

iMM COVID-19 Research Sample Collection

Standard Operating Procedure

Version 1.6

Authors

Helena Nunes Cabaço
(https://ncabaco@medicina.ulisboa.pt)

António M. Mendes
(antoniomendes@medicina.ulisboa.pt)

With the help of:
Ana Rita Pires, Patrícia Napoleão and Ana Friães

23 April 2020 Page 1 of 21



Table of Contents

General Info & Workflow	3
1 - Working guidelines	3
2 - Workflow	
Equipment & Reagents	4
3 - Laboratory equipment	
4 - Disposable materials	
5 - Reagents	
6 - PPE	
0 11 2	
Procedure Preparation	6
7 - Laboratory preparation	6
8 - Tube labelling & preparation	
9 - BSC preparation	
Sampling Procedure	8
10 - Sample collection	
11 - CPT tube centrifugation	
12 - Serum collection	g
13 - Plasma collection	10
14 - PBMC collection	10
15 - PBMC counting	11
16 - Dry cell pellet preparation	11
17 - PBMC cryopreservation	
18 - BSC cleaning at the end of the protocol	
19 - Exiting the lab	13
Emergency Procedures	14
Annexes	15
Annex 1 – PPE donning	15
Annex 2 – What to do before starting	
Annex 3 – Simplified workflow	
Annex 4 – Cell counting	
Annex 5 – PBMC distribution	
Annex 6 – Exiting the lab	21



General info & Workflow

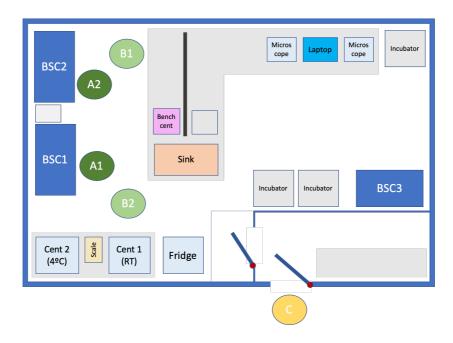
1. Working guidelines

- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn by all laboratory personnel handling specimens
- All technical procedures should be performed in a way that minimizes the generation of aerosols and droplets (e.g. no vigorous vortexing or pipetting)
- o Always use buckets with lids for centrifugation (only open them inside the BSC)
- Always work in double containment outside the BSC
- o Change gloves every time you exit the BSC
- Disinfect all the material leaving the BSC

2. Workflow

- Work performed under BSL-2+ conditions using a validated Biosafety Cabinet (BSC).
- o People in the lab:
 - 2 people working in the BSC (person A1 and person A2)
 - 2 people assisting them (person B1 and person B2)
 - 1 person providing assistance outside the lab (person C)

Lab configuration



23 April 2020 Page 3 of 21



Equipment & Reagents

3. Laboratory equipment

- Centrifuges with buckets for BD Vacutainer tubes and 50ml tubes, with lids
- Microcentrifuge
- Laminar flow hood
- Vortex
- Scale
- Tube racks
- \circ Micropipettes (20 μ l, 200 μ l, 1000 μ l)
- o Labeling material (permanent marker)
- Freezing container, isopropanol-based (e.g. Nalgene cryopreservation device "Mr Frosty"), or alcohol-free cryopreservation system (e.g. CoolCell)
- o Freezer -80°C, connected to a central alarm
- Liquid nitrogen tank/ Liquid nitrogen

4. Disposable materials

- o BD Vacutainer® CPT, 8ml, Sodium citrate, Ficoll (Cat. No. 362782, 60/case)
- Blood collection butterfly for CPT tubes (BD 368655)
- 15 ml and 50 ml conical polypropylene tubes, sterile
- Sterile transfer pasteur pipettes, plastic, 3.5ml
- Disposable hemocytometer (FAST READ 102®, Biosigma)
- Biobank tube labels
- 1,5 or 2 ml sterile cryotubes (Sarstedt 72.692.005 or 72.692.006; for plasma, serum and cell pellet storage at -80°C)
- o 2 ml sterile cryotubes (Greiner 122279; for PBMC cryopreservation)
- Filter tips (20 μl, 200 μl, 1000 μl)
- 2 waste bins (type IV red)

