Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility Tissue Bank Research Program

We invite you to help us to better understand the challenges of reproductive disorders and the heartache of infertility. In addition, your participation can help us in the future to better diagnose, treat, and prevent disorders such as infertility, premature ovarian insufficiency, fibroids, and endometriosis.

What happens in the study?
Whenever you are getting medically indicated blood taken, we may take an extra 1-2 teaspoons of blood. If you are having surgery, we may collect a small piece of tissue for future studies. In addition, if you need to provide a urine sample, we may also keep a small portion of the excess. If you are undergoing IVF treatments, we may collect the fluid removed when your eggs are harvested, or the fluid your embryos are cultured. Your medical care will not be affected by whether you choose to participate in this study.

What is the benefit of this study?
You will be contributing to the future health of women who are seen with reproductive endocrinology and infertility problems. Our understanding of these diseases and genetic disorders that are associated with these problems will be greatly enhanced by the availability of samples from this bank to the research community.

Will this harm me?
No. Blood will only be drawn from you when samples are medically necessary and only 1-2 teaspoons will be taken at each blood draw. Surgical samples will be collected when other tissue is being removed.

Can I get my samples back?
You may not have your samples back for personal use. However, at any time you may request that we destroy any sample that has not yet been used. Once the sample has been used we cannot remove the data generated from its use in research.

How will samples be used?
Samples will be used to isolate cells, DNA, serum, plasma, and/or protein. These samples will be used in experiments by our researchers to better understand the mechanisms of diseases and to identify potential new therapies. Not all of the experiments may exist at this time! Samples can be of use for a long time. Samples will NOT be used to clone humans or for clinical transplants.

Is my privacy protected?
Yes, Your sample will be given a unique code and will be identified only by that number. All identifying information will be removed during processing and prior to sample storage. Any medical or demographic information collected will be stored with the coded number and without any identifying information.

How do I participate?
If you are interested in participating, please let a member of your OB/Gyn team know. A member of the research team will then meet with you at one of your appointments at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. We will explain the details of the research program and if you agree to participate, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will also be given a copy of the consent form.

For more information about the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Tissue bank, please call 319-384-8667.