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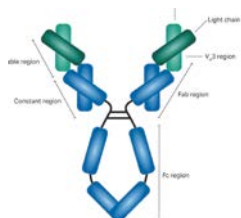
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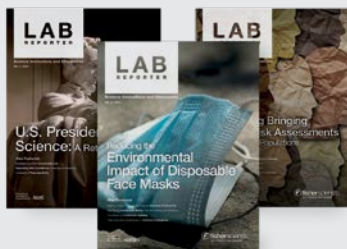
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Discovering Dark Matter

Two Experiments Get Closer to Finding What Makes Up Much of the Universe

By Mark Miller

Scientists believe that over a quarter of the universe is dark matter. But because it is composed of a substance that doesn't absorb, reflect, or emit light, dark matter is extremely difficult to find. In fact, the Standard Model — science's best theory of the universe's building blocks and how they interact — is mysteriously quiet on the topic.

Findings from two experiments, however, may shed new light: one by defying predictions of the Standard Model and the other by discovering potential dark matter particles as they collide with regular atoms.

Wobbling Muons

The Muon g-2 experiment conducted at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, or Fermilab, found further evidence that the behavior of subatomic particles called muons may not obey the predictions of the Standard Model.

A muon is like an electron, but about 200 times as massive. Also, like an electron, a muon acts as if it has an internal magnet. When traveling through a magnetic field, the muon spins and wobbles like the axis of a spinning top.

In the Muon g-2 experiment, muons travel around and around a 50-foot-wide ring — a sort of magnetic track. As they move through the magnetic field, their oscillations can be precisely measured. These results are compared to the predicted values. The experiment confirmed a standard deviation of 4.2 from Standard Model predictions. The discrepancy could mean the muon is interacting with particles or other energy not currently known to science — a discovery that could open a wider window into cosmic mysteries like dark matter.

Discovery by Deflection

At Gran Sasso National Laboratory in Italy, the XENONnT experiment is searching for dark particles by detecting the flashes of light they can create when deflected off xenon atoms.

The experiment uses more than eight tons of xenon contained in liquid. Should a dark particle bump into the xenon, it

releases an electron. This event creates a flash of light that can be detected by an array of photomultipliers lining the liquid vat. The instruments can detect even a single photon unleashed by a dark particle deflection.

Researchers are using particle deflection to look for weakly interacting massive particles or WIMPs. Unfortunately, none have yet been discovered, but a payoff may lie in the elimination of dark particle candidates as well as their actual discovery.

Muons could be interacting with dark particles or other energy not currently known to science.

“You do start to scratch your head and think maybe that was the wrong horse to bet on,” said physicist Rafael Lang in *Scientific American* about the search for WIMPs. But he remains optimistic. “If you believed in WIMPs 10 years ago, only half of those WIMPs have been ruled out. The other half are still alive.”¹

Other Possibilities

WIMPs and the forces causing muon wobbles are just two dark particle possibilities. According to *Scientific American*, others include a theoretical particle called an axion. Dark matter may also be made of composite particles. Another possibility is that it might not consist of particles at all but be made of black holes. Whatever the answers, the Muon g-2, XENONnT, and similar experiments will continue to aid the search for mysterious matter.

Mark Miller is a Thermo Fisher Scientific staff writer.

1. Moskowitz, C. (2021, April 1). *Dark Matter's Last Stand*. *Scientific American*. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/dark-matters-last-stand>

Chemicals for LC-MS

Biopharmaceutical Applications

LC-MS techniques, which couple liquid chromatography (LC) with mass spectrometry (MS), have increasingly become the method of choice for characterizing biopharmaceutical drugs. Mobile phase solvents and reagents must have low organic impurities to reduce interference with detection by electrospray (ESI) MS.

Analytical Methods

Biopharmaceutical drugs are therapeutic proteins with far more complex structures than small-molecule drugs. At the structural level, protein post-translational modifications (PTMs), which can arise at different stages of manufacturing and storage, can impact drug efficacy and safety. PTMs are therefore classified as critical quality attributes (CQA) and must be monitored and controlled.

LC-MS is used to understand the structure of protein-based drugs, including:

- Amino acid sequencing for peptides and proteins
- Profiles of host cell proteins (HCPs) and other process-related impurities
- Disulfide bond mapping
- N-glycan profiles of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs)
- Oligonucleotide sequencing

The combined power of LC separation and the sensitivity and specificity of MS detection makes LC-MS the best choice for mapping peptides to detect multiple PTMs, also called the multi-attribute method (MAM) workflow. Critical to the MAM workflow is the separation of various peptides from the digested therapeutic protein. This is typically achieved using a long LC gradient of water and acetonitrile, with formic acid added as a modifier. (See Figure 1.)

High-Purity Solvents and Reagents

Fisher Chemical Optima grade LC-MS solvents meet your purity needs for LC-MS analysis. Convenient, ready-to-use LC-MS blends are precisely mixed for lot-to-lot consistency and are quality tested using LC-MS. Thermo Scientific UHPLC-MS grade solvents meet even more stringent specifications for your most-demanding analyses. Both LC-MS and UHPLC-MS grade solvents and blends are tested to confirm low organic impurity levels to minimize interference and ion suppression.

These high-purity LC-MS reagents also have extremely low metal impurity levels. Trace metal impurities can cause poor peak shape, peak tailing, and diminished recovery when metal-ion mediated adsorption occurs with the column media. Sodium (Na⁺), potassium (K⁺), and other alkali metal ions are electrostatically attracted to the negative charges of carboxyl group of C-terminal amino acids in peptides and proteins or the polyanionic backbone of oligonucleotides. The Na⁺ and K⁺ adducts decrease overall sensitivity and compromise peptide identification.

