

IHVN International Research Center of Excellence (IRCE) at a Glance

The International Research Center of Excellence (IRCE) was established in 2015 by the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) to promote public/private partnerships for quality health services, capacity building, and research in West Africa. The actualisation of IRCE solidifies IHVN's prime position as a leader in providing quality health services, capacity building, and health-related research in West Africa and its commitment to excellence in research and collaboration. IHVN, through IRCE, aims to foster collaboration between scientists – both international and local healthcare providers, the government of Nigeria, and the communities it serves.



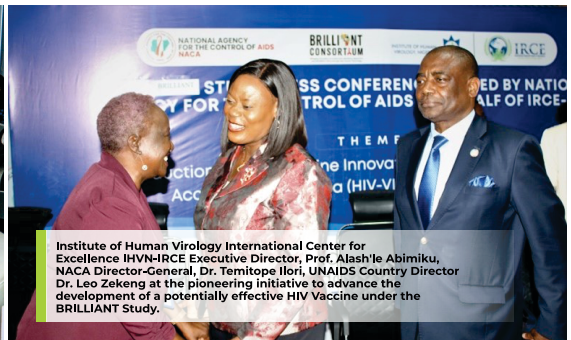
IRCE Executive Director, Prof Alash'le Abimiku addressing participants at IRCE's second annual scientific seminar

Over the years, IRCE has played a pivotal role in pioneering innovative research geared towards providing high-quality healthcare services and building capacity within the Nigerian healthcare system.

Capacity Building and Training



Experts at the IRCE 2nd Annual Scientific Symposium on Expanding Partnerships to Sickle Cell Disease and Cancer Research.



Institute of Human Virology International Center for Excellence IHVN-IRCE Executive Director, Prof. Alash'le Abimiku, NACA Director-General, Dr. Temitope Ilori, UNAIDS Country Director Dr. Leo Zekeng at the pioneering initiative to advance the development of a potentially effective HIV Vaccine under the BRILLIANT Study.

One of IRCE's key objectives is to provide training and engage young researchers in its mentorship program - early investigators have been linked to suitable mentors and exposed to training and fellowship opportunities through NIH Fogarty training grants.

IRCE continues to conduct trainings and mentoring activities for young scientists, healthcare professionals and researchers in global health education, laboratory and research methodology, genomics and data science, statistical methods in epidemiology, scientific and medical ethics, and the principles and practice of clinical trials.

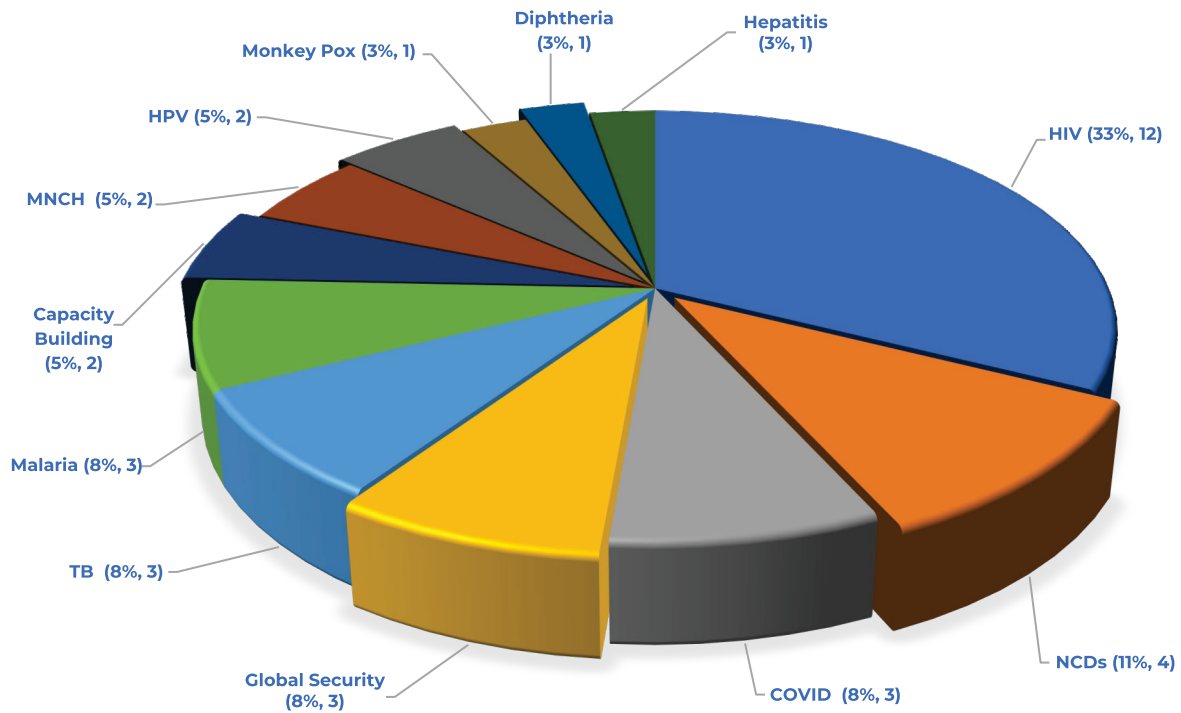
IRCE supports and encourages its staff to apply for fellowships at renowned centres with a view of returning to strengthen the capacity of IRCE. Three staff members have completed the WHO Tropical disease research fellowship and are back to the centre in leadership positions, while training others. Through its multidisciplinary team of scientists, clinicians, and public health experts, IRCE has conducted ground-breaking studies, generated crucial data, and contributed to the global understanding of viral diseases.

Research Diversification and Excellence

Given the background of IHVN on curbing the HIV epidemic, most of the research themes and interests of IRCE have been on HIV/AIDS. The cutting-edge HIV/AIDS research work was crucial in expanding the understanding of the epidemic, exploring transmission dynamics, studying drug resistance, optimising treatment strategies, and developing innovative prevention interventions.

IRCE has gradually expanded its research portfolio to include other infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB), Malaria, viral Hepatitis, COVID-19, Monkey Pox, emerging viral infections, and other non-communicable diseases.

This diversification has allowed the centre to contribute towards understanding and controlling infectious and non-infectious diseases. IRCE currently has over 35 active grants across diverse research interests, as depicted in the chart.



Research Infrastructure

Our robust infrastructure successfully supports IRCE's research efforts.

IRCE Infrastructure



A CLINIC



LIQUID NITROGEN PLANT



I-HAB BIOREPOSITORY



A CLINICAL TRIAL UNIT



GENOMICS RESOURCE CENTRE



NETWORK & COLLABORATORS



MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC DEPT



CHEMISTRY, HEMATOLOGY, MICROBIOLOGY



CLINICAL PATHOLOGY



DATA CENTER



CONFERENCE ROOMS (4)



TRAINING ROOMS (2)



VACCINOLOGY, PROTEOMIC, METABOLOMIC UNIT



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