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A point of view about point of care testing for diagnostic microbiology in the US: What we have, what we need, what is on the way?

The last decade has seen an explosion of new technology and diagnostics in clinical microbiology. So, where are all the tests for infectious diseases at the point of care? Can we find the Holy Grail of diagnostics or does something else define its success? What does the US point of care quest have in common with the global healthcare community and vice-versa? This presentation looks at near patient testing for infectious diseases as it evolves in the US, both because of and despite the influence of global medicine and ex-US markets. A view from both ends of the telescope is presented to provide up-close and wide-angle perspectives. To that end, clinical case-based examples introduce and illustrate a system-based interrogation of considerations: the mythology of laboratory decentralization, want versus need, technology versus innovation, barriers to implementation, biosafety, governance, quality management, and outcome analysis.

Speaker Biography

Nancy S Miller is a board-certified Pathologist and a Clinical Microbiologist-Laboratory Director with more than 15 years' experience in infectious disease diagnostics and patient care. She has earned an MD with distinction in research from SUNY-Stony Brook and completed her residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and fellowship training in Medical Microbiology, all at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Currently, she is the Medical Director of Clinical Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics at Boston Medical Center, where she is immersed in the daily challenges of diagnostic microbiology and process improvement. Also, she is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine. These responsibilities complement her translational research in innovative and improved diagnostics for infectious diseases, method comparisons, and outcome studies. Recent work includes PI-initiated commercial grants and academic collaborations with Boston University colleagues including NIH-supported projects.

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