

Abstract**Microfluidic Platform for Investigating Cell-based Interactions**

A microfluidic platform (10) for investigating cell-based interactions in accordance with the invention, includes comprises a chip base (12) made of a suitable plastics material with the appropriate optical properties. The chip base (12) has a plurality of ports (14) in fluid communication with a microfluidic channel (16) for containing a culture medium in which cells are held. Preferably a gas permeable laminate (20) is bonded to a bottom surface of the chip base (12). Each port 14 has an internal inlet (22), connecting the port (14) with the microfluidic channel (16), and a trough (24) for containing a small reservoir of culture medium fluid adjacent to the inlet (22) wherein, in use, culture medium can be aspirated from the microfluidic channel via the trough rather than directly via the internal inlet.

Fig. 1b