

QFT NEWS

Sept 2009

“Changing the way the world looks at TB”

Highlights

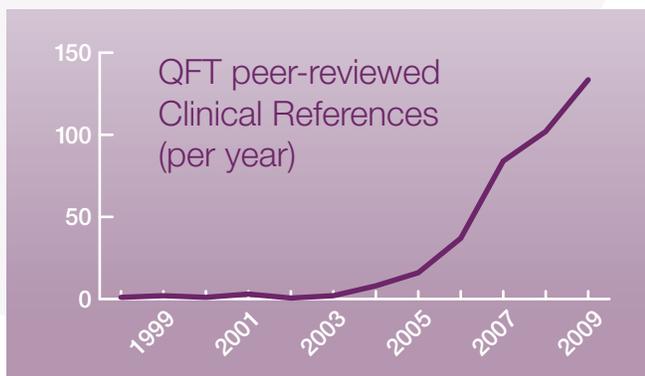
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gnowee

- Online updates
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- Customize your content



In Focus The Age of gnowee

Since the advent of IGRAs and the first mention of early IGRAs in the literature in the late 1990s, nearly 400 peer-reviewed, published articles have mentioned QuantiFERON®-TB Gold technology.

The number of QFT™-related publications has risen dramatically between 2004 and today. In fact, the TB world is on track for a record of 133 QFT-related articles published this year (based on PubMed keyword search, 20 Aug 2009). Such a large knowledge base can be incredibly advantageous to those who strive to eradicate TB and its morbidity and mortality.

With so much information so readily available, searching, sorting, saving, remembering, collating and incorporating all of these articles into your clinical or research practice is increasingly more difficult.

Enter...





► Gnowee (pronounced *nō-ē*) is a comprehensive resource for information relating to QuantiFERON. A new tool developed by Cellestis for customers and QFT users, Gnowee brings together a whole library full of references, documents, presentations, images, and more.

First and foremost, Gnowee is a comprehensive collection of peer-reviewed QFT-related publications and abstracts for QFT customers and prospective customers. Because articles are so frequently published, Gnowee has **continuous updates** so you can be confident you have latest evidence at hand. You'll be able to tell when new content is available through QFT News—the  icon next to a news item will indicate that related information has been updated in Gnowee online (see below for more details on updating content). QFT News will complement Gnowee by providing in-depth coverage of the latest publications as well as Cellestis commentary on major issues in the TB space.

Here's a snapshot of what else you can find in Gnowee:

The **Guidelines** section provides updated TB and QFT-related guidelines, position statements, and recommendations from around the world.

Several **Presentations** are also available to help you tailor your own presentations. You can reproduce or adapt these slides without permission under a few copyright conditions that you can find in the 'Help' section.

The **Technical Support** section provides detailed technical answers to frequently asked questions and advice on QFT procedures and products. You can automatically request that a Cellestis Technical Service representative contact you with the click of a button.

Copyright-free **Images** have also been collated so that you can embellish your presentations.

Last but not least, the **QuantiFERON Information** section contains product information, analysis software, instructional videos, and the QFT News archive.

To get the most out of the Gnowee "library" and its vastness, searching, sorting, printing, exporting, and linking functions are all standard and computer platform-independent. The 4-Gigabyte Gnowee USB card can also hold your own downloaded articles and presentations, so you can take them wherever you go whether or not you are connected to the internet. Adding links to selected documents on your computer's hard drive is easy, and the links will be active as long as the pathway to your hard drive exists. Another interactive feature is "Have my sales representative contact me," which will allow you at the click of a button to indicate to Cellestis that you would like your local sales representative to contact you. That way, you can access assistance without having the hassle and cost of placing a call yourself. Perhaps the best feature of Gnowee is that it can be used offline *and* online. If you've forgotten your Gnowee card or you want to check out what's new, you can always access Gnowee online at www.gnowee.net. Gnowee online also serves as your portal to updates (Gnowee will recognize that new articles are available to upload to your card).

