

THE JGH BIOPORTAL



IMPACT REPORT | JANUARY 2026



Jewish
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ABOUT THE JGH BIOPORTAL

The BioPortal at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) is a comprehensive hospital-based biobank and data platform aimed at advancing precision medicine through open and ethical research collaboration. It brings together a diverse collection of consenting patients' biological samples, such as blood and tissue, and associated health information. The BioPortal enables researchers and clinicians to analyze large-scale data to gain a deeper understanding of disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Since its inception, the BioPortal has expanded to include over 5,300 participants—primarily patients with diabetes, forming one of Canada's most diverse genomic and clinical datasets—and **this was made possible by donors like you.**

In 2025, the BioPortal made significant efforts to increase participation and accessibility, as it is currently developing a new digital consent platform and a standalone website to help speed up recruitment and provide researchers with curated data.

These improvements to the JGH's BioPortal wouldn't have been possible without **your support.** Thank you for being part of the JGH's journey to making healthcare more efficient and inclusive.



The strength of the BioPortal comes from the patients who participate and the donors who believe in them. Together, they're helping us uncover insights that can change how we understand and treat disease.”

– **Dr. Brent Richards**, Principal Investigator, Lady Davis Institute

EVERY PATIENT COUNTS

Inclusive research starts with representation. As the BioPortal expands, so does its capacity to mirror the diversity of patients at the JGH. Every new patient brings new data and helps strengthen the JGH's ability to uncover new information, making each contribution essential to advancing research that benefits our community and patients worldwide.

In May 2024, the BioPortal had just under 1,500 participants. Today, that number has increased to 5,328, initially focusing on diabetes enrolment. Expanding the program's reach will allow it to better serve a wider variety of patients as it continues to grow. The next phase involves oncology, which is expected to add approximately 1,500 cancer patients.

A TRULY DIVERSE COMMUNITY

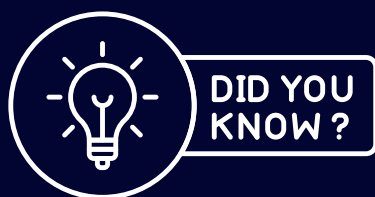
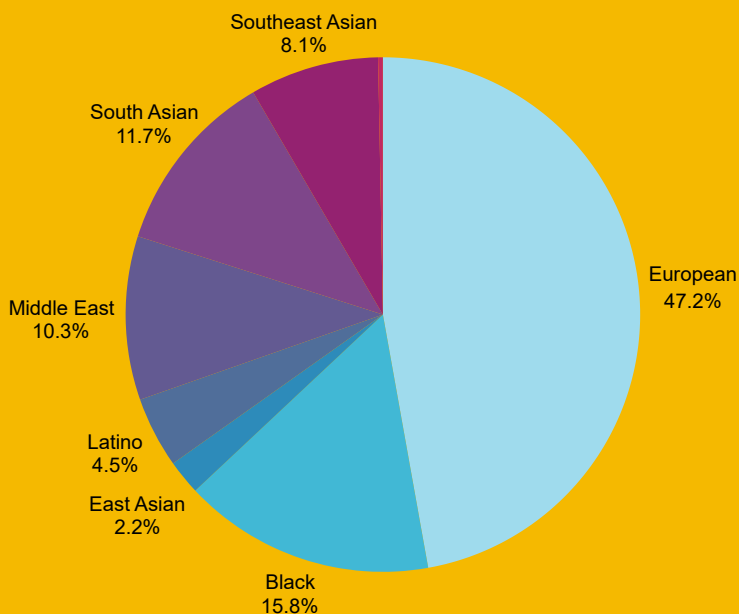
The BioPortal's strength lies beyond its total participants; it's in who those participants are. Patients from nearly every region of the world contribute to this biobank, enabling researchers to study how diseases affect different populations and uncover insights that would not have been as apparent in a more uniform group.

The cohort includes individuals of European, Asian, Black, and Indigenous ancestry, each contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of disease patterns, genetic risk factors, and treatment responses.

Thanks to donor support, the BioPortal can continue to expand its reach and turn its rich diversity into discoveries that improve care for every patient.

WHO'S PARTICIPATING

Patients range from 18 to 95 years old, with an average age of 62 years old¹



The BioPortal has collected samples from participants representing over 180 countries.

