

Client Interview

Introduction

The company Eppendorf knows its clients and their specific needs very well. In the following interview, we would like to introduce our valued client Dr. Silvia Ferrara, where she will answer some questions, both personal and pertaining to her work. Dr. Ferrara has studied biotechnology and works currently at the University of Milan, where she is working amongst others on the examination of virulence factors from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. For detecting small RNA molecules she uses the Eppendorf BioSpectrometer® fluorescence and the Eppendorf μ Cuvette®.



What activities do you enjoy outside of work?

There are many different things I can do to relax. What I most like is horse riding, since this is something what you can do everywhere in the world, and that allows you to connect with animals and the nature. But I also love to drive fast cars in a race course or relax in a spa. Sometimes just a good glass of wine is sufficient to rearrange my thoughts. I need these relaxing time also for my work, to get another point of view on my daily experiments.

Why did you decide to study Biotechnology and what do you like about your work?

*Actually I was always impressed about biology questions especially about microorganisms. I was fascinated how this tiny little things could work and have great impact on men's life. For example, even small life forms like bacteria can communicate. If *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strain has infected his host, it could check the population density via "Quorum Sensing". "Quorum Sensing" allows bacteria to communicate via small molecules. In this case, if the population of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* has reached a certain density, the bacteria began to attack its host via producing biofilms to protect them from the host defense activities.*

How did the Eppendorf BioSpectrometer/ μ Cuvette help you in your work, and what do you particularly like about these products?

We use the BioSpectrometer fluorescence and μ Cuvette mainly for detecting RNA and DNA. Sometimes we have high and low concentrations, so we need to be very flexible in detecting our samples. With our device we could detect our samples via absorbance and fluorescence, so we are full flexible for very low and very high concentration. In addition we like the reproducibility in detecting small RNA samples with the μ Cuvette. For our northern blots we were the first time able to get reliable results for our reference standards.

What do you consider your biggest challenge in your work?

The biggest challenge in our work is always to have the next step in mind. This means to think about what I could do to be prepared for the future. This includes our scientific work but also our laboratory equipment that we need to use every day to obtain good results. The Eppendorf BioSpectrometer fluorescence for example was the first device that could enable absorbance as well as fluorescence measurement, which is important since we have many samples in various concentration ranges. So we are well prepared for all upcoming measurements of nucleic acids samples that could be done in a reproducible way.

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