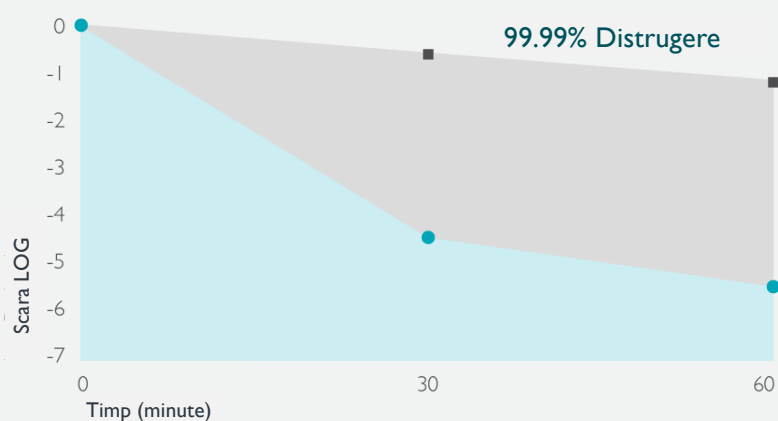


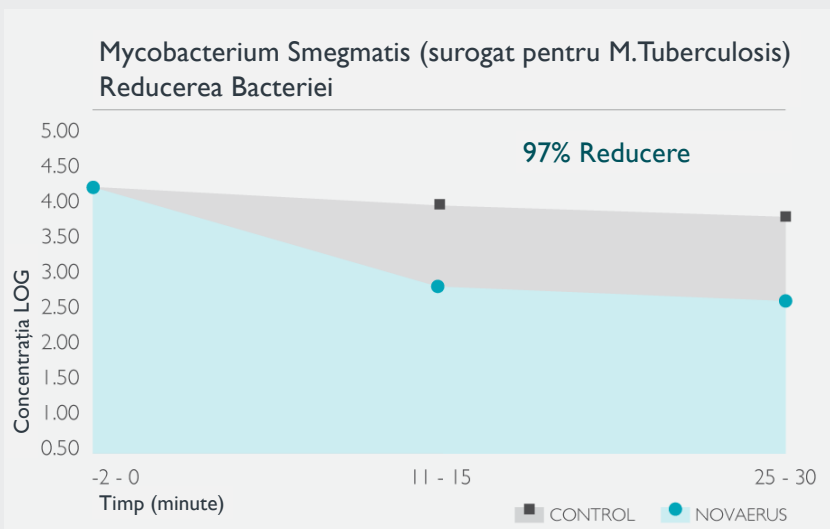
REZULTATELE TESTELOR DE LABORATOR



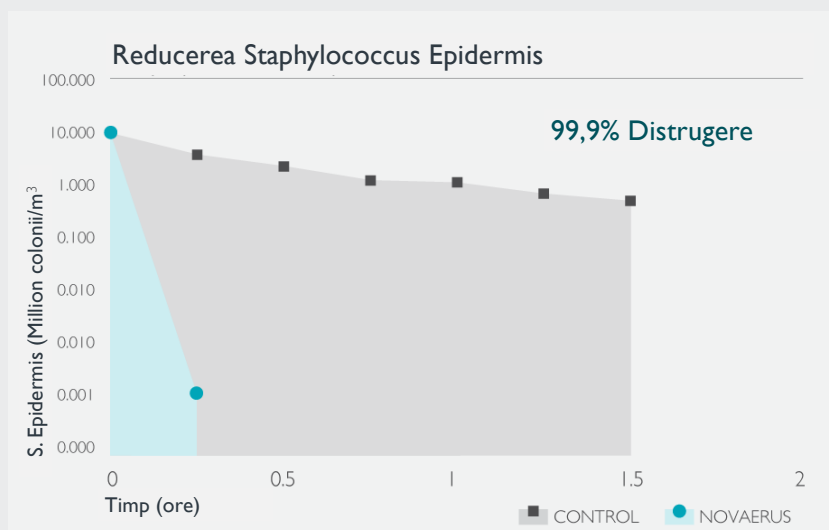
Distrugerea sporilor de mucegai - *Aspergillus Niger*



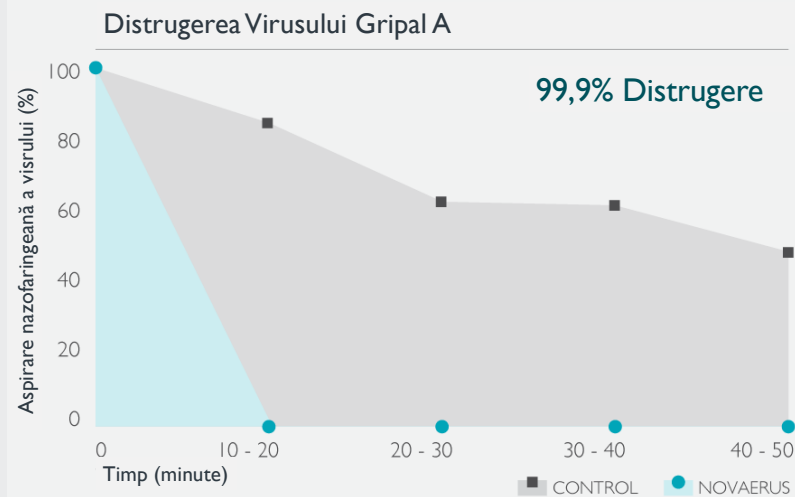
- 99.99% - rata de distrugere atinsă timp de 30 minute
- Spațiu prelucrat: 16m³
- Reducerea LOG atinsă timp de at 60 min. - 4.28log pentru ambele studii (datorita limitelor de detecție).
- Studiu efectuat de Aerosol Research & Engineering



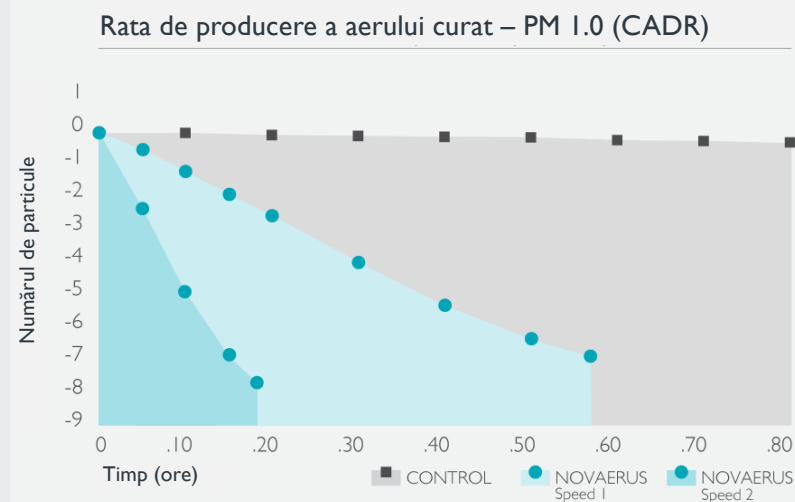
- 95% reducere în 15 min
- 97% reducere în 30 min
- Spațiu prelucrat: 30m³
- Rezultatele neoficiale demonstrează o reducere și mai mare a *M. smegmatis* în aer după o oră de lucru.
- Test efectuat de Airmid Health Group.



- 99.9% - nivel de distrugere atins în 15 min
- Spațiu prelucrat: 30m³
- Test efectuat de laboratorul de microbiologie Novaerus

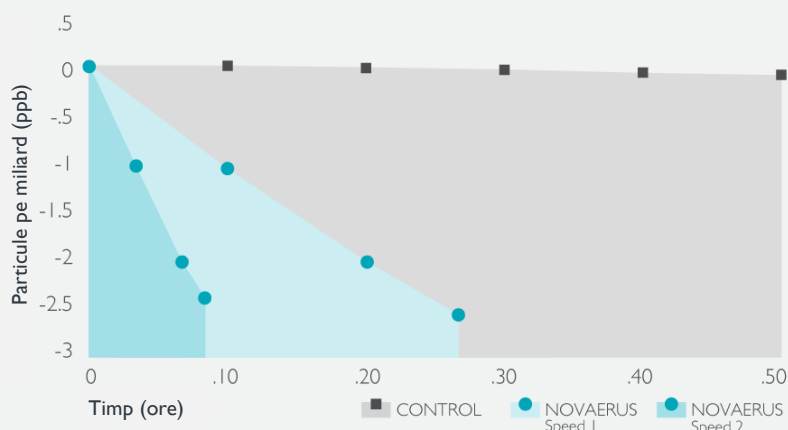


- 99.9% distrugere atinsă timp de 10-20 minute
- Spațiu prelucrat: 28.5m³
- Virusul Gripal A nu a fost detectat de testul ELISA după 20 minute de lucru.
- Test efectuat de Airmid Health Group



- 860 m³/oră de aer curat
- Eficiență minimă atinsă cu rata de 89% de particule reduse din aer.
- Spațiu prelucrat: 19.7m³
- Test efectuat de Camfil Laboratories

Eliminarea Compușilor Organici Volatili (CADR)

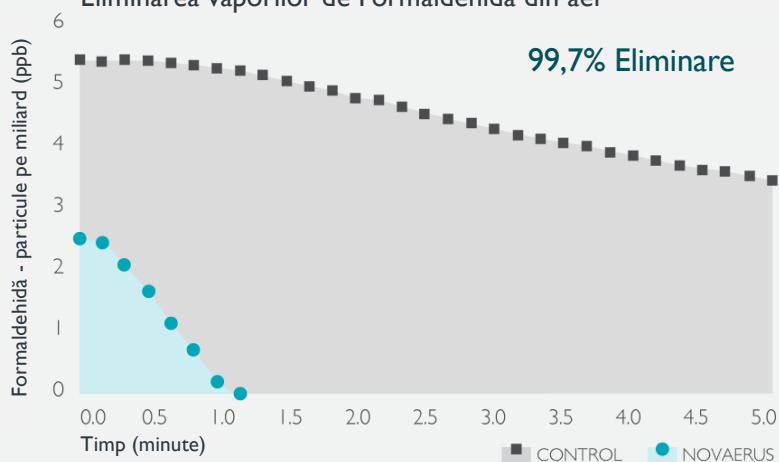


- 596 m³/oră CADR
- Sa eliminat 90% de toluen timp de 6 minute
- Spațiu tratat: 19.7m³
- Test efectuat de Camfil Laboratories



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Eliminarea vaporilor de Formaldehidă din aer

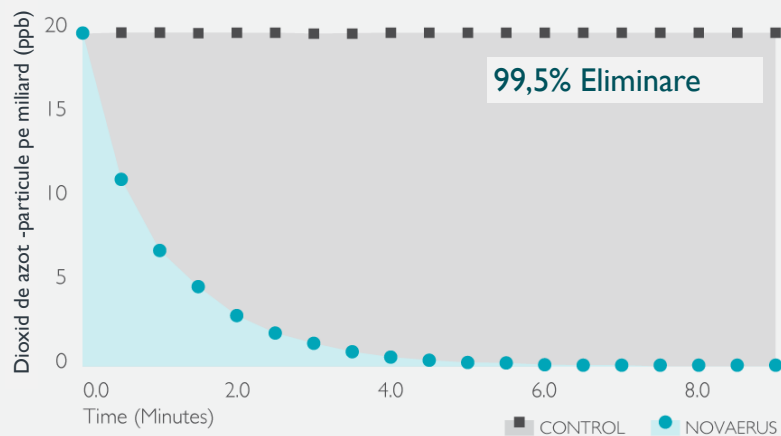


- Eliminați 99.7% de vapori de formaldehidă în 1.1 minute
- 641.21 eqACH
- CADR = 6038.10 cfm
- EPA rating of 16.10 cfm/watt
- Spațiu tratat: 19.7m³
- Test efectuat de Aerosol Research & Laboratories



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Eliminarea vaporilor de Dioxid de azot



- Eliminați 99.5% de Dioxid de azot timp de 7.5 minute
- Spațiu tratat: 16.3m³
- Test efectuat de Aerosol Research & Laboratories



Laboratory & Clinical Research Summary



In independent laboratory studies Novaerus products have been shown to safely and effectively reduce bacteria, viruses, allergens, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter.



In clinical settings, Novaerus products have been demonstrated to reduce airborne pathogens, surface bacteria, infections, antibiotic use, and odours.

Escherichia coli (E. coli) Deactivation

Laboratory Name: **NASA Ames Research Center
Universities Space Research Association**

Laboratory Location: **Moffett Field, Mountain View, CA**

Date: **February 2016**

Device Tested: **NV200**

Space Treated: **0.51m³ (18 ft³)**

Objective

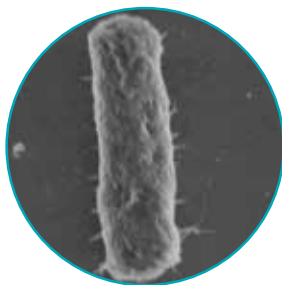
To explore the morphological and chemical modification of the cell structure of aerosolized *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) treated with a dielectric barrier discharge (DBD).

