

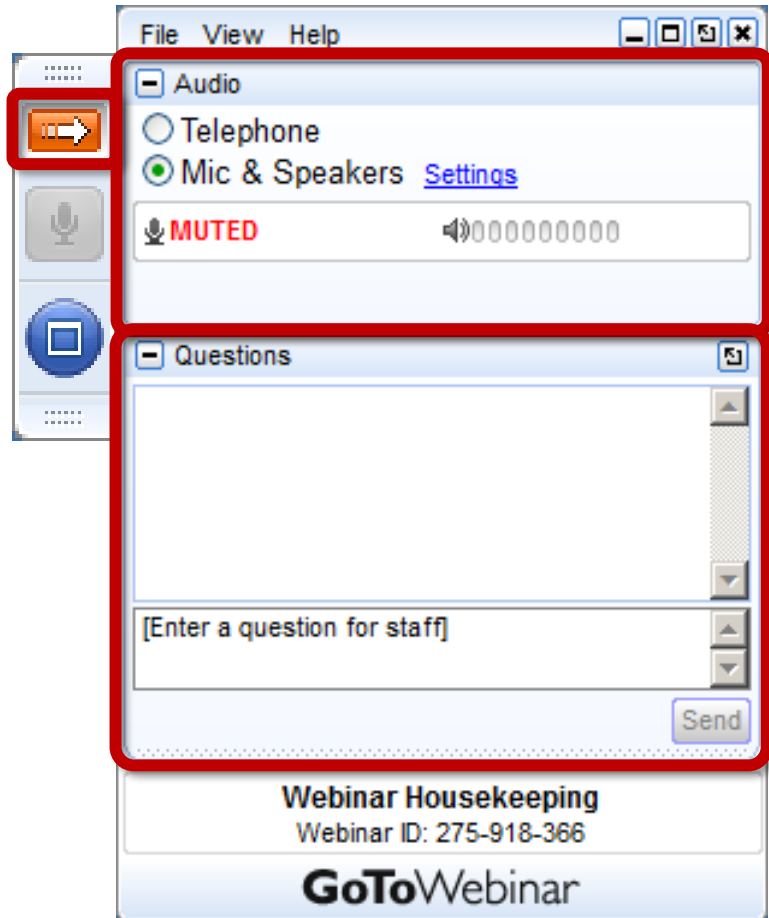


# Joint Commission Laboratory Webinar

March 9th, 2022



# GoToWebinar Housekeeping



## Your Participation

### Join audio:

- Choose “Mic & Speakers” to use VoIP
- Choose “Telephone” and dial using the information provided



### Questions/Comments:

- Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel.

**Note:** Today’s presentation is being recorded and will be posted on the Joint Commission website.

# Today's Interview with a peer Pathologist



## Joint Commission Moderator

- Caleb Bardy, MBA, MLS (ASCP)
  - *Medical Technologist*
  - *Business Development Manager: Joint Commission LAB Accreditation, PBM Certification*

## Guest Speaker

- Dr. Ila Singh, MD, PhD
  - *Chief of Laboratory Medicine and Informatics at Texas Children's Hospital*
  - *Professor, Baylor College of Medicine*
  - *Founder of TRUU-Lab*





# Overview of Today's Discussion

- Ice Breaker Questions
- Challenges of lab test naming
- Test name standardization
- Dr. Singh's Initiative
- Leading Laboratories Recognition Program
- Questions



# Icebreaker Questions

# The TRUU-Lab Names Initiative: Towards Standardization, Interoperability and Understanding

**Ila Singh, MD, PhD**

**Chief of Laboratory Medicine  
Chief of Pathology Informatics  
Texas Children's Hospital  
Professor, Baylor College of Medicine**

The Joint Commission, March 9, 2022

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# A Case of Measles ...No Lab Test?



Pic: Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research

Test found in EMR  
**Rubeola IgM**

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# Inappropriate Test Orders are Common

