

## ICBS HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) MASTER PANEL

ICBS established its HCV Master Panel and Negative Master Panel in September 2002. The HCV Master Panel is composed of 200 members distributed among all major known genotypes. The 200 anti-HCV positive members of the HCV panel ([table 2a](#)) were selected from 1021 units that were initially anti-HCV reactive after local testing in the countries of origin. The 1021 units were resourced by ICBS from varied geographic zones with the assistance of collaborators in Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Vietnam and the United States. The Negative Master Panel is composed of 200 members tested negative for anti-HCV, HBsAg, and anti-HIV ([table 2b](#)).

Each unit was subsequently tested at the Division of Viral Hepatitis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia, USA for anti-HCV by HCV 3.0 (Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Raritan, New Jersey) and confirmed by RIBA 3.0 (Chiron Corp, Emeryville, California). All confirmed anti-HCV positive units were tested, in parallel at the CDC and Visible Genetics (VGI), NorCross, GA, USA, by PCR to quantitative HCV RNA (Amplicor HCV Monitor, Roche Molecular Systems, Roche Diagnostics Corporation, Indianapolis, Indiana). HCV genotype and subtype were determined by direct DNA sequencing using two different strategies.

The 200 anti-HCV positive members (shown in [table 2a](#)) were selected on the basis of the characterization results obtained by both institutions (CDC and VGI). Whenever possible, the samples were selected for use in the HCV Master Panel when positive by serology, PCR and show genotype concordance. The 200 member anti-HCV confirmed positive panel is composed of the following HCV genotypes: 1 (33.5%, n=67), 2 (11.5%, n=23), 3 (19.5%, n=39), 4 (18%, n=36), 5 (1.5%, n=3) and 6 (16%, n=32) collected from the afore-mentioned seven countries.