All Thermo Scientific LC-MS grade chemicals strictly control trace metal contamination during production, which is confirmed with ICP-MS testing. Table 1 displays a comparison of impurities in pre-blended LC-MS grade water (with 0.1% formic acid) among four competitive brands.

Purity grades for every LC-MS application are available through the Fisher Scientific channel. Visit the following pages to learn more:

Fisher Chemical Solvents

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CA: fishersci.ca/chemicals

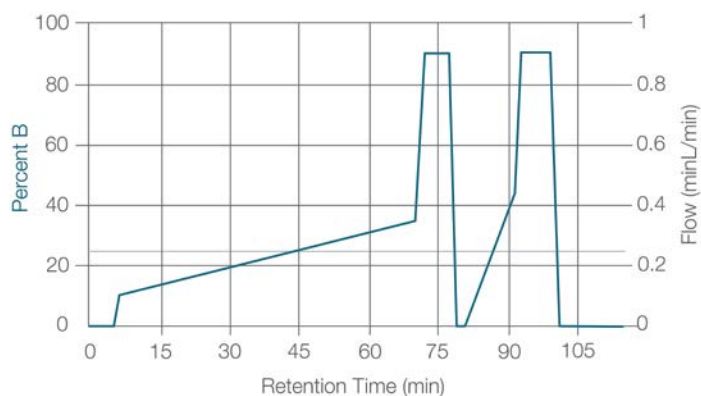
Thermo Scientific Analytical Reagents

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CA: fishersci.ca/analyticalreagents



Figure 1



Time	% B
0	1
5	1
6	10
70	35
72	90
77	90
79	1
81	1
83.5	10
91.5	45
93	90
99	0-
101	1
115	1

Typical LC gradient in a MAM workflow for the separation of NIST mAb peptides with a binary mobile phase: B: 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile (Cat. No. LS120).

Content provided by:



Table 1. Metal Ion Levels (ppb) in LC-MS Grade Water with 0.1% FA from Four Suppliers

Metal Ion	Cat. No. LS118	Competitor M	Competitor H	Competitor J
Na	≤50	≤700	≤5,000	≤50
K	≤50	≤40	≤2,000	≤50
Mg	≤10	≤40	≤500	≤50
Ca	≤50	≤50	≤500	≤50

Solvents and Blends

Grade	Description	Packaging	Quantity	Cat. No.
Optima LC-MS	Acetonitrile	Amber Glass Bottles	500 mL, 1 L, 2.5 L, 4 L	A955
	Methanol	Amber Glass Bottles	500 mL, 1 L, 2.5 L, 4 L	A456
	Water	Amber Glass Bottles	500 mL, 1 L, 2.5 L, 4 L	W6
	2-Propanol	Amber Glass Bottles	500 mL, 1 L, 2.5 L, 4 L	A461
UHPLC-MS	Acetonitrile	Clear Glass Bottles	1 L	A956-1
	Methanol	Clear Glass Bottles	1 L	A458-1
	Water	Clear Glass Bottles	1 L	W8-1
Optima LC-MS Blends	Acetonitrile with 0.1% FA	Amber Glass Bottles	500 mL, 1 L, 2.5 L, 4 L	LS120
	Acetonitrile with 20% Water and 0.1% FA	Amber Glass Bottles	500 mL	LS122-500
	Acetonitrile with 0.1% TFA	Amber Glass Bottles	500 mL, 1 L, 2.5 L, 4 L	LS121
	Acetonitrile with 0.05% TFA	Amber Glass Bottles	4 L	LS11-4
	Water with 0.1% FA	Amber Glass Bottles	500 mL, 1 L, 2.5 L, 4 L	LS118
	Water with 0.1% TFA	Amber Glass Bottles	500 mL, 1 L, 2.5 L, 4 L	LS119
	Water with 0.05% TFA	Amber Glass Bottles	4 L	LS115-4
Optima LC-MS Additives	Formic Acid	Poly Bottles	50 mL	A117-50
		Ampules	0.5, 1, 2, 10 × 1 mL	A117
	Acetic Acid	Poly Bottles	50 mL	A113-50
		Ampules	0.5, 1, 2, 10 × 1 mL	A113
	Trifluoroacetic Acid	Amber Glass Bottles	50 mL	A116-50
		Ampules	0.5, 1, 2, 10 × 1 mL	A116
	Ammonium Acetate	Glass Bottles	50 g	A114-50
	Ammonium Formate	Glass Bottles	50 g	A115-50

Installation Kit

Description	Cat. No.
UHPLC-MS Reagent Installation Kit for New LC-MS Systems, Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acetonitrile, 1 L (Cat. No. A956-1) • Methanol, 2 × 1 L (Cat. No. A458-1) • Water, 2 × 1 L (Cat. No. W8-1) • Thermo Scientific ChromaCare Instrument Flush Solution, 1 L (Cat. No. T111101000); 25% Each of Acetonitrile, Methanol, Water, and 2-Propanol 	UHPLCMSKIT

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- **Thermo Scientific SMART Digest Trypsin Kits** — easy and reproducible protein digestion in just a few minutes; apply these products to your HPLC and MS peptide mapping and quantitation workflows
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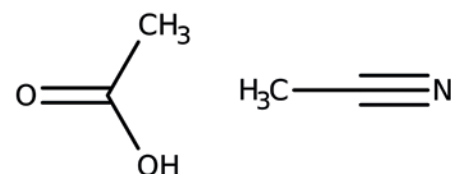
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Plan for Unexpected Lab Interruptions

By Iva Fedorka

Many of us have experienced how lab functions can be disrupted by extreme weather conditions, equipment failure, building damage, utility and communications failures, or civil disturbances. Planning for unexpected interruptions is your best chance to maintain laboratory operations during such a crisis.

