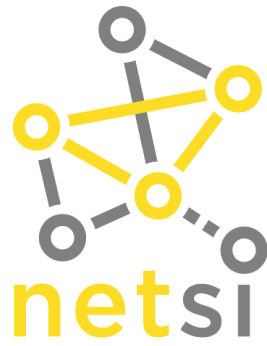




**VA** | U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



**Northeastern University**  
*Network Science Institute*

# Quantifying Biobank Impact

Rodrigo Dorantes-Gilardi, John Gaziano and Albert-László Barabási

Email: [r.dorantesgilardi \[at\] northeastern \[dot\] edu](mailto:r.dorantesgilardi@northeastern.edu)

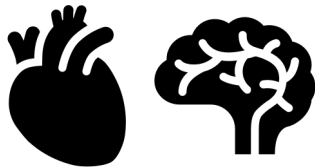
Twitter: [@ruydg](https://twitter.com/ruydg)

# Biobanks are biorepositories



For a given population

1) SAMPLES



Bio samples



Genomic sequence



Medical history and lifestyle records

2) DATA

To study health and disease



3) Research

# Biobanks essential for biomedical research

- Important diseases studied
- Diverse populations sampled
- General public or specific phenotype

A biobank helped uncover the risk factors of cardiovascular diseases

TIME

## 10 Ideas Changing the World Right Now

*The global economy is being remade before our eyes. Here's what's on the horizon*

Like 0

Tweet

Share

WHAT'S NEXT 2009

### Biobanks

By Alice Park | Thursday, Mar. 12, 2009



## Framingham Heart Study

Est. in Massachusetts in 1948

Other examples include



Parkinson's  
Progression  
Markers  
Initiative



Enabling scientific discoveries that improve human health

THE CANCER GENOME ATLAS



MILLION  
VETERAN  
PROGRAM

# Biobank numbers are hard to quantify

No central biobank database exists

**Numbers** and **Impact** hard to track

Sometimes biobank recognition goes lacking

Cambon-Thomsen et al. Proposed a biobank impact factor

## How Many Health Research Biobanks Are There?

Sheila O'Donoghue , Simon Dee , Jennifer A. Byrne , and Peter Hamilton Watson  

Published Online: 28 Sep 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1089/bio.2021.0063>

## The role of a bioresource research impact factor as an incentive to share human bioresources

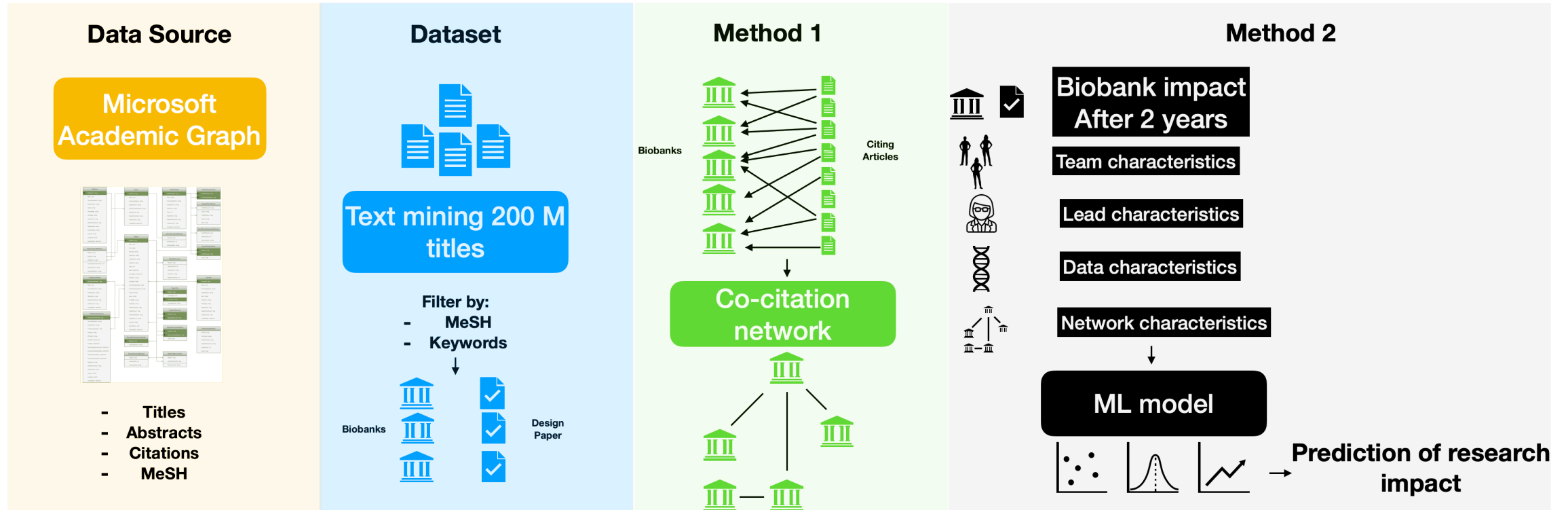
[the BRIF workshop group](#)

