

Cell biology in close-up

A double dose of nucleic acids, and a new adornment for the lab wall.



Fritted or unfritted — with Nunc plates, you decide.

Filter Plates

Nunc www.nuncbrand.com

High-throughput filtering

The new filter plates in Nunc's molecular biology range are designed for high-throughput sample processing, including plasmid isolation. The 1 ml filter plates are available with or without a 20 µm solid frit and allow the user to process samples by vacuum filtration or centrifugation, in conjunction with the Nunc 1 ml deep well plate to receive the filtrate. The fritted filter plate is suitable for the clarification of bacterial and other lysates and crude extracts. Both the fritted and unfritted filter plate can be used to develop customized purification processes by addition of supports, membranes or resins as required. The glass fibre filter plate is intended for rapid isolation of plasmid DNA from multiple samples. A step-by-step plasmid purification protocol is included in each case of the product. DNA yield depends not only on the process but also on the plasmid copy number and cell density.

CKX Series microscopes

Olympus Optical Co.

www.olympus-europa.com

Living cells under the microscope

Olympus has developed a new relief contrast (RC) technique with the low-cost CKX Series microscopes for cell observation. This has particular advantages for the observation of cell viability in unstained living specimens. The new technique uses a modulated oblique illumination to increase visibility and contrast. A modulator within the condenser combined with the phase contrast objective enhances a pseudo-relief effect and allows superb apparent three-dimensional images. These are particularly effective with plastic Petri dishes and other cell culture devices. Contrast and brightness can be adjusted by rotating the polarizer. Centering free phase contrast is provided as standard for 10×,

20× and 40× magnifications. It is possible to view the specimen immediately using a full set of objectives and a single slider with pre-centred phase contrast. The CKX31 is a budget microscope for cell observation, while the CKX41 allows upgrading to more advanced operations.

Cytokine wall chart

MedSystems Diagnostics

www.instant-elisa.com

Poster session

A colourful cytokine interactions wall chart is now available from Bender MedSystems Diagnostics. The chart illustrates the cytokines produced by immune cells along with their interactions in mediating inflammatory reactions — and includes a list of ELISA and Instant ELISA kits available from the company. A wide selection of Instant ELISA kits is available for detecting cytokines from human and monkey sources.

QIAamp MinElute

Qiagen

www.qiagen.com

Simultaneous purification of viral RNA and DNA

QIAamp MinElute virus spin and vacuum kits combine well-established silica-membrane technology with QIAamp MinElute columns for simultaneous purification of viral RNA and DNA. This combination allows elution in small volumes, yielding highly concentrated nucleic acids. The procedure is suitable for use with plasma, serum, and other cell-free body fluids. The procedures involved in these kits are designed to ensure that there is no sample-to-sample cross-contamination and to allow safe handling of potentially infectious samples. The simple protocols, which are suited for simultaneous processing of multiple samples, yield pure nucleic acids

in less than 1 hour. QIAamp MinElute virus spin and vacuum kits can be used for isolation of viral RNA and DNA from a broad range of RNA and DNA viruses. Nucleic acids purified using the QIAamp MinElute system are ready for immediate use in amplification reactions, such as PCR and RT-PCR, or for storage at -20°C.

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



Two for one: QIAamp MinElute.