

## Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

# Communiqué

### IN THIS ISSUE

Beaker Go Live [pg.1]

Thanksgiving Hours [pg.1]

Welcome Dr. Joanna Conant [pg.2]

Dr. Mark Fung Professorship [ pg.2]

Compliance Updates : Change to

Appeal for Prepayment Probes [pg.2]

Alt Reference Range Change [pg.4]

Urine Sediment Changes to Reporting  
 [pg.3]

HLA Testing Update [pg.3]

Pap Testing and HPV Reflex Testing  
 Orders [pg.3-4]

Laboratory Client Satisfaction Survey  
 Link

### THANKSGIVING HOURS

All Laboratory Collection sites are  
 CLOSED on Thanksgiving day.

Regular hours will resume on Friday  
 November 29.

**Please visit**

*UVMHealth.org/MedCenterDrawSites*  
 or call Laboratory Customer Service  
 847-5121 or 1-800-991-2799 for  
 assistance.

### LAB OPERATIONS

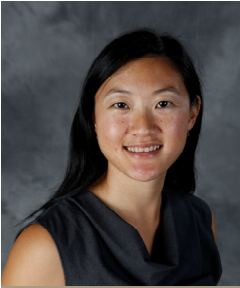


### New Laboratory Information System “Beaker: Go Live Friday November 1, 2019

November 1 is rapidly approaching, and we are preparing to accept lab orders into our new Epic Beaker laboratory information system. The University of Vermont Medical Center is converting both the Clinical Laboratory and Anatomic Pathology information systems from Sunquest/CoPath to Epic Beaker on November 1, 2019. This change is part of The University of Vermont Health Network’s overall rollout of Epic between 2019 - 2021.

**Bringing all of the UVM Health Network hospitals live on a single electronic health record (EHR) with integrated lab modules will have some profound benefits for our shared patients:**

- A shared master patient index will improve coordination of care for patients across our entire region.
- Access to all lab results from any of the UVM Health Network Laboratories from this single system will reduce duplicate lab work.
- A single lab system will allow patients to have samples collected at any access point at any of the hospitals.
- Test names will be standardized across the network, making it easier for physicians to find the right test to order.
- Electronic orders and results will be available for primary and specialty care to access, reducing duplicate lab work.



Joanna Conant, MD  
Physician Pathology  
Phone: 847-6700

### Welcome Dr. Joanna Conant

I am excited to welcome Dr. Joanna Conant as a faculty member to the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Many of you likely remember Joanna when she first was a student fellow from 2009-2010 and then as a pathology resident from 2012-2016.

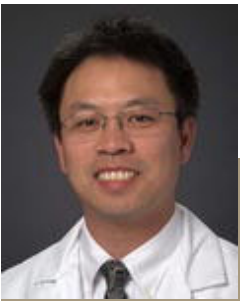
After completing her training here in Vermont, she spent 2 years in Albuquerque, NM, completing a Hematopathology Fellowship and a Molecular Genetics Pathology Fellowship both at the University of New Mexico/TriCore Reference Laboratories. We are very fortunate that she chose to return to Vermont and join our department.

She will provide clinical services in Hematopathology and Genomic Medicine.

Sincerely,

### Andrew Goodwin, MD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Larner College of Medicine  
Division Chief for Clinical Laboratory Medicine  
CLIA Medical Director UVMMC Laboratory  
Section Medical Director Coagulation and POCT



Mark Fung, MD  
Vice Chair of Population  
Health, Director Stem Cell  
Laboratory

### Roy Korson, MD and Lorraine Korson, MS Green & Gold Professor of Pathology

Dr. Mark Fung has been appointed as the inaugural Ray Korson, MD and Lorraine Korson, MS Green and Gold Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. This professorship was established in 2011 by the Korson's to promote academic excellence in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Mark has been appointed due to his extensive accomplishments, contributions, and commitment to the Larner College of Medicine and the University of Vermont.

### Compliance Updates: Change to appeal process for Prepayment probes

Medicare performs pre-payment probes on some of our claims. These are usually for molecular pathology testing. These probes require us to provide documentation to support the medical necessity of the testing that you have requested on your patients. This includes copies of the orders, progress notes, patient specific letters that state how the results of the testing aid in the management and treatment of your patient and peer review literature.

Medicare has recently notified us of a change in the appeals process for these probes. After an unfavorable decision is rendered, they will select some claims to participate in a voluntary telephone discussion as part of the Medicare Appeals Demonstration.

