

Trials for new sepsis test begin in SA

South Africa will start trials on a new and sophisticated sepsis test during the first quarter of this year. Roche has appointed two National Pathology Groups (NPG), one in the public sector and one in the private sector, to conduct the trials. It is estimated that 18 million sepsis cases occur worldwide every year. Dr Lynne Webber, a member of the NPG involved with the trials, said with the Light Cycler Septifast Test, a diagnosis could be initiated as soon as the patient's temperature rises. The new test has the ability to detect and identify 25 different bacteria, fungi and yeast in less than six hours, which is much quicker than the traditional microbiological culture tests that generally take two to five days. The test is expected to go on the market in the second quarter of this year.