



TTR UPDATE



Issue 6

Winter 2013

The BC Cancer Agency Tumour Tissue Repository (TTR) is a provincial resource to support translational cancer research at the BC Cancer Agency, across Canada and Internationally.

TTR Supported Research

Genetic Differences Found Between Smokers and Never Smokers at the Lung Centre

TTR-collected lung tumours assisted Dr. Stephen Lam's research group at the Lung Centre (Vancouver, BC) in discovering findings of important genomic alterations between tumours from smokers compared to tumours from never smokers.

Reference: Thu KL et al., Lung adenocarcinoma of never smokers and smokers harbor differential regions of genetic alteration and exhibit different levels of genomic instability. PLoS One. 2012; 7 (3)



for DNA analysis of 100,000 cancer patients. **Reference:** Curtis C. et al., The genomic and transcriptomic architecture of 2,000 breast tumours reveals novel subgroups. Nature, 2012; 486 (10983)

Understanding Triple-Negative Breast Cancers

A paper in one of the world's leading scientific journals, Nature, lead by Dr. Sam Aparicio of the BC Cancer Agency, was supported by 104 breast cancer tumours from the TTR. For the first time, it was shown that each triple-negative breast cancer tumour displays a wide range of clonal heterogeneity. This novel research highlights the need for continued work with breast cancer tumours in order to understand the complexity of the diseases and improve outcomes. **Reference:** Shah S. et al., Clonal and mutational evolution spectrum. Nature, 2012; 486 (7403)

2012 Medical Discovery Recognized by the BBC

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-20785638>)

TTR-collected samples contributed to research that has lead the UK government to invest £100M

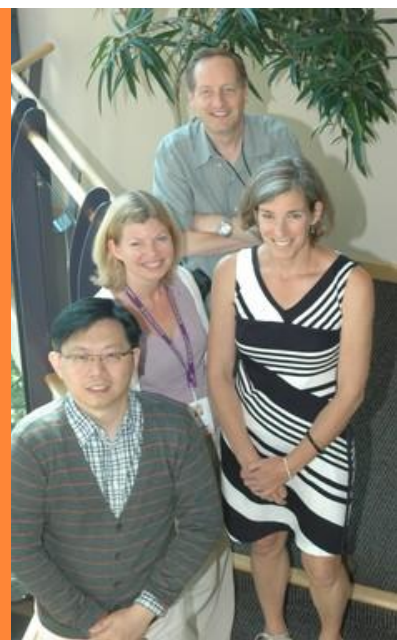
Acknowledgements

*The success of the TTR and research it supports depends on the generosity of **patients** and the ongoing support we receive from **surgeons, anatomical pathologists, oncologists** and their **clinical and administrative groups**, as well as **hospital clinical personnel** in Victoria and Nanaimo.*

Dr. Peter Watson, TTR Director

TTR-VIC Team: Jodi LeBlanc, Sheila O'Donoghue, (Absent: Sindy Babinszky, Tania Castillo-Pelayo)

TTR-OBER Team: Candace Carter, Stef Cheah, Simon Dee, Lise Matzke



Update on Local & Regional TTR Initiatives

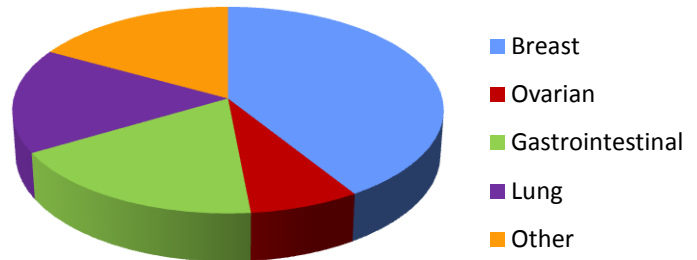
Accrual Update

95% of patients referred to the program choose to participate.

Patient participation is the critical fuel needed for research-leading to discover, development and deployment of better approaches to diagnosis, treatment and care.

To date, the TTR has 4051 consented donors.

Consented Donors by Cancer Type



Local & Regional Initiatives

Local

The TTR continues to support the BCCA Vancouver Island Centre (VIC) wide PREDICT (Personal Response Determinants in Cancer Therapy) project, and the Deeley Research Centre's IROC (Immune Response to Ovarian Cancer) project. The TTR will also be supporting the expansion of PREDICT to the BCCA Sindi Ahluwalia Hawkins Centre for the Southern Interior in Kelowna BC, which is being lead by Dr. Janine Davies.

Provincial

The TTR program now includes an active biobanking team (TTR-VIC) and a biobank resource team (TTR-OBER) in partnership with Dept. of Pathology UBC. The latter is hosted at the Office of Biobank Education and Research (OBER) with an integrated Biobank Resource Centre; <http://pathology.ubc.ca/education-resource/ober/> <http://www.biobanking.ca/>

National

The TTR has continued to support the development of a national certification program for biobanks as part of the national Canadian Tumour Repository Network (CTRNet) organization. After successful implementation of the registration phase last year we anticipate launch of the certification phase in early 2013. For more information visit: www.ctrnet.ca/programbackground

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Thank you to our funders, supporters and affiliated organizations:

