

Genetic Beta Cell Research Bank

Information Sheet for Clinicians (Version 1 21/11/2022)

What is the Genetic Beta Cell Research Bank?

It is a database and bank of biological samples to study the causes, diagnosis and treatment of diabetes and other beta cell disorders. It is managed by a world leading team of diabetes geneticists and doctors and kept within a secure NHS setting. The bank is governed by a committee of experts and patient representatives who must approve all uses of samples and data within the bank.

Why are we looking for donors to the Genetic Beta Cell Research Bank?

In order to understand more about the way that beta cells control insulin and the genetic causes of diabetes and other beta cell disorders, we need to build up a bank of genetic material and biological samples from people who have diabetes and related conditions, and from their partners, friends and relatives who do not have these conditions.

What does donation to the Genetic Beta Cell Research Bank involve?

With consent, biological samples sent for diagnostic purposes to Exeter Genomics Laboratory at the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust will also be made available for research purposes.

What will happen to donor samples and data?

When biological samples and personal information are donated, they will be given a research code. This means that research staff working outside of the NHS will not be able to identify the sample and information as belonging to the donor. The samples and data will be stored in a secure facility and their use will be governed by a Steering Committee who will ensure that they are used only by experienced teams working on approved studies examining the mechanism, cause, diagnosis and treatment of diabetes and other beta cell disorders.

What will happen if we discover something relevant to a donor's clinical care?

If, as a result of our research, we find out something that is clinically relevant, we will inform you as the referring clinician.

What are the benefits of participation?

Donors with diabetes and other beta cell disorders are more likely to benefit personally from this research as improvements in understanding may help to improve treatment. All donations are made as a gift to research, with no expectation of financial personal gain.

Ethical Review

This study has been reviewed by the North Wales Research Ethics Committee who specialise in reviewing this kind of study.

Who can I contact to find out more about this study?

If you have any questions please contact:

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