



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER™

# **The Role of Laboratory Testing in the Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Department of Diagnostic & Health Sciences  
College of Health Professions**





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## **Introduction**

Hassan Aziz, PhD, FACSs, MLS(ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>  
Professor

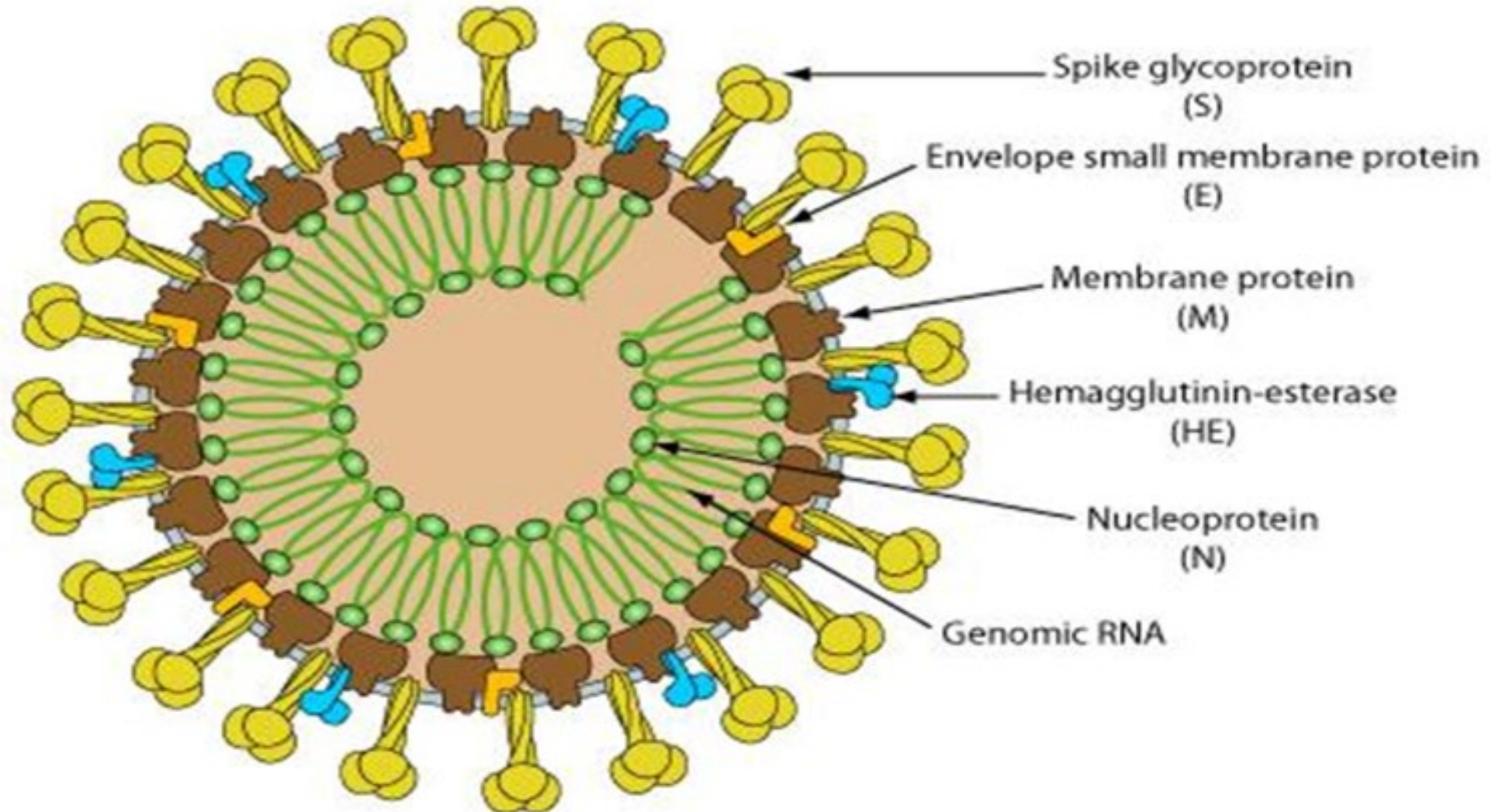




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## **Update/Overview of COVID-19**

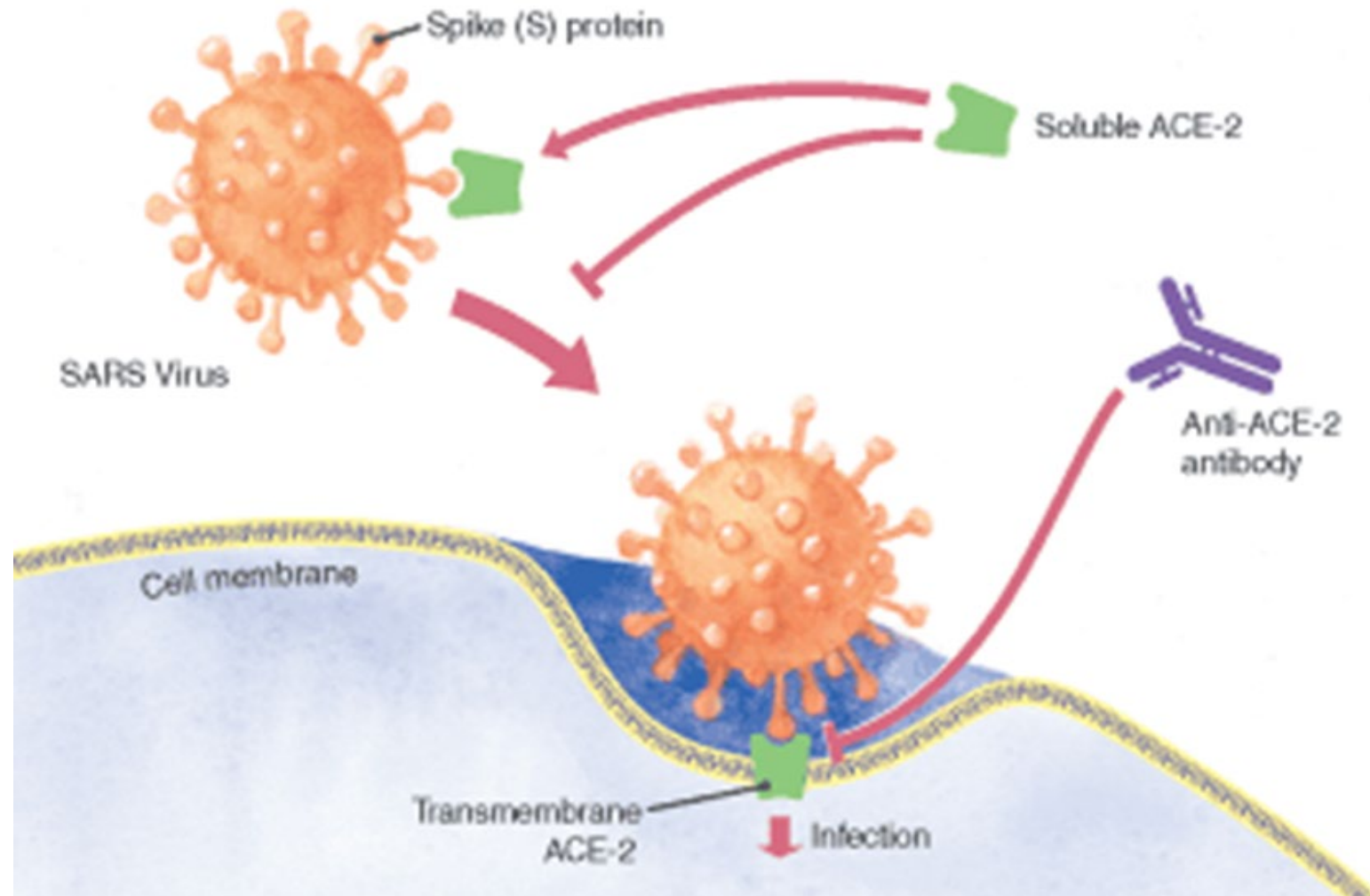
Linda Williford Pifer, PhD, SM (ASCP), GS (ABB)  
Professor



