



ABNA EXCHANGE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BIOSPECIMEN NETWORK ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: Georget Reaiche-Miller

TREASURERS: Leanne Wallace, Jennie Hui

DIGITAL MEDIA OFFICERS: Ussha Pillai, Helen Tsimiklis

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Beth Caruana, Emma Dalziell, Chris Gorman, Cassandra Griffin, Samantha Higgins, Catherine Kennedy

VICE PRESIDENT: Louise Ludlow

SECRETARY: Carmel Quinn

EDITOR: Anusha Hettiaratchi

Christmas is here!

Christmas, my favorite time of the year is upon us, and it's the silly season, so things are naturally busy! We all deserve a well-earned break, but before you wind down, take a moment to enjoy our Suggested Christmas Movies - the Biobank versions! It's a perfect way to escape the holiday rush. Be sure to check out the movie synopses - they're definitely worth a read!

As we approach 2025, we can already see the year kicking off in full swing. ABNA's 2025 Annual Conference is coming, so save the date and stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event! The ISBER Elections for 2025-2028 are now underway, and some of the candidates may be familiar to our ABNA members. It's exciting to see so many in our community stepping up! So for those ISBER members please take the time to cast your votes before 16 January, 2025.

Don't forget to participate in feedback and surveys curated within this edition - your voice matters in shaping the future of biobanking.

It's been a pleasure working alongside all of you this year, and I look forward to another exciting year ahead. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Georget



BIOBANKING
EVOLVING THROUGH TIME

NEWCASTLE

22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE



22-24
OCT
2025

REGISTRATION & WEBSITE COMING SOON

#ABNA2025NEWCASTLE

Suggested Holiday Viewing – The Biobank Versions



IT'S A BIOBANKERS LIFE

Based on the short story and booklet "The Greatest Gift". A man who has given up his personal dreams in order to help others in his community is shown by his guardian angel all the lives he has touched and what the world would be like if he had not been a biobanker.



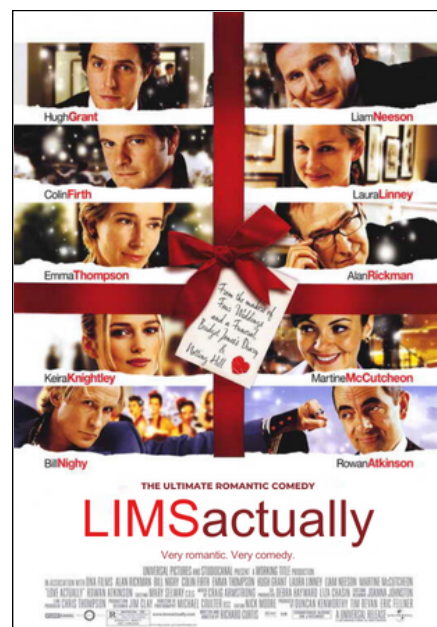
PROCESSING ALONE

A young boy defends his suburban Chicago biobank from an invasion by a pair of researchers. His team have accidentally left him behind to process all the samples while they attend their Christmas conference in Paris.



THE DATA EXPRESS

Set on Christmas Eve, it tells the story of a boy who sees a mysterious data train stop outside his window and is invited aboard by its biobanker. He joins other biobankers as they embark on a journey to visit Santa Claus, who is preparing for a data filled Christmas. The film depicts human characters using live action and motion capture computer animation



LIMS ACTUALLY

A Biobanking romantic comedy written and directed by Richard Curtis. The film features an ensemble cast of international biobankers. The story delves into different aspects of biobanking as shown through 10 separate stories involving a variety of individuals, many of whom are interlinked through their biobanks as the plot progresses.

