

BCCH BioBank Newsletter—Summer 2018



A goodbye to our BioBank Manager, Tamsin Tarling

Dear BioBank participants,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your interest in the BC Children's Hospital BioBank and for sharing your own or your child's samples with the research community. Your donations are very valuable and will contribute to improve treatments and therapies in the future.

I have had the pleasure of interacting with many of you and I can tell you that you have all impacted my life. I am consistently amazed by the giving nature and insights of human beings at a time when they have every right to refuse to talk to anyone let alone sit through a 10 page consent form!

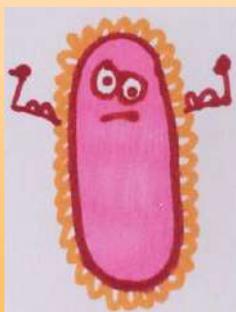
I really believe that biobanks are important and allow people to participate in research and feel that their situation has some meaning. I believe that biobanks are essential for improving research outcomes. I am honoured to have been a part of the BioBank team here at BC Children's Hospital BioBank and it is with mixed emotions that I am leaving.

Best wishes,

Tamsin Tarling

BioBank samples used for studies of immunity against *Haemophilus influenzae* type A in children.

Haemophilus influenzae type a (Hia) is an important bacterial pathogen that causes severe invasive diseases such as meningitis, septicemia, epiglottitis, and septic arthritis. Interestingly, it has been found that Canadian Aboriginal communities are more susceptible to infection and development of disease. Dr. Manish Sadarangani, Director of the Vaccine Evaluation Center at BCCH Research Institute, is working with Dr. Ulanova at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and other collaborators to better understand immunity against Hia. Dr. Sadarangani's lab is developing a new method for detecting antibodies against Hia in saliva, and Dr. Ulanova's lab has developed a similar method to use in blood. The researchers will be using pediatric plasma samples from the BCCH Biobank to help with these studies. Access to these samples is a great advantage as it will help determine age-specific natural Hia immunity in young children and it will provide the information needed for implementing a new vaccine for Hia.



[BCCHB WEBSITE](#)



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.



BioBank Activities

It's been a while since our last newsletter so we wanted to update you on what we have been doing this year in addition to collecting and storing samples for research.

1) Dr. Vercauteren received a grant to address the opinions of patients with mental health problems in regard to research. Focus groups with patients, parents, healthcare providers and researcher provided us with an opportunity to hear how we can improve biobanking.

2) Dr. Vercauteren received another grant to obtain opinions from patients, public, health care providers and researchers about research and biobanking.

Both projects have provided us with interesting ideas and results and we will be making these available to all of you who are interested in hearing more.

We thank all of you who participated in the focus groups and workshops and provided your time and opinions. These projects would not have been successful without you!

3) Dr. Vercauteren and Adam Velenosi have set up a Special Interest Group (SIG) at the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER). This organization is the international biobanking society and the role of the SIG is to connect pediatric and pregnancy related biobanks internationally. The SIG will help us all work together better, share ideas and overall get better at what we do! Watch this space!

PARTNERS

