



Virtual Scientific

quality, accuracy, efficiency

Avoid These Pitfalls of Setting Up a Virtual Cytogenetic Testing Lab





Cytogenetic testing requires regimented testing and a rigid set of standards to ensure accuracy. Test results can change a person's outlook on life from the moment they are received, so it is imperative to provide guaranteed information. Whether it be positive or negative news, there is no room for error.

It is critical to rely on a cytogenetic testing lab that follows best practices, employs only the most highly-qualified ASCP certified technologists, follows your lab director's analysis protocol, and maintains industry-leading turn-around-time (TAT).

At Virtual Scientific, quality, accuracy, and efficiency are our guiding principles. Everything we do is in support of providing the absolute best service to our **commercial labs** and **academic institutions**. We have spent years refining our processes and improving every detail to ensure we provide unquestionable confidence to our customers and that our service is second to none.

There are numerous issues to be aware of when setting up a virtual cytogenetic testing site. Quality issues, delays, and excess expense can easily occur if you are not adept at setting parameters for a virtual team. Read below for key areas on which to focus.

Pitfalls to Avoid in Setting Up a Virtual Cytogenetic Testing Lab

Hire Responsibly

Not everyone has enough discipline to successfully work from home. Many people envision a career where they can eliminate the daily commute to the office. While this is an enticing vision, it requires steadfast dedication and exceptional time management. Some people have an innate drive that compels them to start work at a certain time each day, stay focused throughout the day, and have the discipline to work until they have completed their requirements for the day.

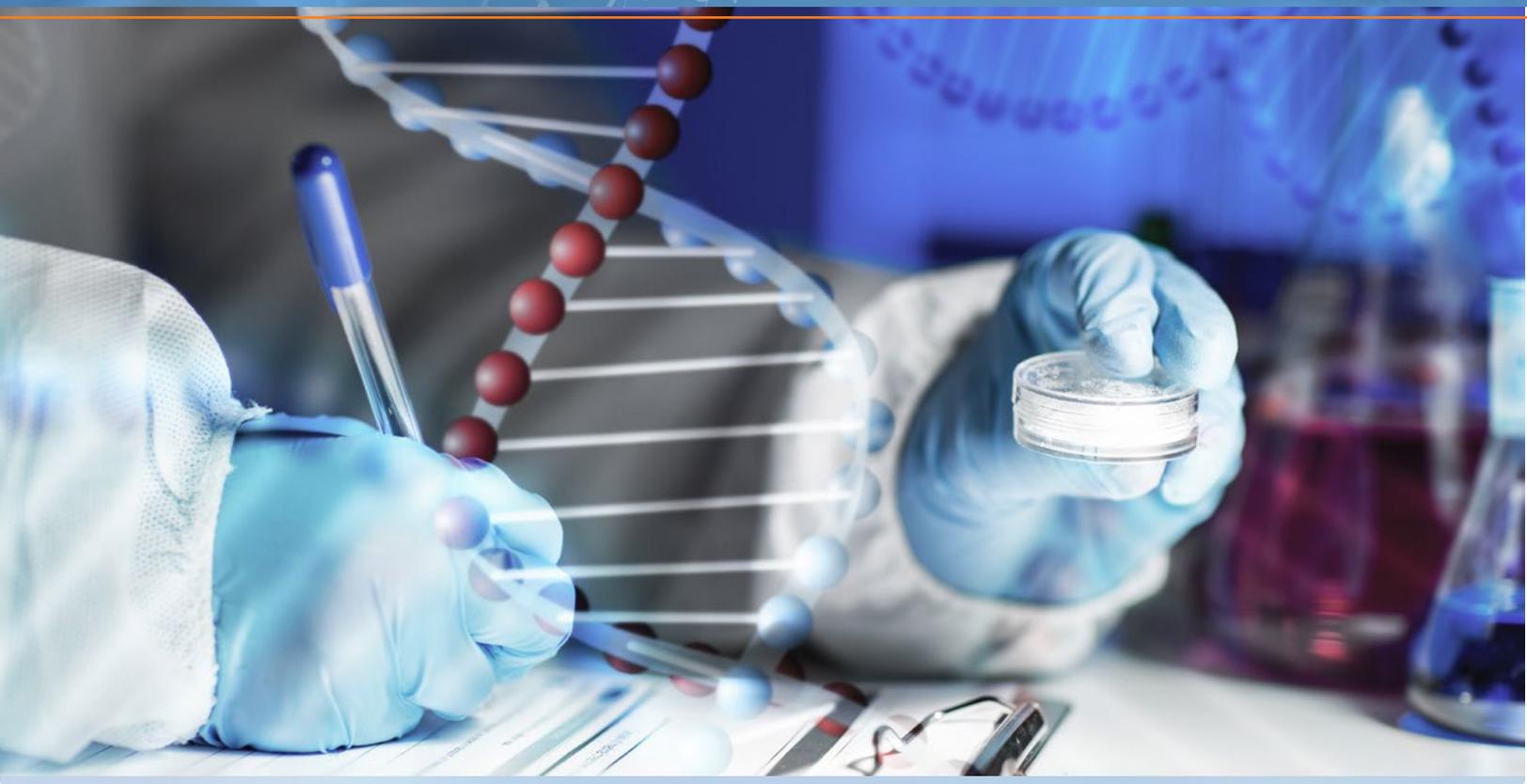
Others are plagued with an inability to focus in an unsupervised environment and often fall victim to endless distractions. Finding **cytogenetic technologists** who have the dedication to produce professional results guided primarily by their own ambitions is a critical success factor.

