

INTEGRATE

A PIONEERING NEW PROJECT TO FIGHT LASSA FEVER

INTEGRATE is an international consortium of 15 leading research institutes, health facilities and humanitarian organizations from 10 countries working together to fight Lassa fever.

Coordinated by the medical humanitarian NGO, **ALIMA** (Alliance for International Medical Action) and the **CORAL** (Clinical and Operational Research Alliance) platform, in collaboration with the **Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM)** and the world's largest Lassa fever treatment centers – the **Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital (ISTH)** and the **Federal Medical Center Owo (FMCO)** in Nigeria, this pioneering five-year study brings together research structures from West Africa, Europe and the USA.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://alima.ngo/en/integrate-fighting-lassa/>

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FROM 2023 TO 2028, THE INTEGRATE CONSORTIUM WILL:

1. Strengthen capacity for sustainable clinical research in West Africa through technology transfer and training.

The INTEGRATE project will strengthen the capacity of West African research and medical facilities to treat Lassa fever patients, and to initiate, plan, implement, and coordinate clinical trials and research on emerging infectious diseases. With this in mind, capacity-building activities have begun in Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital (ISTH) and Federal Medical Center Owo (FMCO), and feasibility studies have been carried out to assess the reinforcement needs of future sites (in Liberia, Guinea, etc.).

2. Set up a clinical trial platform in West Africa to identify new and more effective drugs to treat Lassa fever and test their efficacy, tolerance and safety.

The current recommended Lassa fever treatment drug, ribavirin, is associated with worrying toxicity and is of questionable efficacy. To save more lives, new, more effective, Lassa fever treatment drugs are urgently required. Starting off in the ISTH and FMCO, INTEGRATE will establish an international clinical trial platform to efficiently test new drug candidates in line with international ethical and scientific standards.

3. Raise awareness about Lassa fever within local communities to destigmatize the disease and mitigate future outbreaks.

INTEGRATE will bring together social science researchers, operational experts and local partners with experience in Lassa fever awareness activities to work with local communities to fight misinformation on clinical trials and Lassa fever, destigmatize the disease, and prevent future outbreaks.

INTEGRATE is funded by the European Union's EDCTP3 programme under the sponsorship of ISTH, and with the French national medical research agency, ANRS-MIE as co-sponsor.

900,000

Lassa virus infections each year across West Africa with over half in Nigeria.

10 to 30%

mortality rate during Lassa fever outbreaks.

1,270 227

confirmed cases and deaths from Lassa fever in Nigeria in 2023.

MORE ABOUT THE INTEGRATE CLINICAL TRIAL:

The clinical trial will compare the efficacy of each new drug candidate (i.e. an Investigational Medical Product - IMP) to the standard of care (SCD) to prevent death or organ failure in hospitalized patients with confirmed Lassa fever.

- **Study population:** hospitalized patients with a positive plasma LASV RT-PCR
- **Duration:** follow-up period of 28 days
- **Intervention:** the First IMP to be evaluated: Favipiravir
- **Sites:**
 - » Federal Medical Center of Owo (FMCO), Ondo State, Nigeria
 - » Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital (ISTH), Edo State, Nigeria

- **Start Date:** 2nd semester of 2024 in Nigeria
- **Candidate Sites:** other West African sites will join the platform as they complete a site preparedness program currently underway.

