

January 9, 2020

This letter attests to the quality assurance of the University of Tennessee Clinical Immunology Laboratory. The laboratory subscribes to and participates in a proficiency program directed by the Veterinary Laboratory Association (VLA). The proficiency survey program they provide is conducted on a quarterly basis. Participating laboratories receive unknown samples to analyze and report to the program administrator. VLA provides a report to all participants. In addition, the Clinical Immunology Laboratory independently conducts quality control checks on all instruments and reagents used in the laboratory and maintains appropriate controls. Standard operating procedures have been developed and are maintained for all tests. Biological safety cabinet certification is conducted annually by an independent contractor and safety inspections are conducted by the Institute of Agriculture's occupational safety and biological safety officers.

Personnel from the Clinical Immunology Laboratory have received training and passed proficiency tests and the laboratory has been approved by the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) to perform Avian Influenza, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* and *Mycoplasma synoviae* testing. The laboratory is also certified by the National Veterinary Service Laboratory (NVSL) to perform Johnes testing on milk and serum samples from cattle.

The director of the laboratory is Stephen Kania, PhD. He has over twenty years of experience in diagnostic testing.



Stephen Kania, PhD

Professor of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences