



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

DATE: July 13, 2026

TO: Hala Makhoulf
Acting Branch Chief, Pathology Investigation and Resources Branch
National Cancer Institute (NCI)

FROM: NIH Privacy Act Officer

SUBJECT: Applicability of the Privacy Act: Specimen Resource Locator (SRL)

I have reviewed the OMB extension submission, Specimen Resource Locator (SRL). The purpose of the collection is to maintain a database to increase its knowledge of cancer biology and translate important research discoveries to clinical applications.

The SRL will catalogue The National Cancer Institute (NCI)'s specimen resources. The database will allow NCI and scientists in the research community to search and locate specimens needed for research. It will list all NCI-supported specimen repositories and a link to those repositories that can be shared with the scientific community. The information collected from participating resources (i.e., cooperative groups, networks, consortiums, universities, and projects) will be used to characterize the inventory and allow scientists to query the SRL database by category, to retrieve the bio specimens and annotations that may be needed for research:

- Specimen Type: tissue, blood, DNA, RNA and more
- Preservation Method: Formalin-fixed Paraffin-embedded
- Tumor Type: carcinoma, malignant tumor, sarcoma
- Annotation Type: demography, risk factor, treatment, family history
- Organization Information: academia, commercial, non-profit, contact repository
- Number of specimens
- Collection Type: cancer clinical trial, collaboration, NIH/NCI

I have determined the Privacy Act will not apply to this information collection. The name and contact information of the specimen resource company/institution participants will be collected via a short, online information form and presented on the database in the contact repository. The form will facilitate the entry of specimen resource information while creating a comprehensive database for the SRL. Meta data will be collected to describe the specimen collections. While this limited, non-sensitive personally identifiable information is collected and available in the contact repository, it is not searchable or retrievable by unique identifiers, making the Privacy Act not applicable.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at (301) 402-6469

Dustin Close
NIH Privacy Act Officer

CC: Melissa Park