

ARLG Laboratory Center - Virtual Biorepository FAQ

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General Information

1. What is the ARLG Laboratory Center (LC)?

An ARLG resource comprised of experienced ARLG network investigators, a Laboratory Center Manager, and an operational support team from Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI). The ARLG LC conducts ARLG laboratory-based research and provides specialized lab services and/or technical advice to support ARLG collaborations.

2. What is the ARLG Virtual Biorepository (VB)?

An ARLG LC resource comprised of clinically well-characterized Gram-positive and Gram-negative strains published by and maintained in the laboratories of contributing investigators or the ARLG Physical Biorepository.

3. What is the ARLG Physical Biorepository?

A centralized location, managed by the ARLG LC, where strains from ARLG-funded studies are stored.

4. What is the ARLG VB Catalogue?

The ARLG VB Catalogue is a web based system that provides investigators with a searchable view of available ARLG VB strains (arlgcatalogue.org). For help with using the ARLG VB Catalogue website, please refer to the Quick Reference Card available at <http://www.arlg.org/laboratory-center-strain-access>.

Note: search is limited to finding strains based upon the types of tests done on the strains. For sorting through strain results for particular result characteristics, use Advanced Search to download up to 1000 strains to Excel, then use the filter options to find strains of interest (e.g., strains that are resistant to colistin).

5. Is a printable list of all ARLG VB strains available?

Yes. The list is generated by performing a quick search (or advanced search) within the ARLG VB Catalogue by clicking on the search button. The resulting strain list can then be printed from the browser window.

6. What strain information is provided in the ARLG VB Catalogue?

Limited strain demographics plus genotypic and phenotypic data as reported in the cited publication(s) for a strain. Links to the PubMed references are provided on the Catalogue page.

7. What are ARLG Strain Collections?

Depending on either the publication or similar characteristics, certain strains are also listed as part of a collection (e.g., ARLG-C56). Collections are designated with ARLG-C# within the ARLG VB Catalogue, and are typically found as the last records following a strain search. The ARLG LC Manager will assist you with the selection of individual strains from a collection.

8. What are ARLG Strain Panels?

ARLG Strain Panels are comprised of well-characterized strains to be used as reference standards for research, development of diagnostic platforms and/or drug testing.

9. How can additional technical strain information be obtained?

Queries can be submitted through the ARLG VB website (arlgcatalogue.org) or directly to the ARLG LC Manager (dcricri-arlg-vbadmin@mc.duke.edu).

10. Where are ARLG VB strains stored?

These strains are housed in the contributing investigator's laboratory as part of his/her collection or in the ARLG Physical Biorepository.

11. Is strain data verified prior to shipping?

No. Verification of the published data associated to the VB strains is left to the discretion of the providing laboratories. The VB Catalogue reports only strain data from published studies. Due to the "virtual" status of the strains the ARLG cannot warrant the accuracy of the published information.

Strain Request Procedures

12. Are the VB strains available to the general public?

Yes, the Catalogue itself is open to the public for browsing. Requests should be emailed to dcricri-arlg-vbadmin@mc.duke.edu and you will receive a link to a short questionnaire. The request for strains will be honored only after approval by the ARLG LC Director and/or the ARLG Executive Committee and verification that the receiving laboratory and investigator have BSL2 capability to receive strains.

13. How do I use the VB Catalogue to generate a list of strains I am interested in?

You can use the VB Catalogue to browse and generate a strain *Wish List*. The *Wish List* can be emailed to you, and included with your request as described above. Details on how to export strains can be found at <http://www.arlg.org/laboratory-center-strain-access>.

14. May investigators outside the US request VB strains?

Yes. They should follow the procedures as described above in topics 12 and 13.

15. Can the LC help me in identifying strain(s) useful for my study?

Yes, please e-mail your request to dcricri-arlg-vbadmin@mc.duke.edu, and you will be contacted by the LC Manager or designee. The LC will work with you to select strain(s) best suitable for your study.

16. How many ARLG VB strains can be requested in a year?

A total of 80 strains per year. A larger number of isolates may be available to ARLG collaborators.

Strain Order & Shipping Details

17. Who will inform the providing laboratory(ies) of a strain request?

Following ARLG approval of the request, the final strain list will be forwarded via email to the contact person of the providing laboratory(ies) by the ARLG LC Manager who will also coordinate the shipment(s).

18. Are the VB strains free of charge?

Yes, but requesting laboratory investigators will be responsible for shipping costs. Recipient will need to provide shipping information to the LC Manager.

19. Is a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) required?

Yes, the ARLG LC will contact you and assist you with the process.

20. How are the ARLG VB strains shipped?

Upon request and approval by the ARLG LC Director, the ARLG LC Manager will ask the contributing laboratory to prepare an ARLG VB - culture (labeled with the assigned ARLG VB Identifier: ARLG-ID) to be shipped to the requesting laboratory. VB strains may be shipped as broth culture or on an agar plate/slant, to be determined at the time of shipment.

Publication Policies

21. Which strain ID should be used when publishing or presenting studies involving ARLG VB strains?

Investigators will be asked to use the strain ID assigned by the ARLG (e.g., ARLG-1001).

Strain Submission to the ARLG VB

22. What are the requirements for including strains in the ARLG VB Catalogue?

- a. Strains must be published in peer-reviewed journals and their inclusion in VB approved by the ARLG LC Director.
- b. Providing laboratories need to provide basic information about the strains to the

ARLG LC.

23. Can investigators outside of the ARLG network submit strains to the ARLG VB Catalogue?

Yes, there is a process in place for the review and approval of all strains accepted into the VB. Please e-mail your request to dcricri-arlg-vbadmin@mc.duke.edu for further information. The strains will be incorporated in the VB Catalogue only after approval by the ARLG LC Director and ARLG Sub Award execution.

24. Are the VB strains listed in the ARLG VB Catalogue the property of the ARLG?

Once the strain culture is prepared for shipment and identified with the ARLG-ID, ARLG will provide oversight on the use of the strain.

25. May VB participating laboratories withdraw their strains from the ARLG VB Catalogue?

Yes, by contacting the ARLG LC Manager (dcricri-arlg-vbadmin@mc.duke.edu).