

Cohort Consortium Tissue Working Group
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1. How and when the working group or project was established

It has been two years since the Cohort Consortium Steering Committee requested a Tissue Working Group be formed. The original goals of the working group centered on encouraging acquisition of tissue specimens in existing cohort studies by promoting education and communication.

2. Number of cohorts participating

Varies per activity

3. Accomplishments so far (for example numbers of publications, topics those cover, types of analyses underway. This should be very brief. Although the Steering Committee is very interested in your scientific discoveries, we ask that you reflect on your experiences – are you where you wanted to be at this point in the project, are you going in a different direction than you expected, are you pleased or frustrated?)

- 1) For the educational component, we have held 5 webinars and an in-person meeting, as well as presented (oral session and poster) during the 2014 Cohort Consortium annual meeting (see below). Interest in additional webinar topics has waned over the past year.

- Nov. 20, 2014 – Collecting Tumor Tissue in Cohort Studies: Getting specimens in the door from participant consent to hospital retrieval (Mia Gaudet)
- Dec. 2014 – Tissue working group presentation and poster at the CC annual meeting
- Feb. 26, 2015 – Nuts and bolts - How do preanalytic variables (such as fixation) affect molecular testing on archival tissue samples? Strategies for dealing with batch effects (Andrew Beck)
- June 11, 2015 – IHC, Tissue microarrays, image analyses (Andrew Beck)
- Nov. 2015 - Tissue working group meeting at the CC annual meeting
- Jan. 28, 2016 – The Komen Tissue Bank (focused on non-cancer breast tissue banking) (Anna Maria Storniolo)
- June 7, 2016 – Updates of tissue collection activities by Cohort Tissue Supplement Awardees (moderated by Danielle Carrick)

- 2) For the communication component, we created a CC Tissue Working Group Yammer site and provided ample opportunities during the webinars and in-person meetings to share lessons learned, ask questions, pose ideas for collaborative tissue-related studies, and make suggestions for working group activities. Although there was some initial interest from a few cohorts, there has since been very minimal feedback from members of the working group.

4. Other projects that are building on this project / working group

We did not document this information. When we first started, there was 2-3 cohorts (e.g., Southern Community cohort and childhood cohort from St. Jude's) that were in the early stages of collection and reached out to us the most.

5. Success or challenges with the project

Successes – Interesting educational webinars and learning specifically from Andy Beck, a pathologist at Harvard.

Challenges – Not a lot of sustained interest in moving the group beyond educational sessions.

6. Ways the Steering Committee can be of help

We feel the original goals of the working group have been met, and now the focus should be on encouraging collaborations within the context of site-specific subgroups within the Cohort Consortium. We have requested that the working group be dissolved. Should questions about collecting or utilizing tissues arise, investigators are still welcome to reach out to any of us for guidance.

7. Lessons learned: what's working, what's not working, what could be improved or done differently?

Tumor collection efforts might be more fruitful in the context of site specific working groups.

8. What you would recommend to other working groups based on your experience in the Cohort Consortium?

There is a lot of collective knowledge about tissue collection from other cohorts; seek this information before initiating any efforts.