QuantiFERON News

Changing the way the world looks at TB

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December 2012

In Focus: QIAGEN & QuantiFERON®-TB Gold (QFT®)

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QIAGEN®

In Focus: QIAGEN & QuantiFERON-TB Gold (QFT)

For just over a year, Cellestis and its QuantiFERON platform technology have been operating under the QIAGEN name as *Cellestis, a QIAGEN Company*. Throughout the ongoing merger of Cellestis and QIAGEN systems and the consequent changes for customers, our aim is to continue providing you with the highest quality of global service and support with QuantiFERON products. In this issue we describe what further changes will become visible over the coming months.

For many areas where QuantiFERON is sold directly, the contact details have changed. For a full listing, please visit www.quantiferon.com and click the 'Contact Us' tab or, alternatively, please contact your local sales representative. The old Cellestis contacts (phone/email) will be redirected to the relevant QIAGEN contacts for some time to come.

Customer Orders and Billing

The processes for QuantiFERON customers to place orders has changed. Quotes, invoices, and other documents formerly from Cellestis Customer Service will be shifting to the QIAGEN Customer Care format, but there may be differences regionally at what date these changes have gone or will go into effect. If you have any questions about the content or timing of these changes in your region, please contact your local QuantiFERON representative.

Our global shipping supplier has also changed to United Parcel Service (UPS). If you have any issues with receipt or delivery of your QuantiFERON orders, please contact your local QuantiFERON sales representative.

Figure 1. Cellestis and QIAGEN will be working together to help change the way we look at - and fight - TB.

Figure 2. QIAGEN will be working together to help change the way we look at - and fight - TB.

Technical Service

Throughout the last year, the QuantiFERON Technical Service team has merged with the QIAGEN Service Solutions team, resulting in a broader global network for customer support and training. The contact details for QuantiFERON-related technical service and support have been updated to reflect the new organizational setup (online at www.quantiferon.com). In addition, new modules for customer technical training will be rolled out soon by the QIAGEN Service Solutions team.

Branding Update

Many of our brochures, support tools, and conference booths have been updated to reflect new colors and designs of QIAGEN. We will continue to re-brand our materials, websites, and online tools into 2013, and in addition we will be releasing updated packaging as per local regulatory requirements. In most areas, we expect outer kit packaging to change to blue QIAGEN in early 2013. As we continue the rebranding process, you will see less and less residual Cellestis purple.

Website

In the last issue of QuantiFERON News, we announced the converging of www.quantiferon.com and the Cellestis websites. Whilst the overall goal is to merge the QuantiFERON website into the QIAGEN website, this will be an ongoing process. Currently, you can access QuantiFERON contacts on www.qiagen.com, and these details will also be listed on www.quantiferon.com.

For product-related information, please continue to visit www.quantiferon.com.

QuantiFERON-TB Gold (QFT) Product Update

We are pleased to announce that the United States FDA has recently approved a formulation update to the QuantiFERON wash buffer. This enhancement is part of our long-term planning for QuantiFERON product improvements. The new preservative, ProClin® 300, is commonly used in in vitro diagnostic assays as a highly-effective biocide. Customers may note more foaming while using the new QuantiFERON wash buffer, and thus must be particularly attentive to waste levels during plate-washing. If you have any questions about this change, please contact your local QuantiFERON technical representative.

Coming soon…the QuantiFERON Control Panel

Available as early as February 2013!

Figure 3. QIAGEN Control Panel Flyer

Developed specifically for QuantiFERON products, the QuantiFERON Control Panel is a standardized control for use in all QuantiFERON ELISA assays, including:

- QuantiFERON®-TB Gold (QFT®)
- QuantiFERON®-CMV*

The QuantiFERON Control is cost-effective alternative to the development and use of any "in-house" control and will:

- Ensure that consistent and accurate results, within the linear range of the QuantiFERON ELISA platform, are being obtained
- Assist in the identification of any random or systematic error.

The QuantiFERON Control Panel will be available as a CE marked product in January 2013. We anticipate approval for using this product in the United States in early 2013.

* QuantiFERON®-CMV is CE Marked for commercial use in Europe. It is not United States FDA-approved at this time and is limited to investigational use only in the United States. We anticipate United States FDA approval for this product in 2013.

