

GS Resources & Access

Three Generation Scotland projects passed important recruitment milestones in July 2008. The Scottish Family Health Study, launched in Feb 2006, has now recruited 6,000 participants. Genetic Health in the 21st Century, launched Nov 2007, has recruited 600 participants. The Donor DNA Databank, launched Jan 2008, has collected 5,000 samples and data from blood donors across Scotland. For details of the samples and data available for each project, please visit the new Resources page on the GS website: www.generationscotland.org/resources.htm.

These growing resources have created a new challenge for the Generation Scotland Scientific Team - to develop an Access Policy for making GS samples and data available to external researchers. The policy will ensure that any external research projects conform to Generation Scotland's scientific and ethical standards. A working version of the Access Policy is available on the GS website at www.generationscotland.org/access and comments on the document are welcomed.

We welcome your comments, suggestions or contributions. You can contact us by e-mail at news@generationscotland.org.

£3.8million funding boost for GS:SFHS

In 2004, the Scottish Executive Health Department awarded a Genetics Healthcare Initiative grant of £4.4m to the Scottish Family Health Study project (GS:SFHS). Now the Study has been boosted by the award of a further £3.8m from the Chief Scientist Office. The grant, one of the largest to be awarded by the CSO, will be used to continue recruitment in Glasgow and Tayside over the next three years. As GS:SFHS gathers pace, it faces a number of new challenges, such as maintaining high levels of recruitment and improving efficiency, for example through the use of electronic data capture methods. Additional funding is being sought in order to expand the Study to Aberdeen and Edinburgh.



5000 Blood Donors Support GS

Generation Scotland's newest collection, the Donor DNA Databank (GS:3D), was launched in January 2008 at Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service donor centres and mobile recruitment sessions throughout Scotland. GS:3D's aim is to build up a large collection of DNA samples from the Scottish population. These 'control' samples from healthy people are extremely valuable to researchers because they can be compared to patient 'case' samples to look for genetic differences that affect disease risk. Participants completed a short questionnaire and gave permission for GS:3D to take a small sample of their donated blood, from which DNA and plasma were prepared. The response to the GS:3D project was excellent with the target of 5,000 samples reached in just 6 months.



GS Scientific Team News

GS Principal Investigator Professor Ian Deary has led a successful bid to the MRC to establish a new Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology. Professor Deary has been instrumental in developing the mental wellbeing component of GS and we aim to strengthen this further in our plans for Phase 2. Principal Investigator Professor David Porteous was awarded this year's Bruce Preller

Prize by the Royal Society of Edinburgh. On the evening of 1st December 2008, Professor Porteous will give a lecture at the Royal Society of Edinburgh, which will include a discussion of the aims and objectives of GS.

