

A Vision for a Centre of Expertise for Rare Diseases / Genomic Medicine Centre NI

[We launched the NI GMC in Oct 2015, 100 KGP ongoing – CERDNI in the future?]

Specifically helping with:

- Empowering those affected by rare diseases
- Identifying and preventing rare diseases
- Diagnosis and early intervention
- Co-ordination of care
- The role of research
- Cross-border partnerships



NI has unique potential to develop a rare disease registry and information hub for patients and healthcare professionals. Local expertise and experience in epidemiology, statistics, informatics, rare disease genetics, data management, registries, existing resources, NIECR, NIADRC, and data protection are all readily available.

Patient Voices show a Lack of Diagnosis & Information is Critical

We must Do Better!

"Many incorrect diagnoses - but the worse diagnosis doctors (especially GPs) give is there is nothing wrong with your child - perhaps the problem is with you (the parent)"

"I got a google-search print-out about the wrong disease from my GP"

"A diagnosis is vital to get much needed support"

"I had 7 wrong diagnoses before a genetic test confirmed the right one"

"Dr Google was scary - now we go to USA & European conferences as we HAVE TO learn about this disease"

"Prior to diagnosis, I was basically told the illness was in my head and to get on with it. I took this advice and ended up at death's door"

"We have to do the research: no-one else will"

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Golden Gate Bridge
Took 4 years to build



Lack of Diagnosis

- >5 years average time to diagnosis
- ½ patients received ≥ 1 **WRONG** diagnosis before getting the right one
- ~¼ rare diseases have a molecular cause known: *better tools required.*

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Genetic Variation has Many Roles:

- Normal variation: Eye colour
- Differences in response to diet/medication: Obesity, Effect of antidepressants
- Influence likelihood of disease: Diabetes, Coroner disease
- Directly result in a genetic condition: PKU, Familial hypercholesterolemia

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@genomicsedu www.genomicseducation.hee.nhs.uk /genomicsedu

Northern Ireland Rare Disease Implementation Plan on Improving Diagnosis [2015]

- "**Diagnosis**" – mentioned 29 times in this plan
- '**Diagnosis and early intervention**' one of six key themes
- '**Deliver evidence-based diagnosis**' commitment
- "**To establish a Genomics Medicine Centre in Northern Ireland and participate in the 100,000 genomes project**".

We asked for it,
We found the evidence for it
...& We got it!
#StrongerTogether



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Improving diagnosis...



NI Genomic Medicine Centre launched (2015) whereby 1,278 rare disease people in NI will receive whole genome sequencing (recruitment early 2017 – September 2018)

- ✓ New genetic approach that increases the chance of diagnosis for 2/3 individuals with a rare disease
- ✓ NI using state-of-the-art 'multi-omic' approaches to improve the speed and accuracy of diagnosis
- ✓ This project may also help explain how a disease will develop and identify the best treatment for patients.

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Improving diagnosis...

- ✓ Pilot project that is being evaluated in NI
 - ✓ >200 rare diseases are included
- ✓ Bringing genomics into mainstream medicine
 - ✓ 12 medical specialities on board for pilot
- ✓ Not everyone will get a diagnosis or a particular treatment based on their results
- ✓ **We are still learning!**
- ✓ Major benefit of 100 KGP and NIGMC is to help local individuals living and working with rare diseases
- ✓ Helping train local folk and build capacity in these new approaches + develop new information tools

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First patients diagnosed through the 100,000 Genomes Project

Posted on March 11, 2015 at 10:21 am



Now receive effective, personalised treatment + Help prevent future generations who share their DNA from suffering a life of uncertainty about similar symptoms


The first family are set to benefit from ground-breaking developments in whole genome sequencing. Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt will today (Wednesday 11 March) meet the first patients to be diagnosed with rare disease through the 100,000 Genomes Project. They will now receive effective, personalised treatment, as well as helping prevent future generations who share their DNA from suffering a life of uncertainty about similar symptoms.

Newcastle University and Hospitals worked with Genomics England to analyse the genomes and validate the findings as part of the project's pilot scheme.

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First children receive diagnoses through 100,000 Genomes Project

Posted on January 11, 2016 at 6:09 pm



Mum said "As soon as we were on the project I felt a huge sense of relief".

Georgia now has a molecular diagnosis

The first children to receive a genetic diagnosis through the 100,000 Genomes Project have been given their results at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), part of the [North Thames NHS Genomic Medicine Centre](#).

Both Georgia Wallburn-Green and Jessica Wright had rare, undiagnosed genetic conditions when they joined the Project. Whole genome sequencing pinpointed the underlying genetic changes responsible for their conditions.

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By 2019, 1,278 whole genomes will be sequenced from individuals living in NI

Getting the right diagnosis:

- Empowers people living and working with rare diseases
- Provides relevant information
- Facilitates the best treatment
- Enables connections with disease focused support groups / peers / experts
- Allows effective planning for the future

NI contributes to the 100,000 Genomes Project

www.genomicsengland.co.uk/50000-genomes-landmark/
 UK leads the world as 100,000 Genomes Project hits the 50,000 genomes landmark to transform NHS patient care



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What Next?



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Northern bald ibis
 Believed extinct until rediscovered in 2002

INTERNET OPEN. *Lack of Information*

- >80% individuals report accessing relevant information is difficult: >70% of GPs struggle to identify / manage rare diseases
- >½ patients have >10 medical appointments each year: no clear care pathway / patient journey / linked systems
- ½ of rare diseases do not have a specific support group
- Patients, families, carers often become **'Expert Patients'**: patients at the centre of their care.

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Information Priorities for NI



1. **Dedicated NI Rare Disease Website / Information Hub for Rare Diseases**
2. **Centralised NI Registry / Registries for Rare Disease**
 - NI Rare Disease Coordinator to Facilitate Access to Information
 - Specialised Rare Disease Training for Professionals
 - Communication and strong inter-professional networks (MDTs)
 - Online training modules; generic and specific
 - Access to Good Disease Specific Information

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Thank You!

To many people to count...everyone who contributed, in particular Julie McCarroll, Cheryl Flanagan, Tara Moore, Andrew Nesbitt, Helen McAnaney, Julie McMullan, Ashleen Crowe, Katie Kerr, Jill Kilner Fiona Stewart & Shane McKee with BHSC team delivering 100 KGP ...

Partnership is essential:

K Knowledge
E Empowers
Y You

- ✓ Co-develop
- ✓ Co-produce
- ✓ Co-enact
- ✓ Co-maintain / review / improve



For more information, contact:
Dr Amy Jayne (AJ) McKnight
Centre for Public Health, Queen's University of Belfast
a.j.mcknight@qub.ac.uk



To Future
Progress