Scientists create world-first antimicrobial medical gloves
1 June 2018, by Emma Rayner

A new type of medical examination glove that has built in antimicrobial technology proven to prevent the spread of infection has been developed with help from a renowned University of Nottingham microbiologist.

Professor Emeritus Richard James has been working for several years on the project with medical glove makers Hartalega Malaysia and antimicrobial research and development company Chemical Intelligence UK. The European launch of this unique medical product took place in London today.

The new gloves are the first non-leaching antimicrobial medical gloves in the world. They are eventually expected to sell in their billions as healthcare organisations strive to fight infection and combat antimicrobial resistance.

The gloves are the first to contain a new active microorganism-killing molecule designed to prevent the spread of bacteria to and from surfaces and people. As the technology is built into the material, the gloves don't need surface applications of further solutions or chemicals.

In independent testing, the gloves achieved up to a 99.9% kill within just five minutes of contact. Part of the testing was carried out in the Advanced Microscopy Unit at the University of Nottingham’s Centre for Biomolecular Science.

Provided by University of Nottingham

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