



Spring 2008 Microfocus



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scientific
excellence in microbiology



New Hypoxic/Anoxic Workstation Unveiled

In the first week of April, our hypoxic workstation was unveiled at Analytica in Germany. This new workstation – the Whitley HA500 – has been developed to create normoxic, hypoxic and anoxic conditions within a controlled and sustained workstation environment.

The reaction from visitors at the event has been extremely positive with many people requesting more information and demonstrations. The majority of interest has come from those whose research benefits from:

- accurately controlled, pre-determined levels of oxygen, carbon dioxide, temperature and humidity
- researching cell function under normoxic, hypoxic and anoxic conditions
- the ability to transfer a variety of cell ware to and from a precisely controlled environment
- ensuring rapid recovery of gas and environmental parameters.

Further information on this innovative new technology is available from Bill Spencer on [01274 595728](tel:01274595728) or email bill_spencer@dwscientific.co.uk.



The DWS/Meintrup exhibition stand at Analytica 2008

www.dwscientific.co.uk

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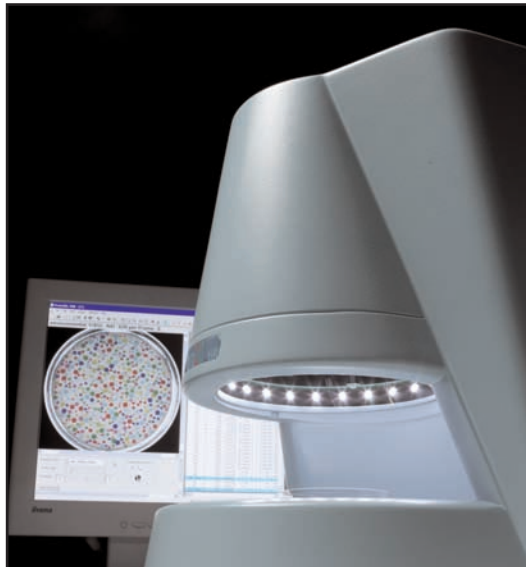
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Veterinary Laboratory Agency orders 16 ProtoCOLs

Don Whitley Scientific Limited is pleased to announce the sale of sixteen specially customised ProtoCOL automated colony counting and zone sizing systems to an internationally recognised centre of excellence in veterinary research, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). The systems, manufactured by Synbiosis, will be sited at every VLA unit across the UK and will be used to speed up testing of veterinary antibiotics for therapeutic use and to collect and monitor zone size data for surveillance purposes.



The VLA ProtoCOL systems, which consist of a computer controlled, high-resolution CCD camera integrated with image analysis software, can read an entire plate, including measurement of inhibition zones and transcription of results, in minutes. This will save VLA's microbiologists hours of repetitive tasks, as well as improve the accuracy of results by eliminating manual measurement and transcription errors.

The software included with the VLA ProtoCOL can measure inhibition zones with a resolution better than 0.05mm from the edge of an antibiotic disc to automatically produce data on the zone size only. This will save VLA scientists' time because they will be able to perform tests with different antibiotic disc sizes on one plate. The VLA ProtoCOL is also fully GLP compliant, with the data generated automatically transcribed into Excel or transferred to the VLA LIMS system to allow results to be safely stored or statistically analysed.

Gareth Purvis, Product Specialist at Don Whitley Scientific, stated: "ProtoCOL's inhibition zone measurement capabilities were compared extensively against a number of other commercial systems by the VLA so we are delighted such a prestigious agency has decided ours is the best in class for this application."

DWS Sponsors Sheffield Student

For many years Don Whitley Scientific has maintained a close relationship with Sheffield University's Molecular Microbiology department headed by Professor David Kelly. The team has a Mk3 workstation and three Whitley VA500s in their laboratory, all of which are used for growing *Campylobacter jejuni*.

We are now sponsoring one of Professor Kelly's PhD students, Andrew Hitchcock, in his work on the function of novel oxygen-regulated genes in *Campylobacter jejuni*.

In the Autumn edition of *Microfocus* we will feature a special report on Andrew's work and how the team at Sheffield make use of their Whitley Workstations.

Service and Accreditation News

Stephen Hughes

Steve recently joined DWS as a service engineer covering central England and Wales. He originally qualified in air conditioning and refrigeration and has worked for RS Components and Siemens - and more recently as a service engineer at Coffee Nation, covering the UK and Germany. Although DWS provides a completely new environment for Steve, as a skilled engineer he is relishing the challenge this provides.

Despite very much enjoying golf, Steve honestly describes himself as a 'fairweather golfer'. However, last year he took up running and ran in the Great North Run (13.1 miles), completing it in a respectable 2 hours, 15 minutes and raising almost £1000 for the Alzheimer's Society. He has signed up for the 2008 event in October and hopes to better both his time and the amount raised for charity.

