

ICAP at Columbia University

Job Description

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| Job Title: | Laboratory Technologist |
| Reports To (Title): | TRACE Laboratory Advisor |
| Incumbent: | New |
| Location: | Rwanda |
| Date: | September 22,2021 |

POSITION SUMMARY:

Reporting to the Laboratory Advisor, the Laboratory technologist is responsible for day-to-day laboratory operations related to HIV Recency and Viral Load testing at National Reference Laboratory and Hubs. The Laboratory technologist will work closely with the NRL staff of immune-Virology section to ensure that VL and recency samples are received, processed, tested, and results are returned through existing Lab information system in a timely manner. This is a grant funded, One-year contract.

MAJOR ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Receive HIV Recency and Viral load samples from the NRL Catchment area and process them according to SOPs
- Perform HIV viral load and Recency testing at NRL using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
- Ensuring that HIV viral load and Recency samples are tested at Hubs and results are returned within established Turnaround time.
- Providing supportive mentorship at VL and Recency testing Hubs.
- Provide support to RTRI testing sites and ensure that HIV recency QC is performed regularly and site's performance report produced
- Ensuring the availability of Asante HIV-1 rapid recency assay kits and HIV viral load reagents at Hubs.
- Monitor storage conditions of HIV Recency and Viral load reagents/Kits

- Provide technical assistance to Lab staff and nurses on laboratory surveillance domains, including HIV recency testing, quality control, data capture, analysis, and interpretation.
- Participate in QA/QC activities including Proficiency Testing in HIV testing services (HTS) and Recency Testing.
- Prepare weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports
- Perform other duties, as directed.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's in Biomedical Laboratory Sciences or related Field

EXPERIENCE, SKILLS & MINIMUM REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Laboratory-based experience (at least 2 years), preferably experience on HIV Viral load testing in recognized health facilities
- Experience in laboratory information systems (LIS & VLSMS) is an added advantage.
- Strong organizational and good analytical laboratory skills
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong team player
- Proficiency in relevant computer applications: MS Word, Excel, Internet, Email, etc.
- Ability to function independently or with minimal supervision
- Ability to adhere to Biosafety and biosecurity measures
- Ability to work flexible hours as required

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS:

Requires frequent travel within Rwanda for supportive mentorship visits.