

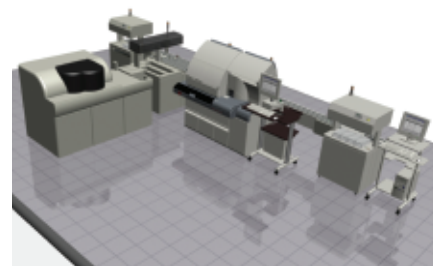
High-speed, high-throughput automation

Within the first year of acquiring the clinical chemistry business from Olympus, the expanded Beckman Coulter can now offer UK laboratories a small-footprint automation solution that links the highest throughput clinical chemistry and immunoassay systems on the market.

The AU Powercel automation platform makes it possible to connect the AU chemistry analyser and the Dxl immunoassay system, with parallel processing of samples from a single entry point. Additional AU or Dxl analysers can be added as required.

Now part of the Beckman Coulter family of products, the AU680, AU2700 and AU5400 series of analysers all connect to the AU Powercel line. The speed of the AU and Dxl systems is unaffected by the connectivity. The Dxl runs up to 400 samples an hour and the AU5400, with a capacity for up to 96 reagents, has a throughput of up to 4800 tests an hour.

The established PrepLink automation software controls and manages the whole process through intelligent sample routing. However, most laboratories are likely to



combine the AU Powercel with the high-speed AutoMate 2500, with its capability of handling 1200 samples per hour, for pre-analytical sorting, loading and archiving.

www.beckmancoulter.com

High-performance qPCR solution eliminates expensive titration

New KAPA Library Quantification kits, available from Anachem, utilise the power of quantitative PCR (qPCR) to provide an accurate and sensitive method for quantifying next-generation sequencing (NGS).

Quantitative PCR is a highly sensitive approach which uses a minimal amount of material and eliminates the need for time-consuming and expensive titration. It specifically quantifies only PCR-competent DNA molecules and, due to its high sensitivity, permits accurate quantification

of low-concentration libraries. It can also be automated for high-throughput applications.

The KAPA Library Quantification kits are optimised for the Illumina Genome analyser, Roche 454 Titanium series, and Roche 454 FLX series platforms and include defined, reliable DNA concentration standards and state-of-the-art qPCR reagents containing a DNA polymerase engineered for SYBR Green-based qPCR.

www.anachem.co.uk

Reproducible cell freezing

CoolCell from BioCision features a solid thermal core for consistent, controlled $-1^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{minute}$ cell freezing in a -80°C freezer. Requiring only minutes between freezing cycles and no maintenance, CoolCell provides truly user-friendly and environmentally conscious cell freezing.



Eliminating the use of hazardous solvents such as isopropanol is a major benefit of CoolCell. Importantly, the elimination of alcohol also means the elimination of variability in freezing runs. CoolCell delivers repeatable, constant cooling and provides identical freezing for all samples.

CoolCell holds 12 screw-capped 2-mL cryotubes and is ideal for multiple batch freezing in a -80°C freezer. No precooling is necessary and samples are ready for archive storage within three hours, while rapid recycling between freezing saves valuable time. The unbreakable design of the CoolCell ensures easy portability of frozen cells, and the lid opens easily, even when frozen.

www.biocision.com

Safer transport of biological samples

Sterilin has set world standards for quality, reliability and user safety over the past half-century, and the company is now leading the way with the introduction of 95-kPa-validated containers for the safe and reliable transportation of biological samples.

Sterilin now offers a range of 95-kPa-complaint containers that satisfy the internal pressure differential test requirements of the Department for Transport (DfT), the International



Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The 95-kPa-complaint product range includes Sterilin 30 mL polystyrene universals (128A, 128B and 128C) and Sterilin 60 mL polystyrene containers with metal caps (125AM, 125BM and 125CM). Each is available with or without labels (printed or plain).

www.sterilin.co.uk

Gold-standard measure of RNA quality

In a recently published paper, Lab901's ScreenTape automated gel electrophoresis system demonstrated equivalence to, and improvements over, the accepted standard measurement of RNA sample quality control prior to microarray analysis.

Lab901's ScreenTape R6K is a next-generation platform for RNA quality control (QC) which automatically delivers the ScreenTape Degradation Value (SDV), an objective quality metric for total RNA samples. The ScreenTape

system removes steps such as gel reagent preparation, chip priming and chip vortex-mixing, making electrophoresis much easier and faster to perform. In addition, cross priming and sample carry-over problems are eliminated as ScreenTape R6K uses an individually sealed micro-gel for each sample analysis, improving data quality and reproducibility.

Unlike many chip-based systems, Lab901's ScreenTape device can be used more than once, with researchers able to run just one or two



samples, reserving the rest of the channels (16 in total) for future experiments. Researchers, therefore, do not need to batch samples or throw away unused portions of the consumable, which improves RNA QC workflow and reduces waste as well as cost.

www.lab901.com