

Key to stellar blood services

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust relies on Stago's STA-R Evolution instruments for measurement of blood coagulation parameters. Joanne Melbourne, deputy laboratory manager in blood sciences, explained: "We provide blood services across three different sites and have six STA-R Evolution instruments spread between them. Five of the systems are used for routine tests such as fibrinogen and D-dimer, and the remaining instrument is dedicated to the more

specialised coagulation tests.

"When purchasing new coagulation instrumentation, a crucial consideration is that the system must be able to link to a track at our main site – Leicester Royal Infirmary – but also be capable of working as a standalone system at our smaller sites. STA-R Evolution fulfilled all these roles.



"As we operate over a large site with a lot of staff, it was also important to be able to train people quickly and easily; the STA-R Evolution's user-friendly touchscreen plays a key role in this, enabling straightforward operation. We have had the instruments for almost four years now, and in that time have developed a very good relationship with Stago and found the STA-R Evolution to be very robust."

www.stago-uk.com

Media for MALDI-TOF platform

bioMérieux has launched a range of certified media for use with the VITEK MS MALDI-TOF microbial identification platform, ensuring the company can provide high-quality solutions to meet the entire workflow needs of today's clinical microbiology laboratory. The newly certified range includes bacterial and fungal media, as well as bioMérieux's chromID CPS chromogenic culture medium, and will be added to as more products are tested.

"With the certification of



these media, we are now in a position to offer a complete solution to match our customers' needs," commented bioMérieux product manager, Gill Webb. "Our comprehensive portfolio includes growth media for a wide range of organisms, the VITEK MS system for rapid identification, VITEK 2 AST cards for straightforward susceptibility testing and Lyfocults Plus quality control devices, providing efficient and effective solutions for every step of the microbiology workflow."

www.biomerieux.co.uk

Hydrogen peroxide vapour technology

Hydrogen peroxide vapour technology is confirmed as superior to the aerosolised hydrogen peroxide (aHP) process following the publication of a recent independent study. A team at St George's Hospital, London, established that hydrogen peroxide vapour technology from Bioquell was faster, safer and more effective for biological inactivation than aerosolised hydrogen peroxide.

Incomplete inactivation of microbial contamination is a risk in hospitals because the remaining microorganisms can be transmitted to other patients. The study assessed the inactivation of specific organisms known to cause healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) – *Clostridium difficile*, *Acinetobacter baumannii* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Test discs containing the microbes situated around corners, out of direct line of sight of the aHP machine, were left active. In fact, the aHP system failed to inactivate MRSA or *A. baumannii* dried from suspension in water at any of the locations assessed.

www.bioquell.com

Focusing on cytomegalovirus detection

Oxford Biosystems Cadama has announced availability of the new CE-marked Simplexa cytomegalovirus (CMV) molecular test kit from Focus Diagnostics for use on the Focus 3M integrated cyclor. The quantitative test, calibrated against the new World Health Organization (WHO) international standard, is designed to enable hospital laboratories to perform advanced molecular testing for CMV, a potentially fatal virus

infection in patients with compromised immunity.

The assay can be run in conjunction with the Simplexa EBV and Simplexa BKV assays. These CE-marked assays employ real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methodology to detect CMV, EBV and BKV quantitatively in whole blood and plasma samples.

www.oxfordbiosystems.com

Genome editing support website

Horizon Discovery, a provider of research tools to support the development of personalised medicines, has launched a website dedicated to supporting scientists working with rAAV-mediated genome editing technology.

The website provides an invaluable resource for groups working with, or wishing to establish, rAAV-mediated genome editing technology in-house, and gives comprehensive access to over 15 years of academic research

on rAAV-mediated genome editing, along with data on Horizon's application of the technology.

Users can search the latest information on rAAV gene editing, including a library of rAAV-related articles. Discussion forums provide technical support as well as current protocols for rAAV gene targeting. The site also facilitates contact with a community of researchers using this technology.

www.RAAVs.org

Educational webinars

With more than 70 English-language webinars scheduled for 2012, plus many presented in multiple languages, Malvern Instruments continues its commitment to the company's firmly established cultural premise that knowledge sharing has great benefits for all concerned. Now in its 11th year, Malvern's programme of online web seminars includes a wide range of material characterisation presentations, appropriate for beginners through to experts from a wide range of industries. Catering to worldwide audiences, live presentations are broadcast across multiple time zones in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, French and German. Participation is free of charge and registration is straightforward.

www.malvern.com/webseminars