

## **AUSTRALIAN BREAST CANCER TISSUE BANK ACCESS POLICY**

The allocation of specimens to research projects will first be reviewed by one or more members from the ABCTB Scientific Review Panel which is comprised of senior scientists/clinicians in the field of breast cancer, with research evaluation expertise. Panel members will be selected in accordance with their expertise related to the specific project under evaluation. They will assess whether the application comprises a scientifically justifiable, feasible and high priority use of the material requested. Applications which are approved by this panel will be referred to the ABCTB Access Committee who will assess the application in light of overall project balance and impact on the bank. The Access Committee will recommend applications for approval by the ABCTB Executive Committee.

Approval of the project by an appropriate HREC is an essential prerequisite for all applications.

Applications for material that have been peer reviewed by major scientific bodies (NHMRC, NIH, CINSW etc) will be subject to nominal review.

The following factors will be taken into consideration:

1. Review of the scientific merit of the project by the ABCTB Scientific Review Panel/ABCTB Access Committee: This will be based on scientific validity; study design; technical parameters (e.g. reproducibility, sensitivity, specificity); clinical or scientific impact; project balance within the ABCTB; practicality and feasibility (e.g. amount of tissue, number and type of samples required).
2. First priority will be given to peer reviewed, funded, research projects.
3. Second priority will be given to developmental projects and new researchers developing projects in academic centres.
4. Researchers making large requests or requests for very rare tissue may have their applications further reviewed by the ABCTB Management Group who will consider the application in light of the interests of the Bank.
5. Applications made by commercial organisations will not in general be supported; however meritorious cases may be referred to the ABCTB Advisory Panel for further consideration.

Please also note the following:

1. It is mandatory for investigators supplied with resources from the Bank to acknowledge the facility in any published work that results from using this material and this will be a condition of the Materials Transfer Agreement.
2. If significant input from members of the ABCTB, over and above the supply of materials and data, is necessary for a particular research project, then an agreement on authorship and/or collaboration must be entered into (see also ABCTB acknowledgment document).
3. If material from the bank is essential for a particular project to be feasible, then the bank must be approached prior to the submission of the grant application and an agreement entered into. Grant applications by researchers must not be dependent on access to the facility unless the bank has agreed in principle to supply material. Material will generally not be held for individual projects for more than 6 months.

### Appeals Process

If any dispute or difference arises between parties in respect of any matter referred to in this document, then either party may by notice in writing to the other, specify the nature of the dispute or difference. In the event a mutually acceptable resolution is not reached, either party can call for its submission to the independent ABCTB Advisory Panel.

**THIS POLICY IS EFFECTIVE FROM 1 MARCH 2012  
AND WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE APPLICATIONS.**

*This policy will be updated as required and the latest version of relevant documents will be available on the ABCTB website. It is the responsibility of applicants to be aware of and adhere to any changes.*