

PULSE

Summer 2010

WELCOME TO PULSE

CELEBRATE A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WITH US

EXHIBITION UPDATE

EHEC LAUNCH

SAFETY FIRST

STAPH XTRA

COFFEE BREAK



THE BIG PICTURE...
Microbank®, is enjoying
it's 18th birthday, join us in the celebrations!

Safety First. Reduced Hazard Immersion Oil (PL.396)

Attention has recently been drawn to the potential hazards associated with the use of some types of Immersion Oils for microscopy.

At Pro-Lab Diagnostics we assure you, our customers, that the Immersion Oil we supply does NOT contain Dibutyl Phthalate (DBP) & is non-teratogenic.

Specific properties of PL.396 include:

Refractive index equal to glass (1.513).

High viscosity for ease of use.

No residual fluorescence, suitable for both light & fluorescent microscopy.

Limits common phenomena such as spherical aberration & field flatness.

Dropper bottle (50ml) to reduce accidental contamination.

Samples are available upon request, simply call or e-mail your nearest distributor.



Prolex® Staph Xtra (PL.1080/PL.1081)

Pro-Lab Diagnostics has recently developed a "4th Generation" rapid latex kit for the identification of *Staphylococcus Aureus* (inc. MRSA) using the enhanced performance Carboxylate Modified Microparticles (CMMP)

common to all kits in the entire Prolex® range.

Clear results are obtained in 20 seconds with as few as one colony, showing strong reactions with blue CMMP against a white background. The kit is presented in a user friendly, recyclable pack containing the newly designed agglutination card & negative control. Full details & demonstrations are available upon request, please contact your nearest distributor.



Useful Definitions:

Chromatic aberration:

From the Greek "chroma" meaning colour & the Latin "aberre" to stray or deviate. Different wavelengths of light passing through a simple lens are focussed to different points, the result is unwanted colour fringing. Achromatic lenses use lenses of differing refractive indices to correct this.

Spherical aberration:

Parallel light rays passing through the centre of a simple lens focus at a different point than those passing through the edges. The result is a blurred image. In microscopy, the effects of this aberration can be mitigated by the use of immersion oil.

Refractive Index:

The refractive power of a medium compared with that of air (1.0008)

Resolution:

The fineness or coarseness of detail of the image, often expressed as dots per inch

Product Launch - Prolisa™ EHEC (PL.2001)

Pro-Lab Diagnostics is proud to present the Prolisa™ EHEC EIA, a high quality tool to help diagnose life threatening disease due to Shiga Toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), a leading cause of bacterial infection today.



Several professional bodies recommend that laboratories should perform Shiga toxin testing on all stools which are submitted for enteric pathogen testing & that:

"Shiga toxin testing should be performed on growth from broth culture or primary isolation media as this method is more sensitive & specific than direct testing of stool." ^[1]

PRODUCT FEATURES

100% Sensitivity from broth culture.

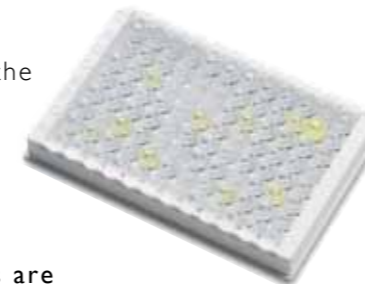
98.3% Specificity from broth culture.

Easy to perform test & read results.

Rapid, reliable results in 2 hours.

Detects 100% of STEC serotypes linked to human disease.

Available in 96-well test format with detachable wells.



^[1] CDC 2006. Recommendations for the Diagnosis of Shiga Toxin producing *Escherichia coli* Infections by Clinical Laboratories.

Full details & demonstrations are available upon request, please contact your nearest distributor.

STOP PRESS...

Don't miss the next Microbiology Focus Group at the Hard Days Night Hotel, Liverpool, UK on Friday 23rd July 2010. A few places are still available, please e-mail Mark Reed (mreed@pro-lab.com) for further details.



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“Delivering Today, Researching for Tomorrow”



This has long been the message to our customers & we are extremely proud to be an established leader in latex technology, emphasised by the introduction of the Prolex® range of rapid latex agglutination systems employing pioneering breakthroughs which offer: increased speed, reliability, accuracy & ease of use. We expect to have many new products to share with you over the coming months & I look forward to introducing these personally.

Robert Rae

Robert Rae, CEO Pro-Lab Group

A warm welcome to the first edition of the new “PULSE”.

Enclosed, you will find details of the recent news from Pro-Lab Diagnostics. Naturally, we can't cover all of the new developments that we'd like to share, so look out for the next issue very soon. 2010 is a busy year for exhibitions & seminars, we look forward to meeting you at some of them.

