



Information and Informed Consent

Approved by

Ronald E. Filipy, Director
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This form is for visitors to the National Human Radiobiology Tissue Repository.

Informed consent

The National Human Radiobiology Tissue Repository (NHRTR) stores tissues, tissue solutions, histopathology slides and other tissue-related materials from persons with known intakes of actinide elements. While every reasonable effort is made to assure the safety of persons visiting the NHRTR facilities, casual visitors need to be aware of the radiological and biohazard considerations as well as certain legal and ethical requirements incumbent upon them and the staff.

Biohazards

In general, the donors of tissues and tissue materials to the NHRTR have not been tested for human immune deficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis B virus (HBV) and thus, the status of these tissues with respect to these diseases is unknown. While the risk of infection from these diseases is very small, visitors should recognize that there is indeed a possibility of infection and are cautioned not to handle tissues or tissue materials or to come in contact with work surfaces that may have been in contact with such materials.

Radiological

Tissues, tissue solutions, and other tissue materials may contain small amounts of long-lived radionuclides. Levels of the actinides -- i.e. plutonium and americium

-- are low as to not constitute a concern. However, the radium content of some of the tissue obtained from the dial painters is higher and measurable in some instances. In addition, there are artifacts and other materials in the freezer room that contain measurable amounts of radium. There is a small external photon radiation field associated with these radium bearing materials, but the levels are so low as to not require personnel monitoring or other special radiological safety measures. Constant monitoring of air for radon daughter products, which are associated with the radioactive decay of radium, is carried out, and portable radiation monitoring equipment is maintained by the NHRTR staff and used for periodic contamination surveys.

Ethical considerations

The Registries (of which the NHRTR is a part) are forbidden by the law and ethical considerations from identification of tissue donors. Donors may be identified only by case number, but neither names nor other personal identifiers of donors will be revealed. As a visitor to the NHRTR you agree to maintain the confidentiality of the identity of the donors. Ethical considerations also forbid photographing of tissues unless there is a valid scientific purpose. No photography may be done in the NHRTR unless specifically authorized by the NHRTR Curator, USTUR Director, or USTUR Associate Director.

I have read and understand the special risks and responsibilities associated with my visit to the NHRTR and agree to abide by all legal and ethical requirements incumbent upon the Registries.

Visitor Name (please print): _____

Visitor Signature: _____ Date: _____

USTUR Approval: _____ Date: _____