

# BIOBANK PPUKM-UMBI: PERANAN BERSAMA DEMI PEMBANGUNAN PENYELIDIKAN MASA HADAPAN

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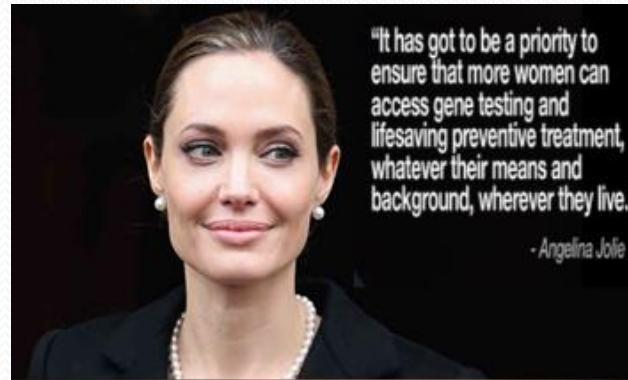
[rahmanj@ppukm.ukm.edu.my](mailto:rahmanj@ppukm.ukm.edu.my)



# Penyelidikan berkualiti memerlukan sampel berkualiti

BRCA<sub>1</sub>/BRCA<sub>2</sub>  
dalam kanser  
payudara familial

Her2 +ve dan  
penggunaan  
herceptin



"It has got to be a priority to ensure that more women can access gene testing and lifesaving preventive treatment, whatever their means and background, wherever they live."

- Angelina Jolie

"My doctors estimated that I had an 87% risk of breast cancer and a 50% risk of ovarian cancer."

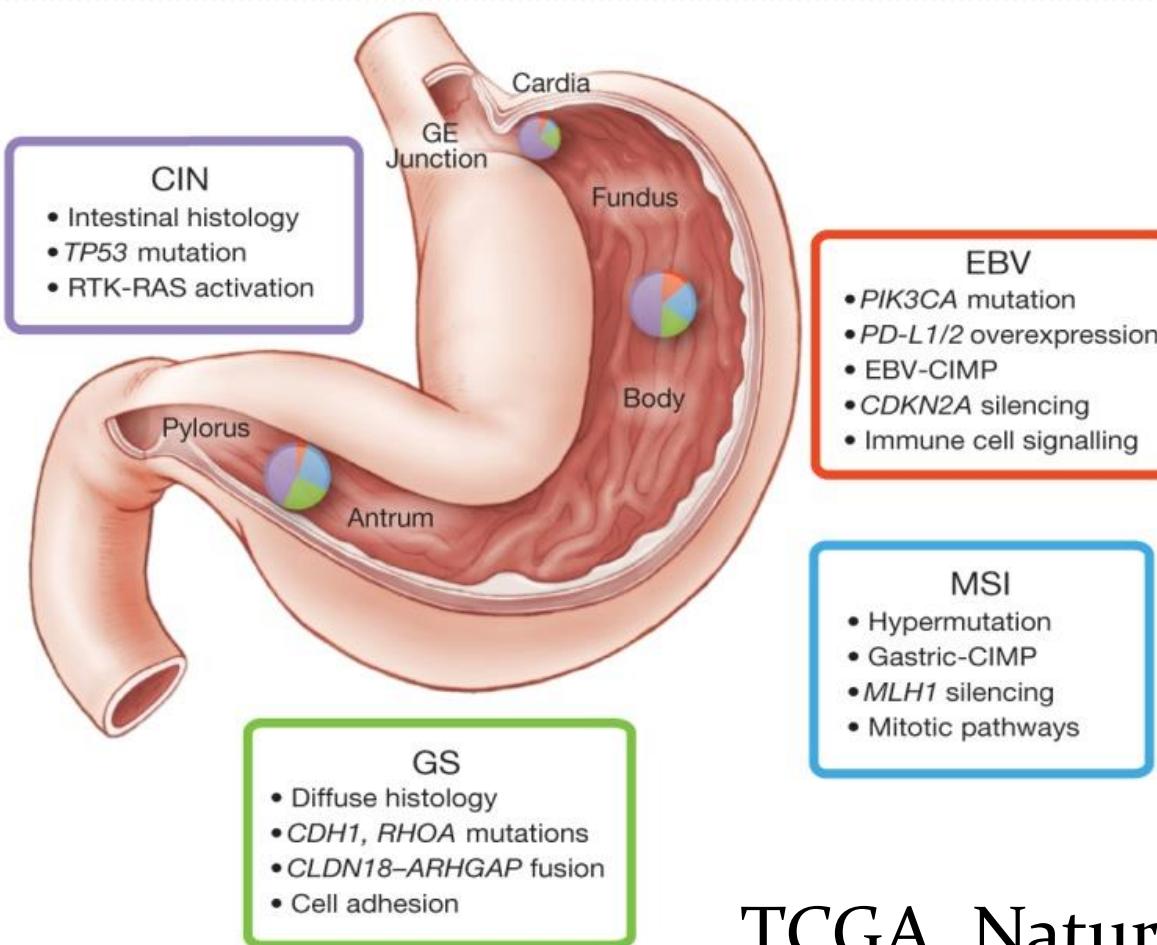


Breast cancer alone kills some 458,000 people each year, according to the World Health Organization, mainly in low- and middle-income countries. It has got to be a priority to ensure that more women can access gene testing and lifesaving preventive treatment, whatever their means and background, wherever they live.

— Angelina Jolie —

AZ QUOTES

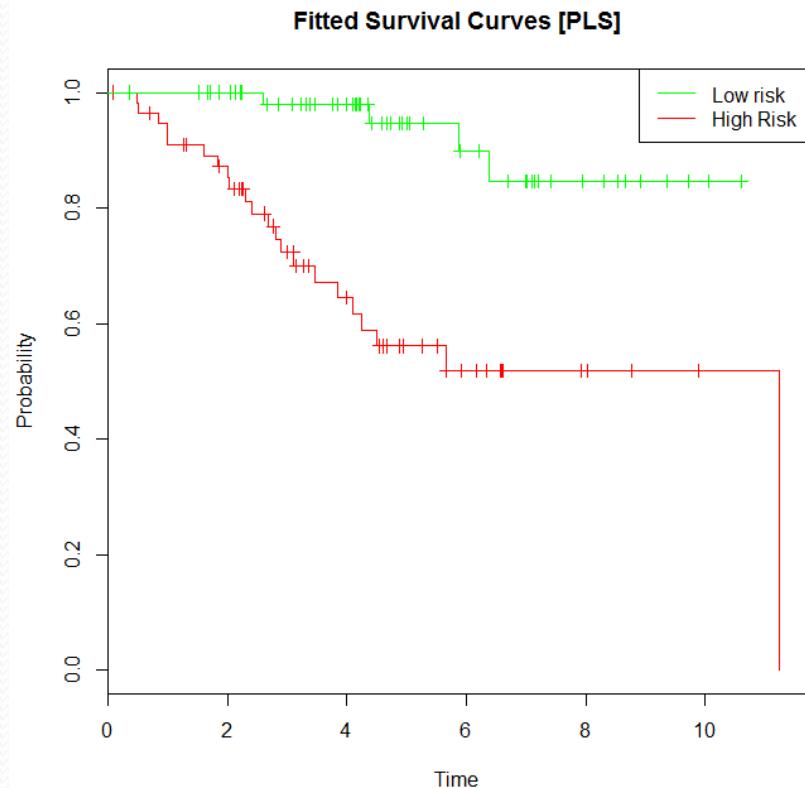
# *Whole Genome Sequencing* ke atas 295 tisu kanser gaster: Klasifikasi baru



