

BCCHB NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL UPDATES FROM THE BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BIOBANK

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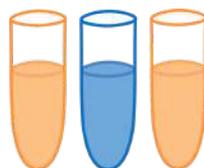
WE CURRENTLY COLLECT:

BLOOD
BONE MARROW
TISSUE
SALIVA
STEM CELLS
URINE
PLACENTA
CEREBROSPINAL FLUID
CORD BLOOD



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM BCCHB!

The BC Children's Hospital BioBank team would like to thank you for your ongoing support of research. Wishing you a wonderful and safe New Year.



BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
BioBank

PUBLISHED RESEARCH FINDINGS

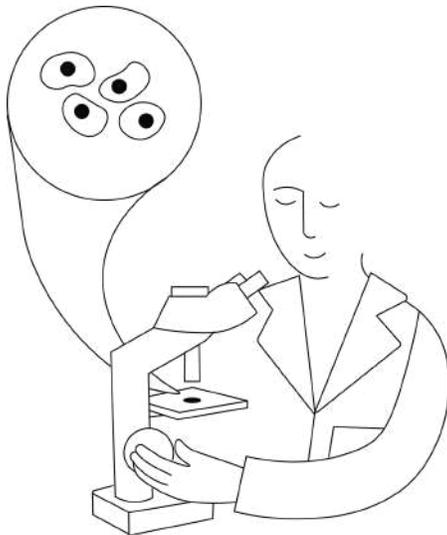
This summer, two journal articles were published in a special pediatric edition of the Biopreserv Biobank journal that demonstrated research findings from the BCCHB. More information and details on each of these studies can be found below.

Pediatric Biobanking: Kids Are Not Just Little Adults

Summary: Pediatric biobanking brings a unique set of challenges and complexities to an already multifaceted system. To address these specific issues, an ISBER Pediatric Special Interest Group (SIG) was formed in September 2017. These experts from around the world, including our own BCCHB Co-Director, Dr. Suzanne Vercauteren, share what they think makes pediatric biobanking special. Topics include the vulnerability of this population, assent and capacity to consent, and the need to embed biobanking and sample collection into clinical care. The expert responses display how pediatric biobanks around the world are adjusting to current research needs, and creating their own unique contributions to our biomedical communities.

Ethical Challenges for Pediatric Biobanks

Abstract: Biobank participation of children is an ethically complicated process as the vulnerability of this population is a concern throughout the entire process of biobanking. Some ethical issues are more prominent in pediatric biobanking and may not need to be considered in biobanking of adult specimens and data. These include assent, re-consent at the age of majority, capacity to consent, and consequences of genetic results on the child and family members. This article describes current processes and best practices described in the literature as well as our experience at the BC Children's Hospital BioBank, a pediatric institutional biobank in Vancouver, Canada. The focus is on processes more specific to pediatric biobanking, such as assent, as well as topics that affect the pediatric population differently compared to adult biobanking.



WELCOME KENDALL PLANT!

The BC Children's Hospital BioBank in partnership with the Clinical Research Development Laboratory (CRDL) is pleased to welcome Kendall Plant, recently appointed as a new research technician.

In her new role, Kendall will work to support researchers at BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre in their research programs. Working with lead study investigators and lab and project managers, she will assist with many aspects of research projects, including sample collection, processing, storage and analysis. Kendall holds a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology and biochemistry from University of Victoria. She joins the team with several years of experience as a lead quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) analyst and laboratory technician. Her strong technical skills and aptitude for improving workflow make her an excellent addition to the team.

COVID-19 HIGH SCHOOL SURVEY

Since May 2021, the BioBank has conducted a survey among high school students within grades 8-12 across British Columbia regarding their perceptions of COVID-19, vaccination, and research participation. Adolescents are asked about vaccination willingness and concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, this survey assesses adolescent opinions on the importance of research and willingness to participate, along with the types of samples they are willing to donate. The BCCHB has previously surveyed high school students in 2016-17 to gather opinions on willingness to participate in research, types of samples adolescents are willing to donate as well as importance and appropriate age of assent and re-consent. The current study surveys a similar demographic after the experience of living through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first phase of our survey was conducted from May-June 2021, recruiting over 600 participants. School districts such as Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, West Vancouver, Fort Nelson, Sunshine Coast, Coquitlam, Prince George, Vancouver, and Burnaby participated in this survey. Since the start of Sept 2021, we decided to do a second phase of our survey, where we changed a few questions to reflect high school students having the ability to get vaccinated over the summer, having received over 380 responses so far. We hope to collect responses until April 1st, 2022 and use the results of this survey to help implement future public policies surrounding vaccination effects and research for this age group in the future. Additionally, survey responses will be considered to improve biobanking and research operations and to learn how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted adolescent perspectives on research.

Artwork by Augusta Lutinski