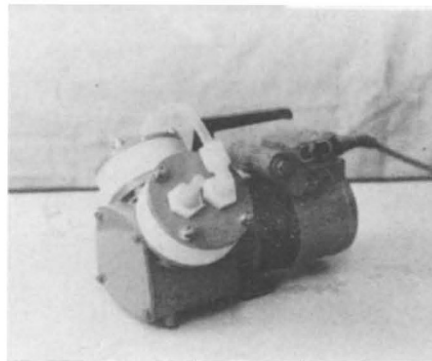


Varian's new solids NMR instrumentation, researchers can obtain detailed structural and dynamic information about molecules and investigate molecular motion (Reader Service No. 122). WSA has a 1 kW high-power pulse amplifier that generates the short radio-frequency pulses needed to cover the wide spectral widths associated with solid protein NMR spectra. Likewise, the WSA receiver bandwidth has been increased to 2 MHz. Varian can also demonstrate the software included in WSA that performs specific wideline NMR experiments on Varian's spectrometers.

A sealed rotor for middle-capacity benchtop and under-bench refrigerated centrifuges helps contain blood samples and other infectious materials during centrifugation. Heraeus Separationstechnik has engineered the 3360 rotor with a stainless steel shield and transparent polycarbonate lid to replace their 3350 rotor (Reader Service No. 123). The tightly-closing lid keeps infectious agents from getting into the centrifuge or surrounding areas in the event of aerosol formation or glass breakage, and breakage can be identified immediately because the lid is clear. Heraeus Separationstechnik's rotor also uses a racking system which caters to tubes of capacities from 7 to 100 ml, and has decanting and incubation facilities. More information will be available at Analytica from Heraeus Separationstechnik.

KNF Neuberger have machined a vacuum pump head from solid Teflon, resulting in a pump with strong chemical resistance to corrosive vapours. The inlet and outlet valves in KNF's pump are also made from Teflon, and the diaphragm is produced from rubber laminated to a thick layer of Teflon (Reader Service No.



A Teflon pump head cuts corrosion.

124). Teflon protection means that the pumps can be used with all kinds of chemical vapours without inevitable pump failure. KNF's series of corrosion-resistant pumps spans flow rates from 18 to 32 litres per minute, with vacuum levels down to 10 mbar.

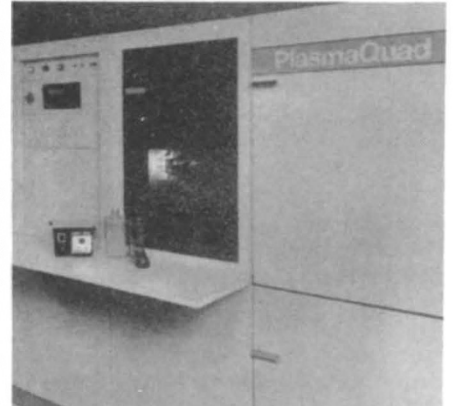
Savant Instruments, in stand D4, hall 7, take another approach to vapour corrosion in vacuum pumps. Their **chemical trap**, the model SCT120, removes acidic, alkali, organic and inorganic vapours that can condense in the pump system and wreak corrosive havoc (Reader Service No. 125). Savant's plexiglass cylinder measures 5 inches in diameter by 11 inches in height, with a removeable top for cleaning and re-charging. In operation, the SCT120 should be placed between the



Savant traps vapours before damage begins. concentrator/evaporator and the vacuum pump; standard 1/2-inch tubing will make adequate connections. □

A computer-assisted data acquisition and analysis system for VG Isotope's VG 9000 glow discharge mass spectrometer (GDMS) will make its debut at VG Isotopes' stand A10, hall 11 at Analytica (Reader Service No. 126). The system offers multipaging of screen memory for

access to menu-driven utilities such as current status readouts, real-time data acquisition displays, peak information and graphic analysis of old or current data. Graph scaling, peak identification and selection, baseline setting and other parameters are controlled from soft keys. VG Isotopes claim this package enhances the performance and convenience of their VG 9000, a GDMS instrument which has achieved detection limits below 10 parts per 10⁹. Also at the company's Analytica stand, VG Isotopes scientists will be operating the PlasmaQuad inductively coupled



VG Isotopes will be giving demonstrations of their ICP-MS at Analytica.

mass spectrometry system (ICP-MS), a machine that gives detection limits better than 0.1 parts per 10⁹ for most elements.

Baird & Tatlock's motorless stirring technique has some new followers. The Flatspin 2 range of stirrers, on view in Analytica at stand B3 hall 9, has a 'spin-off' feature that provides a warning if the magnetic follower loses capture while stirring (Reader Service No. 127). Baird & Tatlock have developed two types of Flatspin 2 products; the new immersion stirrer and a hotplate stirrer. The immersion stirrer has an encapsulated head that can withstand temperatures up to 100°C; the hotplate stirrer now includes an external probe for monitoring temperature suspended in solution. □

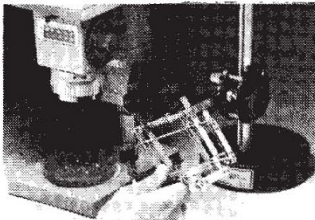
These notes are compiled by Karen Wright from information provided by the manufacturers. To obtain further details about these products, use the reader service card bound inside the journal.

Erratum: VCA/AIDS ELISA test kit

THE product review for Cellular Products' Retro-Tek AIDS test, published in the 10 April 1986 issue of *Nature*, incorrectly stated that "direct absorbance readings [generated by the test kit]... indicate the progress of the disease". In fact, these readings can only be used to monitor the concentration of the AIDS viral antigens in tissue culture samples or the presence of AIDS antigens in isolation and purification schemes. □

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