Allison Hubel <hubel001@umn.edu>

Your email BioCoR: Tip of the month, short course info, summer plans for BioCoR has been sent

1 message

Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com> **Thu, May 12, 2011 at 9:10 AM**
Reply-To: support@constantcontact.com
To: hubel001@umn.edu

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

Email Confirmation

Constant Contact
Connect. Inform. Grow.

Dear Allison Hubel,

Your email, named May 2011 Newsletter, was sent on 05/12/2011 around 10:10 AM EDT.

Below is a copy of the HTML version your contacts received. Don't forget, you can easily monitor the effectiveness of your email with real-time metrics and stats. Log in to your Constant Contact account and visit the **Reports** area under the Emails tab.

Subject: BioCoR: Tip of the month, short course info, summer plans for BioCoR

BioCoR Newsletter May 2011

Dear Allison,

Welcome to the May newsletter. The Tip of the Month is back with suggestions on managing inventory. We will also discuss summer plans for BioCoR.

As always, your comments are very important to us. We expect to see you at www.biocor.net.

BioCoR is a national resource focused on advancing the science, technology and practice of biospecimen preservation. We are dedicated to developing biopreservation protocols, improving preservation and storage technologies, establishing standards and guidelines and training individuals and institutions in the science and technology of biopreservation.
More information can be found on the **BioCoR** website: www.biocor.net. Or you may contact us now at biocor@me.umn.edu

Tip of the Month

Developing an 'exit strategy'

TIP OF THE

TIP OF THE MONTH

We at BioCoR hear on a regular basis, *"I am tired of buying another -80 C freezer/liquid nitrogen storage unit".*

We believe that this is a symptom for a lack of 'exit strategy'.

Our tip of the month is very straightforward: do not put a single vial/bag/straw into low temperature storage without developing a strategy for its disposition. It is a common practice to use low temperature storage as a low temperature garbage can from which many samples never emerge. The following is a listing of strategies that will help you develop a plan appropriate for your facility.

Strategy #1: Determine shelf-life of the product: for many reasons, you may chose to store a biospecimen at a higher temperature and the sample may experience degradation in storage. One very useful strategy would be to know the stability of your specimens, determine a reasonable shelf-life of the product and establish disposal procedures.

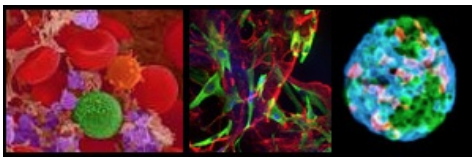
Other products may exhibit degradation in storage because they experience temperature excursions during storage. Umbilical cord blood has been banked (typically on liquid nitrogen) since the early 1990's. For a clinical cell therapy product, determination of a shelf-life is extremely important and will permit us to understand what of the ~400,000 units currently in storge are still usable for clinical applications and which units may be appropriate for other applications.

Strategy #2: End-of-study procedures: Many biospecimens were collected in response to a specific study (i.e. clinical trial). Investigators associated with the trial need to formulate a strategy for retention of samples after completion of the study. It may mean simply culling extra samples that may not get used or disposal of all items.

Patients receiving hematopoietic stem cell transplants will typically have their own bone marrow stored (a back-up marrow) in case they fail to engraft with the stem cells being provided from a donor. Initially, there was little thought about procedures to deal with back-up bone marrows. It was not long before back-up marrows obtained from patients who had successfully engrafted accumulated in storage. It became painfully clear that a standard policy for their disposition had to be developed and since that time, end-of-study/clinical use policies have become standard practice in many cell therapy laboratories.

The two strategies listed above will serve most facilities but clearly is not an all inclusive list and the challenges that you face may require additional strategies. Building an 'exit strategy' for biospecimens in storage is an integral part of an overall quality control/quality assurance program. As costs for space, capital equipment, electricity and liquid nitrogen continue to grow, an exit strategy will also play an increasing role in ensuring the overall sustainability of your facility (no matter how large or small).

Preservation of molecular, cellular and tissue biospecimens



Preservation of molecular, cellular and tissue biospecimens
May 23-25, 2010

The early registration deadline has passed but there are still spots available for joining us for the course. We have had a good turn out both for in class attendance and over the web.

This important short course that has been attended by people from all over the world (North America, Asia, Europe, etc). The course covers a full range of topics related to preservation: liquid storage/short-term preservation, fundamentals of preservation, mechanisms of damage, preservation protocol development, repository design and facility design, regulatory issues, preservation in a clinical context, quality for preserved samples and more.

This course is appropriate for managers for biorepositories and cell therapy laboratories, technicians who preserve

biological samples as a part of their daily routine, scientists involved in biomarker discovery or use, developers of therapies based on molecules, cells or tissues, biotechnology companies, regenerative medicine companies, tissue banks, and more.

The course is available both for in class attendance and over the web.

Direct link to the schedule for the course (course schedule)

Direct link to online registration (online registration)

Direct link to accommodations and maps to the course (maps and accommodations)

Two or more individuals from a single institution attending the short course will receive a discount. Please contact Tori at biocor@me.umn.edu or 612.625.6808 for more details.

We accept registration for the class up to the first day of class. If you want to attend the course via our webcast and you register less than one week before the first day, we may not be able to ship you the course binder in time.

The course has been endorsed by ISBER.

Summer plans for BioCoR

Newsletters: We may be sending you brief notices over the summer but we plan to have one midsummer's newsletter around July 15, 2011.

Website: We are going to be working on our website over the summer. You will see a new look and new content. We are expanding our services and have to modify our service portal to accommodate those changes. We have a back-log of information that needs to be placed in the library and we hope to invest in both increasing the information made available and the organization of the material.

We are Linked In!

BioCoR has set up a linked in site. We are hoping that this site will help us communicate with the wider preservation community. Our intention is to provide a forum for discussions as well.

If you have not already done so, join our Linked In page (BioCoR Linked In Page).

BioCoR Consortium

Advancing the field of preservation and increasing the efficiency of the existing preservation techniques will require streamlining academic research and development to address the problems/concerns of the end users of the preservation technologies. To that end, BioCoR has started the process of developing a consortium. The consortium is intended to facilitate interaction between the university, the industry and the governmental agencies through a well-established pathway that would enable: direct feedback for research design and direction, rapid access to cutting edge research outcomes, unrestricted access to educational programs such as short courses and training, and direct contribution/collaboration through a visiting fellows program.

Note that BioCoR welcomes participation from industry, government agencies, hospitals/non-profit organizations and the military.

For more information, please contact us at biocor@me.umn.edu or call Tori at 612.625.6808.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA *BioCoR would like to acknowledge the support of the College of Science and Engineering and the Academic Health Center of the University of Minnesota.*