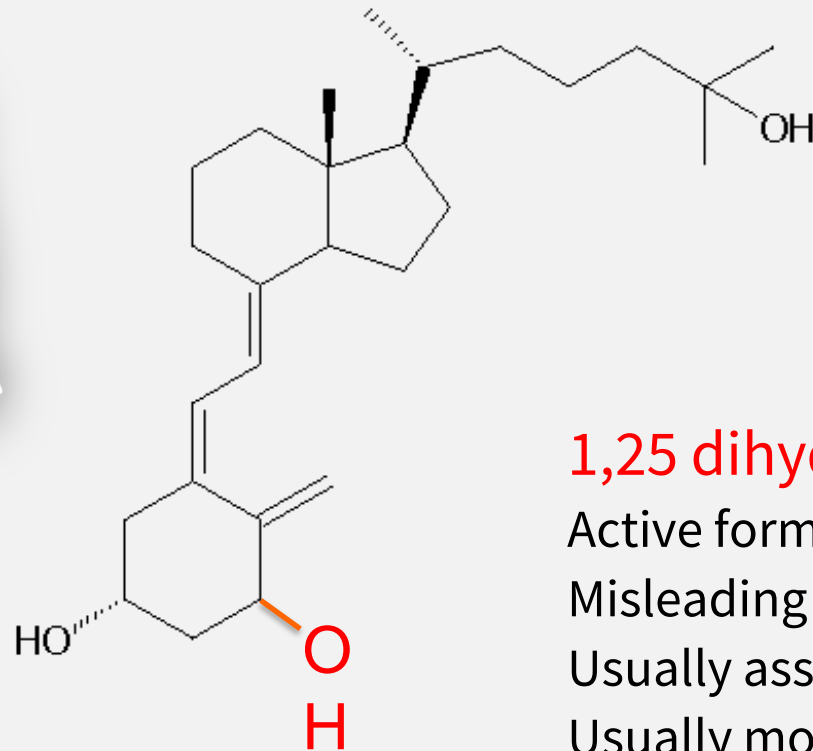
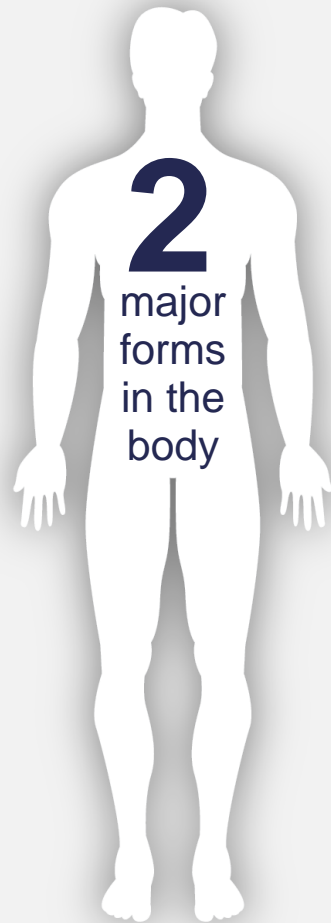
- 10%–30% lab tests performed in the US are unnecessary/ incorrect
- ~ 30% genetic test orders are inappropriate
- ~ 5% genetic test orders are frank medical errors

Total of ~ 13 Billion tests performed each year in the US

Zhi M et al. PLoS ONE 2013, 8:1– 8 | Miller CE et al, Am J Med Genet A 2014, 164:1094 – 101  
Mathias PC et al, Am J Clin Pathol 2016, 146:221– 6 | Steindel SJ et al, Arch Pathol Lab Med, 2000, 124:1201-8  
Institute of Medicine Study



# The Vitamin D Testing Problem



## 25 hydroxy-vitamin D

Best indicator of Vitamin D status in routine screening for deficiency

## 1,25 dihydroxy-vitamin D

Active form of the vitamin

Misleading in screening for deficiency

Usually assayed by Mass Spectrometry

Usually more expensive

The 'Wrong' Vitamin D test is ordered  
>30% of the time

# Lab Test Names are Usually Chosen...

- Without consulting with **Clinicians**
- Without a **Style Guide**
- Without consulting **Other Institutions**



# TRUU-Lab



Aims to bring together

- Healthcare Providers,
- Professional Societies,
- Industry Groups, and
- Federal Liaisons

to address problems caused  
by ambiguous, incomplete, and  
non-standard laboratory test names

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# TRUU-Lab's Goals

- Generate consensus standardized names for existing lab tests
- Generate a consensus guideline for test naming
- Promote the adoption and implementation of consensus lab test names and guidelines





# Reasons for Lack of Standardization in Test Names

Modified from report of TRUU-LAB Sub-Committee, headed by Dr. Gary Procop, American Board of Pathology

