

ABOUT US

Advancing Salivary Diagnostics

OUR LAB & TECHNOLOGY

Direct Diagnostics is a clinical laboratory and biotechnology company that is advancing the field of molecular testing and transforming point-of-care diagnostics.

As a high-complexity CLIA certified lab, we provide critical and time sensitive diagnostic testing solutions to healthcare providers and patients across the United States. Developing accurate, efficient, and patient-friendly salivary tests is a core advantage. Our clinical lab, located in Central Texas, serves a broad customer base with quality, timely, and cost-effective results.

Our technology group is creating point-of-care diagnostic devices that can render lab-quality results with convenience and precision. The integration of diverse technologies spanning molecular biology, biochemistry, microfluidics, engineering, optics, and systems processing has accelerated us towards the long-anticipated goal of mission-critical testing in the field where the provider and patient need it most.



OUR TEAM

Direct Diagnostics is led by a Board of Directors and Management Team with decades of laboratory, scientific, healthcare, and business experience.

ROB DONNELLY President & CEO

Rob Donnelly is an investor and entrepreneur with 18 years of investment management, biotechnology, and corporate board experience. His former roles include principal investing and executive management across a diverse range of emerging companies.

In 1999, Rob was a founding principal of Genesis Park, a Houston-based venture capital and private equity fund that invested across industries and structures. His experience in venture includes life sciences, material sciences, and software; while his private equity interests cover buy-out, turn-around and value-add opportunities. Rob earned a B.S. in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M University and an M.B.A. in Finance from Southern Methodist University.

Dr. Tom Nabors Chief Dental Officer

For thirty-seven years, Dr. Tom Nabors has served as a leader in advancing oral microbiology, immunology, and the emerging field of Oral Systemic Health. Following a career in Dentistry, he launched Oral DNA in 2008, the first diagnostic laboratory to focus on the indermification and diagnostic relevance of oral pathogens. The company was acquired by Quest Diagnostics in 2009 where Tom remained the Chief Dental Officer until 2012.

He has remained active in the industry working to advance the science as well as its implementation and impact on practice management. Tom received his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Tennessee Health-Sciences and has served in senior roles across numerous professional organizations including the American Academy for Oral Systemic Health and as Adjunct Professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center: Bioscience Research Department.

PRAVIN MALLA SHRESTHA, PH.D. Scientific Director

Pravin is a microbiologist with deep knowledge and understanding of aerobic - anaerobic bacteria physiology, cultivation, and strain characterization with extensive experience in developing and optimizing microbiology, molecular biology, immunodiagnosics assays, and molecular diagnostics.

He has had extensive scientific research experience in academia and industry over the last 15 years. Pravin obtained his Ph.D. in Molecular Ecology, Microbiology & Biogeochemistry from the Max Planck Institute – Philipps University at Marburg, Germany. After which, he completed post-doctoral programs at University of Massachusetts–Amherst and University of California–Berkeley. He worked at Assembly Biosciences in San Francisco, California before joining Paratus Diagnostics.

Pravin has over thirty peer reviewed research publications in various international journals including Nature.

CHRISTINE BULOT, PH.D. Clinical Lab Director

Christine earned her masters degree in genetics from the University of New Orleans and Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from Tulane University School of Medicine. She has over 15 years' successful laboratory experience including clinical, research and academic labs as well as FDA and CDC collaboration.

Christine is certified by the American Board of Bioanalysis as a High Complexity Clinical Laboratory Director and by the College of American Pathologists as a Laboratory Inspector Team Lead. She earned the Excellence in Leadership award for her work at the Texas Department of State Health Services laboratory and is concurrently Associate Professor of Biology at Austin Community College.

RYAN PRINCE Engineering Director

Ryan oversees the development of technology solutions for diagnostic challenges and has innovated key components for the company's point-of-care testing platform. With an innate love of complex problem solving, Ryan has been getting his hands dirty with Engineering projects since the age of 12, competing in Robotics competitions at the national level. He enjoys being part of a team and leading innovation on the cutting edge of diagnostics.

Ryan's prior work experience includes Engineering World Health and MediTrak Life. He has B.S. in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University.

RICK MCKINNEY, D.O. Chairman

Dr. McKinney has been an active participant in a number of businesses that include founding member of Arbor House assisted livings, multiple home healthcare agencies, an accountable care organization, private allied health schools, Selexys Pharmaceuticals, board member and owner of Oklahoma State Bank.

He holds a MS in Chemistry from Texas A&M and a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from University of North Texas Health Science Center – Texas College Osteopathic Medicine. He completed a Medical Oncology Fellowship at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and retired from practicing oncology in 2008. He and his wife Deborah live in Austin, Texas and have two adult children, one living in Austin and one in Santa Barbara, California.

PHIL JONES, M.D. Director

Phil Jones is a retired urologist and active biotechnology investor based Norman, Oklahoma with diverse business interests including medical, biotech, energy, ranching, and real estate ventures. He co-founded Norman Urology Associates and has served as president of the Norman Physician Hospital Organization and the Oklahoma State Urologic Association. He also directed the Strategic Planning Committee as a Board Member of the Norman Regional Hospital Trust Authority.

Dr. Jones served as the lead angel and board member of Selexys Pharmaceuticals, recently acquired by Novartis Pharmaceuticals, which developed a promising treatment for sickle cell anemia. He currently serves on the board of Tetherex Pharmaceuticals which is focused upon new treatments for thrombotic and inflammatory diseases.

Dr. Jones is skillfully advised in all phases of business and life by his attorney-wife Cathleen and is protected from his longhorn cattle by his ranch partners and sons, Colin of Norman, Oklahoma, and Logan of Austin, Texas.

DIRECT DIAGNOSTICS