

HIMSS Middle East and American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Announce Strategic Partnership to Drive Innovations in Personalized Medicine

Genomics, pathology and informatics will form the bedrock of next-generation healthcare. Think precise, personalized and preventive care through advanced diagnosis.

For the United Arab Emirates (UAE), this future is already becoming a reality.

In December 2016, Dubai Healthcare City launched the Emirates Reference Laboratory, a cutting-edge pathology facility offering first of its kind specialised services. A month later, the government announced its Human Genome project.

Achieving an annual average growth of 12.7% and projected to reach US\$19.5 billion by 2021, the UAE healthcare sector is already one of the fastest growing markets in the Middle East. Its clinical laboratory services market alone will reach US\$2.6 billion by the end of 2025.

These recent National developments, under the auspices of His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum to achieve Vision 2021, are further leapfrogging the Emirates ahead of its Gulf neighbours.

To boost efforts, HIMSS and ASCP will partner through the [HIMSS UAE eHealth Week 2017](#) and the [ASCP Pathology Update 2017](#) to equip pathologists, genomic researchers and all health professionals with the necessary know-how through best practice sharing and networking to achieve this vision.

“Through this pivotal partnership, HIMSS and ASCP can focus on the intersection of technology and diagnosis to create the future of personalized medicine. Genomics and informatics run deep in laboratory medicine, enabling earlier and more accurate diagnosis, and tailor-made treatment plans. Genomics and informatics will revolutionize the discipline of pathology, leading to a brand new era of care capabilities and lower mortality rates. HIMSS is pleased to curate the Pathology Informatics and GenoME programs at ASCP Pathology Update 2017,” said Jeremy Bonfini, Executive Vice President, HIMSS International.

William E. Schreiber, MD, FASCP, a Professor at The University of British Columbia and President of ASCP, added, “The role of the laboratory medicine professional is expanding as new technologies are incorporated into the clinical lab. Genomics and informatics are two fields in which recent scientific advances have improved our ability to diagnose disease and monitor treatment. In our role as educators, we need to ensure that the laboratory community has access to the latest and best information about these areas. The HIMSS-ASCP partnership supports our vision of saving lives through technology, right from the get-go – in the lab.”

Global themes that will be discussed at ASCP Pathology Update 2017 include:

- Advanced diagnostics (deep learning, genome sequencing, innovations in point-of-care testing)
- Molecular (metabolic genetics, DNA technologies)
- Microbiology (antimicrobial stewardship, Hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment)
- Transfusion medicine/blood banking (informatics in transfusion medicine, hemovigilance)
- Chemistry (investigations of autoimmune disorders, toxicology, tumor markers, liquid biopsy)
- Hematology (coagulation, hemoglobinopathies, body fluid analysis)
- Leadership & lab management (integration of clinical labs, laboratory informatics, Westgard sigma verification program, ASCP pre-certification programs) *and more*.

[UAE eHealth Week 2017](#) will be held from 12 – 14 November (Dubai and Abu Dhabi). [ASCP Pathology Update 2017](#) will be held from 14 – 17 November (Dubai and Abu Dhabi).

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