

Tiny new device will make milk safer

November 9 2011

Milk is about to get a whole lot safer for consumers, thanks to Concordia University researchers who've developed a new instrument to detect harmful foreign substances in dairy and other products.

"Even though Canada does not allow the use of growth hormones and excessive [antibiotics](#) in [cows](#), until now there were no methods or equipment to effectively measure residual traces in milk," says Muthukumaran Packirisamy, who led in the development of this new prototype as a professor in Concordia's Department of Mechanical and [Industrial Engineering](#).

Packirisamy and his team spent two years perfecting the technology -- officially called a microfluidic [biosensing](#) device -- that may soon be commercially used to detect the presence of bovine growth hormones in milk. The product was developed with the support of Quebec's Ministère du Développement Économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation and Valeo Management, whose mandate is to transform university research findings from concept to prototype.

The microfluidic biosensing device was well received during a recent presentation to potential industry partners in Boston. One representative from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the United States (NASA) remarked on its potential to detect contaminants such as bacteria and pathogens in future space missions.

Provided by Concordia University

Citation: Tiny new device will make milk safer (2011, November 9) retrieved 9 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-11-tiny-device-safer.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.