

A SIMPLE DEVICE FOR THE EFFICIENT TRANSFER OF BUCCAL SWAB CELLS ONTO FTA[®] PAPER

Xavier G. Aranda¹, Michael Kvasnik², John V. Planz¹, Joseph E. Warren¹, and Arthur J. Eisenberg¹.

¹*University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX*

²*Fitzco Inc., Spring Park, MN*

The collection of buccal swab cells for paternity, forensics and the CODIS program has become the preferred method over the past several years. It can be easily used by non-medical personnel for the non-invasive routine collection of biological material suitable for DNA analysis. The integration of a buccal swab collection procedure with the long term room temperature archiving and simplified processing capabilities of FTA[®] Paper would be highly advantageous. Currently, the buccal cells are transferred onto FTA[®] Paper by blotting or rolling the swab over the paper. This process is often inefficient and results in an uneven distribution of cells over the target area on the paper. A new inexpensive device, Sampact[™], has been developed which greatly simplifies the transfer of buccal swab cells onto FTA[®] Paper. It was designed for use with a round "lollipop" foam tipped applicator swab commonly used in the human identity community. The Sampact[™] is a small precision molded device in which an Indicating FTA[®] MicroCard is inserted. Following the collection of the buccal cells, the foam tipped applicator swab is placed into the Sampact[™], the unit is closed, and the pressure of the lid evenly transfers the cells onto the Indicating FTA[®] MicroCard. The color indicator on the FTA[®] paper will change from pink to white making it easy to visualize where the buccal epithelial cells have been transferred onto the paper. The FTA[®] MicroCard can then be shipped, archived or processed for DNA analysis.