

**REQUEST FOR USE OF FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND:
A. PURCHASE OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT –
MEDIUM-TERM SUPPORT TO THE BIOBANK**

1. The IARC Biobank is a key resource supporting the Agency's mission of coordinating and conducting research on cancer by housing biospecimens from large cohort studies among other study designs. The inter-disciplinary research strategy of the Agency means the Biobank will continue to be a core resource. Maintaining samples in a stable and secure environment is, therefore, an important priority of the Biobank and critical for long-term continuity of IARC's research.
2. The centralization and cataloguing of the IARC Biobank under the Laboratory Services and Biobank Group (LSB) has allowed the Agency to have a central, focal point for coordinating the reception, storage and distribution of biological samples worldwide.
3. The IARC Biobank now stores over six million biological samples from studies conducted in collaboration with or coordinated by IARC scientists. In addition, the Biobank provides storage space for studies conducted in low- and middle-income countries where sub-optimal conditions exist for medium- to long-term sample storage or, in some cases, provides facilities to store duplicate samples to provide security for valuable resources of IARC's collaborators.
4. The current strategy of replacing malfunctioning storage units has been through funds from the regular budgets and grants; this has only allowed for the most urgent replacement of equipment. However resources have been insufficient to allow for provision of additional units to cater for expansion and an adequate number of back-up units for the Biobank's security as well as for any upgrading of the facility to take advantage of new technologies.
5. In response, a three year plan has been prepared based on data obtained on future needs for storage capacity across the Agency, the need to upgrade the current facilities and an estimation of adequate back-up space to maintain the security of the current and future sample collections.
6. The current requirements for the medium-term support to the Biobank are to: replace malfunctioning and aged storage units, including for cell lines, as well as to initiate the introduction of the hybrid storage system particularly for newly arriving collections.

7. The annual maintenance costs of the requested equipment will be integrated into the IARC regular budget as well as from extra-budgetary sources and invoicing for the Biobank services.

8. The Scientific Council reviewed the proposal as detailed below:

Requested Budget

Item	Quantity	Approximate unit price (€)	Total price (€)
2016			
Automatic LN2 tank (including delivery, installation and training)	1	112 000	112 000
Liquid nitrogen tank	3	30 000	90 000
Liquid nitrogen piping	1	40 000	40 000
-80°C freezers	4	11 000	44 000
-40°C freezers	1	2 200	2 200
Racks	72	150	10 800
Monitoring system for freezers	5	300	1 500
Monitoring system for LN2 tanks	25	300	7 500
2017			
-80°C freezers	4	11 000	44 000
-40°C freezers	1	2 200	2 200
Liquid nitrogen tank	2	30 000	60 000
Racks	72	150	10 800
Monitoring system for freezers	5	300	1 500
Monitoring system for LN2 tanks	25	300	7 500
2018			
-80°C freezers	4	11 000	44 000
-40°C freezers	1	2 200	2 200
Racks	72	150	10 800
Monitoring system for freezers	5	300	1 500
TOTAL			492 500

9. The Scientific Council, recognizing the critical importance of biobanking for all IARC activities, strongly recommended that the Governing Council approve the above-mentioned purchase of scientific equipment and provide a total allocation of €492 500 from the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) for a period of three years (2016–2018) for the purchase of essential cold storage equipment to cater for the storage expansion and adequate back-up facilities in the IARC Biobank.

10. The Governing Council is requested to approve at its 58th Session in May 2016 the use of €492 500 from the Governing Council Special Fund.