

THSTI's biorepository steps up to COVID-19 challenge: A national bioresource for COVID-19 studies

DBT-THSTI's biorepository, a core facility, has risen to the COVID-19 challenge posed to the Indian scientific community and is set to support clinical and translational research as a national bioresource.



The biorepository was founded to cater to the GARBH-Ini program of DBT's at Faridabad based institute, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and other intramural and extramural maternal and child health research projects. The institute's reconstitution last year threw the challenge of opening up to other programs in the NCR Biotech Science Cluster. It turned out for the best as the core facility was well equipped to step up to the COVID-19 challenge.

The goal that the biorepository is working towards is the development of a national resource of well-phenotyped clinical samples to enable research on COVID-19. This will support researchers to conduct seroepidemiology, immunology, and diagnostic studies with high-quality and well-characterized clinical samples. Samples will be made available for the validation and discovery phase of vaccine and diagnostics development. The repository will comprise of longitudinally collected biospecimens from enrolled participants at three time points within a year, including convalescent samples post infection. Currently, samples are being collected from nine different hospitals. Building technical teams to process and store infectious samples as per the global and national guidelines is also a focus and a step forward in capacity building at the biorepository. The data management team at the institute is taking care of data entry and curation along with the biorepository teams.

The GARBH-Ini team is working with the other clinical research teams to enable the clinical activities of DBT and BIRAC's COVID research consortium for developing diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics against COVID. "It has been more than two weeks that @Garbhnicohort teams have been on the frontline for COVID activities. Their dedication

and urge to contribute is admirable. It keeps us going", tweeted Prof. Shinjini Bhatnagar from THSTI.

Link: https://thsti.res.in/covid_bioresources.php