

What are the benefits of depositing my cells with EBiSC?

The main benefits for an independent researcher (PI) are:

- a) EBiSC dissemination. The Bank saves you time by responding to researchers who request samples of your cell lines, for example following a publication in which they were described. After completion of one deposition process, EBiSC does the rest.
- b) Backup storage. If your cryo-freezers fail or your locally held stocks become contaminated, you will have two opportunities to request samples of your lines to be returned to your lab, with only the shipping to pay.
- c) Line recognition. Your deposition of lines with EBiSC will be recognised through our standardised naming system.

The main benefit for the larger consortia, making many iPSC lines, is that EBiSC offers a future proofed strategy for the maintenance and distribution of the cell lines. This will not only save your consortium money, but will be seen positively by prospective research funding councils.

If I deposit cells with EBiSC, how does this affect my ownership of them?

Cell lines deposited with EBiSC remain the property of the Depositor. This is relevant information for a User who wishes to directly exploit the cells on a commercial basis; it is the responsibility of the User to contact the technology transfer office of the Depositor to determine whether express permission or agreement in support of the commercial activity is required.

If I change my mind, can I have my cell lines and associated information returned to me?

Any original iPSC material that has been deposited with EBiSC, but not wholly consumed in the qualification process, may be returned to the Depositor upon request. You may also request the return of any unconsumed primary tissue samples from which the iPSC lines were made, if EBiSC partners have been involved in the reprogramming process. Once the sample iPSC lines are qualified and made available in the EBiSC catalogue however, they cannot be returned to the Depositor. Neither can the Bank return any original data (information supplied with cell lines and required to enable Users to select appropriate research lines) to the Depositor.

Once I have deposited cells with EBiSC, am I prevented from sharing these lines directly with others?

No. Your agreement to let EBiSC bank and distribute your cell lines does not limit your own ability to share the cell lines with others. EBiSC does encourage Depositors to support the mutual aim of the EBiSC project, which is to act as a hub for dissemination of quality-controlled cells to researchers worldwide.

Is deposition of cells with EBiSC a free process?

Yes. If EBiSC agrees to bank your cells then you will not be asked to pay for this process.

Do I have to be an EBiSC project partner to deposit cells with EBiSC?

No. Anyone can apply to have lines deposited with EBiSC.

What information will I need to provide before lines can be deposited?

Most importantly, EBiSC must be able to trace the terms of consent given by the human donor who supplied originating biomaterial for derivation of the iPS cell line. You will need to provide an anonymised copy of the consent form together with the accompanying patient information sheet. The consent must:

not prevent the generation of iPS cell lines

permit research use by academic and commercial entities

enable international sharing of lines and derivatives

permit genetic analyses (eg. DNA sequencing)

permit EBiSC retention of iPSC lines and associated data upon subsequent withdrawal of donor consent.

Where the consent paperwork is acceptable, data such as the age and sex of the donor and the passage number, reprogramming technology and media requirements will be asked for and uploaded to the hPSCreg website.

What is hPSCreg?

hPSCreg is the human Pluripotent Stem Cell Registry (www.hPSCreg.eu), a web-based public information database for pluripotent stem cells (embryonic and induced pluripotent stem cells). The database is hosted and maintained by the Charité Medical University, Berlin. All EBiSC lines will be registered on hPSCreg.

Can I assume that EBiSC will deposit all and any of the lines I wish to deposit?

No, deposit is subject to EBiSC approval of each line deposited into the Bank. The EBiSC catalogue will be selectively developed according to the needs of the research community and resources of the Bank to characterise and curate them.

What does the Bank do with cell lines that I deposit?

Deposition involves a number of steps, including the conduct of quality control assays by EBiSC prior to acceptance of a cell line for deposition, and the completion of an EBiSC Material Deposit Agreement (EMDA). Once the formal deposition process has been completed, the Bank may further characterise and expand the cell line, and cryopreserve 30-50 vials for storage and distribution. A number of vials of cells will be transferred to the facilities of the European Collection of Authenticated Cell Cultures (ECACC) in the UK for distribution, and to the 'mirror bank' established by the Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedical Engineering (IBMT) in Sulzbach, Germany, for secure storage.

If more than one entity has been involved in the generation of cell lines that are ultimately deposited in the Bank, does it matter which party deposits them? Is there any financial benefit to being the designated Depositor?

The entities involved in the generation and manipulation of cell lines ultimately deposited with EBiSC must themselves determine which is the appropriate party to deposit the lines in the Bank. Depending on investments of time, expertise and funds the Depositor may be the organisation that carried out the reprogramming to create the iPS cell line, the party conducting further work such as gene editing to generate a variant of the line, or perhaps a third party who has commissioned one of the others to undertake such work.

Deposition of cell lines into EBiSC is intended to be a voluntary contribution by the Depositor rather than a means of obtaining financial or commercial advantage. If however a User should foresee commercial activity involving a banked cell line, ie activities that fall outside the scope of 'research use' as defined in the EBiSC Access & Use Agreement, then the User would be in a position to approach the Depositor to obtain permission or licensing arrangements in order to support the conduct of this activity.

As the Depositor, can I restrict or control the purposes for which my cell lines are used?

No. If however you have an obligation to a third party that cannot be waived, or one that requires that it be passed on to the end user of the cell line, then such Third Party Obligation must be identified clearly in the EBiSC Access & Use Agreement. 'TPO's would include, for example, 'reach through' intellectual property rights of a patent holder, or the limitations imposed by a tissue donor regarding use of their samples in a specific field of research.