Why a Virtual Biobank?

Access to a wide range of well-characterized samples relevant to the intended use is critical for developing diagnostic tests. But difficulties finding and acquiring biological samples, particularly of infectious diseases create a real barrier to diagnostic development. Meanwhile, samples that have been ethically collected worldwide are stored in repositories but remain difficult to access for researchers.

The DxConnect Virtual Biobank connects institutions holding infectious disease samples with the researchers who need them for developing diagnostic tests, addressing the challenge of sample procurement from dispersed collections. The open-access platform exhibits and helps to locate samples from multiple repositories, without registration or use fee.
The DxConnect Virtual Biobank is hosted by FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics, supported by grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Unitaid and made possible by the valuable contribution of a network of institutions that have registered their sample collections.

The software platform is developed in collaboration with the Digital Research Service department at the University of Nottingham.

Driven by researchers’ needs and designed to overcome the difficulty of accessing suitable samples for diagnostic development, the platform will continue to evolve to serve its users. Contact us to share your feedback or engage a collaboration.

Collaborative data and sample exchange are key to advancing research. Together, we can have a greater impact on infectious disease control and elimination by accelerating the development of high-priority diagnostic tools.

The DxConnect Virtual Biobank goal is one of collective action and collaboration:

- Maximizes use of existing resources
- Reduces duplication
- Connects the right stakeholders
- Increases efficiency

Sample Providers
Increase the visibility of your samples to maximize their use, value and impact

Register your institution and sample collections on the directory to make them visible to researchers and engage in new research collaborations.

- Increase discoverability of your collections and prospective collection capabilities.
- Maintain full control of your physical collections while displaying them on a virtual platform.
- Explore research collaborations and co-authoring opportunities for benefit sharing.

Sample Requesters
Easily locate samples on a central platform designed to support your research

Search sample collections from institutions globally to quickly procure relevant high-quality samples, vital to develop, validate and assess diagnostic tests.

- Fulfil your sample requirements through a streamlined search on a global platform.
- Locate stored samples and find partners to prospectively collect the samples you need.
- Discuss specific requirements and research collaboration opportunities with providers.

More information

Contact us

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