This *issue* is the *tissue*!

The NCTN Core Correlative Sciences Committee updates and recommendations
I have no conflicts/disclosures.
The NCI appreciates the importance of biospecimen collection for correlative analyses on all trial phase studies.

Opportunities for execution of unspecified future research are built into trials. This involves use of specimens remaining after protocol-defined integral and integrated endpoints are completed.
Resources for biospecimen access

- Biospecimens from phase 1/2 studies can be requested from NCI via proposal submission to CTEP PRC via PIO
- Remaining biospecimens from phase 2/3 and 3 studies, and large annotated biospecimen collection studies, can be found in

  NCI NAVIGATOR
  https://navigator.ctsu.org/

  - Navigator is an inventory resource
  - Navigator specimens are clinically-annotated specimens
What is NCTN Navigator?

- **NCTN Navigator website**: Inventory resource for external investigators to identify specimens of interest
- **NCTN Navigator associated processes**: Processes through which investigators can submit queries, LOIs, and proposals and carry out approved proposals for specimens and data of interest

[Image of NCTN Navigator]

https://navigator.ctsu.org/
How Does NCTN Navigator Work?

Post-Approval (outside of Navigator Website)

- If trial(s) had company collaborator(s), 30-Day company review
- Obtain Funding, IRB Approvals, Use Agreements
- Receive Requested Specimens & Trial Data
- Complete Project & Related Requirements

https://navigator.ctsu.org/
How do I Explore Specimens in Navigator?

NCI's National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Navigator is a resource for investigators who have typically conducted exploratory correlative analysis and are now seeking specimens to validate their hypotheses. Click the "Explore Specimens" button on the right to explore the inventory.

CTEP-IAM Log-In should only be used when you are ready to submit a LOI. If you have questions, please review the FAQs and if your question is not answered there, contact the Front Door Service for assistance.

Navigator Process Flow

The Navigator inventory is currently limited to select adult treatment trials that were conducted by NCI's NCTN clinical trials Groups, Phase 3 or large biospecimen collection protocols with clinical data, and completed, with the primary outcome reported. For additional information on the process workflow, refer to the Steps for Researchers document.

https://navigator.ctsu.org/
How do I Explore Specimens in Navigator?

Use multiple parameters in search to target specific elements of interest

https://navigator.ctsu.org/
Finding Out More About Clinical Data from Navigator Trials

- Trials with specimens shown in Navigator are completed and reported
- Trial publications are linked on the trial page on [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)
- Navigator has a link to the trial page on [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) → click the information button next to the trial number
- This will open the “At-a-Glance” information for the trial
- In the “At-a-Glance” screen, click the link next to the NCT number to go to the [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) trial page
How Do I Submit an LOI?

• The LOI is an online form submitted through the Navigator website and requires a CTEP IAM account

• The LOI is a basic form that is not reviewed on scientific merit; it serves as a brief feasibility check to assess the initial availability of the specimens and data

• Specimen and data availability will be confirmed after a proposal is approved

• The Front Door Service coordinates for Navigator submissions

• Feasible LOIs receive a prompt for proposal submission
Proposals are reviewed by the NCTN-CCSC

- NCTN Core Correlative Science Committees (CCSCs) are charged with scientific review & prioritization of proposals requesting use of banked, non-reserved biospecimens collected from NCTN trials for use in correlative science studies.

- There are two active NCTN CCSCs:
  - CCSC-A primarily reviews proposals in adult tumors
  - CCSC-B primarily reviews proposals in hematology and sarcoma and will review pediatric proposals

https://ctep.cancer.gov/initiativesPrograms/nctn_ccsc_overview.htm
NCTN-CCSCs prioritization helps ensure optimal use of these irreplaceable clinical trial biospecimens.

The CCSCs consists of representatives from each NCTN group, translational scientists, pathologists, the Banks, and statisticians.

- Primary use is for validation of locked down optimized predictive assays.
- Criteria for exploratory use can be found on the CCSC website.

https://ctep.cancer.gov/initiativesPrograms/nctn_ccsc_overview.htm
NCTN-CCSC Workflow

Proposal submitted to PIO via Navigator

PIO determines proposal is complete
Forwards to CCSC

CCSC review planning

Reviewers identified
Clinical study chair contacted for input

Reviews submitted

Critical questions abstracted
Written responses requested
Responses forwarded to CCSC

CCSC call

Clinical PI input (open)
Reviews presented/discussion (closed)
Blinded vote

Decision/actions

Approval
Revisions requiring a response (w/i 90 days)
Disapproval: return only if compelling new scientific/technologic information
NCTN-CCSC first 4 years: submissions

Proposals submitted to CCSC by Group (n=109)

Proposals reviewed by CCSC by Disease (n=74)

https://ctep.cancer.gov/initiativesPrograms/nctn_ccsc_overview.htm
Quarterly update: list of approved proposals
## NCTN-CCSC first 4 years: outcomes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Outcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Not forwarded for review</td>
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<td>Revisions (not yet resubmitted or withdrawn)</td>
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### Outcome of Committee-Reviewed Proposals (n=74)

- Approved: 52%
- Disapproved: 7%
- Withdrawn after Revisions decision: 3%
- Not forwarded for review: 34%
- In review: 4%
- Revisions (not yet resubmitted or withdrawn): 7%
NCTN-CCSC first 4 years: approved proposals status

Status of approved proposals
1-year progress reports (n=26/36)

- 62% Active
- 23% Approved Not yet active
- 15% Complete

To date:
- 3 publications
- 4 abstracts presented
- 5 abstracts submitted to NCI
NCTN-CCSC proposal pitfalls: an informal analysis

- **Statistical section:**
  - Incomplete
  - Plan cannot be recapitulated
  - Inadequate power for defined objective

- **Assay details:**
  - Inadequate description
  - Lack of validation
  - Lack of QC parameters
  - Not locked down

- **Objectives:**
  - Not feasible by hypothesis, number of cases
  - Planning exploratory endpoints from a positive study
Thank you!

CCSC Administrative Coordinator: Courteney McCoppin
CCSC CTEP Lead: Elise Kohn

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