

Grampian Biorepository Newsletter: May 2014

Information for researchers

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Introduction:

The Grampian Biorepository is one of four Biorepositories within Scotland which are accredited to oversee the **governance** of the collection, storage and release of biological materials obtained from fully informed, consented **patients** for the use in medical scientific research.

This our first newsletter **aims to address frequently asked questions** regarding the role of the Biorepository. We will be running a number of seminars and workshops for researchers shortly to explain our role and responsibilities.

Q: How do we collect and store Biorepository samples?

The Biorepository nurse will consent suitable patients using the **generic** Biorepository consent and patient information leaflet. Currently, our collection consists of colorectal and lung samples but we would like to expand this to other tissues. To do this we plan to identify potential participants through the Opera system and will seek approval from the relevant consultants. The Biorepository nurse will complete all the relevant paperwork and we merely ask that you contact us when the fresh specimen is available so that we can collect it. All our samples are then logged into a secure database and stored within the biorepository

Q: Who may access these samples?

These samples may be accessed by all researchers within Grampian and also elsewhere in Scotland for research projects which are of scientific merit and comply with the **ethical** and **clinical governance framework** of the Biorepository.

Please note that we are only allowed to reserve 25% of each tissue collection specifically for local research use – the other 75% can and may be used for local and/or external researchers.

Q: How do I access these samples?

Applicants must first contact the **relevant local investigator** to ensure that the stored samples and or data are suitable for the proposed project. Please contact the Biorepository manager to obtain the details of the local investigator.

Applications should be submitted electronically via the website www.biorepository.nhsgrampian.org Anonymised clinical data on each patient sample can also be provided (when available). Submissions should contain sufficient detail regarding

their purpose to allow the Scientific Access Group to make a full and proper assessment of the scientific and technical merit of the project and anticipated benefit. The Scientific Access committee consists of clinicians and scientists some of whom also serve as representatives on the local Research Ethical Committee.

Eligible applications will be processed within 10 working days.

For samples which are scarce and more than one project seeks them, the Scientific access committee will give priority based on the scientific merit of the application.

Q: Can I use the Bio-repository to collect samples for a specific research project ?

It is a requirement that appropriate governance and specimen tracking is in place for all research conducted using patient samples.

The Biorepository may also collect, store and release samples which have ***project specific ethical approval*** to be used solely for the ***ethically approved research project*** which may be commercial or non-commercial. Please contact us for further information and costs (ideally this is best done at the funding application stage).

Can I transfer tissues that I have stored to the Biorepository?

It may be possible to transfer existing ***patient*** samples collected prior to September 2006 to the biorepository, without the need for further consent. Tissues collected after September 2006 may also be transferred to the Biorepository if the original consent allows for their use in other research projects.

In order for these samples to be transferred we require a minimum data set so that they can be logged into our system. ***Please complete an on-line register form for all tissue collections that you wish to be considered to be transferred to the Biorepository.*** [\(web section link to: Registering potential collections with the Biorepository\).](#)

As part of the Biorepository governance process frozen samples require to be stored under strict conditions. These include the use of a freezer, which has an-inbuilt CO₂ back up system, continuous temperature monitoring and which is fully wired to the switch board with a 24 hour on call service and identified back up freezer. This therefore means that ***specimens may need to be physically transferred to the Biorepository.***

Please note that for collections which meet the criteria for transfer to the Biorepository we are only allowed to reserve 25% of each tissue collection specifically for local research use – the other 75% can and may be used for local and/or external researchers.