3rd IGRA Symposium Update

Continuing Medical Education (CME) activity coming soon

Several activities have stemmed from the 3rd IGRA Symposium in Hawaii earlier in 2012. Proceedings from the meeting have been submitted for publication and highlight key topics of interest. These include the paradigm that latent TB may not be as 'latent' as once thought as well as interpretation of IGRAs for serial screening in healthcare workers. These topics are also the focus of an upcoming video-based University of California San Diego (UCSD) CME activity, which has been made possible through an educational grant from Cellestis, a QIAGEN Company. You can access the Hawaii meeting abstracts on http://cme.ucsd.edu/igras/syllabus.html.

Figure 4. The 3rd Global Symposium on IGRAs 2012 was sponsored by Cellestis.

TB and TNF-α inhibitors: CME Webcast Series

Educational activity by Cleveland Clinic continues

Earlier in 2012, Cellestis funded through an educational grant a Cleveland Clinic Foundation CME activity entitled, "Tuberculosis Testing in the 21st Century: The Role of Interferon-Gamma Release Assays." The webcast event continues through the start of 2013, so be sure to visit today.

www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/online/tb-testing

The educational activities are part of QIAGEN's initiative to promote and support TB screening for patients with rheumatoid arthritis prior to commencing tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α) inhibitor therapy. QIAGEN's TB & TNF Clinical Review is currently being updated to include the new US guidelines on TB screening in these populations. You can find this and more on www.cellestis.com/TBandTNF.

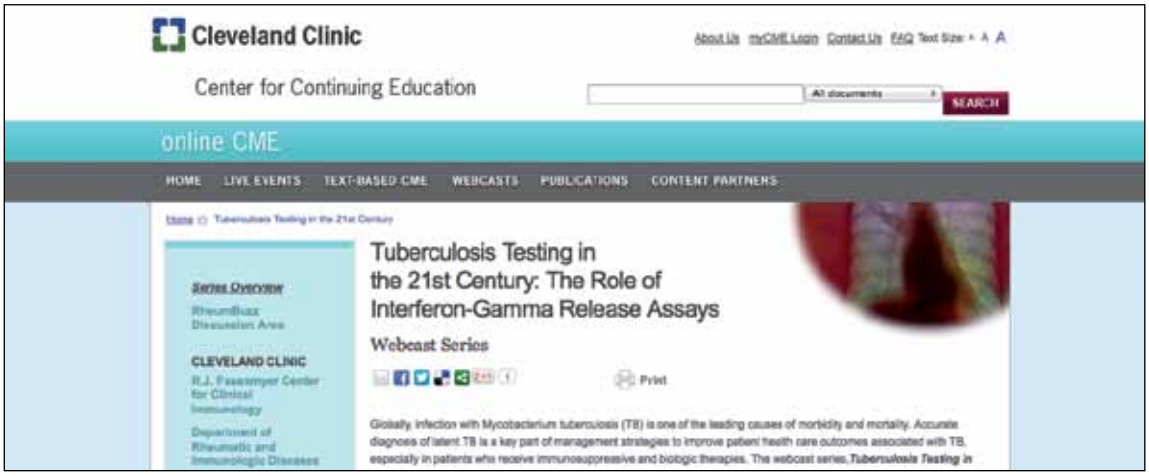

Figure 5. Cleveland Clinic Foundation CME activity sponsored by Cellestis.

Publications Update: What's new in Gnowee?

Gnowee is your complete QuantiFERON-TB Gold library where you can find complementary clinical abstracts, guidelines, presentations, and more. Below is a listing of the new abstracts in Gnowee.

Gnowee: What's with the name?

When we were putting the clinical reference tool together, we were looking for a name that symbolized a growing body of scientific knowledge about TB and QFT in particular. Enter Gnowee (pronounced no-ee). Aboriginal Australian Dreamtime legend tells that Gnowee is a goddess who holds her burning torch (the rising sun) to the sky to shed light on the land so she can search for her lost child. In a very small way, we hope Gnowee is a preverbial torch for QFT – that it provides users with the knowledge to 'Change the way the world looks at TB.'

Journal Article

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Publications Update: What's new in Gnowee? continued

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