

Services and Operation

- We operate as a bioresource to provide to UAB investigators remnant human tissue from routine surgical resections, autopsies, and other clinical procedures. Specimens can be provided fresh, frozen, in RNA later, fixed, or as paraffin blocks or slides, as requested by the investigator. The facility exists to assure that UAB investigators have access to human tissues that are expertly collected by a facility that is experienced and incorporates standard operating procedures, quality control, and follows NCI and ISBER Best Practices for Biorepositories to assure reliable processing, storage, and distribution.
- Specimens are collected, processed, stored, and supplied to support translational and basic research.
- Quality control (QC) examination is performed (as requested).
- Investigators will have the opportunity to collaborate with pathologists according to their subcriticality.
- We ensure that provision of human tissues for research meets ethical and regulatory requirements and that patient welfare is protected.

Rationale and Value-Added

Provides a wide-range of specimens (e.g., benign, diseased, neoplastic, normal) from multiple sources (e.g., surgery, autopsy, clinical pathology).

Has supported studies that have resulted in publications as follows:

- >4000 publications (1987 – Feb 2019); of these >1701 appeared in very high-impact journals
- >50 (since 2013) describe significant discoveries and developments

Value-Added aspects include:

- Centralization of services
- Quality control
- Integration with i2B2 to identify banked specimens
- Customized patient and molecular information
- Education of investigators, mentoring and expert consultation
- Optimized state-of-the-art, cost-effective tissue banking
- De-identified specimens
- Support for IRB applications
- Fresh tissue can be provided free of charge

Specific Services Offered to the UAB Community

Tissue Biorepository and i2B2 integration: Formerly known as the UAB Tissue Collection and Banking Facility, the UAB Tissue Biorepository (UAB TBR) now focuses exclusively on meeting the needs of UAB investigators. This includes i2B2 integration to assist UAB investigators in identifying currently existing banked specimens that may be useful for their research projects.

Tissue Procurement Shared Facility: As a Shared Facility of the UAB O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center (OCCC), the facility prospectively collects and/or provides banked remnant tissue samples from routine surgical resections and autopsies for OCCC members.

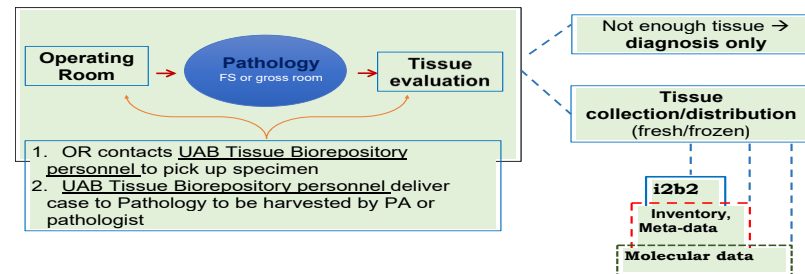
Protocol Support: The UAB Tissue Biorepository provides support for UAB research clinical trial protocols utilizing tissue handling activities. Support can include procurement of tissue, transport, handling, processing, storage, shipping/distribution and clinical data management.

Histology: The UAB TBR includes research histology labs that can provide routine histology services for human as well as animal tissues. Services include preparation of paraffin-embedded blocks, paraffin-embedded slides, frozen sections, routinely stained slides, or slides with special stains. In addition, slides can be provided from some diagnostic archival blocks.

Banking: The UAB TBR can serve as a repository for special project tissue banking. The TBR can serve as the repository for your collection, and/or our trained personnel can assist with the collection, processing and distribution of samples for your project. Repositories are tailored to meet investigator and protocol needs

Support Activities: Support such as immunohistochemistry, construction of tissue arrays, and multiplex immunoassays are also available.

Work Flow Once Tissue Request is Active



Contact Info

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

205-934-6071 amitchell@uabmc.edu

Clinical Trials/Protocol Services – contact Kathy Sexton at x4-6071 or ksexton@uabmc.edu

Support Activities – contact Annie Wang at x4-2007 or dezhiwang@uabmc.edu

Future Plans

- Obtain and maintain biorepository accreditation by the College of American Pathologists (CAP)
- Continue to improve operations based on emerging NIH, ISBER (International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories) and CAP standards.
- Expand the training of all UAB TRB personnel by encouraging their completion of the course being developed by ISBER for Certified Biorepository Technicians.
- Continue to work with UAB investigators to (1) identify emerging needs and (2) keep them informed as to how the current and emerging tissue biobanking technologies can better serve their needs.