



Bako Diagnostics Leads Industry in Nail Dystrophy Diagnostics

By Aldo Nahed

With a unique focus on pathology of the lower extremity, **Bako Diagnostics** continues to be the nation's leading provider of nail dystrophy diagnostic testing and services. Since it was formed 10 years ago, BakoDx has analyzed more than 1.6 million nail dystrophy cases, using conventional and molecular techniques.

The onychodystrophy DNA test, which uses PCR technology developed at BakoDx is a real time assay that produces results within 24-48 hours, the shortest turnaround time in the industry. The PCR assay can detect 15 different genera or species of fungal pathogens implicated in onychomycosis, including dermatophytes, saprophytes and yeast.

"Each specimen that arrives at our laboratory represents a podiatric patient," said Ted Hull, BakoDx CEO. "Because of that, we work diligently to exceed all expectations and deliver exceptionally detailed reports, services and therapeutic treatment recommendations to improve patient care and outcomes."

The PCR assay provides BakoDx's physician clients with certainty in the detection of onychomycosis. When combined with anatomic pathology, numerous other pathologies that may mimic dermatophyte infection of the nail, such as psoriasis, lichen planus or trauma are detected. The combination of PCR and histopathology provides the highest sensitivity and specificity testing results available. This allows physicians to deliver to patients the most comprehensive evaluation of nail unit dystrophy and proper therapeutic regimen for the underlying etiology.

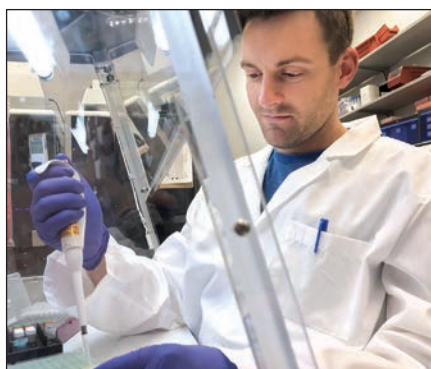
Most national health insurance payers require genus/species identification for preauthorization of newer anti-fungal prescriptions. Precise identification of *T. rubrum* and *T. mentagrophytes* is required by most national payers when prescribing important anti-fungal therapies.

Recently, BakoDx's proprietary PCR nail unit dystrophy molecular assay was enhanced to detect the most common bacterial cause of nail infection, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, the causative agent of green nail syndrome.

"The addition of *P. aeruginosa* to the onychodystrophy panel enables clinicians to more fully define the causes of infectious onychodystrophy and allow for ap-



Wayne L. Bakotic, D.O., Dermatopathologist and Bako Diagnostics Co-Founder, examines submitted specimen samples.



Matt McCullough, Molecular Technologist at Bako Diagnostics, runs a PCR nail unit dystrophy assay at the laboratory in Alpharetta, Ga.

propriate therapy," said Wayne L. Bakotic, D.O. and BakoDx Co-Founder.

Optimizing Patient Care

In addition, BakoDx has provided a Monthly Malignancy Report to the podiatric community about the diagnosis of malignancies from specimens submitted to their laboratory. Through the use of a simple biopsy technique and specialized dermatologic exams, patients are able to benefit from the best outcome prognosis with the least morbidity.

"Bako Diagnostics is in a unique position as the dermatopathology market leader for podiatrists to collect, analyze, study and share their findings with the profession," said Dr. William P. Scherer, Senior Podiatric Medical Advisor for BakoDx. "The incidence of lower extremity skin cancer represents an often overlooked and understudied disease."

Why Bako

BakoDx provides diagnostic and therapeutic services with a focus on pathology of the lower extremity. Its services to the podiatric clinician range from histopathologic examination of bone, soft tissue, and skin/nail, to microbiology, molecular genetic testing, anatomic pathology and epidermal nerve fiber density (ENFD) analysis.

With the goal of providing better patient care and outcomes, BakoDx's comprehensive, detailed report diagnoses with an explanation of significance and therapeutic options, with literary references and fast turnaround time: 1-2 days on routine specimen. Providing evidence-based medicine enables physicians to rapidly use the safest, most effective and economic therapeutic option for their patients. Compare that with several weeks of waiting for fungal nail culture results.

BakoDx's in-network services are available to more than 250 million covered lives, including all five national health plans, and fully compliant patient-friendly billing policies. Over the past ten years, BakoDx has evolved into one of the podiatric profession's principal sources of educational sponsorship.

Bako Diagnostics dermatopathologists are available for consultation from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET. Visit BakoDx.com, call 855-422-5628 to order or for more information, or click here.