Methodology

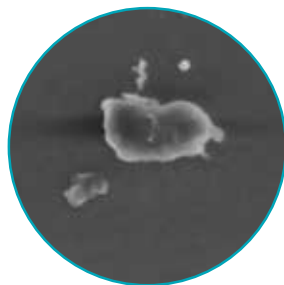
The NV200 was placed inside a biosafety cabinet, and a compressor nebulizer was attached to the input of the system in order to aerosolize the bacterial particles for testing.

Summary of Results

The bacteria underwent physical distortion to varying degrees, resulting in deformation of the bacterial structure. The electromagnetic field around the DBD coil caused severe damage to the cell structure, possibly resulting in leakage of vital cellular materials. The bacterial reculture experiments confirm inactivation of airborne *E. coli* upon treating with DBD.



Healthy bacteria



Bacteria after DBD treatment

Influenza A Reduction

Laboratory Name: **Airmid Health Group Ltd.**

Laboratory Location: **Dublin, Ireland**

Date: **April 25, 2018**

Device Tested: **NVI050**

Space Treated: **28.5m³ (1006 ft³)**

Objective

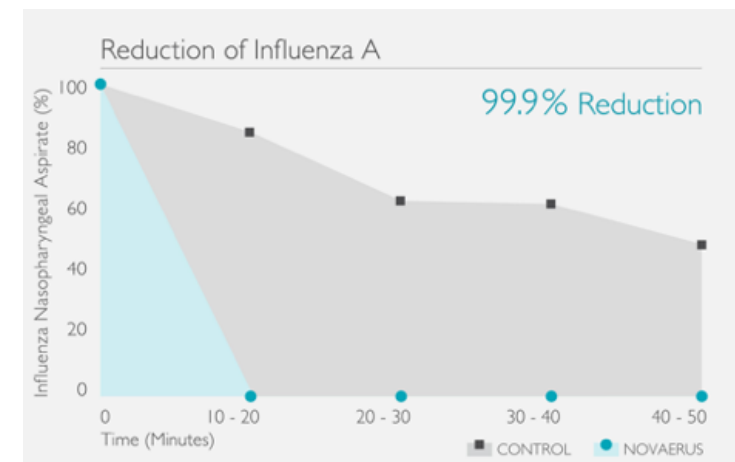
To evaluate the efficacy of the NVI050 on removing Influenza A.

Methodology

Testing of the NVI050 was conducted in a 28.5 m³ environmental test chamber. The chamber was preconditioned to 20±3°C and 50±10% relative humidity prior to commencement of the tests. For the test runs, the NVI050 was placed on the floor in the centre of the chamber.

Summary of Results

The NVI050 was effective in reducing airborne Influenza A aerosols in the test chamber, reaching 99.9% airborne virus reduction within the first 10 – 20 minutes of operation at max speed.



Aspergillus niger Spore Reduction

Laboratory Name: Aerosol Research and Engineering Laboratories
 Laboratory Location: Olathe, Kansas
 Date: May 28, 2018
 Device Tested: NVI050
 Space Treated: 15.9m³ (562ft³)

Objective

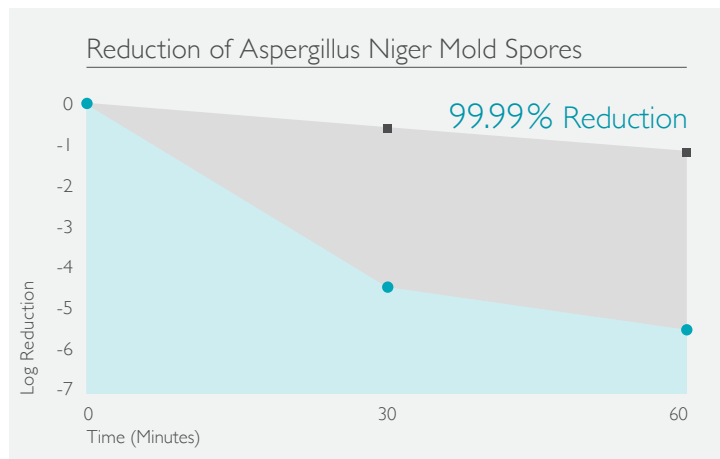
To evaluate the efficacy of the Novaerus NVI050 system against aerosolized *Aspergillus niger* spores.

Methodology

A. niger spores were aerosolized into a sealed bioaerosol chamber using a dry powder disseminator. AGI impingers were used to capture chamber bioaerosol concentrations.

Summary of Results

The average net LOG reduction of the NVI050 system at 30 minutes showed a 4.10 LOG. The net LOG reduction at 60 minutes showed a 4.28 LOG due to reaching detection limit. The actual LOG reduction is theoretically much higher at 60 minutes in a small room environment.



Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Bacteria Reduction

Laboratory Name: Microbac Laboratories, Inc.
 Laboratory Location: Wilson, NC
 Date: January 20, 2016
 Device Tested: NV800/NV900
 Space Treated: 1m³ (35ft³)

Objective

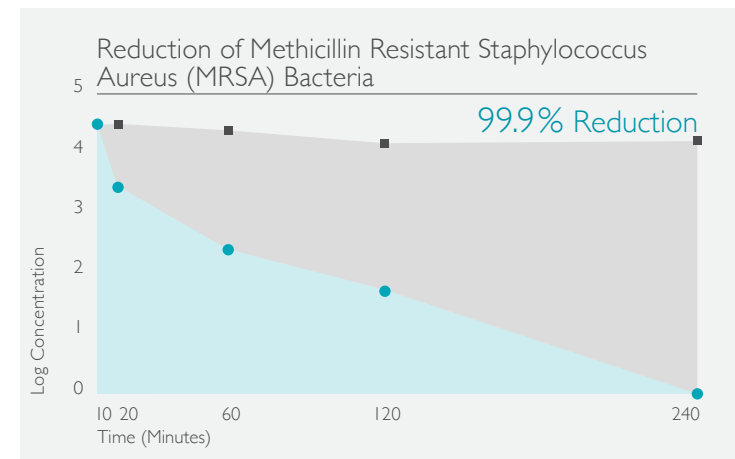
To evaluate the efficacy of the NV800/NV900 on reducing methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

Methodology

The challenge bacteria were aerosolized using a six-jet collision nebulizer under high pressure air and introduced into the chamber with the NV800/NV900.

Summary of Results

The NV800/NV900 reduced 99.99% of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria over the course of four hours.



DEHS and Toluene Reduction

Laboratory Name: **Camfil Laboratories – Tech Center**
 Laboratory Location: **Trosa, Sweden**
 Date: **April 25, 2018**
 Device Tested: **NVI050**
 Space Treated: **19.72m³ (696ft³)**

Objective

To evaluate the particulate and molecular efficiency of the NVI050 in a test chamber using DEHS and Toluene.

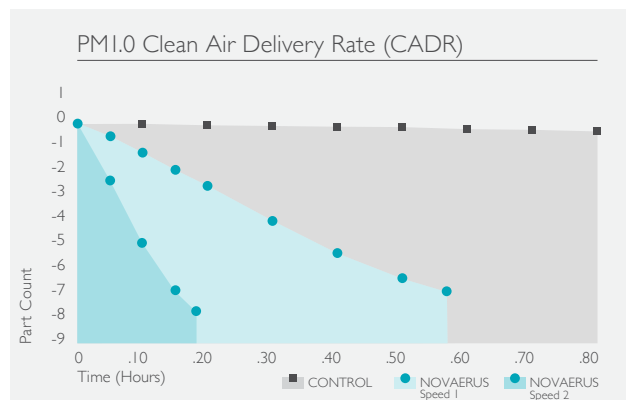
Methodology

Test method: CADR

The DEHS aerosol and toluene were generated in the laskin nozzle and injected into a room until a pre-set concentration was achieved then the air cleaner was turned on.

Summary of Results

The NVI050 reached a minimum efficiency with a 55% DEHS particle reduction on the low speed and a maximum efficiency with an 89% DEHS particle reduction on the high speed. In the toluene declination test, the NVI050 removed 90% of the toluene within 6 minutes on the high speed and 90% after 17 minutes on the low speed.



Bioaerosols Reduction

Laboratory Name: **Aerosol Research and Engineering Laboratories**
 Laboratory Location: **Olathe, Kansas**
 Date: **December 7, 2016**
 Device Tested: **NV800/NV900**
 Space Treated: **15.9m³ (563ft³)**

Objective

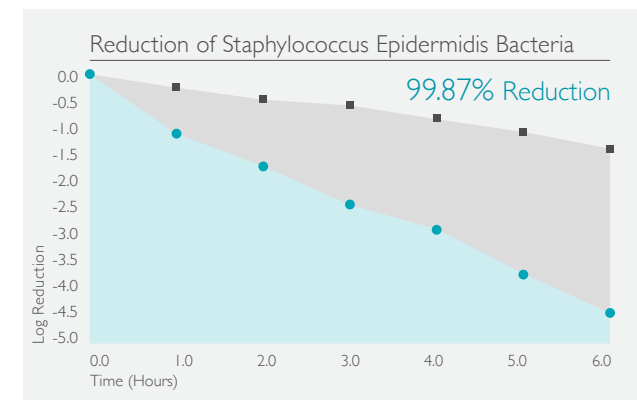
To evaluate the efficacy of the NV800/NV900 on neutralizing bioaerosols. The device was assessed on four aerosolized biologicals: *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, MS2 bacteriophage, *Aspergillus niger* fungus, and *Bacillus subtilis* endospores.

Methodology

A large sealed aerosol test chamber was used to replicate a potentially contaminated room environment and to contain any potential release of aerosols into the surrounding environment.

Summary of Results

Test results show the NV800/NV900 was extremely effective at reducing viability of bioaerosols in all conducted studies: a 99.87% reduction of *Staphylococcus epidermidis* bacteria, a 99.99% reduction of MS2 (a surrogate for influenza and norovirus), a 98.85% reduction of *Aspergillus niger* mold, and an 86.5% reduction of *Bacillus subtilis* bacteria spores.



Allergens Reduction

Laboratory Name: **Indoor Biotechnologies Ltd.**
 Laboratory Location: **Cardiff, UK**
 Date: **September 9, 2016**
 Device Tested: **NV800/NV900**
 Space Treated: **1m³ (35ft³)**

Objective

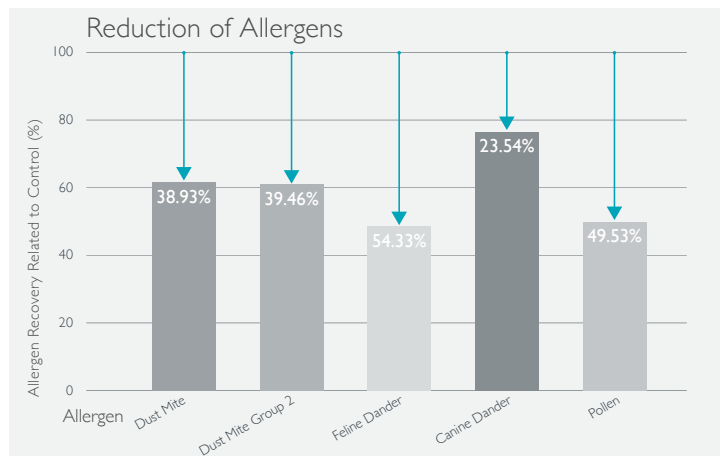
To evaluate the efficacy of the NV800/NV900 on reducing airborne allergens.

Methodology

Testing was performed with the NV800/NV900 placed in a closed, thoroughly cleaned experimental chamber measuring approximately 1m³.

Summary of Results

The NV800/NV900 produced an overall allergen reduction of 41.16%, with a 38.93% reduction of house dust mites, a 39.46% reduction of house dust mites (group 2), a 54.33% reduction of feline dander, a 23.54% reduction of canine dander, and a 49.53% reduction of pollen.



Formaldehyde Reduction

Laboratory Name: **Avomeen Analytical Services**
 Laboratory Location: **Ann Arbor, MI**
 Date: **May 27, 2014**
 Device Tested: **NV800/NV900**
 Space Treated: **1m³ (35ft³)**

Objective

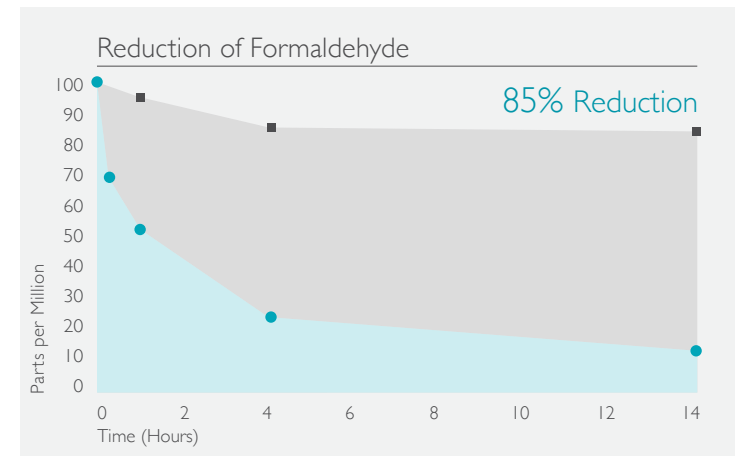
To evaluate the efficacy of the NV800/NV900 on reducing formaldehyde.

