



MPLN Newsletter

Third Quarter - 2008

Clients Respond, Survey Results Positive

In June, MPLN and its subsidiary, Ascendant Medical Laboratory, invited clients to participate in a quality assessment and satisfaction review. Overall, the results were very positive.



According to survey respondents, MPLN and Ascendant exceed customer expectations for turnaround times. While our satisfaction ratings for turnaround are high for the industry, MPLN and Ascendant continue to strive to do an exceptional job for our clients in every service we provide. As enhancements are made, we will measure our progress again and hope you will participate in future assessments.

Congratulations to survey respondents, Dr. Andrew Sugantharaj at Complete Family

Care and Sheryl Licht at Tennessee Cancer Specialists, who won an MP3 Player in a drawing among clients who completed and returned a satisfaction survey.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Client Services at 866.726.1833. We look forward to hearing from you and learning how we can enhance our services even more.

Lundgrin Named Medical Director at Ascendant

Daryl Lundgrin, MD, was named the new medical director of MPLN's subsidiary, Ascendant Medical Laboratory. Dr. Lundgrin also works with MPLN as a hematopathologist, performs surgical pathology diagnosis and offers consultative services. In addition, he is expanding MPLN's immunohistochemistry (IHC) test menu.

Dr. Lundgrin, is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology with subspecialty certification in hematopathology. Dr. Lundgrin served five years on active duty in the U.S. Navy as a pathologist and was director of hematology and blood bank at Oakland Naval Hospital, where his duties included teaching pathology residents. He completed his

hematopathology fellowship training at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland in 1984, and his internship and residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Utah, acting as chief resident of pathology in 1981.

He is a member and fellow of the U.S. and Canadian Academy of Pathology, the College of American Pathologists, and the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Smith Joins MPLN, Genuity

Colton Smith, PhD, was named special projects software developer for Molecular Pathology Laboratory Network, Inc. (MPLN) and its subsidiary, Genuity Clinical Research Services.

In this role, Dr. Smith is developing advanced software programs to enhance the data management and laboratory information systems already used by MPLN and Genuity. He is also developing analysis and reporting of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP's).

Dr. Smith holds an undergraduate degree in microbiology and a master's degree in computer science from the University of Tennessee and earned a PhD in virology/molecular biology from Harvard University.

Ascendant Expands Services

Ascendant Medical Laboratory, MPLN's subsidiary in Knoxville expanded its operations in August by adding a microbiology department. Ascendant performs routine cultures, gram stains, identification and sensitivity studies.

In addition, Ascendant opened a new facility in Memphis to meet laboratory testing needs in that area. The new lab will primarily perform STAT testing with some routine testing. Clinical tests not performed in the Memphis lab will be sent to Ascendant Medical Laboratory in Knoxville.

Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Week, Day Recognized by NHIC

The National Health Information Center (NHIC) has determined that Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Day and Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Week meet the selection criteria for inclusion on the 2009 National Health Observances Calendar.



The determination followed a wave of proclamation presentations in July 2008 to families in nine U.S. states and the city of Bathurst in New Brunswick, Canada. State representatives, governors and other elected officials recognized the need to create awareness about the rare disorder by proclaiming Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Day and Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Week. In 2009, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome will be recognized May 19 and July 27-August 2.

Health observances on the National Health Observances Calendar are days, weeks or months devoted to promoting particular health concerns. Health professionals, teachers, community group and others can use this calendar to promote health events, stimulate awareness about certain disorders or educate the public about health risks and prevention.

For more information about Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, visit www.22q13.org.

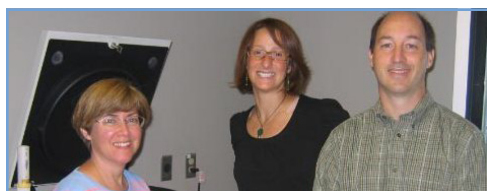
Laboratory Spotlight – Flow Cytometry

MPLN has two flow cytometry laboratories – one located in the 29,000-square-foot headquarters in Maryville, Tenn. and a satellite laboratory in Richmond Va. that has doubled in size over the last two years.

Flow cytometry is an extremely useful adjunct to clinical, morphologic, and cytogenetic data in the evaluation of hematolymphoid neoplastic processes. Flow cytometry has become pivotal to the diagnosis and classification of leukemia, lymphoma and other hematological abnormalities, helps guide further ancillary testing, and assesses and monitors response to treatment. The average in-house turnaround time is less than 8 hours, providing rapid results for patient management.



Flow TN: From L to R: Chris Ramsey, Jennifer Kuth, Dr. Ron Lee, Ruth Barberry, Michael Vanek



Flow VA: From L to R: Kathy Allen, Deena Ferguson, James Hewitt

Flow cytometry at MPLN is analyzed and interpreted by Ron Lee, MD, a graduate of the University of Florida College of Medicine. Dr. Lee is boarded in anatomic and clinical pathology and hematopathology. Dr. Lee has analyzed more than 25,000 samples submitted for flow cytometric evaluation and has seen the complete spectrum of hematolymphoid neoplastic processes. He actively analyzes the raw (list mode) flow data on each case characterizing each lineage of cells present. Dr. Lee is known for attention to detail and

thoroughness, and clients who have worked with him are quick to compliment his availability to discuss and integrate flow cytometric results with clinical, morphologic, cytogenetic, molecular, and/or FISH.

With a team of seven experienced medical technologists, advanced instrumentation and interpretive skills, this department excels in quickly providing our clinician clients with the immunophenotype of the samples submitted for leukemia lymphoma evaluation. This rapid analysis can save time in addressing additional testing that must be performed while the sample remains viable.

MPLN Offers K-RAS Mutation Assay

Molecular Pathology Laboratory Network, Inc. (MPLN) now offers K-RAS mutation testing to assist with the identification of colorectal cancer (CRC) patients most likely to show limited clinical response to anti-epidermal growth factor receptor (anti-EGFR) therapies.

Recent studies have demonstrated that the K-RAS gene is mutated in approximately 35 to 45% of colorectal carcinomas and that the determination of K-RAS mutation status in CRC patients can better define those who will benefit from treatment with anti-EGFR monoclonal antibody therapies such as Erbitux® (cetuximab) and Vectibix® (panitumumab). This molecular test detects seven somatic mutations commonly found in the K-RAS oncogene.

For more information about the K-RAS mutation test, contact a client service specialist toll free at 866.726.1833.

HPV Testing Featured on HealthSource

Ascendant Medical Laboratory and its parent company, MPLN, have teamed up with WATE-Channel 6 in Knoxville and the station's online HealthSource program to educate the community about some of the unique diagnostic services available at the laboratories.

In Sept., Oct. and Nov. HealthSource will cover the importance of allergy testing and a simple allergy blood test Ascendant Medical Laboratory offers. To view the latest HealthSource online, visit www.wate.com. The HealthSource spots on CellSearch™ and HPV testing are available for viewing at www.mplnet.com.

MPLN Employees Walk for the Cure

Employees at MPLN are walking, running and sleeping-in to support the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the 2008 Knoxville Race for the Cure®. The annual event, which includes a 5K Run and a one-mile Family Fun Walk, is set for Saturday Oct. 11 at World's Fair Park in Knoxville. For more information about Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, visit www.komen.org.