



BC Cancer Agency

Tumour Tissue Repository

A provincial resource to support translational cancer research at the BC Cancer Agency, nationally & internationally.

Providing researchers access to one of the largest collections of cancer biospecimens and data available in Canada for retrospective studies.



Biospecimen Research Methods edX/UBC Online Course

Next course: June 1st 2017
Enroll now

This biology and life sciences course will provide you with the essential knowledge to be able to collect, find, and recognize a quality human biospecimen. You'll improve the quality of your research and increase your chances of being published in high impact journals. Get ahead of the competition and open doors to opportunities working in leading biomedical research laboratories or biobanks.

Over 6 weeks, professionals with extensive experience in biobanking from the University of British Columbia and **the British Columbia Cancer Agency's TTR** will teach you the international best practices for biobanking and research involving human biospecimens, based on National Cancer Institute (NCI) and International Society of Biological Environmental Repositories standards (ISBER).

What you'll learn:

- Develop the knowledge to better collect and process human biospecimens to enhance research credibility
- How to plan a successful research study using biospecimens
- How to properly store and manage biospecimen data
- Understand the ethical and privacy issues related to biobanking
- Gain applicable hands on techniques related to informed consent, data queries, biospecimen collection and storage

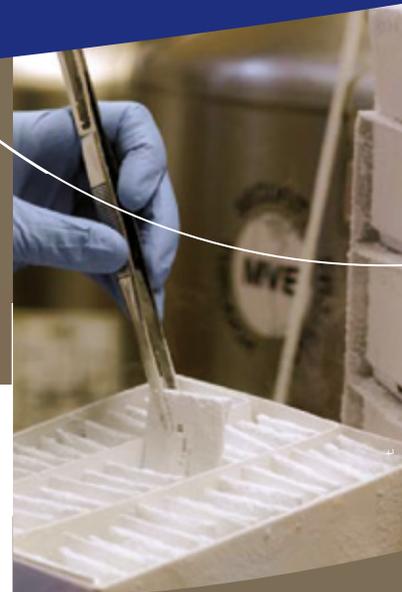
Enroll now:

<https://www.edx.org/course/biospecimen-research-methods-ubcx-biobank1x-0>

Biospecimen Complexity –the Next Challenge for Cancer Research Biobanks?

Increasing biospecimen complexity is a largely unrecognized and new pressure on cancer research biobanks. New approaches to cancer biospecimen resources are needed such as the implementation of more efficient and dynamic consent mechanisms, stronger participant involvement in biobank governance, development of requirements for registration of collections, and models to establish stock targets for biobanks. In particular, the latter two approaches would enable funders to establish a better balance between biospecimen supply and research demand, reduce expenditure on duplicate collections, and encourage increased efficiency of biobanks to respond to the research need for more complex cases. This in turn would also enable biobanks to focus more on quality and standardization that are surely factors in the even more important arena of research reproducibility.

Clin Cancer Res. 2017 Feb 15;23(4):894–898. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-16-1406. Epub 2016 Aug 22.

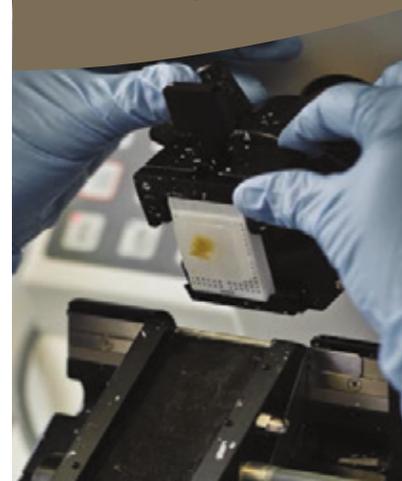


We are grateful for the support & generosity of patients, surgeons, anatomical pathologists, their clinical & administrative groups, and the hospital personnel in Victoria and Nanaimo.

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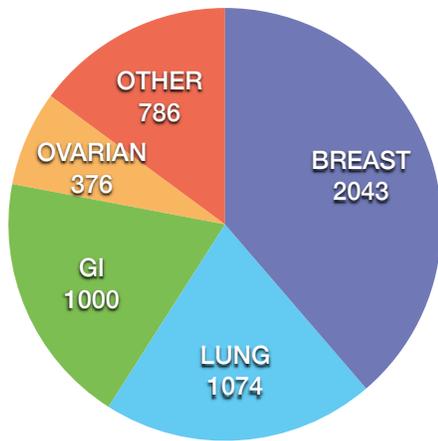
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The Canadian Tissue Repository Network Biobank Certification and the College of American Pathologists Biorepository Accreditation Programs: Two Strategies for Knowledge Dissemination in Biobanking.

As health research increasingly relies on biospecimens and associated data, new demands have emerged for biorepositories to provide assurances of the quality of their overall operations, not just assurances of the quality of the biospecimens and data that they hold. The biobanking community has responded in various ways, including the creation of two different programs to disseminate biobanking best practices. This article describes in detail the Canadian Tissue Repository Network (CTRNet) Biobank Certification Program and the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Biorepository Accreditation Program. Despite differences in their approaches, these programs share one key element—assessment of biobanking practices by an external organization. In the absence of a single internationally endorsed biobanking best practices dissemination program, the CTRNet and CAP programs provide two different solutions, each contributing to the pursuit of enhanced quality in biobanking.

Biopreserv Biobank. 2017 Feb;15(1):9–16. doi: 10.1089/bio.2016.0021. Epub 2016 Oct 14.



TTR Accrual

The graph shows the number of consented patients that have chosen to donate samples to support cancer research as of January 2017. It is thanks to them and the efforts of clinicians, hospitals and medical staff that scientists are able to access these critical biospecimens for their studies. The TTR continues to collect frozen tissue, FFPE blocks, blood samples and health data on consented cases.

Newest Publications from TTR Team Members:

Matzke LA, Babinszky S, Slotty A, Meredith A, Castillo–Pelayo T, Henderson MK, Simeon–Dubach D, Schacter B, Watson PH. Biospecimen User Fees: Global Feedback on a Calculator Tool. *Biopreserv Biobank*. 2017 Feb; 15(1):57–64. doi: 10.1089/bio.2016.0027. Epub 2016 Aug 30.

Watson PH. Biospecimen Complexity—the Next Challenge for Cancer Research Biobanks? *Clin Cancer Res*. 2017 Feb 15;23(4):894–898. doi: 10.1158/1078–0432.CCR-16–1406. Epub 2016 Aug 22.

Barnes RO, Shea KE, Watson PH. The Canadian Tissue Repository Network Biobank Certification and the College of American Pathologists Biorepository Accreditation Programs: Two Strategies for Knowledge Dissemination in Biobanking. *Biopreserv Biobank*. 2017 Feb;15(1):9–16. doi: 10.1089/bio.2016.0021. Epub 2016 Oct 14.

We would like to thank our funders, supporters, & affiliated associations for making our work possible



To access biospecimens or if you are interested in setting up a prospective collection contact us:

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For any inquiries:

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