What Is a COOP?

A continuity of operations plan (COOP), sometimes called a “disaster” plan, is an outline of actions to be taken in an emergency. A COOP may be partially or completely activated when the lab or its support systems aren’t working.

COOPs can help maintain or restore laboratory operations during a crisis and mitigate the effects of internal or external events. Having a plan in place can help you resume core activities as quickly as possible, direct staff, and facilitate your recovery.

Why a Lab COOP?

As unique environments, laboratories should develop COOPs separately from their associated facilities. Laboratories usually have extensive instrumentation, use dedicated spaces, may require special air handling, and may be impossible to relocate quickly and easily.

Laboratories perform key functions in healthcare facilities, manufacturing sites, academic and research institutions, as well as local, state, and federal government agencies. Although operational interruptions may be infrequent, they can be devastating to the lab itself and the organizations and people it serves.

The Basics

Your COOP should provide for “worst case scenarios” while also addressing smaller disruptions. Ideally, a COOP addresses potential threats, crises, and natural or man-made emergencies. It should describe the infrastructure, resources, and other requirements to maintain or restore function within a specific time frame. An effective COOP establishes specific plans of action, identifies responsible personnel, and determines what additional training your employees will need.

Look Beyond the Lab

Review your organization’s COOP to better coordinate communication and responses. If your lab is part of a larger academic institution, for example, you may not be able to fully control power supplies, air conditioning, and other systems.

Activating Your COOP

When it’s time to put your plan into action, execution is key.

Engage Everyone

- Empower supervisors and managers
- Display and communicate initiatives, show progress

Train Everyone

- Train employees and set expectations
- Designate a point of contact (POC) for each lab section
- Conduct regular practices or mock emergencies

Use Checklists

- Create a checklist for each stage
- Base checklists on your lab’s complexity and design
- Track progress and send reminders of next tasks

Communicate

- Include primary and back-up forms
- Maintain a contact list
- Identify issues and redirect activities

Track and Monitor

- Publish execution progress to avoid panic, keep everyone focused
- Create a dashboard for an overall view
- Collect performance metrics

Your COOP can make a significant difference in a crisis and may be the most important plan you create for your lab. And, although the plan is important, its proper execution is key to success. Annually review and update your COOP and share the updates with employees.

Multiple templates and other resources for COOPs are available online. For an example, see the Continuity of Operations Plan Improvement Tool for Public Health Laboratories from the Association of Public Health Laboratories (www.aphl.org).

Iva Fedorka is a staff writer for Thermo Fisher Scientific.

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Finding Cold Storage Solutions

Biological materials play a critical role in discovering novel therapeutics and managing public health. During the twentieth century, small chemical molecules were key to medical treatments. Now, advanced therapeutics include antibodies, cells, tissues, and other biological substances.

This shift from chemistry to biology represents a new era. However, biological materials can degrade — they may lose structure and function over time or with temperature exposures. Maintaining proper temperatures in the short and long terms is crucial to preserving biological functionality.

Laboratory Refrigerators and Freezers

Cold storage units built for laboratory or medical use are designed to limit temperature variation and maintain peak variation, temperature uniformity, and open-door temperature recovery. Commercial refrigerators and freezers are not designed with these same considerations.

While retail cold storage units may be less expensive, they may demonstrate temperature drift, have warm and cold areas within the cabinet, and return to temperature setpoints less rapidly after frequent opening. Internal temperature mapping performed on a 20 cu. ft. retail refrigerator showed a peak variation (the deviation from the lowest and highest temperature) of -5.5° to $+5.5^{\circ}\text{C}$. In comparison, the peak variation of a 30 cu. ft. high-performance lab refrigerator was significantly less: -2° to $+1.3^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Retail-grade refrigerators and freezers are not usually tested to meet laboratory safety standards like UL 61010. Because they are not recommended for laboratory

use, insurance companies can deny claims for overt failure or damage to samples.

What Are Your Requirements?

There are many refrigerator and freezer options available in today's markets. Ask these questions to help determine the best cold storage equipment for your needs:

1. Which products will be stored? Are the products critical or temperature sensitive?
2. What temperature setpoint and performance will ensure sample or product stability?
3. How much room is needed to avoid overcrowding?
4. Does access to the samples or products require locks or security?
5. What regulatory or sustainability standards must be met?
6. Does the equipment need to be qualified or validated?

Performance data can also help you determine which unit is right for your application. Technical data sheets (TDS) include essential data about:

- Peak variation from setpoint — the difference between the highest and the lowest temperature observed during closed-door testing of the unit
- Uniformity — the maximum temperature difference between all measurements at a specific moment in time; typically published as the average uniformity
- Stability — the maximum temperature difference for a specific



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location throughout the test cycle; typically published as the average stability

- One-minute door open recovery — the time needed to reach the original setpoints after keeping the door open for one minute

Find Your Cold Storage Solutions

Thermo Fisher Scientific offers several lines of biomedical refrigerators and freezers with different sets of features and performance levels.

Thermo Scientific TSG Series Refrigerators and Freezers are designed for general-purpose applications with semi-critical reagents, media, proteins, and other samples and products. TSG units are also Energy Star certified.

Energy Star certified Thermo Scientific TSX Series High-Performance Refrigerators and Freezers are essential for labs working with vaccines, enzymes, chemotherapy and pharmaceutical compounds, and other temperature-sensitive samples and products.

TSX freezers are available with manual or auto-defrost features. The auto-defrost versions use forced air circulation for better temperature uniformity and maintain temperatures near -30°C to minimize the impact of defrost cycles. Choose manual defrost freezers for storing enzymes and other biologics that do not tolerate temperature variations. Their refrigeration coils are located inside the cabinet walls to provide temperature control and stability throughout the chamber.

