

Trends and Technology: Spring 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 felt I was unearthing a real treasure when a routine search took me to Clinical Laboratory Science Internet Resources©, compiled by Louis B. Caruana, Ph.D. (<http://members.tripod.com/~LouCaru/index-5.html>). Caruana is professor emeritus of the Clinical Laboratory Science Program, college of Health Professions, Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. I hope that those of you unfamiliar with it will visit and share in the wonder.

He has compiled what looks to be the most comprehensive list of laboratory related sites anywhere. The main pages are divided into the traditional categories of laboratory medicine, including mycology and parasitology, but he also includes education resources, laboratory management resources, phlebotomy, professional associations and organizations, and student resources. Just to be esoteric, here are some of the links I found:

The Academy of Medical Laboratory Science—The AMLS is an academic body representing the majority of medical laboratory scientists in Ireland. Five separate sites providing information on myeloproliferative disorders. Clip-Art Alley, which

claims to be the largest clip-art gallery online, plus many other sites for using technology effectively, creating web sites, learning HTML, and so on.

This review space cannot do it justice—so many of the major diseases and their diagnostic tests, all of the laboratory professional associations I could think of, government and industry resources, handy documents, recommended reading lists—it was all there. My only beef is that he includes absolutely everything—I started to count the sheer number of links but gave up: you must visit this site yourself. Perhaps the sitemaster could sponsor a contest by popular vote of the most *valuable* clinical laboratory sites. P.S. Dr. Caruana encourages you to contact him if you find any of the lists are not functional: loucaruana@rocketmail.com.

NEW PRODUCTS

The new VIDAS assay from bioMérieux is a reliable test for monitoring prostate cancer. The VIDAS TPSA assay provides an accurate means for determining total PSA and delivers high-quality results for precise and reliable monitoring. Single-dose reagents and calibration concepts ensure the cost of analysis remains the same when running single tests or batches. Contact Bob Bokerman (800) 638-4835, ext. 8090.

The Heraeus HERAsafe® HS 12 biological safety cabinet (Class II, type A/B3, according to NSF Standard 49) offers unmatched operator and sample protection. There is an aerosol-tight, motor-driven front window that seals the inner chamber to protect users and samples. The SampleGUARD™ system also eliminates the need for time-consuming taping before decontamination. North American Kendro customers contact (800) 522-7746.



Heraeus HERAsafe® HS 12 biological safety cabinet

Ohaus has introduced new precision models for its Explorer® and Voyager® lines. By adding the 610 g x 1 mg and 6100 g x 10 mg models, Ohaus has expanded the range of weighing capability. The company also has introduced a Draftshield for its Adventurer® line of balances. The new square Draftshield protects the entire weighing chamber from external elements and offers multiple entry points for the user. Contact Michael Guzy at (973) 944-7031.

Zeiss has a new release of the KS Elispot image analysis software for microscopic examination and measurement of large serum quantities, for both routine and research applications. For example, the software can be used to monitor tumor or AIDS therapies. The KS Elispot 4.3 release system provides high sample throughput and optimum measuring accuracy, which is extremely important to immunologists and oncologists. Zeiss also has introduced a new 3D Deconvolution software module to improve image quality in fluores-

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cence microscopy. The new software offers major benefits in functionality and operating conveniences. These functions include automatic reading of all recording parameters from the image data; preview of Region-of-Interest function; and deconvolving of the image with an automatic calculation stop when the optimum image quality has been achieved. Contact M. Yurovitsky at (914) 681-7645.

The BD Vacutainer™ Anaerobic Specimen Collector maintains an oxygen-free environment for fragile anaerobic swab, tissue, or liquid specimens that maintain an oxygen-free environment up to 72 hours. When the plunger on top of the system is pressed, an oxygen-eliminating system is activated, which converts oxygen and hydrogen into water. This media-free device is provided in a sterile, easy-peel pouch designed for use in the operating room or other sterile environments. Contact Joy Sussman at (410) 316-4467.



BD Vacutainer™ anaerobic specimen collector

KeyLogic Systems, Inc. unveiled TeamLeader 2002, the latest release of its team automation system designed to help people work together more effectively. TeamLeader 2002 offers fast relief to organizations like laboratories that want to automate teamwork functions without investing heavily in workflow customization or business process reengineering. The 2002 release strongly resembles the way small-

business teams work together, making an out-of-the-box implementation much easier than traditional workflow systems. TeamLeader 2002 allows users to assign, track and manage work, documents, forms and other types of information without replacing existing systems. Contact Cary Landis at (304) 296-9100.

The Olympus OLA4000 Workcell automation system is designed for laboratories in medium- and high-volume hospitals and commercial reference laboratories. The OLA4000 fully automates the labor-intensive tasks associated with sample processing by automating sample identification, centrifugation, decapping, and output sorting of specimen tubes. It also integrates Olympus AU analyzers for automated rack loading and unloading along with centralized data processing. Sample tracking capabilities allow for quick identification of specimens while reducing biohazard and blood-borne pathogen contact by laboratory personnel. OLA 4000 can process a wide variety of sample tubes and specimen closure containers that use the most common bar code formats. Contact Timothy Votapka at (631) 756-7160.



Olympus OLA4000 Workcell

Polaroid Corporation has introduced the Digital GelCam – a new, high-resolution digital camera system that addresses the photographic needs of scientists and medical professionals who use gel electrophoresis to study and document DNA separation and protein analysis. The GelCam provides a total solution for professionals to analyze, document and archive their work. The system includes a 2.3 megapixel

Polaroid PhotoMAX PDC 2300Z digital camera, with 1792 x 1200 image resolution and is available with a seven-inch or 11-inch hood. The Polaroid GelCam includes sophisticated image analysis software, Gel-Pro® Express 4.0. Contact Kim Reingold at (781) 386-3573; reingok@polaroid.com.

Quater Research & Development announces the release of its new XYZ-1000 Series of high-precision micropositioners. These small devices provide for ultra-precise manual positioning of probes, test heads, lasers, optics and numerous other subassemblies in a broad range of test, instrumentation, and analytical applications. The XYZ-1000 Series provides X-, Y-, and Z- axis positioning with 1 inch (25mm) of travel on each axis. Designed for both space and cost efficiency, these positioners measure just 3.75 x 4.0 x 4.75 inches. For further information, visit the Quater website: www.quater-research.com.

NEW PURCHASING ARRANGEMENTS

Dade Behring and Consorta Catholic Resource Partners today announced they have signed a sole source contract for Dade Behring's MicroScan® line of microbiology instruments, reagents, and supplies. With this contract, Dade Behring now provides the group purchasing and resource management company with its complete line of diagnostics equipment and supplies. Consorta is the third largest group purchasing organization (GPO) in the country in purchases per facility. Dade Behring has also struck a deal with MedAssets HSCA to renew and expand current contracts for laboratory products. "With its broad range of equipment for small, medium and large-sized laboratories, as well as an extensive service network, Dade Behring provides solutions that meet the needs of our diverse membership base," said Mary Ellen Kimmeth, MedAssets HSCA, Inc.'s Director of Clinical Laboratory Services. For further information, contact Pattie Overstreet-Miller at Dade Behring, (847) 267-5426.