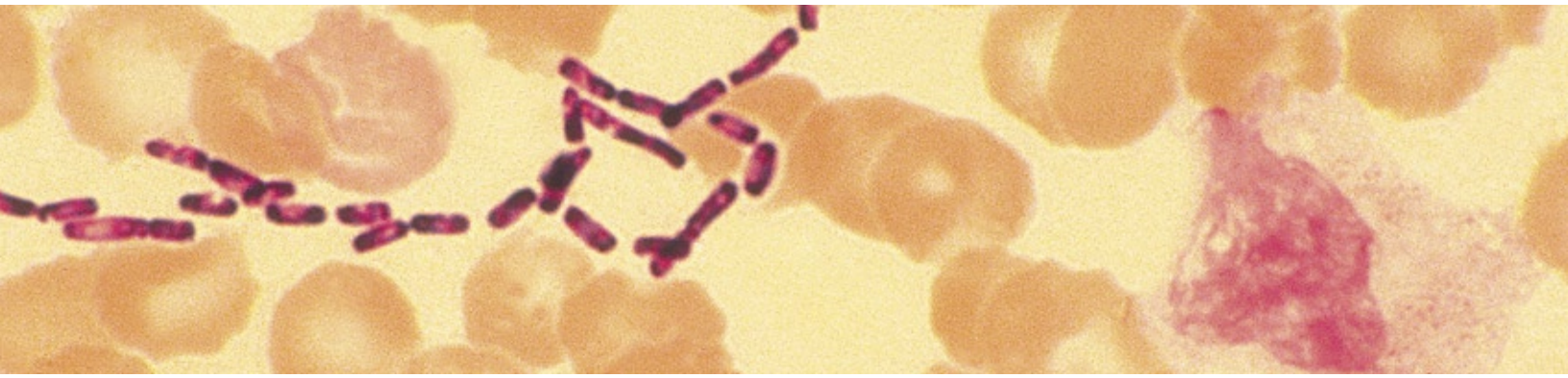
Blood-Borne Infectious Diseases



The major focus of the Blood-Borne Infectious Diseases hub is the identification and development of screening tests for existing and emerging blood-borne pathogens. This includes basic research on blood-borne viruses, bacteria and parasites, the development of cell-culture-based viral infectivity tests, research into the mechanism of viral replication, investigation of new platforms for pathogen detection and research into new pathogen inactivation/reduction methods.

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES
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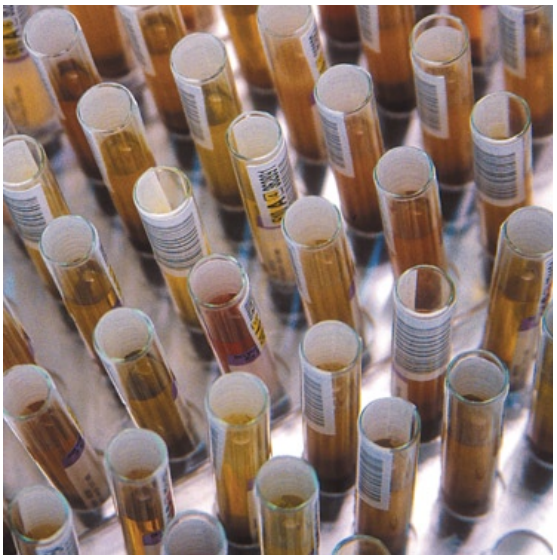

The Blood-Borne Infectious Diseases hub conducts research into the biology of blood-borne pathogens. This research includes genotyping of viruses such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), hepatitis, parvovirus B19, West Nile Virus (WNV) and TT Virus.

This hub also conducts research into other blood-borne pathogens, especially bacteria and parasites. This includes the development of screening tests for Chagas disease and malaria and the investigation of inactivation/reduction methods.

The Canadian Blood Services National Testing Laboratory in Ottawa is also involved in research and development. Its transmissible diseases laboratory collaborates on several projects involved in assessing new serological assays for existing and emerging pathogens such as WNV, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus (SARS CoV), Chagas disease and malaria. This laboratory provides a critical link among confirmatory testing, research and development, and quality control. Its nucleic acid amplification testing (NAT) laboratory is involved in the evaluation and development of new NAT assays and both laboratories will continue to be centres of excellence in their respective areas.

A major aim of the Blood-Borne Infectious Diseases hub is to actively promote cooperative and constructive interaction between Canadian Blood Services and the blood system regulator (Health Canada), universities and other blood operators. This involves participation in working groups, both national and international, to monitor existing and emerging pathogens and to develop and promote the use of written standards and working reagents for validation and standardization of assays for pathogen detection.

"… both laboratories will continue to be centres of excellence in the area of infectious diseases."