

## The ZLM's share in the response to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

The team of the ZLM St. Gallen, specifically the molecular biology and genetics team, has done a tremendous job over the last 14 days: we developed new techniques that make our SARS-CoV-2 PCR service as independent from delivery uncertainties as possible.

First, our team established a verified SARS-CoV-2 specific RT-PCR assay based on the Charité protocol. And at the same time, the team continued to provide patient service around the clock, 7 days a week by using commercial assays available at the time.

In addition, the ZLM developed and validated a reagent independent RNA extraction procedure («boiling only») for the SARS-CoV-2 assay; this will keep our service independent in case extractions reagents continue to remain low in supply.

Lastly, we developed and verified the adequacy of new, highly available cotton based swab, the «corona swab» and transport system, all relying on local production capacity and distribution.

All these developments would not have been possible without the dedicated, down-to-earth and yet highly professional support from local companies supporting us in our vision, specifically Mr. Stamm and his team at Kistler AG, an IVF Hartmann company.



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**KCHI** Klinische Chemie, Hämatologie und Immunologie  
**HM** Humanmedizinische Mikrobiologie  
**VD** Veterinärdiagnostik