

PRESS RELEASE

Bioscience Technology

Biomatrica, Cal State, Los Angeles Get Federal Grant To Study Sample Preservation In Forensics Investigations

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Biomatrica, a company that stabilizes biological products at room temperature, announced a partnership with California State University, Los Angeles, to test the company's SampleMatrix product in the field of forensics.

Preservation of crime scene samples is fundamental to DNA analysis since testing is often not done immediately after collection. There are between 200,000 and 300,000 untested convicted offender samples in storage according to the National Institutes of Justice (NIJ).

Since crime scene samples tend to be sparse, preserving every spec is crucial to DNA analysis. SampleMatrix ensures 100 percent sample recovery; thus, picogram amounts of DNA can be preserved. Scientists will study how well the product preserves blood, semen and saliva samples that have been exposed to the type of environmental and storage conditions that one would find from crime scene evidence. To restore a sample, scientists only have to add water. The technology is based on the molecular principles of anhydrobiosis (life without water) that allows multi-cellular organisms survive in extreme conditions.

Storing samples at room temperature reduces costs. 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 and Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Cal State, Los Angeles. Biomatrica's Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder Rolf Muller will serve as co-principal investigator. "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.

Biomatrica (www.biomatrica.com) is a San Diego-based company that provides products for stabilizing, storing and shipping biological samples at room temperature.

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