

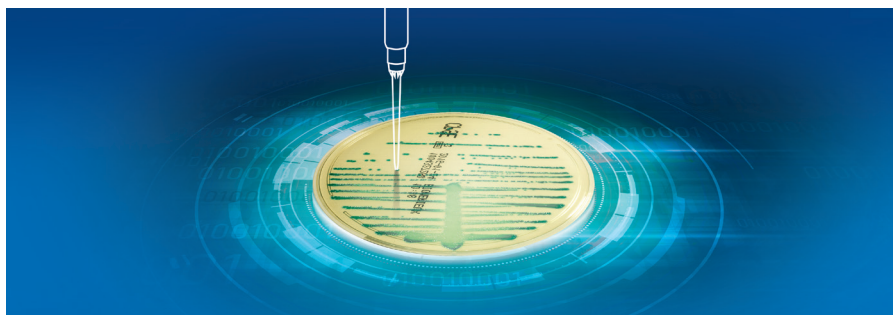
More specimens, faster

LaboSud Microbiology Core Lab processes thousands of patient samples in France every day, a level of throughput that would not be possible without its partnership with **bioMérieux**. *Practical Patient Care* talks to its co-director, Dr Jérémy Bayette, about the WASPLab specimen processing and reading solution, empowered by bioMérieux, explaining how it has enabled a drastic decrease in processing time to provide more rapid results that help improve patient outcomes.

A patient is in a clinic with a suspected infection. To help determine appropriate treatment, clinical samples may be sent for analysis at a lab. In the south of France, there's a good chance they'll go to LaboSud. A network of over 70 laboratories with headquarters in Montpellier, the organisation handles around 2,000 samples from private hospitals and collection centres every single day. Such a high sample throughput would not be possible without the use of one core automation solution.

"Prior to our acquisition of the WASPLab solution, we were processing roughly half our current quantity of samples," explains Dr Jérémy Bayette, medical microbiologist and co-director of LaboSud.

A flexible automated sample processing and reading solution, WASPLab is designed and manufactured by COPAN and empowered by bioMérieux. It can handle all tasks related to automated



Colibrí automated picking: added lab efficiency and medical value for WASPLab.

This enables rules-based sorting to speed up and improve plate interpretation.

The system automatically discards negative plates and sorts positives according to needed next steps. This reduces the chance of human error and increases safety for technicians due to less plate handling. Bayette says that after LaboSud began using PhenoMATRIX to analyse urine samples, they experienced "improvements in technical time, traceability, safety, quality of results and time to results reporting."

with identification (ID) and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) solutions like bioMérieux's VITEK range, bringing further improvements to sample throughput. It uses a laser and three cameras to accurately chart the distribution and dimensions of colonies on individual plates incubated in the WASPLab smart incubator.

"We previously considered suspension preparation for AST a non-value-added task because it takes a lot of technician time and there is risk of error," explains Bayette. "However, now that we're automating that process with Colibrí, we're decreasing the risk of errors, and ensuring standardisation and accuracy while freeing technicians for more value-added tasks."

Looking back, Bayette is glad he chose to partner with bioMérieux for LaboSud's sample processing. "During the tender, we visited many labs to compare," he explains. "When we saw a facility equipped by bioMérieux, their organisation was always more efficient. That was proof enough for us to adopt WASPLab, and using the solution has only convinced us further." ●

WASPLab, PhenoMATRIX and Colibrí are manufactured by COPAN.

For further information

www.biomerieux-diagnostics.com/wasplab-microbiology-optimization

"Through our use of Colibrí, we're ensuring standardisation and accuracy while freeing technicians for more value-added tasks."

specimen processing, from enrichment broth inoculation to plate streaking, incubation and imaging. Also, the equipment can be adapted to the needs of any laboratory through the installation of specific modules.

The solution proves its value

Bayette and his colleagues confirmed the wisdom of their investment when they equipped their WASPLab platform with the PhenoMATRIX module in 2018. Through embedded intelligence, PhenoMATRIX uses algorithms to optimise specimen results and consolidate this with data from the laboratory information system.

With the accuracy that PhenoMATRIX brings to reading typical samples, technicians can apply their expertise to more complex samples and other value-added tasks, like molecular testing. "We also nearly doubled the number of urine samples we were processing in the lab with the same number of technicians," says Bayette.

AST preparation gains added value

PhenoMATRIX automatically tags colonies to be collected and, in one click, the coordinates and associated task data are sent to an automated colony picking module, Colibrí. Installed at LaboSud in January 2019, Colibrí integrates seamlessly