The Columbia University Biobank (CUB) launched in April 2020 to advance our understanding of COVID-19 and its devastating clinical consequences. In just a few short months, CUB has collected 69,000+ biospecimen from more than 7,000 patients who tested positive for SARS-Cov-2. Samples include DNA, RNA, serum, plasma, urine, and other tissue samples. Given the number of patients treated for COVID-19 at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital (CUIMC-NYP) and the diversity of our patient population, Columbia's COVID-19 biobank is arguably the largest and most distinct in the United States. Additionally, CUB consented more than 1,500 patients for genomic research and future research studies. Whole exome and microarray data, as well as host and virome RNA sequencing and microbiome data, will soon be available to investigators. Rich phenotypic data is being generated for our research community from a combination of EMR data mined from the Clinical Data Warehouse and a COVID-19 questionnaire completed by 85% of patients enrolled in the biobank. The Columbia University Biobank will provide these samples and data to Columbia investigators as we begin to address the myriad of research questions that are being proposed.

The Columbia University Biobank is overseen by the Office for Research in the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, in partnership with the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, the Institute for Genomic Medicine, the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, and NYP. A governance structure with an executive and steering committees and sub-committees (operations, sample and
data access, clinical phenotyping, communication and patient engagement) have been established.

As of early June 2020, over 90 requests to the biobank were reviewed by the CUB Sample and Data Committee, and over ~ 6,000 samples have been disbursed to support a wide range of research studies across the CUIMC community. In the coming months, we will sustain residual clinical sample collections even after in-person research activity ramps up, and establish a prospective recruitment team to continue biobank enrollment.

We encourage you to apply to use these research resources through the CUB website.

On behalf of the biobank steering committee, we appreciate the Columbia community’s herculean response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that the Columbia University Biobank will prove a valuable resource as our community strives to seek answers to this pandemic.

Stay safe,

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