TCGA. Nature. 513:2014

# Inovasi: Penemuan ColoPREDICT hasil penyelidikan dari Biobank

- Satu panel 19-gen untuk menentukan prognosis pesakit kanser kolorektal
- Nombor Paten:  
PI2014702296



Panel gen telah divalidasi menggunakan kohort pesakit kanser kolorektal USA

# BIOBANK

Satu koleksi besar sampel tisu serta data biologi dan perubatan yang dikumpulkan untuk tujuan penyelidikan

# Lonjakan paradigma pengumpulan tisu dan spesimen

Koleksi  
spesimen  
patologi

- Tisu atas slaid
- *Formalin-fixed paraffin embededed*



BIOBANK  
sebagai  
infrastruktur  
penyelidikan

- Pelbagai jenis sampel

# Generasi baru -80oC freezer



NHS National Biosample Centre, Milton Keynes United Kingdom

# Biobank:

## Jenis sampel yang disimpan

Whole blood

Mono-nuclear cells

Plasma

Serum

RBC clot

Urine

Hair

Nails

Stools

Saliva

DNA

RNA

# **TUJUAN DAN PERANAN UTAMA**

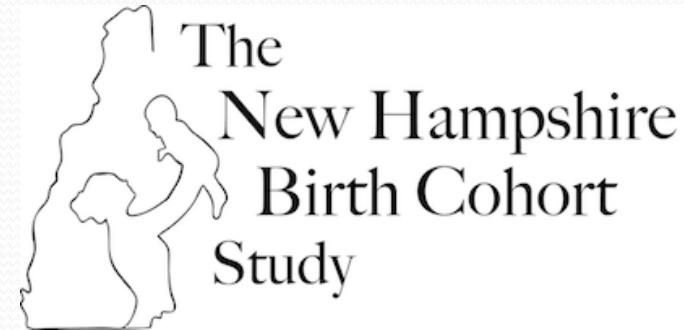
Koleksi  
biospesimen  
berkualiti

Penyelidikan  
berkualiti

# BIOBANK di serata dunia



BIOBANK • 健康世代  
中央研究院・臺灣人體生物資料庫



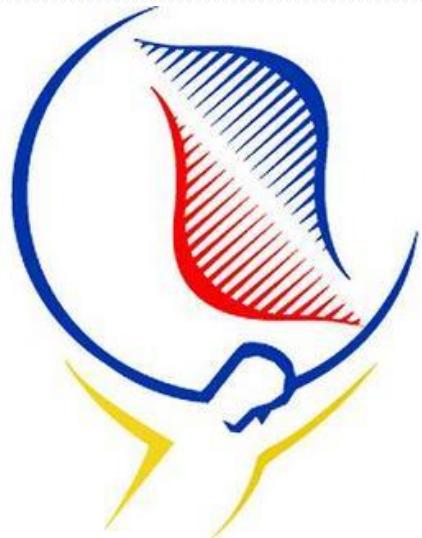
# Biobanks in Europe



**The BBMRI Project: Representing Europe's Biobanks**

*The Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure*

# Malaysia pun BOLEH?



THE  
**MALAYSIAN**  
COHORT

Our Gift To The Future Generation

Biobank  
PPUKM-  
UMBI

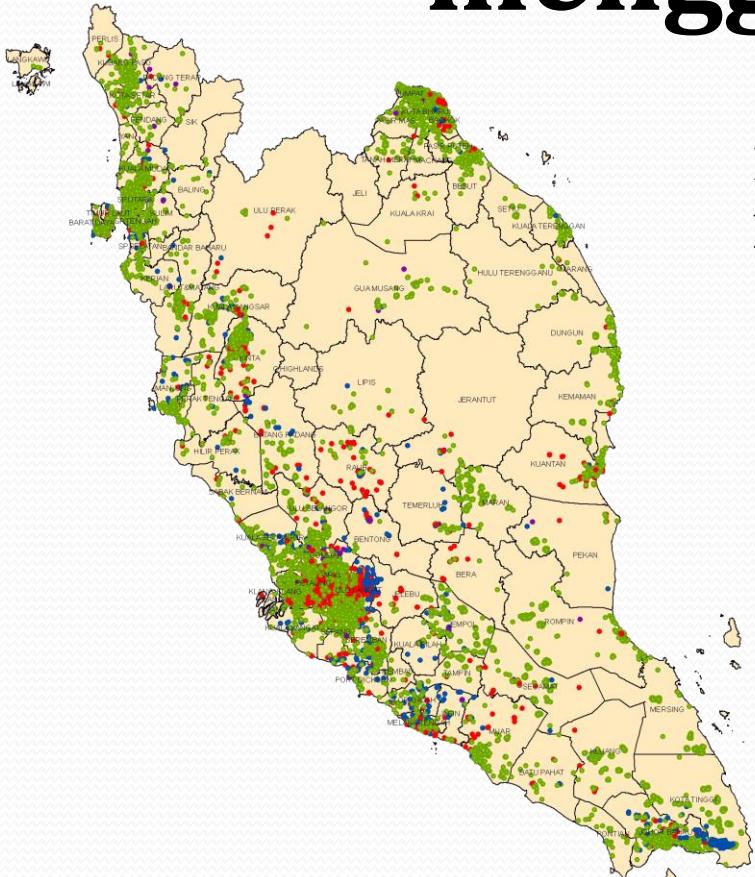
# Biobank Cohort: Tertbesar di Asia Tenggara



- Biobank Utama
- 2 Biobank Satelit  
(PPUKM & MTDC)



