

Bulletin

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In this issue:

- Upcoming GSC meeting in Hamilton
- Report of 2009 GSC meeting in Halifax
- A proposal to merge the Genetics Society of Canada with the Canadian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology
- CANFLY 2009

2010 GSC Meeting

GENETICS SOCIETY OF CANADA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday June 18, 2010, 12:30
p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Michael DeGroote Center for
Learning and Discovery (MDCL)
Room 1110

McMaster University, Hamilton

Agenda

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
2. APPROVAL OF 2009 AGM
MINUTES (attached)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

ANNUAL DUES

GENOME REPORT

MEETING REPORT

2011 MEETING

AWARDS

STUDENT REPORT

NEW BUSINESS

CHANGE OF OFFICERS

ADJOURNMENT

Needed -Editor for the GSC/SGC Bulletin

We are still looking for a volunteer to take over editor duties for the bulletin!

Please contact Dr. Andrew Simmonds if are willing to volunteer a small amount of your time to publish the bulletin. The society depends on volunteers to make things like the bulletin happen.

The GSC Bulletin is published quarterly as the official newsletter of the Genetics Society of Canada/Société de Génétique du Canada. We encourage contributions from all members of the society.

Submission information:

We request that articles be submitted in an electronic format (e.g. MS Word –doc or docx or Openoffice –xml). Photo or other graphical data can be submitted as JPEG or TIF format.

Articles can be e-mailed to:

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We invite all types of articles that are of general interest to members but in particular encourage:

- Brief reviews of books on genetics or related topics
- Commentary or tips regarding teaching genetics or cytology
- Announcements of upcoming meetings or courses.
- Job postings
- Reviews of scientific software or hardware

Submission deadlines for articles are February 15, May 1, August 15 and September 15 / Dates limite pour soumission des articles pour le Bulletin sont Février 15, Mai 1, Août 15 et Novembre 15.

The opinions expressed herein are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent official policy of the Genetics Society of Canada nor the respective institutions with which the authors are affiliated

Editor's Notes

- 30 -?

My tenure as editor of the GSC/SGC bulletin may be a short one. With this edition of the Bulletin, we reach what is potentially the end of the current incarnation of the GSC. Faced with ever declining membership a proposal has been made to merge the GSC into the larger Canadian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular and Cellular Biology. This issue will be discussed at the upcoming meeting in Hamilton in 2010 and I urge all members to attend this meeting as it will have a direct impact on the future of the society. Whatever comes to pass, I encourage all members to support ongoing efforts of your Canadian societies, whether they be the GSC/SGC or some larger merged entity in their efforts to promote Genetics and the related sciences within Canada. Given the recent neglect of our governments at both the federal and provincial level of discovery-based research, there is a pressing need to support effective lobbying and education of our elected officials as to the critical need for a home-grown scientific community.

I know that many of you belong to more than one society and I also understand that when choosing which group to support, you might be tempted to support larger socie-

ties based in the United States or elsewhere at the expense of local groups like the GSC/SGC and local journals like Genome. Hopefully, I might be able to convince you to support both. As you can see from the planned agenda for the 2010 GSC meeting in Hamilton, there is still a dynamic genetics research community in Canada, worthy of your support.

In closing, if this is my last column, then I would like to thank those that have provided me with content for the bulletin, (Thanks Jianping, Bernard, Art and a few others). I would also like to thank all those who have given up time over the past years to keep the GSC going. No matter if the GSC becomes part of a larger, stronger organization, I hope that the Canadian Genetics community keeps on supporting our colleagues, trainees and all those interested in the field.

See you in Hamilton!
Andrew.

andrew@ualberta.ca



GSC/SGC 2009 Annual Meeting - Halifax N.S.

Bernard P. Duncker

The 2009 Genetics Society of Canada conference was held jointly with the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution on the campus of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia from May 14-17. Things got underway the first day with society meetings, including the GSC Executive and Annual General meetings in the morning, while workshops and an NSERC information session aimed at postdocs held in the afternoon. That evening an opening wine and cheese reception was held, and several GSC members then headed to the Henry House Pub for some further food and drink.

