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## INTRODUCTION

The Finnish Clinical Biobank Tampere (FCBT), established in 2015, is part of Tampere University Hospital (TAUH). FCBT's sample collection is based on contacting patients through the hospital and asking for their consent for a biobank sample. The number of biobank samples from neurological patients has been low relative to the number of neurological patients treated in the hospital and recruitment through the hospital has been ineffective.

## AIM

The aim of the project was to increase the sample accumulation for the Finnish Clinical Biobank Tampere.

Additionally, the target was to raise the awareness of biobanking in general.

## METHOD

In order to increase sample accumulation from neurological patients, FCBT initiated active and close collaborations with several patient organizations of rare neurological diseases, memory disorders, Parkinson's disease, MS and ALS, as many patients visit the hospital quite infrequently but instead are active members of patient associations. FCBT arranged events with presentations and blood drawing with regional associations throughout TAUH's catchment area. Additionally, electronic material on biobanking and FCBT was actively distributed by the organizations through their own channels.

## RESULTS

Approaching neurological patients through their patient organizations has proven to be a very effective means to increase sample collection within this patient group.

Before active interactions, until 01/2019, there were 151 biobank samples. During the last six months, 246 samples were received. After the project, in collaboration with the patient organizations, until 08/2020, the amount of samples grew by 416 % to 780.

Figure 1. Overall number of neurological consents and neurological samples up until August 2020.