[Nature Genetics](#) **43**, 503–504 (2011) | [Cite this article](#)

# Some unanswered questions to tackle

- **Numbers:** How many biobanks are there of each type?
- **Incentives:** How are researchers giving recognition to biobanks?
- **Success:** What are the characteristics of high-impact biobanks?

# Methodology



Analyze bibliographic data

Classify biobanks

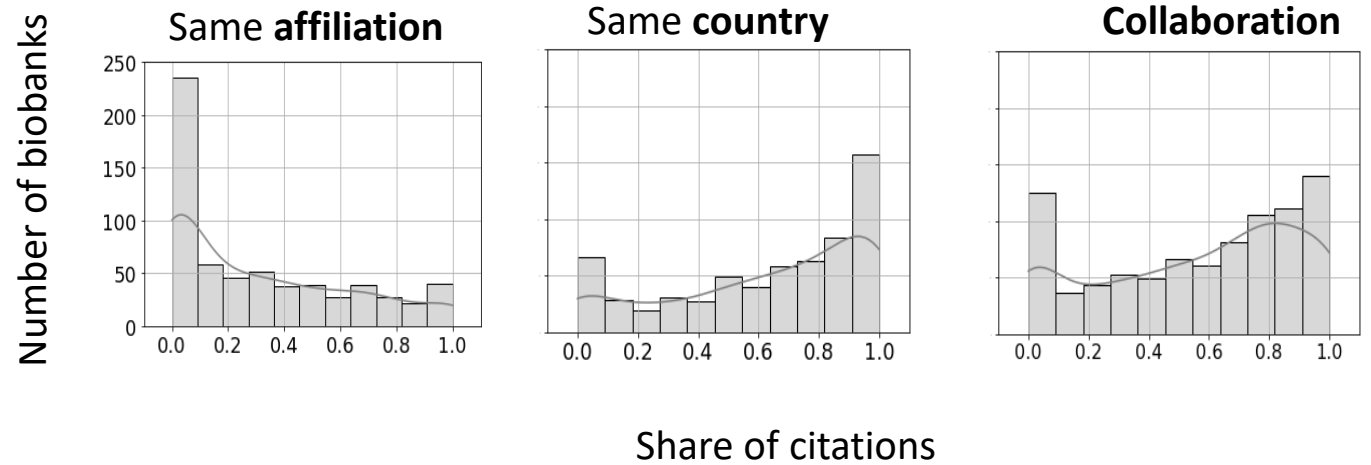
Obtain important characteristics

# The impact of biobanks is local

56K+ Citations to 1k biobanks.

On average:

