

Your ABNA Committee 2018

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Conference Organising Committee
additional members:
Helen Tsimiklis, Vivien Vasic,
Louise Ludlow

Thank you to all ABNA members
who have completed their
membership renewals.
FY 2018-19 Memberships are due!
To renew your membership or to
join ABNA, please visit the website:
<http://abna.org.au/join/>

ABNA The Art of Biobanking

16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2018
OCTOBER
18 – 19TH

Pullman & Mercure Albert Park
Melbourne, Australia



Event Registration and Call for Abstracts Coming Soon!

The program will feature workshops and topics around the ART OF BIOBANKING and more:

INNOVATION IN BIOBANKING | BIOBANK NETWORKS | DATA BANKS | TRANSLATIONAL BIOBANKING

We invite you to join or renew your membership to ABNA to qualify for early bird registrations

For further information, please visit abna.org.au

News from the International Society of Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)

It was announced that **ISBER 2019** will be held in our
“neighbourhood” in **Shanghai, May 7th-10th**

A Little Bit of Light Reading

The ISBER Best Practices 4th ed. has enjoyed a very successful
launch with many hundreds of downloads within the first few
days; the active translation in Chinese, Japanese and Korean;
and plans afoot for translations in French and Persian. The
actual document and the translations (once completed) are
available free of charge through the ISBER website.

<http://www.isber.org>

CONGRATULATIONS



Jane Carpenter
Outstanding Achievement in
Biobanking

Helen Morrish
ISBER Special Service Award



SAVE THE DATE

SHANGHAI
2019 Annual Meeting
Shanghai International Convention Center



Commitment to Excellence: Biobank Certification Experience

By Oksana Markovych

The Children's Hospital at Westmead Tumour Bank

Biobanking in the News

By Sandrine Rendell

National Operational Coordinator at the Quality in Organ
Donation Biobank (QUOD) and Biobank
Manager at Oxford Transplant Biobank (OTB) UK.

The Quality in Organ Donation (QUOD) is a collection of biological samples (serum, plasma, urine and tissue from kidneys, liver, ureter and spleen) and relevant clinical data from deceased organ donors collected across the UK by key professionals involved in the field of Organ Donation (Specialist Nurses in Organ Donation and Transplant Retrieval Teams) www.quod.org.uk

Samples are collected in the same manner for both the QUOD and OTB samples, therefore minimising the pre analytical variability that is often found between samples collected by different biobanks. We are also currently establishing the infrastructure to obtain whole organs (hearts, lungs and pancreas) that have been donated but are later found to be unsuitable for transplantation.

Both collections focus on transplantation research to help find new ways of assessing the quality and viability of organs considered for transplantation. The research undertaken will help understand pathways of organ injury and repair and hopefully improve the quality of organs transplanted, therefore reducing the number of transplant rejections and increasing the proportion of transplant success.



The Tumour Bank is the first paediatric cancer biobank established in Southern hemisphere in 1998. It is co-located with the Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) as part of the Children's Cancer Research Unit (CCRU). Over the past 19 years the Tumour Bank has been providing biobanking services in support of pre-clinical translational cancer research studies, clinical trials and precision oncology worldwide. Our biomaterial procurement strategy is to collect cancer specimens and control tissue contributed by patients through the normal course of treatment.

In August 2017, the Tumour Bank became the first Biobank in NSW to have successfully completed NSW Health Pathology Biobank Certification Program <https://nsw.biobanking.org/>. It took several months to navigate through the certification process and the Tumour Bank team is very proud of this achievement. We are committed to uphold the high standard of biobanking services and continue our support of quality research in a bid to achieve better health outcomes for children with cancer. Our team found the certification process itself to be a highly valuable experience, particularly in the context of professional development and continuous improvement. It has also proved to be a very useful tool in helping us to identify areas of operational strengths and weaknesses, and to formulate process improvement strategies. Furthermore, we are now able to leverage the achievement of certification on a strategic level, and this milestone has generally been well received within the organisation.

"Congratulations. This is an awesome achievement and I wish to thank you all for your professionalism and commitment to excellence. We are very proud of this outcome and we will inform the Board at its monthly meeting."

- Prof Chris Cowell, Director of Research, SCHN

Proficiency Testing IBBL

As the only proficiency testing tool in the world that is focused on biospecimens, IBBL's (Integrated BioBank of Luxembourg) programme allows biorepositories, clinical laboratories, research organisations and bioservice providers to assess and compare their performance to that of other expert laboratories from all over the world. <http://ibbl.lu/pt>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1SYKfHoOhk>

Key Dates for the 2018 scheme:

20 May 2018 : Registration opens online

24 August 2018 : Registration closes

September 2018 : Standardised samples shipment

November 2018 : Data submission deadline

February 2019 : Reports release date

For further details please contact

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Logistics, Proficiency Testing Program, (IBBL)

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If you have any suggestions for a short article for Bio-Babble, please contact pamela.saunders@sahmri.com

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