

OCG Template #102

NOTE: Highlighted text of this document has to be used as provided in your Institution's informed consent forms for the samples to be acceptable to the project

**OFFICE OF CANCER GENOMICS SUGGESTED LANGUAGE
FOR PROSPECTIVE TISSUE COLLECTIONS
IN GENOMIC-SCALE PROJECTS**

Purpose of the Project

We would like to invite you to participate in a research project called **[Project Name]**. The purpose of the **[Project Name]** project is to discover genetic changes associated with cancer, thus potentially leading to better prevention, detection and treatment of cancer, and perhaps other diseases as well.

This project is being sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the government agency known as the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Bodily tissues are made up of cells containing DNA, which is part of the unique genetic material carrying the instructions for your body's development and function. Cancer can result from changes in this genetic material, thereby causing cells to divide in an uncontrolled way and possibly to travel to other organs. Some of the genetic changes leading to cancer are currently known, however many remain to be discovered.

The **[Project Name]** project is designed to identify genetic changes that can cause cancer in humans. As such, we would like to study the genetic material obtained from your tumor tissue as part of the **[Project Name]**. We will compare the genetic material from your cancerous tissue with the genetic material from your normal tissue to find any differences that may exist. By combining information about genetic differences between normal and disease tissues along with information contained in your medical records, it may be possible to identify the genetic changes that are associated with your particular type of cancer. This same process will be performed with normal and cancerous tissues obtained from a number of other people who have agreed to participate in this research project. In this way, we expect to identify most of the genetic changes associated with many different kinds of cancer. By comparing treatment responses of patients with various cancers (through recorded medical information), this project could also lead to more knowledge about why certain cancers respond differently to treatments. With such knowledge, future treatment options could potentially become customized to a patient's unique genetic make-up.

Description of the Research

Collection of Samples and Medical Information

- Your scheduled surgery is part of the medical treatment that you agreed upon with your doctor. During surgery, cancerous tissue will be removed. Usually, when cancerous tissue is removed, very small amounts of nearby normal tissue are removed as well. Your surgery is not part of the **[Project Name]** research project. We will receive some of these cancerous and normal tissues following your

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surgery.

- We will collect a sample of blood (approximately 4 tablespoons), drawn from a vein in your arm, as a second type of normal tissue.
- Should you object to having blood drawn, we will instead swab cells from inside of your mouth through gentle sweeping of the inner cheeks to obtain a secondary source of normal tissue.
- We will also collect information from your medical records, including your age, ethnic background, diagnosis, disease history, medical treatments, and response to treatments.

Coding of Tissue Samples and Medical Information

- Your tissues, blood or buccal (cheek swab) sample, and medical information will be labeled with a confidential project-assigned ID.
- Only Dr. **[Physician Name]** at **[Institution Name]** will have the information that matches the code to traditionally-used identifying information, such as your name, address, phone number, or social security number. Dr. **[Physician Name]** will keep the information that matches the confidential code to this identifying information in a safeguarded database. Only authorized personnel, who have specifically agreed to protect your identity, will have access to this database. All materials conveyed to the **[Project Name]** will be labeled with a project-assigned ID, removing traditionally-used identifying information, such as your name, address, phone number, or social security number. All other researchers and personnel, including those who will be working with your samples and medical information, will not have access to any of the traditionally-used identifying information about you.

Storage and Release of Samples and Medical Information

- Your coded tissue samples will be sent to an NCI-sponsored storage facility. The facility will process the samples and then send portions of your samples to different types of laboratories for analysis as part of this project. One type of laboratory will analyze your DNA by a method called sequencing. Other laboratories will study your samples by different methods. The remaining tissue from your samples might be stored for an unlimited period of time for use in future research related to cancer, or perhaps in other research projects.
- Information obtained from analyses performed on your coded samples and medical information will be entered into Internet-accessible databases along with information acquired from the other research participants in this project.
 - Anonymous information from the analyses, which cannot be traced to any individual patient, will be available to anyone in a completely public Internet database.
 - Information obtained from more detailed analyses, along with your confidential coded medical information, will be put into a controlled-access database. The information in this database will be available only to researchers who have received approval from an NIH Data Access Committee. In gaining access to such information, researchers have to agree to use the data only for research projects and not to ever try to use it

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in order to identify the donor of the material. However, despite all of the safety measures that we will use, we cannot guarantee that your identity will never become known.

Please note that traditionally-used identifying information about you, such as your name, address, telephone number, or social security number, will NOT be put into either the public or controlled-access databases for this project.

Recontact

- In the future, we may want to obtain additional samples or follow-up information about your health or medical care. Should this be needed, a person from **[Institution Name]** will contact you with an explanation of the reasons for any follow-up and to ask whether you would be interested in participating in this additional research.

