UNC HEALTH CARE

MEMORANDUM # 25

TO: UNC Hospitals Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Department Heads, Nursing staff and Supervisors

FROM: Herbert C. Whinna, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Special Coagulation Laboratory and McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: July 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Changes in Special Coagulation Laboratory Testing.

Beginning July 9, 2012 the Special Coagulation Laboratory will change the methodology used for platelet aggregation studies to whole blood lumiaggregometry. This change decreases the amount of blood needed for platelet aggregation studies as well as allowing direct measurement of ATP secretion during platelet aggregation to provide evidence of dense granule release. Ordering and collection of samples for platelet aggregation studies will remain the same.

In addition we will begin offering testing for levels of the direct thrombin inhibitor Pradaxa® (dabigatran etexilate mesylate) using an ecarin chromogenic assay methodology from Stago. The Reportable Range for Pradaxa® in this assay is 30-720 ng/mL, results outside that range will be reported as <30 and >720 ng/mL respectively.

For questions concerning clinical use of Dabigatran please contact the Coagulation Consult Service (123-7029).

For questions concerning the laboratory tests please contact the Special Coagulation Laboratory (966-4264) and/or Dr. Whinna (966-2318).