

**Institution:** Rwanda-Zambia HIV Research Group  
Projet San Francisco  
Kigali, Rwanda  
www.rzhr.org

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## LAB RESOURCES

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**Please describe the laboratory facilities available in your research institute, including the items listed below (if applicable):**

*Lab space and equipment (general):*

- One Safety Lab of approximately 40 sq meters, 3 Molecular Biology Lab units, each approximately 16 sq meters
- One immunology lab (approximately 25 sq meters).
- The following assays are available: chemistry, haematology, CD4/CD8 count, microscopy, serology (rapid tests and ELISA), DNA extraction and PCR, PBMC isolation, Elispot, etc.

*BSL-2 lab space and equipment:*

*BSL-3 lab space and equipment:*

*Flow cytometry equipment:*

**Please list the research groups in your institute, including the size and areas of expertise for each group:**

- The project works under Emory University. Our research domain is in the area of prevention and understanding the determinants of heterosexual transmission of HIV. We also collaborate with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative to conduct HIV vaccine trials.

## BIOLOGICAL SPECIMEN REPOSITORY

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**Please describe the biological specimens stored at your institute:**

- Serum, Plasma, DNA, PBMCs

**Does your institute have a database of stored samples:**

Yes

**Please provide details on methods for biological specimen storage at your institute (e.g., are Standardized Operating Procedures used?):**

- Samples are stored according to SOP and analytical plans for different protocols.

**Please describe the equipment/facilities available for sample storage at your institute, including items listed below (if applicable):**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>-80C freezers</i>               | Four -80°C freezers are available, and temperature monitoring is done using an electronic system |
| <i>Nitrogen storage tanks</i>      | Three 50 litres and two 120 litres tanks   |
| <i>Dry ice availability</i>        | No, but possibility of importing   |
| <i>Use of a nitrogen generator</i> | Liquid nitrogen plant available  |

## **TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

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**Please describe the training initiatives your institution has in place for individuals prior to working in clinical studies?**

- Good Clinical Practice (GCP) orientation
- Human Subjects Protections course
- Basic and Advanced Cardiac Life Support

**Please describe the training initiatives your institution has in place for individuals prior to working in the laboratory?**

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- Human Subjects Protections course
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**What assays/techniques do you excel in at your institute?**

- Chemistry, Hematology, Serology, DNA extraction, HIV PCR, PBMC isolation

**What training could you provide to visiting scientists?**

- Different lab assays performed at our institution
- Couples HIV Counseling and Testing
- Follow-up of HIV discordant couples

**What rank are the majority of your trainees? (e.g., approximate numbers of undergraduate students, Masters, PhD, post-doc, MDs)**

**Do you offer training classes/courses for any of the following?**

- Couples HIV Counseling and Testing

**Does your institute receive funds to support training initiatives?** Yes

**Please provide details about the funds your institute receive to support training initiatives.**

- AITRP through Emory University, PEPFAR

**Does your institution send trainees abroad for additional training?** Yes

**Please indicate the number of trainees sent abroad per year, the source of funding, the location of training, and the type of training received.**

- Most courses to which we send trainees are GCP or GCLP related. The location may vary... Six to eight individuals benefit from these trainings per year.

## **COLLABORATIONS**

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**Please list and briefly describe your current collaboration with any African institutions for either research or training purposes.**

- We collaborate mainly with sister sites in Zambia (Zambia-Emory HIV Research Groups). We use the same SOPs.
- We also collaborate with regional institutions under the IAVI network.

**Please list and briefly describe your institution's collaborations and/or partnerships with entities outside of Africa (e.g., organizations and networks in the USA, Europe, etc. – including CFARS, NIH clinical trials networks, HPTN, HVTN, AMC, IeDEA, USAID, PEPFAR, etc.)**

- The project is affiliated with Emory University.

## **CLINICAL COHORTS**

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**Do you have access to existing clinical cohorts in Africa or USA?**

Yes

**Please describe each existing clinical cohort that you have access to, including specifics like “HIV-TB infected HAART naïve adults”, sample size, sample type, sex, age, and whether clinical samples are currently being collected and/or stored (specify which samples).**

- We have our own cohort of HIV concordant negative and discordant couples. Various types of samples are collected monthly/quarterly.

**Are you planning to establish any new clinical cohorts over the next 5 years?**

No

## **DATA MANAGEMENT**

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**Please describe the DATA MANAGEMENT FACILITIES available in research institute, including the items listed below (if applicable):**

*Data management expertise, including staff complement (general):*

- The data management team has 4 staff, including a data manager who has an MPH degree. We use mostly Access databases, and SAS software is available.

*On-site database design, implementation and trouble-shooting:*

- Database design is done by the sponsor.

*Details of off-site support (by whom):*

- Ongoing support is received from Emory University. An error report system is in place.

## **BIOSTATISTICAL SUPPORT**

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**Please describe the BIOSTATISTICAL SUPPORT available in your research institute, including the items listed below (if applicable):**

*Biostatistical expertise, including staff complement/composition of PhD and Masters level biostatisticians:*

- Biostatistical expertise is provided by Emory University.