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Clinical Chemistry (ISSN 0009-9147) is published monthly by the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, 900 Seventh Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20001. New subscriptions, renewals, changes of address, back issues, and all customer service questions should be addressed to: AACC, Subscription Department, 900 Seventh Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20001. Telephone (202) 857-0717 or 1 (800) 892-1400; fax (202) 887-5093; e-mail custserv@aacc.org. Subscription rates: Institutional subscription USA $1,541, elsewhere $1,821. Individual subscription USA $480, elsewhere $730. Airmail delivery outside USA is an additional $300. Individual subscriptions are for personal use and not to be used in a library. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, DC and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Clinical Chemistry, 900 Seventh Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20001.

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Kamisha Johnson-Davis
Therapeutic Drug Monitoring
10.15428/CCTC.2018.296061

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ON THE COVER A bad wind coming. The global threat from chemical and biological agents has only increased with time. Today, the wind, water, or nearly any surface can be a vehicle for spreading pathogens. Anthrax, Ebola, and Zika are no longer obscure names, nor are the terms biodefense, biothreat, and biosurveillance. Staple assays for rapid pathogen detection have included PCR, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays, and lateral flow immunoassays. While excellent for pathogen identification, these assays have limited multiplex capability and require *a priori* knowledge of the causative agent. A more recent technology, next generation sequencing (NGS), has greatly expanded the capabilities of detecting biothreats, unexpected pathogens, or even the completely novel, previously unknown threat. But how much can NGS actually contribute to biothreat detection, forensics, and the clinic? To help answer this and other related questions, this issue of *Clinical Chemistry* contains a review covering NGS and biodefense. (See page 383.) Reproduced with permission from Shutterstock/Marijus Auruskevicius.

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