

BCCH BioBank Newsletter



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Have you seen our BioBank video?

The BC Children's Hospital BioBank is a collection of biological samples available for researchers, interested in improving medical treatments for children and families.

Why Carter's family chose to BioBank Carter's samples during his treatment

The BioBank has asked Marla (mother of Carter) to share Carter and her experience with us and why they chose to donate their samples for research.

"We would like to share our story about why we think the BioBank is so vitally important. Our son Carter was diagnosed with Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL) on October 31, 2015 at the age of 10. His prognosis was good with a 80% success rate. During the second month of treatment we met Adam from the BCCH BioBank. He shared the mission of the BioBank: to have a collection of samples to advance research in pediatric disease.

We agreed immediately and Carter gave samples of his: blood, tumors and bone marrow. It was all done during his other procedures and he had no physical effects from contributing. The only effect that he has now is knowing that he is part of the solution.

Unfortunately, on December 31, 2015 we were told that Carter's cancer was spreading during treatment. His protocol changed immediately. There was a new chemotherapy drug that attaches itself to the ALCL cell and stops it from growing and dividing. This along with other chemotherapy drugs put Carter in remission within three months. This new drug was created by researchers just like the ones accessing the BCCH BioBank. It was only approved by Health Canada in 2013 and it saved Carter's life. Having the BioBank available to researchers will speed up the research process and improve treatments for children just like Carter.

His future looks very bright but he will continue to deal with side effects from his treatments. We want Carter's struggle and suffering to be part of finding answers and changing lives. Our belief is that the biobank offers integrity, confidentiality and a risk free way to support all children and their families."

Banked samples are used for research into creating more effective treatment against rheumatic diseases



Rheumatic diseases like juvenile arthritis and lupus affect more than 10,000 children and youth in Canada as well as thousands of adults that are living with a rheumatic disease that began in childhood. Children with these diseases have regular attacks of inflammation that can only be controlled by toxic drugs that have bad side effects. [Dr Kelly Brown](#) (pictured here) is a new investigator in the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at the BCCH Research Institute. Her research program aims to find biological markers to predict and assess these inflammatory attacks so doctors can more effectively customize treatment for each child. As these are rare diseases, it takes many years, and often national and international efforts to collect enough material from patients to study, thus biobanking high quality material is fundamental for this area of research. With support from the BCCH BioBank the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology has already established the largest international collection to date of biosamples from children with vasculitis. Some of these samples were recently analyzed alongside similar samples donated to the BioBank from otherwise healthy children. We look forward to our continued collaboration with the BCCH BioBank and the development of a repository of samples from children with rheumatic diseases that can be used for future research into these conditions and other inflammatory diseases in children and adults.



MARTIN

PARTNERS

