

Main Menu

Search...



Home

Partners

Today Stories

Press Releases

Company Directory

Articles

Events



Find a Job

Post a Job

About Us

FAQs

Contribute

Editorial Guidelines

Legal



Contact Us



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POLYSACCHARIDE RESEARCH A CATALYST TO ESTABLISHING PIONEER...

SEARCH JOBS

09-Jan-2020

POLYSACCHARIDE RESEARCH A CATALYST TO ESTABLISHING PIONEERING MICROARRAY CENTRE AT NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY FOR BIOSCIENCE COMMUNITY

g £280,000 with Arrayjet, the UK's leading provider of microarray instrumentation technology, as part of its plan to establish a microarray centre for the northern half of the United Kingdom. The centre will be used by other university departments, as well as biotechnology research partners.

was secured through the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) 18ALERT fund. This is intended to put in place cutting edge technology, whilst strengthening collaborations with Industry.

William Willats, Professor of Molecular Agri-Diagnostics at Newcastle University, whose own research investigates the role of carbohydrates in their environment, with a particular focus on the role of cell walls – the carbohydrate-rich casing that surrounds

plants now uses a customised Arrayjet Marathon Argus printer with a built-in camera system and interchangeable lenses to allow the lab to offer printing for a wide range of substrate and sample options including their own novel microarray printing projects.

plants that provide support and regulate growth, but they also display remarkable plasticity and are a dynamic interface with the world. Because plants don't move around people sometimes assume that they are passive, but in fact they show remarkable short-term adaptation and short-term responsiveness.

From an evolutionary standpoint and partly explains how plants have colonised the planet so widely and exploited so many

at the local plant level and enables plants to cope with a range of threats from pathogens and environmental stress.

The study of molecular processes is fascinating and important for developing new crops with higher productivity and resilience to

The new Argus microarrayer will enable William and his colleagues to develop high-throughput carbohydrate microarrays that can be used to analyse a wide range of biological samples and help decipher complex profiles of plant carbohydrates.

Carbohydrates can be tricky to work with. Unlike proteins and nucleotides, they cannot easily be sequenced or synthesised, and are incredibly diverse.

The new high-throughput microarrayer involves extracting polysaccharides from plant materials which are then deposited as thousands of minute spots, or microspots, on a slide using the high throughput Arrayjet Marathon Argus bio-printer. We then use monoclonal antibodies to detect the polysaccharides are in which samples and this provides a high-resolution overview of complex polysaccharide

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Main Menu

Home

Partners

Today Stories

Press Releases

Company Directory

Articles

Events

Find a Job

Post a Job

About Us

FAQs

Contribute

Editorial Guidelines

Legal

Contact Us



...e of Professor Willat’s research and his foresight in allowing collaborative partners to use our bio-printing
...ng a Microarray centre at Newcastle University is a very positive move. I’m certain other universities, research
...d the general bioscience communities across the country will warmly welcome this.”

...ent from the Archangels business angel syndicate and Scottish Enterprise.

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