



+ VANGUARD OF MEDICAL INNOVATION + THE FIRST TISSUE BANK

 The world's first tissue bank was established by Navy orthopedic surgeon George Hyatt (1920-1993) at the Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Maryland in 1949.

 Its primary mission was to procure and preserve skin and bone to treat war-related injuries like burns and severe fragment damage. The bank's researchers were on the cutting edge, moving beyond simple refrigeration to pioneer and develop freeze-drying (lyophilization) methods for preserving bone and eventually other tissues.

 The Navy Tissue Bank was instrumental in treating large-scale disasters, notably supplying preserved skin following the USS Bennington explosion in 1954 and sending over 3,000 square inches of skin to Brazil following a devastating fire in 1961.

