

CLAIMS

1. A device for use in growing, culturing and/or modifying cells, the device comprising a primary container having a base section, a top section arranged substantially in parallel with the base section and a wall element arranged between the top section and the base section and defining an internal lumen of the primary container, in which the wall element of the primary container is compressible with respect to the top and base section, and in which the primary container has at least one optionally sealable inlet, in which the wall element of the primary container is composed of a flexible material; and wherein the device further comprises a plurality of auxiliary containers external to the primary container and in fluid communication with the primary container.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein one or more of the auxiliary containers are detachably connected to the primary container.
3. The device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein some of the auxiliary containers are independently in direct fluid communication with the primary container.
4. The device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or more of the auxiliary containers is located on the top section of the primary container.
5. The device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or more auxiliary containers is located at or near the base section of the primary container.
6. An auxiliary container for use with the device as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5.
7. The device of any one of claims 1 to 5, or the auxiliary container of claim 6, wherein the auxiliary container comprises a base section, a top section arranged substantially in parallel with the base section and a wall element arranged between the top section and the base section and defining an internal lumen of the auxiliary container, in which the wall element of the auxiliary container is compressible with respect to the top and base section, and in which the container has at least one optionally sealable inlet, in which the wall element of the auxiliary container is composed of a flexible material; and wherein the auxiliary container is configured to be detachably connected to an inlet or an outlet of the primary container.
8. The device of any one of claims 1 to 5, or the auxiliary container of claim 6 or 7, wherein at least one auxiliary container comprises insulation means configured to maintain the contents of that auxiliary container at a particular temperature.

9. The device of any one of claims 1 to 5 or 7 to 8, or the auxiliary container of any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the primary container or the auxiliary container has a valve on opposing sides of the container.
- 5 10. The device or the auxiliary container of claim 9, wherein the valves in the two opposed sides of the container are configured to interact by forming a channel when the container is fully compressed.
11. A kit of parts for assembly into a device according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or 7 to 10,
10 the kit comprising (i) a primary container having a base section, a top section arranged substantially in parallel with the base section and a wall element arranged between the top section and the base section and defining an internal lumen of the primary container, in which the wall element of the primary container is compressible with respect to the top and base section, and in which the primary container has at least one optionally sealable inlet, in which the wall element of
15 the primary container is composed of a flexible material; and (ii) an auxiliary container as defined in any one of claims 6 to 10.
12. A multi-step method of growing, culturing and/or modifying cells within a device according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or 7 to 10.
- 20 13. The method of claim 12, comprising introducing a cell population of interest into the primary container and sequentially adding one or more reagents from one or more auxiliary containers into the primary container in order to effect the desired growth, culturing and/or modification of the cells.
- 25 14. The method of claim 12 or claim 13, comprising carrying out a process in one or more of the auxiliary containers, whereby some or all of the cells within the primary container are moved into the requisite auxiliary container and transferred back into the primary container following completion of the process.
- 30 15. The method of any one of claims 12 to 14, comprising monitoring the optical density of cells within the primary container and transferring the cells from the primary container to a further container such as a bioreactor once the cells have reached a certain as optical density within the primary container; and culturing the cells within the further container.
- 35 16. The method of any one of claims 12 to 15, comprising collecting cells or cell culture product from the primary container or a further container within the device into one or more auxiliary containers; and optionally freezing the collected cells or cell culture product.