Financial Compensation/Costs

You will not be paid to participate in this project. Your tissue samples and your medical information will be used for research purposes only and will not be sold. It is possible that some of the research conducted using your tissue samples or medical information will eventually lead to the development of new diagnostic tests, drugs or other commercial products. Should this occur, you will not receive any part of the profits generated from such products.

You will not incur any expenses from participating in this project. The chance that you will be physically injured as a result of participating in this project is highly unlikely. However, if you are physically injured as a result of participating in this project, emergency medical treatment for your research-related injury will be provided to you at no cost.

Potential Benefits of Participating in the Project

You should not expect to personally benefit from this research, aside from the knowledge that your participation will help researchers and health professionals around the world to better understand the causes of cancer and other diseases. Research projects such as this lead to better ways to prevent, detect, treat, and cure such illnesses.

Potential Risks of Participating in the Project

Physical Risks

- There are very few physical risks associated with this project. Possible side effects from drawing the blood sample include mild pain, bleeding, bruising, and infection at the site of the needle insertion. Fainting or light-headedness can sometimes occur, but usually lasts only a few minutes. Every precaution will be taken to minimize these effects.

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Psychological or Social Risks Associated with Loss of Privacy

- Your privacy is very important to us, and we use many safety measures to protect your privacy. However, despite all of the safety measures that we will use, we cannot guarantee that your identity will never become known. Although your genetic information is unique to you, you do share some genetic information with your children, parents, brothers, sisters, and other relatives. Consequently, it may be possible that genetic information from them could be used to help identify you. Similarly, it may be possible that genetic information from you could be used to help identify them.
- While neither the public nor the controlled-access databases developed for this project will contain information that is traditionally used to identify you (your name, address, telephone number, or social security number), technology may be developed in the future that would allow someone to link your genetic or medical information in our databases back to you. For example, someone could compare information in our databases with information from you (or a relative) in another database and be able to identify you (or your relative). It is also possible that there could be violations to the security of the computer systems used to store the codes linking your genetic and medical information back to you. Because some genetic variations can help to predict the current or future health problems of you and your relatives, this information may be of interest to employers, health providers, insurance companies, and others. Patterns of genetic variation also can be used by law enforcement agencies to identify a person or his/her relatives. Therefore, your genetic information could potentially be used in ways that could cause you or your family distress, such as by revealing that you (or a relative) carry a genetic disease or by leading to the denial of employment or insurance for you (or a relative).
- There also may be other privacy risks that we have not foreseen.

While we believe that the risks to you and your family are very low, we are unable to tell you exactly what all of the risks are. There are some state laws that protect against genetic discrimination by employers or insurance companies, but there is currently no federal law that prohibits such discrimination. We believe that the benefits of learning more about cancer and other diseases outweigh these potential risks.

Confidentiality

We will make every attempt to protect your confidentiality and to ensure that your personal identity remains anonymous. This signed consent form will be stored in a locked file that will be accessible only to authorized people involved with this project. We will carefully follow the coding, storage, and release plan explained in the *Description of the Research* section on pages 1 and 2 of this document.

Project Results

Your individual results from this research project will not be given back to you or put

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into your medical records. If research from this project is published in professional journals, there will be no traditionally-used identifying information, such as your name, address, telephone number, or social security number, included in the publications. Some publications from this project will be found at the **[Project Name]** website.

Alternatives to Participating in the Project

The alternative option is not to participate in this project.

Voluntary Participation

The choice to participate in this research by donating your tissues and medical information is completely up to you. **No matter what you decide, your decision will not affect your medical care.**

Withdrawal from the Project

Once your coded samples have been distributed to the participating research laboratories and centers, and your information transferred to the appropriate databases, you will **not** be able to withdraw your information from this research project. However, you may be able to request the return or destruction of the tissue samples if you so desire.

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Contact Information

If you have any questions about the project or your participation, [*please use specific institutional language here, but do not automatically promise ability to withdraw*].

Agreeing to Participate in the Project

To participate in this research, you must agree to ALL of the following statements:

- I voluntarily agree to donate cancerous tissue and normal tissue to be used for this and for other research projects.
- I agree to release information from my medical records for this and for other research projects.
- I agree to have my coded genetic information and coded medical information placed into Internet-accessible databases as described in the *Storage and Release of Samples and Medical Information* section on page 2 of this document.
- I understand that my coded genetic information and coded medical information contained in the Internet-accessible databases will be used in this and in other research projects.
- I understand that there is a risk that someone in the future may be able to use information in these databases to identify me or possibly my relative(s).
- I agree to be contacted in the future about my willingness to provide additional samples or follow-up information about my health or medical care if it is required.

Please sign your name here if you agree to the six statements listed above.

Your signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Doctor/Nurse/Other Witness _____