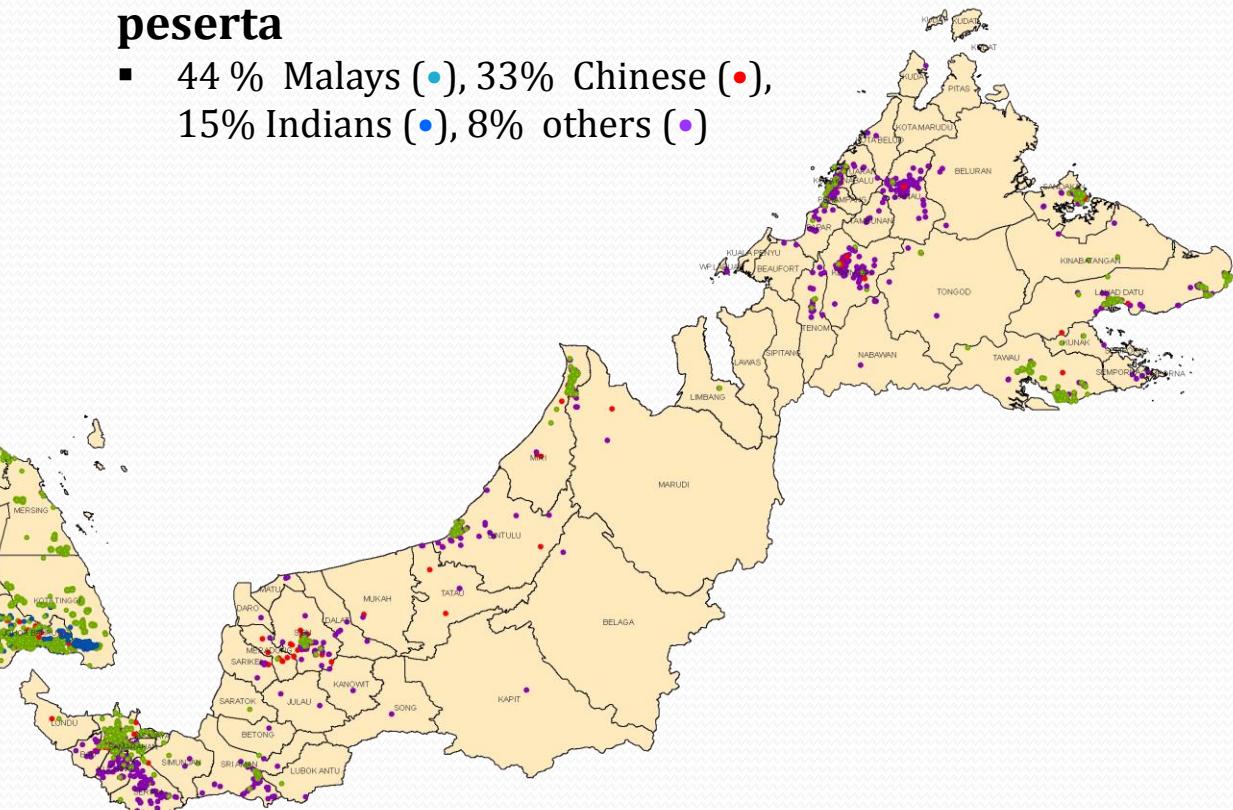
# Pemetaan peserta Cohort menggunakan GIS



Potensi kajian interaksi  
gen-persekutaran dll.

Kordinat untuk 106,527  
peserta

- 44 % Malays (●), 33% Chinese (●),  
15% Indians (●), 8% others (●)



# MS ISO 15189:2007: Akreditasi Makmal Bioanalitikal Cohort



# ***BIG data = BIG Paper: IF 9.7***

Int. J. Epidemiol. Advance Access published April 11, 2014



*International Journal of Epidemiology*, 2014, 1–9

doi: 10.1093/ije/dyu089

Cohort profile

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Cohort profile

## **Cohort profile: The Malaysian Cohort (TMC) project: a prospective study of non-communicable diseases in a multi-ethnic population**

Rahman Jamal,<sup>1,\*</sup> Syed Zulkifli Syed Zakaria,<sup>2</sup> Mohd Arman Kamaruddin,<sup>1</sup> Nazihah Abd Jalal,<sup>1</sup> Norliza Ismail,<sup>1</sup> Norkhamiawati Mohd Kamil,<sup>1</sup> Noraidatulakma Abdullah,<sup>1</sup> Norhafizah Baharudin,<sup>1</sup> Noor Hamidah Hussin,<sup>3</sup> Hanita Othman,<sup>3</sup> Nor Muhammad Mahadi<sup>4</sup> and the Malaysian Cohort Study Group

# POTENSI PESAKIT PPUKM SEBAGAI SUMBER PENYELIDIKAN

382,086  
pesakit luar

35,837  
pesakit dalam

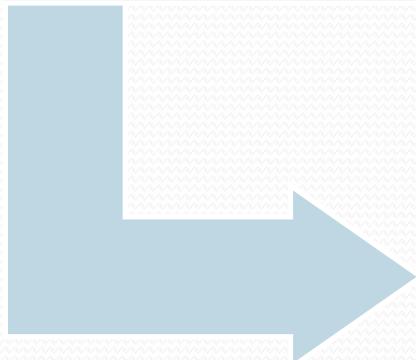
7,858 pesakit  
dalam surgeri

14,099 pesakit  
luar psikiatri

# RIBUAN SAMPEL PESAKIT PPUKM TIDAK DIKUMPUL

>2000  
pembedahan  
tumor otak  
sejak 1997

- Peluang keemasan untuk membangunkan koleksi terbesar tumour otak



~150 tisu  
glioma  
dikumpul dan  
disimpan

- Projek penyelidikan glioma
- Memakan masa 3 tahun (2010-2013)

# Pesakit psikiatri: Potensi tinggi untuk penyelidikan

3000 kes  
bipolar &  
schizophrenia



<50 spesimen  
terkumpul

- Pesakit susulan

- Projek validasi varian kes bipolar
- Sudah  $>2$  tahun

# 7 sebab jadi begini

- Ini bukan penyelidikan saya
- Ini bukan skop kerja saya
- Apa yang saya dapat?
- Tak ada masa untuk ambil *informed consent*
- Kenapa harus saya bantu?
- Kenapa perlu tolong UMBI?
- Kalau saya beri sampel, nanti orang lain yang dapat guna untuk penyelidikan

# HARUS KITA INGAT

UKM adalah  
universiti  
penyelidikan

HCTM adalah  
hospital pengajar

Penyelidikan  
memerlukan  
sampel

Kelebihan  
penyelidikan  
dengan sampel  
yang sudah lengkap

# BIOBANK PPUKM-UMBI

## Pertumbuhan pesat

- Kapasiti
- Kompetensi
- Kualiti
- Jaringan penyelidikan

**2003 MULA!!!**

- Kertas Kerja Biobank
- Jawatankuasa PPUKM-UMBI

**2005**

- Diluluskan
- Pengumpulan sampel dimulakan
- Jabatan Surgeri: Kanser Payudara & Rektum
- Penyimpanan (-80°C) & tisu sahaja

**2006**

- Kapasiti kecil tangki LN (-190 °C)

**2016**

- Kapasiti besar tangki LN (-190)
- Pengumpulan sampel daripada pelbagai penyakit

