

DID YOU KNOW?

- Physicians often used leeches in their bloodletting procedures until the late nineteenth century and the rise of “mechanical leeches” and other devices. Though effective at drawing blood, an individual leech only consumed about half an ounce of blood before dropping off the patient. This led physicians to use as many as fifty leeches in one session, placed in locations as uncomfortable as inside the patient’s mouth or rectum.

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Welcome New Pathologists



Mohammad Eskandari, MD joins the pathology team at Altru as a specialist in anatomic and clinical pathology, hematopathology and molecular genetic pathology. He is board-certified in all three specialties. “My philosophy on medicine is to do my best,” Dr. Eskandari mentions. “I try to provide the same care and attention as I provide to my family.” In his free time, Dr. Eskandari enjoys swimming, playing tennis and

photography.

His educational background includes: Medical Education at Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Iran, Residency at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Michigan, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and Fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York, Hematopathology and Molecular Genetic Pathology



Shifteh Vahidi, MD joins the pathology team at Altru as a specialist in anatomic and clinical pathology and cytopathology. She is board certified in cytopathology, anatomic/clinical pathology and surgical pathology. She has lived in Minnesota since 2008 with her family. Her hobbies include biking and spending time with her family. Her educational background includes: Medical Education at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. She completed her Pathology Residency at Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran. She completed her fellowship in dermatopathology at Shahid Beheshti University of Medicine. She successfully completed fellowships in Clinical/ Anatomical Pathology, Surgical Pathology and Cytopathology at the University of Minnesota.

New Hematology Analyzer at FMR

On Tuesday, October 16th the Family Medicine Residency Lab went live with their new Hematology Analyzer. The new Sysmex XN 430 replaces the Cell Dyn 1800 which has been in service since 2003. The new

analyzer offers a six part differential and a comprehensive on line Quality Control Program. The FMR lab serves the Residency Program, Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease departments as well as several laboratory outpatients.



Microbiology Lab to Participate in Syndromic Trends Network

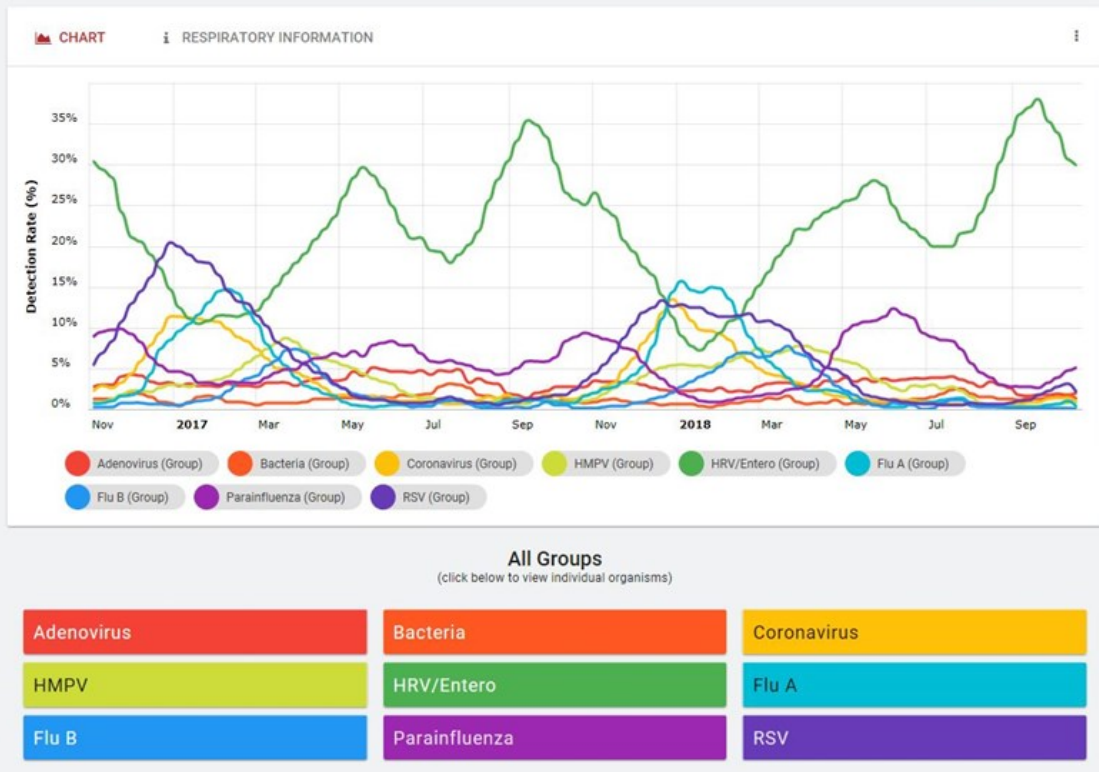
The Syndromic Trends Network is a cloud-based computing platform that accumulates data from laboratories across the U.S. Data from syndromic panels run on the BioFire Film Array platform are de-identified to protect patient privacy and uploaded in near real-time. Results are displayed as positivity per target per week. While the Syndromic Trends website is publicly available (syndromictrends.com), and without cost, participating

users gain access to customizable reports with local and regional activity. The Altru microbiology laboratory will initially contribute data from the multiplex respiratory pathogen panel. This will give providers information on respiratory pathogens circulating locally and across a wide geographic area and will support identification of outbreaks.

