



ONTARIO TUMOUR BANK

tissue solutions for cancer research

The Ontario Tumour Bank (OTB) is a biorepository and data bank that collects human tumour and other tissues across the province and makes them available to academic and industry-based cancer researchers. The OTB is a valuable resource that supports researchers developing better diagnostic tools and new drug therapies. **Researchers can count on us to provide tissue samples of high quality, diversity and integrity.**

Coordinated team of professionals

The OTB's team of professionals, located in participating medical centres across Ontario, provide high quality samples and clinical data. They receive specialized training to ensure that our exacting standards are always met. Our staff collaborate with pathologists, medical oncologists, surgeons and other hospital personnel to obtain patient consent, collect tissues and assemble comprehensive clinical information on each donor.

Distinctive features of the Ontario Tumour Bank

→ **Quality** – Direct control over every aspect of collection and storage

We have standard operating procedures that are rigorously adhered to by our team of professionals working in our network of hospitals. Samples are preserved within 30 minutes post-resection. Tissues are verified by pathologists and subject to an exacting audit process to ensure tissue integrity and data completion. Tissue specimens are labeled with a bar code, entered into the inventory, frozen and stored at -196°C. The patient's identity is removed from the clinical information, which is stored in a secure central database.

→ **Diversity** – Access to an extensive inventory of cancer biospecimens and data

The OTB's inventory includes samples from more than 35 disease sites including breast, colorectal, gynecological, head and neck, lung, lymphoma, prostate and skin cancers. Researchers have access to fresh-frozen tumour tissue, normal adjacent tissue, paraffin-embedded tissue and peripheral blood (buffy coat and plasma). Comprehensive clinical information is collected on each case including pathology, patient and family history, treatment, toxicity and outcome data.

→ **Integrity** – Ethical transparency and accountability

The Ontario Tumour Bank is an initiative of the Ontario Cancer Research Network, a program of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR). Funded by the Government of Ontario, OICR is a not-for-profit corporation that supports research on the prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and control of cancer. The OTB's unique governance model and its thorough ethics review process ensure that it meets the highest scientific and ethical standards.

How to obtain tumour samples

End your search for the right biospecimens with tissue solutions provided by the Ontario Tumour Bank. Please visit our website at www.ontariotumourbank.ca for immediate access to our real-time inventory of thousands of biospecimens and related clinical data. To gain access to samples and data researchers submit an application. A streamlined scientific and ethical review will ensure you receive your samples and data on a timely basis. For more information, please contact us by e-mail at tumourbank@oicr.on.ca.