Every lab, workflow, and sample type has specific needs and requirements. The right refrigerators and freezers are critical for your samples, biological materials, and vaccines. Purpose-built laboratory refrigerators and freezers can offer you the precise temperature control needed for valuable research samples, vaccines, and other pharmaceutical development materials.

From preparation to storage and thawing, you can be confident and compliant both on paper and in practice. Thermo Fisher Scientific offers cold temperature storage ranging from -196°C to $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$ to help you find the right solutions for every stage of your workflow.



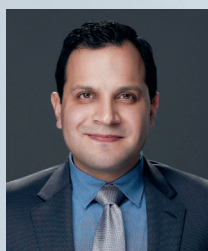
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Type	Refrigerators	Auto-Defrost Freezers	Manual Defrost Freezers	Refrigerators	Auto-Defrost Freezers
Temperature Range	2° to 8°C, 5°C Setpoint	-35° to -15°C, -30°C Setpoint	-35° to -15°C, -20°C Setpoint	2° to 10°C	-12° to -30°C
Sizes	12, 23, 30, 45, 50 cu. ft.		23, 30 cu. ft.	12, 25, 30, 45, 49, 72 cu. ft.	25, 49 cu. ft.
Security	High/Low Alarms, Locks, Remote Contacts			High/Low Alarms, Locks, Remote Contacts	
Sustainability	Energy Star Certified, SNAP Compliant			Energy Star Certified, SNAP Compliant	
Applications	Biologics, Diagnostic Kits and Reagents, Enzymes, Industrial Testing, Molecular Biology, Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals, Clinical Applications, Columns, Cell and Gene Therapy			Biologics, Diagnostic Kits and Reagents, Industrial Testing, Molecular Biology, Clinical Applications, Columns	

Biobanking Modernization and Sustainability

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged everything we understand about effectively managing the risks posed to high-quality biological specimens.

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Label Printers and Applicators

Description	Cat. No.
BradyPrinter i7100 Vial Label Applicator	19-129-935
BradyPrinter i7100 Industrial Label Printer, Peel Version, 300 dpi with Vial Label Applicator	19-129-931
BradyPrinter i7100 Industrial Label Printer, Peel Version, 600 dpi with Vial Label Applicator	19-129-932

Labels

Tube Capacity*	Dimensions (W x L)	Use Ribbon	Color	Quantity	Cat. No.
Brady Sterilization-Indicating Labels, PP, Withstand Temperatures from -196 to 121°C (-320.8 to 249.8°F)					
1.8 mL to 10 mL	1.5 x 1 in. (38.1 x 25.4 mm)	R4300	White	2,000/Roll	11-878-544
1.8 mL to 10 mL	2 x 1 in. (50.8 x 25.4 mm)	R4300	White	2,000/Roll	11-878-541
Brady Thermal Transfer Printer Labels, PP with Permanent Acrylic Adhesive					
1.8 mL to 10 mL	1.5 x 1 in. (38.1 x 25.4 mm)	R4302	White	2,000/Roll	19-140-428
0.5 mL to 2 mL	1 x 1 in. (25.4 x 25.4 mm)	R4302	White	2,000/Roll	19-140-424
1.8 mL to 10 mL	2 x 1 in. (50.8 x 25.4 mm)	R4302	White	2,000/Roll	19-140-432
1.8 mL to 10 mL	1.75 x 1.5 in. (44.5 x 38.1 mm)	R4302	White	2,000/Roll	19-140-429
1.8 mL to 10 mL	1.5 x 0.75 in. (38.1 x 19.1 mm)	R4302	White	2,000/Roll	19-140-427
0.5 mL to 2 mL	1.3 x 0.6 in. (33 x 15.2 mm)	R4302	White	2,000/Roll	19-140-425
1.8 mL to 10 mL	2 x 0.5 in. (50.8 x 12.7 mm)	R4302	White	2,000/Roll	19-140-430
Brady Thermal Transfer Labels, Polyamide-Coated Nylon Cloth with Permanent Acrylic Adhesive					
0.5 mL to 2 mL	0.9 x 0.5 in. (22.9 x 12.7 mm)	R6000	White	2,000/Roll	11-877-79
1.8 mL to 10 mL	1.75 x 1 in. (44.5 x 25.4 mm)	R6000	White	3,000/Roll	19-109-270
Brady Thermal Transfer General-Purpose Labels, for Indoor Use, Polyamide-Coated Nylon Cloth with Permanent Acrylic Adhesive					
1.8 mL to 10 mL	1.5 x 0.75 in. (38.1 x 19.1 mm)	R6000	White	3,000/Roll	11-877-88

*Tube dimensions may vary by brand

FEATURED ARTICLE



Solar Geoengineering

Could Help Combat Climate Change

By Kevin Ritchart

While some of us enjoy spending lazy summer days soaking up the sun, scientists are exploring ways to keep a fraction of those rays from ever reaching the Earth's atmosphere.

Earlier this year, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published a report urging the U.S. government to explore solar geoengineering as a means of combating climate change.

The report recommends that the federal government spend up to \$200 million over the next five years to develop a national research program that will explore the viability of this technology as a means of helping cool the planet.

What Is Solar Geoengineering?

The idea behind solar geoengineering is to reflect more of the sun's energy back into space through various techniques, including the injection of aerosols into the atmosphere.

Scientists have done some computer modeling to predict what might happen to Earth's climate should solar geoengineering be accomplished successfully, but without more research, any potential conclusions drawn from the modeling studies are purely hypothetical.

How Does It Work?

