

Medilink Case Study

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Kirkstall Ltd Quasi Vivo™

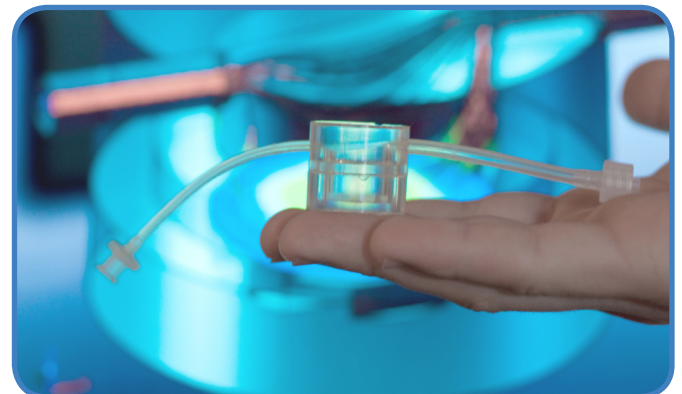


Dedicated to finding a more realistic, cost effective and ethical solution to drug safety testing through their interconnected cell culture systems that mimic the human body, Kirkstall provide a more physiologically accurate representation of cell culture - allowing chemists to test more than one drug at a time, therefore analysing its effect on a number of staged organs, without the use of animals.

This is an environment that provides greater accuracy for scientists wanting to test a drug and its behaviour on the body and the systems are flexible and scalable to meet the user's requirements.

Benefits

Kirkstall Ltd introduces flow into cell culture. This new phenomenon replaces culturing cells in static plates by interconnecting separate cell culture systems in an in-vivo environment to create realistic and reliable examples of the human body – rather than the standard static environments.



Innovation

These Quasi Vivo™ systems recreate the body's signalling through flow and can be interlinked to mimic the body's behaviour; they are constantly under flow conditions which accurately model how cells grow and behave in the body rather than previous static environments.

"The key to our systems is good science and collaboration with leading universities. As well as working with the very best researchers and academics, we are also in constant communication with a variety of animal rights charities to ensure we are meeting their needs in eradicating the use of animals in science."

Malcolm Wilkinson, Managing Director, Kirkstall Ltd



Medilink
Yorkshire & Humber



Connect



Innovate



Communicate



Internationalise



Communities

Kirkstall Ltd

Quasi Vivo™

Collaboration

Moving premises from Cambridge to Sheffield, Kirkstall has relied heavily on regional support with Yorkshire Forward and Business Link schemes being key to their development and ensuring Kirkstall made key connections in the region from the start.



Listen to Malcolm Wilkinson talking about the Quasi Vivo system online at: www.medilink.co.uk/communicate/casestudies.aspx

Originally a spin-out idea from the University of Pisa, Kirkstall benefited from Yorkshire Forward's Grant for Research and Development (GRD) which has enabled the company to transfer some of their key technologies from the University environment into Sheffield before engaging with industry.

About Kirkstall

Kirkstall recognised the need to replace or reduce animal testing throughout the world and have identified key opinion leaders across Europe who are experts in their field to validate and develop the technologies. With ongoing projects across Europe, such as a liver tissue project in Montpellier, France, the need to collaborate has been essential from inception.

Based at the leading Sheffield BioIncubator facility at the University of Sheffield means the company has access to the latest laboratories, leading academics as well as an impressive calibre of graduates.



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