

molecular diagnostic microbiology



# Molecular methods

dramatically changed clinical microbiology

allowed discovery of several clinically important and previously unrecognized or uncultivable pathogens

reduced the dependency of laboratory on culture-based methods

became gold diagnostic standards for several microorganisms (C. trachomatis, HSV encephalitis, enteroviral meningitis, CMV reactivation, hepatitis C....)



















## Point-of-care molecular testing

entering clinical practice throughout the world

paradigm shift towards decentralized testing

especially suited for applications:

- where fast turnaround is desirable
- where centralized laboratory services face limitations
- in resource-limited countries
- in rural areas and places that are hard to reach
- ships, submarines, off-shore platforms...3D printer technology and remote fault diagnosis will allow reparation of failures using a small stock of materials and versatile components)

poses diverse technological, economic and organizational challenges

Fifteen-Minute Detection of *Streptococcus pyogenes* in Throat Swabs by Use of a Commercially Available Point-of-Care PCR Assay J Clin Microbiol 2016;54:815

James R. Uhl,<sup>a</sup> Robin Patel<sup>9,b</sup> J C Division of Clinical Microbiology, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnes Department of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA<sup>b</sup>

cobas Liat strep A assay vs. S. pyogenes LightCycler PCR assay

sensitivity = 100%

specificity = 98.3 %

positive predictive value = 97.7%

negative predictive value = 100.0%



Evaluation of a routine point-of-care intervention for early infant diagnosis of HIV: an observational study in eight African countries

Earnest rist a Calify Cone ST 3-65 Flavia Blanchi", Jennifer Cohn", Emma Sacks, Rebecca Bailey, Jean-Francois Lemaire, Rhoderick Machekano, on behalf of the EGPAF POC EID Study Team†

POC testing in 339 health-care facilities:

- 2,875 infants exposed to HIV tested with conventional testing methods - 18,220 infants tested with POC testing

the return of results to caregivers within 30 days: 18,7% vs. 98.3% the median time from sample collection to return of results: 55 days vs. 0 days the median time from sample collection to ART initiation: 49 days vs. 0 days infants with HIV initiating antiretroviral therapy within 60 days: 43.3% vs. 92.3%

the cost per test result returned within 30 days: \$131 vs. \$27

# Where is my instrument?

universal instruments providing electricity and software















Reuters Health Information Rwanda to Start Using Drones to Supply Vaccines, Blood in August

By Clement Uwirir May 16, 2016

Rwanda is the first country that has sought to integrate drones into its health service with drones used to deliver blood; launched in 2016

REUTERS

4,100 units of blood delivered in the first year; delivery time 15-45 minutes; 40% of the blood for postpartum hemorrhaging; 40% for treatment of severe malaria

## Buzz as World's Biggest Drone Drug Deliveries Take Off in Tanzania

By Kizito Makoye August 30, 2017

Tanzania launched the world's largest drone delivery network in January 2018

more than 1,000 health facilities across the Tanzania connected

delivery of blood, vaccines and malaria and HIV/AIDS drugs

modified Zipline International drones flying at 100 km (62 miles) per hour; drones parachuting blood and medicines with biodegradable parachutes Can Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones) Be Used for the Routine Transport of Chemistry, Hematology, and Coagulation Laboratory Specimens? PLoS One 2015;10:e0134020 Timethyk, Amukale<sup>1,544</sup>, Lori J. Sokoll<sup>44</sup>, Danial Papper<sup>546</sup>, Dana P. Howerd<sup>446</sup>,

three paired samples obtained from 56 adult volunteers; chemistry, hematology, and coagulation testing

168 samples held stationary vs. 168 samples flown in the UAS (6-38 minutes)

33 of the most common chemistry, hematology, and coagulation tests performed

a mean difference of 3.2% for glucose and <1% for other analytes

only bicarbonate did not meet the strictest performance criteria.

transportation of laboratory specimens via small UASs does not affect accuracy of routine chemistry, hematology, and coagulation tests results











#### Lab-on-a-drone

Drone-based centrifugation

benchtop centrifugation processes are challenging to miniaturize

by removing the quadcopter propellers and replacing them with 3D printed centrifuge rotors designed to fit the motor shaft threading



#### Drone-based sample preparation

standard centrifuge-based workflows allowed in lab-on-a-drone

3D printed attachments transform the quadcopter into a centrifuge capable of rotation speeds up to 10,000 rpm

standard column-based extraction of Dengue viral RNA from human serum yielded results on par with those obtained from samples processed using a benchtop centrifuge

















## MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry

(matrix assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight mass spectrometry)