5. Reagents

- 3% Acetic Acid with Methylene Blue (AA/MB; Stemcell Cat. No. #07060)
- o DMSO (Sigma Cat. No. D2650-100ML)
- COLD (4°C) PBS 1x without Ca²⁺ or Mg²⁺, sterile, pH 7.4 (Gibco 10010056);
 daily: have 2x 500 ml bottles in the fridge.
- o **COLD** FBS, heat inactivated, sterile (Gibco 10500064); daily: have 3 x 50 ml aliquots in the fridge (freeze the remaining aliquots and thaw when necessary)
- Daily prepared: 1% Virkon (Fisher Scientific Cat. No. 12328667; dissolve 1 tablet in 500 ml of tap water)
- o **Daily prepared:** 15% bleach (add 75 ml bleach to 425 ml tap water)

23 April 2020 Page 4 of 21



6. PPE

- Lab coat (personal, re-usable)
- o FFP2 (or equivalent; or FFP3) face mask
- o Cap
- o Shoe covers
- o Disposable gown
- o Disposable apron
- 2 pairs of gloves (1st nitrile, 2nd latex)
- Face shield (or protective goggles)

PPE donning (Annex 1)

- 1- Discard your surgical mask
- 2- Put on face mask FFP2/3
- 3- Put on cap
- 4- Put on your regular lab coat
- 5- Put on shoe covers
- 6- Put on the disposable gown
- 7- Put on **inner gloves (nitrile)** placing them over the cuffs of the overall
- 8- **Tape gloves** to the overall to prevent gaps
- 9- Put on the second pair of gloves (latex) over the first one
- 10- Put on apron over the disposable gown

Double-check that all PPE is correctly worn

When finished knock at the door so that the next person will enter

Enter the lab
Close the door behind you

11- In the lab: Put on face shield (or protective goggles)

23 April 2020 Page 5 of 21



Procedure Preparation

7. Lab preparation (see Annex 2 for Lab preparation per position)

- o Turn the BSC UVs on for 20 minutes before opening the hood
- o Prepare virkon/bleach
- Make bleach and ethanol wipes
- Prepare spill kit: box with paper towels soaked in bleach
- Place Centrifuge 2 and microcentrifuge at 4°C
- Make sure there is cold PBS (2 bottles) and cold FBS (3 thawed aliquots)
- Open "Research samples database" excel in laptop
- o Check that the "Mr Frosty" freezing containers are ready to take samples

8. Tube labeling & preparation

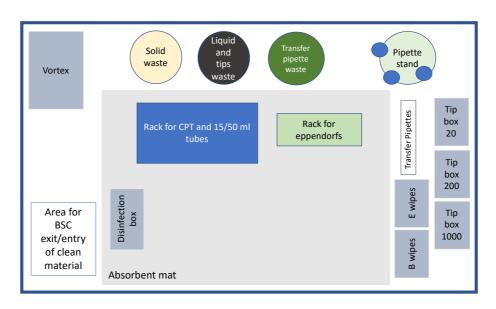
- Label cryotubes:
 - Use biobank labels
 - Place tubes in order of collection per patient (serum, plasma, cell pellets, frozen cells) in a box
 - Write the correspondence of Biobank labels and codes in the laptop
- o Per patient you should have:
 - o 6 tubes for serum collection
 - o 6 tubes for plasma collection
 - o 4 tubes for dry cell pellets
 - o 6 tubes for PBMCs
 - o 50 ml falcon for PBMC collection
 - o 50 ml falcon with PBS for PBMC washing
 - o 15 ml falcon with 10 ml PBS for PBMC resuspension before counting
 - $_{\odot}$ 1 tube with 80 μl 3% Acetic Acid with Methylene Blue for cell counts

23 April 2020 Page 6 of 21

9. BSC preparation

- O Place inside the BSC:
 - Absorbent mat
 - Vortex
 - Permanent pen
 - Solid waste (bucket with a bag)
 - Liquid waste (plastic bottle with ~100 ml pure bleach); also for tips
 - Transfer pipette waste with diluted bleach/virkon (tall waste bottle)
 - Pipette stand (pipettes: 20 μl, 200 μl and 1000 μl)
 - Tip boxes (20 μl, 200 μl and 1000 μl)
 - Transfer plastic pipettes
 - Racks (for CPT tubes and for eppendorfs)
 - Disinfection box (box with bleach/virkon wipes to place lids)
 - Bleach/Virkon wipes
 - Ethanol wipes

