

# Future of POCT

# Future Directions for POCT

- POCT growing at a rapid pace
- Test menu expanding
- New technologies include:
  - In vivo and ex vivo monitoring
  - Minimally invasive techniques (transcutaneous measurements)
  - Nanotechnology
  - Noninvasive methods (reverse iontophoresis, magnetic resonance spectroscopy, near-infrared spectroscopy, optical imaging)

# Challenges

- For manufacturers:
  - improve quality
  - consistency of test strip/cartridge manufacturing
  - redesign strips/cartridges to minimize interferences and extend shelf life

# Challenges

- For Laboratorians:

- Educate clinicians who use POCT about

- Limitations of devices/methods

- Interpretation

- Reliability of POCT results

# References

- Laboratory Medicine Colleagues
- Websites
  - [aacc.org](http://aacc.org) (POCT Division, POCT Listserve)
  - [labtestsonline.org](http://labtestsonline.org)
  - Manufacturers
- Journals and Other Publications
  - Point of Care: The Journal of Near-Patient Testing and Technology
  - Clinical Chemistry
  - CLSI Guidelines

# Summary

- Growth in POCT and applications of POCT
- Includes inpatient and outpatient settings
- Testing performed by wide range of health professionals and patients
- Growing menu of tests and clinical applications
- Understanding limits of tests and appropriate patient population setting important for testing process and interpretation of results
- Guidelines valuable source of information and should be implemented
- New applications and technologies pose both challenges and opportunities

