

Trends and Technology: Spring 2003

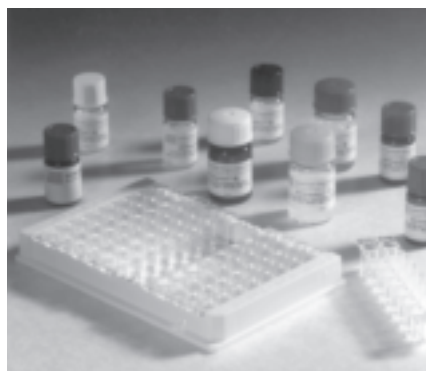
MARY JANE GORE

Trends and Technology welcomes releases and information about new products, services, Web sites, trends, and upcoming events (give us six months lead time for seminars and meetings). 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 CLSs. 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.

NEW PRODUCTS

American Diagnostica Inc (ADI) has introduced two separate IMUCLONE-ELISA Antiphospholipid (aPL) test kits to its broad portfolio of Special Coagulation assays. Suiting the needs of clinical laboratory scientists and life science/drug discovery researchers, the IMUCLONE™ test kits can be used for rapid quantitation of IgG and IgM aPL antibody levels in either human serum

or plasma. ADI also now is offering Abnormal Hemostasis Reference Plasma. The plasma has been assayed for almost 30 individual coagulation parameters, including fibrinogen, PT, APTT, AT, plasminogen, Factor VIII antigen, Protein C antigen and several other intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Contact Robert Janetschek at (203) 661-0000, ext. 34.



ADI's anti-phospholipid ELISA test kits

Tecan US, a leading player in the Life Sciences supply industry, introduced Te-MO 3/3 at Lab Automation 2003. Te-MO 3/3 is a compact, multi-channel, versatile pipetting option for the Tecan Genesis platform that significantly increases the productivity of the Tecan Genesis platform without increasing the system's footprint. Te-MO 3/3 can simultaneously execute plate loading and pipetting of 96-, 384- and 1536-well plate formats which increases the throughput of the Genesis and Freedom Workstation, while the Genesis 8-channel pipetting arm is available for more complex pipetting patterns such as hit picking. The Te-MO 3/3 is ideal for a wide range of applications including assay develop-

ment and medium-throughput genomics. Contact Michele Valenta at (919) 361-5200.

Tecan has introduced its Genesis FE500 Workcell, a fully automated platform designed to meet the sample processing requirements of hospitals and other clinical laboratory sites. The new modular system offers more options in selecting modules for a perfect fit to the specific range of activities performed by each laboratory, including different options for the individual processing steps, from specimen sorting and centrifugation to barcode labeling and placing tubes in sample racks made by a wide variety of manufacturers. For more product information, e-mail dimitri.katsoulis@tecan.com and visit www.tecan.com.



Tecan workcell

VWR International, a global scientific supplies distributor, has published its 2003–2004 General Catalog, a comprehensive guide to laboratory equipment, instruments, chemicals, supplies, and services. In-depth descriptions, full-color photography, specifications, and pricing are included for over 46,000 products. The catalog features more than 2,000 new products, as well as

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, 6701 Democracy Blvd., Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20814, clstt@aol.com. Please send all materials clearly marked NEW PRODUCTS.

TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGY

many items exclusive to VWR. It includes useful technical reference charts that provide information on chemical resistance, reagent concentrations, common conversion factors, and more. Contact Robin Filiaggi at (610) 430-7258. For a free copy of the new VWR International 2003-2004 Catalog, visit www.vwr.com, phone (800) 932-5000, or write VWR International Inc 1310 Goshen Parkway, PO Box 2656, West Chester PA 19380-0906.

Chicago-based Carstens Inc is the leading North American provider of patient charting systems. It offers more than 2,000 products ranging from ringbinder chartholders, charting paper, identification cards, and labels, to mobile and roto caddy chartholder storage systems, and WALLaroo, wall-mounted workstations. For detailed information about the full line of Carstens' products, visit carstens.com. Contact Paul Bjerneberg at pbjerneberg@nrmadv.com or call (312) 422-9500, ext. 17.



Carstens condition alert cards

The new Class II Heraeus® HERAsafe® KS safety cabinets from Kendro Laboratory Products provide optimum product and personnel protection with an ergonomically superior design. The slanted front window, the rear-cabinet-wall digital eye-level-display, and use of a remote control for parameter setting combine to make our new generation of safety cabinets un-

matched in the industry. The rear-cabinet-wall eye level display allows parameter and operating functions to be conveniently monitored from a seated position. Contact Sue Mortifoglio (203) 270-2203 or e-mail mortifsa@kendro.com.

Users of the latest edition of Saf-T-Pak's "Comprehensive Guide to Shipping Infectious Substances and Diagnostic Specimens" CD-ROM will enjoy more features than before. Acting on suggestions from laboratory technicians, shippers and others, the 2003 disc allows answer changes prior to exam scoring. In addition, testing and training is now determined by an individual's region and requirements. Those who use the CD for recurrent training will like the weighted pretest. More details about the CD-ROM and other training materials Saf-T-Pak produces can be obtained by calling (800) 814-7484 or (780) 486-0211; for further information contact, Garry Melnyk at 800-814-7484 or e-mail at garrymelnyk@compuserve.com.

Testing blood for the presence of a substance called C-reactive protein, in conjunction with cholesterol testing, could be an important means of identifying persons at risk of developing heart disease, according to a study published in a recent issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The study is the largest to date on the use of C-reactive protein in cardiac risk assessment, and involved 27,939 women over the mean course of eight years. The levels of CRP associated with increased risk of heart disease are very low, and can only be detected using high sensitivity assays. Dade Behring's N high sensitivity CRP assay was one of the first such tests in the market. Medical professionals can obtain information on cardiac hsCRP by visiting the Dade Behring web site at www.dadebehring.com.

