CONTAINERS AND METHODS FOR THE AUTOMATED HANDLING OF A LIQUID

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method for the automated handling of a fluid biological sample in an analytical instrument. This method comprises providing on an analytical instrument a container having a cup portion held in a receptacle and having an opening as well as a cap portion comprising a cover closing said opening and being permanently attached to one side of said cup portion and a handling head. During automated operation, the handling head approaches said container to a side of said container having a closure by which said cover is vertically and reversibly fixed for closing said opening and horizontally asserts pressure on said closure to release said cover from said vertical and reversible fixation, and optionally raising said cover by raising said handling head to open said cup portion. Furthermore, the invention provides containers as well as instruments and systems suitable for the automated handling and processing of the fluid biological sample and discloses production methods for the manufacture of said vessels.

Figure 1