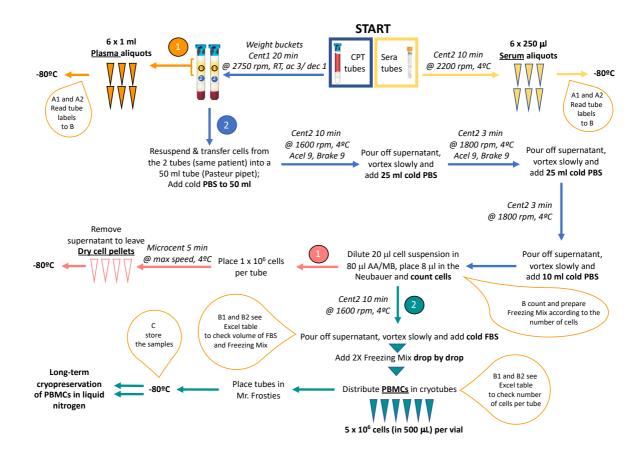
BSC layout



23 April 2020 Page 7 of 21



Sampling Procedure



(Annex 3)

10. Sample collection

- 10.1. Two CPT tubes of blood and 1 serum tube are collected per patient
- 10.2. Samples are brought from Hospital de Santa Maria to IMM entry in **quadruple contention**
- 10.3. Blood samples should be stored **upright at room temperature** and centrifuged within 4 hours of blood collection
- 10.4. Person C: pick up the samples and handle to person B1 in the lab
- 10.5. Person B: remove plastic bag with box of tubes from waterproof bag, clean plastic bag with bleach wipes and handle to person A in BSC1; go to laptop



23 April 2020 Page 8 of 21



11. CPT tube centrifugation

Note: Centrifuge 1 supports a maximum of 16 CPT tubes per centrifugation. If more than 8 patients are to be done at a time do 2 sequential centrifugations.

- 11.1. A1/A2: remove box from the plastic bag and wipe box with bleach wipes
- 11.2. Visually inspect the tubes to confirm they are ok
- 11.3. Carefully remove CPT tubes from the plastic box, one by one, and clean with bleach wipes; clean lid first and trash wipes, then clean sides of the tube
- 11.4. Dictate the SNS number to B1/B2 on the computer; B1/B2 repeats the SNS number and attributes a code to the sample (S1, S2, etc)
- 11.5. A1/A2: write the code on the side of the CPT tube
- 11.6. Remix blood sample by gently inverting the tube 8 to 10 times, place tube in the rack and proceed to next tube
- 11.7. Place tubes in the buckets (max 4 per bucket, all placed centrally; even opposite buckets) and close lid
- 11.8. Wipe buckets with bleach wipes and then ethanol wipes (make sure they are not slippery) and place in the BSC "exit" zone on the left
- 11.9. B1/B2: pick up one bucket and weight it, place it in Centrifuge 1
- 11.10. Pick up 2nd bucket and weight to confirm there is minimal difference from the 1st one (max 10 g); if not re-handle both buckets to A1 to try and redistribute the tubes or use balances
- 11.11. B: Centrifuge tubes at 2750 rpm (~1500 g), 20 min, 20°C, acceleration 3/break 1
- 11.12. During centrifugation: B1/2: handle cold PBS to A1/A2; A1/A2: label 50ml tubes with patient codes (S1, S2, ...) and fill them with PBS

12. Serum collection

- 12.1. A1/A2: remove box from the plastic bag and wipe box with bleach wipes
- 12.2. Visually inspect the tubes to confirm they are ok
- 12.3. Carefully remove serum tubes from the plastic box, one by one, and clean with bleach wipes; clean lid first and trash wipes, then clean sides of the tube
- 12.4. Write the sample code of the corresponding patient in each tube
- 12.5. Place tubes in centrifuge buckets and close lid
- 12.6. Wipe buckets with bleach wipes and then ethanol wipes (make sure they are not slippery) and place in "exit" zone on the left
- 12.7. B1/B2: pick up one bucket and weight it, place in Centrifuge 2
- 12.8. Pick up 2nd bucket and weight to confirm there is minimal difference from the 1st one (max 10 g); if not re-handle both buckets to A1 to try and redistribute the tubes or use balances
- 12.9. B: Centrifuge tubes at 2200 rpm (~1000 g), 10 min, 4°C
- 12.10. Carefully remove buckets with lid and handle them to A1/A2
- 12.11. A1: visually inspect tubes before opening

