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BIO-BABBLE

AUSTRALASIAN BIOSPECIMEN NETWORK ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2019

ABNA 2019 Annual Conference

2020 ABNA Committee

PRESIDENT: Anusha Hettiaratchi
VICE PRESIDENT: Pamela Saunders
TREASURERS: Valerie Jakrot &
Catherine Kennedy
SECRETARY: Leanne Wallace

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Samantha Cauburg, Nina D'Vaz,
Cassandra Griffin, Wayne Ng,
Ussha Pillai, Georget Reaiche,
Helen Tsimiklis, Li Zhou.

On behalf of the 2019 Conference Organising Committee, ABNA hopes all attendees enjoyed The FNQ of Biobanking: Futureproof, Network, Quality. Following a Welcome to Country by Carl and presentation of a spear thrower to the ABNA President, the conference was opened by Prof Jennifer Byrne, Director of Biobanking, NSW Health.

Thank you to our keynote speakers Dr Fay Betsou, Prof Peter Watson and Dr Soo Yong Tan. Dr Tan's keynote was delivered from the Biobanking Session of the 11th ANRRC International Meeting at The University of the Philippines, Los Baños, occurring concurrently with ABNA in Cairns. This session would not have been possible without the co-ordination efforts of Maria Auxilia Siringan, Elena Catap and their IT team. We hope to continue and build on our collaboration with ANRRC for ABNA's 2020 conference.

Thank to our international speakers Dr Fay Betsou, IBBL, and Prof Peter Watson University of British Columbia, for making time in your schedules to present to our delegates and for doing so with such enthusiasm. Thank you to all the speakers for your thought provoking and scientifically exciting presentations, a special mention to Helen Morrin for her incredibly moving presentation on the events following the 2011 Christchurch earthquake. Thank you to the speakers who took part in the speed dates with delegates, ABNA hopes to offer this networking event again. In keeping with the Network theme, ISBER's Regional Ambassador, Dr Wayne Ng's Workshop included a message from Dr Koh Furuta, ISBER's IPR Director at Large.

This year an ANZCHOG-BN meeting ran concurrently with the ABNA Wednesday workshops, with ANZCHOG-BN delegates staying on for the ABNA presentations until the end of the week. It is testament to the quality of the presentations that the last session of ABNA was as full as the opening ceremony. ABNA also appreciates the support of all corporate sponsors this year and looks forward to working with them again.

Don't forget to complete the conference delegates feedback survey available [HERE](#) which will be open until Nov 1st. The Conference Organising Committee is keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions for Perth 2020.



Prize Winners

ABNA congratulates all the prize winners from this years conference. Thank you to everyone who submitted an abstract, the quality of submissions and presentations this year was exceptional and ABNA looks forward to receiving a similar calibre of submissions in 2020.

LUCKY POSTER PRIZE

This was the first year this prize was awarded for a randomly selected poster number.

Winner: Donna Sheedy, The University of Sydney.

Poster ID: #66 "Pathological correlations in alcohol use disorders and controls: Results from NSW Brain Tissue Resource Centre"

Congratulations Donna, we hope you enjoyed your visit to the Pullman Carins International's Vie Spa.

BEST POSTER PRIZE

This prize was judged by three ABNA members, judges spoke to each poster presenter as well as scoring the content and presentation of each poster.

Winner: Judith Heads, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research.

Poster ID: #55 "Implementing a New Centralised Biobanking Service Model at the Westmead Research Hub, NSW, Australia"

Congratulations Judith you will be receiving your \$100 prize soon.

BEST RAPID FIRE PRESENTATION PRIZE

This prize was chosen from the 12 abstract submissions, 4 each of Futureproof, Network and Quality themes, which were selected to give a 5 minute rapid fire presentation.

Winner: Lucia Sinclair

Poster ID: #75 "Cancer Society Tissue Bank Future-Proofing since 1996"

Congratulations Lucia your \$200 prize is on its way to you in New Zealand.

BEST ORAL PRESENTATION

This prize was chosen from the 3 abstract submissions, one from each of the Futureproof, Network and Quality themes, which were selected for a 15 minute oral presentation.

Winner: Cassandra Griffin, Hunter Cancer Biobank

Poster ID: #59 "Sink or Swim: Facing the Burden of Sustainability in Biobanking."

Congratulations Cassandra you have won an early bird member registration for yourself to the ABNA 2020 Annual Conference valued at approx \$350.



ABNA President Pamela Saunders with prize winners (L to R) Lucia Sinclair, Judith Heads and Cassandra Griffin.

