Key Factors in Developing The National Cancer Institute Specimen Resource Locator

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NCI Pathology and Investigation Resource Branch

- SRL Overview
- Software Development
- Marketing Modalities
Objective:

- Provide a public database for researchers to locate resources that may have the samples needed for their investigational use.

- Phone Book model:
  - Basic information about biospecimen collections.
  - Contact information for each resource.
  - A url link to each resource web site.

- Enable Investigators to contact resources directly.
Scope

- Include NCI-sponsored Biospecimen Resources:
  - Cancer Centers
  - National Clinical Trial Network
  - Cooperative Human Tissue Network

- NCI Divisions:
  - Cancer Control and Population Sciences
  - Cancer Biology
  - Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics

- NCI Intramural Labs

- Academic Biospecimen Resources
About the Specimen Resource Locator

The Specimen Resource Locator (SRL) is a biospecimen resource database designed to help researchers locate resources that may have the samples needed for their investigational use. The publicly searchable database includes information about biospecimen banks and sample procurement services. The specimens and samples come from non-commercial, either NCI or non-NCI-funded resources. Investigators can search the database and gain access to thousands of specimens of various tumor, organ, and preservation methods.

In the event you are unsuccessful in finding the appropriate specimen resource you may contact the NCI Tissue Expeditor, a scientist, who can further assist you. Also, the Tissue Expeditor can assist researchers to identify potential collaborators when needed. The NCI and the NCI’s SRL do not oversee or take responsibility for the content, quality or data of the specimen collections or resources participating in the SRL.

Biospecimen Resources

- SRL Participating Resources
- Other Resources

Information Resources

- Human Subjects Research
- Best Practices for Biospecimen Resources
- NIH Research Resources
- Population Science Resources
Software Development

- Search page:
  - Organ type
  - Tumor type
  - Preservation type
  - Specimen type
  - Metadata

- Entering collection:
  - CSV spreadsheet template
  - Drop down menu
  - Application Programming Interface (API)
    - Support resources with larger data sets

- Frequently asked Questions Page
SRL Enhancements

- **Manage Resource Page**
  - Ability to transfer ownership of a resource account
  - Query who is entering collections
  - Resources may login and manage their profiles, collections, any other data entered

- **Other Resources**
  - NCI Best Practices, ISBER
  - NCI Biospecimen Research Database (BRD)
  - NIH Bioethics Resources
  - Non-SRL Participating Resources listed
Marketing Modalities
Marketing Effort

- Develop a strategy
- Know your audience
- Determine stakeholders needs
- Develop a message
- Build a communications plan
Marketing Modalities

- NCI Website
- Twitter
- Slides & Exhibits
- NCI Program Flyers
- govDelivery
- Webinar
NCI Twitter feed

NCI Treatment @NCItreatment • 29 Feb 2016

NCI's Specimen Resource Locator helps you locate #biospecimens for investigational use. 1.usa.gov/1pks9xW
The Specimen Resource Locator

www.specimens.cancer.gov

- The NCI Specimen Resource Locator (SRL) is a searchable database designed to help investigators locate resources that may have human biospecimens needed for research.

- The NCI SRL is inviting resources that have human biospecimens available for research, to participate in the SRL database.

If you have biospecimens to share join

The NCI Specimen Resource Locator
Human Biospecimen Resources
For Researchers

The Cooperative Human Tissue Network (CHTN) prospectively collects and provides human tissue specimens (malignant, benign, diseased and normal tissues) and pathology report data for use in basic discovery and translational cancer research. The procurement and processing of specimens varies according to the protocol of each individual investigator: fresh, frozen, or chemically-fixed. The CHTN also produces TMAs from multiple tissue types to study cancer and other diseases. Isolation and distribution of the nucleic acids from the CHTN-procured specimens can also be performed to serve the investigator's interest. [https://www.chtn.org/](https://www.chtn.org/)

The NCI National Clinical Trials Network Banks (a.k.a. Cooperative Group Banks) collect, store, and distribute a variety of biospecimen types from large number of cancer patients uniformly treated on Phase II and Phase III Clinical Trials. In some cases, biospecimens that are remaining after the completion of trial-associated correlative science studies may be available for secondary use (a.k.a. legacy specimens). A scientific merit review is required for research proposals before specimen access is granted. If proposals receive favorable reviews, specimens with clinical, treatment, and outcome data can be made available to researchers. These well annotated specimens are most useful for clinical correlative studies in randomized uniformly treated patient populations. For additional information please visit the NCTN Banks web site at [http://cgb.cancer.gov](http://cgb.cancer.gov)

NCI Specimen Resource Locator is a searchable database that helps investigators to locate specimens for research. The database includes a variety of biospecimen resources such as tissue banks and tissue procurement services that provide normal, benign, pre-cancerous and/or cancerous human tissue and other specimen types for research. [www.specimens.cancer.gov](http://www.specimens.cancer.gov)
What is govDelivery

- **NCI govDelivery has two functions:**
  - subscription service for NCI emails on various topics with 35,000 subscribers.
  - govDelivery is also an email marketing platform.
From trusted name
Subject: NCI Invites you to Join

govDelivery

Dear PLACEHOLDER,
The National Cancer Institute (NCI) invites you to help improve the access to valuable tissue and cell resources for research in the U.S. by participating in the Specimen Resource Locator (SRL). The NCI is collaborating with the NIH Intramural Research Program and the National Cancer Institute to implement a web-based database system that will facilitate the sharing of tissue and cell resources. The Specimen Resource Locator (SRL) is a web-based database system that allows you to search for and request access to tissue and cell resources, which can then be shipped to your laboratory. The database contains information on tissue and cell resources, such as their availability and their characteristics. This information can be used to select the most appropriate tissue and cell resources for your research.

Good reasons to join the Specimen Resource Locator (SRL):
- The SRL is a web-based database that is easy to use and can be accessed remotely.
- The database is secure and provides protection against the unauthorized use of the database.
- The database is collaborative and encourages the sharing of resources among laboratories.
- The database is user-friendly and can be accessed by researchers at all levels of experience.

Participate in 2 simple steps:
1. Log on to specimenresource.uc.nci.nih.gov
2. Follow the instructions to add a tissue or cell resource

Please join the SRL, your resources will be a valuable addition to the database.

Thank you,
NCI Specimen Resource Locator
National Institutes of Health
Disease Endpoints Branch
1-5-6-4-3-2
NCI, NIH
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: 301-496-5258

Unsubscribe option
To unsubscribe, please reply with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line
Conclusion

- NCI, in partnership with IMS, developing the SRL as a public searchable database.

- SRL software requires periodic enhancements.

- Marketing modalities important to sustain a viable website.

- SRL web site: [www.specimens.cancer.gov](http://www.specimens.cancer.gov)
It takes a village!

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Irina Lubensky
Helen Moore
Jim Vaught

Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis
Eileen Resnick (NCI Communications expert)

Information Management Services (contract)
Steve Marroulis
Kevin Meagher

NCI Office of Communications and Public Liaison
Meghan Byrne
Kevin Broun
Thank You!