

[Put It on the Board](#)

written by CAP TODAY
October 6, 2016

October 2016—Cancer Moonshot has diagnostic thrust: Vice president Joe Biden’s Cancer Moonshot now has a flight plan, drafted by a blue-ribbon panel and published in September. Coming as it does in the final year of president Obama’s term in office, there are doubts about whether the ambitious \$1 billion program—aimed at achieving 10 years’ progress in cancer research and treatment in a five-year period—will ever get off the launching pad.



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[What pharmacogenomics can make possible](#)

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Oct. 5, 2016—Clinical laboratories and pathology groups ought to master the emerging areas of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics that open the door to a more personalized approach to drug prescribing, says a free (registration required) white paper published by *Dark Daily*. [Read](#).

By identifying drugs most likely to benefit a patient, assessing the likely dose response, potentially avoiding adverse reactions, and reducing unnecessary use of drugs, pharmacogenomics testing can help optimize treatment and reduce costs associated with complications or inappropriate utilization. The growing demand for this kind of testing presents a big opportunity for clinical laboratories, say the laboratory leaders and experts consulted for the white paper.



Beauty fad's ugly downside: test interference

written by CAP TODAY
October 6, 2016

September 2016—It's the kind of health promotion advice one might pick up casually over lunch with friends, in a quick Google search, or during a visit to the hairdresser. Take megadoses of an over-the-counter vitamin called biotin—a common supplement in multivitamin compounds—and watch your skin improve and your hair and nails thicken and gleam. In recent years, online social networks and health-related websites have begun to teem with ads claiming that people have seen a transformation since they jumped on the biotin bandwagon.



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From the President's Desk: In the eye of the brainstorm, 9/16

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September 2016—Radiolab is a radio show and podcast about (mostly) scientific curiosities co-hosted by a perpetually interested guy who majored in music. You might describe it as a talk show for science geeks. These are people who know how to ask the right questions and put the answers in context. A recent installment ("Colors") questions whether color is a concrete characteristic of the physical world or simply a mental overlay we apply to our perception. Early on, you learn that a young Isaac Newton pursued the mechanism of color perception by piercing his own eye with a knife. I was hooked.

Mass spec up front for pain management testing: Interest growing in oral fluid testing as alternative to urine testing

written by CAP TODAY
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September 2016—This fall, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, is taking the mass spec leap. A plucky PR person might be tempted to refer to it as MassSpec LEAP!™ but Stacy Melanson, MD, PhD, doesn’t have time for such nonsense. As the associate director of clinical laboratories and co-director of chemistry, Dr. Melanson has more important matters to attend to. She and her colleagues are shifting from using a screening immunoassay for pain management drug testing to up-front definitive testing by LC tandem mass spectrometry.

ALK-negative anaplastic large T-cell lymphoma with a complex karyotype and *DUSP22* gene rearrangement

written by CAP TODAY
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September 2016—ALK-negative anaplastic large T-cell lymphoma with a complex karyotype and DUSP22 gene rearrangement: A 55-year-old male with no significant past medical history presented to an outside institution with a one-month history of a right-sided neck mass. A CT of the neck revealed cervical lymphadenopathy.



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[Laboratory accreditation program 2016 checklists: Less legwork, more clarity seen in personnel changes](#)

written by CAP TODAY
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September 2016—For the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, inspection checklist requirements covering personnel are a perennial concern. They are the leading source of disparities between the findings of the program’s inspectors and inspection audits done by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Personnel is also high on the list of questions asked of Laboratory Accreditation Program staff. “Personnel is a hot topic for the College,” says CAP Checklists Committee chair William W. West, MD.



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New from CAP Press: Inspired by pathology, connected through art

written by CAP TODAY
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September 2016—When Ray Paul was diagnosed with sarcoma in 2011, he wanted to understand his disease. His neighbor was a resident in the radiation department at Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Fla., where Paul was being treated, and that neighbor was happy to introduce him to the pathologist on Paul's case. An artist and biologist, Paul told the pathologist: "I want to see what my tumor looks like. I want to stare my devil in the eye," recalls Marilyn M. Bui, MD, PhD, a senior member of the Departments of Anatomic Pathology and Sarcoma, section head of bone and soft tissue pathology, and scientific director of the analytic microscopy core, Moffitt Cancer Center, and a professor and cytopathology fellowship director, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine.



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As diabetic CKD takes toll, work on tests continues

written by CAP TODAY
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September 2016—When nephrologist Katherine Tuttle, MD, first saw the photo of two women holding young children, she thought it captured the mother of the boy and girl sitting on a couch with the children's grandmother.



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Quizzed in Ansbach, then key to a drug trial for mast cell disease

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September 2016—In December 2007, American hematopathologist Tracy I. George, MD, spent a weekend in the small town of Ansbach in central Bavaria in the laboratory of Hans-Peter Horny, MD, whom she calls “the father of mast cell pathology.” Dr. Horny was at that time a privately practicing hematopathologist after having spent most of his career in academia. Plans for an international clinical trial were underway to evaluate the investigational drug midostaurin in advanced systemic mastocytosis, a rare group of diseases for which there was no effective therapy, and Dr. Horny would be the study pathologist. Dr. George, who had been diagnosing mast cell diseases for several years, wanted to take part as well.



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