



australasian
biospecimen
network
association

BIO-BABBLE

AUSTRALASIAN BIOSPECIMEN NETWORK ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
JULY 2020

2020 ABNA Committee

PRESIDENT: Anusha Hettiaratchi

VICE PRESIDENT: Cassandra Griffin

TREASURERS: Valerie Jakrot & Catherine Kennedy

SECRETARY: Leanne Wallace

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Nina D'Vaz, Wayne Ng,
Ussha Pillai, Georget Reaiche,
Helen Tsimiklis, Li Zhou.

2020 Annual General Meeting

The postponement of the 2020 ABNA Annual Conference has meant that this years Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held as a virtual meeting. The Management Committee will be setting the date and an agenda will be circulated, all current ABNA members are encouraged to attend.

For members who have not previously attended an AGM we encourage you to attend to see how your association works. The Rules of the Association state that the ordinary business of this meeting is:

- to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting; and
- to receive from the committee reports upon the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year; and
- to elect officers of the Association and the ordinary members of the committee; and
- to receive and consider any representations submitted

ABNA Membership Renewals

Membership renewals will be available in August.

To renew your membership head to:

<https://abna.currinda.com/register/organisation/3>

You will need to create a profile for yourself in Currinda if you do not already have one, before being able to select a membership option. A reminder that this year there will be new Institutional membership rates available for 3, 4, 5 or 6 members per biobank.

Number of members	New	Renewal
1	\$70	\$50
3	\$190	\$135
4	\$235	\$180
5	\$275	\$220
6	\$305	\$250

ABNA 18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Biobanking – Blue Sky Horizons

20 – 22 October 2021

Rendezvous Hotel Perth Scarborough

Western Australia

ANNOUNCING NEW 2021 DATES

Get to know the ISBER President and Indo Pacific Region Director-at-Large

ABNA is pleased to announce the renewal of the Affiliate Agreement with ISBER for 2020. ABNA looks forward to continuing our partnership with ISBER with the goal of maintaining maximum co-operation between the two organisations. Australasia sits within the Indo Pacific Region (IPR) of ISBER and we present here a brief introduction to the current ISBER President, Dan Catchpoole, and the IPR Director-at-Large, Koh Furuta.

ISBER President



Dan Catchpoole is a founding member and the first President of ABNA, his leadership in biobanking saw him voted into the role of ISBER Director-at-Large for the Indo Pacific Rim. In 2018 Dan was elected to the organisation's Board of Directors as President-Elect and in May 2020 returned as President.

Since completing his undergraduate degree Dan has been involved with research into childhood malignancy as well as cancer prone syndromes in children, gaining valuable post-doctoral experience at Cambridge University, UK. In 2001 he was appointed Head of the Tumour Bank at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, where he has established the Biospecimens Research Group within the Children's Cancer Research Unit of The Kids Research Institute.

Since 2001, his scientific achievements and publications have primarily focused on the assessment of childhood tumours, with specific attention given to acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and neuroblastoma.

Dan: "As ISBER transitions into its 22nd year, we are faced with a world fragmented by a tiny foe which has greatly impacted how we engage and work together. The ISBER Board however, represents a united international team that, along with our Head Office staff, will continue to serve the Society in providing a vibrant and creative environment for biorepository professionals to meet, discuss, debate and build a strong integrated biobanking community around the world,"

Indo Pacific Region Director-at-Large



Koh Furuta was initially elected to the IPR Director-at-Large role in mid 2019 and has since been re-elected into the position earlier in 2020 for a further two years.

Koh started his career training and practising as a surgeon. He spent 5 years at Johns Hopkins University from '92 to '97 and during that time was exposed to the very early stages of molecular biology and biobanking. On returning to Japan, Koh spent 15 years at the National Cancer Center Hospital, Tokyo where his work focused on establishing a biobank of liquid samples, especially blood.

Koh is currently working as a national expert of ISO TC212 (Clinical Laboratory) and TC215 SC1 (Genomics Informatics). He serves as the official liaison between TC212 and ISO TC276 (Biobanking).

