



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.



This year has brought many changes to the BIG Initiative, including a new director, Chester Brown, MD, PhD. Brown is the chief of the Genetics division at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, and he brings a new level of passion and expertise to the project. We also have expanded the consent team, meaning more friendly faces will be able to visit Le Bonheur's patients to discuss the initiative.

We also have begun collecting samples from patients in Le Bonheur's Outpatient Center. Previously we only collected samples from hospital patients. We hope this will increase our opportunity to approach patients and their families so that we can collect even more samples for this important research.

Current enrollment

Since the creation of the BIG Initiative in November 2015, we have enrolled almost 6,000 participants. We thank each of you for your valuable donation.

Current studies partnering with BIG

We also have started to ask researchers for projects. In the past year and a

half, we have been working hard to build a bank of participant samples that will become a valuable resource to doctors and researchers. We now have enough specimens to begin partnering with scientists to further children's health care. We are very excited for this research to begin.

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 us at BIG@LeBonheur.org, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



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