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Spotting transcription factor binding sites with CHIP-on-chip

Molecular microbiology researchers at the University of Birmingham have teamed up with OGT Services to develop high density microarrays for investigating the location of bacterial master regulator transcription factors. OGT Services has produced bespoke chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) arrays with probes only 100 bases apart to identify where transcription factors bind to their targets with high precision.

“We are interested in the mechanism by which a transcription factor is able to bind to its target and affect gene expression. The question is, ‘how many targets does a master regulator have?’ Transcriptomics experiments cannot distinguish between direct and indirect effects of the master regulators, so we needed to develop a different technique that would allow us to look at the distribution of the regulators in the cell with high precision,” explained Prof Steve Busby FRS, Principal Investigator at the University’s School of Biosciences.

“We are very excited about this collaboration with OGT Services because the ChIP-on-chip method allows us to find out where transcription factors are, as opposed to their effects. This technology means we can analyse much more information from the entire *E. coli* genome in a fairly cheap and painless way.”

About OGT

Oxford Gene Technology (OGT) is a privately owned company founded in 1995 by Professor Sir Edwin Southern. The mission of the company is to develop advanced molecular tools for biologists and to make them widely available through licensing and service activities. The key business areas of OGT include

- licensing which has successfully provided access for a number of companies to OGT’s fundamental intellectual property, particularly in the area of microarrays
- a services business which provides a flexible and cost-effective, customised DNA microarray service covering a range of applications and offers specialist support to assist customers with every aspect of their research.
- Tridend, which is developing ‘mass tags’ to enhance the amount of information that researchers can generate from mass spectrometry experiments in proteomics and genomics
- Oxamer, which is generating novel array formats based on electrochemical deposition methods for use in life science and diagnostics

OGT’s intellectual property covers four general areas that are relevant to the biological sciences; these incorporate microarrays, genomics, proteomics and electrochemistry.



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