



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref. : FHB/H/53/10 Pt.3
Your Ref. :

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29 July 2019

Ms Maisie LAM
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central

Dear Ms LAM,

**Government's response to the follow-up issues raised at
the Panel on Health Services meeting on 21 January 2019
Hong Kong Genome Project**

At the meeting of the Panel on Health Services on 21 January 2019, the Government was requested to provide more information about the genome project(s) being carried out in the Mainland. We have identified a few projects, the details of which are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

100 000 Chinese people genome project

The 100 000 Chinese people genome project is a precision medicine research project under the national key research and development plan. The project is led by the Harbin Institute of Technology and was launched in December 2017. It involves sequencing of 100 000 healthy subjects from different ethnic backgrounds and regions across China (the Han and nine selected minorities including the Zhuang and the Hui) and collection of their phenotype and environmental exposure data in four years. The goal is to establish a reference database of genomic variation and health map for Chinese population to facilitate development of personalised medicine.

Chinese Millionome Database

The Chinese Millionome Database is hosted in China National GeneBank. The project aims to deliver periodical and useful variation information and scientific insights derived from the analysis of Chinese sequencing data so as to promote genetic research and precision medicine in China.

China neonatal genomes project

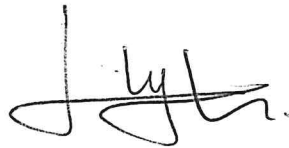
The China neonatal genomes project was initiated in 2016 to aid the early identification and treatment of hereditary diseases. The project is led by the Children's Hospital of Fudan University and targets at carrying out genetic testing on 100 000 newborn babies in five years. The project will construct a Chinese neonatal genome database, establish a genetic testing standard for hereditary diseases, and improve the training system for genetic counselling.

Jiangsu's one million residents genome project

The Jiangsu Province announced in 2017 that it would sequence the genomes of one million individuals to build a genetic database of Chinese residents. The project will focus on population genetics, including identifying genes linked to cancer, rare diseases, chronic diseases and brain development in children, as well as the effects of environment on genetics.

The Government will keep in view the latest international development in formulating the framework of the Hong Kong Genome Project. Should you have further queries, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lily Lee', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Miss Lily LEE)
for Secretary for Food and Health