

# BCNetter

Issue No. 17, February 2022



Dear **BCNet Members**,

We hope that 2022 has started with an increase in research activities and a gradual move away from the emergency response to the unfolding SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. While the epidemiology of the pandemic remains asynchronous between the different locations globally, it is also evident that the impacts of the pandemic are far-reaching and asymmetrical. Thus, it remains of interest to monitor the impact in our research infrastructures and try to understand the parameters that will remain affected in the longer term.

Having said that, BCNet remains dedicated with supporting further international collaborations and networking. As such there were presentations by Profs Ezzat, Elkhwsky; Drs Abdelhafiz, Caboux, Henderson, Sughayer and Kozlakidis, and many other esteemed colleagues hosted by the 14<sup>th</sup> Breast Gynecological & Immunooncology International Cancer Conference (BGIICC) in Egypt, on January 21st, 2022. The conference attracted over 3,000

delegates from across the world and had a hybrid format.

The next reference point in international Biobanking conferences is the ISBER Annual Conference and Exhibits, that will take place in Atlanta, GA, USA, from 16–20 May 2022. As always, the BCNet members are entitled to register as ISBER members for free – please do contact Ms Tracy Wootton to provide the code for the free members' registration. Interested individuals can subsequently register for the ISBER conference using their member status.

However, the role of BCNet is more than presenting specific conferences to the biobanking community within resource-restricted settings. The current BCNetter provides information on funding opportunities currently available as well biobanking peer-reviewed publications of interest, highlighting the work of our members, as well as in the field.

Finally, the free access of BCNet members to IARC educational material continues through the dedicated online educational platform for biobanking available at <https://learning.iarc.fr/>

Three new lectures/videos available:

- Analysing the Impacts of COVID-19 on Laboratory Management
- Sample Security and Quality Assurance of Samples in Multi-National Projects
- The Management of COVID-19 Samples

Zisis Kozlakidis

**BCNet Coordinator**

## The ARICE Project



The improvement of research infrastructures in cancer remains a key aim for many countries, especially as the cancer incidence is anticipated to increase considerably over the next decades. Armenia has a very high incidence and mortality of cancers, as well as a very high prevalence (according to incidence) among rare malignant diseases. Therefore, the aims of the ARICE grant are to significantly strengthen the scientific and technological capacity of the Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU), Armenia. The aim would be to enhance the YSMU research capacity in the field of infrastructure development for clinical genetic research, in particular targeting the collection and use of biological material, and the data integration for downstream analyses. This work is anticipating to highlight gaps and opportunities in biobanking in resource-restricted settings in an often-overlooked part of the world. For further information please follow the project announcements on the web: <https://www.arice.am/>



## Recent publications from our Members



[Rocha Alves da Silva JC and Carneiro Capucho H. Virtual consent and the use of electronic informed consent form in clinical research in Brazil.](#)

[Ilesanmi OS and Afolabi AA. Biobanking of COVID-19 specimens during the pandemic: The need for enhanced biosafety.](#)

## The HEAP Project



The Human Exposome Assessment Platform or HEAP is a 5-year project funded by the European Union (EU) Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. The project's 12 Work Packages will be delivered by a consortium of partners, including some of Europe's leading medical universities and research institutions. As one of nine projects in the European Human Exposome Network (EHEN), HEAP is committed to collaboration and to sharing results and outcomes.

### Technology

The HEAP informatics platform will bring data and research together to provide an open resource for scientists and policymakers across the world.

### Data

HEAP is a system for analysing exposome data. The data come from large groups of people, or data cohorts.

### Research

The data will be used for ethical research, using the latest scientific methods, to help improve understanding of the environmental factors that affect human health.

[Click here](#) to find out more about the HEAP project.



[Khatib F, Jibrin D, Al-Majali J, et al. Views of university students in Jordan towards Biobanking.](#)

[Zouiouich S, Mariadassou M, Rué O, et al. Comparison of fecal sample collection methods for microbial analysis embedded within colorectal cancer screening programs.](#)

# Opportunities for Funding, Training and Collaboration



**DAAD In-Region Scholarship Programme Call for Applications for study in the Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics (MBHG), Stellenbosch University, South Africa, in 2023.**

The program is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Purpose:** To allow students from **Sub-Saharan African countries** (excluding South Africa) to study towards an **MSc or PhD** degree at the **Division of MBHG, Stellenbosch University**, with the view to train individuals who plan to pursue a career in teaching and / or research at a higher education institution in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Application deadline:** March 13, 2022 (at midnight South African time).

Link to online application form: <https://bit.ly/3tJqP13>

For more information, contact:  
[mbhgapplications@sun.ac.za](mailto:mbhgapplications@sun.ac.za)

MBHG website for information on Research Groups:  
[http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/Molecular\\_Biology\\_Human\\_Genetics/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/Molecular_Biology_Human_Genetics/Pages/default.aspx)



## NIH Funding Opportunity

**Notice of Special Interest:** Development of Statistical, Population Genetics and Computational Methods Related to Polygenic Prediction of Health and Disease in Diverse Populations. Notice Number: NOT-HG-20-010. For more information, [click here](#)

