COVID Correlates Project: Public/Private Partnership

There is an urgent need for vaccines to address the global pandemic of COVID-19. The nature of the immune response to protect against infection and severe infection is not known. This is called a "correlate of protection". Some patients control the disease while others become severely ill despite having high levels ("titer") of antibody. African Americans and Latinx populations are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and yet ironically are disproportionately underrepresented in clinical trials. Discovering the correlate of protection is a high priority to aid in vaccine and therapeitic design for these and all populations.

The COVID Correlates Project seeks to identify the correlate of protection for COVID-19 and will publish its result for all vaccine developers as a public good. The Project is a public private partnership. The Project is enrolling predominantly African American and Latinx COVID patients of varying severity of disease (to be 100 total) at Boston Medical Center (BMC). The Project uses a unique, powerful, DARPA-backed immune assay system provided by SeromYx Systems, and conducts a range of other assays, safely and securely, at the nearby National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratories (NEIDL) in Boston. The principal investigator of the Project is Dr. Nahid Bhadelia of BU/BMC/NEIDL.

The COVID Correlates Project expects to publish the correlate by year-end presuming adequate funding and enrollment of COVID patients continues. These partners, the Massachusetts Consortium on Pathogen Readiness (MassCPR), Boston University, and individual philanthropists have raised approximately $500k of the $2 million needed to complete the Project. Tax-deductible donations can be made through a special account set up at Boston University. All donations go directly to the Project with no overhead or administrative fee. Please contact info@seromyx.com for details and how to contribute to the COVID Correlates Project.