Client Interview

Introduction

The company Eppendorf knows its clients and their specific needs very well. In the following interview, we would like to introduce our valued client Mi Eun Lee, who will answer some questions, both personal and pertaining to her work. Mi Eun Lee has studied biotechnology and currently works in the Department of Biotechnology and Bioengineering at Sung Kyun Kwan University in Suwon, South Korea. Her research involves experiments with cyanobacteria, among other things.

What activities do you enjoy outside of work?
After a long day at work with my experiments, I need comfort and relaxation. I like to watch American or English dramas, sci-fi or comedy movies and I enjoy nature while walking along the Han River near my house. I also sometimes relieve stress by shopping. I think that it is very important to maintain a balance in life so that I don’t feel like I’ve just run a marathon, and can keep my “input” and “output” steady.

What do you consider your biggest challenge in your work?
I am studying cyanobacteria, among other microorganisms. Since there has not been much research and development in the area of genetic manipulation tools relative to microorganisms like \textit{E. coli} and \textit{S. aureus}, I need more time and effort for my work, which is very challenging to me. It is not easy to overcome a sense of failure when the results do not dovetail with the energy and time I spend on experiments. I know in theory that the success of an experiment cannot determine the happiness in an individual’s life, but this is difficult to put into practice! However, as a person who has committed herself to research and scholarship, I need to practice mind control. So I am trying to stay in touch with many older people in the neighborhood and devote myself to my research with an optimistic and professional attitude.

Why did you decide to study biotechnology and what do you like about your work?
After studying life science as an undergraduate major, I thought it was necessary to increase my knowledge through master’s and doctoral programs. That’s why I chose the Department of Microbiology, where I learned from a professor who taught me a great deal about microorganisms. My current research is about increasing the productivity of industrial applications by utilizing microorganisms, which I find very interesting.

How did the Eppendorf BioSpectrometer® and Eppendorf µCuvette® help you in your work, and what do you particularly like about these products?
I use the Biospectrometer kinetic to measure the OD value to establish the degree of microbial growth after microbial cultivation and to draw the growth curve. Here, the BioSpectrometer has been a very suitable and reliable device to use. I have tried several spectrometers from other companies and compared them with the Eppendorf BioSpectrometer, but those other devices were relatively difficult to install (e.g., the connection between the device and the computer), and I was reluctant to use them. The Eppendorf BioSpectrometer, on the other hand, was very simple and intuitive to use, so even those who are not accustomed to it can easily learn how to use it without a manual and a connection to a computer. The price range was also lower than for other spectrometer equipment, so there was no difficulty in making a purchase decision.