- 31% same affiliation
- 63% national
- 56% collaborations





# Citations are not a vehicle to biobank recognition

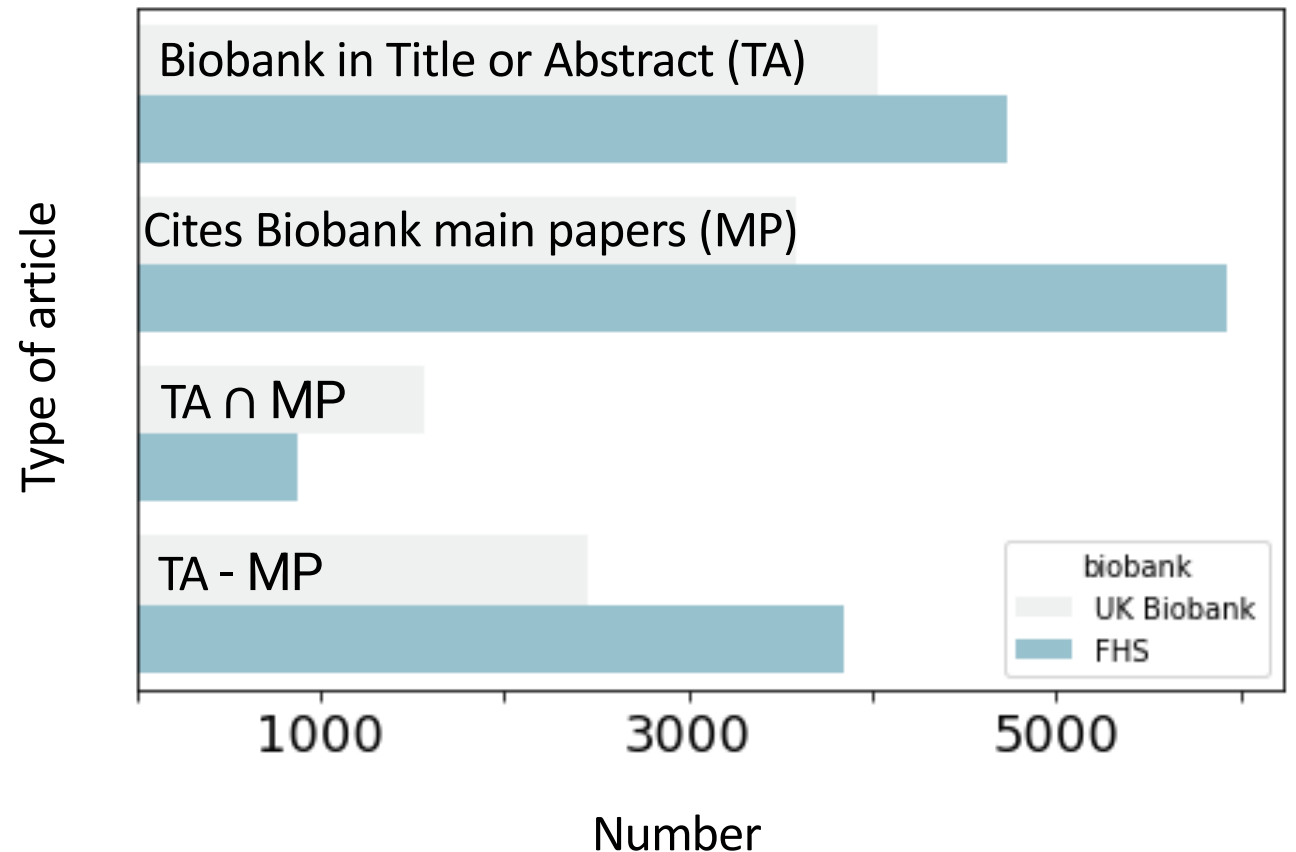
## Observation:

Less than **40% of articles** with the biobank in the title or abstract cite the biobank

## Potential consequence:

- Co-authorship as a possible incentive to produce biobanks.