Methodology

A plexiglass chamber was built for formaldehyde testing of the NV800/NV900. This chamber was also equipped for proper ventilation and interior air circulation. A calculated amount of formaldehyde solution was evaporated in an aluminum pan heated to 120 degrees Celsius with a constant temperature hot plate.

Summary of Results

The NV800/NV900 reduced formaldehyde from 100 ppm to around 13 ppm during a 14-hour testing experiment, an 85% reduction.



Evaluation of the Novaerus Technology in a Dialysis Centre

Fresenius Dialysis Centres: Vedras and Alverca
Portugal

Testing reflected an 87% reduction in airborne bacteria, a 93% reduction in VOCs, and up to a 67% reduction in moulds.

Evaluation of the Novaerus Technology in an Emergency Hospital

Bucharest Emergency University Hospital
Bucharest, Romania

The testing of air samples reflected an 89% reduction in airborne bacteria CFU/m³, an 87% reduction in airborne fungi CFU/m³, and up to a 100% reduction in airborne Staphylococcus CFU/m³.

Evaluation of the Novaerus Technology in Hospital Wards

Leopardstown Park Hospital
Dublin, Ireland

Testing reflected no outbreaks of MRSA, *C. diff*, influenza, or norovirus in wards with Novaerus units installed in three years, a continued decline in staff sickness, a reduction in odours throughout the wards, and a reduction in infections and antibiotic use.

Evaluation of the Novaerus Technology in a Hospital

Royal Free Hospital
Hampstead, London

Testing reflected a 97% reduction in environmental surface MRSA, a 49% reduction in environmental surface TVC, and a 75% reduction in environmental air MRSA.

Evaluation of the Novaerus Technology in an Infectious Disease Hospital

The "Dr V. Babes" Hospital of Infectious and Tropical Diseases
Bucharest, Romania

The testing of air samples reflected a 96% reduction in airborne bacteria CFU/m³ and airborne fungi CFU/m³. The hospital staff found the Novaerus air purification system to be tolerable, easy to use, and safe for patients and staff. The Novaerus air purification system complements existing measures to combat infections and does not require additional interventions to ensure that it functions without interruption.

Evaluation of the Novaerus Technology in Intensive Care

Brothers Hospitalers of Saint John of God Hospital
Łódź, Poland

Results of the microbiological test indicated significant reduction in the number of microorganisms in the air in the DAIC. Since the Novaerus devices were installed, the amount of microorganisms in subsequent tests were low.

Evaluation of the Novaerus Technology in a Nephrology Clinic

Rigshospitalet
Copenhagen, Denmark

There was a significant reduction in bacterial loads on high surfaces and window sills. In the control section with no units, the number of overall infections increased by 35% from 2013 to 2014. In the section with Novaerus units, the number of overall infections fell 23% during the same time period.

Evaluation of the Novaerus Technology in a Paediatric Department and a Pulmonology Clinic

Międzyrzecz Hospital
Międzyrzecz, Poland

Novaerus devices effectively reduced the number of airborne pathogens in the admission room of the Paediatric Department by 61% and by 19% in the Pulmonology Clinic.

Evaluation of the Novaerus Technology in a Pulmonology Department and a Traumatology, Septic Department

Uzsoki Hospital
Budapest, Hungary

Testing reflected an 82% drop in CFU rates and a 93% reduction in fungi count. The air quality now meets the Swiss Class III standard (500 CFU/m³ for general wards).



Defend 1050
(NVI050)



Protect 800/900
(NV800 / NV900)



Protect 200
(NV200)

Contact us:

address: **DCU Innovation Campus**
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call: **+353 1 907 2750**

email: **info@novaerus.com**

www.novaerus.com

DOVADA EFICACITATII TEHNOLOGIEI NOVAERUS

În tabelul de mai jos sunt reprezentate rezultatele testelor de laborator asupra celor mai raspândiți patogeni. 37 de feluri de bacterii (gram-pozitive și gram-negative) au fost supuse testelor în prezența tehnologiei Novaerus.

Reducerea patogenilor a fost atinsă pe scara logaritmică până la LOG 6 în condiții de laborator (controlate).

Escherichia coli	Gram –ve	2.1E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
S.typhi murium	Gram –ve	4.6E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
E.agglommerans	Gram –ve	3.9E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
E.gergoviae	Gram –ve	4.2E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
A.aerogens	Gram –ve	7.1E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
S.marcescens	Gram –ve	8.2E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
E.sakazakii	Gram –ve	3.4E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
Ecoli 0157 H:7	Gram –ve	3.5E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
P.aeruginosa	Gram –ve	6.1E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
P.putida	Gram –ve	8.2E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
S.aureus oxford	Gram +ve	4.3E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
S.aureus MSRA	Gram +ve	4.8E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
S.epidermidis	Gram +ve	3.7E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
M.luteus	Gram +ve	9.0E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
S.faecalis	Gram +ve	7.3E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
S.pyogenes	Gram +ve	3.6E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
B.cereus	Gram +ve	7.1E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
B.globigii	G+ve Spore	7.9E+05	1.0E+01	>5	99.999
B.subtilis	G+ve Spore	2.1E+05	3.0E+01	>5	99.986
B. megaterium	G+ve Spore	6.2E+05	9.0E+01	>5	99.985
S.cerevisiea	Yeast	4.3E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
S.bailli	Yeast	7.2E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
Pichia mixed sps	Yeast	6.3E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
S.ludwigii	Yeast	6.0E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
A.niger	Mould mycelial	6.2E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
A.flavus	Mould mycelial	7.8E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
F.poea	Mould mycelial	7.2E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
P.digitatum	Mould mycelial	6.9E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
F graminerium	Mould mycelial	4.3E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
A.niger	Mould Spore	8.2E+05	7.0E+01	>5	99.991
A.flavus	Mould Spore	6.7E+05	5.0E+01	>5	99.993
F.poea	Mould Spore	8.2E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
P.digitatum	Mould Spore	6.7E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999
F graminerium	Mould Spore	2.9E+05	0.0E+00	>5	>99.999

În tabelul următor găsiți rezultatele de laborator efectuate cu 4 tipuri de viruși (single strand DNA, doublestrand DNA, single strand RNA and double strand RNA) care sunt și mai mult convigătoare, cu reduceri pe scara logaritmică pînă la LOG 10/12.

Organism	Class	Mean cfu/m ³ /Hr at input Treatment stream	Mean cfu/m ³ /Hr post Treatment exit stream	Mean decline Log/cfu/m ³ /Hr post Treatment exit stream	Apparent percentage reduction
CTX	SS DNA	4.3E+12	8.1E+02	>12	>99.999
ScV-L-BC	DS RNA	9.2E+12	4.6E+02	>12	>99.999
FcoV (attenuated)	SS + RNA	7.1E+12	3.0E+02	>12	>99.999
T4 Phage	DS DNA	5.3E+12	7.4E+02	>12	>99.999

Morphological and chemical changes of aerosolized E. coli treated with a dielectric barrier discharge

Jaione Romero-Mangado, Dennis Nordlund, Felipe Soberon, Graham Deane, Kevin Maughan, Sami Sainio, Gurusharan Singh, Stephen Daniels, Ian T. Saunders, David Loftus, M. Meyyappan, Jessica Koehne, and Ram P. Gandhiraman

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View online: <https://doi.org/10.1116/1.4941367>

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Morphological and chemical changes of aerosolized *E. coli* treated with a dielectric barrier discharge

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(Received 26 October 2015; accepted 22 January 2016; published 12 February 2016)

This study presents the morphological and chemical modification of the cell structure of aerosolized *Escherichia coli* treated with a dielectric barrier discharge (DBD). Exposure to DBD results in severe oxidation of the bacteria, leading to the formation of hydroxyl groups and carbonyl groups and a significant reduction in amine functionalities and phosphate groups. Near edge x-ray absorption fine structure (NEXAFS) measurements confirm the presence of additional oxide bonds upon DBD treatment, suggesting oxidation of the outer layer of the cell wall. Electron microscopy images show that the bacteria undergo physical distortion to varying degrees, resulting in deformation of the bacterial structure. The electromagnetic field around the DBD coil causes severe damage to the cell structure, possibly resulting in leakage of vital cellular materials. The oxidation and chemical modification of the bacterial components are evident from the Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and NEXAFS results. The bacterial reculture experiments confirm inactivation of airborne *E. coli* upon treating with DBD. © 2016 Author(s). All article content, except where otherwise noted, is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1116/1.4941367>]

I. INTRODUCTION

Cold atmospheric pressure plasmas have gained significant recognition in recent years in the field of healthcare, for example, in the treatment of living cells, sterilization of medical devices, wound healing, and blood coagulation.^{1–3} The plasmas are nontoxic, provide rapid and continuous antibacterial treatment, leave no residues to clean up, and are easy to scale up, compared to other approaches. They present an advance over radio frequency high vacuum plasmas used in the above applications by eliminating the need for high vacuum pumps and power systems. While the effects of atmospheric pressure plasma on surface bound bacteria have been well studied, their use for treating airborne microorganisms has received much less attention^{4–7} and this is the subject of the present study.

The most commonly used technologies for air cleaning include high efficiency particulate air filters, UV irradiation, chemicals (spray, gel), and gas spray (ozone, hydrogen peroxide).^{8–13} These methods, while popular, often provide sub-optimal outcomes such as creating bacterial resistance, developing mutagenic outcomes if bacteria are underexposed, and are responsible for numerous health hazards when operated incorrectly (for example, radiation exposure in the case of UV). Prolonged exposure to radiation could cause skin irritation.^{14,15} UV irradiation for air disinfection comes in several forms, including full intensity irradiation of a room with no occupants and shielded UV irradiation done with no restrictions on human occupation.¹⁶ One of the biggest drawbacks of UV irradiation is that it requires direct “line of sight” exposure to be effective; “shadowing” may occur when used to treat airborne bacteria, a process whereby the exposed upper layers of a bacterial cluster are deactivated while providing a protective shield for the

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bacteria below them, particularly those that form biofilms.¹⁷ While the above technologies are often used on their own, they may be combined; for example, a combination of high efficiency particulate air filters with UV irradiation was shown to be effective in reducing 60% of the bioaerosols in a contaminated room.¹⁸ Pal *et al.* reported titanium dioxide nanoparticle mediated photocatalytic inactivation of airborne *Escherichia coli* in a continuous flow reactor^{19,20} and fluorescent light inactivation of Gram negative and Gram positive bacteria.²¹ Kowalski *et al.* reported killing *E. coli* in 10–480 s using high concentrations of ozone (300–631 ppm).²²

Dielectric barrier discharge (DBD) is a popular approach to produce cold plasmas at atmospheric pressure used in air treatment.^{4–7} In this work, we have probed the effect of DBD on the surface chemical and topographical changes of the bacteria. Though the individual microorganisms will have different chemical composition and cell structure, we have taken a simple Gram negative model bacteria *E. coli* for this study. Here, we present a DBD based technology using a novel electrode for generating the discharge for possible air hygiene applications. *E. coli* was chosen as a model organism for this study because of its prevalence in many human occupied spaces, and its rod-like structure makes it easier to see morphological surface changes. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and x ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) [near edge x ray absorptions fine structure (NEXAFS)] were used for the detailed analysis of the chemical composition changes upon DBD exposure.

II. EXPERIMENT

A. Materials

E. coli (Migula) Castellani and Chalmers (ATCC 25922) was rehydrated in 1 ml of tryptic soy broth (BD 211825). The aliquot was aseptically transferred into a tube containing 5 ml of tryptic soy broth and incubated overnight with shaking at 37 °C. The bacterial suspension was then centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 10 min, the supernatant was discarded, and the cells were washed down four times with distilled water. The cell culture was transferred to a tube and vortexed to resuspend the bacterial cell pellet in distilled water.

