

Job Title:	Recency Lab Manager
Reports To (Title):	ICAP Recency Coordinator, El Salvador
Incumbent	NEW
Location:	San Salvador, El Salvador
Date:	January 2021

Position Summary:

ICAP at Columbia University has received funding to work with Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG) to roll out rapid test for HIV-1 recent infection (RTRI) testing funded through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The recency program will monitor epidemic trends, inform rapid programmatic responses at national, local and individual levels and accelerate progress towards epidemic control. ICAP is tasked to provide technical assistance in scaling up the use of rapid recency assays at HIV testing sites and build data systems to capture recency data to characterize emerging hotspots and help target prevention interventions. The recency testing rollout will take place in El Salvador.

Reporting to the ICAP Recency Coordinator in El Salvador, the Recency Lab Manager will be responsible for the provision of technical assistance of laboratory-related program activities in El Salvador. The incumbent will work closely with the Senior Technical Advisor for Laboratory Surveillance in NY, Regional Laboratory Advisors and country-based laboratory teams from ICAP, CDC and UVG to provide guidance regarding the development of laboratory templates, guidance documents, tools and any trainings as needed in El Salvador. The incumbent will also work to support laboratory surveillance to facilitate effective data use for decision making.

This position is grant funded.

Major Accountabilities:

The Recency Lab Manager will assume the following responsibilities:

- Work closely with the Senior Technical Advisor for Laboratory Surveillance to provide guidance, support and training to a highly skilled team of in-country laboratory specialists
- Work closely with strategic information team staff to manage and analyze HIV recency data
- Review of the laboratory-related aspects of HIV recency testing and counseling, protocol design, training, implementation and evaluation to ensure consistency and quality
- Implementation of strategies to strengthen and enhance laboratory systems infrastructure and capacity within El Salvador, including strategies to build the skills of in-country laboratory personnel to manage and participate in data collection and analysis
- Develop and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) for laboratory components of the program, including but not limited to specimen collection, storage, transport, testing as well as data management and flow, and routine data reviews as needed for El Salvador
- Develop and implement quality control measures required for monitoring specimen quality and storage conditions, as well as data completeness and consistency across

multiple sources of data including laboratory instruments and routine clinical data at targeted sites

- Work with UVG staff to establish routine, continuous quality improvement (CQI) processes for rapid recency testing/testing algorithm, including continuous training and quality
- Work with UVG staff on laboratory surveillance domains, including HIV recency testing, quality control, data capture, analysis, and interpretation.
- Represent the program on consultations and meetings related to laboratory surveillance issues.
- Liaise with other members of multidisciplinary project teams, including leadership, laboratory, strategic information, clinical and procurement and operational staff, as needed
- Perform other duties, as directed.

Education:

BS or MS in laboratory science or related field

Experience, Skills, and Minimum Required Qualifications:

- Minimum five (5) years of experience in laboratory services and laboratory management
- Demonstrated technical expertise in laboratory management, quality assurance, quality control, biosafety, document development, specimen management, and use of electronic information systems within a laboratory context
- Experience in HIV incidence testing as part of surveys, preferably HIV LAg-Avidity testing
- Demonstrated technical expertise in routine laboratory and clinical data driven surveillance activities
- Demonstrated experience serving as a technical resource and in supervisory roles
- Proven ability to effectively train and build capacity of local/country partners
- Fluent English and Spanish oral and written communication skills; ability to interact professionally in English and Spanish.
- Qualified candidates with valid work authorization are highly encouraged to apply.
- Previous experience working to support the establishment and operations of laboratory systems in Central America.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

- Requires frequent travel within El Salvador for TA and/or monitoring visits, along with 1-2 international trips per year with each trip lasting approximately five (5) to ten (10) days.