Standardising bioresource acknowledgement in papers

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www.esbb.org
Welcome to the NUH-NUS Tissue Repository (TR) website

Our mission: To provide researchers at NUH and NUS with high quality samples and associated clinical information in a manner that is safe, efficient and ethical.

Our values: Quality, Integrity and Service

TR moves into full cost recovery effective Jan 2011

Posted date: 4 May 2010

TR offers a tiered costing structure for samples that are appropriately consented and made available for de-identified distribution to suitably qualified and approved research projects.

The national grant funding bodies such as NMRC and BMRC has specified that the cost of acquiring bio-specimen materials from tissue banking facility should be factored in the grant application. Requesters applying for grant are encouraged to budget these costs in their application to ensure that funding is available for the work to be carried out.

Cost recovery for material obtained or services provided by TR is essential to maintain the operational feasibility and sustainability of the facility. TR is a not-for-profit, BRC (Biological Resource Centre) facility. The cost recovery schedule is transparent and accurately reflects research costs associated with sample collection, processing, costs of consumables, storage and distribution charges. In all case, fees are charged at full cost recovery for the provision of TR services and/or samples. TR will be able to assist in the budgeting for biomaterial requests for researcher’s grant proposal.

Click here to download the details of cost-recovery. The requesters will be advised of these charges should there be any revision.

Available Tissues (updated as of 27 December 2010)
# Performance Indicators

**Efficiency of the TR collection processes**

1. Consent rate (% patients asked who gave consent).
2. Collection rate (% consented cases where samples collected).
3. Number of cases collected.
4. Number of specimens collected.

**Self-sufficiency of TR**

5. External funding received.
6. External funding as a proportion of total funding.

**Level of support offered by TR**

7. Number of research projects supported.
8. Number of clinician-scientist collaborations supported.

**Productivity of the research supported**

9. Number of tier 1&2 publications from projects supported by TR.
Two Questions

- Is there much a biobank can do to increase its publication impact?
- Is it fair to compare biobanks based on their publication impact?
Biomaterials Request Form

Please complete shaded areas on soft-copy of this form

Further details are given on the following website:
http://medicine.nus.edu.sg/tissue/

1. Background Information

Requests are evaluated by an Allocations Committee to assess priority. This assessment is based mainly on scientific merit, availability of samples, and institutional affiliation (priority to NUH and NUS). Samples are only provided for IRB-approved projects and are encoded for patient confidentiality. There is a cost-recovery charge which partly offsets the costs of sample collection and storage.

2. Directions

Step (1) Please fill out the form on your computer and email a soft copy to: Rajeev_SINGH@nuh.com.sg
Step (2) Print out the completed form, sign and submit a hard copy to:
Dr. Rajeev Singh, NUH-NUS Tissue Repository, Department of Pathology,
National University Hospital, 5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074.

3. Investigator Details

(a) Requester / PI
Name: 
Department: 
Tel: 
Email: 

(b) Contact Person
Name: 
Department: 
Tel: 
Email: 

(c) Name of clinical collaborator at NUH
Name: 
Department: 
Tel: 
Email: 

4. Project Details

Title: 
Summary (~200 words): 

13. Agreement

The recipient hereby agrees that the tissues to be provided by the NUH-NUS Tissue Repository will be used only for the research purposes specified in this application; that no attempt will be made to learn the identity of the donor, identification of the donor, or information about the subjects providing tissue, and that tissues and their products shall not be sold (or distributed free of charge) to third parties, nor used to produce commercial products (including the production of cells or cell products for sale).

The recipient understands that while the Repository attempts to avoid supplying tissues contaminated with highly infectious agents such as hepatitis and HIV, all tissues should be handled as if potentially infectious. The recipient acknowledges that he/she is aware of and follows safe handling procedures for human sources, and will instruct their staff in adecry of the risks. The recipient further agrees to assume all responsibility for informing and training personnel in the dangers and procedures for safe handling of human tissues. Tissues are provided as a service to the research community without warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose or any other warranty, express or implied. The Repository accepts no responsibility for any injury (including death), damages or loss that may arise either directly or indirectly from their use.