23 April 2020 Page 9 of 21



- 12.12. Remove bucket lid and carefully remove each serum tube, making sure it is not damaged; clean tube with bleach wipes and place in rack
- 12.13. Open serum tube carefully and place lid on disinfection box, inside facing down
- 12.14. Collect the upper 250 μ l of serum into 6 tubes (distribute the rest of the serum, if any left, through all tubes)
- 12.15. Close the lid of the serum tube carefully and place it in solid waste
- 12.16. Proceed to the next serum tube
- 12.17. Confirm tube labels with B1/B2
- 12.18. Place serum tubes in a cryopreservation box and wait until plasma is also collected

13. Plasma collection

- 13.1. After CPT tube centrifugation: B1/B2: Carefully remove buckets with lid from Centrifuge 1 and place them in BSC1/BSC2
- 13.2. A1/A2: visually inspect tubes to make sure they are not damaged
- 13.3. Remove bucket lid, carefully remove tubes and make sure they are not damaged
- 13.4. Open the CPT tubes carefully and place the lids inside down on disinfection box
- 13.5. Collect the upper 3x1 ml of plasma of each tube into cryopreservation tubes (total 6x1 ml aliquots; distribute the rest through all tubes until reaching just over the "8 ml" blue mark in the CPT tube)
- 13.6. Proceed to PBMC collection protocol with the same CPT tube
- 13.7. In the end of plasma collections: Confirm tube labels with B1/B2
- 13.8. Place plasma tubes in the same box as serum tubes, after them (organized per patient)
- 13.9. Wipe the box with bleach wipes and handle it to B1/B2 (through exit zone)
- 13.10. B1/B2 place the boxes in the fridge

14. PBMC collection

- 14.1. A1/A2: Resuspend cells in the remaining plasma with a sterile transfer pipette
- 14.2. Transfer cells from the 2 CPT tubes of the same volunteer to one 50 ml tube
- 14.3. Add cold PBS to each CPT tube (no need to change the pipette) and transfer cells to the 50 ml tube; repeat step until gel matrix is clean
- 14.4. Place pipette in the pipette waste
- 14.5. Close CPT tubes and place them in the solid waste
- 14.6. Top up 50 ml tube with cells to 50ml with cold PBS
- 14.7. Repeat for every CPT tube
- 14.8. B1/B2: handle 50 ml buckets to A1/A2 (place in BSC)
- 14.9. A1/A2: clean 50 ml tubes with bleach wipes, place in buckets, close lid and wipe bucket; place in exit zone
- 14.10. B: place buckets in Centrifuge 2; Centrifuge at 1600 rpm (~500 g), 10 min, 4°C
- 14.11. After centrifugation: B1/B2 handle buckets to A1/A2

23 April 2020 Page 10 of 21



- 14.12. A1/A2: open lid and remove tubes from buckets
- 14.13. Gently pour off supernatant
- 14.14. Resuspend pellet by slowly vortexing
- 14.15. Add 25 ml cold PBS (slowly pour directly from the bottle)
- 14.16. Clean 50 ml tubes with bleach wipes, place in buckets, close lid and wipe bucket; place in exit zone

2X

- 14.17. B1: place buckets in Centrifuge 2; Centrifuge at 1800 rpm (~700 g), 3 min, 4°C
- 14.18. After centrifugation: B1/B2 handle buckets to A1/A2
- 14.19. Repeat wash (steps 14.12 14.18)
- 14.20. B1/B2: give falcon tubes containing 10 ml PBS each to A1/A2
- 14.21. A1/A2: Gently pour off supernatant
- 14.22. Resuspend pellet by slowly vortexing (make sure the pellet is fully resuspended)
- 14.23. Add 10 ml cold PBS (slowly pour falcon tubes with 10 ml PBS) to the cells

