



## The Connecticut Department of Public Health Virtual Office of Genomics

Presents

# Biobanks

## The Promise and Public Health Challenges of Biorepositories for Genomics Research

**Jeffery Struewing, M.D., M.S., Epidemiologist, Office of Population Genomics,  
National Human Genome Research Institute**  
**Steve Latham, Ph.D., J.D., Director, Center for Health Law & Policy, Quinnipiac  
University School of Law**  
**Errol Norwitz, M.D., Ph.D., Co-Director, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Yale University  
School of Medicine**  
**Paul Pescatello, J.D., Ph.D., CEO/President, CT United for Research Excellence,  
Moderator**

Biobanks are large biological repositories, and the information derived from their contents is used to discern the genetic and environmental factors that cause disease. Some biobanks are more focused in scope, created to study a specific disease. Other biobanks, such as national biobanks that exist in other countries, and under recent discussion in the U.S., are used to identify the multiple genes that interact to cause common chronic diseases. These latter biobanks require a large number of donated samples, and, consequently, often require a centralized infrastructure and government coordination. Our panel of experts will discuss the promise and regulatory challenges of biobanks of varying scope and magnitude, at the international, national, and more regional level.

**When: Thursday, May 22, 2008 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Where: Crowne Plaza, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT (860.635-2000)\***

This seminar is **FREE**; however **pre-registration is required by May 14, 2008.**

To register, email [Louise.Smith@ct.gov](mailto:Louise.Smith@ct.gov) or call 860 509-7218. For more information, contact Beverly Burke, M.S.W., at 860 509-7122, or at [beverly.burke@ct.gov](mailto:beverly.burke@ct.gov)

**\*DIRECTIONS To Crowne Plaza, Cromwell\***

**TAKE I-91 N OR S TO EXIT 21. TURN LEFT OFF THE EXIT. HOTEL IS ON THE LEFT.**

## ABOUT THE PANELISTS

**Jeffery Struewing** MD, MS. Dr Struewing received his M.D. degree in 1981 from Indiana University and completed a Preventive Medicine Residency at the University of Maryland where he also received an M.S. degree. After serving 3 years as a Medical Officer in the US Navy, he joined the National Cancer Institute in 1991 as a Commissioned Officer in the Public Health Service. He received tenure in 2001 and joined the Office of Population Genomics in 2007. Dr Struewing's research has focused on breast and ovarian cancer and has included epidemiologic and laboratory studies in family- and population-based settings. He is leading a consortium of Biorepositories linked to electronic medical records to conduct genomics research.

**Stephen Latham**, JD, PhD. Prof. Latham is incoming Deputy Director of Yale University's Interdisciplinary Center on Bioethics. Until this spring, he was Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Health Law & Policy at Quinnipiac University School of Law. Latham received his J.D. from Harvard Law School, and practiced health care business and regulatory law in Boston and San Francisco before receiving his Ph.D. from the UC Berkeley Program in Jurisprudence and Social Policy. A former graduate fellow at Harvard's Safra Foundation Center on Ethics, Latham served as Director of Ethics Standards at the American Medical Association, and as secretary to its Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, from 1996-98. Latham has taught health law and ethics-related courses at the law schools of Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, UC Berkeley, and Harvard, and to college students at Brown and Yale. In 2005-06, he was a research fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities. He currently serves on Connecticut's Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee and on the board of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. He is also a book review editor for the American Journal of Bioethics. He was among the panel of experts that recently evaluated the feasibility of a statewide population-based biobank to study preterm births.

**Errol Norwitz**, MD, PhD. Dr. Errol Norwitz is Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at Yale University School of Medicine, and Co-Director of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and Director of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, CT. He completed his medical training at the University of Cape Town (South Africa), his Ph.D. at Oxford University (England) on a Rhodes Scholarship, and his Ob/Gyn Residency and Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship at Harvard University in Boston. His research has been supported by N.I.H./N.I.C.H.D. by way of the Reproductive Scientist Development Program and the Women's Reproductive Health Research Scholarship and, most recently, by March of Dimes. His areas of research interest include the regulation of GnRH receptor gene expression and the molecular regulation of parturition, both term and preterm. He was among the panel of experts that recently evaluated the feasibility of a statewide population-based biobank to study preterm births.

**Paul Pescatello**, JD, PhD. Paul R. Pescatello is President of Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Inc. (CURE). CURE is a statewide, member-supported coalition of over 100 educational and research institutions, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies and other supporting businesses. It is dedicated to promoting the growth and increasing public understanding of biomedical research and science in Connecticut, such as CURE's recent work to make Connecticut a "safe haven" for embryonic stem cell research (including \$100 million in funds for such research). Mr. Pescatello is an attorney and lobbyist with over 20 years of technology, public affairs and public policy experience. As Special Counsel to the Governor Mr. Pescatello was responsible for drafting and lobbying technology company tax and economic development "cluster" legislation for the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and in collaboration with CURE. He sits on numerous boards, including Connecticut Innovations, Inc., a quasi-public seed and venture capital firm. Mr. Pescatello received a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. He also holds a B.A. in political economy from Colorado College. He was among the panel of experts that recently evaluated the feasibility of a statewide population-based biobank to study preterm births.