

OUTLOOK

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics

Issue 3 /2009

Answers for life.

SIEMENS

Assay Spotlight for Biochemistry

Master Class Reviews

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Welcome to Outlook

This issue of Outlook illustrates how Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics is working to bring new and improved products to your laboratory. As with previous issues, we announce innovative solutions that will help you to become more efficient and productive.

Looking into the future, diagnostic companies will need to provide more than the traditional 'analysers and assays' to meet the needs of busy laboratories. We are working hard to provide two-way forums for you to speak directly to us and with each other. This enables the sharing of best practice and assists with planning for your future needs. In January, we ran user meetings and master classes for many of our core product areas, some of which are described in this issue.

I have been an employee of Siemens and our founding companies for over 16 years, initially joining Ciba-Corning Diagnostics. Over these years, industry consolidation, assay development and research has given us an unbridled portfolio of systems and assays, some of them unique in the marketplace. As guest Editor for this edition of Outlook, it gives me great pleasure to update you on some of the latest developments to join our ever-expanding assay and product portfolio.

I hope you find this issue of Outlook educational and informative.



Allan Thompson
Scientific Marketing
Consultant

If you have ideas or initiatives you would like included in future issues of Outlook, feel free to call us or contact us at info.diagnostics.med.gb@siemens.com.

Introducing the new IMMULITE 2000 XPI

Renowned for high instrument reliability and an extensive core and esoteric assay menu, the IMMULITE® family of immunoassays reaches the next level with the introduction of the IMMULITE 2000 XPI.

The IMMULITE 2000 XPI has a proven reliability based on the technical robustness of the IMMULITE 2000. The broad assay menu contains over 90 assays as well as over 440 specific allergens and allergy panels.

The IMMULITE 2000 XPI boasts improvements to its user interface and workflow management, driven by input from current IMMULITE 2000 users. The key system improvements include:

- No pause sample loading.
- Fully automated processes for daily maintenance and adjustment acceptance.
- Full audit trail capability.
- Status 'at a glance'.
- Improved access.

Slow roll out of the IMMULITE 2000 XPI in the UK will commence in June and it will be launched in detail at the UK Siemens Academy meeting in May.



National Pathology Week

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics was the sole corporate sponsor for National Pathology Week. We hope our support will enable pathologists and scientists around the country to increase the understanding of pathology and its vital role in modern healthcare.

Dr. Suzy Lishman, Assistant Registrar of The Royal College of Pathologists looks back at National Pathology Week 2008 and sets the scene for this year.

When the public is asked what they know about pathology, they mention television programmes such as CSI or Silent Witness. These programmes tend to focus on crimes and solving murders and do not accurately portray the discipline. The reality is that less than one per cent of pathologists work in forensic pathology, the speciality seen most often on television. Pathology includes eighteen different specialities, including histopathology, haematology, medical microbiology and clinical biochemistry. Over 70% of diagnoses in the NHS involve pathology and most pathologists work for the benefit of the living.

National Pathology Week provides an opportunity for pathology professionals to demonstrate to the public and all hospital professions the crucial role that pathology plays in everyone's healthcare.

Events

Events last year were held by every speciality and in every region of the country. They included laboratory tours, interactive workshops, school visits, academic lectures, photographic competitions and even a pathology bus. Target audiences included school children of all ages, the general public, MPs and other policy makers and healthcare professionals.

Resources

Siemens sponsorship enabled the organising committee to develop resources for pathologists and scientists to plan and deliver their events. A website was developed with PowerPoint presentations, posters, careers leaflets, evaluation forms and tips on organising and publicising events available to download. There was also information about pathology for the public, careers information and a programme of events. Promotional pens, pencils, lanyards and badges were also produced for distribution at events.



Pathology Skills Workshop for 6th form students in Bath

Professional involvement

Pathology professionals include medically qualified pathologists and non-medically qualified clinical and biomedical scientists. National Pathology Week gave all the professional groups, including trainees, the opportunity to work together to promote pathology. Many event organisers commented that the week had proved a great team-building opportunity and had given people a better understanding of the different roles and specialities within their own department. Although most event organisers had not held science communication events before National Pathology Week, almost all said that they would like to hold similar events in future. Event organisers particularly appreciated the resources provided.

