



**ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY**

Education. Innovation & Improved Patient Care. Advocacy.

9650 Rockville Pike. Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Tel: 301-634-7939 | Fax: 301-634-7995 | [amp@amp.org](mailto:amp@amp.org) | [www.amp.org](http://www.amp.org)

**The Association for Molecular Pathology Explores New Technological Advancements to Improve Diagnosis and Optimize Treatment Selection for Invasive Infectious Diseases**

*The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics* report reviews ongoing development of MALDI-TOF-MS and analyzes potential impact on patient care

**BETHESDA, Md. – Oct. 19, 2016** – The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), the premier global, non-profit organization serving molecular diagnostics professionals, today announced a new report that examines how sophisticated technology advancements are being implemented to improve diagnosis and optimize treatment selection for multiple invasive, opportunistic and often deadly infectious diseases. The manuscript titled “Emerging and Future Applications of MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory: A Report of the Association for Molecular Pathology” has been released online ahead of publication in the November 2016 issue of *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*.

Over the past 20 years, the morbidity and mortality rates for infectious diseases have increased as more patients are becoming immunocompromised due to factors such as transplantation and various oncology treatments. Clinical microbiologists are now using matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) for rapid identification and diagnostic applications beyond the routine identification of bacteria and yeast. In this report, the AMP MALDI-TOF in Infectious Diseases Work Group highlights three of these important application areas, including the identification of specific invasive infectious diseases and antimicrobial susceptibility testing. After a thorough evaluation, the team determined MALDI-TOF-MS could successfully identify filamentous fungi, such as *Aspergillus*, and mycobacteria, such as *M. tuberculosis*. However, the team believes that more testing must be performed before it can recommend the use of MALDI-TOF-MS for antimicrobial susceptibility applications.

“MALDI-TOF-MS is not only more accurate than growth-based microorganism identification systems, but it is also faster and more affordable,” said Christopher Doern, PhD, Lead of AMP MALDI-TOF in Infectious Diseases Working Group, Associate Director of Microbiology at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System. “It is very likely that MALDI-TOF-MS will soon become common practice for the identification of more invasive infectious diseases in the clinical laboratory.”

“With reported mortality rates now in excess of 50 percent, the incidence of opportunistic invasive fungal infection has substantially risen in the last two decades, particularly in patients with hematologic malignancies,” said Michael Lewinski, PhD, Chair of the AMP Infectious Diseases Subdivision, Senior Director of Medical Affairs, Microbiology at Roche Molecular Systems. “Looking forward, MALDI-TOF has the potential to transform modern healthcare by helping microbiologists identify these microorganisms down to the species level and enabling clinicians to determine the optimal antifungal therapy for each patient.”

To read the full manuscript, please visit <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmoldx.2016.07.007>

**ABOUT AMP**

The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) was founded in 1995 to provide structure and leadership to the emerging field of molecular diagnostics. AMP's 2,300+ members practice in the various disciplines of molecular diagnostics, including bioinformatics, infectious diseases, inherited conditions and oncology. They include

individuals from academic and community medical centers, government, and industry; including pathologist and doctoral scientist laboratory directors; basic and translational scientists; technologists; and trainees. Through the efforts of its Board of Directors, Committees, Working Groups, and members, AMP is the primary resource for expertise, education, and collaboration in one of the fastest growing fields in healthcare. AMP members influence policy and regulation on the national and international levels, ultimately serving to advance innovation in the field and protect patient access to high quality, appropriate testing. For more information, visit [www.amp.org](http://www.amp.org).

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Andrew Noble

[anoble@amp.org](mailto:anoble@amp.org)

415-722-2129

###