The results

By combining datasets researchers have already made important discoveries about asthma – including busting a myth about the relationship between the progression of eczema and asthma, raising strong evidence that the symptoms of eczema, wheeze and rhinitis exist independently of each other, rather than as a linked progression of symptoms as common understanding has it.

Ongoing advancements will enable researchers to understand the different underlying causes of asthma, leading to the development of more targeted, effective drugs and other treatments and, potentially, prevention of the disease.

The impact

The eLab has the potential to unlock important evidence in a wide range of diseases, impacting both people’s health outcomes and reducing burden of disease on the health system. The application to asthma alone means we may yet understand the root cause of this complicated disease which currently affects 5.4 million people and costs the NHS £1 billion per year in treatment (source: Asthma UK).

Through The Farr Institute, the e-Lab is now extending and amplifying its impact through projects with the US. Further expansion into biological sciences (MRC Molecular Pathology & Clinical Proteomics Centres) will bring together genetic, biomarker and clinical data to maximise research impact.

The digital infrastructure that supports e-Lab has been developed using advanced cutting edge computer science methods; we are only at the beginning of the scientific impact that can be achieved with the e-Lab.

Find out more: www.herc.ac.uk/research_project/elab/

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