**Angiotensin-I converting enzyme 2 (ACE-2)**  
is the receptor for **coronaviruses**

This enzyme acts to reduce blood pressure  
and inflammation

# COVID-19 VIRIONS BIND TO ACE-2 RECEPTORS ON CELL MEMBRANE





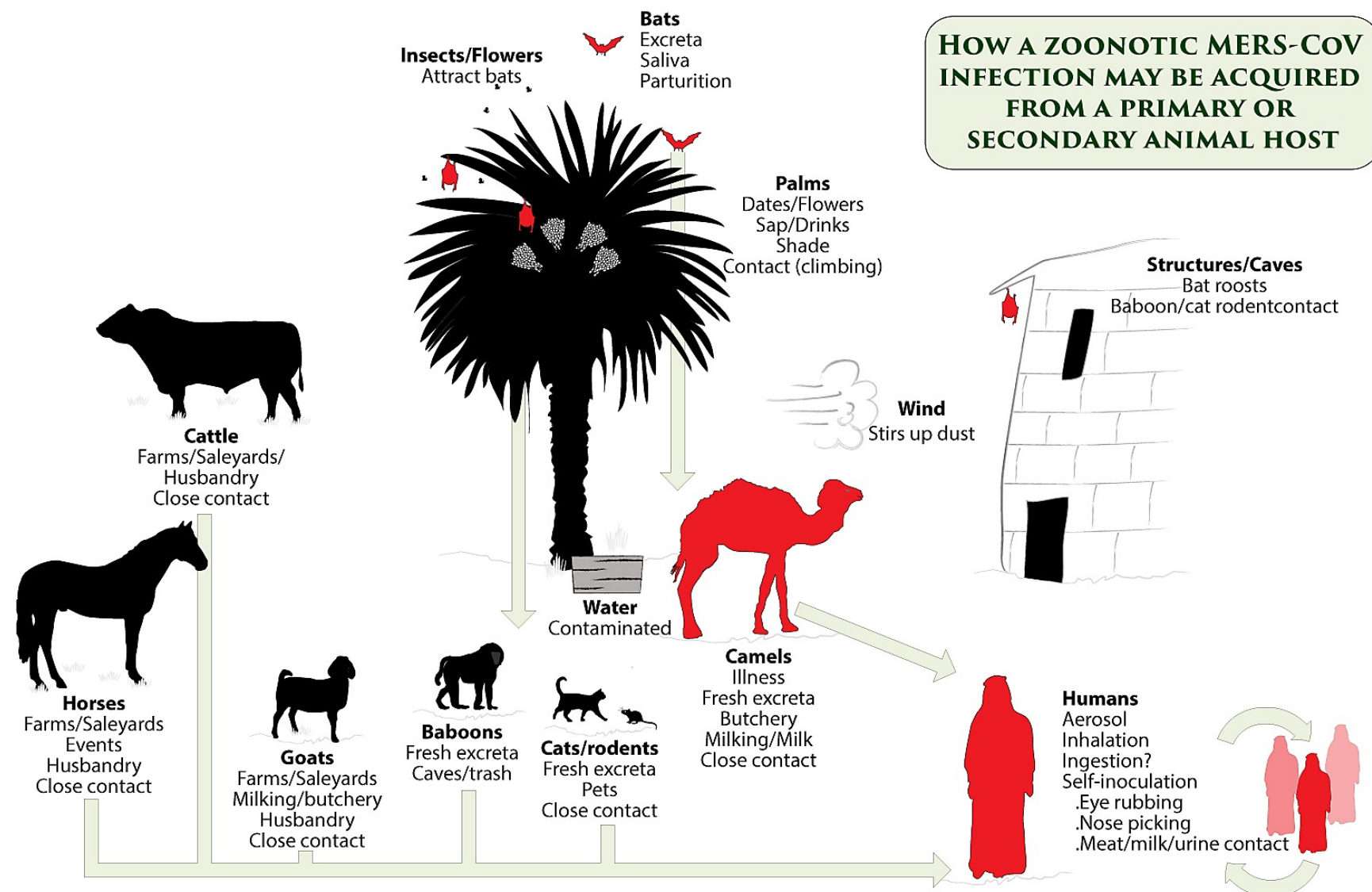
## 6 KNOWN CORONAVIRUSES & 3 OUTBREAKS

1. 229E, NL63, OC43, or HKU1 **relatively insignificant**
2. SARS-1 Coronavirus...  
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (outbreak in 2003. Guangdong Province, China); CFR= 10% (Case/fatality ratio)
3. MERS Coronavirus  
Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome; CFR = 34%
4. SARS-2 (COVID-19)  
Wuhan, China ... 2019-2020?  
CFR = 2-3% (CFR = 2-3%)    Ro = 1.4 - 2.5 (Transmission rate/patient)

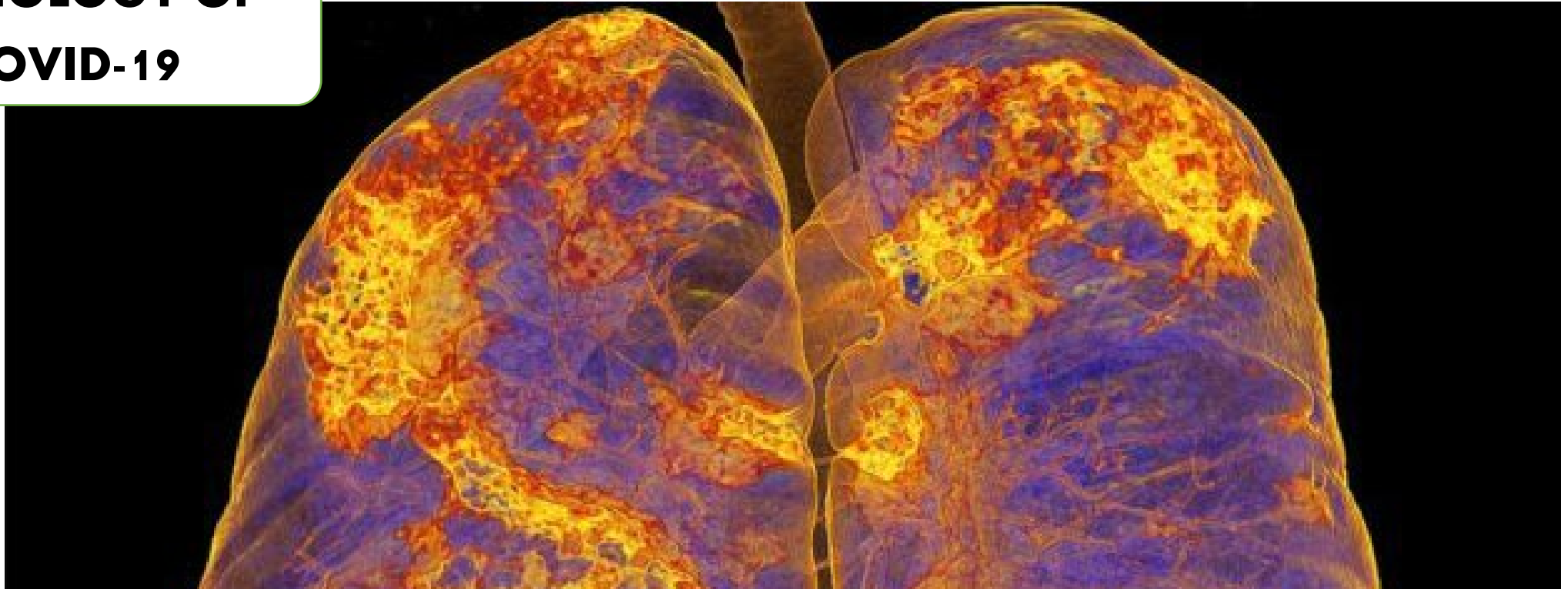


**PANGOLIN, HORSESHOE BAT & CIVET CAT... ALL CORONAVIRUS VECTORS**

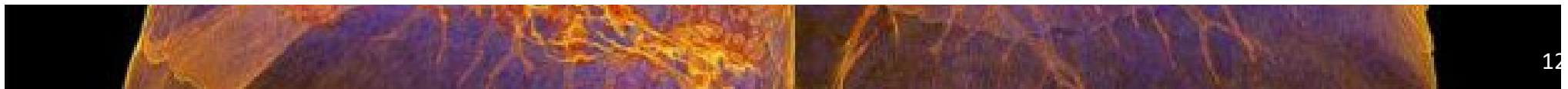
**HOW A ZONOTIC MERS-COV INFECTION MAY BE ACQUIRED FROM A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY ANIMAL HOST**



## **PATHOLOGY OF COVID-19**



**DYSPNEA, FEVER, COUGH, WEAKNESS, SORE THROAT, ACHES, HEADACHE  
EXTREME WEAKNESS SOMETIMES REQUIRING PHYSICAL THERAPY**





**OTHER: FOOT LESIONS, LOSS OF SENSE OF SMELL & TASTE, CONFUSION, INFLAMMATORY ENCEPHALITIS, NEUROLOGIC DEFICITS, STROKE, HEADACHE, DIARRHEA, PRESENCE OF VIRAL SHELLS SEEN IN EM'S OF BOWEL SECTIONS.**

