

Newcastle Brain Tissue Resource

General information for those interested in obtaining tissue

Newcastle Brain Tissue Resource (formerly Newcastle Brain Bank) was established over 30 years ago and has supported major advances in the understanding of dementia and neurodegenerative disease and identifying therapeutic targets. Current cholinergic therapy for dementia was based in part on studies carried out on tissue from NBTR. It currently receives core funding from the MRC. NBTR works in co-operation with other brain banks in the UK and is part of the Brains for Dementia Research network funded by the Alzheimer's Society and the Alzheimer Research Trust.

NBTR is covered by the Newcastle University Human Tissue Authority license as a research tissue bank. All tissue is collected with informed consent.

NBTR consists of human brain tissue, both fixed and frozen, which has been donated for research purposes. The majority of donors are recruited from those diagnosed with diseases such as Dementia with Lewy Bodies, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Vascular Dementia / stroke or metabolic / mitochondrial disease. We have some control tissue but this is in high demand. Applications for tissue are welcomed for studies which are ethically and scientifically approved.

The application process

In order to be eligible to receive tissue from the NBTR you must apply using the form 'Application to the Committee for Approval of Tissue Use' (ACATU) for approval. In addition to a scientific outline and a lay summary you will need to attach details of any existing ethical approval covering this work or complete Part 2 of the form if the application is to use tissue under the NBTR ethics approval. If Students should ensure that their supervisor is also named on the application. Once you have submitted this application to the NBTR Manager it will be circulated to members of a scientific committee for discussion prior to formal approval by the committee which includes lay members so please make your lay summary as easy to understand as possible. You will then be informed of the decision and we will discuss the best way of filling your request. For large applications tissue may be requested and supplied in installments. If you have special requirements about the way in which the cases are selected or processed please contact us and we will try to help. Tissue requests are usually made by Brodmann Area.

Before you receive your tissue a Materials Transfer Agreement will be set up (if you are external to Newcastle University), or you will be asked to sign an Internal User Agreement (if you are within Newcastle University).

There are also now standard charges across the MRC network for preparing tissue samples as follows:

Type of sample	Cost £
Unstained paraffin section/slide	5
Unstained frozen section/slide	15
Frozen tissue sample	25
Sections from wet formalin fixed tissue	25
DNA/RNA samples of brain homogenates	25
Tissue homogenates	25
CSF	25
Administrative costs (including logging of request, database search, case retrieval, liaison with researcher and courier) will be added to each order priced in increments	20-50
Packaging	10-20
Delivery	variable

Transportation/packaging charges will vary according to type and amount of tissue and destination and will be charged at cost using an appropriate carrier but may include VAT.

After you have received your tissue you will be invoiced for these charges. However we do realise that for many projects on existing funding these costs will not have been budgeted for and we are happy to discuss how we can help. For new grant applications these costs should now be included in funding applications.

We do request that we are acknowledged in, and sent copies of, any publications resulting from use of the tissue as well as an annual report on the progress of the research.

Tissue is routinely supplied with information regarding the age, sex, diagnosis and PM delay. External requests involving use of additional clinical data can often be accommodated but this will normally be done on a collaborative basis.

If you have any queries please contact Debbie Lett d.j.lett@ncl.ac.uk