15. PBMC counting

- 15.1. B1/B2: give tubes with 80 μl 3% AA/MB and counting chamber to A1/A2
- 15.2. A1/A2: add 20 μl of cells (agitate sample tube; 1:5 dilution) and resuspend
- 15.3. Place 8 μl in the disposable counting chamber and write patient code
- 15.4. Place chamber in a pipette tip box covered with bleach wipes and handle to B1/B2
- 15.5. B1/B2: count cells in the microscope; Count cells in 4 fields and write values in Research Samples Database excel sheet (see **Annex 4 cell counting**)
- 15.6. Calculate the volume of FBS to add for a concentration of 20 x 10⁶ cells/ml (consider ~200 μl of PBS remain in tube after centrifuging and subtract that volume)
- 15.7. B1/B2: Tell A1/A2 the volume to add to each patient (by code) of: cell pellets (for 1 x 10⁶ cells); FBS and Freezing Mix; and the # of vials (check Research Samples Database excel sheet/Annex 5 PBMC distribution)
- 15.8. A1/A2: write volumes in the tubes; keep 50 ml tubes in cold buckets while preparing cell pellets

16. Dry cell pellet preparation

- 16.1. A1/A2: place the appropriate volume of cell suspension in each of the tubes
- 16.2. Place tubes in a box, disinfect box and handle to B1/B2
- 16.3. B1/B2: place tubes in microcentrifuge
- 16.4. Centrifuge at max speed, 5 min, 4°C
- 16.5. B1/B2 places tubes in the box and handle to A1/A2
- 16.6. A1/A2: Remove all the supernatant to leave a dry pellet
- 16.7. B1/B2: give box with serum/plasma tubes to A1/A2
- 16.8. A1/A2: Place tubes inside the box, wipe box with bleach wipes and give it to B1/B2
- 16.9. B1/B2 places the box in at 4°C until PBMCs are in the cryopreservation containers (all sample components will be placed at -80°C later)

23 April 2020 Page 11 of 21



17. PBMC Cryopreservation

- 17.1. A1/A2: Close and clean buckets (with tubes with cells inside) and handle to B1/B2
- 17.2. B1/B2: Centrifuge at 1600 rpm (~500 g), 10 min, 4°C
- 17.3. During centrifugation: B1/B2 prepare Freezing Mix (20% DMSO in FBS) in BSC3 and handle FBS and Freezing Mix reagents to A1/A2
- 17.4. After centrifugation: B1/B2 handle buckets to A1/A2
- 17.5. A1/A2: open lid and remove tubes from buckets
- 17.6. Gently pour off supernatant
- 17.7. Resuspend pellet by slowly vortexing
- 17.8. Add volume of cold FBS to place the cells at a concentration of 20 x 10⁶ cells/ml
- 17.9. Add to the cells, drop by drop, a volume of cold Freezing Mix equivalent to the FBS volume in the tube (final cell concentration: 10x10⁶ cells/ml)
- 17.10. Shake gently
- 17.11. Transfer 500 μl of suspension (5x10⁶ cells) to each cryotube (distribute remaining volume through all tubes; B1/B2: confirm labels);
- 17.12. Transfer the tubes into the freezing container (Mr. Frosty or CoolCell)
- 17.13. Wipe freezing container and handle to B1/B2
- 17.14. B1/B2 place the boxes and freezing containers in a bag and handle it to C
- 17.15. C places the freezing containers and the boxes with serum/plasma/pellets at -80°C
- 17.16. Biobank staff will transfer the cryotubes into a liquid nitrogen storage container and register their position

