

Molecular pathology selected abstracts

written by CAP TODAY

April 16, 2022

- Ability of glioblastoma mutations to alter EGFR dimers to prevent ligand bias
- Impact of prior influenza virus infection on response to influenza vaccination



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Q&A column

written by CAP TODAY

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Q. Is it necessary to perform a manual cell count for body fluids, including CSF, using a hemocytometer? Can clinical decisions be made based on low cell counts in body fluid reported by automated cell counters since these instruments have decreased precision and accuracy with low counts? [Read answer.](#)

Q. Is there a time limit for a critical value—for example, when a specimen is drawn at 8 AM, the lab receives it at 5 PM (due to courier issues) and has a result at 10 PM, and the value falls in the critical range? Since it is now 14 hours after the draw, the lab value may no longer be actionable. No clinician would act on a critical value that is a week old, so at what point is the lab value no longer considered critical? [Read answer.](#)

Q. Given that blood specimen collection tubes are in short supply, many laboratories may need to switch to an alternative collection tube manufacturer. What validation studies are necessary before an alternative collection tube can be implemented? [Read answer.](#)



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Newsbytes

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April 2022—Michelle Stoffel, MD, PhD, supports the use of Excel spreadsheets in some areas of laboratory medicine, but not necessarily as a laboratory workflow tool. It's a realization she came to when, as a clinical informatics fellow at the University of Washington School of Medicine, she led the charge to revamp the workflow for the immunology laboratory's Merkel cell antibody panel.



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Put It on the Board

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April 2022—Cofactor Genomics announced publication of a study showing that its multianalyte biomarkers based on T cell subtype profiling (TCSP) predicted patient response to anti-PD-1 therapy in three cancers (lung, melanoma, head and neck) and outperformed the indicated PD-L1 test and tumor mutational burden (Schillebeeckx I, et al. *Sci Rep.* 2022;12[1]:1342).



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FDA authorizes COVID-19 breathalyzer test

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April 15, 2022—The FDA issued an emergency use authorization to InspectIR Systems for its InspectIR COVID-19 Breathalyzer test.



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BioMérieux acquires Specific Diagnostics

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April 12, 2022—BioMérieux has entered into an agreement to acquire Specific Diagnostics, a privately held U.S.-based company that developed a rapid antimicrobial susceptibility test system.



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Tempus unveils Edge pathology-driven AI platform

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April 1, 2022—Tempus has announced plans to launch Edge, a platform that will enable pathology practices to access the company’s digital pathology AI models, during the second half of this year.



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[Accelerate Diagnostics launches Arc module, BC kit](#)

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March 28, 2022—Accelerate Diagnostics launched the Accelerate Arc system for rapid and accurate microbial identification of positive blood cultures.



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[Qiagen expands QuantiFeron portfolio](#)

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March 2022—Qiagen announced expansion initiatives for its QuantiFeron portfolio, including developing new applications for technology designed to detect potentially deadly latent diseases. Among the company’s recent developments are the CE marking of its QuantiFeron SARS-CoV-2 assay, which launched in December 2021; the FDA’s expansion of the range of target groups that can be tested with the blood-based QuantiFeron-TB Gold assay, which now includes people with weakened immune systems, pregnant women, and children; and the Global Fund’s expert review panel for

diagnostics' approval of the QIArearch QuantiFeron-TB test, which means the test may now be procured by public health programs and institutions in more than 100 countries that qualify for Global Fund and Unitaidd resources, as well as made available through the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility.



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[Elga's Medica clinical water purification systems](#)

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March 2022—Elga LabWater has designed a range of clinical water purification systems under the product name Medica. The product line comprises six water purification systems to accommodate a range of clinical analyzers.



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