Abbreviations

BRC	Biological Resource Centre
DGR	Dangerous Goods Regulations
DNA	DeoxyriboNucleic Acid
EORTC	European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer
HBV	Hepatitis B Virus
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICD-O	International Classification of Diseases for Oncology
ISBER	International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
LN2	Liquid Nitrogen
MRC	Medical Research Council
MTA	Material Transfer Agreement
NCI	National Cancer Institute
OCT	Optimum Cutting Temperature
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECI	Organisation of European Cancer Institutes
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
R&D	Research and Development
RNA	RiboNucleic Acid
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TNM	TNM classification of malignant tumours
TUBAFROST	The European Human Tumor Frozen Tissue Bank
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WHO	World Health Organization

Glossary

Biorepository: a place, room or container where biospecimens are stored. Biorepositories vary considerably, ranging form formal organisations to informal collections of materials in an individual researcher's freezer.

Biospecimen: a quantity of tissue, blood, urine or other biologically derived material used for diagnosis and analysis. A single biopsy may generate several biospecimens, including multiple paraffin blocks or frozen biospecimens. A biospecimen can include everything from subcellular structures (DNA) to cells, tissue (bone, muscle, connective tissue and skin), organs (e.g. liver, bladder, heart, kidney), blood, gametes (sperm and ova), embryos, fetal tissue, and waste (urine, faeces, sweat, hair and nail clippings, shed epithelial cells and placenta).

Collection: assemblage, for research purposes, of biological material selected on the basis of clinical or biological characteristics.

Dry ice: solid phase carbon dioxide.

ICDO: the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O) is a domain specific extension of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems for tumour diseases. This classification is widely used by cancer registries.

Informed consent: an educational process between the investigator and the prospective subject (or the subject's legally authorized representative) as a means to ensure respect for persons; mutual understanding of research procedures, risks, rights, and responsibilities; and continuous voluntary participation.

Material Transfer Agreement: a binding label agreement between the provider of research materials and the recipient of the materials, setting forth conditions of transfer and use, protecting proprietary interests, and restricting distribution of the material. An important aspect of the MTA is that it normally removes liability on the part of the provider that might arise from the recipient's use of the research material.

Patient: a person undergoing medical treatment.

Processing: any procedure employed after biospecimen collection but prior to its distribution, including preparation, testing, and releasing the biospecimen to inventory and labelling.

Quality assurance: an integrated system of management activities involving planning, implementation, documentation, assessment and improvement to ensure that a process or item is of the type and quality needed for the project.

Quality control: specific tests defined by the Quality assurance to be performed to monitor procurement, processing, preservation and storage, biospecimen quality, and test accuracy. These may include but are not limited to performance evaluations, testing and controls used to determine accuracy and reliability of the biorepository's equipment and operational procedures as well as monitoring of the supplies, reagents, equipment and facilities.

Sample: portions of biospecimens distributed to researchers.

Subject: a living individual about whom an investigator, either professional or student, conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual or (2) identifiable private information. A human subject may also be a patient, but is not necessarily one.

Tissue: refers generally to a biologic collection of cells, and the extracellular matrix and/or intercellular substances surrounding them. Tissue is most often referred to in the context of solid tissue, as originating from a solid organ; however, tissue can also be defined more broadly to include collections of cells and intercellular substances from bodily fluids such as blood.

TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours: TNM is the cancer staging system developed and maintained by the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) to achieve consensus on one globally recognised standard for classifying the extent of spread of cancer. The Mandatory parameters ('T', 'N', and 'M') are:

T ((0),1-4): size or direct extent of the primary tumour

N (0-3): spread to regional lymph nodes

M (0/1): distant metastasis

Use of an «X» instead of a number or other suffix means that the parameter is not assessed.

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