**Repository Spotlight - Dr. Robert Clark, University of Connecticut School of Medicine**

Researchers at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine believe that a normal exposure to small amounts of bacterial products may be lacking in people with MS. Lipid 654 is a lipid/peptide-based molecule that is produced by bacteria commonly found in the mouth and gastrointestinal tract. Because lipid 654 levels are significantly lower in people with MS, it is a known biomarker for the disease that is associated with the microbiome. This change in microbiome, in turn, causes the abnormal response of immune cells in people living with the disease. Dr. Clark and his team used ACP Repository samples to compare bacterial product levels, such as Lipid 654, in people with MS versus healthy controls. The expected lower level of bacterial products in people with MS, as well as the predicted altered immune cell responses, may lead to a greater understanding of the causes of MS and may also represent new therapeutic targets. Dr. Clark’s study is just one of more than one hundred studies using ACP Repository samples to advance and accelerate research into MS.