

**Recipient:**

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

**Project Name:**

Robotic Upgrades for the OMRF Biorepository

**Address:**

825 NE 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

**Amount Requested:**

\$2,000,000

**Project Explanation:**

The OMRF Biorepository serves as a national resource, providing secure, monitored, optimized cryostorage of tissue and blood samples at -20, -80 and -174 below Celsius which preserves patient and healthy control samples for very long periods of time in ways that are useful for current and ongoing research. In collaboration with scientists throughout Oklahoma and the US, the biorepository contains more than 2,500,000 samples and is growing at more than 100,000 samples per year.

Large ongoing collaborations span from characterizing optimal anthrax vaccination responses in US military personnel to characterizing blood markers of autoimmune disease in Oklahoma tribal members. The Biorepository would be able to provide access to other Oklahoma entities such as the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, VA Medical Center, Harold Hamm Diabetes Center, Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma-Norman, Oklahoma State University, multiple tribal facilities, and regional universities. Additional partners include the Department of Defense and NIH. Together, these partnerships will expand quality science-related jobs and clinical research advances in Oklahoma.

Robotic equipment - Brooks Life Science's BioStore II Automated Storage System - is requested to optimize deposit and withdrawal of samples from the walk-in -80 Celsius freezer, one of the three largest in the nation. This will improve efficiency, enhance personnel safety, minimize energy consumption, and enable optimized transport of samples used by federal, state, and local partners. The requested investment includes \$2 million towards this \$2.9 million system, which includes \$300,000 in associated renovation costs.

**TOM COLE**

4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**PLEASE REPLY TO:**

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
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- ☐ SUGG CLINIC OFFICE BUILDING  
100 EAST 13TH STREET, SUITE 213  
ADA, OK 74820  
(580) 436-5375

April 27, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for robotic upgrades at a biorepository in Oklahoma City, OK for Fiscal Year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, located at 825 NE 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104. The funding would be used to purchase robotic equipment to improve efficiency, enhance personnel safety, minimize energy consumption, and enable optimized transport of blood and tissue samples used by federal, state, and local research partners.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

TOM COLE  
Member of Congress