

AUSTRALIAN BREAST CANCER TISSUE BANK ACCESS POLICY

The ABCTB supports research projects investigating breast cancer and is open to applications from researchers from Australia and overseas with appropriate ethics and scientific approvals. Approval of projects by an appropriate HREC is an essential prerequisite for all applications. Applications for material that have been peer reviewed and funded by major scientific bodies (NHMRC, NIH, CINSW etc.) will be subject to nominal review.

The allocation of biospecimens and/or data to research projects will first be reviewed by one or more members from the ABCTB Scientific Review Panel which is comprised of senior scientists/clinicians in the field of breast cancer, with research evaluation expertise. Panel members will be selected in accordance with their expertise related to the specific project under evaluation. They will assess whether the application comprises a scientifically justifiable, feasible and high priority use of the material requested. Applications which are approved by this panel will be referred to the ABCTB Access Committee who will assess and approve the application in light of overall project balance and impact on the biobank.

The following factors will be taken into consideration:

1. Review of the scientific merit of the project by the ABCTB Scientific Review Panel/ABCTB Access Committee. This will be based on: scientific validity; study design; technical parameters (e.g. reproducibility, sensitivity, specificity); clinical or scientific impact; project balance within the ABCTB; practicality and feasibility (e.g. amount of tissue, number and type of samples required).
2. First priority will be given to peer reviewed, funded, research projects.
3. Second priority will be given to developmental projects and new researchers developing projects in academic centres.
4. Researchers making large requests or requests for very rare tissue may have their applications further reviewed by the ABCTB Management Group who will consider the application in light of the interests of the biobank.
5. Applications made by commercial organisations will not in general be supported; however meritorious cases may be referred to the ABCTB Advisory Panel for further consideration.
6. Commercial organisations, if approved to apply to ABCTB, and organisations outside Australia, will need to provide suitable ethics documentation, such as ethics documentation from Institutional Review Boards or similar, or private/independent HREC approval from overseas.

Please also note the following:

1. All biospecimens and/data supplied to approved projects will be released with a donor reference number and will be non-identifiable.
2. A Materials Transfer Agreement (MTA) will be required prior to release of materials and/or data.
3. It is mandatory for investigators supplied with resources from the biobank to acknowledge the facility in any published work that results from using this material and this will be a condition of the MTA.
4. If significant input from members of the ABCTB, over and above the supply of materials and data, is necessary for a particular research project, then an agreement on authorship and/or collaboration must be entered into.
5. If material from the biobank is essential for a particular project to be feasible, then the ABCTB must be approached prior to the submission of the grant application and an agreement entered into. Grant applications by researchers must not be dependent on access to the facility unless the biobank has agreed in principle to supply material. Material will generally not be held for individual projects for more than 6 months.

Appeals Process

If any dispute or difference arises between parties in respect of any matter referred to in this document, then either party may by notice in writing to the other, specify the nature of the dispute or difference. In the event that a mutually acceptable resolution is not reached, either party can call for its submission to the independent ABCTB Advisory Panel.

**THIS POLICY IS EFFECTIVE FROM 8 DECEMBER 2017
AND WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE APPLICATIONS.**

This policy will be updated as required and the latest version of relevant documents will be available on the ABCTB website. It is the responsibility of applicants to be aware of and adhere to any changes.