**Vitamin D**  
**25 hydroxy**  
**1,25 dihydroxy**

**Thalassemia**  
**Screen**  
**Hemoglobin Variant**  
**Reflexive Panel**  
**Hemoglobin A2**

**eGFR vs EGFR**  
**SM Ab (Smith or**  
**Smooth muscle?)**

**Vasopressin**  
**Antidiuretic**  
**hormone (ADH)**  
**Arginine**  
**Vasopressin (AV))**

**Quantiferon Gold**  
**and**  
**Interferon-Gamma**  
**Release assay (TB)**

**Factor V Leiden**  
**Vs**  
**Factor V Levels**

**Hemoglobin A1c**  
**Glycated hemoglobin**  
**A1c**

**Free**  
**LC/MS-MS**

**Character limits**  
**Respiratory Virus**  
**Panels**  
**Celiac algorithm**

**Human Chorionic**  
**Gonadotrophin for**  
**Pregnancy vs**  
**Tumor Marker**

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# Creating 'Good' Names

Let's ask the people who use the names, i.e. clinicians of all kinds

A clinician's idea of a 'good' name is colored by their own experiences – good or bad

## HIV RNA test (quantitative)

**HIV-1, Quantitative, Real-Time PCR**

Quest Diagnostics

**HIV-1 RNA by Quantitative RT-PCR, Plasma**

ARUP Laboratories

**HIV 1 RNA NAA+probe Log #/Vol**

LOINC

**HIV viral load PCR**

Mass General Hospital

TRUU-LAB Sub-Committee, headed by Dr. Brian Jackson, ARUP Laboratories

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# Our Partner: the Brand Institute



>75% of Market - Approved Drug Names

Both Generic and Brand Names

# Survey Takers

## 100 clinicians

20 Emergency Physicians  
20 Pediatricians  
20 Obstetrician-Gynecologists  
20 Family and General Practice Physicians  
20 Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants

## Experience

37% > 20 years  
42% - 10-20 years

## Survey Test Names

**Vit D, Testosterone, SARS-CoV-2 RNA, Anti-Xa, SARS-CoV-2 Ab, Hemoglobin A1c, hCG, vWD screen, HIV, DOA**

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# Lab Names Survey

## Two Structural Parts

1. Provide a Clinical Scenario for which survey-takers choose appropriate Lab tests

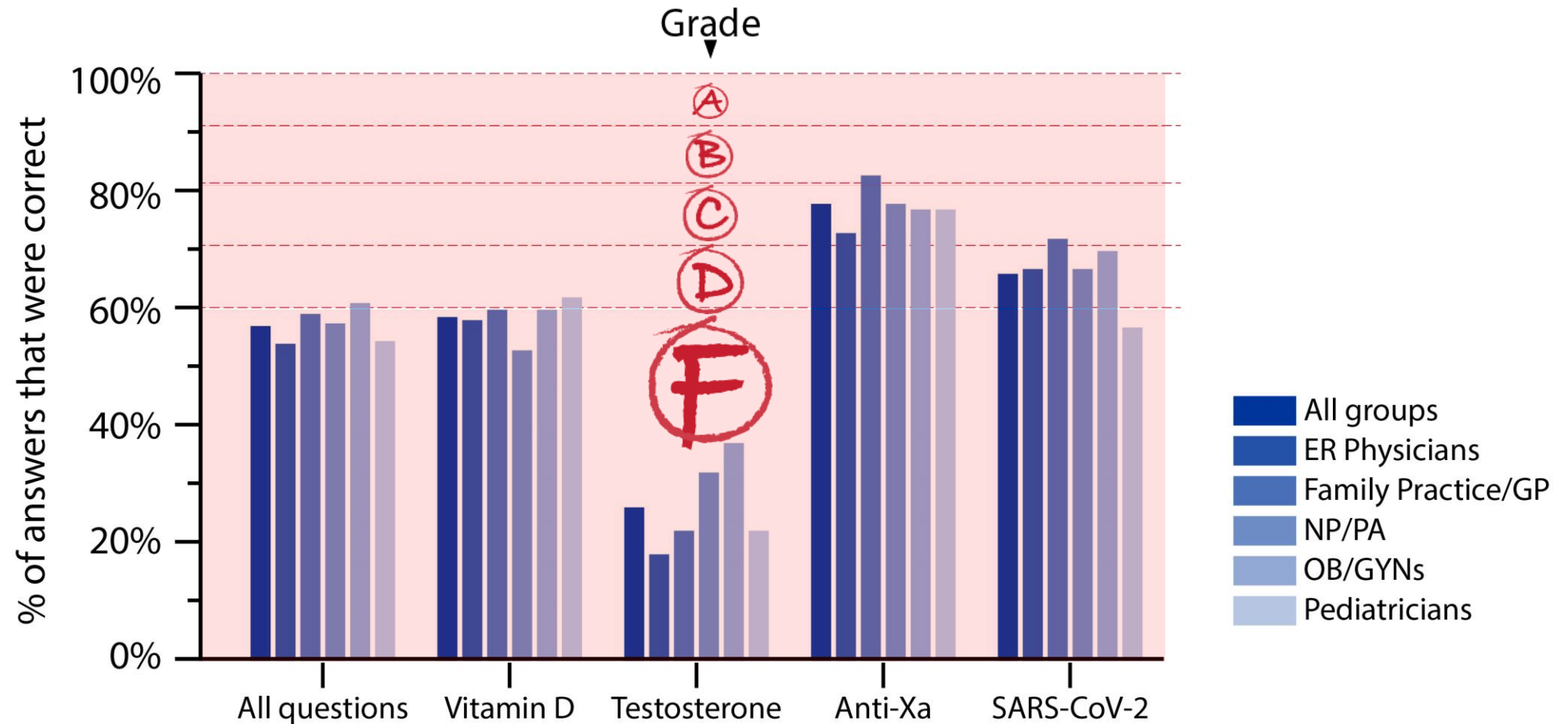
### Unaided Survey

2. Provide background information about the test and *then* ask questions about what would make an ideal name **Aided Survey**

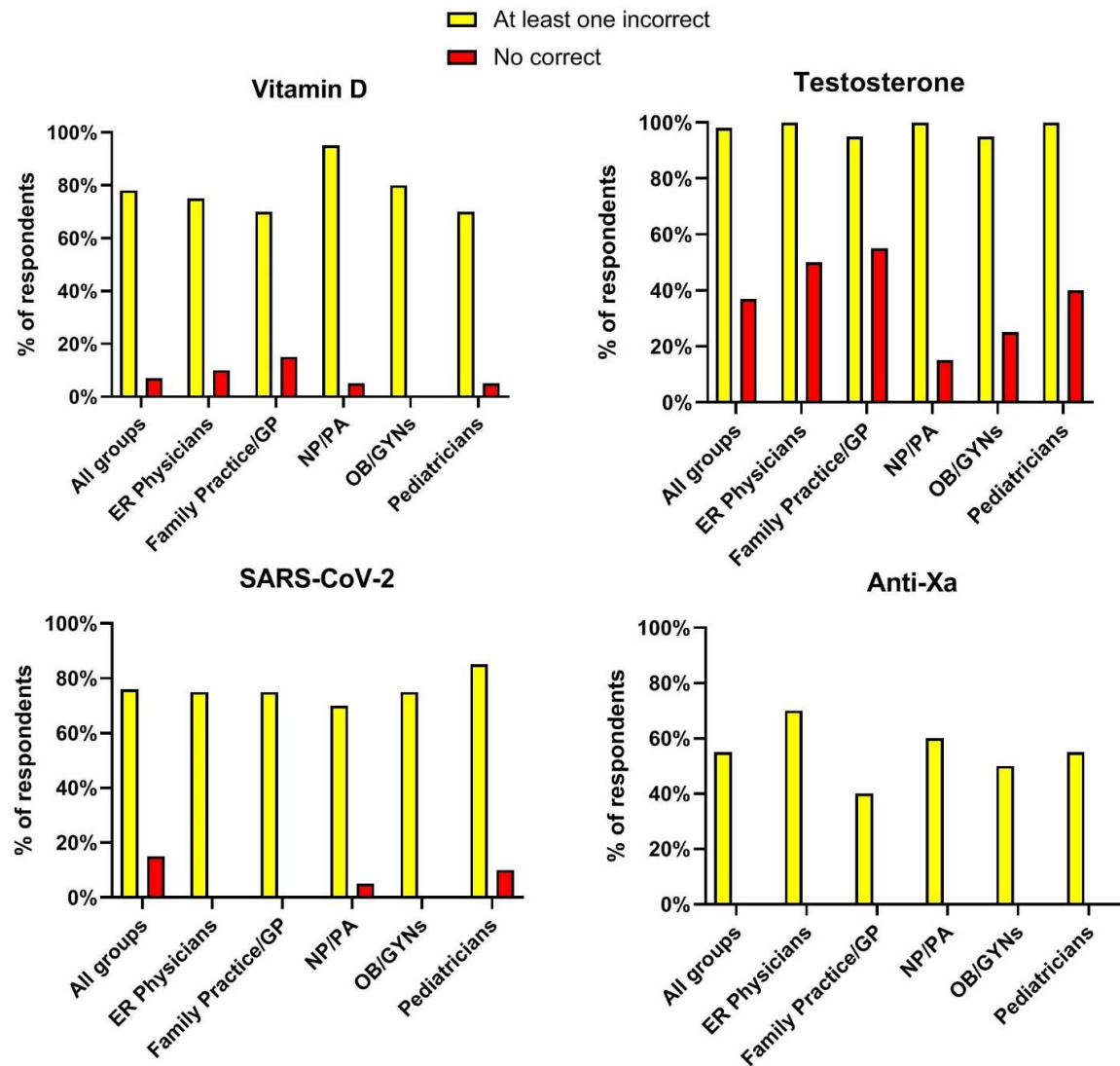
- Avoids clinician responses that are driven by *prior* knowledge and experience
- Ensures clinicians are making *informed* decisions
- Reaches *intuitive* test names that we anticipate will be widely understandable



