

Use Of A Volunteer Database For Recruitment Of Participants Into HIV Cure Research

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Background:

In order to rapidly and appropriately recruit diverse trial cohorts that reflect the global HIV epidemic, novel ways of identifying potential participants in HIV cure research is needed. The HIV Cure Volunteer Database was created to facilitate this need.

Methods:

The database is housed on a secure REDCap database and allows registrants to indicate what type of research studies they're interested in – online surveys, interviews/focus groups, donating a blood or tissue sample, leukapheresis, interventional studies or all the above – and their interest in receiving newsletters on HIV cure research updates. Registrants were also asked to provide Medicare status, year of birth and postcode. The database was advertised through social media, posters, flyers and wallet cards in high-case load GP practices and sexual health services with a QR code for scanning.

Results:

To date 229 people with HIV (PWH) in Victoria have registered. 132/229 (58%) indicated interested in surveys, 124/229 (54%) in one-on-one interviews or focus groups, 129/229 (56%) in blood sample or draw, 101/229 (44%) in leukapheresis, 86/229 (38%) and 116/229 (50%) are interested in an interventional study. Of 116 interested in interventional studies, 78 were contacted via email or text message – these were filtered by Medicare status and year of birth for the interventional study currently recruiting. 28/78 (36%) responded, 14 were found to be ineligible due to study exclusions, 1 was HIV-negative, 5 interested but didn't respond to further contact, 4 declined participation and 4 were booked for screening visits.

Conclusion:

The database represents a crucial step forward in efficiently connecting diverse cohorts of PWH to research opportunities. The 6 monthly newsletters engages and promotes Cure research in the HIV positive community. By using secure technology and targeted outreach efforts, the database not only streamlines participant engagement and minimises repeated contact but also fosters ongoing community involvement and awareness of research into a cure for HIV.

Disclosure of interest statement:

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This project has been reviewed and endorsed by the Melbourne HIV Cure Consortium Community Advisory Board.