Why are biobanks important for medicines development?

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Summary

- Biobanks are vital for medicines development
- Importance has increased due to precision medicine
- But medicines development requires
 - Samples of interest
 - Discoverable sample data
 - Clinical data
 - Customer service
- Banks, like libraries, need to change





Photo: Biblioteca Joanina, Coimbra

Biobanks are valuable at the beginning, middle and end of medicines development

Target discovery

Biomarker development

Stratification

Drug approval

- Framingham heart study for new cardiac targets
- Astrazeneca/ Foundation Medicine BRCA1/2 for predicting PARP inhibitor response
- Vemurafenib successfully targetting BRAF V600E in melanoma
- Gefitinib rescued from failure via biomarker analysis

"Precision medicine" makes biobanks more important and has attracted funding

- More variables than patients
 - 3 billion base pairs
 - And methylation, scRNAseq, etc
- Need for cheaper development
 - \$136bn yearly cost of failure
 - Patient information earlier
- Move to human centred drug design
 - Bring patient data in earlier
 - Understand real world disease



And >£2bn global investments including

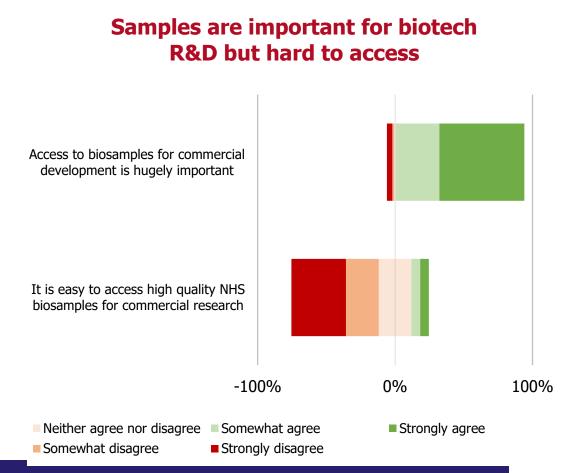
All of Us
China Kadoorie
FinnGen
Nashville Bio
Shanghai Zhiangjiang
M2Gen
Etc

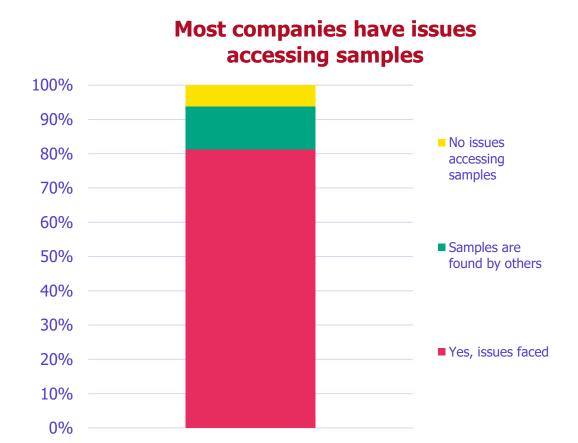
So what has changed?

- Technological factors
 - Increased range of biomarkers detectable (cell free DNA, immune markers) and affordable
 - Increasing ability to (and value from) link to phenotype or real world evidence
- Commercial factors
 - Biobank investments not delivering
 - Sample markets forming
 - Pharma R&D productivity falling
- Environmental factors
 - More samples being banked globally

- Demand for samples up
- Demand for samples and data way up
- Cautious customers
- Supply for samples up
- Markets forming

UK SMEs see value in NHS samples but find them hard to access





Requirements of a biobank in 2019

Samples of interest

- Very many samples
- Very rare samples

Discoverable sample data

- Web accessible & searchable
- Sample numbers, types, standards

Clinical data

- Consistent and reliable
- As detailed & longitudinal as possible

Customer service

- Transparent, predictable access process & decisions
- Simple contracting process

So what makes an "important" biobank



data not suited to

modern taste

"Ask the PI"

mentality



- Known to and serves local community
- Professionally set up & maintained
- Low utilisation and sustainability



Clear value

proposition

Service culture

Easy to contract with