



Simmaron Research

Scientifically Redefining ME/CFS

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Simmaron Research Brings FDA Approved COVID-19 Testing to North Tahoe

In partnership with Coppe Laboratories (WI), the Nevada-based nonprofit leads effort to test locals using innovative material re-purposing strategy

Incline Village, NV: Simmaron Research announced today that their clinical research team, in partnership with Coppe Laboratories (Waukesha, WI), is conducting comprehensive COVID-19 testing under the auspices of a new formal Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration. The EUA permits sample collection for both the rapid polymerase chain reaction test (PCR), and Immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody test for COVID-19. The PCR based assay identifies active infection, while the IgG antibody test identifies the immune signature that is associated with previous exposure.

Simmaron Research, which has deep roots in the Tahoe area through its Scientific Advisor Dr. Daniel Peterson and his practice Sierra Internal Medicine, specializes in research projects to find diagnostics and treatments for chronic, post-viral disease. Suffice it to say, the foundation's clinical research team is not new to the field of virology. The work permitted by the new FDA approval allows Simmaron Research to continue serving its community but in a fresh way, testing both essential workers and vulnerable individuals.

The EUA comes rapidly in part due to Simmaron's longtime partnership with Coppe, an FDA CLIA certified lab with high-complexity clinical testing status. Additionally, from this collaborative partnership emerged an innovative strategy to repurpose soon to be discontinued urogenital swabs for the PCR-based assay. This urogenital swab sample can be frozen in normal saline for transport, while the typically used nasopharyngeal swab requires transport in a viral media that is essentially unavailable due to supply chain issues currently being experienced internationally. These two advantages, as well as an ability to conduct a more robust sample collection and analysis, are what afforded the partners an opportunity to begin testing under the EUA so quickly.

Dr. Gunnar Gottschalk, Clinical Research Director at Simmaron states, "The supply chain crisis has severely hindered the nation's COVID-19 testing capability. We repurposed materials and sought

a creative solution which helped our collaborative team achieve FDA authorization rather quickly for both the PCR and the IgG antibody test. This ingenuity, along with the hard work of our research staff, places us in a position to be the leader for COVID-19 testing in Northern Nevada.”

Sample collection is currently being conducted locally, for residents of the North Tahoe region where Simmaron Research and the foundation’s clinical partner Sierra Internal Medicine are headquartered. Abiding by the Centers for Disease Control guidance, the clinical research team is employing a high standard of safety protocols for staff and test subjects alike. Successfully collected samples are being sent to Waukesha for analysis and results are returned for reporting by Simmaron’s team.

Simmaron Research, as a 501(c)(3), is seeking financial support for future expansion of the testing effort, specifically in an attempt to include economically disadvantaged residents in the area. The team extends an invitation to local philanthropists to help fund testing for those of whom have been most impacted by “social distancing” orders and local business closures. The team is also actively exploring grant opportunities to fund this goal.

“Testing is so important to everyone in our community, especially front-line workers and people who are at higher risk of severe disease,” said Courtney Miller, President of Simmaron’s Board. “Simmaron is excited to serve our neighbors and lead the way to broader testing, so we help keep Nevada safe and learn more about this outbreak.”

To donate to Simmaron Research, visit:
<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/SimmaronResearch>

To learn more about Simmaron Research’s COVID-19 testing effort:
Email: covid19@simmaron.com
Visit: simmaronresearch.com

Simmaron Research: Simmaron Research, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Incline Village, Nevada. The foundation’s primary work advances translational science through pilot studies that play a key role in the diagnosis, treatment and understanding of post-viral and neuro-immune disease, specializing in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

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