Example: Framingham Heart Study (FHS) and UK Biobank



# Biobank co-citation network

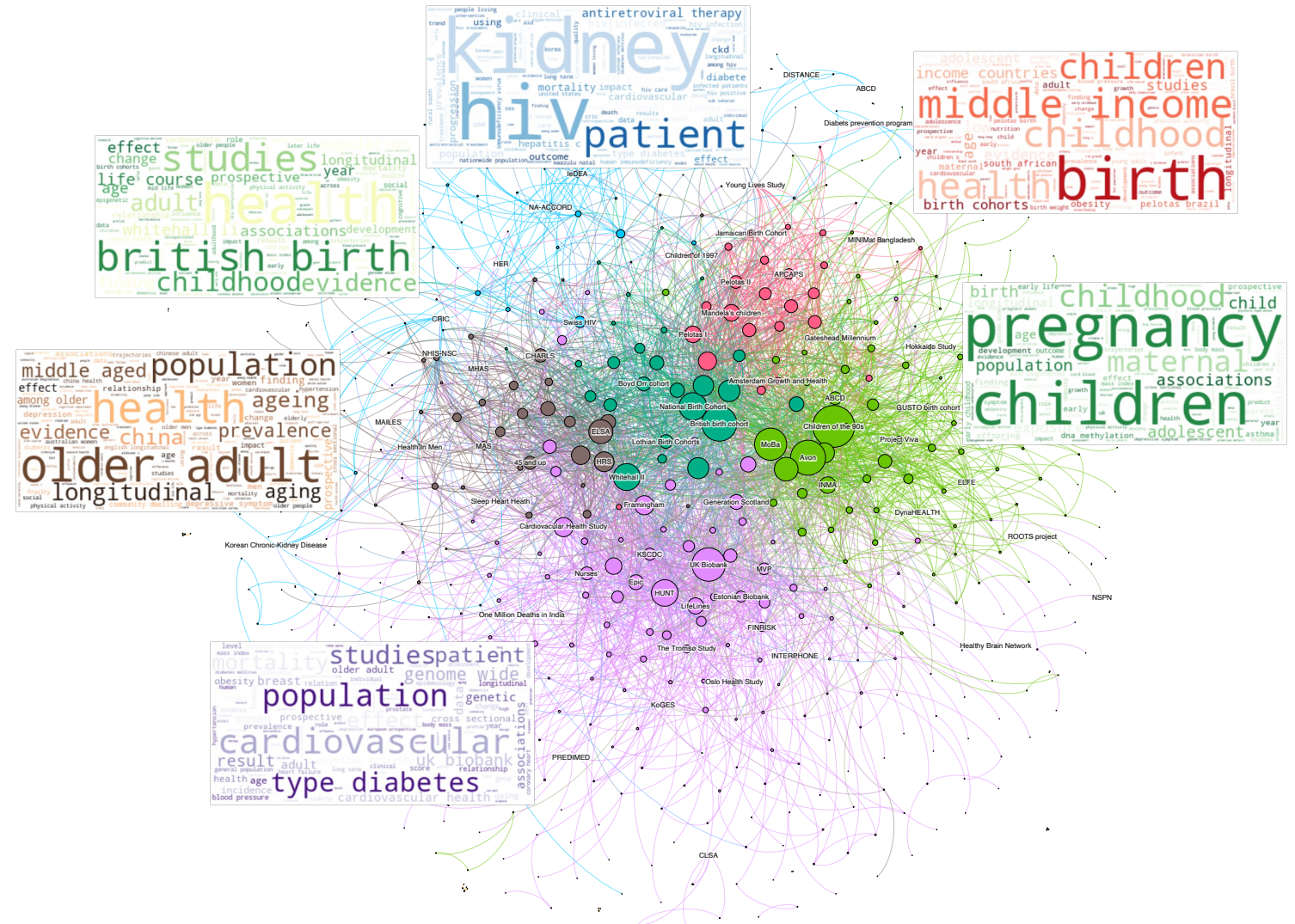
Sample of **1,209** biobanks with their official design article.

Biobank co-citation network

- Nodes: **Biobanks**
- Edges: **Co-citations**

Communities based on titles from citing papers (LDA).

- Health based
- Population based
- Aging
- British biobanks
- Developing countries
- Birth/childhood

