more information, better treatment
To advance personalised medicine, Finnish biobanks have joined together in a large nationwide project called FinnGen, which will generate a vast amount of genome data from up to 500,000 biobank donors. All sample-related genome data will return to the originating biobank where it can be further utilised in subsequent biobank projects. The returned data provides the basis for new industrial partnerships including drug development from discovery phase to post-marketing studies.

Finnish biobank research is reforming and aiming for international breakthroughs in disease prevention, diagnostics, and treatment. The Fingenious® digital service, managed by Finnish Biobank Cooperative (FINBB), allows researchers to perform a quick sample and data query by browsing biobank collections and to reach all public biobanks in Finland with one feasibility request. Fingenious® is built to serve academic and industry researchers and to advance medical research globally.

The main goals of the Fingenious® service are to make the high-quality Finnish biobank samples and data easily accessible to researchers, to improve research and product development globally, and to enhance Finland’s competitiveness as a research environment. Sample collections are continuously expanding and diversifying through biobanking activities.

International collaboration is the key to achieving breakthroughs in disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. We invite researchers from around the world to join us in this journey! Register to Fingenious® service now!

The Fingenious® service is available for researchers at www.fingenious.fi and on the websites of FINBB and Finnish biobanks.

Marco Hautalahti
Chief Executive Officer, Finnish Biobanks – FINBB

Finland is a global hotspot for biomedical research in terms of healthcare, education, innovation, digitalisation and good governance. Finns share a unique genetic heritage which allows faster and more effective analysis of genomic data compared to populations of more heterogeneous origins. This exceptional setting significantly improves the chances of breakthrough findings.

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Analyses of industrial, clinical and environmental microbiomes

Individual analyses of human microbiome, health promoting microbes and balances between members of the gut microbiota

Understanding of bacterial communities and their utilization for novel industries and for the benefit of sustainable society
FINBB – One-Stop Gateway for Effortless Access to Finnish Biobank Materials and Biodata

FINBB is a co-operative of Finnish biobanks, founded and owned by Finnish universities, university hospitals and Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (Terveyden ja hyvinvoinnin laitos, THL). FINBB coordinates the operations of the biobank network in Finland.

CO-CREATION OF SERVICES
FINBB’s way of doing is to co-create services and products together with its founding partners and customers. FINBB is an expert in biobank operations and a nationwide supervisor of biobanks’ interests. FINBB offers expert assistance in e.g. legal, commercial and communications-related matters.

ONE-STOP GATEWAY FOR RESEARCHERS
FINBB manages the Fingenious® digital portal service that functions as the window to Finnish biobank data. FINBB and Fingenious® serve researchers both from academia and industries in Finland and all over the world.

VALUE RETURN
The genomic and other research data generated in scientific studies is delivered back to biobanks. This return gives tremendous value back to Hospitals and Universities and will help in promotion and development of new treatment methods for various diseases.

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Our core products offer diagnostics for gastric and colorectal health. The most recent innovation is Acetium® lozenge for smoking cessation.

Read more: www.acetium.com or www.biohithealthcare.com
BBMRI.fi is the Finnish node of BBMRI-ERIC, the European research infrastructure for biobanking. BBMRI.fi is managed and coordinated by FINBB. The objective of BBMRI-ERIC is to create a leading biobank infrastructure that promotes biomedical research, by bringing together researchers, biobankers, industry and patients. BBMRI-ERIC’s ultimate goal is to make new treatments possible.

Together for a healthier future
Digital Gateway to Finnish Biobank Material

Fingenious® is a digital portal built to serve researchers in academic institutions and businesses worldwide. The Fingenious® portal provides easy access to Finnish public biobanks, i.e. the regional hospital biobanks and the THL Biobank, as well as access to their extensive sample collections, genotype data and longitudinal electronic medical records.

COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION SERVES RESEARCHERS

The sample collections contain almost five million biological samples, such as blood samples, formalin fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) samples, fresh frozen tissue and liquid biopsies. The samples are collected on healthcare visits or during research studies and stored in a biobank until they are needed for scientific research. The donors can also be recalled back for subsequent research studies.

