

2nd International Conference & Exhibition on

Tissue preservation and Bio-banking

September 12-13, 2016 Philadelphia, USA

A charter of principles and a biobank ethics consultation service as formal resources to promote an expert ethical guidance to biobank research

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Background: In recent years, the University of Insubria is committed to provide specific training programs in bioethics, applied ethics and clinical ethics aimed to face the critical topics related to medicine, research and biobanking. Actually we designed the Insubria biobank as a research infrastructure with an appropriate ethical framework which is responsible for the custody of biospecimens and data according to a model of charitable trust. So to answer certain questions is crucial: How could biobank respect the trust placed in it? What resources could promote the goals of the biobank? Do professionals require a specific ethical training? The biobank should become an “ethical subject” through a charter of principles and an Institutional Biobank Ethics Consultation Services (BECS).

Aims: The aim of the study is to process a charter of principles and a template for an informed consent with reference to our ethical evaluation and to the international literature; and to develop educational training programs for BECS.

Methods: In this study: 1) Designs of the charter of principles and of the broad informed consent were drafted; and 2) Educational training programs based on meeting and conferences, Masters, PhD and practical stage were organized.

Results & Discussion: The complexity of biobank research has recently increased generating a number of novel ethical issues. Our purpose is to offer a charter of principle and BECS to help scientists, health care professionals, patients, donors, institutional review board and policymakers for better navigation of the ethical issues in biobanking.

Conclusion: An exploratory survey to identify the willingness to use BECS represents our future research plan.

Biography

Elena Ferioli has obtained her degree in Biology from the University of Insubria (1998) where she undertook her academic career attaining two PhDs, the first in Evolutionary Biology and Development (2002) and the second in Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology. Since 2007, she covers a Technical and Scientific role in the Department of Medicine and Public Health and recently in the Department of Biotechnology and Life Science, in support to Forensic Research. Since 2010, with higher education courses in Clinical Risk Management and in Ethics Health Management, she deals with research in Bioethics with particular reference to Genetics and Biobanks.

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