BioSpectrum
the business of Bio & Health Sciences

Thermo Fisher Scientific India conducts Genetic Solutions World tour

26 July 2017 | News

The highlight for this year's tour was the launch of two new products - SeqStudio Genetic Analyzer and AmpliSeq On-Demand Panels.

As part of the Genetics Solutions World Tour, Thermo Fisher India recently organized seminars in Delhi & Bengaluru to showcase their market leadership and establish new opportunities for Sanger sequencing, Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) and Microarray.

Every year, the Genetic Solutions Tour is well attended by several Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs) across the industry and this year also had active participation from 150 research scientists and decision makers from more than 50 esteemed institutes and industrial accounts.

The highlight for this year's tour was the launch of two new products - SeqStudio Genetic Analyzer, a low throughput capillary electrophoresis platform for both Sanger sequencing and DNA fragment analysis and AmpliSeq On-Demand Panels, a semi-custom panel solution for inherited disease research.

In an effort to update a decades-old technology without making changes to the underlying tried-and-tested chemistry, Thermo Fisher Scientific has launched the Applied Biosystems SeqStudio Genetic Analyzer, a low-throughput capillary electrophoresis platform for both Sanger sequencing and DNA fragment analysis.

"Sanger sequencing using CE, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, is the gold standard of sequencing technology. Use of the technology helped researchers discover novel biological findings such as the first breast cancer gene (BRCA1), and was used to complete the Human Genome Project in 2003," said Kapil Sood, Business Head - Life Sciences Solutions Group, South Asia "The SeqStudio Genetic Analyzer is a smart, state-of-the-art system that provides researchers with a truly plug and play system."

Ravi Gupta, Product Management Leader - Capillary Electrophoresis Instrument at Thermo Fisher Scientific stated "The SeqStudio Genetic Analyzer has a small footprint, with an on-board computer and integrated touchscreen that makes run setup quick, intuitive and flexible. The system allows sequencing and fragment analysis runs on the same plate without the

need to change any consumables. This opens new opportunities for streamlining analyses – for example, combining a locus screening test with a copy number variability test on the same CE plate".

It is the first smart connected instrument for sanger sequencing in the industry. With cloud-enabled system integrated with Thermo Fisher Connect customers can set up run, check its progress, and access data on the go, all without the need to stay in the lab. Cloud-based Applied Biosystems Sanger Analysis modules are available for secondary analysis.

"The platform will start shipping to early-access customers this month and will be broadly available in September. For several months, it has been in the hands of six beta testers across the world who have tested it for different applications. Among them is MRC Holland, a provider of MLPA (multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification) kits for DNA copy number quantification. I am very proud to say that we have also started selling the SeqStudio to customers in India. It's been 10 years or more since we've launched a new system for capillary electrophoresis and much like a car, at some point, you want to upgrade to a more current model," said Sanjiv Karandikar, Director - GSD Sales, Services & Support, South Asia.

The team also launched an HIV -1 genotyping kit for CE portfolio and Ion ReproSeq PGS Kits for Ion S5 Systems with more innovative products such as Ion Torrent Oncomine BRCA Research Assay which are in launch phase.

Tom Bittick, Sr. Product Manager, at Thermo Fisher Scientific introduced the new Ion AmpliSeq On-Demand targeted sequencing panels for inherited disease research. Briefing the audience he stated, "The new sequencing panels provide easy and practical design customization capabilities to lower upfront costs regardless of project size and will simplify the way userscustomize their content coming in smaller pack size. Clinical researchers can focus on targets of interest that will drive greater discovery without the high upfront cost and risk of waste. Compared to the time-consuming and costly whole exome or whole genome sequencing, targeted NGS has become an especially beneficial approach in clinical research settings where a more practical, efficient and economical way to re-sequence tens-to-hundreds of specific gene targets is often required."

Michael Richardson, Sr. Technical Applications Scientist, GSD Commercial presented on the Reproductive Health Solutions from Thermo Fisher.