

## Your ABNA Committee 2018

**President:** Pamela Saunders

**Vice President:** Kathleen Philips

**Treasurer:** Brooke Backman

**Secretary:** Judith Heads

### Other Committee Members:

Anusha Hettiaratchi, Valerie Jakrot,  
Catherine Kennedy, Audrey Partanen,  
Zdenka Prodanovic and Oksana  
Markovych.

**Thank you to all ABNA members  
who have completed their  
membership renewals.**

Your support is vital to the ongoing success and expansion of ABNA, and the continuation of our annual conference.

To renew your membership or to join ABNA, please visit the website:  
<http://abna.org.au/join/>

## ABNA's 16th Annual Conference will be hosted in... Melbourne!

The host city for ABNA's next annual conference – Melbourne – was announced in Brisbane with a tentative date of mid-October. Please join us in beautiful cosmopolitan Melbourne in 2018; further details will be announced in the New Year.

## ABNA 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Brisbane

Another successful ABNA meeting was held in Brisbane in October with the Keynote speaker being Distinguished Professor Judith Clements. The conference theme: **Bridging the Gap – From the Clinic to the Biobank.**

Topics ranged from “Challenges of establishing and maintaining a psychiatric Biomarker Centre” to “From Biobank to Koalas: Translating Science across species”. We heard reports from COGNO's Brain Cancer Biobanking Australia (BCBA), Autism CRC's Australian Autism Biobank, and a Research Governance Review: “Too much of a good thing?”. Dan Catchpoole, ISBER's Director-at - Large for the Indo-Pacific Rim region, gave an update on ISBER 2017 and Global Biobanking Week in Stockholm.

Thank you again to all of our Sponsors for sharing new technologies and storage solutions at the trade displays, and a special thank you to our Platinum Sponsor Thermo-Fisher who also sponsored the wonderful seafood banquet for the Conference Dinner. Many thanks also to our Conference Convener Emma Raymond and members of the Conference Committee for all their efforts.

At the Annual General Meeting, the new ABNA Management Committee for 2018 was announced. A big thank you to outgoing Executive members, President Catherine Kennedy and Treasurer John Parisot, who have contributed so much to ABNA over their 2-year terms.



## International Conference Updates

### Global Biobank Week 2017: Towards Harmony in Biobanking, Stockholm Sweden: September 13-15, 2017

This meeting attended by 857 delegates was a one-off joint conference of BBMRI-ERIC, ESBB and ISBER. It was very exciting to see Australian Colleagues in Stockholm. A highlight was the opening address by Gregory Simon, President of the Biden Cancer Initiative Foundation “Walking on the Moon: Lessons Learnt from the Cancer Moonshot”. There was a strong focus on the Community Engagement theme “Biobanking by the Public for the Public”. Find out more at: <http://globalbiobankweek.org>

### News from the International Society of Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)

It has been announced that ISBER 2019 Annual Meeting will be held in our “neighbourhood”, in Shanghai. Your ABNA committee will work towards partnering with ISBER in 2019 to engage with our fellow biobankers in Shanghai – stay tuned for more details.

**\* Save the Date \***

[Biospecimen Research Symposium](#) in Luxembourg, February 27th – 28th, 2018

[ISBER 2018 Annual Meeting](#) in Dallas, Texas USA, May 8th – 11th, 2018

[Europe Biobank Week](#) in Atwerp, Belgium, September 4th – 7th, 2018

## A little bit of light reading

### **He Tangata Kei Tua: Guidelines for Biobanking with Māori**

Those of you attended ABNA's meeting in Adelaide 2016 will remember that the launch of the "He Tangata Kei Tua Guidelines for Biobanking with Māori" by the South Australian Minister for Health. Two separate guidelines focused on biobanking and genomic research in Maori contexts were developed out of a three-year Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) funded project involving a team of Maori researchers led by Maui Hudson out of the University of Waikato. The guidelines are available on the ABNA website: <http://abna.org.au/category/education/>.

## Focus on biobanks

### **Biobanking Certification: a standardised approach to Biobanking in NSW**

Launched in June 2016 by NSW Health Pathology, the NSW Health Pathology Biobank Certification Program forms part of a strategy to develop a statewide framework for sustainable biobanking, and aims to improve and harmonise biobanking standards through education and communication of best practices and SOPs. The NSW program was adapted from the successful Canadian Tissue Repository Network (CTRNet) Biobank Certification Program, which is highly regarded internationally, and used as a resource by ISBER. Currently the program is available to Biobanks within NSW only. Biobanks across NSW are encouraged to enroll in the NSW Biobanking Certification Program to obtain Australian-specific education modules on Biobanking best practices, resources, tests, and assessments of key Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Register or find out more at: <https://nsw.biobanking.org/>

### **Brain Cancer Biobank Australia**

Established in 2015 by a consumer representative, Brain Cancer Biobanking Australia (BCBA) is a consortium of leading Paediatric and adult brain cancer clinicians, researchers and biobankers who have agreed to join forces to harmonise Australia's geographically and operationally disparate brain cancer biobanks. Acting as a virtual biobank hub, BCBA has established a national register of brain tumour biospecimens and is working to facilitate researcher access to the amount, quality and type of tissue and associated clinical data needed to advance translational brain cancer research. BCBA operates under the umbrella of the Clinical Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO) – a link that further enhances opportunities for the translation of pre-clinical research into clinical trials and on to much needed treatments for brain cancer patients. Find out more at: <http://www.bcba.org.au/>

## Biobanking in the news

### **NSW Health Statewide Biobank launched - congratulations to Jane Carpenter and the team!**

See Sydney Morning Herald's report: "[Biggest biobank in the southern hemisphere to revolutionise medical research in NSW](#)". For more information on the NSW Statewide Biobank, please visit: <http://biobank.health.nsw.gov.au>

*If you have any suggestions for a short article for "Bio-Babble" please contact [pamela.saunders@sahmri.com](mailto:pamela.saunders@sahmri.com)*

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## Australasian Biospecimen Network Association

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

*For new memberships and  
renewals please follow this link:  
<http://abna.org.au/join/>*