

# Update from your Genomic Medicine Centre: May 2019

## WEGMC extended until March 2020

I am delighted to announce that the West of England Genomics Medicine Centre (WEGMC) has been extended until at least 2020. University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust will remain as the lead organisation.

The focus of the WEGMC will be on whole genome sequencing and it will also look at clinical engagement, education and training. It will work closely with staff at the new South West Genomics Laboratory Hub which will be hosted by North Bristol NHS Trust, where staff will focus on genetic testing.

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new clinical director for the WEGMC. I look forward to working with the team to finalise the return of results for the 100,000 Genomes Project patients and support the establishment of the new genomic medicine service alongside colleagues across the south west region.

I would like to thank Professor Andrew Mumford and the team for all of their efforts so far which played a massive part in helping the pioneering nationwide 100,000 Genomes Project reach its goal of sequencing 100,000 whole genomes from NHS patients.

Whilst this is all exciting news, it is business as usual as the WEGMC continues to complete return of results for the 100,000 genomes programme and further information on this will be shared shortly.

We are also investigating what other helpful information we can obtain from genetic samples. For example, one in 20 of us have alterations in the DPYD (dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase) gene. Patients with these alterations can be hypersensitive to certain types of chemotherapy. By identifying these gene variations in patients we can ensure we target the cancer with an appropriate form of chemotherapy that will not be affected by the DPYD gene.

This really is just the start for how we can use genetics more in mainstream clinical practice to benefit our patients. The future is incredibly promising.

**Professor Sarah Smithson, clinical director for the WEGMC, lead consultant of the Clinical Genetics Service.**



### Medical director appointed for new South West Genomics Laboratory Hub

**Professor Andrew Mumford, a consultant haematologist and former clinical director for the WEGMC, has been appointed as medical director for the new South West Genomics Laboratory Hub.**

The new genomics laboratory hub, which will be hosted by North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT), will be part of a national network of centres that could provide potentially life-changing diagnosis to seriously ill patients.

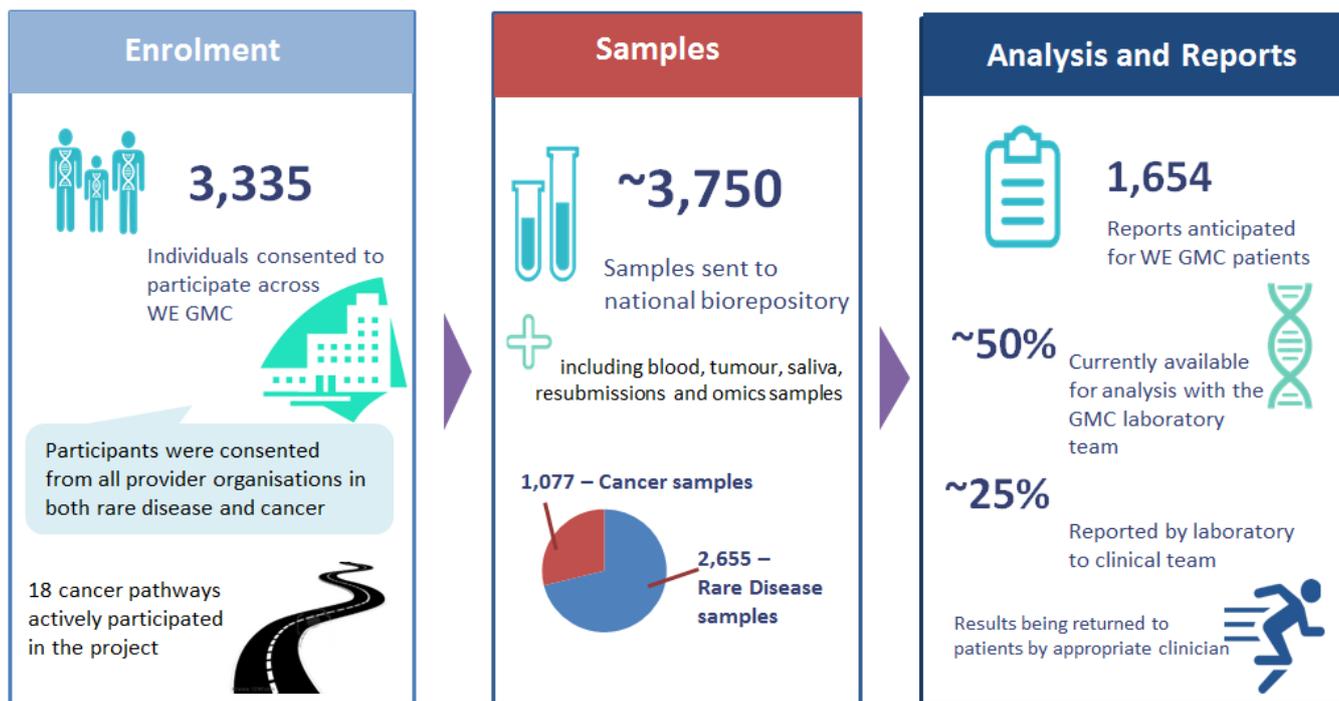
The hub will host all rare disease and cancer genetic testing for 5.5 million people in the south west region and will link in with the work of the WEGMC.

