Novel ELISA offers improved diagnosis for myasthenia gravis

IBL International's MuSk-Ab ELISA is proving invaluable for the diagnosis and monitoring of 'seronegative' myasthenia gravis (MG). This test is the world's first commercially available, non-radioactive assay for the detection of auto-antibodies against the muscle-specific receptor tyrosine kinase (MuSK), and is helping to improve diagnostic confidence and aid clinical management of these patients.

MG is an antibody-mediated autoimmune disease of the neuromuscular junction, and can be readily diagnosed in 80 % of patients through the presence of acetylcholine receptor antibodies (ARAbs). However, this biomarker is not present in around 20 % of patients, making diagnosis of these 'seronegative' patients complex. To overcome this issue, IBL International has created a quantitative ELISA which targets the characteristic MuSK auto-antibodies present in MG. This straightforward, reproducible and easy-to-automate assay offers exceptional

diagnostic performance – with almost 100 % clinical sensitivity and selectivity – allowing rapid, clear diagnoses for this patient sub-population. The excellent performance of this assay also enables therapeutic monitoring of patients, exploiting the correlation between MuSK-Ab levels and disease severity[1] to allow ongoing clinical assessment. Combined with IBL's ARAb radioimmunoassays, the MuSk-Ab ELISA provides a comprehensive solution for the diagnosis of MG.
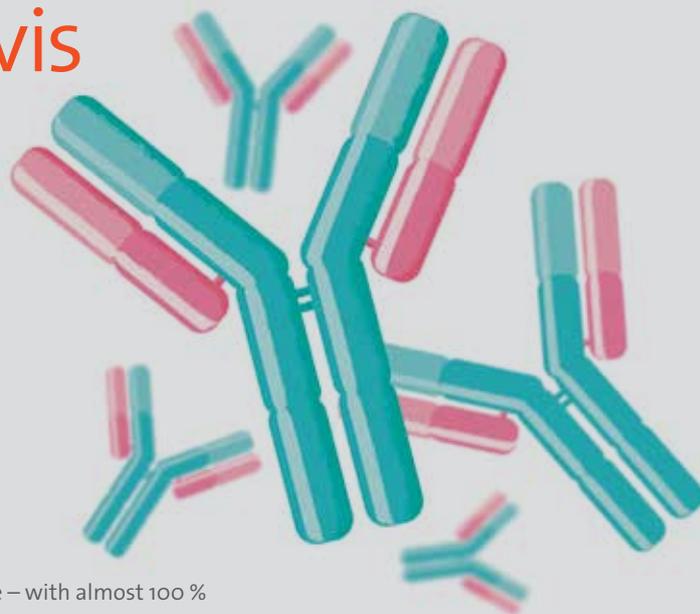
To find out more about IBL's MuSK-Ab ELISA, visit **www.ibl-international.com/en/musk-ab-elisa**

1) Damoiseaux, J et al. Detection of anti-MuSK antibodies by a novel quantitative ELISA. Presented at the 9th International Congress on Autoimmunity, 2014, 26-30 March, Nice, France.

Explore virtual components with the new Tecan Cavro® app

Customers can now explore the Tecan Cavro range of liquid handling components on the go, with the launch of the Tecan Cavro Components app. This straightforward, web-based application – available for PCs or iPads® – combines the existing Cavro Omni Robot Configurator with interactive 3D models of key products from the Tecan Cavro range.

The Cavro Omni Robot Configurator allows systems developers to create over 100 different designs of this flexible liquid handling robot, making it easy to visualize and plan instrument designs for faster product development. It provides details of the complete range of standard options for the Cavro Omni Robot – including the various axis sizes and arrangements, arm

functions and liquid handling configurations – as well as a number of finishing features, such as covers and end caps. Users can generate 3D representations of their desired Cavro Omni Robot specification, providing visual confirmation of how the selected configuration will fit, as well as quick and easy verification of the dimensions that might affect instrument design.

The new app also offers interactive 3D models of other products from the Tecan Cavro range – including the Centris, XCalibur, XE 1000 and XLP 6000 pumps, as well as the ADP pipettor module – which can be rotated on the screen to help visualize each component from different perspectives. Each model also provides details of key product features, as well as allowing the user to

request more information from their local Tecan representative, helping to simplify and accelerate product development.

To download the Tecan Cavro Components app, go to **www.tecan.com/components**