Laboratory Correlatives in a WiNHR Study: Detection and Discrimination of Mycoplasmas by Polymerase Chain Reaction/Hybridization Assay. Steven D. Lovrich, Ph.D., Microbiology Research Laboratory, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation (GLMF), La Crosse, WI

The Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR) is sponsoring a collaborative study (GLMF, Marshfield Clinic, Aurora Healthcare, University of Wisconsin Hospitals) designed to determine the correlation between infection with Mycoplasmas and preterm labor. The validity of the study is dependent on accurate detection and discrimination of Mycoplasmas from cervical swabs obtained during the early stages of pregnancy. To accomplish this, DNA was extracted from the clinical samples and a portion of Mycoplasma-specific DNA from the 16s rRNA gene was amplified. The amplified product was then used in a hybridization reaction where spp.-specific probes were used to confirm the presence of DNA from *Mycoplasma genitalium, M. hominis, Ureaplasma urealyticum* or *U. parvum*. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the study and more specific information on laboratory methods.