Alberta’s Tomorrow Project Launches New Funding Opportunity

Attention Health Researchers!

We are happy to announce a new funding opportunity, launched by Alberta’s Tomorrow Project (ATP) and supported by the Alberta Cancer Foundation. We apologize if you are receiving this notice more than once.

Two Research Kickstarter grants of $10,000 each for 1 year are available. This program is for researchers who want to use data alone (not biospecimens) from ATP’s research platform to investigate the prevention or early detection of cancer.

More information on the Research Kickstarter program criteria and timelines can be found at https://myatp.ca/for-researchers/kickstarter. The deadline to apply is Friday, December 1, 2017.

**Background on Alberta’s Tomorrow Project:** Launched in 2000, ATP has recruited 55,000 men and women between the ages of 35 and 69, who have consented to stay with the project for up to 50 years.

Compiled during years of rigorous data and biospecimen collection, ATP’s database offers a wealth of information about the health of its participants. Here’s a look at some of the variables and biospecimens held in ATP’s repositories:

- **Questionnaires (more than 215,000 completed):** Cover domains such as personal and family health history, reproductive history, smoking habits, cancer screening behaviors, physical activity, dietary intake, sun exposure, sleep behaviors, psychosocial factors, built environment, self-reported anthropometric measures, and socio-demographic characteristics.
- **Biospecimens (30,000 participants):** Include non-fasting 50mL blood sample from which serum, plasma, and lymphocytes buffy coat were isolated. Blood products were aliquotted and stored in -80°C freezers. Participants who did not provide a blood sample were invited to provide a saliva sample for DNA extraction.
- **Physical measurement data (30,000 participants):** Includes resting blood pressure, resting heart rate, standing and sitting heights, body weight, percent body fat by bioelectric impedance, waist and hip circumferences, and grip strength.
- **Active and passive follow-up (55,000 participants):** In addition to completing baseline and follow-up questionnaires, participants were asked to provide consent and their Personal Health Number for data linkage with the Alberta Cancer Registry and administrative health data held by the provincial health ministry to facilitate future research on health services utilization and health outcomes.

In 2008, ATP joined a nation-wide research platform called the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project representing more than 300,000 participants. Together, the consortium of five regional studies provides not only greater statistical power for research, but also an opportunity to examine geographical trends in health and wellbeing across Canada’s broad landscape.

For more information on ATP’s research platform, please visit www.myATP.ca. The Research and Data Access teams can be reached directly by email at ATP.Research@ahs.ca.