Going Deeper To Unlock a Cure

The Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance is leading the way with its Biosample Repository, a research initiative that seeks to collect tissue and blood samples from individuals affected with TSC.

It was one of the topics discussed at the annual meeting of the American Epilepsy Society, held in New Orleans this month. The TSC Biosample Repository is governed and wholly funded by the TS Alliance thanks to generous support from Bill and Kristina Watts, the Cowlin Family Fund, the Engles Collaborative Research Fund, Jim and Andrea Maginn, and many additional donors through the Unlock the Cure campaign.

Dr. Peter Crino, director of the TS Clinic at the University of Maryland, is one of the researchers associated with this endeavor.

“The idea is that we do know the genes that cause tuberous sclerosis complex,” he said. “But there is much more than the genetic mutation.” Dr. Crino said that research is showing many other changes to the cells in affected individuals that can be evaluated. “The next level involves investigation into other systems in the body,” such as blood samples and tissue samples.

The goal is to collect more than 2,000 samples.

The TSC Biosample Repository houses human biological materials such as blood, DNA, and tissues linked to detailed clinical data in the TSC Natural History Database. High-quality biosamples and their associated clinical data will enable researchers to discover biomarkers, establish human cell lines or tissue arrays for drug testing, and search for clues to understand why TSC is so different from person to person.

If you would like more information about the Biosample Repository, please visit: https://www.tsalliance.org/individuals-families/biosample-repository/.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS... AND MANY CONTINUED BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR