

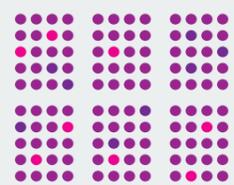
The Victorian Cancer Biobank continues to strive to deliver our services and play our part to facilitate cancer research despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the year.

Our biobanking services are innovative and in demand:



535

PARTICIPANTS
donated biospecimens to the VCB



TISSUE MICRO ARRAY
New products for Melanoma and Triple Negative Breast Cancer Research



6176

SPECIMENS
supplied for research



440,000+

SPECIMENS
in inventory



We support research to improve cancer outcomes:



4

INTERNATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH PROJECTS.



Top 3 project tumour streams:
Breast, CRC, Upper GI (Pancreas)



13

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS
secured by researchers through use of VCB Specimens



COMMERCIAL LICENCING
of biomarker technology in detecting cancer



15

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS
including *Immunity and Gastroenterology*

We have invested in Quality and Operational Sustainability:



CTRNet Biobank Certification: 2020

Achieved CTRNet certification

Developed
3 Year Business Plan

to refresh our priorities in servicing the research community



\$6 Million
funding boost

from the Victorian Government



\$150K Grant

to establish digital imaging hub

About Victorian Cancer Biobank

The Victorian Cancer Biobank (VCB) consortium is a collaborative tissue bank network operating since 2006. The VCB is a nexus for researchers to access human biospecimens and data under a trusted ethical and legal framework, and has been acknowledged in the Victorian Cancer Plan 2020-2024 as critical infrastructure for addressing cancer challenges in Victoria.

Acknowledgement

Victorian Cancer Biobank, a collaborative research infrastructure, is supported by Victorian Government through the Victorian Cancer Agency, a business unit of the Department of Health.

Case Study

Supporting Bench to Bed Discovery – the Story of SubB2M



Dr Lucy Shewell from Institute of Glycomics.
Credit Griffith University

The Victorian Cancer Biobank (VCB) has once again contributed to the development of a test technology for improving cancer diagnosis from biomarker discovery stage to commercialisation.

Professor Michael Jennings and his laboratory at Griffith University’s Institute of Glycomics, along with collaborators Prof James Patton and Prof A Patton at the University of Adelaide, have developed a novel technology for the early detection of various cancers including ovarian and breast cancer.

The technology is based on SubB2M, a protein designed by the researchers to bind specifically to Neu5Gc, a sugar found only on the surface of cancer cells. Professor Jennings showed that SubB2M was able to detect cancer in serum from breast and ovarian cancer patients with very high accuracy. The promising results attracted Melbourne-based BARD1 Life Sciences to acquire the worldwide licence for this technology in April 2020.

Since 2017, the VCB have supplied over 580 specimens to Prof Jennings’ laboratory for their critical work in discovery and development of the SubB2M technology. The VCB is currently also providing specimens to BARD1 to enable the commercial development of this technology as a SubB2M-based ELISA test kit for the worldwide market.

Participant Journey

Perspective from a Biobank Donor – Wendy Harold

The Victorian Cancer Biobank’s ability to support cancer research relies on the donations of tissue and blood specimens from generous participants.

One such donor, Wendy Harrold, donated her breast tissue to the Victorian Cancer Biobank after undergoing a preventative double mastectomy and reconstruction in 2018. Wendy lost her mother to breast cancer nearly 40 years prior to this, and subsequently found out she also had a breast cancer gene called PALB2. This PALB2 gene was also found in Wendy’s daughter, Elle, who also decided to donate her breast tissue after undertaking a preventative double mastectomy.

“If more people knew about donating tissue for research it would be a really great thing – it can help a lot of other people for years to come. I have watched how far research has come over the years since my mum was diagnosed. Without research and funds to do so, we wouldn’t have cures, treatments or medications for so many diseases and illnesses today.”

The VCB consortium thank all the biobank donors for their kind donations that have enabled many research breakthroughs to improve cancer outcomes.



Wendy preparing for her preventative surgery in hospital.

Consortium Members:



Supported by:

