

Tumour Bank Core Unit



Manuel M. Morente

Unit Head

Manuel M. Morente, born in Madrid in 1954, received his MD from the *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid* in 1979 and his PhD from the *Universidad de Alcalá de Henares*, Madrid, in 1998.

Specialised in Pathology in 1984, he spent fifteen years working as both a clinical pathologist at the *Hospital General Universitario de Guadalajara* (Spain) and Associate Professor at the *Universidad de Alcalá de Henares*. He has been appointed as Head of the CNIO Tumour Bank Core Unit since 2000.

Aside from directing the CNIO's Tumour Bank Core Unit and the main promoter and coordinator of the Spanish National Tumour Bank Network, a pioneer design in its field, Morente strives to promote other biobanks and networks throughout Europe and Latin America. He also collaborates in research projects surrounding the molecular profiling of cancer and its clinical implications.

He actively participates in national and international groups and societies involved in biobanking such as Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure (BBMRI); the International Society of Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER), for which he was appointed as Councillor from 2005 to 2008 and currently serves as member of several committees by invitation; Marble Arch International Working Group for Biorepositories for which he is Vice-Chair; European Human Frozen Tumour Tissue Bank (Tubafrost) and the Tumour Bank Programme of the *Red Temática de Centros de Cáncer* (RTICC) for which he is current coordinator, amongst others.

Since 2009 Morente is current Coordinator of the Spanish National Hospital-based Biobanks Network – *Red Temática de Biobancos Hospitalarios-ISCIII* and Member of the Ethics Committee of the Spanish National Institute of Health.

Summary

Access to human biological samples and the associated data is considered a major bottleneck in biomedical research. The last two decades have been marked by a huge technical development in genetics that has transformed access procedures to use human biological material, creating a new ethical paradigm and consequently, new and extremely strict legislation on personal data protection to obtain genetic information from human samples.

The Tumour Bank Core Unit provides samples and associated data as well as related ethical documentation support to CNIO Groups and Units mainly through the Spanish National Tumour Bank Network. This network was created in September 2000 and currently incorporates 25 institutions. These associated biobanks are autonomous: tissue samples belong to – and reside within – the respective hospitals. We maintain collaborations with other biobanks as a part of the Spanish National Biobank Network (*Red Temática de Biobancos Hospitalarios-ISCIII*). We actively participate in research projects in collaboration with the CNIO and other Groups and are involved in a range of other extramural activities.

Main Objectives

- Supply tumour samples and associated data as well as offer related ethical advice to intramural and extramural research groups, including cooperative groups and clinical trials
- Promote collaborative groups in close connection with CNIO and clinical investigators and provide documentation and sample-oriented support to the Molecular Diagnostics Service
- Co-ordinate the Spanish National Tumour Bank Network, including nation-wide promotion of high quality tumour banks, sample collection protocols and agreements with local tumour banks, regional networks and the Spanish National Biobank Network-ISCIII
- Co-ordinate the Spanish National Hospital-based Biobanks Network (ISCIII) and promote International Tumour Bank Networks (BBMRI) and a harmonised approach to biobanking



Technicians: M. Jesús Artiga, Laura Cereceda and Javier Gómez-Serranillos (until January).

Highlights

Technical implementations: the Tumour Bank Core Unit is currently implementing new standards in biobanking in accordance with the new Spanish legal framework for the use of human tissue samples in research, the OECD Best Practices Guidelines, ISBER Best Practices Guidelines (2nd edition, ISBER, 2008) and the IARC/WHO Common Minimum Technical Standards and Protocols for Biological Resource Centres dedicated to Cancer Research (IARC, 2007). These guidelines are included within a global and institutional Quality Management System in accordance with ISO normative 15189 and 9001:2000. The Central Office of the CNIO's Tumour Bank Network has been awarded with the ISO-9001:2000 Quality Certification since 2003 (renewed in 2007).

Service Activities: as a biological resource Centre, we have supported 233 research projects throughout 2010, most of which belong to multicentre cooperative groups. The median impact factor of the 22 supported published projects in 2010 is 6,355.

We also provided sample and/or documental support for the CNIO's Molecular Diagnostic Core Unit (11,829 cases)

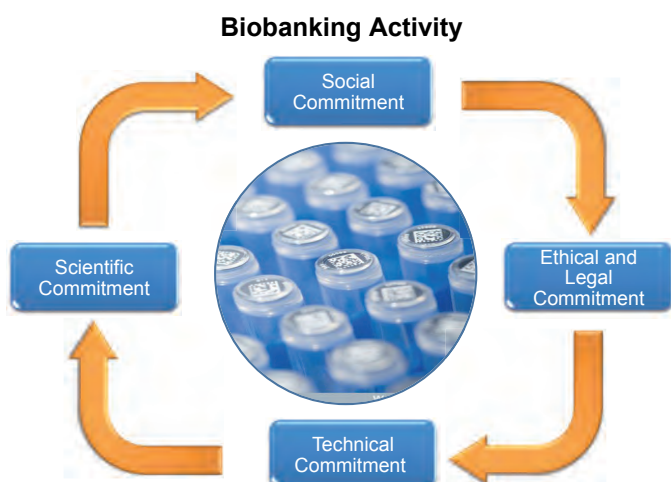


Figure: Biobanking activity is carried out to deliver on social, ethical/legal, technical, and scientific requirements and considerations.

and the familiar cancer activities of the CNIO's Human Cancer Genetics Programme (36 cases), and directly participate in 10 collaborative projects.

The Tumour Bank Core Unit actively collaborates with the *Instituto de Salud Carlos III* in the development of a new legal framework for biobanking, the promotion of the upcoming *Red Temática de Biobancos Hospitalarios* and the activity of the BBMRI-ERIC (Prototype and WP1 & 7). With regards to teaching, we have also promoted and/or participated in several courses and meetings organised by the most prominent institutions in biobanking.

The CNIO's Tumour Bank Core Unit collaborates in training activities for undergraduates specialised in health documentation and also acts in an advisory capacity for emerging biobanks in Europe and Latin America.

Publications

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