

TITLE:

Exploring the less common pathogens of infectious diarrhea: A case series and review of the literature

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RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A new PCR panel for diarrhea which includes testing for Enteroaggregative, Enteropathogenic, and Enterotoxigenic E. coli was recently introduced into our lab. Previously, testing for these organisms was not possible. Therefore, we are unsure of the clinical significance and manifestations of these organisms when found in patients undergoing diagnostic testing for diarrhea. Are these organisms the cause of their disease or innocent bystanders?

The student will be involved in data collection for the approximately 20 patients that have been found to harbor these organisms at our institution. Objective data (white blood cell count, presence of a fever, days of symptoms, etc.) will be compared with other patients with diarrhea with (1) other pathogens and (2) no infectious pathogen identified. Furthermore, the student will write clinical summaries for selected patients to illustrate the possible clinical manifestation of disease with these organisms.

You should plan to meet with me at least once every ~2 weeks but arrangements can be made if you choose to spend time outside of Gainesville. You will shadow in the lab at least one day to see how the test is designed and performed. Additional clinical lab (not research lab) experience can be arranged. You are expected to complete all data collection and analysis, design the poster, and write up and submit a manuscript within the allotted time period. You will be the lead author on the poster and paper.