Steve has been married to Jo for over 15 years.

Robert Hoffmann

Robert joined DWS in February 2008 as Service Manager. He worked for 10 years as Service Administration Manager at Mitton Mechanical, an industrial heating and ventilation company. Prior to this he spent 14 years in cost and management accounts at British Bakeries.

At DWS, Robert will be responsible for managing the service function in terms of the administrative processes. He will be endeavouring to improve the efficiency of the department and consequently the quality of service we can offer to you, our customers.

In his spare time, Robert enjoys circuit training, playing squash and skiing.



Stephen Hughes



Robert Hoffmann

Skin Research Centre makes good use of WASP

The Skin Research Centre (SRC) at the University of Leeds, one of Europe's leading dermatology centres, is making good use of two pieces of equipment we supplied to rapidly test the effectiveness of new anti-microbial therapies to treat acne, dermatitis and other skin diseases.

Microbiologists at the SRC are using the Whitley automated spiral plater (WASP) and the ProtoCOL colony counter to rapidly process samples containing micro-organisms taken from patients being treated with anti-microbial drugs and topical therapies. The plate counts generated are then used to determine which treatments are the most effective at reducing the number of micro-organisms associated with diseases on the skin of clinical trial subjects.

Collette Lindley, Research Assistant at the SRC stated:

“Our validated methods for clinical trials require a large throughput of growth media types and dilution replicates with up to 16 spiral plates for each subject for each study visit. As studies can involve five study visits for up to 100 subjects over a 12-week period, we require a robust and reliable automated system for plate counts. In addition to spiral plates for clinical studies, we also use pour plates and filtration membranes in our *in vitro* studies. We routinely enumerate skin micro-organisms such as *Staphylococcus* spp., *Propionibacterium* spp. and *Malassezia* spp., and we also test products using *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus* spp., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Candida albicans*. Consequently, we use a variety of media types and the WASP and ProtoCOL from DWS provide us with the level of flexibility, speed and traceability that we require for our accredited work.”

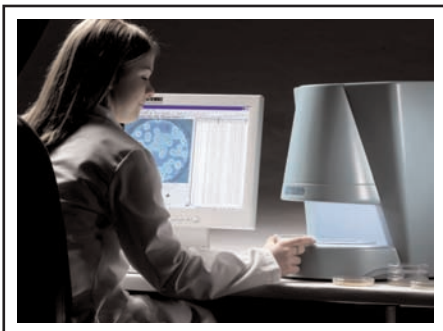
Lindley continued:

“As a UKAS accredited laboratory we are very conscious of data quality issues. Our clinical trial data is also subject to audit by regulatory authorities at any time. Therefore, we need GLP-compliant electronic records to support our paper information and the ProtoCOL makes it really easy to do this.”



Steve Rogerson

Steve Rogerson, Product Specialist, is delighted that DWS equipment is being used routinely at such a major dermatology centre as the SRC.



Andrew Pridmore - A Profile

Andrew Pridmore is Head of Microbiology and has worked at DWS for 16 years. Whilst studying for his BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Sciences at Bradford University, Andrew was given the option of specialising and that's when he began his interest in microbiology. During his time at university, he took a year out to work in industry. For something completely different, Andrew secured employment in commercial pharmaceuticals – dealing with formulations of tablets and capsules for generic pharmaceuticals.



On graduation with a first class honours degree in 1991, Andrew joined DWS to provide customers with technical microbiology support for our equipment – particularly the RABIT system. He was also charged with helping to develop the contract microbiology business.

Whilst working at DWS, Andrew also studied for his PhD at Leeds University (1994-2000), for which he studied the responses of anaerobic bacteria to increasing oxygen concentrations. In related research he also examined the production of anaerobic incubation atmospheres and the use of Anotox™ to remove toxins from anaerobic environments. This work was of great benefit to the continuous development of our anaerobic workstations.

In his spare time, Andrew likes hiking in the countryside, usually The Lake District or the Yorkshire Dales, cooking, and visiting historic buildings.

His long career at DWS has already allowed him to witness the adoption of several quality standards including BS5750, ISO9000, Investors in People, and particularly GLP compliance in the laboratory, which he helped to initiate.

“I was one of the first graduate microbiologists employed to provide specific microbiology support for the manufacturing and product development challenges faced by DWS. The laboratory has since become known for an emphasis on animal health research, predominantly due to our previous Research Director, Professor Peter Silley, and his background in that area. Our main focus is the study of antimicrobial susceptibility and resistance. My vision for the future of the laboratory is to diversify into human medicine and other areas of microbiology as we have a broad mixture of people and skills in the laboratory and can handle most areas within this scientific discipline.”

