

ACCESS: National Biobanking Project

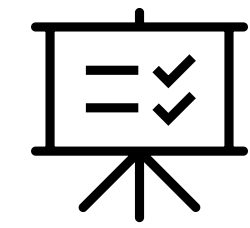
Co-Leads: Jonathan Bush, Jennifer Chan, Project Coordinator: Vi Nguyen, PWLE Co-Chair: Karen Haas



GOAL

To create a harmonized virtual biobank with standardized practices in collaboration with scientists, biobanking leaders, researchers, people with lived experienced (PWLE), biobanking advocates, and other stakeholders. The ultimate aim is to bridge the gap between all pediatric oncology research stakeholders by increasing visibility, accessibility, and approachability of biospecimens and their associated clinical data nationwide.

OBJECTIVES/AIMS



Aim 1: Establish a national collaborative biobanking network

Aim 2: Create a Needs Assessment Survey

Aim 3: Create the ACCESS Virtual Biobank

Aim 4: Create equitable pathways for patients to participate in biobanking and biospecimen-collecting studies (paused)

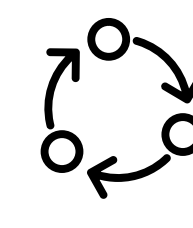
Aim 5: Expand longitudinal and multi-site sampling from every pediatric cancer centre (paused)

Aim 6: Increase Pan-Canadian Biobanking resources and support

Aim 7: Create an administrative umbrella to coordinate network activities

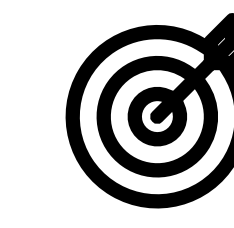
STUDY METHOD

Develop work plan to outline roles/responsibilities, costs, timelines, milestones for each aim.



- **Aim 1**
 - Establish a list of participating biobanks, recruit members part of other ACCESS working groups, and promote outreach to recruit PWLEs.
 - Collate list of Canada-wide children, adolescent, and young adult (CAYA) oncology biobanks to expand network
- **Aim 2**
 - Preliminary Needs Assessment Survey questions presented to ACCESS Biobanking Network for feedback
 - Needs Assessment Survey developed on RedCap (pending)
- **Aim 3**
 - Pending survey responses from Needs Assessment Survey, which would shape the foundation of the virtual biobanking platform
- **Aim 6**
 - Work with Canadian laboratories to create standard operating procedures
 - Develop a core knowledge network for Canadian laboratories to ask questions and improve processes related to biobanking
 - Provide EDI resources to the network
 - Prepare guidelines with biobank/study-specific wording for use by our network of biobanks to understand why and how Sociodemographic and/or other Potentially Sensitive Data should be collected
- **Aim 7**
 - Contacted members within Biobanking Network to join Network Governance Committee

RESULTS



- **Aim 1**
 - ~40 members formed National Biobanking Network with a wide range of expertise: scientists, biobanking leaders, researchers, PWLEs, biobanking advocates, and other stakeholders
 - Created a list of ~150 Canadian CAYA oncology biobanks, pending outreach and expansion
- **Aim 2**
 - Developed and administered Needs Assessment Survey on RedCap, pending survey collection responses
- **Aim 3**
 - Survey results will be compiled by project team to develop the virtual biobank
- **Aim 6**
 - Viable cryopreservation technique and media has been distributed and used by at least one non-core biobanking labs
- **Aim 7**
 - Established Governance Committee with (12) members including (8) scientists/biobank leaders/researchers, (3) PWLEs, and (1) auxiliary member. The Committee also comprises of (1) Research and (1) PWLE Co-chair

IMPACT/OUTCOMES



Aim 1: Diverse stakeholders ensure capture of expertise and insight on all matters related to biobanking

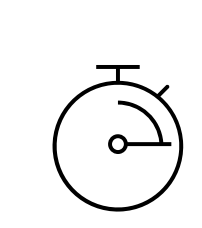
Aim 2: Responses from Needs Assessment Survey anticipated to help highlight gaps and allocate funds in the biobanking community and the development of the virtual biobank

Aim 3: Development of virtual biobank is anticipated to create streamlined access to biobanked biospecimens with associated clinical data which would increase the utilization rate of CAYA oncology biobanks and fuel research studies Canada-wide

Aim 6: Standardize costing structures, standard operating procedures, and data capturing

Aim 7: Administrative working group is anticipated to harmonize Aim 6 across Canada

PROJECT TIMELINES



Aim 1: Capture more biobanks nationwide: July 31, 2025 - current

Aim 2: Defined August 8, 2025, draft finalized February 11, 2026; launching survey for respondents by March 9, 2026. Funds allocated from survey responses aimed in conjunction with Aim 3.

Aim 3: Needs Assessment Survey responses collected March 9, 2026 for one month. Responses analyzed by mid-May 2026 to begin virtual biobank development

Aim 6: Continue ongoing diffusion of viable cryopreservation to non-core biobanking labs. Facilitation of SOPs and other resources or support will depend on the NAS responses, with development and deployment occurring on a continual basis for the term of the project.

Aim 7: Members selected September 7, 2025 and Governance Committee officially met on January 9, 2026. The Terms of Reference was established on September 7, 2026 and the second version was approved on January 13, 2026.