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BioCoR: Mini-tutorial, new in the BioCoR library

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BioCoR Newsletter July 2010

Dear Allison,

Welcome to the July newsletter of BioCoR. In this newsletter, BioCoR faculty, Dr. Amy Skubitz, provides a mini-tutorial on the process of setting up a biobank. Dr. Skubitz is a long-time ISBER member and responsible for setting up the Biorepository at the University of Minnesota. We are fortunate to have her on faculty with BioCoR and for her regular contributions to the newsletter. In addition, we have more additions to the library and education and training opportunities.

As always, your comments are very important to us. We expect to see you at www.biocor.net.

BioCoR is a national resource focused on advancing the science, technology and practice of biospecimen preservation. We are dedicated to developing biopreservation protocols, improving preservation and storage technologies, establishing standards and guidelines and training individuals and institutions in the science and technology of biopreservation.

More information can be found on the **BioCoR** website: www.biocor.net. Or you may contact us now at biocor@me.umn.edu

Establishing a Biorepository: Promoting the Idea to Institutional Officials



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When a biorepository is in the early stages of development, many issues must be addressed prior to the actual procurement of human tissues. At times, this undertaking may seem formidable, if not impossible to get off the ground. However, when broken down into four steps, the process becomes less daunting. The four steps that will be the focus of this review are: (1) obtain stakeholder support, (2) educate institutional officials, (3) promote cooperation in establishing and operating the biorepository, and (4) obtain buy-in for legal and ethical issues.

Step 1. Obtain stakeholder support

It is best to start off by considering who the actual stakeholders are in the biorepository. Will the biorepository be overseen by a department, division, Academic Health Center, institution, university, hospital, city, state, or nation? Once the decision to establish a biorepository has been decided upon by an entity, then it is necessary to ensure that each stakeholder who ranks above and below the entity is aware of the plan.

Step 2. Educate institutional officials

The best way to get buy-in from stakeholders and institutional officials is to tell them about the advantages and

value that having a biorepository will offer to the institution. This can be done by meeting individually with the head of each department or division, and explaining to them why they should use the biorepository vs. their current banking system. Some critical points that should be covered are the facts that a biorepository will offer the institution: centralization, standardization, dedicated personnel, and regulatory checks and balances. In addition, researchers, patients, and the hospital will benefit from having a biorepository. Finally, institutional officials need to be made aware that funds will be saved by not duplicating efforts.

Step 3. Promote cooperation in establishing and operating the biorepository

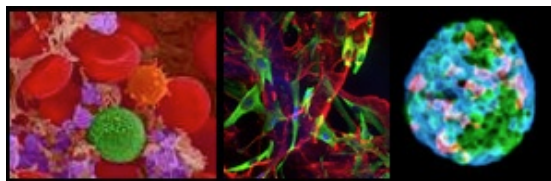
When establishing a biorepository, it is essential to apprise each of the "affected" groups (i.e. clinicians, surgeons, nurses, operating room staff, departments, clinics, pathology, advocacy organizations, patients, etc.) about the progress being made. It is necessary to convey the teamwork approach in this project and convince each group of their vital role in the success of the biorepository. They need to be told of the changes that will be made and the reason for each of the changes.

Step 4. Obtain buy-in for legal and ethical issues

When establishing a biorepository, it is best to work closely with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) staff and ethicists. These groups are essential to the success of the biorepository who can help by: ensuring that patient care will not be compromised; ensuring that biorepository staff follow IRB and HIPAA guidelines; providing examples of Patient Consent Forms to use as templates; and providing input in the updating of Patient Consent Forms.

In summary, a biorepository can be established by taking four steps: obtaining stakeholder support, educating institutional officials, promoting cooperation in establishing and operating the biorepository, and obtaining buy-in for legal and ethical issues. Although obstacles may present themselves along the way, the establishment of a repository is a great investment when coupled with advanced planning and support.

Preservation short course available on demand



This year's Preservation Short Course was very successful. Participants came from all over the world attended both in person and over the web.

Still interested in taking the short course?? The course is also available starting July 1, 2010. Individuals taking the course on demand will receive the course binder containing lecture material, supplementary material (protocols, best practice resources, etc), and a CD with the lecture slides. Individuals will have 10 days to watch the lectures. Cost: \$1,495 for industrial/for profit organization and \$895 for academic/non profit organizations.

Please contact us at biocor@me.umn.edu if you are interested in taking the short course on demand.

BioCoR's short course has been endorsed by the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (www.isber.org).

What's new in the BioCoR library?

Look for answers from the BioCoR experts for questions:

- What is the 'shelf life' for hematopoietic stem cell products stored on liquid nitrogen?
- Shelf life of plasma and serum samples stored at -80 C.

Articles of interest:

- The role of freezing and thawing rate on protein integrity for biofluid specimen

Check for these and other items (archived newsletters, previous questions for the BioCoR expert), articles of interest and preservation science news) in the BioCoR library ([BioCoR Library](#)).

Ask the BioCoR Expert: Please do not hesitate to send your questions to the BioCoR expert. We will promptly answer your questions and post the solution in BioCoR's Library. BioCoR respects your privacy. If you ask a question of the BioCoR expert, we will not disclose your identity or your institution.

Position Available

Postdoctoral Position at University of Minnesota on Biostabilization of Biospecimens

A post-doctoral position is available in Biopreservation Core Resource (BioCoR) at the Department of Mechanical Engineering in University of Minnesota. The position is available immediately. The position will focus on understanding the effects of frozen state storage on the stability of macromolecular biomarkers in biofluid biospecimens. The research will extend to the development of strategies to minimize low temperature storage damage and evaluation of alternative stabilization technologies. This project provides ample opportunities to collaborate with the medical and clinical researchers at the Medical School at U of MN.

The candidate must have a Ph.D. in Mechanical, Biomedical or Chemical Engineering or Biochemistry, with specific emphasis on experimental quantification of macromolecular, cellular phenomena and biopreservation. The candidate must have excellent experimentation skills: No candidate without experimental experience in his/her Ph.D. studies will be considered for this position. Experience with cell and tissue culture, spectroscopic and microscopic characterization techniques, SEM, TEM, as well as ELISA, and MS are highly desired.

Interested candidates should contact BioCoR by e-mail (biocor@me.umn.edu). In your message, please include a detailed resume, electronic reprints of recent publications, and the names, and contact information for at least three references.

More information on BioCoR can be found at www.biocor.net

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