Feedback from the public

Feedback from all audience groups was positive, with most people saying that they would like to attend another National Pathology Week event in future. The responses from school and medical students were particularly encouraging with many saying that they would now consider a career in pathology. Interactive events were particularly popular, as were those organised by trainees.

National Pathology Week 2009

As last year, we hope to provide resources for event organisers including posters, presentations, and promotional materials. We will build on the success of last year and particularly hope to increase national media coverage of the week.

To find out more about National Pathology Week, have a look at the website www.nationalpathologyweek.org, which will be updated throughout the year. Information about the Royal College of Pathologists is available at www.rcpath.org.



Dr Suzy Lishman

Building strong partnerships and sharing

Building on a long tradition of system user meetings, the 2009 Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics calendar provides opportunities for you to engage with us and meet other customers through interactive discussions and new master class forums.

The start of the New Year saw a number of events that solicited feedback on your challenges, strengths and development interests. These engaging forums, held at our headquarters in Frimley, Surrey, provided a platform to not only update our customers on the many changes that have arisen from the integration of Bayer Healthcare Diagnostics, Dade Behring and DPC with Siemens, but also for us to hear your feedback on what you need in the future. The meetings were designed for a range of our customers, including BN™ II and BN ProSpec® users, Dimension Chemistry users and the first master class for ADVIA® Automation customers.

These initiatives are designed not only to bring people together, but also to refine user competency in the technical aspects of their roles. By convening for these meetings, users can share experiences to better define their work processes, gaining valuable feedback to increase workflow efficiency and decrease turnaround time.

Looking forward together in speciality testing

The meeting for BN users was designed to formally introduce customers to Siemens following the integration of Dade Behring last year. Bringing new and old faces together, delegates were introduced to new contacts in an environment where any questions could be asked. The event also provided an opportunity to gain an update on services and support for BN systems and software.

The main objective of the day was to provide an open forum where questions and answers, challenges and solutions could be shared with the group and would result in every delegate gaining new insights or ideas to take back into the lab. For example, significant time was spent discussing best practice for converting from a lyophilized reagent to liquid ready-to-use.



“Prior to the BN user meeting my colleagues and I were not aware of the improvements that have been made to the Rheumatoid Factor liquid reagents.”

Steve Bishop, Chief BMS/Quality Manager at Immunology Department, Churchill Hospital, Oxford

Constant product development increasing productivity

Steve Bishop, Chief BMS/Quality Manager at Immunology Department, Churchill Hospital in Oxford comments, “Prior to the BN user meeting my colleagues and I were not aware of the improvements that have been made to the Rheumatoid Factor liquid reagents. We had previously used lyophilized varieties as they had a longer shelf life; however the drawback to these is that they only last a few days once water has been added. It was therefore great to hear from other people who had been using the newly improved liquid solutions, which are now more stable and quickly becoming the norm - I am now testing the liquids in earnest since the session.”

Meeting challenges head on

Following the integration of three companies under Siemens, we face a unique situation in drawing up new processes and re-defining the optimal relationship we have with customers. By opening the floor to feedback from our customers, very real needs can be addressed to propel all parties into new optimised solutions. User group meetings and master classes ensure our support is responsive and customer centric.

best practice

Building on expertise in the automated laboratory through master classes

Global support for the two-day Automation master class came in the form of Siemens speakers from the company's Tarrytown facility. Troy Galloway from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics in the US presented on new product offerings in the three core areas of pre-analytics, analytics and post-analytics. This included information on the launch of new decapping and centrifuge modules as well as updates to ADVIA software. Troy also introduced customers to the IMMULITE 2000 XPi immunoassay system as a preview to its UK launch this year.

Keith Edwards from Siemens in the UK addressed technical queries with a series of lectures that focused on the operational aspects of managing samples on an automated track. Delegates were guided through various workflow enhancing procedures, including the optimum way to configure a Sample Manager. Keith also took questions from the audience to work through individual issues.



Improving competencies through best practice

Workshops were added to the ADVIA Automation master class as a direct response to customer demand. The interactive sessions followed a day of lectures and focused on three customer sites with case studies presented in the areas of chemistry, haematology and immunoassay automation.

