



**Molecular Testing  
at  
Fort Healthcare**

# Our Facility



- 72 bed hospital (staffed for 20-30)
- ER, ICU, OB, MSP, Ambulatory
- Out Patient Lab
- Clinics (primary care, specialty clinics)
- Long Term Care facilities
- Wound clinic
- Cancer Center

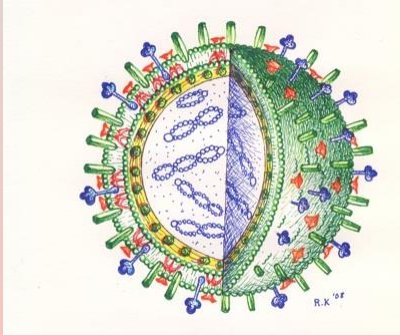
# Our Lab



- 3 shifts
- 16 techs
- 7 phlebotomists
- Microbiology: 1<sup>st</sup> shift only, 3 rotating techs



Why did we “go” molecular?



Influenza

and



Campylobacter

# Platforms and Tests



GeneXpert: All techs/all shifts/1hr to 3hr TAT

- MRSA/SA
- Influenza/RSV
- C.difficile



# Platforms and Tests



BioFire Filmarray: Micro techs/1<sup>st</sup> shift/24-48 hr TAT

- GI
- Respiratory
- Blood Culture ID
- ME



# Our Challenges



- Training techs to perform Molecular testing
- Training techs on the importance of proper Molecular hygiene
- Training techs to interpret results (when to repeat, answer provider questions, etc.)
- Training techs to stay trained

# Pros of Molecular Testing



- TAT
- Specific
- More targets
- Easy
- Low maintenance
- Need a clean space, not a clean room
- QC always “in” (almost)
- Uniform specimens (easy to reject bad specimens)
- Companies are very responsive/easy to work with



# Cons of Molecular Testing



- Expensive
- Contamination
- Provider Education
- Specimen collection
- Training-steep learning curve
- More PT (expensive)
- Verification/validation (expensive)
- No stool cultures to show students
- One test at a time (Biofire)

# Controlling for contamination



- All specimens in separate clean Biobags
- 10% bleach, made daily, followed by ETOH or dH<sub>2</sub>O between each test
- Change gloves between cleaning and testing
- Masks
- Monitor test results
- Quality Control

# How we did it



- Engaged Infection Control Committee
- Engaged Clinics, hospitalists, ED docs and Pharmacy
- Promoted TAT (fewer send-outs)
- Promoted increased number of Targets
- Smaller is easier

# GI Panel Numbers



Box of 30 Panels = \$4,533.75 (\$151.13 per panel)

CPT code = \$47.76 per target or \$567.75 for all

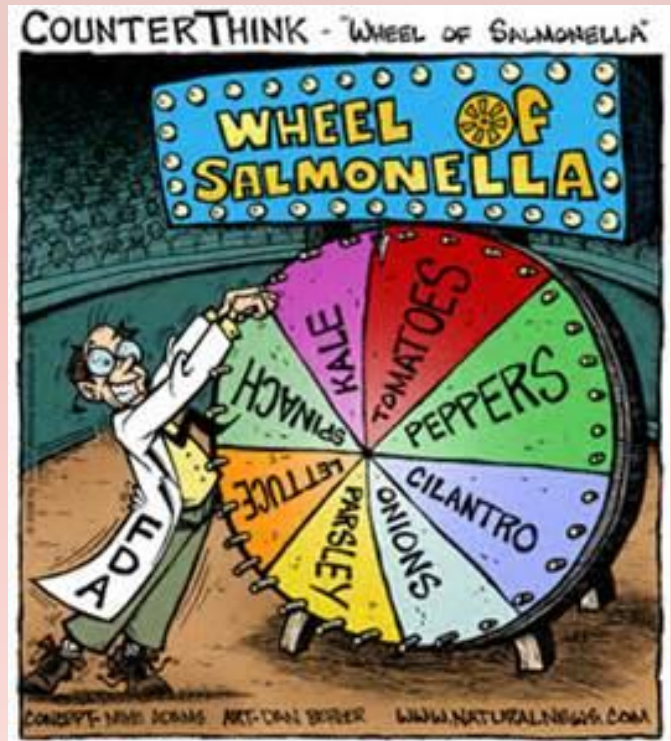
FHC runs 40 to 70 GI panels per month

FHC used to set up 4 to 8 stool cultures/week

# You can do it.



- Find a test that will make a difference
- Start small and get it right
- Do your homework
- Demonstrations
- Train
- Educate
- Discuss



# Want to chat or visit?



Frances Spray-Larson, PhD

Microbiology

Fort Healthcare

611 Sherman Avenue East

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

920-568-5254

[frances.spray-larson@forthc.com](mailto:frances.spray-larson@forthc.com)