



## DETECTION OF KPC IN SOUTH FLORIDA

### KPC Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae

Carbapenems are frequently used to treat serious infections caused by multidrug-resistant gram negative bacteria and are considered the drug of choice for Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase (ESBL) producing *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* species. *Klebsiella Pneumoniae* Carbapenemase (KPC) bacteria produce carbapenemase enzymes that breakdown all beta-lactam agents including imipenem, meropenem and ertapenem. The blaKPC gene encodes for antibiotic resistance and is contained in an easily transmissible plasmid which can spread among bacteria. Because these organisms cause severe infections and are resistant to most antibiotics, they are also associated with a high mortality rate.

Carbapenemase production is suggested by high antibiotic MICs revealing reduced susceptibility to carbapenems and can be determined by the use of the Modified Hodge test. The presence of the blaKPC gene is then confirmed by molecular methods (PCR).

KPC isolates are rapidly emerging in the US and other countries with outbreaks recently documented in New York City and New Jersey hospitals. KPC have been sporadically detected in several other states as well and recently were confirmed in our area for the first time.

In April, the Broward County Health Department released a Health Alert on *Klebsiella pneumoniae* KPCs detected by IRL's microbiology laboratory. The isolates were forwarded to the Florida Department of Health for further molecular testing as part of an ongoing epidemiological investigation.

**IRL will vigilantly monitor KPC resistance in clinical specimens from our community and immediately communicate their detection to the ordering physician and institution so that infection control measures such as contact precautions can be rapidly implemented to prevent their spread.**

## MEET DR. AIDA COLON, CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY DIRECTOR

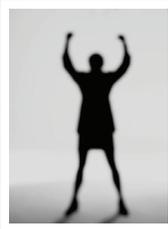
Dr. Aida Colón heads IRL's Microbiology department. Her passion for the diagnosis of communicable diseases is infectious. She has more than 16 years of experience as laboratory director, a clinical microbiology lecturing Professor, and is a former member of the International Microbiology Education Committee of the American Society for Microbiology. Her outstanding team of 50 laboratory professionals process over 2,000 daily tests for bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi using state-of-the art technology. Dr. Colón states: "This is a service oriented field. At IRL we're dedicated to offering the highest level of medical microbiology expertise in the region by combining the most advanced science with friendly and professional laboratory service".

## THIRD GENERATION TSH

IRL has recently changed the methodology used to perform TSH testing. A true third generation TSH is now being performed that is of sufficiently high sensitivity to detect the minor degrees of thyroxine excess or deficiency associated with early sub-clinical phases of hypo-or-hyperthyroidism. This new Loci technology also decreases the probability of interference from endogenous substances and the risk of nonspecific binding. Should you have any questions please contact your local IRL customer service representative or our Medical Director, Dr. Marcelino Alvarez, regarding this change. Dr. Alvarez can be reached at 954-777-0018.

### DID YOU KNOW?

You can view past editions of the IRL INFORMS newsletter on our website [irlfl.com](http://irlfl.com).



**National Women's Health Week**  
**May 11 -17, 2008**  
**Food Allergy Awareness Week**  
**May 11 -17, 2008**  
**National Women's Check-up Day**  
**May 12, 2008**

## ALLERGIES - NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT

SPRING HAS SPRUNG and allergy season is upon us once again. IRL offers third-generation allergen-specific IgE testing for an extensive array of allergens, both individually and in a variety of panels. Our most popular panels are the South Florida Panel, test code 99947, which contains 29 allergens common to South Florida, the Adult Food Panel, test code 35352, containing 19 allergens; and our Pediatric Food Panel, test code 99946, which contains 20 allergens. The automated liquid-phase immunoassay is performed using patient serum which provides accurate and reliable diagnostic results without causing added discomfort to the patient.

## INTEGRATED REGIONAL LABORATORIES HONORS LABORATORY STAFF DURING NATIONAL MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK



*IRL is the sole laboratory provider for EPO One Source*

More than 10 billion medical laboratory tests are performed in the United States each year to confirm diagnoses, rule out suspected conditions or monitor treatment. During the week of April 20 - 26, **Integrated Regional Laboratories (IRL)** celebrated the contributions of its laboratory professionals during National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. This year's theme, "Delivering Today's Results for a Healthier Tomorrow," focused on the test results that help return patients to good health. **IRL celebrated with the staff by scheduling a number of fun activities throughout the week. Some of the activities included; High School picture contest, bowling competition, back-pack giveaways, lab coat decorating contest, outdoor relay race, prize drawings, crazy hat day and a management sponsored BBQ and dunk tank activity.**

IRL Laboratory Staff also include in their celebration non-technical personnel who support the laboratory functions and who represent an important part of the patient care process. Non-technical areas supporting the technical staff are: Specimen Processing, Phlebotomy, Internal Customer Service, Sales and Marketing, Sales Support, Billing and Finance, Ethics & Compliance, Quality, Transportation and Distribution, Information Technology, and Human Resources.



### Contact us:

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For additional information on our laboratory, please visit our website at:

**[www.irlfl.com](http://www.irlfl.com)**