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Pioneers meet in Pisa to discuss novel cell culture methods that could replace animal testing

33 leading cell and tissue engineering researchers from 8 Universities, 5 industrial companies, charities funding research and regulatory bodies met in Pisa on 27th of May to review and discuss their latest results in cell culture research. The meeting was sponsored by Kirkstall Ltd. as part of its programme of support to users of its novel products for cell culture. Kirkstall, based in Sheffield UK, is developing new research tools and techniques with the goal of creating a more physiologically relevant environment for cells – the **Quasi Vivo™** approach. **Quasi Vivo™** uses multiple interconnected chambers (MCB's) to give researchers the capability of studying cell to cell interactions under flow conditions.

The leading academics, who have been using the Kirkstall **Quasi Vivo™** system are all enthusiastic about the new technology. In the words of Prof. Sheila MacNeil from the University of Sheffield, "The MCB will fill a gap in the research market. It will allow researchers to run several tissue engineered constructs in parallel over long periods of time".

Dr Malcolm Wilkinson, CEO of Kirkstall commented " there is a real pioneering spirit among the MCB User community – they know there is a paradigm shift going on in cell culture methods and they want to be at the forefront of it. With the scientific results that these researchers are seeing already, there is a real prospect of reducing and replacing animal testing for drugs, chemicals and cosmetic ingredients"