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# **EQUIPMENT & GADGETS**

Sterilizing instruments used in small animal surgery need not be a hassle with Stoelting's **hot glass bead dry sterilizer**. With this device, instruments are inserted into a well of heated glass beads for about 15 seconds. A green indicator light indicates when the inserted instrument is sterilized and ready for use.

Reader Service No. 93 Tel. (+1) 630-860-9700 Fax (+1) 630-860-9775

Cole-Parmer's new **ergonomically designed glove boxes** are designed to reduce arm fatigue and improve mobility. The polyethylene glove boxes are available in three models: side door only, gas purge pass box or vacuum pass box. Each is supplied equipped with two 0.25-inch needle valves, one pair of 24-inch latex gloves, a set of glove bands and a fluorescent light.

Reader Service No. 94 Tel. (+1) 708-549-7600 Tel. (+1) 800-323-4340

## T-CELL ENRICHMENT

T-cell enrichment columns from R&D Systems are designed to provide a rapid and simple alternative to cell sorting, magnetic bead selection, panning or antibody plus complement-mediated cytolysis for the selection of T cells. The columns operate on a negative selection principle, which minimizes any potential

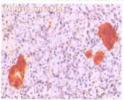


Rat CD3\* T-cell enrichment column.

activation of cells associated with positive selection techniques, according to the company. In addition to human and mouse CD3\*, CD4\* and CD8\* T-cell columns, R&D Systems now offers a rat CD3\* T-cell enrichment column. The columns have a wide range of loading capacities and are available in several sizes for processing variable numbers of cells.

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#### **ANTIBODIES**



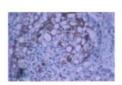
Monoclonal antibody to neuron-specific enolase.

A monoclonal antibody to neuronspecific enolase (NSE) is available from Zymed. NSE is a cytoplasmic protein expressed in neuronal cells and neuronallyderived tumors that may be useful for demonstrating peripheral neuroendocrine tumors (for example, neuroblastoma or small-cell lung carcinoma). Upon histological staining of either frozen or formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sections, NSE displays diffuse cytoplasmic staining in positive cells.

Reader Service No. 96 Tel. (+1) 415-871-4494 Fax (+1) 415-871-4499

Kamiya Biomedical's **Ku monoclonal antibody** recognizes the 86-kDa subunit of the human Ku protein. Ku is a nuclear protein thought to function in cell signaling, DNA replication and transcriptional activation. It serves as the regulatory component of the DNA-associated protein kinase that phosphorylates pol II and transcription factor Sp 1. The clone was raised against a Ku peptide antigen isolated from A431 human epidermoid carcinoma cells.

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Paraffin section of squamous carcinoma stained with anti-EGF receptor antibody.

Epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor is a 170-kDa transmembrane glycoprotein found on a variety of cell types. The extracellular domain of EGF receptor binds EGF as a proliferation signal. In response, the receptor dimerizes and autophosphorylates. This phosphorylation event is the first step in a signal cascade that has been linked to the nucleus, finally effecting the transcription of growth response genes. Recently, the EGF receptor has also been shown to heterodimerize to related receptor tyrosine kinases, for example, EGF receptor:erb-b2. Overexpression of EGF receptor has been noted in breast cancer, head and neck tumors, normal epithelia adjacent to tumors, advanced gastric carcinoma, lung tumors, squamous cell carcinomas and large-cell carcinomas. As such, BioGenex Laboratories now offers a **polycional antibody that reacts specifically with EGF receptor** in formalin-fixed, paraffinembedded tissue sections.

Reader Service No. 98 Tel. (+1) 510-275-0550 Fax (+1) 510-275-1999

## **ASSAYS**

The Bard PSA Trak assay, available through Invitech, is designed for the **quantitative measurement of prostate-specific antigen**. Specifically intended for mid- to high-volume laboratories, the 384-test kit includes four 96-well plates with breakaway strips. The assay is said to be compatible with most microplate enzyme immunoassay automated systems and has a stated throughput of up to six plates per hour.

Reader Service No. 99 Tel. (+44) (0) 191-519-4700 Fax (+44) (0) 191-519-4701

Amersham offers a high-throughput screening assay for potential antip34<sup>cdc2</sup> kinase drugs. Based on scintillation proximity assay technology, the p34<sup>cdc2</sup> SPA [32P] kinase enzyme assay is a single-tube, homogeneous assay that can be performed in the well of microplates. p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is one member of a group of kinases that are tightly associated with proteins (called cyclins) which are active during specific phases of the cell cycle. These cyclin-dependent kinases (CDKs) function by phosphorylating certain proteins and p34cdc2 has a key role in control of the cell cycle as it progresses from the 'G,' (growth) phase to the 'M' (mitosis) phase. Recent research has suggested that p34<sup>cdc2</sup> is not only implicated in apoptosis but that its activity is deregulated during human tumor development.

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## **ERRATUM**

The company name, Fidelity Medical, was inadvertently omitted in the description of the company's InstaCine laser disk archiving system for the cardiac catheterization lab (*Nature Med.* 3, 248; 1997).