B. Experimental setup

The DBD system (NV200, Novaerus, Inc.) electrode consists of two coaxial cylindrical mesh coils (304 stainless steel, 0.2 mm diameter wire) separated by a dielectric, borosilicate glass tube (Fig. 1). The glass tube has the following dimensions: 80 mm length, 22.5 mm internal diameter, and 28 mm outer diameter. A high alternating voltage, 4 kV, is applied to the coils via a step-up transformer. A fan inside the NV200 unit is used to draw the air containing bioaerosol into the unit. The DBD tool was placed inside a Bio-Safety Cabinet (Nuair, Class II, Type A2, Model NU-425–400), and a compressor nebulizer (OMROM compressor nebulizer model NE-C29-E) was attached to the input of the system in order to aerosolize the bacterial particles

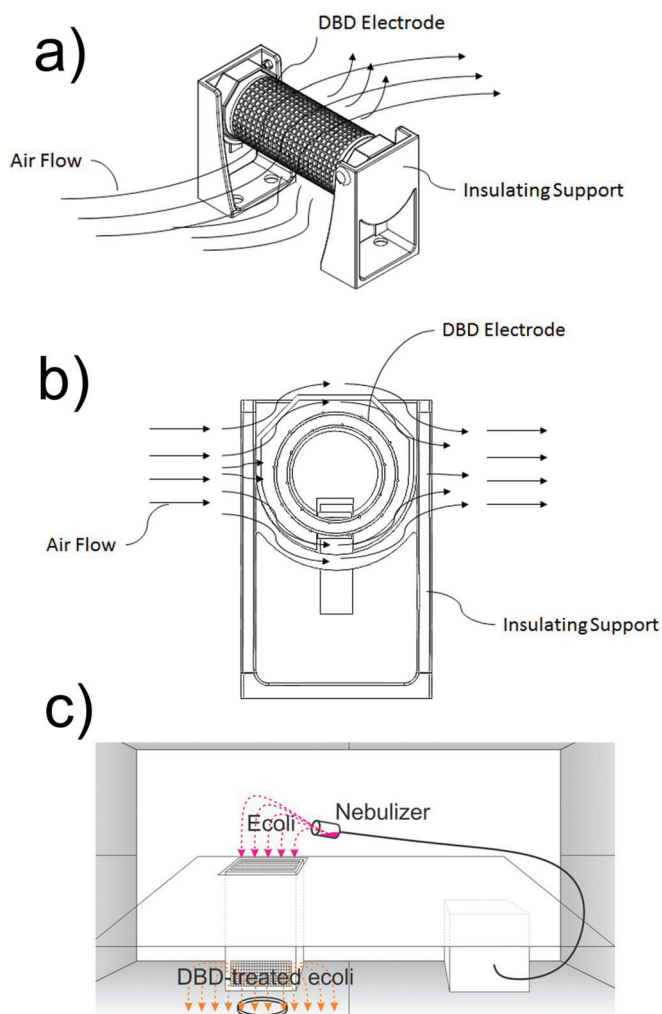


FIG. 1. (a) Schematic of the NV200 DBD system showing the diagram of the assembled coil, (b) cross section illustrating the air flow around the dielectric barrier discharge, and (c) the experimental setup for inactivation *E. coli* and sample collection.

for testing. All vents located on the system were sealed and a platform was placed over the top of the system to ensure the aerosolized particles had a direct route through the system. The bacterial suspension containing *E. coli* and 1 ml of distilled water was transferred to the OMROM compressor nebulizer. The aerosolized particles were fed through the input, and any viable particles were collected at the output in tryptic soy agar plates (BD 236950). The agar plates were left in front of the output of the DBD NV200 tool and were replaced every minute for 5 min. The agar plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C, and after the incubation, colony-forming units (CFU) were observed on the plates, as shown in Fig. 2(a). In these experiments, petri dishes of 100 mm diameter were used with both the fan and electrodes turned ON and OFF simultaneously. The concentration of *E. coli* in each plate was calculated using the following formula: bacteria/ml = number of colonies \times dilution of the sample. The log reduction calculation is based on the number of viable microorganisms collected on the plate with and without DBD.

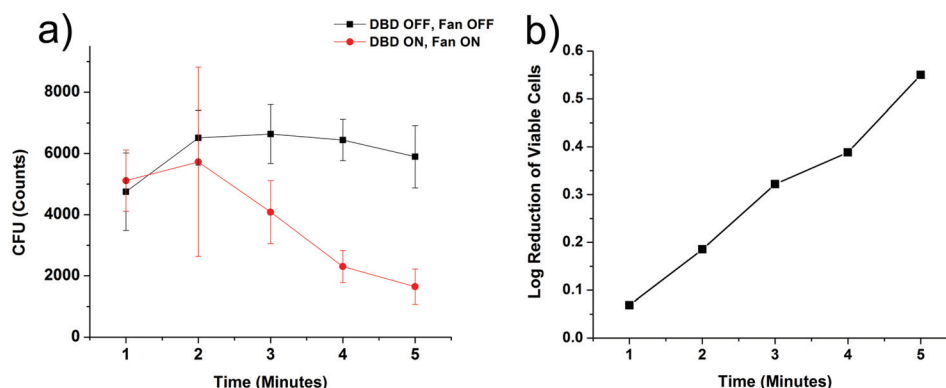


FIG. 2. (a) *E. coli* counts captured from air in an agar plate and recultured. (b) Log reduction of aerosolized *E. coli* upon treatment with DBD.

C. Characterization

For scanning electron microscopy (SEM) imaging, bacterial cells on silicon wafer were fixed in a solution of 2.5% glutaraldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich) in phosphate buffered saline (ATCC) for 2 h and as a second fixative procedure, in a 2% osmium tetroxide (Ted Pella, Inc.) in phosphate-buffered saline for 1.5 h. The samples were then dehydrated in gradually increasing concentrations of ethanol from 60% to 100% in deionized water and chemically dried using hexamethyldisilazane (Sigma-Aldrich) for 5 min. They were placed in a vacuum desiccator overnight in order to prevent reactions with water from humidity. SEM imaging was performed using S4800 scanning electron microscope (Hitachi, Pleasanton, CA). FTIR measurements were carried out using a Perkin Elmer Spectrum GX system. Single side polished silicon wafers were used as substrates for the transmission mode measurement. An untreated silicon substrate was used as a background for the measurement, and each measurement was an average of 200 scans.

The near edge x ray absorption fine spectroscopy (NEXAFS) measurements were performed on beamline 8-2 (bending magnet endstation, spherical grating monochromator) at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource (SSRL).²³ A gold grid in the beam path upstream of the chamber was used for the normalization of the incoming flux. The samples were mounted on an aluminum stick with carbon tape, and all the measurements were done under UHV conditions ($<1 \times 10^{-8}$ Torr) in a generic XPS/XAS chamber, equipped with a double pass cylindrical mirror analyzer (PHI 15-255 G) mounted perpendicular to the incoming beam axis in the horizontal plane. All measurements were performed at the magic angle ($\sim 55^\circ$ incidence), and the spectrometer detected electrons emitted along the e-vector of the incoming radiation (90° with respect to the incoming light in the horizontal plane). XAS data analysis was performed using Igor Pro. The bacterial samples collected on silicon wafer were freeze-dried using Labconco's FreeZone 4.5 Liter Freeze Dry Systems.

III. RESULTS

Figure 1 shows the schematic of the NV200 DBD system, diagram of the assembled coil, cross section illustrating the

airflow around the dielectric barrier discharge, the coil parts, and the experimental setup for airborne inactivation of *E. coli* and sample collection. The bioaerosol containing the nebulized *E. coli* was directed at the top of the DBD tool, which has an internal fan that pulls the contaminated air toward the DBD. The decontaminated air passes out of the bottom outlet. The deactivated bacteria were collected near the outlet in a silicon wafer and agar plates for characterization and reculturing, respectively. The purpose of a partial shield between the nebulizer and the bottom outlet in the DBD tool is to prevent direct settlement of bacteria on the silicon wafer and the culture plate. The DBD design shown in Fig. 1(a) contains metal electrodes separated by a dielectric.

Figure 2 shows the reduction counts of nebulized *E. coli* exposed to DBD; this was collected, recultured, and counted. Comparison of the *E. coli* counts with samples collected in DBD OFF state shows a reduction of air borne *E. coli* exposed to DBD. Figure 2 shows two plots: (a) CFU counts with both fan and electrode were either ON and OFF together and (b) log reduction of viable cells. A similar behavior was observed when the fan was ON throughout the experiment and the electrode was turned ON and OFF independently. In both cases, the DBD ON status results in deactivation of the airborne *E. coli*.

Figure 3 shows the SEM images of the *E. coli* before DBD treatment [Figs. 3(a) and 3(b)] and after DBD treatment [Figs. 3(c)–3(h)]. The nebulized *E. coli* was exposed to DBD and collected from air on a silicon wafer. Upon fixing of the microbes using the procedure described in Sec. II earlier, SEM imaging of several sets of samples was done to study the effect of DBD on the airborne bacteria. The DBD alters the topographical features of *E. coli* to a significant extent ranging from formation of big holes to severe structural deformation resulting in cell death. Physical distortion to the bacterial cell wall happens to varying degrees. It is hypothesized that the degree of distortion depends on the proximity of the bacteria to the electric field and the plasma discharge source. Structural deformation of sterilized *E. coli* similar to our observation has been reported by others using techniques such as biocide emulsions²⁴ and photocatalysis.²⁵

The FTIR data for the untreated and DBD-treated *E. coli* are shown in Fig. 4. The peak attributions are made based on

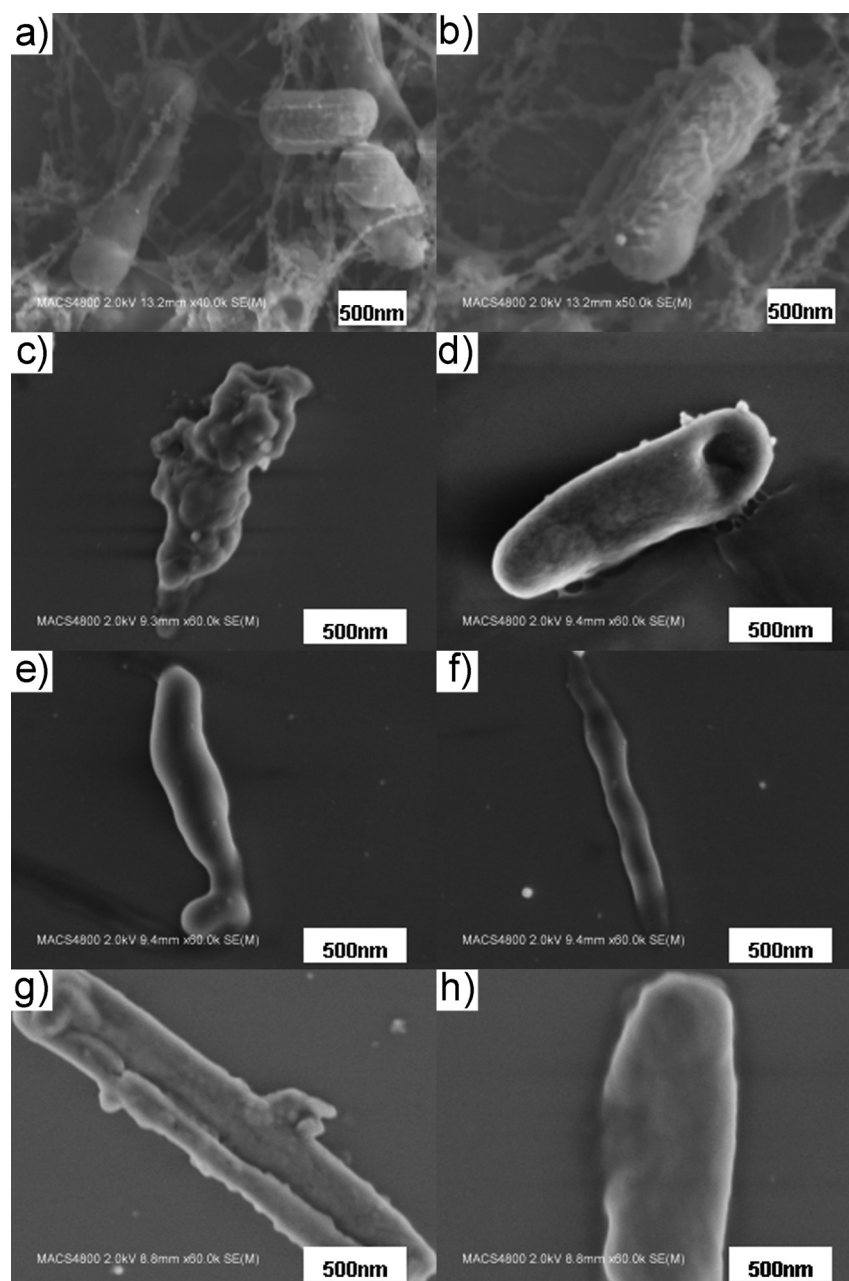


FIG. 3. SEM image of [(a) and (b)] untreated *E. coli* and [(c)–(h)] *E. coli* passed through the DBD and captured from air.

the vast FTIR spectroscopy literature on intact and damaged bacterial cells.^{26–31} The broad asymmetric absorption peak between 3000 and 3500 cm^{-1} comprises of multiple bands. Though the peaks were not distinctly resolved, the asymmetric peak shape indicates multiple components including amides and hydrogen bonded OH groups. The characteristic peaks at 3305 and 3066 cm^{-1} are assigned to amide I and amide II, respectively, and the hydrogen bonded OH groups are probably overlapped. The sharp peak centered around 3670 cm^{-1} in the DBD-treated *E. coli* corresponds to the O–H stretching vibration of free OH groups.³² The sharp peak centered around 2360 cm^{-1} in the DBD-treated *E. coli* is highly likely to be related to isocyanate or carbon double bonded to nitrogen ($\text{C}=\text{N}$) bonding.³² The 1850 cm^{-1}

vibration corresponds to symmetric $\text{C}=\text{O}$ stretching vibration of the anhydride, and the asymmetric stretching vibration is around 1804 cm^{-1} appearing as a shoulder.^{33,34} The absence of this peak in the untreated *E. coli* and the strong vibration observed upon DBD treatment is an indication that this chemical functionality is a product of interaction of the *E. coli* with reactive species generated by the DBD.