ACQUISITIONS/SALES

Forensic Analytical Specialties, Inc. of Hayward CA announced today it has completed the acquisition of Compliance Management Solutions Inc (CMS), a provider of environmental health and safety consulting services. CMS was founded in 2002 to provide cost effective solutions to help its clients proactively manage their Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) programs. CMS will add primary areas of service to the offerings of Forensic Analytical, including environmental health and safety, lead hazard management, mold investigations and mitigation planning, indoor air quality management, training and program development, and data management. Contact Kerri Sadigh at (510) 887-8828.

Palco Labs Inc, a California-based manufacturer of healthcare products and medical devices, has announced the sale of its monitoring products division to Medi+Aid, a California corporation and manufacturer of optical sensors and healthcare products. Palco Labs' monitoring division produces pulse oximeters to monitor blood oxygen levels that hospitals, clinics, and healthcare professionals use worldwide. The transfer of the monitoring division to Medi+Aid was to happen during the first quarter of 2003. For more information, call 1-800-346-4488 or e-mail info@palcolabs.com

COMING SOON

The nation's leading advocate for healthcare quality and safety today called for greater reporting of the deaths of patients who contract fatal infections while being treated for other illnesses or injuries. The bulletin issued by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) advises that the deaths of patients from hospital-acquired infec-

TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGY

tions are being seriously underreported across America. The Sentinel Event Alert, sent to nearly 17,000 JCAHO-accredited healthcare facilities, also urges compliance with new guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that advise healthcare professionals to use alcohol-based handrubs—in conjunction with traditional soap and water and sterile gloves—to prevent these acquired infections. The CDC estimates that more than two million patients annually develop infections while hospitalized for other health problems and that nearly 90,000 die as a result of these infections. Despite these high figures, the Joint Commission's seven-year-old patient safety reporting database includes only ten such reports that cover 53 patients. Contact Charlene D. Hill at (630) 792-5175.

Dade Behring has been granted a non-exclusive license under patent rights of Roche Diagnostics relating to the development, manufacture, and marketing of immunoassays that detect a key marker of congestive heart failure (CHF), NT-proBNP (N-terminal prohormone brain natriuretic peptide). B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) is secreted by the left ventricle when the heart is unable to pump blood efficiently. Synthetic BNP, marketed as Natrecor(R) (nesiritide), is a treatment for heart failure. Thus, measuring BNP does not necessarily let one differentiate between elevated BNP levels due to drug treatment and elevated BNP due to ventricular dysfunction. But the new Roche assay measures N-terminal proBNP (NT-proBNP), which is released when BNP is cleaved from its precursor, proBNP. Elevated plasma NT-proBNP indicates the presence of heart failure and provides information about its severity: the higher the blood level of NT-proBNP, the more serious

the condition. For further information, please visit www.rochediagnostics.com. Contact Melissa Ziriakus, (847) 236-7038.

Hycor Biomedical and the Diagnostics Division of Bayer HealthCare recently announced the signing of an exclusive, worldwide agreement for the development of autoimmune tests. Under the terms of the agreement, Hycor will develop and manufacture a broad menu of tests for the ADVIA Centaur Immunoassay System, and Bayer Diagnostics will retain exclusive rights to market the product. The tests will be developed using a combination of Bayer's chemiluminescence and Hycor's ELISA technologies, thereby replacing current manual immunofluorescence methods. Visit www.bayerdiag.com for more information.

ONLINE

ETotalLab.com is another 'total' online laboratory offering, and my clicking around it was rewarded with some but not all the information I was looking for (note: I am not a clinician, but a health and medical writer). After some digging, I learned that ETotalLab is a part of Clinservices, LLC, which runs Clinservices.com, with "technology solutions developed by clinical laboratory professionals" in continuing education (CE), course development, and Web enhancement. ETotalLab is a portal from Clinservices.com that offers copyrighted laboratory CE and many other categories of information, grouped under tabs such as *Education* (online CEU courses in many different clinical laboratory fields); *Careers* (must be a member to see or submit a resume); *Directory* (of laboratories) that found for me about 100 community clinics in Chicago when I searched (presumably all have a laboratory) but

was unable to find for me the major hospital I had in mind in Fairfax, Virginia; *Laboratory* included news, with a Medicare memorandum from December 2002 on New Waived Tests and other regulatory and eclectic laboratory articles (from BNP tests to one laboratorian's view of Iraqi Weapons capacity) and *News* from various general online health sources, not necessarily laboratory related. It's not obvious that the site began or was designed around CE, but I believe this is the intent of its founders. It has a lot of information, and appears to be a timely source of information about regulation of testing (warning: all new sites are up-to-date, but only dedicated pros can still provide timely information a couple of years later!).

NEW APPROACHES

In recent months the Critical Incident Analysis Group at the University of Virginia has been developing a public protection concept that extends, and significantly augments, the use of quarantine as a probable response to a bioterrorist incident. The project has allowed CIAG to draw on the expertise of many of its constituents and to develop its relationships with others, including the National Security Health Policy Center, the State Capitol Police, and the American Bar Association. This work is reflected in a monograph titled: "What is to be Done? Emerging Perspectives on Public Response to Bioterrorism," published in October 2002. Requests for this publication should be directed to ciag@virginia.edu, or write CIAG at P.O. Box 800657, Charlottesville, VA 22908-0657.