

Liquid biopsy—much to do about something

written by CAP TODAY
March 17, 2016

March 2016—Lynette Sholl, MD, isn't fully sold on that hottest of feverishly hot topics, liquid biopsy. "It's kind of a sexy colloquialism, I suppose," says Dr. Sholl, associate director, Center for Advanced Molecular Diagnostics, and associate pathologist, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston. "Is there an official definition?"



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Broadening the productivity spectrum with middleware

written by CAP TODAY
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March 2016—As James Beck, MT(ASCP), remembers it, middleware was introduced at his institution about the same time that the nursing department decided connectivity should be the province of the laboratory. When the concept of docking and interfacing glucose testing devices came on the scene around the turn of the millennium, that was a turning point, says Beck, who is point-of-care testing coordinator for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-St. Margaret, which uses the Telcor middleware solution QML.



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[Roads cross in clonal hematopoiesis and stem cell studies](#)

written by CAP TODAY
March 17, 2016

March 2016—At the annual meeting of the Association for Molecular Pathology in November 2015, one plenary session was called “Exciting Times for Translational Research in Molecular Hematology.” In accord with the title, Margaret Goodell, PhD, gave an exciting talk about how hematopoietic stem cells are regulated in mice. While Dr. Goodell’s basic research was impressive, what was most remarkable was how it meshed with and anticipated research in human hematopoietic malignancies from other laboratories.



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[Proficiency tests on multiple instruments: CMS clarifies regs](#)

written by CAP TODAY
March 17, 2016

March 2016—If a laboratory does not perform its proficiency testing in accordance with a recently reiterated CMS directive regarding PT on multiple instruments, its standing with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services could be at stake. In fact, “You could be sanctioned directly by the CMS,” says Thomas Long, MPH, CAP director of biostatistics.



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Newsbytes, 3/16

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March 2016—Digital consults: options for getting from here to there: The U.S. digital pathology consultation marketplace is steadily gaining ground, largely owing to increased demand for international consultations. And those delving into digital consults are making a three-pronged decision: build your own system, install an off-the-shelf software solution, or sign up with a Web-based digital consultation network.



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From the President's Desk: More transparency, more accountability, 3/16

written by CAP TODAY
March 17, 2016

March 2016—Changes in how our government operates are not always evident from day to day, but patterns emerge over time. It is clear we are moving inexorably toward a value-based system of care. New terminology, initialisms, and performance metrics have entered the lexicon.



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[Put It on the Board, 3/16](#)

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March 2016—Case raises uncertainty on autopsy’s legal status: Should a hospital-provided autopsy be considered health care? It’s a question the Supreme Court of Texas will decide this spring, and its answer to that question will make a big difference—in the millions of dollars—to the claimants, Christus Health Gulf Coast v. Carswell. It could also have an impact on the medical liability coverage available to pathologists who perform autopsies in the Lone Star State.



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[Managing molecular information in the lab](#)

written by CAP TODAY
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March 17, 2016—As molecular technology and personalized medicine increasingly becomes the default position for clinical diagnostics laboratories, these modalities place significant demands on laboratory information systems. That is where molecular information management systems come into the picture.

A [white paper](#) from *The Dark Report* and Dark Daily examines how pathologists are using MIMS to handle the complex workflows of various molecular platforms and modalities.



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[Neurodevelopmental genetic tests, 3/16](#)

written by CAP TODAY
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March 2016—Ambry Genetics has launched a suite of five genetic tests for neurodevelopmental conditions: IDNext, a broad panel of 140 genes known to be associated with both syndromic and nonsyndromic intellectual disability; AutismFirst, a targeted panel of 16 genes recognized by the American College of Genetics and Genomics as associated with syndromic



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[Hydraulic cadaver carrier, 3/16](#)

written by CAP TODAY
March 17, 2016

March 2016—Mopec has developed a powered hydraulic cadaver carrier capable of transporting up to 700 pounds with a simple light touch. Powered by a battery-operated motorized base, the Mopec JA800 Powered Hydraulic Cadaver Carrier easily navigates corners, ramps, and doors as it safely moves without manual force, allowing even small operators to transport effortlessly, free from back and body strain.



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