



ICBS International Blood Screening Test Evaluation Center

One of the major focused goals of the International Consortium for Blood Safety (ICBS) is to make available for developing countries, a sustainable supply of affordable, high quality screening reagents. In order to achieve this goal, ICBS recognized the need to establish a "Blood Screening Test Evaluation Center". The concept of a blood screening kits evaluation center was adopted due to the fact that the majority of countries in the developing world do not have regulatory institutions capable of evaluating test kits for blood screening. ICBS and Paul-Ehrlich-Institut (PEI) in Langen, Germany agreed to collaborate in this regard. PEI agreed to foster the intended "ICBS International Blood Screening Test Evaluation Center" within its framework.

While continuing to provide support and assistance (within the available resources) in the capacity building of those few control authority laboratories in developing countries, ICBS established the " ICBS International Blood Screening Test Evaluation Center " in collaboration with PEI. This Center will carefully evaluate all available commercial blood screening assays, bought directly from the market, using the ICBS master panels; and post its findings on the ICBS Website. This information would permit national authorities in the developing world to make informed decisions regarding the choice of reagents to be used. To date, forty-two assays for the detection of antibodies to hepatitis C virus (HCV) and sixty nine HBsAg test kits were evaluated for their sensitivity and specificity performance as well as other characteristics.