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Svetlana Gramatiuk

Ukraine Associated of Biobank, Ukraine

Biobank sustainable plan in developing countries

uality biological samples stored in Biobanks are essential for the provision of appropriate health services and also act as a reservoir for the development of precision medicine and biotechnological innovation. The Ukrainian Association of Biobanks (UAB) coordinates the network procedures, based on ESBB, ISBER, BBMRI and NCI guidelines, which are standardized across the entire network. Policies and documents including Patient Consent Policy, Patient Information Sheet, Biobank Informed Consent Form, and Sample Application Form after extensive and constructive discussion in UAB have been agreed for use in each hospital and medical institute. An optimum sequence for document preparation and submission for review have been outlined. At the outset, UAB employed ESBB standard operating procedures (SOPs) for tissue collection, storage, and processing. Harmonization of policies and SOPs is an ongoing activity and standardization is achieved via workshops and training in data protection, database management, data sharing, tissue collection and storage, ethical considerations, sample access, and quality control. It was important at the initiation of UAB to develop a sequence for policy development, review, and approval. It was essential that policies were compliant with both national and European guidelines and directives. UAB introduced a standardized Patient and Volunteers Information Letter, Informed Consent Form of Biobank and Sample Access Policy in Ukraine for the first time. It was difficult, in the beginning, to distinguish the order in which to develop, to agree and finally to submit documents of UAB for review. The Ireland pathway was identified as the most effective for Ukrainian local circumstances and it was decided to adopt a similar sequence of document development and submission. Fist, the consensus was reached with each hospital within the network. Second, a review of documents by the Risks and Legal Department in UAB was performed. Parallelly a formal legal statement was obtained from an independent lawyer specialized in medical research.

Conclusion: The UAB short- to medium-term objectives include expanding the current network and to include each of the major medical research centers in Ukraine. Enlargement of the network could be undertaken with modest capital investment and UAB medium size will facilitate a swift and dynamic approach to network expansion. Ideally, the Ukrainian biobank network should be integrated into working groups within larger European networks in the future as it is affiliated with the Science and Innovation Working Group for international biobanking ESBB. By now, the UAB is reaching its goal: to develop infrastructure and facilitate the biomedical research nationally and internationally.

Biography

Svetlana Gramatiuk (MD, PhD) serves as President of Ukraine Associated of Biobank that she co-founded in 2017. She was also the Medical Director Research Biobank ASK-Health (2015-2016) and the Ukraine Editor of the journal Advanced Research Biobank and Pathophysiology from 2017. Previously, she also established and/or managed several biobanks in Ukraine. In addition to his unique expertise in Biobanking, she also did Master of Science Biobanking in Medical University Graz and has an in-depth knowledge of oncology biomarker research in the position holding a from Head Department Medical and Research Laboratory in the Grigoriev Radiology and Oncology Institute and having completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Kharkiv National Medical University (Department Pathophysiology from **Context** Skraine).

Notes:

gramatyuk@ukr.net