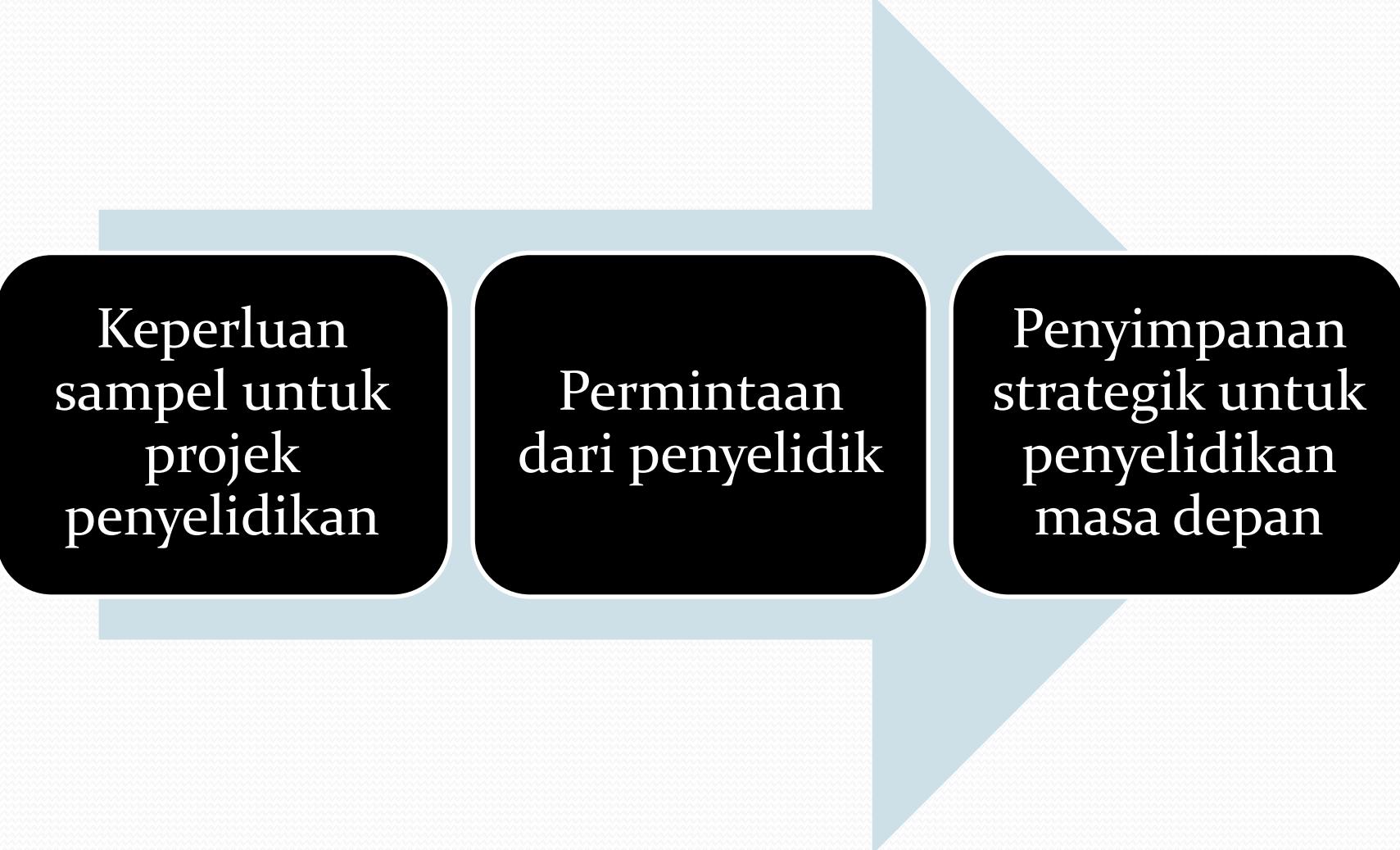


# Sampel dari >30 jenis penyakit

DISEASE	
1	NORMAL SAMPLES (CONTROLS)
2	BETA THALASSEMIA
3	ACUTE LEUKEMIAS
4	GENETIC RARE DISEASES
5	LIVER CANCER
6	BREAST CANCER
7	OBSTRUCTIVE LUNG DISEASE
8	BRAIN TUMOR
9	CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE
10	FRAGILE X
11	LUNG CANCER
12	CYSTIC FIBROSIS
13	HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE
14	OVARIAN CANCER
15	BLADDER CANCER
16	HIRSCHSPRUNG'S DISEASE
17	ENDOMETRIUM CANCER

DISEASE	
18	GASTRITIS
19	IGM DEFICIENCY
20	PARKINSON'S DISEASE
21	BIPOLAR DISORDERS
22	EPILEPSY
23	MYELOPOLIFERATIVE NEOPLASIA
24	CERVICAL CANCER
25	PLACENTA PRAEVIA
26	HEMOPHILIA
27	PANCREATIC CANCER
28	CHILDHOOD OBESITY
29	GASTRIC CANCER
30	HERNIA
31	SLE
32	GOUT
33	PENDRED SYNDROME
34	SEPSIS