BUILDING THE DATA THAT DRIVES DISCOVERY

At the core of the BioPortal's mission is to collect data. Every patient who participates helps build a larger pool of genomic, proteomic, and clinical data that researchers can use to better understand diseases. With support from donors like you, the BioPortal can process and analyze thousands of samples and provide tools that make participation and research simpler and more impactful.

The BioPortal has sent all **5,328 participant samples for genomic analysis**, while **3,000 have been sent for proteomic analysis**¹—with more on the way—providing scientists with detailed insights into proteins that cause disease.

Soon, the JGH's Connected Health Record (CHR) will allow the BioPortal to access more participant information, including current medications and lab results, providing a more complete view of patient data. New tools, such as a searchable research database, will also make it faster and easier for researchers to access these datasets.

Quarterly data releases will begin in early 2026, allowing both academic and industry partners to explore this growing resource. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our donors.

3,096

Proteomic samples
sent in 2025

5,083

Genomics samples
sent for extraction

MORE RECRUITS, LESS HASSLE

As the BioPortal continues to grow, it remains crucial to keep participation straightforward and accessible for those interested. To help more patients get involved and to streamline the process for both participants and researchers, the BioPortal team is developing a digital consent platform.

This new tool enables patients to access all the necessary information to fully understand the BioPortal program, while also reducing the time needed for enrolment. By streamlining participation, the BioPortal can expand more quickly, more efficiently, and with a broader range of datasets to study.