18. BSC cleaning at the end of the protocol

- 18.1. A1/A2: clean material that should leave the BSC thoroughly with bleach wipes and then ethanol wipes and handle to B1/B2 through the exit zone
- 18.2. Close wastes, clean with bleach wipes and handle to B1/B2 to place in Class IV (red) waste container
- 18.3. Clean all the material staying inside the BSC (pipettes, pipette tips, trash bucket) thoroughly with bleach wipes and then ethanol wipes
- 18.4. Close absorbent mat towards the inside and place it in the solid waste
- 18.5. Clean the BSC thoroughly with bleach wipes and then ethanol wipes
- 18.6. B1/B2 handle 2 pieces of tape to A1/A2 and 1 bag
- 18.7. A1/A2: close solid waste bag with tape
- 18.8. Place bag with waste inside a 2nd bag
- 18.9. Remove gloves and place inside the 2nd bag
- 18.10. Put on new clean gloves and close the bag with tape
- 18.11. Clean 2nd bag with bleach wipes, bring it out of the BSC and place in Class IV (red) waste container
- 18.12. Turn BSC UVs on
- 18.13. Close Class IV (red) waste container and place outside with a "COVID-19" sign

23 April 2020 Page 12 of 21



19. Exiting the Lab (Annex 5)

- 19.1. B1/B2: save Research Samples Database file and save a backup file ending with the date (YYYYMMDD) in the Backup folder
- 19.2. Before exiting the experimental handling room, make sure you observed all the room procedures (A1/A2: make sure you changed gloves inside the BSC)
- 19.3. Remove the face shield (or protective goggles) Disinfect it with 15% bleach and then 70% Alcohol
- 19.4. Remove apron
- 19.5. Remove shoe covers
- 19.6. Remove outer pair of gloves
- 19.7. Remove disposable gown (you may have to tear the gown since its taped)
- 19.8. Remove inner pair of gloves
- 19.9. Put a new pair of latex gloves (near you in the cabinet)
- 19.10. Hold your breath, remove face mask and cap and dispose of it in the appropriate bin near you
- 19.11. Remove gloves and put a new pair of latex gloves
- 19.12. Leave the lab and go to the vestibule in your regular lab coat only
- 19.13. Remove lab coat and hang it
- 19.14. Remove gloves and disinfect your hands
- 19.15. Put a new surgical mask on
- 19.16. Leave the vestibule

23 April 2020 Page 13 of 21



Emergency Procedures

If a spill occurs inside the BSC, but does not reach your overall:

- o Cover with bleach wipes and leave for 10 minutes
- o Remove absorbent mat in the BSC and put it in the solid waste bag
- o Close the bag and discard
- o Discard contaminated gloves and put new ones
- o Decontaminate all the materials and work surface of BSC with bleach wipes
- Discard contaminated gloves and put news ones
- Place new absorbent mat in the BSC work area and continue to work

If a spill occurs inside the BSC and reaches your overall:

- Remove any contaminated clothing/PPE, bag it, and discard in the solid waste container
- In the unlikely event that a spill may reach your clothes, emergency clothing will be provided

If a minor spill occurs outside the BSC:

- Proceed to clean the spill:
 - Cover with bleach wipes and allow it to act for 20 minutes
 - Thoroughly wipe the area with bleach wipes and ethanol wipes and discard the waste into a primary solid waste bag. Close the bag, wipe it and place it in the solid container for disposal. Replace the external gloves.
 - Continue working, if necessary.

If a major spill occurs outside the BSC:

- All personnel should exit the room immediately
- Once outside the room, remove PPE following the regular procedure and place all disposable items in a red container
- Wait 1 hour before re-entering the room, to allow time for potential aerosols to settle
- Put on new PPE before entering the room
- Proceed to clean the spill (see "minor spill" guidelines)

Inform coordinators for further direction:

- Helena Nunes Cabaco
- António Mendes
- iMM Security
- Internal Emergency Numbers

23 April 2020 Page 14 of 21



Annex 1

PPE donning

- 1- Discard your surgical mask
- 2- Put on face mask FFP2/3
- 3- Put on cap
- 4- Put on your regular lab coat
- 5- Put on shoe covers
- 6- Put on the disposable gown
- 7- Put on **inner gloves (nitrile)** placing them over the cuffs of the overall
- 8- **Tape gloves** to the overall to prevent gaps (leave tape end bended to facilitate removal)
- 9- Put on the second pair of gloves (latex) over the first one
- 10- Put on apron over the overall

Double-check that all PPE is correctly worn

When finished knock at the door so that the next person will enter

Enter the lab
Close the door behind you

11- In the lab: Put on face shield (or protective goggles)

