

The TRP Committee invites applications to conduct translational research using material obtained from [RTOG clinical trials](#). Since its inception, the Group has banked over 54,000 human biospecimens such as unstained slides, tissue blocks, frozen and fresh tissue, blood, plasma and serum, all stored at the [Biospecimen Resource](#). [De-identified samples](#) are available for use by all interested investigators who comply with the access policies and are funded to carry out projects. Extensive clinical follow-up data exist on the cases and specimens for specific research needs.

Eligible Investigators

Any individual with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. All information is public – the application and instructions as well as the biospecimen inventory are posted on the RTOG website. Investigators not previously collaborating with the RTOG as well as individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and/or individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply. We are especially interested in developing technologies that may be tested in a prospective multi-institutional cooperative group setting.

Eligible Organizations

Domestic for-profit or non-profit organizations, public or private institutions (e.g., universities, colleges, hospitals), units of state and local governments, and eligible agencies of the federal government. Foreign institutions are also eligible to apply.

Funding

Investigators should budget for all aspects of proposed research including technical support, supplies and equipment, specimen preparation and shipping, as well as investigator and research staff salaries. Limited RTOG funding may be available but outside funding is suggested and documentation must be provided with application form. If you are submitting a grant for funding to cover the costs of your proposed TRP project, please read our [Letter of Support Policy](#) and follow those instructions.

Biospecimen Availability

The RTOG Biospecimen Resource is located at the University of California San Francisco and is the central repository of biospecimens collected from cancer patients enrolled in [RTOG clinical trials](#). Investigators may request RTOG biospecimens for approved research. To view the entire biospecimen inventory, cross-referenced with the protocol from which the specimens were harvested, click [here](#). ***In general, specimens are released only if the protocol-specified primary endpoint(s) for the trial has been met or is slated for reporting.***

Application Submission Deadlines

Applications can be submitted anytime but are reviewed on a quarterly basis

Quarter	Application Received By	Review Completed
1	March 31	July 1
2	June 30	October 1
3	September 30	January 1
4	December 31	April 1

Evaluation & Review Criteria

The Review Committee considers each application independently based on the following criteria:

1. Extent to which the proposed study addresses an important translational problem;
2. Degree to which the studies will impact the understanding and treatment of malignancies;
3. Whether the studies are designed appropriately to provide answers to the research questions posed;
4. Originality and level of innovation;
5. Availability and appropriateness of the tissue request;
6. Research credentials of the investigative group;
7. Contribution of the institution to the probability of success of the study.

Submitted applications undergo an extensive review:

1. A Biospecimen Feasibility Letter of Intent (LOI) is submitted to the RTOG Biospecimen Resource and statisticians who assess the proposal based on tissue availability, statistical feasibility and publication status of the primary study.
2. If the proposal is determined to be feasible, investigators are requested to submit a more detailed TRP Biospecimen Access Application Form which is forwarded to disease site, TRP and administrative leadership who evaluate the project's scientific merit. Comments/questions are forwarded to investigators as necessary to move applications through the review process. Conference call discussion is routine to vet proposals and prioritize tissue allocation.
3. Applications are then submitted to the RTOG Steering Committee who rate proposals based on scientific value and general enthusiasm for the project, using a generic scoring system from 1-5 (1 is highest). Applications that receive an average score of 3 or better move on to step 4.
4. Applications are sent to the National Cancer Institute for Clinical Trials Evaluation Program (CTEP) review and approval.

NOTE: Investigators should allow at least 4 months for this entire review process.

Progress Report Requirements

The Investigator must submit an annual progress report describing the current status of an ongoing project. This report must document and summarize work results for the year, including preliminary results, conclusions, and recommendations for actions to be taken for the rest of the project. Upon conclusion of the project, a final report describing the method and findings of the research is required. Project-related publications and news articles must be attached to the report. (Before publishing results, refer to the online RTOG Publication Guidelines at <http://www.rtog.org/publications/main.html>.) Annual updates, including abstracts, manuscripts, grants, protocols or other products resulting from either the use of RTOG tissue or the award of a seed grant, must be reported to the RTOG.

Requesting Biospecimen Material

1. Check for biospecimen availability - [Biospecimen Availability](#) or [Tissue Array Index](#).
2. Download and complete the [Biospecimen Feasibility Letter of Intent \(LOI\)](#)
3. Submit to RTOG Headquarters.
E-mail: RTOG-TRP@acr.org or Fax: (215) 928-0153 (ATTN: RTOG TRP)
4. RTOG will evaluate specimen availability and statistical power as noted in the LOI. If the study is determined to be feasible, you will be requested to complete a more detailed [TRP](#)

[Biospecimen Access Application Form](#) , which will be reviewed according to the process noted above.

Contact Us

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