

## CONTACTS

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**To find out more:**

<http://www.asmn.re.it/bioanca-di-ricerca-asmn>



# Research Biobank

*Storage of  
biological samples*



**SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE  
EMILIA-ROMAGNA**

Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale di Reggio Emilia  
IRCCS Istituto in tecnologie avanzate e modelli assistenziali in oncologia



## THE BIOBANK

In 2016, the healthcare authority USL - IRCCS of Reggio Emilia set up a **Research biobank**. It is a facility that, with full respect for the rights of those involved, manages, according to proven quality standards, the collection and storage of human biological materials and connected information for research and future diagnoses.

The Biobank stores **biological samples** (e.g. *blood, tissues*) of patients affected by different diseases.

The purpose is to keep material intact that would otherwise be disposed of (e.g. *after surgery*) so that it can be reused, even many years later, for research. For example, starting from the biological samples of a group of individuals with the same disease collected in the Biobank, it is possible to analyse the tissue's characteristics that can contribute to clarifying the causes of the disease or to finding treatments.

The Biobank comprises cryogenic containers containing liquid nitrogen at  $-196^{\circ}\text{C}$ , inside which the test tubes containing the samples of each donor patient are stored.

**The test tubes never show the name of the person or any other writing that could lead to their identification**, but just a single number. This code can only be deciphered by the Biobank manager. Research is therefore carried out on **samples that remain anonymous**.

The Biobank **cannot store samples without the patient's consent**.

Therefore, **if the physician decides to ask to store your biological material in the Biobank, he/she must first explain this to you and issue you with an informative form to sign in case of acceptance**.



The decision is completely free and voluntary and does not change your diagnosis or treatment in any way. If you prefer not to take part, you do not need to provide any explanations. You can, at any time, revoke your consent and decide to have your material removed from the Biobank.

By accepting to adhere to the Biobank, the biological materials that you provide could contribute to the **discovery of new treatments** and other patients could benefit from these in the future.

The collection of your biological samples does not imply any risk; the material that is stored by the Biobank would otherwise be destroyed.

The Biobank of the healthcare authority USL - IRCCS of Reggio Emilia collects the material in the Pathological Anatomy department of S. Maria Nuova Hospital and stores it in cryogenic containers in the Molecular Biology Laboratory.