

Smaller, Cheaper, Faster: Where Next for Liquid Biopsies

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Liquid biopsies have come a long way from early proofs of concept and exploratory analysis, and are increasingly becoming a standard tool for clinical trials and routine care. The talk will provide a perspective on the trajectory of development of genomic analysis methods for circulating DNA and their clinical applications. I will describe two large sample collections established to study cell-free DNA and other blood biomarkers in the months and years before diagnosis, to support pre-symptomatic detection of cancer in populations at high-risk. The last part will present a novel approach to more accessible and frequent liquid biopsy testing using simplified finger-prick self-sampling. This can support applications such as intense monitoring of cancer response and recurrence, and testing in wider populations.