

IVRN Central Specimen Repository

The overall aim of the IVRN is to facilitate strategic immunology and virology research in relation to Australians with BBVs.

The structure of the IVRN includes three components: IVRN Network laboratories (the Network), a Central Specimen Repository, and a Laboratory QA program (QAP).

The scope of the research activities supported by the Network are outlined in the Operational Strategic Plan for the Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research (ACH²) (see www.ach4.org.au).

This document describes the Central Specimen Repository laboratories.

After separation and short-term storage in IVRN Network laboratories, samples of relevance are transported to one of three Central Specimen Repository laboratories for long-term vapour phase nitrogen specimen storage and distribution to researchers for strategic projects.

Initially, two laboratories acting as Central Specimen Repositories for IVRN specimens were established, one in Sydney (UNSW) and one in Melbourne (National Serology Reference Laboratory). A third Central Specimen Repository has been established in Sydney at St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research.

Each Central Specimen Repository laboratory maintains a database for recording specimen details - the labs at UNSW and NRL utilise the Blood and Tissue Samples Inventory System (BATSIS), while the St Vincent's CAMR laboratory maintains a separate specimen database. Read-only access to the databases for researchers to view available specimen details can be arranged upon request to the IVRN Project Coordinator.

Contact details of IVRN Central Specimen Repositories are:

Laboratory Head	Location	Contact details (Phone, Email)
Prof Andrew Lloyd	UNSW Sydney, NSW	02 9385 2534 a.lloyd@unsw.edu.au
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Ms Kate Merlin	St Vincent's CAMR, NSW	02 8382 4941 kate.merlin@svha.org.au

Correspondence regarding available specimens in the Central Specimen Repository should be made to:

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