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Danish breakthrough in cell research

6-8-2004

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Jesper Glückstad and colleagues from the Risø Research Center have announced a key breakthrough in microparticle handling

A team of researchers from the Risø Research Center has set a world record in so-called laser manipulation of cells and other microparticles. By successfully moving and sorting cells with laser light, the Risø researchers have uncovered entirely new possibilities in the fields of biotechnology and laser treatment, Engineer magazine reported on Friday.

The team presented their results at a conference in Colorado on Monday, and colleagues in the scientific community confirmed that the breakthrough was a major one. For 20 years, researchers around the world have worked to devise optical techniques for handling cells and microparticles.

Until recently, no scientist has been able to manipulate more than a very few particles at a time. But a breakthrough has come at last: senior researcher Jesper Glückstad and his team from Risø have developed a so-called laser pincer, enabling scientists to manipulate large columns of microparticles. The Risø system could pave the way for countless applications in the fields of bio-, materials, micro-, and nano-technology, including many technical applications that have been unfeasible up to now.

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