

Venue: PYRAMID 2
22nd August 2007
0900-1030 hr

Presidential Symposium

PS1. New models for laboratory testing in a global environment

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For many areas of the world only three models of laboratory testing have been used: (1) on site testing; (2) transport of specimens to a remote laboratory; and (3) a mobile laboratory. Each of these models has limitations. More recently, another model has been tested in our laboratory: partial processing with electronic transmission of data to a central facility for test completion.

The model requires the availability of high speed electronic communication. We tested this model with human papillomavirus phenotyping. Using liquid based Pap smear specimens, we extracted and amplified DNA using reagents and equipment supplied by Access Genetics, our central testing facility. The resulting amplified DNA was separated on agarose gels with and without endonuclease digestion and stained with ethidium bromide. Completed gels are then scanned and the scan images sent via the Internet to Access Genetics where they are interpreted and reports transmitted back.

The model is particularly useful where there is a shortage of highly trained pathologists and for molecular testing procedures that require significant expertise for interpretation. As molecular instruments and methods become the platform of choice for many tests, especially those for infectious diseases, this model may well allow for the provision of these tests in underserved areas.

PS2. Pathology workforce crisis and training

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Abstract not available at time of printing.