Abstract:
How many things in this world can claim to be both *Glue* and *Grease*? Information Technology (IT) can!

IT facilitates the sharing of diagnostic data from around the country, from a variety of different Lab Information Management Systems (LIMS), and *glues* it all together in the National Data Repository (NDR). The robust and responsive NDR allows diagnosticians, epidemiologists, and policy makers to aggregate, analyze, and report on collected information. The development of new and improved mapping and charting capabilities in the NDR will further enhance users’ ability to understand data trends, and create understandable, compelling visuals.

All the while, IT exists in the trenches as LIMS, and most laboratories can’t imagine doing business without them. Whether it’s the ability to enter sample data easily as it’s being worked on, locate critical information quickly, accommodate lab-specific requirements, or support features like remote sample submission and image management, LIMS *grease* sample submission operations within the lab.

The IT Committee supports both of these concepts, while making sure the processes are secure, reliable, and available. And as technology evolves, the IT Committee will continue to investigate and incorporate innovative solutions to improve users’ overall experience.

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