The CNIO Biobank is a cross-service platform for CNIO researchers, as well as the general scientific community, and is geared towards the promotion of biomedical research in cancer and related diseases. The CNIO Biobank facilitates access to human samples for researchers, ensuring that both the acquisition and use of human samples complies with all the legal and ethical principles that protect donors’ rights.

The CNIO Biobank is a “biobank for biomedical research purposes”, as defined by the Spanish Law 14/2007 on Biomedical Research and the Royal Decree RD 1716/2011. It is therefore defined as a public, non-profit organisation that hosts several collections of human biological samples for biomedical research.

During 2017, the CNIO-Biobank has supported 10 tissue requests from scientific research projects, independently of other services, corresponding to 650 cases distributed in 16 transferred tissue microarrays. Additionally, as the Spanish National Biobank Network Coordination Office, we have managed 11 tissue requests for scientific research projects of high complexity, plus 11 other requests for sample availability and/or documental support. We have also collaborated with the Familial Cancer Unit of the CNIO’s Human Cancer Genetics Programme to provide 49 clinical cases, as well as in the analysis and diagnosis of 49 clinical cases, as well as in the analysis and diagnosis of 64 new cases.

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**Biobanking**

→ Collection, management, manipulation and custody of human biological samples and associated documentation, in accordance with the legal framework for biobanking.

→ Transfer of samples and clinical biomedical information to research projects, under the approval of the corresponding scientific and ethical committees.

**Management of other collections**

→ Custody service of collections of biological samples and/or information related to biomedical research as promoted by the CNIO or other external research groups.

→ Coordination of sample collections in multicentre studies.

→ Processing of products derived from human samples for research (tissue arrays, DNA, RNA, etc.).

→ High-resolution slide scanning.

→ Researchers who want to deposit their collections at the CNIO-Biobank facilities, or who wish to request samples, must sign an MTA (Material Transfer Agreement) that specifies the terms and conditions under which the Biobank can take the samples and data into custody, or transfer samples to researchers.

**Ethico-legal advice for CNIO researchers regarding the use of human samples in biomedical research**

→ Technical, scientific and ethical advice regarding the collection, storage and management of human samples used for biomedical research, as well as in regards to the creation and management of new collections that are beyond the Biobank’s scope.

**Other services**

→ Collaboration with CNIO researchers in human pathology.

→ Collaboration in diagnostic activities as specialists in human pathology.

**Publications**


The mean impact factor of the 6 published articles in 2017, for which our Unit provided support, was 9.618.

The CNIO Biobank participates in and coordinates the Spanish National Biobank Network. This nationwide platform of services integrates 52 institutions (www.redbiobancos.es) and is an initiative of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII).

Finally, the Unit has spearheaded many activities in the national and international biobanking scene through its participation and leadership in numerous forums, working groups and national and international scientific societies. These include the European, Middle Eastern and African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB), the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER), international think tanks such as the Marble Arch International Working Group on Clinical Biobanking, BC-Net IARC-WHO/NCI initiative, and others.

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

→ Member, Evaluation Panel ‘Cohorts Programmes’, Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), France.

→ Member, Nominating Committee, the European, Middle Eastern & African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB).

→ Member, ‘Scientific and Organising Committees, VIII Congreso Nacional de Biobancos, Cartagena.

→ Course Director, ‘Fórum de Biobancos pediátricos’, Hospital Universitari Sant Joan de Déu (Barcelona) & Universitat de Barcelona.

→ Member, European Union of Biobanks.

→ Member, Managing Committee, the European, Middle Eastern & African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB).

→ Member, European Society for Biobanking (ESBB).

→ Member, European, Middle Eastern & African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB).

→ Member, European, Middle Eastern & African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB).

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