

[Hardy Diagnostics releases group A strep agar](#)

written by CAP TODAY
November 18, 2021

November 2021—Hardy Diagnostics released its HardyChrom Group A Strep agar, a chromogenic medium recommended for the selective cultivation and differentiation of group A streptococcus from clinical specimens. Identification can be made based on colony color—the medium will display red-brown or red-orange colonies on the HardyChrom Group A Strep agar when *Streptococcus pyogenes* is present; non-group A streptococcus isolates will appear as blue, clear, or white colonies.



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[Thermo Fisher appointed U.S. distributor of APAS Independence](#)

written by CAP TODAY
November 18, 2021

November 2021—Clever Culture Systems signed a five-year agreement for Remel, a part of Thermo Fisher, to be the exclusive U.S. distributor of the APAS Independence. The FDA-cleared automated culture plate reader will be added to Thermo Fisher's portfolio of microbiology products in the United States. Under the agreement, Thermo Fisher will provide sales and marketing, installation, maintenance, and support services to customers in the United States.



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Cobas 5800 molecular Dx system launched in CE markets

written by CAP TODAY
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Nov. 18, 2021—Roche launched its Cobas 5800 system in countries accepting the CE mark.



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A sizable shift in CNS tumor classification

written by CAP TODAY
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November 2021—Much has changed since the last WHO classification of central nervous system tumors was published five years ago. Case in point: When the group of authors met in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in late 2019, everyone anticipated two more WHO meetings in Europe to work further on the 2021 classification. Arie Perry, MD, a coauthor on both classifications, says the group photo was cheery. “Everybody was smiling.” The later trips to Europe were canceled because of the pandemic and the group met instead by Zoom. “Now everybody looked grumpy,” he says of a screen shot. Fortunately, “We got everything done, even if it wasn’t quite as pleasant,” says Dr. Perry, professor of pathology and neurological surgery, Department of Pathology, Division of Neuropathology, University of California, San Francisco. The result is the latest WHO classification, which offers dramatic changes of its own. “I’m really excited about the new WHO,” he says. “At first it takes a little getting used to”—like, say, a face mask—“but I think it’s another major advance, just like we had last time.”



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[New hope for lab data interoperability](#)

written by CAP TODAY
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November 2021—Interoperability, a problem of long standing in health care, has a new push and new prospects. Interoperability has become a front-burner issue because it has become increasingly urgent to bring the standardized communication of health care data up to speed.



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[Compass Group members on test pre-approvals, staff search and strategies](#)

written by CAP TODAY
November 18, 2021

November 2021—Flexible scheduling to suit family life and new “lab associate” roles—two solutions in progress or in place in labs wrestling with the staffing shortage. That and precision medicine test pre-approvals and utilization were some of what Compass Group members talked about on Oct. 5 in a virtual roundtable led by CAP TODAY publisher Bob McGonnagle.



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[Latest checklist takes quality management to next level](#)

written by CAP TODAY
November 18, 2021

November 2021—In the latest edition of the laboratory general checklist, released in September, the requirements of the CAP Accreditation Programs have been edited to be more aligned with CAP 15189 (ISO 15189) accreditation requirements.



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[Lab analysis in diabetes—a preview of what's to come](#)

written by CAP TODAY
November 18, 2021

November 2021—The guidelines for laboratory analysis in the diagnosis and management of diabetes mellitus are being revised and will be released next year. In a virtual session at the AACC meeting in September, laboratorians got a look at some of the recommendations to come.



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For genomic testing, a homegrown software solution

written by CAP TODAY
November 18, 2021

November 2021—At NorthShore University HealthSystem in suburban Chicago, a homegrown bioinformatics solution is the “secret sauce” that powers the health system’s personalized medicine program, says Kamalakar Gulukota, PhD, MBA, director of NorthShore’s Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology.



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AMP case report: A patient with an unexpected cancer predisposition syndrome—somatic tumor mutation testing and germline mutation testing complement each other

written by CAP TODAY
November 18, 2021

November 2021—Molecular analysis of advanced stage tumors has become the gold standard for identifying potential targetable mutations with high sensitivity, even in limited size tissue samples. However, when only tumor tissue is sequenced, it is difficult to differentiate between somatic mutations in the tumor cells versus constitutional (germline) mutations.



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