Development of an open informed consent for biobanking

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Introduction
The amount of information in combination with the explanatory power plays a crucial role for the practical application of an informed consent in medical research. Moreover, too much as well as too little information for donors can hinder a trustful relationship between researcher and donor. Hence, our project aimed at developing an applicable informed consent procedure, which enables an uncomplicated management for the biobank as well as full protection of personal rights and privacy of donors.

Methods
A broad, one-time informed consent was developed by Biobank Graz based on the biobanking report of the Austrian Bio-Ethics Committee and taking into account the guidelines for human biobanks and genetic research databases published by the OECD. This informed consent and the associated information folder for donors are undergoing an annual re-evaluation by the local ethics committee. Furthermore, the informed consent status of donors is displayed in the clinical information system of cooperating clinical departments of the University Hospital Graz. If the patient has not yet signed the informed consent form it will be printed automatically at admission.

Results
The informed consent developed by Biobank Graz enables researchers to do any kind of study with the samples if they show an ethical approval to perform their study with the respective samples. This approach has been positively evaluated by the local ethics committee each year so far. The number of signing donors is steadily increasing and the disclaimer rate is nearly zero.

Conclusion
Biobank Graz successfully developed a broad informed consent for sample donors.

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