CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method executed by at least one processor for navigating a path of hierarchical menu levels adapted for output to a graphical user interface (GUI), the method comprising:

providing, by at least one processor, a first command for a first menu of one or more user-selectable menu items to be displayed on a first portion of the GUI, wherein the first portion includes two or more sub-sections, including a first sub-section and a second sub-section, the first sub-section including the first menu of one or more user-selectable menu items; and

providing, by the at least one processor, a second command for a second menu of one or more user-selectable menu items to be displayed on the second sub-section of the first portion ;

providing, by the at least one processor, a third command for a third menu of one or more user-selectable menu items to be displayed on a second portion of the GUI, in response to a first user selection from the first sub-section or the second sub-section,

providing, by the at least one processor, a fourth command for a fourth menu of one or more user-selectable menu items to be provided in the first sub-section of the first portion of the GUI and for removal of items previously displayed in the first sub-section and a fifth menu of one or more user-selectable menu items to be provided in the second sub-section of the first portion of the GUI and for removal of items previously displayed in the second sub-section of the second menu in response to receiving the first user selection from the first sub-section or the second sub-section or a second user selection from the third menu; and

providing a command, by the at least one processor, to allow for the selection of another menu item of the third menu in the second portion in response to receiving a third user selection from the fourth menu or the fifth menu;

wherein each user-selectable menu item of the fourth menu of one or more user-selectable menu items and the fifth menu of one or more user-selectable menu items is associated with at least one of the third menu user-selectable menu items displayed in the second portion of the GUI.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first menu of user-selectable menu items includes one or more of the following choices:

username;
email address;
experiment identifier; and
date of an experiment associated with the experiment identifier.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing, by at least one processor, a filter command in response to a selection of the one or more user-selectable menu items from the first menu, wherein the filter command is adapted to display a filter field for accepting inputs to filter menu items adapted to be displayed on the GUI.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein in response to a selection of an experiment identifier from among the first menu of user-selectable menu items, the second portion is adapted to display, as the third menu, one or more of the following first set of user-selectable menu items:
Start;
Collect;
Prepare; and
Confirm.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein in response to a selection of Start, the GUI is adapted to display a confirmation screen, further wherein the confirmation screen is adapted to display user-selectable menu items that includes Yes and No.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein in response to a selection of Yes, providing a command, by the at least one processor, to remove previously displayed items from the UI display, further wherein, in response to a selection of Yes, the first portion is adapted to display, as the third menu, one or more menu items selected from among the choices including:
user name,
email address,
dates, and
experiment identifiers; and
the second portion is adapted to display a Start choice.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein in response to a selection of an experiment identifier from among the first menu of user-selectable menu items, the second portion is adapted to display one or more of the following second set of user-selectable menu items:

-80 C;

-20 C;

4 C; and

Room Temperature.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting -80 C, -20 C, 4 C, or Room Temperature by default.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein in response to a selection of one or more of -80 C, -20 C, and 4 C, the first portion is adapted to display a name of at least one kit associated with the selected experiment identifier.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one kit and/or one or more components associated with the at least one kit are adapted to be displayed in the first sub-section and one or more of an image, a description, and a barcode field are adapted to be displayed in the second sub-section.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one kit can include one or more of the following choices: V-PLEX Proinflammatory Panel (human); PQ Multiplex Test Kit; PQ Biotinylated IgG Test Kit; Direct Sandwich Immunoassay with Coating; and Immunogenicity (Q-Plate).

12. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting -20 C in response to a selection of one or more items associated with the -80 C item.

13. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at

least one processor, for selecting 4 C in response to a selection of one or more items associated with the -20 C item.

14. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting Room Temperature in response to a selection of one or more items associated with the 4 C item.

15. The method of claim 7, wherein in response to a selection of one or more items associated with Room Temperature, the GUI is adapted to display a confirmation screen, further wherein the confirmation screen is adapted to display user-selectable menu items that includes Yes and No.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting Prepare in response to a selection of Yes associated with the confirmation screen.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the image includes a visual representation of a component of the kit.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the description includes a narrative for describing the component represented by the image.

