



FIGURE 2 Vacuum pump, Pirani vacuum gauge, and hygrometer in low-humidity room for gravimetric moisture test.

vacuum (Figs. 2 and 3). Figure 4 shows the typical dry box configuration of weighing bottle, sample vials, hygrometer, Petri dishes containing anhydrous phosphorus pentoxide to maintain a low humidity, spatula, and pliers. This equipment is necessary to perform the transfer (and pooling if necessary) of the freeze-dried sample from the vials. The dry box and its contents equilibrate for over three hours to ensure that the phosphorus pentoxide has absorbed excess moisture and dried the box as indicated by the portable hygrometer in box.