PRESS RELEASE

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Q-linea announces publication of study demonstrating potential for streamlined diagnostic workflow using ASTar remnant material

Q-linea AB (publ) today announces the publication of a new study evaluating the use of bacterial suspension remaining after ASTar® testing for pathogen identification and resistance marker detection. The findings demonstrate the potential to combine rapid phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) with additional diagnostic information in a streamlined workflow that may reduce hands-on time and costs compared with current workflows.

The study, **"Pathogen identification and resistance gene expression tests using ASTar remnant bacterial suspension,"** by Gupta et al., evaluated ASTar remnant material for MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry identification and lateral flow assay resistance testing. Researchers reported high-confidence MALDI-TOF identification across all tested samples and high concordance between LFA results and reference resistance genotypes. Preparation for both tests required less than 10 minutes of hands-on time.

The approach could complement ASTar's approximately six-hour rapid phenotypic AST with organism identification and resistance marker detection using material from the same workflow. Resistance detection could be performed approximately one hour after instrument start or as reflex testing following ASTar results, potentially providing laboratories with complementary information earlier while reducing additional sample preparation.
"Laboratories are increasingly looking for ways to deliver actionable microbiology results faster while at the same time simplifying workflows and controlling costs," said **Natalie Brown, Global Marketing Director and study co-author, Q-linea**. "This study demonstrates the potential to use material already available from the ASTar workflow to generate additional diagnostic information with very little additional hands-on time. We believe approaches such as this could further strengthen the value of rapid phenotypic AST within the modern microbiology laboratory."

The workflow evaluated in this study is outside the intended use of the ASTar System. The use of ASTar remnant material for MALDI-TOF MS and LFA testing described in the study is investigational and is not intended for clinical use.

The article, **"Pathogen identification and resistance gene expression tests using ASTar remnant bacterial suspension,"** by Gupta et al., is published in *Microbiology Spectrum* and is available at **https://journals.asm.org/doi/10.1128/spectrum.02680-26**

For more information, please contact:

Stuart Gander, President & CEO, Q-linea AB
stuart.gander@qlinea.com

Natalie Brown, Director of Global Marketing, Q-linea AB
natalie.brown@qlinea.com
+ 1 52 03 30 23 90

About Q-linea

Q-linea AB (publ) is an innovative infection diagnostics company dedicated to saving lives and reducing healthcare costs by developing and delivering solutions for the rapid diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases. The company's core focus is on rapid Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing (rAST), a critical step in the treatment of sepsis and other severe infections.
Q-linea's flagship technology, ASTar®, is a fully automated instrument designed to deliver rapid phenotypic AST results directly from positive blood cultures in approximately six hours. By significantly reducing the time to answer compared to traditional methods, Q-linea enables physicians to prescribe the optimal antibiotic treatment sooner, improving patient outcomes and actively combating the global threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Founded in 2008 and headquartered in Uppsala, Sweden, Q-linea AB is listed on Nasdaq Stockholm (STO:QLINEA).