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Unannounced Inspections

Surprise inspections are now the law of the land. But will unannounced visits improve quality, or simply raise anxiety?

<http://www.westgard.com/essay88.htm>

The War on Error: Complete Victory, or a Long, Hard Slog?

As part of our continuing series on Patient Safety concepts, we explore the nature of Error, its varieties and occurrences in the lab, and consider the proposed changes in QC through the perspective of Swiss cheese. No, really. We're not kidding. Swiss cheese.

<http://www.westgard.com/lesson83.htm>

Patient Data or Traditional QC? How to compare?

Making use of data presented at the 2005 AACC conference, we demonstrate a QC application comparing the virtue of traditional QC and Patient Data QC designs. Is it best to base your QC design on data from one level of control, a 2nd level of control, or switch over to patient data?

<http://www.westgard.com/qcapp34.htm>

Biologic Variation Database: 2006 update

Dr. Carmen Ricos and her colleagues have graciously provided us with the 2006 update to their biological variation database. New data, new analytes, and new desirable specifications - a most valuable contribution to the field.

Update highlights: <http://www.westgard.com/guest32.htm>

References: <http://www.westgard.com/biodatabase3.htm>

Reference List: <http://www.westgard.com/biodatabase2.htm>

Desirable Specifications for Imprecision, Inaccuracy and TEa:

<http://www.westgard.com/biodatabase1.htm>

Westgard Workshops 2006 – Instructor Profiles

Here are just two of the eminent speakers scheduled to speak at the Westgard Workshop 2006

Sharon H. Ehrmeyer, PhD, MT(ASCP), speaking at "Standards and Practices, Guidelines and Indicators - The Lab in 2006," on June 5

Director of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, member of the JCAHO Professional and Technical Advisory Committee, Regulatory Affairs editor for the journal Point of Care, and more. Sharon does something few laboratorians have the patience to do – she actually reads the regulations. This selfless act, plus her constant involvement in regulatory affairs, means that she has a sharp, clear view on compliance and inspection issues. Always a great friend and dear colleague, we are honored to have her as part of our Lab in 2006 workshop:

Dr. Gordon Kapke, PhD, speaking at "Evidence-Based Quality Management," on June 6-7

Dr. Kapke is Vice President of Global Technical Affairs for Covance Central Laboratory Services. For him, defects per million is a tangible metric – he oversees nearly 1 million results every month! As an expert scientist and seasoned business executive, he has seen both sides of the quality/cost debate. His application of Sigma metrics at Covance has realized not only excellence, but savings and competitive advantage. His presence at the workshops provides a wealth of real-world evidence on the business imperative for Six Sigma quality management.

Early registration and group discounts available now

<http://www.westgard.com/workshops.html>