



For Immediate Release

Press Contact:

Susana Suarez, Aria Public Relations

617-633-8927

Fay Spano, Versiti Director of Public Relations

414-322-4030

## **Aria Diagnostic Laboratories Announces Partnership with Versiti, Inc., to Identify and Provide Convalescent Plasma Donors to Aid in the Recovery of COVID-19 Patients**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - May 29, 2020 - Aria Diagnostic Laboratories announced today a partnership with [Versiti, Inc.](#), blood centers that will help to provide COVID-19 convalescent plasma to hospitals in the Midwest for treatment of COVID-19 patients. [Versiti](#), a national leader in blood health innovation, has been collecting plasma since early April from volunteer donors recovered from the disease. Aria has been testing hundreds of people since March for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 and will now assist in identifying and contacting potential new donors to help treat others diagnosed with the virus. The partnership unites two leaders in the war against this pandemic; the testing expertise and unmatched logistics of Aria and the medical and scientific expertise of Versiti in transfusion medicine and research.

“Reaching out to the people Aria has tested for COVID-19, who had positive results, and ask them to donate their plasma, will help others who may not be so lucky as to fully recover,” said Zak Khan, co-founder of Aria Diagnostic Laboratories. “Clinical trials and current hospital usage show that patients who receive convalescent plasma are recovering from COVID-19 at very positive rates. Our goal is to ask those people whom we have tested in the past – and in the future – to volunteer to donate their plasma, so Versiti can continue to provide this life-saving product to hospitals to treat volumes more and offer these patients a chance to recover faster,” said Khan.

This blood-related treatment – approved by the FDA as an Investigational New Drug (IND) – could offer hope to the hundreds of patients who continue to be diagnosed. This treatment would be used by hospitals for the most severely affected patients.

Versiti blood centers, among the first in the U.S. to begin collecting convalescent plasma, is working with its partner hospitals to identify recovered patients. As per the guidelines, hospitals must request FDA approval and work within the IND guidelines, or other approved process such as an Expanded Access Program (EAP), in order to treat coronavirus patients with plasma. Donors would be referred to Versiti through the work of Aria Laboratories.

“The potential donors must first be proven to have had a COVID-19 diagnosis through a positive lab test result, which Aria provides, and must be symptom free for 14 days,” said Versiti Senior Medical Director Dan A. Waxman, M.D. “It’s a very collaborative effort with our hospital partners who will be working to identify and verify the donors.”

-MORE-

“Since we began testing for the novel coronavirus, our guiding principle has always been that to get ahead of this pandemic, we need to test everyone,” said Zak Khan, Co-Founder of Aria Diagnostic Laboratories. “The demand for tests is tremendous, and now we have the opportunity to use that data and encourage those in a position to help with an option of how to do it. Working together with Versiti, we can make recovering from COVID-19 possible.”

After successfully providing thousands of COVID-19 test kits to area municipalities and New York City, as well as numerous companies and first responders, Aria Diagnostics has continued to seek out solutions to help get Hoosiers and people around the country get back to resuming normal activity with the peace of mind that they are not carrying or contagious of the virus that causes Covid-19.”It’s not just about getting back to work,” Khan said. “It’s about getting back to life.”

#### About ARIA Diagnostics

ARIA Diagnostics is a high-complexity, CLIA-certified, CAP-accredited clinical diagnostic reference laboratory located in Indianapolis with over a quarter million patient specimens’ experience delivering timely, accurate, clinically actionable information through our nationwide medication monitoring and drug testing services. Drug testing is used by substance use disorder and pain management providers as well as many other specialties, to obtain objective information about patients’ recent use of prescription medications and/or illicit drugs and helps monitor the effectiveness of treatment plans. ARIA Diagnostics is committed to the improvement of patient care by expanding its national clinical laboratory network to provide population specific, decentralized, and clinician tailored testing.

#### About Versiti

Versiti, a national leader in blood health innovation, was formed with the mission to improve the health of patients and enable the success of our health care partners nationally. We provide innovative, value added solutions in the fields of transfusion medicine, transplantation, and blood-related diseases to meet the needs of each of our customers. The collective efforts across Versiti result in improved patient outcomes, expanded access to care and cost efficiencies for health care systems nationwide. For more information, visit [versiti.org](http://versiti.org).

###