May 2012 Newsletter

Dear Allison,

We describe articles of interest in the field of preservation in this month’s issue.

*The early registration deadline has passed but registration for “Preservation of molecular, cellular and tissue biospecimens” short course is still open!* Participants have until May 17th to register.

BioCoR’s LinkedIn page is supposed to be a forum for discussion of issues related to preservation. Join the discussion.

Summer is approaching and BioCoR will be taking a hiatus from monthly newsletters. Please watch for our midsummers newsletter. Monthly newsletters will resume in September.

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](http://www.biocor.net). Or you may contact us now at biocor@me.umn.edu

**Articles of interest**
Articles of interest in the field of preservation

By Kelsey Crocker

Title: The genomic and transcriptomic architecture of 2,000 breast tumours reveals novel subgroups- Nature(2012) doi:10.1038/nature10983

This article gives an in depth analysis of copy number and gene expression in 2,000 primary tumours while also revealing novel subgroups that should be the target of future investigation. Biospecimens used for this study were a collection of over 2,000 clinically annotated primary fresh breast cancer specimens, and a subset of normal's that passed initial selection criteria from tumour banks.

Title: Cryopreserved mesenchymal stromal cells display impaired immunosuppressive properties as a result of heat-shock response and impaired interferon licensing - Cytotherapy, 2011; Early Online, 1-6

This article examines the tested hypothesis that the banked, cryopreserved MSC often used in clinical trials display biologic properties distinct from that of MSC in the log phase of growth that is typically examined in pre-clinical studies. The results highlight a possible cause for the inefficacy of MSC-based immunotherapy reported in clinical trials using cryopreserved MSC thawed immediately prior to infusion.

Asking old human tissue to answer new scientific questions- by David Brown, Washington Post, published April 16

The genomics revolution, two decades old, has given biological researchers an astonishing array of tools, both physical and computational, to extract information from once-living tissue. This article explores the fact that there is potentially more useful research to be done on preserved tissue whose age is measured in decades, not millennia. The information found will shed light on why diseases, caused by microbes, emerged when they did.

Adult and umbilical cord blood-derived platelet-rich plasma for mesenchymal stem cell proliferation, chemotaxis, and cryo-preservation- Biomaterials xxx (2012) 1-9

Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) was prepared from human adult peripheral blood and from human umbilical cord (uc) blood and the properties were compared in a series of in vitro bioassays. It is successfully demonstrated that PRP and PPP represented a viable alternative to FBS containing media for the cryo-preservation of MSC from human and rat BM. Overall post thaw function of MSCs was much lower than fresh.

Biospecimen request
The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) is looking for potential offerors to the program to provide a variety of biospecimen tissue types from a specific list of tissue types.

You will find the full detailed posting of Amendment #11 to solicitation S12-335 as well as the RRP, prior amendments, and a newly posted amendment reference sheet for ease in identifying the purpose of each amendment on the following website: http://www.fdbdo.com/s12-335/

Offerors should email all requests and questions to: NCIFTSS@mail.nih.gov

Preservation of molecular, cellular and tissue biospecimens

Registration is still open!
Preservation of Molecular, Cellular and Tissue Biospecimens
May 21-23, 2012
Minneapolis, MN 55455

The early registration deadline has passed but registration will remain open until May 17, 2012.

Topics covered include: liquid storage, cryopreservation, fundamentals of preservation, protocol development, debugging protocols, repository design, protein preservation, tissue preservation, clinical preservation, quality control, regulatory issues and more.

Who should attend the short course: managers and technicians in biobanks and cell therapy laboratories, technicians who preserve biological samples as a part of their work routine, companies involved in cell therapy, regenerative medicine, biobanking, biotechnology and other fields, individuals and organizations involved in the development of therapies based on molecules, cell and tissues.

The course is offered for both in class attendance and is webcast with lectures available to watch live or later at your convenience.

The following is a listing of quick links to short course information:

- a listing of lectures for the course (schedule)
- Information on lecturers (speaker bios)
- Registration fees (fee schedule)
- Direct link to online registration (online registration)

The short course is a good place to find people looking for the latest in products and services related to preservation. You can find out more information on opportunities
for exhibiting at the short course (exhibit information).

Groups of two or more attending the short course receive a discount.

As always, you are welcomed to contact us at biocor@me.umn.edu if you have questions regarding the short course.

The course has been endorsed by ISBER.

Linked In discussion topic of the month

Join the discussion of preservation issues on our LinkedIn site! (BioCoR Linked In Page)

Let us know about your company, product and/or service related to preservation.

BioCoR is interested in understanding the nature of the products and services available in the fields of preservation. Our intention is to facilitate the exchange of information and should not be used as a platform for a deluge of ads.

BioCoR would like to acknowledge the support of the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering and the Academic Health Center of the University of Minnesota.

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