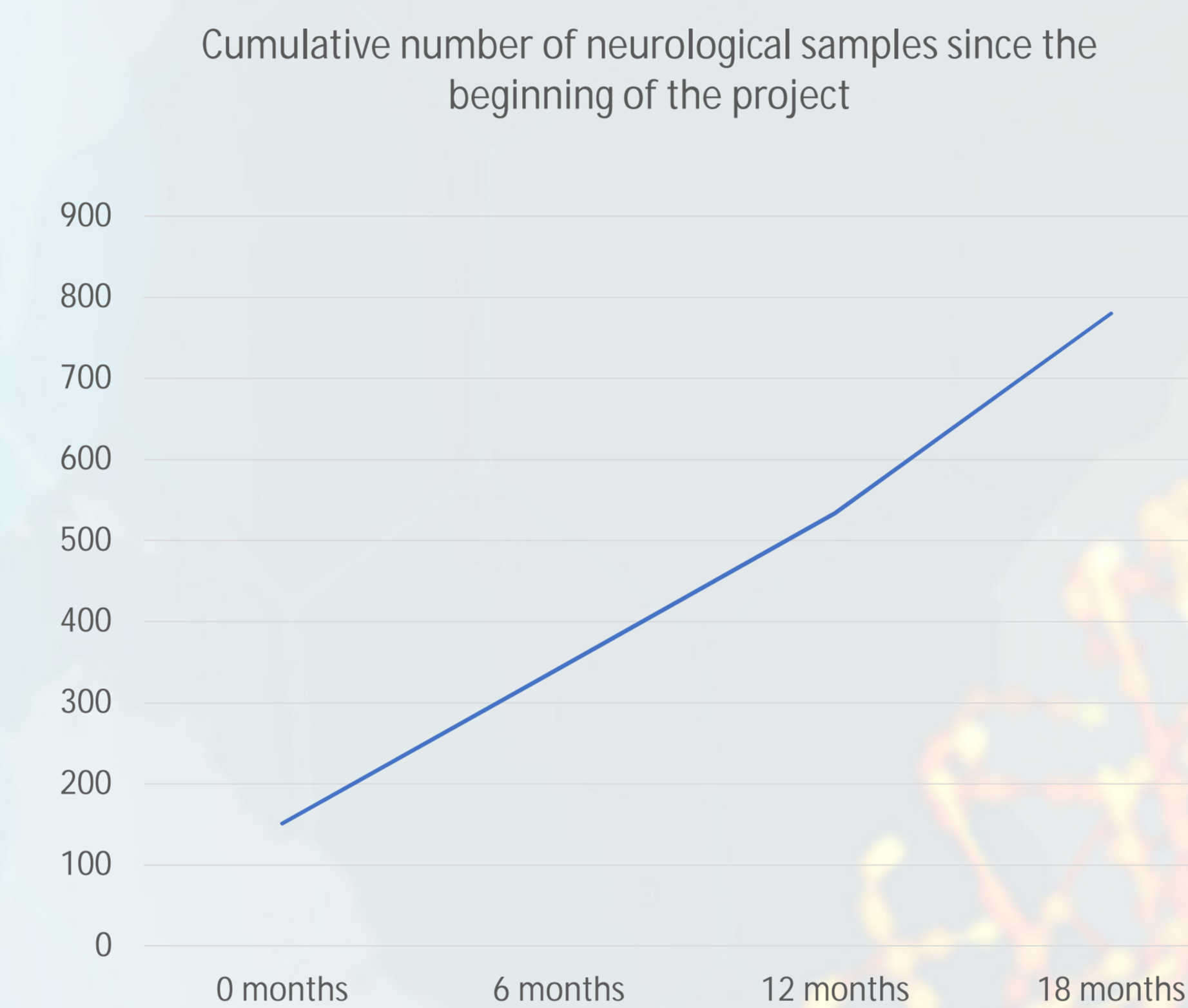
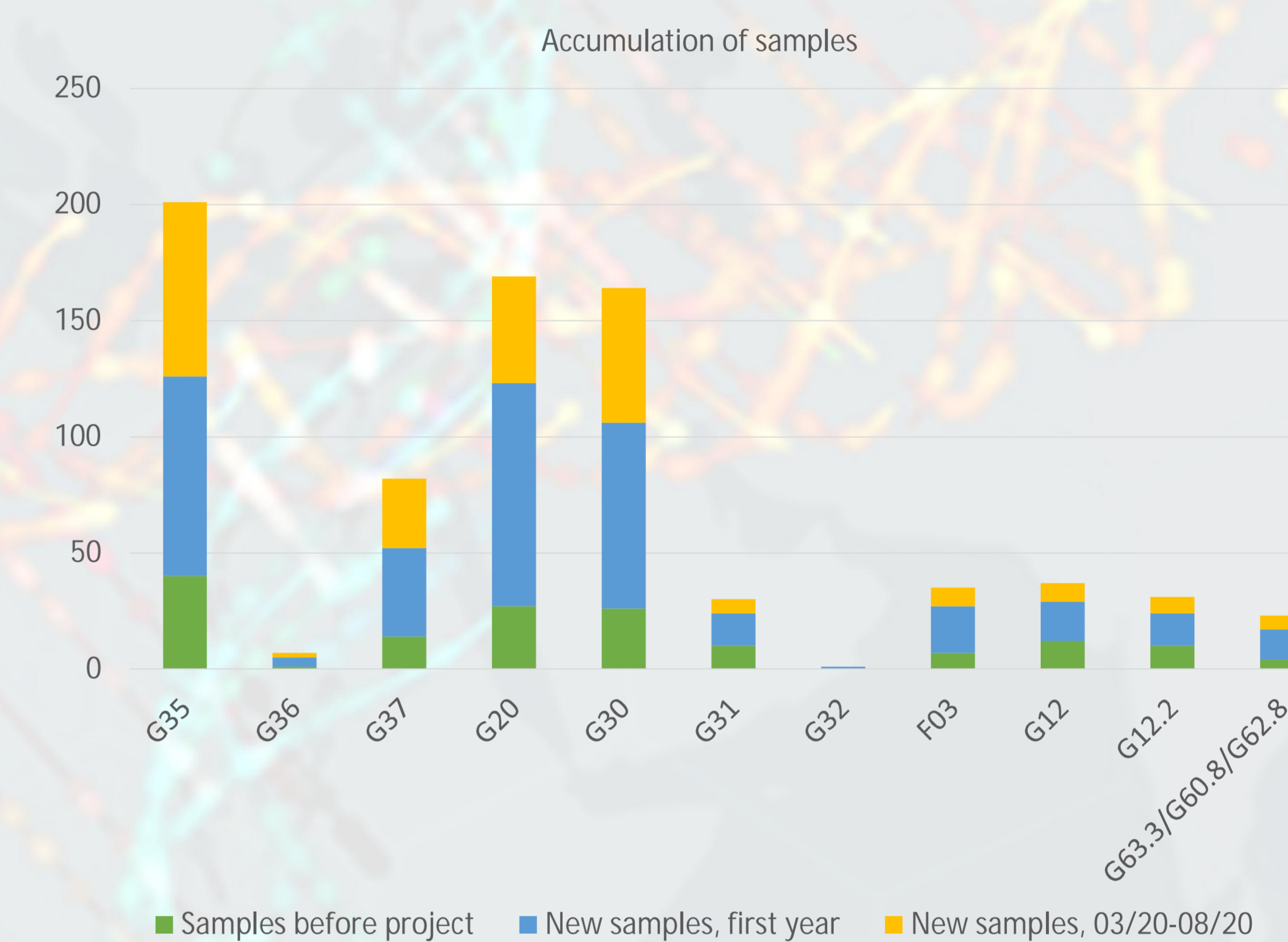


Figure 2. Accumulation of samples between different ICD-10 diagnostic groups



## CONCLUSIONS

Active interactions directly with potential sample donors through their own organizations can help significantly boost sample collection from targeted groups by making biobanking more approachable

## REFERENCES

Statistical data was gathered from the hospital's registers.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The positive attitude of local patient organizations has enabled a significant growth in the sample amounts.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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