

But Who is Really Testing Your Samples?

Nucleic acid testing (NAT), while resource and expertise intensive, reduces infectious risk by almost closing the period between infection and virus detectability - "serological window". Rapid turnaround times needed for donor testing and the risk of death while awaiting transplantation make organ donor screening different from screening blood-or tissue donors. In past issues we addressed several topics relating to organ and tissue donors screening and to NAT screening, and we also presented key MNIT investigators. In this issue, we would like to present the "real doers"- our technicians who day after day and night after night test your specimens and make sure that the results are delivered in a timely fashion.

The NIT laboratory is staffed by highly trained and licensed laboratory technicians (CLS). In the pictures below you can see almost all of them. We are proud to introduce this team of hardworking and friendly people. They are eager to help with any issues that you may have with lab results, and we all look forward to providing your future testing needs.

The commitment and expertise provided by our laboratory personnel help our clients to 'rule in' donors that might otherwise be not considered due to unreliable, "second hand" med-soc history

Figure 1 – Laboratory Staff at NIT



In the Lab, pictured from left to right: Robert (Lab Manager), Cherry, Essie, Monette (AKA "Rocky"), DJ (Lead Tech), Chatherine, Claudia (Quality & Research Development Manager), Susan (Administrative Assistant), Lomar, Liezel, Celia, Abner, John

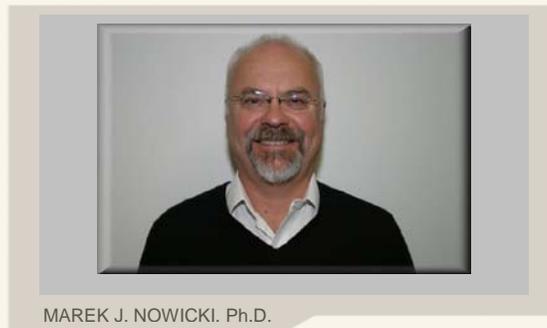


Figure 2 – Laboratory Staff at FDA Training



During recent in-service retreat, from left to right: Monette, Liezel, Cherry, Suzete, Celia, Catherine, Lomar, John, Carlo, Robert (Lab Manager), Deb (FDA/Regulatory Consultant), Claudia (Quality & Research Development Manager), DJ (Lead CLS), Abner

In summary, the NIT lab is staffed exclusively by CLS as we believe and experience has proven that this level of expertise is critical for proper execution of complex testing. Other labs get by with unlicensed laboratory personnel and other casual workers and take the chance(s) that many errors can occur with these less trained and qualified personnel.

We continue to be proud of the staff we have and our customer service attests to it.