BACKGROUNDD
The Tissue Procurement Facility associated with the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center (HFGCC) at Christiana Care was established in September 2003 and focused primarily on banking tissue and blood specimens for local research. Over time additional tumor sites were added along with prospective collection for outside research studies. As of January 2009, collection of specimens for The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) project has become the primary focus.

Given the growth of the tissue bank, the need for a more robust tissue procurement IT tool became evident. The tissue bank had outgrown its Microsoft Access based legacy application and CaTissue Suite (v1.1) was deemed an appropriate replacement.

METHODS
- Legacy Data Migration
  - moved five years of historical data
  - single point of reference for all tissue procurement data
- Barcode Generation
  - satisfies TCGA requirement
- Shipping and Tracking individual specimens
- Real Time HL7 Interface
  - real time capture of pathology reports
  - automated report de-identification
  - facilitates data submission requirement for TCGA
- Data Warehouse Interface
  - window into tumor registry and hospital EHR
  - facilitates access to accurate patient follow up information

CONCLUSIONS
The HFGCC’s involvement in the TCGA necessitated the deployment of a modern tissue banking IT tool. CaTissue Suite was an ideal choice because it was a stable open source application which offered a rich feature set. Additionally, the use of CaTissue Suite enables the tissue bank to collaborate with other institutions in the future by positioning it to be able to share data over the Grid.