

BETA CELL BIOLOGY CONSORTIUM

SHARING POLICIES



1) SHARING AMONG BCBC MEMBERS:

The Beta Cell Biology Consortium (BCBC) is committed to the timely and unencumbered sharing of research findings and reagents. All members of the BCBC are expected to freely share information and reagents with other members of the BCBC prior to the initial peer-reviewed publication that describes the development of the resource or reagent, or research results. However, BCBC members who receive and use information and/or reagents from other BCBC members take on specific obligations, such as maintaining confidentiality and including specific individuals as co-authors on publications. Individuals who breach BCBC sharing policies are subject to sanctions, including possible termination of their award.

1. Confidentiality. Information obtained from other BCBC members, including that presented at BCBC meetings, are obliged to treat it confidentially. This means that it should not be shared with any third party without the consent of the investigator of origin until such time that the donating investigator publishes his/her results, or publically announces them. Similarly, unpublished reagents obtained from one BCBC investigator by another should not be transferred to a third party without the written permission of the originating investigator. PowerPoint files of all presentations made at the semiannual meetings of the BCBC will be posted on the BCBC website (www.betacell.org) where they can be viewed by other 'BCBC members'.
2. Authorship. Use of an unpublished reagent or other key information that leads to a publication necessitates a discussion of authorship with the donating investigator. In general, the prepublication sharing of reagents should be considered as a scientific collaboration that is originated by mutual consent. Publications arising from collaborations that utilize unpublished resources or information from other investigator should include the donating investigator and key laboratory personnel as co-authors, unless explicitly agreed to otherwise.
3. Website. A website that enables the confidential exchange of information within the BCBC has been built and is being constantly improved (www.betacell.org). The design of all unpublished sharable resources should be entered into the appropriate database and shared with all 'BCBC members and affiliates' as the experiment is in development. The secure nature of the website prevents this information from being viewed by non-BCBC members (e.g. the public) until the reagent has adequately validated and described in a peer-reviewed publication. Sharing of information about experiments in progress is intended to minimize duplication and stimulate collaboration between BCBC laboratories. However, at the same time BCBC members must recognize that unpublished information may be incomplete, and sometimes even erroneous. Thus, BCBC members are encouraged to directly discuss such data if experiments are being planned that are based on it.
4. Core facilities. All resource developed utilizing the BCBC Cores must be described in the appropriate database as the effort is underway. The core resources will not ship reagents to collaborating laboratories until the information describing the resource has been entered into the appropriate data resource at www.betacell.org and made viewable to other 'BCBC members and affiliates'.

2) SHARING BETWEEN BCBC MEMBERS AND THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY:

All reagents, including mice, antibodies, viruses, and genetically modified ES cell lines, made using BCBC funds must be freely distributed to investigators at academic institutions who request use of these reagents for non-commercial research. "Freely distributed" is defined as the unencumbered distribution patterned after practices of NIH-sponsored repositories, where distribution is carried out without regard to the requestor's identity or experimental designs. Individuals found to be in breach of this policy will be subject to sanctions, including possible termination of their award.

1. Website. Information about new resources developed through the BCBC must be posted on the BCBC web site and made publically viewable. Upon initial publication of a resource the BCBC member is responsible to changing the viewability of all previously deposited information that describes the resource from 'BCBC members and affiliates' to 'public'. By doing so, it immediately becomes viewable to anyone who visits the BCBC website (www.betacell.org).
2. Distribution. BCBC investigators who have generated a resource will be responsible for distributing it to all requesting investigators prior to its submission to and distribution by a central repository. BCBC members may ask the requesting investigator to reimburse the reasonable costs for preparing and distributing the reagent. If the expense of distributing reagents becomes burdensome, the BCBC member may petition the EC for subsidization of distribution costs.
3. Repositories. BCBC members are responsible for depositing mouse strains that are likely to have continuing experimental value into a mouse repository, such as the NIH-supported Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Centers (www.mmrrc.org). Additionally, all mice developed through the BCBC will be posted at the International Mouse Strain Resource (<http://www.informatics.jax.org/imsr/index.jsp>).
4. Health status of mice. To facilitate the timely sharing and distribution of genetically modified mice developed by the BCBC, all BCBC members are encouraged, to the extent possible, to maintain lines that will be used by other investigators lines in specific pathogen free (e.g. barrier) facilities, or as cryopreserved embryos.
5. Executive Committee (EC) oversight. The EC of the BCBC reserves the right to request that a BCBC member deposit renewable resources such as mice, DNA constructs, monoclonal antibodies, genetically modified cell lines, and viruses, made using BCBC funds, to facilitate their distribution to the scientific community at-large. This request may occur prior to the initial publication of the resource.
6. Intellectual Property. BCBC investigators will adhere to the NIH Grants Policy on Sharing of Unique Research Resources including the "Sharing of Biomedical Research Resources: Principles and Guidelines for Recipients of NIH Grants and Contracts" issued in December, 1999. http://ott.od.nih.gov/NewPages/Rtguide_final.html. Specifically, all material transfers should utilize a Simple Letter Agreement and not have any reach-through requirements (http://www.betacell.org/pdf/NIH_simp_ltr_agree.pdf). Moreover, should any intellectual property be patented the technology must remain widely available to the research community in accordance with the NIH Principles and Guidelines document.

Principal Investigator

Date

Institutional Official

Date