Streamlining Cross-Institutional Processes: the Next Great Frontier for Supplying High-Quality Biospecimens to Translational Researchers

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Streamlining Cross-Institutional Processes: The Next Great Frontier for Supplying High-Quality Biospecimens to Translational Researchers

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Introduction
Translational cancer research heavily relies on finding high-quality and clinically annotated biospecimens to fulfill research projects goals. Researchers need to meet specific criteria that includes credibility, to demonstrate a true picture of the research process and validity of findings, transferability, to ensure enough details and sufficient context is analyzed, and confirmability, which provides factual proof of the findings of the research and does not have underlying assumptions.

Miami Cancer Institute, at Baptist Health South Florida, counts with a unique source of resources and biospecimens available for research due to its solid hospital-based infrastructure and the unique population of patients, a predominantly Hispanic population. The Biorepository Program was established to provide this asset to the research community at large. The Program ensures the consent, collection, processing, preservation and research projects goals. Researchers need to meet specific criteria that includes credibility, to demonstrate a true underlying assumptions.

All requests and steps throughout the project are tracked and properly recorded in SharePoint, a dynamic system that allows collaboration from different team members in real time. This request moves from an “inquiry” to an “active request” to start project development. This system articulates a semi-standardized process that normalizes task allocation, milestone tracking and project fulfillment for the different operational units.

Operational Units

Project Requests

Project Tracking and Task Allocation

Conclusions

- Miami Cancer Institute, at Baptist Health South Florida, counts with a unique source of resources and biospecimens available for research due to its solid hospital-based infrastructure and the unique population of patients, a predominantly Hispanic population.
- Researchers can request biospecimens that have been already banked, request to initiate a prospective collection or a combination of both.
- The Biorepository Research Facility (BRF) operates using an innovative, semi-standardized approach, which starts with an inquiry by a researcher, gets assessed from a feasibility perspective, seeks the approval of different committees and has the potential of becoming a BRF research project.
- Due to the uniqueness and level of complexity inherent to each project, the method for project tracking is constantly tested and remains semi-standardized in order to be efficient and flexible.
- BRF utilizes SharePoint, a dynamic system that allows collaboration from different team members in real time. SharePoint serves to manage operational logistics such as intra-departmental communication, task allocation and project tracking and completion. This allows the BRF to have a timely and efficient request fulfillment even though multiple Departments contribute to the development and completion of each project.
- At the heart of the BRF, quality is at the forefront of its operations and each biospecimen is collected, processed, clinically annotated and banked following the highest standards to continuously help researchers generate new diagnostic tools, predictive models and better therapeutic modalities.