

Press Release – 17.08.05

From farm to fork – DNA microanalysis of food-borne bacteria

Researchers at the University of Cambridge, UK, are using OGT's tailor-made microarrays to study the gene expression profile and pathogenesis of the micro-organism *Campylobacter jejuni*. An estimated one in every hundred people in the US and UK alone develop Campylobacter-related illnesses each year, making it the most common cause of bacterial food-borne disease. However, relatively little is understood about the pathogen and its basic biochemistry and physiology, as Dr Andrew Grant from the University's Department of Veterinary Medicine explained:

“We wanted to look at the gene expression profile of Campylobacter under standard laboratory culture conditions as well as after various environmental challenges, to understand more about how it survives and how it colonises hosts and causes disease. The sequenced Campylobacter strain that we use has just over 1600 genes and OGT's technology has a great capacity for printing a large number of oligos on one slide. We tested several sets of arrays to pick the most appropriate probes for *Campylobacter jejuni* and are using these tailored microarrays to understand changes in the bacteria's gene expression over time. We are more than happy with our collaborators at OGT - who have shown a real interest in our project - especially in terms of the quality and quantity of our data.”

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.



For more information, please contact
OGT Services, The Hirsch Building,
Begbroke Business and Science Park,
Sandy Lane, Yarnton, Oxford, OX5 1PF UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 856 352 Fax: +44 (0) 1865 842 116
Email: services@ogt.co.uk www.ogt.co.uk

- copy ends -

© 2005 kdm communications limited

Editorial contact for further information or follow-up

Lorraine Sharrock at **kdm communications limited**, Milton Keynes, UK

Tel. +44 01908 371173 Fax: +44 01908 37117 email: ideas@kdm-communications.com