compared to progressing (34.9%) individuals (P < 0.001, OR = 0.17).

**Conclusions:** The E3K SNP is likely to affect both CXCR6 cell surface expression and/or binding of its ligand. Thus, we hypothesize that the high prevalence and interplay of both these mutations in Black South African individuals may be masking the effect of the rs2234358 SNP on LTNF within this population.

**P37.07**

**Cytokines Genes Polymorphisms in Ukrainian HIV-1 Infected Individuals**

Anna Ivanivna Piddubna

1Suny State University, Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology Department, Suny, Ukraine

**Background:** The objective of the research was to study distribution character of the allelic variants of cytokines genes in HIV-1 infected Ukrainians.

**Methods:** Data for the study were DNA samples, received from 200 inhabitants of Ukraine: 78 HIV-infected, 22 - HIV-negative individuals from the group of high risk of contamination, 100 healthy blood donors. IL-4 (-590C/T), IL-10 (-8192C/A) and TNF- \( \gamma \) (-308G/A) genes polymorphisms detection was made with PCR-RFLP method.

**Results:** By analysis of frequency of IL-4 gene allelic variants it has been discovered that homozygotes by the main allele were the dominant variant. Among people with HIV T/T minor gene carriers were 4.5 more often met in comparison with control group (p < 0.05) that can prove the tendency to association of the mentioned genotype with infection.

Distribution of allelic variants of IL-10 gene promoter region in position - 592 is characterized by homozygote dominance by the main gene. Among the individuals with HIV A/A minor allele carriers were 3.4 more often met in comparison with control group (p < 0.05). Individuals with A/A genotype were not identified in group of high risk of virus infection. The abovementioned proves the tendency to association of minor allele carrier state with HIV infection.

The occurrence of the homozygous combination of the allelic variant G/G of the promoter of TNF- \( \gamma \) has been shown to prevail almost twofold over the occurrence of the variant G/A among all groups. High frequency of heterozygote by the main allele has been recorded among the individuals with HIV. Thus, G/A genotype frequency in group of HIV-infected people 2 and 1.5 exceeded the appropriate indices of group of high risk of infection and comparison group correspondingly (p < 0.05) that points to the tendency to association of the mentioned variant with infection.

**Conclusions:** Cytokines genes variations may contribute to the acquisition of HIV infection and encourages carrying out of further populations studies in this sphere of HIV-infection immunogenetics.

**Innovations in Vaccine and Microbicides Studies in Lab and Monitoring**

**P38.01**

**Operational Challenges for the Set-up of Gram Stain Analysis for Diagnosing Bacterial Vaginosis in a Local Laboratory in Durban, South Africa**

Natasha Gounden, Nathlie Abbai, Rashika Maharaj

Medical Research Council, HIV Prevention Research Unit, Durban, South Africa

**Background:** Studies have demonstrated the association between BV and HIV acquisition in woman. The prevalence of BV reported in clinical trials conducted by the Medical Research Council HIV Prevention Research Unit (MRC HPRU) is between 5-9%. In an attempt to reduce turnaround time for results, enable direct contact with research clinics, facilitate staff capacitization and reduce costs, the HPRU was selected by the Protocol Reference Laboratory to perform in-house testing for diagnosing BV. We report here on the operational challenges associated with the set-up of the laboratory to perform the analysis.