



BIO-BABBLE

AUSTRALASIAN BIOSPECIMEN NETWORK ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2019

2019 ABNA Committee

RESIDENT: 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, Ussha Pillai,
Georget Reaiche, Phillip Shepherd,
Helen Tsimiklis.

Conference Workshops

ABNA's Annual Conference in Cairns will be hosting two workshops on Wednesday Oct 16th from 12:30pm which will reflect the Futureproof, Network & Quality themes of this year's conference.

WORKSHOP 1A: NATA 12:30 - 13:30

Hosted by Gillian Treloar the Deputy Sector Manager for Legal and Clinical services at NATA.

This workshop will centre around ISO 20387 Biotechnology – Biobanking – General Requirements for biobanking, first published in 2018 which NATA is seeking to offer accreditation for interested biobanks. Workshop participants will learn what is in the pipeline regarding accreditation, offer feedback and discuss what accreditation can offer biobankers.

WORKSHOP 1B: ISBER 13:30 - 14:30

Hosted by Wayne Ng the Regional Ambassador, Indo Pacific Rim, ISBER.

This workshop will showcase ISBER's history with a focus on what activity occurs within the Indo Pacific Rim. Come and learn about the opportunities available for ABNA members through interaction and association with ISBER for biobanking at a global level.

WORKSHOP 2: LIMS 15:00 - 16:30

This LIMS workshop will showcase how biobankers use their LIMS. These are not company sponsored talks. Each speaker will present a standardised presentation to allow workshop participants to directly compare LIMS/databases and discuss how they have adapted their workflows to match their LIMS or vice versa. If you are looking for a new database, to upgrade your current LIMS or perhaps there are novel ways to make your database work better for you, this workshop will present user experiences as well as facilitate a discussion around the important features of a database. Results from the ABNA LIMS survey (see link below) will also be tabled for discussion. All biobankers are encouraged to complete the ABNA LIMS survey before October 1st : <http://bit.ly/ABNALIMSWorkshop>

In order to gauge workshop sizes delegates are requested to indicate workshop attendance at the time of registration.



The National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia

The National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) is Australia's national accreditation body for the accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies, calibration services, producers of certified reference materials and proficiency testing scheme providers throughout Australia. It is also Australia's compliance monitoring authority for the OECD Principles of GLP. NATA is a public company limited by guarantee and our constitution is described in the NATA Rules.

NATA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Government and various state and territory governments that recognise its key role in Australia's technical infrastructure. The Australian Government recommends the use of NATA-accredited facilities whenever this is an option and encourages state and territory governments and other instrumentalities to do likewise.

For more information on NATA:
<https://www.nata.com.au/>



International Accreditation New Zealand

International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) is New Zealand's premier accreditation body. An organisation that holds IANZ accreditation can have confidence in its processes and thereby provide assurance to its customers and clients.

IANZ is part of the Accreditation Council an autonomous, Crown entity established in 1972. IANZ is a full signatory member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the regional body, Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC).

IANZ is active in the global and regional networks of accreditation authorities. A Mutual Recognition Arrangement ensures test, calibration and inspection reports from IANZ accredited organisations meet the required international standards and avoids the need for expensive re-testing and re-certification. In turn, accredited reports from these other countries are recognised in New Zealand.

For more information on IANZ:
<https://www.ianz.govt.nz/>



Spotlight on ABNA Invited Conference Speakers

Gillian Treloar



Gillian Treloar is the Deputy Sector Manager for Legal and Clinical services at NATA. The role involves liaising with stakeholders including government regulators and accredited facilities on issues related to compliance and Quality Management Systems. Prior to joining NATA, Gillian had over 30 years experience in research and pathology and experienced significant changes in the regulatory and accreditation environments as well as been part of the introduction of automation in testing and the development of Laboratory Information Systems. ISO 20387 Biotechnology - Biobanking - General requirements for biobanking was published in 2018. This document recognises the importance of biobanks around the world for research and the exchange of knowledge. NATA is seeking to offer accreditation for biobanks with the objective of promoting confidence and cooperation between researchers and other parties.

Gillian will be running Workshop 1A at ABNAs Annual Conference The FNQ of Biobanking - Futureproof, Network, Quality in Cairns on Wednesday 16 October.

