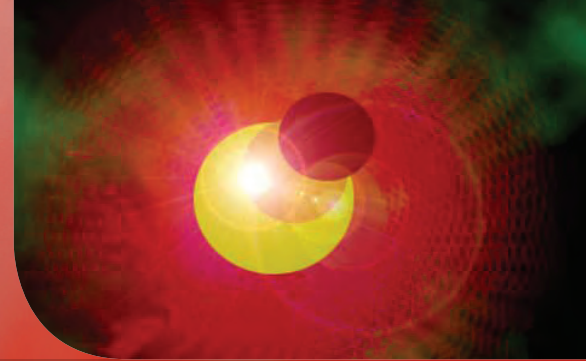


March 2010

syzygy



Dr Nick Nicolaides 24/12/1928 – 24/01/2010

When Drs John Sullivan and Nick Nicolaides opened their pathology laboratory on Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, in 1956, it was probably beyond their comprehension that their modest practice would evolve into Australia's largest specialist pathology practice, becoming an international referral laboratory with 64 pathologists, more than 650 scientists and 2,500 staff, handling complex tests sent from as far away as London.

Dr Nicolaides worked in the practice he loved until his death - although progressively affected by his illness, his resolve never faltered. He was a man who wholeheartedly entered into everything he did, and he was many things – a loving husband, father and grandfather; a caring and talented doctor and pathologist; and a philanthropist, humanitarian, patron of the arts, community activist, academic, historian, philatelist and orator.

He was born of Greek refugees who fled Smyrna in 1922 at the end of the Balkan Wars. Chance brought them to Australia. Rumours of opportunity brought them to Brisbane where Dr Nicolaides was born.

A graduate of the University of Queensland Medical School, he was a registrar at Ipswich General and then Royal Brisbane hospitals when he developed a keen interest in pathology, especially autopsies – he did 550 in two years and declared it 'fascinating'.

Dr Nicolaides spent much of his life giving back to the country that opened its arms to his family 88 years ago. He served as president of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and the Australian Medical Association Queensland branch, of which he was also a life member. As a young man he served in the Citizens Military Forces and was a captain in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. Later in life he was Queensland chairman and then national vice-chairman of the Australian Red Cross, which bestowed on him its Distinguished Service Award and honorary life membership.

A Member of the Order of Australia, he sat on state and federal health committees involving cancer, pathology, and medical technology. He was a member of nine scientific societies, and overseas he held fellowships with the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

He lectured medical students and was an adjunct professor in anatomical sciences at The University of Queensland, which honoured him with a Doctorate of Medicine in 2002. He was a visiting senior consultant pathologist at the Royal Brisbane Hospital until 1993.

Dr Nicolaides was admired and loved by those who knew and worked with him. He is remembered as a quiet man whose easy manner and warmth drew people to him. He was a gentleman – unfailingly courteous, considerate and caring of his staff, patients and everyone he dealt with. He treated everybody in the same way – with respect and honesty.

Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology remains true to the traditions that Nick Nicolaides and John Sullivan began. Patient care was foremost in their minds' and quality of service took precedence over everything.





Are those results *really* abnormal?

Units	Range
mmol/L	(11.0-19.0)
mmol/L	(3.5-6.3)
mmol/L	(0.10-2.60)

What will reference interval refinement mean to you?

- Reference intervals (previously termed reference ranges) should be specific to a patient's age and sex, and to the method used by a laboratory.
- Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology, part of the Sonic Healthcare network across Australia, has derived optimal reference intervals for all major biochemistry tests.
- Implementation date: 15 March 2010

REFERENCE INTERVAL REFINEMENT

From March 15, 2010, virtually all routine biochemistry results will include the reference interval (previously known as reference range) that applies to the specific age, sex and pregnancy status of that particular patient. This will allow interpretation of patient results with much greater accuracy.

Many reference intervals in current use in Australian laboratories have not changed since the 1960s and 1970s. They were typically derived from the test results of small numbers of patients (fewer than 100), and often based on testing methods no longer in use.

