Coriell's 1st personalized health reports due out

The Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative, a research study designed to determine the benefit of using personal genome information in clinical decision-making, expects to begin providing study participants with personalized health assessments by the second quarter.

More than 3,360 people have volunteered to take part in the study, which requires participants to provide a saliva sample and complete questionnaires detailing personal and family medical history and lifestyle.

The DNA and survey results will be used to provide each participant with personalized disease risk assessments.

"Personalized medicine and initiatives like the CPMC are paving the way for a new era in health care that will eventually replace the current one-size-fits-all approach with highly personalized and more effective preventive measures, diagnoses and treatments," said Michael Christman, president and CEO of the Camden-based Coriell Institute.

This month, the collaborative launched a Web portal that provides details about the study, access to the questionnaire, and information that explains basic genetics and the role of genomics in medicine.

Participants can learn about conditions OK'd by the study's external Informed Cohort Oversight Board, which determines which genetic risk factors are potentially medically actionable — meaning a person has the potential to mitigate risk through medication or lifestyle changes.

The board's growing list of approved conditions includes: diabetes, melanoma, prostate cancer, and obesity.

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