#### T2 Biosystems (Lexington, MA)

- magnetic resonance technology (supermagnetic nanoparticles coated with target-specific binding agents cluster around the target, altering water molecules and their T2 relaxation signal)
- detects DNA, cells, proteins directly from specimens without extraction or amplification
- a low limit of detection (1-3 CFU/ml vs. 100-1000 CFU/ml for PCR)
- not impacted by the presence of antimicrobials
- printer-size detection device
- result in 3-5 hours

#### <u>Currently available assays:</u> T2 Candida Panel

T2 Bacteria Panel (ESKAPE pathogens)

T2 *Candida auris* T2 Lyme

T2 Resistance Panel (Ex-US launch end 2019)



# revolution ?

#### CRISPR-Cas - based diagnostic assays











## Current and future developments

- <u>automated colony-picking modules</u> (for ID by MALDI-TOF and suspension preparation)

- intelligent digital imaging

- development of intelligent algorithms and expert systems with different applications
  - microbial growth detection and quantification (BD Kiestra urine culture app) - presumptive identification of species growing on chromogenic agar
- (WASPLab image analysis software for MRSA, VRE detection)

plates with negative results could reliably be automatically read and reported by the system to reduce the time and cost for large-volume screen laboratories

- fully automated disk diffusion AST

# revolution?

## syndrome-specific testing



## Syndrome-specific testing

comprehensive panels of probable pathogens causing a particular syndrome

highly multiplexed PCR platforms

one sample - multiple results

designed to directly probe specimens (respiratory, stool, CSF, blood, urogenital) and positive blood culture bottles for an array of microorganisms

can have significant impact on patient care and management

redefining the diagnosis of infectious disease ?



antimicrobial susceptibility testing 

genomic vs. phenotypic



#### Genomic antimicrobial susceptibility testing

nucleic acid amplification detection of resistance genes or mutations that are correlated with resistance to antibiotics plays an important role in clinical microbiology laboratories and will continue to do so

molecular testing will evolve versus syndrome-oriented multiplexed detection of pathogens including genomic AST

commercial competition will increase, prices per test will go down and in the end all tests will be of the "sample in - result out" format



## genomic antimicrobial resistance testing

(whole genome sequencing)



#### Prediction of Susceptibility to First-Line Tuberculosis Drugs by DNA Sequencing NEng J Med 2018;379:1403-15 The CRyPTIC Consortium and the 100,000 Genomes Project

- 10,209 isolates, genotypic predictions of the susceptibility of *M. tuberculosis* to first-line drugs
- resistance correctly predicted with 91.3% 97.1% sensitivity
- susceptibility correctly predicted with 96.8% 99.0% specificity
- England, the Netherlands, and New York discontinue phenotypic drugsusceptibility testing of isolates that are predicted by sequencing to be pansusceptible to first-line drugs

Building the Framework for Standardized Clinical Laboratory Reporting of Next-generation Sequencing Data for Resistance-associated Mutations in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Complex Clin Infect Dis 2019:69:1634-40 Jaffer A Tronking<sup>1,4</sup> Angel M. Suck<sup>2,4</sup> Timely C. Roberll<sup>3,4</sup> Jameler L. Gordy,<sup>14</sup> Timely M. Wilker,<sup>2</sup> Dusiela M. Grille,<sup>2</sup> Lakshni Jayrabakaz,<sup>2</sup> Pool Mine,<sup>4</sup> Margel M. Suck<sup>2,4</sup> Timely C. Roberll,<sup>3,4</sup> Jameler L. Gordy,<sup>14</sup> Timely M. Wilker,<sup>2</sup> Dusiela M. Grille,<sup>2</sup> Lakshni Jayrabakaz,<sup>2</sup> <u>phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility</u> testing will remain core technology in clinical microbiology for multiple decades to come for majority of human pathogens







#### New emerging technologies with great potential for phenotypic antibiotic susceptibility testing

flow cytometry resonate mass measurement microbial cell weighing by vibrating cantilevers + atomic force microscopy isothermal microcalorimetry asynchronous magnetic bead rotation testing in microdroplets + epifluorescence digital time-lapse microscopy time-lapse single-cell imaging (SCMA) high-throughput nanowell antibiotic susceptibility testing forward laser light scatter technology phase-shift reflectometric interference spectroscopy + micropillar architectures gradient-generating microfluidic  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{AST}}$  devices – chip based gradient-generating microfluidic AST devices - hydrogel based

AST methods based on bacterial death



## Resonate mass measurement (LifeScale - Affinity Biosensors)

- mechanically resonant structure with a microfluidic channel
- microbes suspended in broth and passed one by one through a microfluidic channel mass (and growth curve) measured by the change in resonate energy by ultra-high resolution weighing









non-microorganism detection based molecular diagnostic approaches (host response diagnostics)





#### Diagnostic Test Accuracy of a 2-Transcript Host RNA Signature for Discriminating Bacterial vs Viral Infection in Febrile Children

