Human Tissue Act information

All research involving viable primary human materials (including viable unpassaged derivatives) and/or that contain DNA is governed by the Human Research and Human Tissue Authorities. The legal basis and authority of these bodies is set out by the Human Tissue Acts of 2004 and 2006. This states that researchers carrying out this kind of research require ethical approval. Their institution may need an HTA licence with a ‘Person Designate (PD)’ for each broad area of research, reporting to a ‘Designated Individual (DI)’. The PD and DI have legal responsibility to ensure research in their assigned remit complies with the law, along with the study PIs.

CUH has a research HTA licence: 12315. This includes university researchers on campus.

The PD is Dr Joanna Baxter in the University Department of Haematology.

The DI is Dr Merche Jimenez-Linan in the Hospital Department of Pathology.

The definition of the area is: Cambridge Stem Cell Institute PIs and their groups based in the JCBC and the Department of Haematology PIs and their groups based in the biomedical campus. This does NOT include PIs in CITIID, the Milner Institute or outside the JCBC if they are not part of the Department of Haematology.

Information about use of human samples is available on the Clinical School website.

For further information and questions – contact the PD, Joanna Baxter – eib60@medschl.cam.ac.uk

Animal Research

Research involving transfer of PRIMARY human cells into animal recipients must be ethically approved and now must be stated to the donor at the time of sample collection. This has been required by ethics committees for project approvals since 2017. Any NEW ethics applications that could involve xenografting must include this as an option in the donor consent form and information sheet.

Wherever possible, existing projects should be amended through the relevant ethics committee to allow this work to be added before starting the work. Please consult the REC who gave approval for the study before embarking on animal work if it is not part of your project approval. Where donors are fully anonymised or deceased exceptions may be made, please discuss with the REC and the PD if you are in doubt.