



## PUBLICATION by BBMRI.at SEAB member

Smear tests might help pick up ovary and breast cancers

## Feb 2022

The BBMRI.at Scientific and Ethical Advisory Board Member, Prof. Martin Widschwendter (Uni Innsbruck, Austria & UCL, UK), and this team, recently published two articles in the journal Nature Communications:

Nat Commun. 2022 Feb 1;13(1):449. doi: 10.1038/s41467-021-27918-w Nat Commun. 2022 Feb 1;13(1):448. doi: 10.1038/s41467-021-26615-y

They found systemic epigenetic programming defects in women who develop breast cancer and developed a DNA methylation-based Women's risk IDentification for Breast Cancer index that identifies women with breast cancer from cervical cytology samples. The researchers conclude that cells collected during smear tests for cervical cancer might be useful for detecting early tumours such as breast or ovarian cancer.

For their studies, the scientists also used samples from a clinical biobank which highlights the important contributions biobanks can have to medical research.

Major results of the study were also reported on BBC news. More about <u>"Smear tests might help</u> pick up ovary and breast cancers" (BBC news)> here.

nature communications	_	-			
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The DNA methylome of cervical cells can predict the presence of ovarian cancer					
James E. Barrett <sup>12,2</sup> , Allison Jones <sup>3</sup> , Ion. Meli Krisbarsen <sup>4</sup> , Divis C. Levy <sup>6,5</sup> , David Cibula <sup>6,13</sup> & Martin Welschwen	Renjt Ment	siel Reisel <sup>9</sup> , Cl Nande <sup>7,6,9</sup> , Lin	ilara Heroog <b>o</b> e Rjørge <sup>10,0</sup> , A	<sup>12</sup> , Kantaraja Alchal Zikan <sup>5</sup>	Chindesa <sup>3</sup> , 10 <sub>1</sub>
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Images: Natu	re C	omn	nunio	atio	ns

Smear tests might help pick up ovary and breast cancers

NEWS



Image: BBC news/Getty images

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