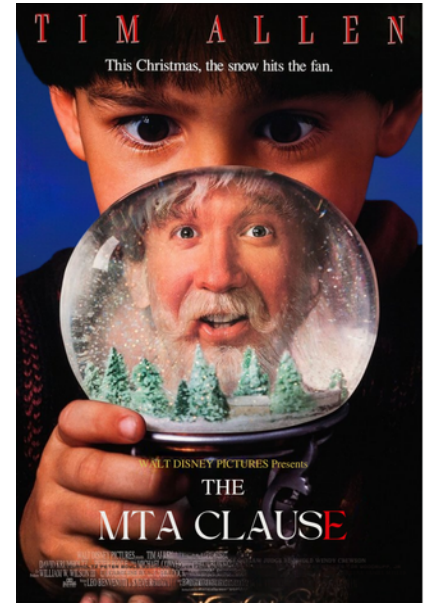


THE LAST SAMPLE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Storage Town is a fantasy world populated by various ice monsters and unlabelled samples. Jack Sample, the well-respected "Freezer King", leads the town in organising the annual celebrations. This year, however, Jack grows tired of the same SOPs and longs for something new. Upon discovering trees containing doors to holiday-themed worlds, Jack stumbles through the one leading to Christmas Town and is fascinated by the unfamiliar holiday where traditionally, processing samples, where possible, stops for a few days.

THE MTA CLAUSE

Scott is an ordinary man who accidentally causes Biobanking Claus to fall from his roof to his supposed death on Christmas Eve. It turns out that, by putting on the suit, Scott is subject to a legal technicality known as "the MTA Clause," and has accepted all of the late Biobankers duties and responsibilities including getting all the paperwork in order to distribute all the samples before Christmas morning.



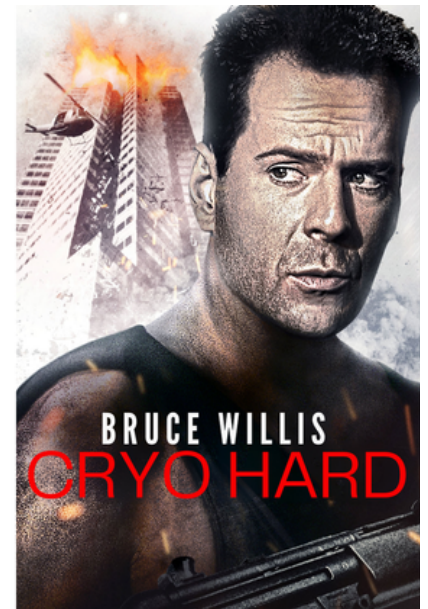
THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS ALARM

The Muppet Christmas Alarm is an adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic 1843 novel, 'A Christmas Carol'. The story follows Ebefreezer Scrooge, a cold-hearted and ruthless biobanker who is feared and hated by everyone because of his complete lack of cold storage monitoring. Scrooge receives visits from spirits of three Christmas Disasters - Thawing Rapidly, Failed Compressor and Completely Melted - who manage to show him the error of his ways



CRYO HARD

New York City policeman John McClane flies to LA to visit his wife during a Christmas Eve party thrown at the cryo facility she works for. The festivities are interrupted by twelve terrorists who take over the exclusive high-rise. Very soon McClane realizes that there's no one to save the hostages, and with nothing but a handgun and his PPE, he is forced to take on Dr Hans Freeze and his fellow terrorists.



Request for feedback! CT:IQ Beyond the Form

Do you or your biobank engage with research participants, liaise with ethics committees, or conduct informed consents for research or clinical trials?

Then you may be interested in an open opportunity in reviewing and providing feedback to the draft CT:IQ Ethics Review of Clinical Research Communications statement.



See [Ethics Review of Clinical Research Communications Statement – CT:IQ Clinical Trials](#) due **1 February 2025**.

For ABNA members interested in considering compiling a collective ABNA feedback response in the new year contact ABNA MC Member Samantha Higgins samantha.higgins@cancervic.org.au by **31 December 2024**.

National Health and Medical Research Strategy – Webinar Survey

The Minister for Health and Aged Care announced in May 2024 that the Australian Government would develop the National Health and Medical Research Strategy (National Strategy).

The purpose of the National Strategy is to deliver:

- a plan to strengthen and leverage Australia’s world-leading research capability
- better health outcomes from a productive and efficient research ecosystem.

Click [HERE](#) to start the survey

This survey is now live to capture your reaction to the development of the National Strategy, your initial opinion on important priorities to be considered, and your preferred method of consultation in the future. The survey will close **28 February 2025**.

