

## Protocol L

A cross-sectional study for specimen collection to characterize assays and immune responses in support of HIV vaccine trials. Progress towards a preventive HIV vaccine has been slow and after 25 years of focused HIV vaccine research an effective vaccine remains elusive. The encouraging results from the Thai HIV vaccine trial (RV144) in 2009 and the discovery of potent and broadly neutralizing antibodies by a number of research groups have rejuvenated the HIV vaccine field. However the greatest hindrance has been the lack of known correlates of protection and correlates of immunity. In order to infer these correlates studies are required in both HIV positive and HIV negative volunteers. This study is designed to study and characterize immune responses in HIV positive individuals, at the same time use this background information to develop assays and methods that can be used to evaluate HIV vaccines, assess factors that may alter immune responses, and assess cryopreservation of Peripheral Blood Mononuclear cells (PBMCs) in preparation for HIV vaccine studies. The new focus for HIV vaccine development is the design of vaccines that will elicit both Cellular as well humoral immunity. There is need therefore to develop new assays and methods that will be able to assess the vaccine response in the peripheral as well as in the mucosal tissues.