



BOARD LETTER:
ACCEPT EPIDEMIOLOGY LABORATORY CAPACITY
(ELC) STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED
INFECTIONS/ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
(AR) PROGRAM (SHARP) GRANT FUNDING

Epidemiology and Immunizations Services Branch

Public Health Laboratory

September 6, 2022



PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

The Public Health Laboratory (PHL) works in conjunction with public health clinics, local hospitals and healthcare providers, and the departments of Epidemiology and Environmental Health & Quality.

By analyzing clinical and environmental samples, the PHL participates in the core activities of surveillance, assessment and assurance.



OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND



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California's current surveillance for antimicrobial resistant pathogens relies on limited testing within our state.



CDC established the Antimicrobial Resistance Lab Network (ARLN) in 2016 to detect and combat the rising threat of antibiotic resistance.



Grant award notice received on May 12, 2022. Request approval to accept these grants funds.



Accepting the grant will strengthen Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI)/Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) program capacity at the San Diego County Public Health Laboratory by funding:

- **A public health microbiologist**
- **Laboratory equipment, reagents, and supplies**
- **Maintenance contracts with commercial entities that provide testing needs**



Example of one AR organism we will test with this grant funding:

- ***Candida auris* is an emerging and multidrug resistant fungal pathogen identified in 2009**
- ***C. auris* heavily colonizes patients' skin, leading to outbreaks in healthcare settings**
- **There are no decolonization or pathogen reduction strategies for *C. auris* colonization**

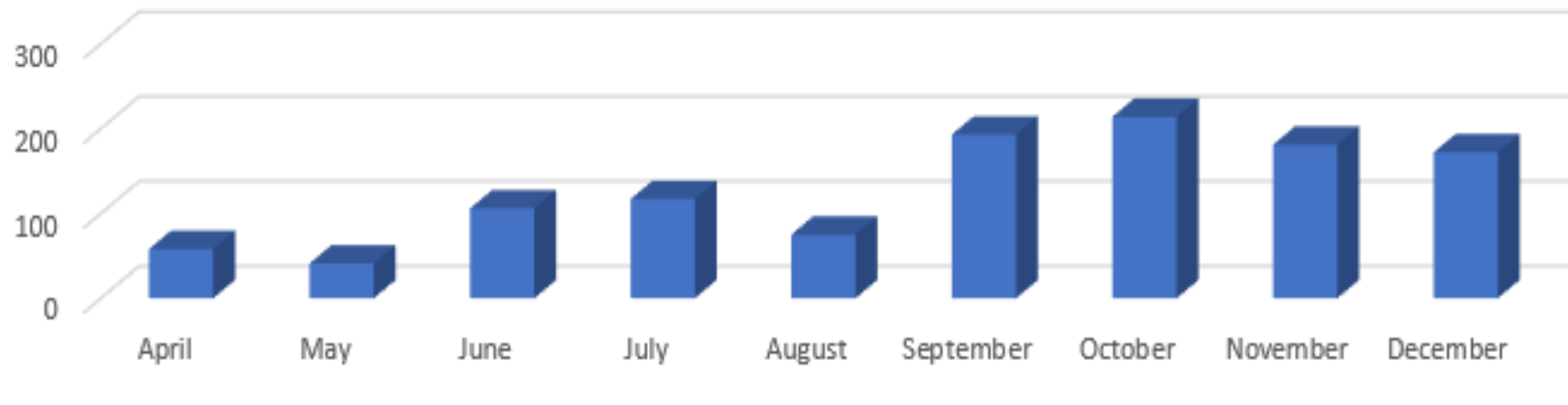
CANDIDA AURIS TESTING



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Since 2019, San Diego County and California have seen increasing numbers of patients colonized or infected with *Candida auris*

2021: Number of *Candida auris* colonization screening tests performed by WA ARLN for San Diego County