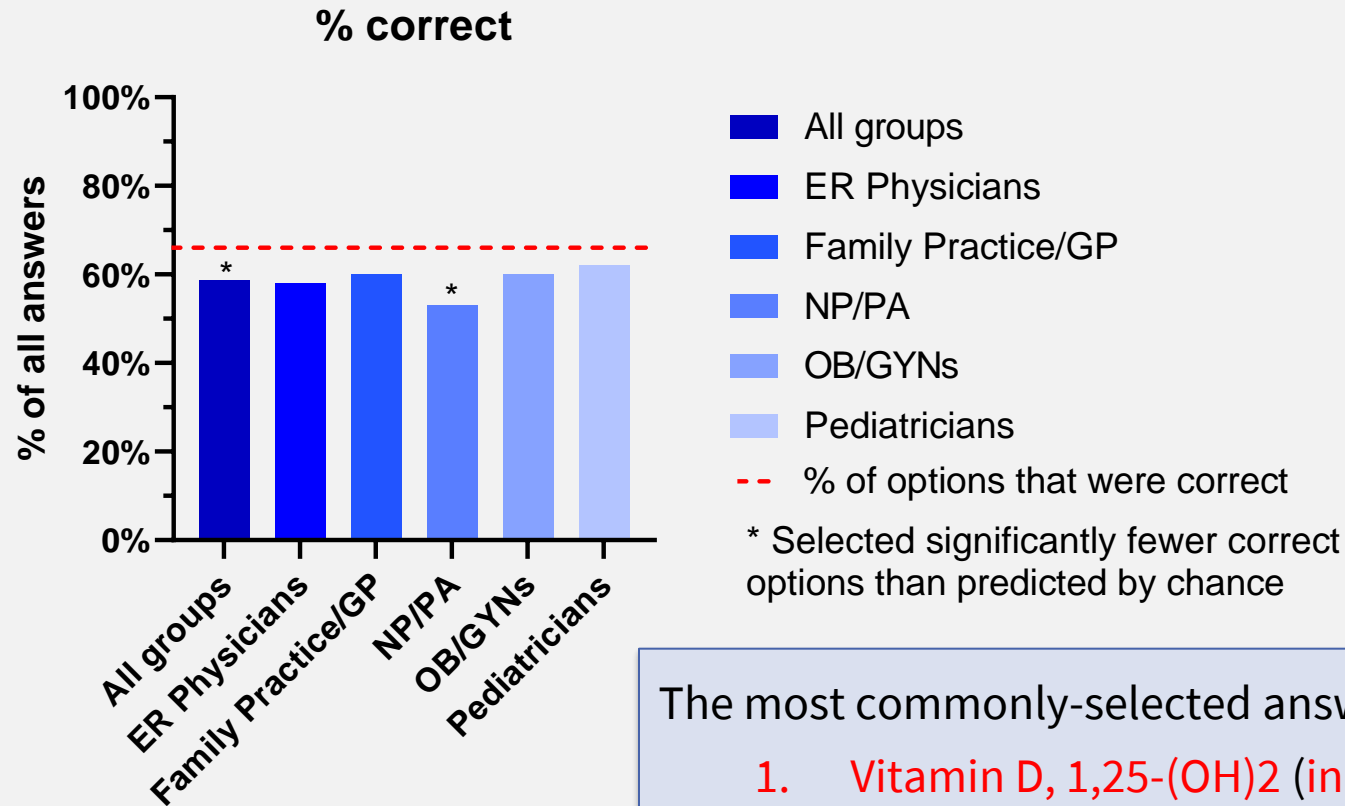
# Quick Overall Summary: Clinicians Get a Poor Grade in Choosing a Lab Test



Many providers chose incorrect tests for ALL tests surveyed!