A shoulder peak observed around 1730 cm^{-1} corresponds to $\text{C}=\text{O}$ stretching vibrations of ester functional groups. The vibration bands centered around 1653 and 1550 cm^{-1} correspond to amide vibrations. The amide I band centered around 1653 cm^{-1} is attributed to $\text{C}=\text{O}$ stretching vibration of amides.^{35–37} The amide II band centered around 1550 cm^{-1} band is attributed to N–H deformation of amides

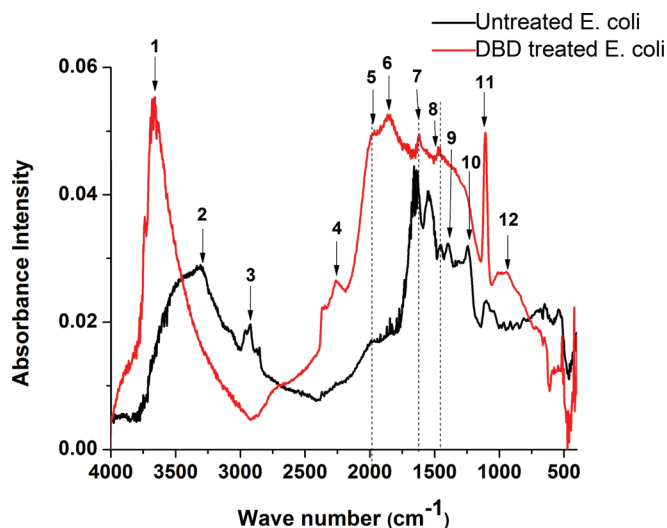


FIG. 4. FTIR spectroscopy analysis of untreated and DBD-treated *E. coli* with peak attribution. 1: Free OH functionalities formed due to oxidation of hydrocarbons; 2: vibrations of amine functionalities (amine and amide) overlapped with hydrogen bonded OH functionality; 3: alkyl CH_2 and CH_3 vibrations; 4: isocyanate or $\text{C}=\text{N}$ functionality; 5: unknown; 6: acid anhydride formed due to DBD treatment; 7: vibrations of amine functionalities (amine and amide); 8 and 9: CH vibration; 10: phosphate groups present in cell membrane; 11: $\text{P}=\text{O}$, $\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C}$, and $\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{P}$; and 12: OH functionality.

including contributions from the $\text{C}-\text{N}$ stretching vibrations. The absorption peaks between 2800 and 3000 cm^{-1} correspond to the stretching vibrations of alkyl groups (CH_2 and CH_3). The peaks at 2960 and 2923 cm^{-1} correspond to asymmetric stretching vibration of CH_3 and CH_2 and 2870 and 2851 cm^{-1} correspond to symmetric stretching vibration of CH_3 and CH_2 , respectively. The peaks at 1460 and 1394 cm^{-1} correspond to CH_3 and CH_2 asymmetric and symmetric. The presence of a band at 1402 cm^{-1} has been attributed to the $\text{C}-\text{O}$ stretching vibration of carboxylic groups.³⁸ The peak at 1240 cm^{-1} is due to the $\text{P}=\text{O}$ asymmetric stretching mode.³⁹ The region between 1000 and 1100 cm^{-1} with peaks centered around 1040 and 1100 cm^{-1} has multiple components corresponding to the $\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C}$ and $\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{P}$ stretching and $\text{P}=\text{O}$ symmetric stretching vibrations. The peak at 1033 cm^{-1} is attributed to $\text{C}-\text{OH}$. The carbonyl $\text{C}=\text{O}$ stretching vibrations of esters and carboxylic groups, in general, appear around 1740 cm^{-1} . Appearance of a new band around 930 cm^{-1} in the DBD treated *E. coli* is due to the formation of OH species caused by oxidation. An adjacent peak around 956 cm^{-1} is attributed to asymmetric stretching vibration of $\text{O}-\text{P}-\text{O}$ functionalities.

The core level K-edge NEXAFS spectra of carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen are displayed in Fig. 5 for the untreated *E. coli* as well as for two DBD-treated *E. coli* samples with different degrees of damage. The sensitivity of NEXAFS to the local chemical environment and the building block character of the spectroscopy allow us to evaluate the main functional groups and their chemical sensitivity to the DBD treatment. It is important to note that due to the presence of carbon and oxygen contaminants both from the ambient exposure and natively at the silicon substrate surface, the absolute spectral

contribution of the *E. coli* relative to the substrate and absorbed contaminants is not very well defined for carbon and oxygen, whereas the differences between the untreated and DBD-treated samples is a robust experimental observation.

In the carbon spectra [Fig. 5(1)], we observe a low energy peak at 285.2 eV in all the samples that corresponds to π^* $\text{C}=\text{C}$ transitions.⁴⁰ We also observe a lower energy shoulder at 284.6 eV that might result from normalization artifacts since it coincides with the carbon “dip” from the beamline optics. A shoulder around 287.4 eV in all the samples reflects $\text{C}-\text{H}$ resonances of aliphatic carbon. The sharp and high intensity peak at 288.4 eV in untreated *E. coli* can be assigned to $\pi^*\text{C}=\text{O}$ transitions associated with either carboxylic groups (COOH) or the carbonyl core in CONH_2 .⁴¹ The shift by 0.2 eV in DBD-treated *E. coli* indicates an increased electronegativity in the chemical environment of the carbonyl core. This peak attribution is based on the trends in carbonyl core ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) π^* transitions, as a function of the electronegativity of the chemical environment, as reported by Urquhart and Ade.⁴¹ Gordon *et al.*, in their study on inner shell excitation spectroscopy of the peptide bonds and proteins, report that the carbonyl core π^* ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) transition occurs between 288.2 and 288.6 eV .⁴² A low intensity peak seen clearly at 289.4 eV in untreated *E. coli* could be attributed to multiple functional groups that have transitions in this region, e.g., $\text{C}-\text{H}$ and $\text{O}-\text{alkyl C}$ groups in polysaccharides or carboxylic acids, or $\text{CNH } \sigma^*$.^{42,43} The broad peaks observed around 291 and 295 eV in all the samples are associated with multiple σ^* components, including $\text{C}-\text{N}$ in amino acids ($\sim 291\text{ eV}$)⁴⁴ and $\text{C}-\text{O}$ in alcohols and carboxylic acids ($\sim 292.5\text{ eV}$),^{45,46} A low intensity peak observed around 297 eV in DBD-treated *E. coli* probably corresponds to $\sigma^*\text{C}-\text{OH}$. A broad excitation centered around 304 eV corresponds to $\text{C}=\text{C } \sigma^*$ bonds. The relative intensities of the π^* carbonyl core transition at 288.4 eV and $\text{C}-\text{O } \sigma^*$ transition at 292.5 eV show a very clear difference between untreated and DBD-treated *E. coli*. The signal intensity corresponding to $\text{C}-\text{O } \sigma^*$ (292.5 eV) is relatively higher in DBD-treated *E. coli* resulting in decreased $\pi^*\text{C}=\text{O}/\sigma^*\text{C}-\text{O}$ ratio.

The $\text{O}1s$ NEXAFS spectra [Fig. 5(2)] display a low energy peak near 531.6 eV for all samples that is associated with the π^* of oxygen double bond functionalities. Based on the energies of $1s \rightarrow \pi^*$ in carbonyl core groups,⁴¹ we can associate this intensity with carboxyl and CONH functionalities (see, for example, Gordon *et al.*, on the O XAS of fibrinogen).⁴² A broad peak observed between 536 and 541 eV in untreated *E. coli* could be attributed to multiple components including Rydberg transitions, $\sigma^*\text{O}-\text{H}$ and $\sigma^*\text{C}-\text{O}$ transitions.^{40,42,45} In the DBD-treated *E. coli* these peaks are rather prominent around 537.3 and 539.5 eV , which allow us to assign them primarily to $\sigma^*\text{O}-\text{H}$ and $\sigma^*\text{C}-\text{O}$ transitions based on the work of Ishii and Hitchcock on carboxylic acids.⁴⁷

In the N K edge spectra [Fig. 5(3)], low intensity peaks in the region of 388.6 – 389.8 eV correspond to $\text{N}1s \rightarrow \pi^*(\text{N}=\text{C})$ transitions.⁴⁸ A high intensity peak at 401 eV corresponds to amide π^* CONH transition. The peak at 405 eV in untreated

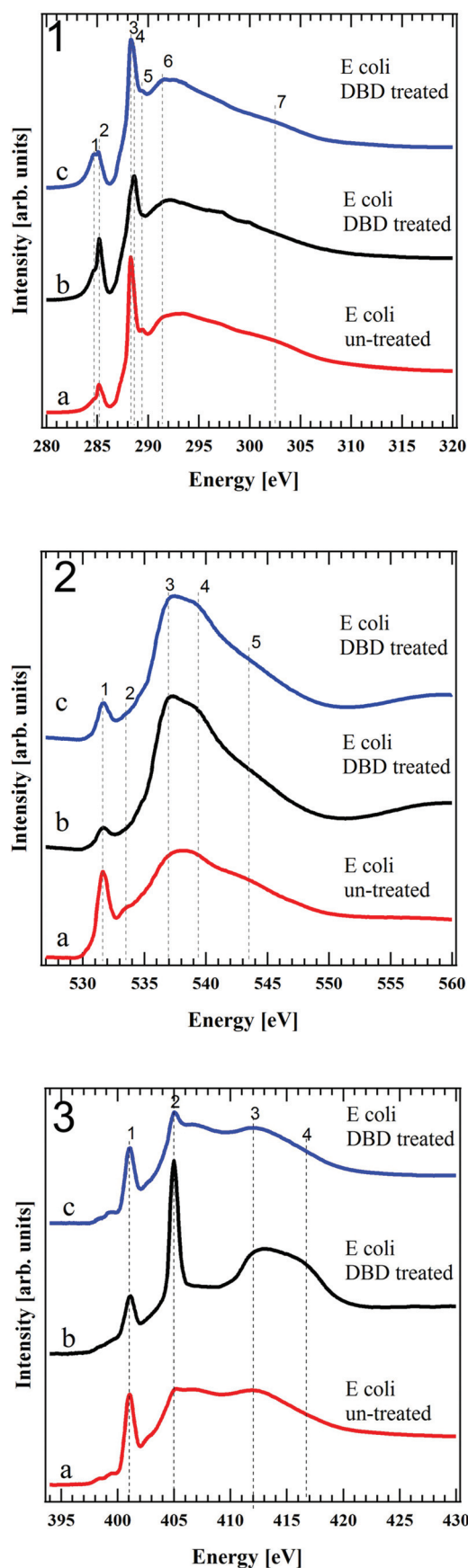


FIG. 5. (1) Carbon (2) oxygen and (3) nitrogen K-edge NEXAFS spectra of (a) untreated and [(b) and (c)] DBD-treated *E. coli*.

E. coli could be due to multiple transitions including π^* of nitro compounds, σ^* N–C and Rydberg transitions.^{42,49} However, for the DBD-treated *E. coli*, it can be concluded from the appearance of the peak that it is highly likely to be a π^* transition of nitro compounds. This is in agreement with the literature on nitro compounds.^{49,50} The prominent peak centered around 412 eV corresponds to σ^* N=C as observed by Shard *et al.*,⁴⁸ The high energy peak around 416 eV which is not present in untreated *E. coli* is likely to be σ^* N=O transition.