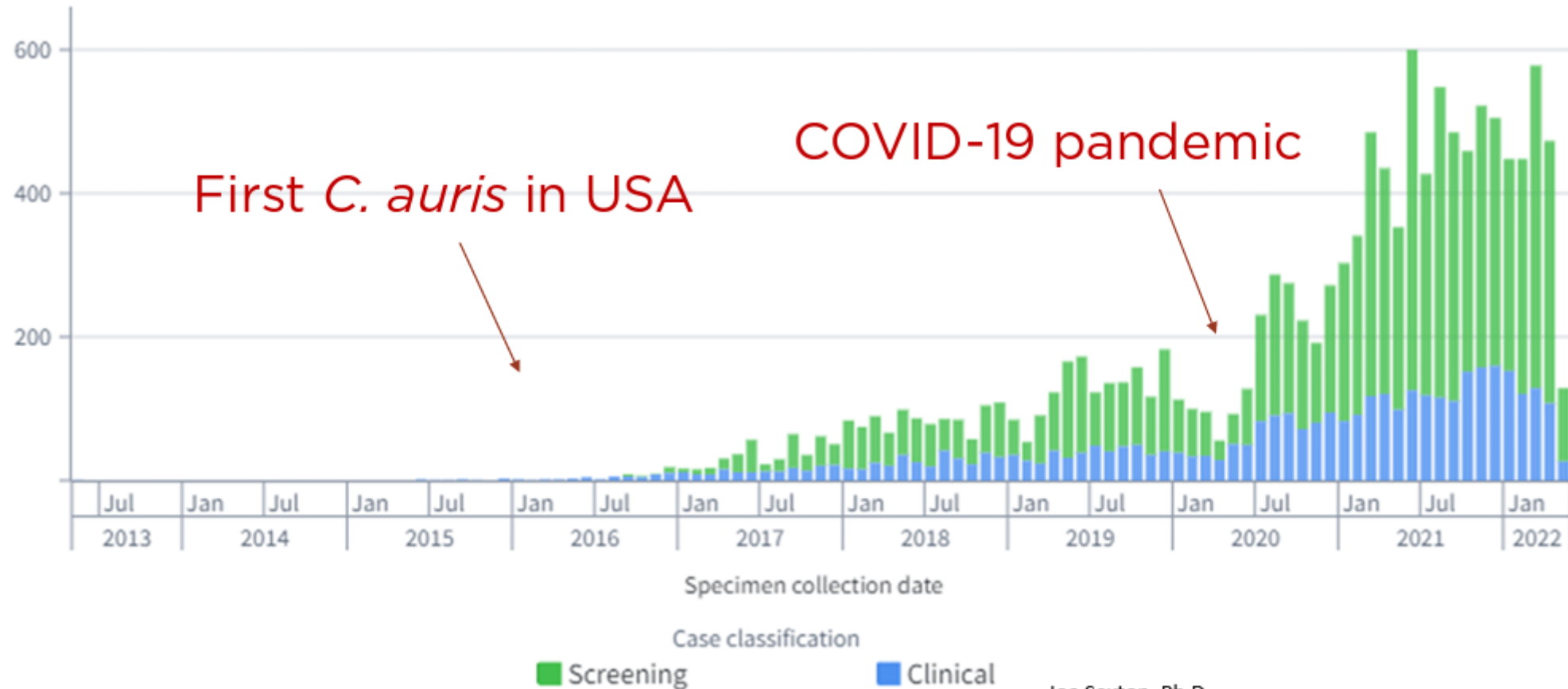


CANDIDA AURIS TESTING



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Candida auris is increasing nationally:



Joe Sexton, Ph.D

Laboratory Team Lead,

Mycotic Diseases Branch Laboratory Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC Presentation, August 2022

TARGET POPULATION



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- **Population of San Diego County, with the opportunity to expand to other areas of our region within the Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) if needed**
- **Patients in:**
 - **Hospitals**
 - **Skilled nursing facilities**
 - **Long term acute care facilities**
 - **Other healthcare settings**

BENEFITS AND OUTCOME



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- **Enhance detection for resistance tracking, identifying pathogen-specific solutions and creating public health strategies**
- **Develop better infection control guidelines to prevent and combat future AR threats**
- **Utilize the CDC AR Isolate Bank as a tool for improved diagnostics and novel therapeutic options.**
- **Work with state and regional labs to identify local transmission patterns and support outbreak response**

ACCEPT ELC SHARP GRANT FUNDING



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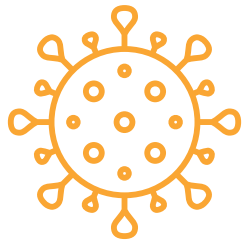


Recommendation:

- Additional \$343,781
- Funding period:
June 1, 2022, to July 31, 2024



FUNDING IMPLEMENTATION



Expansion of Antimicrobial Resistance surveillance via screening activities for Carbapenemase-Resistant Organisms and drug resistant fungus



Whole Genome Sequencing for Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistant pathogens and establishing Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

RECOMMENDATIONS



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Approve and recommend the estimated \$343,781 from the California Department of Public Health, for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Strengthening Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program grant allocation for the period of June 1, 2022, to July 31, 2024.

ACCEPT ELC SHARP GRANT FUNDING



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