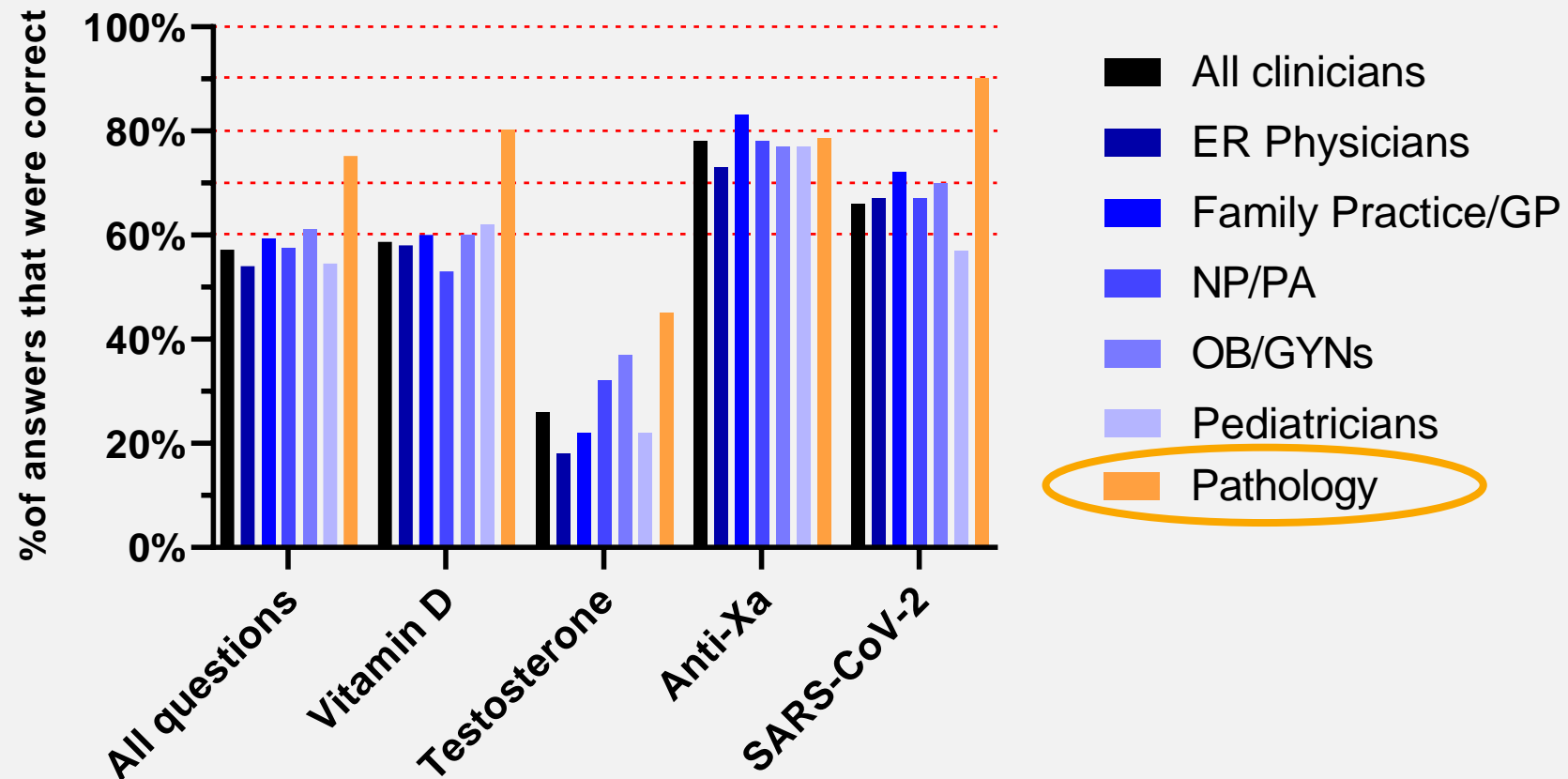
# Clinicians performed Worse than Chance at Selecting Correct Vitamin D tests



The most commonly-selected answer was an **incorrect** choice.

1. Vitamin D, 1,25-(OH)<sub>2</sub> (inappropriate, selected 50 X)
2. Vitamin D, for deficiency screening (appropriate, selected 46 X)

