



Laboratory Communiqué

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The *Laboratory Communiqué* is a quarterly publication released by Billings Clinic Laboratory Services as an informational tool for medical staff and laboratorians.

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Congratulations!

Joni Gilstrap-New Regional Director of ASCLS Region VIII



Joni Gilstrap has been chosen to represent the constituent societies of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado by serving as the Regional Director of Region VIII on the National ASCLS Board of Directors. In this position, Joni will be the liaison for each of these states to the National Board. It will be her responsibility to coordinate and communicate information regarding activities at the national level to each of these constituent societies, as well as to provide feedback from the constituent societies to the national Board of Directors.

ASCLS is the preeminent organization for clinical laboratory science practitioners, provides dynamic leadership and vigorously promotes all aspects of clinical laboratory science practice, education and management to ensure excellent, accessible cost-effective laboratory services for the consumers of health care.

This is a three year term and we are very excited and blessed to have her in this position. She will do a fantastic job!!

Test Updates

Good News! On July 23, 2013, the FDA approved the Hologic Aptima HPV Assay for use on the Hologic GenProbe PANTHER System. We installed our PANTHER in May 2013 and on June 1, moved all NG/CT testing on genital swabs, urines and ThinPrep liquid cytology specimens to that instrument. Moving HPV to the PANTHER will save labor and also expedite testing since the PANTHER is a single fully automated, random access instrument. It is capable of running multiple tests from a single specimen. Hologic's Aptima HPV mRNA based assay is a nucleic acid amplified test that detects 14 high-risk strains of human papillomavirus (HPV) associated with cervical cancer and precancerous lesions. The Aptima HPV Assay has demonstrated



Laboratory Services

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significantly improved specificity with no compromise in disease detection.

Our current HPV testing includes the Cervista High Risk assay and the reflex 16/18 assay. Both of these are labor intensive assays requiring manual DNA extractions. Initially, it will be the HPV, High Risk assay that moves to the PANTHER. The HPV 16/18 will continue to be performed by the Cervista method until FDA approval of the Aptima HPV 16 18/45 Genotype Assay on the PANTHER. We will soon start the process to implement the Aptima HPV assay. Additional information will follow in the January Communiqué. A Go-Live date for the new assay has not been set.

Meetings/Education

The 6th Annual Laboratory Services Fall Education Conference will be held Friday, November 1st. ASCLS will also be hosting their fall conference meeting in conjunction on Saturday, November 2nd. The official agenda and registration forms will be out soon. Here is a sneak peak of Friday’s presentations:

- 10:00 Using Performance Management to Help Physicians Adapt to a Change
Lisa Colborn, MBA, CT (ASCP)
Mayo Medical Laboratories
- 11:00 The Four R’s...Recruitment + Recognition + Reward = Retention
Shelley Hayes, MBA, CPC
Billings Clinic
- 1:00 LifeCenter Northwest (presentation of our Donor program with a recipient to present their story)
- 2:00 Blood Gases (many of our small lab clients perform these in their labs)
Billings Clinic Pulmonary Dept.
- 3:00 TBD

Questions on the conference may be directed to Jena DeVries, Billings Clinic Laboratory Marketing Coordinator at (406)657-4888 or (866) 232-2522 x4888 or to Joni Gilstrap, Billings Clinic Laboratory Technical Consultant.

For more information about Billings Clinic Laboratory please call (406) 657-4060.
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