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report outlined three solar geoengineering strategies that scientists consider viable options: stratospheric aerosol injection, marine cloud brightening, and cirrus cloud thinning.

Stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI) increases the number of small, reflective particles in the stratosphere to increase the reflection of incoming sunlight back into space. Modeling, using volcanic eruption as an analog, indicates that SAI can induce global cooling. But there's uncertainty about whether the aerosols used in solar geoengineering would have an adverse effect on atmospheric chemistry as well as climate.

Marine cloud brightening (MCB) adds particles to the lower atmosphere (nearer the Earth's surface) to increase the reflectivity of low-lying clouds over specific regions of our oceans. The potential drawback to this approach is a limited understanding of how aerosols and clouds will interact. Researchers have thus far been unable to perform MCB modeling because the key processes in need of observation are so small in scale that they cannot be observed in global climate models.

Cirrus cloud thinning (CCT) is a process of modifying the properties of high-altitude ice clouds, which increases the atmosphere's transparency to thermal radiation. Scientists have limited knowledge regarding the properties of cirrus clouds and what can be done to alter them. Data from existing CCT climate modeling has shown mixed results.

The Air Up There

A Harvard University research team is planning what they've dubbed the Stratospheric Controlled Perturbation Experiment (SCoPEX for short), which will serve as some of the first significant studies in the realm of geoengineering field work.

The aim of the project is to send a high-altitude balloon into the stratosphere, where it will release small amounts of mineral dust into the air. By observing how the small quantities of particles react when they leave the balloon, researchers believe they will gain a better understanding of how aerosols will behave high up in the atmosphere.

Though SCoPEX researchers have said repeatedly that the project is small in scale and the particles will be released in the safest possible way, their efforts have drawn some negative attention from environmental groups.

What Are the Risks?

The report acknowledges the risks involved in geoengineering, which has developed into one of the more contentious issues in the creation of climate change-related policy.

Chief among those risks is that a large-scale solar geoengineering effort could upset regional weather patterns, for example changing the behavior of a monsoon or hurricane.

Another concern is that the implementation of solar geoengineering would diminish public pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Experts caution that whether or not the research results in a plan to move forward, we still need to maintain focus on reducing our carbon footprint worldwide.



continued from page 21

Solar Geoengineering Could Help Combat Climate Change

Failing to follow through would jeopardize the goals of the 2016 Paris Agreement. Under the Paris Agreement, each of the countries involved must determine, plan, and regularly report on actions taken to mitigate the effects of global warming.

Lastly, if we started this effort of reflecting sunlight for a period of time, would we be able to stop? There's a concern that halting the process would create an unacceptable level of rapid warming that could pose a danger to both people and the environment.

Money Matters

Solar geoengineering has bipartisan support from the U.S. Congress, which allocated \$4 million to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2019 to conduct research into the technology. The NOAA and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) both helped fund the 2021 report on solar geoengineering along with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Proponents of moving forward with the research outlined in the report feel that the use of public funds will add transparency and accountability by creating clear rules about how and when to perform tests and gather data.

Critics don't believe the safeguards detailed in the report will be enough, however. Some experts fear that the protections afforded to poorer regions could be pushed aside once the research begins.

A Measured Approach

The report also details a significant effort of transdisciplinary research, research governance, and robust stakeholder engagement, which is a departure from typical climate research programs. The following areas will be closely monitored as the research gets under way:

Context and goals. The hope is that all countries will engage meaningfully with the outcomes of the solar geoengineering research, weighing in with regard to social and environmental impact, aiding in the development of modeling scenarios, and outlining strategies for decision making when the best path forward might be unclear.

Impacts and technical dimensions. This includes gaining an enhanced understanding of the steps involved in successfully injecting particles into the atmosphere, the possible impact on the global climate and ecology, and the technical challenges associated with moving the solar geoengineering effort forward effectively.

Social dimensions. Researchers want to be sensitive to the public perception of their work while encouraging cooperation rather than conflict.

Some experts fear that the protections afforded to poorer regions could be pushed aside once the research begins.

As research progresses, decisions will be made regarding the scope of the overall effort while helping to ensure that the process moves forward in an effective and societally responsible manner.

Where Do We Go from Here?

With the concept of solar geoengineering very much in its infancy, the questions that remain are how much information is needed to make an informed decision about implementing it on a large scale? And do the potential benefits to the world at large outweigh the risks?

Kevin Ritchart is a Thermo Fisher Scientific staff writer.

Improvements in Affinity Chromatography

Cytiva MabSelect Prisma is a next-generation protein A chromatography resin. It offers significantly enhanced alkaline stability and binding capacity for improved monoclonal antibody (mAb) processing.

The resin builds on the proven track record of MabSelect and MabSelect SuRe resins, but MabSelect Prisma has an optimized high-flow agarose base matrix and a genetically engineered protein A-derived ligand.

Key features include:

- Enhanced dynamic binding capacity (DBC) for high mass throughput of processed mAb per resin volume unit
- Alkaline stability enables efficient cleaning and sanitization using 0.5 to 1.0 M NaOH
- Dual sources for the agarose base matrix and protein A ligand for supply chain dependability

Since mAbs were first approved for commercial use in 1980s, they now represent the fastest growing segment of biopharmaceutical sales. Over the past 30 years, protein A chromatography resins and mAbs have seen annual productivity gains in the protein A step (more than 4.5 percent) and increased protein A binding capacity (more than 5.5 percent).¹

Their high affinity for the antibody Fc region makes protein A resins an efficient mAb purification platform. The homology of the Fc region allows most mAbs to be purified using a standard approach, which significantly reduces process development time. This explains why nearly all commercially approved mAb manufacturing uses protein A capture as the first purification step.

