

Case Study

Spit for the Cure™! Thousands of Samples for Breast Cancer Research

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About the study

Investigators at the UAMS are establishing a biorepository aimed at breast cancer risk and treatment with a goal of collecting 100,000 DNA samples over a five year period.

Main challenges

In order to maximize the number of samples collected, the investigators required an easy, non-invasive and reliable method to collect samples. The initial collection stations would be located at support venues for the Susan G. Komen Arkansas Race for the Cure® event in Little Rock. The venues included team rallies, team registration prior to the Komen Race for the Cure and during the event itself. The process would require donors to consent to participate, fill in a questionnaire and provide a saliva sample. The Komen Race for the Cure in Arkansas is one of the largest in the United States, with approximately 40,000 participants. Given the sheer number of potential participants available during a designated window, it was key to find a solution that would maximize compliance and minimize logistical challenges, such as storage at room temperature.

In addition to maximizing the number of samples collected, the investigators require large amounts of high-quality DNA to establish a biorepository that would serve numerous future breast cancer studies.

Why Oragene®•DNA

The investigators decided to use Oragene•DNA for the sample collection because it offered them a non-invasive, easy-to-use and reliable method to collect samples. The kit stabilizes DNA at room temperature until it can be analyzed which eliminated any storage and logistical issues. In addition, Oragene•DNA provides the high-quality, high-quantity DNA required for establishing the biorepository.

Collection methods considered

Collecting blood would not enable the investigators to maximize compliance and would create logistical and storage complexities. Buccal swabs would not provide the quality, quantity or reliability required to support the biorepository requirements and ongoing research needs.

“Because the study is non-invasive, it is easy to participate,” Kadlubar said. “The DNA that you get from saliva samples is of equal quality to DNA that you get from blood, and unlike blood, these samples will be stable at room temperature for long-term storage.”



Results

The main focus being the week leading up to the Komen Race for the Cure, the investigators were able to recruit thousands of participants and have many ongoing events scheduled to continue growing the biorepository. The investigators are pleased with how Oragene•DNA is helping them achieve their collection goals.

In support of the initiative, DNA Genotek offered recruitment support for the events leading up to race day. With the magnitude of the work required to plan the event, the company wanted to support its customers as much as possible to help them achieve their goals. It was exciting for those who participated to witness first hand how our kits played a role in advancing breast cancer research!

We thought that you would enjoy seeing some of the on-site photos.



"We are excited about this project because the information we will collect has the power to unlock many answers for breast cancer prevention and treatment. One sample can benefit breast cancer research forever!"

Susan Kadlubar



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