

## 2020 ABNA Committee

PRESIDENT: Anusha Hettiaratchi  
VICE PRESIDENT: Cassandra Griffin  
TREASURERS: Valerie Jakrot & Catherine Kennedy  
SECRETARY: Leanne Wallace

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:  
Samantha Cauburg, Nina D'Vaz,  
Wayne Ng, Ussha Pillai,  
Georget Reaiche, Helen Tsimiklis,  
Li Zhou.

## ABNA Conference Update

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve many of our members will be busy at this time putting into action business continuity plans to ensure that staff can be supported and critical functions continue through a variety of scenarios.

There is a lot of uncertainty ahead, however in challenging times we pull through by supporting each other and banding together - with appropriate social distancing in this instance.

Currently the ABNA Annual Meeting is set to go ahead on Oct 28-30 in Perth, Western Australia.

ABNA will continue working with sponsors and members of the biobanking community to deliver this event.

The Conference Organising Committee has secured the Rendezvous Hotel Scarborough in Perth as the venue for the 2020 event. As you may have already seen, events scheduled in the coming months are currently being postponed by 6 months, as such the ABNA Annual Meeting in late October should at this stage be able to proceed.

ABNA will of course continue to stay abreast of the official health and workplace advice provided by the Australian Department of Health and will notify our members of any changes to the status of our Annual Meeting.

We hope that you will do what you can to take care of yourself and those around you. ABNA remains optimistic and acknowledge that the experts will do their best to minimise the impact of the virus.

On a more personal level if you do need to reach out, please email ABNA on [abna.biobabble@gmail.com](mailto:abna.biobabble@gmail.com), members of the Bio-Babble sub committee (Anusha Hettiaratchi, Cassandra Griffin and Georget Reaiche) monitor this email address.



#ABNA2020Perth



## COVID-19 Guidelines for Biospecimen Collection

Individual biobanks may at this time be updating their guidelines for handling suspected COVID-19 infected samples and their future use. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) have released interim guidelines for the handling of biospecimens.

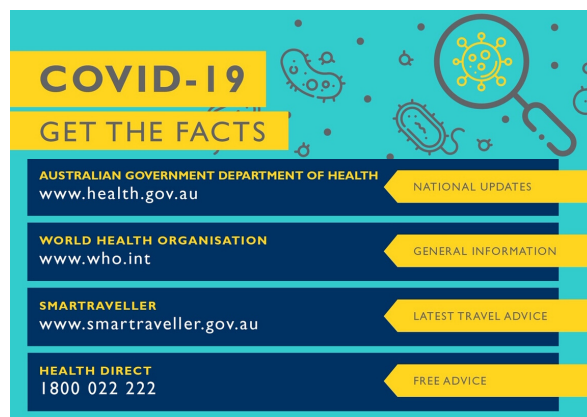
These guidelines can be accessed here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/lab-biosafety-guidelines.html>

The University of California San Francisco Office of Research has also provided the following guidance for all activities related to the handling, processing, and storage of biospecimens:

<https://research.ucsf.edu/covid-19-biospecimen-guidelines>

For a list of Australian resources including a link to the World Health Organisations website see infographic.



## ISBER Conference Update

The International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories Board of Directors has made the difficult decision not to proceed with the 2020 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 14 – 18, 2020.

This decision was made after careful consideration and comprehensive evaluation of currently available information related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. ISBER would like to thank all of you who have reached out to provide valuable feedback regarding the conference.

As you know, ISBER has been closely monitoring the rapidly increasing domestic and worldwide developments during the last several weeks related to COVID-19. This evidence-based decision was made after a thorough review and discussion of all factors impacting the Annual Meeting, including the U.S. government's enforcement of restrictions on international travelers to enter the U.S.; the imposition of travel restrictions on employees of U.S. government agencies, cancer centers, academic institutions, and pharmaceutical and biotech companies who are the meeting attendees; and the guidance of the CDC, WHO, other federal, state and local public authorities, and infectious disease experts.

It is clear that all of these elements make it impossible to insure the safety of delegates, speakers, presenters of abstracts, and exhibitors. For these reasons, ISBER regretfully announced the cancellation of the meeting.

Please direct any questions about the cancellation of the April meeting to the ISBER office at [covid@isber.org](mailto:covid@isber.org). ISBER will reimburse or provide a credit for a future meeting or future ISBER activity as per your preference.



## ISBER 2020 Election Results

Results of the ISBER 2020 elections were announced at the end of last month.

ABNA joins the international biobanking community in congratulating all the successful candidates. Thank you to all ABNA members who voted



Piper Mullins (USA)  
President-Elect  
Voting member; May 2020-2023



Monique Albert (Canada)  
Secretary  
Voting member; May 2020-2023



Jane Carpenter (Australia)  
Treasurer  
Voting member; May 2020-2023



Koh Furuta (Japan)  
Director-At-Large: Indo-Pacific Rim (IPR) Region  
Voting member; May 2020-2023



Allison Parry-Jones (UK)  
Director-At-Large: Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) Region  
Voting member; May 2020-2023

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 April 2020 edition: 24.04.20