Designed for High Productivity in mAb Capture

Most mAbs are sent for purification, which makes the protein A step very important. Increasing mAb titers means that cell culture feeds contain more impurities. The high nutrient load in the cell culture harvest, combined with the low alkaline resistance of protein A resin, creates an elevated risk of resin fouling and bioburden issues.

For efficient upstream batch purification, the resin capacity needs to match the mass of produced mAbs. Historically, the binding capacity of protein A resins has lagged behind ion exchange chromatography resins, requiring larger resin volumes and chromatography column sizes.

Due to the enhanced properties of both the protein A ligand and the base matrix design, MabSelect Prisma offers significantly increased binding capacity compared with its predecessor, MabSelect SuRe LX resin.² For similar process setups and column sizes, the improved binding capacity of MabSelect Prisma enables significantly increased mass throughput per purification cycle compared with MabSelect SuRe LX.

With the increased binding capacity, the productivity of current chromatography columns and systems can be improved without costly capital expenditures, making more efficient use of existing manufacturing footprints. Alternatively, the increased binding capacity can be used to decrease the resin volume (and concomitantly the buffer consumption) required to achieve a given mass throughput.

MabSelect Prisma and Binding to Non-Fc Regions

The binding of protein A mainly takes

place between constant heavy chain domains — CH₂ and CH₃ — in the Fc region of the mAb. The protein A ligand in MabSelect Prisma has enhanced binding affinity for the VH₃ sequence located on the variable heavy chain of the Fab region compared to its predecessors, MabSelect SuRe and MabSelect SuRe LX. MabSelect, MabSelect SuRe, and MabSelect Prisma interact to different degrees with VHH fragments.

These VHH fragments are unique to Camelids and are single-chain antibody mimics of the VH₃ region of IgG with mutations at different positions. MabSelect Prisma has a similar binding pattern for the tested VHH sequences as the recombinant protein A ligand present in MabSelect and MabSelect Xtra resins, which provides new opportunities for purification of increasing molecular diversity of antibody fragments.

Improved Alkaline Stability Enables New Standards for Cleaning and Sanitization

Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) has gained popularity for bioprocessing, cleaning, and sanitization due to its efficacy, low cost, and ease of detection, removal, and disposal. Commonly, 1 M NaOH is used to clean and sanitize chromatography columns and resins. In addition to its ability to inactivate endotoxins and many microorganisms, NaOH can remove bound proteins, nucleic acids, and lipids from the resins. Fouled resins can increase cross-contamination risk, which may negatively impact DBC over time.³ Historically, protein A chromatography resins have been sensitive to NaOH due to the limited alkaline stability of the protein ligand.

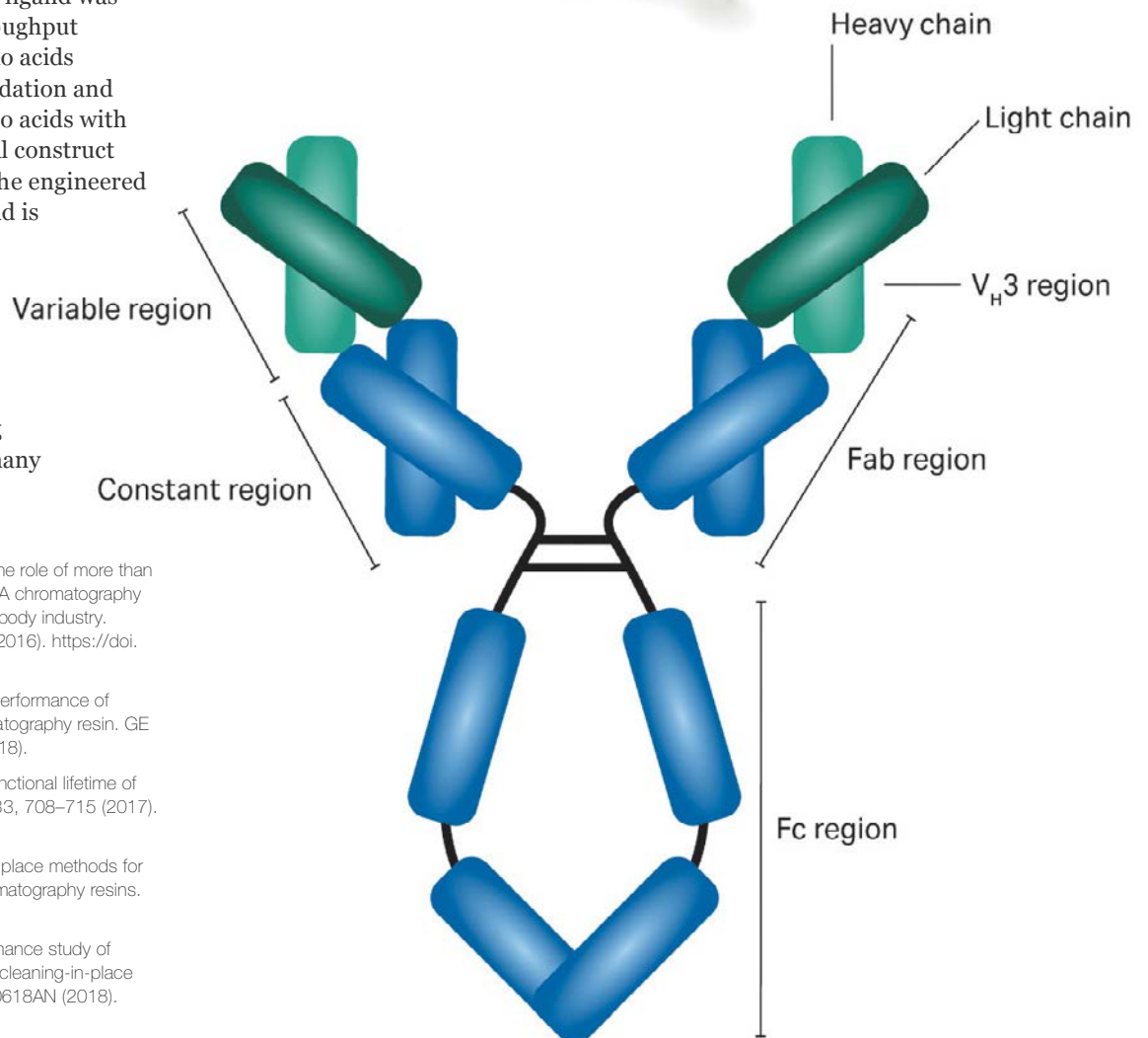
Later generations of protein A resins exhibit improved alkaline stability and

