

## WWW GUIDE

# Centrifugation on the Web

Richard Peters and Robert S. Sikorski

If you think you know everything there is to know about centrifugation, stop! This column isn't for you. If you are interested in finding the most up to date purchasing information, helpful techniques, and handy calculation tools, please proceed. We scoured the World Wide

Web using our MIRIAD search tool and found 450 individual sites. Of those, we discarded most of the net sites on centrifugation because they contained research papers where the word "centrifugation" was mentioned in the "methods" section. Of the remaining sites, we picked nine that we felt were outstanding for their "nuts and bolts" approach to the topic. The documents selected range from in-depth discussions of various centrifugation techniques to homepages of equipment manufacturers. We especially liked Beckman's unique Common Gateway Interface (CGI) script that allows

you to calculate rotor variables, such as rpm, RCF, and k factor, according to the variables you input (<http://www.beckman.com/cgi-bin/RotorCalc>).

This month we also proudly unveil our very own WWW site (<http://www.MedsiteNavigator.com>), where you can find archived copies of all the links highlighted within these columns. Just enter the "scientist" level and navigate to the "facts-technology" section. We have arranged the links under pertinent scientific specialties. For example, you will find "centrifugation" under "biochemistry."

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## Centrifugation products and services sites

Page name/URL	Comments
Biotech and Drug Industry Interest Fueling The Centrifuge Revolution <a href="http://www.the-scientist.library.upenn.edu/yr1996/mar/tools_960318.htm">http://www.the-scientist.library.upenn.edu/yr1996/mar/tools_960318.htm</a>	A thorough article on centrifugation from <i>The Scientist</i> .
Brookhaven Instruments Ltd. <a href="http://www.gemini.co.uk/gemini/biopages/co/brook/bic01.html">http://www.gemini.co.uk/gemini/biopages/co/brook/bic01.html</a>	A list of products available from this vendor.
Centrifugation <a href="http://bio.taiu.edu/centrifuge/centrifugation.html">http://bio.taiu.edu/centrifuge/centrifugation.html</a>	A very good description (with helpful illustrations) of the theory behind centrifugation from the department of biology at Texas A&M University.
Centrifugation <a href="http://www.beckman.com/biorsrch/prodinfo/cntrifug/cenhome.htm">http://www.beckman.com/biorsrch/prodinfo/cntrifug/cenhome.htm</a>	Beckman's centrifugation page with links to product information. Under construction.
Composite Rotor, Inc. <a href="http://www.composite.com/~rotor/18100.htm">http://www.composite.com/~rotor/18100.htm</a>	Homepage for this maker of rotors. You can get information on their products.
Gradient Forming & Fractionation <a href="http://130.179.112.24/gradient.html">http://130.179.112.24/gradient.html</a>	A thorough discussion of this technique.
Purification by Differential Centrifugation <a href="http://plaid.hawk.plattsburgh.edu/acadvp/artsci/biology/bio401/DiffCent.html">http://plaid.hawk.plattsburgh.edu/acadvp/artsci/biology/bio401/DiffCent.html</a>	A lecture on differential centrifugation for the purification of organelles.
Rotor Calculations <a href="http://www.beckman.com/cgi-bin/RotorCalc">http://www.beckman.com/cgi-bin/RotorCalc</a>	A CGI script that calculates rotor variables based on rotor type.
Training Videos Order Form <a href="http://www.hhmi.org/science/labsafe/order1.htm">http://www.hhmi.org/science/labsafe/order1.htm</a>	You can order a training video on centrifugation hazards. Public service offering from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Office of Laboratory Safety.

## PEOPLE

Coulter Pharmaceutical (Palo Alto, CA) has confirmed it will name **Michael F. Bigham** president and CEO. Bigham will replace Arnold Oronsky, who will continue as chairman. Bigham was executive vice president of operations and CFO for Gilead Sciences.

Biosource Technologies (Vacaville, CA), has named **Bruce A. Boyd** executive vice president. Mr. Boyd is also a member of the Biosource board of directors. Most recently, he was vice president of worldwide business development for the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

Medarx, Inc. (Annandale, NJ) has announced the appointment of **Randall T. Curnow** as senior vice president and medical director, with responsibility for all clinical

and medical affairs. Dr. Curnow's most recent positions were as vice president, health science affairs, Glaxo Wellcome, Inc. and vice president, regulatory affairs, Glaxo, Inc.

**Thomas J. Facklam** has joined Creative BioMolecules (Hopkinton, MA) as vice president, product development and quality. Dr. Facklam joins the company from R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute, a Johnson & Johnson company, where he was senior director of international project management and clinical research.

SmithKline Beecham has announced the appointment of three senior researchers in bioinformatics. They are **Jim Fickett**, who joins SB from the T-10 Division of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, **Chris Rawl-**

**ings**, most recently head of the biomedical informatics unit at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (London), and **Randy Smith**, who comes to SB from the Baylor College of Medicine, where he served on the faculty of the department of molecular and human genetics and the W.M. Keck Center for Computational Biology.

Ascent Pharmaceuticals (Billerica, MA) has announced the appointment of **Alan R. Fox** as president and CEO. Mr. Fox joins Ascent from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Since 1991 he has served as president of Mead Johnson Europe (Paris).

**Robert T. Fraley**, president of the Ceregen unit at Monsanto, was named to the board of directors of DeKalb Genetics (DeKalb, IL).