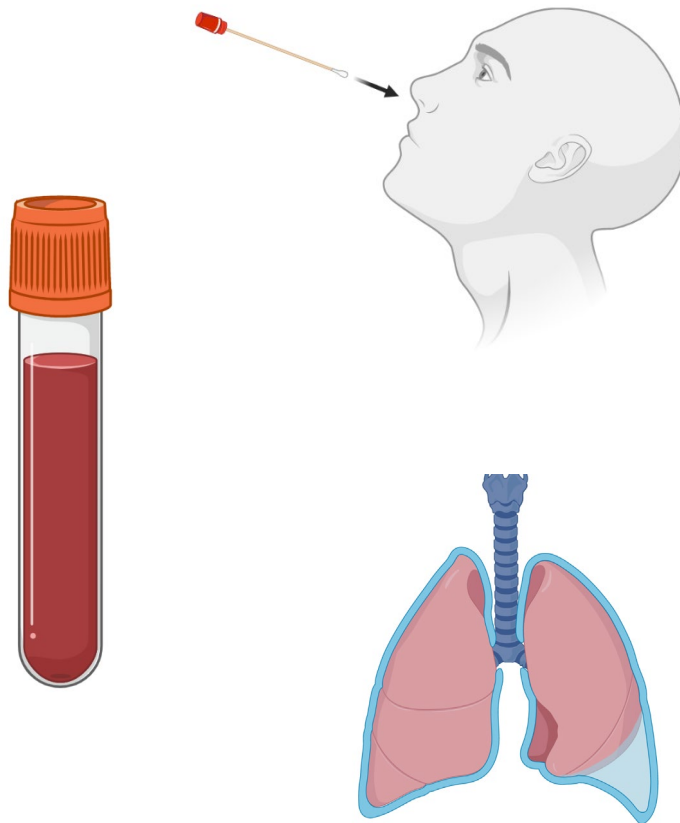


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**Specimen Collection**  
**Antigen versus Antibody Testing for SARS-CoV-2**

Jacen Moore, PhD, MA, MT (ASCP)  
Assistant Professor

# COVID-19 Specimen Collection

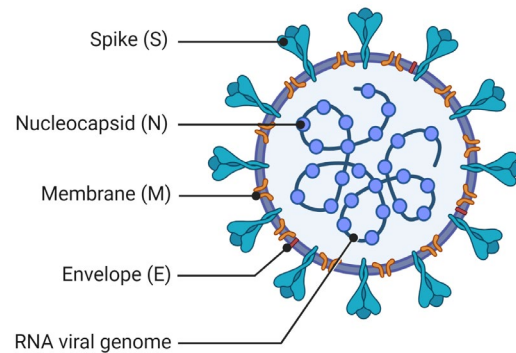


- Nasopharyngeal or Oropharyngeal swabs
  - Swabs must be plastic with artificial cotton
- Blood or tissue (autopsy)
- Respiratory
  - Respiratory aspirate
  - Bronchial alveolar lavage
  - Sputum
    - Productive, not induced
- Stool or Urine
  - Less reliable

# What is a SARS-CoV-2 antigen or antibody?

- SARS-CoV-2 ‘Antigen’

- Portions of the virus that the body recognizes as foreign or non-self



- Testing for portions of virus directly
- Determines if person is acutely or chronically infected

- Antibodies

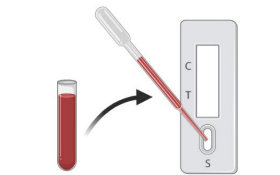
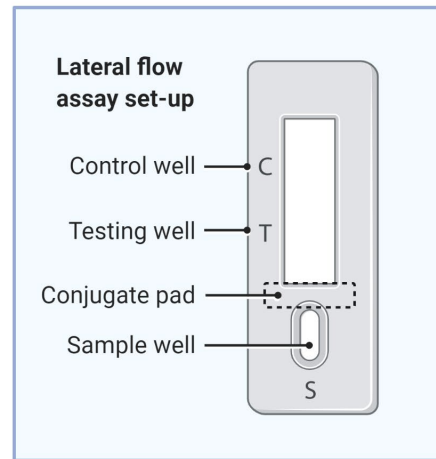
- Y-shaped proteins made by the body in response to virus



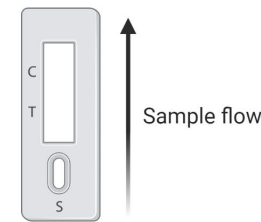
- Can provide protection against the virus and indicate viral exposure



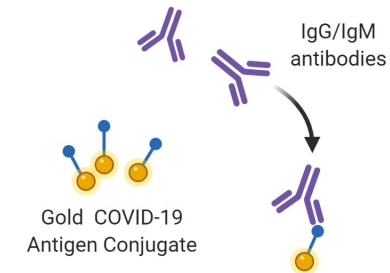
# Serologic-Based Testing for COVID-19 Antibodies



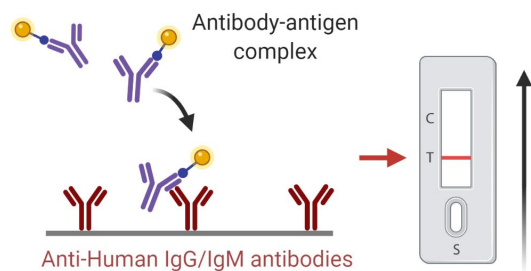
① **Sample loading and Incubation**



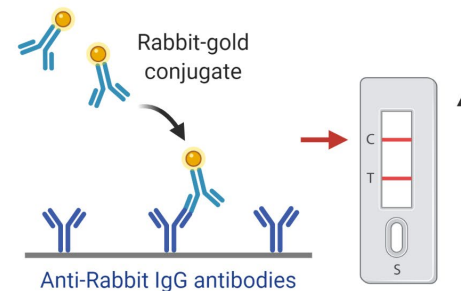
② **Sample incubation**



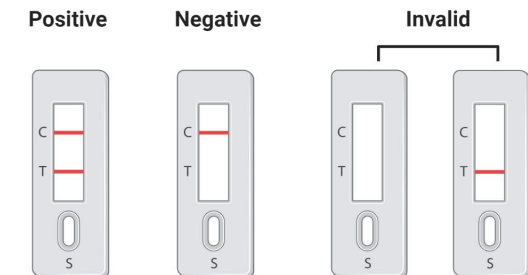
③ **Antibody-antigen recognition**



④ **COVID-19 antibody detection**



⑤ **Control antibody detection**

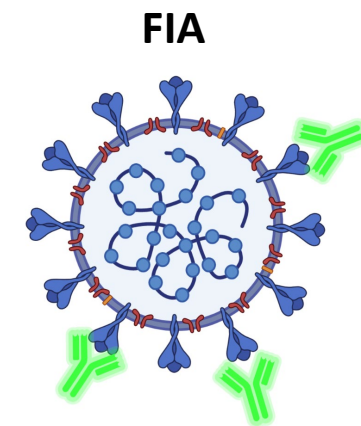
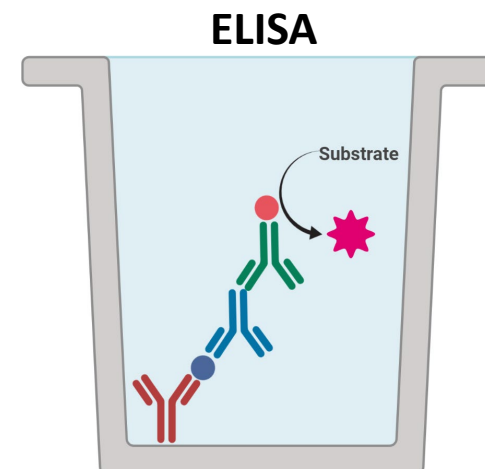


⑥ **Interpreting results**

# Antigen-Based Testing for SARS-CoV-2

- Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)
  - Antibodies 'capture' COVID antigen
  - Secondary antibodies bind to captured antigen
  - Enzyme-labelled tertiary antibodies detect bound secondaries
  - Substrate allowed to react with enzyme
  - Direct relationship between antigen quantity and substrate intensity

- Fluorescence Immunoassay (FIA)
  - Fluorescently labelled antibodies bind COVID antigen
  - Instrument measures fluorescence intensity
  - Direct relationship between antigen quantity and fluorescence intensity



# Antigen versus Antibody Testing

	<b>Antigen</b>	<b>Antibody</b>
<b>What test identifies</b>	Viral proteins or RNA	Host antibodies to virus
<b>What test can tell you about infection status</b>	Actively infected	Has been infected or exposed
<b>When the test can be used accurately</b>	During the acute phase of infection	Days-years in late or post-infection
<b>Testing complexity</b>	Highly complex and requires trained personnel and instrumentation	Easy to perform-can be done as point of care using rapid test devices
<b>Sensitivity and specificity</b>	Varies depending on test system	Varies depending on test system
<b>Sample requirements</b>	Swabs, BAL, Aspirates, Sputum, tissue biopsy, blood	Blood, saliva



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## **Current Status of Diagnostic and Screening Tests for COVID-19**

