

**Towards Excellence and Standardisation in Fresh Tissue Biobanking –
An International Workshop**

September 16th 2011

Room Koch, Saturnus Conference Center, Hornsgatan 15, Södermalm, Stockholm

Tissue biobanking is increasingly becoming an important part of high impact research. Advances in clinical diagnostic techniques means that tissue is available for research only in limited amounts while the demand for tissue is increasing. Additionally, once removed, tissue goes through defined tissue-dependent reactive changes with direct impact on the quality of RNA and protein which can cause significant variability and bias in downstream molecular analysis and also reduce the success of establishing viable primary cell lines.

The aim of this workshop is to discuss how to best optimize biobank procedures to maximize the use of this invaluable material. Topics addressed include: Biobank set-up; quality control; tissue preservation; and sample logistics management.

We have invited experts (see programme below) to present the best current biobanking practices to persons who are involved or interested in tissue biobanking. Participants will then have a chance to form work groups and formulate the best biobanking practices relating to their tissues of interest. To participate in this free-of-charge workshop please send an email, stating why you should be selected to James Thompson (james.thompson@karolinska.se) before 1st September.

Workshop Programme

9.00-9.30	Coffee/registration
9.30-9.45	Monica Nistér , Karolinska Institutet, Sweden Opening of the workshop and welcome
9.45-10.10	James Thompson , Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden Karolinska Healthcare Research Biobank
10.10-10.45	Tobias Sjöblom , Uppsala University, Sweden Setting up a tissue biobank: what should be considered when designing and operating a facility
10.45-11.00	Coffee
11.00- 11.35	Gunnel Tybring , Karolinska Institutet, Sweden Understanding the importance of quality control
11.35-12.05	Bas De Jong , Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, Holland Tissue preservation methods and specimen handling reality
12.05-13.00	Lunch

- 13.00-13.25 **Greg Winn**, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden
Tissue SCARAB LIMS
- 13.25-14.00 **Kimmo Pitkanen**, Institute of Molecular Medicine Finland, Finland
Automated tissue storage/retrieval systems
- 14.00-14.20 Coffee
- 14.20-15.20 **Group work**
Discuss what would be required for harmonizing tissue biobanking
procedures nation-wide
Discuss implementation of quality assurance
Discuss preservation methods and long term storage
- 15.20-16.30 **Report back and general discussion**
- 16.30 Close of workshop