

BIO-BABBLE



Newsletter of the Australasian Biospecimen Network Association

PRESIDENT: Cassandra Griffin

TREASURER: Helen Tsimiklis

VICE PRESIDENT: Georget Reaiche

SECRETARY: Ussha Pillai

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Nina D'Vaz, Anusha Hettiaratchi, Samantha Higgins, Valerie Jakrot, Catherine Kennedy, Louise Ludlow, Wayne Ng, Leanne Wallace, Shirley Wee, Li Zhou

CONFERENCE WRAP UP

Thank you to all ABNA 2021 Annual Conference attendees, on-line or in-person at the WA, SA or Qld Hubs and to the 2021 Conference Organising Committee for putting together this year's program. We hope you found the sessions informative. We appreciate the time and effort from our invited speakers to present from state hubs or on-line from across Australia, from the US and Japan. Of the eleven invited speakers we are also pleased to be reaching towards gender parity at 6:5 Male:Female. Speakers with a range of specialities gave us an insight into a vast variety of topics ranging from understanding the importance of indigenous genetic empowerment to the role of seed conservation and from frog reproduction to shipwreck sourced yeast strains. We heard from initiatives such as Newcastle1000, ENDIA, Tohuko Medical Megabank, The National Research Infrastructure Roadmap, NATA and the STRICT framework with respect to multi-institutional studies along with an update from our ISBER colleagues.

We loved seeing the tweets pop up in our feed throughout the day, and enjoyed reading and engaging with the conversations in the meeting chat that sparked as the presentations were in progress.

Selected slide packs from permitting presenters are now available through the members area of the [ABNA website](#). For anyone who has not previously accessed this area of our website, you will need to create a login name and password for the Members Area separate to your Currinda credentials in order to access the content.

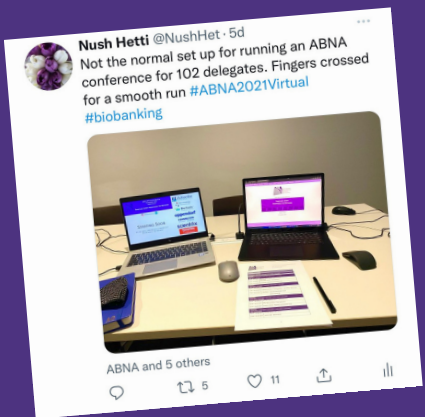
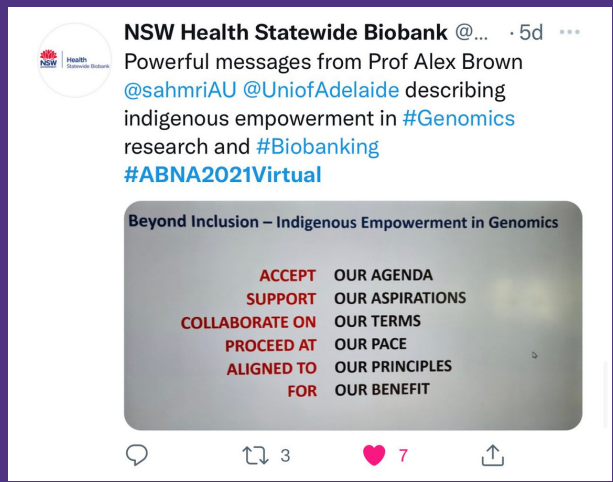
Congratulations to the abstracts selected for Rapid Fire Presentations who were all in the running for the Air Con Serve sponsored prize of a full Early Bird Registration to ABNA's 19th Annual Conference 2022. Congratulations to the winner, Craig Willers, we look forward to seeing you in Perth. Our 2022 conference will see the return of poster presentation submissions as we return to a more traditional in-person multi-day conference format.

All attendees will be receiving a post conference survey. Given the changes in format of this years conference, ABNA are keen to use this opportunity to see how some of the new features were received. If you can spare a short moment, we'd be grateful if you could please leave your [feedback](#) for the Conference Organising Committee.

The AGM at the conclusion of the conference resulted in the election of Cassandra Griffin as ABNA President and Georget Reaiche as ABNA Vice President, congratulations to you both and we look forward to the year ahead under your leadership. We also welcome two new members onto the Management Committee, Louise Ludlow and Shirley Wee.

In the words of Uncle Mickey Kumatpi Marrutya O'Brien, who offered the Welcome to Country from Kurna land within South Australia to open the conference - when we share knowledge, we become one.