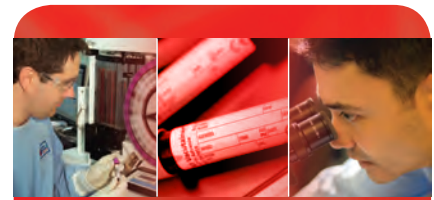
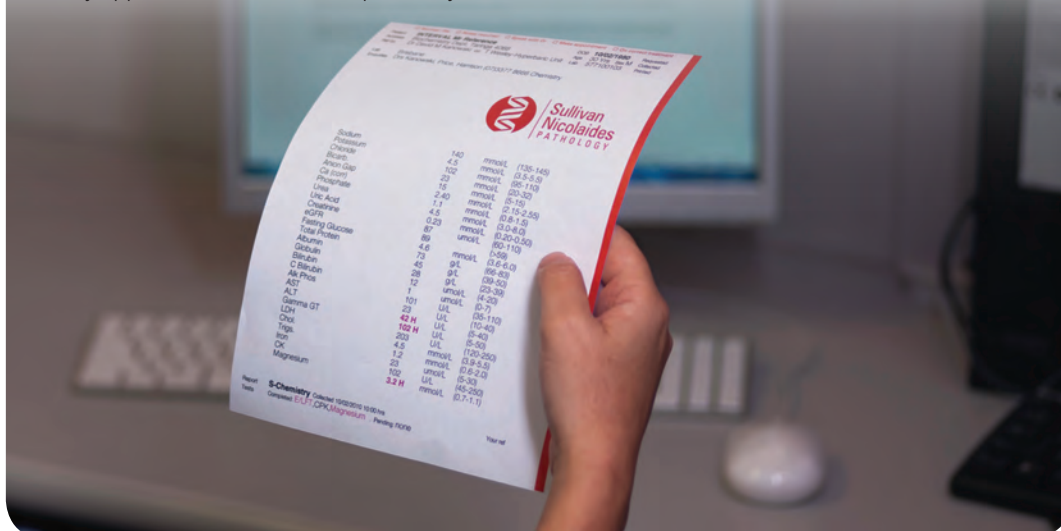
Our new reference intervals are based on at least 10,000 test results in some smaller patient groups (such as pregnant women), and up to 1 million results for more common tests in the general adult population. The new intervals apply to all common biochemistry tests except those for glucose and cholesterol, where reference intervals are based on decision limits set by an expert clinical group.

Over the past 5 years pathologists and scientists from SNP and other Sonic Healthcare laboratories have worked together to determine more relevant reference data for our Australian patient population. The project involved a statistical analysis of millions of test results, together with a review of the available worldwide medical literature.

The new reference intervals will provide medical practitioners with more finely tuned ranges for interpreting patient results. Instead of a 'one range fits all' approach, each patient's results will be compared with those from relevant reference groups. This is particularly important for infants and children, and also for pregnant patients. Most importantly, this will reduce the number of patient results which are flagged as abnormal. These reference intervals are being adopted across all Australian Sonic Healthcare laboratories so that patients who are tested in different centres around Australia will not be disadvantaged by changing reference intervals.

All routine biochemistry reports will contain the reference intervals specific for the individual patient. The Reference Interval Guide is designed as a reference tool when further information is needed.

These reference intervals are specific to the assays used in Sonic Healthcare laboratories. As other laboratories may use different analysers and testing methods, the SNP reference intervals may not be directly applicable to the results reported by the other laboratories.



SNP bulk bills patients when requested by referring doctors

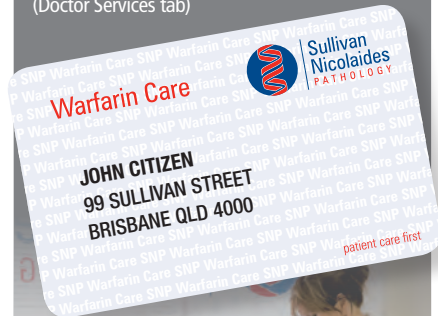
To request bulk billing, simply write 'bulk bill' on the request form.

For your own collections, the patient needs to sign the assignment section and their Medicare number is required on the request form.

Plan now for Warfarin Care Enrolments before Easter 2010

To ensure the safe and complete enrolment of patients into our Warfarin Care Program, we will accept new enrolment applications until 4pm Wednesday 24 March 2010. Enrolments will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 6 April 2010.

For more information about Warfarin Care, please contact our Warfarin Care team on (07) 3377 8578, or visit www.snp.com.au (Doctor Services tab)



Collection Centre updates

Regional
Cannonvale - **now open**
Suite 14, 230 Shute Harbour Rd
Monday – Friday 8am - 4.20pm
Phone (07) 4948 1620

Regional
Mt Sheridan - **relocation**
Shop 2, 6-8 George Cannon Dve,
Forest Gardens
Monday - Friday 8am - 12.30pm, 1 - 4pm
Phone (07) 4036 3117

Syzygy – now on 100% recycled paper

- Environmental savings per issue of Syzygy compared to using non-recycled paper:
- 3.7 trees saved
 - 720 kg carbon dioxide emissions reduced
 - 55% less water used
 - 60% less energy used.