At Sidra Medicine’s Pathology Department, quality is at the heart of what we collectively do. The year 2019 was highly significant for the Pathology Department: We secured accreditation from the College of American Pathologists (CAP); and, as an organization, Sidra Medicine secured the Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission International (JCI). The Pathology Department, and Sidra Medicine, have fulfilled all regulatory requirements for the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and beyond all this, in 2019, the Mortuary was licensed for operations launch under the aegis of the Anatomical Pathology Division.

Not only do we cultivate ongoing targets for providing utmost best diagnostic laboratory services, we also regard it essential that our products deliver timely clinical benefits equally to both the clinicians and the patients that we serve.

The following sections highlight select key performance indicators that we strive to exceed as part of our overall pathology quality management plan. Also below are some of our promising accomplishments.
Quality Indicators

Pre-Analytical Indicators

Extent of Patient Satisfaction with Outpatient Services
- Goal: Average score >4.0
- 2019 Average: 4.77

Corrected Reports (Pre-select Division Monitored)
- Goal: <0.03%
- 2019 Average: 0.075%

Analytical Indicators

Percent of Contaminated Blood Cultures
- Goal: <3.0%
- 2019 Average: 1.99%

Reports Completed within targeted Turn-Around times (Pre-selected tests monitored)
- Goal: >90.0%
- 2019 Average: 95.2%

Post-Analytical Indicators

Communication of Critical Results / Findings within targeted timeframes
- Goal: >95%
- 2019 Average: 96%

Acceptable Results – CAP Proficiency Testing Programs
- Goal: >90%
- 2019 Average: 99.6%
Development within Pathology 2019

To ensure that we continually improve our diagnostic platforms and services, and that patient healthcare is of the highest standard, we regularly audit and review processes and events to identify areas that may be upgraded. Below is a series of projects completed within 2019 arising from our ongoing reviews. We continuously assess and upgrade our processes and repertoire of tests to deliver standard-of-practice outcomes relative to the clinical demands that are as unique as the scope of Sidra Medicine.

Gynecological Pap test Service

- Fully automated Hologic-based, computer-assisted diagnostic service for Pap test samples, with high throughput capability
- Reflex and/or on-demand ancillary molecular HPV testing based on standard-of-practice, coupled with histopathology and digital consultation
- Established readiness to support preventative Cervical Cancer screening with follow-up gynecological services

Non-Gynecological Body Fluids Service

- Dedicated instrumentation to prepare micro-block-sections to salvage diagnostic material from paucicellular / parvicellular body fluid samples collected through liquid based methods

Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy Service

- On-demand Rapid On-Site Sampling Evaluation for pediatric FNA procedures
Clinical Biochemistry

- Development of the assays for the measurement of immunosuppressant drug levels. An essential requirement for the monitoring of patients post-transplantation

Anatomical Pathology

- Development and implementation of Digital Pathology in Anatomical Pathology

Phlebotomy

- Introduction of vein viewer to assist phlebotomists and clinical teams with difficult venous access patients. In addition, we are continually working with clinical areas to support sample collection
- The Immunology section continued to expand its repertoire of allergen testing to over 100 allergens, including 13 new recombinant food allergens not available elsewhere in Qatar.
- Autoimmune testing for connective tissue diseases and anti-phospholipid syndrome was established to provide improved service to the Rheumatology Division.
- The cellular side of the laboratory commenced with establishment of lymphocyte subset testing for T-, B-, and NK-cells.
Looking Ahead... into 2020

Cytopathology

- In partnership with Women’s Services at Sidra Medicine, the Cytopathology service is in support of the dedicated Cervical Cancer screening clinic providing disease-prevention Pap tests to all women
- This clinic is an Outpatient screening service at Sidra launching in January 2020
- The clinic is structured on standard-of-practice with robust follow-up oversight incorporating reflex HPV molecular testing, gynecological histopathology, and relevant medical consultation including colposcopy services
- The Sidra Cytopathology operation is enabled with advanced computer-assisted automation of high throughput capability, and by commensurate expertise
- This clinic is a unique service at Sidra Medicine incorporating initial invitation to screening and patient recall for follow-up and treatment

Pathology Genetics

- Pathology Genetics is currently validating Whole Exome Sequencing (WES) using a Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) approach. This validation is supported by the excellent infrastructure of Sidra’s research department and will enable advanced genetic testing to be performed by a local workforce
- This approach will enhance the genetic testing capabilities of Qatar and assist in resolving some of the challenging clinical diagnoses of pediatric patients. Our NGS strategy will be scalable as it uses state-of-the-art robotics and sequencing platforms, together with critical data analysis and clinical reporting capabilities