in this issue

Immunoassay Improvements

Immunoassay for Pyridinium Cross-Links

Direct LDL-Cholesterol Assay in Children

DNA-Tagged Liposomes

Free Prostate-Specific Antigen
Come to work and to think with us. We can learn together and make this Colloquium at Pont-à-Mousson a positive image of laboratory medicine in which clinical scientists, clinicians and industry representatives all work together to advance scientific knowledge to serve the health of all our citizens.

There will be two main themes for the 1996 Colloquium:

- The application of genetics in medical biology.
- The rapid advances in the application of molecular biology.

The organizers also recognize the need to look at the challenging questions currently affecting our profession. Is clinical biology facing the same challenges in different countries?

European and trans-Atlantic experiences will be shared in fundamental areas such as the evaluation of quality, training, standards and the assessment of professional competence. Many countries rely on regulations to deal with these issues, these must be knowledge and evidence based rather than bureaucratic impositions.

### Symposia and Sessions

- Nanotechnology for better laboratory medicine
- Genetic markers of chronic diseases
- Genetics of apolipoproteins and cardiovascular diseases
- Recent progress in the use of protein analysis in clinical chemistry
- Tumor diagnosis by amplification of tissue specific genes
- Extracellular markers
- Intracellular cytoskeleton markers
- Genetic epidemiology and laboratory medicine
- Comparative evolution of clinical chemistry in Europe and North America
- New markers of autoimmune diseases
- Evolution of therapeutic surveillance
- Clinical chemistry and ageing
- Thrombophilia: Investigating the protein C/S anticoagulant system in clinical laboratory
- Trends in virology

### Workshop Symposia

- Capillary electrophoresis in clinical chemistry
- Tumor markers in daily practice

Posters linked to the subjects mentioned above will also be presented.

### Exhibition

The Exhibition, gathering together the main clinical biology supplies, will be open free of charge for visitors during the colloquium. More than 160 firms are represented by more than 70 exhibitors spread out over more than 2,700 m².

Furthermore, in the cloister of the Prémontrés abbey, space totally consecrated to the new tools used by biologists, we created The Biotechnology's Gallery. In this amazing place, biologists, can come to be informed on the modern equipment and materials, consumables and reagents, but also on biological process enable them to be more efficient while they are working.

### Demonstration

More than 10 especially laid-out rooms will exhibit the machines in full functioning order, allowing everyone to evaluate their possibilities and to establish a constructive dialogue with the exhibitor.

### Information

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Studies of Diagnostic Accuracy. Follow accepted minimum criteria for methodologic standards: (a) Specify spectrum of evaluated patients (age and sex distributions, eligibility criteria, and summary of symptoms or disease stage). (b) Analyze pertinent subgroups of subjects (e.g., symptomatic and asymptomatic patients). (c) Avoid verification bias (usually by application of "gold-standard" test to all subjects rather than to a clinically selected subset). (d) Categorize test results and patients independently to avoid reviewer bias (usually by performance of tests with blinded to patient information and vice versa). (e) Provide confidence intervals (or SE) for indices of diagnostic accuracy such as sensitivity/specificity, likelihood ratios, and areas under receiver-operator characteristic (ROC) curves. For n > 30 subjects, a 95% CI for observed sensitivity or specificity (p) can be estimated readily as p ± 1.96(SE), where SE = \sqrt{\frac{1-p}{n}}. (f) Include the number of indeterminate test results and their use (if any) in further data analysis. (g) Provide laboratory data on analytical precision of the test (usually day-to-day CV at 2 or more concentrations) or reproducibility of observer interpretation [e.g., for a dichotomous (e.g., positive/negative) test].

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