Introduction to gnowee Content and Functionality

Gnowee is like your one-stop-shop for all of your QuantiFERON information needs.

If you are interested in Gnowee, please contact your local sales representative, drop into a Cellestis booth at one of the many upcoming conferences (see list page 6), or register your interest in receiving a Gnowee card by emailing info@gnowee.net ■



- online updates
- offline access
- customize your content

Latest News

Publications and Guidelines Update



“Enhanced cost-benefit analysis of strategies for LTBI screening and INH chemoprevention in Germany.”

Diel R, et al. Respir Med 2009; [Article in press].

This recent study is the first published cost-benefit analysis between QFT In-Tube and TST that takes into account the predictive value of both tests for TB over a two-year period.

In other words, progression to TB disease was considered the “gold standard” for a decision tree model, which factored in both probabilistic and deterministic analyses in a prospectively observed group of 1000 close contacts. In this way the authors assessed using QFT alone, TST alone, or TST confirmed with QFT. The health and economic outcomes of isoniazid treatment and related toxicity were also analyzed.

The cost of screening and treatment associated with using QFT alone was considerably less than either TST alone or confirmatory testing with QFT (QFT: €215.79/patient; TST: €232.79; TST+QFT: €227.89).

TB Screening cost per patient (Germany)

TST alone	€ 232.79
QFT alone	€ 215.79
TST+QFT	€ 227.89

These per-patient differences equate to huge savings when calculated to include routine clinical testing and treatment for 1000 patients. After accounting for different progression rates among QFT-positive and TST-positive patients, using QFT alone vs TST alone resulted in almost €17,000 saved (€12,000 savings vs confirmatory testing). The higher cost of testing using the TST was appropriated to unread (or false-negative) tests.

Importantly, these considerable cost-benefits of using QFT alone were mirrored by improvements in patient health as using QFT alone reduced the number of TB cases more than using the TST alone. An even more interesting result of this study was that using QFT alone was a significantly more cost-effective method than confirmatory QFT testing subsequent to TST. So, QFT testing alone is not only the most cost-effective TB diagnostic strategy, but also a more accurate marker for disease progression.

▷ View the full abstract [here](#)

Product Updates

QuantiFERON-CMV Launched in Europe

Cellestis launched its QuantiFERON-CMV product for commercial use at the European Society for Organ Transplantation’s Paris congress on August 30.

QuantiFERON-CMV is an *in vitro* diagnostic assay that can monitor the level of anti-CMV immunity, thereby helping to determine if your patient is at risk of developing CMV disease ([see website](#)). While QuantiFERON-CMV has been available previously as a research tool, this product is now commercially-released in Europe and can be ordered directly from Cellestis or your respective authorized representative.

New QFT Analysis Software Released



The latest version (v2.61) of the QFT analysis software is now available. This release is intended for Cellestis customers **outside the US** and now includes Portuguese, Greek and Polish versions in addition to previously incorporated German, French, Spanish, Italian, and English translations.

▷ Click [here](#) to access the new software online.

QFT Reference Lab Pack Introduced

A new QFT Gold ELISA configuration, Reference Lab Pack, has been released. Designed for high-volume QFT use, these packs contain 10 ELISA kits in a single carton (ie. each pack contains twenty 96-well ELISA plates, allowing up to 880 QFT tests to be completed). This new option enables efficient delivery, lower shipping costs, reduced storage space requirements, and an eco-friendly alternative with the new packs using a quarter of the packaging material of other versions. If you are interested in ordering the Reference Lab Pack, please quote Catalogue # 0594-0501.



New Commercial Partner Appointed

Cellestis has recently appointed a new commercial partner for distribution of QFT products in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. For 15 years, Bio-Nuclear has been an industry leader, providing clinical laboratory products of the highest quality to customers. Please contact Bio-Nuclear if you have questions regarding QFT in this region.

