ME/CFS Biobank Application for Free Biosamples

Prepared by CureME and UK ME/CFS Biobank at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

UK ME/CFS sample collection funded by NIAID (NIH), ME Association who continue to fund storage

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 cureme.lshtm.ac.uk

 mecfsbiobank@lshtm.ac.uk

**Background Information**

The UK ME/CFS Biobank (UKMEB) is Europe’s first ME/CFS-specific biobank and has become a global model, renowned for its meticulous disease-specific protocols that ensure high-quality research outcomes.

Our longitudinal samples

* Come from over 600 donors comprising people with ME/CFS, MS, and healthy controls
* Have been collected at multiple time points <7
* Are securely held at the UCL/RFH Biobank in London

 The UK ME/CFS Biobank holds aliquots of the following blood derivates: serum (0.2ml), plasma NaHep (0.25ml), plasma EDTA (1ml), whole blood (0.5ml), peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC – 1ml with 5x106 cell), granulocytes pellet (2ml), and PAXgene blood RNA tubes. Availability of aliquots will be subject to previous usage by researchers.

**Who can get access to the samples and/or data?**

Academic and commercial researchers will be eligible to apply to use samples and/or data from the UK ME/CFS Biobank if they present a sound scientific rationale for the proposed study and have a good research track record. Eligible researchers must be supported by their institution trials on therapeutic approaches.

All research proposals intending to use samples from the UK ME/CFS Biobank must be developed in line with the Biobank’s mission. Proposals intending to develop the following types of studies will be prioritized:

o testing or generating new hypotheses on the mechanisms (pathophysiology) of ME/CFS,

o improving diagnosis (biomarkers) and phenotyping, and/or,

o basic science, e.g. pharmacological in vitro studies potentially leading to clinical trials on therapeutic approaches.

**Application process**

Researchers must submit an outline research proposal to the UK ME/CFS Biobank by email to: mecfsbiobank@lshtm.ac.uk . An independent scientific committee convened for this purpose will review the application and aim to notify the applicant of their decision. It is anticipated that a decision will be reached by the beginning of September.

**APPLICATION FORM – Research Proposal Outline**

Applicants should return the completed form to: mecfsbiobank@lshtm.ac.uk

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of Application DD/MM/YY |  / / |

**Applicant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Principal Applicant |  |
| Title & Position of Principal Applicant |  |
| Name & Position of Coinvestigator(s) |  |

**Institution**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Institution where research will be conducted |  |
| Address |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Telephone N°, including country code |  |
| E-mail |  |

**Project title**

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**Commercial/non-commercial intent**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Does this research include any commercial interests? | (Yes/No) |
| If yes, please explain nature of commercial interests: |
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**While we hope to provide samples free of charge, who will fund the planned research?**

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**Outline Proposal**

This must not exceed 1 single-spaced page (written in a minimum size 11 font (in Arial or Times New Roman). The proposal should be clear and concise and use the following sub headings: (i) title; (ii) brief background; (iii) objectives; (iv) methods - including materials, particularly samples and/or data required from the UK ME/CFS Biobank; and (v) expected outcomes.