

CFAR Update

Number 2, August 2009

The Programme EVA Centre for AIDS Reagents (EVA CFAR) has just passed the 20 year mark since being formally established at the National Institute of Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC), UK in 1988. Since that time the reagent resource centre has gone from being an interim repository to an active reagent facility designed to produce, characterise and provide a vast range of key HIV/AIDS reagents, reference materials and standards to the global scientific research community. The overall objective of Programme EVA CFAR has been, and continues to be, to facilitate and stimulate research in HIV/AIDS research through the provision and dissemination of HIV/AIDS-related reagents. The reagent repository is a central source of quality-controlled HIV/AIDS reagents and provides information and advice to the international research community.



NIBSC, UK

Materials housed in the repository range from cell lines, viruses, molecular / cDNA clones, expression systems and constructs, monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies,

recombinant proteins, peptides, cytokines, chemokines, anti HIV drugs and compounds and other miscellaneous reagents. Over the last 20 years, more than 90,000 reagents have been distributed to investigators throughout the globe including the Far East, Asia, Africa, the Americas, Australia and mainland Europe.

Currently over 4200 reagents in 15 distinct categories are available for distribution, thanks to the generous contributions made by innovative scientists from a range of organisations and to those individuals who have provided expert technical assistance for maximising the use of reagents. Scientists who wish to donate reagents to the facility or enquire about the suitability of new reagents should contact CFAR@nibsc.hpa.org.uk

The Centralised Facility receives financial support and funding from the National Institute of Biological Standards and Control, now part of the of the UK Health Protection Agency (HPA), and several other international collaborations including three European Union programmes: 'European HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Enterprise' (EUROPRISE Network of Excellence), 'AIDS Vaccine Integrated Project' (AVIP), 'Next Generation HIV-1 Immunogens Inducing Broadly Reactive Antibodies' (NGIN); and the international 'Global HIV Vaccine Research Cryorepository' (GHRC), which is part of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 'Collaboration for AIDS Vaccine Discovery' (CAVD). Further information about the various programmes can be found under '**Collaborators & Key Contacts**' on our website.

The international facility has an ongoing collaborative agreement with the National Institute of Health AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program (NIH ARRRP), USA to facilitate access to their collection and reagents.

New Additions:

VIRUSES:

1. Aldrithiol-2 treated HIV-1 clade B virus (MN)/H9 CL.4
2. HIV-1 primary isolates from Spain:
 - Acute infections: Clade B, C
 - Recent infections: Clade B, CRF02_AG
 - Newly Diagnosed infections: Clade B, C, G, CRF02_AG, CRF14_BG
 - Chronic infections: Clade G
3. HIV-1 primary isolate 99ZACM9 (Clade C)

CELL LINES:

4. Stabilised cell standards for ICS/ELISPOT assays
5. U87.CD4 cell lines (have CXCR4 or CCR5 chimeric receptors)

EXPRESSION SYSTEMS/cDNA:

6. Human APOBEC3G DNA
7. pNL4-3.Luc.R-E

ANTIBODIES:

8. Murine monoclonal antibodies to HIV-1 Clade C (CN54 and 96CN651)env gp140
9. Tat protein
10. N-terminal of CXCR4, A3G
11. Trim5Alpha, SIV tat
12. HIV-1 human neutralising monoclonal antibodies: 4E10 and m14, freeze dried TriMab
13. HIV-1 human IgG (HIVIGLOB)
14. HIV-1 inactivated plasma pool (Ugandan)

PROTEINS AND PEPTIDES:

15. HIV-1 nef protein (Clade A, B, C)
16. Overlapping 15-mer peptides to HIV-1 96ZM651 (Subtype C) env gp140
17. Overlapping 9mer and 15 mer peptides to SIV Gag, Rev, Nef and Tat
18. FEC positive control peptides – 32 peptide pool
19. APOBEC3G protein
20. HIV-1 gp140 env protein to 92UG037 (Clade A), CN54 (Clade C), and UG21 (clade D)
21. Trim5Alpha protein
22. HIV-1 tat protein (consensus B)

ANTI-HIV COMPOUNDS/MISCELLANEOUS:

23. PSC-RANTES, GM-CSF

The Centre for AIDS Reagents website at <http://www.nibsc.ac.uk/spotlight/aids.html> serves as a starting point for HIV/AIDS researchers and has a searchable electronic catalogue, relevant links, reagent request forms, pricing and shipping information. All repository

users must complete the appropriate reagent release agreement to order their reagents.

Reagents are provided free of charge although a small handling fee is applied to maintain the facility and offset administrative and infrastructure costs. These are kept under review and are subject to change. Please check our website for up to date information.

The CFAR facility is a small research resource unit where reagents, technical expertise and advice are provided and shared with the HIV/AIDS scientific community. Members of the CFAR Repository include:

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Announcements:

Improvements to CFAR website

We are currently working to improve our CFAR website in order to make it easier to search for reagents. We also hope to make all the reagent data sheets accessible on the website and have a reagent submission form in the near future.

CFAR Compliance with ISO9001

The Centre for AIDS Reagents has recently sought certification under the ISO9001 quality system for the receipt, storage, stock control and dispatch of repository reagents. We aim to provide a first-rate service to users of the repository.

We hope you will find our reagents and services useful and we look forward to your continued support.

CFAR Staff