Anami Patel, PhD  
Vice President, Poplar Healthcare

## FDA- Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)

- Guidance issued Feb. 29, 2020 describes a policy regarding certain laboratories immediately using tests they developed and validated in order to achieve more rapid testing capacity in the U.S.
- To address the COVID-19 public health emergency, the FDA has determined that prior public participation for this guidance is not feasible or appropriate and issued this guidance without prior public comment.
- This guidance document is immediately in effect, but it remains subject to comment in accordance with the FDA's good guidance practices

# EUA: Scope

- The new policy is limited to:
  - Laboratories certified to perform high complexity testing, consistent with the requirements under the CLIA – Molecular diagnostics for SARS-CoV-2
- The new policy does NOT impact:
  - Requirements under the CLIA
  - CDC recommendations for who should be tested

# EUA: Policy

The guidance includes recommendations regarding:

- Validating newly developed SARS-CoV-2 tests prior to clinical use
- Notifying FDA when clinical use of a validated test begins
- Confirming the first 5 positive and negative samples with an EUA authorized test
- Indicating in test reports that the test has been validated but independent review by FDA is not yet complete
- Submitting an EUA within 15 days of initiating testing
- Steps to take if any specimens fail confirmatory testing or if FDA is unable to authorize the EUA

# EUA: Test Validation

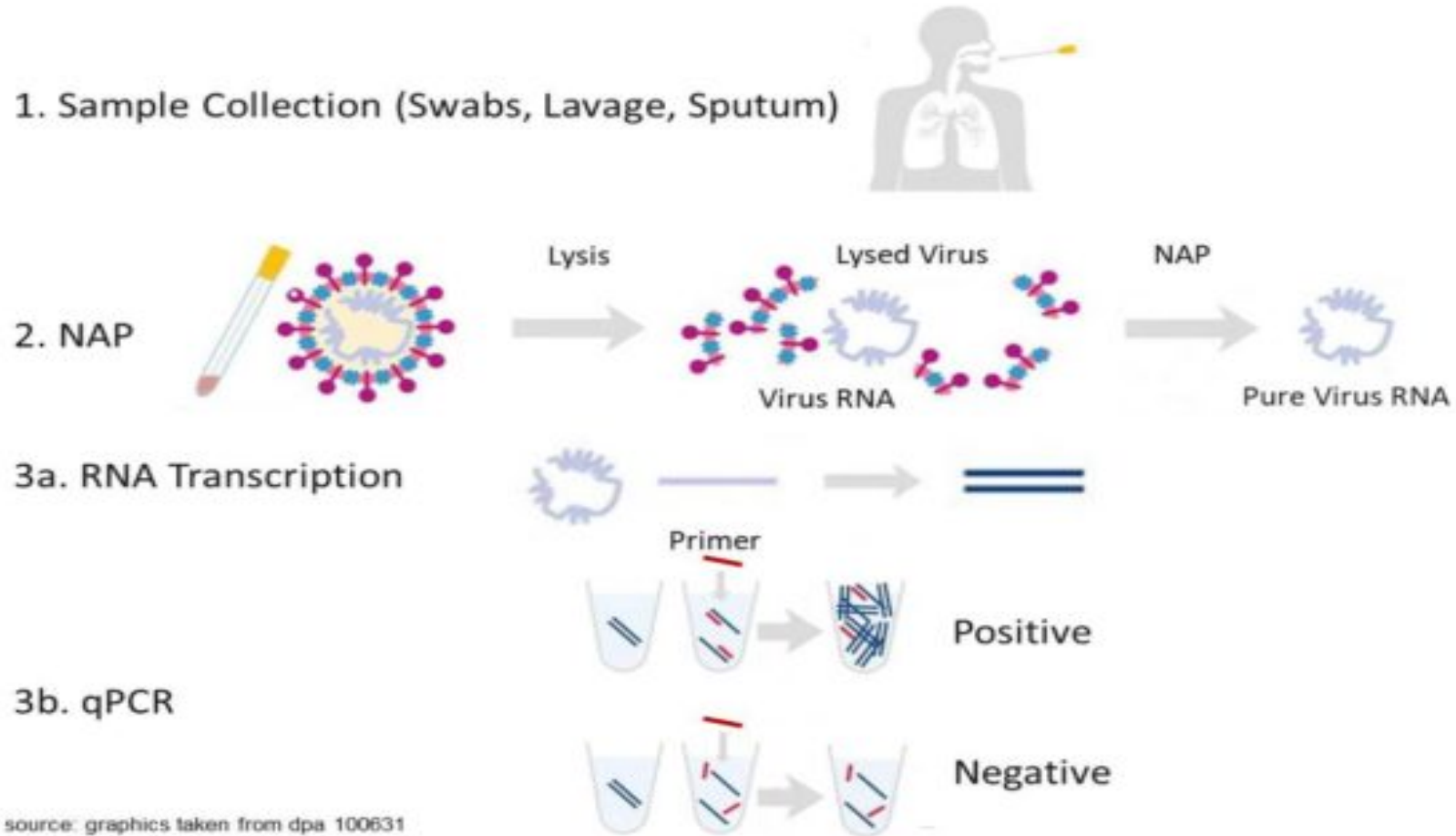
- The guidance includes recommendations regarding the minimal testing to be performed for validation:
  - Limit of Detection (LoD)
  - Clinical Evaluation
  - Inclusivity
  - Cross-Reactivity
- Limited viral materials are available
  - FDA, BARDA, and CDC prioritize and coordinate shipments to labs when ready to validate



# Poplar Healthcare Testing Workflow

- Roche cobas 6800 EUA: SARS-CoV-2 RNA detection
- ThermoFisher: SARS-CoV-2 RNA detection
- CDC-IDT: CDC 2019-nCoV RNA

# Test Workflow



# Test Workflow

## Sample collection



Samples collected using BD Universal Viral Transport Collection Kits:

- Bronchoalveolar lavage
- Nasal aspirate
- Nasopharyngeal swabs

## Sample prep



KingFisher Flex Purification System with MagMAX Viral/Pathogen Nucleic Acid Isolation Kit

## Real-time PCR

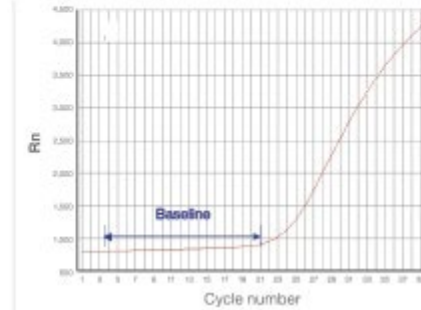


QuantStudio 5 Real-Time PCR System or 7500 Real-Time PCR System

TaqMan 2019-nCoV Assay and Control Kits

TaqPath 1-Step RT-qPCR Master Mix, CG

## Data analysis



Amplification curves using the 7500 or QuantStudio 5 Real-Time PCR System software

\* For Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

# Roche cobas 6800

- EUA: cobas SARS-CoV-2 RNA detection
- Detection of SAR-COV-2 and pan-Sarbecovirus
- Specimen Types: Nasopharyngeal & Oropharyngeal swab in UTM, UVT, or Saline
- Specimen Transport: 15°C to 30°C
- Specimen Transport & Storage: 2°C to 25°C and processed within 48 hrs. OR dry ice if >48 hrs.
- Capacity: 94 samples can be resulted in 6 hrs.

# Roche cobas 6800 Result Interpretation

- Target 1: SARS-CoV-2, Target 2: pan-Sarbecovirus
- If both targets positive – SARS-CoV-2 detected
- If only Target 1 positive – SARS-CoV-2 detected
- If only Target 2 positive – SARS-CoV-2 Presumptive positive
  
- All positive/negative results are called back to providers & state

# ThermoFisher: TaqPath COVID-19 Combo Test

- EUA\*: SARS-CoV-2 RNA detection
- Detection of SAR-COV-2
- Specimen Types: Nasopharyngeal & Oropharyngeal swab in UTM, UVT, or Saline
- Specimen Transport: 15°C to 30°C
- Specimen Transport & Storage: 2°C to 25°C and processed within 48 hrs. OR dry ice if >48 hrs.
- Capacity: 94 samples can be resulted in 6 hrs.

\* Poplar Healthcare has submitted for EUA

# ThermoFisher: COVID-19 Result Interpretation

- Target 1: ORF1ab, Target 2: N gene, Target 3: S gene
- If any two targets positive – SARS-CoV-2 detected
- If Two or more Targets positive – SARS-CoV-2 detected
- If only one Target positive – SARS-CoV-2 Inconclusive
- All positive/negative results are called back to providers & state

# CDC (IDT): 2019-nCoV

- EUA\*: CDC 2019-nCoV RNA
- Detection of 2019-nCoV RNA
- Specimen Types: Nasopharyngeal & Oropharyngeal swab in UTM, UVT, or Saline
- Specimen Transport: 15°C to 30°C
- Specimen Transport & Storage: 2°C to 25°C and processed within 48 hrs. OR dry ice if >48 hrs.
- Capacity: 60 samples can be resulted in 6 hrs.