Discipline specific workshops featured a Siemens panel and a customer expert panel. These sessions were chaired by experienced automation customers. Under the watchful eyes of Ian Draisey from John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, Ian Roney from King's College Hospital and Ian Savill from North Hampshire Hospital, the sessions were lively and interactive. Each chairperson presented on how workflow efficiencies could be enhanced through automation. The Siemens panel then discussed experiences with the expert customer panel, commenting on best practice solutions. Audience members were also encouraged to join in the discussion and ask questions to determine the optimum course of action.

Neil Cuthbert, Immunoassay Section Manager at Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust was on the customer expert panel for the Immunoassay workshop. He states, "The meeting was really valuable and it was great to chat with others from similar environments with some of the same experiences. These kinds of events are not only beneficial to customers, but also essential to the industry as a whole."

Process management is the key to effective automation

External industrial engineers and business management consultants provided an independent and alternative perspective on process management. They suggested that by raising expectations, greater productivity can be achieved. The thought provoking message was, "if you only plan for average service you will achieve average service."

Interactive forums are designed to assist our customers by increasing skill levels in laboratories and prescribing more effective working methods. Gathering feedback from you during

user group and master class forums also enables the industry as a whole to progress in the most advantageous way.

The benefits to all parties involved have been evaluated and further user group meetings across the UK are planned for 2009 to build on the gathered dialogue and messages.

To register interest in attending a future event, please email info.diagnostics.med.gb@siemens.com.

"The meeting was really valuable and it was great to chat with others from similar environments with some of the same experiences."

*Neil Cuthbert, Immunoassay Section Manager,
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*

Faster bilirubin results allow rapid patient treatment at St. Michael's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at St. Michael's Hospital in Bristol is able to obtain bilirubin test results in 60 seconds using the RAPIDLab® 1265 Blood Gas Analyser from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics. This rapid turnaround enables appropriate care at the earliest opportunity for critically ill babies.

Bilirubin explained

When red blood cells degrade, the haemoglobin breaks down to form unconjugated bilirubin. This is taken up by the liver where it binds to sugars to make water-soluble, conjugated bilirubin, which is excreted in bile. An increase in bilirubin in the blood presents clinically as jaundice and may be caused by the over production of bilirubin (increased haemolysis), a decrease in the liver's capacity to remove bilirubin or blocked bile ducts.

Measuring blood bilirubin in newborns

Jaundice is commonly seen in newborns in the first three days after birth. This is often due to physiological jaundice and resolves in a few days. However, in some instances the breakdown of the baby's red blood cells may be due to other factors such as incompatibilities between the baby's blood and the mother's blood, dehydration or infection. Other inherited defects, such as spherocytosis and pyruvate kinase deficiency, can cause excessive breakdown of erythrocytes in the foetus and neonate.

Excessive bilirubin in the blood may result in damage to the developing brain cells (kernicterus), which may cause seizures, lethargy, progressive nerve deafness and rarely, athetoid cerebral palsy.

Point of care testing

"It is important to obtain results quickly," states Bridget Robbins, Neonatal Technician at St Michael's Hospital. "Bilirubin levels can rise very rapidly in neonates. In the past we had to send the samples to the laboratory for analysis, which could take up to four hours to receive a result. Now we use the RAPIDLab 1265 assay, which can be performed at the point of care in the neonatal ICU. We are now able to obtain results in just 60 seconds, which means that we can implement treatment much more quickly if it is required."

She continues, "We need to monitor bilirubin closely in order to prevent the serious consequences of kernicterus. If levels greater than 300 µmol/litre are seen in babies over three days old, we would initiate photo-therapy. If the levels are extremely high then double photo-therapy or an exchange blood transfusion may be required."

Proven performance

An evaluation was made comparing the RAPIDLab method with the laboratory method to ensure that the faster results did not compromise on quality.

"We analysed 117 samples from the neonatal ICU using both the laboratory method and the RAPIDLab method in order to evaluate the performance of the point of care assay," explains Janet Stone, Principal Clinical Scientist. "The laboratory method is a colorimetric assay and takes about 30 minutes to perform on arrival of the sample in the laboratory."

