

Trends and Technology: Summer 2004

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.

NEW PRODUCTS

Kimball Genetics is pleased to announce availability of the One-Day Celiac Disease DNA Test for cheek cell specimens in addition to blood. Cheek cell specimens are popular with both patients and physicians because they eliminate the need for a blood draw and are convenient to collect and ship. Kimball Ge-

netics' unique ability to perform celiac disease testing on cheek cells enables direct-to-consumer marketing of this service. For more information, contact Juli Murphy, (800) 320-1807.

American Diagnostica offers an extensive line of clinical laboratory products. Among its most recent offerings are its Imubind®/ELISA-based test kit for the quantitation of activated human factor VII(fVIIa) in plasma, as well as in cell culture supernatants; a line of optimized test kits for the determination of Thrombin Activatable Fibrinolysis Inhibitor (TAFI); and an extensive offering of hemostasis reference, deficient, and control plasmas to support the needs of clinical laboratory scientists. The company also offers a broad line of control materials for anti-phospholipid antibody testing. Contact Robert Trinka, (203) 602-7777, ext 31.



American Diagnostica Hemostasis Controls

Tecan US has introduced Freedom EVOware®, a unique pipetting and instrument control software package

with dynamic scheduling for Tecan's Freedom EVO series of liquid handling workstations. This product has applications in clinical diagnostics, genomics, proteomics, and drug discovery. Contact Michele Valenta, (919) 361-5200 or visit www.tecan.com.

Leica Microsystems has introduced a new transfer station that automatically transfers slides from the Leica Autostainer XL slide stainer to the Leica CV5030 automated coverslipper. The Leica TS5015 transfer station provides walkaway staining and coverslipping solutions for the histology laboratory. Contact Molly Lundberg, (847) 405-7026.



Leica TS 5015 Transfer Station

VWR International announces the introduction of a new line of VWR Signature™ Pipettors. These quality liquid-handling instruments provide superior accuracy and precision over competitive models. Available in variable-volume, fixed-volume and multichannel models, the new pipettors offer an extremely comfortable handle design, high accuracy and precision specifications. The VWR Signature Variable Volume Pipettors cover the range from 0.2µl to 5000µl in nine single channel units. For more information, call (800) 932-5000 or visit www.vwr.com.

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.

Stanbio Laboratory announces the availability of its latest generation hemoglobin and hematocrit system. The CLIA-Waived, HemoPoint® H2 Test System provides a dedicated hemoglobin and hematocrit meter for use in physician offices and professional healthcare locations including public health clinics and blood centers. The HemoPoint H2 Test System consists of a proprietary HemoPoint H2 test microcuvette along with the HemoPoint H2 photometer to accurately and precisely measure hemoglobin in whole blood. Contact Mike Wade, (830) 249-0772 or visit stanbio@stanbio.com.

The new Mettler Toledo LabX balance software allows users to replace traditional paper-based weighing processes with a more powerful, efficient, and secure networked data system. The LabX balance software saves time, uniquely tracks user and balance data and metadata, while reducing mistakes. Additionally, the LabX software gives an organization the ability to take user compliance a step further by allowing it to establish and enforce up to three levels of job release control. Contact Sheila St Jean, (614) 438-4936.

ONLINE

The Laboratories At Bonfils (L.A.B.) in Denver have implemented a new Web-based reporting system, designed as a tool for clients to receive laboratory test results expeditiously and in a user-friendly Web environment. The new reporting system minimizes time-consuming faxes and paperwork and allows multiple organizations and physicians to share reports. While developed for the transplant industry, the system is also of benefit to clinical clients. Clients awaiting test results can receive instant notification of available results through email or their Web-enabled

mobile phone or handheld wireless device. Laboratories At Bonfils are market leaders in laboratory testing for infectious disease markers, microbiology and immunogenetics. For more information, visit www.labsatbonfils.com.

