



Translational Virology Core Protocols

Confidentiality and Security

With fast-developing technology, dependable and comprehensive data security measures are key components to defy the perceived threats of Internet hackers and accidental disclosure of confidential information. In the following we provide a summary of the key features pertinent to this project.

- An anonymous participant identification number is used for all data collection, recording, and submission to the project database.
- Data that contain any participant identifiers (e.g., name or contact information) other than the unique identifier are accessible only to staff members whose job requires knowledge of such data.
- Laboratories are instructed not to disseminate any participant identifiers in any communications with, or data submissions to, any other collaborators. Any data transfer over the Internet uses encryption.
- Data transfer and all Web-based utilities use secure access (user and server authentication, 128-bit SSL encryption). This type of encryption is the same as is used for Web-based transactions that involve credit cards or Web banking.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has issued a Confidentiality Certificate to all of the UCSD studies involving acute and early HIV infection and recruitment of sexual partners. This certificate helps to protect the identity of the study participants and ensures that investigators will not be forced to divulge confidential research information that includes names of participants without their written permission, even in the face of a court order.

In addition to the above-listed confidentiality and security procedures, our approach will comply with all requirements of relevant federal and UCSD regulations, including the privacy provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), available online at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HIPAAGenInfo/>.

Contact

Demetrius dela Cruz, Core Administrator

Tel: 858-642-1620

Fax: 858-552-7445

E-mail: ddelacruz@ucsd.edu

URL: <http://cfar.ucsd.edu/core-facilities/translational-virology-core>