DEFINITIONS

In this document, the term **Biological Resource Centre** and the acronym **BRC** are used to identify the whole range of biorepositories and related services dedicated to cancer research that are based on collections of human specimens. This definition is similar to the one developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), but in the present document there is a focus on biorepositories and services involving collections of human specimens for cancer research. The definition of a BRC not only involves the infrastructure for collection, archival and storage of biospecimens and data, but also the procedures and services for informing individuals who are approached to participate in a study, obtaining their consent, collecting and processing specimens for secure long-term storage, accessing and retrieving specimens appropriate for analysis, processing for preparation of biomaterials (e.g. DNA, RNA, proteins), for quality control, packaging and shipping specimens, etc.

Many types of BRCs are relevant to cancer research. They include, among others, biorepositories of tumour tissues obtained in the course of normal clinical procedures (often called tumour banks), specialised collections developed in the context of clinical trials, mechanistic studies, diagnostic or prognostic studies, collections of specimens developed in epidemiological studies, and biomarker studies biomaterials (tissues, blood, cell lines, DNA, proteins, etc.) derived from individuals with a history of hereditary/familial cancer.

The term **Institution** is used to identify the body responsible for specimen collection and archival that commits itself to the development, management and long-term maintenance of a BRC. While the organisational nature of such institutions may vary widely, they are primarily clinical cancer centres, academic medical centres, research institutes closely associated with clinical centres, or central organisations dedicated to the management of BRCs.

Several terms can define the person who is the source of the biospecimen. It is important to make the distinction between these definitions. For example, a **donor** is a person who donates or gives an organ, blood or blood products to another person, while a **patient** is someone who receives medical attention, care or treatment. An **individual** means the person who is the subject of protected health information, and a **participant** is a person who takes part in a trial. Participants usually must meet certain eligibility criteria.