**\* Poplar Healthcare has submitted for EUA**



# CDC (IDT): 2019-nCoV Result Interpretation

- Target 1: 2019 nCoV\_N1, Target 2: 2019 nCoV\_N2 gene
- If both targets positive – 2019 nCoV detected
- If only one Target positive – 2019 nCoV Inconclusive
  
- All positive/negative results are called back to providers & state

# Assay limitations

- Reliable results depend on proper sample collection, storage and handling procedures
- Mutated virus strain
- Not for monitoring treatment
- Not for screening of blood or blood products



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**Pathology and Lab Medicine and its role in a deadly pandemic:  
How the UTHSC Pathology Department  
responded to the Coronavirus crisis in the first 45 days**

Mahul B. Amin, MD  
Professor and Chairman



**PATHOLOGY AND LAB MEDICINE AND ITS ROLE IN A DEADLY PANDEMIC:  
HOW THE UTHSC'S PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS  
IN THE FIRST 45 DAYS**

**Mahul Amin, MD**

**Professor and Chairman**

**UTHSC Gerwin Chair of Cancer Research**

**Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**



# SHOUT OUT!!

- **National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week** is an annual celebration of the medical laboratory
- Originated in 1975: 44<sup>th</sup> year
- Recognition & awareness of the important work by these professionals
- Lab professionals are engaged as vital partners in clinical care: 24/7/365
- Lab results are an integral part of the medical records of any patient
- More than 60% of medical diagnoses are dependent significantly on pathology and laboratory results.





HEROES AMONG US...  
**DISGUISED IN LAB COATS**

MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK



The Safety Sentinel

The Workforce Wonder

The Ready Responder

The Luminary of Laboratory Excellence

The Invincible Informatician

Quantum Quality

**2017-2020.**

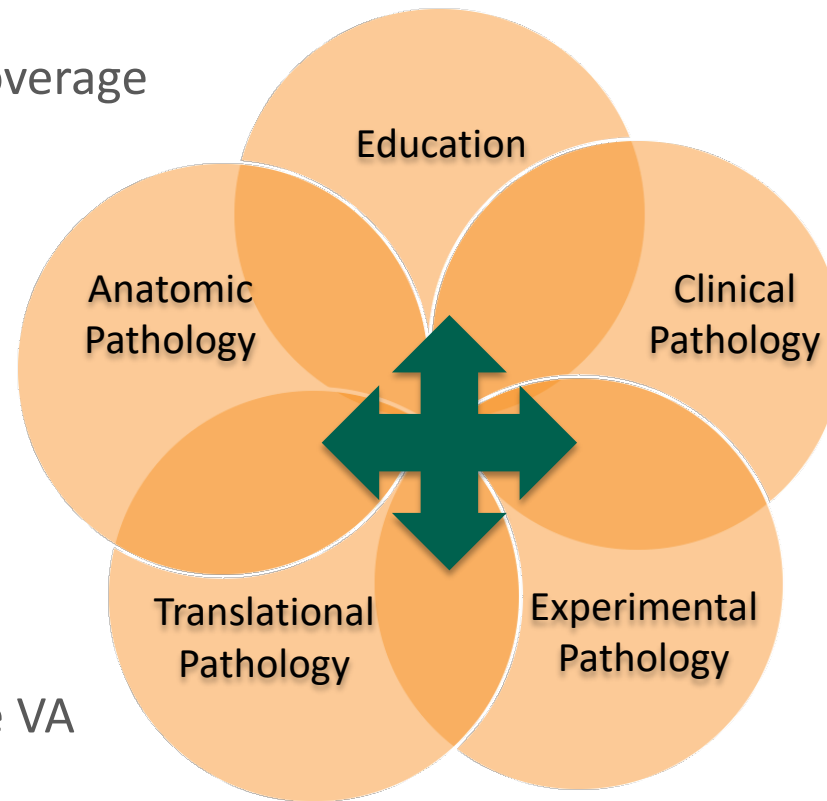
**UCH**

Transfusion Medicine Coverage  
Microbiology



**UTMPG**

Subspecialty (expert opinion) coverage at the VA and for ROH cases



**West Clinic**

**CLINICAL**



**RESEARCH**

St. Jude  
National &  
International  
Collaborations



**SO - WHY AM I HERE TODAY?**

**TO HELP OUR TEAM  
WIN AGAINST  
PANDEMICS**

**CONTEMPORARY HEALTH CARE IS INCREASINGLY BECOME A TEAM SPORT**





**1**

CONSULTATIVE  
SERVICES

**2**

DEVELOP  
& OFFER  
PCR TEST

**3**

DEVELOP  
SEROLOGIC  
TESTING

**4**

PARTICIPATE IN  
CORONAVIRUS  
CONVALESCENT  
PLASMA PROGRAM

**5**

PUBLIC HEALTH  
REPORTING  
&  
FACILITATING  
PREDITICION  
MODELS

**6**

FACILITATE  
FUTURE  
RESEARCH

1

6

CONSULTATIVE  
SERVICES

2

3

4

5





## CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

- Test selection
- Test Implementation
- Test Interpretation
- Send out testing
- Logistics arrangement





**1**

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**6**

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**2**

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DEVELOP  
& OFFER  
PCR TEST

**3**

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**4**

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**5**

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# TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE : TISSUE REPOSITORY

2016



- Tissue repository from Methodist University 1992-2005

2019

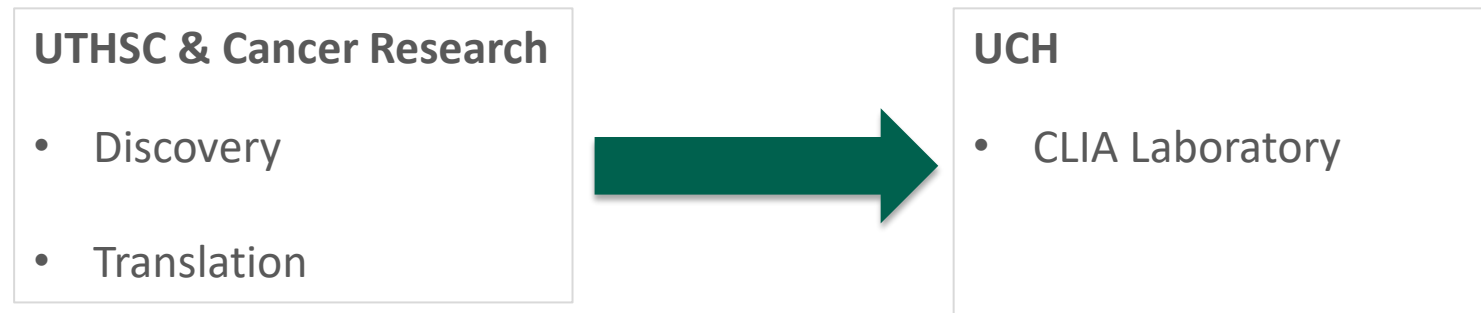


- Tissue repository 2003-2008 data “digital and searchable” with over 100,000 specimens
- Histology core in partnership with Office of VC of Research
- Cancer translational research initiatives...

## TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE: GENOMICS

### Overview

- Acquired: 2018
- In partnership with the UTHSC Center for Cancer Research



**UTHSC PIONEERED "PRECISION/PERSONALIZED"  
INNOVATIVE DIAGNOSTIC APPROACHES**

# TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE :

## GENOMICS

### Overview

- Started: 2018
- In partnership with UTHSC Center for Cancer Research

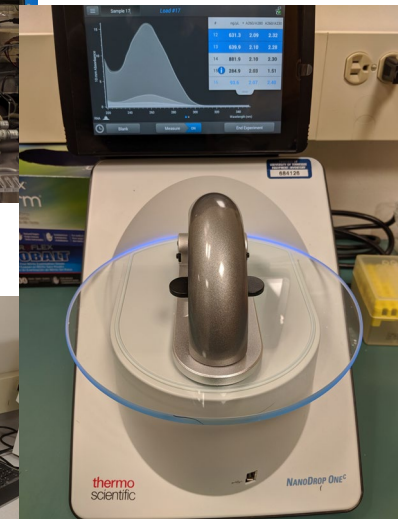
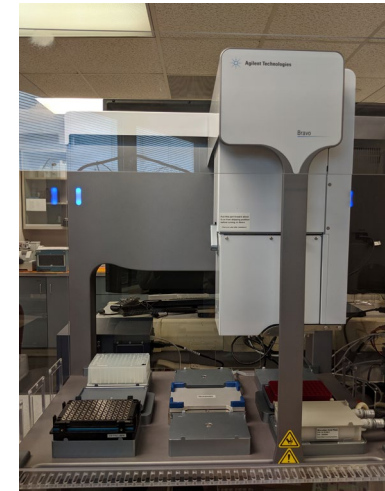
### Capabilities

