



**MDC – Molecular Diagnostics Center,
Biomolecular Technologies S.L.,
Orihuela (Alicante), Spain.**

MDC laboratory belongs to an SME (Technology based) created in 2003 that offers services of genetic analysis and technical support for a broad range of companies. MDC was supported by the CEEI-Elche (an European Centre for Innovative Enterprises), by local investment partners and promoted by a group of scientist from the University Miguel Hernández, Orihuela, Alicante (Spain), with about 15 years experience on genetic analysis of microorganisms. MDC's goals are, first, to provide of rapid diagnosis and analysis by combining the benefits of genetics and recent advances in instrument technology (automatic DNA extractions, real-time PCR, sequencing, micro-arrays, DNA-chips,..). MDC will assemble a portfolio of proprietary or licensed platforms to enable cost-effective automation of complex DNA detection, from sample preparation to multi-parametric DNA detection and quantification. Broad market applications range from toxicological diagnosis, food quality, agriculture, and environmental testing to research and development activities in molecular biology. MDC laboratory has been designed following the "work-flow" model, with four "Clase C" rooms and a P3-level laboratory. Last 10th of December, MDC was awarded by IMPIVA-CEEI for the best creation project of an Innovative Enterprise of the year 2002. Several projects are underway including the "Clinicalair" (Eureka 3350), a platform for microbial monitoring of hospital environment.

H5N1—Detection. MDC is now working on several PCR methods to rapidly detect pathogen strains of the avian influenza virus. Classical PCR and RT-PCR methods have published, but the evaluation of available solutions for such a purpose are needed. In view of the recent emergency and most probable a increase of dissemination, in this project we intend to evaluated the available methods, the implementation of alternatives including this proposed by the WHO, and the validation of procedures to reach the UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025, according to international standards.


Contact:

Dr. A. J. Martinez-Murcia
Director de Laboratorio



MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS CENTER
Crta. Ncnal. 340, km. 29, Apdo. 169, Orihuela
(Alicante) Spain

 Tlf: 34-96-675.49.51

 Web: www.mdc-bt.com

 e-mail: ammurcia@mdc-bt.com
Laboratorio autorizado

MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS CENTER

Biomolecular Technologies, S.L. - C.I.F.: B-53731196
Crta. Ncnal. 340, km. 29, Apdo. 169, Orihuela (Alicante) Spain
 Tlf: 34-96-675.49.51 Fax: 34-96-673.55.27
 Web: www.mdc-bt.com  e-mail: info@mdc-bt.com



Director of Laboratory: Antonio MARTINEZ-MURCIA (B.Sc., Ph.D.)

Qualification and experience

Antonio Martínez-Murcia is the main promoter of the MDC creation project, starting by the beginning of 2001. He is director of MDC laboratories and administrative partner. B.Sc. on Biochemistry (University of Valencia 1987), Ph.D. on phylogeny and genetic diagnostics of bacteria (University of Reading 1993), Assistant Professor since 1992 in several universities (Valencia, Alicante..) and actually is teaching microbiology at the University “Miguel Hernandez”, Orihuela, Alicante. He was responsible for the “Unidad de Diagnóstico Molecular” at this university. Being involved in several research projects, author of around 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters, national and international congresses, author of patented method, and director of 6 Ph.D. theses. He shows a large experience on genetic analysis applied to bacterial phylogeny, evolution, taxonomy, typing, and identification, applied to several genera comprising Gram positive (*Lactobacillus*, *Leuconostoc*, *Streptococcus*, etc.) and Gram negative (uropathogenic *Escherichia coli*, *Aeromonas*, *Plesiomonas*, etc.), but also to molecular microbial ecology (halophilic Archaea). Author of the descriptions for five new bacterial species and join research projects with other universities and hospitals. He is a member of the “*Aeromonas* Working-group” of the “International Sub-Committee on *Vibrionaceae*, *Aeromonadaceae*, and related genera” (International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes), vocal-member of the taxonomy group of the Spanish Society for Microbiology, adviser on genetic techniques for the Commission for Normalization of Microbiological Methods, and recently, he has been asked to join a group of six molecular diagnostic scientists to assist the Spanish Agency for Food Safety (Ministry of Health) for a plan to introduce genetic analyses to the industrial network in Spain.

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