

EDITORIAL

Updates in Clinical Lab and Experimental Medicine

Clinical laboratories contribute to effective delivery of service in the health system and have a direct impact on patient care from length of stay to resource utilization and achieving customer satisfaction. Pathologists inform physicians on tests with highest effectiveness in given clinical conditions to arrive at an accurate diagnosis to support therapeutic decision. Thus, communication between labs and clinics is fundamental to achieve and maintain total quality in laboratory services.

An estimated 70 percent of medical decisions are guided by lab tests and in the US laboratories form only two percent of total healthcare costs. Test results are increasingly critical in today's complex healthcare system which is moving towards early detection and diagnosis. Furthermore, precision medicine will become more important where individualised treatment plan is catered to a person's unique genetic make-up.

The basic principle of clinical labs is assurance that the correct test is performed on the right person, at the right time using the right level of health care resources to achieve reliable and accurate results. Just as essential is the continuing effort in discovering, establishing and

advancing new methods and technologies to realise these needs.

Since the invention of monoclonal antibodies and the polymerase chain reaction which culminated with the Nobel prizes awarded respectively to Koehler and C. Milstein, 1984 and K.B. Mullis, 1993, advancement in lab technologies has been tremendous. Today's experimental medicine is expected to bring this field further as we move into the digital and deep learning era. As these new theories reach clinical labs, assessment and validation are necessary and significant undertakings.

The new world of clinical diagnosis will be exciting and we look forward to becoming a part of it.

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