



BCCH BioBank Newsletter

PARTNERS



WE CURRENTLY COLLECT:

- Blood
- Bone Marrow
- Tissue
- Saliva
- Stem cells
- Placenta
- Urine
- Cerebral Spinal Fluid



BIOBANKS FUEL MEDICAL RESEARCH

Advances in medical research have drastically improved quality of life for millions of people and led to effective treatments for conditions that were once life-threatening.

In order to continue improving treatments and therapies, researchers need access to health information and biological samples, such as blood, from a wide variety of people. A biobank is a collection of de-identified information and samples that scientists can access for their research.

A single biospecimen from one patient has the ability to fuel numerous research projects, any one of which might lead to an important medical breakthrough.

BC Children's Hospital BioBank collects samples from children at BC Children's Hospital and from pregnant women at BC Women's Hospital. Development of the BC Children's Hospital BioBank was made possible by a donation from [Mining for Miracles](#) - the BC mining community's longstanding fundraising campaign for BC Children's Hospital.

NEW VIDEO ON BIOBANKING

Have you ever wondered how to explain biobanking to your children in an easily understandable manner? We have recently produced a new cartoon [video](#) to help with the process.

There will soon be a more adult-oriented video in the making as well!

PUBLIC OPINIONS OF THE BIOBANK

In the past year, surveys were distributed at various high schools in the Vancouver School Board district to gain an understanding of how the public perceive biobanks. We compared the opinions of the public in a hospital setting versus a school setting. Overall, it was discovered that those who were in a hospital setting are more likely to donate samples to a biobank. What was equally interesting was that the results showed that adolescents are more willing to donate their leftover biospecimens than their parents.

This research is currently in submission, please visit our [website](#) in the new year for a link to the publication.

FOLLOW US ON OUR WEBSITE



The BC Children's Hospital BioBank was fully established in January 2015.

We have been recognized at many international health conferences and organizations such as the annual meeting for the [International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories](#), the [ESBB Biobanking Society](#), [Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres](#) and [Leaders in Biobanking](#).

We have also held presentations to high schools from across the Lower Mainland to inform the youth about the biobanking process.

Did you know?

Only about 10% of adolescents and their parents have heard about the biobank?

We still have lots of work to do in engaging and educating the public; so please spread the word by circulating this newsletter and our social media pages to your friends, family and colleagues!

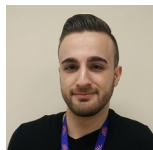
Meet The Staff



Suzanne Vercauteren
Director



Katelin Townsend
Research Technician



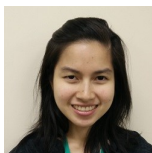
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 *Happy holidays from the BioBank!*

