HIV FOCUS: ENHANCED HIV TESTING PROCEDURE

Shannon Whitman York, Ph.D.
Houston Department of Health and Human Services Laboratory

From Research to the Real World: Sharing Science Symposium
April 22, 2014
Why We Did this Study

- **HIV FOCUS:** Streamlining our HIV testing procedures to detect acute HIV infections.
  - Acute infections account for increased transmission of virus
  - Acute infections were being missed with old procedure
  - Significant advancements in HIV testing technologies
What We Did

GS HIV Combo Ag/Ab (4th Gen)

Result: R

Repeat 4th Gen EIA in duplicate

Result: NN

Result: RR or RN

HIV-1 Western Blot

Result: NEG/IND

Confer with NAAT Report out NAAT result

Bio-Rad Multispot

Result: POS

Distinguish between HIV-1 and HIV-2

Report out HIV-1 NAAT result

Pooled HIV-1 NAAT

Result: POS

Report out as NEG

Result: NEG

Individual NAAT

Report out HIV-1 NAAT result

Result: NEG/IND

Report out NAAT result
What We Found

• Tested over 13,000 samples March – October 2013.
• 5 acute samples were identified in high-risk population.
• 4/5 samples were reactive on the COMBO and NAAT.
• 1 sample reactive only on NAAT – missed by COMBO.
• 5/5 acute samples were NEG/IND on Western blot.
What Our Results Mean and Why This Matters

• Acute cases identified early can decrease chance of further HIV transmission.
• NAAT testing in a high risk population is useful in acute HIV detection.
• Moving away from Western blot as confirmatory test.
Acknowledgments

- Cynthia Turner – Virology/Serology Supervisor
- Jennifer Scott Perez – HIV Microbiologist III
- Gilead Sciences – funding support