

Trends and Technology: Summer 2002

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Trends and Technology welcomes releases and information about new products, services, Web sites, trends, and upcoming events. If your company has a Web site that you would like for us to review, please send us news for our Online section, or tell us about sites that would interest clinical laboratory scientists. These sites, as well as the new product information, are offered for reader information only. We cannot vouch for them and their presence here does not constitute an endorsement by CLS or ASCLS.

ONLINE

I decided to pay a visit to a commercially sponsored Web site this month. Dade Behring had recently announced that its Chest Pain Perspectives® Internet Site received the Biomedical Marketing Association's 2001 Dx Award of Excellence in the General Website category. Judged by a panel of creative directors and laboratorians from the healthcare community, this award honored the best marketing efforts in 2001 involving a diagnostics-related product or service. The Chest Pain Perspectives Internet Site (www.ChestPainPerspectives.com) is an

interactive learning center. It incorporates data and risk stratification protocols that can be utilized with cardiac biomarkers for managing patients who come to hospitals with chest pain.

The site is divided into a general portion with basic (consumer) information and a clinical site with information on chest pain diagnosis and disease management guidelines. Cardiac marker guideline excerpts are available here, issued by the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry and the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (along with links to the associations for the respective complete guidelines).

One oversight I noticed right away is that there was no clear indication that registering as a new member would be free—so I declined to do so. The application page asks for basic personal information and information about the facility where the potential member works, and presumably would be used for marketing purposes by the sponsor. The portions for members only include a work-up for atypical chest pain, tests for your diagnostic skills, financial scenarios that describe how much you can save by utilizing various management protocols, information from leading chest pain centers, and the latest on diagnostic tools for enhancing the management of chest pain patients. Overall, the free part of the site is a good introduction to current thinking and protocols (if not the most cutting-edge cardiac marker research).

Bio-Rad laboratories introduces AutoimmuneWEB™. This is a premier service for subscribers who log in at www.autoimmune.net. The site helps to offer training in both IFA and EIA laboratory methods, optimizes expertise in interpreting IFA patterns and determining

patient titers, and competency assessment in ANA, cytoplasmic, and ANCA testing. Contact Stuart White at (510) 741-5755.

NEW PRODUCTS

The new Te-Sonic device is a versatile ultrasonic detector for blood pooling applications and sample transfer verification. Used with the Genesis Robotic Sample Processor, it provides a fully automated solution for checking that the correct volume of sample has been dispensed into validated Te-Sonic collection tubes. The device, is intended for blood banks and reference and diagnostic laboratories, offers speed and reliability for checking blood pooling procedures for nucleic acid testing. Contact Dimitri Katsoulis at dimitri.katsoulis@tecan.com; internet www.tecan.com.



Te-Sonic ultrasonic detector

Dade Behring has introduced ESβL plus™, a new panel to enable microbiology laboratories to definitively confirm the presence of ESβL enzymes that have been detected by screening methods. Confirmed detection of ESβL may indicate the presence of bacterial strains that produce the enzyme. These include *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *K. oxytoca*, each of which may be clinically resistant to therapy with penicillins, cephalosporins, and aztreonam. Contact Melissa Ziriakus at (847) 236-7038.

The Trends and Technology section seeks to publish product and technology information (including black-and-white glossy photographs), news items (such as FDA approvals), and information about laboratory resources of all kinds. The intent of this section is to provide a cutting-edge, one-stop shop tailored to the current practical needs and concerns of clinical laboratory practitioners. Let us hear from you with suggestions on how to improve this section. Direct inquiries and information to Mary Jane Gore, CLS Trends and Technology Editor, c/o ASCLS, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 530, Bethesda, MD 20814, clstt@aol.com. Please send all materials clearly marked NEW PRODUCTS.

TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Carl Zeiss has introduced a new entry-level microscope, the Axiostar plus. This microscope offers high-performance transmitted light, high-quality fluorescence contrast, and extensive ergonomic features at a low price. The model offers many features, such as a fluorescence module for reflected-light illumination, a filter slider with a patented Push & Click technology, and a scratch-proof ceramic stage. Contact Marina Yurovitsky at (914) 581-7645.



Zeiss Axiostar plus microscope

Pall Corporation's (NYSE: PLL) scaleable Kleenpak™ disposable capsule filters eliminate cleaning and cleaning validation and help biopharmaceutical process developers get new products to market faster. To meet the growing demand for disposable process systems in the industry, Pall Corporation announces the availability of Kleenpak™ Nova capsule filters with a t-style inlet / outlet configuration. The t-style configuration is ideal for manifolded multiple filters in a series or parallel configuration. Contact Patrice Radowitz, (516) 801-9104.

Dade Behring's Syva Company has introduced valproic acid (Syva® EMIT 2000 Valproic Acid) and tobramycin (EMIT® 2000 Tobramycin) assays in liquid form to enhance its therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) portfolio. Valproic acid is an anticonvulsant drug used to treat various seizures and tobramycin is an antibiotic used to control many bacterial infections. Syva valproic acid and tobramycin liquid reagents and calibrators can be quickly loaded and run on most general chemistry analyzers, eliminating the time required to mix dry powders, and offering the improved precision and stability of liquid assays, as compared to powders. More information is also available at www.dadebehring.com

USFilter presents the new ELGA line of PURELAB® Water Purification Systems. The systems represent the broadest range available from a single company, providing a constant supply of purified water at the quality and flow rates that laboratories demand. In separate news, USFilter launched a new range of state-of-the-art high purity water storage reservoirs. The L-shaped docking vessels are designed to cradle the water purification systems resulting in one integral, compact unit, eliminating the need for a separate reservoir and saving valuable bench space. Call (800) 875-7873, ext. 5000 or visit the company Web site at <http://www.usfilter.com>.

FDA APPROVALS

BioMérieux has received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Premarket Approval for its NucliSens® HIV-1 QT quantitative viral load assay. Using the firm's proprietary Nucleic Acid Sequence-Based

Amplification technology, the test identifies the level of HIV-1 viral RNA in plasma and can be used to monitor the effects of anti-retroviral therapy by measuring changes in HIV-1 RNA levels. Contact Becky Schneider at (919) 620-2353.

The FDA has cleared Gen-Probe's APTIMA Combo 2 Assay for sale in the U.S. This is a second-generation nucleic acid probe test to detect ribosomal RNA from *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. The test can detect these organisms from a single specimen from both asymptomatic males and females. Contact Mike Solomon at (800) 523-5001, ext. 8593.

BUSINESS NEWS

Diagnostic Products Corporation has released an automated version of Matritech's NMP22® test for bladder cancer to be performed on DPC's IMMULITE® fully automated analyzer. NMP22 becomes the first fully automated bladder cancer test in the world. The automated version of NMP22 is less labor intensive and faster. With this test, urologists should be able to receive patient results in approximately one day. Contact Heather M. McDonald at (617) 646-1052.

Through CHECK-UP – the Campaign for Health, Education and Care of Kidneys in Under-diagnosed Populations – Bayer Diagnostics will supply select community health centers with Multistix PRO Reagent Strips, a state-of-the-art urine 'ratio' test. The only urinalysis strip available today that provides physicians with a protein-to-creatinine ratio measurement, the Multistix PRO product provides an important diagnostic indicator for early kidney disease. That combined with a blood pressure check and a simple blood test can detect kidney disease at its earliest stages.