Bio-Nuclear

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San Juan, PR 00919-0639
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Bldg L-2, Bo Palmas
Cataño, PR 00962

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Toll Free Tel: 877.788.1290
Fax: 787.788.1297

Contact: José F. Marrero MBA, MT (ASCP)
Email: jose.marrero@bionuclear.com
Website: www.bionuclear.com

New Versions of Package Inserts Now Available on Web

The Package Inserts on www.cellestis.com have recently been updated to maintain regulatory and quality requirements. Available in 25 different languages, the Package Inserts can be accessed by clicking on the "Package Insert Translations" button on Cellestis' homepage. Simply select the flag that corresponds to the particular language you wish to read.



EVENT UPDATES

2nd QFT Seminar Osaka, September 5

This year's QFT Seminar in Japan featured several regional and international key opinion leaders such as Dr Mitsunori Sakatani and Dr L Masae Kawamura. Over 200 representatives from Japanese public health centers and hospitals attended to learn of new and current issues in TB control. Sponsored by Cellestis, the program received extensive support from The Japanese Society for Tuberculosis (Kinki Branch) and Japan BCG Supply.



European Organ Transplantation Congress Paris, August 30–September 2

As mentioned above, the European Society for Organ Transplantation's Paris congress was the location of the QuantiFERON-CMV assay launch. This meeting is traditionally the most well-attended of transplant congresses and is designed for physicians, surgeons, scientists, nurses, organ procurement personnel, and pharmacists interested in the clinical and research aspects of solid organ and tissue transplantation.

▶ View the ESOT congress' scientific programme [here](#)

Cellestis EU Commercial Partner Meeting Italy, September 6–8

With several recently-appointed Commercial Partners, Cellestis is focused on improving its global communications and training with the Commercial Partners through interactions with key TB clinical and research leaders. Training on TB guidelines and recommendations for immunosuppressed individuals and for health care worker screening was the highlight of this program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IGRA Echo Symposium San Francisco, October 3

Subsequent to the 2nd Global Symposium on IGRAs in Dubrovnik, Croatia, the satellite “echo” meeting will be held in San Francisco on October 3.

Topics of discussion will include:

- History of TB
- The use of IGRAs in children
- The use of IGRAs healthcare worker screening
- A review of results from longitudinal studies of IGRAs.

The speaker list features:

Dr Antonino Catanzaro University of California, San Diego

Dr Masae Kawamura San Francisco Dept of Public Health

Dr Tiffany Harris NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of TB Control

Dr Deborah Lewinsohn Oregon Health and Science University

Dr David Lewinsohn Oregon Health and Science University

Dr Charles Daley National Jewish Hospital, Denver.

The event will be chaired by Dr Antonino Catanzaro, and is sponsored by Cellestis.

▷ For more information on this meeting, please visit www.igrasymposium.com/echo.html



Upcoming events list

North America / South America

Association of Occupational Health Professionals (AOHP)	September 16–19	Portland, OR
ECHO IGRA Symposium	October 3	San Francisco, CA
Midwest TB Controllers Association	October 7–9	Bismarck, ND
National Conference on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC)	October 17–21	Orlando, FL
SE TB Controllers Association	October 20–21	Biloxi, MS
California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors (CAPHLD)	October 20–23	Monterey Bay, CA
Four Corners/Southwest TB	October 26–28	Durango, CO
Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA)	October 29–Nov 1	Philadelphia, PA
American Public Health Association (APHA)	November 8–11	Philadelphia, PA
IUATLD Mexico	December 3–7	Cancun, Mexico

Europe / Middle East / Africa

61st Annual Meeting of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM)	September 20–24	Gottingen, Germany
Abu Dhabi Medical Congress—Patient Safety	October 11–14	Abu Dhabi, UAE
XI. Regensburger Fortbildung Tuberkulose und Mykobakterien	November 27–29	Regensburg, Germany
BTS Winter Meeting	December 2–6	London, UK
14. Klinisch-Mikrobiologisch-Infektiologisches Symposium (KMIS)	December 3–6	Berlin, Germany

More information about Cellestis events is available [here](#)

If you have any questions or comments about QFT-News, contact us at news@cellestis.com

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