The second day included symposia on the ecology and evolution of conservation programmes, the first of two poster sessions, and featured a Plenary presentation by the 2008 GSC Robert H. Haynes Young Scientist Award winner, Rees Kassen, on microbial evolution. That evening students held a workshop which was followed by a tour of the Propeller Brewery.

Day three featured symposia on plant reproduction and mating systems and phylogenomics, which included a talk on lateral gene transfer and rates of evolution by Brian Golding, the 2009 GSC William F. Grant and Peter B. Moens Award of Excellence winner. Dr. Golding was presented with his award by Arthur Hilliker that evening at the conference banquet, held at Pier 21, preceded by a tour of the Immigration Museum.

The final day of the joint GSC/CSEE meeting was focused on climate change, and featured the second poster session. Congratulations to our student award winners: Jo-Anna Clark (Memorial University), Best Poster and Martin Mallet (Queen's University), Best Talk.



Presentation of the GSC/SGC Young Scientist Award to Rees Kassen

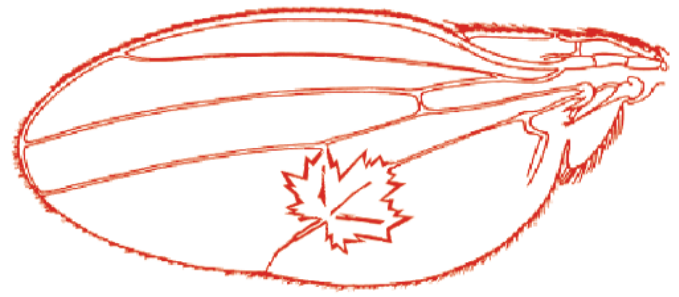
Drosophila **dispatches**

This is a forum for announcements or news of particular interest to Canadian laboratories involved in fruit fly research.

canadian laboratories involved in fruit fly research.

Canfly 2009 !

The 10th CanFly (Canadian Drosophila Research Conference) meeting took place June 1-4, 2009 in Jasper National Park, west of Edmonton. This year's meeting has over 100 participants representing over 30 different research groups from every region of Canada, the United



States and Europe covering topics ranging from Cell Biology / Signaling / Adhesion to Development, Gene Regulation and Neurobiology. As part of the celebration surrounding the 10th biennial CanFly meeting, the Canadian Fly community has inaugurated a distinguished career award,

which was presented to Dr. John Bell who has, and continues to be, a

CANFLY 2011

The 2011 Canfly conference will be hosted by the University of Toronto fly-group in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario.



Meeting Announcements

International Congress on



GSC Annual Meeting 2010
McMaster University—Hamilton
Organizers Jianping Xu and Rama Singh

- Schedule is subject to change.....

Thursday - June 17th 2010

- 14:00 Registration begins
- 16:00 GSC executive meeting
- 17:30 Opening mixer/Welcome reception
- 20:00 Genetics Teaching Workshop I (getting started: Dr Clare Hasenkampf)

Friday - June 18th 2010

- 8:30 "Presidential address lecture ("Regulation at the RNA level in the Drosophila germ line" Dr. Paul Lasko, McGill University)"

"Symposium I (Genetics of model organisms): Chair: Dr Shiva Singh, University of Western Ontario"

- 9:15 "The foraging gene: Will that be for here or to go?" Dr Marla Sokolowski, University of Toronto in Mississauga"
- 9:45 "Diverse roles for PIPs in Drosophila development" Dr Julie Brill, Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute, Toronto"
- 10:15 "The role of the vestigial and scalloped genes in the establishment of somatic and cardiac muscle" Dr Andrew Simmonds, University of Alberta"
- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:00 "The signatures of natural selection in Caenorhabditis genomes" Dr Asher Cutter, University of Toronto St. George"
- 11:30 "Genetics of reproductive system development in C. elegans and other nematodes" Dr Bhagawati Gupta, McMaster University"
- 12:00 "Studies of pre-replicative complex function in Saccharomyces cerevisiae" Dr Bernie Duncker, University of Waterloo"
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:00 "2009 Margaret Thompson Award (Best GSC PhD Thesis Award) Seminar - Dr. Monica Davis: "Temporal and spatial regulation of events in Drosophila development and immunity" (currently Stockholm University, Sweden) Host and Introduction Dr Andrew Simmonds"
- 14:30 "Contributed talks (Molecular, cellular and developmental genetics. Student oral presentation award selection): Hosts Amanda Wilson and Hari Maganti"
- 14:35 "Phenotypic variation in Neurospora crassa strains lacking mitochondrial porin", Deborah A. Court, and William A.T. Summers, Department of Microbiology, University of Manitoba"
- 14:50 "Identifying the presence of naturally occurring genetic modifiers of neurodegeneration using Drosophila", Naghme Rastegar, and Amanda Moehring, Dept Biology, UWO"
- 15:05 "Molecular Characterization of Arabidopsis Arogenate Dehydratases", Susanne E. Kohalmi, Crystal D. Bross, Oliver R.A. Corea, and Danielle M. Styranko, Dept Biology, UWO"

