REVISITING THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE BEST PRACTICES FOR BIOSPECIMEN RESOURCES
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What is a Biospecimen Resource?
NCI defines a biospecimen resource as a collection of human specimens and associated data for research purposes, the physical structure where the collection is stored, and all relevant processes and policies. Biospecimen resources vary considerably, ranging from formal organizations to informal collections of materials in an individual researcher’s freezer.

NCI's Biospecimen Activities
- Symposium “Advancing Cancer Research Through Biospecimen Science”
- National education and outreach program about the NCI Best Practices
- Workshop “Custodianship and Ownership Issues in Biospecimen Research”
- FGGs revised based on public comments and renamed NCI Best Practices for Biospecimen Resources
- First-Generation Guidelines for NCI-Supported Biorepositories (FGGs) published in Federal Register
- cBIB™ software tools for biorepositories developed
- Analysis of NCI-supported biospecimen resources conducted
- Trans-NCI Biorepository Coordinating Committee (BCC) formed
- Case Studies of Existing Human Tissue Repositories published
- National Biospecimen Network (NBN) Blueprint published
- Internal and external review of biorepository issues begun
- Biospecimen resources identified as critical resources for cancer research

2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008

Release of 2007 NCI Best Practices for Biospecimen Resources

New Interactive Format
The new format includes additional features such as:
- Hyperlinks to outside resources and references
- Internal links between various sections within the NCI Best Practices
- Search functionality of NCI Best Practices content

The new format also includes interactive features to encourage stakeholder input. Features include:
- Feedback form
- Polls
- Sign-up form for updates on the Best Practices

To use the interactive Best Practices, please visit:
http://biospecimens.cancer.gov/bestpractices

New Steps for the Web-based Format
- The use of interactive and new media tools will continue to be expanded to keep NCI and OBBR in touch with stakeholder needs
- The web-based format will allow addition of new tools and resources as they are developed
- Printable versions of the NCI Best Practices will continue to be available
- Updates to the NCI Best Practices will be communicated via the OBBR website and the Best Practice update email list

Next Steps
- Comments from relevant NIH and HHS offices are being incorporated into the revised version
- Public comment on the Best Practices will be sought through a Federal Register notice and solicitation of comments from outside subject experts
- Will continue to use an online format and will focus on providing additional appendices/resources for detailed information
- NCI is committed to continuing outreach and public engagement activities

For more information, please visit:
http://biospecimens.cancer.gov/