19. The method of claim 10, wherein the barcode field is adapted to receive a barcode identifier input from one or more of a keyboard, a virtual keyboard, and a barcode reader.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the barcode identifier is adapted to associate a unique identifier with a component of the kit.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein in the barcode field further includes an image associated with the component of the kit.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the second sub-section is adapted to display one or more of images and/or descriptions concurrently, wherein the one or more images and/or descriptions are adapted to be displayed in one or more rows and or columns.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the description can include one or more of the following: Decal, Reagent Rack, V-PLEX; Proinflammatory Panel (mouse); Proinflammatory Panel (human); and Human IL-8DA.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein in response to a selection of Room Temperature, the first sub-section is adapted to display one or more of the following choices: Blocker Trough; Calibrator 1; Capture Antibody; Capture Antibody Blend Tube; Capture Species Diluent Trough Lid; Control 3; Deep Well Plate; Detection Species Diluent Trough; Diluent Trough; Diluent Plate Lid; Dilution Plate Lid; Maintenance Solution; Blocker A; Read Buffer T; Reagent Rack; Read Buffer Trough; Sample Carrier; Sample Incubation Plate Lid; Streptavidin Plate High Control 1; Test Plate Lid; Tips 1000 ul; Tips 350 ul; Trough Carrier; and Wash Fluid.

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting Collect by default in response to a selection of the experiment identifier.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein in response to a selection of Prepare, the first sub-section includes one or more instructive steps for carrying out a selected kit and the second sub-section includes one or more of an image and an instruction associated with the one or more instructive steps.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the one or more instructive steps for carrying out the kit include one or more of the following steps: Prepare Shuttle; Thaw Diluents; Label Labware; Reconstitute Calibrator; Reconstitute Controls; Spin Detection Antibodies; Load Detection Antibodies; Place Lid on Assay Plate; Place Assay Plate on Shuttle; Place Lid on Dilution Plate; Place Dilution Plate on Shuttle; Prepare Tube Carrier 1; Place Tube Carrier 1 on Shuttle; Transfer Assay Diluent To Trough; Transfer Read Buffer To Trough; Place Trough

Carrier on Shuttle; Mix Calibrator; Load Calibrator; Mix Controls; Load Controls; and Place Reagent Rack on Shuttle.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the image includes a visual representation of a component of the kit that is associated with one or more of the instructive steps.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the instruction includes a narrative for describing an instructive step to perform relating to the component represented by the image.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein the first sub-section includes a Select All choice, further wherein in response to a selection of the Select All choice, providing, by the at least one processor, a command for selecting all remaining items available in the first sub-section.

31. The method of claim 4, wherein in response to a selection of Confirm, the GUI is adapted to display a confirmation screen, further wherein the confirmation screen is adapted to display a Confirm choice.

32. The method of claim 4, wherein in response to selecting Confirm, the GUI is adapted to display user-selectable menu items that includes Yes and No.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein in response to a selection of Yes, providing a command, by the at least one processor, to remove previously displayed items from the GUI, further wherein, in response to a selection of Yes, the first portion is adapted to display one or more menu items selected from among the choices of the third menu, and the second portion is adapted to display a Start choice.

34. The method of claim 4, wherein the first sub-section includes a Select All choice, further wherein in response to a selection of the Select All choice, providing, by the at least one processor, a command for selecting all remaining items available in the first sub-section.

35. The method of claim 10 wherein one or more of a description, component, or kit is

associated with a selection indicator for visually indicating whether a selection of the description, component, or kit has been made.

36. The method of claim 26 wherein the one or more instructive steps is associated with a selection indicator for visually indicating whether a selection of one or more of the instructive steps has been made.

37. The method of claim 4, wherein the GUI further includes an advanced selector, wherein in response to a first selection of the advanced selector, the GUI is adapted to display an advanced context menu that includes advanced menu choices.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein advanced menu choices includes one or more advanced collect and prepare options, including one or more of Show Sample Plate Layout and Export Steps while the Collect item is currently selected.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein in response to a selection of Show Sample Plate Layout, the GUI is adapted to display a sample plate layout.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein response to a second selection of the advanced selector, the advanced collect and prepare options include one or more of the following:

Export layout image;

Copy layout to clipboard;

Export as CSV; and

Exit sample input plate layout.

41. The method of claim 38, wherein in response to a selection of Export Steps, one or more steps associated a kit that is associated with the selected experiment identifier is adapted to be exported to a file.

42. The method of claim 37, wherein advanced menu choices includes one or more advanced collect and prepare options, including one or more of Show Sample Plate Layout,

Show Reagent Rack Layout, and Export Steps while the Prepare item is currently selected.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein in response to a selection of Show Sample Plate Layout, the GUI is adapted to display a sample plate layout.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein in response to a selection of Show Reagent Rack Layout, the GUI is adapted to display a sample reagent rack layout.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein response to a second selection of the advanced selector, the advanced collect and prepare options choices include one or more of the following:

Export layout image;

Copy layout to clipboard;

Export as CSV;

Exit sample input plate layout; and

Exit reagent rack layout.

46. The method of claim 44, wherein response to a second selection of the advanced selector, the advanced collect and prepare options includes an Exit reagent rack layout choice.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein response to a selection of the Exit sample input plate layout choice, the GUI is adapted to no longer display the sample plate layout.