

The Electrode Company adds an IrDA wireless serial data link for users of the Lightman® microspectrometer

The Electrode Company Ltd specialises in non-invasive monitoring, optical sensors and high performance pulse oximetry. The Lightman® portable microspectrometer is now available with a dedicated IrDA infrared wireless serial data link. This will allow the user to download key data to any other IrDA device such as a PC, Laptop or PDA.

Downloaded data can be rapidly stored or re-transcribed into other formats, such as MSExcel, MSAccess and Lotus123. Individual sensor data can also be added, giving the user a valu-



able record and audit tool.

The Lightman is a unique, compact and hand-held device, which is easily operated by non-technicians and designed to be rapid and accurate in measuring SpO2 sensor performance. Its use will help reduce the number of patients put at risk daily from faulty SpO2 sensors.

For more information on the Electrode Company, visit www.electro.co.uk, or for details of the Lightman microspectrometer, telephone 01633 861772.

Three-laser Entry-level Confocal Microscope System meets the demand for affordable fluorescence imaging in diverse research applications

Having successfully filled the gap in the market for entry-level confocal imaging with its e-C1 microscope system, Nikon Instruments has announced the launch of its e-C1plus package. This has been specifically designed to meet the high demand for confocal imaging in increasingly diverse research applications. With the addition of a three laser-line option, the new e-C1plus can achieve increased flexibility, whilst remaining affordable and generating unsurpassed fluorescence images.

With three lasers, the e-C1plus can be used for almost any imaging technique required today, including simultaneous dual-channel fluorescence, DIC, time-



lapse recording, and spatial analysis.

Live 3D images can be captured effortlessly as the settings and procedures required can be viewed in a single window, eliminating the need to switch between multiple windows. Furthermore, using the simple and intuitive Graphical User Interface (GUI), experimental set-up, image analysis and processing can all be carried out by the click of a mouse.

For more information please contact the

Nikon Sales Office,
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visit www.nikon-instruments.com

Nikon Instruments opens World-class Molecular Imaging Centre at University of Oxford

Researchers can now 'see' single molecules, measure their properties and track their movement

Thanks to a partnership with Nikon Instruments, the University of Oxford has created a world-class advanced imaging facility; the Nikon Oxford Molecular Imaging Centre (NOMIC), at the University's Chemical Research Laboratory (CRL).

Unlike conventional imaging systems, where researchers must mix and match their studies to achieve results, the new high-tech suite allows biomedical and nanotechnology scientists to view events at a sub-microscopic level in real-time in a single integrated network. Hagen Bayley, Professor of Chemical Biology, said, "The opening of the new suite is a notable event. It allows researchers to

'see' single molecules, measure their properties and track their movement".

NOMIC is Nikon's fourth global imaging Centre. The three other Nikon centres of excellence are based at University of Heidelberg in Germany, Harvard Medical School in North America, and recently Hokkaido University in Japan. More details on the NOMIC partnership can be found at www.nikonomic.co.uk

For more information please contact the Nikon Sales Office
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Professor Richards, Chairman of Chemistry, University of Oxford and Dr Hideaki Okamoto, General Manager, Design Department, Nikon Instruments opening NOMIC.

New hope for MS sufferers

Schering UK announced that Betaferon® (interferon beta-1b) has been granted marketing authorisation by the European Commission for an extension of its indication to include the treatment of the first clinical event suggestive of multiple sclerosis (MS).

This is a significant milestone in the treatment of MS. Traditionally, MS requires at least two clinical events for a definite diagnosis, but it is now known from MRI scanning that the disease is usually active and causing hidden damage long before the first symptoms declare themselves. The approval provides a very important treatment option for patients at risk for MS, as Betaferon® has been shown to delay the progression of the disease to clinically definite MS (CDMS). Left untreated, 85% of people who experienced a first clinical event (a first attack) have been diagnosed with MS within two years.

The label extension is based on results from the international BENEFIT* study which showed that Betaferon® 250mcg treatment in the early phase of the disease reduced the risk of developing CDMS by 50 percent compared with placebo. Furthermore, patients in the Betaferon® group were two times better protected against developing MS as defined by the McDonald diagnostic criteria. Betaferon® demonstrated clinical efficacy in all subgroups evaluated, and was very well tolerated, with 96% of patients electing to remain on long-term treatment after the placebo-controlled study had ended.

Betaferon® is now indicated for the treatment of patients with a first clinical event suggestive of MS, relapsing remitting MS with two or more relapses within the last two years, and the treatment of patients with actively relapsing secondary progressive MS.

"The MS Trust welcomes this development which is positive news for people with MS in the UK," said MS Trust Director of Services Nicola Russell. "People with MS should be given the option of drug therapy before nerve damage has occurred so the earlier that treatment can begin, the better."

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