Partner Organisations

Newcastle University (UNEW), UK
University of Cambridge (UCAM), UK
Institute of Cardiometabolism & Nutrition (ICAN), France
University of Helsinki (UHEL), Finland
Steno Diabetes Center (SDC), Denmark
University of Turin (UNITO), Italy
National Research Council (CNR), Italy
University Medical Centre of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (UMC), Germany
Nordic Bioscience (NB), Denmark
iXscient Ltd (IXS), UK

At a Glance

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EPoS: Elucidating Pathways of Steatohepatitis

The overall objective of EPoS is to develop a global understanding of how host and environmental factors interact at the cellular, organ and organism level to promote the development of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. EPoS will establish what drives the progression to fibrosing steatohepatitis, cirrhosis and end-stage liver disease; and integrate this knowledge to inform cost effective diagnosis, prevention and treatment strategies in Europe.

“Once completed, EPoS promises to deliver a substantial and definitive atlas of pathophysiological variation across the entire spectrum of progressive fatty-liver disease”

Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) is a common, progressive liver disease strongly associated with type 2 diabetes, obesity and dyslipidaemia

NAFLD leads to scarring of the liver and may ultimately progress to cirrhosis and primary liver cancer.

NAFLD is estimated to affect up to 30% of the EU population, people who do not consume excessive alcohol. It is predicted that NAFLD will be the most common disease in those requiring liver transplants worldwide within a decade.

Aims & Objectives:
1. To generate high quality data defining the pathophysiology of NAFLD using a multi-‘omics’ approach: Defining genetic, epigenetic, transcriptomic, metagenomic and metabolomic profiles across a large histologically characterised NAFLD cohort.
2. To develop a multi-dimensional pathophysiological profile across the spectrum of NAFLD using an integrated systems medicine computational platform
3. To validate the findings against clinical outcomes through the longitudinal follow-up of recruited patients to determine diagnostic and prognostic utility as biomarkers.
4. To measure health trends and clinical practice determinants in Europe.
5. To inform future care pathway development so that new diagnostics/biomarkers and treatments may be effectively delivered in the clinic.

To support our translational research, EPoS has established the European NAFLD Registry & Biobank. These form a central resource underpinning biomarker discovery and European collaborative research in NAFLD.