

Overview of the Critical Importance of Biospecimens in Cancer Research

- Improvement of biomolecule extraction techniques
- Control of biospecimen collection by pathologists to ensure high-quality specimens
 - They are ultimately responsible for making tissue decisions but cannot compromise patient care
- Discarded, non-identifiable “trash”
 - Variation may be built in prior to specimen analysis (Should it be trash? Is it trash?)
 - Seeking IRB approval to de-identify vs. destroy biospecimens – Is this an aid to research?
- Biospecimen research and variability
 - Prostate SPORE study: widespread variation in routine processing
 - Pathologists do not control laboratory operations and cannot easily change routine procedure
- Biospecimen hoarding