



*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. 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 USTUR director or an authorized representative of the 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: \_\_\_\_\_