Q&A column

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

Q. What is the recommended procedure for analyzing cerebrospinal fluid from patients suspected of having Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease? In addition to sending the specimen to the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center for 14-3-3 testing, should the laboratory perform a cell count and/or meningitis panel? Read answer. **Q.** Is light protection needed for folate samples? Most major reference laboratories do not require folate samples to be protected from light, and I could not find any studies on the topic. Read answer. **Q.** Many times a platelet count on an automated hematology system indicates some degree of thrombocytopenia or the analyzer reports a high mean platelet volume or platelet large cell ratio, while a blood smear shows large platelets and/or giant platelets. Is it OK to include a comment in the report that the platelets are adequate or that the count could be due to large platelets, especially with values that indicate marked thrombocytopenia? Read answer.

Newsbytes

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

April 2021—The rewards of data analytics can be sizable, but so can the challenges of extracting data, transforming it, and loading it into the appropriate systems to facilitate the functionality.

Put It on the Board

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

April 2021—In an Association for Molecular Pathology survey focused on molecular testing in oncology during the pandemic, 70 percent of 163 respondents reported having decreased or stopped the development and validation of new tests in their laboratories.

FDA authorizes two Quidel SARS-CoV-2 tests

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

April 16, 2021—Quidel received FDA emergency use authorization allowing the company to market its QuickVue At-Home OTC COVID-19 Test for the qualitative detection of the nucleocapsid protein antigen from SARS-CoV-2 from individuals with or without symptoms or other epidemiological reasons to suspect COVID-19 when tested twice over two or three days, with at least 24 hours, but no more than 36 hours, between tests.

FDA expands EUA for TaqPath COVID-19 combo kit

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

April 14, 2021–Thermo Fisher Scientific announced the FDA has expanded emergency use authorization for the Applied Biosystems TaqPath COVID-19 Combo Kit to include the high-throughput Thermo Fisher Scientific Amplitude solution.

Promega launches XpressAmp Direct Amplification Reagents

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

April 13, 2021—Promega Corp. released its XpressAmp Direct Amplification Reagents.

Herbek Hustle Memorial 5K

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

Gene Herbek, MD, FCAP, was a respected pathologist at Methodist Hospital for nearly 20 years as well as a beloved husband, father, and friend. His passing in 2020 was a tremendous loss for his loved ones, patients, and colleagues.

The Women's Methodist Hospital pathology department, Methodist Hospital, and the CAP Foundation together with Dr. Herbek's family present the Herbek Hustle 5K Memorial Fun Run on June 19.

DiaSorin acquires Luminex for $1.8 billion

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

April 12, 2021—DiaSorin has signed a definitive merger agreement to acquire Luminex for a total equity value of about $1.8 billion.

Hologic to acquire Mobidiag

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

April 9, 2021—Hologic has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Mobidiag Oy, a privately held Finnish-French developer of molecular diagnostic tests and instrumentation, for about $795 million.

Roche launches Elecsys Epstein-Barr virus immunoassay panel

written by CAP TODAY
April 17, 2021

April 8, 2021—Roche’s Elecsys EBV panel has launched in countries accepting the CE mark