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USAMRIID Clinical Laboratory Passes CAP Accreditation Survey with Zero Deficiencies

The Clinical Laboratory at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) passed its College of American Pathologists (CAP) on-site inspection last week with zero deficiencies.

CAP is the world's largest association composed exclusively of pathologists certified by the American Board of Pathology and is widely considered the leader in laboratory quality assurance, according to MAJ Thomas A. Summers, USAMRIID's Clinical Laboratory Director.

During the CAP visit Aug. 20, inspectors examined the laboratory's records and quality control procedures for the past two years. They also examined staff qualifications, equipment and facilities, standard operating procedures, the laboratory safety program, and overall management, in accordance with the requirements of the CAP accreditation standards.

CAP inspectors commented favorably on the high-quality testing, documentation and organization of the laboratory, which is managed by CPT Juan E. Guzman.

USAMRIID's Clinical Laboratory provides standard laboratory testing for health assessments of individuals enrolled in research protocols conducted under the Institute's program for developing drugs and vaccines against hazardous diseases.

According to Summers, the laboratory's rating at Biosafety Level 2 is comparable to that of a laboratory in a hospital, and it is one of 7,000 labs the college inspects every two years.

"USAMRIID's Clinical Laboratory is part of a select group of laboratories that have been evaluated and found to be in compliance with CAP's rigorous accreditation standards, which are designed to help ensure the highest standards of care," he said.

Those standards are translated into more than 1,000 detailed and focused checklist requirements, added Guzman, who called the CAP's program the most respected and recognized laboratory accreditation program in the world.

“CAP accreditation has long been considered the ‘gold standard’ against which laboratories are measured, and we are especially proud that the USAMRIID inspection resulted in zero deficiencies,” he said.

USAMRIID’s mission is to protect the warfighter from biological threats and to be prepared to investigate disease outbreaks or threats to public health. Research conducted at USAMRIID leads to medical solutions—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and information—that benefit both military personnel and civilians. The Institute plays a key role as the lead military medical research laboratory for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency’s Joint Science and Technology Office for Chemical and Biological Defense. USAMRIID is a subordinate laboratory of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

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