#ABNA2021VIRTUAL FROM THE TWITTER-VERSE



THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 HUB & PRIZE SPONSORS



Do you follow ABNA on Twitter?
Tag us in your biobanking posts
@ABNAonline

GET TO KNOW THE NEW ABNA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS



LOUISE LUDLOW

Louise manages the Children's Cancer Centre Biobank at The Royal Children's Hospital and Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne.

Louise has been in this role since she was given the opportunity to establish the biobank in 2013. She strives to provide high quality, clinically annotated biospecimens for national and international translational research projects and to deliver complex logistical and technical support for cancer clinical trial research including precision oncology.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about Louise



SHIRLEY WEE

Dr Shirley Wee is a clinical research fellow with Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ), Griffith University.

Following a career in advertising, marketing and promotions in South East Asia and Japan, she settled in Australia where she achieved a First Class Honours in Biomedical Science, a Graduate Certificate in Research Management and PhD in Cardiovascular Science.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about Shirley

ABNA 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Biobanking – Blue Sky Horizons
19 – 21 October 2022
Rendezvous Hotel Perth Scarborough, Western Australia

ANNOUNCING NEW 2022 DATES



OPPORTUNITY

The Victorian Cancer Biobank (VCB) is pleased to announce two opportunities to join our Strategic Advisory Group. We are seeking:

1. an International Advisor, and
2. a General Representative

ABOUT

The VCB's Strategic Advisory Group provides advice to the VCB to guide its strategic direction and priorities to achieve the Mission and Vision of the VCB, and to enable the long-term viability and sustainability of the consortium.

The role of the Strategic Advisory Group is to:

- Provide advice regarding the VCB's strategic priorities
- Provide input into the VCB's strategic and business plans
- Provide advice on research gaps, needs, priorities and trends in biobanking
- Provide advice on cancer research activities being undertaken nationally and globally, and make appropriate investment recommendations
- Support the VCB's work program planning and priority setting
- Provide expert input for the conduct, evaluation and reporting of individual projects in the VCB work program

DESIRABLE EXPERTISE

International Advisor

- Reputable leader in modern biobanking
- Significant experience in large-scale biobanking initiatives, automation workflow
- Strong business and innovative mindset

General Representative

- Reputable leader in biotechnology and innovation sector
- Significant industrial experience in commercialisation pipeline involving biomedical research
- Strong business and innovative mindset

CONTACT

For expression of interest in either of these roles, or nomination form, please contact: Dr Wayne Ng – wayne.ng@cancervic.org.au

Nomination deadline: COB 12th November 2021

For more information about Victorian Cancer Biobank, please visit viccancerbiobank.org.au



REGISTER NOW

PRICING

Registration includes access to the complete webinar series, including all live sessions, session recordings, and on-demand webinars.

ISBER Member: \$187 / series

Non-Member: \$231 / series

DESCRIPTION

The ISBER Best Practices: Recommendations for Repositories Fourth Edition presents the most effective practices for the management of biological and environmental specimen collections and repositories. These are either evidence-based or consensus-based practices for collection, long-term storage, retrieval and distribution of specimens. They promote the availability of high-quality biological and environmental specimens for future research.

The Best Practices webinar series will include 1-hour live sessions, each presenting a different topic in the ISBER Best Practices, with time included for question and answer. Each live session will be recorded and available for on-demand viewing if you are unable to attend the live session. In addition to the live sessions, the series includes a number of pre-recorded sessions available for on-demand viewing as well.

UPCOMING LIVE SESSIONS

1. November 9, 2021: Quality Management
 - Presented by Emma Snapes, BioConsulting, Ireland
 - Moderated by Dunja Martin, Leibniz-Institute DSMZ, Germany
2. November 17, 2021: Specimen Access, Utilisation, and Disposition
 - Presented by Wayne Ng, Victorian Cancer Bank, Australia
 - Moderated by Randy Mandt, Ohio State University, USA

AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

1. Planning Considerations
2. Specimen Collection, Processing, Receiving and Retrieval
3. Storage and Equipment
4. Legal and Ethical Issues – Consent/IRB
5. Legal and Ethical Issues – Non-Human
6. Repository Information Management Systems
7. Quality Management with Method Validation and Quality Control
8. Facilities
9. Safety
10. Training
11. Cost Management
12. Packaging and Shipping