Reviewer's report

Title: Biobanking from the patient perspective

Version: 2 Date: 28 January 2015

Reviewer: Simon Denegri

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written and absorbing summary of the ways in which active public involvement has been achieved in the establishment and running of a number of biobanks.

The fact that it draws case studies and examples from across the globe is a clear strength and will be helpful to others - whether patients, researchers or clinicians - involved in other biobanks. Minor revisions suggested for the case studies include the addition of information which gives some sense of the size of the biobanks; the inclusion of links within the case studies themselves as well as in the references and; some formatting of the case studies so they each begin with the name of the biobank, date established, host organisation and country or region.

The figure 1 is a useful overview off the roles and outcomes of public involvement in biobanks and the support infrastructure needed.

A discretionary revision might be for the authors to identify in their conclusion areas of future work and research including the opportunity to assess the extent of public involvement across all biobanks etc, how to embed public involvement in other biobanks etc (these are simply suggestions).

Given the growth in biobanks this article is highly topical and will be of considerable interest to those running such ventures but also to public involvement practitioners more generally.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflicts off interest.