- 15:20 "Mutation load in the cerebellum of the harlequin mouse, a model of premature aging and aging-associated neurodegeneration", Anita Prtenjaca, and Kathleen A. Hill, Dept Biology, UWO"
- 15:35 Coffee break
- 15:45 "Regulating epithelial integrity and proliferation: The role of the tumour suppressor protein Merlin", Albert Leung, Mary Schneider, David Primrose, and Sarah C. Hughes, Univ. Alberta"
- 16:00 "Alterations in genes associated with learning in a novel mouse model of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders," Morgan Kleiber, Katherine Janus, Elise Wright, and Shiva M. Singh, Dept Biology, UWO "
- 16:15 "Base-pairing competent fluorophores: gene silencing with concomitant non-intrusive, fluorescence labeling", David W. Dodd, and Robert H.E. Hudson, Dept Chemistry, UWO"
- 16:30 "Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor gene polymorphism (Leu260Phe) is associated with morning cortisol in preschoolers", Haroon I. Sheikh, Lea R. Dougherty, Elizabeth P. Hayden, Daniel N. Klein, and Shiva M. Singh, Dept Biology, UWO"
- 16:45 "Mitochondrial inheritance in haploid x non-haploid crosses in *Cryptococcus neoformans*", Irina Skosireva, Timothy Y. James, Sheng Sun, and Jianping Xu, Dept Biology, McMaster University"
- 17:00 Poster presentation (Student poster award selection)

Theme 1 "Evolutionary, Population, and Ecological Genetics"

- "1. "Contest competition causes frequency-dependent negative epistasis among genotypes and favors genetic recombination", Sol Ackerman and Donal Hickey, Dept Biol, Concordia University"
- "2. "Mapping the genetic basis of natural variation in thermal-response behaviors in the nematode *Caenorhabditis briggsae*", Gregory Stegeman, William Ryu, Asher Cutter, EEB, U of Toronto"
- "3. "Gene-environment interactions for nocturnal home cage behaviour in a mouse model of premature aging and neurodegeneration", Andrea Wishart, L. Bernard, A. Prtenjaca, and Kathleen Hill. Dept Biology, UWO"
- "4. "The influence of anticodon-codon interactions and modified bases on codon usage bias in bacteria", Wenqi Ran and Paul G. Higgs, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University"
- "5. "Microfluidic approach to study neurodegeneration in *C.elegans* Parkinson's disease model", Sanjeena Salam, Pouya Rezai, Ponnambalam Ravi Selvaganapathy, and Bhagwati P.Gupta, Dept Biology, McMaster Univ."
- "6. "Bioinformatic analysis of the *Arabidopsis* meiotic gene/protein *Ahp2*", Patti Stronghill, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Toronto in Scarborough"
- "7. " A novel in-vivo model to assess *Campylobacter* virulence using *Rhabditis pseudoterres*, a thermotolerant (37°C) nematode", Alfonso Valdivieso-Garcia, J. MacKinnon, F. Bralha, and A. Kropinski. LFZ- Public Health Agency of Canada, Guelph, Ontario"

Theme 2 "Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Genetics"

- "1. "A role for Integrins during lumen formation in *Drosophila* heart development", Jessica Vanderploeg, Luz de Lourdes Vazquez Pas, and Roger Jacobs, Dept Biology, McMaster Univ"

