

What is Genomic Medicine?

Genomic medicine is a way of using information from a person's unique DNA to understand their health, guide treatments, and help prevent future illnesses.



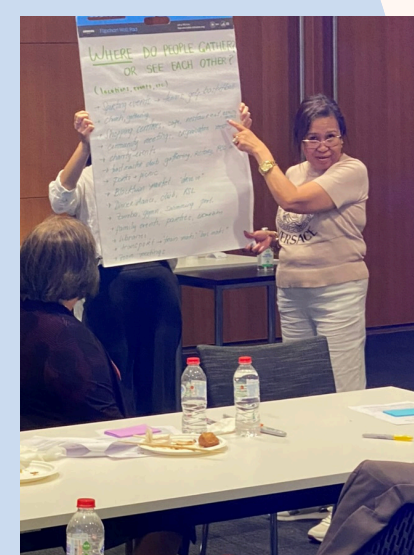
Co-design workshop participants, March 2023

Partnering with Multicultural Communities to Increase Representation in Genetic Research:

A Case Study of the OurDNA Pilot with the Sydney Filipino Community

Rafal Shouly (presenter), Samantha Croy, Grace Liston, Maureen Santiago, Maia Ambegaokar, Cesar Bartolome, Stuart Cantisilieris, Bindu Swapna Madala, Caitlin Morrison, Shenei Penaia, Luke Seesink, Marijana Vanevski, Christopher Richards, Daniel MacArthur

OurDNA will be working initially with: Filipino, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Sudanese, Fijian, Samoan, and Tongan communities. If you are interested in partnering with us, **we would love to hear from you!**



Grace Liston facilitating discussion at a co-design workshop, March 2023



Sam and Grace at PCC's Pasko Festival, November 2023



One-Stop-Shop stall at the Filipino Fiesta in Randwick, September 2024



One-Stop-Shop stall at the Filipino Fiesta Kultura in Fairfield, October 2024

Inequity in genomic healthcare

Many Australians of East African, Middle-Eastern and North African, Oceanian, and Southeast Asian ancestry **are not represented** in databases used for genomic medicine.

If not addressed, **these communities will miss out** on better disease prediction, diagnosis and treatment offered by genomic medicine.



Explaining the benefits of genomic medicine at a co-design workshop, March 2023

Partnering with communities to build a more representative database

OurDNA is partnering with multicultural communities to build representative genomic resources, ensuring diverse Australian communities can benefit equitably from genomic medicine.

Using a **community-based participatory approach**, OurDNA is:

- engaging underrepresented multicultural communities and **co-designing** culturally respectful recruitment pathways and communications
- collecting blood samples from thousands of individuals and responsibly sharing genetic data

The OurDNA 'one-stop shop': a community-led participant pathway

- In 2023, we launched the OurDNA pilot in partnership with the Philippine Community Council of NSW (PCC-NSW). The pilot aimed to recruit 100 participants from Western Sydney.
- PCC-NSW strongly supported OurDNA, recognising the program's importance for future generations of Filipino Australians. We worked with Cesar Bartolome (immediate past president PCC-NSW), and the OurDNA lead collaborators Grace Liston and Maureen Santiago.
- The OurDNA pilot focused on a blood collection pathway that would meet the program's scientific requirements. **But this did not fit with community needs!**
- Lead collaborator Grace raised the idea of a '**one-stop shop**' where the OurDNA team would go to community events, so community members could learn about the program, get help with consenting, and donate a blood sample all in one go.
- In early 2024, PCC-NSW mobilised a Genomics Committee to organise the first OurDNA one-stop shop with Filipino food, karaoke, and line dancing.
- The event was a great success, recruiting more participants in one afternoon than in three months of the pilot!
- The One Stop Shop is now a crucial recruitment pathway for OurDNA with more events planned.

Conclusion

Recruiting the **first 100 OurDNA participants** would have been impossible without PCC-NSW's expertise, enthusiasm, support and leadership.

The pilot's success demonstrates the immense value of **partnerships between multicultural communities and researchers** working together towards more equitable healthcare for all Australians



One-Stop-Shop event with Adhika and Kababaihang Rizalista Inc (KRI), July 2024



Promotional videos co design workshop participants, 3 May 2024