



World BioBank™ a world of quality tissue.

World BioBank™ Launch Benefits Advanced Medical Research *Human Tissue Collection and Specimen Management Provide Focus*

MEMPHIS, TN - April 22, 2009

World BioBank™, founded by the physician partners of Accelerated Community Oncology Research Network, Inc. (ACORN) and based in Memphis, TN (USA), has begun acquiring blood and human tissue samples for scientific research. In addition to tissue collection, World BioBank supports biomarker storage in conjunction with clinical trial operations and provides biomarker consultation services. Specimen storage management services include inventory tracking, processing, storage and shipment. "World BioBank opens the opportunity for patient-specific, targeted therapies and as such heralds a new era of scientific commitment to research and personalized patient care," announced Lee S. Schwartzberg, MD, FACP, President of ACORN.

One of World BioBank's distinguishing features is its commitment to marry samples to a wealth of longitudinal medical data and tissue-specific data, including both pathology data and quality measures that are often very difficult to obtain. "With a strong commitment to the advancement of bioscience, World BioBank operates with an eye toward the improvement of patient outcomes. Patient well-being along with vigilance toward privacy and security directs operational decisions," added Edward J. Stepanski, PhD, COO, ACORN.

World BioBank™ collects cancer samples, normal samples, and other non-neoplastic diseases. Standardized intake, processing and release procedures assure the highest quality samples and data. Sample types routinely collected and housed include: solid tissues (snap frozen and matched formalin-fixed paraffin embedded diseased and normal internal controls) from surgical resections, image-guided biopsies, bone marrow biopsies and endoscopic biopsies. Liquid samples are obtained from peripheral blood, genomic DNA (from buffy coat), and plasma. Drawn from a demographically rich universe, these annotated samples offer the added information advantage of pathology, clinical and outcomes data.

Demanding SOPs help ensure high quality biospecimens. Rapid turn-around techniques ensure that both liquid and solid samples are verified and preserved within minutes of excision or draw.

Tyron (Ty) Hoover, MD, JD, serves as Executive Director of World BioBank™. Dr. Hoover brings special expertise to biobanking and Medico-legal issues including Informed Consent, Privacy, Bioethics. Upon completing a Pathology Residency at Baylor University Medical Center, Dr. Hoover's interest in the legal aspects of medicine led him to attain his JD, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, Dallas, TX. He practiced law in Florida before serving as the Medical Director of the Biospecimen Repository and Total Cancer Care at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute. He also co-directed the University of South Florida College of Medicine's Scholarly Concentration in Law & Medicine.

"By collecting and storing tissue and data from thousands of patients, World BioBank hopes to make a significant contribution to the fight against cancer and other diseases by providing greatly needed materials for scientists and doctors to study," remarked Dr. Hoover during World BioBank's opening. Samples will be available for both academic and private medical research.

Sample collection has begun at West Clinic, Memphis, TN. The multidisciplinary practice has over 110,000 patient encounters annually, with the potential of over 30,000 unique samples for the biorepository. "Memphis is a particularly important collection site as it offers a diverse demographic population. Other venues will be added as the year progresses," explained Dr. Schwartzberg. Cj Finke serves as Project Manager for World BioBank and handles sponsor needs for specimen management and sample requests.

For additional information visit www.WorldBioBank.net or contact Cj Finke, Project Manager, 901-260-9278.

About World BioBank - www.WorldBioBank.net

Founded by the physician partners of ACORN (Accelerated Community Oncology Research Network), World BioBank embraces forward-thinking technology and a strong commitment to the advancement of bioscience. World BioBank provides industry and academia genetically diverse, high quality, standardized biospecimens with high quality data. Services also include biomarker storage, management and consultation for clinical trials and other scientific study.