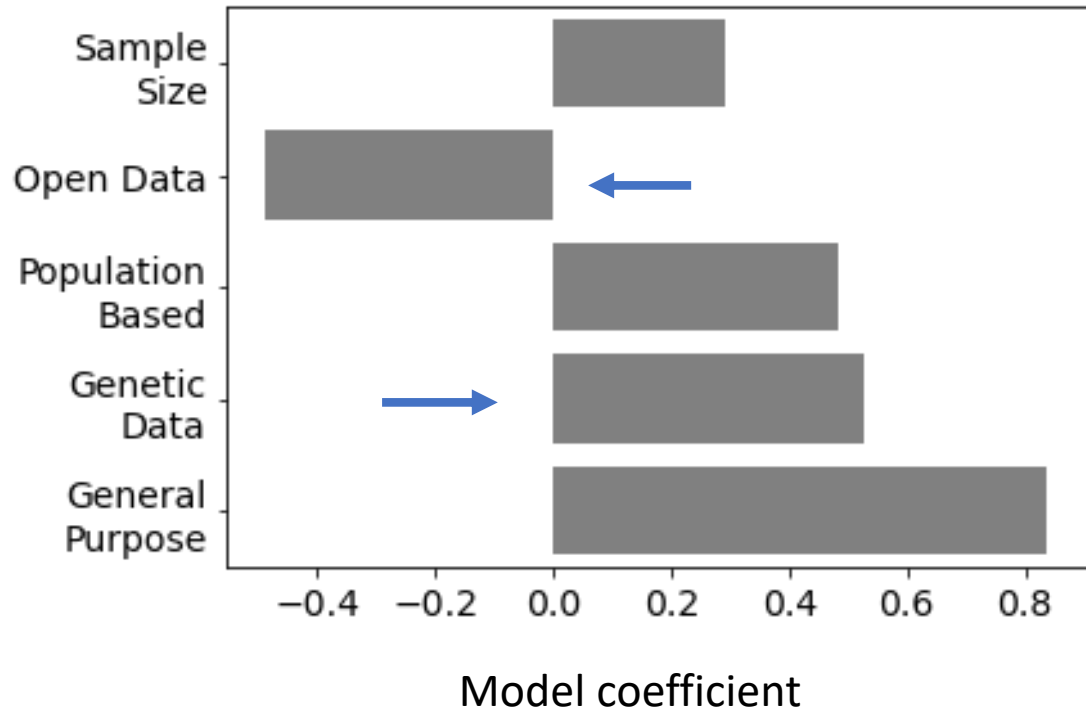




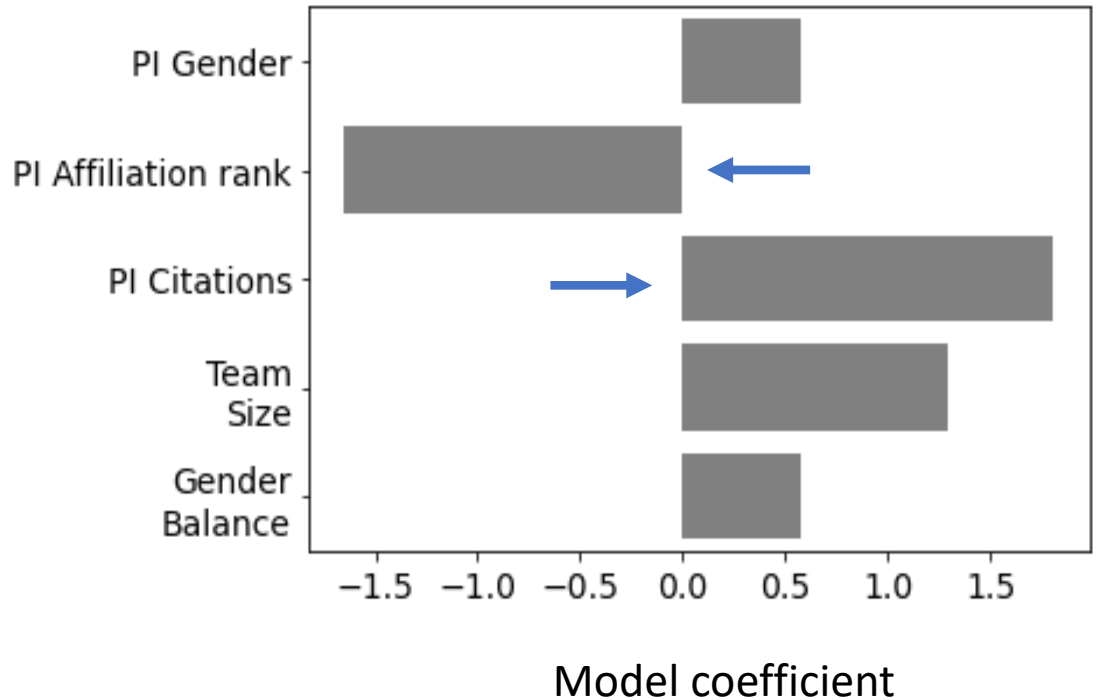
# Characteristics of high impact biobanks

$$\log \frac{P(a_i = 1)}{1 - P(a_i = 1)} \propto \beta_1 \times n_i + \beta_2 \times d_i + \beta_3 \times k_i + \beta_4 \times g_i + \beta_5 \times p_i.$$