A linear regression analysis of the results (Fig. 1) demonstrates good correlation between the RAPIDLab method and the laboratory reference method for the measurement of bilirubin levels in neonatal blood samples.

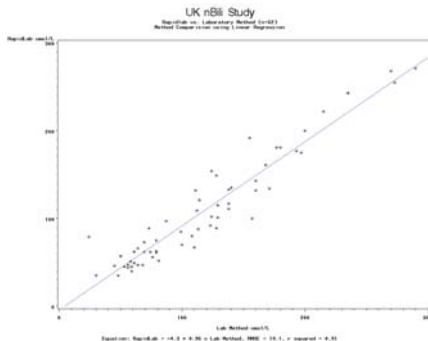


Figure 1. A comparison of the RAPIDLab bilirubin assay and the laboratory reference method.

"There were no samples in the group with the time difference less than 30 minutes where the difference between the results from the blood gas analyser and the laboratory assay would have affected the clinical decision regarding treatment," states Janet Stone. "We found the RAPIDLab method to be comparable with the laboratory method. In conclusion, we determined that the RAPIDLab method is suitable for performing paediatric bilirubin measurements, as the turnaround time is much faster and the results are reliable."

"The few instances where the results were not compatible may have been due to the presence of conjugated bilirubin. I would recommend a laboratory measurement if a conjugated jaundice is suspected."

Bridget Robbins concludes, "As a result of our evaluation we were happy to adopt the RAPIDLab method for routine bilirubin testing in the neonatal ICU."

Responsible Corporate and Community Citizens

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics is committed to leading the field in corporate responsibility in the products and services we offer and also the way we conduct our business.

For us, corporate responsibility means that we safeguard the success and future of our company by taking seriously economic, social, ethical and environmental concerns and by setting the benchmark in regulatory compliance, transparency and governance.



Luis de Luzuriaga
Managing Director
Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics

Ensuring the highest level of compliance

Our high profile position in the UK diagnostics industry carries with it an obligation to conduct our business to the highest ethical standards. We are committed to act with integrity, honesty and in compliance with all legal and internal requirements when conducting our business with customers, suppliers and other partners.

All Siemens businesses in the UK have a dedicated Compliance Officer. This person is responsible for ensuring a proactive approach to implementation as well as monitoring the rules and standards we set ourselves. He/she also mandates our business conduct to give visibility and control to all areas of sponsorship, donations and disbursement of funds for awards, training, customer meetings and promotional items.

Compliance is an issue that extends far beyond inappropriate financial activity; it is an integral part of every aspect of our business, from protecting the health and safety of our employees to protecting data. We work hard to ensure we meet our obligations and develop a culture in which compliance issues are consistently and positively addressed.



We believe in open dialogue with our customers, suppliers and other business partners. In recognition of this, we have established a 'Tell Us' compliance helpdesk facility for customers to report in complete confidence any concerns, issues or irregular practices you may come across during your dealings with us. The facility can be accessed online via the helpdesk link at www.siemens.com/compliance or by telephone on 08000 328483. The call centre and website are operated by an independent external provider.

Minimising our impact on the environment

Siemens aims to be an industry leader in responding to the threat of climate change, both through the innovative products and services it provides and by minimising the impact of its own operations on the environment.

In 2007 we worked with the Carbon Trust to carry out a study that quantified the company's carbon footprint. The study focused on 11 key UK manufacturing sites and offices together with company wide business travel. Based on the available data, our carbon footprint for 2006/07 was calculated at approximately 88000 tonnes of CO₂, 73% of which was produced from the sites and 27% from business travel. Having established a baseline we are continuing to work with the Carbon Trust to develop the most effective strategies to reduce our footprint at these key sites.

Also in 2007, Siemens moved its corporate headquarters to Frimley in Surrey. This provided an ideal opportunity to rethink the way we work and reduce our impact on the environment. We significantly enhanced the buildings by installing many of our own state-of-the-art products to reduce consumption and increase energy efficiency. For example, lights automatically turn themselves on when movement is detected and dim or brighten according to natural light in the office.

Furthermore, we aim to recycle 75% of all waste at the headquarters and run shuttle buses from stations to encourage staff to travel by rail or opt for car sharing. Video-conferencing facilities also reduce the need for business travel.

