

Mail Stop 3561

May 7, 2010

Surya N. Mohapatra, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Quest Diagnostics Incorporated
3 Giralda Farms
Madison, New Jersey 07940

**Re: Quest Diagnostics Incorporated
Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A
Filed April 2, 2010
File No. 001-12215**

Dear Mr. Mohapatra:

We have reviewed your filing and have the following comment. Where indicated, we think you should revise your document in response to this comment. If you disagree, we will consider your explanation as to why our comment is inapplicable or a revision is unnecessary. Please be as detailed as necessary in your explanation. In some comments, we have asked you to provide us with additional information so we may better understand your disclosure. Please do so within the time frame set forth below. You should comply with the remaining comments in all future filings, as applicable. Please confirm in writing that you will do so and also explain to us how you intend to comply, within the time frame set forth below. Please understand that after our review of all of your responses, we may raise additional comments.

Please understand that the purpose of our review process is to assist you in your compliance with the applicable disclosure requirements and to enhance the overall disclosure in your filing. We look forward to working with you in these respects. We welcome any questions you may have about our comments or any other aspect of our review. Feel free to call us at the telephone numbers listed at the end of this letter.

Governance Committee, page 11

1. In future filings, please describe how you consider diversity in identifying nominees for director. See Item 407(c)(2)(vi) of Regulation S-K.

As appropriate, please respond to this comment within 10 business days or tell us when you will provide us with a response. Please furnish a cover letter that keys your response to our comment and provides any requested information. Detailed cover letters

Surya N. Mohapatra, Ph.D.
Quest Diagnostics Incorporated
May 7, 2010
Page 2

greatly facilitate our review. Please understand that we may have additional comments after reviewing your response to our comment.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes all information required under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that they have provided all information investors require for an informed investment decision. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

In connection with responding to our comment, please provide, in writing, a statement from the company acknowledging that:

- the company is responsible for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing;
- staff comments or changes to disclosure in response to staff comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

In addition, please be advised that the Division of Enforcement has access to all information you provide to the staff of the Division of Corporation Finance in our review of your filing or in response to our comments on your filing.

Please contact Damon Colbert at (202) 551-3581 or David Link at (202) 551-3356 with any questions.

Sincerely,

John Reynolds
Assistant Director