# DARI MULA HINGGA KINI



Keperluan  
sampel untuk  
projek  
penyelidikan

Permintaan  
dari penyelidik

Penyimpanan  
strategik untuk  
penyelidikan  
masa depan

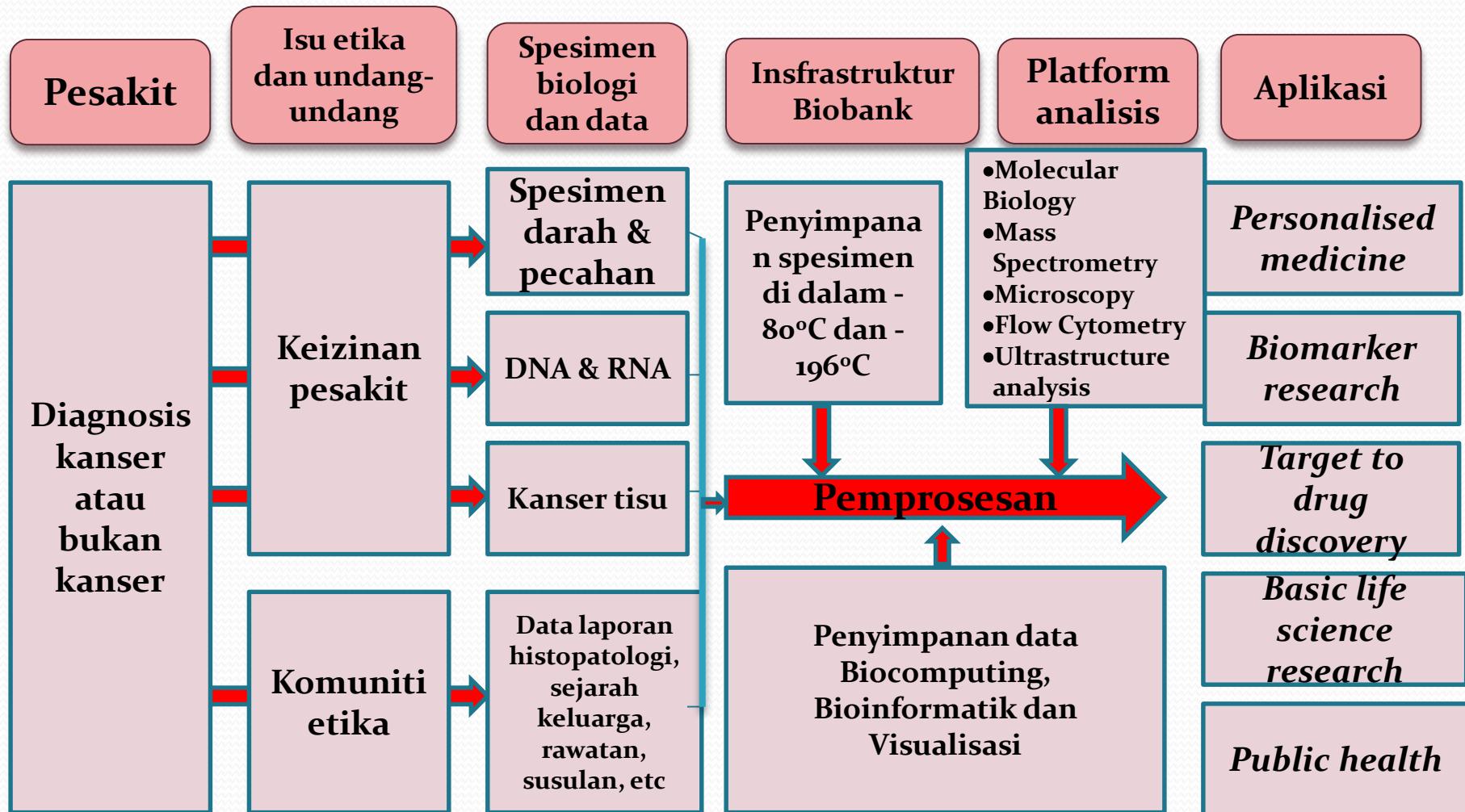
# FASILITI BIOBANK PPUKM-UMBI

- ❖ -80°C (12)
- ❖ -20°C (1)
- ❖ 4°C (1)
- ❖ Cryocyl (10)
- ❖ Tangki cecair nitrogen(12)
- ❖ Tangki penyimpanan sampel (9)



# KOMPONEN UTAMA BIOBANK

## PPUKM-UMBI



# APA YANG DISIMPAN?

# PENGUMPULAN

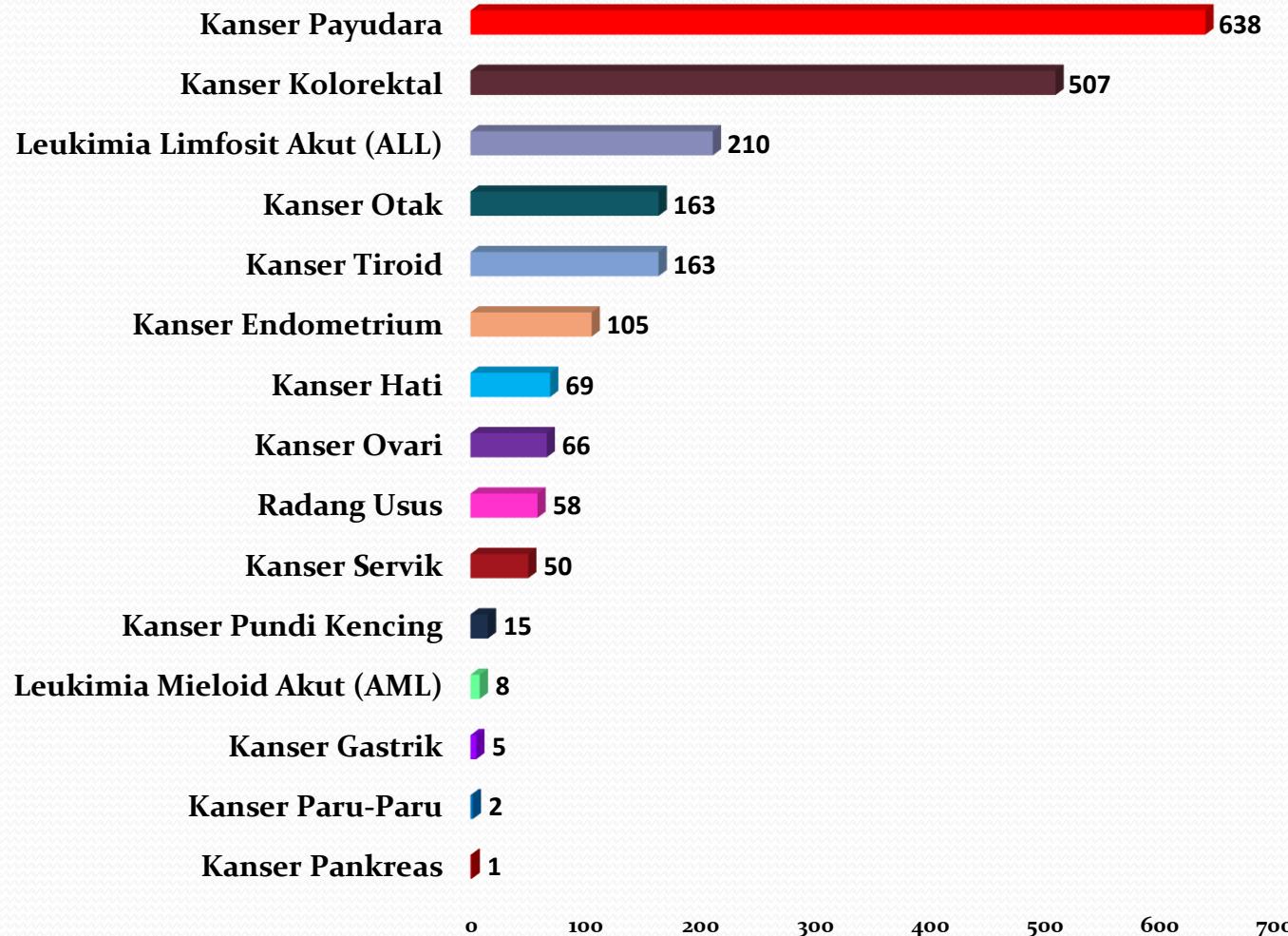
- ✓ Tisu Biopsi
  - ✓ Darah  
(plasma,  
serum, sel  
darah merah  
dan sel  
darah putih)
  - ✓ Tisu kanser  
dan tisu  
normal
  - ✓ DNA



