Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the Yale Pathology Labs 2018 calendar. The past year has seen many changes as we have continued to expand the range of services offered, worked closely with the Yale Medicine liaison team to enhance service and responsiveness to our clients, and continued to grow as the laboratory of choice for the Northeast Medical Group and other practitioners throughout the region.

In support of “precision medicine,” our Molecular Diagnostics and Tumor Genotyping programs continue to advance. We now offer, in conjunction with Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven and with Yale’s Center for Genome Analysis, a multi-tiered and cost-effective approach to the genomic analysis of patients with cancer. This begins with a rapid genotype analysis for a subset of the most important and actionable cancer genes vital for first-line treatment of certain cancers and follows with increasingly comprehensive evaluations of the patient’s tumor, all the way up to whole exon sequencing of the entire genome. Our first tier is a 50 gene panel, followed by the NCI sponsored Oncomine testing panel of 142 carefully selected genes that can guide clinicians and their patients to the most effective therapies and clinical trials. Indeed, Yale is one of just three NCI selected performance sites participating in the laboratory-evaluation phase of the NCI Match trials. This level of analysis we provide, along with a clear evaluation of the variants detected and their therapeutic implications, is nearly unprecedented in a clinical laboratory. We also offer a 409 gene panel and, in conjunction with Yale’s Center for Genome analysis, a whole exon panel (22,000 genes) that is widely used for research purposes.

On other fronts, we were the first laboratory last year in our region to provide FDA approved PDL-1 testing, a key diagnostic for implementing immunotherapy for cancer patients. We also continue to improve patient safety by further expansion of real-time monitoring and workflow optimization of patient specimen tracking within the laboratory, and are expanding these capabilities to other sites within the Yale New Haven Health System. This unique capability, developed by Yale Pathology, represents perhaps the most advanced of such systems in the country. Along with Yale Medicine and Yale New Haven Health, we continue to refine the reporting of laboratory results within the Epic EMR. Clients using Epic can receive their Pathology reports through this pathway as well as through RELAY, our own web-based office-reporting tool that was developed in-house.

These advances and robust clinical focus on quality and patient safety continue our long Yale tradition of introducing leading technologies for the benefit of patient care. Pathology at Yale has many “firsts” to its credit, including leadership in documenting the pathology of pandemic flu, radiation injury, and environmental lung disease; methods for the diagnosis and assessment of lymphoproliferative disorders; and genomic pathways of tumor resistance to targeted therapeutics. Yale Pathology is also a critical partner with Yale’s Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Smilow Cancer Hospital, working as part of a multidisciplinary team to advance an era of truly personalized medicine and cancer therapy.

Yale’s exceptional diagnostic clinical programs offer patients the most accurate, most advanced, safest, and most cost-effective pathology and laboratory evaluations available. We make these easily accessible to all physicians and patients. Our worldwide consultative practices are available throughout the Yale New Haven Health System (Yale New Haven Hospital and Bridgeport Hospital) and at Yale Health Center. Our robust outreach program is specifically designed to serve physicians in their offices. Details of how to access Yale Path Labs services are presented herein.

Sincerely,

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