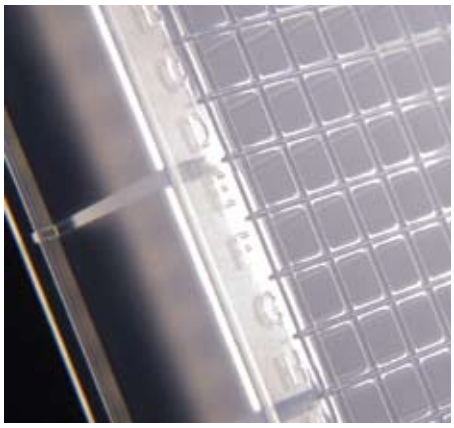
« The MultiRead 400 from Anthos



» New NUNC 384-Well Polypropylene Plates, from Thermo Fisher Scientific

Don't wait – automate

Empowering research with laboratory automation

In a convergence of disciplines, laboratory automation brings together science with engineering, experimentation with programming. The results of which has immediate impact on the research community as more meaningful data proliferate through mechanization. Here are just some of the latest in productivity enhancement tools.

The **MultiRead 400** from **Anthos** is a multi-channel microplate reader with on-board software for qualitative, quantitative and kinetic applications. The instrument can store up to 120 methods and the results of up 100 plates in its non-volatile internal memory. Suitable for ELISA and cell based assay applications, the MultiRead 400 offers versatility, reliability and faster reading times. Digital light control optimizes long term sample stability, and automatic self-test and calibration procedures are used to maintain quality measurements continuously. Software is included to facilitate communication of methods and results and to provide control of the reader via a connected computer. **More information: www.anthos-labtec.com**

Applied BioPhysics introduces an **automated flow module** that can monitor cell behavior under flow conditions. Designed to interface with ECIS 1600R, 1600 and 800 systems, the module measures changes in impedance of defined, cell-coated electrodes. It is a real-time measurement that is noninvasive, quantitative and label-free. Cells are cultured in disposable flow arrays that include a flow channel with eight independent measuring electrodes. Each electrode carries a weak AC current to monitor cell behavior in response to changing flow conditions. The flow module includes a peristaltic pump designed to operate within a tissue culture incubator along with medium reservoir, flow equalizer, tubing, fittings and a start up supply of flow arrays. Flow software integrates with standard ECIS menus and allows researchers to program flow conditions, both continuous and pulsed, that are implemented during the course of an experiment. Upon analysis, users may call up graphs of flow conditions that are correlated with ECIS time course impedance data for easy interpretation. Coupling ECIS with flow capabilities provides biologists with a versatile research tool for endothelial cell research. **More information: www.biophysics.com**

The **QIAxcel** system, from **QIAGEN**, performs DNA fragment analysis on 12 samples in as little as 5 minutes. Ready to use gel cartridges allow samples to be prepared with minimal interaction by users thus reducing the chance of handling errors. QIAxcel enables automated high-resolution capillary electrophoresis of up to 96 samples per run with high detection sensitivity even with low nucleic acid concentrations. Preprogrammed methods facilitate separation and analysis for a variety of nucleic acids, including single- or multiplex PCR fragments, DNA digested with restriction endonucleases, synthesized oligonucleotides, total RNA, and cRNA. **More information: www.qiagen.com**

New **NUNC 384-Well Polypropylene Plates**, from **Thermo Fisher Scientific**, are designed to improve the user's ability to achieve a secure seal when using commercially-available heat seal tapes and instruments. A raised rim around each well promotes a robust, secure seal in all wells, enabling plates to be re-sealed multiple times using adhesive seal tapes. The effective sealing of each well prevents well-to-well contamination, evaporation, loss or degradation of well contents. NUNC 384-Well Polypropylene Plates are suitable for storage and transport of chemicals, nucleic acids and proteins because of their inherent chemical resistance and temperature stability. The plates are appropriate for fluorescence and luminescence assays, and the black plates help to increase product stability by blocking light from photosensitive compounds. **More information: www.nuncbrand.com**

