

Benefits and hurdles for a starting
biobank during times of covid

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BIOBANKING FOR
GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Biobank Antwerp was established in 2018 and aims at integrating circa 60 research groups in the University Hospital Antwerp and Antwerp University. As can be expected, the process was accompanied with significant practical and political hurdles.



RESEARCH

Diagnostic development and evaluation

Evaluation of treatment options

Evaluation of alternative samples

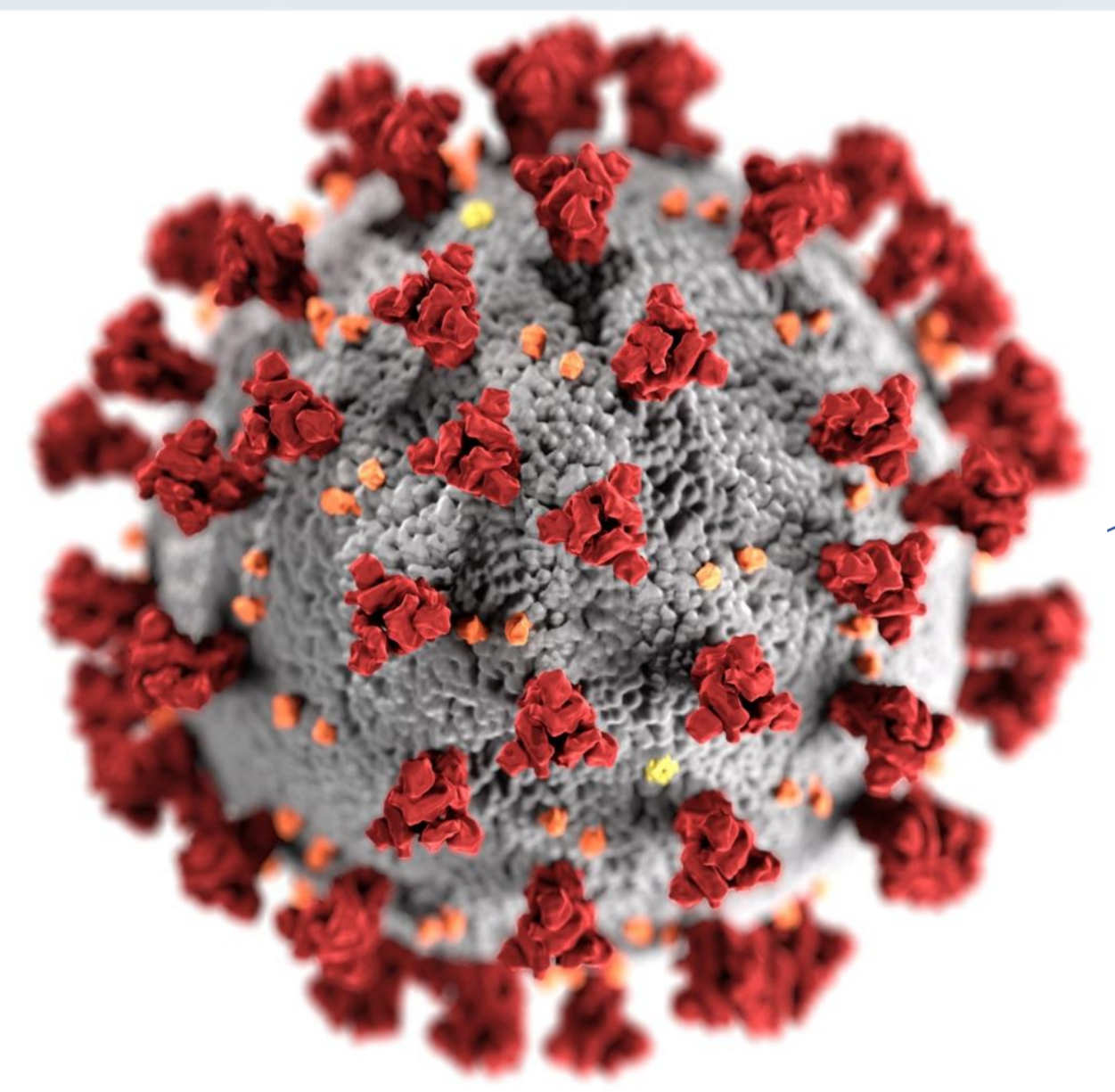
Increased severity in vulnerable populations such as oncology or nephrology patients?

Genetic predisposition?

Influence on organ donation



March 2020, covid struck Belgium. In response, dozens of studies were initiated, ranging from fundamental academic research to clinical trials with novel therapeutic strategies.



Biobank staff processing samples

Unexpected scale of operations: staff overtime

Support diagnostic companies

Supply shortages

Ownership of the samples

Integrated flow clinical biology - biobank

Weekly covid-dedicated meetings with key stakeholders

Uniform sample processing allowing cross-researcher comparisons



40+ covid studies
Thousands of samples collected

CONCLUSION

Despite practical and logistic constraints, covid helped to further establish Biobank Antwerp as an asset, rather than a burden.