

Case Study: Advanta Analytical Labs

EXPANDING SERVICES FOR BETTER PATIENT CARE

When Advanta Analytical Labs started their genetic testing services in 2014, they specialized in drug toxicology testing. With health care providers increasingly turning to molecular diagnostic testing for rapid diagnosis, Advanta wanted to upgrade their operations and expand their menu of diagnostic services.

With an ultimate vision of improving and integrating patient care, Advanta contacted Blackhawk Genomics, a California-based consulting firm specializing in molecular diagnostics and clinical laboratory set-up and management.

According to Dr. Tootie Tatum, CEO of Blackhawk Genomics, in order to transform a toxicology lab into a full-scale molecular diagnostics space, Advanta needed to reorganize and upgrade the laboratory, train staff, and design and validate additional clinical lab tests. Blackhawk Genomics led this effort, rebuilding Advanta's quality management system in the process. Dr. Tatum's team also developed and validated pharmacogenomics, cystic fibrosis carrier screening, respiratory pathogen, gastrointestinal, and women's health microbiology assays employing automated liquid handling machines.

Additionally, Blackhawk Genomics assisted Advanta in obtaining the highest level of clinical laboratory accreditation through the College of American Pathologists.

Advanta has grown since that time and now operates with a staff of 20 scientists and technicians. Blackhawk Genomics accomplished each of the projects in a short eight weeks from start to finish.

Now with a national presence, Advanta offers both toxicology and molecular diagnostics in the areas of genetics, hematology, bacteriology, virology, immunology, and oncology. They also offer a broad range of tests for women's health as well as sequence-based Biofire screenings for rapid diagnosis of respiratory and gastrointestinal infections, cystic fibrosis, and cancer. New advanced molecular diagnostics for infectious diseases are currently being tested and will be available in June 2019. Lastly, Advanta plans to add Illumina® MiniSeq systems to the lab in the near future. These systems will expand their next-generation sequencing capabilities, opening doors to cancer screenings and tumor profiling.

For more information on Advanta Analytical Labs, visit <http://www.aalabs.com/>

For more information on Blackhawk Genomics, visit <http://www.blackhawkgenomics.com/>



A panoramic view of Advanta's lab space