HELAPET

Session 2

Decontamination Workshop:

There are many drug species with a great variety of chemical properties and structures. In modern medicine, most are designed to be water soluble in order to facilitate preparation, administration and pharmacological action.

This should influence the choice of methods and materials that are used for cleaning, disinfection and decontamination. However, these factors are rarely considered, and sometimes drug residues may be left behind by ineffective cleaning. In some instances, chemical alteration or degradation may occur, also reducing cleaning effectiveness.

With ever more potent and potentially hazardous agents being manipulated, the validation of cleaning methods is becoming increasingly important to satisfy regulatory requirements and to demonstrate due consideration of the safety of operators and patients.

YOUR TASK:

1. Select 2 volunteers from your group.
2. The first volunteer will clean half the available area of the sample surface provided – using the normal practice / method employed in their place of work. (Honesty is important in this exercise!)
3. After the area has been 'cleaned' place under "black light" (*ultraviolet lamp*), and observe the fluorescence remaining
4. Discuss the technique used (in a friendly way!)
   a) How well was the surface cleaned?

   b) How well was the dye removed from the surface?

5. Discuss the most appropriate method to decontaminate the work surface
6. If time and materials allow, apply the decontamination technique discussed to the remaining contaminated surfaces
7. Observe the fluorescence again using the "black light".

   Did this improve the cleaning?