

# KHP Cardiovascular Biobank Newsletter

Issue 1, March 2025

The Cardiovascular Biobank is generously supported by the Centre for Translational Medicine with the aim of building a comprehensive collection of human samples and associated clinical data from patients treated for cardiovascular conditions across King's Health Partners (KHP) clinical sites.

In the inaugural edition of the newsletter we will introduce the team and offer an overview of the biobank, including where to access additional information. We are grateful for the ongoing support from partners across KHP in helping to develop this valuable resource.

## Welcome words

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the KHP Cardiovascular Biobanking Initiative. It has been a privilege to work with the immediate biobanking team and colleagues across KHP towards delivering this impactful initiative. Our mission is to leverage the clinical activity across our sites to facilitate groundbreaking translational research and foster collaborations within our institution. This collaborative effort brings together a dedicated team of clinical research nurses, a data manager, and esteemed clinical and non-clinical academics, including colleagues from cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, and vascular surgery. Together, we are committed to driving innovation and improving patient outcomes through a shared vision.

*Bijan Modarai*

*Professor of Vascular Surgery*

*Head of South Bank Section, SCMMS*



## Meet the team



**Dr. Maria Laura Bertolaccini** is the **Biobank Manager** and Senior Postdoctoral Research Associate at King's College London (KCL). With a robust academic background, she completed her PhD at KCL, following her medical degree from the National University of Rosario. Her clinical interests encompass critical areas such as autoimmunity, inflammation, and antibodies. She is proficient in advanced techniques including flow cytometry and cell culture, and her research delves into innate immunity, cellular immunology, cell signalling, and overall immunity.

**Arya Mohan** is a **Data Manager** with a strong foundation in data engineering, machine learning, database administration and predictive model building. She brings a unique blend of technical expertise and analytical insight to her role in the biobank. Arya's career spans software development and the creation of advanced predictive systems, equipping her with the skills to manage complex data pipelines and derive actionable insights from health data. At the nexus of technology and healthcare innovation, she is passionate about using data to further cardiovascular research.



**Caitlin Carr** is a **Clinical Research Nurse** with a background in vascular research and team leadership. She has extensive experience in research delivery spanning the entire research process—from the initiation of new studies to the recruitment and retention of participants to study closure. Her clinical journey prior to focusing on research includes roles across various specialities, most notably cardiology and cardiovascular high-dependency.

**Korede Odusile** is a **Clinical Research Nurse** working alongside the team to recruit patients and coordinate research activities for the biobank. She has a wealth of experience spanning across various specialities including Cardiovascular Research, Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Critical Care. Her focus for the last 3 years has been coordinating interventional, imaging and arrhythmia research studies. In 2023, Korede was awarded the Thames Valley Health Research Award for Research Rising Star.



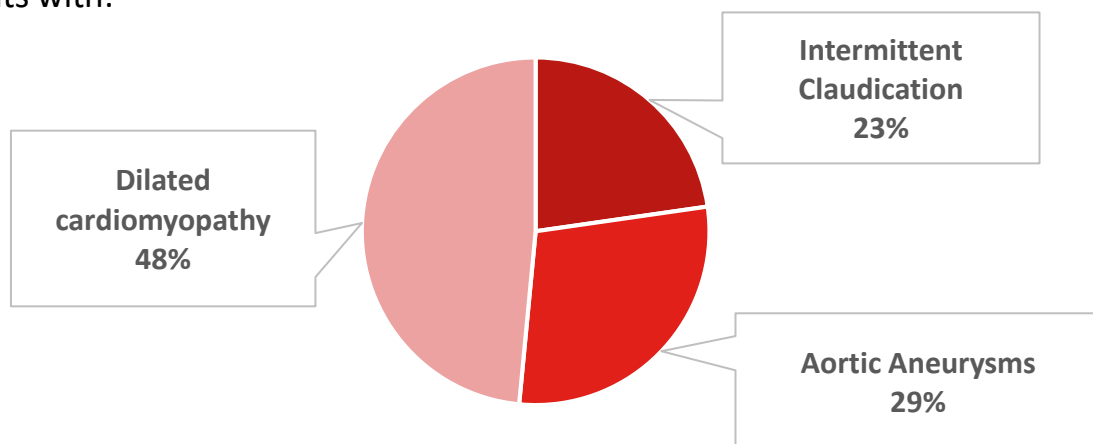
## Building a clinical sample and data repository



We have secured ethical approval to collect a range of biological samples, including blood, urine, DNA and tissue samples, as well as associated clinical data from patients receiving care at KHP clinical sites.

The samples are processed and stored in our HTA licensed facilities at the Southbank and Denmark Hill campuses, while the clinical data is securely stored in a REDCap based database.

We are currently accruing samples from patients and healthy volunteers, including patients with:



Depending on capacity and based upon prior approval by our committee, we may also accommodate requests for specific research projects. Here are two examples of studies we have previously supported through the biobank:

**Title:** Evaluation of tube type and stability for insulin and c-peptide analysis

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Sara L White

**Samples:** Venous blood in paediatric tubes

**Title:** Investigating the effect of novel RNA- and protein-based medicines for cardiac repair and regeneration in human living myocardial slices

**Principal Investigator:** Prof. Mauro Giacca

**Samples:** Myectomy and ventricular free wall samples



## Contact us

For more information or to discuss how to get involved, please contact the team at:



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[www.kcl.ac.uk/research/facilities/cardiovascular-biobank](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/facilities/cardiovascular-biobank)

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