

# Banked Plasma Program

## Call for applications

### Context

The Society of Family Planning and Society of Family Planning Research Fund (the Society) hold a vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception, informed by science. In support of this vision, the Society strives to support multidisciplinary approaches to rigorous research and is excited to expand its mechanisms for supporting researchers through sharing of plasma samples. With this sample sharing program, the Society will support bench and translational researchers who seek to address pressing clinical questions in family planning and reproductive health.

## Sample availability

Biological samples available are 100µl aliquots of EDTA maternal plasma collected using a platelet-free protocol between gestational weeks 5-15, plus a small number of samples from patients with pregnancy of unknown location. Samples were collected between August and December 2019 as part of a [study](#) conducted in partnership with the Society's Abortion Clinical Research Network. Samples are stored at [the Fisher Lab](#) at the University of California, San Francisco. Proposals for banked samples will be accepted through September 2021, or until the sample supply is exhausted, whichever comes first.

Samples will be made available at minimal cost. There are no fees for costs of collection or current storage. Investigators will cover the costs of shipment of the samples to their research location.

## Sample distribution

We invite applications to use available plasma samples and will prioritize distributing samples to those conducting research that seeks to advance the Society's vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception. We are also open to requests that seek to leverage the samples for research in adjacent and complementary fields. Accordingly, requests for samples will be accepted in three phases, with the second and third phases only opening if a sample supply remains available.

## Applications will be accepted in phases

**Phase 1:** Society members only (opens November 2020)

**Phase 2:** Society members and other sexual or reproductive health researchers (opens May 2021)

**Phase 3:** All researchers, regardless of field of inquiry (opens September 2021)

## Application submission and review process

Sample requests will be reviewed on a rolling basis and approved based on alignment with the Society's vision and missions, likely contributions to the field of family planning or sexual and reproductive health, feasibility of the described study, and the availability of samples.

### The steps from application to review are:

1. An investigator will submit a brief application in an online submission platform addressing the questions listed below and complete the Sample Use Agreement form.
2. The application will be reviewed by a group of scholars and partners with expertise in family planning clinical care and research, as well as basic science. Applications will be scored according to the criteria listed below.
3. If the application is approved, the Society will serve as a liaison between the Fisher Lab and the investigator to facilitate sample delivery. The requesting site may also need to execute a Material Transfer Agreement with the University of California, San Francisco.

### Applicants are invited to respond to the following questions in the online platform (no more than 2,000 characters per response).

1. What is the research question that you will answer with these samples?
2. Describe how this research question can feasibly be answered using these samples.
3. What will the impact of this research be on family planning or, more broadly, sexual and reproductive health care?
  - a. What are the implications for future translational or clinical research based on the findings of this study?
4. How many samples will the research require?
5. Describe the institutional support, research funding, and/or other infrastructure that you have to allow you to store the samples and complete the research.
  - \* Please note that applications from emerging scholars in this research area are welcome; if sufficient support is not available at your institution and you are interested in being paired with a mentor at another institution, please contact Mary Tschann.
6. What is the expected timeline for analysis and dissemination of the results?
  - a. Please include a dissemination plan, including intention to share findings with the family planning or sexual and reproductive health care field.

## Review criteria

Proposals will be reviewed based on their responsiveness to the following four questions.

1. How is this research question aligned with the vision and missions of the Society?
2. How does the work contribute to the field of family planning or sexual and reproductive health?
3. Is it feasible for the investigator to conduct this work based on their resources, experience, and timeline?
  - a. If this is an emerging researcher, are there mentors with adequate resources available to implement the research?
4. Are sufficient samples available to respond to the investigator's request?

## Online application

Proposals should be submitted using [this online form](#). Application submission opens on November 15th, 2020 for Society members and May 14th, 2021 for researchers who are not currently Society members. Applicants will be reviewed on a rolling basis. We will notify applicants about the status of their proposal as soon as review is complete.

Contact Mary Tschann, PhD, MPH at [MTschann@SocietyFP.org](mailto:MTschann@SocietyFP.org) for more information.

**Application submission opens on November 15th, 2020** for Society members and **May 14th, 2021** for sexual and reproductive health researchers who are not Society members.

If samples remain available, research proposals from any field will be accepted in **September 2021**.