OSCON 2022
Openspecimen- User Experiences

Jenna Bowen– Business Operations Manager

NSW Regional Biospecimen and Research Services
University of Newcastle

Jenna.R.Bowen@Newcastle.edu.au
A little about us

• Formally established in 2012
• Located at Hunter Medical Research Institute
• Openspecimen users since early 2015
Growth

2015:
• Internal cohort of cancer related biospecimens - sequential blood collections
• 1 collection protocol

2022:
• Facilitating protocol driven collections for local research groups
• Partnered with a number of collaborative and industry trial groups to process, catalogue and store trial samples
• Long-term or interim storage of biospecimens
• 90+ collection protocols and 145,000+ samples banked
Users

• Daily use by lab processing staff
  • Catalogue processed samples, including specimen data entry
    • Forms created for additional data entry
  • Sample inventory audits - manage human error
  • Transfer of containers to long term storage
  • Distribution of samples to researchers

• *Testing environment* for version updates prior to going ‘live’
  • Test new version features
  • Training of staff regarding Openspecimen functionality
  • Test a new process to determine any detrimental effects on system data
Users

• Creating user accounts for collaborative groups/sample owners to access their own trial samples
  • Different levels of access
  • Look at sample numbers in real time
  • Able to do own queries and reporting
    • Creation of routinely run queries, use of shared query folders

• Training workshops for internal staff and external partners covering
  • Openspecimen navigation
  • Building and running queries
  • Openspecimen support centre- user manual
    https://openspecimen.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CAT/overview?homepageId=1115727
Areas for Improvement

- Querying across multiple collection protocols that have the same form attached at the same level and having the ability to export the query data
  - Avoid having to run separate queries and merging spreadsheets
  - Time consuming
  - Risk of human error
Our Team

Leadership Team

- L Prof Rodney Scott
  Co-director
- Dr Ricardo Vilain
  Biobank Co-director
  Biobank Pathologist
- Dr Jude Weidenhofer
  Co-director
- Cassandra Griffin
  Biobanking and Clinical Research Manager

Technical Team

- Trish Collinson
  Biological Repository Manager – sample logistics
- Jenna Bowen
  Business Operations Manager – finance and reporting
- Megan Clarke
  Specialist Senior Technician – histology secondment
- Melissa Tooney
  Research Co-Ordinator – internal sample provision
- Samara Bray
  Lab Technician and participant coordinator
- Belinda Van Zyl
  Lab technician – cooperative trial group processing
- Kaylee O’Brien
  Lab Technician – HNE trials management
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- University of Newcastle
- Hunter Medical Research Institute