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Towards a Dutch national tissuebank portal: One portal to access all pathology archives for research

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The Dutch National Tissuebank Portal (DNTP) project aims to achieve increased, easier and improved secondary use of residual human tissue samples (FFPE blocks) from all pathology laboratories in the Netherlands. Currently, there are more than 60 million archived FFPE samples with standardized associated data which can be used for research purposes. With the DNTP researchers can request samples online through the portal from where the request will automatically be sent to the pathology laboratory where the samples are stored. After approval from a research- and privacy committee and the participating laboratory a DNTP employee will collect the samples and send them to the researcher. Pathology laboratories can request a sample to return, if this sample is needed for delayed patient care. The result will be that in the Netherlands we have established a professional research infrastructure that will provide virtual and physical access to all residual FFPE pathology samples and their associated data for research purposes. Nowhere in the world does such a web based portal exist that supports pathology laboratories and researchers in their quest of searching, requesting, registering, retrieving and returning archived FFPE samples for research from all the national pathology archives.

Biography

Chantal Steegers is project manager of the BBMRI-NL Rainbow 8 project Dutch National Tissuebank Portal. Before this she worked at the Ethics department of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and at the Rathenau Institute promoting political and public opinion on secondary use of residual tissue. She has published two books on the use of human tissues and cells.

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