



Collaboration Agreement

The Maryland Brain Collection (MBC) appreciates your interest in using its postmortem brain tissue for research in psychiatric disorders, alcohol abuse, or narcotic abuse. We look forward to a productive relationship and would like to provide you with our policies concerning collaboration. Please understand that tissue collection and administration are an enormously labor-intensive and costly enterprise, and that the MBC is set apart by exquisite emphasis on clinical information and high quality tissue. The stipulations listed below were put in place to ensure optimal use of our tissue and to allow MBC scientists to participate in collaborative ventures:

1. The disbursed tissue is exclusively for your own use, i.e. the tissue must not be used by others without written permission. Moreover, the tissue must not be used commercially without explicit, written MBC approval. This avoids conflicts of interest with commercial entities with which the MBC may have collaborative arrangements.
2. The disbursed tissue is to be used exclusively in experiments discussed during the formation of this agreement. Any additional use requires discussions with, and written approval by, the MBC Steering Committee. This arrangement is critical for avoiding conflicts with other projects supported by the MBC.
3. The MBC sends out coded tissue to minimize experimental bias. This code is broken upon receipt of the experimental results. In the spirit of a true collaboration, data analysis is then performed jointly using mutually agreed procedures. All data are kept confidential and are not released to third parties without the explicit approval of all parties involved.
4. The MBC participates actively in all publications (i.e. abstracts and manuscripts) stemming from the use of its tissue. Authorship of MBC personnel is not obligatory but may be regarded as appropriate and will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Citation of the MBC as the source of tissue is mandatory in all publications.
5. The MBC screens tissue for certain infectious diseases (HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C) prior to disbursement but recognizes that false negative test results are possible since it may take six months or longer post-exposure for detectable antibodies to develop. *Due to the nature of these infectious diseases, all tissues disbursed by the MBC must therefore be handled with appropriate precautions and treated as if they were infectious.*
6. Our collaborators are solely responsible for obtaining approval from the appropriate IRB prior to conducting the proposed research. If necessary, the MBC will provide assistance to facilitate this process. Tissue recipients should not assume that their activities are recognized or sanctioned by the IRB of the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

The MBC welcomes your collaboration and thanks you for your interest in postmortem brain tissue research. Please sign this agreement and return it to us. We will complete tissue dissection upon receipt.

Signature _____

Typed Name _____

Date _____

Affiliation _____

Telephone _____

Email _____