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Biomatrica and Cal State, Los Angeles Get Federal Grant to Study SampleMatrix in Crime Scene and Forensics Investigation

Real-Life CSI Tool Could Make it Easier to Track Criminals

San Diego, Calif. -- October, 15, 2007-- Biomatrica, an innovative biostability company that stabilizes biological products at room temperature, announced a partnership with California State University, Los Angeles, to test Biomatrica's SampleMatrix[®] product in the field of forensics.

Preservation of crime scene samples are fundamental to DNA analysis since testing generally does not proceed immediately after collection. In fact, there are between 200,000 and 300,000 untested convicted offender samples according to the federal National Institutes of Justice (NIJ).

The NIJ awarded Biomatrica and Cal State, Los Angeles' Department of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics, \$348,000, to study Biomatrica's SampleMatrix in relation to forensics.

Since crime scene samples tend to be sparse, preserving every spec is crucial to DNA analysis. Unlike current DNA storage technologies, Biomatrica's SampleMatrix ensures 100 percent sample recovery allowing for picogram amounts of DNA to be preserved.

Scientists will study how well SampleMatrix preserves blood, semen and saliva that have been exposed to the type of environmental and storage conditions that one would find from crime scene evidence. To restore a sample preserved with SampleMatrix, scientists only have to add water. The technology is based on the molecular principles that allow desert animals to survive in extreme heat.

Biomatrica estimates that storing samples with SampleMatrix costs 15 times less than storing them in freezers

The grant is the first grant from NIJ for Cal State, Los Angeles, and Biomatrica played a crucial role in the award, said Dr. Katherine Roberts, principal investigator on the project. Biomatrica's Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder Rolf Muller will serve as co-principal investigator.

"Biomatrica's SampleMatrix offers 100 percent recovery to valuable forensics samples that can often be sparse and difficult to extract information from," Roberts said.

Biomatrica and Cal State also plan to create a SampleMatrix forensics field kit as a result of the validation project.

About Cal State, Los Angeles

Working for California since 1947: The 175-acre hilltop campus of **California State University, Los Angeles** is at the heart of a major metropolitan city, just five miles from Los Angeles' civic and cultural center. More than 20,000 students and 200,000 alumni—with a wide variety of interests, ages and backgrounds—reflect the city's dynamic mix of populations. Six colleges offer nationally recognized science, arts, business, criminal justice, engineering, nursing, education and humanities programs, among others, led by an award-winning faculty. Cal State L.A. is home to the critically-acclaimed Luckman Jazz Orchestra and to a unique university center for gifted students as young as 12. Programs that provide exciting enrichment opportunities to students and community include an NEH- and Rockefeller-supported humanities center; a NASA-funded center for space research; and a growing forensic science program, to be housed in the Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center. www.calstatela.edu

About Biomatrica

Biomatrica (www.biomatrica.com) is a San Diego-based biostability company that provides innovative products for stabilizing, storing and shipping biological samples at room temperature. The technology, based on the same principles that allow desert animals to survive extreme heat, is allowing scientists to preserve biological samples like RNA and DNA at a fraction of the cost than conventional methods. Biomatrica was founded by the husband and wife team of scientists Rolf Muller and Judy Muller-Cohn.

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