

## LEENA PELTONEN - "UNDERSTANDING COMMON DISEASE"



I think what we will see is that we will finally figure out the genetic profiles - the individual genes - behind very common health problems. That will immediately help us to understand why some people get great benefit from medication whereas others don't. So it would be ideal to identify the population who really benefit from the medication and select also medication based on your genetic profile. So I think we will face very exciting times; finally the promise of the genome project will be fulfilled - to some extent - when considering common health problems.

Cardiovascular health [will benefit] definitely, because we all know that a huge amount of investment goes for cholesterol lowering and drugs. We also know that perhaps not everybody needs them, who is using them. We also know that our lifestyle and eating habits and smoking and exercise - they all have huge impact on our cardiovascular health. So how could we figure out which strategies to prevent those diseases, to get them milder; which are best for which individual. So I'm very excited about the potential new genes which will be identified behind cardiovascular diseases.