PATHOLOGY BIOREPOSITORY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

Director's Update

Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Year! As we enter 2024, I am delighted to share the continued progress in the execution of the Pathology Biorepository's strategic plan. Our focus remains on expanding biobanking services to encompass new sample types and accelerating turnaround times.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to announce the successful appointment of Mr. Cole Torvick as the Biorepository Supervisor. He officially assumed his role on January 16, 2024. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to him. Mr. Torvick holds a bachelor's degree in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavioral Sciences from UC Davis. He has valuable experience, having previously worked with our Department of Public Health Sciences, where he managed their sample catalog. It was during this time that his passion for biospecimen banking emerged. In his spare time, Mr. Torvick enjoys playing music on string instruments and the trumpet.

Left - Interim Supervisor: Genella Cipar, Right - New Biobank Supervisor: Cole Torvick

As Mr. Torvick takes on his new role as supervisor, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Genella Cipar, who capably served as the interim supervisor over the past year. Under her leadership, our Biorepository experienced its most significant expansion to date. This included the successful onboarding of three exceptional laboratory assistants, the implementation of various workflow improvements, and a restructuring of operations to enhance efficiency in support of increased investigational demands.

Looking ahead, the Biorepository will begin posting quarterly newsletters to keep investigators informed about the progress of our strategic plan.

— Nam Tran, Ph.D., HCLD (ABB), FADLM

UC DAVIS HEALTH

Biorepository News

- **College of American Pathologists Self Inspection** – As required for College of American Pathologists (CAP) accreditation, we conducted our self-inspection on November 9, 2023. We thank Dr. Mega Lahori, Assistant Professor, for conducting the inspection. Self-inspections occur every other year. For 2024, we will have a planned formal inspection by CAP in the Fall.

- **Research Core Continuity Funding Program** – We are pleased to announce that UC Davis Office of Research has graciously provided support for Biorepository to acquire a new commercially available artificial intelligence / machine learning software to support quality control review of our banked tissue. This innovative software will improve the speed, accuracy, and consistency for QC review of tissue, and optimizes personnel time to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The Biorepository team is working with UC Davis Health Information Technology to implement this software over the next year.

- **New Research Slide Scanners** – The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine has purchased two Ventana DP600 (Roche Tissue Diagnostics) whole slide scanners for dedicated research use by the Biorepository team. Instruments are expected to be installed Winter Quarter 2024.

- **New Freezer** – The Biorepository has acquired an additional -80°C freezer which provides redundancy for our existing program. As always, this freezer is monitored 24/7 and use will be made available to investigators who require biobanking services.

Upcoming Events

February 1 – Our partners at the UC Davis Health Center for Diagnostics Innovation (CDxI) has released a survey to our research community to identify workshop topics for 2024. Topics will include biobanking which will involve the Pathology Biorepository team. Please take the time to complete the survey as we work with our CDxI partners to plan out 2024 workshops!:

https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cACDaPZzhuuQ7ky

February 29 @ 10 a.m. – *"Translational Cancer Research Forum: Biobanking Best Practices: Moving from Samples to Diagnostic Innovation"* Zoom hosted by the UC Davis Cancer Center.

QUESTIONS?

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