

Trends and Technology: Summer 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 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.

FDA APPROVALS

Dade Behring Holdings received clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make its D-dimer test available on its Stratus® CS instrument, for use in STAT and central laboratories and in acute care settings, such as emergency departments. An elevated D-dimer result reflects increased fibrin formation and lysis, in-

dicating the presence of a clot, and has been reported in venous thromboembolic diseases. Contact Melissa Ziriakus at (847) 236-7038.

Digene Corporation announced that the FDA has approved its High-Risk (HR) HPV DNA test as a screening test in conjunction with the Pap test for HPV infection in women age 30 and older. Called DNAwithPap, the testing combination brings improved sensitivity to screening for the cause of the second leading cancer in women worldwide. Contact Dan Hewitt at (202) 530-4695.

Bayer's Diagnostics Division has received FDA premarket approval after an expedited review for its VERSANT® HCV viral load assay. This hepatitis C assay measures HCV viral load levels to help physicians guide therapeutic decisions early in treatment. Contact Amy Samaha at (914) 366-1815.

The FDA has granted the Olympus Treponemal Palladium assay clearance for a modification. The PK™ TP system previously required specimen testing within two days; now screening can be performed on samples up to five days after collection. Contact Timothy Votapka at (631) 756-7160.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dade Behring has announced that its KnowIT™ virtual classroom (Knowledge-building Interactive Technology) is now available for its Dimension® RxL instrument customers. KnowIT(a) is the company's proprietary on-line courseware, which provides interactive

learning on-site in the laboratory, and is accessed by logging on to www.dadebehring.com. Contact Melissa Ziriakus at (847) 236-7038.

Roche Molecular Diagnostics and RWD Technologies offer a new training and certification program designed to meet the continuing education needs of clinical laboratory professionals. The MDxS (Molecular Diagnostic Services) continuing education program provides students with CD-ROM-based courseware that they can study at their own pace. They then complete an exam on a Web site: <http://Roche.MDxS.Certification.Net>. Students can purchase a specific test via credit card at a cost of \$15 per credit or \$90 for a six-credit test. For details, contact Faith DiBiasi of Roche Molecular Diagnostics at faith.dibiasi@roche.com.

NEW PRODUCTS

The new Olympus OLA2500™ laboratory automation solution is available. This system is designed for use in medium- to high-volume clinical laboratories and sample processing departments. The system automatically decaps, aliquots, and sorts tubes to any analyzer rack. Contact Timothy Votapka at (631) 756-7160.



Olympus OLA2500

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

Tecan US offers the new GENios Pro, a cost effective multimode microplate reader with increased sensitivity and measurement capabilities to meet the demands of both academic and biopharmaceutical company research laboratories. Complete with flash, luminescence, fluorescence, and fluorescence polarization, GENios Pro is an excellent addition to Tecan US's state-of-the-art GENios line of automated products and incorporates Tecan's years of experience with liquid handling. Contact Michele Valenta at (919) 361-5200 or www.tecan.com for more information.



GENios Pro microplate reader

Knovel hosts full-text online versions of today's most popular chemistry, safety books, and databases – titles like Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook, Lange's Handbook of Chemistry, and the Dictionary of Substances and Their Effects (DOSE). The 450+ titles on Knovel have been "Knovelized", a process that converts static book pages into interactive tools. These books are interactive and deeply searchable with a range of values. For more information, visit <http://www.knovel.com>.

Designed to run smoothly through copiers, printers, and presses with fewer jams and misfeeds, new heavyweight charting paper from Carstens, Inc helps healthcare facilities save time and

money by quickly and efficiently duplicating, on demand, durable, high-quality medical and patient record forms. With ringbinder holes and dust-free edges, the 24 lb. or 28 lb. charting paper is guaranteed for use in all popular high-speed copiers and laser printers. Carstens further has launched two Web sites that allow healthcare facilities to quickly and easily download, at no cost, a wide variety of charting forms or design their own customized ringbinder divider sets. At carstensfreeforms.com, healthcare facilities currently may download nearly two-dozen different charting and professional paper forms that can be printed onto Carstens' charting and professional papers. Simple to follow, step-by-step instructions at carstencustom.com make it possible to quickly create, preview, and submit for quote custom poly or paper divider sets for ringbinder chartholders. For more information, call 1-800-782-1524 or visit www.carstens.com.



Carstens charting paper

The Board of Commissioners of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)

will begin conducting all regular accreditation surveys on an unannounced basis beginning in January 2006. Unannounced surveys will be pilot-tested in volunteer organizations during 2004 and 2005. For more information on this substantially new survey process, contact Charlene D Hill at (630) 792-5175 or visit www.jcaho.org.

GPI Anatomicals is one of the largest manufacturers of anatomical models for teaching settings and medical offices. These realistic and technically accurate models are helpful also in patient education. Contact Scott Galloway at Galloway@gpianatomicals.com or visit www.gpianatomicals.com.



GPI anatomical model

VWR International and Point Systems together offer VWR Connect, a business-to-business procurement solution enabling buyers to place electronic orders directly from the various web sites of suppliers they select, including VWR International with its portfolio of 750,000 products. The foundation for VWR Connect is Point Systems' Point Purchasing™ intranet-based purchasing software system. For more information, visit www.vwr.com or phone 1-800-932-5000.