Are you interested in making use of Finnish biobank samples in your research?

Register with the Fingenious® portal.

AbbVie is a research-driven biopharmaceutical company, which was founded in 2013. We target specific difficult-to-cure diseases where we can leverage our core R&D expertise to advance science. We’re constantly working to create solutions that go beyond treating the illness having a positive impact on patients’ lives, on societies and on science itself.
FinnGen is a joint international public/private-sector research project. Its aim is to increase understanding of the causes of diseases and promote their diagnosis, prevention and treatment. FinnGen study was launched in the autumn of 2017. The active phase during which biobank samples are collected and genotyped is planned to continue for six years. The project involves Finnish biobanks, universities, hospital districts, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Blood Service and the pharmaceutical industry. It is funded by Business Finland and industry partners. The project is led by the University of Helsinki.

ENABLING GENETIC DISCOVERIES

The study will provide new knowledge by combining genotype data with health record data originating from health registers. The project will produce genome data from approximately 500,000 biobank sample donors. The data will be returned to the original biobank so that it can be utilised further in new studies. The research dataset produced will be nationally and internationally significant, and it will certainly continue to attract new research projects to Finland.
Our mission is clear.
We are pioneers in neuroscience.

Data Driven Evaluation of Effectiveness

- Preferred partner in Real-World Evidence studies since 2013
- 10 years’ experience with evaluation of effectiveness
- Experts with a broad range of scientific disciplines

Get new knowledge of different therapeutic areas, such as:
- Characteristics of patient subgroups
- Diagnostics of rare diseases
- Treatment lines
- Outcomes
- Use of healthcare resources
- Disease burden of different patient groups
- Cost-effectiveness
- Regional differences and treatment practices

www.medaffcon.fi
Finnish Biobanks

There are eleven biobanks in Finland; seven of them operate in the areas of hospital districts and four are nationwide. The Finnish Medicines Agency Fimea regulates and supervises the operations of biobanks and maintains a nationwide register of biobanks. The first biobanks were licensed in 2014.
HELSINKI BIOBANK

Operating under the HUS Helsinki University Hospital, the Helsinki Biobank is Finland’s largest hospital biobank, with blood samples collected based on biobank consent from over 100,000 patients. The sample repository of the Helsinki Biobank contains the sample archive of HUSLAB, one of the biggest pathology units in Europe, extensively covering different disease types from approximately one million patients.

In the Helsinki Biobank, a sample can be linked to the extensive clinical patient data repository of the HUS data lake. The HUS data lake works in a modern cloud computing environment that allows the analysis of large data sets.

Located in the centre of the Meilahti campus, the Helsinki Biobank is owned by the HUS Helsinki University Hospital, University of Helsinki, Social and Health Services in Kymenlaakso (Kymsoite), South Karelia Social and Health Care District (Eksote) and Päijät-Häme Joint Authority for Health and Wellbeing.

[Website link]
AURIA BIOBANK

Auria Biobank's aim is to promote health by supporting medical research. Auria Biobank collects blood and tissue samples and related clinical data from patients who have given a biobank consent. The samples and data are assigned for biobank studies which help to understand the causes of diseases and enhance the development of novel, personalised treatments.

Clinical data makes it possible to study e.g. the treatments that benefit different patient groups the most and compare it with the biological properties of the samples or the patient’s genome. To assist research Auria uses text mining algorithms combined with artificial intelligence models trained on hundreds of thousands of digital images.

Auria Biobank is the oldest Finnish hospital biobank established by the University of Turku and the hospital districts of Southwest Finland, Satakunta and Vaasa. Auria has extensive experience in serving both academic research as well as pharmaceutical and diagnostic industry.

www.auria.fi/biobank
FINNISH CLINICAL BIOBANK TAMPERE

The Finnish Clinical Biobank Tampere is a university hospital biobank that serves both academic researchers and pharmaceutical and healthcare companies. Our founding members are the Pirkanmaa Hospital District, University of Tampere, Hospital District of South Ostrobothnia and Kanta-Häme Hospital District. Our catchment area has almost one million residents. Samples are collected extensively in specialised healthcare, primary healthcare and maternity clinics in our region.