- Nucleic acid extraction
- Library preparations
- Sequencing (exome & custom cancer panels)
- **Robust Informatics platforms** [LIMS, LORA (UT designed)]

Specimen registration

Specimen tracking

Computational analysis



### Accomplishments

- 475 Custom cancer panels

**THE UTHSC COVID-19 TEST:  
*RAPIDLY REPURPOSING A CANCER TRANSLATIONAL AND HISTOLOGY  
LABORATORY TO A HIGH THROUGHPUT MOLECULAR SARS-CoV-2 TESTING  
FACILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY IN A DEADLY PANDEMIC***

- **TIMELINE:** Project day: 40 (April 22):
- March 13: Executive decision to bring the test to UTHSC
- March 15: Initiated planning for data collection for an FDA EUA submission using a CDC based test format, and testing expansion in an existing CLIA high complexity laboratory and compatible with State of TN laboratory regulations
- March 13-27: Design test and perform test validation: Preanalytical, analytic and post-analytical systems developed.
- March 27: First sample collection for testing at UT collection site
- March 30: First clinical sample testing performed; FDA notified of test initiation



① Get Spec Reagent  
Zeptometric

① Today Refining Manual →

FDA -  
① LOD → 600  
② SPEC → ∅ (Not received)  
③ Stability → Saline  
transfer → NLS Great  
④ 30 Samples → TE ∅  
continued (Uzal)

EVA-DOL  
BIAN

④ Process / Lims  
Ashley {  
- Accessioning  
- Colleen  
writing → Student  
Student?

② Automation

3/23  
Tecan Δ's  
Bravo Script?  
In order

Process Manual  
Julia  
Process Automation

⑤ Reg → ① Dr. Azouz  
checklists (Sophia)  
→ Para/Uzal  
S.I. → Tech (Train/Complete)

③ LAB Itself

NLS x Trip x PK. / 11 Swab.  
4 NLS 24hr 4c  
4 NLS 36-72hr -72  
Spike?  
Volume

① Tables  
② 7100  
③ Tecan → move  
④ Service Agent + New techn

⑥ Process / Lims

⑧ Rec Report

⑦ Kits  
7.1 Transport tubes  
label (S?)  
bag  
rec  
swab

























## THE UTHSC COVID-19 TEST:

- Week of March 30<sup>th</sup>: Resulted our first CLINICAL tests (within 15 days of project initiation) and since April 1, UT Lab has performed all testing on samples collected at Liberty Bowl/Tiger Stadium UTHSC collection site.
- Week of April 9: Worked out experimental conditions, automation programming for the high throughput automation and more efficient processes
- Week of April 13: Began evaluation of automated testing in human specimens, logistics, compliance, regulatory, supply chain, training personnel and required mandated validation for a separate and unique EUA submission.
- Week of April 20: Develop and offer automation of up of 1000-1500 test





BSL2 for virus inactivation



CAUTION  
USE OF EXPLOSIVE OR  
FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES IN  
THIS CABINET SHOULD BE  
EVALUATED BY YOUR  
APPROPRIATE SAFETY  
PERSONNEL



UT  
TENNESSEE  
**LARSSEN**  
CLASS II, TYPE A2  
BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINET/PROCEDURE STATION

BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINET OPERATING  
SEQUENCE  
WORK AT THE  
PROPER SASH LEVEL

DANGER

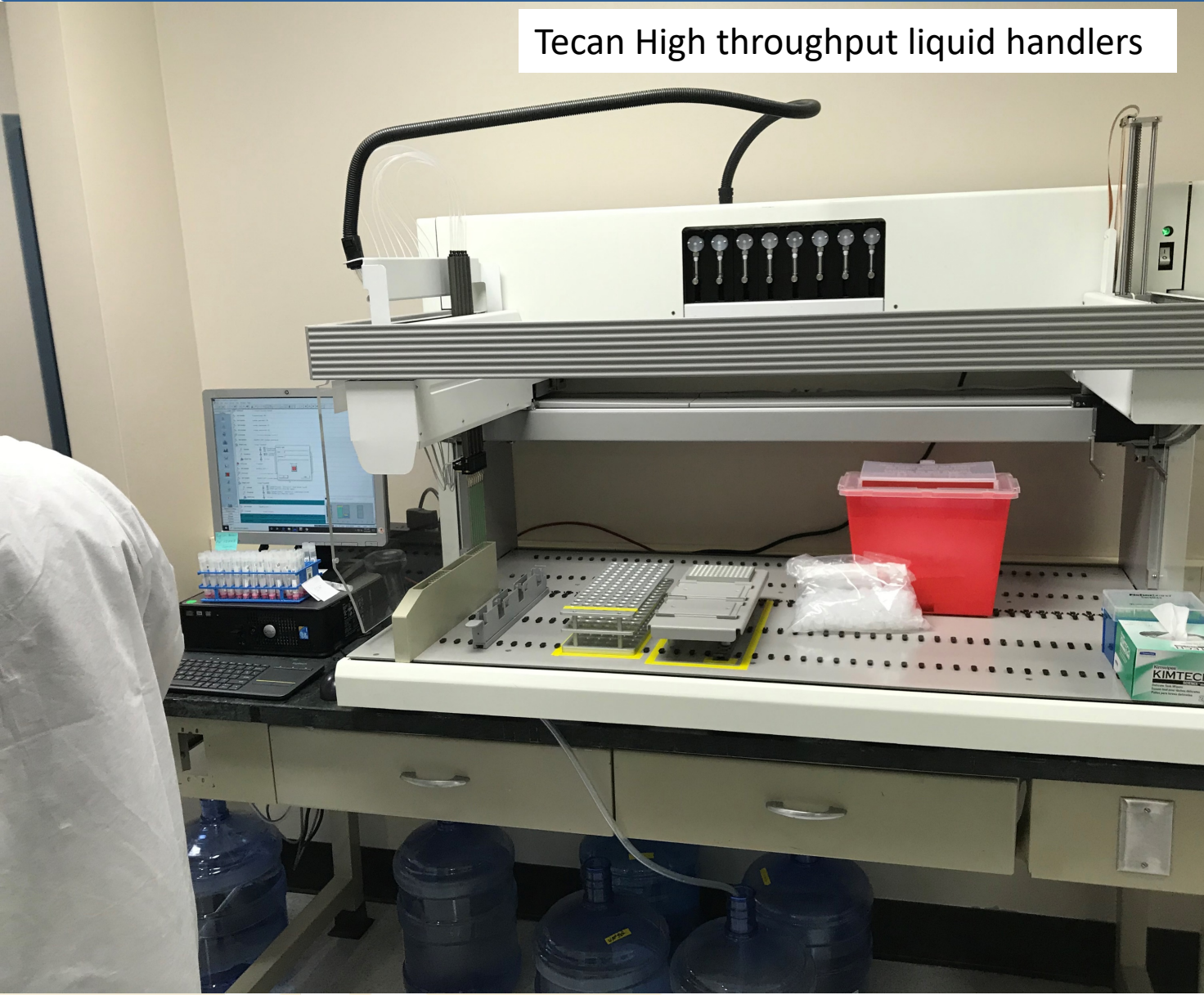
LARSSEN

CAUTION

CAUTION



Tecan High throughput liquid handlers



Bravo for high throughput RNA isolation





ABI7900 high throughput PCR instruments



LABORATORY  
LOGISTICS



**Pathology Report**

Patient Information	Specimen Information	Physician Information
<b>Name:</b> John Doe <b>Address:</b> 123 Main St Memphis, TN 38103 <b>Phone:</b> 901-555-1234 <b>DOB:</b> 7/4/1976 <b>Gender:</b> M	<b>Specimen ID:</b> S000002-99999-000 <b>Order#:</b> 9876ZXY <b>Collected:</b> 4/6/2020 <b>Received:</b> 4/7/2020 <b>Reported:</b> 4/7/2020	<b>Dr. David Schwartz</b> 1407 Union Ave. STE 700 Memphis, TN 38104 (901) 209-9678

**Ordered Items:**  
 U697 - COVID 19 SARS-COV-2 LR \*

Results:	
U697 - COVID 19 SARS-COV-2 LR *	Not Detected
<b>Comment:</b>	

\*This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by University of Tennessee Clinical Health and University of Tennessee Health Science Center . This test has not been FDA cleared or approved. This test has been authorized by FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). This test has been validated in accordance with the FDA's Guidance Document (Policy for Diagnostics Testing in Laboratories Certified to Perform High Complexity Testing under CLIA prior to Emergency Use Authorization for Coronavirus Disease-2019 during the Public Health Emergency) issued on February 29th, 2020. FDA independent review of this validation is pending. This test is only authorized for the duration of time the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of the emergency use of in vitro diagnostic tests for detection of SARS-CoV-2 virus and/or diagnosis of COVID-19 infection under section 564 (b) (1) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-3 (b) (1) , unless the authorization is terminated or revoked sooner.

