Protocol

4 % Paraformaldehyde preparation

**CAUTION!** Flammable. Irritant vapor. Probably carcinogenic

Fresh make up

**4% PARAFORMALDEHYDE/PBS** (100ml)

* 1. Measure 100ml Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) into a measuring cylinder. Pour into the conical flask containing 4g of paraformaldehyde. Cover with parafilm and transfer to the fume hood: thoroughly shake - take care not to splash paraformaldehyde about - it is a rapid fixer and is TOXIC.
* (Microwave 10-30 sec to dissolve it) OR:
* 2. Place flask on top of the hotplate/stirrer inside the fume cupboard and set the heat control to 7 with moderate stirring. Allow the solution to warm up-it will turn from being cloudy to clear when ready. Inspect regularly to avoid over- heating and consequent spilling.
* 3. When the paraformaldehyde has dissolved, switch off the heat but leave to stir: do not handle for safety reasons. Allow to cool by put it o ice.
* 4. When cooled, transfer the fixative to a 4C refrigerator. Label appropriately and date.