Unfortunately, there is no way to guarantee which personality traits a person possesses in advance of hiring them. The best advice for avoiding this scenario is to look for people who have worked from home for at least a few years before and check references, preferably from people you know who can confirm their claims.

Validate Locations

Cytogenetic testing requires attention to detail and must be conducted in a CLIA certified location 100 percent of the time. You must ensure that all cytogenetic technologists working in a virtual environment are following this requirement completely. It can be tempting for some personality types to take equipment with them to locations other than their CLIA certified address. This is never acceptable, so you must take precautions to help eliminate this behavior.

For example, providing easily movable equipment make this tendency even more tempting. At Virtual Scientific, we provide desktop equipment vs. laptops or tablets. We never provide access via smartphone, and we have implemented various technologies and security layers to identify where our technologists are located when completing testing.



Certifications

There are specific guidelines to be followed regarding workspaces within CLIA certified locations. A technologist conducting cytogenetic testing must have a dedicated office space, for example. They must also have a secure, high-speed connection on a private network, individual credentials for authentication, and follow other technical requirements to be compliant with HIPAA regulations. Be sure to validate the bandwidth available from the location as well. It is critical for each cytogenetic technologist to have a high-speed connection.

Productivity

The productivity of technologists is a key factor regardless of location. Cytogenetic testing sites operate on tight schedules, and TAT is a key performance indicator for technologists as well as a competitive advantage for the lab. Virtual Scientific is proud to offer some of the fastest TAT in the industry.

Working in a virtual environment necessitates clear direction and expectations for each technologist regarding their specific caseload and expected TAT. It is critical to have a system in place to monitor each technologist's progress and ensure that the overall caseload is on schedule. Every test must be tracked and reported on regarding time, date, and duration of time worked.



Quality

Quality can never be compromised. There is a unique set of challenges when creating a virtual cytogenetic testing site and each must be addressed independently. The one over-riding requirement is that quality is always priority number one. At Virtual Scientific, **our cytogenetic technologists** are all ASCP certified and have an average of 18 years of experience in the field.

To ensure guaranteed results, each case is analyzed by two CLIA certified cytogenetic technologists, and cases are then reviewed by a senior level technologist and/or supervisor. Prior to reporting the results, all cases are subjected to a verification process to ensure accuracy.

Building a successful, dependable, and efficient virtual cytogenetic testing site is not an easy feat. It takes years to create a culture of committed, productive technologists that care about their work, thrive on challenges, and proactively seek out new advances in the industry.

Consider outsourcing to the best in the business. Rather than investing the time, effort and capital required to build a new lab, rely on Virtual Scientific for your cytogenetic testing needs. We have all the certifications and accreditations covered, so you do not have to maintain those rigid guidelines. Our TAT is industry-leading, and our qualified cytogenetic technologists work as an extension of your team, following your lab director's analysis protocol.

Contact Virtual Scientific today to learn more, or take a **free assessment** to learn how you can save money and resolve multiple laboratory issues by partnering with us.