

**Primate Assay Laboratory
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Thank you for trusting us to partner with you in laboratory testing for your projects this year. Together we have advanced our nonhuman primates laboratory testing knowledge and improved our practices. This update is a little late because we have been busy completing proficiency panel testing which we coordinated with the other National Primate Research Center pathogen detection laboratories. We are happy to report that the exchange to address rigor and reproducibility was successful and showed improvement and good accuracy across all centers. Senior laboratory staff participated in a record 7 NPRC consortium working groups meetings this year! These forums keep us updated and allow us access to the latest advances to support your work.

We continue to expand our menu of antibody (screening and confirmatory) and PCR assays for the most common macaque SPF infectious disease agents; and there is continued work in progress to develop additional antigens (CMV!) and platforms to streamline the accuracy and efficiency of these assays. We are gaining good experience using the GIFT (Gamma InterFeron TB) assay. Recently more of our efforts have been toward custom project support. Our staff has had many interesting and educational opportunities to work with investigators in customizing sample processing (PBMCs, DNA, RNA) and adapting/validating assays for their studies. We are seeing an increased interest in custom cytokine/chemokine and other biomarker assays for applications not just in infectious disease but also other scientific fields including psychology, cardiology and neuroscience.

This year we enjoyed meeting many of you at national meetings and workshops such as the American Society for Primatology, Association of Primate Veterinarians, and the Nonhuman Primate Models of AIDS. We welcome opportunities to consult with you either in person or by telephone or email. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

To accommodate the University holiday schedule and avoid shipping delays, please do not send samples between Dec 23 and Jan 3 without contacting us in advance.

We look forward to continued growth and success in 2020. All the best to you!

