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Students get real-world lab opportunities with new DNA profiling test

Tempe-based company GenoSensor Corporation is changing the way advanced classrooms teach students about DNA profiling with its new product, the EduPrimer™ DNA Profiling Kit.

The kit uses the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) technique, a modern molecular technology commonly used in bioresearch, hospital and bioindustry laboratories. PCR technology has existed for many years, but very few colleges or high schools teach it. This puts graduating students at a disadvantage when they enter the workforce and puts a burden on employers to train new staff in these techniques.

To meet the current market need, GenoSensor has developed the EduPrimer™ DNA Profiling Kit. As most labs have 24 or fewer students, the EduPrimer comes complete with 24 individual DNA tests, one for each student. This eliminates a significant amount of work for instructors in gathering materials for tests.

“GenoSensor is a great example of an innovative Tempe company. Not only are they a wonderful business in our community, but they are helping to improve the workforce in Tempe and around the country,” said Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian, Chair of Tempe’s Technology, Economic and Community Development Committee. “We thank them for calling Tempe home and for the innovation they provide the world.”

Since school labs are traditionally three hours long, GenoSensor has found a way to ensure that each DNA test can be completed within that time. In the past, often lab work of this type took much longer and students had to leave before the experiment was finished. This allows teachers and students to reach their goal of learning the technique. It also provides skilled employees for companies

There is a great market for this product, said GenoSensor president James Xia. Many colleges will have 500 to 1,000 lab students per semester.

Manoush Farzin of the Arizona State University School of Life Sciences said, “We have found the GenoSensor kit to be faster and more economical than other kits we’ve used previously. We will be using the kit in the classroom environment this fall in ASU’s BIO 181 laboratories for General Biology I majors and evaluating it further for future use in this setting.”

While it might be interesting to have DNA kits of this kind for personal use, there is necessary equipment associated with these kits that the average person would not have in their home, but a college or university would have in its labs.

GenoSensor is a genomic technology company, aiming to improve human healthcare by developing and marketing products and services for genomic research, drug discovery, predisposition gene screening, therapeutic assessment and other bioscience applications. Its focus is to provide products and services to customers who conduct genomic research and/or are in needs of genomic solutions in all life sciences. The company also develops assays for specific applications.