A RAPID TEST TO DETECT HIV VIRUS

With the growing threat of the spread of HIV, a quick method of detection would be a boon to society, especially in rural areas of some developing countries where electricity is not available. The material used for detection is the prosaic quick lime.

HIV antibody tests can be performed away from the laboratory but they lack the ability to detect recent infection, while tests that detect nucleic acids from HIV can confirm the presence of the virus much sooner after infection. However until now, these tests have required costly equipment and needed to be carried out in a laboratory.

The new device developed, uses the exothermic reaction between quick lime and water to perform isothermic amplification of the viral DNA with a fluorescence label, allowing for visual identification of infection. Although the heating device has been previously described it has never been used for HIV detection before and could prove a cheap and simple method for point of care HIV diagnosis.

Chemistry World, April 2012

...man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but usually manages to pick himself up, walk over or around it, and carry on.

Churchill, Winston S.

An inventor is a person who makes an ingenious arrangement of wheels, levers and springs, and believes it civilization.

Ambrose Bierce,

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SHARING PROGRAMME TARGETS NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES.

The World Intellectual Property Organization, (WIPO) has pioneered a new consortium of partners drawn from both private and public sectors with the aim of sharing intellectual property that may help develop a range of new drugs. The primary targets of this initiative are diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and similar Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD's). WIPO is to provide the accessible database which will include the available Intellectual Property assets.

The Director-General of WIPO Francis Gurry has declared that by bringing together companies and researchers, the IP assets will be made available under royalty-free licences to authentic qualified researchers worldwide. Such a commitment will act as a driver for the development of therapies for NTD s. These NTD's will effect mainly countries of the third world. Since the profit potential is minimal in this regard,, there is no commercial incentive to conduct intensive research to develop treatment for these NTD's.

R&D knowhow from pharmaceutical companies and researchers, as well as information from compound libraries will be included in the proposed database.

Eight leading global pharmaceutical companies have already joined the WIPO venture together with BIO Venture for Global Health, the US National Institutes of Health, University Research Groups and a range of non-profit organizations. The lack of experienced personnel and facilities for leading-edge research in laboratories of the third world has also been noted with a view to addressing the shortcomings.

Chem. World 2011 Dec p 06- Sarah Houlton