

# THE NANOGRAM

Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory Services

Fall 2010

## Quarterly Newsletter on MJH Website

This newsletter is from the Laboratory and will be distributed on a quarterly basis. It contains important information and news briefs concerning laboratory services. In addition to normal distribution, each issue will be posted at [www.cvillepathology.net](http://www.cvillepathology.net) under the News Brief section.

## New Workflow and Specimen Tracking System in Histology— Vantage

In July of 2010, Martha Jefferson Laboratory Services implemented a new workflow solution in the Histology Department of the Laboratory. The Ventana VANTAGE Workflow solution is an integrated full lab process management system based on the Lean-Six Sigma principles. The VANTAGE system is a complete end-to-end product that automates, streamlines, and integrates lab work and information flow to provide maximum productivity and patient safety gains. Patient Safety standards are enhanced with true patient identification through bar code technology and efficiency is enhanced through electronic specimen tracking. This system impacts every step of the histological process and is a great addition to the Laboratory.



Lorraine Pantella, HT and Leader of Histology,

## GYN Proficiency Testing

We are pleased to announce that Martha Jefferson Hospital Cytotechnologist and Pathologist participants in our annual ASCP GYN Proficiency Test passed with 100%.

## Slides For Review

If slides are being sent to our Pathology Lab, the requesting physician needs to complete a Surgical Pathology Requisition which includes demographics and insurance information. Please fax the completed form to 654-7776.

## IMPORTANT: Copy-to Physicians & HIPAA

MJH Laboratory Services adheres to HIPAA regulations and must keep patient medical record privacy in mind. Therefore, our laboratory staff can't add a copy-to physician if they are not absolutely certain of his/her identity. When referring physicians and their staffs are completing the CC box of the lab requests that are sent to us, it is essential that a **FIRST and LAST** name is written in this box. When there is doubt, the CC physician will not be added so that we can avoid violating the regulations that are designed to prevent information/reports from going to incorrect recipients.

## **Updated Fecal Lactoferrin Assay (Leukotest)**

The microbiology department has implemented and improved Fecal Lactoferrin assay, a marker for fecal leukocytes. This test requires an unpreserved stool in a clean specimen cup; the specimen can be stored for up to 2 weeks refrigerated. Please note that specimens from breast fed infants should not be used with this assay. Should you have any questions or comments, please call the Martha Jefferson Hospital Microbiology Laboratory at 654-7172.

## **Physician Survey Conducted Online**

In mid August, Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory Services completed a 2010 Physician Survey. This survey is done every other year so that the Laboratory can get constructive feedback from the physicians, gauge how the lab is meeting the physicians' needs, and confront any issues that the medical staff may have with the clinical or anatomic laboratories.

This year the survey was conducted online for the first time and the participants nearly doubled. In addition, Charlottesville Pathology Associates provided a \$100 Gift Certificate for The Downtown Grille to be given away in a drawing of physicians that completed the survey and provided their names. The winner was Dr. Christopher Sharrow.

The results were very helpful. The Laboratory scored positive marks on most questions and some of the high marks that stood out were surrounding Critical Value notification, Clinical staff courtesy, Anatomic Pathology diagnostic accuracy, and Clinical Laboratory reliability/accuracy. Several questions were asked about Electronic Medical Records and the Laboratory was able to obtain useful information that is critical for planning for the future. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete the survey.

## **Serum Indices: Measuring Hemolysis**

MJH Clinical Lab is running serum indices on samples that measure the amount of hemolysis present. A hemolysis index that exceeds a limit that has been found to affect the sample will flag us to take the following action.

- ◆ If it is an inpatient, we will redraw the patients.
- ◆ On an outpatient sample, we will result the potassium value as invalid and comment with the following comment, "Sample hemolyzed, interpret with caution".

## **Change in Reference Ranges**

Effective July 9, 2010 for:

- ◆ Sodium (NA)            136-145 mmol/L
- ◆ Potassium (K)            3.5-5.1 mmol/L
- ◆ Chloride (CL)            98-107 mol/L

If you have any questions, please call the laboratory at 654-7170.

## **Reminder: Glucose Tolerance Testing**

All glucose tolerance testing more than one hour (ie. **2 and 3 hours glucose tolerance testing**) is to be scheduled with the Outpatient Care Center at Peter Jefferson Place by calling telephone number 434-654-8890. And, all **one hour glucose tolerance testing** is available for walk-in. Patients that require both rhogam and glucose tolerance testing should report to the main hospital. Thank you for your attention to these details.

## **REMINDER: STAT Orders**

Any sample ordered as STAT will automatically print/fax to the requesting office.

## **Welcome to new Medical Technologists**

MJH Laboratory Services would like to welcome our 4 new Medical Technologists to our team.

**Erin Kelley** started June 14. She has B.S. degree in Biology and graduated from Rockingham Memorial Hospital School of Medical Technology in June 2010.

**Freedom Hummel** started July 12. She has B.S. degree in Biology and graduated from Augusta Health School of Laboratory Science in July 2010.

**April Attai** started July 12. She has a B.A. degree in music and a B.S. degree in Chemistry. She graduated from Augusta Health School of Laboratory Science in July 2010.

**William Kleinot** started August 9. He has a B.S. degree in Chemistry and graduated from Wake Forest University Medical Center in July 2010.

## **Important Telephone Numbers**

- Need lab results from the Clinical Lab call 654-7170 or fax 654-7164.
- Outreach Department, call 654-7183
- Need lab results from the Anatomic Pathology Lab 654-7955 or fax 654-7944.
- AP Client Services Representative, Noel Jorgensen, at 654-5525

**The next Nanogram newsletter will be Winter 2011  
distributed in January 2011.**