transposed and should have appeared as below. We apologize to the authors and the readers of the journal for this mistake.

**Figure 2.** Selective NOS inhibitors: **1**, 1400W (Glaxo Wellcome) is a selective iNOS inhibitor, and **2**, BN80933 (Beaufour-Ipsen) is a selective nNOS inhibitor with potent antioxidant activity.

