

TISSUE MICRO ARRAY (TMA) USER GUIDE

The following information is to assist the requester in successfully submitting orders for TMA.

Procedures:

1. First-time users of our TMA service must contact the lab to **schedule a consultation**.
2. The investigator must **submit a request via the iLab Chargeback System**. A TMA map and a **log sheet** (*included within the request*) must be completed with the following information:
 - The **Sample ID**: the name or ID of tissue sample, slide, block (i.e. 123, AB-45, CDE6).
 - The **Sample Description** (Human/Animal and a brief summary of the project)
 - The **Sample Quantity**: number of blocks and H&E slides submitted.
 - **Special Instructions**: The needle size of the punch chosen (i.e. 0.6mm, 1.0mm, or 2.0mm), type of TMA map required (e.g. cyto or standard map), and if needed, the quantity of slides to be taken from the resulting TMA block(s).
3. Before submission, note that blocks must have sufficient tissue (*at least 2mm depth*) to be used.
4. After approval of the order, the investigator must submit items in the following manner:
 - H&E slides with their circled area(s) of interest and their corresponding blocks (*the slides must be recent and clear representative of the corresponding block*).
 - H&E slides and corresponding blocks must be organized together according to your log sheet.
 - Ensure that the block ID matches the ID on the corresponding slide.
5. All work will be charged according to services rendered.
6. The estimated time of completion for a TMA construction order can vary. Factors such as current workflow and nature of the request all impact turnaround time. The investigator will be contacted via email upon completion.
7. The investigator will be responsible for obtaining a pathologist to circle the area of interest on the slides or can optionally request "Pathologist Services" from the RHF Core Lab to be performed by one of our associated pathologists.
8. Tissue micro array services provided by the lab are intended for research purposes only.

If there are any questions regarding the services offered, please contact the Research Histology Core Lab at (713) 792-3119 or via email at RHFCoreLab@mdanderson.org.