THE PARKINSON’S UK TISSUE BANK AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE

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The Parkinson’s UK Tissue Bank was established in 2002 with the remit of collecting and supplying high quality human brain, spinal cord and CSF samples to researchers to foster research into Parkinson’s. Tissue is collected through a donor programme with 1,800 Parkinson’s and 3,500 controls potential donors. The bank has over 400 Parkinson’s related brains with short post-mortem delays. Tissue entering the Bank undergoes a rigorous neuropathological examination utilising the latest international criteria. To compliment the neuropathology we have extensive medical histories on all cases in the Tissue Bank plus extensive questionnaire information on patient lifestyle, motor and non-motor symptoms, etc.

To date we have supplied tissue to a large number of key national and international research projects e.g. whole human genome sequencing project (GWAS). A number of different tissue formats are available i.e. snap frozen, formalin fixed - paraffin embedded, and formal fixed - cryopreserved tissue. The Tissue Bank operates an open access policy to the tissue and the Bank welcomes applications from both for profit and not for profit organisations. Application for tissue is via a tissue request form which can be requested via our website http://www.parkinsonstissuebank.org.uk/. All applications are reviewed by an independent scientific review board which can issue its own ethical approval for tissue use (MREC scheme for Tissue Banks) thus saving the need for researchers to get separate ethical permission.

We encourage potential users to discuss their requirements with the Tissue Bank manager Dr D. Gveric or its Scientific Director Dr D Dexter (d.dexter@imperial.ac.uk).