For conference registration and to sign up for all workshops head to the registration portal:
<http://abna-2019-cairns.w.abna.currinda.com/register>

Spotlight on ABNA Invited Conference Speakers ... continued

Dr Sonu Bhaskar

Dr Sonu Bhaskar is an award-winning clinician-scientist, academic neurologist and healthcare executive with a specialisation in vascular neurology and neuroradiology and a researcher with a strong focus on neurovascular imaging, (neuro)-epidemiology and health-systems.

Dr Bhaskar is the Founding Director and Chair of Governance Board of NSW Brain Clot Bank – a flagship world's first initiative established with the funding from the NSW Ministry of Health in partnership with NSW Health Pathology, local health districts (LHDs), comprehensive stroke centres, NSW State-wide Biobank and medical research institutes in NSW. Dr Bhaskar leads the Neurovascular Imaging Laboratory and holds conjoint affiliations at the Department of Neurology & Neurophysiology, Liverpool Hospital, South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD), Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney.

Prior to moving to South Western Sydney, Dr Bhaskar has worked at world's leading university hospitals and research institutes in Australia, Europe and Asia. He has successfully led many novel initiatives with broader policy implications. Dr Bhaskar has attracted substantial funding through competitive fellowships and project grants. He has been the recipient of prestigious national and international awards including EU Marie Curie fellowship, Spanish Ministry of Health fellowship, Dutch Ministry Top Talent Award in Biomedical Sciences and Medical Innovation and Prof AR Rao Young Scientist Award. Dr Bhaskar is a member of distinguished societies including the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), American Neurological Association (ANA) and International Society of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism (ISCBFM). Dr Bhaskar's work has been published in several prestigious journals including Nature Scientific Reports, Annals of Clinical and Translational Neurology, BMC Neurology, Clinical Science and Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism.

Dr Bhaskar founded Neurology Talkies – a novel program dedicated to improving awareness of neurological diseases through community engagement. In 2019, Dr Bhaskar was selected to deliver two Neurology Talkies talks at Liverpool and Carnes Hill Library, for Inspiring Australia's Talking Science Series, as part of Sydney Science Festival in National Science Week. Dr Bhaskar is passionate about compassionate & inclusive healthcare leadership, humane and ethical innovation and patient-centered care.



Dr Sonu Bhaskar will be presenting at ABNA's annual conference The FNQ of Biobanking - Futureproof, Network, Quality in Cairns on Thursday October 17.

Read more about Dr Bhaskar's work here:
<https://www.southwestsydneyresearch.org.au/dr-sonu-bhaskar-turning-an-idea-into-reality/>

If you have any suggestions for a short article for Bio-Babble, please contact :
Pamela Saunders
ABNA President
pamela.consulting1@gmail.com

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

Biobanking Now in Queensland - One Day Workshop

by Dr Shirley Wee

Griffith University's Gold Coast Biobank was officially launched on 12 August at Menzies Health Institute Queensland following a successful one-day workshop – Biobanking Now in Queensland. The workshop focused on current developments within biobanking in Queensland, interstate and overseas.

Keynote speaker, Prof Emiel Janssen from Stavanger University Hospital spoke on 'The evolution of biobanks in Norway' whilst we learned about how initial NHMRC infrastructure funding supported Metro South Health's Cancer Collaborative Biobank's expansion and facilitated research on a wide range of haematological diseases.

NatureBank/Compounds Australia's Moana Simpson then passed on lessons learnt from operating a successful national facility and we cannot agree more with Monash Health Tissue Bank's Zdenka Prodanovic emphasis on the importance of appropriate and future-proofing informed consent in biobanking. The audience in the packed room also found out how an integrative data management system and digital pathology bolster sustainable biobanking.

Lastly, Gillian Treloar from NATA provided us with an update on accreditation requirements in biobanking and the workshop was closed by special guest speaker, Professor Janet Davies looking ahead on the potential and direction of biobanking in Queensland.

It was a significant milestone for the Gold Coast Biobank made possible by its sponsors which resulted in an estimated \$25K worth of TV/radio/social media coverage and boosted community awareness of biobanking.

For more information on the Gold Coast Biobank:

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/menzies-health-institute-queensland/our-research/gold-coast-biobank>



Presentations and attendees at Griffith University's Gold Coast Biobank launch at the Biobanking Now in Queensland Workshop, Menzies Health Insitute. Photograph credit: Dr Shirley Wee



isber2020
APRIL 14-18
Annual Meeting & Exhibits