Emergency Flu AB Availability

Emergency Medicine and Laboratory Medicine join forces to combat this devastating flu season in record time.

- Khanh Andrews

H3N2: If you’ve had it, you know how bad it can be. If you don’t, you’ve heard about it and are afraid. Very afraid. We’re talking about the flu, specifically this flu season’s dominant strain.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that flu activity is widespread across the country. The California Department of Public Health has announced that flu activity in California is at levels that are usually only seen at the peak of flu season. In addition, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has reported 36 confirmed flu deaths this year in the county alone; last year at this time, the toll was 13.

In response to this crisis, the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Laboratory Medicine joined forces to expedite the implementation of offering an influenza A/B screen 24/7 to alleviate the strain placed on hospital resources. Test implementation and validation normally takes 3 months, depending upon the complexity of the test or analyzer. However, the laboratory’s collaborative efforts have made the cobas LIAT analyzer ready within a record 14 days.

“As you are aware, the availability of influenza A/B testing on a 24/7 basis will be a tremendous benefit to our patients and to our Emergency Department. Dr. Lynne McCullough, Medical Director of Emergency Medicine, stated how impressed she was by our ability to implement this test so quickly and how grateful she was for our efforts! This project is a great example of our laboratory’s expertise, professionalism, and teamwork!” – Dr. Alyssa Ziman, Laboratory Medical Director.

“This was a phenomenal collaborative effort between four laboratory areas (Microbiology, Core Laboratory, Santa Monica Hospital, and Support Services), ISS, Regulatory Affairs, Purchasing and Finance. We could not have accomplished this and implemented it so quickly without the support of Laura Yost and Dr. Omai Garner. The laboratory staff in all areas has been outstanding in their response to expedited training and adapting these workflow changes.” – Cindy Toy, Director of Brentwood Annex.
Dr. Valerie Arboleda was featured on the NIH Director’s Blog for her groundbreaking work in helping discover a rare congenital disease. Read More.

Dr. Peter Tontonoz and Dr. Tamer Sallam, have been quoted in multiple articles, for the discovery of a new gene that may play a protective role in preventing heart disease. Read More.

Congratulations to Dr. Elaine Reed on receiving the 2017 I3T Excellence in Research Award. Dr. Reed received this award for her outstanding contributions to basic, translational and clinical immunology. Her work truly exemplifies the mission of the I3T, in advancing the field of transplantation.

Dr. Bob Zhang, Neuropathology Fellow, who won one of the Arthur Purdy Stout Society’s Travel Stipends. The Arthur Purdy Stout Society supports the profession of surgical pathology and surgical pathologists by education and research. Dr. Zhang will use the stipend to study eye pathology at Johns Hopkins with Dr. Charles Eberhart.

Congratulations to Yuna Kang, Rob Munday and Mark Lincoln, our pathology residents Alex Nobori and Christine Lee, visiting scholar Toru Oga-wa, and UCLA medical student Shanice McKenzie for their outstanding work at this week's International Society of Dermatopathology's Joint Meeting in San Diego. Our dermpath section presented/defended five (5) posters and Yuna Kang offered an outstanding platform presentation! An all-around excellent showing and a wonderful testament to our department's thriving academic spirit. Congratulations!

UCLA Blood and Platelet Center—Annual Blood Donor Appreciation Luncheon

January 12, 2018

The UCLA Blood and Platelet Center hosted its annual blood donor appreciation luncheon, Friday, January 12. This year our donors were fortunate to meet Skye, a very special and strong little girl, and her amazing family. This event was so heartwarming and let our donors know the tremendous importance and impact of their altruism and “gift of life”.

While it is important to take these opportunities to thank our donors, it is just as important to take these opportunities to remind ourselves of the impact that we have in making these products available for all patients and the role that each of you play in helping to support Skye’s care and save her life, as well as the lives of countless other patients.

Thank you for all that you! Read More about Skye.

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Bruins Run10K

Elsa Tsukahara, Chrissie Dawson, Chau Tang and Nadia Jose along with CLS student Selene Jovel participated in the Global Energy 10K on September 27, 2017. The event hosted by Bimbo included 38 host cities in 21 countries, and gathered more than 115,000 people around the world. Thanks to all the Kilometers ran by the participants, over 1 million slices of bread was donated to food banks in every host city.

12th Annual—I ♥ Walking 2018

In honor of American Heart Month, the first day of UCLA Recreation’s four-day “I Heart Walking” event (Feb. 12-15) included a free health-screening event for registered participants. On February 12, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine volunteers (Lavita Boyd, Nathan Okawa, Lilian Baldwin, Ana Lontok, and Khanh Andrews) participated in a “Know your numbers” event at the UCLA Pavilion Club from 9 am to 2 pm to assess over 115 attendees’ body mass index, blood pressure, and cholesterol and blood glucose levels. UCLA Health cardiologists were also available onsite to discuss the results.

Alyssa Ziman, MD

Reed Hutchinson/UCLA Health

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Welcome New Employees

February 2018

Heather Mercado – CPT, Ronald Reagan Med Center
J Kathleen Zagala – MSO II, Recruitment Supv, Blood & Platelet Center
Terri Hill – Community Liaison, Blood & Platelet Center
Gina Flores – HLT I Blood & Platelet Center

January 2018

Lamert Lam – CLS, per diem, Santa Monica Hospital
Edward Griffin – Director, Transfusion Medicine, Ronald Reagan
Jessica Campbell – CLS, Blood Bank, Ronald Reagan
Trace Miramon – CLS, Immunogenetics Center
Caesar Anthony Dizon – CLS, Blood Bank, Ronald Reagan

Laboratory Safety Tips

❖ Know where your lab’s safety equipment - first aid kit, fire extinguisher, fire alarms, eye-wash station, safety shower - is located and how to use it correctly.
❖ Be aware of your facility’s exits and evacuation procedures. Know emergency phone numbers to call in case of emergency.
❖ Read fire alarm and safety signs; follow instructions in the event of an accident or emergency.
❖ Do not chew gum, eat, or drink in the lab.
❖ Never smell or taste chemicals.
❖ In case of chemical splash to eyes or skin, go to the nearest eye-wash station immediately and flush the affected area(s) with water for at least 15 minutes.
❖ Always follow proper procedures for disposing lab waste.
❖ Report all injuries, accidents, and broken equipment right away.
❖ Report any unsafe conditions in the lab to your supervisor.
❖ Identify lab areas containing carcinogens, radioisotopes, biohazards, and lasers with warning signs.
❖ Maintain a 36” clearance around all fire sprinkler heads and electrical panels.

Safety Quiz

Enter our Quarterly Safety Quiz for your chance to win fabulous prizes.

What number(s) should be called to report a Major Chemical spill?
List two locations Safety Data Sheets (SDS) may be accessed.
What information should be present on secondary labels of chemicals, and reagents or solutions that contain chemicals?

Send your responses to byasin@mednet.ucla.edu by March 19, 2018.

Newsletter Committee: Khanh Andrews, Daisy Villa, and Bushra Yasin

Send us your suggestions for future newsletters to: dcvilla@mednet.ucla.edu

Visit UCLA Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Website: www.Pathology.ucla.edu