Supporting Cancer Research

UW’s inventory of annotated biospecimens supports investigators in their basic science and translational research.

► **Description:** The initial award in 2008 supported the Development of a Centralized SMPH BioBank to provide high-quality tissue, blood and other human biological material essential for basic and translational research of human disease. The biobank received renewal funding from PERC in 2011.

► **Results:** The Translational Science BioCore (TSB) was established to facilitate cancer-related basic science and translational research through human biospecimen collection and storage. The biorepository serves to collect, process, store and distribute human cancer biospecimens, including tissue and blood, in accordance with procedures that comply with the confidentiality, safety and other regulatory standards set by UW-Madison and the National Cancer Institute’s Best Practices for Biospecimen Resources. Specialized histological and molecular/morphometric analyses and consultative services are also offered to support the individual research needs of investigators within the UW Carbone Cancer Center.

► **Dissemination:** The TSB website was redesigned and is now more user-friendly. Improvements include an updated inventory page and new online biospecimen request forms and equipment rental system.

► **Next Steps:** The economic challenge of operating a biospecimen repository is not unique to the University of Wisconsin. To achieve long-term financial sustainability, the Translational Science BioCore is in the process of developing a business plan based on a reliable revenue base and sustained supplemental funding.

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**DEVELOPMENT OF A CENTRALIZED SMPH BIOBANK**

**Principal Investigator:** Ricardo Lloyd, MD, PhD, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, SMPH  
**Grant Program:** Targeted Education and Research  
**Award:** $168,790 for one year

Samples from the Translational Science BioCore are stored in special freezers at temperatures between minus 120 and minus 140 degrees to preserve their integrity and greatly extend their usefulness.