

## Customer Testimonial

Michael Wallage

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*“Optilite will solve our problems  
and improve the speed and  
quality of our results.”*



Bristol Southmead is the main hospital in the North Bristol NHS Trust and serves a population of approximately 900,000 people in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. The laboratory performs over 50,000 special protein tests a year including over 6,000 **Freelite®** and 4,000 IgG subclass tests.

Michael Wallage is a Senior Biomedical Scientist at Bristol Southmead's Immunology department with over 30 years of experience in clinical diagnostics and lots of experience running various analysers. See what Michael had to say about his **evaluation of Optilite** and his **plans to replace their current special protein system**.



## *Aging Technology*

For over 20 years we have performed the special protein testing at Bristol Southmead Hospital on a Siemens BN™II.

However the analyser was getting old, breaking down more often and its EQA performance was diminishing.

It was also struggling to run the higher workload; for example we could not run Freelite and IgG subclasses at the same time.



## *Making the Right Choice*

We did not want to run the special protein tests such as **Freelite** and C1 Inactivator on our chemistry system so we needed a replacement special protein system. We decided a new system had to meet the following key requirements:

- Modern IT
- Provide results quicker
- Good antigen excess check
- Optimised for **Freelite**

We have worked with Binding Site for a long time so we know that they have a good background in special proteins. With the ever increasing volume of free light chain testing the optimisation of Freelite on the Optilite was important as other analysers do not handle them particularly well.

On paper, Optilite promised to meet all of our requirements so we decided to put it to the test and perform a full evaluation for a variety of assays.



## *A New Experience*

The training course for Optilite was very good and we all finished the course feeling confident to use it straight away.

We performed a thorough evaluation including comparison and patient sample precision. The results showed very good correlation, except for expected differences with IgG3 and IgG4 as the assays are calibrated to different standards. Between batch and within batch precision were generally very good.

The technical support that we received during the evaluation was excellent, as always from the Binding Site. The one query we had was resolved quickly over the phone.



## *A Brighter Future*

The evaluation went very well and we have decided to replace our BNII with the **Optilite** as soon it is connected to our laboratory information system (LIS).

We expect that **Optilite** will increase our efficiency as it will get through the work a lot quicker and without breaking down.

Better reagent management and on-board cooling will allow us to run all assays every day without the need to batch testing, getting results for the clinicians sooner.

In theory **Optilite** should be more cost effective as it should use fewer dilutions to achieve an end result and has the potential to **save** on staff time.



## *A Brighter Future*



Overall this is a very good system.

Based on our evaluation, **Optilite** will:

- Solve the problems that we are having with our old system, **and**;
- Improve the speed and quality of the special protein results we report.



# Optilite®

OPTIMISED PROTEIN SYSTEM



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Site**

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