How do we reach the Chinese, Hmong, and Vietnamese American community to contribute their biospecimens for cancer research?

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Introduction
Little is known about the cognitive and cultural factors that influence Asian American’s willingness to contribute biospecimens for research. This study aims to highlight these concerns in order to create an outreach campaign to increase the number of Asian Americans who contribute biospecimens for research.

Methods
In 2010 we administered questionnaires to Asian Americans to assess their knowledge of biospecimens and their cultural perspectives regarding contributing biospecimens for research during community events, through social networks, and at a community-based Asian organization. We analyzed our responses based on ethnicity, acculturation socio-demographics, and knowledge factors.

Results
Eighty-two questionnaires were collected. The ethnic breakdown of the respondents is as follows: Chinese (15), Hmong (23), and Vietnamese (44). Study findings are displayed below.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS
Q. 14) If you had to contribute your biospecimen, what type of specimen would you prefer to contribute? Please rank order with 1 being most likely to contribute, 7 being least likely to contribute.

Q.15) What would make you consider donating your biospecimen to research? Please rank order the following statements with 1 being most important and 10 being least important.

Q.16) What are your major concerns regarding donating your biospecimen to research? Please rank order the following statements with 1 being most important and 8 being least important.

Q.17) If you contributed and researchers discovered something serious about your health, should they let you know?

Q.18) What way do you think it would be best to receive information regarding biospecimen contribution?

Q.19) In what setting would you be more willing to contribute your biospecimen?

Q.20) Would you donate your biospecimen to research?

Conclusion
This study based on a convenience sample of 82 Asian Americans in community settings revealed that a “one size fits all approach” to biospecimen education is not appropriate for Asian Americans. In order to increase the number of Asian Americans who contribute to biospecimen research we must customize education and outreach by ethnic group.

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