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Dear Martin,

In addition to routine microbiology and virology testing services, the infectious diseases diagnostic laboratories at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) conduct vigorous clinical and translational research programs that include development and validation of state-of-the-art molecular devices for detection and differentiation of diverse viral respiratory pathogens.

The CUBIT architecture and methodology developed by you and TETRADYN appear to offer much promise for bringing several innovative technologies to bear upon pressing problems in the medical and public health and battle against infectious diseases. The prospects of integrating into mobile platforms a combination of early warning, basic detection, and rapid sequence identification at the strain level would offer highly valuable benefits in our time of increased risks. As a poignant example, the CUBIT platform would support the early identification of mutations that could alert health authorities to the rise of a new and more lethal form of novel H1N1 influenza.

We are interested in collaborative efforts with you and the TETRADYN team, understanding that such could take many traditional forms of research, testing, validation, and cooperation. We could consider, for instance, a phased project whereby new RT-PCR assays and instrumentation are introduced as part of a validation program using clinical specimens originating within VUMC or acquired through TETRADYN or public health labs. We would expect TETRADYN to provide all necessary equipment, supplies (including reagents and specialized labware and/or electronics), training and maintenance, and a co-presence of technical staff such as would be appropriate to the research and clinical dimensions of the project.

