MAYO CLINIC

A million samples, 52,000 people, and a new view of disease

VIDEO	AUDIO
Janet Olson, Ph.D. **Epidemiology** **Mayo Clinic**	“I'm Dr. Janet Olson. I'm an epidemiologist. I'm a consultant here at Mayo Clinic, and I’m an associate professor of epidemiology.”
	“We have built this large-scale biobank of 52,000 people with genetic data, information from medical records. It's been used for over 500 studies to date and counting.”
	“That was beyond the scope of what we even imagined at the time. At that point in time, we were doing small studies of one or two genes, a few variants here and there, and then over time, it just kept growing and growing. The technology has gotten cheaper and better and higher quality.”
	“Even in 10 years, 20 years, we're going to have different technologies that we can't even dream of now.”
	“I really do think Mayo Clinic Biobank is a gold mine. It took years of us to invest a lot of money to recruit the patients, to get the samples, to extract the DNA, to store the samples in the freezers, and then make them available to researchers.”
	“One of our strengths is our medical record and how deep our medical records are. We can learn from that deep medical record and tie it back to the genetic information that we have, and learn things about the disease that will help push the research forward.”

	“What's been interesting now, because we have the genetic information, most research projects don't even need those specimens, they just go to the data directly, and then it's a renewable resource, which is awesome.”
	“Because in the past, one of the questions I always had to ask was, how much are they asking for? Do I have enough for this project? Will I use it all up if I give this person this specimen?”
	“I'm so excited about what's coming down the road as we have more and more research and more and more ability to make an impact in people's lives.”