

# September 2025

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## Bank on BioDiversity. Your sample matters!

**Darwin Biobank Monthly Newsletter** 

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

One of the best things about working with Peel is the opportunity to make new friends and collaborators in the biobanking field. Revive & Restore is a wildlife conservation non-profit that promotes the incorporation of biotechnologies into standard conservation practices. Having just signed an MOU with AZA, Revive & Restore is helping to reinvigorate biobanking practices in the zoo and aquarium community. We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate!

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

Jim Levison, MBA, is Peel's Chief Financial Officer. With over five decades of business experience, Jim oversees Peel's finances and human



resources. Jim lives on a farm with his family, two Bernese Mountain dogs and 750 chickens which produce 45 dozen fresh eggs daily for a fresh Italian pasta, breads and desserts business.

### 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:

Lauren Howard (713) 417 7979 <u>lhoward@peeltx.com</u> Patricia Araujo (210) 601 0969 <u>paraujo@peeltx.com</u>

## The Legacy They Provide



The Houston Zoo welcomed a new Baird's Tapir, Norah, born July 23. The Houston Zoo supports the Lowland Tapir Conservation

Initiative in Brazil, which monitors 85 satellite-collared tapirs, the largest tapir study in the world, with the goal of tracking movements to better inform wildlife protection plans. Norah's placenta, in the Darwin Biobank, also has the potential to contribute to future tapir conservation.

#### **Journal Club**

Serum plays an important role in reprogramming the seasonal transcriptional profile of brown bear adipocytes

iScience October 2022

Brown bears undergo seasonal shifts in insulin sensitivity, including reversible insulin resistance during hibernation. Study of brown bear adipocytes, stimulated by serum from active and hibernating bears, found specific serum factors contributing to the switch between active and hibernation states, which can elucidate mechanisms that modulate insulin sensitivity.

#### This Month's Taxa Call Out

Calling all..... Bears!!

This September and October, we are putting an emphasis on **bears** – please remember to submit samples on any bears you examine!

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

#### What's new with Peel?

We care about our zoo partners! Dr. Lauren Howard collaborated on a poster at the AAZV 2025 Conference on wellbeing, burnout and career transitions in zoo medicine. Click the link for more information or reach out to Lauren.