Programs for action

New software packages tackle graphs, genomes, stability.

Grapher 4

Golden Software www.goldensoftware.com

Grapher 4 gains an extra dimension

The upgrade to the Grapher graphing package gives it the ability to create 3D graphs and to embed an Excel window directly within Grapher. These features enable users to create publication-quality graphs with the worksheet flexibility of the spreadsheet program. Users can convert their data into one of twenty-two fully-customizable graph types. Other new features are date/time support, allowing dates and times to be used as variables, and the ability to break an axis. It imports and exports data files in all popular formats, and its functionality can be integrated with any ActiveX Automation-compatible software. Visual Basic, C++ and Perl scripts can be used to call Grapher to automate repetitive functions.

Image-Pro Family Software Suite

Media Cybernetics www.mediacy.com

Image analysis solutions with a software suite

Media Cybernetics, a provider of scientific image analysis software, has expanded on its products to offer the Image-Pro Family software suite with a three-step imaging approach, allowing users to upgrade as their needs and imaging skills grow. Image-Pro Express is for basic imaging or for image capture stations, offering numerous capture and enhancement options. Added measurement and analysis capabilities can be found with the Image-Pro Discovery. And Image-Pro Plus includes all of the functionality of Image-Pro Discovery along with added analysis tools and the ability to write customized macros and plug-ins. Image-Pro products are also available in integrated camera and hardware kits.
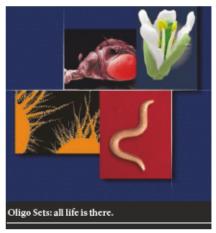
OmniSEC

Viscotek www.viscotek.com

Software for chromatography automation

OmniSEC is a fully 21CFR part 11 compliant GPC/SEC chromatography software package providing an integrated software solution that helps maximize the information extraction and efficiency of polymer characterization experiments. It can be used to fully automate the Viscotek GPCmax, a pump, autosampler and degasser module designed for polymer characterization applications. OmniSEC could be used in laboratories where it is of primary importance to provide integrated system control and data acquisition from the same software with traceable data. All system parameters need only be entered once, enabling secure and traceable data entry.

Oligo Sets: all life is there.

Array-Ready Oligo Sets

Qiagen www.operon.com

Four new genome sets

Arabidopsis, Candida albicans, Caenorhabditis elegans and *Drosophila melanogaster* genomes have been added to Qiagen's line of Oligo Sets. Each 70-mer probe is designed for maximal specificity for its target gene, while minimizing cross-hybridization to other genes. Each probe is melting-temperature normalized and contains a 5′ amino linker, giving the flexibility to select covalent or nonconvalent slide chemistry. Array-Ready Oligo Sets are offered in a 384-well plate format at 600 or 1,200 pmol.

Stability Pre-Scheduling Module

Analytical Information Systems
www.ais-lims.com

LIMS software for stability

Now a stability trial can be managed entirely by laboratory information management systems. The Stability Pre-Scheduling module allows samples to be pre-registered onto the LIMS for planned release at predetermined times. The Analytical Information Systems LIMS organizes the work protocol by informing lab staff of what resources are required for the stability study, what needs to be done and when to do it. New tools allow authorized users to modify screens and data structures. If the stability study starts to suffer data drift, the user is immediately informed, improving the quality of the stability trial and removing human error in spotting some mistakes.

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