



BIG News

A newsletter for participants in Le Bonheur's Biorepository and Integrative Genomics Initiative

Welcome

We are excited to share several updates with you about the Biorepository and Integrative Genomics (BIG) Initiative. As you already know, BIG is a collaboration between [Le Bonheur Children's Hospital](#) and the [University of Tennessee Health Science Center](#) and will help doctors study the influence of genes, or blueprints in each of the body's cells, on what diseases we get and how well we respond to treatment.



The Initiative has already grown from enrolling only on the inpatient nursing floors to enrolling in the Outpatient Center and then to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. We are now excited about new plans to begin enrolling in the Emergency Department sometime this year.

Current enrollment

Since the creation of the BIG Initiative in November 2015, we have enrolled over 12,000 participants. We thank each of you for your valuable donation.



Current studies partnering with BIG

Through the BIG Initiative, our goal is to build a bank of participant samples that will become a valuable resource to doctors and researchers as they work to improve healthcare. A new committee was formed this year to discuss how the samples can be best utilized in research, and how we can support the doctors and scientists as they begin their studies. This committee has been working hard to encourage good research with our genetic samples, and we are excited about what studies may begin soon.

We hope to share information with you about these studies, so you can see what you or your child's donations could be doing to help children in the future.



We appreciate your input

If you have any comments or questions for the Initiative, please email BIG@lebonheur.org, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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