- "2. "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: The Effects of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure on Development, Behaviour, and Gene Expression", Katarzyna Janus, Morgan Kleiber, and Shiva Singh, Dept Biology, UWO"
- "3. "The harlequin mutant mouse displays an early biomarker of human aging-associated retinal degeneration relevant to disease etiology and drug testing", Alex Yan, Alex Laliberte, Thomas MacPherson, Cindy Hutnik and Kathleen Hill, Dept Biology, UWO"
- "4. "Identification of Wnt Signalling pathway regulators by genetic suppressor screen", Bavithra Thillainathan and Bhagwati P. Gupta, Dept. Biology, McMaster Univ"
- "5. "The potential role of phosphorylation in Kep1, an RNA binding protein which induces apoptosis in D. melanogaster nurse cells", Michelle Kowanda, and Paul Lasko, Dept Biology, McGill Univ."
- "6. "Comparative analysis of transcription factors involved in vulval development in C. elegans and C. briggsae", Devika Sharanya and Dr. Bhagwati Gupta, Dept Biology, McMaster Univ."
- "7. "Mutation of Dbf4 motif C causes S-phase defects and sensitivity to genotoxic stress in Saccharomyces cerevisiae", Darryl R. Jones, Ajai A. Prasad, Philip K. Chan, and Bernard P. Duncker, Dept Biology, Univ. Waterloo"
- "8. "Relationship between Wheat Mitochondrial mRNA termini and DNA homology breakpoints among plants", Boyoung Choi and Linda Bonen, Biology Department, University of Ottawa"
- "9. "Effects of nanoparticles on reproduction and development in the fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster, and CD-1 mice", Nikki Philbrook, Louise M. Winn, and Virginia K. Walker, Queen's Univ"
- "10. "Inhibition of gas hydrates: Mutations and engineered strains for a ?greener? energy sector", Julie S. Choi, Daniel Myran, Adam Middleton, Peter L. Davies, and Virginia K. Walker, Queen's Univ"

- 18:00 " Public Lecture - GSC Award of Excellence 2010 ("Darwin's legacy and the biology of ultimate concern: evolution, humans and God", Dr Rama Singh, Dept Biology, McMaster University)"
- 19:15 "Conference banquet, CIBC Hall"
- 19:30 "Dr Art Hilliker, A reflection of GSC, CIBC Hall"
- 20:30 "Annual general meeting of GSC, CIBC Hall"

Saturday - June 19th 2010

- 8:30 "Senior Award Lecture from 2009 ("Rapid genomic change due to lateral gene transfer" Dr Brian Golding, McMaster University) (Host and Introduction: JP Xu)"

"Symposium II (Evolution in the Fast Lane: Rapidly evolving genes and genetic systems I)

Chair: Jianping (JP) Xu, McMaster University"

- 9:15 "Recombination facilitates rapid evolution" Dr Donal Hickey, Concordia University"
- 9:45 "Rapidly evolving copy number variation? Dr Wilfried Haerty, McMaster University"
- 10:15 "Ancient or fast: the hunt for trans-species polymorphism in mushroom mating genes," Dr Tim James, University of Michigan Ann Arbor"

- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:00 "Rapid Evolution of Animal Mitochondrial DNA," Dr Xuhua Xia, University of Ottawa"
- 11:30 "Patterns of natural selection in candidate cis-regulatory regions" Dr. Dara Torgerson, University of California San Francisco"
- 12:00 "Mechanisms of horizontal gene transfer in the Vibrionaceae" Dr Dean A. Rowe-Magnus, Sunnybrook Research Institute"
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 "2010 Margaret Thompson Award (Best GSC PhD Thesis Award) "Characterization of the Role of Neuralized in Delta Endocytosis and Notch Signalling" Dr Lara Skwarek, UC Berkeley (Introduction and host by Dr Gabrielle Boulianne)"

Contributed talks (Evolutionary and ecological genetics. Student oral award selection).

Chair: Irina Skosireva and ??

