

## OVERVIEW

**ADVANCED BIOSCIENCE RESOURCES** is a non-profit corporate foundation established in 1989 under California law to provide biomedical researchers with access to human tissues. ABR was formed exclusively for biomedical, scientific, and educational purposes and is devoted to providing services in connection with the procurement of human organs and tissues for medical and scientific research. ABR specializes in the procurement, preservation and distribution of both human fetal tissues and full term umbilical cord blood for research, and provides a highly individualized, reliable and easily accessible service.

**TISSUE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION:** The purpose of ABR is to promote cooperative efforts to collect and distribute human tissues and to thereby facilitate research utilizing those tissues. Trained personnel coordinate the retrieval, preservation and delivery of each specimen.

Tissues obtained through ABR are retrieved from routinely performed surgical procedures including first and second trimester induced abortions, and full term deliveries, either natural or caesarian section. Tissues that were once discarded are now available to scientists worldwide through the efforts of ABR. Researchers may specify tissue characteristics, preservation methods, and delivery times.

**PRESERVATION METHODS:** Each specimen is collected, preserved, and shipped according to the investigator's individual protocol.

**QUALITY CONTROL:** ABR practices strict quality control procedures and adheres to stringent guidelines for tissue collection and preservation. Consent is obtained in accordance with UAGA and NOTA and AATB guidelines. Tissue specimens are identified, dissected, and transferred to specified medium. A random control number is assigned to each sample to ensure patient identity confidentiality.

To assure proper processing of the tissue, every researcher selects a collection/preservation protocol tailored specifically to his needs. In the collection and distribution of these tissues, every effort is made to exercise the highest standards of medical and laboratory practice. ABR specializes in direct communication with each investigator from the initial application through tissue collection to specimen delivery.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** To request human tissue for research, an application for tissue acquisition must be completed and submitted to ABR. The application identifies the medical/scientific institution and principal investigator, and the specific research work intended. The application is reviewed for feasibility and priority, and, if approved, a protocol will be developed to meet the individual research needs.

**INVESTIGATOR APPROVAL:** ABR will provide tissue to researchers when application information is verified, including information on current research funding and a short summary of their research intent. Investigators must agree to accept responsibility for the potential biohazard of the tissue and to appropriately train laboratory personnel in the proper handling of the tissue. In addition, the researcher must agree to use the tissue solely for research or transplantation research purposes and to acknowledge ABR in any publications resulting from the use of ABR- provided tissue.

**SERVICE AND PROCESSING FEES:** Participating medical facilities that enable ABR to execute its tissue acquisition and distribution programs may be paid a nominal fee for such services. A minimal processing / preservation / shipment fee is also assessed for services provided to research facilities.