



Alabama Genomic HEALTH INITIATIVE



UAB – Alabama’s leading provider of genomic and precision medicine – has launched the Alabama Genomic Health Initiative (AGHI) in partnership with the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology.

The statewide effort is being funded with a \$2 million award in the first year, with additional funding expected during the five-year project. With the goal of obtaining genetic information from 10,000 Alabamians, the AGHI is one of the most ambitious single-state initiatives of its kind ever undertaken. The program launches in spring 2017 in Birmingham and Huntsville, and recruitment will gradually be expanded to the entire state.

HERE’S HOW IT WILL WORK:



1. ENROLL

Volunteers will be recruited at sites across the state, starting in Birmingham. They will donate a small blood sample.



2. TEST

DNA, extracted from that sample, will be analyzed with genotype arrays for volunteers upon their consent; individuals with indications of genetic disease will receive whole-genome sequencing.



3. COUNSEL

All volunteers will receive a findings report. Healthy volunteers who have actionable mutations (predicted to be 1-3 percent of participants) and those who have had whole-genome sequencing will receive genetic counseling and referrals to appropriate medical care.



4. DISCOVER

Study data will create a statewide genomic database that could give researchers new insight into prevention and treatment of gene related diseases. The AGHI also will help educate health providers statewide about genomic medicine and advance a genomics-ready population and health care workforce in Alabama.

To learn more about the AGHI, register for updates, or inquire about participating, contact us directly or visit our website.

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