- 14:00 "Sequence variation at microRNA loci in *Caenorhabditis remanei*", Richard Jovelín, EEB, Univ Toronto"
- 14:15 "Maintenance of genetic variation for sex comb bristle number in *Drosophila melanogaster*", Abha Ahuja and Rama Singh, Dept Biol, McMaster Univ."
- 14:30 "Discovering sex-linked NUMTs in two species of tropical Lepidoptera", Claudia Bertrand, Daniel Janzen, Winnie Hallwachs, and Mehrdad Hajibabaei, Biodiversity Institute, Univ Guelph"
- 14:45 "Mitochondrial inheritance patterns in a human pathogen, *Cryptococcus gattii*" , Amanda Wilson, Irina Skosireva, Jianping Xu, Dept Biology, McMaster University"
- 15:00 "Evolutionary genetics of anti-predation traits: what can *Drosophila* teach us?" Ian Dworkin and Michael Denieu, Dept Zoology, Michigan State University"
- 15:15 Coffee break
- 15:25 "The relationship between gene length and nucleotide content in the honeybee genome", Hamid Nikbakht, Mihai Albu, and Donal Hickey, Department of Biology, Concordia University"
- 15:40 "Gene families, gene flow and speciation in the context of next-generation sequencing: a case study with ITS2", Pedro M. Pedro, Shadi Shokralla, Xin Zhou, and Mehrdad Hajibabaei, Biodiversity Institute of Ontario, University of Guelph"
- 15:55 "Nucleotide polymorphism in outcrossing species of the genus *Caenorhabditis*", Alivia Dey, and Asher D. Cutter, EEB, Univ Toronto"
- 16:10 "HIV-1 modulates the tRNA pool to improve translation efficiency," Anna van Weringh, Manon Ragonnet, Erinija Pranckeviciene, and Xuhua Xia; Dept Biology, University of Ottawa"
- 16:25 "Application of next-generation sequencing technologies for biodiversity analysis of bulk environmental samples" Shadi Shokralla, Xin Zhou, Gregory Singer, Donald Baird, and Mehrdad Hajibabaei, Biodiversity Institute, University of Guelph"
- 16:40 "An assessment of the database for the fungal barcode region ITS in GenBank for human pathogenic *Candida* spp", Harinad Maganti and Jianping Xu, Dept. Biology, McMaster University"

- 16:55 "Disturbing communities: an analysis of the effects of metal nanoparticles on an arctic soil," Niraj Kumar, Vishal Shah and Virginia K. Walker, Queen's University"
- 17:15 Teaching workshop II (Dr. Clare Hasenkampf)
- 18:45 Student award certificate presentations

Sunday- June 20th 2010

- 8:30 "2010 Robert Haynes Young Scientist Award Lecture: "Animal Genomes Large and Small" - Dr Ryan Gregory, University of Guelph (Introduction and host Dr Brian Golding)"

Symposium III (Evolution in the Fast Lane: Rapidly evolving genes and genetic systems II) Chair: Rob Kulathinal

- 9:10 "Spatial heterogeneity and the evolution of sex" Dr Aneil Agrawal, University of Toronto St George"
- 9:40 "Rapid evolution of gene expression" Dr Carlo Artieri, NIH, Bethesda, Maryland"
- 10:10 "Molecular basis of sexual selection and evolution". Dr Alberto Civeta, University of Winnipeg"
- 10:40 Coffee break
- 11:00 "Evolution of sex chromosomes," Dr Manyuan Long, University of Chicago"
- 11:30 "Genetics of speciation in Drosophila" Dr Amanda Moehring, University of Western Ontario"
- 12:00 "Evolution of ACPs and reproduction in Drosophila" Dr Mariana Wolfner, Cornell University"
- 12:30 "The genomics of speciation: More lessons from the fruitfly" Dr Rob Kulathinal, Temple University, Philadelphia"
- 13:00 Lunch/Conference ends



2010 GSC Meeting

<http://www.biology.mcmaster.ca/GSC2010/>

**2010 GSC Meeting
June 17-20, 2010**

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to attend the 53rd annual meeting of the Genetics Society of Canada (GSC), which will be held from June 17th-20th 2010 in Hamilton, Ontario.

The city of Hamilton is located at the heart of the Golden Horseshoe region in southern Ontario. This region is home to many great natural wonders such as Niagara Falls and the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere. Hamilton also hosts a variety of cultural activities throughout the year.

