



The Panther Fusion® System

Customer testimonial.

From flu season to Fusion season. Last flu season, molecular diagnostic labs across Europe switched their diagnostic instruments to Hologic's Panther Fusion® system. The scientists who made the change tell their stories.

Meeting the challenge

A long flu season with multiple strains of influenza heightens pressures and increases specimen numbers for virology labs. Ease of diagnostic use is crucial for dealing with a busy flu season, and the Panther Fusion system has proven capacity to deliver, with fast turnaround times as well as random and continuous access to samples and reagents.

Dr Albert Heim, from the Institute of Virology at the Hannover Medical University, started using the Panther Fusion system in December 2017, explains his reasons for switching to using the Panther Fusion system as their sole instrument for respiratory virus testing: ***"We wanted a random access machine because it greatly reduces turnaround time between sampling and report of the result compared to batch testing. Currently the Panther Fusion system is one of the very few machines that has this option."***

Also in December 2017, the Medical Microbiology laboratory at Jeroen Bosch Ziekenhuis, Netherlands, adopted the Panther Fusion system in place of their previous molecular diagnostics instrument. Jeroen Schellekens BSc. wanted high throughput and random access capabilities after a limiting capacity of only 24 samples proved unproductive. ***"It was very welcome to our lab. Random access and hands-on times of only 2 minutes per sample are great advantages,"*** Mr Schellekens, a key user of the Panther Fusion system in the Jeroen Bosch Hospital, observes.



Dr Heim recalls his experience with testing growing sample numbers with the Panther Fusion system:

"We had a very rough influenza B season last year and we tested about 4,000 specimens for Flu and RSV, which is roughly twice the number we had to test the year before. It was easily achievable with the Panther Fusion system; without extra personnel and without stress."



PANTHER
FUSION™ Respiratory

In October 2017, labopart - Medizinische Laboratorien in Dresden, Germany, made the decision to change their molecular platform from r-BioPharm-Assays to the Panther Fusion system with the Panther Fusion Influenza A/B/RSV assay by Hologic. **“The switching process was relatively easy, and it’s very convenient to use,”** describes Dr Thomas Zimmermann, Head of Molecular Biology at the Medizinische Laboratorien Dresden.

Anne Kailow, Department Biomedical Laboratory Scientist at Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Denmark, and her team analysed 11,000 respiratory samples from October 2017 to April 2018 using the Panther Fusion Influenza A/B/RSV assay on the Panther Fusion system. **“It was very easy to learn and use. Our technicians new to the Panther® system had five days training and after that they were capable, whilst our experienced Panther users had just two days training,”** Mrs Kailow says on adopting the Panther Fusion system for last year’s flu season.

Excellent assay performance

Performance is key to any molecular diagnostics assay and instrument to ensure reliability of every result. Regarding the Panther Fusion Influenza A/B/RSV assay performance on the Panther Fusion system, Dr Zimmermann states: **“It is, in my opinion, very good. We can trust the results.”**



Dr Heim also praises the performance of the Flu A/B/RSV assay on the Panther Fusion system. After comparing 1,500 samples from the 2016/2017 flu season with an assay developed in-house by the Robert Koch Institute, he concludes:

“The performance of the Flu/Respiratory assay on the Panther Fusion system is excellent. Concordance was 98.4% after initial testing, and 99.4% after re-testing.”



*In the Herlev laboratory, the Panther Fusion Influenza A/B/RSV assay was validated to have an improved performance on their previous method. **“We will need further testing by sequencing before we can say for sure, but our initial testing found improved sensitivity and specificity compared with the method we used before, so that’s really great.”** says Mrs Kailow.*

Be ready

With a broad Flu/Respiratory menu on a single molecular instrument, the Panther Fusion system has the capability to run increasing specimen numbers for a wide range of respiratory viruses, with no addition to workload. Dr Heim believes the Panther Fusion system managed the influx of respiratory samples during the 2017/2018 flu season, without needing additional technician support: **“In spite of growing numbers of specimens, we can use the same number of personnel.”**

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