RESEARCH

Fluorescent microscope power supply developed by the CBTBR in 2007

CBTBR Member Prof Rob Warren and colleagues have developed a prototype of a power independent fluorescence microscope. This microscope can be used in all settings for the diagnosis of TB through O-Auramine staining. The microscope has the following features: LED fluorescence, Hand generated power supply, Solar power supply, Battery power supply and Mains compatibility. We were offered a free booth at the 38th IUATLD (International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease) Union World Conference on Lung Health to display this prototype microscope in Cape Town on 8-12 November 2007 as part of the exhibits. Development of this item is being pursued with Freeplay, a company which manufactures hand or foot generated power. We think that this item could revolutionise TB sputum smear diagnostics, particularly in the developing world.

In photo: The display at the IUATLD International Conference of the Fluorescent Microscope powered by either a hand generator, battery, solar panel or mains.