

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



Photo courtesy of Juzer Kalkal

Our TTR program

We are

- located within the BC Cancer Research Centre of BC Cancer
- annually renewed by the UBC research ethics board
- deploying both pre and post procedure consent protocols

We offer

- access to banked biospecimens in our inventory
- access to prospective custom collection services for specific research projects
- advice, training and education on biobanking best practices and quality standards and biospecimens research methods

Research

- we provide high quality biospecimens and associated data to researchers
- 40% of all cancer publications depend in some part on human biospecimens and data
- to date 56 studies across different tumour types have been or are currently being supported by the TTR

Examples of Questions being Addressed by Research:

Does the presence of lymph node hypoxia reflect the extent of immune activation against tumours of the breast?

Does the immune response to ovarian cancer differ between spatially distinct tumour sites?

Are CD8+CD103+ Tissue Resident Memory T cells prognostic for outcomes in breast and colorectal cancer?

TTR Accrual

TTR continues to support retrospective and prospective studies using frozen tissue, FFPE blocks, blood samples and associated data.

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

Dr. Peter Watson,
TTR & OBER Director

TTR Team:

Sindy Babinszky
Karlene Carvalho
Simon Dee
Brent Gali
Jodi LeBlanc
Sheila O'Donoghue

OBER Team:

Simon Dee
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Lise Matzke
Sheila O'Donoghue
Tamsin Tarling
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Number of TTR Consented Participants

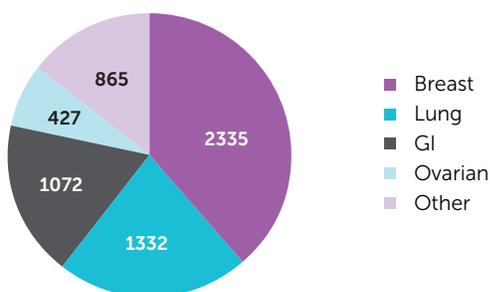


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The TTR program is connected to the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Office of Biobank Education and Research (OBER) and hosts the coordination centre for the Canadian Tissue Repository Network (CTRNet) and with these partners provide access to resources through the Biobank Resource Centre. www.biobanking.org

The Office of Biobank Education and Research (OBER) is an integral part of the UBC Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and provides advice and support services for basic translational and clinical researchers in B.C. and beyond. The edX course, Biospecimen Research Methods, is offered three times per year. www.pathology.ubc.ca/education-resource/ober

The Canadian Tissue Repository Network (CTRNet) was formed in 2004 with the financial assistance of the Institute for Cancer Research (ICR) of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to foster studies into the determinants of cancer, to better understand cancer prevention and early detection, and to improve the prediction of drug response and the identification of new drug targets.

CTRNet operates as a not-for-profit consortium of leading provincial tumour banks and programs that furthers Canadian health research. The TTR is a founding member. www.ctrnet.ca

CTRNet Biobank Certification

A national initiative designed to address minimum standards in biobanking across Canada. The program's objectives are to increase public confidence in biobanks, minimize risks to research institutions/hospitals and improve the quality of biospecimen collected for research.

Publications from TTR Members:

Is your Biobank Up to Standards? A Review of the National Canadian Tissue Repository Network Required Operational Practice Standards and the Controlled Documents of a Certified Biobank

Victoria Hartman, Tania Castillo-Pelayo, Sindy Babinszky, Simon Dee, Jodi Leblanc, Lise Matzke, Sheila O'Donoghue, Jane Carpenter, Candace Carter, Amanda Rush, Jennifer Byrne, Rebecca Barnes, Anne-Marie Mes-Messons, and Peter Watson. Biopreserv Biobank. 2018 Feb; 16(1):28-35. <https://doi.org/10.1089/bio.2017.0065>

Ongoing quality management is an essential part of biobank operations and the creation of high quality biospecimen resources. Adhering to the standards of a national biobanking network is a way to reduce variability between individual biobank processes, resulting in cross biobank compatibility and more consistent support for health researchers.

Research Perspective on Utilizing and Valuing Tumour Biobanks

Amanda Rush, Lise Matzke, Simon Cooper, Craig Gedye, Jennifer A. Byrne, and Peter H. Watson. Biopreserv Biobank. 2018 Dec; <https://doi.org/10.1089/bio.2018.0099>

Tumour biobanks have become critical components of the cancer research infrastructure. Consideration of how to place appropriate values on tumor biobanks is important for all stakeholders. At the level of individual biobanks, value is important in determining how to contribute to, utilize, and fund biobanks. At the level of the research system, value is important in determining how to evaluate, rationalize, and sustain or modify the investments in this infrastructure.

We would like to thank our Stakeholders and Collaborators:



Provincial Health Services Authority



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To access biospecimens or if you are interested in setting up a prospective collection please see our website: www.bbrsbiobanking.ca

For inquires: ttr@bccancer.bc.ca

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