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## **Coriell Collaborating With Ohio State on Personal Genome Project**

by **John George**  
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Coriell Institute for Medical Research, the Camden nonprofit collecting thousands of saliva samples as part of an ambitious genome-related health-care project, has extended the reach of its personalized medicine collaborative into Ohio.

Yesterday, Coriell finalized a partnership with Ohio State University Medical Center, which will join the collaborative.

Coriell's personalized medicine collaborative, started in December 2007, involves using saliva samples to develop personal genome information for each study participant. The genome analysis along with the participant's answers from a health questionnaire are used to develop personal risk assessments.

The assessments cover only "potentially actionable" health conditions — meaning conditions where medication and lifestyles changes can have an impact. Conditions include age-related macular degeneration, colon cancer, coronary artery disease, inflammatory bowel disease, lupus, melanoma, obesity, prostate cancer, rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes.

Michael F. Christman, president and CEO of Coriell, said patients at Ohio State University medical center in Columbus, can now be enrolled into the collaborative through their primary-care physicians.

"Physicians and patients will have the opportunity to learn about personalized disease risk information drawn from the patient's genome and how this may enrich routine physician-patient interactions," Christman said. "The ultimate goal is to give physicians the tools to be able to deliver care that is tailored to meet the needs of each individual."

Coriell researchers also plan to search for unknown gene variants that affect a person's susceptibility to disease and response to prescription medications.

"Through this collaboration, we will provide the unique opportunity for our community to participate in this ground-breaking national study and move toward wellness-based care that is predictive, preventive, personalized and participatory," said Dr. Clay Marsh, director of Ohio State's Center for Personalized Health Care.

Coriell hopes to enroll 100,000 participants in the long-term study. To date, it has collected saliva samples from more than 4,300 study volunteers.