

Trends and Technology: Summer 2005

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ONLINE

Joint Commission Resources, Inc. (JCR), an affiliate of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), is a global, knowledge-based organization that disseminates information about accreditation, standards development and compliance, good practices, and health care quality improvement. The Website, www.jcric.com, offers resources that make perfectly clear what JCAHO expects of each healthcare entity. The JCR site even has a page called "This Week's Advice," which provides (the week I visited, for example) articles by JCAHO experts on the intricacies of "Elements of Performance" for categories A, B, and C. The site also has a link to a sister site for the Joint Commission International Center for Patient Safety. In June, look for the 2006 Patient Safety Goals – the 2005 new goals are there and listed in bold under "Healthcare Professionals and Providers," in the "Laboratory" category (visit www.jcpatientsafety.org). Overall, JCR offers a full spectrum of resources to benefit organizations in the business of providing or managing healthcare. The site offers information (in general terms) about JCR education programs, publications, and multimedia products, the Continuous Service Readiness initiative, comprehensive healthcare consulting and custom education, and accreditation and international consulting for organizations abroad. Visit the JCR site during that leisurely time between accreditation visits to learn about aspects of accreditation, performance improvement, and many other issues.

NEW PRODUCTS

Dade Behring announced that its KnowIT™ virtual classroom (Knowledge-building Interactive Technology) is now available for its PFA-100® System customers. KnowIT™ is the company's proprietary online courseware, which provides interactive learning on-site in the laboratory, and is accessed by logging on to www.dadebehring.com. The KnowIT™ program is a completely interactive, standardized online educational tool that offers a self-paced interactive experience with instant feedback, reinforcement, and motivation. Course modules include pre- and post-tests, with scores stored in a database for future reference. Each module features a knowledge assessment to measure performance and determine areas where further training may be needed. The course is designed to provide laboratory personnel with skills to quickly acquire the knowledge needed to operate and maintain the PFA-100® System. Contact Deirdra Dougherty at 302-631-6872.

Dolan-Jenner Industries, a leading manufacturer of fiber optic components and fiber optic illumination systems that serves the microscopy, imaging, and machine vision industries, has introduced the MI-150 Ring Light System, a 150-watt quartz halogen illuminator designed for use in laboratories. The system includes a ring light that provides high intensity illumination at high magnifications and long working distances without light adjustment when refocusing or when zoom features are used. The MI-150 Ring Light system eliminates

the clutter and heat radiation of conventional light sources and is the ideal solution for laboratory applications where shadow-free illumination is required. Contact 800-626-8324, or e-mail: jnardone@dolan-jenner.com or bgagnon@dolan-jenner.com; you may also visit www.dolan-jenner.com.

Leica Microsystems introduced the new Leica CM1850 UV clinical cryostat with UVC disinfection, designed to provide outstanding user safety while offering the highest quality sections. While sectioning, laboratory scientists can be exposed to highly infectious viruses, bacteria, and fungi. Efficient UVC rays for surface disinfection have been proven effective and as an extra measure of safety, smooth surfaces inside the cryochamber allow easy, rapid, and safe chemical spray disinfection with commercial spray disinfectants. Contact Molly Lundberg at 847-405-0123 or 800-248-0123.



Leica CM 1850

Colder Products Company introduces the new SaniQuik™ Connection, which increases operational efficiency and provides a quick, easy link between disposable systems and existing stainless steel processing equipment. Compatible with Colder's MPC and MPX Coupling Series, the new connections ease the transition to disposable tube sets, manifolds, and bag systems. SaniQuik is the latest addition to Colder's offering of innovative bioprocessing connections that provide reliable, cost-effective disposable solutions. Colder also offers a Steam-Thru™ Connection that streamlines critical processes while reducing contamination risks. Ideal for use in cell harvesting and sampling applications, SaniQuik's integral sanitary terminations attach to hard-plumbed systems with the use of tri-clover clamps. Contact toll-free 800-671-9165 or visit www.colder.com. For North American inquiries, contact Rich Herpers, rich.herpers@colder.com.

Syva launched the Emit® II Plus Ecstasy Assay, a rapid screening method for use in detecting the presence of the illegal drug ecstasy in human urine. The new Syva Emit II Plus Ecstasy Assay can be used for the qualitative and/or semiquantitative analysis of methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) and closely related drugs. In separate news, the company also announced that their Endogenous Thrombin Potential (ETP) assay for the measurement of thrombin activity became available for research studies only. The company also began shipping a revised Enzygnost™ F1+2 test for coagulation disorders. For more information, visit www.dadebehring.com.

AGREEMENTS

SomaLogic Inc, a leading clinical proteomics company, today announced that it had entered a technology development

agreement with Quest Diagnostics, a major provider of diagnostic testing, information, and services. Under the terms of the agreement, Quest Diagnostics will develop new diagnostic tests based on SomaLogic's proprietary aptamer array platform. SomaLogic is using its proprietary aptamer array technology to discover new biomarkers and patterns of biomarkers (or disease signatures) for a range of unmet needs in the area of clinical diagnostics. SomaLogic currently has active development programs in oncology, as well as cardiovascular, autoimmune, and infectious diseases. Quest Diagnostics will develop clinical diagnostic tests based on these biomarkers and disease signatures. Visit www.somallogic.com or www.Questdiagnostics.com.

FDA NEWS

Bayer HealthCare, Diagnostics Division, announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration cleared two additional claims for its fully automated test for B-type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) for patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome. In patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS), this test, in conjunction with other known risk factors, can also be used to predict survival as well as to predict the likelihood of future heart failure. Bayer's in vitro diagnostic test for the quantitative determination of BNP is available for worldwide use on the ADVIA Centaur® and the ACS:180® Immunoassay Systems. Contact Susan Hager at (781) 551-7916.

Dade Behring announced its 510(k) submission to the FDA for a Class I device classification for the Dimension Vista™ 1500 System, the company's first integrated chemistry/immunochemistry system targeted at high-volume clinical laboratory customers. The Dimension Vista System is targeted for commercialization in the second half

of 2006. The Dimension Vista™ 1500 System will combine photometry, turbidimetry, nephelometry, IMT (Integrated Multisensor Technology), and LOCI™ technologies. The new design will integrate analysis of electrolytes, general and special chemistries, drugs-of-abuse, therapeutic drugs, immunosuppressive drugs, plasma proteins, critical cardiac tests, and high-sensitivity immunoassays into one analyzer. Contact Pattie Overstreet-Miller (Media), (847) 267-5426.

IN THE FUTURE

In collaboration with BD Biosciences, AnaSpec was recently awarded a \$1.2 million Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institutes of Health for the development of products to allow for development of CNG-cAMP biosensor technology. AnaSpec will spearhead the development of new membrane potential dyes and assay kits in conjunction with this new technology. All human cells are regulated by extracellular signals that are transmitted through cell surface receptors, the vast majority of which constitute a superfamily of G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs). Drugs that act on GPCRs are widely used in therapies against a large variety of human diseases, including neurological diseases such as Parkinson's disease. The majority of GPCRs signal through a second messenger - cAMP. Atto Bioscience (recently acquired by BD Biosciences) has developed a novel cAMP assay for a real-time detection of cAMP in living cells using a proprietary cyclic nucleotide-gated (CNG) channel mutant. With the support of a Phase 1 grant from NINDS, Atto Bioscience created stable cell lines and optimized assay conditions with both Ca²⁺ and membrane potential dyes to detect activity of the CNG channels. For more information, contact (800) 452-5530.