

*Coming Soon!*  
Next month we'll intro a new website for our zoo partners.



July 2025  
[www.peeltx.com](http://www.peeltx.com)

## ***Bank on BioDiversity. Your sample matters!***

### **Darwin Biobank Monthly Newsletter**

#### **Biobanking in the News**

Frozen Zoo Turns 50 (click link for details)  
Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to our friends and colleagues at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's Frozen Zoo! The Frozen Zoo was founded by Dr. Kurt Benirschke, a human MD/pathologist with a passion for comparative medicine. Fun fact: in his memoir about his dad ("Saving Wildlife"), Dr. B's son Rolf tells how his dad pulled over during family road trips in Texas to pick up roadkill armadillos and dissect them.

#### **Get to Know Peel**

Patricia Araujo, PhD, is Peel's Senior Scientist and oversees the work at the Darwin Biobank in Salt Lake City. Dr. Araujo has spent her career researching ways to prevent and treat cancer. Born in Brazil, she appreciates Utah's natural beauty and has also learned to survive its winters! She enjoys camping with her family every chance they get.



#### **Why Peel?**

*Peel Therapeutics combines evolutionary biology and comparative genetics to develop breakthrough therapies.*

**At our Darwin Biobank, Peel helps Zoo Partners ensure the genetic potential of their animals will be available for future conservation needs.**

*Peel is a commercial member of AZA and is committed to helping zoos fulfill their health and conservation missions.*

**Contact us with questions or about samples:**

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#### **The Legacy They Provide**



Described as sweet and spicy, like hot honey, George (48) was one of the oldest southern white rhinos in human care, and a beloved

longtime resident at Utah's Hogle Zoo. In his old age, George's devoted care team supported him with advanced geriatric care. When he passed away in December, his tissues were sent to the Darwin Biobank; his legacy lives on through his fibroblast cultures in the lab and all that his zoo team learned from caring for him.

#### **Journal Club**

**Increased hyaluronan by naked mole-rat Has2 improves healthspan in mice.**

*Nature* (2023) Vol 621: 196–205.

Naked mole-rats (NMR)s have exceptional longevity. High mass hyaluronan (HMM-HA), in the extracellular matrix of NMRs, has unique protective properties. Transgenic mice overexpressing NMR HMM-HA had reduced inflammation, lower cancer incidence, and longer lifespans, indicating this longevity mechanism in NMR could be exported to other species.



#### **This Month's Taxa Call Out**



**Calling all..... Naked Mole Rats!!**

This July & August we are putting an emphasis on **Naked mole rats**– please remember to submit samples on any NMR's you examine!

\*\*\*we will still take any other taxa samples too!\*\*\*

#### **What's new with Peel?**

Dr. Josh Schiffman, Peel's CEO & Co-Founder, participated in a panel session on innovative approaches to cancer therapies at The BIO 2025 International Convention in Boston this past June. Way to go, Dr. Schiffman!!