

Policy for appointment of Tier One laboratories

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

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 The Challenge of Renewal at <http://www.hiv.edu.au/>). A summary of these research activities is included in Appendix 2.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines by which the IVRN will appoint new laboratories for existing sample sets collected from patients with HIV or hepatitis C that are relevant to the areas of strategy research.

The criteria for evaluation of applicants are:

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 programmes 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 HIV and HCV.
6. Staff members experienced and certified in the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

Applications for appointment will be considered by the IVRN Steering Committee (Appendix 3). There is no closing date for applications. All applications will be considered. The decision will be made within one month of receipt.

Following approval, ongoing participation in the Tier One network is contingent upon maintenance of certification via the IVRN Quality Assurance Program (QAP) (Appendix 1b).

Applications addressing the criteria above should be made to:

The IVRN Project Coordinator, c/- Prof Andrew Lloyd
School of Medical Sciences, UNSW
Ph: 02-9385-1390
Fax: 02-9385-1389
Email: a.lloyd@unsw.edu.au