**Application for samples and data – A guide for researchers**

Blood samples and register data should be used for the best possible research. Therefore, the quality of a planned study is assessed by our Expert groups, and the Expert Group can also suggest improvements, for example by proposing collaborations and changes in design.

**An assessment of the application is made in one of EBF's Expert Groups who wants information about:**

- Number of individuals and definition of these.

- Sample type and volume (e.g. ‘heparin plasma that may have been previously thawed’) and specification of the analyses.

- Type of data and justification of the request. Specify the registers covered by the application. You can specify whether you are interested in obtaining permission to re-use analysis data from previous studies.

- Local partner, unless you are a researcher in Umeå. The Biobank Research Unit can help finding a local partner.

- In which country analyses will be performed on register data and/or biological samples.

**Here are some questions that are sometimes discussed as an application is assessed. Consider which questions that are relevant to your application.**

Scientific question: Sufficiently motivated study?

- Will the results be interesting and publishable in case of both positive and negative findings?

Study design

- Will the study be improved by analyzing repeated samples?

- What are the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the research subjects? Is there a risk of bias?

- Gender: How is the state of knowledge? How is gender addressed in the study?

- Statistical power: The study should not include either too few or too many samples. This also applies to subgroups.

- Are the desired variables available for enough research subjects?

Sample analysis

- Do biomarkers work? What is known about temporal variation for the intended factor? Do you have special requirements regarding e.g. fasting status, sampling, storage, thawing or homogenization?

Ethical issues

- Is the application in line with the application for ethical vetting and the consent of the research subjects?

- Risk assessment: Is the integrity ensured for the research subjects, e.g. in the case of rare diseases? Is there a risk of a situation where research subjects should be contacted? What, in that case, could be the consequences for the research subjects in relation to e.g. insurances and high-risk genes? Is there a risk of causing anxiety or other damage?

- Benefit assessment: What is the benefit of the research for the research subjects and the general population?

Feasibility

- Is funding available?

- What is the timetable?

- What is the research group's previous experience with the method?

Collaborations, overlapping and other important

- Are there existing similar projects?

- Are there researchers or registers that could enrich the study through collaboration?

- Is there further potential for the future? This may apply, for example, when a new case-control material is built up, or when analyses enables further research later.