



# TTR UPDATE

Issue 3

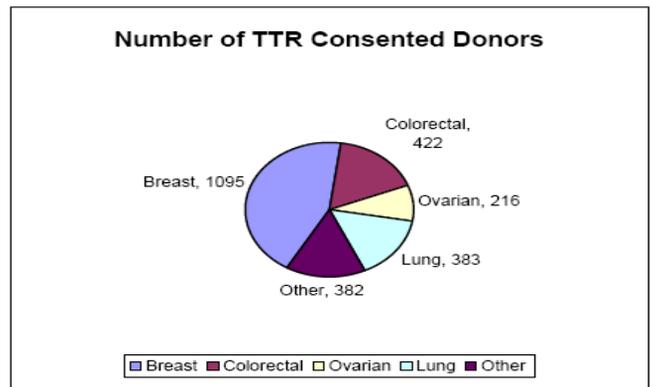
Fall 2009

**The Tumour Tissue Repository (TTR) program** depends on the ongoing support we receive from the Surgeons, Anatomical pathologists and their clinical, support and administrative groups in Victoria, and more recently in Nanaimo. This support is critical to allow patients to hear of this program and consider the opportunity to donate their tissues and health data to build a unique and invaluable resource to support cancer research. Overall 95% of patients referred to the TTR choose to participate and in the past year the TTR has consented over 492 new donors (the total number of donors since 2003 is 2498, see figure).

## New for 2009

**Access:** The TTR achieved its short term accrual goals and opened for research access at the end of 2008. Since then the TTR has provided support for over 5 research projects and released materials from over 200 cases. Details of the access procedures can be found on our website.

**Expansion:** The TTR has worked with the surgeons and pathologists in Nanaimo to enable the program to expand to Nanaimo. We can now offer the opportunity to participate to breast and colorectal cancer patients in Nanaimo.



(2003-2009)

**Science:** The TTR presented two abstracts at the international society of biological and environmental repositories (ISBER) and contributed to two papers on biospecimen variables (“Timing of consent for the research use of surgically removed tissue: is postoperative consenting acceptable?” *Cancer*. Jan 2009) and patient consent (“Influence of evolution in tumour biobanking on the interpretation of translational research”. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. Dec 2008).

**The strategic vision and goals of the TTR:** Biobanks like the TTR are critical to support research into biomarkers to guide and components to target new therapies. Biobanking occurs at the interface between patients, clinic, and research. To foster biobanking the TTR aims are as follows:

- ❖ To create and maintain a world class basic research biobank that can offer an appropriate spectrum of cases to enable BC research groups to conduct translational cancer research and to continue to compete at an international level with world class biospecimen resources available.

❖ To contribute biobanking expertise to translational cancer research groups in BC to create what we need to be competitive in the future. This is currently being pursued through the BC BioLibrary project and the CTRNet project.

❖ To offer biobanking as a research opportunity for all cancer patients as part of standard of care.

## Local and Regional TTR Initiatives

### Local

The TTR continues to assist local groups across the province with biobanking needs and/or expertise. One of these projects is the Vancouver Island Centre's PREDICT project. This project is creating a population-based biobank of blood samples that will help to identify host factors that affect response to treatment. To date over 2500 patients have consented to participate in this project. A second project is the Deeley Research Centre's IROC-Immune Response to Ovarian Cancer project. To date 62 women have been consented to participate in the study and 2 papers have been published. To learn more about the TTR and supported projects please visit: [www.bccrc.ca/ttr](http://www.bccrc.ca/ttr)

### Provincial

The TTR continues to play a leadership role in developing a new initiative in BC, the BC BioLibrary. The objective is to create a new accrual platform for all biobanks and to address inefficiencies, lack of capacity, and varying standards in biobanking within BC. To learn more about the BC BioLibrary please visit: [www.bcbioblibrary.ca](http://www.bcbioblibrary.ca)

### National

The TTR is a founding member of the new Canadian Tumour Repository Network (CTRNet). The objective of CTRNet is to promote biobanking standards and to improve access to tumour tissue and data resources by linking researchers with provincial tumour banks. To learn more about CTRNet please visit: [www.ctrnet.ca](http://www.ctrnet.ca)

### Websites:

TTR-BCCA main page

[www.bccancer.bc.ca/res/ttr](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/res/ttr)

BC BioLibrary

[www.bcbioblibrary.ca](http://www.bcbioblibrary.ca)

Canadian Tumour Repository Network

[www.ctrnet.ca](http://www.ctrnet.ca)

### TTR Contact Info:

TTR Nurse: 250-519-5713

Toll Free: 1-800-670-3322 Extension 5713 or ask for the TTR Nurse



## The TTR Team

(From left to right) Nathan Wang (Data Management); Dr. Peter Watson (Director, TTR); Simon Dee (Data Management); Kristy Dillon (DRC Project Assistant); Aleata Ryhorchuk (Biodata Coordinator); Rebecca Barnes (Senior TTR Coordinator); Jodi LeBlanc (Project Nurse); Cheryl Savage (Administrative Assistant, absent)

**Thank you to our funding bodies:**