

Cultural diversity

Ready-primed keratinocytes, new media and new vessels.

OptiCell

BioCrystal www.biocrystal.com

A new approach to cell culture

OptiCell is a sterile, sealed-cell environment between two optically clear gas-permeable growth surfaces in a standard microtitre plate-sized frame. It is fitted with self-sealing ports to provide aseptic access to the interior and contents. OptiCell is suitable for most cell culture activities, including magnetic cell separation, staining, transfection and cloning. Media volume is 10 ml, and each OptiCell provides 100 cm² of growth surface area. Optically clear growth surfaces allow unimpeded visual access to the growing cells.

Keratinocytes

GIBCO www.invitrogen.com

Keratinocytes, ready to roll

GIBCO Primary Human Keratinocytes are processed and frozen in GIBCO Defined Keratinocyte-SFM, so are effectively adapted to the medium. When recovered from cryopreservation, the cells establish fully confluent cultures within 5 days when stored, thawed and cultured. The lifespan of these keratinocytes is performance-tested for 16 population doublings, with most lots demonstrating more than 20 doublings.

EasY Flask

Nalge Nunc www.nalgenunc.com

Extending the range

EasY Flask cell culture vessels, from Nalge Nunc International, are available with surface areas of 25, 75 and now 175 cm². The flasks are in-line tested and certified non-pyrogenic. The 'Easy' closure fitting is available either as a filter cap or vent/close cap, with a 'Y'-shaped mark on the vent cap for visual verification of the closure position. The Easy Flask design allows air flow under the flask to optimize temperature equilibration during incubation even when stacked, and provides both printed and moulded volume graduations on the flask sides for easy measurement of contents.

Stericup-VP

Millipore www.millipore.com

Removing mycoplasma from culture media

The Stericup-VP vacuum filter cup provides high-speed filtration of up to 1 litre with low protein binding, and also features the 0.1 µm Millipore Express membrane to remove mycoplasma. The membrane's asymmetric structure is designed to offer high filtration capacity and speed. The unit is recommend-



Manifold delight: NaviCyte in close-up.

ed for use in laminar flow hoods. Its new no tip/easy grip flask design and compact profile are claimed to improve stability during filtration and make gripping the receiver easier. The bottom of the receiver flask is slightly recessed, enabling capped flasks to be stacked for convenient storage.

NaviCyte

Harvard Apparatus www.harvardapparatus.com

Vertical diffusion/Ussing chamber systems

The Harvard/NaviCyte vertical diffusion chamber system is used for transport studies on both filter grown cell monolayers and surgically excised tissue sections. The vertical diffusion chamber system consists of six diffusion chambers, a 12-channel gas manifold and a heat block. Six general types of vertical chambers are available — one for use with cells grown on Snapwell membrane supports and the others for use with tissue.

ImmobaSil

Ashby Scientific www.ashby-scientific.co.uk

A cell support matrix for high productivity

ImmobaSil is a porous microcarrier support matrix for the immobilization and growth of both adherent and suspension cells. The porous structure provides a large surface area, and use of a gas-permeable silicon matrix enhances oxygen transfer, extending the lifespan of long-term cultures. ImmobaSil is claimed to be biocompatible with even the most delicate mammalian cell lines.

These notes are compiled in the Nature office from information provided by the manufacturers.

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