The FNQ of Biobanking: Futureproof, Network, Quality ... in pictures



View of the Kuranda Ballroom, setting up for the live stream between ABNA and ANRRC



Delegates in the corporate sponsor area



Dr Sonu Bashkar presenting at the Futureproof session



Helen Morrin starts her presentation



Platinum sponsor presentation from David Felici



Dr Fay Betsou during her keynote presentation



Hunter Cancer Bank's Trish Collinson & Jenna Bowen with their poster



Dr Koh Furuta's message to ABNA played during Dr Wayne Ng's ISBER workshop



ISBER display at the Registration Desk



Prof Jennifer Byrne's welcome address

Introducing ABNA's 2020 Management Committee

President: Anusha Hettiaratchi - University of NSW

Vice President: Pamela Saunders - Pamela Saunders Consulting

Secretary: Leanne Wallace - University of Queensland

Treasurers:

Valerie Jakrot - Melanoma Institute Australia

Catherine Kennedy - Westmead Hospital, WIMR, University of Sydney

Members:

Samantha Cauburg - Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Nina D'Vaz - Telethon Kids Institute

Cassandra Griffin - Hunter Cancer Biobank

Wayne Ng - Cancer Council Victoria

Ussha Pillai - Kolling Institute of Medical Research

Georget Reaiche-Miller - The University of Adelaide

Helen Tsimiklis - Monash University

Li Zhou - The Childrens Hospital Westmead

Thank you to all members of the outgoing 2019 Management Committee. Two members from the 2019 committee, Judith Heads and Phillip Shepherd, will not be continuing on in 2020, they were both valuable members of the 2019 Conference Organising Committee while Judith also held the position of joint ABNA Secretary in 2019. Thank you for your contribution in the past year, you will be missed and should the chance arise, ABNA looks forward to working with you again.

Leanne Wallace will take over the role of ABNA secretary, following a year of sharing the role with Judith Heads. Treasurers Catherine Kennedy and Valerie Jakrot will stay on in their current roles, they both put in a tremendous effort this past year working with a new system, thank you for your perseverance (and patience), ABNA appreciates your continued efforts to keep the association running smoothly.

A special mention to the outgoing President, Pamela Saunders for her leadership this past year. Pam has steered the Management and the Conference Organising Committees for the past two years and worked tirelessly to promote ABNA. Thank you Pam for all your effort. ABNA are very fortunate to have Pam continue on the Management Committee in the role of Vice President, working with the incoming President Anusha Hettiaratchi.

In 2020 ABNA welcomes three new committee members Li Zhou, Samantha Cauburg and Wayne Ng. Along with returning members Nina D'Vaz, Cassandra Griffin, Ussha Pillai, Georget Reaiche-Miller and Helen Tsimiklis, the 2020 Management Committee are looking forward to working together for a productive year ahead.



ABNA 2020 Management Committee members pictured at the conference dinner in Cairns, from L to R:
Leanne, Helen, Li, Valerie, Ussha, Nina, Georget, Catherine, Anusha, Cassandra, Wayne, Pamela
(Missing: Samantha)

First time ABNA Conference attendees

There were many first time ABNA attendees in Cairns this year, the Conference Organising Committee was interested to hear about their experiences and impressions in their own words.

Vesna Aleksova

Asbestos Diseases Research Institute



This was the first time I have attended the ABNA conference and I can easily say that I thoroughly enjoyed the three days in Cairns learning about biobanking and speaking with other biobankers.

After spending more than 25 years working in pathology, this is my first job as a Biobank Officer at Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI). Being the only one Biobank Officer at ADRI, I felt quite isolated. This conference has enabled me to meet many wonderful people with whom I was able to discuss the challenges we face in our jobs.

I particularly found the speeches and presentations very helpful and learnt a lot of new things about Biobanking. With my background in pathology I was very interested and impressed by the NATA presentation, and like other biobankers am waiting to see what the accreditation process will involve.

I appreciated that the people were very friendly and welcoming, the venue was great and the organisation of the event was flawless. I would like to thank everyone for making me feel as part of the Biobanking society.

I am already looking forward to next years conference. See you in Perth.



Vesna Aleksova (R) with ABNA President Pamela Saunders (L) in the poster display area

Lylee Ye

Childrens Cancer Institute



With the support of the Australian & New Zealand Childrens Haematology/Oncology Group Biobanking Network (ANZCHOG-BN), Tour de Cure, and The Kids Cancer Project, I had the pleasure of attending my first biobanking conference this year at ABNA 2019.

After 3 and a half years in the industry as a technical assistant and having recently stepped into the role of Acting Tumour Bank Coordinator at the Children's Cancer Institute (CCI), ABNA 2019 was a fantastic opportunity for me to meet like-minded individuals, learn about biobanking outside of paediatrics, and better understand the future directions (and challenges!) of biobanking and how to prepare for them.

The presentations were very informative and relevant, and I'm sure every attendee took away something useful. Despite some technical difficulties with the video live stream with the Asian Network of Research Resource Centre, it was a commendable effort to bridge international networks and speaks volumes to the effort put into the event. The Networking Dinner held on Thursday was a great opportunity to network in a less formal setting, and I for one had a great time, and met a lot of amazing people. The choice of venue and on-site accommodation was ideal and kept us out of the heat.

Overall, I found the experience very satisfying and would highly recommend for anyone interested in biobanking.



Lylee Ye (L) at the conference dinner with Tom Karagiannis, Jennifer Byrne, Peter Watson, Sonu Bhaskar & Pamela Saunders