We are keen to engage all our stakeholders in our approach to corporate responsibility and would be delighted to hear your feedback. We will continue to share our progress with you in future communications.

What's new in ADVIA Centaur and IMMULITE immunoassay

The ADVIA Centaur® and IMMULITE® family of immunoassay menus continue to expand significantly during 2009, with new assays in the pipeline and improvements to assays currently available.

The following new assays are scheduled for release on the ADVIA Centaur platform: HIV Combo, Syphilis, CMV (IgG and IgM), DHEAS, SHBG, free PSA, D-Dimer and Procalcitonin.

Improvements to the ADVIA Centaur 3rd Generation TSH (TSH-3), Carbamazepine, Progesterone and HBSAg assays will also be introduced.

Additions to the Immulite 2000/2500 menu include the EBV, Lyme Screen and anti-CCP assays. Enhancements to the IMMULITE FT4, Estradiol, EPO, FT3 and UE3 assays will also be introduced during 2009.

The release of these new and enhanced assays demonstrates our commitment to providing our customers with the opportunity to consolidate their testing menu onto high-throughput, easy-to-use platforms.

ADVIA Centaur and IMMULITE infectious disease serology assays

The ADVIA Centaur HIV Combo assay will be released for commercial sale in May. European performance trials demonstrate excellent clinical sensitivity and specificity, providing our ADVIA Centaur customers with confidence in the quality of their HIV testing protocols. ADVIA Centaur Syphilis and CMV (IgG and IgM) assays are scheduled for release in 2009.

The addition of the recently released IMMULITE Syphilis assay, together with the EBV and Lyme Screen assays, now means that 97% of routine infectious disease serology testing can be performed on Siemens' high-throughput immunoassay platforms.

ADVIA Centaur Procalcitonin

Procalcitonin (PCT) is a highly specific marker for the diagnosis of bacterial infections and sepsis. PCT supports early diagnosis and clinical decision making, which could help direct an effective therapy at the right time and save unnecessary spending for critically ill patients.



Sepsis with acute organ dysfunction (severe sepsis) is the number one cause of death in the non-coronary intensive care unit. Cases of severe sepsis are expected to rise in the future due to the increased awareness and sensitivity for the diagnosis, the number of resistant microorganisms and the growth of the elderly population. Despite the enormous investment in critical care resources, severe sepsis mortality ranges from 28% to greater than 50%.

The addition of the PCT assay to the Siemens immunoassay menu will complement the existing IMMULITE family menu of cytokine assays that includes IL-6 (Interleukin 6) and LBP (Lipopolysaccharide binding protein). Studies have shown IL-6 to be the earliest marker of inflammation, whereas LBP determination allows the differentiation of bacterial from non-bacterial sources of inflammation. Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics will offer a complete assay panel for the investigation of sepsis.

ADVIA Centaur DHEAS and SHBG assays

The ADVIA Centaur DHEAS and SHBG assays are scheduled for release in early 2009. The addition of these new assays to the menu will allow our customers to process their routine reproductive hormone workload more efficiently.

ADVIA Centaur assay enhancements

An improved ADVIA Centaur 3rd Generation TSH (TSH-3) assay will be released soon. The enhancements in assay performance are a result of new solid-phase and conjugate architectures, as well as high-affinity anti-human TSH antibodies and the use of a proprietary acridinium ester. The assay demonstrates imprecision performance that exceeds the criteria recommended for TSH methods. An added benefit to customers is a significant reduction in sample volume to 100 uL.

What's new in ADVIA chemistry

ADVIA® Chemistry now offers more choices than ever with an expanded method menu including Haemoglobin A1c, Cardiophase® hsCRP and Cystatin C. These assays enable laboratories to further consolidate specialist testing into the routine clinical chemistry environment.

ADVIA Chemistry Cardiophase high sensitivity CRP

Cardiophase hsCRP method (part number 06837459) is now available for all of the ADVIA Chemistry systems. This latest addition complements our CRP offering of wrCRP and CRP_2, which focuses on the broader analytical range observed for acute inflammation and infection. This latest method offers customers three key features:

1 Independent cardiac risk assessment

Qualified as a cardiac CRP, the assay is intended for use as an independent risk marker for the identification of individuals at risk of future cardiovascular disease.