23 April 2020 Page 15 of 21



Annex 2

What to do before starting

B1 and B2

Turn on the computer

- ✓ Connect manually to eduroam with your IMM account
- ✓ Log in with your IMM account
- ✓ Open excel file "Research Samples Database"

Check the fridge:

At least 2 full PBS Bottles

3 FBS aliquots defrosted (if not take it from -20 and leave it to defrost)

Place Centrifuge 2 and microcentrifuge at 4°C

Labeling the tubes – Use Biobank codes and labels and label tubes in the following order:

- √ 6 tubes for serum
- √ 6 tubes for plasma
- √ 4 tubes for dry pellets
- √ 6 tubes for cryopreserved PBMC

Prepare:

- ✓ BSC3
 - ✓ Turn on UVs
 - ✓ Turn off UVs after 20 minutes and open the door
 - ✓ Check for:
 - o Solid waste bin
 - o Pipettor and 10 ml pipettes
 - 200 μl and 1000 μl pipettes and tips
- ✓ One 50ml falcon tube for cells Empty with label (SXX)
- ✓ One 15 ml falcon tube with 10ml of PBS (cold, then keep it in the fridge)

23 April 2020 Page 16 of 21



A1 and A2

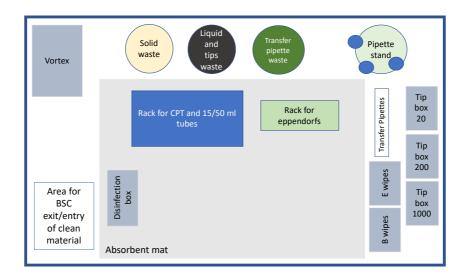
BSC 1 and 2

- ✓ Turn on UVs for 20 minutes
- ✓ Open the door

At the sink prepare:

- ✓ Bleach/virkon wipes
- ✓ Ethanol wipes

Prepare BSC 1 and 2 according to the layout (with the help of B1/B2):



Sit down and place yourself at a working position.

Once you are working your hands should not exit the BSC unless you put on new gloves

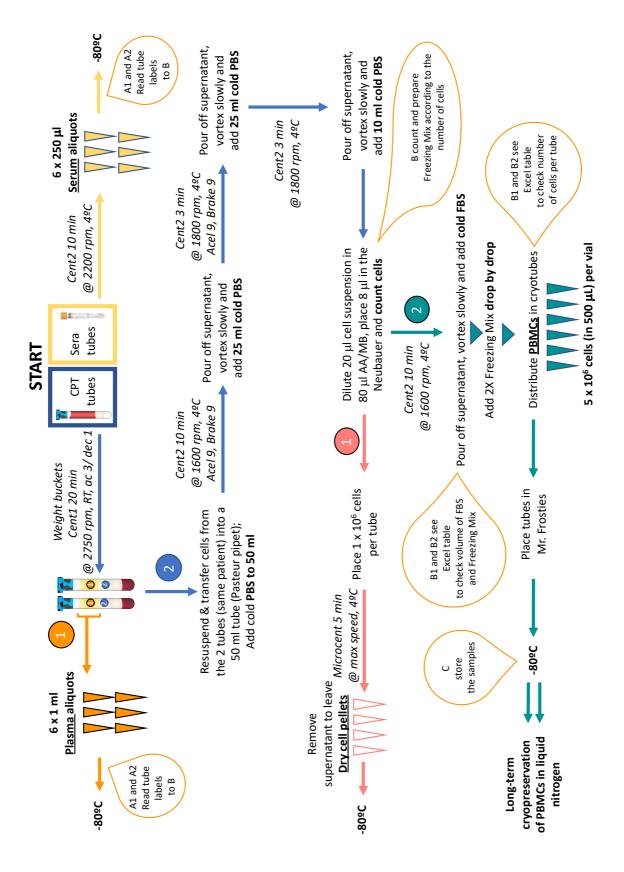
C

- ✓ Be ready to receive the samples at iMM door and deliver them to your colleagues inside the lab. You will have a desk and a laptop to work on your projects while the samples are being prepared
- ✓ You will have access to the inside of the lab by phone
- ✓ Be ready to store samples at -80°C
- ✓ At the end of the procedure make sure that stocks that need to enter for the next day are ready in the vestibule (information from inside the lab)
- ✓ Be ready to help in case of emergency.

