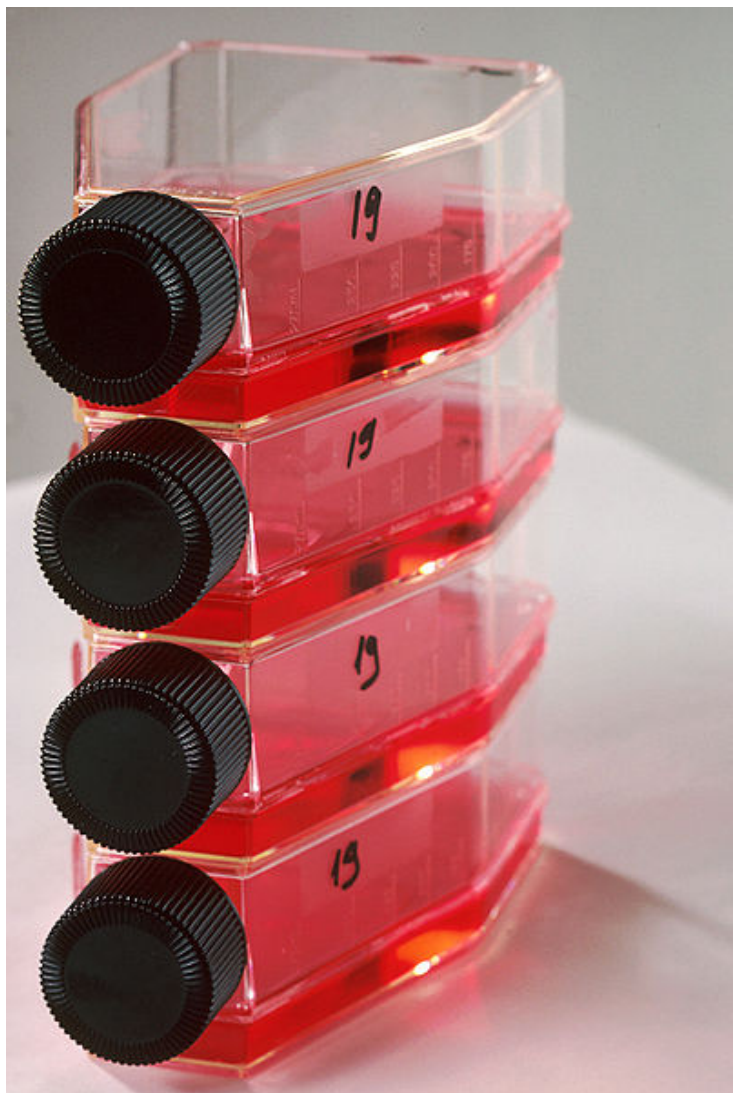


China creates innovative medical instrument for culturing stem cells

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Chinese scientists spent four years developing the instrument. Previously almost all of the country's high-end life-science instruments were imported from the United State and Europe.



China has created the world's first medical instrument that can induce, culture and screen stem cells automatically, benefiting the development of regenerative medicine.

The instrument, developed by the Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, with independent intellectual property rights, makes the large-scale culture of stem cells possible.

Scientists around the world are looking for "keys" that enable humans to regrow tissue or organs lost due to illness or injury, like a gecko can regrow a tail.

Previously, inducing, culturing and screening stem cells could only be achieved manually, which lacked uniform standards and was inefficient, costly and unsafe, restricting the wide application of stem cells in regenerative medicine.

"Distinguishing stem cell from other cells is like picking out a needle in a haystack. It's an arduous work to do manually. The efficiency of the newly invented equipment is equivalent to that of 24 technicians," said Pan Guangjin, vice president of the Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health, reports Xinhua.

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