TO: SMPH RESEARCHERS

FROM: THE OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR BASIC RESEARCH

RE: COVID-19 BIOBANK RESOURCE

The UW Carbone Cancer Center (UWCCC) Translational Science BioCore (TSB) BioBank facilitates basic and translational research by providing investigators access to clinically annotated, human-derived biospecimens via an Honest Broker system, eliminating the requirement for most investigators to have their own IRB (more information about the BioBank can be found at https://cancer.wisc.edu/research/resources/tsb/biobank/).

In an effort to mobilize research efforts in support of COVID-19 related research, the UWCCC BioBank, in conjunction with the School of Medicine and Public Health Dean's Office and funding from the Wisconsin Partnership Program, has expanded its strategic approach by: 1) collecting remnant biospecimens (nasopharyngeal swabs/serum/plasma/whole blood) from patients under investigation, known COVID-19 positive patients and patients who have recovered from COVID-19 infection, 2) developing a streamlined process to efficiently submit/review/approve research proposals and distribute clinically-annotated biospecimens, and 3) providing investigators access to samples/or clinical and survey data from other IRB-approved resources at UW and our affiliate institutions.

The ability of the BioBank to mobilize COVID-19 research efforts is based on leveraging established relationships with outstanding colleagues and departments including the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, the Institutional Review Board (IRB), the Office of Clinical Trials, UW Health and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH).

An internal application process for securing the use of UWCCC’s BioBank samples for UW researchers in the COVID-19 related research will be announced shortly. For more information, please contact the SMPH Associate Dean for Basic Research, Jon Audhya via email: audhya@wisc.edu.