

## Welcome to the Biospecimen Research Database

The Biospecimen Research Database (BRD) is a free and publicly accessible database that contains peer-reviewed literature pertinent to the field of human biospecimen science. The database is updated periodically with both recent and historical publications and may serve as a vehicle for literature review, evaluation of "in use" biospecimen handling protocols, development of new protocols, and identification of analytes that are susceptible or impervious to handling variability.

The BRD (<http://biospecimens.cancer.gov/brd/>), an initiative of the BRN program, represents a joint venture of the OBBR and the National Cancer Institute Center for Bioinformatics. BRD paper entries include primary research or review articles that have been identified, reviewed, and curated by a Ph.D. level scientist. For each paper contained within the BRD (1) relevant parameters have been annotated, including the biospecimen investigated (tissue/cell type, patient diagnosis), the preservation method employed, the analyte of interest, and the technology platform applied; (2) relevant results have been summarized in free-text fields; and (3) variables encountered during the lifecycle of a biospecimen (e.g. ischemia time, fixation parameters, storage conditions) have been captured by experimental factors.

A login is not required to enter or search the BRD, simply hit "Search" to begin.

Literature and protocol referrals, as well as feedback, are welcomed and may be submitted to <mailto:biospecimens@mail.nih.gov>.