

BCNetter

Issue No. 18, June 2022



Dear **BCNet Members**,

I hope that this edition of the BCNetter finds you well and returning to a sense of normality and ability to plan forward in the longer-term. While the pandemic is likely to persist at different levels of public health intensity over the next months, it allows us to take a look at the lessons learned over the last couple of years and how these can be best translated into actions.

Thus, this volume of the BCNetter has a distinct focus on innovation. Including a number of relevant publications from IARC and BCNet members; calls for international conferences where BCNet members can be offered special discounts; links to interviews with dedicated scientific and popular media; highlights on upcoming special issues in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and many other opportunities.

We congratulate Dr Ahmed Samir from the National Cancer Institute in Cairo who was recently appointed as one of the ISBER Ambassadors for EMEA region. Dr Samir will be one of the content contributors who will participate in the development of the 5th edition of ISBER best practices, currently underway.

In terms of global scientific visibility, biobanking and data sharing continue to be key topics, as evidenced by the ISBER Annual Conference, where session 4B focused on the "Real World Data for Global Research Collaboration". In this session, co-chaired with Marianne Henderson (NCI/NIH) and Wilfredo Marin

(Thermo Fisher Scientific), examples were provided on how data stored in biobanks (often in large volumes), can be used in discovery science and in supporting further clinical decisions.

The [Future Insights](#) Conference is organized by Merck in Darmstadt, Germany (July 12–14). BCNet members can get a 50% discount on their registration. The [Society for Cryobiology](#) is holding its annual conference in Dublin, Ireland, and virtually (July 19-22); and the [Advancing Healthcare Innovation Summit](#) (AHIS2022) will take place in Cincinnati, USA (August 27). The opportunities for BCNet members are highlighted in this issue.

On other positive developments, the [Lancet Oncology Commission on Sub-Saharan Africa](#) has now been published, concluding three years of intensive work, and receiving the input of many colleagues, including from BCNet. This is a [milestone publication](#) anticipated to shape future research and health policies on the continent. A number of workshops and conference presentations are currently being planned so that this work receives appropriate attention from policy makers, clinicians, scientists, and the wider public.

Furthermore, Dr Zisis Kozlakidis provided the following two digital interviews that are freely available: i) The interview with [Lab Insider on Digital Health and Healthcare Technologies](#) and ii) the [TEDx presentation on Digital Health](#) at the Medical University of Graz, Austria. Both presentations will remain available on YouTube.

The BCNet focus remains on supporting a network that has diverse needs and expertise, whilst providing a common language and communication channel. To this effect, we are pleased to welcome the Aswan University, Egypt, the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital (ISTH), Nigeria and Liaquat University of Medical Health and Sciences (LUMHS), Pakistan, to BCNet.

Zisis Kozlakidis and Tracy Wootton

BCNet Coordinators

Upcoming conferences



CURIOUS - Future Insight Conference July 12–14th 2022

This is one of the most renowned gatherings globally on science and technology covering a broad range of topics from healthcare, life sciences, digitalization, material sciences, energy, mobility and new ways of working together. The conference also features the awarding of the 1 million Euro Future Insight Prize. BCNet members receive a 50% discount on the registration costs for this conference – please contact Tracy for the discount code.



CRYO 2022

The 59th Annual Meeting of the Society for Cryobiology, CRYO2022, is the world's longest running and foremost annual meeting of cryobiology professionals.

Furthermore, the Society for Low Temperature Biology was originally due to host their 2022 annual meeting in October in Ukraine. The Russian invasion

and ongoing war make the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Institute for Problems of Cryobiology and Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine no longer possible.

For this reason, the Society for Cryobiology and Society for Low Temperature Biology are combining forces for a joint meeting that will take place during CRYO2022 on July 19th–22nd, in Dublin, Ireland.

Conference participants from Low or Lower-Middle Income country (LLMIC) are eligible for FREE VIRTUAL registration. For further details please visit: <https://cryo2022.com/registration/>



AHIS 2022

The Advancing Healthcare Innovation Summit (AHIS2022) is a major healthcare conference taking place on August 27th in Cincinnati, OH, USA, showcasing the latest innovations related to healthcare and medical sciences. The AHIS 2022 theme is "Connecting the Dots", aiming to showcasing innovative approaches to improve health and to decrease disparities in healthcare; to educating innovators and offering opportunities to showcase work, network, etc.; and highlighting the latest innovative projects, products and developments in healthcare. The AHIS 2022 has a FREE VIRTUAL registration for LMIC colleagues.

For further details please visit: <https://ahisummits.com/>

Upcoming conferences (cont.)



EBW2022

Instead of a single European Biobank Week meeting, the ESBB and BBMRI-ERIC have announced a new, common community engagement activity, the EUROPE BIOBANK WEEK ROADSHOW. The EBW Roadshow consists of a series of smaller and regional face-to-face events covering a fine selection of hot topics in biobanking. The first EBW roadshow is taking place in Regensburg (GERMANY) September 19th–20th. This EBW22 Roadshow meeting is organized by ESBB and BBMRI-ERIC in partnership with the University of Regensburg, the “Bavarian Biobank Day” and the BRoTHER Summer School. The focus will be on the manifold aspects of Quality in Biobanking. For further details please visit: [Europe Biobank Week Roadshow](#)



Rising Stars



A number of conferences and research activities have started focusing on the ‘Rising Stars’ from LMIC contexts, as the focus of post-pandemic meetings will necessarily shift towards lessons-learned and exemplary performers in science and innovation.

Specifically, during the virtual ISBER Annual Conference a ‘Rising Stars: Next Generation in Biobanking’ section was organized by co-chairs Drs Debra Leiolani Garcia, Hanh Vu and Zisis Kozlakidis.

The following presentations took place:

- “Establishment of Biobank: Technical Considerations” by Dr. Anju Kumar, a scientist in the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, ICMR, Government of India.
- “Challenges and Opportunities of Biobanking in Southeast Asia” by Plebeian Medina, chair of the Institutional Biorisk Management Committee and head of the Biobank facility and Biorisk Management Office at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine of the Department of Health in the Philippines.
- “A Plea from the CHM Biobank: Call for Action Towards Rare Diseases and Associated Health Innovation in South Africa” by Dr Engela Conradie, the Senior Subject Specialist in the field of Biobanking and Quality Management at the North Western University CHM (Centre for Human Metabolomics).
- “Biobanking in Africa: The International Cancer Institute’s Journey” by Prof Chite Asirwa, CEO of International Cancer Institute, in Eldoret, Kenya.

In terms of Publishing opportunities, Dr Kozlakidis is leading on the Special topic of “[Rising Stars in Infectious Diseases – Surveillance, Prevention and Treatment](#)”. This topic is hosted by the journals *Frontiers in Medicine* and *Frontiers in Public Health*. Please read carefully all information regarding publication costs.

Update from ARICE



Within the ARICE project (Twinning for the Armenian Research Infrastructure on Cancer Research, twinning project of Horizon 2020, www.arice.am) the project partners held a joint 'Hands-on -training' in advanced pathology methods for biobanking', on 15th -17th June in Pilsen, Czech Republic.

The three days program opened with a visit of the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen and lectures on representative activities of the Department of Immunochemical Diagnostics of the University Hospital Pilsen. The second day was divided into biobanking session with a presentation of the Bank of biological material of the Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen - biobank Pilsen and a presentation of biobank as a member of the Czech national node, BBMRI.cz. The last day of the meeting offered the visit of Institute of Biology, Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen and two presentations on advanced methods of molecular biology in oncology diagnostics and secondly about the role of circulating tumor cells in tumor development and tumor prognosis. The whole program was closed by the visit of Biomedical Center of the Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen, a new facility focused on research and development in the field of replacement and regeneration of vital organs.



Recent publications from our Members



[Abdelhafiz AS, Ali A, Maaly AM, Mahgoub MA, Ziady HH and Sultan EA. Predictors of post-COVID symptoms in Egyptian patients: Drugs used in COVID-19 treatment are incriminated.](#)

[Ngwa, Wi, Addai BW, Adewole I et al. Cancer in sub-Saharan Africa: a Lancet Oncology Commission.](#)

[Liu N-N, Jiao N, Tan J-C et al. Multi-kingdom microbiota analyses identify bacterial-fungal interactions and biomarkers of colorectal cancer across cohorts.](#)

[Bogaert B, Buisson V, Kozlakidis Z et al. Organisation of cancer care in troubling times: a scoping review of expert guidelines and their implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

[He Y-Q, Wang T-M, Ji M et al. A polygenic risk score for nasopharyngeal carcinoma shows potential for risk stratification and personalized screening.](#)

[Yang G, Wei L, Thong BKS et al. A Systematic Review of Oral Biopsies, Sample Types, and Detection Techniques Applied in Relation to Oral Cancer Detection.](#)

[Aisyah DN, Mayadewi CA, Budiharsana M et al. Building on health security capacities in Indonesia: Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic responses and challenges.](#)

[Al Knawy B, McKillop MM, Abduljawad J et al. Successfully implementing digital health to ensure future global health security during pandemics: a consensus statement.](#)

[Simeon-Dubach D and Kozlakidis Z. Sustainability of Biobanks and Biobanking in LMICs.](#)

[Byrne JA, Banaszak AT, Carpenter JE et al. Priorities in Biobanking Research: A Report on the 2021 ISBER Round Table.](#)

Opportunities for Funding, Training and Collaboration



The journal [Innovations in Digital Health, Diagnostics, and Biomarkers \(IDDB\)](#) invites applications for two 1-year, part-time, volunteer editorial fellowships beginning August 1, 2022 from medical professionals who have an interest in medical publishing and digital health. Fellows will gain knowledge and skills in writing, peer reviewing, proofreading, and disseminating content via social media.

Application deadline: July 10, 2022.



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: October 5, 2023.

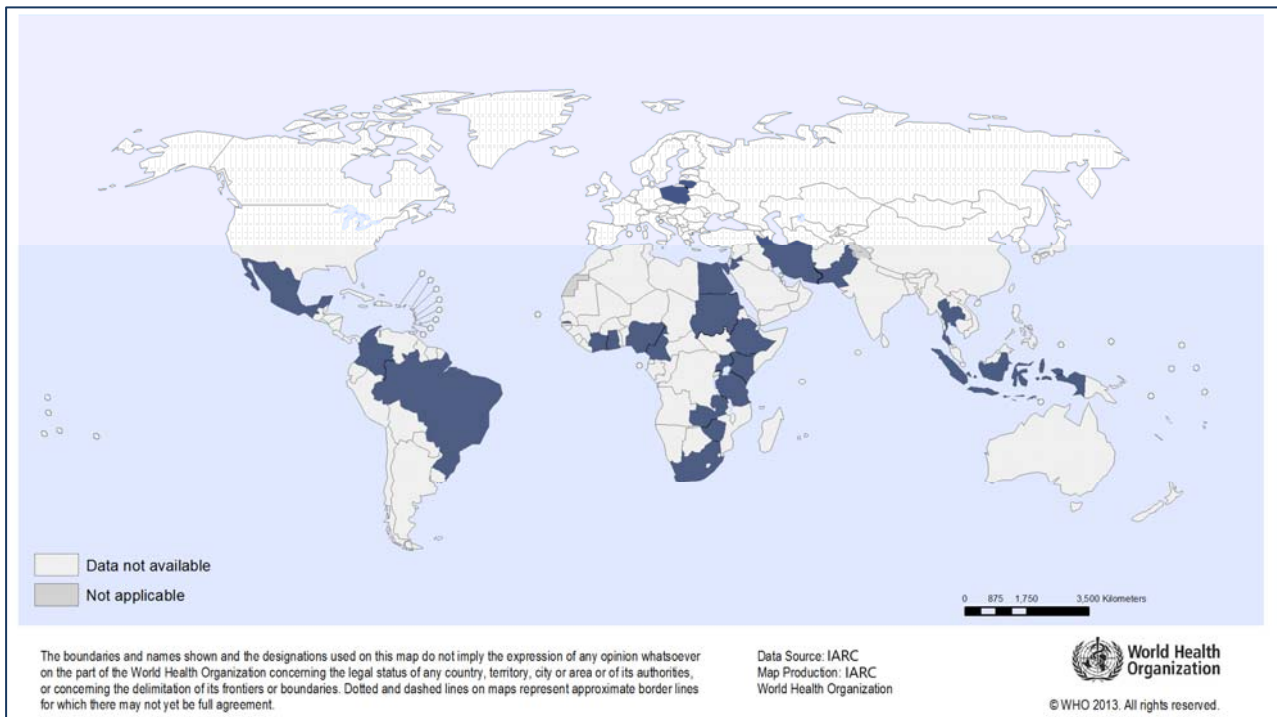


Within the Innovation theme of the Future Insights conference, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is also promoting Research Grants opportunities for 2022, for projects on artificial intelligence, drug discovery, chemical synthesis and sustainability. For more information visit: <http://researchgrants.merckgroup.com>



In 2020 ISBER launched its Qualification in Biorepository Science (QBRS). Now, ISBER is pleased to open a grant program for two individuals working in biobanks in the LIC/LMIC/UMIC regions for whom an exam writing fee would be prohibitive. For more information, visit: <https://www.isber.org/page/qualification>

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:** Aswan University; 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; Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital; Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex; **PAKISTAN:** Liaquat University of Medical Health and Sciences; 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



Contact

Dr Zisis Kozlakidis
KozlakidisZ@iarc.fr

Ms Tracy Wootton
WoottonT@iarc.fr

+33 4 72 73 80 35

<http://bcnet.iarc.fr/>