and relies solely on sponsorship, ensuring that access remains free for all registrants.

The economic crisis has increased the pressure on laboratory-training programs all over the world. In the UK, for example, the training of clinical scientists within the National Health Service has been reformed and condensed in an attempt to adopt a more streamlined and integrated approach. These changes have raised concerns, however, that programs may lack the necessary depth and that trainees will be under greater pressure to meet the knowledge requirements in the time allocated. In the US, there are 21 fellowship programs, which differ considerably in their structure and delivery of training. The program directors have a degree of autonomy to tailor their versions according to the needs of their trainees. Consequently, some programs favor a large didactic component, whereas others focus heavily on research and development. Regardless of location, it is imperative that all trainees have access to the learning tools that give them equal opportunities to develop so that we can adequately meet future demands. Our profession should give full support to initiatives such as the CCTC, because we need their help more than ever to help fill in the knowledge gaps.

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Reference

Clinical Chemistry 2014 Special Issue: Women’s Health

Clinical Chemistry is pleased to announce the special issue on Women’s Health in January 2014 by Editors Drs. Ann M. Gronowski, JoAnn E. Manson, Elaine R. Mardis, Samia Mora, and Catherine Y. Spong titled “Advancing Women’s Health: The Impact of Biomarkers and Genomics.” The purpose of this issue is to highlight recent advances in biochemical and genetic markers used for the diagnosis, therapy, and preventive care of women during all stages of life. This issue includes diverse themes such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, metabolic disease, normal and abnormal pregnancy, infertility, and infectious disease. Don’t miss this exciting issue!