

BCNetter

Issue No. 20, February 2023



Dear **BCNet Members**,

This issue comes from the first weeks of the brand new IARC building. The Nouveau Centre is now a reality, and the transfer of over 6 million biological samples, as well as all of the associated data (digital and on paper) has now been completed successfully. A new building for a renewed beginning with strength and conviction in our aims towards supporting the biobanking capacity in resource-restricted settings, so that often under-represented populations in international research become more visible and included in national and international initiatives.

Having said that, the transfer of the biobank into the new IARC building was a demanding operation requiring hundreds of hours of preparatory work (from specialized transfer vehicles, to permits from the local authorities), as well as the training of the individuals, who were all volunteers from within the IARC agency. Thus, over 50 individuals were able to commit their time and energy, over two months to support this transfer. The success of the operation is very much a testament to their collective commitment and spirit of cooperation throughout. We hope that soon we will be able to welcome visitors and colleagues alike into the new building and facilities.

The transition period from the pandemic towards the 'new normal' is slowly coming towards a conclusion. As such, conferences are pivoting once more towards an in-person major component with some options for the virtual attendance of select parts. This return to face-to-face is a global trend for meetings, e.g., and we anticipate that it continues in this way. It also allows BCNet members to consider potential training opportunities, where biobanking workshops can be included. For example, the upcoming AORTIC meeting in Senegal would be one such potential host for a BCNet training workshop (discussions are ongoing with the organizers).

The current issue reflects wide breadth of developments, publications, and announcements that BCNet members may find interesting. A special mention is made to upcoming conferences, as several are currently being organized. We will continue to provide information on research opportunities, as well as email relevant surveys to support ongoing research on LMIC-based biobanking activities.

Zisis Kozlakidis and Tracy Wootton
BCNet Coordinators



Upcoming meetings and conferences



JOIN US AT THE ISBER 2023 ANNUAL MEETING!

ISBER is a biobanking organization that creates opportunities for networking and education.

The ISBER Annual Meeting has been the premier annual event in biobanking for over 20 years, bringing together biobankers from six continents to learn, discuss, and collaborate.

Our 2023 event will be a hybrid meeting giving our international delegates the option to attend in-person in Seattle, USA from May 3–6 or virtually (virtual dates TBD).

Our international program planning task force, led by Dayong Gao (USA), Anusha Hettiaratchi (Australia), and Birendra Kumar Yadav (India), are developing a program of top speakers in the biobanking field whose sessions will appeal to biobankers from all repository types and levels of experience to learn, discuss. The goal of the conference is to share knowledge that will bridge biobanking boundaries, improve diversity of samples, and foster collaboration.

[Click here](#) for the Sponsorship Brochure.

CRYO2023

60th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SOCIETY FOR CRYOBIOLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS | JULY 25-27



The Society for Cryobiology's CRYO2023 conference will be held on the beautiful University of Minnesota (UMN) campus from July 25-27, 2023.

Abstract submission is currently open and will close on **20 February 2023, at 11:59PM US/CT**. Abstracts can be submitted as in-person or virtual for both oral and poster presentations. Please note the program committee reserves the right to prioritize oral presentation slots for presenters who can attend the meeting in person in Minneapolis.

Registration for the meeting will be opening soon <https://cryo2023.com/register/#>

[Click here](#) for more details about CRYO2023.



SAVE THE DATE for the upcoming regional AORTIC meeting **3-6 November 2023**.

[\(https://aorticconference.org/\)](https://aorticconference.org/)

Opportunities for funding, training & collaboration



IARC and AORTIC have launched a survey on The Language of Cancer Communication in Africa

The International Agency for Research on Cancer in collaboration with the African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC), is conducting a survey on The Language of Cancer Communication in Africa. This survey is part of a research study to gather information on how the medical language of cancer and its treatment is communicated to patients and in the community in African languages, and what these communication terms mean when deconstructed. The study will highlight the existence or non-existence of cancer terms, as well as the nature of cancer terminology, in African languages, and how this may contribute to fear and disparities for patients and pose communication difficulties for health professionals.

[Click here](#) to read more, [watch the video](#) and take part in the survey.

- Emphasize the practical application of genomic medicine content into diverse settings and roles using problem-based learning.
- Emphasize the practical application of content into participants' current settings and roles.

A virtual blended distance learning model is used for this course. Trainers pre-record their lectures, which are downloaded and watched by the local classrooms during contact sessions with the support of local facilitators. This will be followed by a contact session with the trainer via Zoom conference platform, during which questions may be asked to the trainer. Thereafter, participants will complete a quiz on Vula, our course management platform. Classrooms will be set up at different sites across Africa.

If you would like to apply to take the course in 2023, please follow this link: [Click here](#)

Applications are due on: **Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 11:59 pm CAT.**

No late applications will be accepted.

AGMT
AFRICAN GENOMIC MEDICINE
TRAINING INITIATIVE



The 4th iteration of the African Genomic Medicine Training Initiative Course is now accepting participant applications!

African Genomic Medicine Training Initiative is planning to deliver a Genomic Medicine course for Health Professionals (Nurses, Medical Doctors, Pathologists/Medical Laboratory Scientists & Technicians).

The main objectives are to:

- Provide genomics and genetics education to Nurses, Medical Doctors, Pathologists and Medical Laboratory Scientists based in Africa.



The African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) invites abstracts for its 2nd Cancer Genomics in Africa Conference.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Recent publications from our Members



[de Veras Santos EP, Guerriero ICZ. Professional and academic profile of the Brazilian research ethics committees. BMC Med Ethics. 2022; 23 \(1\): 109.](#)

[Medina PB, Kealy J, Kozlakidis Z. Integrating research infrastructures into infectious diseases surveillance operations: Focus on biobanks. Biosaf Health. 2022; 4 \(6\): 410-413.](#)

[Mohr BJ, Souilem O, Abdussamad AM, Benmouloud A, Bugnon P, Chipangura JK, Fahmy SR, Fourie T, Gaafar K, Jillani NE, Kantyok JT, Martin LF, Mokopasetso M, Mugisha L, Nyachio A, Lewis DI. Sustainable education and training in laboratory animal science and ethics in low- and middle-income countries in Africa - challenges, successes, and the way forward. Lab Anim. 2022: 236772221129976.](#)

[Munung NS, Nembaware V, Osei-Tutu L, Treadwell M, Chide OE, Bukini D, Tutuba H, Wonkam A. Assent, parental consent and re consent for health research in Africa: thematic analysis of national guidelines and lessons from the SickleInAfrica registry. BMC Med Ethics. 2022; 23 \(1\): 130.](#)

[Mwaka ES, Bagenda G, Sebatta DE, Nabukenya S, Munabi I. Benefit sharing in genomic and biobanking research in Uganda: Perceptions of researchers and research ethics committee members. Front Genet. 2022; 13: 1037401.](#)

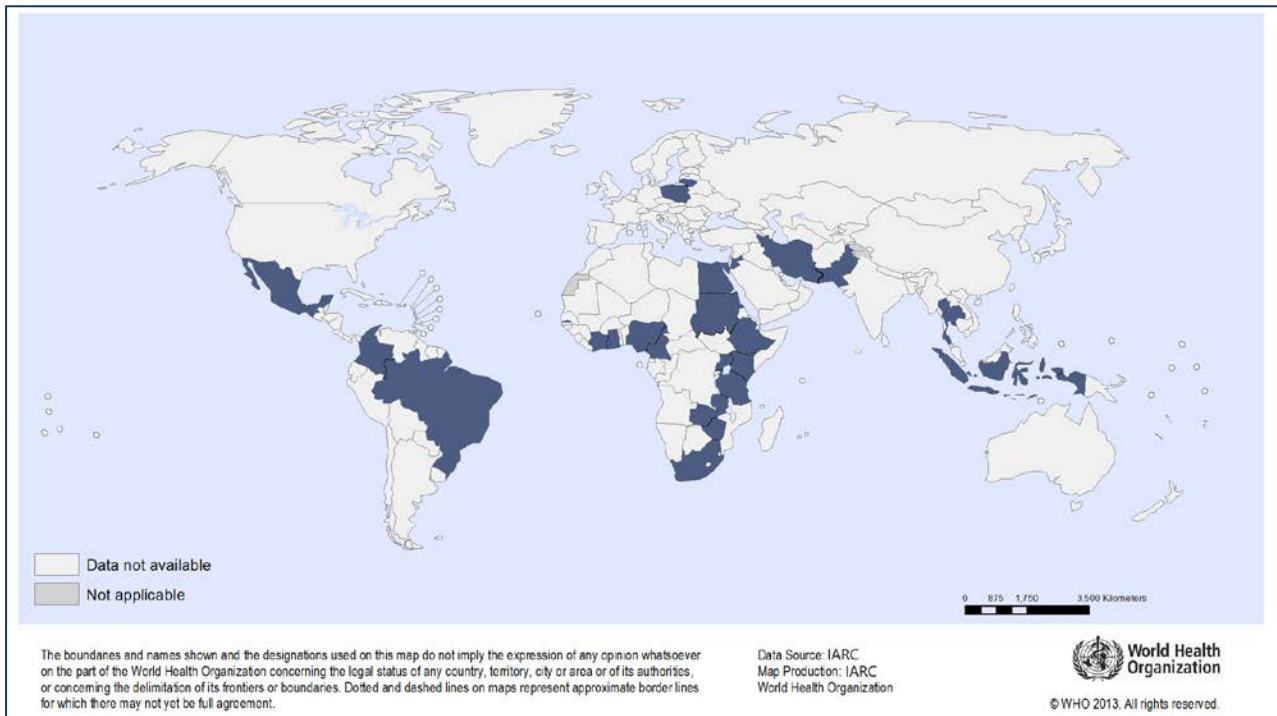
[Ahram M, Abdelgawad F, ElHafeez SA, Abdelhafiz AS, Ibrahim ME, Elgamri A, Mohammed Z, El-Rhazi K, Elsebaie E, Gamel E, Shahouri M, Mostafa NT, Adarmouch L, Silverman H. Perceptions, attitudes, and willingness of the public in low- and middle-income countries of the Arab region to participate in biobank research. BMC Med Ethics. 2022; 23 \(1\): 122.](#)

[Aisyah DN, Manikam L, Kiasatina T, Naman M, Adisasmito W, Kozlakidis Z. The Use of a Health Compliance Monitoring System During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Indonesia: Evaluation Study. JMIR Public Health Surveill. 2022; 8 \(11\): e40089.](#)

[Sfera A, Thomas KG, Sfera DO, Anton JJ, Andronescu CV, Jafri N, Sasannia S, Kozlakidis Z. Do messenger RNA vaccines induce pathological syncytia. Int J Pathol Clin Res. 2022;8:137.](#)

[Sfera A, Hazan S, Klein C, del Campo CM, Sasannia S, Anton JJ, Rahman L, Andronescu CV, Sfera DO, Kozlakidis Z, Nicolson GL. Microbial Translocation Disorders: Assigning an Etiology to Idiopathic Illnesses. Applied Microbiology. 2023 Jan 28;3\(1\):212-40.](#)

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 Cancerologia; **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



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