JAMA 2016;316:835-45 wo A. Herberg, PRD: Myrsini Kaforou, PHD, Victoria J. Wight, PHD, Hannah Shalies, BSc; Harilaia Eleftherohomon, PhD, Ciw J. Hogger, PhD, am Cebey-López, MSc. Michael J. Carter, MRCPCH: Victoria A. Janes, MD, Shaurt Gornley, Miles, Chiato Shimaya, McHonolet, MD, aki M. Barendregt, BSc, Antonio Salas, PhD, John Ranggaw, MD, Andrew J. Polardt, PhD, San Y, Pater, FRPCPCH solupies, PhD, Federo Marchino Teros, PhD, Jane, C. Burn, MD, Lottalin J. M. Cone, PhD, Woldeal Livin, FRPCPCH solupies, PhD, Federo Marchino Teros, PhD, Jane, C. Burn, MD, Landin J. M. Cone, PhD, Molaret IV, Fredriko J. Kone, Thomas, MD, San J. Yang, PhD, Yang, Y

#### 2-transcript signature (FAM89A and IFI44L)

23/23 patients with microbiologically confirmed bacterial infection classified as bacterial (sensitivity, 100% [95%CI, 100%-100%])

27/28 patients with definite viral infection classified as viral . (specificity, 96.4% [95%CI, 89.3%-100%])

Host Gene Expression in Nose and Blood for the Diagnosis of Viral Respiratory Infection J Infect Dis 2019;219:1151-1161 Jinsheng Yu,<sup>1</sup> Derick R. Peterson,<sup>4</sup> Andrea M. Baran,<sup>4</sup> Soumyaroop Bhattacharya,<sup>6</sup> Todd N. Wylie,<sup>13</sup> Ann R. Falsey,<sup>4</sup> Thomas J. Mariani,<sup>4</sup> and Gregory A. Storch<sup>2</sup>

nasal gene expression signal = epithelial cells + variable leukocyte contribution

nasal gene expression signatures good or better for discriminating between children with symptomatic RSV infection, symptomatic non-RSV, asymptomatic, and uninfected children

#### Diagnosis of Childhood Tuberculosis and Host RNA Expression in Africa

N Engl | Med 2014:370:1712-23. culture-confirmed tuberculosis vs.

culture-negative tuberculosis, diseases other than tuberculosis, latent tuberculosis

51-transcript signature sensitivity: 82.9% (66.6 to 94.3) specificity: 83.6% (74.6 to 92.7) for the diagnosis of culture-confirmed tuberculosis

<u>Xpert MTB/RIF</u> sensitivity: 54.3% (37.1 to 68.6) specificity: 100% (100.0 to 100.0) for the diagnosis of culture-confirmed tuberculosis

A Novel, 5-Transcript, Whole-blood Gene-expression Signature for Tuberculosis Screening Among People Living With Human Immunodeficiency Virus Clin Infect Dis 2019;69: 77-83 Jayant V. Rajan,<sup>1</sup> Fred C. Semitala,<sup>2</sup> Tejas Mehta,<sup>3</sup> Mark Seielstad,<sup>4</sup> Lani Montalvo,<sup>2</sup> Alfred Andama,<sup>6</sup> Lucy Asege,<sup>4</sup> M Jane Katende,<sup>6</sup> Sandra Mwebe,<sup>6</sup> Moses R. Kamya,<sup>2</sup> Christina Yoon,<sup>3</sup> and Adithya Cattamanchi<sup>3</sup>

94% sensitivity and 75% specificity

A 20-Gene Set Predictive Cell Reports 2019;26:1104-11 of Progression to Severe Dengue

Makeda Robinson,<sup>1,2,10</sup> Timothy E. Sweeney,<sup>2,4,8,10</sup> Rina Barouch-Bentov,<sup>1</sup> Malaya Kumar Sahoo,<sup>5</sup> Lany Kalesinskas,<sup>3,4</sup> Francesco Valana,<sup>2,4</sup> Ana Maria Sanz,<sup>2</sup> Ellana Ottz-Lasso,<sup>1</sup> Ludwig Luis Albornoz,<sup>2</sup> Formando Rosso,<sup>3,6</sup> Jose G. Montoya, <sup>1</sup> Benjamin A. Pinkky, <sup>1</sup> 2 Purveis Mitatt,<sup>2,6,17</sup> and Sinti Emay<sup>2,3,12,2</sup>

three retrospective and one prospective dengue datasets 100% sensitivity and 76% specificity for severe dengue generalizable across ages, host genetic factors, and virus strains

Diagnosing and Managing Sepsis by Probing the Host Response to Infection: Advances, Opportunities, and Challenges

lan L. Gunsolus, a Timothy E. Sweeney, b Oliver Liesenfeld, b Nathan A. Ledeboera

two transcriptomic sepsis scores validated in independent cohorts using locked algorithm <u>SeptiScore</u> - FDA cleared - 4 mRNA based test - SeptiCyte Lab (Immunexpress, Seattle, WA) <u>Sepsis MetaScore</u> - test based on expression levels of 11 host mRNAs

# revolution?

<u>non-microorganism</u> detection based <u>non-molecular</u> diagnostic approaches







Classifier based on 8 short peptide only!

