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The Certificate allows us to use your specimens and information about you for purposes of this research, or to disclose it for other research when allowed by law. The Certificate requires other researchers to also protect specimens and information we share with them.

There are limits to this protection. The Certificate does not protect your information when:

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b. You consent to release of information (for example, the uses described in this form, or if you sign release forms for employment, insurance or medical care).

c. A federal agency audits or evaluates research that it funds.

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To stop the use of your sample or data in a study, you may return to the same location where you first completed the consent to change your consent decision. You may also stop the use of your sample or data by contacting the BioBank at 310-825-4136.

Any researcher who received your samples will be asked to destroy them. Please note that we cannot retrieve information prior to providing your tissue for research.

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Universal consent for biological samples
In support of precision health

Frequently asked questions

What is a biological sample?

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What is the UCLA Biobank?

The UCLA BioBank collects biological samples from as many people as possible. It then codes the samples and removes personally identifiable information. The BioBank then sends the samples, along with previously obtained de-identified medical data, to qualified researchers who will use the information to find new ways to prevent, detect and treat health problems.

Will my consent decision affect my care?

No. Your universal consent decision (opting in or out of donating leftover or additional biological samples) will have no impact on your clinical care. If you say YES to the collection of an additional blood tube and/or saliva sample, the clinical staff will need to know in advance in order to collect the additional sample. No matter what you decide, it will not affect your relationship with UCLA Health or the services you are receiving.
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The BioBank must then send a list of your code number so that all future research will be conducted on a code basis, not on a name basis. When the research is completed, after the 10-day window, the samples will be sent to the UCLA Biobank for research instead of being discarded.

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Why do we need an extra tube of blood?
Having an extra tube of blood (up to 2 teaspoons), or in some cases saliva, provides us with enough volume for multiple research purposes and permits certain research not possible on leftover samples.

How will samples be collected?
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*You will not need to undergo any additional needle sticks, tests or procedures.

How long will my samples be stored?
Your samples will be stored indefinitely.

How could my samples be used for research?
Your samples may be used for a variety of research purposes (e.g., cancer, heart disease, diabetes) and for product development.

Examples:

a. Genetic research
Your sample may be used to study how genes affect health or respond to treatment. Genes are pieces of DNA that control how our cells and bodies develop and work. The DNA code is what you inherit from your parents and pass on to your children. Researchers can use a number of methods, including whole genome sequencing, to look at parts or all of your DNA code.

b. Scientific databases
Researchers also place genetic and other non-identifiable information about you and your health conditions, along with information from their research studies, into a scientific database. This increases knowledge and can help speed the pace of future research discoveries.

c. Other uses
Researchers may use your samples to create new products useful for research or clinical treatment. Your sample may include cells that can be made to grow indefinitely in the laboratory, called a “cell line,” or your sample could be used to develop or test new treatments.

Who will conduct research on the samples?
Only researchers and research projects approved by a university research-review process may receive samples for research. Most samples will go to UCLA researchers, but we may also choose to share samples with researchers from other universities, government researchers and researchers from private companies that work on developing new tests or treatments.

Will I get any results from research done with my samples?
You will not get any results back unless you agree to participate in the Institute for Precision Health Pilot program for Return of Results. The research community will not know who you are but the UCLA Biobank will be able to work with your healthcare team to notify you only if there are results that may affect your health. If you do not want to be notified of any results, UCLA will publish a newsletter that provides overall information about new discoveries made from the samples. If any results are returned to you, a genetic counselor will be available to provide more information on your results either in person or over the phone. If you or your clinician are concerned that you have a condition that requires genetic testing, we encourage your doctor to order a clinical genetic test. Participating in the Precision Health research project does not replace the need for a clinical genetic test.

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Who benefits from biological samples?
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Are there any risks?
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