

Urgent Request for Assistance

Blood Samples Sought From Convalescing Influenza A (H1N1) Infected Individuals

(May 12, 2009) The International Consortium on Anti-Virals (ICAV) is seeking assistance from the medical and scientific community in obtaining blood samples from individuals infected during the recent outbreak of Influenza A (H1N1). ICAV is seeking to rapidly generate human monoclonal antibodies to this new H1N1 strain. These antibodies will be used for passive immunotherapy of at-risk patients in the event of a potential future pandemic.

The techniques to isolate human monoclonal antibodies to this new pathogen require access to blood samples from persons known to have been infected with Influenza A (H1N1), collected using sodium citrate as an anticoagulant and be at least 30ml and preferably 100ml, though smaller samples may be usable. We would like to know the date at which the sample was collected and the date when the patient was believed to have been infected.

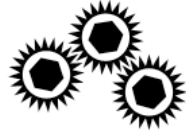
N.b. If more than 24 hours is required to transport the sample (to Vancouver, Canada), mononuclear cells can also be prepared from the same-sized aliquot of blood and frozen and stored using a cryopreservative in liquid nitrogen. The cells can then be shipped on dry ice. ICAV will reimburse all shipping costs. It would be helpful to also provide any clinical information on when the patient was infected and whether the patient had made/is making a good recovery.

ICAV will only accept samples obtained under the supervision of appropriate institutional ethics review and full patient consent. Work on the samples received by ICAV will be conducted in accordance with relevant bio-safety guidelines.

Physicians, scientists, and health care professionals in contact with patients already infected with Influenza A (H1N1), or who could help facilitate obtaining a blood sample from infected individuals, are requested to contact ICAV as soon as possible.

The International Consortium on Anti-Virals (ICAV) is a not-for-profit drug development company dedicated to accelerating the discovery, development and delivery of novel anti-viral therapies for neglected and emerging viral diseases through the international collaboration of scientists, government and industry. A fundamental component of ICAV's mission is to provide affordable medicines to low- and middle-income countries for neglected or re-emergent viral diseases. For additional information on the organization, please visit ICAV's website www.icav-citav.ca

ICAV
International Consortium
on Anti-Virals



CITAV
Consortium International
sur les Thérapies Antivirales

If you can provide assistance in the procurement of such samples, please use the contact information, below:

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Please note: ICAV grants full permission for the non-commercial circulation of this request for assistance to scientists and physicians worldwide.