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**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

**GRANT POLICY**

**AUSTRALIAN BIOLOGICAL TISSUE COLLECTION (ABTC)**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM  
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRALIA 5000**

**Collection Managers:**

Sally South (ABTC Collection Manager – part time)

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING TISSUE OR EXTRACT GRANTS

The Genetic Resources Collection at the Australian Biological Tissue Collection [ABTC], South Australian Museum comprises preserved animal (primarily vertebrates) tissues, blood, and extracts (e.g., proteins, antisera and DNA). Unlike typical museum specimens, which when loaned are returned intact, the materials from the ABTC are expended by the researchers who use them. Moreover, frozen tissues are much more difficult to collect than other museum specimens, especially in remote areas, and do not represent permanent assets to an institution because their use is consumptive. Thus, the ABTC does not lend materials, but rather makes grants from the collection.

Because of its size and composition, the ABTC is heavily utilised by researchers. Although such use is encouraged, it depletes the Collection and places a large financial burden on the Museum. As a result, the ABTC has instituted, in consultation with other major tissue/extract collections and the major contributors of our tissue collection, a policy to make the best use of this limited resource. Also where the granted tissues are to be used as the basis for a research grant proposal by the researcher, then we feel that ABTC should receive some compensation because researchers from ABTC often will be competing with recipients of our tissue grants for research funds. The policy is intended to maintain or increase the size of the collection and, hence, its value to the scientific community. The collection policy is enumerated in the following requirements for obtaining tissue/extract grants.

(1) Each request for a grant should be submitted in the form of a letter on institutional letterhead to the Collection Manager of the ABTC (see contact details above). The request should specify what sample is needed, why it is needed, what amount is required (ABTC will supply the minimum amount of material needed to complete the task), contact and mailing address details. Each request will be evaluated using the following criteria: (1) the kind of research proposed; (2) the rarity and replaceability of the sample; (3) the amount of sample on hand; and (4) the credentials of the researcher(s), (5) whether we have had an another request for the same purposes. In regard to item (4), the researcher must be a qualified scientist who is likely to publish the results of the proposed research (need not apply to commercial users). Graduate students should include a letter from their adviser, who will then be responsible for proper use of the sample. Grants will not be made to researchers who have not made good use of samples in the past or who have not fulfilled all grant requirements.

(2) To maintain access to the tissue Collection, ABTC requires compensation from all researchers receiving tissue/extract grants. ABTC will charge for the time taken to retrieve samples from the collection and dispatch them. Please note that this fee does not cover the “value” of the tissue or the resource expended in its collection. We remind users that maintaining the Collection costs ABTC more than \$60,000 per year (not including field expenses required to collect much of the material).

Charges for tissues and extracts will fall within the following ranges be levied as follows:

- (A) Researchers: \$50 + GST (GST applies to Australian clients only) per sample or an alternative negotiated position.
- (B) Commercial users: to be negotiated

(3) Unused portions from a tissue grant *cannot* be passed on to researchers at other institutions without the prior approval of the Collection Manager of Genetic Resources.

(4) Researchers who utilise ABTC samples must acknowledge the South Australian Museum in publications based on those samples and send reprints of such publications to the Curator of Genetic Resources. In the case of marine mammal samples, Catherine Kemper (Curator of Mammals) and David Stemmer (Collection Manager, Mammals) should also be acknowledged for the considerable effort involved in obtaining the specimens.

(5) Recipients of tissue or extract grants from ABTC are responsible for obtaining permits necessary for handling tissues.

(6) Recipients of tissue or extract grants will bear the costs of shipping the grant material (for international grants this may also involve customs charges).

(7) While we cannot guarantee the taxonomic identity of the tissue samples as many of the specimens are not accompanied by voucher specimens and identifications are based on field identifications which in some case are made by non-specialists, every effort is made to reduce the chance of misidentification. Additionally, of course any collection is prone to contain some specimens that are simply mislabeled. All attempts will be made to send tissue samples that have associated vouchers available. Where the researcher suspects that a sample may have been misidentified or mislabeled, we will supply an additional tissue sample from another individual, where available, at no extra cost (shipping costs excluded) to the researcher.

Our legal advisers suggested that we include the following paragraph to cover our liability, it essentially makes the same warnings that we have already just made but this time in legal jargon:

*"The researcher accepts that tissue samples supplied to the researcher may not correspond with the type of tissue sample requested by the researcher. Furthermore the researcher accepts that we cannot guarantee that the tissue sample requested will be reasonably fit for the purpose for which it is required by the researcher."*

**Payment:** Once the tissues have been dispatched, an invoice will be sent with details of the fee. Payment can be made directly into the South Australian Museum's bank account by direct credit. The bank account details will be on the invoice.

**REQUEST FOR TISSUE GRANT FROM AUSTRALIAN BIOLOGICAL TISSUE  
COLLECTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

**Name of Researcher:**

**Researcher's Institution and Postal Address:**

**Researcher's Electronic Addresses:**

**Phone**

**FAX**

**Email**

**If researcher is a student, name of adviser/supervisor:**

**Taxa and number of individuals for which tissues are requested:**

**Type of tissue required (list what tissues you can utilise in their preferred order):**

**Amount of tissue required (Please be frugal):**

**Form of preservation required (please tick preferred method):**

- 1) Frozen**
- 2) Alcohol preserved (50% ethanol/ normal saline)**

**Any other requirements for tissue selection:**

**Preferred shipping company for frozen consignments (When courier requested the account number of the receiver must be supplied):**

**CITES Institution code for Postal destination for alcohol preserved material:**

**Brief Description of proposed research:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_