NHS
West of England
NHS Genomic Medicine Centre

Update from your Genomic Medicine Centre: December 2018

100,000 Genomes Project reaches its goal

We're delighted to have been part of the pioneering nationwide 100,000 Genomes Project which has reached its goal of sequencing 100,000 whole genomes from NHS patients.

Locally 2,655 people with a rare genetic disease and 681 people with cancer enrolled in the West of England NHS Genomic Medicine Centre (WEGMC) and provided samples, which is a great achievement. In total 4,000 samples for whole genome sequencing were taken by the WEGMC from consenting patients and family members.

The goal of the ground-breaking project, led by Genomics England in partnership with NHS England, was to harness whole genome sequencing technology to uncover new diagnoses and improved treatments for patients with rare inherited diseases and cancer. The task was to make the UK a world leader within five years.

The national project has delivered life-changing results for patients with one in four participants with rare diseases receiving a diagnosis for the first time, and providing potential actionable findings in up to half of cancer patients where there is an opportunity to take part in a clinical trial or to receive a targeted therapy.

The WEGMC, and all the organisations within it, are proud to have played a significant role in this ground-breaking programme.

We'd like to thank all of the patients and their families who enrolled in the programme.

We're grateful to all of the staff from across the West of England who have done so much hard work to ensure the project was a success.

We're seeing some particularly exciting results and we hope to share some of these in the near future.

These are exciting times in genomics and the 100,000 Genomes Project is just the beginning.

Thank you again to everyone who has taken part in or supported the project.

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