

CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTRE (CRC)

Abuja, Nigeria



The mission of the CRC is to support high quality clinical research aimed at generating knowledge for the prevention, control and development of countermeasures against emerging infectious diseases of public health importance. A regional leader in clinical research, the Centre is dedicated to generating the knowledge necessary to develop innovative solutions to medical challenges and providing a conducive environment for the training of future generations of scientists.

The CRC was established in 2014 through a United States-Nigeria military-to-military partnership. The centre has approximately 20 staff, a clinical laboratory and receives additional support from the Nigerian Defence Reference Laboratory (ISO 15189 accredited by American Association for Laboratory Accreditation). It has the capacity to enroll 20 new vaccine trial participants per day.

The CRC's key research activities include the execution of clinical trials and cohort studies as well as the implementation of professional development and training programs.

CURRENT STUDIES

Ebola Vaccine (Ad26.ZEBOV/MVA-BN-Filo)

- Enrolled 38 participants
 - 22 healthy and 16 HIV+ adults
- Retention rate of 89.5% at 12 months

Study of Severe Infectious Disease in West Africa

- Multi-site study designed for early identification and characterization of cases of suspected emerging infectious diseases in Nigeria, Liberia and Ghana

African HIV Cohort Study (AFRICOS)

- Large, long-term cohort study at multiple African sites that evaluates HIV prevention and treatment services supported through local facilities, funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

COMPLETED STUDIES

Ebola Vaccine (ChAd3-EBO-Z)

- The first Ebola vaccine trial in Nigeria, conducted between August 2015 and November 2016
- Enrolled 330 participants, exceeding the original sample size expectation for Nigeria by over 100%
- Retention rate of 99.4% at 12 months
- The CRC research team was recognised as a top performer by the CRO (IQVIA)

TRUST HIV Cohort Study

- Prospective cohort study characterizing HIV and STI prevalence, incidence and risk behaviors among men who have sex with men (MSM)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Epidemiological studies and clinical trials in Emerging Infectious Diseases including:
 - Lassa epidemiological study
 - Lassa candidate vaccine trials
- Investigational new drug trials for monkey pox

CRC Facility Includes:

- Data management office
- 2100 m², detached 2-story, leased commercial duplex house, with the outbuilding designed and developed into a well equipped clinical laboratory
- Stand-alone meeting/ orientation/training rooms are also located within the compound
- Reception room
- Five consulting office spaces
- Emergency unit
- Phlebotomy section
- Biosafety cabinets and ventilation hoods
- Pharmacy
- Regulatory office
- Storage capacity for fixed assets
- On-site lab with -80°C cold sample repository
- Community engagement unit

The Centre works in collaboration with a number of international collaborators including the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and its Emerging Infectious Diseases Branch and U.S. Military HIV Research Program. The Centre is supported by HJFMRI and the Nigerian Ministry of Defence (NMOD).