

Service laboratory benefits from Tecan's support



The Freedom EVO 100 has been integrated with a microplate heat sealer and is accessed by a robotic arm

The Cellular Screening Center (CSC) in the Institute for Genomics and Systems Biology (IGSB) at the University of Chicago provides a cell screening service for drug discovery and development in several local faculties. The reliability of Freedom EVO® workstations, supported by Tecan's excellent customer service, copes easily with high throughput liquid handling for various research projects.

Sam Bettis, Technical Director at the CSC, explained: "We are a service laboratory for researchers here at University of Chicago, as well as at University of Illinois at Chicago and at Northwestern University, performing their high throughput analysis projects such as whole genome siRNA screening and small molecule screening."

Starting with a clean sheet, Sam and his colleagues designed the laboratory and selected the automation robotics, including two Freedom EVO liquid handling

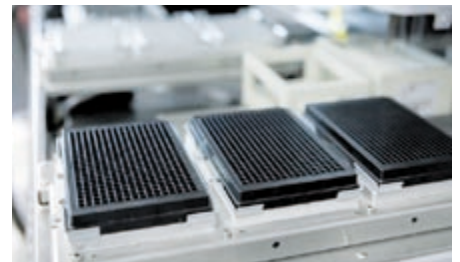


Sam Bettis, Technical Director, and Nicolette Pavlovics, Research Technologist, study the Freedom EVO 100 through its PC terminal

workstations. The first Freedom EVO 100 has an integrated liquid handling (LiHa) arm with eight independent tips, and is capable of constructing rearrays of RNAi master plates as well as dispensing into 96- and 384-well plates. In addition, a Freedom EVO 200, equipped with a LiHa arm with eight tips, a robotic manipulator (RoMa) arm and a Te-MO™384, is used for plate set-up and replication.

Sam continued: "The modularity of Tecan platforms allowed us to upgrade the Freedom EVO 200 by integrating a microplate heat sealer, which now sits to the right of the instrument and is accessible with the RoMa arm. We are also in the process of integrating a laboratory information management system that will allow us to streamline siRNA storage and retrieval. It will automatically export Microsoft Excel® files to allow cherry picking with the Freedom EVO, which will be great."

"I chose the Freedom EVO platforms because I had worked with Tecan instruments previously, and talking to many other people



The Freedom EVO workstations at the CSC are able to process 384-well plates

in the field confirmed that apart from having the best reliability and precision, Tecan offered excellent service. Our laboratory can't afford any downtime, so services like after-care support and annual service contracts are very important."

"We have a complex set-up, so Tecan has helped us with some software-related tasks such as integrating the sealer with the Freedom EVO 200, and for the software upgrades of the Freedom EVO 100 to ensure that communication with the robotic arm is maintained. Tecan always responds very quickly and we have a fantastic service engineer located here in Chicago. Everybody at Tecan from sales to service has been excellent but generally, once we had become familiar with the instruments, there have been few issues; it turns out that we're much better at breaking the robots than the robots themselves are!" Sam concluded: "We are very happy with the Tecan workstations, and I have recommended them to several laboratories."

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