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### Dublin spinout launches PKU screening test for newborns

May 13th, 2009 by David Schwartz under [Tech Transfer](#)

Enzolve Technologies, a University College Dublin (UCD) spinout, has launched its first CE-marked diagnostic test, which screens for phenylketonuria (PKU) in newborns. Enzolve Technologies, based at NovaUCD — the university's Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre — was co-founded by Professor Paul C. Engel and Dr. Suren Aghajanian as a spinout from UCD's School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science. The company is commercializing genetically engineered enzymes and enzyme-based specialty products. The PKU test, developed over a two-year period, is the first in a suite of products called NeoScreenPak, which Enzolve is developing to screen for a variety of metabolic disorders in infants. PKU is an inherited metabolic disorder that results in severe mental retardation if treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life. If the disorder is detected early, and with an appropriate and well-maintained diet, children affected by the disorder can lead normal lives. Most developed countries have programs in place to screen newborns for the disorder, but only 30-35% of infants worldwide undergo PKU screening. The Enzolve product "is very suitable" for countries that cannot invest in advanced screening equipment," offering the potential to improve the screening of newborns around the world, says Philip Mayne, director of the National Newborn Screening Laboratory at the Children's University Hospital, Dublin.

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