Providers should be aware that the Trend website will not necessarily be reflective of the

actual rate of influenza in the community since most influenza testing is performed on a different test platform (cobas Liat). The introduction of rapid nucleic acid testing for influenza has dramatically reduced influenza detection by multiplex respiratory panel by providing an equally sensitive test. However, influenza (from all test platforms) is reported separately to public health and rates may be observed by visiting www.ndflu.com.

Respiratory Pathogen Trends



Heparin PF4 Antibody

The Laboratory Test Heparin PF4 Antibody (HIT-Ab) has been offered in house for a little over a year. This test is a useful Tool in the management of Heparin Induce Thrombocytopenia.

Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) is an immune complex mediated disorder that can cause morbidity and mortality in patients receiving heparin. A physician suspects HIT when a patient's platelet count drops by half or more (usually to below 150 per cubic mL) beginning five through 14 days after starting heparin. Prompt diagnosis is very important because heparin treatment must be suspended, and alternative anticoagulants used in the case of confirmed HIT.

The Altru Pathology and Laboratory Services test, Heparin PF4 Anti-

body (HemoSIL® HIT-Ab PF4-H), is an instrumentation-based immunoassay, classified as a qualitative, latex enhanced immunoturbidimetric assay (LIA) for the detection of anti-platelet factor 4/heparin (PF4/H) antibodies. An in-house validation correlation was performed and indicated great correlation with the Mayo ELISA test.

The Heparin PF4 Antibody (HemoSIL® HIT-Ab PF4-H) assay results should be used with other information, including clinical context, in forming a diagnosis. A confirmatory test, Serotonin Release Assay, can be sent to Mayo if the HIT test is positive. At this time, if a confirmatory test is needed, it will have to be ordered by the physician. A reflex is not possible due in large part to the different specimen

type for the confirmatory test.

By bringing the HIT test in-house, patient samples will be tested on demand, decreasing the turnaround time from 48 hours to approximately 1 hour.

Parameter	Reference Range
	Male or Female
Heparin PF4 Antibody	Negative

Any questions or concerns contact: Melanee Brookshire, Hematology/Coagulation Supervisor 701-780-5534 or Dr. Christopher Lockhart 701-780-5357

APLS Employee Recognition

Congratulations to all pathology, laboratory, and donor center staff who have reached milestones in their careers with Altru!

5 Years: Ashley Bilyeu, Tanja Brooks, Daniel Leao, Nicole Oberg, Sandra Greiner, Tanya Hunt (Devils Lake Laboratory), Kari Kempel (Devils Lake Laboratory)

10 Years: Samoa Frownfelter, Tanya Barker, Monica Collette, Megan Ermer, April Jundt

15 Years: Kristie Adams, Kristine Anderson, Gail Halgren (Devils Lake Laboratory)

25 Years: Pam Pariseau, Cheryl Parvey

35 Years: Melanee Brookshire, Marie Schauer, Claudette Abbe, Karen Riopelle

40 Years: Jane Winter, Diane Bagley, Tina Cowger, Dr. Marvin Cooley

Combined you've brought 480 years of experience, friendship, talent and dedication! THANK YOU!!



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Questions?

The following lists specific individuals who can be contacted for questions or information regarding pathology and laboratory services:

Donor and Transfusion/Tissue Services

Terri Hintz, Supervisor 780-5146
Kristine Anderson, Operations Specialist 780-1871
Dr. Mark Rodacker, Clinical Consultant 780-5155

Microbiology Service

Supervisor 780-1650
Dr. Marijo Roiko, Director 780-5134
Dr. Ann Brown, Clinical Consultant 780-5269

Chemistry Service (including UA and POCT)

Sandy Martens, Supervisor 780-6436
Gary Stjern, Associate 780-5782
Barb Martin, Hospital POCT Coordinator 780-1436
Monica Churchill, Clinic POCT Coordinator 780-6599

Hematology Service (including Coagulation)

Melanee Brookshire, Supervisor 780-5534
Dr. Christopher Lockhart, Clinical Consultant
780-5357

Histology Service

Carla Kouba, Supervisor 780-1043
Dr. Mark Rodacker, Clinical Consultant 780-5155

Cytology Service

Marnie Larsen, Supervisor 780-1711

Quality Assurance/Safety Officer

Kristie Adams 780-6458

Phlebotomy/Clerical Support Service

Cheryl Springer, Supervisor Hospital 780-6932
Samoa Frownfelter, Associate 780-6269
Megan Snobl, Trainer/Educator 780-5645
Cheryl Springer, Supervisor Clinic; including I300, FMC,
Pediatrics and Cancer Center 795-2811
Dr. Mark Rodacker, Clinical Consultant 780-5155

Regional Lab Coordinator

Steven Kummeth 780-5638

Administration

Mary LaHaise, Administrative Director 780-6531
Dr. Steven Weiser, Division Medical Director
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Director 780-5357
Laura Hagen, Manager 780-5138



Questions or comments? E-mail us at skummeth@altru.org
To remove your name from our mailing list, please email skummeth@altru.org.