RESEARCH ETHICS:
Medical research with 'legacy samples' raises ethical questions.

In the July 18, 2008 issue of Science, "Old Samples Trip Up Tokyo Team": A University of Tokyo team has retracted a published research paper because it apparently failed to obtain informed consent from tissue donors or approval from an institutional review board (IRB). Other papers by the same group are under investigation by the university. Observers believe problems stem in part from guidelines that don't sufficiently explain how to handle samples collected before Japan established informed consent procedures.

Science 18 July 2008:
Vol. 321. no. 5887, p. 324
DOI: 10.1126/science.321.5887.324b

SCIENCE IN JAPAN:
Paper Retraction Puts Focus on Informed Consent Rules

A follow-up article in the July 25, 2008 issue of Science. Stung by a front-page newspaper exposé of an alleged lapse in research ethics, officials at the University of Tokyo's Institute of Medical Science are planning to overhaul efforts to educate researchers on ethics rules and tighten internal review and compliance procedures.

Science 25 July 2008:
Vol. 321. no. 5888, p. 474
About NUS-IRB

NUS Institutional Review Board (NUS-IRB) was established on 1st September 2003. This Board (also referred to as the Research Ethics Committee in some countries) will review, approve and monitor the ethical aspects of all NUS research projects that involve human subjects and human tissues/cells/data.

Its main objective is to protect the rights and welfare of human research subjects in research activities conducted by NUS students and researchers.

Visit our website: http://www.nus.edu.sg/irb/