Questions and Answers on the New Version 8.0 Software for the Hitachi FMBIO® Imaging System

by Kit Bittner
Hitachi Genetic Systems
kbittner@hitachi-soft.com

Hitachi has introduced a new, significantly upgraded version of the FMBIO® Analysis Software for the fluorescent detection and identification of PCR-amplified DNA (see article on page 10). Below are answers to common questions regarding the new FMBIO® Analysis Software.

Q: Will data generated by previous versions of the Hitachi FMBIO® Analysis Software be compatible with the new software, Version 8.0?

A: Yes. The output from the system will be in the same format as that from the Version 6 software. Therefore, data generated with the earlier software will be compatible with the newer software.

Q: Will the new software require any hardware changes?

A: No. Hardware changes will not be required to use the new upgraded software.

Q: What are the improvements in Version 8.0?

A: Many of the parameters can now be saved, which cuts analysis time and helps to standardize and simplify analysis. The parameters that can be saved include:

- Gray scale settings.
- Color separation matrix.
- Lane template (number of lanes per gel).
- Autoband parameters.
- On-screen data display information.
- Output information.
- Calculation method for volume of signal strength.

Another improvement is lessening of bleedthrough from one color to the next by using an entire sample lane as a matrix instead of the single-band method currently used for color separation and background calculation.

Q: Can current analysis procedures still be used with FMBIO® Analysis Software, Version 8.0?

A: Yes. All color separation and analysis procedures used with the previous Version 6 software can still be used.

Q: Will the current version of STaRCall™ work with FMBIO® Analysis Software, Version 8.0?

A: Yes. The output essentially will be the same format as with the earlier version and thus, there will not be a problem with STaRCall™ compatibility.

Q: Are there any changes in the STaRCall™ Software?

A: Yes. The latest version of STaRCall™ will accommodate the additional loci included in the PowerPlex™ 2.1 System. The printout format has also been modified to provide more convenient data presentation.

Q: Which STR Systems can I use with this system?

A: All *GenePrint*® PowerPlex™ and Fluorescent STR Systems from Promega can be used.

Q: Does the FMBIO® System require special ventilation or cooling?

A: No. The FMBIO® has a solid state laser that does not require external cooling.

Q: Can mitochondrial DNA sequencing be performed on the FMBIO® System?

A: Yes. The FMBIO® System can scan full-length sequencing gels, and the system includes sequencing analysis software.