Andrew, a consultant haematologist at University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, will lead a team of clinicians working alongside an operations director and scientific director to deliver the new hub service and to develop national policy for the NHS Genomic Medicine Service.

NBT will run the service for the south west alongside Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust. The work will build on the 100,000 Genomes Project which enabled genome sequencing for about 70,000 people (100,000 patient samples) and was the pilot for the new Genomic Medicine Service which will include whole genome sequencing for some cancers and rare diseases alongside other genetic tests.

Andrew said: "I'm thrilled to have been appointed as medical director for the hub which will enable us to provide more genetic and genomic testing to the south west region. It is an important step that brings genomic medicine further into mainstream clinical practice and is testament to the incredible work of the team at the Bristol Genetics Laboratory."





## Embedding the patient voice — feedback from the WEGMC public contributors

Following the completion of the recruitment phase of the 100,000 Genomes Project the team took the time to listen to feedback from the public contributors that had taken part in governance meetings and educational activities for the WEGMC.

*"I have been incredibly impressed how well the NHS has worked in this project - development of pathways, the whole professionalism of it, the technicality of it.. It's been extraordinary, I think it has been incredibly impressive to see how it works in more detail."*  
WE GMC public contributor to clinical working group

The insightful output of the discussion formed a number of recommendations from the group that are being considered when planning contributions for the future Genomic Medicine Services .

This was a timely review as 'Hopes and Concerns for Genomic Medicine in the UK', a major new report based on public views on genomic medicine, was launched last month.

A Public Dialogue on Genomic Medicine: Time For A New Social Contract? was commissioned by Genomics England, co-funded by UK Research and Innovation's Sciencewise, with empirical research by Ipsos MORI's Public Dialogue Centre. The Oversight Committee for the project was chaired by Dr Anna Middleton, Head of Society and Ethics Research. Read more at:  
<https://www.genomicsengland.co.uk/public-dialogue-report-published/>

## Education & Training Opportunities



Learn about the fundamentals of genomics and its impact on healthcare in a collection of introductory courses.

Lasting no more than 30-40 minutes each, learners will develop their understanding of genomics through written content, infographics, film, animation and interactive elements, and can test their knowledge with a final quiz.

Further details are available by visiting <https://www.genomicseducation.hee.nhs.uk>

## Workforce Development Event to support Whole Genome Sequencing in the South West — 6 June 2019

The SWGMC and WEGMC Genomic Practitioners are coming together for an education and planning session on the patient choice aspect of the future genomic pathways.

The agenda will include consideration of both supporting return of results management for 100 000 genome project participants and implementation of requesting pathways for the Genomic Medicine Services in partnership with the South West Genomics Laboratory hub.

For further information please contact the WEGMC by emailing [ubh-tr.wegmc@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.wegmc@nhs.net)

