

1. Policy for appointment of IVRN Network laboratories

Overall aim: To facilitate strategic immunology and virology research in relation to Australians with blood-borne virus (BBV) infections.

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

1. Your laboratory currently conducts or plans to conduct research and/or processing of biospecimens from patients with BBVs, and is willing to participate in sample collection/processing in support of IVRN strategic research initiatives.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Requisite laboratory facilities including suitable Physical Containment level 2 (PC2) work areas and key equipment such as nitrogen storage vessels for PBMC.
5. Requisite experienced staff and adequate staffing to handle samples in a reliable and timely fashion.
6. Proximity or ready access to major clinical centres conducting treatment trials and cohort studies in BBVs.

Applications: Will be sought by EOI and considered by the IVRN Steering Committee.

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:

IVRN QAP Coordinator

Dr Wayne Dyer

P: 0408 039 329

E: w.dyer@unsw.edu.au

Application proforma

Please complete the below questions and send to the IVRN QAP Coordinator, outlining your responses to the criteria for review by the IVRN Steering Committee. By completing these questions, you are expressing your interest to join the network.

Please note that there is limited capacity for non-Network laboratories to join the QAP, with preference given to laboratories performing activities outlined in criteria 1. Other applications will be considered when a space is available.

Laboratories details (name, ABN, address, contact name [email and phone number], head scientist name)

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Please indicate if the laboratory organisational type (e.g. private/corporate, research organisation- Blood Borne Virus Research, research organisation- Other)

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Please describe the laboratory's experience in performance of separation and storage of the samples of interest which include, peripheral blood mononuclear cells [PBMC] (as well as serum and plasma). This should include supporting documentation such as publications and/or experimental data based on such separated and stored samples. Please list the laboratories 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.

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Please explain the relevant facilities of the laboratory including suitable Physical Containment level 2 (PC2) work areas and key equipment such as minus 80 degrees freezers and nitrogen storage vessels for PBMC.

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Immunovirology Research Network (IVRN)

A network of laboratories across Australia to facilitate strategic clinical immunology and virology research in relation to Australians with HIV, HCV, HBV and HTLV-I



Please describe the staffing capacity to handle samples in a reliable and timely fashion.

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