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10 April 2024

GENERAL NOTICE:

ADDITIONAL TESTS ON STORED BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The University of the Witwatersrand, Human Research Ethics Committee: (Medical), would like to clarify the following requirements regarding requests for additional tests on stored biological specimens for future research:

Where an Applicant plans to store biological specimens for future research:

- Future research must be within the scope/area of the disease initially being studied.
- If any future work is planned, a study should not be closed completely with the Wits HREC (Medical) but should remain open through Recertification (5 yearly or annually if required by the Sponsor).
- Applications for Additional tests on stored biological specimens (research based on previously approved study) submitted **within 5 years of expiry** of prior ethics approval/recertification will be accepted for processing.
- Applications for Additional tests on stored biological specimens (research based on previously approved study) submitted **after 5 years of expiry** of prior ethics approval/recertification will need to be discussed at a meeting with the HREC before being processed. These applications will be processed on a case-by-case basis.
- When applying for additional tests on stored biological specimens, the committee requires Applicants to complete the '**Application Form for Protocol Amendment to Approved Study**', **Page 2 and section 3.6.**

Regards,

Professor Paul Ruff
Chair, Wits HREC (Medical)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Ruff', written over the typed name.

For and on behalf of the University of the Witwatersrand, Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical)