

Workshops (3.5 hours)

Specimen Management

Michael Miller, PhD, D(ABMM)

Microbiology Technical Services, LLC, Atlanta, GA

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Discuss critical policies and procedures related to specimen management
2. Review their local procedures for specimen management and recognize strengths and weaknesses
3. Troubleshoot and create solutions to issues such as poor specimen quality, inappropriate submission criteria, incorrect collection and transport methods, inappropriate requests, etc.
4. Develop reporting criteria for appropriate and inappropriate specimens

A Navigation Guide to Test Method Validation and Verification

Mike Loeffelholz, Ph.D., D(ABMM)

Cepheid, Sunnyvale, CA and University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Define verification and validation
2. Describe components of the verification and validation processes
3. List the verification requirements for unmodified FDA-cleared tests
4. List the verification requirements for modified (off-label) commercial tests, and laboratory-developed tests

Symposia (1 hour)

Candida auris: Can it live up to the hype?

Shawn R. Lockhart, PhD, D(ABMM), FAAM

CDC, Atlanta, GA

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Learn about the epidemiology of *Candida auris* in the US
2. Learn about the antifungal resistance in *C. auris*
3. Learn about infection control precautions around *C. auris*

Laboratory Diagnosis of Infective Endocarditis

Rachael Liesman, PhD, D(ABMM)

University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City, KS

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Recognize the most common causes of infective endocarditis
2. Discuss the role of blood cultures in the diagnosis of infective endocarditis
3. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of serological and molecular testing for the diagnosis of culture-negative endocarditis

Cephawhat Whosobactam? New Agents for MDR Infections

Kevin Alby, Ph.D., D(ABMM)

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Identify mechanisms of resistance that require new agents to treat
2. Explain what testing for new agents is available
3. Describe new agents and their utility for specific indications

The Role of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory in Prenatal Screening for Group B Streptococcus

Gerald A. Capraro, PhD, D(ABMM)

Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Discuss the current recommendations for GBS screening to detect colonization of pregnant patients
2. Identify the role of clinical microbiology laboratories in GBS screening
3. Highlight the utility of molecular-based testing for detection of GBS colonization

Has the Time Come for Point-of-Care (Point-of-Impact) Molecular Assays?

Richard L. Hodinka, Ph.D.

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville & PRISMA Health Upstate, Greenville, SC

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Describe the various platforms/systems for molecular point-of-care testing
2. Explain the performance characteristics and clinical utility of these point-of-care molecular tests
3. Identify the settings in which molecular point-of-care tests are and will be performed
4. Discuss the global perspectives on molecular point-of-care testing

Tales from the West: Interesting Cases from a County Hospital

Susan Butler-Wu, PhD, D(ABMM)

Keck School of Medicine of USC, Los Angeles, CA

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Discuss diagnostic testing for the pathogens discussed
2. Understand varying presentations for common and less common pathogens
3. Discuss diagnostic pitfalls

Wonderful World of Staphylococci!

Lars Westblade, PhD., D(ABMM)

Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Discuss recent taxonomic updates within the genus Staphylococcus
2. Describe the clinical importance of identifying staphylococci to the species level
3. Explain the need for specie-specific breakpoints for various Staphylococcus species

Sexually Transmitted Infections: News & Updates

William A. Glover II, PhD., D(ABMM), MT(ASCP)

North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health, Raleigh, NC

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be:

1. Familiar with new tests and instrumentation for the diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections
2. Familiar with common mutations associated with drug resistance in certain sexually transmitted infections
3. Familiar with emerging collection strategies being utilized for the diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections

Diagnostic Stewardship: Because you can't do everything for everyone all the time

Christopher Doern, PhD, D(ABMM)

VCU Health System, Richmond, VA

Objectives: At the end of the symposium, the attendee will be able to:

1. Discuss redesigning the microbiology laboratory workflow to prioritize tests that have the highest impact on patient care
2. Discuss underappreciated areas of waste in microbiology testing and what can be done to reduce them
3. Discuss things that bench technologists can be looking for in their daily workflow to help improve workflow and reduce unnecessary testing