

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Iowa City, Iowa

University medical center
has acute eye for
electrophoresis efficiency

*Sebia HYDRASYS[®] creates another point of distinction
for Iowa healthcare system*

The University of Iowa has a rich history of ground-breaking medical discoveries and firsts.

Its nickname, the Hawkeyes, means "keen vision."



So then, it's no surprise that one of its labs found a leading-edge solution to cut electrophoresis time considerably.

In 2001, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics — renown worldwide for solving some of the mysteries of Alzheimer's disease, muscular dystrophy, macular degeneration and other complex disorders — made a breakthrough in solving the challenges of a consolidated lab environment. In an effort to accommodate increased electrophoresis workflow and create greater efficiency, the lab went live on the Sebia HYDRASYS instrument.

The change to automation was spurred by more practical reasons than just the quest to be leading-edge. The previous manual method required a fair chunk of technologist time...and since University of Iowa had combined multiple laboratory testing into one location, it needed to maximize personnel tasks to the fullest.

"We reorganized our labs and combined workloads to help control costs," explains Marlene Loonan, medical technologist in the main chemistry lab. "As a result, our team's responsibility has expanded beyond just protein

**"With Sebia, orders are filled
right away. Their support team
is a major asset"**

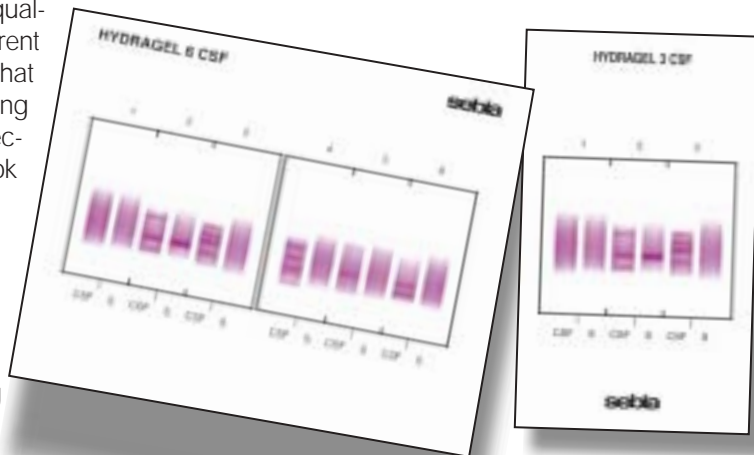
Marlene Loonan, Medical Technologist

electrophoresis to also include urine immunopathology, serum immunofixation, and screening of spinal fluid for multiple sclerosis. CSF screening in particular is more of a specialty service that few labs offer."

Also on the radar screen was the larger industry issue of staffing. "The number of medical technologists is decreasing nationwide, so it was important that we had a solution in place to deal with impending personnel shortages," Loonan adds. "We needed something that would work with minimal coverage."

The lab performed its own system comparison and found the Sebia HYDRASYS best met its needs in a number of categories: ease of use, efficiency, gel quality and the ability to handle many different types of testing. The end result is what seems like rocket-fast speeds in processing time; staff can now process protein electrophoresis in a quarter of the time it took previously.

"The good reproducibility of the Sebia gels means there's less need to repeat tests," says Dr. Charles Lutz, pathologist. "This contributes to faster response to our colleagues and clients, while ensuring accuracy of test results."



Clearly Superior...

AUTOMATICALLY BETTER[™]



Customer Focus

Designed as a “walkaway” system, the HYDRASYS handles everything from sample application to migration to incubation, staining and drying.



Dr. Charles Lutz and Dr. Michelle Barry examining Sebia's 9 IF gel.

“Because it’s fully automated and less technique-dependent than our old system, we don’t have to worry about little nuances in the way different people perform a process,” notes Mary Droll, medical technologist in the chemistry lab. “This makes for easier training too; some of us had never done immunofixation before the consolidation of our labs, so simplicity of the system — and the patience of the Sebia staff — was critical to a smooth transition.”

Something else that caught the attention of these Iowa Hawkeyes was the flexibility of the HYDRASYS and its extensive assay menu. For example, the lab can now offer multiple sclerosis testing on the same instrument, enabling it to meet demand and boost revenue potential. And because Sebia offers a cerebrospinal fluid assay that can be performed on unconcentrated or even diluted CSF, the cost and logistical challenges associated with this type of assay have been reduced.

Flexibility also comes into play with Sebia gels; a choice of gel sizes means that there’s never any waste with smaller workloads. “And orders for new kits are filled right away,” Loonan adds. “If we order Monday through Wednesday, kits arrive the next day.”

She and her colleagues praise Sebia’s support team as a major asset, citing numerous anecdotes whereby Sebia specialists helped resolve an operational challenge or technical issue. For example, when the lab techs were encountering problems generating “clean” gels, their Sebia rep made an onsite visit to help them perfect the blotting process — ensuring maximum clarity and readability of the test results.



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Dr. Charles Lutz, Pathologist

“Overall, the Sebia HYDRASYS has allowed us to process tests faster and with greater confidence in the results,” says Dr. Lutz. “Given that personnel time represents a large portion of lab expenses, an automated system is often the best way to achieve greater efficiency”.

About University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Consistently ranked among “America’s Best Hospitals” by *U.S. News & World Report*, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, in partnership with the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, serves three missions: patient care, health science education, and biomedical research. This partnership, called University of Iowa Health Care, brings together the expertise of highly skilled health care professionals and sophisticated medical technologies to serve the people of Iowa and beyond.

The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at The University of Iowa also contributes to the University of Iowa Health Care by its dedication to provide the world’s best research and cancer center. The Cancer Center was founded in 1980 and brings together faculty from 38 departments in six colleges and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