His current contributions are deeply related to standardisation and harmonisation of human samples and associated data to attain quality, not only in research and development, but also in the clinical field.

In January 2020 Koh joined the Advanced Medical Research Centre in the University of Ryukyu, Okinawa. The purpose of this appointment is to establish a new biobank/bioresource centre. This biobank/bioresource centre is focused on not only human specimens but also encompasses the field of marine biology. He is especially interested in providing a better environment for biobanking in Okinawa Japan for various stakeholders including biobankers, users and regulatory parties. Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in the biobanking community is one of the key issues for the Advanced Medical Research Centre, setting an example of how to enhance dialogue between biobankers and industry.

ISBER Regional Ambassador Update

by Wayne Ng, Victorian Cancer Biobank

INDO PACIFIC



2020 Board Members

The ISBER has announced their 2020 Board Members after their very first virtual Annual Business Meeting on 21st May 2020. We are glad to have two representatives from Australasia on the board this year. While Associate Professor Daniel Catchpoole is returning as the President, Jane Carpenter from NSW Health Pathology has been appointed as the Treasurer. Piper Mullins, from the Smithsonian Institution is the 2020 President-Elect and Monique Albert from Ontario Institute for Cancer Research takes on the role of Secretary. Debra Garcia of course stays on as Past President.

ISBER IPR Regional Ambassador

It has been a year since the ISBER Regional Ambassadors (RA) for IPR region were appointed. The current RAs for IPR region include Tatsuaki Tsuruyama from Japan, Birendra Yadav from India, Wayne Ng from Australia and the newly appointed RA, Jajah Fachiroh from Indonesia. Under the leadership of Koh Furuta as the DAL, the IPR-RAs have been meeting every month virtually to stay updated and discuss biobanking and ISBER matters in this region.

The RA team have been working together to understand the biobanking industry and practices in this region that has the most diverse cultures and economic situations.

Please contact wayne.ng@cancervic.org.au if you would like to connect or have any questions in regards to ISBER.

ISBER Website

The ISBER [website](#) received a major face lift in mid-May. As ISBER has grown in scope and activity, the website too has grown since its last redevelopment in 2013. Some of the new features include a sleek, modern design; simplified navigation and membership joining and renewal process; phone or tablet friendly web pages; single login for the forums; and updated calendar and news pages.

As you explore ISBER's new online home, if you find any links that are broken or have any questions please email info@isber.org

ISBER Regional Ambassador Update

COVID-19 Pandemic

Since COVID-19 has been declared as a pandemic, the ISBER community has been actively connecting through Townhall meetings, webinars and surveys, sharing resources amongst all with the hope of improving the management of this unexpected situation. Some of these meetings and webinars listed below are still relevant and useful. The recordings are available [here](#) to anyone who is interested

1. Understanding the COVID-19 webinar
2. Vendors Town Hall
3. The COVID-19 Impact Town Hall Part 1: Preparedness & Response Across Indo-Pacific Rim and China
4. The COVID-19 Impact Town Hall Part 2: Preparedness & Response Across the Americas and Europe

Upon concluding the ISBER Community COVID-19 Response survey, the ISBER Standards Committee has also shared the initial findings of the survey in the webinar: [Biobanking in the COVID-19 Era: How Early Experiences Can Translate into Actionable Wisdom.](#)

ISBER 2020 Educational Program Series

In April 2020, global leaders were set to converge in the largest international biobank conference, ISBER 2020 Anaheim, to address the impact of biobanks on science and how the related discoveries are establishing a roadmap to extend our knowledge network. Given the cancellation of this meeting, a large proportion of our invited speakers have agreed to give their presentations virtually via the ISBER 2020 Educational Program Series.

The online workshop series started in late June and are continuing every week till later this year, covering topics ranging from sample quality in long term storage, neglected ELSI, experience in ISO 20387 accreditation and more. The webinars are available live or as recordings to suit your time.

For more details please visit the [website](#).



If you have any suggestions for a short article for Bio-Babble,
please contact : abna.biobabble@gmail.com

Content deadline for August 2020 edition: 21.08.20