With continuing changes to pathology services in the UK, the challenges for the future of our industry are both exciting & intriguing. We may not yet have seen all of the changes due to the Carter & Darzi reviews, although we have certainly seen some over the past few years. These changes will not only affect the way in which testing is carried out, but also where, when & by whom the testing is done. At Pro-Lab Diagnostics, we are looking forward to these challenges while continuing to serve each & every one of our customers.



Mark Reed

Mark Reed, European General Manager



Diary Dates



Welsh Microbiology Assoc.
Summer Meeting,
Vale Hotel,
Hensol, Nr Cardiff.

24th - 25th June 2010



Society for
Applied Microbiology,
Brighton,
United Kingdom.
www.sfam.org.uk

5th - 8th July 2010

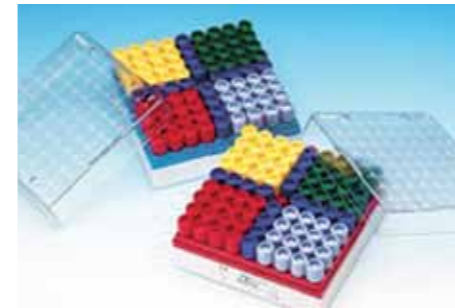


Southwestern Assoc. of
Clinical Microbiology,
San Antonio, TX, USA.
www.swacm.org

1st - 4th Sept 2010

18 Years On - Microbank® (PL.170/M)

Over the years, many different formulations, concepts & compounds have been tried as cryoprotective agents for the long term preservation of bacterial & fungal cultures, with varying degrees of success. There are no strict rules how this should be done; however, the method of choice must be reliable to avoid the loss of valuable collections & retain total cell integrity. We estimate that over 150,000 laboratories worldwide store bacterial & fungal cultures, with 35 million strains being successfully stored using a number of methods. Methods include the use of glycerol & DMSO that are somewhat reliable & occasionally polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerine, sorbitol, dextran, polyvinylpyrrolidone & trehalose in a number of combined formulations.



The effect of the cryopreservative on the cells chosen to be stored has to be given careful consideration when selecting a suitable cryopreservative & cryopreservation method. Damage to cells during the freezing, storage & recovery process can lead to loss of cell characteristics, mutation, attenuation, cell wall damage & occasionally, cell death.

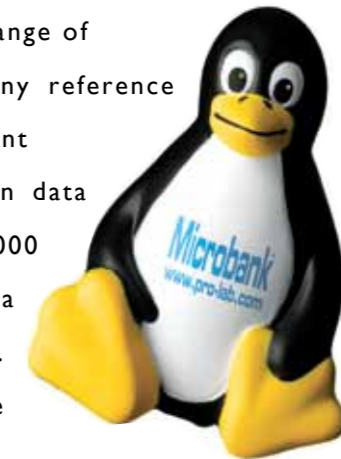
The Microbank® System has been used successfully worldwide for over 18 years, accounting for a significant percentage of the total strains stored. Data on file at Pro-Lab Diagnostics & in many international reference papers demonstrates its success with a comprehensive range of strains.

Microbank® uses a specially developed cryopreservative solution that allows for long term storage & maintenance of cell integrity, removing the risks mentioned.



Coupled with specially treated beads & a market leading cryovial, Microbank® continues to grow in reputation for reliable long term cryopreservation.

The Microbank® World Wide Performance Portfolio contains extensive data for a full range of Bacterial & Fungal isolates in many reference centres worldwide. The most recent addition to the portfolio has been data supporting the storage of over 25,000 *Neisseria meningitidis* cultures at a recognised reference laboratory. Copies of the updated MWWPP are available, on request, directly from Pro-Lab Diagnostics or by visiting www.pro-lab.com.



Coffee Break.....

Here are six topical anagrams for you to solve! There is a common theme to all the answers & your clue is: The Prolex® PL.030 Strep Grouping Kit.....

Send your answers, with your name & address: by fax (+44 (0)151 353 1614), post to Pro-Lab Diagnostics UK or e-mail (mreed@pro-lab.com)

1. **Scrooge Potency Suspect**
2. **Balance Circle Feed**
3. **Accounts Perception Mouse**
4. **Tall Gauge Antitoxin**
5. **Stylish Amoebae**
6. **Self Cretaceous Cocain**



The closing date for entries is 2nd August 2010 & the first correct entry, randomly selected, will receive a £50.00 “Amazon” Gift Voucher - **Good Luck!**

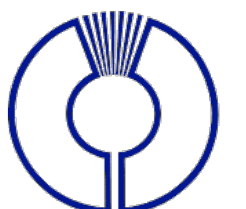


Diary Dates



Microbe 2010
Sheffield
United Kingdom
www.microbe.org.uk

24th - 26th Sept 2010



Scottish Microbiology
Autumn Meeting
Inchyra Grange Hotel
Falkirk
www.scottish-micro-assoc.org.uk

5 - 6 November 2010



Medica
Dusseldorf, Germany
www.medica-tradefair.com

17th - 20th Nov 2010