IV. DISCUSSION

DBD-based inactivation of the aerosolized *E. coli* as observed in Fig. 2 can be caused by multiple factors. The Gram-negative bacteria contain a cytoplasmic membrane, a peptidoglycan layer, and an outer membrane. The ability of the cell to withstand high internal osmotic pressure and the maintenance of the cell shape is due to the peptidoglycan layer that consists of amino sugars and amino acids.^{51,52} The outer membrane contains structural proteins, receptor molecules, and phospholipids and acts as a selective permeability barrier containing hydrophilic diffusion channels.^{53–55}

Exposure of the nebulized bacteria in air to DBD resulted in a significant change in chemical structure. The formation of hydrogen bonded and free hydroxyl groups is very evident in DBD treated *E. coli*. An intense peak centered around 3665 cm^{-1} corresponds to free OH functionalities. The hydrogen bonded OH as seen in untreated *E. coli* between 3000 and 3500 cm^{-1} is broad and the sharpness of this peak shifting to higher wave number in the DBD-treated *E. coli* confirms that the OH groups are not hydrogen bonded but are free. Broad feature between 537 and 540 eV , in O XAS, in the untreated *E. coli* can be associated with ether groups (–C–O–C–), and alcohols (–OH) based on comparison with condensed alcohols as well as liquids, for which some degree of hydrogen bonding reduces (–OH) resonance clearly. Pylkkanen *et al.*, in their study on the signature of hydrogen bonding in the oxygen K edge spectrum of alcohols report that hydrogen bonding results in dampening of the pre-edge and broadening of the main edge.⁵⁶ Well-defined (–OH) that are separated (as could be expected from repulsion) would give rise to a more distinct peak before the main edge. For DBD-treated *E. coli*, the peaks at 537.3 and 539.5 eV in O XAS, corresponding to σ^* O–H and σ^* C–O transitions, respectively, are prominent with increased intensity, indicating the oxidation of the surface and formation of free OH groups in agreement with the FTIR. In the DBD-treated *E. coli*, the appearance of a new band caused by oxidation has been observed at around 930 cm^{-1} due to the OH species and an adjacent peak around 956 cm^{-1} attributed to asymmetric stretching vibration of O–P–O functionalities. All these observations suggest damage to the outer leaflet of the *E. coli* due to the exposure to the DBD.

It should also be noted that the decreased intensity of π^* CONH transition (C XAS at 288.6 eV , O XAS at 531.6 eV , and N XAS at 401 eV) in DBD-treated *E. coli* correlates well

with the FTIR spectrum where the vibrations corresponding to amide (1650 and 1550 cm^{-1}) decreased in intensity upon DBD treatment. The decreased intensity of the amine and amide vibrations could probably be due to the formation of $\text{C}=\text{N}$ groups, as observed by the new peak at 2360 cm^{-1} , by replacement of the carbonyl oxygen in amide with nitrogen, probably from the primary amine. A similar observation was seen in N XAS where the transition corresponding to $\sigma^*\text{N}=\text{C}$ shows high intensity and is prominent in samples treated by DBD.

The DBD-generated reactive species oxidize both alkyl and carbonyl groups. FTIR, C1s XAS, and O XAS confirm the formation of strong saturated functionalities resulting in varying local configurations. O XAS shows formation of single bonded oxygen bonds including OH and CO bonds as evident from strong peaks at 537.3 and 539.5 eV . A sharp rise in 405 eV peak, in N XAS, corresponding to π^* transition of nitro group is a clear evidence of oxidation of the cell surface resulting in drastic chemical changes. The role of hydroxyl radicals and reactive oxygen species in *E. coli* inactivation has been studied by several research groups.^{57,58} The inactivation mechanism of the reactive oxygen species is based on its effect on cell membrane and intracellular substances. The extent of this molecular damage was assessed using infrared spectroscopy and x ray absorption spectroscopy by observing the bonding environments of carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen. Both the SEM images and the spectroscopic results suggest severe structural deformation as well as surface chemical changes which could have caused bacterial inactivation. An increased presence of oxygenated components including nitro compounds, acid anhydrides and hydroxide groups in the DBD-treated *E. coli* is a strong indication of the role of the DBD-generated reactive oxygen species in causing the chemical changes possibly resulting in cell death.

Airborne microbial load in closed environments including office space and hospitals vary significantly across the world. Reports on air quality studies carried out in hospitals vary from 5 to 25 CFU/m^3 in certain countries to more than 2500 CFU/m^3 in some other countries depending on the personnel density, climate conditions, etc.^{59–61} The log reduction reported here is greater than $\log 0.5$ within 5 min of operation. This corresponds to the inactivation of more than 68% of the microbes passed through the DBD system. While this percentage is lower than kill rates quoted by various surface cleaning disinfectants (e.g., 99% or higher), it should be noted that the microbial load for the tests reported here exceeded $10\,000\,000\text{ CFU/m}^3$ while the log reduction calculation is based on the number of viable microbes settled on the plate under DBD on and DBD off conditions. Also, the ability of this system to inactivate very low concentration of pathogenic bacteria in real air samples needs to be studied. Though the present initial study demonstrates that the DBD can inactivate the aerosolized *E. coli*, the type of bacteria we have used and the results presented here alone are not sufficient to claim the ability of this system to provide safe environment to hospitals or work places. We have used

nonpathogenic biosafety level 1 *E. coli*, but the actual environment in hospitals contains spores, molds, and other robust Gram-positive bacteria in addition to *E. coli*. Further inactivation studies of other types of pathogenic bacteria need to be done to determine the efficacy of the system and the discussion on other pathogens is beyond the scope of this paper.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The effect of dielectric barrier discharge on the morphology and surface chemistry of *E. coli* was studied using electron microscopy, infrared spectroscopy, and x ray absorption spectroscopy. The electromagnetic field around the DBD coil causes severe distortion of the morphology of *E. coli* to varying degrees from formation of pores to shrinking and elongation of the cell structure possibly resulting in leakage of vital cellular materials. The observations made from the core level K-edge NEXAFS spectra of carbon, nitrogen and oxygen correlate well with each other as well as with the FTIR spectra confirming the oxidation, formation of oxygenated components, and chemical modification of the cell structure.

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Final Report – CR16-0016

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InBio Project Number:	CR16-0016
Date Of Report:	09 th September 2016
Project Aims:	Product Assessment – Allergen removal To assess the efficacy of the Novaerus air purifier to reduce airborne allergens.

1. Background

Following the completion of the CR16-0012 project and a teleconference that took place on 16th August 2016, Jessica Dobbin (Novaerus) requested that Indoor Biotechnologies Ltd. prepared a new proposal and a quote for further testing of the efficacy of the Novaerus air purifier device to reduce airborne allergens. The project proposal CR16-0016 was drafted as a follow-up of work performed previously in the project CR16-0012. The tests performed for this report were performed as described in the CR16-0016 proposal. The primary difference between CR16-0012 and CR16-0016 was that the testing time was extended from 1 hour to 2 hours.

The Novaerus air purifier and the power supply that were delivered to Indoor Biotechnologies Ltd. on 15 June 2016 were also used in CR16-0016 project.

2. Experimental Approach

Stock dust was prepared as described in the proposal (3a) and the levels of Der p 1, Der f 1, Mite Group 2, Fel d 1, Can f 1 and Bet v 1 were quantified using Indoor Biotechnologies' SOPs and MARIA® assay.

The control samples (n=3) and the test samples (n=3) were collected for 2 hours as described in the proposal, using the same experimental setup as in the previous project.

The experimental setup is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

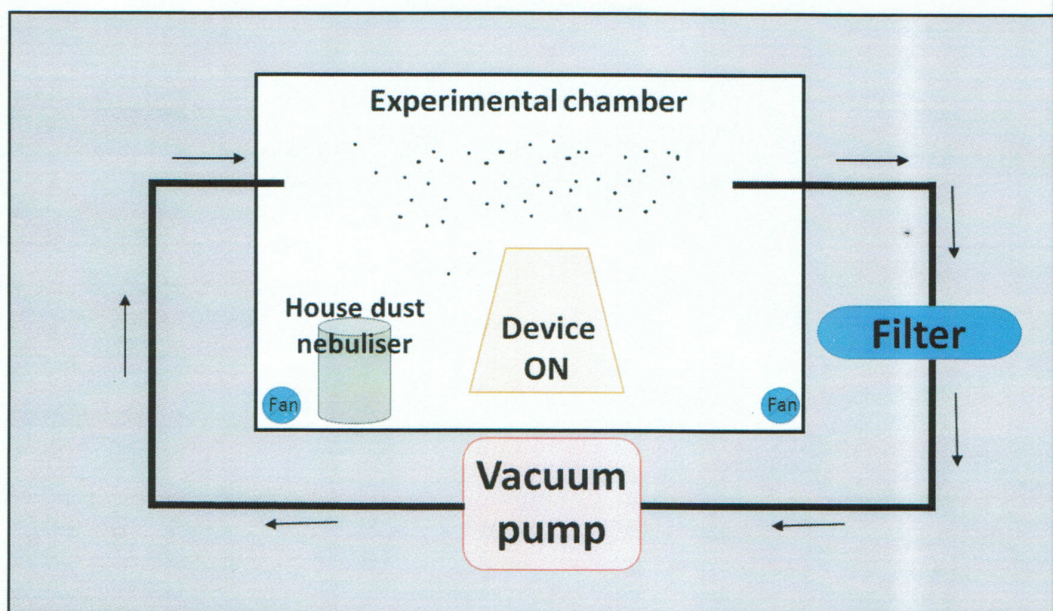


Figure 1. Experimental setup for assessment of efficacy of Novaerus air purifying device in reduction of airborne allergens.

Allergens from the 6 samples (filters) were then extracted following Indoor Biotechnologies' Standard Operating Procedure 004 ver1.2.

3. Results

The allergen content in the extracted filter samples was quantified using Indoor Biotechnologies' MARIA assay. For quality control purposes, one sample was replicated on the plate. The variability between replicates was on average 0.5% (data not shown), indicating that the assay performed well. Levels of Der f 1 from the stock dust in the control samples were below the limit of detection (<0.06ng/filter), therefore this allergen was excluded from analysis.

To assess the efficacy of the Novaerus air purifier to reduce airborne allergens, the average amount of Der p 1, Mite Group 2, Fel d 1, Can f 1 and Bet v 1 from the 3 test runs and the 3 control runs was calculated (Figure 2 and Table 1). The values from each of these runs are shown in Figure 3 and Table 2.

The average percentage allergen reduction was then determined (Table 1 and Figure 4).

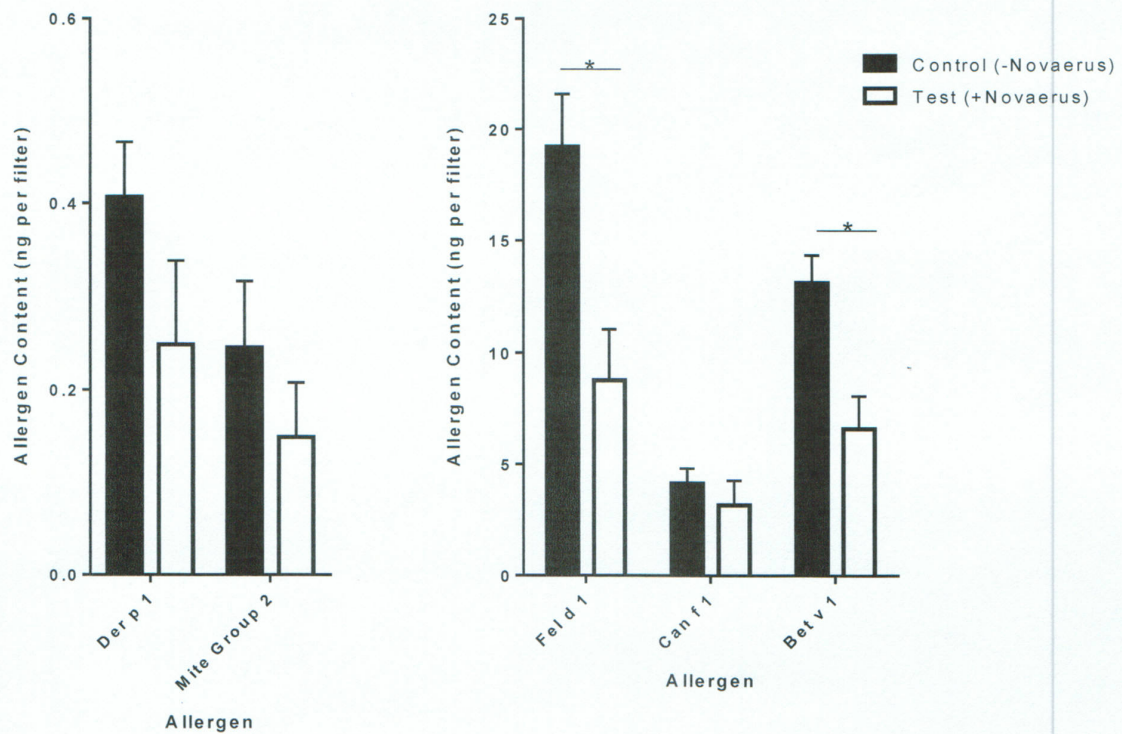


Figure 2. Average amounts of allergens recovered from 3 control runs (without Novaerus air purifier) and 3 test runs (with Novaerus air purifier). Results are expressed as mean values \pm SEM. * = statistically significant difference ($p<0.05$) as analysed by student's t test.

