The Mission and Future of Lab Medicine
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Brainstorming Results: 13 Topics
Top 5

• INFORMATICS
• PUBLIC AWARENESS
• FOCUS ON PERSON
• GLOBAL STANDARDIZATION/ACCREDITATION
• LABORATORY/CLINICIAN INTERACTION
1. INFORMATICS

- Problem-oriented approach
  - Test determined by lab based on symptoms
  - Addressing physician problems such as TAT
- Integration of data
  - middleware
- Virtual lab network
  - telemedicine
- Merging of lab and imaging
- Real-time organization (just-in-time testing) to decrease TAT
- E-learning/teaching: training material, journal access, etc
2. PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Added value
  - Need to demonstrate value of lab medicine to overall cost savings vs. perception of lab as cost center
- Cost-effectiveness
- Profession not job
- Opportunities for careers (exciting) for students
3. PERSONAL HEALTH

- E-health record – lab should be involved with development, standardization, transmission capability, etc.
- Predictive medicine – (wellness testing); not only diagnosis/monitoring of disease and to follow patient results over time
- Direct Access Testing (DAT) – consultation/interpretation?; patient pay vs state pay for testing; IFCC position on our response to this trend?
4. GLOBAL STANDARDIZATION/ACCREDITATION

• IFCC leading role in developing and promoting all guidelines for standardization & accreditation in cooperation with other organizations such as CLSI

• Accreditation -- international
  • ISO 15189

• Regulation – should be uniform
  • Laboratory and IVDD

• Potential legal considerations
• Potential ethical considerations
5. LABORATORY/CLINICIAN INTERACTION

• Without this interaction profession will die (as technology becomes automated & advanced)
• Opportunity for laboratorians and has added effect of demonstrating value of lab
• At table as professional equal when making decisions such as test utilization, etc
• Requires training and time and interaction to gain respect of clinicians
5. LABORATORY/CLINICIAN INTERACTION

- Increased interaction such as:
  - Consultation for interpretation of emerging specialized laboratory testing such as genetics, cytokines, proteomics, metabolomics, etc – when, what, how to order and then what do results mean
  - Identifying & notifying clinicians of changes of results over time for individual patients
  - Feedback on test order patterns, utilization, etc