

Policy for support for collection and storage of samples

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 inclusion of prospective clinical trials and cohort studies in BBVs for funded specimen collection for the IVRN.

Applications: For inclusion of clinical trials and cohort studies the proforma for this purpose must be completed.

The Network laboratories participating in separation of samples are listed on the website (www.ach4.org.au/quality-assurance-program).

The criteria for evaluation of an application are five-fold including the:

1. degree to which the proposed sample collection will facilitate Australian BBV Strategy 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 clinical trial or cohort study (when necessary external scientific advice may be sought);
3. extent to which samples collected will be made broadly available to other Australian investigators via the Network;
4. degree to which alternative collection and storage systems are available (e.g., pharmaceutical industry sponsored sample collection and storage);
5. competing demands on the resources of the Network.

An in-principle agreement to utilise the Network for Australia-wide specimen collection (without formal application) may be provided upon request to the IVRN Steering Committee to individuals seeking to incorporate this statement into the research plan for applications to public sector funding agencies (e.g. NHMRC or MRFF). If funding is awarded, a formal application to IVRN (as above) should follow.

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 are considered. The Steering Committee decision will be made within one month of receipt.