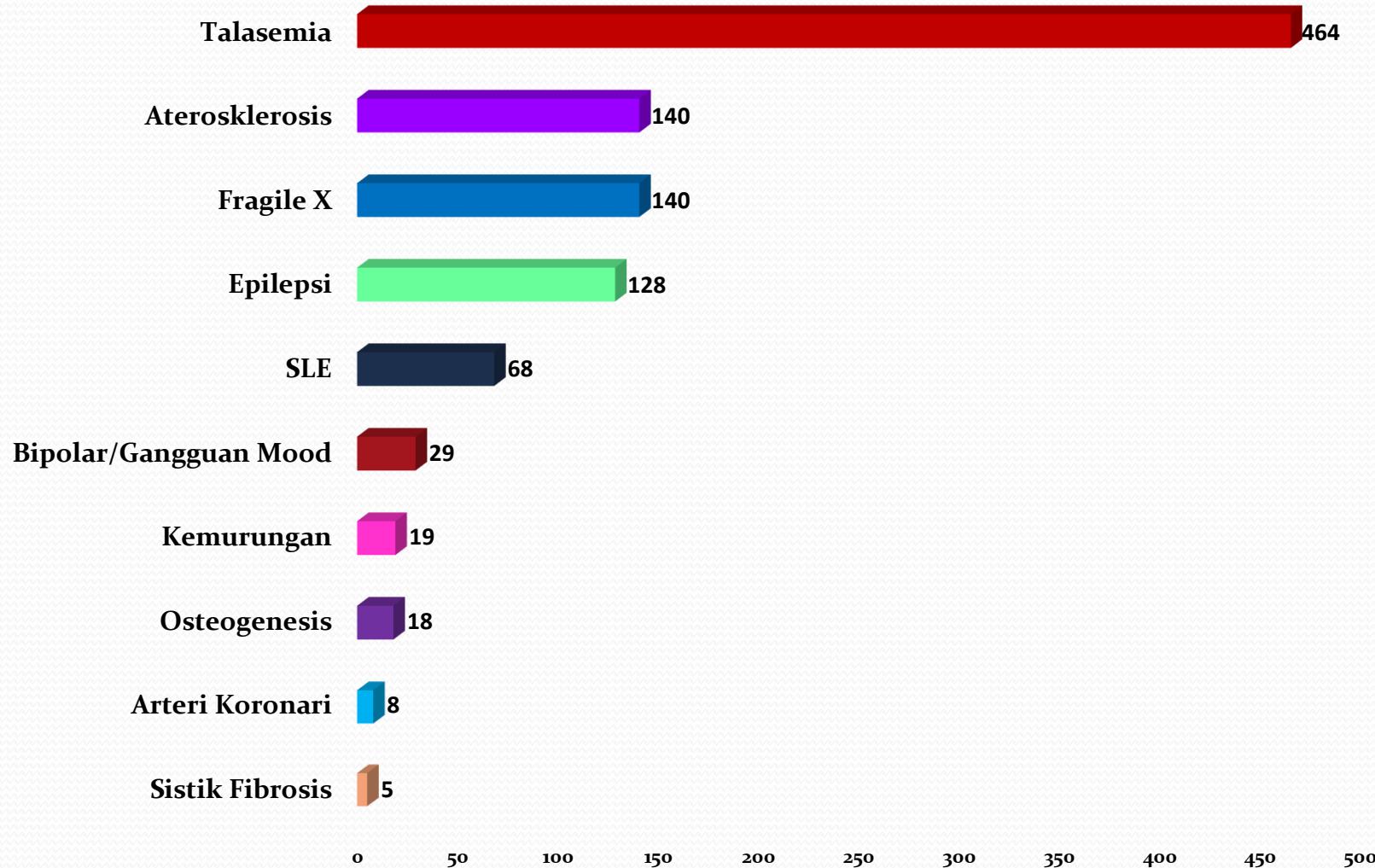
# BANK DATA

- ✓ Data peribadi dengan mematuhi peraturan-peraturan perlindungan data
  - ✓ Diluluskan oleh Jawatankuasa etika

# JUMLAH SAMPEL KANSER TERKUMPUL 2004-2015



# JUMLAH PENYAKIT BUKAN KANSER



# PENYELIDIKAN YANG BOLEH DILAKUKAN

## Spesimen Biorepositori



Analisis Saintifik  
Genomik  
Transkriptomik  
Epigenomik  
Proteomik  
Metabolomik



## Rawatan/ Ujian Diagnostik



# CABARAN

- Sistem C-Hets yang kurang dikemaskini
- Sukar melakukan pengambilan sampel bagi kes kecemasan dan kes pada hujung minggu.
- Sampel yang diperolehi kurang berkualiti
- Cabaran untuk mendapat kerjasama daripada pegawai perubatan
- Cabaran untuk mendapat kerjasama daripada kakitangan hospital

# PERANAN PESAKIT DAN WARGA PPUKM/HCTM



Kesedaran  
peranan  
Biobank

Lobi dan  
kempen

Anggap  
sampel amat  
berharga

Penyelidikan  
memberi  
manfaat besar

# Pesanan untuk para doktor

Hargai sampel  
pesakit untuk  
tujuan  
penyelidikan

Bantu  
mendapatkan  
'informed  
consent'



# Aktiviti utama BIOBANK: Semua dengan SOPs

Keizinan  
bermaklumat

Pengumpulan  
&  
Pengangkutan

Proses &  
Simpan

Dokumentasi  
& Maklumat  
Klinikal

Kawalan  
kualiti

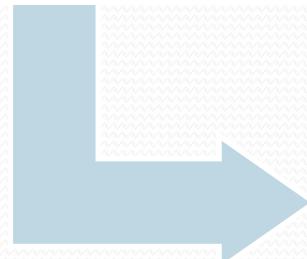
Pembekalan  
sampel &  
Analisa

# BEBERAPA ISU PENTING

# Konsep *Colder is Better*

-20°C

- DNA



-80°C

- RNA,  
Serum &  
plasma



-196°C

- RNA,  
serum,  
plasma,  
cells

**Waspada akan  
enzim  
degradatif  
pada suhu  
rendah**

# Faktor yang boleh menjasikan kualiti samples

*Time to separate cells from plasma/serum*

*Tissue hypoxia from arterial clamping*

*Temperature for transportation*

*Medication and anaesthesia regime*

*Length of time at room temperature before storage*

*Time to fixate and type of fixative*

# Biobank Cohort: Penghantaran & pemprosesan dalam masa 24 jam



# Tisu segar diperlukan untuk penyelidikan ‘omik’ berkualiti

- Tisu akan lemas dalam *fixative*
- Sel mula mati apabila tumor dibedah – hypoxia menyebabkan degradasi RNA dan protein
- Formalin merosakkan protein, DNA dan RNA
- Tisu segar yang TERBAIK



**Formalin-fixed  
paraffin-embedded  
(FFPE)**

# Isu penting

*Consent*

*Privacy and  
data  
protection*

*Legal &  
Technical*

*Re-  
identification*

*Ownership,  
benefits,  
rights*

*Access to  
resources*

*Representation  
and bias*

*Governance*

*Standardisation*

# SIAPA PEMILIK SPESIMEN?

- **Pesakit atau Penderma Tisu/Spesimen**
  - Mempunyai hak untuk menarik diri serta memohon untuk tisu/spesimen dikeluarkan dari BIOBANK
- Ketua Institusi sebagai PENJAGA (*Custodian*)



# KOLABORASI PENYELIDIKAN

- Kolaborasi dengan penyelidik dari:
  - ❖ Jabatan Perubatan
  - ❖ Jabatan Patologi
  - ❖ Jabatan Surgeri
  - ❖ Jabatan Psikiatri
  - ❖ Jabatan O&G
  - ❖ Jabatan Pediatrik
  - ❖ Jabatan Kesihatan Masyarakat
  - ❖ Fakulti Sains Kesihatan



The screenshot shows the homepage of the UKM Experts website. At the top left is the logo of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) with its name in English and Malay. To the right is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a blue header bar with the text "UKM Experts". Underneath the header are five navigation links: "Home", "Experts", "Research outputs" (which is highlighted in white), "Research units", and "Journals".

