

## LECTURE

# Pharmacogenetics and the Future of Medical Practice

KLAUS LINDPAINTNER

*Roche Genetics, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Ltd, Basel, Switzerland*

### SUMMARY

**Pharmacogenetics, in the different scenarios included in this term, will represent an important new avenue towards understanding disease pathology and drug action, and will offer new opportunities of stratifying patients to achieve optimal treatment success. As such, it represents a logical, consequent step in the history of medicine – evolution, rather than revolution. Its implementation will take time, and will not apply to all diseases and all treatments equally. If society finds ways to sanction the proper use of this information, thus allowing and protecting its unencumbered use for the patient's benefit, important progress in health care will be made. (Clin. Lab. 2002;48:335-345)**