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## NEWS

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### LAB TESTING IN THE PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE

... "Within the past three years, many group practices and individual physicians have purchased specialized chemistry analyzers and therapeutic drug monitoring instruments to perform laboratory procedures in their offices. The driving force behind office testing is two-fold: First, by measuring [chemical] concentrations in their offices, many physicians believe they can provide better care. Today's instruments allow physicians to perform diagnostic procedures while patients are present. On-site testing eliminates delays of hours, even days, for a hospital or commercial laboratory to provide results. Second, many physicians acquire equipment because they believe they can derive additional revenue without having to increase their patient workload at the same time. The

growth of testing in physician's offices is forcing a major change in hospital laboratory medicine. If physicians can obtain accurate results in their offices in 10 to 15 minutes and use the results immediately, then hospitals should be able to do the same. For many kinds of tests, this capability is both necessary and economical. It saves time and enhances rapid achievement of therapeutic effect."

[(C. E. Pippenger & Robert S. Galen (Cleveland Clinic Foundation) in *Diagnostic Medicine* 8(1): 38-44, Jan 85). Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 15, April 15, 1985, p. 14. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

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### HOW THE BRITISH FEEL ABOUT SCIENCE

... A poll done in Britain by Gallup, an opinion-research company, found that "the scientific community may be less popular than it might like to be because of concern over technology rather than worries about science itself. The overwhelming majority (83%) of respondents agreed that scientific knowledge is good in itself: it is the way in which it is applied that creates problems. This opinion is shared by those who think science and technology do more good than harm and those who think they do more harm than good. There is no doubt, though, that people are aware of the potential dangers of scientific discoveries. Even among those who believe science to do more good than harm, 70% accept that scientific discoveries can have dangerous effects. Respondents claiming that science can have very dangerous effects singled out nuclear energy

as a high-risk area, with biotechnology and genetic engineering the second most mentioned. In view of this concern, it is perhaps not surprising that most (84%) of those questioned felt that scientists and technologists should pay more attention to the social implications of their work. Concern about the interaction between science and society cuts both ways, though, with 76% of respondents saying that politicians should know more about science."

[(Ros Herman & Michael Kenward in *New Scientist* 105(1444): 12-13, 21 Feb 85). Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 17, April 29, 1985, p. 7. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

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