Data characteristics

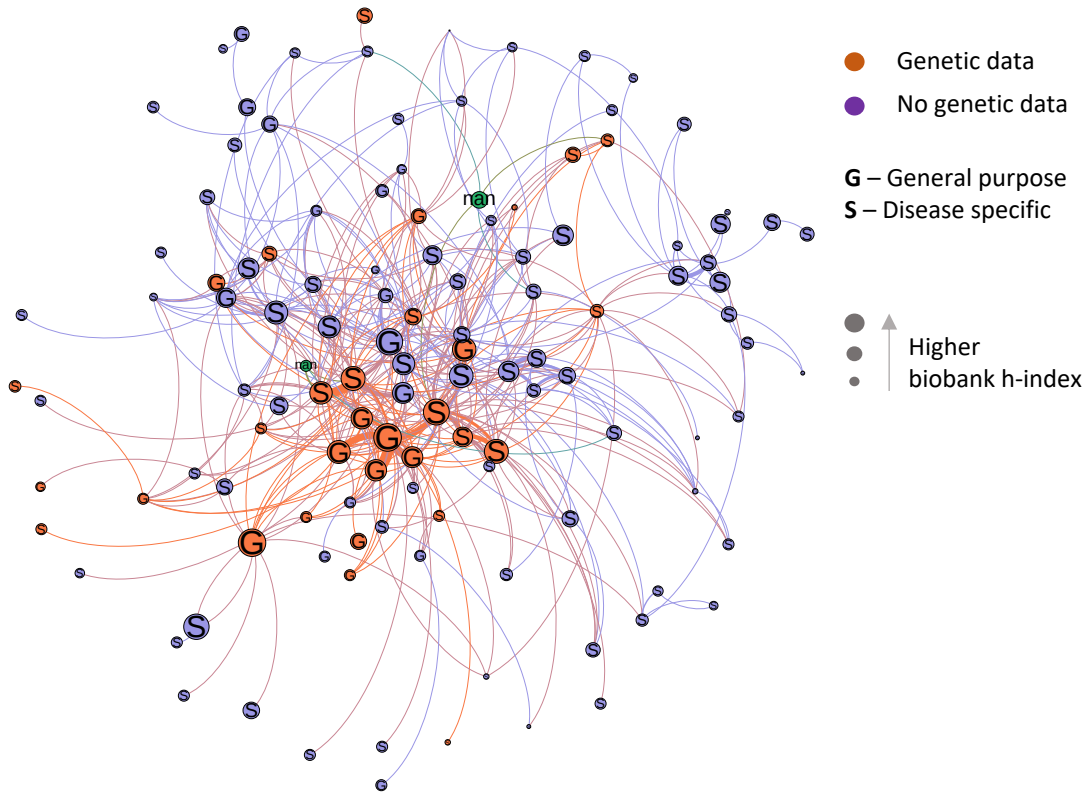


Team characteristics

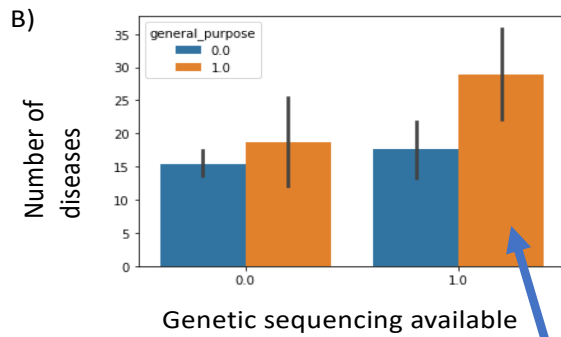




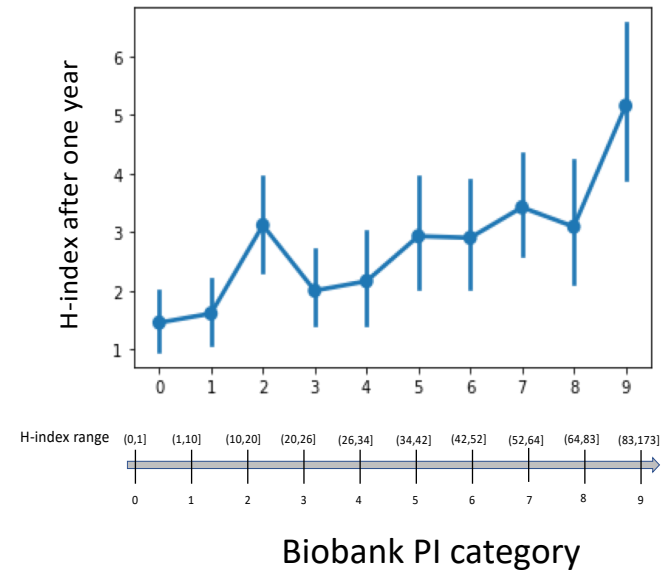
# Why?



1. General purpose with genetic data are central nodes in co-citation network



2. They help study more diseases



3. Popular PIs push the biobank impact immediately

# Conclusions

- 1) Incentive of Biobank creation is based on collaborations and not citations
- 2) Six biobank communities with different characteristics/diseases studied
- 3) Genetic data and electronic health records is important for biobank success
- 4) Popular leaders are important for biobank success

# Thanks to the team



Albert-Laszlo Barabási



Kerry Ivey



Rachael Matty



Lauren Costa



Kelly Cho



John Gaziano