

# **Basic culture maintenance**

## **I. Parasites should be fed everyday with media and/or blood.**

(We usually give them blood on the second day after thawing and continue to give them blood every other day once they have matured into schizonts. **NOTE:** If you see mostly rings and only a few schizonts, you don't have to add more blood. Adding blood completely depends on the proportion of schizonts or trophozoites in the culture.)

- **ALWAYS** make a smear of your culture with Giemsa stain every day.

## **II. Split flasks if they have more than 10 % rings in the flask.**

## **III. Switch flasks at least every 4 days to avoid contamination.**

- **NOTE:** If the culture turns black or dark red, this may be an indication of contamination or high parasitaemia.

## **IV. The flasks should be kept at 2 % hematocrit.**

- If you need to add blood, use **freshly-washed** blood.
- e.g. Add 2 ml of 50% red blood cells in 50 ml media.
- **NOTE:** Avoid using blood older than 4 days.

## **V. Everything should always be sterile!**

- Whenever you want to put something into hood, spray with ethanol first and wipe.
- Whenever you finish in the hood, please clean it with water and ethanol.

**Please always be organized in the hood!**