Welcome to the Newsletter for the Faculty of Medical Sciences Scientific Facilities

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Newcastle University Biobanks offer researchers convenient access to high quality human tissue samples, without the need for the submission of separate REC applications for each individual project.

Our research tissue bank generic NHS REC approval (NAHP Bioresource: REC 12/NE/0395), allows the collection, storage and use of samples that are obtained during routine clinical care and are surplus to diagnostic requirements from any patient over the age of 16 without impaired mental capacity.

Researchers can apply to access existing University tissue collections, or apply for new samples to be collected if no suitable specimens are already held, by completing the online form.

- For more information please contact: nahp.bioresource@ncl.ac.uk
- or visit: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/biobanks/

As part of the ongoing development of biobanking in Newcastle, we will be highlighting specific existing tissue collections that are available to researchers in this and subsequent additions of the Scientific Facilities Newsletter.

**Guthrie Card Collection – an epigenetic research opportunity**

Guthrie cards contain blood collected from newborn babies by a heel prick immediately after birth and are routinely used to screen for diseases such as cystic fibrosis and sickle cell disorders.

In 2011, the Central Biobank became custodian of almost 300,000 cards collected in the North of England. Due to the potential for the cards to be used as an anonymised ‘DNA bank’ for future research, Professor Andy Hall successfully sought approval from REC to subsume these samples into the NAHP Bioresource. Analysis of DNA extracted from the Guthrie cards may offer a view of the epigenome at birth, before disease develops, enabling comparison of differences between epigenomes of healthy people and those who develop a disease, as well as allowing comparison of an individual’s epigenetic information before a disease had developed.

Individual cards have been organised and catalogued and are now searchable in the University’s sample tracking system Achiever. The Central Biobank facilitates direct access to the cards for research, as well as offering nucleic acid extraction services in our processing facility to provide researchers with DNA from cards that interest them.

- For more information, please contact: biobank@ncl.ac.uk
A New Home for NUPPA

NUPPA (Newcastle University Protein and Proteome Analysis) Facility staff are currently in the process of relocating most of the team and instruments to a new home.

While the production and purification of recombinant proteins will remain in the Devonshire Building, proteomics, mass spectrometry and biophysical work will now be located in the Cookson Building on the 4th floor.

Full details to follow in the next newsletter!

- Find out more about NUPPA: www.ncl.ac.uk/nuppa

Small Grants Scheme

The Wellcome Trust ISSF Small Grants Scheme aims to provide seedcorn funding for researchers. One of the aims of the scheme is to enable access to the Core Facilities, via a voucher scheme.

There are two funding calls, May and September 2017, and the September call will focus particularly on projects using proteomics.

- Find out more
  (http://www.ncl.ac.uk/medicalsciences/research/wellcome/#smallgrantsscheme)
This week Newcastle University hosted the first of what it is hoped will become an annual event. Bringing together bioinformaticians from across the UK, the meeting was designed to be a forum for sharing new developments and best practice common to Bioinformatics Core Facilities.

The event was devised and run by Simon Cockell, Facility Manager for Newcastle’s Bioinformatics Support Unit, who observed the need for a national event to supplement the existing international and European forums. It is hoped that the UK meeting will continue annually, and will be hosted in a different location each year.

The first meeting, on 4-5 July 2017, was a success, attended by approximately 50 delegates from UK Bioinformatics Research Facilities, industry sponsors and funding bodies. Sessions covered New and Developing Technologies; Compute Provision; and Funding Bodies and the Core Facility, ending with an Unconference Session, covering topics decided by the attendees.

View the full programme details on the meeting website.

In addition to Newcastle University, the event was strongly supported by both commercial and research funding partners: Illumina, Pacific Biosciences, Amazon Web Services, Elixir, Babraham Institute, BBSRC, and The Wellcome Trust.
Bioinformatics Drop-In Session

Tuesday 11 July 2017
14.30 - 16.30
Ridley Atrium

The Bioinformatics Support Unit is holding a drop-in session next week.

Come along and discuss your bioinformatics problems and ideas!

For more information please contact:
• bsu-support@ncl.ac.uk

Research Facilities & You

November 2017 - date and venue tbc

We warmly welcome researchers from across the University to join the FMS Core Facility Managers at a half-day event, with presentations from each of the Facility Managers followed by lunch.

Full details will be added to the event website as they are confirmed.

• To register your interest, please contact: helen.neat@ncl.ac.uk

https://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/facilities2017/
Save the date! Tuesday 20 March 2018
Newcastle University Scientific Facilities Conference

Newcastle University’s annual Practicalities of... Conferences are organised by the Scientific Facility Managers and focus on the practicalities and techniques involved in their fields of expertise.

We are delighted to announce that the conference will return in 2018 with a focus on our “’Omics” Facilities:

- Proteomics (NUPPA)
- Genomics
- Bioinformatics
- High Throughput Screening

Full details will be published on the conference website as they are confirmed.

To register your interest and receive updates by email:

- please contact helen.neat@ncl.ac.uk

https://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/practicalities2018/