**Application deadline:** Oct 5, 2023



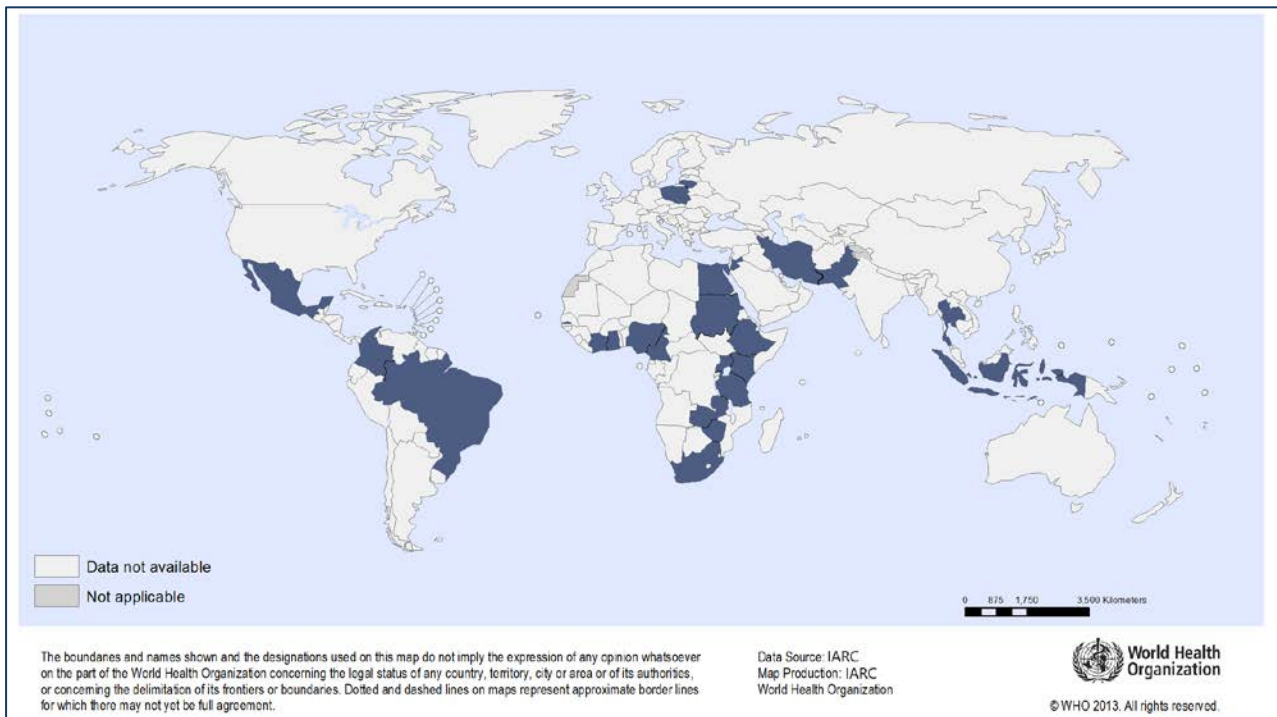
The call for applications for the **H3Africa Travel Fellowship Awards** to the 19th H3Africa Consortium Meeting, 29 May – 1 June 2022 to be held in Abuja, Nigeria is now open.

Successful applicants will be expected to present their work, participate in consortium meeting activities and will have the opportunity to take part in the exclusive Nature Masterclass in Scientific Writing and Publishing.

Please complete the [online application](#), (note you will be required to register or login on HTrainDB before completing and submitting the application.)

**Application Deadline:** March 24, 2022 (at 21:59 GMT/23:59 CAT)

# BCNet Members



**BRAZIL:** Banco de Células do Rio de Janeiro; Barretos Cancer Hospital; Instituto do Câncer do Estado de São Paulo/Fundação Faculdade de Medicina **CAMEROON:** Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Université de Yaoundé; Université des Montagnes; **COLOMBIA:** Clinica de la Costa Ltda; **CÔTE D'IVOIRE:** Institut Pasteur de Côte d'Ivoire; **EGYPT:** Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt – 57357; Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University; Integrated Biobank of Mansoura, School of Medicine, Mansoura University; Medical Research Institute, Ain Shams University; Medical Research Institute, Alexandria University; National Cancer Institute; National Liver Institute; Shifaa Al Orman Hospital, Luxor; South Egypt Cancer Institute, Assiut University; **ETHIOPIA:** Jigjiga University; **GHANA:** Breast Care International, University of Health and Allied Sciences; **INDONESIA:** Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada; **IRAN:** Golestan Cancer Biobank; **JORDAN:** King Hussein Cancer Center Biobank; **KENYA:** Ampath Reference Laboratory; Maseno University; **LITHUANIA:** National Cancer Institute; **MEXICO:** Instituto Nacional de Cancerología; **NIGERIA:** College of Medicine, University of Ibadan; Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex; **PAKISTAN:** Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC); **POLAND:** Biobank Lab, Department of Molecular Biophysics, University of Lodz; Wrocław Research Centre EIT+ Biobank; **SOUTH AFRICA:** National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), NHLS/Stellenbosch University Biobank; **SUDAN:** Institute of Endemic Diseases (IEND), University of Khartoum; Radio-Isotope Centre Khartoum; **THAILAND:** National Cancer Institute; **THE GAMBIA:** Medical Research Council (MRC) The Gambia Unit; MRC International Nutrition Group; **UGANDA:** Makerere University College of Health Sciences; **UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA:** Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute; **ZAMBIA:** Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia; **ZIMBABWE:** African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology; University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences.

## BCNet Partners



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