

## ABNA Conference Update

### 2019 ABNA Committee

PRESIDENT: Pamela Saunders  
VICE PRESIDENT: Anusha Hettiaratchi  
TREASURER: Valerie Jakrot &  
Catherine Kennedy  
SECRETARY: Judith Heads & Leanne  
Wallace

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:  
Nina D'Vaz, Cassandra Griffin,  
Bharvi Manek, Kathleen Phillips,  
Ussha Pillai, Georget Reaiche, Phillip  
Shepherd, Helen Tsimiklis.

ABNA invites biobankers and researchers to submit abstracts for presentation at our 17th annual meeting 'The FNQ of Biobanking: Futureproof, Network, Quality' in Cairns October 16-18th 2019.

Poster presentations will take place on Thursday and Friday, October 17 and 18. Opportunities for oral presentations will also be available, with details to follow. Early bird registration to close September 20th.

Abstracts will be accepted under the following topics:

- Strategies for disaster recovery
- Statewide networks
- ISO standards and biobanking
- Mitigating operational risks
- Quality and standardisation
- Ethical, legal and societal issues

A reminder for current members that ABNA membership fees are payable in advance on or before 1 July each year. Membership renewals can be paid up until 1 August each year for the following financial year (after August 1 the Initial Joining Fee will re-apply).

The 2019/2020 membership options are:

ABNA Membership Options for New Members

- 1 Year New Individual Membership: AUD \$70.00 (Includes Initial Joining Fee)
- 1 Year New Institute Membership (3 Members): AUD \$190.00 (Includes Initial Joining Fee)

ABNA Membership Renewal Options

- 1 Year Renewal Individual Membership: AUD \$50.00
- 1 Year Renewal Institute Membership (3 Members): AUD: \$135.00

See ABNA website for payment details: <https://abna.org.au/join/>



The FNQ of Biobanking: Futureproof, Network, Quality

ABNA 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**October 16<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> 2019**  
**Pullman Cairns International**

## ABNA Sponsored ISBER attendee - Yassine Souilmi

Attending the ISBER 2019 Annual Meeting in Shanghai has allowed me to gain a unique perspective on my research work. As a researcher, being exposed to the inner workings of the collections I use in my daily research has given me a better understanding of the role biobanks and biobankers play in research. The conference has provided useful information to base future projects as well as new collaborations. I found the panels to be very rich in content with a wide range of topics presented at the concurrent sessions.

I presented at the Special Topics Session: Biobanking in Asia and Oceania, a session created in partnership with the Australasian Biospecimen Network Association. The round-table discussion was very enriching as it brought several people from different backgrounds to discuss the importance of museum anthropological collections, including the issues unique to specimen collection from indigenous populations and the handling of ancient samples. One of the outcomes of the discussion was that such museum collections do perfectly fit the "biobank" definition as they both strive to protect, catalogue and preserve biospecimens, and the possibility that museums and biobanks can learn from and collaborate with each other to allow for more robust future research.

My thanks to ABNA for enabling my attendance at the ISBER 2019 Annual Meeting in Shanghai.

Yassine

Yassine Souilmi's attendance at ISBER Shanghai 2019 was sponsored by ABNA, you can read more about Yassine's work here: <https://researchers.adelaide.edu.au/profile/yassine.souilmi>



Ray Tobler from the University of Adelaide presents at the Special Topics Session: Biobanking in Asia and Oceania This session was created in partnership with ABNA and included a presentation by ABNA sponsored delegate Yassine Souilmi.  
Photo credit: Cassandra Griffin



The Special Topics Session: Biobanking in Asia and Oceania panel.  
Photo credit: Dan Catchpoole

## ISBER DAL-IPR election result

ISBER has announced the results of the 2019 elections for the Director-at-Large, Indo-Pacific Rim (DAL-IPR).

ABNA joins biobankers from around the world in congratulating Koh Furuta (Tokyo, Japan) on his new role on the Board of Directors as the Director-at-Large, Indo-Pacific Rim. Koh is currently the official liaison between ISBER and ISO TC276 (biobanking) and chairs the ISBER ISO TC276 Task Force.

More information on Koh can be found here:

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.isber.org/resource/resmgr/isber\\_2019/elections/by-election/2019\\_furuta\\_koh\\_---\\_biosket.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.isber.org/resource/resmgr/isber_2019/elections/by-election/2019_furuta_koh_---_biosket.pdf)

If you have any suggestions for a short article for Bio-Babble, please contact :  
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[pamela.consulting1@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.consulting1@gmail.com)

<http://abna.org.au/>



# ISBER Shanghai 2019



Clockwise from top left:

- Out going ISBER president, David Lewandowski, cutting ISBER's 20th anniversary cake.
- ABNA members from Aust and NZ before the networking conference dinner.
- ABNA Secretary Judith Heads at her poster presentation.
- HCB manager and ABNA committee member Cassandra Griffin presenting at the session on Human biorepositories and management challenges.
- View of the conference venue from the Oriental Pearl Tower.
- ABNA advertising at ISBER exhibit hall.
- Aust/NZ biobankers casual pre-conference dinner.
- ABNA members at Shanghai Tower
- Entrance to the ISBER exhibit hall and poster area.
- Traditional lion dance performed at ISBER Shanghai 2019 opening ceremony.

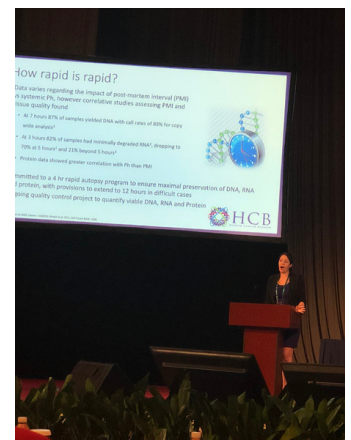
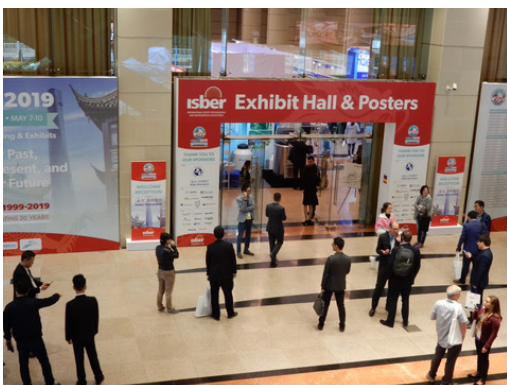
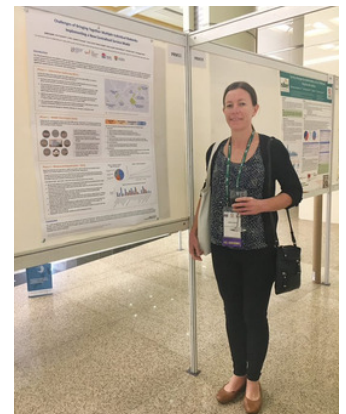


Photo credits:  
Cassandra Griffin, Judith Heads, Rose Boutros, Yoke-Eng Chiew & ISBER photographer.