**Pathology Report**

Patient Information	Specimen Information	Physician Information
<b>Name:</b> John Doe <b>Address:</b> 123 Main St Memphis, TN 38103 <b>Phone:</b> 901-555-1234 <b>DOB:</b> 7/4/1976 <b>Gender:</b> M	<b>Specimen ID:</b> S000002-99999-000 <b>Order#:</b> 9876ZXY <b>Collected:</b> 4/6/2020 <b>Received:</b> 4/7/2020 <b>Reported:</b> 4/7/2020	<b>Dr. David Schwartz</b> 1407 Union Ave. STE 700 Memphis, TN 38104 (901) 209-9678

**Ordered Items:**  
 U696 - COVID 19 SARS-COV-2 HR \*

Results:	
U696 - COVID 19 SARS-COV-2 HR *	DETECTED
<b>Comment:</b>	

\*This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by University of Tennessee Clinical Health and University of Tennessee Health Science Center . This test has not been FDA cleared or approved. This test has been authorized by FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). This test has been validated in accordance with the FDA's Guidance Document (Policy for Diagnostics Testing in Laboratories Certified to Perform High Complexity Testing under CLIA prior to Emergency Use Authorization for Coronavirus Disease-2019 during the Public Health Emergency) issued on February 29th, 2020. FDA independent review of this validation is pending. This test is only authorized for the duration of time the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of the emergency use of in vitro diagnostic tests for detection of SARS-CoV-2 virus and/or diagnosis of COVID-19 infection under section 564 (b) (1) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-3 (b) (1) , unless the authorization is terminated or revoked sooner.

## Complex testing and operational capability from ground zero in such a short timeframe: Perfect coming together and smart use of some key existing strengths

- **High throughput robotics** used for high throughput DNA sequencing of hundreds and thousands of genes is repurposed rapidly and validated for high throughput automated viral assay output of around 1000 tests per day.
- **State of the art lab information management system (LIMS)** for the cancer translational lab funded by Cancer Research Institute is used throughout the testing cycle from requisition to the many steps of testing and reporting.
- **Research and Development (Scientific) team:** The molecular translational lab team has several years' experience (prior to arrival here at UTSHC) developing and performing over 10,000 unique molecular high throughput assays (and 20M individual tests) have patents in the area.
- **UTHSC Regional Biocontainment Laboratory:** one of few in the state, we have had access to live CoV2 virus (handled in their BSL-3 research facility) and viral RNA for validation of tests and running appropriate controls.

## Complex testing and operational capability from ground zero in such a short timeframe: Perfect coming together and smart use of some key existing strengths

- **Clinical Deployment team:** Experienced lab leadership with decades of cumulative experience in test deployment, medical and scientific directorship of clinical labs, including microbiology and molecular labs.
- **Clinical, University and hospital partners:** UCH and UTHSC personnel, medical students, residents, research PhDs, Medical Laboratory Scientists from partner clinical laboratories.
- **Team commitment** with high clinical and academic standards **with a can-do attitude** and to do whatever it takes to make a difference in a global pandemic.

# Overarching Value Summary

- *Unique UTHSC Lab Developed FDA, CLIA, and Tennessee compliant test performed using standardized CDC molecular targets, with high throughput capacity, likely greater sensitivity, 24 hours resulting, serving community and partner hospitals, with a comprehensive process that could impact public health and medical care decision-making for our city and paving the way for new research avenues , discovery and innovation.*





**1**

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**6**

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**2**

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**5**

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**3**

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**4**

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DEVELOP  
SEROLOGIC  
TESTING



## SEROLOGIC TESTING

- Invaluable complement to PCR testing for COVID19
- STRATEGICALLY: to offer full range of COVID19 lab testing at UTHSC
- Offer a UTHSC (scientists at UTHSC) developed novel serologic test
- Leverage the capabilities of our evolving and transformed clinical lab at 930 Madison building
- Clinically onboard commercially available test on existing platforms at partner hospitals of Regional One Health and MLH hospitals



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PARTICIPATE IN  
CORONAVIRUS  
CONVALESCENT  
PLASMA PROGRAM

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# ROLE IN CORONAVIRUS CONVALESCENT PLASMA PROGRAM CCP

- Use of convalescent plasma has been studied in other respiratory infections, such as the 2003 SARS-CoV-1, 2009 H1N1, and 2012 MERS-CoV epidemics & other serious epidemics such as Ebola
- UTSHC transfusion pathologists play an active role at Regional One Health and all MLH hospitals as a team identifying donors and matched convalescent plasma
- First two patients are ready for CCP this week

# ROLE IN CORONAVIRUS CONVALESCENT PLASMA PROGRAM

- DONOR AWARENESS EFFORTS

- individuals who have previously tested positive

- You may help save a life of someone with symptomatic advanced coronavirus illness





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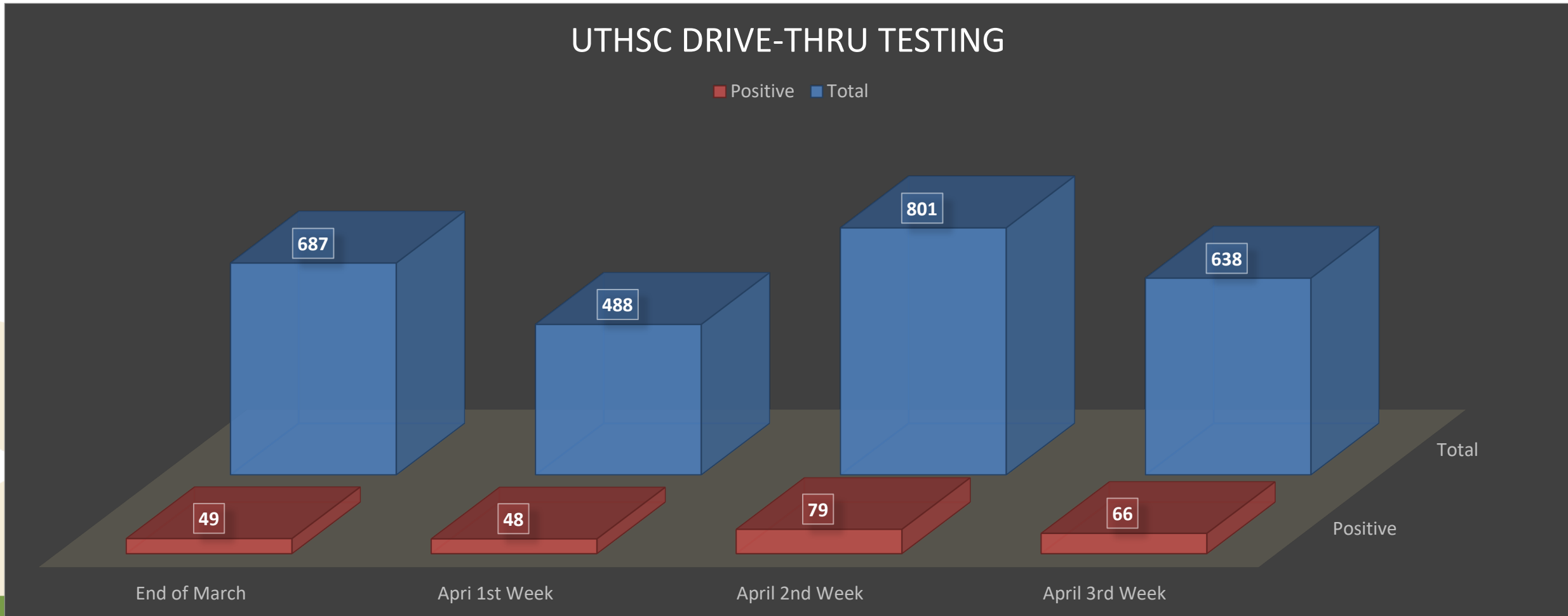
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**PUBLIC HEALTH  
REPORTING  
&  
FACILITATING  
PREDITION  
MODELS**

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# State and County Health Department Reporting



## CURRENT NUMBERS

- UTHSC Community Drive
  - Negative – 1934
  - Positive – 214
  - Presumptive Positive – 186
  - Total – 2334
  - Percent Positive – 17.14%
- Cumulative:
  - Negative – 8124
  - Positive – 923
  - Presumptive Positive – 216
  - Total – 9263
  - Percent Positive – 12.29%

