Your campaign 'Upcoming short courses, more on defining different types of biospecimens, meet the BioCoR faculty and more' was sent on 11/24/2014 around 15:03 PM EST.

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Subject: Upcoming short courses, more on defining different types of biospecimens, meet the BioCoR faculty and more

November 2014

Dear Allison,

In this months newsletter, information on upcoming short courses, a continuing discussion on types of biospecimens, meet the BioCoR faculty and more.

Update your address books! Our new email address is biocor@umn.edu.

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.umn.edu. Or you may contact us now at biocor@umn.edu

The many 'flavors' of biospecimens

In a recent newsletter, we started a conversation on historical biospecimens. Email responses
made it clear that we need to expand this conversation. Here is hopefully the next phase of the conversations.

If we think of all the biospecimens in a repository, they can fall logically into different categories:

- General research pool biospecimens: Biospecimens available for use by internal or external researchers
- QA/QC biospecimens: Biospecimens used as a part of the quality control program for the biobank. These specimens are to be used by biobank personnel.
- Reserved biospecimens. Biospecimens in this category fall into two different sub-groups. The first group includes biospecimens that are reserved for a specific study or group of researchers. Typically, this group will be contracting with the biobank for collection, processing and/or storage. The second type of reserved sample include biospecimens that are being stored as a part of monitoring for a specific clinical trial. These specimens cannot be distributed and are being held in reserve for patient monitoring purposes.

If we look at the general research pool biospecimens category, we can divide those biospecimens into different categories as well.

- Historical biospecimens. As we discussed previously, these biospecimens are not being actively collected and may have been part of the reserved biospecimen category when a study was active but were moved into general research pool biospecimens at some later point.
- General research pool biospecimens that are still be actively collected. Many biobanks may collect certain biospecimens when available as they may be of interest to internal or external researchers. There is not a specific client paying for collection of this biospecimen.

Have we missed anything?? Do these categories describe the biospecimens in your bank?

Let us know your thoughts at biocor@umn.edu.

Meet the BioCoR Faculty

Dec 3-4, 2014
National Biobank Symposium
Berlin, Germany

Dec 8, 2014
National Cytology Biobank
Karolinska institute

Come meet BioCoR faculty and take in some great science as well. Send us an email at biocor@umn.edu if you want more details on those meetings.

New in the BioCoR library and articles of interest

What's new in the BioCoR library? (BioCoR library)

- Helpful hints on aggregate freezing

Below are a couple of papers published by BioCoR faculty. Some were published earlier this year and others only recently:


Pollock K, Sumstad D, Kadidlo D, McKenna DH, "Clinical mesenchymal stromal cell
products undergo functional changes in response to freezing", Cytotherapy, http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jcyt.2014.06.008.

We have some great papers already accepted for 2015. We will keep you posted as to when they appear in print.

Upcoming education programs

Mark your calendar!!

We will be offering both short courses back-to-back in May 2015:

Preservation of molecular, cellular and tissue biospecimens
and
Preservation of cellular therapies

Information on the two courses will be announced both in the newsletter as well as on the BioCoR website in January 2015.

The hands-on training on scale up and cryopreservation of cellular therapies is still in development (these things take time!). Information on the hands on course will be released both on the BioCoR website and in the newsletter. Any offering would be in late 2015 or early 2016.

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

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