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Contact: Owl Scientific, Inc., 10 Commerce Way, Woburn, Massachusetts 01801; (617)935-9499; FAX (617)935-8499. Reader Service No. 370.

Quantitative PCR booklet

CLONTECH Laboratories, Inc. had published a new booklet entitled Quantitative PCR: Methods & Applications. The booklet will be free on request. The new Quantitative PCR booklet provides an overview of quantitative PCR theory and applications and a comprehensive review of a variety of methods currently used to quantitate relative or absolute levels of specific mRNAs in tissue or cell samples. The booklet also gives details on the use of CLONTECH’s PCR MIMICS—nonhomologous internal standards that have proven useful in obtaining quantitative data on mRNA or cDNA by use of competitive PCR. Experimental quantitative PCR data and an extensive reference list are included. The new booklet is the third in CLONTECH’s series of Methods & Applications monographs that focus on specific topics in molecular biology. The other booklets focus on RT–PCR and Nucleic acid purification.

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Contact: Robbins Scientific, 814 San Aleso Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086. Reader Service No. 372.

New Opti-Prime PCR optimization kit

Stratagene has replaced random, time-consuming procedures for PCR optimization with the Opti-Prime PCR optimization kit, a newly designed testing matrix of 12 buffers and six adjuncts for enhancing PCR. This structured framework simplifies determination of the best buffer/adjunct combination for a specific PCR template and primer set. Each of the 12 PCR buffers has a pH of 8.3, 8.8, or 9.2, MgCl₂ concentration of 1.5 or 3.5 mM, and KCl concentration of 25 or 75 mM. Included as the six PCR-improving adjuncts or cosolvents are DMSO, formamide, bovine serum albumin, glycerol, ammonium sulfate, and Stratagene’s Perfect Match DNA polymerase enhancer. The Opti-Prime kit’s two-step protocol is used to first determine the optimum buffers, based on pH and MgCl₂ and KCl concentrations, then to combine these selected buffers with specific adjuncts to increase yield and/or decrease nonspecific amplification products. Sufficient reagents and buffers are included in the kit to perform a total of 1200 individual amplification reactions, allowing 50 or 100 optimizations, depending on the need to perform the second adjunct-testing step.

Contact: Stratagene, 11011 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, California 92037; 1-(800)424-5444; (619)535-5400. Reader Service No. 373.

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The journal accepts primary research papers and technical tips that present original research which has not previously been published. Submission to the journal implies that a paper is not currently being considered for another journal or book. It is also understood that investigators who submit research papers to the journal are prepared to make available to qualified academic researchers materials needed to duplicate their research results.

Review articles are commissioned. Authors wishing to submit review articles should first contact the Editor.

Contributors should submit their papers to:

Judy Cuddihy, Editor  
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One original and two copies of the manuscript should be submitted. Original photographs should be supplied with each copy.

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Papers accepted by the journal will occupy between 2 and 10 journal pages. A manuscript of 5 to 25 typed, double-spaced pages total (including methods, references, and figure legends) will translate to this length. Computer printouts should be of letter quality, and each page should be labeled with the first author’s name and a page number. All figures should be labeled with the first author’s name, the figure number, and an indication of the top. The size of figures will be adjusted to fit the journal format; therefore, please try to keep labels, symbols, and other call-out devices in proportion to the figure size and detail. Figures should be supplied as high-quality glossy prints. Authors wishing to publish four-color art must pay part of the costs; price estimates will be provided on acceptance of a paper.

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