Biobanking in Health Research

It’s all about trust!

1. What are BioBanks?
Biological sample storage or biobanks are repositories that accept, process, store and distribute bio specimens and associated data for use in research and sometimes clinical care. 

(De Souza, 2013)

2. Why is Biobanking important for future researches?
Biobanking has the potential to support scientists, increase scientific efficiency, and improve the quality and value of research, particularly in low-income countries such as Liberia.

3. What are the ethical challenges?
- Cultural and religious beliefs
- Corruption/Commercialization of specimens
- Custodianship, Ownership
- Trust
- Rumors and fears
- Attitudes of researchers
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Commercialization of specimens
- Attitudes of researchers
- Trust

4. Key actions to promote biobanking in Liberia:
- Respect individual participants
- Build and maintain public trust
- Engage communities
- Ensure privacy and confidentiality
- Identify discrimination and marginalisation risks
- Ensure that sharing of data and samples benefit all - participants, communities, researchers.
- Advance good governance

5. Role of EDCTP-funded IGORCADIA* project:
Building capacities and promoting long-term sustainable research and collaborations to generate, share and analyse high-quality data-sets in Liberia settings.

6. Importance of a harmonised biobanking:
- Better control
- Increased quality and cost efficiency
- Enhanced credibility
- Support to underdeveloped countries

Are you ready to get involved?

Find more information online at:
WWW.IGORCADIA.ORG

Ask at your local clinic how you can participate