

## Draft 2

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### Natural Immunity Consortia Scientific Steering Committee TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### Mandate of the Natural Immunity to HIV Consortium (NIHC or NIC)

The mandate of the Natural Immunity Consortium is to facilitate discovery and validation of correlates of protection to HIV infection on subjects who are exposed to HIV, but yet remain uninfected in order to facilitate novel knowledge and approaches for HIV vaccines, microbicides and novel therapeutic development by:

1. creating the supporting infrastructure to: share knowledge, data and experiences;
2. develop and expand site capacity;
3. develop shared protocols and definitions;
4. encourage and facilitate collaboration
5. encourage the sharing of data, scientific approaches and specimens
6. develop shared funding proposals and studies

Ideally, the mandate would be implemented using a phased-in approach with phase 1 being the establishment of a virtual consortia with modest infrastructure and support and phase 2 the establishment of a formal research community with direct research infrastructure, funding and support.

#### Phase 1: "Virtual" Consortia

- Share knowledge, information, definitions and data thru annual meetings ,online websites and shared databases
- Build intellectual, scientific, and process based capacity thru exchange of best practices, approaches and research protocols
- Facilitate and encourage collaboration by establishing virtual inventories of specimens, study groups and scientific approaches
- Help develop joint funding proposals by matching like minded researchers and facilitating grant submissions

This would be supported by a modest infrastructure of administrative support, databases, scientific and legal expertise to facilitate these activities

#### Phase 2: Formal research community

- Build capacity with hiring of technical, personal, and physical infrastructure support
- Facilitate and encourage collaboration by establishment and implementation of shared protocols, common reagents, technical and scientific staff, and physical specimen and data repositories available to members
- Develop program grants, multi site studies and group wide funding proposals

This would be supported by physical research infrastructure (bricks, mortar, people) available to the consortia community as well as the intellectual and administrative support described above.

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## Guiding Principles

The Mandate is to be accomplished within the following Guiding Principles:

- Open participation, direction and involvement from the involved research communities
- Maintaining the highest standards of scientific practice, ethics, and integrity
- Building on and creating synergy while avoiding duplication
- In harmony with the direction/mandate of the Global HIV Enterprise

## Scientific Steering Committee

The role of the Scientific Steering Committee is to help guide and facilitate the development of a consortium of world-leading basic scientists, clinicians, epidemiologists and social and legal experts to share findings that further understand correlates of protection to infection to HIV.

Specifically the Committee would:

- Enable research by providing direction and suggestions on research priorities....
- Provide leadership on the phasing in of the mandate activities
- Provide oversight on Consortium initiatives

Time Frame: November 18 2009 to November 2011. Phase in from Phase I-II depends on the buy in and enthusiasm in the NIH community and availability of funding.

**Membership:** The membership of the SSC is to be decided upon by the members of the Consortia thru some sort of voting mechanism. Proposed members include

Organization	Name
Public Health Agency of Canada	TBD
University of Manitoba	TBD
International Center for Infectious Disease	TBD
Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise	TBD
Int'l AIDS Vaccine Initiative	TBD
5-7 (?) members from the NIHC community	TBD

## Member Responsibilities:

Members are responsible for attending meetings, reviewing research agenda material, providing feedback, advice, and following through on action items.

## Meeting Schedule:

The Scientific Steering Committee will meet 6 times a year

## Length of Meeting:

Maximum 2 hours

## Meeting Format:

Meetings will be held via teleconference, with one in-person meeting per year