

# Anti-Mold Marker

## Introduction

In order to differentiate samples in laboratories they are labeled with etiquettes, either electronically or visibly readable ones. When paper adhesive labels are used for labeling samples a variety of filamentous fungi (molds) may grow on the labels surface increasing the risk of sample contamination. Below is presented a device which prevents the growth of fungus on the surfaces of samples.

## Invention

The invention is a felt-tip pen with a cartridge containing an antifungal solution to be applied on the paper etiquettes of lab culture containers such as Petri plates in order to prevent the growth of fungi on their surface.

To allow electronic or visual reading of the labels while recognizing the already treated ones, the active solution has a light violet color. The solution contains copper sulfate and methyl violet.



## State of Development

The prototype containing antifungal solution has been already in use for five years in the Diagnostic Microbiology Laboratory of the *Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón* in order to prevent culture plate cross-contamination. The product maintains the surface of the labels of the samples free from fungal contamination.

## Advantages

- User-friendly
- The antifungal fluid:
  - does not evaporate;
  - nor degrade in time;
  - safe for the user (non-toxic, non-irritating);

- prevents the growth of a wide array of environmental fungi.

- It is a cost effective solution for selected samples.
- Can be used on any kind of paper etiquettes.
- The tip of the pen is wide enough to facilitate user comfort in the application procedure.

## Application

This invention could be used both in public and private diagnostic microbiology laboratories around the world. Targeted are all industries that are involved with life sciences, specifically: pharmaceutical, chemical, and cell culture.

## Market potential

The market potential of this device is high because thousands of laboratories around the globe face a similar problem of molds contaminating samples and cultures. There is only one alternative on the market for microbiologists: antifungal nail-pens. However, these markers only cover human nail pathogens, a very small portion of the total.

## IPR Posititon

Patent application number P201430751.

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## Oportunidad

We are looking for technology and commercial partners in order to bring it to market.

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