Also, old pathology diagnostic FFPE samples and clinical genetics diagnostic samples have been transferred to the Finnish Clinical Biobank Tampere. We provide researchers with tissue, DNA, plasma and serum samples. Thanks to the cold chain in use, our plasma and serum samples are also suitable for proteomics and lipidomics analyses. If necessary, also other sample types can be collected.

Health records can be connected to the biobank samples from several registers, which significantly increases their value in research. Our electronic service channel facilitates flexible recalls and questionnaires.

CENTRAL FINLAND BIOBANK

The research area of the Central Finland Biobank covers biological, medical, sports and health science research. The biobank serves biobank research and product development covered by the research area and supports the development of diagnostics and treatment.

Whole blood, plasma and tissue samples, as well as information relating to these samples, have been collected in the Central Finland Biobank since the beginning of 2018 in the region of Central Finland. The tissue samples of the Central Finland Central Hospital’s pathology laboratory collected before 1 September 2013 have also been transferred to the biobank. The biobank offers an opportunity for e.g. extracting DNA, digitising slides and preparing TMA blocks.

The Central Finland Biobank is owned by the Central Finland Health Care District and University of Jyväskylä, and it operates in conjunction with the Central Finland Central Hospital.

www.ksshp.fi/biopankki
Health care innovations are giving them a life-long journey they never expected

Good health is vital to all of us, as are sustainable solutions to the most pressing health care challenges we are facing globally.

We at Pfizer are committed to applying science and our global resources to develop breakthroughs that change patients’ lives, namely to improve health and well-being at every stage of life. Our goal is to ensure that people have the opportunity to lead healthier lives with access to effective and innovative treatments when they need them. Purpose of Pfizer Finland is as well to accelerate science and develop the Finnish society.

Breakthroughs that change patients’ lives

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BIOBANK OF EASTERN FINLAND

The Biobank of Eastern Finland collects e.g. blood and tissue samples and related information from patients who have given a biobank consent. In addition, old diagnostic and research cohort samples have been transferred to the Biobank of Eastern Finland. Biobank of Eastern Finland’s samples and related information are utilised in the research of multifactorial diseases, especially vascular, metabolic, musculoskeletal, neurological and oncological diseases and mental health research in accordance with the focus areas of the Kuopio University Hospital and University of Eastern Finland. The Northern Savo data lake is utilised in compiling and mining the sample-related data.

The Biobank of Eastern Finland is a hospital biobank owned by the North Savo Hospital District, Siun sote – the Joint Municipal Authority for North Karelia Social and Health services, South Savo Social and Health Care Authority (Essote), Eastern Savo Hospital District (Sosteri) and University of Eastern Finland. The Biobank of Eastern Finland supports academic research and companies engaged in health-related research.

ita-suomenbiopankki.fi/en/
Arctic Biobank – University of Oulu was established in 2020 to host large population-based sample collections from Northern Finland.

The University of Oulu has collected several extensive population survey data sets, such as the Northern Finland Birth Cohorts NFBC1966 and NFBC1986, and two cohorts from northern Finland aging individuals Oulu1935 and Oulu1945. In the NFBCs cohort members have been studied on a regular basis since the fetal period through health care records, questionnaires and clinical examinations. NFBC databases provide multi-generational cohorts including data and samples from different survey time points.

Arctic Biobank aims to promote research in health and well-being, and in medicine and life sciences. It provides samples and data for high-quality research projects aimed at elucidating the causes of disease and the impact of genetics, environment and lifestyles on their onset. The results of the research will help prevent disease and develop safer, more effective and individualised treatments.

www.oulu.fi/ltk/ArcticBiobank
Biobank Borealis of Northern Finland contains two million samples from 500,000 people from pathology units as well as two million serum samples collected from mothers during their early pregnancies.

Biobank Borealis collects, stores and provides samples for studies aiming to promote health, identify factors contributing to disease mechanisms, prevent diseases and promote the well-being or health of the population or develop products or treatment policies used in medical care.

