



Munich, March 21, 2022

Press Release

analytica 2022: Fighting COVID-19 with combined expertise

- **The role of chromatography and the like in managing the pandemic**
- **New tools in virus research and detection**
- **Safe handling of SARS-CoV-2 in the lab**

Whether PCR apps or high-tech analysis equipment for vaccine development: during the pandemic, the chemical analysis and biotech sector has demonstrated its strength. From June 21 to 24, 2022, the industry will come together in Munich at analytica, the leading trade fair for analysis, laboratory technology and biotechnology. “At analytica, about 120 exhibitors will present their innovations for combating the pandemic,” explains Armin Wittmann, Exhibition Director of analytica at Messe München.

Modern chemical analysis is indispensable for manufacturing vaccines and medications, for reliable virus detection and for mutation studies. Although we didn't have to invent new analysis methods in the fight against SARS-CoV-2, they did have to be made specific to COVID-19 – and equipment manufacturers managed to do this at breakneck speed. For example, in Munich, Thermo Fisher Scientific will inform visitors about the role of chromatography and mass spectrometry in virus research, vaccine characterization and more. The company will also present methods for investigating lipids that serve as mRNA carriers in vaccines. Numerous exhibitors at analytica – including major players in the sector like Analytik Jena, Bruker, PerkinElmer, Shimadzu and Waters – also have tools and technologies in their portfolios that are relevant to the coronavirus.

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New tools in virus detection

Small, refined instruments such as Zymo Research's collector system for swab and saliva samples are equally important in the fight against the pandemic. The patented tube with safety membrane contains a liquid that makes viruses harmless and conserves the sample – all without a cold chain. Reagent sets for PCR tests are also an immeasurable help. Merck, for instance, offers primers and probes whose sequences were published by Charité in Berlin. Many analytica exhibitors offer COVID-19 assays. For example, Promega's products facilitate virus detection as well as research of virus proteins, antibodies and viral mechanisms. Additionally, the Bio-Rad booth will feature assays for wastewater monitoring. Because all infected persons excrete virus fragments, wastewater can be used for the early detection of pandemic waves.

The analysis is also based on PCR technology, for which the sample is put through several time-intensive heating and cooling cycles in a thermocycler. The app of analytica exhibitor Clemens is practical in this regard, as it allows PCR cycles in several devices to be controlled at the same time. For users who would like a special heating rate or other tailored features, Clemens also develops customer-specific PCR systems. New England Biolabs, in contrast, is presenting an alternative at analytica by the name of loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), which does not use thermocycling and only takes around a half hour.

Focus on work safety

Precaution is key when dealing with SARS-CoV-2. So that no virus material escapes the laboratory air, Eppendorf – a supplier of numerous instruments for COVID-19 research and diagnostics – equips its centrifuges with aerosol-tight rotors. And for researchers in the pharmaceuticals sector who work with toxic ingredients, analytica exhibitor Axel Semrau is presenting automated systems, including a robot platform that weighs powder and doses it into as many as 288 containers – under inert gas if necessary. The system was developed in collaboration with the analytica exhibitors Mettler-Toledo and Jüke Systemtechnik.

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“Combined expertise is the key to the fight against the coronavirus,” emphasizes Wittmann. “analytica initiates collaborations so that we can finally get COVID-19 under control and so that we are better prepared for future pandemics.” In addition to the trade fair, lectures and discussions of the analytica forums and the analytica conference will highlight the status of research and analysis topics related to COVID-19.

Further information: analytica.de/en

You can find this press release for download including press pictures at analytica.de/en/press/newsroom

About analytica

analytica is the world’s leading trade fair for the laboratory technology, analysis and biotechnology industries and their users in research and business. The trade fair will be complemented by the analytica conference, where the international scientific elite meet for discussion of current topics in chemistry, biochemistry and laboratory medicine. At the analytica 2018, there were 35,626 visitors and 1,168 exhibitors. Since 1968, analytica has been held biannually in Munich. Date of the next event: June 21–24, 2022.

analytica worldwide

Messe München is the world’s leading trade fair organizer for laboratory technology, analysis and biotechnology: The analytica network comprises – in addition to the world’s leading trade fair analytica – analytica China, analytica Anacon India with India Lab Expo and analytica Vietnam.

About Messe München

Messe München is one of the leading exhibition organizers worldwide with more than 50 of its own trade shows for capital goods, consumer goods and new technologies. Every year, a total of over 50,000 exhibitors and around three million visitors take part in more than 200 events at the exhibition center in Munich, at the ICM – Internationales Congress Center München and the MOC Veranstaltungszentrum München as well as abroad. Together with its subsidiary companies, Messe München organizes trade fairs in China, India, Brazil, Russia, Africa, Turkey, and Vietnam. With a network of associated companies in Europe, Asia, and South America, and with around 70 representatives abroad for more than 100 countries, Messe München has a truly global presence.