

# ABNA Newsletter \_ Bio-Babble



**July 2017**

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## *Your ABNA Committee 2017*

**President:** Catherine Kennedy

**Vice President:** Pamela

Saunders

**Treasurer:** John Parisot

**Secretary:** Judith Heads

**Other Committee Members:**

Anusha Hettiaratchi, Audrey

Partanen, Kathleen Phillips,

Emma Raymond

## Welcome to our first edition of Bio-Babble:

**ABNA Annual Meeting 2017: October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>** - This year the committee would like to invite you to join us in **Brisbane** for another informative meeting to catch up on the latest in Biobanking news and views. Also, an ideal format for collaboration with your peers and our invited speakers. More information will be released shortly on the ABNA website

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

We would like to announce that Assoc. Prof Dan Catchpoole has been elected to the position of ISBER Director-at-Large for the Indo-Pacific Rim.

*Message from Dan:* It is a pleasure to introduce myself as the new Director-at-Large for ISBER in your region. My responsibility is to support and grow biobanking within the South East and Australasian region. I shall be aiming to identify those who are undertaking biobanking in this region, learn about the networks and societies that are forming and hopefully establish links between these groups where we can share knowledge, ideas and help build connections throughout the region. During 2017, ISBER shall be releasing the next versions of World Best Practice document. I hope this document will be introduced within our local sites and it would be terrific to get some feedback as to the utility of this document across the wide range of biobanks in the region.

## International Conference Updates:

Catherine Kennedy- ABNA President attended ISBER 2017 in Toronto Canada

This year the ISBER conference was in Toronto, Canada from May 9-12 with the title “*Due North: Aligning Biobanking Practice with Evolving Evidence and Innovation*”. The conference was well attended with over 700 registrants. Catherine Kennedy (your ABNA President) co-chaired the ELSI symposium “To tell or not to tell- the practical aspects of returning individual research results and incidental findings to participants” where Amber Johns (Garvan Institute of Medical Research) presented an excellent talk on “Returning germline genetic results in genome-scale cancer research”. The panel at the end of the session included Robyn Leonard (BCBA) and generated a lively discussion. Other symposia included “Liquid Specimens”, “Biospecimen quality for the next generation”, “Accelerating clinical and social outcomes with sample data” and “Emerging tools in biobanking and biospecimen research”.

ABNA members Helen Morrin and Dan Catchpoole also chaired contributed paper sessions and Jane Carpenter’s presentation was on “Adaption of a Biobank Certification Program for Australia”. The conference feedback was very positive and we look forward to Dallas in 2018.

Pamela Saunders (ABNA Vice President) is a member of the ISBER OAC but unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting.

Also, our congratulations to one of the ABNA founding members, Dan Catchpoole who was recently elected to the ISBER Board as the Director-at-large-Indo-Pacific Rim commencing May this year. Dan takes over from ABNA member Jane Carpenter who held this position since 2011.

## Global Biobank Week 2017: Towards Harmony in Biobanking –

Stockholm Sweden: September 13-15, 2017; Early Bird Registration on or before July 15, 2017

<http://globalbiobankweek.org>

**ISBER 2018:** – Save the Date - Dallas Texas USA: May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup> Inc. <http://www.isber.org>

### A little Bit of Light Reading:

The following link will lead you to a feast of biobanking articles \_ [The Biobanking Article of the Week](#) from BBMRI-LPC

<http://www.bbmri-lpc.org/node/46>

### Australian Prostate Cancer BioResource (APCB): Search for new markers of aggressive prostate cancer

The APCB was formed in 2005 to collect biological samples and long-term follow-up clinical data from men with Prostate disease. Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australian men, and the second leading cause of cancer deaths. One of the most critical research priorities is to be able to detect changes in the blood or tumour cells of prostate cancer patients at a very early disease stage, that can inform doctors and patients whether a cancer is likely to be life-threatening. Researchers at the Adelaide node of the Australian Prostate Cancer BioResource (APCB) are tackling this ambitious task, as part of their involvement in a Movember/Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia Revolutionary Team Award. The Team lead by Assoc Prof Lisa Butler has joined forces to integrate clinical follow-up data from patients in the APCB with the clinical specimens available in their biobank. This has now resulted in a powerful cohort of specimens from nearly 500 men with known clinical outcomes that can be used for biomarker discovery programs internationally, with their first priority being lipidomic alterations in blood and tumour tissue. From the first specimen collections in 2005 and as the APCB collections mature further, this valuable cohort will increase to become even more informative, and available for collaboration with researchers worldwide. <https://www.apcbioresource.org.au>

### Have you thought of participating in IBBL proficiency testing programme?

#### An objective quality assessment tool

As the only proficiency testing tool in the world that is focused on biospecimens, IBBL's (Integrated BioBank of Luxembourg) programme allows biorepositories, clinical laboratories, research organisations and bioservice providers to assess and compare their performance to that of other expert laboratories from all over the world. **REGISTER by 11 August** to find out how good your processing and testing methods are!

<http://ibbl.lu/pt>



If you have any suggestions for a short article for “Bio-Babble” please let me know at [pamela.saunders@sahmri.com](mailto:pamela.saunders@sahmri.com)

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

## Australasian Biospecimen Network Association

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