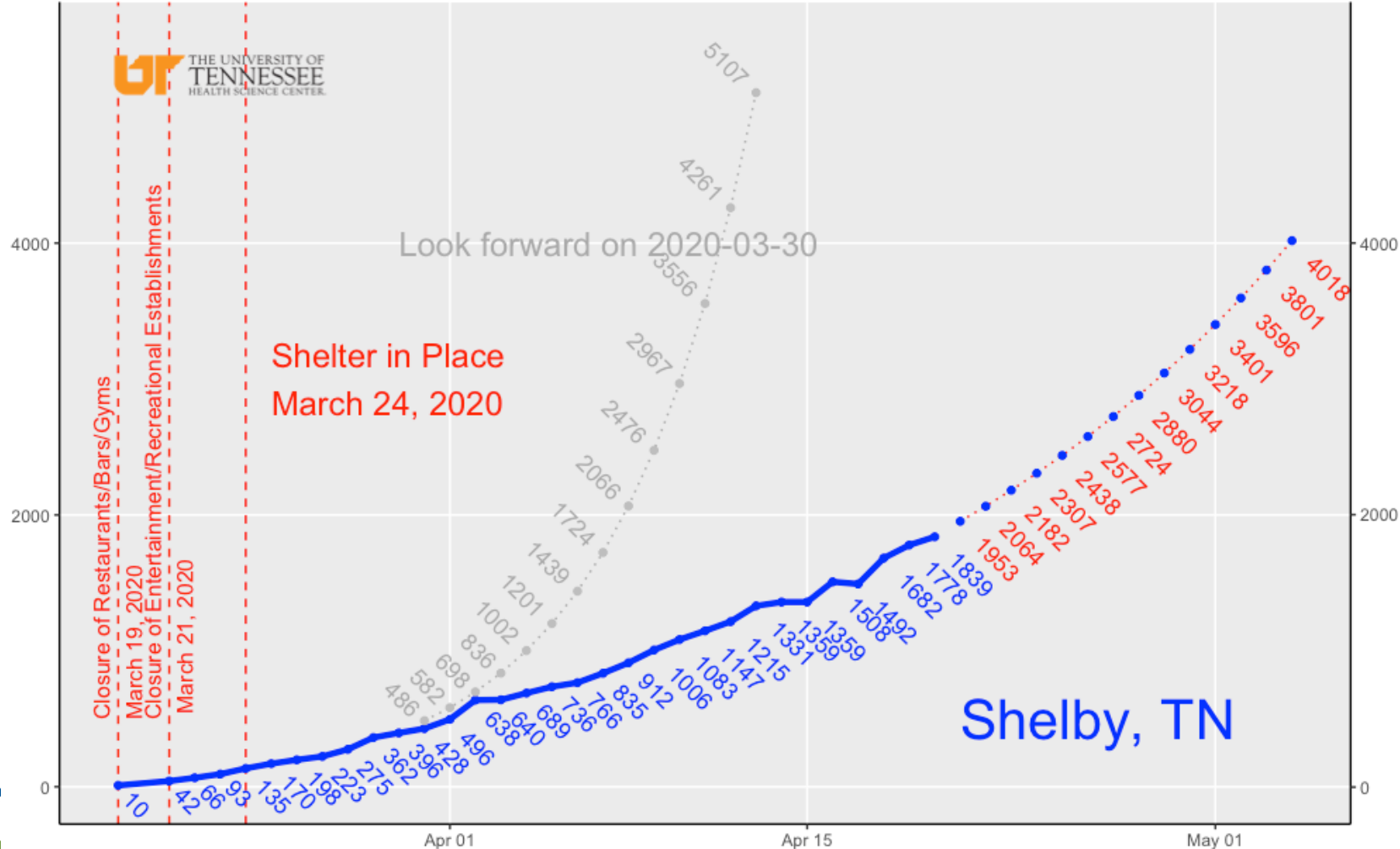


The number of days until no. of cases double is an essential measure of how fast the virus spreads

We were doubling numbers every 4 days, currently about every 12 days

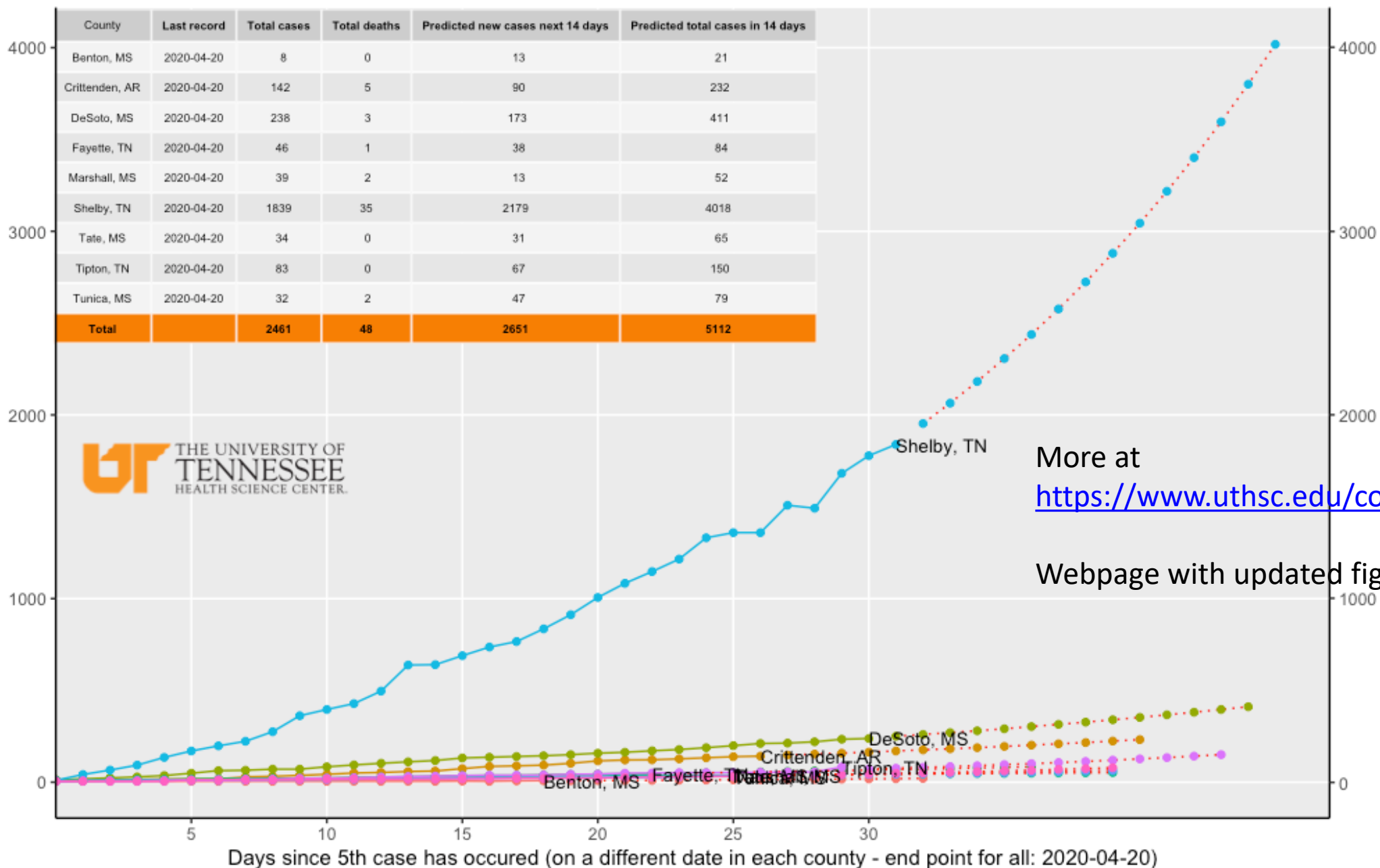
### Shelby County: COVID-19 confirmed cases

Short-term forecasts for Shelby County extrapolated from past 7 days



# Memphis Metropolitan Area: COVID-19 confirmed cases trajectories by county

Short-term forecasts for each county extrapolated from past 7 days in that county



“Re-opening” will require monitoring to avoid hospital overloads



More at <https://www.uthsc.edu/coronavirus>

Webpage with updated figures etc. coming soon!



Source: Data from Johns Hopkins University (github; accessed Tue Apr 21 16:46:06 2020); UTHSC College of Medicine | Preventive Medicine | Biostatistics.



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FACILITATE  
FUTURE  
RESEARCH

## Enabling Research – IRB

- Leveraging Cancer Research Institute biobanking protocols and personnel, IRB compliant research protocols for genomic and other relevant research questions.



# Summary:

- Unfortunate international pandemics, such as the current coronavirus infection, provide an accelerated opportunity for Pathology and Lab Medicine professionals and personnel to play a pivotal role in the care of those affected by the virus
- The role extends beyond diagnostic and clinical service needs: it should be ideally comprehensive and meets the needs of the medical community and the society we serve: such as we have humbly attempted to do.

# THANK YOU

- Vice Chancellor Brown, Dean Strome, Dr. Jon McCullers
- Partners at UT, UTHSC, UCH, medical school and GME program
- Pathologists, PhDs and Lab personnel working round the clock on the effort
- Physicians, patients and community who inspire us to bring out the best in us.

**Questions?**

**cls@uthsc.edu**



**Thank You!**







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