

Policy for appointment of IVRN Network laboratories

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 <https://www.ACH4.org.au>).

Purpose: To identify the criteria for review of expression of interest (EOI) applications for appointment as a Network Laboratory:

1. Experience in performance of separation and storage of the samples of interest which include serum, plasma, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC). This should include supporting documentation such as publications and/or experimental data based on such separated and stored samples.
2. Appropriate level of laboratory accreditation, such as NATA accreditation for laboratories with activities in the diagnostic realm, or other internal QC programs for laboratories with purely research activities.
3. Requisite laboratory facilities including suitable Physical Containment level 2 (PC2) work areas and key equipment such as nitrogen storage vessels for PBMC.
4. Requisite experienced staff and adequate staffing to handle samples in a reliable and timely fashion.
5. Proximity or ready access to major clinical centres conducting treatment trials and cohort studies in BBVs.
6. Staff members experienced and certified in the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

Applications: Will be sought by EOI and considered by the IVRN Steering Committee. The decision will be made within one month of receipt.

Following approval, ongoing participation in the Network is contingent upon maintenance of certification via the IVRN Quality Assurance Program (QAP).

All applications should be submitted electronically to:

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