

COVID-19 Research and Sample Request Guide

During the university shutdown investigators from the Health Sciences have been actively studying patients infected with COVID-19 in hopes of learning more about the virus, its pathogenesis and possible treatments. Major investigators have included Drs. Parthasarathy, Knox, Weinkauff, Garcia and many others.

The University of Arizona Health Sciences Biorepository has been actively collaborating with these investigators to facilitate biospecimen collection, processing, characterization and banking. Most, if not all, samples have been linked to electronic medical data present in Cerner. The research community is indebted to these PIs as well as their faculty and fellows for their willingness to participate in this research effort. Many of these individuals have placed their own health in jeopardy to assist in these efforts. To that end, we want to make sure that everyone involved in these efforts is recognized and receives their fair share of the credit on papers, grants, and other efforts. We also want to be sure that patient care is not impacted by the research efforts and that patients are not inconvenienced by these studies. Patients should not be approached multiple times requesting their participation in similar studies by different PIs, nor should they be inconvenienced by multiple requests for blood and other specimens, which could possibly exceed recommended daily limits (e.g., blood draws).

Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy has instituted a review panel to ensure that patients are treated fairly, recruited equitably, and consented for studies appropriately. He will review patient recruitment for all studies involving PCCM, facilitate PI collaboration, manage oversight of biospecimens collected and serve as the gatekeeper for these studies. Similarly, Dr. David Harris as director of the Health Sciences Biorepository serves as the second line of review for COVID-19 studies, in that all samples placed in the biobank fall under his purview. The Biorepository has a universal consent available for use by investigators that is also present in electronic formats, along with a REDCap data base and linkage to electronic medical data stored in Cerner for each subject. **Investigators wishing to initiate a COVID-19 study that would require biospecimen collection should contact Dr. Parthasarathy for patient access.**

Everyone wishing to request COVID-19 samples, including the initiating investigator, must request samples online at our website so that we may track samples in and out of the biobank, as well as document approved requests.

Individuals wishing to review available samples of any type in the biobank may go to <https://generalreporting.uahs.arizona.edu/BiorepositorySummary> to see the types of samples available.

To make an online request specifically for COVID-19 samples to be used for research PIs may visit <https://biobank.uahs.arizona.edu> or <http://redcap.link/covid19request>. Sample requests must include information about the nature of the proposed studies as well as other pertinent information.

Requests are brought before the investigator initiating the collection as well as a **Review Committee** to decide which samples can be distributed, to whom, and which studies are overlapping or duplicative. Although there are many samples available, the samples are not infinite. The Review Committee is made up of representatives from Administration, IT, the IRB, and multiple investigators. No samples will ever be distributed without consent of the initiating

investigator. However, investigators cannot reserve all samples exclusively for themselves and expect to receive gratis service. In the event of scientific overlap of such requests the COVID19 biospecimen Review Committee will request such investigator groups to collaborate and therefore avoid redundancy. If you wish to be part of this Review Committee, please contact Dr. Harris at davidh@email.arizona.edu.

Investigators taking advantage of the COVID-19 biobanking services, upon receipt of a sample from the biobank, must be willing to share data with the biobank as well as other investigators, and in some instances, share portions of a sample (e.g., DNA). This willingness to share is assumed based on submission of the request. Furthermore, investigators receiving such samples must acknowledge the role of collaborators and the biorepository.