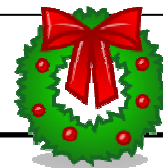


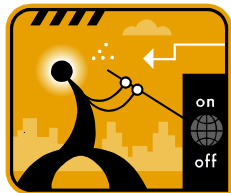


December 2007

PHOENIX FLYER



Issue 12



We're Flippin' the Switch On Our New Laboratory Information System

We are excited to report that the much anticipated launch of our new laboratory information system, **Aurora**, is January 1, 2008! The first phase of the Aurora system will improve efficiencies. The best news is that our conversion requires no effort on your part and will be seamless (hopefully)! As always, we encourage your input. Should you encounter any formatting oddities, please give us a call.

Aurora provides us with greater flexibility of reporting; snail mail, manual fax, automated fax or e-mail will all be possible. Search mechanisms are quicker, improving response times to your calls. Hospitals with web access can quickly and easily

Continued on back

Introducing Jennifer Ward, DVM, Diplomate, ACVP



**Jennifer Ward, DVM,
Diplomate, ACVP
Anatomic Pathologist**

Dr. Jennifer Ward, DVM, Diplomate ACVP has joined the pathology staff at Phoenix Central Laboratory and is now available for consultations.

Dr. Ward received her DVM in 2002 from Washington State University. She spent two years in mixed animal practice in Washington and California before moving to Florida for residency training in anatomic pathology. Following a two year residency, she completed a fellowship in


dermatopathology. She was board certified in veterinary pathology in September 2007, following which she moved back to the Seattle area to join Phoenix Central Laboratory as an anatomic pathologist.


Dr. Ward's special professional interests include dermatopathology, endocrine pathology, oncopathology and epidemiology. She also enjoys research and writing in hopes to be able to benefit our clients by producing periodic retrospective analyses of disease trends based on submissions to PCL.


In her spare time, she plans to spend time exploring the Pacific Northwest with her husband Rod and their dogs, Noah, Pepe and Sweep. Her cats, Henry and Mrs. Ramsey, are both avid readers and hope that she will take up pleasure reading again as well.


Please join us in making Dr. Ward feel welcome!


Year-Round "Gifts" from PCL!


 **CBC pathologist reviews**, if client requests or if results meet any of numerous criteria

 **Reticulocyte counts** on CBCs with moderate-marked anemia


 **Urine sediment review** by pathologist if epithelial cells are increased

 **Rechecks** of any tests done in the lab

 **Consults** with any of our anatomic or clinical pathologists or internists

 **Pathologist second opinions** within the laboratory

 **Stat processing**

 **Xray delivery**

 **FRIENDLY, PERSONALIZED SERVICE!**



Ho, Ho, Ho!

Correction

In the November 2007 edition of the *Phoenix Flyer* we incorrectly listed the cost of a full report for "**Complex Tissue/One Entire Organ**" test code 403 as being \$69.00. The correct rate is \$69.50.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions, please contact the Lab. **Thank you.**



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**In This
Issue...**

**New Laboratory System • Introducing Dr. Jennifer Ward
“Gifts” from Phoenix Lab • Optimizing Your Cytology Results**

Information System *Cont'd from front page*

view, print and download test results at any time through the Phoenix Lab website. We have also attempted to keep our report format the same, so as to maintain familiarity. Other benefits include:

- Quicker, more convenient downloads
- Expanded search options including date & date range, doctor name, etc.
- Automated e-mailing of sample results
- Multiple file formats (html, xml, .doc, .pdf, .rtf) or any combination
- Seamless pathway between hospital & lab
- Unique patient identification, allowing for cumulative reporting
- Supporting hospitals' paperless systems
- AND MORE TO COME

We are very excited about our progress toward a more efficient and convenient platform, and are confident you will be pleased as well. Thank you for your patience during our conversion. Again, if you have any questions, or notice any formatting oddities, please contact us at (425) 355-5252 or toll-free (800) 347-0043, or by e-mail at custserv@pclv.net.

How To Optimize Your Cytology Results

1. Provide details about the type of lesion sampled

- Specific location
- Cutaneous vs. subcutaneous
- Gross size and appearance
- Growth rate
- Relevant clinical history e.g. prior cyto/histopath results, weight loss, lymphadenopathy

2. Not too thick or thin aspirates

- Use gentle squash or wedge/blood smear technique to spread out aspirates.
- If aspirated material is too thick, cells may be difficult to identify.
- If material is spread out too thin, cells can be disrupted and difficult to identify.

3a. Submission of smears; unstained, air-dried, unfixed, not coverslipped or oiled

- In clinic stain quality is variable and can result in inconclusive or missed diagnosis.
- Dry slides quickly and completely. Wet smears placed in a slide holder will cause cells to lyse.
- Fixative solutions, coverslipping and added oil usually interfere with staining. The same is true of

exposure to formalin/formalin vapors so store and ship carefully.

3b. Submission of smears; send multiple slides

- The likelihood of a definitive diagnosis from 4 slides is better than for 1 slide, yet the cost is the same. Increase your odds!

4. Avoid surface sampling if possible

- Imprints/impressions and swabs from ulcerated masses have a lower rate of diagnostic success. These slides from the mass surface are often not representative of deeper tissue cytology. Also, exfoliation and cellular preservation can be variable.
- More aggressive sampling is usually more rewarding. Aspiration is preferred if possible. Scrapings are better than impressions/imprints.

5. Make smears of fluid samples

- For optimal cellular preservation, make direct air-dried slides (unstained, unfixed, etc.) and submit with tubes of fluid.
- Add no preservatives, fixatives, stains, saline, etc. to fluid

If you have any questions, please call one of our clinical pathologists.