The benefits of participating in this voluntary telephone discussion include:

- Direct interaction with the decision maker (ordering and treating provider).
- Ability to provide verbal testimony.
- Ability to submit missing or critical documentation prior to the Medicare Qualified Independent Contractor (QIC) decision. (2<sup>nd</sup> level appeal)
- Receive feedback to assist in understanding applicable CMS policies going forward.
- Opportunity to influence policy coverage for this testing.
- The telephone conversation will be recorded and become part of the case file.
- We have a limited window of time in which to notify CMS that you would like to participate in the telephone discussion.



Clayton Wilburn, MD

Medical Director  
Clinical Chemistry

Phone: 847-9657

### ALT Reference Range Change

On 9/1/2019 the clinical laboratory upgraded to the next generation ALT assay on our Ortho Clinical Diagnostics Vitros 5600 platform. The test name and ordering process remain the same. The new generation ALT assay comes with a reference range update from the manufacturer. **The previous reference range for Males and Females >18 years old was <72 U/L and <53 U/L, respectively and the new range is <50 U/L and <35 U/L, respectively.** This updated reference range has been verified by the lab in internal studies. Correlation studies between the new and previous generation assays are excellent.

If you have any questions concerning this change please contact Dr. Clayton Wilburn in the laboratory.

### Urine Sediment Changes to Reporting Results.

With the implementation of EPIC BEAKER on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 as the new laboratory information system at UVMC, we will be update how Urine Sediment Results are reported. In current state if there are crystals, yeast, small round cells, or pathologic casts detected those elements are reported as a text comment in the additional findings area of the report. With the implementation of BEAKER, those individual elements will now be defined components of the report with the following fields: Urine Crystals, Urine Yeast, Small Round Cells, and Pathologic Casts. For the Urine Crystals, Small Round Cells, and Pathologic Casts fields there will be two components, 1<sup>st</sup> the number seen (Few, Moderate, Many) and 2<sup>nd</sup> the type of crystal, small round cell, or pathologic cast seen. For the Urine Yeast field there will be just the number seen (Few, Moderate, Many). The fields of Urine Crystals, Urine Yeast, Small Round Cells, and Pathologic Casts will only be reported in the result if they are detected, thus if none are seen then no data will be sent for those fields into the electronic chart or printed result.

If you have any questions concerning this change please contact Dr. Clayton Wilburn in the laboratory.

### HLA Testing Update

**Effective September 1, 2019 the UVM Medical Center laboratory no longer performs HLA testing.** Samples for kidney transplant related HLA testing are now processed by the HLA laboratory at Albany Medical College. For transplant patients that choose to be collected at area hospitals, UVMC Transplant will provide patients with a kit, instructions and orders for Albany Medical College. The patient can then go to a blood collection site that is convenient to them. If your office/clinic sees a patient with one of these kits **it is important that once the collection is completed**, you give the kit back to the patient as they have the appropriate paperwork to mail the kit directly to Albany Medical College.

For disease association-related HLA testing and other forms of HLA testing that is not kidney transplant related, we will continue to send requests to Mayo Clinic Laboratories.

### Pap Testing and HPV Reflex Testing Orders

In order to provide optimal patient care, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine will follow ASCCP screening guidelines for Pap testing and HPV reflex testing on all Pap Test orders.

Information regarding the ASCCP screening guidelines can be found at <http://www.asccp.org>

**High risk HPV testing will be performed according to patient age and Pap result:**

<b>Patient Age &lt;25:</b>	<b>No HPV Testing</b>
<b>Patient Age 25-29:</b>	<b>Pap ASCUS → HR HPV Testing</b>
<b>Patient Age 30-64:</b>	<b>Pap NIL or ASCUS → HR HPV Testing</b>
<b>Patient Age ≥ 65:</b>	<b>No HPV Testing</b>

If the sample source is Vaginal and HPV testing is ordered, the sample will be sent to Mayo Medical Laboratory, as UVMC has not validated HPV testing on this specimen type. If the sample source is Anus, HPV testing will not be performed.

If HPV genotyping is ordered, it will be performed if:

Patient Age 30-64: Pap is NIL and HR HPV Testing is Positive à HPV Genotyping.



Scott Anderson MD  
Medical Director  
Cytopathology



**PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE COMMUNIQUÉ — OCTOBER 2019**

**PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY  
MEDICINE COMMUNIQUÉ**

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[UVMHealth.org/MedCenterLabs](http://UVMHealth.org/MedCenterLabs)

