

## Unchained Labs Sets the Hook on Automated Buffer Exchange with Lil' Tuna

**July 7, 2026 — Pleasanton, CA —** [Unchained Labs](#), the life sciences company that's all about getting biologics and gene therapy researchers the right tool for the job, launched [Lil' Tuna](#) today, the first fully automated, plate-based, benchtop buffer exchange system. Unchained's been automating buffer exchange forever — with Big Tuna for plate exchanges and Unagi for walk-up processing of individual samples. Lil' Tuna packs the best of both systems into one simple, compact, high-throughput buffer exchange platform perfect for every lab, at every scale.

Buffer exchange and sample concentration are some of the most time-consuming, manual steps standing between researchers and the science they want to do. Traditional approaches using dialysis, centrifugation or cartridge-based filtration require constant intervention and are super hard to automate when going into screening mode. Teams using these methods are forced to micromanage a step that demands way too much of their attention and throttles throughput.

Lil' Tuna uses the same exact pressure-based UF/DF approach and consumables as Big Tuna and Unagi — processing 96- or 24-well plates for maximum throughput, handling one-off samples on the fly, and delivering recoveries  $\geq 96\%$ . For labs all in on automation, Lil' Tuna fits right in with API software, automation-friendly template importing and a sample stage designed for easy robotic access. It integrates directly with Stuntman, Unchained's AI-driven automation platform, for seamless handoff into formulation screening, stability characterization and other downstream workflows.

"Buffer exchange has always been one of those steps that kills a scientist's momentum," said Krystin Schmidt, VP Marketing, Unchained Labs. "Lil' Tuna fully automates the whole thing so researchers can finally stop babysitting their buffer exchange. Its compact footprint and automation-ready design make it a perfect fit for the next generation of AI-enabled labs."

### About Unchained Labs

Here's the deal. We're all about helping biologics and gene therapy researchers break free from tools that just don't cut it. Unleashing problem-tackling solutions and AI-driven automation that make a huge difference in the real science they do every day. That's our mantra, our promise, and we own it. We're located in Pleasanton, CA and can be found online at [www.unchainedlabs.com](http://www.unchainedlabs.com).

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