

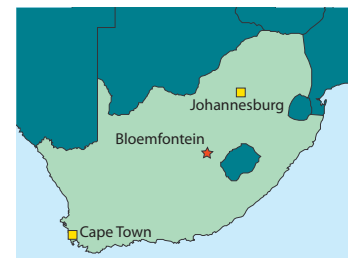
JOSHA RESEARCH CENTRE BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA

Mission: To set the regional standard for public health research—especially HIV-related investigations

Background: An independent clinical research facility in the central business district of Bloemfontein • Founded in 2005 • “JOSHA” is derived from the names of the South African couple who conceived of the centre

Support: Family Health International (FHI), a health research organization in the United States

Research Capacity: Full suite of clinical and behavioural science facilities • State-of-the-art information technology systems • Waiting room • Reception desk • Educational room • Five private counselling rooms • Three clinical exam rooms • Phlebotomy room (with crash cart) • Data management centre with three computers • Private offices for study coordinators, quality assurance group, community liaison officer, and other staff • Access-controlled file room • Meeting room with capacity for 15 people



Services: Treatment of HIV/AIDS with the support of the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), available soon • Treatment of sexually transmitted infections

Staff: Three directors with experience as principal investigators or sub-investigators of clinical trials • Approximately 40 staff members • Research nurses • Research assistants • Outreach specialists • Quality assurance staff • Data management staff

Staff Training: Research ethics • Good Clinical Practice • HIV voluntary counselling and testing • Study-specific research protocols for an HIV incidence study

Experience: Therapeutic trials • Global collaborations • Submissions to institutional review boards • Electronic data capture • Compilation of standard operating procedures • Laboratory procedures • Community involvement and development

Collaborations: Local community health and development program • University of the Free State (houses the local institutional review board) • Free State Department of Health • Hospitals and practitioners in Bloemfontein and the surrounding area • Local colleges • Nongovernmental organizations

Research Activities: HIV incidence study • Cross-sectional phase, initiated in January 2009: Testing of 2,000 women to evaluate the accuracy of the BED assay for estimating the incidence of HIV (“BED” refers to HIV-1 subtypes B, E, and D) • Prospective phase: follow-up of 400 initially seronegative women to measure HIV incidence directly, with subsequent comparison of the two incidence measures

Contact Information

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KEY PERSONNEL

Johan Lombaard, BSc (Hon), MBChB

Positions: Program Director • General practitioner in downtown Bloemfontein • Lead investigator of clinical trials involving infectious and chronic diseases

Responsibilities: Scientific and financial integrity of JOSHA projects • Overall guidance of research

Background: Department of Virology, University of the Free State • Seventeen clinical trials during the past three years

Joseph Kasumba, BSc, MBChB

Positions: Director • Investigator

Responsibilities: Scientific and financial integrity of JOSHA projects • Overall guidance of research • Publication of study results

Background: House officer at the Academic Hospital Complex in Bloemfontein • Master dissector at the University of the Free State • Participant in seventeen clinical trials during the past three years • Responsible for scientific oversight and integrity of many clinical trials

Zaheer Hoosain, MBChB

Positions: Director • Investigator • General practitioner in the Botshabelo township near Bloemfontein

Responsibilities: Scientific and financial integrity of JOSHA projects • Overall guidance of research

Background: Private practice • Local clinics • Hospitals • Recruiting and screening participants • Seventeen clinical trials during the past three years

Sharne Foulkes, MBChB

Position: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Scientific integrity of the HIV-incidence study • Scientific oversight of the studies • Publication of research results • Daily implementation of the HIV-incidence studies

Background: Specialist in ultrasound technology for use in obstetrics and gynaecology • University of the Free State graduate • Investigator for several JOSHA research trials • Practicing physician

Ilsé Reblin, BSocSc (Hon), Nursing

Position: Site Manager • Study Coordinator

Responsibilities: Staff supervisor and team leader for operations, with daily oversight of all operations at the JOSHA site

Background: Registered nurse • Wide experience in public health • Established a clinic for pre-employment examinations including spirometry and audiometry • Seven years at an international clinical research organization • Experience in quality management and logistics

Gustav Venter, ND Biomedical Technology (Clinical Pathology)

Position: Project/Laboratory Manager

Responsibilities: Project management and laboratory operations

Background: Medical technologist • Qualified in haematology, chemical pathology, microbiology, and immunology • Unit supervisor for immunology • Training in lymphocyte subset analysis for antiretroviral therapy • Quality management • Project management at an international clinical research organization