A poster for a Biobanking Panel Discussion. The title is 'Biobanking Panel Discussion: The European biobanking infrastructure and what are the opportunities for biobanking in Australia?'. It lists the date as Tuesday 26 November 2024, from 5:00 - 6:30pm AEDT. The key speaker is Prof. Jens Habermann, BBMRI-ERIC. Panel co-chairs are Dr Wayne Ng (General Manager, VCB) and Prof. Jennifer Byrne (NOW Health Statewide Biobank). Panelists include Dr Sherman Leung (Wesley Research Institute, Uniting Care Health), Prof. Melissa Southey OAM (Monash University/Biobanking VIC), Dr Georget Reaiche (University of Adelaide, ABNA President), Prof. Michael Dobbie (Phenomics Australia), Dr Jennie Hui (Busekton Population & Medical Research Institute), and A/Prof. Bev Muhliausler (CSIRO/Australian Health Biobank). The poster also mentions partners like BBMRI-ERIC and the Australasian Biobanking Association.

ABNA is proud to have partnered with the Victorian Cancer Bank for their Biobanking Panel Discussion “The European biobanking infrastructure and what are the opportunities for biobanking in Australia?”. Following a presentation by Prof Jens Habermann from BBMRI-ERIC, co-chairs Dr Wayne Ng and Prof Jennifer Byrne facilitated an interesting panel discussion on the available infrastructure opportunities in Australia, in comparison to what BBMRI-ERIC have been able to achieve.

If you were unable to attend (or simply want to re-listen) a recording of this Biobanking Panel Discussion is now available. Click on the image to access the recording.

A poster for the International Society for Seed Science Conference (ISSS) 2025. The title is 'INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SEED SCIENCE CONFERENCE THE 15TH BIENNIAL ISSS CONFERENCE / SEED ECOLOGY VIII'. It features a QR code for registration, a QR code for joining the mailing list, and the website iss2025.com.au. The location is Fraser's Kings Park, Perth, Western Australia, from 15 - 19 September 2025. The poster includes images of a seedling, a field of flowers, and a group of people.

The International Society for Seed Science Conference, the 15th Biennial ISSS Conference / Seed Ecology VIII (ISSS 2025) will be held 15 - 19 September 2025 in Perth, Western Australia. The International Society for Seed Science fosters research, education, and communication in the scientific understanding of seeds, and ISSS 2025 will bring together, for the first time, two of the Society’s premier events as a joint conference to celebrate seeds and to inspire synergies across the seed science community. Registration is available now.

Some key dates to note:

Abstract submissions close - 15 January 2025

Early bird deadline - 14 March 2025

Standard registrations open - 15 March 2025

ISBER Elections

ISBER welcomes voting for the following positions:

President-Elect (May 2025-2028)

Treasurer (May 2025-2028)

The election details are listed on the ISBER website [HERE](#) and voting is open until 4pm, Jan 16 2025 (AEDT).

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES



CASSANDRA GRIFFIN

[View Candidate Position Statement](#)

[View Candidate Biosketch](#)



WAYNE NG

[View Candidate Position Statement](#)

[View Candidate Biosketch](#)



STELLA SOMIARI

[View Candidate Position Statement](#)

[View Candidate Biosketch](#)

TREASURER CANDIDATES



MARTA AGATA AMBROZEWICZ

[View Candidate Position Statement](#)

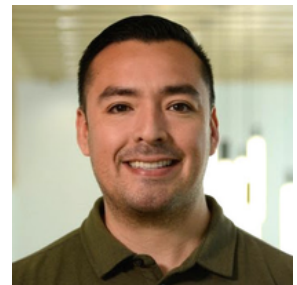
[View Candidate Biosketch](#)



ANUSHA HETTIARATCHI

[View Candidate Position Statement](#)

[View Candidate Biosketch](#)



RAUL RIOS

[View Candidate Position Statement](#)

[View Candidate Biosketch](#)

OUR MEMBERS SAVE BIG!

Become a member of ISBER and save \$400+ on regular registration for ISBER 2025 in Montreal, Canada.

Save more with the early **moose** discounts!
#isber2025

BE THE EARLY MOOSE!

isber MONTREAL CANADA MAY 12-16, 2025 ANNUAL MEETING
www.isber.org

Roundtable Discussions: Submit your Ideas!

Deadline Extended: Jan. 13, 25

www.isber.org **#isber2025**

isber MONTREAL CANADA MAY 12-16, 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

If you have any suggestions for a short article for ABNA Exchange, please contact: info@abna.org.au



www.abna.org.au



@ABNAonline

