Criteria for Core Laboratory Utilization

Investigators accessing the services of the Core Lab must have GCRC Advisory Committee approval (How to Submit a Protocol). Requests for new assays are reviewed by the GCRC Advisory Committee and decisions are based on demonstrated protocol need, availability of validated assay systems using existing Core instrumentation, and cost-effectiveness. Core Lab staff run protocol assays when the protocol is either complete or at a critical pilot phase. To request assay service, investigators submit a Test Request Form (see link to form at the end of this web site).

Sample Flow

a) The Core Laboratory allots time slots to all investigators who have approved protocols requiring the use of its facilities.

b) Requests for testing are run by investigator slots in rotating order.

c) Investigators indicate the order of priority of their individual requests within their time slot by completing a specific request form for each patient admission.

d) If an investigator desires a greater allocation of assay time, the Core Laboratory can provide approved reagents, instrumentation, and training for assay methodology and data reduction to the investigator's technicians. Such use of Core facilities cannot interfere with normal Core Laboratory operations.

e) The Lab management understands that flexibility in prioritization is sometimes necessary to accommodate the research needs of clinical investigators. "Special need" samples (e.g., samples for grant or scientific presentation deadlines) are given top priority pending a request to Dan Haisenleder, the Core Director.

f) Although the Core Laboratory continues to increase its assay menu, the top priority remains larger volume tests. Other institutional resources are available for esoteric tests requiring labor-intensive and time-consuming procedures.