

## CD4 EQA

We have completed a thorough evaluation, including material stability, and the details of this new EQA are as follows:

### Start times

The first cycle will commence in September 2006. Thereafter cycles will start in December and June.

### Orders

Orders must be received - at the latest - by 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006, so that samples can be prepared according to the number of enrolments received. Please note that NO late orders will be accepted.

### Description

Each cycle will consist of five 1ml samples of stabilised human EDTA-blood for the measurement of CD4 counts. Thorough testing has shown that the samples have approximately THREE WEEK stability. The samples will be despatched with full instructions on which day ALL of the samples must be tested - this is crucial due to limited sample stability. Results must be returned to us by the stated cut-off date and reports will be issued within two weeks. In a future cycle, we will add samples for VIRAL LOADS, should laboratories wish.

### Cost

Each panel of five samples, representing a cycle, will cost R1980.00 ex-VAT for laboratories in RSA.