2 Excellent correlation with gold standard assay

The method is designed for the accurate measurement of CRP concentrations at low levels (0.16 to 10 mg/L). Its accuracy at this range is designed to be equivalent to that of the industry gold standard Siemens Nephelometric BN™ Cardiophase hsCRP. This combination of a high quality assay on a high throughput analyser provides a convenient and fast hsCRP provision, with maximum confidence in the results.

3 Application for risk stratification

Qualification as a high sensitivity CRP means the assay may be used as a marker for prognosis of recurrent events in patients with stable coronary disease or acute coronary syndromes. This application can be used in conjunction with the traditional clinical laboratory methods for evaluating acute coronary syndromes.

ADVIA Chemistry Cystatin C

A Cystatin C assay will soon be available for the ADVIA Chemistry systems. The method will offer three key features:

1 An accurate and sensitive marker for estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR)

The use of Serum Creatinine for the determination of eGFR is influenced by a number of factors, including age, sex and patient body mass. Serum Cystatin C is a measure of tubular renal filtration only and is not influenced by these factors. Cystatin C will offer clinicians a more specific and sensitive marker for eGFR determination. Its application will enhance the management of paediatric and geriatric patients, patients with liver disease plus patients at risk of chronic renal disease and acute renal failure.

2 Excellent correlation with Siemens BN N Latex Cystatin C

This method correlates perfectly with our Siemens BN N Latex Cystatin C, which was the first assay developed for this novel marker. The availability of this assay on the chemistry platform provides laboratories with a high quality assay on a convenient, high throughput analyser, thus streamlining sample workflow.

3 An additional marker for risk assessment

When assessing cardiac risk, this assay is an additional marker that can be used to evaluate prognosis and help to improve patient management.

ADVIA Chemistry Haemoglobin A1c

A new improved Haemoglobin A1c method (part number: 06854744) is available on all ADVIA Chemistry systems. This new method offers three key new features:

1 Automated onboard pre-treatment of whole blood

It provides the choice of on or off system pre-treatment of whole blood. Automated onboard pre-treatment offers the added convenience of simply loading whole blood samples onto the analyser and walking away. Once loaded, the whole blood sample is automatically pre-treated and analysed, providing the result within ten minutes.

2 Results reportable in NGSP (%) or IFCC (mmol/mol) units

User definable choice of units in line with the latest recommendations.

3 No bias against haemoglobin variants C, E and S

Providing an accurate measure of HbA1c within these patient populations.

For more information on any of these assays, please email info.diagnostics.med.gb@siemens.com





Understanding of the human body scales new heights

Images courtesy of Caudwell Xtreme Everest.

Lowest levels of blood oxygen are recorded on Mount Everest

A recent study published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)* has reported the lowest ever levels of oxygen in humans during an expedition to Mount Everest by University College London (UCL) doctors.

In order to obtain results in such challenging conditions, the team used a RAPIDLab 348 Blood Gas Analyser from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics. The aim of the study was to investigate human adaptation to hypoxia and to establish whether high altitude climbers have very low blood oxygen levels, which at sea-level would only be seen in patients close to death.

"We ran tests in a hypobaric chamber before the expedition to ascertain which blood gas analysers would be suitable for the intense conditions. The Siemens unit proved to be highly robust and delivered reliable and consistent results," comments Dr. Mike Grocott, Caudwell Xtreme Everest Expedition Leader and a UCL Senior Lecturer in Critical Care Medicine.

The Caudwell Xtreme Everest team of climbing doctors made the measurements by taking blood from an artery in the leg when they were close to the summit of Mount Everest at 8400 metres above sea level. Blood collected from four team members was then carried back down the mountain to be analysed within two hours at a science laboratory set up at 6400 metres.

The blood samples were analysed by the RAPIDLab unit to provide the partial pressures of arterial oxygen (PaO_2), carbon dioxide (PaCO_2) and the pH of the samples. The study found the average arterial oxygen level to be 3.28 kilopascals (kPa); the normal value in humans is 12-14 kPa and patients with a level below 8 kPa are usually considered to be critically ill. It is hoped that the findings will pave the way for the re-evaluation of treatment strategies in some long-term patients with similarly low levels of blood oxygen. By taking into account that some patients may have adapted to low levels of oxygen in the blood, ongoing research may lead to better treatments for

patients with conditions such as cystic fibrosis, emphysema and septic shock.



