ACM MEDICAL LABORATORY has been awarded accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), based on the results of a recent on-site inspection in June 2011. The laboratory was advised of this national recognition and congratulated for the “excellence of the services being provided”. ACM Medical Laboratory is one of more than 6,000 CAP accredited laboratories nationwide. The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program is recognized by the federal government as being equal to or more stringent than the government’s own inspection program. During the CAP accreditation process, inspectors examine the laboratory’s pre-analytic, analytic, and postanalytic processes for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors examine staff’s qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program, as well as the overall management. The stringent inspection program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standards of care for laboratory’s patients.

HIV-1 Viral Load - an improved molecular testing method for HIV-1 viral load monitoring (ACM test number: 4670). The new assay will now allow for the quantitation of HIV-1 viral loads to a lower level of 20 copies/ml. Previously, ACM was able to quantify HIV-1 viral loads with a dynamic range between 48 copies/ml and 5,000,000 copies/ml. This new lower level of quantitation will allow physicians to detect lower levels of HIV-1 replication, so that antiretroviral therapy can be better tailored to inhibit the virus. Please see the Technical Bulletin online at www.acmlab.com for more information.

TSPOT®.TB Test - a cellular blood test for the detection of active and latent TB infection. Historically, TB infection screening was performed with the Tuberculin Skin Test (also known as PPD or Mantoux test). Many providers have expressed interest in interferon gamma release assays (IGRA’s) such as the TSPOT®.TB test due to the many benefits they offer. The TSPOT assay only requires a single patient visit, has improved sensitivity and specificity (95.6%;97.1% respectively), results are unaffected by BCG vaccination, age or immunosuppression and the assay does not cross react to most common non-tuberculosis mycobacteria. Studies have shown significant cost savings when using IGRA’s due to a reduced number of X-rays required and INH usage and resulting liver toxicity.

If you are interested in taking advantage of the TSPOT®.TB test, please contact: Anna Boonstra MLT (ASCP), Field Service Specialist at (585) 429-2346 or Charlene Bradley, Sales & Marketing Support Specialist at (585) 429-2345

Please Welcome

Dr. Suzanne Dale as the new Director of Microbiology & Molecular Diagnostics. Dr. Dale holds a B.Sc. and a Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario in Microbiology and Immunology and is board-certified in Medical and Public Health Microbiology by the American Board of Medical Microbiology and is a Fellow of the Canadian College of Microbiologists. In her new role, Dr. Dale is responsible for Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics and brings a wealth of experience to ACM in the subspecialties of bacteriology, virology and molecular assay development.

3 New Patient Service Centers Now Open!

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