23 April 2020 Page 17 of 21



Annex 3 – Simplified Workflow



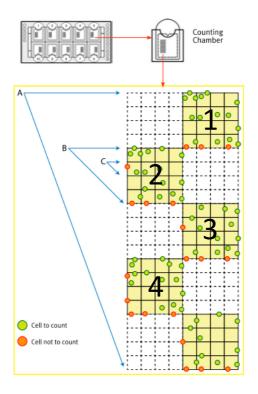
23 April 2020 Page 18 of 21



Annex 4 - Cell counting

- 1. Dilute cells 1:5 in 3% AA/MB (20 μl of cell + 80 μl 3% AA/MB)
- 2. Place 8 μ l of cell dilution per FAST READ 102® counting chamber (label chamber with patient code); Each device allows analysis of 10 samples
 - Each chamber (A) contains a GRID composed of 10 SQUARES (B) divided into 16 smaller squares (C; called SECTORS)
- 3. Count cells in 4 SQUARES (B; 1-4 in figure);
 - Pay attention to the cells on the edges, you should only count those on either side, to avoid over or under counting risk
- 4. Calculate the cell suspension concentration using the Research Samples Database excel based on the formula (considering that each sector corresponds to 0,1 μl of diluted cell suspension):

Cell concentration (cells/ml) = (Average of sector counts) X (dilution) X 10⁴



23 April 2020 Page 19 of 21



Annex 5 – PBMC distribution

Dry cell pellets and cells to cryopreserve

Cells to cryopreserve: final suspension at 10 x 10^6 cells /mL, so 5 x 10^6 cells correspond to 500 μ l (4 x 10^6 are 400 μ l, ...) - distribute any volume left evenly through all the tubes

NOTE: The excel sheet has been modified to make the calculations automatically.

Cells (x 10 ⁶)	# Vials with 1x10 ⁶ cells (cell pellets)	# Vials with 5x10 ⁶ frozen cells (500 μl)
< 4	0	1*
5	0	2**
6	0	2**
7	0	2**
8	0	2 with ~400μl per vial ***
9	1	2 with ~400μl per vial ***
10	1	2 with ~400μl per vial ***
11	1	2
12	1	3 with ~400μl per vial ***
13	1	3 with ~400μl per vial ***
14	2	3 with ~400μl per vial ***
15	2	3 with ~400μl per vial ***
16	2	3 with ~400μl per vial ***
17	2	3
18	3	3
19	4	3
20	4	3
21	4	3
22	4	3
23	4	3
24	4	4
25	4	4
26	4	4
27	4	4
28	4	4
29	4	5
30	4	5
31	4	5
32	4	5
33	4	5
34	4	6
35	4	6
36	4	6
37	4	6
38	4	6
39	4	7
40	4	7

23 April 2020 Page 20 of 21

 $^{^*}$ Less than 4 x 10 6 cells: add 100 μ l of FBS and 300 μ l of Freezing Mix and make 1 vial

^{** 5} to 7 x 10^6 cells: add 400 μ l of FBS and 600 μ l of Freezing Mix and make 2 vials

^{***} make calculations in excel but place less volume (less cells) per vial



Annex 6 - Exiting the lab

In the lab:

- Remove the face shield (or protective goggles) and disinfect it with 15% bleach and then 70% Alcohol
- 2. Remove apron > dispose in the appropriate bin near the exit
- 3. Remove shoe covers > dispose in the appropriate bin near the exit
- 4. Remove outer pair of gloves > dispose in the appropriate bin near the exit
- 5. Remove disposable gown (you may have to tear the gown since its taped) > dispose in the appropriate bin near the exit
- 6. Remove inner pair of gloves > dispose in the appropriate bin near the exit
- 7. Put a new pair of latex gloves (near you in the cabinet)
- 8. Hold your breath, remove face mask and cap > dispose in the appropriate bin near the exit
- 9. Remove gloves and put on a new pair of latex gloves
- 10. Leave the lab to the vestibule in your regular lab coat only

In the vestibule:

- 11. Remove lab coat and hang it
- 12. Remove gloves and disinfect your hands
- 13. Put a new surgical mask on
- 14. Leave the vestibule

23 April 2020 Page 21 of 21