

Bank on BioDiversity. Your sample matters!

Darwin Biobank Monthly Newsletter

Biobanking in the News

Cryopreservation is a powerful tool to support species' recovery; however fragmented data & lack of standardization in existing repositories may limit action. **Species360**, as the steward of **ZIMS** and the Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative (**SCTI**), is developing innovative biobanking functionality and integrating it with the PMx population management tool. To ensure cryobanked genetic material are cataloged, accessible, and effectively used in global conservation efforts, their strategy includes integrating gametes and cell cultures into population management and breeding decisions. Also identifying underrepresented species and individuals for prioritized sampling.

10 years of Elephant p53 and Peel

Ten years ago, the discovery that started it all was on the cover of Newsweek! While Newsweek missed the memo that elephants *do* get cancer, it's their *extremely reduced rate of cancer* that has sparked a whole new way of thinking on health across species.



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.

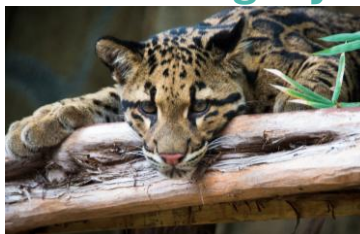
Peel is a commercial member of AZA and is committed to helping zoos fulfill their health and conservation missions.

Contact us with questions or about samples:

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The Legacy They Provide



Clouded leopard Suksn was a special cat, beloved at the Houston Zoo. Suksn could often be seen enjoying a sunny spot up high in her habitat. She excelled in training with her trusted keepers, particularly with transabdominal ultrasounds. Those skills helped her team to know that she was a mother-to-be with Koshi and Senja in 2014 and Nova and Luna in 2019. She was an intelligent, spirited, and playful cat. In 2025, the Houston Zoo said goodbye to Suksn due to brain cancer.

Journal Club

A towering genome: Experimentally validated adaptations to high blood pressure and extreme stature in the giraffe.

Science Advances March 2021

Gene edited mice with giraffe FGFR1 gene show exceptional hypertension resistance, indicating this gene unique to giraffe may aid the study and future treatment of hypertension in humans.



This Month's Taxa Call Out

Calling all.... Ungulates!!



This November, and December we are putting an emphasis on **ungulates**— please remember to submit samples on any hooved creatures you examine! (including placentas)

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

What's new with Peel?

In late October, Dr. Josh Schiffman delivered the final keynote at **the 57th Annual Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology** in Amsterdam, entitled Guardian of Elephants & Patients: p53 in Li-Fraumeni Syndrome