

# Yale School of Medicine

## Department of Internal Medicine

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### **Re: USDTL would like to share your success**

Grace De La Peña, Account Manager  
USDTL  
1700 S. Mount Prospect Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear Ms. De La Peña,

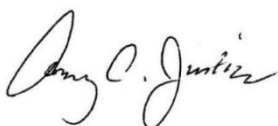
We at the Veterans Aging Cohort Study (VACS) have enjoyed our experience with the United States Drug Testing Laboratories (USDTL) and look forward to continuing our ongoing partnership with them.

As a major research group within the Veterans Affairs (VA) system, VACS oversees a number of sub-studies focused on the health of United States veterans, particularly those diagnosed with HIV. Given that this population is older and more reliant on medications than the average US population, and that substance use among people aging with HIV has not yet been well-defined, it is of particular interest to our group to analyze these interactions.

One of our studies currently underway examines precisely this relationship. Patients are asked to self-report their own alcohol use and then submit a blood sample as a biospecimen. It is through our relationship with USDTL that we are able to cross examine self-reported answers to alcohol use levels found within the blood. This allows us to most accurately report true alcohol use, and combined with biomarker analyses for other substances that may inappropriately interact with medications, we are opened to a whole host of analyses to previously unanswered questions.

It is with the help of USDTL that makes studies such as the one described above possible. The added layer of being able to examine alcohol use on a biological level, removed from the biases that patients may hold on their self-reporting, creates an invaluable richness to the data. Added to this is the quick turnaround time from the lab and customer service, all of which combine to a fruitful years-long partnership that we continue to enjoy.

Sincerely,



Amy C. Justice, MD, PhD

