

29 January 2013

REPORT of HOST INSTITUTE

ICMR-IF Assessment

1. Name of Professor

Professor Robert Flower and A/Professor C Hyland

2. Name and address of host institute

Research and Development (Division)
Australian Red Cross Blood Service
44 Musk Avenue,
Kelvin Grove 4059
Queensland, Australia

3. Duration of fellowship

15 days

4. Brief highlights of the achievements

Dr Kulkarni participated and was instructed in procedures relating to blood group genotyping that are performed in the Australian Red Cross Blood Service Research and Development Division. Dr Kulkarni observed and carried out advanced techniques for non-invasive prenatal assessment of fetal *RHD* blood group, by genotyping fetal DNA in the maternal circulation. The complex interpretation algorithms required when testing an analyte at limiting dilutions were also discussed (it may be the case in some samples there is a negative result because there is insufficient target and testing of a number of replicates is required to obtain a reliable data).

In addition Dr Kulkarni observed procedures applied, for the Australian population, for typing blood group polymorphisms, including Rh variants, such as the DEL, using molecular typing and Flow cytometric techniques. Dr Kulkarni has experienced and studied these procedures and with her strong background in this research area this will facilitate the implementation of such test systems on her return home.

5. Your assessment of the ICMR-IF

This program has opened a several avenues for scientific collaboration and exchange. Dr Kulkarni has been a respectful ambassador and representative for the ICMR. She has been diligent and enthusiastic with a thirst for knowledge in this field of study. In addition she has been eager to share experiences and contribute to the host research laboratory. It has been a pleasure to host Dr Kulkarni and we look forward to ongoing collaborative studies.

6. Any other comments

Dr Kulkarni showed initiative and ambition in applying for and obtaining this Fellowship. It has been a pleasure to host her visit that will provide a strong foundation for further investigation of blood groups of interest in both countries as the proportion of the Australian population of Indian origin is consistently increasing.



Professor Robert Flower
Research Program Leader, Transfusion Science
and Queensland University of Technology



A/Professor Catherine Hyland
Principal Research Fellow
and Queensland University of Technology