# Makers of Test Names Performed Better than Chance Alone



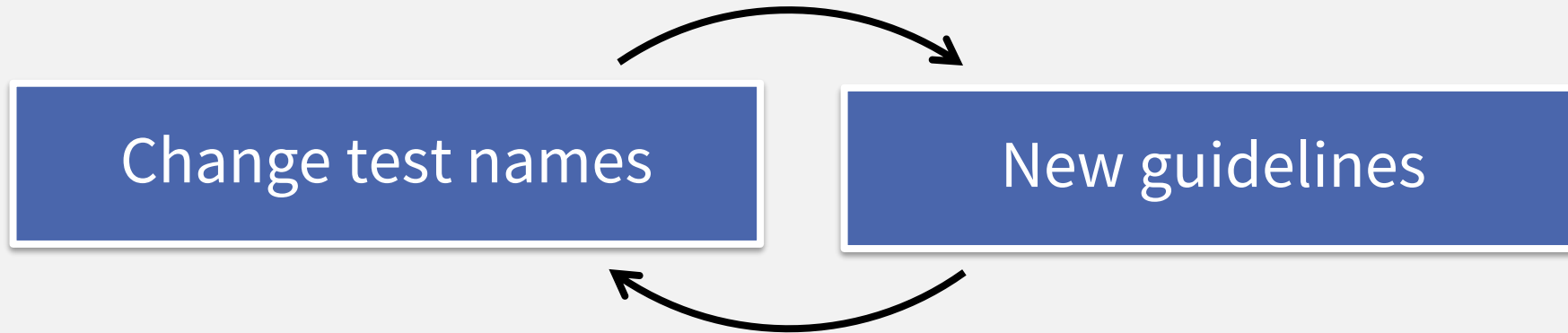
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# There is no 'One Size Fits All'

- **Test Names are difficult – Without help, respondents do not perform better than chance**
- Most preferred were “core identifiers”: **name of the target, indication for testing**
- Actual name of the target - preferred for testosterone and Vitamin D, but **name of disease (COVID-19) preferred over SARS-CoV-2**
- **Indications FOR use** were strongly preferred over **warnings AGAINST improper use**. For Vitamin D testing, where the target names are complex and the indications are complex too, warnings against inappropriate use were preferred
- **Not all clinical specialties have the same preference**: Ob-Gyns had a strong preference to see **Rapid** in the SARS-CoV-2 test
- **There appear to be common patterns and these will become clearer with additional surveys**



# Name Change Process



- 1 • Test and Implement on a small scale
- 2 • Create and Test in a Mock EMR
- 3 • **Foundation Build of EMR, LIS**
- 4 • Basis for sharing lab results between systems

# Some of the Group....

## TRUU-Lab

- Ila Singh
- Emily Garnett
- Grace Kroner
- Charlene Bierl
- Sridevi Devaraj
- Laura Filkins
- Samuel McCash
- Elissa Passiment
- Anand Dighe
- Andrea Pitkus
- Brian Jackson
- David Alter

## Brand Institute

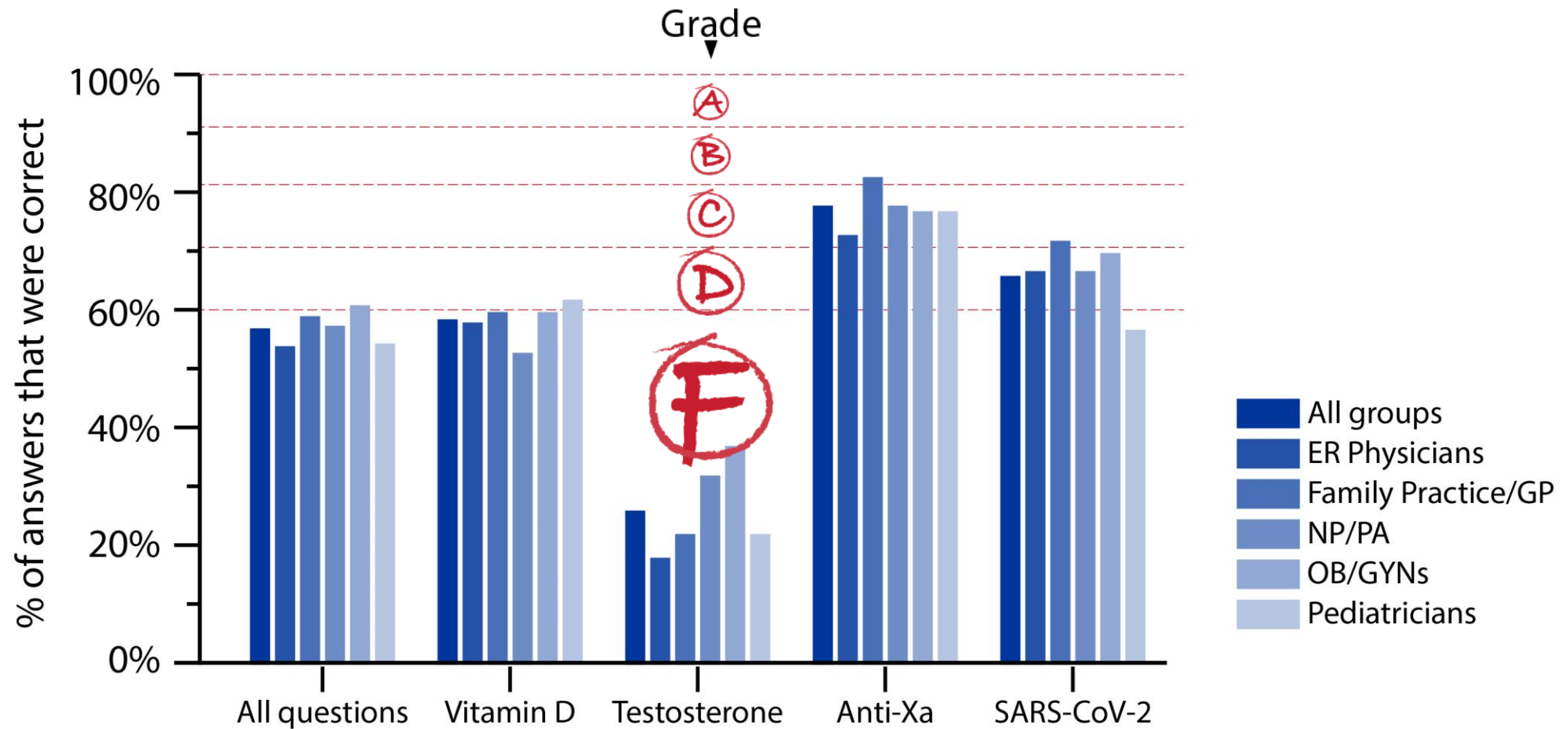
- Jacob Barnes
- Matthew Filbert
- Brian Frasca
- Luisanna Meija
- Carlos Gomez
- Minnie Suh
- Ricardo Montemayor

