

Newsletter of the Australasian Biospecimen Network Association

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NEW ABNA WEBSITE

The time has come, the walrus said... to launch our [NEW WEBSITE!](#)

On behalf of the ABNA committee we would like to unveil ABNA's new and improved online home. While we appreciate that waiting for this unveiling has been a little like 'Waiting for Godot', we hope you'll agree that the result was well worth the wait.

The focus of our new online dwelling is inclusivity and diversity and we're committed to showcasing and facilitating all walks of the biobanking discipline, however out of respect to our members we also need to ensure that paid members continue to receive benefits not available to all web traffic. As a result, our page comes with a dedicated members area which is password protected. In order to access this area a login is required, which can be created through Currinda by following the links on the page. This is a two-step process and an account for the website cannot be created directly without first creating a Currinda profile. Please see our [Join](#) page for further information.

As the time draws nearer for our 2021 conference a Currinda profile will also be necessary to facilitate registration, so to ensure you're able to take advantage of all that comes with your membership, we encourage you to sign-up and access the members area as a priority. This year's meeting will be in a hybrid format with opportunities for both in-person attendance at state based hubs and online interaction. With this in mind, maintaining an online presence within the ABNA members portal ensures you'll reap the full benefits that ABNA is offering in 2021.

We hope you enjoy exploring the new site and welcome any and all feedback as well as ideas or suggestions for future content. Like all infants we anticipate that there may be a teething problem or two so if you do identify something, please let us know at: info@abna.org.au

Following the launch, and while simultaneously organising the 2021 national hybrid meeting, the committee will now turn their sights to the development of the Tissue Specimen Locator. Our goal is for this to be a collaborative and member driven process that we look forward to working with you on. No rest for the wicked!



Click on the image above to visit ABNA's new website

ABNA 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Earlier this week the ABNA Management Committee and Conference Organising Committee announced the 18th annual ABNA conference will go ahead as a 1-day hybrid event on Thursday 21st October 2021.

Delegates will be invited to join their local hub (Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane or Perth) for a day of themed sessions with keynote talks, biobanking news and discussions relating to biobanking during a pandemic. Each hub will dial into the central conference to ensure that all participants, online and virtual, receive full event coverage.

Talks and posters are invited. Posters will be displayed on the conference website and 6 posters chosen for rapid-fire talks presented at the speaker's local hub and broadcast to the wider virtual attendees at other hubs. There will be prizes for: best presentation, best rapid-fire talk and best poster.

Key Dates:

- A detailed program will be released on July 1st 2021
- Abstract submissions will open from August 1st to October 1st 2021
- There is an option for off-site virtual attendance, but speakers must be present in a hub to ensure a smooth event. International speakers can attend virtually.
- Early-bird registration costs (available from July until October 1st):
 - Hub attendance* for members/non-members: \$100/\$125
 - Virtual attendance for members/non-members: \$50/\$75

*Hub attendance includes morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea. In the Perth hub, brunch will be the main meal due to time differences.
- Registration opening dates will be updated on our website

Should COVID restrictions prevent hub attendance, fees will be reduced to virtual attendance via refunds. The number of attendee allowable at each hub will be limited and space will be allocated on a first come first filled basis.

A conference dinner will be arranged at each hub so please keep an eye on our conference website for further details.

At present we have not planned for a New Zealand based hub due to the absence of representation on the committee, however, should any of our members who are based in NZ be willing to host a hub at their institution please do get in touch so that we can discuss further.

We hope to see you all together, or apart, in October.



ABNA 18th Annual Meeting
21 October 2021
Hybrid Event

**TOGETHER APART:
REDEFINING THE NETWORK**

SAVE THE DATE

ISBER 2021 AWARD WINNERS

ABNA joins the biobanking community in congratulating the winners of the ISBER 2021 Awards which were presented at the recent Virtual Annual Meeting.

ISBER Outstanding Achievement in Biobanking

This award is designed to recognise individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of biobanking. The award can be given for a single outstanding achievement or a life-time body of outstanding work in the field.

2021 (awarded posthumously): Andrew Brooks (USA)

ISBER Pioneer's Award

2021: Fay Betsou (Luxembourg)

ISBER Distinguished Leadership and Service Award

This award is designed to honour ISBER members who have demonstrated exceptional leadership to further the mission and goals of the society and/or significant, long-standing contributions to the society.

2021: Nicole Sieffert (USA)

ISBER Special Service Awards:

This award recognises individuals who have made exceptional contributions towards the goals of the Society through the performance of a special service or act on behalf of the organization.

2021:

- Clare Allocca (USA)
- Karolin Bergenstrahle (Sweden)
- Heidi Wagner (USA)
- Anusha Hettiaratchi (Australia)
- Billy Schleif (USA)
- Birendra Kumar Yadav (India)

The winner of ISBER's 2021 Outstanding New Product Award was announced as the Bluechiip BoxTracker™.

The judging panel evaluated nine products from around the globe on their technical innovation, originality, anticipated impact and value, projected viability of product and market demand. The Bluechiip BoxTracker™ was chosen as winner for a variety of reasons including that it meets a previously unknown market need and drives innovation. The judges noted that the product will be easy to use, is suitable multiple environments and is reliable.

Congratulations from ABNA, we are especially proud to see an Australian company gain recognition on the international biobanking stage.

