

Going together to go far – DBT-THSTI's partners that aided its role in DBT India Research Consortium

To date, DBT India COVID-19 Research Consortium has enrolled more than 2000 COVID-19 positive patients and is following them into their recovery period and collecting valuable clinical information and blood samples at different periods. The samples are processed and stored in a state-of-the-art biorepository at DBT's Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.

This biorepository currently houses nearly 4000 specimens at different time points which are being distributed to the academic institutions and industry to accelerate the innovations in COVID-19 diagnostics. In response to requests, the biorepository has distributed a total of about 2400 sera samples and 55 naso- and oro-pharyngeal swabs to date. Eight development sera panels (including samples from 100 participants), one naso-oro-pharyngeal panels (75 samples), four evaluation sera panels (samples from 100 participants), pooled positive standard and pooled negative standard have been shared. This national resource will help the industry to quickly deliver products that can help the nation in winning this battle against the COVID19 pandemic.



One of the essential tools in the fight against the new Coronavirus disease is diagnostic tests to identify infected individuals. Multiple private and public institutions in India have come forward in this fight and have contributed towards this. But these tests have to be stringently evaluated before they can be used in public health settings. Such a strict evaluation is possible if a collection of well-characterized blood samples is available.

A DBT India COVID-19 Research Consortium was set up between autonomous institutes under Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and multiple public and private hospitals in Delhi National Capital Region. The consortium is coordinated by THSTI. The hospitals that are part of this consortium, from where most of the participants have been enrolled, are Maulana Azad Medical College and affiliated Lok Nayak Hospital in Delhi and ESI Medical College Hospital, Faridabad.

The other clinical partners that have contributed to this national effort are, Civil Hospital, Gurugram, Haryana; Civil Hospital, Palwal, Haryana; Al-Falah School of Medical Science & Research Centre and Hospital, Dhauj, Haryana; Medanta Hospital, Gurugram; Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Government Medical College, Nalhar, Haryana; SGT Medical College, Gurugram, Haryana; and Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi. The research institutions in this consortium are THSTI, Faridabad, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, and International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi.

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