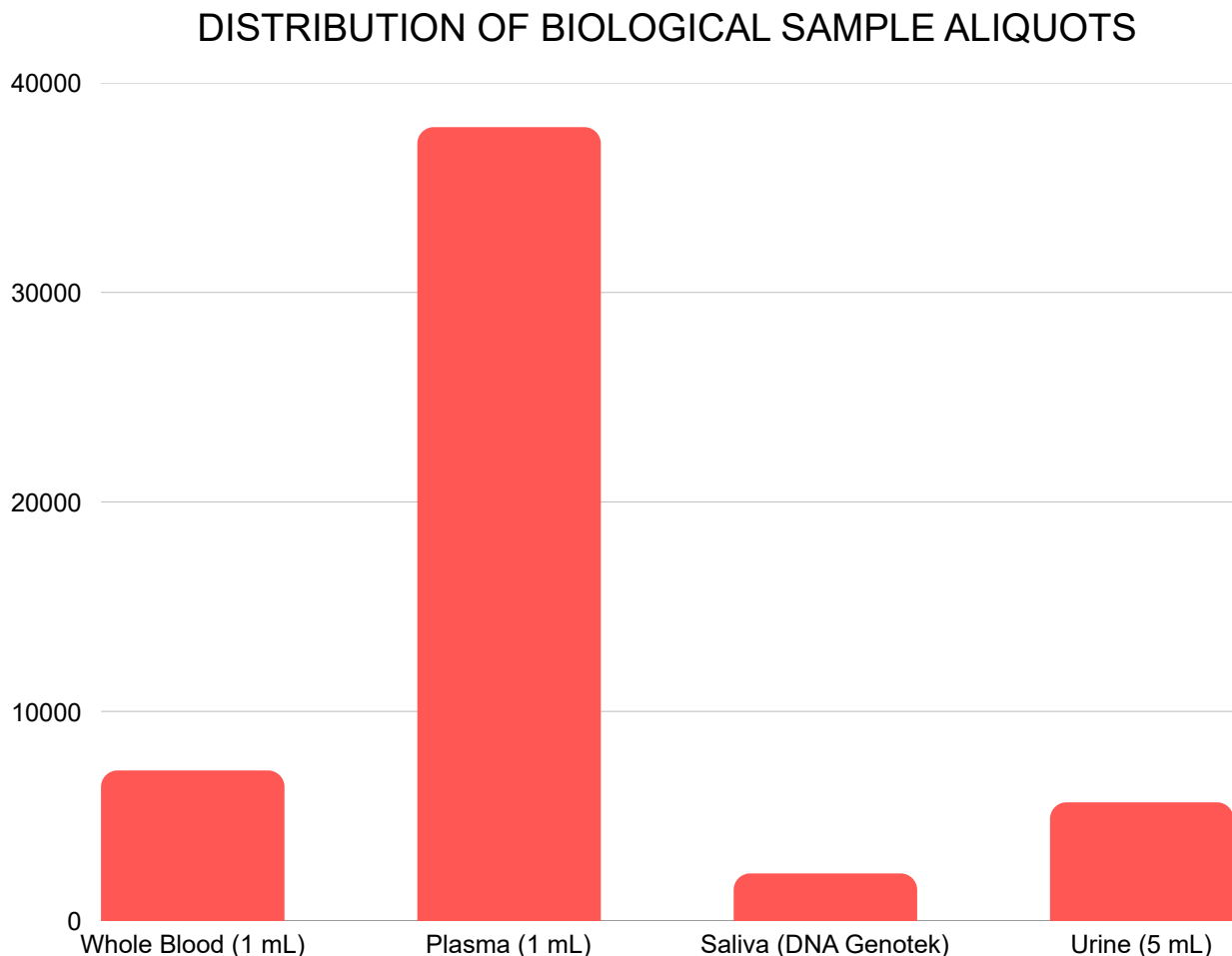
A TROVE OF SAMPLES

Every patient's contribution to the BioPortal is processed into high-quality, standardized research tools. Storing one sample isn't enough; the team creates dozens of individual aliquots—small, standardized portions—from each donation. This approach maximizes the number of studies that can be performed from a single patient's sample, ensuring the BioPortal is a sustainable resource for global research.

Your support builds this irreplaceable inventory, which currently totals nearly 53,000 individual samples ready for analysis.

THE IMPACT OF VOLUME¹


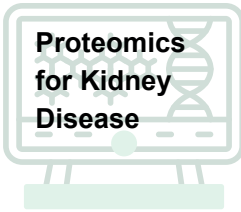

The sheer volume of our physical inventory is what attracts leading researchers and industry partners. With over 37,890 plasma aliquots alone, the BioPortal team has the depth and quality to launch multiple large-scale studies in parallel.



¹Internal Data, Nov. 2025

FROM THE LAB TO THE PATIENTS

The BioPortal's impact starts in the lab but is only fully realized when the compiled data becomes tangible insights that directly support patient care at the JGH.

Projects	Details	In Numbers
 <p>Smarter Diabetic Eye Care</p>	<p>Through AI-based retinal imaging, the BioPortal can identify patients at risk of diabetic retinopathy—a leading cause of vision loss. If the results show that patients have no signs of disease, they can safely postpone their visits to ophthalmologists, reduce the number of hospital visits, and consequently lower their stress.</p>	<p>2,606 # of patients screened with AI-assisted retinal imaging</p>
 <p>Proteomics for Kidney Disease</p>	<p>The BioPortal has partnered with Roche to expand its proteomic study of diabetic kidney disease to 4,500 patient samples. By mapping thousands of proteins associated with disease progression, researchers aim to identify new biomarkers and potential treatment targets.</p>	<p>2028 Projected completion timeline of the Roche-supported study</p>
 <p>Studies with Quick Results</p>	<p>Genomic data is aiding clinicians in identifying the genetic causes of complex diabetes subtypes, including MODY (Mature Onset Diabetes of the Young). Through targeted research, the BioPortal can achieve faster results that may lead to new pathways or drug targets.</p>	



When patients contribute to the BioPortal, their data becomes the foundation for discoveries that directly improve how we diagnose and treat disease. That's impact you can see in real time.

- David Morrison, Manager, BioPortal

LOOKING AHEAD

The BioPortal continues to expand and is preparing for the next stage. The launch of a new digital consent platform will make participation simpler than ever. Recruitment will also expand into oncology, adding 1,500 cancer patients and allowing researchers to gain a deeper understanding of the links between genetics, treatment, and outcomes.

Meanwhile, efforts continue to integrate the BioPortal with the CHR to provide researchers with a more comprehensive view of each participant's journey at the JGH. In 2026, the Bioportal will start releasing data quarterly, marking a key step toward open, collaborative science.

Donor support has been instrumental in helping the BioPortal progress into one of the world's most diverse biobanks, one that can truly reflect the people it serves, uncover the roots of disease, and pave the way for more equitable healthcare everywhere.



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