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Multiplex Assays, Homebrew Kits Developed for Biomarker Discovery and Validation

By Elaine Wilson

Quanterix Corp, Lexington, Mass, has announced commercial availability of multiplex panels and homebrew kits, which enable laboratorians to create their own multiplex assays.

Using the company's ultra-sensitive Simoa technology, users can achieve similar sensitivity with each marker in a multiplex panel as they would if they were to test for individual analytes. Customers wishing to use their own antibody pairs can now develop custom multiplex Simoa panels.



The first commercially available multiplex kits are three-plex panels of cytokines, useful for measuring inflammatory response across a wide range of conditions. The new panels are composed of individual cytokines, previously available in a single-plex format. The normal healthy range for many cytokines is close to the limit of detection of conventional immunoassay measurement techniques. Because of this, the sensitivity provided by Simoa permits researchers to measure both healthy and sick subjects with confidence.

“The introduction of Simoa multiplexing is an enormous step towards the paradigm shift from today’s sick care to true healthcare,” says Kevin Hrusovsky, chief executive and executive chairman at Quanterix. “It will save Simoa customers time and money while minimizing the sample volume that’s required to measure multiple analytes in a single test. It’s remarkable that we are able to run these multiplex panels without sacrificing the exquisite sensitivity, precision, or dynamic range that Simoa assays are revolutionizing thanks to digital measurement of individual molecules in discrete microwells.”

According to the company, its menu of Simoa assay kits has experienced rapid growth, reaching 30 assays, including markers for oncology, cardiology, neurology, infectious disease, and inflammatory disease.