

Legends of the fall

This marketplace includes improved enzymes, PCR detection systems, updated CD-rom programs and time-saving kits.

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Coverage of the fast moving biotechnology market begins with the announcement of a new enzyme that promises to make gene sequencing analyses faster and more reliable. Amersham Life Sciences plans an autumn launch for its new Thermo Sequenase™, which, in trials, outperformed other automated-sequencing heat-stable enzymes. It



GeneAmp *In Situ* PCR system

can be used with as little as five fmol of starting material.

For advances in PCR detection, Perkin-Elmer presents the TaqMan™ LS-50B PCR Detection System, which eliminates the need for gel electrophoresis in PCR detection. This system detects up to 96 samples in seven minutes and has two components, the LS-50B Luminescence Spectrophotometer and the TaqMan PCR Reagent Kit, which employs a 5' nuclease assay and includes PCR primers and a fluorescent probe. It is optimized for use with Perkin-Elmer's GeneAmp® PCR System 9600. The second offering from Perkin-Elmer is the GeneAmp® *In Situ* PCR system, which allows performance of reproducible *in situ* PCR right on a glass slide; there is no need for DNA extraction. Up to 30 samples can be amplified in one run in the innovative vertical 10-slide block.

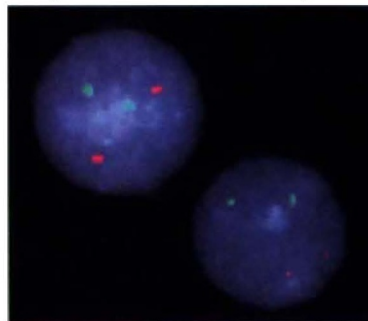
If your experiments require the optimum in optical technology,

Olympus has come out with its new IX series microscopes, which combine outstanding optical performance with optimum flexibility. The vibration-resistant, sturdy design make these ideal for micromanipulation and electrophysiological experiments. This series also allows easy upgrades with accessories including incubators, stage-heating plates, dual viewing attachment, and a versatile fluorescence system.

Turning from hardware to software, IntelliGenetics GeneWorks® Sequence Analysis software provides a comprehensive package for both DNA and protein sequence analysis. Analyses can be performed simultaneously thanks to its unique fully integrated set up. Database searches, multiple sequence alignment, PCR primer design, complete protein analyses and more are all available.

The second version of the Genome Interactive Databases (GID) CD-rom, from John Libbey Eurotext, has now come out. This update of the first interactive databases on human genome mapping contains genes, markers, references, abstracts, linkages, YACs, maps, oligonucleotides and microsatellites in the following databases: GENATLAS/GEN; GENATLAS/LINK; GENATLAS/REF; GENATLAS/MAP; CEPH/INDEX-CEPH/LOD; CEPH/GENETHON; GENETHON; GENSET; and LDB maps.

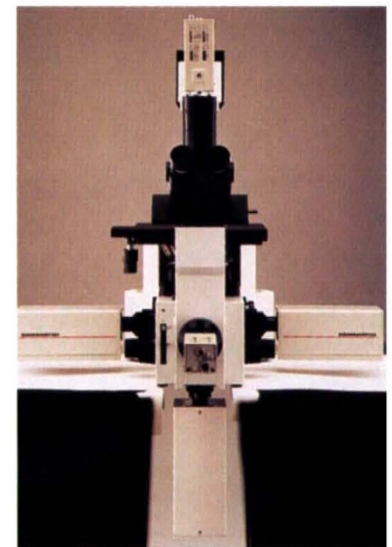
Something new for cytogenetic analyses are dual colour probes



Normal lymphocyte nucleus hybridized to Vysis LSI™ 13/21 dual colour probe.

from Vysis. Easy detection of chromosomes 13 and 21 aneuploidy are accomplished using LSI™13 indirect spectrum orange and LSI™21 indirect spectrum green, or *bcr* and *c-abl* gene fusions can be detected with dual coloured probes for the *bcr* breakpoint region and the *c-abl* oncogene.

Faster experimental time can be accomplished as well with numerous kits on the market. Invitrogen offers the Zero Background™ Cloning Kit, which uses the vector pZERO™. An insert disrupting the lethal gene carried on the plasmid allows positive selection only. This offers high cloning efficiency without X-gal



Olympus IX70

expenses for blue/white indication or vector dephosphorylation. Boehringer Mannheim has launched Split Second™. This DNA isolation kit takes you from whole blood to PCR-ready DNA in just 30 minutes. Plus, all reactions take place in just one tube, reducing exposure to harmful infectious agents.

A safer working environment can be accomplished using the new effective alternative to acrylamide and agarose gels. Cambio announces TreviGel™, a powdered polysaccharides mix that can resolve DNA fragments of 50 bp to 25,000 bp. Easily mixed in TAE buffer, its advantages over agarose and acrylamide are that it has greater gel strength, it is completely clear and it is safe to handle. □

Notes compiled by Laurie Goodman.