

FINBB Becomes Named Partner of FinnGen Biobank Research Project



Finnish Biobank Cooperative – FINBB has been named an official partner of the biobank research project FinnGen as of August 15, 2020. FINBB joined the second phase of the research with FinnGen’s consortium agreement, in which FINBB was assigned the task of promoting additional biobank research projects – so-called spin-off projects – which are not part of the actual research project and develop a wider domestic ecosystem to promote biomedical research in Finland.

FINBB and FinnGen have already worked closely together in the past. The new partnership strengthens the ties of FINBB's owners –six Finnish universities, the six largest hospital districts and the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) – with the shared research activities by integrating them into the emerging FinnGen research projects. It is a unique opportunity for FINBB and its owners to be part of an international research collaboration, where the generated results can be used to enhance biomedical research and improve the understanding of different disease mechanisms.

Companies participating in FinnGen have expressed an interest in conducting additional research projects – so-called spin-off projects – that are not part of the actual research ventures. The shared goal of the cooperation between FinnGen and FINBB is to increase biomedical research conducted by companies in Finland. FINBB aims to achieve this by promoting the biobank research projects of the partner companies and by providing a seamless cooperation experience.

“The digital Fingenious® portal (www.fingenious.fi) developed by FINBB serves as a one-stop service for the spin-off projects. The service is the first in Europe to have all public biobanks within a country represented. The Fingenious® portal is continuously being developed into an even more efficient and customer-oriented service so that we can achieve our shared goals”, says **Marco Hautalahti**, CEO of FINBB.

FinnGen's Scientific Director, Professor **Aarno Palotie**, considers the collaboration between FinnGen and FINBB to be important: “We are delighted that FINBB is involved in creating a foundation for new healthcare innovations and individual treatments as an official partner of FinnGen. Extensive and open cooperation is essential for FinnGen to succeed, and with the help of our new partners, we will be able to achieve our ambitious goals even faster”, says Palotie.

Through the partnership, FINBB will also initiate the development of a wider ecosystem that promotes research. Within the ecosystem, small and medium-sized Finnish enterprises and biobanks can participate in the development of the FinnGen project. This way the opportunities provided by FinnGen research projects can also strengthen Finnish businesses in the future.

***FinnGen** is a global private-public collaboration which will identify genotype-phenotype correlations in 500,000 Finnish biobank sample donors. The collaborative project aims to improve human health through genetic research, and ultimately identify new therapeutic targets and diagnostics for treating numerous diseases.*

***FINBB** is a biobank cooperative founded and owned by Finnish universities, six of the largest hospital districts and Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). All Finnish hospital biobanks and THL Biobank are members of FINBB. FINBB coordinates the operations of the biobank network in Finland and aims to create an internationally advanced biobank infrastructure.*