Biobank Borealis also offers whole slide imaging, hardware and related services in whole slide imaging, digital pathology and tissue microarray blocks, as well as sample processing services, such as cutting and staining of issue samples, preparation of tissue microarrays, digitisation of slides and DNA extractions. Biobank Borealis is also engaged in developing data mining and analysis tools in cooperation with several parties.

Biobank Borealis operates in conjunction with the Northern Ostrobothnia Hospital District, University of Oulu, Nordlab and the hospital/healthcare districts of Lapland, Länsi-Pohja, Central Ostrobothnia and Kainuu.

www.ppshp.fi/Tutkimus-ja-opetus/Biopankki

Introducing the Agilent 4150 TapeStation system for sample QC during NGS workflows

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THL BIOBANK

THL Biobank is a nationwide biobank that collects and stores valuable research samples from all over Finland. THL Biobank supports research into the causes of diseases, the impact of genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors on diseases, as well as research aiming to develop new solutions for health promotion and disease prevention. THL Biobank is part of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), and its activities are an important part of THL’s statutory duties.

THL Biobank hosts remarkable population and disease-specific research collections, which contain high-quality samples and data. The data includes extensive life-style, demographic and clinically measured data about the sample donors and data derived from the samples. Genome-wide data is available for the majority of sample donors, and metabolomics data is available for all recent population-based cohorts.

THL Biobank offers a variety of sample management services, including state of the art DNA, RNA and cell extractions, further sample processing and long term sample storage.

www.thl.fi/biobank
BLOOD SERVICE BIOBANK

The Blood Service Biobank collects samples from blood donors nationwide. A special feature of the biobank is the possibility of collecting a valuable collection of samples and information from generally healthy individuals. Follow-up samples can also be easily collected.

The Blood Service Biobank will be used for investigating e.g. blood donors’ health and well-being. In addition, the samples can be used for medical research as a control group, for example. DNA, whole blood, plasma and serum samples can be requested from the Blood Service Biobank. The Blood Service is also involved in the Finnish Hematology Registry and Clinical Biobank (FHRB).

www.bloodservice.fi/biobanking
FHRB BIOBANK

The Finnish Hematology Registry and Clinical Biobank (FHRB Biobank) operates nationwide and collects samples and data from patients with hematological diseases. The Biobank makes data available to research aiming to develop new methods for the diagnostics and treatment of hematological disorders and improve the prognosis of patients. The FHRB Biobank provides researchers with blood samples (serum, plasma, DNA) and skin and bone marrow biopsies primarily from patients suffering from malignant hematological diseases.

The FHRB Biobank is owned by the Finnish Association of Hematology (FAH), the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service (FRCBS) and the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM). The Cancer Society of Finland is also involved in its operation.

www.fhrb.fi

TERVEYSTALO BIOBANK FINLAND

The research areas of Terveystalo's Biobank include promoting health, identifying factors contributing to disease mechanisms, preventing diseases and developing products or treatment policies that promote the well-being or health of the population or are used in medical care. The Biobank primarily collects samples from diagnostic blood samples drawn from Terveystalo customers who have given a biobank consent.

www.terveystalo.com/fi/Yritystietoa/Terveystalo-Biopankki/Biopankki

www.fhrb.fi
We are committed to the fight against cancer and to making innovative treatments available that can extend and improve the lives of those suffering from cancer. To do this we focus our efforts in areas where we can develop best-in-class medicines, advancing treatments where there are real needs for patients. This has resulted in a number of treatments for various cancers moving through clinical development, with many more in early stage research.

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We believe “what’s possible” can always go further. That’s why we do things differently at IQVIA – by bringing the science of healthcare together with data science, advanced analytics and expert knowledge. It’s how we look beyond what’s expected in healthcare to see what’s possible.

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Biobanks provide samples and data for high-quality research and product development projects that study the causes of diseases, promote health and develop solutions for disease prevention. Find out how you can utilise the offerings of the Biobanks. Contact us!

www.finbb.fi

Your digital gateway to Finnish biobanks and biomedical research

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