"Pathology that **Adds Value**"

Guidelines for doing research on the PathCare platform

PathCare employees often embark on research projects as part of further studies or in collaboration with academic researchers. This document serves to clarify the process of successfully using the PathCare platform as a home for your research project.

All research projects making use of PathCare assets such as laboratory space, equipment, consumables, staff time OR patient data must first be registered with the PathCare Research Committee in order to protect the interest of all parties:

Researchers, by making sure that PathCare is able to support the planned project, and ensuring that staff are rewarded for research efforts.

The practise, by taking care of legal and ethical aspects of all research conducted on our platform.

Patients, by making sure that access to patient specimens and results are always conducted in an ethical manner.

When planning a research project, we therefore advise the following steps:

- Contact the site head or other relevant managers of the division where the research is going to be conducted and keep them informed of your planning. We will need written consent from the site head/relevant manager when we register your project, in order to ensure that PathCare is able to support the research that you are planning and that all expectations can be met.
- Involve other PathCare staff members (for example pathologists and scientists) as collaborators or supervisors. This will strengthen your research and ensure a smooth execution as more stakeholders will have an interest in the success of your work.
- Make sure that PathCare is always mentioned as your affiliation on any research outputs including your proposal. This will ensure the support of your working environment as well as making you eligible for a financial research award when you publish or exhibit the results of your work.
- No project involving human subject or data can be registered without prior ethical approval or a waiver from an ethics committee. As we do not have a registered ethics committee within PathCare, you have to make use of the ethics committees of universities or other major research entities which have registration within South Africa. An application for seed funding can be submitted to the PRC in order to support the ethics committee review costs if relevant.
- If your research will also involve hospitals or health care networks, the written approval of these organisations may be required for ethical registration. Please also submit a copy of this to us.
- Make sure that your use of PathCare data and/or facilities are clearly stated in the proposal that you submit for ethical approval.
- Make sure that your site head/all other relevant managers have read your final research proposal and that they sign the written agreement that your research can be supported by the platform on which you work. We provide a pro forma letter for this approval.
- Complete the registration form and submit it to the research committee together with the supporting documents required.
- All data extraction must take place through official channels as advised by the PRC, unless prior approval is obtained to deviate from these procedures.