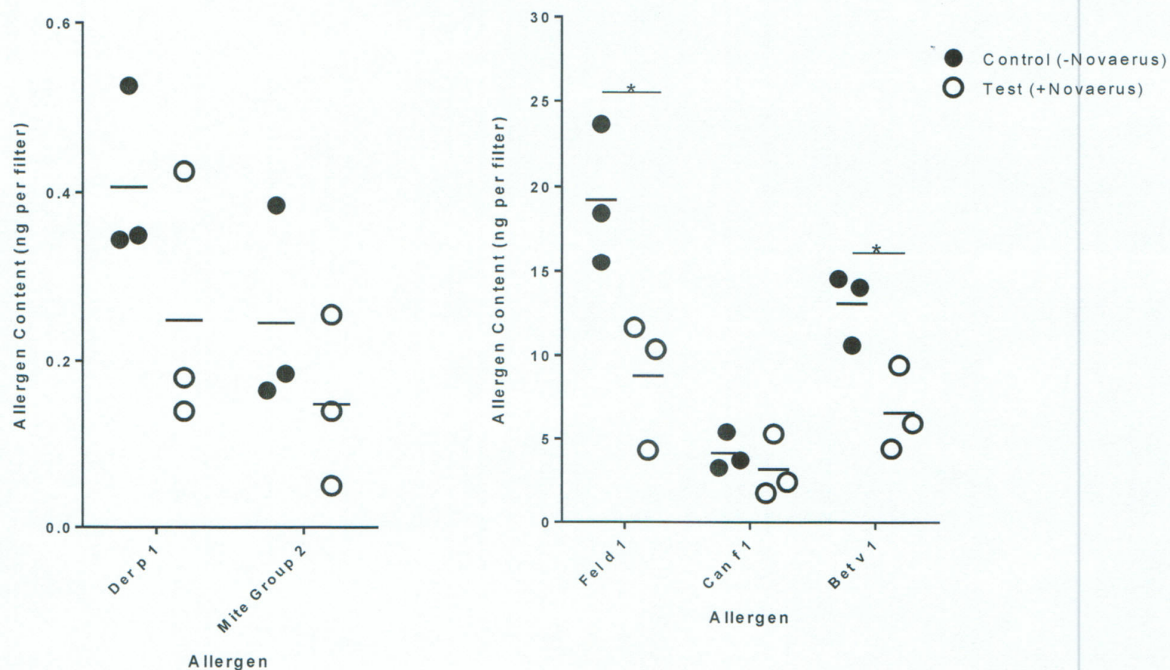


Figure 3. Amounts of allergens recovered from 3 control runs (black circles) and 3 test runs (open circles). Results also show the mean value for each allergen. * = statistically significant difference (p<0.05) as analysed by student's t test.

ALLERGEN	Average amount of allergen recovered from <u>control</u> runs (ng/filter)	Average amount of allergen recovered from <u>test</u> runs (ng/filter)	% Allergen reduction
Der p 1	0.41	0.25	38.93
Mite Group 2	0.25	0.15	39.46
Fel d 1	19.22	8.78	54.33
Can f 1	4.14	3.17	23.54
Bet v 1	13.09	6.61	49.53
			Average % allergen reduction = 41.16%

Table 1. Average amounts of allergen recovered from 3 control runs (without Novaerus air purifier) and 3 test runs (with Novaerus air purifier) and the subsequent average percentage (%) allergen reduction observed when using the air purifier as compared to control.

ALLERGEN	Amount of allergen recovered (ng/filter)					
	Control run 1	Control run 2	Control run 3	Test run 1	Test run 2	Test run 3
Der p 1	0.53	0.35	0.35	0.18	0.43	0.14
Mite Group 2	0.39	0.17	0.19	0.14	0.26	0.05
Fel d 1	15.56	18.44	23.65	4.31	11.66	10.36
Can f 1	5.44	3.72	3.26	1.76	5.32	2.42
Bet v 1	14.59	14.07	10.62	5.96	9.44	4.42

Table 2. Amount of allergen recovered from 3 control runs (without Novaerus air purifier) and 3 test runs (with Novaerus air purifier).

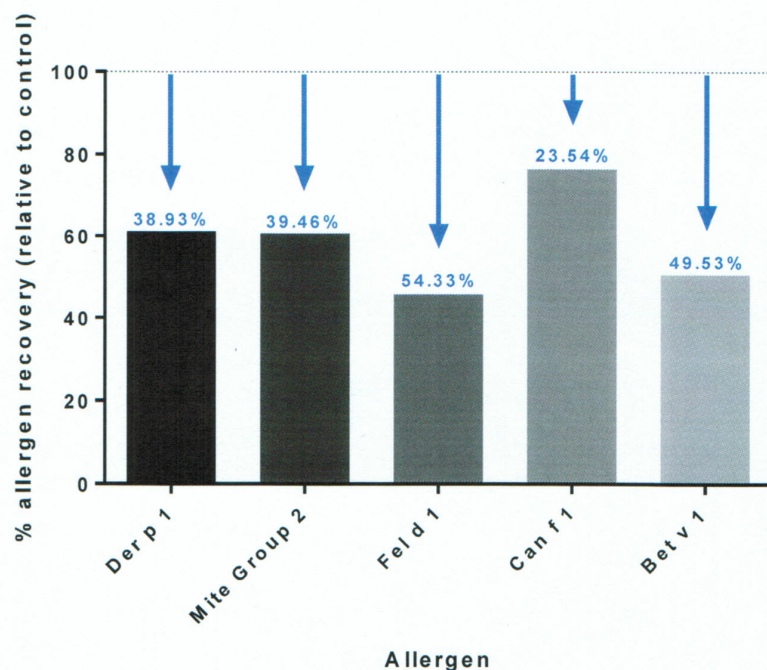


Figure 4. Average percentage (%) allergen recovery of test runs relative to control runs (starting value of each control allergen was set to 100% as depicted by - - - line). Numbers in blue represent the average percentage (%) allergen reduction when the Novaerus air purifier was in use.

The results show that in this experimental set up, the Novaerus air purifier reduces levels of all allergens analysed. Levels of Fel d 1 and Bet v 1 showed a statistically significant reduction ($p < 0.05$) in amount of allergen recovered as compared to controls. Statistical significance is likely to have been obtained for the other allergens with more experimental runs. The amount that each allergen was reduced by ranged from 54.33% (Fel d 1) down to 23.54% (Can f 1). On average the percent

allergen reduction over a 2 hour time course was more than 40%. Previous experiments (CR16-0012) showed that on average the percent allergen reduction over a 1 hour time course was approximately 30%.

Conclusions:

1. The Novaerus air purifier reduced the levels of all 5 airborne allergens analysed (Der p 1, Mite Group 2, Fel d 1, Can f 1 and Bet v 1).
2. The largest reduction in allergen level was seen in cat allergen (Fel d 1) at 54.33%.
3. The lowest reduction in allergen levels was seen in dog allergen (Can f 1) at 23.54%.
4. The overall average allergen reduction was 41.16%.
5. The results indicate that the allergen reduction was higher when using the Novaerus air purifier for 2 hours vs. 1 hour (as in the previous project CR16-0012).

Indoor Biotechnologies Approval

This signature below indicates that the Project Coordinator approves the Final Report.

M. Olivier

Signature

05 APR 17

Date

MARIA OLIVIER
ON BEHALF OF
A. KUKLINSKA-PIENKA



CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

PRAC, LLC

Prepared By:
Avomeen Analytical Services
4840 Venture Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Date: September 11, 2015



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Avomeen Analytical Services | 4840 Venture Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 Services | www.avomeen.com | 800-930-5450

To: Vincent Sylvester
PRAC, LLC
(603) 587-0289
vsylvester@pracllc.com

Product Performance Testing

Thank you for contacting Avomeen Analytical Services for the performance testing of air formaldehyde removal product. Following are the results, methodology, and data associated with our analysis of the sample.

Table 1: Sample description

Sample Name	Avomeen Sample ID
novaerus nv-800 / nv-900 air sterilizer	062415PR6130



Figure 1: Photograph of the Samples “As Received”

Executive Summary

Avomeen’s analysis found that the tested device was able to reduce formaldehyde from 100 ppm to around 13 ppm during a 14 hour testing experiment at level 2 setting, as shown in Figure 2 (formaldehyde in ppm vs. hours). This is compared to the fact the concentration of formaldehyde levels in the chamber stayed largely stable over the 14 hour testing period (still >80% at 14 hour time point).

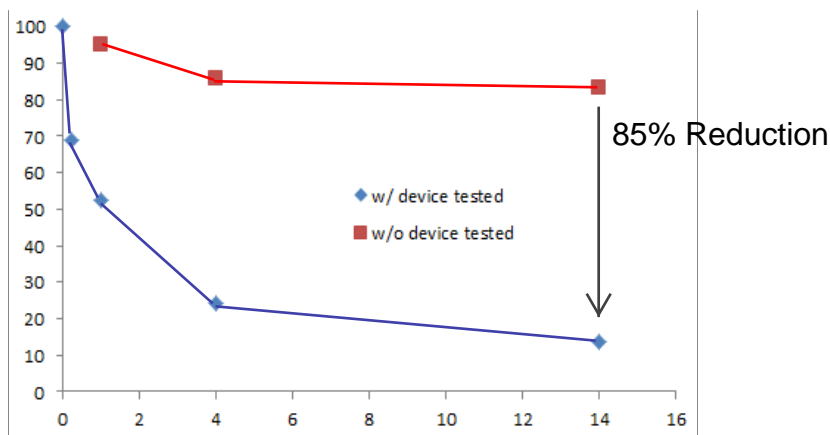


Figure 2: Formaldehyde removal during a 14 hour testing experiment

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Analytical Measurements

Chamber Construction

A plexiglass chamber was built for formaldehyde testing. This chamber was also equipped for proper ventilation and interior air circulation.



Figure 3: Plexiglas chamber for formaldehyde removal testing.

Filling the Chamber with Formaldehyde

Calculated amount of formaldehyde solution was evaporated in a aluminum pan heated to 120 degree C with a constant temperature hot plate.

Headspace Derivatization GC-MS

Formaldehyde was testing following the method described in Anal. Chem. 1998, 70, 2311-2320.

Figures

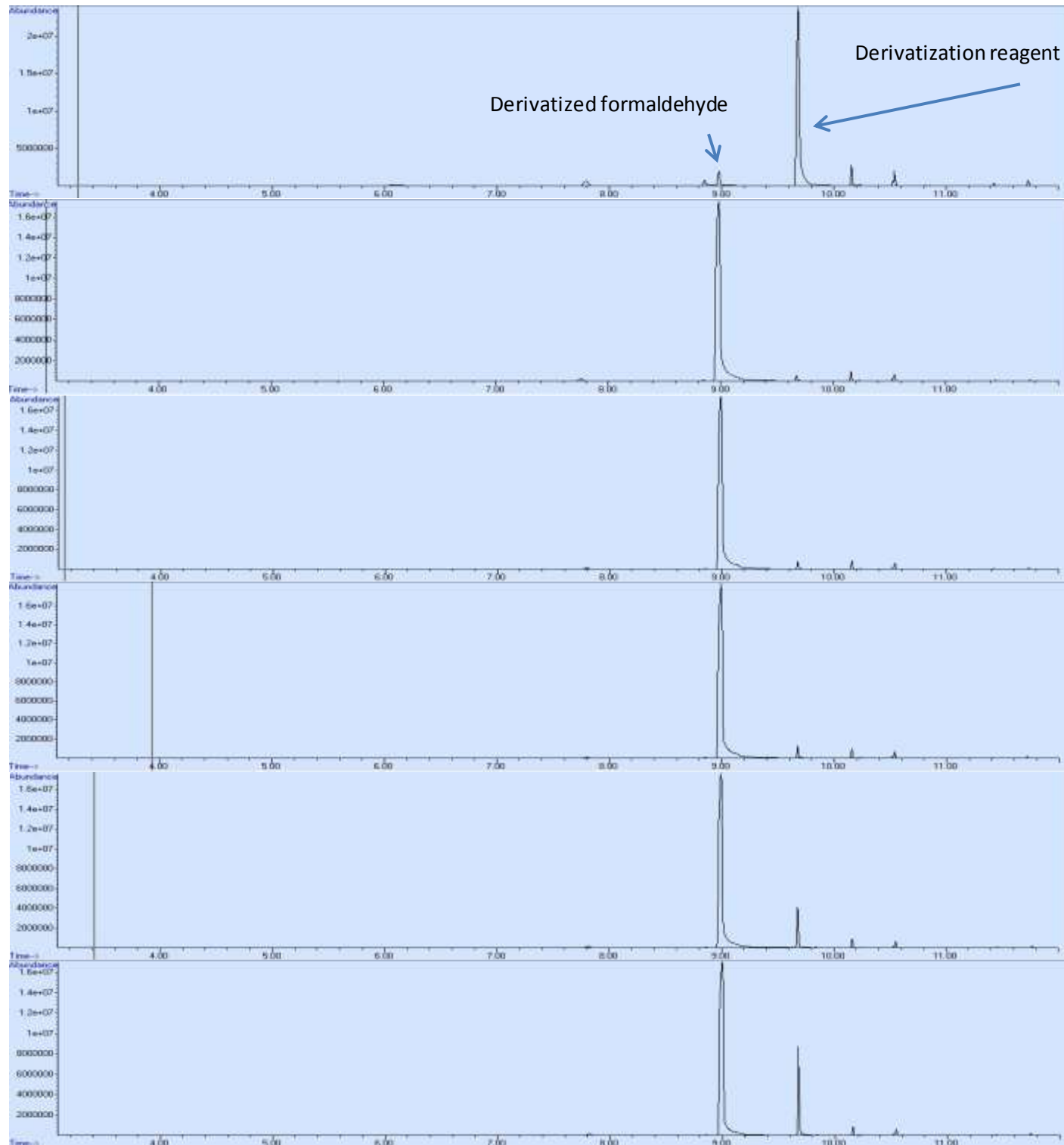


Figure 4: GC-MS TIC chromatograms of formaldehyde testing with testing device operating at speed 2 at serial time points: (from top to bottom) room air before testing, filled with formaldehyde, 15 min, 1, 4 and 14 hours

