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OGT Services cherry-picks probes for microarrays

Researchers at the William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford, have turned to Oxford-based Company OGT Services to help them optimise probes of interest prior to selecting them for a microarray-based project. The project is focusing on the mouse immune system, specifically on about 768 genes at present, with a plan to double this number in the near future. As Dr Nigel Saunders, Lecturer in Microbiology at the William Dunn School of Pathology, explained, working with OGT made good experimental as well as good economic sense.

“We wanted to take an informed approach to this work and so we designed up to five probes for every gene, which OGT synthesised using its on-slide synthesis methodology. We then tested the probes in three different hybridisations, compared their functional performances, and could modify them during the experiments according to our needs and according to how they performed. This information helped us to select the probes that we will use in-house with the microarray infrastructure we already have in place.”

”Apart from their technical expertise, the most important thing that OGT offers is flexibility. Ideally you want a company that is prepared to address things on an individual project basis and will do as much or as little as you want it to. OGT does just that, providing an excellent service where I need it, but leaving me with complete access and control over my data and the whole process of analysis.”

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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