The recipient department and institution agrees to assume all risks and responsibility in connection with the receipt, handling, storage and use of tissues. It further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the NUH-NUS Tissue Repository from any claims, costs, damages or expenses resulting from the use of the tissues provided by the Repository. The undersigned warrant that they have authority to execute this agreement on behalf of the recipient institution.

The recipient hereby agrees to acknowledge the contributions of the NUH-NUS Tissue Repository in all publications resulting from the use of these tissues. Recommended wording to the methods or acknowledgment section is as follows: "Tissue samples were provided by NUH-NUS Tissue Repository, Singapore." The recipient understands that if he/she works outside NUH, there will be a cost-recovery fee for samples, to cover the cost of sample collection. Requesters from industry will be charged a full cost-recovery fee of $250 per sample, while requesters from universities and other non-commercial institutions will be charged a partial cost-recovery fee of $25 per sample.

Project Title: [Projects Title]

Applying IRB: [Select IRB]

IRB approval number: [Enter number]

By my signature, I agree to the terms set forth in the above agreement.

Name of Requesting PI: [Enter name]

Department: [Enter department]

Signature & Date: [Enter date]

Name of Department Head: [Enter name]

Department: [Enter department]

Signature & Date: [Enter date]

Upon receipt of these signed understandings and the information requested above, the NUH-NUS Tissue Repository will consider this request and all future requests for tissue.
Step 1: Collecting the Acknowledgements

- Emails were sent to all requesters, asking for publication details. They were provided with a reminder of their specific requests, the type of samples provided and the dates supplied.

- The result was that some requesters provided information on resulting papers as expected. Some needed reminders. Some had moved to new institutions and had to be recontacted there.
Step 2: Literature Search & Review

A literature search of all publications by requesters was conducted and the materials and methods section of each of their papers was reviewed.

Problems identified:

- Unrecognisable name given for the biobank
- Credit given to the pathology department, not the biobank
- Credit given to the hospital, not the biobank
- Occasional failure to acknowledge any sample provider.
Conclusions based on this experience

• We need a better biobank identifier than simply the biobank name.

• Authors need to be reminded to acknowledge the biobank appropriately at the time of manuscript submission.
Canadian Tumour Repository Network

Introduction

The Canadian Tumour Repository Network (CTRNet - www.ctrnet.ca) is an association of leading Canadian tumor banks, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research—Institute of Cancer Research, that aims to improve and enhance translational cancer research by linking cancer researchers with a network of participating provincial tumor banks.

The following profiles of participating CTRNet provincial biobanks are diverse in their origins, maturity and models and so one of the achievements of the CTRNet initiative has been to harmonize and create a functional network from preexisting biobanks.

CTRNet has created policies and standard operating procedures for tumor biobanks. It has also developed mechanisms to standardize and harmonize biospecimen collection and annotation, in addition to establishing an active web-based portal (www.ctrnet.ca) to facilitate researcher access to biospecimens.

CTRNet has also developed and implemented an open source software program called the Advanced Tissue Information Management (ATIM) system. Core modules include clinical annotation, consent tracking, inventory and storage management, and administrative tools. It is also designed to facilitate cross linkage to donor consent secure

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation-Alberta/NWT Chapter, Alberta Research Tumor Bank (ARTR)

Location: Edmonton, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Contact information:
Web: http://www.abtumorbank.com/
Phone: 700.452.1166
Toll free: 1.866.302.CBCF (2223)
E-mail: info@abtumorbank.com
Contact: Dr. Michael Sawyer, Executive member of ARTB

Date of operations: (date of formal start of current bank operation): January, 2001

Date range of cases (date of first and last case accrued): 2001—present

Category of biobank: Basic research tumor bank

Primary research focus of biobank (Basic, Translational, Epidemiological, or Clinical): Basic; Translational
How to Give Credit to All Players?

• Patients and Donors
  – Receipt of newsletters about the bio-resource
  – Membership of clubs or committees that have some influence on management of the bio-resource or some role in supporting it.

• Communities and Nations
  – Access and benefit sharing arrangements with communities and nations as described in the Convention on BioDiversity (CBD).

• Surgeons, Pathologists and other Medical Professionals
  – Authorship and “contributorship” (Difficult issues)
  – Priority access to samples for their own research.

• Biobank Staff
  – Acknowledgement of their bio-resource in publications.
Thank you for listening!

Robert Hewitt

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