

## 2020 ABNA Committee

PRESIDENT: Anusha Hettiaratchi  
VICE PRESIDENT: Pamela  
Saunders  
TREASURERS: Valerie Jakrot &  
Catherine Kennedy  
SECRETARY: Leanne Wallace

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Samantha Cauburg, Nina D'Vaz,  
Cassandra Griffin, Wayne Ng,  
Ussha Pillai, Georget Reaiche,  
Helen Tsimiklis, Li Zhou.

## Qualification in Repository Science

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) and ISBER have announced a new Qualification in Repository Science (QBRs) for biobankers.

The ASCP BOC is the gold standard in global certification for medical laboratory professionals and has certified more than 560,000 individuals. This new qualification aims to further advance the field of biorepository science.



Candidates will be required to meet specific educational and experience requirements to be eligible to complete an online examination and, if successful, gain recognition for their skills and competencies as biobankers.

To be eligible for QBRs, the applicant must satisfy the minimum requirements (for degrees, the stated degree or higher) of at least one of four specified routes. More information on each of these routes is available at:

<https://www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification/get-credentialed/#qbrs>

Detailed information on the ASCP BOC procedures for qualification can be downloaded [HERE](#).

ABNA 18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Biobanking – Blue Sky Horizons  
28 - 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020, Perth



## Australian Biobank Repatriates Indigenous Blood Samples

Legacy collections are certainly not uncommon within the biobanking community and while they are often invaluable to researchers, they can also be associated with complex ethical issues.

The use of historical samples in research is fraught with challenges pertaining to cultural sensitivity and informed consent. For many research institutions the precedent has been to 'leave well enough alone' and incorporate historical samples into modern collections, however in many cases this is directly contradictory to the cultural expectations of the populations from which they were collected.

In a step towards culturally sensitive biobanking, a team from the Australian National University have taken positive steps by working closely with the indigenous community to ensure samples in their possession are repatriated to their ancestral home, while also still obtaining maximal research benefit.

This sets a new precedent for many who may be thinking that challenging the existing paradigm will result in the loss of invaluable research materials.

Click **HERE** to read the full article.

## About the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG)

Under Indigenous Governance, NCIG conducts research and other activities to build and maintain a genome resource for the research community.

The resource is being developed from a remarkable older collection of biological material (mostly blood) collected from Indigenous Australians and held by the ANU since the 1960s, supplemented by the ongoing addition of new material (mostly saliva).

NCIG is using the newest technologies to read the DNA sequences in the old and new material. The sequence data that emerges is being carefully assembled to make it useable to scientists.

The NCIG Collection – which also includes historical documents as well as the biological material and data – is under the custodianship of an Indigenous-majority board. Biomedical scientists and researchers from other fields are invited to apply to the Board for access to the resource for projects that offer potential benefit to Indigenous Australians.

Quoting from the NCIG 2018 Annual Report " NCIG was established to do nothing less than bring together the world's oldest living culture and its newest science."

Read more about the repatriation of samples here:

<https://ncig.anu.edu.au/repatriation-bringing-home-manggu-samples>



**NCIG**

NATIONAL CENTRE  
FOR INDIGENOUS  
GENOMICS



## ISBER 2020 Elections

Voting is now open for the 2020 ISBER positions of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Director-At-Large: Indo-Pacific Rim (IPR) Region and Director-At-Large: Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) Region for the term from May 2020-2023.

Candidates for each of these positions are shown below. The position statements along with each candidates biosketch can be found **HERE** (ISBER login required).

ABNA encourages all their members who hold current ISBER membership to vote at these elections.

You can cast your vote at:

<https://www.isber.org/page/2020Elections>

Elections close midnight North America Eastern Time on February 15 (between Feb 15 and Feb 16), 2020.

### PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES:



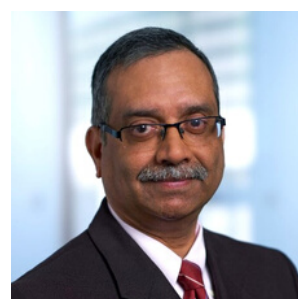
Piper Mullins  
(USA)



Nicole Sieffert  
(USA)



Jane Carpenter  
(Australia)



Rajeev Singh  
(USA)

### TREASURER CANDIDATES:

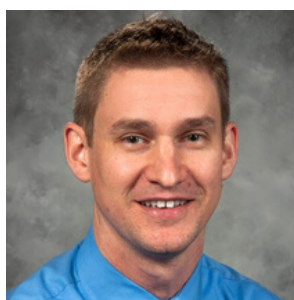
### SECRETARY CANDIDATES:



Monique Albert  
(Canada)



Ayat Salman  
(Canada)



William Schleif  
(USA)

### DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: EMEA REGION CANDIDATE:



Alison Parry-Jones  
(UK)

### DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: IPR REGION CANDIDATE:



Koh Furuta  
(Japan)





## ISBER 2020 Keynote Speakers announced

ISBER is excited to announce Dean Ornish and Nicolas Forraz as the keynote speakers and the release of the Preliminary Program for the 2020 Annual Meeting and Exhibits.

Our ability to transform health and research depends on the voices of all individuals willing to contribute and challenge the roadmap that biobanks are paving. Join the global biobanking community in Anaheim to be part of the solution!

The preliminary program for the meeting is now available. Early bird registration deadline is February 21.

Program and registration details available at: [meetings.isber.org/2020](https://meetings.isber.org/2020)



**"The Transformative Power of Lifestyle Medicine"**

Dean Ornish, MD, Preventive Medicine Research Institute

Dean Ornish is the founder and president of the nonprofit Preventive Medicine Research Institute, clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and the author of six books, all national bestsellers. He has received numerous honors, including the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from the University of Texas, Austin, and the National Public Health Hero Award from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Ornish was recognized as a "TIME 100 Innovator," by Life magazine as "one of the 50 most influential members of his generation".



**"From Human Tumor Biobanking to Human Tumor 3D-Bioprinting:  
Innovating for Personalized Medicine in Oncology"**

Nicolas Forraz, PhD, CTIBiotech, France

Nico Forraz completed his PhD in 2003 at Kingston University and St George's Hospital Medical School, University of London, UK on multi-tissue differentiation potential of umbilical cord blood stem cell populations with applications to haematology, oncology, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. After a career in oncology and regenerative medicine in academia he co-founded CTIBiotech, a biotechnology company producing predictive models of human tissues and cells for biomedical, pharmaceutical and dermatocosmetic applications.

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

Deadline for February 2020 edition: 21.02.20