The Quick Guide to Body Fluid Testing is intended to provide clinical laboratory directors, managers, and medical laboratory scientists with practical information to consider when testing body fluids. This concise pocket reference outlines the entire body fluid testing process, beginning with the preanalytical phase, which includes collection, labeling, transport, processing, and test requests/order management. Practical how-to guidance is provided to complete the analytical validation and includes figures that illustrate the preparation of specimens for each experiment and example calculations to manage and analyze the data for test performance verification in body fluid matrices. Postanalytical considerations are outlined, including best practices for reporting, and some common interpretive information about body fluid testing results is also provided.

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This August, Darci R. Block, PhD, DABCC of the Mayo Clinic and Deanna Franke, PhD, MT (ASCP), DABCC, of the Carolinas Healthcare System, authors of the Quick Guide to Body Fluid Testing, will present three webinars:

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Each day, Dr. Block and Dr. Franke will give a 20-minute presentation and answer any questions. The series offers 1.5 ACCENT CE credits. Can’t attend all three webinars? Playback links will be emailed to registrants the day of the webinar.

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Clinical Chemistry is pleased to announce a special upcoming theme issue on Mass Spectrometry edited by Drs. Andy Hoofnagle, David Herold, Graham Cooks, and Thomas Annesley titled “Clinical Mass Spectrometry: Achieving Prominence in Laboratory Medicine.” Clinical Chemistry, published by the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, is the most highly cited forum for peer-reviewed, original research in the fields of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.

The purpose of this issue is to highlight recent advances in the use of mass spectrometry – including new technological improvements – to the diagnosis, risk assessment, treatment, and cost effective management of patients. The science that addresses the advances and considerations that surround novel approaches will be covered.

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Potential topics of interest include:

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- Application of mass spectrometry to new areas such as point of care, operating room diagnostics, direct tissue analysis and imaging, infectious disease, antibiotic resistance, nucleic acids, and genetic mutations.
- Analytical aspects of new mass spectrometric techniques, instruments, and platforms.
- Novel advances in the use of mass spectrometry for newborn screening, athletic/doping testing, cancer, immunology, toxicology, proteomics, and metabolomics.
- Data analysis, assay validation, data acquisition and reduction, regulatory affairs, and cost analysis.

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An Expert’s Quick Guide to Diabetes Mellitus includes the basics of what laboratorians need to know about the pathophysiology, etiology, epidemiology, diagnosis, and clinical management of diabetes. Topics also include measuring glucose, managing diabetic crises, and the laboratory evaluation of the person with diabetes. This Guide complements the Quick Guide to Endocrinology that addressed the clinical presentation, pathophysiology, and laboratory testing of common endocrinologic problems.

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The Guide expands on a series of “front-end” quick-access tables that summarize hemostasis assays and therapies with their reference intervals and therapeutic ranges. Platelet function and antiplatelet drug testing details have been added. The third edition reflects current practice standards as it describes the management of trauma-induced coagulopathy, thromboelastography, and laboratory measurement of the new direct oral anticoagulants.
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- NTproBNP
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