I have happily discovered some individual Web sites (homepages) created by laboratory scientists across the globe. Want your blood banking/transfusion medicine information compiled and delivered with a personal touch? In this issue, I review the site of Pat Letendre, who works at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. As a subscriber in the early 1990s, I was a very inactive participant but active reader of clinical laboratory bulletin board (MEDLAB-L) run by Pat, and I was impressed with her fairness and firm hand as the manager of that lively and informative bulletin board. Those who go to her homepage, <http://www.ualberta.ca/~pletendr>, will find among many other things, her link to blood banking/transfusion medicine. Posted at this link are a number of useful and informational articles, assembled by categories, such as "associations," "blood order schedules" (from various facilities), and "complications of blood transfusion," which takes you to Pat's consulting page, with much free information and full-text abstracts and articles on complications. Under "Search Goodies" link, she includes medical search engines. Under the "Analysing Literature" link, I found "How to read a paper: Papers that report diagnostic or screening tests" and many other tools for analyzing scientific validity of clinical research. Pat also offers an extensive "Medical-Laboratory" list of resources. There's even a "Lab Poetry" link. Pat's mission appears to be informing laboratory scientists worldwide and keeping them connected through MEDLAB-L. As with so many

sites on the Web, hers is a labor of love, love of all things laboratory.

AGREEMENTS

Roche Diagnostics Corporation announced it has signed new three-year contracts with Premier Purchasing Partners, LLP to continue providing Roche Diagnostics' instruments, reagents, and consumables to Premier members for multiple product categories. Covered under these contracts are the MODULAR® ANALYTICS and Integrated MODULAR® ANALYTICS systems; the COBAS Integra® Systems; MODULAR PRE-ANALYTICS Systems and VS II Automation Systems; MODULAR, COBAS Integra, and Elecsys® reagent kits; automated and visual urinalysis products and point-of-care coagulation products. The test menu covered by these contracts includes proBNP, troponin T, free Prostate-Specific Antigen (free-PSA), D-Dimer, which are measured in patients with heart disease, prostate cancer and deep vein thrombosis respectively. Contact Lori LeRoy, (317) 521-7159.

In a different arrangement, Roche Diagnostics announced that the company has renewed a three-year contract with HealthTrust Purchasing Group (HPG) to provide visual and automated urinalysis products for acute care and alternate site facilities. The contract is effective May 1, 2004 through April 30, 2007 and has a total value of \$3.6 million. Contact Robin Filiaggi, (610) 430-7258.

Dade Behring and Aventis Behring LLC announced the signing of an exclusive license agreement which provides Dade Behring with worldwide in vitro diagnostic rights for the inventions of Aventis Behring that relate to the factor VII activating protease (FSAP) and mutant forms of FSAP.

One recently-described mutant (Marburg I(1)) of FSAP has shown promise as a significant and independent risk predictor for the progression of carotid stenosis. Much more must be done before a routine assay is developed. FSAP is the first marker described for arterial occlusion linking coagulation disorders with chronic diseases of the arteries. Further studies will be done to elucidate the role of FSAP beyond carotid stenosis as a potential marker in a variety of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. For more information visit www.AventisBehring.com and www.dadebehring.com.

Health Line Clinical Laboratories, Inc., a leading regional provider of clinical laboratory services, has announced it has signed a five-year strategic alliance agreement with Roche Diagnostics to establish itself as a Molecular Center of Excellence to perform routine molecular diagnostic testing, esoteric genomic testing, and other related diagnostics services using Roche's patented Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and other advanced genomic technologies.

Recruitment Site Engages Students and Teachers in Clinical Laboratory Science

"Your Hospital Laboratory" is a career Web site, developed through a joint effort of the Pathology Department at the Medical Center of Louisiana in New Orleans and the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, and is designed to increase visibility of the profession to students and teachers.

www.mclno.org/labpartners/index.htm

The Web site is aimed at middle and high school students and teachers and provides a written lesson plan, handouts, exams, and a Web-based simulation of WBC differentials.

Incentives for teachers along with science project ideas, career information and more are offered at the Web site. For more information, visit the Web site.



Future contributions will be supported by a grant from the ASCLS E&R Fund.