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have recommended cleaning procedures using 0.1 M NaOH, with the option of occasionally using 0.5 M NaOH. Given that protein A capture is the first purification step and therefore exposed to the crudest feed and highest impurity loads, the use of weak CIP agents has been highlighted as a challenge and risk with using this technique.

With enhanced alkaline stability of its protein A ligand, MabSelect PrismaA meets this challenge.⁴ The ligand was developed using high-throughput screening to identify amino acids sensitive to alkaline degradation and substitution of these amino acids with more stable ones. The final construct constitutes a hexamer of the engineered domain. Highly pure ligand is immobilized to the agarose base matrix via a chemically stable thioether linkage. The enhanced alkaline stability enables efficient cleaning of the resin using 0.5 to 1.0 M NaOH over many purification cycles.⁵



1. Bolton G. R. and Mehta, K. K. The role of more than 40 years of improvement in Protein A chromatography in the growth of the therapeutic antibody industry. *Biotechnol. Prog.* 32, 1193–1202 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1002/btpr.2324>

2. Application note: Capacity and performance of MabSelect PrismaA protein A chromatography resin. GE Healthcare, KA1965231408AN (2018).

3. Zhang J. *et al.* Maximizing the functional lifetime of Protein A resins. *Biotechnol. Prog.* 33, 708–715 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1002/btpr.2448>

4. Whitepaper: Efficient cleaning-in-place methods for protein based antibody affinity chromatography resins. Cytiva. KA1619220218WP (2018).

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ST 600 H	57 L	08-000-102
ST 800 H	83 L	08-000-103
ST 1400 H	126 L	08-000-104
ST 1600 H	162 L	08-000-105
ST 2500 H	255 L	08-000-106



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Less Jargon Could Increase Your Work's Citation Potential

By Kylie Wolfe

Words matter. They help us form and communicate new thoughts, shaping our interactions in person and on paper. Scientists, in particular, are challenged with relaying their findings in a way that promotes widespread understanding.

To convey a complex scientific idea, you might lean on words and phrases that are concise and precise. These trade-specific terms, known as jargon, might be effective in your field, but aren't necessarily accessible to all audiences. According to a new study, word choice may even affect how frequently a published paper is cited by other researchers.

Language Lessons

During a presentation or casual conversation with a coworker, a specific subset of vocabulary words might be suitable, but the same can't be said when trying to increase a manuscript's readability and reach.

A study conducted at the National Research Council in Pallanza, Italy, concluded that less jargon in a paper's title and abstract correlates to greater citations. These findings were published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

To reach this consensus, Alejandro Martínez, evolutionary biologist, and Stefano Mammola, ecologist, generated a list of 1,500 cave-science terms and created a computer program to calculate how often these words were used in published research. They assessed 21,486 manuscripts, all of which were cave studies, and found that those without jargon in their titles were cited more than 450 times. The same set of papers used less than one percent jargon in their abstracts. The citation frequency dropped substantially when jargon was used more than one percent of the time.

Making Science Accessible

After months of research, you want readers to engage with your work: read it, remember it, and, ultimately, cite it. When citations are used as a measure of success or relevance, mastering the balance of word choice is critical.

To express an idea with fewer instances of jargon, consider your audience. Your readers might range from everyday people to experts in your field. And because specialized terms can remind readers of what they don't know instead of what they do, too much jargon can be discouraging.

Cast a wider net by defining terms and using simple phrases that explain concepts and processes. Strive for clarity, especially in the title and abstract of a piece. The reader's understanding of these sections will determine whether or not they continue reading.

Strive for clarity, especially in the title and abstract of a piece.

Jargon isn't always undesirable though. A 2019 study evaluated nearly 20,000 grant proposals and found that it can actually help with funding. The fewer common words that were used, the greater the grant opportunities. No matter how you choose to express your ideas, know that word variation can lead to better communication. Jargon serves a purpose in each field, but only when it's used in the right context and with the appropriate audience.

Communication Goals

Don't let jargon limit your paper's citation potential. Create accessible content that readers can digest, keeping in mind what words they'll understand and how you can break down larger ideas.

When you're ready to publish your work, take a second look. Ask yourself how you can cut back on technical terms and broaden your audience. When these words are unavoidable, try restricting their use to later sections of the paper. It could not only improve the number of citations you receive, but help you communicate your work more effectively to anyone who clicks and scrolls.

Kylie Wolfe is a Thermo Fisher Scientific staff writer.

This content was inspired, in part, by "Are You Confused by Scientific Jargon? So Are Scientists," New York Times, April 9, 2021; and "Want other scientists to cite you? Drop the jargon," Science, April 6, 2021.

