



OBBR Office of Biorepositories
and Biospecimen Research

NCI Biospecimen Best Practices Forum

Economic Issues Breakout Session

**November 5, 2007
Boston**





Participants

OBBR Office of Biorepositories
and Biospecimen Research

Jim Vaught, Ph.D., Moderator

- Deputy Director, NCI Office of Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research

Martin L. Ferguson, Ph.D.

- Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Consultant

Lisa Miranda, B.S.

- Technical Director, University of Pennsylvania Tumor Tissue and Biospecimen Bank



Economics Session Plan

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- **Overview of session – Jim Vaught**
- **Biobanking cost recovery in practice: an academic perspective – Lisa Miranda**
- **Economics of specimen collection and annotation: the commercial perspective – Martin Ferguson**
- **Questions and Answers – All**



Why are we discussing economic issues?

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- The comments received on the initial version of the Best Practices indicated concern about the costs of implementing some of the recommendations.
- During a period of budget limitations at NIH we need to take a more comprehensive approach to analyzing and controlling costs at all levels, including intramural and extramural biospecimen resources.
- It is often necessary to preserve biospecimen collections for long periods of time in order to meet research goals. And many biospecimens may become increasingly valuable as reference materials and to study the origins of diseases. We cannot afford to discard such specimen collections, but how do we afford to keep them?



A Few Issues

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- **What funding models exist for various biospecimen resources? How do they vary among commercial, academic, Government resources?**
- **Is it possible to fully recover costs? Is it desirable to fully recover costs? Will recovery of costs affect access?**
- **Will there be additional costs associated with implementing the NCI Best Practices? For informatics, equipment, QA/QC, personnel?**
- **How will the costs to implement NCI's best practices differ in a small biorepository (1 or a few freezers) versus a large facility?**
- **Is it advantageous, from an operational and/or economic point of view, to consolidate biospecimen resources into larger centralized facilities? Would a central resource be accepted in your organization?**
- **Is it possible to quantify the economic impact of a biospecimen resource? Few studies have addressed this.**
- **Are there newer technologies available that can reduce costs now or in the near future?**
- **Other issues based on your experience?**