

# JBC In Action

Dr. Hui-Hsin Chang is currently collaborating with Dr. Jeffrey Sparks, Associate Director of Human Biosamples Core and Dr. Elizabeth Karlson, Director of Human Biosamples Core at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH). Dr. Chang is investigating the role of a single nucleotide polymorphism in the gene *PTPN22* which increases the risk of some autoimmune diseases such as RA and systemic lupus erythematosus, but reduces the risk of others such as Crohn's disease, compared to the normal variant. Dr. Chang and her team needed to collect a large volume of blood to isolate peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) for their laboratory experiments. Dr. Chang submitted a JBC Microgrant that was funded to prospectively recruit 20 individuals with the gene variant and 20 individuals with the normal variant in order to obtain fresh samples to enable these studies.

The team is collecting samples from patients that received genotyping through the Partners Biobank (74,377 people enrolled as of November 2017). The JBC Human Biosamples Core team coordinated with the Partners Biobank, on Dr. Chang's behalf, to identify individuals with each genotype. The JBC prepared and submitted the required Institutional Review Board documents and obtained gift cards and parking vouchers for remuneration.

Allison Marshall and Alessandra Zaccardelli, JBC's research assistants at BWH, contacted interested participants, scheduled study visits, performed informed consent, obtained blood samples, and delivered biospecimens to Dr. Chang and her laboratory technical assistant Beverly Tomita, where they isolate peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from whole blood for further downstream gene expression experiments. Allison and Alessandra also maintain and updated the study's recruitment database, store study visit materials, and perform IRB-related tasks as well as other administrative duties for the day-to-day operations.

**So far, 25 subjects have enrolled.** The goal of the study is to recruit a total of 40 subjects, and the JBC research coordinators are working towards the target to finish enrollment this spring, coordinating all efforts with Dr. Chang and her research team.

"I would like to thank Drs. Sparks and Karlson and their outstanding team members, particularly Allison and Alessandra, for helping me get the project off the ground; and this project is made possible only by the support from JBC."

-Dr. Hui-Hsin Chang



Dr. Chang



Dr. Karlson



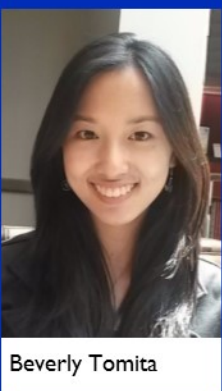
Dr. Sparks



Allison Marshall



Alessandra  
Zaccardelli



Beverly Tomita