



## The FNQ of Biobanking: Futureproof, Network, Quality

ABNA 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**October 16<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> 2019**  
**Pullman Cairns International**

### ABNA Annual Conference 2019

ABNA announced that the ABNA's 17th Annual Conference, The FNQ of Biobanking: Futureproof, Network, Quality, will be held in Cairns, Far North Queensland. This year for the first time the conference will be held over three days, from 16th to 18th October, inclusive. Please save the date and keep an eye on the ABNA website for further details.

The theme of this year's conference will provide an interesting platform for workshops, presentations and discussions for both new and experienced biobankers. The ABNA Conference Organising Committee looks forward to hosting biobankers from around Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

#### 2019 ABNA Committee

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President: Pamela Saunders

Vice President: Anusha Hettiaratchi

Treasurer: Valerie Jakrot & Catherine Kennedy

Secretary: Judith Heads & Leanne Wallace

Other Committee Members:

Nina D'Vaz, Cassandra Griffin,

Bharvi Manek, Kathleen Phillips,

Ussha Pillai, Georget Reaiche, Phillip

Shepherd, Helen Tsimiklis

This year the conference will be hosted at the Pullman Cairns International, located in the very heart of tropical Cairns, just moments from the city's most popular attractions, best shopping spots, world class restaurants and cafes:

<https://www.pullmancairnsinternational.com.au/>

Join fellow delegates at a networking dinner on Thursday Oct 17th at Ochre Restaurant:

<https://ochrerestaurant.com.au/restaurant/>

Conference registration, accommodation and dinner pricing and other event information will be available shortly on the ABNA website:

<https://abna.org.au/>

## ABNA sponsored delegate to ISBER Shanghai

ABNA is proud to sponsor Yassine Souilmi to attend ISBER 2019 Annual Meeting in Shanghai, May 7-10th. Yassine was selected as a recipient of ABNA sponsorship following his highly successful presentation at the ABNA's 16th Annual Conference in Melbourne 2018. Yassine is being sponsored by ABNA for a Round Table discussion, his biography is presented below.

ISBER is sponsoring Ray Tobler, from The Aboriginal Heritage Project, University of Adelaide, whose work was also presented at ABNA, Melbourne 2018. Ray will be presenting in the Special Topics Session: Biobanking in Asia and Oceania.

ABNA member Helen Morrin, University of Otago Christchurch, New Zealand will give a symposium presentation titled Engaging with Our Indigenous Community to Develop a Culturally Responsive Biobank in New Zealand.

Dan Catchpoole, The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Australia, outgoing Director-at-Large for the Indo-Pacific Rim and ISBER President-Elect (May 2019) will be chairing a symposium on the opening day of the conference.

The ISBER 2019 preliminary program can be found here:

[http://meetings.isber.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019PreliminaryProgram\\_03.21.2019.pdf](http://meetings.isber.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019PreliminaryProgram_03.21.2019.pdf)

Full speaker profiles can be found here:

[http://meetings.isber.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Speaker-Profiles\\_Mar7.pdf](http://meetings.isber.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Speaker-Profiles_Mar7.pdf)

ABNA wish Yassine, Ray, Helen, Dan, and all ABNA members presenting and travelling to China, the very best for a successful conference at ISBER Shanghai 2019.



Yassine Souilmi, PhD, MS is a postdoctoral researcher at the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA (ACAD). Dr Souilmi a Harvard trained bioinformatician and Fulbright alumnus before joining ACAD played a significant leadership role in coordinating bioinformatics training and networks in Africa. Currently, Dr Souilmi leads an international team of researchers to data-mine the Online Ancient Genome Repository (OAGR)—a comprehensive centralised database containing all known ancient DNA specimens, genomes, and associated metadata. In addition to his work on OAGR, Dr Souilmi is leading work in improving ancient DNA bioinformatic analyses and applying novel technological methods to address outstanding evolutionary questions.

If you have any suggestions for a short article for Bio-Babble, please contact :  
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