

FEBRUARY | 2022

# BIO-BABBLE



Newsletter of the Australasian Biospecimen Network Association

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## WELCOME BACK

Happy New Year to all of our ABNA members and welcome to another year of Biobabble! It doesn't feel as though two months have past since our December edition but we sincerely hope you all managed to enjoy some well deserved time off over the holiday period, despite the ongoing challenges posed by Omicron.

2021 brought it's share of challenges but also some wonderful success stories and achievements for many of our members and we hope that this trend will continue into 2022.

This year the ABNA committee are working hard to bring you a number of events and networking opportunities that we hope will continue to help foster a sense of community and encourage collaboration. As always, we're keen to hear from our membership with suggestions and ideas so if you have anything to discuss or contribute, please don't hesitate to reach out.

On behalf of the wider ABNA committee, the Biobabble Sub-Committee wishes you all a safe and successful 2022 and looks forward to partnering with you in biobanking.

Georget, Anusha, Shirley and Cass  
Biobabble Sub-Committee

## ABNA 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Biobanking – Blue Sky Horizons**

19 – 21 October 2022

Rendezvous Hotel Scarborough, Perth, Western Australia

**SAVE THE DATE**



# SHINY AND NEW: NEW EDITIONS TO ABNA'S 2022 PROGRAM

"We made it through the wilderness, somehow we made it through!" The last two years haven't been easy for any of us and in celebration of a 'hopeful' return to 'semi'-normality the ABNA committee are working hard to bring you something "shiny and new" in 2022. Keep an eye on upcoming editions of our newsletter for new opportunities and updates but for now we're excited to introduce you to two new editions to the ABNA yearly program.

## ACCREDITATION: IS IT FOR YOU? ABNA SEMINAR SERIES 2022

There's been a lot of buzz over the last couple of years regarding biobank accreditation and in our 2021 conference program we were delighted to have NATA's Simon Lake join us to speak about the Australian roll-out of ISO20387 (General Requirements for Biobanking). In 2022 we'd like to offer our members a closer look at what accreditation might mean for our industry through the delivery of a 4-part virtual seminar series. Featuring presentations from industry experts and fellow biobankers who have successfully completed the process, culminating in a workshop held during our October annual conference in Perth, our intention is to inform and support our members to understand accreditation and its relevance for our members.

Registrations open 1 March 2022 [online](#) with a draft program released in the coming days. Seminars will be held on the following dates with a single registration covering the first three virtual events;

- 20 April - Why work towards accreditation?
- 22 June - Experiences of the accreditation process
- 24 August - Certification or Accreditation - which one is right for me?

Attendance at the fourth and final workshop will be included in our October conference registration.

## HIGHER DEGREE AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER NETWORK

### What is Biobanking Research?

Biobanking Research is research into the science and discipline of biobanking. Biobanking Research can involve value studies, studies in sustainability, protocol or best practice investigations, qualitative work on donor and stakeholder engagement, sample utilisation... just about anything!

- Are you undertaking biobank research?
- Are you a PhD, Masters or honours student working on a biobanking project?
- Are you a biobanker who would love to be involved in biobank research but not sure where to start?
- Are you a researcher with a biobanking project in mind but unable to find a student?

Our members understand all too well how important biobanking is, yet consistently as an industry we find the need to demonstrate our ongoing value and often this is difficult due to the lack of available data. Biobanking research is a growing field with many institutions world wide now offering formal study and research programs in biobanking. ABNA would like to make contact with anyone who is undertaking biobanking research as part of their role or as part of a formal qualification. Likewise, we'd love to hear from anyone who has recently completed a series of biobanking research.

If this sounds like you, or if you know, someone please reach out at [abna.biobabble@gmail.com](mailto:abna.biobabble@gmail.com)



## 5 MIN WITH DR FAY BETSOU

We approach a different professional in the biobanking arena with the same five questions each month.

Fay is the former Chief Scientific Officer at the Integrated Biobank Luxembourg (IBBL). She is currently the Scientific Advisor at Laboratoire National de Sante. Fay is a dog person who drinks coffee instead of tea, is happy to have coriander added to her meal and choses Star Trek over Star Wars.

**1. How long have you been working in biobanking?**

10 years at Picardie Biobank, then 10 years at IBBL.

**2. What has been the biggest biobanking challenge you have faced in your career so far?**

Managing conflicting expectations from different stakeholders. It can only be overcome with continuous communication and transparency.

**3. What are you excited about that is happening in your biobank/what is your biobank doing that is new and innovative?**

At IBBL, we developed biospecimen research activities to expand our scientific expertise as biobankers and to support the biobank operations in terms of method development, optimisation and validation.

**4. What is your one wish as a biobanker?**

Independent biobanking as research infrastructure and development of regulatory and editorial requirements for specimen provenance from accredited biobanks

**5. Three words that best describe your biobanking career:**

Biospecimen science, quality, services

**isber**  
**2022**  
In-Person May 16-20 | Virtual June 14-15  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**ATLANTA • USA**

*Biobanking: Shaping  
the Scientific Journey*  
**REGISTER NOW!**  
**www.isber.org**



# REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND THE ISBER 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

**Early Bird Deadline TODAY: February 24**

**Register now**

## **Meeting Theme:**

Biobanking is increasingly recognized as intrinsic for accelerating the scientific journey. Join ISBER in Atlanta to help build a new understanding of the biobanking landscape and contribute to a strong vision for the future, including:

- Challenges associated with providing sustainable, modern infrastructure
- Building partnership across sectors, including academia, industry, and government
- Globally available tools to innovate, learn, and inspire
- Convergence of biology, data, digital systems and automated technologies
- New potential applications, from novel companion diagnostics to enhancing our understanding of environmental influences

Biobanking is shaping the scientific journey in a new world. Be part of the discussion.

## **Meeting Format:**

The meeting will be held in-person in Atlanta USA. For those who are unable to travel, a virtual component of the meeting will take place in early June.

More information, in-person meeting click [HERE](#)

More information, virtual meeting click [HERE](#)

## **Coming Soon:**

Apply for a registration grant to attend the meeting virtually!

ISBER will be providing up to 10 registration grants to individuals to attend the virtual meeting from June 14-15.

These grants are intended for individuals who reside in lower and middle income countries as defined by the world bank. Further details will be released shortly.



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

Content deadline for March edition: 25.03.22



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