Nacpharyngeal Protein Biomarkers of Acute Respiratory Virus Infection

Operation 1

Tomas W. Burke \* Ricardo Henae <sup>Ad</sup>, Erik Soderblom <sup>1</sup>, Ephraim L. Tsalik <sup>Abr</sup>, J. Will Thompson<sup>1</sup>, Marka Markall Nichts \*, Bady P. Nichshon <sup>1</sup>, Timothy Vedman \*, Joseph E. Lacks <sup>ad</sup>, Marka Markall \*, Michae \*, Bady P. Nichshon <sup>1</sup>, Timothy Vedman \*, Joseph E. Lacks <sup>ad</sup>, Marka Markall \*, Michae \*, Bady P. Nichshon <sup>1</sup>, Timothy Vedman \*, Joseph E. Lacks <sup>ad</sup>, Marka Markall \*, Michae \*, Bady P. Nichshon <sup>1</sup>, Timothy Vedman \*, Joseph E. Lacks <sup>ad</sup>, Marka Markall \*, Michae \*, Bady P. Nichshon <sup>1</sup>, Timothy Vedman \*, Joseph E. Lacks <sup>ad</sup>, Marka Marka \*, Michae Marka



#### Narrative Review

Sniffing animals as a diagnostic tool in infectious diseases

Emmanuelle Cambau,1,2 Mario Poljak3

Diagnosis of Tuberculosis by Trained African Giant Pouched Rats and Confounding Impact of Pathogens and Microflora of the Respiratory Tract J Clin Microfiel 2012; 50: 274-280

Georgies F. Mgode,<sup>Ab</sup> Bart J. Weetjens,' Thorben Nawrath,<sup>4</sup> Christophe Cox,' Maureen Jubitana,' Robert S. Machang'u,<sup>b</sup> Stéphan Cohen-Bacrie," Marielle Bedotto," Michel Drancourt,' Stefan Schulz,<sup>4</sup> and Stefan H. E. Kaufmann<sup>4</sup>

rats vs. confirmed cases of TB:

sensitivity: 80.4% specificity: 72.4% positive predictive value: 41.7% negative predictive value: 93.8%



#### REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE

- Belgian non-profit organisation APOPO, which uses rats to detect landmines
- large-scale tuberculosis research programs in Tanzania, Mozambique and Ethiopia
- from 2007 to 2018 more than 550,000 sputum samples were screened by APOPO
- rats: 14,000 tuberculosis patients detected in addition to standard methods

#### Detection of Bacteriuria by Canine Olfaction

Maureen Mauree<sup>1</sup>, Michael McCulloch<sup>2</sup> Angel M. Willey<sup>2</sup> Wendi Hirsch<sup>3</sup> and Danielle Dewey<sup>1</sup> Open Forum Infect Dis 2016: 9-ofw051. <sup>1</sup>Asistano Dogs of Hawaii, Makawao, Hawaii, <sup>1</sup>Phe Street Foundation, San Arselmo, California, <sup>1</sup>Napidani Medical Center for Women and Dildem, Honolul, Hawaii

687 individuals; 34% culture-positive and 66% culture-negative controls

dogs detected unine samples positive for 100.000 colony-forming units/mL: Escherichia coli (N = 250 trials) = sensitivity 99.6%, specificity 91.5% Enterococcus (n = 50) = sensitivity 100%, specificity 93.7% Klebsiella (n = 50) = sensitivity 100%, specificity 95.1% Staphylococcus aureus (n = 50) = sensitivity 100%, specificity 96.3%



Using Dog Scent Detection as a Point-of-Care Tool to Identify Toxigenic *Clostridium difficile* in Stool

Museen Trafect<sup>2</sup> Janies McCraeft<sup>2</sup> Generge Breakhankt<sup>2</sup> Sakaki Graeleney<sup>3</sup> Hayden Lett<sup>2</sup> and AHP Devid<sup>2</sup> Open Forum Infect Dis 2018;5:64y179 operating characteristics of 2 comparably trained dogs as a "point-of-care" diagnostic tool to detect toxin gene-positive Clostridium difficile

authough act dag could detect toxin gene-positive *C. difficile* in stool specimens with sensitivities of 77.6 and 92.6 and specificities of 85.1 and 84.5, intervator reliability is only modest (Cohen's kappa 0.52), limiting widespread application