## Identification of diagnostic markers in colorectal cancer via integrative epigenomics and genomics data

Contribution to journal › Article

Teow Kok-Sin ; Norfilza Mohd Mokhtar ; Nur Zarina Ali Hassan ; Ismail Sagap ; Isa Mohamed Rose ; Roslan Harun ; Rahman Jamal

Physiology • Surgery • Pathology • Medicine • Paediatrics

Apart from genetic mutations, epigenetic alteration is a common phenomenon that contributes to neoplastic transformation in colorectal cancer. Transcriptional silencing of tumor-suppressor genes without changes in the DNA sequence is explained by the existence of promoter hypermethylation. To test this hypothesis, we integrated the epigenome and transcriptome data from a similar set of colorectal tissue samples. Methylation profiling was performed using the Illumina Infinium-HumanMethylation27 BeadChip on 55 paired cancer and adjacent normal epithelial cells. Fifteen of the 55 paired tissues were used for gene expression profiling using the Affymetrix GeneChip Human Gene 1.0 ST array. Validation was carried out on 150 colorectal tissues using the methylation-specific multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification (MS-MLPA) technique. PCA and supervised hierarchical clustering in the two microarray datasets showed good separation between cancer and normal samples. Significant genes from the two analyses were obtained based on a  $\geq 2$ -fold change and a false discovery rate (FDR) p-value of  $<0.05$ . We identified 1,081 differentially hypermethylated CpG sites and 36 hypomethylated CpG sites. We also found 709 upregulated and 699 downregulated genes from the gene expression profiling. A comparison of the two datasets revealed 32 overlapping genes with 27 being hypermethylated with downregulated expression and 4 hypermethylated with upregulated expression. One gene was found to be hypomethylated and downregulated. The most enriched molecular pathway identified was cell adhesion molecules that involved 4 overlapped genes, JAM2, NCAM1, ITGA8 and CNTN1. In the present study, we successfully identified a group of genes that showed methylation and gene expression changes in well-defined colorectal cancer tissues with high purity. The integrated analysis gives additional insight regarding the regulation of colorectal cancer-associated genes and their underlying mechanisms that contribute to colorectal carcinogenesis.

Original language English

Pages (from-to) 22-32

Number of pages 11

# KOLABORASI PENYELIDIKAN GENOMIK- JABATAN SURGERI DAN PATOLOGI

OPEN ACCESS freely available online



Oncology Reports 34: 22-32, 2015

Pathol. Oncol. Res. (2016) 22:169–177  
DOI 10.1007/s12253-015-0991-y



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Integrated Analysis of Copy Number Genome-Wide Expression Profiling in Cancer Tissues

Nur Zarina Ali Hassan<sup>1</sup>, Norfilza Mohd Mokhtar<sup>1,4\*</sup>, Teow Kok Sin<sup>2</sup>, Roslan Harun<sup>3,5</sup>, Rahman Jamal<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UKM Medical Molecular Biology Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, <sup>3</sup> Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, <sup>4</sup> Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, <sup>5</sup> Department of M

### Abstract

Integrative analyses of multiple genomic datasets for selected samples can provide enhanced knowledge of cancer. The objective of this study was to detect copy number (CNV) and gene expression in colorectal cancer (CRC) samples and 166 paired CRC samples from the same patients were subjected to CNV Quad assay, and validation was performed using multiplex ligation probe amplification was performed on 15 paired samples from the same group of patient array. Significant gains obtained from both array results were then overlapped with the CNV Quad assay. The CNV Quad assay revealed that the human epithelium revealed gains in 1638 genes and losses in 36 genes. Significant gain position 20q12 with a frequency of 45.31% in tumor samples. Examples of genes *PITPN*, *EMILIN3* and *CHD6*. The highest number of losses was detected at chr occurrence in all tumor samples. Among the genes found at this cytoband were profiling showed 709 genes to be up-regulated and 699 genes to be down-regulated. In addition, there were 50 overlapping genes, while 50 overexpressed genes, while 22 MLPA confirmed that the CRC samples had the highest gains in chromosome interpretation of the CNV data in the context of the transcriptome via integrated knowledge of the genomic landscape of CRC.

Citation: Ali Hassan NM, Mokhtar NM, Kok Sin L, Maged Rose I, et al. (2014) Integrated Expression Profiling in Colorectal Cancer Tissues. PLoS ONE 9(9): e109553. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.009553

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Competing interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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### Introduction

Colorectal cancer is a major health concern, with more than a million individuals diagnosed every year worldwide [1]. This cancer is among the top three of all cancers that lead to death worldwide [2]. In Malaysia, it ranks as the second most common cancer in men [3].

One form of genetic instability that is observed in at least 85% of sporadic CRC cases is chromosomal instability (CIN) [4]. Aneuploidy is a consequence of CIN that leads to the gain or loss of whole or parts of chromosomal regions [5], and it may cause structural complexity that leads to genomic instability. One common form of structural variants due to CIN is known as copy number variation (CNV), which is defined as gains or losses of copies of DNA segments that are longer than 1 kb in length, compared to a reference genome [6]. CNVs can affect gene expression and have been associated with disease susceptibility. It has been suggested that transcriptional changes correspond to

### CNVs and alternative splicing

Thousands of microarray techniques have revealed genomic changes that lead to the deletion, insertion, or rearrangement of genes [13,14].

