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About *MMRC* BIOBANK

Molecular Medicine Research Center (*MMRC*) Biobank is the first All-Genetic-Diseases Biobank that has been established in Cyprus, upon approval by the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee. It is a major national health resource, with the aim of improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of serious and life-threatening illnesses – paying special attention in inherited monogenic diseases and multifactorial disorders with a genetic component. *MMRC* researchers contributed in high quality and pioneered research the last years, especially in the field of inherited renal diseases. *MMRC* Biobank prompts healthy volunteers and patients with any disease to give biological samples, thereby contributing in better medical care for the next generations. Research of the last years revealed that obtaining reliable results requires thousands of samples for analysis. Co-operation of multiple Biobanks and sharing of information and biological material, seems to be the only way for scientists to discover why some people develop particular diseases and others do not.

MMRC Biobank aims at recruiting thousands of Cypriots in the next years. Required biological samples include DNA, RNA, plasma, serum, urine and tissue biopsies. Samples are securely stored in dedicated freezers of -80°C. Clinical and other information is carefully registered in an electronic database with controlled access. Participants, if they agree, will have their health followed.

MMRC Biobank is mainly funded by the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation and co-funded by the European Union Structural Funds and by the Cyprus government. *MMRC* Biobank is hosted by the University of Cyprus. It works with researchers of a wide spectrum of specialties, including molecular biology and genetics, cell biology, bioinformatics and biostatistics. The medical research project has an initial funding of 2 million euros for a duration of four years (2011-2014). University of Cyprus will support basic functions of the *MMRC* Biobank for five more years. Special effort will be made for further funding. Samples from *MMRC* Biobank can be provided to other researchers for analysis under a particular procedure, which includes submission of information about the identity of the researchers, the research proposal and the experimental procedures.

MMRC Biobank's Principal Investigator and Chief Executive is [Constantinos Deltas](#) who is also Professor of Genetics at the Department of Biological Sciences of the University of Cyprus.

Profile of the *MMRC* BIOBANK

- Approved on November 1, 2011, by the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee for 25 years.
- Funded by the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation, EU Structural Funds and University of Cyprus.
- Archives medical histories and biological samples such as DNA, RNA, plasma, serum, urine, tissues.
- Targeting all monogenic diseases and multifactorial conditions with a genetic component (diabetes, diabetic nephropathy, cardiovascular conditions, stroke, cancer, etc).
- Located at University of Cyprus

Projects in Progress

As a result of ongoing funding there is initial special emphasis on renal diseases:

-Familial microscopic hematuria

-Alport Syndrome

-Thin Basement Membrane Nephropathy

-C3 Glomerulopathies

-Chronic Kidney disease (Inclusion criteria are for persons of any age who have chronic kidney disease, as evidenced by abnormally high protein in urine or reduced kidney function determined by blood tests)

-Diabetic Nephropathy (Inclusion criteria are for persons of any age with Diabetes 1 or 2 and documented nephropathy, excluding other causes)

Researchers and Medical Doctors who are interested in collaborating with the Biobank and are willing to participate and contribute in this project, are encouraged to contact us.

Contact Persons

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