To read some of Andrew's published papers, please log on to www.dwscientific.co.uk/pubwork.php

For more information about the work of our laboratory, contact Samantha Hinchcliffe on samantha_hinchcliffe@dwscientific.co.uk or 01274 595728 .

New Sales Manager for DWS Australia



Matthew Quek

Matthew joined Don Whitley Scientific Australia in January 2008. He has a BSc in Molecular Biotechnology from Sydney University and worked in pharmaceutical sales before joining DWS.

Matthew was born in Sydney and lives in Ryde, just outside Sydney. In his spare time he enjoys snorkelling, touch footie ('rugby'), fishing - generally the life you can lead with a beach on your doorstep.

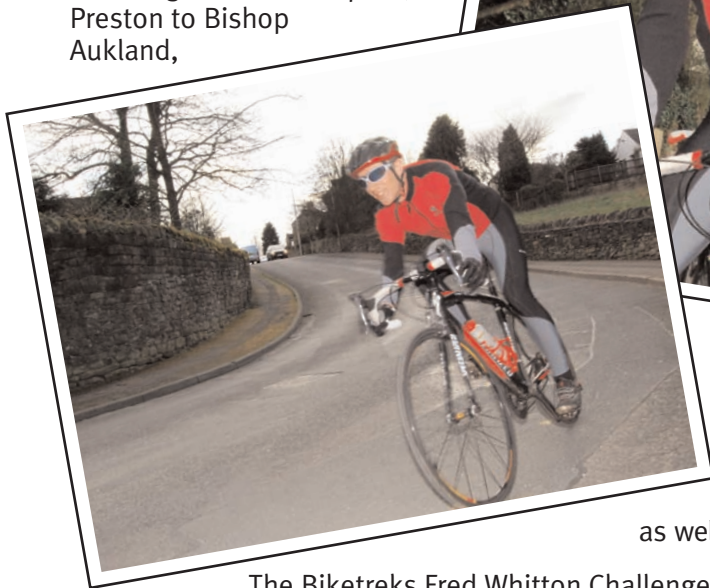
At the Sydney office Matthew joins Sharon and Joan in running the business - with particular responsibility for generating sales throughout Australia. Matthew is looking forward to discovering more about his country whilst travelling the vast distances between major cities.



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DWS director to take part in Britain's toughest bike race

On 11th May this year Don Whitley Scientific Sales Director, Steve Robertson, will be competing in one of the UK's most arduous bike races. Cyclists from all over the country, from Edinburgh to Southampton, Preston to Bishop Auckland,



will be taking part to prove their strength, resilience, stamina and pure bloody-mindedness – as well as their cycling skills.

The Biketreks Fred Whitton Challenge is, according to Cycling Week, “the daddy of them all”. A gruelling 112 mile cycle around the Lake District, the race includes the climbs of Kirkstone Pass (454m), Honister (356m), Newlands (333m), Whinlatter (318m), Cold Fell (295m) and the brutal Hardknott (393m) and Wryrose (393m) Passes.

Steve has been a keen cyclist for a number years but this is his first attempt at competitive racing. Amazingly, for the past several years the event has been oversubscribed and the number of riders has had to be limited. In 2007, almost 700 rode in the event. In 2008 Steve will be competing against 999 other riders. The 2007 joint winners completed the course in 5 hours, 45 minutes, 48 seconds – so does Steve think he can beat this?

“I’m beginning to think I must have taken a temporary leave of my senses to have registered for this race. I will be extremely happy just to make it to the end in one piece, having seen photos of the wrecked bikes of some competitors’ when they have crashed en route.”

The event is held to raise funds for two charities: MacMillan Nurses and The Dave Rayner Fund. The latter assists ambitious riders to make a career from cycle racing on the European continent. In 2007 the event raised £30,000 for these charities and this year they are hoping to significantly increase that amount.

2008 EXHIBITION / CONFERENCE DATES

Don Whitley Scientific has already confirmed attendance at the following exhibitions/conferences. If you are visiting any of these events, come to our stand for the latest news on our product range. Log on to: www.dwscientific.co.uk for continuously updated exhibition information.

- **BSMT Annual Scientific Conference, 16 May, London**
- **SfAM Summer Conference, 7-10 July, Belfast**
- **North West Microbiology Meeting, 10 July, Liverpool**
- **Food Microbiology, 1-4 September, Aberdeen**
- **Microbe 2008, 26-28 September, Sheffield**

For more information on any of the products featured in this newsletter, please contact us:

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