Applied BioPhysics Patent Issued by Patent and Trademark Office

Applied BioPhysics, a life sciences instrument manufacturing company in Troy, NY, has been issued a patent entitled "Method and Apparatus for Facilitating Evaluating Migration of Cells in Vitro."

The patent describes a novel method to measure rates of cell migration. Normally when cells are inoculated in a well, the entire bottom surface becomes covered with a cell layer. However, by applying current pulses to a small surface electrode, cells can be prevented from attaching and spreading upon this defined area. The current pulses effectively form an "electric fence" which can easily be turned on and off. In this manner, cells added to the wells will form a confluent layer on all but the small electrode surface. By later stopping these pulses, the cells at the edge of the cell-free electrode will begin to migrate inward to eventually cover the area. Using weak non-invasive current, this migration upon the electrode can be followed and quantified using the company's well-known impedance measurement technology (ECIS).

This new method is particularly useful to determine the effect of specific protein layers upon cell migration, as adsorbed proteins on the electrode are unaffected by the current pulses. According to Dr Ivar Giaever, Nobel Laureate and Chief Technology Officer, "This patent is a strong addition to our patent portfolio and extends the capability of our ECIS technology."

About Applied BioPhysics, Inc.:

Applied BioPhysics, was founded by Ivar Giaever, PhD and Charles Keese, Ph.D, after leaving General Electric Research and Development. Applied BioPhysics, Inc. is focused on applying the results of biophysical research to provide practical tools for cell research and drug discovery. Applied BioPhysics manufactures instrumentation for non-invasive label free measurement of cells. The technology is used in cancer research, drug development, biological threat detection, and toxicology testing (as an alternative to using animals). Applied BioPhysics' technology is currently being used in over 200 leading universities and pharmaceutical companies around the world.

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