

Application and review procedures for Access to the tumorbank@uza

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Introduction & Aim

Tumorbank@UZA is a hospital integrated tumor bank and has systematically collected residual tissue samples according to international guidelines and procedures since 2010. Tissue samples were obtained by means of an opting-out legislative system, which was included on the brochure and hospital website. The sample collection consist over more than 16.000 tissue and serum specimens and is currently available for use in scientific research. Due to the large amount and sample diversity, it is recommended to manage the access.

In this regard, a hospital-integrated Access Policy has been developed in order to encourage the usage of the high-quality stored samples of the tumour bank.

Materials & Methods

A Standard Access Policy (SAP) procedure for the UZA was designed (Figure 1) and is as followed:

1. A Material Request Form is submitted to the Tumorbank@UZA by the principal investigator or applicant.
2. The request is assigned to and reviewed by multidisciplinary Advisory Council consisting of different medical disciplines (surgery, pathology, oncology and scientist). A positive or negative advise is given based on study design, sample availability, funding, scientific valorisation and relevance in cancer research. Advise should be given within 10 working days.
3. Following approval by the Advisory Council, approval of the Ethical Committee is required in order to deliver the Human Material Transfer Agreement (HMTA) and sample application form to the applicant.
4. Requested samples and coded clinical data are released upon the acceptance of a signed HMTA by Tumorbank@UZA.
5. The applicant is committed to give feedback on the obtained findings and results and to acknowledge the Tumorbank@UZA in any scientific communication according to the HMTA.

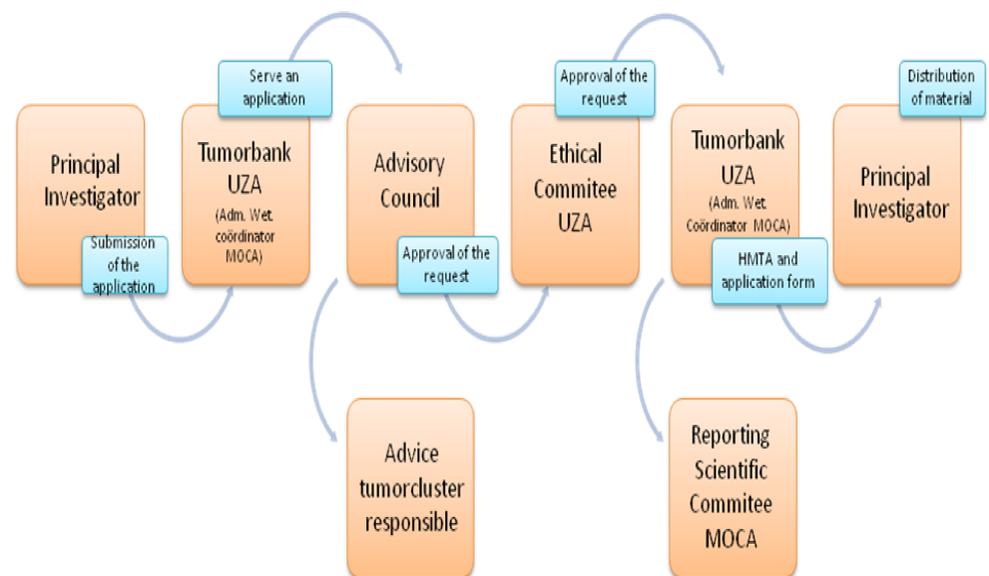


Figure 1: Standard Access Policy (SAP) procedure of the tumorbank@UZA

Results

Since march 2013, stored samples are available for academic scientific research. Since the implementation of the SAP procedure, the Tumorbank@UZA received eight official requests of which all are finally approved.

A total number of 142 samples are released (table 1) :

- 58 Formalin Fixed Paraffin Embedded tissues (FFPE)
- 61 fresh tissues (46 snap frozen tissues and 15 fresh tissue on medium)
- 23 fresh serum samples

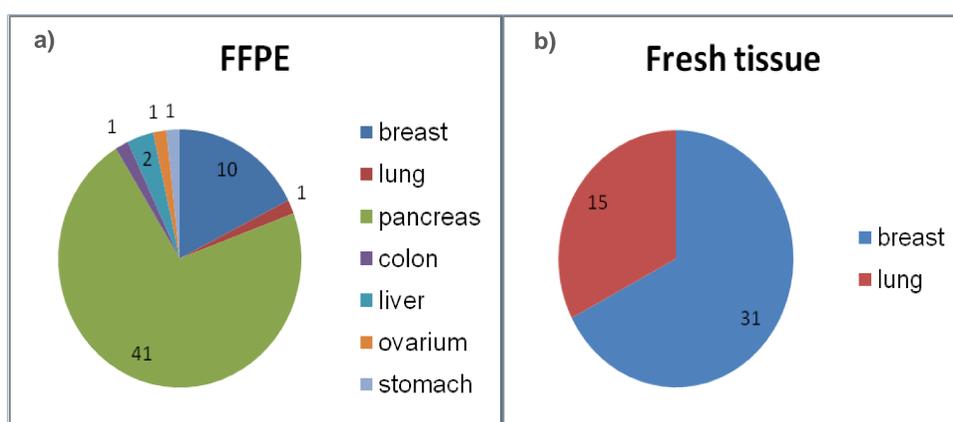
In 6 months, 5 requests are submitted by the University Hospital of Antwerp /University Antwerp (UZA/UA) and 3 requests are initiated with external academic partners.

Up till now, mostly breast, Lung and pancreas tumor tissues (fresh and FFPE) are distributed (Figure 2a-b) and sera from lung tumor patients (table 1).

	FFPE	fresh tissue	snap frozen	serum
breast	10	31	15	0
lung	1	15	0	23
pancreas	41	0	0	0
colon	1	0	0	0
liver	2	0	0	0
ovarium	1	0	0	0
stomach	1	0	0	0

Table1: distribution of material released by Tumorbank@UZA

Figure 2. Sample distribution: FFPE tissues (a) and fresh tumor tissue (b).



Conclusions

- The use of the SAP procedure enables a good and structured management of the sample outflow and output.
- Further optimization of the SAP procedure is in progress to facilitate electronic data-management and workflow of the Tumorbank@UZA.
- Evaluation of the SAP procedure will be accomplished to motivate the implementation of innovative projects with internal and external academic partners

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Financial disclosure: Tumorbank@UZA is funded by the National Cancer Plan (initiative 27) from the Ministry of Health of the Belgian Federal Government.

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