

DENDRIMER CENTER CONTACT

Brent Case
(989) 774-1021
brent.case@cmich.edu

ACT CONTACT

Jai Rudra
(989) 774-3338
rudra1j@cmich.edu

CMU NATIONAL DENDRIMER CENTER PARTNER ACQUIRES NEW PEPTIDE SYNTHESIZER

MT. PLEASANT, Mich.—Central Michigan University has purchased a peptide synthesizer for use by faculty members, students and SmartZone tenant, Artificial Cell Technologies. The equipment is located within ACT's lab in CMU's Dow Science Building.

This sophisticated piece of equipment will further the success of ACT's research in the nanotechnology field, while providing CMU faculty and students experience operating advanced equipment.

The synthesizer will make it possible to carry out solid-phase peptide synthesis of oligopeptides, molecules composed of several amino acids linked to one another. This allows individual amino acids to be joined chemically in vitro rather than enzymatically in vivo.

“The peptide synthesizer will enable CMU researchers and ACT to acquire milligram-gram quantities of peptide effectively at cost and in short order,” said ACT Biochemical Research Associate, Jai Rudra. “The existence of the machine could support research projects involving synthetic peptides and provide opportunities for practical training in peptide synthesis.”

ACT develops biotechnologies for coatings and artificial cells that could treat various health conditions. The Connecticut-based company has been located at CMU since June 2005.

“We hope the peptide synthesizer will stimulate development of a Ph.D. program in the science of materials, focusing on the synthesis, purification, characterization and simulation of polymers and polymeric materials,” Rudra said. “The machine could also support research projects involving synthetic peptides and provide opportunities for practical training in peptide synthesis.”

The National Dendrimer and Nanotechnology Center is the catalyst for dendrimer-based research initiatives in biomedical, diagnostic and nano-material applications.

The Center is a model of collaboration leveraging the combined expertise of academic, government and private sector research.

“The peptide synthesizer is a great addition to the growing list of advanced analytical equipment available to faculty, students and our SmartZone companies.” said Dr. Nathan Long, Executive Director of the National Dendrimer and Nanotechnology Center. “The peptide synthesizer is critical to the research and development for ACT and provides CMU faculty and students exposure to state of the art equipment.”

To learn more about ACT, visit www.artificialcelltech.com. To learn more about the National Dendrimer and Nanotechnology Center, visit www.dendrimercenter.org.

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