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5 to 120 µL	14-559-351	14-559-357	14-559-361	14-557-822	14-557-828	14-557-832
10 to 300 µL	14-559-352	14-559-358	14-559-362	14-557-823	14-557-829	14-557-833
50 to 1,000 µL	14-559-353	14-559-359	14-559-363	14-557-824	14-557-830	14-557-834
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Confocal 40 µm Spinning Disk	•	•				
Hamamatsu sCMOS Camera	•	•				
Sony CMOS Camera			•	•	•	•
Multi-Mode Reading		•		•		•
Phase Contrast	•	•	•	•	•	•

Replaces Up to Five Liquid Handlers

MultiFlo FX Multi-Mode Dispenser

The MultiFlo FX is an automated multi-mode reagent dispenser for 6- to 1536-well microplates. It incorporates several unique technologies in its modular design:

- Parallel dispense
- Random access dispense
- Automated gentle media exchange

These modules facilitate various liquid handling applications from 2D and 3D cell culture to concentration normalization assays, ELISA, bead-based assays, and more. A fully configured MultiFlo FX replaces up to five liquid handlers, saving space, time, and instrumentation budgets.



Description	Mfg. No.	Cat. No.
MultiFlo FX with 2 Module Arms, 1 Dispense Pump, 1 Peri Pump Cassette	MFXP2	BTMFXP2
MultiFlo FX with 1 Module Arm, 1 Dispense Pump, 1 Peri Pump Cassette	MFXP1	BTMFXP1



Boekel Scientific Refrigerated Incubator

Large Color Touchscreen with Intuitive Navigation and Advanced Functionality

Single Piece Internal Chamber Construction

Efficient Solid-State Peltier Cooling

Cat. No.: 13-245-235

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- More comfortable than wearing disposable style
- Two-way filtration when you breathe in and out
- Two sizes
- NIOSH approved N95 or P100 filters
- Protects the patient and HCP
- Creates an air-tight seal against the face
- Safer than using a disposable respirator or surgical mask — you can conduct a seal check each time
- 8-point adjustable harness, no earloops, no discomfort
- White allows you to write your name or a compassionate message
- Filters and masks can be disinfected between patient interaction
- Filters can be replaced, reducing waste versus disposable style respirators
- Immediate and long-term cost savings
- Will not fog glasses
- Fits under medical style faceshields
- Compact design reduces interference with other medical equipment during patient interaction



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Quickly and easily find the solutions you need with our wide range of industry-leading products in these key safety categories.

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- Controlled environments
- Environmental monitoring
- Facility safety and maintenance
- Fall and confined space protection
- Fire and emergency response
- First aid and medical
- Hand sanitization
- Hazardous materials storage
- Personal protective equipment

- Respiratory protection
- Spill control and containment
- Traffic safety
- And more

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- Clean room
- First responder
- Production – certificates, lot management, and change notifications

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Next-Generation Vacuum Pumps



KNF Neuberger LABOPORT Vacuum Pumps

New oil-free and chemically resistant LABOPORT diaphragm vacuum pumps improve everyday laboratory practices with integrated speed control, three-color status display, and exceptionally small footprints.

Compact LABOPORT vacuum pumps are easy to use, durable, and useful for rotary evaporation, degassing, filtration, SPE, fluid aspiration, gel drying, centrifugal concentration, vacuum ovens, and many other applications.

Visit fishersci.com/laboportvacuumpumps to shop.



Model	Application	Ultimate Vacuum	Flow Rate	ATEX Compliant	Integral Gas Ballast Valves	Cat. No.
N 96	Filtration, SPE, Aspiration	97.5 torr, 130 mbar	7 L/min.	No	No	13-880-904
N 820 G	Rotary Evaporation, Degassing, Fluid Aspiration, Centrifugal Concentration, Vacuum Oven, Gel Drying	4.5 torr, 6 mbar	20 L/min.	Yes	Yes	13-880-905
N 840 G	Rotary Evaporation, Filtration, Centrifugal Concentration, Vacuum Oven	4.5 torr, 6 mbar	34 L/min.	Yes	Yes	13-880-906

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POUNDS AND COUNTING

75
COUNTRIES

Our continuous perimeter seal provides maximum protection against leaks, keeping customers' samples safe.

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Redesigned for Your Safety

BrandTech Dispensette S Bottletop Dispensers

Redesigned BRAND Dispensette S Bottletop Dispensers offer additional safety features and convenience for your laboratory reagent dispensing.

- Updated safety valve system: Easier volume selection, faster priming, lower operation force
- No seals — greater reliability
- Includes adapters for common bottle sizes; other accessories sold separately

Other available models:

- Dispensette S Organic for organic solvents and concentrated acids
- Dispensette S Trace Analysis for high-purity reagents
- Dispensette S Trace Analysis with platinum-iridium valve springs for hydrofluoric acid (HA)
- Fixed-volume models (limited selection)



Description	Cat. No.	Cat. No.	Description	Cat. No.	Cat. No.
Analog Adjustable	Standard Valve	Recirculation Valve	Digital Adjustable	Standard Valve	Recirculation Valve
0.1 to 1 mL	13-689-019	13-689-012	0.1 to 1 mL	13-689-006	13-689-000
0.2 to 2 mL	13-689-020	13-689-013	0.2 to 2 mL	13-689-007	13-689-001
0.5 to 5 mL	13-689-021	13-689-014	0.5 to 5 mL	13-689-008	13-689-002
1 to 10 mL	13-689-022	13-689-015	1 to 10 mL	13-689-009	13-689-003
2.5 to 25 mL	13-689-023	13-689-016	2.5 to 25 mL	13-689-010	13-689-004
5 to 50 mL	13-689-024	13-689-017	5 to 50 mL	13-689-011	13-689-005
10 to 100 mL	13-689-025	13-689-018			

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