



Tissue banking for the future: the UK sets legislation

Tissue banking for research can improve clinical care and standards, lead to new diagnoses and treatments and protect public health. In the UK, the Human Tissue Act 2004 regulates the removal, storage and use of human tissue: it aims to reinforce the public's confidence in tissue donation and its fundamental principle is consent. In a session chaired by **Eileen Jaffé**, EUROPA DONNA UK Forum, **Brian Clark** of onCore UK said that the new legislation safeguards patients and their families while also fostering progress and research and inspiring public confidence. Though consent is a key element, certain types of research using "residual"

tissue is permitted without consent as long as it is approved by a research ethics committee, and the donor remains anonymous. The legislation has established a Human Tissue Authority (HTA) that is developing guidelines and establishing licensing and inspection procedures.

The UK Forum plans to launch an awareness campaign on tissue banking for research to address patients' concerns and the effect of the new legislation. On a European level, EUROPA DONNA plans to do research on this subject to determine what initiatives exist in all its member countries.

For more on the UK legislation:

info.cancerresearchuk.org/publicpolicy/briefings/science/tissueact/