

From the President's Desk

written by CAP TODAY
November 18, 2023

November 2023—For 100 years, pathologists have been called “the doctor’s doctor.” We have traditionally done our work in the background, interacting mostly with other physicians and not visible to or known by patients.



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Clinical pathology selected abstracts

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November 2023—Among the many reasons unnecessary laboratory tests are ordered in a hospital are preselected orders on order sets, clinician habits, and trainee concerns. Laboratory tests are among the highest volume procedures performed in inpatient hospital care. Excessive use of these tests can lead to patient discomfort as a result of unnecessary phlebotomy and contribute to iatrogenic anemia and increased risk of bloodstream infections. It can also contribute to the rising cost of medical care. Many laboratory stewardship programs have been developed to improve how clinicians order and use lab tests.



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[Anatomic pathology selected abstracts](#)

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November 2023—Claudin-4 is a sensitive and specific marker for carcinoma in effusion cytology. The authors examined the diagnostic use of claudin-4 versus MOC-31 and Ber-EP4 by comparing their sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, and negative predictive value in differentiating carcinoma from mesothelioma and benign/mesothelial hyperplasia in effusion specimens. They conducted a retrospective study on a cohort of 229 cytology specimens, including 211 effusion fluid and 18 fine-needle aspiration specimens. The cytologic categories included 134 carcinoma, 28 mesothelioma, 46 indefinite (suspicious and atypical), and 21 benign.



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[Molecular pathology selected abstracts](#)

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November 2023—Dilated cardiomyopathy is characterized by dilation and weakening of one or both ventricles combined with impaired contractility. Although several external etiologies are associated with dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), a familial form (comprising about half the known cases of DCM) has symptoms that tend to arise in mid-adulthood. Despite the genetic nature of the familial form, little is known about the genetic profile of the disease. Black patients have an increased familial risk of DCM and often have a worse prognosis. The authors conducted a study in which they used genomic ancestry to compare the rare variant genetic architecture of DCM within a diverse patient population.



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Q&A column

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Q. A molecular laboratory received an order from an oncologist for next-generation sequencing testing. The patient's tissue sample was in the custody of a different laboratory, which has a policy requiring patient consent to release materials for reference lab testing.

The oncologist planned to obtain consent from the patient during a scheduled appointment, but the patient's condition unexpectedly worsened and the patient could no longer travel for the appointment. Neither the custodial laboratory nor the treating health system have mechanisms for electronic consent.

As a result of the lack of options for obtaining consent remotely and the custodial laboratory's stringent consent policy, potentially life-altering NGS testing was delayed for more than a month. Is this restrictive approach to releasing patient material for reference laboratory testing supported by CAP guidelines? [Read answer.](#)

Q. Is it acceptable to perform weak D testing on a newborn who has an RhD-negative blood type and a positive direct antiglobulin test? We know a positive DAT might cause false-positive results on an Rh test, but can it cause false-negative results? [Read answer.](#)



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Newsbytes

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November 2023—“The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas,” according to Linus Pauling, a chemist and chemical engineer who, among other accomplishments, helped create a form of synthetic plasma. But when there is no structure in place to nurture those ideas, the result can be “a lot of people focused in a lot of different directions,” says Sky Soom, innovation analyst with Sonora Quest Laboratories.

[Put It on the Board](#)

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November 2023—Roche announced last month the U.S. launch of its Cobas Connection Modules (CCM) Vertical, the elevator and overhead components of its fully automated and modular CCM system to help low-, mid-, and high-volume laboratories optimize space, productivity, and patient care.

[LGC launches unmethylated and methylated ctDNA mixes](#)

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Nov. 16, 2023—LGC Clinical Diagnostics has launched Seraseq unmethylated and methylated ctDNA mutation mixes for assay development, validation, and routine performance monitoring.

[Amplify the value of your AP LIS](#)

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Now available from NovoPath and PathAI is a free webinar that aims to help viewers understand how digital pathology and AI can help an organization. Speakers Eric Walk, MD, Jim Sweeney, and R. Shawn Kinsey, MD, from PathAI and Ed Youssef from NovoPath discuss how digital pathology and AI can streamline your pathology workflows and how some of the largest labs in the United States are already applying these applications. The webinar, titled “Digital pathology and artificial intelligence 101: unlocking value from the AP LIS,” is available through the link [here](#). Registration is required to access the webinar.



[Leica adds software features to Aperio GT 450 scanner](#)

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Nov. 13, 2023—Leica Biosystems has released three software features that aim to improve image quality and flexible scanning solutions in research settings for its Aperio GT 450 digital pathology scanner.



