



The Origins and Development of a Pilot for a Statewide Arizona Biospecimen Consortium

The Arizona Biomedical Research Commission (ABRC), through its active involvement in the Arizona Biosciences Roadmap and Arizona Translational Research Pathway efforts identified the importance of access to high quality biospecimens to further clinical and translational research in the age of genomic-based medicine.

From outreach to hospitals and the research community, ABRC learned that a comprehensive and coordinated effort was needed to raise the capacity of existing and emerging biospecimen banks across the state to effectively generate sufficient biospecimens for clinical research and manage the interface with the research community.



Key Needs Identified:

- *Address specific infrastructure and staffing needs of hospitals*
- *Establish a centralized, web-based biological specimen tracking database system and associated software*

Support the ability to provide information about the availability of specimens in a consistent and virtual manner. Allow researchers to browse and query the specimen universe in order to determine which specimen may be suitable for their needs. Facilitate the ordering and tracking of these biospecimens.

- *Facilitate the development of a governance and standards approach*

Ensure there are appropriate protocols for how the Arizona biospecimen consortium operates as well as guiding how the biospecimen information system would be developed.

Advancing a Pilot Consortium Effort

ABRC decided it was important to work first with a geographically focused group given the time and effort needed to facilitate information system specifications, standards development and governance approaches.

Pilot consortium members: St. Joseph's Hospital, Maricopa Medical Center, Banner Sun Health Research Institute and Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Advancing a State-of-the-Art Biospecimen IT System

ABRC issued an RFP based on a set of requirements for a biospecimen IT system informed by the pilot consortium members.

SAM Solutions was selected to develop the biospecimen information system, Arizona Biospecimen Locator (ABL). ABL exposes a Common Biorepository Model (CBM) Grid Service which allows for access to the de-identified biospecimen data over the NCI's caGrid.

Status as of October 2010

We are now approaching the end of the planning and initial development stage of the pilot effort. Going forward, we are envisioning a statewide outreach effort to engage additional hospitals and research centers to participate and provide further input into the development of the initiative.

