Histology-Biorepository
SRF Newsletter

Welcome!

We are very pleased to provide our first SRF-Biorepository and Histology (Pathology) Core Newsletter. Our goal is to introduce investigators to this important institutional effort for supporting and advancing clinical translational research and biological sciences across Mount Sinai. We hope you find this useful - please send comments and or suggestions for future topics. Thanks again!

-Michael Donovan, Director

Biorepository Mission

The mission of the Institutional Biorepository/Biospecimen Bank and the Molecular Pathology facility is to support the translational research programs of the Mount Sinai Medical Center by facilitating the procurement of disease-based and normal bio-specimens, including tumor and normal paired tissues. The Institutional Biorepository will provide high quality unfixed (frozen/fresh) and fixed disease-specific specimens and corresponding normal samples, when feasible. The facility will also provide (in the future) body fluids, including urine, blood, and cerebrospinal fluid. All samples will have the potential to be linked, with appropriate IRB approval and consent, to clinical and pathological data, and open to all investigators of the institution, as well as specific third-party collaborative efforts with investigators from other institutions.

New Developments for The Pathology - Histology (SRF) Core and Biorepository Group

The group continues to support a variety of exciting research projects across Mt. Sinai, including working with the microbiology group to procure specimens which will aid in our understanding of viral trafficking (e.g. fresh skin, tonsils) and the breast cancer researchers on the protein composition identified in wound fluid post-surgery and impact on outcome.

Through the recent hire of Dr. Tin Htwe Thin, PhD and working with our Histology SRF team (Marlon Suarez and Lisette Conde) we are now able to provide immunohistochemistry as an additional service and in the future will be able to offer a variety of molecular assays including DNA and RNA fluorescent in situ hybridization and even DNA and RNA extraction on selected specimens from the biobank.
Partnering Groups

The rich collaboration between the Department of Pathology and the Tisch Cancer Institute (TCI) will ensure that high quality specimens are available for interested researchers. The TCI will continue to provide study design and consent support, as needed, to disease groups such as those outlined below:

Prostate and genitourinary cancers
Head and neck cancers
Hepatobiliary and gastrointestinal cancers
Hematological malignancies
Breast cancers
Lung cancers
Neurological cancers
Orthopaedic malignancies

*Future expansion to all other disease areas is planned.

Insulator’s Tissue Bank

The purpose of this undertaking is to establish a repository of high quality, asbestos-related-tumor tissue specimens and fluid samples from exposed populations of asbestos-exposed workers and their family members in order to support research that either aims to better understand the mechanisms of asbestos-induced carcinogenesis, or aims to develop interventions and cures for asbestos-related cancers. Participants will be adult asbestos-exposed workers and family members. Donors will be participants who undergo diagnostic or surgical procedure for asbestos-related condition, which results in tissue excess to that required for diagnostic pathology purposes. In addition to the donation of tissues, participation will include periodic follow-up via telephone to monitor medical status. Participants will be followed until withdrawal, loss to follow-up, incapacitation, death or the termination of the ITB.

Approximately half of asbestos-exposed workers are diagnosed and treated at community and regional hospitals, rather than institutions in major metropolitan areas. The ITB is therefore a national tissue collection effort aimed at capturing the excess tissue from patients seen in community and regional hospitals that is currently discarded and thus lost to cancer research.

Tissue requests will require approval from the ITB’s Scientific Advisory Committee. To ensure both relevance of the proposed research, and transparency in the allocation of the resources that the tissue specimens represent, researchers will be required to describe the scientific scope of their research and its support mechanism; submit their certification of IRB approval (or exemption of the need therefore) for human materials use; and assure that samples will not be distributed to other laboratories for unauthorized purposes.

Preventive Medicine, Pathology and Thoracic Surgery are collaborating to make the Union’s vision a reality. A consent form has been sent to all 21,000 active and retired union members; expansion to allow workers’ family members (who also die from mesothelioma) and other trades is underway.

-Andrew C. Todd, Ph.D., Principal Investigator.