

Walkaway automation for infectious disease testing

Vestfold Hospital Trust in Norway has chosen the Freedom EVOlyzer® for automation of ELISA assays in its microbiology laboratory in Tønsberg.



Liv Brown (left) and Wenche Petterson with the Freedom EVOlyzer

Vestfold Hospital Trust, part of the South-East Norway Regional Health Authority, provides services to a highly populated area in the south east of Norway through its hospitals in Tønsberg and Larvik. Sykehuset i Vestfold-Tønsberg is the Trust's academic and administrative center, and home to several laboratories. The laboratories process samples from both Tønsberg and Larvik hospitals – as well as receiving samples from doctor's surgeries in the region – for microbiology, immunology, clinical chemistry and infectious disease testing.

Wenche Petterson, Team Leader in the serological section, explained: "The laboratory is divided into three sections – bacteriology, serology and PCR – and provides extensive diagnostics. We already had an old Tecan platform which was used to perform sample dilutions, but needed a system capable of fully automating ELISA processing, allowing unattended operation.

We chose a Freedom EVOlyzer 150 workstation equipped with an eight-channel liquid handling (LiHa) arm using disposable tips, a HydroFlex™ microplate washer, a Sunrise™ absorbance reader and ambient and heated incubators. This set-up is very efficient for processing the numerous ELISA assays that we use, and we can run two batches a day, with up to four different assays at a time. The volume pre-check feature is particularly useful, as it allows the instrument to determine in advance whether or not there are sufficient reagents available to complete the run."

"The system is controlled by Freedom EVOLution™ software, which is easy to use and has graphical loading instructions to virtually eliminate operator errors. It also interfaces directly with our LIMS for streamlined reporting, printing and auditing, and results are analyzed using Magellan™ data reduction software. Our assays are conveniently grouped into profiles that



Vestfold Hospital Trust and its microbiology laboratory in Tønsberg, Norway

correspond to our routine daily schedules, and can be quickly adapted to accommodate any changes we require."

"Tecan's application specialists have been very helpful, assisting us to configure the platform to meet our needs and offering support during the validation phase. We are also planning to add new assays in the future, to further improve the service we are able to offer to medical practitioners in the region," Wenche concluded.

To find out more on Tecan's Freedom EVOlyzer workstations, visit www.tecan.com/freedomevolyzer