

MAPPING THE MYELOMA GENOME

Since the mapping of the human genome in 2001, the pace of discovery, development, and clinical adoption of personalized medicine has accelerated dramatically. Genomics and personalized medicine have transformed the treatment of breast cancer, lung cancer, and other diseases. The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) is laying critical groundwork through its Personalized Medicine Initiative to ensure that multiple myeloma keeps pace.

The multimillion-dollar Multiple Myeloma Genomics Initiative (MMGI) was launched in 2005 to accelerate the development of tailored therapies to extend and improve patients' lives. The MMGI stands as the most extensive research collaboration ever focused on the genomics of multiple myeloma, and includes a comprehensive survey of genomic data created in collaboration with the Broad Institute, the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), and the Multiple Myeloma Research Consortium.

In less than five years, the MMGI has created an invaluable centralized repository of high-quality myeloma genomic information amassed from more than 250 patient samples from the Multiple Myeloma Research Consortium (MMRC) Tissue Bank and utilized by a research community of nearly 600 registered members. Open access, high resolution data from these and other myeloma genomics datasets is made available in real-time through the Initiative's Genomics Portal, together with cutting-edge bioinformatics tools to help analyze and interpret data.

The MMRF's focus through the Personalized Medicine Initiative is on rapidly translating these findings into new potential treatments. We are conducting studies targeting key proteins that might be driving the disease, and engaging with industry partners who have promising molecules that may effectively inhibit these proteins. Our ultimate goal is to provide patients with access to an array of potential therapies, so that a patient might have access to the right treatment for his or her disease.