The meeting will be officially hosted by McMaster University in the historic Westdale village, about 5km from downtown Hamilton and is easily accessible to Toronto by public transportation.

Officers of the GSC/SGA

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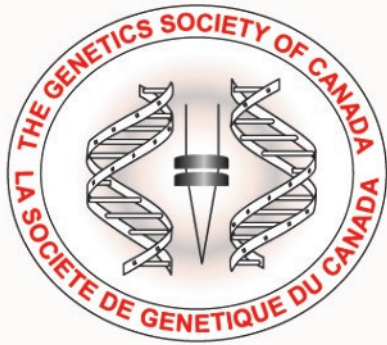
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Join the Genetics Society of Canada

The GSC has been the Canadian voice of genetic researchers for over 50 years.

Scientists and Clinicians

The GSC aims to be a dynamic group representing the fields of Developmental, Evolutionary, Plant and Medical Genetics field run by your fellow Canadian reserachers.

Annual GSC meeting

Young Scientst Award

Students:

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National Awards for Poster and Platform Presentations

National Thesis Awards

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Eligability to attend the GSC annual meeting

The GSC e-Bulliten - a newsletter focused on events relavent to the Canadian research community

Eligibiltiy for Student awards

<http://evol.mcmaster.ca/GSC/mem.html>

Enduro™ Modular Vertical Gel System

- PAGE, Electroblotting and 2D Electrophoresis
- Simple, efficient casting system
- Leakproof, modular design
- Accepts most precast gels, including Cambrex™, Bio-Rad™, Invitrogen™ and NuSep™

Labnet's Enduro Modular Vertical Gel System can be used for PAGE, electroblotting and 2D electrophoresis. The Enduro system consists of three functional inserts that fit in a common buffer tank. Each insert has its own electrode assembly which connects into the lid of the buffer tank. Gels are cast right in the insert with the aid of a casting stand. For electroblotting, gels are simply sandwiched in the blotting cassettes. Coiled electrodes in the insert generate a high intensity current allowing transfer to take place in about an hour. The tube gel insert has gasketed ports for easy insertion and removal of up to ten capillaries. A cooling pack is supplied for use during higher voltage or longer runs to keep gel temperature low and provide clear results.



Enduro™ Vertical Gel System

SPECIFICATIONS & Ordering Information

	Enduro PAGE System	Enduro PAGE Electroblotting System	Enduro PAGE 2D System
Gel Dimensions	10 x 10 cm	NA	8 cm long
Capacity	2 gels/run*	3 gels/transfer	10 tubes/run
Maximum samples	20 per gel	NA	10 (1/gel)
Tank (WxDxH)	19 x 13 x 15 cm	19 x 13 x 15 cm	19 x 13 x 15 cm
Buffer volume	250 mL	1200 mL	500 mL
Included items**	2 ea 10 x 10 notched plates 2 ea 10 x 10 plates w/spacers 2 ea 1 mm comb, 12 wells PAGE Module, casting base	3 ea blotting cassettes 6 ea fiber pads Blotting module, PAGE System (also Available without the PAGE Components)	20 ea capillary tubes 20 ea tube supports 10 ea blocking plugs IEF module

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**Each system includes buffer tank, lid, leads and cooling pack.
The Blotting and IEF Systems also include the PAGE components.

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Gel Tray Details

SPECIFICATIONS & Ordering Information

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Gel (W x L cm)	7 x 7	7 x 10	10 x 10	15 x 10	15 x 15	20 x 20
Unit (W x L x H cm)	9 x 21 x 9	9 x 21 x 9	12.5 x 22 x 9	17.5 x 26.5 x 9	17.5 x 26.5 x 9	23 x 39.5 x 9
Buffer volume	225 ml	225 ml	300 ml	500 ml	500 ml	1200 ml
Max sample capacity	32	64	100	140	210	450
Supplied combs	8 tooth (2)	8 tooth (3)	10* tooth (2)	16* tooth (1) 20 tooth (1)	16* tooth (1) 28* tooth (1) 20 tooth (1)	20 tooth* (2) 40 tooth* (2)
Cat. #:	NLE1007-7	NLE1007-10	NLE1010-10	NLE1015-10	NLE1015-15	NLE1020-20

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