

NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Date: 26.09.2018****Image Attached****-Copy Starts-****Major London Hospital uses ProtoCOL 3 Automated Colony Counter
To Rapidly and Accurately Track Spread of Antibiotic Resistant Superbugs**

Cambridge, UK: Synbiosis, a long-established, expert manufacturer of automated microbiological systems, is pleased to announce its ProtoCOL 3 automated colony counter is being used at a major teaching hospital in London to accurately track the spread of Carbapenem-Resistant bacteria (CRB) superbugs.

Microbiologists in the infection control group at the hospital are using ProtoCOL 3 to count colonies of Carbapenem-Resistant and Extended-Spectrum Beta-lactamase (ESBL) producing bacteria including *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. isolated from patients' stools cultured on a range of different selective and chromogenic plates. Using ProtoCOL 3 is helping microbiologists at this hospital to precisely trace the spread of these superbugs in the community after patients carrying the bacteria leave hospital.

A Research Laboratory Manager at the hospital explained: "Before patients carrying CRB are discharged, we obtain consent to use theirs and their family's stool samples before and up to 3-months after they leave hospital. We isolate bacteria by inoculating them onto selective plates including: Drigalski Lactose Agar, MacConkey Agar, ESBL chromogenic agars and a selective agar for *Klebsiella* which we make in-house. This generates a large number of plates to analyse. We used to count colonies manually but after counting around 40 plates, we didn't trust the results so would often re-count some plates the next day to ensure accuracy - it took hours."

The Laboratory Manager added: "We tested three automated counters and chose the ProtoCOL 3 because this system can recognise all types of coloured colonies on the different plates we use and calculates colony forming units/ml for us. The system also stores plate images that we can check later and use on posters or in papers. For us using the ProtoCOL 3 has taken the strain out of colony counting and given us more confidence in the accuracy of our results."

..... **more**

BEACON HOUSE
NUFFIELD ROAD
CAMBRIDGE
CB4 1TF

TEL: +44 (0)1223 727125

FAX: +44 (0)1223 727101

e-mail: info@synbiosis.com

www.synbiosis.com

News Release

..... Major London Hospital uses ProtoCOL 3/2

“Microbiologists performing manual colony counts and recording results of large numbers of plates and then doing calculations can make errors just by being tired,” commented Kate George, Sales and Technical Director at Synbiosis. “The research at this prestigious hospital shows that the ProtoCOL 3 colony counter is like having an automated expert assistant in the lab, helping provide rapid, accurate surveillance of multi-drug resistant superbugs.”

-Ends-

For Further Information, Contact:

Jayne Arthur, Synbiosis, Beacon House, Nuffield Road, Cambridge, CB4 1TF, UK.

Tel: +44(0) 1223-727125 Fax +44 (0) 1223-727101

Email: jayne.arthur@synbiosis.com Web site: <http://www.synbiosis.com/protocol-3/>

Twitter: @TeamSynbiosis

Editor Contact:

Dr Sue Pearson, Director, International Science Writer, PO Box 170, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3GD, UK.

Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1462-635327 Email: sue.pearson@internationalsciencewriter.com

Web: www.internationalsciencewriter.com Twitter: @IScienceWriter

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, Protos and aCOLyte systems from Synbiosis are installed in food, pharmaceutical, environmental and research microbiology laboratories world-wide. ChromaZona is an IVD certified instrument for automated microbial ID and AST in the clinical laboratory. Synbiosis uses established distribution channels to market its products internationally.

Synbiosis, founded in 1998 is a division of the Synoptics Group of the AIM quoted Scientific Digital Imaging Company based in Cambridge, UK. The Group's other divisions, Syngene and Synoptics Health, specialise in digital imaging solutions for molecular biology and healthcare applications respectively. Synoptics, which celebrated its 30th anniversary of being in business in 2015, currently employs 30 people in its UK and subsidiary operation in Frederick, USA.