
DISPOSITION OF BIOSPECIMENS COLLECTED FROM TRIBAL POPULATIONS

NIH TRIBAL CONSULTATION – DECEMBER 5, 2024

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National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Opening Blessing
- Context for Today's Consultation
- Options for NIH Disposition of Biospecimens Collected from Tribal Populations
- Discussion and Questions
- Closing Blessing

A SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH ENTERPRISE DEPENDS ON
ACCESS, ENGAGEMENT AND TRUST

Access

Make research more inclusive and accessible to all

Engage

Engage more people and communities as research partners

Trust

Rebuild trust in science

- NIH is the steward of the Nation's largest public investment in clinical research (~\$18B in FY22)
- Research relies on individual and community partners

NIH IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

- ✓ NIH is working towards communication and collaboration, building research capacity, expanding research, and enhancing cultural competency and community engagement
- ✓ NIH is strengthening awareness of and policies for respecting Tribal sovereignty
- ✓ NIH is responding to the need to develop culturally respectful and legally supportable options for the disposition of biospecimens

GOAL FOR TODAY'S CONSULTATION

ISSUE IDENTIFIED:

NIH research can involve biospecimens from Tribal populations. NIH needs to understand how Tribes would like biospecimens to be returned or taken care of in a way that respects Tribal sovereignty and cultural sensitivities

GOAL:

A consistent set of Tribally acceptable options for NIH to return or otherwise take care of biospecimens collected from Tribal members (including from International Indigenous populations)



OPTIONS FOR RETURN



BIOSPECIMEN DISPOSITION OPTIONS *(NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE)*

- A. Direct return of biospecimens to Tribe(s). The Tribe will arrange the return. NIH is poised to assist with return as needed or requested.
- B. Indirect return of biospecimens to Tribally designated third-party institution or organization, as identified by Tribe. The Tribe will arrange the return. NIH is poised to assist with return as needed or requested.
- C. Indirect return of biospecimens to third-party institution or organization identified by NIH in consultation with Tribe(s) and organized by NIH. NIH will arrange the return.
- D. After consultation with Tribe(s), Tribe(s) designates NIH as steward for biospecimens.
- E. After consultation with Tribe(s), Tribe(s) requests NIH dispose of biospecimens in culturally sensitive manner.

QUESTIONS

- Do the proposed options adequately respect Tribal sovereignty?
- Do you have particular concerns that need to be addressed for any of these options?
- Are the proposed options sufficient?
- Are there additional options that should be considered?