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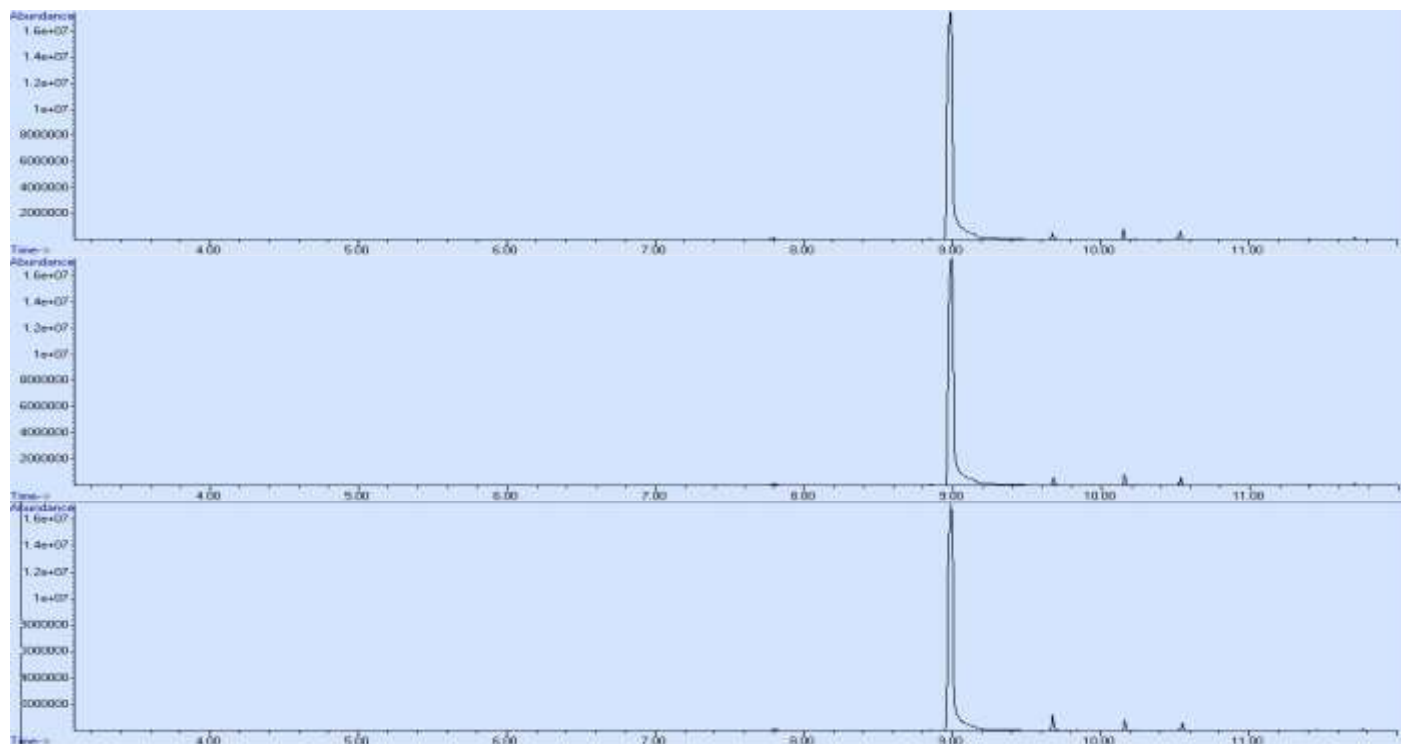


Figure 5: GC-MS TIC chromatograms of formaldehyde testing without testing device at serial time points: 1, 4 and 14 hours.

Description of Instrumentation/Methods Used

Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS): GC/MS testing allows for the analysis of samples along multiple dimensions of chemical properties, providing specific identification of the different compounds separated during the GC analysis. The gas chromatograph separates a complex mixture into its individual components and delivers each one to the mass spectrometer. This analysis generates a chromatogram consisting of different peaks, one for each component of a mixture. The area of each peak is used to measure quantity. GC/MS analysis can be used both for qualitative and quantitative determinations of chemical composition.

Wrap Up

Testing results relate only to items tested. Test report shall not be reproduced, except in full, without approval from Avomeen, LLC in writing.

Thank you for consulting with Avomeen Analytical Services. If you have any questions regarding this analysis, or if we can be of any further assistance, please call us at (800) 930-5450. Following the receipt of this final report, a final invoice indicating the remaining payment will be sent to you. We will safely and securely dispose of all samples and confidential information in our possession in 30 days, unless otherwise instructed by your company.

It has been a pleasure working with you and we look forward to serving you again.

Sincerely,

Avomeen Analytical Services,

Jiangyin Bao

Jiangyin Bao, Ph.D.

Project Director, Chemical R&D

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**Analysis of an
Air Sanitising Unit.**

~

**Project Report Prepared for
GAMA Healthcare.**



University of
HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

Analysis of an Air Sanitising Unit.

Author: R. Wormald

Signature: 

Date: 27-5-14

Checked by: L. Weedon

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Authorised by: P. Humphreys

Signature: 

Date: 28/5/14

Report No:	HyDis/Gama/4/14
ISSUE:	Date:
Draft for Comment	N/A
Version 1	27/05/14

Whilst these analyses have been carried out carefully and have been checked, no liabilities can be accepted for consequential or indirect damages.

Introduction

An air sanitising unit was supplied for testing to analyse its antibacterial properties against airborne bacterial contamination.

1 Test Procedures

1.1 Experimental set up

A 1.0 m³ air tight perspex chamber (Figures 1 and 2) was used to evaluate the ability of the Novaerus air sanitation unit to remove *Staphylococcus epidermidis* aerosols. The chamber was fitted with an internal fan to maintain mixing, sampling and injection ports, and the sanitation unit. The fan and the sanitation unit were activated from outside of the chamber as and when required.

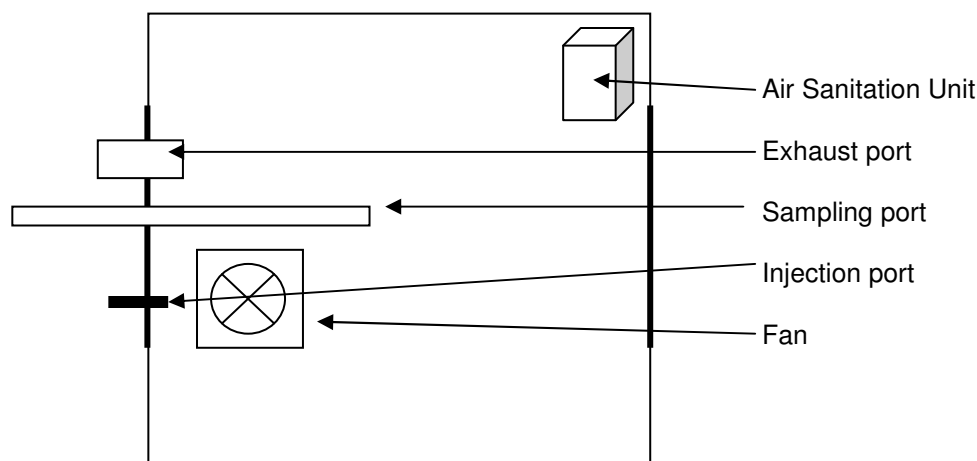


Figure 1. Schematic of Air Sampling Chamber

1.2 Contamination and sampling of the chamber

The chamber was contaminated by aspirating 2 ml of bacterial suspension into the chamber using an airbrush and compressor. The aerosol stream was injected above the internal fan to ensure mixing. The chamber was left to equilibrate for 1 minute prior to sampling. The chamber was sampled at regular intervals using SKC Biosamplers containing 20 ml of MRD and operating at 12.5 l/min. The number of surviving bacteria was then determined by plating onto TSA followed by incubation at 37°C for 24 to 48 hours. The impact of the sanitation unit was determined by comparison with a control run where the unit was not in operation.

1.2.1 Test suspension

The bacterial test suspension was prepared by using a broth culture of *Staphylococcus epidermidis* grown on Tryptone Soya Broth (TSB) at 37°C, 130 rpm for 24 hours.

Whilst these analyses have been carried out carefully and have been checked, no liabilities can be accepted for consequential or indirect damages.

2 Results & Conclusion

The presence of the air sanitation unit does appear to have had a significant impact on the levels of aerosols present in the sampling chamber over and above that seen in the control run (Figure 2). Both the rate of removal and the final log reduction are both greater in the presence of the sanitation unit. Over the 30 minutes sampled the sanitation unit removed 95% of the contamination as opposed to 72% in the control run. The loss of aerosols in the control run are likely to be associated with sedimentation and coalescence on the walls of the chamber. Although the difference (23%) appears small it does equate to >6.7 million cfu/m³, a significant amount of contamination and represents a rate of removal of >3700 cfu/m³/sec.

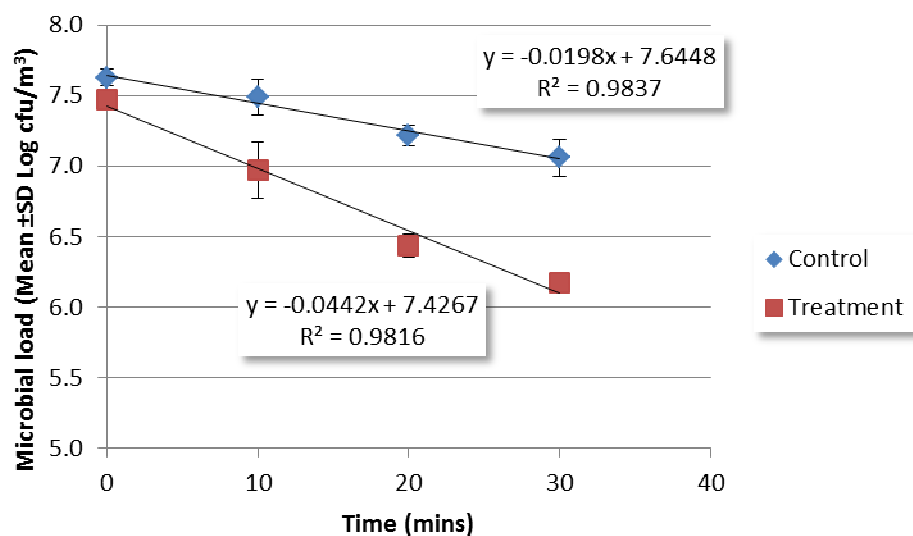


Figure 2. Removal of aerosols

These results indicate that the Novaerus air sanitation unit is able to make a significant impact on the levels of aerosol contamination under laboratory conditions. The levels of contamination used to challenge the system in this case are much higher than would be experienced in healthcare settings suggesting that the unit is likely to be able to make a significant impact on airborne contamination.

It may be useful to repeat this work at lower initial levels of contamination to ensure that the rate of removal is consistent over a range of contamination levels and to repeat the work with other microbial contaminants such as moulds and bacterial spores.

Whilst these analyses have been carried out carefully and have been checked, no liabilities can be accepted for consequential or indirect damages.