A gene can be at a higher level of expression if it has a lower level of expression that is greater than that of other genes. We also found 709 upregulated and 699 downregulated genes from the gene expression profiling. A

comparison of the two datasets revealed 32 genes with 27 being hypermethylated with downregulation and 4 hypermethylated with upregulated genes found to be hypermethylated and do most enriched molecular pathway identified molecules that involved 4 overlapped genes *ITGB8* and *CNTN1*. In the present study, identified a group of genes that showed met expression changes in well-defined colorectal cancer tissues. Methylation profiling was performed using the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation27 BeadChip on 55 paired cancer and adjacent normal epithelial tissues. Fifteen of the 55 paired tissues were used for gene expression profiling using the Affymetrix GeneChip Human Gene 1.0 ST array. Validation was carried out on 150 colorectal tissues using the methylation-specific multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification (MS-MLPA) technique. PCA and supervised hierarchical clustering in the two microarray datasets showed good separation between cancer and normal samples. Significant genes from the two analyses were obtained based on a  $\geq 2$ -fold change and a false discovery rate (FDR) P-value of  $< 0.05$ . We identified 1,081 differentially hypermethylated CpG sites and 36 hypomethylated CpG sites. We also found 709 upregulated and 699 downregulated genes from the gene expression profiling. A

**Abbreviations:** ANOVA, analysis of variance; CAMs, cell adhesion molecules; CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; CGI, CpG islands; CIMP, CpG island methylator phenotype; ES, enrichment score; FDR, false discovery rate; GO, Gene Ontology; KEGG, Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes; IncRNA, long non-coding RNAs; MBDS, methyl-CpG binding proteins; MS-MLPA, methylation-specific-multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification; MSP, methylation-specific PCR; PCA, principal component analysis; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; qPCR, quantitative PCR; RIN, RNA integrity number

**Key words:** colorectal cancer, epigenetics, DNA methylation, CpG loci, gene expression

## Identification of diagnostic markers in colorectal cancer via integrative epigenomics and genomics data

TEOW KOK-SIN<sup>1</sup>, NORFILZA MOHD MOKHTAR<sup>1,2</sup>, NUR ZARINA ALI HASSAN<sup>1</sup>, ISMAIL SAGAP<sup>3</sup>, ISA MOHAMED ROSE<sup>4</sup>, ROSLAN HARUN<sup>5</sup> and RAHMAN JAMAL<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UKM Medical Molecular Biology Institute, Departments of <sup>2</sup>Physiology, <sup>3</sup>Surgery, <sup>4</sup>Pathology, <sup>5</sup>Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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**Abstract.** Apart from genetic mutations, epigenetic alteration is a common phenomenon that contributes to neoplastic transformation in colorectal cancer. Transcriptional silencing of tumor-suppressor genes without changes in the DNA sequence is explained by the existence of promoter hypermethylation. To test this hypothesis, we integrated the epigenome and transcriptome data from a similar set of colorectal tissue samples. Methylation profiling was performed using the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation27 BeadChip on 55 paired cancer and adjacent normal epithelial tissues. Fifteen of the 55 paired tissues were used for gene expression profiling using the Affymetrix GeneChip Human Gene 1.0 ST array. Validation was carried out on 150 colorectal tissues using the methylation-specific multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification (MS-MLPA) technique. PCA and supervised hierarchical clustering in the two microarray datasets showed good separation between cancer and normal samples. Significant genes from the two analyses were obtained based on a  $\geq 2$ -fold change and a false discovery rate (FDR) P-value of  $< 0.05$ . We identified 1,081 differentially hypermethylated CpG sites and 36 hypomethylated CpG sites. We also found 709 upregulated and 699 downregulated genes from the gene expression profiling. A

### Introduction

In recent decades, the incidence of colorectal cancer increased by 2- to 4-fold in many Eastern Asian countries [1]. In China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore, the risk of CRC among the Asian population, is associated with a low fiber diet and high alcohol consumption [2]. One of the screening methods to detect CRC is by measuring the level of carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) in the serum; however, the sensitivity reported to be  $< 80\%$  [4-6]. Therefore, the ideal biological markers for CRC is crucial.

Epigenetic markers such as methylation patterns were first reported 10 years ago in DNA from tumor samples [7]. DNA methylation is an epigenetic process that involves the enzymatic process of adding a methyl group to the 5-carbon position of the cytosine nucleotide (8-10). This modification mostly enriches the CpG island (CGI) region, where 70% of the annotated gene promoter regions show hypermethylation, have emerged as potential cancer genome [12]. Hypermethylation is a common feature in the promoter CGI region, whereas global frequently occurs in CpG dinucleotides that are located in the repetitive sequences of DNA (satellite repeats or retrotransposons) [13].

CGI hypermethylation in the promoter region is thought to be linked with the transcriptional inactivation of

## Identification of Differentially Expressed Proteins in the Serum of Colorectal Cancer Patients Using 2D-DIGE Proteomics Analysis

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**Abstract** Early detection of colorectal cancer (CRC) is vital for the improvement of disease prognosis. However to date there are no blood-based biomarkers sensitive and specific enough for early diagnosis. We analysed the differences in serum protein expression of early stage CRC (Dukes' A and B) and late stage CRC (Dukes' C and D) against normal controls using 2D Fluorescence Difference Gel Electrophoresis (2D-DIGE). Analysis of the 2D maps showed that 23 proteins were differentially expressed between groups ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and these proteins were identified with LC-MS/MS. Eight proteins were up-regulated and 2 down-regulated in patients with early CRC, whereas 14 proteins were up-regulated and 4 down-regulated in those with late CRC compared to normal controls ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). Five proteins, namely apolipoprotein A1 (APOA1), apolipoprotein E (APE), complement factor H (CFH), galectin-7 (GALT) and synaptosomal-2 (SYN2) were validated using ELISA and only APOA1 and GALT-7 showed consistent findings. Further validation using immunohistochemistry showed negative immunoreactivity for GALT-7 in CRC tissues, suggesting that GALT-7 detected in the serum did not originate from the CRC tumour. APOA1 showed positive

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immunoreactivity but its expression did not correlate with Dukes' staging ( $p=0.314$ ), tumour grading ( $p=0.880$ ) and lymph node involvement ( $p=0.108$ ). Differences in APOA1 isoforms and/or conformation between serum and tissue samples as well as tumour heterogeneity may explain for the discrepancies between DIGE and ELISA when compared to immunohistochemistry. Structural and functional studies of APOA1 in future would best describe the role of APOA1 in CRC.

**Keywords** Colorectal cancer · Proteomics · 2D-DIGE · LC-MS/MS · Apolipoprotein A1

### Introduction

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most common cancer in men and the second in women worldwide [1]. In Peninsular Malaysia, it was ranked in 2006 as the most common cancer in men (16.2 % of the total cancer cases) and the second most common cancer in women (10.6 % of the total cancer cases) [2]. CRC is curable when detected at an early stage. It was reported that the 5-year survival rate is 90 % when CRC is detected at an early, localized stage; however, only 39 % of CRC are diagnosed at this stage due to the lack of specific and sensitive screening tests for early detection and monitoring of disease progression [3].

Current common screening tests for CRC include colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, fecal occult blood test (FOBT) and double contrast barium enema [4]. Colonoscopy is the gold standard for CRC screening with 97 % sensitivity and 98 % specificity. However, it is not applicable to the general population due to its invasiveness, high cost, requires uncomfortable bowel preparation and highly trained medical personnel which leads to the reluctance of the general population at

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