A new multipurpose synthesis tool, **atlas**, is available from **Syrris** for both research and development chemists. Designed to be cost effective and easy to use, atlas automates heating, stirring, cooling and addition of reagents. It is usable on its own for simple or programmable reaction stir-

» The Balance PAL Workstation from LEAP Technologies

» The QIAxcel system, from QIAGEN

ring, or as a controlled lab reactor when connected to a PC. Different base inserts enable use of a range of round bottomed flask sizes from 50 ml to 1000 ml, or three flasks in parallel (50 ml-250 ml). For scale up investigations, jacketed vessels ranging from 100 ml to 1 liter are supported. atlas can be connected to most third party equipment, integrating many sensors and analytical tools without the need for additional supports. Reactor clamps enable flasks and jacketed reaction vessels to be mounted into place. Front panel controls are intuitive for simple programming of temperature, stirring and reagent addition profiles. **More information: www.syrris.com**

The new **Corning Low Volume 384 Well Solid Black Flat Bottom Microplates** reduce the cells, media and reagents required to run assays by approximately 50% compared to standard 384 well microplates. This new microplate has a 50 µL total well volume, with recommended working volume of only 5-40 µL. The well design reduces wicking, and the high base plate is compatible with automated handling and bar coding. The plates are also available with cell culture surface treatment for enhanced cell attachment or a proprietary nonbinding surface treatment that creates a nonionic hydrophilic surface that minimizes molecular interactions and binding to the surface. For immobilization of large molecules, such as antibodies, the microplates are available untreated for a hydrophobic, medium binding surface. **More information: www.corning.com/lifesciences**

TTP LabTech offers **comCHECK**, a new device for non-invasive volume detection in microtubes. It enables researchers to ascertain the volume of sample within a tube with an accuracy of 10 mL, and to identify which sample tubes contain a liquid below an acceptable threshold volume. The design obviates the need to remove caps or seals for invasive level sensing after processing. It can be used with 96 tube racks from all major suppliers and can operate in both stand-alone and automation modes. Also from TTP LabTech is the **comPOUND** system, a high-density, self-contained, automated sample store and a suite of specialized delivery modules. comPOUND offers flexible storage capacity with high speed cherry-picking to select library subsets, with capabilities to deliver any sample in the system in 5 seconds. Sample integrity is maintained using a hermetically sealed storage chamber with an inert nitrogen atmosphere kept at -20°C. Sample tracking is assured by using a two-dimensional barcode on each microtube. **More information: www.ttplabtech.com**

The **Balance PAL Workstation** from **LEAP Technologies** combines liquid transfers with gravimetric determinations. It makes dilutions, additions or withdrawals of liquids to and from capped vials, and weighs the sample container before and after each step. Sample vials are transported to an attached balance to be weighed. The system accommodates 2 ml, 5 ml, 10 ml, and 20 ml vials, and depletion of volatile components can be measured. On the Monitoring PAL Workstation, the flow cell holder with flow cell facilitates sampling from a process stream in the lab or in manufacturing. The PAL's syringe can pick the samples and inject them to an analytical instrument (GC, LC, MS, etc.). Or, the samples can be collected into capped vials. Monitoring a process can be accomplished unattended. LEAP Shell software is designed to make a time schedule, injection or sample handling scheme easy. **More information: www.leaptec.com** ■

Companies Mentioned in this Product Spotlight:

Anthos – www.anthos-labtec.com
Applied BioPhysics – www.biophysics.com
Corning – www.corning.com/lifesciences
LEAP Technologies – www.leaptec.com
QIAGEN – www.qiagen.com
Syrris – www.syrris.com
Thermo Fisher Scientific – www.nuncbrand.com
TTP LabTech – www.ttplabtech.com

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