Acquiring and Using Automation in an Academic Core Facility

Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 9:00 AM PDT
Cara Sutcliffe, Yan Ru Su, and Kerry Wiles

REGISTER ONLINE AT ISBER.ORG

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- **Highlight decision making around the addition of automation**
- **Describe the benefits of automation to three Vanderbilt University Medical Center biobanks with different goals, objectives, and sample types.**
- **Outline options to secure funding for automation.**

General Webinar Description

Automation has been used effectively in many biobanks and for various applications. Users benefit from a live inventory updated in real time, accuracy and scale for sample associated data while minimizing human variability from being introduced into the workflow. While the benefits of automation seem clear, it is difficult to understand how and when to introduce automation into a collection.

During this webinar, Cara Ballard Sutcliffe, MS, Vanderbilt Technologies for Advanced Genomics (VANTAGE) Manager, will present on her experience in both acquiring and using automation in an academic Core facility. VANTAGE is a genomics core laboratory consolidation initiated by an $8.6 million ARRA funded NIH grant award to Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She will be joined by her Vanderbilt colleagues, Yan Ru Su, MD, Director of the Core Lab for Translational and Clinical Research, and Kerry Wiles, Center Coordinator and Program Director of the Cooperative Human Tissue Network (CHTN) Western Division, both of whom are working through the question of automation in their own biorespositories. The Core Lab for Translational and Clinical Research supports cardiovascular researchers in developing biorepositories supporting translational research projects and clinical trials. The CHTN procures and distributes remnant tissue from surgical resections and autopsies and consented biofluids to biomedical researchers in the U.S. and internationally.