"The beauty of the RAPIDLab machine is in its simplicity - it is easy to use and delivers accurate results quickly. We also received a high level of support from Siemens before and during the trip. For example, we were given training on how to take the unit apart and reconfigure it should we have needed onsite engineering, plus had essential spare parts delivered directly to us on Everest," states Dr. Daniel Martin, UCL Research Fellow at The Centre for Altitude Space and Extreme Environment Medicine. "That must have been the highest ever courier delivery!"

"We supported the team via telephone and email both before and during the expedition. We made sure replacement parts were always delivered, even if that meant taking them halfway up Everest," states Bob Mayall, Scientific Consultant at Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics. "RAPIDLab has also been used outside the clinical environment during expeditions to Bolivia and Peru. Its robustness in extreme conditions means it is probably the world's most travelled blood gas analyser."

"Siemens is delighted to have played a role in assisting scientific research and pushing the boundaries of medical knowledge," comments Hilda Crockett, Marketing Manager for Point of Care at Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics. "We are looking forward to seeing the benefits this expedition will bring to the clinical field."

The RAPIDLab Blood Gas Analyser range has recently been extended to include the RAPIDLab 1200 family of systems. It offers extended functionality for fast and accurate results in high throughput environments.

**Arterial Blood Gases and Oxygen Content in Climbers on Mount Everest, The New England Journal of Medicine, January 8 2009. (N Engl J Med 2009;360:140-9.)*

Celebrating 20 years of Managed Pathology Services



This year signals the 20th anniversary of Siemens providing Managed Pathology Services™ to the NHS. Our first contract (through legacy company Technicon) with the Wessex Health Authority led us onto the UK's first full supply chain agreement at Whipps Cross and also the UK's first Point of Care contract. This innovation in customer interaction created a momentum to choose Siemens as a long term partner for many Trusts throughout the UK.

To mark the occasion, Siemens hosted a photographic exhibit featuring Managed Pathology Services customers in action in their laboratories. The gallery was installed at our headquarters in Surrey in time for the BN Dimension and ADVIA Automation master class meetings held in January. The event was also used to launch the availability of our new Managed Pathology Services guide, which is now available from your company representative.

Congresses & customer events

March 09

Diabetes UK, Glasgow
11 - 13 /03/09

Blood Gas Forum, Oxford
12/03/09

Blood Gas Forum, Warrington
24/03/09

ISBN, Cairo
21 - 25/03/09

Dimension Chemistry Regional User Forum
Manchester, 30/03/09

BN II and BN ProSpec Regional User Group
Meeting, Manchester
31/03/09

Blood Gas Forum, Dartford
31/03/09

April 09

BSAVA, Birmingham
2 - 5/04/09

EASL, Copenhagen
22 - 26/04/09

May 09

Siemens Academy, London
5 - 7/05/09

ECCMID, Helsinki
16 - 19/05/09

FOCUS, Liverpool
18 - 21/05/09

June 09

IFCC, Innsbruck
7 - 11/06/09

EAACI, Warsaw
6 - 10/06/09

International Society for STD Research,
London, 28/06 - 1/07/09

September 09

Siemens International ID Conference
Dates TBC

IBMS, Birmingham
28 - 30/09/09

www.siemens.com/diagnostics

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, the leading clinical diagnostics company, is committed to providing clinicians with the vital information they need for the accurate diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of patients. Our comprehensive portfolio of performance-driven systems, unmatched menu offering and IT solutions, in conjunction with highly responsive service, is designed to streamline workflow, enhance operational efficiency and support improved patient care.

IMMULITE, RAPIDLab, ADVIA, ADVIA Centaur, Cardiophase, BN, Managed Pathology Services and all associated marks are trademarks of Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Inc. All other trademarks and brands are the property of their respective owners.

Product and service availability may vary from country to country and is subject to varying regulatory requirements. Please contact your local representative for availability.

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