## CDC

- Jasmine Chaitram
- Nancy Cornish
- Maribeth Gagnon
- Reynolds Salerno
- Param Sandhu
- Monica Toles

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# There is a Real Urgency....



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# Discussion



## Joint Commission Moderator

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## Guest Speaker

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# LEADING LABORATORIES



The Joint Commission



# What is a Leading Laboratory?

More than just a status to earn, Leading Laboratories is the only program of its kind that provides detailed proof of quality laboratories' commitment to building teams who excel in enhancing patient care.



# QUALITY OUTCOMES

A Leading Laboratory demonstrates their commitment to **Quality Outcomes** by being a key contributor to overall positive patient experience and generating quality outcomes which support a patient-centric mission

- Plans and metrics that drive effective test utilization (ETU) and decrease ineffective test ordering
- Clarity of test nomenclature and effective test ordering pre-analytic through post-analytic
- Application of proven and innovative principles to improve processes and share best practices



*Excellence in Patient Care*

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A Leading Laboratory demonstrates their commitment to **Professional Development** by advocating for a continuum of learning and skill-based activities that aid in improving team members professional knowledge, competence, skill, and effectiveness

- Process or framework for lab to support accurate clinician test ordering
- Documentation of communication with clinical care teams to assure accuracy in order protocol development and order set functionality
- Mentorship of clinical teams on test stewardship, through empowering a culture of safety



*Education and Advancement*

# TRUSTED LEADERSHIP

A Leading Laboratory demonstrates their commitment to **Trusted Leadership** by articulating a clear mission in support of patient care; effectively managing resources; while engaging team members, colleagues and patients through respectful dialogue to inspire trust-based professional relationships

- Trusted leadership to facilitate multidisciplinary problem solving for ETU priorities
- Laboratory leadership serving as an essential source of ETU expertise, insight, and influence



*Teamwork Empowerment*

# LABORATORY VISIBILITY

A Leading Laboratory increases **Laboratory Visibility** and the profession through active promotion, recognizing its vital role in patient's healthcare journey and in communities

- Laboratory visibility through serving as an active participant within the organization and community that drives ETU.
- Following a process for diversity, equity, and inclusion when considering reference range appropriateness for the community of patients that are served by the local laboratory system.



*Recognition and Value*

# Questions?

# Thank You!

To learn more about The Leading Laboratories Recognition Program or The Joint Commission's Laboratory Accreditation Program

Visit us: [www.leadinglaboratories.org](http://www.leadinglaboratories.org)

Visit us: [www.jointcommission.org/lab](http://www.jointcommission.org/lab)

Email us: [qualitylabs@jointcommission.org](mailto:qualitylabs@jointcommission.org)

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