APGI Cost Recovery Guidelines: a Schedule for Direct Research Costs

Introduction

The APGI endeavours to support medical research by offering fair and equitable access to its vast array of Biospecimens and Clinical Data for scientifically valid, ethically approved studies. These guidelines, prepared by the APGI Leadership Team with the consultation of national leading biobank collections (including guidelines issued by the NHMRC's Biobanking Working Group), is intended to provide researchers with a table of items associated with provision of materials and information and indicative costs associated with these items. The cost schedule would be made available to applicants for research grants for inclusion in their application budgets as a component of the direct research costs of their research project. The NHMRC in 2013 determined that facilities, including biobanks, will be able to recover the costs of services provided directly from researchers using NHMRC grant funds from 2013. A biobank collection such as the APGI is a very valuable commodity and this cost recovery schedule is in part built to reflect the value and importance of respect for this resource.

Researchers are required to read and be familiar with the APGI's Tissue & Data Access Policy to ensure requirements for accessing biospecimens and/or data can be fulfilled by the applicant.

How do we estimate Costs?

Cost recovery in a complex program such as the APGI is very difficult, as costs are not easily defined in a longitudinal study with multiple follow up points and serial sampling of blood and tissues. This notwithstanding, we endeavour to keep charges for tissue, data and analytes fair and reasonable whenever possible to encourage collaboration and further research. The costs put forward are estimated by assessing the individual costs of procurement including the consent process, obtaining the biospecimen from the clinical service, biospecimen processing itself into component parts, labelling, storage, clinical data collection and associated data entry, and packaging and distribution. That is, assessing costs based only on an evaluation of the actual supply chain in terms of time and reagents. Accordingly, the costs that the APGI is prepared to charge will inevitably be less than the full costs of supplying biobanking services in pancreatic cancer research.

There are 3 forms of fees established by the APGI:

1. **Service/Application fee** –
    a. $50 (one off- payable for each application received in full that proceeds to review). In some instances many hours of biobank staff time are required to coordinate the appropriate access to biospecimens and associated data. A component for this time can be included in any project grant application. This cost will be invoiced in

total upon distribution of biospecimens or as a separate item if no biospecimens are requested.

b. $25 fee for all amendments to existing studies. This is involved in addition to the cost of biospecimens or data extraction.

2. **Individual Sample and data access fees (**as outlined in below schedule) for materials and data already held by the APGI.

3. **Prospective services** (scientifically justifiable new collections of biospecimens and associated health information where existing collections do not exist). Due to the vast range of biospecimens collection requirements these costs are discussed on application.

Item specific fees are outlined below:

Tissue Samples (Includes Human and Mouse)	**Size/Unit**	**Cost (AUD)**
Snap frozen tissue	Approx. 5x5mm	500
Frozen Section	Single slide	50
FFPE Section	Single slide	10
H&E stained Section (in addition to unstained sides for FFPE or Frozen section)	Single section	10
Snap frozen tissue in DMSO	Approx. 3x3mm	300
DNA/RNA Extraction	Per sample (using Qiagen AllPrep kit)	150
Pathology review	Per case	150
DNA aliquot	(≤5ug)	60
RNA Aliquot	(≤1ug)	40

Tissue MicroArray (TMA)	**Size/Unit**	**Cost (AUD)**
Test Array (PDAC and Non-neoplastic)	Single slide- 4um section	25
PDAC Training Set (3 TMAs)	Single slide	150 (450 per set)
PDAC Validation Set (11 TMAs)	Single slide	150 (1,650 per set)
ICGC Set (8 TMAs) *	Single slide	200 (1,600 per set)
Ampullary Carcinoma Set (3 TMAs)	Single slide	150 (450 per set)
Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasm (IPMN) Set (2 TMAs)	Single slide	150 (300 per set)
Pancreatic Neuroendocrine (PNET) Set (2 TMAs)	Single slide	150 (300 per set)
Solid Pseudopapillary Tumour Set (1 TMA)	Single slide	150 (150 per set)

Pancreatic Intraductal Neoplasm (PanIN) Set (1 TMA)	Single slide	100 (100 per set)
Chronic Pancreatitis Set (2 TMAs)	Single slide	100 (200 per set)

* Restricted Access

Blood Samples (Human)	**Size/Unit**	**Cost (AUD)**
Buffy coat/Plasma/Serum	200-500ul	60
Red Blood Cells	200-500ul	15
PBMC (stored in DMSO)	1000ul	100
Phlebotomy	Per blood tube	35
Processing- serum/plasma and buffy coat	NA	60
DNA from blood samples (germline)	(≤5ug)	22

Cell Lines	**Size/Unit**	**Cost (AUD)**
Cell lines derived from patient derived xenografts (17 PDCL's)	Per vial	400

PDXs	**Size/Unit**	**Cost (AUD)**
Patient-Derived Xenografts (12-15 PDXs)	Per vial	1600

Aperio Digital Imaging	**Size/Unit**	**Cost (AUD)**
Slide scan	Per slide	10

Data Collection	**Size/Unit**	**Cost (AUD)**
Further medical record review/interview[1,2]	Per project	250
Clinical data supply outside of core data set[1,2]	Per hour (minimum billing 2 hours)	70

Special Considerations

1. There will not be a charge to APGI members associated with simple data or sample queries necessary to write a grant application, with the exception of projects that may involve large queries or numbers.

2. Approved projects accessing tissue, blood or DNA products have core data on their approved patient cohort included in the above costs (ie no additional costs for core data are charged).
3. Costs may vary at the APGI's discretion dependant on funding circumstances and project requirements.
4. Data only projects are charged the application fee plus $70 per hour of data extraction time at a minimum billing of 2 hours.

Data provision:
[1]All material will be provided with Histological type; age at diagnosis, and gender at the time of material dispatch.
[2]Additional data (treatment, tumour size, nodal status, ethnicity, clinical history, additional pathology information) can be provided at a cost of $70 per hour for data extraction time.

In-Kind Support and Special Access

Samples and data may be offered in-kind under special circumstances at the discretion of the APGI leadership team. Special circumstances may reflect novel projects, or investigators unable to fund the total cost of the access to samples or data.