

News release - for Immediate Release  
Date: 14.08.07

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## **Leading European Skin Disease Centre Uses ProtoCOL To Generate Rapid, Accurate Clinical Trial Results**

**Cambridge, UK:** Synbiosis, a world-leading manufacturer of automated microbiological systems, today announced its ProtoCOL automated colony counter is being successfully used by the Skin Research Centre (SRC) at the University of Leeds, one of Europe's leading dermatology centres, to rapidly test the effectiveness of new anti-microbial therapies to treat acne, dermatitis and other skin diseases.

Microbiologists at the SRC are using the ProtoCOL in conjunction with WASP automated spiral platers (Don Whitley Scientific, Shipley, UK), to rapidly process samples containing microorganisms taken from patients being treated with anti-microbial drugs and topical therapies. The plate counts generated are then used to determine which treatments are the most effective at reducing the number of microorganisms associated with diseases on the skin of clinical trial subjects.

Collette Lindley, Research Assistant at the SRC stated: "Our validated methods for clinical trials require a large throughput of growth media types and dilution replicates with up to 16 spiral plates for each subject for each study visit. As studies can involve five study visits for up to 100 subjects over a 12 week period, we require a robust and reliable automated system for plate counts. In addition to spiral plates for clinical studies, we also use pour plates and filtration membranes in our *in vitro* studies. We routinely enumerate skin microorganisms such as *Staphylococcus* spp., *Propionibacterium* spp. and *Malassezia* spp., and we also test products using *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus* spp., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Candida albicans*. Consequently, we use a variety of media types and ProtoCOL gives us the level of flexibility, speed and traceability that we require for our accredited work."

Lindley continued: "As a UKAS accredited laboratory we are very conscious of issues of data quality. Our clinical trial data is also subject to audit by regulatory authorities at any time. Therefore, we need GLP-compliant electronic records to support our paper information and the ProtoCOL makes it really easy to do this."

Synbiosis is a division of the Synoptics Group. Registered in England. No 1874861

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# News Release

Martin Smith for Synbiosis commented:” We are delighted so see the ProtoCOL being used routinely at such a major dermatology centre as the SRC. The SRC’s successful utilisation of the ProtoCOL to help evaluate new treatments for skin conditions shows this system is an excellent tool for any laboratory that wants to produce rapid, well documented results from clinical trials of anti-microbial therapies.”

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[Note to Editors](#)

**About Synbiosis**

Synbiosis is a world-leading supplier of integrated imaging solutions for automatic counting and analysis of microbial colonies and zone measurement. The ProtoCOL and aCOLyte systems from Synbiosis are installed in food, pharmaceutical, environmental and research microbiology laboratories world-wide. Synbiosis uses established distribution channels to market its products internationally.

Synbiosis, founded in 1998 is a division of the Synoptics Group based in Cambridge UK. The Group’s other divisions, Syncroscopy and Syngene, specialise in digital imaging solutions for microscopy and molecular biology applications respectively. Synoptics currently employs 50 people in its UK and US subsidiary operation.

**About the SRC**

The Skin Research Centre (SRC) at the University of Leeds was one of the first research centres to be set up in the University of Leeds in 1990. As a focus for research on skin, it brings together academics, clinicians and scientists and has an established international reputation for Dermatological research. It is the only University skin microbiology laboratory in the UK to receive the international quality standard ISO 17025. It provides a unique opportunity to combine the work of a large scientific community dedicated to skin research with one of the largest clinical dermatology departments in Europe. The SRC also provides education and training for PhD students, specialist registrars and personnel from industrial collaborators.