Debra Thompson

From: Michael Truex <mtruex@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 9:10 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: The PCR test

Hello hard working assembly members! Quite a meeting today, with two contentious issues on your plates.
Per the discussion on the PCR test, and since I heard a request for information, here is a LINK to an open access paper published in the **European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.** I share this source not because I am an expert, but because I want you to see where some folks, myself included, have found valuable information regarding the accuracy of the PCR test.
The main idea is interpreted from the graph in Fig. 1, about halfway down in the article
As you will see, at 17 cycles, 100% of the samples which resulted in a positive PCR result *could also culture* a positive result. The curve falls rapidly from there, and reaches 0 at 34 cycles, meaning that not a single positive PCR result at this level *could also culture* a positive result. I think setting our PCR cycles to around 20, where the tests matched 87% of the time, would give us a real test. Finding *real* positive cases is far more valuable than finding LOTS of positive test results!
Sincerely,
Michael Truex
PS> if the link above fails: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10096-020-03913-9