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National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute Scientists Win Award

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium this year presented the Regional Excellence in Technology Transfer Award to Dr. Neal Young, MD, Chief of the Hematology Branch, National, Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and Dr. Sachiko Kajigaya for their work on "Parvovirus B19 Diagnostic Test Kit."

This development is the first and only FDA approved diagnostic test kit for parvovirus B19. Parvovirus B19 infection in pregnancy is often overlooked simply because most infected pregnant women are asymptomatic or have only mild manifestations, such as slight itching. However, pregnant women (in the first and second trimesters) with the B19 infection can give rise to serious fetal complications during pregnancy. Up to 50% of women are susceptible to parvovirus B19 infection. The B19 infection may result in anemia, pregnancy miscarriage and/or other problems. Early diagnosis of B19V infection will identify those at risk and may allow for early intervention therapy, thereby improving fetal survival. Patients who are immuno-compromised and others may also develop chronic B19 infection that previously has been difficult to diagnose. This new test kit will make diagnosis much easier and more reliable.

One of the most coveted awards in the field of technology transfer, the FLC awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer recognize laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring Federally-developed technology to the marketplace. The award was made on September 15 at the region's annual meeting.

The Federal Laboratory Consortium is comprised of the technology transfer offices of all of the Federal laboratories throughout the country while its Mid-Atlantic Region focuses on the 70 Federal laboratories in DC, DE, MD, PA, VA and WV.