

How to prevail over a crisis using data analytics

written by CAP TODAY
September 16, 2021

September 2021—The pandemic has pelted hospitals and laboratories with wild cards and sometimes thrown wrenches into the works. But the jolts it has delivered to normal institutional operations, forcing new solutions to business and clinical care dilemmas, have also positioned laboratories to help produce stunning new capabilities.

A preanalytics push in accreditation checklists

written by CAP TODAY
September 16, 2021

September 2021—Taking steps to protect the integrity of specimens is at the heart of new and revised requirements in this year's edition of the accreditation program checklists, set for release Sept. 22. A CAP team made up of members of the Checklists, Personalized Health Care, and Cytopathology committees collaborated to incorporate into the checklists the evidence-based recommendations set forth in a 2019 article on preanalytics and precision pathology. Many of the new and revised requirements, which are in seven checklists, are aimed at improving the quality of tissue and blood specimens that may undergo molecular testing for patients with cancer. The aim of others is to improve the preanalytic quality of specimens used for all types of testing.

Salaries, schools, students—all eyes on workforce

written by CAP TODAY
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September 2021—SARS-CoV-2 spread and the staffing shortage drove the conversation when Compass Group members met Aug. 3 for their monthly call led by CAP TODAY publisher Bob McGonnagle. "Like others, we were seeing problems before COVID, but COVID seems to have kicked it into overdrive," Steven Carroll, MD, PhD, of the Medical University of South Carolina, said of the shortage. And more long term, it's time to jump-start training programs, he and others say. The Compass Group is an organization of not-for-profit IDN system laboratory leaders who collaborate to identify and share best

practices and strategies. Here is what they shared last month.

For MammaPrint and BluePrint, the long-term view

written by CAP TODAY
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September 2021—The latest data on the use of two genomic assays in early-stage breast cancer and at the University of Rochester Medical Center as the pandemic set in were reported in a CAP TODAY webinar presented by William Audeh, MD, and David G. Hicks, MD. Dr. Audeh, medical oncologist and chief medical officer of Agendia, developer of MammaPrint and BluePrint, presented the long-term follow-up results of the MINDACT trial and an age-related analysis, as well as new data on MammaPrint's use in endocrine therapy decisions.

From the President's Desk: Looking back, looking ahead

written by CAP TODAY
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September 2021—As my term as president of the College of American Pathologists comes to a close, I am both honored and humbled to have been selected by my peers for this position. Over the past two years our organization was presented with the greatest challenge we have ever faced. Because of our phenomenal members and staff, we have accomplished great things even though we worked under the most adverse conditions. We, yet again, backed a horse named CAP. It broke out of the gate well and had to weave through traffic on a bad track, but we are ahead. We made the right bet and I am so, so lucky to have been chosen to be the jockey for this race. Looking back, the COVID-19 pandemic presented our community with relatively sudden and profound changes resulting in a tremendous number of challenges. It has dominated our lives. We should be proud of our accomplishments. We have not only put out many fires and sewn up deep wounds, but we have also set up the College and our fellows for continued success so that we will be able to keep serving our patients well.

[Clinical pathology selected abstracts](#)

written by CAP TODAY
September 16, 2021

September 2021—Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death for men and women, with approximately 52,980 deaths projected this year. Although colorectal cancer is most frequently diagnosed in adults between the ages of 65 and 74 years, about 10.5 percent of new colorectal cancer cases will occur in those younger than 50 years of age.

[Anatomic pathology selected abstracts](#)

written by CAP TODAY
September 16, 2021

September 2021—Nivolumab is an immune checkpoint inhibitor approved for treating many types of cancer, including hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Liver injury is a known complication in patients treated with nivolumab for nonliver tumors. The morphologic changes to tumor and nontumor liver have not been well-characterized in HCC patients.

[Pathology informatics selected abstracts](#)

written by CAP TODAY
September 16, 2021

September 2021—Chronic myelogenous leukemia is a clonal stem cell disorder driven by the *BCR-ABL1* fusion oncogene and accounts for 15 percent of adult leukemias. Patients typically present with abnormalities in their complete blood cell counts with differential classification.

[Molecular pathology selected abstracts](#)

written by CAP TODAY
September 16, 2021

September 2021—More than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, an essential question remains

unanswered: Why do some people infected with SARS-CoV-2 develop severe life-threatening disease or die while others are asymptomatic or have only mild disease symptoms?

Q&A column

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September 2021

Q. What is the ideal collection tube for measuring the level of ammonia in blood? Is a tube containing EDTA suitable?[Read answer](#).

Q. Is there a requirement to notify nursing personnel or doctors about each critical value obtained for a patient after the initial occurrence of the critical result?[Read answer](#).