Policy for access to IVRN samples for strategy research

Overall aim: To facilitate strategic immunology and virology research in relation to Australians with BBVs.

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

Scope: As outlined in the Operational Strategic Plan for the Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research (ACH4) (see www.ach4.org.au).

Purpose: To define the criteria for access to samples collected via the Network.

The criteria for evaluation of specimen requests to the IVRN for sample collection are four-fold:

1. degree to which the project and requested specimens will facilitate Australian research in accordance with National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategies 2018-2022 (https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-bbvs-1);
2. scientific merit of the proposed study (when necessary external scientific advice may be sought);
3. degree to which alternative sources of samples are available;
4. competing demands on the available samples in the IVRN Central Specimen Repository.

All applications should be submitted electronically to:

IVRN Project Coordinator
Ms Ruth Waterman
P: 02 9348 0630
E: rwaterman@kirby.unsw.edu.au

There is no closing date for applications. All applications will be considered. The decision will be made within one month of receipt.

Once the application is approved, the availability of samples from the IVRN will be contingent upon the applicant(s) providing local institutional human research ethics committee approval for the use of IVRN samples in their project and signing a copy of the IVRN Material Transfer Agreement form. Limited clinical and laboratory data about the samples will be made available via read-only access to a custom online database. More detailed clinical data may be available from the investigators of the original study – this may be facilitated by IVRN upon request.