BioSpect
the business of Bi
24 years of leveraging the business of Bio
www.biospectrumindia.co

Demand for biobanking resources continues to increase despite ethical, financial concerns

17 May 2016 | Features | By BioSpectrum Bureau

Demand for biobanking resources continues to increase despite ethical, financial concerns



The company's latest CBR Pharma report states that biobanks have various useful applications for clinical researchers, including leveraging samples and genetic data to accelerate the development of companion diagnostics, helping to reduce development times and costs for new medicines, and supporting knowledge creation and scientific discovery across a range of disciplines.

Mr Rodrigo Gutierrez Gamboa, Managing Analyst for GBI Research, says: "Clinical trials and epidemiological studies have contributed to improved understanding of certain diseases but, with the growth of biotechnology and phenotypic information, there is a need for the involvement of biobanks in such trials. The main aim of clinical trial-related biobanking is to identify and provide disease or trial-associated biomarkers.

"The integration of novel tools such as Big Data techniques, coupled with the increasing industry need for high-quality biospecimens for research, will lead to expanding cell and tissue collections, ultimately resulting in increased biobank usage."

Despite the useful applications of biobanking, the creation and endurance of biobanks depends on people's willingness to donate and have their samples stored. In this way, community engagement is a central component of biobanking governance, as the participation and support of the public is important for the success of any biobank.

Mr Gutierrez Gamboa explains: "The public's attitude towards biobanking is mixed, with some people having concerns over disclosing personal and medical information. Public support also depends to a large extent on what the samples are used for, as the treatment of disease is generally valued highly, while other interventions that aim to impact areas such as cosmetics or gender-reassignment are seen as less acceptable."

Â

Another obstacle to the further development of biobanks is their high cost, combined with the risk involved with long-term investment that relies upon a number of financial unknowns.

The analyst concludes: "Most biobanks are reportedly employing relatively vague cost models, suggesting a lack of financial strategy. Failure to accurately capture costs may lead to the early termination of projects, and may prove to be the downfall of various biobanks."