EDITORIALS

Newborn Screening for Wilson Disease: Does Liquid Chromatography–Tandem Mass Spectrometry Provide the Solution? W.A. Gahl (see article on page 1961) 1941

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PERSPECTIVES

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SPECIAL REPORT


REVIEW

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ARTICLES

PROTEOMICS AND PROTEIN MARKERS

ARTICLES, continued

DRUG MONITORING AND TOXICOLOGY
Meconium Nicotine and Metabolites by Liquid Chromatography–Tandem Mass Spectrometry: Differentiation of Passive and Nonexposure and Correlation with Neonatal Outcome Measures
T.R. Gray, R. Magri, D.M. Shakleya, and M.A. Huestis 2018

GENERAL CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
Quantification of Methylmalonic Acid in Human Plasma with Hydrophilic Interaction Liquid Chromatography Separation and Mass Spectrometric Detection
H.-Å. Lakso, P. Appelblad, and J. Schneede 2028

HEMATOLOGY
Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Disease Using Tandem Mass Spectrometry
F. Boemer, O. Ketelslegers, J.-M. Minon, V. Bours, and R. Schoos 2036

HEMOSTASIS AND THROMBOSIS
Prediction of Recurrent Venous Thromboembolism by Endogenous Thrombin Potential and D-Dimer
S. Eichinger, G. Hron, M. Kollars, and P.A. Kyrle 2042

LABORATORY MANAGEMENT
Assessing the Impact of the Frequency of Quality Control Testing on the Quality of Reported Patient Results
C.A. Parvin 2049

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS
High-Resolution Melting Curve Analysis of Genomic and Whole-Genome Amplified DNA

Automated Measurement of 25-OH Vitamin D₃ on the Roche Modular E170 Analyzer
A. Leino, U. Turpeinen, and P. Koskinen 2059

Seminal Oligouridinosis: Low Uridine Secretion as a Biomarker for Infertility in Spinal Neurotrauma

Tandem Mass Spectrometry for the Direct Assay of Lysosomal Enzymes in Dried Blood Spots: Application to Screening Newborns for Mucopolysaccharidosis I
S. Blanchard, M. Sadilek, C.R. Scott, F. Turecek, and M.H. Gelb 2067

CLINICAL CASE STUDY
Hemolytic Anemia Following Attempted Suicide
N.L. Korpi-Steiner, J.B. Hoyne, J.D. Hoyer, and A.K. Saenger 2071

COMMENTARIES
E. Beutler 2074
I.D. Watson 2075

CITATION CLASSIC
Liquid-Chromatographic Determination of Cyclosporin A in Blood and Plasma
R.J. Sawchuk 2076

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Time-Dependent Instability of Cardiac Troponins in Human Plasma Spiked with NIST Reference Material

Galactosemia Screening by Simultaneous Blood Spot Quantification of Galactose and Galactose 1-Phosphate

Interlaboratory Variation in 25-Hydroxyvitamin D₃ and 25-Hydroxyvitamin D₂ Is Significantly Improved If Common Calibration Material Is Used
A.M. Yates, A. Bowron, L. Calton, J. Heynes, H. Field, S. Rainbow, and B. Keevil 2082

Potential Interference by Antineutrophil Cytoplasmic Autoantibodies in Myeloperoxidase Immunoassays
S.A. Datwyler, S.C. Hsu, M.S. Matias, D.P. Pacenti, and J. Shih 2084

Concerns Regarding Lipoprotein Particle Measurement by Ion Mobility Analysis
J.D. Otvos, L.L. Rudel, and J.P. McConnell 2086

continued
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, continued

Protein Microarrays: Before the Elephant Got in the Room  J. Gordon  2087


BOOKSHELF


CLINICAL CHEMIST

The Death of Napoleon, Cancer or Arsenic?  J.T. Hindmarsh and J. Savory  2092

Who Says Learning Toxicology Can’t Be Fun?  2094

INVITED REVIEWERS 2008  2095

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ON THE COVER Dr. Roussell of Geneva shown here giving a woman a direct blood transfusion from a volunteer, 1882. With the many advances in modern medicine, it is easy to forget how transfusion medicine was performed prior to 1900. When Landsteiner published his Nobel Prize winning work on the major ABO blood groups in 1901, it became possible to cross match donors and recipients, thus greatly reducing transfusion reactions. Since that time surface antigen systems such as Rh, Lutheran, Kell, Lewis, Duffy, and Kidd have been described. Antibody-based methods traditionally have been the primary approach to blood group testing. However, with the availability of genotyping technologies, Westhoff and Sloan describe in this issue of Clinical Chemistry how transfusion medicine is poised to benefit from the PCR revolution (see page 1948). Reprinted with permission © The Print Collector/Heritage-Images/Imagestate.

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