Biobank
The main goal of CNIO Biobank is to facilitate access to quality human samples and their associated data for research in cancer and related diseases, ensuring that both the acquisition and their use comply with all the legal and ethical principles that protect donors’ rights.

CNIO Biobank is a cross-service platform for CNIO researchers, and in general the wider scientific community, that offers extensive services covering all stages in research project management requiring the use of human samples. CNIO Biobank provides sample handling/processing; collection management; quality, ethical and legal advice; acquisition and design of valuable research collections; and negotiation with different stakeholders to find suitable samples and/or help obtain the ethical approval for any research project (involving human samples).

CNIO Biobank is authorised by the Consejería de Sanidad de la Comunidad Autónoma de Madrid (CAM) and registered in the Registro Nacional de Biobancos del Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ref. nº: B.000848).

CNIO Biobank is highly involved in dissemination activities, participating on a regular basis in radio programmes (RNE), with a remarkable presence in local and national press, and participating in events such as “La noche de los investigadores”, “Día de la mujer y la niña en la ciencia”, “Talent Woman” or “Mujeres que lideran el futuro”.

CNIO Biobank, in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Helsinki University (Finland) and the Danish National Biobank, organised a PhD course, "The Future of Biobanking", and a symposium in November entitled “Innovative Approaches in Large-Scale Research Infrastructures".

2021 became a turning point in CNIO Biobank’s history. The COVID-19 crisis obliged us not only to adapt and transform our protocols, but also to modify the scope of our activity and support research projects aimed at gaining insights about the virus that may unveil diagnostic markers for detection and/or prognosis as well as the evolution of the infection.

Thanks to Fundación Ramón Areces and the coordination with the Brain Metastasis Group at CNIO, we created the Red Nacional de Metastasis Cerebral (RENAKER). The objective of RENACER is to carry out basic and clinical research that helps to advance the development of therapies for these metastases. Thirteen Spanish hospitals joined the network to create a collection of human samples (12 to date) to further investigate brain metastases, and to improve both their diagnosis and treatment. Through this project, CNIO Biobank collects and stores fully characterised quality samples and clinical information to support excellence in research. As an example of these collections, since November, the Biobank is creating a prospective longitudinal cohort from the work collective of the flight attendants in collaboration with their association (Asociación Española de Tripulantes de Cabina de Pasajeros) and thanks to the generous donation of a mobile unit for sample extraction from Quirón Preventión. Samples will be taken every two years from the same individuals and in biobank regime, therefore, accessible to all researchers.

CNIO Biobank acts as national coordinator of the biobanking Hub for the Plataforma de Biobancos y Biomodelos, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, a project aimed at integrating and enhancing the role of biobanks as research platforms. CNIO-Biobank’s Scientific Director, Eva Ortega-Paino, was also appointed as Scientific Coordinator for the National Node in the European Consortium BBMRI-ERIC.

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“Translational research projects should be biobank-centred by using high quality samples and data resulting in better treatments for society that improve health and quality of life.”

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